

Media Lab Extension Nearing Completion

Exterior Will Finish by November, As Work on Interior Continues Until Next October

By Robert McQueen

STAFF REPORTER

The new Media Lab extension is in its final stage of construction and the exterior will be completed by the end of November. Construction on the interior will continue and if everything goes according to plan, the new lab (building E14) will be operating by October 2009.

Greg Tucker, Director of Facilities at the Media Lab, has been an active participant in the development of the new Media Lab building since the first design proposal was submitted in 1998. The original plans called for the completion of the new lab in 2002, however, the project was delayed for five years when an important donor pulled out of the project.

"We had planned to start construction in 2002," said Tucker. "In July, all we needed was to finalize our plans with the building contractor, but we lost a donor when the stock market tanked."

After the five year delay, enough funding was collected to begin the actual construction. The design for the new Lab is the brainchild of Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Fumihiko Maki and his Tokyo-based firm Maki and Associates. With over 160,000 sq. ft. of space distributed over six floors, the new lab will hold several conference rooms, social spaces, and administrative offices.

In addition, the new extension will have a 100-seat theater, two-level atrium, and exhibition spaces, and a cafe overlooking the Charles. Seven research labs, ranging from 5,000 to 8,500 sq. ft., will spiral around



QUENTIN SMITH—THE TECH

The Media Lab extension construction site is seen on Thursday afternoon from the intersection of Ames Street and Amherst Street.

the central atrium in a staggered arrangement over five floors.

The new Media Lab extension will be shared among Media Lab research groups, the MIT School of Architecture, and other smaller groups.

David Small, visiting lecturer at the Media Lab, is leading a committee responsible for the actual transition into the new lab extension. "Unlike some MIT buildings," described

Small, "the Maki design is subtle and simplistic. The building will be transparent with more glass walls and easier vertical movement along floors." Small identified that there are also three different types of stairs and elevators in order to maximize inter-floor activity.

With some research groups moving into the new building, several old lab spaces will be given to the Comparative Media Studies program.

Even though teams will be transitioning into the new space, the old and new building will be fully connected in order to maintain interdisciplinary interaction between research groups.

According to Tucker, funding for the project came from MIT, individual donors, and six major corporate sponsors. One of the major benefits of corporate sponsorship is

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Chomsky Discusses Economy, Military Hegemony

By Subrata Ghoshroy

SPECIAL TO THE TECH

This is the second of a three-part interview with Institute Professor Noam A. Chomsky, conducted in early September by Subrata Ghoshroy, a researcher in the Science, Technology, and Global Security Working Group at MIT. In this part, Ghoshroy and Chomsky discussed the development of the modern tech economy, the current economic crisis, and the power of U.S. propaganda.

Another version of this interview was previously published at Alternet.org.

Noam Chomsky: ... The New York Times happened to have an article by its economic correspondent in its magazine section [in August] about Obama's economic programs. He talked about Reagan as the model of passionate commitment to free markets and reduction of the role of the state, and so on.

Where are these people? Reagan was the most protectionist president in post war American history. In fact, more protectionist than all others combined. He virtually doubled protective barriers. He brought in

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Police Seek Intruder Who Tried to Assault Student

By Michael McGraw-Herdig

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

An intruder tried to sexually assault at least one Senior House resident early Sunday morning. The intruder apparently fled after attracting attention from residents.

A Campus Police bulletin describes the suspect as male, white, between 5'7"-5'9" tall, 18-20 years old, thin, and having brown eyes and brown hair "with the front spiked up."

According to the police bulletin, the suspect was well dressed, "wearing a white button down oxford shirt with vertical satin stripes, and nice dark colored jeans." The suspect may have gotten into Senior House as a party guest; at least two parties were held Saturday night.

A female student was asleep in her room and woke up when the suspect entered her bed early Sunday morning, according to the bulletin. She reported the incident to the police at 6:20 a.m. About ten minutes later, a male student reported seeing a suspicious person in his doorway, according to the police bulletin. It is unclear why or when the suspect left.

Anyone with information about the incident can contact the MIT Police detective assigned to the case, Jay A. Perault, at (617) 452-3731; or the police station directly at (617) 253-1212; or the anonymous tip line (617) 258-8477.

Ochsendorf Talks About Receiving MacArthur

Architecture Prof. Brings a Historical Perspective to His Study of Structural Engineering

By Ramya Sankar

STAFF REPORTER

"That is not possible," thought Professor John Ochsendorf when he got the call from the MacArthur Foundation President, Jonathon F. Fanton. On September 15th, Ochsendorf, an associate professor of Architecture, was in his office with a student when he received a phone call asking if he was alone and sitting down.

At first, he thought it was a prank call but soon realized it was serious and asked the student to step outside. Fanton informed him that he was one of the twenty-five 2008 MacArthur Fellows and would be receiving \$500,000 over 5 years in quarterly installments.

How are fellows chosen? According to the foundation's website, "although nominees are reviewed for their achievements, the fellowship is not a reward for past accomplishment, but rather an investment in a person's originality, insight, and potential." Some of the award winners aren't even aware of the foundation but Ochsendorf has colleagues who had won before and therefore was familiar with the award.

Ochsendorf said he plans to spend the money on supporting his projects, funding his students in research, and learning about what they

are passionate about. He also hopes to use the money to travel to project sites and conferences.

"I thought I would be a writer," said Ochsendorf when asked what he wanted to pursue at the early age of 10. "I wrote a 20 page paper on the Inca Empire and I wanted to go to Machu Picchu before I died," added Ochsendorf, revealing his passion for history and travel. When asked what changed, he responded, "when I went to college and tasted research ... the sense of discovery ... that was really exciting."

In Spring 1994, as an undergraduate at Cornell, he went on an archeological dig in Ithaca. "I found absolutely nothing, but it was the greatest day of my life," said Ochsendorf. "You can find an artifact [and] that artifact can link you to a person who was on this site you know 5000 years ago."

This began his journey to study not only the mechanics of structures but also their history and design. For his senior research project he looked at "the technical and historical study of long span suspension bridges built by the Inca Empire in South America."

From Cornell, he went on to do graduate work at Princeton Univer-

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ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH

John A. Ochsendorf, seen in his office at MIT, is a 2008 MacArthur Fellow for his work in preserving historic structures and recovering ancient technology. Ochsendorf uses his knowledge as a structural engineer to study architectural wonders such as fiber-based suspension bridges in Peru.



Fred Fest '08
Rocks the
East Campus
Courtyard

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WORLD & NATION

Environmental Investments Could Pay Off for Google

By Miguel Helft

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Google, the Internet search and advertising giant, is increasingly eyeing the energy sector as a potential business opportunity.

From its beginning, the company has invested millions of dollars in making its own power-hungry data centers more efficient. Its philanthropic arm has made small investments in clean energy technologies.

But in recent weeks, Eric E. Schmidt, Google's chief executive, has hinted at the company's broad interest in the energy business. He also joined Jeffrey R. Immelt, General Electric's chief executive, to announce that they would collaborate on policies and technologies aimed at improving the electricity grid. The effort could include offering tools for consumers.

Meanwhile, engineers at Google are hoping to unveil soon tools that could help consumers make better decisions about their energy use.

Polio Spreads to New Countries And Increases Where It's Endemic

By Donald G. Mcneil Jr.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Polio infections are increasing and spreading to new countries, according to case counts recently released by the World Health Organization.

Since April, outbreaks have been found in 10 countries beyond the four in which polio is considered endemic — Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan. And in those four countries, the number of cases is more than double the number found by this time in 2007.

In Africa, cases have been found as far south as Angola and as far west as Ethiopia. Each detected case implies another 200 cases with few or no symptoms, experts say.

There have been outbreaks of both type 1 and type 3 polio, which frustrate WHO plans, begun in 2005, to concentrate on a monovalent vaccine against type 1. Recent studies show that vaccine to be far more effective against type 1 than the old trivalent vaccine was. But it does not protect against type 3, and a new monovalent vaccine against that is being introduced. (Type 2 was eliminated in 1999.)

Pakistan, which has seen a rapid rise in cases, now has 86,000 vaccination teams going house to house and dosing children at train stations and border crossings. But tribal areas on the Afghan border and contiguous parts of Afghanistan are barely covered because travel is unsafe for vaccinators.

Hardships Past Haunt Europe's Search for Safety

By Katrin Bennhold

THE NEW YORK TIMES

"I haven't forgotten history," says Gert Heinz, a tax adviser in Munich. "If you depend on paper money you can lose everything. We've learned that the hard way after two world wars."

So when Chancellor Angela Merkel went on television recently to tell Germans that their bank accounts were safe, Heinz, who at 68 still remembers the rows of canned food that his mother hoarded in the attic, decided he would rather be safe than sorry.

He converted a chunk of his savings into gold, as he had done before, and stocked up on a six-month supply of rice, sugar, flour and a special brand of powdered milk that lasts 50 years.

Heinz may be an extreme example, but he is not alone. As Europeans grasp for security in the face of a financial storm that — at least so far — has affected them much less directly than it has many Americans, they are reflecting the history of their tortured continent that has weathered wars, revolutions and financial crises over the centuries.

Alaska Senator Convicted On Felony Ethics Charges

By Neil A. Lewis

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Sen. Ted Stevens, Alaska's dominant political figure for more than four decades, was found guilty on Monday of violating federal ethics laws for failing to report tens of thousands of dollars in gifts and services he received from friends.

The jury of District of Columbia residents convicted Stevens, 84, on all seven felony counts he faced in connection with charges that he knowingly failed to list on Senate disclosure forms the receipt of some \$250,000 in gifts and services used to renovate his home in Girdwood, Alaska.

Stevens, the Senate's longest-serving Republican and a consistently grim-faced figure, seemed to frown even more deeply as the verdict was delivered by the jury foreman. Stevens' wife and one of his daughters sat glumly behind him in the courtroom.

In a statement issued after he left the courthouse, Stevens struck a defiant tone, urging Alaskans to re-elect him to a seventh full term when they vote next week.

He blamed the verdict on what he said was repeated misconduct by the

federal prosecutors. "I will fight this unjust verdict with every ounce of energy I have," he said.

"I am innocent. This verdict is the result of the unconscionable manner in which the Justice Department lawyers conducted this trial. I ask that Alaskans and my Senate colleagues stand with me as I pursue my rights. I remain a candidate for the United States Senate."

Nonetheless, the verdict is widely expected to write an end to Stevens' long political career, which has moved in tandem with his state's rough and tumble journey from a remote territory to economic powerhouse.

Stevens was instrumental in promoting statehood for Alaska when he was a young Interior Department official in the Eisenhower administration and went on to represent the state in the Senate for 40 years. Over that time, he used his steadily accumulated influence over federal spending, notably using his membership on the Appropriations Committee, to steer millions, perhaps billions, of dollars in federal funds to his home state.

The verdict comes almost exactly a week before the voters of Alaska decide whether to return him to the

Senate or elect his Democratic opponent, Mark Begich, the mayor of Anchorage. After his indictment in July, Stevens asked for a quick trial so he might clear his name before Election Day.

If Stevens loses his seat, the trial's implications could be felt on a far broader political scale, helping Democrats in their drive to win enough seats in the Senate to give them a filibuster-proof majority of at least 60 votes. Within an hour of the verdict's becoming public, Democrats in Senate races around the country immediately sought to make the conviction an issue for their opponents, demanding that those who had received money from Stevens, who was generous with contributions to his colleagues, return the funds.

If Stevens wins and insists on keeping his seat, his fate would be in the hands of his Senate colleagues. A senator can be expelled only by a two-thirds vote of the entire Senate, so a conviction does not automatically cost a lawmaker his seat. Since 1789, only 15 senators have been expelled, mostly for supporting the Confederacy during the Civil War, according to the Senate Web site.

U.S. Special Forces Raid Into Syria, Kill Iraqi Militant

By Eric Schmitt and Thom Shanker

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A raid into Syria on Sunday was conducted by U.S. Special Operations forces who killed an Iraqi militant responsible for smuggling weapons, money and foreign fighters across the border into Iraq, U.S. officials said Monday.

The helicopter-borne attack into Syria was by far the boldest by U.S. commandos in the five years since the United States invaded Iraq and began to condemn Syria's role in stoking the Iraqi insurgency. The timing was startling, not least because U.S. officials had praised Syria in recent months for its efforts to halt traffic across the border.

In justifying the attack, U.S. officials said the Bush administration was determined to operate under an

expansive definition of self-defense that provided a rationale for strikes on militant targets in sovereign nations without those countries' consent.

Together with a similar U.S. commando raid into Pakistan seven weeks ago, the operation on Sunday appeared to reflect an intensifying effort by the White House to find a way during the administration's waning months to attack militants even beyond the borders of Iraq and Afghanistan. Administration officials declined to say whether the emerging application of self-defense could lead to strikes against camps inside Iran that have been used to train Shiite "Special Groups" that have fought against the U.S. military and Iraqi security forces.

U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the secrecy of the raid into Syria said the mission had been mounted rapidly over the weekend on orders from the

Central Intelligence Agency when the location of the suspected leader of the insurgent group, an Iraqi known as Abu Ghadiya, was confirmed.

About two dozen U.S. commandos in specially equipped Black Hawk helicopters swooped into the Syrian village of Sukkariyeh near the Iraqi border just before 5 p.m., and fought a brief gunbattle with several militants, including Ghadiya, the officials said.

It was unclear whether Ghadiya died near his tent on the battlefield or after he was taken into U.S. custody, one senior U.S. official said.

One U.S. official described Ghadiya as al-Qaida in Mesopotamia's "most prominent" smuggler of foreign operatives crossing the Syrian border into Iraq, and in February the Treasury Department named him as one of four major figures in that group who were living in Syria.

WEATHER

I See You're Eyeing Those Snow Boots

By Elizabeth Maroon

Well, I'm sorry to get your hopes up; Boston just isn't far enough inland for that delightful white fluffy stuff. We get rain. Sorry. I feel your loss, really: after half of a semester of Experimental Physics I, I'm more than ready to throw snowballs at all my friends. So, why are we not getting snow? It's simply not cold enough here yet; remember how unseasonably warm it was on Sunday with a high of 66°F? The source of today's storm is a low that strengthened as it moved from off the middle Atlantic coast to New England. It has enough moisture to give us anywhere from a quarter to a half inch of rain today in Cambridge (grab your umbrellas!), and drop anywhere from a few flakes to a few inches in the Berkshires and at other high altitudes far inland. Don't worry too much though about your missed snowball fights; we'll get our wintry weather soon enough.

Besides plenty of rain, today holds a high of around 51°F (11°C). As that strong low moves northward into Quebec, the rain will also leave us. It'll be a chilly and breezy night, but still above freezing with a low around 35°F (2°C), and a southwest wind around 25 mph, with gusts up to 45 mph. If you're going to be out late with those problem sets tonight, grab a warm jacket. It's likely to be breezy tomorrow also; Wednesday will have a strong wind around 23 mph from the west, with gusts up to 35 mph. The winds should die down by Thursday with a sunny high around 50°F (10°C).

Extended Forecast

Today: Rain with up to a half inch of accumulation and a high around 51°F (11°C).

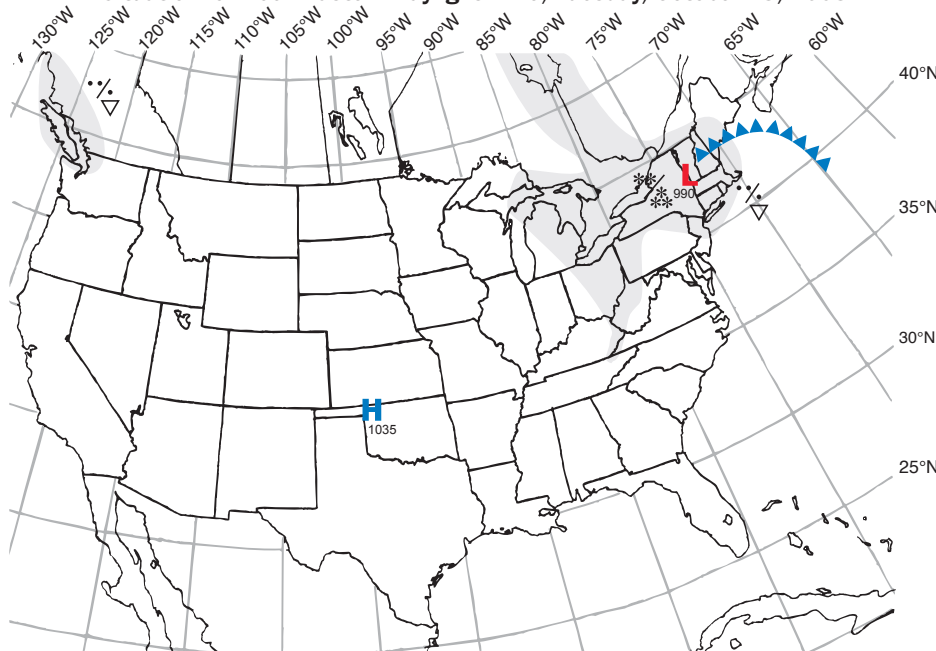
Tonight: Windy with a 50 percent chance of precipitation, low near 35°F (2°C).

Tomorrow: Breezy and cooler with a high of 49°F (9°C).

Tomorrow night: Mostly clear, windy with a low in the mid 30s°F (2°C).

Thursday: Sunny with a high around 50°F (10°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, October 28, 2008



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Tension Grows Over Role Of Kurds in Iraqi City

By Sam Dagher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSUL, IRAQ

A new Iraqi military offensive is under way in this still violent northern city, but the worry is not only the insurgents who remain strong here. American commanders are increasingly concerned that Mosul could degenerate into a larger battleground over the fragile Iraqi state itself.

The problems are old but risk spilling out violently here and now. The central government in Baghdad has sent troops to quell the insurgency here, while also aiming at what it sees as a central obstacle to both nationhood and its own power: the semiautonomous Kurdish region in the north and the Kurds' larger ambitions to expand areas under their control.

The Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki is squeezing out Kurdish units of the Iraqi army from Mosul, sending the national police and army from Baghdad and trying to forge alliances with Sunni Arab hard-liners in the province, who have deep-seated feuds with the Kurdistan Regional Govern-

ment led by Massoud Barzani.

The Kurds are resisting, underscoring yet again the depth of ethnic and sectarian divisions here and the difficulty of creating a united Iraq even when overall violence is down. Tension has risen to the point that last week American commanders held a series of emergency meetings with the Iraqi government and Kurdish officials, seeking to head off violence essentially between factions of the Iraqi government.

"It's the perfect storm against the old festering background," warned Brig. Gen. Raymond A. Thomas III, who oversees Nineveh and Kirkuk provinces and the Kurdish region.

Worry is so high that the American military has already settled on a policy that may set a precedent, as the United States slowly withdraws to allow Iraqis to settle their own problems. If the Kurds and Iraqi government forces fight, the American military will "step aside," Thomas said, rather than "have United States servicemen get killed trying to play peacemaker."

The competing agendas between the Kurds and central government

have nearly provoked violence before, but each side eventually grasped the risks. That may be the case now. At the moment, the Americans are hoping to refocus each side on fighting the insurgency rather than each other.

But the tensions underline that achieving basic security is only the first step toward deeper progress in Iraq — and that much remains, bitterly, unresolved.

Mosul falls outside the borders of the Kurdish region, but Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party came to control the provincial government after Sunni Arabs boycotted the provincial elections in 2005. The Kurds say, however, that they will not abandon the city until they reclaim five areas in Nineveh province, putting them on a political collision course with the central government.

Tense personal relations between al-Maliki and Barzani have worsened, officials on all sides say, after a standoff in September between the Iraqi army and the Kurdish security forces, the pesh merga, in eastern Diyala province. American forces helped contain that confrontation.

Yen Surges, Fueled By Abrupt End of Borrowing Scheme

By Martin Fackler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

Tumbling stock markets and falling currencies are causing global concern, but the Japanese yen is generating high anxiety for rising too much. The yen surged as much as 10 percent against the dollar last week. In the last month, it has gained an astounding 34 percent against the euro.

One reason the yen is rising is investors' flight to quality. Another reason, many economists say, is the sudden end of one of the world's biggest easy-money schemes, the so-called yen-carry trade.

The yen's rise helped hammer Tokyo's beleaguered stock market Monday. Share prices hit a 26-year low and are down 50 percent this year. A strong yen makes Japanese products more expensive during a recession in Europe and North America, hurting the profits of Japanese exporters.

Finance ministers from the world's seven wealthiest nations issued a joint statement as the Tokyo market sank, saying they were "concerned about the recent excessive volatility in the exchange rate of the yen and its possi-

ble adverse implications for economic and financial stability." But the yen remained strong as investors signaled their doubt that governments would intervene to stop the yen's gains.

Christine Lagarde, the French finance minister, confirmed as much in an interview with Bloomberg News.

The yen's rise is owed, in part, to its status as a safe haven — in turbulent times, investors move money into the currency because Japan is the world's largest economy after the United States, and its banking system has limited exposure to the subprime crisis, even though it faces recession.

But currency analysts say most of the yen's recent gains are because of the abrupt end of the yen-carry trade.

For much of this decade, Japanese and foreigners alike borrowed money in Japan, where interest rates were very low and money was therefore cheap. They invested that money in higher yielding assets across the world, from home loans in Budapest and Seoul to equities in Mumbai.

This turned Japan, with its \$15 trillion in personal savings built up by the nation's chronic trade surpluses, into a provider of low-cost capital for

the rest of the world.

No one knows for sure how large this outflow of yen was.

Much of the yen-carry trade took place beyond public scrutiny, in the form of currency options or other types of derivatives trading. Most analysts agree its size was in the hundreds of billions of dollars, with some estimating it reached well more than half a trillion dollars. As the yen-carry trade grew, currency analysts warned it was a bubble of cheap credit, which one day would burst.

Now that day has come, say currency analysts and economists. Investors have been unwinding their yen-based loans as part of a panicked flight from risky assets — like Budapest home loans and Mumbai equities — and into safer havens like the yen and the American dollar, which is also rising against the euro and British pound.

The prospect of global recession has also led central banks in many countries to cut interest rates, reducing the appeal of borrowing in Japan: South Korea cut interest rates by three-quarters of a point Monday, its biggest one-day move ever.

Candidates Aim for a Balance Between Confident and Cocky

By Mark Leibovich
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MESILLA, N.M.

Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain have been ever vigilant in recent days for signs of an unseemly affliction in the realm of presidential medicine: January Fever.

Both candidates have slipped a few times into the "when I'm president" construction in campaign speeches, but usually are careful to use the cautionary "if I'm president" refrain.

"If I am elected president," McCain said at a rally here Saturday, drawing out his "if" like inviting an interruption. A flurry of "when you're presidents!" arose from the crowd, segueing into applause and, eventually, a chant of "John McCain, John McCain."

"If I am president," Obama said at a rally last week in Leesburg, Va., which also triggered near-instantaneous cries of "when" from the crowd. But Obama was having none of it, or at least pretending not to have any of it (or, OK, maybe a little of it).

"No, no, no," Obama demurred,

half-heartedly motioning silence to the "whenners" with his hands. "I'm superstitious. I don't like counting those chickens before they're hatched."

The whole "chickens-hatched" thing has become a recurring theme on the trail in recent days. For Obama's campaign, the concern is that an expectation of victory — burnished by his solid lead in the polls — could make his supporters complacent on Election Day. There is also the danger that his campaign's confidence could spill into the unseemly danger-zone of cockiness.

America does love a winner, but it most certainly does not love an early-celebrating one. Sports fan analogy: Few spectacles are more satisfying than seeing a football player strutting towards the end-zone, only to be tackled out of nowhere at the one-yard line, provoking a humiliating fumble.

As such, McCain has spent significant stump time in recent days trying to portray Obama as the political equivalent of the strutting football player. (Or, in the case of Sarah Palin,

who prefers basketball metaphors, Obama is guilty of "cutting down the nets before he won the game.")

McCain regularly mentions the "planning already under way" between Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to assume their hammerlock on the government come January. In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Sunday, McCain accused Obama of already "measuring the drapes," of the White House, something he has charged repeatedly in recent days.

As far back as July, McCain's campaign has been trying to pin the Premature Inauguration tag on Obama. They dismissed his summer tour of Europe and the Middle East as a "premature victory lap," and mercilessly mocked Obama for fashioning his campaign logo into a faux-presidential seal (an experiment the Obamans quickly scuttled). For his part, McCain traveled abroad before Obama did, delivered a speech looking back on a hypothetical first term, and began giving a Saturday morning radio address, just like real live elected presidents do.

Bomber in Police Uniform Kills 2 Americans in Afghanistan

By Abdul Waheed Wafa
and Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

A suicide attacker in a police uniform blew himself up inside a police station in the northern Afghan province of Baghlan on Monday, killing two American soldiers and an 8-year-old boy, Afghan officials said.

The blast wounded several other people, including one American soldier, officials said.

Baghlan is a relatively peaceful province, and there is said to be no active insurgency there. But it was the scene of one of the bloodiest suicide attacks last year, in which as many as 72 people were reported killed, including five lawmakers and more than 50 schoolchildren.

The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the attack on Monday. A spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahed, identified the suicide bomber as a man named Abdul Ahad and said the attack had caused many more casualties than those reported by Afghan and American officials.

An American military spokesman, Maj. John Redfield, said that two coalition soldiers had been killed and three wounded. He did not give the nationality of the other two wounded coalition soldiers, nor did he say what they were doing at the police station.

U.S. personnel are involved in police training and mentoring and work closely with Afghan security officials in many provinces in Afghanistan.

Dim Days for Luxury Hotels

By Joe Sharkey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Even as midprice hotels began losing business this past summer, luxury hotels continued to fill their rooms. Companies treated the hotels as perks for top executives and quality locations for high-level business meetings. And many leisure travelers considered a stay at a top hotel — even for a couple of days — to be worth the cost.

Times have changed. Since mid-September, almost in parallel with the stock market turmoil, demand for fancy hotel rooms has plummeted. Patrick Ford, the president of Lodging Econometrics, said that luxury hotel room revenue rates "slowed in mid-September and really ratcheted downward during October."

Revenue per available room, the standard measure of performance, dropped 14 percent at upscale and luxury hotels in the week ending Oct. 18 over the comparable week last year, according to Smith Travel Research. For hotels in general, the decline was about 8 percent.

Even in the best of economic times, most luxury hotels were not sustained by business from rich leisure travelers. Instead, those hotels depended on corporate travel, including meetings and conferences.

21-Year Study of Children and Health Set to Begin

By Kate Murphy

THE NEW YORK TIMES

After nearly a decade of planning, researchers will begin recruiting pregnant women in January for an ambitious nationwide study that will follow more than 100,000 children from before birth until age 21.

The goal of the federally financed project, the National Children's Study, is to gain a better understanding of the effects of a wide array of factors on children's health.

"What we are doing is bold and needs to be bold in order to answer some pressing questions," said the study's director, Dr. Peter C. Scheidt, a pediatrician on the staff of the child-health division of the National Institutes of Health.

Investigators hope to find explanations for the rising rates of premature births, childhood obesity, cancer, autism, endocrine disorders and behavioral problems. To that end, they will examine factors like genetics and child rearing, geography, exposure to chemicals, nutrition and pollution.

While few quarrel with the goal, some experts worry that the expansive project will take resources away from smaller and more focused perinatal and pediatric research, particularly when budgets are certain to be strained by the financial crisis. The cost is estimated to be \$110 million to \$130 million a year, for a total of about \$2.7 billion.

A Rise in Kidney Stones Is Seen in U.S. Children

By Laurie Tarkan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

To the great surprise of parents, kidney stones, once considered a disorder of middle age, are now showing up in children as young as 5 or 6.

While there are no reliable data on the number of cases, pediatric urologists and nephrologists across the country say they are seeing a steep rise in young patients. Some hospitals have opened pediatric kidney stone clinics.

"The older doctors would say in the '70s and '80s, they'd see a kid with a stone once every few months," said Dr. Caleb P. Nelson, a urology instructor at Harvard Medical School who is co-director of the new kidney stone center at Children's Hospital Boston. "Now we see kids once a week or less."

Dr. John C. Pope IV, an associate professor of urologic surgery and pediatrics at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville, said, "When we tell parents, most say they've never heard of a kid with a kidney stone and think something is terribly wrong with their child."

In China recently, many children who drank milk tainted with melamine — a toxic chemical illegally added to watered-down milk to inflate the protein count — developed kidney stones.

The increase in the United States is attributed to a host of factors, including a food additive that is both legal and ubiquitous: salt.

Though most of the research on kidney stones comes from adult studies, experts believe it can be applied to children. Those studies have found that dietary factors are the leading cause of kidney stones, which are crystallizations of several substances in the urine. Stones form when these substances become too concentrated.

OPINION

Palin's Anti-Science Rhetoric

Yarden Katz

In her first policy speech in Pittsburgh last Friday, Sarah Palin spoke about the need for government programs to aid children with disabilities and disorders, highlighting the importance of scientific research into disorders such as autism:

"For many parents of children with disabilities, the most valuable thing of all is information. Early identification of a cognitive or other disorder, especially autism, can make a life-changing difference."

Palin agrees with scientists that understanding human diseases is important, but she doesn't like the strategy scientists have been taking toward this goal:

"Where does a lot of that earmark money end up anyway? ... some of these pet projects they really don't make a whole lot of sense and sometimes these dollars go to projects that have little or nothing to do with the public good. Things like fruit fly research in Paris, France. I kid you not."

As if it is not outrageous enough that our dollars are going to waste on scientists' play with fruit flies! No, to top it off, it's going to the particularly unruly French fruit flies, that probably sip a shot of espresso prior to metamorphosis, in their Rive Gauche, crêpe-padded vials.

It is of no use to mention, when arguing with Republicans, that much of what we know about how genetics and molecular biology work comes from work in 'lowly animals' like fruit flies and worms. Genetic linkage, recombination, and regulation, sex-linked inheritance, the cell cycle, or programmed cell death, ... the endless list that forms the most beautiful discoveries of how we work and where we come from.

This would be intellectual and elitist — an appeal to knowledge that we have, and they don't. It would require the curiosity and education that members of the other party conspicuously lack.

A more effective strategy is to shower opponents with a list of biomedical applications of this basic research. A list that's catchy and direct, and easily explained in a thirty second sound bite on an evening news program.

The applicability of these studies begin with what is undoubtedly the most relevant disease to Sarah Palin personally. When Palin's doctors broke the news that her future child will have Down syndrome (or 'Trisomy 21'), they probably explained that this disorder results from having an extra copy of chromosome 21. They might have also mentioned that the extra copy is a product of failure in the process of chromosome segregation, a fundamental aspect of the cell cycle across most organisms.

What Palin doesn't know is that defects in chromosome segregation and replication are powerfully studied in fruit flies as a model organism — right here at the Whitehead Institute, among other places — and that the ability to watch the segregation process take place in the fly gives the most insight into how and when it goes awry.

It is only against the background of a hundred years of previous genetics research in the fly that this intricate process becomes even remotely tractable for study. And of course, we now know that the key molecular players in this process work the same way in essentially all organisms (a highly suspicious coincidence if one doubts the forces of evolution.)

Palin also doesn't know that recent work in fruit flies on Fragile X syndrome, the leading genetic cause of mental retardation, starts to unravel the disease gene's function in nerve cells — and that insights from this work point the way toward potential therapeutic targets. Or that the mapping of several cancer tumor

pathways comes from work in flies and worms, culminating in the discovery of wildly successful drug therapies, like the FDA-approved leukemia drug Gleevec.

This list goes on and on. In short, I wouldn't be surprised if one vial of fruit flies in these research labs has done more for the "public good" Palin spoke of than she has her entire career. (Think of this next time you encounter those little creatures on your apples.)

Sarah Palin ought to be thankful to the real mavericks of genetics, who dared to think that they could understand fundamental pieces of which we are made, even in the humble fruit fly or worm (French or not.) It's the work of these

scientists that gives a glimmer of hope for treating these horrible human disorders.

MIT has been a mecca for biological research, and a tremendous player in these discoveries. Let's understand the many dazzling discoveries of these scientists — who

are all around us — and communicate the bottom-lines of their work to the public. Most importantly, let's make sure this work continues to be funded by keeping Palin as far away from a position of power as possible.

In summary, when talking to Republicans about science, don't try to educate. Don't tell the full story. In the context of this debate, don't talk about sequence homology, conservation of genetic pathways across organisms or the overwhelming evidence for evolution.

They don't know, don't care, and don't understand. Just go to the bottom line, the medical application, the bang the tax payer's buck. We want to win this time, and this is what it takes to win.

Yarden Katz is a second year Brain and Cognitive Sciences graduate student.

Palin agrees with scientists that understanding human diseases is important, but she doesn't like the strategy scientists have been taking toward this goal ...

Fizzling Out

John McCain's Limp to the Finish

Dan Yelin

John McCain was in trouble before Colin Powell's endorsement of Barack Obama. Now, he's in a desperate uphill battle just to stay competitive in the race. The former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's endorsement couldn't have come for a worse time for McCain.

With only one week left until the end of our electoral debacle, McCain has to struggle to regain control of the news cycle to try to get his message across, in addition to having lost the ability to play the "national security" card.

But McCain being McCain, he will continue to stick to his guns and press on, just as the band did on the Titanic as it sank into the dark abyss. The McCain camp is dead set on replicating the Nixonian formula of exploiting the cultural and racial divisions in America, hoping that there's a "silent majority" of voters out there who can be scared into voting Republican.

Not this time. McCain is finding himself with ever less ground to stand on as his running mate, Caribou Barbie, has seen her favorability ratings plummet in the weeks since the Repub-

lican National Convention.

Her recent statements expressing happiness in visiting the "pro-American" parts of America combined with her blatant lack of knowledge on several key issues serve only to further scare away those with doubts on whom to support. Why? Because if you don't vote Republican, Sarah Palin thinks you're a terrorist.

But the problem extends far beyond Sarah Palin. Senator McCain has simply refused to discuss policy in any meaningful way besides making untrue claims that Obama is an evil super villain who wants to balloon the size of government and is in bed with Bill Ayers.

In the third Presidential debate when asked what he would do about government spending, McCain said that he would "take a hatchet" to the Federal budget and institute a government spending freeze on "all but the most important programs," including defense, veterans care, social security, and healthcare.

While that may be a good talking point to position himself as a fiscal conservative, it demonstrates a lack of understanding about the fundamental problems facing America. Obama wants to "take a scalpel" to the Federal budget, cutting ineffective, redundant programs, while continuing to fund successful ones.

McCain's solution would be to lock nearly everything in its place regardless of circumstance. Exactly how does that directly cut the waste out of government?

During these tough economic times, America wants a cool, collected leader with the intellectual curiosity and willingness to look outside the box to solve our problems. Barack Obama has demonstrated his ability to lead and answer tough questions on the issues.

McCain's erratic behavior and personal attacks in the midst of the ongoing economic meltdown are doing little to sway the American public, making him seem out of touch. Misstating Barack Obama's former acquaintances are cute, but it doesn't address the fundamental questions voters have. It's the economy, stupid!

If McCain is to have a shot at winning this election, he needs to get on message and talk about what Americans want to hear. Unfortunately for him, the last presidential debate has passed, and from here on in, most of the campaign coverage will be sound bytes from big rallies and television advertising.

This is certain to give a further advantage to Obama, who is dramatically outperforming him in nearly every major metropolitan market.

Sorry, John. Try to remember that in the end, life as a U.S. Senator isn't all that bad.

Dan Yelin is a junior in the Department of Political Science.

Barack Obama has demonstrated his ability to lead and answer tough questions on the issues.



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Diagnosing Problems with 'The Human Factor'

The Need for Greater Institutional Awareness of Student Issues

Danbee Kim

MIT recently launched a fundraising campaign titled "The Human Factor." Their website, <http://thehumanfactor.mit.edu>, uses video and text to encourage donations to MIT, outlining several fundamental beliefs about students at MIT. While I am not against getting more money for MIT and its students, as a current student of MIT there are several reasons why I find The Human Factor to be misleading and over-simplified.

"The genius of MIT depends on the unique expressions of students' talents and personalities — the human factors. MIT students' achievements result from and depend upon the connections between their academic and extra-curricular passions." — *The Human Factor, The Campaign: Overview*

In spirit and perhaps intentions, the administration is right — the students of MIT are very driven and dedicated people who believe in the power of intellect and knowledge to lead our world into the next stages of advancement and development. The activities in which we engage are not limited to the world of academia, and our extracurriculars also mean a lot to us.

As such, it should be a key focus of the administration to understand and support the ideals, activities, and passions of their students. This requires not only open lines of communication, but a strong tradition of trust and interaction between the administration and the student body.

Unfortunately, such an environment currently does not exist.

What are the passions of students at MIT? Of course there are the usual extracurriculars, including performing and visual arts, sports, and religion. And these are all passions that influence and drive many people to great things. But what actually makes us "unique"? What are the activities of MIT students that excite prospective students on a tour? What gets MIT in national news, as commentators and journalists state with a wry combination of pride and awe, "You've never seen this anywhere else. But it exists at MIT?"

I came to MIT because I wanted to be in an environment where innovation and advancement are the daily pursuits of the entire community. Many of the students here have the self-motivation and the intellectual drive to get a good education at any university or college in the nation. The advantage of MIT is not just the benefits and opportunities that arise through financial means, such as funding for labs, research opportunities, and a myriad of student groups.

The true advantage of MIT is the mentality of the community, and its collective inertia to push the boundaries of human existence with every individual creative thought that we are able to muse upon. As a senior, my understanding of this community is that we are here to reach the leading edges of our respective fields as quickly and as knowledgeably as we can.

Why is an education at MIT compared to

drinking from a fire hose? As soon as we arrive, we are expected to engage in a feeding frenzy of learning in order to lay down a foundation upon which we can innovate as soon as possible. This is why I am here, and not elsewhere.

"The Institute is committed to ensuring that this education remains focused on addressing and solving the world's most intractable problems, while upholding the most rigorous academic standards. ... it must teach its students to be fluent communicators, culturally knowledgeable, intellectually agile, and confident." — *The Human Factor, The Campaign: Undergraduate Commons*

When I arrived, I expected an open community, where students collaborate with professors and administrators, not only to exchange knowledge and improve each other intellectually, but to constantly reinvent and improve our campus in a joint effort that strives to create a mecca of creative and innovative thought. If the students of MIT are to truly be the minds that will spearhead humanity's next leaps and bounds into the future, we need to be respected as a body of responsible, thoughtful, and aware adults.

Such an attitude requires the administration to not only understand and support students, but also to actively reach out to students and communicate with full transparency. Administrators, your students are not only meeting your "most rigorous academic standards," we are applying and innovating upon them. A student can express improvements to the educational curriculum with just as much accuracy and insight as, if not more than, the administration or even faculty and staff. We are trying just as hard to find ways to optimize our education and to become the leaders that everyone expects us to be.

I don't know if we need another \$500 million, and of course I'm not against more funding if it will truly benefit the students and the community. But this is money that is supposed to be spent on students and on improving our experience at MIT, and yet the general student body at large was unaware that such a fundraising campaign was even in the works.

How did the administration make an accurate and comprehensive decision on how much funding is needed, and where it is needed? If the students were not consulted, how do administrators really know how "... the Institute can offer a broader, more flexible, educational experience to prepare MIT students to solve complex, global problems?"

How can MIT students become "fluent communicators" if the lines of communication in our own institute are obstructed by miles of red tape and an inability to relate with many key administrators? How can we change the world if we are made to feel that we have no control over the change in our own Institute? How does MIT think that more money will fix an environment that is broken by a rift of misunderstanding between the students and the administration?

"MIT students' commitment to expand their knowledge — both inside and outside the classroom — is matched only by an equally impressive ability to integrate their passion for

academics and myriad other pursuits." — *The Human Factor, The Campaign: Overview*

If the administration is so proud of our passions outside the classroom and wants to nurture the "human factor" of MIT, then consider supporting the things that make us feel human in this brutal environment of prodigious intellectual expectations: our freedom to choose our living environments based on a ranked housing lottery; our freedom to eat what we want, when we want; our desire to feel a sense of security and acceptance for carrying out long-standing MIT traditions such as hacking; our desire to configure the public places on campus to reflect student tastes in art and architecture; and our need to know that MIT's primary focus and mission is centered on education, not business.

It is true that students at MIT are committed to the expansion of knowledge; it is now time for the administration to prove that they too are committed to the advancement of this cause.

"An MIT education is about more than what's taught in the classroom; it's also about learning by doing." — *The Human Factor, The Campaign: Student Life*

The beauty of a place like MIT is that unstructured and non-institutionalized learning flourishes here. What many people would call "tinkering" is what MIT students do best — we buy a commercial product and discover all of its inner workings, so well that we can make our own improvements to it; we have a crazy idea, collaborate with our fellow students on our own time, and end up with a giant USB controlled disco dance floor or a time traveler's convention. In order to tinker conveniently, we choose to live around people with whom we believe we can have a productive and inspiring exchange of talents and ideas.

In order to save our money for the equipment and tools needed to further our informal education, we choose to be efficient and frugal consumers in necessities such as food and clothing. In order to create spaces on campus that are conducive to such creative productivity, and even just the productivity needed for classes, we make our opinions known about the art and architecture placed in our working and living environment.

We believe that learning is not limited to the classroom, or even to time dedicated to classwork. Learning happens at every moment of the day, from every interaction we make, with every thought that passes under our scrutiny. This is the ideal that MIT seeks to project as its public image. It is crucial that this image not be the gilded layer hiding a contradictory reality; this must be the focus, drive, and motivation behind all of MIT's decisions.

One example of the MIT administration's severe misunderstanding of these basic principles is hacking. One of MIT's oldest and most publicized traditions, it is the creative, public application of the desire to tinker. As prefrish and high school students willing to give up our left arms to attend MIT, we were told that at MIT, one of the student traditions is to create "hacks," or "a clever, benign, and 'ethical' prank or practical

joke, which is both challenging for the perpetrators and amusing to the MIT community" (<http://hacks.mit.edu/Hacks/>).

The challenge, young prospective students are told, is to integrate a level of engineering aptitude with creativity in an anonymous way to show off one's engineering prowess. To the young people who are falling in love with the idea of MIT, this is the epitome of geek paradise — a place that challenges and encourages one to tinker, to demonstrate one's knowledge in creative ways.

There seems to be a very rudimentary understanding amongst the administration concerning the popularity and success of this learning technique called tinkering. MIT has a hobby shop in W31 and a student shop in the Edgerton Center, but these spaces only allow for mechanical tinkering, such as woodwork and metalwork. Why is there no public electrical engineering lab? If MIT sees fit to give students the tools to prototype and work on woodwork and metalwork projects on their own time, why not give analogous tools to the largest major on campus, computer science and electrical engineering?

MIT is a research institution, so why aren't students given the public space to carry out independent projects, explore new ideas and methods, and build as many prototypes as they can punch out of their overclocked minds? If the administration actually believes that "[t]he mission of MIT is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century", then there needs to be a greater accessibility to and availability of creative working spaces, where "learning by doing" can flourish.

"The task ahead is to nurture the creative impulses that flourish here so that these fledgling initiatives, as well as others that might be developed, will become part of the MIT education for all." — *The Human Factor, The Campaign: Undergraduate Commons*

The key to bridging the rift of misunderstanding between students and administrators is communication. Both parties seem to understand a similar goal — "to advance knowledge and educate students." However, the means to this end are being obstructed by the misaligned attitude of the administration; the administration seems to be going down a path of good intentions without considering the input of the body that they claim to serve — students.

If the administration is truly willing to begin a "Campaign for Students," they must first understand the demographic for which they intend to fight. An advocate who is mis-informed or under-informed cannot bring about productive or effective change, no matter how much money is involved.

Danbee Kim is hopeful that the MIT Administration will reach out to their students and become better informed on how to best utilize their donation money. Please visit campaignforstudents.com to learn how to raise the administration's awareness concerning the true needs of MIT students.

Why I Support Barack Obama

Competence, Judgment, Maturity, Vision, and Pragmatism

Spenser Skates

The fundamental question we should ask when selecting our next president is — twenty years from now, when I'm raising a family and I look back at this choice, which candidate will have made me and the rest of America better off?

From the perspective of an MIT student, the most important characteristic a leader can have is competence. Is competence too much to ask of the next President of the United States? The last eight years have been an embarrassment to the presidency and to our nation.

From the administration's bungled response to Hurricane Katrina, to the appointment of advisors who were mediocre at best and grossly incompetent at worst, to the mishandled Iraq war, the unraveling financial crisis, the creation of the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and attempted redefinition of torture, I cannot say I am proud of our federal government. I want the next four years to be opposite of the previous eight. I love America too much to let it be run into the ground.

This time around, it's the Democratic Party's presidential candidate who embodies the competence and judgement that can make America not only great, but exceptional.

America is ready for another John F. Kennedy or Lyndon B. Johnson. Obama is both rolled into one. Kennedy is remembered as a great president not because of what he did but because of what he inspired other people to do. "Ask not what

your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," he famously said.

There is an American flag on the moon because of Kennedy's leadership. How many other countries can claim the same? Johnson is remembered as a great president not because he was well liked, but because he passed the most comprehensive set of domestic programs in recent history, including landmark civil rights laws, Medicare and Medicaid, the launch of a war on poverty, consumer protection laws, and endowments for the arts and sciences.

He was able to pass the legislation he wanted because he knew how to work the system and approach the issue practically. Obama combines Kennedy's vision and Johnson's pragmatism. America under these two presidents was an America I can be proud of. We as Americans can't afford to let go of this opportunity.

Even the negative coverage of Obama reinforces his competence as a candidate. In July the New Yorker published a scathing article critical of Obama's rise in Illinois state politics. It did not criticize him for being corrupt, inept, or an extremist. It criticized him for working past the system too well.

When the worst scandal of Obama's campaign, Jeremiah Wright, came into the national spotlight, Obama did not stoop down and play the usual political game of responding on the same petty level as the attacks. Instead, he gave one of the most highly regarded speeches of his political career on the issue of race in America.

Closer examination of Obama's campaign and the choices he makes only reinforce what

we've already seen of the man. Obama has run the largest and most extensive ground operation ever seen in the history of American politics, throwing off the forty year Republican monopoly on well-organized campaign machines. Choosing Joe Biden as a running mate is a fundamentally competent choice.

Obama is also ahead of the curve on policy. He was quoted that he would authorize strikes on high value terrorist targets in Pakistan if the government of Pakistan was unwilling or unable to act. At the time it was regarded as a major foreign policy gaffe. Guess what the Bush administration has approved in recent months after realizing the Pakistani government was not going to act cooperatively against Taliban militants near the Afghan border?

Obama is fundamentally good at what he does. You don't become the presidential nominee of a major party by accident at 47 years old after being raised by a single mother living off food stamps in Kansas. You don't become the first black president of the Harvard Law Review by accident. You don't take on the Chicago political machine and win by accident. You don't defeat the biggest brand name in national Democratic politics over the past two decades by accident. In this day and age, you don't become president of the greatest nation on earth by accident.

Obama is not a liberal grandstander who talks a lot and accomplishes little. He is, in the end, eminently practical. To get a glimpse of what an Obama presidency would be like, we only need to look at his relatively short four years in the senate. He has worked closely with Tom

Coburn, a Republican Senator from Oklahoma who supports the death penalty for doctors who perform abortions, to pass the Coburn-Obama Transparency act, establishing a website to track federal spending so average citizens can find out where every one of their tax dollars has gone.

He passed the Obama-Lugar Act with Dick Lugar, Republican Senator from Indiana, securing weapons stockpiles in the former Soviet Union from terrorist groups. He has repeatedly spoken out for ethics reform, helping improve and pass the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act to stop companies from giving legislators free rides in corporate jets. I could go on.

The point is that Obama is a consensus-builder at heart. He has spent his time working on both sides of the aisle for practical measures that almost everyone can agree make the country better off. An Obama presidency would serve to manifest the spirit of the candidate's 2004 speech to the Democratic National Convention — "There's not a liberal America and a conservative America, there's the United States of America."

This is an America that values competence, hope, and optimism, and is tired of the ineptitude of the previous eight years. This is an America that is ready for change.

When I cast my ballot in November, I'm casting my ballot for Obama because I know he has the ability and competence to lead our country for the next four years.

Spenser Skates is a junior in the Department of Biological Engineering and a vocal supporter of the junior senator from Illinois.

CAMPUS LIFE

Brouhaha Rhythm

Saturday Night Feverishness

By Michael Lin

STAFF COLUMNIST

Operating under the assumption that I am occasionally funny, this is a humor column, and few things are quite so humorous as the quasi-coordinated trying to dance.

To be fair, I include myself in that category. On an average day, I consider myself a decent dancer, but I can't rave, I can't breakdance, and as far as I'm concerned, the "rumba" is spelled r-o-o-m-b-a and refers to my early morning routine: shuffling around my hovel picking up dirt with my socks and bumping into walls.

Nobody dances badly when they're by themselves in socks and undies (unless it's documented — so says the Heisenboogie Uncertainty Principle, and if that pun doesn't get my science license revoked, I don't know what will), but when out in a public setting, it's easy to become self-conscious.

It's terrifying, the idea that everyone's looking at you, watching your every movement, and judging your dancing abilities based on a first impression. Fortunately, however, that idea is

complete bollocks — they're not judging your dancing abilities, they're judging you. Mwahaha.

Once your average social dance has more than half a dozen people on the floor, one finds that unless a person shares the same dance cell as you, they'll be concentrating on their own dancing. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, "dance cell," it's how I describe the circular formation of three or more people into which dancers inevitably divide themselves on the floor. You know what I'm referring to.

In all likelihood, there's another, more official term for it, but I have neither the motivation nor the interest to look it up, neener neener. The term doesn't really apply for people who are moshing or grinding, but mosh pits are so tight that people see more of your forehead than your footwork, and if you're spending most of your dance time grinding, chances are you're competing to see who can stave off the inevitable wedgie the longest.

What this means for those among us who take a while to loosen up before being able to eviscerate a rug on the dance floor is that we

should enjoy ourselves rather than worry about judgmental spectators. Worrying about how we appear to the point where it undermines what we're doing is like spending your Facebook time spreadsheeting the applications. Sure, you might be the best one out there, but if you're not having fun, it's not a pastime, it's a job — and a sub-minimum-wage one, at that.

How much fun I have at a dance depends on a delicate balance of the skill and enthusiasm of the people I'm dancing with. In the aforementioned dance cell, I enjoy myself much more when my cellmates are enjoying themselves and dancing with gusto, although an overly gusto-infused glowstick to the face can put a damper on any evening.

Dancing with a talented partner one-on-one, however, puts a smile back under that black eye

somewhat faster than a psychotic clown with cosmetic surgery as a hobby.

In these past few days, I've had the pleasure of meeting acres of people who have made my weekend much more enjoyable on the dance front than I expected. Shoutouts are there-

Alas, I still suspect that a successful re-enactment of the Thriller video will never take place without considerable pre-planning and rehearsal ...

fore accorded to Batman's rogues gallery, a competitive ballroom dancer, and an intrepid group of adventurers who, amazingly enough, didn't mind riding the T in formal-wear. You know who you are. (No, not you.)

Alas, I still suspect that a successful re-enactment of the Thriller video will never take place without considerable pre-planning and rehearsal, no matter how hard that Jennifer Garner movie tries to convince me otherwise.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to go practice my swinging. I swear, Pitfall Harry needs way more than three lives.

Underground Inquiry

How Much for Water?

By Danbee Kim

STAFF COLUMNIST

Bottled water is losing ground these days. In major cities all over the world, schools, religious groups, city governments, and restaurants are all ditching bottled water for the free water flowing out of their taps.

Makes sense though, right? Why buy water when you can have it for free, out of any public drinking fountain or faucet?

Apparently, many Americans think there's something about bottled water that makes it worth buying. The fifty-four percent of Americans who regularly drink bottled water consumed just over 9,000 million gallons of bottled water in 2007. That's about 30 gallons per person, and comes out to about \$100 billion dollars a year.

This seems ridiculous when the United Nations is talking about spending a mere \$30 billion a year to halve the proportion of people in the world who lack reliable and lasting access to safe drinking water by 2015. In a place like the US, where the quality of water sanitation and supply are kept at very strict and very high standards, why would you ever pay an average \$2.50 per liter for water?

The bottled water trend isn't hurting just our wallets; it's also causing some pretty horrifying consequences to the planet. Even though bottled water is no cleaner than tap water in the industrial world, the rising demand for water wrapped in plastic is creating vast quantities of unnecessary garbage and consuming stupid amounts of energy.

While tap water is transported through an energy-efficient infrastructure — municipal plumbing — bottled water has to be packaged (very inefficiently — we all know the problems that come with packing cylindrical objects into rectangular boxes) and then transported long distances, often across national borders. By coming to us via train, truck, plane, and boat, this involves burning massive quantities of fossil fuels.

Let's take a quick look at an example close to home — LaVerdes. On the shelves of the bottled drink aisles are four common bottled water

labels — Poland Spring, Aquafina, SmartWater, and Perrier. When you do the math to obtain the unit price, Poland Spring costs about \$.06 per ounce, Aquafina about \$.07 per ounce, SmartWater about \$.09 per ounce, and Perrier about \$.12 per ounce.

If you drink the recommended "8 glasses of water a day", the equivalent of 2 quarts, 1.8 liters or about 61 fluid ounces, then you'd be spending anywhere from \$3.66 to \$7.32 on water — just water! Whereas if you buy a sturdy 32 oz reusable water bottle for \$10-\$12, all you have to do is fill it up three times from any free water source to beat the price of buying bottled water. It's a win from all sides — you pay less, and you don't waste precious plastic.

But financial and environmental incentives aren't the only reasons to doubt the glories of bottled water. Because bottled water is considered a "food product" by the FDA, bottled

water is not subject to the rigorous health standards to which public water supply must adhere. However, the FDA does specify labeling regulations and require bottled water companies to indicate whether or not their water comes from municipal or public water sources.

Even so, the FDA's labeling regulation is often ignored; these regulations appeared in 1993, yet it wasn't until July 2007 that Aquafina put a "disclaimer" on their bottles stating that their water comes from "public water sources". Also, any carbonated water, such as Perrier, is considered a soft drink and therefore does not fall under the jurisdiction of these or any water regulations.

Maybe there's some truth to the claims that bottled water tastes better, or that it has "electrolytes" (does that claim remind anyone else of the movie Idiocracy — "Brawndo! It's got electrolytes! It's what plants crave!"). But the rising costs of just about every product in our economy makes financial optimization a very attractive strategy right now.

If this country is so advanced, and such a desirable place to live, why can't we trust our own public water supply?

The fifty-four percent of Americans who regularly drink bottled water consumed just over 9,000 million gallons of bottled water in 2007.

Talk Nerdy To Me

Recycle Roles

By Christine Yu

STAFF COLUMNIST

Impulsive shopper that I am, I spent an ungodly amount on a Halloween costume last year. Costumes are like red carpet outfits: it's a fashion sin to be caught in the same one from a previous year. For guys, it's not as big of a deal because their outfits are rarely memorable in both situations.

However, for girls, Halloween usually brings out a slew of hidden skankiness, which people love to fixate on. With the invention of Facebook, there's now photographic evidence that you chose to skank it up in the same costume twice.

As the victim of the Asian frugal gene, I hate the thought of my overpriced pirate costume being one-time only. So, how do you get more wear out of a Halloween costume? My first thought was randomly wearing it to class, which might actually be considered normal ...

Then, my next thought was roleplaying. Sex gets boring when it's scheduled and systematic. Roleplaying is the way to get more bangs for

your buck — not only does it add a nice zing to the bedroom (or whatever room), but it also makes the costume a better investment.

Now, I'm sure some people are thinking, "but my significant other should only want to have sex with me!" I don't believe that humans are naturally monogamous. Instead, monogamy takes effort, and that's what makes relationships so special. To assume that you will only be sexually attracted to one person for the rest of your life is to resign yourself to a life of impossible odds!

Relationships are not a cure-all to fantasies. Humans, by nature, are curious, and this function goes up with intelligence. It's natural to wonder about other situations, even when committed. Roleplaying (or porn) is a way for people to release fantasies without actually cheating.

Roleplaying does not require a red carpet worthy performance. Costumes and props are not always necessary, although they can make it more intense. Instead, roleplaying is about picking a situation, like TA and student!

Other common roleplays include employee-boss, police-rogue, artist-canvas. Although at MIT, some of the roleplays I've heard of are anime and video game characters. (Now, this would be a good justification for Zelda music: roleplaying as Link and Zelda.)

For a sex-novice, roleplaying might be uncomfortable — except, it really shouldn't be. You can be whoever you want to be, which will allow you to lose all your inhibitions. It's good to occasionally get your mind off psets.

No one should want to be an MIT student 24/7 — it's exhausting. Also, you might find a side of yourself that you like better while roleplaying. You might find being aggressive to be hot. (Trust me, girls, guys do not like to do the work all the time!)

Just remember, never exceed boundaries

that you're truly uncomfortable with. One of my friends at WVU had a guy ask her to pretend to be his sister. When she told me this, my first thought was, "way to confirm a stereotype of West Virginians!" Then, I just found it incredibly disturbing.

One of my ex's asked me to be Sailor Moon, and I just couldn't define my childhood obsession — plus, even I can't pull off an odango wig.

In the end, sex is about mutual pleasure. If roleplaying makes you uncomfortable to the point that you don't enjoy sex, then it's not worth it. Sometimes, though, it helps to lead into it. Try a different position. Be the dominant one if you're usually submissive, and vice versa.

Just change the usual sex until you get more comfortable with drastically changing up the scene.

Have a happy Halloween, and, remember, you can almost always find a way to recycle any of your costumes.

Relationships are not a cure-all to fantasies. Humans, by nature, are curious, and this function goes up with intelligence.

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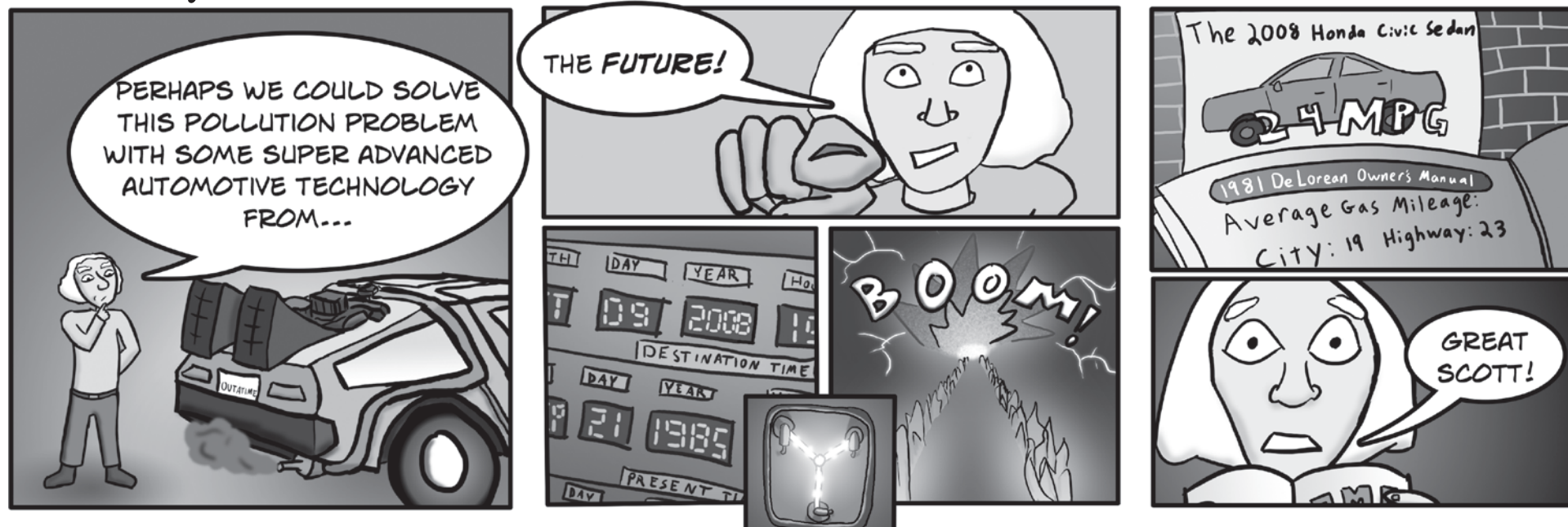
FUN

Page
7

PAGES

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Theory of Pete

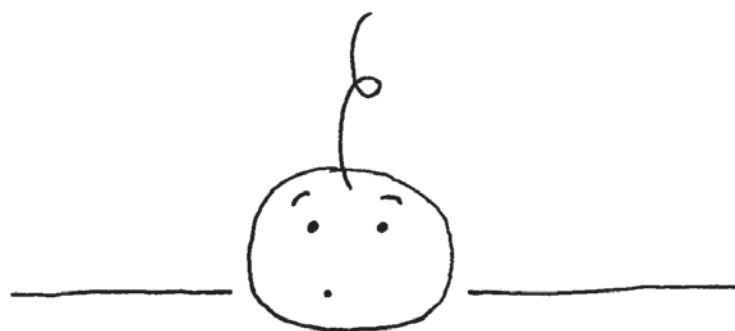
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PIMP MY RIDE

Hey guys... Where are the chicks?

su | do | ku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 11.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

					4			7
1					3		5	8
		5	1	8		6		
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Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Leave out
- 5 Michael of "A Fish Called Wanda"
- 10 Finest
- 14 "Fiesque" composer
- 15 First name of a plane?
- 16 Cedar Breaks state
- 17 Ripening agent
- 18 Flight segment
- 19 "Othello" conspirator
- 20 Talk-show neophyte
- 23 Tic-tac-toe outcome
- 24 J. Hancocked?
- 25 "Cabaret" director
- 28 Part of TGIF
- 31 Actor Milo
- 35 Check fig.
- 36 Criticize with hindsight
- 39 Complain
- 41 Lunch locale
- 42 Overtake
- 43 Intensive interrogation
- 46 Churchillian gesture
- 47 Flavor
- 48 Squealer

- 49 QB Dilfer
- 51 Practical joke
- 53 "The Raven" poet
- 54 Time
- 63 Inactive
- 64 Shoot-'em-up
- 65 Norway's capital
- 66 Bogs
- 67 Cubic meter
- 68 Mouthpiece insert
- 69 Historic years
- 70 Subdues
- 71 Polanski film

DOWN

- 1 Norwegian saint
- 2 Creche figures
- 3 Robert of "The Sopranos"
- 4 Human trunks
- 5 Basil sauce
- 6 Debate side
- 7 Fertile soil
- 8 Nastase of tennis
- 9 Drug agts.
- 10 Amasses
- 11 Latin & others
- 12 Wise person
- 13 Thunder god

- 21 Low digits
- 22 All aflutter
- 25 Particulars
- 26 Nebraska city
- 27 Landing area
- 28 More aloof
- 29 Country east of Fiji
- 30 Hagar's dog
- 32 Lift
- 33 City on the Ruhr
- 34 Plus feature
- 37 Byrnes or Hall
- 38 Dr. of rap
- 40 Development
- 44 Mild expletive
- 45 Schoolboy's collar
- 50 Vacation destination
- 52 Wraith
- 53 Former Israeli P.M.
- 54 Piccolo's cousin
- 55 ___-Neisse line
- 56 Forearm bone
- 57 Info
- 58 Agenda listing
- 59 Nothing more than
- 60 Words of understanding
- 61 Flamenco shouts
- 62 Silent assents

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N.H. Senator Sununu '87 Faces Tough Reelection Battle

By Matt Viser
THE BOSTON GLOBE

BEDFORD, N.H.

Jeanne Shaheen, the former governor running for the U.S. Senate, rarely mentions her opponent's name without mentioning George W. Bush. The Democrat's supporters wield signs depicting the president and U.S. Senator John E. Sununu '87, a fellow Republican, arm in arm. Outside a debate this week, Shaheen backers hoisted a loudspeaker that blared Bush's voice: "John Sununu was with me from the beginning ... John Sununu was with me from the beginning ..."

Seeking to further capitalize on the president's unpopularity, a TV spot sponsored by national Democrats shows the president's face morphing into Sununu's. Sununu has branded that ad "one of the worst things I've seen in politics." He has countered that Shaheen is a liberal who has displayed a dangerous lack of judgment and will vote to raise taxes.

One of the most closely watched campaigns in the country, the New Hampshire Senate race between two deeply experienced Granite State politicians known for their wonky command of policy has devolved into a mudslinging fight featuring harsh TV ads and hot-tempered exchanges.

The only thing civilized in the debate Tuesday night in Henniker was the brick fireplace in the background. The candidates repeatedly spoke over each other like bickering siblings.

The high passions reflect the high stakes in New Hampshire.

The race represents one of the Democrats' best chances at picking up a Senate seat as the party tries to win a filibuster-proof 60-seat majority in the Senate.

Bush's dismal poll numbers, the downturn in the economy, and the state's leftward shift in recent years are weighing on Sununu's chances. Polls have indicated that Shaheen — who lost to Sununu in the 2002 Senate race — has a lead averaging about six points.

"John Sununu is facing a real strong headwind," said Wayne Lesperance, an associate professor of political science at New England College in Henniker. "The Republican brand in New Hampshire is struggling. What we're seeing is instead of talking about his Republican status, he's trying to create that maverick status and stand with John McCain."

McCain and the GOP vice presidential nominee, Sarah Palin, have visited New Hampshire in recent days and appeared at rallies with Sununu. But the state is changing and may no longer be the most conservative in New England.

It was the only state in the country to reverse its view of Bush, supporting him in the 2000 presidential election but rejecting him in favor of Senator John F. Kerry of Massachusetts in 2004. In 2006, New Hampshire elected a Democratic governor by the widest margin in state history; two moderate incumbent Republican congressmen were defeated; and for the first time since 1874, Democrats took control of both houses in the state Legislature.

Statewide, voter registration has also eroded for Republicans. In 2002, the last time Sununu and Shaheen faced off, Republicans had an 11-point lead in registered voters. Now, both parties have about 31 percent of the electorate.

Like McCain, Sununu is running as an independent-minded politician who has been willing to challenge his own party. He reminds voters that he was one of 15 senators to oppose Alaska's infamous "Bridge to Nowhere." While he characterizes Shaheen as a "typical liberal Democrat who will raise taxes," the word "Republican" does not even appear on his own campaign website.

At 44, he is the youngest member of the Senate and frequently mentions that he is also the only engineer in the chamber. An MIT-educated engineer with an MBA from Harvard, Sununu is the son of John H. Sununu, a three-term New Hampshire governor and President George H.W. Bush's chief of staff.

Shaheen, who also helmed the state for three terms, is running as an agent of change who can reform Washington. She passes out signs that read "A New Direction" and plays songs like Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" at campaign rallies. She has seized on the economy and people's fears about financial collapse, criticizing Sununu's support for a partial privatization of Social Security that would "take seniors' retirement and gamble it on the stock market."

After she lost the Senate race to Sununu in 2002, Shaheen, now 61, served as a national chairwoman for Kerry's presidential campaign and was also director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard.

Both candidates are known more for their intellect than their inspiring rhetoric, and they stay on message while using terms like "pay-go budgeting," "S&L crisis," and "R&D tax credits."

"We're talking about two smart politicians here, and both kind of moderately popular in the state," said Dante Scala, a professor of political science at the University of New Hampshire. "They have a lot in common in terms of personal characteristics. Neither of them is a particularly flamboyant politician."

The hurdles for Sununu can be seen in southern New Hampshire, a traditionally conservative area that voted overwhelmingly for him six years ago.

"He's killing me with gas prices,"

The race represents one of the Democrats' best chances at picking up a Senate seat as the party tries to win a filibuster-proof 60-seat majority ...

said Rand McAfoose, a 60-year-old who voted for Sununu in 2002 but plans to vote for Shaheen next month. "All he does is vote for the big oil companies and follow Bush like a puppy."

For the first time in recent memory, the Democrats have established a campaign headquarters in Derry. That has forced local Republicans, who rarely had to fight for votes in the past, to become more organized and open up an office of their own less than a mile away.

Sununu embraced Bush during two presidential visits to New Hampshire during his victorious 2002 Senate campaign. Now the senator's attitude could be summed up as: W. who? Sununu's counterattacks on Shaheen, meanwhile, feature a commercial with 2002 footage that shows the former governor saying, "I'll stand with President Bush." The quote is replayed four times in the 30-second spot.

Sununu had a significant financial advantage for the last month of the campaign. He raised \$6.6 million in the last two years compared with Shaheen's \$6.4 million, although Shaheen brought in nearly \$1 million more than Sununu in the most recent

quarter. Sununu had \$3.6 million in his campaign account as of Sept. 30, compared with \$1.8 million for Shaheen.

But Shaheen has the advantage of not being in Washington at a time when approval ratings of Congress are at an all-time low. And she has not had to cast gut-wrenching votes, like whether to approve a \$700 billion financial industry bailout — a topic that has come up in debates.

"It is a perfect bill? No," Sununu, who voted for the legislation, said at a debate earlier this month at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. "But it is necessary. And to simply say, 'I wish Congress had kept working on it to get it right,' but then not really have any suggestions for how to improve it other than vaguely referring to taxpayer protection, that isn't leadership."

"John," Shaheen replied. "I don't

need a lecture about leadership."

Shaheen initially said she would "be inclined to vote for" the bailout, but later said she opposed it because it did not do more to protect taxpayers with additional oversight on financial institutions.

"We couldn't just stand aside and do nothing in Washington," Sununu said in an interview this week in Durham. "That's an indication Jeanne Shaheen's lack of judgment is dangerous in these very, very tough economic times."

Some voters seem tired of the negative tone of the election, and don't appear enthusiastic for either candidate.

"Mostly it's typical rhetoric," said Dave Morgan, a 68-year-old retired truck driver from Manchester. "She has less negatives than he does. And that's the only criteria you can use with a politician."

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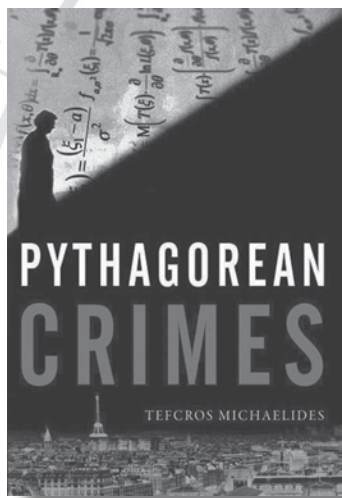
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With the Stock Market Sliding, Students Go to Cheaper Schools

By Peter Schworm
THE BOSTON GLOBE

ARLINGTON, MASS.

One of Tom Woodbury's sisters went to Vanderbilt University, the other to Boston College. But they didn't choose those pricey private colleges during a financial market meltdown that took a sizeable chunk of the family's college savings.

So the younger Woodbury, a senior at Arlington High School, is leaning toward the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, which costs less than half as much as many of its private counterparts. The more the Dow Jones industrial average declines, the more the state's flagship university seems to come up in conversation, he said.

"I've been hearing 'UMass, UMass' around the house for a while now," he said dryly, after attending a UMass recruiting visit Thursday afternoon with 30 classmates. "I'm getting the hint."

Cost, always a major factor in choosing a college, has taken on paramount importance this fall as high school seniors decide where to apply.

Many parents, gun-shy over plummeting retirement funds and home values, are recoiling at the prospect of a high-priced college, and urging their children toward more affordable alternatives in what higher education specialists refer to as a "flight to price."

They predict public universities will see a surge in interest, while some pricier private colleges, especially those with relatively small endowments and modest financial aid budgets, will receive fewer applications.

While application figures won't be available until next year, recruiters at the state's public colleges report unusually high turnouts at college fairs and campus open houses this month. Amid turbulence in the stock market, which coincided with the start of the college selection process, students are peppering admissions officers with questions about financial aid and loans.

"This year is going to be all about economics," said Tom Parker, dean of admission and financial aid at Amherst College.

Just as parents have watched in horror as their investments went up in smoke, colleges have seen their endowments decline. Their losses could limit their financial aid budgets at a time when demand for reduced tuition will probably escalate.

"As families suffer through the meltdown, so are the schools," said Stephen Michaud, a college consultant in Norwell. "It's definitely going to have an impact on what schools can provide in financial aid."

Michaud, who advises one family whose six-figure college fund lost 65 percent in one week, said parents are taking a keen interest in the University of Massachusetts system and the state's public colleges, which cost an average of \$6,400 a year. Enrollment at state public colleges rose sharply this fall, an increase that administrators attributed to the slumping economy.

The projected rise in families seeking financial aid is not expected to have a major effect at the wealthiest schools, such as Harvard, MIT, Dartmouth, and Wellesley, which

admit students without considering their ability to pay and meet families' full demonstrated need.

But the vast majority of colleges, from small schools such as Simmons to large universities like Northeastern, lack such resources and must carefully consider finances as they assemble their incoming class. Some educators fear that a sustained economic downturn will make colleges, particularly smaller schools that depend heavily on tuition, more dependent on students who can pay full freight, and less able to meet full financial need.

"I can imagine that's only going to increase, and that has obvious implications for access," said David Hawkins, director of public policy and research at the National

Association for College Admission Counseling. "So many schools are \$50,000 a year now," he said. "It's ridiculous. Personally, this isn't just my first choice, this is where I have to get in."

But many students said they were applying to a range of colleges with little regard to cost, and would worry about paying for it later. As Barr told the students, the average grade point average (3.5) and SAT score (1,155) for entering UMass freshmen, many sighed in regret.

"Right now, they are far more worried about where they can get in," said guidance counselor Lynna Williams.

But the two are related, some note. With applications surging at UMass-Amherst in recent years, only about 63 percent of students are accepted, far less than in the past.

Catherine Leger, the head of the guidance department at Brockton High School, said she is pushing her son, a senior, to attend UMass next year. Whether he can get in is another question.

"We're tapped. We're pushing him to the state schools," she said. "But they are only going to get more competitive."

Many parents, gun-shy over plummeting retirement funds and home values, are recoiling at the prospect of a high-priced college ...

Association for College Admission Counseling.

Colleges say they hope to expand financial aid to avoid pricing families out, and that they do not believe the economy will force major changes in their admissions and financial aid practices.

"A lot depends on how quickly and if this all settles down," said Laurie Pohl, vice president for enrollment and student affairs at Boston University, which costs about \$50,000 a year. BU recently imposed a hiring freeze and a moratorium on new construction projects in anticipation of increased demand for financial assistance.

"If the external environment remains as chaotic as it has been, I think it's going to be very difficult," Pohl said.

Surveys prompted by the recent economic troubles suggest that families are adjusting their college plans. Half say they are limiting their child's college choices to less expensive options and more than half are considering in-state, public colleges, according to ApplyWise.com, an online college admissions counseling service.

Nearly 90 percent of families reported cutting back on spending to set more aside for college. A separate survey, conducted by MeritAid.com, found that more than half of students are considering a less prestigious college because of cost.

"I'm definitely seeing more families put a financial 'safety school' on their list," said Mindy Popp, a college consultant in Newton.

Still, some college administrators say families will be willing to sacrifice for a college degree.

"With a doubt, price will be on families' minds," said Philomena Mantella, vice president for enrollment management at Northeastern University. "But they are sophisticated consumers. They will look beyond the price. Value is what really drives decisions."

But this fall, students seem par-

Ochsendorf Teaches Safe Building Design, Researches Masonry

Ochsendorf, from Page 1

city and then finally a doctorate at the University of Cambridge. "The truth is, I always studied things that I really loved but would never lead to a job," said Ochsendorf. "I choose to study old stone structures, old stone monuments, you couldn't possibly get a job studying that, nobody studies how old stone monuments stand up or fall down," he added. His PhD work revolved around studying failures of stone buttresses, vaults, and arches. He also spent a year in Spain on a Fulbright scholarship studying cathedral buildings.

Ochsendorf felt very lucky about finding his job at MIT. "I was at the right place at the right time." As a faculty member in the department of Architecture, he teaches architects how to design safe buildings, bridging the fields of structural engineering and architectural design. Ochsendorf felt right at home in a department that is very interdisciplinary, much like his background. He began work at MIT as an assistant professor in July 2002. In the past 6 years, he has built up a research group that studies mostly masonry structures.

The masonry research group has various projects in three broad areas,

mechanics, design, and historical architecture. The mechanics deals with the physical constraints on buildings and modeling them with software. The design aspect involves projects in various regions of the world including a project in Mapungubwe area in South Africa. "The group designed structural vaults made out of local soil for a new museum to be built," according to the project website.

Ochsendorf spoke with a lot of enthusiasm and passion for what he does and the importance of understanding structures specific to design constraints. He remarked while it may be useful to build tall skyscrapers in Manhattan out of titanium, it isn't the same specifications or even appropriate to do the same in South Africa. He understands that we aren't going to revert back to the days of the Incas but raises the point that we have to be conscious of our resources and use technology as well as history in conjunction to aid us in creating more efficient structures.

The other fellows ranged from a saxophonist to an infectious disease physician. Ochsendorf will be getting the first check in January. There is only one obligation: "I had to promise to cash the checks."



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HPV.COM

Solution to Sudoku
from page 8

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

Solution to Crossword
from page 8

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

Media Lab Sponsor Week Displays New Patented Inventions

Media Lab, from Page 1

that it gives companies the right to take Media Lab patents to the commercial market. Organizations which do not fund the Media Lab must wait at least two years before they can license any patents. A 37-page list of patents is featured on the Media Lab website.

This week, the Media Lab is hosting Sponsor Week, a biannual event in which companies and prospective entrepreneurs tour the Media Lab to learn and experience its developing technologies. Representatives from internationally recognized companies will tour the numerous demos and projects on Thursday in hopes of bringing

a Media Lab invention to the commercial market.

Plans to build the Media Lab were first announced in 1980 by Professor Nicholas Negroponte '66 and MIT President Jerome Wiesner. With help from the MIT Architecture Machine Group, the Lab was built in 1985 to pursue the real-world application of novel technologies.

Currently in its third decade, the Media Lab consists of more than 40 faculty members, 116 graduate students, and 30 interdisciplinary research groups. Notable research projects include RoboScooter, the humanoid robot Nexi, powered ankle-foot prosthesis, smart post-it notes called Quickies, and the roving alarm clock Clocky.

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Chomsky: U.S. Has Lost Influence in South America

Chomsky, from Page 1

the Pentagon to develop the "factory of the future" to teach backward American management how to catch up on the Japanese lead in production. SEMATECH ["Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology"] was formed.

If it was not for Reagan's protectionism and calling in of state power, we would not have a steel industry, or an automobile industry, or a semiconductor industry or whatever they protected. They reindustrialized America by protectionism and state intervention.

All of this is washed away by propaganda as though it never happened. It is very interesting to look at a place like MIT which was right in the center of these developments. My department — you are teaching a course in the Military Industrial Complex — my department is an example of it.

I came here in the mid-50s. I don't know the difference between a radio and a tape recorder, but I was in the electronics lab. I was perhaps the one person who refused to get clearance on principle. Not that it made any difference; everything was open anyway.

The electronics lab, along with the closely connected Lincoln Labs, was just developing the basis of the modern high tech economy. In those days, the computer was the size of this set of offices and vacuum tubes were blowing all over the place [with] computer printouts, paper running everywhere.

By the time they finally got computers down to the size of a marketable mainframe, some of the directors of the project pulled out and formed DEC [Digital Equipment Corporation], the first main frame producer.

IBM was in there at government expense learning how to move from punch cards to electronic computers. By the early 1960s IBM was capable of producing its own computers, but no one could buy them. They were too expensive. So they were bought by the National Security Agency.

Bell Labs did develop transistors. That is about the only example you can think of a significant part of the high tech system which came out of private enterprise. But that is a joke too!

Bell Labs were able to run a great laboratory because they had a monopoly, so they could use monopoly pricing powers to set up a great laboratory. They worked on technology. Their transistor producer was Western Electric, who could not sell them on the market; they were too expensive. So the government bought about 100 percent of advanced transistors.

Finally, of course, all of this gets to the point where you can market them privately. It was not until the 1980s after 30 years of development essentially in the state sector that these things became marketable commodities and Bill Gates could get rich.

The Internet was the same thing. I was here when they were starting to work on the Internet. It was not until 1995 that it was privatized, after 30 years. If you look at the funding at

MIT, in the 1950s and 1960s, it was almost entirely Pentagon. For a very simple reason, the cutting edge of the economy was electronics based.

A good cover for developing an electronics-based economy was the Pentagon. You sort of frighten people into thinking the Russians are coming, so they pay their taxes and their children and grandchildren have computers.

Through the 70s and 80s funding has been shifting to NIH. Why? Because the cutting edge of the economy is becoming biology-based. So, therefore, the state sector is shifting its priorities to developing biology-based industries.

In the meantime, all of this is going on with accolades to the free market. You don't know whether to laugh or cry.

The point is, to get back to the new international economic order: it was a serious proposal which was immediately kicked out the window and UNCTAD was reduced to a data collecting agency with no policy initiatives and the new information order was destroyed, along with UNESCO.

What we had were the neo-liberal programs rammed down the throats of the poor. Although the rich did not accept them, and to the extent that they do accept them, it is harmful to them too.

This went along with the great shift to the liberalization of finance. It was a disaster in the making all along, serious economists have been pointing out since the early 70s that the freeing up of financial capital flows is just a disaster in the making, with in fact periodic crises.

Also, Reagan the great free marketer carried out one of the biggest bailouts in American history when he bailed out [and virtually nationalized] a major bank.

Subrata Ghoshroy: This was the Latin American crisis? Brazil?

NC: This was before that. This was Continental Illinois. Later they had the savings and loan crisis; Citibank was overexposed in Latin America. The federal government has to continually step in to insure that the financial institutions that it is letting run wild survive.

SG: Do you see any special characteristics to this crisis?

NC: This is apparently considerably worse, for one thing, because no one seems to understand what is really going on. There was clearly a housing bubble and some of the better, more serious economists began writing about it a couple of years ago.

So Dean Baker, for example, has been regularly pointing out that housing prices are completely unsustainable. Greenspan was saying, "Don't worry about it." It is the Greenspan crisis. It has turned into a crisis for the entire credit industry. And a major one.

I don't think that the banks and the hedge funds even understand the instruments that they are using, but they are very delicate and they could crash. I presume that the financial institutions are strong enough to be able to weather it somehow, but no one really knows. Just like no one knows whether China, Japan and Dubai and Singapore will continue to keep what from their point of view

are poor investments in the U.S. economy, treasury securities, etc., or whether they will diversify.

If they diversify, what happens to the U.S. economy? The U.S. has become a low production, high consumption economy. What happens if the Chinese, the Japanese, and Dubai stop funding the American consumers? A lot of things could happen, but unlike poor countries, U.S. does not really have to pay its debts. There are a lot of ways to avoid doing so, but these are real hammer blows to the international economy, the kind that are not understood.

The bailouts of Fannie Mae and Freddie [Mac], was described pretty well by Martin Wolf, the economic correspondent for the *Financial Times*. He says it is outrageous, a case of the public taking the risks and being forced to pay for the foolishness and incompetence of the private management of the market institutions.

The public takes the risks and pays for the costs.

SG: So, the public debt goes up tremendously.

NC: Yes, enormously; liabilities from these takeovers are, I forget the number, but it is a substantial proportion of the national debt.

SG: They are talking about close to a \$200 billion injection from the treasury.

NC: I think, it is something like one-third of the deficit, the public debt. It is huge. That is the public debt, that's my grandchildren, you know. It is permitting financial institutions to run wild without regulation. So, if you allow unregulated capital, of course you will have corruption and disaster.

Read Adam Smith. He points out if you see two business men talking in the corner, they are probably arranging a conspiracy against the public. That's their job. It is not that they are bad people. That is just what they are supposed to do.

Just like a corporation is not evil to try to maximize profit. If managers are not trying to maximize profit, they are breaking the law. They are not supposed to be ethical institutions; they are supposed to be operating in the interests of their share-

holders.

SG: Because of the integrated nature of the global economy, are there others who would want to keep the American economy vibrant?

NC: Sure that's why China buys U.S. treasury securities. They want to keep America spending. So, in a way that may be stabilizing, ... but it is a very uncertain kind of stability. They might decide to devote their resources to increase purchasing power inside China, for example, instead of inside the U.S. It is conceivable, which would

mean a big shift in the international economy.

SG: If China makes a precipitous decision to do something — for example, there is one fund, a Sovereign fund; it is \$200 billion dollars — and if they pull money out, will there be military threats from the U.S.?

NC: But what do the military threats mean from the U.S.? Of course, the U.S. outspends the rest of the world in military spending and is more technologically advanced. But what are they going to do? Are they going to bomb Beijing? I mean, they can't [even] control Afghanistan.

Sure, they have a huge military, but I doubt that the U.S. will use it as a weapon. U.S. capacity to undermine governments by military threats has been declining in recent years.

Take Latin America, a traditional region where U.S. has regularly overthrown governments through military coups and so on, in the last 10 years it has been very hard. U.S. sponsored a military coup in Venezuela, but could not carry it off, had to back down, partly because the military coup was immediately overthrown by popular uprising and partly because of the uproar in Latin America, where they would not tolerate it any longer.

If you look at the history, it is quite a change. U.S. and France did

effectively carry out a military coup in Haiti and threw out the government, but you know that Haiti is a desperate country. It was the richest colony in the world and the source of much of France's wealth, but it has been tortured by France and then the U.S. for 200 years, now it barely survives. Overthrowing the government of Haiti was not that difficult a task.

SG: So, do you see a decline in the military ability of the U.S.?

NC: There is a very serious decline in the ability of the U.S. to undermine and over-

throw governments. South America for the first time since the European conquest, 500 years, is moving uneasily, but noticeably, in the direction of independence and gaining sovereignty. The U.S. is unable to do much about it.

One of the main military bases for the United States until recently was Paraguay; the U.S. just lost Paraguay with the last election of a liberation theology priest. That was one of the few remaining U.S. military bases in South America. In Central America, which was devastated by Reaganite terrorist wars, nevertheless, there are beginnings of a recovery. In Honduras, which was the center of the whole U.S. terrorist apparatus, President Zelaya has been moving towards alliances with Venezuela. There is not much that the U.S. can do about it.

[The U.S. is] trying; the training of Latin American officers has risen very sharply. The School of the Americas has been renamed. In fact, if you look at U.S. aid to Latin America, the percentage of military aid, as compared to economic aid, is far higher now than at the peak of the cold war. I think that the U.S. is trying to rebuild some kind of military capacity to deal with its loss of control over Latin America. It used to be able to overthrow governments easily or destroy a country back in the 1980s, but now it is harder. ...

One of the main military bases for the United States until recently was Paraguay; the U.S. just lost Paraguay with the last election of a liberation theology priest.

Through the 70s and 80s funding has been shifting to NIH. Why? Because the cutting edge of the economy is becoming biology-based.

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Fred Fest '08 Lights Up East Campus' Courtyard

Fred Fest '08, a joint production of WMBR radio and EC Concert-Comm, filled the East Campus courtyard with music on Saturday afternoon and evening. The bands included Pesticide Red, Tristan Da Cunha, Peter Lavender, and Supa Dupa.

(clockwise from top among top three) Vocalist and guitarist Barry Matthew Kudrowitz G, trumpeter Martin W. Skelton '08, and violinist Paula M. Te '11 of Supa Dupa entertain the crowd.

(bottom) Students and locals watch bands in the East Campus courtyard.

Photography by Eric D. Schmiel



Sports Shorts, from Page 16

Brown's Big Day Carries MIT Past Salve Regina, 34-19

DeRon M. Brown '10, who entered Saturday's tilt as the nation's leading rusher, rushed for 248 yards and four touchdowns to lead MIT to a 34-19 win over Salve Regina University in New England Football Conference Boyd Division action at Toppa Field.

The Engineers defense—led by junior Steven M. Nunez's '09 13 tackles (10 solo)—held Salve Regina to 6-of-17 on third-downs and 4-of-9 on fourth downs. MIT also sacked Seahawk junior QB Jeff St. Onge three times, including two by freshman Jared M. Darby '12.

The Seahawks struck first, taking a 6-0 lead on a 12-yard scoring pass from St. Onge to classmate Ben Hall. The Engineers tied the game at six just 39 seconds into the second half when Brown capped a 19-play, 60-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown run. After a quick three-and-out by the Seahawks, Brown scampered 68 yards for a touchdown to put MIT in front 13-6 with 11:26 remaining in the half.

Salve Regina tied the game at 13 with 5:26 left in the half, but MIT closed the half with a 10-play, 58-yard drive that Robert C. Utz '09 polished off with a five-yard touchdown run that gave MIT a 20-13 halftime lead.

In the second half, Brown's third rushing touchdown of the afternoon put the Engineers in front 27-13 in the third quarter. Less than two minutes later, St. Onge hooked up with junior Matt Shubert on a seven-yard touchdown pass that closed the gap to 27-19. The PAT following the score was blocked. On the ensuing drive, Brown capped a three-play, 46-yard drive with a nine-yard touchdown run, bringing his season total to 21 and putting a close to the scoring.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

SCOREBOARD, CONT.

Scoreboard, from Page 16

Men's Water Polo	
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008	
Washington & Jefferson College (0-6)	6
MIT (6-10)	17
Penn State Behrend (3-10)	15
MIT (7-10)	21
Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008	
MIT (7-11)	15
Johns Hopkins University (14-14)	20



MICHAEL MEYER—THE TECH

Jeffrey Y. Zhou '10 swims in the 50 yard butterfly at the annual Beavers vs. Engineers Alumni Swimming Meet on Saturday at the Zesiger Aquatic Center.

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SPORTS

New Synthetic Turf Soccer Field Named For Junior's Parents

By Nydia Ruleman
STAFF REPORTER

On Saturday, Chancellor Clay addressed the crowd of students gathered at Steinbrenner Stadium to celebrate the dedication of Roberts Field.

The playing surface, potentially one of three new artificial turfs, was the first step in fulfilling a ten year vision for improvements to the 26 acre Briggs field complex. MIT alumnus Thomas E. Faust '80, CEO of Eaton Vance, made the lead gift to fund the planning of the renovations. Bob and Eveline Roberts, for whom the turf is named, made the gift that allowed construction of the field. Their daughter, Julia N. Roberts '10, plays midfield for the women's soccer team.

After the dedication ceremony, the

women's soccer team took to Roberts Field against Mount Holyoke College. On Senior Day, the team honored players from the class of 2009: Stephanie V. Brenman '09, Cassandra N. Gibbs '09, Sarah J. Smith '09, and Jodie Z. Wu '09. In front of the largest crowd of spectators this season, the Engineers defeated the Lyons 4-2.

The Office of Advancement for DAPER and the Department of Student Life collaborated to put together the community event, which offered boxed lunches and sport water bottles to the first 300 attendees. Julie Norman, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education called the event "an opportunity to dedicate the field and show the donors how much students appreciate it."



The Engineers played the Wheaton College Lyons in a scoreless 0-0 double overtime tie in Steinbrenner Stadium on Saturday afternoon. The men's soccer game was physical with 49 total fouls. It was the pairing's first stalemate in their last 13 matches; the outcome put the Engineer's season record at 14-1-2 overall. MIT will finish their season on Nov. 1 at Babson College.

(top) Christian W. Therkelsen '11 tries to keep the ball moving downfield against Wheaton midfielder Chris Thomas in the second half of the game.

(bottom) Peter Bojo '11 defends the ball against Wheaton midfielder Jake Wagner.

Photography by Peter Rigano



SCOREBOARD

Men's Heavyweight Crew	
Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008	
Princeton Chase	
MIT	9th of 40

Men's Lightweight Crew	
Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008	
Princeton Chase	
MIT	17th of 30

Women's Openweight Crew	
Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008	
Princeton Chase	
MIT	30th of 44

Women's Lightweight Crew	
Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008	
Princeton Chase	
MIT	39th of 44

Field Hockey	
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008	
MIT (5-12)	1
Mount Holyoke College (9-6)	4

Football	
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008	
MIT (5-3)	34
Salve Regina University (3-4)	19

Rifle	
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008	
U.S. Naval Academy	4598
Wentworth University	4237
MIT	4449

Sailing	
Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 25-26, 2008	
Oberg Trophy	
MIT	11th of 17
Stu Nelson Trophy	
MIT	7th of 18

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008	
Hoyt Trophy	
MIT	7th of 18

Men's Soccer	
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008	
Wheaton College (9-4-3)	0
MIT (14-1-2)	0

Women's Soccer	
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008	
Mount Holyoke College (5-11-0)	2
MIT (5-8-2)	4

Women's Volleyball	
Friday, Oct. 24, 2008	
Hardin-Simmons University (15-9)	2
MIT (16-10)	3
Texas Lutheran University (19-4)	1
MIT (17-10)	3

Saturday, Oct. 24, 2008	
MIT (17-9)	0
Trinity University (25-9)	3
Ohio Northern University (25-4)	3
MIT (17-12)	0

Scoreboard, Page 15

Women's Soccer Tops Mount Holyoke, 4-2

Assisting on the Engineers' first two goals, Alisha D. Lussiez '12 capped the scoring with a beautiful individual effort as MIT defeated Mount Holyoke College, 4-2.

Playing in front of its largest crowd of the season, MIT grabbed an early advantage in the pivotal conference match with a goal in the 12th minute. Lussiez set-up the finish with a pass to sophomore Edith R. Reshef '11, who converted her second goal of the season for the 1-0 lead.

The Engineers extended their lead in the 30th minute as Lussiez delivered a great through ball that was picked up by sophomore Claire M. DeRosa '11, who turned her first goal of the campaign into a 2-0 lead for MIT.

Junior Perry Markell sliced the deficit in half by getting Mount Holyoke on the board in the 62nd minute. Scoring from just outside the box, the unassisted marker rejuvenated the Lyons' attack and set the stage for a wild finish.

MIT secured some much-needed breathing room as Kathryn A. Pesce '10 scored her first marker of the year in the 73rd minute. Pesce's blast from 35 yards out sailed over the head of Lyons' netminder Elaine Harvey as the Engineers moved ahead, 3-1.

Mount Holyoke rookie Emily Lomax scored her first career goal in the 85th minute to cut the deficit to one goal. MIT freshman Lussiez sealed the Senior Day victory by dribbling through two defenders en route to her team-leading seventh goal of the season with 39 seconds left in regulation.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Men's Water Polo Takes Second at Division III Eastern Championship

After winning their first two games at the Division III Eastern championships, the MIT men's water polo team fell to host Johns Hopkins University, 20-15, in the tournament final. The Engineers have now finished second to the Blue Jays at the championship four times in the past five years.

As the tournament's number-two seed, MIT opened up play against Washington & Jefferson on Saturday afternoon. The Engineers opened up a 7-3 halftime advantage, before defeating the Presidents 17-6. John V. Preis '11 led the MIT attack with six goals and Michael R. Smith-Bronstein '09 added four. Columbus P. Leonard '12 had nine saves while surrendering just four goals.

The Engineers returned to the pool later that night to take on Penn State Behrend, outlasting the Lions in a high-scoring affair, 21-15, to earn a berth in Sunday's championship game. Mark E. Artz's '10 four goals led a balanced scoring attack for MIT. The win ensured that MIT and Johns Hopkins would meet for the tournament championship for the 13th time.

Sunday's final was a high-scoring, physical tilt that saw the teams combine for 29 ejections. MIT jumped out to an early 3-1 lead, but Hopkins rallied for a 9-6 halftime advantage. Despite drawing a pair of penalty throws, the Engineers could not close the gap, dropping a 20-15 decision to take second place in the tournament.

Smith-Bronstein and Preis were named First Team All-Tournament and Devin M. Lewis '10 made the Second Team.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Sports Shorts, Page 15

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008
Field Hockey vs. Clark University 6:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field
Women's Volleyball vs. Wellesley College 7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Boston College 7:00 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center