

## \$900K Donated by MIT Employees in 2008 Election Cycle

By Jeff Guo  
NEWS EDITOR

MIT employees gave nearly \$900,000 in political contributions this election cycle, a search of the Federal Election Commission's public database reveals.

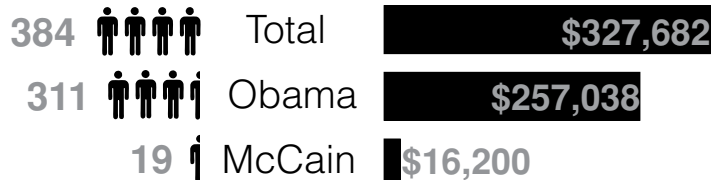
Barack Obama received \$620,000 from MIT employees, through either direct donations or affiliated political

action committees like Obama for America. John McCain received less than a tenth of that — \$44,000. The rest of the money went to other candidates or to other PACs like Emily's List and the Republican National Committee.

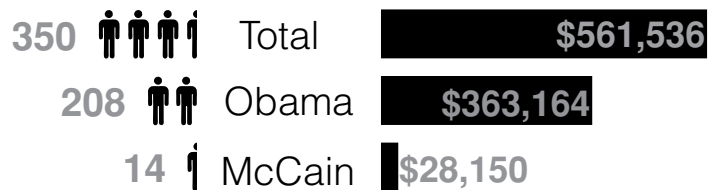
In the FEC database, an MIT em-

Donations, Page 9

### Donations to 2008 Campaigns by MIT Employees



### Donations to Political Action Committees by MIT Employees



Hundreds of MIT employees have given money to political campaigns this election cycle, according to the Federal Election Commission's campaign financing database, accessed on Oct. 30.

## Chomsky Discusses the 2008 Election

By Subrata Ghoshroy  
SPECIAL TO THE TECH

This is the third 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 2008 presidential election.

Another version of this interview

was previously published at *Alternet.org*.

Subrata Ghoshroy: If Obama wins, will that bring any changes in U.S. foreign policy?

Noam Chomsky: The prior question is whether he will win. My assumption all along is that McCain will probably win. Now that he has picked Sarah Palin as his vice president, I think those probabilities have increased, for reasons that are under-

## Physics Dept.'s Soljagic Receives MacArthur for Wireless Electricity

By Omar Abudayyeh  
STAFF REPORTER

It started with a vision of self-charging cell phones, Marin Soljagic explained.

Soljagic's hope for a society that would never have to worry about forgetting to charge electronic devices led him to the development of wireless electricity, known as WiTricity, and the honor of becoming a 2008 MacArthur Fellow. The fellowship, commonly known as a "genius grant," will provide him with \$500,000 over five years for research with no strings attached.

Soljagic was in the car on his way to pick up his son from school when he received the phone call from David Socolow, MacArthur Foundation Fellows Program Director, informing him of his award. "Can you pull over?" Soljagic recalls Socolow saying. "I don't want anything happen to you."

After hearing the news, Soljagic was in shock. As is usually the case with MacArthur Fellows, he had not known that he was under consideration.

Soljagic first became interested in wireless energy after being woken up one too many times by the low-battery alarm on his old Nokia cell phone. The hassle of crawling out of bed to plug in his phone made him think about alternatives to plug-in power.

"Society is very dependent on batteries, considering that 3 billion a year are used. ... What we need is automatic charging for all electronic devices," Soljagic said. He started to



ALLISON M. ALWAN—THE TECH

Marin Soljagic '96, assistant professor in the Department of Physics, is one of two MIT faculty members to receive a 2008 MacArthur Fellowship, or "genius grant." Soljagic discovered a method to wirelessly transmit 60 watts of power over 2 meters using strongly coupled magnetic resonance. His work holds important implications for understanding optical physics and the development of devices such as wireless transmitters.

investigate the transmission of power through magnetic resonance.

While WiTricity will autonomously recharge cell phones, laptops, and other devices, it has applications be-

yond consumer electronics, possibly proving useful in medical devices.

"In addition to electronic conve-

Soljagic, Page 9

### A Quarter of Freshmen Receive Fifth-Week Flags

This semester, 244 out of 1,058 freshmen (23 percent of the class) received fifth-week flags, which notify freshmen that they are in danger of failing a class. Freshmen received a total of 300 flags.

The warning rate this year increased slightly from last year. In Fall 2007, 21.8 percent received flags, compared to 17.5 percent of freshmen in Fall 2006.

Most of the flags were given in first-year physics subjects (8.01, 8.01L, 8.012, 8.02, 8.022), for a total of 108 flags. In chemistry subjects (5.111, 5.112, 5.12, 3.091), 90 flags were given out. Biology (7.012) and math subjects (18.01, 18.01A, 18.014, 18.02, 18.02A, 18.022, 18.023, 18.03) each had 41 flags.

After the fifth-week of term, instructors compile a list of freshmen in their classes who are failing or close to doing so. The student's adviser and the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming are notified, and the flagged student is sent an e-mail offering assistance that ranges from tutoring to mental health services.

In the past, most students have passed the classes they were flagged for.

—Jessica Lin

### In Short

¶ A new vegetarian food truck opened Wednesday on Carleton Street behind MIT Medical. The truck, called Clover Food Truck, is owned and operated by Ayr Muir '00. For more information, see <http://www.cloverfoodlab.com/>.

¶ Subway, located in Lobdell Food Court in the Student Center, has begun serving a breakfast menu from 7–11 a.m. Subway's regular menu is also available in the mornings.

### OPINIONS

Students endorse candidates for the 2008 presidential election. Page 5

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ALEX H. CHAN—THE TECH

BOO-TI-FUL—MIT graduate students gathered Sunday at Sidney-Pacific graduate dorm to take part in the Halloween tradition of pumpkin carving. Over 50 pumpkins were provided and carved into original designs, adding to the display of Jack O'Lanterns in the courtyard.

# WORLD & NATION

## Suicide Blast Rocks Ministry in Kabul

By Abdul Waheed Wafa  
and Carlotta Gall

THE NEW YORK TIMES KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

A suspected Taliban suicide bomber shot his way into the Ministry of Information and Culture in central Kabul on Thursday, then blew himself up, leaving at least two others dead and severely damaging a kindergarten, officials and witnesses said.

The blast, which also wounded at least 21 people, set off a panicky scramble by parents working at the ministry to find their kindergartners, but it appeared that only two were among the wounded, said the police chief of Kabul, Gen. Muhammad Ayub Salangi, after he toured the scene.

The attack was notable more for its audacity than the number of victims. The ability of Taliban insurgents and their affiliates to successfully strike at guarded targets in the Afghan capital has hurt confidence in the government and the U.S.-led war effort here.

No senior officials were killed or hurt in the attack, but ministry workers emerged shaken from the five-story building.

The bomber first killed a policeman at the entrance of the building and then set off the explosion inside, Salangi said.

A second man died later, according to the deputy police chief, Gen. Ali Shah Ahmadzai.

## Iraqi Ministry Adopts Political Neutrality

By Abeer Mohammed  
and Katherine Zoepf

THE NEW YORK TIMES BAGHDAD

Iraq's defense minister announced Thursday that all employees of the ministry, from the highest officials to the lowliest soldiers, would be required to remain politically neutral.

Officials in the ministry will be required to sign pledges stating that they will not run for political office, work on political campaigns, attend political demonstrations, or join any political organizations, the minister, Abdul-Kader Jassem al-Obeidi, said in a morning news conference. It was not immediately clear if soldiers and other employees would have to sign the pledge.

"The Ministry of Defense is committed to a military without party or political affiliations," al-Obeidi said. "The Iraqi people are soon to have provincial elections as well as elections at the district and commune levels. Military men must be nonaffiliated and must not be involved in the elections except in guarding the voter's right to freedom."

Al-Obeidi's news conference was widely perceived as an open rebuke to Iraq's interior minister, Jawad al-Bolani, who founded the Iraqi Constitutional Party in June 2005.

## In Russia, Increasing Unease Over Economy

By Andrew E. Kramer

THE NEW YORK TIMES MOSCOW

At the start of the global financial crisis, Russian authorities insisted they had ample cash reserves to weather any storm. But as sorrow has succeeded sorrow — plummeting oil prices, a 70 percent descent in stock markets here, a global credit crisis and a slow-motion bank run on this country's private banks — Russia has had to spend its reserves faster than anybody imagined.

On Aug. 8, reserves peaked at just under \$600 billion, the third largest in the world. By this week, they had fallen to \$484 billion, as money flew out of government vaults to support the ruble, prop up the banking system and bail out the businesses of the rich Russians known as oligarchs.

# Economy Shrinks as Spending Drop Underlines Woes

By Peter S. Goodman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Less than a week before Americans go to the polls to select a president, the government reported Thursday that the economy contracted from July through September. In a stark indication of widening national distress, consumer spending dipped for the first time in 17 years.

Economists said the drop in economic activity — with the gross domestic product shrinking at a 0.3 percent annual rate — presages more bad news in the months ahead. The impacts of a now-global financial crisis are continuing to squeeze companies and impede investment, causing more layoffs and austerity, while prompting Congress to consider a fresh round of spending aimed at stimulating commerce.

"The economy has taken a turn for the worse, big time," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist for Decision Economics, a consulting and forecasting group. "Consumption literally caved in. It is a prelude to much worse news on the economy over the next couple of quarters. The fundamentals around the consumer are all negative, and there are no

signs of any help anytime soon, from anywhere."

With the economy the dominant issue in the presidential election, the latest batch of dismal data offered no comfort to the Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who has been running behind the Democratic nominee, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, in polls.

On Thursday, Obama seized on the latest evidence of the backsliding economy to warn that McCain would deliver more of the same.

"Our falling GDP is a direct result of eight years of the trickle-down, Wall Street-first, Main Street-last policies that have driven our economy into a ditch," Obama said while campaigning in Florida. "If you want to know where Senator McCain will drive this economy, just look in the rearview mirror. Because, when it comes to our economic policies, John McCain has stood with President Bush every step of the way."

McCain's campaign asserted that Obama's efforts to increase taxes on wealthy Americans would deepen economic troubles.

"Obama's ideologically driven plans to redistribute income will im-

pose higher taxes on families, small businesses and investors," McCain's chief economic adviser, Douglas J. Holtz-Eakin, said in a statement distributed to reporters.

Economic downturns have proved unkind to the incumbent party in elections. Many analysts argue that the recession of 1990 and 1991 cost President George H.W. Bush a chance at re-election in 1992. President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, lost his 1980 re-election bid to Ronald Reagan after a particularly nasty recession earlier that year. In 1960, in the midst of a recession, John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, defeated Richard M. Nixon, who had been vice president in the Eisenhower administration.

Not since 1900, when William McKinley, a Republican, won re-election, has the incumbent party retained the White House in the midst of a recession or within a few months after one.

In a statement on Thursday morning, the White House acknowledged the weakening of the economy, while pinning the blame on a series of unusual events and arguing that the \$700 billion bailout of the financial system would soon deliver relief.

# Close Finish in Presidential Race Could Keep Ohio Busy

By Ian Urbina

THE NEW YORK TIMES

COLUMBUS, OHIO

If the outcome of next week's presidential election is close, this precariously balanced state could be the place where the two parties begin filing the inevitable lawsuits over voting irregularities, experts say.

The battles could be over the rules for a recount, or how to deal with voters who were not added to the rolls even though they registered properly and on time. Lawyers could fight over how to count the paper ballots used when the electronic machines break down, or whether a judge was correct in deciding to keep certain polls open late.

But the most likely source of litigation is the state's heavy use of provisional ballots, which are issued when a voter's identity or registration cannot immediately be verified or when polls

stay open late. Ohio has a history of requiring large numbers of voters to use these ballots, which are easy to disqualify and are not counted until after the election.

"Provisional ballots are really the Achilles' heel of our electoral process, because in a close race that is the pressure point lawyers use to try to undo the results," said Edward B. Foley, a law professor at Ohio State University who is one of the nation's foremost experts on voting litigation. "The larger the number of provisional ballots cast in a state, the more vulnerable the Achilles' heel, and Ohio has for a couple of elections used more of these ballots than most any other state."

In 2004 and 2006, Ohio, unlike most other states, increased the percentage of provisional ballots used by voters. In the 2004 presidential election, which hinged on Ohio, the margin between the candidates was about

118,000 votes, of 5.7 million cast. Of those, more than 158,000 were provisional ballots.

Even more of these ballots will be cast in Ohio on Nov. 4, voting experts predict, because many newly registered voters may bring the wrong form of identification to the polls, failing to comply with the state's new voter law that requires all voters to show government-issued identification or an approved document with a voter's name and address. Others may go to the wrong polling place, or show up at the polls only to find that they are not listed on the state's new computerized voter registration list, which has already been the subject of intense partisan wrangling.

Provisional ballots were created by Congress in 1993 to ensure that voters would never be turned away without casting a ballot when they showed up at the polls.

# WEATHER

## A Calmer Halloween

By Vince Agard

This year, the New England region will enjoy relatively mild weather on Halloween, with sunny skies and temperatures in the high 50s.

The same could not be said in 1991, however, when a massive, extratropical low pressure system off the United States' East Coast caused widespread damage. The low formed inland in late October 1991, and after moving into the Atlantic Ocean and absorbing a pre-existing hurricane, it became a massive Nor'easter. After pounding the East Coast with pouring rain and gusty winds, the storm actually formed a category 1 hurricane and eventually made landfall in Nova Scotia, Canada as a tropical storm.

In all, the Halloween Nor'easter of 1991 caused over \$200 million in damage and resulted in 12 fatalities. The tremendous storm was the basis for the Sebastian Junger book *The Perfect Storm* and the movie of the same name.

Don't expect weekend sailing to be an especially dangerous activity this Halloween, however, as a couple of clear, crisp autumn days are in store for the near future. High pressure in place will result in clear skies and high temperatures in the 50s for today and tomorrow, with lows around 40. We will also manage to stay dry, as no appreciable precipitation is expected over the weekend.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny, High 59°F (15°C)

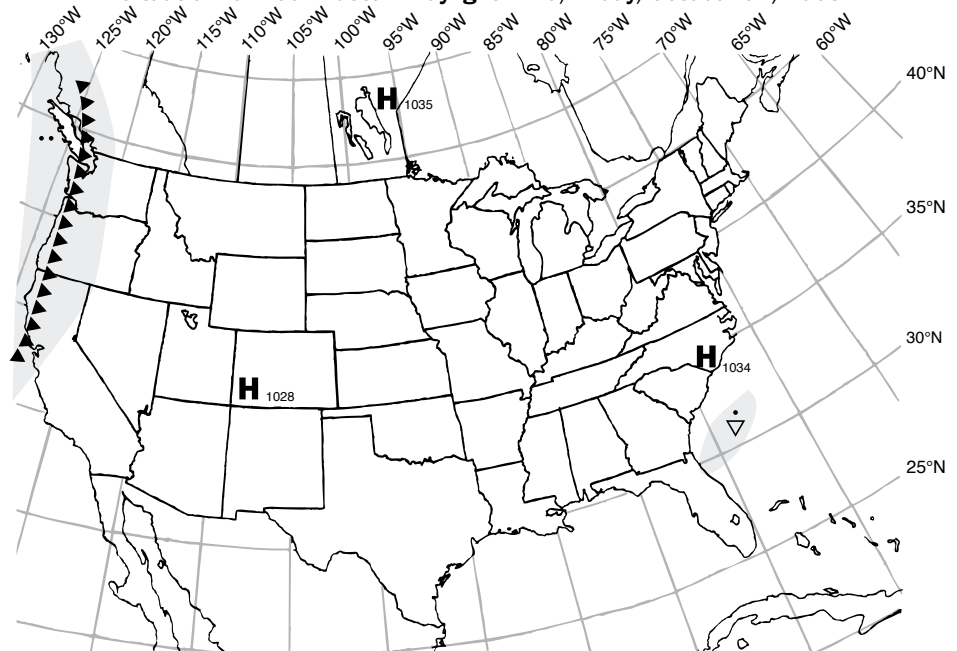
**Tonight:** Clear, Low 40°F (4°C)

**Saturday:** Morning clouds, High 52°F (11°C)

**Sunday:** Sunny, Highs in the mid 40s°F (8°C)

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, Highs in the mid 50s°F (13°C)

### Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, October 31, 2008



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# As Somali Pirates Flourish, The Country Withers

By Jeffrey Gettleman  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOOSAASO, SOMALIA

This may be one of the most dangerous towns in Somalia, a place where you can get kidnapped faster than you can wipe the sweat off your brow. But it is also one of the most prosperous.

Money changers walk around with thick wads of hundred-dollar bills. Palatial new houses are rising up next to tin-roofed shanties. Men in jail reminisce, with a twinkle in their eyes, about their days living like kings.

This is the story of Somalia's booming, not-so-underground pirate economy. The country is in chaos, countless children are starving and people are killing one another in the

streets of Mogadishu, the capital, for a handful of grain.

But one particular line of work — piracy — seems to be benefiting quite openly from all this lawlessness and desperation. This year, Somali officials say, pirate profits are on track to reach a record \$50 million, all of it tax free.

"These guys are making a killing," said Mohamud Muse Hirsi, the top Somali official in Boosaaso, who himself is widely suspected of working with the pirates, though he vigorously denies it.

More than 75 vessels have been attacked this year, far more than any year in recent memory. About a dozen have been set upon in the past month alone, including a Ukrainian freighter packed with tanks, anti-aircraft guns

and other heavy weaponry, which was brazenly seized in September.

The pirates use fast-moving skiffs to pull alongside their prey and scamper on board with ladders or sometimes even rusty grappling hooks. Once on deck, they hold the crew at gunpoint until a ransom is paid, usually \$1 million to \$2 million. Negotiations for the Ukrainian freighter are still going on, and it is likely that because of all the publicity, the price for the ship could top \$5 million.

In Somalia, it seems, crime does pay. Actually, it is one of the few industries that does.

"All you need is three guys and a little boat, and the next day you're millionaires," said Abdullahi Omar Qawden, a former captain in Somalia's long-defunct navy.

## Bomb Attacks in India Kill At Least 64

By Hari Kumar and Alan Cowell

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI

A series of apparently synchronized explosions tore through four towns in the troubled state of Assam in northeastern India on Thursday, killing at least 64 people and leaving more than 210 wounded, according to witnesses and the police.

The bombs were aimed at crowded markets and government buildings like courts and police stations, witnesses said. The attacks, among the bloodiest in recent months, left streets littered with bodies and the wreckage of cars and motorcycles, according to witnesses and photographers at the scene.

There were no immediate reports that any group had taken responsibility for the bombings.

For many years, Assam state has been riven by a separatist insurgency led by the United Liberation Front of Assam, which demands independence for the region of some 26 million people and is often blamed by the authorities for bombings. Last month, ethnic clashes left 57 people dead in the area when indigenous Bodos fought with Bengali-speaking Muslims.

According to witnesses and the police, at least nine blasts rocked the four towns attacked on Thursday, including three in the state capital, Guwahati. One of the bombs there had been left in the parking lot of the district court.

## With 58 Percent Jump in Profit, A Record Quarter for Exxon

By Jad Mouawad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In what may prove to be a high-water mark for corporate profits, the oil giant Exxon Mobil reported another blowout quarter on Thursday, thanks to record oil prices this summer and gasoline prices that rose above \$4 a gallon.

With nearly \$15 billion in profits, Exxon once more set a record for most profitable American corporation, during the three-months ending in September, when prices were at their highest.

Oil prices have dropped sharply in recent weeks, falling more than 50 percent from their peak just three months ago, as oil consumption slows amid the economic downturn.

Exxon's report came as the Commerce Department said the economy shrank on an annual basis by 0.3 percent in the third quarter. The contraction, as consumers curbed their spending, signaled that the United States was probably in a recession. Still, the last quarter extended a staggering run for Exxon, which has routinely set records only to beat them. Exxon's profits have exceeded \$10 billion in 9 of the last 12 quarters. The third quarter was no exception as Exxon's profit rose 58 percent to \$14.8 billion, exceeding its previous quarterly record by more than \$3 billion.

# Judge Orders U.S. to Yield Papers on Detainee

By William Glaberson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal district judge, saying he questioned the government's claim that a Guantanamo Bay detainee had planned a radioactive-bomb attack in the United States, ordered the Justice Department on Thursday to give the detainee's lawyers documents on his treatment.

The documents are central to the claim of the prisoner, Binyam Mohamed, that he falsely confessed to the dirty-bomb plot and other offenses only after being tortured in Morocco at the direction of the United States.

"My concern is getting to the truth," the judge, Emmet G. Sullivan,

said at a hearing.

The case of Mohamed, an Ethiopian-born former British resident, has drawn international attention and been at the center of diplomatic tensions between the United States and Britain. This week, British officials said they had referred questions about his treatment for possible criminal investigation by their law enforcement authorities.

The tension between the governments has intensified in recent weeks after the Pentagon dropped war crimes charges against Mohamed and the Justice Department said it would no longer rely on its dirty-bomb claims as a justification for holding him.

At the Thursday hearing, Sullivan

asked why, after more than six years, the government had stepped away from its claims about a dirty-bomb plot. "That raises a question as to whether or not the allegations were ever true," the judge said.

In 2002, John Ashcroft, then the attorney general, announced that a plot to detonate a radioactive bomb in the United States had been foiled and an American citizen, Jose Padilla, detained. The Pentagon has claimed that Mohamed assisted Padilla.

After Padilla was held for three and a half years in a naval brig, the Justice Department abandoned its dirty-bomb claims against him. He was convicted of other charges in 2007.

sdvetfp presents ...

# SPOOKY SKATE

Friday, October 31

8:30P-1A

## Johnson Ice Rink

- \*FREE\*
- \*PRIZES\*
- \*SKATING\*
- \*FOOD\*
- \*FUN\*
- \*CRAFTS\*
- \*T-SHIRTS\*
- \*COSTUME CONTEST\*

Prizes donated by: Jose's Mexican Restaurant, Christopher's Restaurant, Cambridge Common ImprovBoston, Upstairs on the Square, Finale Desserterie, Redline Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Cambridge

Food Donations by: Dunkin Donuts, Cambridge Grill, Anna's Taqueria, Subway, and Sepal

# OPINION

## Obama for President



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At a time when the financial markets are in crisis, America is engaged in two wars, and the problems of energy security and global climate change threaten our planet, this country needs a leader who has demonstrated the maturity and intellectual inquisitiveness to thoughtfully confront the major challenges of our time.

While we consider both major party candidates qualified to serve as president, Senator Barack Obama has demonstrated through his decisions and demeanor that he is best equipped to lead in these challenging times. Obama manages to balance a cool, careful confidence with uniquely inspirational oratory in a manner that has not been seen since the days of John F. Kennedy. In addition, Obama seems to demonstrate a clear and secure grasp of the important domestic issues that will have the most profound effect on the future of the nation — the economy, energy, climate change, and healthcare.

Though we hold in high esteem Senator John McCain's long record of public service, his campaign has unfolded as a long series of rash reactions and poorly-considered choices culminating in the selection of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate. He also has done little over the last few months to dispel the belief that a McCain administration would represent another four years of the same failed policies that have burdened the nation under the current president.

Palin has proven especially disappointing as a vice-presidential candidate, demonstrating a serious lack of knowledge on the crucial issues and a troubling misconception of the role and powers of the vice presidency. Even worse, the divisive nature of her attacks against the so-called "non-American" parts of America represent the same sort of hate-filled populism that Karl Rove used to foist the current president upon us.

Conversely, over the past few months, Obama has crafted a clear vision for the nation of the type of change that he represents.

### Editorial

*Senator Barack Obama has demonstrated through his decisions and demeanor that he is best equipped to lead in these challenging times.*

## Massachusetts Ballot Initiatives



### Question 1

This question would cut the income tax rate in Massachusetts in half, from 5.3 percent to 2.65 percent for 2009 and completely eliminate it in 2010. This represents \$12 billion of the \$27 billion state budget.

While this is Massachusetts and there are certainly numerous examples of government waste, this is the quintessential example of addressing the problem with a hatchet rather than a scalpel. State services such as Medicaid, funding for local public schools and emergency services would be slashed if this proposal were to pass, forcing property taxes up significantly to make up the shortfall. This will hit the poorest school districts the hardest, increase wait times for 911 calls, and lead to reduced funding for healthcare of seniors and people with disabilities.

Waste needs to be eliminated from the state budget by vigilant citizens pressuring their elected officials, not by blindly slashing the state budget by almost half.

**Vote NO on Question 1.**



### Question 2

This question would replace existing criminal penalties for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana with civil penalties of \$100.

Currently, offenders face up to six months in prison, a \$500 fine, and a permanent criminal record. It is estimated that \$29.5 million per year is spent on enforcement of the law on low level arrests for possession, not to mention the time and money spent by the state on the court system and subsequent jail time for convicted offenders. This ballot initiative would mandate penalties in addition to the \$100 fine for minors caught with marijuana, including mandatory participation in a drug awareness program,

Obama believes that, though the heart of American progress lies in the industry of its citizens and its businesses, government can play an important role in tackling the problems that rise above even the market's ability to handle. As such, he has defined a series of fundamental reforms to our nation's healthcare system, has called for reinvesting in basic and applied research and has introduced a strong, progressive energy policy, which is the key to global sustainability and our future economic competitiveness.

The difference between the candidate's energy policies is fairly representative of the difference between the approaches of the two candidates. Though both candidates have plans to tackle dependence on foreign oil and greenhouse gas emissions, Obama's plans are consistently more ambitious and stand a better chance of realizing meaningful change. Obama plans to implement a cap-and-trade system to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050. Though this is highly ambitious, such steps are essential if we are to reverse the course of global warming. McCain only aims for a 66 percent reduction.

Obama also promises to invest \$150 billion over the next 10 years in developing clean energy technology, while McCain is focused on much smaller investments totaling in the tens of billions. While neither candidates' plans are perfect, taken in the whole, Obama's plan is more comprehensive and represents the best investment for reducing the nation's dependence on fossil fuel technology.

It won't be possible for either candidate to fix all of the problems that America faces. The struggling economy, the quagmire of Iraq and the ballooning national debt all pose unimaginably complex challenges. While either candidate would be better equipped to tackle these issues than the current president, over the past two years of the presidential campaign, Obama has proven he is ready and more capable than McCain to build broad consensus for boldly and decisive action. Senator Obama is the leader America needs now.

parental notification, and 10 hours of community service.

A 1993 study in *The Social Sciences Journal* found that there is no evidence decriminalization of marijuana affects its frequency of use. Additionally, multiple studies have found that rates of other drug use among emergency room patients are significantly higher in states that have criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana, indicating criminalization of marijuana encourages use of more dangerous drugs.

Massachusetts jails are filled with low level drug offenders whose only crime was possession of marijuana, often lumped in with more serious criminals such as sex offenders and murderers. Additionally, those convicted of possession will have the charges listed permanently on their criminal record, an injustice that serves as an impediment to getting a job, a loan, or a house for the rest of their lives.

Even if you stand opposed to use of marijuana, decriminalization makes sense.

**Vote YES on Question 2.**



### Question 3

This question would prohibit gambling on dog races, effectively shutting down the two existing dog racing tracks in the state.

Dog racing is an unnecessary form of cruelty to animals. Dogs are forced to live in inhuman conditions in small cages for 20 hours a day without being able to move around. Dogs suffer significant and often lethal injuries at racetracks, often becoming paralyzed as a result of the races. Dog racing as a gambling industry is already on the decline. Because of the lack of revenue, legislators often give special privileges to the industry such as direct subsidies, an unnecessary drain on state funds. There is no reason to continue this cruel practice.

**Vote YES on Question 3.**

## Opinion Policy

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## Letters To The Editor

### Katz Pulls 'Straw Man' in Letter

I loved Katz's mastery of the straw man technique in his piece on Governor Sarah Palin ("Palin's Anti-Science Rhetoric," Oct. 28). Palin hates fruit flies, therefore Palin hates science. However, is it possible that Palin hates earmarks, therefore she hates fruit flies? This is highly likely as McCain has been campaigning on a promise to ban those pesky things.

During a speech, Palin appealed to her audience by highlighting the ridiculousness of certain earmarks. For example, the study of fruit flies in the olive growing regions of France was commissioned to save some olive trees in California. France? A country full of pansies.

Fruit flies? Gross and insignificant. Olive trees in California? Doesn't reflect the needs of the entire nation.

Regardless of any ulterior motives, Palin clearly tried to make an emotional appeal for her case to ban the use of federal spending on states' pet projects. Emotion wins more voters than logic does, so I say we let her slide this time.

Could Palin still be against scientific research? Sure, you can cite that she believes in creationism; therefore, she must be anti-science. According to the Gallup poll — not some horrible right wing propaganda machine like Fox News — 80 percent of the American population believes in either creationism or intelligent design. Does that mean 4 out of 5 Americans are against science? I highly doubt that.

It's easy to vilify Palin as clueless and divisive and McCain as hostile and senile. Or even to make generalization about the entire Republican party: "It would require the curiosity and education that members of the other party conspicuously lack," Katz said. When we say these things, are we any better than the rednecks who see Obama as a socialist who palls around with terrorists? Or the folks who claim all New Englanders are just a bunch of pretentious, elitist "limousine liberals"? No, we are just as stubborn and narrow-minded as any far-right Republican. In fact, it is in these moments that we become the pretentious elitists who are detested by the rest of the country.

Color me a pansy, but I believe mutual respect is the keystone to resolving any conflict between two groups. It is much easier to brush

off someone as being stupid than it is to understand his or her opinions. Thus, I agree with Katz wholeheartedly when he said:

"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 [for] the tax payer's buck."

Convincing other people that something is beneficial to all is appealing to the common good, creating a win-win situation, turning your

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## Obama Is the Change We Need

*Why You Should Vote for the Junior Senator From Illinois*

Catherine Havasi

It's hard to get MIT students involved in politics. We're politically aware, but not very politically active. We sit in our rooms reloading *fivethirtyeight.com*, and we crack political jokes when the opportunity arises, but we consider ourselves too busy to get out our phone and make calls or get in a car and canvass in New Hampshire. We've got problem sets, demos, papers, grants, and dissertations to worry about. To many, this election is a form of entertainment to be enjoyed at a distance.

It's good entertainment, but now is not the year to sit back and be entertained. This is the year when young voters have already changed the course of the election. We have put an intelligent and inspiring candidate in a position to win the election, fueled by grassroots organization and a record number of small donors. Our candidate is Barack Obama.

The nation is now waiting to see whether young voters come through in the end, the way we did not in 2000 and 2004. We can show

that this year is different, that the opinions of young voters matter. We have the opportunity to send our candidate to the White House with a popular mandate. Even MIT students are ready to be part of this — the combined voter drives on this campus have signed up over six hundred of you to vote this year.

There have been many eloquent endorsements of Barack Obama. You've probably seen a few, such as the powerful endorsement recently made by Colin Powell, so I don't need to restate the case. I intend to explain why Obama matters specifically to you, as a student who is passionate about science, technology, engineering, and math.

*Obama is the overwhelming choice of the scientific community. John McCain pays lip service to science seems not to understand the importance and the purpose of basic science and engineering.*

Barack Obama has been the overwhelming choice of the scientific community. In September, a group of 61 Nobel Laureates endorsed Barack Obama. Every American winner of a 2008 Nobel Prize has endorsed Obama. Science Debate 2008, an initiative of many universities and other scientific organizations, asked the candidates 14 questions about sci-

ence, and then explain his conclusions to the public.

I had great hopes for this election. This was supposed to be the election that broke the mold, shattering the old ways of politics and ushering in a new era of civilized, rational political debate. A seasoned, bipartisan veteran and a young, passionate idealist were going to do away with the bickering and mudslinging and share a campaign that focused on the issues. Instead, this cycle has been dominated by savage personal attacks, popcorn-sized ideological

Havasi, Page 6

## Can One Man Really Fix Such a Broken System?

*Barack Obama Has My Vote. I'm Just Not Expecting Much For It.*

Gary Shu

In deciding my vote this year, I decided to use my experiences during last eight years as my compass. Some defining moments for me:

¶ On election night in 2000, I had a calculus midterm the next day, so I went to bed while everyone still crowded around the television. Sometime during the night, my girlfriend quietly broke the news to me and the next morning my professor apologized for the little sleep we all had. The next few weeks were not easy either as everyone waited to find out who our president was going to be. It was the first time I voted.

¶ In 2001, on the night of Sept. 11, the students held a vigil in the center of my New York City university. I walked away in disgust after the person with the microphone blamed America for the acrid asbestos odor that was wafting through the air. Two years later, I walked through the bitter cold Manhattan streets with half a million people to protest the war that everyone could see was descending upon the Middle East. A few months afterwards, I did the same in Rome while on a trip to visit a friend, and the war began while I was overseas.

¶ During my winter break in January 2004, I spent a week in New Hampshire holding signs, calling voters, and generally campaigning during the Democratic primaries. It was so cold during our door-to-door canvassing, my fingernails became brittle and parts of

them permanently died.

¶ While we were driving to the campaign headquarters to watch election results during the night of the primary, a girl from our group had to go to the hospital. The seven of us were exhausted, having stood outdoors in below-zero wind chill to "do visibility" for the entire day of the primary. We sat in the hospital waiting room and watched our candidate handily lose.

¶ On Election Day 2004, I drove to swing-state Pennsylvania to get-out-the-vote. We got home in time to watch the results come in. I couldn't believe it when George W. Bush was re-elected, but not surprised given the candidate the Democrats fielded. Thereafter, my political activism waned and, besides a protest on the National Mall a few years ago, mostly subsided.

Such was my experience during the two terms of the Bush presidency.

It has not been a noble eight years. Our country is embroiled in another Vietnam, the very fear that made me march the streets, which is approaching an ignominious end. The economy is falling into pieces, destroying banks and car companies I have known for a lifetime. There will be the opportunity to experience something that has not happened for a generation — a severe global recession.

Bad times are coming, and they were preceded by eight years of Republican rule.

Yet, when I see the visible enthusiasm for Barack Obama in my friends and colleagues,

Shu, Page 6

## I'm Endorsing Rationality for President (And McCain Too, But That's Less Important)

Keith Yost

I'm a positivist. I believe in the power of empirical evidence. I believe that political issues, such as healthcare and education, deserve to be analyzed through the lens of scientific inquiry.

If a candidate claims that Head Start and other early education programs have improved the academic outcomes of children, I don't think the conversation should end there. What is the evidence of Head Start's success? What is the theory that explains that evidence? What are the testable hypotheses of that theory?

Believing in the success of Head Start is not some unquestionable first principle — it's merely a starting point in what should be a long path of scientific discovery. In my ideal world, a leader would be a hybrid of social scientist, decision-maker, and communicator — he would distill the evidence, formulate policy on the basis of that evidence, and then explain his conclusions to the public.

I had great hopes for this election. This was supposed to be the election that broke the mold, shattering the old ways of politics and ushering in a new era of civilized, rational political debate. A seasoned, bipartisan veteran and a young, passionate idealist were going to do away with the bickering and mudslinging and share a campaign that focused on the issues. Instead, this cycle has been dominated by savage personal attacks, popcorn-sized ideological

soundbites, and hollow, thought-ending slogans like "Change We Can Believe In."

One would think that the Democrats, having been on the short end of the stick in 2000, would have been the party most desperate to avoid a repeat of the issues-free elections that brought the likes of Bush to power. Unfortunately, a short conversation with the typical Obama supporter reveals the opposite. Most of the "Obamanauts" I've spoken with reference the phrase "social justice" in their arguments without defining it any better than "compassionate conservatism" was defined in 2000.

Nearly all of them invoke stereotypes of their opponents, deriding Republicans as racist, evangelical plutocrats, just as Bush painted liberals as amoral, bureaucracy-loving softies. Down to a man, they each gush over how charismatic Barack is, and as they do so I hear the dulcet echoes of "a guy I'd like to have a beer with." Behind the stirring themes of hope and change, there's very little attention paid to what "change" actually translates to in terms of policies, and even less attention paid to the evaluation of those policies. Did we not learn our lesson? After ignoring issue debates and paying the price with eight years of government mismanagement, we're repeating our sins all over again, putting our guts and hearts before our minds.

Think I'm wrong? Think the focus has been on issues? Then here's a simple test: Healthcare

Yost, Page 6

## McCain Supports America's Economic Future

*He Won't Spread Our Wealth to Other Countries*

Joseph Maurer

Much has been made about the state of the economy by Senators John McCain and Barack Obama in recent months, and for good reason. Whoever takes the oath of office this January will have the most impact on the American market of any president in recent memory.

Moreover, our next president will have to contend with the economic challenges presented by an expanding China, the European Union, and the increasing technical prowess of India.

Today, America's GDP is approximately equal to the combined GDP of Japan, Germany, China, and the United Kingdom (the four next most productive countries after America), so any threat is certainly not pressing. However, in the world market, action today is magnified tenfold in the future, which makes the president's role as a steward for the long-term economic health of the country immensely important during times of financial turmoil.

John McCain best understands how to promote sustainable economic growth over the long run and keep America's place firmly as the world's leader in production. For all of his earlier campaign speeches blaming the current slump on "greed" among the chiefs of Wall Street, McCain has always supported prudent pro-growth policies.

From his past support of more regulation

for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to his current proposal to cut our punishingly high corporate tax rate, John McCain has obviously looked at a basic supply vs. demand graph before. He realizes that increasing supply is the best way to grow the economy and pull the country out of a potential recession. He understands that raising taxes and spending on a weakened economy only prolongs the downturn.

Senator McCain realizes that our punitively high business taxes put U.S.-based companies at a competitive disadvantage to their foreign peers. I don't care how much Barack Obama

*John McCain best understands how to promote sustainable economic growth over the long run and keep America's place firmly as the world's leader in production.*

tries to "spread the wealth around," but no one is better off when businesses, their owners, and their jobs are forced overseas.

Speaking of Obama's now infamous gaffe, small businesses like the one brought up by Joe the Plumber represent the bulk of America's jobs, and any president's economic policy needs to help them. While some proclaim that anyone who has saved enough to buy a business with annual revenue of \$250,000 doesn't deserve a tax break, consider the alternative.

McCain understands that if small business owners don't consider the risk of their personal time, effort, and money worthwhile, the employees of that business will be out of work. Senator Obama ignores this logical argument by appealing to the uninformed.

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## Letters To The Editor, cont.

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enemy into your ally, etc. The difference is Katz resigns to this as a last resort while I think cooperation should have been the first choice. Last time I checked, MIT students LOVED to talk about their research. I, for one, would be proud to have the opportunity to justify the usefulness of my project to the folks on the right.

One of Obama's great qualities is his ability to unite people. He does this by paying respect to and working with people who disagree with him. If you are going to vote for Obama then the least you can do is try to practice what he preaches.

I know it's hard because we are in an inherently left-leaning environment (academia), but the next time you are stuck in a liberal circle jerk of McBush bashing, try to break free and say something positive about the Republican nominees. I'm sure you can find something nice to say about a pair who has the support of millions of your fellow Americans.

And more importantly, when Obama wins the presidency, please stay classy. Celebrate, don't gloat.

Ke Lu G

### Response to 'Palin's Anti-Science Rhetoric'

While I share Mr. Katz's displeasure with Mrs. Palin's vacuous policy on the funding of basic biological research, I am mystified by his recommendation to reject education as a tool to engage members of the Republican Party on the value of funding such research. Mr. Katz states:

"In summary, when talking to Republicans about science, don't try to educate. Don't tell the full story ... They don't know, don't care, and don't understand. Just go to the bottom line, the medical application, the bang the taxpayer's buck [sic]. We want to win this time, and this is what it takes to win."

## Obama Understands What Scientists Need

Havasi, from Page 5

ence and technology, and Obama's answers are full of hard-hitting scientific points, describing initiatives that will greatly help the stressed science funding system and the weakened position of the scientific agenda after eight years of Republican rule.

Obama plans to "increase funding for basic research in physical and life sciences, mathematics, and engineering at a rate that would double basic research budgets over the next decade." He also stresses that he wants it to become easier for young researchers to become involved and successful in science by "increasing research grants for early-career researchers." In addition, he plans to increase the number of NSF graduate fellowships, so his victory could directly affect you. Add this to the ways that Obama's policies would positively impact every American.

John McCain pays lip service to science, but he seems not to understand the importance and the purpose of basic science and engineering. Multiple times during the debates, he brought up the Adler Planetarium's star projector as an example of wasteful spending, referring to it as an "overhead projector." He mocked a research project that uses DNA to track populations of grizzly bears. How can someone with this attitude possibly reinforce our nation's global standing in science and engineering?

Would he consider your UROP, your thesis, your ideas, your passion to be equally wasteful? John McCain doesn't understand that research and education are not wasteful expenditures that need to be eliminated — they are part of the backbone of this country and the foundation of our success.

Echoing JFK, Barack Obama once noted, "I wouldn't be here if, time and again, the torch had not been passed to a new generation." This year, the torch is being passed to us. We must be ready to take it, to set the direction of this country in science and engineering, and in all the other issues that matter to us. It's our responsibility now to get out there and talk to voters. Out there, it's not about trends, sample sizes, and margins of error. It's about you and the undecided voter.

When I joined this campaign 19 months ago, I didn't know how I could make a difference, didn't believe I could make the connection with another voter in a way that would convince them to vote for Obama. But it's easier than you think. Just be yourself. Talk about the issues which make you passionate.

I'm a libertarian-leaning independent, and years ago I would have been thrilled to hear that John McCain was running for president. But John McCain has changed, abandoning his principles and replacing them with failing Republican policies, while the world has changed to show us that we can't afford four more years of the same. This is the time for new politics — our kind of politics: smaller donors, community involvement, government based on science, grassroots involvement, and yes, hope.

I will be voting for Barack Obama. And despite trying to finish my dissertation, I will be traveling to New Hampshire to help get out the vote. If we're again surprised when the results come in, I don't want to be thinking that there could have been more that I could have done. The problem set can wait, our country can not. Join me.

*Catherine Havasi '03 is the leader of MIT for Obama.*

## Can One Man Really Fix the Broken System?

Shu, from Page 5

I puzzle over why I'm unable to share in their ardor. I was excited when Obama announced his candidacy, mostly so that I could experience the historical moment of the first serious black presidential candidate.

Barack Obama is all that I would look for in a candidate: intellectual, commanding, and visionary. But I worry that George Bush has created a massive cynic in me, one who doesn't believe that the system can be re-directed to reverse the malaise that hangs over the United States of America. Obama has not convinced me that he can correct the wrongs we have been endowed with.

Don't misunderstand me, I can't imagine the McCain-Palin ticket has a clue about how to run the country. John McCain scarcely understands supply-demand curves and his fetish for returning soldiers from Iraq "with honor" seems more important to him than a stable Middle East. Sarah Palin, meanwhile, is simply in over her head and is doing her damndest to compensate by winking her way to VP.

However, while I believe in the tone and tenor of Obama's policies, the Democratic candidate's entreaties ultimately ring hollow for me. Government is burdened with such massive, systemic problems — entitlements, Iraq, energy, the economy, healthcare, foreign relations, the debt, etc. etc. — that it would be a miracle for any administration to merely manage these concerns, let alone advance an ambitious agenda.

Seeing a lot of people swept up in the passion of Obama's campaign makes me feel that I'm missing something. Except I think a lot of people are missing the fact that, even if Obama is elected on his platform of "change," it means little as to what he can actually accomplish. I too will celebrate along with the liberals in the People's Republic of Cambridge for a Democrat to return to the White House. But deep down inside I'm afraid it will be a Pyrrhic victory.

Barack Obama has my vote. I'm just not expecting much for it.

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

*Even if Obama is elected on his platform of "change," it means little as to what he can actually accomplish. ... Barack Obama has my vote. I'm just not expecting much for it.*

Communicating the importance of basic science is inextricably linked with education. Scientists have the responsibility to offer the public an opportunity to recognize that basic biological research is often funded on the basis of its direct relevance to understanding and treating human disease, including those conditions to which Mrs. Palin has referred.

Where appropriate, scientists should instruct the public on how their work relates to human health, and this should be done blindly to political affiliation. Members of all political parties pay taxes that fund basic research. Biology departments of the size and strength of MIT's would not exist without this funding.

Importantly, this instruction in basic science must be done using language and methods that are accessible to non-scientists, which is not an impossible task. Applying even a small fraction of the brainpower that has led to discoveries like those Mr. Katz mentioned to broad science education would go a long way toward bridging the gap in understanding be-

tween basic research and medical applications in the public realm.

Mrs. Palin's statements concerning science have been outstandingly defective and misinformed, surely causing research scientists, science educators, students of science, and many others to cringe in response. It is a great failure for the scientific community to witness a person making these statements rise to the position of vice presidential candidate. Hopefully these circumstances will be a strong impetus for us to strengthen education of all constituents on the value of basic biological research, and its connection to medicine.

While science education is rooted in the classroom, it can continue in forums the public is more likely to encounter, such as the media and public lectures. As MIT students, we can be great ambassadors for this cause, helping secure a future where funding for basic science is never in jeopardy, regardless of the affiliation of ruling political powers.

David M. Garcia G

## Endorsing Rationality, And McCain, for President

Yost, from Page 5

is the centerpiece of Obama's domestic policy agenda and likely the first major piece of legislation he'll push once in office. He's been campaigning on it since before he was just a twinkle in the Democratic party's eye, and the issue has received considerable coverage in the national debates. Name three provisions of Barack Obama's healthcare plan.

Having trouble? If you go to Obama's website you'll find a nine-page statement that lists no less than 16 distinct provisions. The problem is not that the details aren't out there; it's that no one seems to care about them. Without so much as a half-glance at policy specifics, we're about to hand the Democratic party both the presidency and a filibuster-proof majority in Congress. If a politician can get elected without ever being asked the question of whether or not his policy positions pass muster, then what holds him accountable to the people?

In lieu of an actual detailed reckoning of the strengths and weaknesses of a candidate on the issues, we've come to accept merely a perception of a candidate's ideology, and take it on faith that something as simplistic and generalized as a political ideology can serve as an accurate guide in the complicated and nuanced decision-making world that our leaders must act in.

I vote on the issues, and I've always had a little trouble in deciding between Republicans and Democrats. I think there's strong evidence suggesting that free markets work, but such evidence supports not only the free movement of goods and capital, but also the free movement of people. Economic theory tells me that Pigouvian taxes are a proper response to carbon emissions, but the reckless subsidization of "green" energy is not.

I support mandates as a way to correct information asymmetries in health insurance markets, but I also stand behind school vouchers, choice, and accountability as a means of reforming our educational system. Unsurprisingly, the

simple ideologies that have come to define our political parties are a poor fit to best policies, and as a result, neither party has a monopoly on sound governance.

I find it easier to make my choice this time around. McCain doesn't resist immigration and carbon controls as would be typical of his party, and Obama, despite McCain's insistence to the contrary, does not support insurance mandates. Throw in the fact that Obama's tax plan would raise marginal tax rates across the income spectrum and, to me, it's a slam dunk for McCain.

I'm not writing to tell you that you should take my word that McCain has the right policies. In fact, the very idea of "taking my word for it" is the diametric opposite of my entire argument. What I am urging you to do is research. Take just one issue you care about, be it energy, healthcare, education, or taxes, and don't just

*What I am urging you to do is research. Take just one issue you care about and study it. Challenge all your assumptions and check ideology at the door.*

read a couple of Internet articles about it. Go buy a textbook on it. Study the science behind it, the economics behind it, the values questions behind it. Challenge all your assumptions and check ideology at the door. Formulate a policy position that you support, and could defend with cold, hard fact if called upon. Then, on Nov. 4, vote for the candidate whose position comes closest to your policy.

I don't humor myself with the idea that at the tender age of 22 I've already discovered the "correct" policy positions, and so I'm not urging you to analyze policies out of some faith that the rightness of McCain will shine through and cure you of any Obama leanings. Social science being what it is, there will almost always be room for two people to draw separate conclusions from the same data. It's not the conclusion that I'm advocating, it's the process.

Ignore the personal stories and ugly rumors. Don't buy into fluff themes like "hope" and "change." Vote on the strength of a candidate's policies, not the strength of their marketing. Vote rationally in 2008.

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

## McCain Supports U.S. Economic Future

Maurer, from Page 5

Fundamentally then, while John McCain realizes how encouraging the most productive members of our society ensures economic prosperity for the nation as a whole, Barack Obama is running on a platform of income "equality." I support McCain because like any good MIT student, I understand the value of incentives.

How many of us would be willing to endure the workload and stress of MIT unless we could genuinely make a dent in the world? Without the incentive of future success, MIT students go from being future innovators to a group of sleep-deprived and stressed maniacs. Incentives drive us to give up some things for the hope of a better future, like Bill Gates leaving Harvard to pursue work on the fledgling startup called Microsoft.

Regardless of one's desire to earn money in the future, higher taxes will drive innovation overseas. No business venture, no matter how noble its cause, will ever get off the ground if it is choked by taxes.

John McCain understands these simple realities, and he has the policies to support them. McCain realizes that the businessman supports American industry and that industry supports America. His pro-growth plans span from healthcare to free trade; they will help ensure that the next generation of American capitalists are able to create jobs for the country as a whole by rewarding those who have done the hard work.

Senator John McCain supports America's economy, and for that reason, I support John McCain for president.

*Joseph Maurer is a member of the Class of 2012.*

October 31,  
2008

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# PAGES

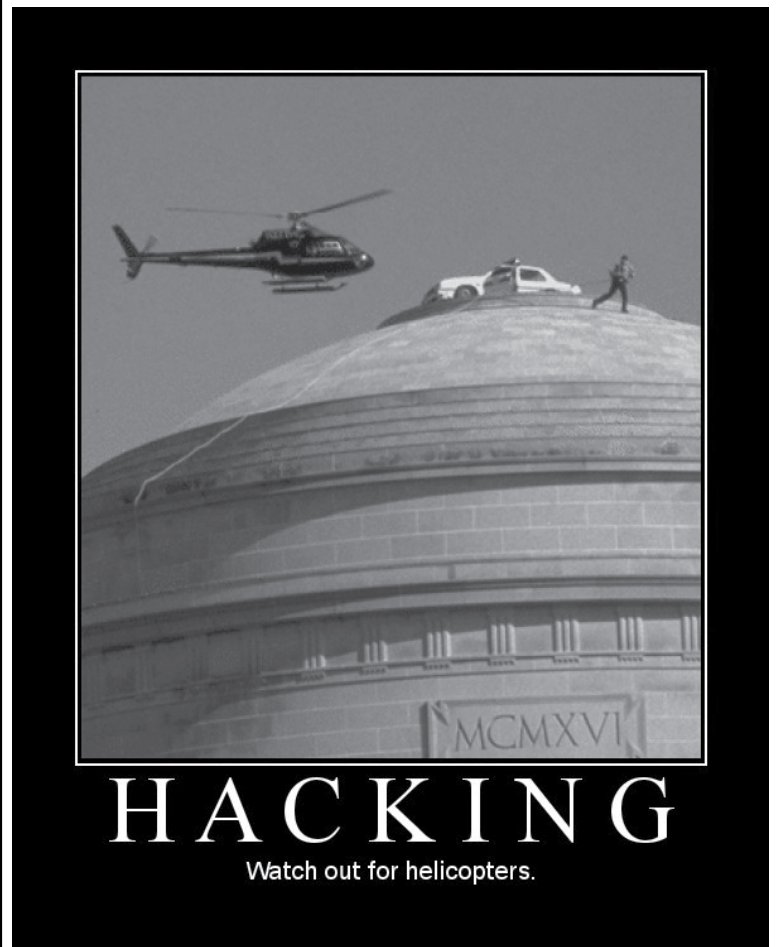
## Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



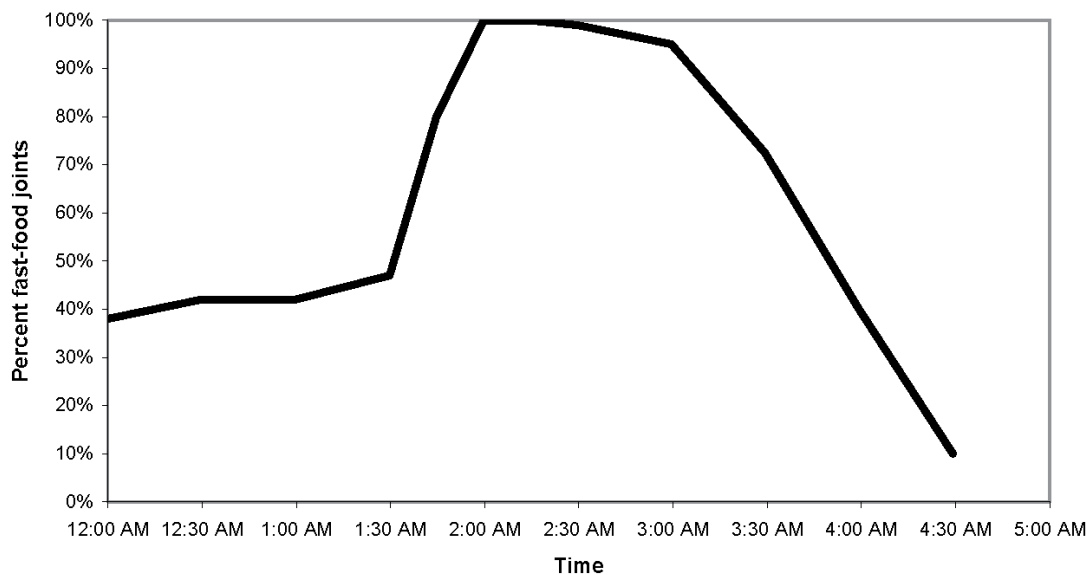
## The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



## Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

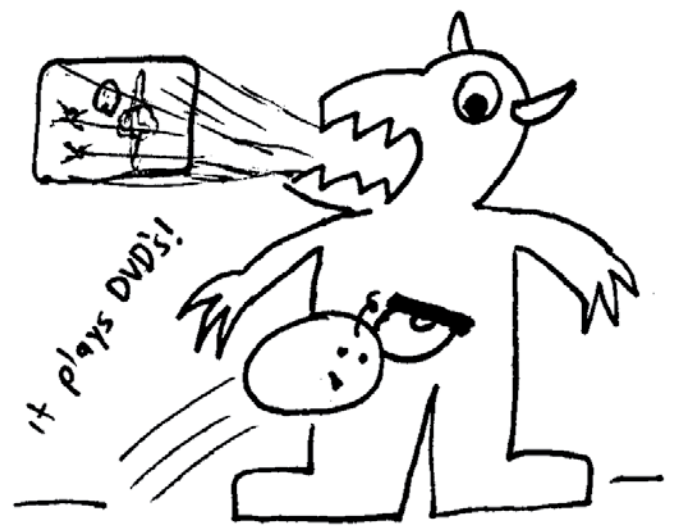


**Figure 42.** The figure shows the fraction of pizza and other fast-food establishments in the Theater District that are at full capacity on an average Saturday night. The curve complements the data of Fig. 41, which outlined the percent taxi cabs that are free in the same District as a function of time, showing an exactly opposite trend. In other words, eating is used to kill time while a free taxi cab can be found (other instances when eating is used to kill time include waiting at airports and spending a day at Disneyland). Also, the fact that uptake of high-calorie foods coincides with the time at which bars close indicates that the effects of alcohol are not as desired outside the bars as they are inside them.

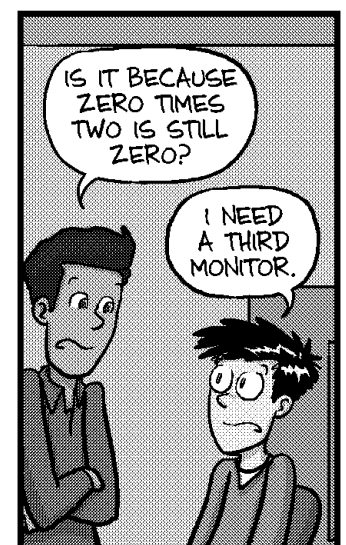
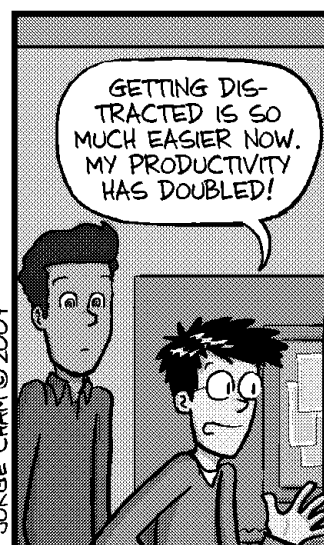
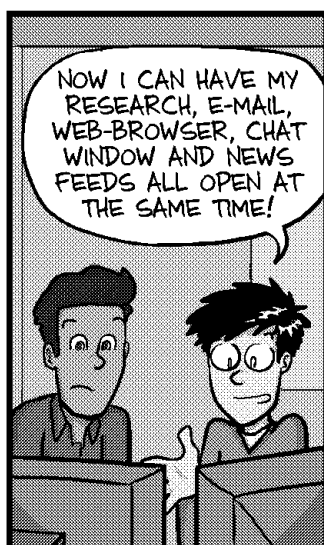
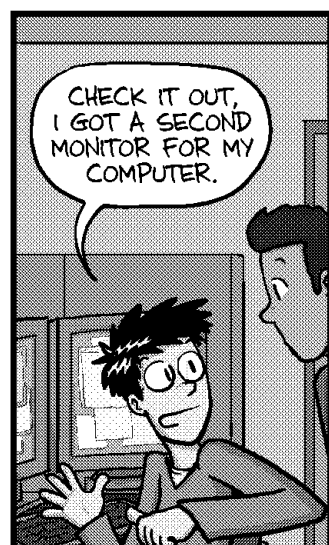
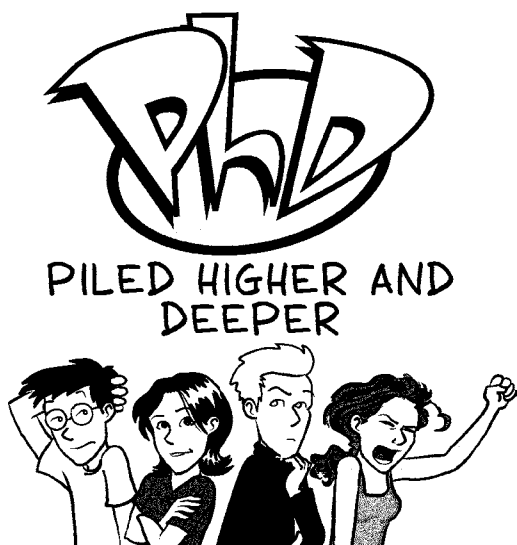
## Blobbles

by Jason Chan

Stick it in the monster!



Thanks to Hoeskuldur Petur Halldorsson for today's caption.  
Want to see your caption in Blobbles? Send it to [blobbles@tech.mit.edu](mailto:blobbles@tech.mit.edu) and I'll draw a cartoon for it!



# Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

# Dilbert® by Scott Adams

## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 10

**ACROSS**

- 1 Ship of the desert
- 6 Wedding cake layer
- 10 Taj Mahal location
- 14 Hersey's bell town
- 15 Caen's river
- 16 Paper bets
- 17 Start of G.K. Chesterton quote
- 19 Agents, briefly
- 20 Before, before
- 21 Son of Judah
- 22 "A Doll's House" playwright
- 23 Russ. and Lat., once
- 25 Part 2 of quote
- 28 Fencers' tools
- 30 Chicken products
- 31 Get into shape
- 33 Patella's location

34 Sandra of "Gidget"

- 37 Part 3 of quote
- 41 Settle a debt
- 42 Urgent letters?
- 43 Chores
- 44 Pro's foe
- 45 DEA raids
- 47 Part 4 of quote
- 51 Fling
- 54 Cognizant
- 55 Joe Orton play
- 57 Luau garland
- 58 Rani's wrap
- 59 End of quote
- 62 Big Ben info
- 63 Frost coating
- 64 Requisites
- 65 Schedule figs.
- 66 Surrounded by
- 67 Full of lip

**DOWN**

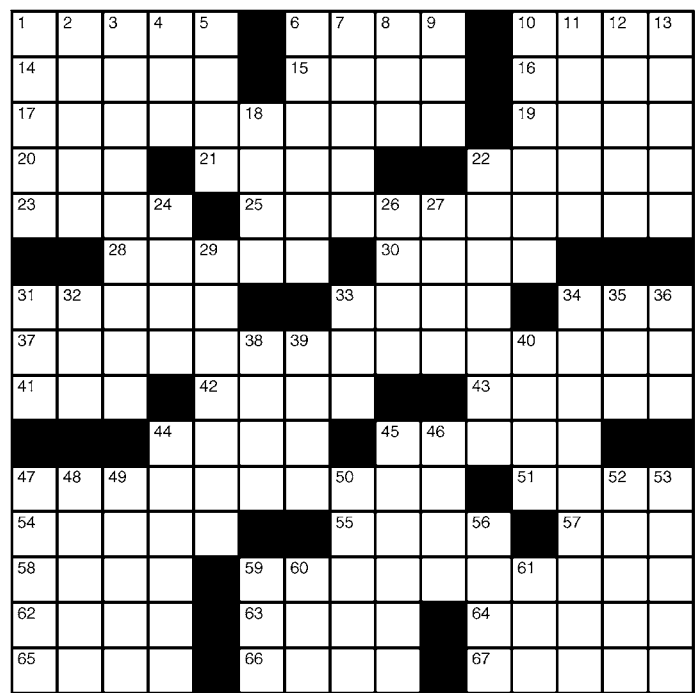
- 1 Actress Phoebe

2 Hebrew months

- 3 Prepare
- 4 Opposite of WSW
- 5 Beginning of a motive?
- 6 Sacred scrolls
- 7 Singer Cara
- 8 Rock composer Brian
- 9 Ump's colleague
- 10 Boeing rival
- 11 Leaves in the Bible?
- 12 Currency unit of India
- 13 Orgs.
- 18 Put money in the kitty
- 22 Swallows
- 24 Polish partner?
- 26 Bill of fare
- 27 Disney exec Robert
- 29 Add dash to

31 Spigot

- 32 Cell stuff
- 33 Keystone karacter?
- 34 Vanishes
- 35 BPOE member
- 36 Chicago transp.
- 38 Como \_\_ Usted?
- 39 Razor's cut
- 40 Unit of power
- 44 Eaglets' abodes
- 45 Flourished
- 46 Vehicles for ETs
- 47 Savor
- 48 Stand by for
- 49 Fate
- 50 Varnish ingredient
- 52 Germs
- 53 Spacek of "Carrie"
- 56 Sawbucks
- 59 Song syllable
- 60 That guy
- 61 Comic DeLaria



QMGAI LSKPFA (NPPH://BGLKSKGOM.RGP.OCQ/LSKPFA),  
 KOJQOMP S HCD MYSA FD PNO DFBFFUGAI SKPGYBO,  
 UNGYN UO NSTO GA MPFKSIO:

LSPYNOBFK, L.I., YBSMMGDGYSPGFA FD HFBO RSHM GA  
 YFRHBOV HBSAO. ZFQKASB FD YWLOKAOPGYM, 1978.

8(3-4): H. 237-251.

EOOH GA RGAC PNSP PNO BGLKSKW MPFKSIO SAAOV GM  
 FABW FHOA DFK MYSAAGAI RFACSW PNKFQIN DKGCSW,  
 AGAO PF DGTO.

### Think you've solved it?

Use Libraries resources to solve this puzzle. If you're an MIT student and your answer is correct, you could win a new iPod Nano! Go to [libraries.mit.edu/puzzle](http://libraries.mit.edu/puzzle) to get a copy or submit your answer by November 11, 2008 to be eligible for the drawing.



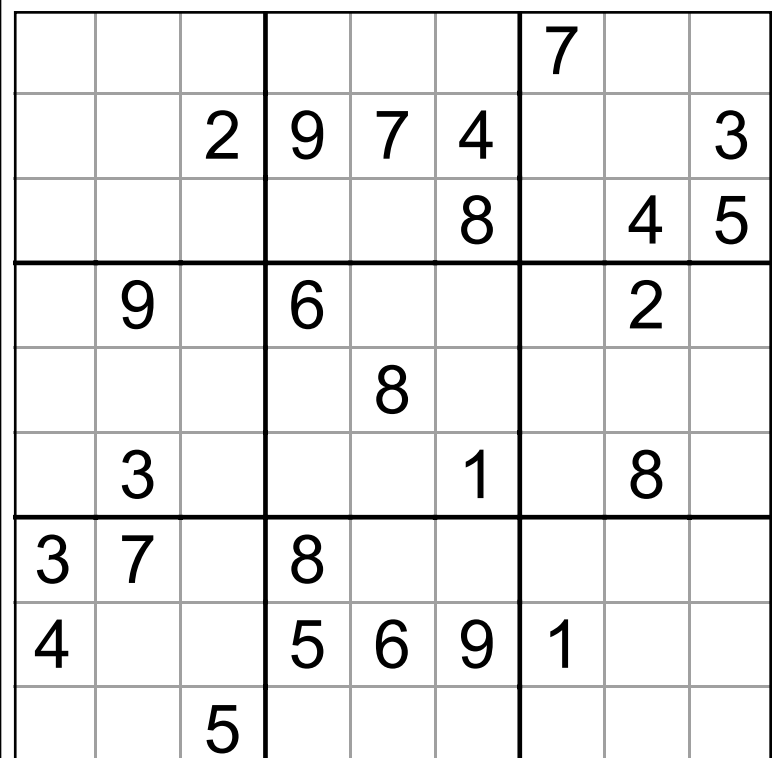
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF PUZZLE #1, HANH PHAM

# su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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 10.



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

# More Employees Gave to PACs Compared to '04 Election Cycle

Donations, from Page 1

Employee was someone who listed MIT as his or her employer. Of the employees, MIT faculty members (or people who listed their occupation as "professor" or "faculty") made about half of the contributions.

Of the 311 employees recorded to have given money to Obama's campaign, 117 were faculty mem-

bers. In total, MIT employees gave \$257,000 directly to Obama's campaign, of which faculty accounted for \$129,000, or 50 percent. Eleven of the 19 McCain campaign donors employed by MIT were faculty members, and they accounted for \$12,700 of the \$16,200 donated by MIT employees to McCain's campaign.

The presidential candidates each received much more money by

means of donations to political action committees. There is a cap on direct campaign donations of \$2,300 per election (with primary elections and general elections counted separately), but individuals may donate up to \$5,000 to PACs. Many MIT employees took advantage of the higher donation ceiling.

Compared to 2004, more MIT employees gave to PACs in this election cycle. This election, many more MIT employees chose to give to candidate-specific PACs. In 2004, 308 employees gave to PACs; 97 gave to PACs linked to John Kerry, while 5 gave to PACs linked to George Bush. In 2008, 350 employees gave to PACs, of which 208 gave to Obama-related PACs and 14 gave to McCain-related PACs.

All in all, MIT employees gave \$562,000 to PACs this election cycle, compared to \$325,000 in 2004.

# Physics Department's Soljagic Is One of 25 MacArthur Fellows

Soljagic, from Page 1

nience, wireless electricity would solve a substantial environmental problem as it could replace the need for disposable batteries," Soljagic said.

Because the MacArthur Foundation desires to encourage innovation, they give complete monetary freedom to the fellowship winners. "I can do anything I see best. I can use it for any ideas that perhaps are out there and not in the mainstream, because it's harder for those projects to receive funding," Soljagic said.

Soljagic said he hopes to apply his money to some high risk ventures that are already in the works.

After receiving bachelor's degrees in physics and electrical engineering

from MIT in 1996 and a physics PhD from Princeton University in 2000, Soljagic delved into researching nonlinear optics and photonics. "I'm a big believer in nanotechnology and how it deals with light with the hope of making ultra-fast optical devices," he said. Deeply fascinated by the ability to transmit information through light, he sees all data eventually being stored in the optical domain and signal processing being performed through optical logic.

The 2008 genius grant winners range across all fields — from a neurobiologist to an urban farmer — with only a knack for exceptional creativity in common. MacArthur gave out 25 genius grants this year, with one other to an MIT scientist, Professor John A. Ochsendorf.

## Top 5 MIT Donors to Obama Political Action Committees

Donor	Occupation	Donation Recipient	Amount
Shari L. Loessberg	Senior Lecturer, Sloan School	Obama Victory Fund	\$30,800
Rebecca M. Henderson '81	Professor, Sloan School	Obama Victory Fund	\$10,000
Lotte Bailyn	Professor, Sloan School	Obama for America Obama Victory Fund	\$6,600 \$1,000
Nicholas J. Patterson	Senior Computational Biologist, Broad Institute	Obama for America	\$6,900
Timothy M. Swager	Head, Chemistry Dept.	Obama for America	\$6,800

## Top 5 MIT Donors to McCain Political Action Committees

Donor	Occupation	Donation Recipient	Amount
Eric R. Cosman '63	Professor Emeritus, Physics Dept.	McCain Victory 2008	\$18,400
Edward B. Roberts '57	Professor, Sloan School	John McCain 2008 Inc.	\$3,300
Cyrus F. Gibson	Senior Lecturer, Sloan School	John McCain 2008 Inc.	\$1,000
Linda G. Griffith	Professor, Department of Biology	McCain Palin Compliance Fund Inc.	\$1,000
Frederick H. Bowman	Administrator, HST	McCain Victory 2008	\$1,000

## Top 6 MIT Donors to Barack Obama's Campaign

Donor	Occupation	Amount
Carolyn A. Fuller	Senior Programmer Analyst, IS&T	\$4,852
Richard M. Locke PhD '89	Professor, Sloan School	\$4,850
William F. McAvinney '73	Programmer Analyst, IS&T	\$4,600
Joshua B. Tenenbaum PhD '98	Associate Professor, Brain and Cognitive Sciences Dept.	\$4,600
Timothy Swager	Head, Chemistry Dept.	\$4,600
Nicholas J. Patterson	Senior Computational Biologist, Broad Institute	\$4,600

## Top 5 MIT Donors to John McCain's Campaign

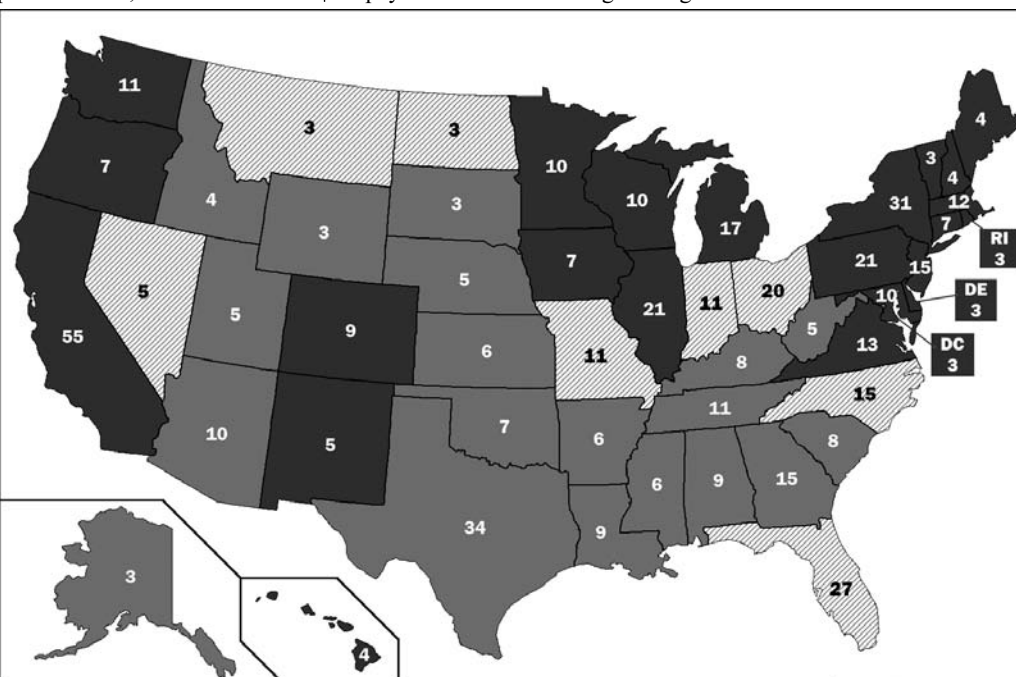
Donor	Occupation	Amount
Eric R. Cosman '63	Professor Emeritus, Physics Dept.	\$4,600
Edward B. Roberts '57	Professor, Sloan School	\$4,300
Cyrus F. Gibson	Senior Lecturer, Sloan School	\$1,000
Richard C. Larson '65	Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept.	\$1,000
Tina A. Nolte PhD '08	PhD, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Employee, McKinsey & Co.	\$1,000

Data from the Federal Election Commission shows that some MIT employees have given extensively to the presidential campaigns. Numbers include money given in the primaries and during the general election. The FEC caps campaign donations to \$2,300 for each primary and general election. PAC donations are capped at \$5,000 per year.

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**Obama 286**  
**McCain 157**  
**Toss-Up 95**

Projections compiled using information from the following:  
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# Chomsky: 'Elections Run by Public Relations Industry'

Chomsky, from Page 1

age is about Rev. Jeremiah Wright's sermons or Sarah Palin's pregnant daughter.

McCain is supposed to be a specialist on national security issues. Why? Suppose that some Russian pilot was shot down bombing heavily populated areas in Kabul and tortured by Reagan's freedom fighters in the 1980s. Well, we might feel sorry for him, but does that make him an expert on national security?

But McCain is an expert on national security because he was shot down bombing heavily populated urban areas in Hanoi and he was tortured by the Vietnamese. Well, we feel sorry for him, but he is no expert on national security. But you can't say that. These elections are run

by the public relations industry. The intellectual community goes along. Issues are marginalized. ...

In that terrain, the Republicans have a big advantage. They also have a formidable slander and vilification machine which has yet to go into full operation. They can appeal to latent racism, as they are already doing. They can construct a class issue. Obama is the elite Harvard liberal; McCain is the down to earth ordinary American, and it so happens that he is one of the richest people in the Senate.

Same thing they pulled for Bush. You have to vote for Bush because he is the kind of guy you would like to meet in a bar and have a beer with; he wants to go back to his Ranch in Texas and cut brush. In reality, he was a spoiled fraternity boy who

went to an elite university and joined a secret society where the future rulers of the world are trained, and was able to succeed in politics because his family had wealthy friends.

I am convinced, personally, that Bush was trained to mispronounce words to say things like "mis-under-estimate" or "nu-cu-ler" so liberal intellectuals would make jokes about it; then the Republican propaganda machine could say see these elitist liberals who run the world are making fun of us ordinary guys who did not go to Harvard (but he did go to Yale, but forget it).

These are games run by the public relations industry, which is a huge industry. It spends enormous resources manipulating attitudes and opinions. They design and control elections so that the public in effect

is marginalized.

They keep away from issues for a very good reason. We know a lot about American public opinion. It is a very heavily polled country, mainly because business wants to keep its finger on the public pulse. So there is a ton of information, valid information.

On a host of major issues, domestic and international, both political parties are well to the right of the population. So therefore, you don't want to talk about issues, not if you want to keep the business parties in power.

Further, the population is aware of this, but the press won't publish it: 80 percent of the population says the country is run by a few big interests, looking out for themselves, not the benefit of the people. By about 3-1, people object to the fact that issues are not at the center of the campaigns. They want issues to be discussed, not personalities.

Party managers know that, but they won't go along with it; it is too dangerous. They have got to make sure that the two factions of the business party, Republicans and Democrats, stay in power. So you don't deal with public concerns.

SG: Some in the Left and progressive community say that Obama's campaign is a historic opportunity.

NC: I prefer that Obama be elected without any illusions. He is a centrist Democrat who will very likely back away from the more extreme, crazed elements of the Bush programs, but will go pretty much to the center.

After all, what is traditional U.S. policy? So people were outraged by the Bush doctrine of preventive war? What was the Clinton doctrine? It was official. The Clinton doctrine was explicit, it was literally more extreme: The U.S. has the right to use force unilaterally to protect markets and access to raw materials without even the pretexts that Bush insisted on.

He [Clinton] said it quietly in a message to Congress. He was not brazen; he was not waving his fist in their face. We could pretend it was not there. Why did they bomb Serbia? It can't be reported here because it conflicts with the image of America's nobility and Serb villainy. We know from the highest levels of the Clinton administration, but it can't be reported.

Strobe Talbot, the highest Clinton administration official in charge of Eastern

European affairs, wrote an introduction to a book by his associate John Norris, in which he says: If you want to understand the thinking at highest levels of the Clinton Administration during the Kosovo war, this is the book that you have to read.

Norris speaks with full acquaintance of the Clinton administration at top level. What does Norris say? He says that the bombing had nothing to do with concern with Kosovar Albanians. It was because Serbia was not carrying out the required social and economic reforms. In other words, it was the last holdout in Europe to the Clintonite neo-liberal policies.

That is straight from the top level of the Clinton administration. You won't find a word about it in the press or in the intellectual journals because it conflicts with the party line.

This is a very free country, but also a much disciplined country. Intellectuals keep to the party line. They don't depart very far. Even

though they are free to and they won't be punished for it. ...

The same is true of Iran, the major upcoming foreign policy issue. The mere fact that the U.S. and its collaborators happen to be opposed by most of the world and by the majority of the American population cannot be published. Nobody knows it.

Going back to the election, it is the same story, major issues of concern to the population have to be marginalized. It must stay focused on personalities; on character; on qualities. Everything we hear about McCain is that he is a war hero and so on.

Even liberal critics, like James Carroll in the *Boston Globe*, says of this noble character that people who opposed the Vietnam war have to go to McCain to apologize. Why do we have to go to McCain to apologize? In Russia, did people who opposed the invasion of Afghanistan go to some pilot who was shot down to apologize? American and western intellectuals can't understand this, can't comprehend this. ...

Take Obama, I think that the talk about the surge is mostly false, but let's suppose it were true. Suppose that the U.S. surge had succeeded in cutting down violence in Iraq. What would that mean? That would mean that Bush was almost as successful as Putin was in Chechnya. The Russians destroyed the place, there were massacres, but it is quiet, it is rebuilding. *The New York Times* says there is a building boom, there is electricity. Do we praise Putin for that? No! we condemn him for that.

The fact that they were able to pacify a country, you don't praise them for that. On the other hand, if the U.S. were able to achieve anything like that in Iraq, it would lead to accolades and praise. And Obama would be silenced. After all, he had no principled criticism of the war. His only criticism was that it was pointless, silly, or waste of money.

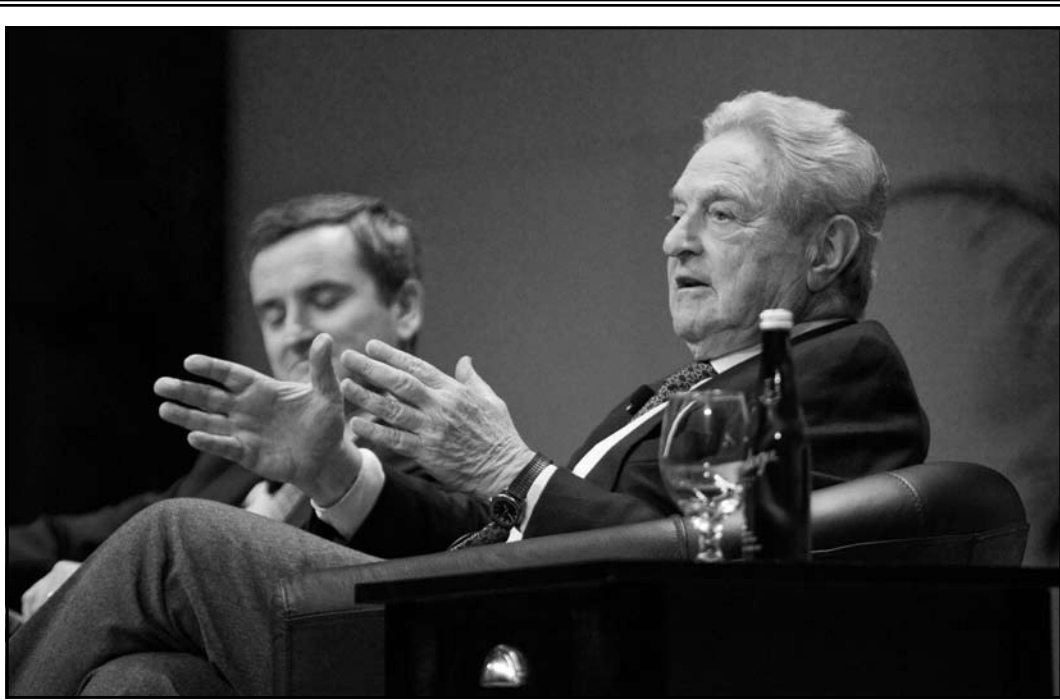
SG: Or, that it was a distraction from the war in Afghanistan, which has become the standard line. It gives the Democrats a chance to be for a war.

NC: It is kind of interesting. As the pretexts for the Iraq war are collapsing, weapons of mass destruction, promoting democracy, all of that, and it becomes harder to stand up to Iraqi opinion and even the Iraqi government which is pressing for withdrawal.

As all of that is happening, there is a little honesty beginning to creep in about the real reasons for the war. *Washington Post* editors had a very interesting comment when Obama made his speech saying that Afghanistan is the top priority. They said he is making a terrible mistake; the priority is Iraq because Iraq is the country where the oil resources are, which is at the center of the Middle East's energy producing region. So, Iraq must be the top priority.

Finally, they are telling the real reasons for the war, after lying about it since 2003. OK, no weapons of mass destruction, no promoting democracy, no liberation. We want to maintain control over energy resources. That's why we invaded. Sure.

SG: And Afghanistan?  
NC: You can have a low intensity war going on for 30 years where you send predator drones to bomb madrassas in Pakistan and kill dozens of people. Who cares?



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**Solution to Crossword**

from page 8

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

**Solution to Sudoku**

from page 8

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

# 'Biking Teaches You About Yourself'

Cycling, from Page 12

Oxford University last year. Although new to racing, Harris has many miles of riding rough terrain under her belt from long-distance bike touring trips across the U.S. and along China's Silk Road.

"I love mountain biking because every ride, every race has the potential to turn into this epic adventure," Harris said. "You can almost learn as much about yourself — your strengths, your weaknesses, your limits — in a two-hour race as you can on a two-month bike trip. And on top of that, it's just a ton of fun." Harris moved to Boston this summer.

Harris' performance at nationals concludes a successful mountain bike season for the MIT Cycling team. The season included a number of podium finishes at local collegiate races by Harris and teammates Ilana L. Brito G, Eric E. Edlund G, and Cim J. Wortham G. The team finished the mountain biking season in fifth place for Division II and is currently competing in cyclocross races and training for the spring road biking season.

For more information on the MIT Cycling Team, contact the president, Nick C. Loomis G, at [nloomis@mit.edu](mailto:nloomis@mit.edu).

# Varsity Crew Will Race Next On Nov. 15

Crew, from Page 12

race out of 16.

Coxswain Rishi Dixit '12 had nothing but praise for his crew: "We had a lot of top competition, and we had only been rowing together for one week. We're only going to get better from here."

The lightweight men finished 17th and 28th in their two varsity eights. The men showed large improvements over their performance at the Head of the Charles, defeating Saint Joseph's University and league rivals Pennsylvania. They continued with a good showing in fours, finishing 18th, 26th, and 33rd. The team is looking forward to the rest of the fall and the coming winter training.

The openweight women raced a varsity and a freshman eight. Racing well, the varsity openweights passed Villanova University on their way to a 30th place finish in a field of 44.

"It was a solid performance and we are happy with our results," co-captain Inessa Liskovich '09 said.

The freshmen openweight eight fared even better, pushing to a fifth place finish out of sixteen crews. MIT's lightweight women competed with two eights in the same openweight women field. The first eight, mostly consisting of members of the Class of 2011, finished 39th out of 44.

All squads' freshman boats will be racing next week at the Dartmouth Green Monster Freshman Invitational at Hanover, N.H. The varsity teams will compete again at the Foot of the Charles on Saturday, Nov. 15.

# Debate Team Will Send Pair to Championships

Debate, from Page 12

ranked second nationally, and last year Goldstein and Clark-Adams finished the year third nationally, the best performance by a pair of sophomores in history.

The team will be attending upcoming tournaments at Brown University, Tufts University, and Fordham University. In December, Magnuson and Goldstein will represent MIT at the World Debating Championships in Cork, Ireland.

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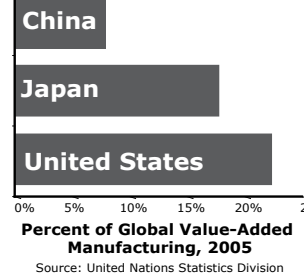
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# SPORTS

## Harris Wins Short Track Event At Mountain Biking Competition

By Lucas Goodman  
TEAM MEMBER

Katherine Harris G won first place in the short track event and third in the cross-country event at the national collegiate mountain biking championship held last weekend at Lees-McRae College in North Carolina. Harris is a member of the MIT Cycling team and a geobiology graduate student in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

The event opened on Friday with the cross-country race, which consisted of three grueling five-mile loops over rugged terrain. Harris described the course as "relentless climbing followed by contorted singletrack

descending on a trail slick with rocks and roots and mud in the true North Carolina mountain biking tradition. The scenery was stunning despite the drizzle and cold—the mountains draped with fog, but all glowing and charged with autumn colors."

Harris sprinted into first position before the course narrowed down to singletrack, and then hammered hard to get a small gap on the field of riders. Unfortunately, early in the race, Harris crashed off the side of a small bridge after picking a bad line over some slimy off-camber tree roots. Shaken but unscathed, she quickly got back on her bike and began to chase down the group of riders who had passed her. Improving her position on each subsequent lap, Harris finished the race in third place out of

a starting field of thirty riders.

On Saturday, Harris competed in the short track event, a shorter, more technical race akin to the mountain biking version of a criterium. Once again, Harris sprinted off the start line and grabbed the early lead in this fast-paced race. During multiple laps around an increasingly muddy course, she battled the winner of the previous day's cross-country race before securing a solid gap and taking the win.

This is Harris' first season of mountain bike racing, a sport she became hooked on while studying at

Cycling, Page 11

## Crew Teams Compete At Annual Princeton Chase in New Jersey

By Lucas Goodman  
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Crew teams traveled to Carnegie Lake in Princeton, N.J. this weekend to compete in the 28th annual Princeton Chase. This competition is a 2.75-mile head race attracting elite crews from all over the northeast.

The varsity heavyweight men's eight, stroked by Luke S. Urban '09, took to the water first. Starting behind the University of Virginia, the men came

off the line fast and passed UVA before the halfway point of the race. The men continued charging and crossed the line with a time of 13:50 to obtain ninth place overall in the field of 39 crews, ahead of Eastern Sprints rivals Dartmouth University, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Rutgers University, and the College of the Holy Cross.

The men's heavyweight freshman eight took sixth place in their

Crew, Page 11

## MIT Debate Beats Harvard, Advances to Quarterfinals

By Adam Goldstein  
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Debate Team capped three weekends of success with its performance at Yale University this past weekend, beating Harvard and Princeton Universities, as well as teams from Ireland and Canada to advance to the quarterfinals.

The team of Adam J. Goldstein '10 and team president William H. Magnuson '09 finished ninth out of a field of 92, with Goldstein finishing as the top individual speaker at the tournament.

The team debated topics including limits on executive compensation, parental liability for children's crimes, legalization of opium production in Afghanistan, and accept-

ing Ukraine into NATO.

The team's performance at Yale comes on the heels of success at Vassar College a week before, with Goldstein and partner Nic Zhou from Amherst taking the first place spot and Magnuson and Sharmin Karim '10 finishing fifth. The same weekend, Magnuson took home the second place individual speaker award, Karim the fourth, and Goldstein the fifth.

Two weeks ago, Goldstein and Kathleen A. Clark-Adams '10 reached the finals for the second consecutive year at Harvard in the largest tournament of the year.

After a period of disappointing results, the MIT Debate Team has come to life in recent years. Two years ago, a team from MIT was

Debate, Page 11

## Women's Tennis Stay Strong at Tournaments

By Jennifer Rees  
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT women's tennis team finished off their season strong at the New England Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament (NEWITT) and the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Championship over the past two weekends.

At NEWITT, MIT started out strong with all four teams of two (playing both doubles and singles matches) advancing to the second round. In the A draw, the number one team of Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Anastasia Vishnevsky '12 played amazing tennis and made it all the way to the main draw semi-finals where they were defeated by a team from Amherst College. This led to Hansen and Vishnevsky being named the doubles team of the week by NEWMAC for the second week in a row.

Anisa K. McCree '10 and Melissa A. Diskin '11 lost in the second round to a team from Tufts University, and then went on to barely lose in a tie break to a Trinity College team in the consolation bracket.

In the B draw, Karina N. Pikhart '09 and Yi Wang '09 also fell to Tufts in the second round, but turned around and won the consolation draw, defeating a team from Connecticut College for the title.

The team of Alexandria C. Hall '12 and Jennifer A. Rees '11 made it to the third round before losing to Wellesley College. Matches at the tournament, both won and lost, were generally extremely close and every player fought hard to the end.

In the NEWMAC Championship Tournament, MIT finished up the season with a strong showing, falling with hard-fought matches against Wellesley in the finals.

Many MIT players earned First Team All Conference selections. Hansen, on top of being selected to play number one for the First Team All Conference, won tennis player of the year. Hansen and Vishnevsky were also picked for the number one doubles spot. Vishnevsky was picked to play number two singles, and Wang was picked for the number four slot.

For the Second Team All Conference, McCree and Hall were picked for the five and six singles spots. Wang and Pikhart were also picked for the number three doubles spot for the Second Team All Conference.

On top of all this, MIT Coach Carol Matsuzaki received the Coach of the Year award. According to Matsuzaki, she is most proud of the fact that the team received the NEWMAC Sportsmanship Award this year.

## The Tech's Athlete of the Week: Doria M. Holbrook '08

On Sunday, Oct. 19, former MIT diving sensation Doria M. Holbrook '08 was honored as a semifinalist for the 2008 NCAA Woman of the Year award. Unquestionably the greatest diver in the history of the MIT program, Holbrook's selection as a semifinalist capped an amazing career highlighted by numerous records and individual achievements.

Holbrook's list of accomplishments is both extensive and impressive. A two-time NCAA national champion in three-meter diving, Holbrook finished her career with eight All-America honors as she earned national awards in both diving events all four years.

The 2005 NCAA Diver of the Year, Holbrook was also a three-time NEWMAC Diver of the Year and a six-time NEWMAC champion. She owns NEWMAC open and championship records in both one- and three-meter diving while she established the highest score in three-meter diving by a Division III diver in the history of the NCAA at the 2008 NEWMAC Championships.

Holbrook, who was also a three-time CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America selection, graduated with a 3.88 grade-point average while majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

The NCAA established the Woman of the Year award in 1991 to celebrate the achievements of women in intercollegiate athletics. The award is unique because it not only recognizes the athletic achievements of outstanding young women, but also their academic achievements, community service, and leadership.

From 130 conference and independent honorees, the selection committee chose 30 women — 10 from each NCAA division — as semifinalists before selecting three finalists from each division. Holbrook marks the first MIT semifinalist since gymnast Lisa Arel '92 in 1992.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff



WILLIAM YEE—THE TECH

Alexandra T. May '10 leaps up for a kill in the women's volleyball game against Wellesley College on Oct. 28. MIT lost 3-1, dropping the Engineers to 19-15 overall and 6-2 in the NEWMAC.

## SCOREBOARD

### Field Hockey

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008	
Clark University (5-11)	1
MIT (6-12)	0

### Women's Soccer

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008	
MIT (6-8-2)	1
Clark University (7-9-0)	0

### Women's Tennis

Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008	
Wheaton College (11-3)	2
MIT (8-2)	5
Wellesley College (9-2)	5
MIT (8-3)	3

### Women's Volleyball

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008	
Wellesley College (23-6)	3
MIT (19-15)	1

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

### Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008

Sailing Erwin Schell Trophy	9:30 a.m., Charles River
Men's Cross Country NEWMAC Championship	10 a.m., Franklin Park
Women's Cross Country NEWMAC Championship	10 a.m., Franklin Park
Football vs. Plymouth State University*	12 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Women's Basketball Alumnae Game	12 p.m., Rockwell Cage

### Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008

Sailing Erwin Schell Trophy	9:30 a.m., Charles River
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\*Featuring the MIT Marching Band