

ASA Will Propose to Lower Threshold for Group Recognition

By Arkajit Dey
NEWS EDITOR

Groups of students who want access to certain resources controlled by the Association of Student Activities would have an easier time getting them, under a proposal being presented by the ASA's executive board to all student groups at a Monday general body meeting.

Under the new proposal, not all student groups would be created equal: the ASA would declare some groups eligible for funding and office space, while others would only be able to access less-scarce resources like classroom reservations, booths at the spring and fall activities fairs, and publicity through a CD sent to all incoming students. "MIT student groups" would be different from "MIT-funded student groups."

The proposal "lowers the threshold for ASA recognition," said ASA Treasurer Shan Wu G.

It would substantially simplify a system which currently recognizes four different kinds of groups — fully recognized groups, departmentally sponsored groups, Club Sports Council-recognized groups, FSILGs and dormitories. The ASA has also used the idea of "provisionally recognized" groups, which do not get access to some resources like the Undergraduate Association or Graduate Student Council's respective

funding boards.

Lowering the bar

Currently, groups must be judged significantly unique and sustainable by the ASA's executive board, a group of about ten students elected yearly from among all student group members. Groups like Students for Obama were denied recognition under the current system, because they had little sustainability — there seemed to be little purpose to their existing past 2008, Wu said.

The new proposal eliminates the sustainability requirement. "It's OK for a group to be active for a year and then die off," said ASA president Keone D. Hon '11.

The proposal also sets two different standards for uniqueness. To be recognized as an "MIT student group," prospective groups need only be deemed "distinct" from other groups, Wu said. But to be recognized as a MIT-funded student group they need to be "significantly unique" and add "significant value," she said. The ASA's uniqueness rules have traditionally been designed to make an efficient allocation of scarce resources like funding.

"We weren't being flexible [before]," Hon said. "All the groups that apply are really good ... they

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MIT Hopes Two-Thirds of Seniors Will Give to Class Gift, OCW Fund

By Arkajit Dey
NEWS EDITOR

The Senior Gift Campaign announced an ambitious 65 percent participation rate target as they unveiled their project of developing an MIT OpenCourseWare Fund. The proceeds of the senior gift will go towards updating the video and lecture content for 5.111 Principles of Chemical Science.

The 65 percent target was set in response to a challenge by Martin Tang '72 to beat the 64 percent record for senior class participation set by last year's class. If the senior class meets Tang's challenge, he will contribute \$25,000 to the class gift. Tang will contribute just \$5,000 if only 25 percent of the class participates, and an additional \$5,000 for every 10 percent increase in class participation through the 65 percent target. If participation falls below 25 percent, the class will not receive any challenge contribution.

The Senior Gift Committee picked the project based on responses to a survey sent to the senior class. Committee Chair Elizabeth L. Palmer '09 said the top responses from the survey indicated that seniors wanted their gift to focus on academics, scholarships, and service. She said that after brainstorming, the committee unanimously chose to donate to OCW.

The other choice in the running was donating to UROPs, said Brandon M. Reese '09, Senior Gift Project Coordinator, who originally suggested OCW as an idea. The



SETH VILLARREAL

Nikolai D. Begg '09 learns about the Senior Gift during the opening ceremony on Nov. 13 in the Coffeehouse. The Class of 2009's gift will be a donation to MIT's OpenCourseWare. The money will be used to update the course material for 5.111, a freshmen chemistry course.

committee ultimately picked OCW "because it has an impact all over the world," said Reese.

Posting a new course on OCW can cost anywhere from \$10,000 for

just lecture notes to \$25,000 if the course contains video content. Reese explained that the price included

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High School Seniors Compete at MIT In Siemens Contest Regional Final

By Omar Abudayyeh
STAFF REPORTER

Sixteen high school students descended upon campus last weekend as part of the annual Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology to compete for \$9,000 dollars and an invitation to the national finals in New York where \$100,000 is up for grabs.

From Millburn High School in New Jersey, Hayden Metsky, the winner amongst the individual competitors and of \$3000, entered a project that attempted to improve automated language translation, the basis of programs like Google Translate. Metsky said, "I had been interested in foreign languages and computer science and so I merged the two topics." After finding a mentor at Columbia University,

he began his work at the beginning of the past summer and ended up entering Siemens.

The team winners of \$6000 were Christine Lai and Diyang Tang from Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. In explaining her project, Tang said, "We looked at endocytosis and a regulator of it." They investigated the localization of the regulatory protein Rabex-5 and imaged it using a fluorescent microscope. Their research began in the summer of 2007 at a University of Massachusetts Medical School lab.

As a partner university with the Siemens Competition, MIT hosts the regional competition for the northeast region of the United States. This year's regional kicked off last Friday with the students showcasing their work to the

public and ended the following day after the competitors presented their research to the judges and the winners were announced.

The winners, one individual and one team, will continue on to the finals in New York to compete against the winners from each of the other five regions to win scholarships that range from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

This year a record-setting 1,893 students entered the Siemens Competition with a total of 1,205 projects. Judges selected 311 of these students as Semifinalists and 96 of them to be Regional Finalists to compete at the six regional competitions.

The national finals will be held at New York University December 5-8, 2008.

Police Stress Bicycle Safety, Theft Prevention Measures

\$25 Fine for Riding Wheeled Vehicle in Infinite Corridor

By Robert McQueen
STAFF REPORTER

Following an accident in the Infinite Corridor this fall, the issue of bicyclist and pedestrian safety has become one of the forefront concerns of the MIT Police.

At the beginning of the school year, an incident occurred in which someone exiting an office in the Infinite Corridor was struck by an-

other person riding a razor scooter. The bruised victim filed a medical report.

Every year, the MIT Police receive complaints from people who are nearly hit by bicycles in hallways. "All it takes is someone to be hit by a bike while holding some sort of chemical," said Ser-

Bicycles, Page 10

In Short

¶ **The Diversity Leadership Congress** will take place at MIT next Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. and will include a keynote address by former U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman and a panel discussion. Facilitators will lead group debriefings at remote viewing locations in the Student Center locations and E25-111. See: <http://web.mit.edu/diversityleaders/>

¶ **MIT 2009 Benefits Open Enrollment** began Monday and will end Friday, Nov. 21 at 4 p.m. If you are an MIT employee and want to make benefits changes for next year, visit: <http://hrweb.mit.edu/benefits/>

¶ **Donate your used athletic shoes**

at the Zesiger Center, Alumni Pool, Wang Fitness Center, or the Infinite Corridor from Nov. 10-21. Nike will refurbish them into athletic playing fields and equipment.

¶ **APO's Uncleanest Manifestation On Campus** charity contest will take place next week. Send umoc@mit.edu your nominations.

¶ **UA officers and senators will be visiting dorms** next week for Dorm Storm to hear input or answer questions. Dorm Storm will take place at Baker and outside W20 on Monday, Burton-Conner on Tuesday, Next House on Wednesday, Simmons on Thursday, and East Campus on Friday.



ADITI VERMA—THE TECH

MIT students take to the runway on Nov. 9 in Walker for the annual KATwalk, a benefit fashion show organized by the sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta featuring clothes from stores on Newbury Street, the Prudential Center, and Harvard Square.

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WORLD & NATION

As Factories Shut, China's Workers Are Suffering

By Edward Wong

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHANG'AN, CHINA

Wang Denggui, father of three, arrived more than a year ago in the palm-lined streets of this southern town with a single goal: toil in a factory to save for his children's school tuition.

But the plans of Wang and thousands of co-workers unraveled at noon on Nov. 1, when the Taiwanese board chairman of their ailing shoe factory climbed over a factory wall to flee the country and his debts. That left several American shoe companies with unfilled orders and 2,000 workers without jobs.

For decades, the steamy Pearl River Delta area of southern Guangdong province served as a primary engine for China's astounding economic growth. But an export slowdown that began earlier this year and that has been magnified by the global financial crisis of recent months — as well as by plummeting stock and real estate markets — is contributing to the shutdown of tens of thousands of small and midsize factories here and in other coastal regions, forcing laborers to scramble for other jobs or return home to the countryside.

Three Successful Republicans Warn Against Move to the Right

By Carl Hulse

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

As congressional Republicans lick their political wounds and try to figure out how to bounce back in 2010 and beyond, they might want to consult with Susan Collins, Lamar Alexander and Peter T. King.

Sen. Collins, Sen. Alexander and Rep. King were among Republicans who defied the odds in a terrible year for their colleagues. Their re-elections provide a possible road map for how the party can succeed in a challenging political environment. The answer, the three veteran politicians agreed, is not to become a more conservative, combative party focused on narrow partisan issues.

"What doesn't work is drawing a harsh ideological line in the sand," said Collins of Maine, who early in the year was a top Democratic target for defeat but ended up winning 61 percent of the vote while Sen. Barack Obama received 58 percent in the presidential race in her state.

"We make a mistake if we are going to make our entire appeal rural and outside the Northeast and outside the Rust Belt," said King, of New York, who easily won re-election in a region shedding Republicans at a precipitous rate.

Fund Managers See Need For Some Tighter Regulation

By Louise Story

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate is sometimes referred to as a millionaires' club — a reference to the wealth of many of its members. But for a few hours on Thursday, the House of Representatives became a billionaires' club.

Five of the richest people in the world strode into a packed committee hearing room promptly at noon to take up one of the most worrisome issues in the financial world: the outsize role of hedge funds in the markets.

The billionaires were all hedge fund managers themselves, and among the most prominent — and successful — in the business. Many of the people crowding the room expected a slugfest, given the growing calls on Capitol Hill for hedge funds, those secretive private investment vehicles, to disclose their investments and business practices. So it came as something of a surprise when many of the managers by and large agreed with the lawmakers.

All five managers — Philip A. Falcone, Kenneth C. Griffin, John A. Paulson, James Simons and George Soros — said they would support new rules that would require their fragmented industry, nearly \$2 trillion in size, to disclose more of its secrets.

World Leaders Start to Press Obama on Policies

By Helene Cooper

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Russians want him to hold off installation of a missile defense shield in Poland. The Europeans want him to renounce the idea of "regime change" for Iran, while the Israelis want to be sure he does not give Iran a pass when it comes to nuclear weapons.

The Taliban issued a statement this week urging him to "put an end to all the policies being followed by his Opposition Party, the Republicans, and pull out U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq."

There is a world of advice out there for President-elect Barack Obama. Within minutes of his election on Nov. 4, the calls from foreign governments began, Obama aides say, and they have not stopped.

While the first telephone exchanges between Obama and foreign leaders were limited to pledges of future cooperation and invitations to visit, those leaders and their aides have also been contacting Obama's advisers and their surrogates with suggestions on how an Obama administration should

conduct, and change, U.S. foreign policy.

There are also signs that some foreign governments are moving to alter the playing field even before Obama takes office. On Wednesday alone, North Korea said it would not allow international inspectors to take soil and nuclear waste samples from its main nuclear complex; Iran successfully tested a new long-range missile that it claimed was capable of reaching southeastern Europe; and Russia rejected a U.S. proposal meant to assuage Russian fears over the planned missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The foreign efforts to sway the new team are normal during any presidential transition, but are accelerated in this case, foreign policy experts said, because of the historic nature of Obama's election and the significantly different course that world leaders expect him to pursue in U.S. foreign policy.

"We have heard a lot of important ideas from our friends and allies," said Denis McDonough, a foreign policy adviser to Obama. "We consider them closely in an effort to be a partner that listens, as the

president-elect shapes his agenda to advance U.S. interests from his first day in office." But until Inauguration Day, McDonough said, the Obama team will be in a listen-only mode.

Even before the election, senior advisers to Obama (including Anthony Lake, the former national security adviser) had been meeting with European officials, including Pierre Vimont, the French ambassador to Washington, and Nigel Sheinwald, the British ambassador, European diplomats said. British and French officials are urging the Obama team to work on the atmosphere before sitting down to talk with Iran, out of concern that Obama's pledge to open talks with Iran without preconditions could lead to trouble.

The Bush administration has repeatedly denied that it is seeking regime change in Iran. But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other senior officials have also balked at giving Iran any direct assurance of that, and they have maintained publicly that all options remain on the table to confront Iran over its nuclear program.

Hopes Dim for U.S. Car Manufacturer Bailout

By David M. Herszenhorn

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The prospects of a government rescue for the nation's foundering automakers dwindled Thursday as Democratic congressional leaders conceded that they would face potentially insurmountable Republican opposition during a lame-duck legislative session next week.

At the same time, hope among many Democrats on Capitol Hill for an aggressive economic stimulus measure all but evaporated. Democratic leaders have been calling for a package that would include help for the auto companies as well as new spending on public works projects, an extension of unemployment benefits, increased food stamps and aid to states for rising Medicaid expenses.

But while Democrats said the

stimulus measure would wait until President-elect Barack Obama takes office in January, some industry experts fear that one or more of the Big Three automakers will collapse before then, with potentially devastating consequences.

Despite hardening opposition at the White House and among Republicans on Capitol Hill, the Democrats said they would press ahead with efforts to provide \$25 billion in emergency aid for the automakers. But they said the bill would need to be approved first in the Senate, which some Democrats said was highly unlikely.

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., the chairman of the banking committee, said he did not believe there would be sufficient Republican support to get the 60 votes needed to move a bill forward. "Right now, I don't think there are the votes," he

said, adding that he personally favored aid for the automakers.

As the outlook for an auto industry bailout dimmed, President George W. Bush traveled to Wall Street, where he gave a robust defense of capitalism and seemed to warn world leaders — and the incoming Obama administration — not to draw the wrong lessons from the global economic crisis by over-regulating markets and hindering free trade.

The White House, in resisting calls for aiding the automakers, has also warned repeatedly about not throwing taxpayer money at companies that may not be salvageable.

Acknowledging the Bush administration's opposition, Dodd said Democrats had to keep in mind that the Treasury Department already has some authority to help the finance arms of the auto companies but has been reluctant to use it.

WEATHER

Quantum of Tempest

By Brian H. Tang

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

One doesn't have to be in New England very long to realize that the weather gets crazier as we approach the winter solstice. While the polar regions cool off quickly, the tropics remain relatively constant producing a large equator to pole temperature difference and a strong jet stream. The consequence of this is increased storminess that throws the area in to a weather roller coaster yielding huge swings in temperature and a whole gamut of precipitation. It's Mother Nature's way of trying to restore equilibrium, but at the cost of a wet pair of pants and shoes from time to time.

Hot on the heels of the departing storm from early this morning is a much larger storm that will begin to affect the area tonight. As it does so, rain and wind will surge in, but temperatures will continue to be quite mild on Saturday despite the lack of sun. Sunday looks better with the caveat that it will be breezy and cooler as the storm departs. In fact, the long range forecast looks cold through much of next week with the possibility of seeing our first snowflakes soon.

Extended Forecast

Today: Early morning light showers, otherwise mostly cloudy. High 64°F (18°C)

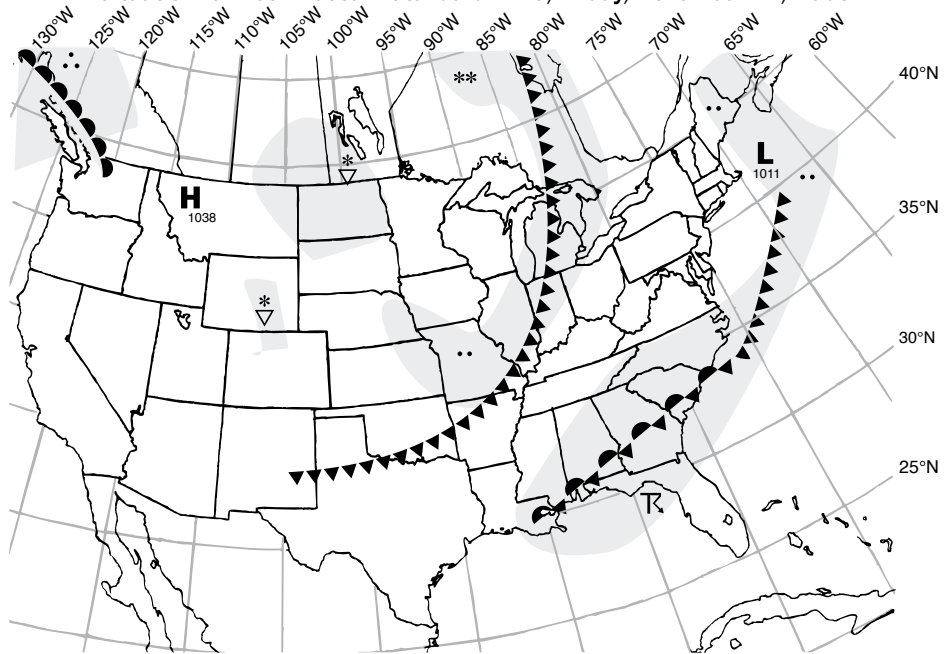
Tonight: Rain beginning in the late evening and continuing overnight. Low 54°F (12°C).

Saturday: Periods of rain. Breezy. High 61°F (16°C).

Saturday Night: Rain ending and becoming mostly cloudy. Breezy. Low 51°F (11°C).

Sunday: Partly cloudy and breezy. High 55°F (13°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, November 14, 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 **	
		Very Heavy Rain ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Iraqi Militants Turn to Small Bombs in Attacks

By Katherine Zoepf and Mudhafer Al-Husaini

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

They are usually no bigger than a man's fist and attached to a magnet or a strip of gummy adhesive — thus the name "obwah lasica" in Arabic, or "sticky bomb."

Light, portable and easy to lay, sticky bombs are tucked quickly under the bumper of a car or into a chink in a blast wall. Since they are detonated remotely, they rarely harm the person who lays them. And as security in Baghdad has improved, the small and furtive bomb — though less lethal than entire cars or even thick suicide belts packed with explosive — is fast becoming the device of choice for a range of insurgent groups.

They are also contributing, in the midst of an uptick in violence, to a growing feeling of unease in the capital.

"You take a bit of C4 or some other type of compound," said Lt. Col. Steven Stover, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Baghdad. "You can go into a hardware store, take the explosive and combine it with an accelerant, put some glass or marble or bits of metal in front of it and you've basically got a homemade Claymore," a common anti-personnel mine.

Sticky bombs are not an Iraqi innovation. "Limpet mines" were attached to the sides of ships during World War II, and magnetic booby traps were used during the conflict in Northern Ireland. Magnetic IEDs, or improvised explosive device, a home-

made bomb, were first used in Iraq in late 2004 or early in 2005, according to the American military.

But sticky bombs have become steadily more common since the start of this year, from an average of two explosions a week caused by them this spring, to about five per week more recently, Stover said.

According to figures compiled by Iraq's Interior Ministry, sticky bombs killed three people and wounded 18 in Baghdad alone during the month of July. In October, nine people were killed and 46 more were injured by sticky bombs.

Casualty rates caused by sticky bombs are still relatively low. But recent raids on insurgent groups have uncovered caches of the bombs, even "sticky bomb factories," Stover said.

U.S. Blocks Imports of Milk Products From China

By Gardiner Harris and Andrew Martin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Candy, snacks, bakery products, pet food and other Chinese products that contain milk will be detained at the border until tests prove that they are not contaminated, the federal government announced Thursday.

The Food and Drug Administration said it issued the alert because of concern about such products being contaminated with the toxic chemical melamine. It was discovered in infant formula in September and has sickened more than 50,000 infants in China and killed at least four.

Since that time, melamine has been found in a wide range of other products, including milk, eggs and fish feed. As a result, companies in the United States have recalled several products generally sold in Asian specialty stores, including a nondairy creamer and Mr. Brown brands of instant coffee and tea. But to date, the contamination here was not thought to be widespread.

"We're taking this action because it's the right thing to do for the public health," said Dr. Steven Solomon, a deputy associate FDA commissioner.

But consumer advocates said the agency's action was too little and too late.

Space Plumbers Ready For Shuttle Launching

By John Schwartz

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLA.

If all goes as planned, a team of intrepid space plumbers and lube-job specialists will lift off on Friday for a visit to the International Space Station.

Like all recent missions, this trip is mainly devoted to completing the \$100 billion orbiting laboratory. The equipment heading skyward on the shuttle Endeavour is part of NASA's plan to double the station's crew size to six next year.

Included in the payload are a second toilet and new sleep quarters, and the first-ever station refrigerator for beverages so astronauts can enjoy a cold drink.

But what is getting the most attention is a system the astronauts will install that recycles and purifies the water used on the station. It is the kind of technology that is necessary if people are going to establish long-term outposts on the moon or Mars, but it involves what astronauts acknowledge is an "ick" factor associated with what amounts to drinking one another's urine.

Donald R. Pettit, one of the astronauts on this mission, said he calls the new system "the coffee maker," because "it's going to take yesterday's coffee and make it into today's coffee."

U.N. Report Points to Peril From Noxious 'Brown Clouds' Over Asia

By Andrew Jacobs

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

A noxious cocktail of soot, smog and toxic chemicals is blotting out the sun, fouling the lungs of millions of people and altering weather patterns in large parts of Asia, according to a report released Thursday by the United Nations.

The byproduct of automobiles, slash-and-burn agriculture, cooking on dung or wood fires and coal-fired power plants, these plumes rise over southern Africa, the Amazon basin and North America. But they are most pronounced in Asia, where so-called atmospheric brown clouds are reducing sunlight in many Chinese

cities and leading to decreased crop yields in swaths of rural India, say a team of more than a dozen scientists who have been studying the problem since 2002.

"The imperative to act has never been clearer," said Achim Steiner, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program, in Beijing, which the report identified as one of the world's most polluted cities, and where the report was released.

The brownish haze, sometimes in a layer more than a mile thick and clearly visible from airplanes, stretches from the Arabian Peninsula to the Yellow Sea. During the spring, it sweeps past North and South Korea and Japan. Sometimes the cloud

drifts as far east as California.

The report identified 13 cities as brown-cloud hot spots, among them Bangkok, Thailand, Cairo, Egypt, New Delhi, Seoul, South Korea, and Tehran, Iran.

It was issued on a day when Beijing's own famously polluted skies were unusually clear. On Wednesday, by contrast, the capital was shrouded in a thick, throat-stinging haze that is the byproduct of heavy industry, coal-burning home heaters and the 3.5 million cars that clog the city's roads.

Last month, the government reintroduced some of the traffic restrictions that were imposed on Beijing during the Olympics.

Made possible by the Council for the Arts at MIT

Free tickets for MIT students!

Boston Musica Viva Friday, November 14, 8pm Tsai Performance Center, Boston University

Credo in US: An American Kaleidoscope
Peter Child Rilke Songs
John Huggler Capriccio sregolato
John Cage Credo in US
Donald Harris Ludus II
Ezra Sims Four Landscapes

Boston Modern Orchestra Project Friday, November 14, 8pm Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

Concertos for Strings and Orchestra
Matin Boykan Concerto for Violin and Orchestra
Robert Erickson Fantasy for cello and orchestra
Arnold Schoenberg Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra
Elliott Schwartz Chamber Concerto VI: Mr. Jefferson
Ken Ueno Talus concerto for viola and orchestra

Radius Ensemble Saturday, November 15, 8pm Killian Hall, 14W-111, MIT

Villa-Lobos Bachianas Brasilieras for flute and bassoon
Harbison Variations for clarinet, violin and piano
Holland Quintet for flute and strings
Mozart Quintet in E-flat for piano and winds, K.452

Tom Stoppard's Rock 'n' Roll Sunday, November 16, 2pm BU Theater, 264 Huntington Avenue, Boston

spans the years from 1968 to 1990 from the double perspective of Prague—where a rock 'n' roll band comes to symbolize resistance to the Communist regime—and of Cambridge, where the verities of love and death are shaping the lives of three generations in the family of a Marxist philosopher

Joan Jonas: Reading Dante Thursday, November 20, 5:30pm (performance at 7pm) Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Legendary performance artist Joan Jonas invites friends to read from Dante's Divine Comedy

Boston Chamber Music Society Sunday, November 23, 7:30pm Sanders Theater, Harvard

Mozart Violin Sonata in B-flat major, K. 454
Brahms Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op. 114
Dvořák Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 65

Tickets available at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205) Monday - Friday, 2 - 5:30pm in person, first-come, first-served only.

PLEASE NOTE NEW BOX OFFICE HOURS 2 tickets per MIT student ID unless otherwise noted

OPINION

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Are the UA & GSC Pulling Their Weight?

At the sight of citizens voting for state and federal officeholders, Dan Yelin laments that MIT's officers, from President Hockfield on down, are not accountable to their constituents (*The Tech*, Volume 128, Issue 54).

But the mission of MIT's UA and GSC are "to express our views and represent ourselves before other groups whose decisions affect [undergraduates]" and "to represent the graduate students on all matters pertaining to their general welfare." Are Mr. Yelin and, more importantly, the students participating in the Oct. 17th tool-in, satisfied with the UA's efforts to increase transparency and student participation? Were these issues a priority for the UA or GSC before the Campaign for Students took action?

In the national elections Mr. Yelin cites, the American electorate demanded change, and began by replacing our country's head of government. Why shouldn't MIT students do the same at the next opportunity to their student governments' executive boards?

Nicholas Musolino G

'All Men Are Created Equal'

As a proud supporter of Barack Obama, I was dismayed to see that his coattails extended all the way to the 'Yes on Prop 8' Campaign in California. Proposition 8, like its successful cousins in Florida and Arizona, was a constitutional ban on gay marriage and added California to the list of 47 other states that recognize a fundamental difference between straight and gay citizens.

The success of these bans (particularly in California) breathe new life into a toxic religious movement while defeat could have realistically broken the political will for bans on gay marriage. Moreover, while Prop 8's success is mitigated by pre-existing California domestic partnership laws, other states have seen an escalation of the gay marriage opponents' agenda. The battle now includes bans on gay adoption and domestic partnerships (which have caught many non-traditional straight families in political crossfire).

Ethan Solomon

Last Tuesday night, for the first time in my life, I felt proud to be an American. For the first time, I felt genuine faith in my country and a genuine desire to serve it. And for the first time in my life, my voice was heard and my voice made a difference.

America is a different place today. Last week's election was not just a decision between Barack Obama and John McCain, or a decision between Republicans and Democrats. It was a referendum on the future of this country. Hope has conquered fear. America picked herself up after stumbling for 8 long years and once again stands as a symbol of optimism and prosperity for the entire world to follow.

This was not just "any" election and tomorrow it will not just be "politics as usual." This isn't about Democrats taking control of Congress and the White House. What November 4, 2008 represented was a shift in the way people perceive government. Obama's campaign made the election a more personal and intimate choice that will affect how people respond to

These marriage bans seriously call into question the idea of November 4, 2008 as a watershed day for 'transformative' politics — particularly since the group ostensibly celebrating political progress was instrumental in advancing this discriminatory legislation. In an election where America saw through the fear based campaign of John McCain, the electorate in these three states bought the utter nonsense of gay marriage opponents hook, line and sinker.

No one benefits from hyperbole — the 4th was a generally good, "two-steps-forward-one-step-back" kind of day, and as Americans, we all frankly have more (sadly, a lot more) to worry about than gay marriage. That said, Prop 8 wasn't about balancing priorities or pragmatically navigating the odd confluences of modern politics — it was about equality.

When voters, legislators, governors and presidents come to take away my right to be a husband, come to take away my right to be a father, come to criminalize me, please reflect on the quintessential genius of the American Revolution: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Dwight Chambers '07

America's Constant Revolution

I spent the evening of November 4th listening to Strauss and Brahms at the Boston Symphony. When friends asked why I wasn't watching the election results on television I shrugged and replied "I'll hear about it tomorrow." It's not that I didn't care — in fact I went to great lengths just to vote back home in Texas — but as an American, I had lost sight of how profound the first Tuesday in November of years divisible by four is.

By being a part of it for so long, I had taken for granted the beauty of the political system that America operates under. I forgot how to see the forest for the trees. The symphony has a way of forcing one to think, though. While I'm not proud that I didn't give the proper respect to November 4th 2008, I am grateful for the chance to reflect on it all.

Every first Tuesday in November, and this one

America is Different Today

Barack Obama's Election Transcends 'Politics as Usual'

his administration. His campaign was about giving Americans a real choice, not manipulating them one way or the other. Obama will set a precedent for future presidential campaigns, Republican and Democrat alike, of not underestimating the American people. He has demonstrated to this country that implicit trust in the electorate earns trust from the electorate.

In the end, this campaign really wasn't about the candidates. Barack Obama is human and will make mistakes. The Democrats now control both chambers of Congress, but undoubtedly, they too will make mistakes. Wars will end, but new ones may flare up. The economy may continue in its downward spiral, or it may recover. We might continue to lose our civil liberties to malicious forces which continue to linger in the halls of government. However, Obama's symbolic significance is something America will never forget. Barack Obama's story demonstrates how in the United States, anyone's dreams can be a reality.

Today, I'm proud to be an American because America chose to no longer live in fear of the unknown. To many Americans, Barack Obama is a phenomenon they never expected to see

in particular, the world changes. As a European friend put it when I asked why she cares about the American election so much — "the votes that you all cast here directly affect the rest of us."

I cast my ballot for Senator Obama, but listening to the BSO play Brahms while much of the rest of the world (yes, the world) was glued to precinct reports, I realized that which candidate won is far less important than the system itself. Every four years the most powerful nation on earth, the greatest consuming nation on earth and the world's economic juggernaut has a revolution.

The leadership of the United States of America was changing. It was changing because a two century and counting piece of parchment said that it must. An old guard would soon be giving up real power, a new guard would soon be assuming it, and it would all be done completely peacefully — and I was listening to violin concerto in D, opus 77.

The truly amazing part of it is that I wasn't wrong to be doing what I was doing. Somewhere between one- and two-thirds of all Americans voted and each had the luxury to spend the evening doing whatever he or she wished. That's between 120 and 240 million Americans participating in the most orderly revolution on earth, spending the night however they wished, and the next morning, irrespective of their side of choice, accepting the results and instantly being given amnesty. People from across the political spectrum, many with very strong opinions, all tacitly agreed to accept the results of the election. For something that I thought was mundane, it's really very crazy stuff.

After the show, I went to get some dessert with friends. The ice cream shop we found was showing election coverage on a T.V. I got to see the final results and to later hear the victory and concession speeches. I sincerely hope that the results usher in a new era of America's relationship with the rest of the world and with itself.

I hope that individuals don't get caught up in finger pointing and assigning blame to others who chose to cast a ballot for a different ideology. Most of all, though, I hope that I, my fellow Americans, and our comrades of the world continue to appreciate the system that makes such profound changes possible overnight. Remember, remember the first Tuesday in November.

Avi Wolfson G

in their lifetimes. It takes courage to make a choice that goes against everything you thought you knew.

I can't profess to understand what kind of courage that took. I was born only 19 years ago and I didn't, and never really will, understand why my parents thought a black man could never be elected president. "America will never elect a man named Barack Obama to the White House," remarked my father, emphasizing the foreign nature of the Senator's name in his pronunciation.

"There are just too many people who couldn't push the lever for a black man." That was less than two years ago. My family, the media, and millions of Americans across the country agreed with him. I disagreed. And two years later, I couldn't be happier that America proved them wrong.

I couldn't be happier that millions of American's realized that the choice is theirs. The amazing thing about this Election Day was that the American people rejected lifetimes of deep-rooted pessimism and took a risk. They made the choice for the impossible. And on November 4th, 2008, the impossible became possible.

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A Vibrant (but Entrenched) Political System

Is it Time for Meaningful Constitutional Reform in the United States?

Stephen M. Hou

Stella Schieffer made a strong case in the November 4th issue of *The Tech* ("Party-Based Elections") for reforming the American electoral system. She described the advantages of Germany's parliamentary electoral system, where voters separately elect both geographical delegates and party representatives proportional to their support. Schieffer argues that the German system more accurately reflects the sentiments of the electorate and that parties maintain their positions more reliably than individual politicians do.

I am very much in favor of electoral reform in the United States. The U.S. Constitution was written in a time when Americans' strongest loyalties were to their states and local communities, and statesmen viewed political parties with great suspicion. Obviously, things have changed since then. It would be wonderful to see a wider variety of non-geographical interests represented in Congress.

Unfortunately, the foremost obstacle in reforming our electoral system is the immense difficulty in amending the Constitution, which would be required in order to implement Schieffer's suggestions. However, there are at least two other explanations for why Americans quietly tolerate our old-fashioned electoral system: the fact that the United States was among the first modern democracies and the apparent stability

of the nation over the past two centuries.

It is no coincidence that Massachusetts has the oldest state constitution in the nation (in fact, it is the oldest written constitution still in effect in the world) but was also the last of the original thirteen American states to write its post-1776 basic charter.

When each of the other newly independent states hastily established governments that served as experiments in democratic self-rule, they soon ran into numerous problems they did not foresee. By the time Massachusetts called a constitutional convention, its delegates were able to draw enough from the lessons of its neighbors to make a workable, yet still thoroughly 18th century-style, government.

Within decades, all the other states abandoned their original constitutions and tried again with more modern features that leap-frogged Massachusetts.

We see a similar situation with the U.S. Constitution, the oldest national constitution in the world: Its improvement over the Articles of Confederation was "good enough" that significant revision was never seriously considered by future generations.

We'd certainly expect the systems subsequently established by other democracies to be much "better" than the U.S. original. The popular revolutions that swept Europe in the 19th century were somewhat influenced by the American and French experiences of the previous century. The proliferation of new states based on rising nation-

alism in the 20th century were perfect opportunities to create modern republics and constitutional monarchies. Surely the framers of those governments studied the flaws of previously established democracies. Furthermore, the relevant scientific aspects of politics, such as modern psychology, game theory, Arrow's Impossibility Theorem and the Balinski-Young Theorem, weren't developed until the 20th century.

Many democracies have completely rewritten their constitutions from scratch after suffering a major collapse of their government due to war or revolution. For example, the drafting of the constitutions of (West) Germany and Japan were supervised by the Allied victors after World War II and the Fourth French Republic was born after liberation from Nazi occupation.

Only two nations have had the same political system in the 21st century as they did in the 19th and 20th centuries: the United States and the United Kingdom. Both are strong democracies, and yet both have anachronistic elements that have long been abolished in most other countries: the U.S. has its electoral college, Britain has its House of Lords. Both nations were blessed to have not have suffered any serious economic or military upheaval (except for the U.S. Civil War), and thus their citizens did not feel any sufficient incentive to drastically alter their political systems.

As the saying goes, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." The American Revolution of 1776, unlike the French Revolution, was just another

step in a very slow democratization of a society that gradually moved the source of sovereignty from the monarch to the people. Since that time, Americans have incrementally expanded popular participation in the federal government, including granting voting rights to the landless, non-whites, women, 18-year-olds and the District of Columbia, and transferring the power to choose a state's national senators and presidential electors from the legislature to the people.

Ultimately, the degree of democratic rule in a nation is determined much more by its civic culture than by the formal mechanical rules for filling in its government positions. Every South American nation that has tried to copy the U.S. political system has fallen victim to military coups. Britons enjoy the benefits of living in a reliable democracy, despite having a largely unwritten political system run under the principle of parliamentary supremacy.

If their system were exported to certain other countries, it would quickly degenerate into dictatorship. The American Founding Fathers were acutely aware that the government they created was not ideal. Many did not expect it to last. However, their legacy was not that they created the world's most democratic system, but rather that they built the foundations for a stable democratic society to thrive in response to evolving social and political climates.

Stephen Hou is a graduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

What's So Great About 2008?

Sensationalism Aside, Here's What Really Happened on November 4th

Joe Maurer

Last Tuesday saw the conclusion of the longest, costliest, and most reported political contest in the history of United States democracy. Pundits raved over how this election broke all the rules and would be an irrevocable turning point for the course of this nation. However, despite the rhetoric of change that emanated from both candidates McCain and Obama, this campaign was strikingly conventional in many respects.

First, of course, would be that Senator Obama won the Presidency. With 90% of citizens believing that the country is on the wrong path, the Grand Old Party and John McCain had a substantial hole to dig themselves out of to even be remotely competitive in 2008. Really, judging by the media coverage, they shouldn't have had any chance at all.

Even with Democrats controlling Congress, most voters placed the blame for the country's current economic woes squarely at the feet of President Bush and the Republicans. 2008 would have been the election of the century if McCain — hardly the GOP's foremost expert on the economy — pulled off an upset when exit polls overwhelming showed that voters considered the economy their top priority. That upset obviously didn't happen.

Furthermore, while Democrats picked up seats in both the House and Senate, there was hardly a massive ideological shift suggesting that the United States has swung left since 2004. Again, with an unpopular President standing as the face of the Republican Party, Democrats had a substantial advantage in all of their campaigns. When the 111th congress con-

venes in January, Republicans will still have a substantial minority, and will certainly use the filibuster as the Democrats did during Bush's first term. Nothing unexpectedly surprising on the congressional front.

What did happen, however, reveals more about the future of the country than what didn't. Obama won partly on a claim of broad tax cuts, but also, in one of history's great ironies, because foreign policy was deemphasized.

As an undeniably liberal Senator, Obama ran a campaign claiming to be a moderate on the issues most important to voters. Taking a page from the Republicans playbook, the President-elect promised to cut taxes. Democrats managed to convince America that giving so called "tax-credits" to those who don't pay any income tax in the first place somehow doesn't qualify as welfare.

When it came to selling their economic proposals, Republicans faltered in explaining the inherent strength of their pro-business and growth tax policies while simultaneously failing to successfully call the Democrats out on the issue of income redistribution.

The GOP also faltered in explaining how the country's economic woes resulted from bad regulation, and fell into the trap of blaming Wall Street for the country's problems. When John McCain lambasted the finance industry as greedy, he made his job of explaining corporate tax rate cuts exponentially more difficult. While Joe the Plumber gave McCain an economic talking point at the end of the campaign, it was a glimmer of hope among a tangle of poorly argued conservative economic policies.

Given the big backlash against Obama's "spreading the wealth around," however, it's

clear that the country still isn't ready to completely accept the Democrats' economic policies. Like Bill Clinton, Obama didn't run his campaign entirely as a traditional "liberal" and ended up promising tax cuts to woo over undecided voters. If the parallels between Obama and Clinton run deeper, Obama will also renege on his tax cut proposals, as he has already scaled back his \$250,000 income figure to \$200,000 (or \$150,000 if you listen to Joe Biden). Democrats raising taxes to support spending programs? Nothing unusual there.

Compared to the GOP's poorly organized economic message though, Barack Obama's plan seemed more concrete to most Americans. On taxes, Obama validated a long running U.S. tradition that in politics, being consistently clear trumps being confusingly right.

Finally, in an election that supposedly saw the repudiation of the Bush doctrine, foreign policy played a surprisingly small role in the final vote. Very few people went to the polls to vote for security precisely because Bush's policies have made us safer, with no terrorist attacks on U.S. soil or embassies since 9/11. It is the very success of these policies that pushes security out of most people's minds.

However, it is precisely Obama's pledge to change the Bush foreign policy that makes Joe Biden's prediction that, "it will not be six months before the world tests Barack Obama," more prophecy than gaffe. The day after Obama's election, Russians President Dmitri Medvedev held his postponed state of the nation address, and between his anti-U.S. tirades, he stated that Russia would install jamming equipment to counter the Bush administrations plan for a U.S. missile defense system stationed in Poland — A U.S. system that would have no

offensive capabilities and would be designed to target Iranian missiles.

Medvedev is starting early to see just how far he can push an inexperienced Obama, and no one should be surprised because of it. Like Stalin testing JFK before him, Medvedev realizes that Russia stands to gain Obama does not oppose hard-line Russian beliefs the way President Bush has. The last time America elected a young President who foreigners felt could be pushed along, we had nuclear warheads ready to attack us from Cuba. In the interest of national security, we should hope that President-elect Obama proves tougher in dealing with other nations.

As such, the 2008 election was no campaign for the ages. Once you break through the rhetoric and 22 months of talk and promises, you find an election that simply incorporates the realities of previous elections with more pomp and circumstance. America has a new President, but actions — not words — cause change. Until we see how an Obama administration will function beginning January 20th, words are all we have.

That being said, I must wish President-elect Obama the best. His campaign was impressive, and to a conservative, shocking in its effectiveness. Thus, I sincerely hope that Barack Obama will take to heart his campaign promise to be a post-partisan candidate, and not blindly walk hand-in-hand with Nancy Pelosi and the Democrat-controlled congress. As Senator McCain said in his concession speech, "Whatever our differences, we are fellow Americans." The success of this country over the next four years depends greatly on how often the President-elect pushes partisan rhetoric aside and puts his country first.

A Fantastic Race

An International Perspective on the U.S. Elections

Radhika Malik

On Tuesday, November 4th, history occurred. The United States of America elected its first ever African American President, Barack H. Obama. The election, driven by a record turnout, is an event of landmark symbolism and will herald the beginning of a series of changes in American politics that will have a significant impact on the United States and the world at large.

Looking back these past few weeks, I realize how incredible the experience of witnessing this first-hand has been. From the perspective of an international student staying in the country for the very first time, it's been amazing to be here when the whole country is so charged up with activity. The MIT community has been buzzing with the same enthusiasm and excitement.

When I first arrived on campus in August, the race for the Democratic nomination was still fresh in everyone's mind. There were dis-

appointed Clinton supporters on campus, and those on Obama's side were celebrating the overcoming of the first hurdle and hoping for more successes in the future.

After a few slow weeks, the excitement gradually rose as Election Day neared. For every presidential debate, without fail, there were a large number of study breaks by different student groups. A significant proportion of students made a conscious effort to take out time from their hectic schedules to watch the two candidates discuss and contrast their positions on various issues.

After each debate, there were elaborate discussions, as well as close critiquing, of the statements made by each candidate. Though both sides had their fair share of supporters, with the passage of time, Obama seemed to prove himself, assuming the role of an icon, a catalyst of change, and took an evident lead in the polls.

The Tech, with the Undergraduate Association, organized a voter registration drive to register new voters and provide absentee ap-

plications ballots for those registered in other states. In the one hour I spent at the registration booth, I witnessed a flood of students coming and registering to vote. The enthusiasm of students and community members of all stripes to participate in the process was clearly evident.

Many efforts were made by other groups as well. As MIT's main focus has been science and technology initiatives, the energy debate, organized by the MIT Energy Club and the MIT Energy Initiative, was very closely observed by the entire community. The MIT Debate Team had a special debate demonstration round, to show students what, in their view, an ideal presidential debate should look like.

As Election Day approached, everyone was urged to go ahead and cast their vote, and many different techniques were employed to publicize the event. The Simmons Hall LED displayed "Vote Tuesday" and many e-mails were sent out to mailing lists to exhort people to go vote. Election night featured innumerable gatherings where people watched as the polls progressed, and finally celebrated the great victory.

I come from a place marked by apathy towards the political process. There is a widespread philosophy that both sides will probably do the same things, and thus it doesn't really matter which side really wins. This can be seen particularly among students. Even after turning 18, hardly anyone cares to vote until they reach a stage when the outcomes directly affect them, such as after they begin work. The passion to elect the right person, make an informed decision, and participate in the democratic process, is greatly lacking. Witnessing this passion in everyone around me was truly amazing.

In my opinion, any claims that most MIT students are way too engrossed in their own lives and as a result become oblivious to what's happening around them, are untrue. When it matters, they're involved, and they proved this by playing the role of responsible citizens.

Many people have told me that the zeal in this year's election has been a consequence of the setbacks in the last presidential term, along with an urgent need for change. However, regardless of the reason, it's been fantastic.

ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★★1/2

*Sex, Rocket Launchers, and Emotional Baggage**Daniel Craig's Bond Gets a Little Too Sensitive*

By Kevin Wang

STAFF WRITER

Quantum of Solace

Directed by Marc Forster

Written by Paul Haggis, Neal Purvis, and Robert Wade

Starring Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Mathieu Amalric, and Judi Dench

Opens Nationwide Today, Nov. 14

If "The Notebook" humped a car chase, the unholy spawn that was produced would be "Quantum of Solace." Much like a Miss USA contestant named Mildred, the latest Bond film is visually impressive, has a stupid name, and is pretty much devoid of substance. While it features top-shelf action and is extremely exciting throughout, the latest incarnation of James Bond simply lacks the cool confidence that sets the franchise apart from every other secret agent thriller.

"Quantum of Solace" picks up just after the conclusion of the last Bond film ("Casino Royale"), and immediately jumps into a high-speed car chase. The film is a strict continuation of the previous movie, and tracks James Bond (Daniel Craig) in his pursuit of a shadowy organized crime syndicate called Quantum.

Heartbroken from the death of Vesper, his lover from the last film, Bond rebels against his superiors and wages a personal war against those responsible for her death. Along the way, he befriends Camille (Olga Kurylenko), an exotic Bolivian commando who is also on a quest for revenge. The plot jumps from country to country like Carmen Sandiego on a sugar high, eventually culminating in a brutal firestorm in the middle of the Bolivian desert.

The car chases and action scenes in "Quantum of Solace" are all solidly excellent. There are independent high-speed chases using virtually every mode of motorized transport on the planet, as the Bond franchise continues its dominance in graphic depictions of vehicular manslaughter.

The close-range fighting scenes — often at the culmination of extended free-running se-

quences — are also notably grittier than the clean cut Pierce Brosnanian antics of the 90's; now when Bond dispatches his foes, it is as ugly and gritty as taking someone's life at close range should be. In that sense, Daniel Craig is well suited to the Bond role, as he lends a sense of gravity to the serious role of killing tons of total strangers.

Disappointingly, however, "Quantum of Solace" continues the theme of increasing sensitivity began in the last Bond installment. Don't be fooled into thinking that more emotional content means moving dialogue: Judi Dench is the only person in the movie who acts, despite looking like the pedophile cat lady down the street. Moreover, Craig's tough demeanor which is so well suited to great action shots is sadly forced to hover somewhere around catastrophic constipation, confused by the incongruous addition of emotional scenes.

In a way, "Quantum of Solace" betrays the core attitude of past Bond films, which featured a James Bond who is confident, perennially cool, and not a crier. However, I should admit that I'm fairly biased in my preference for older Bond movies and actors; I prefer my Bond movies the way that I like my sexual encounters: two hours long, featuring beautiful women, and starring Sean Connery.

Admittedly, 007 "going rogue" in the name of revenge is nothing foreign to the Bond franchise. Specifically, 1989's, "License to Kill" featured a similar theme of vengeance and rebellion against MI-6 (as well as an epically cheesy 80's theme song). That film, however, grasped a critical reality of both action movies and flashy sports cars: if you have lame parts, you need to compensate, big time.

"License to Kill" featured not one but two full-out shark dismemberments to make up for its momentary lapse in manliness, and concluded with the lead villain being lit on fire. I waited for nearly two hours for Daniel Craig to kill a villain with a burning shark in each hand, but I unfortunately left the theater disappointed.

Ultimately, when we go to see a James Bond

film, we want to grasp the fantasy — if only for a moment — that we are a suave secret agent who gets laid more than once a decade and has sweet hand-to-hand combat skills to boot. Nobody wants to pay \$10 to see James Bond suck. Bond should be a cross between Ron Jeremy and the

Terminator — a wry, wise-cracking sex machine carrying a rocket launcher.

While I recommend seeing "Quantum of Solace" purely on the strength of its action sequences, it simply doesn't deliver the same attitude that really set past Bond films apart.

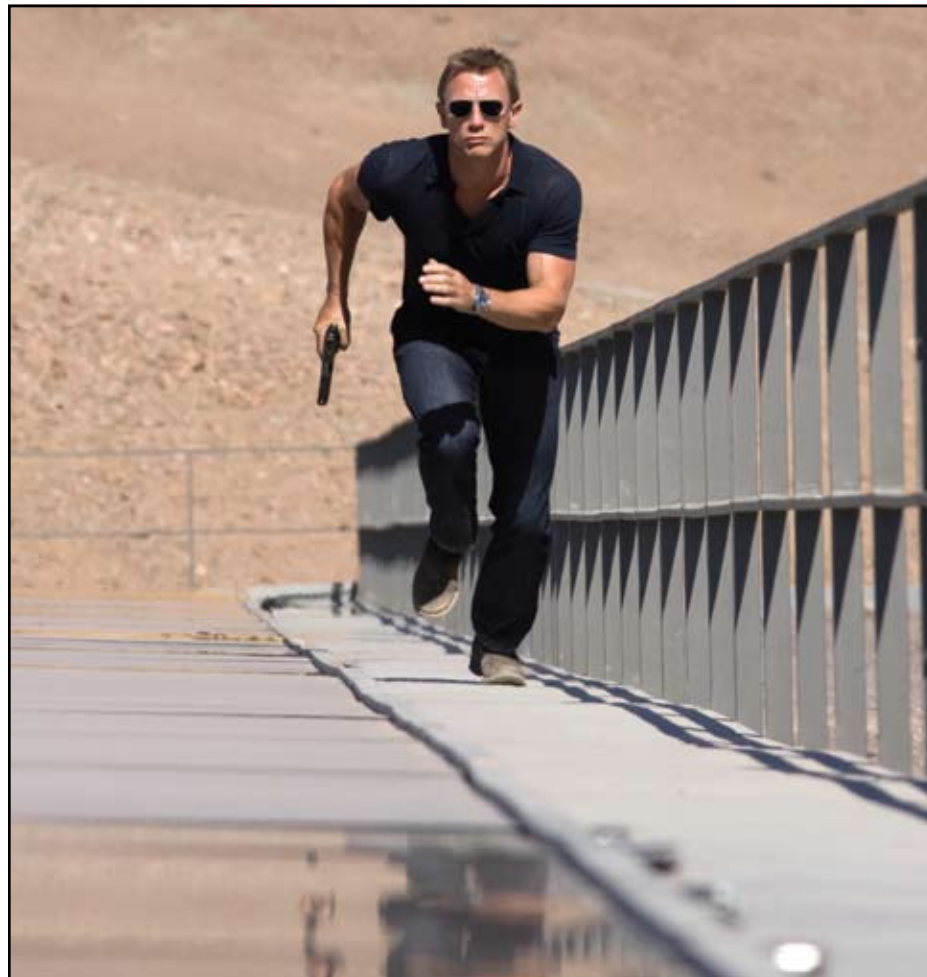


PHOTO COURTESY COLUMBIA PICTURES

Daniel Craig stars as James Bond in *Quantum of Solace*, out in theaters today.

ALBUM REVIEW

*East from the Midwest**Pillars and Tongues Drone Beautifully on 'Protection'*

By S. Balaji Mani

STAFF WRITER

*Pillars & Tongues**Protection*

Conraphonic Records

Released Oct. 14, 2008

Recorded by Griffin Rodriguez

Chicago-based trio Pillars & Tongues don't just play together: they talk to each other, critique each other, and advise each other—with their instruments, of course. Their frank, uninhibited musical conversations have been compiled onto a disc entitled *Protection*, released just last month on the Conraphonic imprint.

Though it's their debut release, Evan Hydzzik (bass, vocals), Elizabeth Remis (violin, vocals), and Mark Trecka (percussion, organ, vocals) have been playing together for almost a decade. Before Pillars & Tongues, a larger collective, Static Films, served as a learning experience and nexus for Hydzzik, Remis, and Trecka. When it became clear that there was distinct chemistry between the three young musicians, they formed Pillars & Tongues.

That may be the most striking characteristic of *Protection's* four tracks — the performances testify to the band members' long-standing artistic relationship.

This summer, Pillars & Tongues embarked on an extensive tour, which is currently taking them through clubs and intimate venues throughout France. In September, Pillars & Tongues managed to squeeze in a performance at MIT to showcase the new songs we would later hear on *Protection*. During the live performance, Hydzzik stood with his back to the audience in a seemingly pretentious stance. However, taking the nature of the music into consideration, it's clear that Hydzzik was merely facilitating conversation between his bass and the other two instruments flanking him.

Even Trecka's warped and unconventional drum kit turned into the other musicians, instead of traditionally facing outwards. What's on the record isn't necessarily what we heard live in the MIT Coffeehouse. While the basic song structures exist, the trio uses these as a template upon which to improvise. The bass and violin, being the only two melodic instruments, would often play choice intervals

as droning soundscapes. As these textures washed over the audience, Trecka juggled an array of percussion instruments and provided a solid backbeat.

The members of the trio trace their influences back to folk music, but their approach to improvisation and chord quality reflect a heavy Eastern sound. The emphasis on non-traditional beats may seem foreign to listeners accustomed to Western rhythm. Hydzzik also made use of slapping his fingers on the neck of his double bass to complement the driving rhythms. Trecka made the most of his instruments, evoking eerie, sustained sounds. At one point he slowly drew a violin bow across the edge of a cowbell to produce a high shriek. In turn, Remis bowed high-register harmonics on her violin. These delicate sounds brought the room to a very quiet and tense moment, resolved by Hydzzik's recapitulation of the main melody of the song.

The album's four songs provide just under 50 minutes of

music, with three tracks lasting 14 minutes each. "Dead Sings," a multi-passage piece, finds Hydzzik singing about haunting images like spontaneous prose. The word choice, irregular rhyming, and broken sentence structure evoke a marriage of Beat and slam poetry styles. The title track is split up into two parts and features a beautiful vocal array provided by all the members of the group.

Friends of the band enhance the album with their contributions of mellophone, flute, clarinet and melodica. The spiritual mood of the album and lengthy songs may not make for a great pop release; this collection is for the curious listener. What makes this album worthwhile is the experience of listening to the finer details of the arrangements and picking out the exchanges between instruments and voices. It's almost as easy as eavesdropping.

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JONGU SHIN—THE TECH

A stand up comedian Elliot Chang, one of the few who have received a standing ovation on Comedy Central's Premium Blend, performs during his show hosted by the Korean Students Association on Nov. 8 in 54-100.

November 14,
2008

COMICS

The
Tech

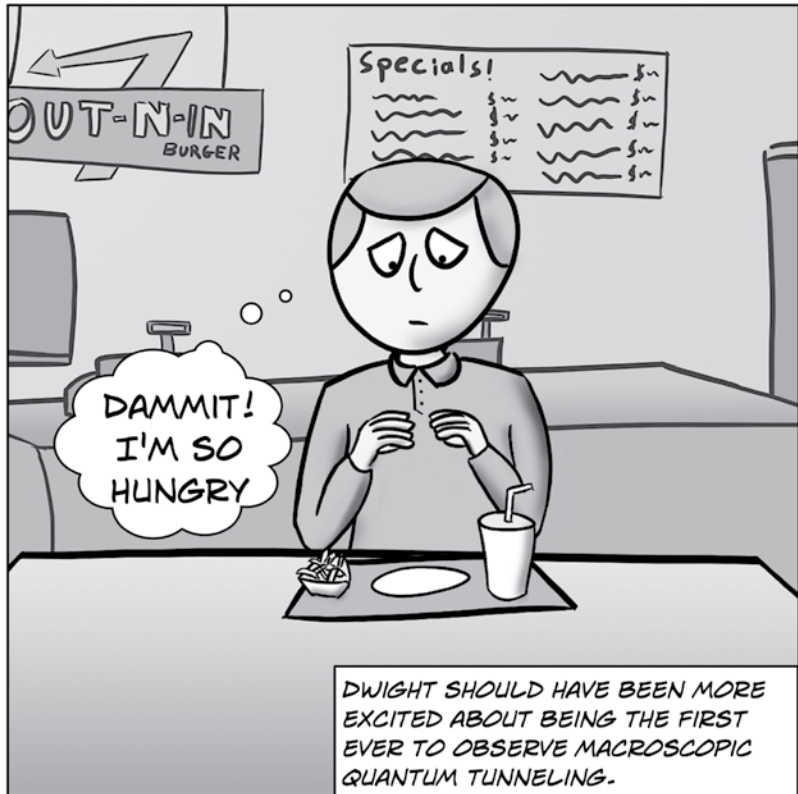
FUN

Page
7

PAGES

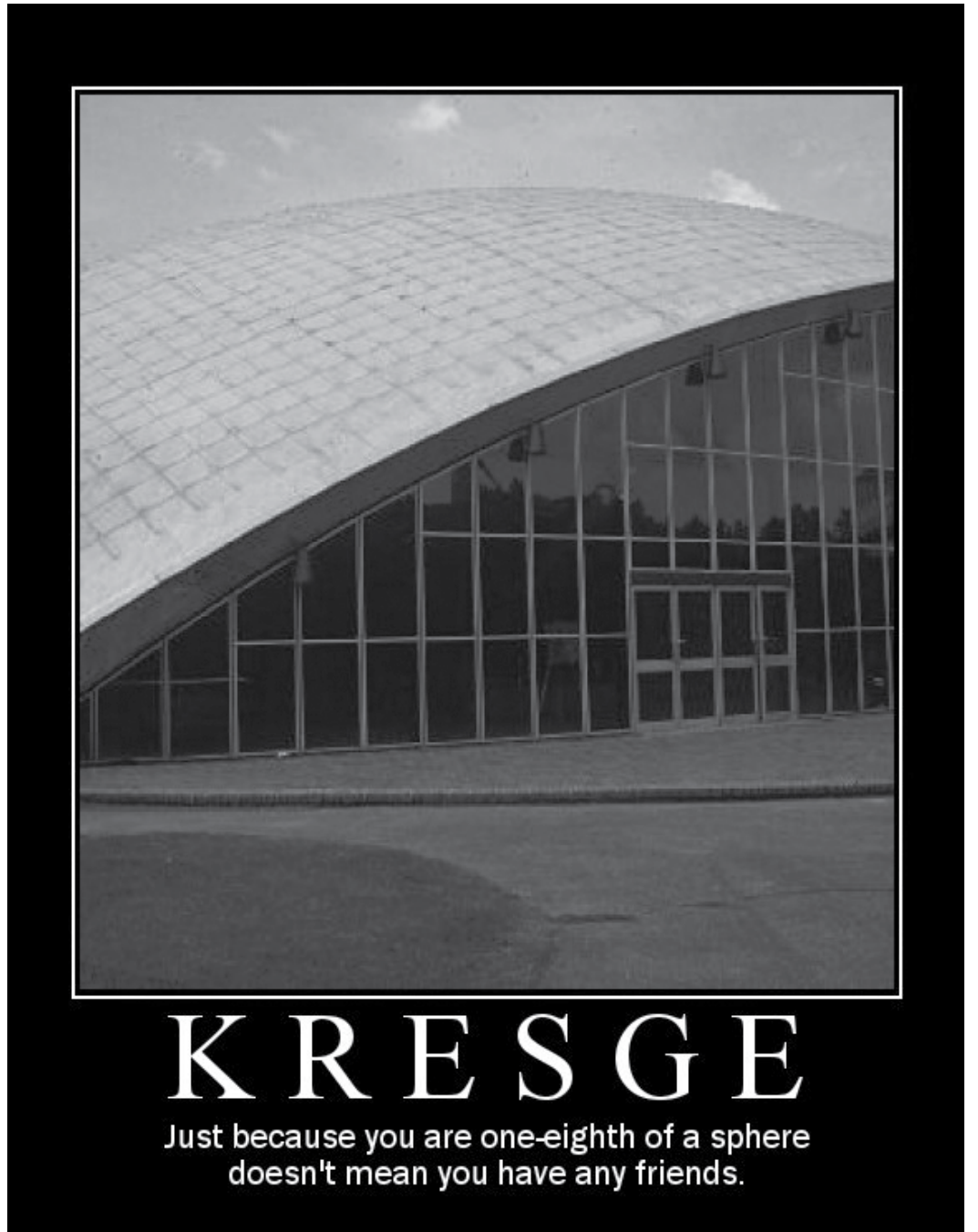
Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



The Daily Blunderbuss

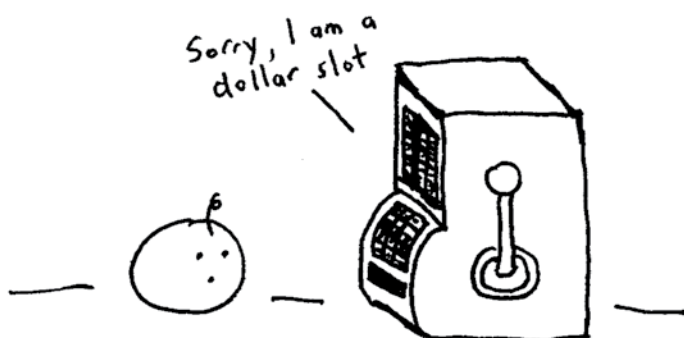
by Ben Peters



Blobbles

by Jason Chan

If my nose was full of nickels, I'd blow it all on you.



Thanks to Paul Hlebowitsh for today's caption.
Want to see your caption in Blobbles? Send it to blobbles@tech.mit.edu and I'll draw a cartoon for it!

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 14.

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

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

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcusamer

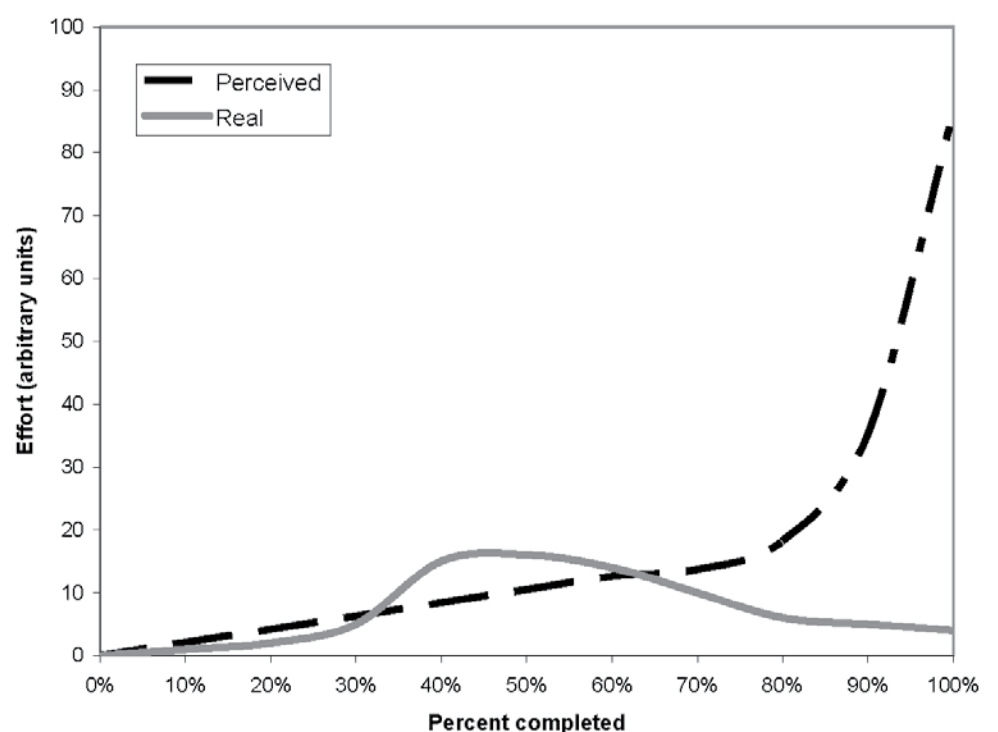


Figure 44. The graph shows the real and perceived effort profiles during an average PhD program, from the completion of the qualifiers until graduation. As shown, the perceived is slightly above the real effort for the first third of the program, as the student acquires the necessary skills. After that, the real effort surpasses the perceived for a period in which work becomes monotonous and the student loses a sense of reality. Soon after, the burnout period starts, where it takes an exponentially growing amount of effort to do the same or even a decreasing amount of work. Because the date of graduation is almost arbitrary, this process may discourage the PhD candidate to the point where he decides to become a banker, a comic writer, or a restaurateur.

Dramashop Performs 'Menfolks and the Woman'



The MIT Dramashop puts on a theater arts workshop entitled "Menfolks and the Woman," a Hungarian satire by Milan Fust translated and directed by Istvan Czigler. The workshop will be running Nov. 13-15 at 8 p.m. in the Wiesner Student Gallery.

(counter-clockwise from above) Mia A. Shandell '10 as "the woman" seduces the Phantom of Ideal (Jonas Kubilius '08).

The Menfolks (from left, Ari Daniel Shapiro G, Paul M. Kominers '12 and Brian P. Cass '11) meet and argue with the Rover (Jonas Kubilius '08).

The Phantom of the Football Player, played by Ari Daniel Shapiro G, advises "the woman" played by Mia A. Shandell '10.

Photography by Meng Heng Touch

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MIT Faculty Representative: Professor Cynthia Barnhart Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of Engineering

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Panelists

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Walter Cuenin, Catholic Chaplain, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Rabbi Moshe Waldoks, Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA

Questions: ora@mit.edu
Website: mit.edu/dsl/addir/

All are invited to attend.

Addir is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means "bridge". In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains.



Most Bike Fatalities Occur in the Evening

Bicycles, from Page 1

geant Cheryl Vossmer of the MIT Police.

In 1993, MIT Police started issuing \$25 fines to people riding bicycles, inline skates, skateboards, or scooters inside Institute buildings. "We ask that you just don't do it," said Vossmer. "Those vehicles are meant only for the outside."

The police are also concerned with bicycle thefts. Six bicycle thefts were reported in the MIT bulletins in the past month alone. According to the MIT crime report, there were about two-hundred burglary cases in 2007.

"The number one issue of bicyclist safety is theft," explained Vossmer. She added that cable bike-locks can be easily broken and are not theft-proof. "To securely protect a bike," she explained, "its rear wheel and frame must be locked in

place by a U-lock."

Campus Police recommend that all students register their bicycles with MIT in order to help prevent theft. Bike registration can be completed online via the MIT Police website at <http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/>

The MIT Police are also working to improve bicycle safety in construction zones on campus, said Vossmer. Areas of greatest concern are the new Vassar Street parking garage, the student center safe-ride stop, and the corners of street intersections.

In order to make the campus safer for both cyclists and pedestrians, the MIT Police are working with the City of Cambridge which is also weighing in on the issue of bicycle safety. The city currently enforces several laws including the "be bright" law which requires all bikes to have a front white-light and rear red-reflector between dusk and dawn.

According to the city's website, while only three percent of bicycle accidents occur at night, about half of all bicyclist accident deaths occur while riding at night without a bike light.

Bicycle parking is also restricted under Massachusetts Law. Bicycles are not allowed to be parked within Institute buildings, hallways, stairwells, or handicap zones, or attached to railings or fire hydrants; violators incur an initial fine of \$25.

The law also restricts bicyclists from riding on certain sidewalks including those beside Massachusetts Avenue and Harvard Square. Instead, bikers are encouraged to use the bike lanes that line several major streets in Cambridge including Massachusetts Ave.

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

S	U	M	A	C	E	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	E
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MONDAY 11.17

Opening Ceremony and Kick-Off Event

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Bob Davis, 85 '79
Founder of Lycos;
Partner, Highland
Capital Partners



Thom Ruhe
Director of Entrepreneurship,
Kauffman Foundation

PANELS

MON 11.17 **Engineering Success and Business: Engineering Majors to Business Leaders**

TUE 11.18 **Creative Industries and the Global Economy**

WED 11.19 **Entrepreneurship and the International Economy**

THU 11.20 **Entrepreneurship in the Music Industry**

THU 11.20 **Find Your Niche: Entrepreneurship in the Health Sciences**

THU 11.20 **EntreTech Forum: The Youth Movement - Digital Media's Leaders and their Ideas**

WORKSHOPS

MON 11.17 **Global Enterprise**

MON 11.17 **Negotiating to Yes!**

WED 11.19 **Entrepreneurship and the Family Business**

WED 11.19 **The Five Must-Do Steps to Starting Your Own Business**

THU 11.20 **The Art and Science of Raising Money**

THU 11.20 **Social Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneurship in an Emerging Economy Context**

SPECIAL EVENTS

TUE 11.18 **Music Entrepreneurship Business Plan Forum**

TUE 11.18 **EO Boston, Overcoming Adversity in Business and in Life**

WED 11.19 **Invention2Venture (I2V)**

THU 11.20 **Health Science Entrepreneurs Day: The Reluctant Entrepreneur Breakfast and Panel**



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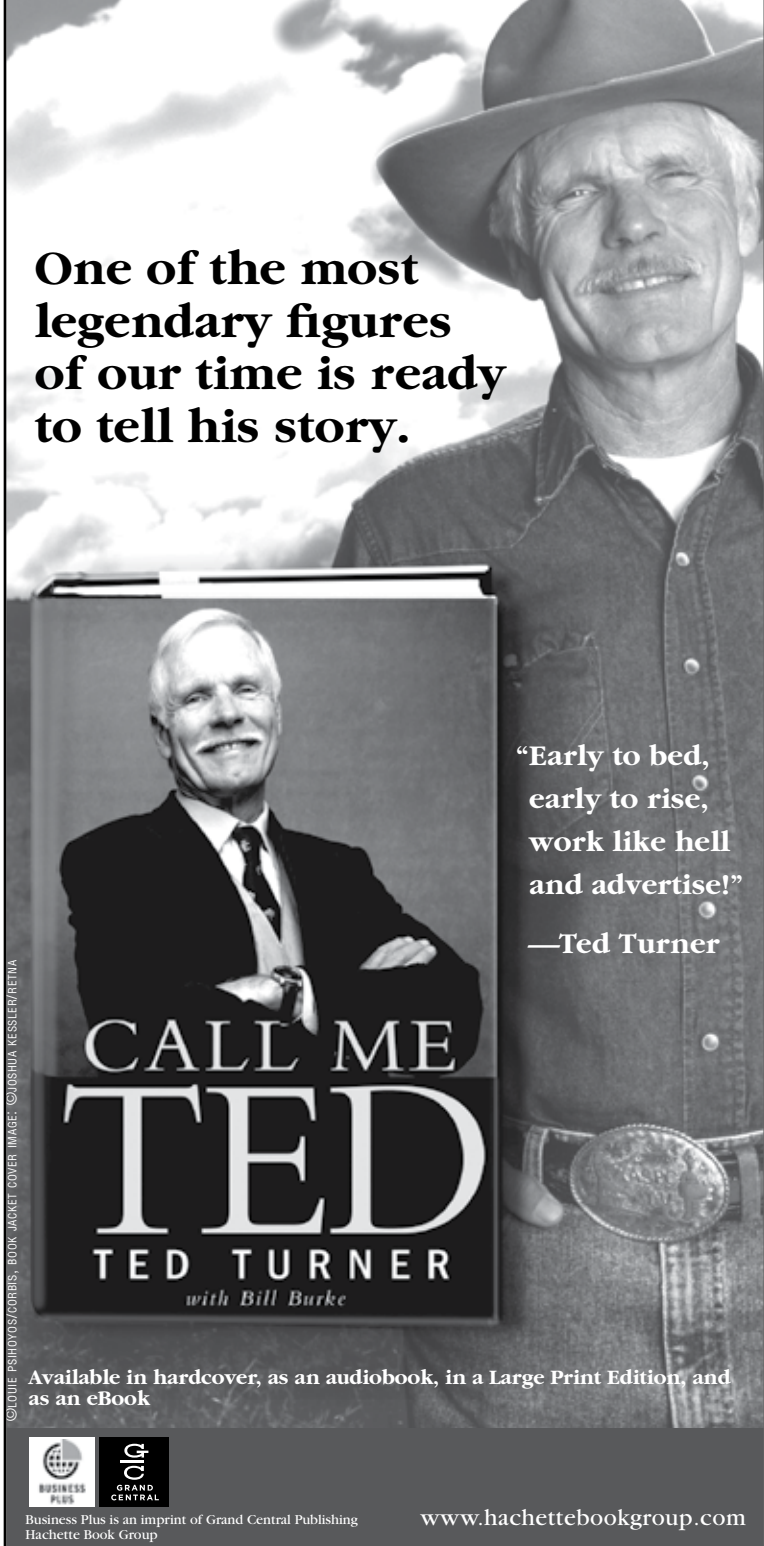
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Fall 2008 Wulff Lecture

Monday, November 17, 2008
 4:45–5:45pm
 Room 10-250
 Reception immediately following

From Fiber Optic Surgical Scalpels to Fabrics That See: How Materials Scientists are Shaping the Future

Professor Yoel Fink

Associate Professor of Materials Science
 Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT
 MacVicar Fellow

Prof. Fink's research interests are in the theory, design, fabrication, and characterization of multi-material, multi-functional fibers and fiber assemblies. These exciting new materials are composed of conductors, semiconductors, and insulators with 10's-of-nanometers feature sizes. While sharing basic semiconductor device attributes, they are processed using conventional fiber-processing approaches, thus yielding kilometers of precisely controlled fiber structures with engineered electronic, optical, thermal, and acoustic properties. His research has led to entirely new classes of fiber devices, including wavelength-scalable hollow-core photonic bandgap transmission fibers, high-Q Fabry Perot fiber resonators, transverse surface emitting fiber lasers, and thermal and optical fiber detectors and fiber array systems. He was a recipient of the Technology Review Top 100 Young Innovators in 1999 and was awarded the National Academy of Sciences Initiatives in Research Award in 2004. He is a co-founder of OmniGuide, Inc., and serves on its Board of Directors.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general-audience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject: 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

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ADVICE TO A NEW PRESIDENT



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NE30, Broad Institute Auditorium

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Colleges Feel Impact of Market Decline, Begin Cutting Fin. Aid

By Geraldine Fabrikant
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For years, as the stock market roared, educational endowments swelled, helping private secondary schools and colleges provide more financial aid, expand, and attract better faculty. But with the financial markets in crisis, those days are over.

Today educational institutions are cutting spending, delaying projects, and holding off on hiring. While many schools and colleges say their commitment to helping families pay the costs of education will not waver, some experts maintain that as investments shrink and donations fall, some institutions will be forced to cut back on financial aid.

Morton Schapiro, president of Williams College in Massachusetts, which has long had a commitment to accepting students without considering their financial situation, said he doubted that all colleges with such full need-blind policies would be able to hold to them.

"The major dial you turn for most financial crises is that you admit more students who can pay, as a way of increasing revenues," Mr. Schapiro said. "With the tremendous decline in wealth, I think fewer people will hold on to needs blind."

Molly Corbett Broad, president of

the American Council of Education, a group of 1,800 public and private colleges, said the problems would be worse where endowments are smaller and enrollments larger, like at some public universities. "The farther down the food chain you go in terms of endowment per student," she said, "the harder it will be to sustain need-blind admissions."

One of the few college presidents speaking publicly about making some adjustment is Douglas Bennett of Earlham College in Indiana. About 18 percent of its students are from families with less than \$60,000 in income and receive financial aid.

"If you are truly need-blind, you can go broke," Mr. Bennett said bluntly during a telephone interview. "It is like writing a blank check to the world."

The relative share of financial aid that is picked up by the government is declining as well, he added. As the burden is shifted to families and institutions, Earlham is trying to figure out what to do. The college is particularly concerned about students that it accepts and enrolls but whose financial needs it may not be able to meet.

Mr. Bennett said Earlham, which had a \$350 million endowment at the end of June, was considering limiting its need-blind admissions policy to

three-quarters of the class. The college would then know how much it had committed in financial aid and would be able to take that into account in admitting the remaining 25 percent.

Endowment management at most colleges involves a "smoothing strategy" that tries to blend spending over good years and bad in the hope of avoiding abrupt layoffs or other cuts if the endowment falls precipitously.

Though endowments generally pay out about 5 percent of their assets annually, they often calculate the amount on an average of the previous three years, or other formulas. So in a rising market, colleges appear to be giving away less than 5 percent of the current endowment value; in a falling market, they appear to be giving away more.

A prolonged bear market would be likely to depress returns or even create more losses. Contributions from alumni might also decline, putting even more pressure on endowments just as the colleges need more financing from them.

For the moment, colleges with healthier endowments say they can weather the storms. In late October, Anthony Marx, president of Amherst College, posted a letter on the college Web site that said the endowment had fallen 25 percent since June 30, the end of fiscal 2008, when it stood at \$1.7 billion. Still, Mr. Marx wrote, the commitment to financial aid would not be scaled back, although Amherst would postpone a renovation project and would review plans for new hires more stringently.

But the new financial realities mean that "every school is looking at what they can cut and what they can reallocate," said Steven Rattner, a managing principal of the Quadrangle Group and acting chairman of Brown University's investment committee.

"Nobody thinks the market will turn around and go back to do what it did before," he said. "That means everyone is having to plan for a more difficult and turbulent financial environment to bring our expenses in line with resources."

Everywhere, the goal is to keep entry to colleges accessible. "Just as schools have less money, the families need more," Mr. Rattner said. "While they are all looking to trim fat, the needs-blind issue is seen as muscle."

As part of a \$1.4 billion fundraising campaign, Brown is seeking \$400 million for financial aid. Ronald Vanden Dorpel, senior vice president for advancement, said the university tells potential donors that such gifts let Brown admit the best and most diverse students — "whomever we want without looking at their ability to pay."

During freshman weekend at Williams last month, Mr. Schapiro told families that if their financial circumstances had changed, the college wanted to know and would try to accommodate their needs.

The college has 2,000 students, and "I got about 12 calls from families that told us they might need more help," said Mr. Schapiro, who is also president of the 568 Presidents' Group, 30 colleges that have agreed to admit all American students on a needs-blind basis.

Mr. Schapiro has already alerted the Williams community about other cutbacks. In a letter several weeks ago, he said the endowment budget had been predicated on an annual increase over the long term of 8 percent; last year, Williams's endowment was down one-tenth of 1 percent. He also warned that Williams would have to think about the impact of the roiling economy on giving.

Williams has decided to delay the completion of a sports field and a library. That will save money, Mr. Schapiro said, and avoid the need to borrow. In the current credit crunch, he noted, "the preferential interest rates once afforded to schools are temporarily gone."



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RNAi Therapeutics May Hold Key to Reducing Cholesterol

By Andrew Pollack
THE NEW YORK TIMES

People whose bodies make an unusually active form of a certain protein tend to have dangerously high levels of cholesterol. Those with an inactive form of the protein have low cholesterol and a low risk of heart attacks.

Needless to say, pharmaceutical companies would love to find a drug that can attach itself to the protein and block its activity. That might be difficult for this protein, which is called PCSK9.

But a powerful new approach, called RNA interference, may surmount that obstacle. Instead of mopping up a protein after it has been produced, as a conventional drug would do, RNA interference turns off the faucet, halting production of a protein by silencing the gene that contains its recipe.

In monkeys, a single injection of a drug to induce RNA interference against PCSK9 lowered levels of bad cholesterol by about 60 percent, an effect that lasted up to three weeks. Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, the biotechnology company that developed the drug, hopes to begin testing it in people next year.

The drug is a practical application of scientific discoveries that are showing that RNA, once considered a mere messenger boy for DNA, actually helps to run the show. The classic, protein-making genes are still there on the double helix, but RNA seems to play a powerful role in how genes function.

This is potentially the biggest change in our understanding of biology since the discovery of the double helix," said John S. Mattick, a professor of molecular biology at the University of Queensland in Australia.

And the practical impact may be enormous.

RNA interference, or RNAi, discovered only about 10 years ago, is attracting huge interest for its seeming ability to knock out disease-causing genes. There are already at least six RNAi drugs being tested in people, for illnesses including cancer and an eye disease.

And while there are still huge challenges to surmount, that number could easily double in the coming year.

"I've never found a gene that couldn't be down-regulated by RNAi," said Tod Wolf, president of RXi Pharmaceuticals, one of the many companies that have sprung up in the last few years to pursue RNA-based medicines.

The two scientists credited with discovering the basic mechanism of RNA interference won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2006, only eight years after publishing their seminal paper. And three scientists credited with discovering the closely related micro-RNA in the 1990s won Lasker Awards for medical research this year.

RNA and DNA are strands made up of the chemical units that represent the letters of the genetic code. Each letter pairs with only one other letter, its complement. So two strands can bind to each other if their sequences are complementary.

Genes, which contain the recipes for proteins, are made of DNA. When a protein is to be made, the genetic code for that protein is transcribed from the DNA onto a single strand of RNA, called messenger RNA, which

carries the recipe to the cell's protein-making machinery. Proteins then perform most functions of a cell, including activating other genes.

But scientists are now finding that a lot of DNA is transcribed into RNA without leading to protein production. Rather, the RNA itself appears to be playing a role in determining which genes are active and which proteins are produced.

Much attention has focused on micro-RNAs, which are short stretches of RNA, about 20 to 25 letters long. They interfere with messenger RNA, reducing protein production.

More than 400 micro-RNAs have been found in the human genome, and a single micro-RNA can regulate the activity of hundreds of genes, said David P. Bartel, a biologist at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Mass., and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As a result, Bartel said, the activity of more than half the genes in the human genome is affected by micro-RNA.

"It's going to be very difficult to find a developmental process or a disease that isn't influenced by micro-RNAs," he said.

Indeed, scientists have found that some micro-RNAs contribute to the formation of cancer and others help block it.

Other studies have found micro-RNAs important for the proper formation and functioning of the heart and blood cells.

Scientists are also finding other types of RNA, some of which may work differently from micro-RNA. By now, there are so many types of RNA that one needs a scorecard to keep track.

Besides micro-RNA (miRNA), the new ones include small interfering RNA (siRNA), piwi-interacting RNAs (piRNA), chimeric RNA, and promoter-associated and terminus-associated long and short RNAs. They join an existing stable that included messenger RNA (mRNA), transfer RNA (tRNA), and small nucleolar RNA (snoRNA), which all play roles in protein production.

Scientists do not know what all the newly discovered RNA is doing. Some of it may be just a nonfunctional byproduct of other cellular processes.

And there is still uncertainty over how big a role RNA plays. Some scientists say proteins are like a light switch, turning genes on and off, while RNA usually does fine tuning, like a dimmer.

Still, the many new discoveries are "revealing a level of regulation and complexity that I don't think the current organizational model of the genome ever envisioned," said Thomas R. Gingeras, professor and head of functional genomics at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Despite the remaining mysteries, researchers and companies are moving rapidly to exploit the latest findings. While micro-RNAs are getting some attention, the biggest effort is on RNA interference.

RNA interference is induced when a short snippet of double-stranded RNA — called a small interfering RNA, or siRNA — enters a cell. The cell treats it much like a micro-RNA it might make on its own. That results in the silencing of a gene that corresponds to the inserted RNA.

Scientists believe that RNA interference evolved as a way to fight

viruses, since double-stranded RNA is rare outside viruses.

Given that the sequences of genes are now known, it is fairly straightforward to synthesize a small interfering RNA that can serve as a drug to silence a gene. Still, there has not yet been a truly convincing demonstration that such drugs will work in people.

One risk is that the small RNA snippets might silence genes beyond the intended target. And that could mean that a drug based on these snippets would have unwanted side effects.

But the biggest challenge is getting the RNA into the cells where it is needed. Double-stranded RNA is rare outside viruses, so the cell is not likely to welcome it.

"Double-stranded RNA basically to the body means one thing: a virus," said Jonas Alsenas, a biotechnology analyst at the securities firm Leerink Swann who is skeptical about RNAi drugs.

Double-stranded RNA can set off an immune response. Enzymes in the blood tear RNA apart. And even if the RNA survives a trip through the bloodstream, it can have difficulty entering the target cells.

"Most of the cell membranes are negatively charged and the RNA is negatively charged, so they won't get close to each other," said Dr. Mohammad Azab, president of Intradigm, an RNA interference company.

Still, startups like Intradigm, Tekmira Pharmaceuticals, Calando Pharmaceuticals, MDRNA and Traversa Therapeutics are developing delivery methods.

Chemical changes can be made to RNA to make it more stable and to avoid setting off the immune system. And the RNA can be inserted into little globules of fat or attached to polymers to help it get through the bloodstream and enter cells.

RXi is developing an oral delivery method for treating certain immune diseases. In some cases, though, these packages can introduce their own toxicities.

Higher Turnover Rate For Groups Expected

Last Cycle, ASA Accepted 11 Out of 28 Groups
ASA, from Page 1

promote student life," said Hon. "And there's no cost to recognizing them."

Under the new proposed rules, groups will still need to have at least five members, at least half of whom — including the president and treasurer — must be from MIT; and the groups must still follow MIT's non-discrimination clause in admitting members.

The ASA's normal regulatory cycle of checking whether a group is active would keep the list of ASA recognized groups from ballooning with many transient groups, Hon said. Thus, while "more groups may be formed," said Hon, they "could be purged more quickly" as they become inactive.

In recent years, the ASA has required all student groups to submit a yearly "anti-hazing form" saying that have told their members about a state law preventing hazing. The list of groups who don't turn in this annual form might provide a good list of candidates for derecognition, although groups have not been derecognized en masse in several years. (Just over a hundred groups, listed at <http://web.mit.edu/asa/derecognition.html>, have not turned in the form this year.)

Current groups will be "grandfathered in" as MIT-funded groups, said Wu. In the past, some groups were recognized as "provisional groups," giving them limited access to funding and meaning that the ASA intended to review their status in the next year. Many groups which had been "provisionally" recognized, some for several years, could now be potentially be recognized as at least an "MIT student group."

All ASA-recognized groups, MIT-funded or not, would be able to reserve classrooms, request space at the spring and fall student group fairs, appear in the ASA's mailing to first-year students, be allocated an Athena locker, and ask for money

from the ASA-controlled Large Event Fund and the fund Assisting Recurring Cultural and Diversity Events.

MIT-funded groups would be able to ask for money from either the Undergraduate Association's funding board or the Graduate Student Council's funding board, and they would also be able to request office space, make room reservations controlled the Campus Activities Complex, and vote at general body meetings.

If it turns out that MIT funded groups face resource competition from other groups for classroom reservations or activities fair space, "we can prioritize if we need to," Hon said.

Of the 28 group applications the ASA received in its last applications cycle in September, only 11 were recognized, said Wu. Nine more were provisionally recognized, three tabled for further consideration, four denied recognition, and one request was withdrawn. Most of the 16 groups not fully recognized would qualify as some kind of student group under the proposed revisions, Wu said.

To be implemented, the proposal needs a two-thirds vote of the ASA executive board. The executive board will also seek approval from the general body for changes to the ASA's operating guidelines to reflect the existence of two kinds of recognized groups, said Wu.

The Association of Student Activities governs all student groups, with each group currently getting one vote at general body meetings, traditionally held twice a year. An executive board of about ten students governs in the absence of the entire general body.

If approved, the new system would come into effect for the current membership application cycle, for which applications were due last Friday. The ASA considers applications for recognition about once every two months.

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Startups Struggle to Find Venture Capital

By Todd Wallack
THE BOSTON GLOBE

For six months, Flex Biomedical Inc.'s chief executive, Sal Braico, has been furiously trying to raise money to support his Brookline, Mass. life sciences start-up, meeting with as many venture capital firms and angel investors as possible.

But the timing couldn't be more difficult.

Because of the turmoil in financial markets, few small companies have been able to launch initial public stock offerings this year, forcing venture capitalists to divert money from start-ups to more mature companies that would normally be able to go public. In addition, some say the burgeoning recession and sharp stock market decline last month have made some investors increasingly nervous about gambling on novel ventures.

"Early-stage companies always have a difficult time" raising money, Braico said. "Now, it's even worse. A lot of venture firms are definitely reserving more capital for their existing portfolio companies."

Braico, though, isn't despairing. His company is one of two dozen medical device firms scheduled to

make pitches to venture capitalists and other investors on Friday at the annual MassMedic Investors Conference at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Flex's cofounders, including two Boston University researchers, are developing a polymer-based lubricant that could potentially ease arthritis pain in the knees and other joints.

Other companies giving presentations at the conference include EyeGate Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Waltham; IQuum Inc., of Marlborough; ZymeQuest Inc. in Beverly; Tomophase Corp., of Burlington; and Curative Biosciences Inc., of Waltham.

The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council plans a similar investment conference on Dec. 9 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

"Those conferences are critical to any early-stage company," said Frank Reynolds, chief executive of InVivo Therapeutics Corp., another Cambridge company scheduled to make a presentation Friday. "You get 100-plus people listening at the same time."

InVivo Therapeutics Corp., which hopes to raise \$15 million, is developing a polymer-based device that could be implanted in patients

who suffer spinal injuries to prevent the spread of bleeding and secondary infections, which can lead to paralysis.

Work on the material was originally done by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor, Robert Langer, a prolific inventor who has help spawn dozens of biomedical companies.

Chief executive Frank Reynolds said the \$15 million will help the company open a manufacturing facility and launch clinical trials, so it can apply for Food and Drug Administration approval to market the product. It has already tested the device in primates.

Massachusetts medical device makers raised \$207 million from venture capitalists through the first nine months of this year, down about one-quarter from the same period a year earlier, according to the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. A growing share of the money is going to later-stage companies, rather than to start-ups.

"Fortunately, I am not in the middle of fund-raising," said Larry Jasinski, chief executive of three-year-old Soteira Inc., of Natick, which is also on the MassMedic

conference roster. "For companies that are in early stages, not a lot seems to be happening."

Soteira is seeking approval to market a system to treat fractured vertebrae in patients suffering from osteoporosis, cancer, and traumatic injuries.

Flex, meanwhile, has garnered smaller amounts of money — \$200,000 from Boston University and a \$175,000 small-business grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Braico said it hopes to raise \$750,000 to \$1 million more to complete animal testing and expand manufacturing of its arthritis treatment.

If approved by the FDA, Braico said, the product would compete with the hyaluronic acid shots produced by Genzyme Corp. in Cambridge and others.

"We believe it's a superior lubricant," he said.

Still, Flex is operating as a "virtual company" without a central office to make its existing funding last longer, one of several tactics start-ups are using to conserve cash.

"It's the most cost-effective way to do business," Braico said.

At least for now.

Senior OCW Gift To Revise 5.111

Senior Gift, from Page 1

costs for video recording and professional editing, paying students to transcribe lectures, indexing the videos for easy searching, and technology expenditures for actually hosting the course materials. There are also expensive fees associated with distributing the videos to other countries, said Reese.

"They're at the limit of their budget" just updating one or two classes every term, said Reese. OCW used to be completely funded through MIT, but the Institute has scaled back its funding of the program.

OCW currently has "a big queue" of courses they'd like to update, said Reese. Since 5.111 is next on their list, the gift will be targeted to that course first. 5.111 hasn't been updated since "our freshman fall," Palmer told her classmates at the announcement.

Before the Campaign was revamped in 2006, senior participation had hovered around an anemic 30%. But for the last three years since the class of 2006, seniors have smashed the previous year's record achieving participation rates of 51%, 52% and 64% from 2006 to 2008 respectively. The class of 2009 will look to continue this trend. "We want to prove that last year wasn't a fluke," said Palmer.

Senior Gift Advisor Rosheen B. Kavanaugh of the MIT Alumni Association attributed the recent spike in senior participation in part to "a lot stronger volunteer effort." There has also been "a concerted effort to educate students about philanthropy," she added, as we've begun "asking students to give starting freshman year" through the Underclassmen Giving Campaign. She noted that last year's senior class was the first to beat Harvard's perennially high senior participation rate (63 percent last year).

Alumni challengers like Tang usually come forward on their own to offer rewards for the senior class attaining certain participation percentage targets, said Kavanaugh. "Now that seniors have become more excited, alumni donors come forward themselves," she said. Tang's family has donated generously to MIT in the past and the graduate dormitory Tang Residence Hall as well as the Tang Center for Management Education are named in their honor.

The Senior Class Project was announced at last night's kickoff ceremony at the Coffeehouse as seniors mingled to snippets of "Accidentally in Love," munched on free snacks, and were enticed to donate by the lure of T-shirts.

Seniors can donate any time through May 14, though they need not donate to the class project. Seniors can instead choose to donate to scholarships, UROPs, athletics, the Independent Residence Development Fund, or any other MIT club or department of their choice.

NATIONAL PROTEST AGAINST PROP 8 NOV. 15th 1:30pm EST



Take a Stand for Marriage Equality!

[LOCATION: Boston City Hall] @ Gov. Center

Join the Facebook group and INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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

Equestrian Team Is Seeking Sponsorship

Equestrian Team, from Page 16

many fun events too, such as going cross-country on their horses, chasing cattle together, and visiting the Florida winter equestrian festival. For the team members, the team is a part of their life at MIT. The training sessions, shows, and

recreational activities all serve as a great way to get away from the fast pace of life at MIT. Those interested in horses or considering joining the MIT Equestrian Team should visit <http://web.mit.edu/equestrian/www/> or contact Anna Jaffe (ajaffe@mit.edu) for more information.

SCOREBOARD

Football

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008	
Endicott (3-7)	39
MIT (5-5)	18

Men's Ice Hockey

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008	
Bryant University (7-3)	3
MIT (2-1)	1
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008	
Endicott College (6-5)	3
MIT (2-2)	1

Sailing

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008	
Horn Trophy	
MIT	5th of 10
Crews Regatta	
MIT	3rd of 20

Men's Soccer

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008	
Wheaton College (10-5-4)	1
MIT (16-2-2)	2
Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008	
Babson College (16-4-1)	3
MIT (16-3-2)	1

Women's Soccer

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008	
MIT (7-9-2)	1
Springfield College (14-3-2)	4

Men's Swimming

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008	
MIT (1-0)	165
Wheaton College (0-1)	95

Women's Swimming

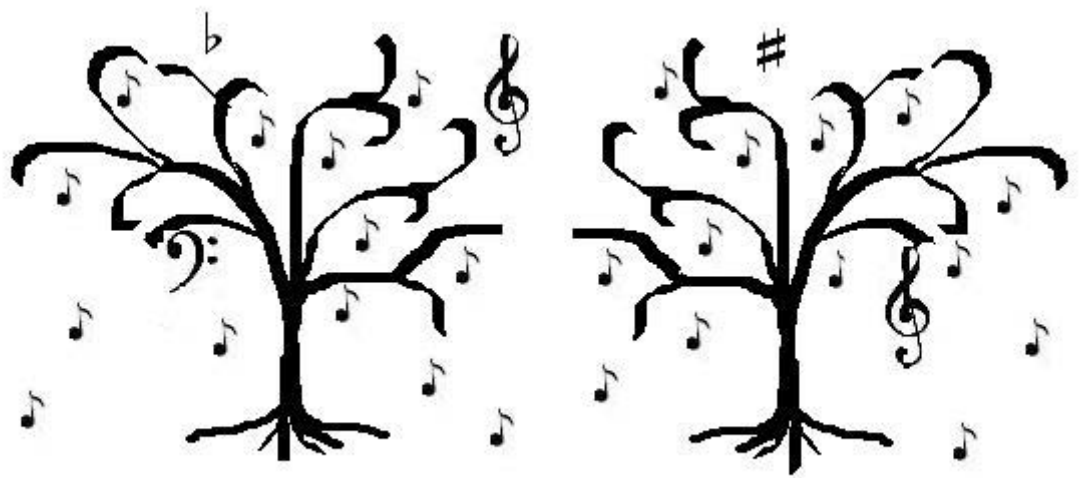
Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008	
MIT (1-0)	156
Wheaton College (0-1)	144

Women's Volleyball

Friday, Nov. 7, 2008	
Wellesley College (26-7)	3
MIT (21-16)	0

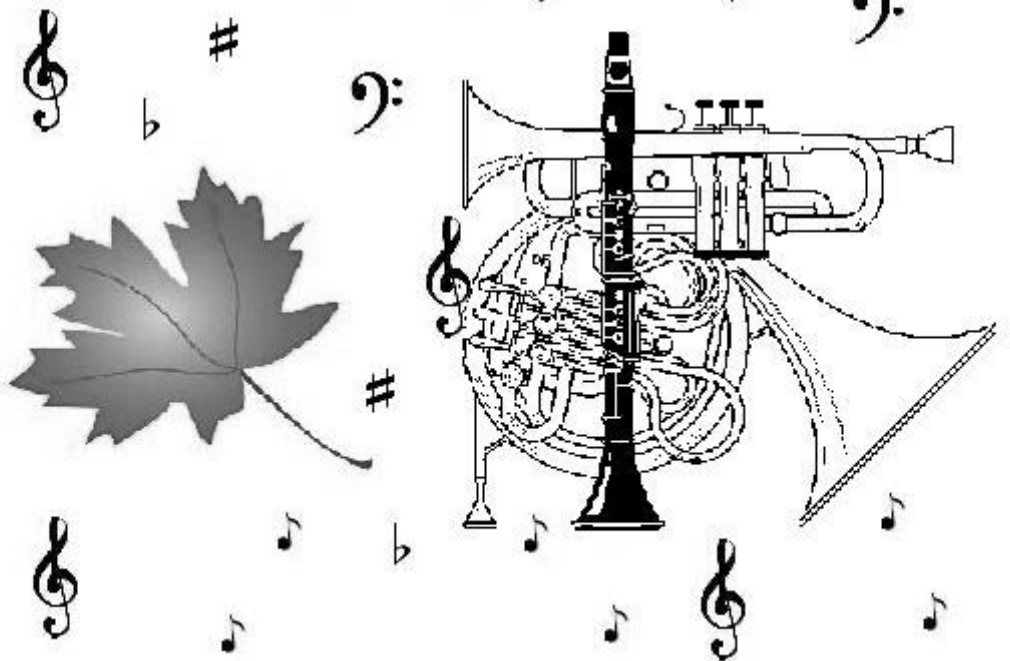
Men's Water Polo

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008	
Harvard University (14-9)	7
MIT (9-12)	9
Brown University (16-18)	11
MIT (9-13)	4
Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008	
Iona College (14-9)	12
MIT (9-14)	11



MIT CONCERT BAND FALL CONCERT

Kresge Auditorium
November 16, 3pm



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SPORTS

MIT Equestrian Team Revived, Begins Training for Competition

By Radhika Malik

At MIT, horseback riding is a sport that has vacillated between being active and successful one year, and being completely nonexistent the next. This year, Anna S. Jaffe '09, President and Show Captain, and her team members, have undertaken the task of restarting the team. The group has again started getting together, training and competing at horse shows with the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

The group consists of those who just ride occasionally for recreation, as well as those who do so at a more serious level. While some riders have been training for years, there are also those who are complete novices. The members delve into various categories of riding such as Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing.

The team takes part in about six competitions in the fall season and three in the spring with the IHSA. Currently halfway through the fall season, they have had several successes this year. Most recently, at the Endicott College Horse Show, the team took seventh place despite competing with only four members against teams of seven and won several ribbons at the individual level as well.

The team's weekly lessons are usually held in the evenings or on weekends at October Farms. A typical training session usually starts

off with the team taking a zip-car to the farms, approximately a 40 minute drive. The lessons usually last for about an hour, and after that the team hangs around for a while with the horses before heading back to campus.

All riders must take proper safety measures. Apart from regular safety gear, the instructors make sure that a person is not assigned tasks such as jumping obstacles unless he or she is skilled enough to do so.

The members of the group have several different motivations for joining the team. For instance, Melinda K. Dooley '09, a rider who joined the team this year, aspires to attend veterinary school, and thus started riding in order to get more experience in interacting with large animals.

For many of the riders, the experience has had value beyond that of a sporting activity. According to Jaffe, riding has helped her in her personal development. She said that a lot in the sport depends on the temperament of the animal and horses, similar to dogs, have a tendency to aim to please. The animals appreciate positive reactions, but are very sensitive to negative feedback.

Working with horses has helped improve Jaffe's people skills, as it has made her more aware of her responses. Similarly for Dooley, equestrianism helped her be conscious of the way she carried herself, on a horse, and thus generally in everyday life. Furthermore,

horses have a naturally calming effect. A few riders in the team had anxiety issues, and they felt that horse riding served as better stress relief than psychiatric therapy.

As of now, the team is trying to recruit new members. It is open to all levels of players from complete novices to experienced riders. Owning a horse is not required to join the team; horses are provided at training sessions. Even at most IHSA events, horses are randomly assigned to participants; this also tests the riders' ability to connect with animals they aren't familiar with. The group hopes to gain as many more members as possible, and plans to outline their goals and areas of focus depending on the preferences of team members.

The team is also seeking sponsors, both within MIT and from outside, including in alumni networks. Currently, the riders have to fund everything themselves, from lessons to transportation costs. Most of them have managed the cost by doing things such as splitting the costs for lessons and having a work-study relationship at the farms. Although all of the riders feel that the experience is completely worth the price, they hope having more members will help their cause when searching for funds as well. The team is awaiting a recognition as an official club sport from the Student Activities Office.

Apart from training and competing in shows, the group holds

Equestrian Team, Page 15

The Tech's Athlete of the Week:
Zachary E. Kabelac '12

The MIT men's soccer team earned six postseason honors from the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC). As announced on Tuesday, Zachary E. Kabelac '12, Christian W. Therkelson '11, and Nitin Perumbeti '09 all earned First-Team All-Conference selections. Thomas S. Caldwell '09 and Max S. Steingolenbock '12 both earned places on the Second Team. Rounding out the team honors, Kabelac was named NEWMAC Rookie of the Year, the fourth MIT player to earn this title.

Kabelac has scored ten goals and made eight assists for 28 points this season, putting him second on the team, behind conference scoring leader and teammate Therkelsen, with 15 goals this season.

Kabelac played a key role in the Engineers' defeat of the Johnson and Wales Wildcats earlier this season, scoring the final goal in the 2-0 victory on a rebound from a blocked shot of Therkelsen's. That game was a significant one for the team, as it marked their ninth shutout of the season, a new Institute record.

—Aaron Sampson, Sports Editor

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 14, 2008

Squash vs. Bryant University 5:00 p.m., Zesiger Center
Pistol vs. Ohio State University and Citadel Military College 6:00 p.m., duPont Gymnasium
Women's Ice Hockey vs. New England College 7:00 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Squash vs. Bard College 7:30 p.m., Zesiger Center

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008

Crew Foot of the Charles Regatta 9:00 a.m., Charles River
Pistol vs. Ohio State University and Citadel Military College 9:00 a.m., duPont Gymnasium
Squash vs. Boston College 12:30 p.m., Zesiger Center
Men's Basketball vs. Emmanuel College* 2:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Squash vs. University of Vermont 2:00 p.m., Zesiger Center
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Saint Anselm College 3:00 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Westfield State College 7:00 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center

*Featuring the MIT Marching Band

MIT Earns NEWMAC Women's
Volleyball Postseason Honors

The MIT women's volleyball team received four postseason awards from the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) on Tuesday. The Engineers' individual total this year equals the program high established in 2002.

Sports
Shorts

Cecily L. Joujon-Roche '12 earned the title Co-Rookie of the Year, making her MIT's fourth recipient of this honor. The freshman middle hitter tallied 102 kills and 68 blocks in 82 sets.

Outside hitter Alexandra T. May '10, a Rookie of the Year selection in 2006, was named to the All-Conference First Team. Her classmates Barden E. Cleeland '10 and Katrina M. Ellison '10 were both voted to the Second Team, their first awards in the league.

May paced MIT's attack with 457 kills to go along with 380 digs, 50 blocks, and a .942 serve receive percentage. Cleeland was dominant force from the middle hitter position, posting a team-high 103 blocks in addition to 277 kills and a team-best .322 hitting percentage. Ellison's versatility generated 277 digs, 195 kills, 70 assists, 57 blocks, and a .908 serve receive percentage.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

MIT Places Three on NEWMAC Women's
Soccer All-Conference Team

The New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) announced its 2008 women's soccer postseason awards on Tuesday with first-time honorees Stephanie V. Brenman '09, Alisha D. Lussiez '12, and Lauren R. Hernley '11 representing MIT on the All-Conference Team.

Brenman capped her career with a First Team selection after playing every minute in net and compiling eight shutouts and 79 saves. Lussiez, the Engineers' leading scorer with eight goals, including three game-winners, three assists, and 19 points, joined Brenman on the All-Conference First Team. Rounding out the MIT contingent was Hernley, who was placed on the Second Team after ranking second on the squad in scoring with three goals and two assists for eight points.

Joining Brenman and Lussiez on the All-Conference First Team were Springfield College's Lauren Peltier, Delaney Cantrall, Nicole Hanewich and Kayla Thibeault. Babson College's Jackie Graham, Amanda Young of Wellesley College and Wheaton College's Emily Hough and Lyndsey McManus also earned First Team honors.

The Second Team All-Conference unit was comprised of Hernley, Sam Bartman and Patty Pytlak of Babson, Clark University's Joanna Clark and Julia Rizzo, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Katie Kurek, Smith College's Etta Grover-Silva, Wellesley's Catherine Caruso, Wheaton's Melida Alvarez and Alessia Viscomi, and Kristen Garza from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Two Engineers Earn NEWMAC Field
Hockey All-Conference Honors

A pair of MIT field hockey players were named to the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) All-Conference teams on Tuesday. Anna H. Teruya '12 garnered a first team selection while Alexandra A. Wright '11 was named to the second team. This marks the sixth time in seven years that at least two Engineers have earned All-Conference honors.

Starting all 19 games this season for the Engineers, Teruya ranked second on the team in goals (nine) and points (21). Both of those totals ranked her third among NEWMAC freshman. Teruya is the first MIT freshman named to the All-Conference team since Deanna M. Lentz '06 in 2002.

An excellent distributor with the ball, Wright consistently marked the opposition's center forward, helping to anchor the MIT defense throughout the season while starting 18 games at the midfield and defensive positions.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff



ANDRIY DIDOVYK

YaaLirng Tu G and Jeff McCollum dance to the gold in the American Smooth as part of the MIT Ballroom Dance Team on Nov. 9 at the Brown Ballroom Dance Competition.

PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN SAMANTHA MORTON MICHELLE WILLIAMS CATHERINE KEENER

"IT ASCENDS TO META-MOVIE HEAVEN AND STAYS THERE. I GOT A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE."
—Wesley Morris, BOSTON GLOBE

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