

Initial Dining Proposal Includes Possible Automatic Meal Charge

By Austin Chu
STAFF REPORTER

Amid reports that the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining is considering the possibility of an automatic meal charge for most undergraduates, the Undergraduate Association Senate last night passed a bill demanding more transparency in the committee's deliberations.

The Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining, formed in the fall of 2007 by former Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict to investigate the structure of campus dining, recently sub-

mitted its first set of proposals to be evaluated by an outside consultant. One of these proposals includes a "minimum nutritional fee" to encourage students to invest in their nutritional well being.

This proposal, variously described over the past week and confirmed by members of the committee, would require undergraduates to pay a certain minimum amount for food-related expenses per term. By making this amount a sunk cost, the proposal hopes to encourage students to establish better nutritional

habits. During the term, this money could be applied toward meals at house dining locations and on campus restaurants, gift cards for Star Market or Trader Joe's, or fraternity, sorority, or independent living group dining membership fees.

The revelation that the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining had already sent proposals to an outside consultant prompted students to call for more transparency. Currently, members of the committee are not

Dining, Page 15

Some Floor Plans Gone; Issue 49 of 'The Tech' Was Stolen

By Nick Semenkovich
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This occasional feature will follow up on news stories long past their prime. In this edition: MIT's removal

of floor plans from the Facilities website, and what ever happened to Issue 49 of The Tech?

Six floor plans removed from web

Earlier this year, *The Tech* noticed that a series of floor plans had been removed from MIT's listing of floor plans at <https://floorplans.mit.edu>.

In addition to the nuclear reactor, at least six floors do not have plans available on the facilities website: Floor 8 of Buildings 16 and 56, Floor 7 of Building 46, Floor 00 of Building 68, and Floor 6 of Buildings E17 and E18. The plans for those floors have been replaced with PDFs that request users contact the Drawing Information Systems group.

It is not clear exactly when the floor plans were removed, though the "last modified" time returned by the server indicates that the plans may have been pulled as early as Jan. 16, 2007.

It's also unclear why the floor plans were taken down; The plans may have been removed because of security concerns or Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements.

At least some of the floors are likely to contain highly radioactive Cesium-137 sources that are part of Gammacell Irradiators used in biology research. Documents from MIT's Environmental Health and Safety Office imply that MIT owns multiple irradiators, and indicate that additional training is required for "radiation workers who will use the Gammacell Irradiators in the Center for Cancer Research, Department of Biology, or the Biological Engineering Division."

Issue 49 stolen from stands

If you missed the Tuesday, Oct. 21 issue of *The Tech*, you aren't alone; Many copies of Issue 49 were stolen from the newsstands, likely because of an article regarding delayed renovations of the W1 dormitory.

The article, "W1 Dorm Project Delayed As Funds Dry Up," detailed how MIT, weighing its financial liquidity, decided to postpone \$90 million reno-

After Deadline, Page 15

Faculty Will Vote Next Week on GIR Changes

SCEP Survey: Students Like Some Changes

By Pearle Lipinski
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT faculty will vote to approve changes to the General Institute Requirements recommended by the Education Commons Subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

The Student Committee on Education Policy surveyed students for their opinions on the changes. 753 upperclassmen (24 percent) and 345 freshmen (33 percent) responded to the survey. The results were presented to the faculty in November and are available online along with recommendations from the committee at <http://ua.mit.edu/committees/scep/>.

Students like "flavors," neutral on Foundations courses

The ECS final report recommended that the same core subjects of the science, mathematics and engineering (SME) GIRs remain but

be offered in different "flavors," each with a specific area of focus. The flavors would be akin to the current varieties of the biology GIR, where students can take 7.012, 7.013, or 7.014, which focus more on human biology and genetics, neurobiology and development, and ecology, respectively.

In the SCEP student survey — which was run before the final report of the ECS was released but after the interim report was released — 78 percent of freshmen and 71 percent of upperclassmen agreed or strongly agreed with the introduction of flavors. Students generally liked the flexibility, but some students voiced concern that they would be influenced too much by the flavors they chose when they had to decide on a major. Others worried that since not all flavors would be equivalent in content, professional schools would

GIR Survey, Page 14



YUANYU CHEN

Christine Chen '12 checks out ornaments on display at the MIT Glass Lab Holiday Sale in Lobby 10 on Dec. 8. The sale featured colorful pieces made by students and instructors at the MIT Glass Lab.

Tuition Announcement Will Come Sooner Than Usual

The Institute will announce its 2008-9 tuition and financial aid budget sooner than usual, said Secretary of the Corporation Kirk D. Kolenbrander after the Friday, Dec. 5 MIT Corporation meeting. The tuition announcement is usually made in March.

At its meeting, the Corporation also discussed tuition and financial aid along with the provost's first report on diversity, intended to be an annual report similar to that presented to the faculty each year. But the majority of the time at the meeting, which keeps private minutes, was spent discussing the coming budget cuts, Kolenbrander said.

News Briefs, Page 13

News Briefs



ADITI VERMA—THE TECH

Adam Kerry Boyles, music director, conducts "Southern Harmony" by Donald Grantham during MITSO's concert "Eroica" on Dec. 5 in Kresge.

This is the last issue of *The Tech* for 2008. We return Jan. 7, 2009, and will publish each Wednesday during IAP. Good luck on finals!

OPINION

Response to "Trust the Police?" ... 4

NEWS

Grad student gets pretrial probation ... 12

World & Nation 2
Opinion..... 4
Arts..... 5
Campus Life..... 8
Comics / Fun Pages.. 10
Sports 20

Meet JoVE: The YouTube Of Scientific Journals

By Zeina Siam
STAFF REPORTER

Science journal meets YouTube in the Journal of Visualized Experiments; an open-access peer-reviewed online journal, accessible at jove.com, that has been publishing videos of biological research from labs across the country, including many from MIT.

One of the journal's goals is to provide an effective means of communicating advanced lab techniques that would be more difficult to communicate in a traditional text journal.

Research videos range from "Microcontact Printing of Proteins for Cell Biology," to "Obtaining Eggs from Xenopus Laevis [African clawed frog] Females."

JoVE featured a project by MIT biology graduate student Randal Halfmann, in July.

In his video, Halfmann demonstrated a protocol he developed for screening hundreds of proteins at once for their potential to form amyloid in cells. Halfmann explained that his lab is interested in amyloid

JoVE, Page 17

WORLD & NATION

Deep in Debt, Tribune Seeks Bankruptcy Protection

By Richard Pérez-Peña

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tribune Co., the newspaper and television chain that publishes The Los Angeles Times and The Chicago Tribune, filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday.

The move came less than a year after Sam Zell, a Chicago real estate tycoon took control of the Tribune chain and took on \$13 billion in debt that threatens to cripple it in the face of a sinking economy and a collapse in advertising.

Zell said the company had enough cash to continue operating its 12 newspapers, 23 television stations, national cable channel and assorted other media holdings, and the company insisted that the filing would have no effect on employees' payroll and benefits, or on the vast majority of their retirement accounts.

But in light of its shrinking cash flow, Tribune decided to file for bankruptcy in a Delaware court, with the urging of some of its major creditors who met with Tribune representatives over the previous three days.

Liberals Wondering When Obama's Team Will Reflect Them

By Peter Baker

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

President-elect Barack Obama's appointments have tilted so much to the political center that they have drawn praise from the likes of Karl Rove and Rush Limbaugh. That alone would seem enough to set off a revolt in his liberal base. But a month into Obama's transition, many on the political left are trying to hold their tongues.

In assembling his team to date, Obama has largely passed over progressives, opting to keep President Bush's defense secretary, tapping a retired general close to Sen. John McCain and recruiting economists from the traditionally corporate, free-trade, deficit-hawk wing of the party. The choices have deeply frustrated liberals who thought Obama's election signaled the rise of a new progressive era.

But so far, they are mainly muting their protest, clinging to the belief that Obama still means what he said on the campaign trail and remaining wary of undermining what they see as the most liberal president sent to the White House in a generation. They are quietly lobbying for more liberals in the next round of appointments, seeking at least some like-minded voices at the table. And they are banking on the idea that no matter whom he installs under him, Obama will be the driving force for the change they seek.

Military Jet Crashes in San Diego, Killing Three on the Ground

By Will Carless and Sharon Otterman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN DIEGO

A military aircraft crashed into a residential neighborhood here on Monday, igniting an intense fire that killed three people in one house and destroyed at least one other home and two cars, fire and police officials said.

The crash, in the University City suburb of San Diego, occurred as the plane, an F/A-18D, was preparing to land at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar about two miles away, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The pilot ejected from the aircraft and was transported to a local hospital in stable condition, said Staff Sgt. Leonard Langston, a public affairs officer at Miramar Station.

Witnesses said they heard two booms, the second louder than the first, as the plane corkscrewed to the ground, trailing a plume of black smoke. The pilot, they said, parachuted to the ground, apparently landing in a local high school playing field.

Car Dealers, Hoping for a Bailout, Brace for Closings

By Clifford Krauss

THE NEW YORK TIMES

As Denny Fitzpatrick, a Chevrolet-Hummer dealer near Oakland, Calif., has watched the top Detroit auto executives plead for money from Congress, he has been rooting for them — but with no great conviction.

With a bailout moving through Capitol Hill, "we have a chance of being hung with a softer rope," said Fitzpatrick, chairman of the California New Car Dealers Association.

His gallows humor is typical of dealers these days who believe they are on the chopping block, whatever happens to the Detroit automobile companies. All three carmakers have told Congress they need to cut their dealer networks as a fundamental element of their survival plans. Even as Congress works on a bailout for Detroit, many dealers are still likely to be nudged, or forced, out of business.

It is possible fights could erupt between some dealers and the auto companies. Virtually every state has stringent laws that make it difficult for manufacturers to alter dealer contracts, even when they abandon

brands, as General Motors is talking about doing. These laws have been a big impediment to auto companies in the past as they sought to cut their dealer networks.

But this time, many analysts say the sheer scale of the economic downturn is reducing the likelihood that many dealers will fight to stay in what has become a money-losing business.

The National Automobile Dealers Association has predicted that 900 of the nation's 20,770 new-car dealers will have gone out of business by the end of this year, and many automobile industry experts say that estimate will rise to thousands in 2009.

Auto dealerships are an economic force everywhere in the country, employing some 1 million people. In the past, their sales accounted for as much as 20 percent of sales tax revenue for state and local governments.

The prospective dealer shutdowns would be an acceleration of a trend that goes back a decade. General Motors, which had 8,150 dealerships in 2000, has pared that number to 6,400 as its share of the car market has shrunk. In the plan that Rick Wagoner, GM's chief executive, pre-

sented to Congress last week to save the company, he called for reducing that number to 4,700 over the next three years.

Industry experts note that Chevrolet, GM's flagship brand, has about three times as many dealerships as Toyota but sells about the same number of cars. That network is a legacy of the era when GM controlled 60 percent of the domestic market, instead of 20 percent or so today. The high number of dealerships means too little business for each, and it also means General Motors is paying higher transportation costs to send vehicles and spare parts to multiple dealerships.

Mark LaNeve, a GM vice president for sales, service and marketing, said in an interview that it was vital for the company to reduce the number of dealerships to have "a healthy competitive retail channel."

LaNeve said a competing foreign-car dealership with higher sales "has more money to invest in their facilities, in their people, in training, in the customer, in advertising, and that puts us at a competitive disadvantage. That's why you do dealer reduction."

Five Charged in 9/11 Attacks Seek to Plead Guilty

By William Glaberson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

The five Guantanamo detainees charged with coordinating the Sept. 11 attacks told a military judge on Monday that they wanted to confess in full, a move that seemed to challenge the government to put them to death and injected new complications in the Bush administration's military commission system here.

The request, which was the result of hours of private meetings among the detainees, appeared intended to undercut the government's plan for a high profile trial while drawing international attention to what some of the five men have said was a desire for martyrdom. But the military judge, Col. Stephen R. Henley of the Army, said a series of legal questions about how the commissions are to deal with capital cases had to be resolved before

guilty pleas could be accepted.

The case is likely to remain in limbo for weeks or months, presenting the Obama administration with a new issue involving detainees at the naval base at Guantanamo Bay to resolve when it takes office next month.

At the start of what had been listed as routine proceedings Monday, Henley said he had received a written statement from the five men dated Nov. 4 that said the five planned to stop filing legal motions and "to announce our confessions to plea in full."

Speaking in what has become a familiar high-pitched tone in the cavernous courtroom here, the most prominent of the five, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, said, "we don't want to waste our time with motions."

"All of you are paid by the U.S. government," continued Mohammed, who has described himself as the

mastermind of the 2001 attacks. "I'm not trusting any American."

Mohammed and the others presented their decision almost as a dare to the U.S. government. When Henley raised questions about the procedure for imposing the death penalty after a guilty plea, some of the detainees immediately suggested they might change their minds if they could not be assured they would be executed.

The announcement Monday sent shockwaves through the biggest case in the war crimes system here, which some government officials say the system was designed to try. With the 9/11 case suddenly at a critical juncture, the new administration in Washington will likely find it more complicated to carry out Obama's pledge to close the detention camp here. Brooke Anderson, a spokeswoman for the presidential transition office, declined to comment.

WEATHER

Standard Deviation Forecast: High

By Angela Zalucha

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As you're recovering from Monday morning's low of 14°F (normal low: 30°F), take comfort in the fact that Wednesday's high temperature is forecasted to approach 60°F (normal high: 43°F). Often the media quotes the climatological average highs and lows as part of their statistics, but an often overlooked piece of information is the standard deviation, especially in mid-latitude climates like Boston. You may have noticed that the variation in temperature during the winter season is quite high. For example, in January of this year, the lowest temperature for the month was 7°F, and just five days later, the high temperature was 67°F! Yet during the summer, the temperature stays within a narrower range. This difference between the season has to do with the temperature gradient that exists between the equator and the poles. During the winter, the gradient is the strongest in a tight band that weaves across the U.S. Depending on the north-south position of that band near Boston, we may see very cold weather (if it is south of us), or very warm weather (if it is north of us).

And if that weren't enough, this week holds the potential for some memorable winter storms. The first round, which looks to be mainly rain, will impact us Wednesday. Another storm on the horizon for Friday or Saturday is still rather uncertain, but holds the possibility for significant snowfall.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with temperatures steadily increasing. Afternoon temperatures around 40°F (4°C).

Tonight: Cloudy with temperatures steadily increasing. Chance of rain showers late. Temperatures reaching 50°F (10°C) by early morning.

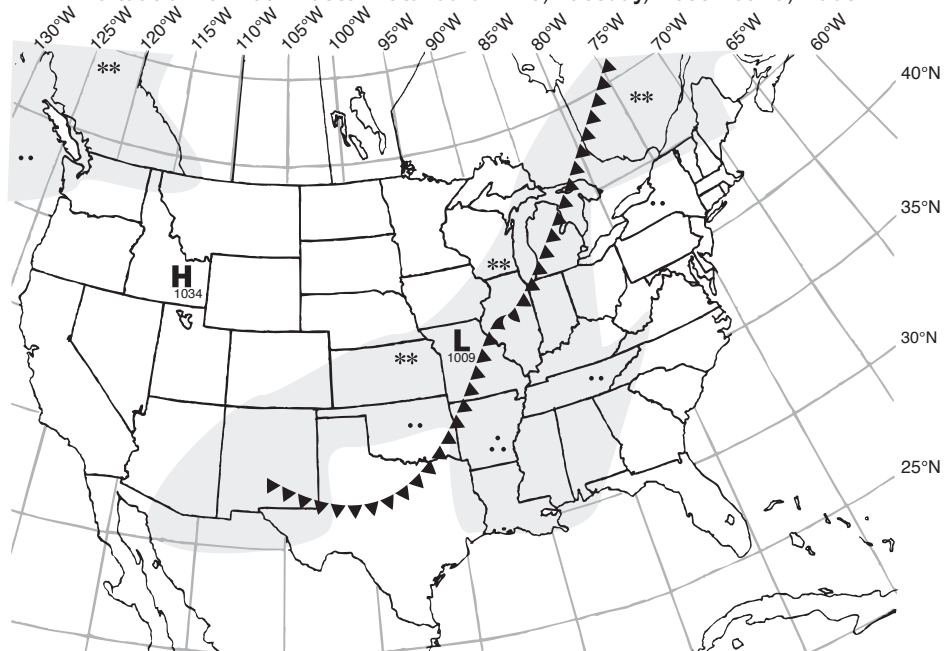
Tomorrow: Rain. High 57°F (14°C).

Tomorrow night: Rain, possibly freezing rain or snow late. Low 34°F (1°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy. High 38°F (3°C). Low 26°F (-3°C).

Friday: Sleet and snow. High 35°F (2°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, December 9, 2008



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Pakistan Raids Militant Camp Implicated in Mumbai Attacks

By Jane Perlez and Salman Masood

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

After mounting pressure from the United States and India, Pakistani authorities raided a camp run by the militant group suspected of carrying out the Mumbai attacks, Pakistani and U.S. officials said Monday.

The operation appeared to be Pakistan's first concrete response to the demands from India and the United States to take action against the militants suspected in the attacks, which have raised tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors to their highest point in years.

The Pakistani authorities said that among those arrested was Zaki ur-Rehman Lakhvi, who Indian and U.S. officials say masterminded the attacks for the militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, according to a State Department official in Washington.

U.S. Embassy officials could not verify the claim independently, he said. Neither would Pakistani officials in Islamabad.

A senior Pakistani security official, who spoke on the condition of ano-

nymity, said about a dozen people had been arrested in the raid, which took place in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir.

The official at first said that Lakhvi, an operational commander for Lashkar, was among them, but later backed away from the assertion.

Lashkar-e-Taiba was founded 20 years ago with the help of Pakistan's intelligence agencies as a proxy force to challenge Indian control of part of Muslim-dominated Kashmir.

U.S. intelligence and counterterrorism officials told The New York Times that Pakistan's spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, has continued nurturing the group, even after 9/11, when the Pakistani government pledged to sever its ties with militant groups.

While they say there is no hard evidence linking the ISI to the Mumbai attacks, investigators and intelligence officials have pointed to Lashkar as the likely culprit.

The Pakistani government has resisted the notion that Pakistani citizens may have been involved in the Mumbai attacks, and it has so far refused to hand over 20 criminal and

terrorist suspects long demanded by the Indians.

The raid Sunday appeared to be the first step by the Pakistanis that at least tacitly recognized the U.S. and Indian claims.

Counterterrorism experts familiar with the behavior of the Pakistani security services said there was a need by Pakistan to be seen to be doing something to alleviate the U.S. and Indian pressure, as well to avert the possibility of an Indian military strike.

Still, the effectiveness of that action might be less than India or the United States would like, they said. In the past, Pakistan had detained militants under pressure from the United States and Britain, and then quietly let them go, said Sajjan Gohel, the director of the Asia-Pacific Foundation in London said.

A senior Pakistani official said the operation was part of a gradual effort to bring the militants under control. This comports with the general view among civilian politicians that Pakistan cannot afford to appear as though it is being coerced into shutting down militant groups that have been created to fight India.

Microsoft Offers to Reduce Search Data in Europe

By Kevin J. O'Brien

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN

Microsoft offered Monday to abide by a European privacy panel's request that it reduce the length of time it kept records of Web searches if its rivals, Yahoo and Google, did the same.

Google and Yahoo, in separate statements, said that for now they were unwilling to change their policies.

Microsoft said it made the offer in a letter to the Article 29 Working Party, a European Commission advisory panel made up of data protection commissioners from each of its 27 member countries. In April, the panel recommended that search engines keep search records no longer than six months before making the data untraceable.

Microsoft's MSN Live Search currently retains search data for 18 months. Yahoo keeps data for 13 months and Google for 9 months.

The advisory panel was to meet Tuesday and Wednesday, but its members are postponing a decision on whether to take any action against the companies until at least February, when the companies are to make presentations before the panel.

John Vassallo, a lawyer for Microsoft, said Microsoft was not willing to act alone because doing so would create a commercial disadvantage.

"We support the commissioners' recommendations but are asking them to ensure these are uniformly observed," said Vassallo, who is based in Brussels. "Otherwise, to do so unilaterally would put us at a disadvantage."

Budget Woes Force New Hampshire To Defer Jury Trials

By Abby Goodnough

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

The Superior Court system in New Hampshire will take the unusual step of halting jury trials for a month early next year because of a widening state budget crisis.

John Broderick, the state's chief justice, said suspending trials was essential to avoid layoffs in the judicial system, which has already cut \$2.7 million from its budget.

The measure will save about \$73,000, the monthly amount spent on stipends for jurors. But the head of an association representing civil trial lawyers said it could have a harsh impact on plaintiffs, many of whom have already waited years for a judgment in their case.

"What are they going to rely on in the interim?" said Ellen Shemitz, executive director of the New Hampshire Association for Justice. "Some of these people have been harmed by the wrongdoing of others, are out of work as a result and are looking to the courts to protect their rights and provide some kind of financial remuneration."

Officials at the National Center for State Courts said that while court systems across the country had made cuts they were not aware of any others suspending trials. In perhaps the closest parallel, Vermont is closing its district and family courthouses a half day per week for the rest of the fiscal year to save \$300,000.

Suspending jury trials to save money is not unheard-of. Vermont stopped holding civil trials for five months in 1990, and New Hampshire effected a one-month suspension in 2001. Other state courts have tried to do it but have been overturned.

Fewer Students Seen Taking Graduate School Admission Tests

By Tamar Lewin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In bad times, the conventional wisdom has it, people flock to graduate school. But there is at least one sign that in this recession, that may not happen.

After years of steady growth, the number of students taking the Graduate Record Examination, which is required for most graduate programs, is on course to decline this year.

At the start of the year, the Educational Testing Service, which administers the \$140 exam, projected that 675,000 students would take it by year's end. Now the service estimates that the total will be only about 621,000.

A record 633,000 students took the GRE last year, up from 577,000 in 2006 and 539,000 in 2005.

David G. Payne, the service's associate vice president for college and graduate programs, said it was too soon to predict what the decline would mean for next fall's enrollment.

"On a percentage basis, it's a very small decrease," Payne said. "I think there are several things going on. The perception that there's a lack of available credit may be contributing. It may be a question of timing, with people delaying their tests. There's been such financial disruption that there's a kind of freezing effect."

Justices Turn Back a Challenge on Obama's Citizenship

By Kate Phillips

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Without comment, the Supreme Court on Monday declined to take up an appeal by a New Jersey man who questioned President-elect Barack Obama's eligibility for the presidency, based on his birth to a father from Kenya and a mother who was a U.S. citizen.

The case, originally brought in New Jersey courts by Leo Donofrio of East Brunswick, contended that Obama could not be considered a "natural-born citizen" — a constitutional ground for becoming president of the United States — contending that he had dual nationality at birth.

State officials in Hawaii have declared that Obama was born there in August 1961, and is a U.S. citizen, but that has not stopped a small squall of Internet-fueled rumors trying to debunk his citizenship.

The issue of his birth certificate has long been the subject of rumors, to the point that Obama's Web site posted a copy of it on its "fightthesears" minisite to try to stanch the innuendo during the campaign.

Last week, Top of the Ticket, the politics blog of The Los Angeles Times, noted that Justice Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court was circulating Donofrio's appeal for emergency consideration among the members of the court.

Plea by Blackwater Guard Helps U.S. Indict Five Others

By Ginger Thompson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In the first public airing of an investigation that remains a source of international outrage, the Justice Department on Monday unsealed its case against five private security guards, built largely around the chilling testimony of a sixth guard about the 2007 shootings that left 17 unsuspecting Iraqi civilians dead at a busy Baghdad traffic circle.

In pleading guilty to manslaughter, the sixth security guard, Jeremy P. Ridgeway of California, described how he and the other guards used automatic rifles and grenade launchers to fire on cars, houses, a traffic officer and a girls' school. In addition to those killed, there were at least 20 people injured.

The six guards were employed by Blackwater Worldwide, the largest security contractor in Iraq; the company, based in North Carolina, has not been charged in the case.

Ridgeway said in court documents that the episode in Nisour Square on Sept. 16, 2007 started when the guards opened fire on a

white Kia sedan "that posed no threat to the convoy."

He told investigators that although he could not clearly see the front passenger in the Kia, he noticed that the passenger was moving his arms, according to the documents.

"Defendant Ridgeway then fired multiple rounds from his M-4 assault rifle into the front passenger's side windshield of the white sedan, killing the passenger," the documents read. The statement went on to say that even after it was clear the driver of the sedan had been killed, several others in the convoy continued to fire on the car, and at least one of them launched a grenade.

After the car was in flames, according to the statement, "Defendant Ridgeway recognized that there had been no attempt to provide reasonable warnings to the driver of that vehicle."

The five guards named in the indictment rejected those assertions, and in a legal move aimed at challenging the venue for the case, they surrendered to federal authorities in Salt Lake City, Utah, in what is considered a more conservative,

pro-military part of the country than Washington, D.C., where the Justice Department made public its case.

The indictments and the defendants' cross-county legal maneuver set the stage for the first test of the government's ability to hold private security contractors accountable for what it considers crimes committed overseas. They are also likely to produce protracted arguments on technical matters aimed at scuttling the case well before a jury has the opportunity to evaluate the guards' actions.

The shooting by Blackwater guards that day ignited outrage about the use of private security contractors in war zones and severely strained relations between the United States and the fledgling Iraqi government.

The case remained a sore point during the Bush administration's negotiations with Iraq for an agreement setting new rules for the continuing presence of U.S. troops. Ultimately a major provision of the agreement ended immunity for private contractors working in Iraq. U.S. officials restated the government's commitment to pursue justice in the Nisour Square shootings.

Riots Continue in Greece Over Police Killing of Teen

By Anthea Carassava

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ATHENS, GREECE

Violence by youths angry over the killing of a teenager by the police raged across Greece for a third day on Monday as thousands of police officers failed to contain some of the worst rioting in recent years.

A march through downtown Athens on Monday night turned violent, as demonstrators threw concrete slabs, rocks and flaming gasoline bombs at the officers and smashed storefronts. A government Christmas tree along their path was set on fire.

Rioting also intensified in the country's second largest city, Salonika, and spread to Trikala, a city in the agricultural heartland.

Schools were shut in Athens, the capital, and high school and university students spilled onto the streets, leading to scattered violence throughout the day. But the evening demonstration, which had attracted thousands and was organized by the Communist Party, was accompanied by some of the worst of the violence

of the past several days.

A strip of five-star hotels was ransacked, including the Grande Bretagne, where a life-size scene of "The Nutcracker" was knocked down, and the Athens Plaza, where a guard said guests had to be evacuated. A small fire burned in the lobby of the Foreign Ministry, The Associated Press reported.

The rioting began Saturday, shortly after a 15-year-old was fatally shot in what the police said was a confrontation with a mob. The government has charged one police officer with premeditated manslaughter in the case and another as an accomplice.

Senior security officials said they had put the country's 45,000-member police force on alert in one of the biggest security mobilizations since Athens was host to the 2004 Summer Olympics. Panayiotis Stathis, a spokesman for the Athens police, said security forces were "trying to control the situation" while using restraint in putting down any protests.

As night fell Monday, rioters were barricaded at two university campus-

es in the capital. The Greek police and military have not been permitted to enter college campuses since 1973, when tanks quashed a student uprising at Athens Polytechnic, leading to at least 22 civilian deaths.

Panagiotis Sotiris, 38, a spokesman for Uniting Anti-Capitalist Left, a coalition of leftist groups that helped take over the Athens Law School on Monday, told Reuters that the violence was connected not only to the killing, "but is a struggle to overthrow the government's policy."

"We are experiencing moments of a great social revolution," he said.

In the northern city of Salonika, 300 students battled with the police on Monday, overturning scores of trash cans and setting them ablaze. In Veroia, about 40 miles from Salonika, an estimated 400 stone-wielding students clashed with the police, who retaliated with tear gas. In Trikala, a student march turned violent and a police officer was injured.

In Athens, some 15,000 police officers fanned out across the city, the authorities said.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



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Response to "Trust the Police?"

The "Wannabe Hackers," in a Letter to the Editor published Nov. 21, 2008, described an "experiment" that they performed to test the trust between students and the MIT Campus Police. A good experiment is based on valid assumptions, and uses sound logic to draw a conclusion. The wannabe hackers' experiment did neither.

The wannabe hackers say that they "decided to take DiFava at his word," based on an earlier article in *The Tech*. What *The Tech* prints is not necessarily DiFava's word; especially when he made it clear during his meeting with the students at East Campus that it was off-the-record.

That was the first failed assumption of the wannabe hackers.

If they were serious about testing DiFava's word, they should have tried to contact DiFava — not whoever happened to be on CP duty that night. "Informing" the Campus Police is not the same as "talking to" the Campus Police. The wannabe hackers made no effort to have any sort of dialogue with the Campus Police. Merely telling a police officer that you are about to do something illegal is not a very credible or practical approach.

The wannabe hackers say that "this was a perfectly legal observational exercise." False. Calling in a hoax is against the law. They assert that going ahead with a hack would probably have resulted in arrest. This is a claim without any real supporting evidence, since no hack-

ers have been arrested on a roof or the dome recently.

I can't say whether informing the MIT Police ahead of time is the solution for hackers, but playing games with the MIT Police is definitely not one. Trust doesn't appear out of thin air, it has to be built. DiFava tried to build trust with students by coming to East Campus, a home to many hackers. The actions of the wannabe hackers are destroying trust.

The wannabe hackers' experiment was based on faulty assumptions, lacked reasoning, and lacked integrity. The only thing that they got right in their letter to *The Tech* was the way they signed it.

Vinayak Ranade '09
President of East Campus

Corporation: Please Help!

A Message to the MIT Corporation from the Campaign for Students

Rachel Meyer, Stephanie Schmit,
and Chris Varenhorst

Too often, students are not included in the process of making decisions at MIT that directly impact them. For example:

- **Housing:** Freshmen on campus. Closing the W1 grad dorm. Removing a floor from NW-35. Deciding on the new W1 floor plan. Transitioning Green Hall. Delaying W1.

- **Dining:** Requiring a dining hall in W1. Overpricing inferior food. Limiting food selection and dining hall hours. Mandatory meal plans in some dorms. Planning to remove kitchens.

- **Student Support:** Arresting hackers. Issuing a premature statement to the press on Star Simpson. Changing Financial Aid. Increasing undergraduate enrollment. Failing to comply with Americans for Disabilities Act handicap requirements.

Students raised the issue of student involvement with senior administrators last year. Student government leaders from the Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council authored a letter with Phil Clay and Kirk Kolenbrander for the Faculty Newsletter, which acknowledged past problems and established the Task Force on Student Engagement (TSE) to address these concerns.

Twenty-seven professors signed a statement of support for the TSE in the newsletter. According to the newsletter, the TSE was "charged with developing a philosophy guiding student involvement, recommending opportunities for greater student participation, and proposing methods to ensure success."

This year, the TSE has only had two official meetings. A third TSE meeting was only called to inform students of the delays to W1. The TSE has not started to examine ways to strengthen process or structure. President Hockfield hopes the TSE will be no longer necessary after this academic year.

Several students, faculty, and administrators on the TSE report that the committee has been ineffective since its creation, especially at addressing its original mission.

Why should you care about addressing

these concerns?

- **Strengthening Community:** We can eliminate tensions that have taken their toll on MIT's sense of community.

- **Educating Student Leaders:** There is no better way for student leaders to gain leadership experience than by starting with the issues they care about most.

- **Strengthening MIT's Decisions:** Involving students brings a fresh perspective to the table and ensures stakeholder buy-in.

- **Publicity:** We have an opportunity to portray MIT as an innovative leader in student involvement and avoid bad press about MIT losing its much-vaunted culture of collaboration.

- **Alumni Donations:** Once students leave MIT, they will remain more engaged with the community as alumni.

- **These Concerns will Persist:** Student involvement was the focus of the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee last year; it has been an issue for decades.

Students need your help. Together, we need to foster a cultural shift where administrators better involve students in Institute decision-making. Together, we need to ensure administrators place a higher degree of trust and respect in the student body. We need to establish processes and structures which ensure clear and effective methods for communication and student involvement in decision-making. While students understand the need for compromise, we feel it's only fair that we have a voice in the decisions that affect our lives.

We have brainstormed some structural and procedural ideas which we believe will help solve our concerns. While we understand the Corporation does not have the authority to implement all of these changes, we would appreciate any support you can give for the following ideas:

- **Publication of Minutes:** MIT should establish a website to post minutes from Corporation, Academic Council, Presidential and Faculty committee meetings.

- **Committee Representation:** The Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council should have at least one representative on the Academic Council, the Corporation, the Executive Committee, the Committee for the Review of Space Plan-

ning, the Building Committee, the Enrollment Management Group and other important bodies.

- **Advance Notification:** A system needs to be designed to request input and foster involvement for all changes involving students the administration is considering, at least seven days before those decisions are finalized.

- **Community Conversations:** Senior administrators, including the President, Provost, Chancellor, Executive Vice President, Vice Chancellor, and Dean for Student Life should attend monthly town hall meetings with students.

- **Presidential Office Hours:** The President should follow the lead of many of MIT's peer institutions by having open office hours for one hour per week.

- **Visiting Committees:** The UA and GSC should have the opportunity to present to Visiting Committees.

- **TSE Legitimacy:** The Task Force on Student Engagement should have an active website with agendas, minutes, blogs, and members. MIT has had serious problems in the way it involves students in decision-making for decades. The specific issues we raise may be new, but the fundamental problems have troubled MIT well before our time.

Quick research shows protests at MIT in the 1960s (divestment), 1970s (ROTC), 1980s (in loco parentis), and 1990s (freshmen on campus). More recently, there have been protests on campus in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2007, and 2008. Today, we should not need to protest: our concerns should have been addressed a long time ago.

Nobody benefits from this controversy.

We realize this, so we prefer a more responsible approach than movements of the past. Unfortunately, we have made very little progress so far. This issue is not going away, and neither are the passionate students who are dedicated to change. Please, let us address this difficult issue once and for all in a serious and productive manner.

Let us stop asking "why should we involve students?"

Let us instead ask, "why not?"

Rachel Meyer '10, Stephanie Schmit '11, and Chris Varenhorst '09 are members of the Campaign for Students.

Corrections

The Nov. 18 article "Thousands Gather at Boston City Hall, Protest California's Gay Marriage Ban" incorrectly identified two politicians, Edward J. Markey and Nikki Tsongas, as "state Congress members." Both are members of the U.S. House of Representatives; Markey is from the 7th District of Massachusetts and Tsongas is from the 5th.

Opinion Policy

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Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

*Always Skillful, Often Breathtaking**Celebrated Emerson Quartet Performs at NEC's Jordan Hall*

By Joyce Kwan

STAFF WRITER

*Emerson String Quartet
New England Conservatory
Jordan Hall
December 5, 2008*

The much-celebrated Emerson String Quartet performed in Boston last Friday, playing a mostly Dvorák concert that, through the juxtaposition of blasé and breathtaking, demonstrated concert magic.

The concert, held by the Celebrity Series of Boston in New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, opened with an interpretation of Dvorák's tenth quartet, also known as the "Slavonic," which proved to be the only setback of the evening. The Emerson exuded all of its impressive technical unity, and none of

its signature insightfulness and energy, leading to a disappointingly lackluster performance of a piece Dvorák composed during a particularly happy period in his life. As suggested by the quartet's nickname, the piece incorporates elements of Czech national music, conjuring jovial, earthy dance rhythms, which, among other aspects, the Emerson failed to bring to life.

They quickly revived the mood, however, with the beloved Ravel quartet, a piece of wide emotional range that varies between reflective calm and unrestrained rapture, and evokes the sound of a Javanese gamelan orchestra. The performance was typical of Emerson excellence: tight and absorbing in its perfect subtlety.

Following intermission welcomed Webern's Six Bagatelles, a very unusual piece not only because of its tonality, but also because at fif-

ty-seven measures and about three minutes to perform, it is one of the shortest quartet pieces ever written. It is possible Webern intended to be as frugal as possible in expressing himself. The result is a piece of sharp dissonances and breathy harmonics that suggest profundity, as realized by the Emerson's precise playing.

Finally, upon the somber opening lines of the closing piece — Dvorák's fourteenth quartet — it became apparent this interpretation would not suffer from the lack of intensity that blighted his tenth quartet at the start of the concert. That said, this quartet renounces any obvious inclination toward the American or Slavonic styles Dvorák so often integrated into his earlier music, making this refined piece more difficult to interpret than the tenth quartet.

The Emerson delivered the piece in such a way that brought me to my knees in admiration of its artistry, no surprise given the acclaim

and veneration the ensemble has garnered over its thirty-two year marriage. Particularly memorable were moments when the first violin soared in the upper register while grounded by the remaining instruments, suggesting inspired hope and optimism. Every note, every phrase, received the attention it deserved, and the concert closed to enthusiastic applause.

The 1019-seat Jordan Hall, considered to have one of the best acoustics in America for classical music, was adequately suited for the performance. Chamber music, originally conceived to be performed for friends in intimate drawing rooms, requires a much smaller venue for its complete effect. Although the Emerson sounded distant at times, its compelling nature nonetheless absorbed the audience. Its members (except the cellist, for practical reasons) anomalously stood to allow maximum freedom for expression.

Concert Choir Performs

The MIT Concert Choir held their annual fall concert in Kresge Auditorium this past Sunday, Dec. 7. The choir directed by Dr. William Cutter featured "Alexander's Feast (The Power of Musick)" by G. F. Handel and "Peaceable Kingdom" by Randall Thompson. (clockwise from right)

William Cutter, Lecturer in Music and Director of Choral Programs at MIT, takes a bow at the end of the performance.

The concert choir, open all members of the MIT community, harmonizes before their performance.

(left to right) Ian Olsen of Boston Conservatory, Elisabeth Hon Hunt G, Pauline A. Sliwa G, and Daniel P. Cunningham '07 join the MIT Concert Choir on Dec. 7 in performing "Alexander's Feast (The Power of Musick)" by G. F. Handel.

Photography by Yuanyu Chen





MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH
YUANYU CHEN



A Cappella Groups Hold Fall Concerts



YUANYU CHEN

(clockwise from top left)

Priscilla W. Army '10 of the Mus-es gets the audience going with Natasha Bedingfield's "I Wanna Have Your Babies" during the Chorallaries' fall concert last Friday.

Stephanie Senna '12 closes the concert with "All Things Are

Possible" by Darlene Zschech on Saturday, Dec. 6 during the Cross Product's Winter Concert in 54-100.

John C. McGonagle '09 rick-rolls the audience during a skit at the MIT/Wellesley Toons Fall Concert last Saturday in 10-250.

Cecilia R. Louis '10 and Thomas

M. Ciesielski '11 of the Chorallaries sing "American Boy" by Estelle Feat and Kanye West during the MIT/Wellesley Toons Fall Concert on Dec. 6.

Tiffany K. Cheng '12 of the Chorallaries sings "Hot 'N' Cold" by Katy Perry during the Chorallaries' "A Concert We Can Believe In" on Dec. 5 in 10-250.



RACHEL FONG—THE TECH

RACHEL FONG—THE TECH





Dance Troupe Moves To Different Rhythms At 'Insomnia'



The Dance Troupe fall performance, "Insomnia", features several different dance styles choreographed by students. The show plays on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 8pm, Thursday, Dec. 11 at 5pm and 8pm, and Friday, Dec. 12 at 5pm and 9pm in Kresge Little.

(clockwise from right)

Rachel N. Peterson '09 moves to the beat.

Amelia L. Laughton '06 and Thaddeus R. Cybulski '10 command the stage.

(Left to right) Jason A. Scott '10, Kamo Jurn '10, and Adlai R. Grayson '10 get their groove on.

Stephen G. Goodman '12 and Elizabeth M. Kimball '11 move to the beat.

Dana B. Sulas '10 belly dances.

Ylaine L. Gerardin '10 performs a ballet.

Photography by William Yee



CAMPUS LIFE

Brouhaha Rhythm

Waiting Until the Last Instant

By Michael Lin
STAFF COLUMNIST

Editor's Note: This column was originally intended for publication on December 2nd, but due to the lateness of submission, it was pushed back until this issue.

It is with varying degrees of shame that I admit that I'm a chronic procrastinator. Ask my editor, and he can tell you that I always cut it close. Whether or not I finish my article on time is often a matter of typing speed. I realize

that procrastinating is a terrible work habit, but I hope you won't blame me too much for being less than enthusiastic to leap full-faced in front of the fire hose. As it happens, I'm about to make an earnest effort to be more responsible in the future, which is why I'm milking this common thread with much of the rest of humanity for one more article while I've still got the chance. 23 hours after my soft deadline. We had a holiday — totally not my fault.

It is perhaps more accurate than quaint to say that blood runs through my procrastination, and what with the recent blood drive on campus, the latter is feeling even thicker than water than usual. It's hard to know what to make of the practice of putting work off until the last minute. On

the one hand, you have people who argue that they do their best work under pressure, which if you think about it, is sort of like a pilot saying he does his best flying at an altitude of 50 feet. Sure, it might be true, but no matter how many times he claims to be a leaf on the wind, good luck getting anybody to be his co-pilot. At the same time, though, as my attention span continues to diminish for reasons I don't fully understand, even that excuse is getting hard to ...

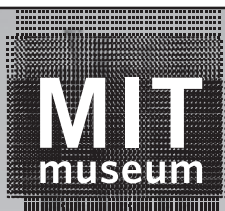
Sorry, had to alt-tab out and reply to my Facebook messages. As I was saying, even that excuse is getting hard to fall back on. On the other hand, it's not that big of a stretch to say that I'm getting the low-impact all-nighter (if such a thing exists) down to an art form, which is not easy, since I refuse to use the assistance of caffeine or energy drinks. (I'm something of a purist). The trick is to take a 15-30 minute nap roughly every two to three hours, depending on your latency period between getting up and becoming alert. I find that it helps to remain fully-dressed and leave your room lights on, to ease the transition from sleeping to waking. Top it off with an hour or two of real sleep

before class (assuming you've finished that which you had to pull the all-nighter to finish), and hopefully you won't feel too bleary during the day, at least for a while.

Obviously, all-nighters should be used sparingly, if at all, to get things done — like the Ghostbusters crossing the streams of their proton packs. You could solve all your problems and be the big hero, or you could go to class feeling like every particle in your body is simultaneously exploding at the speed of light — which is probably not quite as awesome as it sounds. I suppose there's only one way to find out (drink several dozen espresso-Red Bull cocktails), but frankly, I like keeping the blood vessels in my brain intact.

Mind you, using frequent powernaps to stave off the onslaught of slumber carries with it its own risks. I don't know about yours, but as my body runs lower and lower on fuel, it becomes harder and harder to convince it that the wailing alarm clock is an adequate reason to get up. As you might imagine, it wasn't long before I started sleeping through my alarm clock, mostly because the fade-up from silence isn't quite the persuasive kick I needed to jolt me out of bed in the mornings.

Fortunately, I've managed to fix that problem with a little electronic twiddling. Now, instead of using my alarm clock, I set the alarm on my portable music player, hook it up to my desk speakers, and crank up the volume. Up until recently, I set the alarm to play the *Top Gun* soundtrack, but when you really, absolutely have to get up on time — like, for example, when you have to catch an early train to go on vacation — there's nothing quite as explosively effective as the William Tell Overture at 120 decibels. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go down to the hardware store and pick up some glass panes. I certainly managed to catch my train, but ... I miss having a window. And neighbors.



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WMBR Our Year in Lists

The Best and Worst of '08

By Ben Shanks
and Dugan Hayes

15 — High Places — *s/t*

"Dude." — Ben
"Duuuuuuuude." — Dugan

14 — Oxford Collapse — *Bits*

If you went to Steer Roast this year, hopefully you got to see this band rock the stage with their brand of high-energy rock. It's really kind of hard to describe their music as anything but straight-up indie rock, but somehow they manage to stand out and are more fun than most of their contemporaries.

Maybe it's the vocal harmonies between the guy with a good voice and the guy with a bad voice, or maybe it's the awesome bass lines that give equal time to all four strings. Either way, the sing-along fun of "Young Love Delivers" and the harder edge of "For the Winter Coats" are standouts, while "I Hate Nobody" managed to lodge itself in my head — in the best way possible — for weeks on end.

13 — Raveonettes — *Lust Lust Lust*

Who knew Rachel Ray was so damn hip? This Danish duo, handpicked by the chef/donut spokesman for her SXSW party, writes simple rock songs. Then they drown them out in distortion. Together with some filthy lyrics and naive female vocals, it makes a good formula — although I'm not sure I'll ever be able to look at Rachel Ray the same again after listening to "You Want the Candy."

12 — TV on the Radio — *Dear Science*

Marnie Stern's chief competition for worst album title of the year, enough has been written about TV on the Radio that we probably don't have to give you much background — hell, even Entertainment Weekly gave this album an A-. So, let's summarize what we've learned from this album: President Bush still sucks, delayed piano is suddenly hip as all hell, and Kyp Malone probably wants to have sex with you. And TV on the Radio still write incredible music.

11 — Lil Wayne — *Tha Carter III*

It's about time Lil Wayne deposed Kanye as the biggest name in rap. And he actually has the chops to back up his claim to the title "best rapper alive" — in addition to something like 284 official and unofficial mixtapes this year, Weezy gave us *Tha Carter III*, a bonus disc of b-sides, and the promise that the other unreleased tracks are coming out next year as a second *Tha Carter III*. Ok, so maybe that's kind of weird, but who can argue with such ridiculous prolificacy when everything he puts out is solid gold? And damn, for someone so monotone, he pulls off vocal dynamics so well just by going from dirty to dirtier.

Wayne pulls off "Dr. Carter" perfectly, turning a track with a concept that would have ended up being a lame skit on anyone else's record into an ultra-chill groove with perfectly straight-faced humor. The counterpart "Mr. Carter" is another mellow highlight, and "Phone Home" is almost too much fun, but my favorite is "Don't Get It," which samples Nina Simone and ends with 7 minutes of Wayne smoking up and talking about racism in the prison system, drug laws, and Al Sharpton. Awesome.

10 — The Fiery Furnaces — *Remember*

All right, I'll come out and say it now: this is by far my favorite band ever, and anything they release is, in my mind, better than anything by anyone else. That said, this is a live album, so it wouldn't be right to put it at the top of this list. But this is unlike any live album you've heard before.

The triple LP set boasts 51 songs, and while they are all renditions of album tracks, most have entirely different melodies and instrumentations, leaving only the lyrics of the originals intact. And much like a Fiery Furnaces live show, the songs cut into and out of each other totally unpredictably. So we end up getting the calypso arrangement of the entirety of "Bitter Tea," the grandmother-less pop arrangement of "Rehearsing My Choir," and the chopped-up blues-tinged hard-rock arrangement of favorites from their other studio albums. The album art includes the warning "Do not attempt to listen to all at once," but I've broken that rule more times than I can count.

9 — Stereolab — *Chemical Chords*

So this is supposed to be Stereolab's Motown record, but I doubt anyone would have thought that if Tim Gane hadn't said it himself. In practice, that basically means Stereolab with horns and strings, which is pretty awesome when you think about it. "Neon Beanbag" is the crowd-pleaser, but other highlights include the classic French pop sound of "Daisy Click Clack" and the hypnotic drone of the title track, which — similar to their masterpiece "Jenny Ondioline" — is based solely on the slow repetition of two notes on a rich sounding synth.

Laetitia Sadier's half-French, half-English vocals are in fine form as always, but what really sells this record for me is the return of the instrument that made *Dots and Loops* so great — the marimba. The marimba hook on "Silver Sands" kills me every time I hear it.

8 — Spiritualized — *Songs in A&E*

Jason Pierce has a man-crush on Jesus. No, not in the "Lord-and-Savior" sense, but more as a result of total in-

fatuation with gospel music. He also has a pretty big thing for drugs. Mix that up with a near-fatal double pneumonia, and you have *Songs in A&E*. Spaceman still writes a powerful song, and each cut swells with emotion. A series of instrumental tracks hold it all together, making *Songs in A&E* one of those rare contemporary albums that works best as a cohesive unit.

7 — Fucked Up — *The Chemistry of Common Life*

Let's face it. Punk died the day *Dookie* came out. But this album may have done more to revive hardcore as a respectable genre than any other since '94. The lyrics are great, and go back to the old hardcore standards: sex, drugs, and hating religion. Brutal lead vocals and standard power chords are backed by soaring — and, as far as punk goes, unconventional — instrumentation (flutes?!). This is the best thing to happen to hardcore since *Jawbreaker* came out with *Unfun*.

6 — No Age — *Nouns*

"L.A. Art-Punk" is the most annoying sub-genre moniker since "freak folk," but dammit if No Age doesn't transcend the awful label. These guys are a drums and guitar duo that inject samples until their music is incredibly dense. Sorting it all out can be a daunting task, but in the end, a rewarding one-it just takes a few listens. Now we can only hope their Grammy nomination doesn't go to their heads, (The nod is for Best Album ... Packaging.)

5 — Thee Oh Sees — *The Master's Bedroom Is Worth Spending a Night In*

This one definitely came out of nowhere. John Dwyer, formerly of noise-rock groups Pink and Brown and the Hospitals, decided to transform his solo project Thee Oh Sees into a full band and release — a 1950s rock album? It sure sounds awesome on paper, and it sounds even better on record. Sure, half the songs sound exactly the same, but that's part of the fun, and trust me, this album is an absurd amount of fun.

Dwyer and Brigid Dawson sing the entire album in duet through what sound like telephones, both of their voices soaked in reverb, while the drummer pounds out killer grooves that never seem to get old. The best part is the awesome effect that Dwyer and Dawson use primarily in "Ghost in the Trees" and "Poison Finger" when they raise the pitch of their voices at the end of a line and let the reverb carry it away.

4 — Be Your Own Pet — *Get Awkward/Get Damaged*

BYOP (2003-2008, RIP) achieved what every awesome high school garage band dreams of — getting signed by motherfucking Thurston Moore. And then this year they proved just how punk rock they are when a) people were having sex in the audience (!!!) during their Boston show at the Paradise and b) their label executives made them cut songs from their album for being too violent. I guess the idea of the ferocious (and ferociously hot) vocalist Jemina Pearl singing about "wait[ing] with knives after class" and killing her ex-BFF provoked too many images of school violence. Luckily for us the cut tracks were released independently on the *Get Damaged* EP, and damn, the "Locomotion"-copping half doo-wop, half punk rock revenge anthem "Becky" is by far the best song of the year. And the rest of the record, an energetic and wonderfully immature blast of in-your-face rock, kicks a ton of ass too.

3 — Marnie Stern — *This Is It and I Am It and You Are It and So Is That and He Is It and She Is It and It Is It and That Is That*

You could argue that this is the worst album title of 2008, and sometimes the lyrics are downright grating ("the future is yours, so fill this part in!"), but that's neither here nor there — 'cause this chick can SHRED. But, unlike many male-guitarist counterparts, Marnie knows when to use it. The album bursts with energy, and Marnie's timely restraint makes her solos all the more powerful. Oh, and she has a kissing booth on tour, too. Awesome.

2 — Los Campesinos! — *Hold on Now, Youngster ...*

These guys break so many indie rules, it's impossible to even keep track. But when it comes down to it, if you love under-

ground rock music and are young, then LC gets you. They wear their influences — all the right ones — on their sleeves, and swirl them up into simultaneously giddy and forlorn songs about, well, the same damn life all of our kind live. Its like *High Fidelity*, but in album format. Plus they cover my favorite Pavement song. But best of all, Los Campesinos! released not one, but TWO fantastic albums full of this stuff in this year (the other is named *We are Miserable, We are Doomed*). Incidentally, of the seven of them, six are gorgeous — just watch out for the drummer.

1 — Times New Viking — *Rip It Off*

Over the summer I was telling people that Times New Viking is the best band in the world. Now that I've had time to let the hyperbole subside, I still think they might be. What makes them so great? Well, they write perfect pop songs and then record them on the cheapest equipment possible so everything is surrounded by a ton of noise, fuzz, and tape hiss. The vocals are usually split between the (male) drummer and the (female) keyboard player, who alternate screaming back and forth at each other and singing together in something that vaguely resembles harmony. And when they play live, instead of having a planned setlist, the drummer just shouts out whatever songs he wants to play between taking swigs of Jack Daniels. It really doesn't get any better than that.

Worst Album Titles

- 1) Atmosphere — *When Life Hands You Lemons, You Paint That Shit Gold*
- 2) Marnie Stern — *This Is It and I Am It and You Are It and So Is That and He Is It and She Is It and It Is It and That Is That*
- 3) TV on the Radio — *Dear Science*,
- 4) Portishead — *Third*
- 5) Coldplay — *Viva La Vida*

Best Album Titles

- 1) Lil Wayne — *Tha Carter III*
- 2) Max Tundra — *Parallax Error Beheads You*
- 3) Jack Rose — *Dr. Ragtime and Pals*
- 4) Kimya Dawson — *Alphabutt*
- 5) Deerhunter — *Weird Era Cont.*

Most Annoying Musical Trends

3 — Crystal Bands
For whatever reason, indie music goes through cycles where every single new band uses one word in its name. This year it's crystal: Crystal Antlers, Crystal Stilts, Crystal Castles. While I am surprised no one has used Crystal Wolf yet, this needs to stop.

2 — New Disco

How did this even get popular? It sucked in the 70s, and it sucks more now. End of story.

1 — Girl Talk

What could be worse than listening to a bunch of shitty top 40 songs? Hearing a bunch of them played all at once. "Oooh, he's a biomedical engineer," you say. "Oooh, hes so edgy — he might even get sued!" Gregg Gillis, we have 4 words for you: STFU. Oh, and put on a goddamn shirt.

Albums We're Excited for in '09

- 5) *Fiery Furnaces*. Dugan won't let us not include this.
- 4) The second *Tha Carter III*. That's right, he's making another one, and naming it the same thing. That's what you get to do when you're the best rapper alive.
- 3) The next three Los Campesinos! albums. If they can put out two in their first year, we expect no fewer than three in '09.
- 2) The Thermals. With their new drummer, J.J. Binks.
- 1) My Bloody Valentine. Reunited and looking to put out their first album since 1991's INCREDIBLE *Loveless*, dear god, our hopes are so high for this. Kevin Shields, please don't disappoint.

Got beef? Shoot us an e-mail at gm@wmbr.org and we will show you the error of your ways.

Join us for an Advent Service of

Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 10

5:15 pm - MIT Chapel

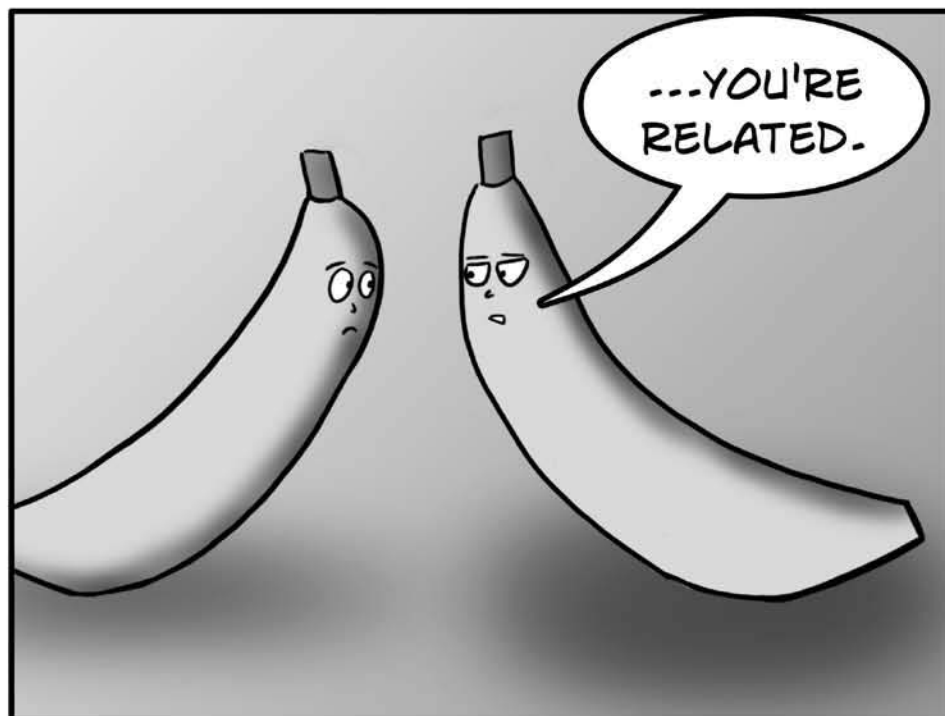
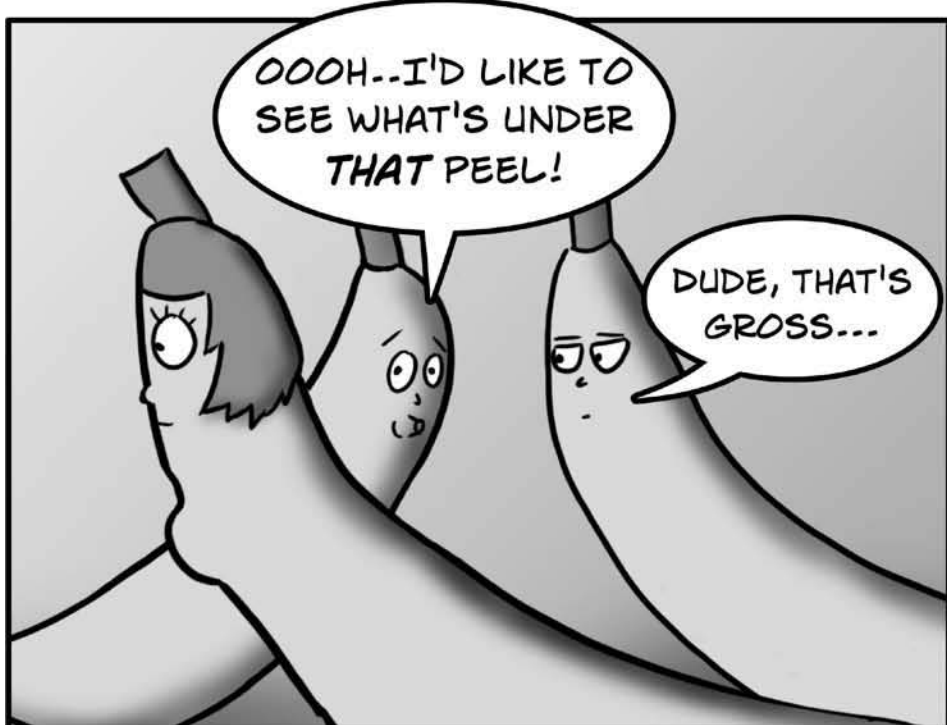
Christmas caroling in Lobby 7 following

All are welcome

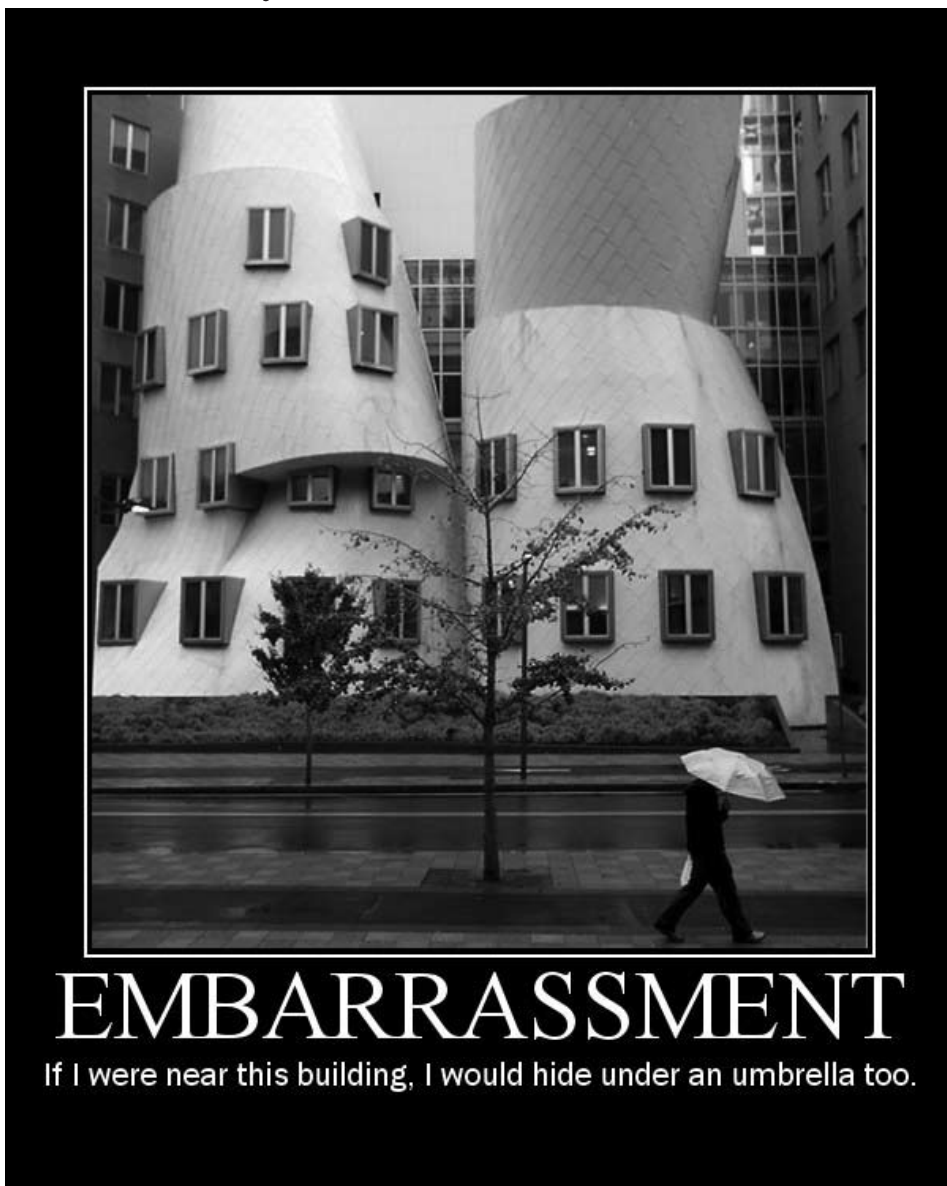
<http://web.mit.edu/lem>

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



The Daily Blunderbuss by Ben Peters



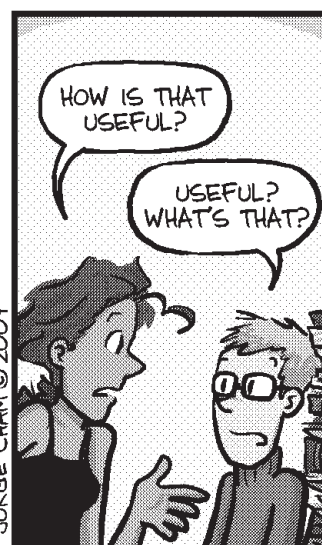
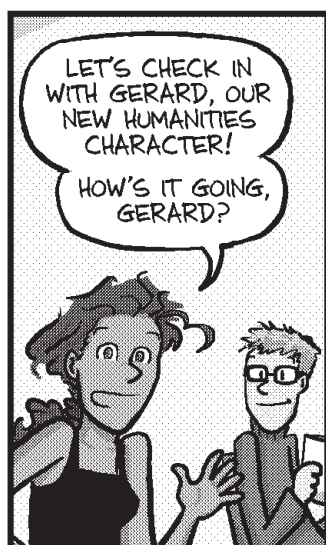
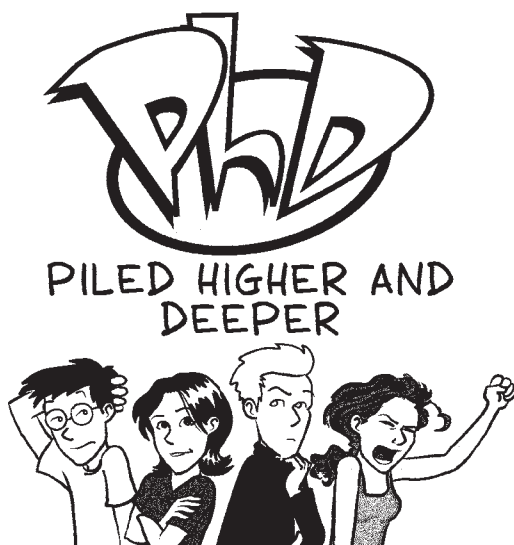
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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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 13.

	9			8	2			
						5		7
4	8			3				
		1						2
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Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>



Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13

ACROSS

- 1 Cowardly Lion
- 5 Stops short
- 10 Creative work
- 14 Chills and fever
- 15 Communicate by PC
- 16 Marlon's "The Godfather" role
- 17 Kennel sound
- 18 Chicken Little's friend
- 20 Market
- 21 PAT value
- 22 Impulses
- 23 Traffic order
- 25 Dress
- 27 Map key
- 29 Terrifying
- 33 Occupied
- 34 Very long story
- 35 Sandy hill
- 36 Lon of Cambodia
- 37 Service sector

position

- 38 Lic. to pull teeth
- 39 Corner joints
- 41 Writer Murdoch
- 42 News services
- 44 Mornings and afternoons
- 46 "Buffy the Vampire _"
- 47 Freshly
- 48 Scottish landowner
- 49 Gulf of Bothnia island
- 52 Devour
- 53 Bonkers
- 56 Kipling bear
- 59 Mental impulse
- 60 Honor student's grades?
- 61 Wickerwork willow
- 62 Minn. neighbor
- 63 Operates
- 64 "How I Play Golf" author

- 65 Physique workshops

DOWN

- 1 Deposits eggs
- 2 1958 Pulitzer novelist
- 3 Frug relative
- 4 Answers
- 5 Lo and _!
- 6 Make revisions
- 7 Highway division
- 8 Extended family
- 9 Foxy
- 10 Excessive offer, perhaps
- 11 Metallic sound
- 12 The _ Reader
- 13 Oriental sauces
- 19 Feline grind
- 24 Chemical suffix
- 25 Belinda Carlisle's group
- 26 Part of U.A.R.
- 27 Like notebooks

- 28 "_ Gay"
- 29 Mecca pilgrims
- 30 Fussy person
- 31 Art house film
- 32 Chavez or Romero
- 34 Nail alternative
- 37 Silent performer
- 40 Poem parts
- 42 1051 letters
- 43 Working for
- 45 500-mi. race
- 46 Half-goat men
- 48 Kicked back
- 49 Some distance
- 50 Feast on Oahu
- 51 Islamic call to prayer
- 52 Pinza of "South Pacific"
- 54 Group working together
- 55 Fifth Avenue landmark
- 57 Holy cow!
- 58 Mil. entertainers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Grad Student Receives Pretrial Probation After Assault Charge

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A graduate student has received pretrial probation, effectively halting the four charges filed against him in connection with an incident at the List Visual Arts Center in October 2007.

If Leonardo Bonanni G stays out of trouble for nine months, the charges of assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and marijuana possession will be dropped.

As a condition of Bonanni's probation, he was required to write letters to *The Tech* and to the officer who arrested him.

"Despite recent articles in *The Tech* regarding the MIT Police Department," Bonanni wrote in his Nov. 17 letter to *The Tech*, "I want to assure the student body that the officers I dealt with were courteous throughout the court proceedings. I was able to resolve my case earlier this week and I would not have been able to do

so were it not for the professional approach taken by the police officers in question."

Bonanni was arrested at a film screening at the List Center in the Media Lab, after a police officer's request to examine a marijuana cigarette behind his ear turned into a physical altercation involving multiple police officers.

MIT Police officer Joseph West was later treated at Cambridge City Health and Alliance Hospital for an injury to his left hand that resulted from the arrest. The police report can be found among records filed with the police's criminal complaint, available at <http://tech.mit.edu/V128/N49/arrest/>.

The Tech could contact only one

witness to the arrest, Cambridge resident Andrew Richardson, who said that the police's "efforts to subdue the kid seemed uncalled-for, an overreaction."

But MIT's de facto police chief, John DiFava, said in October 2008 that he stood by his officers' training and that they had responded with appropriate force to subdue a belligerent suspect.

Bonanni's attorney, Viktor Theiss, said he was pleased by the outcome. "The system did what it was supposed to do," he said. It "took a time out, and if nothing further happens, then the case is dismissed," he said. "Here's a guy who has a tremendous future ahead, and who wants to gamble on a trial?"



CHELSEA GRIMM—THE TECH

Gene Lee '89, a Senior Software Engineer with Walt Disney Animation Studios, lectured on the work of the modeling and animation group after a special showing of Disney's newest release, Bolt. The free screening and presentation were sponsored by MIT TechFair and LSC on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Letter From Bonanni to *The Tech*

November 17, 2008

167 Erie Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Nick Semenkovich, Editor in Chief
The Tech
84 Massachusetts Avenue
Suite 483
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Editor in Chief Semenkovich,

As you are no doubt aware, I was arrested by the MIT Police Department in 2007. Despite recent articles in *The Tech* regarding the MIT Police Department, I want to assure the student body that the officers I dealt with were courteous throughout the court proceedings. I was able to resolve my case earlier this week and I would not have been able to do so were it not for the professional approach taken by the police officers in question.

Very truly yours,
Leonardo Bonanni

This letter was mailed to The Tech from the Cambridge District Court. "As a condition of a Pre-trial Probation, Leonardo Bonanni was required to write a letter to your newspaper and to the Police Officer involved in his case — I hope this provides resolution to the matter," wrote probation officer Marie Burke. (She was unavailable for comment on Monday; a reporter left a telephone message.)

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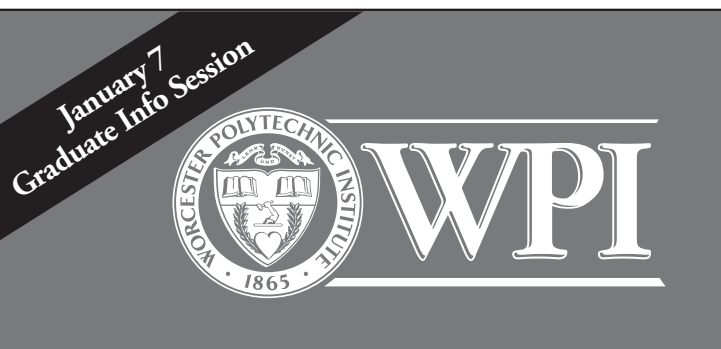
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News Briefs, Continued

News Briefs, from Page 1

MIT plans to cut spending from its general funds by five percent in 2008-9 and 10-15 percent within three years. The MIT community will have some voice in how those cuts are carried out, in a process to be announced in a letter from Provost L. Rafael Reif and Executive Vice President Theresa M. Stone SM '76, Kolenbrander said.

"Everything is on the table," Kolenbrander said, including layoffs.

Cost-cutting may affect experimentation in teaching by limiting subjects with high per-capita costs, Kolenbrander said. Many new, experimental subjects like the "Elements of Design" class in new General Institute Requirements proposal might fall into this category.

Despite the recession, donations are still "solid so far," Kolenbrander said.

Donations for the Campaign for Students fundraiser, which hopes to raise \$500 million by 2011 and claimed \$277 million in October 2008, are "right on track," he said.

The student activist group also calling itself the Campaign for Students distributed flyers to Corporation members at Friday's meeting; a similar version of their flyer is available as a guest column on page four of today's issue. Students talked to Corporation members in the morning and met with Institute student life administrators in the afternoon, said group member Christopher J. Varenhost '09.

—Michael McGraw-Herdeg

MIT AV Seeks to Stop Off-Hours Lecture Hall Broadcasts

MIT Audio Visual staff have implemented "a technical protocol" to prevent broadcasts like the Nov. 24 late-night showing of a couple chatting in the back of 10-250 on channel 11.

The broadcast was a "technical oversight," MIT AV manager Louis W. Graham Jr. said in an e-mail.

Lectures and speeches from 10-250, and other rooms, have been regularly broadcast live on channel 11 for the past semester. Before the protocol change, the video cable connecting the 10-250 video signal to MIT Cable was left plugged in, and sometimes broadcasts stayed on after lectures ended.

Now, Graham wrote, "The video switching equipment will be powered down at the conclusion of classes and events which require the recording or streaming services. In addition, the video patch cable will be disconnected from the signal path at the conclusion of each event."

During the Nov. 24 broadcast, which had no sound, a couple was clearly visible at the back of the room; they talked for about ten minutes until a *Tech* photographer entered and told them they were on TV.

MIT AV expects "there will be no repeat of the inadvertent broadcast of video signals from 10-250 in the future," Graham wrote.

—Michael McGraw-Herdeg

New Panhel Exec to Take Office

The MIT Panhellenic Association, the governing council for the six sororities on campus, chose their new executive council on October 19. The new council will take office this Thursday.

The new president, Minh Huynh-Le '10, said she hopes to better unite all the women on campus through leadership initiatives.

The new board will also work to support the new sorority, Pi Beta Phi, during its first year on campus.

"One of our goals is to incorporate Pi Beta Phi into recruitment since next year is their first year in full fall formal recruitment," said Huynh-Le. "We hope to have a smooth integration."

Pi Beta Phi, which currently has 41 members is also in search of a chapter house.

Huynh-Le said that Panhel wants to continue to "reach out to all women on campus" in its leadership programs, which traditionally include Women's Week and What Women Want, a program whose goal is "to facilitate the close collaboration amongst women on campus, successful female student leaders, MIT faculty and administrators, and inspirational speakers," according to its website (<http://web.mit.edu/womensweek/>). Huynh-Le said she thought What Women Want is particularly important because it allows women to address issues that are important to female students on campus.

Huynh-Le said, "I want to build upon the successes of last year so that we can have a larger impact this year." Panhel has met with Dean of Student Life Chris Colombo to discuss ways of accomplishing this goal.

Huynh-Le also wants improve Panhel's philanthropic efforts. She said she hopes that Panhel can take advantage of its new partnership with the Public Service Center in accomplishing this goal.

—Omar Abudayyeh

New Panhel Executive Council

President	Minh Huynh-Le '10
Executive VP	Debbie M. Yee '11
VP of Recruitment	Marta D. Milan '10
VP of Recruitment Programming	Jennifer E. Toyzer '10
VP of Programming	Sarika Chandiramani '10
VP of Public Relations	Arti V. Virkud '11
VP of Finance and Records	Veronica E. Wilson '11

Solution to Sudoku

from page 10

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 11

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

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Proposed GIR Changes Receive Mixed Reactions from Students

GIR Survey, from Page 1

judge the flavors differently, and the “unifying experience” of freshmen taking the GIRs would be lost.

Other changes to the SME GIRs propose two new categories of GIR classes — SME Foundations and Elements of Design. SME Foundations, a 12-unit requirement, would serve as a base to teach topics relevant to many areas of science, mathematics, and engineering, such as differential equations or statistics.

Students would have the option of taking one 12-unit class or two 6-unit classes, covering the same subjects in less depth, to complete the Foundation requirement. Elements of Design courses would intend to

“capture modes of reasoning that facilitate design,” such as graphical reasoning, hierarchal reasoning, and approximation.

The ECS recommended that both the SME Foundations and Elements of Design classes undergo experimental and assessment stages before being considered as required elements of the curriculum, an estimated time of approximately two to three years.

Pertaining to the introduction of SME Foundations, students responding to the survey were generally neutral, with 30 percent supporting it and 20 percent against it. The reception of the possibility of having the option to take two 6-unit courses was similarly neutral, with

39 percent of upperclassmen and 54 percent of freshman saying they would value the flexibility it offered.

Fifty percent of upperclassmen and 58 percent of freshmen supported the introduction of Elements of Design, but concerns were raised that the classes would lose relevance if not major-specific, and that the lab requirement would be better suited for science and humanities majors. There was general agreement — 70 percent upperclassmen, 76 percent freshmen — that exposure to design methods would be beneficial, but there were opinions that it could be fulfilled through other venues like internships and existing classes, and thus should not be a requirement.

Students support HASS-D restructuring

The ECS recommendations for the modifications to the HASS requirement are to develop First Year Focus (FYF) subjects, which are targeted at freshmen and have central “human” themes such as poverty or justice, and to eliminate the HASS-D system, to be replaced with a three-category system.

The goal of the FYF subjects is to teach students to think critically and across disciplines in the humanities and to foster a sense of community among students, particularly freshmen. As such, students would be “highly encouraged” to take the subjects freshman year, but could choose to wait until later. New FYF classes will be developed in the next two years, and some current HASS classes will be adapted into FYF subjects.

The elimination of the HASS-D categorization would be effective for the Class of 2014. Instead of the HASS-D requirement, in which students must take three classes from five HASS-D designations, students would be required to take a class from each of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The ECS recommended grouping HASS classes by subject, not by department, to allow students to fully explore the distribution of the categories within a subject that incorporates all three. The concentration component of the HASS requirement and the Communications Requirement would not be modified.

Reception of the FYF subjects was not as well received as other aspects of the GIR reforms, with 56 percent of freshmen and 61 percent disagreeing with the idea that an FYF class would foster a sense of community. Many students valued the upperclassmen-freshmen interaction in HASS classes (57 percent of upperclassmen and 53 percent of freshmen), and others thought that freshman year is already restrictive enough.

Among students, there was overwhelming support for a restructuring of the HASS-D system. 61 percent of upperclassmen and 62 percent of freshmen found the system confusing, and only 29 percent of upperclassmen and 31 percent of freshmen found it understandable. The proposed system was deemed clear by 79 percent of upperclassmen and 74 percent of freshmen, and students generally thought that the new system was more flexible than the current one.

The ECS was founded last October to refine and revise the recommendations made by the 2006 Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons. The Task Force recommendations were more radical than the current proposals; suggestions included having students select five classes from six SME categories and only having single and multivariable calculus, along with mechanics, as requirements. A recent implementation of a Task Force recommendation is the move from double degrees to double majors.

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- ▶ **BARCAMP** Saturday January 10, 9 AM - 5 PM, MIT Tang Center Building E5 1
- ▶ **FUDPUB** Saturday January 10, 6 PM - 10 PM, Flat Top Johnny's
- ▶ **HACKFEST** Sunday January 11, 10 AM - 6 PM, MIT Tang Center Building E5 1

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UA Senate: Students on Dining Comm. Must Report on Meetings

Dining, from Page 1

supposed to publicly discuss details of its meetings or recommendations. The results of the campus-wide survey conducted by the committee in the spring are also being kept secret.

In an e-mail, Donna M. Denoncourt, associate dean of Residential Life and chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining, said that “the committee has forwarded to the consultant preliminary recommendations based on the data collected thus far.” She noted that “our hope is to have an open avenue for reactions to the recommendations after the Blue Ribbon committee and senior leadership have had an opportunity to review the findings from the consultant.”

Though the idea of a “minimum nutritional fee,” along with many others, has been sent to the committee’s outside consultant for feasibility evaluation, it is still in its early stages. Committee member and UA Vice President Michael A. Bennie ’10 said that he expected the current set of proposals to go through many more iterations before the committee finishes its work. “The student representatives aren’t going to let something happen that will present an unreasonable burden on students,” he said.

Bennie also emphasized that all of the proposals thus far were being considered independently, and that

this mandatory dining fee was one of many ideas being considered. For example, James Torres ’10, president of the Dormitory Council and also a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee, noted that one initiative that has broad support from the committee is the possibility of adding more breakfast options on campus.

Nevertheless, on Monday night, the UA Senate passed a bill without opposition directing its representatives on the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining to begin reporting publicly on the activities of the committee. In part, the bill directs the UA student representatives to the committee to “publish summaries of all meetings, past and upcoming,” to “make public any proposals that leave the committee,” and to “fully report on all discussions held, all proposals written, and all data considered by the committee to the UA.” The bill was co-sponsored by 13 UA Senators, officers, and other representatives. A copy of the bill is available online at: <http://tech.mit.edu/V128/N61/dining/>

According to Torres, the committee spent much of its first year gathering data from which to draw its recommendations. Much of fall 2007 was spent with focus groups, while spring 2008 was centered around a detailed campus-wide survey of students and faculty. According to Bennie, that survey received about 3,900 responses and resulted in a 100-page

report.

The recent proposals represent the next stage for the committee, in which the committee will iterate through various versions of recommendations, comparing their ideas against the previously gathered data. To help with the work of sifting through the all of the data, the committee has hired the consultant firm Envision Strategies.

According to Denoncourt’s e-mail, Envision Strategies “specializes in strategic planning and operations consulting for restaurants, food service and hospitality, and retail enterprises.” Denoncourt also wrote in her e-mail that the committee’s principal consultant “has conducted studies at 5 of MIT’s peer institutions.” Envision Strategies lists consulting for Harvard University, the University of Washington, Princeton University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Ohio State University among its recent projects on its website.

Envision Strategies should return their evaluations in early January, in time for the next committee meeting later that month, according to Bennie.

The committee has not set a deadline for its final recommendations yet, said Bennie. “I think we’re definitely in the beginning stages,” said Torres. Bennie foresaw the committee working at least until May 2009.

Someone Took Copies Of ‘The Tech’ and Left Them in NW35 Lounge

After Deadline, from Page 1

variations on W1. As a result of the delay, some members of the Phoenix Group — approximately 50 undergraduates currently living in Ashdown House (NW35) who were slated to move into W1 and form its first community — will graduate before W1 renovations are finished. Ben Kaduk G, a member of the Ashdown House Executive Committee, was quoted as saying that “if long delays are predicted ... [the Phoenix Group] may disband until W1 looks like a more practical option.”

A few days later, many boxes of Issue 49 were found in a lounge in NW35. Phoenix Group graduate resident tutor Leah C. Acker wrote in a e-mail that she was not aware of students in the Phoenix Group stealing copies of *The Tech*, and referred a reporter to Suzanne Flynn, housemaster of NW35. Flynn did not respond to an e-mail request for comment.

Although it is not clear why the copies of *The Tech* were stolen, members of the Phoenix Group wrote to each other on the day Issue 49 was published that they were upset with the *Tech* article’s assertions that the group may dissolve, and were still hoping that the renovations would take place.

In e-mails provided to *The Tech*, one member wrote to the group:

“Frankly, I wouldn’t even mention the words ‘W1’ or ‘disappointed’.” Focus on the good. The administration will certainly repay us for our supportive response.”

Another member wrote that “there is currently a student movement called the ‘Campaign for Students’ ... that is very displeased with the administration ... If we choose to voice our personal opinions to these groups before we release our collective opinion, what we choose to say can easily be misrepresented as our collective opinion. The administration most likely would not look kindly upon this.”

Housemaster Flynn also wrote to the group, telling them to “please ignore the headline [indicating that the group may dissolve] on p.16 of *The Tech* ... They are quoting one graduate student [Ben Kaduk] who has no insider track on information — trust me. We will survive this and come out a much stronger community as well. Let’s generate our ideas for [Dean for Student Life] Chris Colombo.”

At the Ashdown House Executive Committee, however, the administration did discuss the possibility of the Phoenix Group disbanding.

Flynn later wrote in an e-mail to the group that she would “write to [Dean for Graduate Education] Steve Lerman and find out what was said at the AHEC meeting.”



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Their Endowments Crumbling, Schools Make Contingency Plans

By Peter Schworm
THE BOSTON GLOBE

For years, it seemed simple: Donations rolled in, the booming stock market multiplied them, and college endowments swelled. At the wealthiest schools, millions became billions, and even small colleges amassed sizable fortunes.

But with the Wall Street collapse this fall, all bets are off. Now, colleges across the country that have watched years of double-digit returns wash away are scrambling to readjust to a stark new economic reality, with endowments predicted to plummet by an average of nearly 30 percent this academic year.

Universities, a pivotal sector of the New England economy, are casting a wary eye on nearly everything they do.

Many schools, after racing to build glittering research centers and multimillion-dollar dorms in recent years, are shelving or down-scaling long-term plans. Without hefty endowment proceeds, even the wealthiest schools — among them Harvard, MIT, and Dartmouth — suddenly find themselves in the unfamiliar situation of trimming budgets and freezing hiring to offset heavy investment losses. Even more worrisome, colleges are questioning whether the recession finally — after years of tuition increases — pushes their cost beyond the means of most families.

"It's a sea change," said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education, the nation's primary higher education association. "There is a lot of soul-searching going on."

Most colleges are confident that their finances are fundamentally sound, and that they will be able to weather the hard times. But in many ways, the scope of the financial crisis has raised the unsettling prospect that the landscape has permanently shifted. At least for now, many administrators suspect, the days of vast capital campaigns, state-of-the-art fitness centers, and generous financial aid increases could be over.

Instead, finance directors are crafting contingency plans for a prolonged downturn, a sharp departure from years of ambitious expansions and seemingly bottomless student demand. And recruiters at private colleges worry that families, reeling from declining home and investment values and scarce credit, will flock to less expensive schools.

"I think we're reaching a tipping point," said Jack Maguire, a leading higher education consultant. "Colleges are worried that some families just won't be able to afford it anymore."

Colleges with modest endowments and significant numbers of financially needy students are at the greatest risk, Maguire said. If they raise tuition sharply, he said, the schools risk losing families to lower-cost schools; if they don't, their financial aid budgets will likely fall well short of demand.

With so many unknowns, colleges are worried that any plans will almost immediately be outdated.

"The volatility is paralyzing," said Lawrence S. Bacow, president of Tufts University, which is seeking \$36 million in budget cuts for next year. "I think everyone is asking hard questions now."

The speed and scope of the shift has sent shockwaves through campuses.

In September, Harvard University announced that its endowment, by far the country's largest, had risen to a staggering \$36.9 billion as of June 30. But last week, in a

stark sign of the economic times, Harvard said the value of its investments had plunged 22 percent, or approximately \$8 billion, in the past four months. Even that stunning figure, university officials wrote, probably underestimated "the full extent of losses for this period." The university anticipates a 30 percent loss by next June, in keeping with projections from Moody's Investors Service.

That news followed a string of grim announcements from wealthy universities this fall. The value of Amherst College's \$1.7 billion endowment plunged 25 percent, while Dartmouth's fell by \$220 million in three months to \$3.4 billion. Williams College's dropped by \$500 million to about \$1.3 billion. Many other schools, while declining to provide specifics, have acknowledged substantial losses.

In response to the downturn, colleges have combed their budgets in search of savings. MIT, whose endowment had been worth nearly \$10 billion but has not said how much it has fallen, said it would trim its budget by \$50 million. Harvard said it would reconsider both the "scale and the pace" of planned expansions, including its sweeping plan to expand across the Charles River in Allston.

Tufts is projecting a 25 percent drop in the value of its \$1.4 billion endowment, leading to \$24 million in lost income next year, and suspended new capital projects this fall. The university may also be forced to abandon its policy, in some cases, of admitting all students without regard to their ability to pay, Bacow said.

Brown University announced a hiring freeze through January and is considering which big projects could be delayed.

Other colleges, particularly those whose students rely heavily on financial aid, said they are as worried about their students' finances as their own. Boston College has called for a 2 percent budget cut to reinforce its financial aid reserves, and other schools, such as Princeton and Tufts, said they will spend millions more on student assistance next year.

Colleges are expecting a sharp increase in financial aid requests

next year because of rising unemployment, declining home values, and the scarcity of private loans. (Government-backed loans are expected to be widely available.)

"We're not agonizing over the endowment losses," said Bob Brown, president of Boston University, which froze hiring and imposed a moratorium on all new construction projects in October. "All of our anxiety is around our students, and their financial ability to attend. That's an absolutely fundamental shift from the past few years."

At Wellesley College, finance officials have been tinkering with projection models by adjusting for unemployment rates and other economic variables to estimate student financial need.

"It's a major unknown and a major concern," Andrew B. Evans, the college's treasurer and vice president for finance, said of potential aid requests. "But you can't assume the norm in this environment. You have to adjust."

What many colleges are assuming, Evans said, is that hard times will not pass soon.

"This kind of pain will be felt by everybody," he said. "It will not be a quick fix."

The recession will also hurt public colleges, as many public state systems are bracing for steep reductions in subsidies.

Yet while endowment values have plummeted, most schools still hold significant reserves, and early signs indicate that applications to public and private schools are up.

"With endowments, colleges take the long view," said Richard Doherty, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. "They're saying 'This gets us back to 2006 levels, and we did OK in 2006.'"

Even before the downturn, high tuition and stagnant incomes threatened to put college out of reach for a growing segment of society, a new national study found last week.

"There are schools that are quite worried the families and students they have been serving will be unable to afford even with financial aid to go to college," Broad said. "If that happens on any kind of a scale, it could be a national disaster."

Journal of Visualized Experiments Publishes MIT Research Online

JoVE, from Page 1

because it can encourage the propagation of prions, mis-folded proteins that cause Mad Cow disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Halfmann said that, before filming, JoVE editors wrote a script for him to explain the protocol based on a paper he submitted, and sent a freelance videographer to his lab to film the project.

"Being able to describe your work by video as well as in the subsequent commentary [posted on the site] makes science more communicative," said Halfmann, who has published other research in traditional journals. "I think the motivation barrier for other researchers trying a new technique is lowered if they actually see and hear how the technique is done rather than just reading about it ... I'm very happy with the exposure my work has gotten with this publication format."

Joel Voldman, an associate professor in the Department of Electrical

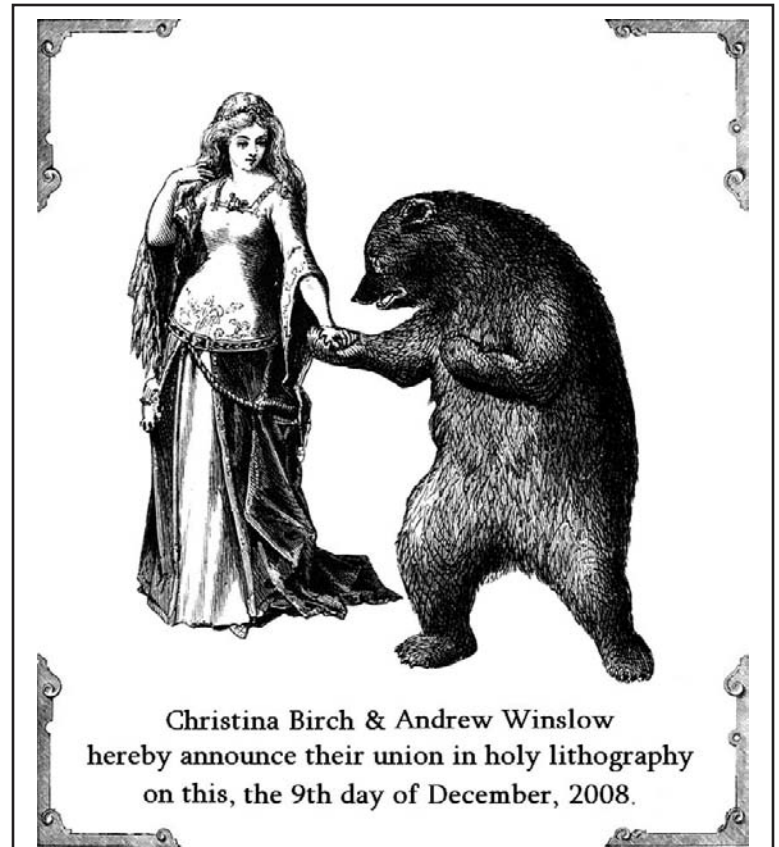
Engineering and Computer Science, published a project titled "Patterning of Embryonic Stem Cells Using the Bio Flip Chip" last October.

The Bio Flip Chip is a micro-fabricated silicon chip containing thousands of microwells — cylinders that are about the size of a cell. These cylinders can be filled with cells by simply pipetting onto the chips, forcing cells into the microwells.

"The best way to do a project is to do it with someone, and JoVE somehow comes in the middle, because you get to watch someone doing it," Voldman said.

Voldman has visited the site a few times since his research was published and said, "I don't think there is anything that actually needs improvement in JoVE, though I am not really the target audience; people in trenches are!"

Good luck
on finals!



Christina Birch & Andrew Winslow
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The Sloan Subject Bidding (SloanBid) System Bidding Dates for Spring, 2009 Courses

<https://sloanbid.mit.edu>

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Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 19
Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, December 29

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 2
Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 9

Section Swap Round for sectioned Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 13
Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 20

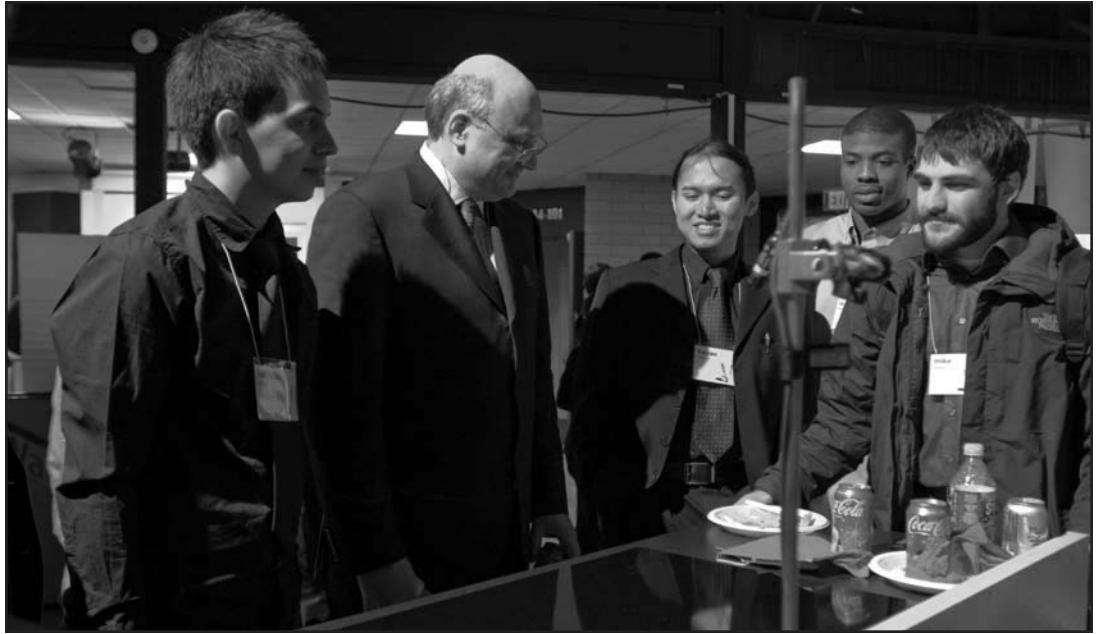
Please contact Scott Alessandro, sallessan@mit.edu, if you have questions regarding Sloan Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on February 2 and will be posted on the bidding website as of January 2 -- write down your password to check results!

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2.009: Fire-Extinguishing Microwaves to Coffee Tables



The Product Engineering Process (2.009) final presentations took place on Dec. 8 in building 34. Students spent the semester developing and prototyping products for “the home,” the theme of this year’s class, and showcased them to faculty, students, and corporate sponsors.

(clockwise from top left)

Jared A. Sartee '09 unfolds “elika,” the Green Team’s collapsible designer coffee table. The table featured carbon fiber and stainless steel components, and folded flat with a twisting motion, permitting it to be slid under a couch or hung on a wall.

Professor David Wallace PhD '95 (center) and several members of the Silver Team stand behind the team’s “Infinite Range” prototype. This cooktop featured a touchscreen interface and an array of 95 independent heating and sensing elements intended

to accommodate various pieces of cookware placed at arbitrary locations on its surface.

Members of the Yellow Team take down their ModuWall portable do-it-yourself wall system. The wall system used vertical posts, composite panels, and flexible strips with industrial mushroom-head Velcro (used to attach armor to tanks) to provide privacy and sound isolation for roommates.

Michael L. Stern '09 discusses the Red Team’s fire safe microwave. The microwave, shown partially disassembled here, contains built-in spark and fire detection systems, as well as an automatic, reusable fire sup-

pression system built around commercially-available 50¢ carbon dioxide cartridges.

Audience members attending the final presentations sat in the aisles of room 34-101 as most or all of the seats were taken. The room nominally seats 325 people.

J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75 and Wenxian Hong '10 play with a prototype of the Blue Team’s “DOT it” portable Braille label maker. The label maker used battery powered electronics and servo motors to emboss Braille characters into commercially available Braille labeling tape.

Photography by Martin Segado



SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008	
MIT (5-3)	76
Lesley University (2-6)	43
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008	
Tufts University (4-3)	79
MIT (6-3)	66

Women's Basketball

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008	
Albertus Magnus College (5-3)	60
MIT (2-4)	64
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008	
Bay Path College (2-5)	43
MIT (3-4)	50

Men's Fencing

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008	
Brown University	20
MIT (3-6)	7
St. John's University	15
MIT (3-7)	12
Yale University	15
MIT (3-8)	12

Women's Fencing

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008	
Brown University	16
MIT (6-4)	11
Cornell University	11
MIT (7-4)	16
St. John's University	14
MIT (7-5)	13
Yale University	16
MIT (7-6)	11

Men's Ice Hockey

Friday, Dec. 5, 2008	
MIT (3-3-1)	5
Westfield State College (4-2-1)	4

Women's Ice Hockey

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008	
College of the Holy Cross (8-0-1)	6
MIT (1-4-0)	1
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008	
Manhattanville College (7-1-0)	6
MIT (1-5-0)	0

Rifle

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, 2008	
Virginia Military Institute	4331
Massachusetts Maritime Academy	4030
Wentworth Institute of Technology	4316
MIT (16-6)	4440

Squash

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008	
Tufts University (2-5)	6
MIT (5-3)	3

Men's Swimming

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, 2008	
MIT Invitational	
MIT	1st of 7

Women's Swimming

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, 2008	
MIT Invitational	
MIT	3rd of 7

Wrestling

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008	
RIT Tournament	
MIT	10th of 13



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Divertimento in E-flat major for String Trio, K. 563

Peggy Pearson, oboe

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Marcus Thompson, viola

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SPORTS



VIBIN KUNDUKULAM

Willard J. Johnson '09 (center) and James M. Bartolotta '09 fight for the rebound during the Engineers' game against Tufts on Dec. 6. The two seniors led MIT to a win with a final score of 79-66.

The Tech's Athlete of the Week: Jimmy Bartolotta '09

On Saturday, December 6, James M. "Jimmy" Bartolotta '09 scored 31 points, leading the men's basketball team to a 79-66 victory over the Tufts University Jumbos. This impressive performance put Bartolotta's career total at MIT over 1,700 points, making him the first Institute basketball player to reach that mark. The previous record, which had stood unchallenged for 32 years, was held by Campbell Lange '76, who finished his career at MIT with 1,699 points.

Bartolotta has been having a streak of successful games, Saturday's match-up with Tufts marked the fourteenth 30-point game of his career, and the fourth this season. His previous three 30-point games this year came back-to-back against Curry College, Suffolk University, and Salem State College. Additionally, Bartolotta has now netted at least 12 points in 38 consecutive games, an impressive streak that dates back to his sophomore year.

In the Engineers' game against Curry on November 25, Bartolotta scored 43 points to set another Institute record for points scored in a single game. That record had stood for 46 years, having been set by David H. Koch '62 against Middlebury College. Koch is of course better known for his presence on the MIT corporation and as the principal donor to the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research.

—Aaron Sampson, Sports Editor

Men's Ice Hockey Defeats Westfield State in Shootout

Three weeks after the teams skated to a 3-3 tie, MIT and Westfield State again needed extra time with the Engineers prevailing, 5-4, Friday night. Three regulation periods and one overtime could not break the 4-4 tie and the teams headed to a shootout. Dustin P. Kendrick '10 was the only player to score in the shootout, securing the win for MIT.

The Engineers captured the lead courtesy of three unanswered goals in the first nine minutes of the third period. Nick R. LaBounty '09 (from Ryan W. Ballentine '09) scored first, with Kevin M. Farino '10 adding his second goal with 13:50 left in regulation with help from LaBounty and Michael C. Kozlowski G. Jeremy D. Myers G gave MIT its first lead of the game just 1:05 later, hooking up with Kendrick and Kozlowski.

Myers' goal appeared to be enough to secure the win for the Engineers until Joshua Almedia tied the game at four with 6:40 to go. Neither team was able to break through in the overtime period and the teams headed to a shootout.

Each team was denied in the first three attempts, as goaltenders Stephen L. Yablonski '11 and Dyland Wood stood tall. Kendrick finally broke through on the fourth penalty shot to give MIT the win.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Women's Basketball Rallies Past Bay Path, 50-43

A key 11-2 spurt that spanned seven minutes in the second half helped propel the MIT women's basketball team to a 50-43 victory over Bay Path College on Saturday. Cheryl M. Kwinn '09 posted 13 points, 11 rebounds, and four steals for the Engineers.

Bay Path gradually established an 11-6 lead midway through the opening half before MIT fought back to even the contest at 12 on a jumper by Kwinn. The Wildcats notched 11 unanswered points for a 23-12 advantage with 29 seconds on the clock. With four seconds left, Kwinn hit the front-end of her free throws as Kristen E. Whaley '11 gathered the offensive board and scored a layup to cut the deficit to 23-15 at the break.

The Engineers opened the second stanza with 10 straight points, including a pair of layups by Emily A. Prentice '11 that put MIT ahead by two (25-23) at the 14:23 mark. Three ties ensued before a free throw from Jessica Hunt gave Bay Path a 30-29 edge. The Engineers responded by scoring 11 of the next 13 points, capped by a three-pointer from Jamie L. Simmons '12 with 3:50 left to play. The Wildcats narrowed the gap to six on three occasions, but four free throws by Simmons coupled with a layup by Kwinn maintained MIT's lead.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff



ALLISON M. ALWAN—THE TECH

Daniel E. Klenk '09 swam the 200 yard butterfly at the MIT Invitational this past Saturday. The men's team came in first out of seven teams, and the women's team finished third.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008

Men's Basketball vs. Emerson College 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008

Pistol USA Shooting Junior Olympics 9 a.m., duPont Athletic Center

Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009

Women's Basketball vs. Simmons College 1 p.m., Rockwell Cage

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STEVE HOWLAND—THE TECH

Samir Zaidi '09 stretches for a shot in MIT's game against Tufts University on Dec. 6. Tufts won the match 6-3. MIT wins went to John Kucharczyk '11, Robert Habib '11, and Ned Carpenter CME '10.