

## Vote to Reform GIRs Delayed by Two New Amendments in Dec.

By Robert McQueen  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The proposed changes to the General Institute Requirements, which would give students more latitude in the science classes they are required to take and do away with HASS-Ds, failed to reach a vote at the faculty meeting on December 17th. Two amendments were called to the floor, delaying the actual vote until the next faculty meeting scheduled for February.

EECS Professor Patrick H. Winston '65 proposed that the addition or removal of GIR and HASS core subjects must be voted on and approved by the faculty. Without the amendment, the Committee on the Undergraduate Program would have had the power to change core classes without the approval of faculty. The Winston Amendment was voted on and approved.

The second amendment was proposed by Professor Hazel L. Sive, associate dean of the School of Science. Sive's amendment addresses the definition, maintenance, and monitoring of the Science, Mathematics, and Engineering (SME) Core. She proposed that an SME Subcommittee and departmental working groups

work in collaboration to provide "a clear definition of the core material in each category." As a result, faculty will "understand ... this critical aspect of the GIRs, and are then able to consider how they may contribute in innovative ways to teaching the GIRs."

The second amendment was not voted upon due to time constraints. The ECS will vote on the amendment in the next faculty meeting in February.

According to UA President Noah Jessop '09, Winston's amendment may represent disagreement among Faculty as to how the GIR and HASS changes are being approached. The ECS has been given the job to amend and change the GIR and HASS requirements, however, this subcommittee does not represent each and every MIT department. Jessop said, "As of now, my understanding is that most faculty are satisfied with the job the ECS has been doing."

The Student Committee on Educational Policy polled students on the GIR and HASS changes last term. Results were published and

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## Chomsky Condemns U.S. and Israel For Civilian Deaths in Gaza Strip

By Elijah Jordan Turner  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

At a talk last night about the current situation in Gaza, Professor of Linguistics Noam A. Chomsky came down hard on Israel for its frequent violence against Palestinian civilians and chastised the United States for enabling the Jewish state to carry out these actions with impunity. He also used the opportunity to touch upon broader issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The talk, which took place at Sloan's Wong Auditorium, was part of the Center of International Studies' Starr Forum lecture series.

Chomsky, who first made a name for himself in the fields of linguistics and psychology, is well-known in the political community for his strong criticism of Israel and its supporters. Word of a lecture by Chomsky always spreads fast, so it was no surprise that when he took the podium just after 4 p.m., the room's nearly three hundred chairs were all occupied — with more watching a video feed in the lobby.

His antipathy toward Israeli actions was immediately clear as he opened his remarks by referring to Dec. 27, 2008 as the first day of the "U.S.-Israel attack on helpless Palestinians" in the Gaza Strip. Calling the military and media campaigns meticulously planned, he likened



NOAH SPIES—THE TECH  
Professor Noam A. Chomsky lectured on Tuesday, Jan. 13 about the ongoing Israeli incursion into Gaza. Chomsky asserted that Israeli provocation was at the root of the continuing conflict with Palestinians and Hamas.

current Israeli actions in Gaza to its attacks in Lebanon during the summer of 2006. Both actions have come under fire for large numbers of civilian casualties and with allegations of disproportionate use of force, while Israel has maintained that its

actions have always been aimed at militant targets.

Chomsky, however, stated that the months of planning behind the ongoing incursion mean that one can be

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## New Commingled Recycling Program Will Be Rolled Out by End of Spring

By Robert McQueen  
STAFF REPORTER

Soon, recycling at the Institute could have a one-bin solution.

In an effort to increase recycling participation, the Department of Facilities has adopted a new comingled recycling program that does away with the need to sort between bottles and paper. Students and faculty will simply drop their recyclables into all-purpose recycling bins.

Commingled or "single stream" recycling began in Building 12, where the special recycling bins were deployed in August. The bins have since spread to most of the buildings in the Main Group, and will soon serve the entire campus.

"We plan to have Single Stream fully operational in all MIT locations, including student dormitories, by April," said Jarrod Jones, Recycling and Solid Waste Management

Supervisor.

At a talk about single stream recycling on Tuesday, Jones explained the benefits of recycling. According to Jones, recycling improves sustainability on campus while saving MIT money; It costs about \$80 to dispose of one ton of trash, Jones said, but only \$35 to dispose of one ton of recyclables.

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## An Interactive Lecture for Modern Times: TEAL Uses Tech. to Improve Education

By Sara Rimer  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

For as long as anyone can remember, introductory physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was taught in a vast, windowless amphitheater known by its number, 26-100.

Squeezed into the rows of hard, folding wooden seats, as many as 300 freshmen anxiously took notes while the professor covered multiple blackboards with mathematical formulas and explained the principles of Newtonian mechanics and electromagnetism.

But with physicists across the country pushing for universities to do a better job of teaching science, MIT has made a striking change.

The physics department has replaced the traditional large introductory lecture with smaller classes that emphasize hands-on, interactive, collaborative learning. Last fall, after years of experimentation and debate and resistance from students, who initially petitioned against it, the department made the change permanent. Already, attendance is up, and the failure rate has dropped by more than 50 percent.

MIT is not alone. Other universities are changing their ways, among them Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, North Carolina

State University, the University of Maryland, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Harvard. In these schools, physicists have been pioneering new teaching methods drawn from research showing that most students learn fundamental concepts more successfully, and are better able to apply them, through interactive, collaborative, student-centered learning.

The traditional 50-minute lecture was geared more toward physics majors, said Eric Mazur, a physicist at Harvard who is a pioneer of the new approach, and whose work has influenced the change at MIT.

"The people who wanted to understand," he said, "had the discipline, the urge, to sit down afterwards and say, 'Let me figure this out.'" But for the majority, Mazur said, a different approach is needed.

"Just as you can't become a marathon runner by watching marathons on TV," he said, "likewise for science, you have to go through the thought processes of doing science and not just watch your instructor do it."

Another proponent of the new approach is Carl Wieman, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who directs

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OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

This past Sunday, an MIT logo appeared in the snow in the courtyard bordered by buildings 18, 26, 8, and 6. More snowfall is expected this Thursday.



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Hundreds participate in pantsless subway ride

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# WORLD & NATION

## Clinton Pledges to Revive International Accords

By Farah Stockman  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Senator Hillary Clinton pledged Tuesday that as secretary of state she would revitalize US leadership by embracing a host of treaties on arms control and climate change that the Bush administration has been reluctant to endorse.

In five hours of testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, she said she would revive attempts to ratify or renegotiate several international accords, including the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which bans nuclear weapons testing; the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, which stops the production of fuel for nuclear weapons; and the START agreement between the United States and Russia, which expires in December. The treaty reduces stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

In addition, Clinton said during her confirmation hearing that President-elect Barack Obama would appoint a negotiator to international efforts to halt global climate change.

"The best way to advance America's interests in reducing global threats and seizing global oppor-

tunities is to design and implement global solutions," Clinton said in her opening remarks. "That isn't a philosophical point. This is our reality."

Her statements marked a drastic departure from the Bush administration's broad skepticism toward treaties, and were greeted enthusiastically by Democrats and many Republicans on the committee, as well as by specialists on arms control and the environment.

"The Obama administration recognizes that to deal with international challenges like nuclear proliferation and nuclear weapons, we need greater cooperation," said Daryl Kimball of the Arms Control Association, a Washington-based nonproliferation think tank. "If we are going to improve the global system, the United States is going to have to lead by example, and these three initiatives have been something that other countries expect the United States to take action on."

However, some conservatives have already begun to campaign against the treaties, which need a two-thirds majority in the Senate to pass, saying that they bring the United States closer to world government

and unwisely tie US hands.

"More senators should be educated about the sovereignty implications of these treaties," said Steven Groves of the conservative Heritage Foundation, although he acknowledged that "it could still be a tough fight to block them."

Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry, who made his debut Tuesday as chair of the committee — a position recently relinquished by Vice President-elect Joe Biden — warmly welcomed Clinton's pledges to take climate change seriously and made his own impassioned plea for US participation in international efforts.

"Many today do not see climate change as a national security threat, but it is," Kerry said in his opening remarks.

Throughout the hearing, Clinton commented with confidence on a wide range of foreign policy questions.

On Iran, Clinton declined to say whether she would soon meet with Iranian officials, but said the new administration would use both sanctions and diplomacy to dissuade Tehran from continuing uranium enrichment.

## Company That Sells Botox, Has Product for Your Eyelashes

By Natasha Singer  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Allergan, the company that turned an obscure muscle paralyzer for eyelid spasms, Botox, into a blockbuster wrinkle smoother, hopes to perform cosmetic alchemy yet again. At the end of the month, the company plans to introduce Latisse, the first federally approved prescription drug for growing longer, lusher lashes.

The product has the same formula as Allergan's eye drops for glaucoma, called Lumigan. It is one of several drugs in a category known as prostaglandin analogs, which are meant to reduce dangerous pressure in the eyeball. But as a side effect, the treatment tends to make the eyelashes of many patients longer and fuller. Some medical experts say they worry that cosmetic customers may occasionally experience some of the glaucoma drug's other, less desirable side effects, which can include red, itchy eyes and changes in eyelid pigmentation. Some financial analysts, meanwhile, wonder how many people will be willing to spend \$120 for a monthly dose of lash-lengthening Latisse.

## Broker Tied to Madoff Skips Hearing in Mass.

By Beth Healy  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Even if Robert Jaffe had shown up Tuesday for his scheduled deposition before the Massachusetts Securities Division, he probably would not have answered any questions about alleged swindler Bernard L. Madoff, a securities lawyer said.

Jaffe, a registered broker who for years raised money for Madoff, was supposed to appear before state regulators Tuesday morning, under subpoena. His spokesman said: "Bob is under doctor's care. The secretary of state had been informed of this and had agreed to an adjournment."

The spokesman, Elliot Sloane, said that Jaffe's condition was not serious, but that his lawyers had made Secretary of State William F. Galvin aware Jaffe would not appear.

Brian McNiff, a spokesman for Galvin, said, "The Securities Division is preparing to enforce the subpoena and to take all other necessary actions to protect Massachusetts investors."

Jaffe is under scrutiny for his role at Cohmad Securities Corp., a brokerage firm on the same floor of the same downtown Manhattan office building as Madoff's. Cohmad, which also had an office in Boston's Back Bay, counts Madoff among its officers.

Jaffe is currently in Palm Beach.

## Some States in a Pinch May Raise Gasoline Tax

By Kate Galbraith  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Several states are considering the rare step of raising gasoline taxes to help fill growing budget gaps and potholed roads. Politicians in California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Illinois and Oregon, for example, are introducing bills that would raise gasoline taxes for road and bridge repair, as state legislatures around the country begin their new sessions.

In Iowa, top legislators in both houses would support an increase. And in Ohio, a state task force last week recommended raising the gas tax by 13 cents a gallon.

"I've opposed virtually every revenue enhancer in terms of tax increases up to this point," said John E. Bradley, a Illinois state representative who is chairman of the House Revenue Committee.

This year, he is introducing a bill with a motor-fuel surcharge of 8 cents a gallon. He was persuaded to change his stance, he said, because of the urgent needs of Illinois roads and highways.

## Criticism of Ex-Official in Hiring at Justice Department

By Eric Lichtblau  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A former senior official at the Justice Department routinely hired Republicans, Federalist Society members and "RTAs" — "Right-Thinking Americans" — for what were supposed to be nonpolitical posts and gave them plum assignments on civil rights cases, an internal department report released Tuesday found.

The former official, Bradley Schlozman, who helped lead the Civil Rights Division for about three years beginning in 2003, also gave false statements to Congress when he denied factoring politics into his hiring decisions, the report from the inspector general and Office of Professional Responsibility at the Justice Department found.

But last week federal prosecutors

declined to bring criminal charges against Schlozman, who left the department in 2007 amid an uproar over accusations of widespread politicization.

In the Civil Rights Division, regarded as a cornerstone of the Justice Department since the days of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, the investigation found that political supervisors charged with enforcing federal bias laws had illegally discriminated against job applicants seen as too liberal. The report said Schlozman's superiors had ignored warnings about his brash management style and his political agenda.

A lawyer for Schlozman, William Jordan, called the report "inaccurate, incomplete, biased, unsupported by the law and contrary to the facts," and said that "the so-called investigation was a Star Chamber-type inquiry from the start."

The investigation grew out of the controversy in 2007 over the dismissals of at least eight U.S. attorneys, which led to the resignation of Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and spurred accusations that the Bush administration had allowed political ideology to trump law enforcement decisions.

The report goes beyond the conclusions of three previous internal Justice Department inquiries in exposing the depths of political interference with personnel decisions. The conclusions of the latest inquiry, the first to focus on the Civil Rights Division, are likely to figure in the Senate hearing Thursday for Eric H. Holder Jr.'s confirmation as attorney general.

The report makes its case against Schlozman in his own words, drawn from e-mail and voice mail messages to colleagues and underlings.

## WEATHER

### Shiver Me Timbers

By Brian H. Tang  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After a seemingly benign start to the winter, the snow started flying just before Christmas and has really piled up around these parts. The shivering and shoveling will continue as another storm arrives on our doorstep tomorrow afternoon. Albeit, this storm will minor compared to its predecessors as it will move through fast and contribute at most a couple more inches to the snowpack.

However, our preexisting, deep snowpack will allow the coldest air yet this snowy winter to come down unabated from polar regions. The high reflectivity of the snow and large latent energy required to either melt or sublimate ice robs much of the sun's energy that would go in to heating the air resulting in an air mass locked in the deep freeze. Unfortunately, it will be ours Friday morning. With the added wind, wind chill readings will be dangerously low so you will want to dress in extra layers and cover up any skin to prevent frost bite if you have to venture outside for any length of time early Friday. The good news is that the bitter cold is out as fast as it arrives as temperatures rebound by Sunday into next week.

#### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, breezy, and cold. High 22°F (-6°C).

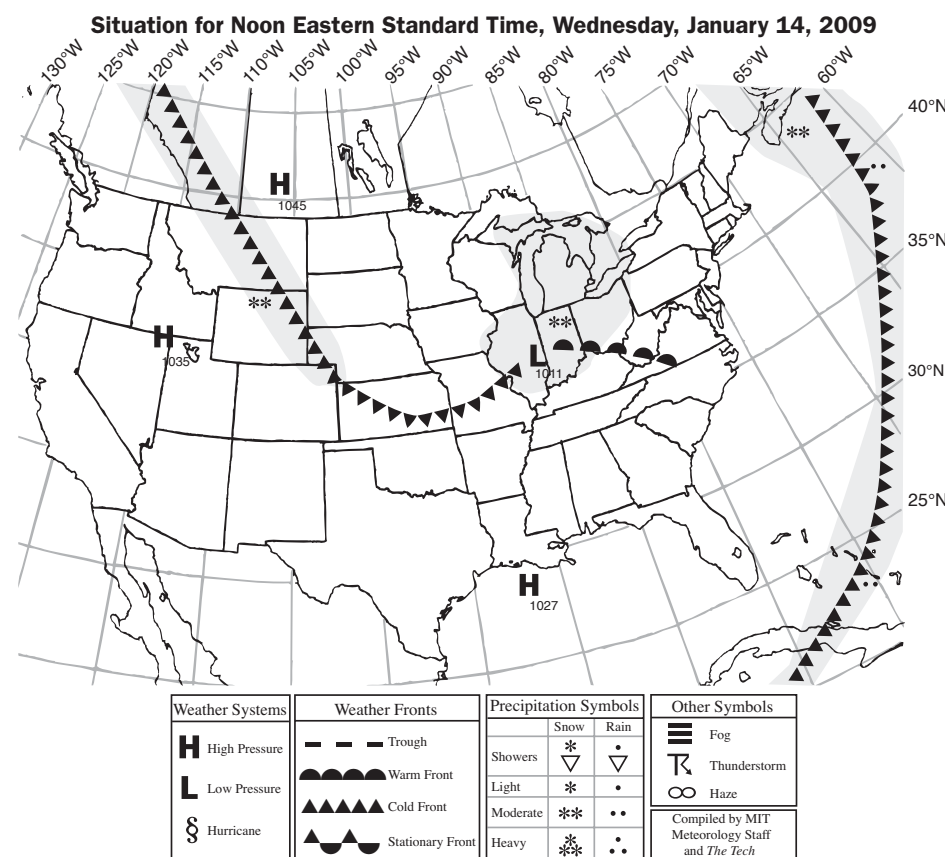
**Tonight:** Cloudy. Ice cold. Low 10°F (-12°C).

**Tomorrow:** Cloudy with light snow in the afternoon. Colder than the economy. High 18°F (-8°C).

**Tomorrow night:** Clear and breezy. Colder than the Oklahoma City Thunder. Low -2°F (-19°C); Wind chill -20°F (-29°C).

**Friday:** Sunny. Colder than being Rickrolled. High 14°F (-10°C).

**Saturday:** Sunny and yes, still IHTFP cold. Low 3°F (-16°C). High 22°F (-6°C).



# Ethiopians Withdraw From Bases in Somalia

By Mohammed Ibrahim and Jeffrey Gettleman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA

Ethiopian troops pulled out from crucial bases in Mogadishu on Tuesday, leaving a power vacuum that was quickly filled by Islamist fighters who seized their positions.

It appeared to be the end of two years of bloody Ethiopian intervention in this chaotic nation. Hundreds of cheering Somalis lined the streets to watch the dozens of Ethiopian military trucks rumbling out of Mogadishu, Somalia's bullet-pocked capital.

While hundreds of Ethiopian troops still remained at various bases across the city, Ethiopian commanders promised that all troops would leave the country by Tuesday night.

"I am happy they finally left our neighborhood," said Fadumo Mohammed Jimale, an 18-year-old whose family had been displaced by intense urban street fighting. "They killed my father."

The Ethiopian troops stormed into Somalia in 2006 to oust an Islamist movement that briefly con-

trolled much of the country and to help shore up Somalia's weak transitional government.

It did not go as intended. The Ethiopian intervention set off a bitter guerrilla war, killing thousands of civilians and driving nearly 1 million people out of Mogadishu.

Many Mogadishu neighborhoods are now like ghost towns, while the transitional government's zone of control has shrunk to a few city blocks in the capital and in Baidoa, a market town where the parliament meets. And Somalia's Islamist movement has made a steady comeback, with Islamist factions again controlling much of the country.

The Ethiopian troops lost hundreds of soldiers in Somalia, and on Tuesday an Ethiopian commander bid the country farewell.

"We came to Somalia to help the transitional federal government," said the commander, Col. Gabre Yohannes. "We paid blood and property for that reason. That effort meant that the young generation of Somalis will get peace."

Many Western diplomats and other Somalia analysts have warned

that once all the Ethiopians are gone, the various Islamist factions will unleash their considerable firepower on one another in a scramble to take over the country. Some of that fighting has already kicked off, with dozens of people killed in the past week in combat between moderate and radical Islamist factions. On Tuesday, gunmen from one Islamist faction rushed into an old pasta factory in central Mogadishu that the Ethiopians had been using as a base. The Islamists were quick to take credit for the Ethiopian withdrawal.

"We drove the Ethiopians out by means of muscle and bullet," announced Sheik Yusuf Mohammed Siyad, an Islamist leader. "Today, we got the victory we were expecting. We will restore order in this neighborhood."

Many Somalis suspect the Ethiopians may stay in the rural parts of Somalia or near the border for some time. Beyond that, there are still more than 3,000 African Union troops in Mogadishu, many hunkered down at the airport and presidential palace. Their job is to protect the transitional government.

# Stimulus Also Requires Stability, Bernanke Says

By Julia Werdigier and Edmund L. Andrews

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

The chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben S. Bernanke, warned Tuesday that the highly unpopular job of using taxpayer money to bail out financial institutions in the United States and other countries was far from over.

One day after President Bush, at the request of President-elect Barack Obama, asked Congress to free up the second half of the money for the Treasury Department's \$700 billion financial rescue program, Bernanke cautioned that banks and other lending institutions were still not functioning properly and would probably need additional money.

"More capital injections and guarantees may become necessary to ensure stability and the normalization of credit markets," Bernanke said during a speech at the London School of Economics.

Though the Fed chairman acknowledged that people in many countries were "understandably concerned" about pumping government

money into the financial industry while often turning a cold shoulder to other sectors, he defended the effort as unpleasant but necessary.

"This disparate treatment, unappealing as it is, appears unavoidable," he said. "Our economic system is critically dependent on the free flow of credit, and the consequences for the broader economy of financial instability are thus powerful and quickly felt."

Indeed, Bernanke suggested that Obama might want to revive the original idea of the rescue plan to buy unsecuritized mortgage-backed securities and other illiquid assets. That idea was originally the centerpiece of the program as it was first promoted by the current Treasury secretary, Henry M. Paulson Jr. Paulson abandoned the idea before getting started, arguing that it would be faster and more efficient to inject capital directly into the biggest banks and investment firms.

In a separate appearance on Tuesday in Washington, the Fed's vice chairman, Donald L. Kohn, said that financial institutions were still "clogged" by hard-to-sell assets and

still needed help.

Bernanke supported the efforts by Congress and Obama to put together a fiscal stimulus program worth roughly \$800 billion over two years that would be weighted heavily toward big new spending on infrastructure projects, like bridges and schools, "green" energy projects and expanded safety-net programs like unemployment benefits. Both Kohn and Bernanke seemed to be warning lawmakers that they could not focus exclusively on comparatively popular spending and tax-cut programs.

A stimulus package relying on extensive borrowing "could provide a significant boost to economic activity," Bernanke said. But "fiscal actions are unlikely to promote a lasting recovery unless they are accompanied by strong measures to further stabilize and strengthen the financial system."

Beyond buying troubled assets from banks, Bernanke said, another option is to provide asset guarantees under which the government would absorb part of the banks' losses in exchange for warrants or other forms of compensation.

# Japan's Governing Party Is Plunging in Polls

By Norimitsu Onishi

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

Is this the beginning of the end for Japan's long-governing Liberal Democratic Party?

A lawmaker championing government reform quit the party on Tuesday, saying that the administration of Prime Minister Taro Aso was not committed to change and had lost the people's trust.

The high-profile resignation came as Aso's approval ratings have fallen and his party's chances of losing a coming election have risen sharply. Analysts say it may embolden other lawmakers, who have signaled similar intentions, to act.

"Unfortunately, Aso's Liberal Democratic Party has practiced politics completely disconnected from the people," said Yoshihiko Watanabe, who served as minister of administrative reform in two previous administrations, and had become one of the most recognizable faces pressing for change in the government bureaucracy.

Opinion polls published this

week by major Japanese newspapers showed Aso's approval ratings slipping below 20 percent, a danger sign in a country where governments with ratings below 30 percent have fallen.

Dissatisfaction with his government was underscored by voters' strong rejection of free money — Aso's plan to jump-start the economy through cash handouts of at least \$130 per person — as a cynical attempt to woo voters, polls showed.

Aso, who must call a general election by September, rejected pressure from Watanabe and the opposition to do so immediately. He said he would not consider dissolving parliament's lower house and calling an election until the nation's budget was passed in April. The prime minister appeared to be counting on a bounce in the polls from the cash handouts. But more than 70 percent of voters opposed them, saying they would do nothing to stimulate the overall economy, according to polls.

"Voters have already given up on him and on the party," said Naoto Nonaka, a professor of politics at Gakushuin University here.

Members of Aso's party — who chose him last September in the hopes of riding his coattails — appeared increasingly to be counting him out as well. Worried about their survival, they could follow Watanabe out of the party, after the budget is passed in April, to run for re-election as independents.

"Mr. Watanabe is playing a political game and jumping around to draw attention, but many around him are thinking the same thing," said Nonaka, whose recent book is "The End of Liberal Democratic Party Politics." "I expect we'll see even bigger developments in April or May."

Defeat for the Liberal Democratic Party, which has led Japan since 1955 for all but 11 months, could lead to a long-expected realignment in Japan's political landscape. Senior members of the party have already publicly put out feelers to the main opposition Democratic Party. Smaller opposition parties — including the People's New Party, which was formed in 2005 by former members of the Liberal Democratic Party — have begun positioning themselves.

# Under Pressure, Citigroup Plans To Split Itself Up

By Eric Dash

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK

Staggered by losses despite two federal rescues, Citigroup is accelerating moves to dismantle parts of its troubled financial empire in an effort to placate regulators and investors.

Under pressure from Washington and Wall Street, the financial giant plans to split itself in two, people with knowledge of the plan said Tuesday, heralding the end of the landmark merger that created Citigroup a decade ago.

Citigroup, which originally planned to sell businesses it no longer deems central in coming years, is speeding up the process to mitigate potentially billions of new losses, these people said. The government, which has twice supplied it with taxpayer support during the financial crisis, wants to avoid a repeat, said another person with knowledge of the situation.

But some analysts and investors questioned whether the plan, which included the announcement Tuesday of the hiving off of its prized Smith Barney brokerage, goes far enough to address Citigroup's troubles.

"They have moved the chips around, but it's the same game," said Meredith A. Whitney, an Oppenheimer banking analyst who has been critical of the company. "They still have the same capital needs."

Citigroup faces a devastating fourth quarter, with expectations of a \$10 billion operating loss, and potentially billions more this year.

# Harvard's Palepu Caught Up In India's Enron

By Robert Weisman

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Accounting professor Krishna G. Palepu, one of the leading lights at Harvard Business School, has long advocated sweeping reforms in the auditing business, but he was under no illusions that such measures would always succeed in preventing abuses.

"If there is a crook in the system," Palepu said in a 1997 interview with the Globe, "it is going to be pretty tough to detect it."

His words are proving prescient. Palepu, 55, resigned as a director of Indian-based technology services company Satyam Computer Services Inc. on Dec. 28, nine days before it touched off a raging business scandal in India and an embarrassment at Harvard Business School in Boston.

Last week, founder and chairman Byrraju Ramalinga Raju quit Satyam after admitting to fraudulent accounting — among other things, falsifying a cash balance of \$1 billion — in a case that's being called India's Enron. Raju, an alumnus of a Harvard Business School executive education program, was arrested by Indian authorities last Friday, along with his brother B. Rama Raju, the Satyam managing director. They are currently being held in Chanchalguda Central Prison in Hyderabad, awaiting trial on criminal conspiracy and other charges.

Palepu, in a statement Tuesday, said he didn't learn about the fraud until after he had resigned from the company. The scandal has rocked the Indian business community, caused anxiety among other Indian outsourcing companies, and angered Satyam investors.

# Yahoo Hands the Reins to the Former Chief of Autodesk

By Miguel Helft

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

In tapping Carol Bartz as Yahoo's new chief executive on Tuesday, the company's board has selected a seasoned manager and tough-minded technology executive who established Autodesk, the maker of design software, as a market leader and successfully steered it through a boom and bust cycle.

Bartz, who is well regarded in Silicon Valley, where she has a reputation as a decisive leader, will most likely need all the skills she developed during her 14 years as chief executive of Autodesk to turn around Yahoo. The Internet company is reeling after a turbulent year in which it conducted failed merger negotiations with Microsoft, saw its position in the search and online advertising business deteriorate and suffered two rounds of layoffs and a string of defections from its executive ranks.

In a conference call with analysts, Bartz, 60, who is executive chairman of Autodesk, acknowledged that Yahoo faced significant challenges but said she believed that the company's strong brand and market position gave it a "huge opportunity."

# Listening to Schroeder: Scholars Decode 'Peanuts' Music

By April Dembosky

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

In a "Peanuts" strip from the mid-1950s, Charlie Brown walks through the first panel and finds Schroeder sitting in front of an adult-size hi-fi, his ear to the speaker. "Shh," Schroeder says, "I'm listening to Beethoven's Ninth." Charlie Brown inspects Schroeder's outfit. "In an overcoat?" he asks. Schroeder leans even closer to the speaker and responds, "The first movement was so beautiful it gave me the chills!"

In the world of "Peanuts," of course, Schroeder was the Beethoven-obsessed music nerd who lost patience when Lucy interrupted his practice and who called time-outs as a baseball catcher to share composer trivia with the pitcher. Yet musicologists and art curators have learned that there was much more than a punch line to Charles Schulz's invocation of Beethoven's music.

"If you don't read music and you can't identify the music in the strips, then you lose out on some of the meaning," said William Meredith, the director of the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies at San Jose State University, who has studied hundreds of Beethoven-themed "Peanuts" strips.

When Schroeder pounded on his piano, his eyes clenched in a trance, the notes floating above his head were no random ink spots dropped into the key of G. Schulz carefully chose each snatch of music he drew and transcribed the notes from the score. More than an illustration, the music was a soundtrack to the strip, introducing the characters' state of emotion, prompting one of them to ask a question or punctuating an interaction.

# OPINION

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## Minimum Nutritional Stupidity

I've been hearing for years that MIT people are the smartest people on the planet. Well, I've tried my hardest to believe this but the news about the "minimum nutritional fee" has utterly destroyed my faith. The "minimum nutritional fee" is probably the worst possible idea involving food on campus that has ever been thought and is a miserable mark of shame on our existence as an intellectual body.

MIT's only mission in campus dining

should be to feed students, period. We the students pay an outrageous amount of money for this education, and in return MIT seems hesitant when representing student interests in such critical matters like food. Why does MIT let business concerns come into play at all in this process? MIT should show some guts when it comes to getting businesses in line with student interests. I cite the enforced monopoly of New Ashdown Dining as an example.

The "minimum nutritional fee" continues this despicable trend. Instead of bringing food to the students, MIT is going to require us to

spend a certain amount of money on their sanctioned monopolies. They know we want to eat healthy food, but instead of making one tiny logical step in the thought process, i.e. "let's bring some healthy options onto campus for them," the thought is, "let's force them to pay money on the current bad system." Maybe the promised option to spend the fee with coupons at Trader Joe's is supposed to make up for it. They fail, once again, to realize that Trader Joe's is over there and MIT is here on campus. Bring the healthy food to us. It's not that hard.

Benjamin T. Switala  
Class of 2009

## A Year to Remember

### Brief Thoughts on 2008

Andrew Lukmann

Soaring Fuel Prices. Subprime Mortgage Crisis. Chengdu Earthquake. Georgia. The Olympics. Phelps. Musharraf. Recession. Iraq. Bailout. Large Hadron Collider. An Obama Victory! Madoff. Plummeting Fuel Prices. Gaza. Leap Second.

There are many adjectives that will be used to describe the last year — both today and in the future — however, 'unimportant' will certainly not be one of them. The year 2008 will be one for the history books — a historically and culturally significant year filled with great highs and deep, distressing lows.

This year will be remembered as the start of what will likely be considered the most significant economic downturn in the United States since the Great Depression. It will be remembered as a time of great unease and a precipitous drop in our collective confidence. However, it will also be remembered for a remarkable thing — the year when a majority of the voters put aside their racial biases and elected Barack Obama the first black President of the United States.

This year will be remembered for the collapse of the mortgage industry due to abuse, negligence and fraud in the subprime lending market. It will be remembered for the resulting

collapse of the banking industry and the \$700 billion bailout proffered by the government to stem the tide of panic. It will be remembered for the resulting recession and job losses that have so tightly squeezed American families.

At the same time, however, people in the future will recall that in 2008, America elected a President who promulgated a vision to strengthen the ranks of the middle class, restore sensible tax policy and invest in infrastructure and renewable energy — giving the average American a glimmer of hope for a brighter future.

This was a year when American hopes and dreams played center stage. People saw their picture of the 'American Dream' — a house and a couple of cars on a plot in the suburbs — dimmed by seemingly endless increases in fuel prices, by the sinking economy and more than a million foreclosures. Many universities, charitable foundations and non-profit groups (among others) saw their dreams of doing good work stopped or hampered by losses in Bernard Madoff's long-running criminal fraud.

At the same time, however, in spite of our difficulties, this country also found opportunities to celebrate in our unity, as we always do from time to time. Few Americans will soon forget the captivating triumph of Michael Phelps in his pursuit of a stunning 8 Olympic golds. 143 Million people — almost half of the

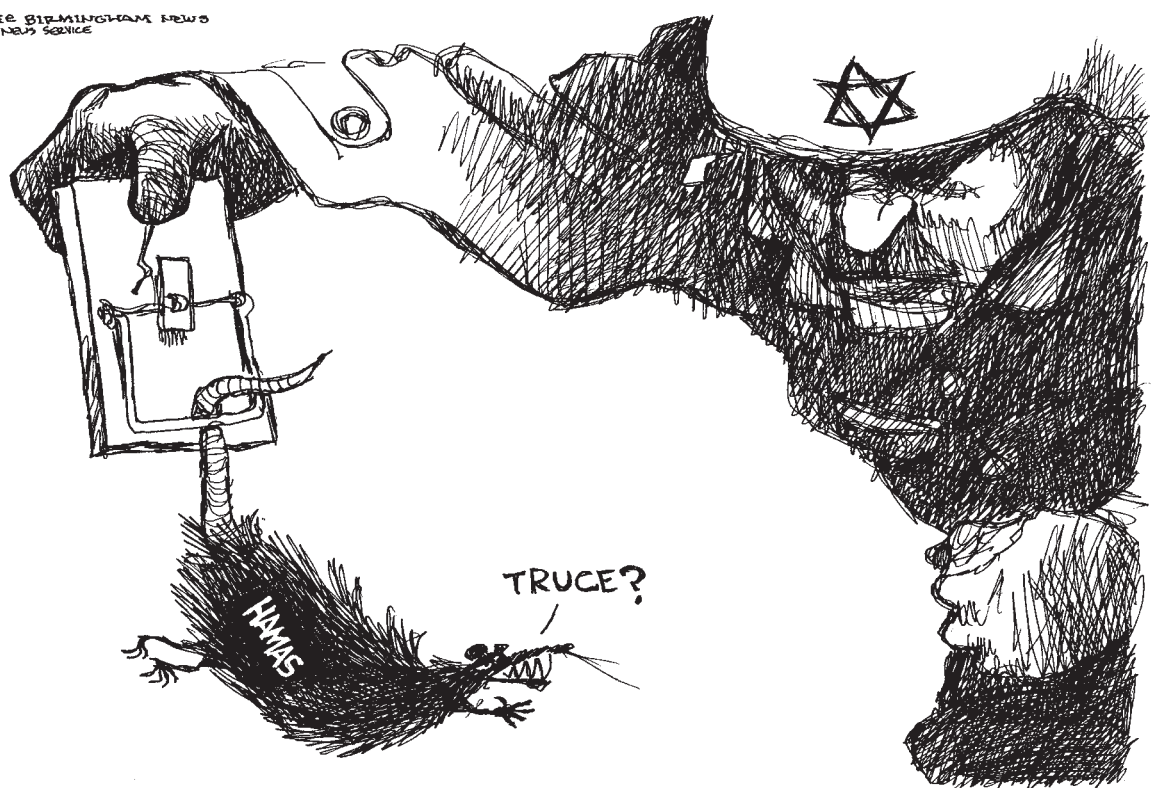
population of the United States — joined together to watch our athletes compete with the best of the best on the world stage.

Likewise, few will forget the thrill of a well fought presidential race — from the primaries to the memorable general election. The opportunity for this nation to participate in our national political exercise, even in the depths of depression, particularly because of the strength of the two candidates was a unifying experience in itself. The memories of November 4th, 2008 will escape few that were alive on that date — truly a watershed moment in American history.

Now that we have turned the page on 2008 and are about to turn the page on the current presidential administration there are many reasons to have hope for the future. We are certainly not out of the woods on the economic front, and we still have 'enemy combatants' in Guantanamo and more than a hundred thousand of our young men and women stationed abroad, but at least we can rest assured that there is change ahead.

It's now 2009, and though we should certainly put to bed many of the poor memories of 2008, we should both pause to remember the good moments and should take special care not to forget the lessons that have been learned so painfully these last twelve months — lest they too soon be repeated again.

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# Is Privacy an Antiquated Concept?

## The Clash of 20th Century Values and 21st Century Technology

Ethan Solomon

Last month, the *Harvard Crimson* published an editorial commenting on the MIT Media Lab's collective intelligence experiment with about 100 MIT students from Random Hall.

The experiment, performed under the direction of Alex Pentland PhD '82, provided the students with smartphones which tracked the user's phone calls, e-mails, text messages, and more. This data was collected by the Media Lab and used to develop a "moving picture of the dorm's social network," according to description published in *The New York Times*.

*The Crimson*, though not critical of the experiment, characterizes it as a "deal with the digital devil," and suggests that collective intelligence, like the data gathered by the Media Lab, can be hijacked by "powerful firms or the government" in true Orwellian fashion. While this is certainly true, the true danger comes in the potential for knee-jerk condemnation of a technology that today's legislators cannot hope to fully comprehend.

*The Crimson* correctly advises that "any new regulations on this booming sector of the economy will have to be carefully crafted." Collective intelligence could be maliciously used by oppressive governments, health insurance providers, and others to target potential dissidents or deny healthcare coverage to at-risk individuals.

However, at this stage in the growth of col-

lective intelligence, while asking for regulation may sound prudent, it could be dangerously premature.

Like with many 21st century advancements, our government is usually slow to catch on. In 2006, former Senator Ted Stevens, head of the Senate Commerce Committee, famously described the internet as a "series of tubes," and claimed that "an internet" sent by his staff arrived late because said tubes were filled.

Additionally, our government has long dragged its feet on stem cell research legislation — a field of research which could have been producing life-saving advances by now had it not been "delayed" by government delay and inaction.

These kinds of things transcend party lines. Congress doesn't use the internet and doesn't understand the Internet the way our generation does, and by extension, they don't understand the power of collective intelligence. It has nothing to do with how capable or intelligent our congressmen and women are — it's a simple function of how they grew up understanding information, technology, and privacy.

The past 15 years have arguably seen more change in those three aspects of society than the half-century before. Trusting these people to regulate something they don't, and cannot understand, like digital privacy, is a risky road to go down.

As *The Times* mentioned in their piece, collective intelligence has an enormous potential to change the world for the better. As an ex-

ample, Google recently launched "Google Flu Trends" (<http://www.google.org/flutrends/>), which can determine locations of flu outbreaks based on queries for flu symptoms.

This is only possible thanks to the aggregation of data linking keywords to users' locations, but it's not hard to imagine paranoid baby boomers in Congress demanding that Google dissociate search terms from location under the fear that such information could be abused. Though the *Crimson* rightly suggests "carefully crafted" regulation to prevent these kinds of missteps, it's hard to be careful when the people doing the crafting do not truly understand what they're dealing with.

But maybe this issue won't be a problem for future generations of lawmakers. There is growing evidence to suggest that the modern obsession with privacy is a thing of the 20th century. Take the increasingly-popular Twitter. With an incredible growth rate and over 5 million visitors in September 2008, Twitter allows users to voluntarily divulge their location and activities to any of their friends (or the general public).

Facebook profiles are also a treasure trove of willingly provided information: who your

friends are, where you are, where you're from, your favorite movies, TV shows, books, and more. And the more normal it is for this information to be public, the harder it is for people to use this information maliciously.

Companies like Yahoo and Twitter have recently learned the hard way that password/account protection questions like "what school did you go to?" and "what was your first pet's name?" are data that a quick Facebook check (or Wikipedia search, in Sarah Palin's case) can easily dig up. So they're changing these account protection tools to be compatible with an increasingly public digital world.

The ease with which a thief can steal your identity is a largely a function of how much information it is "normal" to divulge. So while you may have been shocked if a stranger approached you in 1994 and told you your birthday, hometown, high school, and favorite movie, it would be thoroughly unremarkable in 2009.

Privacy may very well be something wholly temporary, and that's not a bad thing. The sooner we stop trying to impose 20th century standards of privacy on 21st century technologies like collective intelligence, the better.

*There is growing evidence to suggest that the modern obsession with privacy is a thing of the 20th century. Take the increasingly-popular Twitter.*



## ARTS

## CD REVIEW

*Who Can Turn Skies Back and Begin Again?**Listening to Peter Grimes in the Twenty-First Century*

By Sudeep Agarwala

STAFF REPORTER

Sir Colin Davis, Chorus and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

*Peter Grimes*

Benjamin Britten

Philips, DUO — 20th Century Classics  
1978

**W**ho would've ever thought George Crabbe? In fact: who'd ever heard of George Crabbe?

Benjamin Britten's music itself tends to plumb uncharted tonal and intellectual space without the added issues of his texts, and when Britten chooses texts, he chooses carefully. Certainly, Britten's vocal works are littered with works from John Donne, T.S. Eliot, E.M. Forster, W.H. Auden and William Shakespeare — a not obvious, but also not unheard of, choice of authors to set to music. What is particularly stunning, however, is Britten's ear for the obscure, setting, among other things, the poetry of Christopher Smart, John Clare, Michaelangelo Buonarroti and, as it turns out, George Crabbe.

Sifting through the dregs of what history has deemed fit to record has its benefits, it turns out: Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears came across Crabbe's poem *The Borough* at Escondido, California in summer of 1941 and conceived of the opera, later formalized by the librettist Montagu Slater, whose title role Pears would come to premiere four years later.

But Britten's *Peter Grimes* is different from the character in the episode from Crabbe's poem. Both are outcasts from their society, both are accused of murdering their apprentices, both end up committing suicide. But whereas Crabbe's character is undoubtedly blackguard, Britten's Grimes is much more complex, his role in murder dubious, his psyche tormented by internal conflict and social scorn. It's this complexity that makes Grimes interesting: while other characters often prattle on, Grimes's gravity is a stark contrast — solemn, pensive and brooding, Grimes's music is pon-

derously beautiful.

It's worth noting: this is not the same beauty of traditional opera. Britten's music is somehow more fragile than Wagner or Verdi. While classical or romantic opera revels in rich orchestration and lush arias, Britten's opera revels in tonal precision and stunning harmonic relationships (when we first hear Peter Grimes, it is not in a richly orchestrated aria, but a spare, monotone, oath over an orchestral pedal note). This is music that's conceived in the sound world of Baroque opera and inhabiting the intimate setting of art song, yet performed in the space of an opera. It's no secret that Britten was writing for the clean, straight tone almost exclusive to his partner, the tenor Peter Pears, and that not many voices are suited for Britten's music.

It's here that Sir Colin Davis's recording of *Peter Grimes* (with Jon Vickers, Heather Harper and the chorus & orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, off the Philips label) often fails. An older recording, Davis's version was recommended as part of ten recommended recordings that offer a *précis* of twentieth century music as presented in Alex Ross's recent book, *The Rest is Noise*. Ross is right to tout this recording: Davis's conception of Britten's music somehow strikes home, capturing its place not only in British music and music in the twentieth century, but the sense of internal drama that is robust in Slater's libretto and represented in Britten's music. The orchestral performance on the recording is particularly striking — townsfolk are sure to never stray far from the madding crowd, while Grimes is other-worldly. Mob scenes performed with the chorus incite terror and, in their more thoughtful moments, a more haunting look at societal ineptitude.

Unfortunately, much of the solo performance on this recording is plagued by the vestiges of traditional opera. Vickers, singing the title role, captures the sound world that surrounds Britten's music, but often breaks into a lush vibrato that somehow breaks the reverie. Most frustrating of these is Grimes's famous first act aria "*Now the Great Bear and Ple-*

*iades*." As with the beginning of his appearance in the prologue, Grimes chants the entire text on a single note, briefly breaking into an atonal tirade in the middle of the piece. While Vickers begins the aria with a characteristic clean, straight tone, he develops a wide vibrato as the aria intensifies, somehow disrupting the tension between seemingly disjoint worlds of the singer and the orchestra. Other instances are also frustrating throughout the solo performances: messy intonation often obfuscates difficult intervals, and the ensemble work is sometimes careless in its articulation of the lines.

This is expected, to be sure, especially from a cast that is trained in traditional opera, and it would be unfair and close-minded to demand a repeat of Pears's performances with every new cast. However, it's worth noting the tension of Britten's intent with a performance of the work well after his death. Part of the difficulties of performing Peter Grimes is that it was very much written for the voice of Peter Pears and, in part, the soprano Joan Cross. Davis and the cast in this performance take these issues of

Britten's preference into account (certainly, a composer has some idea as to how the work should sound) but also expounds upon much of the music, depending on its own merits and independent of Britten's penchants (certainly, there's nothing to say that the composer knows how to perform the music best).

Regardless of these difficulties, however, Davis's performance presents a moving portrait of Peter Grimes. Despite his temper and personality, it's hard not to hear Britten telling of Peter Grimes's eventual undoing as a tale of persecution. Certainly, Britten's opera is first and foremost a tale about the gentle inhabitants of Crabbe's *Borough*. However, written during the mid-twentieth century, the work can't help but occupy a dual role in art and social commentary. An allegory for gruesome homosexual persecution, a diatribe against war and mob action, a strong statement of the importance of delineating individual rights against societal influence, the opera dangerously blurs a fine line between art and political manifesto. The same gales that plagued Britten's world hear their echo in *Peter Grimes*.

## STAFF PICKS

**Sam Markson:** "Gilfema and Either/Orchestra look solid, Wednesday and Saturday nights this week at the Regattabar. Also check out Chekhov's *The Seagull* at the Zero Arrow Theatre.

I might also head to Wally's (jazz every night, jam sessions that let in under-21-ers run on Saturday and Sunday) and/or The Fringe (free jazz at the Lilypad, 10 p.m. every Monday). Already planning for Joshua Redman Double Trio at Berklee Performance Center on the 22nd."

**Sudeep Agarwala:** "Thursday, 15 January, looks promising as Jeremy Denk plays music of Leon Kirchner with Paula Robison (flute), Corey Cerovsek (violin), Ayano Kataoka (percussion) at the Gardner Museum. Sunday at the Gardner also looks promising as Denk joins Corey Cerovsek (violin) and the Jupiter String Quartet for a Haydn and Chausson concert (<http://connect.gardnermuseum.org/>).

Britten fans will scratch an itch with Friday's (16 January) all-Britten concert at Jordan Hall by the Cantata Singers (<http://www.cantatasingers.org/>) (just a note of disclosure: I'm affiliated with this group ...). And finally, for the new(er) music fans, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP) will be presenting at the Boston ConNEction series at Jordan Hall on Saturday, 17 January (<http://www.bmop.org/>)."



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Taught by head coach Reggie Hebert, On-Ice Director for Pro-Ambitions Hockey Inc., and the coaching staff of the MIT Women's Club Hockey team. To register, email Co-Captain Anjuli Appapillai at [anjulita@mit.edu](mailto:anjulita@mit.edu), with your name, affiliation, approximate skill level (A-D), and whether you need to borrow gear. You must sign a waiver to participate.

more info at <http://web.mit.edu/club-hockey/www>

January 14,  
2009

# COMICS

The  
Tech

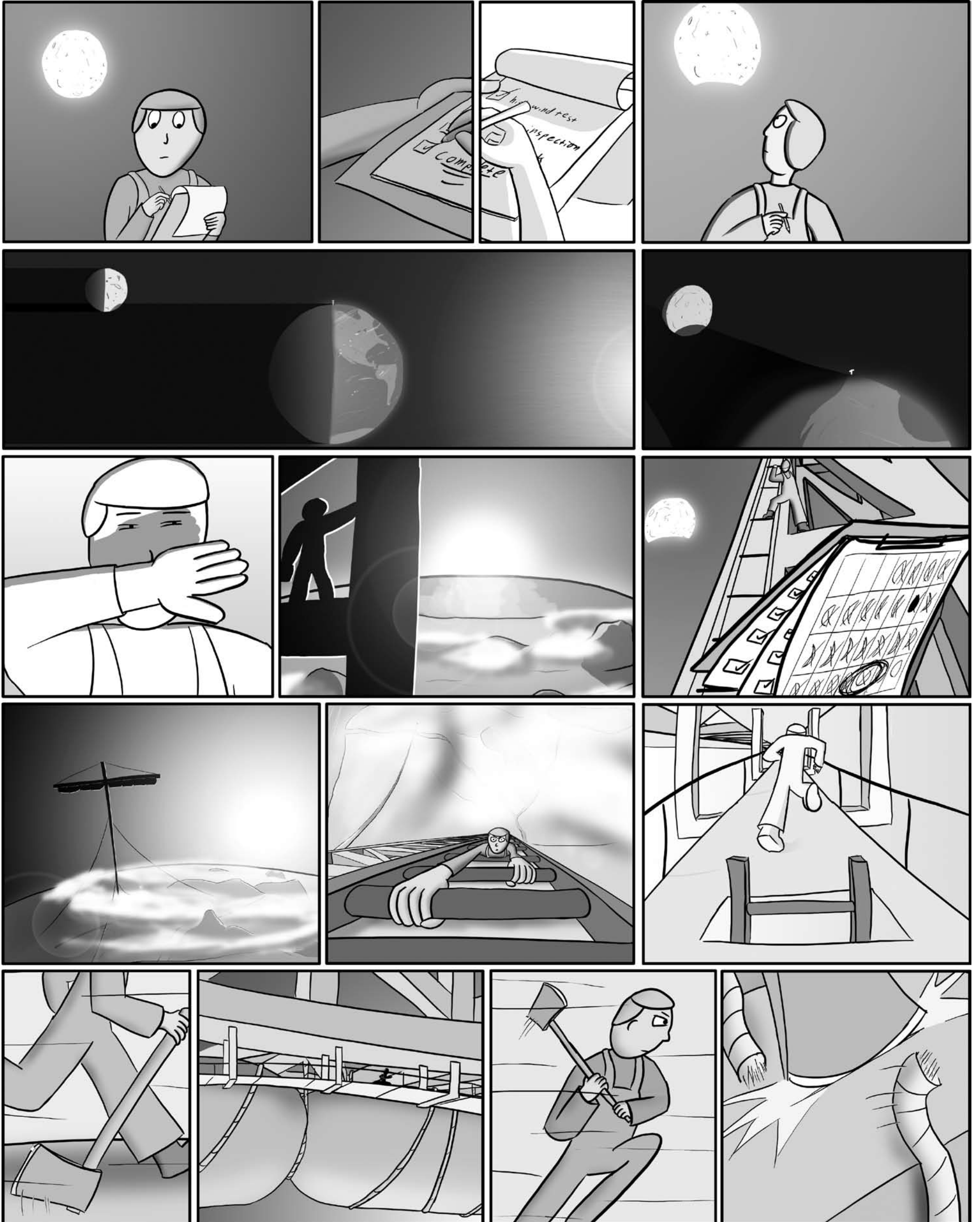
# FUN

Page  
7

# PAGES

Steal MyComic

by Michael Ciuffo



Interested in drawing comcs for *The Tech*?

Email [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)!

# Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

# Dilbert® by Scott Adams

## The Daily Blunderbuss

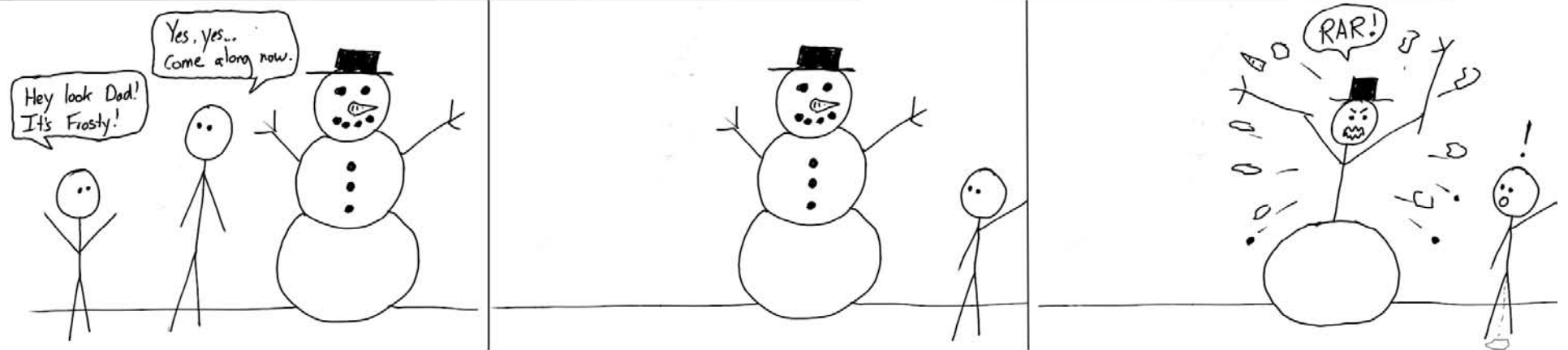
by Ben Peters

### Today's Recipe for Awesome

Winter jacket, gloves, boots and snowpants

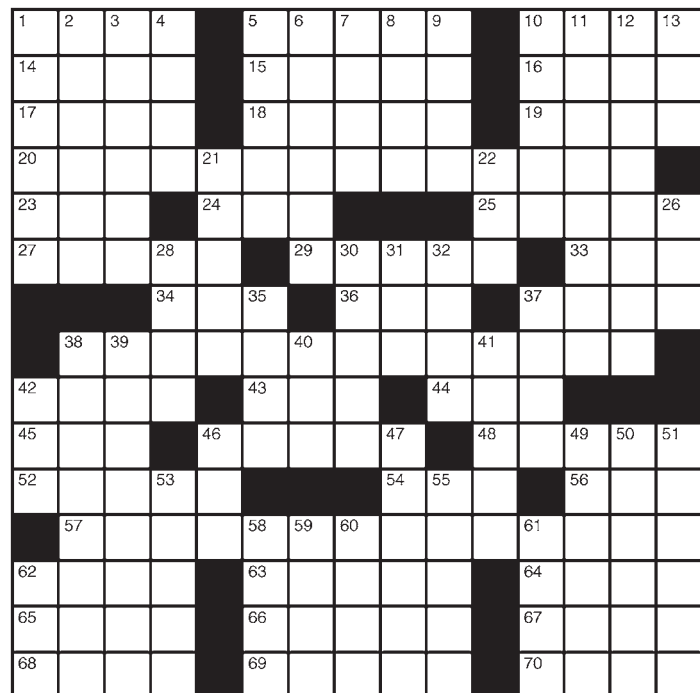
Snow

Someone willing to make a snowman around you  
Children



## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13



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.

SU|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

**ACROSS**

- 1 Robin Cook bestseller
- 5 "Come Back, Little \_\_\_"
- 10 Have the lead
- 14 Arabian garb
- 15 Legendary football coach
- 16 Ms. Bombeck
- 17 Breather
- 18 Soap plant
- 19 Quarter-moon tide
- 20 Cartoonist and a character
- 23 Pedro's uncle
- 24 Director Spike
- 25 Old-time peep show

**DOWN**

- 27 Composer Erik
- 29 Coronet
- 33 Addams Family member
- 34 \_\_\_ Paulo
- 36 Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
- 37 "Them" monsters
- 38 Cartoonist and a character
- 42 First name in cartoon skunks
- 43 \_\_\_ Dawn Chong
- 44 Bigwig in D.C.
- 45 Swiss peak
- 46 Pub game

**DOWN**

- 48 Marsh growth
- 52 At hand
- 54 Circle segment
- 56 Teacher's org.
- 57 Cartoonist and a character
- 62 District
- 63 Liqueur flavor
- 64 Brewery supply
- 65 Chip in
- 66 Trait carriers
- 67 Ripening factor
- 68 Nagger
- 69 Borden's cow
- 70 Roll-call call

**DOWN**

- 1 Gem weights
- 2 Polyp colonies on wharves
- 3 Team totem
- 4 Movie terrier
- 5 Form
- 6 Mel Gibson film
- 7 "The Time Machine" race
- 8 Formal dance
- 9 Toward open waters
- 10 Medicinal plant
- 11 Dendrologist's dater
- 12 Almond liqueur

**DOWN**

- 13 Seance sound
- 21 Kilt feature
- 22 Bikini part
- 26 Mork and ALF
- 28 Archipelago dot
- 30 Mooring basin
- 31 Feel poorly
- 32 Mantas
- 35 Creole veggie
- 37 Top-rated
- 38 Steak order designation
- 39 Names
- 40 Musical gift
- 41 Roost

**DOWN**

- 42 Pol's cash provider
- 46 Society gal
- 47 Third-generation Japanese-American
- 49 Employ
- 50 Casino employee
- 51 "Nausea" writer
- 53 Shooting sport
- 55 "Harlem Nights" co-star
- 58 Violent anger
- 59 Turow title
- 60 Takes the gold
- 61 Asian nursemaid
- 62 Shoot with a ray gun



**What can you get today for \$5 besides one of those footlong sandwiches from Subway?**

**How about a one-hour salsa lesson, a full night of heavy dancing with hundreds of people, dance performances by some of the best performers in Boston, discounted beverages and some of the best music you've heard in a long time.**

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**Lessons 8:30pm - 9:30pm**  
**Dancing 9:30pm - 1am**  
**In Stratton Student Center, La Sala**



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**Saturday, May 16**

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*Salsa Club*

# New 'Simple Stream' System Will Automatically Sort Recycled Goods

Recycling, from Page 1

Each all-purpose bin allows for the disposal of multiple recyclables including newspapers, cardboard, plastic bottles, and metal cans. Jones said that so far, the pilot program was going "very well."

Attendees were given cardboard box cutters as well as recycling handouts listing the dos-and-don'ts of recycling. After his talk, a short video detailing the inner-workings of Simple Stream was shown. Single Stream is based off of the Zero Sort system developed by Casella Waste Company. Casella collects and sorts

mixed recyclables using a combination of optical sensors, magnets, and robotics.

Jones also promoted MIT's free eWaste service, in which MIT affiliates can schedule Ground Services to pick up large recyclables including refrigerators, computer monitors, and other electronic equipment. As long as the load does not exceed fifty pounds, MIT Facilities will remove it within a week's time.

In addition to eWaste, MIT Facilities offers another program called Technocycle that promotes the recycling of high-tech waste including cell phones, compact discs, and inkjet cartridges. Technocycle receptacles are located in Distributed Mail Centers around the MIT campus.

To learn more about Single Stream and recycling, visit the MIT Recycling site at: <http://web.mit.edu/facilities/>

## Recycling Tips

At Tuesday's meeting, representatives from the Casella Waste Company gave tips to improve recycling efficiency:

- Caps of plastic bottles should be removed and discarded in the trash
- Pizza boxes should not be recycled due to soiled food contamination
- All plastic bottles that previously contained food must be thoroughly rinsed before recycled
- If a paper can be ripped, then it can be recycled
- Cardboard boxes should be completely flattened before recycling

It claims good people.

**TREAT DEPRESSION**

#1 Cause of Suicide

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20.104 Chemicals in the Environment: Epidemiology, Toxicology and Public Health

(Same subject as 1.081, ESD.053J)

William G. Thilly and Robert McCunney

thilly@mit.edu

mccunney@mit.edu

Prereq: 5.112 or 3.091, 7.01x

Units: 3-0-9

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:30 (56-169)

Quantitative analysis of relationships between occupational and environmental exposures and risk for common mortal diseases such as cancer and atherosclerosis. Use of U.S. and Japanese mortality data to delimit the historical timing of changes in environmental risk. Use of state wide community data to explore local environmental risks. New this spring: Exploration of role of newly discovered "metakaryotic" organogenic stem cells in tumor and plaque initiation. See <http://epidemiology.mit.edu>.

# Chomsky Discusses U.S.-Israel Relations, Israel's Gaza Assault

Chomsky, from Page 1

confident that all Israeli actions have been done purposefully. He claimed that the Israelis intentionally scheduled the initial bombardment at a time when children would be returning from school and adults would be milling about the streets.

He then proceeded to recall two incidents in which ships with humanitarian aid were prevented from reaching the Gaza Strip. Chomsky noted that the ships "intended to violate Israel's criminal blockade" around the Gaza Strip, and that the Israeli government "provided routine lines," saying, among other things, one of the ships encroached on its waters without establishing proper communication.

"Even though ramming a boat in international waters is worse than piracy off the coast of Somalia," said Chomsky, "the event was hardly reported."

Later stating that the U.S. media, just like any other media, is frequently a reflection of the norms established by its government, he ultimately concluded that the Israeli actions — and the underreporting of them — were nothing new.

"At most they should be greeted with a yawn," he said.

Chomsky grasped for an appropriate word to describe the magnitude of Israeli actions. Dismissing the words "terrorism" and "aggression" as insufficient, he recounted past Israeli incursions into Lebanon and called the current attacks "familiar" in capturing the magnitude of the Israeli offensive. He also flashed back to the 2005 Israeli disengagement from Gaza, when Israel removed its settlements from the area.

"Ariel Sharon, the patron-saint of the disengagement," he said, "thought it had made more sense to convert Gaza into the world's largest prison."

At the same time, Chomsky criticized Israel for setting its sights on the West Bank, where he believes it hopes to annex land carved out by settlements and a barrier currently under construction. He added that, on top of that, Israel hopes to acquire land in the Jordan River Valley on the eastern edge of the West Bank and fragment Palestinian land through settlements and checkpoints which "make life impossible."

Meanwhile, Chomsky said that Israel continued to kill and harass the inhabitants of Gaza, with U.S. support, even after the disengage-

ment. After Hamas was elected to a majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council, Israel instituted a blockade on Gaza.

"This was the cost of disobeying the demands of the master," Chomsky said.

Chomsky's harshest criticism was reserved for the unwavering relationship between Israel and the United States, which he frequently termed "outlaw states." At many points throughout his speech, Chomsky recalled elements of the U.S.-Israel relationship, including occasions on which the United States has used its veto power to block U.N. Security Council resolutions condemnatory of Israel.

Noting the hundreds of Palestinian civilian casualties in the ongoing attacks, he criticized the United States for initially declining to back a U.N. ceasefire. He was also unhappy that Barack Obama sympathized with the Israelis. He blamed the United States and Israel for breaking the Hamas-Israeli ceasefire agreement established in June, as well as thwarting multiple peace plans that have surfaced over the past decade.

Still, while Chomsky argued that Israel has preferred expansion to security, he declined to say Israel does not aim to make peace.

"It's not that Israel doesn't want peace," said Chomsky. "Of course, it wants peace. Everyone wants peace. Even Hitler wanted peace."

Chomsky's solution to the decades-long conflict requires the United States to join the rest of the international community in condemning Israel for its actions against civilians. Indeed, he stated that although Hamas rocket attacks have been criminal, the Israeli use of force in the ongoing conflict has not been justified because there are alternative options.

"Israel has a straightforward route to defending itself: end criminal actions in the occupied territories," he said. Among other things, Chomsky hopes Israel will end the blockade on Gaza and accept offers by Arab neighbors to establish a Palestinian state on borders close to the Green Line. Concluding, he said a Israeli military victory in Gaza would leave Israel with an image as a "blood-stained monster."

"Supporters of Israel are in reality supporters of its moral degeneration," he said.

Video of the lecture should be posted online at <http://web.mit.edu/cis/starr.html>

# Nightline

We're here to listen.

# 3-8800

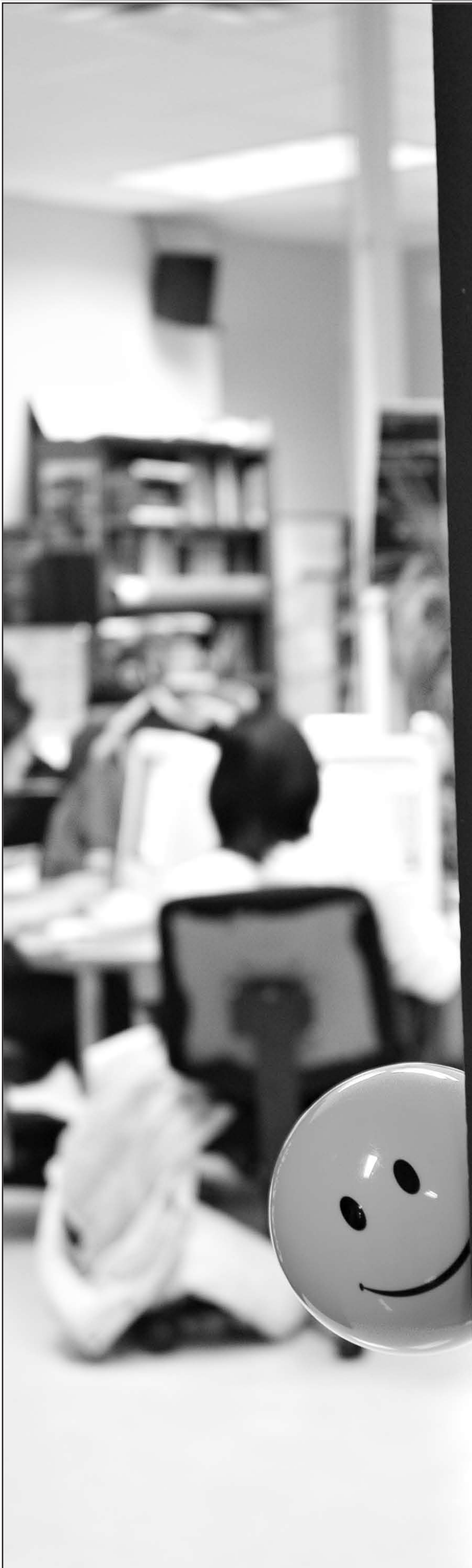
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## The Tech

### *Still looking for something new and exciting for IAP?*

Do you like newspapers? Stop by *The Tech* and find out! Come at a time listed below or drop in Sundays at 6 p.m. for dinner and ask for a member of a department you're interested in.

**NEWS:** Drop by our IAP seminars Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. We'll cover the fundamentals of finding and writing news stories. And we'll have guest lectures from working journalists with bylines in national publications.

**PRODUCTION:** Learn how articles, headlines, photos, and comics come together in the creative process of layout. Our friendly production staff work Monday and Tuesday nights during IAP and they want to train *you!* No experience is needed to start, and we'll train you in valuable design skills.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Stop by after Sunday's dinner and claim a news, arts, or sports assignment for next Wednesday's issue! All equipment is provided.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Help us maintain the website of the first newspaper ever published online. Database and PHP experience a plus. No database or PHP experience? We'll teach you! To find out more, email:

*join@tech.mit.edu*  
W20-483

# Pantsless Riders Take Over the T In Annual Ride

(clockwise from top right)

Brendan Sullivan talks on his cell phone at Jimmy D's, where the over-21 part of the Boston No Pants subway riders gathered for chips and drinks after the ride. As part of the annual Boston No Pants event, people rode the MBTA subway on Jan. 10 without their pants on.

Pants-free people ride the subway on Jan. 10.

Pantsless people wait for the subway at the Alewife stop as the train is approaching.

A firefighter is seen participating at the annual Boston No Pants event.

A group of no-pants-riders are seen at the Park Street subway station on Jan. 10.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



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NOAH SPIES—THE TECH

# By Revamping Lecture Format, TEAL Cut Course Failure Rate

TEAL, from Page 1

a science education initiative at the University of British Columbia.

In an article in the education journal *Change* last year, Wieman noted that the human brain “can hold a maximum of about seven different items in its short-term working memory and can process no more than about four ideas at once.”

“But the number of new items that students are expected to remember and process in the typical hour-long science lecture is vastly greater,” he continued. “So we should not be surprised to find that students are able to take away only a small fraction of what is presented to them in that format.”

At MIT, two introductory courses are still required — classical mechanics and electromagnetism — but today they meet in high-tech classrooms, where about 80 students sit at 13 round tables equipped with networked computers.

Instead of blackboards, the walls are covered with white boards and huge display screens. Circulating with a team of teaching assistants, the professor makes brief presentations of general principles and engages the students as they work out related concepts in small groups.

Teachers and students conduct experiments together. The room buzzes. Conferring with your tablemates, calling out questions and jumping up to write formulas on the white boards are all encouraged.

“There was a long tradition that what it meant to teach was to give a really well-prepared lecture,” said Peter Dourmashkin ’76, a senior lecturer in physics at MIT and a strong proponent of the new method. “It was the students’ job to figure it out.”

The problem, according to Dourmashkin and others in the department, is that a lot of students had trouble doing that. The failure rate for those lecture courses, even those taught by the most mesmerizing teachers, was typically 10 to 12 percent. Now, it has dropped to 4 percent.

Another big concern was attendance.

John Belcher, a space physicist who arrived at MIT 38 years ago and was instrumental in introducing the new teaching method nine years ago, was considered an outstanding lecturer. He won MIT’s top teaching award and rave reviews from students. And yet, as each semester progressed, attendance in his introductory physics courses fell to 50 percent, as it did, he said, for nearly all of his colleagues.

“MIT students are very busy,” Belcher said. “They see the lecture as dispensable, that is, that they can get it out of a book more efficiently than getting up, getting dressed and going to lecture.”

After three years, Belcher had had enough. “I had poor attendance, and was failing 10 to 15 percent, and grading the tests and shaking my head in despair about how little was getting across,” he said. “And this is a subject — electromagnetism — that I love.”

The new approach at MIT is known by its acronym, TEAL, for Technology Enhanced Active Learning.

A \$10 million donation from the late Alex d’Arbeloff ’49, an MIT alumnus, co-founder of the high-tech company Teradyne, and former MIT corporation chairman, made the switch to TEAL possible. The two TEAL classrooms alone cost \$2.5 million, Belcher said.

Unlike in the lectures, attendance counts toward the final grade, and attendance is up to about 80 percent.

Classes meet three times a week, for a total of five hours. Homework is due three times a week.

Monique Squiers ’11, a sophomore who intends to become a surgeon, liked her TEAL classes so much she has signed on as a teaching assistant. “You can say, ‘Hey, professor, I didn’t really get what you went over at this point; could you explain it to me a little more?’” she said. “If anything, they’re happy when someone doesn’t get it.”

Of the core science curriculum required of all freshmen, only introductory physics follows the new method, Belcher said. Math, biology and chemistry are still taught through large lecture classes and small recitations.

In the physics department, debate over teaching methods continues. Younger professors tend to be more enthusiastic about TEAL than veterans who have been perfecting their lectures for decades.

One of the newer professors, Gabriella Sciolla, who arrived in 2003, was teaching a TEAL class on circuits recently. She gauged the level of understanding in the room by throwing out a series of multiple-choice questions. The students “voted” with their wireless “personal response clickers” — the clickers are essential to TEAL — which transmitted the answers to a computer monitored by the professor and her assistants.

“You know where they are,” Sci-

olla said afterward. She can then adjust, slowing down or engaging students in guided discussions of their answers, as needed.

Lecturing in 26-100, she said, she could only look out at the sea of faces and hope the students were getting it. “They might be looking intently at you, understanding everything,” she said. “Or they might be thinking, ‘What am I going to do when I get out of this bloody class?’”

# GIR Vote Will Happen By End of Spring Term

GIRs, from Page 1

presented to the ECS. Jessop noted that the ECS has been very receptive to the survey and has done a good job gauging the opinions of undergraduates. According to Jessop, “No one will question some pieces of this motion to change the GIR and HASS cores.”

Professor Robert P. Redwine of the Physics Department, co-chair of the Education Commons Sub-

committee which proposed the GIR changes, said that there is a good possibility that the GIR changes will be voted on at the February faculty meeting, or by the end of the Spring term at latest.

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## Travel the World with Esperanto



### Learn Toki Pona

Tuesday–Friday  
January 6–9  
6:30–8:00 p.m.  
Room 8-205

Toki Pona is a “maximally minimal” language. It was constructed with only 120 words and with only the simplest to pronounce sounds. Toki Pona tries to follow the Taoist philosophy that “simple is good.” In order to lead a simple life, one needs a simple language; or perhaps a simple language will lead to a simpler life. Whether you accept the philosophy or not, Toki Pona is fun to speak. This four-day class will get you speaking Toki Pona and expressing complicated ideas in a simple language.

### Beginner Esperanto

Tuesday–Friday  
January 13–16, 20–23  
6:30–8:00 p.m.  
Room 8-205

Esperanto is a simple yet expressive language that is spoken by millions of people in over 120 countries who are interested in communicating with others, regardless of their native languages. Esperanto is easy to learn and use, and in this fun introductory course you’ll quickly learn sufficient grammar and vocabulary to begin using the language outside of class. We’ll also look at contemporary culture of Esperanto, showing how some young people are using it today around the world.

### Brief History of Constructed Languages

Monday  
January 12  
6:30–8:00 p.m.  
Room 8-205

Learn about the history of universal and constructed languages, from their beginnings in the writings of philosophers to actual language projects in the last century, including a brief survey of internet resources for the constructed language hobbyist.

### Intermediate Esperanto

Monday–Thursday  
January 26–29  
6:30–8:00 p.m.  
Room 8-205

Esperanto is a simple yet expressive language that is spoken by millions of people in over 120 countries who are interested in communicating with others, regardless of their native languages. This course will continue where the beginner course left off.

IAP Events organized by the Societo por Esperanto — MIT’s Esperanto Club

For more information: <http://web.mit.edu/esperanto> — [spe-ak@mit.edu](mailto:spe-ak@mit.edu)

**Solution to Sudoku**  
from page 8

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

**Solution to Crossword**  
from page 8

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

## 20.020: Learn how to design and build living organisms that solve real world problems



Introduction to Biological Engineering Design

9 units, T/R 11:30a - 1p and W 2-5p

No prerequisites

Instructor: Natalie Kuldell

[http://openwetware.org/wiki/20.20\(S09\)](http://openwetware.org/wiki/20.20(S09))

# energy futures week

Innovation, Research, and Education for a Sustainable Future

## IAP 1/12-1/15

### Wednesday, January 14

12-2pm **Sustainability in Action Workshop**

Room 68-181

2-3:30pm **Energy Efficiency Technologies Panel**

E51-335 (Tang Center)

### Thursday, January 15

3:30-5pm **Energy Careers Panel**

E51-335 (Tang Center)

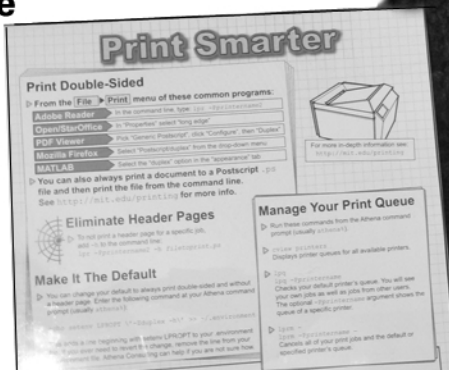
6-8pm **Student Showcase**

Lobby 10

For locations & more info:

[web.mit.edu/mitei](http://web.mit.edu/mitei)

[student.mit.edu/iap/nc43](http://student.mit.edu/iap/nc43)



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# Five MIT Cyclocross Competitors Ride in December Nationals

Cycling, from Page 16

out the scoring by finishing 23rd and 26th respectively. The race was won by Colorado College who impressively placed two riders in the top 5. However, because the school lacked a women's team they did not factor into the final omnium standings.

The women's race immediately followed the men's and again, the action was fast and furious. Coinciding with the start of the race, a cold front arrived, dropping the temperature by 20 degrees in minutes. Undeterred, Katherine Harris G warmed up quickly and within half a lap she and a rider from the University of Chicago had distanced themselves from the rest of the Division II field. Harris maintained her second-place position for the remainder of the race, opening

up an impressive six-minute gap on the third place rider from Army by the end of the race. Although MIT fielded a diminished women's side of one racer, Harris provided plenty of fireworks and enough points to help propel the team to a third place finish in the Division II overall standings behind Appalachian State and the US Military Academy.

All told, the MIT Cycling team had an excellent cyclocross season that was marked by many individual achievements and the ultimate team accomplishments of winning the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference season omnium as well as the strong result at nationals. Currently, the team is training hard for the road-racing season in the spring when they will look to defend both the ECCC and National Championship titles that they won last year.

# Disappointing Endings For Lions, Pats, Titans And No-Plaxico Giants

Playoffs, from Page 16

top seed. On Saturday, the Tennessee Titans' season ended with a 10-13 loss to the wild card Baltimore Ravens. Matt Stover, the forty-year old veteran kicker, made the game-winning 43-yard field goal with less than a minute on the game clock. Earlier in that drive, referees missed an obvious delay of game call on the Ravens 3rd and 2; on that play, Joe Flacco completed a 23-yard pass to Todd Heap. The no-call was a "costly error" according to Jeff Fisher, Titans head coach. The ref claimed the play clock at the stadium in Nashville is located higher up than at other stadiums.

As tempted as I am to incorporate "officiating" into the disappointments

list, I will not. The Titans could have played better against the Ravens. Despite gaining more total yards (391 to 211) and more first downs (21 to 9), the Titans gave away the game with three costly turnovers in Raven territory, including a fumble within the red zone. After starting out the season 10-0, Kerry Collins and the rest of the team fizzled toward the end of the season and did not bring their best offense, defense, or special teams against the Ravens.

So that leaves Baltimore and Pittsburgh to duke it out in the AFC Championship while Arizona and Philadelphia play for the NFC Championship. Who will compete in Super Bowl XLIII? I predict the Steelers and Cardinals, with the Steelers coming out on top.



## MIT Darwin Bicentennial Symposium January 22-24, 2009

### Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009: *The Evolving Earth*

The Broad Institute Auditorium

1 pm – 5 pm: *Origin of the Solar System & early Earth; Evolution of oceans & Earth's early atmosphere; Evolution of photosynthesis*

7 pm – 9 pm: *Life alters the Earth; History & future of Earth's climate*

### Friday, Jan. 23, 2009: *Evolutionary Mechanisms Among Vertebrates*

The Broad Institute Auditorium

9 am – 12:30 pm: *Darwin, Wallace & the Origin of Species; Evolution & development of the vertebrate brain; Novel mechanisms of evolutionary change; Evolution of the vertebrate eye*

2 pm -5 pm: *Natural selection in humans & pathogens; Fish fins to tetrapod limbs; New insights into the diversification of beak morphology in Darwin's finches & regressive evolution in cave fish.*

### Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009: *Darwin in Society*

The MIT Museum

9 am – 12 noon: *The emergence of Darwin's evolutionary theory; Darwin & the naturalization of human culture; The evolution of cell division; The battle between pathogens & the immune system.*

1:30 pm – 4 pm: *Darwin, Abolition & struggles for human equality; Current controversies over the teaching of evolution*

For full schedule and to register please visit:  
<http://www.darwinbicentennial.org>

Free and open to the community.

MIT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

## IAP Course with actress-author Mia Kirshner

**Course Times:**  
Tuesdays/Thursdays 2 – 3:30 pm  
(Jan. 20, 22, 27, 29)

Mia Kirshner will teach a multimedia course based on *I Live Here*—a multimedia publication that presents the stories of refugees and displaced people in four specific areas of the world.

Learn more on the IAP activities sponsored by CIS page:  
[student.mit.edu/iap/nscis.html](http://student.mit.edu/iap/nscis.html)

[web.mit.edu/cis](http://web.mit.edu/cis) | [web.mit.edu/ihouse](http://web.mit.edu/ihouse)  
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*Write for Sports!*  
e-mail: [sports@tech.mit.edu](mailto:sports@tech.mit.edu)

**Sports shorts**, from Page 16

light included Rebecca L. Stavely '11 rebounding from a tough outing on the vault to score a solid 8.075.

Zimmerman also scored highest on the floor with a 9.2, ending the event with a huge opening pass, the first full-in to be competed by an MIT gymnast. Mingo, meanwhile, coming off ankle surgery, tallied an 8.85, while Rachael A. Holmes '11 proved strong with an 8.550. Elizabeth Stavely, Morinishi, and Stevenson also fared well with scores of 8.4, 8.3 and 7.8, respectively.

—Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff

**MIT Wrestling Goes 0-3  
In WPI Quad Meet**

Among its three matches, the MIT wrestling team had its best performance against the University of Southern Maine, despite a 27-25 loss to the Huskies during this past Saturday's quad meet hosted by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The Engineers also fell to WPI, 34-20, and Williams College, 41-9.

Against USM, MIT surged to a 15-6 lead thanks to a pin by Jaes C. Jones '12, in 1:58, a 9-5 decision win by Kenzan Tanabe '11, and a forfeit victory by Grant M. Kadokura '11. The three wrestled at 149, 141, and 125 pounds, respectively.

But a 14-7 decision and a win by fall by Larry Coughlin and Mike Dumas evened the tally at 15-15. A pair of forfeits at 174 and 184 pounds hurt the Engineers, who recovered nicely but not enough for the team win. Joseph B. Silverman's '10 10-0 major decision, at 197 pounds, made it 27-19, while heavyweight Glenn J. Geesman's '09 forfeit win closed it closed in at 27-25.

Silverman, who went 3-0 on the day, also scored a 16-1 technical fall in 4:04 against his opponent from WPI, and a 5-0 decision win over his counterpart from Williams. Geesman, meanwhile, pinned his WPI opponent in 3:23, while finishing at 2-0. Both standouts continue to be the top ranked wrestlers in their weight classes in the New England Wrestling Association (NEWA). With Saturday's outings, Geesman remained undefeated at 17-0, while Silverman improved to 17-1.

Kadokura, at 125 pounds, finished at 2-1, while David Young, at 149 pounds, and heavyweight Sean Jameson, picked up wins by decision and pin, respectively.

—Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff

**SCOREBOARD**

**Scoreboard**, from Page 16

Women's Gymnastics	
<b>Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009</b>	
Rhode Island College	167.20
SUNY Cortland	177.625
Ursinus College	180.525
Wilson College	139.950
Yale University	182.80
MIT	174.575

Women's Ice Hockey	
<b>Friday, Jan. 9, 2009</b>	
Nichols College (1-9-1)	4
MIT (1-6-1)	4
<b>Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009</b>	
Salve Regina University (8-4-0)	3
MIT (1-7-1)	2
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009</b>	
Nichols College (1-11-1)	1
MIT (2-7-1)	2

Wrestling	
<b>Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009</b>	
MIT (0-3)	20
Worcester Polytechnic Institute (6-3)	34
Williams College (6-2-2)	41
MIT (0-4)	9
University of Southern Maine (3-5)	27
MIT (0-5)	25

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We seek innovative & ambitious EECS with sense of adventure, to make a *substantial* contribution to a web-project / startup company. Dev office in Panama. Stock Options + free accommodation + subsistence salary until break-even. *Key role/small team (4 or 5, including you), lots of potential!*

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**Mitgaard IAP  
(Society for Creative Anachronism)**

**Medieval and Renaissance Dance**

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm, 36-112

No dance experience necessary. Wear flat shoes.

**All About Eggs**

Thurs Jan 15th, 7-9pm, 2-135

Learn to play pre-1600 dance music with the Waytes of Carolingia. Bring an instrument you can play.

**Flirting for the Melancholy**

Tue Jan 20th, 7-8pm, 1-150

Learn the art of making others feel attractive with the four humours, in this case for cool and dry temperments.

**Medieval Dance Music**

Mondays, 7-8:30pm, 36-112

Learn pre-1600 dance music. Bring an instrument.

**Medieval Choral Music**

Mondays, 8:30-10pm, 36-112

Come sing a selection of Medieval and Renaissance songs.

**Intro to Commedia dell'Arte: Physical Comedy**

Tues Jan 20, 7-9pm, 36-153

Renaissance Italian improv is still hilarious today.

**Mayan Epigraphy**

Tues Jan 20, 8-10pm, 1-150

The ancient Mayan language was finally deciphered within the last few decades. Learn how it works and how to write your name or whatever you want.

[sca.mit.edu](http://sca.mit.edu)

**SIPB IAP**

**Caffeinated Crash Course in C++**

Wed Jan 14, 3-6pm, 1-115

A brisk introduction to all the powerful constructs of C++.

**Caffeinated Crash Course in Perl**

Thurs Jan 15, 7-10pm, 1-115

Learn how to write simple, useful Perl scripts.

**Git Will Make Your Life Better**

Tues Jan 20, 3-5pm, 1-115

Learn how to use the Git version control system to make managing your life easier.

**Programming in Perl**

Tues/Thurs Jan 20, 22, 27, 29, 5:30-7:30pm, 56-114

Learn how to use Perl, a popular, flexible scripting language.

**Math Secrets for the Computer Scientist**

Tues/Thurs Jan 20, 22, 27, 29, 7:30-8:30pm, 56-114

The computing world uses more math than you think.

**Caffeinated Crash Course in C**

Wed Jan 21, 3:00-6:00pm, 1-115

This class will attempt to cover the entire C programming language in 3 hours. Come and join the insanity.

**UNIX is Your Friend**

Wed Jan. 21, 6:00-7:00pm, 4-237

Get comfortable with using the command line.

[sipb.mit.edu/iap](http://sipb.mit.edu/iap)

