Report Urges New Focus On Math, Problem Solving In U.S. Education System

By Tamar Lewin

On Math, Problem Solving
Report Urges New Focus

Margaret Spellings, said that pre-
presented to Education Secretary
over the past ten years, was ranked
from UROP began in 1969, is
submitted online by students
Research proposals can now be
students to do a UROP is to
would lessen
“usually, it’s
in person, Associate Dean Michael
of students want to do a UROP is
school our students —UROP Pro-
the true cost of providing an
has decreased by 15 percent over
and for first-year MIT students.
The average amount paid
The new online system is being
work begins,” said the report of the
“most of the time, that runs to about
“most of the students who study science or
MIT received about $650 million in
donations to the endowment, accord-
the United States and are most likely to
in light of a sixth-in-the-nation en-
dowment?” Barkowitz said that 42 percent of
or other sources, in 2006–7. Barkowitz said that 42 percent of
in recent years, MIT has
of the endowment, which has
tuition revenue we receive,”
the average amount paid has
tuition has increased by an average of just
and the system has been piloted in
the average amount paid
E. Green. The system was piloted in
“much more efficient.” “Usually, it’s
the approval process
is currently being piloted on the
this year, and students have paid less
tuition revenue we receive,”
“much more efficient.” “Usually, it’s
environment for online system
in the beginning of his career with computers, in the early
Weizenbaum, who was Jewish, fled Nazi Germany with his parents and arrived in the United States in the mid-
endowment comes from donations
in the country, behind Harvard, Yale, Stanford, the University of Texas system, and Princeton. The
endowment’s value has nearly tri-
students did not receive grants from
the Senate Finance Committee, sug-
gested in January that the Senate
MIT endowment, according to the report, which
to explain exorbitant tuition costs in
MIT’s response makes three things very clear:
the system was piloted in January for several departments and
by nearly 50 percent; and finally, the
the endowment, or from other sources, in 2006–7. Barkowitz said that 42 percent of
students did not receive grants from
MIT last year.
and the system has been piloted in
in the coming years.
In many departments, UROP research proposals can now be
research proposals can now be
have been used since UROP began in 1969, is
on faculty and UROP coordinators.
Chairman Melissa J. Martin-
rolled out in phases and should be
in place for all departments by the
summer and said it was a
the new system to lessen
her contact with her faculty supervi-
the student,” “One of the reasons why a
lots of students want to do a UROP is
to get that exposure to a professor,” Sher said.
The new online system is rolled
by a service provided by NextBus. Shuttle tracking
will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. in the MIT Chapel.
The ShuttleTrack system will be replaced by a service provided
on July 1, Shoen '98, has a Course XVU UROP; the
next year ago two years ago
by President Bush. “Students who
more than twice as likely to graduate
college compared to students with less
The report, adopted unanimously
of the Senate Finance Committee, sug-
ggested in January that the Senate
MIT last year.
and UROP coordinators.
the new online system can now be
done remotely, it will be especially helpful for
and faculty who may be unable to meet
in person, Associate Dean Michael
This change to an online system
A bloodless diabetes news@the-tech.mit.edu.
expected to make the proposal pro-
used since UROP began in 1969, is
is currently being piloted on the
Boston Daytime Shuttle and can be
the weather.

Most Undergrads Pay Less Tuition Despite Increases, MIT Says

By Elijah Jordan Turner

What should you make of MIT’s voluminous response to the Senate Finance Committee, which asked it
explain exorbitant tuition costs in
MIT’s response makes three things very clear:
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“much more efficient.” “Usually, it’s
the approval process
is currently being piloted on the
Boston Daytime Shuttle and can be
viewed at http://www.nextbus.com/

Joseph Weizenbaum

Joseph Weizenbaum, professor emeritus of computer science at MIT who grew skeptical of artificial intelli-
gen after creating a program that made many users feel like they were speaking with an empathic psychologist,
died March 5 in Berlin. He was 85.
Weizenbaum, who was Jewish, fled Nazi Germany with his parents and arrived in the United States in the mid-
1930s. At the beginning of his career with computers, in the early 1950s, he worked on analog computers; later, he
helped design and build a digital computer at Wayne University in Detroit, Mich.
In 1953, Weizenbaum became a member of the General Electric team that designed and built the first computer
system dedicated to banking operations. Among his early technical contributions were the list processing system

News

A bloodless diabetes monitor passes a key test.

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Page 14
For Spitzer, Lawyers Prepare to Do Battle
By Alan Feuer and Benjamin Weiser
NEW YORK

As Gov. Eliot Spitzer begins the delicate dance of finding a fiscal cure in the federal courthouse, so too does the governor in the state capital.

The most prominent example of that dance was a federal judge who approved a plan to merge the state and city budgets.

The question is whether the judge will accept the state and city budgets as a whole, or whether he will accept a plan to divide them into two separate entities.

On Monday, May 14, 2008, the New York Times published a report on the state of the state budget. The report noted that the governor had reached a tentative agreement with the state legislature to merge the budgets of the state and city into a single entity.

The proposed budget includes a number of new initiatives, including increased funding for education, health care, and public safety.

However, the proposed budget also includes a number of controversial changes, including a reduction in the state’s budget for education, and an increase in the state’s budget for crime prevention.

The governor’s office has not yet released the full details of the proposed budget, but the governor has said that the budget will be submitted to the state legislature by May 15.

Weather:

The weather is expected to be mostly cloudy with a chance of light rain or snow showers. Windy late. High 40°F (4°C).

The New York Times

By Nicola Clark

Hurricane

The ocean cyclone spins up offshore.

were instead projecting the storm to make a pass much closer to New England, giving us a light bout of rain, which will quickly clear out in the afternoon.

The first in a series of storms will come through Saturday morning with gusts of 30-40 mph, and a chance of rain and snow showers.

The second storm will move into the area on Sunday, bringing with it a high chance of rain and snow showers. Windy late. High 40°F (4°C).

The New York Times

By Edmond L. Andrews

Cyclists and other people familiar with the city’s roadways say that the new traffic laws are leading to a safer environment for all.

The new traffic laws, which took effect on May 1, 2008, include changes to the way traffic lights are used.

The new traffic laws also include changes to the way drivers are required to yield to pedestrians.

The new traffic laws are expected to reduce the number of accidents and deaths on city streets.

The New York Times

Prepare to Do Battle
Politics and Fiscal Agendas Mix in Voting on Capitol Hill
By Carl Hulse and Robert Pear
NEW YORK TIMES

The House passed a $3 trillion Democratic spending plan on Thursday as Congress engaged in a day of budget theater that had as much to do with showmanship as with the actual business of governance.

The Senate opened its debate on the fiscal agenda, which is due to be completed by the end of the year.

The House and Senate are expected to reconcile their proposals and vote on a final version later this week.

The new spending plan includes a number of initiatives, including increased funding for health care, education, and energy.

The new spending plan also includes a number of controversial changes, including a reduction in the federal budget deficit.

The new spending plan is expected to be voted on by both the House and Senate by the end of the week.

The New York Times

Marching Storms
By Brian H. Tang

The jet stream is currently situated like a welcome mat from sea to shining sea allowing storms to quickly traverse across the country. This flow, which is known as a progressive pattern, is characterized by quick hitting but frequent storms.

The first in a series of storms will come through Saturday night with gusts of 30-40 mph, and a chance of rain and snow showers.

The second storm will move into the area on Sunday, bringing with it a high chance of rain and snow showers. Windy late. High 40°F (4°C).

The New York Times

The nation’s top economic policymakers, hoping to prevent a repeat of the excesses that led to the mortgage bubble and bust, on Thursday proposed a broad series of reforms aimed at tightening oversight of financial institutions.

The changes include tougher disclosure requirements for banks and Wall Street firms, a nationwide licensing system for mortgage brokers and new rules for credit rating agencies, which have been widely criticized for failing to recognize major problems with mortgage-backed securities and for having potentially conflicts of interest.

“This effort is not about finding excuses or scapegoats,” said Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr., who outlined the proposals in a speech here on Thursday morning. “But poor judgment and poor market practices led to mistakes by all participants.”

The recommendations were developed by the President’s Working Group on Financial Markets, a group that includes the Treasury secretary, the chairman of the Federal Reserve and the government’s top financial regulators.

Paulson said the government was going to demand greater “transparency” from banks and Wall Street firms, stronger risk management and capital management and a better trading system for complex financial derivatives, such as collateralized debt obligations, that are designed to transform risky subprime mortgage-backed securities into profits.

Echoing measures that congressional Democrats have been drafting, the presidential group called for tougher state and federal regulation of mortgage lenders and a nationwide system of licensing and registration standards for mortgage brokers.

That reflects a widespread criticism by many experts and policymakers, who have argued that millions of mortgages were originated by independent mortgage brokers who often had no concern about credit quality because they simply passed the mortgages to finance companies that in turn resold them to Wall Street firms and ultimately investors around the world.

Paulson took particular aim at credit-rating agencies, such as Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s and Fitch, which gave Triple-A ratings to billions of dollars in mortgage-backed securities that turned out to be filled with delinquent loans.

Paulson said the rating agencies would have enforce policies about disclosing their conflicts of interest, an allusion to criticisms that agencies were typically paid for their ratings by the investment banks who only paid once they had sold their securities to investors.

In addition, Paulson said the president’s group would push the rating agencies to “clearly differentiate” between the ratings for complicated structured investment products, which investors may not have understood, and the ratings for more conventional corporate bonds and municipal securities.

Issues of mortgage-backed securities, in turn, would be required to disclose “more granular information” about the quality of the underlying loans and their procedures for verifying the information in those loans.

The New York Times

Almost everything seems to be going wrong for the American economy at once. People are losing their homes, and businesses are closing down.

But the most dramatic news this week was the declaration that the U.S. economy is in a recession.

The recession is the second one in the past 10 years, and the first one since the 1980s.

The recession is expected to last for at least a year, and is likely to be deeper than the recession of the 1980s.

The recession is expected to lead to job losses, and to a decrease in consumer spending.

The recession is expected to have a negative impact on the stock market.

The New York Times

As Dollar Falls, Prices Rise
By Vikas Bajaj
NEW YORK TIMES

Almost everything seems to be going wrong for the American economy at once. People are losing their homes, and businesses are closing down.

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The New York Times
China Tensions Security on Tibetan Monks After Protest

By Jim Yardley

The New York Times

BRUSSELS

Chinese security forces were reportedly surrounding three monasteries in southeastern Tibet yesterday in the capital, on Thursday after hundreds of monks staged a protest this week in what are believed to be the largest Tibetan protests against rule in China in a generation.

The turmoil in Lhasa occurred at a particularly sensitive time, given that this is the centennial of the fall of the Qing dynasty, on which the Dalai Lama was the last Chinese emperor. The formation of a new Chinese nation under the leadership of Sun Yat-sen in 1912 and the rise of the Kuomintang in 1927, which led to the Chinese Civil War, has been a source of national pride for many Chinese, who now see it as a time of national rebirth. The current Chinese government, which was established in 1949, has been accused of infringing on the rights of ethnic minorities, including Tibetans, Uighurs, and Mongols, who make up about 10% of China's population.

The Chinese government has denigrated the Lhasa protest as an act of terrorism and has called on the international community to support its efforts to maintain law and order.

The New York Times reported yesterday that the Chinese government had arrested hundreds of monks who had gathered in Lhasa to protest against the decision of the Chinese government to reduce the number of days Tibetan monks could participate in the Buddhist festival of Shoton. The government had also arrested more than 50 monks who had taken part in a protest in Lhasa last month.

The Chinese government has also denied reports that the Chinese police had used violence against the monks, and has said that the monks were trying to disrupt public order.

On Friday, the Chinese government announced that it had detained more than 150 people in connection with the Lhasa protest.

The Chinese government has also said that it is conducting a crackdown on subversive activities, including the promotion of Tibetan independence, and has arrested hundreds of people who have been involved in protests in recent months.

The Chinese government has also been accused of infringing on the rights of ethnic minorities, including Tibetans, Uighurs, and Mongols, who make up about 10% of China's population.

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Suicide Implications
Insensitive

This letter is in response to The Tech’s March 1 article on the death of Robert M. Wells ‘08. In the article reporting Rob’s death, The Tech quoted from an essay Rob wrote in my Writing and Experience class during his freshman year on his having suffered from bipolar disorder and depression. While the essay was posted in the online magazine Culture Shock!, which was the class project and thus is available for anyone to read, your quoting it in the first column of your news report impressed me as having been motivated by the desire to raise the possibility that Rob’s death was not accidental. I found it to be an egregious and unfortunate example of sensationalist journalism — prevalent in the newpaper’s of today, yes, I would like to think MIT students are above the fray in such delicate matters. Reading the article made me feel more intense sympathy for Rob’s family, who, it seems to me, have already suffered enough.

Rebecca Blevins Fairry
Director of User Writing

Editor’s Note: The Tech stands by its reporting.

Letter to the Community

Over the past two weeks we have lost several members of the MIT family. Robert Wells died on March 6, a fall from his place of residence. J. Mark Schuster, Professor of urban studies and planning, lost a valiant battle with cancer. We said goodbye to Emeritus Faculty Louis Menand of political science and Frances Reintjes of electrical engineering.

At one level this is the natural order of things. At another, death always comes too soon. What now? What is the point of being bound together in a shared enterprise? We are touched by loss no matter whom, no matter when, and no matter why.

Robert M. Randolph
Chaplain to the Institute

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Benjamin P. Gleitzman, Editor in Chief Nick Semenkovich, Managing Editor Jessica Wachlewyck, Opinion Editor Aditya Kohli, and Contributing Editor Rosa Cao.

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

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, PO Box 797329, Cambridge, MA 02213-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the author’s signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known.

Proprietary Notice

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Rebecca Blevins Fairry
Director of User Writing

Editor’s Note: The Tech stands by its reporting.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have suffered loss. Members of the Delta Upsilon fraternity traveled to be with Robert’s family at a service in New York. Later this week and next month we will celebrate their lives.

As the same time, our community is also blessed. On March 6, Prof. David Mindell and his wife Pamela, Housemasters in Edgerton Hall welcomed Lucia Flora Mindell to their family and we welcome her to ours, we celebrate with them.

Sunday morning our clocks turned forward, the sun stays with us later in the day, and prospects of spring seem more real. Let us all find new energy for our work together, and for the ties of friendship and family that knit our community together. With time healing will come, but as the days pass let us resolve to be better friends, colleagues, workers and companions. The ties that bind so wonderfully strong and should be celebrated each day.

Robert M. Randolph
Chaplain to the Institute

Letters To The Editor

March 14, 2008

The Tech
Back to Basics

Figuring Out Fashion

This week features a fairly serious question that I think many of you have had to contemplate before. While normally we pride ourselves on answering questions we’re actually unqualified to handle, this week actually features knowable answers from experienced TAs. As always, if you have any questions, e-mail us at AskaT@tech.net. —AskaT

To: AskaT@tech.net

Subject: It's FRIDAY

Dear AskaT,

It’s the worst academic week ever. A million things are due plus tests. You’re stressed, broke, and hungry. You’re scrambling for change to get an energy drink. You’re checking out LaVrede’s and someone takes the opportunity that the cashier is distracted to walk out with a red bull. You look at them and you can see them looking at you from the corner of their eyes. After staying up all night finishing all the work due that day, you have two hours to study for the test you have as the afternoon. You’re not ready for the test. You get to the test late and sit in the back and during the test you keep hearing people whisper back and forth.

Do you join in on the trend?

But seriously, what do you do in a situation like this?

—Not The Best Person Either

Dear Not The Best Person Either,

In general, you propose a difficult problem — what does one do when you witness a violation of the law, especially an infringement of school policy or one that will just cause you to lose face? People will say that you should tell those around you, but how do you know if those around you think it’s ugly, it won’t really do its job if you don’t talk to others, or us to accurately gauge your understanding. The purpose of taking the class is to learn, and if the reason you are not doing well is that you are not putting in the time, then it defines the purpose to spend time going to lectures and sitting in tests; the best plan would be to drop the class and take it next semester. In cases of the on campus cheating that you describe, is my guess that is not everyone that has no chance didn’t have the time to study. It seems more likely to me that the class is improperly paced, that the lectures aren’t clear. Remember that we the teaching assistants also use these lectures to develop our own performances. If we rushed through material during lecture to fit in a little extra practice time, and then everybody gets an A on the test, we will have prepared the students for the test. And so, our own unspoken job were sufficient, even outstanding, and we will probably do an even better job by cheating, you would be helping to ensure that next year’s kids don’t learn anything ever. You are not responsible for the conduct of your classmates, but you are responsible for your own. MIT has a lot of resources for students who are having trouble, and my experience as a TA tells me that the drop date is among the most underutilized. If you are overworked, consider taking a lighter course load. If the class is just really hard, then use all the resources that are available to you to focus your efforts on the area in question. These include test, peer, lectures, recitations, tutorials, office hours, labs, and practice tests from previous years when available, tutors, and in some situations, psychological services like from MIT medical (http://web.mit.edu/medical/oea/services/mentalhealth.html). Remember that you are here to learn, and that the responsibility is not being assigned to facilitate that. Don’t reduce their efficacy by tampering with their results.

Dee Smoot

TA for the Good Ruby

WMBR Top Five 5th Symphonies

1. Jean Sibelius’s Symphony no. 5
2. Carlo Maria Grazia’s Symphony no. 5 (Describing Planes of an Expanding Hypersphere)
3. Gustav Mahler’s Symphony no. 4
4. Antonin Dvorak’s Symphony no. 5
5. Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony no. 5

Honorable Mentions: Carl Nielsen’s Symphony no. 5, Charles Ives’ Universe Symphony, prologue (in theory), and Oliver Messaan’s Turnajella Symphony played five times in a row.

Wake up Friday mornings and turn on WMBR. 88.1 FM to hear classical music from the last 100 or so years. It’s a respectable and enjoyable hobby, and listening to long-form music (which is by no means limited to classical) can encourage you to be more patient and thorough. When you have some oatmeal, look out the window, and consider how many years of life you have in front of you. You will be old soon. Why not get a head start at listening to old people’s music? Then you’ll be 50 years ahead of the game and establish clear priority over your latercomer friends. In the far future they’ll say, “huh, Maude and Walter and I are going over to the opera tonight, after bingo,” and you’ll just be all like, “whatever, posers.”

DJ name: Chris M.
Show name: The Land of Sand and Birds
Show description: 20th century classical music and other related ethnic music of Western civilizations
Time slot: Friday mornings from 6-8 a.m.

Overheard at MIT

“Caffeine’s like radiation: in small doses, it’s good for you, but too much of a parabola of benefits versus consumption…”

—Unknown

“Are you doing anything for Smoot’s birthday?”

“Duh.”

—Overheard conversation about Smoot

“Today was a good day.”

“Yeah.”

“Yeah. I went outside.”

—Overheard in the student center

02/10/04
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, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com; see also solution, page 14.
### Donuts and Coffee Cups

**ACROSS**

1. Believe
2. Areas
4. Is no longer
5. Took over, as a test
6. Opposite of apex
7. Mexican girl
10. Ms. Q.
12. Malaria medicine
14. H
15. Gay
17. Consume
18. Gene inhibition mechanism (abbr.)
19. Sprint
21. Persian
23. Trim and chic
26. “Ed, _____, and Eddy”
28. Marx’s ending
29. Nuclear material
32. Operating system
34. Legally petition
35. Gupta’s MIT
37. Tired
39. Building block
41. Hitler’s big mistake
44. Indian sea bird
45. Massless (?) particle
47. Thrash
49. South American city
50. Carpe _____
51. Un-dead?
52. Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
56. One-sided strip
58. Thrash
59. Stone and iron, e.g.
60. Male friend, slangily
61. Throw

**DOWN**

3. Mac _____
4. 8 119 Across pre-fix
5. “Oh well.”
6. 11 Electrocute
7. Where to find paneer
16. ______ partridge…
19. Circle
20. Between E and S in ESL
22. Jot
23. Apply friction
25. Product of lachrymation
27. Shape of this puzzle
29. Tabor, e.g.
30. Type of joke
31. Taj Majal locale
33. London district
36. ________
37. Nerd
38. Poisonous lizard, with monster
40. Luidps can form one
42. Edge
43. Military training
45. Kind
46. Supervise
48. Pillage
50. Therm beginner

### Dilbert®

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**“Words, Words, Words” Cre8ive Spellings by Philip Engel**

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Solution on page 14.
INTERVIEW

MIT Vegas, Hollywood
A Conversation With Ben Mezrich and Jeffrey Ma

By Jillian A. Berry

n 2002, Ben Mezrich released Bringing Down the House, the story of how a group of MIT students counted cards to win millions playing blackjack. Later this month, 22 years after the book's release, the story will be re-released. Recently, The Tech sat down with Mezrich and Jeffrey Ma, who is the real-life basis for Ben Campbell in the film. Below is an excerpt from the conversation.

The Tech: Did you ever think the book was going to be this successful?

Ben Mezrich: I would definitely say no. When I handed this book in it was like a 12,000-word piece. And when it was re-released, it was this little book. Cards weren't really on TV yet and people said, "No way's going to buy a book about cards."

And then the book took off. And then this is on a whole other level now with the movie and everything. It's pretty crazy.

Jeffrey Ma: Yeah, I would say that had no idea it was going to go as well as it did. When Ben and I actually talked to him about it, he said, "Oh, it's kind of an interesting book."

Ben: Then about two months before the book came out I was sitting at home, and I had written an article for Wired magazine, and the phone rang and it was a man named Dana Brunetti, who said, "I have Kevin Spacey on the line, he wants to talk to you about Bringing Down the House." And I said, "No you don't, really, and he said, "Yeah, I do." So I took his phone number and I hung up on him and I called my mom, and I said, "Kevin Spacey's trying to call me." And she said, "No, it's MIT kids pranking calling." I thought, "Okay, cool." I actually turned out he really did work with Kevin Spacey and actually they found me by Googling me after reading my article in Wired. And Kevin said, "I want to make this into a movie." That sort of just sort of came out of the blue. I was like, "What the heck are you guys going?" And they were like, "Where the heck are you guys going?"

Jeffrey: And I said like 6 months.

Ben: Kevin Spacey's character as converging in real life as he was in the movie.

Jeffrey: I mean, I didn't think so. He's a composite of a couple of people, but the actual people that were involved that he was sort of based on were sort of more like the Kevin Spacey at the beginning of the movie, and less like the Kevin that sort of evolves on [Ben Mezrich]. You definitely see some bits of him. All the characters in the movie you see little bits of the actual person, and it's kind of eerie when you do.

Jeffrey: How did you get into the whole blackjack thing? Were you approached by a professor, or another student, like in movie?

Ben: Actually, for me it was my friends. I mean, if you think what it does is it really captures the sort of spirit of what we did. And we thought you leave the movie thinking, "Yeah, we beat Vegas and we can beat Vegas." Everyone loves a story of the underdog. So I think what it does is it really captures the sort of spirit of what we did and the way we see it happening. It's kind of a true story.

Jeffrey: Do you think the movie is going to sparkle a big blackjack trend, or do you think Laurence Fishburne's character is going to scare people away?

Ben: I actually think it's going to spark a lot more college kids doing it. We've got letters from people already starting blackjack teams on the book, who wanted to put teams together. So I have a feeling there will be ... you know, what's this, maybe hundred, or if you look inside the movie, that they try it will probably fail — but I bet there will be people doing it.

BM: We go to Vegas every weekend. And I joked, "Can I just go and hang out and hang out? Cause that sounds like fun." They're like, "Can you go to a casino?" I felt weird about it because it seemed like a weird thing to do at the time, at this stage in the whole scene where Ben Campbell's like, "No, I'm not interested." That really happened. I was like, "No, this is cool."

Ben: The idea of a professional gambler just didn't seem right.

Jeffrey: How did your parents feel about finding out all about all of this?

Ben: They're having so much fun with it. They're like, "It's cool. It's cool. It was then a while before they started to use the idea."

Jeffrey: I want to make this into a movie."

Ben: Yeah, I think the movie's awesome. I just thought the character was such a memorable film. I felt weird about it because it seemed like a weird thing to do at the time, at this stage in the whole scene where Ben Campbell's like, "No, I'm not interested." That really happened. I was like, "No, this is cool."

Jeffrey: I actually tried to tell my parents the whole story, but it's really hard to tell someone one story unless they're there. It's kind of hard to get it across.

Ben: Were you upset that the main character wasn't Asian?

Jeffrey: I think that part of it is being overblown a little bit, just because the reality is that if you had a movie where the protagonist was Asian, it would be the most important thing? It wouldn't necessar- ily be that it was incredibly accurate to life; it would be that it be a good movie. I wanted a great actor to portray me, and [Jim Sturgess] is an unbelievable actor.

Next week will feature my interview with director Ronnali Parmar, with the review of the movie following in the April 4 issue.

ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW %&%%

Spices Alone Won't Make The Curry Good

By Ron Rosenberg

Nina's Heavenly Delights
Three Lions Productions
Written by Andrea Gibb
Starring Shelley Conn, Lauren Fraser and Yvonne Soud
Screened Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006
MFA Boston's Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

The ingredients are more than tasty: exotic curries, a spicy relationship with a business partner or lesbian lover, a secret marriage, a generation-cultural clash, and a televised cooking competition involving Indian family-owned curry restaurants, all set in Glasgow, Scotland. From this tantalizing stew comes "Nina's Heavenly Delights," a flavorful romantic comedy during the first half that soon stumbles and struggles and winds up underscored.

Director Pratibha Parmar, making her feature film debut from a series of successful documentaries, and screenwriter Andrea Gibb, open the film with Nina Shah (Shelley Conn), a headstrong Scottish Asian who moved to Glasgow for her father's funeral. She quickly discovers her beloved Dad's gambling debts have closed The New Taj, a premier Indian restaurant, where he's the owner-chef and two-time trophy winner of the Best of the West Curry Competition.

Nina, whose culinary skills were shaped by her father at an early age, decides to compete for a third trophy to both honor her father and save the restaur- ant. Helping her succeed is Glasgow native Lisa Macklinay (Lauren Fraser), an old school pal and busi- ness partner. Their closeness in the kitchen heats up as a determined Nina unexpectedly falls in love with the charismatic woman and strives to keep it a secret.

Soon other family secrets are revealed, most notably her brother's clandestine marriage to a Scottish woman, which he has kept secret from his mother (Yvonne Soud). Mum, who earlier in the film uploads her daughter's home videos to YouTube, asks Nina to arrange an arranged marriage with an equally distinguished curry-house rival named Sanjay (Rami Bhat), a wannabe Bollywood drag queen. On the eve of the televised curry competition, the boys, along with Nina's family, are asked to taste and evaluate chicken shakuti (chicken in coconut gravy) and barley lamb curry chop that ends with everyone getting up from the table and lines dancing around the table to "Daydream Believer."

For all its quirks, "Nina's Heavenly Delights" is a beautifully well-dressed and well-assembled as it shows how a young woman balances her own identity while respecting the traditions of her ethnic family. But it struggles with a stories of a plot clichés, including the ghost of Nina's father offering encouragement and repetition dialogue, like "Taste it in your heart: you always follow your heart."

Alas, the movie's mix of tragedy, laughter, and love is like a promising stew that needed more fire than ese- tic ingredients to become a truly memorable film.
Shakespeare Ensemble Presents ‘Twelfth Night’

Performances will be held March 13-15 and March 20-22 at 8:00 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico.

(clockwise from left)

Olivia (Hanna S. Kuznetsoy ’09) declares her undying love for Viola (Nori Pritchard ’06).

Maria (Rachel Nagin) berates Malvolio (Sabrina M. Neuman ’09) over acting crazy toward Olivia.

Sir Toby (Christopher Stephenson ’09) holds down Sebastian (Sara E. Ferry ’11), thinking he is Viola.

Nathaniel R. Twarog G (Feste) plays the mandolin.

The captain (Heather McDonald ’11) helps Viola (Nori Pritchard ’06) catch her breath.

Sir Toby (Christopher Stephenson ’09) and Feste (Nathaniel R. Twarog G) have a drunken conversation as Sir Aguecheke (Olivia Leitermann G) dances in the background.

Photography by Andrea Robles
VAlÈRE NOVARINA AT MIT
THE SPECTACLE OF THE ACTOR AT WORK:
AN EVENING OF LIVE THEATER
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF:
VAlÈRE NOVARINA
D OM I N I Q U E PINON
HILARIO SAAVEDRA

FILM SCREENING:
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 7 P.M. ROOM 32-155 (STAT  BUILDING)
WHAT CANNOT BE SPOKEN IS WHAT MUST BE SAID (CE DONT ON NE PEUT PARLER, C'EST CELA QU'IL FAUT Dire, 2003, 60 MIN.)
A WONDERFUL DOCUMENTARY IN FRENCH, GERMAN AND YIDDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES THAT DEALS WITH VALÈRE NOVARINA'S APPROACH TO PERFORMANCE, LANGUAGE AND THE VISUAL ARTS. IT FEATURES FOOTAGE OF REHEARSALS FOR NOVARINA'S PLAY L'ORIGINE ROUGE AND OF THE FRENCHPLAYWRIGHT'S INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS. DIRECTED BY RAPHAEL O'BRYNE.
VALÈRE NOVARINA WILL INTRODUCE THE FILM AND RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AFTERWARD.

LIVE STAGE PERFORMANCE IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH:
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 7:30 P.M. KILLIAN HALL (14W-111)
A ONE-HOUR PROGRAM, IN FRENCH AND IN ENGLISH, THAT WILL INCLUDE EXCERPTS FROM NOVARINA'S THEATER PIECES PERFORMED BY NOVARINA HIMSELF AND BY THE ACCLAIMED FRENCH ACTOR DOMINIQUE PINON (DELICATESEN, AMÉLIE POULAIN, ROMAN DE GARDE) AND A FULL PERFORMANCE OF NOVARINA'S ADRAMELECH'S MONOLOGUE, PERFORMED BY THE LOS ANGELES-BASED ACTOR HILARIO SAAVEDRA IN AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY THE POET GUY BENNETT.
FOLLOWED BY Q&A AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS.

Dominique Pinon defies gravity in a performance of Novarina’s L’Origine Rouge (2003)

These events are sponsored by the MIT Foreign Languages and Literatures Section and the MIT Contemporary French Studies Fund, with the cooperation of the French Cultural Services of Boston, Massachusetts.

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Students, Faculty Can Access Old UROP Info Using New Web System

UROP, from Page 1

Students and faculty can access information about department’s UROPs instead of having to obtain it from Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming or set up their own database systems.

Students will be able to see historical information like their past project titles and whether old projects were for credit or pay. Professors and UROP coordinators will be able to see this information for all their students.

Old UROP proposals are not available in the new system but proposals submitted online will be accessible in the future.

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Fractions Troublesome for U.S. Students, Federal Panel Finds

Math Education, from Page 1

curriculums should be streamlined and put focused attention on skills like the handling of whole numbers and fractions and certain aspects of geometry and measurement. It contains specific goals for students in different grades. For example, it said that by the end of the third grade, students should be proficient in adding and subtracting whole numbers; two years later, they should be proficient in multiplying and dividing them. By the end of sixth grade, the report said, students should have mastered the multiplication and division of fractions and decimals.

The report tries to put to rest the long, heated debate over math teaching methods. Parents and teachers have fought passionately in school districts around the country over the relative merits of traditional, or teacher-directed, instruction, in which students are told how to do problems and then drilled on them, versus reform or child-centered instruction, emphasizing student exploration and conceptual understanding. It said both methods had a role.

"There is no basis in research for favoring teacher-based or student-centered instruction," said Dr. Larry R. Faulkner, the chairman of the panel, at a briefing on Wednesday. "People may retain their strongly held philosophical inclinations, but the research does not show that either is better than the other."

The report found that, "To prepare students for algebra, the curriculum must simultaneously develop conceptual understanding, computational fluency and problem-solving skills." Further, it said: "Debates regarding the relative importance of these aspects of mathematical knowledge are misguided. These capabilities are mutually supportive."

The president convened the panel to advise on how to improve math education. Its members include math and psychology professors from leading universities, a middle-school math teacher and the president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Closely tracking an influential 2006 report by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the panel recommended that math curriculum should include fewer topics, spending enough time to make sure each is learned in enough depth that it need not be revisited in later grades. That is the approach used in many top-performing nations, and since the 2006 report, many states have revised their standards to cover fewer topics in greater depth.

The report calls for more research on successful math teaching, and recommends that the secretary of education convene an annual forum of leaders of the national associations concerned with math to develop an agenda for improving math instruction.

Spellings said Thursday that she would convene such a meeting. She emphasized the importance of math education for all students and said the report underlined the need for parents to teach even young children about numbers and measurements.

Spellings said she hoped the report would help persuade Congress to approve the president’s fiscal 2009 budget request for almost $100 million for Math Now, an instructional program proposed last year and not financed.

The report cited a number of topics for international comparisons, including a 2007 assessment finding that 15-year-olds in the United States ranked 25th among their peers in 30 developed nations in math literacy and problem solving.

Fractions are especially troublesome for Americans, the report found. It pointed to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, standardized exams known as the nation’s report card, which found that almost half the eighth graders tested could not solve a word problem that required dividing fractions.

Panel members said the failure to master fractions was for American students the greatest obstacle to learning algebra. Just as “plastics” was the catchword in the 1967 movie “The Graduate,” the catchword for math teachers today should be “fractions,” said Francis Fennell, former president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

After hearing testimony and comments from hundreds of organizations and individuals, and sifting through a broad array of 16,000 research publications, the panelists shaped their report around recent research on how children learn.

For example, the report found it important for students to master their basic math facts well enough that their recall becomes automatic, leaving room in their working memory to take in new math processes.

For all content areas, practice allows students to achieve automaticity of basic skills — the fast, accurate, and effortless processing of content information — which frees up working memory for more complex aspects of problem solving,” the report said.

Faulkner, a former president of the University of Texas at Austin, said parents “need to be exposed to cognitive science that kids have to know the facts.”

The report also cited recent findings that students who depend on their native intelligence for learning excel less than those who believe that success depends on how hard they work.

Faulkner said the current “talent-driven approach to math, that you can do it if you’re smart,” doesn’t cut it. “It’s like playing the violin” needed to be taught to students.

Scratching below the Surface:
Material Metastability Enables Engineering Solutions

Prof. Krystyn J. Van Vliet
Thomas Lord Assistant Professor
Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT

Coupling between the chemical and mechanical states of materials enables applications such as actuators and transducers, defines the environmental susceptibility of mechanical stiffness and strength, and facilitates all biological processes in cells including adhesion to extracellular materials, migration, and differentiation. The Van Vliet Laboratory for Materials Metastabilities studies this chemomechanical coupling in a range of material systems including supersaturated metal alloys, nanoscale amorphous oxides, synthetic polymer thin films, and living mammalian cells and microbes. Prof. Van Vliet will discuss recent progress in the nanoscale experiments and computational simulation of three such material systems, and share what her group has learned about the challenges of modeling and understanding material behavior at surfaces and interfaces that are far from equilibrium.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general-audience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a gifted, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject 3.01 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

COURSE III MSE

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Math Education, from Page 1
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COURSE III MSE
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**Daily Meditation**

“Ye were created to show love one to another and not perversity and rancor. Take pride not in love for yourselves but in love for your fellow-creatures.”

— Bahá’u’lláh (1817-1892)

**Franklin Company’s Bloodless Glucose Monitor Passes Test**

By Todd Wallack

The Boston Globe

A small Franklin company says it is developing a novel device that could potentially let diabetics continuously monitor their blood-sugar levels — without having to draw blood.

Echo Therapeutics Inc. is expected to say today the device passed one of its first key tests, a pilot study with two dozen patients in the intensive-care unit at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. The Symphony system, a disc about the size of a half dollar, is designed to read glucose levels through the skin and transmit the information wirelessly to a nearby computer or hand-held meter. Currently, diabetics patients must normally prick their skin to draw a few drops of blood and place them on a measuring strip.

“I think it’s extremely promising,” said Dr. Stanley Nasraway, a Tufts University School of Medicine professor and director of surgical intensive-care units at the medical center. Nasraway said Echo’s experimental device appeared to be reliable, relatively accurate, and easy to use, though he cautioned that it must first be tested in much larger clinical trials with a wider group of patients.

If successful in broader trials, Echo hopes to win approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market the device as soon as late next year to both hospitals and diabetics for home use. Company executives estimate at least 1.5 million diabetics in the United States currently test their blood-sugar levels twice a day or more, and could potentially benefit from the device, making it a multi-billion-dollar market.

“It’s an enormous market opportunity,” said Harry Mitchell, chief financial officer.

To be sure, Echo is still tweaking the device. It now uses ultrasound technology to expose capillary blood vessels to measure blood-sugar levels. But in future versions, the device will scrape off the outermost layer of skin.

Other companies have failed in efforts to market alternatives to nee-dles for diabetics. In 2001, Cygnus Inc. won FDA approval for its GlucoWatch, a blood-sugar meter that could be worn like a wristwatch. But the device was eventually discontinued amid complaints it was not accurate and caused skin irritation in some users. Johnson & Johnson, which now reportedly owns the technology, did not return calls seeking comment.

In addition, several companies, including Pfizer Inc. and Eli Lilly & Co., recently scrapped projects to develop an inhalable form of insulin, meant to regulate blood-sugar levels. Eli Lilly was working with Cambridge-based Alkermes Inc. on the technology.

Echo also would face competition from other companies, such as DexCom Inc. of San Diego and Medtronic Inc. of Minneapolis, which have developed systems to let patients insert a glucose sensor just under the skin. The sensors constantly monitor glucose levels for up to a week before they need to be replaced. Echo says its system is superior because patients wouldn’t have to use a needle to insert the sensor, which could be placed on the body like a bandage.

But Echo would likely need to raise tens of millions of dollars for clinical trials and other work to bring the product to market. The company had $2.5 million in cash as of September.

“We see lots of interesting ideas,” said Medtronic spokesman Steven Cringle, “but actually getting them approved is a much different story.”

And so far, investors do not seem impressed by Echo’s potential. Its stock closed at $1.35 Wednesday, down from a high of $3.79 in 2004. Echo’s market value is just $25 million.

“We have really just started telling our story,” said Echo chief executive Patrick Mooney. “It’s not a negative. I think Wall Street just doesn’t know who we are.”

Mooney said the Echo technology was originally pioneered in 1996 at Robert S. Langer ScD ’74’s lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and then further developed by a Santa Ana, Calif., company had $2.3 million in cash as of September.

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But Echo would likely need to raise tens of millions of dollars for clinical trials and other work to bring the product to market. The company had $2.5 million in cash as of September.

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And so far, investors do not seem impressed by Echo’s potential. Its stock closed at $1.35 Wednesday, down from a high of $3.79 in 2004. Echo’s market value is just $25 million.

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Women Dominate in B Division Sparring, Sweep Top 3 Places

Taekwondo, from Page 16

For the third tournament this year, MIT’s men’s A1 team (Wu, and co-captains Christopher J. Han ’09 and Jaroslaw Labaziewicz) also served as the men’s B1 team. Fighting through a long and arduous day of competition, they took a bronze medal in the B-Team contest.

MIT finished the tournament with 378 points to Cornell’s 657, retaining second place in the league among twenty schools after three tournaments this season. The club is now preparing for the next INCTL tournament at the University of Pennsylvania on April 5.

Pilgrim League Names Geesman, Silverman to Scholar All-Star Team

After losing his first match by a 6-2 score, Geesman won his next five matches, the clincher being a take-down of York’s Luke Panizzi at the 2:27 mark.

Geesman earned a berth to the nationwide tourney after posting a 6-1 record, including five pins, to win the New England College Conference Wrestling Association heavyweight championship on Feb. 23-24.

Geesman finished the season with a 32-5 ledger, including 21 pins to lead the competitive Pilgrim League. The star also ranked second overall in the league in his weight class, while standing in the top three in the country in pins in all divisions. For his outstanding efforts, Geesman earned Pilgrim League All-Star Honorable Mention honors. He was also named to the Pilgrim League 2008 Scholar-Athlete All-Star Team along with teammate Joseph B. Silverman ’10.

“The great news is Glenn will be back next season to accomplish his goal of becoming a national champion,” Layte said.

Wrestling, from Page 16

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“The great news is Glenn will be back next season to accomplish his goal of becoming a national champion,” Layte said.
Taekwondo Finishes Second at NYU Amid Field of 370 Athletes

By Aaron Sampson

The MIT Sport Taekwondo Club took second place at a tournament held at New York University on Feb. 24, the largest tournament in the history of the Ivy Northeast Collegiate Taekwondo League. Of the twenty-four colleges competing, only Cornell University surpassed the impressive score of MIT’s team, coached by Master Daniel Chuang.

The competition began with forms, or poomsae, competition, in which competitors perform a choreographed sequence of kicks and hand techniques. Club President Corinna Hui ’09 secured the team’s first victory of the day with a gold medal in the women’s red belt division.

MIT was dominant in blue belt forms, with Ning Wu G and Wenxian Hong ’10 taking first place and third place respectively in the men’s competition, and Elisabeth M. Markham ’09 and Miranda J. Ha G doing the same on the women’s side. At the green belt level, Michael Schneider G took first place among the men with his powerful hand techniques. Shammu S. Quddus ’10 and Cheni Ouyang ’08 earned first and third place among the women. Andrew K. Sugaya ’11 also earned second place in the very large white and yellow belt division.

The sparring competitions were highly competitive in the very large field, beginning with the advanced (A-Team) division. The women’s A1 team (co-captain Karolina A. Corin G, Ha, Hui, and Stephanie R. Chiang ’08) had a very impressive showing, fighting through close matches and sudden death overtimes all the way to the finals against Harvard University A1. The team took the silver medal.

In the beginner (C-Team) and first-timer (D-Team) competitions, some of MIT’s newest team members had the opportunity to represent MIT in the ring. MIT’s women’s C2 team (Jing “Jenny” Cheng ’11, ZheChen “Mary” Hong ’10, and Ouyang) took third place after easily winning three matches, falling only to Cornell University C1. First time competitor Andrew K. Sugaya ’11 also earned second place in the very large white and yellow belt division.

Geesman Named All-American at NCAA Division III Championships

By Mike Stoller

By just qualifying for the Division III national wrestling tournament, MIT heavyweight standout Glenn J. Geesman ’09 had already accomplished the remarkable. But what the junior sensation achieved Friday night at the U.S. Cellular Center was beyond extraordinary. In the late evening hours, MIT’s most prolific muscleman was hailed as an NCAA All-American after pinning his opponent from York College in 2:27. Just before that match, Geesman soundly defeated his counterpart from the State University of New York at Oswego, 10-1.

“Personally, I am extremely proud of Glenn on his outstanding performance,” said MIT head wrestling coach Tom Layte. “I am so impressed with how Glenn came back from his first round loss and won five straight matches in dominating fashion. He was the talk of the tournament. All the coaches and fans were very impressed with Glenn’s performance.”

Geesman became MIT’s first All-American in 24 years, as the Engineers closed the tournament ranked 15th as a team in the country, their best ever finish in NCAA history. Kenneth R. Shull ’84 secured Tech’s last All-American accolade in 1984.