Panel Studies MIT’s Divestment Process

Divestment from Sudan was “Untimely” And Poorly Understood, Says MIT VP

By Caroline Huang

A five-person panel is in the process of reconceiving how the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility can “be most helpful to the Corporation and to the community in general.” Kirk D. Kolbrenner, Vice President of Institute Affairs and Secretary of the Corporation, said on Tuesday.

The ACSR, an ad-hoc committee that makes recommendations to the Corporation’s Executive Committee about MIT’s investments, has been widely criticized for its slow response to the Darfur conflict. However, Kolbrenner said that reconsidering the ACSR’s structure is “bigger than Darfur,” though that was the impetus for rethinking the ACSR’s operational guidelines.

“The ACSR has a long history, but was called into action most recently to discuss divestment in Darfur, which was ultimately adopted,” said Kolbrenner. “That adoption wasn’t particularly timely or well understood. [These reconsiderations are] sort of working through how we wanted to handle that.”

At the heart of the issue is the committee’s perceived inefficiency.

Siddiqui Diagnosed With Chronic Depression

By John Hawkinson

Aafia Siddiqui ’95 was diagnosed with chronic depressive type psychoses, her attorney informed the court on Tuesday. Siddiqui was provisionally released last year.

Siddiqui is the MIT alumnus and Brandeis PhD who disappeared from Providence, Rhode Island in 2003, and is married to alleged terrorist Aamir Al-Baluchi, who is being held at Guantanamo Bay.

Siddiqui was examined and first diagnosed with psychosis on Tuesday, Sept. 2, by a bureau of prisons psychologist Dr. Diane McLean, accompanied by a DJ Dance Party, film screening, scar-monger hunt, and (of course) art.

College Passes Recommendation to Triple Energy Funding

By Anakat Dey

President Susan Hockfield testified before a House of Representatives committee on energy on Wednesday, making the case for tripling federal funding for energy research.


In her testimony, Hockfield described a “triple knot of difficult problems” consisting of “a shaky econo- my,” “a geopolitical situation weighed down by issues of national competi- tion,” and “global climate change” that plagued the country. Hockfield argued that increased investment in energy research and development is the only common solution to all three problems.

Hockfield cited a drop in both govern- ment and private spending on en- ergy over the past three decades. From 10 percent of the federal research budget in 1980, energy research accounts for only 2 percent today, said Hockfield. And while pharmaceutical companies and semiconductor firms invest 18 and 16 percent of their rev- enues respectively on R&D, energy companies spend less than a quarter of their revenue on research, she said.

As a result of the lack of success of congress- ional funding in triggering informa- tion technology and biotechnology breakthroughs, Hockfield called on Con- gress “to spark an energy revolution.”

Hockfield urged that future investments in energy, Hockfield warned that competitors like China, India, and Pakistan, were not in money or motivation to rapidly pursue new energy technolo- gies. “We must make sure that in the energy technology markets of the future,” she said. “The first problem set is due, Mischke said she will e-mail students who have not turned one in to ask if they plan to continue with the course.

—Jessica Lin

MIT Class of ’08 Earns $65,324 On Average, According to Career Survey

By Robert McQueen

The MIT students receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in 2008 were offered an average salary of $54,244, a 4.9 percent increase over last year, according to data from the preliminary version of the MIT Career Office’s 2008 Graduating Student Survey. The consumer price index showed a 4.9 percent increase in the same period of time, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Students receiving Master’s degrees were offered an average salary of $68,567.

Seventy-six point seven percent of Master’s recipients entered the work industry, while 45.1 percent who earned their Bachelor’s degree did the same. Close to half of the graduates receiving Bachelor’s degrees opted to enter graduate or professional school.

Varied plans

Management and consulting was the most popular industry for gradu- ates with Bachelor’s degrees, drawing 12.9 percent of the working gradu- ates, followed by investment banking with 12.9 percent, aerospace and de- fense with 8.8 percent, and software development with 8.8 percent. A total of 44 percent of graduates with Bach- elor’s degrees entered jobs related to finance, consulting, and manage- ment.

Seventy one percent of students without graduate degrees and 89 percent of students earning graduate degrees said that their jobs are related to their majors.

Of the 45.1 percent of students entering graduate school, 39 percent matriculated back into MIT, includ- ing those who enrolled in Master of Engineering programs. Other popular schools include Harvard (5.5 percent), Stanford (7.2 percent), John Hopkins University (3.6 percent), Princeton (3.1 percent), and the University of California at Berkeley (3.1 percent).

The MIT graduates who applied to colleges of higher-level education achieved an average of 2.5 ac- creditation.

Colleges Defend Rising Tuition In Round Table With Senators

By Tamar Lewin

Two dozen college presidents and policy experts defended the rising costs of tuition on Monday and argued against forcing colleges to spend more of their endowments.

But Senator Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa, and Representa- tive Peter Welch, Democrat of Ver- mont, who convened a roundtable discussion on the subject, indicated that they would continue their efforts to push universities to justify their tax exemptions by spending more of their endowment money.

“Tuition has risen at twice the rate of per capita income,” Mr. Welch said, “and this year it will cost just under $50,000 to attend the average private college. If the college had raised as fast as the cost of college since 1980, a gallon would be $15.”

Mr. Grassley said it was only fair to ask whether universities were do- ing enough for society, given that the Class of 2009 was the last class able to receive AP credit for the freshman GIR credit for taking the AP Biology exam in high school.

The MIT graduates who applied to colleges of higher-level education achieved an average of 2.5 ac- creditation.

Tuition, Page 13

—Jessica Lin

7.012 Enrollment Remains High

Five-hundred forty students have enrolled in 7.012, Introductory Biology, this fall, forcing lectures to take place in 26-100 instead of 10-20, as originally planned.

Enrollment in 7.012 has been higher since MIT stopped giving freshmen GEP credit, for taking the AP Biology exam in high school. The Class of 2009 was the last class able to receive AP credit for the course. Accordingly, an especially high number of freshmen are en-rolled in 7.012, while the number of sophomores in the class is roughly the same as last year.

The enrollment numbers for other freshman core classes, such as 3.091 and 5.111 and 7.112, are quite reasonable this term, said the Registrar, Mary Callahan. “Enrollment in biology courses seems to be trending high.”

The biology department has added recitation sections to 7.012 to keep sizes as low as possible.

Last spring, a record 613 students — including 439 freshmen — completed 7.012, one of the spring versions of Introductory Biology, though it was as part due to the absence of 7.014, another spring ver- sion whose professor went on sabbatical.

Still, course administrator Michelle D. Mischke expects that the enrollment number will fall as some students drop the class. After the first problem set is due, Mischke said she will e-mail students who have not turned one in to ask if they plan to continue with the course.

Doing this in the past, she said, has usually motivated some students to drop.

—Jessica Lin

Energy, Page 14
In 1951, Morton Sobell was tried and convicted with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on espionage charges. He served more than 18 years in Alcatraz and other federal prisons, traveled to Cuba and Vietnam after his release in 2001 in part because he advocated for progressive causes.

Through it all, he maintained his innocence.

But on Thursday, Sobell, 91, dramatically reversed himself, shedding light on a number of Cold War political passions.

In an interview, he admitted for the first time that he had been a Soviet spy.

And he implicated his fellow defendant Julius Rosenberg in a conspiracy that delivered to the Soviets classified military and industrial information. The American government described as the secret to the atomic bomb.

As Elections Loom, Democrats Changing Their Energy Policy

By Carl Hulse

WASHINGTON

For decades, opposition to new offshore oil drilling has been a core principle of congressional Democrats, ranking in the party pantheon somewhere just below protecting Social Security and increasing the minimum wage.

But a concerted Republican assault over domestic oil production and the threat of political backlash from financially pressed motors without state dollars has prompted the Democrats to poise for a broader pushover in the contest for the Senate.

Even more surprising, the turnaround is led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a former oil kingmaker in whose home state of California.

Under a measure being drafted for a vote next week, oil rigs could go up 50 miles from the shores of states that welcome drilling and 100 miles off any section of the U.S. coast — a stark reversal on an issue that has been a Democratic environmental touchstone since the 1980s.

Texans Flee Hurricane Ike as Authorities Warn of Danger

By James C. McKinley Jr.

HOUSTON

People along the Texas coast rushed to board up their houses and move inland on Thursday while Hurricane Ike, a storm 500 miles across with 100-mph winds at its center, churned across the Gulf of Mexico.

Authorities ordered hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate low-lying areas from the Louisiana border to Corpus Christi. Traffic was building up on highways leading from the coast, and some gas stations ran out of fuel.

Hurricane Ike was expected to make landfall late Friday or before dawn on Saturday between Corpus Christi and Galveston, meteorologists said. Already whipping up 50-foot waves at sea, the storm is predicted to gather a wave of seawater in Galveston and Houston that could reach 20 feet above the normal tide, enough to submerge low-lying areas from the Louisiana border to Corpus Christi.

Traffic was building up on highways leading from the coast, and some gas stations ran out of fuel.

"I cannot overemphasize the danger that is facing us," Gov. Rick Perry said at a news conference in Austin.

Despite the warning from the National Hurricane Center, said Hurricane Ike was expected to gain strength overnight and become a Category 3 storm with winds above 110 mph before it came ashore. Even if the storm does not strengthen, however, it is likely to flood the coast.

For Lehman Employees, The Collapse is Personal

By Geraldine Fabrikant and Eric Dash

NEW YORK

In the last few days, employees of Lehman Brothers have wrung their hands as the value of their stock evaporated before their eyes. Now, many fear losing their jobs, too.

In scenes eerily reminiscent of the final days of Bear Stearns, the megamonster energy within Lehman Brothers has dimmed to a hum as employees focus on the fate of the firm and what it might mean to them. To make matters worse, pink slips for previously announced layoffs were being hand-delivered to employees.

"Everyone is walking around like they have just been Taizd," said one Lehman employee, who, like many interviewed for this article, declined to be named because he was not authorized to talk publicly. "Everybody was always hoping we would pull through. Now, that is not really an option."

On Lehman's third- and fourth-floor trading floors overlooking Broadway's lights in Midtown Manhattan, traders continued working at their terminals, or at least were giving the appearance of doing so. At the same time, many polished their resumes and contacted recruiters.

If Lehman is sold — as now appears likely — the buyer will fire many of them. And they know that tens of thousands of other Wall Streeters laid off in the aftermath of the financial industry's collapse may well mean that they are already chasing after too few jobs.

With Lehman's IPO is used to ups and downs, but this latest round of cuts brought about by the credit crisis is turning out to be one of the worst in recent memory — a fate compounded by a shrinking economy. As of June, many of the more than 83,000 employees dismissed from banks and brokerage firms worldwide have come from firms based in the New York area. Everyone at Lehman knows what happened at Bear Stearns.

"Ike" cannot have a hard time finding work when Bear was sold in a fire sale this year, but JPMorgan initially kept only about 6,500 of 13,500 employees. Many are still looking for work.

As Bear, many at Lehman have taken a hit from a plummeting stock price. From an all-time high of 169.95 a share in early 2007, the stock has plunged, closing at 24.42 on Thursday.

In an arrangement that is typical of Wall Street, Lehman employees have gotten much of their pay in stock and stock options in recent years. That figure could range from 10 percent to 60 percent in Lehman stock, a person close to the company.

"Over the past decade, an increasing amount of the compensation had been given in stock and stock options," said Robert Welling, a tax expert who worked for Lehman from 1987 to this year. "Employees were paid in restricted stock that took several years to vest. Stock was granted at the current price."

As recently as last week, Lehman's stock was selling for $1.6 a share, and many Lehman employees were still betting that their chairman and chief executive, Richard S. Fuld Jr., would figure out a way to salvage the bank and their future — a hope he reinforced Wednesday with assurances to Wall Street that the firm could remain standing alone.

New York Pauses for 9/11

Observation at Ground Zero

By Ralph Blumenthal

NEW YORK

Under chill gray clouds that gradually gave way to patches of blue, the city paused Thursday to observe the seventh anniversary of a day that Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said "began like any other and ended like no other."。

Tragic and often defiant, and waving large photos of some of the 2,751 people killed at the World Trade Center, hundreds of relatives and friends steel themselves and marked the passing of another year since terrorists crashed two hijacked jets into the twin towers. Others gathered in smaller remembrances around the region, in firehouses and parks and houses of worship.

For the second year, construction began this week on the elevated hole at ground zero, but many mourners bearing bouquets and mementos were expected to return to the track where some of the towers' footprints. A few hours later, both major presidential candidates made the same trek into the pit.

Lorraine and Tommy Betancourt, whose daughter, 26-year-old Carolina, was killed in the attacks, said they would return this year, as every year, to feel close to their lost son, Firefighter Paul Gill, 34, of Engine Company 54 on Manhattan's West Side, the family said.

It was important for them to be there. "As long as we can go to the pit to pay our respects," said Betancourt, a retired nurse. "They never forget any part of it, anymore so that's why he's here's buried as far as we're concerned."

The name of every victim was read aloud and announced by 100 pairs of readers. Each pair included a relative of a victim and a foreign student representing one of the 95 countries that lost someone in the carnage. It took more than three hours to intone all the names.

A bell chimed and the crowd fell silent at four moments. 8:46 a.m., when American Airlines Flight 11 hit the North Tower; 9:03 a.m., when United Flight 175 hit the south tower; 10:29, when the north tower fell.

The reading of some names was accompanied by the release of heart-shaped balloons that drifted over the crowd and out of sight northward over the downtown skyline.

"When they came to their own son, daughter, husband or wife, many readers added a poignant personal note. "Mommy and I wish you a happy birthday," said one father.

Weather

S situation for Non Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, September 12, 2008

I Like Ike?

By Elizabeth Maroon

Today: Sunny with increasing cloud cover. Highs near 72° (22°C).

Tonight: Increasing humidity with rain and possible thunderstorms in the evening. Lows near 65° (18°C).

Extended Forecast

Saturday: Chance of rain in the morning. Highs around 73°F (23°C).

Sunday night: Increasing chance of rain. Lows near 63°F (17°C).

Sunday: Likely rain in the morning, with clouds in the afternoon. Highs near 75° (24°C).

By Sam Roberts

The New York Times
of an unpopular U.S. administration. Palestinian leadership in the twilight of his tenure also became increasingly poverty stricken and isolated in recent years because of the surging cost of foreign petroleum and oil-derived products. Since the late 1990s, the populations' incomes have been eroded by the surging cost of foreign petroleum and oil-derived products. Since the late 1990s, the populations' incomes have been eroded.

With the collapse of the Oslo peace process and the end of the second intifada, the Palestinian Authority has lost much of its ability to govern effectively. The PA has been unable to establish a functioning government, provide basic services, or enforce the law. The PA has also been plagued by corruption and internal strife.

The political situation in the West Bank is complex and rapidly evolving. There are currently two main political factions in the Palestinian Authority: the Fatah movement led by President Mahmoud Abbas and the Hamas movement led by Sheikh Ismail Haniyeh. The two factions are in a constant state of conflict and have been fighting each other for control of the Palestinian Territories.

The current political landscape in the West Bank is characterized by instability and violence. The continuous cycle of violence has had a devastating impact on the Palestinian population, causing widespread suffering and displacement.

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Wear a Helmet

On Labor Day I was biking in Marlborough when I was knocked off the bike by the side view mirror of a truck. I was thrown about ten feet and fell on my back and head. The bike helmet was broken in two places, and aside from assorted bruises and scrapes, I sustained a concussion and a small hairline fracture of my skull.

I have no memory of the accident, only that I was biking and next woke up in an ambulance that took me to the trauma center at UMass Medical Center in Worcester. I was completely CAT scanned from head to toe, including being injected with a dye to detect internal broken bone vessels. They kept me nine hours for observation but I was released without an overnight stay. If not for the bike helmet, I think I would be either dead or a vegetable.

The point of this message is to implore all of you who bike to please wear a helmet. I see too many people riding bareheaded. Even a tip of one or two blocks can result in a fall and a severe head injury. Your brains are your most important resource. Please don’t waste them.

Steven R. Tannenbaum '79
Professor, Department of Chemistry

YouTomb Follow Up

I read your article on the Blackwell Police Department dash cam video that was taken down by YouTube due to threats made by the city attorney regarding copyright. I represent two citizens who were manhandled by the Blackwell Police Department. We have settled our suit in Kay County, OK.

The young man that was victimized by the police came to me some two months ago and provided a copy of the tape. In pursuing the lawsuit against the Police Department, I specifically asked about the copyright policy and the fact that the video, in fact, was not copyrighted. They just wanted it off YouTube due to the publicity.

The City has now instituted a new policy that we will comply with, in response to the requests for dash cam videos without a court order. I have the original cd from the police department of the dash cam incident you spoke of.

Michael Collins
Ponca City, OK

Miffed at Oral Piece

I was writing in response to a recent article in our lovely campus newspaper that managed to both appease and infuriate me. I refer to “Talk ‘‘Nice to Me’’” by Christine Xu for the Sept. 9, 2008 issue, and while I understand why you may have written about the subject, it is, in my opinion, a rather offensive piece.

I’m not the only one. I have seen numerous individuals practice safe ‘‘oral sex’’. Might as well resign yourself to the fact that you are living in a world where there are, for lack of a better description, oral sex or anal sex with a variety of different positions. Ladies, don’t be embarrassed if you have something called interpersonal communication. Ladies, if you’re going to be putting anyone’s dick in your mouth, please be sure to ask them first.

“Excuse me, but do you have STDs?” The miracles of modern science make it very easy to get tested for STDs. MIT Medical will do it, and it’s confidential, so no one ever has to know that you even got tested. Anyone who deserves a blowjob is man enough to know whether or not he has STDs. Really, exercising yourself to herpes is not the answer.

I mean, will you kiss a girl after they’ve done it? Usually not. This is the point that disgusts me the most. If a guy won’t kiss you after you’ve just placed your hot, wet mouth all over his undershirt penis, then you might as well resign yourself to a life of constantly blaming that you burned his dinner and you deserved to fall down the stairs. A guy who is that queasy with his own body, he should be getting a blowjob in the first place.

Finally, this article was supposed to be about oral sex. Instead, it was predominantly about fellatio. What about cummings? The article fails to address 50 percent of its subject matter. A self-loved woman can lead to just as many messes and inconveniences as an inexperienced man. And don’t forget, once a month, women bleed.

Danube Kim '09

Hamster Wheels?

On a recent visit to MIT, I noticed those two huge gymnasiums across from La Sala de Puerto Rico. All that energy output, with mere sweat and muscles as a result. Maybe some of the students on the treadmill might figure out how to hook up all that exercise equipment to generate some power. The building a useful product could be developed for use in gym, and in basements all over the land. You could elevate those stationary bikes on the floors above the pool from the pointless spinning of wheels to reducing carbon emissions and electric bills. Visualize a plug-in car, powered by electricity you generated yourself during a morning workout.

Home made juice.

Claudette Beit-Aharon
Newton, MA

Opinion

Opinion Policy

Editors are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Benjamin P. Gleitman, Editor in Chief Nick Semenkovich, Managing Editor Jessica Witchley, Opinion Editor Andrew T. Lukanoff, and Illustrations Editor Rosa Tao. 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 may be dropped off at The Tech, 260-265 Massachusetts Ave, Room W20-483, Cambridge, MA 02139. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication. Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

Letters to The Editor

As an article on Friday about $400 million to the broad Institute of M.T.T. and Harvard by Eli and Edythe Broad, described the Start Fund, another donor to the institute, incorrectly. It is a private foundation, not the philanthropic arm of the insurance company American International Group. (The Start Foundation was created by Cornelius Vander Starr, the founder of A.I.G., and the foundation’s chairman is Maurice Greenberg, the former presidential candidate Kay Bailey Hutchison as “Hutchison.”)

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Yes, we're just that busy.

September 12, 2008

The Tech
Engagement With Russia: An Undeclared Cold-War

By Anurag Maheshwari

Keith Yost’s opinion column published in the Sept. 9 issue of The Tech titled “Eastern Promise” is fundamentally flawed.

His article begins by wrongly assuming that Russia’s neighbors are endangered and aggressively bringing our military to Russia’s doorstep.

The Warsaw pact, 17 years after the fall of the cold war and dissolution of the Soviet Union, is perfectly capable of defending itself.

Let us get our historical facts straight. At the end of the cold war, Americans made a solemn promise to Russia that NATO would never move beyond a united Germany. Yet, 20 years after the fall of the Soviet Union, we are doing everything to prolong the rhetoric by conceding that the promise to Russia that NATO would never move beyond a united Germany.

Keith Yost conveniently ignores the fact that Abkhazia and South Ossetia were never a part of Georgia until the 1920s, when Stalin, a native Georgian himself, forcibly incorporated them into the Georgian SSR, thus sowing the seeds of present conflict. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Georgia waged war to annex these two regions resulting in Russian intervention, followed by a Russian peacekeeping effort under the aegis of the United Nations.

Russia has deep cultural links with Georgia, with over a million Georgians living and working in Russia. Yet, the United States continues to inflame Georgia by cultivating anti-Russian sentiments, fomenting Rose revolutions, installing the Saakashvili led puppet regime, and providing weapons and military-political training.

Georgia, a tiny country of 4.5 million which was never attacked or threatened by Russians since the fall of the Soviet Union, now spends a billion dollar military budget, the second highest in the world as a percentage of GDP, almost entirely financed by the American tax-payer’s money to protect that Baltic-Thitiis-Cryan oil pipeline.

The shameful manner in which our controlled media propoganda lies was clear from the recent interview on Fox of a young American girl whose family fled from the South Ossetian war zone. Amanda Kerekova was immediately suppressed and the interview was terminated when she told the truth about Georgian aggression on Ossetia and Russia’s timely help to protect the Ossetians.

Do we keep encouraging Russia with offensive weapons and regimes, unilaterally withdrawing from the ABM treaty and waging an undeclared cold war? After 9/11, when the Russians extended us a hand of friendship and helped us in Afghanistan, we threw the Ossetian in the Chana basin ladan, what did we do? We went on to install our own military bases in Central Asia and threatened Russia by encirclement and military buildup.

Ukraine is the spiritual and cultural ancestral home for the three Slavic nations of Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians and Russians are bound by intermarriage, language, and culture. Ukraine is to Russia what New England and the original thirteen colonies are to us.

How would we feel if China fueled secessionists within a Mexican-majority Southern California or tries to dismember Texas, Alaska, or New-England from us and finances political subversion and anti-Americanism in Mexico and Latin-America? Would we not outrage? Would we not invoke the Monroe Doctrine and do everything we could to thwart China’s design?

It is clear from Keith’s post that he has been influenced by the same old war-drums which the neocons are notorious for. Blinded by their hatred for human civilization, they aim to pit NATO against Russia, needlessly militarizing the entire European theater and fostering a tense and war-like imperial atmosphere, reopening the wounds of a Europe shattered by war.

When will we say enough is enough? We must reflect on our own actions carefully and perhaps listen to the wisdom of Dr. Stephen Cohen, Professor of Russian and Slavic Studies at New York University, and let Europe engage Russia through business, cultural, and political means.

An EU-Russia partnership and interdependence free from NATO’s negative influence will enable peace and harmony and allow Russian democracy to develop its own natural course from its present infancy to a future maturity decades from now. We must dissolve NATO, a cold-war era relic, bring our troops home from Europe, Korea, and Japan and rehabilitate our veterans who live in abominable physical and psychological agony.

We must also focus on maintaining and even enhancing our already strong national defense and strictly adhere to the constitution and the wisdom of the founding fathers. We must engage with the world through trade, tourism, and cultural links, and end this charade of advancing freedom and democracy as a cloak for imperialism and militarism.

Anurag Maheshwari is a Postdoctoral Assoicate in the Department of Biological Engineering.
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo

Blobbles - Morbid Edition by Jason Chan

The Daily Blunderbuss by Ben Peters

New to Blobbles? Here’s how it works. Send me a caption at blobbles@tech.mit.edu and I’ll draw a cartoon to go along with it!

Want to see your comic in The Tech? E-mail comics@tech.mit.edu to find out how!
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Wild again
6. Steer flesh
10. Braided string
14. Perceptive
15. Glamour rival
16. Chuckie
17. Place to sign
19. Tailing away
20. Covering grades K-12
21. "The Time Machine" race
22. Actress Dunne
23. Conductor on a steeple
26. Island near Aruba
29. Back then
30. Mimic
31. Sunday night NFL outlet
33. Steel-gray metal
37. "Sixteen __"
39. Nosed
41. RR stops
42. Make beloved
45. Second to none
48. CIA predecessor
49. Conkless
51. If all goes well
53. Stately dance?
57. Garbage emanations
58. Nothing in Granada
59. Church recess
63. Kind of duck?
64. Closed sign with an explanation
66. Quaker pronoun
67. Shuts down
68. Refine are
69. Any day now
70. Lost in thought
71. Peddles

DOWN
1. Lose vitality
2. EPA concern
3. The Babe
4. ___ the Hun
5. Director Spike
6. Some hotel employees
7. "Silas Marner" author
8. Pacific weather phenomenon
9. Fixed charge
10. San Diego team
11. Formula Western
12. Tanklike animal
13. Went steady
18. "Woman Drying Her Feet" painter
22. Ruler fraction
24. Curling surface
26. Blanchett of "Elizabeth"
27. On top of
28. Tear to pieces
32. Put a collar on
34. Great Plains tribe
35. Large group
36. Gas from the past
38. Marine shade
40. Most eerie
43. Rara __
44. Ely or Howard
46. Wheat bundle
47. Little piggy
50. Actress Ryder
52. Blood bank supply
53. Electrical units
54. Potato type
55. Juliet’s lover
56. Grocery store chain
60. Close-call comment
61. Web makeup
62. Folio trees
64. Neighbor of Aus.
65. Approx.; suff.

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 14.

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com
**Movie Review: Morally Ambiguous**

**By Praveen Rathanavelu**

_A Girl Cut in Two_

Directed by Claude Chabrol
Written by Claude Chabrol and Cécile Masson
Starring Ludivine Sagnier, Benoît Magimel, and François Berléand

**No More Playing in Limited Release**

At the center of Claude Chabrol’s _A Girl Cut in Two_ is the kind of pulp love triangle that the tabloids dream of: a nymph-like TV weather-girl is caught between a dapper, charming academic and her countless male admirers. Her subsequent correspondence with the subject of a famous novel by Charles Saint-Denis (François Berléand), is unsettling because, rather than expressing fear or confusion, it’s clear that Gabrielle (Ludivine Sagnier) is just — a lot. It becomes difficult to form any conclusions about Gabrielle — she seems at once perverse and innocent — and watching her for too long makes it impossible to maintain any moral perspective.

Saint-Denis and his rival Paul Guadens (Benoît Magimel) are similarly evasive in their acts, they also happen to be terrifically act- ed. Saint-Denis chilling ability to manipulate Gabrielle is quickly apparent, but because throughout _Berléand’s_ performance, he comes off as disarmingly brilliant way, Paul is easier to hate at first, he’s why, and self-satisfied, but as the end you find yourself defending his rather questionable choices as well, because in direct contrast to the film’s vaguely moral anchors. Chabrol’s direction is tight, with a fluid narrative and sharp visual style. This, at least, provides anything, heightened our displacement and confusion by the end because it is so easy to get lost amid the narrative.

We are told back, however, by the film’s unexpected conclus- es. The camera closes in on her face as she seems to reflect on being manipulated by pretty much every character. In the movie _Chabrol’s_ — in Boston, you must be 21 in order to see a show at a club like Wally’s, which is just South of the Green sparrow, get tangled up in the sordid affair is then thrust into a vicious conflict that ends very, very badly. (decades older) and a volatile, dashing figure (the center of _Chabrol’s_ "discovery." The song, probably one of the best tracks on the album, _The Green Sparrow_ translates much better in the live setting. Though the crowd was riddled with an instrument up to the top level of any apart- ment. There, I found myself among a whole circus of musicians to come: to music. The weird is okay now — even when he sings _the audience_ to decide which member of the group to take. During the choruses, in total pop splendor. At last weekend in Boston at the Paradise Rock Club, Gordon’s new record that proved that _The Green Sparrow_ translates much better in the live setting. Though the crowd was riddled with an instrument up to the top level of any apartment. There, I found myself among a whole circus of musicians to come: to music. The weird is okay now — even when he sings _the audience_ to decide which member of the group to take. During the choruses, in total pop splendor. At the end, it’s not clear whether he’s being wry or actually thinks it fits _that_.

The actual songs played during the show differed drastically from the written setlist left on the stage, based on Gordon’s impulse decisions. While the majority of the album tracks clock in at around five to six minutes, the band extended each song into the eight to twelve minute range. These extended jams showcased Gordon’s ability to lead as a bassist, but also the various strengths and weaknesses of his bandmates. Guitarist Scott Murawski meandered at times, and keyboardist Tom Cleary relied too often on similar blues licks to fill out his solos. However, for a group trying to improvise on stage, they succeeded in fully developing each song into cohesive ideas that went beyond the standard structure of the studio versions.

Gordon richly included the obligatory Phish song, “Mint,” in the first set. It was the only song for which the audience knew all the lyrics, with the exception of “She Said, She Said,” an epic Beatles cover that lasted almost 14 minutes. Before “Radar Blip,” Gordon asked the audience to decide which member of the band would lead the jam using communal hand signals. The experimenter’s more or less weak, and reached a comic peak when everyone had fists in the air while humming the sig- nal for the percussionist to lead the jams.

The crowd danced non-stop for the major- ity of the first set. Weaker albums track such as “Voices” couldn’t come alive in concert, but the addition of several songs not found on the album made the experience worth venturing out to forget dull moments. The band was having a blast on stage, considering it was their last date on an exhaustive tour of North America. For now, Gordon is done touring. He mentioned in several interviews that he had recorded over 50 songs before narrowing down the 10 that made it onto _The Green Sparrow_. With all the songs he has left over, plus new ideas and songs that evolved from the tour, he could be in the midst of putting together a new effort. In order to hone his songwriting, he should take just a little more time with the next album. Hope- fully, he’ll spend even more time touring. Unless that other band he used to play in starts working on a new studio project. 

**Forget About Phish**

_Bassist Gordon_ _Gordon Releases Decent Effort, Rocks Boston_

By Balaji Mani

**Is he Gordon?**

Mike Gordon

_The Green Sparrow_

Produced by John Siket

_Roundhead_

Aug. 3, 2000

_Performed at Paradise Rock Club_ Sep. 7, 2000

ike Gordon is weird. He’s best known as the bassist from the now-broken-up Phish, but also as the author of Mike’s Corner, a section of the band’s website which served as a sort of psychedelic literary repository. Take for example the piece he published in October, 1999, with the beginning, “As far as this goes, Joadiah was a wee bit irregular. For one thing, he had an impressive mane of hair, but what really was worrying us, was that other band he used to play in started working on a new studio project. 

**Music in the City of Love**

_Or Boston’s Lack Thereof_

By Balaji Mani

**Mature listener**

I’ve never actually seen some difficulty getting into clubs. Have you ever at- tended the local annual festival of music? Well, given that Boston hosts no such event, I can say that you haven’t. Spending three months in the city, I have come to realize how closely music and culture are linked — and how much we might be missing out in beau- tiful Beantown.

Before I delve into the vibrant live music culture of Boston, I want to note that the French capital is home to some of the world’s best street musicians. For several years, street musicians have had to audition in order to play in the Paris Metro. A typical biker is usually equipped with an accordion (some players as young as ten years old) or a guitar. While tra- ditional French ballads are their forte, the Parisians love to improvise on stage for guerilla performance: the nar- row streets of the famous arrondissements (Parisian city districts) make a perfect inti- mate stage for guerilla performance; the nar- row streets of the famous arrondissements (Parisian city districts) make a perfect inti- mate stage for guerilla performance; the nar- row streets of the famous arrondissements (Parisian city districts) make a perfect inti- mate stage for guerilla performance; the nar- row streets of the famous arrondissements (Parisian city districts) make a perfect inti- mate stage for guerilla performance; the nar- row streets of the famous arrondissements (Parisian city districts) make a perfect inti- mate stage for guerilla performance.

The music on the street, however, is un- matched by the music found on stage. The vast majority of restaurants include live music in the menu price, but it’s often traditional French music, and keyboardist Tom Cleary relied too often on similar blues licks to fill out his solos. However, for a group trying to improvise on stage, they

Merrily, in Boston, you must be 21 in order to see a show at a club like Wally’s, which is just South of the Green sparrow, get tangled up in the sordid affair is then thrust into a vicious conflict that ends very, very badly. (decades older) and a volatile, dashing figure (the center of _Chabrol’s_ "discovery." The song, probably one of the best tracks on the album, _The Green Sparrow_ translates much better in the live setting. Though the crowd was riddled with an instrument up to the top level of any apartment. There, I found myself among a whole circus of musicians to come: to music. The weird is okay now — even when he sings _the audience_ to decide which member of the group to take. During the choruses, in total pop splendor. At the end, it’s not clear whether he’s being wry or actually thinks it fits _that_.

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The 2nd Korean Film Festival

KGSA (Korean Graduate Students Association) presents

Opening movie
My Sassy Girl

Closing movie
Le Grand Chef

Date  Sep 19 (Fri) ~ Sep 21 (Sun)
Venue  54-100 (Green building)
Time  6:30 PM~8:30PM
      9:00PM~11:00PM

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Come 20 minutes in advance for the food

Every movie will be played in Korean with English subtitles
Film Based on MIT Employee’s Book Shown in Toronto

By Wesley Morris

On Tuesday night Scott Campbell watched the characters in his novel walk and talk, frown and dance, paint and make love on a movie screen at a major international film festival. That’s stuff you can see people do at any film festival. For Campbell, it was astounding, since he needed subtitles to figure out what had happened to his book.

Campbell doesn’t speak German. He lives in Jamaica Plain and works as director of communications at the MIT School of Architecture and Planning. And an adaptation of his novel, “Aftermath,” about a distressed and inhibited wealthy Boston family, has become the film “Im Winter ein Jahr” (“A Year Ago in Winter”) before the manuscript itself has managed to find an American publisher.

So there Campbell sat the other evening, in a capacious Canadian theater at the Toronto International Film Festival, marveling at and moved by the irony of it all. Campbell joins a solid group of living local authors whose work has been turned into a movie — Scott Heim and Dennis Lehane, for starters. Movie producers and film studios often buy the rights to books that never become movies. Campbell’s is another case entirely: “I don’t know anybody who’s ever had it happen this way,” he said after the film’s world premiere. “It’s intense.”

Campbell’s story presents quite the vagaries of transforming a novel into a movie. He wrote it after a friend of his, a painter, told him about his experience doing a portrait for a family whose son had died suddenly. They wanted him to put the surviving daughter and the dead son in the same piece, and he forged an intense emotional connection with the daughter.

While Campbell’s agent was trying to get the novel published in the United States, a friend of the agent (another agent) was interested in acquiring the rights for her client, the German director Caroline Link, whose film “Nowhere in Africa” won the foreign-language Academy Award five years ago.

When the process of bringing “Aftermath” to the screen began in 2004, the movie was conceptualized as an English-language production with Link in charge. For prospective Hollywood backers, there were some concerns (the story wasn’t spectacular enough), and it looked as if things would never get off the ground. Then Campbell realized he would have to approach Link with the novel. “I wanted to film Campbell’s book, why wait for Hollywood’s approval?” she went home, where she’s a well-respected director, wrote the script in German — shifting the scene to suburban Munich — and began production.

“I’m such an impatient person,” Link said, trying to decipher an hors d’oeuvre at a reception after the film’s premiere. “It sounds stupid when I say it, but in Germany it’s my job to finance a movie, and I can cast whoever I want.”

Campbell had wanted to attend a press screening the day before but was turned away for having improper credentials. So Tuesday’s premiere was his first time seeing Link’s completed film. He hadn’t even been able to read a script. Earlier in the afternoon, he was nervous about the changes Link might make. He peppered a critic with questions about the differences between the book and the film. Yes, the son’s cause of death is unchanged. No, the painter’s homosexuality is not as clearly defined.

For the premiere, Campbell brought his domestic partner, Richard MacMillan, and Louis Briel, the friend whose story was the basis for the book. The author wore a suit and tie and maintained his good humor despite being nervous.

Campbell is handsome in a distinguished sort of way, but he was unsure about how to greet the red carpet. And the throng of photographers stood behind a barricade uncertain about whether to tackle him. A few flashbulbs went off, almost by accident. A few more after he posed with Link.

When the film, which is still seeking American distribution, was over, the audience enthusiastically applauded.

“Whatever Caroline did, she really captured my journey as a painter through Scott’s book,” said Briel, wiping his eyes. “That surprised me.” He stopped for a moment to collect himself then offered a concise, culturally apt description of his mood: “I’m verklemmt.”

So was Campbell. He and one of the producers talked about what they loved about the movie. But during the ride to the reception, he sat in the back of the car, his forehead beaded with sweat, not speaking. He looked wistful.

“I started writing this book, what, six, seven years ago, and it’s so strange, in a good way, to see it go on this journey,” he said. “I’m actually glad the movie got made in Germany, because Hollywood is such a complicated place, too many cooks in the kitchen. It’s pretty thrilling to see somebody of Caroline’s caliber take hold of your stuff and bring it alive. It’s just kind of hard to respond right now.”

As for the book’s availability in English (a German version is forthcoming in Europe), Campbell has decided to publish it himself through his website, www.scottcampbell-books.com. But the movie has changed everything for its source material. In a sense, the book has been found in translation.

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Senate Discusses College Tuitions, Costs, Endowments

Tuition, from Page 1

value of their tax exemption, in the 2007 fiscal year, was more than $17 billion. He cited a survey finding that in that year, universities earned an average return of 17.2 percent on their assets but spent only 4.6 percent.

The two richest universities, Harvard and Yale, together have about $60 billion in endowments.

“If an institution could educate all of its undergraduate students, regardless of need, free of charge, with a payout of just 1 percent of its assets, is its endowment an unreasonable accumulation of taxpayer-subsidized funds?” Mr. Grassley asked.

Although Mr. Grassley has repeatedly suggested that he would like to mandate that the richest universities spend 5 percent of their endowments each year, as private foundations must, there was no hint on Monday that any specific legislation was on the horizon.

In fact, Mr. Grassley’s closing remarks gave some comfort to university leaders, who oppose such legislation. He described his earlier experience looking into problems with nonprofits, saying his initial assessment was that it would take “a massive amount of legislation” to correct the problems. But after discussions with nonprofit groups, he told the educators, “a lot of the things that needed to be corrected were self-corrected.” He added, “We’d like to encourage you folks to look inward and correct what can be corrected.”

In January, the Senate Finance Committee requested detailed endowment and spending data from 136 universities to evaluate whether they had reduced expenses by $886 per student since 2002 to cope with shrinking public financial support. A majority of undergraduates at his university come from out of state, and their higher tuition helps subsidize Vermont students, Mr. Fogel said, but even so, he said he worried about the fiscal future.

“In Vermont, we worry that our business model will break before long,” he said.

In the discussion, many of the educators took pains to explain why higher education was not an efficient process. “We have an eight-to-one faculty ratio, we sit in a room and talk for hours, that’s what we do,” he said. “It costs us $80,000 a year to educate each student.”

Mr. Marx, who has been a leader in recruiting low- and middle-income students by replacing loans with grants, said he worried that the high sticker price at Amherst and other elite colleges scared off low-income families, even though they would not have to pay it.

Those representing wealthy universities spoke of worries that a required spending rate would interfere with their ability to manage economic downturns, and described the complications of dealing with restricted gifts that could not be used for financial aid.

M. chromium, from Page 13

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Monday, September 15, 5-7pm

MIT Van Hihpaul Room, 13-2137 Refreshments will be served RSVP to David Delany, mit-israel@mit.edu

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http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html
The Tech September 12, 2008

Hockfield Offers MIT’s Expertise in Planning Energy R&D Roadmap

Energy, from Page 1

Hockfield will be making another plea for increased spending on energy research next week at a press conference on energy at the National Press Club. She also wrote an op-ed article called “Reimagining Energy” for the Washington Post on Thursday which reiterated points from her testimony.

Since her inauguration, Hockfield has made energy research a top priority of her presidency and oversaw the launch of the MIT Energy Initiative in September 2006.

The committee Hockfield spoke to was, according to its Web site, formed early last year by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) “to address America’s oil dependence and the threat of global warming.”

One in Five ’08 Grads Got Their Job Offer Before September ’07

Survey, from Page 1

One in five 2008 graduates accepted their job offers before Sept. 2007. By the end of 2007, approximately one-half of these students accepted their job offers. About 7 percent of graduates who currently hold jobs did so before the start of their graduation year.

Students who took the survey were asked to grade the most important factors in their job choice. On a scale from one to four (with four being the most important), Bachelor’s degree graduates graded “salary” as 2.73. According to the students, the most important values of job offers are “job content” (3.5), “creative and challenging work” (3.37), “opportunity for career advancement” (3.16), and “fit with culture/environment” (3.17).

Negotiation yields benefits

On average, Bachelor’s and Master’s student were forced to accept their job offers within the time-frame of a month. Many students — 84 percent of Bachelor’s and 67 percent of Master’s students — chose not to negotiate their salaries with their employers during that time. However, for those students who did negotiate, salaries were increased by a mean of about $6,000. A lower percentage of students negotiated their sign-on bonuses, however, those who did negotiate earned, on average, an additional $3,000.

For those who received sign-on bonuses, Bachelor’s degree holders, on average, received an extra $10,331 and Master’s earned $22,327.

The data compiled by the Careers Office is still preliminary and will include more extensive breakdowns and analysis when it is released in its final form by December 2008.

Reports of previous class survey are available on the Careers Office Web site (http://careers.mit.edu).

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Welcome Night and Dinner with ABSK

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Friday, September 12th, 6pm
Student Center, 3rd fl. PDR 1&2

6th Annual Best of Boston Food tour =
Walking around Boston + Eating along the way
meet @ Student Center Steps, Saturday 9/13, noon
Information Session
Thursday, September 18th
Stata Center 32-155
7:00 pm

MADMEC 2008
Making and Designing Materials Engineering Contest
Materials Solutions for Alternative Energy
Finalists presentations and awards ceremony
Thursday, September 18 | 7:00 pm
MIT Room 6-120
## MIT CAREER FAIR 2008

Submit your résumé
http://career-fair.mit.edu

## CAREER WEEK EVENTS

### Monday, September 15

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<td>Résumé Assessment Walk-ins – hosted by the Careers Office ........... Room 12-170</td>
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<td>Info Session: Netezza .................................................................. 32-124</td>
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<td>Info Session: Weiss Asset Management ....................................... 32-141</td>
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<td>Résumé Assessment Walk-ins – hosted by the Careers Office ........... 12-170</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 – 5 PM</td>
<td>How to Work a Career Fair – hosted by the Careers Office ............ 2-105</td>
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<td>4 – 5 PM</td>
<td>Info Session: Shell Oil .................................................................. 4-145</td>
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<td>Software Panel: Amazon, Akamai, ITA Software, Palantir .................. 6-120</td>
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<td>Info Session: Procter and Gamble – Asian Branch ........................... 4-145</td>
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<td>Technology Panel: Atheros, BBN Technologies, Cisco, Spanision ........ 4-237</td>
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<td>Info Session: International Game Technology .............................. 32-144</td>
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### Wednesday, September 17

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<td>Info Session: Orbital Sciences Corporation .................................. 4-153</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 – 6 PM</td>
<td>Résumé Assessment Walk-ins – hosted by the Careers Office ........... 12-170</td>
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<td>4 – 6 PM</td>
<td>Minority Student and Employer Networking – hosted by the OME ........ 10-105</td>
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<td>5 – 6 PM</td>
<td>Info Session: DC Energy .................................................................. 1-134</td>
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<td>7 – 8 PM</td>
<td>Info Session: Global Personals LLC ............................................. 1-135</td>
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<td>7 – 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Career Fair Kickoff and Networking Session ........................................ Kresge BBQ Pits</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 AM – 6 PM</td>
<td>Career Fair 2008 ........................................................................ Johnson Athletic Center</td>
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<td>6 – 7 PM</td>
<td>Info Session: Bloomberg .................................................................. 56-154</td>
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<td>Info Session: U.S. Department of Energy ....................................... 1-150</td>
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<td>7 – 9 PM</td>
<td>Info Session: Allstate Insurance Company ...................................... 56-114</td>
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<td>7 – 9 PM</td>
<td>Career Fair Banquet – hosted by SWE ........................................... Hyatt Regency Cambridge</td>
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<td>8 – 9 PM</td>
<td>Info Session: Central Intelligence Agency ...................................... 56-154</td>
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### Friday, September 19

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<td>Info Session: The MathWorks ....................................................... 32-155</td>
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Doctors Say Siddiqui Hallucinates, Sleeps Poorly, But Eats Well

Siddiqui, from Page 1

thoughts concerning her son’s welfare, poor sleep, and moderate appetite.” The letter also describes a hallucination: “She also reported seeing her daughter in her cell, and was unable to apply appropriate reality testing to this phenomenon.”

Siddiqui politely declined to receive psychotropic drugs, the letter said.

Judge Berman ordered a physical examination of Siddiqui by a female doctor last week Thursday, after a hearing which discussed, among other things, Siddiqui’s refusal to meet with her court-appointed lawyer, Elizabeth M. Fink. Siddiqui refused that physical examination on Friday, Sept. 5.

On Monday, Judge Berman ordered a psychiatric examination.

According to the warden’s letter, Siddiqui was reexamined on Tuesday, Sept. 9. She was again diagnosed with depressive type psychosis, this time chronic, by Dr. McLean. Siddiqui spoke through a blanket she held over her head, and, speaking “politely,” said, “I do not want to kill myself.” The letter said that Siddiqui has been subject to routine mental health check-ups ten times in August and six times so far in September.

Elaine Whittlesey Sharp, Siddiqui’s Boston-area lawyer, described the diagnosis as “to be expected.” Sharp described Siddiqui as “heartbroken,” a mother separated from her children and then held in prison.

Sharp said that Siddiqui was having a “normal human reaction to what’s going on.”

Siddiqui, from Page 1

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Foreign Policy and the Next U.S. Administration

America’s Defining Moment

Thursday, Sept 18 | 6p-7:30p
Tang Center, E51-315
70 Memorial Drive, Cambridge

The Office of Educational Innovation and Technology in the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and the MIT Council on Educational Technology cordially invite students, faculty, and staff to

Microsoft Research iCampus Technology Innovation Student Prize

2008 Award and 2009 Launch Celebration

September 12, Friday, 5:30 pm during Innovation Night at the MIT Museum Building N51, 5-8 pm

Recognizing student innovation for learning and living.
Senator Barack Obama learned how hard it can be to solve America’s public education problems when he headed a philanthropic group a decade ago that spent $150 million on Chicago’s troubled schools and barely made a dent.

On drawing this up, Mr. Obama, the Democratic nominee for president, is campaigning on an ambitious plan that promises $10 billion a year in new federal spending on early childhood classes, teacher recruitment, performance pay and dozens of other initiatives.

In Dayton, Ohio, on Tuesday, Mr. Obama used his education proposals to draw a contrast with Senator John McCain, his Republican opponent, and to insist to voters that he, more than his rival, would change the way Washington works.

Were he to become president, Mr. Obama would return the emphasis on the high standards and accountability of President Bush’s education law. No Child Left Behind. But he would rewrite the federal law to offer more help to high-need schools, especially by training thousands of new teachers to serve in them, his campaign said. He would also expand early childhood education, which he believes gets more bang for the buck than remedial classes for older students.

Mr. Obama added a new flourish to his stump speech, promising for the first time on Tuesday to double federal spending on public charter schools while holding those with poor records accountable.

But more than most campaign candidates, Mr. Obama’s education plan reflects his own work with Chicago’s public schools, campus staff members and people who have worked with him said in interviews. His plan signals that he is looking to apply those lessons nationwide.

“Barack has been very engaged, very inquisitive about the dynamics of how do you improve public education,” said Scott Smith, a former writer of The Chicago Tribune who has collaborated with Mr. Obama on education projects here for a decade.

One of the biggest lessons Mr. Obama drew from his experiences in Chicago, associates said, is that student achievement is highly dependent on teacher quality.

In the two decades since Mr. Obama arrived in Chicago, its public schools have undergone a sweeping turnaround, from an education wasteland to a district that, while still facing major challenges, is among the most improved in the nation. The city has closed many failing schools and reopened them with new staffs, making it an important laboratory for one of the country’s most vexing problems.

The city closed the failing Dodge Elementary School, for example, in 2002 and reopened it as an academy under the control of New Urban Schools. Two years later, Mr. Obama asked about the school system plagued by textbook shortages and teacher strikes. He carried those experiences with him to Harvard Law School, where he took courses on school issues taught by Christopher Edley Jr.

“Barack became committed to the notion that progress in school reform can’t come through voluntarism and professional aspiration alone,” said Mr. Edley, now dean of the law school at the University of California, Berkeley. “It has to be underpinned with a legal and regulatory structure that rewards success and goes after failure.”

Mr. Obama immersed himself in education issues after his return to Chicago, where he began lecturing at the University of Chicago Law School and joined the boards of two education foundations:

> Open House

Saturday, September 17, 12-2pm
La Sala de Puerto Rico, W20-202
International food will be served

Dear Mr. Obama supporters,

Thank you for your support.

We are pleased to announce that we have reached our goal of $500 million in donations.

We are now focusing on the next phase of our campaign, which will aim to support educational initiatives throughout the country.

Please continue to support our efforts.

Sincerely,

The Obama Campaign Team
Investment Responsibility Committee is Still ‘Ad Hoc’

MIT-STAND has advocated for the ACSR to be replaced by a permanent Standing Committee on Investment Responsibility, to be patterned after the standing committees that schools such as Harvard, Stanford, and Yale already have.

In contrast to MIT’s ad-hoc ACSR that is comprised of appointed members, Harvard’s ACSR meets on a regular basis and is comprised of elected students, faculty, and alumni. It also has a two-person Corporation Committee on Shareholder Responsibility that meets to further discuss the recommendations that the ACSR has made. On April 4, 2005, the CCSR issued a lengthy official statement discussing Harvard’s divestment from PetroChina “in light of the advice from the University’s Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility.” MIT has not indicated that it will release any internal ACSR reports to the public, though Kolenbrander did say that the finalized ACSR guidelines may be published online.

There is currently no plan to replace the ACSR with a standing committee. When asked whether MIT would follow Harvard, Stanford, and Yale’s leads, Kolenbrander responded, “Our [MIT Corporation] Executive Committee has given the ACSR thought, and it really is quite appropriate for the challenges that MIT would need to consider.” Zainabadi, however, had a different take. “MIT was the fifty-third university to divest from Sudan. We don’t think that’s a coincidence,” he said, citing an Aug. 2007 copy of the Investigators Against Genocide’s list of universities that divested from companies “helping to fund the genocide in Sudan.” He pointed to the efficiency with which Harvard, Stanford, and Yale divested, on the same list, they were first, second, and seventh, respectively.

MIT-STAND member (also a former Tech opinion columnist) Ali S. Wyne ’08 has a more moderate viewpoint: “The standing committee would be ideal, just because there’s a sense of permanency. Having said that, a heavily revised ACSR would be a very suitable compromise … But we want to be taken seriously, and most people give a permanent committee more weight.”

Goals and limitations

Kolenbrander said that the main goal of the ACSR should still be to provide the Corporation with the information that it needs to make important investment decisions. Additionally, the five-person committee needs to figure out “how to help [the] ACSR make it clearer to the community how [it] becomes involved in shareholder responsibilities.”

One problem that the committee will face is striking a balance between guidelines that are too general and guidelines that are too specific. Given the nature of ad-hoc committees convening only when deemed necessary (for instance, the ACSR did not meet between 1999 and 2006), it may be difficult to draft guidelines that remain relevant several years down the road.

One goal that has already been achieved is the drafting of new guidelines, with students central to the discussions. Wyne said he hopes that the influence student groups had in convincing the Corporation to rethink its views on social and ethical responsibility will inspire other students to collaborate with administrators. “When I was in the [Undergraduate Association], I know that I would literally, every day, run into people who thought that students were helpless,” said Wyne. “But this example shows that if you persist, if you meet with [the administrators] over and over again, you can make changes. I don’t want to sound like a wide-eyed idealist, but great changes are possible.”

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Who knows what you’ll find peeking out from behind the door here in the southeast corner of the Student Center! Come meet our friendly staff every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday night during term and become a part of making the news happen.

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W20-483
Sports

Tom Brady’s Injury Brings Out Ill Will, Inappropriate Response

By Caroline Huang

Tom Brady’s left knee injury, of course. The big- gest star on the biggest team in the league falling to the ground, clutching his knee, and staying down for what seemed like hours has gener- ated plenty of press from writers and readers alike. Unfortunately, the comments that readers have made are more triumphant than sympathetic. Some are sneering at “karma” coming in the form of Brady’s injury, while others are sing- ing the praises of Kansas City Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard, who made the awkward and painful-looking hit. And then there are the people like me, who are disgusted by all of the above.

Granted, I am a slightly rabid Patriots fan. I’m predisposed to being annoyed by negative coverage and readers alike. Unfortunately, the comments that readers have made are more triumphant than sympathetic. Some are sneering at “karma” coming in the form of Brady’s injury, while others are singing the praises of Kansas City Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard, who made the awkward and painful-looking hit. And then there are the people like me, who are disgusted by all of the above.

In case you missed my point, people are generally supportive toward teams and athletes that have been ravaged by injuries, regardless of their individual circumstances. And if they are secretly happy, they usu- ally keep their mouths shut about it—or at least they’re in the minority. I understand that people don’t like the Patriots, and I don’t really care if it’s because of the Patriots’ sustained excellence, swaggering confidence, abundant media exposure, or some- thing else. But the Patriots’ like- ability—or lack thereof—is not a reason to celebrate an ACL tear and a team’s dashed expectations. And it’s certainly not grounds to congratul- ate Pollard or express thanks that your team has a clear shot at a play- off berth because of another player’s injury.

Furthermore, exulting in an oppo- nent’s injury is not in the competi- tive spirit. As an athlete or a sports fan, you should want to face the best competition at its healthiest to see how you or your favorite team stacks up. You should want the opportunity to compete against an opponent at full strength. If you lose, so be it—the other team was better than you. And if you win, knowing that the team was healthy makes it that much sweeter.

I have no problem with rooting for a team to play badly, but I have a problem with rooting for a team to suffer injuries. The former concerns execution and concentration. The latter concerns health and safety. True sports fans understand the difference.

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