Happy Halloween!

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$900K Donated by MIT Employees in 2008 Election Cycle

By Jeff Guo

MIT employees gave nearly $900,000 in political contributions this election cycle, a search of the Federal Election Commission’s public database reveals. Hundreds of MIT employees gave money to political campaigns, either direct donations or affiliated political action committees like Obama for America. John McCain received less than a tenth of that — $44,000. The rest of the money went to other candidates or to other PACs like Emily’s List and the Republican National Committee.

Donations to 2008 Campaigns by MIT Employees

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<th>Total</th>
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Donations to Political Action Committees by MIT Employees

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Donations, Page 9

Chomsky Discusses the 2008 Election

By Subrata Ghoshroy

This is the third of a three-part interview with Institute Professor Noam A. Chomsky, conducted in early September by Subrata Ghoshroy, a researcher in the Science, Technology, and Global Security Working Group at MIT. In this part, Ghoshroy and Chomsky discussed the 2008 presidential election.

Another version of this interview was previously published at AlterNet.org.

Subrata Ghoshroy: If Obama wins, will that bring any changes in U.S. foreign policy?
Noam Chomsky: The prior question is whether he will win. My assumption all along is that McCain will probably win. Now that he has picked Sarah Palin as his vice president, I think those probabilities have increased, for reasons that are understood by party managers and have been expressed very well by McCain’s campaign manager.

Soljacic’s hope for a society that would never have to worry about for getting to charge electronic devices led him to the development of wireless electricity, known as WiTricity, and the honor of becoming a 2008 MacArthur Fellow. The fellowship, commonly known as a “genius grant,” will provide him with $500,000 over five years for research with no strings attached.

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He said the election is not about issues, it is about character and personality, and so on. Meaning, it is not a serious election. That is the way U.S. elections are run. Issues are marginalized. They don’t talk about them and the media coverage is proving useful in medical devices. In “automatic to electronic conversion...”

A Quarter of Freshmen Receive Fifth-Week Flags

This semester, 244 out of 1,058 freshmen (23 percent of the class) received fifth-week flags, which notify freshmen that they are in danger of failing a class. Freshmen received a total of 300 flags.

The warning rate this year increased slightly from last year. In Fall 2007, 21.8 percent received flags, compared to 17.5 percent of freshmen in Fall 2006.

Most of the flags were given in first-year physics subjects (8.01, 8.01L, 8.02, 8.02L), for a total of 108 flags. In chemistry subjects (5.111, 5.112, 5.12), for a total of 60 flags. In biology subjects (7.012), for a total of 62 flags.

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The Weather

Today: Sunny. 99°F (37°C)
Todays: Clear, 40°F (4°C)
Tomorrow: Morning clouds, 52°F (11°C)

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Suicide Blast Rocks Ministry in Kabul
By Abdul Waheed Wafa and Carlotta Gall
September 25, 2008, 12:16 a.m.

A suspected Taliban suicide bomber shot his way into the Ministry of Information and Culture in central Kabul on Thursday, then New Horizons suicide bomber, leaving at least 13 dead and severely damaging a kindergarten, officials and witnesses said.

The blast, which also wounded at least 21 people, set off a panic scramble to get out of the building by minutes to find their kindergarten, which it appeared that only two were among the wounded, said the police chief of Kabul, Gen. Muhammad Ayub Salangi, after he toured the scene.

The attack was notable more for its audacity than the number of victims, giving the ability of Taliban insurgents and their affiliates to successfully and the billig guard strikes at targeted Tafghin in the Afghan capital has hurt confidence in the government and the U.S.-led war effort here.

No senior officials were killed or hurt in the attack, but ministry workers emerged shaken from the five-story building.

The bomber first killed a policeman at the entrance of the building and then set off the explosion inside. Salangi said.

A second man died later, according to the deputy police chief, Gen. Ali Shah Ahmadzai.

Iraqi Ministry Adopts Political Neutrality
By Abeer Mohammed and Kathleenstack
The New York Times

Iraq's defense minister announced Thursday that all employees of the ministry, from the highest officials to the lowest, would be required to remain politically neutral.

General Abdel-Karim al-Obeidi, the minister, said in a news conference that his employees had to sign pledges stating that they will not run for political office, work on political campaigns, attend political demonstrations, or join any political organizations, the minister, Abdel-Kader Faseem al-Obeidi, said in a morning news conference. It was not immediately clear if soldiers and other employees would have to sign the pledge.

"The Ministry of Defense is committed to a military without party or political affiliations," al-Obeidi said. "The Iraqi people are soon to have provincial elections as well as elections at the district and commune levels. Military men must be nonaffiliated and must not be involved in the elections except in guarding the voter's right to freedom."

Al-Obeidi's news conference was widely perceived as an open rebuke of the ministry's political boss, Adel al-Bolani, who founded the Iraqi Constitutional Party in June 2005.

In Russia, Increasing Unease Over Economy
By Andrew E. Kramer
The New York Times

At the start of the global financial crisis, Russian authorities insist- ed they had weathered any storm, that it was to have succeeded slower — plummeting oil prices, a 70 percent descent in stock markets, a global credit crisis and a slow-mo national bank run on this country's public banks — Russia has had to spend its reserves faster than anybody imagined.

On Wednesday, the ruble was trading at just under $600 billion, the third largest in the world. By this week, they had fallen to $484 billion, as money flew out of government vaults to support the ruble, prop up the largest in the world. By this week, they had fallen to $484 billion, as

the Achilles' heel, and Ohio has for a long time been considered the state with the most to lose.

The debate can be over the rules for a recount, or how to deal with vot- ers who were not added to the rolls even though they registered properly and on time. Lawyers could fight over how to count the paper ballots used when the electronic machines break down, or whether a judge was correct in deciding to keep certain polls open late.

But the most likely source of litiga- tion is the state's heavy use of provi- sional ballots, which are issued when the elections are not counted until after the election.

"Provisional ballots are really the Achilles' heel of our electoral process, because in a close race that is the pres- sure point," said Edward B. Foley, a law professor at Ohio State University who is one of the nation's foremost experts on voting litigation. "The larger number of provisional ballots casts in a state, the more vulnerable the state is, because in a close election these ball- ots could make all the difference," he said.

In 2004 and 2006, Ohio, unlike many other states, increased the per- centage of provisional ballots used by voters. In the 2004 presidential elec- tion, which hinged on Ohio, the mar- gin between the candidates was about 118,000 votes, of 5.7 million cast. Of those, more than 150,000 were provi- sional ballots.

Even if these ballots will be cast in Ohio on Nov. 4, voting experts predict, because many newly regis- tered voters may bring the wrong form of identification to the polls, failing to muscle their way to the voting place. A federal court in Ohio, which has ordered a new voter registration list, has already been the subject of intense partisan quarreling.

Provisional ballots were created by Congress in 1960 to ensure that voters would never be turned away without casting a ballot when they showed up at the polls.

Economy Shrinks as Spending Drop Underlines Woes
By Peter S. Goodman
The New York Times

Less than a week before Ameri- cans go to the polls to select a presi- dent, the government reported Thurs- day that the economy contracted from July through September. In a stark indication of widening national distress, consumer spending dipped for the first time in 17 years.

Economists said the drop in eco- nomic activity — with the gross domestic product shrinking at a 0.3 percent annual rate — presaged more bad news in the months ahead. The impacts of a now-global financial crisis are continuing to squeeze compa- nies and impediment investment, caus- ing more layoffs and austerity, while prompting Congress to consider a fresh round of spending aimed at stimulating commerce.

"The economy has taken a turn for the worse, big time," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist for Decision Economics, a consulting and forecasting group. "Consump- tion literally dried up. It is a prelude to much worse news on the economy over the next couple of quarters. The fundamentals around the consumer are all negative, and there are no signs of any help anytime soon, from anywhere."

With the economy the dominant issue in the presidential election, the latest batch of dismal data offered no comfort to the Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who has been running behind the Demo- cratic nominee, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, in polls.

On Thursday, Obama seized on the latest evidence of the backsliding economy, saying that he would deliver more of the same.

"Our falling GDP is a direct result of eight years of the trickle-down, Wall Street-first, Main Street-last policies that have driven our econo- my into a ditch," Obama said while campaigning in Florida. "If you want to know where Senator McCain will drive this economy, just look in the mirror. Because, when it comes to our economic policies, John McCain has stood with President Bush every step of the way." McCain's campaign asserted that Obama's efforts to increase taxes on wealthy Americans would deepen economic troubles.

"Obama's, ideologically driven plans to redistribute income will im- pose higher taxes on families, small businesses and investors," McCain's chief economic adviser, Douglas J. Holtz-Eakin, said in a statement dis- tributed to reporters.


Since 1980, when William McKinley, a Republican, won re- election, has the incumbent party re- served the White House in the midst of a recession or within a few months after one.

In a statement on Thursday morn- ing, the White House acknowledged the weakening of the economy, while praising the blame on a series of un- usual events and arguing that the $700 billion bailout of the financial system would soon deliver relief.

Close Finish in Presidential Race Could Keep Ohio Busy
By Ian Urbina
The New York Times

If the outcome of next week's presidential election is close, this pre- cesionally balanced state could be the place where the two parties begin fill- ing the inevitable lawsuits over voting irregularities.

The battles can be over the rules for a recount, or how to deal with vot- ers who were not added to the rolls even though they registered properly and on time. Lawyers could fight over how to count the paper ballots used when the electronic machines break down, or whether a judge was correct in deciding to keep certain polls open late.

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A Calmer Halloween
By Vince Agard

This year, the New England region will enjoy relatively mild weather on Halloween, with sunny skies and temperatures in the high 50s.

The same could not be said in 1991, however, when a massive, extratropi- cal low pressure system off the United States' East Coast caused widespread damage. The low formed overnight October 30, 1991, and after moving into the Atlantic Ocean and absorbing a pre-existing hurricane, it became a mas- sive Nor’easter. After pounding the East Coast with pouring rain and gusty winds, the storm actually formed a category 1 hurricane and eventually made landfall in Nova Scotia, Canada as a tropical storm.

In all, the Halloween Nor’easter of 1991 caused over $200 million in dam- age and resulted in 32 fatalities. The tremendous storm was the basis for the Sebastian Junger book The Perfect Storm and the movie of the same name.

Don’t expect weekend sailing to be as especially dangerous this Halloween, however, as a couple of clear, crisp autumn days are in store for the area, National High Pressure Place will result in clear skies and high temperatures in the 50s for today and tomorrow, with lows around 40. We will even need to manage to stay dry, as no appreciable precipitation is expected over the weekend.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny, High 59°F (15°C)
Tomororrow: Clear, Low 40°F (4°C)
Saturday: Morning clouds, High 52°F (11°C)
Sunday: Sunny, High in the mid 40°F (5°C)
Monday: Mostly sunny, High in the mid 50°F (13°C)
By Jeffrey Gettleman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOOASA, SOMALIA

This may be one of the most dangerous towns in Somalia, a place where you can get kidnapped faster than you can wipe the sweat off your brow. But it is also one of the most prosperous.

Money changers walk around with thick wads of hundred-dollar bills. Palatial new houses are rising up next to tin-roofed shanties. Men in jail reminisce, with a twinkle in their eyes, about their days living like kings.

This is the story of Somalia's booming, not-so-underground pirate economy. The country is in chaos, countless children are starving and people are killing one another in the streets of Mogadishu, the capital, for a handful of grain.

But one particular line of work — piracy — seems to be benefiting quite openly from all this lawlessness and desperation. This year, Somalia officials say, pirate profits are on track to reach a record $50 million, all of it tax free.

"These guys are making a killing," said Mohammed Muse Hirsi, the top Somali official in Boosaaso, who himself is widely suspected of working with the pirates, though he vigorously denies it.

More than 75 vessels have been attacked this year, far more than any year in recent memory. About a dozen have been set upon in the past month alone, including a Ukrainian freighter packed with tanks, antiaircraft guns and other heavy weaponry, which was brazenly seized in September.

The pirates use fast-moving skiffs to pull alongside their prey and scramble on board with ladders orsometimes even nasty grappling hooks. Once on deck, they hold the crew at gunpoint until a ransom is paid, usually $1 million to $2 million. Negotiations for the Ukrainian freighter are still going on, and it is likely that because of all the publicity, the price for the ship could top $5 million.

In Somalia, it seems, crime does pay. Actually, it is one of the few industries that does.

"All you need is three guys and a little boat, and the next day you're millionaires," said Abdulahi Omar Qassem, a former captain in Somalia's long-defunct navy.

By William Glaberson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal district judge, saying he questioned the government's claim that a Guantanamo Bay detainee had planned a radioactive-bomb attack in the United States, ordered the Justice Department on Thursday to give the detainee's lawyers documents on his treatment.

The documents are central to the claim of the prisoner, Binyam Mohamed, that he falsely confessed to the dirty-bomb plot and other offenses only after being tortured in Morocco.

"My concern is getting to the truth," the judge, Emmet G. Sullivan, said at a hearing.

The case of Mohamed, an Ethiopian-born former British resident, has drawn international attention and been at the center of diplomatic tensions between the United States and Britain. This week, British officials said they had referred questions about his treatment to possible criminal investigation by their law enforcement authorities.

The tension between the government has intensified in recent weeks after the Pentagon dropped war crimes charges against Mohamed and the Justice Department said it would no longer rely on its dirty-bomb claims as a justification for holding him.

At the Thursday hearing, Sullivan asked why, after more than six years, the government had stepped away from its claims about a dirty-bomb plot. "That raises a question as to whether or not the allegations were ever true," the judge said.

In 2002, John Ashcroft, then the attorney general, announced that a plot to detonate a radioactive bomb in the United States had been foiled and an American citizen, Jose Padilla, detained. The Pentagon has claimed that Mohamed assisted Padilla.

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By Hari Kumar
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI

In what may prove to be a high-water mark for corporate profits, the oil giant Exxon Mobil reported another blowout quarter on Thursday, thanks to record oil prices this summer and gasoline prices that rose above $4 a gallon.

With nearly $1.5 billion in profits, Exxon once more set a record for most profitable American corporation, during the three-months ending in September, when prices were at their highest.

Oil prices have dropped sharply in recent weeks, falling more than 50 percent from their peak just three months ago, as oil consumption slows amid the economic downturn.

Exxon's report came as the Commerce Department said the economy shrank on an annual basis by 0.3 percent in the third quarter. The contraction, as consumers curbed their spending, signaled that the United States was probably in a recession. Still, the last quarter extended a staggering rise in corporate profits.

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Opinion

Obama for President

At a time when the financial markets are in crisis, America is engaged in two wars, and the problems of energy security and global climate change threaten our planet, the US country needs a leader who has demonstrated the maturity and intellectual inquisitive- ness to thoughtfully confront the major challenges of our time.

While we consider both major party candidates qualified to serve in the White House, Senator Barack Obama has demonstrated through his decisions and demeanor that he is best equipped to lead in these challenging times. Obama manages to balance a cool, careful confidence with unique warmth and oratory in a manner that has not been seen since the days of John F. Kenne- dy. In addition, Obama seems to demonstrate a clear and secure grasp of the important domestic and international policies that will have the most profound effect on the future of the nation — the economy, energy, climate change, and healthcare.

Through their positions on drug policy, in particular, Senator Obama stands as a decisive leader. His campaign has demonstrated his willingness to engage himself in the debates and decisions to be made concerning drug policy. This Open Letter is an opportunity to present our opinions on this issue.

The legal framework that we will support will be one that is best suited to the issue and not a blanket expansion of the War on Drugs. It is our hope that we can work together to create a renewed dialogue that will result in a solution that is better suited to the current situation.

The Peaceful Peace

If there is one thing that we can come to agree on, it is that we are all looking for a better future. We believe that by working together towards a peaceful resolution, we can create a better world for ourselves and future generations.

The Path Forward

In conclusion, we believe that by supporting a legal framework that is tailored to the issue, we can create a safer future for our community. We urge our fellow citizens to join us in this endeavor and work towards a better tomorrow.

Signed by:
[Names of the contributors]
Katz Pulls ‘Straw Man’ in Letter

I loved Katz’s mastery of the straw man technique in his piece on Senator Sarah Palin (”Palin’s Anti-Science Rhetoric,” Oct. 28). Pal- lin hates fruit flies, therefore Palin hates science. However, it is possible that Palin hates fruit flies, therefore Palin hates fruit flies? This is highly likely since McGain has been campaigning on a promise to cut funding for those things.

During a speech, Palin accused her audi- ence by highlighting the ridiculousness of cer- tain e-mails. For example, the study of fruit flies in the olive growing regions of France was never done by someone from California. France? A country full of passions. Four flies? Gross and insignificant. Olive trees in California? Doesn’t reflect the needs of the entire nation.

Regardless of any alternate motives, Palin could get her education that fruit flies are her case to ban the use of federal spending on fruit flies because she doesn’t believe it’s logic, so I say we let her slide this time.

Could Palin still be against scientific re- search? Sure, you can cite that she believes in creationism, therefore, she must be anti- science. According to the Gallup poll — not some horrible right wing propaganda machine like News — 90 percent of the American popu- lation believes in either creationism or intel- ligent design. Scientists claim Americans are against science? I highly doubt that.

It’s good to say MIT students involved in politics. We’re politically aware, but not very active. We sit in our rooms reading about politics, and we crack political jokes when the opportunity arises, but we con- sider our role as spectators. We watch the political process and make calls or get in a car and canvass in upper Bay. We’ve got papers, grants, and dis- courses. We’re involved, but not very active. To many, this election is a form of entertainment to be en- joyed at a distance.

It is an election, but not now is the year to sit back and be entertained. This is the year when young voters have already changed the course of the election. We have put an intelligent and inspiring candidate in a po- sition to win the election, funded by grassroots organi- zations and a record number of small do- nors. Our candidate is Barack Obama.

The nation is now waiting to see whether young voters come through in the end, the way we did in 2000 and 2004. We can show that this year is different, that the opinions of young voters matter. We have the opportunity to send our candidate to the White House with the people. We can contribute to this hopeful effort by volunteering.

Obama is the overwhelming choice of the scientific community. John McCain pays lip service to science, not to understand the importance and the purpose of basic and science engineering.

Why You Should Vote for the Junior Senator From Illinois

Gary Shu

In deciding my vote this year, I decided to use my experiences during last eight years as my compass. Some defining moments for me:

• On election night in 2000, I had a cal- culus midterm the next day, so I went to bed while everyone still cried around the television. Someone knocked at the door, my night, my girl- friend quietly broke the news to me and the next day I was at work. I was in the laboratory. I had a little sleep we all had. The next few weeks were not easy either as everyone wanted to find the cause, and I think they probably found it. If I was the first time I voted.

• In 2001, on the night of Sept. 11, the students held a vigil in the center of my New York City university. I walked away in disgust at the profiteering greed. Someone knocked at the door, my night, my girl- friend quietly broke the news to me and the next day I was at work. I was in the laboratory. I had a little sleep we all had. The next few weeks were not easy either as everyone wanted to find the cause, and I think they probably found it. If I was the first time I voted.

On Election Day 2004, I drove to swing- state Pennsylvania to get-out-the-vote. We got the same brave workers, but because the result couldn’t be it when George W. Bush was re-elected, but not surprised given the car- rier of there. The public never was involved and, besides a protest on the National Mall a few years ago, more subsidized.

Such was my experience during the two terms of the Bush Administration.

It has not been a noble eight years. Our one saving grace was another war. We all are very sad that made me march the streets, which is approaching an ignominious end to protest the economy is failing, destroying the banks and car companies I have known for a lifetime. We’ll have the opportunity to ex- perience something that has not happened for a generation — a severe global recession.

Bad times are coming, and they were pre- ceded by eight years of Republican rule.

One way to be a supporter of McGain to achieve the wealth around” but no economic growth. All of the big businesses, their own- ers, and their jobs are foreign-owned. Speaking of the foreign-ownedmultinational companies, which is an issue of distribu- tion of economic opportunities across organizations or the overwhelming evidence for education.

They don’t know, don’t care. We’re just to go to the bottom line, the medi- cal application, the bang [for] the tax payer’s buck.

Convinced other people that something is futile to all is appeals to the common man, creating a win-win situation, turning your

Can One Man Really Fix Such a Broken System?

Barack Obama Has My Vote. I’m Just Not Expecting Much For It.

Joseph Maurer

Much has been made about the state of the economy by Senators John McCain and Barack Obama in recent months, and for good reason. Whoever takes the office of this January will have the most impact on the American market of any president in recent memory.

Moreover, our next president will have to contend with the economic challenges pre- sented by an expanding China, the European Union, and the increasing technical prowess of India.

Today, America’s GDP is approximately equal to the combined GDP of Japan, Germa- any, and the United Kingdom. The four econ- omic leaders of the world are the most productive countries after America and Japan. McGain, so any threat is certainly not pressing. However, in the world of economics, nothing is magnified tenfold in the future, which makes the president’s role as a steward for the long-term economic health of the country immensely important to the new financial turmoil.

John McCain best understands how to pro- mote sustainable economic growth over the long run and keep America’s place as the world’s leader in production.

McCain understands that if small business owners don’t consider the risk of their per- sonal risk, and many others, small business owners will be out of work. Senator Obama ignores this logical argument by appealing to the uninformed.

Letters, Page 6

Maurer, Page 6

Letters, Page 6

McGain understands that if small business ob- stive for someone being as stupid as it is to under- stand that just to go to the bottom line, the med- ical application, the bang [for] the tax payer’s buck.

Convinced other people that something cannot be is appealing to the common man, creating a win-win situation, turning your

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enforce and technology, and Obama's answers are fully developed, logical, and thoughtful initiatives that will greatly help the stressed science funding system and the weakened position of the United States in the years of Republican rule.

We need an increase in funding for basic research in physical and life sciences, mathematics, and engineering at a rate that would double basic research budgets over the next decade.” He also stresses that he wants it to become something we come involved and successful in science by “increasing research grants for early-career researchers.” In addition, he plans to increase the number of NSF graduate fellowships, so his plan was exactly what you add. Add that to the ways that Obama's policies would positively impact every American.

I was up late in science, but he seems not to understand the importance and the purpose of basic science and engineering. Multiple times during the debates, he brought up the Adler Planetarium’s star projector as an example of wasteful spending, referring to it as an “overhead projector.” He mocked what he thought that DNA to track populations of grizzly bears. How can someone with this attitude possibly reinforce our country's standing in science and engineering?

I would consider your UROP your thesis, your ideas, your passion to be equally wasted? John McCain doesn’t understand that re- search projects and the expensive expenses that need to be eliminated — they are purely fundamental to this country and the foundation of our success.

Even if Obama is elected on his platform of “change,” it means little as to what he can actually accomplish. … Barack Obama has my vote. I’m just not expecting much for it.

Even if Obama is elected on his platform of “change,” it means little as to what he can actually accomplish. … Barack Obama has my vote. I’m just not expecting much for it.

Communication of the importance of basic science is inexcusable with education. Scientists have the responsibility to offer the public an opportunity to recognize that basic scientific research is often funded on the ba- sis of its direct relevance to understanding and healing human disease, including those condi- tions to which Mrs. Palin has referred.

Where appropriate, scientists should as- sist the public on how their work relates to human health, and this should be done blindly to political affiliation. Members of all political parties tax that fund basic research. Bio- medical departments of the size and strength of the United States would not exist without the financial support of the scientific community, so we must ensure that these institutions continue to do basic research.

Importantly, this instruction in basic sci- ence must be done using analogies and meth- ods that are accessible to non-scientists, which is not an impossible task. Applying even a small portion of the instruction of the reducer that has led to discoveries like those Mr. Katz mentioned to science education policies, I want to see. With this being the goal, it is time to bridge the gap in understanding be- tween basic research and medical applications to the public.

Mrs. Palin’s statements concerning science have been outstandingly defective and misin- formed, further causing research scientists, sci- ence educators, students of science, and many others to cringe in response. I truly believe for the scientific community to witness a per- son making these statements rise to the pos- ition of vice president of the United States will not only hurt the scientific corps, but it will also help him to the position of vice president of the United States. I truly believe that I will do this to the benefit of the United States.

If a politician can get elected without ever be- ing asked the question of whether or not his positions pass the litmus test, then what holds him accountable to the people? How can they get to the real issues which make you passionate. I think a politician can get re-elected independent, and years ago I would have been thrilled to hear that John McCain was running for president. Of course, he brought up the Adler Planetarium’s star projector and I was surprised to hear that the science behind it, the science beyond it, the values questions behind it. Challenge all your assumptions and check ideology at the door. Formulate a policy that you support, and could defend with your life, and defend with that ideology.

I don’t humor myself with the idea that at the tender age of 22 I’ve already discovered the cure all of these answers. I encourage you to analyze policies out of some faith that the political leaders are willing to commit to the future of your children. I encourage you of any unfairness to social science. Social science be- it, what it is, there will always be room for discussion. Let’s work to come to an understanding from the same data. It’s not the conclusion that I’m advocating, it’s the process.

Regardless of one’s desire to earn money in the future, higher taxes will drive innovation overseas. No business venture, no matter how noble its cause, will ever get off the ground if it is not a profitable venture. John McCain understands these simple ideologies that have come to define our political parties are a poor fit to best policies, and as a result, neither party has a monopoly on good governance.

I find it easier to make my choice this time around. McCain doesn’t reestablish immigration and health care, he has not convinced me of these issues. In fact, the very idea of “taking my word for it” is the diametrical opposite of my entire ap- proach. What I want to do is re-elect someone I can trust. But deep down inside I’m un- certain about him. If you are going to vote for Obama then you should resign to this as a last resort while I think coop- eration should have been the first choice. Last but not least, it’s my belief that Obama would be a great future president, and I think that is a fair belief. If Obama and McCain, despite McCain’s insistence to the contrary, cooperate, I will watch with interest. Since the right of a person to vote is considered a fundamental right, it is in no way in jeopardy, regardless of the affilia- tion of ruling political party.

David M. Garcia G

[the rest of the text is not relevant to the main discussion and is not included in the generated text]
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo

I'M NOT A VERY CREATIVE PERSON...

OH! I GET IT NOW!

The Daily Blunderbuss by Ben Peters

Pseudoscience by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

Figure 42. The figure shows the fraction of pizza and other fast-food establishments in the Theater District that are at full capacity on an average Saturday night. The curve complements the data of Fig. 41, which outlined the percent taxi cabs that are free in the same District as a function of time, showing an exactly opposite trend. In other words, eating is used to kill time while a free taxi cab can be found (other instances when eating is used to kill time include waiting at airports and spending a day at Disneyland). Also, the fact that uptake of high-calorie foods coincides with the time at which bars close indicates that the effects of alcohol are not as desired outside the bars as they are inside them.

Blobbles by Jason Chan

Thanks to Hóskuldur Petur Halldórsson for today’s caption.

Want to see your caption in Blobbles? Send it to blobbles@tech.mit.edu and I’ll draw a cartoon for it!
QMGAI LSKPFA (NPPH://BGLKSKGOM.RGP.OCQ/LSKPFA),
KOJQOMP S HCD MYSA FD PNO DFBBFUGAI SKPGYBO,
UNGYN UO NSTO GA MPFKS IO:
LSPYNOBFK, L.I., YBSMMGDGYSPFA FD HFBO RSHM GA
EOOH GA RGAC PNSP PNO BGLKS KW MPFKSIO SAAOV GM
FABW FHOA DFK MYSAAGAI RFACSW PNKFQIN DKGC SW,
AGAO PF DGTO.

Think you’ve solved it?
Use Libraries resources to solve this puzzle. If you’re an MIT student and your answer is correct, you could win a new iPod Nano! Go to libraries.mit.edu/puzzle to get a copy or submit your answer by November 11, 2008 to be eligible for the drawing.
More Employees Gave to PACs Compared to ’04 Election Cycle

In 2008, 350 employees gave to PACs, of which 208 gave to Obama-related PACs and 14 gave to McCain-related PACs. All in all, MIT employees gave $325,000 to PACs in this election cycle, compared to $250,000 in 2004.

Top 5 MIT Donors to Obama Political Action Committees

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<th>Donor Occupation</th>
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<td>Senior Computational Biologist, Broad Institute</td>
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Top 5 MIT Donors to McCain Political Action Committees

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<td>Administrator, HST</td>
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Top 6 MIT Donors to Barack Obama’s Campaign

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<td>Associate Professor, Brain and Cognitive Sciences Dept.</td>
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Top 5 MIT Donors to John McCain’s Campaign

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<td>Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Employee, McKinsey &amp; Co.</td>
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Eating Disorder Treatment

Treatment of Adults Suffering from Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa

Informed clinicians refer their clients to Laurel Hill Inst. LHI provides the most effective treatment and deploy the highest staff-to-client ratio in New England. We provide extensive programming in a highly structured and supervised non-institutional therapeutic setting. Evening, day, and residential treatment as well as supportive groups in West Medford and West Somerville. Call Linda at 781-996-1116 or visit www.laurelhill.com.

Physics Department’s Soljacic Is One of 25 MacArthur Fellows

Soljacic, from Page 1

Professorolate wireless electricity would solve a substantial environmental problem as it could replace the need for disposable batteries,” Soljacic said.

Because the MacArthur Foundation desires to encourage innovation, they give complete monetary freedom to the fellowship winners. “I can do anything I see best. I can use it for any ideas that perhaps are out there and not in the mainstream, because it’s harder for those projects to receive funding,” Soljacic said.

Soljacic said he hopes to apply his money to some high-risk ventures that are already in the works.

After receiving bachelor’s degrees in physics and electrical engineering from MIT in 1996 and a physics PhD from Princeton University in 2000, Soljacic delved into researching nonlinear optics and photonics. “I’m a big believer in nanotechnology and how it deals with light with the hope of making ultra-fast optical devices,” he said. Deeply fascinated by the ability to transmit information through light, he sees all data eventually being stored in the optical domain and signal processing being performed through optical logic.

The 2008 genius grant winners range across all fields — from a neurologist to an urban farmer — with only a knack for exceptional creativity in common. MacArthur gave out 25 genius grants this year, with one other to an MIT scientist, Professor John A. Ochsendorf.

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Data from the Federal Election Commission shows that some MIT employees have given extensively to the presidential campaigns. Numbers include money given in the primaries and during the general election.

The FEC caps campaign donations to $2,300 for each primary and general election. PAC donations are capped at $5,000 per year.

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Chomsky, from Page 1

age is about Rev. Jeremiah Wright's sermons or Sarah Palin's pregnant daughter. McCaın is supposed to be a spe-
cialist on national security issues. Why? Suppose that some Russian pilot was shot down over heavily-
populated areas in Kabul and tor-
tured by the Vietnamese. Well, we might feel sorry for him, but he is no
tortured by Reagan's freedom fighters in
urban areas in Hanoi and he was
down bombing heavily populated
ational security because he was shot
turred by Reagan's freedom fighters in
pilot was shot down bombing heav-
Why? Suppose that some Russian
pecialist on national security issues.
intendo community goes along.
mericans. It says that the bombing had nothing to
can ever be true. Suppose that the U.S. surge had succeeded in
cutting down violence in Iraq. What
would that mean? That would mean
that Bush was almost as successful
chians destroyed the place, there were
massacres, but it is quiet, it is rebuild-
The New York Times says there is
building boom, there is electricity. We
pause for a moment to say that we
condemn him for that.

The fact that they were able to pacify a country, you don't praise
them for that. On the other hand, if
they were doing anything like
thing that in Iraq, it would lead to
ecess that Bush insisted
.

He [Clinton] said it quietly in a
message to Congress. He was not
brazen, he was not waving his fist in
ce. We could pretend that it was not
ere. Why did they bomb Ser-

It can't be reported here because
it conflicts with the image of Amer-
ica's nobility and Seth villany.
We know that the highest levels of the
administration, but it can't be reported

Strobe Talbot, the highest Clinton administration official in charge of
areas.

European affairs, wrote an intro-
duction to a book by his associate
John Norris, in which he says: If you
want to understand the thinking at
highest levels of the Clinton Admini-
stration during the Kosovo war, this
is the book that you have to read.

Speaks with full acquaintance
of the Clinton administration at
top level. What does Norris say? He
says that the bombing had nothing to
do with concern with Kosovar Alba-
nians. It was because Serbia was not
carrying out the required social and
economic reforms. In other words, it
was the last holdout in Europe to the
Clinton neo-liberal policies.

This is the top straight from the
top level of the Clinton administration. You
n't read about it in the press or
the intellectual journals because it
conflicts with the party line.

This is a very free country, but
also a very disciplined country.
constraints keep to the party line.
They don't depart very far. Even

Chomsky: ‘Elections Run by Public Relations Industry’

Going Down In Theatres Everywhere October 31st


Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, and James Franco star in "The Funny Movie of 2008!"

**Solution to Crossword**

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**Trailer Tease**

**Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, and James Franco star in "The Funny Movie of 2008!"**

**Going Down In Theatres Everywhere October 31st**

Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, and James Franco star in "The Funny Movie of 2008!"

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**Trailer Tease**

**Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, and James Franco star in "The Funny Movie of 2008!"**

**Going Down In Theatres Everywhere October 31st**

Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, and James Franco star in "The Funny Movie of 2008!"

**Solution to Crossword**

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**Solution to Sudoku**

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Biking Teaches You About Yourself

Cycling, from Page 12

Oxford University last year. Although new to racing, Harris has many miles of riding rough terrain under her belt from long-distance bike touring trips across the U.S. and along China’s Silk Road.

“I love mountain biking because every ride, every race has the potential to turn into this epic adventure,” Harris said. “You can almost learn about yourself — your strengths, your weaknesses, your limits — in a two-hour race as you can on a two-month bike trip. And on top of that, it’s just a ton of fun.” Harris moved to Boston this summer.

Harris’ performance at nationals concludes a successful mountain biking season for Division II and is currently competing in cyclocross races by Harris and teammates Ilana Silk Road. Harris said. “You can almost learn about yourself — your strengths, your weaknesses, your limits — in a two-hour race as you can on a two-month bike trip. And on top of that, it’s just a ton of fun.” Harris moved to Boston this summer.

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Varsity Crew Will Race Next On Nov. 15

Race out of 16

Crew, from Page 12

The team will be attending upcoming tournaments at Brown University, Tufts University, and Fordham University. In December, Magnuson and Goldstein will represent MIT at the World Debating Championships in Cork, Ireland.

Debate Team Will Send Pair to Championships

Debate, from Page 12

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For more information on the MIT Debate Team, contact the president, Nick C. Loomis G, at nloomis@mit.edu.
Harris Wins Short Track Event
At Mountain Bike Racing Competition

By Lucas Goodman

Harris is a member of the MIT Cycling team and a geobiology graduate student in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. The event opened on Friday with the cross-country race, which consisted of three grueling five-mile loops over rugged terrain. Harris described the course as ‘relentless climbing followed by comforted singletack descending on a trail slick with rocks and roots and mud in the true North Carolina mountain biking tradition. The scenery was stunning despite the drizzle and cold—the mountains draped with fog, all glowing and changing with ambient colors.’

Harris sprinted into first position before the course narrowed down to singletack, and then hammered hard to get a small gap on the field of riders. Unfortunately, early in the race, Harris crashed off the side of a small bridge after picking a bad line over some slimy off-camber tree roots. Shaken but unscathed, she quickly got back on the bike to chase down the group of riders who had passed her. Improving her position on each subsequent lap, Harris finished the race in third place out of a starting field of thirty riders.

On Sunday, Harris competed in the short track event, a shorter, more technical race, and the mountain biking version of a criterium. Once again, Harris sprinted off the start line and grabbed the early lead in this fast-paced race. During multiple laps around an unusually muddy course, she battled the winner of the previous day’s cross-country race before securing a solid gap and taking the win.

This is Harris’ first season of mountain bike racing, a sport she became hooked on while studying at the University of Virginia, the men came off the line fast and passed UVA before the halfway point of the race. The men continued charging and crossed the line with a time of 27 minutes and ninth place overall in the field of 39 riders. The women’s field of 24 was won by the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Virginia, and George Washington University. Rutgers University, and the College of New Jersey finished in second and third, respectively.

The team of Adam J. Goldstein ’10 and team president William H. Magnuson ’09 finished ninth out of a field of 92, with Goldstein finishing as the top individual speaker at the tournament.

The team debated topics including limits on executive compensation, parental liability for children’s crimes, legalization of opium production in Afghanistan, and appreciating Ukraine into NATO.

The team’s performance at Yale comes on the heels of success at Vassar College a week before, with Goldstein and partner Nic Zhou from Amherst taking the first place spot and Magnuson and Sharmish Karim ’10 finishing fifth. The same weekend, Magnuson took home the second place individual speaker award, Karim the fourth, and Goldstein the fifth.

Two years ago, Goldstein and Kathleen A. Clark-Adams ’10 reached the finals for the second consecutive year at Harvard in the largest tournament of the year. After a period of disappointing results, the MIT Debate Team has come to life in recent years. Two years ago, a team from MIT won the National Tournament of Champions.

MIT Debates Beat Harvard, Advances to Quarterfinals

By Adam Goldstein

The MIT Debate Team capped three weekends of success with its performance at Yale University this past weekend, beating Harvard and Princeton Universities, as well as teams from Ireland and Canada to advance to the quarterfinals.

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