ASA Will Propose to Lower Threshold for Group Recognition

By Arkajit Dey

Groups of students who want access to certain resources controlled by the Association of Student Activities (ASA) would have an easier time getting them, under a proposal being presented by the ASA’s executive board to all student groups at a Monday general body meeting.

Under the current proposal, any student group must have at least 25 members to be recognized by the ASA. The proposal would lower the threshold to 15 members.

“ASA moved to recognize more groups for access,” said the proposal’s author, Benjamin Hon ’09, a finance major in the MIT Sloan School of Management. “The proposal creates a more granular system, lowering the recognition requirement to 15 members.”

Hon said that the number of students in an organization is not the only factor that determines its importance to the student body.

Conversely, groups that have more than 25 members would lose access to resources such as reserved study spaces, with the exception of the Student Center.

The proposed rule change will be heard by the ASA executive board today, and the full ASA body on Monday.

High School Seniors Compete at MIT
In Siemens Contest Regional Final

By Omar Abudayyeh

Sixteen high school students descended upon campus last weekend as part of the annual Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology, which competes to $90,000 and an invitation to the national finals in New York City.

From Millburn High School in New Jersey, Hayden Metzky, the winner of the high school competition, was invited to participate in the national finals. Metzky won $6000 and a trip to MIT. The top 10% of the competitors will receive scholarships to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Siemens competition is open to students who are in the top 1% of their class. The winners of the national finals will receive $50,000 and a trip to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

There were 25 individuals and 10 teams from the United States who were invited to MIT to compete in the national finals. The top 10% of the competitors will receive scholarships to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Police Stress Bicycle Safety,
Thief Prevention Measures

By Robert McQueen

$25 Fine for Riding Wheeled Vehicle in Infinite Corridor

Following an accident in the Infinite Corridor last month, the MIT Police issued a new regulation for riding wheeled vehicles in the Infinite Corridor.

The new regulation states that riders must obey traffic laws and yield to pedestrians.

According to the MIT Police, the new regulation was designed to prevent injuries and accidents in the Infinite Corridor.

The regulation states that anyone caught riding a wheeled vehicle in the Infinite Corridor will be fined $25.

In Short

The Diversity Leadership Conference will take place at MIT next weekend from 1-3 p.m. and will include a keynote address by former U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

The MIT Student Body has announced that it will allocate $25,000 to the Student Life Office for the purchase of new course materials.

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**Quantum of Tempest**

By Brian H. Tang

**Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, November 14, 2008**

*Current Media Watchdog*

Our latest weather feature to be in New England very long to realize that the weather gets crazier as we approach the winter solstice. While the polar regions cool and outside the Northeast and outside the Rust Belt," said King, of New England.

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Iraqi Militants Turn to Small Bombs in Attacks

By Katherine Zpoep and Mudhafar Al-Husaini
THE NEW YORK TIMES
November 14, 2008

They are usually no bigger than a man’s fist and attached to a magnet or a strip of gum adhesive — thus the name “slipbasics” in Arabic; or “sticky bombs.”

Light, portable and easy to lay, sticky bombs are tucked quickly under the bumper of a car or into a chink in a building wall. Since they are detonated remotely, they rarely harm the person who lays them. And as security in Baghdad has improved, the small and fungitive bomb — though less lethal than other weapons or even thick suicide belts packed with explosive — is fast becoming the device of choice for a range of insurgent groups.

U.N. Report Points to Peril From Noxious ‘Brown Clouds’ Over Asia

By Andrew Jacobs
THE NEW YORK TIMES
November 14, 2008

They are also contributing, in the midst of an uptick in violence, to a growing feeling of unease in the capital.

“You take a bit of C4 or some other type of compound,” said Lt. Col. Steven Stover, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Baghdad. “You can go into a hardware store, take the explosive and combine it with an acetone, put some gas or marble or bits of metal in front of it and you’ve basically got a homemade Claymore,” a common anti-personnel mine.

Sticky bombs are not an Asian innovation. “Limpet mines” were attached to the sides of ships during World War II, and magnetic booby traps were used during the conflict in Northern Ireland. Magnetic IEDs, or improvised explosive devices, a homemade bomb, were first used in Iraq in late 2004 or early in 2005, according to the American military.

But sticky bombs have become steadily more common since the start of this year, from an average of two explosions a week caused by them this spring, to about five per week more recently, Stover said.

According to figures compiled by Iraq’s Interior Ministry, sticky bombs killed three people and wounded 18 in Baghdad alone during the month of July. In October, nine people were killed and 46 more were injured by sticky bombs.

Casualty rates caused by sticky bombs are still relatively low. But recent raids on insurgent groups have uncovered caches of the bombs, even “sticky bomb factories,” Stover said.

Made possible by the Council for the Arts at MIT

Boston Musica Viva Friday, November 14, 8pm
Credo in US: An American Kaleidoscope

Credo in US: An American Kaleidoscope

Created in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of the Census and with the participation of Brian King. This piece explores the harmonies of this country through the lens of statistics and research.

Include in the payload are a second toilet and new sleep quarters, and the first-ever station refrigerator for beverages so astronauts can enjoy a cold drink.

But what is getting the most attention is a system the astronauts will install that recycles and purifies the water used on the station. It is the kind of technology that is necessary if people are going to establish long-term outposts on the moon or Mars, but it involves what astronauts acknowledge is an “ick” factor associated with what amounts to drinking one another’s urine.

Donald R. Pettit, one of the astronauts on this mission, said he calls the new system “the coffee maker,” because “it’s going to take yesterday’s coffee and make it into today’s coffee.”
Barack Obama’s Election Transcends ‘Politics as Usual’

Ethan Solomon

Last Tuesday night, for the first time in my life, I felt proud to be an American. For the first time, I felt genuine faith in my country and a genuine desire to serve it. And for the first time in my life, my voice was heard and my voice made a difference.

America is a different place today. Last week, we witnessed a historic election in which, for the first time in our history, we voted as a nation. Barack Obama and John McCain, or a decision between Republicans and Democrats. It was a moment that we all experienced together. We have conquered fear. America picked herself up and knew that if she lets long years and one of the most significant and positive for the entire world to follow.

This was not just “any” election and tomorrow we still have to stay “politics as usual.” This isn’t about Democrats taking control of Congress and the White House. The week of November 4, 2008 represented a shift in the way people see American leadership. We are no longer a nation that is taken for granted the beauty of the political system. America operates on the premise that we will see the forest for the trees. The symphony has a way of forcing one to think, though. While I’m not sure what I didn’t give the political parties on the amends for the change that occurred in the nation. I will never forget. Barack Obama’s story demonstrates that in the United States, dreams can be a reality.

Today, I’m proud to be an American because America chose to no longer live in fear of the unknown. To many Americans, Barack Obama is a phenomenon they never expected to see in their lifetimes. It takes courage to make a choice that goes against everything you thought was impossible.

I can’t profess to understand what kind of courage that took. I was born only 19 years ago and both parties come to criminalize me, please reflect on why my parents thought a black man could be elected to the presidency. And for the next opportunity to their student government.

I hope that individuals don’t get caught up in finger pointing and assigning blame to others who they feel are responsible. After all, every box is ticked. Most of all, though, I hope that I, my fellow Americans, and our comrades of the world continue to believe in the possible and the profound changes possible overnight. Remember, remember the first Tuesday in November of years divisible by four.

By being a part of it for so long, I had taken for granted the beauty of the political system. America operates on the premise that we will see the forest for the trees. The symphony has a way of forcing one to think, though. While I’m not sure what I didn’t give the political parties on the amends for the change that occurred in the nation. I will never forget. Barack Obama’s story demonstrates that in the United States, dreams can be a reality.

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Stella Schieffer made a strong case in the November issue of the "New York Times" (Elections)" for reforming the American electoral system. She described the advantages of Ger- man and French systems over the American system, where voters separately elect both geographical del- eges and presidents. In a system where voters have a proportional representation to their support, Schieffer argues that the German system more accurately reflects the sentiments of the electorate. In her words, "system more accurately reflects the sentiments of the electorate. Specifically, the new system has been designed to draw from the less of the American system, which is a 110-year-old system, and to draw from the less of the American system, which is a 110-year-old system.

We see a similar situation with the U.S. Constitution, the oldest national constitution in the world. It has long been an area of discussion and debate. The Constitution was "good enough" that significant changes have been seriously considered by future generations. We'll certainly expect the systems subse- quently established by other democracies to be much "better" than the U.S. original. The model for the European Union in the 19th century was somewhat influenced by the American and French experiences of the previous century. The proliferation of new states based on raising nation- alism in the 20th century was perfectly opportuni- ties to create modern republics and constitutional forms. In the 21st century, many of these systems studied the flaws of previously established democracies. Furthermore, the latest U.S. judicial systems on various aspects of politics, such as modern psychology, game theory, Arrow's Impossibility Theorem and Condorcet's Voting Theorems, have developed over the last century. The 20th century democracies have completely rewritten their constitutions from scratch after suffer- ing a major collapse of their government due to financial and political revolutions. For example, during the constitutions of (West) Germany and Japan were not legally binding by the U.S. after World War II and the Fourth French Republic was born after liberation from Nazi occupation.

Over the last two nations had a substantial advantage and strength with more modern features that leap-frogged Modernity. For example, the U.S. Constitution was "good enough" that significant changes have been seriously considered by future generations. We'll certainly expect the systems subse- quently established by other democracies to be much "better" than the U.S. original. The model for the European Union in the 19th century was somewhat influenced by the American and French experiences of the previous century. The proliferation of new states based on raising nation- alism in the 20th century was perfectly opportuni- ties to create modern republics and constitutional forms. In the 21st century, many of these systems studied the flaws of previously established democracies. Furthermore, the latest U.S. judicial systems on various aspects of politics, such as modern psychology, game theory, Arrow's Impossibility Theorem and Condorcet's Voting Theorems, have developed over the last century. The 20th century democracies have completely rewritten their constitutions from scratch after suffer- ing a major collapse of their government due to financial and political revolutions. For example, during the constitutions of (West) Germany and Japan were not legally binding by the U.S. after World War II and the Fourth French Republic was born after liberation from Nazi occupation.

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**ARTS**

### MOVIE REVIEW • 3 1/2

**Sex, Rocket Launchers, and Emotional Baggage**

**Daniel Craig's Bond Gets a Little Too Sensitive**

**By Kevin Wang**

**Quantum of Solace**

Directed by Marc Forster

Written by Paul Haggis, Neal Purvis, and Robert Wade

Starring: Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Mathieu Amalric, and Judi Dench

Open Nationwide Today, Nov. 14

I f "The Notebook" humped a car chase, the salacious scenes that would have been produced would be "Quantum of Solace." Much like a Miss USA contestant named Mildred, the latest Bond film is visually impressive, has a simple plot, and is pretty much devoid of substance. While the movie's top shelf action is extremely exciting throughout, the latest incarnation of James Bond simply lacks the cool confidence that sets the franchise apart from every other secret agent thriller. **"Quantum of Solace"** picks up just after the conclusion of the last Bond film ("Casino Royale"), and immediately jumps into a high-speed car chase. The film's strict continuation of the previous movie, and tracks James Bond (Daniel Craig) in his pursuit of a shadowy organized crime syndicate called Quantum. Heartbroken from the death of Vesper, his love from the last film, Bond rebels against his superior and wages a personal war against those responsible for her death. Along the way, he befriends Camille (Olga Kurylenko), an exotic Bolivian commando who is also on a quest for revenge. The plot jumps from country to country like Carmen Sandiego on a sugar high, eventually culminating in a brutal firefight in the middle of the Bolivian desert.

The car chases and action scenes in "Quantum of Solace" are all solidly excellent. There are independent high-speed chases using virtually every mode of motorized transport on the planet, as the Bond franchise continues its dominance in graphic depictions of vehicular manslaughter. The close-range fighting scenes — often at the culmination of extended free-running sequences — are also notably grittier than the clean cut Pierce Brosnan antics of the '90s, now that Bond dispatches his foes, it is as ugly and gritty as at an Olympic level at close range should be. In that sense, Daniel Craig is well suited to the Bond role, as he lends a sense of gravity to the serious role of killing tons of total strangers. Disappointingly however, "Quantum of Solace" continues the theme of increasing sensitivity begun in the last Bond installment. Don't be fooled into thinking that more emotional content means moving dialogue: Judi Dench is the only person in the movie who acts; despite looking like the pedophile cat lady down the street. Moreover, Craig's tough demeanor which is so well suited to great action shots is sadly forced to hover somewhere around catastrophic constipation, confused by the incongruous addition of emotional scenes.

In a way, "Quantum of Solace" betrays the core attitude of past Bond films, which featured a James Bond who is confident, perennially cool, and not a crook. However, I should admit that I'm fairly biased in my preference for older Bond movies and actors, I prefer my Bond movies the way that I like my sexual encounters: two hours long, featuring beautiful women, and starring Sean Connery.

Admittedly, 007 "going rogue" in the name of revenge is nothing foreign to the Bond franchise. Specifically, 1995's "License to Kill" featured a similar theme of vengeance and rebellion against M-I-6 (as well as an eerily��合omy 80's theme song). That film, however, grasped a critical real of both action movies and flashy sports cars; if you have lame parts, you need to compensate, big time.

"License to Kill" featured not one but two full-out shark disembowelments to make up for its monumental lapse in manliness, and concluded with the lead villain being lit on fire. I waited for nearly two hours for Daniel Craig to kill a villain with a burning shark in each hand, but I unfortunately left the theater disappointed.

Ultimately, when we go to see a James Bond film, we want to grasp the fantasy — if only for a moment — that we are a suave secret agent who gets laid more than once a decade and has spent hand-to-hand combat skills to boot. Nobody wants to pay $10 to see James Bond suck. Bond should be a cross between Ron Jeremy and the Terminator — a wry, wise-cracking sex machine carrying a rocket launcher.

While I recommend seeing "Quantum of Solace" purely on the strength of its action scenes, it simply doesn't deliver the same attitude that really set past Bond films apart.

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### ALBUM REVIEW

**East from the Midwest**

**Pillars & Tongues Drone Beautifully on ‘Protection’**

**By 5. Balaji Mani**

**Pillars & Tongues**

**Protection**

ContraRecords

Released Oct. 14, 2008

Recorded by Griffin Rodriguez

Chicago-based trio Pillars & Tongues don’t just play together; they talk to each other, critique each other, and advise each other—with their instruments, of course. Their unadorned, unrefined musical creations have been compiled onto a disc entitled Protection, released last month on the Contra Records imprint.

Though it's their debut release, Evan Hydzik (bass, vocals), Elizabeth Remus (vocals, vocals), and Mark Trecka (percussion, organ, vocals) have been playing together for almost four years. Over the course of their friendship, they’ve formed a larger collective, Static Films, served as a learning ground for a number of MIT students. In September, Pillars & Tongues performed during his show hosted by the Korean Students Association.

In the past, Pillars & Tongues have released an extensive array of songs through various channels. While I recommend seeing "Quantum of Solace" purely on the strength of its action scenes, it simply doesn't deliver the same attitude that really set past Bond films apart.

Ultimately, when we go to see a James Bond film, we want to grasp the fantasy — if only for a moment — that we are a suave secret agent who gets laid more than once a decade and has spent hand-to-hand combat skills to boot. Nobody wants to pay $10 to see James Bond suck. Bond should be a cross between Ron Jeremy and the Terminator — a wry, wise-cracking sex machine carrying a rocket launcher.

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### Music

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We are not an agency - we are the family seeking your help. Please help us.
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo

The Daily Blunderbuss by Ben Peters

Blobbles by Jason Chan

If my nose was full of nickels, I'd blow it all on you.

Thanks to Paul Hlebowitsh 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!

Pseudoscience by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

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.

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Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com

Figure 44. The graph shows the real and perceived effort profiles during an average PhD program, from the completion of the qualifiers until graduation. As shown, the perceived effort is slightly above the real effort for the first third of the program, as the student acquires the necessary skills. After that, the real effort surpasses the perceived for a period in which work becomes monotonous and the student loses a sense of reality. Soon after, the burnout period begins, where it takes an exponentially growing amount of effort to do the same or even a decreasing amount of work. Because the date of graduation is almost arbitrary, this process may discourage the PhD candidate to the point where he decides to become a banker, a comic writer, or a restaurateur.
The School of Engineering announces the following opportunities open to eligible Sophomore and/or Junior students in the School of Engineering and the School of Science

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The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

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The School of Engineering, Dean’s Office, 1-206
By: November 24, 2008

For further information:
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http://www.sci.mit.edu/undergrad/goldwater.html
School of Engineering contact: Maria Marampilos (x-6012, maria@mit.edu)
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MIT Faculty Representative: Professor Cynthia Barnhart
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
School of Engineering

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Dramashop Performs ‘Menfolks and the Woman’

The MIT Dramashop puts on a theater arts workshop entitled “Menfolks and the Woman,” a Hungarian satire by Milan Fust translated and directed by Istvan Cziegler. The workshop will be running Nov. 13-15 at 8 p.m. in the Wiesner Student Gallery.

(counter-clockwise from above)
Mia A. Shandell ’10 as “the woman” seduces the Phantom of Ideal (Jonas Kubilius ’08).
The Menfolks (from left, Ari Daniel Shapiro G, Paul M. Kominers ’12 and Brian P. Cass ’11) meet and argue with the Rover (Jonas Kubilius ’08).
The Phantom of the Football Player, played by Ari Daniel Shapiro G, advises “the woman” played by Mia A. Shandell ’10.

Photography by Meng Heng Touch

There’s no place like The Tech! Join us: join@tech.mit.edu
Most Bike Fatalities Occur in the Evening

Bicycles, from Page 1

Grant Cheryl Vossmer of the MIT Police.

In 1993, MIT Police started issuing $25 fines to people riding bicycles, inline skates, skateboards, or scooters inside Institute buildings. “We ask that you just don’t do it,” said Vossmer. “Those vehicles are meant only for the outside.”

The police are also concerned with bicycle thefts. Six bicycle thefts were reported in the MIT bulletins in the last month alone. According to the MIT crime report, there were about two-hundred burglary cases in 2007.

“The number one issue of bicyclist safety is theft,” explained Vossmer. She added that cable bike-locks can be easily broken and are not theft-proof. “To secure a bike,” she explained, “its rear wheel and frame must be locked in place by a U-lock.”

Campus police recommend that all students register their bicycles with MIT in order to help prevent theft. Bicycle registration can be completed online via the MIT Police website at http://web.mit.edu/epp/new.

The MIT Police are also working to improve bicycle safety in construction zones on campus, said Vossmer. Areas of greatest concern are the new Vassar Street parking garage, the student center safe-ride stop, and the corners of street intersections.

In order to make the campus safer for both cyclists and pedestrians, the MIT Police are working with the City of Cambridge which is also weighing in on the issue of bicycle safety. The city currently enforces several laws including the “be bright” law which requires all bikes to have a front white-light and rear red-reflector between dusk and dawn.

According to the city’s website, while only three percent of bicycle accidents occur at night, about half of all bicyclist accident deaths occur while riding at night without a bike light.

Bicycle parking is also restricted under Massachusetts Law. Bicycles are not allowed to be parked within Institute buildings, hallways, stairwells, or handicap zones, or attached to railings or fire hydrants; violators incur an initial fine of $25.

The law also restricts bicyclists from riding on certain sidewalks including those beside Massachusetts Avenue and Harvard Square. Instead, bikers are encouraged to use the bike lanes that line several major streets in Cambridge including Massachusetts Ave.

A New Era?
What issues confront Christianity, Islam and Judaism at this historic time?

Wednesday, November 19th, 7:30pm
West Lounge — W20 Rm 201
MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue

MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

Panelists
Robert Coolidge, Muslim Advisor, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Walter Cuenin, Catholic Chaplain, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Rabbi Moshe Waldoks, Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA

Questions: ora@mit.edu
Website: mit.edu/dsl/addir/

All are invited to attend.

Addir is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means “bridge.” In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains.

MON 11.17
Opening Ceremony and Kick-Off Event

6:30pm – 9:30pm
Pavilion at the Alumni Center
716 Columbus Place - 4th Floor, NU

- Bob Davis, 96’ 79
  Founder of Lycos, Partner, Highland Capital Partners
- Thom Ruhe
  Director of Entrepreneurship, Kaufman Foundation

TUE 11.18
Creative Industries and the Global Economy

WED 11.19
Entrepreneurship and the International Economy

THU 11.20
Entrepreneurship in the Music Industry

THU 11.20
Find Your Niche: Entrepreneurship in the Health Sciences

THU 11.20
EntreTech Forum: The Youth Movement - Digital Media’s Leaders and their Ideas

MON 11.17
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WED 11.18
EO Boston, Overcoming Adversity in Business and in Life

WED 11.19
Invention2Venture (I2V)

THU 11.20
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From Fiber Optic Surgical Scalpels to Fabrics That See:
How Materials Scientists are Shaping the Future

Professor Yoel Fink
Associate Professor of Materials Science
Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT
MacVicar Fellow

Prof. Fink’s research interests are in the theory, design, fabrication, and characterization of multi-material, multi-functional fibers and fiber assemblies. These exciting new materials are composed of conductors, semiconductors, and insulators with 10’s-of-nanometers feature sizes. While sharing basic semiconductor device attributes, they are processed using conventional fiber-processing approaches, thus yielding kilometers of precisely controlled fiber structures with engineered electronic, optical, thermal, and acoustic properties. His research has led to entirely new classes of fiber devices, including wavelength-scalable hollow-core photonic bandgap transmission fibers, high-Q Fabry Perot fiber resonators, transverse surface emitting fiber lasers, and thermal and optical fiber detectors and fiber array systems. He was a recipient of the Technology Review Top 100 Young Innovators in 1999 and was awarded the National Academy of Sciences Initiatives in Research Award in 2004. He is a co-founder of OmniGuide, Inc., and serves on its Board of Directors.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general-audience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject: 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

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Colleges Feel Impact of Market Decline, Begin Cutting Fin. Aid

By Geraldine Fabrikant

For years, as the stock market roared, educational endowments swelled, helping private secondary schools and colleges provide more financial aid, expand, and attract better schools and colleges provide more financial aid, expand, and attract better

students. But with the financial market in crisis, those days are over.

Today educational institutions are cutting spending, delaying projects, and holding off on hiring. While many schools and colleges say their commitment to helping families pay the costs of education will not waver, some experts maintain that as investments shrink and donations fall, some institutions will be forced to cut back on financial aid.

Morton Schapiro, president of Williams College in Massachusetts, which has long had a commitment to accepting students without considering their financial situation, said he doubted that all colleges with such full need-blind policies would be able to hold to them.

“The major dye you turn for most financial crises is that you admit more students who can pay, as a way of increasing revenues,” Mr. Schapiro said. “With the tremendous decline in wealth, I think fewer people will hold on to needs blind.”

One of the few college presidents speaking publicly about making some adjustment is Douglas Bennet of Earlham College in Indiana. About 18 percent of its students are from families with less than $50,000 in income and receive financial aid.

“If you are truly need-blind, you can go broke,” Mr. Bennett said bluntly during a telephone interview. “It is like writing a blank check to the world.”

The relative share of financial aid that is picked up by the government is declining as well, he added. As the burden is shifted to families and institutions, Earlham is trying to figure out what to do. The college is particularly concerned about students that it accepts and enrolls but whose financial needs it is not able to meet.

Mr. Bennett said Earlham, which had a $350 million endowment at the end of June, was considering limiting its need-blind admissions policy to three-quarters of the class. The college would then know how much it had committed in financial aid and would be able to take that into account in admitting the remaining 25 percent.

Endowment management at most colleges involves a “smoothing strategy” that tries to blend spending over good years and bad in the hope of avoiding abrupt layoffs or other cuts if the endowment falls precipitously.

Though endowments generally pay out about 5 percent of their assets annually, they often calculate the amount on an average of the previous three years, or other formulas. So in a rising market, colleges appear to be giving away less than 5 percent of the current endowment value; in a falling market, they may appear to be giving away more.

A prolonged bear market would be likely to depress returns or even create more losses. Contributions from alumni might also decline, putting even more pressure on endowments just as the colleges need more financing from them.

For the moment, colleges with hefty endowments can weather the storms. In late October, Anthony Marx, president of Amherst College, posted a letter on the college Web site that said the endowment had fallen 25 percent since June 30, the end of fiscal 2008, when it stood at $1.7 billion. Still, Mr. Marx wrote, the commitment to financial aid would not be scaled back, although Amherst would postpone a renovation project and would review plans for new hires more stringently.

But the new financial realities mean that “every school is looking at what they can cut and what they can reallocate,” said Steven Rattner, a managing principal of the Quadrangle Group and acting chairman of Brown University’s investment committee.

“Nobody thinks the market will turn around and go back to do what it did before,” he said. “That means everyone is having to plan for a more difficult and turbulent financial environment to bring our expenses in line with resources.”

Everywhere, the goal is to keep entry to colleges accessible. “Just as schools have less money, the families need more,” Mr. Rattner said. “While they are all looking to trim fat, the need-blind issue is seen as muscle.”

As part of a $1.4 billion fund-raising campaign, Brown is seeking $400 million for financial aid. Ronald Vanden Doppel, senior vice president for advancement, said the university tells potential donors that such gifts let Brown admit the best and most diverse students — “whomever we want without looking at their ability to pay.”

During freshman weekend at Williams last month, Mr. Schapiro told families that if their financial circumstances had changed, the college wanted to know and would try to accommodate their needs.

The college has 2,000 students, and “I got about 12 calls from families that told us they might need more help,” said Mr. Schapiro, who is also president of the 568 Presidents’ Group. 30 colleges that have agreed to admit all American students on a needs-blind basis.

Mr. Schapiro has already alerted the Williams community about other cutbacks. In a letter several weeks ago, he said the endowment budget had been predicated on an annual increase over the long term of 8 percent; last year, Williams’ endowment was down one-tenth of 1 percent. He also warned that Williams would have to think about the impact of the roiling economy on giving.

Williams has decided to delay the completion of a sports field and a library. That will save money, Mr. Schapiro said, and avoid the need to borrow. In the current credit crunch, he noted, “the preferential interest rates once afforded to schools are temporarily gone.”
RNAi Therapeutics May Hold Key to Reducing Cholesterol

By Andrew Pollack

The New York Times

November 14, 2008

By Andrew Pollack

December 31, 2008

The New York Times

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November 14, 2008
Startups Struggle to Find Venture Capital

By Todd Wallack

For six months, Flex Biomedical Inc.’s chief executive, Sal Braico, has been furiously trying to raise money to support his Brookline, Mass. life sciences startup, meeting with as many venture capital firms and angel investors as possible.

But the timing couldn’t be more difficult. Because of the turmoil in financial markets, few small companies have been able to launch initial public stock offerings this year, forcing venture capitalists to divert money from start-ups to more mature companies that would normally be able to go public. In addition, some say the burgeoning recession and sharp stock market decline last month have made some investors increasingly nervous about gambling on novel ventures.

“Early-stage companies always have a difficult time” raising money, Braico said. “Now, it’s even worse.

Among the firms making presentations Friday was EyeGate Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Waltham; iQums Inc., of Marlborough; ZymoQuest Inc. in Beverly; Tomophas Corp., of Burlington; and Curative Biosciences Inc., of Waltham.

The Massachusetts Biotechnology Council plans a similar investment conference on Dec. 9 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

“Those conferences are critical to any early-stage company,” said Frank Reynolds, chief executive of InVivo Therapeutics Corp., another Cambridge company scheduled to make a presentation Friday. “You get 100-plus people listening at the same time.”

InVivo Therapeutics Corp., which hopes to raise $15 million, is developing a polymer-based device that could be implanted in patients who suffer spinal injuries to prevent the spread of bleeding and secondary infections, which can lead to paralysis.

Work on the material was originally done by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor, Robert Langer, a prolific inventor who has helped spawn dozens of biomedical companies.

Chief executive Frank Reynolds said the $15 million will help the company open a manufacturing facility and launch clinical trials, so it can apply for Food and Drug Administration approval to market the product. It has already tested the device in primates.

Massachusetts medical device makers raised $207 million from venture capitalists through the first nine months of this year, down about one-quarter from the same period a year earlier, according to the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. A growing share of the money is going to later-stage companies, rather than to start-ups. “Fortunately, I am not in the middle of fund-raising,” said Larry Jasinski, chief executive of Three Rivers Biolabs Inc., of Newton, which is also on the MassMedic conference roster. “For companies that are in early stages, not a lot seems to be happening.”

Soteria is seeking approval to market a system to treat fractures in patients suffering from osteoporosis, cancer, and traumatic injuries.

Flex, meanwhile, has garnered smaller amounts of money — $200,000 from Boston University and a $75,000 small-business grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Braico said it hopes to raise $750,000 to $1 million more to complete animal testing and expand manufacturing of its arthritis treatment.

If approved by the FDA, Braico said, the product would compete with the hyaluronic acid shots produced by Genzyme Corp. in Cambridge and others.

“We believe it’s a superior lubricant,” he said.

Still, Flex is operating as a “virtual company” without a central office to make its existing funding last longer, one of several tactics start-ups are using to conserve cash. “It’s the most cost-effective way to do business,” Braico said.

At least for now.
### Equestrian Team Is Seeking Sponsorship

The Equestrian Team, from Page 16 many fun events too, such as going cross-country on their horses, chasing cattle together, and visiting the Florida winter equestrian festival. For the team members, the team is a part of their life at MIT. The training sessions, shows, and recreational activities all serve as a great way to get away from the fast pace of life at MIT. Those interested in horses or considering joining the MIT Equestrian Team should visit [http://web.mit.edu/equestrian/www](http://web.mit.edu/equestrian/www) or contact Anna Jaffe (ajaffe@mit.edu) for more information.

### Scoreboard

#### Football

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team A</th>
<th>Score A</th>
<th>Team B</th>
<th>Score B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008</td>
<td>Endicott (3-7)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>MIT (1-5)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Men's Ice Hockey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team A</th>
<th>Score A</th>
<th>Team B</th>
<th>Score B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008</td>
<td>Bryant University (7-3)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MIT (2-1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008</td>
<td>Endicott College (6-5)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MIT (2-2)</td>
<td>1</td>
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#### Sailing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008</td>
<td>Horn Trophy</td>
<td>MIT</td>
<td>5th of 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crews Regatta</td>
<td>MIT</td>
<td>3rd of 20</td>
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#### Men's Soccer

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<th>Score B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008</td>
<td>Wheaton College (10-5-4)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>MIT (16-2-1)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008</td>
<td>Babson College (16-4-1)</td>
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<td>MIT (16-3-2)</td>
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</table>

#### Women's Soccer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008</td>
<td>MIT (7-9-2)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Springfield College (14-3-2)</td>
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#### Men's Swimming

<table>
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<th>Score A</th>
<th>Team B</th>
<th>Score B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008</td>
<td>MIT (11-0-0)</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>Wheaton College (9-1)</td>
<td>95</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Women's Swimming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Team A</th>
<th>Score A</th>
<th>Team B</th>
<th>Score B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008</td>
<td>MIT (1-0)</td>
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<td>Wheaton College (0-1)</td>
<td>144</td>
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#### Women's Volleyball

<table>
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<th>Score B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Wellesley College (26-7)</td>
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<td>MIT (21-16)</td>
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#### Men's Water Polo

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Score A</th>
<th>Team B</th>
<th>Score B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008</td>
<td>Harvard University (14-9)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>MIT (9-12)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brown University (16-18)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>MIT (9-13)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008</td>
<td>Iona College (14-9)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>MIT (10-14)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Interested in writing a sports story or taking sports photos?**

E-mail [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)!
MIT Equestrian Team Revived, Begins Training for Competition

By Radhika Malik

At MIT, horseback riding is a sport that has vacillated between being active and successful one year, and being completely nonexistent the next. This year, Anna S. Jaffe ’09, President and Show Captain, and her team members, have undertaken the task of restarting the team. The group has again started getting together, training and competing at horse shows with the Intercolligate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

The group consists of those who just ride occasionally for recreation, as well as those who do so at a more serious level. While some riders have been training for years, there are also those who are complete novices. The members divide into various categories of riding such as Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing.

The team takes part in about six competitions in the fall season and three in the spring with the IHSA. Currently halfway through the fall season, they have had several successes this year. Most recently, at the Endicott College Horse Show, the team took seventh place despite competing with only four horses. Even at most MIT IHSA events, horses are randomly assigned to participants; this also tests the riders’ ability to connect with animals they aren’t familiar with. The group hopes to gain as many members as possible, and plans to outline their goals and areas of focus depending on the preferences of team members.

The team is also seeking sponsors, both within MIT and from outside, including in alumni networks. Currently, the riders have to fund everything themselves, from lessons to transportation costs. Most of them have managed the cost by doing things such as splitting the costs for lessons and having a work-study relationship at the farms. Although a rider may feel that the experience is completely worth the price, they hope to have more members willing to help search for funds as well. The team is awaiting a recognition as an official club sport from the Student Activities Office. Apart from training and competing in shows, the group holds weekly lessons.

Equestrian Team, Page 15

SPORTS

MIT Earns NEWMAC Women’s Volleyball Postseason Honors

The MIT women’s volleyball team received four postseason awards from the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) on Tuesday. The Engineers’ individual total this year equals the program-high established in 2002.

Cecily L. Jougogne ’12 earned the title Co-Rookie of the Year, making her MIT’s fourth recipient of this honor. The freshman middle hitter tallied 102 kills and 68 blocks in 82 sets.

Outside hitter Alexandra T. May ’10, a Rookie of the Year selection in 2006, was named to the All-Conference First Team. Her classmates, Barrie E. Cleland ’10 and Katrina M. Ellison ’12 were both voted to the Second Team, their first awards in the league.

May paced MIT’s attack with 457 kills to go along with 380 digs, 50 blocks, and a .942 serve receive percentage. Cleland was a dominant force from the middle hitter position, posting a team-high 103 blocks in addition to 277 kills and a team-best .322 hitting percentage. Ellison’s versatility generated 277 digs, 195 kills, 70 assists, 57 blocks, and a .968 serve receive percentage.

-Mindy Brouer, DAPER Staff

MIT Places Three on NEWMAC Women’s Soccer All-Conference Team

The New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) announced its 2008 women’s soccer postseason awards on Tuesday with first-time honorees Stephanie V. Brennan ’09, Alida D. Lussiez ’12, and Lauren R. Henrely ’11 representing MIT on the All-Conference Team.

Brennan, who carried her career with a First Team selection after playing every minute in net and compiling eight shutouts and 79 saves, Lussiez, the Engineers’ leading scorer with eight goals, including three game-winners, three assists, and 19 points, joined Brennan on the All-Conference First Team. Rounding out the MIT contingent was Henrely, who was placed on the Second Team after ranking second on the squad in scoring with three goals and two assists for eight points.

Joining Brennan and Lussiez on the All-Conference First Team were Springfield College’s Lauren Peltier, Delaney Cantrell, Nicole Hanewich and Kayla Thibeault. Babson College’s Jackie Amanda, Giamma Young of Wesley College and Wheaton College’s Emily Hough and Lynndy McManus also earned First Team honors.

The Second Team All-Conference unit was comprised of Henrely, Sam Bartman and Patty Pyriel of Babson, Clark University’s Joanna Clark and Julia Rizzo, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Katie Kurek, Smith College’s Etta Gove-Silva, Wellesley’s Catherine Caruso, Wheaton’s Melinda Alvarez and Alessia Viscomi, and Kristen Garza from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

-James Kromer, DAPER Staff

Two Engineers Earn NEWMAC Field Hockey All-Conference Honors

A pair of MIT field hockey players were named to the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Women’s Field Hockey All-Conference team on Tuesday. Anna H. Teruya ’12 and Zachary E. Kabelac ’12 each earned a first team selection while Alexandra A. Wright ’11 was named to the second team. This marks the sixth time in seven years that at least two MIT players have earned All-Conference honors.

Starting all 19 games this season for the Engineers, Teruya ranked second on the team in goals (nine) and assists (10), and was named Co-Rookie of the Year. Kabelac was named NEWMAC Rookie of the Year, the fourth MIT player to earn this title.

Kabelac played a key role in the Engineers’ defeat of the Johnson and Wales Wildcats earlier this season, scoring the final goal in the 2-0 victory on a rebound from a blocked shot of Teruya’s. That goal was a significant one for the team, as it marked their ninth shutout of the season, a new Institute record.

—Aaron Sampson, Sports Editor

The Tech’s Athlete of the Week: Zachary E. Kabelac ’12

The MIT men’s soccer team earned six postseason honors from the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC). As announced on Tuesday, Zachary E. Kabelac ’12, Christian W. Therkelsen ’11, and Natia Persamburo ’09 earned First Team All-Conference selections. Thomas S. Caldwell ’09 and Max S. Stein-Goldberg ’12 both earned places on the Second Team. Rounding out the team honors, Kabelac was named NEWMAC Rookie of the Year, the fourth MIT player to earn this title.

Kabelac has scored ten goals and made eight assists for 28 points this season, putting him second on the team, behind conference scoring leader and teammate Therkelsen, with 15 goals this season. Kabelac played a key role in the Engineers’ victory over the Johnson and Wales Wildcats, scoring the final goal in the 2-0 victory on a rebound from a blocked shot of Teruya’s. That goal was a significant one for the team, as it marked their ninth shutout of the season, a new Institute record.

—Aaron Sampson, Sports Editor

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 14, 2008
Squash vs. Bryant University
6:00 p.m., Squash Center
Pistol vs. Ohio State University and Citadel Military College
6:00 p.m., Upson Gymnasium
Women’s Ice Hockey vs. New England College
7:00 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Squash vs. Bard College
7:30 p.m., Squash Center

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008
Crow Foot of the Charlies Regatta
9:00 a.m., Charles River
Squash vs. Babson College
12:30 p.m., Squash Center
Men’s Basketball vs. Emmanuel College*
2:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Squash vs. University of Vermont
6:00 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Women’s Ice Hockey vs. Westfield State College
7:00 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center

*Featuring the MIT Marching Band

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