On leave from MIT and was planning to enter the Navy, the Tulsa World reported. MacGregor residents were informed of his death in an e-mail from the housemaster last night.

The Oklahoma medical examiner said yesterday that the cause of death was still unknown and that a final determination based on test results would be available within the next four months, according to the Claremore-涧的meral. The newspaper of Tracey's hometown.

In an interview with a local television station, his mother, Marjorie Tracey, said that "he had just had a physical a few months ago with the Navy, and everything came out perfect."

Chris Lieberman, executive director of the race, said, "We are deeply saddened that one of our runners didn't come home. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of that young man," according to Tulsa World.

At MIT, Tracey was involved in UROP research in the Sports Innovation program. He worked on a project that aimed to develop better chest protectors for catchers. The project was featured in the Boston Globe in April.

Tracey was chair of his entry, D-entry, in MacGregor when he was a sophomore in 2007. Thomas Rand-Nash, D-entry graduate resident tutor, wrote in an e-mail to the entry, "Those who knew Kjell loved him, because he was awesome in his own unique way."

At his high school in Claremore, he had been valedictorian of his class and a member of the marching band. His mother said to the local TV station, "He inspired everyone. Toughed a lot of lives."
Prepare for a Deep Freeze
By Angela Zalucha

This extremely cold weather will continue through the week, with temperatures dropping well below freezing in many areas. Expect wind chills to make it feel even colder than the actual temperatures. Bundle up with warm, layered clothing and stay inside when possible. The only thing worse than the cold is the thought of being cold! Keep warm and stay safe.

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, November 18, 2008

PREPARED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE UNION-TELEGRAPHIC NETWORK
**Firefighters Get Edge on Wildfires as Wind Eases**

By Jennifer Steinhauer

The New York Times

U.S. ANAELLES

Firefighters gained the upper hand against three blazes raging over a 150-mile stretch of Southern California on Monday, as scores of residents picked over the charred remains of their homes and state officials took a new look at how to prevent a recurrence of the destruction.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called for a review of building standards for manufactured homes after nearly 500 of them went up in flames in the Oakridge Mobile Home Park in the San Fernando Valley over the weekend and the remaining 100 or so in the park were left badly damaged. Schwarzenegger also called for hospitals to examine their generators after the backup power system failed at a hospital in the center of that fire, north of downtown Los Angeles.

A calming of the Santa Ana winds — which helped propel the three vicious fires that over the course of several days consumed roughly 40,000 acres and hundreds of homes and sent five counties into states of emergency — helped firefighters who were laboring mightily. In Santa Barbara County, a fire that quickly consumed scores of luxury homes last week was almost completely under control.

In the San Fernando Valley, fires were roughly 40 percent contained. In an area south of Los Angeles, fires smoldering across two counties were also about 40 percent controlled.

In all, more than 30 people were injured in the fires, three seriously, with burns and smoke inhalation. Smoke and ash blanketed much of Los Angeles County, with schools in some areas closed and outdoor activities curtailed because of the poor air quality.

Officials in the counties hit by fires said the causes were under investigation, though the Santa Barbara County fire was initially believed to be caused by people.

While California has adopted regulations that require ignition-resistant construction materials and roofing for manufactured residences outside mobile home parks, officials said Monday that the Schwarzenegger administration would seek to tighten those regulations for homes within them.

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**Rule to Protect Health Workers Draws Protests**

By Robert Pear

The New York Times

A last-minute Bush administration plan to grant sweeping new protections to health care providers who oppose abortion and other procedures on religious or moral grounds has provoked a torrent of objections, including a strenuous protest from the government agency that enforces job-discrimination laws.

The proposed rule would prohibit recipients of federal money from discriminating against doctors, nurses and other health care workers who refuse to perform or assist in the performance of abortions or sterilization procedures because of their “religious beliefs or moral convictions.”

It would also prevent hospitals, clinics, doctors’ offices and drugstores from requiring employees with religious or moral objections to “assist in the performance of any part of a health service program or research activity” financed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

But three officials from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, including its legal counsel, whom President Bush appointed, said the proposal would overturn 40 years of civil rights law prohibiting job discrimination based on religion.

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**Al-Maliki Dismisses Fraud Monitors in Secret Moves**

By James Glanz and Riyadth Mohammed

The government of Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki is systematically dismissing Iraqi oversight officials, who were installed to fight corruption in Iraqi ministries by order of the American occupation administration, which had hoped to bring West ern standards of accountability to the notoriously opaque and graft-ridden bureaucracy here.

The dismissals, which were confirmed by senior Iraqi and American government officials on Sunday and Monday, came as estimates of officials removed had lost their posts without good cause.

Each of Iraq’s 30 Cabinet-level ministries has one inspector general. These oversight officials are support ed by varying budgets and staffing.

While while some Iraqi officials defended the dismissals, saying there had been no political motivation, others pointed to the secrecy involved as supporting their view that those removed had lost their posts without good cause.

While these officials were concerned that the economic downturn would add a new layer of uncertainty to the coming talks, because many of the programs under development would curb the emissions that cause global warming require credit and financing.

While they expressed some optimism about the new data, which went through 2006, the last year available, they said the slight decline — one-tenth of 1 percent from 2005 to 2006 — was too small to indicate a significant downward trend.

Overall, among the 40 industrialized countries that reported to the United Nations, emissions had increased by 2.5 percent from 2000 to 2006, and the new report did not include large emerging economies like those of India and China.

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**Amgen-UPRO Scholars Program**

Undergraduate Research in the Sciences and Biotechnology, Summer 2009

Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 Amgen-UPRO Scholars Program.

Up to 26 students (approximately half from MIT) will be selected to conduct research in MIT laboratories, take part in networking and educational activities, and attend a mid-summer research symposium at UCLA. Participants receive competitive research pay, on-campus housing, and a food allowance.

Applications are due by February 2, 2009. For complete information on eligibility requirements and to access the online application, visit mit.edu/urop/amgenscholars.

The Amgen-UPRO Scholars Program is managed by the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming (UAAP), and is funded by a grant provided by the Amgen Foundation.

For more information, contact UAAP staff at amgenscholars@mit.edu, or (617) 253-7306.

For details on Amgen Scholars Programs offered at other U.S. universities, visit http://www.amgenscholars.com.

mit.edu/urop/amgenscholars
Nuclear Power Faces an Uncertain Future Under an Obama Administration

Keith Yost

Illinois produces more megawatts of nuclear power than any other state in the union, accounting for nearly 12 percent of the national total, and Barack Obama, the junior senator from the land of Lincoln, has had a very cozy relationship with the state's nuclear industry over the years. The employees of the Exelon Corporation, the largest operator of commercial nuclear power plants in the U.S., have donated at least $300,000 to Obama since 2003, and for his part, Obama has dined with those who brought him.

In 2005, when his constituents were outraged to find that Exelon had leaked millions of gallons of radioactive tritium and informed the public, the senior senator took up the cause, and with much fire and brimstone, proposed the Nuclear Release Notice Act of 2006, a bill that would have made it mandatory for nuclear reactors to disclose to the public when such radioactive releases occur. During the Iowa primaries, he boasted of this legislative success, calling it “the only nuclear legislation I’ve passed.” In reality, the legislation never passed. The bill had Obama’s full-throated support—until he re-wrote the bill, pulled the hard talk of mandated reporting, and then watched this watered-down version die in the Senate.

Maybe Obama simply saw the light—after all, the tritium leakage was never a serious threat to public health—or maybe there was something more: David Axelrod, Obama’s chief political strategist, was a consultant for Exelon as recently as 2002, and the $3 million “Woodward Report,” which played a major role in the debates in the pledged to the destined for the Adler Planetarium, whose chairman at the same time was Frank Clark, chief executive of an Exelon-owned utility, ComEd.

When Obama stepped onto the national stage, stories like these would have been uncomfortable liaisons with the hard environmental left of his party, and so the young senator tempered his view of nuclear power—specifically by adding ambiguity. On the stump, he was careful to stick to his new and improved view, namely that he supported nuclear power so long as it was “safe and clean.”

What a fantastic caveat, both indisputably safe and conveniently elastic. Surely no one could support “dangerous and dirty” nuclear power. But Obama’s new line on nuclear power begs the question: How safe is safe? How clean is clean?

To quote General Electric, it is “11 times more likely for the largest asteroid near the earth to impact the earth over the next 100 years than for [an E]conomically Profitable Boiling Water Reactor” operational event to result in the release of fission product contamination to the environment.” Sounds pretty safe! Current standards for Yucca Mountain mandate that over the next one million years, the expected increase in annual radioactive dose received by any nearby population must be reliably under 100 millirem. Roughly speaking, this is less than the increase in dose one would receive by living in Colorado instead of Ohio. Sounds pretty clean!

Surely given these findings and Obama’s quixotic goal of slashing carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050, he did not do anything to stand in the way of the United States’ brightest hope of curbing global warming, right?

If only. Unfortunately, the president-elect’s days of threading the needle between the fringe left that rationally opposes nuclear power and the 74 percent of Americans who support it might not be over. In trying to pass his nuclear agenda, Obama will have to work closely with the Senate majority leader and zealous nuclear opponent, Harry Reid. As the price of his goodwill and party loyalty, Reid is sure to demand that Obama torpedo any plans for expanding nuclear power, and this problem will arrive at Obama’s doorstep sooner rather than later.

The Democratic filibustering that has left the U.S. court system decimated has also left significant holes on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Currently the five-member board that heads the regulatory agency is made up of four commissioners: Peter Lyons, Greg Jacko, Kristine Svinicki, and Chairman Dale Klein. Jacko, the former science advisor to Senator Reid, is the sole Democrat on the board, but he won’t be lonely for long. Besides filling the empty seat on the commission, Obama will get to appoint someone to replace Lyons, whose term ends in June 2009, and probably Chairman Klein as well, since Klein has quietly expressed a desire to resign rather than serve under an Obama administration.

In either case, Democrats will soon be on a winning streak, and unless Obama pushes to the contrary, Jacko, the hatchet man of Nevada’s Harry Reid, will be the new chair of a government agency that has a near unlimited mandate to regulate the nuclear industry. The timing could not be worse: current Y 34 new reactors are planning to file applications with the NRC between now and 2010. Simply by stonewalling these applications for a few years, Jacko and Reid could drastically alter the prospects of a nuclear power renaissance— and a simple stonewalling is the least of their weapons.

Thus, within six months of taking office, Obama will be faced with an unpalatable option: either allow the nascent dreams of nuclear engineers to be strangled in their cradle by a special interest lobby, or put his entire legislative agenda at risk by standing up for clean power. In doing so, Obama will be making the first of many novellas that will define his presidency. During the closing weeks of the campaign, Republicans warned of the risks in letting an inexperienced, undefined junior senator take the reins of an uncontrolled government majority— with hatched nuclear power will wait to see if the warnings were right.
**By S. Campbell Proehl**

Sometimes when I get bored, or when I feel like I’m in a slump, I re-read comics, articles, or stories that have made me smile. There is one comic in particular, from the PND series, that I read every time someone asks me to check over an important e-mail they have written. It says: “Average Time Spent Composing One E-mail: First square says 1.3 seconds. It then shows a professor writing responses like ‘No,’ ‘Yes,’ ‘Sure,’ ‘Do it.’‘ The second has a girl grassing and hurling his nails, apologizing over every word of a very long, very polite e-mail to a professor in 14.5 hours.”

Hysterical, but also incongruously disturbing. Professors are just people. Why do students agonize over what they write? And for that matter, why do people agonize over interviewing with or writing to any person who might have some control over their future?

What I’m about to say is not earth-shatteringly profound, but it is a useful fact: seemingly important people are just people.

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**By Christine Yu**

November 18, 2008

Coccygeus (PC) muscles. Contrary to popular belief, kegels are not just for women. Men can do them also. In both genders, the PC muscle contracts during an orgasm. For men, this muscle controls the hardness of the penis during erection and abating. It also relaxes just as many benefits from doing contractions for women. However, it can only make them relaxes harder, but they can make themselves last longer. For women, kegels can help reach vaginal orgasm, ease child birth, and enhance “tightness.” By doing these exercises, you gain a better understanding of your body during sex, which enhances the experience. Suffice it to say, kegels are not just for your partner — they make sex feel your vagina tighter around your finger, you’ve found the muscle. Once you’ve found the muscle, the exercise is to tighten the muscle up to 10 times. You can then hold the muscle from about 10 to 15 times. There should be no hurry to maximize sessions — you don’t want to overwork the muscle. If that’s not a sufficient excuse, I still have the excuse that convinced me I was not going to get into George. “Let’s kick some ice”? Seriously?)

The question becomes even more complicated if that’s not a sufficient excuse, I still have the excuse that convinced me I was not going to get into George. “Let’s kick some ice”? Seriously?)

**By Michael Lin**

Newspaper work isn’t what I do. Some people are bank robbers, some people are geese-jugglers — I’m a geek. As you might imagine, around, I’m just one of the many, which makes for heated, mostly-intellectual discussion about subjects that normal people would consider beneath their consideration. Those pretentious normal people. Bah.

Out of the 31 flavors of geek available for assimilation, “comic book movie connoisseur” easily falls in the top five most responsible for debates verging on thrown-down. Don’t get me wrong, The Dark Knight is genuinely high-quality cinema, but I felt like a couple of the double-bladed lightsaber fight sequences rendered the editor would have something to inter-

**By By Christine Yu**

Lunch Buffet $7.95

**By By Christine Yu**

What I’m about to say is not earth-shatteringly profound, but it is a useful fact: seemingly important people are just people.

**Eating Disorder Treatment**

**Treatment of Adults Suffering from Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa**

Informed clinicians refer their clients to Laurel Hill LIn. LHI provides the most effective treatment and deploys the highest staff-to-client ratio in New England. We effective treatment and deploys the highest staff-to-client ratio in New England. We staff-to-client ratio in New England. We Laurel Hill Inn. LHI provides the most effectiv...
The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

Bobbles

by Jason Chan

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Pull out a Peacemaker
5 Stirs in
9 Fruit pressed for oil
14 Hoarfrost
15 Force into a corner
16 Traffic diverters
17 Old Nick’s knack
18 Threw with effort
19 Makes reference to
20 See what I mean?
23 Hog housing
24 Precisely defined quantity
25 Verdi works
26 Actor Arkin
29 Attempt
30 Tumbler rim
31 Ghana’s capital
34 Public transport
35 Feline rumble
36 How dare you!

DOWN
1 Bottom-of-the-barrel stuff
2 Metal fastener
3 Friendliness
4 Lash imprint
5 Greek goddess of wisdom
6 Visit informally
7 Lifeboat holder
8 On ___ (without guarantee)
9 Fill up
10 Saint-Nazaire’s river
11 ___ Break in the action
12 Two-finger sign
13 Slalom starter?
14 Luau dances
15 Body trunks
16 Made public
17 Atomizer output
18 Word after liberal
19 Makes reference to
20 See what I mean?
21 Luau dances
22 Body trunks
23 Hog housing
24 Precisely defined quantity
25 Verdi works
26 Actor Arkin
29 Attempt
30 Tumbler rim
31 Ghana’s capital
34 Public transport
35 Feline rumble
36 How dare you!

The Tech

November 18, 2008

Page 6

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo

WE'RE SELLING YOUR WORK TO MILLIONS AND PAYING YOU PENNIES!

I'M TAKING A BAND'S WORK WITHOUT PAYING THEM A PENNY!

HAPPINESS

What an awful time to get hiccups

Thanks to Carl West for today’s caption.
Want to see your caption in Bobbles? Send it to blobbles@tech.mit.edu and I'll draw a cartoon for it!
YOU CAN GET HPV
AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT

HPV.COM

ACROSS
1 Eurasian vipers
5 First vice president
10 ...-Gal (Easter Island)
14 Grab
15 Sauna wear
16 Pitcher Hernandez
17 Barrett or Laflin
18 Create big hair
19 Old Atlanta arena
20 So-so sailor?
23 Minutes taken, perhaps
24 From 1/1/06 'til now
27 Russ. or Lith., once
27 Ross, or Lth., once
28 Steakhouse specification
32 Tranquil
34 Mississippi city
36 Poker payment
37 So-so pegs?
41 Binary digits
42 Queen of mysteries
43 Lists of candidates
46 Saltly drip
47 Posed
50 Started response
51 Old DJ’s stack
52 Horse opera
55 So-so nicety?
60 Gumbo veggie
61 Silver Ghost, briefly
62 Piccadilly Circus statue
63 Get the better of
64 Sports transaction
65 Back-to-school inc.
66 Concept in Caen
67 Waste conduit
68 Hurf
69 Unexpected
36 Poker payment
37 So-so pegs?
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63 Get the better of
64 Sports transaction
65 Back-to-school inc.
66 Concept in Caen
67 Waste conduit
68 Hurf
69 Unexpected

DOWN
1 On the other side of
2 Bermudas, e.g.
3 Consider
4 Young shepherd
5 ...-boy!
6 Active one
7 Not at home
8 Disorderly
9 Falls as ice
10 Chamber
11 Preparation for war
12 Triangular flags
13 Rope-a-dope poet
14 Grub
15 Sauna wear
16 Pitcher Hernandez
17 Barrett or Laflin
18 Create big hair
19 Old Atlanta arena
20 So-so sailor?
23 Minutes taken, perhaps
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69 Unexpected

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 10.
Weekend Sees Multitude of MIT Concerts

(clockwise from top right)

Dylan J. Sherry ’12 plays a dreamy opening solo in “Goodbye Pork Pie Hat” during the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble concert entitled “The Innovators” on Friday, Nov. 14.

Barry M. Kudrowitz G of the band Supa Dupa performs for the Benefit Concert for Malaria in Wong Auditorium on Sunday, Nov. 16. All proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Against Malaria Foundation.

Arin S. Rogers ’11 shows off his talent for improvisation during a passionate saxophone solo at the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble on Friday.

MITSOlite, a chamber orchestra taken from current members of MIT Symphony Orchestra, presents works from the Baroque, Classical, and modern eras on Friday.

Jacob A. Strauss G performs a solo from the song “Suite of Old American Dances” during the Concert Band performance for the MIT Fall Concert series.
Study Abroad Flourishes; China Attracts More American Students

By Tamar Lewin

Attracts More American Students
Study Abroad Flourishes; China
November 18, 2008

in three,” said Tom Gold, a profes-
sor at the University of California, Berkeley, who runs the program.

Many universities are hand-
presse to keep up with the interest in China. Syracuse, for example, 
usually has a limit of 60 students a semester in its Hong Kong program, 
but because of strong demand, exp-
danded to 65 for the spring semes-
ter. At Syracuse, one China program was not enough: in 2006 it started a 
Beijing program, taught in English, in collaboration with Tsinghua Uni-
versity, which will have about 15 students this spring. SUNY Oswego, 
meanwhile, has gone from one small exchange program in Beijing to seven partner destinations through-

out China, including Hangzhou and Shanghai — and two faculty-led 
short-term programs in China, one on business and the other on Chinese culture.

“These days, nobody questions why you take Chinese and go to 
China,” said Vanessa Folkerts, a ju-
ior at Princeton who began study-
ing Chinese as a freshman, and has 
spent two summers in intensive lan-
guage study in Beijing. “It has its ob-
vious uses. I know a lot of people get interested because China’s a rising economic power, but for me, it was mainly a linguistic interest.”

There are now hundreds of study-
abroad programs in China. While most include some language study, 
some focus on martial arts, herbal 
medicine, culture, history or busi-
ness. Over all, 241,791 Americans studied abroad in 2006-7, the re-
port said, with sharp increases in the 
numbers going to Argentina, South 
Africa, Ecuador and India, and de-
clining numbers going to Australia 
and Costa Rica.

In a separate report on gradu-
ate school enrollment, released 
last week, the Council of Graduate Schools found that total international graduate enrollment increased 3 per-
cent this fall, after rising 7 percent 
last year. The number of new interna-
tional graduate students rose 3 per-
cent as well, less than the 4 percent 
growth last year, or the 12 percent in 2006.

The number of new graduate stu-
dents from India declined this year, 
after an 8 percent increase last year, the report found, but Chinese enroll-
ment stayed strong, with first-year enrollments up 14 percent.

ASA Elects Officers, De-recognizes Groups, Eases New Group Recognition

The Association of Student Activities’ General Body elected two 
students to fill vacant board positions last night.

Leonard Chindelevitch G became the graduate member-at-large and 
Dylon R. Rockwell ’11 became student member-at-large. Chindelev-
itch ran unopposed, while Rockwell ran against Katherine L. Ray ’10 
and Quentin Smith ’10.

At the meeting, the ASA General Body voted to de-recognize about 
60 dormant groups that had not responded to repeated e-mail messages 
or sent representatives to the meeting.

The ASA also voted to revise its operating guidelines in a move 
intended to make the recognition of new groups easier and lower some 
of the barriers to recognition.

Traders@MIT hosted an intercollegiate trading competition in the Stata Center on Nov. 15. Partici-
ants from MIT, Harvard University, Dartmouth College, Princeton University, Columbia University, 
and Wellesley College worked in teams of two to buy and sell securities in hopes of winning a trip 
to the Rotman International Trading Competition in Toronto and a trip to the J.P. Morgan trading floor.
Wage, Budget Freeze Possible as Harvard Looks to Spend Less

By Tracy Jan

Even the world’s richest university is feeling the pinch from the downturn. Harvard’s president, Drew Faust, said last week that the university is looking for ways to reduce spending across the campus, raising the specter of cuts to programs and compensation, as Harvard’s endowment plummets.

“We must recognize that Harvard is not immune to the seismic financial shocks in the larger world,” Faust wrote in an e-mail to faculty, staff, and students.

She did not specify what cuts were on the table and declined to be interviewed.

“The letter is pretty flimsy,” said John Longbrake, university spokesman, who would not elaborate on the implications of Faust’s e-mail. “Look, this is a serious situation, and they’re planning and looking at things across the board.”

A Harvard official familiar with its financial picture said the university is considering imposing a wage freeze for administrators and faculty, as well as a budget freeze on all programs. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard’s largest faculty, is assessing all aspects of its sweeping plan to expand across the campus, raising the specter of cuts to programs and compensation, as Harvard’s endowment plummets.

This is going to be a replay of the Great Depression,” Schmid said in an e-mail after Faust’s letter. “Given the prominence of endowment income in our finances, we don’t come as a surprise. Harvard is still the top university, but it’s not invulnerable to the seismic financial shocks in the larger world.”

“Nobody has any idea whether this is going to be a replay of the Great Depression,” Schmid said in an interview. “Harvard is resilient enough to weather quite a storm, but exactly what this means, we’ll have to see. Harvard is still the top university, and we’ll do whatever’s necessary to stay there.”

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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

Media Companies Donate Space, Time for One Laptop Per Child Ads

By Steve Lohr

Looks to Spend Less

November 18, 2008

The Tech

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

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Like Other Schools, MIT Announces Future Budget Cuts

November 18, 2008

BUDGET CUTS

The first cut is the deepest. But despite the expected 5 percent cut from the federal government and the ongoing economic situation, President Drew Gilpin Faust promised to maintain Harvard’s “commitment to maintaining a quality education at an affordable price.”

For most of the academic year, administrators had been planning for a 10 percent reduction in academic budgets. But as recently as last week, Faust seemed to believe that a 10 percent cut was “unthinkable.” Today, after MIT’s announcement, the president of Amherst College wrote Faust, “I deeply admire your courage, but I do not find your reasoning tenable.”

The MIT cuts will go down 5 percent like every other school. The federal government will freeze external hiring of staff, cut discretionary spending by 5 percent, and reduce its budget by 10 percent within two years. “We expect that there will be fewer staff employees at Dartmouth in the coming years,” President James Wright said in a letter to the community on Thursday, Nov. 13.

In a letter to Harvard University, its president, Drew Gilpin Faust, cited financial research agency Moody’s projection that college endowments would decrease in value by 30 percent over the next year. “Our principal sources of revenue are all likely to be affected by these new economic forces,” Faust wrote. “While we can hope that markets will improve, we need to be prepared to absorb unprecedented endowment losses and plan for a period of greater financial constraint.”

Faust promised to maintain Harvard’s financial aid program. “Families with incomes below $60,000 will pay nothing to send a child to Harvard College, and families with incomes up to $180,000 and typical assets can expect to pay no more than approximately 10 percent of income.”

Anthony Marx, president of Amherst College, told the school in late October that its endowment had lost a quarter of its value since June 30. He promised to continue need-blind admissions both for domestic and international applications and to continue its policies of funding every student’s demonstrated need.

And, like MIT, “though we are preparing for a ‘tendency for things to be less than expected,’” the president emphasized the “need for a vigorous Career Fair” even as a recession looms. “MIT graduates are still highly sought after,” he said.

There will be a “tendency for people to read this and panic,” Faust said. “That’s exactly the wrong reaction.”

MIT is among many universities who have proposed sharp spending cuts to help survive the looming recession.

MIT’s announcement mirrors others’.

In confronting the messy budget implications of the looming recession, MIT is not alone. Dartmouth College reported first quarter endowment losses of $220 million, about 6 percent of its value. The college’s president planned to freeze external hiring of staff, cut discretionary spending by 5 percent this year, and reduce its budget by 10 percent within two years. “We expect that there will be fewer staff employees at Dartmouth in the coming years,” President James Wright said in a letter to the community on Thursday, Nov. 13.

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And, like MIT, “though we are not considering a hiring freeze,” Amherst College will “work with greaterstringency all requests for replacement or additional positions.”

MIT students will not be good. Peer universities have reported that their endowments had dropped anywhere from 6–30 percent by the end of October.

Cuts are not currently planned for this fiscal year’s $2.3 billion budget. Of that budget, about half will be targeted for cuts next year. Of the total budget, $1.2 billion represents “sponsored research,” income outside MIT’s control, Lerman said.

Lerman said referred to the undergraduates in the Phoenix Group, which was established to found the community and organization of WI. Current sophomores in the class of 2011 who would have occupied the dormitory when it was originally scheduled to open in fall 2010 may not have that opportunity. If the project were delayed until the next academic year, current freshmen might spend their undergraduate career living in the New Ashdown House, NW15.

Projects already contracted and underway at the Sloan School, the Media Lab, Vassar Street, and the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research are unlikely to be affected.

Kevin Lerman, chancellor of MIT’s student life division, said that tuition won’t go down 5 percent like every other school. The federal government will freeze external hiring of staff, cut discretionary spending by 5 percent this year, and reduce its budget by 10 percent within two years. “We expect that there will be fewer staff employees at Dartmouth in the coming years,” President James Wright said in a letter to the community on Thursday, Nov. 13.

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MIT is among many universities who have proposed sharp spending cuts to help survive the looming recession.

“Fifty million dollars is a serious amount of money by any measure.”

Kirk D. Kolenbrander, VP of Institute Affairs

Five things won’t go down, Lerman said. Wages won’t go down, Kolenbrander said. But he did not rule out the possibility of salary freezes or changes to employee benefits. “Few things are off the table,” he said.

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Budget Cuts, from Page 1

Wages won’t go down, Kolen-
The New York Times
What Has Driven Women Out of Computer Science?

Page 12

The explanations for under-representation of women that were assembled in this paper, "Why Are There So Few Female Computer Scientists?", that catalogued different cultural biases that discouraged girls and women from pursuing a career in the field.

When one looks at computer science in particular, however, the proportion of women has been falling. In 2001–2, only 28 percent of all undergraduate degrees in computer science went to women. By 2006–5, the number had declined to 22 percent. Data collected by the Computing Research Association showed even fewer women at research universities like MIT: Women accounted for only 12 percent of undergraduate degrees in computer science and engineering in the United States and Canada granted in 2006–7 by PhD-granting institutions, down from 19 percent in 2001–2. Many computer science departments report that women now make up less than 10 percent of the newest undergraduates.

In 1998, when Spertus received her PhD in computer science, women received only 14 percent of the doctorates granted in the field. Today, she’s an associate professor at Mills College and a research scientist at Google. Her life story supports the hypothesis of Jane Margolis, co-author of "Unlocking the Clubhouse: Women in Computing," who highlights the ambivalent attitudes in a family that are enormously influential in career decisions.

Last week, Margolis said that "a lot of the girls who were doing computer science came from families of computer scientists and engineers. Her explanation: "It was in the air. There was the expectation that they could do whatever they wanted." Spertus’ father was an MIT-trained engineer. She learned programming even before personal computers had arrived, using computer terminals in her house that were connected to a Honeywell mainframe used by the family’s business. Twenty-five years ago, more young women in colleges and universities were drawn to computer science than today. From 1971 to 1983, incoming freshman women who declared an intention to major in computer science jumped eightfold, to 4 percent from about 0.5 percent.

Twenty-five years ago, more young women in colleges and universities were drawn to computer science than today.

What is so peculiar about the field is that the explanations for under-representation of women that were assembled in this paper, "Why Are There So Few Female Computer Scientists?", that catalogued different cultural biases that discouraged girls and women from pursuing a career in the field.

Yet women have achieved broad parity with men in almost every other technical pursuit. When all science and engineering fields are considered, the percentage of bachelor’s degree recipients who are women has improved to 51 percent in 2006–5 from 39 percent in 1984–85, according to National Science Foundation surveys.

When young women in colleges and universities were drawn to computer science twenty-five years ago, the number majoring in the field was eightfold, to 4 percent from about 0.5 percent. Jonathan Kane, a professor of mathematics and computer science at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, recalls the mid-1980s, when women made up 40 percent of the students who majored in computer systems, the second most popular major on campus. But soon after, the number of students majoring in the program had fallen about 75 percent, reflecting a nationwide trend, and the number of women fell to 3 percent. “I asked at a department meeting,” he says, “Where have the women gone? It wasn’t clear.” His theory is that young women and their families had felt comfortable pursuing the major because the stereotype of action gaming had yet to appear.

I spoke with Spertus last week about her thoughts about the declining percentage of undergraduate women majoring in the field. “Women choosing not to go into computer science is fine,” she said, “if there aren’t artificial barriers keeping them out.” She lamented the recent decision of one of her outside computer science students who chose to major in nursing because of what the student perceived as better prospect for finding employment.

Such students who choose not to pursue a career in computer science may have been introduced to computer science too late. The younger, the better, Margolis says. Games would offer considerable promise; except that they have been tried and have failed to have an effect on steeply declining female enrollment.

At least we know one thing: it’s possible to have above average number of men and women in computer science classes. That just about describes classrooms of 25 years ago.

Randall Stross is an author based in Silicon Valley and a freelance writer for the San Jose State University. He markets an article to the San Jose State University.
MIT Partners With QuestBridge to Admit Low-Income Students

Admissions, from Page 1

Michael McCullough, QuestBridge's founder and president.

QuestBridge also "customizes the recruiting experience for every part-
ner school," said McCullough. "Each school tells us what they want and we tailor it to their request." He said each partner school might be consid-
ing a different group of students.

QuestBridge has begun a new program targeting students interest-
ed in math, science, and technology, McCullough said.

Although QuestBridge offers scholarships to admitted students, "the university is responsible for those scholarships," Schmill said. Admitted QuestBridge students will be covered by MIT's need-based fi-

nancial aid package. Most, but not all QuestBridge applicants who are accepted from households earning less than $60,000 annually, according to the organiza-
tion's website. MIT provides free tuition for students whose families earn less than $57,000 per year.

MIT decided to partner with QuestBridge because "we saw there were a lot of students that were not otherwise thinking about MIT," Schmill said. The Institute's partnership will last for at least the next two years.

Colleges who participate in QuestBridge pay the organization recruiting fees of about $40,000. $70,000, The Wall Street Journal re-
ported last year. "There is an annual fee," said Schmill, but per student it's "quite inexpensive for us."

Schmill said that he suspects there are "some highly talented students" amongst the QuestBridge applicants. Those people "would not have ap-
pilating otherwise," he said.

While MIT has cooperated with other mostly regional or community programs that identify potential ap-
plicants, QuestBridge is the largest and "first national scale program" MIT has partnered with to get con-

nected with applicants.

The 26 QuestBridge partner col-

leges include the California Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Yale University, and Princeton Uni-

versity, but not Harvard University. In Yale's first year in the program, it admitted 56 applicants from Quest-
Bridge to its class of 2012.

Participation in the outreach pro-
gram cannot fully explain this year's increase in early applicants. Schmill suggested that perhaps more students this year think a "math, science, or technology centered education is valuable."

Thousands Gather for Proposition 8 Protest

Protest, from Page 1

Springmann said she came to the rally because "it's about rights. If you don't do anything your rights could be next in line."

She said that during election sea-

son she had volunteered as a caller with Mass Equality to persuade vot-\ners to vote against the proposition that put the same-sex marriage ban in place. "It was frustrating to hear people say Proposition 8 wouldn't pass and so they didn't feel it was necessary to do anything to ensure it didn't pass," Springmann said.

MIT alumna Cassandra Roth '07 volunteered for the rally by helping to get petitions signed for a transgen-
erder equality bill. She said of the rally: "I hope people remember the energy and carry it back to their families and community and share it with them."

One of the speakers, special edu-
cation teacher Heather Baker had gotten married the first day it was legalized in Massachusetts. She told the crowd that she is the only openly gay teacher at her school. "I am proud to be that role model for our children," she said.

Gunner Scott, director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, urged the audience to help pass a bill that would add gender identity to Massachusetts' nondis-

criminatory statutes.

Abigail M. Francis, director of LGBT@MIT, also attended the rally. "It was very inspirational," she said. "A lot of students came with skepti-
cism as to what the point of pro-
testig would be, but it was a very powerful statement to see everyone there."

Before the event began, three men walked around with anti-gay signs. Overall, the protest was peaceful.

Addir Fellows

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 Guerin, Catholic Chaplain, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Rabbi Moshe Waldoks, Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA

Questions: ora@mit.edu
Website: mit.edu/dsi/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.
Eager to delay his retirement, decided — after the board of trustees, $436,000 longevity bonus and more — to be compensated. And E. Gordon Gee, who for the long-compensated university president in the annual survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education, being released Monday. Others also received more than $2 million. David P. Roselle, who resigned as president of the University of Delaware in June 2007, had a package of $2.4 million, including deferred compensation.

Mr. Sargent, the 77-year-old president in the annual survey found. Mr. Gee’s Ohio State package was raised just this month to more than $1.3 million. While seven-figure pay packages have been limited mostly to prominent private research universities, some presidents of public institutions like Ohio State and Delaware, or private universities like Suffolk that offer few doctoral degrees, are also topping $1 million in pay and benefits.

In fact, compensation for public research university presidents is growing faster than for those who head private institutions, the survey found. “The public universities are still behind, but only by about $100,000,” said Jeffery Selings, the editor of The Chronicle.

Median pay and benefits for presidents of public institutions rose 7.6 percent in 2007-8, to $427,400, The Chronicle said. Over a five-year period, the public universities’ median compensation rose 36 percent, compared with 19 percent at private institutions.

The Chronicle’s most recent compensation data on public universities came from 2007-8, for private colleges and universities, the most recent data available, from tax filings, is from 2006-7.

“It’s surprising that many public universities are raising their presidents’ salaries,” said Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, who has been probing universities for more accountability in spending and greater commitment to affordability. “In these hard economic times, apparently belt-tightening is for families and students, not university presidents.

Among the public university presidents, The Chronicle found, 59 received more than $300,000 in 2007-8, compared with 43 the previous year. At the private institutions, 89 received at least $500,000, compared with 81 the previous year. The highest-earning presidents at private research universities, the survey found, were Henry S. Bienen of Johns Hopkins, $1,060,772; James W. Wagner of Emory, $1,040,420, and Constantine N. Papadakis of Drexel, $1,021,537.

Mr. Selings pointed out that the compensation packages were negotiated long before the current economic downturn. And despite the clament over rising tuition rates, he said, it would be incorrect to suggest that even the highest presidential pay would have much effect on tuition.

The more immediate concern is faculty salaries, because that’s where the most protest is heard.

The gap in faculty salaries between private and public institutions is growing. Mr. Gee found what at a public doctoral institution is about $109,000, compared with about $149,000 at a private research university, he said.

Recently, with the economic downturn, a few university presidents have waived or declined their bonuses or raises. For example, The Chronicle reported, in late September, Michael J. Hogan, president of the University of Connecticut, declined what would most likely have been a $180,000 performance bonus.

Mr. Sargent, the Suffolk president, has pledged $700,000 to financial aid.

The circumstances that led to Mr. Sargent’s compensation package were unusual. He has been at Suffolk for 52 years, and was mulling retirement in 2006. The board hired a compensation expert and determined that his president, who had earned less than $400,000 a year until 2004, was “woefully underpaid.”

The board unanimously approved the president’s $1.5 million compensation package for 2006-7.

The package was designed with the understanding that President Sargent’s value to the university has been, and is, extraordinary,” Nicholas A. Macaronis, chairman of the board, said in a written statement. “Under his leadership as professor, dean of the law school and president, Suffolk has grown into a world-class institution, with campuses on three continents.”

Mr. Sargent’s 2007-8 compensation has not been disclosed, and Greg Guffin, a university spokesman, said Mr. Sargent was not available to comment.

The economic downturn could pose problems for Suffolk, a university with more than 9,200 students, including 1,625 at the law school. Last month, Moody’s Investors Service, citing Suffolk’s aggressive debt structure, said the university had a negative long-term credit outlook.

While Mr. Sargent is in the spotlight now, the longstanding symbol of high pay in academia has been Mr. Gee, the Ohio State president, who in addition to serving at Vanderbilt, has served as president of Brown University, the University of Colorado and West Virginia University. He also had a stint at Ohio State.

If he had stayed at Vanderbilt, and not to forfeit his deferred compensation, Mr. Gee would have been the highest-paid president at a private research university, according to the survey. Instead, he cemented his position as the highest-paid public university president last week, when the trustees approved a bonus structure that would bump up his compensation for his first year.

The trustees raised Mr. Gee’s base pay by $3.5 percent, to $882,125. He is also receiving a 40 percent, or $310,000, performance bonus for his first full year, with further bonuses in future years. His total compensation since being hired in October 2007, including deferred pay and retirement benefits, comes to almost $1.4 million, and could approach $2 million this year.
run that pushed their margin to 17 (55-38) with 11:52 on the clock. Emmanuel battled back, cutting its deficit to 11 (64-53) on a pair of free-throws by Tony Carter-Hill at the 4:13 mark. The late rally would not be enough as MIT scored 18 of the final 25 points to close out the game.

Barotolotta contributed 20 points, seven steals, five rebounds, five assists, and two blocks to the Engineers’ cause. James D. Karraker ’12 notched 15 points in his intercollegiate debut while Bradley H. Gampel ’09 tallied nine points, eight assists, seven steals, and six rebounds. Next up for MIT will be a road game at Gordon College on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

CCNY Outlasts MIT Women’s Basketball, 59-50

A 17-2 second-half run would not be enough as City College of New York held on for a 59-50 victory over MIT in the first round of the 2008 UMass Boston Tip-Off Classic on Saturday. The match-up was the season-opener for both squads.

Clara J. Yuan ’09 opened the game with a lay-up at 19:21 of the first half, but it would be the Engineers’ only lead of the day as the Beavers came back with a 21-5 outburst over the next 13 minutes. Donika Rexhepi later converted a lay-up with 2:14 remaining to give CCNY its largest lead of the game (29-12), before taking a 29-16 advantage into the intermission.

The Beavers owned a 37-22 advantage with 16:06 left in the second half, but MIT put together a blistering 17-2 run to tie the score at 39-39, fueled by nine points from Yuan. The Engineers were unable to take the lead from that point and trailed, 47-45, with 3:01 to go in the contest. The Beavers responded by tallying seven straight points to take a 54-45 advantage with 57 seconds remaining.

Yuan led MIT with 15 points in addition to grabbing two rebounds and dishes for an assist while Alice S. Yeh ’09 netted 10 points and captured three rebounds. Kristen E. Whaley ’11 posted a double-double of 11 points and 11 rebounds to go with two assists and a pair of blocked shots. Amy J. Marshall ’09 posted 10 caroms and a team-high three assists as Cheryl M. Kwinn ’09 totaled nine boards. Jamie L. Simmons ’12 chipped in eight points coming off the bench.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

Scoreboard, from Page 15

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**MIT Entrepreneurship Week**
enterpriseforum.mit.edu/eeweek.html

**$2 Tuesday**
Prof. Ed Roberts
Innovation in Materials
Dr. Desh Deshpande
Prof. Gene Fitzgerald
Prof. Angela Belcher
Dr. Dave Danielson
Prof. Ned Thomas
Sloan School
Founder, Sycamore Networks
Founder, Amberwave Systems
DMSE
Founder, MIT Energy Club
Head, DMSE

**Smart Start-Ups**
Sherwin Greenblatt
Former President, Bose

**SpeedLink**
Prizes as Incentives for Innovation
Dr. Erika Wagner
David Ritter
Exec. Director, MIT X-Prize Lab
CITO, InnoCentive

**Entrepreneurship Showcase**
Prof. Ken Oye
Eran Egozy
Dr. David Berry
Matthias Wagner
Political Science, ESD
Co-founder and CTO, Harmonix (Guitar Hero, Rockband)
Partner, Flagship Ventures; Co-founder, LS9 and Joule Biotech.
Co-founder, Aegis Semiconductor and RedShift Systems
Free Agency: MLB’s Offseason Spectacle Commences for ’09

By David Zhu

The 2008 MLB Season has come to a close: the championship has been decided, the Philadelphia Phil- lies had their long-awaited parade down Broad Street, their fans satisfied their need to cele- brate with random acts of vandal- ism, and any day now we’ll be seeing commericals on TV of Cole Hamel and company saying that they’re go- ing to Disneyland.

Opening Day 2009 isn’t for anoth- er 138 days, so that means we won’t be seeing any action from players and teams until next April, right?

Not quite. Even now, there occurs a spectacle which, in terms of its awe-inspiringness (or lack thereof), can only be paralleled by the New York Mets’ ability to choke in September.

For those of you who are unfamil- iar with this concept, free agency is when a player’s contract with a team expires, they put themselves on the open market to see how much money they can get from other teams — go look it up on Wikipedia (someone made a really random/top-secret edit un- der the NBA section).

As for the fans, they can pretty much divide into two groups. Followers of big-market teams (like New York, Los Angeles, and Boston), with way too much money are no doubt thrilled their teams will be able to throw hundreds of millions of dol- lars around shopping for free agents, while fans of smaller-market teams with low payrolls are less-than-thrilled to see their star players leave for a better contract from the Yankees or Red Sox. (And for those of you who are appalled by my grouping the two together, it’s true: The Red Sox are turning into the new Yankees, remember the Dice-K bidding process — ex- cept not as many people hate them.)

While I, as a Seattle Mariners fan (yes, the Mariners of $100+ million payroll and 100+ losses), should fall into the first group, I consider myself a member of the latter. I just have a problem when I see players making more money than they could ever figure out how to use, or when teams spend obscene amounts of money on players, however good they are. Con- sider this: the MLB’s total payroll this year is higher than the Gross Domes- tic Product of 34 countries.

But that aside, as this season so brilliantly illustrated, money doesn’t always buy success. The Mariners were in the top 10 in salary but fin- ished last in their division, as did the Detroit Tigers. The Tampa Bay Rays, in comparison, had the second smallest pay- roll but won the American League pennant.

However, even though stories like the Rays this year and the Colorado Rockies last year provide hope that any team can be successful, their young-players-turned-stars will inevi- tably leave them in search for a bigger paycheck.

So, as I sit here, watching Scott Boras and the rest of the players’ agents turn the MLB offseason into eBay on steroids (both figuratively and literally) and the Yankees make another ridiculous offer to C.C. Sa- bathia, I can take comfort in knowing that no matter how much the Yan- kees spend, they will still be terrible — and we’ll have another reason to make fun of them.

For those of you who are unfamil- iar with this concept, free agency is when a player’s contract with a team expires, they put themselves on the open market to see how much money they can get from other teams — go look it up on Wikipedia (someone made a really random/top-secret edit un- der the NBA section).

As for the fans, they can pretty much divide into two groups. Followers of big-market teams (like New York, Los Angeles, and Boston), with way too much money are no doubt thrilled their teams will be able to throw hundreds of millions of dol- lars around shopping for free agents, while fans of smaller-market teams with low payrolls are less-than-thrilled to see their star players leave for a better contract from the Yankees or Red Sox. (And for those of you who are appalled by my grouping the two together, it’s true: The Red Sox are turning into the new Yankees, remember the Dice-K bidding process — except not as many people hate them.)

While I, as a Seattle Mariners fan (yes, the Mariners of $100+ million payroll and 100+ losses), should fall into the first group, I consider myself a member of the latter. I just have a problem when I see players making more money than they could ever figure out how to use, or when teams spend obscene amounts of money on players, however good they are. Consider this: the MLB’s total payroll this year is higher than the Gross Domes- tic Product of 34 countries.

But that aside, as this season so brilliantly illustrated, money doesn’t always buy success. The Mariners were in the top 10 in salary but fin- ished last in their division, as did the Detroit Tigers. The Tampa Bay Rays, in comparison, had the second smallest pay- roll but won the American League pennant.

However, even though stories like the Rays this year and the Colorado Rockies last year provide hope that any team can be successful, their young-players-turned-stars will inevi- tably leave them in search for a bigger paycheck.

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