Gethers & Whitney-Johnson Awarded Rhodes Scholarship

By Jeff Guo

Whitney-Johnson, a civil and environmental engineering major, plans to read for a degree in development studies. She is the founder and executive director of Emerge Global, a non-profit that teaches skills to Sri Lankan girls who have been the victims of rape or incest. “I hope to gain an understanding of the social, economic, and political foundation of international development so that I can make systematic changes to the systems that need it,” she says.

Rhodes, Page 14

P.E. Lottery Replaced With Real-Time Registration

The Physical Education lottery will be replaced with a new real-time registration system beginning with IAP. The enrollment period for IAP PE. classes will run from 10 a.m. on December 3 until 1 p.m. on December 10. Undergraduates will have priority as graduate students will not be able to start registering until December 11.

News Briefs

Students can go online to add open classes or enter the waitlist for classes that are full. As students add and drop classes, the waitlist will be maintained in real-time. Registration is first-come, first-serve.

Additionally, students will be able to monitor their attendance and grades online via Stellar. Attendance history of PE. classes taken will be available online for IAP 2009 onward.

—Arkajit Day

UMOC Donations Will Go to Doctors Without Borders

A total of $833.31 was raised by Alpha Phi Omega’s annual Un-Boxed Marathon held at Rockwell Cage on Saturday, November 22. Gergana Bounova G takes a swing for the MIT Women’s Volleyball Club team. Four club teams competed in a trio of tournaments held at Rockwell Cage on Saturday, November 22. Bounova’s Maroon team won a thrilling three-game final to capture their division.

News Briefs, Page 13

Video Camera in 10-250 Broadcasts at All Hours

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg

A word of warning: if you’re in 10-250, you may be on MIT Cable’s channel 11. A camera that points at the front of the room often broadcasts to that TV channel, even long after teaching hours are done.

Last evening, some dormitory residents learned that MIT Cable was broadcasting, live, a couple chatting near the back of 10-250. The room has no indication that cameras are live.

The Tech tuned into channel 11 following a 10:44 p.m. e-mail to Simmons Hall’s social mailing list announcing that a couple was visible on TV. The e-mail, with subject line “put on channel 11 on MIT Cable,” said in part “Live feed of couple tuning into channel 11.

Camera, Page 12

Margaret Zarudny Freeman SM ’34

By Gloria Negri

Margaret Zarudny Freeman SM ’34 was only eight when rumblings of the Russian Revolution against the Czarist regime shattered the peace of her quiet village in St. Petersburg, Russia. As members of the intelligentsia, her well-educated, artistic, and professional parents “seldom talked to me about politics, [but] I knew that mother welcomed the news of the Revolution and was full of hope for developing a more just society in Russia,” she wrote in her 2006 memoir, Russia and Beyond: One Family’s Journey, 1908–1935. “However, neither this heritage nor the liberal politics of her parents could protect the family from the gathering storm of the national revolution, and in 1919, her father, an engineer and steel factory director, went into self-exile in Manchuria,” her son Arthur of London wrote in an e-mail.

When the family — including Margaret, her five siblings, and her mother — set out to follow him, Arthur said, their mother was imprisoned by the Bolsheviks in Omak for having briefly sheltered them.

Freeman, Page 14

The Weather

Today: Heavy rain, windy, 59°F (15°C)
Tonight: Possible rain, 37°F (3°C)
Tomorrow: Cloudy, high in the mid-40°F (7°C)

Details, Page 2

This Year’s Splash Is Largest Ever

By Aditi Verma

This weekend over 2,000 middle school and high school students flooded MIT in “teach anything” in classes taught by over 500 students from MIT and other Boston area colleges who were willing to “teach anything” as part of the Educational Studies Program’s twentieth annual Splash event. In the largest Splash to date with 100 more classes and 20 more teachers than last year, over 400 different classes were held all over campus on a diverse variety of subjects.

The Infinite, usually deserted on Sunday mornings, witnessed frenetic activity as students, teachers and volunteers alike rushed to the first classes of the morning at nine. The Bush room was transformed into the Splash headquarters. Abuzz with activity, Lobby 10 had screens hat listed open classes.

A third of the classes had full enrollment, as the subjects ranged from the mundane to the esoteric. “Our slogan is ‘teach anything you want’ and we mean it,” said Stephanie L. Barcha ’11, an ESP officer. There were classes such as “Introduction to Zombie Defense” taught by Eric D. Fogg ’99, “What’s wrong with the Internets” taught by Michael Borouski ’09 and Benjamin J Agre.

Splash, Page 13

No School Thursday and Friday — Happy Thanksgiving!

The Tech

Volume 128, Number 58 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Tuesday, November 25, 2008

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

http://tech.mit.edu/
Financial Crisis Endangers Global Emissions Cuts

By Elizabeth Rosenthal

The New York Times

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Sunny, High 53˚F, Low 33˚F

30˚F

Low 35˚F

Sunny, High 58˚F, Low 37˚F

chance rain with possible apocalypse, High 63˚F, Low 53˚F

Atlanta, GA:

Philadelphia, PA:

Bridge (England):

Mostly cloudy, low in the upper 30s°F (3°C). Slight chance for rain.

Partly sunny in the morning with clouds increasing through the day. Slight chance of rain in the afternoon. High in mid 40s°F (5°C).

Thanksgiving Travel Weather

By Elizabeth Marson

The New York Times

Below are the Wednesday forecasts for your holiday destinations:

Greater New England:

Mostly dry, although chance rain/snow exists (depending on location), highs in the low-mid 40s, lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s.

NY/NJ/CT/RI:

Slight chance for snow/rain, High 47°F, Low 34°F.

PA:

Philadelphia: Slight chance for snow/rain, High 47°F, Low 34°F.

алишpa:

Slight chance snow/rain, High 46°F, Low 30°F.

Atlanta, GA:

Sunny, High 55°F, Low 37°F.

Chiсago, IL:

Mostly sunny, High 45°F, Low 26°F.

Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC:

Partly sunny/cloudy. High 48°F, Low 35°F.

Cleveland, OH:

Snow. Don’t you love Lake Erie? High 34°F, Low 21°F.

Washington, DC:

Mostly dry, although chance rain/snow exists (depending on location), highs in the low-mid 40s, lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s.

Staff Meteorologist

By Elizabeth Maroon

By Jennifer Steinhauer

By Mark Landler and Jackie Calmes

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By Floyd Norris

The New York Times

WASHINGTON

President Bush granted 14 pardons and commuted two prison sentences on Monday, but the benefactors included few of the big names who had become the topic of speculation as Bush leaves office.

The least surprising sentence — and the most controversial — was the one commuted by President Bush this weekend for John E. Forte, a former California congressman convicted of cocaine fraud. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, a former Pennsylvania congresswoman who had campaigned for the Rich pardon was at the center of controversy.

Bush has been relatively sparing in his use of pardons compared with past presidents. Only four pardons were granted in the first 14 years at the Bush administration. But that is good news for anyone worried that the former California congressman, convicted of dealing drugs in 2001 on his last day in office, would go on to lead a life of crime.

For years, the timing of pardons has been an important political question, with some people believing that pardons are a way for presidents to curry favor with influential friends. But none of that came to pass on Monday.

The report recounts China’s use of “secret prisons” and the widespread harassment of lawyers who take on rights cases, and it criticizes the Chinese legal system, one that often gains convictions through forced confessions.

Bush has made relatively infrequent declarations of broad economic policy, but that did not occur.

The report describes a widespread disregard for human rights that appears to be encouraged by the government’s extralegal system of punishment, known as re-education through labor, which hands down prison terms to dissidents without judicial review.

In remarks made in Wilmington, Del., after his pending appointment to the Senate by his longtime aide, Edward Kaufman, when Biden resigns the seat, Biden said he would welcome the appointment.

Aides to Biden, who has been welcomed by political analysts, said he was close to bid at the time of the news.

In his statement, Biden did not hide that he would like to see his son take the seat, but he did not accept an appointment and wanted to fulfill a military obligation with the Delaware National Guard.
Students Should Be Involved in Budget Planning

The letter sent to the MIT community by President Hodkiewicz and Provost Reif on Monday, November 17 announced a 5 percent budget cut for Fiscal Year 2010 and a 10-15 percent cut over the next two to three years. The letter raised sobering realities concerning the state of MIT finances. It argued the need to plan conservatively in the face of potential decreases in endowment returns, federal research grants, and donor giving, and a potential increase in demonstrated financial need by families of undergraduates receiving aid.

It is concerning that President Hodkiewicz and Provost Reif wrote that “in times of challenge, we have actively consulted with the Academic Council and department heads, as well as with other faculty and administrative leaders.”

One group is conspicuously absent. There is no mention of consulting with students. Indeed, the MIT administration consulted neither the Graduate Student Council, the Undergraduate Association, nor the Committee on Student Engagement, about this issue of fundamental importance to us, and our student life initiatives should be minimal; if any, they should be conducted in conjunction with the Graduate Student Council. It is essential that MIT maintain the greatest legitimacy and relevance to the students.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, and information about errors that call for correction to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing thetech@mit.edu.

Letters, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and are the opinion of The Tech, not necessarily the opinion of the newspaper. Submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be delivered to The Tech, PO. Box 709729, Cambridge, MA 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must be bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

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

The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received. Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. Columns without italics are written by Tech staff.

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Joseph Mauer

"Until they show us the plan, we cannot show them the money."

Finally, the Nancy Pelosi-led 110th Congress and I can agree on a policy. In rebuk- ing the CEOs of General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler, collectively known as the 'Detroit 3,' Congress has at least temporarily put a cap on government intervention in private industry.

Unfortunately, Congress’ motives are less pure than I would like. Were it not for the mas- sive unpopularity of bailouts (which the pub- lic, for the most part, righteously views as hand- outs with political motives), I have little doubt about Congress’ desire to pass a bill trading government funds for a pledge to not build tree-shredding Sport Utility Vehicles.

The government’s past and current love of meddling in private businesses, however, lies at the root of the domestic automaker’s cur- rent problems. Detroit has always been able to build first-rate trucks, and recently, they have made tremendous strides in the quality of their cars. While the glaring lack of any de- cent compact sedan between them is a notable exception, there are plenty of companies that stay afloat with product lines far worse than what the Big Three offer (Kia or Mitsubishi come to mind).

The difference between the ‘domestics’ and their foreign competitors goes back to their roots. Before the advent of a truly global economy, GM, Ford, and Chrysler were called the ‘Big Three’ because they were by far the titans of the automotive industry, and America, with its massive territory and free-roaming popu- lace, was the car capital of the world. Consum- ers craved even bigger and more powerful cars and the post World War II era saw the prolif- eration of the iconic V8 powered American cruisers.

Collectively, they were the companies be- hind such iconic brands as Chevrolet, Cadillac, and Dodge. By comparison, at the same time, Honda was still primarily a motorcycle company and Acura and Lexus were decades away from existence. With the fees- eness of their competition, Detroit could afford to cost-cut. United Auto Workers Union’s demands for higher wages and additional benefits.

They could also live with the introduction of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards — which were probably more effect- ive at giving the UAW a monopoly over the Big Three’s domestic production than at rais- ing average fuel economy. Key among the Congressional favors to the UAW was the ‘two fleet’ standard for computing fuel economy. Under this system, cars with a majority of foreign made parts fall into the foreign fleet, while cars built with domestically sourced compo- nents fall into the do- mestic fleet. Because both fleets are required to meet the standards separately, CAFE ef- fectively forced Detroit to build a broad mix of cars in UAW controlled domestic factories.

Today, though, in the global Three faces competition from companies that aren’t con- strained by labor agreements, Toyota, Honda, and BMW, among others, all produce cars in American factories, but they are free to set their own salaries and benefits without UAW intervention. The difference in costs between the union and non-union plants is startling: an estimated $2000 of pension plans, health care costs, and higher wages is built into every car GM builds.

These two factors combine to force Detroit into an awkward position. With a broad and historical network of plants and production fa- cilities up and running, it would be impossible to restructure. Not only are they in a major financial commitment to building ve- hicles in the U.S., however, in order to satisfy CAFE regulations, they must produce a full variety of cars in these UAW facilities.

Due to the stringent CAFÉ penalties, in or- der to continue producing the hugely popular and profitable Explorers, F-150’s, and Sub-_provians throughout the last decade, these compa- nies have had to produce the painful and co- mplete, Caliber, and Focus. Unfortunately, while it’s often possible to overcome the UAW im- posed price deficit on large, high profit SUVs, small cars generate much thinner profit mar- gins. To compete, GM and its cohorts need to either cut prices on their cars to reduce costs, or sell them at higher prices.

Of course, that didn’t present much of a problem for the Big Three when demand for SUV’s increased every year, but when oil spiked to over $100 a barrel, things went sour. Detroit’s legacy of labor costs, a slackening demand for SUV’s and a lack of competitors taking the space of those who went bankrupt or home, forced the Big Three to return to profitability.

Bailing out Detroit now simply perpetuates a cycle of un-competitiveness that has lasted bailing out the Big Three for two decades. As much as General Mo- tors currently claims that, “bankruptcy is not an option,” chapter 11 bankruptcy is more than an option than many may think. Recently, it’s very much the only viable solution.

Bankruptcy would al- low the Big Three to show their creditors new contracts and return as smaller, more nimble companies.

A bailout would change nothing. Con- gress’ current demand for a new strategy from Detroit is unattainable. These automak- ers have already exhausted every other possi- bility for a turnaround. As long as they are substantially burdened by higher prices and lower quality products, a government loan or bailout would simply enable them to be good mon- ey after bad. The Big Three face fundamental problems with their business model that un- dermine any turnaround efforts they may en- dure.

Congress has at least temporarily put a cap on government intervention in private industry, allowing a chance to replace old, inef- fective strategies with functionally competitive new ones.

Bankruptcy would also level the competi- tion playing field. For example, General Mo- tors would have the same ability to purchase labor as Honda and Toyota (companies with strong roots in the global economy, not being hamstrung with negotiated regulations or past UAW con- tracts).

The Big Three have the potential to morph into the globally competitive powerhouses of the future developments such as the Chevrolet Volt, they are poised to do so. Effectively com- peting, however, means being competitive in the global economy, not being hamstring with negotiated regulations or past UAW contrac- ts.

As with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the housing bubble, more costs, and higher wages is built into every car GM builds. The crew of the ship, who are now being held hostage, are just the same. When the bu- jacks took control of the tanker, it had deva- ted (most likely taking a shortcut to save time or cut costs). The normal shipping channels which are more heavily patrolled. When approached by pirates, the crew readily surrendered the ship and agreed to their demands.

Granted, these men were probably not ex- pected to make it, but it is good to know that one just has to have a pirate-themed party and invite me to it.

Matthew Davison is a graduate student in the Department of Nuclear Science and Enge- neering.
MOVIE REVIEW

"Eye Candy and Nothing Else"

Robert Pattinson’s Cheekbones Are the Focus of ‘Twilight’

By Maggie Liu

Twilight
Directed by Catherine Hardwicke
Written by Melissa Rosenberg
Based on the Novel, ‘Twilight’ by Stephenie Meyer
Starring Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson
Now Playing in Theaters

When my friends and I made our way to the “Twilight” premiere, we decided that we were going to act like teenagers and blend in with the hordes of high-schoolers and possibly middle-schoolers that we predicted would be present. To our great surprise, half of the audience comprised of college students who were unabashedly happy fans. But regardless of age, the majority of the audience at the “Twilight” premiere was female. I estimated a total of 5 percent y-chromosomes, lossily consisting of fathers picking up their daughters, boyfriends of avid fans, and the occasional feminine-looking hipster.

As far as movies go, I would have to say that “Twilight” is at least a B-rated movie. Although I have read the books, I am not simply making my judgment as a fan. From my past experiences with movies-turned-from-books, I think that fans of any book should avoid drawing parallels or comparisons between the film and the original novel. There will always be disappointments in the film — be it the absence of certain scenes or stilted development of two characters’ relationship. In order to give the film justice, one has to view the film and the storyline of the film is held together on the premise of finding a lost love. In any case, the director of the “Twilight” seemed completely besotted with Robert Pattinson, the actor who brings the legendary Edward Cullen to the screen. Pattinson who sometimes overshadows the actors’ faults. Kirsten Stewart can’t help the eye candy was much appreciated, I think that Pattinson’s high cheekbones and noble profile are quite aesthetically pleasing. I think that director Catherine Hardwicke may have lingered a bit too long on Pattinson’s face. The most memorable visual aspect of the film probably has to be the pan-shots and zoom-ins of Pattinson’s smoldering British gaze. Although judging from the squeals and shrieks of the audience, the eye candy was much appreciated. I think that Pattinson as Edward sometimes overshadows his co-star, Kristen Stewart, who plays Bella. While a main focus of the film is the flourishing relationship between Edward and Bella, the dialogue is a bit too sparse. I understand that the director may have been trying to “show” the development of the duo’s relationship instead, flattening the relationship as a whole. Bella is painted as a normal girl hopelessly enamored by a vampiric youth. If one were only judging by the film, he or she would think that Bella’s affections for Edward stem only from his physical appearance. Because the film focuses so much on the romance between the Bella and Edward, the character development is weak. This is not wholly the actors’ faults. Kristen Stewart can’t help the fact that her physical charms and grace make Bella’s clumsiness seem unconvincing. Pattinson, on the other hand, actually does a decent job with Edward’s initial awkwardness around Bella. His terse responses and madcap mood swings capture Edward’s reactions perfectly.

In terms of the cast, there is not too much to complain about. The cast as a whole is at least most overwhelmingly attractive. Even the sole characters who are given only a few minutes' of screen time — like Jasper (played by Jackson Rathbone) or Esme Cullen. Needless to say, the film’s visual appeal is God’s gift to the fans.

Despite the fact that Catherine Hardwicke fails to capture the essence of Edward and Bella’s relationship, Twilight will likely be successful. It does not mean that the film is superb. It is entertaining and there are amusingly awkward moments scattered throughout. As far as movies go, it is good at best. However, as one of my non-Twilight fans put it, “Robert Pattinson makes up for everything.”

MOVIE REVIEW

Escaping the Slums

’Slumdog Millionaire’ is Honest and Uplifting

By Ramaa Sankar

Slumdog Millionaire
Directed by Danny Boyle
Written by Simon Beaufoy
Based on the Novel, ‘Q and A’ by Vikas Swarup
Now Playing in Theaters

I was a little skeptical walking into a movie centered on the premise of finding a lost love. In the interest of full disclosure, I’m not a fan of the romance genre. I decided to go into “Slumdog Millionaire” with an open mind and was pleasantly surprised. The movie begins with a multiple choice

Question

A. He cheated
B. He’s lucky
C. He’s a genius
D. It is destiny

When Jamal is tied up and given shock therapy on the suspicion of the first answer, the storyline of the film is held together on the premise of the last. “Slumdog” doesn’t pretend to be anything that it isn’t, much like Jamal. The movie takes the audience on an honest journey through the slums of Mumbai India with little vignettes from Jamal’s life. Each story reveals not only how Jamal knew the answer to each question but also why he came on the show: enter Latika (Freida Pinto). Latika is the childhood friend and love interest that keeps bringing Jamal back to Mumbai, in hopes of finding her. Not a fan herself, he gets on the show hoping that she will be watching. Throughout the film we watch as young Jamal and his brother, who are on their own from a very young age, grow up. While Jamal’s brother is seemingly the one who travels down the bad path of conning and mob rings, Jamal is focused on being reunited with Latika.

The story line is held together with each question corresponding to another part of Jamal’s past. From a three year old youth, meeting Amtab Batchan, a famed Bollywood actor, to the traumatic death of his mother during religious riots that forces him to quickly grow up. The plot seems very unlikely and set up for a fairy tale Bollywood ending. What is truly magical is that you sit through the film, getting so lost in Jamal’s story that you forget the improbability of the situation that he found himself in at the beginning of the film. It isn’t completely lost since we are consistently reminded when a very upset host of the show, Prem Kumar (Anil Kapoor), who is determined to make Jamal lose, takes cheap jabs at Jamal for being a “Chai Wala” (he serves coffee at a call center). It is Prem who turns in Jamal to the police on the suspicions of cheating.

While you are left wondering if Jamal and Latika will be reunited until the very end, it is the personal story of Jamal which is most gripping and lasting. It is that personal journey and the connections he makes with the people in his life that makes the film worth watching.

With elements of betrayal and forgiveness, friendship and love, it provides for a heart-warming tale of human emotions. While at the core is a story of lost love, it isn’t hard to appreciate the honesty of the journey.

If you are wanting a typical romance movie for a Saturday night, I would skip, but if you’re in the mood to be taken to another world, one seemingly far removed from your own, but rid with basic human elements that connect as all, it’s a must see.
By S. Campbell Proehl

November 25, 2008

be named ironically, was originally going to change. They never are the same as how you goes to show you,” my mother said, “People that way until she ran into Patty at the age of kids in school. She continued to think of them she thought Patty and John were the pinnacle nuns went searching for the sinners. trip to Bear Mountain in upstate New Y ork.

First impressions are important. They are so important that they have inspired novels like Peck and Prejudice (which, ironically, was originally going to be named First Impressions) and too many movies to count. They have also inspired a multitude of products like lint rollers, Crest White Strips, and Bismarck, aimed at making their customers look clean and brighter. But no matter how hard people try to make a good impression most of the time, it’s not always possible. Inevitably, people mess up.

Last Thursday at about 8:00 p.m., when my roommate and I were on our way to Trader Joe’s to buy our weekly groceries, we were about to turn onto the bridge when a jerk in a BMW hit us as we were passing. My roommate’s car was totaled on the passenger side (thankfully I was not, as the guy missed me by a mere 12 in.). That was bad enough. But what made the situation even worse was how much of an asshole the guy was. He was a complete jerk. And all I kept thinking was that for the rest of my life, I will remember this guy in the stupid BMW (who made my girlfriend take down everyone’s in- formations and how mean he was). I don’t believe that I will never be able to think anything good about him. So this goes thinking — I let first impressions dictate my views on people? Luckily I had an experi- ment already in process that would be able to provide me with insight on how shall I am. About two months ago, a couple of friends asked if I could write a piece about elevator encounters. They wanted me to write about those people we were friends with fresh-
Crossword Puzzle

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.

Think you’ve solved it?

Use Libraries resources to solve this puzzle. If you’re an MIT student and your answer is correct, you could win a new iPod Nano! Go to libraries.mit.edu/puzzle to get a copy or submit your answer by midnight December 5th, 2008 to be eligible for the drawing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF PUZZLE #2, AMANDA GIERMAN

C O N I C S  *  F U N  P A G E S
Larry Summers to Lead Obama’s Economic Council

By Robert Weisman

With his appointment Monday to lead the National Economic Council, the beauty but abrasive Lawrence H. Summers ’75 is set to become a key ideas man for President-elect Barack Obama as he labors to keep the economic crisis from spiraling out of control. The job may prove a suitable perch for the 53-year-old Summers, who served as Treasury secretary in the last year and a half of the Clinton administration and later as the embattled president of Harvard University before assuming his current post as university professor at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government.

As director of the council, Summers would be a conduit to the president, a position he resigned, some critics of Summers question whether his brusque manner could be an impediment in his new role, which also involves coordinating economic policy with Obama’s Cabinet secretaries.

During his tenure as Harvard president, a position he resigned, Summers was embroiled in conflict with faculty members and prominent women in science. One hot-button incident was his suggestion that innate gender differences might help explain why fewer women than men succeed in math and science. “It concerns me that he could be the filter between other officials and the president, because this is a man who only listens to what he wants to hear,” said Nancy J. Hopkins, a biology professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who walked out of a 2005 meeting in protest after Summers made his remarks about gender distinctions. “Does Obama care that someone says 50 percent of the population is genetically inferior to the other 50 percent?”

Summers has said he was only putting forward hypotheses based on the scholarly work assembled for a conference, not expressing his own judgments. In fact, he said, more research needs to be done on these issues. Days after he made the statement, he wrote, “I especially regret the backlash directed against individuals who have taken issue with aspects of what I said.”

There has been speculation that Summers’s new role could be a stepbingstone to eventually chairing the Federal Reserve, the US central bank that sets interest rates and monetary policy. The term of current chairman Ben Bernanke, appointed by President Bush, expires in 2010. Already, economists and market professionals are listening carefully to Summers’s public remarks on the economy.

Summers, a protege of former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, whom he served as deputy during much of the Clinton era, offered some insight into his thinking during two speeches last month.

Addressing the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 30, Summers, who championed market deregulation during the 1990s economic boom, called for aggressive government intervention now to stimulate a faltering economy. “Markets always overreact; so policy has to overreact if we are to restore the economy,” he said.

Earlier, in an Oct. 14 keynote speech to Harvard Business School’s Centennial Global Business Summit, he described “a vortex of five vicious cycles” threatening the economy, some of which already had taken hold, and others that were looming on the horizon.

Among other warnings, he spoke of the potential for a “Keynesian” cycle, named for economist John Maynard Keynes, where less spending leads to jobs losses, lower income, and still less spending, and a “panic” cycle, in which depositors withdraw money from banks, putting the banks in more trouble and causing more withdrawals.

As part of the incoming Obama administration, Summers’s task will be to avert those vicious cycles. To do that, he’ll not only need the new president’s ear, but he’ll also have to collaborate effectively with the secretaries of the Treasury, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services, and with independent agencies.

“He can engage people in good discussions, almost to a fault, where people can feel like he’s challenging them,” said Ross Gittell, professor at the University of New Hampshire’s Whitmore School of Business and Economics. “Obama knows what he’s getting himself into. One of his challenges is to have Summers working with others as part of a team and not dominating economic policy making.”

Muses and Resonance Rock 10-250 Over Weekend

The weekend was full of a cappella melodies when the Muses and Resonance held their annual fall concerts in 10-250 this past Friday and Saturday, respectively.

(clockwise from top left)

Members of St. Louis University’s Bare Naked Statues and the Muses face off in a beatboxing battle. Shanying Cui ’09 of the Muses belts out Jewels’s “Foolish Games.” Joshua M. Karges ’08 of Resonance sings We the Living’s “Best Laid Plans.” Stephanie E. Oh ’09 and Caroline H. Hunting ’11 duet “Doo Wop (That Thing)” by Lauryn Hill at Resonance’s fall concert.

Photography by Monica Kahn.

The Tech
Surprising Jump in Early Decision Apps To Selective Colleges

By Tamar Lewin

Given the current economic downturn, admissions officials at Wesleyan University thought there might be a decline in early-decision applications this year. But when the deadline passed last weekend, they found that the number had risen 40 percent.

“I was surprised, and I was pleased, and I don’t have an explanation,” said Greg Pyke, senior associate dean of admissions at Wesleyan, in Middletown, Conn. “It’s hard to believe that one group of 17-year-olds has become more decisive than the group you saw the previous year. So maybe it’s in a time of economic uncertainty, people want something settled.”

This was supposed to be the year that early-decision applications took a dive. With a recession, the thought went, selective colleges and universities that use binding early-decision programs to lock out part of the pool of top students would find fewer students ready to commit, and would lose many budget-conscious families to public universities. Indeed, state universities are seeing huge increases in applications.

But many selective private institutions are reporting large jumps in early-decision applicants. Dartmouth, Middlebury and Bowdoin are all up about 10 percent over last year; Haverford, 14 percent; Northwestern, 15 percent; and Pomona, 20 percent.

“Maybe education is the last thing people are willing to give up,” Mr. Pyke said.

Some colleges have found that the number of early-decision applicants applying for financial aid was about the same as last year. Early applications come in more varieties than they once did. While most selective colleges use early-decision programs under which students agree to enroll if accepted, others, like MIT, offer nonbinding early-action programs, or, like Stanford, single-choice early action, in which students agree to submit only one early application.

Stanford’s single-choice early-action applications increased 18 percent this year.

St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., eliminated its popular early-action program this year, pushed back the deadline for binding early decision from Nov. 1 to Nov. 15 — and had a 50 percent increase in early-decision applicants.

“We used to get the bulk of our pool in early action, but we found we were turning down some great students in the regular-decision pool, while taking some who were not quite so good in early action,” said Derek Gueldemann, the dean of admissions.

At MIT, applications for the nonbinding early-action program were up 25 percent this year — and officials said about half the increase was a result of a new partnership with Quil jeopardize, a nonprofit group that connects low-income students with top colleges. Stuart Schmill ‘86, the dean of admissions, said about three-quarters of those admitted under the early-action program typically enrolled at MIT.

This week, students at Berkeley Carroll, a private school in Brooklyn, knowingly discussed the choices they had made.

“Last year, a girl I know told me that early action was the ‘greatest thing she ever did in her entire life, and it seems very generous, like a kind of security blanket,” said Emma Bellows, who applied early action to both Goucher College, in Towson, Md., and the State University of New York in New Paltz.

Rebecca Bullhaus applied early decision to Brown. “I’ve been pretty sure for a while that I would apply there early decision,” she said. “I like the other schools on my list, too, but when I thought about where I most wanted to go, it was Brown.”

Brandon Clarke, Berkeley Carroll’s director of college counseling, said that not a single family this year had talked about changing their college plans because of finances.

“Maybe education is the least thing people are willing to give up,” he said.

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Uncle Sam image by J.M. Flagg, U.S. Department of Defense
Pair Was Inadvertently Caught On Camera in 10-250 Last Night

Camera, from Page 1 (talking) in 10-250... pretty creepy. I didn't know there was a camera live-streaming 24/7 there!

Shortly after The Tech turned on the TV, a Tech staffer went to 10-250 to warn the pair that they were being broadcast live to the entire campus. The pair appeared to talk for about ten minutes before the staffer arrived; afterward, they left. No sound was being broadcast.

Burchard Scholars Program

All MIT Juniors and Sophomores

The 2009 Burchard Scholars Program Is Now Accepting Applications

The Burchard Scholars Program brings together members of the MIT faculty with juniors and sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. 30 Burchard Scholars are invited to a series of dinner-seminars throughout the year to discuss topics of current research or interest by faculty members, visiting scholars, and Burchard Scholars. The 2009 program begins in February.

For information or an application, contact:
Dean's Office, SHASS, E51-255 (x-3-8962)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008

For Univ. Presidents, High Compensation Leads to Give-backs

By Tamar Lewin

In the week since The Chronicle of Higher Education published its annual survey of university presidents' pay — a week in which the nation's economic troubles wound down — several of the highest-paid presidents said that they would give back part of their pay or forgo their raises.

Pat Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, said he had never heard of such a wave of givebacks.

"When you see a cluster like this," he said, "it seems like sort of belated recognition that this presidential pay thing has gotten out of hand. People are getting tuition increases, some faculty are facing layoffs, it just doesn't look too good for presidents, no matter how capable they are, to be getting so much money. Americans have had a touching faith in higher education; it's losing its good image with the public."

The chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, Mark S. Wrighton, who is a former MIT professor, announced on Thursday that he would take a 5 percent cut from his base salary on Jan. 1 and another 5 percent reduction on July 1.

Mr. Wrighton, who announced his decision in an e-mail message to the university community, stated that the university's endowment had declined about 25 percent since July 1, that some capital projects were being delayed and that faculty salary increases would be lower than in past years.

Mr. Wrighton said he had a base salary of about $560,000 and a total compensation package of about $760,000. He also owns about $360,000 from serving on two corporate boards.

"This was well under way before The Chronicle came out," Mr. Wrighton said. "I'm generously compensated, I know that. We're in very difficult financial times. I'm in a position that is not at risk, but the rest of the university community, especially in administration and support, must be wondering if their jobs are secure. I want to let the community know that I'm sensitive to the situation."

On Tuesday, Amy Gutmann, the president of the University of Pennsylvainia, and her husband made a $500,000 gift to the university to support undergraduate research. Ms. Gutmann was one of eight private university presidents earning more than $1 million in 2006, a 40 percent increase from the previous year's pay, according to the Chronicle's survey.

In Washington state, where there is talk of deep cuts in financing of higher education, the two highest-paid university presidents announced givebacks last week, as well.

Mark Emmert, the president of the University of Washington — and the nation's second-highest-paid public university president, according to the Chronicle report — went a raise this year. Mr. Emmert is paid about $390,000 a year from the university, plus $340,000 for serving on two corporate boards.

The president of Washington State University, Elson S. Floyd, who made $600,000 in his first year at the university and received a $100,000 raise over the summer, said he would take a voluntary $100,000 pay cut in response to budget problems.

The median salary for public university presidents was $427,400, The Chronicle said.

Several other college executives have taken similar actions.

Solution to Sudoku

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

Solution to Crossword Puzzle

ACOMMODATION
DAVID LEWIS
EPIC
FIRE
GROWTH
HUGO
IT'S
JUDICIAL
KINGDOM
LAW
NATIONAL
ODDEN
POLITICAL
QUBIC
RUG
SIRE
TUG
UNITED
VITAL
WILDERNESS
XENIC
YOUNG
ZOO
Happy Thanksgiving from The Tech!
MIT Rhodes Scholars Are 39th
And 40th in Institute’s History

Rhodes, from Page 1

and scalable change in the issues I care most about,” Whitney-Johnson wrote.

Margaret had a lot of grit,” said Edward Gethers, a biological engineering major who works as a student EMT, “When I borrowed $300 from my mother, she made me take

“Margarita helped hundreds of emigres,” said Elena Semenka-Pankratov of Waltham, who arrived in 1974. “Margarita taught us how to make a cake and then another step and then how to walk.”

The years of uncertainty that had hung over the years, described by friends as crafted in a robust Russian manner and written mostly in Russian, was be- ing printed as a gift for her birthday.

Mrs. Freeman loved life and people, her family said. Remembering her own difficult times as a new immigrant in this country, she had opened her heart to new emigres over the many years she has been here, helping them find jobs and homes and to learn the language and even putting them up in her home. Mrs. Freeman was looking for-

“Margarita had a lot of grit,” said the daughter of the Soviet

“Margaret had various posts at MIT,” she said. “She started out in research as an applied mathematician. About 1960, given her twofold interest in acoustics engineering and in language,” she said, Mrs. Freeman became head of MIT’s language laboratory. She retired in 1978. Mrs. Freeman died in 1997.

“Margaret helped hundreds of emigres,” said Elena Semenka-Pankratov of Waltham, who arrived in 1974. “Margarita taught us how to make a cake and then another step and then how to walk.”

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MIT Alumni Margaret Freeman Worked in Applied Mathematics

Freeman, from Page 1

fugitive. The Bolsheviks executed 37-year-old Elena Pavlovnna Zarudnaya, leav-

ing her children in the care of an elderly nurse and young servant to complete the long-Siberian trek and rejoin their father in Manchuria in June 1922, Arthur Freeman said.

Mrs. Freeman, who came to the United States in 1931, studied and taught at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and married an Ameri- can, died of congestive heart failure Oct. 23 at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge. She would have been 109 last Tuesday.

In a heart-rending detail in her book, Mrs. Freeman wrote: “I tried to imagine how Mother must have felt when she was told that she must face death. How she walked, what she thought. What did she feel stand-

There was little that Mrs. Free-

man and her brother Sergey arrived

in Manchuria, she attended the Poly-

technic Institute in Harbin for eight years.

With the help of the U.S. ambas-

sador in China, they said, Mrs. Free-

man and her brother Sergey arrived

in California in 1931, and she “pur- chased her youthful dream” of doing graduate work at MIT.

“Margarita had a lot of grit,” said Maris Parkins of Cambridge, who met her husband, Drew, a longtime friend of Mrs. Freeman. “She told us, ‘Live your passion and to learn the language and even putting them up in her home. Mrs. Freeman was looking for-

“Margarita had a lot of grit,” said Edward Gethers, a biological engineering major who works as a student EMT, “When I borrowed $300 from my mother, she made me take

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Pistol

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

U.S. Military Academy
MIT

Squash

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

U.S. Naval Academy (16-1)
MIT (4-1)
Wesleyan University (1-0)
MIT (4-1)

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

Vanderbilt College
MIT (6-1)

Men’s Swimming

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Babson College and Bowdoin College

Women’s Swimming

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Babson College and Bowdoin College

Men’s Water Polo

Friday, Nov. 21, 2008

Princeton University (18-9)
MIT (9-15)

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Johns Hopkins University (15-14)
MIT (9-16)

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

Iona College (14-20)
MIT (10-16)

Wrestling

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Springfield College Tournament

MIT 13th of 17

Women’s Basketball

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Eastern Nazarene College (1-3)
MIT (1-3)

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

Salve Regina University (5-2)
MIT (3-2)

Women’s Cross Country

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

NCAA Championship

MIT

10th of 31

Scoreboard

Men’s Basketball
Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (1-1) 43
MIT (2-1) 69
Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008
Milwaukee School of Engineering (2-0) 69
MIT (2-3) 64

Women’s Basketball
Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Auburn University at Montgomery (1-3) 57
MIT (1-3) 47

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

Women’s Ice Hockey
Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

MIT (1-2) 3
Salve Regina University (5-2) 4

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008

MIT (1-3) 0
Manhattanville College (4-1) 8

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008

Victory in the B-Team (intermediate) division, the men’s B1 team (Wu, Jaspon J. Us ’10, and Omar E. Fernando ’10) valiantly captured the silver after a tough match up against rival Cornell’s B1 team. We defeated the Cornell B3 lightweights in a thrilling sudden death showdown. Keeping up the reputation as an unstoppable force, MIT’s women’s B teams dominated their division. The B1 team (Sun, Hui, and Markham) squared right to the gold, while the B2 team (Club President Jaclyn J. Ho ’09, Han Zhu ’09, Chin) muscled their way to the silver. Even in the C-team division, the MIT team proved that they were not a force to be played around with. The men’s C1 team (Mark J. Yin ’11, Raya, Sugaya, and alternate Wei Yang Sun ’11) fought several electrifying matches that led them to the bronze.

Taekwondo, from Page 16

Larry O’Brien ’12 (22:53.97) rounded out the team scoring for the Engineers, collecting 302 points with her 150th place finish. O’Brien landed just outside the top 20 along with MIT’s 354 points, enough to hold off the State University of New York at Geneseo (369) for the final spot in the top 10. New England regional champion Middlebury College easily beat out second-place Calvin College for their fifth NCAA team championship. Bethel University (Minn.) junior Marie Bonner was the individual winner, breaking the tape at 20:43.91, more than nine seconds better than her closest follower. The Engineers are well positioned to build on this success in 2009, as five of their top seven runners will return next year. Seniors Bradshaw and Doyle closed out their MIT careers on a high note Saturday.

Cross Country Team Seeks to Build On Strong Finish for Next Season

Cross Country, from Page 16

Janice O’Brien ’12 (22:53.97) rounded out the team scoring for the Engineers, collecting 302 points with her 150th place finish. O’Brien landed just outside the top 20 along with MIT’s 354 points, enough to hold off the State University of New York at Geneseo (369) for the final spot in the top 10. The MIT team celebrated their way to bronze. By the end of the day, MIT finished the tournament with 517 points, behind only Cornell with 606 points. Despite placing second in the tournament, the MIT team celebrated (with bags of ice on various injured parts) the fact that they retained their overall lead in the league with 1,043 points to Cornell’s 1,017.

Currently the MIT team is training hard for the next INCTL tournament at New York University in March, as for one of the team captains quoted at practice, “a clay pot in the sun will always be a clay pot in the sun. It has to go through the tape at 20:43.91, more than nine seconds better than her closest follower. The Engineers are well positioned to build on this success in 2009, as five of their top seven runners will return next year. Seniors Bradshaw and Doyle closed out their MIT careers on a high note Saturday.

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Women's Cross Country Finishes Tenth at National Championships

By Greg McKeever

Tenth at National Championships

Women's Cross Country Finishes

By Tara Sarathi

INCTL Tournament

Finishes Second at

INCTL) tournament of the season.

The teams traded goals throughout the first half, leading to a 6-5 MIT lead at halftime, but the Gaels eradicated their deficit completely at the 3.54 mark of the fourth period with an exclusion score by Trevor Crighton to tie the game at 9-9.

Playing without Michael R. Smith-Bronston '09, who was out with a red card, the Engineers turned to Lewis who delivered the game-winner off another penalty shot with 3:35 to play for the 10-9 final.

Overall, six of the 19 goals in the game came off penalty shots, including three of the eight in the second half and two in the final eight minutes of play.

In cage, Columbus P. Leonard '12 made nine saves to earn the win.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Men's Basketball Smothers Rose-Hulman, 69-43

MIT men's basketball rode a tremendous defensive effort while nine players scored in a well-balanced attack as the Engineers cruised past the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 69-43, in the first game of the 2008 Engineers Classic hosted by the Milwaukee School of Engineering. In the first-ever meeting between the two programs, MIT jumped ahead in the opening half behind a suffocating defensive effort before finding its rhythm on offense in the second half to cement the non-conference win.

James M. “Jimmy” Bartolotta '09 sparked MIT's second-half surge and finished with a game-high 24 points on 9-of-16 shooting. Making his first appearance of the 2008-09 slate, fellow senior Willard J. “Billy” Johnson '09 added 14 points while closing a perfect 4-of-4 from the field.

MIT set the tone with terrific defensive pressure early in the contest. The Engineers forced 15 turnovers in the first 20 minutes and picked up nine steals. Hamidou Soumare '09 swatted away five shots in the opening frame to ignite the strong performance while Bradley H. Gampel '09 led all players with four threes.

During the game, Bartolotta passed Mike D’Auria ’06 for third place on the MIT all-time scoring list. Gampel also reached double-digits for the Engineers with 10 points while adding a game-best nine assists.

—James Kramer, DAPER Staff

Upcoming Home Events

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008

Men's Basketball vs. Curry College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wrestling vs. Johnson & Wales University 7 p.m., duPont Gymnasium

Lewis Scores Four as MIT Men's Water Polo Downs Iona, 10-9

Devin M. Lewis '10 scored four goals, including a pair of penalty shots, to lead the MIT men's water polo team to a 10-9 win over Iona College in the seventh place game at the 2008 Eastern Championship hosted by the United States Naval Academy. The Engineers ended their season at 10-6 overall.

The win marked MIT's first win over a team in the Eastern Championship field this year and avenged a 12-11 loss to the Gaels in the Northern Division third place game. The win is the highest at the Eastern Championships for MIT since a sixth place showing in 2003.

The teams traded goals throughout the first half, leading to a 6-5 MIT lead at halftime, but the Gaels eradicated their deficit completely at the 3.54 mark of the fourth period with an exclusion score by Trevor Crighton to tie the game at 9-9.

A. Prentice '11 evened the contest at 23 with 20 rebounds, 12 points, three assists, and two steals.

The opening half was tightly played, featuring eight ties and seven lead changes. A pair of free-throws by Tech's Emily A. Prentice '11 evened the contest at 23 with 20 rebounds, 12 points, three assists, and two steals.

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