OLPC Patent Infringement Suit Dismissed by Middlesex Judge

By Peaple Lipinski

A Middlesex Superior Court Judge has dismissed the patent infringement case against the One Laptop Per Child Foundation by Nigerian company Lagos Analy-sis Corporation (Lancor). Lancor claimed that the OLPC Foundation’s XO laptop computer is a design of Lancor’s patented Kenyon multi-lingual keyboards. The suit was asked for $20 million in damages.

A similar case is still pending in Nigeria, where a temporary injunction prohibits OLPC from distributing in the country.

In August 2007, Lancor sent OLPC a letter claiming that OLPC had “replicating the idea of a multi-lingual keyboard for the XO laptop — formerly the “Hundred Dollar Laptop” — and asked for $20 million for the “huge economic and financial loss” suffered by Lancor. OLPC refuted the claim, asked to settle the suit, and attempted to file suit in US federal court.

OLPC argued that Lancor’s original case, that its trade secrets had been violated, was under the jurisdiction of state courts and the copyright infringement claim was unfounded.

The case was remanded back to Middlesex in May, and the case was dismissed in October by Judge Thomas F. Jenness. The case remains open in Nigerian court.

The XO laptop was brought to Lancor’s attention in January 2007 when a friend of Lancor founder Ade Ogunbiola noticed a similarity between the OLPC XO laptop and the Lagos keyboard.

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Mexico Doctors, Saving Lives, Fear for Their Own

By Marc Lacey

The Tech

The sedated patient, his bullet wounds still fresh from a shootout the night before, was lying in a ponytail in the intensive care unit of a prestigious urban hospital here last month, with impossibly huge flaps dripping down his arm. Suddenly, steel-faced gunmen barged in and filled him with even more bullets. This time, he was dead for sure.

Men in gray overalls could barely contain their emotion as they wheeled units and emergency cots. Shootouts in lobbies and corridors. Doctors kidnapped and held for ransom, or threatened with death if a wounded gunmen dies under their care. With alarming speed, Mexico's violent drug war is finding its way into the sanctum sanctorum of the nation's hospitals, rolling into healthcare systems and leaving workers fearing for their lives while trying to save the lives of others.

"Remember that hospital scene from 'The Godfather'?” asked Dr. Hector Razo in an ordinary day in the ordinary city. In that scene, Michael Corleone saves his hospitalized father from a hit squad. “That’s how we live."

Art Museum in Los Angeles At Pivot Point

By Edward Wyatt and Jori Finkel

Los Angeles Times

When this museum of Contemporary Art appointed a classically trained curator from the Art Institute of Chicago as its director in 1999, it was betting that art rather than business would be kept at the forefront of one of the most dynamic museums in the country.

They did not know how right they were. Nearly 10 years later, the museum remains internationally renowned for its collection of postwar art and for organizing some of the most serious and ambitious contemporary art exhibitions anywhere.

Yet by putting art ahead of the bottom line, the museum has operated a deficit in six of the last eight years, and its endowment has shrunk to about $30 million, from $40 million in 1999, according to people who have been briefed on the finances.

Now the California attorney general has begun an audit to determine whether the museum has been using the endowment to subsidize nonprofit organizations. And a growing chorus of local artists, curators and NGOs, including current and former board members, are lobbying to remove the museum’s director, Jeremy Struck, or board, or both.

New Economic Bailout Plans May Focus on Homeowners

By Edmund L. Andrews

The New York Times

After pouring vast amounts of money into financial institutions of almost every type, and having little to show for it, the Bush administration and the Federal Reserve are suddenly taking a new look at ordinary homeowners.

Ben S. Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, warned Thurs-day that the soaring number of fore- closures threatened the economy. He then proposed some ideas — government-engineered loan modifications, and more taxpayer money to help people refuse to keep people in their homes.

“The public policy case for reducing preventable foreclosures does not rely solely on the desire to help people who are in trouble,” Bernanke said. “More needs to be done.”

At the Treasury Department, meanwhile, top officials continued to work on a plan to boost the housing market by subsidizing 90-year home mortgages with rates as low as 4.5 percent — a level that homeowners have not since seen since the early 1960s.

Both actions highlighted how economic policymakers have come almost full circle. Since the financial crisis began last summer, both the Fed and the Treasury had focused almost exclusively on patching up the financial system — propping up banks, Wall Street firms, money market funds and issuers of commercial debt.

But in new focus on helping in- dividuals could create a bigger split between those who want to buy homes and those who already own them. It has already opened up a rift between the real estate industry, which wants to increase sales, and the banking industry, which wants to get out from under staggering vol- umes of troubled mortgages.

Under a plan that top Treasury of- ficials are considering, the Treasury Department would underwrite tens of billions of dollars worth of 30- year, fixed-rate mortgages at rates lower than most Americans have ever seen.

According to Bankrate.com, the 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages fell Thursday to 5.58 percent, down from 5.76 percent last week. The 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.55 percent late Thursday, a new low. But the cheap mortgages would be available only for people buying homes, not the roughly 50 million families that already have mortgag- es and would want to refinance at a lower rate.

As a result, the plan offers no di- rect relief to the millions of people who face foreclosure because they took out exotic mortgages that they could not afford. Nor will the plan provide any benefit to people who have already current on their mortgages and would simply be interested in taking advantage of a lower rate.

As envisioned by Treasury officials, homeowners who now pay 6 percent would be watching new neighbors arrive whose monthly payments were almost one-third lower.

“At this point, our view is that such a program may do more harm than good,” said Camden R. Fine, president of the Independent Com- munity Bankers of America, which represents about 8,000 small banks.

“You have thousands of banks that have made loans and have them sitting on their books, and whose borrow- ers have worked their rear ends off to make the payments.”

Obama Moves Fast to Fill Top Administration Posts

By Peter Baker and Michael Cooper

The New York Times

The call summoning him was somewhat cryptic. Only after Gen. James L. Jones showed up in a hotel suite for a one-on-one meeting with Barack Obama did it become clear what was going on.

Would General Jones be interested in a senior national security job? Obama asked. General Jones said he would be.

That was Oct. 22, a full 13 days before the election. This week, the two appeared together here as the president-elect is trying to find out if he would even become president.

Just a month after his election, Obama asked. General Jones said he would be decisive as well as methodical and careful in filling out his administra- tion, perhaps foreshadowing how he would frame the government.

“You don’t have time to waste,” Mr. Obama told him.

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Ordering Up a Sunny Day

By Brian H. Tang

The New York Times

The sun was out and then a story about a novel invention that modifies the weather became an attention grabbing flash in the pan with the popular me- dia. Wouldn’t it be great if you could order up sunny days every weekend and have it rain only at night? Flash weather modifiers would love nothing more than to set up a huge fan along the coast to blow hurricanes out to sea. Most atten- tion in the arena of weather modification has been to prevent severe weather events, make it rain by seeding clouds, and reverse the effects of global cli- mate change. Unfortunately, despite the rosy promises any method holds, there are often problems of transmissibility, cost, scalability, reproducibility, and just plain lack of thought. For now, we mere mortals just have to deal with the weather we receive on St. Valentine’s Day.

With that said, I wish I could conjure up a better weekend forecast. Sat- urday will be the better half despite the chilly weather, whereas Sunday will feature the first real risk of snow. Up above, all the storms have passed to our west resulting in rainy, but relatively warm, conditions. As the storm track shifts south of the Great Lakes the chances of snow increase in the coming days.

The first storm on Sunday will be relatively small in the form of snow showers. The second will be the better half despite the chilly weather, whereas Sunday will be the better half despite the chilly weather, whereas Sunday will feature the first real risk of snow. Saturday will be the better half despite the chilly weather, whereas Sunday will feature the first real risk of snow. Up above, all the storms have passed to our west resulting in rainy, but relatively warm, conditions. As the storm track shifts south of the Great Lakes the chances of snow increase in the coming days.
In Mumbai, More Evidence Links Terrorists to Pakistan

By Jane Perlez and Robert F. Worth

Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin spent much of his annual question-and-answer televised exchange on Thursday seeking to reassure Russians that the effects of the global economic crisis on the country would be minimal. He also denied increased economic boom. The standard of living, Putin deflected responsibility for increased fuel costs, unpaid ruble, increased fuel costs, unpaid

Putin Questioned as Russian Economy Falters

By Michael Schwirtz

Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin faced a barrage of questions from people across the country concerned about the decline in the value of the ruble, increased fuel costs, unpaid pensions and rising unemployment, among other issues.

When Putin started the annual broadcast as president seven years ago, the mood was different. Russia was at the start of a decade-long economic boom. The standard of living reached historic heights and Putin enjoyed huge popularity. With the onset of more difficult times, however, it is unclear how long either can be maintained.

At the beginning of the broadcast, Putin deflected responsibility for his country’s economic woes, placing blame, as he has done before, squarely on what he called American recklessness.

“The crisis began in the United States, whose financial and economic policies led to the crisis that infected the economies of practically all major countries of the world,” he said. In a sign, however, that Russia might be ready to put past antipathy aside to cooperate with the incoming Obama administration, he pulled back from the harsh criticism of the United States that has peppered his similar performances.

“We are really counting on this being a positive change,” he said, adding that “positive signals” had been coming from President-elect Barack Obama and his team. “If these are not simply words, if they are transformed into practical policies, then, of course, our reaction will be adequate, and our American partners will immediately notice this.”

For Alaskans, Begich Is A Different Kind of Senator

By William Yardley

To get elected in Alaska to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat sometimes requires not acting like one. Talk up drilling for oil in wildlife refuges. Talk up gun rights. Insist that those liberals who control Congress will never push you around.

And when your Republican rival is convicted in federal court shortly before Election Day, do not gloat. He is, after all, Sen. Ted Stevens, once decreed by the State Legislature as Alaskan of the Century.

Of course, that was last century.

Mayor Mark Begich of Anchorage is the Democrat who last month pulled off what once seemed unimaginable, becoming only the second Democrat from Alaska to win a seat in Washington since his father was a member of the House of Representatives nearly four decades ago.

His seat in the Senate has been occupied by Stevens since Begich was 6 years old and Alaska was just 9. But Begich, 46, suggests there is something larger at work in his victory than just good timing in taking on a suddenly vulnerable Stevens, who was convicted in October of failing to disclose gifts and home renovations he received from a wealthy oil services industry executive.

Strangers May Cheer You Up

By Pam Belluck

How happy you are may depend on how happy your friends’ friends’ friends are, even if you don’t know them at all.

And a cheery next-door neighbor has more effect on your happiness than your spouse’s mood.

So says a new study that followed a large group of people for 20 years — happiness is more contagious than previously thought.

“You happiness depends not just on your choices and actions, but also on the choices and actions of people you don’t even know who are one, two and three degrees removed from you,” said Dr. Nicholas A. Christakis, a physician and social scientist at Harvard Medical School and an author of the study, to be published Friday in BMJ, a British journal.

“There’s kind of an emotional quiet riot that occurs and takes on a life of its own, that people themselves may be unaware of. Emotions have a collective existence — they are not just an individual phenomenon,” he explained.

In fact, said his co-author, James H. Fowler, an associate professor of political science at University of California, San Diego, their research found that “if your friend’s friend’s friend becomes happy, that has a bigger impact on you being happy than putting an extra $5,000 in your pocket.”

The researchers analyzed information on the happiness of 4,739 people and their connections with several thousand others — spouses, relatives, close friends, neighbors and co-workers — from 1983 to 2003.

The Sloan Subject Bidding (SloanBid) System

Bidding Dates for Spring, 2009 Courses

https://sloanbid.mit.edu

First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords. Once logged in, make sure and check that your information (i.e. program of study and graduation date) is correct.

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 19 Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, December 29

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 2 Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 9

Section Swap Round for sectioned Sloan subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 13 Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 20

Please contact Scott Alessandro, salessan@mit.edu, if you have questions regarding Sloan Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on February 2 and will be posted on the bidding website as of January 2 -- write down your password to check results!
OPINION

India's 9/11

How My City Stood Up in the Face of Terror

Wednesday, November 26, 2008. The date is now toasted as India's 9/11.

All it took to lead to panic was to witness a live-action headline announcing the cold-blooded shooting of 140 people at a railway station in Mumbai. A railway station some of my friends use every single day.

All I could do after my mind went numb was to frantically call all my parents. Luckily they had reached home already before the events of the day began to unfold. "The madness is just beginning," I said to myself, as I started scanning the news online.

The unprecedented mindless shootings all around Mumbai; a police car was hijacked, a gas station blown up, and guests at two major hotels were held hostage.

My beloved city was under siege. As I watched it all unfold on the television, all I could think of was my eighteen years living in Mumbai. Having hot chocolate once a year in the coffee shop at the Taj Mahal Hotel, my parents driving me to the Oberoi Trident to see the holiday decorations, watching movies at the Metro Theater, just wandering around on the beach.

Now, all these places were covered under a blanket of fear. Even though I was physically half a world away, I felt like I was there — as it happened.

A lot of people would like to know that what transpired in the next 60 hours was only a small blip on the radar. Unfortunately, every Mumbaiite's worst nightmare has come true. The terrorists laid into their target not just in everyone in Mumbai, but also in everyone ever remotely associated with the city.

As the hours on the clock increased, so did the number of dead. At the end of the 60-hour drama, the official toll was close to 200 lives, though many believe that the actual number may significantly be higher than that.

From the old parents who lost their only child, to Robby Helberg's two-year-old son, baby Moche, who probably does not even know what death means: The number of people affected is significantly higher than the number of people who died.

In no way can anyone say that this was just an attack on India. The dead include Indians, Americans, English, and Israelis, among others. But most importantly, the dead were human. Yes, the attacks were an attack on humanity.

And while tribute must be paid to those who lost their lives, we cannot forget those who stood up and fought, and those who helped the people affected. Throughout the four-day ordeals, we heard stories of the hotel staff helping the hostages, of firemen not caring about their fires, doing their job while the attackers were still at large.

The photograph of a man carrying an injured person on his shoulders because there was no vehicle around will remain fresh in my mind for a long time. What gave me great hope was the unity of all people in Mumbai; even as the battle was on, even as the city was volatile, close to 15,000 — yes, fifteen thousand — people attended the funeral of Malegaon ATS constable Piyush Pillai.

They were not just paying a tribute to a fallen soldier; they were also showing the terrorists their resolve and their unity. Today, that gives me great hope in this time of despair. Mumbaiites know that Mumbai can have such a spirit, and they have been successful in terrorizing my city, its people removed from our hearts, no power can break us.

A friend of mine asked me this week, if I would be scared the next time I went home. My answer was no. In fact, I will go home and visit all the places that were attacked, and like good old days will catch a movie in Metro, get hot chocolate at the Taj, absorb the holiday decorations at Oberoi Trident, and then wander around on the beach. That will be my pilgrimage. That will complete my tribute.

Ankit J. Gordhandas is a member of the Class of 2010.
BOOK REVIEW

The Latest (and Earliest) From Kerouac and Burroughs
A Posthumous Pleasure

By S. Balaji Mani
Staff Writer

And the Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks
Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs
Grove Press
Nov. 1, 2008
$24.00

If you laughed along with Sal Paradise in On The Road, feared the conniving Dr. Benway in Naked Lunch, and saluted the iconoclastic verses of America, then you’re undeniably a Beatnik. While Jack Kerouac, William S. Burroughs, and Allen Ginsberg are arguably the three most important authors of the Beat Generation, they are also our default historians of a transitional time period in the United States. Their uninhibited, jazz-inspired prose revealed a candid portrait of a class of people who embraced life in growing cities and welcomed experimentation.

Yet, the Beat Generation was always seen through the lens of its aforementioned seminal works, all three of which tipped the literary scale to extremes. This November, though, the Estate of Jack Kerouac and the William S. Burroughs Trust teamed up to release a manuscript that had gained almost legendary status amongst literary circles. And the Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks is a joint work by the two Beat heroes penned in alternating chapters one summer during the 1940s.

One may wonder why such an essential work was kept unpublished for so long. Initially, the two novelists unsuccessfully pushed the manuscript to publisher after publisher, receiving little interest in return. The novel itself, the product of its creators’ shared obsession and documentation of an actual murder, was deemed too sensational by editors. Any hope of the book being published was kept unpublished for so long. The work is not breathtaking in its use of literary devices nor is the plot innovative enough to warrant distinction. However, the reader’s prize, on the other hand, is an honest Kerouac and a careful Burroughs, both honing their literary style and taking risks in the Hippos manuscript. Written before either author was famous, Hippos is an unbiased and upfront sample of what preceded groundbreaking works such as On the Road. What’s more important is that the characters, events, and places in Hippos are all real. As in most works put out by the Beats, pseudonyms are used to ‘hide’ the evident identities of key players like Allen Ginsberg, David Kammerer, and the narrators themselves.

Part of what drove Kerouac and Burroughs to document their account of the events is that Carr, a young aspiring writer at the time, sought their guidance after he committed the crime. While the two offered different solutions to Carr, both were now inadvertently involved in the crime. Lucien Carr was a murderer but in Hippos, that is just as banal a fact as Mike Ryko (Kerouac’s alter-ego) being an enthusiastic drinker. The murder itself might be sensational; a hatchet to the head, preceding a two story fall for David Kammerer, a wealthy, older man with a dangerous sexual appetite for Carr’s virility and youth. But it is not merely the murder that this novel rests upon. It is the everyday movement and interaction between a close circle of friends and acquaintances; it is the episodes in which Carr can’t decide if Kammerer is really a friend or a sexual predator; it is the life and heartbeat of 1940s New York. Above all, Hippos paints a picture of what life was like for Americans decades ago. It’s certainly a clearer portrait of an unsuspecting Kerouac and Burroughs before they became, well, Kerouac and Burroughs.

Want to get free movie tickets? Then write movie reviews for The Tech. (Advance screening opportunities also available!)
join@tech.mit.edu
**Pseudoscience**

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

Figure 45. The graph plots the prudence (in arbitrary units) of key decisions at different oil prices. While buying energy stocks at relatively cheap oil prices and getting rid of large vehicles are positive in the prudence scale, an increase in the cost of the commodity induces a quasi-panic state in people that forces them to make a series of imprudent decisions. For example, paying attention to Mr. Chávez and promoting corn-derived ethanol make little sense, yet these actions have been frequently observed at high oil prices. A Manhattan Project-like endeavor would be both costly and useless, a combination that puts it lowest in the prudence scale.

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**Sudoku**

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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.

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Solution, tips, and computer program at [http://www.sudokus.com](http://www.sudokus.com)
See also solution, page 8.
Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1  Come within sight
7   Glued
15  Outer edge of a cut gem
16  Large
17  Garland for the head
18  Certain protozoans
19  Alcoholic beverages
21  Alias letters
22  Highlands’ refusal
23  Very short time
24  Blue dye
25  Subjected to privation
28  . . . Cong
29  Precedent setter
30  Thunder and laughter sounds
31  Orion feature
32  Make inexact
34  Church recesses
35  Gorbachev policy
41  Permits to
42  Long-distance runner
44  Ill-mannered child
45  Dwelling

DOWN
1  Contrary to
2  Like a feather
3  Babblers
4  Caribbean taro
5  Answer-man
6  Remission
7  Euphoric drug
8  Manifest
9  Threwed
10  Greek goddess of discord
11  High-level DC grp.
12  Oberon’s wife
13  Hebrew prophet
14  Purifies seawater
20  Reach a high point
24  Entrance to Hades
26  Under ideal circumstances
27  Clinches
30  Shove
32  Dashing young man
33  Red soil
34  Church recesses
35  Public image
36  Planetary reflections
37  Comestibles store
38  Former
39  More tranquil
40  Stock exchange people
42  Kingston or Kumin
43  Decreaser
48  Runner Zatopek
49  Brought into being
50  Mine entrance
52  Antiquated

in Babylon

Where in the World is Techiya?

Come join us for Techiya’s Fall Concert:
Sunday, December 7th
at 8 PM in 34-101!

Featuring Harvard’s Shani!

Fund and Free Food!

http://web.mit.edu/techiya

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Administrators’s Layoff Canceled

With Student Support, Roberson Was ’Un-Fired’, Moved Positions
After Deadline, from Page 1

She explained the layoff as a prob-
lem of resources the Department of
Student Life told her that they needed
a full-time crisis support spe-
cialist, and that they could not also
support her positions because of fund-
and headcount restrictions. “Per-
haps there will be some distribution
of my programs to other staff at the
institute, but having this kind of point-
person for women students will cease,
as it is now,” she wrote.

“I also am feeling my own deep personal loss and grief, given the 22 years I have been a support to all you wonderful women students!” Over the summer,

In mid-May, she sent a letter to
freshman women thanking them for
their support. “Although I do not
know what many of you may have been
doing behind the scenes, whatever
you thought, wished, voiced or did, you have been heard, and it has
created enormous benefit for all of us.
… You helped move everyone for-
ward and opened further the pathways
for women students at MIT … Thank
you for believing in a greater vision
for yourselves and for all the women
students at MIT!” she wrote.

Roberson declined to comment to
The Tech on May 7, Senior Associate Dean for Stu-
dents Barbara A. Baker wrote on May
8 to a Tech reporter: “I am not sure
what you are asking about. I wonder
if you may have been misinformed, and
while I am not able to comment in detail about personnel matters, I can
say that Lynn’s work has been and will
continue to be part of a network of re-
sources for women students and she
continues to work at MIT on behalf of
women students.”

“MIT is fully committed to sup-
port all of our women students,” Baker
wrote.

Though Nanoparticles May Penetrate Skin, The Actual Risk Is Unclear

Nanoparticles, from Page 1

Dr. Adnan Nasir, a clinical assistant pro-

professor of dermatology at the Univer-
sity of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“Especially if the nanoparticles are
indestructible and accumulate and are
not metabolized, if you accumulated
them in the organs, the organs could
fail.” Indeed, some doctors, scientists
and consumer advocates are con-
cerned that many industries are adopt-
ing nanotechnology ahead of studies
that would establish whether regular
ingestion, inhalation or dermal pen-
etration of these particles constitute
a health or environmental hazard.
Personal care products are simply the
lowest hanging fruit.

But people are already exposed to
nanoparticles. Stoves and toaster
ovens emit ultrafine particles of 2 to
30 nanometers, according to the Na-
tional Institute of Standards and Tech-
ology; the researchers reported
last month that long-term contact
with such appliances could constitute
a large exposure to the smallest of
nanomaterials.

Some ingredients may behave dif-
fently as nanoparticles than they do in
larger forms. Nano-sized silver, for
example, can act as an antibacterial
agent on the skin. Larger particles
of zinc oxide and titanium dioxide
result in white pasty sunscreens; but
as nanoparticles, they appear more
transparent.

When it comes to beauty products,
however, some consumer advocates
are concerned that dynamic nanopar-
ticles could pose risks to the skin or,
if they penetrate the skin, to other parts of the body. Mineral sunscreens have
attracted the most attention.

But cosmetics industry represen-
tatives said there was no evidence that
personal care products that contain
nano-size components constitute a
health hazard. Furthermore, no rig-
orous clinical trials have been pub-
lished showing that cosmetics with
nanocomponents caused health prob-
lems. A review of the potential risks of
nanomaterials, carried out for the Eu-
eropean Center for Toxicology in
2006, concluded that sunscreens with
metal nanoparticles were unlikely to
penetrate healthy skin, but it did raise
the question of whether safety studies
should examine if such materials may
penetrate damaged skin.

“It’s very difficult to get anything
through the skin,” said John Bailey,
the executive vice president for sci-
ce of the Personal Care Products
Council, an industry trade group in
Washington. “The skin is a very ef-
fective barrier.”

Indeed, some nanotechnology
researchers said it was illigal to
assume that a nano-size component
inherently carries greater risk than
a larger component. Furthermore,
some say cosmetics may contain materials like a silicone fluid called cyclopen-
tetasiloxane that are even smaller than
nanomaterials.

“I think it’s a double standard be-
cause nanoparticles are less likely
to go through the skin than solutions
where you are using single mol-
ecules,” said Robert S. Langer ScD ’74, a chemical engineering profes-
sor at the Massachusetts Institute of
Technology in Cambridge. He is
developing nanoparticles for the tar-
ged delivery of cancer medications,
and is a founder of Living Proof, a
cosmetics company that makes hair
products. “The molecules in a cream
are certainly going to be smaller than
a nanoparticle.”

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communication skills, and a commitment to MIT’s mission.
Selfridge, from Page 1

Selfridge Worked At Lincoln Labs, Wrote Books for Children

Selfridge, born in London on May 10, 1926, The family lost control of the business during the Depression and emigrated to the United States at the onset of World War II.

Selfridge attended Middlesex School in Concord, Mass., and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from which he graduated at 19 with a degree in mathematics. After service in the Navy, he embarked on graduate study at MIT under Norbert Weiner, the pioneering theorist of computer science. He became one of Weiner's collaborators but plunged into the working world of computer science before earning an advanced degree.

In the 1960s Selfridge was associate director for Project MAC, an early time-shared computing research project at MIT. He did much of this work at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, a federally financed research center for security technology. He then worked at Bolt, Beranek & Newman, now BBN Technologies, which develops computer and communications-related technology. In 1983 he became chief scientist for the telecommunications company GTE.

He began advising the nation's national security leaders in the 1950s, among other tasks serving on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Security Agency.

His first marriage, to Allison Gilman Selfridge, and his second, to Katherine Bull Selfridge, ended in divorce. Besides his companion, his survivors include their daughter, Olivia Selfridge Rissland of Belmont, three children from his first marriage, Peter Selfridge of Bethesda, Md.; Madley Selfridge of San Francisco, Calif.; and Caroline Selfridge of Saratoga, Calif.; a sister, Jennifer Selfridge MacLeod of Princeton Junction, N.J.; and six grandchildren.

Along with producing scholarly papers and technical books, Selfridge wrote "Fingers Come in Fives," "All About Mud," and "Trouble With Dragons," all books for children. At his death he was working on a series of books he hoped might one day become an arithmetic equivalent of summer reading projects for schoolchildren.

Selfridge never stopped thinking, speaking and writing on what he saw as the future of artificial intelligence.

"I want an agent that can learn and adapt as I might," he once told a meeting organized by IBM. Such an agent would "infer what I would want it to do, from the updated purposes it has learned from working for me," he went on, "and do as I want rather than the silly things I might say."
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Anuja Mahashabde G joins members of the MIT community in Tuesday’s candlelight vigil in Killian Court for those killed and wounded in the terror attacks in Mumbai, India.
By 2036, Tuition Will Consume 24 Percent of Family Budgets

College Costs, from Page 1

education. “When we come out of the recession,” Mr. Callan added, “we’re really going to be in jeopardy, because the educational gap between our work force and the rest of the world will make it very hard to be competitive. Already, we’re one of the few countries where 25-34-year-olds are less educated than older workers.”

Although college enrollment has continued to rise in recent years, Mr. Callan said, it is not clear how long that can continue. "The middle class has been draining it through debt," he said. "The scenario has been that families that have a history of sending kids to college will do whatever it takes, even if that means a huge amount of debt."

But low-income students, he said, will be less able to afford college. "Already, he said, the strains are clear."

The report, “Measuring Up 2008,” is one of the few to compare net college costs — that is, a year of tuition, fees, room and board, minus financial aid — against median family income. Those findings are stark. Last year, the net cost at a four-year private university amounted to 28 percent of the median family income, while a four-year private university cost 76 percent of the median family income.

Looking at total costs, as families must, he said, his group shared Mr. Callan’s concerns.

Mr. Shulenburger’s report suggested that public universities explore a variety of approaches to lowering costs — distance learning, better use of senior year in high school, perhaps even shortening college from four years.

“There’s an awful lot of experimentation going on right now, and that needs to go on,” he said. “If you teach a course by distance learning? Till we know the answer, it’s difficult to control costs in ways that don’t affect quality.”

Mr. Callan, for his part, urged a reversal in states’ approach to higher-education financing.

“When the economy is good, and state universities are somewhat better funded, we raise tuition as little as possible,” he said. “When the economy is bad, we raise tuition and sock it to families, when people can least afford it. That’s exactly the opposite of what we need.”

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December 5, 2008
THE TECH
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Boston Blazers Lacrosse Signs Veteran Forward Dan Dawson

By Michael Gerhardt

The Boston Blazers professional indoor lacrosse team announced the signing of Dan Dawson, a multi-talented, dynamic offensive player who consistently ranks among the top scorers in the National Lacrosse League. Dawson, measuring a full six feet, five inches, and weighing in at 225 pounds, comes to Boston with seven years of experience in the league and having earned a selection to the All-Pro First Team in two of those years. Last season, he played forward for the Portland LumberJax, scoring 38 goals and 43 assists en route to a Western Division title.

When asked about the Dawson signing, assistant coach Randy Fraser said very excited about Dawson and the upcoming season for the Blazers. “Having Dan is like having an extra coach on the floor.” Fraser said. He added that Dawson helps to improve the younger players around him, including forwards Matt Lyons and Brenden Thiemhaus, who work the right side of the offense with Dawson. Dawson also consistently improves his own game by learning from other players, said Fraser, and that he is truly a student of the game.

One of the challenges to starting an expansion team, according to Coach Fraser, is that there is no core group to build a team around. The Blazers coaches hope Dawson can provide a starting point from which a successful team can be built by adding players who work well together and have great team chemistry. For example, the Blazers drafted leftie forward Daryl Veltman in the first round, looking for an offensive threat to start opposing the right-handed Dawson. Players like Mitch Belisle, a former New York Titan from Cornell, and Paul Dawson, Dan’s younger brother, bolster the defense for Boston, and with the two goalies Mike Poulin and Mike Lyons are both looking strong in training camp.

After three weeks of training camp, Coach Fraser says preparations for the season opener against the New York Titans are going well. Practices are intense and competitive, with over 25 players vying for 18 spots on the dress list against the Titans. Fraser praises his team’s performance in practice, noting the high level of play and team chemistry the Blazers display.

On days off, Dawson and several other representatives from the Blazers have been promoting leadership and the game of lacrosse in several Boston area middle schools. Coach Fraser welcomes fans of the Blazers to keep an eye out for community appearances and to stop by and say hello. More information can be found online at the Blazers’ website, http://www.bostonlacrosse.com, including a schedule of community appearances under the Fan Zone link and online ticket purchasing for the 2008 season.

Sports

Franklin and Rubino Named ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans

MIT Football players Thomas J. Franklin ’09 and Alexander F. Rubino ’10 passed through a difficult and highly competitive selection process en route to ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America honors as recently announced by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). The selections boosted the football program's contingent to an Institute-best 27 accolades; MIT maintains its position as the all-time NCAA Division III leader with 151 honors since 1980.

As a four-year starter at tight end, Franklin developed into an outstanding blocker this season in his role as the all-time NCAA Division III leader with 151 honors since 1980.

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