The hearing is being held all day and the deliberations will continue into the evening.

The cancellation deadline for MIT Salisbury swimmer Sarah Masters is this Thursday, Feb. 28. Those wishing to waive the plan can visit web.mit.edu/medial/cal/p-waiver.html. Those who want to adhere to the plan can visit web.mit.edu/medial/cal/waiver.html.

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Pakistan Cuts Access To YouTube Worldwide
By Brad Stone
NEW YORK TIMES

YouTube was back up two hours after Pakistan, in an act of infor-
mation provocation, and incorrectly made the video-sharing site inac-
cessible to users around the world Sunday afternoon.

The move left software developers and Internet activists wondering on Monday how Pakistan’s actions, meant to restrict only its own citizens from accessing YouTube, could have such widespread repercussions — and whether the disruption could be replicated by someone with more malicious intent.

The ban began Friday, according to reports, when the Pakistani government of Pervaiz Musharraf became wary that a video clip at-
tacking Islam might generate widespread unrest among its Muslim population.

The government asked the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, which oversees the country’s Internet providers, to cut off access to YouTube for the country’s estimated 8.2 million Internet us-
ers.

That action is not unusual. China, Morocco and Turkey have all reacted to potentially risky material posted to YouTube by Blocking access to the site within their borders.

As part of its effort to block YouTube within the country, Pakistan Telecom created a dummy route that essentially discarded YouTube traffic, sending it into what Internet experts call a black hole.

Gates Pledges U.S. Help For Indonesian Military
By Mark Mazzetti
NEW YORK TIMES

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates pledged arms upgrades and other military support for Indonesia on Monday, as the Buddhist gov-
ernment offered closer ties to the military of a country still viewed skepti-
cally by some in Congress.

During a series of meetings in Jakarta, Gates tried to broaden the focus of American relations with Indonesia beyond the fight against terrorist networks, giving only passing mention to the threats they re-
present, during a speech before a group of foreign policy experts.

Instead, he emphasized the emergence of Indonesia as the “bed-
rock” of Southeast Asia and vowed that the United States would help to shore up the country’s aging military hardware. He was not specific in the types of upgrades he would approve, but Indonesian officials have, among other things, sought replacement parts for the fleet of C-130 cargo planes.

Russia Quietly Starts to Shift Its Oil Trade Into Rubles
By Andrew E. Kramer
NEW YORK TIMES

Although Russia has long been a big player in global oil markets, its access has largely been through exports of crude oil.

Joining the ranks of oil-exporting countries like Saudi Arabia, Russia has been quietly preparing to switch trading in Russian Ural Blend oil, the country’s primary export, to the ruble from the dollar, though the changeover is gradual, and officials and analysts acknowledged.

Still, the effort to squeeze the dollar out of Russian oil sales marks another step by Moscow to assert greater independence and ambition by the Kremlin, which has already wielded its energy wealth to assert influence in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics.

“They are serious,” Yaroslav Lissovolik, the chief economist at Deutsche Bank in Moscow, said.

Researchers Outline Sources Of Damage to Coral Reefs

Researchers who studied a string of coral reefs in the Marshall Islands, which are painting the first detailed picture of pristine coral reefs and how they can be disrupted by people — particularly, they said, by fishing.

The researchers, from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and elsewhere in the United States and abroad, surveyed every form of life last summer in the northern Line Is-
lands, a chain south of Hawaii. Their survey encompassed everything from microbes to sharks and other big fish at the top of the food chain.

“Reefs without people” were healthier than populated reefs, they say in a report to be posted Wednes-
day in the online Public Library of Science Biology. The ecosystems at Kingman and Palmyra, the northern-
most and least populated atolls, are dominated by large predators like sharks and groupers, and corals that are robust, they said, while Tabu-
aran and Kingman, south of the Line Islands, which are most populated atolls, are character-
ized by fleshy algae, small planktonic eating fish and degraded corals.

In a commentary also published online, Nancy Knowlton and Jer-
eny B.C. Jackson, coral experts at Scripps and the Smithsonian Institu-
tion, said the new work was notable because it produced data at sites “all full of fish in the summer impacts.”

Without this kind of data, they write, studying coral reefs is like trying to discern the ecological structure of the Amazon rain forest by looking at the cattle ranches and soybean fields that have replaced much of it.

Actually, they write, it is even worse. Scientists can still visit vast areas of intact rain forest and have decades of data from earlier re-
searchers. “The situation is very dif-
ficult for the oceans,” Knowlton and Jackson said. “There are very few places on earth that have not been affected by human activity, whether it’s pollution or overfishing or the physical destruction of coral reefs.”

Researchers conclude that awareness of the damage to coral reefs, and the importance of preserving them, is growing.

Researchers also concluded that for the reefs to make a comeback, and for the ecosystems to become healthier, efforts must be made to protect the corals.

Weather

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Pakistan Cuts Access To YouTube Worldwide

Old Man Winter Hangs On

By Garrett P. Marino

The snow that impacted the northeastern last Friday officially left 8.9 inches in the Boston area, nearly beating the previous daily record of 9.0 inches set in 1893. A liquid equivalent of 0.75 inches fell, which means that the average snowfall rate was 12.11/2 inches of snow to one inch of rain — fairly typical of snowstorms in this area. Although it may not seem like it, the storm pushed snowfall ratio was 1:1 (1 inches of snow to one inch of rain): fairly typical for February storms.

While the next storm will work, the big story is the wind and cold temperatures that will continue into Thursday. Highs in the mid 40°F (-2°C). Low is near 10°F (-12°C).

Weather Forecast

Today: Cloudy in the morning with showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 40°F (-2°C). Lows near 10°F (-12°C).

Extended Forecast

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy and breezy. Lows in the upper 30°F (-1°C).

Thursday: Sunny and cold. Highs in the mid 20°F (-4°C). Lows near 10°F (-12°C).

Researchers Outline Sources Of Damage to Coral Reefs

By Comelia Dean

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Survey Finds American Religious Life Fluid and Diverse

By Neela Banerjee

More than a quarter of Americans have left the faith of their childhood to join another religion or profess no religion at all, according to a new study of religious affiliation by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

In a study released today, the forum reports that 16 percent of the population — or 50.5 million adults — have left the faith of their childhood and now have no religious affiliation. The report also states that 34 percent of those who left their childhood religion have become unaffiliated, while 14 percent have switched to another religion.

The report also notes that the net loss of adherents to a particular religion has been largely offset by an equal net gain of people active in another religion, suggesting a fluid and diverse national religious landscape.

The study, which is based on data from the General Social Survey, a large-scale national study conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, was conducted between May and August 2008.

The report finds that the unaffiliated are the largest religious group in the United States, with 22 percent of the population identifying themselves as unaffiliated. This group has grown by 2.6 million since 2005.

The study also notes that the proportion of people who identify with a particular religion has remained relatively stable over the past decade, with the exception of the Catholic Church, which has lost 3 million members since 2005.

The study also finds that the proportion of people who identify as evangelical Protestants has declined by 1 million since 2005, while the proportion of people who identify as liberal Protestants has increased by 1 million.

The study notes that the proportion of people who identify as Jewish has declined by 1 million since 2005, while the proportion of people who identify as Muslim has increased by 1 million.

The study also finds that the proportion of people who identify as atheist or agnostic has increased by 1 million since 2005.

The study notes that the proportion of people who identify as Jehovah's Witness has declined by 1 million since 2005, while the proportion of people who identify as Hindu has increased by 1 million.

The study also finds that the proportion of people who identify as Buddhist has increased by 1 million since 2005, while the proportion of people who identify as Sikh has increased by 1 million.

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Is the NFL Smarter Than the Ivy League?  

If I were to say that the NFL’s governing body is a bunch of brutes who administrate our nation’s wealthiest universities, would you believe me? I may look in wonder at the nature of the statement, asking themselves “How could a handful of individuals in the NFL be so shortsighted that are responsible for educating our nation’s brightest minds? The answer is simple: they do not understand that their own success depends on the success of the group.  

Let me preface by saying that team owners overwhelmingly pushed a new revenue sharing plan that would avoid the financial leak between small and large market teams. The owners agreed to take a financial hit because they know the future of the league is based upon the economic value of each and every team. I wonder how long it will take for college administrators to come to the same realization.  

We are in a time where the billion-dollar enrollments of a handful of universities greatly outpace the expenses by twenty percent per year, while the majority of colleges have enrollments below $10 million. Just look at the $5.7 billion growth in just Harvard’s endowment last year. To most sports analysts, this is a pretty respectable sum, but when only a portion of this growth is spent each year, it leaves many institutions strapped for cash when it comes time to update buildings, give financial aid, and all the other services to their students. These schools — and more importantly their students — would benefit greatly from just a small influx of money; money that is accumulating in the accounts of a few wealthiest universities.  

Our nation’s wealthiest universities need to come to the same realization as the NFL owners: that they cannot succeed on their own. It is time for the recent focus on endow-

ment spending by Congress, now is the perfect time to offset the growing gap between college enrollments. By sharing a portion of investment earnings — not touching the endowment itself — wealthy universities can curb government speculation and improve the quality of education across the nation.  

Schools that are short on cash would be able to improve financial aid and their degree programs. What do these schools stand to lose? Just a few percentage points from their annual budget, which that primary goes back into the endowment and not to the students that could benefit from it. These schools claim to stand for education, yet they continue to increase tuition and limit spending, all just to relax their balance sheets.  

Drew K. Cameron '10

Financial Aid Leaves Out Middle Class  

Alison McKenzie  

The article on the Senate requesting MIT’s information on endowment touting on Friday, Feb 22 makes things sound reasonable enough, a few glossing over some of the facts underlying MIT’s financial aid policies.  

Now, I come from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My family is its own average. In this time of life, MIT estimated that my parents could give at most $10,000 towards my education. However, it seems to me that this estimate neglects a number of things — our mortgage, for instance. And the car repair bills, and the fact that I have two young siblings. The truth of the matter is, my parents can’t afford to put money towards my education. It’s not that they have no money to consider or their extraneous, their own debts and bills to pay or anything. It’s about my family. I am an adult, capable of caring for myself. It’s not their responsibility to pay for my education. So why does the Web site seem to see it as such? MIT’s financial aid Web site proudly claims “We meet every student’s full financial need.” But one should examine more in depth how that need is determined. Need is based almost entirely upon your family’s income. This means that the majority of other financial factors — such as debts, mortgages, and retirement funds — are essentially ignored.  

It’s virtually impossible to decrease your parent’s contribution. It seems the only way MIT will lower your expected contribution is if you can provide evidence of either actual or potential disability at home. If you can’t provide satisfactory evidence, your financial aid estimate stays the same. And your parents removing you from you completely (i.e., refuse to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid) mean that MIT will update their previous estimates and continue to apply it until you leave MIT.  

Transferring family completely withdrawing support from you, but you have no evidence of actual abuse, you will be left with a financial aid estimate that acts as if your financial relations were still entirely intact. MIT’s financial aid policy, as I have been told emphatically, isn’t based on “if your parents are willing to pay”, but “if they can pay.” This is an absurd way of saying “if your parents aren’t supporting you, there isn’t anything we’re going to do about it, you’re pretty much out of luck.” Which means that students like me — whose families have a decent income but virtually no expendable money — are left in the cold.  

MIT might not be as wealthy, but Harvard University’s new policy is extremely reasonable. The Web site states that families with an income between $120,000 and $180,000 are expected to contribute 10% of their income versus the approximately 20% that MIT has estimated my family can contribute.  

Even taking into account the difference between MIT and Harvard’s endowments, such a variance seems ridiculous. As far as I’m aware, there is only one way to be able to move forward into my future without having to worry about paying off my past. My parents shouldn’t have to be responsible for me or my education. MIT might be feeling pressure from the Senate regarding their financial aid policies, and I say that they ought to be feeling it. The cost of education is absurd enough without roundabout financial aid policies that leave low-income students with negligible debt. While middle class students wonder whether or not they’ll ever be able to pay off their debts. It’s great that MIT can provide for low-income families, don’t think that I have an issue with MIT providing help to those who need it. However, middle-income students have just as much right to be at MIT as anyone else, and I think that MIT should seriously consider up-grading their aid process.  

While the Executive Director of Student Financial Services Elizabeth Hicks noted that average student loan debt has decreased from $23,000 to $15,000, one should know that $15,000 is not the end-all-be-all amount that students will have to borrow. I’m looking at parents who are making $40,000 a year and graduating from school — if I scrim, save, and just get by, I’m not going to be able to pay off my student loans. I am not being helped as ideally as MIT’s financial aid Web site would like you to believe.  

I know I’m not the only middle-income student struggling to figure out how to pay the bills, but I’m hoping that even if MIT isn’t as rich as Harvard or Yale, they can still recognize that the cost of education is getting out of control. Something needs to be done for everyone — including the middle class. Still, I’m not convinced that the Web site is not refusing to acknowledge that maybe Harvard has done something right for once.  

Alison McKenzie is a member of the Class of 2011.
By Michael T. Lin

I returned to the United States with a pen- chart for tea. On late Buenos Aires afternoons, I’d join my family for mate, an Argentinian drink made from a helely-like herb. Each mem- ber of the house would take turns drinking the hot water infused with herbs from a hollowed gourd, a metal straw, and a teapot. From classes in Bangalore, my host mother would ask me if I’d like “to take tea” and would proceed to create her chai masala concoction of tea, milk, and spoonfuls of sugar. In Beijing and Shangahi, my hosts would serve tea after meals. While waiting for the tea to brew, they’d dose the cups with hot water to pre-heat, pre-heat, and pre-steam them. Throughout our house long conversations, they’d graciously pour and re-fill my mini teacup with fresh tea.

Now I’m back at MIT, and I brew tea bags in the middle of the night, typically in the company of a problem set and experimental music playing from iTunes. Some of the trip’s aspects that made the largest impact on me, surpris- ingly, weren’t related to academics. They’re not things I thought I’d learn in my study of cities. Rather, the trip greatly impacted how I think about, observe, and understand things that are, well, big.

The scope of realities is bigger than I knew. Global cities like Bangalore and Shanghai contain simultaneously occurring multiple worlds. I think that experiencing this dichot- ony first hand has encouraged me to look beyond the immediate. Very few things are as big as they seem. Since I enjoyed Indian tea so much, I had to visit the beautiful tea plantations of Munnar during my journey.

February 26, 2008

By Diana Jue

Since I enjoyed Indian tea so much, I had to visit the beautiful tea plantations of Munnar during my journey.

The End of Poverty
By Jeffrey Sachs

I do not consider myself a fan of chick flicks. I got excited over the “Iron Man” trailer and enjoy watching action films, with or without River Phoenix. The closest I’ve ever come to a “notebook,” a fact to which I continue to cling is to annoyance that I still possess a medium of my own (well, maybe not quite a medium, more like an unabashedly renaissance man). I still believe that “Titanic” and “Titanic” deserved the unprecedented box office, although the fact that I thought “As Good As It Gets” should’ve won instead, doesn’t do much for my case.

On the flip side, I’m not exactly what you might call “tino,” either. I paid money for the “Music and Lyrics” soundtrack, and the pres- ence of Hugh Grant alone seems to classify the movie as a chick flick. I really liked the movie “Frida,” although I mostly watched it to gauge Nathan Fillions’ acting when occupying a role that didn’t require him to wear tight pants. I even cried a lit- tle when I saw “Mou- lin Rouge,” although I suppose a movie with as many women-danc- ing on a shaky elevated platform for the Number 1 train. While I was describing my friends at MIT, I said, “Yeah, he’s majoring in electrical engineering and computer science. He’s really smart.” Then Grace stepped in and asked, “Do you ruin your friends by telling their intelligence?”

I decided that chick flicks officially fall among the “Iron Man” trailer and enjoy watching action films, with or without River Phoenix. The closest I’ve ever come to a “notebook,” a fact to which I continue to cling is to annoyance that I still possess a medium of my own (well, maybe not quite a medium, more like an unabashedly renaissance man). I still believe that “Titanic” and “Titanic” deserved the unprecedented box office, although the fact that I thought “As Good As It Gets” should’ve won instead, doesn’t do much for my case.

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Kibaki’s close opponent, accused Kibaki of ban was placed on live TV broadcasts as sup On the last day of 2007, riots broke out and a the Kikuyu tribe) into office. Or so we thought. country’s unfortunate transformation to me.” lives destroyed. A particular photograph of riot election violence, I’m personally torn apart Now why does that matter to us? It is under- standable that it doesn’t as Kenya is an ocean But what if it had? Herman also provided a unique perspec- tive about the situation which he experienced find himself into their every day lives. He worked with them, ate with them, joked around with them, and shared stories with them. I was only there for a week, but even during that short time, I was able to connect with them and feel a bond of camaraderie. Our new friends loved tea time, offering us more and more of the deli- cious (and very sugary) tea and taking delight in the peanut butter and banana sandwiches Mario introduced them to.

Through words that were stable while Mario was in Kenya, the nation is now plagued by violence stemming from the December presi- dential election. When asked about the effect of the current political situation, Mario re- sponded, “Having been to many of the places in Kenya recently, we are being torn apart by the post-election violence, I’m personally torn apart by memories of a much different Kenya and the horror of seeing many friends’ homes and lives destroyed. A particular photograph of riot police beating protesters at the bus stop that I communed through daily really conveyed the country’s unfortunate transformation to me.”

On December 27, Kenyan voters re-elected President Mwai Kibaki (mainly supported by the Kikuyu tribe) into office. Or so we thought. On the last day of 2007, riots broke out and a half-a-mile placed our 2V broadcasts as sup- ports (mainly the Luo tribe of Raila Odinga, Kibaki’s close opponent, accused Kibaki of rigging the elections. Many Kenyans, includ- ing some of our friends, had unexpectedly mur- der, genocide, political unrest, and displacement from homes to start their new year. The slum communities and less-privileged regions suffered significantly. While much of the upper and middle classes in Kenya were directly affected, they experienced effects of the con- test. For example, Herman M. Muteba ’09, an MIT international student that lived in Kenya for the first 18 years of his life, moved to the states in late August 2006 to start school. He was home from December 25 to January 9 and while he was not directly affected by the vio- lence, he says, “I was forced to stay at home for days on end, as were lots of other Kenyans, given the fear of getting caught up in an im- promtu riot, or of having to explain oneself to police who, out of a desperation to restore or- der, became increasingly aggressive. Consider- ing that the whole point of my trip to Kenya was to see friends and family, the fact that a few prominent political figures were holding the country at ransom really upset me.”

Now why does that matter to us? It is under- standable that it doesn’t as Kenya is an ocean away, yet close to your heart.

By Christina Kang  

Did you know that the Museum of Science hosts rehearsal dinners, weddings, post-wedding brunches, and more? With endless entertainment options, spectacular views of the Boston skyline, and the unparalleled cuisine and impeccable service of Wolfgang Puck Catering, the Museum of Science is a delightfully unique setting able to accommodate the fresh and the unusual.

For more information, contact Sarah Pike at 617-589-0191 or spike@mos.org. 

Museum of Science. 

Wolfgang Puck catering.

Through My Eyes  
An Ocean Away, Yet Close to Your Heart  

Mario A. Bollini ’09 travelled to Nairobi, Kenya this past summer after taking 6166, a class on Wheelchair Design in Developing Countries taught by Amos G. Winter G and Amy Smith, senior lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Mario worked with The Association for the Physically Dis- abled of Kenya (APDK) to test and implement a new design for hand-powered tricycles. How- ever, Mario’s experience in Kenya went be- yond mechanical engineering. Mario worked closely with the technicians in the wheelchair workshop, the physically disabled individuals that came for a tricycle, and the administra- tive staff running the organization. Observing their interactions, Mario had really integrated himself into their every day lives. He worked with them, ate with them, joked around with them, and shared stories with them. I was only there for a week, but even during that short time, I was able to connect with them and feel a bond of camaraderie. Our new friends loved tea time, offering us more and more of the deli- cious (and very sugary) tea and taking delight in the peanut butter and banana sandwiches Mario introduced them to.

Though things were stable while Mario was in Kenya, the nation is now plagued by violence stemming from the December presi- dential election. When asked about the effect of the current political situation, Mario re- sponded, “Having been to many of the places in Kenya recently, we are being torn apart by the post-election violence, I’m personally torn apart by memories of a much different Kenya and the horror of seeing many friends’ homes and lives destroyed. A particular photograph of riot police beating protesters at the bus stop that I communed through daily really conveyed the country’s unfortunate transformation to me.”

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HUNGER
SUFFERING
POVERTY
INJUSTICE
INEQUALITY
PSETS

? = A GOOD GOD

How could a good God allow suffering?

Dr. TIM KELLER, Author and Speaker

TODAY
7 PM in 26-100

Tim Keller, Speaker
Founder, Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Author, The Reason for God
Bexxxxley Roxxx Saturday Night

The Bexxley Roxxx Some More concert, which happened Saturday night in the basement of Bexley Hall, featured a number of MIT student bands. The concert led off with KC Quilty, which was followed by The Lemon Squares, The Johnson/Fleder Sub-Trio and the carrie okie band (aka Fortran). The Peaches capped the concert with an encore performance.

(clockwise from above)

Guest bass guitarist Jack Murphy '10 (left) and drummer Michael S. Fleder '08 glance at each other during the performance by the Johnson/Fleder Sub-Trio, which featured Murphy and DJ Shiftee.

Jon “Okie” Williams ’07 of the carrie okie band (aka Fortran) plays the drums with a “Hello, World” program, written in the Fortran 77 programming language, on his chest.

William R. Bosworth ’08 sings while playing lead guitar for The Peaches during an encore performance.

Jonathan S. Krones ’07 plucks the strings of his bass guitar during The Peaches’ set.

DJ Shiftee (Sam Zornow of Harvard University, left) plays a beat as Collin E. Johnson G takes a break from playing the saxophone.

Carrie A. McDonough ’08 plays lead guitar between verses during the performance by the carrie okie band (aka Fortran).

Photography by Omari Stephens
A Cappella Groups Find Recording Time Elsewhere

Michael R. Miller ‘09 (right) and Michael E. Lee ‘09 work on recording the Logs’ new CD on Saturday in the studio in order to meet the deadline for the CD.

Michael R. Miller ‘09 (right) and Michael E. Lee ‘09 work on recording the Logs’ new CD on Saturday in the studio in order to meet the deadline for the CD.
February 26, 2008

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution on page 12.

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

Remember, this is how Blobbles works: you send me a caption, and I make a drawing out of it. blobbles@mit.edu

The Daily Blunderbuss by Ben Peters

The Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1  Motion measure
6  Necklace fastener
10  Ostentatious display
14  Fashionably nostalgic
15  Actor Morales
16  Sixth Hebrew month
17  Street talk
18  Occupy completely
19  Mezzo-soprano Stevens
21  __! ho!
22  Monk's title
25  Enclosed channels
26  Not together
27  First generation 31 Corporate shark
35  News org.
36  Tinkers to __ to
38  Ward of "The Fugitive"
39  High homes?
43  Relative diagram
44  Nixon's Agnew
46  Wading birds
49  Paris summers
50  That girl
51  Agatha's contemporary
52  Overact
53  Appropriate
55  High hopes
56  Iridescent gem
57  FDR's pooch
58  Ram
59  Marriage vows
60  W. def. grp.
61  Create yarn
62  Colorful fish
63  Glamorous
64  Ensnared
65  Gentle pace
66  __ Alto, CA
67  Bologna night
68  Bandleader Shaw
69  Verve
70  "Subway Series" team
71  Sierra __

DOWN
1  Yrbk. section
2  Ill-gotten gains
3  List enemy
4  "Cheers" bartender
5  Amateurish verse
6  Try out for weight
7  With defects and all
8  Beauty spot?
9  Swipe
10  Utopia
11  Host of Valhalla
12  Ferm.'s opp.
13  Quarry
14  __ _'s hit
15  Monk's title
16  __ Alto, CA
17  Bologna night
18  Bandleader Shaw
19  Verve
20  Not together
21  First generation 31 Corporate shark
22  Monk's title
23  __ Alto, CA
24  Bologna night
25  Bandleader Shaw
26  Verve
27  Not together
28  __! ho!
29  Mezzo-soprano Stevens
30  Howard Stern
31  Enclosed channels
32  __ _'s hit
33  Breed bad mood
34  More scarce
35  Agatha's contemporary
36  __ _'s hit
37  Brief bad mood
38  __ _'s hit
39  "Subway Series" team
40  __ _'s hit
41  Pick up the tab
42  Medical facility
43  __ _'s hit
44  __ _'s hit
45  Pick up the tab
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71  __ _'s hit

Solution, tips, and computer program at http://www.sudoku.com
Reconsidering Winter
by Letitia Li

Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert®
by Scott Adams

Wanna see your comic in The Tech? E-mail your comic to cl@tech.mit.edu and you could see it here.
People Illogically Keep Options Open, Says MIT Professor Ariely

By John Tierney
From New York Times

The next time you're juggling options which friend to see, which house to buy, which career to pursue — try asking yourself this question: What would Xiang Yu do?

Xiang was a Chinese general in the third century B.C. who took his troops across the Yangtze River into enemy territory and performed an experiment in decision-making. He crushed his troops' cooking pots and burned their ships.

He explained this was to focus them on moving forward — a motivation that was not appreciated by many of the soldiers watching their retreat option go up in flames. But Xiang would be vindicated, both on the battlefield and in the annals of social science research.

He is one of the role models in Dan Ariely's new book, "Predictably Irrational," an entertaining look at human foibles like the penchant for keeping too many options open. Xiang was a rare exception to the norm, a warrior who conquered by being unpredictably rational.

Most people can't make such a painful choice, not even the students at a bastion of rationality like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where Ariely is a professor of behavioral economics. In a series of experiments, hundreds of students could not bear to let their options vanish, even though it was obviously a dumb strategy (and they weren't even asked to burn anything).

The experiments involved a game that eliminated the option we usually have for refusing to let go. In the real world, we can always tell ourselves that it's good to keep options open.

You don't even know how a camera's burst-mode flash works, but you persuade yourself to pay for the extra feature just in case. You no longer have anything in common with some- one who keeps calling you, but you hate to just zap the relationship.

Your child is exhausted from afterschool soccer, ballet and Chinese lessons, but you won't let her drop the piano lessons. They could come in handy! And who knows? Maybe they will.

In the MIT experiments, the students should have known better. They played a computer game that paid real cash to look for money behind three doors on the screen. (You can play it yourself, without pay, at www.tierneylabblogs.nymtes.com.) After they opened a door by clicking on it, each subsequent click earned a little money, with the sum varying each time.

As each player went through the 100 allotted clicks, he could switch rooms to search for higher payoffs, but each switch used up a click to open the new door. The best strategy was to quickly check out the three rooms and settle on the one with the highest rewards.

Even after students got the hang of the game by practicing it, they were flummoxed when a new visual feature was introduced. If they stayed out of any room, its door would start shrinking and eventually disappear.

They should have ignored those disappearing doors, but the students couldn't. They wasted so many clicks rushing back to reopen doors that their earnings dropped 15 percent. Even when the penalties for switching grew stiffer — besides losing a click, the players earned less cash for the students kept losing money by frantically keeping all their doors open.

Why were they so attached to those doors? The players, like the parents of that oversized soccer player, would probably say they were just trying to keep future options open. But that's not the real reason, according to Ariely and his collaborator in the experiments, Draugn Duan, an economist who is now at Yale.

They plumbed the players' motivations by introducing yet another twist. This time, even if a door vanished from the screen, the players could make it reappear whenever they wanted. But even when they knew it would not cost anything to make the door reappear, they still kept frantically trying to prevent doors from vanishing.

Apparently they did not care so much about maintaining flexibility in the future. What really motivated them was the desire to avoid the immediate pain of watching a door close.

Closing a door on an option is experienced as a loss, and people are willing to pay a price to avoid the emotion of loss," Ariely says. In the experiment, the price was easy to measure in lost cash. In life, the costs are less obvious — wasted time, missed opportunities. If you are afraid to drop any project at the office, you pay for it at home.

"We may work more hours at our jobs," Ariely writes in his book, "without realizing that the childhood of our sons and daughters is slipping away. Sometimes these doors close too slowly for us to see them vanishing."

Solution to Crossword

     COMPARATIVE MEDIA

     SOLUTION FAIR 2008

     Thursday, February 28 5-7 PM
     Stata Center TSIMC Lobby and 32-155
     http://cns.mit.edu

     Royal Bengal
     Boston's only authentic Bengali Cuisine restaurant

     Open Daily Except Monday
     11:30 am — 11:30 pm
     Lunch Buffet $7.95
     Reasonably Priced Dinners

     Unique Bengali fish dishes include:
     Paalodh moochar holec, Ru moochar kalia,
     Mucher ghanto, Shorshe Ilish

     Take-out, platters, and catering available. Delivery with minimum order. 10% Discount on $15 (or more) order with MIT ID.
     http://www.royalbengalrestaurant.com

     Drexel InterView

     February 27 and 29 at 7 p.m.
     Cambridge Community Television, channel 10

     The Drexel InterView is a broad cross-section of influential artists, innovators and public figures. Produced by Drexel University and hosted by Paula Maranto Cohen, cultural critic, novelist and Distinguished Professor of English at Drexel.
     Drexel University www.drexel.edu Live It™

     Try solving the Crossword and Sudoku on the back page!
The CCR currently occupies space in Buildings E17 and E18, according to Gibson. "We haven’t decided what E17 and E18 will be used for" after the CCR moves into the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, Gibson said.

$100 million of the $240 million needed for the construction of the building will be provided by David Koch ’62. “Koch has a long-standing interest in biomedical research,” Gibson said.

Gibson said that there were regular meetings with faculty during the planning and design of the building. “We started meeting with the architects [Ellenzweig] in December 2006,” Gibson said. Ellenzweig, a local architecture firm, designed the Tang Auditorium in 1992 and renovated Buildings 16 and 56 in the late 90’s.

The parking lot currently located on the construction site will stay open until Apr. 1, according to May. “That parking lot is no longer going to exist,” and will be replaced by parking space in the new Sloan building, Gibson said. Gibson said that people who park at the proposed site have started using the parking lots in the basement of Stata.

The food trucks on the proposed location will be moved at the end of March to Carlton Street, next to the MIT Medical building, according to Gibson.

political obstacles and is unlikely to be adopted this year. But the debate over it has set off a fierce lobbying war.

The commission has been considering complaints made by Vuze, BitTorrent and several consumer groups that Comcast has violated a policy statement issued by the commission in 2005 that permits Internet service providers to engage in “reasonable network management.” The term has become a focal point in the revived debate over what is called network neutrality.

In his written testimony, David L. Cohen, an executive vice president of Comcast, told the commissioners that the growing popularity of peer-to-peer applications was straining the network. “Independent research has shown that it takes as few as 15 active BitTorrent users uploading content in a particular geographic area to create congestion sufficient to degrade the experience of the hundreds of other users in that area,” Cohen said. “Bandwidth-intensive activities not only degrade other less-intense uses, but also significantly interfere with thousands of Internet companies’ businesses.”

"Far from managing our network in a discriminatory way to benefit our own offerings — other than managing our network to make our high-speed Internet service faster and better — our limited network management practices ensure that everyone else’s applications and services, even those that may compete with our services and use P2P protocols, work,” Cohen said.

But Markey expressed concerns about Comcast’s practice, warning of “the transformation of BitTorrent into bit trickle.”

Building Will House Researchers, Center For Cancer Research

Guff Rhys leads Welsh psychedelic rock band Super Furry Animals during their performance at the Paradise Rock Club in Boston this past Saturday.
## Scoreboard

- **Women's Basketball**
  - Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008
    - MIT (12-13, 4-9 NEWMAC)
    - Worcester Polytechnic Institute (14-9, 9-4 NEWMAC)
  - Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008
    - MIT (6-4)
    - Springfield College (6-8)

- **Men's Gymnastics**
  - Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008
    - MIT (225.6) vs. College of William and Mary (191.6)
  - Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008
    - New England Division III Championships
      - MIT (1-1)

- **Men's Track**
  - Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008
    - Vassar College (3-6)
  - Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008
    - New England Division III Championships
      - MIT (3rd of 25)

- **Women's Swimming and Diving**
  - Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008
    - New England Division III Championships
      - MIT (2nd of 10)
  - Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008
    - NEWMAC Championships
      - MIT (3rd of 7)

## Track, from Page 16

### Men's Track

- **Morton Leads Tech as Engineers Edged by Williams**

M. Finn '09 and Jennifer A. Doyle '09 placed in the top 20, while Anna M. Holt-Gosselin '11, Hana L. Adair '08, and Lauren L. McCarthy '08 made the top 20 at the 3000-meter run to represent MIT well in the distance events.

Bradshaw, Bolger, Voldhus and Wentz then teamed up for a fourth place finish in the 4x400-meter relay, just off of another record-setting relay. The relay cemented MIT's overall third place finish, behind Tufts University and Williams College.

### Men Place Third

The men's track and field team outperformed their seed points over the weekend, with many great efforts and personal bests. Based on seed times and marks from throughout the season, the team was expected to take third but Williams College and Tufts University, MIT's biggest rivals, also had a great weekend. The men were seeded only a little bit behind MIT. MIT's performance was not good enough to move up in the standings though, as Tufts captured their first place at their home track, with Williams grabbing second place.

MIT's lone entrant in the pentathlon on Friday was Nicholas W. Leonard '08, who set personal bests in four of the five events en route to an 11th place finish. Several members of the team made out to cheer him on, and that great team support would continue throughout the weekend.

The pole vaultersuipped on Saturday with some great performances. Omari Stephens '08 won the event with a vault of 14'11", while fellow senior Patrick R. Shawgaran '08 cleared a personal best 13' 11.25" good for sixth place. Greg D. '10 took out the scoring places with a vault of 13'3.25". In the shot put, James R. Oakey '09 threw a season best of 48'1.75" to capture fourth place, even though he had been seeded fifth.

Stephen A. Morton '10 had an impressive day at the meet, winning two events, taking second in another, and running the final leg of the fourth place 4x800-meter relay. Seeded first in the long jump, Morton traded in second place for most of the event until his final jump, when he flew 22'7.75" for the win. He won the triple jump once again on his last jump, setting a personal best 47'4.75". In the 200-meter dash, after winning his heat in the trials and earning a spot in the fast section of the finals, he ran a flat-track best of 22.41 seconds for second place.

Morton was not only the MIT jumper who had a great day on Saturday, co-captain Anthony D. Terciexa '08 had a great jump of 22'2" to take seventh in the long jump, improving on his sixth place finish in the triple jump. In the triple jump, Terciexa again grabbed seventh place with a distance of 45'5.25", followed by teammate Mattias S. Flander '11, who jumped 43'5.3". Terciexa capped off a great day with a fourth place performance in the 55-meter hurdles. His time of 7.87 seconds cracked the top ten-all time list for MIT.

On the track, the runners put in some great performances. Steven W. Oney '08 led off the scoring with an eighth place finish in the 400-meter run, a flat-track personal best. Meanwhile, John A. Granata '11 tried hard to make a move on the final lap of the 400-meter, but could not get around the leaders. Nevertheless, he placed fifth with a personal best 1:22.91, bowing his sixth place finish. William S. Phipps '10 ran a great race in the 800-meter with a time of 1:57.13.

Jeremiah "Y ermie" R. Cohen '09 had one of the toughest performances of the day in the mile race, where he had one of the toughest performances of the day. He was out-kicked by the leaders. Nevertheless, he placed 15th with a personal best of 4:08.47.

In the 1600-meter relay, Morton handed off in fifth place to start off the second leg, followed by Oakey from his long jump. Oakey and Matthew F. Bieniek '09 followed him with solid legs before handing off to Granata for the anchor. Granata ran a solid 50.3-second anchor leg to bring MIT to fourth place in 3:25.61.

The 3200-meter relay was the final event of the day. By this point, Tufts University had locked up the win, but MIT trained Williams College. MIT took the third spot for one second behind David N. Reshof '08 led off for MIT with a solid leg, handing off right with the Williams runners. Richard J. Prevost '11 ran a great second leg, doing enough showing for Peter J. Mulligan '08 and Philipps. The event was intense, with Williams runners jumping ahead of the MIT runners at the mid- and three-quarter marks. However, the Williams relay team pulled away to an easy victory ahead of MIT's fifth place finish of 7:58.78.

The next race was the 5000-meter relay. Christopher Wong '09 ran a smart race, staying back in the pack before grabbing the lead with less than 800 meters to go. With his characteristic, finishing kick, he held onto second place in 15:08.39, a personal best. Also securing a personal best was a great man with a Wear, Brian J. McCloskey '08, who ran 15:13.48 for seventh place.

The final events on the track were the relays. Four freshman (Kevin G. Kleinguetl, Nicholas W. Leonard, Shawn S. Conurad, Paul D. Welly) composed MIT's distance medley relay team. Kleinguetl, who also ran the 1000-meter, led off the 1200-meter leg in 3:31.3, trailing the leaders a few places back. Leonard and Conurad kept it close, handing off to Welly, who had the 1600-meter anchor leg. He went out hard and closed the gap, but could not keep up his fast pace, coming in 3:40.29, only holding on for third place overall.

They 10.29.65 finish was a freshman record, and would have won the event last year.

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The Tech's Athlete of the Week: Glenn J. Geesan '09

Glenn J. Geesan '09 qualified for the Division III national tournament after bringing down the house with five pins to win the New England College Wrestling Association heavyweight championship this past weekend. After delivering a 6-1 performance in the 245-pound weight class, including five wins by fall that give him 21 pins for the season, Geesan will take his nationwide status to Cedar Rapids, Iowa in two weeks. Geesan's tenacious ranks in the top three in the country in pins in all divisions, while sporting an impressive 31-5 record.

Geesan's title makes him the first New England champion from MIT in 13 years, while his trip to the national tournament will be the first for an Engineer wrestler since Gregory T. Walker '03 qualified in 2002. With five pins in a total time of 16:46, Geesan earned recognition for most falls in least time.

Overall, MIT 28 pins, finished 12th out of 15 teams at the conference meet hosted by the University of Southern Maine. Rhode Island College won the event with a score of 121.

—Jeff Lemieux, DAPER Staff

SPORTS

Engineers Finish Third at New England Div. III Championships

By Peter J. Mulligan

The men's and women's track and field team came through across the board at the New England Division III indoor championship. After the conclusion of the meet, the women's team placed fourth in the championship, but the Williams runner held his lead to the finish line. MIT placed third with 3rd place for the third time in their illustrious career en route to First Team All-Conference honors. Competing in her final NEWMAC Championships, Holbrook's score of 517.45 surpassed her own NEWMAC Open, Championship and Institute record of 513.65, at last year's Championships.

Additionally, both Brophy (24.16 seconds) and Jacobs (24.24 seconds) earned NCAA "B" cuts for the 50-yard freestyle with their splits. Jacobs bested the "B" cut time in the 50-yard freestyle for a second time later in the evening, as she touched the wall in 24.30 to earn a ticket for the fifth-place preliminary with Wellesley College's Swain Johnson. In the 200-yard individual medley, Abigail M. Clark '09 and Jenifer A. Chao '09 placed fifth in the prelims, and sixth, respectively, to pull in a combined 27 points for the Engineers.

The area clocked in at 1:38.59, pulling in 14 points and Second Team All-Conference plaudits, while missing out on both the Institute record and a first-place finish by less than two-tenths of a second.

With MIT and Springfield College separated by a mere 4.5 points heading into the final event of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, the Engineers' women's swimming and diving championships on Sunday night, both teams knew the start of the 400-yard freestyle relay that a first-place finish would almost guarantee victory. A mere 3.34.81 later, Springfield's Moira Price touched the wall first, beating out MIT's top team by just over two seconds to give Springfield its eighth consecutive NEWMAC title.

Springfield closed the championships with 707.5 points, edging the Engineers who scored 701 points in the event, losing in a photo finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay that a first-place finish would almost guarantee victory. A mere 3.34.81 later, Springfield's Moira Price touched the wall first, beating out MIT's top team by just over two seconds to give Springfield its eighth consecutive NEWMAC title.

The Engineers continued to accumulate points in the running events. Leanne M. Veldhuis '08 broke a four year old school record in the 600- meter run to take fourth in the event with a time of 1:00.01. Adienne M. Bolger '09 completed the Engineer's final record performance of the day, finishing the 1000-meter run in 2:59.03 to take second. Jacqueline M. Wente '10 brought in an 8th place finish in the mile run.

A key roast performance of the meet came from Hazel L. Briner '11, who finished fifth in the pentathlon. Of the five events, Briner won the 200-meter dash with a career-best, NCAA automatic qualifying time of 2:16.40.

The junior sensation ranks in the top three in the country in pins in all divisions, while sporting an impressive 31-5 record.

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