

Amnesty International Organizes Iran Forum

By Ziwei Hao
STAFF REPORTER

Reacting to recent violence against peaceful demonstrators in Iran, many MIT students have expressed their disapproval at the Iranian government — they have taken action in supporting the Iranians' right to free speech and are mourning those who were killed.

Students made a photo display of injured protestors in Lobby 10; they attended a rally in Copley Square, and participated in MIT guest lectures; these were only a few of the

ways students expressed their concern and condolences.

On the evening of June 23, the MIT chapter of Amnesty International, the MIT Lecture Series Committee, and the Social Justice Cooperative sponsored a discussion in Kresge Auditorium about the violence towards protesters, with an emphasis on human rights. Open to the public, the panel was attended by almost 400 people, including MIT students, faculty, local resi-

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MONICA GALLEGOS—THE TECH

After attending the Amnesty International event on Human rights and the Iran protests, guests gathered across Massachusetts Ave. in front of the Lobby 7 on Tuesday, June 23 to participate in a silent, candlelight vigil. The vigil was in remembrance of Neda Agha-Soltan, a victim of election protest violence in Iran.

Students Line the Charles For Independence Day Celebration



BIYEUN BUCZYK—THE TECH

Fireworks launch from a barge in the Charles River during the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular on Independence Day 2009, as viewed from the roof of Building 54. See the back page for more photos from the Boston area on July 4th.

By Ana Lyons
STAFF REPORTER

After the longest stretch of cloudy summer days in Boston since 1903, the long-awaited sun finally beamed down across the red-white-and-blue-adorned city and all of its Fourth of July festivities on Saturday. As part of the 36th annual July 4th Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, an estimated 500,000 Bostonians, tourists, MIT students, and others gathered along the Boston Esplanade, around the Hatch Shell, and across the banks of the Charles for the nationally broadcast entertainment and patriotic fun.

Highlights of the festivities were the Rozzi Fireworks (of Loveland, Ohio); Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops performing the highly anticipated *1812 Overture* (complete with three live cannons, operated by a staff of nine Army personnel) along with other patriotic music; and Grammy Award-winner Neil Diamond singing the Fenway Park favorite "Sweet Caroline," among other crowd-pleasing classics.

The activities also included an accompaniment to the national anthem by the U.S. Herald Trumpets, a civil liberties speech given by Harvard's Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, the Air Force's 104th Fighter Wing

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Prof's Summers Have Travel & Work

By Camille Z. McAvoy

MIT professors spend their summers on European excursions, quiet New England retreats, and studies that encapsulate both work and play.

While MIT students are accustomed to seeing their professors in a purely academic setting, these educators' summer vacation stories show professors also have lives outside of the Institute.

Materials Science Professor Donald R. Sadoway, instructor of 3.091, Introduction to Solid State Chemistry, returned on July 1 from a trip to Milan, Italy. Sadoway described his Italian experience as a mix of "business and pleasure."

Sadoway journeyed to Italy to present research concerning MIT's Energy Initiative to an Italian oil and natural gas company, Eni. He was accompanied by a dozen or so MIT faculty and remained in Milan a couple of days to report on his research.

Sadoway traveled with his wife Rebecca. He remained in Italy for five days after the energy conference to tour the Italian sights.

Among Sadoway's summer activities were hiking in the Dolomites, an

Italian mountain chain. Part of the Alps, the Dolomites are a popular site for skiing and mountain climbing.

Sadoway also saw the Pink Floyd Ballet presented at Milan's La Scala Opera House. Although surprised by the production, Sadoway remarked that he got to experience an enjoyable combination of performance and modern dance.

Sadoway intends to remain at MIT for the rest of the summer, with occasional trips to the Cape in August.

Additionally, Sadoway will be attending a workshop in California to

present his battery research. Overall, Sadoway describes his summer experiences as involving travel related to MIT business with vacation attached.

Christopher J. Terman, an instructor for 6.02, Introduction to Electrical Engineering and Computer Science II, also had a European itinerary. Terman took a Girl Scout troop to France during the week before the fourth of July.

Professor of Biology Robert A. Weinberg '64, who co-teaches 7.012,

Vacation, Page 14



ROBERT A. WEINBERG

Professor of Biology Robert A. Weinberg's New Hampshire cabin and garden. Just like students, MIT Professors enjoy all kinds of interesting work and leisure in the summer.



Summer Lovin':
The Tech reviews local restaurants for fun and romance.

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Microsoft Exchange Is MIT's New Email System

By Ana Lyons
STAFF REPORTER

Beginning this summer, Information Systems and Technology has begun transitioning portions of the MIT e-mail system to Microsoft Exchange, as well as changing the way spam is handled.

Changes to mail access & storage

Microsoft Exchange replaces the portion of the mail system that stores messages waiting to be read, which is currently implemented using sev-

eral servers running an open-source program called Cyrus and a mail protocol known as IMAP, the Internet Message Access Protocol.

The change will remain transparent to most Gmail users, whose mail is forwarded directly to Gmail and does not remain on the MIT mail servers. Those Gmail users who split their e-mail to both the MIT mail servers and to Gmail may have their MIT mail storage affected.

Exchange, Page 13

Senior Housemaster Selection Amiss

The selection for the new Senior House Housemasters has stalled as the MIT administration has spent months making a decision.

The student/faculty housemaster selection committee nominated Walter R. Bender '80, Executive Director of the Media Lab, and his wife Wanda, for the position in May.

But Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo has not approved the selection, which last week led resident Sari Canelake '10 to organize a petition addressed to Dean Colombo and President Susan J. Hockfield. The petition expresses concern that a new housemaster has not yet been approved. "I feel we're not being respected at this point," said Canelake.

According to Canelake, a number of Senior House residents are worried that an interim housemas-

ter will be appointed, and that the interim housemaster might harm Senior House's culture.

Canelake and Senior House President Cody R. Daniel '11 will meet with Dean Colombo on Thursday to discuss the matter.

There have been rumors that Dean Colombo declined the Benders, perhaps because Walter Bender does not have academic tenure at MIT. Colombo declined to comment on the Benders, but wrote in an e-mail, "I can inform you that the search for a tenured faculty member continues."

Colombo later clarified that tenure was not a requirement for housemaster candidates, but a "strong preference" of the Institute.

Daniel said he was confused by the situation, since some dorms have untenured housemasters, including Random Hall, Bexley Hall, and Next House (with Colombo himself). Also, the Benders were cleared with the committee early on in the selection process. "I think that this rule about tenured faculty is really strange," Daniel said.

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In Short

¶ **Mass. sales tax goes up!** A La-Verde's sub is about to get 12 cents more expensive. Mass. state sales and meals tax will go up from 5% to 6.25% on August 1.

¶ **Finding Nemo** shows at LSC for free this weekend, 8:00 p.m. in 26-100 on Friday and Saturday.

¶ **Latest update on Joe D'Amelio**, MIT's crooked cop. See page 13

¶ **Aafia Siddiqui '95** is back in court, page 14.

¶ **Picower Institute** versus Bernie Madoff: Everyone loses, page 14.

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OPINION

The Current State of U.S.-Middle East Relations

Obama reached out to the Middle East. Is he reaching too far?

Florence Gallez

Despite frosty United States-France relations during the Bush's administration, France received Obama in June with open arms and effusive praise from the French public and experts alike. The media gushed over his charismatic "cool," his youth and the "nonchalant" attitude he brings to his interpersonal contact with world leaders.

An editorial in *Le Monde* on June 6 insisted that "Mr. Sarkozy must adapt himself to Mr. Obama's policies." It recommended that the French administration take a leaf from Obama's book, citing one high-ranking French official who said: "Obama defends the interests of his country very well. It is our duty to do the same as he does." With anti-Americanism still on the rise in many parts of the world, this new French love affair is a surprising twist.

Perhaps not. There is no doubt that the praise was due in large part to the groundbreaking speech Obama had given days before in Cairo, which commentators called "historical" and capable of reshaping American foreign policy and "re-imagining the world."

Obama extended his hand to Muslim nations in his June 4 address, continuing his efforts to engage the Arab world in a conversation with the United States. While campaigning in 2007, he promised that, as president, he would call

for the Western and Arab worlds to maintain "a sustained effort to listen to each other, to learn from each other, to respect one another, and to seek common ground."

This speech was it. It sent ripples around the world. Observers pondered the meaning and possible consequences of Obama's bold oratorical move, seen by some as noble, by others as questionable. Many sneered at the choice of Cairo, where Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stifles political opposition with

the Koran and mentioned Muslim contributions such as algebra and "timeless poetry and cherished music." Obama pointed out that there are Muslims in his own family, that his own name is Barack Hussein Obama. By casting himself as a kindred spirit, Obama conjured up hopes of an America more sympathetic toward Muslim causes, such as the thorny issue of Palestinian statehood.

In response to Obama's eloquent advances, many leaders from these regions have demanded concrete deeds. It will certainly be interesting to keep a close eye on Obama to see if indeed his words translate into action. Middle East experts say that radical change is unlikely. Obama has set the bar very high with his goal of decreasing tension in the Middle East and rejuvenating its relationship with the West. He runs the risk of sparking more tension if he doesn't deliver.

Despite experts' skepticism, Europe's Muslims were listening and for the most part enjoying what they were hearing. France, like many Western European countries, has for generations played host to a flourishing Muslim community. Germany has a strong Turkish population and the Benelux is home to many people from the Maghreb.

France and Belgium, as well as the rest of Europe, have been very supportive of the

It is easy to see how Obama's Islam-friendly words were music to the ears of Muslims on all the continents, including Europe.

his dictatorial ways. Obama has made it clear that he favors engagement over ostracism, but America and Egypt's mutual economic and strategic interests might have also influenced the choice. Prior to Cairo, Obama had visited United States-friendly Riyadh.

It is easy to see how Obama's Islam-friendly words were music to the ears of Muslims on all the continents, including Europe. He quoted

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WEATHER

Sixth Coldest June on Record

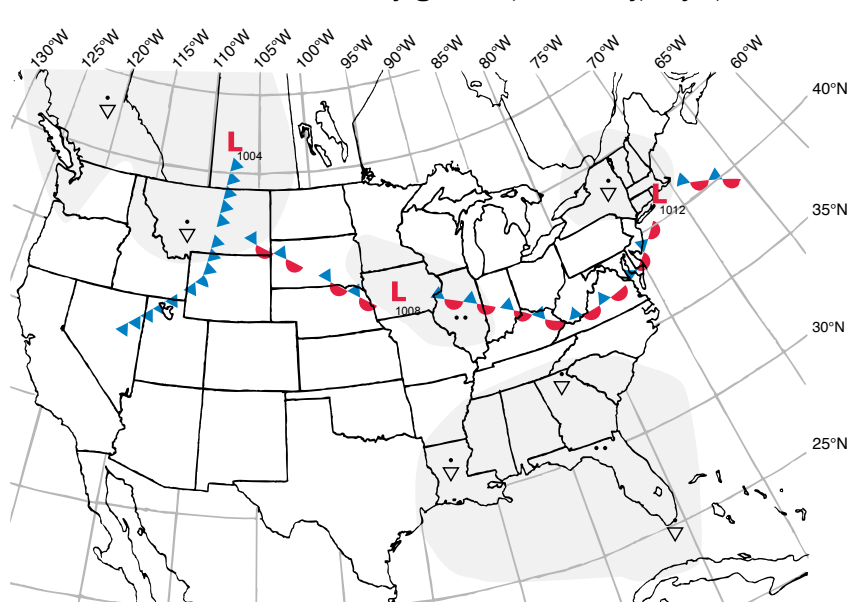
By Angela Zaluha
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As you are well aware, June was unseasonably cold. The mean temperature for June was 63.3°F, which ties it with June 1982 as the sixth coldest June on record in Boston since records began in 1872. Average temperatures of various sorts are often reported by meteorologists, such as the average high or low for a particular day of the year. A statistical quantity that is often overlooked is the standard deviation. That is, when a record occurs, how statistically unlikely is that event compared with the mean?

Your intuition tells you that the standard deviation for Boston temperatures is probably high, since the weather varies greatly from day to day. In places like Los Angeles, California, or Phoenix, Arizona, however, the temperature is fairly constant on a day-to-day time scale, and so the standard deviation is low. Even from month to month, the standard deviation of temperature may vary. For example, in Boston the standard deviation is higher in January than in July.

So just how unusual were the cold temperatures of the past June? The mean temperature for all Junes from 1872 to 2009 is 67.2°F with a standard deviation of 2.4°F. Hence, this year's mean June temperature was between one and two standard deviations from the mean. If we average only the high temperatures for June, then this June was the second coldest June with an average high temperature of 69.2°F. The average high temperature for June is 75.9°F with a standard deviation of 3.0°F, making the average high temperature for June 2009 two standard deviations below the aver-

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, July 8, 2009



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	— — Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	▲▲▲ Warm Front	Light	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate	Haze
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Heavy	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

age high for June.

The remainder of the work week looks to be cool with sunshine returning on Friday. The weekend warms up with another chance for thunderstorms Saturday evening.

Extended Forecast:

Today and tonight: Cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. High 70°F (21°C). Low 58°F (14°C).

Tomorrow: Cloudy. High 66°F (19°C).

Tomorrow night: Skies clearing. Low 57°F (14°C).

Friday and Friday night: Sunny. High 72°F (22°C). Low 62°F (17°C).

Saturday and Saturday night: Partly sunny with a chance of thunderstorms. High 80°F (27°C). Low 66°F (19°C).

Sunday and Sunday night: Partly sunny. High 83°F (28°C). Low 63°F (17°C).

Lead, Follow, or Get In the Way

Why the House Climate Bill won't change our fate, but might change how we get there

Holly Moeller

On the final Friday of June, polar bears cheered, honeybees buzzed, and Emperor penguins locked in the dead of Antarctic winter snuggled happily up to their eggs. At last, the United States was going to lead the world in the fight against climate change.

All right, maybe all of Nature didn't really breathe a collective sigh of relief when they House of Representatives passed the "American Clean Energy and Security (ACES) Act of 2009." But for a government that has chronically shirked the responsibility of fighting climate change, the bill's passage (by a slim margin of 219 votes to 212) is an enormous first step. In more than 2,000 pages of legalese, the ACES act calls for cap and trade measures, throws \$190 billion over the next 15 years at alternative energy development, and aims to reduce our nation's carbon emissions to 83 percent of 1995 levels by 2020, and to 20 percent of 1995 levels by 2050.

Backed by strong words from President Obama, the bill should give the necessary kick-start to the Senate, whose members have dawdled, anticipating a long battle over similar legisla-

tion. The tight victory in the House (which came only after the inclusion of multiple addenda that weakened emissions requirements for powerful interest groups like agriculture) demonstrates how quickly political will is fading. The "audacity of hope" will only dwindle faster as more and more politicians think ahead to 2010 elections. In fact, 44 House Democrats voted against last month's bill, many of them weighing interests back home against the threat of global catastrophe.

Avoiding such global catastrophe requires global accords, and for two weeks in December of this year, 8,000 people representing 170 countries will convene in Copenhagen. This will be the last intergovernmental meeting before the Kyoto Protocol, which will expire in 2012, must be revised and renewed. Since scientists continue to darken their forecasts as more ominous evidence rolls in, the meeting can't come soon enough.

It is absolutely critical that the United States finalizes legislation before its politicians regress to personal interests, and before the Copenhagen climate conference convenes. We must provide a unified front with other First World nations, instead of continuing the finger-pointing hypocrisy that has been the hallmark of negotiations with China and other industrializing countries. Yes, tougher emissions standards might push some jobs and businesses overseas, but in a time of global crisis, it is time for Americans to lead by example once again.

Unfortunately, our example — even if we follows the House bill to the letter — isn't all that great. We've all heard the key facts about global warming: Even if emissions stop now, the Earth will continue to warm for the next 100 years. Global temperatures will increase by at least one degree Fahrenheit, causing catastrophic cascades throughout all of Earth's ecosystems. Rising sea levels will displace millions of people. Tragic storms like Hurricane Katrina will become more frequent, and precipitation patterns will shift, drowning cities while making Dust Bowls of agricultural fields. And that's the best case scenario.

But what will the future look like if the US holds to the ACES Act's mandate?

Yes, there are personal consequences: A household of four will pay \$100 to \$175 more per year for energy by 2020 (households currently shell out \$2,000 per annum). We will all have to tighten our fossil fuel belts — from more than 20 metric tons of carbon dioxide per person today to 3.8 per person by 2050 (by the way, that's about what China's annual per capita emissions are right now). These drastic measures are impossible to imagine in our world of steaks and stereos, computers and cars. We must nevertheless take these steps because even if we can't save the planet, we will have to save our economy when fossil fuels run out.

Let's do a back-of-the-envelope calculation. Imagine that all humanity has reached a lofty aspiration — the United States lifestyle — by 2050. The world's population is predicted to grow to 10 billion by that time. At 3.8 tons of carbon dioxide apiece, the world would be emitting 38.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide each year. That's 22.5 percent more than current emissions (although, spread over 40 years, it represents only a half-percent increase in emissions per year, a fraction of the current 2 to 4 percent growth rate).

At those emission rates, all the world's proven oil and natural gas reserves would be consumed in less than twenty years. Even if we froze emissions

today's rates, we could only squeeze out five additional years (strip-mining coal could prolong the slow death of fossil fuels by another thirty or so years). In reality, it's possible we'll tap new reserves, but more likely that exponential increases in extraction costs will halt our use of fossil fuels before we've drained them dry. After all, the global rate of increase of carbon dioxide emissions was halved last year when fuel prices skyrocketed.

I don't mean to say the House's efforts were entirely useless. In fact, if global emissions continue to grow at modest rates, say 2 percent per year, we'd use up our global supply of gas and oil by 2025, before we even reached that 2050 standard. If the world can bite the emissions bullet in advance, it can gain time to replace its energy sources and develop alternative technologies.

That's the crux of the issue. Forget about the birds and the bees, the penguins and the polar bears. The ACES Act doesn't matter ecologically, since the economics of fossil fuel supply will impose nearly identical controls anyway. These controls won't stop us from expelling enough carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to pass every scientific global tipping point.

However, the legislation is absolutely critical to our economic preparedness. It marks the difference between doing things the hard way — when fossil fuels just plain run out on us — and the (slightly) easier way — forcing some technological change in advance. Think of it as the difference between fast and slow: The heart attack that freezes our economy in its tracks versus the cancer that we fight with painful chemotherapy to buy ourselves time to say goodbye.

While our politicians battle over which of these two hard roads will get them reelected, you and I need to prepare for the inevitable. So batten down the hatches, build up the sea-walls (maybe you can use some copies of that 2,000 page magnum opus to fill sandbags), and learn a marketable skill that doesn't rely on a cheap oil economy. Oh, and you might as well slap some solar panels on your house before the delivery trucks run out of gas.

Holly Moeller is a graduate student in the Joint Program in Biological Oceanography. She welcomes feedback at hollyvm@mit.edu.

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Models, Schmodels!

Predicting climate change is an unpredictable business

Gary Shu

As a young high school student in neuroscience summer camp, I was shown the results of a computer model calculation that aimed to simulate cardiac tissue voltage as the electric pulse that kept the heart beating passed through. After being told that the simulation took several days to run, we campers were eagerly expecting to be wowed by displays of incomprehensible complexity, wide-eyed and excited at the prospect of viewing such cutting-edge medical research.

Imagine our budding scientist hearts being broken after watching an utterly mundane animated-gif-like movie of a gradient zipping through a poorly rendered 3D polygonal heart.

Every student reaches a moment when they discover the limits of a field, and no field proves this more quickly than the limits of computer modeling. The technology industry has done their best and improved computational power to the point that Playstation 2's initially ran afoul of national security export regulations because they qualified as supercomputers. Now that iPhones are as powerful as PS2s, do running today's models on our exponentially faster computers make for better simulations of the real world?

In a word: No. "All models are wrong," goes one adage, and in a sense this is perfectly true. Every simulation produces results that do not and will not conform exactly to reality. We would not expect them to do otherwise. If a computer model did manage to get calculations exactly right in one situation it will likely be horribly wrong in another.

A maxim from Amory Lovins, founder of the sustainable energy group the Rocky Mountain Institute, says that "Models complex enough to be interesting cannot be validated, and models complex enough to be valid cannot be written." Computer models go through extensive validation phases, tweaked until historical inputs match with historical outputs. After the coefficients are aligned, the future — with any luck — can be written.

But we have all painfully learned the dangers of placing too much faith in models thanks to the recession, which was prompted by the collapse of mortgages, banks, and entire institutions. As my brother (a finance industry auditor) tells it, every Wall Street firm was using the same basic model with the same set of wrong assumptions leading to mis-structured bonds and imploding insurance companies.

The financial meltdown took place while modeling a man-made industry with clear regulations bounding the simulation space. How then are mere mortals supposed to accurately model and forecast a situation as complex and immense as one hundred years of the earth's climate?

The first supercomputers were used

for war purposes: calculating projectile trajectories, code-breaking, and nuclear physics for atomic bombs. Today's supercomputers, tucked away in national labs and agencies, continue to crunch away at similar calculations and have now added climate forecasting modeling to their queues. However, these original physics problems are better defined and require less hand-waving assumptions compared to the back-of-the-envelope approximations needed to calculate a planet's climate.

With orders upon orders of magnitude more particles, complex heat exchange mechanisms and vast atmospheric and ocean flow dynamics, the Earth's climate is the largest system we have in all of the, well, planet. Coupling such massively complicated science with the economic activities of six billion individual human agents, to put it simply, does not compute.

Too many nonlinearities, "butterfly effects," hysteresis processes, and straight-up unknowns

exist to perform a forecast of any great accuracy. Why would we expect a system that has large feedbacks, flows and cycles of air, water, heat and particles to have the simple output of increased temperature from the single input of greenhouse gases?

Yes, I've seen the reports from the British Lord Nicholas Stern as well as the IPCC and their de facto spokesperson, Al Gore. I've seen the graphs where some one hundred climate models provide a range of forecasts for global warming and the world is at or exceeding the top end. People smarter and with more resources than me are pounding at the problem of climate prediction with all the might and fury of careers and reputations on the line.

But just because these results represent the state-of-the-art and offer cutting-edge science doesn't mean the climate forecasting models are necessarily good enough to bet our global economy on trillion-dollar policy actions like capping CO2 emissions. The uncertainty is too large, the error bars too wide, the approximations too rough.

To hear the person-on-the-street self-righteously declare the "truth" and the "fact" of global warming is to hear a populace entranced by what physicist Freeman Dyson calls the new secular religion of climate change. Instead of preachers and a theocracy we now have (some) professors and a technocracy.

Any scientist worth their salt would be falling over themselves to provide conditionals, uncertainties, hem and haws on any sort of definitive conclusion. There are plenty of such scientists and they do themselves a credit to their field. More visible, however, are the dogmatists who insist that the forecasted-by-computers consequences are so dire that urgent and immediate action must be taken, caution be damned.

The political debate on climate change and the policy costs has vividly demonstrated how modeling efforts can be manipulated. Political groups pit dueling economic models — for instance, from the conservative Heritage Foundation or the Obama-cozy Center for American Progress — each containing their own intricate technical details and, more importantly, their own assumptions and structures.

As any good computer modeler knows, the devil is in these details. Results can be manipulated by tweaking any number of variables so that the liberal can say carbon dioxide regulation will create millions of jobs while the conservative can say that the cost of regulation will eat up large fractions of a household's annual income. Unless one gets down and dirty with these computer programs none of these biases can be fully teased out, to the great detriment of our political discourse.

To be clear, the general direction of the scientific evidence is toward anthropocentric global warming. The most urgent warnings about catastrophic

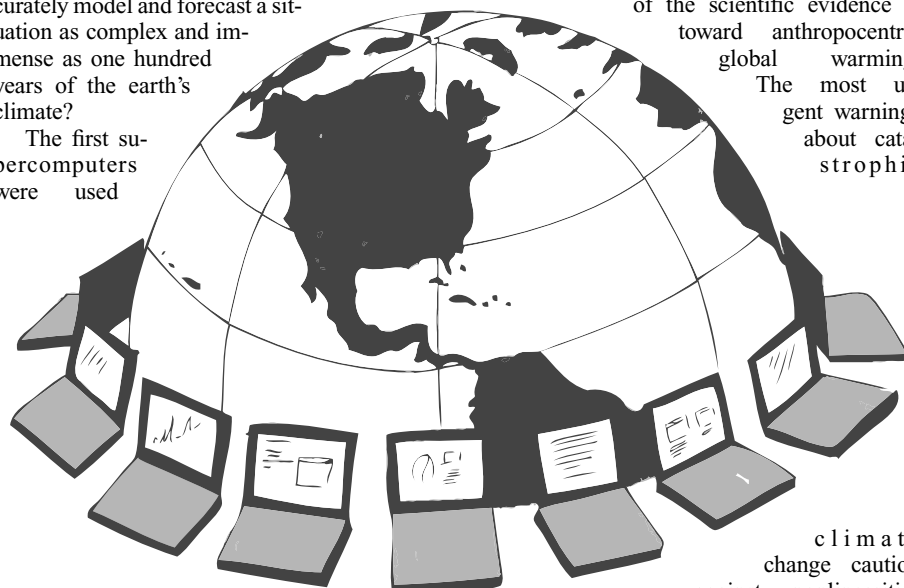
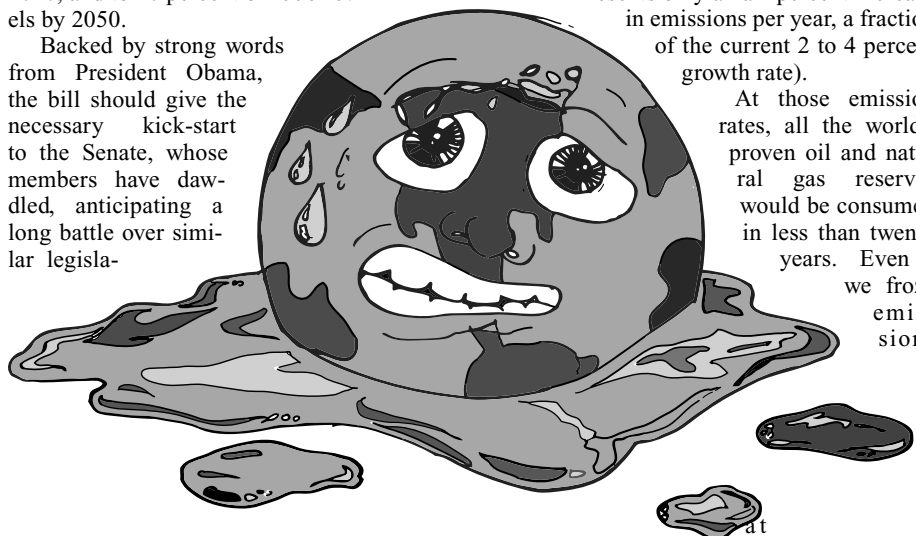
climate change caution against nonlinearities and feedbacks that would propel our world quickly toward disaster. But these very "tipping points" are the most uncertain approximations of our climate forecasting models and thus produce the least certain results.

A nuanced view would be to accept our current climate change along with a large margin of error for the version of global warming labeled "dangerous anthropomorphic interference". One would then support policy actions as a type of hedge or insurance against the risks of climate change. An enlightened political debate would be upfront about the unknowns that result from the computer models and account for these costs accordingly.

As to the absolute certainty of catastrophic climate change barring immediate action? I'm not convinced, neither should you be. Probably. Gary Shu is a graduate student in the Technology and Policy Program and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

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Dangerous Overtures

Obama fashions himself the Great Uniter. He should be more careful of who he's trying to unite.

Middle East, from Page 2

Palestinian cause. The European Union's aid to Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian Authority's Reform and Development Plan totaled 300 million euros (\$467 million). This is unquestionably a noble gesture, but it would even be more so if there were some follow-up to ensure that those funds actually reach their intended recipients.

In any case, this long-term regular aid alone is good evidence that Europe seems more inclined to support the Palestinian side of the protracted conflict with Israel.

Now, a younger and better-educated generation of European Muslim citizens is increasingly involved in the political and decision-making structures of the EU. France's Minister of Justice is Rachida Dati, who was born to a Moroccan father and an Algerian mother. Fadila Laannan, Minister for Cultural and Audio-visual Affairs of the French-speaking community of Belgium, born in Belgium to Moroccan parents, is another example. Dati and Laannan remind us that Muslims are not only present in the West, but also an intrinsic part of it and of its culture, society, and institutions.

That is why Obama's words in Cairo have so much significance not only for the Arab world, but also for Western countries.

So perhaps Obama should pay more heed to Europe's issues and needs, including those of its Muslim citizens. Prior to his June visit, U.S. relations with France had been marred by disagreements over Iran and Turkey; relations with Germany were strained over the economic crisis. The same June 6 *Le Monde* editorial wrote, "Mr. Sarkozy knows that for Mr. Obama, who grew up in Indonesia and who focuses his foreign policy on the major crises zones, Europe is not a center of natural or personal interest."

With four addresses to the Islamic world since the beginning of his presidency (in his inaugural address, a video message to the people of Iran, a message to the Turkish parliament in April, and now the speech in Cairo), Obama has made clear where his affinities and priori-

ties lie. What he said and did not say in his Cairo speech about the Jewish cause in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict reinforces that notion.

In his speech, Obama seemed to take it easy on the Palestinians, calling on them to stop violence, accept a two-state solution, and live in peace with Israel. He did not attach any conditions, nor did he demand an end to the terrorism and threats directed at Israel. In contrast, he called for a freeze on additional Jewish settlements and seemed to think that Israel's legitimacy comes from the Holocaust, not from a right conferred by Jewish history.

Behind that right to exist is a 2,000-year history, in the course of which the Jewish people sought to rebuild a national homeland. It might be that people born in a Western culture and family background may have a better appreciation of this fact, even if on a subconscious level. Though not Jewish myself, I first heard of the Holocaust when I was six, when I caught sight of a book entitled *Breendonk*, on our family bookshelf, the name of which refers to one of the worst concentration camps in Europe, and later on through documentaries watched on the family TV. With his different background and young years spent in a Muslim country, one may wonder if Obama's knowledge and understanding of Jewish history might be wanting. This would explain what seems to be a superficially informed and callous stance towards Israel in his Cairo speech, as he gave equal weight to both the Israeli and Palestinian causes.

Such a stance has justifiably sent alarm bells among the Jewish populations both within and outside of Israel, with some observers wondering if Obama was not on a path of ostracizing the country and jeopardizing its deep relationship with the U.S. One commentator in *Israel Matzav* wrote that such alliance might be "on hold until at least January 2013 and that we Israelis are going to have to muddle through on our own."

Here again, it's not just Jewish people in Israel and in the U.S. who may feel concerned about the Islam-friendly speech, but those of

Europe too.

Western, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Russia, have seen a palpable rise in extreme-right ideology and in attacks by neo-Nazi youth groups on Jewish persons, places, and symbols — from beatings to desecration of graves and synagogues to swastikas drawn here and there in public spaces. More alarmingly, such occurrences in Russia seem to receive the Kremlin's tacit approval. The results of the European Parliament Election last month, which saw strong gains for extreme-right parties, send a clear message as to where action and policies are needed.

In an article titled "Cultures in Conflict — On Muslim Immigrants in Europe" for *Harvard Magazine's* July-August issue, Paul M. Barrett very accurately describes the differences between Muslim immigration to Europe and to the United States, with Europe's Muslims being generally "poorer, less educated and less integrated into their host societies" than their counterparts in the United States, who, in addition to being less numerous, tend to be "more ambitious and on the whole more successful." "Terrorism in the name of Islam has been more common in Europe than in the United States," he notes, reminding us that 9/11 was planned in apartments in Hamburg, Germany.

If one were to combine the extreme-right tendencies of European politics to some of those second-generation Muslims in Europe's Muslim communities who, as Barrett notes, are "lashing out at the countries they were born and raised [in]," then it is easy to see how such an explosive combination and Obama's failure to address it could make European Jews feel more than nervous.

Thus, it is imperative that Obama keep his finger on the pulse of what goes on in Europe — within and beyond the EU — and is careful not to alienate Israel, its needs, and its allies. If he fails to do so, his message of peace in Cairo will have the reverse effect of creating more tension in the relationship between Islam and the West.

Having said this, there is no need for alarm-

ism. It is highly unlikely that the June 4 Cairo speech alone will reshape Islamic affairs and the U.S.'s Middle East policy, as I would think it takes more than words to shift that centuries-old landscape. Just like whoever would have won the Iranian election would not have changed the fact that the U.S. will still have to deal with a regime that has been actively seeking nuclear weapons. Even hopeful events such as the U.S.-friendly coalition's victory in the June 7 Lebanese parliamentary elections does not call for a radical change and softened stance on the U.S.'s Mideast policy.

All in all, there is a strong sense that Obama seems to be pulled in various directions — those of the United States's interests, the Middle East-friendly EU and the Islamic world itself — and that he seeks to accommodate all sides in equal measure. Playing the nice guy and trying to ingratiate himself with all sides may create a risky hybrid for U.S. foreign policy.

Making overtures to regimes that have a record of aggression and dictatorship may also suggest that there is fear or weakness behind the messages of good will. Obama will have to walk a very thin strategic line so as not to antagonize crucial allies, but perhaps now more than ever, he would gain by inspecting his core ethical values, let them guide him, and in the process show that he has teeth and a mind of his own.

It would be nice, also, to hear some response from the Islamic world. So far, I fail to remember a major Muslim leader addressing the global Muslim or non-Muslim communities following significant events such as 9/11. Surely, there must be a leading Muslim figure out there who could address people worldwide and give Islam's point of view in moments of major crises, as well as joyful landmarks. Instead, such moments are met with silence from the Muslim world's great political and cultural figures.

For now, I am still straining my ear for some Islamic echoes from Cairo...

Florence Gallez is a graduate student in Comparative Media Studies.

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The image features twelve zodiac signs arranged in a circle around the central text. Starting from the top and moving clockwise, the signs are: Capricorn (a goat), Aquarius (a person pouring water), Pisces (two fish), Aries (a ram), Taurus (an ox), Gemini (two figures), Cancer (a crab), Leo (a lion), Virgo (a woman with a mirror), Libra (scales), Scorpio (a scorpion), and Sagittarius (an archer). Each sign is enclosed in a circular border with its name written below it.

CAMPUS LIFE

Love, Loss, and Life@MIT

Lessons Learned from Time at the 'tute

By Nick Semenkovich

SENIOR EDITOR

When I came to MIT as a freshman more than four years ago, I was excited for the challenge. One of the first things I heard at MIT was the oft-repeated parable about the bell curve, or, as we engineers might call it, a normal distribution. I forget who told me it first. Perhaps it was my freshman advisor, but it goes something like this: "If you were to put every student on a bell curve, MIT accepts only the highest one percent. You're used to being in that top one percent, but now that you're here, that curve starts all over. You won't always be the best. You won't always even be average."

Quite honestly, I thought nothing of it. Like many MIT students, I was the star of my high school class. Ask anyone in my class who their smartest peer was, and there was a good chance they'd reply, "Nick."

"I'm incredibly smart," I said to myself, "and I don't need to prove that to anyone."

I still vividly remember coming home from MIT after finals ended my freshman year. That term I had sophomore standing and took five courses, including 5.12 (Orgo I). Despite the horror stories, I really loved 5.12. The problems were fascinating and the lectures were great (I'm sure some of you are lucky enough to have had Kimberly Berkowski). I worked hard in the course, attending every lecture and recitation, toiling over every pset, going through practice problems in McMurry, and devoting time to many office hours with a dedicated TA.

When it came to orgo exams, I did well on the first two exams, slipped on the third, and brought it back for the fourth. When finals came around I was nervous, but optimistic. "I know the material and I've worked hard," I said to myself. "I'm sure if I do okay on the final, I'll get an A." I studied hard and took the exam. I flew home shortly thereafter and remember sitting in a huge lounge chair in my living room, eagerly refreshing student.mit.edu until my grades appeared. And there it was: B+

As the terms rolled on, I opened up the firehose and tried to drink, encouraged by a blend of competitive peers, unencumbering academic policies, and disinterested advisors. That is, un-

til the end of my sophomore year, when I met the woman who may have been the love of my life. We had two classes together — 5.60 (Thermodynamics) and 7.02 (Biology Lab) — and first spoke in the W20 cluster, though our memories differ on what we spoke about (meaning her version is most certainly correct). I'll spare you the sappy details that I've become alarmingly adept at replaying in my mind.

A few months into our relationship, she offhandedly told me something that haunts me to this day: "You're smarter than me. I've never dated a guy smarter than me, and that makes me nervous." I don't exactly remember how I replied, but I know what I thought. "She's wrong, but I need to keep this up, or else I'll lose her."

In the months that followed, we became closer. We took the same classes. She saw my grades. She did better than me.

And so I pushed myself. Not to work harder in fewer classes. Not to be a caring boyfriend. Not to be the person that I was. But to, above all, appear smart, terrified I would lose her if I did otherwise.

I battled courses from three majors: 5, 6, and 7. Eventually, I became the Editor-in-Chief of this very paper, which easily consumed more than 40 hours a week.

I felt egged on by my many of my classmates — more than a few of whom marveled at my course load. "Wow," they would say. "You're taking so many courses! What's your GPA?!" Under a guise of modesty I frequently dismissed them. ("I don't really like to share my grades," was the usual reply.) I once overheard one of her friends talking: "He's super smart." When getting back a hellish take-home exam, a classmate said: "I heard you completed the exam in, like, four hours." If only.

Yet even that wasn't enough for me.

When times got harder in my courses, I became argumentative, frequently debating with classmates over trivial assignments, exam questions, and lecture topics. As I slipped more, that disputatious style reached my personal life. I argued with her — just for the sake of seeming smart — about topics I didn't even care remotely about. At one point, I nearly drove her to tears debating my heart out over whether



bioengineered beef would ever taste the same as natural beef. Seriously.

As things crumbled, I struggled to prove that I could push myself even harder.

My second term as Editor-in-Chief, I took seven courses. She pleaded with me to take fewer. This last term, my final term at MIT, I took eight.

I remember sitting with her on a bench in Building 16 this spring as I filled out my last Add/Drop form. All the while, foolishly thinking to myself, "This is really what she wants me to do."

About a month ago, I walked across a stage and shook Susan Hockfield's hand. As she handed me two degrees, held neatly together by oversized rubber bands, I didn't think about the work they took or about what I'd achieved, but about what it has all cost me.

Squid vs. Whale

Baby, We Need To Bring This Extramarital Affair Out Into The Open.

By Charles Lin

SENIOR EDITOR

We need to talk. The status quo has to end. We can't keep sneaking out to the Four Seasons on Thursdays while I'm pretending to take my son to Little League. I'm an important person and the press have been stalking my SUV since last Tuesday. If we keep up this steamy love affair, sooner or later it'll explode all over the papers.

I know this is difficult. It's like we're star-crossed lovers. We'll have to make changes. No more suggestive e-mails, no more checking into hotels under pseudonyms. No more spending some time away from my kids on Father's Day weekend.

It's going to be hard, but lets face it, I can't get caught. It would ruin me. I have my political aspirations to consider.

Not to worry though, I've got a plan that will let us keep "hiking the Appalachian Trail" for years to come. I learned it from watching *Burn Notice*. It's called steganography. I looked it up on Wikipedia. It means "hiding in plain sight."

What we've got to do is make this extramarital affair so obvious that no one will think we're having an affair.

First we'll have to form a professional relationship so no one gets suspicious when we're locked up behind closed doors for minutes at a time. I'm thinking something with confidentiality involved. You could become my therapist, or, better yet, how about my lawyer? I could actually use better counsel. And your counsel will be passionate and professional.

Why don't you enroll in law school? Yes, it will be years before you pass the bar, but

after your 1L summer you can come work as my intern. No one will suspect anything when I ask you to bring in the Watermann file every afternoon at 4 p.m. And by Watermann file, I mean you mounting me on top of my mahogany desk.

After you pass the bar, we'll have to keep the charade up. You'll rise through the ranks at a prestigious law firm and sign me as your client. This will make things easier. Instead of illegally funneling campaign contributions to buy you nice things, you can just bill me. You'll rack up plenty of hours while I give you my "power of attorney."

Meanwhile, I'm going to craft a public persona so spot-free that no one will ever imagine me as an adulterous sleazebag. On the campaign trail next summer, I will keep mentioning that I'm an Eagle Scout. I will champion traditional marriage. I will parade my insufferable wife in front of crowds and kiss her with my mouth open. I'll hide the fact that we've been living a sham marriage by taking her out on well-publicized romantic getaways and espousing the virtues of our interminable union. We'll have another child to keep the press occupied. It's going to be one of the toughest things I've ever done, but, baby, that's how much you mean to me. I'll rekindle the flames of passion with my wife if it means we can keep our forbidden love going just a little longer.

Until then we just gotta hunker down and let this media storm blow over. Why don't you gain a few pounds and stop putting on make-up? Then no one will think such a handsome guy like me would be interested in a hideous axe wound like you. It worked for Clinton.

We want you in our sheets.



join@the-tech.mit.edu



Brouhaha Rhythm

Puzzle Me This, Puzzle Me That

By Michael Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

A couple winters back, I bought a jigsaw puzzle from a yard sale. The picture was of one of those hot air balloon gatherings, with

lots of bright colors and patterns to match together. When you're staring at a Virginia winter out your window with hardly any snowfall to motivate going outside, it's one way to pass the time.

Of course, the hazard of yard sales is that they're full unwanted stuff, like the baby clothes that no longer fit, the coffee table books that turned out to be easily-wrinkled coasters, or the Easy-Bake Oven that caused one case of food poisoning too many. In my case, it was the jigsaw puzzle that was missing 23 pieces. But what some might have considered "useless and incomplete," I thought of as "challenging." At any rate, I learned that you get what you pay for.

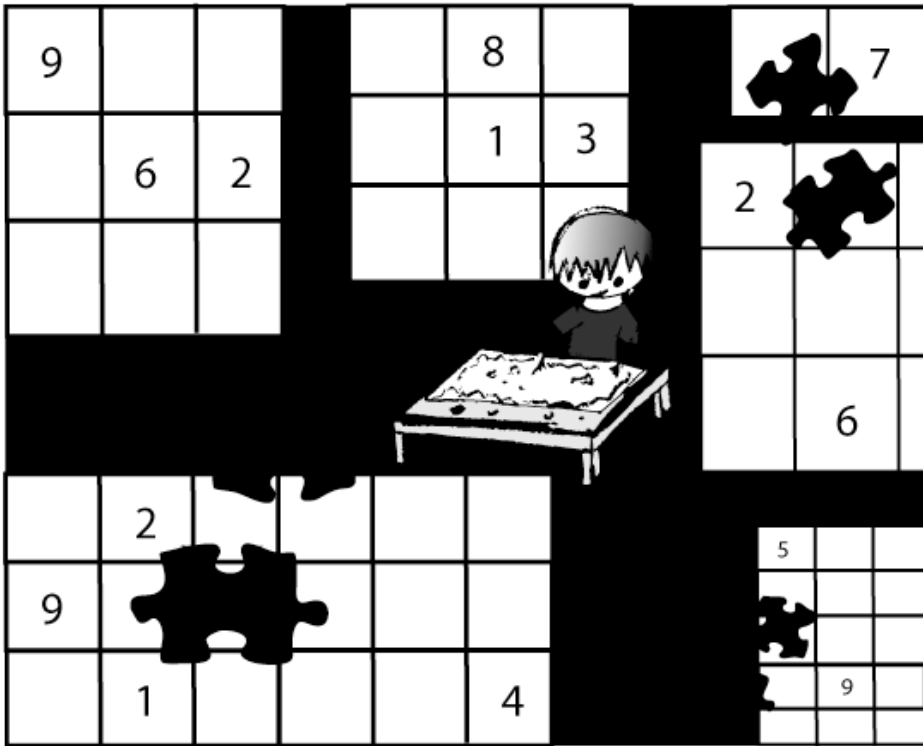
I have a friend of mine who likes to put together jigsaw puzzles and then laminate them. As hesitant as I am to adorn my living quarters with pastoral examples of what might be regarded kindly as "waiting room art," I have to admit that she — among others, I'm sure — has alighted upon a reasonably clever means of interior decorating. It's cheaper than art that comes all in one piece, it lets you customize the art on your walls piece-by-piece, and it's still better than blank walls. It's not quite like painting your room yourself, but it's also considerably simpler. My geeky side still prefers secondhand movie posters, but I have to admit that a two-dollar poster for *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* doesn't really send the message I want.

It seems that everybody likes puzzles in some form or another, with Sudoku and crosswords the dominant forms these days for short-term brain-bending. I've been trying to

do crosswords in ink lately — unfortunately, "unwarranted optimism" is too long to appear on most non-Sunday puzzles. Sudoku and its related number puzzle, KenKen, are popular among the mathematically minded, although I like the trivial knowledge challenge of crosswords. (It helps to have a healthy tolerance for failure.)

Your approach to jigsaw puzzles says a lot about your approach to life. The obvious approach, paradoxically, possesses elements of both elegance and brute force. It requires patience, time, and considerable trial and error. You can sort the pieces by pattern, by color, by shape — or, if you're like me, assemble all the bits on the border first so you know how much space it'll take up.

Then there's the alternative approach, suitable for either the creative soul or the workaholic — it strikes me as perfectly viable, assuming you have on hand a magnifying glass, a pencil, graph paper, and the picture on the front of the box. I've never tried that method myself, but if I'm ever going to resell those hot-air balloons, it seems only fair that I plot where the gaps are for future reference. Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got a fresh puzzle that demands my attention. The bleak wintry landscape and barren trees probably aren't going to make it on to my wall any time soon, but at least I broke the seal myself, so I know all the pieces are there. As a matter of fact, I think I have two extra. Hmm...



Talk Nerdy to Me

My Eye Got Infected! Now I'm Wearing Glasses

By Christine Yu
STAFF COLUMNIST

Since the fourth grade, I've needed glasses — but I didn't start wearing them until the fifth grade.

I've always had my issues with this fashion accessory, even if I'm wearing a high-end designer. When I first started wearing glasses, I used to wear these cheap metal frames. I was notorious for breaking the nosebuds, and then they would sit unevenly on my face.

I dealt with dorky, uneven glasses until the seventh grade, when I was finally allowed to get contacts. Without "four eyes," I gained confidence. All through high school, I wore my contacts, even though I kept a pair of overpriced plastic frames. I only wore those to read, and I avoided appearing in public with them.

The same principle has applied to my MIT career. A few days before Senior Ball, I got an eye infection, which rendered me incapable of opening my right eye. Immediately, I went to an eye doctor, who got me better in time to wear my contacts. However, after feeling "better," I skipped my follow-up and landed myself with a much worse form of the eye infection.

I have been unable to wear my contacts for the past month, and I am now revisiting the aesthetic appeal of glasses. When I worked for a law firm, I was tempted to start wear-

ing glasses because most of my coworkers did. Glasses are a fashion accessory amongst many professional women. Most people claim glasses make anyone look smarter.

If this is the case, I wonder what makes me so unhappy about my appearance with glasses. I've been reassured countless time by men and women that I look much better — and smarter — with my glasses. But I just don't see it. Maybe I subconsciously dislike appearing intelligent.

I don't think glasses make you look more intelligent. They just make you look different.

I'm not used to how I look in glasses, in much the same way I'm not used to many of my friends wearing glasses. I once heard that 9 out of 10 men find glasses sexy. I was inclined to disagree, until it occurred to me that if a person only wears his/her glasses to bed, their partner sees them in a different, more intimate way. The same principle applies for a person who only takes off his/her glasses when they sleep.

There's something sexy about seeing a new quality in an individual, and that's probably what make glasses so appealing. Since wearing glasses more frequently, I've become more and more confident with how I look either way. Maybe from now on, I won't mind being seen either way — assuming no more infections.



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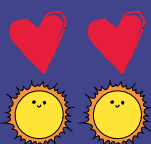
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West Side Lounge



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A weekend brunch can be the perfect start to the day. Hence, we headed over to the West Side Lounge (WSL), a pleasant five minute walk along Massachusetts Avenue from either the Harvard or Porter Square T stop.

Loud bar by night, neighborhood breakfast joint by day, the WSL appears to have an identity crisis. Rustic red walls clash with office-building ceiling tiles, while urban paintings and art deco lights add to the confusion.

I enjoyed the lounge music, with songs by Jem and Adele completing my vision of a lazy Sunday morning.

The brunch menu included the typical french toast and eggs benedict, but noticeably absent were staples like pancakes and waffles.

My OJ was pulpy and fresh out of the carton sitting at the bar five feet away.

The Chef's Devil Omelet with brie and chorizo

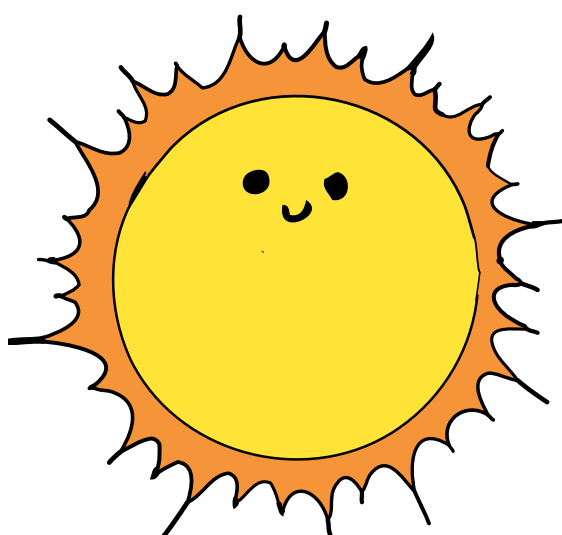
was savory but lacked the spicy kick I was expecting. Served with home fries, burnt toast, and chunks of melon, the plate was bland and rather underwhelming.

The fish tacos, also available for dinner, were better. Made with haddock, slightly sweet purple cabbage slaw and flour tortillas, they were served alongside a cup of fries.

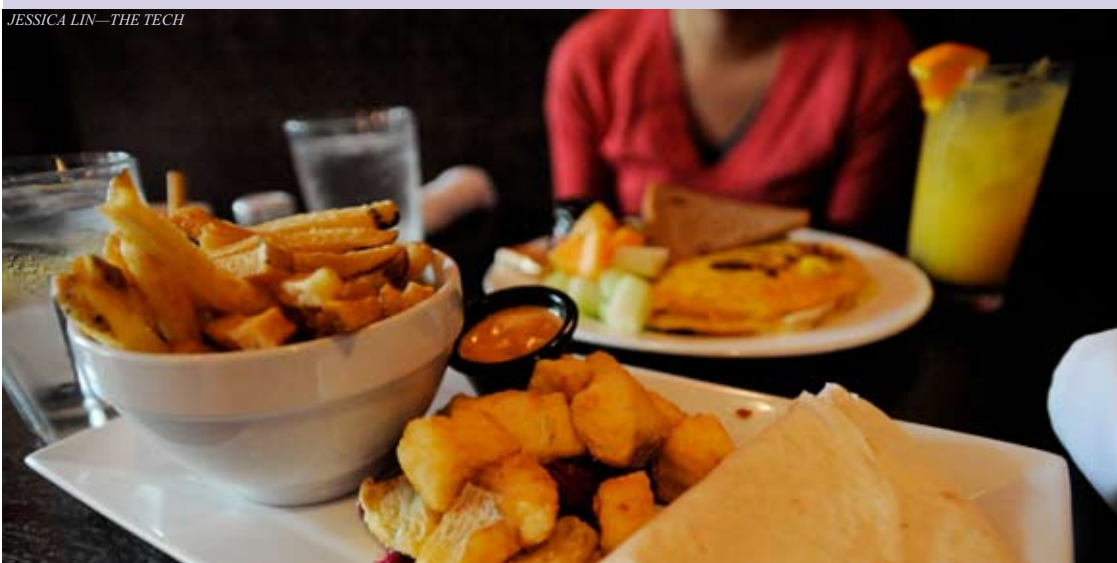
It was the snail's pace service, rather than the food, that made the experience memorable. If you are planning a never-ending date, WSL is the place to go. We waited too long for the food, the check, and for the credit card to come back, while watching our waitress chatting with the bartender.

When we finally walked out, the maitre d' sent us off with a half-hearted, "Have a good night!"

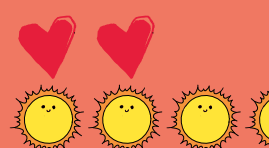
Despite being trapped inside the restaurant for nearly two hours, it was still only one o'clock in the afternoon. —Tracy Kambara



JESSICA LIN—THE TECH

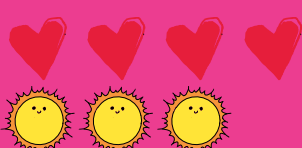


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CHRISTINE YU—THE TECH



The adventurous date would love the idea of Addis Red Sea: enjoying Ethiopian cuisine with your hands, huddled on stools around woven tables called mesob.

But this exotic dining spot has its vexations. First, the stools are short, unstable, and offer no back support. I was comfortable, but my date had to reseat himself several times before finding his balance. Service is spotty. As novices to Ethiopian cooking, we needed an explanation of the dishes, but no help was to be found.

Addis offers chicken, beef, lamb, fish, and vegan entrees; to taste the most number of dishes, we chose the Doro Wot combination, which includes stewed chicken and three vegetables.

The chicken tasted wild and gamey, enhanced by a rich red pepper sauce. My three sides, atakilt (herbed mixed potato and vegetables), yesmir wot (spicy simmered lentils), and kinche (cracked wheat) comple-

mented each other well and added to the Eastern cuisine.

We clumsily scooped our food with injera, spongy Ethiopian flatbread. Luckily, messy eaters, we needed no silverware.

The warm towel service was a nice gesture, but I wondered if it was meant to be. I unabashedly licked my fingers clean.

The mesob's tabletop was a mess. To clean up, we had to use our hands. New York pizza, and kombucha. To clean up the mess, we had to take a bite.

While the experience was fun, it was not a table food worthy of a return visit. I would recommend Addis Red Sea for a group of friends to order several entrees rather than for a couple looking for a date spot. —Tracy Kambara

When my friends took me out for tapas the first time, I was told it was like Spanish dimsum. Unlike dimsum, though, tapas make a great evening date. I prefer eating tapas at a bar for the prompt refills of my sangrias. In Boston, many restaurants offer cheap tapas specials at the bar. Tapeo's go for \$5.

My date and I arrived around 6 p.m. to a half-packed bar. The service was zippy, remaining prompt even as the bar filled up. The bread tasted generic, and the garlic sauce was equally bland.

The tapas, though, did not disappoint — they were not the most authentic, but still exceptional for the price. Not all dishes were \$5; some are \$7.50.

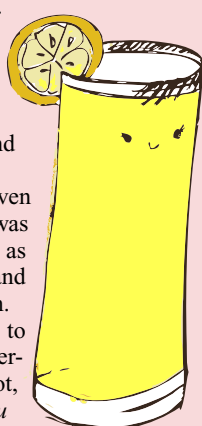
I wasn't expecting much selection — to my surprise, I was greeted with over 40 options. My favorite were the beef empanadas. (The chicken will disap-

point you.) Tapeo also offers a solid drink selection, with many variations on the sangria.

The restaurant has patio seating, which on a nice summer evening sounds romantic — but Tapeo just isn't as intimate as I find most tapas places.

The decor was colorful, but even then, the restaurant just felt like it was trying too hard. My date laughed as I butchered the Spanish words, and then ended up ordering in English.

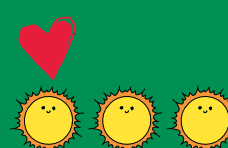
The bartender seemed used to patrons ordering in English. Overall, I find it to be a nice date spot, but there are better. —Christine Yu



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH



Franklin's Café



278 SHAWMUT STREET
BOSTON, MA 02111
(617) 352-1111

QUIZ

What kind of eater are you?

- a. Carnivore
- b. Herbivore/Vegan
- c. Omnivore
- d. Seafood-vore
- e. Food? Nom nom nom...

How would you describe yourself?

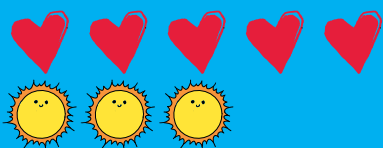
- a. Eclectic
- b. Adventurous
- c. Hipster
- d. Sensual
- e. Urbanite

If you were left on an island with only one dish, which would it be?

- a. Some sort of dimsum
- b. Some dish that does not exist
- c. Waffles
- d. Oysters
- e. Some sort of Asian fusion



28 Degrees



1 APPLETON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116
(617) 728-0728

After hearing that oysters are an aphrodisiac, I decided to give them a shot at 28 Degrees during the one dollar oyster special, which runs 5-7 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, and 5-10 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays.

From the outside, 28 Degrees looks like a “hipster” hotspot. The restaurant’s layout presents several problems for the romantically inclined. Some of the tables seat people side-by-side, which makes flirty eyes and playing footsie more difficult (unless you’re into swinging). The dim lighting creates an intimate appearance. The other patrons appeared vibrant, which made eating more enjoyable.

Many Boston restaurants are now offering \$1 oyster promotions, hoping to make money off the drinks. Since my first encounter at 28 Degrees, I have been back for seconds and thirds of the Island Creek oysters, which are served with three sauces —

my favorite is the cilantro mignonette. For those not so seafood inclined, there’s the standard steak, pasta, or pizza.

My date ordered the steak, and it tasted tender. As the hours go on, the bar starts to fill up, catering to an older crowd. During the earlier hours, the service is faster but not in the “we’re trying to seat the 8:30 crowd” kind of way. As the night wears on, it can take 20 minutes to get the server to get your drink. (I recommend the Bellini and Blueberry Basil Martini.)

All in all, 28 Degrees is a nice spot for a date. Avoid the sliders because they get messy. The cheese appetizer is tiny for the price — oysters are a much better starter. I wouldn’t say that the food is particularly remarkable, but the scene leaves a good impression.

Plus, if oysters really are an aphrodisiac, at one dollar each, you can’t really go wrong. —Christine Yu

Red



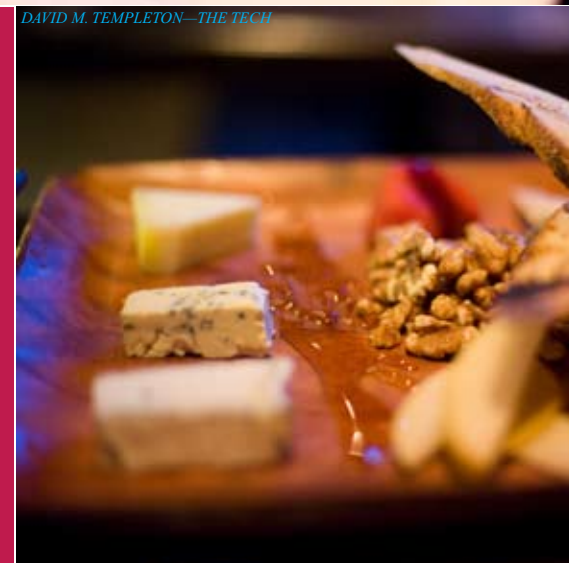
NT STREET
MA 02116
26-8727



d reminded me of Middle
ur meat and veggies onto
atbread. Being particular-
extra injera to finish the
at the beginning was a nice
at was sanitary enough as
ngers.
as only about the size of a
ined with efforts to mini-
lean forward to take each
as unique and the delect-
urn visit, I would recom-
group of four or five close
rees to share family style,
aking for an intimate date.

Summer Lovin'

by Christine Yu and Tracy Kambara
Illustrations by Monica Gallegos and Robin Dahan



in

MUT AVE.
MA 02118
50-0010

At first glance, Franklin Café seems like a safe choice for a first date. With its black leather booths and deep red walls, the ambiance is spot-on.

But the unprepared couple can find themselves in more than one awkward situation. Franklin Café is hard to find, tucked away in the residential area of the South End roughly ten blocks from the Back Bay stop on the Orange Line. In addition, there are no visible signs from the street.

Once my date and I finally sat down, I could barely see him. It was way too dark to be considered romantic.

The music and other noise levels were tolerable at first, but by the end of our meal, we were leaning in and nearly shouting at each other.

If you (or more importantly, your date) can get past these setbacks, then you’re in for a treat because the food is quite good. The menu features mostly classic

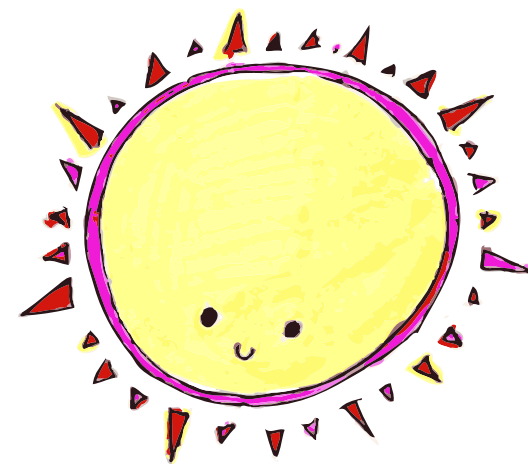
fare such as vegetarian pastas, seafood, and steak, but also includes some Asian fusion cuisine, like Char Siu ravioli.

For our appetizer, we ordered Crispy Shrimp Toasts, served with warm onion kimchee. They resembled crab rangoons, but with more crunch and less cream.

For our entrees, I ordered the Slow Roasted Pork Shoulder Au Jus, and my date ordered the Pan-Roasted Organic Chicken. Both were juicy and tender. My pork hardly needed a knife, passing the true test of slow roasting.

Those with a sweet tooth will enjoy the pork, while those craving a salty kick should opt for the chicken. Portion sizes were just right, leaving us with enough room for dessert.

But wait, there’s no dessert menu? Looks like a date at the Franklin Café won’t have a sweet ending after all. —Tracy Kambara



and only allowed one

Where would you take your date to after dinner?

- a. Sauna
- b. Home to watch a foreign indie film
- c. Art gallery exhibit
- d. Hotel
- e. Finale to finish off with a delectable tiramisu

What was the pick-up line you used/was used on you?

- a. I like to live my life on the wild side, if you get what I mean.
- b. Qu'est-ce que tu manges pour être aussi belle? (What do you eat to be so beautiful?)
- c. You are my Yoko.
- d. None. *insert bedroom eyes *
- e. Let's find a place to satiate our appetites *wink*

Results:

Tally up how many a's, b's, c's, d's and e's you have. Here's where you should take your date!

- a. Tapeo
- b. Addis Red Sea
- c. West Side Lounge
- d. 28 Degrees
- e. Franklin Cafe

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★★★

Uplifting

A Story With Quirky Characters That Speaks to Us All

By Maggie Liu

STAFF WRITER

Up
Peter Docter, Bob Petersen
PG
Now Playing

You know any movie that stars a grumpy old man and a chubby Asian Boy Scout has to have some potential. *Up* defies labels and spans all demographics. It is for those who seek entry into a different world, a world that only the minds of Pixar/Disney can create. As director and co-writer Peter Docter (*WALL-E*) admitted in an interview, "The initial kernel was based on that desire that I feel a lot to escape the world."

Up is one of those movies one can not dismiss simply because it is animated and not live-action. The character designs are memorable and effective. When we are first introduced to Carl, the surly curmudgeon, we are presented with your average GOM (Grumpy



COURTESY DISNEY/PIXAR

Old Man). This exterior belies a sensitive soul still not recovered from the death of his wife.

Carl is accompanied by an overzealous young boy, Russell, whose mission is to claim the badge for "Assisting the Elderly" in order to become a Senior Wilderness Explorer. The two end up on an escapade via Carl's airborne house, which is carried along by a mass of helium balloons. The unlikely crew is finished

off with an overweight talking dog named Dug and an exotic South American bird affectionately known as "Kevin."

We are presented with a poignant scene after Carl is forced to choose between saving Kevin and fulfilling his late wife's wishes to plant his house near Paradise Falls. Morale in the group is low and Carl ends up pulling his house along by himself. The camera cuts to

a lone silhouette against a violet sky, inching along. What Carl misses most after his wife's death is not so much love as a human connection.

This human connection is the stitching behind the tale. *Up* refuses to sugarcoat Carl's loneliness and does not shy away from discussions of death. This truly makes *Up* an incredible film that young and old will relish.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½

Yeah, Smashy-Smashy, Whatever, So Over It

By Kevin Wang

STAFF WRITER

Transformers 2
Director: Michael Bay
Starring: Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox
Rated PG-13
Now Playing

Watching *Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen* is a bit like seeing a plane full of bacon and supermodels smash into a fireworks factory: Even though the explosions are awesome and there are awesome things everywhere, it is still pretty much a tragedy. As Shia LaBeouf himself has found time and time again, looking good does not really compensate for being excessively dumb.

Transformers 2 continues the story of Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) and his girlfriend Mikaela (Megan Fox). They are dealing with the typical pressures of college, such as long-distance relationships and homicidal robots for friends. After the teen movie preliminaries have ended, the film quickly degenerates into standard Michael Bay fare.

Bay gleefully drop-kicks "plot coherence" and "realistic dialogue" out the window in favor of fireballs and Megan Fox bending over more often. A number of bad-guy robots descend on earth, prompting Sam and company to embark on a worldwide search for hidden alien artifacts before concluding with the

now-traditional destruction of a Middle Eastern city. The plot is completely incoherent throughout, and the dialogue waffles continuously between lines from *Twilight* and ramblings of a deranged crackhead.

If *Transformers* was the insult to the world's collective intelligence, then *Transformers 2* is the corresponding bitch-slap. Bay appears to be engaged in a desperate race against himself to produce the most stupid movie possible, and there is no question that he is winning. Michael Bay's plot writing in the *Transformers* series is a bit like soiling yourself in a public place: we can all accept that there might have been legitimate reasons the

first time, but doing it over and over again is just not acceptable.

Plot aside, however, *Transformers 2* does deliver on all of its promises. In the world of eye candy, *Transformers 2* is a 600-pound gummy bear. The movie is essentially a U.S. Army recruitment commercial, and features scene after glorious scene of tanks, airplanes, and robots blowing each other away. One particularly epic action sequence, in which more than six gigantic robots fight hand-to-hand in a forest, should be used as a substitute for Viagra (and should come with the same medical warnings). While its PG-13 rating prevents us from seeing any of the really good stuff (robots eating school buses, robots leveling cities, Megan Fox earning her paycheck), it's hard not to feel a twinge of glee when a

Transformer blasts a hole through an aircraft carrier or eats one of the Great Pyramids.

Despite being a huge fan of the franchise and the first

movie, I cannot unconditionally endorse *Transformers 2* in good conscience. Much like entrapping children by offering them candy, awesome robotic violence is much less effective the second time around. Moreover, its exhausting 150-minute running time is simply too much, far too long. You don't really watch *Transformers 2* in the normal sense of the word; the experience is more like being beaten into submission while somebody slowly runs your brain through a blender. While that does sound pretty badass, in reality, it is completely exhausting. The novelty of huge robots shooting missiles at each other has worn off a bit, highlighting the fact that the rest of the franchise is held together by the sheerest of scotch tape.

Overall, the stunning visuals that *Transformers 2* provides can not overcome the fact that it is dumber than a rabbit with fetal alcohol syndrome. Although I dreamed that its graphics would be so astounding that I could cope with the meaningless dialogue and absurd plot there just was not enough samurai robot beheadings. If you are going to watch *Transformers 2* see it because you simply can't watch robots eviscerate each other in slow motion anywhere else. Otherwise, *Transformers 2* is an R rating short of a good movie, and you probably shouldn't waste your money.



MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

A Poignant and Conflicted Playboy

By Maggie Liu

STAFF WRITER

Frost/The Last International Playboy

Director: Steve Clark

Starring...Jason Behr, Monet Mazur, Krysten Ritter

Rated: R

Now Playing in Select Theaters

The *International Playboy* is a short interlude into an individual's journey towards self-discovery and strips away the glamour of what everyone envisions as the "perfect life". The whole span of the movie is a mere 92 minutes.

The film starts off with a scenario that would satisfy any hot-blooded male's fantasies. A dozen or so leggy young women in varying degrees of nudity leap up and down on a bed, framing a darkhaired Lothario. The camera pans in to the young man with a rakish

expression, engaged in lascivious activities/

Fast forward seven years. While continuing his party hard, do nothing lifestyle, Jack Frost (Jason Behr) is shattered when his best friend and childhood love Carolina (Monet Mazur) announces her engagement to another man. When he realizes that Carolina is adamant about her marriage, Jack spirals into depression.

During these times, he is confronted with who he is, and why he can't relinquish the past. With the aid of a precocious 11-year-old neighbor who offers astoundingly insightful advice, Jack begins to piece his life together.

The film initially repelled me because it seemed like such a cliché. A playboy who has too much money parties with models. Said playboy realizes he lost the one woman he ever loved. Playboy meets a new non-sense woman who reforms him from his playboy ways and then the two live happily ever after. Fortunately

this story is not so neat and tidy. There is none of that romance-comedy closure and smiling faces- we only know that Jack is moving on but it does not mean he has been completely reformed.

At its heart, this story is not about romance. It is a portrayal of an adult man, haunted by his mother's suicide, who refuses to grow up. Unconsciously, he finds himself state of limbo and his life has been temporarily put on hold. Although constantly surrounded by hordes of people, he still is alone.

Halfway through the film, Jack disappears for four day and his friends later find him on a cruise ship sprawled upwards to the sky. There was an uncanny resemblance between this scene and the one in *The Graduate* where Dustin Hoffman floats on raft. Neither of the protagonists are rooted to anything and they can't get themselves out of the rut they find themselves in. It is perhaps one of the most

terrifying possibilities in life: to be unable to know what one wants and finding life leaving a stale taste in one's mouth.

All the characters are flawed in some way. And though Jack is supposedly the most messed up character, we cannot bring ourselves hate him. He is described as "broken — but not empty, and there's a big difference."

Although Jack drowns himself in whiskey and women every other night, he still takes care of his drug-addled friend and insists on sending her to rehab. He also takes in a lonely and precocious 11-year-old neighbor, even agreeing to go trick-or-treating with her.

There is a boyish charm about Jack that makes one sympathize with his plight — if any one was actually like Jack in real life, most people would simply brand him as a spoiled rich boy. This film transcends that two-dimensional label.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★

In Spite of Anachronisms, Ice Age 3 Exceeds Expectations

By Bogdan Fedeles

STAFF WRITER

Ice Age

Director: Carlos Saldanha, Mike Thurmeier

Rated PG

Now Playing

The new installment of the *Ice Age* franchise is a wonderful surprise for kids and adults alike, successfully overcoming the dilution effect that commonly plagues many sequels. Although the anachronistic premise — mammoths facing off dinosaurs — is quite hard to forgive, the movie is imbued with delicious humor, snappy dialogue, and a freshness of ideas that is bound to satisfy even the pickiest audiences.

Paleontologists and astrophysicists are unfortunately at a loss. The existence of a pocket

of Jurassic era habitat, miraculously preserved alive under the thick ice cover, is hard to believe, even in a cartoon world. Time travel might have been more believable. Nevertheless, the creators of the movie steer clear of any definitive explanation, instead focusing on delivering a compelling ride that follows the new adventures of our sub-zero heroes: the woolly mammoths Manny and Ellie, the saber-toothed tiger Diego, the sloth Sid, the possum pair Crash and Eddie, and, last but not least, the saber-toothed squirrel Scrat.

The movie picks up right where the last one ended, each character now facing a more or less personal challenge. Manny and Ellie are preparing for their first baby, Diego is questioning his lifestyle alongside his slow moving friends, Sid wishes for a family of his own, and Scrat, still chasing his elusive acorn,

runs into some romantic trouble.

The adventure begins when Sid unwittingly adopts three dinosaur eggs and attempts to raise the trio of hatchlings. Before they know it, all our heroes end up in a tropical habitat running for their lives. Fortunately, they run into Buck, a fearless weasel with a knack for dealing with the wild Jurassic fauna. From here on, the high paced adventure unfolds seamlessly, with lots of satisfying twists and turns, towards an uplifting finale.

The lush graphics and intelligent cinematography are delightful, fully exploiting the capabilities of the genre, especially in the regular version. In my opinion, the 3D version of the movie is only a whimsical gimmick, the 3D effects being unimpressive, especially when they come with a \$3 surcharge. A great deal of the movie's appeal comes from its humor — not

just the slapstick, but also the more subtle trivia references.

The voice talents are also remarkable, with special acknowledgment going to Simon Pegg, who voices the newcomer Buck. The comedic talents of Pegg shine through the vitality of Buck, who is always in a mood for rambling or storytelling.

Aside from its dubious paleontological premise, and its horrendous sequel title ("Dawn of the Dinosaurs" sounds like an after-hours addition by the distribution company), *Ice Age 3* is a thoroughly entertaining movie that offers something to everyone: There's romance, action, adventure, gorgeous animation, humor, and above all, the fad of the summer — dinosaurs!

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

More Summer Spots to Hit Up With Your Date (Or Friends)

There's Nothing Better Than Good Food, Good Weather, and a Hot Date (or Friends)

By David Surry

STAFF WRITER

Desfina

202 Third St. Cambridge 02141

(617) 868-9098

The location of the Kendall Square Theatre seems to provide a limited choice of dining options for a pre-cinema dinner date. But for those willing to explore the back streets, there are a number of interesting options. *Desfina*, a neighborhood Greek joint, is only five minutes from the theatre.

One enters *Desfina* through a small bar area where locals drop in for a beer and a couple of innings of Sox action. The paper tablecloths give the feel of a Greek *taverna* and the low ceiling painted bright blue with white cloud smudges conveys the sense of an al fresco dining experience. The air is filled with the convivial babble of Greek conversation as locals tuck into carafes of ouzo.

To immerse ourselves in the mood we started with the *pikilia* (assorted appetizers). The star of the generous assembly was the *tza-*

tziki with its refreshingly well-defined flavor of cucumber. Also in attendance were the usual *taramosalata* and *scordalia* as well as a smoky eggplant salad. The wine list has a notable selection including a number of Greek offerings. We eschewed the pine-flavored retsina and instead sampled two wines from the Anastasi Estates, a pleasant Cabernet and an unexpectedly rich balanced red from the indigenous Greek variety *Agiorgitiko*.

For entree I took the roast lamb, which came as tender leg slices, but unfortunately did not possess the promised herb flavors. My dining companion opted for the *mousaka* with its rich béchamel sauce, unusually pungent with cinnamon, but with strangely few aubergines. For desert we shared the *galaktobouriko*, the traditional Greek custard pie, which was dense and filling. We rounded the meal off with Greek coffee, which came black, sweet and strong. Throughout the night, the service was personal and charming, if not professional. Its taste excellent for its price, *Desfina* is friendly and a conveniently located venue for a pre- or post-cinema dinner.

By David Surry

STAFF WRITER

Central Kitchen

567 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge 02139

(617)-491-5599

Where to eat in Central Square? A bevy of new eating options has accompanied the gentrification of this gritty neighborhood. But on an overcast Saturday evening in May, after a lengthy day in the lab, we chose to return to an old favorite — the Central Kitchen. This small bistro-sized space has been drawing Central Square hipsters and guidebook-clutching tourists alike for 11 years and seems to continue strong. The restaurant describes itself as "devoted to the rustic Mediterranean style," particularly of France, Spain and Italy, although French influence seems to be the strongest at present.

We didn't have a reservation on a Saturday evening, but were still rapidly guided into the dark interior and presented with menus. As we mulled over the options, the couple next to us devoured a platter of fresh oysters washed down with vodka martinis — tempting.

We opted to peruse the wine list in our pursuit of a perhaps less ardently alcoholic libation. We were suitably impressed with the reasonably priced selections in the \$30-50 range, including a number of interesting bottles from the Old World, choices from both Alsace and southern France catching my eye. Yet we couldn't resist a well-priced bottle of Château Mourgues du Grès, a respected producer in the ancient, yet always excellent value Costières de Nîmes wine growing region in the Southern Rhone, reasonably priced at \$36 for the bottle from the much hyped 2007 vintage.

By Sun Kim

STAFF WRITER

Union Bar and Grille

1357 Washington St.

617-423-0555

On the recommendation of a friend, I ventured to Union Bar and Grille for a good meal on a pleasant, late spring morning. Placing our reservation for 11 a.m., my girlfriend and I trekked to the trendy restaurant in South End. I immediately noticed that with my polo shirt tucked into khaki slacks, I had overdressed: All around me, hipsters were wearing tight-fitting t-shirts or wife beaters with skinny jeans.

Union's main draw is its \$9.95 brunch menu. The offering included scrumptious coffee cake, an entree, as well as choice of orange or grapefruit juice, and tea or coffee.

Not really looking for a tart drink, I opted for an orange juice, which had an appealing, fresh-squeezed sweet taste and pulpy texture. The coffee cake, composed of cinnamon and sour cream, was sweet but not overpowering — a nice

The fruity, spicy palette of the wine paired excellently with my starter of warm goats cheese salad. The arrangement on the plate was not in the traditional French style- instead I was presented with a single large slab of the cheese covering a bed of fresh leaves. The cheese had a lactic edge although would have benefited from reclining on something firmer than the layer of (apparently) mashed potato that separated it from the leaves with their pernod vinaigrette.

For entrée, I decided on the the house-aged steak. The quality of the meat was excellent, cooked to a bloody perfection with some suitably crisp frites. My dining companion went for the chicken fricassée, which was also traditional in interpretation with its rich sauce redolent of thyme. A connoisseur of poultry, she found the meat both tender and flavorsome. In a detour from the

juxtaposition to the entree.

I ordered the Chef's Special Omelette, comprised of eggs, sausage, ricotta, and spinach and accompanied by home fries and toast. The eggs were expertly done, light and fluffy. The spinach and sauge were fresh, although I was saddened by the paltry amount of meat in the omelette.

The homefries were warm and chunky when they were served, garnished with parsley and pepper. The meal clearly was not roadside diner fare, as neither greasiness nor heaviness accompanied the bites. At the end, I was surprisingly full; of course, I tried some of my girlfriend's Smoked Salmon Scramble, which had tremendous flavor, blending cured salmon, crème fraîche, and scalions. If you love salmon, it is a must-try.

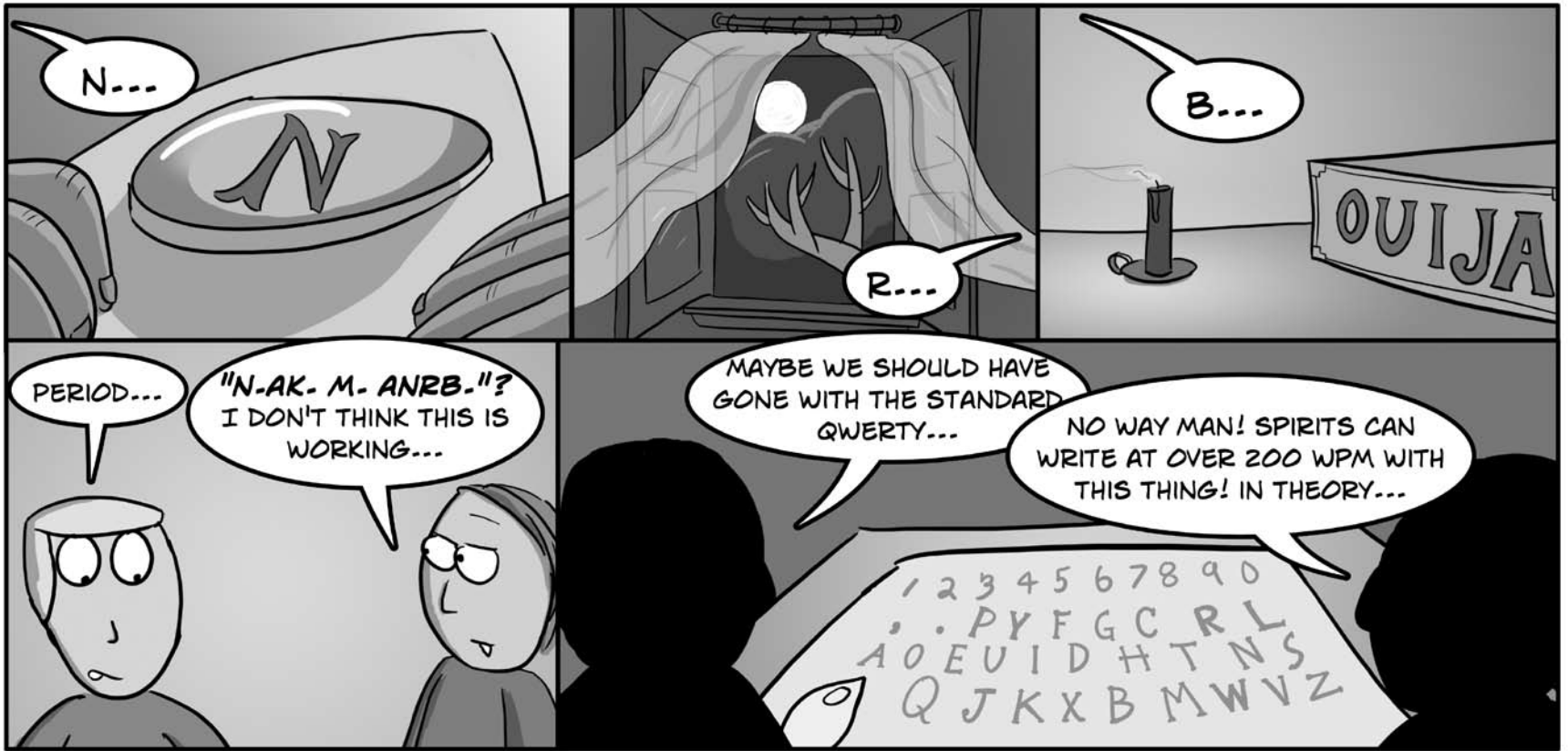
The presentation of the table and the overall ambiance of the restaurant definitely enhanced the experience. The speakers played lively jazz, while passing conversations buzzed the air throughout the meal. The waiter was friendly and helpful with our choices and brunch needs. All in all, it was a great brunch experience combining appealing tastes, friendly service, and a vibrant aura.

usual script a mushroom ragù accompanied the bird, equally notable for its flavor. On a high after the success of these entrées we decided to brave a swift dessert. Torn between the Tahitian vanilla crème brûlée and the pistachio panna cotta we opted for the latter to satisfy my penchant for the green nut. Although promisingly green, it disappointed with a coarse texture and earthy rather than nutty flavor. I will stick to Ben & Jerry's for now to satisfy my pistachio desert cravings.

Service was friendly and unobtrusive; refreshingly, they made no attempt to foist expensive bottled water on us. With many entrées over \$20, Central Kitchen not cheap by any stretch of the imagination — though it is still a bargain compared to many overpriced and disappointing downtown eateries. The Central Kitchen looks set to remain a Central Square favorite.

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



You deserve a factual look at . . .

The Two-State Illusion

Would it solve the Middle East problem?

There seems to be almost universal consensus that in order to bring peace to the Middle East the creation of a Palestinian state is unavoidable. What is more, such a "solution" is the policy of the United States.

What are the facts?

The lesson of Gaza. In previous *hasbarah* (educating and clarifying) messages we made clear that a Palestinian state would be impossible for Israel to accept. It would lead inevitably to Israel's destruction. The reason is primarily the lesson learned from the Gaza experiment. Under pressure from most of the world, Israel evacuated Gaza, displacing hundreds of families who had lived there for generations and who had built substantial communities and extensive agricultural installations. Instead of making even the least gesture of acknowledgment and gratitude, the Palestinians, almost from the very first day of their "liberation" from the hated Jews, began to lob rockets into Israel. Ultimately, Israel was forced to defend itself against those attacks and invaded Gaza in force. There was much damage and many casualties. As could be expected, "world opinion" condemned Israel's defensive action and called it "disproportionate."

If Israel were foolish enough to yield to the unrelenting pressure and were to turn Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") over to the Palestinians, it would find itself surrounded by enemies, whose ultimate goal is not the creation of a Palestinian state but the destruction of Israel – to use the common rhetoric, to wipe Israel off the map and push the Jews into the sea.

Statehood opportunities rejected. The reality is that the Palestinians are not really interested in their own independent state. Such a state never existed and the concept of a "Palestinian" people is a fairly new one. If the Palestinians were really interested in their own state, if that were their aspiration, they could have had such a state side-by-side with Israel, for a very long time. The first partition of Palestine – all of which, by the Balfour Declaration and by the mandate of the League of Nations was to be the Jewish home – occurred in 1921. Winston Churchill, who was then the Colonial Secretary, split the mandated territory, allocating the great bulk to the Arabs for the creation of what is now the Kingdom of Jordan. But, of course, that did not satisfy the Arabs.

It is important to understand that the creation of a Palestinian state is not the true ultimate goal of the Arabs. It is, at best, meant to be a stepping stone toward the ultimate goal: the destruction, the disappearance of Israel and of the hated Jews from any portion of what they consider "holy Muslim soil." The Arabs are not interested in putting an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people. That could have been accomplished long ago. On the contrary, to be martyrs is a source of pride and assurance of victory to the Arabs. They compare their willingness to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of their own with the Zionist enemy, who is concerned about combat losses or even the fate of one single abducted soldier.

After much bloody fighting over the decades, other efforts were made to create an additional state for the Arabs (who by then called themselves "Palestinians"). There was the Peel Partition Plan of 1937, and, most importantly perhaps, the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947. Under the UN plan, the territory west of the Jordan River was to be split, with the major portion to be allocated to the Arabs and the smaller, disconnected, portion going to the Jews. Jerusalem, a bone of contention, was to be "internationalized" – it would not belong to either. The Jews, anxious to form their state, accepted this plan under which they were granted only a small fraction of the "Palestine" that they had been promised to be their homeland by the

"...the ultimate goal is not... a Palestinian state... but the destruction of Israel."

Balfour Declaration and by the mandate of the League of Nations. But the Arabs rejected the partition out of hand. Almost the same day that Israel declared its statehood and its independence, six Arab armies invaded Israel from north, east and south. In what could be called a Biblical miracle, the ragtag Jewish forces defeated the combined Arab might.

Following the Six-Day War of 1967, in which Israeli forces defeated the combined invasion forces of Egypt and Syria, Israel offered generous terms for the formation of a Palestinian state. But it was not accepted. Instead, the Arabs convened in Khartoum (Sudan) and pronounced their famous Three No's: No peace with Israel, No negotiations with Israel, No recognition of Israel. Other offers of statehood were made over the course of the years. Ehud Barak, then prime minister of Israel, and U.S. President Bill Clinton offered the Palestinians almost total withdrawal to the 1967 armistice lines. The Palestinians rejected the offer, presumably because it did not include Israel's willingness to accept hundreds of thousands of Palestinian "refugees," who would with one stroke accomplish what the Arabs had not accomplished in their wars: the destruction of Israel. The creation of a Palestinian state could have been accomplished many times. But it is the unalterable goal of the Palestinians, indeed of most Arabs and most Muslims, to destroy the Jewish state and never to recognize and legitimize Israel in whatever shape and size as a Jewish state.

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P.O. Box 590359 ■ San Francisco, CA 94159
Gerardo Joffe, President

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© 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. Solution on page 14.

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

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

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The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions— indiscriminately. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there's the lack of awareness of depression— as an illness and as the threat that it is to each and every one of us. Second, there's the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the 'mental' thing. It's time to collectively face depression. To know it's an illness, not a weakness. And it's a challenge that's long overdue. It's taken too many of us already.

UNTREATED DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

This space donated by The Tech

IS&T Pushes Microsoft Exchange, Replacing IMAP

Exchange, from Page 1

Users who read their e-mail with mail clients like Outlook, Pine, and Apple Mail may also be affected, as well as those who use MIT's Web-mail service. Users of the current Webmail system are encouraged by IS&T to use Microsoft's Outlook Web Access (OWA), a web-based interface specific to Microsoft Exchange.

Christine C. Fitzgerald, a spokesperson for IS&T, said, "We are running Exchange servers in order to offer Microsoft Exchange. This is an optional infrastructure solution for those departments who will benefit from an integrated e-mail and calendaring solution."

Microsoft Exchange's calendaring and scheduling support will allow IS&T to phase out TechTime, the existing recommended calendaring system.

The switchover to Microsoft Exchange will be done on a department-by-department basis to best utilize the new server's calendar and scheduling capabilities, Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald said that several departments are already testing the Exchange system.

IS&T declined to discuss the cost of the Microsoft Exchange deployment in detail, saying that the "costs for upgrading and maintaining the infrastructure including new infrastructure, such as Exchange servers, are funded through the IS&T budget."

Fitzgerald said that the mail system ultimately "gets to the point where upgrading the hardware is not enough to keep current. We're trying to keep our systems current to give MIT the ability to then integrate new services into the future."

The existing Cyrus IMAP system will remain intact for current students in the immediate future, but incoming students will be placed on the new Exchange system. According to Fitzgerald, old mail in the IMAP system will be kept.

New spam filtering system

The other major change to MIT's mail system is the introduction of Symantec's Brightmail AntiSpam filters and quarantine system, a web-based system which has replaced the Apache SpamAssassin filters.

Most users have been transitioned to the Brightmail system, though users can choose to return to the SpamAssassin system.

Regarding the new spam filters, Fitzgerald said that "Spam Quarantine simplifies management of spam messages through automatic daily summaries to your inbox."

Feedback about the new spam quarantine system has been largely positive, Fitzgerald said.

Student Reactions

Some students passionately expressed concern about the mail system changes.

Jeff Z. Chen '12 suggested that students should simply use Gmail instead of MIT's mail infrastructure.

"Gmail's interface is fluid and dynamic," Chen said, "whereas Outlook is chock full of rogue buttons scattered about the user interface... Basically the only practical advantage that Outlook has (for students) is its robust rules and filters interface."

Regarding the new Spam filters, Chen said, "As for Spam Quarantine, I've heard various opinions.

Most people like the daily spam report, but some liken the report itself as spam. Most have reported fewer spam, but a few have gotten much more. An upside is that Spam Quarantine filters spam before it actually gets to your mail server, so it won't fill up your quota. I'd say Spam Quarantine is probably an improvement overall."

Other students, such as Qiaochu Yuan '12 and Emily Zhao '12, shared similar views, which favor forwarding mail to Gmail over the use of Microsoft Outlook (Microsoft's client, which synchronizes with Exchange to more effectively take advantage of all of its features).

In an e-mail, Yuan writes, "I stopped using Outlook years ago because I was frustrated with its user interface, among other things. Mostly I didn't like the lack of searchability. Often I lost important e-mails, such as those involving passwords, and one of Gmail's biggest advantages over other clients, at least when it

first debuted, was full searchability."

Similarly, in an e-mail, Zhao admits that she does not use Outlook herself, but she still favors starting freshmen on the system, saying, "If this is what MIT has decided to go with, then I guess the prefrish should start out on this system. There's no reason for them to learn to use the old system."

A fourth student, who is uncomfortable with the general anti-Microsoft attitude on campus, already uses Microsoft Exchange and said that they were happy with the transition of to the new system.

The student favors Microsoft Exchange, saying "I use Exchange because all my stuff — calendar, tasks, contacts — are seamlessly synchronized between my desktop client, my phone, and a web client. Spam isn't an issue. Over the last month, maybe I've had one or two e-mails slip by the filter, but it's pretty solid. Also, server-side rules are wonderful in Exchange."

Students Gather to Discuss Iran Elections

Iran, from Page 1

dents, and journalists.

Jasmine Park '10, a representative from MIT Amnesty International, introduced the event. After providing a brief summary of the situation in Iran, Park said, "This is not a political or partisan event. This is just a human rights talk ... and on things we can do to make a difference."

Alex Hamilton Chan, President of the MIT Graduate Student Council, urged students to get involved. "Universities act as the critiques and conscience of society," he said. "To be an effective critique and a good conscience, it takes a strong voice to speak on behalf of human values."

Guest speakers Nazanin Afshin-Jam and Fatemah Haghighatjou led the discussion and the Q&A thereafter.

Afshin-Jam is an Iranian-Canadian singer, songwriter, and Miss World first runner up. She currently acts as an international human rights activist and is co-founder and President of "Stop Child Executions."

Haghighatjou, a former member of the Iranian Parliament, is a leading proponent of human rights in Iran, especially women's rights. After serving in the Iranian Parliament from 2000–2004, she was the first to resign when the anti-reform Guardian Council banned more than 2,000 reformist candidates from the seventh Parliamentary election. She currently is a visiting scholar at MIT's Center for International Studies.

As the first speaker, Afshin-Jam recounted her childhood experiences with violence in Iran. Her father was arrested and tortured in jail for owning an establishment that allowed music, the use of alcohol, and dancing. Horrified by the atrocities of her father's arrest, her family emigrated to Canada in 1981.

Even though she is separated from Iran, Afshin-Jam cannot ignore the sufferings of fellow Iranians from the aftermath of the recent election. She spoke against the execution of minors and the death of Neda Agha-Soltan, who was shot through the heart by a sniper while standing quietly near the protestors on the streets of Tehran. She also said that other countries can help end the violence by pressuring the Iranian government.

Haghighatjou echoed much of what Afshin-Jam mentioned, focusing on the Iranian government's refusal to permit a full recount of

election votes as demanded by the masses. Like many, she hoped that presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi would bring great change by winning the election. She was shocked at the election results. According to *The New York Times*, only hours after the 40 million paper ballots were cast, the Iranian authorities announced that they had hand-counted 60 percent of ballots — and that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won.

Based on pre-election polls, Mousavi was the predicted winner of the election. Iran's supreme ruler, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, denied claims of election irregularities and warned protesters that they will face violence if demonstrations continued.

Haghighatjou compared the current crisis to the Iranian Revolution thirty years ago by pointing out the brutal fight for human rights and political reform.

"It's going to take a long time. They have gotten small victories. If you give them an inch, they will give you a mile," said Ashley Nash '11, of the Lecture Series Committee.

During the question and answer, Afshin-Jam mentioned that Twitter has helped protesters to reach out to the outside world. With the government having blocked text messages and access to Youtube and Facebook, Twitter's microblogging service has allowed Iranians to show others the violence in the streets of Tehran, such as the video of Neda Soltani moments before her death. She encouraged attendees of the discussion to take action.

When asked what MIT students could do to help with the situation, Afshin-Jam asked students to "believe that change will happen."

"One signature on a petition could save a life," she said. Afshin-Jam also said that she hopes MIT students will be able to advance online social tools like Twitter to protect Iranian bloggers from being caught by Iranian government spies prowling the site.

"If I were in Iran, I'd be out there with the protesters," said Sulinya Ramanan '10. "None of them are scared to risk their lives, and that inspires me to do more."

After the panel, Afshin-Jam led a candlelight vigil on the stairs outside Building 7 in memory of Neda and others killed in the protests. Following the vigil, many sang "Ey Iran," a populist song of strong cultural significance in Iran.

Neil Diamond Lights Up Stage, Fireworks Illuminate Boston

Independence Day, from Page 1

Flyover, an upbeat performance by the Berklee School of Music jazz quartet "Syncopation," and a breathtaking musical performance of "The Pledge of Allegiance" by 10-year-old singer Oladunni Oladipo.

For the 8:30 p.m. concert held at the Hatch Shell, thousands of Boston Pops fans and Neil Diamond fans alike filled the grassy oval before noon. Prior to the show, however, one of Diamond's perhaps youngest fans, local 10-year-old Olivia M. Brumer was lucky enough to be one of the few to get Diamond's autograph.

Brumer waited near Diamond's trailer backstage for over three hours, and then Diamond arrived and autographed her hand-made fluorescent green sign, embellished with a colorful display of flowers and hearts and reading "Neil Diamond Rocks."

After the experience, Brumer was "very happy and excited" and said that she looked forward to watching Diamond perform her favorite songs, which she later enjoyed that evening alongside friends and family.

During a brief pre-show interview, Robert M. Caplin, the principal bass player of Boston Pops and a part-time

librarian at the MIT Dewey Library, was able to share his experiences performing for the Fourth of July show.

"The Fourth is unlike any other concert that we play. It's intangible, incredible, and the energy is electrifying," said Caplin. When asked about the preparation for the Pops concert, Caplin said that the group has only one rehearsal before delivering their wildly popular show.

Caplin has been playing the electric bass since he was 13 and the double bass since he was 17. He has been playing in the Pops for over 30 years and said, "Music is so much a part of me and I a part of it. I couldn't think of doing anything else. It's what I do and who I am."

According to State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, countless hours of planning and collaborative effort went into delivering the spectacular fireworks show.

"This is largest show in Massachusetts," Coan said, "so there are a lot of unique concerns from the aspect of public safety and a lot of details with choreography." According to Coan, the fireworks barges are loaded a full four days in advance and are then electronically operated the night of the show.

Although it was a windy day, the fireworks went as planned. But if the closely monitored winds had surpassed a sustained 20 miles per hour, Coan said, the fireworks would have been cancelled.

Coan described this year's show as being "new and very customized," and, as promised, the firework show filled the cloudless sky with a dazzling display of new and exciting fireworks.

Prior to the evening's main events, the patriotic spirit of Independence Day was evident throughout much of Boston and Cambridge. MIT students celebrated the holiday from a variety of locations, but those interviewed unanimously enjoyed the festivities.

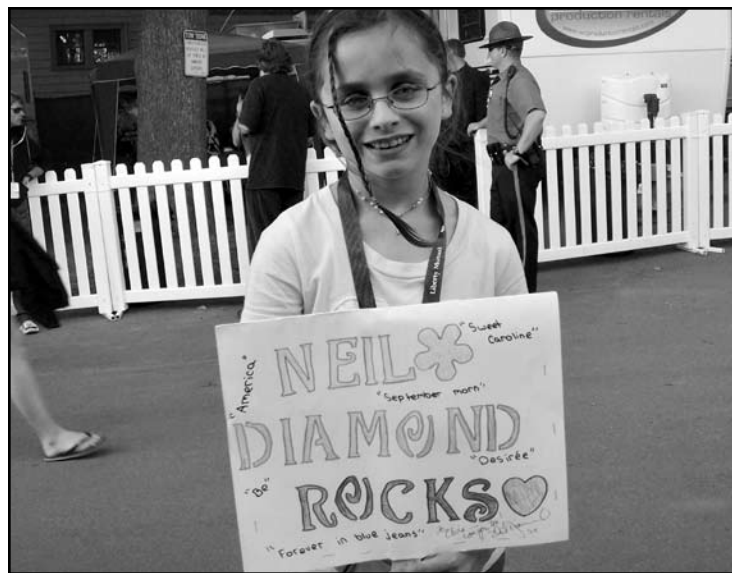
Alorah M. Harman '11 watched the fireworks display from one of independent living group pika's home-made rafts, which floated down the waters of the Charles as part of Project Best Idea Ever, a group of roughly 90 MIT and Olin students who came together for the annual Fourth of July event.

Harman said one of pika's most creative rafts was a floating bed frame complete with mattress and sheets. A group of canoes outfitted with working barbecue grills floated downstream alongside the group.

Like a number of other MIT students, Katie Silberstein '10 watched the fireworks from the Cambridge side of the river, on campus. Silberstein watched from the Baker roof. She said she got "the best firework display that I've ever seen; the view was totally unobstructed."

Anton V. Tarasenko, summer student visiting from Melbourne, Australia, described experiencing the Fourth of July festivities for the first time in Boston. In preparation for the holiday, Tarasenko spoke fondly of buying an American flag and learning the national anthem.

Tarasenko said that "the fireworks were like nothing that I've ever seen before. The American spirit was intense with all the flags, the cheering, and the sing-alongs. America is a great example to follow because people have such pride for their nation."



Olivia M. Brum from Lowell, MA, holding her autographed sign, welcomes Neil Diamond.

JENNIFER MAHONEY-BRUM

Briefs, from Page 1

Colombo wrote in an e-mail: "I had a discussion with the search committee about this strong preference early in the process."

The selection committee began their search back in January 2009, after then-housemaster Henry Jenkins III announced his departure for the University of Southern California. By late May, the choice was narrowed down to two couples: Walter and Wanda Bender, and Professors Robert J. Silbey and Susan S. Silbey. Robert Silbey is a former Dean of Science and current Chemistry professor, and Susan Silbey is an Anthropology Professor.

A couple of days after both candidates were interviewed, the Silbeys sent in a resignation letter, leaving

the Benders as the de facto choice for the housemaster position. In order to appoint the Benders as housemasters, however, Dean Colombo must recommend them to President Hockfield. He has not yet done so.

— John A. Hawkinson, Jeff Guo, Robert McQueen

D'Amelio in Drug Program

Joseph D'Amelio, the former MIT Police Officer arrested for drug trafficking in March, was arraigned in Superior Court last Friday. A grand jury handed up an indictment charging D'Amelio and two co-defen-

Briefs Continued, Page 14

MIT Picower Institute Suffers From Madoff Losses

By Robert McQueen
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Since the Madoff scandal and the collapse of the Picower Foundation, the MIT Picower Institute for Learning and Memory has successfully continued its operations despite some sharp, unexpected loss of funding. Money for several high-risk, high-gain projects has vaporized.

At the cutting edge of brain research, the Picower Institute consists of eleven research labs in Building 46, all of which are headed by MIT Professors. The institute is endowed by MIT, but most of the endowment support is used to support administrative tasks. Most funding comes from outside grants. The largest grant-making organizations the labs received money from are the National Institutes of Health, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Picower Foundation.

The Picower Foundation, a philanthropic organization valued at \$958 million on its 2007 tax forms, was one of Madoff's largest victims, holding 24 accounts with Madoff's firm. It has since closed.

In May 2002, the Picower Foundation gave \$50 million to what is now the Picower Institute for the construction of a new facility, now known as Building 46. More recently, the Picower Foundation gave another gift of \$4 million to the Picower Institute in May 2008 to start the Picower Institute Innovation Fund. Due to the collapse of the foundation, however, the

institute only received \$2 million, half of what was expected.

With the Picower Institute Innovation Fund, each of the eleven research labs would receive \$150,000 of additional funding per year for two years. The primary goal of the fund was to promote high-risk, high-return research projects that normally could not be funded. However, the collapse of the Picower Foundation in December 2008 destroyed the fund, leaving several projects without the \$2 million of additional funding.

Despite the loss of funding from the Picower Foundation, the institute's outgoing director, Professor Mark Bear, is optimistic about the future of the institute.

"The sudden loss of funding by the Picower Foundation was difficult," said Bear, who is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. "The major negative impact is that we are forced to devote more time to fund raising, which is a distraction from doing science."

On July 1, Professor Li-Huei Tsai was appointed as the new director of the Picower Institute, succeeding Bear. For now, Tsai plans to work closely with the Dean of Science and Office of Resource Development in order to get a better grasp of the institute's current state.

All of the labs lost a significant source of funding which would have allowed them to conduct more projects. The financial state of the labs,

however, is healthy enough to continue their operations.

Professor Susumu Tonegawa, who directed the Picower Institute in 2006, heads the Tonegawa Lab, which focuses on memory mechanisms with genetically engineered mice. "We are doing fine," said Tonegawa, "although in a long run a major sponsor that would substitute the Picower Foundation ... would be much desired."

One of the challenges Tsai expects to face is acquiring resources for supporting research from government and private sectors. Government organizations like the National Institutes of Health give out national grants to institutes in order to support research. In the upcoming year, Tsai expects the amount of grants awarded from these institutions to grow as a result of President Obama's stimulus plan.

Picower/Madoff Connection

On Dec. 11, Bernard L. Madoff shook the financial world and was arrested for conducting a \$65 billion Ponzi scheme. Madoff lied to his investors about the remarkably high financial gains of his trading firm, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities L.L.C. In reality, Madoff paid invest-

tors with the same investments that he received from other investors, thereby gaining no returns from the market.

ProPublica, an investigative nonprofit newsroom, reported that Madoff's net worth amounted to a mere \$825 million.

Even before Madoff's arrest, Harry Markopolos, an independent financial fraud investigator, warned investors of the possibility that Madoff was conducting a giant Ponzi scheme, and unsuccessfully tried to get the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate.

On March 12, Madoff pled guilty to eleven felony counts, and on June 29, he was given a maximum sentence of 150 years in prison. Investigations into the Madoff scandal are still ongoing, however, and investigators are now scrutinizing some of Madoff's biggest investors, who benefited from the scandal. One of the largest investigations is targeting Barbara and Jeffrey Picower of the Picower Foundation, who supposedly withdrew \$5.1 billion since December 1995, according to *ProPublica*.

Attorney Irving H. Picard filed a complaint against the Picowers on May 12 of this year. In the complaint

document, Picard accuses the Picowers of having full knowledge of Madoff's Ponzi scheme. The document claims that Jeffrey Picower demanded fictitious gains from Madoff, who would then purchase backdated securities to fake profits. In one example reference, Picard claims that Madoff opened new accounts in April 2008 that backdated to January 2008, resulting in a fictitious gain of \$39 million in less than two weeks. In effect, Picower asked for money, and Madoff delivered.

Picard goes so far to state that the Picower Foundation was "dominated by and used merely as the instrument of [Jeffrey] Picower to advance his personal interests rather than corporate ends." As evidence, he points out several cases when the Picower Foundation benefited from annual return rates of more than 100 percent. Some rates were even as high as 950 percent per year.

William Zabel, the attorney representing the Picowers, denied Picard's allegations. He told the *New York Times*, "Mr. and Mrs. Picower considered themselves friends of the Madoffs for over 35 years. They were totally shocked by his fraud and were in no way complicit in it."

Where and When Do Faculty Relax?

Vacation, from Page 1

Introductory Biology with an emphasis on cell biology and genetics, will remain in the Northeast this summer. Whether in his parents-in-law's farm in Vermont or, more recently, in a cabin that he shares with his wife in woody New Hampshire (see photo, right), Weinberg spends his summer days split between biology work and leisure. He tends his garden and makes repairs around the house in his free time.

Some, like Broad Institute Founding Director and Biology Professor Eric S. Lander, who teaches 7.012 with Weinberg, have not yet solidified their summer plans. While Professor Lander intends to work out family plans for late August, he has not yet made specific arrangements.

Although various MIT professors are spending time traveling this summer, Sadoway said that the economy has had a definite effect on his travel plans. He mentioned that his short

trips are nothing like the month-long learning and vacation experiences he's enjoyed in previous years, citing a two-month-long trip to Japan as an example.

Sadoway says is that there is less discretionary spending now. Everyone, he believes, feels the need to be fiscally cautious given the state of the economy.

Whereas Sadoway previously went to conferences both to present his own research and to learn about others, now he limits his time to very specific instances of discussing his MIT research. Sadoway said cutting back on traveling was unfortunate. Learning hands-on and applying research are just as important for professors as studying the established academic knowledge in their fields.

Sadoway said that, although the Internet is a great resource for knowledge and learning, "there is no substitute for human contact.

Solution to Sudoku

from page 12

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

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NY Court Hears New Reports on Aafia Siddiqui's Mental Health

By Benjamin Weiser

THE NEW YORK TIMES

To government psychiatrists, Aafia Siddiqui '95 has been faking symptoms of mental illness, hoping to avoid a criminal trial on charges of trying to kill American soldiers and F.B.I. agents in Afghanistan.

But to a psychologist retained by Siddiqui's lawyers, she suffers from a genuine mental disorder, and is incompetent to stand trial.

These clashing descriptions are contained in newly filed psychological evaluations in the case of Siddiqui, 37, a Pakistani neuroscientist who was brought to Manhattan last summer for prosecution.

After a court-ordered evaluation found that she was unfit for trial as a result of a mental disease, a judge ordered her sent to the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth for further evaluation.

On Monday, the judge, Richard M. Berman of Federal District Court in Manhattan, took up the competency issue, hearing testimony from experts who have evaluated her. Judge Berman did not rule on the competency question, and asked for further filings from both sides.

Siddiqui declared in a series of rambling, often disjointed outbursts that she had not shot anyone and was not against the United States.

"I didn't fire any bullets," she said at one point.

"I'm really not against America. I never was. I still am not," she said later.

During the hearing in Federal District Court in Manhattan, psychological experts differed on whether Siddiqui had faked symptoms of mental illness or suffered from a genuine mental disorder, and if she was competent to stand trial.

But as the experts vied to talk about her mental state, it was Siddiqui who seemed to be most intent on getting in the first and last words, and many in between.

"I'm not psychotic — I can assure you I am not," she said in a discourse after the cross-examination of a psychologist who had concluded that she was suffering from mental illness and was not competent to stand trial.

During another expert's testimony, when the discussion turned to her not eating in prison, she interjected, "It was Ramadan, just for the record."

"Excuse me," said the judge, Richard M. Berman. She replied, "I didn't ask to come here."

Siddiqui was taken into custody last July in Ghazni, Afghanistan, after she was found loitering outside the provincial governor's compound with suspicious items in her handbag, the authorities have said. The items included handwritten notes that referred to a "mass casualty attack," and listed various landmarks like the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty, an indictment says.

While she was detained, the indictment charges, she picked up an unsecured rifle and fired at least two shots toward a soldier who was part of an American team of F.B.I. agents and military personnel who were about to question her. No one was hit. She was charged with attempted murder and other charges, and has pleaded not guilty.

The defense's psychologist, L. Thomas Kucharski, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, concluded that Siddiqui was suffering from a delusional disorder and depression. He cited various statements, like one in which she said she had been injected with a substance designed to make her

break the Ramadan fast, as examples of "her delusional thought process."

There was "very strong evidence" that she was not malingering, he wrote.

But a government expert, Gregory B. Saathoff, a psychiatry professor at the University of Virginia, said because of Siddiqui's desire to return to Pakistan and her interest in avoiding prosecution, she "has had a strong motivation to appear incompetent."

"She has most likely fabricated reported psychiatric symptoms," he wrote.

Another prosecution expert, Sally C. Johnson, a psychiatry professor at the University of North Carolina, wrote that although Siddiqui appeared frail and timid, "her potential for aggression towards herself or others might be underestimated," and she "could perceive herself as martyr for a cause." Johnson recommended that "adequate precautions be taken to protect her and other individuals throughout the resolution of her legal proceedings."

Siddiqui, who studied at MIT and received a graduate degree in neuroscience from Brandeis, wore a white fabric head covering that left only her eyes visible.

Her outbursts alternated with periods of quiet, sometimes seeming to listen intently, sometimes placing her head down on her arms on the table. As the afternoon progressed, her commentary grew heated at times, as she touched on war and peace, Zionists and Jews, and her anger at being strip-searched. She occasionally even turned to address the spectators.

On the United States, she said, "America as a nation has been framed to look bad." She added later: "I want to make peace with the United States of America. I'm not an enemy. I never was."

Briefs Continued, from Page 13

dants in mid-June, and both D'Amelio and his cousin Anthony Cristallo appeared and pleaded not guilty last Friday.

D'Amelio is no longer under house arrest, but is enrolled in a drug treatment in Weymouth, MA, under supervision of the court. The third defendant, Donald Smoot (no relation to the famed MIT Smoot of unit and standardization fame) was absent. Smoot is accused of FedExing the drugs from Florida to himself in Massachusetts, and then selling them to Cristallo, after distributing a price sheet to D'Amelio.

The trial for all three is set for Jan. 11, 2010, with pretrial appearance on Dec. 8, 2009, with their next routine court appearance on Aug. 19, from which D'Amelio is excused because of his drug treatment program.

—John A. Hawkinson

W20 Barber Saga Continues

Sharon's Hair, the new, on-campus full-service barbershop and styling salon, has opened its doors and is ready for business. The shop is located in the basement of the student center where the New Tech Barber's once stood. Owner, manager, and barber Sharon Donovan has served the MIT community for over twenty years, working as a barber at the New Tech Barber. She is accompanied by fellow barber John who works on Mondays but will start working full-time in the fall.

Donovan plans to host a grand opening event later this year before the start of the academic year. The salon offers the same services as the New Tech Barber including haircuts, perms, waxing, colors, and highlights. Donovan plans to expand her business in the fall by offering nail styling, and special promotions like "finals week" haircuts.

Sharon's Hair is open Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call the salon at their new number (617)-621-8577 or visit them in the basement of the student center, room W20-023.

—Robert McQueen

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SPORTS

Cricket Club's Third Tournament at MIT Hosts 10 Area Teams

By Varun Ramanujam
CLUB MEMBER

The third MIT cricket tournament kicked off to a frenetic start over a somber weekend of mist and drizzle on June 28. Ten teams participating in the MIT Cricket Club's first summer tournament, an anticipated encore to tournaments held in the fall and spring. A testament to the popularity of the tournament was the attendance and avid interest of several established professional cricket clubs from the New England area.

The Jack Barry Astro turf Field provided a unique venue for cricket. The use of taped tennis balls on the skidding turf added to the novelty of the experience and presented a challenge to every player irrespective of suite (batting, bowling or fielding), enhancing its appeal to cricket teams from around the New England region.

The ten teams have been divided into two groups of five teams. First, all teams within each group play each other, round-robin. The top two teams from each group qualify for the semifinals. Ten players can represent a team for a game, and the batting innings comprise a maximum of 12 overs each. The MIT Cricket club fielded two teams for this tournament: the MIT Electrons and MIT Protons.

Group A consisted of Burlington, Watertown, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Rhode Island, and the MIT Electrons. Group B featured teams from Waltham and Lowell along with the MIT Protons, the Cambridge Cricket Club (winners of the fall tournament), as well as new entrant Galaxy XI.

The first weekend of the tournament, June 27 and 28, featured tense and riveting encounters punctuated by awe-inspiring sixes, intimidating yorkers and bouncers, and match-turning catches. The tournament standings at the end of the weekend showcased the emergence of vastly disparate trends in the two groups. In Group A, there is a stark schism opening up between the top two teams and the rest of the field. However the chaotic nature of Group B resulted in a four-way tussle for the top two spots, adding excitement to the upcoming weekend matches on July 10 and 12, which will be followed by the knockout matches on July 18 and 19.

The MIT Electrons and UMass Lowell have emerged as the teams to watch from Group A, having won both their matches. While all-around team effort and orthodox application have been the strengths of the MIT Electrons, UMass Lowell has relied upon its potent bowling attack to subdue its opponents. The contrasting styles of the two teams have generated immense interest in their clash in coming weekend of matches. Watertown and Rhode Island have both been valiant in their matches and have lent refreshing

verve to the tournament through their dash and flamboyance. The big hitters from Watertown caused more than a few jitters in their matches against the MIT Electrons and UMass Lowell, while the marauding bashers from Rhode Island lit up the arena with their audacious batting against extremely challenging bowlers. However, their lack of discipline and consistency undid their charge against the clinical exhibitions of the MIT Electrons and UMass Lowell, nudging them both onto the verge of elimination. Burlington, the fifth team in Group A, will start its campaign in the second week, and their progress could have a significant impact on the duopoly in the group so far.

In Group B, pre-tournament interest was directed towards which team would likely accompany the defending champions, the Cambridge Cricket Club, to the semi-final stages. However, all such predictions were overturned when the Cambridge Cricket Club lost to the MIT Protons in a most shocking reversal that underscored the inherent unpredictability of this game. Inspired by scattered performances in bits-and-pieces, the MIT Protons outlasted a strangely lukewarm Cambridge Cricket Club in their first clash, but promptly conceded the initiative in their next encounter against Waltham XI through a most lopsided defeat. In keeping with the trend, the Cambridge Cricket Club underwent a timely revival of fortunes by handing tournament fledglings Galaxy XI a sound beating, while Waltham undid their good work against the MIT Protons through a lackluster performance against an inspired and sprightly outfit in the form of Lowell Rockers. The Rockers were particularly noteworthy for their inexorable energy on the field and with the bat.

All in all, the results from the first week have set a tantalizing platform for the matches in the final weeks of the tournament, where the temperament and fortitude of the teams are likely to be tested to the fullest.

The cricketing community at MIT is prepared for another absorbing sequence of clashes that promises to bring quality competitive cricket to the shores of this prestigious institution, and extends a cordial invitation to every member of the university to partake in this thrilling celebration of a universally popular sport. Details regarding the tournament schedule and match timings, as well as playing conditions and rules, are available at the MIT Cricket Club's website:

<http://www.mitcricket.net/tournaments/2009/summer/trn-home.html>.

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MIT Sport Taekwondo Athletes Go to World University Games

By Aaron Sampson
SPORTS EDITOR

Four members of the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club are representing the United States at the 2009 Summer World University Games in Belgrade, Serbia. Competing for MIT are Rebecca Hung '11, Karolina A. Corin G, Alicia Y. Zhou '06, and Bobby Ren '05.



MIT Sport Taekwondo Head Instructor Daniel Chuang will be one of the coaches for the U.S. team for the second consecutive year.

Held every two years, the World University Games, officially known as the Universiade (University Olympiad), is a large international sporting event for collegiate athletes from around the world, similar to the Olympics. This year's games will involve over 9,000 athletes from 140 countries competing in 15 Olympic sports. In fact, the Universiade is the largest sporting event in the world this year.

Taekwondo competition at the Universiade incorporates both *kyorugi* (sparring) and *poomsae* (forms). This is in contrast to the Olympics, in which the taekwondo competition consists of sparring only. Forms

consist of choreographed sequences of kicks and hand techniques, which are unique to rank. Forms competitors are judged on both their technical correctness and the way they express the forms—power, speed, and rhythm.

At the Universiade, as at all major World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) competitions, the *poomsae* competition is divided up into individual forms, men's and women's three-person teams, and mixed pairs. Ren and Zhou are competing as a mixed pair while Corin, Hung, and Zhou are a women's team. There is an added element of difficulty in pair and team forms since each move in the form not only must be correctly executed, but also must be synchronized. In all divisions, competitors prepare a total of six forms, two to be performed in the preliminary round, two in the semifinal round, and two in the final round. Across the divisions, these consist of the highest color belt forms and the first five black belt forms.

The U.S. Poomsae team was selected at the National Collegiate Taekwondo Association (NCTA) Championships, held at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island on March 21-22. They also competed at the first Pan-American University Taekwondo Championship in

Berkeley, CA on May 29, a competition between collegiate athletes from around the Western Hemisphere. At that event, the U.S. team earned 16 of the 21 gold medals, including one captured by Ren and Zhou.

Currently in progress, the Universiade runs from July 1 to 12. Taekwondo competition began with individual *poomsae* on Wednesday, July 1 and wrapped up with the completion of the sparring competition on Monday, July 6.

Although no medals were earned by the U.S. Poomsae team, both the women's team of Corin, Hung, and Zhou and the mixed pair of Ren and Zhou advanced to the semifinal round. Corin, Hung, and Zhou finished in ninth place and Ren and Zhou finished in 11th. The U.S. men's team of Johnny Nguyen and Anthony Nguyen from Arizona State University and Jason Hwang from California State University, San Bernardino advanced to final round, finishing in sixth place.

More information about the Universiade can be found at <http://www.ub2009.org/>. Additionally, Zhou is writing an official blog for the National Collegiate Taekwondo Association at http://www.ncta-usa.com/alicia_zhou_2009_SWUG_blog.html.



Srinivasan Jagannathan G (left) and Ankur Sinha G are seen preparing for a cricket match on the Barry Astro turf Field in this September 2008 file photo.

NOAH SPIES—TECH FILE PHOTO

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Happy Fourth of July, Boston!

(clockwise from top-right)

Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart gestures to the crowd during the Pop's public rehearsal on July 3 at the Hatchshell on the Esplanade.

Crowds lined the banks of the Charles River as early as before noon on July 4th to claim prime spots to view the fireworks.

A close flyover by F-15's of the 104th Fighter Wing (based in Westfield, MA) added an element of action to the National Anthem.

Charles River is seen at sun-

down in this composite stitched panorama. Hundreds of thousands of people — and hundreds of watercraft — surrounded the barge with fireworks in the middle of the river.

Singer Neil Diamond sings his signature song "Sweet Caroline" to large crowd packed on the Esplanade during the rehearsal of CBS's national broadcast of the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular on July 3.

The 101st Field Artillery Regiment (based in Brockton, MA) provided an added "boom" to Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH



ANDREW T. LUKMANN—THE TECH



ANDREW T. LUKMANN—THE TECH



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH



ANDREW T. LUKMANN—THE TECH



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