

## Feeling Sick? You're Not Alone. Just Skip Classes and Order In

By Maggie Lloyd  
STAFF REPORTER

Michelle I. Slosberg '12 first realized she was sick at the T station last Sunday.

"By the time I got to the bottom of the stairs I felt really, really tired. I was coughing, I had a fever, and it just got worse then on out."

She called MIT Medical, described her symptoms, and was told to stay in her dorm. Three days of missed classes later, Slosberg is starting to feel better.

As most health experts predicted, the H1N1 virus or "swine flu" has made a comeback at campuses across the U.S., and MIT is no exception. Traffic into Medical's Urgent Care has doubled, with up to 40 new cases of cold or flu symptoms each day. Posters cover the walls with sayings like, "Got a face? Don't touch it" or "Avoid the flu! Wash your hands frequently."

Most students who walk in with flu-like symptoms get the same message: "Please don't go to class if

you're sick," says David Diamond, Associate Medical Director at MIT Medical.

In an e-mail to all faculty, Daniel E. Hastings, Dean for Undergraduate Education; Steven R. Lerman, Dean for Graduate Education; Diamond; and Thomas A. Kochan, Faculty Chair, asked instructors to "be proactive" in telling students to stay home and discourage them from trying to "tough it out" and attend class sick.

Flu, Page 15



MELISSA RENEE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

The H1N1 Swine Flu virus has been spreading on campus. MIT Medical has been leading a campaign that attempts to reduce transmission.

## Freshman Application Drops the Long Essay For Three Short Ones

By Joy E. Lee

Many MIT students remember writing their long essay on the freshman application. The class of 2014 will not. The application's 500 word long essay has been replaced with three short essays between 200 and 250 words in length.

"We want to learn more about the students and what motivates them; how they react in certain situations," said Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86. Admissions officers felt they could do that better with the short essays than they could with the long essay, said Schmill.

The problem with the long essay was that students were revising the essay to the point where it lost the personal touch, said Schmill. "It was

becoming so stylized that we didn't get to really see the student."

The shorter essays are meant to allow students to answer questions in a more relaxed way. Admissions officers also get to see the student from three angles instead of just one.

The prompt for one of the required essays asks the student to describe how they have used their creativity. Previously, this essay was optional, but quite a number of applicants ended up filling out that section, so the Admissions Office decided that they would add it to the list of required essays. That way, they could hear about students' creativity directly instead of only through their

Essay, Page 11

## Larger & Smoother Rush Sees More Frosh Bidded

By Jessica J. Pourian  
STAFF REPORTER

As of Wednesday afternoon, 338 freshmen out of the 591 freshmen men were offered a bid to join a fraternity. A total of 437 bids were handed out, up from last year's 405, said Interfraternity Council Recruitment Chair David B. Stein '10. The biggest change in the this year's Rush process was an overhaul of the Clearinghouse system, the software which tracks rushees.

Fraternities offered "significantly more bids this year," said Stein. Phi Beta Epsilon had the most new

pledges, with a total of 24 freshmen, followed by Zeta Beta Tau with 19 new members. The IFC declined to release pledge numbers of other fraternities.

Due to its recent expulsion, Alpha Tau Omega did not participate in Rush activities. Number 6, which chose to disaffiliate from the IFC last year to become a living group, also did not participate. Sigma Alpha Epsilon joined official rush activities this year.

Only "small changes" were made

Rush, Page 13

### First Planning Forum Draws 100

A hundred people showed up to 10-250 yesterday for a forum intended to involve MIT community members in the plans to fix MIT's \$150 million budget shortfall.

Professor Lawrence E. Susskind '73 moderated the discussion. Attendance was split fairly evenly between students, staff and administration, and faculty.

Although only three people came to the forum with prepared questions, Susskind skillfully guided a discussion to solicit community input on a number of contentious recommendations in the task force report, available at <http://tech.mit.edu/V129/N31/tf/Preliminary-Report.pdf>.

The second forum begins Monday at 4 p.m. in 32-155, moderated by Professor Susan S. Silbey, Chair of the Faculty Thomas A. Kochan urges everyone to attend and "bring a friend"; Kochan has repeatedly expressed his commitment to transparency as part of this process, which could produce significant changes to the Institute.

Though a hundred people attended Thursday's forum, all but four people sat on the sides, leaving the center section eerily empty.

The Tech will run more-detailed coverage of these forums next Tuesday.

—John A. Hawkinson

### In Short

¶ 105 Institute layoffs have taken place since January, HR VP Allison Alden announced on Wednesday.

¶ The Campus Police Review Panel released its report on Tuesday recommending: (1) codification of standards for off-duty behavior, (2) consideration of random drug testing, (3) considering shifting some of the force to civilian personnel instead of its current all-sworn officer staff.

¶ The Massachusetts House is poised to grant Gov. Patrick the power to appoint an interim U.S. Senator, *The Boston Globe* reports.

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).



RUI LUO

¶ Leland Cheung G is running for City Council, and is one of 21 candidates for 9 seats, with 8 incumbents on the ballot. Elections are Nov. 3.

¶ Comedian B. J. Novak will perform at the Fall Festival on Oct. 28.



SAMUEL L. RANGE—THE TECH

The Yellowstone Lower Falls in Wyoming is the largest waterfall in the Rocky Mountains. The Tech's photography staff share more images from their summer vacations on pages 8-9.

### OPINION

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# WORLD & NATION

## Google Aims to Wrest Display Ads from Yahoo

By Miguel Helft and Stephanie Clifford

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Google is pushing for a second act. The company has built its fortune almost entirely on the back of small text ads, which appear alongside its search results and on sites across the Web. Now it is stepping up efforts to make inroads into graphical display ads, a business long dominated by Yahoo.

On Friday, Google plans to introduce a long-awaited new version of an ad exchange, like a stock market, where advertisers and publishers can buy and sell advertising space, filling spots in Web pages on the fly.

Google's chief executive, Eric E. Schmidt, has said repeatedly that display advertising offers one of the company's best prospects for expansion, now that growth in its text ad business has slowed significantly. The new advertising exchange is a cornerstone of Google's display strategy, and one of the main reasons Google bought the ad company DoubleClick last year for \$3.1 billion.

Google executives say the new system, called the DoubleClick Ad Exchange, will greatly simplify the process of buying and selling display advertising, allowing many more publishers and advertisers to benefit from it.

## U.N. Chief Says Working Poor Still Suffer

By Neil Macfarquhar

THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

While economists in developed nations are cautiously pointing to the first signs of renewed economic growth, the global financial crisis is slamming some of the working poor around the world, Ban Ki-moon, the U.N. secretary-general, said Thursday.

"There is talk of green shoots of recovery, but our data show another picture," Ban told a news conference. "It is not the chronic poor who are most affected, but the near and working poor whose lives had improved significantly over the past decade."

Although the ability of the United Nations or any other global entity to collect accurate figures about poverty is in dispute, a point Ban conceded, there is general consensus that the poorest people in the world are staggering from the impact of the crisis.

Some 100 heads of state and government are expected to gather at the United Nations in New York beginning next Tuesday for what the organization is calling its biggest annual assembly ever. Much of the focus will be on climate change, with a special meeting on the subject the first day.

## Yemen Airstrike Kills 80, Tribal Leaders Say

By Robert F. Worth

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

More than 80 people, including a large number of civilian refugees, were killed in a government airstrike in northern Yemen on Wednesday as they sought shelter from a month-long conflict between the military and rebel forces, provincial tribal leaders said.

Local and international human rights groups have condemned the attack, which appeared to be the deadliest single episode in a worsening war between government forces and the Houthi rebels in Yemen's remote and mountainous north.

The airstrike took place in Adi, just outside the rebel-controlled town of Harf Sufyan, where a group of refugees from the conflict had gathered under trees and plastic tents, according to tribal figures in the area who asked not to be identified out of fear for their safety. Dozens of people were also wounded in the attack, they said.

# New Missile Shield Inverts Old Cold War Thinking

By David E. Sanger and William J. Broad

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The new plan that President Barack Obama laid out for a missile shield against Iran on Thursday turns Ronald Reagan's vision of a Stars Wars system on its head: Rather than focusing first on protecting the continental United States, it shifts the immediate effort to defending Europe and the Middle East.

It is a long way from the impermeable shield that Reagan described in glowing terms in 1983, an announcement that turned into a diplomatic triumph even while it was a technological flop. Ever since, missile defense has always been more about international politics than about new military technology.

In the last years of the Cold War, it helped nudge the Soviets toward agreements that sharply reduced nuclear arsenals, a process that Obama hopes to revive at the end of the year. In the George W. Bush years, it was about expanding NATO and, under the cover of building anti-missile bases to protect against North Korean attack, a subtle warning to China

that its power in the Pacific would not go unchecked.

In the age of Obama, the vision has descended from the stars to sea level. A president who was still in college during Reagan's famous missile defense speech has turned a scaled-back version of the technology, which would first be based on ships, to a new mission: Convincing Israel and the Arab world that Washington is moving quickly to counter Iran's influence, even as it opens direct negotiations with Tehran for the first time in 30 years.

For Obama, it is a step fraught with some risk. Within hours of his announcement, charges were flying that in his first major confrontation with the Russians, he had backed down, giving in to Moscow's opposition to the Bush plan to place missile defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic.

"The politics of this was driving him in the other direction, against appearing to back down," said William Perry, who served as defense secretary in the Clinton administration. "But he went with where the technology is today — and where the threat is today."

During last year's presidential campaign, missile defense was tricky territory for Obama. His liberal base

was allergic to the very words. Obama, eager to show that he was neither a neophyte nor soft on defense, talked about embracing those technologies that were "proven and cost-effective."

Nine months into his presidency, Obama has begun to describe what that means. He is not abandoning the two anti-missile bases built on U.S. soil in the Bush years, one in Alaska and one in California. But his aides — led by the one veteran of the Cold War in his Cabinet, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates — argued Thursday that Iran and North Korea were taking far longer to develop intercontinental missiles than many feared a decade ago.

The urgency, they argued, lies in addressing a more imminent threat: Iran's short- and medium-range missiles.

First among those weapons is the Shahab III, the missile that can reach Israel and parts of Europe. It is also the missile that U.S., Israeli and European intelligence services have charged that Iran hopes to fit with a nuclear warhead. Iran denies that but has refused to answer questions from international inspectors about documents that appear to link the missile program to its nuclear efforts.

# Lab Technician Charged With Murder of Yale Student

By Javier C. Hernandez and Serge F. Kovalski

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Before there was blood, the high-technology lab at 10 Amistad St. at Yale University was a model of efficiency. The mice and rats and rabbits stayed locked in cages. The technicians responsible for their well-being circulated like emergency room nurses. Researchers hunched over the cages for hours, intent on claiming a breakthrough.

The two groups interacted in professional if perfunctory ways, but on Thursday, the authorities charged a technician, Raymond Clark III, with murdering one of the graduate researchers, Annie Le. Le, 24, was strangled on Sept. 8, and her body was found on Sunday hidden behind a wall, out of view from the immaculate corridors of the laboratory.

Clarke, 24, was arrested just after

8 a.m. Thursday in Room 214 of the Super 8 Motel in Cromwell, Conn. He had been staying there with his father, at the end of several days in which the authorities interviewed him, followed him, took DNA samples and then kept him under surveillance. He was charged with murder and driven back to New Haven, Conn., where he was arraigned but said little and did not enter a plea. Bail was set at \$3 million.

The authorities said his DNA matched crime scene evidence, but did not elaborate.

Chief James Lewis of the New Haven police would not speak about a possible motive, but said: "It is important to note that this is not about urban crime, university crime, domestic crime, but an issue of workplace violence, which is becoming a growing concern around the country."

The chief sought to dispel any notion that Le, who was about to be

married, had been stalked by Clark or that Yale itself was unsafe. But the arrest opened a window into a peculiar work environment, populated by thousands of animals, driven researchers and the technicians who perform the laboratory's menial but essential work.

Those technicians are given a special order: to serve as advocates for the animals and guardians of regulation about how they should be treated.

"There is a certain stress that builds with the job," said David Russell, who worked as an animal technician at Yale from 1997 to 2008. "If there's something wrong, you are the one who is on the hook."

They come from a variety of backgrounds: former veterinary technicians; laid-off workers from pharmaceutical companies; men and women fresh out of high school and college and looking for a decent-paying job.

# WEATHER

## A Break in the Clouds

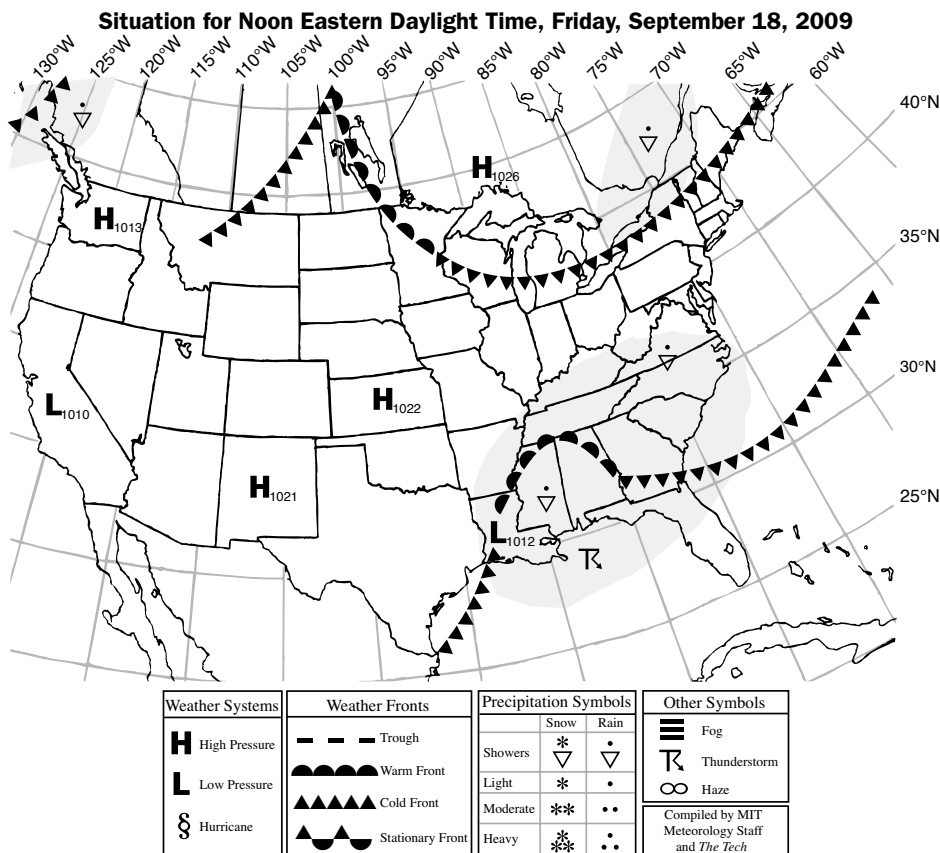
By Vince Agard  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Today's weather will offer a reprieve from the cool, dreary weather that MIT has experienced over the past couple days. A change in wind direction means that warmer air from over land will blow in from the West, instead of cool ocean air from the East. As a result, temperatures will reach the high 70s°F, instead of hovering around the 60°F mark as they did on Wednesday and Thursday.

However, a cold front approaching the area will drop temperatures overnight and lead to strong Northwest winds, with gusts of up to 30 miles per hour possible through tomorrow. While the relatively chilly weather will be back in place for Saturday, the winds will eventually calm, setting the stage for the return of sunshine and higher temperatures at the beginning of next week. This will provide a taste of pleasant, late-summer weather before the first day of autumn on Tuesday.

### Extended Forecast

- Today:** Partly cloudy, High 78°F (25°C)
- Tonight:** Becoming clear and windy, Low 51°F (11°C)
- Tomorrow:** Sunny and breezy, High 65°F (18°C)
- Sunday:** Sunny and calmer, Highs in the low 70s°F (21°C)
- Monday:** Continued sunshine, Highs in the mid 70s°F (25°C)



# SEC Seeks To Ban High-Frequency Trading

By Jenny Anderson  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

It is an obscure art of Wall Street, a technique that gives a scattering of traders an edge over everyone else and the Securities and Exchange Commission wants to stamp it out.

The SEC on Thursday proposed to ban what are known as flash orders, which use powerful computers to glimpse at investors' orders. The practice is often associated with a controversial corner of finance called high-frequency trading, which has grown, largely hidden from view, into a potent force in the markets.

The proposed ban was announced on the same day that the SEC put forward new rules for credit ratings agencies, which were widely criticized for their role in the financial crisis. Together, the moves telegraphed a tougher line from the SEC after series of prominent missteps, including its failure to spot the Ponzi scheme orchestrated by Bernard Madoff.

Critics say that flash orders favor sophisticated, fast-moving traders at the expense of slower market participants. Using lightning-quick computers, high-frequency traders often issue

and then cancel orders almost simultaneously and get an early peek at how others are trading.

SEC Chairwoman Mary Schapiro said Thursday that in proposing the ban, the commission was trying to balance the often competing interests of long-term investors and short-term traders. The proposal requires a second vote by the commission to become binding.

"Flash orders may create a two-tiered market by allowing only selected participants to access information about the best available prices for listed securities," she said during a meeting in Washington. Other modern market practices, she said, are similarly opaque.

Fast-moving electronic exchanges have upended old-fashioned stock trading. Buyers and sellers no longer must interact on exchange floors and haggle over prices. Today, traders employ powerful computer programs to execute millions of orders a second and scan dozens of marketplaces simultaneously.

While anyone can gain access to flash orders for a fee, only very powerful computers can process and act on the information. In July, flash orders represented 2.8 percent of the roughly 9 billion shares of stocks traded in the

United States.

According to Richard H. Repetto, an analyst at Sandler O'Neill who studies stock exchanges, the average trade is executed, or completed, in less than 10 milliseconds and often as fast as 5 milliseconds.

The proliferation of high-frequency trading has pushed up average daily volume on the nation's stock exchanges by 164 percent since 2005. Proponents of the practice argue such trading enhances the liquidity and greases the wheels of the markets.

"High-frequency trading has made the markets more efficient, and generally speaking, markets that are more efficient are better for all participants," said Justin Schack, a vice president at Rosenblatt Securities.

Even so, Schack said he was pleased the SEC was moving to ban flash orders, which he said tended to "benefit everyone except for the customer."

Direct Edge, an electronic exchange, has benefited the most from the use of flash orders, analysts said. But other electronic exchanges, including Nasdaq and BATS also jumped into the market, prodded by competitive pressures.

# China's Economy Is Back, While U.S. Still Ails

By Keith Bradsher  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WUXI, CHINA

Just eight months ago, thousands of Chinese workers rioted outside factories closed by the global downturn.

Now many of those plants have been reopened and are hiring again. Some executives are even struggling to find enough temporary staff to fill Christmas orders.

The image of laid-off workers here returning to jobs stands in sharp contrast to the United States, where even as the economy shows signs of improvement, the unemployment rate continues to march toward double digits.

The Chinese government says unemployment is falling, and even the hardest-hit factories — those depending on exports to the United States and Europe — are starting to rehire workers. No one here is talking about a jobless recovery.

Even the real estate market is picking up. For instance, in this industrial town 90 miles from Shanghai, prospective investors lined up one recent Saturday to buy apartments in the still-unfinished Rose Avenue complex. Many of them slept outside the sales

office all night.

"The whole country's economy is back on track," said Shi Yingyi, a 34-year-old housewife who joined the throng. "I feel more confident now."

The confidence stems from China's three-pronged effort — a combination of stimulus, liberal bank lending and broad government support for exports.

In the second quarter, the Chinese government said its economy surged at an annualized rate of 15 percent. The U.S. economy shrank at an annual rate of 1 percent in that period.

"So often China and the U.S. are mixed together as being in the same situation, and that is totally wrong," said Xu Xiaonian, an economist in Beijing with the China Europe International Business School.

That does not mean the two nations are not connected, of course. Many economists say China cannot continue to grow unless the U.S. economy picks up. China needs the United States to buy its goods, and the United States needs China to continue to buy its debt. This mutual dependence is seen as one reason neither country can afford the current dispute over Chinese tires and American chicken and auto parts to

grow into a trade war.

With a planned economy, China has been able to disburse its stimulus much faster, turning it into new rail lines and highways.

China's Finance Ministry announced in late June that half the \$173 billion in central government spending had already been allocated to specific projects. The White House said in early July that a quarter of the spending authority and tax cuts in the \$789 billion American stimulus had been allocated or used.

But even more of an impetus to China's recovery, economists say, are two other government efforts that are paying big dividends: looser lending and export supports.

The state-controlled banking system here — which breezed through the global financial crisis with minimal losses as U.S. financial institutions reeled — unleashed \$1.2 trillion in extra lending to Chinese consumers and businesses in the first seven months of this year. That money is financing everything from a boom in car sales, up 82 percent in August from a year earlier, to frenzied factory construction.

# Italy Ponders Afghan Pullout After Deadly Blast

By Richard A. O'Connell Jr. and Rachel Donadio  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

A powerful suicide bomb that killed six Italian soldiers here on Thursday prompted Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy to declare that his nation had begun planning to "bring our young men home as soon as possible."

In Brussels, Berlusconi, a close American ally but in some political trouble at home, was careful to say that Italy would not unilaterally withdraw its 3,100 troops from Afghanistan, though he said he wanted the withdrawal to happen "as quickly as possible." But it seemed the strongest expression yet from a European leader of the rising doubts about the Afghanistan mission among America's allies.

"We are all convinced that it would be best for everyone, whoever they are, to remove our conspicuous presence from Afghanistan quickly," Berlusconi said.

Senior elected officials in Germany and Britain have also expressed

weariness with the mission as violence has increased and casualties mounted.

Meantime, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan dismissed complaints that the Aug. 20 presidential ballot had been marred by widespread fraud and ballot-stuffing, saying he was "surprised and rather shocked" that European Union election monitors had warned that 1.1 million of his 3.1 million votes were suspicious. Western governments, he said, should "respect the people's vote."

Karzai conceded that some government officials had been "partial" to him and some to other candidates, in what appeared to be his first acknowledgment that some fraud had occurred. He said, however, there was little evidence of widespread irregularities. "I believe firmly, firmly in the integrity of the election," Karzai said.

The election monitors said 300,000 of the 1.6 million votes for Karzai's closest competitor, the former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, also needed to be reviewed.

Preliminary tallies have Karzai winning 54.6 percent of the vote. But at least 15 percent of the ballots are now being audited for fraud under orders from a U.N.-backed commission.

A number of Western diplomats have said there were convinced that if all fraudulent ballots were discarded, Karzai would be left with less than 50 percent of the vote, forcing him into a runoff with Abdullah. If a runoff were ordered, the harsh winter weather here could prevent it from taking place until April, deepening the leadership vacuum for months.

On Thursday, Abdullah said that he would not join in any coalition government with Karzai, and that no one from his camp had held any discussions with Karzai officials about forming a coalition. "Illegitimate rule in itself is a recipe for instability," he said, urging that fraud investigations be pursued to the end.

The disputed election risks leaving the country with a government widely seen as illegitimate and undermining efforts to bolster commitments for troops and other resources from Western countries.

# Inmate Will Testify About Failed Execution

By Bob Driehaus

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CINCINNATI

Two days after the execution of a convicted rapist-murderer was halted when technicians were unable to inject him with lethal drugs, a federal judge ordered Thursday that the inmate be deposed for a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Ohio's lethal injection procedure.

The deposition for the inmate, Romell Broom, is set for Monday, a day before he is again scheduled to be executed. His lawyers said they planned to file appeals in state and federal courts on Friday seeking to cancel or at least postpone his execution.

One of his lawyers, Adele Shank, said the appeals would present three arguments that executing Broom on Tuesday would constitute cruel and unusual punishment. They will contend that seven days is not enough time to recover from the physical and emotional trauma of the failed execution attempt, that Ohio's lethal injection system in its current form is critically flawed and that lethal injection, in general, is cruel and unusual punishment.

# U.S. Strike Kills Al-Qaida Commander, Pakistan Says

By Pir Zubair Shah and Mark McDonald

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

A top commander for al-Qaida has been killed in Pakistan by an American missile fired from a drone, Pakistani intelligence officials said Thursday.

The officials, who spoke anonymously under security rules, said the Qaida commander, Ilyas Kashmiri, was killed in a drone strike 10 days earlier in the border area of North Waziristan.

Kashmiri was considered by some intelligence officials to be one of the 10 most wanted militants in Pakistan. Although they said his body had not been found, agents were sent to his home village, Bahawalpur, to verify his death.

The missile struck a compound in the village of Machi Khel, and a security official said five other militants were killed and at least three others wounded. A local resident said the five dead fighters were Uzbeks.

# Christmas Seals Evokes Nostalgia to Revive Giving

By Andrew Adam Newman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

With the economic downturn kindling a longing for less-volatile eras, many companies have turned to nostalgia marketing. Examples are Volkswagen, featuring a 1964 Beetle in advertisements; General Mills, selling Cheerios and other cereals in retro boxes; and Nationwide Insurance, resurrecting its "Nationwide is on your side" catchphrase.

Now a charity is about to test if that approach to consumer goods also applies to good deeds. The American Lung Association is introducing a campaign for its century-old Christmas Seals fundraiser that weaves vintage Christmas Seal images into contemporary advertisements.

The Christmas Seals program, where millions of households are mailed decorative stamp-sized seals for holiday-card envelopes, and are asked for a donation, is in decline: Donations plummeted to \$12.6 million in 2008, from about \$28 million in 1995.

The annual direct-mail effort, which once featured public service announcements from celebrities like John Wayne and Gary Cooper, has not been advertised since the early 1990s, when previous leaders at the nonprofit deemed the program so popular that promoting it was overkill, according to Carrie Martin, an American Lung Association spokeswoman.

# Airbus Predicts Solid Plane Sales Through 2028

By Nicola Clark

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

Airbus predicted on Thursday that demand for new aircraft would remain healthy over the next 20 years, based on expectations of steady air traffic growth in the developing world and the rapid expansion of low-cost carriers. The prediction comes even as the world's airlines are suffering a second straight year of steep losses.

The company, a unit of European Aeronautic Defense & Space, forecast that airlines would buy nearly 25,000 new jets through 2028, with a market value of \$3.1 trillion. That represented an increase of 2.7 percent from its previous forecast in February 2008, when air carriers were reeling from the initial effects of the global economic crisis.

Airbus, which expects to secure orders for around 300 planes this year, also said the steep decline in world air traffic would probably stabilize in 2010 and could rise by as much as 4.6 percent. It forecast a decline in 2009 traffic of 2 percent to 4 percent.

The International Air Transport Association said on Wednesday that it expected the world's airlines to lose a combined \$11 billion this year on top of a \$16.8 billion loss in 2008. But despite those hefty losses, John Leahy, the chief salesman for Airbus, said that Airbus had seen relatively few order delays and cancellations.

"A lot of people have talked about massive cancellations in the recession, but that's not really true," Leahy said at a presentation in London. He said Airbus had received fewer than 40 cancellations this year, less than 1 percent of the company's order backlog of around 3,600 planes.

Still, he acknowledged that many customers were having difficulty securing financing and had postponed deliveries — some by several years.

The company's American rival, Boeing, has had at least 64 order cancellations this year, almost all of them for its 787 Dreamliner, which has been delayed more than two years by production snags.

# OPINION



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## Corrections

An article on Friday, Sept. 4 about MIT professors working in Washington provided incorrect information about Professor Deborah J. Lucas and her work, and omitted a word from a quotation. Lucas is a full tenured professor of finance at MIT in Sloan School of Management, she is not a visiting professor. Lucas's work at the Congressional Budget Office does not involve providing budget estimates, but rather refining the methodologies used to produce those estimates. Lucas said she had noted in 2001 insufficient attention to "federal financial obligations," not to "federal obligations."

Because of incorrect information supplied to *The Tech* by Cambridge Fire Department Public Information Office Deputy Chief James F. Burns, a front-page "In Short" item on Tuesday incorrectly stated that the investigation into the Sept. 8 trash chute fire at East Campus was closed. Lieutenant David J. Pierce of the CFD's Fire Investigations Unit states that the investigation is "still ongoing" and that the CFD does not comment on ongoing investigations.

An article Tuesday regarding MIT's dismissal of Lynn Roberson gave the wrong year for Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo's arrival at MIT. Colombo was appointed Dean for Student Life effective Aug. 18, 2008, not Aug. 18, 2009.

## Letters To The Editor

### Save the MIT Post Office

To the MIT Community,

As the General President of Boston Metro Area Local 100, American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO, I feel it is necessary to inform you about an urgent matter regarding your post office within the university.

Let me preface my remarks with the following: the American Postal Workers Union (circa 2008) notified the American public in Boston and surrounding towns of a United States Postal Service management initiative to close local post offices and the consequences of doing so. We alerted the public by Op-Eds in many local newspapers throughout the Boston area and presented our concerns to elected officials in the State House and the Boston City Council.

While we are always apprehensive about such plans and the impacts they will have on our membership, our immediate concern focuses on our ability to continue providing quality service to the citizens of America; and in that regard our track record is exemplary.

Now, you may ask, how does the closing of the MIT post office affect me, a university student from Boston or Seattle, or any city or town in the U.S.A., as well as a host of countries throughout the world? Well, *your* local post office is on the list to be reviewed for permanent closure.

The United States Postal Service, one of the most venerable institutions in America, is being systematically dismantled by the "powers that be," and the results will be disastrous for the American public. By closing your post office, they will require you to go to a post office further away, and the number of additional customers will certainly delay your business dealings at that post office.

Millions of Americans depend on their local post office to send and receive checks, legal documents and, of course, letters and packages from family and friends. Your local post office also serves as the first line of defense in protecting the sanctity of your mail. The questions asked by your local window clerk are designed to protect the public through coordination with the Department of Homeland Security.

One only has to recall one of the darkest days in our history — 9/11, and the subsequent biochemical attacks on our mail service to understand this defense. The quiet heroics displayed by postal workers during the anthrax attack showed America the character, strength and resolve of our membership; that continues today as we keep the lines of communication open throughout the United States and the world.

However, those in positions of authority within the Postal Service will tell you they're looking to close your post office because of factors such as "low mail volume" and the current economy. But, much of the Service's di-

lemma is due to deficient forecasting and poor financial practices.

*It is important that you know the MIT Post Office provides the Postal Service with a tidy profit.* In fact, after expenses the MIT Post Office is expected to provide the Service with a \$201,125 profit in FY 2009. So one must ask, if the Postal Service is supposedly bleeding money, why would it consider closing a profitable operation?

I don't think Ben Franklin, the first Postmaster General, would approve of what is happening to the Service he established and envisioned.

This American tragedy is not about who to blame, however. It's about how we, as Americans, can stop the destruction of our Postal Service.

We ask that you please contact university officials and local politicians to let them know you strongly disagree with the Postal Service's plans to close your post office.

In mid-September we will be leafleting your campus to further inform you of our collective plight. We ask for your activism to help us, the American Postal Workers Union, keep our Postal Service as strong as our forefathers intended. Let's not let them down. It's that important!

Moe Lepore  
General President  
Boston Metro Area Local 100  
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

### Revenge of the Nerds: A New Beginning

An inglorious end: "Appeal Denied to ATO; Fraternity Is Expelled From House and MIT."

Having fully moved into my cramped room for the last time, I finally lounged around reading *The Tech*. Then it struck me — I am a senior. I am old. We are old. As MIT prepares for another semester of week-long tooling and weekend partying, half of the undergraduate students don't even know who ATO is. Soon,

there will be no more memory at MIT of Alpha Tau Omega, nor of this 2010 Senior Class.

Feeling surprisingly nostalgic due to ATO's demise, I decided to write my first letter to *The Tech*. Like many of you, I am not affiliated with any fraternity. Nor any sorority, for that matter. Like many of you, I work and I play, nervously dancing the night away at parties, or happily toiling away on never-ending psets. And, like many of you, I know it's much harder to complete my psets on Friday morning than to get trashed on Friday night, regardless of age, company, or drug of choice.

I am not the morality police. Having myself participated in some of both the good and the bad that MIT has to offer, I write this not to attack, nor to defend, but only to chronicle and be fair.

The IFC seemingly did the right thing. ATO had many second chances and were foolish enough to get caught repeatedly, and hated enough to eventually get punished. Nevertheless, removing a couple dozen brothers will do little more than fix a dilapidated frat house. A few years from now, no one will remember ATO at MIT, their great parties, nor the senior class that expelled them. And as we rejoice in Moral Victory over our own hated "jock frat," we will once again turn a blind eye to dorms' weekend-long drug binges, naked parties, and other likewise immoral activities.

Who gets to be the morality police? The admirable "one and done" policy should apply to all or to none. ATO is merely our sacrificial offering to morality and posterity, and the IFC an all-too-willing final Judge and Executioner.

A decade ago Sigma Phi Epsilon was punished; now it's Alpha Tau Omega. MacGregor used to be a party dorm; now Baker is. The brothers' pictures will remain on a dark, dusty wall, our pictures will lie inside some forgotten Facebook server, our children will study Chinese, and I wrote all this just to say: *I liked Alpha Tau Omega*. Ironically, it is the *only* frat that has ever denied me alcohol. That's the definition of irony.

Dan Stuurca '10



### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Austin Chu, Editor in Chief Nick Bushak, Managing Editor Steve Howland, Executive Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Opinion Editors Joseph Maurer and Ethan Solomon, and Senior Editor Andrew T. Lukmann.

**Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will

be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech's* Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

### To Reach Us

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# The Good, the Bad, and the Clever of The MIT Budget Task Force Report

Ryan Normandin

As many are aware, MIT commissioned a task force to investigate how spending can be cut in response to last year's global economic meltdown. In addition to the cuts already made, the Task Force has looked at a wide variety of ways for saving MIT even more money. Some of these ideas are common sense, some are quite clever, but there are one or two that are just plain bad. Not even moderately bad. Awful bad. Dining-system-reform-from-bad-to-worse bad.

First, some of the rumors going around need to be quashed. Many on campus speak in fearful tones of the dreaded online freshman year that the Task Force has proposed. Does the online freshman year appear in the billion-page analysis that I just spent the last hour reading? Yes. But peoples' rather hushed tones of discussion leave out a rather important detail: The column right next to it reads, "would radically change MIT culture. Revenue potential \$50-\$100 million. Not recommended."

This is the only time that the words "not recommended" appear together in reference to revenue, and it's with an idea that would save quite a bit of money. Despite the monetary incentives, the Task Force was right to assert that an online freshman year would radically change MIT culture. More accurately, it would irreparably damage MIT culture. However, the report does suggest providing "e-learning" or "learning at a distance" for select undergraduate subjects. This provides a savings of \$60 million annually, but doesn't directly detract from the atmosphere of MIT. If this decreases the number of full-time students physically attending class, however, it would clearly need to be discontinued.

On to some good suggestions! For most of the summer, the dorms at MIT sit unused. The Task Force has proposed renting out the dorms during the summer, which would produce an estimated yield of \$500,000. While that's a long way from \$150 million, a penny (or several billion pennies) here and there adds up. As an example, consider the low per-item cost of MIT's reliance on paper and physical forms, but the high collective costs that result from their pervasiveness. Cutting down on mass mailings, making the graduate admissions process electronic, utilizing electronic pay stubs and W-2 forms, and essentially converting all financial paperwork to electronic systems could save the Institute a presumably huge sum of money. (The amount is not specified.) The Report states that only

57 percent of MIT procurement transactions are processed using efficient payment tools, such as eCat and P-Card, a number the Task Force believes that number can be raised up to 90 percent. That's quite a few pennies.

How about offering the GIRs as summer classes? Freshmen would have the option to fulfill some requirements early and begin exploring their interests immediately upon arrival. These classes could also be open to non-MIT students, bringing in further income. If you're still unsure, consider this: With only 20 classrooms, 120 12-credit, 10 week courses could be offered, netting about \$5.5 million a summer before adding in housing revenue.

Another cool idea was the prospect of more actively marketing the MIT brand. The first reason I strongly support this idea is because it's tiring going to vendors in Boston and seeing Harvard, BC, and BU T-shirts while being unable to find a single MIT article of clothing.

Besides just being awesome, this marketing could even result in a very small increase in freshman applications, beyond simply raking in money from sales. And it doesn't have to be confined to t-shirts; how about stuffed Tim the Beavers, 3-D puzzles of MIT, or those really cool shirts with ridiculous equations that non-MIT people would buy to look smart? Actually, I'm at MIT, and that's still the reason I buy them; I have no idea what all the squiggly symbols actually mean.

One idea I came across initially evoked a strong negative reaction, but upon further review, I have come to support it, to an extent. Please don't stop reading after the following sentence. Shut down the Athena Clusters. This idea may seem radical at first: That would be because it is. But consider that 95 percent of all students have laptops, which has led to quite a decrease in usage of many clusters. These clusters, which get little use, clearly are not worth supporting. While some clusters are used quite often, and merit staying open, it may still be possible to cut their operating hours.

The conclusion of the report, which I agree with, states that further study is needed before any definitive action can be taken concerning the clusters. Some of that study could envision the Institute requiring that each of its students own a laptop, increasing the 95 percent number to 100 percent. Athena clusters would then serve little purpose, as it is possible to access Athena on one's laptop. As such, it is then possible to print papers and access programs such as Mathematica. Once

the initial gut reaction of "He's crazy!!!" has passed, it is clear that this would be a great way to save money with little inconvenience to students.

Now for the ideas that I'm not a fan of. Actually, there was only one idea that I really disliked. I hinted at it in the first paragraph. Did "dining-plan-from-bad-to-worse" give it away? Well, one suggestion of the Task Force is to institute a mandatory dining plan for new students beginning in 2010. The current, optional plan is \$300 for half off at the dining halls. The new plan would make it mandatory for residents of dorms with dining halls to pay for a meal plan that costs at least \$1,350 a semester. According to the issue of *The Tech* published on February 13, 2009, "The minimal plan offers 75 meals (5 per week) and \$650 in dining dollars. Freshmen living in other dormitories would have the option

of selecting all of the plans available to those in AYCE [All You Can Eat] residences, plus several declining-balance plans. The cheapest — which costs \$995 per semester — offers no dining hall meals and \$995 in dining dollars." There is little doubt in most students' minds that dining needs to be reformed, but requiring students to pay more for a still unsatisfactory plan is ridiculous.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to cover the many ideas printed in small type on 14 pages of paper (which I didn't print to save MIT money), so I encourage everyone to look up the report and further research the ideas presented at <http://ideabank.mit.edu/system/files/TaskForcePreliminaryReport.pdf>. These ideas all have the potential to affect most readers, so be sure to at least skim over it!

Ryan Normandin is a member of the Class of 2013.

## UA Update Institute-Wide Planning Task Force Recommendations, Upcoming 2013 Class Council Elections

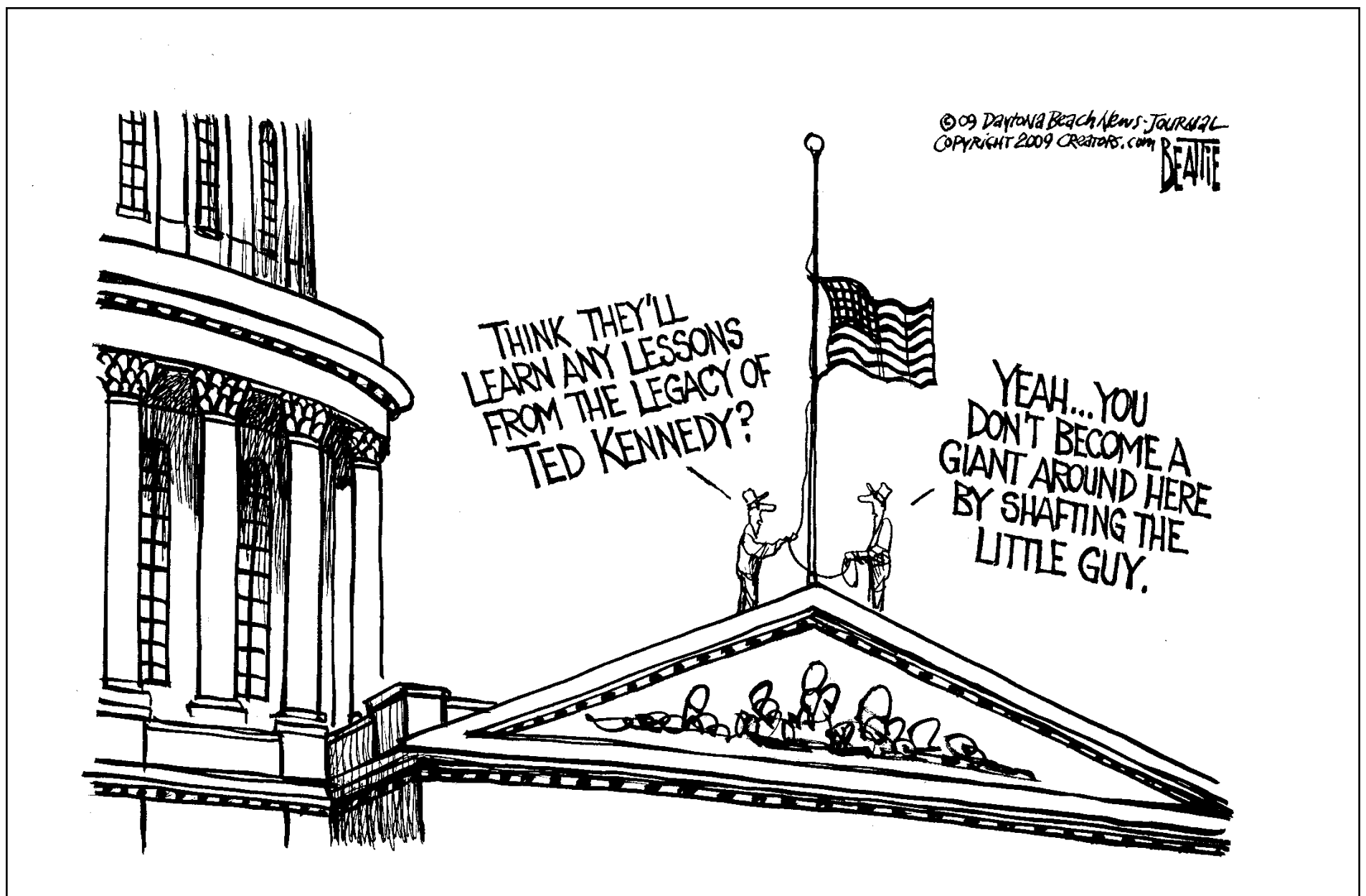
The first Undergraduate Association Executive Meeting for the 2009–2010 academic year was held on Wednesday, September 9. Key issues that the UA will be tackling this fall were outlined. These issues included the Institute-wide Planning Task Force recommendations; communication with students, faculty, administrators, and alumni; and possible dining changes. The Institute-wide Planning Task Force's preliminary report can be found at <http://ideabank.mit.edu>, and the UA welcomes your feedback (e-mail [ua@mit.edu](mailto:ua@mit.edu)). Full minutes are available at <http://ua.mit.edu/exec>.

UA Senate and 2013 Class Council Elections are approaching. Petitions to run for any of these positions are due today at 5:00 p.m., and the late petition deadline is Monday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. Official campaigning begins Friday, September 18 at 11:59 p.m. Electronic voting will run from Friday, September 25 at 12:01 a.m. to Thursday, October 1 at 11:59 p.m., and paper ballots will be available in Lobby 10 on Friday, October 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Results will be posted on Saturday, October 3. Questions should be sent to [ua-elect@mit.edu](mailto:ua-elect@mit.edu).

Additionally, the 2011 Class Council Treasurer has resigned. This position will be filled during a special election, and candidates for the 2011 Class Council Treasurer will be required to complete the Fall 2009 Class Council Election Packet found at <http://ua.mit.edu/committees/elect>. The process includes obtaining 105 signatures from members of the Class of 2011 by Tuesday, September 22 at 5:00 p.m. Voting will run concurrently with UA Senate and 2013 Class Council Elections. If there are any questions regarding this election, e-mail [ua-elect@mit.edu](mailto:ua-elect@mit.edu) or [2011council@mit.edu](mailto:2011council@mit.edu).

UA Committees focus on a specific topic — such as educational policy, athletics, and student life — and are looking for new members for the 2009–2010 academic year. Students interested in joining a UA Committee should apply at <http://ua.mit.edu/join>.

—Elizabeth Denys, UA Secretary General



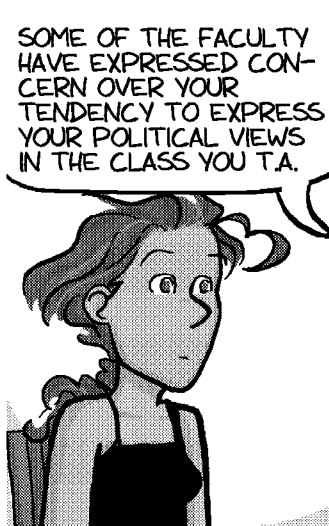
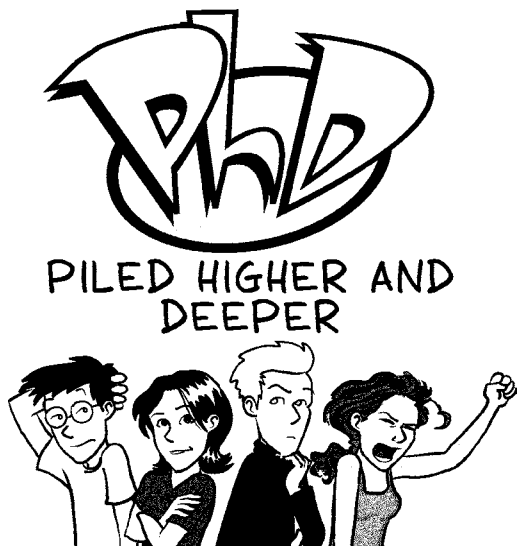
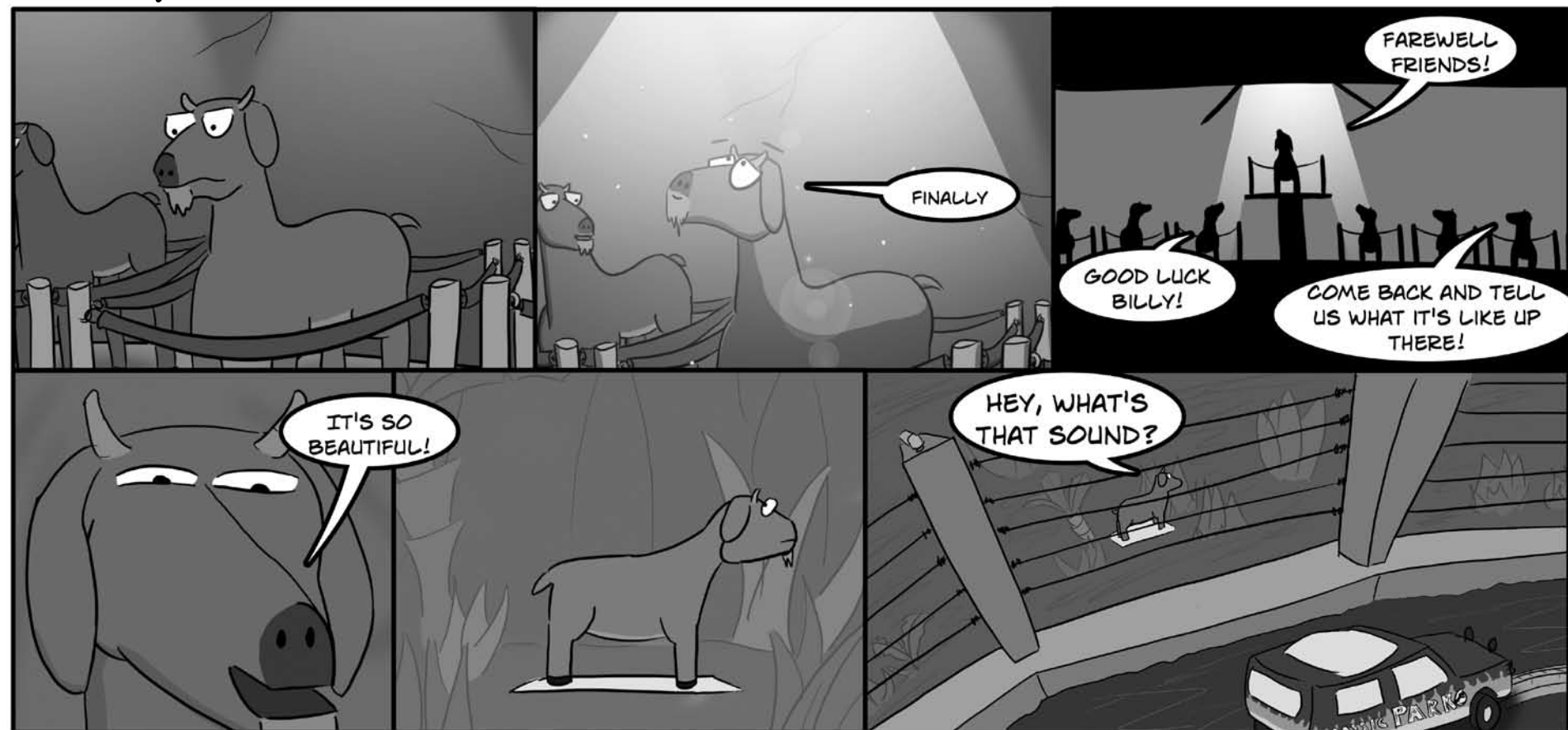
## The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



## Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



**Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 14

**ACROSS**

- 1 One of the Seven Sisters colleges
- 7 Mass produce efficiently
- 15 Slip away, as time
- 16 Biddies' residence
- 17 Belly buttons
- 18 Apportioned
- 19 Breakfast choice
- 20 Place-kicker's need
- 21 TV journalist Safer
- 22 Subjugates
- 28 Appeal
- 30 Oral moisture
- 31 Husky pull
- 35 Ornamental case
- 37 Begets
- 38 "Close Encounters of

- the Third Kind" co-star Dillon
- 40 Shiny cotton fabrics
- 42 Accustom
- 43 Tilt to one side
- 45 Excessively curious
- 46 Low mountain crests
- 48 Folk tale
- 50 Fully committed
- 52 Breadwinner
- 57 Alley prowler
- 58 Fold
- 59 Thiamine deficiency
- 64 Laws issued by monarchs
- 65 Monty Python troupe member
- 66 Relative intensity
- 67 Ready-for-anything attitude
- 68 Borgnine or

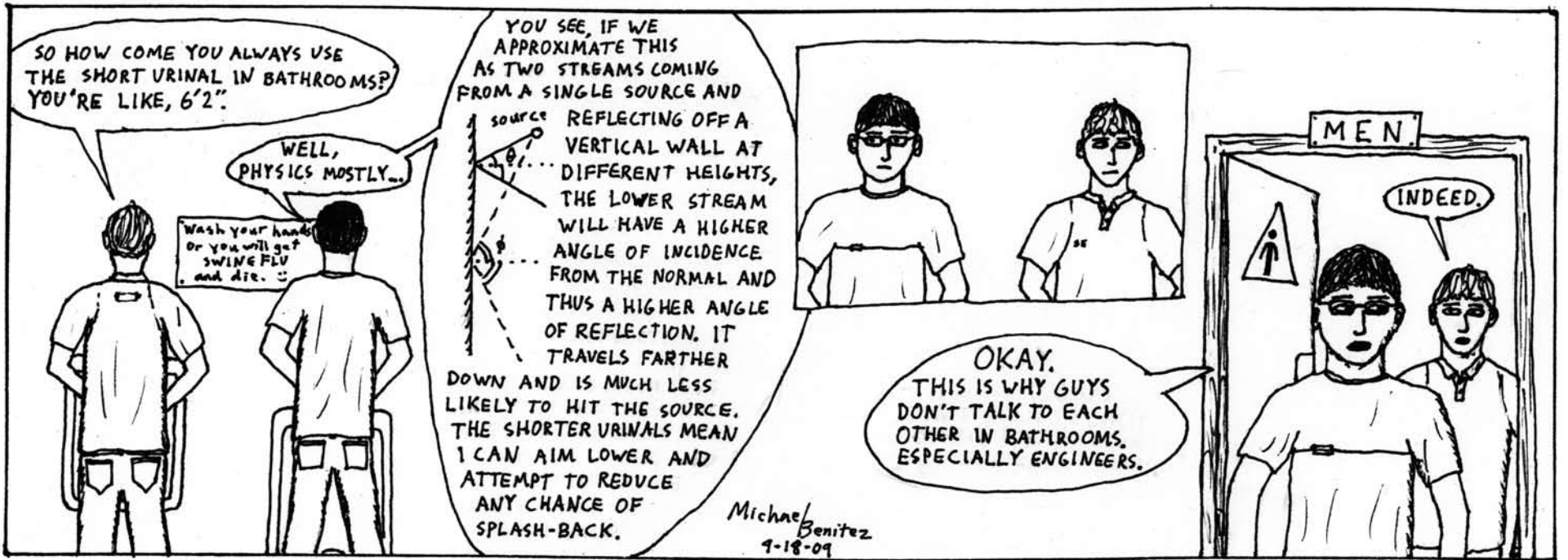
**DOWN**

- Hemingway
- 1 Animal toxin
- 2 Texas shrine
- 3 Piggybank filler
- 4 Indefinite period
- 5 In dreamland
- 6 Fashioned anew
- 7 French manor house
- 8 Euripides play
- 9 Except if
- 10 Greek letter
- 11 Slangy contradiction
- 12 Inning ender
- 13 Function
- 14 Actor Knight
- 23 Stick it out
- 24 Foreigner
- 25 Small green bird
- 26 Balances
- 27 Prone to
- backtalk
- 29 Relative of etc.
- 31 Insolent smile
- 32 Red Square figure
- 33 Give the slip to
- 34 Funereal song
- 36 Brit's indignant comment
- 39 Requirement
- 41 Go before
- 44 Uses up
- 47 Leave the union
- 49 More difficult
- 51 Some noblemen
- 53 Period in power
- 54 Mother-of-pearl
- 55 \_\_ Park, Colo.
- 56 VCR button
- 59 Ask for a handout
- 60 Notable period
- 61 Periphery
- 62 Chill
- 63 Open container

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67										68					

**Help Desk**

by Michael Benitez



**Doonesbury**

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

**Dilbert®**

by Scott Adams



DAVID DA HE—THE TECH

# The Tech's Photographers Share Images from Their Summer Vacations

(center) A guard tower is seen at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

(clockwise from top-right)

A dominant male lion attacks his son, putting him in his place, at the Kapama Game Reserve in Hoedspruit, South Africa.

The Sydney Opera House, one of the world's most famous examples of modernist architecture, is seen on an Australian winter evening.

A hot summer evening is seen in Times Square, New York City.

Members of "Equality Now" protest against Proposition 8 during the 39th Annual San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade on June 28. The pa-

rade centered around this year's theme: "In Order to Form a More Perfect Union..."

A sign cautions visitors in front of Old Faithful at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Carolina Hernandez teaches a student from Bwala Secondary School, Uganda how to use a typing tutor. She is part of a group of high students from Seattle, WA and Greenwich, CT who came to Uganda for three weeks in June with the Computers for Uganda organization to set up computer labs in primary and secondary schools there.

A rocky shore is seen near Peggys Point Lighthouse in Nova Scotia, Canada.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



SAMUEL L. RANGE

BIYEUN BUCZYK—THE TECH



JOHN Z. SUN—THE TECH

ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



JOHN Z. SUN—THE TECH



## ARTS

## MOVIE REVIEW

*'Taking Woodstock' Is a Lesson in Film Technique, American History**Not Just the Music, but the Story Behind It*

By Helen You

*Taking Woodstock*

Directed by Ang Lee

Written by James Schamus

Starring Demetri Martin and Henry Goodman

Rated R

Now Playing at Regal Fenway and Somerville Theater

Ang Lee (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*; *Hulk*; *Brokeback Mountain*) has once again proven his insight and versatility as a director. *Taking Woodstock* is a delightful comedy set in the Catskills in upstate New York, 1969. It tells the story of Elliot Tiber (Demetri Martin), a Greenwich Village designer who comes home

to help out with his parents' old, run-down motel in White Lake, NY.

Elliot holds a musical festival permit for nearby Bethel, NY. When he hears that an upcoming music festival has been denied a permit and cancelled, Elliot offers to hold it in Bethel and offers his parents' motel up for accommodations. He meets some initial resistance from the townsfolk, who are adverse to the idea of a bunch of high-on-drugs hippies partying in their town, but goes ahead with it anyway. Half a million people show up and clog the freeway into the Catskills, in what would become the famed Woodstock Festival. Along the way, we meet Max Yasgur (Eugene Levy), who owns a farm on which the festival will be held on; Sonia and Jack Teich-

berg (Imelda Staunton and Henry Goodman), Elliot's crazy Jewish parents; Billy (Emile Hirsch), Elliot's friend and recently returned Vietnam War vet; Vilma (Liev Schreiber), a transvestite; and a local theater troupe living in a barn next to the motel. Elliot himself experiments with drugs in a visually colorful and experimental scene.

It quickly becomes clear that music is not the focus of this film. In fact, there are no scenes of the concert itself, nor do we see any of the performers. Instead, we hear music in the distance and catch a glimpse of the stage from afar. The focus is on the personal stories surrounding the concert, and the music is simply a backdrop that brings the stories together.

The film experiments with technique. In one scene Elliot and others are getting the motel ready for guests and dealing with inspections. The screen is split, and in one half we see Elliot from where the camera is placed in front of him; in the other we see the same scene, but from behind Elliot. The split screen adds another dimension of space and conveys a sense of chaos in the room.

For a non-American director, Ang Lee certainly has mastered this very American story. *Taking Woodstock* is not a blockbuster hit, by any means. It's a subtle film about a special time and place in American history and features a large supporting cast. As always, in Ang Lee style, it fuses a little bit of history with culture and a human story.

## THEATER REVIEW

*Gioia De Cari Searches for Truth**A One-Woman Show Chock-Full of MIT Humor*

By Maggie Liu

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

*Truth Values: One Girl's Romp Through MIT's Male Maze*

Directed by Miriam Eusebio

Written and performed by Gioia De Cari  
Central Square Theater, 450 Mass Avenue,  
Cambridge, MATruth Values will have an extended run  
through September 27

“What is truth?” This is the question asked by one of Gioia's professors in a sermon to a group of scholars. This is also the question that Gioia has to ask herself — what is *her* truth — as she presents to us an autobiographical portrayal of her time at MIT.

The sole performer in this show, Gioia De Cari is an “actress, playwright, classical singer

and ‘recovering mathematician.’” Aside from having a dynamic stage presence, she is also gifted at impersonating other characters, transitioning easily from a sleazy professor to a snooty nasal-voiced colleague. She infuses so much personality into the sketches of the people she meets at MIT that one cannot help but be drawn into her memoir.

Gioia describes her young self as “naïve.” An exuberant math student who graduated *summa cum laude* from UC Berkeley, she originally entered MIT to obtain a PhD in mathematics. Setting her story in the 80s, Gioia embarks on a treacherous journey, navigating through a heavily male dominated field, evading foreign admirers and negotiating deadlines. Her personal anecdotes are so poignant that they manage to invoke feelings of familiarity amongst the audience despite not having met these characters. Amongst her portraits is the nuclear engineer-

ing student who fantasizes about the apocalypse (brought about by a beautiful nuclear weapon of course), her seminar advisor who sends her off to bring cookies to events, and the presumptuous female professor who advises her to quit mathematics and enter acting.

While Gioia is effective at describing MIT as an environment not accommodating to women and even borderline unfriendly (the secret to surviving for many was to simply blend in with the men), she fails to identify the exact reason for her departure from MIT. It is true that certain unforeseen events occur in which her faith in herself and her track in life is disturbed. However, the impetus behind her transformation from a naïve math lover to a jaded PhD student who has to set aside three hours every day for math is never clarified.

While the play puts so much emphasis on “what is truth?” and “the value of truth,” I think

that the play lacks in articulating Gioia's own truth. Towards the end of the play, Gioia notes that by the end of her career at MIT, math had become equivalent to pain and theater to pleasure.

Those acquainted with MIT's culture will be able to relish in Gioia's references to distinctly MIT traditions and humor. Gioia even included some jibes at the ‘Sloanies’ — the MBA students at the Sloan School of Management — such as “when they graduated, I could hear them cheering: ‘MIT MBA, M-O-N-E-Y.’” She was also able to elongate jokes by alluding to them in various other parts of the play. Her wit is undeniable and dramatizations well delivered. I only wished that she was able to elucidate certain passages of her story better. Then again, it is an autobiographical play, and perhaps Gioia has not found her own “truth value” yet.

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# Students Split Over The Freshman App's New Shorter Essays

Essay, from Page 1

teachers.

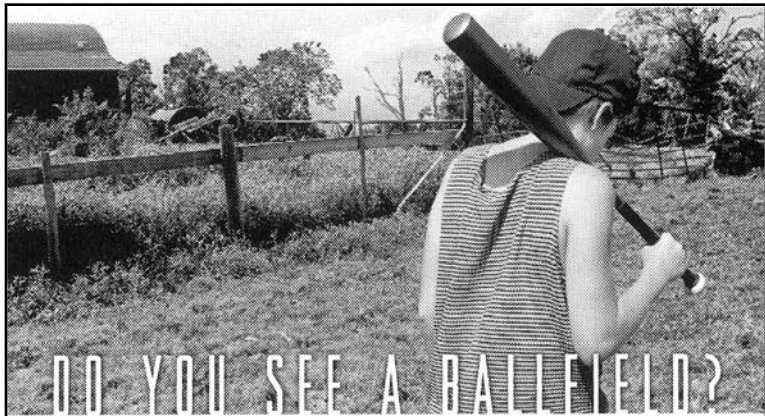
Some MIT students will miss the long essay. Kelley V. Determan '13 said she thinks the "long essay is a necessary part of the application," since "it is the one place for the student to really develop a personality, to really get their person and ideas across, without being worried about word count."

But others are in favor of the short essays for the very reasons that the Admissions Office has decided to use them. "It's a good thing because it allows students to express themselves in a more personal, more informal fashion to the admissions

committee," said Eduardo Archilla '12. "However," he said, "it could lead to students taking the application less seriously."

For those students who really feel like they cannot fully express themselves through the short essays, the optional essay still exists. Schmill says, "If you feel like there was something you couldn't express in the other essays, you still have the opportunity to do that."

The hope of the Admissions Office is that, using the shorter essays, they will be able to learn more about the student. "That's what we want to do: learn whether they'll be a good match for MIT. Ultimately, that's what it's about."



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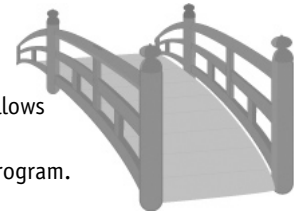
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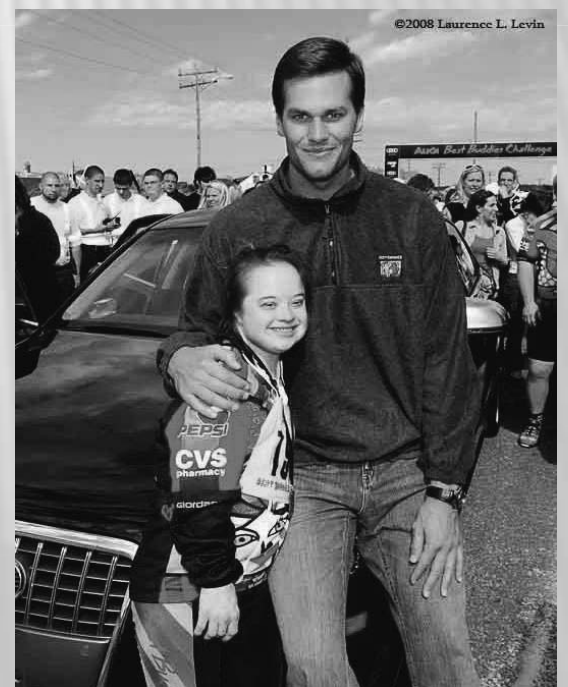
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## Career Fair Attracts Students

Students dressed to impress at the MIT Career Fair in Johnson on Thursday.

(at right) Muhammad Saif Farooqui from the Analysis Group engaged in an animated conversation with Diego Barido '10 at the 2009 MIT Career Fair yesterday.

Linwood Smith (left) and Kim Wagenbach explain to Naomi L. Lynch '12 (right) the opportunities available for sophomores at NASA.



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# Freshman Tracking System Is Revamped To Be More Secure

Rush, from Page 1

to rush rules this year, Stein said. Some “technical things” changed: For example, the times posters could go up in the Infinite corridor were shifted by a few hours this year.

The bigger change was with the Clearinghouse system, which tracks the locations of rushing freshmen. After it crashed last year during Rush, Clearinghouse was completely rewritten by a Course VI graduate student. “When we built the system, we paid special attention to security,” Stein said. The data is “well-protected” and “maintained responsibly.”

“Most of the freshman haven’t been [exposed to] Boston” said Stein. To that end, Clearinghouse also acts as a “safety mechanism” to ensure

that freshmen can be accounted for in an emergency.

David M. Campos ’13, who rushed Chi Phi last week, said Rush was “a lot of fun” and definitely “a worthwhile experience.” Campos, who visited around 11 fraternities, said finding the right brothers in the fraternity really helped him make his decision. “Everybody in the house is someone I can look up to” he said, “I thought it was more important to get a fraternity for fit’s sake instead of being in a fraternity for no reason at all.”

Stein was “very happy” about Rush this year since there were considerably less violations this year than in years past. And though Rush is officially over, fraternities can continue to offer bids to new members throughout the year.

# House Passes Bill to Increase Federal Aid For College Students

By Tamar Lewin  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The House of Representatives on Thursday passed legislation that expands federal aid to college students while ending federal subsidies to private lenders.

By shifting to direct federal lending, the Obama administration said it would save more than \$80 billion over 10 years, which would go into higher Pell grants for low-income students, new investments in community colleges, early-childhood programs and other education efforts.

The vote was 253 to 171. The measure, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, now goes to the Senate, where Democratic leaders expect it to pass.

“This legislation provides students and families with the single largest investment in federal student aid ever,” said Representative George Miller, Democrat of California and chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, who wrote the bill. “Today, the House made a clear choice to stop funneling vital taxpayer dollars through boardrooms and start sending them directly to dorm rooms.”

Under the current program, the government pays subsidies to lenders and guarantees the loans. All colleges would be required to convert to the federal Direct Loan program by July 1, 2010.

The student-loan legislation would provide \$40 billion to increase the maximum annual Pell grant scholarship to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$6,900 by 2019, from \$5,350 now. Starting in 2011, the amount of the scholarship will be linked to the cost of living, rising along with the Consumer Price Index, plus 1 percent.

Advocates for students were delighted with the passage of the legislation.

“This legislation helps renew the promise of student aid programs for the tens of millions of students who rely on grants, loans and access to community college to achieve a college education,” said Rich Williams, the higher education associate for U.S. PIRG.

Two-thirds of American students borrow money to pay for their college education, and last fall’s market turmoil made their prospects uncertain.

“The No. 1 reason we entered the whole review of the student loan situation was reliability, to make sure that loans will be available regardless of the credit markets,” said Robert Shireman, the deputy under secretary of education. “We came very close to

a tough situation last year.”

The legislation includes about \$10 billion for community colleges, some for work force training programs and some for construction, an unprecedented federal investment in the two-year colleges that enroll about six million students a year.

It provides about \$8 billion for early-childhood programs, another area that has received little federal aid, and \$2.55 billion for historically black colleges and universities.

The legislation also has provisions to strengthen the Perkins Loan program and cut down the number of questions on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or Fafsa, the form that families must complete to apply for financial aid.

Democrats said the student-loan legislation would save enough to finance the new programs and still leave \$10 billion to return to the Treasury, while Republicans called the legislation a “massive entitlement spending spree” that would add to the deficit, not reduce it.

“The president’s goal is returning the nation to our place as No. 1 in the world in adults with college degrees,” Mr. Shireman said. “This legislation is not just about financial aid, but about all the president’s priorities in bolstering the education pipeline.”

The Senate is expected to take up the legislation at the end of the month, amid stepped-up efforts from private lenders to block a change they say will cost thousands of jobs.

Republicans and private lenders alike have characterized the student-loan legislation as an intrusive government takeover that will erode consumer choice — the same arguments raised in opposition to health care reform.

Representative John Kline of Minnesota, the top Republican on the Education and Labor Committee, said in the debate that the student-loan issue bears “an eerily strong resemblance to the health care debate that rages on today” — and that there was no reason to end the Federal Family Education Loan, started in 1965 and still used by three-quarters of the nation’s colleges and universities.

“Today’s vote was about expanding the size and scope of the federal government through tens of billions of dollars in new entitlement spending and the elimination of choice, competition, and the innovation of the private sector,” Mr. Kline said. “This job-killing legislation is rife with hidden costs that will be passed on to future generations.”

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# Plan for a Kennedy Successor Advances With House Approval

By Abby Goodnough

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

After hours of testy debate, the Massachusetts House of Representatives on Thursday approved legislation allowing Gov. Deval Patrick to appoint an interim successor to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

The House voted 95-58; the measure goes to the state Senate, which could take up the proposal on Friday. But Republicans have threatened to try to delay a vote, and, through procedural maneuvers, could do so for several days.

Patrick, a Democrat, has said that if both chambers approved the measure, he would appoint a temporary successor to Kennedy within days. The appointee would serve until a special election on Jan. 19, and could play a crucial role in the fate of the health care bill making its way through Congress.

With the Kennedy seat empty, Democrats in the Senate are not assured the 60 votes necessary to pass the legislation. They could use procedural shortcuts to get the bill passed, but that could cause havoc in the Senate.

The state Senate president, Therese Murray, a Democrat, has remained publicly noncommittal on the proposal despite calls from the Obama administration and from Victoria Reggie Kennedy, Kennedy's widow. The state Senate, also heavily Democratic, is said to remain divided on the issue.

Under current law, the Kennedy seat would remain empty until the

special election. But shortly before his death last month, Kennedy asked the Legislature to change the law and allow Patrick to name a temporary successor, arguing in a letter that Massachusetts needed full representation in Congress.

Republicans and even a number of Democrats have attacked the proposal as overly partisan. Governors here had the power to fill Senate vacancies until 2004, when the Democratic majority in the Legislature changed the law to require a special election. Democrats worried then that if Sen. John Kerry were elected president, Gov. Mitt Romney would appoint another Republican.

Rep. Elizabeth Poirier, a Republican, said that if the Legislature approved the change, it would damage its reputation and become "a pawn in the Washington game."

But Rep. Cory Atkins, a Democrat, said Massachusetts could not afford to let Kennedy's seat stay empty even for a few months. "We are truly outnumbered on the floors of the Capitol in Washington, D.C.," she said. "We need every single vote."

The appointee would not be bound by the legislation to stay out of the special election, but Patrick has said he would seek an "explicit personal commitment" from the appointee not to seek Kennedy's seat permanently.

Patrick has been recovering from hip surgery for the last week and has not publicly discussed possible candidates for a temporary appointment. But some Democrats have been lobbying for Michael S. Dukakis, the former governor and 1988 presidential nominee, who teaches at Northeastern University.

Other possible candidates include Scott Harshbarger, a former state attorney general, and Paul G. Kirk Jr., chairman of the board of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in Boston.

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#### Solution to Crossword

from page 7

V	A	S	S	A	R	C	H	U	R	N	O	U	T		
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# Skip Post-Game Handshake, Skip The Flu

Flu, from Page 1

Education is one of Medical's most effective weapons against swine flu. Diamond meets weekly with the MIT Emergency Operations Center. He also spoke to deans, housemasters, and faculty.

Over the summer, MIT Medical tracked the American College Health Association and swine flu coverage from the southern hemisphere to estimate the virus' potential threat this semester. Medical concluded that the H1N1 virus is no more aggressive than the seasonal flu.

In fact, students with the H1N1 virus seem to recover relatively sooner than those with the seasonal flu. Baker House alone has seen about 20 cases of Influenza-Like Illness, "and the number is changing every day," according to Housemaster Guillermo Trotti.

"We are asking students that have flu symptoms to use the individual bathrooms, remain in their rooms, and use masks," said Trotti. Many Baker roommates of sick students have opted to move into other rooms, although this is not required by either the dorm or MIT Medical.

"It's a balance between responding responsibly without over-alarmed the community," Diamond said. "If we're not careful, it'll spread quickly and everyone will be sick all at once." For now, Diamond refers to the H1N1 virus as the "flu with a lowercase 'f.'"

One part of that balance comes with convincing students to get the flu vaccinations this fall. The vaccine for seasonal flu requires one shot and will be available in the following weeks. MIT Medical obtained 9,000 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine, 1,000 more than last year.

The H1N1 vaccine is a different story. It requires two shots received four weeks apart. MIT gets its first shipment of a limited number of doses in November, which it will administer to government-regulated priority groups first.

A version of the vaccine in Australia gives reason to believe that only one H1N1 shot is necessary, but it has not been approved in the U.S. MIT Medical still plans to administer the two shot vaccine to each patient.

In addition to suggesting that people get vaccines, the CDC offers common flu advice, such as frequent hand washing, adequate sleep, and a healthy diet.

"Every little piece may help a little bit," said Dr. Diamond.

## No Handshakes, No Kisses

Even if that changes accepted social standards.

This month in France, schools advised students to say goodbye to *la bise*, a friendly kiss on the cheek characteristic of French greetings, amid worries of spreading the virus.

Even handshakes are becoming

a target of swine flu vigilance. The New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC), which oversees many of MIT's sport competitions, encouraged schools last week to drop pre- or post-game handshakes between teams.

The recommendation applies for all sports except Volleyball, since the NCAA volleyball rule book requires handshakes after a game. An e-mail to MIT coaches and trainers suggested that "players should simply pass opposing players without making contact."

In a preseason NEWMAC phone conference, Tom Cronan, Head Athletic Trainer at DAPER, noted that this news affects a very traditional part of sports.

"At the very least it's good symbolism for our community given what we're facing. People were really concerned with the sort of disrespect that that would demonstrate."

Coaches are supposed to come to an agreement regarding handshakes before matches to avoid a potential awkward situation.

Even without handshakes, athletic events are still a good opportunity to spread the flu.

"That post-game huddle, any part of post-practice huddle or cooldown," Cronan describes, are what bring teams, and infections, together.

"We still have a bunch of people in the rehab area for their post-practice cooldown, I'm not going to say 'Oh spread out you guys!' I don't think we need to do that because hopefully the individual who might have flu-like symptoms isn't coming here," said Cronan.

In fact, the only place a student with flu-like symptoms should be in is his or her room, according to MIT Medical.

## Sick? Get Breakfast in Bed.

Campus Dining has even started a meal delivery program for confirmed sick students to keep swine flu off the menu.

Richard Berlin, Director of Campus Dining, said the first delivery order was received on September 11, but more and more students have been placing orders in the past few days.

The program, Berlin says, was "designed to help all students," whether they live in a dorm or FSILG, although most orders are coming from dorms with dining halls.

Dining wants to minimize the disruption that comes from having the flu, said Berlin.

After a student reports his or her illness to MIT Medical, a point of contact assigned to each dorm is notified, who then alerts the housemaster, house manager, Student Support Services, and Dining.

Orders may be placed online on the dining website or through e-mail by the sick student only if his or her

## Swine Flu Facts

### Important Phone Numbers

- ¶ *Seasonal Flu Shot Appointment:* (617) 253-4865 if primary care provider is at MIT Medical in Cambridge
- ¶ *MIT Medical:* (617) 253-4481 to review symptoms or to report worsening symptoms
- ¶ *Student Support Services:* (627) 253-4861 to get help contacting professors for missed classes

### Vaccines

- ¶ *Seasonal Flu:* one shot, available late September, 9,000 doses available
- ¶ *H1N1:* two shots four weeks apart, first shipment arrives in November, enough doses for all students

### Flu Statistics

- ¶ H1N1 survives on environmental surfaces for up to 8 hours.
- ¶ Affected individuals are contagious one day before showing symptoms, up to 4 days after infection, according to CDC.
- ¶ MIT Medical Urgent Care receives up to 40 cold/flu cases each day
- ¶ Some adults over 60 show a preexisting immunity to H1N1 due to a past exposure to a related virus.

### Sick?

- ¶ Call MIT Medical to report illness and receive guidance, especially if you have underlying health conditions, such as asthma or heart disease.
- ¶ Remain in room for at least 24 hours after fever and major symptoms recede without use of fever-reducing medication
- ¶ Do not go to class or social events.
- ¶ If symptoms worsen, or if you experience trouble breathing, sudden dizziness, or abdominal pain, seek medical help immediately.
- ¶ All dorms are stocked with masks, thermometers, and hand sanitizer.

### Dining Delivery

SOURCE: DINING.MIT.EDU/NUTRITION-WELLNESS/FLUINFO

- ¶ *Breakfast:* \$6, delivered between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., orders must be received by night before mealtime
- ¶ *Lunch:* \$7, delivered between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., orders must be received no later than 9 a.m. on day of mealtime
- ¶ *Dinner:* \$8 without House Dining Membership, delivered between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., orders must be received by 1 p.m.
- ¶ Weekend deliveries start at noon.

illness is verified.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a la carte items are delivered according to a certain schedule. Orders for breakfast, for example, must be processed the night before and are delivered usually to the dorm's front desk between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. A second student may then bring the food to the sick student's room.

For dinner, students receive entrees from the Baker House Dining Hall menu on Fridays and Saturdays and the Next House Dining Hall menu for the rest of the week. House Dining Membership is recognized for dinner only.

Emerson College's "Feeling Blue Meal" is a similar delivery program to help students get well without getting others sick.

Boston University, too, has a Special Meals Service for sick students. Last week, BU reported that two students with Influenza-Like Illness were sent home while a third was isolated to a private room.

According to the American College Health Association, Massachusetts institutions saw a 61 percent increase in attack rate last week, but the state's 16 new college cases

seem very little when compared to Washington, which showed 481 new cases, or Indiana, which showed 312 new cases last week and a 1094 percent increase in attack rate.

H1N1 arrived on college campuses earlier than the typical seasonal flu, but H1N1 tends to be a milder virus, with most H1N1-afflicted students recovering within a few days. MIT Medical is not testing patients for swine flu, according to CDC standard operating procedures, since the result would not necessarily affect the outcome of care.

Howard M. Heller, Chief of Medicine at MIT Medical, advises students to call MIT Medical first rather than simply walking in.

"First of all," Heller said, "not everyone who's sick needs to come in."

Antivirals are only being administered to patients with medical conditions that could lead to serious medical complications.

## LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call:

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**Application:**

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DIANE RAK—THE TECH

**Tech Talk is ceasing publication after 52 years of serving the MIT community in printed form. It is being replaced by a newly-revamped News Office website.**

# SPORTS

## Community Deserves ESPN on MIT Cable

By Russell Spivak

MIT Cable offers MTV, MTV2, MTVU, (though no guarantee of actual music with three MTV stations) Telefutura, China Central Television, and TVJapan; whether duplicates or foreign channels, MIT shows a desire to appeal to all students. It even offers the NASA channel for those Course 16 NASA dreamers who may watch in awe.

However, one of the gaping flaws in the free MIT Cable is a lack of ESPN. "The Worldwide Leader in Sports" is sorely missed on campus. Almost 20 percent of MIT's student body participates in at least one varsity sport, with a much larger percentage included in club and intramural sports teams. The love for athletic competition is clearly evident on campus.

This oversight is so important it has become a common argument for fraternities when they recruit rush-ees. "We have ESPN" is a phrase

heard all too often as a perk of joining a fraternity that has DIRECTV or any other television provider.

The main reason the Institute has not added the sports network is the cost. However, ESPN is one of the top stations on cable. In fact, ESPN set an all-time cable viewership record for the third straight year, drew the year's three biggest cable household audiences, and took 13 of the top 15 audiences. Marcus A. Parton '10 remarked, "MIT is not carrying the most popular channel on cable. I know MIT would rather cure cancer than spend money on its students, but this is a little ridiculous."

MIT needs to re-evaluate its position on ESPN. Regardless of the increased cost of adding the station to MIT Cable, the lack of sports coverage must be corrected, and soon. The Institute needs to take it upon itself to rectify the situation and give its residents some well-deserved access to *Sportscenter*, *Around the Horn*, and *Pardon the Interruption*.

### Column



JOHN Z. SUN—THE TECH

Barden E. Cleeland '10 (left) and Katrina M. Ellison '10 team up for a block against Clark University at the women's volleyball match in Rockwell Cage on Monday. The Engineers won in three sets.

## MIT Women's Soccer Topples UMass Dartmouth 5-0

Emily Kuo '13 had three assists and two goals in a 5-0 rout of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (3-3-0) today at Roberts Field. The loss

snapped a two-game winning streak for the Corsairs, while the win extended MIT's streak to three.

MIT (3-2-0) opened the scoring in just the fifth minute as junior Lauren R. Hernley '11 fed the ball to Kuo thirty yards from the goal. Kuo's one-touch pass found junior Edith R. Reshef '11, who scored her first of the season with a well-placed header.

After five more shots went unfulfilled, the Engineers scored again in the fourteenth minute. Kuo took off on a fast break into the corner and her cross from the endline hit Alisha D. Lussiez '12, who slipped her shot past UMass Dartmouth's Tanya Braga.

The Corsairs never retreated and maintained offensive pressure throughout the match. Juniors Allison Carver and Katelyn Tsonis tallied three shots each for UMass Dartmouth, but MIT's Meghan S. Wright '13 and Katy Olesnavage '11 flawless efforts in net kept the Corsairs scoreless.

Within the first two minutes of the second half, MIT extended its lead when senior Jean E. "Liz" Theurer '10 powered the ball through the partial deflection of freshman keeper Jen Warren. Once again, Kuo was credited with the assist.

MIT's offense carried their momentum through the defense of UMass Dartmouth, and in the 65th

minute, Kuo caught a break-away pass from Merricka C. Livingstone '13 and out-maneuvered Warren for her third goal of the season. Less than a minute later, Kuo tallied another goal, this time assisted by senior captain Katie Pesce.

The Engineers have the weekend off and travel to Salem State for their next match on Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00 p.m.

—Paul Blascovich, DAPER Staff

## MIT Hosts Inaugural Schuman Regatta

The MIT sailing team hosted the inaugural Antonia D. Schuman '58 Regatta this past weekend. Schuman, the current President of the MIT Alumni Association, was the first woman to win a varsity letter at the Institute.

FJ's and fleets from MIT and Harvard were used among the combined 32 races amid swirling winds of seven to 10 knots along the rainy Charles River on Saturday. The balance of the races for the 12 teams were completed in a double round-robin on Sunday.

Competing for the Engineers, who finished in eighth place, were A-Division skipper Jamie K. Curran '11 and crew Rachel B. Licht '10 and B-Division leader Katie Gullickand crew Jillian R. Reddy '11.

Tufts University eked out a one-point win over Connecticut College, posting a count of 215 to Connecticut's 216. Rounding out the top five teams were Brown University, Harvard, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

—Mike Stoller, DAPER Staff



SUNNY X. LONG

The Engineers shut out the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth with a 5-0 win on Tuesday at Steinbrenner Stadium. Here, midfielder Edith R. Reshef '11 deftly maneuvers the ball down the sideline as she moves past her defender.



SAMUEL L. RANGE

Junior Christian W. Therkelsen charges upfield during the first half of the Engineer's night match against Claremont-Mudd-Scripps on September 11 at Steinbrenner Stadium. Vigorous defenses from both teams kept most of the game in a deadlock, but CMS pulled ahead in double overtime for a 2-1 victory.

## SCOREBOARD

### Men's Soccer

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009	
MIT	5
Emerson College	2

### Women's Soccer

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009	
UMass Dartmouth	0
MIT (3-2)	5

### Women's Volleyball

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009	
Clark University	0
MIT (7-1)	3

### Men's Water Polo

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009	
Bucknell College	12
MIT (0-5)	5

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

**Friday, September 18, 2009**  
Women's Tennis —  
ITA Tournament  
8 a.m., duPont Courts

**Saturday, September 19, 2009**  
Field Hockey —  
MIT Alumae Game  
11 a.m., Jack Berry Rield  
Football vs.  
Framingham State College  
1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium  
Sailing — Hatch Brown Trophy  
9:30 a.m. Charles River  
Women's Soccer —  
MIT Alumae Game  
11 a.m. Steinbrenner Stadium

**Monday, September 21, 2009**  
Men's Soccer vs.  
Emmanuel College  
4 p.m. Steinbrenner Stadium