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The Weather

Today: Partly sunny. High 41°F (5°C). Tonight: Cloudy. Low 34°F (1°C). Tomorrow: Rainy and windy. High 47°F (8°C). Details, Page 2

Volume 129, Number 59

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

UA Demands Official Statement On the State of Dining Reform

By Maggie Lloyd ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Last night, the Undergraduate Association demanded that the Division of Student Life release a statement describing its current work on dining reform and its plans for next semester.

The bill was drafted by five UA representatives on Sunday and was passed unanimously by the Senate last night. It states that Dining's budget deficits are "significant" and that students need to be updated on the progress of dining reform.

Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo said on Monday that he is aware of the UA's resolution on dining reform, but has not yet received a copy of the document and could not comment on it.

The bill calls for the statement to be released by the end of IAP 2010.

Feedback, collected over a period of two weeks, will then be gathered from undergraduates and delivered to Colombo's office.

According to Senate Speaker Paul Baranay '11, the UA will try to get feedback from as many students in as many different living groups as possible. He said that the UA would try to collect statistics about student opinions as well as qualitative remarks.

The DSL would be expected to issue a revised position statement within two weeks after receiving the student feedback.

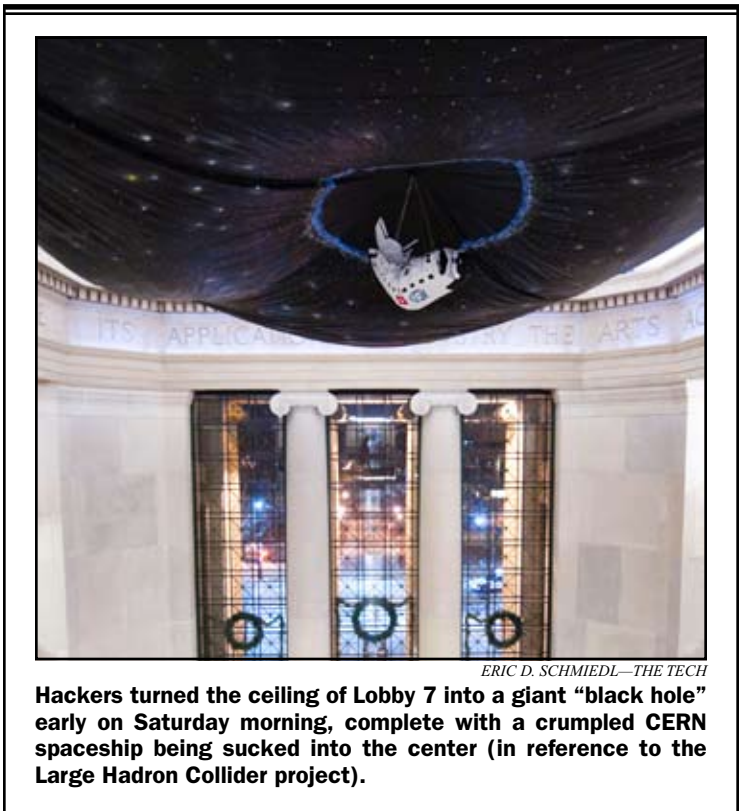
The resolution names the student body as "the major shareholder in the MIT Dining System" and notes that if changes are to come to Campus Dining next fall, these changes need to be decided on by spring. With the release of the Task Force re-

port delayed and the UA Senate out of session until February, UA Senator Jonte D. Craighead '13 said this resolution will help policy discussions continue through IAP.

Last October, Colombo said the Division of Student Life was waiting for the release of the Task Force report, then scheduled for late November, to make decisions regarding these proposals. The release of this Task Force report has since been delayed to the end of this term.

The Blue Ribbon Dining Committee and UA dining proposals were both released this spring. Regarding these proposals, Baranay said he hoped that the DSL would consider both reports when creating a formal position on dining.

"These reports will certainly be important to any discussion about dining," Colombo said.



Hackers turned the ceiling of Lobby 7 into a giant "black hole" early on Saturday morning, complete with a crumpled CERN spaceship being sucked into the center (in reference to the Large Hadron Collider project).

Dana Mead to Step Down as Chairman of MIT Corporation



ANDREW T. LUKMANN—TECH FILE PHOTO

Dana G. Mead PhD '67 at an Undergraduate Association Senate meeting in 2008.

After serving as Chairman of the MIT Corporation for six years and selecting Susan J. Hockfield as MIT's latest president, Dana G. Mead PhD '67 announced last Friday that he will be stepping down from his position at the end of June. According to Corporation bylaws, members may not be older than 75; Mead is currently 74.

In an interview with the MIT News Office, Secretary of the Corporation Kirk D. Kolenbrander said that the Corporation's executive committee is looking for a nominee to replace Mead, and that a new chairman will be elected at the Corporation's next meeting in March or June.

Dana Mead, Page 16

Media Lab Team Uses Social Web To Win DARPA Red Balloon Prize

By John Markoff THE NEW YORK TIMES

A group of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology edged out about 4,300 other teams on Saturday in a Pentagon-sponsored contest to correctly identify the location of 10 red balloons distributed around the United States.

The contest, which featured a \$40,000 prize, was organized by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, in an effort to develop new ways to understand how information is disseminated through social networks.

The winning group, a small team at the MIT Media Laboratory Human Dynamics Group led by a physicist, Riley Crane, took just eight hours and 56 minutes to complete the challenge.

The balloons, which were 8 feet

in diameter, were arrayed around the country. Some were in highly trafficked locations like Union Square in San Francisco; others were in more obscure places, like Katy Park, a baseball field in the Houston suburbs.

The winning researchers, who specialize in studying human interactions that emerge from computer networks, set up a Web site asking people to join their team. They relied on visitors to the Web site to invite their friends. They also sent e-mail messages inviting people to participate and sent a small number of advertisements to mobile phones.

They said that they would dole out the prize money both to chains of individuals who referred people who had correct information on the balloons' locations and to charities. They described their method as a "re-

curative incentive structure." The approach "rewards people who make real contributions," said Crane, whose research has recently focused on how information spreads in computer networks, like YouTube.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform an experiment at a massive scale," he said.

In the simplest case, a single person who contributed the correct answer would be given \$2,000 and the research group would give another \$2,000 to charity. In cases where multiple people contributed, participants will get some fraction of \$4,000.

The researchers said they had received contributions from 4,665 participants.

"They got a huge amount of participation from shockingly little mon-

DARPA, Page 16

Former Admissions Dean Returns to College Game 2 Years After Scandal

By Tamar Lewin THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two and a half years ago, Marilee Jones, the highly regarded dean of admissions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, vanished from public sight when it came to light that nearly three decades earlier, when she was first hired there, she had lied about her academic credentials.

That revelation was a major scandal in academic circles, where Jones was well known for trying to help students calm down as they competed for admission to the most selective colleges. From the day she resigned, April 26, 2007, Jones went silent, cutting off contact with most of her

colleagues at MIT and in other admissions offices, and not responding to messages.

"I dropped off the grid, on purpose," she said in a recent interview. "I needed time to regroup and heal."

But now, like many others tainted by scandal (think Martha Stewart), she has begun a second act. After a move to New York, and a divorce from Steven R. Bussolari, of MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, she has re-emerged with a new consulting business, offering her services both to admissions offices and to parents.

Jones still will not discuss what happened at MIT, or how her lies unraveled. "I've put that behind me," she

said.

Only the bare bones of her misrepresentations are known. According to MIT, Jones, 58, had on various occasions represented herself as having degrees from three upstate New York institutions: Albany Medical College, Union College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In fact, she had no degrees from any of those places — only a 1973 bachelor's degree, in biology, from the College of St. Rose, an independent college in Albany, where she grew up.

Jones said that she had never read a single word of the news coverage of

Marilee Jones, Page 17

In Short

Don't forget to pre-register before you leave! The deadline for pre-registration for the spring term is December 30, after which there is a \$40 late fee. Pre-registration for IAP ends January 14.

cial election to elect the successor to Senator Edward Kennedy. Four Democrats and two Republicans are vying for their respective parties' nominations. The election itself will be January 19, 2010.

Vote today in the Massachusetts Senate primaries for the spe-

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.



Comics

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This is the final issue of The Tech for the term. The Tech will publish weekly on Wednesdays during IAP, starting on January 6. Good luck during finals week!

OPINION

Editorial: Five Years In: The Hockfield Administration Page 4 Thoughts on the future of OCW Page 5

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WORLD & NATION

Foreign Investors Warn They Could Claim Dubai Assets

By Landon Thomas Jr.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

As Dubai World and its creditors steel themselves for tough negotiations over the conglomerate's debt, some foreign investors say they have enough support to force the company into default and lay claim to its most prized assets.

This go-for-broke strategy is being led by QVT, an \$8.5 billion activist fund with a reputation for taking leading roles in complicated situations driven by bankruptcy. QVT, with other hedge funds, is also a large holder of the Islamic bonds of Nakheel, Dubai World's troubled real estate unit.

But instead of just going after the prime waterfront land in Dubai that secures the bonds, QVT and other foreign creditors said Friday that they would consider suing Dubai World in British and local courts for its prestige properties, including its ports and foreign real estate assets held by the conglomerate's investment arm, Istithmar.

Such a tactic may simply be posturing to threaten Dubai World with a long legal process. Many of the assets are highly strategic to Dubai and probably would be difficult to secure, no matter the legal jurisdiction.

Blasts in Pakistan Market Kill 30

By Waqar Gillani

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

Militants set off two bombs on Monday night in one of the busiest markets of this eastern Pakistani city, then sprayed the crowd with gunfire, killing at least 30 and wounding more than 100 others, Pakistani authorities said. It was the latest in a litany of militant attacks against Pakistani civilians.

The attack, which came at about 9 p.m., struck at a corner of the Moon Market where women crowded rows of garment stands to shop for clothes, witnesses said. Militants set off the second bomb moments after the first, engulfing much of the market in flames, and fired at people fleeing the scene.

"We were busy in dealing customers at this peak time of the market when we sudden heard the blast," said Jamshed Akhter, one survivor who runs a garment shop in the same market. "After that we know nothing. We rushed to save our lives across the road."

Pervez Rathore, the Lahore police chief, said there was a strong possibility that the bombs were detonated by remote control, rather than suicide attack. But the authorities still had not determined the exact cause of the bombing by late Monday night.

Pollution Fears Stir Backlash on Natural Gas Boom

By Jad Mouawad and Clifford Krauss

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Across vast regions of the country, gas companies are using a technology called hydraulic fracturing — fracking — to produce natural gas from previously untapped beds of shale. The push has been so successful that potential U.S. gas reserves jumped by 35 percent in two years.

What the drilling push will do to local environments is another matter. The drilling boom is raising concern in many parts of the country, and the reaction is creating political obstacles for the gas industry. Hazards like methane contamination of drinking water wells, long known in regions where gas production was common, are spreading to populous areas that have little history of such risks, but sit atop shale beds.

A string of incidents in places like Wyoming and Pennsylvania in recent years has pointed to a possible link between hydraulic fracturing and pollution of groundwater supplies. Such pollution could damage crucial supplies of water used for drinking and agriculture.

Iranian Student Protesters Clash with Police

By Nazila Fathi and Robert F. Worth

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

On a day of angry street clashes, thousands of people rallied against the government on Monday at universities across Iran, defying a wide-ranging advance effort to suppress the protests and bringing a new ferocity to the opposition movement's confrontation with the regime.

The protests, taking place on National Student Day, set off battles in and around campuses. Protesters hurled rocks and set fires amid clouds of tear gas, while a vast deployment of police and plainclothes Basij militia members beat back chanting protesters with chains, truncheons and stun guns.

There were reports of dozens of arrests and injuries. Many witnesses said the day's confrontations were the most violent since the rallies that followed last summer's disputed presidential election.

The protests — the opposition's first major street showing in more than a month — also included the most aggressive verbal attacks on the Islamic Republic yet, witnesses said,

with some protesters burning posters of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's supreme leader. Other marchers carried an Iranian flag from which the signature emblem of "Allah" — added after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution — had been removed. At Sharif University in Tehran, protesters could be seen on a video clip posted to YouTube chanting "death to the oppressor, whether Shah or Supreme Leader."

The authorities had barricaded and surrounded universities in an effort to forestall dissent on an official holiday commemorating the killing of three students by the Shah's forces in 1953. They arrested dozens of student leaders, ordered foreign news outlets to stay away and reduced the Internet to a trickle to limit the opposition's main link with its supporters.

Nevertheless, large crowds of university students gathered on campuses across Iran on Monday morning, many holding banners or armbands in the opposition's trademark bright-green color, to chant "God is Great!" and "Death to the Dictator." Twitter and opposition Web sites fea-

ured video clips of rallies in Tehran, Mashad, Isfahan, Tabriz and other cities.

One video showed hundreds of students at Amir Kabir University of Technology in Tehran waving bank notes in the air to ridicule the Basij members, who are officially volunteers but are widely said to receive money for cracking down on protesters. Another video showed students breaking down the university's front gates, which the authorities had locked to prevent the protests from spreading.

Another group of protesters near Tehran University waved a Russian flag at the police and then set it on fire, in a gesture mocking the Iranian regime's ritual anti-Americanism. Russia was quick to recognize Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president after the election, prompting opposition supporters — who believe the election was stolen through massive fraud — to protest.

The renewed set of protests comes at a sensitive time for Iran's government, which recently rejected an international proposal to transport the country's uranium abroad for processing.

Chicago Suspect Charged in 2008 Mumbai Attack

By Ginger Thompson and David Johnston

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

An American at the center of an international terrorism investigation has been charged with helping plot the 2008 rampage in Mumbai, India, that left 173 people dead, according to a Justice Department complaint unsealed Monday.

David C. Headley of Chicago is accused of helping identify targets for a Pakistani-based terrorist group, called Lashkar-e-Taiba, whose two-day attack on luxury hotels, a popular restaurant, a Jewish community center and a crowded train station brought India's financial capital to a halt and shocked the world. The complaint described Headley's repeated scouting visits to the sites.

The charges, including six counts of conspiracy to bomb public places

and to murder and maim, significantly expanded the government's case against Headley, 49. And his profile — he has roots in the United States and links to high levels of the Pakistani government and military — makes him a highly unusual terror suspect.

Headley was arrested in October with another Chicago resident, Tahawwur Rana, and charged with plotting to attack a Danish newspaper that in 2005 had published cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, which outraged much of the Muslim world. The authorities allege that among their co-conspirators was Ilyas Kashmiri, regarded by Western officials as one of the most dangerous Islamic militants operating in Pakistan's restive tribal areas.

Since his arrest, Headley has cooperated with authorities. That assistance, along with new leads from

the authorities in Pakistan and India, and an examination of e-mail messages between Headley and others suspected in the plots, led to the new charges involving the Mumbai killings, officials said.

A lawyer for Headley refused to comment. Rana's lawyer could not be reached. The authorities refused to say whether Rehman was in custody in Pakistan, citing the diplomatic tensions the case has caused in the United States, India and Pakistan.

In the complaint, prosecutors said Headley received training from Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is dedicated to ending Indian rule of Kashmir, on several occasions from February 2002 to December 2003. After he was told by the group to conduct surveillance in Mumbai, the complaint says, he made five trips there from 2006 to 2008. Each time, he took photos and videos of various targets.

WEATHER

Ahh, Winter in New England

By Angela Zalucha

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

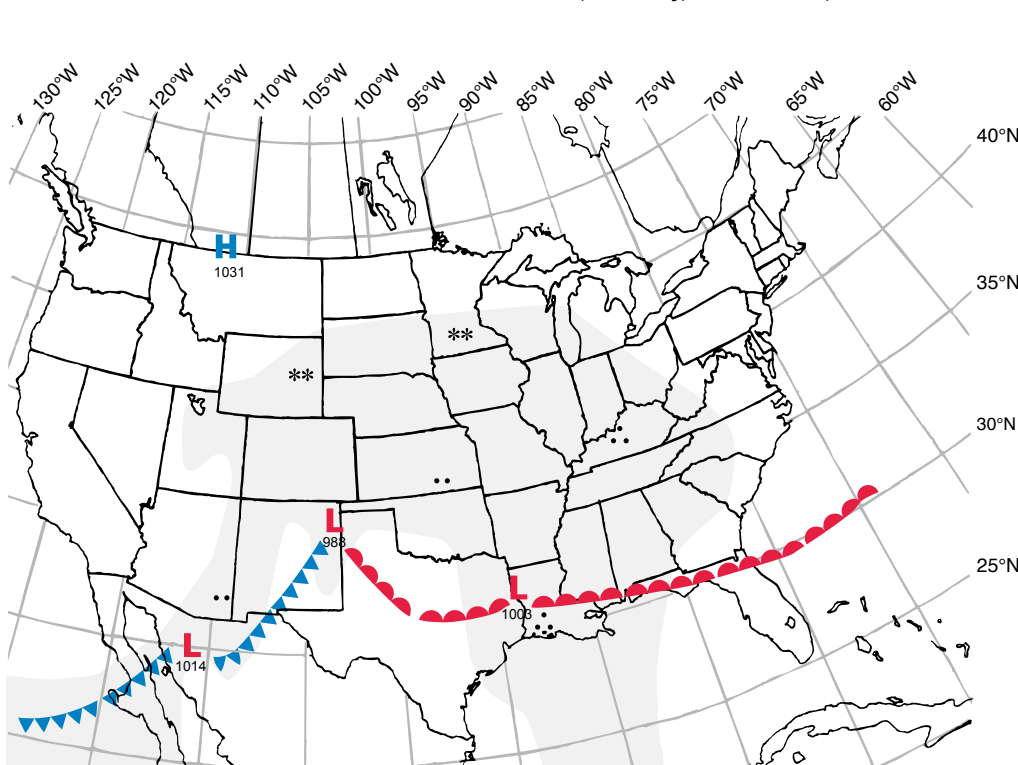
Do you like cold, rain, and wind? You're in luck! An intense low pressure system moving through the Great Lakes will trigger a secondary storm that will affect our region tomorrow. Precipitation may start out as sleet or snow due to the cold air currently in place, but will soon change over to rain as warm air is advected in the area. Rain may be heavy at times during the day tomorrow. The wind will also be an issue tomorrow and Thursday, with very blustery conditions much like what we have been seeing recently. After the storm exits, cold air from Canada digs into the region, with lows in the 20s°F and highs in the 30s°F Friday and Saturday.

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly sunny. High 41°F (5°C). West winds 5–10 mph.
Tonight: Cloudy. Low 34°F (1°C). West winds 5–10 mph.
Tomorrow: Rainy and windy. High 47°F (8°C). Northeast winds 20–25 mph.
Thursday: Partly sunny and windy. High 39°F (4°C).
Friday: Partly sunny. High 36°F (2°C).
Saturday: Partly sunny. High 38°F (3°C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow * Rain •	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	—•— Warm Front	Showers ▽	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Light *	☁ Haze
	▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Moderate **	
		Heavy ***	

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, December 8, 2009



Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Records Show Millions in U.S. Drink Contaminated Water

By Charles Duhiag
THE NEW YORK TIMES

More than 20 percent of the United States' water treatment systems have violated key provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act over the last five years, according to a New York Times analysis of federal data.

That law requires communities to deliver safe tap water to local residents. But since 2004, the water provided to more than 49 million people has contained illegal concentrations of chemicals like arsenic or radioactive substances like uranium, as well as dangerous bacteria often found in sewage.

Regulators were informed of each of those violations as they occurred. But regulatory records show that fewer than 6 percent of the water

systems that broke the law were ever fined or punished by state or federal officials, including those at the Environmental Protection Agency, which has ultimate responsibility for enforcing standards.

Studies indicate that drinking water contaminants are linked to millions of instances of illness within the United States each year.

In some instances, drinking water violations were one-time events, and probably posed little risk. But for hundreds of other systems, illegal contamination persisted for years, records show.

On Tuesday, the Senate Environment and Public Works committee will question a high-ranking EPA official about the agency's enforcement of drinking-water safety laws.

"This administration has made it clear that clean water is a top priority," said an EPA spokeswoman, Adora Andy, in response to questions regarding the agency's drinking water enforcement. "The previous eight years provide a perfect example of what happens when political leadership fails to act to protect our health and the environment."

The New York Times has compiled and analyzed millions of records from water systems and regulators around America, as part of a series of articles about worsening pollution in American waters, and regulators' response.

An analysis of EPA data shows that Safe Drinking Water Act violations have occurred in parts of every state.

Supreme Court to Hear Rights vs. Religion Case

By Adam Liptak
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear an appeal from a Christian student group that had been denied recognition by a public law school in California for excluding homosexuals and nonbelievers. The case pits anti-discrimination principles against religious freedom.

The group, the Christian Legal Society, says it welcomes all students to participate in its activities. But it does not allow students to become voting members or to assume leadership positions unless they affirm what the group calls orthodox Christian beliefs and disavow "unrepentant participation in or advocacy of a sexually immoral lifestyle." Such a lifestyle, the group says, includes "sexual conduct outside of marriage between a man and a woman."

The law school, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, part of the University of California, allows some 60 recognized student groups to use meeting space, bulletin boards and the like so long as they agree to a policy that forbids discrimination on various grounds, including religion and sexual orientation. The school withdrew recognition from the Christian group after it refused to comply with the policy.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in San Francisco, ruled in favor of Hastings in March.

"Hastings imposes an open membership rule on all student groups — all groups must accept all comers as voting members even if those individuals disagree with the mission of the group," a three-judge panel of the court said in a brief unsigned decision. "The conditions on recognition are therefore viewpoint neutral and reasonable."

The question of how to reconcile anti-discrimination principles with religious freedom in the context of public higher education "is a recurring and pervasive national problem," the student group told the justices in a brief urging them to hear the case, Christian Legal Society v. Martinez.

Live Updates Added to Google Results

By Brad Stone

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.

Unveiling significant changes to its dominant search engine on Monday, Google said it would begin supplementing its search results with the updates posted each second to sites like Twitter, Facebook and MySpace.

As part of its much-anticipated entrance into the field known as real-time search, Google said that over the next few days its users would begin seeing brand-new Tweets, blog items, news stories and social networking updates in results for certain topical searches.

Previously it took a few minutes for updates from social networks and blogs to filter into Google's results.

"Clearly in today's world, that's not fast enough," Amit Singhal, a Google fellow, said at a press conference at the Computer History Museum here. "Information is being posted at a pace we've never seen before, and in this environment, seconds matter."

Google struck formal partnerships with Twitter, Facebook and MySpace to bring updates from those services into its search index. The companies did not disclose terms of those deals.

Facebook has said publicly it is not earning money from the deal, and is only giving Google updates from the public profile pages on the service, which can already be seen by anyone on the Web.

Help Offered for Indirect Investors with Madoff

By Diana B. Henriques

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Some less-affluent victims of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme could receive extra help from a change in the tax code, under a proposal submitted Monday by Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

The plan would make indirect investors — those who invested through so-called feeder funds — eligible for tax breaks for theft and fraud losses that are already available to direct Madoff investors; allow for faster, larger contributions to tax-free retirement accounts to make up for the losses incurred; and allow for penalty-free early withdrawals from retirement accounts for those in dire need because of their fraud losses.

Schumer said the proposals were aimed at establishing a fairer tax treatment for those indirect investors, who tend to have a lower net worth than victims who invested directly with Madoff.

The IRS issued rules in April allowing direct investors to treat their Madoff losses as net operating losses, as if the individual investors were small businesses. That allowed them to "carry back" their losses for five years, instead of for three, and to carry any remaining losses forward for up to 20 years.

Those carry-back losses put cash in investors' hands by providing refunds for taxes paid in past years, the senator explained.

Teaching Excellence

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

James A '45 and Ruth Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching

All (non-visiting) instructors in undergraduate and graduate subjects taught in the School are eligible (faculty, lecturers, TAs). Students are invited to make their nominations via email to shass-teaching-award@mit.edu.

Nominate by
Friday, December 18, 2009

Nominations should include the following information:

- Your name
- Your email
- Name of the teacher nominated for the award
- Subject(s) taken with the nominee
- Why you are nominating this teacher

Please consider and comment on

- Teaching effectiveness
- Approachability
- Responsiveness to students' progress
- Impact

great ideas change the world
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, & SOCIAL SCIENCES

OPINION

Five Years In: The Hockfield Administration

During last week's quarterly meeting of the Corporation, President Susan Hockfield was given a round of applause in special recognition of her first five years of service leading the MIT community. Now, on the cusp of 2010, we as a community can also look back to see where the President has succeeded and where she may need to change her approach in the future.

Editorial

It has become clear that thus far in her tenure President Hockfield has positioned herself as a largely outward-looking leader. By focusing on fundraising, governmental relations and expanding the Institute's public profile, Hockfield has helped to reinforce MIT's standing as one of the world's pre-eminent research institutions. She has performed admirably during the present economic recession, threading the difficult needle of reducing the Institute's budget by embracing community input and consensus decision-making. However, by focusing primarily on the external component of her role, President Hockfield risks delaying progress on key campus issues and isolating some members of the community.

Many of President Hockfield's notable successes to date are clear. Building upon a foundation laid by former-President Vest, Hockfield has continued to improve MIT's reputation amongst national leaders in Washington and the Institute's global footprint has arguably never been larger. Additionally, the President demonstrated a commitment to preserving MIT's core principles by preserving need blind admissions and by refusing to mandate a hiring freeze despite a painful 21 percent decrease in the value of the endowment. For the first time in a decade or more, the In-

stitute budget is balanced and will not require a readjustment of unrestricted endowment funds.

On campus, however, Hockfield has generally remained disengaged from many of the matters that concern students most — including dining reform, housing, advising, and the effects of expanding student enrollment. Many student leaders have become frustrated by the often opaque decision-making process in the Chancellor's office and in the Division of Student Life. The Task Force for Student Engagement has so far failed to address much of its chartered mission and some key student-related initiatives have still failed to include meaningful student input until too late in the process, like the reduction in the varsity athletics program, or unless prompted by widespread outrage, like the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee report.

While we heartily applaud her media savvy and her achievements in addressing the Institute's financial woes, over the next five years President Hockfield should make it a priority to reverse her reputation for keeping the student body at arm's length. The president now limits most of her scheduled exposure with students to monthly faculty-student lunches and the occasional living group dinner. But by using a more proactive approach to student engagement, the administration can solicit valuable and practical ideas from the MIT student body. President Hockfield should make it an issue to take more meetings with students, attend more student events and provide more opportunities for community engagement, such as regular town hall meetings. In addition, the President should provide more direct oversight for reforms to Student Life programs — such as dining — while insisting on transparency, community involvement and timely action.



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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © 2009 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Company.

Corrections

An article on November 24 about MIT's Rhodes Scholarship winners incorrectly said Ugwechi Amadi '10, one of the winners, is majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences with a minor in literature. She is actually double-majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences and literature.

An August 25, 2008 article on first-year undergraduate and graduate orientations included the wrong date, Friday, August 29, 2008, for the close of undergraduate orientation and the start of the Greek Griller. The Greek Griller and the close of orientation were actually on Saturday, August 30, 2008.

Letters To The Editor

Vote Today for Ted Kennedy's Successor

Since this is the last week of classes, you undoubtedly have many things to do today. Nevertheless, please take a few minutes to go to your polling location (Kresge Auditorium for most students who live on campus) and vote in the special election primary to choose the next US senator to represent the state of Massachusetts.

On Saturday, I went door-to-door canvassing for Alan Khazei, one of the candidates running for the Democratic nomination today. (If you want to find out more about why Khazei is awesome, you can read his endorsement by the *Boston Globe*, by Mayor Michael Bloomberg of NYC, or by General Wesley Clark.) A remarkable number of the voters I encountered did not know that there is an election today, Tuesday, December 8. (A November poll found that ninety-three percent of Democratic voters did not know the date of the special election primary, and seventy-three percent were unable to even identify the month in which the election would occur). So, if you had no idea that there was going to be an election today, you are not alone. Since U.S. Senate elections

are important, this is an unfortunate situation. The Senate seat in contention was previously held not only by Ted Kennedy, but also by John F. Kennedy, John Quincy Adams, and Daniel Webster. Once informed about the election, no one that I met did not care about it. In fact, people were surprised that they did not know about it already.

So, change your Facebook and chat statuses to: "Vote today for Alan Khazei for U.S. Senate. Change your status to this message," (or, in support of whoever you think is the best candidate). And most importantly, if you are eligible to vote in the state of Massachusetts, go vote!

Rachel Sealfon G

Yes, You Are Part Of the Checks and Balances

On the one hand, I agree with Craig Broady (December 4, "Things that Are Political and Paradoxical") that unfettered cynicism about government is destructive, and that we should acknowledge that none of us personally knows

the best solution to every policy issue facing our government. On the other hand, I object strongly to his conclusion.

Mr. Broady wrote, "There exist checks and balances within the government. You are not part of those checks and balances." Yes you are! Yes we all are. To rely too much on the checks and balances within government is to abdicate responsibility for what is done in our names. Also, at times in history — including very recently — one branch of government has failed in its duty to check the excesses of another. It is only the pressure of public outcry — the ultimate check and balance — that has any chance of correcting such situations between elections. This is why freedom of speech and freedom of the press are so precious.

As a middle-aged citizen interested in the long-term survival of our unique and worthy, if flawed, governmental system, I implore younger citizens to apply their critical thinking skills to our government at least as much as to their studies and their work. By all means, speak loudly in support when you believe the government is doing right. What is crucial, though, is to speak loudly in protest when you believe our leaders are doing wrong.

Riley Hart
MIT Administrative Staff

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

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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

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

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OpenCourseWare and the Future of Education

Ryan T. Normandin

As we are all aware, MIT has and will continue to make relatively large cuts to its budget in light of the recent financial meltdown. The administration established the Institute-Wide Planning Task Force to evaluate ways to make these cuts with minimal impact to the MIT community. One proposal is to cut funding to OpenCourseWare (OCW) or continue funding only until the grant funding that has paid for 72 percent of OCW since its creation runs out. For those not familiar with OCW, it is a brilliant piece of intellectual philanthropy that MIT opened to the public in September of 2002. Essentially, anyone in the world can access the same knowledge and information that MIT students are inundated with by classes. Not just a few classes here and there in the most common disciplines — as of May 2006 there were 1400 courses online. This is an unbelievable resource that has been utilized by about 60 million people, both on and off the campus. Twenty years ago, the thought that one could log onto a computer and access nearly the entire curriculum at MIT would be unthinkable. But now it can be done.

Yet what of the costs? OCW is more than simply recording lectures and posting problem sets and exams. A dedicated staff is necessary to deal with publishing the various formats of media and keeping OCW updated and relevant. This sums to \$4.1 million per year, although OCW has managed to cut about \$500,000 from its budget in FY 2009. Since its creation, 22 percent of OCW's expenditures have been covered by the Institute, 72 percent has been paid for through grants from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Andrew Mellon Foundation, and 6 percent has been covered by donations, revenue, and other sources. Unfortunately, grant funding runs out in two years. With that in mind, while many are asking how OCW can be sustained, others are wondering if it should be at all.

Answering this question necessitates a broader view on education. In the United States, the federal government provides free public education, grades K-12, to every citizen of the country. We take this for granted, but I cannot stress enough how utterly remarkable this actually is. Eighteen-year-olds leave high school with more knowledge than a citizen of the 18th century could even dream of. Knowledge of math that took the Greeks generations to uncover are imparted in a few weeks in a free high school math course to every American student. This model of education is absolutely revolutionary, and most take it for granted.

The model clearly is not perfect, but it is certainly an excellent foundation upon which we can build. However, once a student graduates from high school, a guaranteed free public education ends. From that point on, families must find a way to pay for a college education should a student decide to continue their studies. And, quite frankly, without a college degree, their horizons are extremely limited.

Is this the right model? Sure, families

can get loans, students can earn scholarships through hard work and dedication, and state colleges can attempt to increase accessibility by keeping costs low. Yet some students spend the rest of their lives paying off debt from college loans and others cannot even hope to afford it in the first place.

OCW is a way to remedy this inequity. With its immense power anyone, from the student who could not get accepted to any colleges to the senior citizen who is curious about quantum mechanics, can access information that historically has been restricted to those within the walls of a university. Thus, completely free, public education can continue beyond high school. Of course, no degree can be earned through the completion of an online OCW course, but the very fact that the dissemination of knowledge is no longer restricted to those who can afford it is valuable. We have unlocked the secrets of the human genome; we understand the motion of both the planets and

The very fact that the dissemination of knowledge is no longer restricted to those who can afford it is valuable.

subatomic particles; we comprehend things that people long ago could not even imagine. Why should that information be restricted to a select number of people?

Some argue against making this information accessible to everyone. Suppose MIT continues to make OCW accessible, even continuing to expand it. The average student at MIT can then simply go online to OCW and watch the lectures, do the problem sets, show up for the final, pass, and they've got their degree. This leads to empty lecture halls and vacant recitations. There is no longer a need for professors or TAs. But, detractors of universal knowledge claim, if all of the professors and TAs are let go, how can OCW continue to be updated?

A related argument states that if anyone can simply go online and access an MIT education, then what's the point of paying to attend the school? There goes MIT's source of income.

Finally, some claim that the program is far too socialistic. These people feel that education must be earned. If you work hard through high school, get good grades, develop a good character, and manage to stand out, they claim that you will get into a school, earning the opportunities that will follow.

While respectable, none of these arguments hold enough sway to cut funding to OCW. The first argument will never actually come to fruition; videos for many classes lectures, including 3.091 and 7.012 (Introduction to Solid-State Chemistry and Introductory Biology, respectively), are already posted online following the lecture. While some students take advantage of this, the lecture halls have yet to become empty. And if, hypothetically, such a

thing did happen as a result of an OCW-like program, all MIT would have to do is institute a mandatory attendance policy.

The answer to the second argument is quite simple: yes, anyone can essentially get an MIT education online, but you don't get the degree unless you attend the school. Without a degree in a certain course from an accredited institution, employers will not take you seriously. Claiming that you're qualified to operate a nuclear reactor because you "watched MIT lectures on it online" is not likely to convince an employer to hire you.

The final argument is more ideological. Once again, the age-old capitalism-versus-socialism debate. Opponents to OCW programs argue that not everyone has "a right" to this knowledge. People have spent lots of money, lots of time, and lots of ingenuity to develop the knowledge that we have today, and this should not simply be given away. Unless you're willing to earn it, it should not be made available to you.

Such a philosophy would also mean that opponents of OCW would also oppose the current public education system. In the end, what it comes down to is that the rich can get this knowledge while the poor are left out. Yes, a poor student who excels will get scholarships and admittance to universities and rich students who fail will not. However, an average poor student may get accepted but earn no scholarships. An average rich student may also get accepted and likewise earn no scholarships. But the only thing that differentiates these students is the wealth of their parents, the rich student will be able to afford a college education while the poor student will not. Any system that favors wealth over ability, character, and dedication is wrong.

MIT should continue to support OCW because it is the first step to promoting free public education at a higher level than grade 12. The academic climate in the United States is changing. Due to the tough economy, state colleges, which are the government's attempt to provide an affordable higher education, are becoming more competitive than ever before. The country is also undergoing an "inflation" of college degrees. While a bachelor's degree would get you nearly any job in the past, a bachelor's is now expected and it is a master's that provides better chances of getting a job today. Therefore, people who get rejected from college or are unable to afford a higher education have far fewer opportunities than those who attain a bachelor's and master's degree.

Some might argue that if just anyone is let into college, then the country will be flooded with unqualified individuals. This is not true — as long as standards are kept high, individuals who are unqualified will flunk out and be unable to earn their degree. It is wrong to deny an individual the right to an education and, as a result, a good job with a livable wage, on the basis that their parents cannot afford it. For logical and moral reasons, free higher level education is a necessity. OpenCourseWare is a harbinger of the future of education, and MIT would do well to continue to ensure its continued availability.

The Bhopal Disaster, 25 Years Later

Leonid Chindelevitch

In the night of December 3, 1984 forty tons of methyl isocyanate, a highly toxic chemical used to produce pesticides, leaked from a chemical plant belonging to Union Carbide (now a subsidiary of Dow Chemical) in Bhopal, India, that by some estimates killed 8,000 people within three days and affected over 500,000 residents of the area. Over 15,000 more people died of the consequences of gas exposure in the years that followed. Today, with the plant's toxic waste site still not cleaned up, people in Bhopal are drinking very toxic water. Recently published reports from accredited laboratories in Switzerland and the UK found 15 highly toxic chemicals in the groundwater of Bhopal whose levels greatly exceed the safe levels recommended by the WHO, in some cases over a thousand-fold. Most of these chemicals could be neurotoxic and damage the brain and other internal organs. The incidence of children born with congenital birth defects linked to their parents' exposure to the gas is ten times higher in Bhopal than in other localities with matching socioeconomic factors.

Why is it that, 25 years after the disaster, those who survived the tragedy have received only an indecently low compensation (no more than \$1,000 per person who lost their livelihood due to the gas)? Why does the site still remain massively contaminated, and why is the toxic waste allowed to seep into the groundwater more and more every year? While many answers are possible, one of the main factors is that Union Carbide, as well as its current owner, Dow Chemical, have failed to take responsibility for the disaster, which was caused by the use of untested technology and cost-cutting on safety measures. The CEO of Union Carbide at the time, Warren Anderson, is an absconder from justice. Meanwhile, Dow Chemical, the current owner of Union Carbide, is trying to continue its "business as usual" and pretend that it only acquired Union Carbide's assets, not its liabilities, despite international trade laws.

A lot of discussion has appeared in the recent issues about MIT accepting funding from Jeffery Picower's estate. Meanwhile, MIT's Chemistry and Chemical Engineering departments (and possibly many others) are getting regular funding from Dow Chemical, and there is no discussion about those funds. If MIT as an institution decided that it would only accept funding from Dow Chemical after they pay for the cleanup of the plant site in Bhopal, as the Indian courts are demanding, and if you as an individual pledge not to work for Dow Chemical until that happens, then the residents of Bhopal will get one step closer to justice, which they have been bravely and tirelessly demanding over the past quarter-century.

Leonid Chindelevitch is a graduate student in Course XVIII.

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Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Sudoku

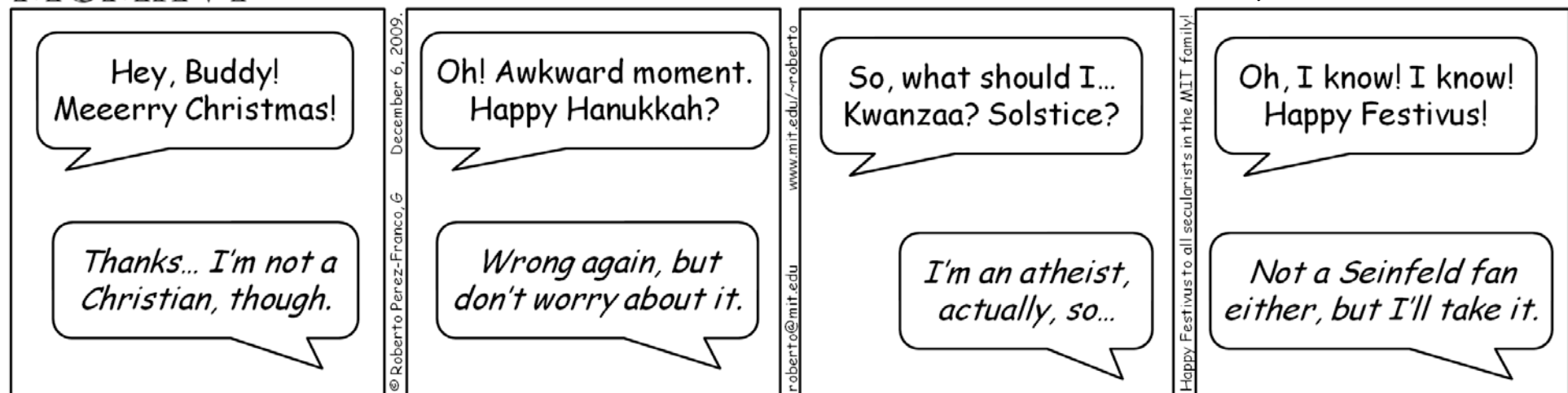
Solution on page 15

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

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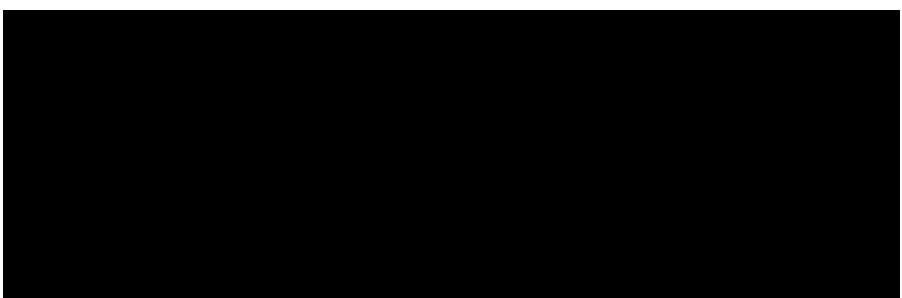
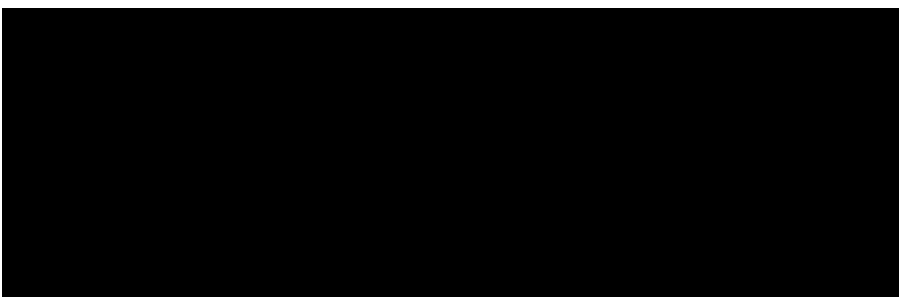
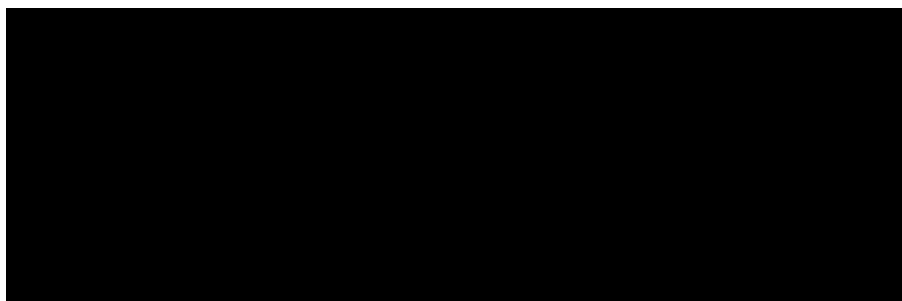
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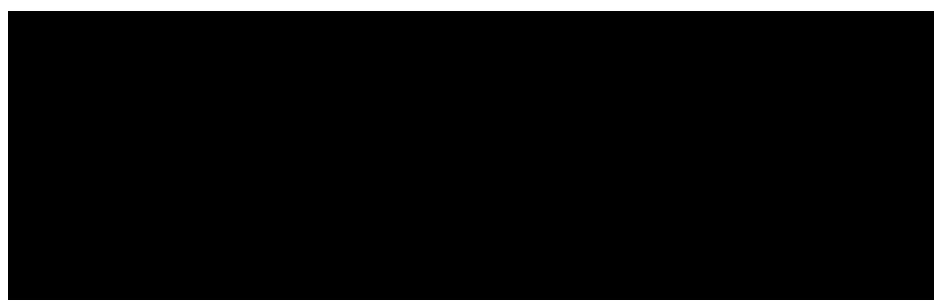


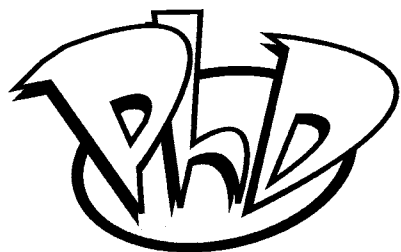
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

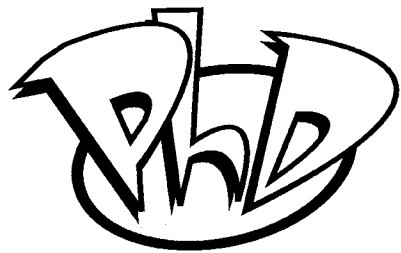
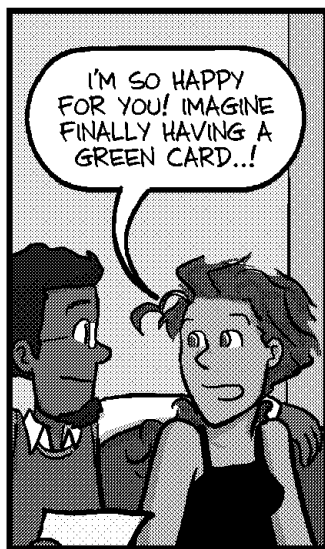
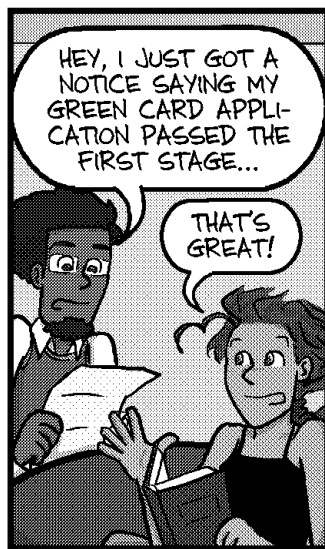
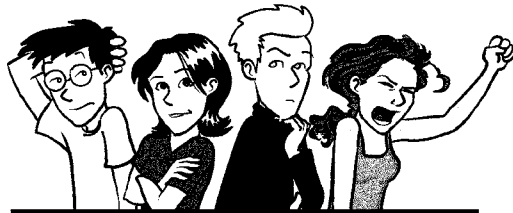


Dilbert® by Scott Adams

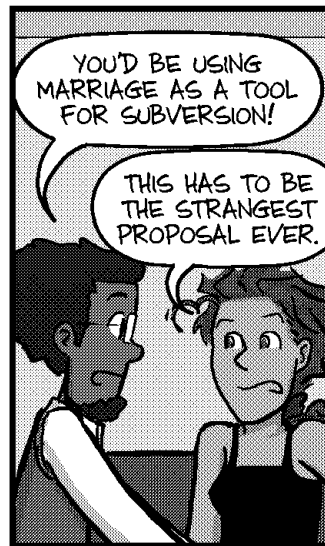
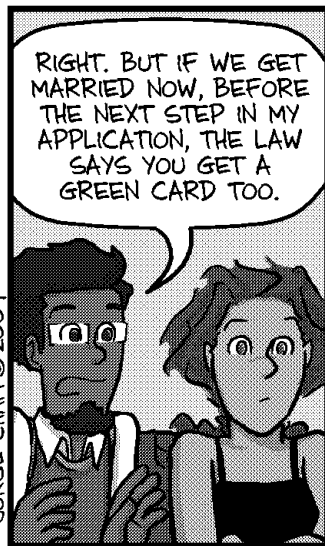
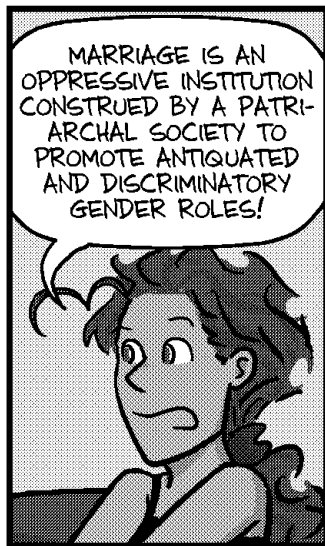
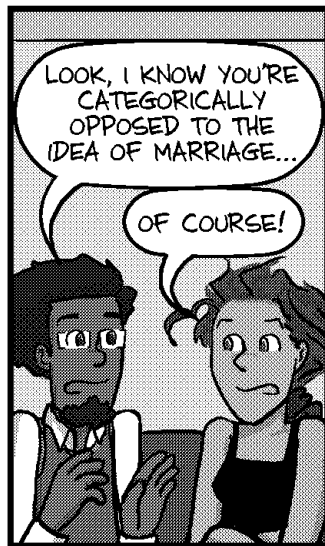




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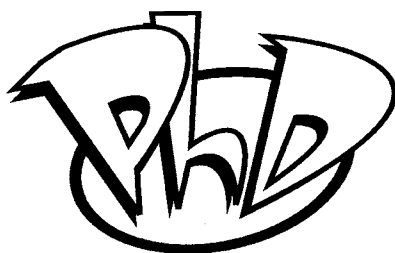
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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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54		55				56			57			
58				59	60				61	62	63	
64				65					66			
67				68					69			

- ACROSS**
- 1 Relinquishes
 - 6 Talk incessantly
 - 10 Smelly, dirty air
 - 14 "Magic Man" rockers
 - 15 Gravure starter
 - 16 ___ homo (Behold the man!)
 - 17 Palmer's entourage
 - 19 Comparison word
 - 20 Garlic unit
 - 21 Start to breathe
 - 23 Extinct bird
 - 26 Pride member
 - 28 ___ Vegas
 - 29 "___ Farm"
 - 31 Inclined trough
 - 33 Kitchen utensil
 - 34 Comic Martin
 - 36 ___ buco
 - 39 Animation
 - 40 Amount not covered by health insurance
 - 41 Break suddenly
 - 42 God of love
 - 43 Mine entrance
 - 44 Relative size
 - 45 Camera-ready copy
 - 47 Loom operator
 - 48 Initial letters
 - 50 Town near Modesto
 - 53 Singer Sumac
 - 54 Author of "The Third Man"
 - 56 Rupture
 - 58 Semi-eternity?
 - 59 Bluish-green
 - 64 Patch up
 - 65 Ballet skirt
 - 66 Pavarotti, e.g.
 - 67 Fruity drinks
 - 68 Impertinence
 - 69 Additional
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Half a dance?
 - 2 Auction ending
 - 3 Actor Duryea
 - 4 ___ the Red
 - 5 Astral
 - 6 Cry of appreciation
 - 7 "Two Women" star
 - 8 \$ dispenser
 - 9 In an unmanly manner?
 - 10 Fourth man?
 - 11 Borgnine's TV series
 - 12 Florida city
 - 13 Trait carriers
 - 18 Dirt
 - 22 Tahlequah, OK school
 - 23 Syrup source
 - 24 Disk jockey's cue
 - 25 Presidential plane
 - 27 Great success
 - 30 Reagan confidant Ed
 - 32 Puccini opera
 - 34 Klamath relative
 - 35 News agcy.
 - 37 Oregon capital
 - 38 La Scala offering
 - 40 Vehicle perches for tots
 - 44 Able to perceive
 - 46 Writing tool
 - 47 Angler's bait
 - 48 Lizard of the Old World
 - 49 Reproduce
 - 51 Borders on
 - 52 Island feasts
 - 55 Finishes
 - 57 "Bang a Gong (Get It On)" band
 - 60 Sine ___ non
 - 61 Bank payt.
 - 62 Neither's partner
 - 63 Period



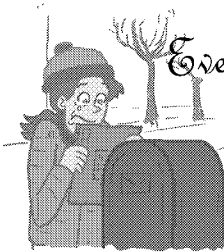
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A Christmas Song (Ph.D. Version)



First years roasting over Qualifiers...
 Mean Profs ripping up their notes
 Old-time papers, being read, best required
 and folks stressed out from Pass/Fail notes



Everybody knows that deadlines for professor jobs
 Are due at end of season Fall...
 So Post-docs, with their eyes filled with sobs
 will find it hard to sleep at all

You know that old age is on its way...
 you're lacking lots of dough and goodies in your pay
 And every worried mother's gonna wish
 ...to see if you'll ever really finish!



And so, we're offering this comic strip
 to Grads of years from nine to two.....
 Although it's been said, that you're atheist
 Merry Christmas, poor you..!

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ARTS

THEATER REVIEW

Lose Your Head At 'The Mikado'

Gilbert and Sullivan Are Turning Japanese

By Michael Lin

STAFF WRITER

The Mikado
The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players
La Sala de Puerto Rico
Thursday and Friday, December 3–4 at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 5 at 2 p.m.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Players' production of *The Mikado* opened last Friday, and it illustrates a few points. First, the Victorian England of Gilbert and Sullivan probably had a very bizarre perception of 19th century Japan, after seeing this show if not before, and second, G&SP seem to be at the top of their game when dressed in kimonos.

The show itself is prototypical of Gilbert and Sullivan productions, so your enjoyment of the show will probably be dependent on your tolerance for absurd logical progressions, similarly absurd characters, and sprightly music with only the occasional, passingly vague effort to sound Japanese. That having been said, the show doesn't fail to entertain, with this particular production being one of my favorites of the G&SP shows I've seen so far.

The music didn't strike me as being particularly memorable, which I suppose shouldn't be surprising considering that Gilbert and Sullivan predate the era of the more spectacular modern stage musical. The exception is "I am so proud," near the end of Act I, which serves as the token tongue-twister number and is performed with gusto and no small amount of cross-singing between the characters in it. At any rate, the songs are pleasant enough to the ear, and the cast performs it well.

By their nature, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas demand a slightly different skillset from subsequent forms of musical theatre, and the leads in *The Mikado* seem to have mastered it. In particular, Barratt Park G as Nanki-Poo and Julie Lauren Stevens as Yum-Yum, the lead couple of the production, both perform admirably throughout the show, although Yum-Yum only truly gets to show off in Act II, so if you find yourself thinking about leaving at intermission, I would recommend sticking around.

Also, if you think those character names sounded ridiculous, consider Ko-Ko, played by Davie Rolnick '12 (and who really does behave as strangely as his name suggests), as well as the giggle-inducing alternate title for the show,

The Town of Titipu. The more juvenile audience members will probably snicker — I did.

Related to the vocal demands of more operatic music is less compelling choreography, although *The Mikado* is somewhat better in this regard than past G&S shows. If nothing else, the lack of a tentpole dance number is compensated for by the somewhat liberal use of Oriental folding fans, the prop du jour, as a means of distinguishing one character from another, in the unlikely circumstance that the brightly-colored kimonos aren't sufficient.

Gilbert and Sullivan are obviously funny on their own, but the acting in this particular production works well in accentuating many of the best lines. Without spoiling the already-hard-

to-swallow plot points, jokes about decapitation and death wishes abound, to say nothing of the paragon of government bureaucracy and integrity known as Pooh-Bah, played to a deadpan T by Dan Salomon. Plot details might be hard to comprehend through some of the operatic vocals, but I suppose it can't really be helped given the style of the music, and at any rate, the gist isn't hard to catch.

A final caveat: Although this should go without saying, those expecting a faithful or even favorable interpretation of the Japanese will be grossly disappointed. As easy as it is to interpret this as typical Victorian lack of cultural understanding, it seems reasonable to assume that Gilbert and Sullivan were using the Japanese as a stand-in for the English rather than being racist. The exception to the lack of authenticity is the set design, which goes beyond the stereotypical backdrop-and-risers in complexity and adds credibility to a necessarily silly and incredulous production, right down to the sakura trees.

If you're a fan of Gilbert and Sullivan's singular brand of humor already, this show should already be on your radar as one of the most popular in their body of work. Even if you're not, the MIT G&SP production is a solid one that keeps laughs coming steadily and requires somewhat less suspension of disbelief than most Gilbert and Sullivan shows. If anything, the hardest thing to believe is that Katisha, played by Francesca Giannetti, is an crusty and unappealing old woman, a credit both to her and to the makeup artists. Performances are in La Sala de Puerto Rico, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m.



MICHAEL T. LIN—THE TECH

The gentlemen and schoolgirls of Titipu accompany Nanki-Poo (in black, right), a traveling minstrel, in song.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Where East Meets West

Chanting the Praises (and Shortcomings) of Mantra

By Tracy Kambara

STAFF WRITER

Mantra
52 Temple Place, Boston, Ma 02111
(617) 542 8111

There is something intrinsically romantic and effortlessly cool about navigating the side streets of Downtown Crossing and slipping into an unassuming old bank building that opens up to the modern and impressive space that is Mantra. The restaurant and lounge specializes in French-Indian fusion but also serves a separate menu of traditional Indian cuisine. Everything about Mantra seems to appeal to a hip, trend-setting crowd, from young students and business professionals to young-at-heart executives.

Take the ambiance, for example. By combining the former bank's original marble walls, high ceilings, and intricate mouldings with stylish colored lights and textured upholstery, Mantra avoids the stuffiness overplayed by other restaurants that hope their clay-red walls and dim lights automatically create intimacy. Mirrors and Buddha figures add a contemporary touch to the well-lit dining space, and airy drapery separates the bar. A giant, impossible-to-miss woven wood structure in the back serves as a tea lounge that can be booked for small private events. To add even more novelty, the bank's vault door is located downstairs by the kitchen and restrooms. In short, Mantra looks nothing like your grandfather's typical Friday night watering hole.

Before our food arrived, I had my doubts. After all, this is fusion food, where your accustomed notions of flavors and cooking styles come to die in the face of new blends of East and West that continually challenge your tongue. And by the end of our meal, my opinion of fusion cuisine had not changed. The menu, like the restaurant space itself, is divided into separate sections. The main menu features fusion dishes, further divided into a "Naan Bar" section, offering a variety of creatively-topped naan and tapas-style small appetizers, and a more traditional appetizer and entrée menu. A separate miniature binder holds the traditional Indian dishes.

My friend and I, eager to try something from every section of the menu, started with a trio of naan (\$12). We selected the Green Chili and Smoked Mozzarella, Sundried Tomato and Rosemary, and Ginger and Honey flavors. The basic naan was soft and doughy, so I had to stop myself from filling up on them, especially the spicy

green chili one (my favorite of the three). For the more adventurous, I encourage you to try the PB&J or Chocolate and Marshmallow flavors.

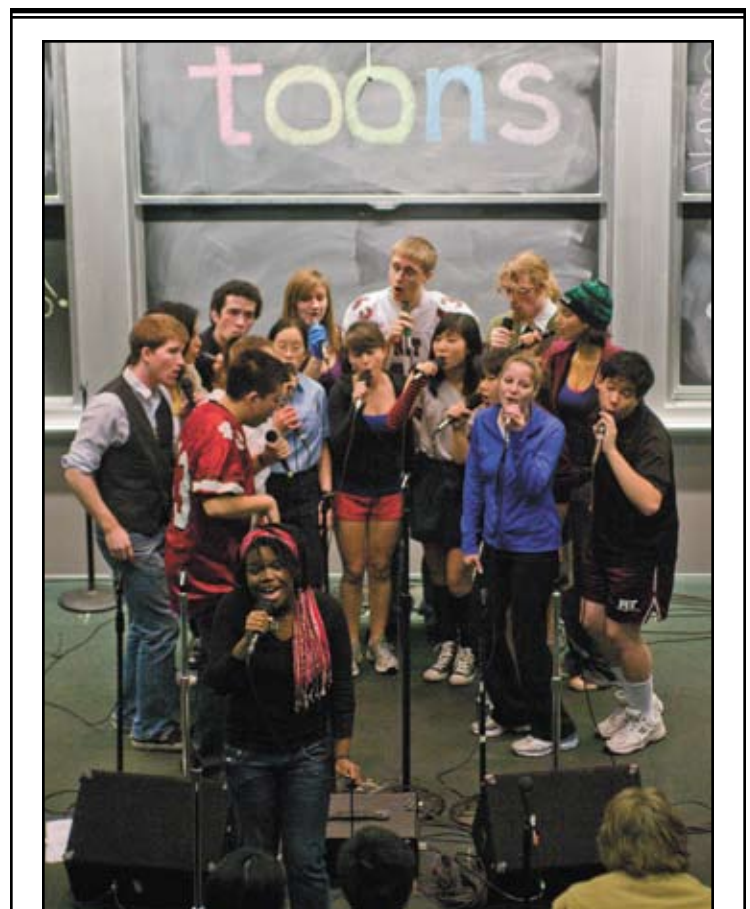
We opted for the Tuna Tartare (\$16) as our appetizer from the fusion menu. It was our most disappointing dish of the night. The grisly tuna did not come from the best cuts and had a bland, fishy taste. The wedge of broiled grapefruit was a colorful accent piece but added nothing to the dish taste-wise. But I couldn't hold it against them too much; after all, I had ordered a dish that was neither French nor Indian.

My friend ordered Mustard-Crusted Halibut (\$32) with purple potato and cilantro-cashew pesto, an entrée from the fusion menu. Once again, the flavors lacked complexity. The dish tasted simply like fish and potatoes instead of the mingling of spices and rich herbs that I expected from Indian-inspired cuisine.

I had Jhinga Vindaloo (\$20) from the traditional Indian menu, a shrimp and potato curry dish known to be very spicy yet somewhat sweet. The shrimp was succulent and well-cooked, and the sauce had just the right amount of heat (I have a high tolerance for hot foods and ordered it medium-spicy). Without a doubt, it surpasses most if not all other vindaloes in Boston. I was ready to consider it the best part of the meal.

That is, until dessert arrived. Our sampler plate let us try chocolate cake, passionfruit panna cotta, bread pudding, and homemade ice cream. Kudos to the dessert chef for ending our meal on a high note. All of the desserts were incredibly sophisticated, beautifully presented, and downright delicious. We agreed that the ice cream was the best we've ever had, and the chocolate cake with torched banana was rich and a show-stopper in its own right. Unfortunately, by this time, we were too full to finish dessert. "Why did I eat dinner?" my friend moaned as she eyed the last piece of panna cotta that she could no longer stomach.

From start to finish, our meal lasted three hours, with a significant portion of our time spent waiting for the next dish to arrive. Service is attentive and waiters are knowledgeable, friendly, and approachable, but food takes a long time to come out, even on a quiet Wednesday night. I highly recommend Mantra for a date, a classy night out, or a group function, as long as time is not a major issue (i.e. stop by for dinner and drinks after a show or movie, but not before). Two more lessons that I learned: fusion may be new and exciting, but classic dishes exist for a reason, and, most importantly, save room for dessert!



OSCAR A. VIQUEZ ROJAS—THE TECH

Asha Carter, a freshman from Wellesley, leads the Toons in their rendition of "Can't Make You Love Me" during their Glee-themed fall concert on December 5 in 34-101.

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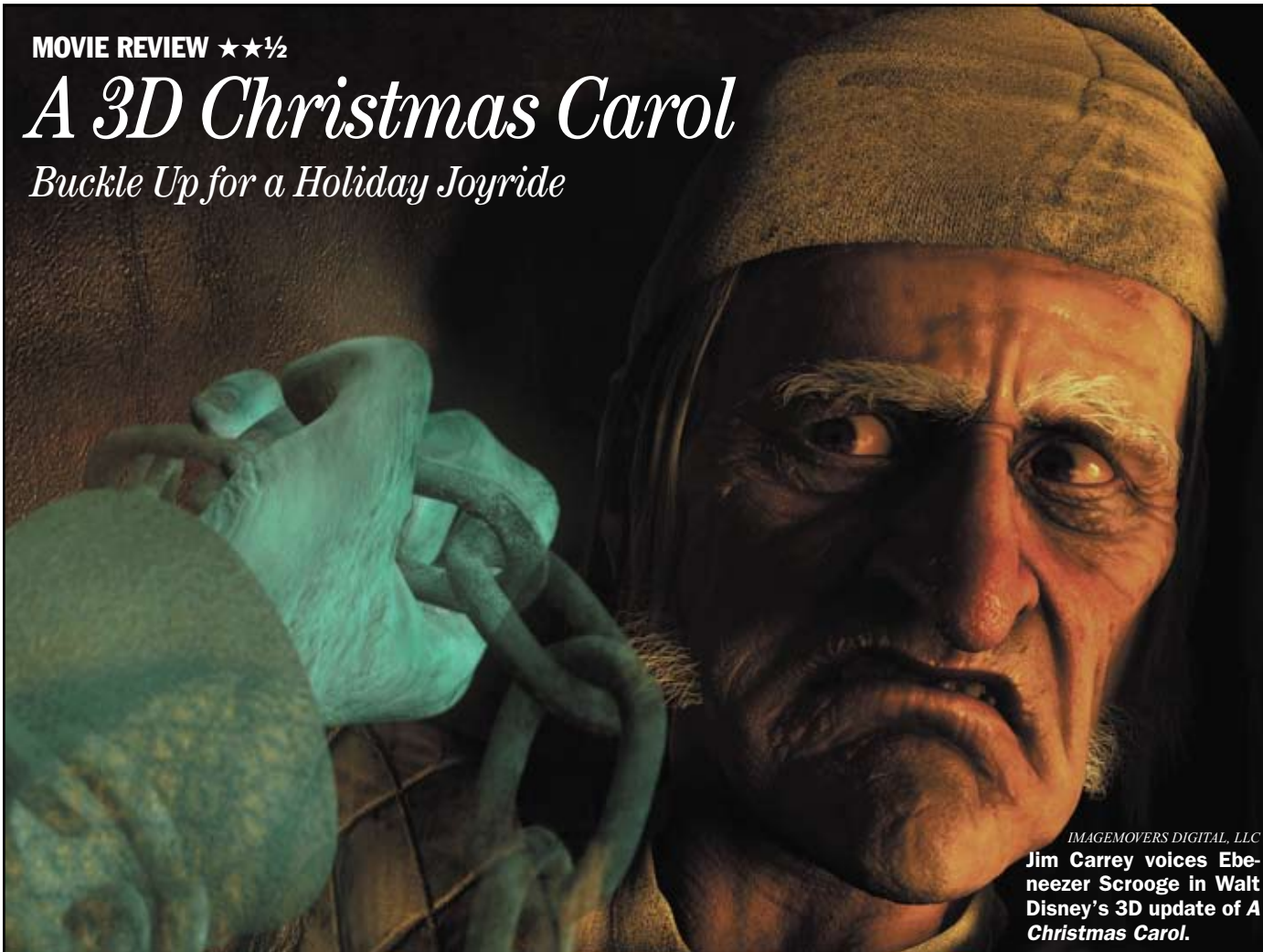
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MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½

A 3D Christmas Carol

Buckle Up for a Holiday Joyride



IMAGEMOVERS DIGITAL, LLC
Jim Carrey voices Ebenezer Scrooge in Walt Disney's 3D update of *A Christmas Carol*.

By Helen You

A Christmas Carol

Directed by Robert Zemeckis

Starring Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin

Rated PG

Now Playing

Robert Zemeckis (*The Polar Express*, *Beowulf*) has made yet another film using 3D performance capture technology, with his latest piece of work, *A Christmas Carol*. Jim Carrey plays Ebenezer Scrooge in this digitally animated take on the classic Christmas story.

As the story goes, Scrooge is a stingy old man who lives alone and doesn't have any friends. He is a living antithesis of what the holidays are about. On Christmas Eve, as he is sitting alone in his bedroom, he is haunted by the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. Each of the ghosts take Scrooge to the respective times in his life.

Interestingly, the past is the least scary of the three journeys, while the future is by far the scariest. The past is known — there is comfort in that. But the future is unclear. For an old geezer like Scrooge, the future looms closely. The proximity of time exacerbates the threat of the unknown.

The 3D touch puts you right inside the movie, adding to the entertainment level. For example, you see the ghost's chains fly out of the screen at you (warning: the movie can be quite scary at times). You can almost feel the wind and snow rushing past you in the scene where Scrooge and the ghost of Christmas past are flying through the town and woods where Scrooge grew up.

Especially in these tough times of economic recession, the film's story rings clear. As more people are cutting back on spending this holiday season, we can all learn a lesson from Scrooge.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★ / 4

Out of the Mouths of Babes

No Ordinary Sibling Rivalry in 'Brothers'

By Sun Kim

STAFF WRITER

Brothers

Directed by Jim Sheridan

Written by David Benioff

Starring Tobey Maguire, Jake Gyllenhaal, and Natalie Portman

Rated R

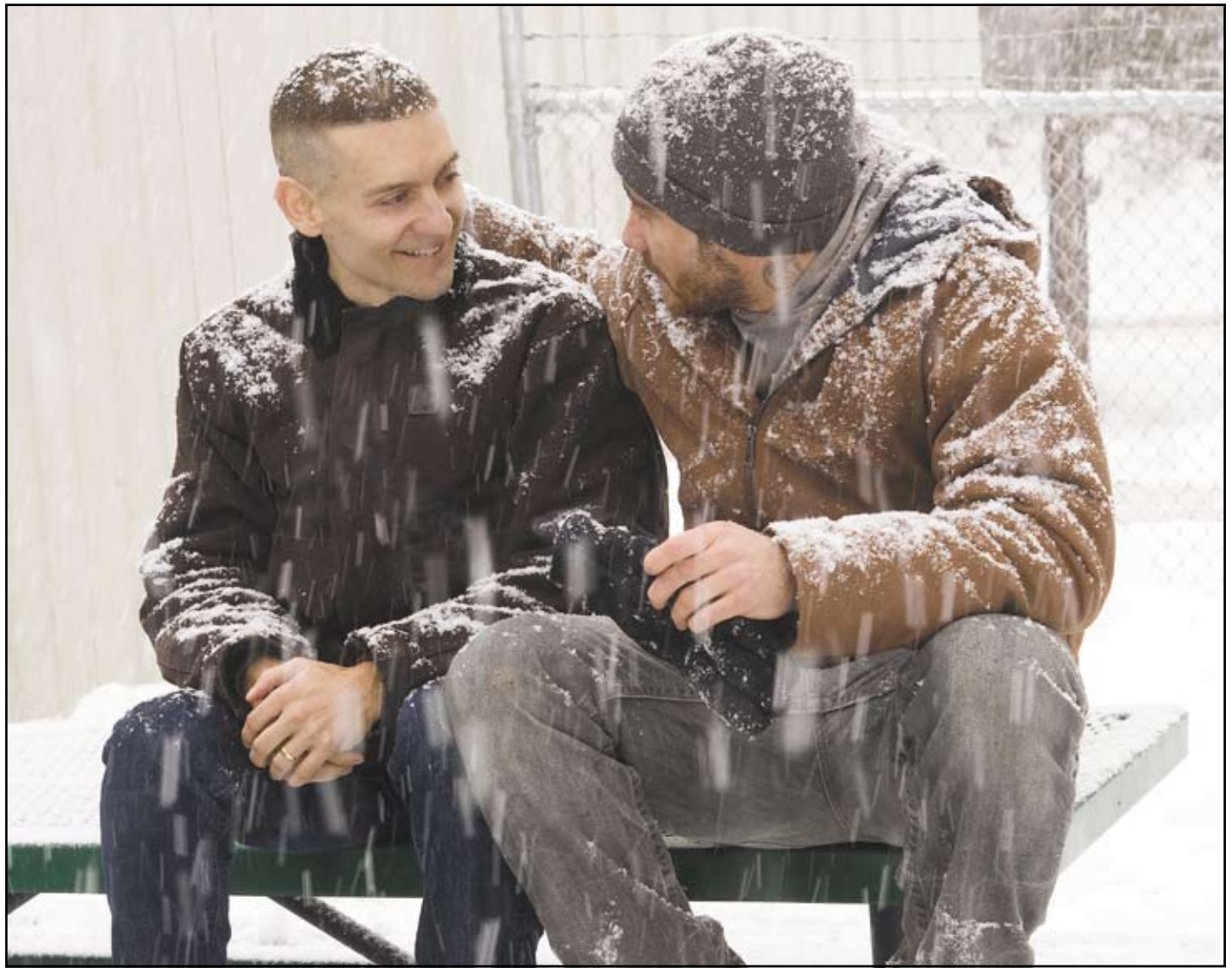
Now Playing

I have to preface this review of *Brothers*, which is based on the Danish film *Brødre*, with a remark. I'm not a fan of musical manipulation in movies. Overly sappy instrumental music always struck me as unoriginal, as if the director wanted to cover up poor direction or poor acting.

Brothers, directed by Jim Sheridan (*My Left Foot*), tells the story of two brothers who couldn't be any more different. Sam Cahill (Tobey Maguire) is a Marine captain, Afghanistan War veteran, and hometown hero (cue solo acoustic guitar evoking small town America). He is clean-shaven, cold, and calculating. Tommy (Jake Gyllenhaal) is an ex-convict, a drunkard, and the black sheep of the Cahill family (cue rock music). He is resentful of the praise their father Hank (Sam Shepard) constantly gives Sam but chooses to do nothing about it. Sam is about to depart for Afghanistan for another tour of duty, leaving behind his wife Grace (Natalie Portman) and two daughters Isabelle and Maggie.

The rest of the film ensues thusly: Sam is killed in action. His family grieves. Tommy cleans up his act and takes on the father role, eventually winning over the daughters and Grace. The plot twist, of course, is that Sam wasn't killed but captured by the Taliban (cue ethnic music). The experience breaks Sam down and is never the same even after he is rescued and returns home. Tension, emotional and sexual, ensues (cue dark music with orchestral strings).

Watching Gyllenhaal and Portman is one of few things that makes the film watchable. Their dynamics play off each other well, with Grace's early dislike of the wayward brother to growing acceptance to unspoken sexual undertones. Grace is a fitting name for Portman's character, who is poised and restrained with quiet emotional strength. Her portrayal of a grieving widow is not over the top, and it's maybe even too restrained. Gyllenhaal does a convincing job of playing the outcast of the family. His roughness and irreverence is fun to watch, especially as he interacts with his ex-Marine father. Tommy's increasing sense of responsibility is probably linked to his attraction towards Grace and genuine love for Isabelle and Maggie (cue upbeat 90s music). The sister sibling rivalry mirrors in some ways the brotherly rivalry; Isabelle asserts that Maggie receives more love than she does. That tension will extend throughout the film, ultimately to the emotional climax of *Brothers*. The girls are visibly disappointed in their



LOREY SEBASTIAN—COURTESY OF LIONS GATE ENTERTAINMENT

Tobey Maguire (as Sam Cahill, left) and Jake Gyllenhaal (as Tommy Cahill, right) star in *Brothers*, directed by Jim Sheridan.

father's return since he is not as playful, understanding, or loving as Uncle Tommy.

The egregious weakness of the film, besides the uninspired dialogue, is the acting of Tobey Maguire. He really nails down the blank stare, and his only capable expressions are the stupid smirk he has constantly, wide-eyed anger, and that dull stare when he's not doing the first two. Perhaps he was cast as a broken Marine due to these skills, but watching him act is almost as painful as being poked with a hot metal stake.

After his return, Sam is certain that Grace and Tommy have been sleeping together, which Grace denies flatly, while Tommy gives a less direct answer, saying that Sam's crazy to think such a thing. This ambiguity suggests perhaps something more happened beyond the living room kiss Tommy and Grace shared in Sam's absence. It's curious that Sam withstood months of torture and food deprivation but cracks when he wonders about the hypothetical romance between his wife and brother.

Of course, male sexual aggression is not a rational thing and can get the best of us (not speaking from experience of course).

Spoiler #1: Another interesting scene is one in which Grace finally reads Sam's letter in the event of his death. She only reads it after Sam is arrested after he threatens to shoot Tommy outside Sam's home. Reading the letter now, as opposed to when he was thought to be dead, signifies that he is emotionally dead, that he is essentially nonexistent in society because of his psychological degradation.

Spoiler #2: The emotional climax, and the motivation behind this review's title, occurs at Maggie's birthday dinner at Hank's home. With all the Cahills present, including a blond whom Tommy had just met an hour prior, there is a juxtaposition between the blond's assertion to Hank that no man is emotionally wired to kill (which is what Sam had to do to prevent his own execution) and Sam's growing deranged annoyance at Isabelle's bitter attempts to get attention. Isabelle cinkles

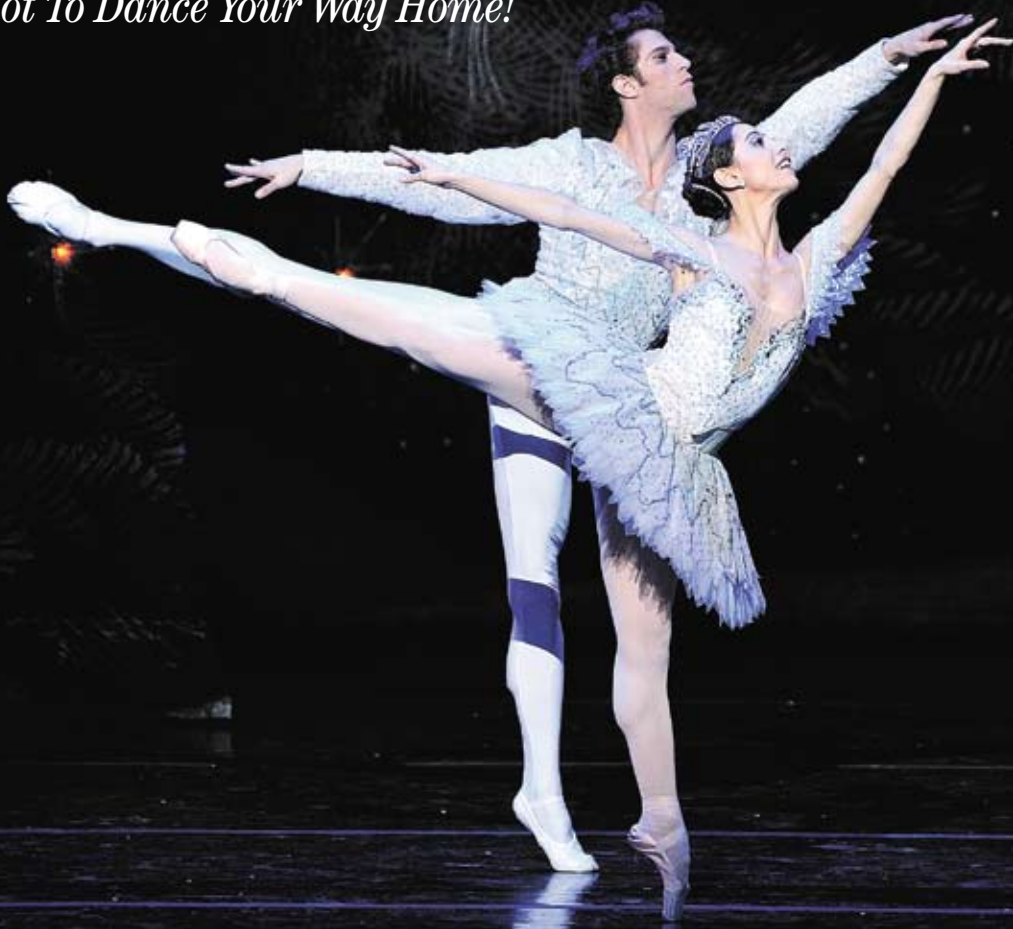
one of Maggie's balloons until Sam leaps over the table to pop it. She wails, screaming that the only reason why he's mad is that Grace would rather have sex with Tommy than with him. A collective gasp echoed throughout the theater at that point. This assertion couldn't be true, could it? If this were a surrealist indie film, perhaps, but nothing else in the film suggested it (save for Tommy's weak response to Sam's sex question). How would a nine year old know about sex anyway? Perhaps she speaks an untold truth. I like the uncertainty this statement presents, even if Grace later reprimands Isabelle for telling a lie.

The scenes from the trailer come from the last fifteen minutes of *Brothers*. The physical tension seen in the trailer adds to the emotional strain in most of the film. Although this apprehension is fairly cliché, it makes the film watchable. The best part of the film is watching the daughters, who steal the film with their humorous innocence and unpredictable antics.

BALLET REVIEW

Boston Ballet's Nutcracker Sparkles

Try Not To Dance Your Way Home!



GENE SCHIAVONE—COURTESY OF THE BOSTON BALLET

Mikko Nissinen's choreography dazzles in Boston Ballet's rendition of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*.

By Crystal Mao

Boston Ballet's Nutcracker
Boston Opera House, Boston, Mass.
December 5, 2009

Choreographed by Mikko Nissinen, the Boston Ballet's rendition of this classic hits all the familiar, comforting notes, while also including a few cheeky details to keep things interesting for perennial attendees. In an effort to trim the show to under two hours (a smart move, considering the

number of children both in the corps and in the audience), the action proceeded with a frenetic pace. Act I opens with a Christmas Eve party at the Silberhaus home. Clara's magical godfather Drosselmeier arrives at the party bearing animated gifts, including a dancing bear unique to the Boston production. (As a figure skating Chewbacca once told me following a performance of *Star Wars on Ice*, "It is not easy to twirl in a big fur suit.") Each of his gifts performs a small, cleverly arranged sequence that helps you understand what *Toy Story* would be

like if it were ever adapted for ballet.

With a flurry of midnight magic and some spiffy special effects, the tree on stage grows to the appropriately gargantuan size and Clara's Nutcracker transforms into a live prince (ah, if it were only so easy!). There is an epic battle between the Nutcracker and a brave battalion of mice, following which Clara and her Nutcracker are whisked away to a snowy forest, where they are welcomed by the Snow Queen and King, danced beautifully by Tiffany Hedman and Bo Busby. Their lifts appear effortless

and their chemistry together is phenomenal. Also worth noting here is the set design — it is enchanting, with softly falling snow against a backdrop of regal evergreens in a flood of lavender lighting. It is what Californians picture "winter on the east coast" to be like before we actually move here.

Act II is where the serious dancing really begins. Clara and the Nutcracker arrive at the Kingdom of Sweets, where they are treated to performances by the Sugar Plum Fairy and all of her subjects. Of note were Brittany Summer and Pavel Gurevich, perfectly embodying sultry, slinky, and impossibly lithe during the creative choreography of the Arabian Dance. The trio of Russian dancers during the Trepak section quickly became an audience favorite by busting moves that would make your neighborhood break-dancer jealous, and one small black sheep on-stage during the Dance of the Reed Pipes sprinkled the familiar piece with a touch of humor. While Lorna Feijoo was technically outstanding as Sugar Plum, with extended arabesques and fouettes en pointe that made my toes wince, her performance in the Grand pas de deux lacked a bit of the artistry and delicacy that makes some Sugar Plums extra sweet.

Perhaps more well-known than the ballet itself, Tchaikovsky's iconic score was conducted by Jonathan McPhee and played wonderfully by the Boston Ballet Orchestra — I would have stayed for just the music. Their new orchestra pit places the musicians closer to the audience, providing a warmer and more intimate sound that fully immerses all of your senses into the loveliness of the performance.

My fear in attending a popular, time-honored performance is always that the dancing during familiar pieces does not have to be particularly inventive for the audience to find them enjoyable, but for the most part Nissinen does not cut corners, and holds his dancers to high standards throughout the show. This season's performance is sweet — without the calories! — and worth that trip off campus, several times over.

DANCEY: Girls, forget your stilettos — the sprightly choreography will have you jetté-ing all over T-station platforms on the way home.

CHANCEY: With luck, student rush tickets may still be available for \$20 (cash only) at the box office, two hours before curtain.

ROMANCEY: Lure a +1 to experience the magnificent Boston Opera House all decked out for the holiday season including doorways adorned strategically with sprigs of mistletoe...

OPERA REVIEW

'Le Nozze di Figaro'

A Marriage Between Words and Music

By Joyce Kwan

Staff Reporter
"The Marriage of Figaro"
The Metropolitan Opera
Metropolitan Opera House, New York, New York
November 27, 2009, 8 p.m.

During Thanksgiving weekend, The Metropolitan Opera staged a rousing revival of Mozart's great comic opera, "The Marriage of Figaro," that was characterized by uncanny comic timing and keen acting. It wasn't without a few weaknesses, however, which became apparent when the musical performance failed to match the acting in energy.

Conductor Fabio Luisi made quite an impression in the opening, eliciting a scintillating overture from the orchestra. His quick pace and sprightly style melded into a subtle and impeccable abandonment that would set the musical standard for what was to come.

Soprano Lisette Oropesa as Susanna captivated the audience with her energetic performance. Her sweet, if slightly shrill, voice was perfect for her role, emphasizing Susanna's youth and spontaneity. Bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni was hilarious as Figaro, his acting and singing technique indisputable. For instance, near the end of the opera, Pisaroni impressively sustained his warm, brassy sound while helpless on the ground, enduring Oropesa's physical attacks as a jealous Susanna.

Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard was absolutely entertaining as Cherubino, the page who falls in love with every attractive female in sight. Her caricature of the lusty young man was spot on, from his lively gait to his occasional awkwardness. Count Almaviva was played by baritone Ludovic Tézier, who oozed lasciviousness — one could feel him creep his hand up Susanna's leg. He tended toward a reserved portrayal, which greatly benefited his role by suggesting an authority figure suppressing his debauch ways for purposes of appearance.

In her Met debut as the Countess, German soprano Annette Dasch embodied the patrician character, her voice having a complex richness to match. Occasionally, however, one could sense self-consciousness taking over what would otherwise have been a very solid performance. She was best in her mid-range, sometimes erring on the sharp side as she leaped to higher notes.

The singing, in the general sense, was certainly skillful, but at times, particularly during the solos, it lacked the sparkle that pervaded the acting. I, for one, simply wanted more lilt in the phrasing at times of playfulness, and more dynamic contrast for greater dramatic effect — in sum, the sense of abandonment Luisi had set as precedent in the overture.

The sets and costumes evoked the rococo ornateness of the 18th century, supporting the elegance of the music in a very satisfying way. Interestingly, the costumes were pristine while the sets had a quality of decay, with one going as far as being a lop-sided building. The contrast was telling, making apparent the darkness that is driving the comic plot, namely "droit de seigneur," or the feudal lord's right to take the virginity of his estate's virgins.

More so, the opera is an example of Mozart at his most political, it being more than merely a story of infidelity, but of servants outwitting their inhumane master. "Figaro" was revolutionary for its time, having debuted amidst the rising heat of the French Revolution. It's not surprising that the play off of which the opera is based was banned from the Viennese stage, as it challenges the ruling class. Hence, the decaying sets perhaps symbolize the decay of a certain ruling class that the opera itself is suggesting beneath the prettiness of the music.

Overall, the production was a very satisfying rendition of what some consider to be one of the most successful marriages between music and words. Spot-on portrayals and insightful details here and there make it a show worth seeing.



MARTY SOHL—COURTESY OF METROPOLITAN OPERA

Luca Pisaroni, an acclaimed performer from Busseto, Italy, played the coveted role of Figaro. The Metropolitan Opera has shown over 400 performances of 'Le Nozze di Figaro.'

INTERVIEW

Immersion Not Optional

Urbane Nomads Brings Culture and Fantasy to Life

By **Nina Sinatra**
STAFF WRITER

What is an “urbane nomad?” Ask Hajar Ali. As founder of the Singapore-based luxury travel firm, she specializes in crafting the breathtaking and exotic into incredible getaways for her clients. Price tag aside, Urbane Nomads is the premier architect to transform any dream journey into a reality.

Of course, the company does cater to those with a more unique getaway in mind. Ever wanted to explore sunken portions of the Great Wall of China by SCUBA? How about heli-skiing down Everest or taking an elephant-back safari in Nepal? Wherever your global passion lies, it is entirely possible that Urbane Nomads can help you can find it.

Yet why is Urbane Nomads refreshing as a travel bureau? Carefully designed itineraries are ostensibly focused on allowing guests to experience the pure beauty and culture of a host country. Rather than sightseeing only around the hotel pool and spa, Urbane Nomads encourages guests to get a taste of the local culture. Private city and museum tours, tastings at the finest and most exotic restaurants, and time spent perusing village streets and busy city markets convey the spirit of each culture in an unadulterated form. Ali and her co-workers allow guests to experience a country not as an observer, but as a participant.

The Tech: What inspired you to found Urbane Nomads?

Hajar Ali: I started in the real estate agency industry, developing a niche in well-designed, architecturally distinguished properties. Working in such a niche market in real estate, however, meant that I was frequently dictated by the supply of such properties. For quite some

time, I’d wanted a more creative role and felt that I’d found the answer during a trip to Argentinean Patagonia where the existence of luxury lodges in such remote places inspired the idea of a travel company that constantly tests the limits of accessibility, bringing guests to remote places in as much luxury as possible.

TT: Did you travel extensively as a child, and are you multilingual?

HA: I had started travelling extensively only in my 20s but being in motion has always “settled” me — even if it was just taking a bus ride by myself. Chatwin referred to this in his “Nomadic Alternative,” expanding on Pascal’s theory about how all of man’s unhappiness stemmed from a single cause, his inability to remain quietly in a room. I am only bilingual, unfortunately (Malay and English). I had spent a few years learning French but as my French is neither colloquial nor anywhere close to perfect, I dare not speak it.

TT: It is often said that travel is an enlightening and transformative experience. How have your travels changed your perspectives and perception of life?

HA: I am not sure if I’d had a transformative experience during travel. Rather, it’s a combination of serendipitous moments and the people I’d met that had steered me into a different course in life. They’re also the moments like sleeping to the sounds of hooves thundering past your tent and emerging from your tent in the morning to be greeted by camels grazing on trees by the outdoor bath, sleeping in a “star bed” with nothing between me and the skies but a desultory mosquito net and simply the splendid beauty of the natural surroundings in certain places that will remain with me till my memory’s taken away from me.

TT: You have said that your dream trip would be canoeing through the Iraqi marshlands? What made you choose this particular setting?

HA: The marshlands have been referred to as an Eden and Eden (and its various manifestations — Shambhala, Shangri-La, Paradesha...) has always dominated much of travel lore. The promise of natural beauty combined with the area’s tortured recent history makes it a very interesting place for me, personally. Urbane Nomads is looking at working with an NGO to offer this itinerary next year so it looks like I might be going to the Iraqi marshlands over the next few months! Of course there are the issues of developing sustainable patterns of tourism, in ways that benefit the local community and which is not detrimental to efforts of re-building an ecological diversity that was lost when Saddam drained the area over a five-year period.

TT: What has been your most challenging vacation to plan? Your most exotic?

HA: Most challenging and exotic — a trip through Mongolia where we’d had to figure out landing rights and logistics (moving tents during winter, toilets, food, generators) and still trying to do it all in as much style as possible. We’re still planning it as we speak.

TT: Are you an advocate of ecotourism?

HA: I am immediately skeptical of terms that are banded around in any industry to the extent that it becomes commodified. Most of the forms of ecotourism that I’d seen revolve around a carbon offset system — rather akin to the sale of “indulgences.” That said, I’d seen really good work in the most unlikely places — filtering of water in remote villages in Myanmar that makes the tap water potable that benefits not just the hotel but the entire village.

Which brings me to the concept of geotourism, which works towards a more responsible

model of tourism — where the tourism dollar goes towards preserving the culture, environment and way of living of the destination traveled to. To me this means a form of tourism that preserves rather than bastardizes the local culture. One of the unfortunate consequences of mass (and unsustainable) tourism is the bastardization of local culture. Staged cultural performances for the benefit of tourists, devoid of its original meaning, or the relegation of an important art form into cheap tourist trinkets because the original art form, having lost its traditional patrons, would have been too costly to be sustained by mass tourism, are just some of the unfortunate side effects when a country opens up too fast to tourism. However, any nation learns from its mistakes and countries that are just opening up to tourism are quick to emphasize sustainability, not attracting more tourist numbers than would be sustainable either through the imposition of artificial barriers like daily tariffs or by setting up an infrastructure that is ideal for geotourism. Examples would be Bhutan, Oman, and Abu Dhabi — where the tourism infrastructure places an emphasis on the preservation of the environment and culture. Abu Dhabi’s tourism efforts are obviously predicated on its cultural heritage, with headliner conservation efforts like the Sir Bani Yas Island. Oman has similarly opted for low-rise, luxury hotels instead of skyscrapers dominating its skyline and is promoting its eco and marine tourism opportunities. Bhutan is, of course, synonymous with sustainable tourism, with the Kingdom placing strict codes of conduct on cultural performances for tourists — there are no cultural performances allowed to be staged purely for the benefit of tourists, and visitors to Bhutan enjoy cultural performances in their original setting and intent.



MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

In a stunning weekend performance of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, the MIT Symphony Orchestra teamed up with a talented cast of student actors in Kresge Auditorium.



YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH

Kevin Hwang ’10 performs with the Harvard Wushu Club in Lobby 13 this past Saturday night at TAI.101, an event run by the Association of Taiwanese Students to educate attendees about Taiwanese culture.



CONCERT REVIEW

Re-Learning the New

The Emerson String Quartet Performs works by Ives, Janáček, Barber and Shostakovich

By Sudeep Agarwala

STAFF WRITER

*The Emerson String Quartet
Jordan Hall, Boston, Mass.
December 4, 2009*

Twentieth century music is generally associated with atonality and avant-garde experimentation; this is not necessarily an untrue association, and many of Friday evening's composers are specially known for their forays into these movements. The music is not without its own narrative, its own tonal lexicon and rationale that somehow culminates in a cohesive thesis. All of Friday evening's music was older than fifty years old, and it was striking to hear how much of this music has been adapted in to the collective idiom in the twenty-first century.

It is difficult to think of the Emerson Quartet being less than fluent in any genre, having produced award-winning recordings from composers ranging from Haydn to Shostakovich and almost everyone in between, but the members seemed to really grasp the genre in Friday evening's concert.

The Emerson String Quartet, hosted by the Celebrity Series of Boston, played a program of early twentieth century works by Charles Ives, Leoš Janáček, Samuel Barber and Dmitri Shostakovich. While an evening filled with this collection of composers (devoid of Emerson's signature Beethoven or Haydn) may seem impossibly heavy-handed or dense, Friday eve-

ning's concert proved far less daring.

Ives's first string quartet, "From the Salvation Army," first on Friday evening's program, provided a warm introduction into a potentially harrowing evening of music. Shaggy Americana pentatonic scales ushered in a first movement that proceeded to recall the nostalgic mythology

of a Main Street heritage complete with warm afternoons of baseball and chilly evenings of apple pie. The work is, by no means, simple: harrowing bursts throughout the four movements thrust the audience into fits that fall nothing short of disorientation; certainly, ensemble work in these areas were notably well-crafted, but this is not to ignore the cohesion of

the entire work in Emerson's considerable talent: melodic lines traded fluently from one instrument to another, particularly between violinists Drucker (first) and Setzer (second), who performed, for all intents and purposes, as a single musician.

Janáček's first string quartet, performed second on the program, was no less well-crafted, but a striking change of pace; whereas Ives's work somehow focuses on sonority, Janáček's work thrives on contrast and diversity: Film-score adagios careen in to riveting solo-instru-

ment elocution (cellist David Finckel not only managed dramatic flare but maintained remarkable clarity and pearly tone in these shocking passages). True to twentieth-century stereotype, later movements moved away from traditional tonality, throwing startling dissonances in the middle of melodic passages, but contrasts were clearly part of the ensembles rhetoric as each surprised appeared as unexpectedly as the one preceding.

Russian melodies reverberated throughout with shocking vivacity, so much so that it was no surprise to see violist Lawrence Dutton's A string snap in the middle of the Allegretto movement.

The evening concluded with yet two more patriotic works. Barber's Adagio is, by all accounts, overdone and for good reason: played during every national tragedy, Barber's work has surreptitiously entered into the

American subconscious with an air of melancholy. It is easy to become complacent with the work as both audience member and performer, to associate it with its ascribed meaning rather than to hear it as part of a cohesive whole. Friday's performance took special care not to fall into this trap, shaping each moving line not according to its ascribed triplet motion, rather inventing and re-inventing this notoriously difficult-to-interpret line in context with its position in the piece. A solemn work, it is remarkable to be reminded how poignantly beautiful it is.

Shostakovich's 9th string quartet often becomes obfuscated by his more affable 8th; Friday's performance offered impetus for performing the 9th even more regularly: Russian melodies reverberated throughout with shocking vivacity, so much so that it was no surprise to see violist Lawrence Dutton's A string snap in the middle of the the Allegretto movement; no issue - the re-stringing of the instrument provided the audience with yet another iteration of the vivacious music, perhaps cleaner the second time through. Heavy peasant melodies and rhythms concluded the work that sent the audience into a standing ovation.

This, however, was striking: the ensemble rewarded the audience's considerable appreciation with a performance of the third movement of Antonin Dvořák's Cypresses String quartet (Op. 106), a setting of When thy sweet glances on me fall. A more traditionally Romantic work, Dvořák's piece paled in comparison to the wild and vivid music performed earlier in the evening.

Perhaps it is our association with film music, that pop music, too, has begun extended tonalities and obviating the standard rhythmic, harmonic structures that teach us to understand the forebears of these innovation. It is striking that, with the passage of time, how the avant-garde becomes comprehensible at last.

Boston's Celebrity Series continues its 2009-10 series on Saturday, December 12, with a performance by the Vienna Boys' Choir, in New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

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Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:
 Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 22
 Closes 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 30

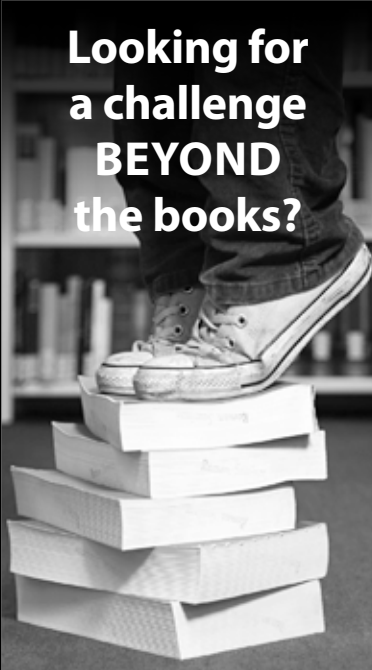
Waitlist Round for closed Sloan subjects:
 Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 5
 Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 12

Section Swap Round for sectioned Sloan subjects:
 Opens 9:00 a.m., Thursday, January 14
 Closes 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 21

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

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on February 1 and will be posted on the bidding website as of January 5 -- write down your password to check results!

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View past evaluation results:
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AARON THOM—THE TECH

Mission 2013 students answer questions from the expert panel during the Terascope final presentation on Thursday night. This year's Mission researched options to address the rising concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

C	C	O	U	N	T	P	O	E	T	E	S	S	E	S
A	N	N	I	E	E	M	P	E	N	N	A	G	E	
M	A	S	T	S		R	A	I	N	G	A	U	G	E
E	V	E	R	T		U	N	S	T	A	I	N	E	D
R	E	T	I	E	D					G	L	A	R	Y
A	R	T	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	S			
M	A	L	E			A	R	E	T	E	S		G	I
A	G	E	S			C	R	E	T	E		A	O	N
N	E	D				M	O	A	T	E	D	T	I	D
						S	E	N	S	O	R	I	M	O
F	L	E	E	R						T	A	M	A	L
R	I	V	E	R	N	I	L	E		T	I	L	E	S
I	N	I	T	I	A	L	E	D		I	C	O	N	S
L	E	C	H	E	R	I	N	G		N	A	N	C	E
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Mead Plans to Stay Involved with MIT

Dana Mead, from Page 1

During his tenure, Mead led the search for a new president in 2004 after Charles M. Vest retired. Mead nominated president Susan J. Hockfield after compiling input from student and corporation search committees. Mead also diversified the membership of the Corporation and Visiting Committees by increasing the total number of women and foreign members by fifty percent.

Mead established the Corporation's Investment Management Company in 2004, which managed the endowment and other assets during the recession. Mead attributes MIT's better-than-average financial performance during the recession to this Company.

Although no longer Chairman of the Corporation, Mead said that he plans to stay involved in the MIT community and to help MIT contact and raise funds from alumni. He plans to continue to sit on the Sloan Leadership Center Advisory Council, where he acts as a role model for students and shares his experiences in the corporate world. If given the option to stay on the corporation as an emeritus life member, Mead said that he would accept the position. Emeritus life members of the Corporation are free to participate in meetings and any other transactions; however, they do not have the privilege to vote.

The Corporation's bylaws dictate that the next chairman of the Corporation must be an MIT former president, retiring president, or a serving member of the Corporation. Mead was a serving member of the Corporation before his election as chairman, and had previously held several leadership positions including CEO of Tenneco Inc. and chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers.

—Robert McQueen

MIT Team Defeated Hundreds of Others

DARPA, from Page 1

ey," said Peter Lee, a DARPA project manager who was one of the organizers of the Network Challenge.

DARPA had begun holding similar events focused on autonomous vehicles in 2004 to create incentives to quickly advance the state-of-the-art. In the Network Challenge roughly 500 teams had made a serious effort and come close to identifying all of the balloons in a contest that Lee referred to as a "nail-biter."

He said while they were planning the event the DARPA scientists had wondered about the relative effectiveness of different motives ranging from profit to working for the common good.

"In the final results all of the motives seemed to be effective," he said.

The researchers said their technique could be used for many things, including finding criminals and missing children, and halting impending terrorist attacks.



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Marilee Emerges to Counsel Families on College Applications

Marilee Jones, from Page 1

her resignation — but that she very much appreciated the support she had received since.

"I got hundreds and hundreds of letters and e-mails and packages and angels, from people I hadn't heard from in years, people I'd helped, and people I didn't know," she said. "It was awesome, and it really carried me through a hard time."

Jones' fall from grace came as she was reaching a nationwide audience, touring and speaking about the book she wrote with Dr. Kenneth R. Ginsburg, a pediatrician, "Less Stress, More Success: A New Approach to Guiding Your Teen Through College Admissions and Beyond," which cemented her reputation as the leader of a movement to calm the college-admissions frenzy.

It did not take long for Jones to gravitate back to what she knows best: college admissions. About four months after leaving MIT, Jones was hired as consultant by the admissions office at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

"We knew of her reputation, that she was someone who could give us excellent advice," said Damien Bracken, Berklee's dean of admissions. "Obviously we were aware of what happened at MIT, but she had such a stellar reputation as a dean there that we felt the value of the consultation was in the expertise she could provide. She spent close to a year working with me, and it was really, really great."

And since then, Jones said, she has been hired as a consultant by two other institutions, which she would not name.

Jones said she had also been approached by institutions — she would not name them either — interested in hiring her as an admissions dean, but had not been tempted.

"I don't want to work that hard," she said. "And at this point in my life, I'm not interested in institutions that don't really move me."

One part of her new life is volunteering as a college expert for teenage cancer survivors at the Center for Survivor Wellness at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia.

Jones, who has a college-age daughter, remains committed to the mission of taking the stress out of college admissions. And to that end, she is consulting with parents, sometimes offering reduced fees, sometimes charging about \$500 for a three-hour session, plus unlimited e-mail mes-

sages. So far, she said, not a single client has mentioned the MIT resume scandal.

Jones would like to expand her reach, with parent seminars at public schools.

"The bottom line is that I'm really afraid of how we're raising kids, with so many expectations, and so much fear of failure," she said. "Failure is practice, and we seem to want everything perfect, the first time. It's important to learn to fall and get back up again. And if I can do it, anybody can do it."

But her plans to move into the broader public arena are being delayed. She had offered to speak last Thursday at a college night for juniors at Montclair High School in New Jersey, but Scott White, a guidance counselor there, canceled the appearance.

White said he had no comment on the cancellation and no plans to reschedule.

Jones sees herself as a guidance counselor for parents, and emphasizes that she is not an independent college counselor mapping out strategies to get a child into college, but rather a counselor helping parents learn to support their children through a time of tension.

And New York City, she said, may be where she can be most helpful.

"I moved to New York because I've always wanted to live here and also because there's a lot of work to be done here," she said. "In New York, you have so many parents asking: 'What's the secret? Who do I have to know? How much do I have to pay?' It's so pervasive, it's a cultural difference. It's terrible for the system and it's terrible for democracy, and it really hurts the kids."

She added: "In their worrying about college, a lot of parents lose touch with who their kids are. I want them to fall in love with the child again."

Usually, Jones said, after parents share their worries about whether their child will get into an elite college, will be Ivy League material, will find a comfortable place in the world, they realize that the issue is not so much their child's college admission as coming to terms with their own dreams and wishes.

"After they talk about their concerns, they reach the point, pretty soon, where they can say, 'Oh, this is really about me,' and then they can get out of the way and support their child," she said. "Ultimately, this is about facing ourselves."

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Varsity Fencing Team Overcomes Slow Start to Take Second Place

By Vinayak Ramesh
TEAM MEMBER

On November 21, the MIT Varsity Fencing Team had its first team meet of the season, defeating conference opponents UMass (20-7), Boston University (21-6), New Hampshire (26-1), and Brandeis (14-13) before falling to Sacred Heart University (8-19).

A total of 27 bouts were fenced against each school, 9 in each of the three events: foil, epee, and sabre. The Engineers opened the day by handily defeating their first two opponents, UMass 20-7, and UNH 26-1. While it seemed that MIT was coasting easily towards victory, the Cardinal and Gray was soon faced with perennial rival Brandeis University.

The team opened the round slowly, losing several of the initial bouts to fall to an early, seemingly insur-

mountable, deficit. The foil squad lost their first three to fall to 0-3, and the sabre and epee squad fared only slightly better. “We just didn’t come out there with the kind of energy they did initially” commented Rangarajan D. Nadadur ’10. After rapidly falling behind 13-6, all hope seemed lost. It was in this darkest of hours that the team turned to assistant coach Igor Kopylov G for guidance. “He just told us what needed to be done, and we did it,” Maximilian L. Brand ’11 said “We knew it was his birthday, and that motivated us.” In an unlikely Cinderella Story, the team went on to win 8 straight bouts, defeating Brandeis University 14-13. The Brandeis coach could not be reached for comment. “Even back when I was young and fencing for MIT years ago, this is among the best comeback victories I’ve ever seen. I’m just glad I could serve as

inspiration for this historic event,” Kopylov said.

Unfortunately, the winning streak would not continue for the MIT fencers. Despite their impressive start to the day, the team was humbled by Sacred Heart University, 8-19. “They’re not unbeatable, our heads just weren’t in the game,” said Richard C. LaGrandier ’11, “we’ll see them again this season; the story isn’t over yet.”

MIT closed out the day defeating Boston University 21-6, returning home with 4 victories. The depth of the team was apparent, as the foil squad ended the day with a ledger of 30-15, with the epee and sabre squads following closely behind with records of 29-16. The team will compete at its second meet this coming weekend, where they will face St. John’s, Brown, UNC, and Yale.



DAN KUBACZYK—THE TECH

Justine Li '10 takes aim in the smallbore (small caliber) competition during Saturday's match at the MIT rifle range.

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Saturday, December 5, 2009	
Gordon College	73
MIT	78

Women's Basketball

Saturday, December 5, 2009	
Springfield College	53
MIT	51

Men's Fencing

Saturday, December 5, 2009	
Brown University	15
MIT	12
University of North Carolina	19
MIT	8
St. John's University	19
MIT	8
Yale University	21
MIT	6

Women's Fencing

Saturday, December 5, 2009	
Brown University	12
MIT	15
University of North Carolina	17
MIT	8
St. John's University	19
MIT	10
Yale University	21
MIT	6
Cornell University	18
MIT	9

Men's Swimming & Diving

Saturday, December 5, 2009	
MIT Invitational	
MIT	1st of 7

Women's Swimming & Diving

Saturday, December 5, 2009	
MIT Invitational	
MIT	2nd of 7

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SPORTS

M. Swimming and Diving Wins 2009 MIT Invitational Handily

By Paul Blascovich
DAPER STAFF

MIT's powerhouse men's swimming and diving team dominated the 2009 MIT Invitational held Friday and Saturday in the Zesiger Pool. The Engineers won 17 out of 20 events,

recording a score of 1197.5 and easily beating out second-place Tufts University (750.5).

New York University (696), Brandeis University (397), Bowdoin College (304), Colby College (206), and Wheaton College (187) rounded

out the participating schools.

Brendan T. Deveney '13 was a clear standout for MIT, recording four NCAA "B" cut times with wins in three individual events [200 IM (1:53.03), 400 IM (4:06.15) and 200 Back (1:51.33)] and a second-place finish in the 100 Back (52.11). Deveney was also a part of four winning relay teams.

The Engineers displayed their most impressive performance early Saturday morning during the 200 Medley Relay. Deveney, Rastislav Racz '10, Brett L. Boval '12 and Luke R. Cummings '10 took first place with a time of 3:24.12, the only NCAA "A" cut of the meet.

On the women's side, MIT won 10 out of their 20 events, finishing second. They recorded a score of 863.5, but fell well short of the winning squad from New York University (1045).

MIT dominated the relays, winning all five relays and recording NCAA "B" cut times in the 200 Free Relay (1:36.71), 400 Medley Relay (3:58.78) and 800 Free Relay (7:50.19). Anna S. Kokensparger '13 broke school records — some her own-en route to four individual wins, four individual "B" cut times, and seven wins in each of her seven races.

This weekend's meet marked the final competition of the calendar year. MIT hits the water again on January 8, when it hosts Wheaton College for a dual meet.

Women's Rugby Team Wins National Championship

Three weekends ago, MIT Women's Rugby competed in the Division III National Championship in Cherry Hill, NJ. In the semifinal match, MIT easily defeated Hofstra University 63 to 5, led by Caroline H. Hunting '11 and Adedoyin T. Ogunniyi '11.



MIT faced East Stroudsburg University in the final. The Engineers exerted pressure on ESU and controlled the entire match. Rachel E. Forman G, Elizabeth B. Umhoefer '10, Carly A. Narlesky '11, and Ogunniyi all scored tries in the first half, the last coming as time expired, for a 24-5 lead heading into the break.

MIT would retain their momentum coming out of the half, scoring two tries within seven minutes. Ogunniyi would tack on one final try in the final seconds, beating four defenders on a 25-meter run. This was her 12th score of the tournament, and brought the score to 41-5, capping MIT's dominating run to the championship. Captain Alyssa M. Baccarella '11 was named the tournament MVP.

—Kat Kononov, Team Member

Springfield Edges Out Women's Basketball, 53-51

Despite numerous MIT comeback attempts in the final minutes, Springfield College held on for the 53-51 victory Saturday afternoon. The Engineers were led by Kristen E. Whaley '11 with 15 points and seven rebounds.



Springfield raced out to an 11-4 lead, but MIT slowly chipped away, at one point tallying seven unanswered points to even the frame at 21. Springfield went on to record the final five points of the half and entered the break with a 26-21 advantage.

In the second half, MIT scored eight straight at one point to go up 35-33. Springfield responded with a 10-2 spurt to take the lead for good with 9:36 left.

A three by Aparna A. Sud '13 trimmed the deficit to one with 54 seconds on the clock. The Engineers had several opportunities to take the lead down the stretch, but were unable to convert.

MIT will host Babson on December 9 in its next matchup.

—Mindy Brauer, DAPER Staff

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Women's Basketball vs. Babson College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Men's Basketball vs. Salem State College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

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VIBIN KUNDUKULAM—THE TECH

Austin C. Anderson '12 returns a shot on Saturday at the Zesiger Center squash courts. The Engineers' match against the Huskies was the last in a triple-header with Tufts University, Middlebury College, and Northeastern University.

Men's Basketball Has Best Start In Program History after Sat. Win

By Greg McKeever

DAPER STAFF

William E. "Billy" Bender '12 had a pair of clutch three-pointers, one at the end of regulation and one in overtime, to help lead the MIT men's basketball team to a 78-73 win over Gordon College Saturday. Noel Hollingsworth '12 led the Engineers with 28 points and seven rebounds before fouling out late in regulation. Tech is now 8-0, the best start in program history.

With MIT trailing 68-65 with just 42 seconds remaining, Bender took a pass in the corner from Mitchell H. Kates '13 and drained the game-tying bucket. After the Fighting Scots were whistled for an offensive foul on the ensuing possession, Willard J. "Billy" Johnson '09 had a chance to

end it in regulation but was unable to knock down another three.

Gordon took the lead early in overtime, and the teams traded turnovers before James R. Burke '13 and Bender nailed threes to give Tech a four-point lead. Kates made a driving on the next possession to put the game out of reach.

MIT scored the game's first 10 points, capped by a layup from Kates, in the opening 4:21. Gordon came back and trimmed the lead to three, but the Engineers responded with a 7-0 run to go back up by double digits. The Tech lead would grow to as many as 11 with 5:48 to go in the first, but the Scots were able to battle back to within three at the break.

Gordon's Benjamin Gaskill con-

verted a layup and the foul shot on opening possession of the second half to even things up at 36. A three by Aaron Trigg with 7:53 remaining gave Gordon its first lead of the game, 56-54. The Scots would score eight of their final 12 from the foul line, including another and-one by Gaskill with 1:18 on the clock, setting up Bender's heroics.

Kates, with 15 points, Burke (11), and Bender (13) joined Hollingsworth in double figures. Kates also added five assists while Bender had six boards. The Engineers shot 46 percent from behind the arc, as both Bender and Burke went three-for-five.

MIT will be back in action on Tuesday night, traveling to UMass-Boston for a 7:00 p.m. start.



ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

James R. Burke '13 attempts to block mid-court during the Saturday game against Gordon College at Rockwell Cage. The Engineers won 78-73 in overtime.