The motion also detailed the development of pilot versions of new classes in elements of design, along with several focused HASS courses targeted at freshmen. These experimental courses would have been evaluated for possible incorporation into the GIRs after a two-year trial period.

Faculty members were informed that the truck had taken a planned pause in its business since its founding in 1991. Goosebeary’s was closed for a few days in 2001 after a two-year trial period. The Spring Career Fair, organized by the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, took place in Rockwell Chapel on February 5. Sixty-one companies presented to recruit students for full-time jobs and internships.

By Natasha Plotkin

The motion defeated a motion to revise the General Institute Requirements on Wednesday. The vote, 81 to 69 in favor of the motion, lacked the three-fifths majority required to amend the rules and regulations of the faculty, which govern the current GIRs.

Due to an error in parliamentary procedure, faculty who voted on the motion were informed that it had carried by simple majority and therefore believed it had received the approval it needed to be enacted. Only immediately after the meeting, when physics professor Thomas J. Guckstet ’63 raised the possibility of a procedural error, did Faculty Chair and Professor Bishwapriya Sanyal and the other faculty officers realize a three-fifths majority was needed.

Most of the opposition to the motion centered around changes with the science, math, and engineering core. The plan would have altered the SME core by allowing for the introduction of alternative varieties of subjects which would satisfy the physics, math, biology, and chemistry requirements, and by creating a new committee to govern the content of these classes.

It also would have simplified the HASS requirement by replacing the HASS-D system with a three-category distribution requirement, an idea that appeared to receive widespread support from faculty and students.

The Alpha Tau Omega house, damaged last summer from a pipe leak, has completed repairs and is undergoing inspections. ATO plans to move into the house in mid-March, pending housing approval by the Cambridge Licensing Commission.

The online degree applications for all students planning on graduating in June must be completed by today. Applications are available at http://student.mit.edu.

Tuition and financial aid figures for the coming year will likely be announced within the next few weeks. At December’s faculty meeting, faculty were told tuition would increase by 4.5% for the 2009–2010 school year.

Send news information and tips to news@tech-mit.org.

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### Weather

**Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 6, 2009**

- **Low Pressure**
  - 40°N

- **High Pressure**
  - 25°N

**Extended Forecast**

- **Today**: Sunny, High 25°F (-4°C)
- **Tonight**: Clear, Low 16°F (-9°C)
- **Sunday**: Sunny, High 43°F (6°C)
- **Monday**: A chance of showers, Highs in the low 30°F (-1°C)

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### World & Nation

#### Somaliland" Pirates Get Ransom And Begin to Leave Ship

By Jeffrey Gettleman and Mohammed Ibrahim

The saga over the Ukrainian arms freighter hijacked off Somalia's coast more than four months ago drew to a close on Thursday almost exactly the way the pirates had predicted with the booty.

According to the pirates and maritime officials in Kenya, the ship's owners paid $3.2 million—in cash, dropped by parachute—and on Thursday evening the last of the heavily armed pirates made their way off the ship.

"The fact that this took so long, that's not good," said one of the pirates, Isse Mohammed, in a telephone interview. "But we got the cash in hand, and that's good. That's what we're interested in.

Isse added that he would continue "hunting ships" because "that's our business."

But first, Isse said, he had to escape. Ever since the Ukrainian ship was hijacked by Somali pirates in December, it had been ringed by American warships determined to keep the pirates from unloading the weapons.

Isse said that the pirate leaders were divvying up the money in Xanadu, a notorious pirate nest near the ship's anchorages, and that he and his colleagues had deputized young gunmen to stay aboard until all the pirate leaders had gotten away. Only then, he said, would the ship be released.

Late Thursday night, Viktor Nikol'skii, the captain of the ship, called the Faisa, said that it was finally under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Navy and would head to Mombasa, Kenya, the Associated Press reported.

More than 100 ships have been attacked in Somalia's pirate-infested seas in the past year, but no hijack-

### Caterpillars Infest West Africa, Menacing Crops

**West Africa**

By Lydia Polgreen

A bizarre swarm of caterpillars is munching its way through the forests, cocoa and coffee fields of Liberia, threatening crops and forcing thousands to leave their homes because the bugs have contaminated the drinking water from rivers and lakes.

Entomologists have identified the pests as a moth usually found in the forests of West Africa, but normally not in the huge numbers that appeared last month in Bong County, a lush northern region of Liberia that produces cash crops on large plantations, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization office in Liberia.

"They were eating the forest vegetation, around homes and crops," he said. "It caused a lot of panic. People were fleeing their homes."

Initially scientists thought that the caterpillars were army worms, which are hard to differentiate from the cur-

### Chilly Ring Premiere, Weekend Warm-Up

By Vince Agard

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### President Obama Revamps Bush Office of Religion

By Jeff Zeleny and Laurie Goodstein

The Bush administration announced on Thursday that it had restructured the White House office for religion-based programs, expanding an initiative started by the Bush administration that provides government support — and financing — to religious and charitable organizations that deliver social services.

"No matter how much we invest or how sensibly we de-

### Britain Suspends Activities of Cultural Office in Iran

**Chilly Ring Premiere, Weekend Warm-Up**

By Jeffrey Gettleman and Mohammed Ibrahim

The British Council, a global cultural institution run by the British government, said Thursday that it had been forced to suspend its activi-

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Scientists Study Possible Link Between Dam, Quake in China

By Sharon Lafraniere

February 6, 2009

Nearly nine months after a devastating earthquake in Sichuan prov-
ince triggered a disaster, the official inquiry into the case remains m-
issing. New questions about the failure of the dam, whose collapse an-
ticipated the 2008 earthquake, were raised last week by the publication of a内部report that was commissioned by the Do-
main's publishers. The report, titled "The New York Times," is a
story of the media's role in covering the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and its

ten collaborating authors from around the world, including

China, Japan, and the United States, have found that the dam, named the
Sichuan Earthquake Dam, was designed to hold back a reservoir built
near the epicenter of the earthquake.

The dam's failure, which killed an estimated 143,000 people, led to
the largest in history.

Scientists have suggested that the link between dam failure and
the earthquake is more complex than previously thought. The new
report challenges the widely accepted view that the dam's collapse
was the direct cause of the disaster.

The dam was not the only factor involved in the earthquake. Other
potentially significant contributors include the movement of the
earth's crust, which can build up over time and then suddenly release
after an earthquake.

Scientists are still working to understand the precise role played by
dam failures in triggering earthquakes. Future research could help

...
When it comes to health care policy, two basic economic theories are battling it out across the left-right spectrum.

On the right, the explanation put forth to explain poor outcomes in health care is something called "moral hazard." Moral hazard is the idea that the party shifting a portion of the cost of health care would go down, and more effective health care would be available for everyone.

On the left, the explanation put forth to explain poor outcomes in health care is something called "adverse selection." Adverse selection is the idea that markets fail when there is a lack of information about the parties involved in a transaction. The application to health insurance markets is that insurance buyers know more about their own health and habits than insurance sellers. To illustrate: suppose that there is a pathological disease X prevalent in a country. It is fatal within four weeks of the first symptons. Since it is detected, but is easily and fairly cured with a pill that costs $10,000. The population has varying degrees of vulnerability to Disease X such that the probability of contracting it is 10% at the 1st decile, 20% at the 2nd decile, 30% at the 3rd decile, and so on.

An insurance company looking to insure individuals against Disease X takes a look at the population and finds that the mean chance of contracting the disease is 50%, and so makes an offer: for $5,000, anybody can buy insurance against Disease X — in other words, if you buy insurance and contract the disease, the insurance company will pay for the pill that cures you. Individuals know their personal risk of contracting Disease X and end up buying the insurance, and the insurance company finds that on average the premium will be about $4,500. The $500 profit is the difference between the predicted $5,000. If the insurance company had offered the insurance at $7,500 per person, their average premium would have been $8,750, and so on. With no profitable way to provide insurance, the market is unstable and results in losses of millions of dollars.

The left draws a conclusion that is almost entirely opposite that of the right. Direct markets for insurance don't work — we need set-ups like employer-provided insurance. If there is to be any stable market, employees-employed-providers insurance — a system of health care (in which a third party, usually a company or government, covers insurance costs) and replaces the generous tax subsidy given to employers with a correspondingly generous tax credit to individuals.

McCain would have ended the current system of health care (in which a third party, employers, covers insurance costs) and replaced it with a direct insurance market where if an individual wanted the type of insurance that would cover all their unnecessary tests and procedures, they'd pay up paying for it through higher premiums. The idea was that with more directly linking people to the health costs they incur, there would be less efficient rationing of health care, costs would go down, and more effective health care would be available for everyone.

The key problem with health care is that people know their personal risk of illness and exercise moral hazard. The moral hazard explanation, when followed through to its conclusion, results in health care policies like John McCain's, which would have replaced the generous tax subsidy given to employers with a correspondingly generous tax credit to individuals.

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Opinion

Screw Bipartisanism

On Health Care, Obama Should Move to the Left

Keith Yost

Opinion Editorial Board

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged, and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be sent to The Tech, 129 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech's Web site and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or later that may be developed.

Letters and columns exceeding one typewritten page in length will not be printed. Letters may be edited for brevity, spelling, and content to make them suitable for publication in the newspaper. All letters and columns should be less than 400 words in length. Letters and columns exceeding one typewritten page in length will not be printed.

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Two weeks ago, when a mass e-mail announced the commencement of campus shuttle service to Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods, students cheered. For the health-conscious, the gourmand, or the simple eater alike, improved accessibility to these popular grocery markets is certainly a win.

The shuttle to Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods was conceived in response to the current Star Market shuttle service — a collaboration of the GSC, Campus Dining, and Star Market. A parent looking for a healthier alternative approached MIT Medical, and a private donor generously agreed to fund the pilot program. The donor then worked with the Parking and Transportation Office, the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness at MIT Medical, and the Development Office during this past academic school year to get the ball rolling. The new shuttle will run on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will make stops at or near several undergraduate dorms (East Campus, McCormick, Burton-Conner, Simmons) and grad dorms (Eastgate, Sidney-Pacific, Westgate, Warehouse, Sidney-Pacific), serving a majority of the on-campus community. Due to funding restrictions, the shuttle will operate on a pilot basis from Jan. 23, 2009 to May 23, 2009.

I personally doubt that the establishment of the new shuttle service will result in a marked improvement of the diet of the average student’s diet. If you’re a glutton of sweets, you will fall prey to temptation regardless of which grocery store you frequent. As I perused the baked goods section of Trader Joe’s, there were certain decadent goods that would have made Twinkie eaters blanch in fear: Dark chocolate and almond cookie crisps, Belgian biscottis dipped in chocolate with vanilla swirls, and Coconut and chocolate coated almonds. (Granted, they were organic almonds and fat-free chocolate, but the grams of sugar in the ingredient listing don’t lie.)

However, according to Susanna Barry — the program manager at MIT Medical responsible for the shuttle — the ultimate purpose is twofold: convenience and steering students to develop a healthier eating style. While some undergrads may not be any more inclined to cook whole meals simply because they can obtain organic ingredients, Trader Joe’s carries relatively inexpensive and healthy microwaveable meals.

Whole Foods may be better for grad students with families. They offer a wider selection of fresh produce and locally grown goods. Not only will students be exploring another dining option, they’ll be doing it while benefiting local farmers.

While some may argue that Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s aren’t far enough from campus to warrant a shuttle, additional factors — such as the ever-mild Boston weather, slick sidewalk conditions and multiple bags of heavy groceries — can combine to make the trip a daunting excursion.

A fifteen-minute bike ride may not seem too bad, but add in the wind chill factor and fifteen minutes begins to feel a lot more like fifteen hours. And that’s not even considering the trip back to campus. If one is biking, the quantity of groceries is strictly limited. In regards to walking: well, if one enjoys braving single digit temperatures, I salute them wholeheartedly. Taking this all into consideration, a typical MIT student would probably stare glumly into his cupboard and then head to the dining hall.

I believe that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with having and using MIT’s dining halls — in fact, I buy stir fry from Baker Dining at least twice a week — but being forced to always eat at the dining halls is both unfair and overly regimented. With the establishment of the shuttle program, students will now have more choices to find good, healthy food of their own selection and on their own time. Kudos to the administration for keeping the students’ interests (and those of their stomachs) in mind.

University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2010
CBR REVIEW
This Album Brings Me Down... In a Good Way

Andrew Bird’s Latest is Mellow, Subdued
By S. Balaji Mani

Andrew Bird
Noble Beast
Produced by Mark Nevers
Fat Possum
January 20, 2009

Chicago-based songwriter and indie suc-
pendur Andrew Bird garnered peculiar
amounts of attention after his 2005 re-
lease of The Mysterious Production of Eggs. Since then a relentless schedule of gigs, a successful album and EP release, and spots at larger festivals like Chicago’s Lollapalooza have driven Bird to surpass his contemporaries. Add on top of that success a writing gig at the New York Times and you’ll wonder how Bird does it all.

Last week brought Bird’s latest effort, No-
ble Beast, and the record is a definite success. Noble Beast was recorded in Nashville, slightly outside of Bird’s comfort zone. He admits in an NPR interview that he was nearly isolated during the making of this album and actually approached all the songs by recording vocals first. Typically, Bird worked with a rhythm sec-
tion to lay down the main parts of a song before even tackling the vocals. Producer Mark Nevers, who has worked with the likes of Calexico and Silver Jews, helped the album in his home studio working mostly with Bird alone. Occasionally, drummer and loop engineer Mark Nevers, in Dosh, is a collaborator and friend of Bird’s, would send recordings of loops to help push the songwriting process along.

The elegant opener, “Oh No,” will cause any Andrew Bird fan to smile, as a sweeping string progression is followed by Bird’s signature whistling. The surreal but amusing post-chorus advises, “Let’s get out of here / past the atmosphere / wearing nothing but a onesie and a veil.” The song dynamically maintains a soft and light attitude, and another round of whistling closes the track. The first handful of songs are admittedly slow-paced, but that doesn’t render them boring. “Fitz & Dizzy” actually starts with a solid pulse, breaks down into a string progression that exposes Bird’s vocals. The lyrics inten-
sify with the harmonies sung by Kelly Hogan, Bird’s friend and artist herself. The song addresses the dire con-
dition of being alone and the associated fear of isolation. Bird’s haunting perspective is apparent when he sings that “It could be you / it could be me.” Loneliness is a shared fear, and Bird likens it to a character sitting at the bar, having “fake conversations on a non-existent telephone.”

While the first half of the album unfolds slowly, the second half is much more rhythm-
ically and lyrically intense. “Not a Robot, But a Ghost” uses a combination of electronic drum samples and pseudo-headbands to provide the backing for a sliding melody and a dirty guitar.

Wordplay is found throughout “Anomalous” as the opening line reads: “I see a sea anemone / the enemy see a sea anemone / and that’ll be the end of me.” The song is just as verbose and strings until the 2:30 mark when a drum beat and electric guitar darken the song while si-
multaneously driving it forward.

Bird achieves heathensness through the ur-
gency of his lyrical content and vocal delivery. Slower arrangements lend themselves to dis-
play the strength of Bird’s voice and pizzicato violin tone. The smooth blend of violin and voice, both often doubling the same melody (beautifully so at the end of “Anomalous”), gives the song a sophisticated and emotional feel that is absent on Bird’s previous release Armchair Apocrypha. Singing about more general feelings and situations in our everyday world (“Natural Disaster,” for example, tack-
les disease and sickness), Bird has achieved a rare musical triumph: making a relevant and accessible album utilizing the strengths he has developed as a songwriter and performer. With just the right mix of whistles, violin, and elec-
tronsia, Noble Beast may be too humble a title for a record by an artist who is sure to continue making important, meaningful music.

THEATER REVIEW
Vietnam: In Your Face
Roundabout Theatre Puts On Stunning Performance of Rabe Classic
By S. Balaji Mani

Streamers
Roundabout Theatre
Directed by Scott Ellis
Fall & Winter Season
Laura Pels Theatre

ast season’s production of David Rabe’s classic 1970s play, Streamers, gives new meaning to the power of theatre. Executed by the Roundabout Theatre Company at Laura Pels Theatre in New York City, the performance included a cast of sea-
soned actors who brought an erie realism to the tale of young soldiers awaiting deployment to Vietnam.

The story, dated as it may be, addresses is-
sues such as the human condition and the question of social equality. The play opens with two young recruits arguing over one’s attempted suicide. Immediately tensions in the army are brought to the forefront. Martin, the young

man who delivered an almost fatal cut to his own wrists, is being talked out of leaving the army by Billy, a confident and conservative superlative.

Martin’s exit from the barracks allows Roger and Richie, two more young recruits, to enter. Roger, Richie, Billy, and their inter-
actions within the barracks make up the en-
tirety of the play. Roger is a black man, seem-
ingly prim and proper, making sure that order and discipline are maintained within the small community. Richie, a flaunting, flamboyant character, is publicly toying with his own ambiguous sexual-
ity by poking fun at himself and the other men around him.

Rabe builds up a feeling of natural human
right away, within the first scene; Billy is still unsure about living with a homosexual man. Martin could be the front lines any minute.

The play is set in the 1960s. These char-
acters represent various social ideologies during the period, and the characters’ actions

represent clashing social movements. Wear-
ing in and out of their discussions are Ser-
gian Rosnyov and Sergeant Coles. The latter, having just returned from a mission in Viet-

nam, takes to drink in a jarringly frightening display of utter drunkenness, carelessness, and chauvinistic pride. While the war is an overarching structural element to the play, the character’s personalities drive the rest of the play. Any anti-war sentiment is an after-
thought — instead, the audience focuses on what motivated these three vastly different men to join the war and how all struggle to find their simultaneous identities of man and fighter.

The Roundabout actors made me realize that theatre is not dead. In fact, it can be one of the most powerful art forms. The portrayal of these unique characters was believable and realistic, giving creditability to the story and the course of events. The play reaches a cli-

max when Carlyle, a reactionary black man recently transferred to the base, breaks up the social order of the barracks. His outrageous attitude at times tempts Roger, challenges Billy, and flirts with Richie’s tempting homo-

sexuality. Ato Essandoh, who played Carlyle, gave the best performance, causing the audi-

ence members to almost cry in their seats as we watched him slide away from one ideology to another, all while fearing his military punishment.

Theatre evokes an immediacy that most other art forms cannot. The actors at Laura Pels Theatre revived an old Rabe classic with social commentary that is relevant today, even with the Vietnam War stashed away in the history books. It is neither the war nor even the time period through one could argue that such racial and sexual tensions are mitigated in this decade that makes this piece relevant. The conflicts within this play will exist as long as the human race lives. Using the war, Rabe cleverly comments that whenever we are driven to battle (figuratively, even), we must choose whether to survive or die.

Want more information about Double Majors?
http://web.mit.edu/doublemajor

Applications accepted beginning on Spring Registration Day
February 2, 2009

Submit applications to the Committee on Curricula in Room 5-111
INTERVIEW

From The UK to the US
Interview with Los Campesinos!

By Charles Lin
staff writer

In 2008, Los Campesinos! burst onto the indie rock scene with the release of their debut album, the critically acclaimed Hold on Now, Youngster. Their latest effort, the recently released We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed hit stores last November. The Seperator from Cardiff, Wales is currently on an extended American tour that takes them to the Paradise Lounge in Boston next Friday the 13th. Singer Gareth Campesino took time to talk to The Tech ahead of a show in Lawrence, Kansas.

TT: Tell me about the shows. How have the fans been? Have you enjoyed the venues?
GC: Compared to the UK crowd, US audiences are a lot more prepared to enjoy them-selves. In the UK people sort of stand and wait with their hands in pockets to hear the music, and are a lot more skeptical, whereas in the US we’ve had a lot more crowdsourced unique ensembles of mosh-pits, and lots and lots of dancing and screaming and lots of cheering.

TT: Most of the band met at university in Cardiff. What were you studying?
GC: I was personally studying modern history and politics, among the rest of us there was English, journalism, fine art, and medicine.

TT: With blogs, MySpace, and the scavenger hunt that comes from being in a band, do you mind that people get such an intimate look into your lives?
GC: I don’t think it’s a particularly intimate look. We try to share the most non-voluntary and least background stuff. The great kitchi inci-dent and what different backgrounds look like. I know before I was in a band, I wondered what it was like and I prob-ably thought it was a lot more glamorous than it is. Sharing the day to day life of the band — it’s drive, soundcheck, gig, get drunk, sleep in that order. It’s not particularly eye opening, but it does make for slightly amusing situations every night.

TT: Hold on Now, Youngster made a lot of year-end lists. What albums did you have on your year-end lists?
GC: My absolute favorite album of last year was by a band called Parenthetical Girls who we toured with for over a couple of weeks on the west coast in June. They were my favor-ite band and when we were looking for bands to tour with we quite boldly asked if they would be up for it and they were. They album Entanglement is this amazing grand cham-pion pop record.

TT: We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed is more direct, abrasive, darker, and uneasy. What changed? Or do you feel this is part of your evolution as a band?
GC: I agree that it’s darker and I think that’s testament to the fact that as musicians and as song writers we have developed a lot since Hold on Now, Youngster and perhaps lyrically it’s a lot more jaded and scathing and depressing and that’s probably just representative of me realizing what I want to write about. There’s some stuff on Hold on Now, Youngster that I think I’ve come to dislike a fair bit. I’m not embarrassed by it, but I wouldn’t want to be judged on it.

TT: A lot of LC! songs reference the future, and often in very bleak terms. What do you think of the future?
GC: I think when the songs talk about the future they’re not talking about some grand world view, I think my songwriting is very much self-centered and focused on individuals rather than the bigger picture.

I have a politics degree so I guess I should be turned on and have an opinion, but in all honesty I do have faith in people to somehow carry on blundering on through and then con-continue making mistakes and then continue fixing those mistakes and then make more mistakes.

TT: Your show in Boston is coming up.
GC: We’ve played Boston twice before and it’s been great.

TT: Do you mind if we come and dance on stage with you?
GC: If you find your way on to the stage and aren’t causing trouble then yes, I suppose so.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Good for a Romantic Date
Or Monday Night Foodie Fun
Sibling Rivalry Satisfies

By Joanne Shih
Sibling Rivalry
123 Tremont St
Boston, MA 02116
Theatre District
(617) 318-5338

With Valentine’s Day looming around the corner, those who would try some restaurants that hopefully have set their prices high while still maintaining a high level of quality. Sibling Rivalry, a self-proclaimed “modern American Irish gastropub,” is definitely that restaurant. Due to the name of the restaurant, it is run by two siblings, Chefs David and Bob Kinkead, and each maintains a high level of quality. Sibling Rivalry offers a special deal on Monday nights, two for one courses from the menu. To add to the brotherly competition, they also have competing dishes, for example, the menu (and an empty stomach) to really enjoy the meal. And yes, I recommend it as a solid option for Valentine’s Day (or your special occa-sion of choice).

Know before you go: “Fight Night” is only on Monday. If you decide to partake in Fight Night — which I whole-heartedly recommend for the value — make sure to have plenty of time (and an empty stomach) to really enjoy your meal.

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Bad for: people in a rush, vegetarians who like lots of options.

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By Joanne Shih
Sibling Rivalry
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With Valentine’s Day looming around the corner, those who would try some restaurants that hopefully have set their prices high while still maintaining a high level of quality. Sibling Rivalry, a self-proclaimed “modern American Irish gastropub,” is definitely that restaurant. Due to the name of the restaurant, it is run by two siblings, Chefs David and Bob Kinkead, and each maintains a high level of quality. Sibling Rivalry offers a special deal on Monday nights, two for one courses from the menu. To add to the brotherly competition, they also have competing dishes, for example, the menu (and an empty stomach) to really enjoy the meal. And yes, I recommend it as a solid option for Valentine’s Day (or your special occa-sion of choice).

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Dramashop Presents

_Julius Caesar_

In Modern Style

The Shakespearean play _Julius Caesar_ will be performed by MIT Dramashop on Feb. 5-7 and 12-14 at 8 p.m. in Kresge Little Theater. The show features a modern interpretation of the original play in contemporary dress.

(Counterclockwise from top right)

Julius Caesar (front right: Steve Barkhimer) and Mark Antony (front left: Sean P. Faulk ’11) discuss Cassius’ character. Titinius (back left: Prannay Budhraja ’10), Trebonius (back center: Skylar W. Desa ’10), Portia (back left: Grace M. Kane ’11), and Calpurnia (far left: Hanna S. Kuznetsov ’09) wait patiently for Caesar.

The Senate (from left to right: Travis S. Newsad ’10, Bryan C. Hernandez ’09, Prannay Budhraja ’10) kneels to Caesar (Steve Barkhimer).

Julius Caesar (center: Steve Barkhimer) debates going to the Senate with Calpurnia (left: Hanna S. Kuznetsov ’09) and Decius Brutus (right: David A. Brescia ’10), after receiving ominous news from Calpurnia.

The conspirators (left to right: David A. Brescia ’10, Skylar W. Desa ’10, Yoni Gray ’10, Prannay Budhraja ’10, Mia A. Shandell ’10, Bryan C. Hernandez ’09, and Travis S. Newsad ’10) contemplate their actions.

Titinius (left: Prannay Budhraja ’10), Octavius (center left: Max Goldman G), Cassius (center right: Bryan C. Hernandez ’09), and Brutus (right: Travis S. Newsad ’10) prepare for battle.

Mark Antony (Sean P. Faulk ’11) mourns the loss of a friend.

Photography by William Yee
Steal My Comic
by Michael Ciuffo

The Daily Blunderbuss
by Ben Peters

Pseudoscience
by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

Figure 48: The pie chart shows the sources of inspiration for “PhD comics” by Cham J., et al. As suggested by the chart, there are three main causes for discomfort and stress during a PhD, which in turn serve as the basis for the aforementioned comic strip. Recently, the number of issues based on graphic representations similar to those hereby presented has grown significantly, giving rise to the fourth category proposed by the pie chart. The authors are grateful to Cham J. et al. for referencing this work, in their publications. (Visit http://pseudocomics.blogspot.com for more Pseudoscience)
ACROSS
1. Space Needle city 34. Trina of tennis
Simon Bolivar 36. Needs braces?
15. Breathed out 37. Dunce cap shape
16. City on San 38. Lon of Cambodia
Francisco Bay 39. Outer garments
17. Perpetual 40. Incomes from
18. Tenor Pavarotti 41. Ga. neighbor
19. Off-key 42. Present starter?
21. Ethical Culture 43. Intuits
Movement’s 44. Std.
founder 45. Fastens buckles
22. Natural metallic 47. Medieval suit
sulfide minerals 48. In Praise of Folly”
again writer
23. Second decade 49. Cover with an ice
24. Hobbit allies 50. swamp
26. Shoots wide 51. Amo, __ amat...
30. Smallest part of a 52. Bring into harmony
buck 53. More meager
31. Dent or corn 54. Lena of “Alias”
starter? 55. Classic car
32. Opposers 56. Lith. or Azer., once
33. Reverses a 57. “In Praise of Folly”
demotion writer

DOWN
1. Tailor’s line 23. Second decade
2. Former 24. Hobbit allies
3. Gorillas and 26. Large, powerful
4. Gobions 27. Narrow-minded
5. Incline 28. Cavern floor
6. Acting groups 29. RSVP part
7. Lawn-care tool 30. Smallest part of a
8. Org. of Argonauts 31. Dent or corn
9. Islands of 32. Opposers
Indonesia 33. Reverses a
ten-key
10. Selects new 34. Trina of tennis
players 35. Started type: abbr.
11. Surrounded by 36. Needs braces?
12. Temporary 37. Lon of Cambodia
alliances 38. Dunce cap shape
13. “Agnes Grey” 39. Incomes from
author 40. In Praise of Folly”
writer 41. Ga. neighbor
14. More meager 42. Present starter?
15. Tempestuous 43. Intuits
condition 44. Std.
16. Ringlets 45. Fastens buckles
17. Dependent 46. Change
18. Loud speaker 47. Medieval suit
19. Speaking to a 48. Lena of “Alias”
secretary? 50. Wife of Osiris
20. Acting groups 51. Amo, __ amat...
21. Ethical Culture 52. Bring into harmony
Movement’s 53. More meager
founder 54. Lena of “Alias”
22. Natural metallic 55. Classic car
sulfide minerals 56. Lith. or Azer., once
24. Hobbit allies 12. Temporary
30. Smallest part of a
buck 40. In Praise of Folly”
31. Dent or corn
starter? 41. Ga. neighbor
32. Opposers 42. Present starter?
33. Reverses a
demotion

 Crossword Puzzle
  Solution, page 13
The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police Oct. 24, 2008 and Jan. 15, 2009. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, or medical emergencies.


Oct. 25: M3 (160 Memorial Dr.), 6:37 a.m., Larceny of laptop.


Nov. 1: W9 (291 Vassar St.), 7:35 p.m., Bike stolen from outside apartment.

Nov. 2: SC (532 Beacon St.), 12:19 a.m., Past larceny of wallet and contents from room.

Nov. 5: M46 (46 Vassar St.), 7:30 p.m., Bike stolen.

Nov. 6: W37 (80 Vassar St.), 7:45 p.m., Bike stolen.

Nov. 11: E19 (400 Main St.), 1:51 p.m., Cello was stolen.

Nov. 13: M4 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 9:20 a.m., Larceny of computer parts.

Nov. 15: M4 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 9:28 a.m., Report of theft of pastel color of creamy beige.

Nov. 16: M12 (21 Ames St.), 12:26 a.m., Report of harassment.

Nov. 17: W15 (300 Brookline St.), 7:23 a.m., Attempted larceny of a vehicle. Door lock and steering column broken.

Nov. 18: M4 (120 Memorial Dr.), 7:34 a.m., Money taken from a safe in office.

Nov. 19: W9 (391 Vassar St.), 7:39 a.m., Attempted larceny of a vehicle. Door lock and steering column broken.

Nov. 20: M13 (11 Mass. Ave.), 7:49 a.m., Cello was stolen.

Nov. 21: M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 1:48 p.m., Larceny of bicycle.

Nov. 22: M3 (13 Mass. Ave.), 3:30 a.m., Arrest of Shanaunym Duffy, 256 Brookline St., Cambridge, MA. Taken into custody for breaking and entering.

Nov. 24: M4 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 1:00 a.m., Past fraud by check report.

Nov. 30: M5 (77 Mass. Ave.), 7:24 p.m., Wallet stolen from back pocket.

Dec. 2: M5 (77 Mass. Ave.), 3:04 p.m., Larceny of laptop from lounge area.

Dec. 4: W7 (362 Memorial Dr.), 5:18 p.m., Larceny of a wallet.

Dec. 5: M46 (46 Vassar St.), 11:11 a.m., Arrested suspect with stolen backpack.

Dec. 10: M4 (182 Memorial Dr.), 1:36 a.m., Larceny of prescription medications from lunch bag.

Dec. 11: M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 12:39 p.m., Larceny of laptop.


Dec. 17: W7 (391 Vassar St.), 5:19 p.m., Larceny of a wallet.

Dec. 21: W79 (229 Vassar St.), 3:54 p.m., Money taken from a safe in office.

Dec. 23: M37 (70 Vassar St.), 7:45 p.m., Bike stolen.

Dec. 24: NW17 (175 Albany St.), 12:58 a.m., Two individuals in rear of building taken into custody on an outstanding warrant: Joseph Louge of 240 Albany St., Cambridge.

Dec. 27: M5 (77 Mass. Ave.), 7:24 p.m., Wallet stolen from backpack.

Dec. 28: M46 (46 Vassar St.), 2:21 p.m., Larceny of wallet from offfice.

Dec. 29: M5 (77 Mass. Ave.), 7:24 p.m., Wallet stolen from back pocket.

Dec. 30: M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 1:36 a.m., Larceny of prescription medications from lunch bag.

The New York Times

American Students Who Are Black and Educated at MIT

Lynne Parpart

Dozens of African-American students who are black and educated at MIT are being denied the benefits of the Advanced Placement program, the College Board said Thursday, in a report that comes as the debate over affirmative action is heating up.

The report said that while 14 percent of last year’s high school graduates were black, African-American students were still far less likely to take the AP exam than white, Hispanic or Asian students.

But as in most aspects of American society, the benefits of the program.

The report also said that African-American students were making up 5 percent of graduates, but 10 percent of those taking the AP exam.

Low-income students made up 17 percent of those who took AP exams last year, up from 16.2 percent in 2007.

This year, the recession, Mr. Caperton said, the economic effects of the recession.

“In these times of economic dis-

company budgets are squeezed and financial aid resources are spread thin, rigorous courses like A.P. that thin, rigorous courses like A.P. that

At the other end of the spectrum, in New York and New Y ork, the states

But as in most aspects of American

education, troubling ethnic gaps

remain. African-Americans are seri-

ouly underrepresented in the A.P. program, and no state has yet closed that gap, said Gaston Caperton, the

American students who are black and

at MIT.

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The ATO Brothers Still Have Not Returned To Dorm Row House

The ATO, from Page 1

M. Brown ’10, incoming president of the ATO, said that since the house was only owned by a few brothers and did not have

management by an organization, the house was able to avoid the delays in moving in that other houses faced.

M. Brown said that the house was open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on the day that they moved in, but that the interior of the house was not completed in time to be occupied.

The house was not completed until mid-February, and was still not ready for the brothers to move in until March 1

As of Feb. 6, 2009, the house was still open to visitors and was in the process of being completed.

The house is currently occupied by a group of brothers who are not related to the ATO fraternity, and is being used as a temporary space while the fraternity is looking for a new location.

The brothers of the ATO fraternity at MIT have been unable to move into their dormitory row house since they purchased the building in late

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Next steps

While the ECS has yet to decide specific steps for moving forward, chair Redwine and Stewart have begun to assess what issues need to be discussed. They plan to work with both professorial and graduate faculty to understand the original motion as well as those who voiced a whole range of criticisms.

“We need to find another way to ensure the dynamism of the core,” said Stewart. “We need to put our thinking caps back on and see if there are better options there.” He said they will continue to search for ideas that would earn broad support from the faculty.

“An option that is not available is doing nothing, because there is undoubtedly widespread support already for many elements of the proposal,” Stewart said.

Though the motion was originally intended to pass as a package, it has been proposed that parts of the plan, such as the widely-supported simplified HASS system, might be approved and enacted separately.

Reactions from other faculty members to the split vote vary. Some voiced concern that the Institute seemed to be struggling to move forward and innovate. Many recall an earlier committee, the Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons, that preceded the ECS in initiating a process of reform for the GIRs that also failed to win approval from the faculty.

Yossi Sheffi, professor and director of the Engineering Systems Division, said he worried about how difficult it seemed for the faculty to come to any decisions. He warned that much more difficult decisions lay ahead in light of the current financial crisis.

Stewart chose to be more optimistic. “I think the positive way of seeing it is that we have made progress over the past couple of years,” he said. Overall, this proposal contained some popular elements that were needed more than the Task Force’s proposal, he said. “Perhaps we haven’t gotten it quite right yet, but we are further along the road than we were two years ago.”

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THE TECH Page 13

FACULTY CHALLENGE SCIENCE, MATH, AND ENGINEERING GIR MODIFICATIONS

GIRs, from Page 1

of the mistake in an e-mail sent early Thursday morning that was signed by President Susan J. Hockfield Sanul, Associate Chair of the Faculty Me

niss September, and Secretary of the Facul

y Seth Teller. Professors Robert P. Redwine and Charles H. Stewart, who first brought forth the motion, “intend to consult with voices on both sides of [the] vote and with Institute leadership about the most appropriate next steps,” according to the message.

Redwine and Stewart, co-chairs of the Educational Commons Subcommi

ttee of the Committee on the Undergradu

ate Program, the group that developed the GIR plan, will meet this morning with ECS to discuss how to move forward. At the moment, said Redwine, no further actions have been decided.

Many faculty expressed their sup

port for the motion at the meeting, including Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’80, citing the increased flexibility and possibility for innovation that the modifications to the SME core would provide. The change in governance would also facilitate the introduction of new flavors of the core subjects and allow for more interdisciplinary courses to be developed.

 Lingering concerns

The ECS spent a year and a half formulating a plan that would incorp

orate the entire faculty’s opinions and would earn broad support when put to a vote. But, from discussion that took place at the faculty meeting, it was clear that many professors’ concerns lingered.

Those voicing opposition to the GIRs felt mostly into two camps: those who believed that the changes proposed were not innovative or re-

formative enough to be worthwhile, and those who thought that the motion would change the GIRs too much, needing a modified system that appears to be working already.

Objections were also raised regard-

ing the committee-based governance system that would be introduced to support the development of new class-

es satisfying the science, math, and engineering GIRs.

Professor Arthur P. Mattuck, who attended the meeting, wrote in an e-

mail that “what’s in the science core, who teaches it, and who decides these things is at the heart of the contro-

versy.” He noted that many faculty were asking, “Is change being pos-

sitioned just for the sake of change, or is something seriously wrong that needs fixing?”

Mattuck wrote that many in the School of Science were concerned that the proposal would move govern-

ance authority from the individual sci-

ence departments, which have done a good job managing the current GIRs, to committees with representatives from other departments.

Professor Keith A. Nelson echoed this sentiment in a statement at the facul-

ty meeting: “I don’t see a compelling need to reform the GIRs that also failed to win approval from the faculty.

Yossi Sheffi, professor and director of the Engineering Systems Division, said he worried about how difficult it seemed for the faculty to come to any decisions. He warned that much more difficult decisions lay ahead in light of the current financial crisis.

Stewart chose to be more optimis-

Whe...
IM IN UR ROOM, READIN UR Tech
Sports Shorts, from Page 16

UMass Boston Snaps MIT Women’s Ice Hockey Win Streak

The MIT women’s ice hockey team saw its program-record four game winning streak snapped Tuesday night, falling to UMass Boston, 4-1, in ECAC East action.

Emily Brienzo opened the scoring midway through the first with her second of the season, from Rachel Sousa and Katie Kirwan. The goal was the first allowed by MIT goaltender Rachel A. Bowens-Rubin ’11 in over 130 minutes after registering shutouts in her last two outings. Kelly Gillis added an unassisted tally on the period wound down, splitting a pair of defenders on a tremendous individual effort.

Lauren Duran’s first goal of the night came on a power-play chance late in the second stanza as she pushed the rebound past Bowens-Rubin.

Hannah Davis and Maria Nasta were credited with assists on the play. The two teams will return to the ice to face off again in just three days, as the Beacons host the Engineers on Friday, February 6 at 4:00 p.m.

ز

Sports Shorts, from Page 16

Scoreboard, from Page 16

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SPRINTS

Steelers Top Cardinals in Super Bowl, Win Sixth Championship

By David Zhu

Last Sunday, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 in Super Bowl XLIII, held at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay, to win their sixth title in franchise history. Although the result was anything but unexpected — with Pittsburgh being the heavy favorites to win — the final score does reflect the suspense, dramatic turns, and big plays throughout the three-hour, thirty-eight minute contest.

Early in the game, the Steelers appeared to be in complete control, jumping out to 16-0 lead. Their defense was able to control Arizona’s potent passing game. As halftime neared, however, Kurt Warner and the Cardinals had cut the deficit to three points and were poised to take the lead, with first and goal at the Pittsburgh 1. However, as time expired in the half, Steelers linebacker James Harrison intercepted a pass at the goal line and returned it 100 yards for a Pittsburgh touchdown — the longest play in Super Bowl history.

Pittsburgh kept its momentum going into the second half, extending its lead to 23-0 on a drive that lasted for almost nine minutes and included three huge penalties on Arizona. Once again, it seemed as if the Steelers were on their way to a sixth Lombardi Trophy.

However, the Cardinals came roaring back with 16 unanswered points, including two Larry Fitzgerald touchdows (tying Jerry Rice’s record of most receiving touchdowns in a season) and a safety. The second Kurt Warner-Larry Fitzgerald score, a 64-yarder, put the Steelers up by only 23-20, but it seemed the Steelers had blown the biggest upset in the Super Bowl.

The Steelers were not finished, however. Ben Roethlisberger and company took the ball at their own 22-yard line, and drove to the Arizona 6. On second-and-goal with 3.5 seconds left, Roethlisberger flipped a perfect spiral in the back of the end zone to Santonio Holmes — the game’s MVP — who caught the ball outstretched and managed to keep both feet inbounds, giving Pittsburgh a four-point lead.

Although the Cardinals had one last shot to score, the Steelers’ lauded defense lived up to its reputation, forcing a Kurt Warner fumble and setting off wild celebrations and frenzied waving of Pittsburgh’s “Terrible Towels” throughout the stadium.

No. 7 Newbury Defeats Men’s Volleyball, 3-1

Double-digit attack efforts by Eric Re. ’10, T. Scott POLLOM ’09, Ben Dezayes ’10, and Garrett L. Winther ’11 would not be enough as nationally-ranked No. 7 Newbury College defeated MIT, 30-27, 25-11, 25-22, 26-24, on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009, at NECCO in New England Division action.

Pellon posted 12 kills, a 400 hitting percentage, and nine blocks while Reuland notched a team-high 14 kills to go along with 10 digs. Demytenaere tallied 11 kills, 38 hitting percentage, five blocks, and two aces as Warthin contributed 11 kills and seven digs. Philip M. Rogus ’10 amassed 51 assists, 13 digs, and four aces while David R. Thomas ’12 bolstered the Engineers’ attack with nine kills. Eugene Jang ’09 paced the defense with 16 digs as Jeremy J. Velazquez ’12 added 12 of his own.

—Mindy Brown, DAPER Staff

Water Polo Places Three on ACWPC All-America Team

The Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC) announced its 2008 All-America teams on Friday, Feb. 6, 2009, with nine recipients, including Michael R. Smith-Bronstein ’09 and the second-Team teammates Devon M. Lewis ’10 and John V. Preis ’11 were named Honorable Mention. The three selections are the most for the Engineers since 2003.

Smith-Bronstein was MIT’s leading scorer all season, tallying 58 goals in 26 games to become the Institute’s all-time leading scorer. Smith-Bronstein’s career total of 184 scores surpasses John H. Rogers’ ’86 previous record of 174. In addition to the All-America nod, Smith-Bronstein was named to the CWPA All-North Division First Team as well as the Eastern Championship All-Tournament Team after scoring eight goals at the Championship.

Lewis, a Second-Team pick in 2007, garnered Honorable Mention honors this season. He is MIT’s first back-to-back recipient since David D. Lohrey ’05 in 2003-04. The junior was second on the team with 47 markers this season.

Pollom posted 12 kills, a 400 hitting percentage, and nine blocks while Reuland notched a team-high 14 kills to go along with 10 digs. Demytenaere tallied 11 kills, 38 hitting percentage, five blocks, and two aces as Warthin contributed 11 kills and seven digs. Philip M. Rogus ’10 amassed 51 assists, 13 digs, and four aces while David R. Thomas ’12 bolstered the Engineers’ attack with nine kills. Eugene Jang ’09 paced the defense with 16 digs as Jeremy J. Velazquez ’12 added 12 of his own.

—Mindy Brown, DAPER Staff

Like most of the team, Smith-Bronstein started his season with a bang, netting three goals in the Engineers’ season opener against New England Division foe Springfield College (7-8). He notched eight goals in his next four appearances, including four against the Engineers’ first conference opponent, Wesleyan College. The junior then posted 20 goals over the next 11 games, setting a new career high.

For Pollom, the 2008 season was one to forget. After posting 26 goals and 11 assists in 2007, the senior had his numbers fall significantly in the regular season.

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—Mindy Brown, DAPER Staff

Sports Shorts

Apply online for more information.

The Engineers’ men’s and women’s swimming teams are preparing for a weekend full of meets, with a convincing victory against New England Division foe Springfield College (7-8).

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