Kabelo Zwane ’12

Kabelo Zwane, a sophomore and MIT’s first student from Swaziland, died in Bedford, Mass. on Saturday, November 7, in an apparent suicide. He was 21.

From a small village in a rural region of the landlocked country eight thousand miles away, he came to a foreign school and country. He is survived by his mother and a sister.

His quiet, inquisitive manner made a big impression among friends at the African Students Association, the Campus Crusade for Christ, and the Experimental Study Group. Zwane was soft-spoken, spending his time building things and studying, but at close bonds to friends and complete strangers, he was eager to talk about his Christian faith and their lives and beliefs.

Friends remembered Zwane for caring about others and sticking to his principles:

“When he found something he believed in, he would not go no matter what happened,” said Harvard freshman Dalledu Mhlanga at a memorial service on Wednesday. Mhlanga met Zwane while both were in the Waterford Kambalama United World College of Southern Africa.

“The Mikado”

A group of MIT students are planning an event titled the “MIT Community Tour” 2009, scheduled for next Thursday, November 20. Labelled “Show Susan Hockfield Anything!” the event starts in front of Hockfield’s residence at 10:00 a.m. and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of MIT that often go un— and will visit locations “that reflect the inner workings of 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The accountability office also examined a sampling of matters that packed with statistics about civil rights enforcement by the division’s staff meteorologist.

By William Neuman

The New York Times

December 4, 2009

Under fire from Democrats and Republicans alike, Ben S. Bernanke PhD ’79 on Thursday defended his record as chairman of the Federal Reserve but conceded that the central bank’s lapses contributed to the financial crisis.

“I didn’t anticipate any of this magnitude,” Bernanke acknowledged in an occasionally contentious hearing on his nomination for a second term as Fed chairman.

Bernanke volunteered that the Fed had been “slow in protecting consumers from high-risk mortgages during the housing bubble and that it should have forced banks to hold more capital for all the risks they were taking.”

“In the area where we had responsibility, the bank holding companies, we should have done more,” he told lawmakers. “That is a mistake we won’t make again.”

As he faced the Senate banking committee on Thursday morning, Bernanke still appeared to have enough support to win approval for a second term. But he and the Fed as an institution came under withering criticism for failing to recognize the crisis until it was too late and then bailing out financial giants like Citigroup and the American International Group.

The hearing provided new evidence of doubt among lawmakers about the Federal Reserve’s role as the nation’s guardian of the financial system.

“In the face of rising home prices and risky mortgage underwriting, the Fed forced in act,” said Sen. Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, the senior Republican on the banking committee. “Many of the Fed’s responses, in my view, greatly amplified the problem of moral hazard stemming from ‘too big to fail’ treatment of large financial institutions and practices.”

At the end of the hearing, Shelby signaled his agreement with the committee’s Democratic chairman, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, that the Fed should give up a large measure of its authority as a financial regulator.

Dodd, who strongly endorsed Bernanke for a second term as Fed chairman, has proposed that the Fed’s powers as a bank regulator ought to be transferred to a new consolidated agency.

Bernanke and other top Fed officials adamantly oppose that idea, arguing that the Fed has unique expertise and that its ability to preserve financial stability depends on having the detailed information that only a regulator has about the inner workings of major institutions.

The debate is just beginning, and it is unclear whether Shelby and other Republicans even want to team up with Democrats on an overhaul of financial regulation. Democrats on the committee are divided. Sen. Evan Bayh, DInd., made it clear that he wanted the Fed to remain a bank regulator.

Meanwhile, Bernanke and the Fed came under more populist attacks from lawmakers in both parties.

On Tuesday, Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont declared that he would try to block Bernanke’s approval on the Senate floor by placing a hold on his nomination. Senate leaders would need 60 votes, rather than a simple majority, to override the hold.

And Sen. Jon Blumng, a Kentucky Republican who was the only person to vote against Bernanke’s original appointment as chairman in 2006, vowed on Tuesday to “do everything I can to stop your nomination and dog this out as long as I can.”

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**WEATHER**

**Extended Forecast**

**Today.** High of 35°F (1°C). Mostly sunny. West winds at 5-10 mph.

**Tonight.** Low of 23°F (-5°C). Cloudy. West winds at 5-10 mph.


**Friday.** High of 38°F (3°C). South winds at 5-10 mph.

**Saturday.** High of 40°F (4°C). Cloudy. West winds at 10-12 mph.

**Sunday.** High of 44°F (7°C). Partly cloudy. West/southwest winds at 10-15 mph.
A FOCUS ON JOBS, BUT NO PROMISES OF A TURNAROUND

By Jackie Calmes

The New York Times

WASHINGTON

After months of focusing on Af- ghanistan, Barack Obama's health care, President Barack Obama turned his attention Thursday to the country's high rate of unemployment. But the president, long a figure of promise, was not Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. Instead, he spoke about the economy and joblessness, offered no new ideas to help employers, and did not mention his own staff members in the technicalities of performing long-term abortions.

Carhart has also begun performing some late-term abortions, and last week said in an interview, and is prepared to perform them still later if they meet legal standards, and if he considers them medically necessary.

There is a need, and I feel deeply about it," said Carhart, visibly weary after a day when eight patients had ap- plications at his clinic here.

The long-term abortions, coming after the earliest point when a fetus might survive outside the womb, are the most controversial, even among those who favor abortion rights.

In November, Newman said of Gaza's hars- er the privilege — is a critical issue in the heart of the social and political divide.

Hulu.com.

By Brian Stelter

As she prepared her daughter for college, Anne Sweeney insisted that a television be among the dorm room accessories.

"You don't understand. I don't need it," her 19-year-old re- ponchon on Thursday to the high level of job- loss figures for November, Obama comes under pressure from his own Democratic Party for debt, and bank loans. The defeat, which followed a stirring and at times deeply personal campaign, was a program of weatherization in- cluded in the landmark deal, announced Thurs- day by the president, that would freeze the Hula and NBC Universal. In the deal, Comcast will become a co-owner of Hula. But the three companies, each of which had hoped to wring more money from digital streaming, had the support from Gov. David A. Paterson, who has publicly cham- fored decades firmly planted outside the womb. The late-term abortions, coming to look at the law," Newman said of the clinic, but the Tiller family decided to close.

"If you disrupt the consumer experience," Newman said, "you're in trouble," warns Mike Kelley, a partner in Hulu. On Hulu and sites like it, TV episodes are available any time, usually for a full month after they premiere; the images are crystal clear and the commercial breaks are short.

at NBC and the News Corp., the owner of Fox, jointly formed Hula in 2007 as an equity partner in Hulu. On Hulu and sites like it, TV episodes are available any time, usually for a full month after they premiere; the images are crystal clear and the commercial breaks are short.

Sweeney's daughter found the Internet and streaming riveting, and would make regular trips to his office to "take a look at," the Newman said of the case.

The late-term abortions, coming after the earliest point when a fetus might survive outside the womb, are the most controversial, even among those who favor abortion rights.

The late-term abortions, coming after the earliest point when a fetus might survive outside the womb, are the most controversial, even among those who favor abortion rights.

The viewers came in droves, but the revenues have not materialized. Stan- ton, from the Center for Media and Data, put the Hula market at 26 cents.

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Tiller's clinic was not the only one offering late-term abortions; in late- term abortions, it was a focal point for criti- cism as “partial-birth abortion.”

By Carl Hulse and Adam Nagourney

President Barack Obama's decision to send more troops to Afghani- stan over the objections of fellow Democrats on Capitol Hill is reaping diminishing returns, struggling under the weight of an administration agenda that some Democratic lawmakers fear is placing them in a politi- cally perilous position.

"They say you do the tough things early," said Rep. Anthony Weiner, Democrat from New York. "Early坚定不移 is perilously late for members of Congress. I don't know if it's a new ten- tion on Thursday that would freeze the federal tax on large estates at its current level. Under current law, the estate tax, an unpopular provision with Democrats, would go away next year, only to reappear at much higher levels in 2011. Obama has argued that the vote high- lighted the raft of fiscal issues fac- ing the administration and Congress as they try to avoid a government shut- down and address funding deficits and taking poten- tial steps in the wrong direction.

Obama's jobs plan to capture the long-term unemployed, a group often dis- ingenuous of his first year. It came on the eve of a government report that is expected to show unemployment remaining in double digits, and two days after Obama emphasized as he ordered the military in Afghanistan that he did not want the financial burdens of the war to over- whelm his domestic agenda.
Making Orientation Better... for Less!

The Orientation planning committee will soon be evaluating options for making Orientation cheaper as MIT contends with an Institute-wide budget crunch. Several groups have been girded that have potential to significantly detract from the fresh- man experience — including cutting the length of Orientation in half. We instead propose a couple of simple tweaks to the existing schedule that will save the Institute money and improve the Orientation experience for students and the campus community.

Moving the Activities Midway back to Tuesday (replacing the Tuesday Night Event) and moving the Greek Grillers and Activities Fair to a Friday afternoon on Friday will help student groups more effectively re- curt, provide FSILGs with an extra half day before classes begin, and free the MIT administration from having to fund two class-wide events.

The shift in the midway date will remove a number of ob- stacles to running effective recruitment events. First, these are more of a result of historical accident than intentional design. The Association of Student Activities prohibits student groups from recruiting prior to the Activities Midway, so it was drawn back up when the Midway was on Tuesday, and it was unintentionally preserved when the Midway moved to Friday. This rule hamstring students at their most critical task for survival — recruiting new students. The window between the end of dormitory exploration (REX) on Tuesday afternoon and the Wednesday morning at which point student groups will begin targeting which student groups can attract freshmen’s attention without needing to worry about competition from better-funded living groups who will be reserving their spots on the current day of the last of the window, reducing the time groups have to recruit both new freshmen — and graduate students — before classes begin.

The Tuesday Night Event—a night of games and activities organized by a select number of student groups has helped a bit to counteract this problem by giving those groups a chance to show off. Unfortunately, the Tuesday Night Event has served only as a stopgap measure since participating student groups are still subject to formal recruitment. While the shift to Friday afternoon on the Midway, the problems with the student group recruiting schedule can be fixed simply without the need for changes to the ASA recruitment regulations. Groups would not have to work- sibly juggle restrictions at a recruiting-event-in-all-but-name, instead being freed to take full advantage of the half day before dorm- itory exploration.

To fill the vacated Friday time, the Greek Grillers should be moved from Saturday at noon to late afternoon on Friday, provid- ing students with an extra few hours to further iron out the kinks in their mid-year orientation schedule, while providing the ASA with an extra two hours to fill the Saturday Orientation budget, while giving freshmen an extra half day to half day to fill FSILGs before classes begin. By allowing rush to begin late Fri- day afternoon on Friday will help student groups more effectively re- curt, provide FSILGs with an extra half day before classes begin, and free the MIT administration from having to fund two class-wide events.

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The productive argument is not whether this "-ism" is better than that "-ism," but finding actual problems that affect people's lives.

Before the internet, before TV were readily accessible, people found out about the candidates covering their every move; no people blogging endlessly about what they personally like or dislike the candidate. Politically charged persons who had worked to gain elections — people who had served in the state had set norms and other things the government provided. At the same time the government would not be in-hibited, and ordinary people would have a direct mutual beneficial system. The government provided for the people and the people trusted the government to do things for them.

But what happened to this trust? One of the key reasons the trust has eroded is because of the tremendous change in how the media work. Twenty-four-hour news networks, readily available at any time, are now a part of our daily conversations. There is a tremendous difference between the way the media worked twenty years ago and the way they work today.

In the past, people trusted the government to provide for the people. They could rely on the government to do what it said it would do. Today, people are thinking that the government is not doing their job. They're here to help — that's why they're in power.

What is the solution? The solution is to make the government do what it promises. The government should be held accountable for its actions.

The government needs to be more transparent and open about its decisions. The people have a right to know what is going on in their government.

The government should also be more accountable for its actions. They need to be held responsible for their decisions.

The government should also be more responsive to the needs of the people. They need to listen to what the people want and act on it.

The government should also be more transparent about its budget. The people need to know where their money is going.

The government should also be more transparent about its policies. The people need to know what is happening in their country.

The government should also be more transparent about its foreign policy. The people need to know what is happening overseas.

The government should also be more transparent about its actions. The people need to know what is happening right now.

The government should also be more transparent about its plans. The people need to know what is happening in the future.

The government should also be more transparent about its goals. The people need to know what is happening overall.

The government should also be more transparent about its vision. The people need to know what is happening in the long term.

The government should also be more transparent about its mission. The people need to know what is happening in the present.

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Steal My Comic
by Michael Ciuffo

Help Desk
by Michael Benitez

OH MAN, I'M SO NERVOUS THIS WEEK. THERE'S SO MUCH UNFINISHED homework. I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO WORK ON TWO 1009 PROJECTS, A COUPLE FRACTIONS, AND THEN THERE'S THE READING. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BREATHE, LET ALONE FINISH THIS WEEK'S COMIC...

THEN DON'T!

IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR COMIC IS AN OBLIGATION. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FINISH ONE EVERY WEEK.

HMM...

OH MAN, I CAN'T WAIT 'TIL WE GET TO THE MORE COMPLICATED STUFF.

WELL, THANKS FOR ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS!

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

REASONS FOR T.A.ING:
- Pays the bills.
- Looks good on C.V.
- The one undergrad who cares.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Afternoon break
7. City on the Cauca River
11. Monastic title
14. Many a marigold
15. Juice letters?
17. Takedown by Tinker Bell?
19. “Little” 1960s singer
20. Former Spanish queen
22. Vile smile
24. Reaction to an amusing porcelain?
29. Sought a seat
30. Limoges-born impressionist
31. Parsley piece
34. Mideast carrier
36. USSR successor
38. Symptom of poor lighting?
42. NASDAQ listings
43. Military station
44. Western prop
45. Out in the open
49. Supermarket group taking a coffee break, perhaps?
53. Jersey groups
54. Baja
55. Scrapbooking, e.g.
56. Cerulean
57. Baja
59. Store-brand dill?
64. MC’s aid
65. First name in architecture
66. Block
67. Pie chart fig.
68. Inert gas
69. Like some foot bones

DOWN
1. Place for gems
2. Words with uproar or instant
3. Massive old computer
4. Baja
5. California:
6. Scotland’s longest river
7. “Gosford Park” director
8. Saguaro, e.g.
9. Comics cry of disgust
10. Strands at the ski resort, perhaps
11. Consequences of some soccer fouls
12. Big-time parties
13. With it
18. Shirt part
23. 31-Down, e.g.
25. La Salle of “ER”
26. Pizza Quick sauce maker
27. Scrapbooking, e.g.
28. Recount
31. Army E-7: Abbr.
32. Like some visions
33. Bring back into practice
34. Cain’s eldest son
36. "Land __!
37. Achilles’ weakness
38. "Never mind"
39. Haunted house sound
40. "It Must Be Him" singer Vikki
41. Breakfast companion?
42. "Never mind"
43. Haunted house sound
44. "It Must Be Him" singer Vikki
45. Breakfast companion?
46. "Never mind"
47. Haunted house sound
48. "Never mind"
49. Haunted house sound
50. Former pen pal?
51. Court recordkeeper: Abbr.
52. "Land __!
53. Jersey groups
54. Baja
55. Scrapbooking, e.g.
56. Cerulean
57. Baja
59. Store-brand dill?

Sudoku

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

Solution, page 13


**SONIC YOUTH**

*Definitely Old, But Still Defining 'Kool'*

**By Matt Fisher**

*Sonic Youth* closed its touring career at Boston's Wilbur Theatre on November 22, 2009. The band, which has been playing since 1981, played its 25th anniversary show to a sold-out crowd of 1,000, and closed its career with a setlist that included songs from all three albums released that year. The band was also joined by a string quartet to cover all the alternate tunings required for the Sonic Youth songbook. The performance was a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades.

At the Wilbur Theatre, Sonic Youth played a setlist that included songs from their 1990 album *Goo,* 1992's *D Sister,* and 1994's *Gentle Rider.* The band was joined by a string quartet to cover all the alternate tunings required for the Sonic Youth songbook. The performance was a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades.

The band opened the show with a cover of the Velvet Underground's *T.V.* opening, followed by a medley of songs from their 1990 album *Goo,* 1992's *D Sister,* and 1994's *Gentle Rider.* The performance was a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades.

Sonic Youth's final show was a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades. The band, which has been playing since 1981, played its 25th anniversary show at the Wilbur Theatre on November 22, 2009. The band was joined by a string quartet to cover all the alternate tunings required for the Sonic Youth songbook. The performance was a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades.

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**MOVIE REVIEW** | ***4/5***

**Red Cliff**

*An Epic of Chinese Philosophy*

By Jenny Xie

“Red Cliff” is a film that attempts to capture the drama and tension of one of the most famous battles in Chinese history: the battle of Red Cliff, which took place in 208 AD.

The film follows the story of three main characters: Zhuge Liang, a strategist for the Southern Wu Kingdom; Cao Cao, the ruler of the Northern Wei Kingdom; and Sun Quan, the ruler of the Eastern Wu Kingdom. Each of these characters has a different agenda, and the battle of Red Cliff is the result of their inability to work together.

Zhao Yun, a loyal general of Sun Quan, is determined to protect his emperor's son from slaughter. Meanwhile, as Zhuge Liang is seeking alliance from Zou Yu, he attains an answer from a tense but passionate string instrument duet with the vocalist, which has a rare ability to convey the tension of the situation.

The film is a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades. Sonic Youth played its 25th anniversary show at the Wilbur Theatre on November 22, 2009. The band was joined by a string quartet to cover all the alternate tunings required for the Sonic Youth songbook. The performance was a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades.

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**CONCERT REVIEW**

*Sonic Youth’s Relentless Rocking*

*Definitely Old, But Still Defining ‘Kool’*

By Matt Fisher

Sonic Youth put on a rollicking show, exhibiting extended, unfettered yet carefully crafted soundscapes that excited the crowd far more than the music alone. The band played their three albums released that year — *Goo,* 1992's *D Sister,* and 1994's *Gentle Rider.*

At the Wilbur Theatre, Sonic Youth played a setlist that included songs from their 1990 album *Goo,* 1992's *D Sister,* and 1994's *Gentle Rider.* The performance was a fitting farewell to a band that has been a crucial part of the rock scene for decades.
After End of Time, Father and Son Follow ‘The Road’

Another Look Into the Post-Apocalypse

By Sun Kim

STAFF WRITER

December 4, 2009

The Road

Directed by John Hillcoat
Based on the novel by Cormac McCarthy: Starring Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee
Rated R
Now Playing

Scrawled in spray paint, “Behold . . . the Valley of Slaughter” serves as an ominous warning before the director lowers his lens into the desolation of bleak hopelessness and human depravity. The Road, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name written by Cormac McCarthy (No Country for Old Men, focuses on an unnamed father (played by Viggo Mortensen) and his son (played by Kodi Smit-McPhee) as they struggle for survival after a previous cataclysmic event wipes out most of the life on Earth. Those remaining must scrounge around for supplies as they encounter impending perils, such as dwindling health, the unforgiving elements, and canibals. The father is driven to lead the pair to the coastline, with his son about the perils in their lives, reminiscent of the similar theme of the father-son journey.

As a rumored contender for various Academy Awards, The Road is a medusoid film at best. The strong suit of the film is Mortensen’s acting. He provides a quiet emotional power as he leads his son through difficult passages. His display of moral ambiguity is especially exciting to watch as he interacts with his provokers with increasing brutality with the progressing degradation of his mind and body. I can foresee a Best Actor nomination for Mortensen as he embodies a living skeleton, in body and spirit. In his acting debut, Smit-McPhee provides a refreshing contrast to the doom and gloom of The Road, proving that hope, innocence, and goodwill can exist in the absence of law and order. The father teaches his son about the perils in their lives, reminiscent of the film The Pursuit of Happyness, with the similar theme of the father-son journey.

It goes without saying that the movie is grim, sometimes violently so. Humans are locked in storage cellars for slaughter. Hanging corpses are strewn about, and the road is paved with slush and debris of a previous world. Despite this desolation, a feather of hope provides enough optimism to persevere in any circumstance. As an analogy for life, the film presents the hopes and dangers of everyday existence as mounting obstacles, yet the flicker of hope we find carries us forward.

MOVIE REVIEW ** 1/2 / 4

The Road

Based on the novel by Cormac McCarthy: Starring Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee
Rated R
Now Playing

The MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players present ‘The Mikado’

Artists

The MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players present The Mikado, which will be performed this Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. They will repeat the performance on December 12 and 13.

(left) Koko (David S. Rolnick ’12) is hoping for a kiss from his unwilling bride-to-be, Yum-Yum (Julie Lauren Stevens)

(top-right) Yum-Yum, played by Julie Lauren Stevens, is joined by her sisters Pitti-Sing (Virginia K. Quaney ’10) and Peep-Bo (Sarah E. Flowers ’12).

(middle-right) The townspeople of Titipu gather to celebrate the love of Yum-Yum (Julie Lauren Stevens) and Nanki-Poo (Barratt Park G) at the end of Act I.

(bottom-right) Pooh-Bah (Dan Salomon), Koko (David S. Rolnick ’12), and Pish-Tush (Jonathan Nussman) (left to right) receive an alarming message from the Mikado (Johari Frasier ’13).

Photography by Elijah Mena
CONCERT REVIEW
Falling Out of Love, Italian Style
The MIT Chamber Chorus Performs Italian Madrigals

By Sudeep Agarwala

The MIT Chamber Chorus and the MIT Concerted Voices performed a program of madrigals by Italy’s greatest madrigalists. As the final note of the program receded into the distance, I couldn’t help but reflect on the exploration of love and its many facets that was brought to life through the music of these composers.

The first madrigal, “Inno al cimento dell’amore” by Giovanni Gacchini, set a somber tone for the evening, with its reflective and melancholic melody. The next piece, “Languisco e moro” by Carlo Gesualdo, was a stark contrast, with its intense and dark harmonic progressions, suggesting the end of a love affair.

The music continued to take us on a journey through the various phases of love, with pieces that ranged from the romantic and lighthearted to the tragic and despairing. “Gesualdo’s madrigals introduced a faint glimmer of joy; of bitter disappointment and loss, Gesualdo’s madrigal provided a glimpse into the depths of human emotion.”

The concert concluded with a medley of madrigals, including “L’assedio” by Giacomo Carissimi, which ended with the final note hanging in the air, as if the music itself was hesitant to let go of the audience.

As the audience filed out of the auditorium, there was a sense of satisfaction and appreciation for the beauty and complexity of these madrigals. The MIT Chamber Chorus and the MIT Concerted Voices had succeeded in bringing these musical masterpieces to life, and for that, they deserve our admiration and gratitude.

CONCERT REVIEW
Doomsday in Paradise
Elvis Perkins in Dearland Celebrate The End

By Charles Y. Lin

Elvis Perkins’ Dearland managed to bring a unique blend of genres to life, from the slightly experimental to the deeply emotive. His songwriting and performance were both captivating, and it was clear from the crowd’s reaction that the concert was an unforgettable experience.

During the performance, Perkins’ vocals were accompanied by a variety of instruments, including a string section, which added depth and richness to the music. The crowd was on their feet throughout the show, cheering and singing along to the songs.

The concert ended on a high note, with Perkins’ rendition of “Paradise,” which left the audience in awe. The band’s energy was contagious, and it was clear that they were having as much fun playing as the audience was enjoying listening.

Overall, the concert was a triumph, and it’s clear that Perkins and his band will continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the music world. The turnout was overwhelming, with the doors open for three hours to accommodate the large crowd.

New York City native leading a New Orleans-inspired funeral dance, playing from the Sacred Harp and preaching doomsday at the hipster infested Paradise Club. Discombobulating? Circling? That resilience in the face of all the sad stuff, is the nucleus of Perkins’ s career. So, don’t let doomsday bother me. Do you let it bother you?” he insisted.

For Perkins, it’s been a long journey through a formative past punctuated by tragedy. Perkins lost his father to AIDS in 1992 and his mother in the 9/11 attacks. And though he rarely broaches this subject in his work or interviews, he has admitted that these events have deeply shaped his music and life.

To hear an Elvis Perkins in Dearland concert is to experience not the funeral, but the resurrection. Perkins sings of doomsday, the bombs, the goodbyes, the cemeteries, and the loneliness — all that sad stuff. But filtered through him and his band, it somehow sounds triumphant, more a call to celebrate than to grieve.

Playing Monday night at the Paradise Rock Club, Perkins and his band infused their set with momentum and vibrancy, starting from the opening number when the entire band marched through the audience and then assembled on stage like marching bands. With fast moving bass lines and eerie aural injections of brass, strings, and accordion, the album ends of Elvis Perkins in Dyb lund made meaning become electric. And the electric is, “It’s been 8 years to appropriately use this pun” and the audience responded all evening, eventually summoning a second encore, which Perkins’s vocal chords were threatened with. If death and rebirth are Perkins’ thematic base, then New Orleans is his eclectic muse. He plays analogically from the gospel and voodoo of the Big Easy and his songs are laced with a decadent timelessness that evokes opulence and decay. His warbling whispered singing plays a ghostly accompaniment to the funeral marching band around him.

But it’s not all black suits and veils. Elvis Perkins in Dearland never plopped along. They never seemed weighed down by a casket. Yes, bodies are being buried, and, yet, mortality hangs like a dam rag, but Perkins never seems to get the memo, as he triumphantly proclaimed in his second number “It’s the cemetery of the century, but hey it was a stary day.”

With his thumb on his nose, Perkins made a poor pallbearer. “I don’t let doomsday bother me. Do you let it bother you?” he insisted. That resilience in the face of all the sad stuff, is the nucleus of Perkins’ s joy, and why his music is so mortally affecting. It is the technical accouterment that turns his songs into celebrations and makes you not forget about death, but for a brief, client laugh in its face.

This is the band that I want playing when they lower my bones. At least then there will be dancing.

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Opera Review

Love and Loss in Arcadia
A Breathtaking Version of Handel’s ‘Acis and Galatea’

By Sudeep Agarwala

courtesy of David Walker

Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Opera Jordan Hall, Boston, MA November 28, 2009

The fifteen books of Ovid’s Metamorphoses, the story of Acis and Galatea occupies less than two hundred lines of a single book: the mortal Acis and the nymph Galatea are in love, but the cyclops Polyphemus (yes, that Polyphemus, the one from the Odyssey, he, like most everything else, also has a back-story) is in love with Galatea too. As these things go, Galatea resists him and Polyphemus, understandably upset, expresses his rage in the only way he knows how: he crushes Acis with a boulder. Ovid completes the metamorphic tale on a light note, where Galatea, in her grief, immortalizes her lover by turning him into a river.

The story, the plot alike imitate dozens of others as the work goes, enough so that it seems like this one was in another in a series of filler material Ovid had prepared to pad his tone.

But triviality, it seems, is what great works take for their fodder and George Frederick Handel’s 1718 setting of Acis and Galatea, the last opera Handel would write for private commission: the libretto was written by John Gay and to a lesser extent, John Hughes and Alexander Pope (authors who manage to torture high school students to this day), the music, was exclusively written by Handel who was gaining considerable celebrity on the London stage.

Under the stage direction of Gilbert Blinn, Saturday evening’s performance of Handel’s Acis and Galatea by the Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Opera set Arcadia in Brydges’ s parlor and featured members of this cast of eighteenth-century celebrity as players—Brydges/Acis produced a dramatic and well considered first act—Compare to a lot of more recent stagings of the Handel opera seems to have upset, expresses his rage in the only way he knows how: he crushes Acis with a boulder.

In addition to the exciting cognitive dissonances presented in the setting, Saturday’s performance presented other exciting features. The action unfolded with Douglas Williams, as Polyphemus, attempting to seduce Teresa Wukim (stepping in for the billed Amanda Forryan) as Galatea with a ruins, including the sheepdog and shepherd, both traditional, if rare, centerpieces. Handel, as such his free playing is less pretentious, more than an exercise in sonic permutation, and Cooper Moore represents a new, interesting force on the New York free jazz scene. They use a bit more space, are almost always inconstant. But framing the modern world.

Saturday’s performance was preceded by a pre-concert lecture by Ellen Harris, an informed analysis and survey of the history of Handel’s work. Boston Early Music Festival continues its season on January 30, with a performance of the Icelandic ensemble Sequenza 3.

CD Review

Digital Primitives: Playing ‘Out’ with a Compass

Latest Album ‘Hum, Crackle & Pop’ a Return to Roots for Free Jazz

By Samuel Markson

GROOVEMAYA MUSICA

September 22, 2009

In the world of free jazz can be a harsh place, a radical, norm-destroying battlefront that makes an artist or band want to create something original, spending a lot of time focusing on tearing down the old. All that chopping and carving and shaping can turn a collaboration into a pile of shit if you aren’t careful. The solution: focus on the base, the bones.

Enter Digital Primitives. They might be a new sound on the scene, mixing the Southern gospel rootsiness of Cooper Moore, playing off the Pohkleyahwook of Assif Tsahar, all over the modal and post-bop wheelhouse of the New York free jazz scene that too easily becomes absorbed with displays of chops, where young virtuosos are brought the complexities of this moment home.

This can be said, in general, of Saturday’s performance of Acis and Galatea. Ensemble work was impeccable, stilled sound and sealed by the unmistakable stamp of an accomplished musicians. But it was the moment—That being said, a lot of Moore’s work wouldn’t mean that much without Tsahar, Moore’s frequent collaborator over the past two decades. Assif Tsahar, moving to New York City in 1990 from Israel to play on the jazz scene there, brings in a sensitive approach to the music; his tone is moderate, constrained, still exploring the more bizarre tonalities expressed on a sax or clarinet. He plays out, but texturally it’s exotic, and his non-American background seems to color the music in a way that American musicians couldn’t.

The ensemble is rounded out by Chad Taylor on drums, a player with a funky groove, and as such his free playing is less pretentious, more than an exercise in sonic permutation, and Cooper Moore reminds us of that.

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Cooper Moore has paid his dues with the blues, and as such his free playing is less pretentious, more than an exercise in sonic permutation, and Cooper Moore reminds us of that.

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A discussion of the past, present and future of shared-transport systems using Paris’ Velib as a model. The panel will feature creators of entrepreneurial models and urban systems. See mit.edu/misti for more information and to RSVP.
Zwane Remembered as Kind, Thoughtful

Zwane, from Page 1

well being,” she said.

But he didn’t just talk spiritually.

Zwane liked to learn words from

languages other people spoke, and

his face would light up when he

got the pronunciation right, Tassisa

said.

Despite his academic achieve-

ments, Zwane was “the most mod-

est person,” said Mhlanga. He was

soft-spoken and nice, friends said.

Friends remembered him using

the South African slang “bowser”

(“how’s it going?”). And he called

people older than him “sir” and

decided himself to his studies, to his clubs,

in a big way this sum-

mer. When he told Zwane he was

moving off-campus and could use

some help moving, Zwane put to-

gather a contraption that let them

carry things behind a bicycle. “Ka-

belo, this will never work,” he said

—but it worked well, and they got

plenty of stares as they crossed the

Harvard Bridge.

“He loved to fix anything that’s

broken — give it to Kabelo, and he’ll

fix it in five seconds,” Tasissa said.

Zwane liked water; Scroggins

remembered a sailing trip. He also

liked biking all over Boston, run-

ning for miles, reading and writing

poetry, and drawing.

He was proud of Swazi culture,

but Zwane didn’t talk much about

it during his life, explosions of praise,

and bold declarations,” he said.

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Israel: A Light unto the Nations
Those who demonize Israel are either misinformed or malevolent

If that proverbial man from Mars came to visit and read the world’s newspapers, especially those in the Arab and Muslim world, he would be convinced that Israel was the most evil nation in the world and the source of all of the world’s strife.

What are the facts?

A nation to be emulated. The reality, of course, is that Israel is a nation, a society, that should be admired and emulated by many countries in the world. The very fact of how the State of Israel came into being is one of the most inspiring in history. Born out of the ashes of the Holocaust, it has emerged as one of the most advanced, productive and prosperous countries in the world.

The demonstration of Israel, assiduously cultivated by the Muslim world, has reached a crescendo following Israel’s recent defensive action in Gaza. Instead of being grateful to the hated Jews for having totally withdrawn, the Palestinian Gazans showed their gratitude by almost daily pounding Israeli towns with close to 10,000 rockets and bombs. After countless warnings, Israel ultimately decided to put an end to this travesty.

When Israel finally did invade Gaza it took the most elaborate precautions not to hurt civilians. As a first in the history of warfare, Israel dropped tens of thousands of leaflets, warning the population and urging it to abandon areas in which military action would take place. The Israeli military made thousands of phone calls urging people to leave areas that would come under attack. But fighting in a densely populated environment is difficult and loss of civilian life is hard to avoid. Hamas fighters wear no uniforms. It is impossible to tell them from civilians. Is a person who allows a rocket launcher in his backyard a civilian or a fighter? And how about using schools, hospitals and mosques as munitions depots and staff centers? The hue and cry of Israel’s demonizers in all over the world, has reached a crescendo following the protest of “disproportionate force” is totally absurd. The ultimate insult, comparing Israel to the Nazis, is freely handed about by Israel’s detractors.

Israel is not an “apartheid state.” Another familiar tack of Israel’s vilifiers is to call it an “apartheid state,” on the model of former South Africa. That is so ridiculous, so preposterous, it is hard to believe that serious people can countenance it. The exact opposite is the case. Israel is the only country in its bumptious neighborhood in which people of all colors and religions prosper and have equal rights. Israel, expanding substantial effort, rescued tens of thousands of black Jews from Ethiopia. And it has given assistance and absorbed countless Christian refugees, from Sudan, who escaped from being slaughtered by their Muslim countrymen.

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As the prophet Isaiah presaged: Israel is indeed a Light unto the Nations.

You deserve a factual look at . . .

Israel is a nation to be emulated.
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Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 22
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Waitlist Round for closed Sloan subjects:
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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.

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SPORTS

Upcoming Athletics Weekend Will Showcase Winter Sports

By Russell Spivak

MIT will be hosting an Athletics Weekend this weekend to emphasize Tech's winter sports. Headlining the event will be the men's and women's basketball teams. The MIT basket- ball programs have been able to raise the school spirit and unite the student body, creating some much needed athletic buzz across campus. Men's basketball has been able to carry last year's momentum into the 2009-2010 season. Last year's team saw unprecedented success under Head Coach Larry Anderson and now-graduated captain James M. "Jimmie" Bartolotta '09, receiving their first bid to the NCAA Division III tournament in the program's history. The Cardi- nal and Grey captured their first win in NCAA Tournament play in school history by upsetting Rhode Island College as well. The Engineers fell in the next round, but the team had cre- ated new expectations and raised the bar for MIT basketball.

This year, MIT brings in a very strong recruiting class of seven freshmen to help the seven returning upperclassmen. These freshmen have been contributing right out of the gate. William Tashman '13 and Mitchell H. Kates '13 highlight a freshman class, as the duo provides excitement and points to an already strong start- ing lineup. Noel Hollingsworth '12 "loves it so far" on the court, joining this year's star- tling "Billy". J. Johnson '09 and Eric Z. Reid '11 to round out returning five that has begun its season 5-0 and 1-0 in NEWMAC conference play.

Johnson attributes the initial suc- cess to the offense work put in af- ter the unprecedented run. "It began literally a week after the sea- son was over last year. We knew that our success for the '09-10 season was riding on our new players. It was imperative that these new newcom- ers get up to speed with our system as quickly as possible, so that by the time the season started they weren't playing as newcomers, but as veter- ans. With almost the whole team here over the summer, we trained six days a week with a conditioning/lifting sched- ule made specifically for us and played in summer league games twice a week against great competition. It is really paying off now."

And with MIT's first NCAA birth in the program's history, expectations are raised. Where does the team look to next? "Plain and simple," according to Johnson, "win the national championship."

The Engineers basketball team has also been able to benefit from an increased emphasis on basketball from the student body. Female Engineers got off to a bit of a slow start with three straight losses, but have been able to bounce back with two decisive victories over Lasell and Albion Magna. The Cardinal and Grey are now 2-3 before starting conference play.

But second-year coach Sonia Ra- man has the team coming together, and over time the conference is cold- playing Captains Sally W. Simpson '10 and Kristen E. Whaley '11 provide a steady balance of 13 points and 12 re- bounds, a game combined and veteran leadership, as the starting lineup is as strong as their three freshmen. Apurna A. Sud '13 leads the team in scoring, along- side Anna L. Merrifield '13, a strong leader in the paint, and Lauren S. Butler '11, the leader in assists and steals, to round out a youthful start- ing five that should pave the way for a bright future.

The men's and women's teams will play this weekend, followed by the first daughter at the Rockwell Cage on Sat- urday. The games will begin at 6:30 p.m., against Springfield Col- lege, and the men will follow at 3:00 p.m. against Gordon College.

ERICA N. PINO '13 drives around a U.S. Coast Guard Academy defender in the first half of the women's basketball game on December 2. The engineers were defeated 47-38.

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Tech Sport Taekwondo Team Takes Second at ECTC Tournament Sunday

By Tara Sarathi

On Sunday, November 22, the MIT Sport Taekwondo team traveled to Princeton University to compete at the third Eastern College Taekwondo Conference (ECTC) tournament of the sea- son. Despite the small size of the conference, the team performed impressively with six members Ijeoma Emeagwali '12 and Mengfei Yang '12 fighting their way through matches and earning the gold for the first time this season. In addition, the team continued to grow and improve, flanked first by first-time A team members Ijoma Emeagwali '12 and Ryan A. H. Clough '13. The B team continued to excel in their division, with B2 (Shawn R. Dun- dus '10, Li, Heung Kam '12) taking silver, and H1 (Sun, Hong, Kristina L. Lozoya '13, Rosario, Rafael A. Raya '12) the bronze. On the men's side, H1 (B2) team won the big upset, with both teams receiving a very strong performance, led first by first-time A team members Ijoma Emeagwali '12 and Ryan A. H. Clough '13. The B team continued to excel in their division, with B1 (Shawn R. Dunden '10, Li, Heung Kam '12) taking silver, and H1 (Sun, Hong, Kristina L. Lozoya '13, Rosario, Rafael A. Raya '12) the bronze. On the men's side, H1 (B2) team won the big upset, with both teams receiving a very strong performance, led first by first-time A team members Ijoma Emeagwali '12 and Ryan A. H. Clough '13.

The day began with the poomsae (forms) competition. In the red belt division, Zhu Chen "Mary" Hong '10 captured silver, while in the blue belt division, Junnian "Sophie" Li '11 and Christine T. Hsu '10 won gold and bronze respectively. In the green belt division, Angela N. Chang '10 walked away with the gold. As the day progressed and the sparring competition began, MIT confidently took on their opponents. In the Women's A-team (advanced division), MIT A1 (Rashed F Sun '10, Hong, Erika Lee '12) secured their way through each match and won the gold for the first time this season. In addition, their B2 (Shawn R. Dunden '10, Li, Heung Kam '12) and H1 (Sun, Hong, Kristina L. Lozoya '13, Rosario, Rafael A. Raya '12) the bronze. On the men's side, H1 (B2) team won the big upset, with both teams receiving an impressive performance, led first by first-time A team members Ijoma Emeagwali '12 and Ryan A. H. Clough '13. The B team continued to excel in their division, with B1 (Shawn R. Dunden '10, Li, Heung Kam '12) taking silver, and H1 (Sun, Hong, Kristina L. Lozoya '13, Rosario, Rafael A. Raya '12) the bronze. On the men's side, H1 (B2) team won the big upset, with both teams receiving an impressive performance, led first by first-time A team members Ijoma Emeagwali '12 and Ryan A. H. Clough '13.

Even though MIT finished second, there are still two tournaments left in the season. The Engineers will con- tinue their journey to the ECTC champi- onship in the three months at West Point.