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The idea for MIT FML comes from
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Institute-Wide Planning Task Force Releases Its Final Report
By Maggie Lloyd

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Students have become addicted to two new popular webites, MIT FML (http://fmlife.com) and I Saw You MIT (http://isawyou.mitu/), created this past semester. Filled with anonymous, quirky, Twitter-like posts the two sites were designed to entertain, bond, and poke fun at the “real” MIT. Each year in

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Drugs May Aid Only Severe Depression, Study Says

By Marc Mazzetti

WASHINGTON

Before detonating a suicide bomb in Afghanistan last week, a Jordanian militant was considered by U.S. spy agencies to be the most promising informant in years about the whereabouts of al-Qaida militants, including the group’s most promising efforts." "He had provided information that represented his true beliefs," a senior intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence official, whom he had access to," said a senior intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence official, whom he had access to," said a senior intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence official, whom he had access to," said a senior intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence official, whom he had access to," said a senior intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence official, whom he had access to," said a senior intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence official, whom he had access to," said a senior intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the intelligence official, whom he had access 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Military Drive to Build Afghan Expert Corps Seen to Lag

By By Eric Schmitt

WASHINGTON

The military’s effort to build a seasoned corps of expert officers for the Afghan military has been hindered by the high attrition rates of top commanders, off a slow start because of the large number of units with few volunteers and a high-level warning to the armed services to steer better candi-
dates and be more aggressive in recruiting to some senior officers and partic-
pants.

The groundbreaking program is meant to address concerns that the US has been stymied by a lack of continuity and standards in the training of Afghan military personnel. But some offi-
cers have been reluctant to sign up for an uncertain career path because they fear it will hurt their advancement. A perception that top military leaders are trying to dispel as they tailor new policies for the complex task of taking on real-

By Ralph Kramden

The New York Times

January 6, 2010

Terror Plot

The New York Times

January 6, 2010

Sufficient Information

The New York Times

January 6, 2010

Companies Are Betting That Consumers Will Want to Watch in Three Dimensions

Television Begins Push into the 3rd Dimension

By Brian Stelter and Jon C. Super

The New York Times

January 6, 2010

Manufacturers unveil sets capable of showing World Cup soccer matches and the feature film “Avatar” and the sets now cheap enough to watch the Super Bowl and be im-
pressed with a list of 11 demands in November. They included paying

By Miguel Helft

The New York Times

January 6, 2010

A Long-Awaited Introduction Draws Some Polite Applause

By Nick Bunkley

The New York Times

January 6, 2010

The Facebook phone will be available this summer, Google said, and will be the first device to run on its new operating system, Android. Google also said that it would sell the Nexus One, which it called a superphone, exclusively through a new online store.

Defiant UAW Local Now Works with GM

By Nick Bunkley

The New York Times

January 6, 2010

For the better part of three decades, the car plant here was a seem-
lessly endless source of trouble for General Motors. In the 1980s, the company was better toward man-
amade that thousands of Chevrolet Volts rolled off the assembly line with slit upholstery and other faults. The hostility eventually led to a showdown in 2007, when GM's then-chief executive, Rick Wagoner, walked out of the factory, declaring it a "black hole." A local UAW leader, Frank Roelof, who is credited with bringing order to the plant, was fired.

But the plant survived, though dozens of other auto factories did not. "That is the kind of commitment that the UAW is ready to make," said Mr. Roelof, who is a key player in the "Task Force C," a group of UAW leaders at the plant.

Even when no intentional sabotage occurred, many Local 5700-built vehicles were of poor quality. GM had planned to abandon local 5700, the only UAW local in a city in the United States, as a model plant.

But the plant survived, though dozens of other auto factories did not. "That is the kind of commitment that the UAW is ready to make," said Mr. Roelof, who is credited with bringing order to the plant. He said the plant has become a "strategic and economic asset to our global economy." "This is meant to address concerns that the military’s effort to build a seasoned corps of expert officers for the Afghan military has been hindered by the high attrition rates of top commanders, off a slow start because of the large number of units with few volunteers and a high-level warning to the armed services to steer better candidates and be more aggressive in recruiting to some senior officers and participants."

The groundbreaking program is meant to address concerns that the US has been stymied by a lack of continuity and standards in the training of Afghan military personnel. But some officers have been reluctant to sign up for an uncertain career path because they fear it will hurt their advancement. A perception that top military leaders are trying to dispel as they tailor new policies for the complex task of taking on real-
Iran's Numbered Days

Ryan T. Normand

Some countries are not as well off as public-citizen-created celebrities. Britney Spears has a breakdown one day just so she can make a comeback the next. As a general example, North Korea claimed in April that they have put a satellite into orbit with a Taepodong-2 missile. Of course, someone had the bright idea that the part of the very fuse that fall into the Sea of Japan must be lying. And any radar tracking the missile must have been malfunctioning.

After much criticism over the missile launch, North Korea left the government talks held with five other countries. It then promptly threw a temper tantrum on July 4 by launching seven short-range missiles, which also ended up in the Sea of Japan. Finally realizing that the world is not made of celebrity-style fit, North Korea announced with the coming of the New Year that they would try to behave this way. Washington and Pyongyang are now in agreement that negotiations should continue.

Other countries behave more like completely delusional celebrities. Even while breaking down internally, they still struggle to cut one-shot movie deals with directors and producers much bigger and stronger than they are. For Iran, the slight difference is that negotiations involve one-sided nuclear arms treaties instead of movie deals.

Iran's nuclear ambitions have long drawn many concerns. Many believe that Iran is seeking to develop a nuclear weapon, but Iran maintains that it would use nuclear power purely for energy. Of course, throughout this process the US government has assured the world that one of its darkest ambitions is to weaponize itself off the map, a strategy that is really inspiring confidence in its reassurances of peacefully using nuclear power.

In standard tactical form, Iran rejected a United Nations proposal to trade enriched uranium for fuel for an end of the two-year deadline to show progress in talks. Iran instead demanded that by the end of this January, the West must agree to allow nuclear fuel to Iran or trade its enriched uranium in smaller batches. In other words, they want to hold on to much enriched uranium so they will be able to use it for a long time as they can. The reasonable question is, if they do not want nuclear weapons, why are they so fond of their enriched uranis?

These tactics are not surprising. What is surprising is how Iran is able to make these ridiculous, contradictory claims and demands while trying to quell what is fast becoming a revolution. When protests began last summer over claims of election fraud, the government was quick to assure its country that more than 100 percent voter turnout in some districts was perfectly normal. When that didn't work, they tried tear gas and beatings in the streets. Protesters died down and then became peaceful, but a big shift quickly took place, and this shift is the reason that a new Iran will soon replace the one we recognize. When the government turned to violence and suppressed the freedoms of speech and assembly, they also changed the focus of the protests. At first, the protests were relatively peaceful acts aimed at the election results. However, they soon became focused on the very foundations of what constituted Iran.

In 1979, Iranians toppled the U.S.-backed shah and established the Islamic Republic of Iran, and ever since then, this is a source of great pride and a solid refusal to be manipulated by the powers of the West. To this day, Ahmadinejad has been blaming the West for anything and everything that goes wrong in Iran, hoping to play them off against their self-interests, particularly in Iranian affairs. Yet the government that was established on that basis is now the one being attacked by the protesters.

Protesters regularly imitate and chant at Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, something that was previously unheard of. Khamenei, as Supreme Leader, has the final say in all matters of the state and has been a major reason for the current regime. I look forward to the day when these protests succeed, and the Iranian people earn the liberty and freedoms that they are fighting for. I also would not complain if the new government does not have such an affinity for peace. The government that is no longer a fraudulent election; it is a broken system of government. Every time the government takes away something that was previously unheard of, they will keep breaking out until the protestors succeed, and the next one is the anniversary of the very Islamic Revolution that established the current government.

Keep your eyes peeled because I predict that we may soon be able to find out who the people behind the current regime are. I look forward to the day when these protestors succeed, and the Iranian people earn the liberty and freedoms that they are fighting for. I also would not complain if the new government does not have such an affinity for peace.

Opinion Policy

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The Off-Campus Option

Ethan Solomon

For a lot of reasons, undergraduates are often scared off from moving to apartments in Cambridge, Boston, or Somerville. Finding an apartment is a significant investment of valuable time and there are more unknowns than living in dorms or FSILGs — how much will utilities cost? How will I get to class? What’s a security deposit? But with the right strategy and the right attitude, moving off-campus can be financially, socially, and developmentally well-worth the risk.

Despite their industrious and entrepreneurial spirit, many MIT students lack that same adventurous spirit when it comes to housing. Living in dorms or FSILGs is easy — heat, electricity, water, maintenance, internet and sometimes food are taken care of by offices at MIT or your living group. But, as is always the case with real life, there are tradeoffs. Dorm life restricts individual freedom through the enforcement of housing policy and regulation and can force occupants to live with people they may not want to live with. And though it is not unique to MIT, dorms rarely offer an abundance of personal living space.

None of these restrictions are particularly onerous, and none of them make the dormitory option a poor choice. But finding your own place is not just a matter of getting a bigger living room or having the right to keep pets, halogen lamps, and hot plates in your room. It is also an unparalleled opportunity to grow as an individual. The process of finding and successfully leasing an apartment asks a student to take responsibility for where they live and ultimately how they go about their lives. It means you’ll have to figure out how to pay bills and how to fix leaky faucets and plan your commute — and these are important things to know! By living in a dorm or FSILG for your full four undergraduate years at MIT, you’ll learn how to go out and change the world, but you won’t know how to live in the world.

When it comes to learning the skills necessary to live on your own, there’s no time like the present. Most MIT students are full, legal adults, and there’s no reason to assume the legal and civic responsibilities that come with turning 18 while neglecting to take on more personal responsibilities. And if the prospect of not having MIT coddle you until you’re 22 sounds scary, that’s all the more reason to take the plunge and find your own place.

The same philosophy inspired the MIT “fire-hose” education style — if it seems easy, then you’re probably not learning much from it; if it’s tough, you’re learning things that will stay with you for life. And, at least in terms of the practicals, living in a dorm is very, very easy. But what about the financial risks of moving off-campus? To be sure, some apartments in Cambridge and Boston can be very expensive. Fortunately, you don’t have to go it alone — splitting a multiple-bedroom apartment with friends can often lead to significant savings over the costs of living in a dorm. If you move in with friends, you’re also almost always guaranteed a better square-foot-to-dollar ratio than what dorms at MIT offer, plus full kitchens and other amenities your dorm or living group might not offer. To save costs, you would also need to manage your utilities more wisely than you would in a dorm (which is also better for the environment), though budgeting heat, water and electricity expenditures is another skill that’s not too hard to learn but something MIT will never teach you. Furnishing your place doesn’t need to be expensive either, especially if you’re a do-it-yourself type.

Still, off-campus living may not be for everyone. But the campus community and the MIT administration should consider the opportunities that off-campus living might provide to students, and to that end should work towards making off-campus living a more attractive option for undergraduates. MIT students are fully capable of managing the challenges of moving to off-campus apartments and those who choose to do so would be rewarded with lower costs for equal or better living conditions than the MIT dormitory standard in addition to the value of the experience. All it takes is an assumption of responsibility, which is what makes the off-campus option simultaneously challenging and rewarding.
Avatar is like Planet Earth if it were 100 times more violent and all of the boring animals (I’m looking at you, ground sloths) were replaced by machine guns. If the CGI industry were a boxing match, going up against Avatar would be like fighting a Kodiak bear made out of flamerthrowers. Over the course of over 200 glorious minutes, Avatar skillfully and systematically makes the entirety of the rest of the film industry look like a handy-cam Youtube video of cats using a litter box. With a pure, creamy blend of wildlife and sci-fi helicopter battles, the film perfectly captures the crossover market between a National Geographic special and Blackhawk Down, and is one of the most stunning movies ever made.

Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) is a crippled military contractor on Pandora, a lush jungle planet filled with more forest creatures and man-eating plants than a dorm bathroom. As an “Avatar” operator, Sully and others remotely control clones of the natives, a race of blue-skinned aliens called the Na’vi. While on a routine research mission, Worthington finds himself lost in the woods and captured by the locals, particularly a young huntress named Neytiri. Rather than exhibiting any of the standard reactions to being kidnapped by a tribe of oversized homicidal smurfs — screaming, weeping, furious voiding of the bowels — Worthington instead goes native by a tribe of oversized homicidal smurfs — screaming, weeping, furious voiding of the bowels — Worthington instead goes native by donning cloth, shooting some arrows and hopping on the back of a lizard was my fear of reading an entry level biology class: Once you're done learning about trees and animals, the ass kicking begins. Rather than allowing the film to devolve into a series of slow-motion crosses pulled: You get to see everything from flying lizard rides to gigantic insects to the (hilarious) consummation of cat-smurf-person romance. Avatar sucks you in with more power and enthusiasm than an airplane latrine, and by an hour into the film the only thing stopping me from pulling out my loincloth, shooting some arrows and hopping on the back of a lizard was my fear of reading the police report.

Avatar isn’t just about the nature show, however. In some ways, the film mirrors an entry level biology class. Once you've done learning about trees and animals, the ass kicking begins. Rather than allowing the film to devolve into a series of slow-motion garden scenes, Cameron shakes things up just like a Third World government: With a massive helicopter attack. What is especially striking about Cameron’s depiction of futuristic war is his sharp attention to every painstaking detail: The military unit stationed on Pandora uses helicopters, but they are different from modern day choppers in ways that are inherently plausible, allowing one to suspend disbelief and enjoy the superb gun fighting. James Cameron is a mastermind at creating real, compelling creatures from mundane subject matter (the Terminator from Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Alien from spray-painted PVC piping, the Titanic guy from Leonardo DiCaprio, and this care drops from every one of Avatar’s furry blue pores)

As is to be expected, however, Avatar does do its share of dabbling in cliches. The dialogue stumbles through the standard action flick fare of awkward dramatic processions and hyper-macho rambles, and Worthington’s warcries make him sound like a bachelors party attendee “Big bad cops in Avatars furry blue pores.”

Despite these foibles, however, Avatar does not cease to amaze for even a second. What really allows it to stand out is the fact that it goes the extra mile to actually become a Good movie. James Cameron didn’t have to make it a high-quality film: He could have foregone 1,000 Ferraris worth of special effects and would still be able to carpet all of Australia with his cash. Avatar didn’t need an epic score in an alien language which was entirely written for the film — in fact, a soundtrack consisting of nothing but Limp Bizkit songs might have sold even better. But it does have these have these sorts of seemingly unimportant details, and added up they do make a difference. James Cameron simply does not make movies with one-word titles which are not excellent, and Avatar is no exception. See it.

It’s particularly difficult to take inspiring speeches seriously when they’re delivered by someone who looks like a Disney mascot.

Zoe Saldana portrays the character Neytiri in James Cameron’s blockbuster, Avatar.
Genre in Review
Kurt Rosenwinkel Reflects in ‘Reflections’

By Samuel Markson
Mellen-Chase.com

Kurt Rosenwinkel Standards Trio
Reflections
Produced by Kurt Rosenwinkel
Wommusic
Released November 17, 2009

Mellency-esque in his versatility, yet aggressively dashing in his devotion to groove, Kurt Rosenwinkel is one of the most interesting and well-rounded guitarists on the scene today. Rosenwinkel seamlessly weaves together elements of funk, bop, classic rock, and modern composition (à la Ravel), producing works that are both innovative and listenable—the well-mannered wing of the avant-garde, if you will. His work may be haunting, joyful, melodic, or thoughtful, but it’s always modern, and ahead of the curve.

So it’s an odd step, at first glance, for him to put out an album composed entirely of standards and standard-inspired fare. Working with bassist Eric Revis and drummer Eric Harland, Rosenwinkel’s latest albums, Reflections, stays in the free book zone for most of its 50-minute journey. The trio pays heavy dues to Thelonious Monk and Wayne Shorter, as well as an earlier bop and Broadway-inspired ballad.

Fortunately it’s more than just paying dues, as Rosenwinkel is doing a lot more than reimagining old jingles. He is consciously examining and bending the familiar into a new form. This is no ode to the iconoclast, but a challenge to the imitator to imitate even better.

Rosenwinkel’s musical choices are notable. Shying away from the technical finesse of Parker, the aggressive insistence of Coltrane, Rosenwinkel emulates the more subtle tunes of Monk and Shorter—two musicians who, while renowned, were never part of any of a sonic “movement” as some of the other greats. It wasn’t that there was less sound, but that their sound was much harder to put on a finger. Ornette Coleman had free, Miles Davis had modal, etc. The hot gunk. But no music theorist ever had a good word for Monk. Because of that, Monk was always a lot less pretentious, and, behind his light-hearted exterior, a lot more difficult to grasp. Part cause of playing the jazz classic into another genre, harmony, but undeniably talented Rachel who steals the show. A musical prodigy who has an ego the size of her nose, Rachel is both the glue that holds the glee club together and the catalyst for many other events. The other half of the glee group is comprised of jocks and cheerleaders recruited after a turn of events. Glee has its roots in Trouble and Groove and consists of both equally talented and equally talented performers. The refreshing aspect of Glee is that the stereotypical high school set is embraced shamelessly but the plot carried out with such character and charm that the clichés are overshadowed.

At first glance, the series does seem rather unoriginal. I was unimpressed by the pilot episode in which the attractive McKinley High Spanish teacher, Will Schuester, hopes to revive the glee club, New Directions, to its former glory and begins recruiting members through some rather unscrupulous methods. There is a distinct social hierarchy carved out in McKinley High. It embraces all the teen clichés. McKinley’s jocks rule the school with an iron fist, their power only offset by the cheerleader squad, the principal’s pride and joy. As Sue Sylvester, the ex-cheerleading coach puts it, “[the glee club] is below the surface”. Since joining the glee club marks one as a social pariah (and often merits one a routine Slushy in the face), the gang of willing candidates is quite the hodgepodge.

To “draw from the popular rank,” Schuester blackmails the star quarterback, Finn Hudson ( Cory Monteith) into joining in. The rest of the series follows the glee club’s trials and tribulations. Along their path to Regionals, they face squabbling amongst each other and constant attempts by Sue Sylvester to end the glee club’s existence.

Along with the ragtag but lovable cast, the talent of Glee’s cast is undeniable. Lea Michele, who plays Rachel, actually starred in the controversial Broadway musical Spring Awakening. Many others in the cast also have Broadway experience. While the High School Musical cast have well-trained voices, there is a homogeneity in the style. The Glee actors bring a rawness and unbridled talent to the silver screen. Many of the New Direction numbers are remixes and mashups of pop songs.

Watching the glee kids do a rendition of “CrazyTrain” in wild wigs to integrate “hairography” is both hilarious and endearing.

Glee’s significance in the context of pop media is its ability to transcend age and gender. Let’s face it— most fans of High School Musical are pre-teens with schoolgirl crushes on Zac Efron. Glee succeeds through its variety-pack of characters and biting humor. It has set modern musicals on the popular culture map. I, amongst many others, always used to relate musicals to the likes of Les Miserables and other classics. Titled like Wicked and Spring Awakening are still not as associated to musicals. Glee makes musicals hip again. At the same time, the audience can relate to the base sentiments and struggles of the characters. Who hasn’t faced self doubts or anxieties?

Glee may not have the most original plotline, but its witty screenplay and undeniable talent justify its popularity. In the grand scheme of things, Glee overlooks many societal standards and forces us to scrutinize for both flaws and admirable traits in humans. It also excels in a satiric rendition of a high school comedy. Glee brings a grounded reality to a potentially fluffy story. For those who don’t want a dash of music, a smidgen of romance, and a lot of heart, Glee is a must-watch.
**Instructions:** Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

**Sudoku**

Solution on page 13

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The Science of Climate
Is Quite Political
MIT Panelists Tell Forum
Climatologist, from Page 1

how conclusions were reached across the public.

Pew says the answer lies in peer-reviewed literature, not blogs or opinion pieces.

Reliance on such sources may explain popular misconceptions about global warming. As an example, Prinn noted that the "popular view of global warming is it's all CO2."

Yet the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) lists the three major anthropogenic greenhouse gases, including methane and nitrous oxide. Emanuel also emphasized that water vapor significantly boosts the effects of CO2.

The panelists wholeheartedly agreed that the public needs to be exposed to more technical data, but could not settle on whether individuals should be exposed to information that conflicts with their own beliefs and whether it's asking too much of scientists to boil it down for them. Until then, mass media may be the primary source of climate change "science" for the public.

Politics

Layzer argued that, similar to the media, the policy process does not rely on the pure science.

According to Layzer, science must be viewed as a two-competing political story with a villain and a hero. The policy-making process consists of groups competing to provide the authoritative definition of the problem and a responsible solu-

In the case of climate change, one group advocates the risk of unchecked global warming and the need for government intervention while the other focuses on the economic backlash and questions the magnitude of the risk.

Layzer noted that once policy makers have defined a problem, they want to know what to do about it — not wait until scientists have removed the data and reached a definitive conclusion. Hence, scientists are forced to make value judgments.

As an example, Layzer asked what constitutes dangerous interference with the climate system. Emanuel asked what high the threat of severe climate change must be before we take action on global warming? Ten percent? Fifty percent?

Different values prompt different actions. "Now, the question is: how much of the risk is that we have no other planet to retreat to if anything happens to this one?" It's not like the good old days when we could head west. Meanwhile, Lindzen, who questions the statistical significance of temperature change attributed to human activity, expressed his impression that proposals which require cuts to government subsidies (like renewable energy).

Ironically, what has given the climate change movement a push are the potentiated policy debates because it's not an issue that you can accept with a lot of chemistry and re-

actions, Layzer explained. Instead that lack of abstract understanding is what scientists now lament.

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was surprised to see so many people seated. There must have been around 150 people when I walked in and nearly 200 by the time the talk finished. I had expected just a book signing—not a full-on presentation. I scanned the front of the room for Randall Munroe and realized that I hadn't actually prepared any sort of presentation, and just opened the floor to the audience.  

Venn diagram of geeks and nerds  

One of the first questions was "What's the difference between a geek and a nerd?" which resulted in Munroe trying to explain a Venn Diagram he had once seen on the internet about this concept and then refusing to use the blackboard to draw it out and using his tablet (hooked up to the video projector) to explain instead. The diagram involved a number of categories and was rather incomprehensible since it was messy, but Munroe promised to put up a clean version of the xkcd blag sometime soon.

On parenthetical emoticons  

Other audience members questioned varied from how early xkcd comics are finished before deadline (Munroe keeps a list of ideas for comics and sketches one out quickly if he doesn't come up with anything new) to how to put smiley faces in parenthesis (apparently we're all doomed to "double chinned" smileys :(

It's a "normal smiley" he said, and even rotated to the right orientation it was noticeably "not creepy." However, he pointed out, as soon as the smirky is turned slowly, it becomes very frightening. Whenever he was drawing, Munroe stopped talking completely, telling us afterwards that he can never talk while drawing. It's "something about the way the brain works" he said, gyrating at his head.

Making and breaking friendships  

Asked about the impact of some of his comics, Munroe cited comic 513, "Friends," about a friend who slowly inches into a romantic relationship. He mentioned that several readers e-mailed him who knew exactly what he was talking about, some who realized they were in such a relationship, and one man who knew he had done the same thing to his girlfriend and was "going to try his best" to make sure she didn't find out about the comic.  

His favorite part of the presentation was when Munroe was asked if he had ever intentionally screwed up a relationship. While the answer was no, he recalled a story about how a comic nearly screwed up a relationship:

On the night that comic 330, "Indecision," a comic about how indecision should ultimately end in sexual experimentation, was released, he had a first date with a girl and some friends. While the two of them were chatting in one room, the comic went live without Munroe thinking about it. Their friends in the other room saw the comic and eventually when Munroe opened the door, he found a bottle of Crisco behind it. Though he immediately realized the joke, he said that explaining to his date was "awkward" though fortunately she "took it in good humor."

Multi-hour waits for signing  

The presentation stopped at 7 p.m. so that the book signings could begin. Two enormous lines immediately formed—one to buy books and one to get books signed. I accidentally stood in the book signing line for 80 minutes without realizing it and had to switch to the other line. While it didn't take terribly long to buy a book, the line for a signing took considerably longer. We ended up getting our books signed around 9:30 p.m., and there was still a line stretching up the aisle of 26-100 and around the back. The long wait was due mostly to the fact that Munroe tried to speak to each fan while he signed their book, since everyone was "patient and waited in line for so long." He thanked every fan for waiting, was happy to take pictures with anyone who wanted one, and expressed concern that he was going to need to hurry in order to leave early to put the comic up.

"The people in the back are going to think I'm a jerk," he said when mentioning that he wasn't going to be able to give everyone as much personal attention as he would have liked. "That's really unfortunate." Though I went in for only one book for my friend, I ended up getting one for myself as well. MIT Press sold the books for $19.95 for freshmen. They made about $2,000 that night.  

Munroe ended up leaving 26-100 before midnight to put that night's comic, "Asshole," online. This is Munroe's second visit to MIT after his visit through LSC in 2007.
A decade-long lawsuit putting a tinfoil company called Convolve against Seagate Technology has taken an unexpected turn after a whistle-blower claimed that Seagate had appropriated Convolve technology and later destroyed evidence in the case.

The whistle-blower, a former Seagate employee named Paul A. Galloway, has provided what is described as “an eyewitness account” accusing Seagate of taking hard-drive technology from Convolve and incorporating it into its own products, according to documents filed recently with a federal court in Manhattan.

The court filings include claims by Galloway that Seagate, the world’s largest producer of computer hard drives, tampered with evidence tied to Convolve’s nearly 10-year-old patent infringement case against the company. The allegations are detailed in an affidavit filed by one of Convolve’s lawyers as part of an effort to reopen the case.

The patent infringement case between Convolve and Seagate dates to 2000, when Convolve and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology sued Seagate and Compaq Computer seeking $800 million over technology that reduced the noise and vibration generated by hard-disk drives, the devices often used to store information in personal computers and computer servers.

Researchers at MIT had developed techniques for reducing the noise of a hard drive without significantly impairing its performance. Convolve was formed to help market the technology that Seagate introduced in 2000 relying on Convolve’s sound reduction features, according to the affidavit.

According to court and regulatory filings, representatives from Convolve and Seagate met in 1998 and 1999 to discuss some of Convolve’s work, subject to an agreement that Seagate would not make improper use of what it learned in those discussions.

In 2000, Convolve sued Seagate and one of its customers, Compaq, claiming that the “sound barrier” technology that Seagate introduced in 2000 relied on Convolve’s sound reduction innovations.

In the nine years since then, Convolve and Seagate have exchanged hundreds of documents under court-ordered discovery and filed myriad legal motions against each other. The case had the complex record of any drawn-out corporate skirmish — until the affidavit detailing Galloway’s allegations was quietly filed early this month.

On Dec. 2, the court docket showed an affidavit by Debra Brown Steinberg, one of the lawyers at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft representing MIT and Convolve, asking the magistrate handling the case to allow the introduction of Galloway’s testimony.

In her motion, Steinberg declared that Galloway was an engineer at Seagate until July 2009, and that he had contacted Convolve’s lawyers after he left Seagate to discuss the continuing court battle. Galloway then agreed to submit a sworn affidavit, which was not available in the public record.

Steinberg said Galloway had disclosed that Seagate’s engineers began to zero in on improving the company’s sound reduction features only after the company had seen Convolve’s technology. The company engineers, however, were not informed that Seagate had a nondisclosure agreement with Convolve that should have protected the technology, according to the affidavit.

“I was deceived by my management’s failure to tell me that the Convolve technology discussed within Seagate was NDA protected,” stated Galloway, referring to the nondisclosure agreement, in a section of the affidavit reproduced by Steinberg.

“If I had known about Convolve’s NDA with Seagate, I would not have worked on competing technology.”

According to the filings, Gal- loway went on to say it appeared that Seagate had intentionally destroyed some of the software blueprints linked to products using the sound reduction technology.

Galloway claimed that the use of Convolve’s technology had been discussed extensively by Seagate’s engineers during meetings and that records of those meetings should be available. Galloway also said that Seagate had removed the computer on which his own notes about the technology were stored.

Woody Monroy, a Seagate spokesman, declined to comment on the matter. A spokesman for Hewlett-Packard, which now owns Compaq, declined to comment as well, but in the company’s public filings it has disclosed that Seagate was taking the lead in the litigation and had promised to indemnify Hewlett-Packard for certain claims included in the lawsuit, if necessary.

Galloway’s lawyer did not re- spond to a request for comment. According to court documents, Galloway previously was a witness for Seagate in the protracted litigation.

Convolve has also sued Dell, Hit- tachi and Western Digital in regard to similar technology. That case is pending in a U.S. District Court in Marshall, Texas.
Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between November 13 to December 31. The dates below reflect the dates incidents occurred. This information is compiled from the Campus Police's crime log. The report does not include alarms, general service calls, or incidents not reported to the dispatcher.

Oct. 1
Bldg. 32 (32 Vassar St.), 12:00 a.m., moped vandalized.
Nov. 3
Bldg. E25 (45 Carlton St.), 2:00 a.m., larceny of wireless keyboard and mouse.
Nov. 13
Bldg. W7 (75 Baker House), 9:00 a.m., larceny of bicycle.
Nov. 13
Bldg. 9 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 7:30 p.m., larceny of laptop.
Dec. 14
Bldg. E19 (400 Main St.), 12:00 a.m., larceny of tools from a vehicle in the Ford lot.
Dec. 15
Bldg. 46 (46 Vassar St.), 12:20 p.m., rape by battery wheel stolen.
Dec. 15
Bldg. 1 (35 Massachusetts Ave.), 11:45 a.m., report of broken window and larceny of items.
Dec. 16
Bldg. 13 (Massachusetts Ave.), 5:26 p.m., report of suspicious male in stairwell area making strange bad noises. Male arrested for trespassing. Fabio Armelio, homeless.
Dec. 17
Bldg. 9 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 11:00 p.m., larceny.
Dec. 18
Bldg. 14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 3:00 p.m., report of past larceny of a wallet at Hayden library.
Dec. 18
Bldg. 39 (160 Vassar St.), 7:00 p.m., larceny.
Dec. 19
Bldg. 33 (Massachusetts Ave.), 4:00 a.m., party stated that a door was open.
Dec. 20
Bldg. E25 (45 Carlton St.), 9:45 a.m., boots stolen.
Dec. 21
Bldg. W33 (120 Vassar St.), 12:00 a.m., larceny of backpack with a laptop inside.
Dec. 21
Bldg. 13 (Massachusetts Ave.), 2:32 a.m., larceny of laptop.
Dec. 21
Bldg. 9 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 10:57 a.m., larceny of video and digital camera.
Dec. 21
Bldg. W20 (Student Center), 5:00 p.m., larceny of laptop.
Dec. 24
Bldg. 1 (182. Memorial Dr.), 5:30 p.m., larceny of chairs.
Dec. 24
Bldg. 9 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 9:00 a.m., larceny of bicycle.
Dec. 23
Bldg. W20 (Student Center), 8:44 a.m., caller states a man was sleeping at a woman on the Sloan school plaza. Male had left area and accused the woman of brushing against his child while walking.
Nov. 29
Bldg. W20 (Student Center), 2:36 p.m., several calls received about an individual screaming at people. John Molinary (62 Waldeck St., Dorchester, Mass.) arrested for disorderly conduct, assault and battery, and other related charges.
Nov. 30
Bldg. W20 (Student Center), 5:15 p.m., report of suspicious man sleeping on people. Trespass warning issued.
Dec. 4
Bldg. 32 (32 Vassar St.), 11:30 a.m., report of two females and a white male shoplifting sand- wiches.
Dec. 1
Bldg. 7 (229 Vassar St.), 9:40 a.m., larceny of bicycle.
Dec. 1
Bldg. 35 (127 Massachusetts Ave.), 10:00 a.m., larceny of bicycle.
Dec. 1
Bldg. E51 (70 Vassar St.), larceny of computers from office.
Dec. 2
Bldg. W20 (Student Center), 1:00 p.m., larceny of iPod from unattended coat.
Dec. 9
Bldg. 9 (105 Massachusetts Ave.), 12:30 p.m., larceny of laptop from an office.
Dec. 9
Bldg. 68 (31 Memorial Dr.), 2:30 p.m., larceny of credit card.
Dec. 9
Bldg. W34 (120 Vassar St.), 2:12 a.m., two males arrested for malicious destruction of property. Aaron Shafiee (33 Gainsboro St., Apt. 301B, Boston, Mass.) and L Kai Laota Sandova (33 Gainsboro St., Apt. 301B, Boston, Mass.) arrested for trespassing.

October 13, 2009

MIT Rejects Nearly Twice as Many Early Applicants, Less False Hope

Early Action, from Page 1

continuing a six-year upward trend. Last year, 25 percent of early applic- ants jumped 28 percent. More students are applying early, Schmill said, and a larger proportion are applying early.

The 590 students who were ad- mitted early have a demographic profile similar to MIT’s total applicants. Forty-seven percent are women, and 27 percent are minority- ties. While 7 percent of the students are first-generation students, 28 percent of their families go to college.

This year’s applicants were the first to experience the new applica- tion format. In keeping with one of its goals — to catch up on missed connections, they unfairly benefit early applicants more than ever — 50 more than last year. Since plans to implement an early admittance system at MIT until completing the new undergraduate dormitory at W1, the

MIT’s early action program is the spring for better financial aid of- fers. MIT’s early action program is non-binding, so admitted students can still apply to other colleges. Un- certainty about getting in or getting financial aid may be causing students to apply to more colleges, driv- ing up applicant numbers and driv- ing down admission rates.

Many other schools also got more early applicants. Stanford re- ceived 4 percent more applicants for its own non-binding early ac- ceptance program. And a binding early decision program, saw a 31 percent gain. Columbia, Cornell and Dartmouth had milti- ed increases of a couple percentage points each.

On the other hand, the number of applicants for Yale’s early action pro- gram fell by five percent. Yale does not allow its early applicants to apply early to any other schools.

Harvard, Princeton and the Uni- versity of Virginia are among the select few colleges that have ended their early admissions programs, out of concern that they draw wealthier or more admissions- savvy students.

The earlier version of this article ran online on The Tech’s website on December 17, 2009.

Electing Student Woes, Mishaps, and Missed Connections Bring In New Site Traffic

If EM EL, from Page 1

MIT FML and I Saw You MIT are not used exclusively by MIT stu- dents. Besides the IP address on the website, the poster must say that record this year. There is reason to question whether the lists generate made-up scenarios to mock the sites. Alejandro J. Ruiz ’12, a soph- omore physics major, found it hard to believe that both MIT FML and I Saw You MIT could be a story.

“I posted around three fake po- sitions,” said Ruiz. “I like that I Saw You MIT doesn’t allow you to post anything more awkward and easier to trivialize.”

Another student, who requested to remain anonymous, said that the site was being abused by some of the most popular among the groups at MIT, posting 36 percent, followed closely by the class of 2013, who posted 23 percent. And the best place for spotting people at MIT is the bathroom.

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Hon set up the website and formed a team of collaborators including Tim Shumaugh ’12, and Anthony J. Morelli ’12. Hon is also the one who they are post- ing to, it’s a place to post missed con-
MIT’s 50-year-old nuclear reactor, one of only three US research facilities not run by the Department of Energy that still use material that could also be used to make atomic bombs, will probably not be converted to use a safer fuel for at least five years because of technical difficulties, according to a recent government report obtained by the Globe.

That means the reactor on the university’s Cambridge campus, originally slated for fuel conversion by 2014, will continue to pose a strategic liability for US officials, who are strongly urging other countries around the world — including Iran — to forego the civilian use of highly enriched uranium to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

MIT views the delays, outlined in a November report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as “unfortunate, if unavoidable.”

“We would like to get this particular monkey off our back because it is not helpful for public relations,” said David Moncton, the nuclear reactor laboratory’s director.

The US government has spent millions of dollars in recent years helping other nations convert their civilian reactors from using highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium, but new standards and regulations in the US have been moving at a snail’s pace.

And President Obama is expected to seek further commitments next year from foreign nations to phase out highly enriched uranium from civilian reactors.

But while the Department of Energy set a goal of 2014 to switch the MIT reactor to the lower-grade fuel, that commitment is not likely to be met, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, largely because the MIT facility needs a special kind of nuclear fuel that can produce sufficient high density core — fuel that will take many years to develop and certify before it can be manufactured in sufficient quantities.

“To meet the 2014 deadline, we will need to secure the agreement of the MIT reactors and the Department of Energy, which is over the seeing the development of the new fuel, is ‘working towards establishing commercial capability, but it will not be ready by the 2014 conversion deadline.’

A Department of Energy spokesman said, “We can get basically equivalent performance as the current fuel — even if the reactor is shut off,” said Matthew Bunn, a professor at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and author of “Securing the Bomb,” saying that government regulations do not require MIT to meet the same security guidelines as the plant that provides new fuel rods to the reactor several times a year.

The other main issue is the double standard the MIT reactor poses for other civilian reactors that may be used for commercial purposes, according to a government report obtained by the Globe.

A congressional commission recently cited the conversion of such civilian research reactors as a critical step to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons material worldwide, noting that other countries’ concerns about the safety of their reactors if the US continues to use highly enriched uranium.

A Department of Energy spokesman urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to revoke the licenses of the US facilities if they don’t meet the 2014 deadline.

The concerns come at a time when the United States and its allies are trying to persuade Iran to give up its uranium enrichment program, contending that if it only seeks civil-

Terrorists Could Target Reactor; MIT Delays Conversion of Fuel

By Bryan Bender

The Boston Globe

December 23, 2009

The US government has spent millions of dollars in recent years helping other nations convert their civilian reactors from using highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium, but new standards and regulations in the US have been moving at a snail’s pace. And President Obama is expected to seek further commitments next year from foreign nations to phase out highly enriched uranium from civilian reactors.

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### UA Finboard Releases Winter/IAP Funding Results

#### Top 10 Amounts Requested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Requested</th>
<th>Granted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gospel Choir</td>
<td>$5,400</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Ensemble</td>
<td>$565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Students Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roadkill Buffet</td>
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<td>Resident Student Association</td>
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<td>Volunteer Services and Leadership Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equestrian Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flying Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Development Consulting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Campus Ministries</td>
<td>$360</td>
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</tbody>
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#### Groups Receiving 100% of Requested Funding

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillel</td>
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<td>Associated Students of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists</td>
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<td>ASAPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swara</td>
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<td>Bhangra</td>
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<td>Biomedical Engineering - Biomedical Engineering Society</td>
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<td>Establishing Access to Secondary Education</td>
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**The Undergraduate Association Finance Board (Finboard) released its allocations to student groups for the IAP-Spring joint funding period in early December.**

Finboard is chaired by Danielle J. Wang '11, and the following students also sit on it: Cynthia A. Boudrieck '11, Sammy Che '10, Alexander W. Dehnhert '12, Jarrell D. Johnson '10, Keone D. Hon '11, Catherine A. Olson '12, Sunil Sundaram '13, and Emily Zhao '12.

Full funding information and historical information is available at [http://ua.mit.edu/committees/finboard/](http://ua.mit.edu/committees/finboard/).
Members of MIT Debate Team Win National and Intl Awards

By Danielle Gorman

For their fourth consecutive year, the duo of Kathleen A. Clark-Adams ’10 and Adam J. Goldstein ’10 have been winning significant awards for the MIT Debate Team on a circuit that emphasizes political, public policy related, and philosophical topics. Similarly, Goldstein and Bill H. Magnuson ’09 have had enormous success at international tournaments, which use the British Parliamentary (BP) format of debates.

The MIT Debate Team is the only consistently active technology school in the American Parliamentary Debat e Association (APDA), a debate league that includes almost 50 universities, and by producing some of the top debaters in the world. Goldstein, this year’s ADPA president, was the top speaker this year at Oxford University and competed in tournaments with Magnuson. At Cambridge University last year, Goldstein and Magnuson were the first place team. This year, Goldstein and Magnuson competed in Cambridge’s semifinals and received individual speaker awards.

Since September, Clark-Adams has earned eight individual speaker awards on APDA, while Goldstein has won seven. Thus far this year, Clark-Adams and Goldstein have won six major tournament awards. The pair, currently ranked fifth in the league with total points of 37.5, plan to bat- tle for the title of APDA Team of the Year. They are currently trailing the top team by 19 points and the second team by 88-61 to Harvard. The Engineers, ranked number 22 nationally, fell to the Crimson pulled away with runs of 20-6 and 16-4 in the second half. MIT couldn’t match its opponent in the paint (being outscored 54-18) and had 11 shots blocked. Harvard’s bench also outscored MIT’s 43-7. Tech’s next game will be at Tufts on January 9th.

---David Zhu, Sports Editor

Brown Collects All-America, ECAC Accolades

For the second year in a row, Deon M. Brown ’10 was named a D3football.com All-American. Brown earned Honorable Mention All-American honors for the season last year and was one of five players from the New England Football Conference to make the cut. Brown picked up MIT’s 11th All-America honor and became the fourth player in the program’s history to graduate with a pair of awards.

Brown also represented the Engineers on the East-coast College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Northeast All-Star Team. The selection was the 25th for the Cardinal and Gray and first since Keith G. Reed ‘04 in 2003.

---Mindy Braun, IMPER Staff

Harvard Hands First Loss To Men’s Basketball

MIT Men’s basketball suffered its first loss of the season last week, 88-61 to Harvard. The Engineers, ranked number 22 nationally, fell to 11-1. Harvard was in control the entire game. MIT stayed close early with strong three-point shooting, but the Crimson pulled away with runs of 20-6 and 16-4 in the second half.

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---David Zhu, Sports Editor

Upcoming Home Events

Friday, January 8
Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving vs. Wheaton College
5 p.m., Z-Center Pool

Saturday, January 9
Men’s and Women’s Track and Field – Alumni Meet
12 p.m., Johnson Track

Women’s Basketball vs. Smith College
2 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Tuesday, January 12
Squash vs. Amherst College
1 p.m., Z-Center Courts

March 31, 2010

by Ashley Borrman

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