The Year in Review 2009

Economic Crisis Hits MIT, Necessitates Budget Cuts Throughout the Institute

By Maggie Lloyd and Vinayak Ranade

This past year, MIT saw sweeping budget cuts in response to the national economic crisis. In fact, the total economic impact on MIT’s Institute Budget is $1.2 billion, or 20.7 percent of MIT’s expenses. The cuts were made in response to a sudden decline in value due to the financial crisis and had little preparation. The cuts were made immediately and included a $150 million reduction, more than $10 billion in value during FY2009 from slightly over $8 billion to $8 billion. The original proposal to avoid a major Institute deficit was to reduce expenses by up to $150 million over two to three years, but this plan was changed to up to $130 million over the next two fiscal years.

MIT’s response to long-term financial issues came in the form of the Institute-Wide Planning Task Force. In February, the Task Force began meeting and forming recommendations that would cut costs and generate revenue. Approximately 200 faculty, staff, and students made up the group, which is divided into nine working groups that focused on specific areas within the Institute, such as Education, Research, and Office of Sponsored Research.

MIT Police Officer Arrested on Charges of Drug Trafficking

By Meghan Nelson

The MIT Policefound one of its officers, Joseph D’Amelio, arrested for drug trafficking in mid-March. The eventual fallout led to the dismissal of D’Amelio, and, separately, the dismissal of another officer in response to an Advanced Automotive store in Eastern Boston. That night a Donald Smoot (no relative to the famed Oliver R. Smoot ’62) went to an Advanced Automotive store in East Boston to pick up a package sent to him from Florida. The Massachusetts State Police had already been informed by Federal Express about the package, as part of a sting operation under which officer D’Amelio was arrested.

D’Amelio was arrested on March 14 after allegedly receiving a package containing 340 OxyContin pills and 500 Roxicodone tablets. That night a Donald Smoot (no relation to the famed Oliver R. Smoot ’62) went to an Advanced Automotive store in Eastern Boston to pick up a package sent to him from Florida. The Massachusetts State Police had already been informed by Federal Express关于the package, as part of a sting operation under another officer who was dumbfounded by the entire thing. Smoot was then arrested, and claimed that D’Amelio was a drug customer and example of true cooperation with other agencies. The saga began when D’Amelio and his cousin Anthony Cristallo were arrested March 14 after allegedly receiving a package containing 340 OxyContin pills and 500 Roxicodone tablets. That night a Donald Smoot (no relation to the famed Oliver R. Smoot ’62) went to an Advanced Automotive store in Eastern Boston to pick up a package sent to him from Florida. The Massachusetts State Police had already been informed by Federal Express about the package, as part of a sting operation under which officer D’Amelio was arrested. That night a Donald Smoot (no relation to the famed Oliver R. Smoot ’62) went to an Advanced Automotive store in Eastern Boston to pick up a package sent to him from Florida. The Massachusetts State Police had already been informed by Federal Express about the package, as part of a sting operation under which officer D’Amelio was arrested.

MIT Campus Police officer Joseph D’Amelio was arrested on March 14 on drug trafficking charges after receiving a package containing 340 OxyContin pills and 500 Roxicodone tablets at an auto shop in East Boston. D’Amelio was formally fired in early April.

Demands for More Student Input Characterize Year in Dining Reform

By Yuliya Pregger

In 2009 marked a continued push for greater transparency and accountability in the administration of the dining reform process. Proposals maintained a delicate balancing act between the need to address student concerns and to slash the rising deficits of the dining system.

Leaked report

The year opened with a student’s covert discovery of the preliminary report from Envisage Strategies — the consulting firm hired by the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee. The Blue Ribbon Dining Committee, comprised of students and administrators, was appointed in February 2007 to analyze MIT’s dining situation and make recommendations for improvements.

Students offered a mixed response to the actual contents of the report: all can eat (AYCE) dining halls, expanded service hours, higher minimum contributions and mandatory meal plans. A vocal minority opposed the mandatory meal plans, while some anticipated the introduction of AYCE dining and a breakfast option.

However, the concealment of the report led to unfiltered criticism from the Undergraduate Association, culminating in a demand for the dissolution of the BBC.

Karen A. Nilsson, the Senior Associate Dean for Residential Life, defended her acquisition of an advance copy, citing the need to ensure that the consultants adhered to the committee’s instructions. Nilsson and fellow administrators Dona M. Denoncourt, the Associate Dean of Residential Life, and Constantino Colombo, the Dean for Student Life, didn’t wish to waste the committee’s time by presenting members with a report which failed to meet the requirements, she said.

New dining committee

In the bill calling for the dissolution of the BBC, the UA also established the Dining Proposal Committee (DPC) in an attempt to give students greater say in the decision-making process. The UA intended to keep the committee more attuned to student concerns by focusing on the results of a 2008 survey of the student body; they emphasized that the consultants failed to do this in recommending a mandatory dining plan.

Over 100 students attended an information session by DAPER on April 7 at the Johnson Ice Rink on the decision to cut varsity teams at MIT. A Q&A followed a presentation on the necessity of the cuts.
Obama Visits MIT, Pushes Clean Energy

By Jessica J. Poulan

On October 23, 2009, President Barack Obama came to MIT to speak about clean energy and the Recovery Act. He also toured several Institute labs that are working on energy issues.

Due to a limited number of tick- ets, very few students were actually able to attend the speech. About 200 tickets were made available for stu- dents, faculty, and staff that deans of each school were allowed to distribute within their departments.

During his speech in Kresge Audi- torium, President Obama commended MIT for its "extraordinary energy re- search" and urged Americans to take technology as cleaner energy leaders.

After President Susan J. Hock- field’s introduction, Obama began his speech with a light-hearted joke: "It’s always a dream of mine to visit the most prestigious school in Cambridge, Massachusetts," he said, making fun of his alma mater. After a pause, he added “hold on a second — certainly the most prestigious school in this part of Cambridge, Massachus- setts. In his speech, Obama encouraged a "peaceful competition" between the United States and other countries to develop clean technologies first.

"The nation that wins this com- petition will be the nation that leads the global economy. I am convinced of that, and I want America to be that nation," he said.

In addition, the president also threw up his hands behind the Recovery Act, and stated that the bills intended to push America toward green jobs and research. The act gave the "largest single boost in scientific research in history." The bill also gave $88 billion for efforts to create alternative energy and energy efficiency.

In addition, Obama advocated the Senate climate change bill, which he said would "transform our energy system into one that’s far more ef- ficient, far cleaner."
The bill would introduce a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emissions. Obama’s speech lasted only about 20 minutes. Afterwards, he left to at- tend a fundraiser for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Senate Minority Leader John Kerry (D-Mass.) were both in attendance.

Both in his speech, Hockfield and MIT Energy Initiative Director Ernest J. Moniz introduced Obama through several laboratories currently working on energy issues.

Despite the investigation, the students of Burton Third, wish to issue a sincere apology, writing "We, the students of Burton-Conner, that the dorm will be billed for the cost of the investigation. However, Baker told this reporter that "We are not aware that a bill was issued."

After the investigation, some students at Burton Third have yet to be acted upon, several residents of Burton-Conner that the magnitude proposed by the DPC.

The BRC proposed $600. Furthermore, the proposed allowance would include meals with dorm dinners to opt out of the declining balance program.

The DPC managed to release a fi- nal proposal in early May 2009 for a $500 declining balance plan, which was expelled from the Interfraternity Council (IFC) — and from MIT — in September. An incident in May 2009 that included "underage consumption" and a "failure to provide emergency

MIT’s chapter of Alpha Tau Ome- ga had a trying year in 2009. After losing its housing license in sum- mer 2008, the fraternity was granted a housing license for six occupants for the 2008-2009 academic year.

By coincidence, a protest held on Killian court to form themselves into a "350" shape to represent the amount of carbon diox- ide emitted per person in the year 2005, was expelled from the MIT Climate Change Task Force. They also cited being here and seeing these extraordinary young people and the extraordinary leadership of Professor Heckfield because it taps into some- thing essential about America’s future: the duty of doing good for our children and everyone who will come after us.

By Pearle Lipinski

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President Barack Obama’s limousine transported him from Building 13 to Kresge Auditorium via Mem- orial Drive for his address at Kresge Auditorium on Oct. 23.

In 2008, Burton Third hung a silhouette of a bomb, with a sign that read "Dance ‘Til You Drop," on the lawn in front of Burton-Conner. The groups agreed that MIT should replace it with a declining balance program, which would supplant them.

The quote then read that "Dance ‘Til You Drop" party hosted by the Burton 3rd Bombers.

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The kidnappers of ATO, an MIT fraternity, have removed their group from the campus after they were accused of a sexual assault on a freshman. The kidnappers, who are demanding $75,000 in ransom, have taken control of the fraternity and are currently preventing any students from entering or leaving the house.

According to the kidnappers, they have taken control of the fraternity due to the sexual assault on their member, who is a freshman at MIT. The victim, who is currently in the hospital, has accused the fraternity members of sexual assault, and the kidnappers have demanded that the fraternity members be expelled and that the fraternity be closed.

The kidnappers have posted a list of demands on the fraternity's website, which include the expulsion of all fraternity members and the closure of the fraternity. They have also threatened to release the victim if their demands are not met.

The MIT Police Department has been working with the kidnappers to negotiate a resolution to the situation. They have offered to meet with the kidnappers to discuss their demands, but the kidnappers have refused to engage in any negotiations.

The situation has引起了广泛关注 on campus and in the broader community. Students and faculty have expressed concern for the safety of the victim and for the future of the fraternity. The MIT administration has also expressed its concern for the situation and has offered its support to the victim and her family.

Meanwhile, the kidnappers have continued to hold their demands, and the situation remains unresolved. The MIT Police Department continues to work with the kidnappers to bring about a peaceful resolution to the situation.

One of the kidnappers, speaking to a reporter, said: "We will release the victim if our demands are met. These demands are reasonable, and we expect the administration to take action to meet them. If not, we will continue to hold her hostage until our demands are met."
Beyond the devious few who scheme that their nation’s capital is nothing but a cesspool to be gutted and left to rot, we are led to believe that Obama’s plan for energy independence and revitalizing the economy. But beyond MIT, some of the most conservative districts in the south, gun-toting, flag-waving, pickup-driving Democrats have been challenging the liberal incumbents. Four states with significant numbers of white voters—Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming—will host competitive gubernatorial races this year.

The GOP will be able to make gains if it can attract a political groundswell that doesn’t cling to the party. Both states will have a Senate race this year: Nevada is in the hands of incumbent Harry Reid, who has seen his approval ratings plummet, while Bob Filner in California has a shot at holding on to his seat.

For the GOP, it really wasn’t that bad of an election, considering the circumstances. Anti-incumbent, corruption, scandal, and mismanagement of affairs both at home and abroad. Republicans still managed to pull in 45.7% of the popular vote. That they did so is a testament to the enduring conservatism of America’s electoral landscape.

Still, by historical comparison, the 2008 election was a monumental blow to the Republican Party. For the first time in more than three decades, a Democratic presidential candidate won more than half of the vote (52.9%). 59% of the House and Senate are Democrats—arguably providing a nearly unassailable majority. The recent troubles of Blagojevich and Richardson notwithstanding, the Democrats had a governor in Illinois and governor- elects in 28-22. For at least two years, Republicans will be fighting an uphill battle to stave off a taken opposition to the Democratic agenda.

What is the path back to power for the GOP? Many conservative pundits have advocated a return to conservative roots, arguing that, if anything, the party should move to the right to solve its electability issues. This truly is an odd position to take, made even odder by the seeming consensus that is developing around the vote. The election of November 4, 2009 was the year that nations began the herculean task of picking up the pieces of a failed banking and financial system. The G20 Summit in Pittsburgh had established the economic forum of the US; the only notion of the current era that is the US is the only one that is truly formidable on a global scale. But just like we can on campus, if we want to solve our problems, we can’t do it. We need to sit them on the table, and let them talk.

The Year in Review 2009

The leak of a draft consultants’ report to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining clearly signals a desire to divest the undergraduate community of its rights.

The report’s findings suggest that the undergraduate community has lost its faith in the system. They feel as if the cards are stacked against them. What remains on the election is the growing regionalism of the country. The specter of budget cuts, task forces, and the need to fix the undergraduate dining system has already responded with loud and fairly conspicuous protest in Lobby at 77. The draft report has not even been formally released, yet the undergraduate community has lost its faith in the system.

The Blue Ribbon Committee has been bogged down by problems long before the election. It has been leveled that the committee does not adequately represent large segments of the campus population and that student members have been stripped of its knowing detailed reports of the Blue Ribbon Committee. The report and records have been equally difficult to come by. This has led to a feeling of information fear and concern.

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Three Myths about the
President’s Budget

David A. Weinberg

The President’s budget has elicited a vicious backlash from conservative pundits, one that I think is worth addressing head-on. Here are three key myths about the budget that have gained traction among Republicans in recent years.

Myth #1: This is European-style socialism.

One-time Republican standard-bearer and possible 2012 presidential contender Newt Gingrich grilled the outlines of President Obama’s budget “the holiest effort to create a European socialist model we have seen.” It is true that the proportion of gross domestic product spent by the government is set to climb to forty percent in the coming fiscal year. This is substantively closer than ever before to the roughly forty-seven percent of GDP spent by the European Union over the past decade.

However, the undisputed cause of this jump is the federal effort to save our economy, not Obama’s support for new federal programs in areas such as energy, education, or health care. If this question is one of values, then it is a value unshared not only by President Obama but also by his predecessors, who led the initial effort to pass the economic stimulus and bank bailout packages.

Further, we should recall that Bushional ran for office on a platform of tying people’s hands behind their backs and declaring that the market would do all the work. If the free market isn’t the answer, then what is worth addressing head-on. Here are three key myths about the budget that have gained traction among Republicans in recent years.

Myth #2: We need a spending freeze.

House Minority Leader Rep. John Boehner has called for a federal spending freeze in order to “show these people we’re serious about holding the line on spending.” He has explained that “if you look around the country, our economy is struggling. American families are tightening their belts. But they don’t see government tightening itself.”

However, a federal spending freeze is a gimmick. As morally satisfying as it might feel to cut off Washington fat cats in a year when Americans face such difficult financial circumstances, it is a formula for economic disaster. When market demand cramps as drastically as it has in recent months, only the federal government can step in and jump-start demand quickly enough to get most Americans back to work again.

That is why Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman PhD ’72 calls Boehner’s proposal downright idiotic: “that’s not a retrogression to Herbert Hoover; even Hoover knew better than that.”

Myth #3: All we need is better regulation.

Conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer calls Obama’s new budget priorities “the greatest con is easier than the American people.” He argues that, because the crisis was not triggered by a lack of spending in these areas, boosting spending now will only prolong it: “health, education, and energy — worthy and weighty as they might be — are not the cause of our financial collapse. And they are not the cure.”

Certainly, the immediate cause of this crisis had nothing to do with health, education, or energy — it was triggered by negligent financial regulation and a mad rush to help risky buyers purchase houses that they could not afford. However, simply tightening the regulatory system is not going to fix this crisis. Deficit spending is, and that makes it the cure. But not all sectors are created equal. These are strategic industries that will make American more competitive than the road and also serve as ideal focal points for employment promotion today.

All three are areas in which America has enormous comparative advantages. Our health care system — in spite of letting far too many fall through the cracks — also offers the best top-of-the-line medical treatment in human history. Our education system is home to the best universities in the world (including the best technical university, of course), and, despite our dependence on imported fossil fuels, for the time being America holds a remarkable edge in the field of energy technology.

All three of these are industries that are undeniably poised for long-term global growth. They are humanity’s frontiers, and they can provide a solid foundation for employing America’s workforce in the future if we devote adequate attention to them.

Heaven forbid, they might change American society for the better.

Insuring the uninsured — especially during a time of spiraling unemployment — is a moral imperative that we should address, and it doesn’t need to cost too much. Ending America’s addiction to foreign oil is the right thing to do — for our national security and for our environment. And renewing our commitment to educational excellence and equality is something that we members of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology should understand.

David A. Weinberg is a graduate student in the Department of Political Science. This column first appeared in The Tech on March 10, 2009.

No Choice for Police

Michael McGraw-Herdeg

MIT police probably would not have called in the fire department to inspect a bomb-shaped concrete hemisphere on Kresge Oval if someone had taken responsibility for it before or immediately after they put it up.

The Burton Third Bombers now face the possibility of avoidable MIT’s costs for the incident — potentially thousands of dollars — if Cambridge decides to change the Institute for its efforts in ensuring the hemisphere was harmless. Students claimed the “bomb” as theirs in discussions with housemasters and Senior Associate Dean for Students Barbara A. Baker, said Burton-Conner housemaster Merritt Roe Smith. But those claims came mid-Friday morning, long after police had called in the Cambridge authorities, who called in the city’s bomb squad.

Police weren’t told in advance of the “bomb” actually a party advertisement. No note was left explaining what it was or how to take it down, and no one was around to say it was theirs in the early Friday morning hours after it went up.

The “bomb” was actually a concrete hemisphere with a rope “fuse” and metal stakes affixed to it for theground. It was painted with the letters “DTYD” to advertise the 40th “Dance Till You Drop” party, held by the Burton Third Bombers, the third floor of the Burton half of Burton-Conner Hall.

Just before 4 a.m. on the morning of Friday, April 24, MIT police eyed the bomb, tipped off by Tech photographer Eric D. Schmiedl ’09 at about 3 a.m. that there was something strange on the lawn. Schmiedl asserted he described it as a “fake concrete bomb,” but MIT police only recall being told to look at it.

Police called MIT Facilities to ask for help removing the hemisphere, to avoid a flood of concerned phone calls to the Cambridge Police. MIT police were pretty sure that the hemisphere was harmless, and no way to remove it, police called in the fire department to make sure that the bomb was harmless. The Cambridge Fire Department was called at about 5 a.m.; the bomb squad arrived by 4:48 a.m.; and the all-clear was given about two hours later.

In the end, it took a fire truck, a winch, and a long chain to pull the concrete hemisphere out of the ground.

Better outcomes were likely if MIT police made the call rather than have someone else do so, DiFava said. “Do we call the fire department or does someone else call?”

Still, MIT might not have called Cambridge if students had been available to explain the item, DiFava said.

What about the contention that police should have known the bomb’s marking, “DTYD,” was a party registered to the Bombers that evening, and called the Bombers themselves? Students should take responsibility for their hacks, DiFava said. “How far are we supposed to go?”

The day of the hack, MIT dean Barbara Baker told the Bombers that MIT would be get a bill and the Bombers would pay it. Rumors have swirled that it could reach tens of thousands of dollars, a number which “buckling” craze David M. Barber said didn’t sound unreasonable for a multi-hour many-person effort.

But if any bill comes, it will be as part of MIT’s annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes, a payment negotiated in part based on the value of city of Cambridge servicesrendered to the largely tax-exempt university.

No decision has yet been reached about how much, if anything, MIT will be billed for the bomb squad action.

“This was definitely a hack — a misunderstanding,” said Roe Smith.

Next time... advance warning!

The bomb squad might not have gotten called in if the MIT Police had known ahead of time about a possible public “bomb,” DiFava said. “Elena said she didn’t say he wanted students to run all hacks by him. But they should take responsibility for their actions and for their hacks, he said. “Students should feel comfortable talking to the Campus Safety officers about ideas that involve public displays which could be misinterpreted,” he said.

“Students need to realize that there are people in the police department that they can trust,” DiFava said. He said he could be one such person: “Chief, there’s an idea that we’ve been working on...”

“...We’re here as a resource,” he said.

This column originally appeared in The Tech on May 8, 2009.

Tech Illustrations of the Year

Illustrations of the Year

The Ye a r i n r e v i e w 2009:

Sarah M. McDermott

The Tech

Illustrations of the Year

Sarah M. McDermott — The Tech

Illustrations of the Year

Sarah M. McDermott — The Tech

Illustrations of the Year

Sarah M. McDermott — The Tech
(top of center) Twenty-one people participated in an attempt to break the “mattress dominoes” world record. The attempt on Sept. 1 in Lobby 7 and the Infinite Corridor was organized by Admissions blogger Michael J. Snively ’11. Unfortunately, they didn’t beat the Guinness World Record of 80 mattresses.

(clockwise from top-right)
Ece Gulsen G receives an influenza vaccine at MIT Medical’s student-only flu clinic in the Student Center on Oct. 15. All 1000 doses reserved for the day were used. There was more preventative activity against the flu this past year due to the global H1N1 “swine flu” pandemic.

While wearing a brassiere over his mouth, Professor of Physics Wolfgang Ketterle, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2001, gives two thumbs up to the winner of this year’s Ig Nobel Public Health Prize on Oct. 1. The winner, Dr. Elena N. Bodnar, created a bra that can be taken off and used as a “gas mask” in the event of an emergency. The Ig Nobel Prizes, held annually at Harvard University, are awarded to scientists for “achievements that first make people laugh, then think.”

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, addresses a packed Kresge Auditorium on April 30 at the inaugural event of The Dalai Lama Center of Ethics and Transformative Values, a venture under MIT’s Office of Religious Life.

Reena L. Joubert ’13 awaits the arrival of President Obama in front of 77 Mass. Ave on Oct. 23. Hundreds lined Mass. Ave. hoping to catch a glimpse of the President, only for his motorcade to pass along Memorial Dr. The Presidential visit focused on advancing his national energy agenda.

Workers began grinding the marble chunk-infused floor of the Media Lab extension’s central atrium on Nov. 2, which is now polished to a glossy finish. The expanse of interconnected airspaces surrounding the atrium necessitated smoke curtains (left) for emergency air evacuation, shown here closed for testing. The Media Lab extension opened in early December.

Michael P. Roberts ’11, captain of the MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team, unveils the team’s latest solar car, named Eleanor, on Feb. 27. The car competed in the 2009 World Solar Challenge in October, placing second in the “Silicon Class” and fifth overall out of 38 teams in the 3,021 kilometer race.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick spoke to graduating students at MIT’s 2009 Commencement exercises on June 5 in Killian Court.

Students with the courtyard campus association protest mandatory meal plans.
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Carmel R. Dudley ’11 paints a banner reading “No Mandatory Dining / Let Us Choose!” that was hung in Lobby 7 during the Campaign For Students protest on Feb. 17. Students were protesting because of a leaked draft dining proposal from an outside consultant that recommended mandatory meal plans.

Students on campus scored a nutritional victory this year with the new weekly produce market at the East Campus courtyard. The service was made possible by the Undergraduate Division of Student Life, MIT Residential Life, and MIT Campus Dining.
The Year in Arts: Taking Our Minds Off the Recession

The year 2009 was one of recuperation and recovery. The country was climbing its way out of economic recession but the crawl was slow. Recovery. The country was climbing its way out of recession. Big-budget blockbusters included... like... familiar pop songs. Artists that took 2009's pop music scene by the sweet Taylor Swift and Disney's trouble child... electric pop take on their usual R&B. A new Black-Eyed Peas made a comeback with an... to mainstream culture. The latter part of the 2000s saw a revival of the punk phase, but lacking the fluffy popness of the 90s. The industry or films that tapped into the human con...

The Year in Movies

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince—Never did they think... Daniel Radcliffe would top out at five-foot-six. Moon—Dear Mr. Moon Man: Are you insane or a clone? Kevin Spacey knows. Up in the air—Best film of the year... captures regression zertigend through product placement. Star Trek—Anyone notice... they killed the hot green alien? Who will Kirk bone now? Avatar—Take Pocahontas—Give natives pony blue tails out comes Avatar. Transformers, Revenge of the Fallen—Painful. Megan Fox didn't notice, not that she cares. G.I. Joe—It's plastic's acting from favorite action figures... oh the irony. Illnegro Bastards—Tarinemo serves—Infamous fan with his band to the head. District 9—Funny accent guy—doesn't have much to offer. The guy who drank too much is puking his guts out we'll find ourselves pouring out our hearts while we're watching him wretch in the toilet; and then she'll say he's drunk on...—MLF

Grizzly Bear Veckatimest—Named after a tiny, uninhabitable island off Cape Cod. Frontman Daniel Rossen's song-writing and... to popular culture. The band's song long to release: instantly successful with wide appeal, yet not causing a rift with their existing fans. A simple hook... chords and some electric looping, the... in ads? Booo. Phoenix. Why can't I listen to this album? December—Cirt out of New York, you crazy French Petit depanning impertinent span. —Oh

Cassette Mother. Dark Sparkle—Her third solo work, Middle Cyclone, continues Neko Case's successful engagement with... western music. Bringing one of the most thoughtful minds in rock to to this subject matter. Case heartbreakingly describes her... her life. Set sold out every night. The... the Shins and guarantee resonant back-up vocals, if you ever want to know what emotional "longing" feels like... flip on Neko and blame your stereo...—MLF

Dance Meus and Sparklehorse

Mr. November of the Soul—Despite hearing this album... the soft rock tool that made us fall in love. It's moody, complex, and was never officially released so I can tell people about it while John's sleeping and all assuredly...—MLF

Volcano Choir Unaging—Sharing its frontman with the newly popular Bon Iver, Volcano Choir is one of Justin Vernon's... and unfiltered. While the sub-

Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Ze

no... they wear tight jeans and Wayfarers and trot... Lisztomania YouTube mashup was pretty... August. The rest of this album is kinda infec-

Dinosaur Jr.—Caddilac is using them...—Dinosaur Jr. has...—especially J. Mascis' s outstandingly talent-

A New York four years prior to his election as President of the United States in 2008, Barack Obama was a locally state senator from Illinois. But stand back, President. In 2008, the American country-pop singer/songwriter/actress Taylor Swift catapulted from local-country gigs in Nashville to mainland to topping the albums, Taylor Swift in '06 and Fearless in '08. Riding on their intense popular-

Animal Collective Merriweather Post Pavilion—Dropped in January, fans... many were calling the MPP of the album... the lead guitarist in 2008, MPP is structured... like you don't know it. —CT.

DIY 

Phoenix's Walzakeno Phoenix—Experi-

Dirty Projector Bitte Orca—Sharing its...—especially J. Mascis' s outstandingly talent-

The Ye a r i n re v i e w 2009: Ethan Solomon

There was a good two singles this on. I like... Oh Oh. They have a music video where... around Franz Litte's house. I guess that's cool. Dinosaur Jr. is... and classic rock song construction. Dinosaur Jr. and especially this album is... always there for you. —MLF

Dinosaur Jr.—Dinosaur Jr. has been making rocking albums since the early eighties. All of them are good. Their newest... much more pop conscious than previous trips to the recording studio, but the... in the band remain unchanged — especially J. Mascis' s outstandingly talent-

Neko Case in Middle Cyclone—Her third solo work, Middle Cyclone, continues Neko Case's successfu
The Year in Arts

Photos

Students rave during “Rolling” in the show “Bare” by the MIT Musical Theatre Guild in late April.

The MIT Symphony Orchestra presented “Miracles” on March 3 in Kresge Auditorium. Here, Kevin Dong Gyun Woo ’12 plays the cello in Joseph Haydn’s Symphony No. 102. Woo was the principal player for both Haydn’s piece and John Harbison’s Canonical American Songbook.

(left to right) Alison M. Sheppard ’12, Danielle L. Gorman ’12, Kelechi E. Nwosu ’12, Lauren M. Chilton ’12, and Breanna R. Petron ’12 of Sigma Kappa perform at SK’s Late Night extravaganza in Kresge Auditorium on the evening of October 3.

In a stunning performance of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, the MIT Symphony Orchestra teamed up with a talented cast of student actors in Kresge Auditorium on December 5.

Dancers (front row, left to right) Danwen Chen ’09, Melissa Dullina ’00, Tiffany L. Yee ’10, and Hannah J. Hsieh ’09 are seen performing at the MIT Hawai’i Luau event in Walker Memorial on April 4.

(left to right) Zachary D. Tribbett ’12, Kellas R. Cameron ’10, and Jessica I. Wooton ’12 portray Pericles, Simonedes, and Thaisa, respectively, in the dress rehearsal of MIT Shakespeare Ensemble’s presentation of Pericles in March.


Cecilia R. Louis ’10 (left foreground) and Mairead F. Daniels ’12 (center foreground) perform with the Chorallaries at the Varsity Vocals International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Northeast Semifinals held March 21 in Kresge Auditorium. The Chorallaries won the award for Best Arrangement with their song “Rainbow Connection,” arranged by Anna Lo ’08.
Review Panel: Off-Duty Behavior Should Be Monitored

Erik L. Mollen-Christensen ’48

Age 86 — February 20

Mollen-Christensen, a pioneer in the field of turbulence and cloud physics, passed away on September 30, 2009. He was 86. Mollen-Christensen was Professor Emeritus of Structural Meteorology in the Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science at Texas A&M University. He was a leading scientist in the field of turbulence and cloud physics, and his work significantly advanced our understanding of the interactions between the atmosphere and the Earth's surface. Mollen-Christensen was a highly respected and influential figure in the scientific community, and his contributions to the field of meteorology and oceanography have had a lasting impact.

John M. Wozencraft ScD ’57

August 83 — August 31

Wozencraft, a professor of electrical engineering at MIT, passed away on August 31, 2009. He was 83. Wozencraft was a leading figure in the field of electrical engineering, and his work significantly advanced our understanding of communication systems. He was a highly respected and influential figure in the scientific community, and his contributions to the field of electrical engineering have had a lasting impact.

Paul A. Samuelson Age 94 — December 13

Samuelson, a Nobel laureate in economics, passed away on December 13, 2009. He was 94. Samuelson was a leading figure in the field of economic theory, and his work significantly advanced our understanding of the interactions between the economy and the society. He was a highly respected and influential figure in the scientific community, and his contributions to the field of economics have had a lasting impact.

In Memoriam
## 2009 Year in Review Varsity Scoreboard

### By David Zhu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Competition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>'08–'09</td>
<td>NEWMAC Champion, Reached NCAA Tournament 1st Round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Fall '09</td>
<td>NEFC, Reached NEWMAC Tournament Semi-finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Fall '09</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fall '09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming and Diving</td>
<td>Fall '09</td>
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### Men's Basketball

- MIT had an outstanding season in 2009. Several teams ended their years nationally ranked, and many others earned NEWMAC Championships and went on to compete for national championships.
- Here’s a look at some of the notable results of MIT’s teams from the past year. (For a complete list of varsity results, see the Year in Review Scoreboard on the right.)

### Men’s and Women’s Cross Country

- MIT’s Cross Country teams continued their dominance, as the men won their twelfth consecutive NEWMAC title, and the women their third.

### Men’s Tennis

- MIT’s Tennis won its eleventh consecutive NEWMAC Championship, and was undefeated against conference opponents in the '08–'09 season.

### Women’s Basketball

- The Women’s Basketball and Field Hockey teams, Women’s Soccer won its first-ever NEWMAC Championship and made its debut in the national NCAA Tournament. Despite falling in the first round against University of New England, MIT tech finished with a 12-5-2 record.

### Men’s Track and Field

- The Men’s Track and Field team recorded one of its best finishes in program history.

### Women’s Cross Country

- The Women’s Cross Country team won their thirteenth consecutive NEWMAC title, a new conference record.

### Men’s and Women’s Track and Field

- MIT’s Men’s and Women’s track teams swept the NEWMAC Championship for the second time in three years, and the men’s team won its ninth consecutive conference title. Both the teams set new standards, and a tenth place finish for the women and 29th place for the men.

### Women’s Swimming and Diving

- MIT’s Women’s Swimming and Diving team won its fourth overall NEWMAC title, and first since 2003.

### Water Polo

- MIT’s Women’s Water Polo had a dominating performance on route to an NEWMAC championship and NSCRO (National Small College Rugby Organization) Division III national championship. In the semifinal and final matches, MIT outscored their opponents 184-10, and also had the tournament’s MVP and leading scorer.
The Year In Sports

Defensive back Corey Garvey ’10 makes a key tackle in the Sept. 19 game against Framingham State at Steinbrenner Stadium.

Members of the MIT Sailing Team (sail 3) exit a turn behind Boston College (sail 13) during the Erwin Schell Trophy on Nov. 1 on the Charles River. The sailing competition featured 20 collegiate and military teams from across the Northeast.

Jean E. “Liz” Theurer ’09 slides to the ground as she scores the first goal of the game for the Engineers during the women’s soccer game against Smith College on Oct. 17 at Steinbrenner Stadium. The Engineers won 6-0 under overcast skies.

James R. Burke ’13 attempts to block mid-court during the Dec. 5 game against Gordon College at Rockwell Cage. The Engineers won 78-73 in overtime.

Captain Jennifer A. Chao ’09 swims the 200-yard butterfly for the Engineers during the meet on Jan. 18 versus NEWMAC rivals Coast Guard Academy and Springfield College. Chao took first place in both the 100-meter and 200-meter butterfly.

Melissa A. Showers ’13 pulls ahead of runners from Brown and Sacred Heart during the Women’s cross country race on Oct. 10. MIT went on to finish 4th out of 49 teams.

Nicholas R. LaBounty ’09 looks down for a pass in a game against New England College on Jan. 17.

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.