

Super mashup success!



Allin D. Resposo '11 hangs out with Super Mash Bros after winning the Spring Weekend Mashup Competition. Students submitted mashups for student voting, and Super Mash Bros. selected a winner from the top three to play during their concert.

Union strike hits Shaw's

Shoppers asked to boycott chain as 300 continue to strike

By Margaret Cunniff
STAFF REPORTER

For the past two months, over 300 Shaw's workers have been on strike at Shaw's warehouse 30 miles away in Methuen. This weekend, the protest came to the MIT Shaw's on Sidney Street. Picketers in Cambridge handed out flyers in front of the store and asked patrons to boycott Shaw's until the strike is resolved.

Warehouse workers at the Methuen Distribution Center have been on strike since March 8, after workers rejected a new contract that would have significantly increased their health care costs. They voted 228-8 to go on strike. On April 1, Shaw's cut off health care coverage for the 300 striking workers.

According to Judy Chong, a representative for Shaw's, The MIT Shaw's will not be affected in the near future despite the strike. "We want our customers to know that it is our every intention to serve them and provide them with fresh goods," Chong said.

In order to maintain normal functions, Shaw's has begun hiring permanent replacement workers. Chong says the decision to hire new workers was difficult but necessary.

The Methuen Distribution Center serves 176 Shaw's stores across New England, including the stores in the Cambridge and Boston area. Workers and sympathizers started picketing outside the distribution center at the beginning of the strike, but they have since expanded and are now picketing at 19 Shaw's stores, both unionized and non-unionized. Many of the picketers are from local Shaw's unions.

The major sticking point in the new contract was a disagreement over how to distribute a 13 percent increase in health care costs. Under the original contract, a large part of the increase would fall on employees, significantly increasing costs of premiums for workers. The union felt this increase was an unreasonable burden on workers, especially those who support families.

Two contracts have been voted down by the

Shaws, Page 13

Confronting the 'elephant in the room'

This week, students to raise awareness of sexual assault on campus

By Jingyun Fan
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Sexual Assault Awareness Week started yesterday in Stata, when around two dozen students gathered to share private stories about sexual violence. The event, called Take Back the Night, began a week of activities intended to bring talk of sexual assault into the open, as the first step toward ending it.

"We are trying to start a conversation, talking about the... elephant in the room, starting to work toward an end to it..." said Jason McKnight, a residential life associate for graduate students and one of the primary organizers of the Week's events. Accordingly, the mascot for the Week is an elephant, representing the heavy silence surrounding the topic of sexual violence.

"It's odd right? Why won't you talk about it?" McKnight said.

The event schedule this year has been pared back somewhat. "We wanted to focus on doing it well," said Liz Jensen '13, one of the main organizers. Today, they will conduct a screening of *The Line*, a documentary about what constitutes consent. On Wednesday, there will be a lunch for assault survivors in an undisclosed location. And all week, the MIT community is asked to make a pledge to end derogatory language.

The Week is a joint effort by the Program for Medical Violence Prevention Response, the Program in Women's and Gender Studies, Residential Life, the Student Activities Office, and MIT Medical's Center for Health Promotion and Wellness.

At Take Back the Night, the

MIT Chorallaries performed a few songs, ending with "Defying Gravity." Afterward, around

two dozen students gathered in

Awareness, Page 11



The Chorallaries sang "Defying Gravity" at Take Back the Night in Stata on Monday. The event kicked off Sexual Assault Awareness Week, which continues with a screening of *The Line* today.

IN SHORT

Surprised to see so many students in business casual today? That's because it's Badge Day for Greek Week!

Eat a balanced breakfast! The UA is serving up free breakfast on the Student Center steps, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., for Wellness Week. Volunteers will also be passing out \$2 coupons for the produce market at East Campus.

Acknowledge the elephant in the room. Sexual Assault Awareness Week began yesterday. To find the schedule of events, visit <http://elephant.mit.edu/>.

This Thursday, ARCTAN will be holding a bone marrow donor registration drive in the Coffeehouse from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Residential Life Programs office will be moving today from the Student Center (W20-549) to the Heinz Building (W59-200), located next to Simmons Hall. An open house will be held at the new office soon after the opening.

Run, swim, bike. Put your fitness to the test in the IronNerd Triathlon on Sunday May 2. The race starts at 4 p.m.

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

MIT News Office may win Webby

The MIT News Office is winning a close race for its first Webby People's Voice Award. As of Monday April 26, the News Office leads the pack in the category for best school/university website, topping Wheaton College (30 percent), The University of Puget Sound (15 percent), Bucknell University (14 percent), and Point Park University (8 percent).

The annual Webby Awards, sponsored International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, honor the best of the internet. There are over 100 categories covering websites, interactive advertising, online film and video, and the mobile web. In each category, two prizes are given: The

Webby People's Voice Award, whose winners are determined popular online vote; and the Webby Award, whose winners are determined by members of the Academy.

Voting this year began on April 13 and will continue until April 29. The winner will be announced on May 4.

Winners of the competition receive a small Webby Award statuette, a framed award certificate, and a Webby badge that may be placed on their website.

The judging criteria differ for each category. Websites are evaluated based on content, structure/navigation, visual design, functionality, interactivity, and overall experience.

So far, over 580,000 votes have been cast since April 13. Across all categories, the top vote getters are

Twitter (25 percent), Hulu (24 percent), Pandora (17 percent), Jim Carrey's official website (17 percent), and the FAIL Blog (17 percent).

To participate in the voting, visit the People's Voice Webby Awards website (<http://webby.aol.com/>).

The five websites nominated for the School/University category are:

- MIT News Office — <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/>
- Wheaton College 150th Anniversary — <http://150.wheaton.edu/>
- University of Puget Sound Website — <http://www.pugetsound.edu/>
- Point Park University Generic U Campaign Web — <http://www.genericu.com/>
- Bucknell University Virtual Tour — <http://community.bucknell.edu/> — Robert McQueen

IMMIGRANTS ARE GOOD FOR US

Open borders not only make economic sense, but are a moral imperative. (Arizona is insane.) **OPN, p. 5**

BROUHAHA RHYTHM

Sure, 3-D enhances realism, but sometimes that's a bad thing. **CL, p. 6**

VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

In which M. voyages into the not-so-bad world of online dating. **CL, p. 6**



STEAL MY COMIC

A history lesson. **FUN, p. 8**

SEEING GREEN

Overpopulation will be the problem that spawns many more problems if we don't keep ourselves in check. **OPN, p. 4**

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CAMPUS LIFE BROUHAHA RHYTHM

CAMPUS LIFE **Cinema in the Third Dimension**

Thing poking out of the screen make me uncomfortable

By Michael T. Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

I'm not entirely sure how I feel about the resurgence of feature films being presented in 3-D. On the one hand, it's probably the most sensible response to the demand by moviegoers for novel and interesting cinema experiences, as the witty dialogue and compelling character-driven narrative of films like *Bounty Hunter* (unfortunately not the Boba Fett biopic I was hoping for) doesn't seem to be cutting it, for some reason. On the other hand, I've always enjoyed being removed from the cinema experience — not in the sense of being kicked out by ushers, but of being an impartial observer who can relate to the characters on the screen (sometimes) without having to inhabit their world. *300* was cool, but I think I'd feel a self-conscious need to work out more (or at least shower) if I saw Gerard Butler's sweaty pecs popping out of the

screen at me.

When I heard that *Zombieland*, a film I very much enjoyed based on its writing and acting, was set for a sequel, I was ecstatic. Then I read that the sequel was going to be in 3-D — as in, written specifically to be presented in 3-D — which caused a massive wave of ambivalence to wash over me, turning my unmitigated glee into wary, vague optimism. The article I read suggested that the 3-D sequel would be so realistic that I'd have to check to make sure my popcorn didn't have blood on it. Thing is, I don't like having blood on my popcorn. I don't even really like seeing it on-screen. I made an exception for *Zombieland* because the worst gore was probably in the first ten minutes of the film, and most of the rest was run-and-gun action rather than straight horror. When my girlfriend and I went to see *Sweeney Todd*, we averted our eyes basically whenever the throat-slashing picked up and didn't re-

sume watching until the sounds of splashing and spurting had subsided. Long story short, we spent al-

I've always enjoyed being removed from the cinema experience — not in the sense of being kicked out by ushers, but of being an impartial observer

most as much time looking at each other as the screen, and not for the reason most teenage couples do at

the movies.

I will say this much for 3-D, at least most of the films that use it are films that can actually benefit from the technology, which is more than can be said for the last "big thing" in film. Why the distributors of *Pride and Prejudice* thought a Blu-Ray release would significantly improve the viewing experience is beyond me. Besides, 3-D film has been around for decades. I know this because one of Biff's gang in *Back to the Future* wears a pair of 3-D glasses constantly, which probably seemed cool to him at the time but seems like it would be intensely nauseating. 3-D accessories have come far since November 6th, 1955, with the cardboard with red and blue lenses replaced by what look like disposable sunglasses or, if at an IMAX film, large heavy safety goggles that are perhaps even worse than the red and blue glasses for wearing on a day-to-day basis. At least the cardboard is light enough not to strain your neck af-

ter half an hour.

It's not just 3-D movies that bother me, either. I'm not big on 3-D attractions at theme parks, for much the same reasons. Having swordfish noses and bee stingers poke out of the screen into my personal bubble is a little too intrusive (not to mention phallic) for comfort. The best 3-D attraction I've ever experienced was a Muppet show at Disneyworld where they took the optical illusion and ran with it for purposes of comedy rather than shock value or uncanny-valley-style antics. It also happened to be the one 3-D show I'd been to that didn't use other special effects like air cannons or water spritzers to try and "put the audience in the show," so maybe those trends are related. Still, I suppose the advent of 3-D was inevitable, and I'll have to get used to it. I just hope they don't try to implement Smell-O-Vision next, unless the Spartans got packets of free deodorant at the Battle of Thermopylae.

CAMPUS LIFE VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRRESS

CAMPUS LIFE **OK Cupid? Okay!**

A foray into online dating

By M.

This week, I tried online dating for the first time.

I didn't want things to come to this, because I always thought that online dating was for creepers

and ugly people, but my friends elbowed me to give it a shot. So when I got a message from a guy last weekend asking if I'd be down for meeting up, my friend said I should go.

"But shouldn't I talk to him

some more before agreeing to see him?" I asked.

"Just go meet him in person and see what he's like," she said, and she knows her shit, so I took her advice and arranged a date at the end of the week.

As I sat in the coffee shop waiting for him, I fidgeted nervously and hoped to God he'd leave me hanging so that I could go shopping instead. When he finally sat down at my table, I was pleasantly surprised. He was quite good-looking! Not creepy! Normal! We ended up talking for around an hour before I had to go, but that hour changed my views on online dating.

So, how does one get around to finding a good date online? It all starts with the profile. Think of yourself as a product and market yourself well by showcasing the things that make you awesome. I skip all the profiles that are badly written and don't say anything unique. And, being that online dating is essentially a meat market, it helps to have a flattering photo. If you pick a photo where you're doing something fun or interesting, people will be more likely to message you with something other than, "Nice eyes!" Which brings me to...

The guys who just send me messages complimenting my looks. Ugh, I never respond to those. I am very appreciative of compliments, but there are cooler things to notice about me than just my looks. What about my good taste in music and films, or my love of cheese? Choose one thing that made the person stand out, be it because you have that in common or you just find it interesting, and message them about it.

One thing I see people do when they try online dating is getting picky. It is easy to get too discriminating when you can literally compare two guys side-by-side, but try to avoid it. Take advantage of the fact that you have access to people so different from you that you'd never cross paths in real life and date outside of your comfort zone. At worst, you will be incompatible and part ways, and at best you will mesh well or get an interesting friend out of it.

What about the people you message who don't respond, or the ones you go out with once or twice and then go MIA? These things are a part of dating, but my friends agreed that you bump into a lot more frustrating situations when dating online, if only because you are exposing yourself

to more options. Know that the guy or girl you're going on a date with is probably going on dates with other people. As a friend put it, "Online dating is not like dating in real life," and that calls for an attitude adjustment. Don't let these setbacks get to you, and don't take shit personally. Especially when you're dealing with people you don't know.

I always thought that online dating was for creepers and ugly people, but my friends elbowed me to give it a shot.

And now that I've pointed out that you are, indeed, going out with strangers, I'll take the moment to suggest exercising common sense. When dating in real life, most of the times you've either met the person before, or a friend is setting you up. A complete stranger comes with no credentials, so keep your eyes open for any sharp ends. If you feel uncomfortable, bounce. Also, meet in a public spot, and avoid bars unless you keep an eye on your drink all the time and trust yourself not to get wasted. Coffee is a safe, standard date.

But I think the best advice my friends passed on when I was trying this was to not be ashamed of "putting myself out there." In 2010, a lot of interactions that used to take place face-to-face have moved online, so online dating is not as unnatural as we'd think. A lot of the stigma surrounding online dating has to do with how different it is from what we're used to, but I do believe it is worth at least a shot. Going into it with a positive attitude, rather than being embarrassed to be "discovered" by people you know, will yield far better results. So be positive, keep an open mind, and have fun with it!

M. is a junior in Course 10, and she's found a few of her TAs doing online dating. Awkward! She can be contacted at undress@tech.mit.edu.



Graduate Women at MIT Spring Kick-Off April 26-30

Keynote, "The Evolution of Bias"

Freda Kapor Klein, an expert on workplace diversity relations, will describe implicit and explicit gender-related bias in academic environments.

Monday 4/26
5:30-6:30pm
46-3002

"Negotiating Difficult Situations" Workshop **

Toni Robinson, MIT Ombudsperson, will lead exercises demonstrating how to handle situations including negotiating credit, dealing with harassment, and negotiating attention from supervisors.

Tuesday 4/27
1:30-3 pm
66-168

"Collaboration in Invention" Panel

Women in research and industry discuss the role of collaboration in their inventions.

Wednesday 4/28
6:30-8 pm
56-154

"Life Choices: Work and Everything Else" Panel

Women in research and industry discuss the choices they have made regarding work/life division, marriage, and children.

Thursday 4/29
6:30-8 pm
4-237

Graduate Women Mixer **

Come network with fellow graduate women! Sloan's Lakshmi Balachandra will lead an introductory exercise on improvisational leadership.

Friday 4/30
5-6:30 pm
Moore Room
6-321

**RSVP requested at <http://gsc.mit.edu/gwamit/events/spring2010.html>



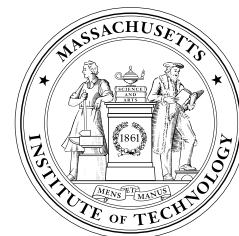
Graduate Women at MIT
<http://gsc.mit.edu/gwamit>



Lobby 7 Design Competition Announcement

Friday May 7th
Lobby 7, starts at 2pm

Performance by the
Chorallaries of MIT
free to all!!



As a part of the MIT 150 celebration, this competition will seek ideas for developing design concepts for the four pedestals of the William Barton Rogers Lobby - Lobby 7. How do you think MIT should be represented?

Sponsored by the MIT Class of 1954 in partnership with the School of Architecture and Planning and in association with the MIT Museum | an event of MIT150



Lobby 7 Design Competition



N.E.R.D, Super Mash Bros. play Spring Concert



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

Ethan Dawes of Super Mash Bros. mixes beats on his laptop during their performance at the Spring Weekend concert, where Super Mash Bros. opened for N.E.R.D. Dawes later ran around the stage with a video camera documenting the experience and filming bandmate Dick Fink dancing around the stage.



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

N.E.R.D frontman Pharrell Williams spits rhymes at the Spring Weekend concert. In between songs, Williams engaged the crowd by telling them that they are going to change the future and by emphasizing that brains, not looks, are what really matter. He primarily directed his comments to the women of the crowd, complimenting them repeatedly.



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

A mix of students and Boston locals rock out to Super Mash Bros.' mixes at the Spring Weekend concert on Friday. The crowd particularly enjoyed the mashups that the group produced live.



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

MIT students took a study break to watch N.E.R.D. perform live on Friday evening in the Johnson Ice Rink for the Spring Weekend concert. N.E.R.D. played a mix of their older songs and songs from their upcoming album, *Nothing*.



ADITI VERMA

Jackson L. Prestwood '13 gets his revenge as he throws a fistful of gulaal, colored powder, on Raghu Mahajan '11 during the Holi celebrations, organized by the Hindu Students Council, on Saturday. Holi, a Hindu festival, celebrates the victory of good over evil.



DAVID CHEN—THE TECH

Vladislav Shahov and Milena Jasioneck from Manhattan Ballroom Dance compete in championship standard division of the 2010 MIT Open Ballroom Dance Competition, hosted by the ballroom dance team in Rockwell Cage on Saturday. The competition lasted through Saturday and Sunday, and featured dancers from all over the country. Shahov and Jasioneck placed first in their division. MIT ballroom dancers Tuan Q. Phan '02 and Ekaterina V. Lesnaia PhD '04 took third in the championship standard category.



ADITI VERMA

Participants in the IDEAS competition explain their ideas to one of the judges in Lobby 10 on Monday. The IDEAS competition, organized by the Public Service Center, promotes innovations with a focus on public service.



FENG WU—THE TECH

Students work hard as well as fool around during Habitat for Humanity's annual Cardboard House Building Competition behind Kresge Auditorium on Friday. Students constructed miniature houses out of cardboard and duct tape, which were judged at the end of the day by a panel of Course 4 professors. The Cardboard House Building Competition is part of Habitat for Humanity's Campus Build event, designed to raise awareness about the global housing crisis.

After sharing, healing

Awareness, from Page 1

a circle to share their experiences with sexual assault or to listen to others. Some were victims of sexual assault, some knew a victim, and some simply came in support. They talked about themselves or individuals they knew who had been raped or molested. They discussed the matter of consent, and how sometimes it is difficult to express that consent has not been granted. Some expressed frustration at those who did not take sexual violence

seriously.

McKnight shared the story of a friend who had been molested by her grandfather. When he first met her, she had not yet found closure and was putting out cigarettes on herself in places that people couldn't see.

As he told his own story, McKnight encouraged others to share theirs as well.

"I hope that [sharing stories] will help people to heal, help people to grow..." he said. "They are not alone."

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Hibur: the MIT-Technion link presents:

preventing the next software catastrophe



4/27
12 pm
9-057

Software is getting more powerful every day, but also more dangerous. Come hear about some recent disasters due to software, and why our current approaches to software development don't prevent them. Then explore a new approach that, rather than relying on expensive and difficult analysis, uses better design to make software safer.

Daniel N. Jackson

Professor of Computer Science and Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellow
MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

Teaching Excellence

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

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

Nominate by
Friday, April 30, 2010

Nominations should include the following information:

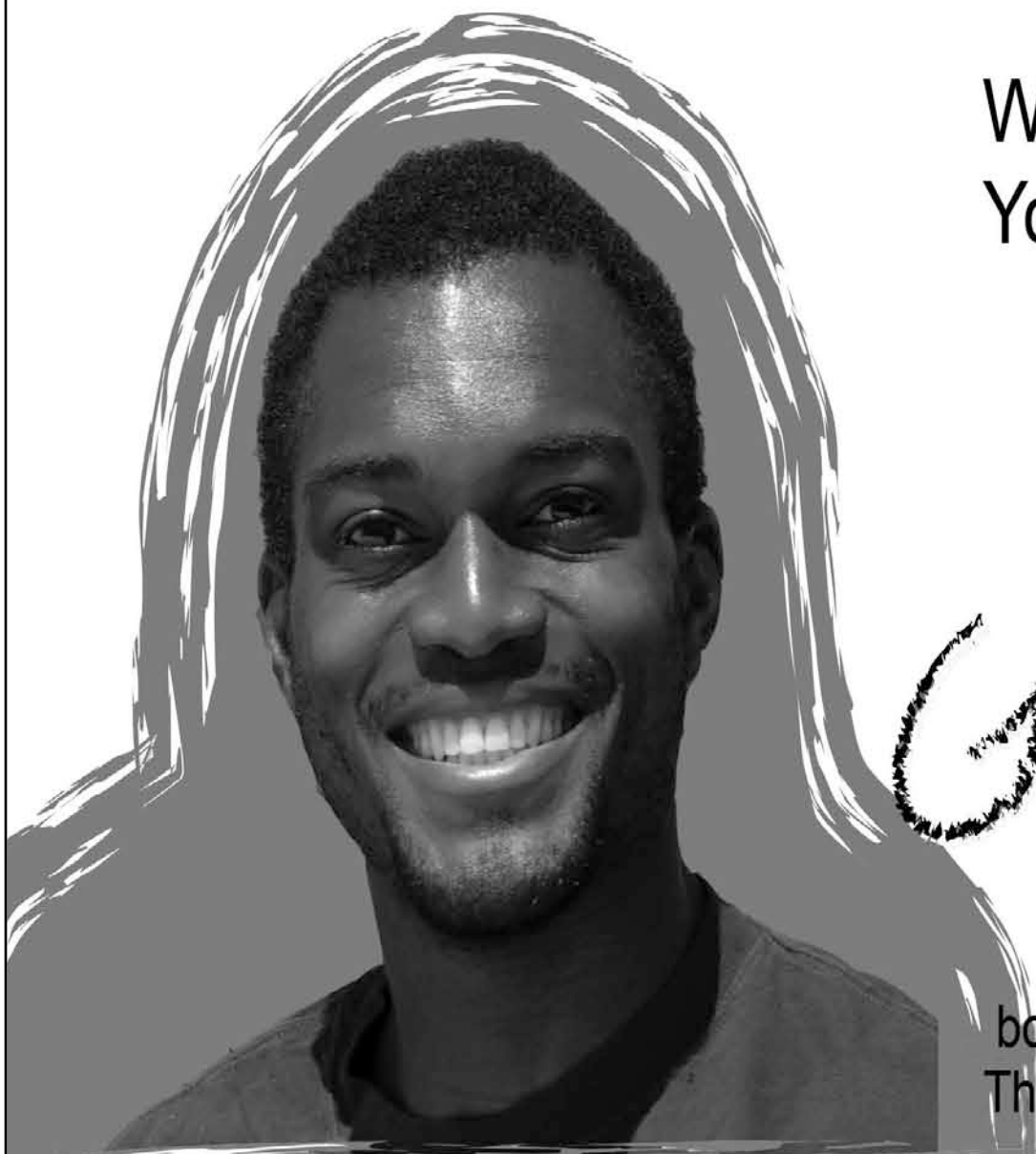
- Your name
- Your email
- Name of the teacher nominated for the award
- Subject(s) taken with the nominee
- Why you are nominating this teacher

Please consider and comment on

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

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9:00am - 7:00pm

MIT Student Center
The Coffeehouse (3rd floor)



WHERE LEUKEMIA MEETS ITS MATCH

On Facebook: tinyurl.com/join-the-registry

www.getswabbed.org

Strike gets support at national level

Shaws, from Page 1

union to date, and little consensus has been made between the two groups. Chong said, "It is unnecessary that the union continues to perpetuate this otherwise unnecessary strike...they have voted down or voted to dismiss two fair and reasonable contract offers."

Spokesman Peter Derouen for United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 791 said, "The second [contract] offer was worse than the first one...that one was basically a joke." The strike has stirred support on the national stage, getting recognition from workers of other supermarkets owned by Supervalu, the conglomerate that owns Shaw's.

Workers are becoming involved across the nation, from as far as Maryland and Virginia. They have started to wear stickers urging Supervalu to take action and settle the strike as soon as possible.

U.S. Representative Steven F. Lynch, representing Massachusetts's 9th District, and other local and state officials have joined the workers on the picket lines. Lynch, who was a former union president,

said in a statement, "These workers are simply fighting for what's right and fair. I am proud to join my union brothers and sisters on this picket line."

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick has also become involved in the issue. In a letter addressed to the CEO of Supervalu Craig Herkert and the President of the UFCW Union Local 791 Russel Regan, he urged the two parties to come to a resolution. Patrick encouraged further communication between the two groups.

Derouen said that the union is looking for a "fair and equitable agreement." Though the union recognizes that costs have increased due to the economic climate, Derouen said that it is looking to "address the needs of the company, and make sure we are being reasonable to the members."

Both sides have expressed their ongoing commitment to finding a solution. Chong said they will continue to work with a federal mediator to reach a conclusion. Derouen said that striking workers "will continue to go as long as membership stays strong."

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frag (v):

1. to kill something with a fragmentation grenade
2. something you can't do to **sniper boy**

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Solution to Kenken
 from page 6

3-	2	5	3-	1	2-	24x	6	4
30x	6	2	4	5	1-	5-	3	1
	5	4	3+	3	1	2	6	
3+	1	6	2	4	5	30x	3	
	3	1	5	6	4	2		
4	4	3	3+	6	2	1	5	

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Solution to Sudoku
 from page 6

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

Solution to Crossword
 from page 6

T	E	R	R	A	A	M	A	S	F	L	E	E
O	R	I	E	L	R	A	R	E	J	I	L	T
P	R	O	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	O	L	L
E	S	T	B	E	T	E	P	O	R	T	A	L
			G	I	V	E	T	H	A	N	D	
A	S	S	I	S	I	A	G	E	S	A	G	O
S	A	C	S	L	I	S	T	E	R	M	U	G
P	L	O	T	S	T	H	E	S	T	A	I	R
I	S	U	C	L	A	U	D	E	R	I	L	E
C	A	R	P	O	O	L	A	G	E	N	T	S
			I	N	C	O	M	E	T	A	X	
N	A	U	S	E	A	A	B	A	S	E	N	D
O	U	S	T	T	A	K	E	T	H	A	W	A
D	R	E	I	E	V	E	R	E	L	E	V	E
E	A	R	L	D	A	R	T	D	A	R	E	D

SHOULD GOOGLE STAY IN CHINA?

Wednesday, April 28
 3:00 pm
 Wong Auditorium
 Building E51



Panelists

Edward Steinfeld
 Associate Professor of Political Science
 Moderator

David Clark
 Senior Research Scientist
 Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

Yasheng Huang
 China Program Professor in International Management
 Sloan School of Management

Craig Simons
 Knight Science Journalism Fellow

Xiaojian Zhao
 Knight Science Journalism Fellow

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Robots labor to stanch flow of oil in Gulf of Mexico

By Campbell Robertson
and Clifford Krauss

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS — Oil continued to pour into the Gulf of Mexico on Monday as the authorities waited to see if the quickest possible method of stopping the leaks would bring an end to what was threatening to become an environmental disaster.

Remote-controlled robots operating 5,000 feet under the ocean's surface were more than a full day into efforts to seal off the oil well, which has been belching crude through leaks in a pipeline at the rate of 42,000 gallons a day. The leaks were found on Saturday, days after an oil rig to which the pipeline was attached exploded, caught on fire and sank in the Gulf about 40 miles off the coast of Louisiana.

The robots were trying to activate a device known as a blowout preventer, a 450-ton valve at the wellhead that is designed to shut off a well in the event of a sudden pressure release.

Officials had initially said that the operation, which began Sunday morning, would take 24 to 36 hours. But on Monday they said they would keep trying as long as the efforts were feasible because "it's the best option," a Coast Guard spokesman said. The other options — collecting the oil in a dome and routing it to the surface or drilling one or more relief wells — would take weeks or even several months to execute.

Wind has kept the spill from moving toward the coast. Officials said it had a 600-mile circumference Monday, but most of that was a thin sheen of oil-water mix. Only 3 percent of the area was crude oil with a "pudding-like" consistency, they said.

The wind was expected to change direction by Thursday, however, and its distance from the coast has not stopped its threat to marine life.

On Sunday a crew from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spotted three sperm whales in the vicinity of the spill. In response, planes that were dropping chemicals that break down the oil were told to steer clear of the whales.

The chemicals, known as dispersants, can be as toxic to mammals as the oil itself, said Jackie Savitz, a marine biologist with a background in toxicity with Oceana, a Washington-based non-profit group that focus on ocean conservation.

Savitz also said that environmental concerns were not alleviated by assurances that the spill was not yet a threat to the coast. "There is a misconception that if water doesn't hit the beach it isn't dangerous," she said.

Plans are moving forward to design a dome that could be submerged over the leaks, which are coming from a 5,000 foot pipeline called a riser that ran between the wellhead and the rig. The riser is now snaking along the ocean bottom.

The dome would corral the oil and route it up to vessels, where it would be collected. But Doug Suttles, the chief operating officer for exploration and production at BP, continued to emphasize the engineering challenges of such an operation at a news conference on Monday.

"I must stress that this is state of the art," he said, adding that such a method had never been done at such depths. It would take at least two weeks to put into place, he said.

More than 1,000 people working to respond to the spill, includ-

ing officials from the Coast Guard, the federal government and BP. BP is also mobilizing rigs that would drill one or more deep wells nearby to push mud and concrete into the gushing cavity, an operation made all the more expensive and complex in the deep waters. That would take two to three months.

The explosion and leak of oil have underscored the risks and challenges that a new generation of oil pioneers face plying for discoveries at such depths.

While the causes of the accident on the BP's Deepwater Horizon rig may take months to determine, drilling down 10,000 feet or more is inherently risky due to the extreme heat and pressure at those depths.

Holding down the pressure while drilling is one trick, and keeping the equipment from softening or bending is another, requiring engineers to develop extra thick steel, alloys and heavy insulation for the job.

"At these water depths and well depths, there is more that can go wrong," said Neal Dingmann, an analyst covering offshore drilling and service companies at Wunderlick Securities in Houston. "You have much higher pressures and temperatures to battle."

BP and Transocean officials said the pressure that was building in the oil and gas reserve that the rig was drilling was not exceptionally unusual. But pressure was likely an element in the accident if it was a well blowout, as many experts suspect.

Oil companies have been drilling in deep waters for nearly 20 years, but it has become more popular over the last decade as oil prices rose and made the practice more economical. Only 15 years ago, oil experts said Gulf production was in a deep decline and oil companies were abandoning the area for Russia and the Caspian Sea.

The Gulf is now producing a quarter of the nation's domestic production, and that portion is likely to grow, especially with production in Alaska falling.

Until last week's accident, the industry has had few spills in the Gulf of Mexico in recent years. Amy Myers Jaffe, an energy expert at Rice University, noted that in the last 15 years there was not a single spill of over 1,000 barrels among the four thousand active platforms off the shores of the United States.

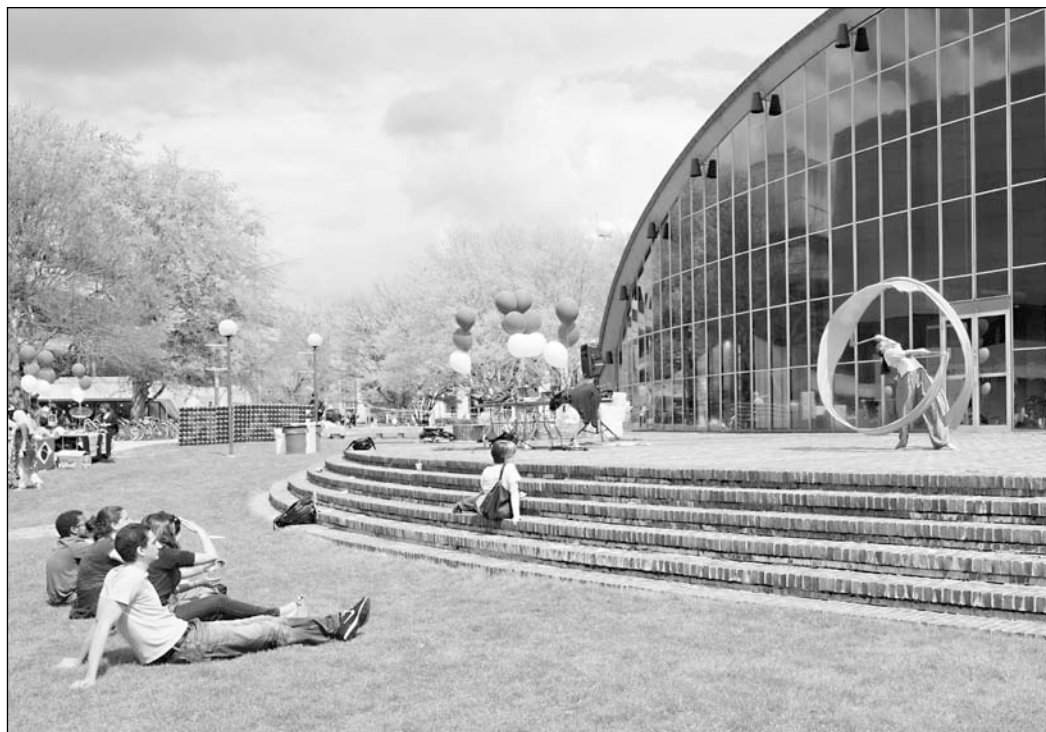
She said offshore drilling was considerably safer for the environment than the tankers that are used for importing oil.

"In all drilling you have the challenge of dealing with pressurization and in the case of deepwater Gulf of Mexico that process is assisted by tens of thousands of super computers," Jaffe said. "It's as technically challenging as space travel but safer."

The question of safety may now become a political flashpoint, since the Obama administration announced recently that it wants to open more areas to offshore drilling.

On Monday, Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and New Jersey's two Democratic senators, Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, sent a letter to the chairmen and ranking members of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to request the hearing, which left 11 workers missing and presumed dead.

"The explosion, ensuing fire, and continuing spill raise serious concerns about the industry's claims that their operations and technology are safe enough to put rigs in areas that are environmentally sensitive or are critical to tourism or fishing industries," the letter said.



FENG WU—THE TECH

Vivian Lee '12 of the Asian Dance Team performs a Chinese ribbon dance at I-Fair, hosted by the International Students Association, on Friday. I-Fair gives international culture groups at MIT a chance to present a little piece of the culture they represent.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Track and Field repeat NEWMAC Sweep

The men's and women's track and field teams both defended their NEWMAC Championship titles last weekend at Springfield College. The men won their tenth straight title, and eleventh in twelve years, and the women won for the third time in the last four years.

The men's team dominated the competition, finishing with 249 points, well ahead of second-place Springfield College (182.5 points). On the women's side, MIT finished with 197.5 points, leading second-place Springfield by 30.5 points. Jacqueline M. Wentz '10 broke the NEWMAC record in the 1500-meter with a time of 4:33.77, almost three seconds faster than the previous mark.

Both the men and women had twelve athletes finish with All-Conference honors.

— David Zhu, Sports editor

Men's tennis extends NEWMAC championship streak

The top-seeded Engineers won their 12th straight NEWMAC men's tennis tournament championship this weekend, defeating second-seeded Wheaton College 5-0 in the championship match at Coast Guard Academy.

The Engineers (14-1) advanced to the finals after defeating fourth-seeded Babson College 5-0 in its semifinal match. In the semifinals MIT swept all three doubles matches to take a 3-0 lead. Brian K. Oldfield '13 won at third singles 6-2, 6-1 and Matthew T. Skalak '13 won 6-1, 6-1 to advance the Engineers to the finals.

MIT opened the championship match once again winning all three doubles matches. Kevin Pang '11 and Skalak won 8-2 at No. 1 doubles, while Larry Pang '13 and Tymor C. Hamamsy '13 also finished with a score of 8-2 at No. 2 doubles. Andrew C. Cooper '13 and Oldfield completed the sweep, winning 8-4 at No. 3 doubles. In singles action, Oldfield won at fourth singles 6-2, 6-0 and Hamamsy sealed the championship with a 6-1, 6-1 victory at No. 6 singles. The tournament closes out the season for the Engineers.

— Paul Blascovich, DAPER staff

ATHLETES' CORNER Shotokan club competes in Battle for Boston

The MIT Shotokan Karate Club sent four competitors to the Battle for Boston 2010 competition on Sunday, April 18. Vazrik Chiloyan '11, a purple belt, won first place in intermediate kumite (sparring) against fierce competition in a large field of competitors, winning gold for MIT in his event.

Vazrik also won first place in intermediate kata (forms) for his performance of Bassai Dai, "Storming the Fortress". Grandmaster Kazumi Tabata, an Eighth Degree Blackbelt, was so impressed with Vazrik's performance that Vazrik was promoted to brown belt on the spot and asked to compete in advanced kumite as well.

Emily K. Rosser '12, an orange belt, was originally scheduled to compete in beginner kumite. However, she was bumped up to the intermediate division at the last minute, where she made a valiant effort and placed second despite having less experience than her opponents.

Carlos E. Salinas '13 and Julian Lemus '13 also competed in the event in the beginner division where they fought with great spirit, but they fell short.

— Brian Neltner, Team representative

Lightweight crew is last place in Geiger Cup

This past Saturday, the Men's lightweight crew team raced league rivals Cornell and Columbia in Ithaca for the Geiger Cup. The 2000 meter course features a pronounced turn at the halfway mark.

The varsity crew rowed a quick first thousand, holding close to the strong Cornell crew and picking up a one second lead on Columbia.

Through the turn, the Engineers lost momentum in the outside lane, and dropped back on the Lions. The rowers struggled to regain their speed in the final thousand of the race, but ended about 3 seconds behind Columbia, who finished 7 seconds behind Cornell.

"The beginning of our race was great, but we didn't hold it together too well for the end. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to put together a more complete race going into next week and then the championships," said captain Richard A. Suarez '11.

The Freshmen eight fared better, defeating Columbia by three seconds, but finishing thirteen seconds behind Cornell.

The Men's lightweight team faces off against University of Delaware next Saturday on the Charles River. This will be their last race before their league championships in three weeks.

— Aaron Blankstein, Team representative

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, April 27

Baseball vs. Newbury College 4 p.m., Briggs Field

Wednesday, April 28

Men's lacrosse vs. Norwich University 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Tuesday, April 27

Baseball vs. UMass-Boston 4 p.m., Briggs Field

Sailing: Midweek Tech Invite 4 p.m., Charles River

SCOREBOARD

Baseball	
Friday, April 23	
at U.S. Coast Guard Academy	L 7-6
Men's Lacrosse	
Saturday, April 24	
at Babson College	L 15-9
Women's Lacrosse	
Saturday, April 24	
at Wellesley College	L 14-7
Men's Tennis	
Saturday, April 24	
vs. Babson College	W 5-0
vs. Babson College	W 5-0
Men's Track and Field	
Saturday, April 24	
NEWMAC Championships	1st of 6
Women's Track and Field	
Saturday, April 24	
NEWMAC Championships	1st of 8

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Advances in Biomedicine: From Bench to Bedside

Friday, April 30, 5:30-8:30pm*

Broad Institute, 7 Cambridge Center

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Dr. Albert Seymour, Senior Director, Applied Quantitative Genotherapeutics

Dr. Jim Tobin, Vice President & Chief Scientific Officer, Biocorrection Research

Moderator: Belen Carrillo-Rivas, Director, Research Programs and Strategy

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