

## Xerox CEO Ursula M. Burns to speak at Commencement

### Address to culminate sesquicentennial celebration

By **Elijah Jordan Turner**  
NEWS EDITOR

Ursula M. Burns, chairman and chief executive officer of Xerox Corporation, has been named the keynote speaker for the 145th Commencement on Friday, Jun. 3. This year's speaker announcement comes at its earliest in more than 30 years. Commencement weekend will mark the conclusion of MIT's 150-day celebration marking its 150th anniversary.

Burns is the first black woman to serve as the CEO of a *Fortune* 500 company, having succeeded Anne Mulcahy in July 2009. Burns was named the 19th most powerful woman in the world by *Forbes* last November and she assumed the position of chairwoman of the company earlier this year.

Class of 2011 President Anshul Bhagi praised the selection of Burns, citing her determination and engineering leadership as qualities from which MIT students could draw inspiration.

"She did well in life through persistent hard work," Bhagi said. President Susan J. Hockfield held a similar position on the relevance of Burn's life story to the mission of the Institute and its students.

"I am especially glad that Ursula Burns has agreed to share with the MIT community her remarkable per-



LONNIE MAJOR—COURTESY OF XEROX CORPORATION

**Ursula M. Burns**, who will speak at commencement, worked her way up from an internship position at Xerox to being CEO of the corporation.

sonal story: her fearless approach to problem solving as an engineering and a leader, her deep experience at one of America's most storied technology companies, and her commitment to service," Hockfield said. "Her life speaks eloquently to the Institute's own ideals."

Raised in the housing projects in

the Lower East Side of Manhattan, Burns graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of New York University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. That summer, she worked at Xerox for the first time, as a summer intern. After obtaining

Burns, Page 11

## 2010-2011 IFC Executive Board election results announced

A new Interfraternity Council (IFC) executive board was elected last Wednesday, Nov. 3. Gordon W. Wintrob '12, a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, will be the new president. The new board will assume their positions at the next Presidents' Council on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

"I can confidently say that the Greek system attracts some of the most intelligent students, the most competitive athletes, and the most impressive leaders at the Institute," Wintrob said. "This passion and energy is what excites me about serving as IFC president. I look forward to bringing the chapters together to collaborate on common goals such as brotherhood, alumni relations, and philanthropy."

Wintrob added that he would like to see a shift from the IFC being viewed as a "rule enforcer" to be more of a "supportive resource that helps all of our chapters and brothers."

Wintrob ideas to increase both transparency within the IFC and with the MIT community include revamping the IFC website, clarifying the Delegates' Council role as an open forum for fraternities, and adding office hours during which students can communicate with the IFC Executive Board.

The IFC, in addition electing a new board, has established a judicial review committee in response to concerns over IFC judicial processes that arose following Phi Beta Epsilon's suspension in September. The new committee is composed of volunteer members and currently includes 22 representatives from 13 chapters. According to Ryan Schoen '11, the outgoing IFC president, the committee is in the process of scheduling their first meeting.

Anjaney P. Kottapalli '11 of Pi Lambda Phi volunteered to chair the committee, and the Presidents' Council, which is composed of all fraternity chapter presidents and IFC executive board, approved Kottapalli's position. Wintrob said he plans to work closely with the committee and the MIT administration to improve the judicial system.

—Joanna Kao

IFC Election Results		
<b>President</b>	Gordon W. Wintrob '12	Phi Sigma Kappa
<b>Vice President</b>	Tim Stumbaugh '12	Phi Delta Theta
<b>Executive Assistant</b>	Maxsim Kolysh '14	Zeta Psi
<b>Risk Manager</b>	Jack J. Wanderman '13	Kappa Sigma
<b>Judicial Chair</b>	Stephen A. Hendel '12	Chi Phi
<b>Recruitment and Programming Chair</b>	Eduardo D. Russian '13	Theta Delta Chi
<b>Publicity Chair</b>	Ignatius Chen '13	Theta Xi

## How do you like them apples?



NICHOLAS CHORNAV—THE TECH

**An apple octopus lounges on a table** before the start of judging at Apple Bake, held on Sunday in the Burton-Conner Porter Room. The annual competition attracted nearly 200 entries in categories ranging from apple art to apple desserts and apple drinks.

## In schools' efforts to end gay bullying, some see agenda

### Critics argue school programs endorse homosexuality

By **Erik Eckholm**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HELENA, Mont. — Alarmed by evidence that gay and lesbian students are common victims of schoolyard bullies, many school districts are bolstering their anti-harassment rules with early lessons in tolerance, explaining that some children have "two moms" or will grow up to love members of the same sex.

But such efforts to teach acceptance of homosexuality, which

have gained urgency after several well-publicized suicides by gay teenagers, are provoking new culture wars in some communities.

Many educators and rights advocates say that official prohibitions of slurs and taunts are most effective when combined with frank discussions, from kindergarten on, about diverse families and sexuality.

Angry parents and religious critics, while agreeing that schoolyard harassment should be stopped, charge that liberals and gay rights groups are using the

anti-bullying banner to pursue a hidden "homosexual agenda," implicitly endorsing, for example, same-sex marriage.

Last summer, school officials here in Montana's capital unveiled new guidelines for teaching about sexuality and tolerance. They proposed teaching first graders that "human beings can love people of the same gender," and fifth graders that sexual intercourse can involve "vaginal, oral or anal penetration."

Bullying, Page 9

## IN SHORT

**No classes on Thursday.** Go out and celebrate Veterans Day!

**\$4900 is the expected cost** of the dining plan for Maseeh Hall (W1), revealed HDAG member and Next House president Ellen B. McIsaac '12 at last week's Senate meeting. The plan consists of five breakfasts, five lunches, two brunches, and seven dinners per week.

**The bone marrow drive** sponsored by the Sloan School of Management will be held today 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the E62 lobby and tomorrow noon-3 p.m. in 10-105 (Bush Room).

**MIThenge will start on Thursday** and end on Sunday.

Send news info and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

## NEW DINING PLAN AN "IMPORTANT MILESTONE"

MIT administrators defend the dining plan and HDAG's process.  
**OPN, p. 4**

## DERAIL HIGH SPEED RAIL

High speed rail is a Democratic policy crush.  
**OPN, p. 5**

## MIT HAS LOST A BIT OF POETRY

The Advanced Poetry Workshop's demise is a real shame.  
**OPN, p. 5**



## LEWITT'S "BARS OF COLOR" A HIDDEN GEM IN BUILDING 6

A student discovers and delights in LeWitt's colorful terazzo tiles.  
**CL, p. 8**

## VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

Why are Americans so obsessed with "being official"? We should learn from the French, and get over it.  
**CL, p. 8**

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## Sticker shock for travelers as airfares climb

In the 10 years they have been together, Charissa Benjamin and her Serbian husband have always flown from their home in Washington to spend the winter holidays in the warmth of her native Antigua.

But with the lowest economy-class fare this year advertised at about \$1,500 — more than twice the \$700 she paid in 2009 — Benjamin is considering ringing in 2011 with her husband's family in decidedly chillier Belgrade. Flights there cost half as much as those to the Caribbean.

As Benjamin and others have been discovering in recent months, airfares in most of the world are on the rise as the global economy picks up and demand for air travel climbs, particularly for business trips. Airlines, meanwhile, have been reluctant to add more flights to meet that growing demand. That is increasing pressure on ticket prices and making for packed planes and longer standby lines as the year-end travel season approaches.

This has been a boon, of course, for an industry that is expected to roar back into profit this year, to the tune of \$8.9 billion. That comes after airlines collectively lost nearly \$26 billion during the previous two years, according to the International Air Transport Association, an airline industry group. Many of the world's leading airlines are reporting that the three-month period ending Sept. 30 was one of their most profitable quarters in years.

The degree of sticker shock varies significantly by region and by class of seat, with fares on some routes still at or below those of a year ago, despite some large increases in traffic.

—Nicola Clark, *The New York Times*

## Floods in Haiti raise fear of cholera's spread

Three medical workers arrived at a clinic near here over the weekend on a mission to deliver supplies and spread the word about preventing a deadly cholera outbreak from getting worse after the torrential rains brought by Hurricane Tomas.

What they found was a locked gate, a 3-year-old boy with unrelenting diarrhea being cradled in his father's arms and a gathering crowd of others waiting to get in.

Several of them said, yes, they drank water from a river known to be contaminated with the cholera-causing bacteria. And, no, they don't always have money to buy bottled water.

The cholera outbreak, which has killed more than 500 people and sickened more than 7,000 in the past 2 1/2 weeks, is largely confined to this region of rice paddies and small settlements, where the water has long provided life and livelihood.

But after several inches of rain fell as Hurricane Tomas passed Friday, health authorities are racing to keep people from drinking unsanitary water, particularly here, where the Artibonite River is known to be contaminated with the disease.

At the public hospital in nearby Petite Riviere, the number of cholera cases has risen since Friday, after trailing off during the week. But doctors said it was too soon to say whether the increase was an anomaly or a sign that the epidemic may worsen with the flooding.

There were also several reports that new cases were suspected in far-flung areas of Haiti, including several cases under investigation Monday in the capital, Port-au-Prince, raising concern that the disease may have spread there.

The city's overcrowded earthquake survivor camps and unsanitary conditions could promote the disease. But previously, the only cases confirmed in the capital were among people who had traveled from areas already affected.

Surges in suspected cases are common, as people confuse common diarrhea with cholera, which is much worse and can quickly dehydrate and kill its victims if untreated.

—Randal C. Archibald, *The New York Times* ST. DENIS, Haiti

# Repeal of policy on gay military service faces struggle

By Elisabeth Bumiller and David M. Herszenhorn  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON — Prospects for Congress to authorize repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy face new uncertainties as time runs out for the Senate to act and strong objections remain among Republicans and the most senior ranks of the military.

Recent developments on Capitol Hill and within the military — including unusual comments over the weekend about sleeping arrangements by the new commandant of the Marine Corps — have clouded prospects for repeal.

The uncertainty comes even as Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said for the first time that he would like the Senate to vote to authorize the repeal before the end of the year, and a not-yet-released Pentagon survey of active-duty forces and their families showed that the majority did not care if gay men and women served openly. In the meantime, a federal appeals court in California is considering whether

the ban is constitutional.

The period of growing doubts in Washington has further aggravated tensions between gay rights groups and President Barack Obama, who campaigned on a promise to end the ban and allow gay men and women to serve openly.

Two main forces are working against repeal on Capitol Hill.

One is the simple matter of the congressional calendar. There will be very little time in the lame-duck session that begins next week for the Senate to vote to authorize the repeal of the policy and reconcile its measure with a version passed by the House.

The other obstacle lies in the concerns of Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the senior Republican on the Armed Services Committee. Although McCain has said in the past that he would consider authorizing a repeal of the law once the Pentagon review was complete, he faced a challenge from the right in his recent re-election fight and campaigned, in part, on a promise to preserve the 17-year-old law that requires service members to keep

their sexual orientation secret.

McCain blocked consideration of a defense bill in September that included a provision allowing repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," and in recent days he has been in negotiations with Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, on whether the "don't ask, don't tell" provision should be stripped from the bill entirely.

If that occurs, Democratic leaders could use other means to bring the measure to the floor, but they would be more time-consuming.

The chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force have all expressed some reluctance about ending the ban, as has the former commandant of the Marine Corps, but the comments of the current commandant, Gen. James F. Amos, are the most vivid to date.

In comments to reporters in California this weekend, Amos said that ending the ban in the middle of two wars would involve "risk" for Marines, who, unlike other service members who generally have private quarters, share rooms to promote unity.

# Connecticut jury imposes death penalty for a killer of three

By William Glaberson  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A jury voted Monday to impose the death penalty on a habitual criminal who took part in a home invasion in Cheshire, Conn., that left a woman and her two daughters dead, a crime of such inexplicable cruelty and randomness — the family was apparently chosen after being spotted in a shopping center parking lot — that it upended a debate about capital punishment.

For nearly two months, jurors learned every searing detail of the night and morning in July 2007 when two men armed only with a BB gun that looked like a real pistol burst into the colonial-style home of a successful doctor and put him and his family through an ordeal of beatings and sexual abuse that ended as flames tore through the house where the girls, still alive, had been

strapped to their beds. Their mother had already been strangled.

Only the father — Dr. William A. Petit Jr., dazed and bloodied after being beaten with a baseball bat in his sleep — managed to escape.

He was in the front row Monday, slumped forward, as the defendant, Steven J. Hayes, sat motionless at the defense table. The court clerk announced, again and again, that jurors believed the crimes Hayes had committed required that he be put to death.

In thanking the jurors, Judge Jon C. Blue of state Superior Court said they had been "exposed to images of depravity and horror no human being should have to see."

The verdict came at the beginning of the fourth day of deliberations in the trial's penalty phase. Only one person has been executed in Connecticut since 1960.

"This is a verdict for justice," Petit said afterward. "The defendant

faces far more serious punishment from the Lord than he can ever face from mankind."

One juror, Herbert R. Gram of Madison, said the panel experienced little disagreement during deliberations.

"It was just so heinous, and just so over the top and so depraved," he said of the crime. "Here's a case where somebody doesn't deserve to remain on the face of the earth."

A second defendant, Joshua Komisarjevsky — whom Hayes' defense lawyers portrayed as the leader to their client's hapless, drug-addled follower — will be tried separately.

The home invasion was called one of the worst crimes in Connecticut history and was compared to the 1959 murder of a family in Kansas that was the centerpiece of Truman Capote's book "In Cold Blood." The Cheshire crime has already been the subject of its own books.

## WEATHER

# Gloomy weather until Veterans Day

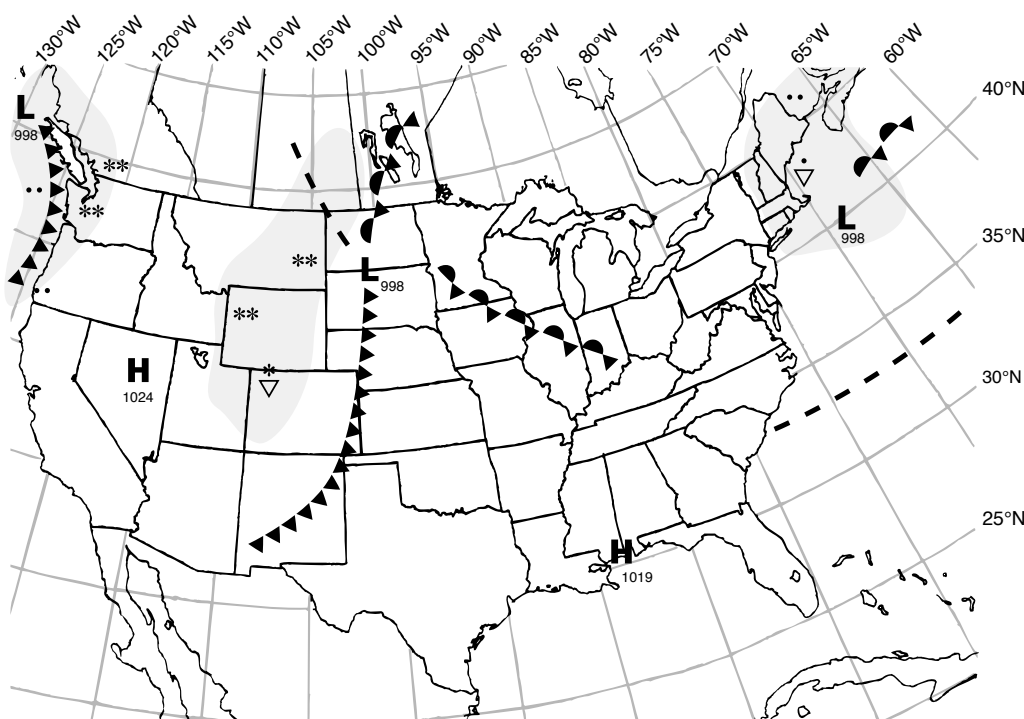
By Roman Kowch  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A pesky low pressure, still lurking off the coast of Cape Cod, will maintain cloudy skies over the region. Northerly winds will also continue, ushering in some cool air from Canada. This will keep highs near 50°F and lows near 40°F.

Along with the cloudiness, some spotty showers will persist through Wednesday, but daily rainfall amounts should remain under 1/4 of an inch. The low pressure will slowly move off into the Atlantic. In its wake, sunny weather will return for Veterans Day along with a gradual warm-up into this weekend.

### Extended Forecast

- Today:** Cloudy with a 40% chance of showers. North wind at 15-20 mph, gusting to 35 mph. High 52°F (11°C).
- Tonight:** Cloudy with a 30% chance of showers. North wind at 10-20 mph, gusting to 30 mph. Low 40°F (4°C).
- Tomorrow:** Cloudy, then gradual clearing. Slight chance of showers. North wind at 10-20 mph. High 50°F (10°C).
- Thursday:** Sunny. Highs in the lower 50's°F (10-12°C). Lows in the mid 30's°F (1-3°C).
- Friday:** Sunny. Highs in the mid 50's°F (12-14°C). Lows in the mid 30's°F (1-3°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow: * Rain: ∇	☁ Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Showers: ∇*	⚡ Thunderstorm
<b>§</b> Hurricane	▲▲ Cold Front	Light: * Moderate: ** Heavy: ***	☁ Haze
	— Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# At legal fringe in Florida, empty houses go to the needy

By Catharine Skip and Damien Cave  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NORTH LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Save Florida Homes Inc. and its owner, Mark Guerette, have found foreclosed homes for several needy families here in Broward County, and his tenants could not be more pleased. Fabian Ferguson, his wife and two children now live a two-bedroom home they have transformed from damaged and abandoned to full and cozy.

There is just one problem: Guerette is not the owner. Yet.

In a sign of the odd ingenuity

that has grown from the real estate collapse, he is banking on an 1869 Florida statute that says the bundle of properties he has seized will be his if the owners do not claim them within seven years.

A version of the same law was used in the 1850s to claim possession of runaway slaves, although Guerette, 47, a clean-cut mortgage broker, sees his efforts as heroic.

"There are all these properties out there that could be used for good," he said.

North Lauderdale authorities, though, see him as a crook. He is scheduled to go on trial in December on fraud charges in a case that,

along with a handful of others in Florida and in other states, could determine whether maintaining a property and paying taxes on it is enough to lead to ownership.

Legal scholars say the concept is old — rooted in Renaissance England, when agricultural land would sometimes go fallow, left untended by long-lost heirs. But it is also common. All states allow for so-called adverse possession, with the time to forge a kind of common-law marriage with property varying from a few years to several decades.

The statute generally requires that properties be maintained openly and continuously.

# President Obama courts emergent India as deeper ally

By Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Jim Yardley  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI — By endorsing India for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, President Barack Obama on Monday signaled the United States' intention to create a deeper partnership of the world's two largest democracies that would expand commercial ties and check the influence of an increasingly assertive China.

Obama's announcement, made during a nationally televised address to the Indian Parliament, came at the end of a three-day visit to India that won high marks from

an Indian political establishment once uncertain of the president's commitment to the relationship. Even as stark differences remained between the countries on a range of tough issues, including Pakistan, trade policy, climate change and, to some degree, Iran, Obama spoke of India as an "indispensable" partner for the coming century.

"In Asia and around the world, India is not simply emerging," he said during his speech in Parliament. "India has emerged."

Obama's closer embrace of India prompted a sharp warning from Pakistan, India's rival and an uncertain U.S. ally in the war in Af-

ghanistan, which criticized the two countries for engaging in "power politics" that lacked a moral foundation.

It is also likely to set off fresh concerns in Beijing, which has had a contentious relationship with India and has expressed alarm at U.S. efforts to tighten alliances with Asian nations wary of China's rising power.

But warmer ties between the United States and India, in the making for many years, come at a crucial time for Obama. He and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh are headed to South Korea later this week for a meeting of the Group of 20.

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2010 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Company.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Contraception prevents unwanted pregnancies

In his November 2, 2010 Opinion piece "The intimate civic duty," Russell Rodewald misuses a Guttmacher Institute statistic — that half of women having abortions used contraception in the month they became pregnant — to make the claim that birth control is ineffective in preventing unintended pregnancies and abortion. This is a fundamental misunderstanding of the statistic.

The two-thirds of women at risk of unintended pregnancy who use contraception consistently and correctly account for only 5 percent of unintended pregnancies, while the roughly one in ten who use no contraception account for half. Using any contraceptive method reduces a couple's chances of having an unintended pregnancy by 85 percent, and properly using the most effective methods virtually eliminates that risk. Indeed, nearly all Americans

acknowledge this: 99 percent of sexually active people have used contraception at some point in their lives.

Access to contraception dramatically reduces the chance of having an unplanned pregnancy, the precursor event to almost every abortion. If the goal is truly to reduce the need for abortion, the best approach is to increase contraceptive access and use — not to attack it.

—Lawrence B. Finer, Ph.D.  
Director of Domestic Research,  
Guttmacher Institute

## Greek life is awesome

*Editor's note: This letter was addressed to members of the Greek community at MIT.*

I'd like to share with you some of my experiences with Greek life at MIT. I hope that as you read this, you can relive some of your memories from your time spent in one of the best Greek systems in the country, no matter what your chapter.

## Dining changes a long time coming

## New plan draws on student input and moves MIT culture forward

By Phillip Clay, Christine Ortiz,  
Costantino Colombo and  
Daniel Hastings

In 2007 the Institute convened a Blue Ribbon Committee to study dining at MIT. Last spring, the students and faculty Housemasters of the House Dining Advisory Group (HDAG) issued their final recommendation for a new dining program in the residences with dining halls. And last week, the director of Campus Dining issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to food service companies to operate this system.

We have traveled a considerable distance to reach this important milestone, and we are committed to proceeding. Campus Dining will select a vendor, and in September 2011 we will have a new House Dining plan structured according to the HDAG recommendation. This decision has a practical basis: if we are to have a meal plan in place for the start of the next academic year, we cannot delay entering into a contract with a company to run the dining halls.

But this decision is also demanded by the past two decades of dining at MIT. Since 1992, the Institute has convened a major committee to address frustration with House Dining every five years. We noted this embarrassing fact in these pages last winter, but it is worth emphasizing again because MIT must end this unfortunate cycle. For too long, our community has not seized opportunities to create a successful dining program in the residences. We cannot hesitate this time — and we must take a different approach.

We have received many questions and comments from students, and we wanted to

address three that stand out:

Was the process inclusive and transparent? For over three years, MIT has studied dining from every angle. We have administered surveys, held focus groups and open forums, and met continually with student leaders. We developed websites to send information out and to bring opinions in. These efforts directly involved thousands of students, who let us know what they think in a variety of ways. Moreover, student participation has been vital to both of the committees charged with this task.

Not every student agrees with the final recommendation, but students were involved every step of the way. Moreover, we remain committed to evaluating and improving House Dining wherever we can without undermining the new system's fundamental structure. The implementation phase presents many opportunities to shape program details in collaboration with students and faculty Housemasters, especially from the five residences with dining halls. The Phoenix Group, for instance, has offered some compelling ideas for the lunch component of Maseeh Hall's meal plans, and we are delighted to explore these student-driven possibilities.

Will the meal plans be affordable? We recognize that the forecasted prices call for a greater commitment from students in House Dining. However, two of the three plans for Baker, McCormick, Next, and Simmons are in the range of what their residents report spending on meals for the period covered by the new program — and all offer significant improvement to service availability and options. We have also checked the costs against similar programs at peer institu-

My first experience with fraternities at MIT was an admittedly scary one. I was visiting in November of 2007 as a senior in high school, trying this whole "east coast" thing (I hail from Northern Colorado). My host was hosed, so he left me to the care of his friend Arron. After strolling strobe alley and hearing the 1.00 lecture, Arron said that we would be going to his fraternity for dinner. I imagined what it would be like: a bunch of drunks walking around in togas while hazing pledges. My entire knowledge of "frats" came from a viewing of Animal House when I was probably ten years old and my dad's stories from when he was in Kappa Sig back in the late 70s. I was absolutely terrified, but I didn't want to appear rude, so I came along quietly.

We took SafeRide to the house after a long wait in the cold (these were the days before NextBus). After giving me the requisite tour of the house, Arron settled in to work, leaving me to my own devices. Soon enough, I heard someone yell "Dinner!" up the central stairwell and the subsequent thunder of hungry brothers running down

Letters, Page 5

## CORRECTIONS

Friday's article about the Underclassmen Giving Campaign incorrectly stated that the Public Service Center spearheads the campaign. Though the campaign supports the Public Service Center, it is actually spearheaded by the Alumni Association. Also, in one instance, the article incorrectly referred to the Underclassmen Giving Campaign as the Undergraduate Giving Campaign.

## OPINION POLICY

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Steve Howland, Editor in Chief Jeff Guo, Managing Editor David M. Templeton, Executive Editor Natasha Plotkin, Opinion Editors Joseph Maurer and Ethan Solomon, and Advisory Board member Andrew T. Lukmann.

**Dissents** are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or

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## VIDEO GAME REVIEW

# Power Gig shakes up the rhythm genre

Gameplay is imperfect, but feels satisfying and genuine

By Michael T. Lin  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Seven45 Studios released *Power Gig: Rise of the SixString* released October 19, an indie developer's first toe-dip into the rhythm game swimming pool. By far the most intriguing aspect of *Power Gig* is the revolutionary use of a bona fide electric guitar as the primary controller for guitar gameplay, a first at time of release with some serious implications.

Seven45's intent with *Power Gig* appears to be to create a game that is equal parts teaching tool and video game, which has its negatives but nonetheless helps address the legitimacy problem that has been plaguing rhythm games for years. Although the song selection lacks many of the big hitters of other games, it is at least unique in many respects.

The wholeheartedness with which Seven45 has tackled the goal of encouraging more rock fans to learn an instrument has earned them kudos from within the music industry. This means a soundtrack comprised largely of songs by exclusive artists like Dave Matthews Band as well as John Mayer, who has historically been against rhythm games as a genre. Getting non-gamers to take video games seriously is no mean feat, and for that alone, *Power Gig* deserves some credit.

As for the gameplay itself, it's undeniable that having a real, albeit somewhat undersized, guitar in one's hands makes for a more visceral experience. During gameplay, just as with a real guitar, players press down strings between frets and strum strings with either their fingers or a guitar pick, no buttons involved.

Tutorials on the game disc teach players the basics of fretting, strumming, power chords, etc., which can be parlayed into an actual understanding of the instrument in hand.

The controller is also compatible with Rock Band and Guitar Hero games, although that doesn't mean that it translates perfectly to both — the *Power Gig* controller is more



COURTESY OF SEVEN45 STUDIOS

The newly-released game, *Power Gig: Rise of the SixString*, features a game controller that also functions as a standalone guitar.

finicky with its strings instead of buttons and a strum bar, and the difference in note charting between the two games reflects that important distinction. Trying to use the *Power Gig* controller to jump into your favorite Rock Band songs on Expert Guitar is ill-advised, to say the least. The difficulty curve demands a certain level of respect, and there's no shame in taking your time.

*Power Gig* is far from perfect, but most of its flaws can be traced back to a common cause. The muted strings "plink" during normal gameplay and must be pressed harder to register, because the controller is a real guitar. The controller has to be treated with more care, because it's a real guitar. Players should trim their fingernails regularly and take breaks to rest their fingertips, because — you guessed it — they're playing on a real

guitar.

Other problems include reduced customization and only having half of the songs available out of the box. The rest have to be unlocked via story mode, and there's no cheat to circumvent it.

The story mode has somewhat more depth than the straightforward "you're a rock star, go forth and rock" premise of other games, involving a dystopian world of limited musical freedom in a similar vein to Double Fine's heavy-metal RTS *Brütal Legend*. This is somewhat at odds with the style of some of the music you're playing in the rebellious underground music venues, but I guess it's only fair that Eric Clapton fans get some love, too.

The game also supports gameplay for vocals and drums, including a new drum controller that sits on the floor and detects

drumming movements in the air instead of on pads, which ironically is less realistic than in other games, but is at least more portable than less wieldy drum kits. Tragically, there's no available bass gameplay, which makes sense in a way but is still an unfortunate omission.

Ultimately, *Power Gig* offers somewhat less overall than similar games, and demands more of the player, but is also priced more reasonably, and its rewards are directly proportional to how willing players/students are to meet it halfway and take learning its techniques seriously.

*Power Gig: Rise of the SixString* is available as a standalone game (about \$60), guitar/game bundle (\$180), or a band bundle (\$230). A full-size controller is also available on pre-order for \$250.

## FRESH PERSPECTIVES

## "Bars of Color"

Building 6's artwork is a serene sanctuary.

By Nazia Chowdhury

It was the middle of September 2010, and I was still the wandering freshman beguiled at everything MIT presented — from the snake-y tunnels to the TEAL classes and even to the problematic problem sets!

On such a day, my dear friend Vedha and I were looking for a quiet place to discuss physics (yes, we were crazy nerds back then). Suddenly Vedha said, "I know exactly the place we're looking for!" and took me to our "Room of Requirement."

At once the room brightened my mood with its rainbow tiles and the glass ceiling through which sunlight was abundantly streaming. I also wondered why the room was empty and even if we were allowed to be there. But I was so attracted to the room that my head replied with vengeance, "Who cares?"

The "colored place" became our usual room to study or idle away time (though that does not happen very often) between classes.

On Halloween, I found that the "colored place" was also adored by hackers when I followed a line of tiny spiders to discover a huge arachnid hanging from the ceiling. It was only then that I learned that our dear old "colored place" is officially named "Bars of Color within Squares" with its amazing terrazzo floor.

**At once the room brightened my mood with its rainbow tiles and the glass ceiling through which sunlight was abundantly streaming.**

This "Bars of Color within Squares" is a 5,500 square-foot piece of public art commissioned with MIT Percent-for-Art Funds for the Physics, Department of Material Science and Engineering and the Spectroscopy Lab Infrastructure Project.

The idea hatched from eighteen variations of designs including geometric figures and happy, bright colors by Sol LeWitt, often referred as a founding father of Conceptual Art. Later fifteen of them were used to create the polychrome terrazzo floor that now greets the visitors who enter the atrium space between MIT's new Green Center (Building 6C) and the older Buildings 4, 6 and 8. To art critics like Andrea Miller-Keller, it is "a carnival of color, light and movement."

To me, it is simply my contemplating place. It gives me the serene environment that I need to figure out DNA sequences and the joyous mood that I need to go through colorless texts. Whenever I turn over a page, I look at the floor to see the radiant colors and bold geometric shapes shifting merrily.

No matter what its real name is, to me it will always be my "colored place."

## VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRRESS

## A tale of French bravery and American cowardice

All you American guys can learn something from how the French do it

By M.

I've always been perplexed by all the rules and conventions of dating the American way. I don't understand how "it's complicated" ever came to be a relationship status, and I don't understand why people would pay to read books or see movies based around making women realize that guys are not that into them.

But more than all of those things, what confuses me most is all the to-do over being "official."

The few guys I've dated during my time at MIT have been a mixed bag, but the one thing they have in common is that they all exploited the unofficialness of our relationship. (Yes, I made up that word.)

We did all sorts of things people in relationships do, but ask them and I'm sure they'll say that we were nothing more than good friends. I'm sorry, dude, but I don't sleep with my good friends.

I found myself in such a situation not long ago with a guy I dated for a few months. To the outside world, I'm sure we seemed like a real couple with all the hand-holding and the kissing and the Friday night dates. Color me surprised when he then used the fact that we were not official against me. I got cheated out of a relationship based solely on a technicality.

Since we never had "the talk," we were never "together." The logic of that completely eludes me.

So of course, when I started seeing someone while interning in Paris this summer — let's call him Pierre — I expected things to go in a similar fashion. Pierre and I would do all the hand-holding and the goodbye kisses I'd done with other guys, and just like these guys convinced me we were never in a relationship, I convinced myself this time too. Until we had "the talk," we wouldn't be "together."

One night over dinner, Pierre told me he ran into his ex on the train and she asked about his *copine*.

Thinking I was missing something in translation — *copine* can mean "female friend" or "girlfriend," depending on the context — I asked him to clarify.

"*Ta copine* as in, your girlfriend?" I asked. "Oui," he said.

I almost choked on my crêpe. Not only had this guy referred to me as his girlfriend, but other people acknowledged the "officialness" of our relationship. Weren't we going to talk about this? Shouldn't we sit down and do the whole, "you don't sleep with anybody else and I won't sleep with anybody else and we're going to put this up on Facebook" thing?

As it turns out, "the talk" doesn't really exist in France, only in the States.

Thinking this was an isolated case, I brought it up to my fellow American friend dating a Frenchman, and her situation was similar. The guy never brought up being an "official" couple; rather, they just sort of fell into it the same way Pierre and I did. She, too, thought that the "officialness" was an American thing.

Our relationships with our respective French boyfriends going well, we had to wonder: What is exactly the point of making a relationship "official"? It can't be a marker of commitment, since there are plenty of people in official relationships who cheat. It occurred to us that it might just be a loophole, an excuse that guys could use if they needed an easy out.

If you're not "officially" a couple, you get a free pass to hook up with someone else, to date many girls at the same time, to disappear without a trace. But if you're official, your partner can give you shit for cheating, you owe them exclusivity, and you have to dump them with dignity.

But shouldn't everyone deserve this respect regardless of how official the relationship is? I understand casual relationships and I encourage them if both parties are on the same page, but if you've been seeing someone for a while, it's safe to assume they believe it to be serious in some way.

Relationships should be "serious until determined casual," not the other way around. That's how STDs spread and hearts get broken.

So serious-until-determined-casual it was with Pierre. We never changed our Facebook status, but there was the understanding that we were taking our relationship seriously despite its short expiration date without feeling the need to label it. And, I must admit, I very much prefer the French approach.

# Schools debate how to teach tolerance

Bullying, from Page 1

A local pastor, Rick DeMato, carried his shock straight to the pulpit.

"We do not want the minds of our children to be polluted with the things of a carnal-minded society," DeMato, 69, told his flock at Liberty Baptist Church.

In tense community hearings, some parents made familiar arguments that innocent youngsters were not ready for explicit language. Other parents and pastors, along with leaders of the Big Sky Tea Party, saw a darker purpose.

"Anyone who reads this document can see that it promotes acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle," one mother said at a six-hour school board meeting in late September.

Barely heard was the plea of Harlan Reidmohr, 18, who graduated last spring and said he was relentlessly tormented and slammed against lockers after coming out during his freshman year.

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## Solution to Left Sudoku

from page 7

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

## Solution to Right Sudoku

from page 7

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

## Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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

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**Recent commencement speakers**

Year	Date announced by <i>The Tech</i>	Commencement speaker
2011	Nov. 9	Ursula M. Burns, CEO of Xerox
2010	Mar. 16	Raymond S. Stata
2009	Feb. 10	Deval Patrick, Massachusetts Governor
2008	Dec. 7	Muhammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner
2007	Mar. 13	Charles M. Vest, former MIT president
2006	Dec. 13	Ben S. Bernanke, chairman of Federal Reserve Board
2005	Apr. 12	Irwin Jacobs, co-founder/chairman/CEO of Qualcomm
2004	Mar. 9	Elias Zerhouni, Director of NIH
2003	Apr. 1	George Mitchell, former U.S. Senator
2002	Feb. 26	James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank
2001	Mar. 23	Daniel Goldin, NASA Administrator
2000	Mar. 14	Carly Fiorina, President & CEO, HP
1999	Apr. 2	Tom & Ray Magliozzi, MIT alumni and hosts of NPR's "Car Talk"
1998	Feb. 24	William Jefferson Clinton and David Ho, AIDS researcher
1997	Jan. 29	Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General
1996	Mar. 1	Albert Gore, U.S. Vice President
1995	Apr. 21	Hanna H. Gray, President Emeritus of the University of Chicago
1994	Feb. 15	Karim Aga Khan IV, spiritual leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims

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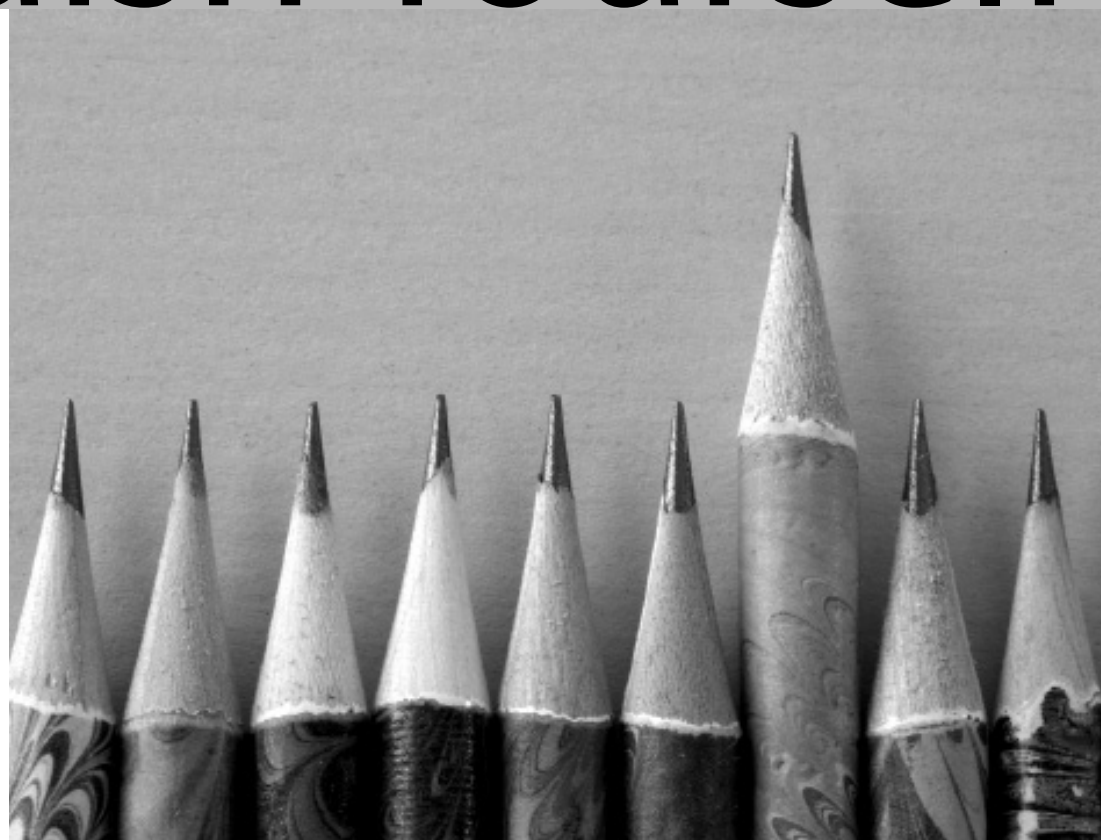
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# Burns climbed Xerox corporate ladder

Burns, from Page 1

her master's degree from Columbia University in 1981, Burns returned to Xerox as a full-time employee.

Over the following two decades, Burns ascended through the ranks of the company, serving first in engineering positions, including project development, before becoming an assistant to then-CEO Paul Allaire in 1991. Burns continued to hold leadership roles on a number of teams, including those in Xerox's office-network-copying and departmental business units.

Burns began serving as a corporate senior vice president in 2000 and was named president of Xerox seven years later, in 2007, expanding her leadership to include Xerox's IT, corporate marketing, corporate strategy, and human resources divisions. Burns was named chief executive officer of Xerox last summer and she was selected by President Barack Obama to lead the White House program on science, technology, engineering, and math in November 2009.

The selection process for the 2011 commencement speaker began last spring, when the 2011 Class Council and Graduate Student Council e-mailed surveys to expected graduates. Students were provided a chance to write the names of up to three people they would like to speak at their graduation.

Students leaders, including Bhagi and GSC President Ulric Ferner '10, combed through the survey results before presenting a shortlist to the president. The final decision rests with the MIT Corporation.

Unlike many other universities, MIT has a policy of not compensating commencement speakers. Bhagi did not have a problem with this policy, saying "we only invite people who take pride in speaking at MIT."

With the selection of Burns, MIT has chosen a Corporation member for the fourth time in five years. Raymond S. Stata '57, Governor Deval Patrick, and former MIT President Charles M. Vest, who spoke in 2010, 2009, and 2007, respectively, are all current members of the MIT Corporation.

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Participation is open to all members of the MIT community, and submissions will be anonymous. The survey is available at:

<http://mit.edu/15.a03/survey/tech>

As an added incentive, students who complete this survey can enter a raffle for one of several prizes:

- An 8GB iPod Touch
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- \$15 iTunes gift cards

You'll be able to enter the raffle via your email address when you complete the survey. This is separate from the survey submission. Thank you for your help and participation!

(Anyone is welcome to fill out the survey. Your input will be very valuable in helping us figure out the best way to reach members of the MIT community with important information. However, only MIT students are eligible for raffle prizes. Sorry!)

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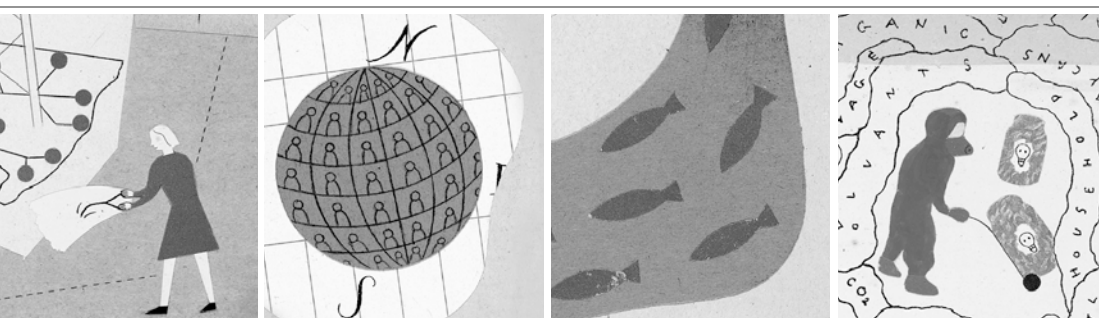
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Thursday, November 11, 2010, 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
1512 International Affairs Building, Columbia University  
RSVP: Mariel Kessel, [msk2156@columbia.edu](mailto:msk2156@columbia.edu)

# CSI: MIT

Murder. Intrigue. Sex. Guns. Explosions.  
This might not be your typical crime drama.

The Chorallaries of MIT Fall Concert  
November 13 8:00 pm  
10-250  
Free Admission

In collaboration with:  
The Chorallaries of MIT with Children's Hospital Boston  
AMSA (AMERICAN MUSIC STUDENTS ASSOCIATION)

