

## Cameras installed in Lobby 10



NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH

Cameras were recently installed in Lobby 10 to watch the Martin Luther King, Jr. seminar exhibit, a frequent target of vandalism. It is unclear how long the cameras will remain or how long the recorded footage will be retained.

## Martin Luther King Jr. exhibit monitored for vandalism

By John A. Hawkinson  
NEWS EDITOR

To monitor vandalism against this year's Martin Luther King Jr. exhibit, surveillance cameras were installed two weeks ago in Lobby 10. The cameras are not actively watched, but the video is stored, the security office said.

One camera is installed above the east entrance to Lobby 10, and the other is above the west entrance. MIT has not responded to inquiries about whether these cameras are permanent, when they might be removed, what policies control access to them, or how long their footage is retained.

The MLK exhibit, a student project that has been displayed in Lobby 10 every February since 1999, has historically been a target of vandalism. Department of Political Science Undergraduate Administrator Tobie F. Weiner, who organizes the exhibit as part of the IAP MLK design seminar (17.920), said

that the cameras were installed by the campus police on behalf of the seminar.

Weiner said that to have the cameras installed, she worked with Thomas W. Komola, manager of MIT's Security and Emergency Management Office; with Director of Facilities Operations and Security John DiFava, who oversees the Campus Police; and with Captain Jay A. Perault of the Campus Police. DiFava did not reply to an e-mail inquiry sent Monday afternoon.

"Two wireless cameras were installed two weeks ago in the lobby of Building 10 at the request of the MIT Police, in order to capture any vandalism-related activities at the displays located there. The space is not being actively monitored, but the video will be stored in case the MIT Police need to review it in conjunction with a potential investigation," said Komola in a prepared statement.

Komola told *The Tech* that he was not authorized to speak publicly. Shortly before

the close of business Monday, he provided a written answer to preliminary questions that *The Tech* had submitted over the weekend. The answers had first been vetted by the MIT News Office.

The security office has not responded to questions yesterday from *The Tech* about what other portions of the campus are under video surveillance, how surveillance footage might be used in the event of a hack in Lobby 10, and what policies about retention exist.

The security office maintains a strict policy for the records of card access across campus: the data are retained for just a few weeks before being automatically deleted. There are no similar policies about surveillance footage.

Students have begun to notice the cameras as well. Yesterday afternoon, students on the Senior House mailing list mentioned

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## YouTube a new way to charm Tufts

Applicants use video to show creative side

By Tamar Lewin  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MEDFORD, MASS. — There are videos showing off card tricks, horsemanship, jump rope and stencils — and lots of rap songs, including one by a young woman who performed two weeks after oral surgery, with her mouth still rubber-banded shut.

There is also Rhaina Cohen's video, working off the saying "You never truly know someone until you have walked a mile in her shoes," and featuring the blue sandals from her bat mitzvah, the white sneakers she bought cheaply in Britain, and the black heels in which she "stood next to Hillary Clinton."

It is reading season at the Tufts University admissions office, time to plow through thousands of essays and transcripts and recommendations — and this year, for the first time, short YouTube videos that students could post to supplement their application.

About 1,000 of the 15,000 applicants submitted videos. Some have gotten thousands of hits on YouTube.

Tufts, which, like the University of Chicago, is known for its quirky application, invited the YouTube videos. Along with the required essays, Tufts has for years offered applicants an array of optional essays — "Are we alone?" is one of this year's topics — or a chance to "create something" out of a sheet of paper. So it was not too far a stretch, this year, to add the option of posting a one-minute video that "says something about you."

Lee Coffin, the dean of undergraduate admissions, said the idea came to him last spring as he watched a YouTube video someone had sent him. "I thought, 'If this kid applied to Tufts, I'd admit him in a minute, without anything else,'" Coffin said.

For their videos, some students sat in their bedrooms and talked earnestly into the camera, while others made day-in-the-life montages, featuring buddies, burgers and lacrosse practice. A budding disc jockey sent clips from one of his raves, with a suggestion that such parties might be welcome at Tufts.

A few students created elaborate produc-

Tufts, Page 11

### IN SHORT

**The annual Latke vs. Hamentashen Debate**, sponsored by MIT Hillel and the de Florez Fund for Humor, is tomorrow from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in 26-100. The debate, moderated by Professor of Chemistry Keith Nelson, features faculty members debating the merits of the two traditional Jewish pastries. Free latkes and hamentashen are served afterwards.

**The spring final exam schedule** is posted. Check <http://web.mit.edu/registrar/classrooms/>

**exams/finals/** to find out how early you can leave for the summer!

**The W20 (Student Center) Athena cluster** now has a proximity card reader — gone are the days of trying to figure out the door combination puzzle or awkwardly standing by the door when you forget the code.

**The waiver and enrollment deadline for the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan** is this Sunday, February 28. Waivers and registration can be completed online at <http://medweb.mit.edu/waive>.

## New Balance plows Charles running paths

Snow is no longer an excuse for students to avoid the outdoors, now that the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Boston-based shoe company New Balance have partnered this winter to plow seventeen-miles of running path near the Charles.

The path surrounds the Cambridge area next to the Charles

River, spanning from the Museum of Science in Boston to the Galen Street Bridge in Watertown, according to a New Balance press release. With funds provided by New Balance, the Department of Conservation and Recreation agreed to clear this path within twenty four hours of a snowstorm.

According to the Jan. 8, 2010 minutes of a meeting of the DCR Stewardship Council, New Balance agreed to provide a minimum of \$10,000 per plowing, in exchange for signs along the path advertising New Balance's involvement in the effort. The

signs would stand for no more than three days after a snowstorm.

New Balance signs advertising the effort were displayed along a cleared Esplanade last Wednesday, a day after a snowstorm. "Outdoor recreation is vital this time of year with so many athletes training for the Boston Marathon," said New Balance CEO Rob DeMartini in the press release.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation hopes to arrange similar agreements with other companies in the future.

— Meghan Nelson

### DEMOCRATS LIKE COMPETITION?

Only when they are shilling for health reform, apparently. **OPN, p. 5**

### WHAT FIXING NITROGEN BREAKS

Learning to conjure fertilizer out of thin air has been a blessing and curse. **OPN, p. 5**

### VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

If you want to dump someone, don't lie. **CL, p. 7**



### XKCD, PENNY ARCADE!

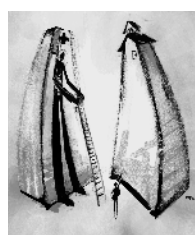
See our new comics, as well as all your old favorites. **FUN, p. 8**

### BROUHAHA RHYTHM

A stomach virus is going around. Columnist Michael Lin reports from bed rest. **CL, p. 7**

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# With Olympic win, U.S. hockey team starts to believe again

By Jeff Z. Klein  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA — The American men skated onto the Canada Hockey Place ice on Sunday with a clear sense of purpose. They wore their 1960 replica sweaters, commemorating the United States' first gold medal in Olympic hockey, won 50 years ago at Squaw Valley. They knew where they stood and what might come.

And when they skated off at the end of a gritty 5-3 victory, they had created a spot in hockey lore for themselves. The last time the Americans beat the Canadians in Olympic competition was in that same year, 1960; since then they had tried six times, and all they had to show for it was a tie, in 1994.

Monday is the 30th anniversary of the Miracle on Ice. But at this tournament there is much more hockey history to be made. The only question is who will be writing it.

By finishing as the No. 1 seed in the 12-team field, the Americans hold the biggest pen. Their next op-

ponent, on Wednesday, will be the winner of the Switzerland-Belarus qualifying match on Tuesday.

The United States beat Switzerland last week, 3-1; it was not easy, and the Swiss also gave the Canadians fits in a shootout loss and beat Norway in overtime.

The Belarusians were crushed by Finland, but they came close to repeating their 2002 upset of Sweden and beat Germany. Nevertheless, neither they nor the Swiss can be considered on the same level as the Americans, whose path to the semifinals is fairly straightforward.

Still, amid the euphoria, Ron Wilson, the U.S. coach, recognized the sobering aspects of Sunday's victory.

"We still have some work to do," he said, and referred to Canada's 45-23 shooting advantage. "We got outshot today. Granted, we had the lead, but the guys are doing some good things out there and we're going to keep building and getting better. These guys are only going to get more confident."

Wilson speaks of confidence. Canada, meanwhile, is in crisis.

The loss to the Americans forces the Canadians to play a qualifying game on Tuesday against Germany. That's not so bad, but assuming they win, what follows is pretty bad — facing Russia on Wednesday.

The Canadians have real problems. One may be the age-old North American belief that to win at hockey you must go around hitting people whenever and wherever you can. This belief persists despite longstanding statistical evidence showing that teams that hit a lot lose as often as they win.

"Finishing your check" is the technical term for this. It is what fueled Ryan Getzlaf, Rick Nash and several other Canadians to run at American players after those players had passed the puck elsewhere. They hit the Americans hard, for sure, but by finishing their checks, they put themselves out of the play as well. That form of physicality, so full of sound and fury, signified nothing.

The Russians do not engage in that kind of random pummeling. Their body checks are thrown with purpose: to dislodge the puck.

# Man is guilty in plot to bomb in New York subway system

By A.G. Sulzberger  
and William K. Rashbaum  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK — The Afghan immigrant at the center of what the authorities described as one of the most serious threats to the United States since 9/11 pleaded guilty Monday to terrorism charges in what he said was a Qaeda plot to detonate a bomb in the New York subway.

The man, Najibullah Zazi, admitted that he came to New York last year near the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks to kill himself and others on the subway using a homemade bomb. He characterized the plot as a "martyrdom operation" that he was just days away from executing when he said he realized he was under government surveillance.

Zazi, 25, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn to charges that included conspiracies to use weapons of mass destruction and to

commit murder in a foreign country, and to provide material support for a terrorist organization. He faces a possible sentence of life in prison.

Attorney General Eric Holder said at a news conference in Washington that the Zazi cases represented one of the most serious threats to the United States since the 9/11 attacks. "Were it not for the combined efforts of the law enforcement and intelligence communities it could have been devastating," he said.

"This attempted attack on our homeland was real, it was in motion, and it would have been deadly."

Holder, who has faced criticism by some who favor prosecuting more terror suspects before military tribunals, also repeated his defense of the civilian court system as "an invaluable weapon for disrupting plots and incapacitating terrorists." He said it "contains powerful incentives to induce pleas that yield long sentences and gain intelligence."

Throughout the 45-minute pro-

ceeding on Monday, Zazi seemed unaffected by his circumstances, even smiling through his dark beard on several occasions. And when he spoke, he did so in an unapologetic, matter-of-fact manner, explaining that he was driven to terrorism by his concerns about the U.S. military's actions in Afghanistan.

In recent weeks, Zazi — who was born in Afghanistan, raised in Pakistan and later attended high school in Queens — had begun providing information to prosecutors as part of the initial stages of an agreement that led to his guilty plea on Monday, according to two people with knowledge of the case.

There have been a number of additional arrests in the case, including his father, his uncle and two of his classmates at Flushing High School. Zazi agreed to cooperate in part out of concern that a widening inquiry would result in more charges against his family members, including his mother, said one person involved in the case.

# Destroying CIA tapes was not opposed, memos say

WASHINGTON — At a closed briefing in 2003, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee raised no objection to a CIA plan to destroy videotapes of brutal interrogations, according to secret documents released on Monday.

The senator, Pat Roberts, R-Kan., also rejected a proposal to have his committee conduct its own assessment of the agency's harsh interrogation methods, which included wall-slammings and waterboarding, the documents say.

But Roberts, through a spokesman, denied having approved the destruction of the videotapes, which is under criminal investigation, and defended his record in overseeing the interrogation program.

His assertions were backed by his former staff director on the Intelligence Committee, William D. Duhnke, who said that while the senator had not objected to the tapes' destruction, he was "in receive mode" and was simply listening to get the facts about the interrogation program, which he was learning about for the first time.

— Scott Shane, *The New York Times*

# At least 23 dead in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD — A series of bombings, beheadings and shootings rippled through Iraq on Monday, leaving at least 23 people dead, including nine children, and intensifying concern about a spike in violence with less than two weeks until national elections.

The authorities detected no discernible pattern to the violence, with rockets exploding in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, car bombings aimed at government buildings, assassinations of security officers and government officials and the killings of two families in their homes in Baghdad.

The killings of the families were reminiscent of the attacks common during the height of the bloodletting between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq a few years ago.

In the largely Shiite town of Madaen, south of Baghdad, a gang of gunmen stormed a home of a family and killed all eight people there, including six children.

"The criminals have beheaded some of the victims," according to a brief statement from Baghdad Operations Command.

Beheading is considered a trademark of Al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, a largely domestic insurgent group with some foreign leaders created in the aftermath of the American-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

— Marc Santora, *The New York Times*

# Report seeks sole agency to oversee rebuilding in Iraq

The government agency responsible for monitoring American reconstruction work in Iraq has proposed the creation of a single organization to oversee future rebuilding to avoid the fraud and waste that has marred this work in the past.

The report, released Monday by the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, said an organization with sole authority for reconstruction would eliminate much of the confusion and interagency rivalries that have hampered rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The \$53 billion reconstruction effort in Iraq is the largest such effort by the United States since the Marshall Plan, though many Iraqis complain that the spending has made little difference in a country where electricity, clean water, health care and housing remain insufficient.

The proposed organization, the U.S. Office for Contingency Operations, would oversee every aspect of rebuilding, including contracting and budgeting, according to the plan outlined in the report. The agency would be established by Congress, but would be independent. By contrast, 62 different agencies have been involved in rebuilding efforts since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

— Timothy Williams, *The New York Times*

# Apple bans some iPhone applications for sexually suggestive content

By Jenna Wortham  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Apple has started banning many applications for its iPhone that feature sexually suggestive material, including photos of women in bikinis and lingerie, a move that came as an abrupt surprise to developers who had been profiting from such programs.

The company's decision to remove the applications from its App Store over the last few days indicates that it is not interested in giving up its tight control over the software available there, even as competitors like Google take a more hands-off approach.

When asked about the change, Apple said it was responding to complaints from App Store users.

"Whenever we receive customer complaints about objectionable content we review them," Trudy Muller, a spokeswoman for Apple, said in a statement. "If we find these

apps contain inappropriate material we remove them and request the developer make any necessary changes in order to be distributed by Apple."

Among the victims of the purge was a game called SlideHer, a puzzle that challenged users to reassemble a photograph of a scantily clad actress. Another, Sexy Scratch Off, depicted a woman whose dress could be whisked away at the swipe of a finger, revealing her undergarments. Such programs often appeared on the store's list of most-downloaded apps, which are a common way for iPhone and iPod Touch owners to discover new ones.

Analysts said the apparent change in policy may have been prompted by the planned release late next month of the company's newest device, the iPad.

The company is hoping that the iPad will be a hit with families and as an educational tool in schools — which could be a hard sell if the

catalog of programs available for the device is cluttered with racy applications.

"At the end of the day, Apple has a brand to maintain," said Gene Munster, an analyst at Piper Jaffray who keeps a close eye on Apple. "And the bottom line is they want that image to be squeaky clean."

The iPad will run the same applications that work on the iPhone and iPod Touch, which demonstrated that consumers were willing to pay for software that turned their devices into gaming machines, e-readers and navigation systems. The Touch has been especially popular with children and teenagers.

"The reality is that the iPad is going to be a big platform for apps," said Munster. "It raises the bar for Apple in terms of policing what goes into the App Store."

Last June, Apple introduced parental controls and ratings to help keep sex-themed applications away from children.

# U.S. Immigration

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## INTERVIEW

## The engineering of war

The Tech interviews a former army operations engineer

By Nina Sinatra

With growing media speculation about the removal of U.S. troops from the campaign in Iraq, my engineering subconscious (naturally) began to consider the situation from a mathematical perspective. While overseas, the coordination of troops, munitions, aircraft, medical supplies, and combat vehicles is a strictly coordinated complex operation. In light of the current national canvas on the subject, I became interested in examining the potential withdrawal procedure from the standpoint of operations research. I had the opportunity to speak with Steven Clark, former Air Force Captain, who now works as a consultant for Analytics Operations Engineering in Boston.

**Nina Sinatra:** How did you become interested in the Operations Research field?

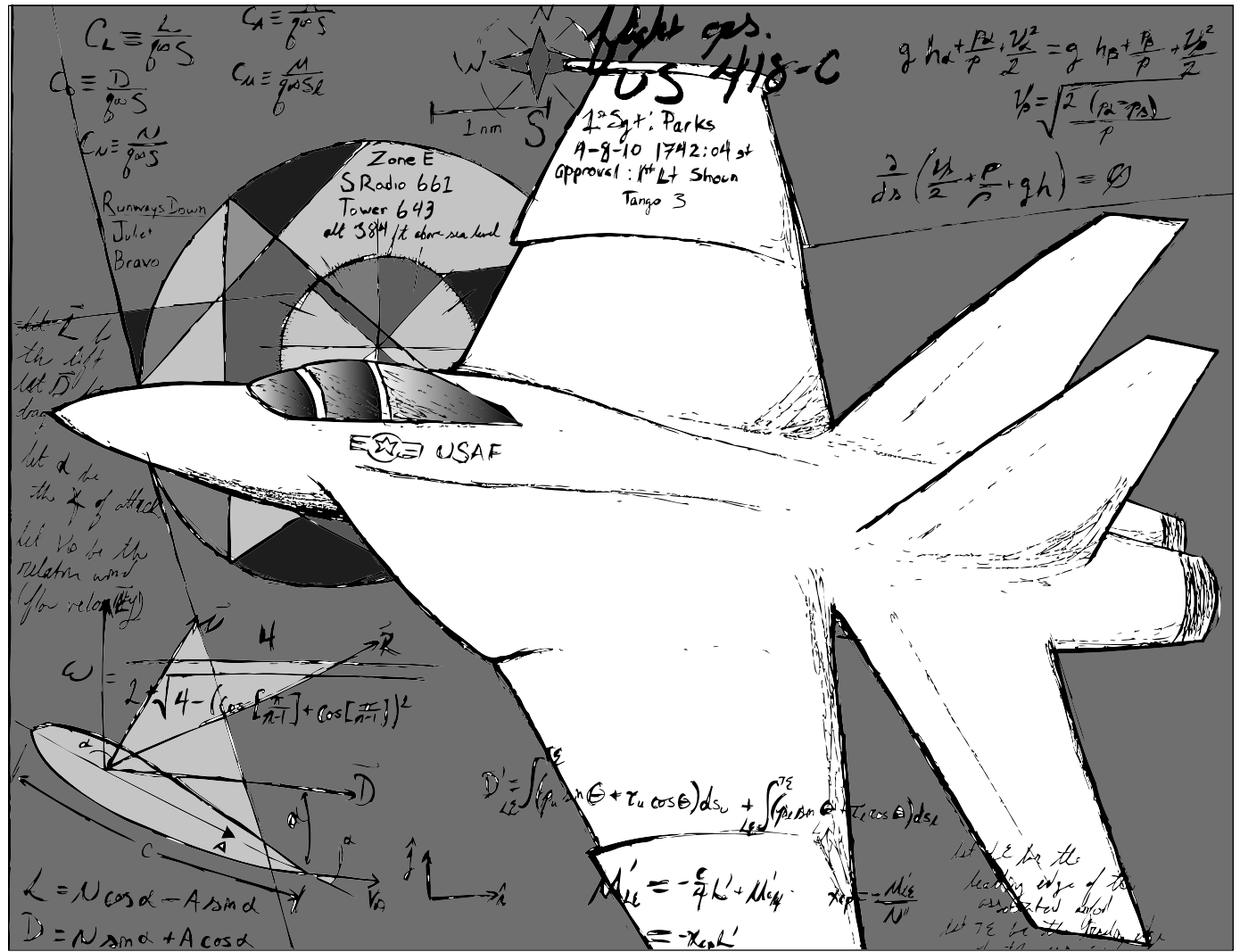
**Steven Clark:** When I first went to college at the U.S. Air Force Academy I thought I was going to pursue mechanical or aeronautical engineering for my major. However, the Academy has a large core curriculum requirement and I was exposed to some courses in the operations research field — a field I had never heard about. As I took courses and learned more about the major, I was really drawn to the interdisciplinary mix of math, computer science, management, and economics. I also thought it was a great way to work on a variety of problems and build up a range of experiences that could apply both within the military and beyond.

**N.S.:** How have your experiences differed from your time in the military to your work in the private sector?

**S.C.:** The biggest difference between operations research in the military and the private sector has to do with what operations research types would refer to as the “objective function.” Unlike the private sector, where the goal is generally to maximize profits or reduce costs, the objective for projects in the military is usually to maximize some form of combat effectiveness. These types of metrics can often be much harder to define, but include things like keeping the most number of aircraft ready to fly as possible (aircraft availability) by stocking the right mix of spare parts, for example, or minimizing the amount of time it takes to push materiel through the military’s supply chain to a theater of operations during wartime.

**N.S.:** How do you feel military engineering has developed in the past few years? Any predictions for the new decade?

**S.C.:** Operations research actually has its roots in the military when techniques like linear programming came into existence during World War II. Early applications to improve military operations are also where operations research got its name. Since then, the military has been at the forefront of adopting and utilizing cutting edge operations research techniques to constantly improve and manage all the equipment, supplies, and personnel it takes to successfully field a complex organization like



the military. As battlefield technologies continue to improve and evolve, the application of operations research techniques have followed closely in step. Whether it’s determining the best way to route multiple autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) on a reconnaissance mission or how to use radio frequency identification tags to track and dynamically plan shipments through the military’s supply chain, operations research has proven to be an invaluable partner in maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of military operations and planning.

**N.S.:** The military campaign in the Middle East clearly presents significant challenges in operations research and engineering. From a mathematical or engineering perspective, what particular challenges are presented by the removal of forces and equipment from Iraq?

**S.C.:** One of the biggest challenges both inside and out of the military is finding the proper balance between the “answers” from operations research tools (like a mathematical optimization model) and the experience of dedicated people who at the end of the day have to make sure the job gets done. This challenge gets especially hard with an enormous organization like the military. It’s also one thing to apply op-

erations tools to normal day-to-day operations at a company in the private sector or even within the military during peacetime operations, and quite another to apply them during wartime. Things like security conditions, available equipment, political circumstances, and mission requirements

**[Operations research] tools have to be very good at providing high-level, intuitive guidance to decision makers.**

can change very rapidly making it difficult to implement robust operations research solutions. As a result, those tools have to be very good at providing high-level, intuitive guidance to decision makers while leaving enough flexibility for human planners to make it all work.

**N.S.:** As a consultant, you have had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects. Which have been your most memorable? Your most challenging?

**S.C.:** One of the things I’ve really enjoyed about being a consultant in the private sec-

tor is the opportunity to work for a wide range of companies. For example, in the past year or two I’ve worked for an intermodal railroad, a discount fashion retailer, and a RV enthusiast club. The intermodal railroad was actually a very interesting project. The railroad manages a fleet of shipping containers that customers load items into, transport to a rail yard via truck, and then load onto awaiting rail cars for transport across the United States. The challenge the railroad faced was how to set prices for each lane in their rail network to maximize profits, but yet use price to manage supply and demand in such a way as to keep the flow of containers balanced and avoid shortages and surpluses of available containers at the rail yards. Because the railroad had hundreds of lanes, it was very hard for the people in charge of planning to think about how prices on one lane would affect supply and demand across the entire network. However, this is exactly the type of scenario where operations research techniques shine. We developed an optimization tool for the railroad that would recommend price levels, but could also be re-run very quickly so that planners could experiment with various scenarios before making a final decision.

*Nina Sinatra is a member of the Class of 2012.*

## From life-giver to pollutant

Nitrogen fixation has gave us food in abundance but created a slew of other problems

Nitrogen, from Page 5

has 300 times the global warming power of carbon dioxide. (In addition, fixing nitrogen requires a huge up-front energy investment: We emit roughly 200 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year burning natural gas to fuel the Haber-Bosch process.) Recent research casts a harsh light on biofuels, whose fertilizer demands (and attendant N<sub>2</sub>O emissions) may counteract — and even exceed — any carbon savings.

Perhaps most troubling of all, the effects of nitrogen pollution are not always felt close to the source. Issues of environmental justice arise: How can Midwest farmers be held accountable for Gulf of Mexico shrimp boat catches? Should food importers pay for the ecological damage caused by intensive agriculture in the producing countries? If so, how does one put a price on the com-

modities of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity?

Meanwhile, the more pressing task is a transition to a new relationship with nitrogen. Renouncing it is impossible: Billions

**Humanity’s relationship with nitrogen is nuanced: vital yet somewhat unsavory; powerful and therefore frightening.**

of lives are on the line. In fact, while an excess of fertilizer drives food surpluses and obesity in our own country, 250 million Africans are malnourished because they lack fertilizer.

However, as fossil fuel supplies dwindle, fertilizer production will become more costly, and new levels of agricultural efficiency will be demanded of us.

Some strategies already exist. From the deceptively simple method of planting a winter cover crop (to prevent soil nutrient loss) to state-of-the-art localized fertilizer applicators (combined with soil quality monitoring), we can reduce our nitrogen demand. By placing buffer wetlands between field and stream, we can contain the spread of any remaining excess.

Ultimately, some radical transformations of our industrial agriculture system will be needed. We must close disconnected loops to improve sustainability: feed the cattle the corn, then use their waste to fertilize the field. That means the end of factory farming and an emphasis on small-scale, self-contained operations. But we could

all stand to eat less meat, anyway. As we reevaluate our high-impact American lifestyles, it’s important to distinguish between quantity and quality, to challenge excess and reward efficiency.

Like most aspects of our lives, humanity’s relationship with nitrogen is nuanced: vital yet somewhat unsavory; powerful and therefore frightening. In a way, it’s like our relationship with Midway — the painful victory won there, and an older history mostly forgotten. We face uncomfortable truths and disconcerting choices, but we must move forward proactively, or lose the bigger battle: to live sustainably, in perpetuity, on Planet Earth.

*Holly Moeller is a graduate student in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Biological Oceanography. She welcomes reader feedback at hollyvm@mit.edu. “Seeing Green” runs on alternate Tuesdays.*









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# REBUILDING HAITI

MIT Scholars Discuss Haiti's Future



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 MIT Bartos Theater (E15)

Marguerite Duras'  
*The Lover and La Musica 2*

A bilingual (French-English) stage adaptation with music and English subtitles for French portions, with performances by **Astrid Bas**, **Daniel Pettrow**, and violinist **Ami Flammer**. Free and open to the general public with a reception to follow.



Daniel Pettrow

Astrid Bas

**Tuesday, March 2, 8 p.m.**  
 MIT - Killian Hall (14W-111)  
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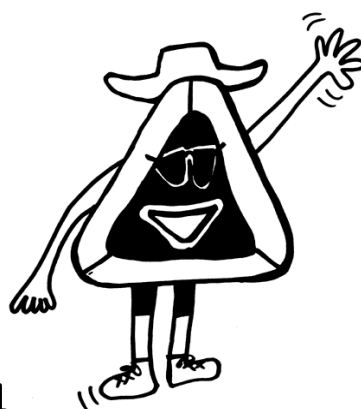
**Kalmia Traver**, Rubblebucket Orchestra's lead vocalist, plays the tenor saxophone during the band's concert at the Middle East this past Saturday.

# Latkes vs. Hamentashen

The Great Debate

**Keith Nelson**  
 Moderator

Wednesday February 24



**Latke Team**

Barbara Imperiali (5)  
 Amy Smith (2)  
 Erika Wagner (16)

Free  
 Latkes

8:00 PM

26 - 100

MIT Hillel  
 ARCADE

Peter de Florez Fund for Humor

**Hamentash Team**

Marta González (1)  
 Michael Sipser (18)  
 Eric Grimson (6)

Free  
 Hamentashen

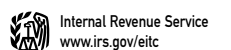
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# Tufts applicant's 'math dancing' clip is a hit online

Tufts, from Page 1

tions.

"We've got some who are really good with the technology," Coffin said. "There's a real technical savvy out there in this generation, and this lets them show off their splicing, their stop action, their animation. Some of the engineering applicants show us what they've made. One kid is talking, and then all of a sudden, he's in the water, to show off his underwater camera."

While elephants are a common theme in the videos — Jumbo the elephant is Tufts' mascot — only Michael Klinker went so far as to build a small remote-control blue elephant helicopter that flies merrily around his backyard.

Some of the videos have developed a YouTube following. The popular favorite is probably Amelia Downs, with more than 6,000 views for her video combining "two of my favorite things: being a nerd and dancing," in which she performs a bar graph, a scatter plot, a pie chart, and a sine and cosine graph.

"I tried tap dancing at first, because that's what I do most, but we only have a cheap digital camera, and the sound came out badly," said Downs, who is from Charlotte, N.C. "My best friend filmed me, and we did each shot once or twice. I did the editing in about an hour, and the computer crashed five times while I was doing it."

Still, Downs said she thought it was "very cool" that Tufts invited videos.

For a number of colleges, this is the year of the video, what with Yale's 16-minute YouTube offering, "That's Why I Chose Yale," a spoof of "High School Musical," and "Reading Season," a musical by admissions counselors at the University of Delaware.

Even without prompting, admissions officials say, a growing number of students submit videos. Maria Laskaris, the dean of admissions at Dartmouth, noticed the trend last year, and said this year had brought even more videos, mostly showcasing music, theater or dance talents.

For Tufts, the videos have been

a delightful way to get to know the applicants.

"At heart, this is all about a conversation between a kid and an admissions officer," Coffin said. "You see their floppy hair and their messy bedrooms, and you get a sense of who they are. We have a lot of information about applicants, but the videos let them share their voice."

Videos are genuinely optional, he said, so not having one does not count against a student — and a bad video would not hurt an applicant's admission chances "unless there was something really disgusting."

Coffin remains committed to the traditional essay-writing requirement. "We will never abandon writing," he said. "No matter what, it's important to be able to express yourself elegantly in writing."

But, he said, it is good for Tufts to show new-media savvy as well.

"Kids who are 17 and 18 are very facile with new media," he said, "and one of the challenges for colleges right now is to stay ahead of that curve."

To his surprise, about 60 percent of the videos are from women, and two-thirds are from financial-aid applicants, easing concern that the video option might help the already-advantaged affluent applicants.

Coffin said he never worried about YouTube privacy issues.

"These kids blog, they tweet, they don't seem to worry much about privacy," he said. "Maybe I was naive, but it didn't occur to me that these videos would be so public, and so followed."

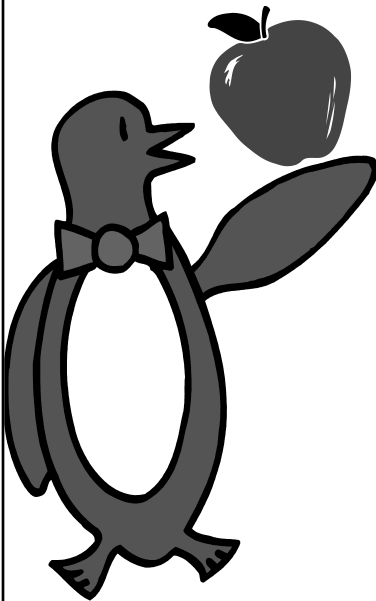
While the application allowed students to put their video on any easily accessible Web site, he said almost everybody used YouTube.

Having seen the popularity of the videos — and heard from current Tufts students who want their favorite applicants admitted — Coffin now plans to put the best ones into a "Tufts Idol" contest once admissions season is over.

"So much of what we do in admissions is opaque, and that contributes to all the frenzy," he said. "This is something that's completely transparent."

## We have computers

## You're probably Course 6



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Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 8pm

Somerville Theatre, Davis Square

Dziga Vertov's groundbreaking film, *Man with a Movie Camera*, has influenced the generations of films that came out since the silent era. The film's rapid editing and nonstop energy provide the perfect subject for what many believe is Alloy's best score ever. And now a gorgeous new print from the Moscow Film Archive makes this show a "must see" event.

Alloy Orchestra is a 3-man musical ensemble, writing and performing live to classic silent films. An unusual combination of found percussion and state-of-the-art electronics gives the Orchestra the ability to create any sound imaginable. Utilizing their famous "rack of junk" and electronic synthesizers, the group generates beautiful music in a spectacular variety of styles. They can conjure up a French symphony or a simple German bar band of the 20's. The group can make the audience think it is being attacked by tigers, contacted by radio signals from Mars or swept up in the Russian Revolution.

1 ticket per valid MIT student ID

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## DEATH OF THE NEWS?

Starr Forum

March 2, 2010

FREE

### Journalism is in a crisis.

Newspapers are going out of business; editors and reporters are losing their jobs.

In a vanishing era of so-called traditional media, how do we save the news?

"Death of the News?" brings together a panel of experts to discuss the rise of online media and its impact on global society.

#### SPEAKERS:

MARIA BALINSKA is editor of World Current Affairs Radio at the BBC. She is currently at Harvard University as the Ruth Cowan Nash Nieman Fellow where she is exploring the future of reporting in the digital age in the wider context of how the Internet is changing society.

SUSAN GLASSER is executive editor of Foreign Policy and the key innovator behind its 2009 web re-launch, transitioning it from the old media function of promoting a print magazine to a dynamic daily online newspaper.

JASON PONTIN is editor in chief of the award-winning magazine, Technology Review and TechnologyReview.com, published by MIT. Pontin also serves as the publisher of Technology Review, overseeing all aspects of the company's business.

#### Event Details

March 2, 2010

5:30p - 7p

Wong Auditorium | MIT Bldg E51  
70 Memorial Drive

Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

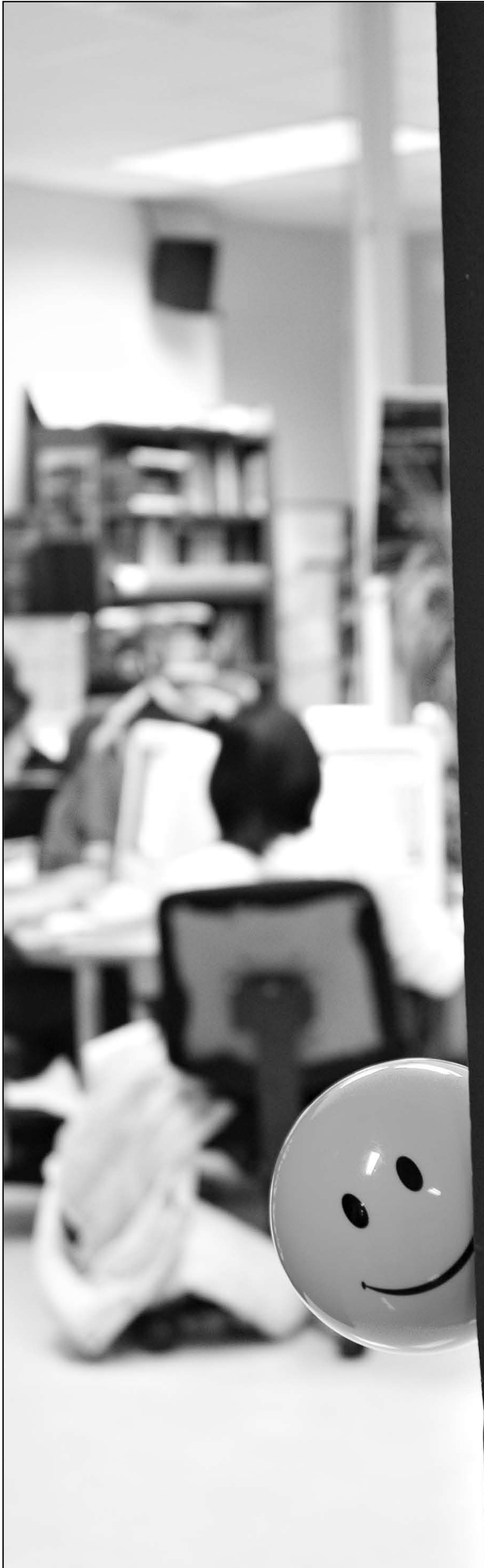
"Death of the News?" is a Starr Forum event co-sponsored by the MIT Center for International Studies and Technology Review.

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Technology Review







483

The Tech

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MIT Office of Minority Education

## Interphase 2010

### *Call for Instructors, Resident Facilitators, and Office Assistants*

The Office of Minority Education seeks applicants for summer employment in MIT Interphase 2010 – an intensive academic and transition pre-freshmen program. During the summer prior to MIT enrollment, approximately 70 incoming students spend 7 weeks (June 27th – August 18th) at MIT and undertake a curriculum of Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, and Writing, hone their study skills, and participate in a myriad of co-curricular activities.

Available positions are: Interphase Instructors, Interphase Resident Office Assistants, Interphase Resident Facilitators.

For position descriptions, additional details, and to apply, please visit the website: <http://web.mit.edu/ome>. You **must** also submit an unofficial copy of your transcript to the Office of Minority Education, Room 4-113, by **Wednesday, March 3rd, 2010 at noon**. MIT's underserved students are especially encouraged to apply.

## Lobby 10 cameras are two of many installed at MIT

**Cameras**, from Page 1

the cameras and speculated that they were put there to watch the MLK exhibit.

The cameras were successful in deterring vandalism this year, Weiner said. She noted that slums exhibit was missing "some pizza boxes and empty soda bottles," though this may have been innocent.

"I hope this isn't an opportunity for Campus Police to keep cameras up in Lobby 10 forever," Weiner said.

Last year, a display about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict was removed in its entirety, and a cardboard cutout of Abraham Lincoln was replaced with a cardboard cutout of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin.

The exhibit was also vandalized

multiple times in 2007, as well as in prior years.

In a Nov. 2007 survey of campus video cameras, Komola told *The Tech* he thought the lack of policy and accounting for cameras on campus was a real problem. He added that the faculty and administration needed to be approached on these issues, but there were no concrete plans for improving the situation. Since then, repeated casual inquiries directed at the security office have found there has been no progress on such a policy.

In the survey, *The Tech* reported that the Department of Chemistry maintained a comprehensive array of 30 cameras throughout Building 18, as well as a handful of cameras in departmental space in Buildings 4 and 18, and also that the Department of Mathematics maintained four cameras within Building 2.

### Got a thing for John McPhee, Susan Orlean and Katherine Boo?

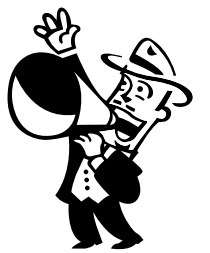
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FENG WU—THE TECH

Adrianna Tam '11 of Syncopasian sings "Hua Tian Cuo" by Wang Lee Hom at the Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Students Association banquet on Saturday night. ITASA is an annual conference about Taiwanese-American identity, and was held at MIT this year.



**Solution to Sudoku (Easy)**  
from page 9

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

**Solution to Sudoku (Hard)**  
from page 9

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

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