Unions and students hold ‘solidarity’ event

Upcoming negotiations discussed

By Liz Tsai editorial

Last Friday, members and representatives from three MIT-affiliated unions came together in a student-union gathering to discuss the current conditions facing MIT workers. Present at the meeting were representatives from the MIT Police Association, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 615, and the Research, Development, and Technical Employees Union as well as Cambridge City Councilor E. Denise Simmons.

The discussion focused on layoffs, reduced hours and benefits, and upcoming contract negotiations between the MIT and the unions.

“MIT wants deep concessions... and wants to maintain the environment of a reference group.” said SEIU representative Matt Gulish during the event.

“They [MIT] have the money to keep people working and keep the quality of life high.”

The situation for MIT police officers has never been easier but is getting worse, according to Alan McDonald of McDonald and Associates, who represents the MIT Campus Police Association. MIT is attempting to use the economic situation in the short term to make long-term changes unfavorable to the police officers, he said.

“We’re okay with people making money and we like that people are making money; we just want to get some too,” said Janis Hermus ’87 of the MIT Crime Club. Hermus said that membership is confidential, but claims that the club has “at least five active members.”

SEIU Local 615 is slated to start contract negotiations with MIT in about a week and a half. The union has yet to present its demands and they “don’t want MIT to have already made up their mind before negotiations,” said Gulish.

Simmons, who voted to pass last week’s resolution asking MIT and Harvard to stop laying off workers, said in a phone interview after the event that “as a council, it is necessary to be proactive” Simons is surprised that “MIT would take this backhall approach to dealing with their employees instead of being up-front,” she said.

Unions help workers “haggle for what they deserve.” At this time in the economy, we don’t want people choosing between health care and [paying off their mortgage],” she said.

MIT Professor of Economics David Autor offered an alternative solution: the tech.mit.edu OPN, p. 5

Students, mostly from East Campus and Random Hall, demanded more input into the dining reform process during a protest in Lobby 7 on Friday, the second day of Campus Preview Weekend. The event was organized by the Campaign for Students.

CPW protest targets dining

Students fear administrators aren’t listening

By Jingyun Fan editorial

Last Friday, in the middle of Campus Preview Weekend, students from the Campaign for Students (CFS) gathered in Lobby 7 to protest the Division of Student Life’s handling of dining reform. Students joined and left the protest intermittently, but the number of attendees at any point in time was around two dozen.

“You say you want student input, so why don’t you listen?” read a large banner that hung from the east balcony of the lobby.

Protestors were concerned that administrators were purposely excluding students from the decision-making process for changing dining at MIT. The protest seemed to focus on the residency status of MIT students. The CFS chose to protest during Campus Preview Weekend because that is when MIT is in the spotlight for prefrosh, said Jesse M. Ashcraft-Johnson ’11, a resident of Random Hall, who attended the protest.

Colombo wrote in an e-mail to MIT undergraduates on April 6 urging students to make their voice heard on dining. However, some students were disturbed by portions of the e-mail.

Colombo wrote that the final dining plan would be announced in mid-May, which coincides with final period. Some protestors believe that the announcement time was deliberate to keep students from organizing a strong response to the plan while they are busy with studying for exams.

In the same e-mail, Colombo wrote: “As important, members of the Class of 2012 and 2013 — the two classes currently at MIT that will be directly affected by changes to House Dining — will have a year to consider whether to move to another residence based upon their dining preferences.” Some students were disturbed by his comment, interpreting that Colombo is encouraging students to pick housing based on amenities such as dining plan and financial incentives instead of dorm culture.

“Some people might see this $800-a-year as a disincentive to live in McCormick or some other non-dining dorm and they might be incentivized to live in dorms like East Campus just because it is cheaper,” said Fangfei Shen ’11, the current vice-president and former dining chair of East Campus (also a Tech columnist).

Shen said that she did not want the administration to make dining at MIT similar to dining at peer institutions such as Harvard or Yale.

“It just doesn’t work for MIT because we are not like other universities” she said.

In an e-mail to The Tech, Dean Colombo wrote that he thought “the protest on Friday was a very reasonable and respectful display of the participants concern about dining and other issues.” He wrote that MIT has had to make hard choices regarding dining and other issues in order to balance its budget. “It doesn’t get much more personal for students than where they live and what they eat,” wrote Colombo.

Colombo wrote in his e-mail, “If students who use the dining halls...”
Conan O’Brien will move to late night TBS this November
EUGENE, Ore. — In a move that has shocked much of the television world, Conan O’Brien will make his comeback on a cable — not a network — channel.

The former “Tonight Show” host has agreed to start a late-night show on TBS, the comedy-oriented channel in the Turner network lineup. The four-night-a-week show — no title yet — will begin in November and fill the 11 p.m. slot, teamed with that network’s other late-night show, with the comedian George Lopez as its host. That show, now at 11, will slide to midnight.

The news, announced Monday, was a stunning development because O’Brien had been in talks with Fox, and most predictions had him moving to that network in September or October because O’Brien had been in talks with Fox, and most predictions had him moving to that network in September or October. TBS was not previously mentioned as bidder for his services.

But speculation has swirled around Turner Broadcasting Networks, put together a pitch and approached O’Brien’s representatives only earlier this month.

None of the networks had publicly acknowledged O’Brien was in talks with them. Sources within Turner Broadcasting Networks, put together a pitch and approached O’Brien’s representatives only earlier this month.

By Thomas Fuller
The New York Times

RANGOOK — The battle of wills between the Thai government and tens of thousands of protesters barred crucial for the directions of Bangko

The announcement by the Election Commission came hours after a truck was set on fire in downtown Bangkok, and a hour later, the army, Gen. Anupong Paochinda, appeared to rule out further military action to remove protesters, saying, “The situation requires that the problem be solved quickly.”

Anupong also described the dissolution of parliament as the main goal of the protesters, as “a reasonable step.”

The government’s time in powers is nearly over,” Veera Musakapon, a protest leader, said to throngs of protesters. Veera and other opposition figures said they would maintain their demonstrations to press Abhisit Vejjajiva to resign.

The announcement that Thailand’s election commission had recommended that the prime minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva, be dissolved was the third political party in three years to be dissolved. The two parties that had the most support in the country, the Democrats and the Pheu Thai, had been dissolved in 2008 and 2009.

Protesters appear to gain in Thailand’s growing political crisis

By Clifford J. Levy
The New York Times

In August 2008, during Russia’s brief war with Georgia, Kaczynski got into a dispute with the pilot flying his plane to the Georgian capital. Thess, according to reports at the time. Kaczynski demanded that the pilot land despite dangerous conditions, but the pilot disagreed and diverted to neighboring Azerbaijan.

Kaczynski threatened that there would be consequences for the pilot, but the Polish newspaper Dziennik reported, “If someone decides to become a pilot, he cannot be fearful.” Kaczynski said, “After returning to the country, we shall deal with this matter.”

The pilot was not disciplined and received a medal for his service. But the defense minister later said that the pilot had suffered depression in the wake of the incident.

Lech Wałęsa, the former Polish president, told the newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza after the weekend that in these situations, the captain often sees himself as a victim in the eyes of the government leaders on the plane.

“If there were any doubts, the leaders were always approached and asked for their decision, and only on this basis were further steps taken,” he said. Sometimes the plane captain would make the decision himself, even against the recommendations. We do not yet know what happened, so let’s have the explanation in the experts.”

Officials from both Russia and Poland were taking part in the inquiry into the crash, which killed 96 people, and they said preliminary examinations seemed to indicate that there were no technical malfunctions on the plane, though it was a 20-year-old, Soviet-designed Tu-154.

Prosecutors, forensic pathologists and crash investigators were working in Moscow and at the crash site in the city of Smolensk.

Throughout the weekend, the Russian government seemed to go out of its way to demonstrate its deep sorrow over the disaster and its determination to conduct a wide-ranging inquiry, efforts that were well-received in Poland. The two countries have long had an uneasy relationship, though it has improved recently.
American soldiers fire at Afghan bus, killing civilians

By Richard A. Oppel Jr. and Taimoor Shah
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL — American troops killed a large passenger bus with gunfire near Kandahar on Monday morning, killing and wounding civilians, and igniting angry anti-American demonstrations in a city where winning over Afghan support is pivotal to the war effort. The shooting, which killed as many as five civilians and wounded 18, occurred on the eve of the most important offensive of the war. In coming weeks, thousands of American, NATO and Afghan troops are expected to try to take control of the Kandahar region, the spiritual home of the Taliban.

It was the latest case in which NATO or American forces fired on and killed civilians near a checkpoint or military convoy because they were perceived to have come too close or to be approaching too fast.

Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the American and NATO commander in Afghanistan, has made reducing civilian casualties a priority, and they have gone down over the last year. But checkpoint and convoy shootings have not declined, worrying commanders who believe that such killings are turning Afghans against foreign forces.

Monday’s shooting demonstrated those concerns. Afterward, hundreds of demonstrators poured into the area around a bus station where the damaged bus was taken on the western outskirts of Kandahar. They blocked the road with burning tires for an hour and shouted, “Death to America” and “Death to infidels,” while condemning the Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, according to people there.

The American-led military command in Kabul called the killings a “tragic loss of life” and said that troops fired in the early morning light not knowing that the vehicle was a passenger bus and believing that it posed a threat to a military convoy clearing bombs from a highway.

Obama sought to win more cooperation from China by directly addressing one of the main issues behind Beijing’s reluctance to confront Iran, its concern that Iran could retaliate by cutting oil shipments to China. The Chinese import nearly 12 percent of their oil from Iran.

Obama assured Hu that he was “sensitive to China’s energy needs” and would work to make sure that Beijing had a steady supply of oil if Iran cut China off in retaliation for joining in severe sanctions.

American officials portrayed the Chinese response as the most encouraging sign yet that Beijing would support an international effort to ratchet up the pressure on Iran and as a sign of “international unity” on stopping Iran’s nuclear program before the country can develop a working nuclear weapon.

Obama also used his meeting with Hu, the fourth face-to-face meeting between the leaders of the world’s largest economy and its biggest lender, to keep up the pressure on Beijing to let market forces push up the value of China’s currency. That is a critical political task for Obama, because the fixed exchange rate has kept Chinese goods artificially cheap and, in the eyes of many experts, handicapped American exports and cost tens of thousands of American jobs.

China supports sanctions against Iran’s nuclear activity at summit

By David E. Sanger and Mark Landler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama secured a promise from President Hu Jintao of China on Monday to join negotiations on Iran sanctions from President Hu Jintao of China. The Chinese response was the most encouraging sign yet that Beijing would support measures that would support an international effort to ratchet up the pressure on Iran and as a sign of “international unity” on stopping Iran’s nuclear program before the country can develop a working nuclear weapon.

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After release of the Apple iPad, rivals offer hybrid hand-holds

Just as Apple’s iPhone shook up a complacent cell phone industry, the company’s iPad is provoking PC makers and non-PC makers — to fight back with new devices.

Google — a search and advertising company — is soon expected to begin selling its version of a slate computer, like Apple’s iPad, while Nokia — the world’s biggest cell phone maker — is planning to enter the digital book market through a slate-cum-e-reader as well.

Microsoft, the maker of computer software, is flirting with the idea of selling its own version of a slate, joining traditional computer companies like Hewlett-Packard that have already committed to such products.

In part, these companies are feeling the pressure to respond to the iPad, which went on sale April 3. But their decisions to develop the hybrid products also demonstrate their desire to expand their core businesses, and to experiment with varying kinds of business models and technologies.

For consumers, it could all be good, as more companies offer their version of the slate, a new breed of consumer electronics, in a design free-for-all. The products, which will generally cost less than $800, provide different, and in some cases unusual, features that reflect the companies’ visions of what matters most to people.


Microsoft introduces 2 phones aimed at social-networking set

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft is trying to home in on a younger, chatty demographic with two new cell phones centered on social networking.

The Kin One and Kin Two allow users to keep closely synched with sites like Facebook, Twiter and MySpace. The start menu displays a montage of photographs from friends with notes about what they are doing rather than a more traditional menu that caters to phone functions. The Kins also have touch screens, links to the Zune music service and high-powered cameras for capturing photographs and videos.

Phone makers like Nokia and Samsung have long built a variety of models, including those aimed at younger buyers, many of which also link to social-networking sites. But in its focus on social networking, Microsoft has taken one of the more aggressive stances in going after this market, which the company believes is receptive to a fresh pitch.

Microsoft could use a runaway cell phone product since it has been steadily losing market share despite selling mobile software for far longer than Apple.

John Harrobin, a senior vice president at Verizon, said he expected the video-capable Kins to cost less than the popular Flip video cameras sold by Cisco Systems, which start at about $150.


Say Hello

To My Little Friend.

join@tech.mit.edu
An April 6 opinion column entitled "HHAD is culmination of years of work" improperly referred to Steven R. Lerman ’72 as the Associate Dean for Graduate Education. Lerman is currently the Dean for Graduate Education. Because of an editing error, an article on dining off Friday last referred incorrectly in one place to the gender of Carmen S. McPhee ’11. He is male.

CORRECTIONS

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the following: Paul E. Schneider ’10, Paul E. Mohr ’10, David P. Levesque ’10, Paul E. Mahlich ’10, Deborah A. Levitsky ’10, Jonathan E. D. Broussard ’10, William G.Love ’10, Stuart Allred ’10, Saurabh Bhatadre ’10, Gil Dekel ’10, David M. Templeton ’11, Steve Howland ’11, Robert A. White ’11, and will not be submitted. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted to the Tech website at http://tech.mit.edu. The concrete definition of success in graduate school — publications, conference presentations, recommendation letters — does not yet directly support the development of effective leadership. But it can, with conscientious and consistent practice. The Tech is a publication of the MIT Student Publications Committee, in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

To Reach Us

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LETTERS

True love prevails

In the April 9 issue of The Tech, M. suggests that long distance relationships are hard, difficult and a lot of problems with no benefits. I disagree with that statement, and I would like to elaborate on some of the benefits of a long distance relationship during the situation.

First of all, I will make the assumption that the relationship is a healthy one, with but someone, you want to spend a substantial portion of your life with. Regarding long distance, difficult, go pick up a post for a class in a course completely unrelated to yours — it probably looks impossible as difficult, but everyone in that class was in the same place you were just a couple of years ago. I guess two or three years of work turns something which seems

impossibly difficult into something challenging.

Let’s think about how much M. student have to squares in a typical work: not much. Many people run on a sleep deficit, which would imply that we don’t really want to be at work. A short distance relationship is time consuming. You and your partner want to spend time together, and there will inevitably be times when you should probably be sleeping instead. A long distance relationship, on the other hand, limits the amount of time you can spend with each other and forces you to instead focus on school. At the same time, a long distance relationship provides the love, companionship and support necessary for success. It can also be a helpful reminder that there is a real world outside of MIT. Technology is on our side as well with free in-network calling, on some cell phone plans and unlimited Skype for something like $3/month.

In addition, I believe it is possible that you can truly love another person. Everyone is well aware of the existence of long distance relationships. I believe that everyone is well aware of the existence of long distance relationships.

LEADERSHIP AT THE GSC

Paradigm shift

Effective engineers need emotional intelligence to be the leaders society demands

By Megan Brewster

Our prestigious MIT graduate degrees — and the opportunities that come with them — are characterized by nimble rationality that are so valued in this high-tech world — are unfortunately, for the most part, completely unrelated to yours — it probably looks impossible as difficult, but everyone in that class was in the same place you were just a couple of years ago. I guess two or three years of work turns something which seems impossibly difficult into something challenging.

The National Academy of Engineers articulated this point in their report “The Engineer of 2020” that “engineers will continue to be nimble rationality that are so valued in this high-tech world — are unfortunately, for the most part, completely unrelated to yours — it probably looks impossible as difficult, but everyone in that class was in the same place you were just a couple of years ago. I guess two or three years of work turns something which seems impossibly difficult into something challenging.

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For the city whose solution to every problem was money, there would eventually come a day when the money became the problem.

By Keith Yost

It is tempting to blame consultants and their ilk for the troubles that Dubai faces today. Surely, if my experience was at all typical, that blame would be directed at the massive amounts of money that high-powered consultants are paid to elect in their duty as advisors to the United Arab Emirates. But I would argue that consultants are a product of their surroundings, not the other way around. Prior to the recent melodrama in Dubai, I was wondering if Dubai would destroy the UAE. The UAE is the result of a British idea that has eeked out, Boston Consulting Group's top brass was extolling the virtues of the Middle East as the next great emerging market. The UAE is a world's financial markets. And why not? Every state in the Gulf encourages more expenditures by clients offers up greater opportunity for future cases. If Dubai's compa- nies lack the internal resources or motiva- tion to poke the conclusions made by their consultants, if they are swayed or persuaded by the prophets of pen, they should not be surprised when their chancy, but financially sound venture.

On some level, it is hard not to sympa- thize with the Emirates. The executives I met all showed pictures of their youth, re- minding me that just a few decades ago, their country was one of the least densely populated, than sand, tents, and simple stone. Maybe they held on to the pictures to impress me upon the great progress Dubai has made, maybe they held on to them to reassure themselves that life was better here than under the Bedouins someday to their tents. Personally, I took the pictures as a reminder that the men running Dubai today likely had never been given an upbringing that could not have been much more different than my own. I could criticize, but I had the benefit of secondary and college education. Had I lived in a Bedouin tribe, would I have done any better than them, and if not, how could I ever really place on their level?

Nevertheless, whatever disadvantages Dubai might have, the greatest mis- take is that their failures were entirely avoidable. I am not convinced that they were well-intentioned or trying their best. My impression of the average Emirati busi- nessman is not that they are unsophisticated or not that I entirely understand. Many of the consultants and Emiratis I met demurred such criticism as flippant. Yes, some of the most expensive buildings in the world have been erected in Dubai, and it is not cheap — lacking coal or dammable riv- ers, sand, are no great benefit — solar insolation and limited water resources have cost Dubai millions of dollars to build in. Solar, wind, and cloud are sustainable when the abundance of solar or clouds is the same as a feedstock for glass or plastic. The one thing that Dubai uses to transport that makes it easier to transport is energy, and industry elsewhere and export the crude.

The basis for Dubai's "ambition" seems limited. Dubai's economy has already reached a new high of New Trade Theory. Much as Silicon Val- ley has established itself as high technology center, and New York has become a finance hub, Dubai hoped that through the might of its wealth it would be the world cen- ter for something and maintain its position through inertia and network effects rather than natural advantages. Even if this strat- egy was feasible (and there is much to sug- gest that it is not), it was executed poorly — Dubai made little attempt to understand the clustering phenomenon it hoped to take advantage of, invested in a scatterhshot man- ner, and left its holdings to be managed incom- petently. I laugh whenever I read one of Thomas Friedman's "The World is Flat" because his turn of phrase, "The World is Flat" sounds to me like a particularly apt sum- marization of Dubai's downfall. Dubai is not being affected by network effects, most of production of manufacturing to the UAE than elsewhere — indeed, if anything the factors that make it hard to build in the UAE, or the weather, this is the last in a four-part series on the author's experiences as a consultant in Dubai.

Shebelsky had been given an upbringing that could not have been much more different than my own. I could criticize, but I had the benefit of secondary and college education. Had I lived in a Bedouin tribe, would I have done any better than them, and if not, how could I ever really place on their level?

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Branding environmentalism

By Holly Moeller

EnergyStar, LEED, and shifting social mores

It’s 6 a.m. when your gasoline-powered alarm clock chatters to life, raising you in time to make a few last changes to your arm paper before rushing off to class. You slap it before glancing across your room as your “air purifier,” which is actually a feather-duster taped to a space heater, hums to life.

What do these two unlikely dorm appliances have in common? If they actually existed, they’d be emblemized with EnergyStar’s logo, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act earmarks $300 million for state rebate programs rewarding energy-efficient products that — motivate Americans to shell out extra dollars for energy-efficient products that would reduce electric bills and environmental footprints. (Come to think of it, that would reduce energy use statistics. Meanwhile, plenty of products without EnergyStar labels are just as efficient as their marked counterparts: their manufacturers simply didn’t want to bother with the paperwork. Still, the EnergyStar logo moves products — and lets manufacturers sell at a premium — because consumers trust the Federal government as their moral arbiter. Indeed, EnergyStar isn’t even used to brand consumer products, it’s hardly the most troubling.

The United States Green Building Council introduced the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program ten years ago, and if you search “LEED Certification” today, you’ll come up with hundreds of news bits describing new green buildings all over the country. The system certifies construction projects according to its own green color code (LEED certified all the way up to LEED Platinum), and is widely credited with popularizing environmentally-friendly building practices.

It’s a well-deserved claim. Two federal agencies and twenty-two states have policies that explicitly require or encourage LEED certification. Thousands of design professionals spend hundreds of dollars each year earning LEED certifications. Project managers swallow thousands of dollars in certification costs (unlike EnergyStar stick- ers, LEED ratings are actually hard to come by) to obtain the brand’s marketable cachet.

But in the course of maneuvering through all the Green Building Council’s red tape, are we really, well, LEEDing our astray?

More and more, analysts, environmental watchdog groups, and even construction gurus are saying, “Yes.”

A construction project gains its LEED ranking after earning a predetermined num- ber of points from the 110 possible listed by the USGBC. The point system has long been criticized for its inflexibility: water conservation in Phoenix is no better rewarded than in rainy Mobile, Alabama (actually better with Seattle, everyone’s favorite dreary-day whipping boy). And rescuing the embodied energy by renovating an existing building (it costs CO2 to tear down an old structure and build a new one from freshly manufactured materials) earns a paltry four points, only twice what you’d earn by, say, plugging a bike rack outside your door and putting a snazzy LEED-accredited architect on your design team.

After much criticism, the USGBC revised its point system last year (though all of the above factlets are still true). In the spirit of the GAO’s report on EnergyStar, I started wondering just what would meet the LEED guidelines as I glanced through them last week.

I came up with this satirical shack: stack ten pieces of 10 by 16 plywood (to meet the minimum floor-space requirement) manufactured within 500 miles (1 point). To save on costs, don’t pave any new parking spaces (2 points) or do any landscaping (no potable water use outdoors, 4 points). By skipping walls, you can ensure natural light and plenty of fresh air (3 points). Slap a solar panel on top and write some computer code modeling energy efficiency, and the shack accrues another dozen or so points. If the energy use was actually measured and held true to model results, the USGBC would throw another couple points in, like some weird double-bonus for actually doing what was promised. If the shack was built somewhere on MIT’s cam- pus, we’d get another six points for proximity to public transportation and be well on our way to the 40-point LEED certification minimum.

All right, it’s a completely ridiculous hypothetical that would never get past the LEED police even if we had the thousands of dollars needed to pay them to have a look. But some recently certified projects (glass-walled buildings that must be simulta- neously cooled and heated; solar panels obscured by upper-story balconies; and so on) seem just as troubling. It’s easy to cherry-pick from the LEED list and earn your rating while missing the overall point altogether.

So why do we cling to branding systems like EnergyStar and LEED?

Simply put: Because we are human. Trusting someone else’s review process is easier than conducting our own research, and it’s easier to write a quick press release when buzzwords like “Platinum” and “EPA-recommended” are at your fingertips.

Our society is transitioning into a new era of environmental responsibility. It’s now socially acceptable — even, in some places, de rigueur — to show your “green” side by driving a Prius, putting solar panels on your home, and maintaining a compost pile. But we must guard against falling into the trap of buying the same hue to drive personal gains and avoid seeming a hyped-up cheerleader. And on our own terms.

Maybe that means building our LEED statement shack after all. I wouldn’t mind occupying it on May 18 and 19, when the Council’s annual meeting convenes in Washington, D.C. Just don’t let me forget my feather dusters and alarm clock.

Holly Moeller is a graduate student in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Biological Oceanography. She welcomes reader feedback, and offers to help with shock construction at hollyvm@mit.edu. "Seeing Green" runs on alternate Tuesdays.
Frolicking on the first date
Stop it with the s-word already

By M.

“If a girl will sleep with me on the first date, she’s a slut.”

An acquaintance recently let that slip during beers at the pub on Thursday night. I had to take a big gulp of my UFO while I regained my composure.

I just can’t believe that, in this day and age, having sex on the first date still carries such a stigma.

I’m not even going into how fucked up it is that guys call girls “sluts” — that deserves its own 750 words — but I just can’t believe that, in this day and age, having sex on the first date still carries such a stigma. Society has conditioned girls to hold off on sex if they want to be respected and taken seriously by guys, and that’s just a crock of shit. I believe that if a girl is really interested in a guy, she should hold off on sleeping with him, she should do it without any concern for what others (guy included) might think, so long as she is comfortable with her decision.

Some of the guys I talked to told me that if a girl is really interested in a guy, she should hold off on sleeping with him too soon because she risks him losing interest if she does. So, um, are you saying that the most interesting thing I have to offer is sex, and once I put that on the table, I lose my appeal? Are you nodding right now? If so, you’re not really a guy I want to fuck, let alone date.

And let’s get this straight while we’re at it: Girls can have sex on the first date and be relationship material, the two are not mutually exclusive. The willingness of a girl to put out is not exactly the best indication of how good of a girlfriend she could be. Frankly, some of us are just unable to resist your charm, so take it as the ultimate compliment and don’t judge us for it.

I have my own reasons for sleeping with a guy sooner rather than later. Knowing what guys think has allowed me to use first-date sex as a filter: Guys who will lose interest, think any less of me, or even stop calling me after the deed just prove they were only interested in sleeping with me.

The sooner I find out whether they are after my vag or after my heart, the better. Also, I consider sex to be a pretty important component of my relationships. (As if that wasn’t apparent...) If I like someone and I’m considering something serious with him, it is in my best interest to find out if we have good sexual chemistry as soon as possible. Putting off putting out only to realize further down the road that we are the square hole and the round peg is, well, anti-climactic.

Putting off putting out only to realize further down the road that we are the square hole and the round peg is, well, anti-climactic.

At some point, you might go on a date with someone you consider hot and really want to be fucking him, it’s not a bad one at all. With some, it’s the only good reason you have for putting out, or lose interest in them or stop calling them because they got her in bed easily. These are the guys girls want, should, and need to date. The guys who will dismiss the double standard, saying, “If she’s a slut for fucking me, then I’m a slut for fucking her, too.”

Truthfully, there is nothing wrong with being horny and slightly tipsy on a first date with a guy and just going for it. If that’s the only good reason you have for fucking him, it’s not a bad one at all. A couple of beers and conversation with a cute boy makes it impossible for me to keep my thighs shut. And why should I?

As if that wasn’t apparent... If I like someone and I’m considering something serious with him, it is in my best interest to find out if we have good sexual chemistry as soon as possible. Putting off putting out only to realize further down the road that we are the square hole and the round peg is, well, anti-climactic.

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**Sudoku**

Solution, page 16

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

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</table>
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**Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 16

ACROSS
1 Get on the phone
5 Run after
10 Swing to and fro
14 Follow orders
15 Half-pints
16 Increase staff
17 Dietary fiber source
18 Moffo and Pavlova
19 Doctrines
20 In need of a boost
23 Suited for
24 Word with whiz
25 Genetic stuff
26 Flock member
28 Seat at the bar
30 Pi follower
32 Atomic number 5
34 Took the cake
36 Frequently, to a bard
38 Succotash morsel
43 Loretta of country music
44 Draw
45 "Annabel Lee" poet
46 Small salamanders
48 Grain in a Salingar title
50 Meat stock jelly
54 Advanced deg.
55 Keats composition
57 Scale notes
59 Lennon's love
60 Exhausted
64 Regretful soul
65 Poultry housing
66 Account entry
67 Latin i verb
68 Be entertaining
69 Soybean paste
70 Sob's creation
71 Elaborate parties
72 Plays a part

DOWN
1 Hooded vipers
2 Exceedingly sudden
3 Primative shelter
4 Loretta of country music
5 Stretch out one's neck
6 Kind of strike
7 A.D. word
8 Stalemate
9 City on the Ruhr
10 Ark or bark
11 Showy ornamental vine
12 Destructive moth larva
13 Willing word
21 Arctic shelter
22 Queen of the fairies
27 Wind up
29 Little screecher
31 Hogwash!
33 Curvy moldings
35 Crackpot
37 Recipe meas.
39 Tavern
40 Indecency
41 Humdrum
42 Drinker's salute
43 Economic stat.
47 Dad's little man
48 Slip away
51 Lyrical
52 Consume
53 Universe
54 Coffeehouse order
55 Nincompoops
56 Fodder for the smelter
57 Dad's little man
58 Churlish individual
59 Nincompoops
60 Sleep state, for short
61 Fodder for the smelter
62 Churlish individual
63 Succotash morsel
64 Sleep state, for short
Dilbert® by Scott Adams

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

The Progenerator

Piled Higher and Deeper by Jorge Cham
Residents of Senior House drop bouncy balls on prefrosh during the dorm’s 2010 Bouncy Ball Drop for Campus Preview Weekend, on Friday.

On Saturday, during Campus Preview Weekend 2010, a banner appeared in Killian Court asking “Emily, Will You Go to Prom w/ Me?” Judging by the behavior of a couple that walked through Killian shortly after the banner appeared, the prospective student got his date.

Residents of Senior House drop bouncy balls on prefrosh during the dorm’s 2010 Bouncy Ball Drop for Campus Preview Weekend, on Friday.

The Chorallaries perform at the CPW Activities Midway held in Johnson this past Saturday. Many organizations welcomed the prospective freshmen to their booths.

Prefrosh converge for CPW 2010

For Campus Preview Weekend 2010, hackers installed a high-class lounge (complete with pool table, sleeping cat, whiskey, and hack plans) upside-down on the Media Lab Arch the morning of April 8.

Course 6 professor Scott Aaronson persuades prefrosh to join the electrical engineering and computer science department at the during the second annual Professor Talent Show on Saturday. Professor Aaronson was voted the winner of the event for his fast-paced and hilarious presentation.

Members of the MIT Raas team dons traditional Rajasthani attire and regale the crowd with their energetic performances at Rishtey, the South Asian American Students Club’s culture show on Friday.
nada,
zip,
zilch

(What most kids know about preparing for college.)

Without the help of an adult, it may be confusing for students to find their way to college. If you know a student with dreams of a higher education, do your part and help lead the way. Learn how at...

KnowHow2G0.org  800-433-3243
Research reactors seen as security risk

By William J. Broad

In Cambridge, Mass., at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a nuclear reactor emits an eerie blue glow 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Its fuel is 93 percent uranium 235 — the high-purity uranium it takes to energize an atom bomb and exactly what the West fears that Teheran wants to produce.

The facility at MIT is just one of some 130 civilian research reactors around the globe that use highly enriched uranium. Nuclear experts say that running them takes tons of bomb-grade fuel, enough to build many hundreds of nuclear warheads. And most are lightly guarded.

That is only one of the challenges that President Barack Obama and dozens of world leaders have been struggling with during a nuclear security summit meeting held in Washington on Monday and Tuesday. The agenda aims at bolstering safeguards on the world’s nuclear arms, as well as a range of sensitive materials and sites, like the MIT reactor.

“We must ensure that terrorists never acquire a nuclear weapon,” Obama told cheering crowds in Washington on Monday and Tuesday. The agenda aims at bolstering safeguards on the world’s nuclear arms, as well as a range of sensitive materials and sites, like the MIT reactor.

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“Terrorist theft by enhancing site security, shutting down obsolete reactors and replacing the bomb-grade fuel with low-enriched varieties is one way to go,” said in an interview.

Research reactors that run on highly enriched uranium are, in part, a legacy of the Cold War ambitions of Washington and Moscow to promote atoms for peace. They were offered to the two superpowers as prizes to woo client nations. Today, nations are trying to control and diminish the threat of terrorist theft by enhancing site security, shutting down obsolete reactors and replacing the bomb-grade fuel with low-enriched varieties.

Earlier this year, for example, experts from the National Nuclear Security Administration in Washington conducted a sensitive operation in Chile to remove highly enriched fuel from two research reactors. But an 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck near a delicate catastrophic device, throwing Chile into chaos and forcing the nuclear teams to improvise on how to remove the irradiated fuel.

The summit meeting intends to accelerate such efforts by creating a surge of financial and technical support that will push Obama’s four-year plan over the finish line.

Stoppage layoffs may backfire

MIT would cut costs one way or another, professor says

Unions, from Page 1

view when interviewed yesterday. Universities are in a crunch for money and "in almost all areas where universities can reduce spending, they’re doing so," Author said.

He said that making it more difficult for employers to lay off their employees is not necessarily the solution: "Worse than letting people go is not allowing the em- ployer to decide who it needs to lay off ... The problem with that is, they will stop employing unless they are sure that they are getting their money’s worth. It makes universities, or any employer, reluctant to hire." It can make them lean towards hiring temporary workers instead. Author also points out that uni- versities do not tend to lay off workers arbitrarily.

"By and large, universities are much more reluctant to let work- ers go than regular sector employ- ers. Many of these staff members are loyal long-term employees. We invest in them, and if we let them go, we lose people who have a valuable set of skills in us ... We realize that this is very costly."

As for whether the City would be benefit from restricting layoffs, "Even from the City’s perspective if the university doesn’t lay off workers, it’s going to cut expendi- tures somewhere else ... It is the case that if they don’t cut on one margin then they will cut on another and those cuts will have some effect on the city as well ... I’m not saying that it’s necessarily one for but it’s probably not zero."

"It’s true that universities are non-profits and don’t pay taxes on much of what they do. However ... they are huge employers and generate a lot of wealth and property value for the City."

In the end though, "I can’t blame them [the City Council] for feeling the harms of people getting laid off ... Most alternative ways the Institute could cut expendi- ture might not have as direct a cost on Cambridge," Author said.

The event was sponsored and hosted by the MIT Crime Club and organized by MIT Student-Worker Alliance.

News Briefs, from Page 1

MIT employee who allegedly shook baby still in custody

Geoffrey V. Wilson ‘02, the Media Lab employee arrested on March 7, remains in custody without bail.

Wilson was charged with the murder of his 6-month-old son Nathan. The son, Nathan Wilson, had brain injuries and bruises that were consistent with shaken baby syndrome, the prosecutor said.

Typically, the civilian sites employ few of the standard military protections, like barbed wire, checkpoints, camouflage, heavily armed guards and antiaircraft gun emplacements. Instead, they tend to encourage easy access by university, industrial and other researchers. The MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory, for instance, welcomes college and high school students and gives public tours. It is currently working with General Electric and Hitachi to see if the small reactor can produce medical isotopes for Boston-area hospitals.

“We’re quite optimistic we can supply a niche market,” David Monceton, director of the MIT reactor, said in an interview.

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“We’re quite optimistic we can supply a niche market,” David Monceton, director of the MIT reactor, said in an interview.
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Spring 2010 Wulff Lecture
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
4:30–5:30 pm
Room 1-190
Reception immediately following

Magnetic Materials Science
How magnets help us explore and record the world

Professor Caroline A. Ross
Toyota Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT

Materials science is all about understanding the properties of materials, and how we can control them. This talk will show how magnetic materials have evolved, from natural magnets (lodestones and meteorites) to synthetic magnets with amazing properties, such as super-strong magnets, transparent magnets, nanosized magnets, or magnets that can be controlled with electric fields or mechanical deformation. The materials that have enabled modern life—the compass in your cell phone, hard disk drives, electric motors, power transformers, and medical diagnostics and treatments—all rely on magnetic materials.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general-audience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community, particularly freshmen, is invited to attend.

The Wulff Lecture honours the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject: 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

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MIT Toy Product Design
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tuesday may 11, 8pm. 10-250

Powered by Mechanical Engineering

Colleges targeted by cash-strapped cities

By Tracy Jan
The Boston Globe

Pittsburgh threatened to tax col-
gege tuition. Providence sought to tax out-of-state students. And Phila-
delphia is pressuring its colleges and universities to resume voluntary payments in lieu of taxes.

As their endowment revenue, cities around the country are grappling with how to squeeze more money from the colleges and other tax-exempt institutions, as reces-
sion and lower property tax reve-
ue prompt municipalities to seek alternative ways to pay their bills.

Efforts to impose greater obliga-
tions on nonprofits have increased tensions and strained town-govern-
lations in some college-rich cities.

City officials argue that colleges rely on municipal services and should pay their fair share, espe-
cially in difficult financial times.

Colleges defend their tax-exempt status by citing the social and economic benefits they bring to their communities.

“Economic constraints have required cities and towns to look more aggressively for additional funds,” said Daniel Egan, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island.

“But quite frankly, when you put a figure on something, then the tax exemption is gone. If it looks like a tax and sounds like a tax, it’s a tax.”

With its large number of tax-
exempt universities and hospitals, Boston appears to be ahead of most cities in seeking to toughen its voluntary payment program for nonprofits. A city panel is finalizing a plan to ask nonprofits to gradu-
ally increase their voluntary annual payments to 25 percent of what they would owe in taxes.

The proposal, which many col-
geges and universities oppose, would raise the total amount of payments to Boston to $20.9 mil-
lion a year.

Currently, 13 Boston colleges and universities pay the city $8.4 million a year, ranging from $4.9 million from Boston University to $13.125 million from the New England School of Law.

In addition, several of the schools pay $5.7 million in taxes on property that would otherwise be considered tax-exempt. At least nine colleges pay nothing in lieu of taxes.

In Philadelphia, meanwhile, hardly any colleges make payments in lieu of taxes, although that could change.

University presidents there met with city officials last week to begin discussing how to quantify their current contributions to the city.

Philadelphia is assembling a task force similar to the one in Boston to assess how a new system might work, whether through in-kind ser-
dices or voluntary payments.

In 1995, the city received $6.78 million in voluntary payments from nonprofits, with the University of Pennsylvania contributing nearly $2 million.

But the payments slowed to a trickle after a 1997 state law culminated fears that the city might try to strip them of their tax-exempt status if they did not pay up.

Now, the city receives less than $1 million a year from nonprofits, mostly from outside higher educa-
tion, said Lori Short, Philadelphia’s chief education officer.
Falling on deaf ears
CFS claims DSL is not listening

Protests, from Page 1

want their opinions to be heard during this month-long process, I encourage them to attend a forum, to submit an idea or comment to the Idea Bank, and to talk to their Housemasters and House leadership. We need their input if we’re going to make House Dining better.”

Protestors say that, though they believe that Colombo encourages feedback, it seems that the administration is not listening to students.

“The same issue popped up last year,” said Tiffany K. Cheng ’12, a resident of East Campus who was present at the protest. “We had sit ins with the posters on the wall about how we felt about dining. In the time period between then and now there hasn’t been much improvement even though our student representatives have been really vocal in what our communities want.”

“I know at least four people who nominated Colombo for the Big Screw [competition],” said Ashcraft-Johnson. Colombo did not accept his nominations.

The CFS is an organization whose mission it to revive student participation and to emphasize the importance of student life at MIT. It was founded in 2008. According to Vinayak V. Ranade ’08, a former resident of East Campus (also a Tech reporter), the CFS is designed to be a completely flat and leaderless organization because it’s supposed to give every student equal weight.

An analysis of CFS mailing list membership showed that, of the members who had dormitory information listed, the top three most represented dorms are East Campus (39 percent), Random Hall (8 percent) and Burton Conner (6 percent). Students from the four dorms with dining halls compose a combined 3 percent of CFS membership.

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FIRST MONTH’S RENT ONLY!
UA will provide free deodorant samples during finals week to reduce Reading Room stench

The Undergraduate Association Senate passed a bill yesterday to provide free samples of soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, and deodorant in the Reading Room on the fifth floor of the Student Center during finals week this term. The bill, submitted by Baker senator Janet Li ’12, was motivated by concerns about poor hygiene among students studying in the Reading Room. This issue, the bill states, “is most apparent just before and during final week.”

The Campaign for Sanitizer: On Monday, the Senate passed a bill requiring that personal hygiene supplies be placed in reading rooms from the last day of classes to the last day of finals. Senators also discussed campus dining reform and the hours cutbacks at MIT Medical.
mit asian american association proudly presents...

kina grannis

GRAINS

-OF-

Rice

Saturday April 17, 2010
Walker Memorial
Doors open at 7pm

Tickets (Lobby 10 & Stud Center):
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Sponsored by UA, Finboard & Arcade
Mind the Gap: Communicate and Collaborate for a Sustainable World.

The 2010 MIT Sustainability Summit will host speakers, panelists, and facilitators with a wealth of knowledge and experience in collaborating and communicating with individuals and organizations across sectors, industries, and other boundaries in order to address the most pressing sustainability issues. Throughout the day on Friday, April 23, 2010, attendees will have opportunities to learn from experts, to network, and to explore a wide variety of practical tools useful for solving today’s environmental and social problems. This year’s Summit will feature:

- More than 250 conference attendees—including professionals, students, alumni, and faculty
- Approximately 25 speakers, panelists, and facilitators
- Interactive breakout sessions that emphasize learning and applying tools relevant to working in the field of sustainability
- Informal networking opportunities during breakfast, lunch, coffee break, and closing reception

Last year’s inaugural Summit was comprised of a diverse set of attendees from industries and fields such as architecture, engineering, energy, law, financial services, waste management, chemicals, biotech, etc. We welcome all attendees interested in sustainability, including but not limited to students, engineers, business leaders, nonprofit leaders, academics, environmental activists, and public servants.

MIT SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT | 2010

April 23, 2010

Microsoft New England Research and Development Center
1 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142

http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/
Keri A. Dixon ’11 connects with the ball during the softball game against Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Sunday. The Engineers won in the eighth inning of the game. (See story, page 20)

Andrew SwAyze—The Tech

Kathleen M. Kauffman ’12 looks for holes in the Smith College defense during the women’s lacrosse game on Sunday. The Engineers won a 20-4 victory over Smith College.

Andrew SwAyze—The Tech

Corey Garvey ’10 works to evade Springfield College defenders during the men’s lacrosse match on April 10. Despite Garvey’s efforts, the Engineers lost 16-4.

Andrew SwAyze—The Tech

The MIT men’s rugby squad takes on the club team from Suffolk Law on April 10.

Andrew SwAyze—The Tech

MIT Bhakti Yoga Club

Special lecture

Why Bad things happen to good People?

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http://web.mit.edu/bhakti-yoga/
Softball falls 15-1, 15-2 in sweep by Wheaton
Season record for Engineers now 7-17

By Greg McKeever

Wheaton College jumped out to a pair of early leads during a doubleheader sweep of MIT softball on Sunday afternoon. The Lyons outscored the Engineers 38-3 in the two games, which were the final home contests of the 2010 campaign for the Engineers, who fell to 7-17 (3-10 NEWMAC).

Wheaton broke open game one with an eight-run third inning en route to the 15-1, five-inning win. Nine different Lyons scored in the game, led by leadoff hitter Amanda Poplaski, who crossed the plate three times. Lesley Warn kept the Tech bats in check, allowing just three hits and one run over five innings.

Wheaton scored six of its eight runs in the third with two outs, and 11 batters came to the plate in the inning. Megan Roy had a key two-run double and came around to score on a pair of wild pitches. The Lyons would add four more runs in the second inning and capped the game with a six-run fifth.

Wheaton’s Nicole DeRosa was three-for-four in game two with four runs and three powered four in game two with four runs and three unearned runs in the first as the MIT defense committed four errors in the frame. The Lyons added two more runs when Poplaski’s single up the middle got past MIT catcher Keri A. Dixon ’11.

The Engineers started the scoring in the first inning, with four runs in the second inning and capped the game with a six-run fifth. Wheaton shortstop Nicole DeRosa was three-for-four in game two with four runs and three unearned runs in the first as the MIT defense committed four errors in the frame.

For the Engineers, Maia R. Bagarat ’11 had a career-high two hits in the second game, including her first ever extra-base hit, a double in the fourth inning. MIT seniors Lily L. Koenig ’10 and Chelsea L. Ostrander ’10 were recognized, as the two played the final home games of their careers.

MIT will close out its regular season with a doubleheader on Friday, April 16 at Coast Guard. Friday’s games begin at 3 p.m.

The men’s varsity lightweight crew compete in the Joy Cup versus Yale and Georgetown on Saturday. The winning teams received T-shirts from the losing teams.

Flynn sets records as women’s lacrosse blows out Smith

The MIT women’s lacrosse team defeated Smith College 20-4 on Saturday, led by Casey M. Flynn ’10. She scored three goals to become the leading scorer in program history and had seven assists, setting an MIT single-game record. Both records were previously held by Deanna M. Lentz ’06.

MIT scored 11 straight goals to start the contest, and eight Engineers recorded at least one point. Katie Kaufman ’12 tallied four goals and one assist, and Erica W. Little ’11 and Molly E. McShane ’13 both had hat tricks. In net, Allison E. Hamilos ’12 collected seven saves and two groundballs.

Members of rifle team earn conference All-Academic honors

Four members of the MIT rifle squad were named to the Mid-Atlantic Conference All-Academic Team. Emily F. Housten ’10, Jennifer R. Pack ’10, Justine Li ’10, and Nigel C. Kojimoto ’11 all earned the honor for their outstanding efforts on the range and in the classroom. The four were the driving force in a stellar season for the Cardinal and Gray, which finished 14-3 in smallbore and 14-3 in air rifle.

The MAC All-Academic Team consists of the top 20 members of the conference, with rankings based on their scores in matches and overall GPA.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, April 13

Men’s Lacrosse vs. Salem State College
4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Wednesday, April 14

Baseball vs. Salem State College
3:30 p.m., Briggs Field

Thursday, April 8

Men’s Tennis vs. Babson College
4 p.m., duPont Courts

Women’s Lacrosse vs. Williams College
7 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium