MIT students rally to help Haiti quake victims

Many raise funds on campus, one traveled to provide medical assistance

By Zswei Hao

After the most powerful earthquake to hit Haiti in a century, many MIT students have raised their voices in response to the catastrophe and rallied to help with the Haitian earthquake relief. From video game marathons to prayers to colleagues, students have found new ways to engage the community in furthering efforts to help earthquake victims. “I had just woken up from a nap on the day the earthquake occurred, and was quickly overwhelmed by relief. From video game marathons to prayers to colleagues, students have found new ways to engage the community in furthering efforts to help earthquake victims.”

Farrell ‘12 quickly flew to the devastation in Haiti from his aunt, Anthony P. Farrell said. “The main reason I went along with Haiti was because I speak French, and the Haitian population. I was there to get in touch with my father and friends in the capital. Fortunately, my close ties to Haiti, and the odd thing is, history and solicits donations. 


Update on the HASS Requirements Changes

Further developments on changes to the Humanities and Social Sciences requirement have been released.

According to Professor Jeffrey S. Ravel, the chair of the HASS governance subcommittee, the new system will take effect starting next fall. It will only affect the Class of 2014 and subsequent classes.

Students will still have the same communication and concentration requirements, the difference is that of the eight HASS classes required for graduation, the three “distribution” classes will be chosen from three categories: Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Unlike the current system where there are over 100 classes in the HASS-D category, almost all MIT students will take classes from the three categories, and the number of classes that can be taken to satisfy the requirements will expand to over 600. Thus, the new system will allow more flexibility in scheduling, and students will be able to take more classes that they are interested in taking.

Starting in fall 2010, the Registrar’s office will implement two parallel systems. One will be for the class of 2014, under the new requirements; all current students at MIT will remain under the older system of three classes chosen from five categories. No switching between systems will be allowed, and once the class of 2013 graduates the HASS-D designation will be removed.

Another focus of the HASS subcommittee are the First-Year Focus classes: about 10 to 12 classes with approximately 100 students each. First-Year Focus classes would become one of the required 8 HASS classes. Discussions about the First-Year Focus classes will take place this spring, and a recommendation is expected by spring of 2014.

The HASS subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. The student representatives are Adam Bockelie ‘11 and Sukrit Ranjan ‘10, according to OPN, p. 5.

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By C. J. Hughes

Aafia Siddiqui ‘95 was convicted on Wednesday of trying to kill American military officers while she was in custody in Afghanistan, capping a trial that drew notice for its terrorism implications as well as its theatrics.

A jury in United States District Court in Manhattan found Siddiqui guilty of all seven counts against her, including attempted murder, after three days of deliberations. She faces life in prison when she is sentenced in May.

The verdict puts a final mark on one of the most twist-yet-fascinat-ing trials of a terror suspect, whose back-story has attracted the attention of human rights groups as well as federal prosecutors.

In the course of the 14-day trial, Siddiqui was ejected numerous times for her outbursts, two jurors were removed from the case and one observer was arrested. There were suggestions of “secret prisons,” and machine guns were waved around as evidence.

IN SHORT

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman PhD ‘77 talks about the credit crisis today at 4:15 in 15-32-123. He’ll be packed, so get there at least an hour early.

Sex toy giveaway entries are due to cl@tech.mit.edu by Tuesday at 5 p.m. Tell us why you deserve a toy for Valentine’s Day!”

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The hungry hungry plants: Three doo-wop girls (left to right: Emily A. Moberg ‘11, MartaLynne D. Milan ‘10, and Priscilla W. Army ‘10) sing “Ya Never Know” while Seymour (Jonathan A. Gray ‘10) plays the hungry hungry plant: 

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PLANT! NOM NOM WOMAN

Plants! Theater Guild’s Little Shop of Horrors will freak you out — in a good way, we promise! ARTS, p. 6

WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU, HOLMES?

Guy Ritchie’s vision of Sherlock Holmes as a brawling action-mystery hero. ARTS, p. 6

WHEN SCIENTISTS ACT SHADY

Why the scientists need to regain the public’s trust. OPN, p. 4

FIX THE TRIANGLE, FIX SCHOOLS

Ryan Normandin explains his “golden triangle” theory of education. OPN, p. 5

SUPERBOWL XLIV

Will Manning deliver? Will Reggie Bush shake off the Colts’ defense? The Tech sports staff debates. SPO, p. 12

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By Ziwei Hao

NEWS REPORTER

After the most powerful earthquake to hit Haiti in a century, many MIT students have raised their voices in response to the catastrophe and rallied to help with the Haitian earthquake relief. From video game marathons to prayers to colleagues, students have found new ways to engage the community in furthering efforts to help earthquake victims. “I had just woken up from a nap on the day the earthquake occurred, and was quickly overwhelmed by the devastation it has caused,” said Eduard Paul ‘13, an international student from Haiti. “I could only hope for the best after desperately trying to get in touch with my father and a few of my old classmates studying in the capital. Fortunately, my close relatives were fine after they managed to get out of their house before it collapsed.”

Upon hearing the news of the earthquake from his aunt, Anthony P. Farrell ‘12 quickly flew to the devastated country with a medical team. “The main reason I went along with Haiti was because I speak French, and so does a good-sized portion of the Haitian population,” Farrell said. “I guess the one thing that stuck with me is the fact that nearly every building had concrete walls with barbed wire or broken glass bottles set into the tops of them. The odd thing is, Haiti was like that before the earthquake.”

Following last week’s donations and the student-organized Haiti Relief Show, the MIT Chapter of Global Poverty Initiative helped a charity ice skating event in the Johnson Ice Rink, where students gathered to brainstorm relief project ideas with fellow international developers.

Students in 17.820, the IAP Martin Luther King Jr. Design Seminar, constructed a display depicting the tragedies of the earthquake that had devastated the nation. Titled “Haiti: How We Can Help,” the project details the instability of the country in history and solicits donations.

Haiti efforts, Page 10

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The Tech

Volume 130, Number 2

Friday, February 5, 2010

tech.mit.edu

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Alumna convicted in terrorism trial

Shot M4 rifle at U.S. military personnel in Iraq prison

By C. J. Hughes

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Fantastic Mr. Fox, LSC’s Friday movie, has been canceled.

Academic deadlines today: Due proposals are due for juniors. Late seniors face $40 fines.

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

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Advocacy ad elevates interest in all super bowl ads

Viewers look forward to the commercials shown during a Super Bowl because they know the spots will almost always be different from and better than — the everyday ads they typically see on television. For Super Bowl XLIV on Sunday, the ad prelude may be more keen than usual.

“I can’t wait to watch,” said Greg McKe, president at McKee WadeWall Cleveland, an agency in Albuquerque, N.M., that for the 10th year is sponsoring a Web site, adbowld.com, where consumers can vote for their favorite commercials. For 2010, the agency is adding an Adbowld application for the iPhone.

There is also the additional interest in the spots that CBS will broadcast on Sunday. The biggest factor is the inclusion of what is being called the first advocacy ad ever to appear in a Super Bowl, a commercial from Family, an evangelical organization that is opposed to abortion.

— Stuart Elliott, The New York Times

Medical group urges new safety rules on radiation

The leading professional organization dedicated to radiation oncology, the American Society for Radiation Oncology, or ASTRO, issued a six-point plan on Wednesday that it said would improve medical radiation safety rules on radiation.

The first two cases are scheduled for trial on May 18 in Manhattan. But Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein, who is overseeing the litigation — involving rescuer and radiation workers who used over injuries and illnesses that say stemmed from working at the World Trade Center site in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack — said at a recent hearing that a detailed settlement plan about 70 pages long had been drafted.

There have been intensive discussions going on looking to settle individual cases and globally, he said.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs and the city declined to comment on the negotiations.

“The parties have been working very hard,” said Hellerstein, of U.S. District Court for the Southern Distric of New York. “The settlement is complicated.”

The lawsuits were filed beginning in 2004 by more than 9,000 plaintiffs against 90 government agencies and private companies.

Several hundred lawyers are working on the cases, and the court documents run to tens of millions of pages.

The plaintiffs claim that the city, along with its contractors and major defendants like the Port Autho- rity of New York and New Jersey, offered inadequate safety pro- cedures and supervision to shield them from exposure to contami- nants while working amid the debris in a 16-acre area at the site.

Plaintiffs are seeking compensa- tory damages for pain and suffering and economic loss, as well as, in certain cases, medical monitoring. They also may seek punitive dam- ages.

James E. Tyrell Jr., the lead law- yer for the defendants, contends there is no link can be proven between the illnesses of plaintiffs and exposure at ground zero, and that some plain- tiffs are making false claims. If the cases come to trial, juries will have to decide whether the defendants are at fault, whether the plaintiffs are actually sick and whether their con- ditions were caused by work on the disaster site, Tyrell said.

The settlement is complex and politically charged, involving plain- tiffs that include firefighters, police officers, construction workers and other responders who drew public sympathy. Many elected officials and advocacy groups are demanding compen- sation, long-term medi- cal treatment and monitoring for the workers from the federal gov- ernment.

— Walt Bogdanich, The New York Times

Amazon pulls Macmillan books over pricing dispute, fight ongoing

In a week of brinksmanship, Amazon.com pulled all books from Macmillan, one of the largest publishers in the United States, in a dispute over the pricing on e-books on Amazon’s website.

Amazon said Sunday in a buried blog post that it was surrendering to Mac- millan’s pricing demands, but one week later they have still not restored the missing “buy” button.

A person familiar with the industry said Amazon was breathing a new life into the pricing war, after the website was turned into a giant penal colony (“Escape from L.A.”), they were buried under lava (“Volcano”) or earthquakes (“Earthquake”), turned into a giant penal colony (“Escape from L.A.”), they were turned into a giant penal colony (“Escape from L.A.”), they were buried under lava (“Volcano”) or earthquakes (“Earthquake”), they were

Under Macmillan’s new terms, which take effect at the beginning of the first quarter next year, book editions of most newly released titles by Macmillan, like other publishers,ished for their digital editions, available through third-party sellers.

“This was under consideration before the books were published. It was the outcome of Macmillan, said: “We are in dis- cussions with Amazon on how best to resolve our differences. They are an important partner, and we hope to resolve our differences.”

The face-off has set the already infamous publishing industry on edge. “I think everyone thought they were witnessing a knife fight,” said Sloan Harris, co-editor of the literary de- partment at International Creative Management. “And it looks like we’ve gone to the majors.”

Under Macmillan’s new terms, titles that effect the book for sale by March, the publisher will set the consumer price of each book and the online retailer will serve as an agent and take a 30 percent commission. E- book editions of newly released general fiction and most children’s titles will cost $12.99 to $14.99.

Those terms mirror conditions that five of the six largest publishers — Hachette Book Group, Harper- Collins Publishers, Macmillan, Pen- guin Group and Simon & Schuster — agreed to with Apple last week for e-books sold via the iBookstore for the iPod.

For more than a year, publishers have been fretting about the pricing of digital books, which Amazon, as the dominant player in the fast growing market, had effectively been able to set.

Last Thursday, Mr. Sargent flew to Seattle to explain the pricing and new sales model to Amazon. He said Amazon could continue to buy e-books on the same terms it does now — allowing the retailer to set consumer prices — but that the pub- lisher would delay the release of all digital editions by several months in certain cases. “This is one of the things that we will look at,” said Ed. This article combines two ear- lier articles and makes them current.

Weather

Mid-Atlantic braces for major snowstorm tonight

Some schools and businesses have already closed in the Mid-Atlantic states of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia, which has ahead of a powerful snowstorm that is expected to bring heavy snowfall to the Mid-Atlantic overnight tonight and during the day on Saturday.

A low pressure system that formed Wednesday in the southwestern United States will move up the Atlantic coast, gaining strength as it does so and bringing heavy snowfall to the Mid-Atlantic overnight tonight and during the day on Saturday. In all, the storm could bring upwards of two feet of snow to parts of the Washington and Baltimore metro- politan areas.

However, unlike the snow- storm that struck the east coast earlier this winter on December 19-20, which resulted in high snowfall totals from the Mid- Atlantic to southeastern England, this weekend’s storm will follow a more easterly track, moving out to sea without making an impact on the Boston area.

Therefore, temperatures in the 30s and 40s F will continue for the near fu- ture, with no significant precipita- tion expected.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs 34°F (1°C). Winds west to 7-10 mph.
Monday: Mostly sunny. Highs near 30°F (-1°C).
Google asks spy agency to look into cyberattacks

By John Markoff
The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO — Google has turned to the National Security Agency for technical assistance to learn more about the computer network infrastructure are increasingly being targeted by hackers. In a statement, the NSA said the attacks originated from China.

The agreement was first reported on Wednesday evening by The Wall Street Journal. "We hope to prevent neo-Nazi publications by putting out a competitive and critical book," said Michael Neumayer, the director of the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich.

Hitler's copyright on "Mein Kampf," in the hands of the Bavarian government since the end of World War II, has long been used to keep his inflammatory manifesto off the shelves in Germany. But with the expiration date looming in 2015, there is a developing showdown here over the first German publication of the book since the end of World War II.

Experts at the respected Institute of Contemporary History in Munich say they want to prepare a critical, annotated version of the book for release when the copyright expires 70 years after Hitler's suicide in his Berlin bunker.

"We hope to prevent neo-Nazi publications by putting out a competitive and critical book," said Michael Neumayer, the director of the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich. "Mein Kampf" is one of the central texts if you want to explain National Socialism, and it hasn’t been available in a commented edition at all in Germany." — Nicholas Kaldik, The New York Times
CORRECTIONS
A story on Tuesday misquoted the name of the winning 6.370 Battlecode team. The correct name is "My Archon Died BellmanFeeding the Storm," not "BellmanFeeding." Bellman-Ford is an algorithm for computing shortest paths in networks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Lobby 7 Design Competition and the Empty Plinths
The public face of MIT is MIT's 300-meter (980-foot) high building, with its imposing porch and lofty interior, is not only an architectural landmark in its own right, but also the de facto front door of MIT. The lobby — officially titled the William Barton Rogers Lobby, but more popularly called Lobby 7 — was designed in 1939 by William Welles Bosworth as the culminating element of the campus that he designed and that was built in 1941. Every visit to the campus is associated with Lobby 7: four plinths that define the corners of the great rotunda (the true entrance to MIT) were intended as bases celebrating Aristotle, Ithicus, Archimedes, and Cal- cleon, the four founding members of the School of Architecture and Planning.

The student competition is to elicit and select the best designs for Lobby 7 plinths. Designs are to be created in the spirit of MIT's official creed "men and means of encouraging a desired, but unsupported, conclusion. Blacklisting a research journal or criticizing a peer-reviewed paper may result from personal bias, or a legitimate breath of scientific evidence, as recently concluded in a partial decision by an internal review board) they did suggest that researchers at the CRU had become partisans in their support of the anthropogenic global warming hypothesis.

Given the considerable politicization of climate change policy, it is hard not to sympathize with the researchers quoted in the e-mails. They are virtuous of their trade, and know-how, are often forced to act not only as scientists, but also as the public defenders of their research, responsible for translating their findings and converting scientific concepts into public discourse. It is a difficult task to integrate scientific method, which purports to be objective, through a process of conjecture and experimentation, with political processes, which are adversarial in nature and driven by the political conflicts of opposing viewpoints. Acting as a researcher is fundamentally different from acting as an intermediary to laymen. This dual role is dangerous, and on display in the e-mails is a failure to discharge the scientist’s role as advocate from his role as researcher.

The most straightforward implication of the e-mails is that the scientific community must work to delete records so that they remain hidden from the public. The disclosure of information is best solved outside the bounds of the acceptable. For the scientists in question, their only saving grace seems to be that they failed in their attempt. But most of the activities revealed in the e-mails are unrelated to the climate change debate. Within a gray area of scientific conduct. Choosing to represent a data set in a given way could be done as a matter of convenient presentation, or as a deliberate means of encouraging a desired, but unsupported, conclusion. Blacklisting a research journal or criticizing a peer-reviewed paper may result from personal bias, or a legitimate breath of scientific evidence, as recently concluded in a partial decision by an internal review board) they did suggest that researchers at the CRU had become partisans in their support of the anthropogenic global warming hypothesis.

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The Golden Triangle of a public education system

Education reform in America starts with teachers, parents and students

By Rayn T. Nomandin

This is the first of a three-part series on how we can fix public education in the U.S. A wise man once told me that there are three parties in a classroom: students, teachers, parents, and students. Each component requires individual attention and has its own unique needs. Each also has unique contributions and ideas. If any one of these components is neglected, the entire system will falter, and a school system will never reach its full potential.

Throughout my years in public education, I witnessed just how important the health of this third triangle are. The triangle, however, can be powerfully influenced by state and federal policies and the lack of them. Thus, as we enter into the 21st century, it is time for sweeping reforms in education. No longer can the state of public education be labeled as the middle of the international pack. No longer can we be haphazardly fighting to keep one other up on the latest fad and expecting everyone to be happy. Everyone is happy. No one can each state craft its own curriculum independent from others. This article is the first of a three-part series examining what the United States can learn from other countries' educational system, but to make it the best in the world.

The first part of the triangle, teachers, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of a school system and for the important duty of teaching and mentoring students to be a school system's greatest strength, but then they also be its greatest weakness. Teachers have evolved over the years from lecturers to role models, mentors, and trusted adults. This shift means it is critically important for teachers to be available to discuss anything with students.

Structurally, many reforms can be implemented to address the current inherent weaknesses of this component. The first is perhaps the most important: merit-based pay that evaluates teachers based on their students’ standardized test scores. The fact is that school systems are rife with both very good and very bad teachers. Those teachers who consistently have high-scoring or improving students should be paid more to reward their demonstrated excellence and to encourage them to remain in the field. Conversely, even after given special opportunities on how those teachers who consistently demonstrate an inability to improve student performance on standardized tests should be fired.

This is why I am excited about President Obama’s new education package that seeks to address the current inherent weaknesses of our public schools. The talk high schools with graduating students ("college and careers")—Alfred, 40 states are collaborating to figure out exactly what it means to be college and careers ready. The administration’s proposal will also change the way in which federal money is doled out. Federal money tradition- ally is not well spent if it is not collaborating. The states will now go to schools who pledge changes that the administration believes are necessary, ensuring that money doesn’t simply flow to the same failing programs. While No Child Left Behind required that teachers be highly qualify- ed for their positions, the Race to the Top program allows states that want money to rate teachers based on student test score improvements. This is an exciting development and I am hopeful that more reforms will follow that continue to emphasize the quality of teach- ing and professional development.

The second component of the triangle are parents, who have the unique ability to in- fluence their child’s success or failure. They play the lead role in providing the emotional and financial support children need to be successful in both school and life. However, in many cases they are too busy, and do not support and professional development to reach their fullest potential, many parents do not start out as experts in child development. While most schools require teachers to have college degrees, most parents often are unable to find any states that mandate the degree. Therefore, class input when given the opportunity to claim they permitted student input, that the group is just a way for the administra- tion to cover their backs, or that they failed to collect any input. In the next two articles of this series, I will explore the vital changes that must be made to educational standards and the cur- riculum.

The democratization of higher education

In the democratic classroom, students and instructors learn from each other

By Fathi El-Shibli

When reading Maggie Liu’s article entitled “College admissions is no scam — just reflec- tion of socioeconomic disparity” from the January 20 issue of The Tech, I got the impression that the writer, like many others before, seems to believe that education, regardless of being superior or inferior, has a real value to those who are being in many respects shaped by them. Col- lege students, regardless of their prior educa- tion, are seen as having been granted the privilege of democracy into the process of receiving and exchanging knowledge in and outside the classroom. This is problematic when the issue of democracy and higher education is being discussed. Is it possible that a democratic society values education for its social justice and providing access to higher education for those groups in society that are disadvantaged and has a deep adherence to a color of skin or national ori- gin, race, color, sex, or the lack of financial means? Even though this is still an ongoing situation, institutions of higher education like Northeastern University have been tak- ing measures to combat the issue by provid- ing financial aid and promoting affirmative action policies. However, these measures are now being blamed for having lowered the standards of higher education. I, however, have a different take on having these two concepts, democracy and education. I believe they are not always in opposition or antagonistic relationship. Democracy is a concept that is a direct result of democracy into the learning process has been around for some time even though individuals are not always aware of it. Concerning instructors, students and administra- tion has yet to be clearly defined. The starting line. Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. are held in the UA Senate Chambers (W20-400). Interested in representing your student body as President or Vice President of the Undergraduate Association or in representing your class as a Class Council officer? The UA Candidates Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9 at 9 p.m. in the UA Senate Chambers (W20-400) for those interested in running for a position. Candidate packets, which include de- tails on all of the positions, and don’t ask anyone who is against, will be handed out at the meeting. Pizza will be served. On-line versions of the candidate packets will be available on the UA Election Commission website at us.elects.mit.edu and the UA Candidates Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact us-elects.mit.edu.

The UA Executive Committee will be holding regu- lar meetings on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in W20-400. These meetings are open to all undergradu- ates are welcome to attend.

— Elizabeth A. Denys, UA Secretary General
A fresh sound made for all people
Luciana Souza and company charm and enchant audience

By Michael Lin
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

“Still, a stick, a stone/it’s the end of the road/it’s the rest of a stump’s it’s a little alone” — Luciana Souza sings, choosing English over Portuguese, using the language of Antonio Carlos Jobim, the quintessential swing, as much by devoted jazz fans as by listeners new to the genre. The album opens with “Into You,” a fresh, upbeat, solid grooves from across the ocean
Atakoglu’s new jazz fusion album takes you across continents

By Samuel Markson
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Of all the albums I’ve heard this year, Fahir Atakoglu’s Faces and Places certainly stands out as one of the most exciting. Not only is it special for carrying on the mainstream jazz market (Atakoglu was born in Istanbul, Turkey, and uses artists from China, Brazil, and New York in his ensemble), but as a standalone work it is a powerful addition to the jazz fusion library. Rather than passively creating an album that fuses several cultural voices together, Atakoglu takes a direct, intentional attempt at multiculturalism — its title and piece choices take geography as inspiration. Despite the diverse nature of the compositions, the album seamlessly weaves together styles and moods, lending a greater sense of continuity; this is a crosscontinental road trip, not your neighbor’s vacation slide show.

Atakoglu teams up with a team of sea-soned players, and performs exceptionally, aside from one or two occasional hiccups of the sort that I’d consider flukes rather than flaws. The es-pects and stunts are likewise excellent, with a phenomenal-looking final incarnation of the man-eating plant that takes up half the stage and into which a variety of characters have the chance to leap/dimb/be carried into spectatorship.

If I wanted to get really nitpicky, there are a couple of criticisms that I might level that I’d wager are the result of practical limita-tions. First, the Plant is mortally wounded but isn’t visibly so, which I can appreciate because it would be a shame to sully the character’s costume. In some other productions of the show, the ending is at times a little too expensive. The Plant looms over or moves to assume the audience over the warnings of the departed cast. As it is, the rule, though, the use of zombies more than compensates for any budget-related deficiencies. Yes, zombies.

The comedic aspects of MTG’s Little Shop of Horrors run deep throughout the somewhat short show, and the humor in the prequel originates as much from the manicured performances of the actors as from the creativity of the original writers. If you don’t mind a show that’s a bit on the surreal side — and if you’ve seen MTG shows before, chances are you don’t — I’d recommend it for an evening’s enter-tainment. Performances are Friday and Sat-urday at 8 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico.

Bot Minnitzer switches to soprano sax on “High Street,” which takes the funk from “Into You” and infuses it with Brazilian and Middle Eastern flavors. The piece plays like a walk through a foreign street market. It’s flashy, exotic, and very alive. The album mellows out with “Facets,” fea-turing Antônio Carlos Jobim’s playing in the piano, vocals making their first appearance. A lovely change of pace, “Facets” is a departure from the early 70’s jazz fusion revolution — to create a solid, encompassing sound. John Patucci, from Wayne Shorter’s latest quartet, provides an agile yet comfortable groove, and the bass player’s ability to blend into the backstages makes a mellow tone stays very much alive. Michael Brecker’s appearance on “Seven” is standout and a strong contrast to the dirtier side of funk, played with rigid, angular, yet beau-tiful lines. Wayne Krantz provides both soft and compact guitar metal, as able to shred through Mauvais-styled style licks as he is to handle the smooth, trippy matching with an other player. His counterpoint is beautifully constructed by Bean Stewart’s sax solo and a gut-wrenching end-of-four.

The album slowly shifts to the Western Hemisphere, with “Rio Da Noite—Into,” “Río Da Noite,” and “NY Retrospective. ” The first is played on a Native American flute and strings, leading to the lively saunter to follow. “Retrospective” is closer to the standard jazz vein — urban “cool” — “Rhythm of Corners” and “...And Places” return to the earthy. Things are a bit more free, and the feeling a bit more expanded. One or two other pieces fol-low, each with a unique voice. The album wraps up with the nostalgic return to the swing of the early-70’s jazz funk.

The sum total is a very broad and suc-cesful execution of one man’s vision. Here’s hoping for albums from Fahir Ata-koglu, and for more artists crossing the Atlantic.
Whodunit, Sherlock?

By Bogdan Fedele

Sherlock Holmes reinvented; shorter, darker and a lot feistier

This is Holmes as you have never seen him.

Director Guy Ritchie took Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s celebrated detective (Robert Downey Jr.) and warped him so much he very well could have been a brand new character. Nevertheless, Sherlock Holmes the movie is a brilliant production that will take you on a dark captivating adventure, with lots of relentless action, veiled mysteries and satisfying surprises.

As a detective movie, Holmes is thoroughly entertaining because it carefully preserves each mystery until a shocking and unexpected revelation. In this movie, the audience often knows even less than the characters and that’s what keeps everyone guessing. The plot is, as expected, highly convoluted and while it is not directly adapted from any of Doyle’s stories, it fits remarkably well in the genre and the period.

The film begins with Lord Blackwood being tried and executed for a series of mysterious crimes. When the string of crimes continues, rumors spread that Holmes’s entire mind. I suspect he drew from this movie. Dr. Watson’s part is somewhat less extensive, Law’s charm and charisma delights.

Perhaps Holmes’s most striking new trait is his bad-assery. While the original character was no stranger of occasional brawls, the new Sherlock Holmes is more like a true action hero, a nineteenth-century Jason Statham or Brad Pitt (both of whom have worked with director Ritchie). Brains and brawn! While Holmes’s mental notes that of- ten foreshadow the fights are humorous and aim at showing the logic behind all actions, when Holmes emerges victorious after single-handedly disbanding a large group of adversaries feels somewhat exaggerated.

The movie’s cinematography receives very high marks. The “shin-neo” feel and Ritchie’s highly original camera angles and transitions (many reminiscent of 2002’s “Snatch”) complement the suspenseful moments and thoroughly engage the audi- ence. The MIT crowd will appreciate all the science experiments, presented in great de- tail. Finally, the movie shrewdly weaves in a secondary plot that introduces an already planned sequel, featuring Professor Moriarty, Holmes’s archenemy. If this is not convincing enough, rumor has it that Moriarty will be played by no other than Brad Pitt!

By Kevin Wang

Robert Downey Jr. blows everyone else away, still can’t save this film

Watching Sherlock Holmes is a bit like going to the circus: loud noises, moving objects and bright colors — but no sub- stance. Although fairly entertaining, Hol- mes relies too heavily on Robert Downey Jr., who singlehandedly elevates the film above mediocrity as he were Leffron and Holmes the 2009 Cleveland Cavaleurs. Hol- mes follows the hero (Robert Downey Jr.) and his sarcastic sidekick Dr. Watson (Jude Law) as they tackle a conspiracy to bring down the British government.

It’s the classic Holmes formula: They find clues, solve the occasional puzzle, and generally act clever. We are also treated to a vaguely amusing love affair between Hol- mes and Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams), an American con artist who plays a part in a larger conspiracy (frankly it was all too convoluted to follow). Holmes predictably solves the mystery and sets up a sequel. Very few salient moments occur in be- tween, besides some pithy dialogue, a few obligatory plot twists and the occasional shot of Rachel McAdams in a corset.

To be honest, I wish that the film was more than just a vehicle for sarcastic re- marks from Downey Jr. Holmes is a two shot of Rachel McAdams in a corset. While Sherlock Holmes is certainly fairly entertaining, its lack of real content makes it quite difficult for me to recom- mend seeing it. I cannot even recommend watching it as a date movie, because any approximately normal human leaves inca- pable of loving anyone but Robert Downey Jr. Seeing as how Avatar could be bathing your eyeballs in liquid happiness, don’t even bother with Holmes.

“Sherlock Holmes” (2009)
Directed by Guy Ritchie
Starring Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams
Rated PG-13 – Now Playing

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Rated PG-13 – Now Playing
Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 10

ACROSS
1 Believes in
8 Lodgers
15 Hidden bad
16 Recant humbly
17 Libyan capital
18 Incentives
19 Boyz II ___
20 Pascal collection
22 Five fifty-five in old Rome?
23 Italian eight
25 Turns obliquely
26 Quote as an authority
27 Sturdy
29 ___-relief
30 Yuccalike plant
31 Mythical Greek king
32 Some sore throats
34 Female impersonator
36 Fortights
39 Superfluous
43 Huntley and Atkins
44 Grave engraving
45 Old-time peep show
47 Reiner and Jung
49 “I Remember Mama” character
50 Worldwide workers’ grip.
51 Short choral work
53 Davis Love ___
54 Carrying a tune
56 Gangster Ai and others
58 Three-time Wimbledon champion
59 K-2’s neighbor
60 Entices
61 Gobi and Negev

DOWN
1 At the very back of the boat
2 M.L. King’s widow
3 Hillary or Chelsea
4 Key-punch bus.
5 Stern deck
6 Bulrushes
7 Hemipterous insect
8 Repairs stitches
9 Author of “Expensive People”
10 Soul singer Redding
11 1900
12 Well-read
13 Desk type
14 Pivots
15 Ascidian
16 Make obsolete
17 Libyan capital
18 Incentives
19 Boyz II ___
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34 Female impersonator
36 Fortights
39 Superfluous
43 Huntley and Atkins
44 Grave engraving
45 Old-time peep show
47 Reiner and Jung

Hard Sudoku
Solution, page 10

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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‘Game-Completion Marathon’ supports Haiti

Christian groups rally to solicit community prayers and donations

Haiti efforts, from Page 1

Others have come up with novel ideas to raise money. The Singapore-MIT GAMBIT Game Lab will be hosting a charity event called The Complete Game-Completion Marathon on the weekend of Feb. 26-28. Individuals and teams are asked to come to the lab and play a selected game to completion in one sitting. Participants will need to independently seek sponsorship, as in charity walk. All the proceeds are going directly to relief efforts in Haiti through Partners in Health.

"Many of us at the lab were struck by the disaster in Haiti, and we see the greater video game community as an energetic and powerful group," said Abe D. Stein of the GAMBIT Lab. "I am more interested in our video game community remembering our strength and responsibility to the world. Game developers and game players are a tight-knit group, and as a primary goal I want partici-
Aafia Siddiqui ’95 trial is a circus

Mental health issues a factor

Siddiqui, from Page 1

from the courtroom, she returned as Judge Richard M. Berman and lawyers for both sides discussed a sentencing date. She spoke again, though her comments were directed at the judge. “They’re not my at-
torneys,” said Siddiqui, before she was led out.

Siddiqui, who was described in 2004 by Robert Mueller, director of the F.B.I. as “an Al Qaeda operative and facilitating,” raised suspicions when she and her three children vanished in Pakistan in 2003. She did not turn up again until 2008 in Ghazni, Afghanistan. Her eldest child was with her; the other two are missing.

She was taken into custody in Ghazni after local authorities be-
came suspicious of her loitering outside the provincial governor’s compound.

While in custody, on July 18, 2008, prosecutors said, Siddiqui grabbed an M4 assault rifle from a police station floor and fired on Army officers and F.B.I. agents. She was shot in the abdomen.

Her competency — to stand trial, and then to take the stand — has been a major point of conten-
tion in the case.

But after Judge Berman allowed Siddiqui to testify last week, she claimed that assertions that she had fired a weapon at officers was “the biggest lie.”

The weapon was never in her hands, said Siddiqui, who ex-
plained that she was merely trying to escape from the station because she feared being tortured. She had been arrested the day before; in her purse were instructions on making explosives and a list of New York landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge and the Empire State Building.

But the charges in the case were not terrorism-related and were restricted to the events in a 300-square-foot room of the Ghai-
ni police station, which is why pros-
cutors hung their arguments on the testimony of nine people who were in it or close by.

One of those witnesses was a chief warrant officer, whose name was withheld at the prosecution’s request. He limped to the stand using a cane because of injuries sustained in an uneventful roadside bombing in Afghanistan.

Defense lawyers argued that an absence of bullets, casings or resi-
due from the M4 suggested it had not been shot. They used a video to show that two holes in a wall supposedly caused by the M4 had been there before July 18.

They also pointed out inconsis-
tencies in the testimony from the nine government witnesses, who at times gave conflicting accounts of how many people were in the room, where they were sitting or standing and how many shots were fired.

Siddiqui’s lawyers said they had not decided whether to appeal.

They suggested that prosecutors had played to New Yorkers’ anxiet-
ies about terror attacks.

“This is not a just and right ver-
dict,” Elaine Whitfield Sharp, one of Siddiqui’s lawyers, said outside the courtroom. “In my opinion this was based on fear but not fact.

As that verdict was read on Wednesday, 11 guards stood around the edges of the wood-paneled court-
room.

“Today, a jury has brought Aafia Siddiqui to justice in a court of law for trying to murder American mili-
tary and law enforcement officers, as well as their Afghan colleagues,” prosecutors said in a written state-
ment.

Perhaps the most riveting day
of the trial was a week ago, when Siddiqui took the stand over the objections of her lawyers, who had fought her testimony until the last minute. Siddiqui recited a long list of academic achievements, includ-
ing a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Brandon University.

But she suggested that her studies of chemicals did not equip her to be a terrorist. “To answer your question, I don’t know how to make a dirty bomb,” she said, adding that she “couldn’t kill a rat myself.”

In response, prosecutors asked her about six hours of target prac-
tice she completed while she was an undergraduate at MIT, which a witness verified.

One of the most sensational parts of Siddiqui’s testimony was her claim of being held in a secret prison.

Siddiqui and her children, ac-
cording to Sharp, were taken at gunpoint by forces backed by the United States in 2003 while travel-
ling in Karachi, Pakistan.

Sharp said these events, and a traumatic subsequent detention, could explain Siddiqui’s outbursts.

She added that her client was not anti-Semitic but pro-Pales-
tinian. And she sent a message through reporters, some of whom were from Pakistan: “Dr. Siddiqui wants you all to know that she doesn’t want there to be violent protests or violent reprisals in Paki-
stan over this verdict.”

Chances at LaVerde’s: There are new stations at its sandwich counter with printed menu slips, though saying your order still works. An iPhone app for sending in orders is promised.

Changes at LaVerde’s: There are new stations at its sandwich counter with printed menu slips, though saying your order still works. An iPhone app for sending in orders is promised.

Guy Fawkes (Chris Smith ’12) presents the idol of Athena to King Philip of Spain (Noel Mo-
lates ’12) and his translating nurse (Eana Present ’12). The Shakespeare Ensemble’s William Shake-
speare: Raider of the Lost Folio was written and performed in 24 hours.

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Super Bowl preview: the sports staff’s picks

New Orleans Saints
As a Patriots fan, I always feel obligated to root against the Colts. Unfortunately, over the course of the 2009 season, there wasn’t much of a reason to do so. However, the Saints’ superior running game and Dwight Freeney’s questionable status — even if he plays, I have a hard time believing he’ll be as effective as usual — make me feel justified in predicting victory. I hope the Saints win, but, more importantly, I hope that the Colts don’t win. I think they’ll accept that the Colts aren’t a terrible football team. However, the Saints’ superior running game and Dwight Freeney’s questionable status — even if he plays, I have a hard time believing he’ll be as effective as usual — make me feel justified in predicting victory. I hope the Saints win, but, more importantly, I hope that the Colts don’t win. I think they’ll accept that the Colts aren’t a terrible football team.

Indians Colts
For the first time since the 1993 season, the Indians and the Colts have to worry about something other than their own offensive team. However, the Indians have shown their dominance over the past week, a week in which the Indians outscored the Colts 3-0. Perhaps the biggest reason for the Indians’ success was their ability to control the time of possession, a factor that has been crucial in their success.

Indianapolis Colts
The Indianapolis Colts are the clear favorites in this matchup. With Peyton Manning under center, the Colts have a powerhouse offense that can score at will. However, the Saints’ defense is a different story. The Saints have a stingy defense that can stop the Colts at any time. With Drew Brees under center, the Saints have a powerhouse offense that can score at will. However, the Colts’ defense is a different story. The Colts have a stingy defense that can stop the Saints at any time.

Henderson to Marques Colston to Jer-}

team with the more potent offense. With Manning, however, the Saints are the clearly favored. Most experts believe saving interception in the final seconds ago, but the Saints defense also caused ever, step up and make big plays. Brett

The Saints’ defense will pressure Pey-}
ton Manning, just like they did against Brett Favre in the NFC championship game. However, Favre still threw for 310 yards. Manning, four-time MVP, will de-

I have to say, but I can’t imagine the
game will be close. Giving Indianapolis and Peyton Manning two weeks to pre-

The Saints’ defense was able to hold the Jets, the NFL’s best running team, to under 100 yards in their last game. The Saints simply won’t be able to stop him.

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