Super mashup success!

Union strike hits Shaw's

Shoppers asked to boycott chain as 300 continue to strike

By Margaret Cunniff

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

Warehouse workers at the Methuen Distribution Center have been on strike since March 8, after workers rejected a new contract that would have significantly increased their health care costs. They voted 218-8 to accept the strike. On April 1, Shaw's cut off health care coverage for the 300 striking workers.

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

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

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

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

Two contracts have been voted down by the MIT Chorallaries performed a few songs, ending with “Defying Gravity.” Afterward, around 200 students gathered in the Student Center for Wellness Week, which continues with a screening of The Line today.

by Robert McQueen

STEM CELLS / MOBILE WEBSITES

IMMIGRANTS ARE GOOD FOR US

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

BROUHAHA RHYTHM

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

VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

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

STEAL MY COMIC

A history lesson. FUN, p. 8

SEEING GREEN

Overpopulation will be the problem that spawns many more problems if we don’t keep oursevles in check. OPR, p. 4

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W E A T H E R

Clouds and rum

SUNDAY

TUESDAY

MONDAY

FRIDAY

THURSDAY

53˚
51˚
40˚
53˚
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53˚
40˚

Clouds and rain

Mostly sunny

Mostly clouds and drizzle

WIND: 516.1 MPH

CLOUDS: 0%

TEMP: 32˚F

WIND: 45.5 MPH

CLOUDS: 100%

TEMP: 78˚F

WIND: 10.1 MPH

CLOUDS: 40%

TEMP: 70˚F

WIND: 9.6 MPH

CLOUDS: 20%

TEMP: 53˚F

WIND: 9.2 MPH

CLOUDS: 20%

TEMP: 33˚F

WIND: 10.1 MPH

CLOUDS: 0%

TEMP: 45˚F

WIND: 7.8 MPH

CLOUDS: 20%

TEMP: 59˚F

WIND: 20.1 MPH

CLOUDS: 0%

TEMP: 72˚F

WIND: 21.5 MPH

CLOUDS: 20%

TEMP: 77˚F

WIND: 10.3 MPH

CLOUDS: 20%

TEMP: 82˚F

WIND: 55.1 MPH

CLOUDS: 0%

TEMP: 93˚F

WIND: 19.1 MPH

CLOUDS: 20%

TEMP: 87˚F

WIND: 23.5 MPH

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Off Wall Street, companies worry about financial bill

By Eric Lichtblau and Ron Nixon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON - Makers of "OMM's and Starbucks, wants to make sure it can continue dialing up the derivatives market to protect the price of sugar and chocolate for its candies.

Harley-Davidson is worried that its dealer-financed loans to bikers will fall victim to new federal financing regulations and et al. is concerned about possible restrictions on PayPal, a subsidiary, that processes money in the Internet marketplace.

Away from Wall Street, the intense debate over the overhaul of financial regulations by Congress is attracting some unlikely but powerful players. More than 130 companies from the manufacturing, retail and service industries have retained high-powered lobbyists to weigh in on, and often oppose, the regulatory system being debated this week in Washington, according to an analysis of lobbying records by The New York Times.

The companies bear little resemblance to Goldman Sachs and the other Wall Street financial businesses that have become the main targets of the legislation, and the lobbying push by other industries shows just how broadly the legislation could affect American businesses.

It also illustrates what some critics say is legislation so loosely drawn that it may inadvertently cover a host of companies that are involved in lending or money, even if they operate far from Wall Street and had little to do with the crisis. Some industries, like payday lenders, fear that the financial solvency of the "backdoor way for Congress to regulate them, something they have successfully fought for years.

Indeed, Steve Adamske, communications director of the House Financial Services Committee, acknowledges that some House legislation would regulate payday lenders, who make short-term, high-interest loans to people who promise to pay in full with their next check.

There is a fair amount of caution among some financial offenders to propose new oversight," said Christopher Colwell, a lobbyist for Check N' Go, a payday lender. "We are trying to determine what impacts those proposals will have on business, intentionally or unintentionally."

While the legislation's supporters in Congress insist that most nonfinancial companies have little to worry about, many of these businesses say they are deeply concerned that the sweeping provisions in the 1,400-page congressional bill, particularly the regulation of the derivatives market, the creation of a consumer financial protection board and rules on corporate government, could drive them deep into the bottom lines.

For instance, auto dealers from 35 states are convening on Washington this week to meet with their senators' offices starting on Tues- day to seek an exemption from legis- lation that would treat them as financial lending institutions subject to new federal regulations.

"I don't think the level of concern could be any higher," David Haas, vice president for the National Au- tomobile Dealers Association, said Monday. "There's a sense of urg- ency. And we've got to raise awareness about why this doesn't make sense and why it's anti-consumer."
After polls, Iraqi court begins to disqualify candidates

By Steve Leen Myers

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, 142 Republican House members stood in the House chamber and issued a challenge to the Obama administration — disband it, or face a new coalition government.

The court disqualified the can- didate of Saddam Hussein’s Baath loyalists also disclosed that they received will be discarded, re- questing a recalculation of the win- ning coalition 

Washington times report focused on hard issues. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. "I'm in the center of a lot of im- portant debates – I like that," Graham makes no pretense about it. 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Breaking the silence
Human overpopulation drives the environmental crisis

By Holly Moller

Rewind forty years and a few days to the very first Earth Day in 1970. One topic was on top of everyone’s mind: the burgeoning human population. Scientists and environmentalists, eying exponentially increasing numbers, made dire predictions about the mass famine and warfare as humanity outstripped Mother Nature’s ability to provide space and resources.

At the time, the human population numbered 3.6 billion. Today, though nearly twice that number — 7.4 billion as of the 2021 census — we’re seeing the effects of where we’re going — living at our collective limits.

Imagine if we each consumed fossil fuels and emitted carbon dioxide at our current rate. We would exhaust our reserves in 60 years. By 2100, our planet’s carbon budget will be gone. We have, for example, struggle to keep up. I’m not arguing for an immediate stop looking for a malaria cure, or that we halt food donations — only that we must consider the demo- graphic implications of our actions.

Educating women should be part of every-thing we do to solve the environmental crisis. Not only is having children a personal decision, but more and more women are choosing to not have children — we’re starting to make additional pregnancies and the attitudes around children and marriage are changing. One study found that women in India are 200% more likely to hold jobs and earn wages that make additional pregnancies and the attendant time-out of the workforce (work force less attractive.) And we should strive to make higher education accessible to everyone. Yes, there are some religious qualms about this, but the arguably higher moral calling is our environment. And, if we choose to ignore the root problem by pointing fingers — and attempting to ignore the root problem by pointing fin- gerst at oil companies or the Chinese government — than fortunes.

Measures like educating women and providing reproductive choices are different matters. We’ve seen through China’s family planning programs, that we can decrease our birth rates. In some places, though, women still have limited access to family planning services. One way to address this is through the transition in the 1800s. Today, the potential for human population growth seems to be happening faster (on the order of twenty years) in developing countries.

In some places, though, women still have limited access to family planning services. One way to address this is through measures like educating women and providing reproductive choices. The potential for human population growth seems to be happening faster (on the order of twenty years) in developing countries.

Let’s look around you. Think of your family. Imagine three out of every four people, gone.

We wonder whether we’d fret over deforestation and wind farms. Thinking of how far we’ve overshoot carrying capacity (the number of people the planet can support indefinitely) and how little we will, we yet will go before that 2050 peak population projection we saw here yesterday.

And the good news is, it’s a lot less scary than what our parents heard a few decades ago. Industrializing countries go through a demographic transition as per capita wealth increases. Infant mortality drops with better health care, parents and families have fewer children, shrinking family size and arresting fertility rates. In 2010, the United States took about a century to pass through the transition in the 1800s. Today, the switch to “replacement rate” reproductive (about 2.1 births per woman) seems to be happening faster (on the order of twenty years) in developing countries.

But today, the population trajectory doesn’t seem to be leveling off, and it’s in a peak. Let’s set the population peak back on our agenda, and our hope in our children’s future by letting the great minds think different. We’ve buried our heads in the sand — look beyond the horizon. Yes, there are some religious qualms about this, but the arguably higher moral calling is our environment.
Mr. Obama, tear down this wall

Americans would benefit from greater immigration

By Keith Yost

It is popular wisdom that immigrants are a drain upon our country. They’re stereotyped as either violent criminals, diseased, or wards of the state. We’re told that they steal American jobs, put a strain on our natural resources, and fail to integrate into our society. As immigration reform begins working its way through Congress, (and as Arizona goes insane,) it is impertinent to set the record straight and review the reasons why expanding legal immigration is in the interest of the United States.

...we find that on average, immigrants provide a yearly net public benefit between $5,000 and $6,300 per immigrant...

Open immigration benefits countries much in the same manner as a free trade. The analogy is extended when an immigrant relocates, it is comparable to them exporting labor resources to their host country. When those labor resources have higher marginal productivity in the host country than in the home country, there is a net benefit that is shared between the immigrant in the host country and their native counterparts, with the only exception being that of public education. When the net difference between taxes paid by immigrants and the services they consume is estimated, we find that on average, immigrants provide a yearly net public benefit between $5,000 and $6,300 per immigrant in present dollars. As always, this estimate may change as the characteristics of immigrant inflows change (e.g., by age or language), but at the present we have little reason to believe that the average immigrant is a drain on our public resources.

The case is even more stark for illegal immigrants, because of their undocumented status, illegal immigrants consume an even smaller fraction of public resources than their legally immigrated counterparts. Although hard numbers cannot be obtained, it is estimated that only five percent of illegal immigrants avail themselves of free medical treatment, four percent take advantage of unemployment insurance or K-12 education, 78 percent pay into Social Security, welfare, or Social Security. Conversely, 77 percent of illegal immigrants pay into Social Security, and 73 percent have federal income tax withheld. While legal immigrants pay in taxes nearly twice what they consume in public services, illegal immigrants pay somewhere between five and ten times as much in taxes as they take from the system.

American immigrants do not show a higher propensity to commit crime, and are above the mean for many activities considered positive...

The youth of immigrants also helps to offset the fiscal strain in America and elsewhere.

The invisible Leaders often work unseen, behind the scenes

By Nan Gu

When we think of leaders, we frequently think of those most visible transformational figures whose insight, charisma, and bravado sparked the world. However, this view is simplistic, and we overlook the innumerable leaders that we are not blessed with the gift of leadership. Like the “great men/women theory” of history, which attributes the chronology of the past to the actions of a few exceptional people, leadership ignores one of its most important characterizations: the great many leaders who are unseen, behind the scenes.

The great man/dog does not exist without function, cannot function without support, and even if one were able to set the stage for the so-called great men and women, I want to convince you of two points here: first, that you are leaders in your own right, as leadership is a product of a community of people, rather than just a few, second, that your leadership is appreciated and more importantly, it is necessary, as leadership is a complex organism whose success depends upon the sum total of all of the parts — points that we may already understand, they are not necessarily expressed often enough, and these points will behind the scenes may become truly forgotten. To start, I will assert that leadership is not the least, subjective, contextual, and relational. Leadership can be defined in myriad ways including: influencing a group of individuals to act in a particular way, having a calculated effect change; tenaciously working towards a vision for the future of a group of individuals, and things or none of these things, depending on the situation.

This article is for you, the oft-forgotten many whose desires and actions set the stage for the so-called great men and women

Visionaries, strategists, advisors, and stewards are all leaders in their own right, yet each style is vastly different from the others. Each style has its own place within leadership and that the correct balance of styles in each situation yields success. Great men are often a part of that balance, but you, the unseen compo- nent are just as important. Barack Obama is merely the public face of health care reform, just as a clock face is merely the visible output of its workings. Most women are merely those who, by choice or circumstance, are not leaders of giants. For this reason, you are all leaders in your own right.

I want to convince you that your leadership is neces- sary, I want to make two more statements: Leader- ship is ubiquitous, it happens all around us at all times. Even the smallest acts — buying a coffee, driving a car, walking the dog, buying the groceries — are all acts of leadership. It is difficult to miss but vital to appreciate. My purpose in writ- ing this article was to point out the leadership and service of those leaders who do not fit that mental image. A point that I feel is too often overshadowed. As a result, many people feel unappreciated, undervalued, and unappreciated from those great leaders. And you, may consider a greater role.

Nan Gu is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Physics.
I’ve always enjoyed being removed from the cinema experience — not in the sense of being kicked out by ushers, but of being an impartial observer.

As I sat in the coffee shop wait ing for him, I felturded nervously and hoped to God he’d leave me alone. It’s such an unusual ex perience to not be rejected by some- thing or someone else. And yet, when he finally sat down at my table, I was pleasantly surprised. He was quite good-looking! Not creep y! Normal! We ended up talking for around an hour before I had to go, but that hour changed my views on online dating.

So, how does one go about finding a good data online? It all starts with the profile. Think of yourself as a product and market yourself well by showcasing the things that make you awesome. I skip all the profiles that are badly written and don’t say anything unique. And, being that online dat ing is essentially a market, people will have to a flattering photo. If you're a photo when doing something fun or interesting, people will be more likely to messages you with something other than, “Nice eyes.” Which brings me to the guys who just send me messages complimenting my look. Please. I know that you are, indeed, going out with strangers, I’ll take the moment to suggest exercising common sense. When dating in real life, most of the time you’ve either met the person before, or a friend is setting you up. A complete stranger comes with no credentials, so keep your eyes open for any sharp ends. If you feel uncomfortable, hunker. Also, meet in a public spot, and avoid bars unless you keep an eye on your drink all the time and trust yourself not to get wasted. Coffee is a safe, stdandard option.

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

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Lobby 7 Design Competition Announcement

Friday May 7th
Lobby 7, starts at 2pm

Performance by the
Chorallaries of MIT
free to all!!

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

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

Lobby 7 Design Competition

MIT
**Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 13

ACROSS
1 ___ firma
6 Latin I lesson word
10 Skedaddling
14 Projecting bay window
15 Infrequent
16 Leave at the altar
17 Start of a quip
19 Earthenware crock
20 Erhard's program
21 ___ -noire (bugbear)
22 Entryway
24 Part 2 of quip
26 St. Francis' place
29 Way back when
33 Pouchlike structures
34 Antiseptic pioneer
37 Drinking cup
38 Storylines
40 Part 3 of quip
41 Part of a fight
43 Ames inst.
44 Composer Debussy
47 Ruffle feathers
48 Commuters' lane
50 Operatives
52 Part 4 of quip
55 Sartre novel

DOWNS
1 Shark type
2 Messes up
3 Mob action
4 Gun it in neutral
5 Cover stories
6 Narrow mountain ridge
7 "Olympia" painter
8 Circle part
9 Amount of ooze
10 North Sea inlets
11 Happy song
12 Singer Fitzgerald
13 List ender
18 The Evil One
23 Lulus
24 Pith
25 Despised
26 Meat stock jelly
27 Chip dip
28 Scrub extra hard
35 With all one's might
31 Jury's determination
32 Badges
35 Author Calvino
36 Old Chinese kingdom
39 Tea treat
42 Chicago's Sue, for one
45 Placed
46 Bother
49 Flower part
51 Cut deeply
53 Creator
54 Chicago movie critic
55 Protuberance
56 Halo
57 Exploitive fellow
59 Water vessel
60 Church section
61 Soaked in anil
64 Actress Gardner
65 After the style of

**KenKen**

Solution, page 13

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

**Sudoku**

Solution, page 13

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.
Somewhere on the Search for Meaning… by Letitia Li

As the hero, I’m spending another day walking around fighting random creatures...

Apparently no one ever makes laws to protect endangered species...

And it’s considered that we saved the world even if we wrecked the ecosystem along the way...

I Try To Tell Heem

It seems like you’re enjoying this man.

It is the best! Why didn’t you tell me about this show?

I did.

Well, it’s great. You should watch it.

Really? I don’t know, because, like, cancer...

Man, I really need to start drinking and thinking. I didn’t know how cool it was!

You know what else is cool? Philanthropy. How does one get started with this?

I’m sure there’s a way.

by Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik

Desert Island

I’m on: still surrounded with nothing but pure enemy water as far as the eye can see.

by Randall Munroe

The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions—indeed, everyone. Depression is strictly a suppression of brain activity that makes life unenjoyable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there is the lack of awareness of depression: no one knows and the stigma that it is weak and every one of us. Second, there is the unadorned negative stigma attached to it. You know the uncanny thing. It’s like a collectively false depression. To know it’s an illness, not a weakness. And it’s a challenge that’s long overdue. It’s taken too many of us already.

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Paralegal Studies June 7–22 Information Session: Wednesday, May 5

All information sessions begin at 6 p.m.

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Priority Code: CPEP160
Vladislav Shahov and Milena Jasionek from Manhattan Ballroom Dance compete in championship standard division of the 2010 MIT Open Ballroom Dance Competition, hosted by the ballroom dance team in Rockwell Cage on Saturday. The competition lasted through Saturday and Sunday, and featured dancers from all over the country. Shahov and Jasionek placed first in their division. MIT ballroom dancers Tuan Q. Phan '02 and Ekaterina V. Lesnaia PhD '04 took third in the championship standard category.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Awareness, from Page 1

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

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

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

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

Teaching Excellence

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

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

Nominate by

Friday, April 30, 2010

Nominations should include the following information:

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

Please consider and comment on

• Teaching effectiveness
• Approachability
• Responsiveness to students' progress
• Impact
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Thursday, April 29, 2010
9:00am - 7:00pm
MIT Student Center
The Coffeehouse (3rd floor)

On Facebook: tinyurl.com/join-the-registry
www.getswabbed.org
Strike gets support at national level

Shaws, from Page 1

union to date, and little consensus has been made between the two groups. Chong said, “It is unecess-
ary that the union continues to perpetuate this otherwise unnesses-
sary strike...they have voted down or voted to dismiss two fair and rea-
sonable contract offers.”

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

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

U.S. Representative Steven F. Lynch, representing Massachu-
setts’s 9th District, and other local
Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick has also become involved in
the issue. In a letter addressed to the CEO of Supervalu Craig Herk-
et and the President of the UFCW Union Local 791 Russell Regan, he
urged the two parties to come to a resolution. Patrick encouraged fur-
ther communication between the two groups.

Derouen said that the union is looking for a “fair and equitable
agreement” through the union rec-
ognizes that costs have increased
due to the economic climate. Der-
ouen said that it is looking to “ad-
dress the needs of the company,
and make sure we are being reason-
able to the members.”

Both sides have expressed their
ongoing commitment to finding a
solution. Chong said that will con-
tinue to work with a federal medi-
adator to reach a conclusion. Derouen said that striking workers “will con-
tinue to go as long as membership
stays strong.”

“Workers Union Local 791 said, “The sec-
er the CEO of Supervalu Craig Herk-
et and the President of the UFCW

Solution to Crossword

5
6
8
2
7
4
1
3
9

Solution to Sudoku

1 2 4 8 6 9 7 3
6 7 9 2 3 1 5 4 8
4 3 5 9 7 2 6 1
3 8 5 6 7 4 2 1 9
6 1 7 3 4 8 2 5 9
5 8 9 5 2 3 1 7
3 5 8 2 9 0 3 4
2 6 1 4 5 8 7 9 0
9 4 6 7 3 1 5 2

Solution to Kenken

2 5 1 3 6 4
6 4 2 5 3 1
5 4 3 1 2 6
1 6 2 4 5 3
3 1 5 6 4 2
4 3 6 2 1 5

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Sunday May 30th and Memorial Day: 9:00 – 4:00

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SHOULD GOOGLE STAY IN CHINA?

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

Panelists
Edward Steinfeld
Associate Professor of Political Science
Moderator
David Clark
Senior Research Scientist
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory
Yasheng Huang
China Program Professor in International Management
Sloan School of Management
Craig Simons
Knight Science Journalism Fellow
Xiaojian Zhao
Knight Science Journalism Fellow

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Robots labor to staunch flow of oil in Gulf of Mexico

By Campbell Robertson and Clifford Krauss

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

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

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

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

Wind has kept the spill from moving toward the coast. Officials said it had a 300-mile circumference Monday, but most of that was a thin sheen of oil-water mix. Only 3 percent of the area was crude oil with a “pudding-like” consistency, they said.

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

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

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

Savitz also said that environmental concerns were not alleviated by assurances that the spill was not yet a threat to the coast.

“There is a misconception that if water doesn’t hit the beach it isn’t dangerous,” she said.

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

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

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

More than 1,000 people working to respond to the spill, including officials from the Coast Guard, the federal government and BP, BP is also mobilizing rigs that would drill one or more deep wells nearby to push mud and concrete into the gushing cavity, an operation made all the more expensive and complex in the deep waters. That would take two to three months.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Gulf is now producing a quarter of the nation’s domestic production, and that portion is expected to grow, especially with production in Alaska using a new method.

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

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

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

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

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

“After the explosion, ensuing fire, and continuing spill raise serious concerns about the industry’s claims that their operations and technology are safe enough to put rigs in areas that are environmentally sensitive or are critical to tourism or fishing industries,” the letter said.
Men’s tennis extends NEWMAC championship streak

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

The Engineers (14-1) advanced to the finals after defeating fourth-seeded Babson College 5-0 in its semifinal match. In the semifinals MIT swept all three doubles matches to take a 3-0 lead. Brian K. Oldfield ’13 won at third singles 6-2, 6-1 and Matthew T. Skalak ’13 won 8-1, 6-1 to advance the Engineers to the finals.

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

— Paul Blascovich, DAPER staff

ATHLETES’ CORNER

Shotokan club competes in Battle for Boston

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

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

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

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

— Brian Neltner, Team representative

Lightweight crew is last place in Geiger Cup

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

The varsity crew rowed a quick first thousand, holding close to the strong Cornell crew and picking up a one second lead on Columbia. Through the turn, the Engineers lost momentum in the outside lane, and dropped back on the Lions. The rowers struggled to regain their speed in the final thousand of the race, but ended about 3 seconds behind Columbia, who finished 7 seconds behind Cornell.

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

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

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

— Aaron Blankstein, Team representative

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, April 27
Baseball vs. Newbury College 4 p.m., Briggs Field
Men’s lacrosse vs. Norwich University 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Sailing: Midweek Tech Invite 4 p.m., Charles River

Wednesday, April 28
Men’s lacrosse vs. Babson College 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

SCOREBOARD

Baseball
Friday, April 23 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
at U.S. Coast Guard Academy L 7-6

Men’s Lacrosse
Saturday, April 24 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
at Babson College L 15-9

Women’s Lacrosse
Saturday, April 24 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
at Wellesley College L 14-7

Men’s Tennis
Saturday, April 24
vs. Babson College W 9-0
vs. Babson College W 9-0

Men’s Track and Field
Saturday, April 24
NEWMAC Championships 1st of 6

Women’s Track and Field
Saturday, April 24
NEWMAC Championships 1st of 8

The Tech 15

SPORTS SHORTS

Track and Field repeat NEWMAC Sweep

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

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

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

— David Zhu, Sports editor

SPORTS EVENTS

Tuesday, April 27
Baseball vs. UMass-Bsoton 4 p.m., Charles River
Men’s lacrosse vs. Norwich University 4 p.m., Briggs Field
Sailing: Midweek Tech Invite 4 p.m., Charles River

Wednesday, April 28
Men’s lacrosse vs. Babson College 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Thursday, April 29
Baseball vs. Newbury College 4 p.m., Briggs Field

Friday, April 30
Baseball vs. Babson College 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Saturday, May 1
Baseball vs. Bentley University 4 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Men’s lacrosse vs. Middlebury College 4 p.m., Briggs Field
Men’s tennis vs. Eastern Connecticut State University 1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Sunday, May 2
Baseball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy 1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Men’s lacrosse vs. Colby College 1 p.m., Briggs Field
Men’s tennis vs. Middlebury College 1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

MONDAY TRIVIA QUESTION

In what year was the first text message sent?

A. 1973
B. 1977
C. 1978
D. 1979

Send your answers to thetech@mit.edu by 3 p.m. on Monday. The first person to answer correctly wins a prize (to be determined by the Tech). The question will appear here next week.
Advances in Biomedicine: From Bench to Bedside

Friday, April 30, 5:30-8:30pm*
Broad Institute, 7 Cambridge Center

Join us for an evening of engaging discussion and debate on how pioneering scientific discoveries are translated into true medical progress; specifically in the transformative areas of Stem Cells, Protein Engineering, Proteomics and Metabolomics.

Meet & Network with Pfizer research leaders to learn more about exciting career paths and collaborative opportunities.

* Reception immediately following talks

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Dr. John McNeish, Executive Director, Regenerative Medicine
Dr. Albert Seymour, Senior Director, Applied Quantitative Genotherapeutics
Dr. Jim Tobin, Vice President & Chief Scientific Officer, Biocorrection Research
Moderator: Belen Carrillo-Rivas, Director, Research Programs and Strategy

Cost: Free
Open to the Public

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