The MIT Media Lab has hit its newest milestone last Friday, celebrating its 25th anniversary. Students, alumni and business sponsors alike gathered into the new Media Lab extension to take part in an all-day feature of prominent speakers including Google’s CEO Eric Schmidt, journal article and 4-time Emmy winner John Hockenberry, and Media Lab co-founder Nicholas Negroponte ’61.

The future was on everybody’s minds. In the next decade, the internet will evolve as billions of people around the world gain access, and the Media Lab, MIT’s nationally recognized research laboratory focused around the world gain access; and the it is not the technology. Negroponte attributes the success of the Media Lab to the multidisciplinary approach of integrating the social sciences, humanities, and technology.

The Media Lab has been on the cutting-edge since its inception in 1985. Something about the Media Lab makes it different than any other research facility around the world, and it is not the technology.

Brian Shultz spoke Friday, advocating nuclear disarmament

Friday afternoon in ES1, former Secretary of State George P. Shultz PhD ’49 spoke and screened a film advocating nuclear disarmament, Nuclear Tipping Point, which he was actively engaged in the creation of.

President Hockenberry introduced Shultz, spoke about his time as a marine when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and general remarks before the screening began.

The film is centered on four of America’s elder statesmen. Shultz, Secretary of State under President Ronald Reagan, and also a former Secretary of Treasury and former Secretary of Labor, Shultz, Page 14

Meet the linguistics majors

For undergrads who pursue linguistics, it’s a sudden passion

Are you lucky enough to know a linguistics major? Few undergraduates enter MIT planning to study linguistics even though MIT’s department, home to Noam Chomsky, is considered to be in the lead. But the graduate program, in particular, is internationally famous.

All current members of the Linguistics Olympiad (Course 12.15), the graduate program, have been linguistics majors all through their college years. Several undergraduates do find their way to linguistics by saying they’ve always had a dormant interest in the field, but discovered that their passion bloomed once they arrived at MIT. They come from diverse backgrounds—computer science, brain and cognitive sciences—but all share a love for a puzzle that is language.

The transformation

Some linguistics majors cultivated their interest on their own while in high school, since linguistics is largely absent from high school curricula. The department has made efforts to connect with admitted students expressing an interest in the field, letting them know that they will find support for their interests at MIT, said linguistics professor David Pesetsky.

Several admitted members of the Class of 2014 were top winners in the Linguistics Olympiad, a program started by the Soviet Union in the 1960s to generate linguistics interest that has since become an international competition.

Most majors did not come to MIT with linguistics in mind, but found themselves enjoying the popular introductory class, 24.900. After they finish the class, they start thinking about embarking on a major.

Linguistics, Page 13

Mandelbrot, fractal mathematician, dies at 85

Yale professor’s work on ‘rough’ phenomena helped tame the natural world

Benoit B. Mandelbrot, a mathematician who revolutionized the understanding of financial markets, biophysics, the nature of roughness and applied it to physics, biology, finance and many other fields, died Thursday in Cambridge, Mass. He was 85.

His death was caused by pancreatic cancer, his wife, Alice, said. He had lived in Cambridge.

Mandelbrot coined the term “fractal” to refer to a new class of mathematical shapes whose uneven contours could mimic the irregularities found in nature.

“Applied mathematics had been concentrating for a centum on phenomena which were smooth, but many things were actually more yoga-like; Mandelbrot proposed that we put them up with a microscope the more complexity you found,” said David Mumford, a professor of mathematics at Brown University. “He was one of the primary people who realized that these were legitimate objects of study.”

In a seminal book, “The Fractal Geometry of Nature,” published in 1982, Mandelbrot defended mathematical objects that he said others had dismissed as “monstrous” and “philosophical.” When he first saw a fractal geometry, he argued, the complex outlines of clouds and coastlines... Mandelbrot, Page 12

HDAG GOTT LOST IN GROUPTHINK

The dining reform group’s plan is what’s best for students, not what students want.

OPIN. p. 4

“It Gets Better,” That’s It.

Dan Savage’s campaign against gay bullying is horribly tone deaf.

OPIN. p. 5

The GOP Has This One Chance

So are they still trying to stick to their fiscal conservative roots?

OPIN. p. 5

STEAL MY COMIC

Hey, ya, don’t really know me, right? FUN. p. 8

Various States of Undress

Really, there’s nothing to freak out about, people. It’s just a cute little bit of skin.

CL. p. 10

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CL. p. 10
China escalates fight with U.S. on clean energy aid

BERLIN — A dispute between China and the United States over Beijing’s subsidies to clean energy industries escalated on Sunday when a senior Chinese economic official warned thatlishing China “cannot sustain this fight.”

In an abruptly scheduled news briefing here, the official, Zhang Gaoli, the party secretary of Tianjin, sharply criticized the White House for conducting an investigation and suggested the administration was playing elections-season politics.

“I have been thinking: What do the Americans want?” said Zhang, vice chairman of the government’s National Development and Reform Commission. “Do they want fair trade? Or an earnest dialogue? Or transparent information? I don’t think they want any of those. They want Americans who just want votes.”

With campaigning for the November midterm elections defined in large part by bleak economic and employment statistics, candidates in both parties have increased their attacks on the Chinese trade policies for slowing the American recovery from the 2008 economic collapse.

The White House has increased criticism of China in recent weeks, even as it dispatched senior officials to China to try to defuse tensions.

—Michael Wines and Xiqiong Yang, The New York Times

Justice Dept. sues Michigan blue cross over pricing

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department sued Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan on Monday, asserting that the compa- ny’s plan was a “patently illegal scheme” that enabled it to lower its prices and gained an advantage by forcing hospitals to charge higher prices to Blue Cross’s rivals.

The civil action predicted broad implications because many local insurance markets, like those in Michigan, are high- ly concentrated, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans often have the largest shares of those markets.

In the Michigan case, the Obama administration said Blue Cross Blue Shield had contracts with many hospitals that stifled competition, resulting in higher health insurance pre- miums for consumers and employers.


Sarkozy risks labor reform

PARIS — Weeks of protests over President Nicolas Sarkozy’s efforts to change France’s pension system were intensifying Monday, a day before a final parliamentary vote. But with ap- proval expected, Sarkozy faces the possibility that winning will not offer much political gain.

Labor unions called for national work stoppages Tuesday, adding to the disruption that has been building since the first national protest strike Sept. 7 and that worsened with strikes last week.

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Democrats’ grip on the South continues to slip downward

By Jeff Zeleny

WASHINGTON — The South, white Democrat, long on the endangered list, is at risk of being pushed one step closer to extinc- tion.

From Virginia to Florida and South Carolina to Texas, nearly two dozen Democratic seats are suscepti- ble to a potential Republican surge in congressional races on Election Day, leaving the party facing a situ- ation where its only safety net, the South, is in urban and predomi- nantly black districts.

The swing has been under way since the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, when President Lyndon B. Johnson predicted that his fel- low Democrats would face a back- lash of white voters that would cost the party the South. It continued with Ronald Reagan’s election and a tip in the Rep- ublican vote in 1984, with more than one-third of the victories com- ing from previously Democratic seats in the South.

This year, retirements of Demo-

By David Segal

Economists — they certainly are a contentious bunch.

The latest evidence came last week, in the form of the minutes of the latest meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, the brains trust that establishes monetary poli- cy. The committee, we learned, is di- vided on a seemingly straightforward question: Should the Fed take action to goose the economy now, or wait, watch and perhaps goose later?

Similar debates have existed virtually every time the govern- ment’s efforts to turn the country’s fortunes around — even those that have been unfolding for more than a year. You might assume, for instance, that there would be a broad consensus about whether the $787 billion stimulus, passed in early 2009, worked.

But generally speaking, econo-

By Vince Agard

The pleasant fall weather that has been prevalent so far in New England this year will continue this week, with sunshine, light winds, and temperatures around 60°F.

With last week’s nor’easter long gone and two new storm systems expected to pass through the area un- til the end of the week, the pleasant autumn weather will continue to dominate.

Extended Forecast


Tomorrow: Mostly sunny. High 68°F (20°C). Winds WSW at 6-10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Highs in the mid 60s °F (17°C).

Friday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s °F (13°C).

The X factor of economics: Why do economists disagree so much?

By David Segal

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SAN FRANCISCO — When you sign up for Facebook, you enter into a bargain. You share personal information with the site, and Facebook agrees to obey your wishes. But the fine print says you agree to let Facebook sell your information to advertisers and Web tracking companies and magazines have access to it. It is why any hint that Facebook may not be honoring its bargain is sure to kick up plenty of controversy.

The latest challenge to that trust came Monday when Facebook acknowledged that some applications were improperly shared information about users, and in some cases their friends, with advertisers and Web tracking companies. The company said it was taking to application developers, but no such policy existed. Facebook’s acknowledgment came on the same day that The Wall Street Journal that said several popular applications were using Facebook’s API to build a user ID to outside companies, in violation of Facebook’s privacy policy.

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in fall 2008, Chris Colombo became dean of student life at MIT. He was an experienced administrator, having worked at Johns Hopkins University, New York University, and the University of Chicago, and he did not understand MIT. He became aware of how the culture of MIT dorms supports students through a challenging undergraduate experience. He realized that HDAG was not the independent mind of MIT students. Most importantly, he did not understand that students would plunge many MIT undergraduates take when they enroll. He did but have an idea when they were supposed to be working in the interests of students.

Students, being familiar with their lifestyles, see how ridiculous the plan was and overwhelmingly oppose it. So in March 2010, Chris Colombo cre- ated the Student Dining Advisory Group (HDAG), made up of administrators and a few student representatives. Colombo had informed his skilled political staff that his vision became HDAG's baby. It was HDAG's baby because the idea came from students. As HDAG nurtured the idea, it grew bigger and HDAG thought that if only students would adjust for inflation. There were simply too many costly options for students and not enough demand, so suppliers couldn’t make a profit. Providing house dining at MIT has never been cheap because it is inef- ficiently expensive. Fast forward to 2010, and the problem still is that MIT dining halls (Baker, McCormick, Next and Simmons) are operat- ing in a scenario where the suppliers do not support the dining system by paying $600 a year for half-price dinners, but it's not enough. In order to make the sys- tem break even, they need to pay $500 or $600 more. Change that would be impossible considering nearly everybody already loves money. Colombo has overseen a more drastic change. He knew that the evidence and forgetting what mon- ey means to students, it's clear that MIT should have never considered this plan. If one ini- nitiously forgets about the demand for expensive meals, it's clear that one should charge students several thousand dollars a year for all-you-can-eat dining. Students in an organization without external controls and login fees would deeply hurt students, HDAG decided to require students in dorms to purchase break- fast, lunch, and dinner. One HDAG member Cameron McAlpine said that if one was a decent consumer, they were supposed to be working in the interests of students. HDAG used surveys to nurture its baby. For instance, one survey question asked students whether they might “purchase a breakfast if it were offered at their dorm.” Most students said they would occasionally buy breakfast, but HDAG in- correctly concluded that there would be enough demand for this breakfast at a cost of thousands of dollars a year. HDAG never considered the fact that MIT's financial costs covered by the financial aid office. Most students who enrolled at MIT, even though they were supposed to be working in the interests of students, might talk to liberals (“you're too liberal for us” he/she currently spends on food. Students, being familiar with their lifestyles, see how ridiculous the plan was and overwhelmingly oppose it. But, too many students were satisfied that having morning Food. Students, being familiar with their lifestyles, see how ridiculous the plan was and overwhelmingly oppose it. But, too many students were supposed to be working in the interests of students. HDAG never considered scaling back house dining in order to line up supply with demand and cut costs.

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Unless the GOP’s pledges of fiscal responsibility are sincere, they won’t enjoy power for long

Now or never
Tuesday, October 19, 2010   The Tech

The Republicans are going to take back the Congress in the November elections. It will be a political windfall, of course, and some defections by moderate Democrats (both “R-Nelson” and “Lieberman”) will swell their ranks. But there are real problems about which they should be concerned.

One of the most pressing questions is how to approach Social Security. The Congress has already recognized that Social Security is an entitlement program of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. In the November elections, the Republicans can and will be held accountable for their performance in office.

The Tech

sus that the retirement age must be raised — which is what Savage’s video comes down to, only in less harsh-sounding words, is an incredibly facile way of ignoring the potential years of misery facing them.

For Medicare and Medicaid, there are other kinds of entitlements that the electorate believes are universal. For the Medicare-Medicaid program, the cuts are going to mean a loss of hospitals. In the case of hospitals, the savings are going to mean a loss of jobs. So the cuts are going to mean a loss of jobs.

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The Democratic sense of fairness is more modest tax increases will prove necessary. The Republican sense of fairness prevails, they will not get that luxury.

The trickest problem for Republicans will be taxes. They can’t make the political capital necessary to raise taxes, they can’t get the political capital necessary to raise taxes, they can’t get the political capital necessary to raise taxes. The Democratic sense of fairness is more modest tax increases will prove necessary.

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For Social Security, they have been engaged in a political exercise — a political exercise that has very few problems in their life — telling you that “everything will get better” comes of a political exercise. It is a political exercise. It is a political exercise that is no more than a political exercise.

For Social Security, the growing consensus that the retirement age must be raised is the correct one. We talk about the need for the government to provide old-age insurance is moot — if the average citizen thinks there’s only a coinflip chance that the insurance program will be there for them when they retire, then it simply isn’t worth raising their Social Security taxes.

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Taste requires quality; nutrition is more about quantity
But taking the Darwinian approach, taste should guide nutrition

By Ronan Killian McGovern

What were they, those three fundamental human requirements, now superseded by our busy working lives as we eat, sleep and drink on the job? A human being will typically sleep for approximately one third of their life, but when it comes to time spent eating, the time allocated to nutrition varies significantly between cultures and individuals. Personally, I spend maybe two hours a day cooking and eating, which is not much when split between three or four meals. I like to cook because I like to eat, not the other way around. For me, the cliché, “You are what you eat,” when interpreted literally, captures the importance of nutrition. If your typical diet consists of potatoes, beef and a dash of soy sauce, there’s no denying that physically, you’re a slightly oriental Irish Texan.

The modern public view of gastronomic matters is that taste is quality whilst nutrition is quantity. In fact, the word “gourmet,” an elaborate preparation of small but rich courses, supports the validity of making such a distinction. However, from a Darwinian point of view, taste should guide nutrition. When I think back to a summer spent living with a chef in continental Europe, his vegetables were certainly well seasoned with those Darwinian herbs. And me, when I cook, I too cook as Darwin would. I am a fan of gourmet foods and drinks, but a scoop of ice-cream is no consolation for having put yourself through an astronaut-like emulsion of bread and mushy vegetables, void of pleasure although pure in nutrition. Cast your mind back fifty years, when people had soup for starters and rice pudding to wrap up; Dessert and appetizers were still nutritious back then. Now, in our modern inactivity, our desires and appetizers satisfy requirements of pleasure rather than sustenance.

I would postulate that the modern gourmet exploits of our chefs or “cuisiniers,” to arbitrarily throw in a French word, explain the relatively recent view that cooking is sexy, since those who cook well are a source of pleasure. Personally, I feel that being a good cook is neither a sufficient nor a necessary condition to be sexy, unless of course you specialize in aphrodisiacal delicacies. To view cooking as sexy is to ignore its practical value, which for me is one of the true virtues of a chef’s job. We may only be a shadow of the hunter-gatherers of the past, but the fundamental requirement for nutrition and the preparation needed to make nutrition more palatable, justifies spending significant time considering our daily intake.

Cooking is indeed a science, and although we may not see it that way, chefs are in fact masters of scientific intuition. To be more specific, cooking is an empirical science, based almost purely on observation. In fact, the culinary arts are the purest of the empirical sciences, since they truly require the use of one’s eyes, ears, tongue, nose and fingers. Think popcorn, eaten with five senses!

Allow me to reveal this empirical science. You can tell a good cook by the way they chop vegetables. First of all, they’re efficient, slicing an eggplant into thirty two before you’ve taken the knife from the drawer. Secondly, notice that the cubes are all of the same size. You might think that diverse shapes and forms may look elegant, but they just won’t all cook in the same time. Then, when you bring heat into the equation, cooks have a better feel for unsteady heat transfer problems than mathematicians have for Laplace transforms. The vegetables go into the wok in an order the cook knows will allow them all to be fully cooked at a precise time. When the beef steak sizzles on the pan, although cooks won’t say, they know that the thermal conductivity at the boundary of the meat is changing. They won’t reveal the thermal conductivity but they know the required temperature and the required cooking time. Cooking, it’s engineering, if you’re good at one, there’s no doubt you could be good at the other.

Of course the process of nutrition is, or at least can be, intertwined with social activity [I suppose that’s why the unsociable hours and isolation of a chef are surprising ironies of their job]. On the one hand social interaction is based around food and on the other hand we tailor our foods for social interaction, through barbecues or cheese and wine nights. Now, since tumultuous fast-food outlets have replaced elegant tribal banquets and technology has long superseded our hunting, gathering ancestors, concerns are rising of our quest for continued global nutrition. As global water supplies and fuels to drive technology run short, we realize that nutrition in our modern world is derived from metaphorical soils of decreasing fertility. So, I leave you with a random thought, a remark from one of my fellow lab mates, which underlines the challenges of sustainability and the progress of technology: the production of a one liter plastic bottle of mineral water can require hundreds of times the thermal energy required for the desalination of one liter of seawater.

Ronan Killian McGovern is a graduate student in the department of Mechanical Engineering.

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Do you blog?

The Tech’s Opinion section is starting a blog this semester.

If you care about politics, international relations, or campus events, but don’t have the time to write long-form opinion columns, this is your chance.

We want bloggers to write short entries for two Opinion features:

**Political Coverage**

2010 Midterm Elections

Things that happen in the U.S. political world. 2010 is shaping up to be an exciting year!

And beyond: We love internationally-themed content!

e-mail us at: opinion@tech.mit.edu

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**ON CAMPUS**

Things that happen here at MIT dining, student government, dorms, fraternities...take your pick!}

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**ONOPINIONOPINIONOPINIONOPINION**
Tech Support

...RESTART MY COMPUTER? I KNOW YOU HAVE A SCRIPT TO FOLLOW, BUT THE UPKLICK LIGHT ON THE MODEM IS GONG OFF EVERY FEW HOURS. THE PROBLEM IS BETWEEN YOUR OFFICE AND THE MODEM.

MY COMPUTER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ... OK, WHATEVER, I "RESTARTED MY COMPUTER." IT'S STILL DOWN, AND EVEN IF IT COMES BACK, IT'S GONG TO DIE AGAIN IN A FEW HOURS, BECAUSE YOUR-

I'M SORRY, BUT THIS WON'T GET FIXED UNTIL I TALK TO AN ENGINEER. CAN YOU LOOK AROUND FOR SOMEONE WEARING CARGO PANTS, MAYBE A SUBWAY MAP ON THEIR WALL?

THERE'S A CHICK TWO PHONES OVER WITH A STUFFED PENGUIN DOLL AND A POSTER OF SOME BEARDED DUDE WITH SWORDS. PERFECT. CAN YOU PUT HER ON?

I DON'T HAVE A START MENU. THIS IS A HAIKU INSTALL, BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORT-

HAiku? IT'S AN EXPERIMENTAL OS THAT I ... OH, NEVER MIND.

NO PROBLEM. HEY, IN THE FUTURE, IF YOU'RE ON ANY TECH SUPPORT CALL, YOU CAN SAY THE CODE WORD "SMIRKOOLEET" AT ANY POINT AND YOU'LL BE AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFERRED TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A MINIMUM OF TWO PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES.

SERIOUSLY? YUP. IT'S A BACKDOOR PUT IN BY THE GEEKS WHO BUILT THESE PHONE SUPPORT SYSTEMS BACK IN THE 1990s. DON'T TELL ANYONE.

OH MY GOD, THIS IS THE GREATEST-

A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE by Randall Munroe

Easy Sudoku
Solution, page 13

<table>
<thead>
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<th>4</th>
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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.

Hard Sudoku
Solution, page 13

<table>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo

I’m sorry, the exam ended 15 minutes ago, I can’t accept that!

Do you know who I am?

Yes

And if you ever steered anyone during registration, you would know who I am too.

You failed.

A Medically Recognized Condition by Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13

ACROSS
1 Token booth
6 Kick out
11 2nd sight
14 Celestial hunter
15 Shearer of “The Red Shoes”
16 Blanc or Tillis
17 Beginning of autumn
19 Skiin part
21 Taking the place (of)
22 Sillitoe or Paton
23 Strays from the script
25 Thin pancake
26 Shade tree
28 Cam-controlled tool
31 Subject matter
34 Freeway access
35 Russian horseman
37 Pan reliever
41 Infamous cow owner
43 Steps over a wall
44 Windblown vegetation
48 Favorite
49 Assumed name
50 One-ups
53 Cold War power
54 Bashful
56 As an example
59 Verizon, once
60 Place to jot a note
61 That girl
63 Romeo

DOWN
1 Diplomat Annan
2 Turkey neighbor
3 Old light sources
4 Unbroken
5 Prepare to pray
6 Flightless bird
7 Becomes part of
8 “...kleine Nachtmusik”
9 Cornfield critic
10 Uncle Sam’s take
11 Insignia
12 Mexican shawl
13 Board smoother
18 Bow out
22 Deodorant spot
23 Former NBC anchor
25 Bivouacs
26 Space-saving abbr.
27 Old card game
29 Devout request
30 Doesn’t lack
32 Weathermap line
33 Phones
38 Middle-grade
39 Indecisively unwraps
39 Land in la mer
40 Ping pong partition
42 Keyed in again
44 Instructed
46 King novel
47 Hilary of pop
51 One of Potter’s rabbits
52 Babble
54 Rough chow
55 Center of activity
57 Wellkept
58 Humorist Bombeck
60 __-mo replay
61 Hosp. areas
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Ivy Ellis
Kelvin Liu
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Jue Zhang
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AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
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Tannmay Khirwalla
Alessandra Laub
Joana Malta Faria da Nobrega
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I recently received a call from a friend who had found herself in a tricky situation with a foreign male. You see, they were feeling a bit frisky and decided to get bet- ter acquainted, and her excitement quick- ly diminished once she was ambushed by the fella's uncircumcised ween.

"I just didn't know what to do with... all of that extra skin!" Girlfriends, you can sure make a tiny fold of skin sound like you’re dealing with Jared’s floppy belly pre-Sub- way diet. She definitely overreacted.

As someone who has a very well/doc- umented thing for foreign men, dealing with foreskin was something I had to pick up swiftly once I realized that leaving the peen in its natural state was the norm out- side the States. At first I had the same reac- tion as my friend, but once I learned how to handle the uncut and unamused, there was no reason to turn someone down just because he was sporting a turtleneck. A little bit of skin covering the tip is really no reason to trip!

Before I launch into the usual raunch, we all need to know what I’m talking about here. Foreskin is a small fold of skin that covers the head of the penis and retracts here. Foreskin is a small fold of skin that

covers the head of the penis and retracts
during sexual intercourse. An uncircumcised Icelander put it succinctly when talking to my circum-

circumcised American friend: “I can come better from the ice than you. " Can’t argue with that!

Despite inconclusive studies, some ar- gue that the increased exposure to such a sensitive part of the penis desensitizes it. I don’t have a penis, so I will never know for sure, but the guys I’ve talked to are mighty happy to have their foreskin intact. The foreskin itself, being part of an organ that gives sexual pleasure, is loaded with nerve endings. An uncircumcised Icelander put it succinctly when talking to my circum-

circumcised American friend: “I can come better than you.” Can’t argue with that!

But I came here to demystify foreskin for the peen-loving folk, so let me get back to that. Some will say that the extra bit is not flattering and it makes penis look "weird," and to that I’ll give one over-the- top eye roll.

If you should have learned anything af- ter reading my column for so long is that I advocate trouping like no other, and sex is not about how things look but rather how they feel. Don’t be discouraged if things look different — and yes, I do mean “dif-

ferent,” not "ugly" or "weird" — just be a trooper and find yourself pleasantly sur-

prised. In any event, I’ve never been able to tell if a guy is uncircumcised until he is fully erect (especially if we’re using a con-

dom) and I doubt you will either.

Another one I’ve heard is that uncircumcised pen is “dirty.” There’s a lot more room for smegma to get lost in, for sure, but this is more a function of the type of guy you’re dealing with than anything else. If a guy reaches college age and can’t prop-

erly wash his man meat, I hate to break it to you, but you’re just dealing with a dirty dude, plain and simple. I bet you he’d still be gross if he was circumcised, so don’t blame the foreskin.

Aesthetics aside, I think the most kick-

ass thing about the extra bit is how it feels. That’s right — it feels as good for the la-

dies as it does for the guys. If you ever find yourself in a committed relationship with an uncircumcised man and you have the chance to experience it in its latex-free glory, you’ll see what I’m talking about. It helps retain the lubrication and adds an-

other layer of sensation to both parties. I

can’t imagine being with a guy if I

thought that’s pretty win-win right there.

But then how do you handle such deli-
care thing? The usual advice is “peel back and enjoy the treat,” and you can do that, but don’t take the extra bit for granted. If you’re stumped for ideas, just ask the guy. Odds are you are not the first one he’s had to teach, and it’s in his best interest any-

way. Just keep in mind that the wang is great in any shape it comes, and be open to trying new things. Especially if they come with a foreign accent.

M. is a senior in Course 10. She can be

contacted at undress@tech.mit.edu.
Mobile technology will connect billions

Media Lab, from Page 1

and technology into one place. "MIT is the only place it could and did happen." He compared MIT to Swiss cheese, containing holes and thin barriers which nurtured a porous, open environment.

Former MIT President Charles M. Vest said that he had seen other universities try to make their own media labs, but failed.

"Surprisingly, some of the early cloning was not... very deep." Vest said that it was almost like a parody. "If you had a genius superorganism who could dance, and a big room of black walls, and no rewriting, you had a media lab," Vest said.

Vest believes that the Media Lab was special for many reasons. It brings together "very smart people with depth together in sort of a free-flowing way."

Prominent figures offer insight into the future

Several speakers including Schmidt and Negroponte posed challenging problems that they believe will give direction of the Media Lab for the next 25 years.

Google's Schmidt addressed the initiative to get more people connected. "One of the things I am personally consistent of is the number of people who have come into the global conversation who literally had no choice without the access of the internet and telecommunications revolution," he said.

Schmidt believes that mobile technologies will make data more transparent and feasible on a global scale, especially when these technologies become more accessible to people living in third-world countries.

It probably means... we will hear from them, what their lives are like, in the same way that CNN in the 70s and 80s exposed the horrific conditions of people we could never see," said Schmidt.

Negroponte said that the Media Lab will need to broaden its focus to accommodate global solutions. "It's not a money problem; not a competition problem, it's the relevance," he said.

He believes that the future will be "surprisingly undigital" and instead, technology will be driven by global challenges.

Negroponte also raised concerns about how nationalism is working against the development of global technologies. "It is one world, it is one place. Nationalism is going to get us in a lot of trouble," he said.

Vest agreed and said that top-down collaboration is much more difficult when it comes to getting things done. "Government to government is really hard. People to people is great," he said.

Vest also showed disapproval for the government’s current approach to globalization. "Nobody wants to see the opportunity in [globalization]."

Vest added, "Everybody sees the threat, but nobody wants to seem to recognize what's really going on is the rest of the world, more of them now are getting educated and more of them have opportunities."

Founder of the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) Marvin L. Minsky, who witnessed the birth and evolution of the Media Lab, expressed concern about the amount of national funding currently available for research laboratories.

"Something is wrong with the United States," said Minsky. "There aren't many research laboratories that have enough of an endowment to proceed!"

Negroponte concludes for the lack of funding in research and engineering, saying, "Getting Congress to buy into the idea of [media research] is the hardest thing," he said.

Success stories

The Media Lab has been a hub of both successful companies and ideas including Harmonix Music Systems, E Ink, and One Laptop Per Child.

Harmonix Founder Erin B. Egan '96 attended the celebration and recounted the story of how Guitar Hero, Harmonix's founding idea, came to life in the Media Lab. While the specific design of Guitar Hero was not developed in the Media Lab, Egan did identify the precursor or the product called "The Axe," of which only approximately 100 products were sold.

Egan said that the Media Lab prepared him for the real world that followed his research experience. It taught him how to do demos and make presentations on the spot, especially when company sponsors made surprise visits.

When asked what advice he would give to current students in the Media Lab, he said that students should "try bold new things during your time. As you get older, this is the time to take on risk." When Egan first started Harmonix, he started without a salary for the entire first year. "When you graduate, it is the best time for experimentation," said Egan.

The after party

Between talks, attendees were given a chance to explore 23 research groups and over 350 projects that are currently being developed at the Media Lab.

Upon walking up to one of the several large-screen touch displays positioned around the lab, one would be recognized by an RFID tag on their name tag and given the option to log into the sys- tem's project demos.

At 6 p.m., the Media Lab transformed into a party for all attendees. Champagne and fancy hors d'oeuvres were served to officially d'oeuvres were served to officially form into a party for all attendees. Champagne and fancy hors d'oeuvres were served to officially form into a party for all attendees.

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by Michael Mazgaonkar

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Want to be Editor in Chief of The Tech? Most EICs start as news writers.
An outsider, Mandelbrot taught math to be jaggery

Mandelbrot, from Page 1

lines, once considered unmeasurable, could now “be approached in rigorous and vigorous quantitative fashion.”

For most of his career, Mandelbrot had a reputation as an outsider to the mathematical establishment. From his perch as a researcher for IBM in New York, where he worked for decades before accepting a position at Yale University, where he noticed patterns that other researchers may have overlooked in their own data, then often swooped in to collaborate.

“He knew everybody, with interest, good humor, in every possible direction,” Mumford said. “Every time he gave a talk, it was about something different.”

Mandelbrot traced his work on fractals to a question he first encountered as a young researcher: How long is the coast of Britain? The answer, he was surprised to discover, depends on how closely one looks: On a map an island may appear smooth, but zooming in will reveal jagged edges that add up to a longer coast. Zooming in further will reveal even more coastline.

“Here is a question, a staple of grade-school geometry that, if you think about it, is impossible,” Mandelbrot told The New York Times this year in an interview. “The length of the coastline, in a sense, is infinite.”

In the 1950s, Mandelbrot proposed a simple but radical way to quantify the crookedness of such an object by assigning it a “fractal dimension,” a property that had proved useful well beyond the field of cartography. Over nearly seven decades, working with dozens of scientists, Mandelbrot contributed to the fields of geology, medicine, cosmology and engineering. He used the geometry of fractals to explain how galaxies cluster, how wheat prices change over time and how mammalian brains fold as they grow, among other phenomena.

His influence has also been felt within the field of geometry, where he was one of the first to use computer graphics to study mathematical objects like the Mandelbrot set, which was named in his honor.

The Hijabi Monologues

Hijab: the traditional headscarf and modest style of dress worn by some Muslim women.

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Linguistics, from Page 1

Jennifer Melot ’12 (double majoring with Course VI) first discovered linguistics when she read Stephen Pinker’s The Language Instinct, an opportunity she gained while working on a research project with professors. Although she entered college with plans of studying mathematics, she discovered that she enjoyed her linguistics and computer science classes at MIT more than her math classes.

Antony Nguyen ’12 became interested through his four years of Latin studies in high school. “It irked me that Latin was taught as a translated, but not spoken language,” he said.

“Studying linguistics provides you with highly useful skills that allow you to be successful in almost any field,” said Pesetsky.

Solution to Easy Sudoku

Solution to Hard Sudoku

Solution to Crossword

Can you draw a tree diagram for this sentence? And this one?

For linguistics majors, the structure and mysteries of language are a joy and an avocation.
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New business club combines old ones

Business club, from Page 1

panel the same night that SUMA was going to do a consulting panel with very similar firms. The committee of each organization questioned whether or not the two events were the same event. This sort of overlap in the organizations created confusion for both students and companies, who were unable to see the distinction between SEBC and SUMA.

The previous presidents, Prarthna Desia ’11 of SEBC and Carolyn Wang ’11 of SIMA, are currently transitioning SBC to the new presidents, Zhao and Dearing. Dearing said that the goal of SBC is to “serve any student on campus who’s interested in business and wants to explore the opportunities…One of our goals is to convince companies that aren’t convinced yet to recruit business-oriented positions from MIT.”

Zhao and Dearing envision for the new SBC to appeal to a broader scope of MIT students. They hope to provide opportunities for all MIT majors, to dabble in the world of business club, not just Course 6 or 15 students, not just Course 6 or 15 majors, to dabble in the world of business.

According to Dearing, SBC merges “the best organizational structures of both of the previous entities. SEBC had a vertical integration based upon industry area, and the way SUMA had specialization across the organization in specific areas like technology or finance or marketing, we’re also adopting that.”

SBC takes hits and pieces from both SEBC and SUMA. The new corporate structure of SBC includes two co-presidents and four focus groups — finance, consulting, engineering leadership, and entrepreneurship. The entrepreneurship focus group is built off of what existed in SIMA previously; however, the subcommittees is a remnant of the previous SEBC design. Aside from the four focus groups, SBC also has a product group, which will handle the marketing and treasury for SBC as well as the organization of other events that don’t fall under the responsibilities of any other focus group.

Discussion between the executive boards of both organizations began around the start of the school year, and ended approximately a week before the decision was officially announced to the MIT community. Once the executive boards of both organizations realized this redundancy, they consulted their Sloan faculty advisors as well as the SAO faculty sponsor Alicia Irwin, Sloan faculty advisors as well as the organization of other events that don’t fall under the responsibility of any other focus group.

In order to preserve the science and engineering side that came from SEBC, Zhao expressed the organization’s desire to see the engineering leadership focus group to cater more towards engineers. Zhao said, “A lot of big companies like General Electric, Procter & Gamble, IBM, and Anheuser-Busch…have specific engineering-leadership program tracks. The engineering-leadership group is looking to explore those opportunities and bring them closer to students.”

Yesterday SBC held its first event as a new organization: the Freshman Internship Event. A panel of sophomores spoke to interested freshmen about their internship experiences over the summer. To learn more about SBC, visit their website, http://www.mit-sbc.org.

MIT Go Club Presents:

1st Annual New England Inter-Club Team Tournament

October 24th, 10am to 5pm

Lobdell Dining Room

Interested in Playing????

Contact: mitgoclub-tournament@mit.edu

Website: web.mit.edu/go
Community comes out to see Beaver Madness
Friday's basketball pep rally featured performances and some faculty hoops

SPORTS SHORT

Women’s tennis fell 7-2 on Tues. against Wheaton

This past Tuesday, MIT women’s tennis played their last conference match of the season against Wheaton. In doubles, first off were Melissa A. Diskin ’11 and Katherine A. O’Neal ’14, who lost their match 8-2. Next were Jennifer A. Rees ’11 and Hillary E. Jenny ’12. They lost their match 8-3. The last match was on of Lauren Quisenberry ’14 and Julia Hsu ’14. They played a tough match and had lots of close points, but in the end lost 8-5, giving Wheaton a 3-0 lead going into the singles matches.

First off in singles was O’Neal, who lost 6-2, 6-2. Next off was Jenny, was lost a back and forth match 6-1, 6-3. Quisenberry finished next. She won her match 6-2, 6-1, putting MIT on the board. With this win, Quisenberry finished the regular season undefeated in singles without dropping a single set. Rees came off next, losing 6-3, 6-3. Hsu was off next. She had a long match but lost 7-4, 6-3. This left Diskin as the last one. She had won the first set 6-3, but then lost the second set 6-4. In the end, she pulled it out in the tiebreaker, winning 13-11. In the end, MIT lost to Wheaton 7-2.

Next up for MIT is the NEWMAC Tournament, which will be played this weekend at Smith College.

—Jennifer Rees, team representative

Women’s volleyball is at 14-9 after win over Smith
Spielbauer named All-Tournament team, Schulte named tourney MVP

By Paul Dhl

The MIT women’s volleyball team faced Smith College last Tuesday. Although Smith won its first set against MIT, the Engineers bounced back by taking the next three en route to a 21-25, 25-19, 25-12, 25-12 decision in a NEWMAC women’s volleyball match on Tuesday night. MIT will now improve to 14-9 on the year and 4-2 in conference play while the Engineers dipped to 1-14 overall and 0-6 in the NEWMAC.

With the score tied at eight in the first set, the Engineers established a comfortable margin courtesy of a 7-3 run. The Pioneers then responded with a 5-1 run that evened the score at 16. Both squads traded points until Smith capitalized on a pair of errors and two kills to capture the set.

The visitors carried the momentum into the second stanza as they quickly created a 7-3 advantage. MIT responded by posting eight of the next nine points, but the Engineers continued to attack and knotted the frame at 14. Sparked by a kill and strong serving from Jenny L’11 (including a pair of aces), the Engineers maintained a 7-3 lead, gaining some breathing room. Smith narrowed the gap to 24-19 on a trio of errors, but a kill by Cecily L. Jones-Roche ’12 thwarted any attempt at a late rally.

Smith stayed within striking distance for most of the final set, converting a pair of misces to come within three (13-10).

In the third set, MIT jumped out to a 7-3 lead, but the Pioneers quickly trimmed to one (7-4). This was as close as it would get as the Engineers went on an 8-6 run to close out the game.

Smith stayed within striking distance for most of the final set, converting a pair of misces to come within three (13-10).

MIT responded by scoring 12 of the last 14 points to secure the victory.

On Saturday, for the fifth time in six years, women’s volleyball earned top honors at the MIT Quad Tournament.

On Saturday, for the fifth time in six years, the MIT women’s volleyball team completed a perfect weekend at the MIT Quad Tournament. With MIT, nationally-ranked team UMass Boston, and Lebanon Valley (6-4) Battles College rounded out the field with a fourth-place finish.

MIT started the tournament off on Friday night with a 3-0 win over Bates College. Their next match was a tough fought battle against UMass Boston in which the Engineers came up short, losing 3-1. MIT followed that up with one of their biggest wins of the season beating the Lebanon Valley College 3-0 to take the tournament championship.

Spielbauer was named to the All-Tournament team for her fantastic defensive play throughout the tournament, and Schulte was named tournament MVP. The Engineers will return to conference play this Thursday as they host Rockwell Cage, facing Wheaton College.

On Saturday, for the fifth time in six years, women’s volleyball earned top honors at the MIT Quad Tournament.