They were the nicest 200,000 people I had ever met. If you weren’t in Washington at the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear on Saturday, you probably saw pictures of the funny signs and the interviews with the random people. And you definitely could see and hear better than a lot of us. And maybe you took Jon Steward or Stephen Colbert showed up with a semi-serious message promoting political moderation. As visitors flooded into the mall, “Flynn said. Her new role: “It has something to do with the relationships with the students,” said Flynn, who previously worked at the SONY College of Environmen- tal Science and Forestry. “I didn’t come in just expecting them to respect me because I was an ad- ministrator, and I have the same philosophy coming to MIT.” Flynn’s words resonated with some, in the wake of controversy over the transparency of deci- sions about MIT dining. After Flynn spoke at the UA meeting, Housing Chair Daniel D. Hawkins ‘12 asked Flynn about the phrase “student engagement” in her title. Flynn, Page 13

Leah Flynn, the new Assistant Department Chair Daniel D. Hawkins ‘12 asked Flynn about the phrase “taking it down a notch to hear we were able to walk away from your computer or television smiling because you didn’t have to spend your whole weekend traveling to be there in person. But as for me, I’m really glad it was a part of the masses. I can’t express how thrilled I was to see all these everyday Amer- icans surrounding me — from the group of senior citizens across the aisle from me on the flight to the parked Metro car that willingly squeezed together — all headed to the rally. As we got closer to the National Mall, I kept thinking, “This is it. This is exactly what we needed.” Even in the mob of the people, there wasn’t pushing or shoving — everyone was trying to get a better view; everyone was light-hearted, kind, and accom- modating.

Nobody knew what to expect. Rally, Page 15

New UA and ASA adviser sees year of “listening and learning” ahead
By Jessica Fujimori

Leah Flynn, the new Assistant Dean and Director for Student Leadership and Engagement Programs, began work last week, planning for a year of “listening and learning.”

though she did not yet have a concrete plan for her goals in her new position, Flynn said an open relationship with students is a crucial part of an administration. “I definitely have an open- door policy and I want students to come see me; I rely on students showing me the ropes around here,” Flynn said. Her new role will include advising the ASA and UA, taking on leadership initia- tives, and overseeing the Student Activities Office (SAO).

Flynn has spent much of the week getting to know the staff and students at MIT. As a guest speaker at the UA Senate meeting Monday, Flynn voiced her intent to “sill back and learn how things work around here” before moving to make changes.

“At SONY, it took me a while to learn the culture and establish re- lationships with the students,” said Flynn, who previously worked at the SONY College of Environmen- tal Science and Forestry. “I didn’t come in just expecting them to respect me because I was an ad- ministrator, and I have the same philosophy coming to MIT.”

Flynn’s words resonated with some, in the wake of controversy over the transparency of deci- sions about MIT dining. After Flynn spoke at the UA meeting, Housing Chair Daniel D. Hawkins ‘12 asked Flynn about the phrase “student engagement” in her title.

Flynn, Page 13

Flynn welcomes student opinions

New UA and ASA adviser sees year of “listening and learning” ahead
By Jessica Fujimori

Leah Flynn, the new Assistant Department Chair Daniel D. Hawkins ‘12 asked Flynn about the phrase “student engagement” in her title.

Flynn’s words resonated with some, in the wake of controversy over the transparency of deci- sions about MIT dining. After Flynn spoke at the UA meeting, Housing Chair Daniel D. Hawkins ‘12 asked Flynn about the phrase “student engagement” in her title.

Flynn, Page 13
For some local TV stations, a gold mine in attack ads

In Waco, Texas, $150 will usually buy 30 seconds of advertising time on a local evening newscast. But not this week.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.

In a scene being repeated in markets across the country, Republican congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic congressman who represents Waco and the surrounding region, Chet Edwards, has been fighting off a potent Democratic

Republican challenger, Bill Flores, ahead of Tuesday’s midterm elections.
American colleges sound warning on ‘Four Loko’ drink

By Peter Schworm

Packing several drinks’ worth of alcohol in a single canister, Four Loko is a potently popular party drink, resembling a single canister, Four Loko is a potently popular party drink, resembling a single canister, Four Loko, that he receives only probation and strikes the country’s soul.

Thursday, November 2, 2010 The Tech

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 The Tech

Boston's City Council will wait a day outside his district office and the council will hold a hearing on Monday to decide whether the practice should never be allowed. The Obama administration has decided that requiring a hearing when a member is suspended from office or, on one hand, it also seems that we are moving deliberately. ‘ ‘ said. "I think we are moving very

Decision on Boston Councilman

By Andrew Ryan

Boston City’s Council will wait a day outside his district office and the council will hold a hearing on Monday to decide whether the practice should never be allowed. The Obama administration has decided that requiring a hearing when a member is suspended from office or, on one hand, it also seems that we are moving deliberately. ‘ ‘ said. "I think we are moving very

At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon

For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon.

For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA

New volcanic eruption drives more Indonesians to shelters

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More Merapi unleashed another violent eruption Monday, driving thousands more people from their homes as the authorities ordered evacuations to avoid two other natural disasters — a volcano and a tsunami — that have killed nearly 500 people in the past week.

The FDA has not approved caf-tea for use in any level of alcoholic beverages and has concerns about their safety, a spokesman for the agency said Monday. Under pub-licity services at Boston College, are warning that Boston College, are warning that


At NASA, a quiet quest to send a humanoid robot to the moon. For $15 billion, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration could have sent astronauts back to the moon. The Obama administration judged that too expensive, and in September, Congress agreed to cancel the program.

For a fraction of that—less than $20 million, along with about $50 million for a rocket — NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston say they can safely send a humanoid robot to the moon. And they say they could accomplish that in a thousand days. The idea, known as Project Robonaut, has received $23 million in NASA support since 2006, but NASA
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wasted opportunity to get new nanofabrication facility

I read your article about the redevelopment of the 181 Mass. Ave. Analogue Devices by Novartis with great interest. This project had a sophisticated microfabrication facility that easily could have been transformed into a new nanofabrication facility for MIT’s use. Having a state of the art nanofabrication facility is essential to achieve excellence in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

MIT’s current facility in Building 39 is old and getting out of date, especially in comparison to brand new facilities at peer institutions like Harvard, Berkeley, and Cornell. By handing the site over to Novartis, MIT is losing a unique opportunity to get a new facility for a fraction of the cost of building a comparable facility from scratch (typically around $150 million to $200 million).

I am a graduate student in ECE and make extensive use of the nanofabrication facilities at both MIT and Harvard for my research. In addition, I have interned at Analog Devices and worked in the 181 Mass. Ave. facilities.

—Omar I. Saadat

An alumn’s opinion on the dining plan

I am not particularly shocked by MIT’s decision to go ahead with implementing an unpopular dining plan without considering user input, as this is but one of many examples in recent years where the administration has decided it is both right and appropriate to interfere with students’ private lives. Still, as much as I am disappointed at the administration for playing nanny, I am more disappointed by their lack of wisdom. Given all the previous failures in dining, do they really expect that this will be any different?

Even now, I generally I-2 meals a day sort of person (punctuated by snacks). Were I student in an affected dorm when this plan went into action, I would be forced to pay for meals I could not consume, even if I ate every meal on campus — an unlikely thing, considering how frequently students use to comment on Azmair’s prison service. While I am pleased to hear they will be making breakfast more readily available, it is a grave mistake to fail to consider that 3 meals a day is not some universal, and it is in fact plainly offensive to ignore the fact that some among us have dietary preferences that cannot not be efficiently (or tastily) served by the likely vendors. HDMG’s recommendation is both ethnically insensitive and an insult to the student body’s maturity.

I would remind students with strong objections that food services are particularly vulnerable to price manipulation, and unpopular dining plans can easily be made a financial nightmare through coordinated mass expression of dietary preferences.

—Tyler Hunt ’04

Opportunity cost

Sunday morning I flew for the first time in my nearly 57 years. I only thought about it when I found myself in a winglet of a pod. This was as a thistle, a soap bubble or a wisp of

not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once letters are submitted, all letters become property of The Tech and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted in print and/or other formats or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

TO REACH US

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the best way to reach any member of the editorial staff. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to newstech@mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://tech.mit.edu.
The intimate civic duty

Abortion would be a most point to our society did its civic duty

By Ryan Normandin

The Declaration of Independence states that man is endowed by his Creator the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. This recognition of universal, sacred, and unalienable rights defines us as the American people and dictates what the state should do. Further, the Declaration states that we are a people attending one of the best schools in the world telling people not to vote.

Allow me to do the opposite. VOTE!

The importance of voting goes far beyond whether or not your individual vote is going to swing an entire Congress, particularly in places where people could experience it. Yet in America today, where there are roughly a million students attending one of the best schools in the world telling people not to vote, something is fundamentally wrong.

There is something more satisfying than knowing that you helped to make a difference by uniting a group of individuals in support of a common cause that is important to you and dedicate yourself to its success.

As citizens of America, it is our civic duty to vote. To not do so because you think you have better things to do with your time is unethically egotistical. Procreation is a natural consequence of fertilization. After this moment, any distinctions to define life are arbitrarily drawn; there are no jump discontinuities. Definitions of human life based on cognitive capacity or viability outside the womb do not capture the essence of being human. Further, there is little reason to doubt the nature of being human to a set of characteristics that may come and go.

The growth and development of the fetus — life in the womb — is, by its nature, a continuous process of change and growth. After this moment, any distinctions to define life are arbitrarily drawn; there are no jump discontinuities. Definitions of human life based on cognitive capacity or viability outside the womb do not capture the essence of being human. Further, there is little reason to doubt the nature of being human to a set of characteristics that may come and go.

The state is challenged to protect the human right to life at all stages, from the moment of conception to that of natural death. In so doing, the state is called to protect abortion, and her people are called not to do so. The growth and development of the fetus — life in the womb — is, by its nature, a continuous process of change and growth.
The case for Iran: moving toward mutual diplomacy

Iran's populace is young, technically savvy, and tired of the hardline conservatives

By Nina Sinatra

The Tech Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Iran’s populace is young, technically savvy, and tired of the hardline conservatives. The case for Iran: moving toward mutual diplomacy.

Are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, “ Keith Yost arrives at the conclusion that the population has grown up after the Revolution of 1979 and are highly skilled and organized. Constituting approximately 40 percent of the population, the youth is the group that has the greatest potential political influence; whether or not they exercise this power by voting in the 2013 parliamentary elections will be an enlightening and — perhaps — empowering force for the future of Iran.

The rising discontent with the current regime points to the potential for an anti-theocratic governmental shift.

The Iranian Green Movement, a massive body of disapproval of the current regime and government, which is seemingly fixed election, played a large part in the 2009 presidential election across the country after the election have been estimated to be the largest seen in the country since the Islamic Revolution, and featured angry protesters engaging in marches and civil unrest. The official stance from leaders of the Green Movement, Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi, was that the election was rigged and to peacefully protest, legal means to enhance the organization’s political and social influence.

The highly technological nature of Iran’s populace is evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with rights.

It is clear that the majority of Iranian constituents oppose the current regime but retain a sense of patriotism.

Bubbling resentment

Overall, Iranian women are well-educated, particularly in science and engineering, with 47% of the nation’s university students being women. Due to trade restrictions and censorship, Iranian women’s online presence is the only means of communication and expression; the number of blog websites exist in Iran cyberspace and engages communication both within the nation and with the outside world. A majority of the population is active on the Internet; blogs, forums, blog comments, and websites receiving vast numbers of daily visitors. As the number of frequent web users rapidly increases, the current regime has continued to exercise its influence by removing spamming access to certain websites (certain dating websites, for instance, have experienced difficulty during the past year) and labelling websites by the three number of websites and traffic.

The biological nature of Ira- nian constituents, as well as the rising discontent with the current regime, points to the potential for an anti-theocratic governmental shift. In such a scenario, the political power of the voting population would continue to oppose the strict conservatives and harshness of Islamic law on women and the activities of the President and his supporters. Eventually, the sector of dis- content will reach the point in which a conservative or pro-conservative government would be voted into power (through a future election), and we are not all human beings “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” It is the duty of the state to protect those rights.

Measuring human life by race or by cognitive capacity does not constitute being human to a convenient set of characteristics.

Yost later asserts that “there is no cardinal order of human rights that decides when one trumps another.” However, if we return to the words of the Declaration of Indepen- dence, “among these [rights] are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” we find exactly the sort of cardinal order of rights which Yost denounces: without Life one cannot exercise Liberty, and without Liberty one cannot pur- sue Happiness. The right to life is a prerequisite to all other rights, granting that right in the first place. Simply by virtue of our being human, all human beings are “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” It is the duty of the state to protect those rights.

The fundamental right to life

The fundamental right to life requires us to protect all life, even in the womb.

By Elise McCall, Matt Shireman and Tony Valderrama

In his article “Abortion: A question of value,” Keith Yost arrives at the conclusion that “all men are created equal” in the day when “all men are created equal” in the eyes of the law.

In the Tech’s political survey asked MIT students whether they felt it was more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran (even if it meant that the nation develop- major weapons of mass destruction) or prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons (even if it re-quires military action). Of the 2145 respon- dents, 60% believe that the nation should avoid a military conflict with Iran.

The laws of a relativistic are laws of conven- ience, he feels that all ethics of either variety that until those ethics violate his infinity: one and only one, today, it is convenient for them to dismiss a fetus as some- thing only partially human, just as it was convenient two centuries ago for plantation owners to dismiss blacks as merely three- fifths of a person. Measuring human life by race or by cognitive capacity does not cap- ture the entire essence of being human, but rather limits the nature of being to an convenient set of characteristics. We await the day when “all men are created equal” in the eyes of the law.

The Tech’s survey of MIT students presents the potential for the adoption of a diplomatic solution.

The Obama Administration’s motiva- tion for resolving this conflict is clear: the fears of Iran developing nuclear weap- ons. If the United States and Iran do not maintain that their uranium enrichment is for non-military purposes, many nations may decide to proceed with military action. However, the political climate in the Middle East precludes the use of military action against a state that is considered a strategic weapon, they would not use it. But Western power in support of Israel and against its ag- gressors means Iran would be near-secure to embark on a path of nuclear warfare. As such, American interest into the diplomatic relationship of the United States and Iran may go a very long way to develop lines of communication between the two nations — a valuable commodity for the future.

In the Tech’s political survey asked MIT students whether they felt it was more im- portant to avoid a military conflict with Iran (even if it meant that the nation develop- major weapons of mass destruction) or prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons (even if it re-quires military action). Of the 2145 respon- dents, 60% believe that the nation should avoid a military conflict with Iran.
want to make it their thing. They’re busy working on their IROP* or whatever, but politics isn’t something that gets studied. It has mostly negative outcomes.”

After the organization tapered off in 2008, Buenrostro and his colleagues aimed to establish a leadership group of active College Democrats. They talked to other college College Democrats, including the University of Chicago, Harvard, and the University of Southern California.

Despite their efforts, though, the work re-starting and maintaining the organization is the responsibility of the students who keep up with it. Dr. Carlos Buenrostro ’04, former president of College Republi- cans, added that MIT’s political groups relied on significant financial support from the students; the College Republicans and Democrats had to budget for salaries for the members to maintain the organization. “Balancing the academic priorities and politics can be a large burden in time and money for the members,” he said.

Buenrostro and York said that students in political groups could re-start the organization, but those left in the organization after her graduation could not invest as much time and money as she did while maintaining the club.

Buenrostro and York said that College Republicans did very well under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Buenrostro ’04, but those left in the organization after her graduation could not invest as much time and money as she did while maintaining the club.

At MIT, those who work to organize and re-start the organization can do so by working with the students who are willing to commit to this task. In order to re-start the organization, the students would need to make a commitment to the organization and its priorities.

At MIT, those who work to organize and re-start the organization can do so by working with the students who are willing to commit to this task. In order to re-start the organization, the students would need to make a commitment to the organization and its priorities.
The Politics Survey

On the issues

College students, especially those in Cambridge, have a reputation for being left of center. Our results show that overall, 40 percent of MIT students identified themselves as liberal, 32 percent as moderate, and 28 percent as conservative. For the purpose of this survey, we defined liberal as favoring increased spending on social services and rights for gays and lesbians, moderate as favoring smaller government, less social spending, and opposition to gay rights, and conservative as favoring decreased spending on social services and opposition to gay rights. For the purpose of this survey, we defined liberal as favoring increased spending on social services and rights for gays and lesbians, moderate as favoring smaller government, less social spending, and opposition to gay rights, and conservative as favoring decreased spending on social services and opposition to gay rights. At the time of our survey, the Tea Party movement was gaining momentum, and the 2010 midterm elections were only a few weeks away. It seemed likely that the 2010 midterm elections would continue the Tea Party swing, which had energized conservative and moderate voters in 2009. Some Democratic candidates had already begun to distance themselves from the Tea Party, but the Tea Party movement remained strong.

Opinions by Course, living group

Table 2 shows the average political leaning by Course. Here are a few of the most interesting observations:

- Course 18 (Chemistry and Chemical Biology) was the most liberal, and Course 14 (Mechanical Engineering and Science) was the least liberal.
- Course 10 (Chemical Engineering) was the most conservative, and Course 1 (Chemical Engineering) was the most liberal.
- Course 24 (Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence) was the most conservative, and Course 2 (Mathematics) was the most liberal.

Last week, The Tech surveyed graduate and undergraduate students at MIT on their views about important political issues facing the country. We covered issues such as fiscal policy, education, energy, immigration, and healthcare. Our survey was conducted in the week leading up to the 2010 midterm elections, and we received responses from 11,118 students. The majority of respondents were undergraduate students, with a smaller number of graduate students.

Which group best reflects your views?

On fiscal issues, the campus is split. 32 percent said they were net conservative, 33 net liberal, and 35 moderate. But why do MIT students prefer Democrats? Our stance on social issues may push the pendulum in the Dem’s favor — only 11 percent of MIT students considered themselves libertarian — consider the economy to be the most important issue. Ten percent of all students believe the Republicans will take the House in November, sixty percent believe the Democrats will.

The vast majority of survey respondents, graduate or undergraduate, reported being between the ages of 18 and 29, which was an appropriate age range for comparisons with other polls of “young adults.”

By Ethan Solomon

Compared to the U.S.

Many of our questions came from telephone polls conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press through August, September, and October. Here are a few MIT student opinions compared to opinion data collected by the Pew Research Center.

Opinions by Course, living group

On fiscal issues, the campus is split. 32 percent said they were net conservative, 33 net liberal, and 35 moderate. But why do MIT students prefer Democrats? Our stance on social issues may push the pendulum in the Dem’s favor — only 11 percent of MIT students considered themselves libertarian — consider the economy to be the most important issue. Ten percent of all students believe the Republicans will take the House in November, sixty percent believe the Democrats will.

The vast majority of survey respondents, graduate or undergraduate, reported being between the ages of 18 and 29, which was an appropriate age range for comparisons with other polls of “young adults.”

By Ethan Solomon

Compared to the U.S.

Many of our questions came from telephone polls conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press through August, September, and October. Here are a few MIT student opinions compared to opinion data collected by the Pew Research Center.

Opinions by Course, living group

On fiscal issues, the campus is split. 32 percent said they were net conservative, 33 net liberal, and 35 moderate. But why do MIT students prefer Democrats? Our stance on social issues may push the pendulum in the Dem’s favor — only 11 percent of MIT students considered themselves libertarian — consider the economy to be the most important issue. Ten percent of all students believe the Republicans will take the House in November, sixty percent believe the Democrats will.

The vast majority of survey respondents, graduate or undergraduate, reported being between the ages of 18 and 29, which was an appropriate age range for comparisons with other polls of “young adults.”

By Ethan Solomon

Compared to the U.S.

Many of our questions came from telephone polls conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press through August, September, and October. Here are a few MIT student opinions compared to opinion data collected by the Pew Research Center.

Opinions by Course, living group

On fiscal issues, the campus is split. 32 percent said they were net conservative, 33 net liberal, and 35 moderate. But why do MIT students prefer Democrats? Our stance on social issues may push the pendulum in the Dem’s favor — only 11 percent of MIT students considered themselves libertarian — consider the economy to be the most important issue. Ten percent of all students believe the Republicans will take the House in November, sixty percent believe the Democrats will.

The vast majority of survey respondents, graduate or undergraduate, reported being between the ages of 18 and 29, which was an appropriate age range for comparisons with other polls of “young adults.”

By Ethan Solomon
Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I'M LEAVING HERE AND STARTING MY OWN FAMILY SOMEWHERE ELSE!
NONSENSE! YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE AND WORK IN THE PROSTATE LIKE YOUR FATHER!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU, MOM AND DAD! THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR ME!
HELL'LL BE BACK
I DON'T THINK HE WILL

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li

You're under arrest for disturbing the peace and disorderly conduct!

Uh...but I was practicing for a cappella auditions! If I'm that terrible, does that mean I'll never get in?

Most likely.

But I've always wanted to join in a Valentine's day serenade!

...Please don't cry, Miss. Maybe you could learn to beatbox instead?

Piled Higher and Deeper

by Jorge Cham

Easy Sudoku
Solution, page 15

Hard Sudoku
Solution, page 15
Students rate Obama

In the Tech’s politics survey, students rated the President and Congress more favorably than the rest of the US did.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obama Rating</th>
<th>MIT overall</th>
<th>Pew Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response/ Don’t know</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress Rating</th>
<th>MIT overall</th>
<th>Pew Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response/ Don’t know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nightmarket visitors gather to watch Chinese Yo-yo performances on Saturday night in Lobdell.
Flynn’s approach supported by UA President, VP

Flynn, from Page 1

Flynn takes the position vacated by Jed Warman, whose title was As- sistant Dean for Student Activities. Her title now also includes As- sistant Dean and Director for Student Leadership and Engagement Pro- grams. Hawkins said he wanted “to get a sense of whether she was aware of the state of student engagement at MIT, good or bad.” Flynn replied that she does not have a sense of it yet.

Speaking after the meeting, Hawkins defined “student engagement” as “decision-makers engaging student leaders in the process of making decisions that affect stu- dents.”

“I’m pretty happy with the stu- dent engagement that’s going on with housing issues,” Hawkins added. “I talked to Dennis Collins, the director of housing, for an hour today and learned a lot about W1, the Phoenix Group, renovations over the summer, and what’s go- ing on with the fire alarms. It was a really good two-way discussion. I consider myself lucky in terms of student engagement.”

However, feelings on the sub- ject of student engagement range, he said. “Obviously, our dining chair recently quit, and I believe the reason for her resignation was frustration over poor student en- gagement,” Hawkins said. “This is MIT; time is precious, and she felt like here was being wasted.”

UA President Vajre V. Modi ’11 and Vice President Sammi G. Wyman ’11 said they appreciated Flynn’s philosophy of openness with students.

“One of the things that I liked about what she said was that she was going to take the time to get to know the student body before starting to make changes,” Modi said. “I definitely think she’s on the right track with a very open ap- proach.”

“The students will be very lucky to have her as a resource,” Wyman said.

Hawkins agreed. “I liked that she recognized the fact that MIT is full of culture and tradition, and there is a vast array of different cul- tures here,” he said. “It’s good that she’s willing to listen, it takes time, and engage students.”

Flynn said she brings her open attitude from her previous posi- tion at SUNY, where she worked for eight years as assistant director and then director of the Office of Student Activities.

“Students have a really close re- lationship with the administration, because the administration really made space to hear their voices,” Flynn said. “I came here with that philosophy, and I support that phi- losophy.”

To get to know more students, Flynn is holding an open meeting time from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday in the Student Activities Office on the fifth floor of the Stu- dent Center.

In addition to fostering an open relationship between her office and students, Flynn wants “to help students keep balance.”

“You’re no good in any program if you’re not sleeping, if you’re not taking care of yourself,” Flynn said. “In the past, I’ve done this through one-on-one conversations with students. That was a smaller stu- dent population, but it’s not im- possible here.”

“Though Flynn does see similar- ities between SUNY and MIT, she said there are many differences.

“You have such a unique, won- derful culture, and I’ll need help navigating that,” Flynn said. Two such unique aspects are the “hearty student-run” student government and the residential life structure of faculty and student- run houses, she noted.

As for long-term plans in her new role, Flynn is going to wait and see. However, diversity initiatives and the hiring of a new assistant director are definitely on the aven- da, she added. The new assistant director will fill the role vacated by Marlena Martinez Love, who was recently appointed assistant dean and di- rector of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups. The search will probably begin in the spring, Flynn said.
Following opportunity is open to eligible Sophomore and/or Junior students in the School of Engineering and the School of Science

THE BARRY M. GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. The purpose of this Program is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.

The Goldwater Program provides scholarships of up to $7500 per academic year. Sophomore scholarship recipients will be eligible for two years of scholarship support. Junior scholarship recipients will be eligible for one year of scholarship support.

If you feel you are qualified for one of these prestigious awards, please discuss this with your academic advisor or your Department Head.

Nominations must be from YOUR DEPARTMENT and are due at the School of Science or School of Engineering Dean’s Office (as appropriate to your major) by November 12, 2010.

For further information:
Contact your Undergraduate Officer,
http://www.act.org/goldwater/ or http://web.mit.edu/engineering/goldwater.html
School of Engineering contact: Maria Marangiello, x3-8012, mariam@mit.edu
School of Science contact: Elaina Burke, x4-5691, eidzenga@mit.edu

HalloweenMIT, the annual Halloween festival for MIT’s families, took place on Saturday, October 30, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Stata Center. Activities included pumpkin carving, face painting, balloon twisting, caricatures, arts and crafts, food, and games.
At DC rally, political garb took a turn for the wacky

from the rally. Most people suspected there would be some comedy and music, and the musicians they pulled together were certainly impressive. I had some hope that Stephen Colbert would actually break character and use the gathering to be sincere, but I’ll admit that was a bit lofty. Not too many of us expected to lose cell phone service for three hours when the local towers suddenly had a few hundred thousand extra phones to worry about. That threw a wrench in my plans to meet up with the myriad of friends who had come, but c’est la vie.

The audio wasn’t working well at the beginning, so when the Mythbusters were on stage chatting, we couldn’t hear a thing. Chants of “Louder! Louder!” swept the audience and, even though I knew my voice wouldn’t be heard by the sound guys, as long as it advanced up the line, I felt had done my part. They had it fixed up shortly after Stewart took the stage.

Personally, I thought the jokes and music went on for too long. I enjoy laughing as much as the next man, but I didn’t fly down for a comedy show, or for a concert. An hour into things I began to wonder if the rally was going to have a central point. Jon Stewart did finally get to his message, which turned out to be a cross between bashing the media and Congress and a plea for actual cooperation. But even he admitted that the gathering was not about what he said, but about how everyone showing up made a statement that the American people are tired of the insanity and how we all want to bring a little more rationality into the country. I wish he had gotten to it sooner, and that there had been a bit more to it, but as a satirist he was already a bit out of his element when it came to the serious parts. I was amazed to hear later that critics said he went too far.

I worry that the message won’t last. On the plane ride home, I saw that CNN had focused in on two aspects of the rally: the comedy and the message about the media. One of their guests argued that it was a march of moderates, calling it a political rally unrepresentative of everyone’s views. He completely missed how this rally of moderates was not in terms of left and right, but in terms of moderation versus extremism. Still, I was impressed by the MIT representation. It was great surprising to see the guy with the MIT jacket outside the Metro holding a sign that said “I hope today isn’t too windy so my sign doesn’t blow away.” My friends and I also met a group of TDC alumni that saw our apparel and started chatting about life at the ‘Tute. I suppose I should have expected it, especially considering the rally’s reddit origins; although I’m just a lurker on the website, I couldn’t stop myself from yelling “upvote!” whenever I saw the logo. College students were disproportionately represented, but we were by no means the only age group there.

In end it was the number and the personalities of the people that made it a worthwhile venture. If you were able to be there, thanks! And if you couldn’t be there, take ten minutes and watch Jon Stewart’s closing remarks. Talk to your friends about the experience. I hope that it makes a lasting change, but, even if it doesn’t, I’m glad I was able to hang out with my fellow Americans in the nation’s capital and attend a rally for something worthwhile.
In the regular-season finale of women's volleyball on Saturday, MIT fell to NEWMAC rival the U.S. Coast Guard Academy before sweeping Johnson & Wales University in a non-conference tilt.

The Engineers reached the 20-win mark for the 15th consecutive season as their overall record moved to 20-13. Throughout the program's history, MIT has registered double-digit win totals in 33 out of 35 seasons.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy defeats MIT, 3-2 (21-25, 25-22, 25-19, 21-25, 15-8)
Jennifer Li '11 led MIT (20-13, 6-3 NEWMAC) with a match-high 18 kills to go along with six digs. Cecily L. Joujon-Roche '12 and Kelly E. Schulte '12 both posted 12 kills and two blocks while Joujon-Roche added six digs and three aces. Trinity P. Leonard '13 notched 11 digs and four kills as Kristine A. Bunker '14 contributed 10 kills and four blocks.

MIT defeats Johnson & Wales University, 3-0 (25-17, 25-14, 25-21)
Leonard posted 11 kills, nine digs, and two blocks while Schulte contributed six kills and three aces. Rachel A. Hunt '14 and Emma S. Gargus '14 both added four kills. Bunker registered three blocks while Spielbauer collected 12 digs. Hao and Alyssa L. Rothman '13 shared setting duties, finishing with 20 and seven assists, respectively.

The squad enters postseason play next week. MIT, seeded No. 4 in the NEWMAC Championship Tournament, will host WPI in a quarterfinal match on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Engineers repeat as NEWMAC champions for fourth straight year
Three-time defending champion MIT had five runners finish in the top eight — including a pair of freshmen — and the Engineers won their fourth straight New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) women's cross country championship on Saturday afternoon at Moore State Park.

MIT, which finished with 24 points, had runners finish second, third and fourth, with second place finisher Katherine J. Eve '12 wrapping up the 5K layout nearly eight seconds behind the individual champion from Wellesley.

The course ran exceptionally fast as the top 17 finishers all ran times faster than the previous course record.

In addition to Eve, Engineer teammates Tania K. Morimoto '12 (18:38.41) and Alina E. Gatowski '11 (18:39.21) turned in top five performances. MIT freshman Martina A. de Geus '14 was the race's top freshman finisher in seventh place with a time of 19:03.75 to earn the 2010 NEWMAC Rookie of the Year award.

—Greg McKeever, Daper staff

SPORTS SHORTS

MIT experts assess Obama's work on Afghanistan, climate, and the economy.

Moderated by Richard Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science and director of CIS

Tues, Nov 9, 2010 | 4:30p - 6p
Bartos Theatre, MIT Bldg E15
20 Ames Street, Cambridge

STARR FORUM

Report Card on Obama

Barry Posen is Ford International Professor of Political Science at MIT and director of the MIT Security Studies Program. He is an expert on U.S. national security policy and a signatory on the recent Afghanistan Report.

Henry Jacoby, from Sloan, co-directs the MIT Joint Program on Global Change—a world leader in integration of the natural and social sciences and policy analysis in application to the threat of global climate change.

Simon Johnson, from Sloan, is an expert on the financial sector and economic crises. He is the co-author of "Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and The Next Financial Meltdown," a bestselling assessment of the dangers now posed by the US financial sector.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, November 2
Women's volleyball vs. WPI
7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

MIT CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

www.mit.edu/cis | starrforum@mit.edu

Volleyball ends season with win
Engineers enter NEWMAC Tournament as 4th seed, finish regular season 20-13
By Mindy Brauer

Jacqueline P. Simpson ‘14 goes for the ball off the back of Middlebury’s scrum in the women’s rugby game on Saturday. MIT beat Middlebury 28-15. MIT will face Bentley College in the Regional Finals on Saturday on Briggs Field, at 1 p.m.