Two new petitions fight dining process

Next and Baker House concerned about mandatory dining next fall

By Deborah Chen

Two more student petitions against the new dining plan have sprung up this past week, one at Next House and another at Baker.

Early Monday morning, students at Next House submitted a petition to Madison Hall, demanding more information about the recently approved HDAG dining plan. "We feel, however that there is huge respect for all the time and effort they have put into this dining plan. We feel, however, that there is much more to be done. We're not much classier, according to new research by Assistant Professor Pedro M. Reis and Associate Professor Richard Stocker of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, joined by Sunghwan Kang of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Jeffrey Aris of Princeton.

In writing in the Thursday issue of Science, the four engineers report that the cat's lapping method depends on its instinctive ability to calibrate the balance between opposing gravitational and inertial forces. What happens is that the cat starts to see the water, curving the upper side downward so that the tip lightly touches the surface of the water. The tongue is then shot forward at high speed, drawing a column of water behind it. Just at the moment that gravity finally overcomes the row of water and the tongue is pulled over the rim of the water bowl, the cat will begin to pull the column of water out of the bowl.

The tongue is then pulled up — too fast for the human eye to see anything but a blur — and its tongue moves at a speed of one meter per second.

The MIT iGEM team opens the floor for questions after their presentation on Sunday. iGEM, the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition, is a five-month-long research challenge, which culminated with a jambo- ree at MIT Press last week.

For their work, the MIT team received the award for Best Manufacturing Project. The MIT project had two parts: One part used ultraviolet light to inhibit bacterophage production and polymerization, forming a 3D piece using the phage. The other part used pressure to induce mammalian stem cells to differentiate into bone cells.

Awards are given in eight tracks, and the winners of the tracks are considered finalists for the grand prize, the BioBrick Trophy. MIT won its track, but not the grand prize, which went to the team from Slovenia for their work on using DNA-binding regions of proteins to gather together many proteins that are involved in the same biochemical pathway.

The MIT team consisted of 13 undergraduates, 10 instructors, and 4 faculty advisors. To learn more about their project, visit http://2010.igem.org/Team/MIT.

By Nicholas Wade

It has taken four highly qualified engineers and a bunch of integral cooperation to figure it out, but we now know how cats drink.

The act of drinking may seem like no big deal for anyone who can fully close his mouth to create suction, as people can. But the various species that cannot do so — and that includes most adult carnivores — must resort to some other mechanism.

Dog owners, familiar with the unseemly lapping noises that ensue when their thirsty pets meet a pail of water, will know that cats lap water so fast that the human eye cannot follow what is happening, which is why the trick had apparently escaped attention until now. With the use of high-speed photography, the neatness of the fine solution has been captured.

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Little harm found if gay ban is lifted, Pentagon report says

By Elisabeth Bumillier
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The draft of a new Pentagon report concluded that repealing the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law would not cause overall harm to the military but might cause temporary disruptions, people familiar with the report said Thursday.

Any temporary disruptions could be mitigated with effective leadership, the draft report said.

The people familiar with the report, who are in favor of repealing the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law to allow gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the armed forces, also said that the report did not rec-ommend separate housing for gay service members.

But they said the report showed that a number of active-duty service members remain opposed to openly gay service, with the largest proportion in the Marines and the Army.

Over the years, they said that the report showed that the major-ity of active-duty service members and their families did not care if gay men and lesbians served openly.

The report, which is under re-view by the Pentagon’s civilian and military hierarchy, is due to be released Dec. 1. A number of its details were first reported Thurs-day by The Washington Post.

Audrey Sarvis, executive direc-tor of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which repre-sents some of the 13,000 gay men and lesbians discharged from the military since the 17-year-old law took effect, was not a part of the leadership of the Army and Ma-rines for the opposition to repealing “don’t ask, don’t tell” among their rank-and-file.

“While the culture in those two branches may be somewhat differ-ent than the other services,” Sarvis said, “before the surveys were even launched, the leadership at the very top within the Marines and Army had biased the survey by expressing their hostile opposi-tion to open service.”

Sarvis was referring to com-ments earlier this year by Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, and Gen. James T. Conway, at the time the comman-dant of the Marine Corps, express-ing deep concern about moving rapidly to repeal “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

Last weekend the current com-mandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, told reporters in California that ending the ban in the middle of two wars would involve “risk” for Marines. He said, “There is nothing more intimate than young men” who are “laying in, sleeping alongside of one an-other and sharing death, fear and loss of brothers.”

Amos was quickly rebuked for his comments by Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who supports repeal. On Thursday, Amos’ spokesman, Maj. Joseph M. Pielert, said that Amos’ comments had been about the na-ture of human interaction on the battlefield, not sleepless arrange-ments.

Pielert said that Amos had introduced his comments with the sentence, “There’s nothing more intimate than combat, and I want to make that point crystal clear.”

‘Palin’s Alaska’: filming, climbing and feeding a following on TV

By Alessandra Stanley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sarah Palin says her new series on TLC is not a reality show, and she has a point. The show is not anwarts from the cold. But the sound of the “Gilligan’s Island” theme song to tell of their own looking something like a boatload of refugees eager to debark inSAN DIEGO — They arrived at the dock just after 8 a.m., hanging off the balconies at every level, clapping and cheering, — Jennifer Medina, The New York Times

When they worked, she doesn’t take up a great deal of time. Palin slips out of her hoodies and running shorts and into a red power blazer, does an earpiece and talks to Fox News in a made-for-television studio next to her house as her husband, Todd, works the camera. Her preparation is homespun.

“Yes, Todd,” Palin asks from her desk seconds before airtime, “if ‘The Sarah Palin Project’ is a reality show, what is the uncertainty regarding what new taxes may be hit — that would in-fluence how many guys you would hire?”

A reality show is a risky step for any politician, but then Palin is no ordinary politician. It’s still not clear whether she plans to run for presi-dent in 2012 or is just riding high on her popularity and fame. The TLC program highlights her physi-cal bravery, but the series’ existence points to a different kind of courage Palin is not afraid to be herself.

answers sarcastically. “Sorry, no can do as she inspects the island. But mostly, the eight-part series lives up to its title — the camera fol-lows the former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential nomi-nee as she travels to the South Seas, landscapes such as the Fiji Islands to meet a warship’s captain and to watch a ceremonial spear-throwing dance. She visits with a new high — or low — e-commerce. And it may create an expectation among con-sumers, always — that would make it harder for smaller e-commerce sites to survive.

Another fish to be sliced and diced this weekend — the organizers and their families did not care answers sarcastically. “Sorry, no can do as she inspects the island. But mostly, the eight-part series lives up to its title — the camera fol-lows the former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential nomi-nee as she travels to the South Seas, landscapes such as the Fiji Islands to meet a warship’s captain and to watch a ceremonial spear-throwing dance. She visits with a new high — or low — e-commerce. And it may create an expectation among con-sumers, always — that would make it harder for smaller e-commerce sites to survive.

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Warming glaciers.

That includes white-water rafting, kayaking, salmon fishing and climb-ing. It’s a nature series answers sarcastically. “Sorry, no can do as she inspects the island. But mostly, the eight-part series lives up to its title — the camera fol-lows the former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential nomi-nee as she travels to the South Seas, landscapes such as the Fiji Islands to meet a warship’s captain and to watch a ceremonial spear-throwing dance. She visits with a new high — or low — e-commerce. And it may create an expectation among con-sumers, always — that would make it harder for smaller e-commerce sites to survive.

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This weekend’s forecast predicts cool temperatures and calm winds to east its. This pleasant weather won’t last forever, though, as the cold front that will reach us on Sunday, making things a bit colder and cloudier for the start of the week. As far as that first snowfall is concerned, some precipitation is likely later next week as high pressure system moves far more and is replaced by a low pressure system sweeping up the Eastern seaboard. Snow lovers shouldn’t get their hopes up, though — eastern Pennsylvania is expected to remain well above freezing for the duration of the event.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny, high 55°F (13°C). Winds N at 8-12 mph.
Tonight: Clear, low 41°F (5°C). Winds N at 8-10 mph.
Sunday: Partly sunny, highs in the low 50s °F (11°C). Monday: Mostly cloudy, highs in the mid 50s °F (12°C).
FCC investigates Google street view over Wi-Fi data collection

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission said Wednesday that it was investigating whether Google had violated laws when it collected Wi-Fi data as part of its Street View photo project.

News of the FCC investigation, which has been under way since spring, came just two weeks after the Federal Trade Commission halted its own inquiry into the Google project without taking action.

Last month, Google disclosed that its Street View cars collected passwords, e-mails and other personal information wirelessly from unsuspecting people across the country. Michelle Edelman, chief of the FCC’s enforcement bureau, said Wednesday in a statement.

Street View is a project that Google began in 2007 to add street-level pictures to its mapping service. The images are collected by cars that use cameras to capture 360-degree views and link the images with GPS data. The project has expanded across the United States and into at least 30 other countries.

More recently the cars were also recording information about Wi-Fi networks in nearby homes and businesses, data that can be used to help mobile devices determine their locations. But Google went beyond noting the existence of such networks and recorded information that was being sent over them.


FDA moves to take the glamour out of smoking

WASHINGTON — Federal drug regulators Wednesday unveiled 36 proposed warning labels for cigarette packages, including one showing a toe tag on a corpse and another in which a mother blows smoke on her baby.

Designed to cover half the surface area of a pack or carton of cigarettes, and a fifth of any advertisements for them, the labels are intended to spur smokers to quit by providing graphic reminders of tobacco’s dangers. The labels are required under a law passed last year that gave the Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate, but not ban, tobacco products for the first time.

Public health officials hope that the new labels will re-energize the nation’s anti-smoking efforts, which have stalled in recent years.

Some cigarette manufacturers vowed to fight the labels in federal court, saying they infringe on the companies’ property and first-speech rights. A federal judge in Kentucky ruled in January in a related lawsuit that the FDA could require graphic warning labels but that a proposed restriction intended to eliminate attractive coloring from cigarette packaging infringed on free speech. That ruling has been appealed.

—Gardiner Harris, The New York Times

Fall 2010 Wulff Lecture

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
5:00–6:00 pm
Room 32-123
Reception immediately following

Computationally Designing Materials for the Clean Energy Environment

Professor Gerbrand Ceder

R. P. Simmons Professor of Materials Science and Engineering

Department of Materials Science and Engineering

The need for novel materials is the technological Achilles Heel of our strategy to address the energy and climate problem facing the world. The large-scale deployment of photovoltaics, photocatalysis, energy storage, and electricity, thermoelectrics, or reversible fuel catalysis cannot be realized with current materials technologies. The “Materials Genome” project, started at MIT, has as its objective to use high-throughput first principles computations on an unparalleled scale to discover new materials for future technologies. This talk will address successful examples of high-throughput calculations in the field of lithium batteries and discuss other materials challenges in the energy field.

The Wulff Lecture is an introductory, general-audience, entertaining lecture which serves to educate, inspire, and encourage MIT undergraduates to take up study in the field of materials science and engineering and related fields. The entire MIT community, particularly freshmen, is invited to attend. The Wulff Lecture honors the late Professor John Wulff, a skilled, provocative, and entertaining teacher who inaugurated a new approach to teaching the popular freshman subject: 3.091 Introduction to Solid State Chemistry.

Hoping for magic, start-ups follow Twitter into the building

By Claire Cain Miller

SAN FRANCISCO — When Joe Fernandez, a tech entrepreneur, moved his start-up here last spring, a big goal, he said, was “to be best friends with the Twitter guys.” His theory was that by hanging around with executives at one of the hottest tech companies today, some of the magic could rub off.

And so he snagged an office at 796 Folsom, Twitter’s headquarters in the SoMa neighborhood. There, he has been stalking executives on — where else? — Twitter, to see who is in Twitter’s offices. When he finds out, he pounces and “hijacks” — where else? — Twitter, to see who text him, “ Fernandez said.

Twitter moved in last year and expanded a floor in May. Among the start-ups that have moved in since are Klout, which helps marketers reach influential people on Twitter; Streety, a service for building online articles out of media like Twitter; and Liquid Truffle, an online marketing company. All say a top requirement in renting office space was to be near Twitter.

Obama’s economic view raises hackles of many major US allies

By Sewell Chan, Sheryl Gay Stolberg and David E. Sanger

SEOUL, South Korea — President Barack Obama’s hopes of emerging from his Asia trip with the twin victories of a free-trade agreement with South Korea and the twin victories of a free-trade agreement with South Korea, and having decent iPhone reception or a particular attraction to one of his companies, Klout.

By doing that, he has met Robert Sobel, the influential technology blogger, and Steve Rubel, director of insights for the digital division of Edelman, the big public relations firm, and has spotted rapper Kanye West in the lobby on his way to Twitter.

Through elevator and lobby run-ins, he has also forged a close enough relationship with Twitter’s chief executive, Dick Costolo, that Costolo is helping Klout raise venture capital. “Now I have his cell phone, and I text him,” Fernandez said.

Fernandez is not the only Silicon Valley entrepreneur trying to follow Twitter into the building.

Fernandez, a tech entrepreneur, first negotiated by the Bush administration and then reopened by Obama, to have greater protections for U.S. workers.

And as officials frantically tried to paper over differences among the Group of 20 members with a vaguely worded communique to be issued Friday, there was no way to avoid discussion of the fundamental differences of economic strategy. After five largely harmonious meetings in the past two years to meet with the most severe downturn since the Depression, major disputes broke out between Washington and China, Britain, Germany and Brazil.

Each rejected core elements of Obama’s strategy of stimulating growth before focusing on deficit reduction. Several major nations continued to accuse the Federal Reserve of deliberately devaluing the dollar last week in an effort to put the costs of America’s competitive troubles on trading partners, rather than taking politically tough measures to rein in spending at home.

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During the week of October 25, The Tech surveyed 2,145 graduate and undergraduate students, or nearly 20 percent of the student population at MIT, about their political views. On Election Day, November 2, we published a breakdown of some of the more interesting results, and promised to publish more in the coming weeks. Consistently absent from our original analysis was a gender breakdown, which is presented here.

All 213 males and 882 females responded to our survey. The response rate from those identifying themselves as “Female” changed. “Transgender” or “Other” were not high enough to establish significant conclusions. When asked how they would describe themselves, they positioned themselves on a spectrum from “Very Conserva- tive” to “Very Liberal.” In a general political sense, women tended to lean more liberally than men. Using an index with zero representing a spectrum of responses ranging from a “Liberal” or “Conservative” response to a “Moderate” response, women achieved an index of .04. Men are both, on average, more liberal than women, and women more so.

Where does this difference come from?

When asked to rate their fiscal views, male’s responses averaged to .508, with zero rep- resenting a response of “Moderate” and -1 representing a response of “Conservative.” Women, in contrast, averaged to .107, with 1 representing a response of “Liberal.” Both are clustered fairly close to an overall “Moderate” stance, but these differences are statistically significant — men are more politically conservative than women. When asked to rate their views on the political state of Kashmir, men achieved an index of .953, both pretty close to a response of “Liberal.” Women achieved an index of .951, both pretty close to a response of “Conservative” than women in both the social and fiscal spheres, but on the whole, both men and women are quite liberal in a social sense.

The President’s balancing act

Obama must carefully approach our new relationship with India

By Andy Liang

SATURDAY, NOV. 6: President Obama arrives in Mumbai, India. Down the Air Force one jetliners, he and his wife arrive and smile. Indian Prime Minister Manmo- n Singh greets the president and first lady. In his brief address to the student population at MIT, about their political views. On Election Day, November 2, we published a breakdown of some of the more interesting results, and promised to publish more in the coming weeks. Consistently absent from our original analysis was a gender breakdown, which is presented here.

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Mankind is made for giving
Sex without commitment is dishonest and meaningless

By Russell Rodelwald

Our society is provided with numerous examples of high-profile individuals who give a great deal. Among businesspeople, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett first come to mind. Among singers, Bono is arguably the most visible face of philanthropy. Yet they are not alone: countless other businesspeople, singers, actors, and actresses join in making contributions, public and private, in the hope of helping others.

And so, what do they, given that they have set an example for the rest of us to follow?

In a recent article, The Wall Street Journal pointed out that the sex act is a fundamental act. It is one of the most common acts, but it is also one of the most controversial. It is a way in which we can express our feelings and desires.

Some make services others an explicit vocation, but the majority of us simply fulfill it, as a way to interact with our partners. Some make it a way to express their love, whereas others see it as a way to relieve stress.

What unites all forms of service is that, when well practiced, it provides a sense of fulfillment to the servant and gives his/her partner a way to express their feelings. Many continue to give greatly despite the costs in time and capital affirms that there is something sufficiently profound about such service.

Yet what of the very personal mission of service that occurs in the home?

The service of mothers and fathers is often overlooked. It is often assumed that it is due. Children raised in a loving environment have been shown to have several advantages over children who have not been raised in such an environment. A loving environment is so strong that Rick Warren and other professionals recommend that we consider adopting children and raising them as their own.

This year, we have seen this kind of adoption happen on the silver screen in The Blind Side. And we have read in the Wall Street Journal that one group moved 5/8ths of children in foster care to permanent homes in under two years.

In these cases, the parents adopting their new children have allowed love to overflow over their families. They have chosen to love each other to the age of 18 in this country exceeding 51,000 according to Men's Health magazine, this is a truly remarkable feat.

All of these deals with mothers and fathers, and their role in the home. What about our young students? Can we serve in an intimate capacity as well?

Yes, that is a resounding yes. As form relationships with others, we lay a foundation for future relationships. We must be intentional with another, we have nothing to hide which is the key. We are vulnerable. And this vulnerability is the foundation in which we can trust. Failure to do so can lead to many problems, both spiritual and, in some unfortunate cases, physical.

Part of this trust is giving what we can rightfully give. Will we be there forever for our partner and their needs? Can we cultivate an unyielding and unconditional love for our partner? Are we both capable and people our partner’s potential children? An answer of “no” to any of these questions would sug- gest that it would be irresponsible at best to achieve the greatest physical intimacy with our partner through the sexual act.

Contraceptives, however, have allowed and encouraged non-monogamous sexual activity that flies contrary to the very meaning of service inherent in the sexual act. This meaning of service is manifest in the act of the sacrifice we are willing to make of ourselves for our partners, knowing when to say, do, and think. Let us, then, make the most of the most of our position and drive a meaningful change in our lives. Let us, in the words of our former President, let us love meaning- fully through serving others. Let us serve not just to serve, but to love others, the volunteers in activities in which we are involved, the closest and most intimate relationships.

Let us be honest, genuine, and respect- ing of our partners, knowing that “no, we aren’t ready,” and when to say “yes” to ourselves, “no, you are no more important than your partner and your partner’s children. An answer of “no” to any of these questions would sug- gest that it would be irresponsible at best to achieve the greatest physical intimacy with our partner through the sexual act.

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Concert Review

Uninspired but familiar
The Dandy Warhols take their greatest hits from a bong

By Charles Lin

I found the remnants of Gen X last Wednesday. They were stoned at the Dandy Warhols concert at the Royale on Tremont St. This must have been their last bastion of sanctity from the crippling recession, overdue payments on the BMW, and the fact that mom and dad borrowed away their future for that house on Nantucket.

But you know what? We live in crappy times, and nothing says escapism like lighting up a joint and watching your favorite 90s stoner band playing a smattering of old hits.

“I love it when the whole place reeks of reefer” lead singer Courtney Taylor-Taylor proclaimed to the crowd. Or something to that effect. I couldn’t remember the exact words, but neither could he. Hint: he was hiiiiiiighhhh. Double hint: they were all highhhhhhh.

He went on to brag about getting legally high in Canada, getting illegally high before the show, and probably got high during a brief interlude to celebrate guitarist Peter Holmström’s birthday.

As for the music, there are two Dandy Warhols: 1) the innovative and catchy west coast band with 70s roots, and 2) the droll and uninspiringly generic stoner soundtrack. Guess which one showed up?

The performance was monotone, blurred, self gratifying, and generic. Exactly what you’d expect from a standard mid 90s band hothoused in the garage. Not what you’d expect from the influential Portland band with 17 years under its belt.

The set list, concentrated with selected hits from their 1997-2004 hay day, fell flat. I don’t know how, but they made some of my favorite songs seem outdated and bland. I went back and listened to the original album versions. Although some songs show their age, they are for the most part enjoyable. Live? They clanged. “Everyday is a holiday” and “We used to be friends” sounded absolutely depressing. Taylor-Taylor and his cohorts resorted to annoying flanger effects, singing through a megaphone distorter (the precursor of autotune), and all of the bad tropes of 90s rock. It was worse than bad Collective Soul.

But if this is escapism, maybe this is what the crowd wanted? Vaguely familiar tuneskies from college days, a joint and a beer. Nothing challenging, nothing unfamiliar. Nothing to portend the dreaded 2000s. If you get high enough — and at a show like this you might — then I’ve got some dot com stocks to sell you.

We’ve been stoned on tour for the last 17 years.

We get you the tickets.
You get us the review.
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Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

Joining a party is the only way to have multiple costumes and a name, so can I join you, Miss Hero?

Why should I agree?

I can open item chests?

I could have Glinor chop them open.

I have an epic personal fetch quest...

An evil sorceress shattered my heart into 255 fragments and spread them throughout the world.

While dramatic and a tearjerker, that would mean you have no blood flow, so you wouldn’t be alive.

But we’ll help you get your sanity back, uh...

Help Desk by Michael Benitez

This class is stressing me out so much. Every week I feel like I’m holding on to a stove that just keeps getting warmer.

You should drop it like it’s hot. O

You know, because dead date is coming up... and...

You also said it was like a hot stove... and I thought that you said...

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Abrasive tool
5 Grand tales
10 Mimic
14 Burn balm
15 Kuka’s pal
16 “Peter Pan” pet
17 Compone
19 Ambuild auro
20 Observe yom Kippur
21 Fruity drinks
22 Hunk of dirt
23 Thwack
25 New York City harbor entrance
27 Tent stake
30 Vega’s constellation
32 Wow, that was close!
33 Function
34 Those in favor
35 More readily
38 Asian nation
40 Go lickety-split
42 Aswan’s river
43 Liquorries
46 Neighborhood
49 Long-eared beast
50 Completely infatuated
51 Twiggly home
52 Used a chair
53 Truly amazing
56 Location
58 Author of “Portnoy’s Complaint”
59 Appeal
61 Orinos’ kin
65 “Typee” sequel
66 NYC street game
68 Bryn __ College
69 “Lou Grant” star
70 “The __ on the Floss”
71 Bronte sister
72 Chicago tower
73 __ gin fizz

DOWN
1 Hindu prince
2 Oodles
3 London district
4 Sean and William
5 Salty sauce
6 San Francisco Bay island
7 Todled pink
8 “Blue Voyage” poet
9 Teetotleters
10 Ancient Greek poet
11 Asian liquor trees
12 Bestow upon
13 Surprise attacks
14 Afresh
20 Yes vote
24 Greek letter
27 Cheap books
28 Jacob’s twin
29 O.C. neighborhood
31 From Tibet, for example
32 Designer Schiaparelli
37 Musical interval
39 Mediterranean coast
41 Forecaster
44 Psyche part
45 Tennis star of the ’90s
46 Neighborhood
47 Psychic letters
48 Coral ring
53 Cooking smell

54 1981 John Lennon hit
55 Beethoven dedicatee
57 Abounds (with)
60 Sicilian resort town
62 Wicked
63 Metric wt.
64 One and only
67 Surgery rms.
**Applied Math**

Dear Reader: Enclosed is a check for ninety-eight cents. Using your work, I have proven that this equals the amount you requested.

**Dilbert** by Scott Adams

**Hard Sudoku**
Solution, page 11

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

**Easy Sudoku**
Solution, page 11

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

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.
Baker House starts petition this week

Culture and dollars are concerns

Petitions, from Page 1

asking to throw away the plan but work together with whoever is willing to listen to us and come to a solution.”

When asked about HDAG’s response to the petition, Ellen B. McAlpine ’12, Next House president and HDAG member, said: “The petition is being looked at seriously. We’ve requested a general HDAG meeting for next week to talk about the petition, which administrators have acknowledged. We’re going to wait for that meeting to formally discuss our plan of action.”

Baker starts third petition

In an open letter to Baker residents Wednesday evening, Baker Dining Chair and HDAG member Cameron S. McAlpine ’13 urged residents to “voice their opinion on dining” by either “signing or not signing” a similar petition against the current dining plan.

McAlpine, though he supports the current dining plan, said, “It is my responsibility as Baker Dining Chair to accurately represent the opinions of Baker residents.”

In his e-mail, McAlpine wrote that “if there is any chance of stopping or even slowing down the RFP process, we have to get massive student support against the RFP process, if that is what students truly feel.”

The petition, which will circulate until today, makes the same arguments as the Next House petition, adding that the current plan will “interfere with the strong FSILG culture in Baker House” as students will have to “pay for both dining at Baker and at their FSILG simultaneously.”

In an interview with The Tech, McAlpine explained that if the results of the petition show a significant number of residents oppose the dining plan, “we can bring those numbers to HDAG and maximize our chances of changing the dining plan if that is what everyone wants.”

“If there is any chance of stopping …the RFP process, we have to get massive student support…”

—Cameron S. McAlpine ’13 
Baker Dining Chair

When asked about whether or not any meaningful changes could be made to the RFP at this point, McAlpine said, “We can make changes that HDAG will allow, for example changes to the hours of operation. It will be a tough battle, however, to amend the meat and bones of the dining program. If we make too many substantial changes to the RFP, vendors will raise a red flag.”

McAlpine added, “The RFP process is extremely time sensitive, so if we want to try to change it, we have to do it as soon as possible.”

To study cat tongues, just borrow a space robot from next door

Cat lapping, from Page 1

machine that mimicked a cat’s tongue, using a glass disk at the end of a piston to serve as the tip. After calculating things like the Froude number and the aspect ratio, they were able to figure out how fast a cat should lap to get the greatest amount of water into its mouth. The cats, it turns out, were way ahead of them — they lap at just that speed.

“The scientific mind, the next obvious question is whether bigger cats should lap at different speeds.

The engineers worked out a formula. The lapping frequency should be the weight of the cat species, raised to the power of minus one-sixth and multiplied by 4.6. They then made friends with a curator at Zoo New England, the nonprofit group that operates the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston and the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, Mass., who let them videotape his big cats. Lions, leopards, jaguars and ocelots turned out to lap at the speeds predicted by the engineers.

The feline who inspired this exercise of the engineer’s art is a black cat named Cutta Cutta, who belongs to Stocker and his family. Cutta Cutta’s name comes from the word for “many stars” in Jawoyn, a language of the Australian aborigines.

Stocker’s day job at MIT is applying physics to biological problems, such as how plankton move in the ocean.

“Three and a half years ago I was watching Cutta Cutta lap over breakfast,” Stocker said.

Naturally he wondered what hydrodynamic problems the cat might be solving. He consulted Reis, an expert in fluid mechanics, and the study was under way.

At first Stocker and his colleagues assumed that the raspy hairs on a cat’s tongue, so useful for grooming, must also be involved in drawing water into its mouth. But the tip of the tongue, which is smooth, turned out to be all that was needed.

The project required no financing. The robot that mimicked the cat’s tongue was built for an experiment on the International Space Station, and the engineers simply borrowed it from a neighboring lab.

To the scientific mind, the next obvious question is whether bigger cats should lap at different speeds.

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By Michael M. Grynbaum
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The New York City police have arrested 20 people for trying to enter an abandoned subway station that housed the formerly secret guerrilla exhibition of underground street art only to find it reduced to rubble.

The clandestine gallery has attracted urban explorers eager to focus squarely on an abandoned space, including photographs that suggest the site is Brooklyn. But subway officials would not divulge the exact spot. "There are some bloggers who can pinpoint these places because they eat and sleep transit fare," Parker said, but they couldn't give details, including how they had heard about the site.

Parker said they had no plans to paint over the police acknowledged that the popular attraction remains illegal. "We really don't want to encourage people or organizations to try to access any part of the subway system planned by the city in 1929. The Great Depression forced officials to abandon the proposal, but not before bits and pieces of the proposed network had been built.

Transit officials reiterated this week that getting to the site could be dangerous. "We don't want to encourage anyone to go near these places," Parker said. She said the police department and transit officials were "working closely together to come up with short- and long-term solutions to the security problem." Detectives have been looking into the project's origins, a Police Department spokesman said, but he said the police often find it difficult to link individuals to cases of illegal street art.

20 arrested in NYC trying to see underground art

Want to earn some money before the holidays?

The headquarters office of the MIT-SUTD (Singapore University of Technology and Design) Collaboration is seeking two enthusiastic undergraduates to work 10 hours per week @ $11 per hour until the winter holidays.

1) Course Production Assistant—Initial eFort will be approximately 10 hours per week between now and the winter holidays with a possibility of extension for IAP and spring semester.

2) Excel/Database Expert—Student with excellent Excel/database skills to design and build a tool for tracking and projecting expenses and planning.

For more information:
Jon Griffith
Assistant Director—MIT-SUTD Collaboration
jmg@mit.edu (617-253-3799)
Engineers make NEWMAC all-conference teams this fall

49 get NEWMAC academic honors for 4.35+ GPAs

By David Zhu

Several MIT athletes received NEWMAC postseason honors this week.

In men’s soccer, Christian W. Therkelsen ’11, Zachary A. Kabe-lac ’12, and Benjamin A. Lewis ’13 were selected to the confer-ence first-team, while Jonathan K. Teboe ’14 made second-team. Head Coach Milton Gooding was named the conference coach of the year.

On the women’s side Lauren Hernley ’11 was honored as the NEWMAC Athlete of the Year. Joining her on the conference first-team were Emily Kuo ’13, Al-isha D. Lussiez ’12, and Meghan S. Wright ’13. Andrea Y. Park ’13 was selected to second-team.

This fall, Lauren Hernley ’11 was honored as NEWMAC Athlete of the Year in women’s soccer.

Wedge was also named Runner of the Year. Paul D. Woll ’11, Richard J. Prevost ’11, Daniel E. Harper ’12, Gihan S. Amara-siriwaddana ’11 and Joseph A. Christopher ’12 joined Wedge on the men’s All-Conference team; Katherine J. Ivey ’12, Tanis E. Morimoto ’12, Alina E. Gutowski ’11, Claire E. O’Connell ’14 and Sarah L. Sprague ’13 were also selected for the women.

In field hockey, Kameron L. Klauer ’12 and Molly E. Mc-Shane ’13 were named to the All-Conference Team. Jenny Li ’11 made second-team for women’s volleyball.

In addition, 49 Engineers were selected to the fall NEW-MAC Academic All-Conference team, which requires a 4.35/5.0 GPA after the 2010 spring sem-ester and a participation in a varsity program the entire fall season.

The full list of honorees can be found on the NEWMAC web-site, www.newmacsports.com.

In cross country, Roy A. Wedge ’14 and Martina A. de Geus ’14 earned Rookie of the Year honors on the men’s and women’s sides, respectively.

In track, 12 students were honored on the All-Conference team. The full list of honorees can be found on the NEWMAC web-site, www.newmacsports.com.

UPCOMING HOME EVENT
Saturday, November 13
Women’s Crew: Foot of the Charles

3 a.m., Charles River

Juniors gave football team a losing season

After one winning its first game, team went on an eight-game losing streak

By Russell Spivak

With a loss on Saturday at En-dicott College, the MIT football program ends its season at 3-8. After a promising win to open the season, the Engineers were un-able to improve on their win total from last year.

Their poor record, however, is not necessarily reflective of the team’s overall performance throughout the year. Injuries were a constant obstacle to the team’s success. Billy E. Boetcher ’11 and Mike P. Fitzgerald ’10, two of the three captains, and pre-season all-American linemenbacker Peter A. Gilliland ’12 all missed time with injuries. Seven of 22 starters were injured at some point during the season, and many more played through lesser injuries at below full-health.

Despite the losing season, the Engineers show promise for up-coming seasons. Many freshmen received significant playing time, including several starters. “The team shows a lot of promise,” said Academic all-District and New England Football Confer-ence (NEFC) top-tacker Patrick Jupe ’12. “I am really excited to see what next year brings when everyone gets healthy again, the young guys have another year un-der their belt, and Coach [Mari- notich] gets another great recruit-ing class.”

The football program has al-ready brought in their biggest class in years, with 25 new play-ers, and will try to sustain and grow that number in the coming years.

The Engineers have also al-ready begun to rack up post-sea-son honors, as Brian P. Doyle ’11, William R. Vega-Brown ’11, and Luke have been named to the 2010 ESPN: The Magazine District One College Sports Information Direc-tors of America. In addition, Jacob N. Laur '14, Marcel B. Sanchez ’12, and John C. Wenzel ’14 were named to the NEFC Honor Roll.

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