Cameras installed in Lobby 10

To monitor vandalism against this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. exhibit, surveillance cameras were installed two weeks ago in Lobby 10. The cameras are not actively watched, but the video is stored, the security office said.

One camera is installed above the east entrance to Lobby 10, and the other is above the west entrance. MIT has not responded to inquiries about whether these cameras are permanent, when they might be removed, what policies control access to them, or how long their footage is retained.

The MLK exhibit, a student project that has been displayed Lobby 10 every February since 1999, has historically been a target of vandalism. Due Undergraduate Administrator Tobie F. Weiner, who organizes the exhibit as part of the Student Activities Program, said that the cameras were installed by the campus police on behalf of the seminar.

Weiner said that to have the cameras installed, she worked with Thomas W. Komola, manager of MIT’s Security and Emergency Management Office, with Director of Facilities Operations and Security John Di-Fava, who oversees the Campus Police, and with Captain Jay A. Pernault of the Campus Police. Di-Fava did not reply to an e-mail inquiry sent Monday afternoon.

“Two wireless cameras were installed two weeks ago in the lobby of Building 10 at the request of the MIT Police, in order to capture any vandalism-related activities at the displays located there. The space is not being actively monitored, but the video will be stored in case the MIT Police need to review it in conjunction with a potential investigation,” said Komola in a prepared statement.

Komola told The Tech that he was not authorized to speak publicly. Shortly before the close of business Monday, he provided a written answer to preliminary questions that The Tech had submitted over the weekend. The answers had first been vetted by the MIT News Office.

The security office has not responded to questions yesterday from The Tech about what other portions of the campus are under video-surveillance, how surveillance footage might be used in the event of a hack to Lobby 10, and what policies about retention exist.

The security office maintains a strict policy for the records of card access across campus: the data are retained for just a few weeks before being automatically deleted. There are no similar policies about surveillance footage.

Students have begun to notice the cameras as well. Yesterday afternoon, students on the Senior House mailing list mentioned cameras recently installed in Lobby 10 to watch the Martin Luther King, Jr. seminar exhibit, a frequent target of vandalism.

It is unclear how long the cameras will remain or how long the recorded footage will be retained.

IN SHORT

New Balance plows Charles running paths

Snow is no longer an excuse for students to avoid the outdoors, now that the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation agreed to clear this path within twenty four hours of a snowstorm.

According to the Jan. 8, 2010 minutes of a meeting of the DCR Stewardship Council, New Balance agreed to provide a minimum of $10,000 per plowing in exchange for signs along the path advertising New Balance’s involvement in the effort. The signs would stand for no more than three days after a snowstorm.

New Balance signs advertising the effort were displayed along a cleared Esplanade last Wednesday, a day after a snowstorm. “Outdoor recreation is vital to this time of year with so many athletes training for the Boston Marathon,” said New Balance CEO Rob DeMartini in the press release.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation hopes to arrange similar agreements with other companies in the future. - Meghan Nelson
Banks plan hard sell on overdraft fees to account holders

For many households trying to improve their finances, tossing out pitches from the bank has become almost automatic. But in recent weeks, Chase has been fanning special letters out to customers with an offer that it urges them not to refuse: “Your debit card may not work the same way anymore if you just made a deposit. A deposit you made, a deposit you made, is likely to in your account.”

As the government cracks down on the way banks charge fees for overspending on debit cards, the industry is mounting an all-out effort to keep the flow of money into the coffers, getting out pitches from the bank has become almost automatic. Unless we hear from you, the message from the bank.

As Chase and other banks are preparing a full-court marketing blitz, which is likely to include top-notch salespeople, and top marketing campaigns, and at least one high-profile pitch to consumers with an offer that it urges them not to refuse.

Situation for noon Eastern Standard time, Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Five Republicans break advance job bills

WASHINGTON — Five Republican senators broke ranks with their party on Monday to advance a $15 billion job-creation measure put forward by Democrats, a rare bipartisanship after months of gridlock on major legislation.

The bill was drafted by Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, and is built around a proposal that has won bipartisan support in the past. A $15 billion plan to give companies who hire unemployed Americans an exchange for payroll taxes.

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By Jeff Z. Klein  THE NEW YORK TIMES

VANCOUVER, BRITISH CO-
LUMBIA — The American men
skated on to the Canada Hockey
Podium at the end of a gritty 5-3
victory. They had won a medal to
their name for the first time.

The Americans beat the Cana-
dians to play a qualifying game
on Tuesday. The United States beat Switzer-
land last week, 3-1; it was easy.

The Swiss also lost and the
Swiss also lost and beat Nor-
ev in overtime.

The Belarusians were crushed
by the Americans in their second
meeting on Tuesday. They had
less, nor they the Swiss can be
considered on the same level as
the Americans, whose path to the
semi-finals is fairly straightforward.

The man, Najibullah Zazi, ad-
mitted that he came to New York
last year near the anniversary of the
Sept. 11 attacks, and began to
cooperate with the FBI. Zazi
for Monday to terrorism charges in
what he said was a Quaeda plot to
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CORRECTIONS

A photograph of BAMBBX, an MIT Senegalese percussion group, on page 14 of Friday’s issue was incorrectly attributed to Ming Heng Touch. The photograph was taken by Elijah Menu, not Thomas Nguyen.

An article on February 12 about the new student group “Graduate Women at MIT” or GWWAM (pronounced “gee- wahm”) incorrectly stated that roughly 1,900 of the 1,916 female graduate students responded to the 2009 Graduate Women in Support Survey. The survey actually received 963 responses, and was sent to 1,846 MIT graduate student women.

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 easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. 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.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which is chosen by the President, Editor in Chief Jeff Guo, Managing Editor David M. Templeton, Executive Editor Natasha Ptokin, and Corresponding Editor Paul Barany.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, PO Box 379287, Cambridge, MA 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m., two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known.

The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

“arrests” incorrectly stated that roughly 1,900 of the 1,916 female graduate students responded to the 2009 Graduate Women in Support Survey. The survey actually received 963 responses, and was sent to 1,846 MIT graduate student women.

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To reach us, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. 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.
As national health care reform passes into Schrödingerian un-death (a quantum-punishment of cars of such a type as to perma-kill and on its way to certain vic- tory), it is tempting to wallow in self-de- feating guilt over being caught up in the incompleteness of the left wing. After their latest foray into politics, it now seems clear that Democrats are demot- ed from a “political party” to something a little more like a factional “political in- tramural team” [with matches every other Thursday afternoon Long Chad up the schedule again]. For long-time supporters of health insurance mandates (myself included) it was the will to do the thing but face-palm the remainder of 2010 away and wait for the in- evitable Republican take-over of Congress. At least then we’ll have the opportunity to blame government gridlock on some- thing real, like an irreconcilable partisan split between our executive and legislative branches.

However disappointing the health care reform debate was, there was, like a dia- mond stuck in a sea of pig effluent, one re- lation that I found inspiring. I would like to take a moment and reflect upon it.

Liberals love competition. Their all consuming passion in life is to spur mar- kets to greater competition. All throughout the debate they just couldn’t stop talking about how important the public option was, how it was the heart of health care reform, how it was the product of their seniority. But instead was the product of liberal subservience to powerful teachers unions and the system they dominate. Unlike health care, however, there is very little competition in the existing sys- tem. While European countries commonly offer vouchers and encourage an indepen- dent system of private schools, America continues to stand by its state monopoly. Those in poorly performing school dis- tricts have little hope of escape. Whatever sympathy Democratic lawmakers might share is trapped underclass is drowned out by their political subservience to powerful teachers unions, who are unwilling to countenance any even the smallest degree of competition in the system they dominate.

Prior to their apparent conversion inti- mate-free-marketeers, the liberal solu- tions based upon the data I have seen. If you ask me, the problem our school system faces is likely one of teacher accountability. If you could get schools to fire bad teachers, that

All the extra nitrogen we pull out of the atmosphere must somehow find its way back, and in the process it upsets the balance of countless biological communities.

Nasty, nurturing nitrogen

The uncomfortable truth about humanity and the nitrogen cycle

By Holly Moeller

When Captain N.C. Middlebrooks claimed the South Seas for the United States in 1859, he had no idea they would later be known as Midway Atoll, site of a World War II battle more than a century later. The island cluster was covered for a humbler reason: It was used during the war as a military training ground.

Home to colonies of seabirds for millen- nia, Midway had rich deposits of incremental rich in minerals, which were used for use in fertilizer and, ironically, gun- powder. From the late 1800’s until the recent claims under the United States Guano Islands Act of 1856, which allowed citizens to exploit guano deposits.

Today it’s hard to imagine the impor- tance the seabirds ever had. But a scientist may need to collect bird droppings to meet our nitrogen needs. Thanks to early 20th century work by Fritz Haber and Carl Bo- sch, we have industrialized the conversion of atmospheric N₂ into ammonia, which is then turned into fertilizers, explosives, and plastics, among other things. We no longer rely on invertebrates to fix in N₂ gas into biologically reactive forms, which we then scavenge from bar and seav- mounts. We have harnessed the power of fossil fuels to fix more than 400 billion tons

The atoll was one of more than 100 islets and coral reef fragments that together form the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. It is one of the few remote locations left in the United States to still provide an unbroken habitat for a serious of species of seabirds, including Laysan albatross, which have been in the United States Endangered Species list since 1972.

of nitrogen every year, twice the amount that natural processes (microbes, lightning strikes, and volcanic eruptions) capture. This technology has proven to be a great boon to agriculture. We can supply our crops with a steady stream of a critical nutrient, increasing food production and ensuring consistent harvests. Abundant fertilizers supported the Green Revolution — a transition to higher-yielding (but also higher-maintenance) crop varieties. Today, some two billion people are fed by the extra food the fertilizers allow us to grow, and the Haber-Bosch process supports 40 percent of the world’s protein production. It’s really so bad there are flies in the ointment.

Tripling the magnitude of Earth’s natu- ral nitrogen fixation process comes with dramatic consequences. All the extra ni- trogen we pull out of the atmosphere must somehow find its way back, and in the pro- cess it upsets the balance of countless bio- logical communities.

Excess fertilizer (here in the United States, we end up ingesting only one in ev- ery ten nitrogen atoms applied to a field) spreads beyond the bounds of agricultural fields. Nitrogen is not an equal opportunity fertilizer: Certain plants respond faster than others, and the process often upsets the balance of countless biological communities.

For example, researchers have shown that the addition of nitrogen can cause dramatic reductions in the growth of certain species of grasses, which can then outcompete less nitrogen demanding species. Some studies have also shown that nitrogen in excess of the requirements of plants can be absorbed by soil microorganisms, which in turn enter the food chain, leading to the increased nitrogen content of meat and dairy products. Such increases in nitrogen content of food can have implications for human health, as some studies have suggested that increased nitrogen intake may be associated with increased risk of certain diseases, such as cancer and heart disease.

While nitrogen fertilizers are essential for the production of food, their overuse can lead to environmental problems, such as the eutrophication of water bodies, which can contribute to the loss of biodiversity and the death of aquatic life. Thus, it is important to use nitrogen fertilizers responsibly and to develop alternative methods for achieving the same goal, such as the use of legumes in crop rotations, which can fix nitrogen in the soil, or the use of manure and compost, which can provide a natural source of nitrogen. 

If you asked me, the problem our school system faces is likely one of teacher accountability. If you could get schools to fire bad teachers, that

alone might be enough to bridge the entire difference between the U.S. and the leading countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

I believe in the potential to reform our public schools. But I am also a believer in competition. I recognize that a decentral- ized system of independent, self-interested decision makers is more likely to get the an- swer right than some monolithic authority.

There is little downside risk to school voucher programs (and even less to school choice). In the worst case scenario, the increased competition does absolutely nothing, so one exists. Unlike health care, however, there is very little competition in the existing sys- tem. While European countries commonly offer vouchers and encourage an indepen- dent system of private schools, America continues to stand by its state monopoly. Those in poorly performing school dis- tricts have little hope of escape.

Whatever sympathy Democratic lawmakers might share is trapped underclass is drowned out by their political subservience to powerful teachers unions, who are unwilling to countenance any even the smallest degree of competition in the system they dominate.

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at health care spending, in education it seems the answer is not to blindingly advance further into unchartered waters, but to try and bend it, to attack the core reasons behind why our increased spend- ing is doing so little.

I have my own prescriptions based upon the data I have seen. If you ask me, the problem our school system faces is likely one of teacher accountability. If you could get schools to fire bad teachers, that

If you ask me, the problem our school system faces is likely one of teacher accountability. If you could get schools to fire bad teachers, that
The engineering of war

By Nina Sinatra

With growing media speculation about the removal of U.S. troops from the campaign in Iraq, my engineering degree (naturally) began to consider the situation from a mathematical perspective. While overseas, the consolidation of troops, weapons, aircraft, medical supplies, and combat vehicles is a strictly coordinated complex operation. In light of the current national canvas on the subject, I became interested in examining the potential withdrawal as a result from the standpoint of operations research. I had the opportunity to speak with Steven Clark, former Air Force Captain, who now works as a consultant for Analytics Operations Engineering (AOE) in Boonton, NJ.

Nina Sinatra: How did you become interested in the Operations Research field?

Steven Clark: When I first went to college at the U.S. Air Force Academy, I thought I was going to pursue mechanical or aeronautical engineering for my major. However, I had to meet the interdisciplinary curriculum requirement and I was exposed to some courses in the operations research field — a field I had never heard about. I took courses and learned more about the major, I was really drawn to the interdisciplinary mix of math, computer science, management, and economics. I also thought it was a great way to work on a variety of problems and build up a range of experiences that could apply both within the military and beyond.

N.S.: How have your experiences differed from your time in the military to your work in the private sector?

S.C.: The biggest difference between operations research in the military and the private sector has to do with what operations research types would refer to as the “objective function.” Unlike the private sector, where the goal is generally to maximize profit or reduce costs, the objective for projects in the military is usually to maximize some sort of effectiveness. These types of metrics can often be much harder to define, but include things like keeping the most number of aircraft ready to fly as possible (aircraft availability) by striking the right mix of spare parts for, example, or minimizing the amount of time it takes to push material through the military’s supply chain to a theater of operations during wartime.

N.S.: How do you feel military engineering research has developed in the past five years? Any predictions for the new decade?

S.C.: Operations research research actually has its roots in the military when techniques like linear programming came into existence during World War II. Early applications to improve military operations are also where operations research got its name. Since then, the military has been at the forefront of advanced operations research techniques to constantly improve and manage all the equipment, supplies, and resources. These types of techniques can successfully field a complex organization like the military. As battlefield technologies continue to improve and evolve, the application of operations research techniques have followed closely in step. Whether it’s determining the best way to route multiple autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) on a reconnaissance mission or using radio frequency identification tags to track and dynamically plan shipments through the military’s supply chain, operations research has proven to be an invaluable partner in maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of military operations and planning.

S.C.: The military campaign in the Middle East clearly presents significant challenges in operations research and engineering. From a mathematical or engineering perspective, what particular challenges are presented by the removal of forces from Iraq?

S.C.: One of the biggest challenges both inside and outside of the military is finding the proper balance between the “an-swers” from operations research tools (like a mathematical optimization model) and the experience of dedicated people who at the end of the day have to make sure the job gets done. This challenge gets especially hard with an enormous organization like the military. It’s also one thing to apply operations tools to normal day-to-day operations at a command post or sector or even within the military during peacetime operations, and quite another to apply them during wartime. Things like security conditions, available equipment, political circumstances, and mission requirements can change very rapidly and it difficult to implement robust operations research solutions. As a result, those tools have to be very good at providing high-level, intuitive guidance to decision makers while leaving enough flexibility for human planners to make it all work.

N.S.: As a consultant, you have had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. Which have been your most memorable?

S.C.: One of the things I’ve really enjoyed about being a consultant in the private sector is the opportunity to work for a wide range of clients, both overseas and in the past year or two I’ve worked for an inter-modal railroad, a discount fashion retailer, and a RV enthusiast club. The intermodal railroad was actually a very interesting project. The railroad managed a fleet of shipping containers that customers load items into, transport to a rail yard via truck, and then load onto arriving rail cars for transport across the United States. The challenge the railroad faced was how to set prices for each lane in their rail network to maximize profits, but also need to price supplies to demand in such a way as to keep the flow of containers balanced and avoid shortages and surpluses of available containers at the rail yards. Because the railroad had hundreds of lanes, it was very hard for the people in charge of planning to think about how prices on one lane would affect supply and demand across the entire network. However, this is exactly the type of scenario where operations research techniques shine. We developed an optimization tool for the railroad that would recommend price levels, but could also be run very quickly so that planners could experiment with various scenarios before making a final decision.

Sara Sinaita is a member of the Class of 2012.

INTERVIEW

The Tech interviews a former army operations engineer

From life-giver to pollutant

Nitrogen fixation has given us food in abundance but created a slew of other problems

NITROGEN

From life-giver to pollutant

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From life-giver to pollutant

Nitrogen fixation has given us food in abundance but created a slew of other problems
How to ruin your three-day weekend

In case you haven’t noticed, there’s a stomach flu going around.

by Michael T. Lin

When you spend as much time indoors as an MIT student during a Massachusetts winter, cabin fever isn’t the only ailment that’s likely to break down your immune system’s barricades. Just the other week, several Tech staffers, including myself, were besieged by some of the nastiest bugs that have been floating around campus as of late. I distinctly remember sitting in the back row of one class, offering up a buoyant cheery “I’m good” response to my classmates, when Managing Editor David Templeton walked in and informed me that I had been exposed to a rash of illnesses around the office, and that the Tech’s online editor in my hands was the only thing that had not yet been passed down from sliver to sliver, alpine-sprayed submission. With the characteristic bravado that any still-feeling-well college student shows when faced with impending infection, I scoffed, gave my hands the “bachelor dishwasher” treatment of a scalding hot water rinse, and went home. The proper way of dumping a girl, contrary to popular belief, does not involve sucking face to toilet seat in a pseudo-sleep and zombie-like shambling hours alternating between delirious fetal positions and trudging naked through the streets. Last night, that连线, I mistook the peculiar sensation in my belly — it was weighing sadly in my gut — for a cold, lifelong smoker or Amy Winehouse — for hunger, which motivated me to dig up some old ramen, halfheartedly boil it, and scarf it down as a midnight snack. As the biologically savvy among you may have realized at this point, that didn’t help my state as much as I’d hoped. After it sank in that what I thought was hunger wasn’t, I spent the next several hours alternating between delicious fetal pseudo-sleep and zombie-like shambling down the hall, my willpower and my digestive system dancing face to toilet seat in a horrific plague-ridden range of contagion (con-tango-to-jive). I’ll spare you what’s left of the gruesome details, save for the hard-to-endure lesson that cheap ramen tastes no better the second time around.

The next morning, halfway to the scene of my initial attempts to get some clear fluids saw me on my knees, as if in pathetic prayer to the soda machine gods, feebly prodding the unresponsive slot.

I recently figured out that the boy I dated last semester was a total fucking waste of time. I kind of already knew that, but hearing the truth to all the lies he fed me when he broke things off was a ground-breaking moment for me. While I am over the whole thing now and glad he’s not around, there’s not a single moment of the past year that didn’t give a fuck about what I thought of him. When I live as far from campus as I do, the halls of the gruesome details, save for the hard-to-endure lesson that cheap ramen tastes no better the second time around.

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We have The Beatles Rockband and 1000 watts of audio.

By M.

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Steal My Comic by Michael Ciuffo

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

Doonesbury BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 12

ACROSS
1 Closing measures 45 Column bases
6 Rosary unit 47 Metal canisters
10 Evening in Bologna 49 Rubber bands
14 In a perturbed manner 50 Writing down
16 Oast or kiln 54 Small monkey
17 Going over and over again 55 National Park in Wyoming
18 Cafe au __ 57 Eurasian deer
19 Singer Uggams 59 MIT word
20 Make a vigorous start 60 Western st.
22 Author Murdoch 61 Dot on a map
24 Very small amount 62 Alter the timer
25 Concealed 63 Sheboygan’s lake
29 More slippery 64 Rugby formation
30 Lascivious looks 65 National Park in Wyoming
31 London flashlight 66 Longfellow’s Standish
33 Racetrack circuit 67 Tiny insect
35 Social insects 69 "The Consul"
36 Longfellow’s Standish 70 composer
37 Tiny archnids 71 Maintain firmly
38 Sch. grp. 72 "The Consul"
39 Port and sherry 73 Maintained firmly
40 Metal alloy trademark 74 Vegetable coverings
41 Of a pelvic bone 46 Dish in a lab
42 Tiny insect 47 Rugby formation
43 Most tranquil 49 Fill to the brim
44 Vegetable coverings 50 “The Consul”
45 Column bases 51 Stained type: abbr.

DOWN
1 Psychologist Jung 2 Pointed arch
2 Pointed arch 3 Brief swims
3 Brief swims 4 Some artists’ studios
4 Some artists’ studios 5 Takeoffs
5 Takeoffs 6 Wager
6 Wager 7 Prepare for publication
7 Prepare for publication 8 Lotion ingredients
8 Lotion ingredients 9 Variation in musical intensity
9 Variation in musical intensity 10 Virgules
10 Virgules 11 Longfellow poem
11 Longfellow poem 12 Says repeatedly and tiresomely
12 Says repeatedly and tiresomely 13 Dramatist Chekhov
13 Dramatist Chekhov 14 In a perturbed manner
14 In a perturbed manner 15 Link
15 Link 16 Oast or kiln
16 Oast or kiln 17 Going over and over again
17 Going over and over again 18 Cafe au __
18 Cafe au __ 19 Singer Uggams
19 Singer Uggams 20 Make a vigorous start
20 Make a vigorous start 21 Rolling in it
21 Rolling in it 22 Author Murdoch
22 Author Murdoch 23 Become permanent
23 Become permanent 24 Very small amount
24 Very small amount 25 Concealed
25 Concealed 26 Enormous number
26 Enormous number 27 Gets even
27 Gets even 28 Bob and Elizabeth
28 Bob and Elizabeth 29 More slippery
29 More slippery 30 Lascivious looks
30 Lascivious looks 31 London flashlight
31 London flashlight 32 Alter the timer
32 Alter the timer 33 Racetrack circuit
33 Racetrack circuit 34 Hide
34 Hide 35 Stained type: abbr.
35 Stained type: abbr. 36 Sheboygan’s lake
36 Sheboygan’s lake 37 Frightening creatures
37 Frightening creatures 38 Sch. grp.
38 Sch. grp. 39 Unit of power
39 Unit of power 40 “The Consul”
40 “The Consul” 41 Psychologist Jung
41 Psychologist Jung 42 Maintain firmly
42 Maintain firmly 43 Most tranquil
43 Most tranquil 44 Vegetable coverings
44 Vegetable coverings 45 Column bases
45 Column bases 46 Dish in a lab
46 Dish in a lab 47 Rugby formation
47 Rugby formation 48 Rubber bands
48 Rubber bands 49 Fill to the brim
49 Fill to the brim 50 “The Consul”
50 “The Consul” 51 Stained type: abbr.
51 Stained type: abbr. 52 Connecting point
52 Connecting point 53 Tiny insect
53 Tiny insect 54 Longfellow’s Standish
54 Longfellow’s Standish 55 National Park in Wyoming
55 National Park in Wyoming 56 Night goddess
56 Night goddess
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.

Easy Sudoku

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Hard Sudoku

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Principle of Explosion

If you assume contradictory axioms, you can derive anything. It's called the principle of explosion.

Consider the following:

- If I'm right, I'm right.
- If I'm wrong, I'm wrong.
- Anything? Let me try.

Hex, you're right! I started with "PAPA" and derived your mom's phone number. That's not how that works.

Mum, this is her number! How?

Hi, I'm a friend of... Why yes, I am free tonight!

Mom! No bowling! Sounds lonely!

Devotion to Duty

We took the hostages, secured the building, and cut the communication lines like you said.

Excellent.

But then this guy climbed up the ventilation ducts and walked across broken glass, killing anyone we sent to stop him.

And he rescued the hostages?

No, he ignored them. He just reconnected the cables we cut, muttering something about "Optimize."

Shit, we're dealing with a shapeshifter.

A WEB COMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe
The Lover and La Musica 2

A bilingual (French-English) stage adaptation with music and English supertitles for French portions, with performances by Astrid Bas, Daniel Pettrow, and violinist Ami Flammer. Free and open to the general public with a reception to follow.

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Marguerite Duras’

Latkes vs. Hamentashen

The Great Debate

Keith Nelson
Moderator

Wednesday February 24
8:00 PM
26 - 100

Latke Team
Barbara Imperiali (5)
Amy Smith (2)
Erika Wagner (16)

Hamentash Team
Marta González (1)
Michael Sipser (18)
Eric Grimson (6)

MIT Hillel
ARCADE

Free Latkes
Free Hamentashen

Barbara Imperiali (5)
Amy Smith (2)
Erika Wagner (16)

Free Latkes
Peter de Florez Fund for Humor

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There’s a lot to know about qualifying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You need to work and earn less than $34,692. If you have children, they must meet three qualifying tests. And that’s just to name a few. But the most important thing to know is you can get help figuring it all out. Visit us on the web, call 1-800-TAX-1040 or ask your tax preparer. When it comes to getting help claiming everything you honestly deserve, consider it done.

1-800-TAX-1040
Tufts applicant’s ‘math dancing’ clip is a hit online

Tufts, from Page 1

tions.

“We’ve gotten some who are really good with the technology,” Coffin said. “There’s a real technical savviness to those in the generation, and this lets them show off their splicing, their stop action, their animation. Some of the engineering applicants show us what they’ve made. One kid is talking, and then all of a sudden, he’s in the water, to show off his underwater camera.”

While elephants are a common theme in the videos — Jumbo the elephant is Tufts’ mascot — only Michael Klinker went so far as to build a small remote-control blue-elephant helicopter that flies mere- ly around his backyard.

Some of the videos have developed a YouTube following. The popular favorite is probably Amalia Dowes, with more than 6,000 views for her video combining “two of my favorite things: being a nerd and dancing,” in which she performs a bar graph, a scatter plot, a pie chart, and a sine and cosine graph.

“I tried tap dancing at first, because that’s what I do most, but we only have a half digital camera, and the sound came out badly,” said Downs, who is from Charlotte, N.C. “My best friend filmed me, and we did each shot once or twice. I did the editing in about an hour, and the computer crashed five times while I was doing it.”

Still, Downs said she thought it was “very cool” that Tufts invited her videos. For a number of colleges, this is the year of the video, what with Yale’s 1-minute YouTube offering, “That’s Why I Chose Yale,” a vox-pop of “High School Musical,” and “Reading Season,” a musical featuring current Tufts students who want to find their favorite applicants admitted ahead of that curve.

“If you’re going ahead of that curve, you need to worry about privacy, “he said. “Maybe there was something really disgusting.”

Coffin remains committed to the traditional essay-writing requirement. “We will never abandon writing,” he said. “No matter what, it’s important to be able to express yourself elegantly in writing.”

But, he said, it is good for Tufts to show new-media savvy as well. “Kids who are 17 and 18 are very facile with new media,” he said. “And one of the challenges for colleges right now is to stay ahead of that curve.”

To his surprise, about 60 percent of the videos are from women, and two-thirds are from financial-aid applicants, easing concern that the video option might help the already-advantaged affluent applicants.

Coffin said he never worried about YouTube piracy issues. “These kids blog, they tweet, they don’t seem to worry much about privacy,” he said. “Maybe I was naive, but it didn’t occur to me that these videos would be so public, and so followed.”

While the application allowed students to put their videos on any easily accessible Web site, he said almost everybody used YouTube. Having seen the popularity of the videos — and heard from current Tufts students who want their favorite applicants admitted — Coffin now plans to put the best ones into a “Tufts Idol” contest once admissions season is over.

“So much of what we do in admissions is opaque, and that contributes to all the frenziness,” he said. “This is something that’s completely transparent.”

We have computers
You’re probably Course 6

Tufts applicant’s ‘math dancing’ clip is a hit online

Tufts , from Page 1

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Interphase 2010

Call for Instructors, Resident Facilitators, and Office Assistants

The Office of Minority Education seeks applicants for summer employment in MIT Interphase 2010 – an intensive academic and transition pre-freshmen program. During the summer prior to MIT enrollment, approximately 70 incoming students spend 7 weeks (June 27th – August 18th) at MIT and undertake a curriculum of Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, and Writing, hone their study skills, and participate in a myriad of co-curricular activities.

Available positions are: Interphase Instructors, Interphase Resident Office Assistants, Interphase Resident Facilitators.

For position descriptions, additional details, and to apply, please visit the website: http://web.mit.edu/ome. You must also submit an unofficial copy of your transcript to the Office of Minority Education, Room 4-113, by Wednesday, March 3rd, 2010 at noon. MIT’s underserved students are especially encouraged to apply.

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Lobby 10 cameras are two of many installed at MIT

Cameras, from Page 1

the cameras and speculated that they were put there to watch the MLK exhibit.

The cameras were successful in deterring vandalism this year, Weiner said. She noted that slums exhibit was missing "some pizza boxes and empty soda bottles," though this may have been innocent.

"I hope this isn't an opportunity for Campus Police to keep cameras up in Lobby 10 forever," Weiner said.

Last year, a display about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict was removed in its entirety, and a cardboard cutout of Abraham Lincoln was replaced with a cardboard cutout of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin.

The exhibit was also vandalized multiple times in 2007, as well as in prior years.

In a Nov. 2007 survey of campus video cameras, Komola told The Tech he thought the lack of policy and accounting for cameras on campus was a real problem. He added that the faculty and administration needed to be approached on these issues, but there were no concrete plans for improving the situation. Since then, repeated casual inquiries directed at the security office have found there has been no progress on such a policy.

In the survey, The Tech reported that the Department of Chemistry maintained a comprehensive array of 30 cameras throughout Building 18, as well as a handful of cameras in departmental space in Buildings 4 and 18, and also that the Department of Mathematics maintained four cameras within Building 2.

Got a thing for John McPhee, Susan Orlean and Katherine Boo?

The Tech is looking for feature writers to work on some special reporting projects. If you are deeply curious and like telling stories, we want you.

Long-form journalism is not dead. Come write for us. Email join@tech.mit.edu.
Adrianna Tam '11 of Syncopasian sings "Hua Tian Cuo" by Wang Lee Hom at the Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Students Association banquet on Saturday night. ITASA is an annual conference about Taiwanese-American identity, and was held at MIT this year.

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Sloan will hold sports analytics conference

By Russell Spivak
SPORTS EDITOR

MIT is known for many things—engineering, sciences, technology, having incredibly talented writers—but not particularly sports. Barraging our recent, unprecedented success in basketball and the success we’ve had in less mainstream sports such as pistol, we’re still known as the land of numbers and more numbers.

The Sloan School of Management plans to change—or at least tweak—that perception.

Sloan will hold its fourth annual sports analytics conference on Saturday, March 6. Headliners include Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, Bill Simmons, the famed Sports Guy from ESPN.com’s Page 2; Michael Lewis, author of The Blindside and Moneyball; Brian Burke, the General Manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs; Rich-ard Goodhart, president of the Boston Celtics; Buck Showalter, former MLB Manager and now co-owner of the Texas Rangers; and Stephen A. Morton, former MLB Manager and now analyst for YES Network.

The idea behind the conference is that MIT, a place known for its fascination with mathematics, would “provide a forum to discuss the increasing role of analytics in the sports industry. What better a place to discuss analytics of any industry than the world’s leader in analytics across the board?”

Unfortunately, tickets are sold out for the star-studded conference. For those who are unable to attend, The Tech’s sports staff will be bringing back highlights from the conference. There will also be video clips of presentations and speeches at Sloan’s website.


Track and field competes at New England Championship

Men’s team captures first championship since 2003; Morton sets MIT records

By Greg Mckeever
JAHAN SHARIF

Behind five event wins, the MIT men’s track and field team captured the NCAA New England Division III Indoor Championship for the first time in program history, the first since 2003. Stephen A. Morton ’10 had an outstanding overall day, taking home three individual event titles while setting a pair of Institute records, to help the Engineers dethrone defending New England Champion, Williams College. Tech earned 132.5 points to outlast the Ephs, who finished with 103 points. Gregory D. Tao ’10 and the distance medley relay team were also triumphant for New England champs.

Morton had a pair of record-breaking efforts in the long jump and triple jump. His 49.4-25 foot effort in the triple jump established a new MIT record while also besting the meet record in that event, set in 2009. That jump earns Morton an automatic qualification to the upcoming NCAA National Championship and a place on the honor roll in the country. In the long jump, Morton also established a new program standard with his jump of 23.9-00 feet. The distance was also good enough to automatically qualify for the National meet. Morton now holds all four MIT records in the long jump and triple jump, both indoor and outdoor. The four-time All-American also placed first in the 200m, with a time of 22.38 seconds and finished fifth in the 55-meter dash (6.59 seconds).

Tao led a dominant showing for Tech in the pole vault, as three Engineers finished in the top seven earning a total of 17 points. Tao cleared 15-9.25 feet to claim his second straight New England Championship. Nathan Peterson finished in a tie for third with his 15-3.00 foot effort and Cyrus Valetadin ’11 (14-11.00) took home seventh place.

Both Tao and Peterson achieved the NCAA provisio-nal qualifying mark.

The distance medley relay squad of Richard J. Prevost ’11, Patrick K. Marx ’13, Dhwit H. Zewdie ’13 and Kyle J. Harmon ’13 edged the quartet from Amherst College by just over eight-tenths of a second, finishing first in 8:21.06. Marx also set a freshman record in the 800m, placing fourth with a time of 1:22.88.

Prevost and William S. Phillips ’10 picked up important points at 1000 meters, as Prevost finished just four-tenths of a second off the second-place time (2:31.10). Phillips’s time of 2:34.06 was good for sixth. Hemagist Arumagom ’10 (8:44.03) in the 3000m and Paul D. Weile ’11 (15:22.85) at 5000m each captured fourth-place showings.

In other field events, James R. Olenik ’09 continued to impress, finishing second with a toss of 48.8-23 feet. Three Engineers finished in the points in the weight throw, led by Kenneth B. Cooper ’13 in third with a distance of 53-3.00 feet. Chineum U. Umuchi ’12 and Jeffrey M. Andru ’12 were both pulled with a 53-1.75 foot throw while Anthony D. McDonald ’10 took eighth place.

MST will still be in action next weekend at the NCAA Indoor Championships, hosted by Boston University.

No. 3 women finish second to Williams

By Greg Mckeever

Competing without a pair of All-Americans, the No. 3 ranked MIT women’s track and field team was still able to have a solid showing at the NCAA New England Divi-sion III Championship, hosted by Stonehill College last weekend.

Portia M. Jones ’12, Jamie L. Simmons ’12 and Hazel L. Bri-ner ’11 captured individual New England titles, as Tech’s No. 9 team points were good for second behind Williams College, which finished first.

Jones earned a team-high 30 points for the Cardinals and Greyhounds. She had a dominating long jump effort in the triple jump. Her 49-4.25 foot leap was the best in the nation. In the long jump, Jones finished as the runner-up overall, taking home eight points.

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