GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!

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The Tech

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WEATHER, p. 2

TUE: 59°F | 48°F
Showers, wind

WED: 58°F | 49°F
Showers

THU: 64°F | 49°F
Partly cloudy

FAST lights up Tech Page 12

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

MIT seen from Boston (left to right): *LightBridge, SKY Event, Liquid Archive,* and *Light Drift* were installed along the Charles River for the MIT150 FAST Light festival last weekend. For more photos, see p. 12.

New UA VP appointed

Miramonti, Wynter kick off new terms

By Stan Gill
STAFF REPORTER

Last night, the Undergraduate Association Senate swore in President Allan E. Miramonti '13 and confirmed vice presidential appointee TyShaun Wynter '13. Wynter was one of seven students that applied for the position following the resignation of former Vice President-Elect Alec C. Lai '13. Wynter is currently New House President, and has not had any previous experience with the UA.

The response to Wynter's appointment is generally positive among students.

"[Miramonti and Wynter] are in touch with different parts of campus," Chelsi E. Green '13 said. "They represent a greater portion of campus than previously."

"TyShaun is a lot more approachable [than Miramonti]" Chelsie W. Librun '13 said, "When [Wynter] has a job, he puts the fullest into that job."

Miramonti sent out an email to undergrads asking for applicants to the position after Lai resigned last month. He received seven applications and conducted four interviews.

"I was looking for someone who was a fast learner, could think critically, was a good manager, and, of course, exhibited general competency," Miramonti said. "I think TyShaun presented himself well, was organized, and had those qualities."

Looking ahead to the new term, Miramonti is advocating for a "data-driven"

UA VP, Page 18

Dorms to see renovations this summer

Next House, New House, Random Hall, and Bexley Hall will be closed this summer for renovations, according to the MIT Department of Housing. Scheduled major projects include a new fire alarm and sprinkler system in New House and a new front desk for Next House.

Director of Housing Dennis Collins said the fire alarm system will be more sensitive in order to comply with regulations. The fire alarm system is the same as that which was recently installed in MacGregor and McCormick. Every room will have an installed smoke detector.

The installation of the new system may require more time than the summer can give. Collins said installation may not finish until sometime during

Renovations, Page 17

Joichi Ito set to lead Media Lab

Tech *chats with MIT's freshest face*

By Robert McQueen
NEWS EDITOR

Joichi "Joi" Ito, who was recently named the new director of the Media Lab, took the time to talk with *The Tech* about his ideas and perspective on the future of the Media Lab. Despite not having a college degree, Joi has made a name for himself in the technological and entrepreneurial world. Joi is currently a general partner of Neoteny Labs and chairman of Creative Commons, a nonprofit organization dedicated to facilitating the sharing of intellectual property. Yesterday, Joi announced that he will be helping to launch LinkedIn Japan, a job that he describes in his blog as the "last 'real job' before I transition over completely to the Media Lab role."

TT: MIT has a lot of resources. Not just the Media Lab, but also the School of Science and the School of Engineering; there's a lot of research going on. What research is there that might enable you to do something that you haven't done before and that you're really excited about?

JI: I think the important thing about the Media Lab is that not only are we encouraging people to really think, we're not trying to limit anything. In a funny way, I don't think there's any part of MIT that is off-limits or uninteresting ... I think that FAST was a really great example of the collaboration between the Media Lab and architecture school. I think working with other departments is a really important part of what we

Joi Ito, Page 19

IN SHORT

Students looking to volunteer for Commencement may register online at *http://mit150.mit.edu/commencement/volunteer*. Undergraduates are encouraged to register by Friday.

The deadline for graduate housing applications for the fall semester is tomorrow. Students can access the housing allocation page at *http://web.mit.edu/housinglottery/grad/*.

Biology Professor David P. Bartel was elected to the National Academy of Sciences last Tuesday. Bartel is a member of the Whitehead Insitute for Biomedical Research. Ten MIT alumni were also elected to the NAS this year.

Send news information and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.

Professor's presidency criticized

Former MechE head faces student suicides at Korean univ.

By Derek Chang and Clara Park
STAFF REPORTERS

Students and faculty at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) have become concerned over a recent spate of suicides at the university. Since January, four students and a professor have killed themselves, with the most recent student suicide occurring on April 7. Criticism has mounted against President Nam P. Suh '59 — an MIT professor emeritus — who has been accused of contributing to the suicides by increasing academic competition through his policies. Nine student suicides have occurred since the beginning of Suh's presidency.

Suh, who was first elected President of KAIST in 2006, has been an MIT faculty member since 1970. He was head

KAIST suicides, Page 17

Global Challenge added to IDEAS

New service competition may become regular IDEAS feature

By Evan Moore
STAFF REPORTER

Last Friday, MIT announced the winners of its annual IDEAS (Innovation, Development, Enterprise, Action, and Service) Competition and Global Challenge. Over forty teams, consisting of everyone from undergraduates to non-MIT affiliates, competed for up to $150,000 in awards.

In addition to main awards, which awarded teams $5,000, $7,500, or $10,000, teams were also vying to win the new Global Challenge or one of five Community Choice awards. The Global Challenge featured judges from around the world, while Community Choice awards were

IDEAS, Page 21

UA MUST TURN EYES INWARD

Former Senate Speaker makes a call for internal UA reform.
OPINION, p. 4

THE GOP'S ABORTION PLAN

While Dems have been busy with budgets, we lose rights to choose. **p. 5**

DON'T GET MAD. GET EVEN.

What to do when confronted with awkwardness. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 10**

PLAYING WITH FIRE

An elite group of MIT students have what it takes to make fire into a performance art.
CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9

SOURCE CODE IS WORTH A WATCH

Even though it really has nothing to do with coding, it's still a good flick. **ARTS, p. 14**

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Boehner visits NY to bolster flagging house candidate

DEPEW, N.Y. — This village of strip malls, car dealerships and working-class neighborhoods is an unlikely stage for a battle between the two major parties in Washington.

But the national political stakes became clear when the House speaker, John A. Boehner, arrived Monday for a visit. Boehner came to provide a spark to the struggling campaign of Jane L. Corwin, the Republican running for a vacant House seat representing New York's 26th Congressional District, in the western part of the state.

A special election scheduled for May 24 is to determine who will fill the seat left by Rep. Christopher Lee. Lee resigned in February after he emailed a shirtless photo of himself to a woman that appeared on the Web.

While the district is dominated by Republican voters, Corwin, a state lawmaker, has seen her lead diminish in recent weeks, as the Democratic candidate, Kathy Hochul, has repeatedly warned that older residents, a key voting group, would be hurt by a deficit-cutting plan adopted by House Republicans that calls for overhauling Medicare.

The unexpected traction that Hochul is gaining on the issue has prompted national Democrats, who were initially going to skip the race, to jump in and try to frame it as a political test of the Republican agenda in Washington.

—Raymond Hernandez, The New York Times

NATO airstrikes help Libyan rebels gain ground in Misrata

QARYAT AZ ZURAYQ, Libya — Rebel fighters made significant gains Monday against forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi in both the western and eastern areas of the country, in the first faint signs that NATO airstrikes may be starting to strain the government forces.

In the besieged western city of Misrata, hundreds of rebels broke through one of the front lines late on Sunday, and by Monday afternoon were consolidating their position on ground miles to the city's west.

The breakout of what had been nearly static lines came after NATO aircraft spent days striking positions and military equipment held by the Gadhafi forces, weakening them to the point that a ground attack was possible, rebels said.

While not in itself a decisive shift, the swift advance, made with few rebel casualties, carried both signs of rebel optimism and hints of the weakness of at least one front-line loyalist unit.

—C.J. Chivers, The New York Times

Police consider second serial killer in Long Island case

Long Island residents, already grappling with the notion that a serial killer has been killing and dumping bodies in their midst, got more disturbing news Monday: There may be a second serial killer at work.

Since April, law enforcement authorities have been trying to determine if four bodies discovered in the thick, beachfront brush on Jones Beach Island were also the work of the killer believed responsible for the deaths of four prostitutes whose remains were found nearby in December.

But officials in Suffolk County said Monday that the killings involving two of the more recently discovered victims — while unconnected to the first four bodies — "appear to be related to each other." The officials said one of the recently found bodies had been identified as belonging to Jessica Taylor, 20, who had worked as a prostitute in Washington, D.C., and briefly in New York before disappearing in July 2003.

Soon after she was missing, most of her body, absent her head and hands, was discovered by a woman walking her dog in Manorville.

—Joseph Goldstein, The New York Times

Deaths, injuries reported in Yemeni protest march

By Laura Kasinof
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Security forces and government supporters opened fire on protesters in the Yemeni city of Taiz on Monday, witnesses said, while a doctor confirmed that four people were killed and scores injured after almost a month of stalled negotiations over how and when President Ali Abdullah Saleh would leave office.

Protesters said that a large march was headed toward the municipal education offices in the center of the city when it came under fire. A doctor at a field hospital said that 88 others were wounded by gunshots, 13 remaining in critical condition.

At least two other protesters were shot fatally over the weekend in Taiz, in the southwestern highlands, and one in the western port city Hodeidah, local doctors said. More than 130 protesters have been killed since the uprising began, according to Amnesty International.

As the toll for demonstrators has risen, so have fears that they would become violent themselves; Yemen's civilian population is one of the most heavily armed in the world. But during the three months of unrest, they have remained largely peaceful. In a few recent cases, however, protesters reportedly threw incendiary devices at security forces, a sign that at least some have begun resorting to violence when under attack.

YouTube videos posted from Taiz on Monday show stores shuttered along long stretches of the road in the center of the city that turned into a battleground between security forces and protesters. Residents said they heard gunshots starting at 6 a.m. that endured into the afternoon.

Ali al-Mamari, a Taiz resident and a Parliament member who resigned from the ruling party over violence used against protesters, called the situation in Taiz "tragic and dangerous." Al-Mamari said that Republican Guards — the division of the military commanded by Saleh's son Ahmed — were "still chasing young activists in the streets" and "shooting randomly at houses."

The unrest in Taiz, home to Yemen's largest demonstrations, is emblematic of a larger breakdown in the country as stability decreases the longer the political crisis drags on.

The lack of control of the central state before the political crisis was a major reason that al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemeni affiliate of the international terrorist network, was able to set up a base in the unruly countryside. The current chaos is therefore of particular concern to the U.S.

U.S. officials said last week that a U.S. drone strike in Yemen last Thursday had failed to kill its target, Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S.-born Yemeni cleric who is a popular propagandist for jihadis around the world. Al-Awlaki is believed to be hiding out in the area of the strike, in the restive Shabwa province in Yemen's southeast.

News of the strike was largely drowned out by the political crisis. More than two weeks ago, Saleh said he agreed to a plan for him to step down brokered by Persian Gulf countries. But he and the opposition have bickered over many details, including Saleh's proper title and who from the large opposition coalition would be the signatories.

House leader Boehner outlines demands on debt limit fight

By Carl Hulse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John A. Boehner said Monday that Republicans would insist on trillions of dollars in federal spending cuts in exchange for their support of an increase in the federal debt limit sought by the Obama administration to prevent a government default later this year.

In his most specific statement to date on what Republicans will demand in the debt ceiling fight, Boehner told the Economic Club of New York that the level of spending reductions should exceed the amount of the increase in borrowing power.

"Without significant spending cuts and changes to the way we spend the American people's money, there will be no debt limit increase," Boehner told members of New York's business and finance community. "And cuts should be greater than the accompanying increase in debt authority the president is given."

Boehner said those cuts should be in the trillions of dollars, not billions.

In the speech, delivered ahead of a second round of debt limit negotiations with the White House and Senate Democrats on Tuesday, Boehner did not provide a time frame for when the spending reductions would have to be imposed.

His address came after a leading Senate Democrat, Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York, accused Boehner of "playing with fire" by holding the debt limit increase hostage to a push for spending cuts and budget restrictions.

"The idea of refusing to raise the debt ceiling should be taken off the table," Schumer said in a conference call with reporters before the speech.

Schumer also said that he believed the debt limit increase should be approved by mid-July to reassure nervous credit markets, although the administration has said it can push the deadline into early August.

In his remarks, the speaker expressed strong resistance to the effort by some Senate Democrats and President Barack Obama for an alternative to enacting specific spending cuts as the price for increasing the debt limit: "triggers" that prompt automatic spending reductions and perhaps tax increases if Congress and the White House do not meet targets for lowering the deficit in coming years. That idea has emerged as providing the potential for compromise over the debt increase.

Boehner said the reductions should be "actual cuts and program reforms, not broad deficit or debt targets that punt the tough questions to the future. And with the exception of tax hikes — which will destroy jobs — everything is on the table."

WEATHER

Record flooding continues

By Austin DiOrio
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

With the warming weather, melting snow has combined with spring rain to raise river levels well beyond flood stage throughout the nation. The hardest-hit areas lie along the Mississippi River from Illinois to Louisiana. In Memphis, the Mississippi has risen to 47.8 feet — just shy of the 48.7 feet record set in 1937.

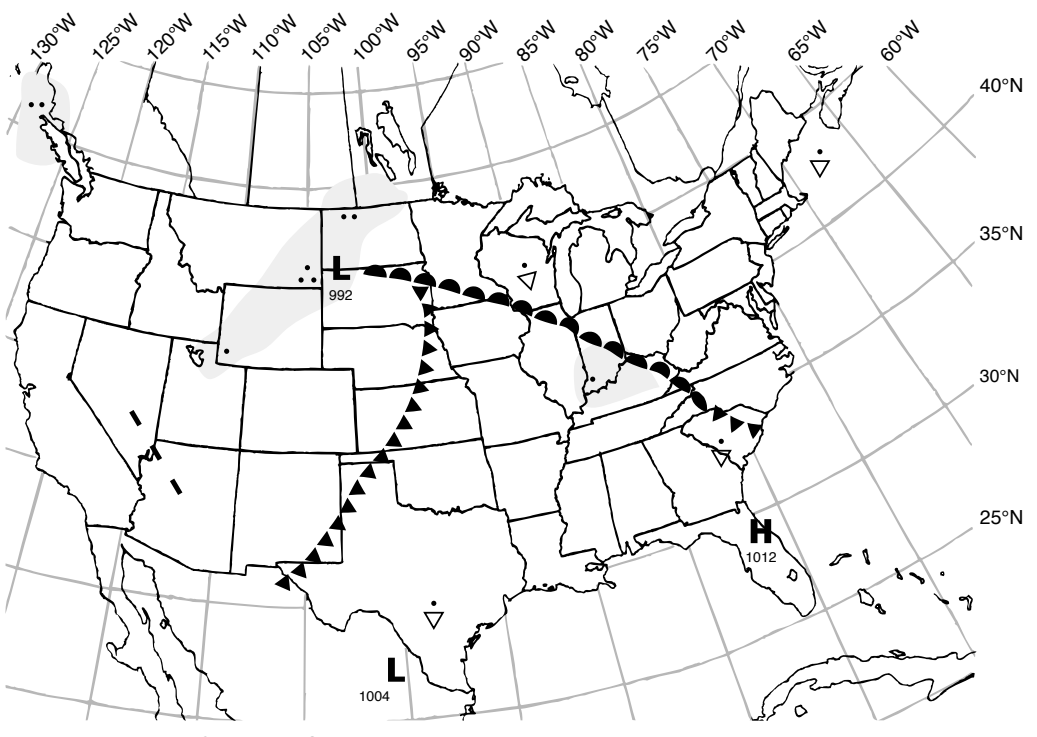
In all, 22 locations across eight states have seen record flood levels. Closer to home, Burlington, Vt., has set a record for the water level of Lake Champlain.

Don't expect the Charles to overrun its banks, as Massachusetts has seen a very typical amount of precipitation this past month. Furthermore, no significant precipitation is expected over the next couple of days.

Even though there will be little rain, the weather will be cool, cloudy, and breezy the next few days as a low pressure system churns well offshore New England.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a 25 percent chance of showers. High 58°F (14°C). Winds north at 18–22 mph.
Tonight: Cloudy with an outside chance of showers. Low 48°F (9°C). Still breezy with north winds 10–15 mph.
Tomorrow: Cloudy with a slight chance of showers. High 58°F (14°C). Cool north winds at 15–20 mph. Overnight low of 46°F (8°F).
Thursday: Partly cloudy. High 62°F (17°C). Nighttime low of 48°F (9°C).
Friday: Partly sunny with a high around 65°F. Low near 50°F.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	Showers	✻ ▽	• ▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	✻	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	✻✻	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	⁂	∴	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

Syrian official hopes seven-week protests are near an end

By Anthony Shadid
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAMASCUS, Syria — The Syrian government has gained the upper hand over a seven-week uprising against the rule of President Bashar Assad, a senior official declared Monday, in the clearest sign yet that the leadership believes its crackdown will crush protests that have begun to falter in the face of hundreds of deaths and mass arrests.

The remarks by Bouthaina Shaaban, an adviser to Assad who often serves as an official spokeswoman, suggested that a government accustomed to adapting in the face of crises was prepared to weather international condemnation and sanctions. Her confidence came in stark contrast to just two weeks ago, when the government appeared to stagger before the breadth and resilience of protests in dozens of towns and cities.

"I hope we are witnessing the end of the story," she said in an hour-long interview, for which a reporter was allowed in Syria for a few hours. "I think now we've passed the most dangerous moment. I hope so, I think so."

Her comments were a rare window on the thinking of a government that has barred most foreign journalists from Syria since the beginning of the uprising, which has threatened 40 years of rule by the Assad family. While much of the world has viewed the unrest as a popular demand for sweeping change in one of the region's most authoritarian countries, Shaaban cast it as an armed uprising, a characterization the government has relied on to justify a ferocious crackdown.

That crackdown intensified Monday on the outskirts of Damascus and in three other towns and cities, with security forces raiding hundreds of houses and arresting men between the ages of 18 and 45, human rights groups and activists said.

The military has deployed tanks in Baniyas, on the Mediterranean coast; Homs in central Syria, near the Lebanese border; and Tafas, in a restive region in the south, they said.

Bigger Osama bin Laden raid unit braced for fight with Pakistanis

By Eric Schmitt, Thom Shanker, and David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama insisted that the assault force hunting down Osama bin Laden last week be large enough to fight its way out of Pakistan if confronted by hostile local police officers and troops, senior administration and military officials said Monday.

In revealing additional details about planning for the mission, senior officials also said that two teams of specialists were on standby: one to bury bin Laden if he was killed, and a second composed of lawyers, interrogators, and translators in case he was captured alive. That team was set to meet aboard a Navy ship, mostly likely the aircraft carrier *Carl Vinson* in the North Arabian Sea.

Obama's decision to increase the size of the force sent into Pakistan shows that he was willing to risk a military confrontation with a close ally in order to capture or kill the leader of al-Qaida.

Such a fight would have set off an even larger breach with the Pakistanis than has taken place since officials in Islamabad learned that helicopters filled with members of a Navy Seals team had flown undetected into one of their cities, and burst into a compound where bin Laden was hiding.

One senior Obama administration official, pressed on the rules of engagement for one of the riskiest clandestine operations attempted by the CIA and the military's Joint Special Operations Command in many years, said: "Their instructions were to avoid any confrontation if at all possible. But if they had to return fire to get out, they were authorized to do it."

UN agency urges help for migrants in Mediterranean

PARIS — The U.N. refugee agency has urged the crews of ships in the Mediterranean to keep watch for unseaworthy vessels carrying migrants from war-torn Libya after a report that a ship with 600 people on board broke up just off the port of Tripoli on Friday.

Witnesses in Tripoli said the ship was only 100 yards from shore when it broke up, Sybella Wilkes, a spokeswoman for the Geneva-based organization, said Monday.

"It's not clear how many people died or drowned," she said, but 16 bodies — including those of two babies — had been recovered.

Refugees who left on another vessel later Friday said they saw bodies and pieces of a ship floating in the water, said Laura Boldrini, a spokeswoman in Italy for the agency, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Wilkes said there had been a "dramatic increase in the number of boats making this terrible journey," as migrants, many of them from sub-Saharan Africa, tried to flee Libya's turmoil, heading for sanctuary on the Italian island of Lampedusa.

—Alan Cowell and Elisabetta Povoledo, The New York Times

With Mississippi River on rise, Memphis residents told to go

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Mississippi River was approaching levels it has not reached in over 70 years as it rolled through here on Monday, attracting a festive crowd of spectators to its banks but also sending residents from their homes in some parts of the city as the river shoved its tributaries aside to make way.

By Tuesday morning, the river is expected to reach 48 feet, 14 feet above flood stage, said Susan Buchanan of the National Weather Service. It is expected stay at or near that level for several days before receding as the crest moves downriver.

Despite the parade-like atmosphere along the Memphis riverfront, county officials urged residents to take caution, offering the same advice one might give in the presence of a mad dog: Keep your distance until it moves on.

"There is a lot of fascination with the mighty Mississippi, but it's a river in rage right now," Bob Nations, the director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, said at a Monday afternoon briefing. "It's a love-hate relationship we have with it."

Nations emphasized that the real flooding concern was not necessarily with the Mississippi itself but with tributaries like the Wolf and Loosahatchie rivers that feed into it. The levees along the river itself were holding up, officials from the Army Corps of Engineers said on Monday.

But the tributaries and creeks, deluged with backwater flowing from the Mississippi, are escaping their banks in suburbs and mobile home parks in Memphis and surrounding Shelby County.

—Judith Tackett and Campbell Robertson, The New York Times

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OPINION OPINION OPINION

Chipping away at fundamental rights

Republicans must stop passing legislation that restricts access to abortion

By Michael Veldman
STAFF COLUMNIST

In the past few months, an epidemic of anti-abortion legislation has swept over our country. The recent passage of House Resolution 3, or the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Bill, is but one example among almost a thousand measures working their way through state legislatures. While the bill is vanishingly unlikely to pass the Democrat-controlled Senate, its language reflects frightening sentiments on the part of House Republicans (and the 16 Democrats who joined them). One of the most shocking effects of the bill's becoming law would be necessary "rape audits," conducted by the IRS, to determine if persons who receive federal funding for abortion in case of rape were lying about being raped. As Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) put it, "if you get raped, you better keep a receipt."

Although all of these measures are extreme by nature, a few of them border on the truly psychopathic. Consider Georgia State Rep. Bobby Franklin (R-Marietta), who recently proposed a bill that would not only criminalize induced abortion, but would make all those who suffer miscarriages guilty of "prenatal murder" until proven innocent. The penalty for those found guilty: capital punishment or life in prison. Further, a proposed South Dakota law, which many critics say invites extremists to murder abortion providers, expands the definition of "justifiable homicide" to include those perpetrated in the defense of an "unborn child."

Some of the other measures, several of which have already passed, include:

• The prohibition of federal funds from going to Planned Parenthood in Indiana. While the national attempt to defund Planned Parenthood may have failed, Republican Governor Mitch Daniels has pledged to sign a bill that will cut $3 million in funding from the organization (even though federal funding for abortion services was already banned per the Hyde Amendment).

• A Texas bill, to be signed by Gov. Rick Perry, that would require abortion-seekers to have an ultrasound performed so they could see images of the fetus and listen to its heartbeat or, the patient having declined that, would have to be lectured by their doctors on fetal development.

• A law shutting down 17 of Virginia's 21 abortion clinics.

• An expansion of the abortion waiting period in South Dakota from 24 to 72 hours.

• An Ohio bill that would ban abortion once the fetus's heartbeat could be detected, which can occur as early as 6 weeks into pregnancy.

Most, if not all, of these measures are in direct opposition to the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which prohibited restrictions on abortion before fetal viability. However, many pro-abortion activists are wary of bringing a case to the courts, fearing the conservative-leaning Supreme Court would issue a devastating anti-abortion decision. In the meantime, anti-abortion leaders are content with the way things are currently going. As Rev. Pat Mahoney of the Christian Defense Coalition put it, "We don't have to see a *Roe v. Wade* overturned in the Supreme Court to end it. … We want to. But if we chip away and chip away, we'll find out that Roe really has no impact. And that's what we are doing."

Dems are frantically trying to prove their monetary mettle while anti-abortion legislation slips under the radar.

And because Americans place abortion lower in importance than a slew of other issues, Republicans are getting away with taking away the bodily autonomy of every person with a uterus while the rest of the country is distracted with job creation, the economy, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the public debt, etc. In a most clever ruse, Republicans have declared the Obama administration (and Democrats generally) impotent when it comes to dealing with fiscal policy, war, and terrorism, then offered ridiculous budget proposals like Rep. Paul Ryan's catastrophe and proposed inconsequential cuts to programs like Planned Parenthood and National Public Radio, posing them as tough, common-sense solutions to the budget crisis. In the meantime, Democrats are frantically trying to prove their monetary mettle while anti-abortion legislation slips under public radar.

What is more important, Republicans, the de facto abolition of a legally protected and all-too-necessary medical procedure at the expense of the well-being of uterus owners (especially and notably those with low income), or actually facing the impending crises of our time? Republicans claim to represent the true interests of the American people, yet they prefer to trifle in the affairs of people whose experiences are typically nothing like their own (those of rich, older, white men who will never become pregnant) rather than deal with the issues that most Americans rank highest on their list of priorities.

Toss the bums out

Improving K-12 education begins with better teacher selection

By Keith Yost
STAFF COLUMNIST

If there is one conclusion to be drawn from half a century of studying the American educational system, it is this: throwing more money at the problem will not solve anything. According to the Department of Education, between 1960 and 2000, the pupil-teacher ratio fell from 25.8 to 16.0, the percent of teachers with masters degrees or higher went from 23.5 to 56.2, and the real amount spent per pupil went from $2,235 to $7,591 in 2000 dollars. What did we get for all that money? Reading and math achievement stayed the same, while science results actually fell. In 2003, our spending per pupil was five times that of Poland, but we actually achieved *worse* results on the international PISA tests.

All of the ways we have thought of to spend more on education show little promise. Longer school days, longer school years, smaller class sizes, more intensive pre-kindergarten programs, higher teacher salaries, and more teacher training have shown few positive results when studied by economists.

Neoliberals such as myself are convinced (partly out of empirical evidence, partly out of faith in competition) that school vouchers and other privatization efforts are the ultimate answer. But the question is moot — for reasons of political economy, a nationwide school voucher program is simply not in the cards, and even if it were, the public school system would likely remain the educator of the majority of our children for the foreseeable future.

And so, if appreciable gains are to be made in education, the answer is going to have to come in the form of improvements to our public school system. If more resources don't help, then what can be done with our inefficient schools?

The answer is actually pretty simple: fire bad teachers.

Improving teacher quality by a standard deviation results in a tenth to a fifth of a standard deviation improvement in student performance (see Rivkin, Hanushek, and Kain's 2005 paper on the Texas school system; Rockoff's 2004 paper on the Los Angeles school system; or Aaronson, Barrow, and Sander's 2007 paper on the Chicago school system). This is not a small effect; U.S. students are roughly half a standard deviation from the lead in international competitions.

If more resources don't help, then what can be done with our inefficient schools?

Let's put it another way: at a given pay level, there is a pool of people in this country willing to work as K-12 teachers. Currently, our school system selects which of these people teach in a near-random manner, hiring them on the basis of qualifications that offer hardly any predictive power for teacher performance. If hiring practices were improved such that only the top third of the labor pool was hired, our student test scores would go up by roughly 1.1 standard deviations. In the latest PISA tests, the U.S. came in 13th, 15th, and 22nd out of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries in reading, sciences, and math respectively. If we were using the top third of our teachers, those rankings would have been sixth, ninth, and 12th. Teacher hiring and firing practices are the silver bullet that could end our nation's below-average academic performance, at minimal cost to the taxpayer.

There are two important questions in developing a policy of improving teacher quality.

The first question is whether or not high-quality teachers can be easily identified — knowing that teacher quality matters doesn't do much good if it takes 20 years of data before the wheat can be separated from the chaff. Fortunately, the answer is yes, bad teachers can be quickly identified (see Goldhaber and Hansen, 2010). Just two years of student test results offer a powerful data set for distinguishing good from bad teachers, making it possible for school districts to remove bad teachers before they're given tenure and its associated union protections.

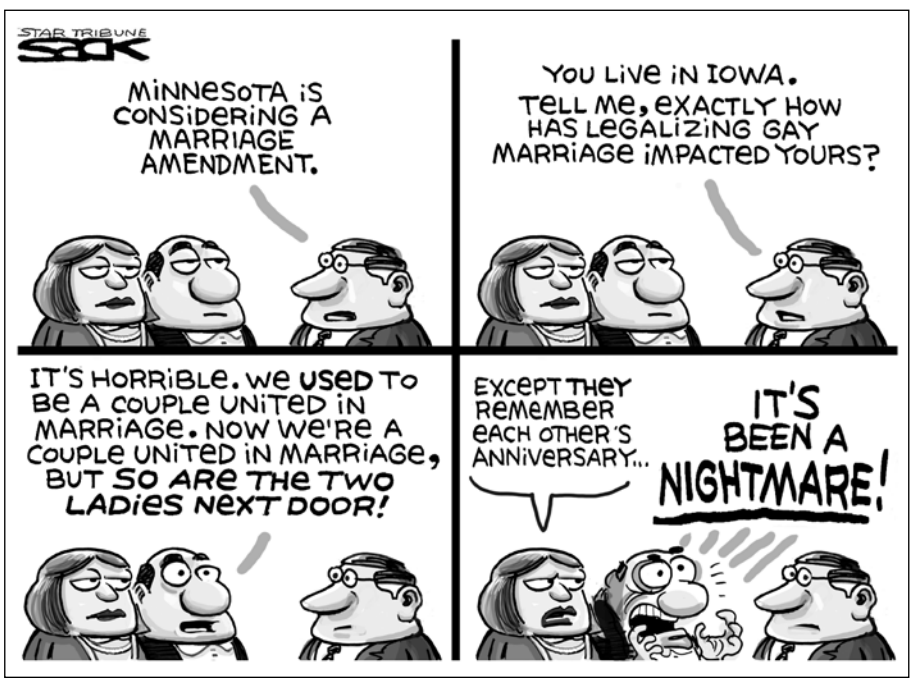
The second question is how aggressively teacher quality can be pushed upward. If our children were taught by only the top 2 percent of our teacher pool, we'd find our educational system sharing the podium with the very best countries in the world. But we are unlikely to find 49 people willing to work as teachers for every teacher we currently have, even in a down economy such as this.

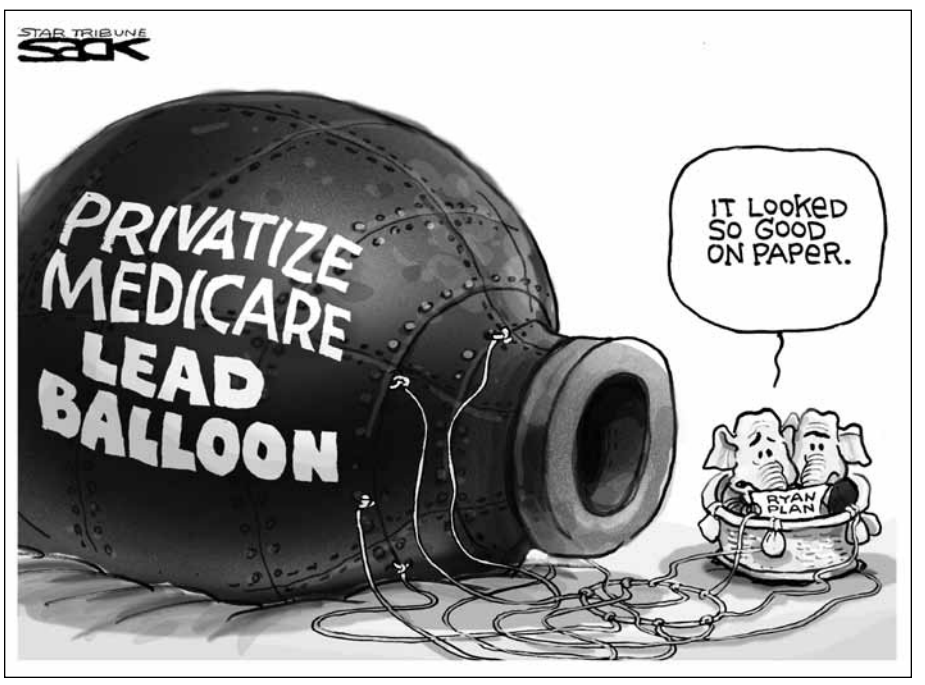
However, even if the dream of an ultra-elite teacher corps is out of reach, the more modest goal of ending American sub-performance is eminently achievable. Not only do we have a large pool of teachers to select from, but even small changes in policy could greatly increase the number of available teachers. The first step is to throw away our teacher certification programs and insistence on graduate-level training: certified teachers perform no better than their uncertified peers (Goldhaber and Brewer, 2000), and teachers with masters degrees — despite their significant salary premium — offer only vanishingly small improvements (Rice 2003 is a good metastudy). By removing the artificial barriers to entry that exist in the teaching profession, we would find ourselves with a much, much larger pool of people to choose from without any degradation of the pool's quality. It is not unreasonable to think that we could pass over two-thirds of the teaching labor pool and still fill all of the positions that need filling.

The answer is actually pretty simple: fire bad teachers.

After taking these free gains, we could go even further. Increases in teacher pay or an increase in class sizes could yield significant benefits when paired with proper teacher selection. Appropriately targeted merit pay could expand the labor pool while improving its quality, allowing school districts to be more choosy. And while increases in class sizes are not without cost (a doubling of today's class sizes would result in roughly a tenth of a standard deviation decrease in test scores), having fewer teaching spots to fill would allow principals to be even more selective. Good teacher selection can form the foundation on which other education policies can be built, leading to complementary effects.

Seemingly all politicians promise the best of the best for our educational system. Few are willing to admit that getting the best starts with removing the worst. Today is the time to begin that process, by firing our absolute worst and refusing tenure to those who don't make the cut.



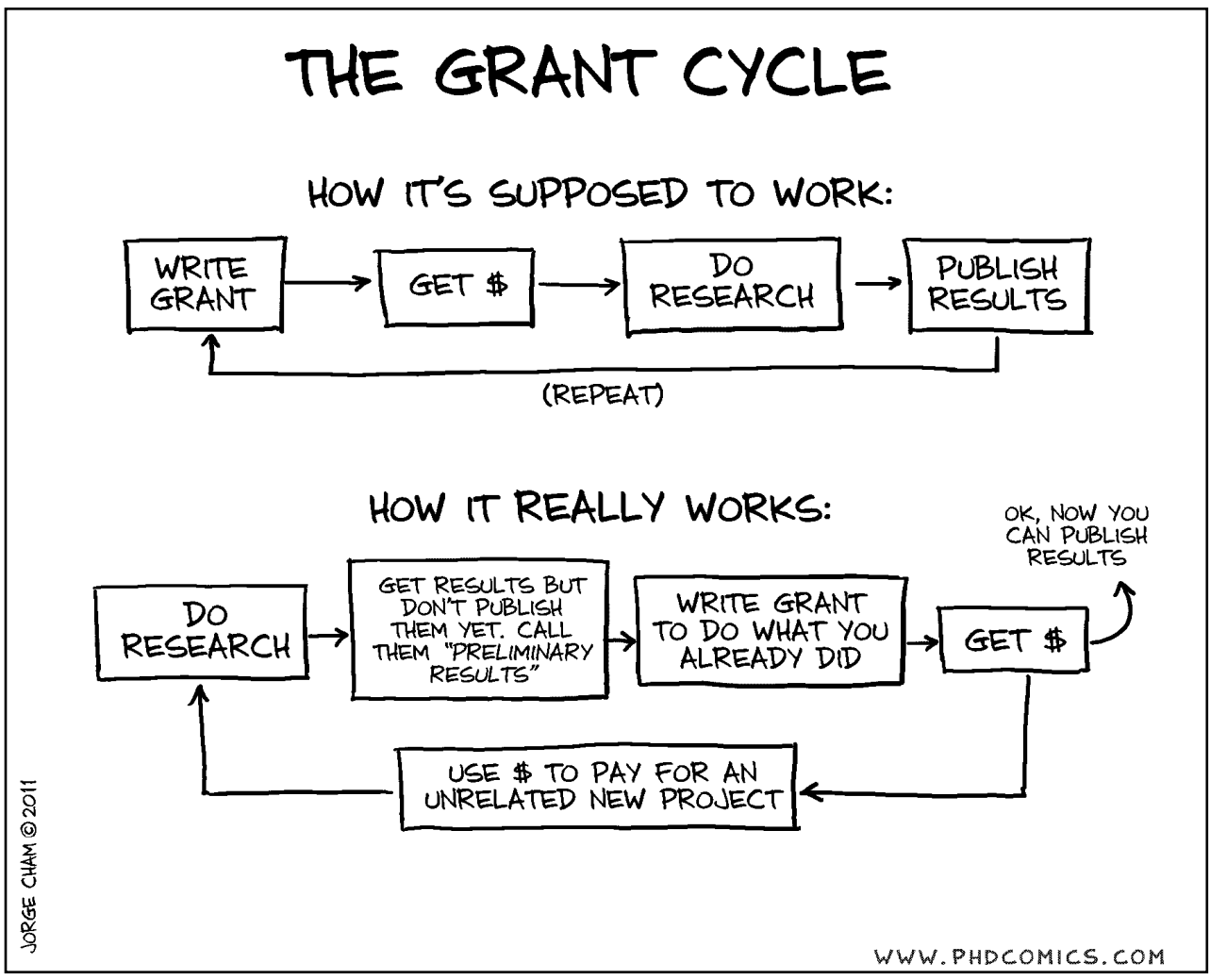


FUNFUNFUNF

PHD

PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER

by Jorge Cham

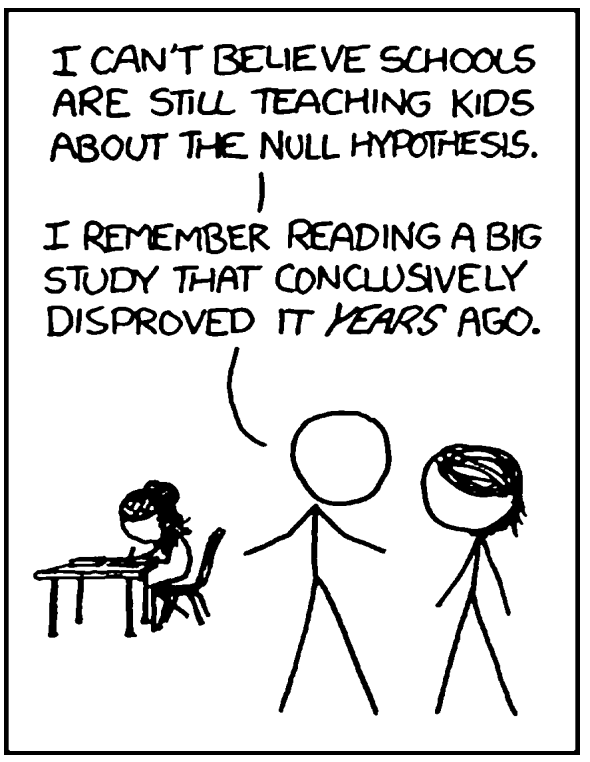


xkcd

A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

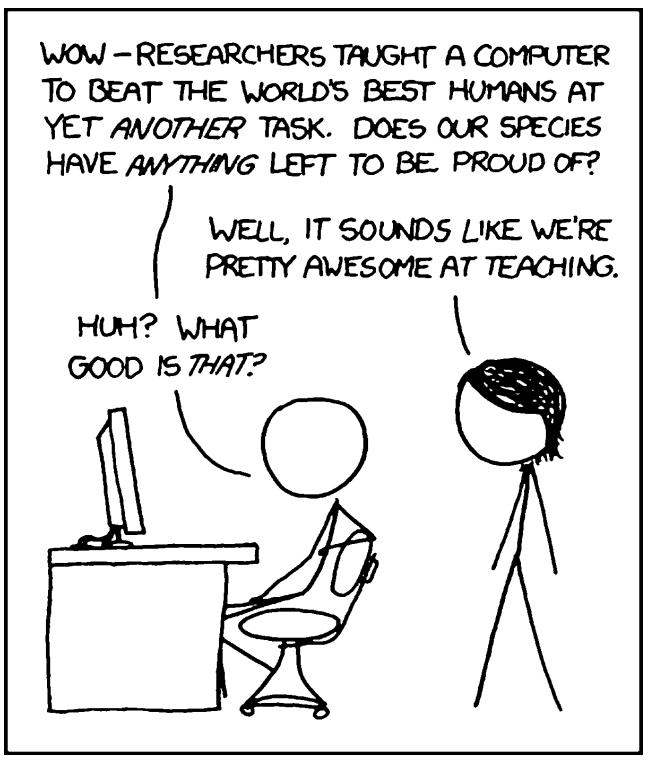
by Randall Munroe

Null Hypothesis



Hell, my eighth grade science class managed to conclusively reject it just based on a classroom experiment. It's pretty sad to hear about million-dollar research teams who can't even manage that.

Progeny



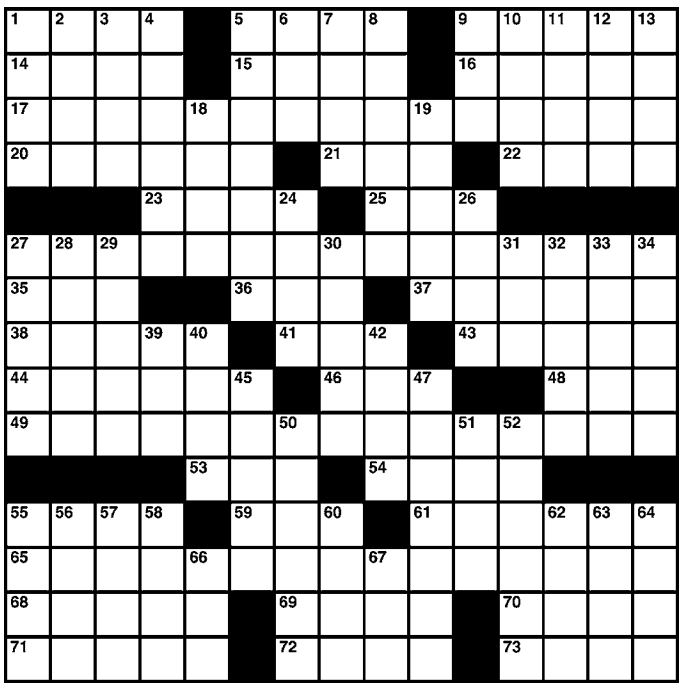
I tell my children "it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game." I'm trying to take the edge off their competitive drive to ensure that I can always beat them.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 23

ACROSS
1 Gillette's __ II razor
5 Young reporters
9 Half-and-half half
14 __ sapiens
15 European capital
16 Speed
17 Doe
20 Get loose for the game
21 French monarch
22 Long, long time
23 Matured
25 Maker of ergonomic kitchenware
27 Do
35 Suffix with ranch
36 Coastal bird
37 Curb, as spending
38 Dentist's directive
41 Puppy's bite
43 Nearly boil
44 Relating to the body's main blood line
46 Laddie's negative
48 Indians, on scoreboards
49 Dough
53 Sushi fish
54 Final Four initials
55 __ acetate: banana oil
59 Hitter's stat
61 Duke Ellington's "Take the __"
65 D'oh
68 Big name in kitchen foil
69 Sculptor's subject
70 Altar exchanges
71 Animal
72 She-bears, in Seville
73 Promgoer's concern, maybe

DOWN
1 Melting period
2 Gossipy Barrett
3 Passionate deity
4 Hustler
5 Vie
6 Military morale-boosting gp.
7 Indistinct image
8 "Already?"
9 *Evita* narrator
10 Steakhouse request
11 Canadian gas sign
12 Oodles
13 Clothing store section
18 Bygone Serbian auto
19 *Finding Nemo* studio
24 Laura of *Jurassic Park*
26 Plural ending for neur-
27 Meal on a skewer
28 1 + 1 = 3, for example
29 "__ a Good Man, Charlie Brown"
30 How contracts are usually signed
31 Pres., vis-à-vis the armed forces
32 Has __ up one's sleeve
33 City in which de Gaulle was born
34 Rear-__: hit from behind
39 Grand Central, e.g.: Abbr.
40 Sweep under the rug
42 Tylenol target
45 "Good buddies"
47 Sheathes
50 White 66-Down, e.g.
51 Cat, in Cancún
52 Land chronicled by C.S. Lewis
55 One giving Starbuck orders?
56 Double agent
57 Pantomimed disco song title
58 Many August babies
60 Don of talk radio
62 Outlet letters
63 Golfer's choice
64 AMEX rival
66 Pied Piper follower
67 BlackBerry or Sidekick, briefly



FUNFUNFUNF

CAMPUS LIFE

BROUHAHA RHYTHM

From the Cradle of Liberty to the City of Angels

This outgoing senior is westward bound

By Michael T. Lin
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Has it been four years already? Good grief. It seems like just yesterday I was watching *Looney Tunes* and eating Cocoa Pebbles straight out of the box. I think it's a sign I'm not quite ready to grow up — because that's *exactly* what I was doing yesterday. I mean, sure, I've been living on my own for a good portion of the past four years, but in a relatively structured environment, with plenty of external financial support (thanks, Mom and Dad). To say that college is a better approximation of real life than high school would be like saying a defective toy boat is superior to a working one as an approximation of the *RMS Titanic*. Yes, it's technically more accurate, but there really isn't a substitute for the genuine article.

The passage of time being what it is — that is, mostly forward — this fall will find me relocating to Los Angeles. I've already stopped adding twenty dollars at a time to my Charlie Card, which is as real a sign of change as it gets. Truth be told, I've never been to the West Coast before, and although I'm not expecting a mystical land of red carpets and vaguely reasonable street layouts ... well, a guy can hope, can't he?

> **I'll miss that small sheepish feeling I get when I tell people I go to MIT and they react more excitedly than expected.**

Honestly, I'm equal parts terrified, excited, and sad to be leaving Boston for the big city. I've lived in East Coast suburbs almost all of my life, and living in the Boston-Cambridge metropolitan area has been an incredible experience. Even if Boston doesn't feel massively urbanized, the breadth of experiences to be had here has really — to use a college application cliché — "expanded my horizons." If nothing else, the place is big enough and influential enough to attract big-name movie stars (if only for the occasional visit) and more than one Starbucks, a feat the town I grew up in has yet to manage. Yet now I face the next step up, a sprawling metropolis where all of the exercising I did getting lost in Boston will quickly go to waste, and the hub of American studio cinema. It's going to feel weird living someplace where I can't meaningfully call myself a "movie geek." At least I should learn a lot about film culture. Either I'll get to see a lot of movie stars, or I'll become one of those people who constantly has to deflect the assumption that I see a lot of movie stars.

If nothing else, the weather in Los Angeles should be a nice change of pace. No more of that annoying drizzle falling even as I'm writing, too heavy to ignore yet too light to swim in. No more 30-degree temperature swings from one day to the next. No more freak snowfall in April. Nope, from here on out, it's blazing sunshine and smog thick enough to affect your gas mileage — if the secondhand accounts I've heard are to be believed, at any rate. I don't know what I'm going to do with my accumulated winter wear. Maybe I could knit it all together and make a tea cozy for the Mrs. Potts parade float at Disneyland.

Everything about Los Angeles aside, though, I really do feel a bit sad to be leaving MIT. I'm worried I won't be able to find nerds at every turn the way I do here, my designs on attending Comic-Con notwithstanding. I'll miss that small, sheepish feeling I get when I tell people I go to MIT and they react more excitedly than I expected. I'm going to miss knowing for certain that I'm surrounded by kindred spirits. After all, that's the reason I came here in the first place. I can only hope I'll find a similar sense of comfort where I'm going. I suppose I'll have to see for myself. So long, people of MIT. It's been great. I'll be back someday ... right?

CAMPUS LIFE

TALK NERDY TO ME

The lost and found tale of online identity

Reinventing my online identity

By Christine Yu
STAFF COLUMNIST

At the start of the semester, I blogged an image of an ad saying "penicillin cures gonorrhea in 4 hours" with the added quote, "'And, if you happen to have a really bad hookup, you might need this organic compound the next day.' —5.12 professor on reasons why you should study organic chemistry." I knew that many of the people who read my personal blog would appreciate the dorky humor behind the joke. I didn't expect it to fuel online trolls into releasing my work address, in addition to an incorrect work address for my dad. I also didn't expect these trolls to misconstrue the quote as my discussing my personal life, let alone as an admission that I've contracted gonorrhea. I've never contracted gonorrhea — or any STIs, for that matter — but as the picture states, it is curable!

> **If the worst they could do was slander other people they've never even met on an anonymous online forum, then they clearly weren't worth losing my online identity over.**

I don't understand why these trolls felt the desire to release my work address. Or why they continue to go after me, seeking to make anything I blog a very "personal" statement. I haven't publicly commented on my relationship status in over a year, and as I've stated before, I have no desire to ever make any direct comments about my private life.

This attack horrified me more so than the basic name-calling that I'm used to from the Internet. I felt as if my online identity had been savagely intruded upon. I've always gone through the extra measures to suppress my personal information, and I can't even begin to fathom why anyone would attempt to leak my father's work address.

My immediate response to this was to take down my blog entries, except for a William Faulkner quote, and then I made all the rest of my social media identities private. Many of my friends disagreed with this decision, but I lost faith in the Internet as a public space.

When this first started, I had just begun work on my thesis, and the week before, I was discussing how I wanted to have an online project of some sort. I've been maintaining a blog since I was 12, so the concept of not having an ongoing public space on the Internet was unfathomable at the time. I wasn't so afraid of the trolls going after me, but I wanted to prevent them from further going after those I cared about. Except they continued even after I removed my blog, going so far to say

that my sister "went to [a college ranked lower than MIT] because she started slutting it up in high school."

It was only then that I realized just how absurd my fears of these online trolls became. If the worst they could do was slander people they've never even met in an anonymous online forum, then they clearly weren't worth losing my online identity over.

These days, I've been reconciling my feelings towards the Internet through a private blog, which I will eventually make public for my thesis. Most of my prior experiences with the Internet have been positive, and ultimately, this experience will turn positive, as it will help me to reclaim and refine my online identity. There are things in my old blog that I regret making public, and without this latest privacy intrusion, I don't know that I would care as much about what I'm currently sharing.

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CLUB CONNECTION

This is not your grandmother's spinning club

Despite lack of flames, spinning club fired up

By Deena Wang
STAFF WRITER

Fire. That bright orange blaze speaks to a nostalgic part of me, reminding me of toasting marshmallows and chilly nights alternating roasting and freezing. Both a danger and a delight, fire can be tamed and turned into a performance art by those brave and skilled enough to wield it — namely, the MIT Spinning Club.

Every Sunday, the MIT Spinning Club holds a Spin Jam from 6–8 p.m. in either Killian Court, Lobby 13, or Lobby 10. In the shade of the vast wings of Building 3, I found the club members in a friendly group, twirling their staffs and spinning poi, chains with a handle on one end and a wick on the other. As I talked to Alexandra M. Westbrook '13, the club president, I was disappointed to learn that open fires are illegal in Cambridge, so the group can't currently perform with lit sticks at MIT. However, they are trying to work with EHS, MIT, and the fire department to be allowed to practice their art on campus. "I would like to bring more performances to MIT and maybe bring some outside people to perform with us," Westbrook said.

Although MIT has a history of spinning that goes back to at least 2003, an official club was only created this year. Westbrook was the first person not discouraged by the prohibitions on fire. "This may be the third attempt at a club," said Nathan S. Lachenmyer G — who graduated from MIT last year — who has been spinning since his freshman year.

The most basic fire-spinning props are staffs and poi. Both can be homemade, but professional staffs are much lighter than homemade ones. "Poi are a lot easier to make [than staffs]. A tennis ball in a sock is good enough for science. Don't use baseballs, they hurt," said Daniel J. Gonzalez '14, from experience.

More exotic equipment includes rope darts, which are very long poi; fire hoops; and even fire umbrellas, the wrong thing to pull out when it starts raining. The MIT club does not have club equipment, so people have to provide their own. However, there usually is extra equipment to play with.

Ignoring the tourists scattered around taking pictures, the club members showed me the tricks they had been working on. While rolling the staff down her arms and around the back of her neck, Westbrook explained the two styles of staff spinning: the traditional style, in which both hands hold the staff; and the contact style, in which the staff is rolled on the rest of the body. The contact style is more difficult, requiring a balance of weights in an 8.01 torque nightmare.

Gonzalez focused more on poi, wrapping the chains around each other in a gleaming spiral. "The aesthetics of poi are what you do with the momentum. ... You come to a point when you learn a bunch of tricks and you can transition between them. Then it becomes rewarding because you can dance to it," he said.

In the quest to gain mastery of the elemental powers of flame, the best teachers are fellow spinners. The Boston spinning community practices on the MIT campus every Monday from 6–8 p.m., bringing talented spinners to learn from. "There are two rules. If you want to learn a move, tap someone on the shoulder and ask. If you are tapped on your shoulder, you have to teach," said Tyler T. Hamer '14.

So I watched the staffs whirling, the poi dance, and imagined the glorious spectacle they would be if alight. Some day.

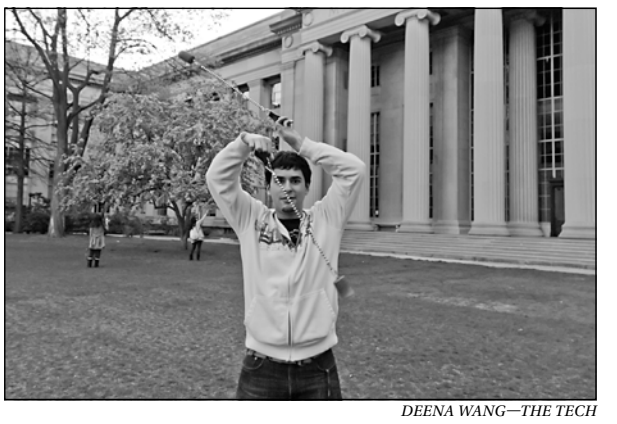
Some day.

DEENA WANG—THE TECH

Nathan S. Lachenmyer '10 spins two staves. He has been spinning for five years.

DEENA WANG—THE TECH

Alexandra M. Westbrook '13 spins a staff in the contact style. Some moves have unusual names, such as "The Steve," in which the staff is spun down the arm and across the back.



DEENA WANG—THE TECH

Daniel J. Gonzalez '14 spins two poi. Poi are chains with a handle on one end and a wick on the other.

Institute Double Take

By Greg Steinbrecher
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Browsing through my archive of photos, I was struck by the inherent contrast both in and between these two images. The former, shot on a sunny July 4, depicts the North Court in a state of construction-induced disarray. The photo itself, on the other hand, is clean and crisp — almost frozen.

The second image provides a starkly different view of the same location. The North Court sits clean on a cold winter evening; no signs of the construction remain. However, Stata and the Koch Institute feel changed. Gone are the dark and lifeless windows of daytime, replaced by bright squares of light that lend this image its contrast and life.

My favorite contrast, however, is not between the two images. It is how different this view is from any I typically see walking through campus. I am never able to wrap my head around Stata from the ground; it always feels disjointed and disconnected, like a model that wasn't put together quite right. But from above, the pieces pull together, even meshing with the landscape.

Aperture:
ƒ/9
Exposure Time:
1/800 sec.
Sensitivity:
ISO 200
Effective Focal Length:
14 mm

Aperture:
ƒ/3.5
Exposure Time:
1.6 sec.
Sensitivity:
ISO 200
Effective Focal Length:
24 mm

NERDY WITH A CHANCE OF RANDOM

Fighting awkward with awkward

When someone nearby creates an awkward situation, 'Don't get mad. Get even.'

By Amanda Aparicio
STAFF COLUMNIST

One evening as I headed home from the Student Center, I was standing in the elevator, minding my own business and thinking about electromagnetic waves and how they propagate in space. Then the elevator came to an abrupt stop. The door slid open, and a couple stepped into the confined space, holding hands. No big deal, right? That's what I thought — until they started acting all couple-like, hanging onto each other like a pair of positively and negatively charged particles.

Now, don't misunderstand me. Usually if a couple acts like this in public, I express complete apathy since it's quite easy to look the other way; however, when I find myself confined to a tiny, metal box with two other occupants who obviously enjoy each other's company — perhaps a little too much — things can just become ... awkward. Sure, an elevator ride doesn't last very long, but it's long enough to be a bother. After the elevator mercifully stopped at its final destination, I thought to myself, "How can I avoid this sort of situation in the future?" Then, rather childishly, a humorous saying not meant to be taken seriously infested my thoughts: "Don't get mad. Get even." The following plan of defense took form in the forges of my mind:

Ways to Get Even (aka make things more awkward)

1. No one likes a cry baby. Pretend that your cell phone is giving off a signal that indicates another human being is trying to make contact. Respond to said signal by answering the phone and asking, convincingly, "Hello?" Wait for a few moments as if someone is responding to the salutation and make facial expressions that progressively trend toward the emulation of an upset mood. Now that the proper preconditions have been set, start sobbing. The desired result will be better if crying is done uncontrollably and loudly. For added effect, start muttering about whatever it is that brought on the tears. However, make sure that said topic does not pass the line of seriousness (such as, my mom died, my grandma is sick, etc.). These kinds of topics are just cruel and will probably lead the couple to try to provide some comfort. This is not the desired goal. The plan is to make the situation awkward for them, so choose a topic that is trivial and annoying, such as Justin Bieber finally filing a restraining order. Make sure you provide bursts of sobs, snot, tears, and an overall sense of utter despair.

Next time you find yourself forced into a cramped space with a happy couple, feel free to make it awkward.

2. Do I know you? (courtesy of Rebecca H. Navarro '14) This requires some improvisation. As soon as the elevator ride becomes awkward, strike up a conversation with a member of the couple as though you have known that person for quite some time. Ask about classes, about the apparently new relationship, about family affairs, and all the while, blatantly ignore the confused face that manifests as the result of the unknown inquisitor. If a name can be found somewhere or the other person says it at one point, use this knowledge to your advantage. That way, the supposed "friend" cannot question whether or not this friendship actually exists. This plan works better if topics for discussion stay within the realm of reality; in other words, stick to classes that you're in and topics that you know. This way it's harder to catch the lie. After all of this is done, watch as they squirm from the large dose of awkward that has been served.

3. Music to my ears. Think of a horrible song. Now think of a worse one — worse than Rebecca Black's *Friday*. Start singing that song. Now, do it like you're tone deaf. For added effect, choose a song that somehow relates to couples — about them breaking up, hooking up, or hitching up. For those who feel as if this isn't enough awkward for one elevator ride, a small dance can be thrown into the mix just to make sure that the couple knows that another presence besides their own is occupying the elevator. Enjoy.

Next time you find yourself forced into a cramped space with a happy couple, feel free to make it awkward. Rejoice in the awkward, dance in the awkward, and love your awkward. Just make sure that as the elevator is emptied of its passengers, you let the couple know you were simply fighting awkward with awkward. A simple statement such as "This has been a product of Awkward Self-Defense" will do. That way, the couple will think twice before recklessly and unwittingly starting an awkward war again.

MIT150

Sparkle! Campus lights up for FAST event

FAST Light features MIT's mix of art, science, and technology

By Nazia Chowdhury
STAFF COLUMNIST

"You would not believe your eyes / If ten million fireflies / Lit up the world as I fell asleep."

But now you *can* believe when dozens of butterflies light up the way as you walk through the corridor between the Hayden and Lewis libraries. The butterflies, made from copies of MIT's multifarious library pages, hang from the ceiling of the hallway and each carry a small light. When someone approaches from either side of the hallway, some of the butterflies light up the way, as if providing directions.

Then there are the shimmering lights suspended in the arch under the Green Building. They are, in fact, minuscule turbines that use wind energy to illuminate themselves. As the winds change, so does the brightness of the curtain, creating a striking gleam. MIT feels like an illuminated fairyland, where technological and artistic genius make magic happen.

The artwork adorning campus are part of a wider celebration of arts and creativity at MIT. Called the Festival of Art, Science, and Technology (FAST) and directed by Professor of Music and Media Tod Machover, this prominent MIT150 event also includes musical performances, exhibitions, discussion forums, and showcases of neuroscience research on the brain's musical and artistic capabilities. Continuing throughout the spring semester, this festival is a demonstration of the beauty that can be presented by a blend of art and technology. The series of installations is the brainchild of a team from the School of Architecture and Planing comprised of Dean Adèle N. Santos; Professors J. Meejin Yoon and Machover; MIT Director of Arts Initiatives Leila W. Kinney; and Meg Rotzel from the Office of the Arts.

In celebration of the connection and cooperation that MIT fosters, Course IV graduate students Craig A. Boney, James R. Coleman, and Andrew J. Manto pooled their ingenuity to build an airy tunnel named *Dis(Course)4* connecting the floors of the Building 3 stairwell off the Infinite Corridor. Many thin aluminum sheets were cut by a water jet and are held together by thousands of zip ties to give this tunnel the look of a paper lantern. Though the piece looks light, it has a steel heart comprised of steel cables running along diagonals to make it strong.

Another passageway, joining Buildings 56 and 66, takes us to the world of Gothic cathedrals. With a multitude of curved vaults, *voltaDom* allows fascinatingly intermingles space and light, depicting the freedom that MIT offers its community to think beyond the shell, as it were. Also to acknowledge this free spirit, architecture graduate students Yuna Kim, Kelly E. Shaw, and Travis A. Williams built *String Tunnel* from nylon, found under the Dreyfus Building Bridge. It shows the path from Kendall Square to the Infinite.

Continuing throughout the spring semester, this festival is a demonstration of the beauty that can be presented by a blend of art and technology.

In May, FAST picked up the pace. *Chroma District* features rows of lanterns which react to movement and sound from passersby. And in the Infinite Corridor's green lounge, a cybernetic loop named *Maxwell's Dream* lets observers "paint" with magnetic fields. *The Infinite Time Capsule*, installed on the fourth floor of the School of Architecture and Planning and the fifth floor of the Media Lab, captures and stores photos of previous visitors and combines them with real-time photos to create a fluid sense of time.

Installed between March and April, the Media Lab's barometer for happiness, the *Mood Meter*, might answer questions like, "Do midterms lower MIT's mood?"

On Saturday, FAST Light brought a riot of colors and light all around campus and to the Charles riverfront, commemorating the end of the semester-long arts festival. In the evening, two enormous inflatable stars were raised over Killian Court; 90 brightly glowing orbs floated on the Charles and changed colors in response to observers; a dynamic and interactive LED array lit up the Harvard bridge; and a floating inflatable screen on the Charles called the *Liquid Archive* displayed MIT's history of science and the arts.

With all these colorful displays of lights, MIT soared high as the Institute finished another portion of its sesquicentennial celebration. Happy 150th birthday, MIT!

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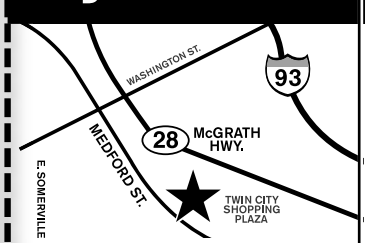

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MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

String Tunnel, **located next to the Building 18 bridge, was installed by Yuna Kim G, Kelly E. Shaw G, and Travis A. Williams G for the MIT150 FAST Arts Festival.** *String Tunnel* **directs visitors to the Infinite Corridor.**

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

Wind Screen, **installed by Professor of Architecture J. Meejin Yoon for the MIT150 FAST Arts Festival,** is on display in the archway below the Green Building. Each subunit is a wind turbine and generates all the energy it needs to light up as it spins. As the wind blows harder, the turbines spin faster and light up more brightly.

Afterhours with Richard R. Schrock

Nobel Prize winner explains how his chemistry career started with banana-scented esters

By Maeve Cullinane
STAFF COLUMNIST

Professor Richard R. Schrock somehow manages to do it all. He has won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, teaches, does research, has a family, a woodworking hobby, and is starting his own company. At the undergraduate level, he's taught 5.112 (Principles of Chemical Science). Here, he gives his thoughts on what actor he thinks would be able to fit this role in the movie of his life and explains how he got his start in chemistry at eight years old while making banana-scented esters.

The Tech: What was it like growing up in Indiana?

Richard R. Schrock: We weren't rich, and my dad was struggling. It was a typical Indiana upbringing. I had two older brothers. When I was of age I played sports — baseball, basketball, football. You weren't one of the guys unless you played sports, but I didn't like it very much.

TT: You got your start in chemistry when you were eight years old. What kind of experiments were you doing?

RRS: I made esters, nice smelling esters. I got a book back then of experiments. My older brother gave me the chemistry set and also gave me books, and there was "How to Make Ethyl Acetate." I thought, okay, I can do that. And so I did it, and it smelled good. And then I looked at the next one — amyl acetate, let's make that one. So this one smells like bananas, that one smells like such and such. It was fun, and I moved on from there.

TT: When you were in college you built your own set of speakers. What was that like to engineer?

RRS: I was interested in the woodworking part of it. My dad was a carpenter, and I still do woodworking, so I said, "I can build speakers," and went and got the speaker components and built the cabinets. In my house and office there are tables and chairs that I've made. This past Christmas, I thought, "What am I going to get?" My wife said, "My earrings are messy and I can't find things." So I made her a very beautiful earring holder. Then I made earring holders for both of my daughter-in-laws, too.

TT: What's been keeping you busy this year?

RRS: Always research. And I'm not teaching this semester, fortunately, otherwise I'd have negative time. I started a company based on some of the recent results we got, and so now I have a company like other people have a company. That's involved a lot of time, and it's in Switzerland, so I have to go over to Switzerland, and the lab is in Hungary. The idea arose that we should try to do

> **I made esters, nice smelling esters. My older brother gave me the chemistry set and also gave me the books.**

something with all of this beautiful chemistry that we've developed, and so that's where it started, and then other people joined. This area called olefin metathesis where you make double bonds using two other double bonds and give off an olefin like ethylene is a big deal. There just are no good catalytic ways of making carbon-carbon double bonds. Chemically, they're very useful and we really have the only catalyst that will make them. We would like to help companies that have a problem and would like to make this, that, or the other thing and say, "OK, we'll help figure out how you can make it using our catalyst." It will probably be used mostly for organic molecules, large rings, drugs, polypeptides, fragrances, [and] flavors.

TT: When you won the Nobel Prize, what did you do to celebrate?

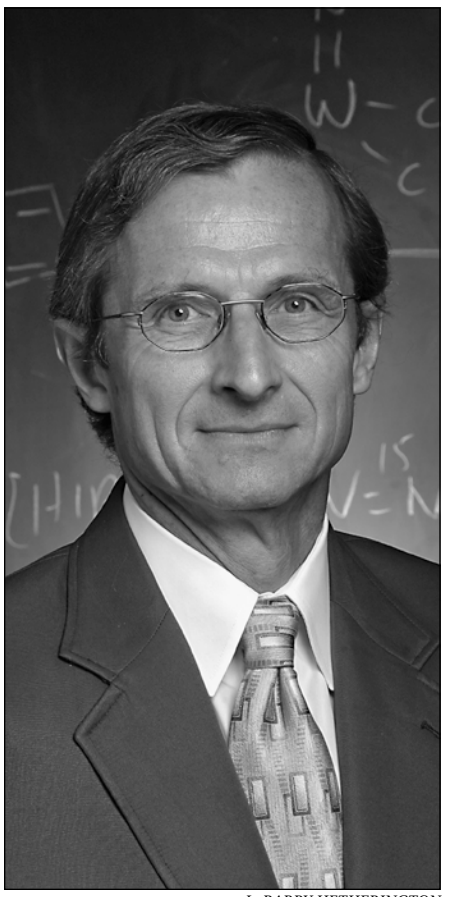
RRS: You get the call very early. On the east coast it's 5:30 in the morning. There was a lot of press and so forth, and there was a press conference at 10 a.m., and I couldn't celebrate all day because I had to give a talk at 4 p.m. I couldn't drink wine or anything. But that evening [my colleagues and I] went out to a restaurant, and I kept it to a minimum, but I did have some wine.

The Nobel Prize ceremony is a week-long period in December, and it's spectacular. It's really a week-long celebration.

TT: So you've been at MIT now for 36 years. How have you seen the Institute change through that time?

RRS: A lot has changed, and a lot hasn't. The physical plant has changed a lot. Buildings have gone up and Kendall Square is kind of a swishy place now — it wasn't always that way. In 1969, it was pretty bad over there. The student body has changed a lot. Many more women, minorities, and so on, and that's great that we're really in the mainstream in that regard. The old MIT was just the best and the brightest male — hate to say nerds — but ... you can still find the authentic nerd somewhere, but I think it has changed quite a bit.

I think it's also changed in the way that students are involved in many more things. They're doing plays or singing in chorus and this and that, and they're really stretched very thin — too thin in some ways — but it's good for them because the intensity hasn't changed. Maybe it's not so intensely oriented towards the hard-core science and engineering. We've got other departments that are great.


L. BARRY HETHERINGTON

Cheat Sheet aka that random stuff that never shows up on the test

The Tech: You like classical music, so if you had one composer you had to listen to on repeat for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Richard R. Schrock: Mozart.
TT: If you could have a superpower, what would it be?
RRS: The ability to predict the future.
TT: If there was a movie of your life, who would play you?
RRS: William Hurt.
TT: What do you think the title of the movie would be?
RRS: How To Become A Chemist.

EVENTS MAY 10 – MAY 16

TUESDAY

(8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Blood Drive, sponsored by ARCTAN — W20, La Sala de Puerto Rico

(5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) Legatum Lecture: Experiences in the Emerging Profession of Technology-Based Entrepreneurship (Speaker: Dr. Noubar Afeyan) — E62-233

(5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) MIT Chamber Music Society Student Concert — Killian Hall

WEDNESDAY

(12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Artists Beyond the Desk presents Windhammer, a woodwind quintet with piano — Killian Hall

(7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) AMCAS (American Medical College Application Service) Q&A Session — 4-231

THURSDAY

(4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) GSC Acoustic Barbecue — Stata Center Amphitheater

(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) MIT Improvisation Ensemble Concert — Killian Hall

FRIDAY

(5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Reel World: MIT, a look "behind the scenes" at historic and entertaining films from MIT's archives — MIT Museum

(7:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* — 26-100

SATURDAY

(2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.) MIT Concert Band Spring Performance — Kresge Auditorium

(7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.) Social dance with the MIT Ballroom Dance Club — Walker Memorial

SUNDAY

(9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Swapfest — Albany Steet Garage and Lot

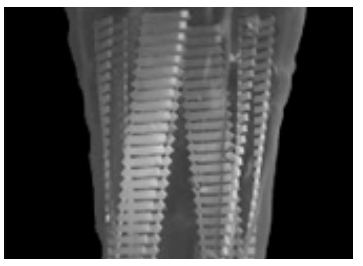
(4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) International Contemporary Ensemble presents works of Keeril Makan — Killian Hall

(8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.) Flippin' for Finals, aka Late Night Breakfast — W20 Lobdell

MONDAY

(7:00 p.m.) Professor Walter H. G. Lewin Physics Demonstration and Book Signing — 26-100

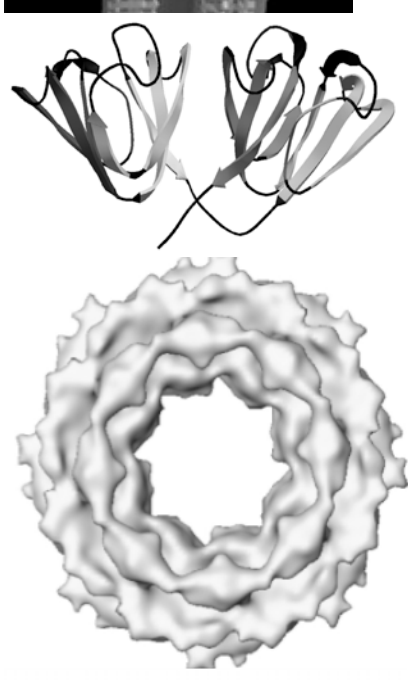
Send your campus events to *events@tech.mit.edu*.



A Forum in Honor of MIT's 150th Anniversary

The Evolution of Protein Structures

Wed., May 11, 2011, 4 p.m.
Room 32-123
The Ray and Maria Stata Center
32 Vassar St., Cambridge, MA



The alpha helical coiled coil: An ancient and versatile protein structure
Prof. Amy E. Keating
Department of Biology
MIT

Protein conservation without sequence conservation: Membrane coats
Prof. Thomas U. Schwartz
Department of Biology
MIT

Split gene structure and protein function
Prof. Phillip A. Sharp
Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, MIT

Evolution of the Greek key eye lens crystallins
Prof. Jonathan King
Department of Biology, MIT

Free and open to the MIT community and the general public

FAST

FESTIVAL OF ART, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

A semester-long celebration of art, science, and technology at MIT culminated in FAST Light last weekend. Creative, colorful artwork adorned campus in one of the more unique ways MIT has celebrated its 150th birthday. Students and visitors alike flocked to FAST's multifarious, interactive exhibits.

Didn't have time to make it to FAST Light? Don't worry, *The Tech* has you covered. Check out some of the most interesting scenes this campus has seen in quite a while.

MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

***SOFT Rockers,* installed by a team led by Professor of Architecture Sheila Kennedy, are clean energy charging stations disguised as outdoor furniture.** Both the lighted loop and the chargers are powered by solar energy harvested using solar panels located on top of the rockers.

MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

Transparent inflatable arches were installed on Killian Court on the day of FAST Light. For *SKY Event,* which was installed on the evening of May 7, they connected to that work's large inflatable stars.

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

Kaustuv K. De Biswas G and Daniel Rosenberg G, the developers of *Maxwell's Dream: Painting with Light,* stand in front of their creation. Over 600 exhibit visitors played with a magnetic field to create light on May 8.

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

Inflatable stars soar above Killian Court during FAST Light on May 7. The sculptures were designed by Otto Piene, Director Emeritus of MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies.

YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH

Visitors play in the *Gradated Field,* one of the many FAST installations on campus. The *Gradated Field* is a collection of smooth, white plaster mounds formed by latex sheets. Visitors are encouraged to wander and lounge amongst the art.

NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH

Visitors mingle around *Light Drift* by Professor of Architecture J. Meejin Yoon. The color-changing orbs encouraged people to interact with each other and with the river, as touching the orbs on land affected the colors of the orbs in the water.

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

***Liquid Archive* by Head of the Department of Architecture Nader Tehrani and Professor of Visual Arts Gediminas Urbonas extends Killian Court into the Charles River.** During FAST Light last weekend, an hour-long program of environmental artwork was projected onto the inflatable screen.

JENNIFER WANG

The final preparations are made to *aFloat,* an interactive installation in the MIT Chapel that simulated ripples in a pool of flickering lights.

MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

***LightBridge* lights up the Harvard Bridge on the evening of May 7.** In this interactive display, participants were able to design their own light effects online and see them displayed during FAST Light.

NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH

Visitors explore the *Unflat Pavilion/Feather-Weight House,* a freestanding pavilion constructed from laminated plywood. The inside of the structure is illuminated with flexible LED strips. It was created by Nick Gelpi, a lecturer in the Department of Architecture.

JENNIFER WANG

The colorful, plastic bubbles of *Light Drift* glow vivid blue and green in the dark. *Light Drift* was installed along the Charles River for the MIT150 FAST Light festival last weekend.

MOVIE REVIEW

The last eight minutes

Source Code's strength lies in its convincing characters

By Carolyn Zhang
STAFF WRITER

Don't let the title fool you into thinking that *Source Code* is a hacker movie, or even about anything remotely related to Course VI. "Source Code" refers to a fictional technology that lets people revisit the last eight minutes of a dead person's life. In the wake of a bombing attack on a Chicago-bound train, the government sends Army Capt. Colter Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) into the Source Code again and again to learn the identity of the bomber. Through repeated visits, Stevens falls for his fellow passenger Christina Warren (Michelle Monaghan) and tries to find a way to save her, even after repeatedly being told by his commanding officers (Vera Farmiga and Jeffrey Wright) that it would be pointless. Source Code, they explain, is "not time travel, but time reassignment." If that didn't make sense, don't worry, because it's all quantum mechanics and "parabolic calculus." Tricky stuff indeed.

★★★★☆

Source Code

Directed by Duncan Jones

Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan and Vera Farmiga

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

The plot sounds run-of-the-mill and gimmicky, but in director Duncan Jones' hands, it turns into a strong and compelling story. He handles the material with the confidence of a much more experienced director and relies on strong emotional storytelling to keep the movie going at a good pace. It's surprising that this is only Jones' sophomore effort, though fans of his first work, *Moon*, can attest to his skill as a filmmaker. Both films explore similar themes of the everyman versus the institution, the contrast between appearance and reality, and the attempts to fight the inevitable. The most noticeable difference between *Moon* and *Source Code* is merely the scale of production; in the latter, Jones puts his larger budget to good use by upgrading the film's visuals.

Jones also gets plenty of help from the cast: the chronically underrated Farmiga lends great charisma to a potentially boring, desk-bound role, and Gyllenhaal and Monaghan — an incredibly charismatic duo — eagerly sell the story at even its most unbelievable moments. That isn't to say that the script isn't well-written; despite the overreaching plot, screenwriter Ben Ripley lends a sly wit that keeps the film energized all the way to the end credits. The clever dialogue, combined with punchy cinematography from Don Burgess, brings a new dimension to each repetition of the train bombing. The first few times Stevens endures the harrowing eight minutes before his "death," it's all quick cuts and anxiety; by the end, wide shots and wry exchanges with his fellow passengers indicate the confidence that his character has developed.

COURTESY OF JONATHAN WENK © 2010 SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

Jake Gyllenhaal and Michelle Monaghan star in *Source Code*.

It's rare to find a thriller as well-executed as *Source Code* these days. Duncan Jones will undoubtedly be compared to Christopher Nolan for his ability to weave such a strong emotional core into a big-budget action flick. (Jones was actually under consideration to direct the Nolan-produced *Superman* reboot, but turned it down out of worries that he wouldn't meet viewers' high expectations.) *Source Code* contains echoes of both *Memento*'s creative storytelling devices and *Inception*'s gutsy and ambitious plot. In fact, *Source Code* succeeds where *Inception* failed — placing the emphasis on convincing characters, rather than keeping the focus on a hole-ridden plot. Take note, Christopher Nolan.

MIT IDC
International Development Consulting

MIT IDC is a student-run organization that connects NGOs with student teams and provide them with the support and resources to successfully implement international development projects.
We offer individual students the chance to find a team and a project that they are passionate about.
We offer NGOs diverse student teams with the skills and passion to assist them on their projects.

Come learn more about project opportunities and turn your *passion* into Reality!

Next Social Event: End of the semester dinner at the Flour Bakery!
Location: Flour Bakery, 190 Mass Ave.
Date: Wednesday May 11,2011
Time: 6-7:30

This space donated by *The Tech*

```
File   Edit   Options   Buffers    Tools   Im-Python   Python   Help

import new_skills


def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python


if you.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"

----:----F1 joinTechno.py       (Python)--L1--Top----------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

Movements in Time

Annual Dance performance

When: Saturday, May 14th at 7:00 pm

Where: Little theatre, Kresge Auditorium (W16)

Tickets: $5 at the door

Orginal ballet, modern, jazz, hip hop, tap choreography
Featuring special guests, the A. Major Tap Dance Crew!

Sponsored by UA Finboard

The Laboratory for Chocolate Science Presents:

FINALS WEEK COCOA

It's finals week and you're thirsty!
It's finals week and you need chocolate!
It's finals week and you're wandering aimlessly around campus, seeking sweet, sweet enlightenment!

Yes, it's that time of year again. But we here at the MIT Laboratory for Chocolate Science know your pain. We'd like to help.

Mon-Tues: Student center steps; 12-1:30pm
Wed-Fri: Lobby 10; 12-1:30pm

Free cocoa* to one and all.

**May contain dairy. May contain chocolate. May contain enlightenment. Enlightenment not guaranteed, results may vary.*

Undergraduate Association

Sponsored in part by the UA Finance Board

Bicyclists disgruntled over Bldg. 26 ramp move

The recent removal of the ramp just west of Building 26 has upset cyclists who rely on that section of sidewalk to go about their daily business. Up until a few weeks ago, the curb from the roadway between Buildings 12 and 24 had a ramp in the center, and bicyclists and skateboarders travelled through the Bldg. 26 underpass and toward the Stata Center.

Facilities has shifted the ramp about 15 feet to the north, so wheeled traffic now makes three consecutive sharp turns.

Last week, Ruth T. Davis, spokeswoman for Facilities, said in an electronic mail that "the wide curb cut was removed because the area was used as a multiple-vehicle parking spot. The curb is designed to discourage vehicles and encourage the alley for pedestrians."

Alex Cornejo Collado G, a cyclist, said that it was the "first remodelling change that's for the worse instead of for the better."

Skateboarders now stop and pick up their boards. Cyclists slow to a crawl to navigate the double-dogleg turn.

Pedestrians seem to have mostly not noticed, but one said that bike traffic through the walkway was slower now. Parked trucks are no longer a fixture of the walkway.

Norman H. Magnuson, Jr., who manages Grounds Services for Facilities, said vehicle barriers were planned, but did not explain why it was necessary to shift the ramp since the barriers would seem to effectively prohibit vehicular traffic. Magnuson could not be reached for further comment.

Jonathan A. Battat G said the change was "super annoying," but acknowledged that the new configuration might be more pedestrian-friendly. Other riders remarked that the new configuration was "a pain in the ass" and "quite annoying."

Davis said last week that Facilities might "install a depressed curb ramp on either the left- or right-hand side of the main pathway to allow for better flow of bicycles and pedestrians" if bikes have trouble navigating the path.

— John A. Hawkinson

The biggest threat to depression is your awareness of it.

Serious depression strikes millions. Serious depression strikes indiscriminately. Serious depression is MOST dangerous when it goes unrecognized. That's why it's so important to always be aware of the threat of depression. And if your life is ever interrupted by a period of depression, remember that it is readily, medically treatable.

UNTREATED DEPRESSION
#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) http://www.save.org

Congratulations, 2011 graduates!

Graduation to do's:

☑ Cap and gown

☑ Cardboard boxes

☑ Packing tape

☐ Health insurance?

If you're a member of the class of 2011, your enrollment in the Student Extended MIT Health Plan ends on **August 31, 2011**.

To continue with a Blue Cross Blue Shield plan or a Massachusetts Health Connector plan, you **MUST** apply by **July 15, 2011**.

MIT Health Plan

Need more information?
Visit **medweb.mit.edu**

KAIST changes tuition policy amid pressure

Undergraduate community divided on the effectiveness of Suh's reforms

KAIST suicides, from Page 1

of the Mechanical Engineering Department from 1991 to 2001 and nominally remains the director of MIT's Park Center for Complex Systems. Suh serves as the Ralph E. and Eloise F. Cross Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at MIT while maintaining his position at KAIST. Suh has made significant scientific contributions to axiomatic design theory and the field of tribology.

Suh's original policy of withdrawing tuition-free status to students whose GPAs dropped below 3.0 on a 4.0 scale came under fire from parents and students who said it added unnecessary academic pressure. Under that policy, a student's tuition increased as his or her GPA dropped further below 3.0. The curve-based grading system in KAIST ensures that 20 percent of students fall below this 3.0 line, and students are no longer allowed to retake classes in which they under-perform. While Suh's policy has been implemented in many universities outside South Korea, the shame that comes with poor performance is especially high in South Korea.

"Many students may have to find other means of earning money if they are forced to pay tuition, and these students are often already highly pressured from their studies," expressed KAIST MBA student Youn Kyu Park in an email to *The Tech*. "There is a counseling clinic on campus, but it has not been effective."

Park also had concerns that the system has de-emphasized creativity at KAIST. Overall, he felt the new KAIST policies have had a strong impact on student suicides.

Suh has also required mathematics and science classes, which make up most of KAIST's curriculum, to be taught in English. This change is especially difficult for students who spent most of their lives learning in Korean. Professors have also expressed frustration over this policy, as many find they teach far less effectively in English.

In addition, the Korean education system has a reputation for being especially stressful and competitive from the elementary to secondary levels, although less intense in universities. The recent increase in competition at KAIST has been difficult its students, who have always been the top students in a system where pressure is especially high.

While he served as the head of mechanical engineering at MIT, Suh broadened the department's academic focus. He transformed the course by combining information, biology, and design science with its original focus on physics.

At KAIST, Suh has been committed to increasing the teaching and research quality. Suh has strengthened professor tenure requirements during his presidency at KAIST, which was particularly alarming for a country where professors are seldom fired. South Korean professors could often maintain their jobs without doing significant research, but Suh's policy makes doing so more difficult.

A larger emphasis on competition at KAIST has been evident since the presidency of Nobel Prize-winning physicist Robert B. Laughlin PhD '79, which lasted from 2004 to 2006. Laughlin, who felt KAIST needed to be more competitive as a technical and scientific institution, tried to add liberal arts programs, encouraged teaching in English, and instituted the tuition penalty for underperforming students. His reforms conflicted with Korean cultural norms and received negative responses, so his two-year contract was not renewed. Suh has been more successful at instituting such changes, but he is still come under increasing fire.

Suh has held open discussions about his policies with students at KAIST, with the first taking place on April 8. The forum, which included the Undergraduate Student Council, culminated with Suh declaring April 11 and 12 as an official period of condolence. During this class-free period, each department was instructed to host a conference with its students to discuss the reasons for the suicides.

On April 13, the Undergraduate Student Council held an Emergency Undergraduate Student Assembly and conducted a vote on whether or not President Suh's reforms were a failure. The vote narrowly failed; 416 students considered the reforms to be negative — only 10 people short of the majority. However, the assembly's other proposals passed, which included recommending abolishing the tuition fee system, amending the English-only policy, and increasing summer classes. Suh responded by putting all approved items up for discussion.

Suh has already abolished the tuition fee policy and will be cutting the number of classes in English. Starting this September, all KAIST students will be guaranteed eight free semesters of education, regardless of GPA.

Stem cell plaintiffs propose schedule

In a filing yesterday afternoon, James L. Sherley and Theresa A. Deisher, the two scientists suing the federal government to stop NIH-funded human embryonic stem cell research, have proposed a schedule for the long-stalled case to continue.

A months-long delay ended just over a week ago, when an appeals court dismissed a preliminary injunction that had banned federally funded stem cell research. That injunction had been issued by the District Court for the District of Columbia because the court concluded the stem cell researchers were likely to prevail on the merits of the case. The appeal over the injunction was argued in early December, and the decision was issued on April 29.

Sherley and Deisher propose to "file supplemental briefs in light of the [appeals court's] opinion." They asked the court to set the deadline for the stem cell researchers' supplemental brief to be June 3. The government's response would be due by June 24, and the researchers would be allowed a reply by July 6.

The government feels supplemental briefs should be limited to one brief per party, according to the researchers' motion.

—John A. Hawkinson

Renovations, from Page 1

the fall semester. In order to reduce conflict, fire alarms in bedrooms will be prioritized. Fire alarm testing in the fall will follow the installation of the new system.

Next will receive a new front desk as well as new mailboxes. The new mailboxes will use the dorm keys instead of the current combination locks. The goal is to finish the new mailbox system by the end of summer, according to Collins, but it is possible the work might run into the fall semester.

The bathrooms in Next will also be completely redone: the floor tiles, showers, and toilets will be ripped out and replaced. According to Collins, this renovation is very similar to what was done to Burton-Conner last summer.

Some walls in Bexley and Random will be repainted over the summer. According to Collins, these jobs are cycled year-to-year between the dorms. Walls will only be painted with the approval of the housemasters and dorm government. "We will never paint [over] a mural unless we talk with the student government," Collins said.

Summer renovations of the dorms are recommended by the Housing Strategy Group, a committee that is charged "to serve as a sounding board for the deans on issues ranging from summer housing to residence hall rules to rent schedules," according to the Division for Student Life website. Members of group include student government presidents, deans, and housemasters.

Only East Campus and MacGregor will be used for student housing this summer. Baker, Burton-Conner, McCormick, Senior House, and Simmons will be used for "program and conference guest room assignments," according to the Housing Strategy Group's utilization plan.

—Robert McQueen

This space donated by *The Tech*

UA team has work cut out

Lai's resignation did not 'fall upon deaf ears'

UA VP, from Page 1

approach to running the UA, while maintaining the transparency that former UA President Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 aimed to bring to the organization this past year. Miramonti also plans to make it a point to engage students with administration members in decision-making processes, including Walker Memorial repurposing and kitchen renovations across campus. Furthermore, Miramonti says he is taking the concerns that Lai brought up in his resignation letter seriously.

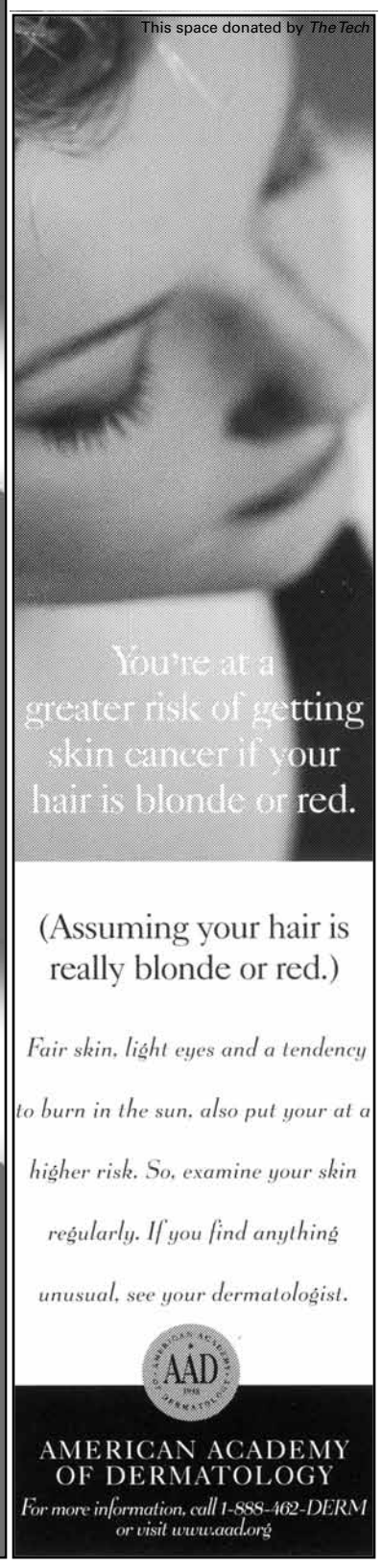
In his April 27 letter to undergraduates, Lai cited numerous problems with UA internal management. He charged unspecified members of the UA with contributing to a generally unsupportive environment in the organization.

"Alec's points have not fallen upon deaf ears," Miramonti said.

The UA has recently been devoting time in their meetings to evaluating how they can make their members feel valued. Miramonti said he viewed those efforts as opportunities for reflection on how to make improvements in the upcoming year.

Natasha Plotkin contributed reporting.

This space donated by *The Tech*



Ito plans for increased interdepartmental collaboration

Creative Commons chairman plans to make Media lab a 'platform rather than a container'

Joi Ito, from Page 1

need to do more of.

I know this sounds somewhat like a non-answer, but it's important that I don't limit in any way any of the departments ... There are obviously a lot of connections with other departments right now, but I really am interested in trying to see us collaborating with departments that we haven't yet collaborated with. It's really the difference that makes a difference, if that makes sense at all.

TT: During your visit, I'm sure you were able to talk with some of the researchers here about what's going on around MIT. Is there anything that really sparked in your interest — maybe an idea — that you might think about implementing?

JI: I think it's a little bit early for me to have too many opinions about the content of research. But I have talked with Provost Rafael [Reif] and have started talking to the administration about the general direction of MIT. What's fascinating for me is to hear about the various committees and the various initiatives on thinking about the future of education. And having come from the Creative Commons, I worked a lot on OpenCourseWare and thinking about distance learning and also about informal learning. The informal learning is the way I educated myself, so it's kind of a meta-topic. But what I think is really interesting for us to think about is the Media Lab not as sort of a side thing to MIT, but what can we pilot at the Media Lab in terms of the way we learn, the way we research, that might be applicable more generally as we think about education and a more connected and more global environment. So the area that I'm interested in connecting broadly at MIT is the future of learning.

TT: You have been involved with many projects previous to this appointment. Do you think you will be integrating anything in this current appointment with projects that you have done in the past?

JI: Yes. I think that the Creative Commons — the open source initiative — and a lot of the work I've been doing, especially on the nonprofit side, those are all sides that I'll be bringing in. Think about how the value or the focus of organizations and businesses as the world gets more complex goes from intellectual property to ideas, to ecosystems, to connections and context. ... In a way, I think the sharing and open culture — and thinking about the Media Lab and MIT as a platform rather than a container — is something that I've been working on a lot in the past; but that's definitely an idea I would like to bring to the Media Lab.

I've also spent a lot of time investing in startup companies in the early stage, and I find that Silicon Valley is great at being short-term and innovative and risk-taking, but it is short-term. I find that large companies that I've worked with tend to be long-term but slow. I really do think that the Media Lab has this sort of sweet spot of long-term and agile, but I will probably be bringing some of my thinking — and some of my contacts — from the startup world, and balance some of the larger corporations that are in our current sponsor network.

I think the Media lab is a process, it's a brand, it's a way of thinking. It was created to address the challenges of going from analog to digital, [but] the digital revolution is now over. Now what we're doing is trying to use the DNA of the Media lab to tackle other challenges.

TT: There is no question as to how many projects there are going on in Media Lab — I think one of the issues that some might argue is that some of these projects really haven't been widely distributed across the world. Do you have any plans for acknowledging that issue?

JI: I am using the term "pathways to impact," but I think that when you have an idea in the Media Lab or a project, you don't really know at the beginning whether it should be a social entrepreneur project in a developing country, or whether it should influence policy, or whether it turns into a piece of art or a play or some music. The ways that ideas are expressed or impact the world is continuously changing. If you look at the areas we're focused on, I think in the old days — when we were making a nickel or cent with the digital revolution — there was a lot more to do making really interesting hardware and ideas around things. The pathway to impact was very clearly defined — consumer electronics with large companies was one of the obvious ways. I think that now we're doing a lot of the work at the lab. Sometimes it will be companies, but there are other pathways you need to explore: bringing them in as sponsors, bringing them in as partners, where in the world they impact. Understanding how impact works and thinking about how to express that impact is something that we're going to work on. And again, I will add the caveat that I'm giving my opinion — the faculty can do what they want to do. I'm telling you my biases, but I think widening the geographic diversity of the people who are partners at the lab will help us impact the world even more with the work that we're doing.

TT: With technology moving as fast as it is, who knows what it will look like in two years, or even one year? Where do you see the Media Lab in say, one or two years — or maybe five years, if that's a better question?

JI: Maybe five years. Again, I'm going to give you a slightly non-answer because I think the Media Lab is a process, it's a brand, it's a way of thinking. It was created to address the challenges of going from analog and digital, and as [Nicholas P. Negroponte '66] said in the press release, the digital revolution is now over. But now what we're doing is trying to use the DNA of the Media Lab to tackle other challenges.

It's really important to also to get into the research space because you have a general trajectory to try to impact the world through science and technology in ways that have broad, positive impact. But specifically whether that's going to be in biology and health, or whether that's going to be in electronics, or whether that's going to be in some other form, those are things that I think are going to be raising serendipity and be very agile. You can't be serendipitous if you plan everything, and if we're going to talk about general arts, we're going to talk about process, but I think that we really shouldn't have a very specific plan about what the specific sense is going to be in five years from now. It's obvious that there are spaces that we need to think about. I'm not sure whether we're going to go into those spaces, but we could do more things that involve play and games. We could be doing more things in that involve consumer internet distribution. There are questions of whether we should interact more with some of the social sciences — there are a lot of really interesting questions. I think that what we're exactly going to be doing — partially because I'm new here, partially because I'm not the one who is going to be dong the research — it's hard for me to give you a specific, but the general trajectory is this broader one.

TT: One of my friends was telling me that he read about you, and in 2006 your average speed was 50 mph. Is that true? And do you think that's gone up or down since then?

JI: It's gone up, probably at about a half a million miles or more a year. I don't know what the exact average speed is, but I'm going around the world about twice a month. I'll have to slow down a bit as I hunker down and focus on the Intel stuff, but a lot of my value is to connect things together, and it turns out that travelling is a very good way of finding opportunities of connecting things that aren't connected.

TT: One last question. This is a creative one, and you can answer if you want. We've asked this with a couple of people that we've interviewed: what would you define as your unit of measure? If your last name, or the "Joichi," was a measurement in science, what would it be?

JI: It would be about useful connections. My main value is I provide context; I try to understand what people are doing, and then I try to connect them to other people or things that add a lot of value. And as it would be ... how many useful connections a day am I making?

The Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding System (Sloanbid)
Bidding Dates for Fall, 2011 Courses

https://sloanbid.mit.edu

First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords. Once logged in, make sure and check that your information (i.e. program of study and graduation date) is correct.

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan (Course 15) subjects*:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 13
Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 20

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan (Course 15) subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 13
Closes 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 27

Section Swap Round for changing sections of pre-enrolled Sloan (Course 15) subjects:
Opens 9:00 a.m., Monday, August 1
Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 8

Please contact Scott Alessandro, salessan@mit.edu, if you have questions regarding Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on September 6 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 13 -- write down your password to check results!

For 15.011, 15.075, 15.279, 15.301, 15.305, 15.310, 15.501, and 15.516, you can sign up directly through WebSIS starting May 2nd. It is not necessary to bid for these courses.

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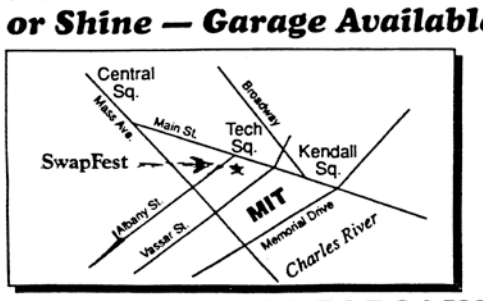

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Global Challenge adds new element to popular program

First implementation successful, but challenges remain: feedback, follow-up with non-winners

IDEAS, from Page 1

decided by user votes.

The Global Challenge was initiated this year in honor of MIT's 150th anniversary; with this expansion came a new online platform, designed to further connect participating teams with the worldwide community. Upon creating a username, visitors to the site could view competing teams' pitches, provide comments and feedback, and offer their own skills and services to the project.

One successful project was the Indian Mobile Initiative (IMI), which was spearheaded by a team of undergraduates. According to team member Aakriti Shroff '13, the group aims to inform people in India about the vast opportunities available in mobile platform development. The project, which will utilize student instructors from MIT, plans to focus on the social enterprise associated with creating an application.

"It's really half entrepreneurship, half programming," said Kyle A. Fisher '13, another team member on the project. He believed that stressing the former is key to helping students succeed.

IMI, along with other teams, received help from community partners to implement their project. Shroff said the team reached out to an MIT alumnus at Google India, who then introduced them to a variety of other resources.

When asked what he most enjoyed about the competition, Fisher said he appreciated the opportunity to see a variety of "incredible" ideas from his colleagues. Shroff liked how the challenge emphasized a focus on smaller issues, rather than a single broad, general problem, adding that it helped to scale solutions.

The idea for the Global Challenge originated in 2007, when, according to program administrator Lars H. Torres, the Public Service Center began talks with the MIT150 planning committee concerning a possible public service activity. Torres, who was hired in 2008 to help steer the direction of the Challenge, stated that the original goal was to "engage the worldwide community in a meaningful way."

The challenge began with a series of "generator dinners," where students could come and sell their ideas or skills and begin to form teams. At some of the dinners, community partners came and led discussions on issues they would like to see resolved. Information sessions for other service challenges were also offered to educate students on potential issues facing the global community.

A variety of resources, including IAP classes and development grants for prototypes and research, were offered to teams to help them carry out their proposals. Between February and April, opportunities were available for teams to practice their pitches and receive feedback in events known as "pitch kitchens." Some teams even traveled to MIT Alumni Clubs in the area to present.

After each group submitted a final proposal, they were subject to three kinds of judging, and could stand to win awards from each — IDEAS, Global Challenge, and Community Choice.

The "Face to Face" judging session was held on April 25 to select IDEAS award winners. On that night, around 30 judges, in small groups, analyzed the teams on four categories: innovation, feasibility, impact, and an overall "wow" factor.

After selecting the teams that they liked the most, each judging group placed them into categories for the $5,000, $7,500, or $10,000 prizes, and then determined the winners based on their judging criteria.

For the Global Challenge, MIT contacted panelists from around the world, including alumni and other interested parties. These judges had twenty days to read proposals, ask follow-up questions, and ultimately decide on five winners.

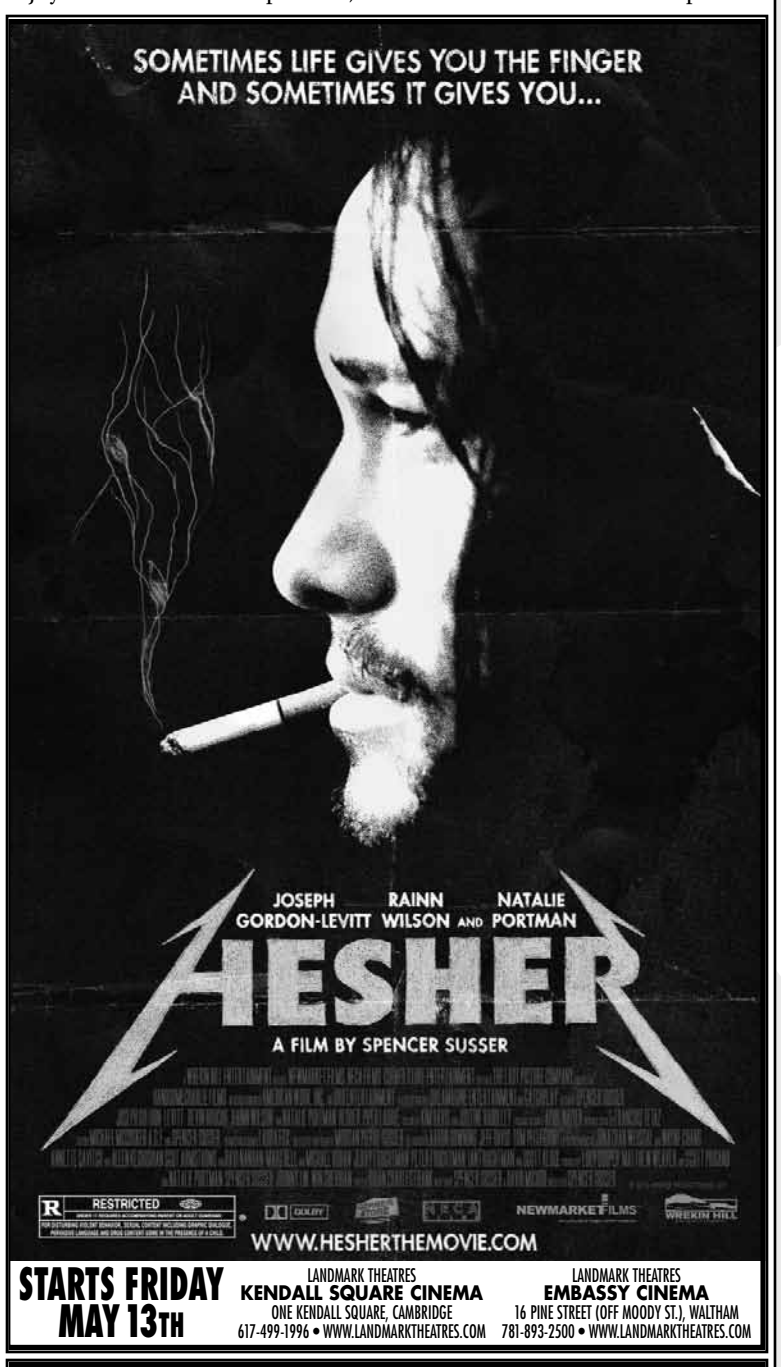
More simply, Community Choice Awards were handed out to the five teams that had the most votes online from registered visitors.

Torres said he was disappointed in the low number of user votes that were cast for the teams; each visitor was allowed to vote five times, yet the average amount of votes cast per person was 1.42. When asked what he would do differently with the program, Torres said he would like to see more hands-on opportunities for students to "engage with the dilemmas facing communities around the globe."

It was the feedback that Shroff valued the most. She suggested that more ways for teams to solicit feedback be incorporated into future competitions. Fisher expressed a desire to incorporating video presentations into the completion, which he believed would help teams get their ideas across better than through writing. He thought the help of the Public Service Center (PSC) in creating this videos could prove beneficial.

As for the teams that did not win monetary prizes, Torres said that some have continued to pursue additional funding, from either "other institutional resources" or other service challenges. Torres would like to see the Global Challenge have a stronger support network for teams that do win but still merit attention.

Looking towards the future, Torres mentioned the desire of the PSC to continue the Global Challenge for next year and beyond. "We have a plan to keep it moving it forward," he said, adding that it would require "an ongoing piece of conversation with the student community" over how to improve the program.



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UA Finboard — Summer 2011 Allocations

Group	Total Requested	Total Allocated	$ Postponed	% Allocated	Vote
Active Minds at MIT	$350	$350	$0	100%	7-0-0
African Students Association	$482	$482	$0	100%	7-0-0
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity[a]	$300	$0	$0	0%	6-0-0
Amnesty International[b]	$950	$950	$0	100%	7-0-0
Anime[c]	$3,787	$617	$0	16%	6-0-1
Asian Baptist Student Koinonia	$613	$613	$0	100%	7-0-0
Assassins' Guild	$945	$945	$0	100%	7-0-0
Association of Puerto Ricans[d]	$2,615	$1,760	$0	67%	7-0-0
Association of Taiwanese Students	$470	$470	$0	100%	7-0-0
Baptist Student Fellowship[e]	$1,150	$1,000	$0	87%	7-0-0
BEEF, mit	$650	$650	$0	100%	7-0-0
Best Buddies	$160	$160	$0	100%	7-0-0
Bhakti Yoga	$900	$900	$0	100%	7-0-0
Black Students' Union[f]	$5,600	$1,100	$4,000	69%	7-0-0
Black Women's Alliance[g]	$1,050	$900	$0	86%	7-0-0
Brain and Cognitive Sciences Society	$1,630	$1,630	$0	100%	7-0-0
Campus Crusade for Christ	$1,410	$1,410	$0	100%	7-0-0
Casino Rueda Group[h]	$1,115	$715	$0	64%	7-0-0
Caving Club	$2,247	$2,247	$0	100%	7-0-0
Chess Club[i]	$594	$554	$0	93%	7-0-0
Chinese Students' Club[j]	$1,515	$1,195	$0	79%	7-0-0
Concert Band	$280	$280	$0	100%	7-0-0
Curling Club	$150	$150	$0	100%	7-0-0
Debate Team[k]	$2,400	$1,500	$0	63%	6-0-1
EASE[l]	$180	$130	$0	72%	6-0-1
EMS, MIT[m]	$1,185	$1,185	$0	100%	6-0-0
Engineers Without Borders	$341	$341	$0	100%	7-0-0
Equestrian Club[n]	$1,900	$1,000	$0	53%	7-0-0
Flying Club[o]	$2,013	$1,308	$0	65%	7-0-1
Gilbert and Sullivan	$240	$240	$0	100%	7-0-0
Hawaii Club[p]	$185	$185	$0	100%	6-0-1
Hillel[q]	$1,948	$1,748	$0	90%	7-0-0
Hindu Students Council	$810	$810	$0	100%	7-0-0
Hong Kong Student Society[r]	$600	$620	$0	103%	7-0-0
Japanese Society of Undergraduates	$365	$365	$0	100%	7-0-0
Korean Students Association	$720	$720	$0	100%	7-0-0
La Union Chicana Por Aztlan[s]	$2,255	$1,730	$0	77%	6-0-0
Lab for Chocolate Science	$365	$365	$0	100%	7-0-0
Logarhythms, MIT[t]	$1,675	$1,025	$0	61%	7-0-1
LSC	$3,050	$3,050	$0	100%	7-0-0
Mes Latino[u]	$500	$500	$0	100%	6-0-0
Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES)	$295	$295	$0	100%	7-0-0
Minority Business Assoc. (MMBA)[v]	$550	$0	$0	0%	7-0-0
Movements in Time Dance Company	$490	$490	$0	100%	7-0-0
Mujeres Latinas[w]	$2,825	$945	$1,880	100%	7-0-0
Musical Theatre Guild[x]	$860	$860	$0	100%	6-0-0
National Society of Black Engineers[y]	$1,050	$750	$0	71%	7-0-1
National Society of Collegiate Scholars[z]	$650	$381	$0	59%	7-0-0
Network of Sloan Undergraduate Women[*]	$1,380	$180	$0	13%	7-0-0
Nigerian Students Association[†]	$100	$100	$0	100%	7-0-0
Quidditch[‡]	$600	$500	$0	83%	7-0-0
Sala Blacks Project[§]	$8,450	$8,450	$0	100%	5-0-2
Science Fiction Society, MIT[**]	$1,500	$0	$0	0%	7-0-0
Shakespeare Ensemble[††]	$500	$500	$0	100%	7-0-0
South Asian American Students	$180	$180	$0	100%	7-0-0
Southeast Asian Leadership Network	$586	$586	$0	100%	7-0-0
Strategic Games Society	$110	$110	$0	100%	7-0-0
Students for Israel[¥]	$229	$79	$0	34%	7-0-0
Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS)[‡‡]	$1,020	$720	$0	71%	7-0-0
Toons[§§]	$410	$270	$0	66%	8-0-0
Undergraduate Biochemistry Association[‖]	$535	$420	$0	79%	8-0-0
Voo Doo[#]	$2,100	$1,700	$0	81%	7-0-0
Totals	**$74,115**	**$53,416**	**$5,880**	**78%**	
Average	**$1,195**	**$862**	**$95**	**82%**	
Median	**$685**	**$615**	**$0**	**100%**	

Top Ten Allocations

Group	Total Allocated
Sala Blacks Project	$8,450
LSC	$3,050
Caving Club	$2,247
Association of Puerto Ricans	$1,760
Hillel	$1,748
La Union Chicana Por Aztlan	$1,730
Voo Doo	$1,700
Brain and Cognitive Sciences Society	$1,630
Debate Team	$1,500
Campus Crusade for Christ	$1,410

SOURCE: UA FINANCE BOARD

Bottom Eleven Allocations

Group	Total Allocated
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated	$0
Minority Business Assoc. (MMBA)	$0
Science Fiction Society, MIT	$0
Students for Israel	$79
Nigerian Students Association	$100
Strategic Games Society	$110
EASE	$130
Curling Club	$150
Best Buddies	$160
Network of Sloan Undergraduate Women	$180
South Asian American Students	$180

Notes

a Low membership numbers, lack of budget explanation
b Next time there is a last minute funding request, please submit a request to Finboard or Senate via email instead of applying here.
c Same space concerns as previous cycle, removed capital from events
d GBMs, Telecommunication, APR logo not in defense. No ASA space for capital. Please prioritize your events. We recommend cutting less necessary things like decorations, and order less food or less expensive food. P&P moved up to $100 because Finboard recommends 20 per event
e No funding for camera
f Reduce BBQ, no winter/spring events
g No gifts
h Low membership/undergrad numbers. Please subsidize Salsa lessons from your main account, with your income, or have non-undergrad members contribute.
i Can't fund prizes
j No sales
k Cut Smith, but can redistribute, can't sustain this level of funding year round
l Can't fund incentive program or fundraiser expenses
m Finboard can fund these sorts of expenditures but EMS needs to maintain a relationship with Medical. Finboard cannot fund more than this, so be careful about Medical reducing funding to EMS.
n Too much for 5 members, focus on new members/recruitment, fall funding decision will be based on increased membership
o Please check with SAO to see if you actually need the copyright for the movie night (we'll fund it for now, but in a normal cycle this would be unfunded and go to appeals.) Reduced food for fly out lunch to $75. We recommend $3–$5 for lunch, but you don't report an expected number of people. No capital. We need a thorough description of where you have space, who owns that space, who else has access to the space. If the flight simulator belongs to Course 16, we need to know why they aren't funding replacement capital items.
p Add pub, make sure to pub local grindz
q Library capital should be funded by office/program
r Move study breaks to operations, because it sounds like club meetings. Added 20 to P&P for your mid-Autumn Festival Gathering. You must publicize this event, through posters and email, or Finboard will not reimburse it.
s Mexican Independence Day — a very big event, you should go to ARCADE, LEF or MEF in the future. Travel is gas and rental; we brought to $500 which is our recommendation. Not funded: conference registration. Ask members to subsidize or reduce total members going.
t Note we recommend $500 for transportation per semester. $400 allocated here. Next round, we recommend only another $100. Note, if you don't spend all $400, it will rollover into Fall. Moved audition lunches to operations. Retreats not funded, very low priority.
u Early funding for October event, because Parents Weekend. Negative account balance, waiting on LEF.
v Sponsored group, not eligible
w Took out events after September because defense doesn't explain why early fudnding is needed. Come back for Fall funding!
x Remove internet/phone from application, since it was put in accidentally. Finboard concerned about shows not breaking even.
y Budget for food is excessive (recommendation for lunch events, $3–$5/person, was exceeded).
z Moved recruitment dinner to events. Dinner funded to $200, proposal too much per person
***** Added mentorship event from defense (under events and P&P)
‡ Weak defense. Ex: What are you purchasing for orientation? Freebies? Food? A/V for midway booth? We would have fully funded a stronger defense. Next cycle come with a more complete budget.
§ Can't regularly fund large capital expense as done this year (with this and lighting)
****** Same space concerns as previous cycle
¥ No projector screen
‡‡ Add pub for events, $300 for food
§§ No *Tech* ads, because you get a page for free. Reduced funding for the dinner, because it is expensive for an exclusive dinner.
‖ Have summer event/lunch locally. Added $20 for publicity. You must publicize your events.
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Track and Field hosts New England Championship

Women's team wins second Outdoor title in three years; men finish behind Williams

By Greg McKeever
DAPER STAFF

The MIT Track and Field teams hosted the New England Division III Outdoor Championships last weekend, as 29 women's teams and 31 men's teams gathered at Steinbrenner Stadium on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Despite less than ideal conditions, including several lightning delays, the MIT Women's Track and Field team avenged last year's loss to Williams College to capture its second New England Division III Outdoor Championship in three years. The Engineers picked up a key win in the 4x400 meter relay, the second-to-last event, and were able to hold off the Ephs by 3.5 points, finishing with a total of 141.5 points.

Jamie L. Simmons '12 and Portia M. Jones '12, who were part of both the winning 4x400 and 4x100 relays, were critical point scorers for the Cardinal and Gray. Jones won the 200 with an NCAA provisional cut of 24.58 seconds and took second in the 100 (12.16) and 100 hurdles (14.57), which were both also provisional-quality times. Simmons was the New England Champion in the 400 hurdles, with a time of 1:02.16, and placed second in the 400 (56.28).

Martha M. Gross '12 joined Jones and Simmons on both relays. Hazel L. Briner '11 rounded out the 4x400 that finished in 3:50.34, and Jacqueline A. Brew '14 completed the 4x100 squad (48.28). Both relays came in under the NCAA provisional standard, with the 4x400 missing the automatic mark by just three-tenths of a second and the 4x100 setting a new MIT record.

Gross added key points for Tech, finishing fifth in the 400 (58.59) and fourth in the 200 (25.42).

Briner earned another New England title for Tech in the heptathlon with a total of 4431 points. Briner won the 100 hurdles and the long jump and finished second in the 800 and shotput portions of the event as she broke her own program record by more than 50 points.

Karin E. Fisher '11 repeated as New England champ in the pole vault, leading the way for four MIT vaulters to score in the event. Fisher, who won the pole vault at the New England Indoor Championship, outclassed the rest of the field with a 13-1.50 foot vault, a foot higher than second-place teammate Lauren B. Kuntz '13 and the third-best mark in Division III of the season. Briner took fourth, and Rebecca L. Stavely '11 was eighth.

Anna M. Holt-Gosselin '11 took second in the 10,000 on Friday evening with a time of 35:20.72, posting the second fastest time in the nation, less than two seconds behind the top mark set in the same race by Jennifer Gossels of Williams.

Despite impressive performances by the Engineers, Williams clinched their 19th Championship.

The Men's Track and Field team staged a late rally in the final two relay events of the day, but was unable to catch Williams College, as Tech had to settle for a second-place finish and fell just short of sweeping the three track championships this year. The meet went well into the evening after being delayed twice due to lightning before the Ephs were able to secure the team title with a 151-147 advantage over the Cardinal and Gray.

The Engineers needed to make up a 15-point gap over the final two relays and would need some help from Williams' competition. Joshua D. Duncavage '13, Tyler S. Singer-Clark '14, Daniel J. Ronde '13, and Patrick K. Marx '13 got things started off well by winning the 4x400 relay in a time of 3:19.42 and adding 10 points. Williams took sixth in the event, meaning it would need just a seventh-place finish in the 4x800 relay to guarantee at least a share of the title.

Despite an impressive performance by Jared M. Forman '13, Justin L. Bullock '14, Kyle J. Hannon '13, and Logan R. Daum '11, who came through in 7:45.70 to win the event, Williams cruised to a third-place showing and their 19th New England Championship.

Nicholas W. Leonard '11, who ran a leg of the first-place 4x100 relay, along with Duncavage, Singer-Clark and Nathan E. Peterson '12, got the weekend started for MIT in the decathlon on Thursday and Friday afternoon. Leonard took first in the 100, second in the 100 hurdles, third in the 400, and fourth in the pole vault for a third-place result in the decathlon with a total of 5507 points.

Cyrus Vafadari '12 gave Tech a huge lift in the pole vault with a surprise victory. Vafadari was the only vaulter to clear the bar at 15-11.00 feet, 10 inches better than his previous best and moving him up five places from his seed. Peterson backed him up with a sixth-place finish.

Vladimir Sobes '11 won the javelin by a huge margin with a 214-05 feet effort, an NCAA automatic mark and the fourth best in Division III of the year.

Matthew D. Falk '12 also outperformed his seed in the high jump, getting over the bar at 6-4.00 feet to place third overall. Falk was projected to finish seventh in the event.

Paul D. Welle '11, Richard J. Prevost '11, and Stephen R. Serene '12 earned crucial points for MIT in the 3000 steeplechase, as Welle took second place with a time of 9:17.07. Serene finished in 9:22.77, good for fourth place, as both he and Welle came in under the NCAA provisional standard. Prevost was fifth with a time of 9:25.25.

Singer-Clark and Duncavage finished their busy weekend with third and fourth-place results, respectively, in the 200. Singer-Clark came through in 22.18 with Duncavage not far behind at 22.24.

Both teams will continue competition in the New England Regional Championships next weekend. The Engineers will square off with teams from across Divisions I, II, and III at Southern Connecticut State beginning on Friday, May 13.

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Solution to Crossword
from page 7

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H	O	M	O		O	S	L	O		H	A	S	T	E
A	N	O	N	Y	M	O	U	S	P	E	R	S	O	N
W	A	R	M	U	P		R	O	I		E	O	N	S
			A	G	E	D		O	X	O				
K	E	Y	N	O	T	E	I	N	A	S	C	A	L	E
E	R	O			E	R	N		R	E	I	N	I	N
B	R	U	S	H		N	I	P		S	C	A	L	D
A	O	R	T	I	C		N	A	E			C	L	E
B	R	E	A	D	B	A	K	I	N	G	N	E	E	D
				E	E	L		N	C	A	A			
A	M	Y	L		R	B	I		A	T	R	A	I	N
H	O	M	E	R	S	I	M	P	S	O	N	C	R	Y
A	L	C	O	A		N	U	D	E		I	D	O	S
B	E	A	S	T		O	S	A	S		A	C	N	E

Solution to Sudoku
from page 6

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

Solution to Techdoku
from page 6

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

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: CURRAN Y. OI '13

Before MIT, a world-class figure skater

Oi takes sixth place at US National Championships in 2008-2009 season

By Aislyn Schalck and Joanna Kao
SPORTS STAFF

Nearly 10 years ago, Curran Y. Oi '13 was picked to skate as a young Scott Hamilton in the Boston stop of *Stars on Ice*. Since then, he has placed sixth in the 2009 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, beating Olympic competitor Johnny Weir in the short program.

Oi began skating at age 6 after watching skaters perform jumps on a figure skating program on TV. "My parents don't remember what program we were watching, but apparently I got really excited and wanted to do all the jumps, so they signed me up for lessons," Oi said.

At age 10, Oi moved to a more intense training environment and took more private lessons. By high school, Oi was going to the rink 5–6 times every week for three to four hours per day.

Because of his practice and competition schedules, Oi only went to school for half a day and was homeschooled for a few classes. "I didn't have a lot of friends [in high school] because I wasn't there very much. I also didn't have much time to spend with any of my friends because I was trying to juggle school and skating."

His hard work paid off in competitions. By his last two years of high school, Oi was traveling internationally about 5–6 times a year for competitions, frequently placing in the top 10. During his senior year of high school, he placed fifth at the World Junior Championships, second in the Junior Grand Prix in Italy, and sixth at the U.S. National Championships. "My best [competition] experience had to be my last nationals. It was pretty much the perfect competition. Skated really well, the event was really well run," Oi said.

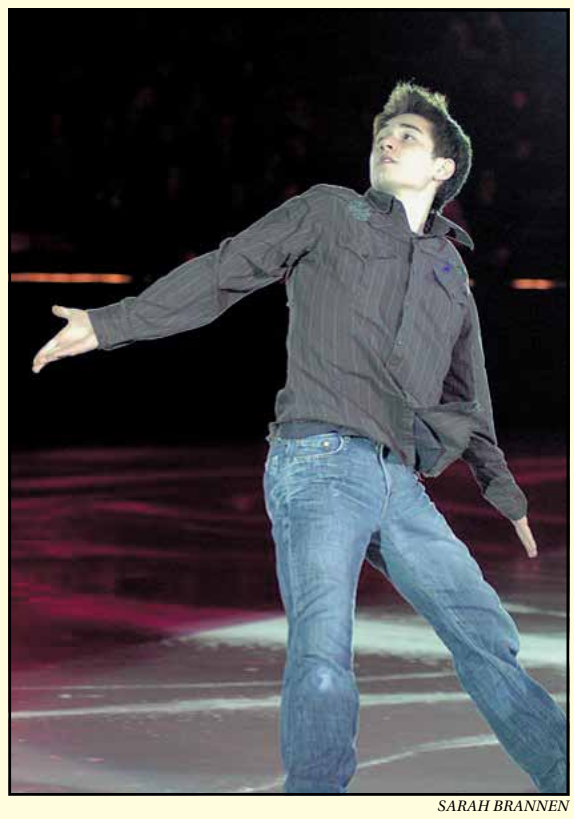
Unlike most ice skaters who practice this much, Oi has been able to avoid major injuries. "The worst ones I've had are mostly ones you can kind of work through," Oi said. "So I've had tendonitis in my knees and my ankles, but I've never had to have surgery, never a broken bone — no torn anything."

Though he successfully managed to balance skating and academics in high school, Oi gave up competing at an international level to come to MIT. He doesn't regret the decision at all: "Basically, what I was giving up in high school, I get to have now. So I have a lot of friends now; I have some downtime now."

Though he's now less dedicated to the sport, Oi still skates and practices a few hours a week when Johnson Ice Rink is open. Despite not having a coach anymore, he has competed twice representing the MIT Figure Skating Club and placed second in the U.S. Collegiate Figure Skating Championships last August.

Oi is now a sophomore in Course XXII, and possibly Course VIII as well. "I think fusion's really cool, and if you want to do fusion, you kind of have to know a lot of physics — especially E-and-M stuff. And I like physics, so even if I didn't like fusion, I'd probably do [physics] anyway," Oi said.

Oi hasn't decided on what he will do after he graduates from MIT. "I'm still considering skating again after college — graduating and then going and competing for a few more years," Oi remarked. "I haven't figured out whether I'm actually going to do that or not, but it's still an option."



SARAH BRANNEN

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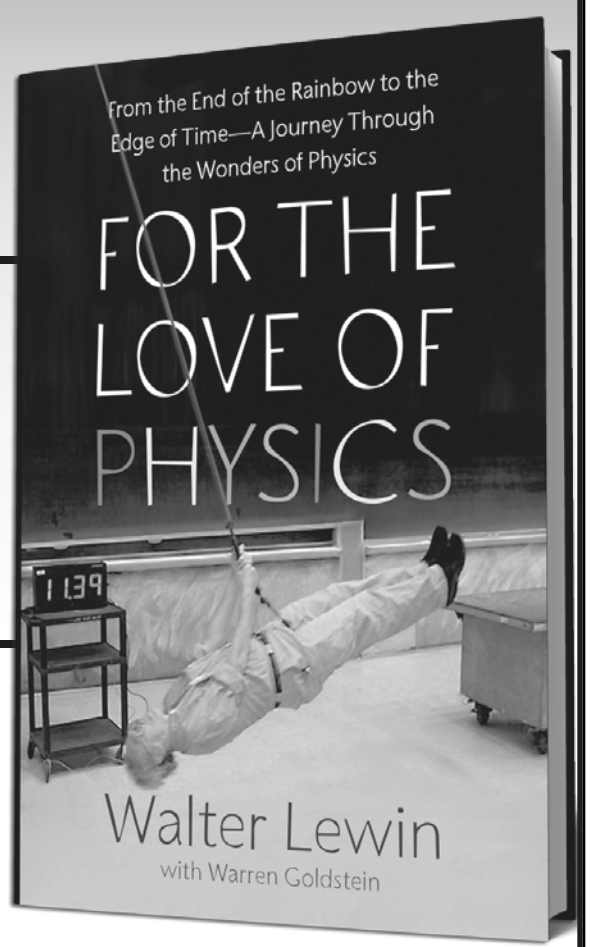

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