

## Say hello to our newest dormitory

*Maseeh has focus on dining, green energy*

By Maggie Lloyd  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Last Saturday, the doors to Maseeh Hall finally opened for students — but only if they wore safety gear.

Construction helmets and safety glasses were stacked in McCormick Dining Hall, waiting for the day's tours.

Maseeh Hall, known as W1 or Ashdown before its namesake's generous donation, was originally the Riverbank Court Hotel from 1901 to 1937. In 1938, the hotel became MIT's first west campus dorm, known as the "Graduate House." Though Professor Avery Allen Ashdown was the dorm's first housemaster, he was not new to the role; he served Senior House back when it was the original Graduate House. The housecleaning staff from W1's hotel days remained and tended to the rooms of 400 lucky residents. Cars and carriages used to pass through the building's driveway, which is now the lobby. According to Project Manager Sonia Richards, scratches from wayward vehicles are still evident on the lobby's pillars today.

At the end of the tour, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo commented on the positive progress of the construction thanks to the multimillion dollar gift of Fariborz Maseeh ScD '90: "It is a lot further along than the last tour I did." Colombo took a tour with the Phoenix Group and their Housemaster

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ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

Stephen T. Frost '13 and Caitlin R. Pomeroy '13 unveil the bezel of the 2013 Brass Rat on Friday night. The bezel features the beaver, who clutches a branch with four leaves, and a framing square in the shape of a seven. The beaver sits atop eight ivy leaves.

## 2013's Brass Rat unveiled

*Bezel beaver moves to Boston on a self-built dock*

By Jessica J. Pourian  
NEWS EDITOR

It wasn't the iPhone 5 or a new video game console that had a few hundred members of the class of 2013 waiting outside in the cold last Friday night. Bundled up in a large line outside Kresge Auditorium, sophomores patiently waited in 20-degree tem-

peratures for an early seat to Ring Premiere — the unveiling of the iconic Brass Rat, MIT's renowned class ring. The first 400 students to arrive at the auditorium were promised a mysterious free gift, and it was this lure that attracted so many students to arrive two hours early to an event that was

only an hour long. I went with a large group of

people from my hall who were all excited for the mystery gift. Upperclassmen warned us it would just be something small, like a toothpick holder, but we still set off excitedly. We arrived at Kresge around 6:20 p.m. for the 8 p.m. ceremony.

There were at least 50 people already waiting in line.

Students did their best to

Ring Premiere, Page 13

### REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

## Walker Memorial future an unknown

*Administration hopes to have plan by end of semester*

By Stan Gill  
STAFF REPORTER

After Monday night's Walker Memorial community meeting, the fate of Walker Memorial as a student space is still unclear. Associate Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88 addressed the concerns of student groups whose space in Walker may be affected by a potential renovation and repurposing of the building.

"I want to make it clear that to this day, no decision has been made," Schmidt said.

The meeting was primarily an information session and open forum addressing the administration's detailed study of potentially repurposing Walker Memorial for use by Music and Theater Arts (MTA). The concerns addressed at the meeting included the use of the building as a large event space, geographic accessibility, the potential impact on student groups, and alternate approaches to satisfying the needs of MTA that would minimize the effect on Walker.

Schmidt said the administration is doing all it can to get all the information on the table. They plan to quantify concerns by looking at records of how the Walker space is used and gather specific concerns from the affected student groups.

"Before we start looking at how we could use the building in the future, we need to understand how this building is used today," Schmidt said.

Schmidt also noted that the motivation behind the project was not only to provide MTA with needed additional performance space, but also to tackle a deferred maintenance problem by bringing Walker up to today's standards. Schmidt explained the benefits of renovating the building, noting that the third floor gym cannot be used as a large public event space because its current occupancy cap is 49, with an exception for exams, since the space is so far below code.

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ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

Scott T. Landers '13 advertises himself for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Camp Kesem Date Auction on Saturday night. The event sold 22 dates and raised \$6,000 to benefit Camp Kesem, a summer camp for children whose parents have or have had cancer.

## UA presidents call for student engagement reform

Five current and former UA presidents joined forces to write a letter addressing the administrative shortcomings in efforts to engage students on campus issues. The letter argued that the Task Force on Student Engagement (TSE) has failed in its mission of involving students in three important decisions from the past two years — cutting varsity sports, increasing enrollment, and restructuring dining.

The letter, which appeared in the January/February issue of the Faculty Newsletter, was drafted by current UA President Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 and past UA Presidents Michael A. Bennie '10, Noah S.

President letter, Page 12

### IN SHORT

Supercomputer "Watson" started its three-day *Jeopardy!* challenge yesterday, facing off against Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter.

"Street Scenes of Istanbul," a photography exhibit by Linda C. Ciesielski G, is on display at Rotch Library through Feb. 27.

New evidence emerges about Aafia Siddiqui '95, the Course VII alumna who was accused of trying to kill American soldiers and FBI agents in Afghanistan. Her lawyers released tapes that suggest Siddiqui was picked up by Pakistani police.

Send news information and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

### IN THE BELLY OF THE EARTH

MIT has an elite club of fearless explorers who risk life and limb for the sheer sake of adventure. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 10**

### MIT AT A CROSSROADS

Editorial presents a roadmap for student engagement. **OPINION, p. 4**

### ADMINISTRATION MUST REFORM

Dissenting editorial offers another stance on engagement. **OPINION, p. 4**



### CAMPUS LIFE, REVAMPED

Our campus life section now offers more photos, more perspectives, and more ways to waste time in class. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 9-10**

### FREEDOM ON THE MARCH

There's nothing to be ashamed about a foreign policy that promotes democracy. **OPINION, p. 5**

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## Budget raises school spending

President Barack Obama proposed a 2012 Department of Education budget Tuesday that would, if approved, significantly increase federal spending for public schools, and maintain the maximum Pell grant — the cornerstone financial-aid program — at \$5,550 per college student.

Whether it will be possible to keep that Pell maximum remains uncertain, however, given that House Republicans have proposed cutting the maximum by about \$845, or 15 percent, in their proposal to extend the current budget.

The administration's education proposal asks for \$77.4 billion. That includes \$48.8 billion for the portion of the education budget that does not include Pell grants, or an increase of about 4 percent above the 2010 budget. Congress has not yet enacted the 2011 budget.

Among education programs that the administration was protecting was Race to the Top, the competitive grant program that the administration has made its centerpiece initiative. Last year the administration used the Race to the Top to channel \$4 billion in economic stimulus money to states that had proposed bold school improvement plans.

The 2012 budget proposal includes \$900 million for Race to the Top, which the administration says would be awarded this time not to states but to school districts. That would make it possible, for instance, to channel money to Houston or other districts in Texas that wanted to compete in the Race to the Top initiative but could not because their state declined to participate.

—Sam Dillon and Tamar Lewin, *The New York Times*

## Europe likely to act to cut phone roaming costs

BARCELONA, Spain — The European telecommunications commissioner said Monday that she probably would seek new regulations to end the high charges Europeans face when using data services on smart phones outside their home countries.

Speaking here on the opening day of the Mobile World Congress, the industry's largest convention, the commissioner, Neelie Kroes, said that limits on the fees operators charge each other for mobile data roaming, which were enacted in 2007, had failed to significantly lower costs to consumers.

Mobile data roaming involves uses like downloading e-mail or reading a newspaper on a phone, as opposed to simply making a voice telephone call.

Prices for mobile data roaming across European borders can reach 2.60 euros, or about \$3.50, a downloaded megabyte, compared with an average of 5 cents a MB paid at home, Kroes said.

—Kevin J. O'Brien, *The New York Times*

## Upheaval opens exits in Tunisia

SEDOUIKECH, Tunisia — A dozen young men left this village of olive groves and whitewashed houses near the Mediterranean coast last week, bound for the Italian island of Lampedusa aboard an overcrowded fishing boat. They were part of a flotilla of would-be migrants that has created a humanitarian crisis and stirred a political furor in Italy.

But unlike the more than 5,000 Tunisians who have successfully reached Italy's shores, this group's trip ended in failure and death. On Monday, villagers buried one of the men, Walid Bayahia, who was killed when the fishing boat collided in the frigid waters with a Tunisian National Guard patrol vessel and sank, according to four of the villagers who survived.

"Four buried and two missing — it's a disaster," said Tarak Bahyoun, a house painter who attended the funeral.

The fall of Tunisia's autocratic president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, on Jan. 14 brought euphoria and hope to this country of 10 million people. But the revolution, as Tunisians call it, also created a power vacuum. After battling protesters for weeks, the police, fearing retribution, fled their barracks.

—Thomas Fuller, *The New York Times*

# Koch Industries quashes global warming parody

By Noam Cohen  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

In December, a fake news release was sent out by a group claiming to be Koch Industries, the oil processing company owned by Charles D.G. Koch '57 and David H. Koch '62, the Republican donors, arts benefactors and global warming skeptics.

Under the headline "Koch Industries Announces New Environmental Commitments," the fake release said that after "a recent internal and thorough company review," the company would be "restructuring its support of climate change research and advocacy initiatives."

Months later, the company, based in Wichita, Kan., is still pursuing the identities of the members of the group that claimed credit for the prank, Youth for Climate Truth. In a lawsuit, it is demanding damages including "costs associated with spending time and money to respond to inquiries about the fake release," as well as "investigative and legal expenses" in pursuing the tricksters.

A first step for Koch was to go to

court in Utah to compel an Internet service provider to provide information on who set up the website cited in the release, and thus determine who could be sued. (The group's lawyer, Deepak Gupta of the Public Citizen Litigation Group, is so confident that its actions are protected by the Constitution that he contends that lifting anonymity must be the purpose of the lawsuit.)

The episode goes to the heart of the one of paradoxes of the digital age. On the Internet, parody and mockery have never been easier to pull off. "We assumed they would be upset about it," said one of the anonymous pranksters in a telephone interview arranged by Gupta. "But we had no guess that they would go to the level of a lawsuit. It's ridiculous and overblown. What we did is completely acceptable, as parody."

As spoofs go, the fake Koch news release wasn't particularly spoofy. My colleague Tom Zeller Jr., who covers climate change, was among the reporters who immediately sussed out the release's bogusness, noting that its content was quite implausible, that the affiliated website

had only recently been registered and that its address was the clunky *koch-inc.com*.

But parody is a well-protected form of free speech, so in this case, the Koch company is resorting to an indirect legal theory in order to get private information from the Internet service provider.

In a brief explanation of the Utah lawsuit on its website, the company wrote: "We are not seeking in any way to silence our critics. This lawsuit was filed because the integrity of our computer systems and our valuable intellectual property was compromised and used without permission, in violation of the terms of service and federal law."

Koch did not respond to questions seeking elaboration on its posted statement.

Koch's lawsuit, then, is based on allegations of hacking, trademark abuse and so-called cybersquatting. Those give the company the rationale for going after private information.

"It's the tail wagging the dog," Gupta said of using such accusations "to unmask your critics."

# Iran uses force against protests as Persian Gulf region erupts

By Neil Macfarquhar and Alan Cowell  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Hundreds of riot police officers in Iran beat protesters and fired tear gas Monday to contain the most significant street protests since the end of the 2009 uprising there, as security forces around the region moved — sometimes brutally — to prevent new unrest in sympathy with the opposition victory in Egypt.

The size of the protests in Iran was unclear. Witness accounts and news reports from inside the country suggested that perhaps 20,000 to 30,000 demonstrators in several cities defied strong warnings and took to the streets. The unrest was an acute embarrassment for Iranian leaders, who had sought to portray the toppling of two secular rulers, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Tunisia and Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, as a triumph of popular support for Islam in the Arab world. They

had refused permission to Iranian opposition groups seeking to march in solidarity with the Egyptians, and warned journalists and photographers based in the country, with success, not to report on the protests.

Iranian demonstrators portrayed the Arab insurrections as a different kind of triumph. "Mubarak, Ben Ali, now it's time for Sayyid Ali!" Iranian protesters chanted in Persian on videos posted online that appeared to be from Tehran, referring to the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

But unlike in Egypt, the Iranian authorities have shown that they will not hesitate to crush demonstrations with deadly force. And other governments across the Middle East and the Persian Gulf also moved aggressively to stamp out protests on Monday.

The police in Bahrain fired rubber bullets and tear gas into crowds of peaceful protesters from the Shiite majority population. So much tear

gas was fired that the officers themselves vomited. In Yemen, hundreds of student protesters clashed with pro-government forces in the fourth straight day of protests.

In the central Iranian city of Isfahan, many demonstrators were arrested after security forces clashed with them, reports said, and sporadic messages from inside Iran indicated that there had also been protests in Shiraz, Mashhad and Rasht.

Ayatollah Khamenei and the Iranian establishment have tried to depict the Arab movements as a long-awaited echo of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, though Islamist parties had a low profile in both the Egyptian and Tunisian uprisings. The Iranian opposition has painted the Arab protests as an echo of its own anti-government movement in 2009, when citizens demanded basic rights like freedom of assembly and freedom of speech after the disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

## WEATHER

# Glimpses of springtime

By Vince Agard  
*STAFF METEOROLOGIST*

Perhaps Punxsutawney Phil was right on Groundhog Day when he predicted an early end to winter this year. Since Feb. 2, there has been no accumulating snowfall in Boston, and about 10 inches of existing snow cover has melted away. Additionally, this week will feature some of the highest temperatures of the year so far. Yesterday's high temperature of 56°F was our highest recorded temperature since Jan. 1, and

temperatures could reach the 50s once again by the end of the week.

However, winter's grasp has not been entirely loosened: a strong cold front that passed through overnight will bring cold air to the area today, restricting temperatures to the mid-20s. But starting tomorrow, warm air will once again be directed over our area, bringing milder temperatures through the end of the week, when a clipper system will bring the possibility of showers, along with another drop in temperatures.

### Extended Forecast

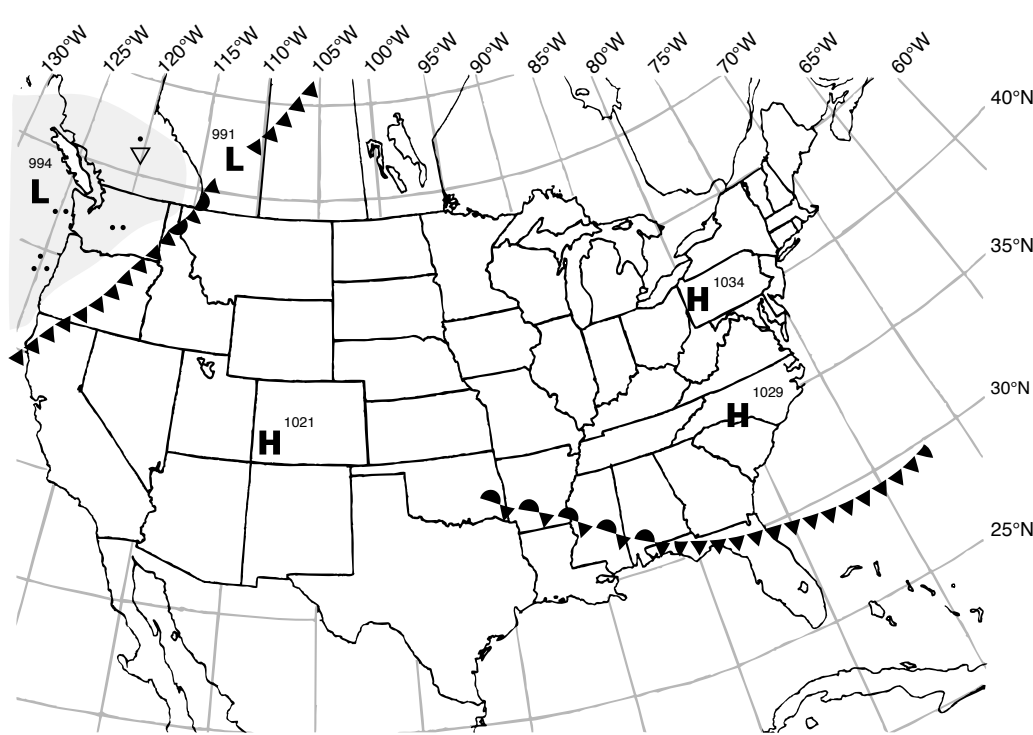
**Today:** Mostly sunny and breezy, high 24°F (-4°C). Winds W at 10–20 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, low 16°F (-9°C). Winds SW at 5–8 mph.

**Tomorrow:** Mostly sunny, high 42°F (6°C). Winds SW at 8–15 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, highs in the mid 40s °F (7°C).

**Friday:** A chance of rain, highs near 50°F (10°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow * Snowflake	Fog
L Low Pressure	- - - Warm Front	Rain ∇	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲▲▲▲ Cold Front	Light *	Haze
	▲▲▲▲ Stationary Front	Moderate **	
		Heavy ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*





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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2011 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Company.

## EDITORIAL

# Roadmap to reason

## Promoting understanding across MIT

MIT needs to take a step back and take a look around. When it comes to student-administration interactions, we're in a bad spot. Students have a deep mistrust of many elements of the administration, and the administration has found it extraordinarily difficult to successfully communicate with students about their motivations for student life policy changes. Both groups are talking, but the other side doesn't understand.

For there to be any hope of the student-administration relationship improving, certain fundamental misunderstandings need to be addressed, now. If not, the administration will continue to find it difficult to implement needed reform, and students won't be able to hold effective negotiations with the administration. Both groups need to see the other side.

Students need to understand the following:

1. The administration has MIT's best interests at heart. And MIT's interests often, but not always, coincide with students' interests.

2. The administration must consider the long-term health of the Institute.

3. The administration gains nothing, and has no interest, in destroying student culture.

4. The administration is responsible for managing one of the world's largest, richest, and most powerful research universities. It is extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible, for them to please every interested party.

The administration needs to understand the following:

1. Students, in general, have a four-year stake in the university and lack a broad historical perspective.

2. The complexities of administrative workflows, red tape, and financial and legal constraints are largely alien to students.

3. Students are not blindly critical of the administration. A great deal of

student support has been expressed for administrators in the past, and it will happen again when earned.

4. Students do not respond well to "just trust us" explanations. Students want to understand as much about a decision-making process as is practically feasible. Data is wonderful.

These concerns are not pedantic. Without a mutual understanding of each other's values and perspectives, conflict and stalled progress is the only option.

The following must change for reasonable, productive discourse to happen:

1. The administration needs to ensure that communications are understood by students. This does not mean that students need to agree with the content of those communications, but that the communication style must be appropriate for the intended audience. The same type of communication that works from an intra-administrative perspective does not work when communicating to a student body. Once a message is delivered, evaluate whether it was delivered effectively.

2. Administrators, especially those intimately involved in making student policy, should hold office hours. Face-to-face communications with students are incredibly more productive than mass e-mails (for both parties). Former Dean of Student Life Larry G. Benedict implemented a weekly-office hours strategy very effectively — Dean Chris Colombo should do the same.

3. The administration has the freedom and the right to make student life policy changes. But when that happens, explain decisions as fully, openly, and honestly as possible — with the same information, students would probably come to similar policy conclusions. In the case of last year's summer housing changes and slashed dorm budgets, an open dialogue with

students went a long way. But many are still wondering about the recent proposed changes to the Orientation schedule, where meaningful information has been hard to come by.

Students can improve in their own ways:

1. Be good scientists. Get all the information you can about a proposed policy before making a conclusion. Recognize, then seek clarification on, what you don't understand.

2. Don't let other students dictate what you think. If you disagree with what your peers are saying, stand up and say something back, civilly. Traditional indicators of campus opinion might just be inaccurate.

3. Respect the opinions of others — students and administrators alike — especially if they disagree with you. Pure criticism will be ignored and will poison future relationships. If you disagree with a student life policy change, the arguments you should listen to most closely are those from administrators making that change. Keep an open mind.

4. Don't lose sight of why you're really here — to learn. The final outcome of a challenge to a new policy is much less consequential than what you learn in the process of challenging that policy. So, if you care about a dining plan or orientation schedule that you like, fight for it. But recognize that no matter what ends up happening, you still come out ahead.

Will accomplishing any of this be easy? Definitely not. Both groups will need to break their comfortable habits and account for the idiosyncrasies of the other side; the alternative is to waste time rehashing the same arguments — causing frustrations, sustaining fallacies, and improving no one's situation. Only when students and administrators start talking with each other — not over each other — will student-administration interactions improve.

## DISSENT

## Students shouldn't accept blame for administrators' unresponsiveness

By David M. Templeton and Andrew T. Lukmann

DISSENTING

While we agree with the basic premise of the above editorial — that the relationship between administrators and students has reached a low point — we differ with

placing equal fault for the problem on students. Compared to the countless missteps in communication and access committed especially by the Division of Student Life, student leaders have been proactive and reasonable in attempting to engage with the administration, outlining time and again their desire for a more constructive

relationship. Years after years of students have voiced their grievances about poor transparency and limited student involvement in decisions with important implications on student life. It's now time for the administration to extend their hand.

Dissent, Page 5

## CORRECTIONS

A sports headline last Friday incorrectly stated that the MIT Men's Volleyball team raised their record to 11-7 after a win against Endicott College. The Men's Volleyball team raised their record to 11-2 for the year with that win.

A news article from last Friday about an Asian-interest sorority incorrectly referenced the "National Panhellenic Association" as an umbrella organization for sororities at MIT. The "National Panhellenic Association" does not exist; MIT sororities fall under the National Panhellenic Conference.

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March 1, 2011

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## Institute Double Take



NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH

**Railroad crossing on Mass. Ave. near Vassar Street, shot looking directly into the late afternoon sun.** The Metropolitan Storage Warehouse is visible on the left; smokestacks from the Francis Bitter Magnet Lab stand on the right side of the picture. The strong backlighting provided by the sun silhouettes the buildings and is reflected in the exposed railroad tracks and the melting snow.

## EVENTS

FEB. 15 – FEB. 21

### TUESDAY

**(1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)** Job Search for International Students. Learn how to develop your job search and interviewing skills as an international student — 1-190

**(4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)** MIT's Moments of Decision: An Historical Retrospective. A panel discussion about how the Institute has reflected and shaped the history of science and technology in the U.S. — E14, Media Lab Complex

### WEDNESDAY

**(3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)** Institute Faculty Meeting — 10-250

**(5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)** "Help! I'm graduating in May!": Full-time jobs in the Federal Government. This webinar will highlight a number of agencies and positions across the government and show students how to apply for job openings — 5-217

**(6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)** IBM Watson: Humans vs. Machine - Who Will Win? Come and watch *Jeopardy* history being made! — 10-250

### THURSDAY

**(6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)** First Generation Students Dinner — 56-154

**(7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)** Get in Gear for the 2012 Medical/Health Profession School Application Process — 4-163

### FRIDAY

**(6:30 p.m., 10:00 p.m.)** LSC shows *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* — 26-100

**(7:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.)** MIT Strategic Game Society Public Board Games Night — 50-316

### SATURDAY

**(2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)** Handel, *Israel in Egypt* - Colloquium. Explore themes of liberation from authoritarianism and slavery in the story of Exodus — Kresge Auditorium

**(8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)** Patrol. Play a high-action game of live combat with the MIT Assassins' Guild — 36-115

### SUNDAY

**(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)** CSC 2011 Chinese New Year Banquet. Celebrate Chinese New Year with the Chinese Students Club — Walker Memorial

**(8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)** International Folk Dancing — Student Center 2nd floor

### MONDAY

**(7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)** Argentine Tango — 36-153

**(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)** Manning: Eight dances for the soldier who brought a helicopter massacre in Baghdad to the light of day. A Bread and Puppet Theater Production by the Lubberland National Dance Company — Wiesner Building (E15-001)

Send your campus events to [events@tech.mit.edu](mailto:events@tech.mit.edu).

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February 17, 7–9 pm  
Media Lab Complex  
Building E14, 6th floor  
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Nazli Choucri, Professor of Political Science, Associate Director of the MIT Technology and Development Program, and Head of the Middle East Program at MIT

Geoffrey A. P. Groesbeck, Fellowship Program Manager, Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship, MIT

Joanne Mariner, Director, Terrorism and Counterterrorism Program, Human Rights Watch

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WARNING: MAY CONTAIN NUTS

# Healing achy, breaky hearts

How to turn a Hallmark holiday into something worthwhile

By Divya Srinivasan  
STAFF COLUMNIST

I remember the days when Valentine's Day consisted of writing everybody in my third grade class a "Spiderman Valentine" that said things along the lines of, "you've got my spidey senses tingling" and "thanks for sharing your PB&J sandwich." The more special friends got an extra Hershey's Kiss, while the people I couldn't stand got Laffy Taffy. There was no heartbreak involved — only trading of candies if you didn't like the flavor or type you received from someone. If only Valentine's Day were so simple now.

I haven't had a reason to celebrate Valentine's Day with the chocolates, roses, and romantic restaurant, and I'm not really looking forward to it. Valentine's Day, though wonderful in concept, has been exaggerated to become a holiday of extravagant gestures that could be nothing but a temporary show. Additionally, many studies have shown that in the month preceding Valentine's Day, many people break up with their current partners to avoid spending Valentine's Day with someone they may not harbor romantic feelings for anymore. The exes then spend weeks or even months thereafter brooding over the love they lost. Thus, while Valentine's Day is ideally a celebration of love, it can also be a sore holiday for those of us who are single and not happy about it.

Dealing with break-ups is certainly not easy. Feelings of loneliness combined with longing for what was can contribute to an

ice cream eating spree or listening to Cee Lo Green's "F\*\*\* You" on repeat. And though these can be effective ways of getting over someone in the short-term, they don't have a long-term stamp of warranty. Soon, the ice cream will translate to a few more pounds that will eventually have to be shed, and "F\*\*\* You" will lose its charm after the first 500 replays.

Generally being the friend who comforts, I have seen my fair share of break-ups. Through it all, I've found that there are some things that work to soothe the "achy breaky heart." I've also found that there are a few things that people do to try to make themselves feel better that just doesn't work in finding that happy mental medium. So, in honor of the day after Valentine's Day, here's my short list of dos and don'ts for getting rid of feelings of loneliness:

## Do ...

- Reach out to a friend: If you're feeling alone, don't sit and be alone! Call a friend and make plans with him or her. Go to a movie, or play a game, or sit and express your feelings to him or her. Grab some hot chocolate and just start talking about what you're going through. Odds are that your friend has been through a similar situation and can help you figure out a plan of action.

- Write down your feelings and then shred: If talking to a friend about your feelings might make you nervous, write down your feelings on a piece of paper. Get all your negativity out — curse, vent, and insult. And at the end of it, shred the paper. This metaphorical destruction of your pessimism will make you feel as though you

have put an end to all the feelings that have been getting you down.

- Go to mixers or places where you can meet people: If you're on the prowl for someone to talk to, what better way to do so than to go to an event where you can meet new people? Make yourself presentable, spritz on a little bit of that new perfume, floss and brush your teeth, and go make some new friends. Who knows — you may end up finding your soulmate! Some places at MIT that you can go to: LSC-sponsored movies, SaveTFP events, tunnel exploring, or ice skating at Johnson.

**Even though Valentine's Day happened yesterday, go out and find that special someone. Shed that suit of gloom for one of sparkly confidence.**

## Don't ...

- Take to Facebook or Twitter to announce your frustration; public defamation never did anyone good. Plus, announcing your feelings to the world can incite a flood of pity that will end up making you feeling more pathetic than vindicated.

- Sit in the reading room with your textbooks all the time; getting out of a

relationship certainly does free up a substantial amount of time for you to focus on academics. However, taking academics to an extreme can limit your social interaction and lead to more unhappiness. Instead, try to study with friends in the study rooms of Dewey Library or Hayden Library, which will give you an opportunity to get to know people in your classes better — without the smelly background of the reading room.

- Anonymously post to a site like isawyoumit; anonymous postings won't reach the person they're meant to. And while this is arguably the sole reason for posting to a site like isawyoumit, posts to these sites illicit generally crude comments that may end up making you feel worse, rather than better. Furthermore, public, anonymous posts don't allow you to confront your feelings to their core because you're still conscious of the fact that people might be reading your thoughts.

- Pig out on junk food; the whole point is that you're now available! You're single and ready to mingle. Finding a friend in a pint of Ben and Jerry's doesn't allow you to go out and show how truly amazing you are. Finding solace in junk food will eventually lower your self-esteem and send you to the gym to engage in painful rounds of curl-ups and sprints.

Even though Valentine's Day happened yesterday, go out and find that special someone. Shed that suit of gloom for one of sparkly confidence. Who knows — maybe next Valentine's Day you'll be munching on some delicious (and healthy) dark chocolate with that perfect guy or girl you've been looking for.

## CLUB CONNECTION

# Craving for caving: Meet the MIT Caving Club

Exploring the world below your feet

By Deena Wang

Tired of the daily grind, the salt-crusted asphalt, the grey sky above? Feel the itch to explore places unknown? Or perhaps you've conquered the gym's rock wall and are looking for another challenge? A cave could be the place for you. See waterfalls, exotic wildlife, and nature's rock sculptures, all underneath your very feet.

You're going to need some help to get there, though. That's where the MIT Caving Club comes in, exploring subterranean grottos since 1980. The tight-knit community of about ten undergraduates goes on spelunking trips throughout the year, in locales from Massachusetts to Canada.

According to club member Linda X. Chen '12, "If you think about what it's like to be underground, you imagine dark and cramped, but there are lakes you can swim around in, super clean because no one has touched them. Sometimes tunnels are very narrow so you have to crawl, but then they open up and there are crystals on the wall."

Underground, the cavers find albino lobsters, flooded tunnels, and even snow sleds to slide on the pristine mud inside. The mud can also be used to make scul-

tures, left behind in the cave for others. The MIT club has recognized sculptures created by past Beaver visitors.

**'I'm a 100 pound, 5-foot 2-inch female who can barely do 2 pushups before collapsing on the floor — if I can go caving, anyone can.'**

— Linda X. Chen '12  
MEMBER OF CAVING CLUB

Once you've packed your food, water, helmet, gloves, kneepads, climbing gear, wet suit, three sources of light, emergency blanket, change of clothes, and a plastic bag, you're ready to go. However, all the equipment in the world can't shield you from the hazards Nature guards her treasures with. It's not easy venturing into the bowels of the earth. Dangers abound, making caution a caver's best piece of equipment.

If you're small, you have an advantage in being able to squeeze through tight pas-

sages; you'll fall into cracks more easily, though. And despite their name, cave-ins are relatively rare, but slippery rocks, hypothermia, surprise floods, and simply getting lost could put a real damper on your exploration party. That's why the cavers travel in groups of about five, and always pay attention to safety. Fortunately, the MIT club has never had a serious injury.

For those who revel in the rush of discovery, delving into the deep is a good exercise for their inquisitive tendencies. However, "a lot of beginners try it once and never come back" because of the soaking wet conditions and constant risk of hypothermia, said Chen. It's imperative that you wear non-cotton clothes, even underwear, unless you want to literally freeze your butt off.

Spelunking requires a high tolerance of discomfort, considering the crawling through a twisty maze of tunnels, the diving through flooded tunnels, and the rappelling into the dark, not knowing when your feet will hit the ground. Incidental unpleasanties include having to push your way through the decaying bodies of animals that wash into caves.

"Most people have never smelled a dead mammal in an enclosed space," Chen said.

"If you are a beginner, don't let all this talk of freezing cold water, hypothermia, and damp dark small spaces scare you. I'm a 100 pound, five foot two inch female who can barely do two pushups before collapsing on the floor — if I can go caving, anyone can."

Caving is definitely an activity that can't be experienced vicariously. The descriptions in newsletters don't do the caves justice, and the enthusiasm of the speakers at Boston Grotto (the Boston caving club) isn't quite so contagious when all you have is their account of the wonders they saw. Photography isn't always an option either. In the wet caves of the New England area, the moisture will ruin cameras, and there are the obvious lighting problems. The only way to experience the grandeur of the deep is to see it for yourself.

The cavers are the few, the strong, and the brave, willing to face unknown risks to see what few others have seen before. If you can persevere beyond the challenges, a wondrous new world awaits. Just don't forget to wear your helmet.

For more information, blanch yourself onto the [caving@mit.edu](mailto:caving@mit.edu) list. This is the first of a series of profiles about clubs at MIT.

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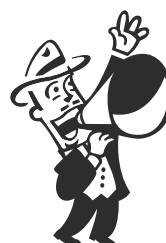
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## Over 100 receive Valentine's serenades

Two MIT a capella groups spent yesterday delivering Valentine's Day serenades.

The all-male Logarithms sang 51 serenades, in addition to 14 over the phone. Except for seven lucky guys, the Logs mostly serenaded girls. Their most popular song was "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars, which they sang 24 times.

The Logs spent the day literally running around campus. Edward T. Kim '13 said that a long wait in President Susan J. Hockfield's office to deliver their annual serenade threw off the schedule, so the Logs had to sprint to catch up.

The Logs said that not all their serenades were well-received. Luke C. Plummer '14 agreed that one incident stood out for everyone. "We had one pretty grumpy professor in Sloan who made a negative comment about our music," Plummer said.

"She kept trying to cut us off," Kim said. When the song finished, she said, "Next time you're going to interrupt my class, I suggest you select a better music choice." Coincidentally, the Logs were scheduled to deliver the same song in the classroom next door. They got their revenge by singing as loudly as they could.

Approximately half of the Logs serenades were ordered by a guy for a girl, with almost as many serenades ordered by a girl for a girl. Only one guy received a serenade from another guy.

The all-female Muses delivered 48 live serenades and five phone serenades. Their recipients were split more evenly between genders.

"Most of the professors were pretty accommodating," Caroline J. Enloe '13 said. "We went to 6.005 to serenade two people, but neither of them were in class, so we serenaded the professor instead." The Muse's most popular song was "As Long As You Love Me" by the Backstreet Boys, followed by "I Touch Myself" by the Divinyls.

In addition to the a capella serenades, the MIT Marching Band also delivered a few performances on Sunday, known as Band-O-Grams.

—Jingyun Fan



JOHN A. HAWKINSON—THE TECH

UA President Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 is serenaded by the MIT Muses prior to the Valentine's Day UA Senate meeting. The Logarithms and the Muses both sell Valentine's Day serenades each year.

Meet your fellow tech staff. (aka, your new 3 a.m. pset support group)



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### Solution to Crossword

from page 6

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

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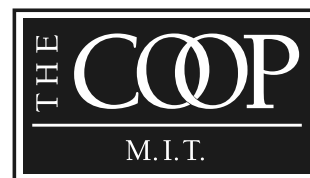
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# Student groups, maintenance among concerns at Walker

Administration receives bids for renovation of historic building; student engagement a critical concern for GSC

Walker, Page 1

The administration wishes to assess the technical qualities of the building to see if Walker is acoustically suitable for MTA, as well as research the official and unofficial uses of Walker that would be affected by the potential changes, said Schmidt. Several of the architects the administration sought at the end of fall term have submitted bids to work on the project, and MIT is prepared to accept a bid as early as the end of next week. Once accepted, the chosen firm will proceed with a detailed evaluation of the building and give estimates of the cost and timeline for a renovation, if the project is deemed feasible.

Schmidt estimates that the entire renovation process would take about two to three years — if the administration decides to proceed with the project, enough funds are raised, and proper accommodations are made for the student groups currently in Walker.

“I believe that if people are using this building, they’re using it for a good reason and to advance the mission of the Institute,” Schmidt said. “It is the Institute’s responsibility to find space for the different student groups and facilitate their move, should they have to move.”

To Schmidt’s knowledge, the Institute has not dealt with a project like the repurposing of



MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

**Associate Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88** speaks to Walker Memorial groups about the process for deciding whether Music and Theatre Arts will move into the building, and how students will be affected.

Walker Memorial in the past. Graduate Student Council President Ulric J. Ferner G said that even after the meeting, he was still concerned with the administration’s priorities in addressing students about the project. Ferner said that there was no specific timeline communicated

by administrators detailing how students would be consulted about the changes.

“The administration needs to speed up the process of student engagement ... to correct this perceived imbalance,” Ferner said. The GSC looks forward to continuing the dialogue

with the administration so that as many groups as possible can benefit from this process, he added.

The administration hopes to decide whether to move forward with a Walker renovation by the end of this semester.

## President letter, Page 1

Jessop '09, Martin F. Holmes '08, and Andrew T. Lukmann '07 (Lukmann is a former Opinion Editor, current Advisory Board member, and current Editorial Board member of *The Tech*).

The TSE was assembled three years ago following a joint statement affirming the importance of student involvement in strengthening the community. The presidents of the UA and Graduate Student Council signed the statement in conjunction with Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 and Vice President for Institute Affairs Kirk D. Kolenbrander. The goal of the task force was to “strongly promote and value student involvement in issues important to them.”

The letter from the student government presidents argues they have defaulted on that promise, citing three critical student life issues.

In April 2009, the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) was required to reduce its annual budget by \$1.5 million. Ultimately, DAPER cut eight varsity sports. The writers of the letter argue that students were not involved in the decision to cut varsity sports and

that the Student Athletics Advisory Committee was not made aware of the situation until one week before cuts were announced. The presidents also took issue with the administration’s unwillingness to reinstate the wrestling team, even after it raised \$1.6 million on its own and then went on to win the National Collegiate Wrestling Association Division II National Championship in 2010.

The UA presidents also lamented the lack of communication on the increase in enrollment that will come with the opening of Maseeh Hall next fall. The letter said student leaders had no foreknowledge of the increase, and that since the announcement there has been little engagement with the student population. They remain concerned about the increase’s effect on advising, academics, and UROP funding.

The presidents also speak about the dining controversy over the past year. Recalling a number of recurring concerns, the writers argued that the quick timeline of the announcement, with the final dining plan being released during the spring 2010 final exam period, stymied input wider student community. They added that the concerns about the homogeneity of the House Dining Advisory Group remained largely ignored.

The letter concludes by proposing several points for moving forward. The UA presidents clarify that they do not intend to prevent the administration from making the final decision on policy.

“To be clear, our intention is not to challenge the right of the administration to make the ultimate decision on any given issue,” the letter states, “but rather to encourage them to put into place a clear and well-understood process that ensures that the student voice is heard.”

Still, the presidents request UA and GSC leaders be promoted to full voting members of the Academic Council. The presidents of those organizations are currently only invited to one Academic Council meeting each year.

The presidents also hope to see more student input through the election of at least one undergraduate and one graduate student to each of the Institute Committees. Addressing recurring issues of time, the presidents also request that all data and preliminary evaluations surrounding major issues be made available to students sixty days in advance.

The letter also asked that the MIT President meet with the UA and GSC presidents on a monthly basis.

—Elijah Jordan Turner

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**Solution to Sudoku**  
*from page 7*

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

**Solution to Techdoku**  
*from page 7*

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

```
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-----
```

# Sophomores design class identity with new ring

*This year's give-aways include golden, foldable "flat rat" and Great Dome ring stand*

Ring Premiere, Page 1

amuse themselves during the two-hour wait. While I spilled clam chowder from Verdes all over my jacket, a couple of kids from East Campus played guitar and set up a tent and camp stove to roast marshmallows. Others were seen with Nintendo DS consoles or Kindles. A group of people behind me were playing vuvuzelas left over from the World Cup.

Half an hour before the doors were set to open, the line behind us stretched past the Student Center's east entrance. People grew antsy and

began pushing. Shortly before we entered the auditorium, I noticed that some of the students who were originally behind us had mysteriously appeared in front of us.

Once the doors opened, the shoving worsened as everyone scrambled for free gift tickets. Our entry tickets were later used to raffle off a few free brass rats. As we were ushered into Kresge, I was struck by the size of our class for the first time since orientation.

There were two sororities near the front of the auditorium in matching T-shirts, presumably in support of their members on the ring com-

mittee. I also saw T-shirts representing multiple living groups, including many fraternities. It isn't often that I identify as "MIT Class of 2013" and not just "East Campus Resident" or "Tech writer," but for the first time in a while, I felt as if our entire class had come together.

After the crowd settled, the lights dimmed and nobody appeared on stage. Instead, the class of 2013 was treated to a cute video that explained why everyone from Ring Committee was "late." Some were oversleeping, working out, or enjoying a meal at Anna's Taqueria. Suddenly, they ap-

peared in formal dress at Kresge as RingComm.

As in past years, the premiere started off with a fake ring presentation. A blank ring was presented to us for a moment, and then the revealing process began. Two members of the committee presented each side of the ring and explained the significance of each detail. RingComm started with the Boston skyline, then moved to the Cambridge skyline, the seal shank, the class shank, and finally the bezel.

There was enormous applause for the depiction of a candle burning

from both ends on the seal shank, symbolizing how hard MIT students work. The flames read "MIT" on the right and "13" on the left. The candlestick read MIT+150.

The presentation of the bezel and beaver was greeted by a great roar from the audience. The 2013 beaver is the first to be pictured on the Boston side of the Charles, and he sits upon a dock he built himself that bears the MIT logo. Compared to the demure, happy-looking beaver of 2012, 2013 has quite the angry beaver. Sadly, however, there were no allusions to the famous Nickelodeon show of that name.

With the brass rat revealed, the committee finally divulged the nature of our surprise gift — a flat rat. Conceived some time ago, the flat rat is a flat piece of gold-colored metal that fits in a wallet. In case an unfortunate student forgets to wear a real brass rat to an interview, the student can pull out the flat rat and fold it into a three-dimensional, brass rat-esque ring. While the folded ring doesn't make a very convincing brass rat, it is a cool novelty item that most MIT students will enjoy.

The second part of the flat rat package was another fold-up metal object that becomes a stand for the real ring. It unfolds to the shape of Great Dome, with the ring stand in front and the form of the Green Building towering on the right. Students who arrived after the initial 400 attendees will have an opportunity to purchase a flat rat and ring stand in addition to their actual ring.

After the show ended, hell broke loose in Kresge lobby. It was a complete madhouse as I struggled to pick up my flat rat. Trying to retrieve a T-shirt was even uglier business; I could literally feel myself being pushed along with the current of people. I was hit with a number of backpacks and stray limbs as 2013s elbowed their way to the shirt table. I grabbed my shirt — which says "I [ring] '13," with "ring" depicted as a brass rat — along with my 2013 shot glass, and ran out, happy with my loot.

*Sophomores can size and order rings in Lobby 10 over the next two weeks. Rings will be distributed at the May 12 Ring Delivery at the State Room in Boston.*

The Cambridge skyline is depicted during the day to represent the time spent on campus for classes. Included is the Tardis, which appeared as a hack this past fall. The windows of the Green Building are illuminated to read "2-0-1-3" in binary. Flying in the sky is a V-22 Osprey, the military aircraft that visited campus during spring 2010.

The Class Shank depicts an angled view of Killian Court and Building 10. On the side of the Great Dome is a hint of scaffolding, reminding us of the dome's restoration in Fall 2009. Since we are MIT's 146th graduating class, the crown molding around the dome is divided into sections with one, four, and six hashes. As on the actual Great Dome, MCMXVI is on the front representing the year MIT moved from Boston to Cambridge.



Killian Court is framed by a barren tree and a blooming tree, signifying the changing seasons, as well as hinting at our love-hate relationship with MIT. The lower half of the shank features Athena, the Greek goddess of war, wisdom, and strength, and the name of MIT's computing environment. Behind her sits the older "nuts and bolts" symbol of MIT.



For the first time, the beaver sits on the dock of the Charles River Esplanade. In the beaver's right hand is a branch, its four leaves representing four years of undergraduate study here at MIT. A "13" is visible in the negative space of the branch. The beaver sits on 8 ivy leaves, much like MIT is on top of academia. Cradled in the beaver's tail is a four-leaf clover, representing good fortune, in spite of negative connotations with the class year, thirteen.

Engraved in the Charles River are two of MIT's colloquialisms, 'Punt' and 'Tool.' On the left side is the Mass Ave Bridge, connecting MIT's campus to Boston. In the arches of the bridge are the letters IHTEP.



In front of the academic buildings is the Sailing Pavilion. In the sky are a shooting star and a full moon, commemorating the 500th anniversary of Copernicus's original thesis in the year 2013.

In his left hand the beaver clutches a framing square, which is in the shape of a 7 with 13 notches on its sides. The 7 represents the UN's predicted world population in 2013 of 7 billion people. He is using the framing square and his natural engineering abilities to construct the dock, leaving behind the MIT logo. The beaver also wears his own 2013 Brass Rat.



On the far right of the Boston skyline is Fenway Park. The Goodyear Blimp flies nearby. Also prominent is the Citgo Sign, Prudential Center, and Hancock Tower. The skyline is adorned with a crescent moon, featuring Boston in the nighttime, a view that we often see from campus.

The seal shank depicts MIT's authentic seal, inscribed with 1861 and MIT's motto, "Mens et Manus," Latin for "Mind and Hand." The seal features a student and a teacher as well as the lamp of knowledge, which exhibits our devotion to academic excellence. On the outer rim of the seal, two atoms are colliding, referencing CERN's Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator that experienced its first successful collision during our freshman year.



The globe beneath the seal is held in two hands. The globe represents the MIT Green Initiative as well as our campus's support for victims of recent natural disasters. The candle, burning at both ends, represents our late, sleepless nights and long hours of work. Inscribed in the candle is "MIT + 150" to commemorate MIT's celebrations for its 150th anniversary this year. The flames of the candle are mirror images of each other, on the left, the flame reads "13," the right side reads "MIT."

INFOGRAPHIC BY FAREEHA SAFIR; TEXT COURTESY OF 2013 RING COMMITTEE, [HTTP://TWENTY13.MIT.EDU/RINGCOMM](http://TWENTY13.MIT.EDU/RINGCOMM)

# Chevron ordered to pay \$9 billion by Ecuador judge

By Simon Romero  
and Clifford Krauss  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CARACAS, Venezuela — A judge in a tiny courtroom in the Ecuadorean Amazon ruled Monday that the oil giant Chevron was responsible for polluting remote tracts of Ecuadorean jungle and ordered the company to pay more than \$9 billion in damages, one of the largest environmental awards ever.

The decision by Judge Nicolas Zambrano in Lago Agrio, a town founded as an oil camp in the 1960s, immediately opened a contentious new stage of appeals in a legal battle that has dragged on in courts in Ecuador and the United States for 17 years, pitting forest tribes and villagers against one of the largest American corporations.

The award against Chevron "is one of the largest judgments ever imposed for environmental contamination in any court," said David M. Uhlmann, an expert in environmental law at the University of Michigan. "It falls well short of the \$20 billion that BP has agreed to pay to compensate victims of the gulf oil spill but is a landmark decision nonetheless. Whether any portion of the claims will be paid by Chevron is less clear."

Both sides said they would appeal the ruling, setting the stage for months and potentially years more of legal wrangling in the closely watched case, which has already been marked by claims of industrial espionage and fraud, and remarkably bitter disputes among the various lawyers involved. Legal experts said that the size of the award and the attention the case has focused on environmental degradation were likely to encourage similar suits.

The 188-page ruling found Chevron responsible for damages of about \$8.6 billion, and perhaps double that amount if Chevron fails to publicly apologize for its actions within 15 days. The judge also ordered Chevron to pay \$860 million, or 10 percent of the damages, to the Amazon Defense Coalition, the group formed to represent the plaintiffs.

Pablo Fajardo, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, called the ruling a "triumph of justice," but said it still fell short. "We're going to appeal because we think that the damages awarded are not enough," he said in a telephone interview. The plaintiffs were seeking as much as \$113 billion, according to a report recently submitted to the court.

Kent Robertson, a Chevron spokesman, said Monday that the company was studying the order to figure out exactly what the damages were. In the meantime, he said, Chevron would appeal the case through the Ecuadorean legal system, and would not pay the damages.

"This is the product of fraud," Robertson said. "It had always been the plan to inflate the damages claim and coordinate with corrupt judges for a smaller judgment."

He suggested that the timing of the ruling, a week after Chevron filed a lawsuit against the plaintiffs' lawyers, was not coincidental. He said it was coordinated between the plaintiffs and the court, which had previously accepted an expert environmental opinion that Chevron contended was partly ghost-written by representatives of the plaintiffs, who include villagers and Indian tribes in northeastern Ecuador.

The plaintiffs have denied any collaboration with the judge and said they merely provided information for the expert's report as

the court encouraged both sides to do.

In addition to its appeal in Ecuador, Chevron may fare better in seeking to block the judgment in American courts.

"It might as well be Monopoly money, given all the respect that Chevron will show it," said Ralph G. Steinhardt, professor of law and international affairs at George Washington University Law School. "There is a legal regime for enforcing foreign judgments but there is a lot of discretion for U.S. judges to suspend the enforcement of foreign judgments."

The decision was the latest installment in a legal soap opera in which Chevron and lawyers for Ecuadorean peasants have sued and countersued over oil pollution in Ecuador's rain forest.

The origins of the case go back to the 1970s, when Texaco, which was later acquired by Chevron, operated as a partner with the Ecuadorean state oil company. The peasants sued in 1993, claiming that Texaco had left an environmental mess that was causing illnesses in villages. Chevron bought Texaco in 2001, before the case was resolved.

Chevron has been playing hardball for at least the last two years. It produced video recordings from watches and pens wired with bugging devices that suggested a bribery scheme surrounded the proceedings and involved a judge hearing the case. The judge was forced to resign, although it was later revealed that an American behind the secret recordings was a convicted drug trafficker.

Chevron appeared to gain the upper hand again when it won a legal bid to secure the outtakes from a documentary about the case, *Crude*, in which Steven Donziger, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, is seen discussing the judicial system and how it operates.

Last week, Chevron filed a suit against dozens of people involved in the case, charging that they conspired to extort the company for \$113 billion by making up evidence and trying to manipulate the Ecuadorean legal system. At the company's request, an American judge issued a temporary restraining order to block any judgment for at least four weeks. A day later, international arbitrators ordered Ecuador to suspend the enforcement of any judgment.

"On the facts as we know them now, there are serious questions about the legitimacy of the process," said Duncan Hollis, associate dean of Temple Law School, who has been following the case. "Therefore, at a minimum, U.S. courts will not be quick to enforce this, but that's not to say they won't ultimately do so. There is going to be a lot more litigation in the U.S. on this."

Almost lost in the various disputes related to the lawsuit is the fact that Chevron and plaintiffs have agreed that oil exploration contaminated what had been largely undeveloped swaths of Ecuadorean rainforest. The plaintiffs claim that Chevron must be held responsible for damage where Texaco once operated. Chevron, however, argues that Texaco carried out a cleanup agreement. Chevron also contends that much of the damage was done after Texaco left in the early 1990s, actions for which it should not be held responsible.

"The judge recognized the crime committed," said Guillermo Grefa, head of a Quichua Indian community who claims that Texaco's oil contamination created respiratory problems among his people. "For us, this is very little. For us, the crime committed by Texaco is incalculable."

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# Maseeh Hall touts sustainability, large dining halls

*MIT's newest dormitory built with historic past in mind, but looks to the future*

Maseeh, from Page 1

Jack Carroll last October. Looking toward the future, Colombo said, "It's going to be a remarkable building and a true enhancement for students and the residential life program."

"This building has a rich history at MIT, and to return it to its former grandeur as an undergraduate residence is a wonderful moment for the Institute community," he added.

"Between our current residents and social members [students who do not live with the Phoenix Group but participate informally in the community's events], there are approximately 100 students who have said they plan to move into Maseeh Hall," said Carroll. As of yesterday afternoon, DSL has received 131 applications from other students to join the Maseeh community, according to Manager of Housing Assignments Adam J. Keyes. The deadline to apply for housing in Maseeh Hall is Feb. 28, and the application can be found at [http://housing.mit.edu/maseeh\\_hall\\_application](http://housing.mit.edu/maseeh_hall_application).

## Dining amenities

Maseeh's dining hall eclipses all others on campus in terms of size, selection, and style.

Of the 208 mantles throughout the building, two original fireplaces will be active. The North Dining Hall, facing the MIT Chapel, will hold approximately 160 diners. It also includes a private dining room, which will fit an additional 50-60 students. This dining room will be open for regular use when events aren't taking place. The South Dining Room, which will fit approximately 150 students, is also impressive. The only residential dining facility that comes close to Maseeh's capacity of approximately 360 students is Next House's, which can hold 250, according to Director of Housing Dennis Collins.

"This is probably one of my favorite rooms," Richards explained on the tour, claiming the lighting and river view will contribute to a classy environment.

In the center of the room, stations serving up grill, deli, salad, and late-night selections will offer meals as part of Maseeh's all-you-can-eat meal plan.



JOANNA KAO—THE TECH

Students were shown a furnished double in Maseeh during the tours on Saturday. The dorm contains 166 doubles, 19 triples, and 77 singles. The rooms have tile floors, and hallways will be carpeted.

The Hillel Community will also benefit from Maseeh's design. A kosher station, which is unique to this dining hall, will offer lunch and dinner prepared across the street at the Religious Activities Center. According to a November article from the MIT News Office, "Residents of McCormick Hall, Baker House, Next House and Simmons Hall may order kosher meals one day in advance to be delivered to their dining halls for dinner the next night."

## Energy improvements

The MIT News Office reported in November that Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin III says that composting, cooking oil conversion to biodiesel, and energy-saving equipment will help this dining hall "set the standard" for dining facilities. Despite Massachusetts' already "strict energy code," Richards said Maseeh has improved upon those basic requirements.

Richards also has high expectations that Maseeh will receive LEED

certification, a rating from the U.S. Green Building Council for energy efficient buildings. "We are expecting to achieve a minimum of LEED Silver certification for Maseeh Hall and are hoping to achieve enough credits for LEED Gold certification" after construction is complete.

Although renovated buildings typically have difficulty achieving a Gold rating, Richards is optimistic: "Students living here in the building can help with that."

Heat recovery units on the roof will put escaping heat to use, dual-flush toilets will conserve water, and thermally separated windows will reduce energy waste. In addition, the windows facing noisy Memorial Drive and Massachusetts Avenue traffic will be made of laminated glass, increasing "the Sound Transmission Coefficient (STC) to provide better sound abatement," according to Richards. Real-time energy meters on each floor will show curious residents their energy usage.

A theme throughout the Maseeh

Hall construction plans is the use of recycled and regional materials, including local green grueby tiles on a couple of dormant fireplaces. About 75 percent of the existing building structure has been maintained, including the majestic self-supporting tile of the entry canopy. In fact, the new building was honored in 2010 with the Cambridge Historical Commission Preservation Award for project quality and historical significance.

Next fall, 462 undergraduate students, including those from the Phoenix Group, will become the first residents of the renovated Maseeh Hall.

With space for 70-80 students on each floor, Maseeh will be the dorm with the largest number of beds. There will be two GRTs per floor, offering a student-to-GRT ratio typical of the other dorms, according to Richards. The dorm offers 77 singles, 166 doubles, and 19 triples.

The West Tower, where the dining hall lies, will host five residential

floors, whereas the East Tower will have seven. The east and west ends of every floor except the first will be connected by a hallway bridging the two sides. These hallways will contain lounges facing the river, bookended by original mantles, and will offer students a place to study or just hang out. Bathrooms on each floor will be coed. Elevator and stair access to the residential floors will require a Maseeh Hall resident to swipe his or her MIT ID card. Rooms and floor lounges will not have air-conditioning, but the "lobby, dining rooms, servery areas, and ground floor student life spaces" will, according to Richards.

"We hope to have [the associate housemaster] in place during the spring term so [he or she] can get to know the current Phoenix Group community and begin to participate in planning activities," Carroll said.

Maseeh Hall will take part in residence-based advising, which is new for the Phoenix Group. This collection of undergraduates has lived together since Fall 2008, joining the Ashdown graduate community in NW35, also known as "New Ashdown." That fall, the weak economy forced MIT to postpone W1's development "indefinitely," according to the Phoenix Group website. It wasn't until two years later, after the \$24 million gift from Fariborz Maseeh, that the Phoenix Group's hopes to rise from Ashdown's ashes came to life.

"I look forward to seeing how Maseeh Hall — drawing on the efforts of the Phoenix Group students and Housemasters — becomes another strong, unique residential community within the MIT campus culture," said Colombo.

Additional rooms in Maseeh will house residential scholars, individuals visiting campus that include professionals and professors on sabbatical from other institutions. These individuals are expected to act as an "academic resource to the house, actively participating in house activities and hosting one event per term," Carroll said. The Housemasters, Suzanne Flynn and Jack Carroll, will live on the 6th floor of the East Tower, whereas the Associate Housemaster, a role for which recruiting is currently taking place, will live on the 3rd floor of the West Tower.



TURNER BOHLEN—THE TECH

Andrew J. Musacchio '11 and Brent M. Johnson '14 lead the pack over the second hurdle during the men's 55 meter hurdles race at the MIT Coed Invitational Track and Field meet on Saturday. Musacchio held on to grab first with a time of 8.23 seconds. Isaac Nicholson of Williams took second, followed by Johnson in third.

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, February 16

Men's Basketball vs. Wheaton College

6 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Women's Basketball vs. WPI

8 p.m., Rockwell Cage

# Taking on Div. I at BU

## Women's Track & Field hold their own

By Greg McKeever

DAPER STAFF

The MIT Women's Track and Field team was back in action at Boston University for the second time in three weeks, and the

Engineers were once again up to the challenge of competing with some of the top athletes in New England, including a number of Division I competitors. The Engineers achieved seven different NCAA-level performances while narrowly missing a few more in its final weekend of competition before the Division III New England Championship.

Perhaps the most impressive showing came from the 4x400 meter relay squad of Jamie L. Simmons '12, Hazel L. Briner '11, Martha M. Gross '12, and Portia M. Jones '12. The group, which already holds the MIT record in the event, placed fifth with a time that was slower than only a couple Division I and II teams. Finishing in 3:52.35, MIT automatically qualified for next month's NCAA Division III Championship.

Karin E. Fisher '11 continued to pile up outstanding efforts in the pole vault: the senior has won the event in four of the five meets she has competed in this year. Fisher (12-5.50 feet) and teammate Briner (11-11.75 feet) finished one-two in the event and each reached the NCAA provisional standard in the process. Lauren B. Kuntz '13 tied for fourth with a vault of 10-11.75 feet.

Jones, Simmons, and Gross also took part in the 400 meter and posted times nearly as strong as their relay splits. Jones finished sixth overall with an NCAA provisional time of 56.80 seconds, just 0.05 seconds off the automatic standard. Simmons also had a provisional qualifier with her time of 58.53 seconds, good for 22nd overall. Gross completed the two-lap race in 1:01.26, and Megan E. Bumgarner '14 was just behind with a time of 1:01.45.

### The Engineers were once again up to the challenge of competing with some of the top athletes in New England.

Other NCAA qualifying marks came from Amy R. Magnuson G in the 60-meter hurdles (9.20 seconds) and Louise E. van den Heuvel '14, who continues to improve quickly in the mile with a personal best time of 5:03.98.

Jacqueline A. Brew '14 posted a personal best and the second-fastest time in Institute history in the 200 meter (26.10 seconds) while Olivia J. Papa '14 also set an individual record in the 800 meter (2:20.37).

The entire team will return to the Shobrys and Aronson Track for the NCAA Division III New England Championship next week.

# Oh, when the Saints ...

## Saints victory stands out in 2010 memory

By Nidharshan Anandasivam

SPORTS STAFF

*Editor's note: This is a continuation of a Feb. 1 column on the most memorable sports moments of 2010.*

A few years from now, we will look back on 2010 and remember only certain moments in the world of sports — those instances of great influence, moments that changed the history and impacted the future of sports. Two weeks ago, I presented 2010's top two moments: the World Cup in South Africa, and LeBron James' move to the Miami Heat. Moving on to number three ...

### The Saints Come Home (as Super Bowl Champions)

In 2005, the devastating Hurricane Katrina, which killed nearly 2000, rendered many more homeless, and cost an estimated \$81 billion in property damage, definitely took a toll on the city of New Orleans and its people. The city didn't have much to be passionately cheerful about for the next few years, save the relief efforts put in place to fix the Big Easy.

But the beginning of 2010 proved to spark a city lost in tragedy and rejuvenate the sporting enthusiasts huddled around TV screens to watch their beloved New Orleans Saints take on Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV. "Who Dat" was the phrase shouted everywhere as smiling revelers all around New Orleans rejoiced at the Saints' newfound success. After the Saints won 13 and lost

only 3 during that regular season in 2009, there were high expectations and the city would have erupted had the Saints brought home the Lombardi trophy.

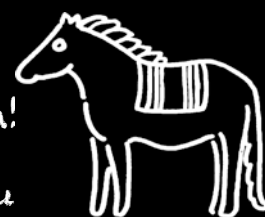
Led by a confident Drew Brees, the speedy and agile halfback Reggie Bush, and a solid receiving bunch including Robert Meachem and the experienced tight-end Jeremy Shockey, the go-to-guy in tough third-down situations, the Saints knew they could pick apart the Colt defense, but the question was whether they could restrain Manning and the Colts' efficient passing game. The first quarter was tense as the Colts scored a touchdown and a field goal, while the Saints could not get on the scoreboard. This had Saints fans praying for a comeback. But, it wasn't until the third and fourth quarters that the Saints had their way, scoring 15 unanswered points to close out the game and win their first ever championship. People all around New Orleans, especially in the historic French Quarter, celebrated what seemed to be an equally historic moment for their city.

Many across the U.S. and the world feel that the Saints victory has no significance in their lives. But those affected by Katrina, and who despite that remained passionate about their hometown, will forever be changed. It is a victory for the team, for the city, and for its people. The victory will survive the test of time to remind people of the spirit of New Orleans; a city that fell as it faced a horrible natural disaster, then got back up to win a Super Bowl.

Up next: the Wimbledon Epic.

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