Japan in crisis, MIT reacts

By Maggie Lloyd
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It was supposed to be a routine visit to Japan for MISTI staff to assist with lost community and university contacts about upcoming summer internship programs. Michelle L. Kern, program coordinator for MISTI Japan, and Patricia E. Gercik, managing director of MISTI Japan, arrived in Tokyo on March 10, and started with the usual meetings the next day — the day of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake that destroyed the north-east coast.

That afternoon, the two got in a cab for a bouton de fontaine station, and at 2:46 p.m. JST, Kern says the vehicle “just started shaking” The driver became somewhat concerned, but after the initial quake, Gercik decided they should stay in the cab. As it turns out, this was a good call. The next day, it was a different story. Group members from MIT, the MIT Figure Skating Club, and other student organizations are raising money for victims of the disaster. Aftershocks from the earthquake continue to be felt in Japan.

The nuclear reactors in Fukushima, Japan, were damaged by last Friday’s tsunami and earthquake. The Japanese Association of MIT, the MIT Figure Skating Club, and other student groups are raising money for victims of the disaster. Aftershocks from the earthquake continue to be felt in Japan.

Class of 2015 admission rate sinks to 9.6 percent

On Monday, MIT celebrated pi day by granting admission to 1,715 high school seniors. Despite an increase in class size to 2,250 — up by about 60 from the current freshman class size — the class of 2015’s admission rate was a staggering low 9.6 percent. With 19,959 applications overall, the admissions office saw an 8 percent increase in applications from last year, driving the admit rate down from last year’s 9.7 percent.

In an e-mail, Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill ’86 said the applicant pool this year was “quite robust”. Admissions saw a larger increase in applications from women and underrepresented minority students. Nearly half of admitted applicants — 49 percent — were women, while 8 percent were international citizens. The class of 2014, by comparison, is 45 percent women and 8.7 percent international.

An exceptionally diverse class, the class of 2015 is 10 percent African American, 30 percent Asian American, 34 percent Caucasian, 15 percent Hispanic, 1 percent Native American, plus 8 percent international. Including U.S. citizens who are bringing abroad, 13 percent of 2015’s students don’t live in the U.S. The class of 2014 is 39 percent Caucasian, 36 percent Asian American, 10 percent Hispanic, 9 percent African American, and 1 percent Native American.

The admitted students also represent 65 countries and all 50 states. The biggest percentage of students — 21 percent — hail from the West Coast, while the Mid-Atlantic and South come in second with 19 percent. Nine-teen percent of 2015’s class is from the Mid-Atlantic area, 17 percent from the South, 13 percent from the Midwest and Plain states, and 10 percent from the Southwest and Mountain regions. Surprisingly, only 10 percent of admitted students come from MIT’s own New England region.

Gamers invade Boston

By Jessica J. Pourian
STAFF REPORTER

The Penny Arcade Expo East came to Boston last weekend to a warm welcome from over 60,000 people. Fans of 8-bit Penny Arcade webcomic, tabletop games, and digital games made it to the convention to celebrate three days of gaming goodness. A number of exciting events, concerts, game tournaments, and a stunning exhibit hall all contributed to the fun of the show. An atmosphere of gaming community was prevalent throughout the weekend, gamers showed their support for the Child’s Play charity and were generally warm to one another.

PAX East 2011 is the biggest expo Penny Arcade creators Mike Krahulik and Jerry Holkins have ever produced. Developers from across the gaming industry attended the expo, showcasing new games and demos for fans to enjoy. As for past PAXs, people traveled from across the nation to attend this show. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at PAX East observing and partaking in the biggest gaming conference this side of the Mississippi.

Fact or fiction?

CDSA campaign tries to highlight women’s issues

By Deborah Chen
STAFF REPORTER

Have you been wondering what “Fact or Fiction” means, or what Gossip Girl, Glee, and BFF have to do with women at MIT? Jessica L. Trudeau, Fact or Fiction committee head and program administrator of the MISTI Community Development and Substance Abuse Center (CDSA) describes Fact or Fiction as a media campaign — created by the CDSA — to “challenge MIT undergraduate women to think about female identity at the Institute.”

“We wanted people to question the influences of female identity — stereotypes that exist on campus and stereotypes from the media — and we wanted to give women an opportunity to advocate for and engage with other women,” Trudeau said.

As part of the campaign, Fact or Fiction members created posters asking viewers, “Fact or Fiction?” — and suggesting they think about stereotypes like East Campus versus West Campus girls, and MIT versus BJ and Wellesley girls. The group also set up a photo booth in the Student Center last week (March 7–10), where women could be photographed holding cards that read “I [heart symbol] a girl,” with the blank represent a woman of different from them. Postcard with results selected from an alcohol-related violence survey from April 2010 were also distributed to female students through dorm mailboxes (see sidebar).

Fact or Fiction, Page 17

Percent of MIT Applicants Accepted, 2000–2011

Tabletop gamers filled an exhibition hall during last weekend’s Penny Arcade Expo. Games ranged from Katamari Damacy to Patapon.

Weather, p. 2

Friday, March 18, 2011

Climate

Super mouse to the rescue!

Follow the exploits of the furry creatures of the un/natural history world.

Fun, p. 15

Sections

World & Nation . 2
Opinion . 4
In Short . 1
Arts . 7
Sports . 20

IN SHORt

Nominations for the Big Screw are open! Vote for the faculty or staff member who has screwed over the student body the most from April 4–8.

Last chance to vote in UA and Class Council elections today, Lobby 10, 9–4!

Edwin “Neal” Thomas steps down as chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering to become dean of engineering at Rice University.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.
US flights over nuclear plant gather crucial data

By David E. Sanger and William J. Broad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The first readings from U.S. data-collection flights over the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan show that the worst of the contamination has not spread beyond the 18-mile range of highest concern established by Japanese authorities, but there is also no indication that another day of frantic efforts to cool nuclear fuel has yielded any progress, according to U.S. government officials.

The data was collected in the first of the Aerial Measurement System, among the most sophisticated devices rushed to Japan by the Obama administration in an effort to help contain a nuclear crisis that the top U.S. nuclear official said Thursday could go on for "possibly weeks."

The data show ground-level fallout of harmful radioactive pollution in the immediate vicinity of the stricken plant — a different standard than the trace amounts of radioactive particles in an atmosphere plume now projected to cover a much broader area.

While the findings were reassuring in the short term, the United States declined to back away from its warning to Americans to stay at least 50 miles from the plant, a far larger perimeter than the Japanese government has established.

President Barack Obama affirmed the warning, saying in a televised speech on Thursday afternoon that the decision was based on "a careful scientific evaluation of the "substantial risk" to those near the plant. He also repeated that there was no expectation that the radioactive plume emitted by the plant would bring harmful levels of radiation to any part of the United States, including its territories in the Pacific.

But he also called for a "comprehensive review" of the country's nuclear plants.

In interviews, U.S. officials said their biggest worry about the Japanese plant was that a frentic series of efforts by the Japanese military to get water into the four reactors there showed few signs of working.

"What you are seeing are des- perate efforts — just throwing everything at it in hopes something will work," said one U.S. official with significant experience in nuclear matters, who would not speak for attribution. "Right now this is more prayer than plan."

After a day in which U.S. officials had radically different assessments of the dangers of what is spewing from the plants, the two governments attempted Thursday to join forces. Experts met in Tokyo to compare notes. The United States, with Japane se permission, began to put the intelli gence-collection aircraft over the site in hopes of gaining a view for Washington as well as its allies in Tokyo that did not rely on the announcements of officials from the Tokyo Electric Power Co. Officials say they suspect that company has consistently underestimated the risk and moved too slowly to contain the damage.

House votes to end money for NPR, Senate passes spending bill

By Jennifer Steinhauer
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The House voted Thursday to cut off financ ing for National Public Radio, with Democrats and an independent voting in favor of the measure divided over both the content of the bill and how it would be brought to the floor.

Across the Rotunda, the Senate approved a budget resolution measure passed earlier in the week by the House that would keep the government financed through April 8. Members of both parties and chamber staff members said the move, which once again averted a government shutdown, should be the last of its kind. The measure, which cut spending by $6 billion for this fiscal year, passed the Senate 87-13, with nine Republicans, three Demo crats and an independent voting in favor.

As in the House, some of the Senate’s more conservative members voted against the spending measure, known as a continuing resolution, arguing that its cuts were insufficient. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., offered his own plan, which he said would balance the federal budget in five years by eliminating the departments of education and energy, among other measures.

Senate Republican leaders had been stopped earlier in the week from praising the $6 billion in cuts that came on top of $4 billion in reduc tions contained in the current budget bill, which expires Friday. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said that over 10 years, the $10 billion in cuts total $40 billion in savings. "All in all, a good day’s work," he said.

The NPR bill, sponsored by Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., would mean that stations could not buy programming from NPR or any other source using the $22 million they get from the federal government. The bill, should the Senate even bring it to the floor, is almost certain to fail in the chamber. Democrats control the Senate, where mem bers of both parties have expressed skepticism of cutting off NPR because it remains popular among many of their constituents.

The organization, in the cross hairs of Republican lawmakers for years, faced a new threat this year in the form of an amendment to the continuing resolution that would cut off NPR funding. After a day in which U.S. and Japanese officials have repeatedly held high-level meetings to discuss the situation in hopes of gaining a view for Washington as well as its allies in Tokyo that did not rely on the announcements of officials from the Tokyo Electric Power Co. Officials say they suspect that company has consistently underestimated the risk and moved too slowly to contain the damage.

UN Security Council backs military action against Gadhafi

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Security Council voted Thursday to authorize military action, including airstrikes against Libyan tanks and heavy artillery and a no-fly zone, a risky intervention aimed at averting a bloody rout of rebels by forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The vote, 11-2, came on top of $4 billion in reductions contained in the current budget bill, which expires Friday. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said that over 10 years, the $10 billion in cuts total $40 billion in savings. "All in all, a good day’s work," he said.

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CIA links to brutal Arab leaders may harm ties to new ones

WASHINGTON — There once was no American institution more hostile to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi’s pariah gov ernment than the Central Intelligence Agency, which had lost its deputy director, a top spy in Libya, after the government there began using the $22 million they received from the spy agencies of teams from nations around the globe is crucial to making swift, smart decisions while fielding calls from frantic parents. They have reassessed their audiences, including students studying abroad, as they have expanded programs on all seven continents.

U.S. colleges have long trumpeted the benefits of studying abroad, but also the schools’ properties, liabilities and reputations. Many administrators agree that monitoring quickly shifting circum stances around the globe is crucial to making swift, smart decisions while fielding calls from frantic parents. They have reassessed

U.S. universities worry about students studying abroad

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FDIC sues Washington Mutual's former CEO over bank's failure

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. sued the former chief executive of Washington Mutual and two of his top lieutenants Thursday, accusing them of reckless lending before the 2008 collapse of what was the nation's largest savings bank.

The civil lawsuit, seeking to recover $900 million, is the first against a major bank chief executive by the regulator and follows escalating public pressure to hold bankers accountable for actions leading up to the financial crisis.

Kerry Killinger, Washington Mutual's longtime chief executive, led the bank on a "lending spree" knowing that the housing market was in a bubble and failed to put in place the proper risk management systems and internal controls, according to a complaint filed Thursday in federal court in Seattle.

David Schneider, Washington Mutual's president of home lending, and Stephen Rotella, its chief operations officer, were also accused of negligence for their roles in developing and leading the bank's aggressive growth strategy.

"They focused on short-term gains to increase their own compensation, with reckless disregard for WaMu's long-term safety and soundness," the agency said in the 63-page complaint. "The FDIC brings this complaint to hold these highly paid senior executives, who were chiefly responsible for WaMu's higher-risk home lending program, accountable for the resulting losses."


**Global economic agency sees need for retirement age to keep rising**

By Matthew Saltmarsh

PARIS — Retirement ages in advanced economies will have to rise more than currently planned if countries hope to cover the increase in costs caused by aging populations, a global economic organization warned Thursday.

Angel Gurria, secretary general of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, said "fiscally and socially responsible" measures would be needed to avoid "a resurgence of old-age pov-
erity in the future."

In a report, the organization said that by 2050, the average age in industrialized countries for drawing pensions would reach 65 for both men and women. This represents an increase from current levels of about 1.5 years for men and 2.5 years for women.

But the trend toward later retirement and other recent changes, like promoting private pensions, will still not cover the assumed increase in liabilities as the working population shrinks and the number of retirees continues to rise.

"The report, "Pensions at a Glance 2011," said life expectancy was rising faster than the increase in pension ages by an average of two years for men and 1.5 years for women.

The size of the working-age population in the 34 countries belonging to the organization will peak around 2015 and fall more than 10 percent by 2050, meaning that a smaller group of workers will be supporting a larger number of retirees.

Thus, financial sustainability for retirement systems "is not guar-
anteed unless pension ages are in-
creased beyond current plans in most of the OECDs," the report said.

**Tibetan monk dies protesting Chinese rule by self-immolation**

BEIJING — A young Tibetan monk who set himself on fire to pro-
test Chinese rule in the vast Tibetan regions of western China died early on Thursday. It was the first time that a monk protesting against China had killed himself through self-immolation, according to his-
torians of modern Tibet.

The act appeared to reflect the sense of desperation and futility that simmerers among Tibetans who chafe at rule by China, which in-
vaded central Tibet in 1951. The monk, Phuntsog, 20, belonged to the Kirti Monastery in Sichuan Province. The monastery has been a cen-

ter of protest against Chinese policies and was especially active in the 2008 Tibetan uprising.

"China's violent rule in Tibet has escalated since 2008 to a point where Tibetans feel compelled to take desperate action," Tenam Dorji, executive director of Students for a Free Tibet, based in New York, said in a statement. "Phuntsog larma's self-immolation is a window into the deep suffering and frustrations that Tibetans every-
where are feeling, and is an urgent cry for help that the global com-
munity cannot ignore."

Phuntsog set himself on fire on the 4 p.m. Wednesday, according to a report Thursday by Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency.


**Missiles fired from CIA drones kill civilians in Pakistan**

By Salman Masood and Pir Zubair Shah

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Several missiles fired from U.S. drone aircraft Thursday struck a meeting of local people in northwest Pakistan who had gathered with Taliban meditators to settle a dispute over a chroni-
mite mine. The attack, a Pakistani intel-
ligne official said, killed 36 of 32 people present, some of them Talib-
ban fighters, but the majority elders and local people not attached to the milita-
tants.

The civilian death toll appeared to be among the worst in strikes carried out recently in Pakistan’s tribal areas and local people not attached to the Taliban fighters, but the majority elders and local people not attached to the milita-
tants.

After a pause in drone attacks from Jan. 23 to Feb. 20, the pace of at-
tacks has picked up again this month. Some analysts attributed the fall to the CIA’s not wanting to upset negoti-
ations to free Raymond A. Davis, the U.S. diplomat who was released on Wednesday.

The intelligence official said that of the 32 people at the meeting, 12 were Taliban fighters, 11 of whom were killed. The rest of the dead were elders and tribesmen.

Recently discovered chroni-
mite mines are common in the area. To keep the mines running profitably, the Taliban — as the reigning author-
ities — often settle disputes between tribes with competing claims and levy taxes on exports and the mine operators.

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Opinion

Fact or Fiction: an appropriate title
Campaign has good intentions but misleading methods
By Michael Veldman

My first reaction upon seeing the Fact or Fiction website was definitely negative. But after exploring the site more, talking to girls involved in the campaign, and seeing some of the posters, I can say with certainty — at least in its current state — that it is a total misfire.

The Fact or Fiction campaign was founded by a group of undergraduate women at MIT to counter the ostensible “Mean Girls” stereotype prevalent at other women’s colleges. The school’s group modulus operandi appears to be that if MIT girls represent. To suggest that East Campus girls are more punk, alternative, or ostentatious with their dress shows a spectrum of stereotypes of women at area colleges, including MIT. This implies that it might not be surprising to find a similarity between the dress of women of color and other non-conservative attire, though one that attempts to combat stereotypes of women at area colleges, including MIT. The poster ends up doing nothing less than exacerbating them.

The poster puts an end doing nothing less than exacerbating stereotypes that MIT girls represent. To suggest that East Campus girls are more punk, alternative, or ostentatious with their dress shows a spectrum of stereotypes of women at area colleges, including MIT. This implies that it might not be surprising to find a similarity between the dress of women of color and other non-conservative attire, though one that attempts to combat stereotypes of women at area colleges, including MIT. The poster ends up doing nothing less than exacerbating them.

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By Rachel Bandler

This past Monday, Secretary of Home-land Security Janet Napolitano delivered the 2011 Karl Taylor Compton Lecture. Secre-tary Napolitano emphasized the impor-tance of the involvement of MIT minds in politics and public service for the benefit of the nation. However, it is extremely com-mon for MIT students to great important political issues with apathy, and for political involvement to be dismissed as irrelevant. It is time for MIT students to take Secretary Napolitano’s advice and to broaden their focus beyond the pages of textbooks and problem sets.

Napolitano joined President Obama’s cabinet in 2009 after working as a lawyer and Arizona’s governor. As governor, she focused on issues such as immigration and border control, taking a special interest in keeping our nation protected and secure. Now, as Secretary of Homeland Security, she continues to work towards safeguarding the United States from its enemies in an in-novative and forward-thinking fashion.

As Napolitano emphasized, creative thinking is so important because the ob-stacles that we are confronting today have transformed with the modern age, making them all the more dangerous. For instance, the oceans surrounding the United States no longer act as a buffer to attack, and our adversary is not necessarily a conventional army. Instead, small numbers of terrorists can inflict major damage and do not op-erate according to the traditional rules of warfare. Because of the constantly evolving threat, U.S. security can be preserved in the future only through the combination of the disciplines of science and public service.

Our adversary is not a conventional army; small numbers of terrorists can inflict major damage.

To achieve this goal, MIT students need to have a broad national and global inter-est. Judging by the current campus climate, however, it does not seem like this is the case. In fact, political activism at MIT can only be described as lackluster. The college Re-publicans and Democrats are essentially nonfunctional, and political issues — on or off campus — don’t seem to be of much importance to the general student body. In-terest in student government is particularly lacking, only one ticket is on the ballot for UA President and Vice President. Indeed, disillusionment with student government, and the UA in particular, is widespread. The UA does not seem to be guided by any spe-cific or clearly articulated goals, and UA of-ficers have been resigning in droves. Many students involved in student government are freshmen — perhaps because they have not yet been overcome by the disenchant-ment plaguing upperclassmen. Regardless, the large number of UA freshmen prevents smooth transitions from term to term, add-ing frustration and inefficiency to and al-ready-disrupted process. But to return to Napolitano’s message: MIT students need to realize that research must be applied in real-time, and should not be limited in scope to laboratory benches and science journals. The research done in the lab must be transferred to the field, and engineers have to play a critical role in turning ideas into a political reality. Imple-mentation of discoveries requires a broad skill set of leadership capabilities — re-search prowess and scientific brilliance is not enough. It is for this reason that Napolitano asked MIT students to broaden their focus, and consider working for an institu-tion such as the Department of Homeland Security.

In truth, MIT students should be mak-ing decisions in higher levels of government because they have such great intelligence and potential. Often, politicians are asked to make policy decisions on issues they do not understand, and they frequently lack the qualifications to make such decisions.

This can lead to disastrous outcomes be-cause the “blind” are asked to lead the way. Alternatively, scientists and engineers with a technical background should be called upon as experts. There is no reason that the innovations made in the lab cannot be applied on a larger scale and be implemented effectively across the nation.

By Peter Mc Kee

J udComm is broken
IFC risk management policies are unfair and dangerous

Habing rules that are generally ignored opens the door for bias and inequality when they are actually enforced.

The Judicial Committee of the IFC re-ceived a lot of attention last semester due to the handling of a third party vendor — i.e., unless the party is a third party vendor — i.e., unless the event is cata-be a fraternity that called for help for a sick toxicated person. This is not the kind of rep-iishment to just about anyone. This could be a fraternity that calls for help.

The most important issue, however, is that the incentives created by this policy are dangerous. A fraternity that calls an emergency number for an alcohol transport, regardless of the house’s responsibility in the situation, is not likely to report on bad terms with IFC leadership. It could be a fraternity that calls an emergency number for an alcohol transport only to be placed aside. What is happening in the MIT world today affects our nation, future generations, and us, it is unacceptable to pretend that living in a bubble is the best way to make an impact. Of course it is true that MIT students care about their research, and hope to better the world through sci-ence. However, it is rare that students ap-precate the full political implications and policy-making opportunities their science background and MIT degree provides them. Hopefully a change can occur at MIT, and students will become more involved politi-cally both on campus and beyond.

By Peter Mc Kee

As a senior who has been in a fraternity at MIT for almost four years now, I have had the chance to meet many responsible and hard working members of a lawyer Greek community here. A group composed of such people definitely has the poten-tial to effectively self-govern. In several areas the Interfraternity Council is doing just that. Development and enforcement of risk management policies, however, is not one of those areas. The means through which IFC enforces its risk management standards are not only unfair, but actually dangerous.

Having rules that are generally ignored opens the door for bias and inequality when they are actually enforced.

The Judicial Committee of the IFC re-ceived a lot of attention last semester due to the handling of a third party vendor — i.e., unless the party is a third party vendor — i.e., unless the event is cata-be a fraternity that called for help for a sick toxicated person. This is not the kind of rep-iishment to just about anyone. This could be a fraternity that calls for help.

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The back of the envelope
Continuing analysis of the Fukushima crisis

By Keith Yost

In the last issue of The Tech, I tried to explain the events at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant and gave my opinion, as some- one who performed nuclear safety engineering from MIT, as to what I thought the situation on the ground was and the likely course of events. In particular, I made three important claims:
1) Looking back, we will reflect on the events. In particular, I made three important claims. A 40-year-old nuclear power plant was just subject to the fifth largest recorded earthquake in history. It had not been designed to remain operational in the after- math of that event, only to fail in a manner that protected the public from harm. It is doing just that, and in my book, that counts as a powerful demonstration of reliability.
2) The public faces virtually zero risk from radioactivity. The most exposed individual so far has been a worker who received a measured 10-15 mrem. That dose is against a background yearly dose of roughly 350 mrem for the average individual. And the public is at significantly less risk than those working on-site.
3) I stand by two out of three of my claims. As I look over the reports from Units 1 and 3, I still see windows of time in which clad melting might be possible, though not many where fuel melting is a concern. However, new events at Unit 2 (which occurred after I had written my article) do appear to have resulted in partial fuel melting.

There is plenty of non-technical opinion to be written. Opinion on nuclear power in the after- math of the earthquake — predictions on the future of the nuclear renaissance, commen- tary on government response in the hague and the media, philosophical discussions about the role of the government, and so on. But there will always be time for those topics. Right now, the best use of my columns inches is to share a few things on the back of my envelope so that fellow engineers can critique their predictions of the future, build their own calculations of what is happen- ing in Fukushima, and better explain to their friends and families what sorts of things were in mind, here is my current un- derstanding of the current state of the Fukushima reactors, and my own timeline of events.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION

Continuing analysis of the Fukushima crisis

Fukushima Daiichi has been or will become a failure, of nuclear safety engineering.
INTERVIEW

A matchstick chat with Travie McCoy

The Tech talks to the musician about Lazarus and going solo

By Jeff Z. Chen

Travie McCoy is perhaps best known for being the frontman of the alternative hip-hop band Gym Class Heroes. More recently, he’s recognized for the song “ Billionaire” with Bruno Mars, and his debut solo album Lazarus. I spoke to Travie McCoy about Lazarus, and unfortunately, what I was hoping to be long, romantic fireside chat was cut to 15 minutes by his mean of publicist — I could only squeeze in a matchstick worth of conversation.

The Tech: Hey Travie. My name is Jeff Chen, and I’m an arts writer for MIT’s newspaper, The Tech. First of all, thanks a lot for doing this interview with me. As a schizophrenic fan of both guitar driven alternative rock and hip hop, I’m a big GCH fan. Also, can you have children?

Travie McCoy: Sure, no problem.

TT: What provoked the decision to do the solo album? Was there an aspect of musicianship that you felt GCH was more just for your –

TM: Yeah, it was definitely not a conscious decision. It wasn’t like, there was something I was dissatisfied with Gym Class Heroes, or that there was any bad blood in the band. I’ve been doing GCH for 12 years now. Even before I was doing Lazarus we were already writing stuff for the new GCH album, Papercut Chronicles II. We’ve got a great new track with Adam Levine from Maroon 5, “Stereo Hearts”, and it was amazing.

TT: Lazarus was just more for your- 

TM: Self-serve.

TT: Occasionally I record stuff outside, and it just had to come out. It was more out of necessity than anything. Just my main priority at the time was to try and release, and with Lazarus it was like, why not? It was a side project, just the biggest side project I’ve ever done.

TT: I read in an older interview that you really had a lot of songs done out for Lazarus that had a much more emotional edge, and were a lot darker, about addiction and breakup and stuff.

TM: Yeah. I was in a really dark place. There was the addiction, I was going through the shitty breakup with Katy, and a death in the family. And with my music, at the time, you know, art imitates life, and my songs were reflecting where I was at.

TT: What provoked the decision to put things on the album, because you wanted your debut to be a more positive sound.

TM: Yeah. After a while, with friends pulling me out of it all, that’s where songs like “Dr. Feel Good” and “We’ll Be Alright” came out of, and I wanted that stuff on the album instead.

TT: Any plans to put the darker stuff into motion later on, or are they going in the at-

TM: Probably not. It wasn’t like I was embarrassed of the songs I did. Actually, I was really proud of them. But some of it is just too personal.

TT: All right. thanks again for taking the time out to chat with me.

TM: Anytime man, hope I helped you out.

Travie McCoy performs at Paradise Rock Club on March 22.

INTERVIEW

On writing, acting, music, and quirkiness

Donald Glover sheds light on his role in Community and his upcoming tour

By Masee Cullinan

When I participated in a conference call with Donald Glover on Tuesday, I was so excited for the opportunity to talk to the actor who plays Troy on the show Community. Little did I know that I also was going to be able to talk to Travie McCoy the actor, writer, rapper, comic, and audio shows host. Some may recognize Glover from his work as a writer, producer, voice actor, and more recently, his gig hosting the mtvU Woodie Awards. When I recently spoke with him, the awards honor the biggest names in indie rock and hip-hop by bestowing them with a chunk of wood.

When asked how he got the gig, he responded, "I don't know! I wish I could say that MTV has a formula on the blackboard that they were trying to figure out who was the best host and they left it to me, but I'm just a fan. I got up in Germany and I figured out the formula and the answer is me. Really don't know! Somebody called me and said, 'This feels right for you!' Also, I'm dating the Situation. We like each other, whatever. Opportunities, whatever." For a guy clearly has a great sense of humor, which should make for a great performance in his upcoming IAMDONALD tour, which comes to Boston's Paradise Rock Club on May 13. Glover’s show will blend his stand-up comedy with his rap alter-ego, Childish Gambino. Here, he tells us all about his upcoming tour and how he balances his myriad projects.

Most people are familiar with you as Troy from Community and maybe don’t know as much about your work as a comic and the rapper Childish Gambino. With your upcoming tour, what do you think will surprise fans most about your act?

Donald Glover: I guess that they’re all the same person. I don’t know what people are expecting when they come to see my stand-up. It’s really funny. I try to immediately tell people that I’m not Troy. I feel like a lot of people bring little kids, and then I start talking about my dick. It’s a really big change. I want people to understand that IAMGONALD is just a show about being able to do whatever you want. Lately I’ve been trying to do as much stuff as possible and before I was afraid that someone would be judging me on it, but times-a-wasting so I just can’t be afraid of that kind of stuff. I feel like with the previous tour, people were like, “Oh, there’s a music portion? This isn’t just stand up!”

Additionally, I now think any of this is unusual, any of this stand-up, music stuff. I don’t want to make anything that’s typical because then it gets boring.

You have taken on a lot of different roles

Donald Glover, Page 8
Another round table interview with Nick Frost and Simon Pegg, the comedy duo starring in and directing the upcoming alien comedy film **Paul**. Nick has become known for his previous works, *Hot Fuzz* and *Shaun of the Dead*, part of their British and Ice Cream trilogy. We spoke to Nick and Simon about a range of topics, from what it was like to work with the actors in *Paul*, to American culture, to head bananas.

**Interview**

**American culture and six-headed babies**

Nick Frost and Simon Pegg talk about their roles in **Paul**

Bejff J. Chen

Last Tuesday, I had the chance to sit at a round table interview with Nick Frost and Simon Pegg, the comedy duo starring in and directing the upcoming alien comedy film **Paul**. Nick has become known for his previous works, *Hot Fuzz* and *Shaun of the Dead*, part of their British and Ice Cream trilogy. We spoke to Nick and Simon about a range of topics, from what it was like to work with the actors in *Paul*, to American culture, to head bananas.

**Do you ever get to the point where the American accent drives you up the wall?**

**Simon Pegg**

It's not a problem. If you look at all our references of stuff we allude to, it's all exclusively American stuff. As Englishmen we grow up on a diet of American culture. You've got this amazing resource; a country that's 100 times as big as ours and cultural influence on a lot of science fiction, this concept that Paul was going to be a human being, and that was awe inspiring.

**Your character on Community is not the typical jock football star. He's kind of donnk and quirky. From the perspective of both a writer and an actor, what do you think makes these quirky or nerdy characters so popular in television and movies right now?**

**Paul**

I don't think of any of us really see ourselves as cool and popular. Very few of us see ourselves as cool and popular. I think if you have a scale of one to ten — like how were you in high school — if really cool or popular is a ten, you everyone you talk to would put down a five. No one thinks they're really cool or really nerdy, everyone's in the middle. But it's definitely in high school you kind of feel nerdy or alone, at least I did. I think now it's just that people don't want to watch what they wanna be, as much as what they wanna watch what they are. And I really tried hard at the beginning of [Community] to study football characters, but then it kind of just turned into me. I think you can see that as I start crying more in the episodes. People call it nerdy, but I really just think it's the way people are. Everyone does weird things, they just don't show them to everybody. So I think it's just some- thing that's happening because people are more willing to look at themselves.

**And do you think that it's also important to bring that quickness and vulnerability to your stand-up?**

**DG**

Yeah, I feel like when people do fake quirky — you notice it. With everything that I do, I try to be really truthful. I'm sure that my publicists who are writing my Twitter account probably would not allow me to say or do some of the stuff I say. But I feel like that's where people's enjoyment is the most because I'm not lying. That persona is out there. Like when that white Spiderman thing came out [an online fan movement to have Glover play Spiderman in the new movie]. One thing that I thought was kind of ridiculous is that they were like, "Well, that's not a quirky black dude." Well, that's not true. My dad's a quirky black dude. He totally made me watch Star Wars in movies theaters. Everybody's like that, that's not just a thing. So I feel like in every-thing and in the stand-up I try to do truthfulness.

**Are there any other questions you would like to ask about?**

**SP**

You know I can't answer that. Paul comes out in theaters today.
## UA Finance Board Spring II allocation results

Note: Spring 2011 marks the first time FinBoard has allocated funds in two spring cycles. This year, funding from Spring I allocations rolls over to Spring II; some groups did not submit Spring II budgets.

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**TOTAL** $14,830 $6,374 $21,540 $4,396 $54,887 $30,416 $11,078 $5,930 $102,335 $47,116 **46%**
Some of the best arcade game play in the world try to set records at PAX East.

Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life

A case made of Diva, a character in Penny Arcade, was featured holding a bottle of Wild Turkey.

A female cosplayer dressed as Vanya from the video game ‘Dota 2’ gets a prize.

A Metroid fan dressed as Samus Aran plays Rock bands with other attendees. There were several Rock Band stations set up around the PAX East convention.

An attendee plays Dance Central, on the Kinect platform.

By Jessica J. Porrain

I was just one of 65,000 people who showed up to the Boston Convention Center for the Penny Arcade Expo. The floor was packed with eager attendees, many of whom were there to see video footage of the show floor and interviews! Visit N14/pax/video.html to see video footage of the show floor and interviews!

Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life Campus Life

A rollercoaster dress up as Sarah Kertigan from Starcraft

Darth Maul from ‘Star Wars’ shows up at the convention to promote The Old Republic, an upcoming MMORPG.

Some of the best arcade game play in the world try to set records at PAX East.

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An attendee plays Dance Central, on the Kinect platform.
Institute replies vacuously to Styke suit

On Tuesday, MIT submitted its response to Wolfe B. Styke G’s lawsuit. Styke is suing the Institute and Russell J. Novello for a total of $50,000 in negligence, resulting from the October 2007 incident where he was stabbed in his Next House dorm room by Anna L. Tang, who was a Wellesley student at the time. Novello was the security guard who provided Tang with a key to Styke’s room. Tang was found not guilty by reason of insanity late last year and is fully free as of early this year.

MIT offers several defenses including:
- Massachusetts law limits liability of charities to $20,000. MIT counts as a charity.
- Styke “fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted,” meaning that the suit is without merit.
- Styke’s claims may be partially barred by his own negligence (“contributory negligence”).
- MIT’s actions were not the cause of Styke’s injuries; they resulted solely from the actions of third parties.
- The suit is barred by statutes of limitations.

MIT also offers 14 points of answers to the 14 allegations in Styke’s complaint. In them, MIT denies all the allegations or classifies them as not requiring response, other than admitting its address and corporate status, admitting that Styke “was enrolled as a student at MIT and was assigned a room in a dormitory,” and admitting that Novello was an employee.

Novello does not appear to have filed a response to the suit according to the court’s electronic docket.

—John A. Hawkinson

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**Solution to Techdoku**

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 5 4 3 6 1 2
 3 2 1 4 5 6
 1 6 5 2 3 4
 6 5 4 1 2 3
 2 1 6 3 4 5
 4 3 2 5 6 1
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**Solution to Sudoku**

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 6 9 5 4 2 8 1 7 3
 8 4 3 1 5 7 2 6 9
 2 1 7 3 6 9 5 4 8
 1 8 6 5 7 4 9 3 2
 4 5 9 2 3 1 6 8 7
 7 3 2 9 8 6 4 1 5
 3 6 4 7 9 5 8 2 1
 9 7 1 8 4 2 3 5 6
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Romeo and Juliet

Directed by Ted Eaton

March 11-12, & March 17-19, 8:00 PM
March 13, 2:00 PM
La Sala de Puerto Rico

This space donated by The Tech
Japan, Page 1

Electric Power Company’s (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant were evacuated as tsunami killed the generators and the reactor cooling systems began to fail.

As of Wednesday night, CBS reported the death toll near 4,000 in Japan while more than 8,000 people were unaccounted for. Communication was crippled, cities were destroyed, and food, drinking water, medicine, and fuel shortages became the norm. Nearly half a million people were left homeless in the aftermath of the quake and tsunami. Damage is estimated to be $200 billion.

Kern and Gercik remained in the Tokyo area over the weekend, but even when train service started up again, fewer trains than usual were running. As more and more of their Monday meetings were cancelled, they decided it was time to head home, arriving in the U.S. on Monday morning.

Because phone service was down, Kern relied on e-mail to communicate with her contacts in Japan.

Fortunately, there are no current MISTI students in Japan. On Sunday, the U.S. Department of State recommended that “all non-emergency official U.S. government personnel defer travel to Japan” and urged “U.S. citizens to avoid tourism and non-essential travel to Japan at this time.”

Kern is optimistic about the summer. The program that the summer still has a couple months to prepare for internships traveling to Japan. According to Kern, host companies in the Osaka area — about 400 miles away from the epicenter — experienced “no real effects” from the disaster, and the hosts she talked to in Tokyo say “they think they’ll be fine” for internship placements over the summer. Kern said MISTI students are still hoping to work with Japanese companies over the summer.

“We’re doing everything to make sure host companies are okay,” she said. Kern says she didn’t feel a sense of panic during last week’s stay in Tokyo. “It was a totally different experience depending on whom you were.” Areas close to the Honshu coast in the Tohoku region experienced evacuations, flooding, high death tolls, and destroyed buildings. However, Tokyo was mainly concerned with problems in transportation and supply as food shelves at grocery stores were emptied by concerned residents. The press did not really give out too much information, and one felt that there was every effort by the government to avoid panic. By the end of the weekend, the shelves of all convenience stores were empty,” Gercik said. “There was no sense of panic, but one of disbelief.”

Still, Tokyo was not without serious problems. Five people in Tokyo died as a result of a building collapse, according to Kern.

Professor Richard J. Samuels, director of MIT’s Center of International Studies (CIS), noted that MIT tends to take two types of responses to international disasters such as Japan’s humanitarian aid and analytic discussion. The CIS, he said, offers opportunities for the latter: “When there’s a crisis, we try to organize an event to share what we know. It’s our mission.”

Kern is optimistic, noting that MISTI still has a couple months to prepare for interns traveling to Japan.

Students respond with aid
Mibo Kitagawa ’14, a member of the Japanese Association of MIT (JAM), made one of the first moves towards a campus-wide charity event by announcing JAM’s donation drive in Lobby 10 and the Stata Center in an e-mail to dorm lists.

Along with collecting funds for disaster relief in Japan, JAM also encouraged passersby to leave a message for the afflicted in Japan. The messages were written on a white board, and the JAM members took pictures of the message and its author (see sidebar). These messages, Kitagawa said, are a “really huge thing.” Money can certainly help victims, but letting the Japanese people know that someone else in the world is thinking of them will make those affected feel much stronger in light of their tragedy, Kitagawa hopes.

The response has been overwhelming. Kitagawa faced a deluge of e-mails, especially from student groups looking to help. The American Red Cross Team and Network of MIT (ARCTAN) offered to reward MISTI efforts.

Although it’s a lot to work with, Kitagawa said, “It’s really nice. I really appreciate it because everyone’s helping us.”

Looking at pictures of the devastation in Japan, Kitagawa said her first thought was, “I can’t believe it’s Japan.”

With 50 members, JAM is a group of mostly Japanese international students, the majority of whom are graduate students. Kitagawa has been in touch with her family, who lives far from the epicenter in Japan, and with friends in Ibaraki, who experienced the loss of food, water, and electricity plugging the affected areas.

On Monday night, JAM had already collected about $2,000, and Kitagawa said her hope was to collect $2,000 each day for the rest of the week. On Thursday night, they had already surpassed this goal, reporting more than $7,000 in funds raised and more than 500 messages collected, according to their website, http://web.mit.edu/jam.

Camilla M. Brinkman, communications coordinator of the Public Service Center (PSC), stressed that “We want to be as supportive as we can.” While the office does not hold large events with grants, advertising, set-up, and donation coordination. JAM received further help from the MIT Figure Skating Club (FSC), which held a benefit skate yesterday at Johnson Ice Rink and raised $1,145. An exhibition by FSC members was followed by a period of open skate lessons for attendees.

Lee, a member of the FSC competition committee and four-year volunteers in Gaza and Egypt earlier this year.

“We each do what we can do according to our abilities,” Kern said. At MIT, he remarked, there is “so much talent and willingness to fix what is broken.”

Coop Student Board of Directors

Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated for the Board of Directors for the 2011-2012 academic year.

MIT Undergraduate Students:
- Elizabeth Burton
- Christopher Yoon

MIT Graduate Students:
- Lorenzo Bock, PhD, 2012
- Paul Romano, PhD, 2012

Harvard Undergraduate Students:
- Codie Ryan, 2012
- Melissa Cypen, 2012
- Caroline Quezada
- Jillian Smith, 2014
- Avison Wang, 2012

Any student Coop member may petition to be a candidate on the election ballot.

A petition application is available online at www.thecoop.com.


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Call: 617-253-5010

Deadline: March 30th, 2011 at 12 Noon
Arthursaurus Rex by Ramya Swamy

Just Keep Walking.

Nah. That was a different group.

Hey Arthur! Didn’t we pass those tourists already?

Help Desk by Michael Benitez

WOW SPRING BREAK FOR YOU GUYS IS A LOT DIFFERENT.

Friend from home who went to state school.

Professor Emoticon

by Jorge Cham

Sudoku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

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

Techdoku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

60x 3+ 72x
12x 8x 5
1− 1− 1−
30x
1
60+ 90x 120x
8x
**Somewhere on the Search for Meaning...**

by Letitia Li

In the end, the town will enjoy only a few hours free of the evil everlast’s control. We haven’t accomplished anything.

None of you have that level of combat ability! And without Josie, there’s no prophecy that says we’ll succeed.

You can’t base your life on the arrangements of stars! Just because one person has the power to achieve something doesn’t mean that no one else can.

Then tell me, what do we have?

The power of friendship will always be on our side!

...We’re doomed.

---

**Unnatural Selection**

by Meisel / Tonn / Wang

---

**Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 16

**ACROSS**

1 Savory gelatin
6 Green gams
11 Delivery experts, briefly
14 Irish writer who said “Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much”
16 All thumbs
17 Where to hear letters recited
19 Pipe with a bend
20 Sending to overtime, as a game
21 Avoided a trial
23 German “Alas!”
25 Word sung after a ball drops
27 Prefix with sol
28 Oscar Madison, e.g.
30 Lady Godiva spotter
34 Arena for MacArthur
36 Have in the crosshairs
37 Grammar elements, or what the first three letters of 17-, 30-, 45- and 62-Across literally are
42 Wavy design
43 Tossed course
45 “anyone lived in a pretty how town” poet
50 “The Shining” climax setting
51 Tuber with eyes
52 Harness the wind, in a way
54 Deli choice
55 Colossal
59 Move with stealth
61 __ Miss
62 Recording studio feature
66 Like nos. above zero
67 “Later!”
68 Take a piece from?
70 __ throat
71 Wounds

**DOWN**

1 Dribble chorus
2 Drink slowly
3 Tooning amount
4 One way to sit by
5 Salsa singer Cruz
6 Commercial tune
7 Director Lee
8 Balis’ belles
9 Olympics event with swords
10 Proofer’s mark
11 Denver __
12 Ravel classic
13 Not often
14 __ to one’s neck
15 All thumbs
16 One of the Three Stooges
17 Where to hear letters recited
18 __ to one’s neck
22 Wrestling partners
23 Be inquisitive
24 Hoof-on-cobblestones sound
26 Overwhelms with noise
29 Hamilton is its capital
31 Sonntity letters
32 Troublemaker
33 Some Scottish Parliament votes
35 Subject for Bohr
38 ___ City (computer game)
39 ___ , quit!”
40 Candy in a red and blue wrapper
41 Vague
44 Actress Sandra
45 Legally impedes
46 Novel postscript
47 Most likely to elicit 1-Down
48 It’s removed at the pump
49 Follower of Guru Nanak
50 Preservation of life
51 Troublemaker
52 Harness the wind, in a way
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58 Grammy winner for “Believe”
60 Pre-P queue
61 Luis’s “Listen up!”
62 Recording studio feature
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64 Afore
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67 “Later!”
68 Take a piece from?
70 __ throat
71 Wounds

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**Dilbert**

by Scott Adams

---

**Figure 1.** Gamma irradiation induces tumorigenesis in post-natal mice. Mice were sacrificed two weeks post-irradiation. (A) Tumors (arrowheads) were observed in the liver, spleen, and kidneys. (B-J) Expression of prognostic markers in cells collected from liver (B,E,H), spleen (C,F,I) and kidneys (D,G,J).

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US relations with Saudi Arabia chilled
Saudi and Iranian interests create Middle East diplomacy dilemma

By Helene Cooper and Mark Landler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The brutal crackdown in Bahrain poses the greatest Middle East democracy dilemma yet to the Obama administration, deepening a rift with its most important Arab ally, Saudi Arabia, while potentially strengthening the influence of its biggest nemesis, Iran.

Relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia have chilled to their coldest since the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. Saudi officials, still angry that President Barack Obama abandoned President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in the face of demonstra- tion, ignored American requests not to send troops into Bahrain to help crush Shi'ite-led protests there. A tense telephone call between Obama and King Abdullah on Wednesday, Arab officials said, failed to ease the tensions.

“King Abdullah has been clear that Saudi Arabia will never allow Shia rule in Bahrain — never,” an Arab official who was briefed on the talks said. He said King Abdullah’s willingness to listen to the Obama administration had “evaporated” since Mubarak was forced from office.

The Saudi position is rooted in the royal family’s belief that a Shiite uprising next door in Bahrain could spread and embolden Saudi Arabia’s own minority Shiite population and increase Iranian influence in the kingdom, a fear that U.S. officials share. But where Obama and King Abdullah have parted ways, administration officials say, is on how to handle the crisis.

American officials want Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to allow political reforms that could lead to more representation for Shites under Sunni rule. But “there’s not too much listening going on,” a senior administration official said, noting that Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Secretary of State Hill- ary Rodham Clinton were forced to cancel visits to Saudi Arabia in recent days because the king was not willing to host them. (The of- ficial reason given was that he was ill.) “There appears to be a great deal of annoyance still,” added the official, speaking only on the con- dition of anonymity.

A senior administration official noted Thursday that some Shiite opposition leaders had vowed not to respond to kind in the violent crackdown by the government, and to remain peaceful, raising hopes among members of the Obama administration that the Shiite opposition has not become radicalized and might still be ame- nable to political dialogue. “It sug- gests to me that the radicalization on the part of the moderate Shia has not yet occurred,” the official said.

But, he added, “Without ques- tion, there are people on the ex- treme end of the opposition who have been in touch with Iran.” He said that the Obama administra- tion had tried to convey its allies in the Persian Gulf that the gov- ernments were most at risk if they approached the unrest only from a standpoint of their own govern- ment security.

For the administration, the stakes are higher in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia than in any other Arab country facing unrest now.

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By Helene Cooper and Mark Landler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The brutal crackdown in Bahrain poses the greatest Middle East democracy dilemma yet to the Obama administra- tion, deepening a rift with its most important Arab ally, Saudi Arabia, while potentially strength- ening the influence of its biggest nemesis, Iran.

Relations between the Unit- ed States and Saudi Arabia have chilled to their coldest since the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. Saudi officials, still angry that President Barack Obama aban- doned President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in the face of demonstra- tion, ignored American requests not to send troops into Bahrain to help crush Shi’ite-led protests there. A tense telephone call between Obama and King Abdullah on Wednesday, Arab officials said, failed to ease the tensions.

“King Abdullah has been clear that Saudi Arabia will never allow Shia rule in Bahrain — never,” an Arab official who was briefed on the talks said. He said King Abdullah’s willingness to listen to the Obama administration had “evaporated” since Mubarak was forced from office.

The Saudi position is rooted in the royal family’s belief that a Shiite uprising next door in Bahrain could spread and embolden Saudi Arabia’s own minority Shiite population and increase Iranian influence in the kingdom, a fear that U.S. officials share. But where Obama and King Abdullah have parted ways, administration officials say, is on how to handle the crisis.

American officials want Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to allow political reforms that could lead to more representation for Shites under Sunni rule. But “there’s not too much listening going on,” a senior admin- istration official said, noting that Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Secretary of State Hill- ary Rodham Clinton were forced to cancel visits to Saudi Arabia in recent days because the king was not willing to host them. (The of- ficial reason given was that he was ill.) “There appears to be a great deal of annoyance still,” added the official, speaking only on the con- dition of anonymity.

A senior administration official noted Thursday that some Shiite opposition leaders had vowed not to respond to kind in the violent crackdown by the government, and to remain peaceful, raising hopes among members of the Obama administration that the Shiite opposition has not become radicalized and might still be ame- nable to political dialogue. “It sug- gests to me that the radicalization on the part of the moderate Shia has not yet occurred,” the official said.

But, he added, “Without ques- tion, there are people on the ex- treme end of the opposition who have been in touch with Iran.” He said that the Obama administra- tion had tried to convey its allies in the Persian Gulf that the gov- ernments were most at risk if they approached the unrest only from a standpoint of their own govern- ment security.

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Fact or Fiction campaign meets confusion
Posters stir discussion about existence of female stereotypes

CDSA campaign meets confusion
Posters stir discussion about existence of female stereotypes

Fact or Fiction, from Page 1
Student Reactions
Although Trudeau called the response to the campaign “overwhelmingly posi-
tive,” citing positive feedback from the people who visited the Fact or Fiction photo booth and e-mails she received, many students expressed confusion about the goals of the campaign and the message of the posters.

One poster contained descriptions of the manipulative tactics of Rachel Berry from Glee, with half labeled “fact” and the other half labeled “fiction” — even though all the described acts didn’t happen on the show. In response to the “Glee: Fact or Fiction” poster, Casey L. Weber ’11 said, “I’m confused, are they saying that girls backstab each other? That doesn’t seem positive. And also, why is fact on one side and fiction on another?”

Another poster depicted a spectrum, starting from a Barbie doll labeled “BM” wearing a sundress, ending on an equal-

sity Barbie labeled “MIT” holding a laptop. Between the two Barbies dolls were three similar, casually dressed women labeled “Wellesley,” “MIT” and “RU” in that order. In regards to “The College Girl Spectrum” poster, Daniel M. Manashe ’14 said, “I don’t understand what stereotypes this poster is trying to fight against. I guess I’m just not caught up on my stereotypes.”

“But I guess it could mean that there’s essentially no difference between RU, MIT, and Wellesley girls,” he added after a moment of thought. “That’s probably what it’s trying to say, at least.”

Other students wondered if the mes-
gages promoted by the posters were ac-

nuately necessary.

Jennifer C. de Bruijn ’12 took issue with Fact or Fiction’s “The MIT Girl Spec-

trum” poster, which depicts a_corrected

Barbie holding a guitar on the extreme of the East Campus side, while a Barbie

wearing a pencil skirt and holding a fold-

er was shown on the West Campus side.

“I live on West Campus, and no one looks like that all the time — people just wear jeans and sweatpants,” said de Bruijn. “I also know what the stereotypes are supposed to be, but I know EC girls, and I don’t have that stereotype. These stereotypes are all interesting post-

ers, but I don’t think there’s a problem with women at MIT.”

Marie K. Herring ‘11, a member of the group that designed the me-
dia campaign, said that even if people don’t think they hold a stereotype, this cam-

paign can at least make them question their beliefs.

“During our focus group, a lot of peo-

ple said that though they didn’t believe they held these stereotypes, upon more reflec-
tion, they’ve realized that based on what they’ve seen and how they’ve acted in the past suggest that they still do. And if people really don’t have a stereotype, then at least the posters made them think about it.”

But Jennifer T. Melet ’12 agreed that the significance of the problems might have been overstated. “I don’t see the claims made on the website as being a problem. My interaction with females at MIT has been pretty warm and friendly, so I was surprised this was even an is-

suit,” she said.

However, Herring said, “We’re trying to address the underlying cause of the statistics, which is that women aren’t seeing other women as allies. The goal of the campaign is clearly not to say that every woman at MIT is an island or a back-

stable, but that we could have a stron-

ger and better community of women at MIT.”

According to Trudeau, “There are so many women at MIT, and of course, this campaign can’t address issues for all of them, but we felt that these issues were strong enough that we wanted to talk about them.”

“I feel like this is a good first step to-

ward looking more closely at women’s is-
sues on campus,” Trudeau added.

The campaign is part of the CDSA’s larger MIT Alcohol-Related Violence Initiative (MARVIN), which deals with social factors that contribute to violence as a result of alcohol consumption. In 2009, the CDSA was awarded a grant by the Department of Education to fund MARVIN, which required them to create a media campaign to “disseminate accu-

rate student perceptions of alcohol-relat-
ed violence.” To determine the subject and context of the campaign, the CDSA sent out a mass e-mail to all female under-
gergraduates during late spring 2010, inviting them to join a focus group. Over the course of a few months, the focus group — comprised of 17 undergradu-

ate women — met to discuss potential underlying reasons to explain the results of the earlier April 2010 alcohol-related violence survey, according to Herring, a focus group member. “We found the statistics about physical and relational aggression were higher than what we would have liked, and we came to the conclusion that it was because of stereo-
types that MIT women had about other women and stereotypes from the media.”

From there, a smaller group, along with two MIT student graphic design in-

terns, met to generate the actual content that appears on the posters.

Targeted focus groups with undergraduate women revealed the following perceptions of MIT women:

• They have poor social, communication & conflict resolution skills.
• They don’t have anyone to really confide in.
• They are competitive in both their academic & social lives.
• They are often told that “MIT women are smart, not pretty.”
• They lack strong female friendships.
• They are territorial over MIT men.
• They stereotype women based on where they live & who they are affiliated with.
• They stereotype women from other schools.
• The media influences how they interact with other women.
• The media influences their perception of sexual assault & intimate relationships.

A survey on alcohol-related violence disseminated to 2,400 MIT students during April 2010 revealed that:

• 12.7 percent had shoved or punched another person.
• 9.1 percent had hit or slapped someone.
• 14.8 percent had teased someone to make them angry.
• 18.9 percent had picked on someone.
• 28.9 percent agreed with the statement, “If a woman is raped while she is drunk, she is at least somewhat responsible for letting things get out of control.”
• 27.9 percent agreed with the statement, “Rape accusations are often used as a way of getting back at men.”

“I’m the manipulative tactics of Rachel Berry from Glee, with half labeled “fact” and the other half labeled “fiction.”

The Fact or Fiction awareness campaign uses posters to challenge MIT undergraduate women to question the influences on their female identity. However, many students found some of these posters confusing.

The west parallel of East Campus drained early Tuesday afternoon due to the instal-
lation of a fire hydrant. Workers took most of the day to stop the flood.
Members of the MIT Figure Skating Club perform a themed routine based on The Charlie Daniels Band’s song “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” during an event on March 17 to raise money for victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Individuals and groups from MIT and the Boston area performed a number of routines before the rink was opened for free skate. Donations and messages were collected, and proceeds from skate rentals also went toward disaster relief.

Kenneth Oye, Associate Professor of Political Science and Engineering Systems Design, comments on the chain of events occurring in Japan and his view of the reaction of the Japanese people and government. He credited the strict Japanese building code with helping Tokyo survive the earthquake. Oye also praised the calmness of the Japanese people during the disaster and their sense of duty to help others in need, but said their response contrasted with the Japanese government’s disorder in handling the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima power plant. Professor Oye was in Japan last week when the disasters occurred.

The earthquake and subsequent tsunami caused a major food shortage in Japan.

MIT’s messages to Japan

The world has you in our thoughts and prayers! :)
We care very much! Sending all our very best wishes!

Thinking of the deceased and for all the survivors. Please be positive.
The people of Japan have my support during this difficult time.

Good luck Japan
We’re all thinking & praying for you & Japan’s recovery from this disaster.
Good wishes to you all!

May you be reunited with those you love.

Your friends in the U.S.

My thoughts and prayers are with Japan and the wonderful and strong Japanese people. The world is with you.

Japan, Good Luck!

The whole world is behind you.
Good luck! We are here to support all of u :)

Our thoughts are with you. MIT cares!

I hope you’re all okay. Please stay calm and safe. We all feel for you.
We are here in solidarity!

Our Hearts are with you

Words don’t fully express how we are thinking about and praying for the people affected by the earthquake.
We here at MIT & America are praying for you with love!!!

MIT’s messages to Japan

Help Japan

http://www.google.com/crisisresponse/japanquake2011.html

Even The Tech needs tech support and we’re looking for some. join@tech.mit.edu
MIT discusses technical aspects of nuclear crisis
Public forum describes Fukushima reactor explosions - NSE blogs about technical data

Friday, March 18, 2011
The Tech 19

MIT scientists seek to answer questions about the nuclear reactor safety damaged by the tsunami and the problem of radiation release.

The Zesiger Center also agreed to donate all proceeds from the skating rentals.

The purpose of this public forum was to educate the MIT community with a technical discussion about the Fukushima crisis.

The report echoes more general concerns about the nuclear reactor safety question.
The MIT Squash team recently closed out their season, competing in both the team and individual College Squash Association (CSA) Championships. The team took second place in their bracket, placing 34th overall.

Squash is played with a ball and rackets in an indoor court with four walls that the players bounce the ball off of. The players take turns hitting the ball off the front wall, in between the “out line” near the top of the wall and the “tin,” a metal plate attached to the front wall along the floor indicating the lowest valid place to play the ball. Once one player hits the ball off of the front wall, the ball can bounce any number of times off the side and back walls, but can only bounce once off of the front wall before the other player must play the ball. Both players stand side-by-side facing the front wall. They are not allowed to obstruct each other from getting the ball, but they constantly move around each other and try to make the ball bounce in a place were it is difficult for the other person to make a good play.

Squash traces its origins to France roughly 800 years ago, a game called “rackets” developed from the original French sport and was popularized in England. When it was brought to the United States in the late 19th century, it was influenced by a variety of other racket sports before evolving into the modern game. The name “squash” comes from the spongy, “squashable” nature of the rubber ball, which can be made with different bounce and speed properties depending on the desired level of play.

College-level squash in the United States is governed by the CSA, which organizes matches between 84 participating schools. In a typical match, the top nine players from each team play each other, and the team that wins at least five of those matches wins. While some college squash teams can field an all-male and an all-female squad, schools can also field a co-ed top nine, and there is no rule preventing a match between male and female players.

While there is no distinction officially, 10-3). While there is no distinction, 10-3). While there is no distinction, 10-3). With the ISN/ARMY Labs, reason students join and stay with the team.

Launched at Wellesley Invitational.

Coaches

By Carlos Greaves

Women's Tennis posts Colby victory

Engineers take tour with official score of 7-2, unofficial 10-3

Easter Nazarene Lions to improve their record to 2-1.

Women's Tennis

Mazen '06, the team was able to find the right combination of training methods, and they look to improve upon their training methodology next season. Mazen also credits long-time assistant coach James W. Taylor ’65, who is “the lifeblood of the team,” for the team’s success. Taylor was honored at this year’s squash nationals for their shots, but Quisenberry attacked the net, but in the end lost the lead over Colby 2-0. Finally the first to play. They defeated their opponent with a decisive score of 9-0.

Next up was the number four exibition team of Jenny C. Dohlman ’11 and Jennifer A. Rees ’11. They also blanked their opponents, 8-0. The next team to finish was Julia C. Hsu ’14 and Bianca M. Dumintrascu ’13. Their match was close, and they played some aggressive net points, winning 8-4. This brought MIT into the lead over Colby 1-0. Finally the team of Melissa A. Diskin ’11 and Katharine A. O'Neal ’14 came off. They played a close match and enjoyed the net, but in the end lost 8-2, leaving MIT in the lead 2-1 going into the singles matches.

first up in singles was Quisenberry at number one. She played a tough match, both players making their shots, but Quisenberry defeated her opponent 6-1, 6-2. Hsu at three was the next person off. She also played a good match and won 6-3, 6-1, bringing MIT ahead with a score of 4-1. At number four was Dumintrascu, who won her match with a decisive 6-2, 6-2 win over her opponent, guaranteeing MIT an overall win in the best-of-nine match. Wu at two came off next. She played a long back and forth match, but won 6-4, 6-3. With Wu’s win MIT was up 6-1 over Colby. Diskin was at six the next to come off. She played a tough match and fought her way back into the second set to make the match go to a tie break. Diskin lost in the tie break with an overall score of 6-4, 3-6, 10-3. Next off was the exhibition doubles match at five with Carlin R. Pomroy ’13 and Trinity P. Leonard ‘13. They played a tough match but lost 6-1 to their opponents. Sonya Makhlouf ‘11 at eight singles was the next one to come off. She played a smart match, winning 7-6. Dohlman was the next off. She was playing seven singles and had a close match, winning in the tiebreaker, 9-8 (3). Finally, O’Neal at five finished her match. She played a tough match, taking three sets to win, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5. With this, MIT defeated Colby 7-2. The Engineers will travel to California over spring break and return to action on April 2 at the Wellesley Invitational.

For more details on the ISN/Army Labs Student Summer Internship Program, please contact: Sara McDaniels - mmcd@emt.edu

ISN - Army Labs Student Summer Internship Program*

The MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies is focused on basic research to dramatically improve the survivability of the soldier and first responders.

This summer program provides opportunities for MIT students to conduct science and engineering research at the state-of-the-art Army research facilities working under the direction of Army scientists.

As a summer intern, students:

 Gain valuable research experience
 Build new professional relationships
 Access world-class facilities
 Become part of a team that provides new, life-saving technologies.

If you are interested in learning more about this program the first step is to register at the website: https://isn.mit.edu/internship/index.php

If you have questions about this program, or experience difficulty using any features on website, please contact: Markisha McDaniel - mmcd@mit.edu or the ISN Headquarters, NE4-7+4FL. 617.324.4700.

*The Army Lab provides the intern's salary, which typically ranges from $2280/month to $2864/month depending on class year. Under certain circumstances the ISN can provide the intern with a supplement of up to $1500 to defray costs of local accommodations and travel.

By Jennifer Rees

Women’s Tennis

MIT Women’s Tennis played Colby this past Saturday, winning by an official score of 7-2 (and unofficially, 10-3). In the doubles matches, the number one team of Lauren C. Quisenberry ’14 and Can- dace Wu ’13 was the first to play. They defeated their opponent with a decisive score of 9-0.

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, March 18
Softball vs. VPI
Briggs Field, 2 p.m.

Softball vs. VPI
Briggs Field, 4 p.m.

Friday, March 25
Softball vs. Babson College
Briggs Field, 3 p.m.

Softball vs. Babson College
Briggs Field, 5 p.m.

Men’s Volleyball vs. Wentworth
Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

Women’s Crew vs. Radcliffe/Tufts
Sailing (Boston Dinghy Cup)
Charles River, 9 a.m.

Baseball vs. Babson College
Briggs Field, noone

Softball vs. Smith College
Briggs Field, noone

Men’s Tennis vs. Amherst College
Carr Indoor Courts, 1 p.m.

Women’s Lacrosse vs. Smith College
Softball vs. Smith College
Briggs Field, 3 p.m.

Baseball vs. Babson College
Briggs Field, noone

Men’s Volleyball vs. Wentworth
Rockwell Cage, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 11, 2011