**Startups scramble over MIT students**

350 companies, large and small, turn out to recruit in Johnson

By Derek Chang and Jaya Narain

When it comes to the job market, MIT students have still got it. A record 350 companies turned out for Wednesday’s Career Fair in Johnson. This year also marked the first time Career Fair was held — not coincidentally — on a student holiday.

New and returning companies set up booths, gave out free gear, and eagerly sought top talent in fields from computer science to aerospace engineering to biology. Yet, a New York-based internet advertising company, has had previous success in finding qualified candidates from MIT through avenues like the Career Fair. This is Yext’s third year recruiting at MIT. “In software engineering, there are only a few elite schools where you can find the most qualified candidates, and MIT is one of them. Many of our senior engineers are MIT alumni whom we did not recruit directly from MIT,” said Jonathan D. Kennell ’02, a Yext software engineer. StumbleUpon, a search engine that finds pages geared towards the user’s personal preferences, has primarily recruited in California — where the company is headquartered — before coming to MIT for the first time this year. “We came to the fair because MIT is at the top in engineering, and we want the best for our students,” said Yext’s third year recruiting at Career Fair, now, and we need a new challenge,” said Melissa Jaswanth Madhavan.

**Hungry in EC?**

Head to Pinkie’s Junior opens late-night diner

By Janelle Mansfield

It’s 1 a.m. You’ve just finished a p-set and you’re starving. What do you do? Most students hit up LaVerde’s or Chicago Pizza, but now East Campus residents have another choice for cheap, late-night snacking than Vincent P. Le ’13, also known as Pinkie.

The purpose of Pinkie’s is to bring the residents of EC together and make use of the Talbot lounge, which was formerly empty at night, said Le. East Campus residents have we can use for buying nicer things for the menu, “we can use for buying more food and supplies. “Any extra money we have we can use for buying nicer things for the menu,” he said.

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**Diagnosis sees changes**

No 8.012 waitlist; AP exemptions allowed

By Adisa Kruyaddiye

For a majority of the class of 2015, the math diagnostic was the first academic hurdle to conquer at MIT. On Aug. 29, 700 freshmen sat for the two-hour exam, used to suggest class placement for their Physics I GIR course.

Placement exams, were exempt from the math diagnostic — a policy enacted for the first time this year. Because stronger students tended to earn the exemption — not because the diagnostic was any harder — this year’s exams scores were lower, says Course 8 Academic Administrator Catherine Modica.

**In a newly revamped Rush,** 455 bids offered

IFC pilots ‘express’ Clearinghouse, Rush smartphone app

By Wyliena Guan

Gordon W. Wintrob ’12, Interfraternity Council (IFC) president, can sleep very well at night. The IFC had “a very safe, hassle-free Rush,” in which 455 bids were offered to 369 men, he said — about 1.23 bids for each freshman who rushed. Of the men that were offered bids, 322 (about 87 percent) have pledged as of Monday night.

Bid numbers are comparable to previous years, though the freshman class size is larger this year. Last year, 470 bids were extended to 367 men, or about 1.28 bids per person. In 2009, 437 bids were extended to 338 men.

Alpha Delta Phi took the most pledged this year, followed by Lambda Chi Alpha. The closing of Beta Theta Pi over the summer did not affect Rush, said Wintrob.

A digital Rush

The IFC took several steps to technologically soup-up Rush this year. A new form of the Clearinghouse system — software which tracks the location of rushing freshmen — was piloted. IFC Rush, Page 13

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Facebook makes a push to become a media hub

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook, the Web’s biggest social network, is going to let you see what your friends are up to. It wants to be a force that shapes what you watch, hear, read and do.

The company announced new features here Thursday that could unleash a torrent of updates about what marketers Facebook users are making: Frank is watching “The Hangover” on Netflix, hive is listening to a 2p.2 song, and so forth. The company prizes these “signs” as guides for friends, influencing tastes and purchases.

Face will be the conduit through which news and entertainment is found and consumed. Its new features include Netflix and Hulu for video, Pandora for music, and a feature for developers. He called what Facebook was doing an “effort to rethink some industries.”

By Scott Sayare

By Tamara Lewin

China expresses anger over latest US arms sales to Taiwan

WASHINGTON — The nation’s top military official said Thursday that Pakistan’s spy agency played a direct role in supporting the insurgents who carried out the deadly attack at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul last week, and that the decade that the U.S. has been at war in Afghanistan.

The government of Pakistan is not directly responding to the spy agency, the Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence, with a assault on the United States. Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, went further than any other U.S. official in blaming the ISI for undermining the U.S. effort in Afghanistan. His remarks were further evidence that the U.S.’s shaky relationship with Pakistan, a nominal ally.

On Thursday, Rehman Malik, Pakistan’s interior minister, rejected accusations by the United States of ISI involvement in the attack.

“If you say that it is ISI involved in that attack, I categorically deny it,” he said in an interview with Reuters.

Elizabther Bumiller and Jane Perlez, The New York Times

In Europe, a chorus of outrage over execution of Troy Davis

By By Scott Sayare

PARIS — Even in a region long disdainful of U.S. attitudes toward the death penalty, public officials, editorial writers and activists across Western Europe reacted with fury Thursday to news that Troy Davi s was executed in Georgia on Wednesday night.

Despite the divisive sovereign debt crisis, the sagging economy, and conflict in the Middle East, the media in France, Britain, Spain and Germany is devoted to cover up the death of the Davis case this week, emphasizing that Davis — a black man — had been convicted of killing a white police officer in a South ern state. Many commentators denounced U.S. justice as brutal and flawed.

More than anything, however, the outcry unfolded the profound degree of concern in opinion concerning capital punishment in the United States and Western Europe, where the death penalty is no longer a topic of debate.

The United States are a very democratic country, but these are barbaric practices,” said Laurent Fa bios, a prominent Socialist lawmaker and former French prime minis ter, speaking on Europe 1 radio.

Robert Badinter, who as justice minister oversaw the abolition of the death penalty in France in 1981, called Davis’ execution a “defeat for humanity.”

“This affair will remain as a stain on the justice systems of the United States,” Badinter said.

Convinced of the 1989 killing of a Atlanta convenience store worker, 42, maintained his innocence until the end. He was put to death by lethal injection after the Supreme Court declined to act on a petition from his lawyers to stay the execution.

Although other U.S. death pen al cases have attracted world at tention in recent decades, Davis’ case provoked particular interest, said Richard Dieter, executive di rector of the Death Penalty Infor mation Center, a nonprofit group in Washington. In part, he said, the outrage reflected Amnesty Interna tional’s public decision to publicize

By Tamara Lewin

Study calls single sex education misguided & stereotype-reinforcing

Single-sex education is ineffective, misguided, and may actually increase gender stereotyping, a team of psychologists asserts in a new paper to be published Friday.

The report, “The Pseudosci ence of Single Sex Schooling,” to be published in Science magazine by eight social scientists who are founders of the nonprofit Ameri can Council for CoEducational Schoo ling, is likely to ignite a new round of debate and legal wran gling about the effects of single- sex education. It asserts that “sex-segregated education is deeply misguided and often justly criticized by weak, cherry-picked or miscon strued scientific claims rather than by valid scientific evidence.”

But the strongest argument against single-sex education, the article said, is that it reduces boys’ and girls’ opportunities to work to gether, and reinforces sex stere otypes. “Boys who spend more time with other boys become increas ingly aggressive,” the article said. “Similarly, girls who spend more time with other girls become increasingly effeminate.”

The lead author, Diane F. Halpern, a retired professor of psychology at Claremont McKenna College in California, is an expert witness in litigation in which the American Civil Liberties Union is challenging single-sex classes — which have been suspended at a school in Vermillion Parish, La.

Arguing that no scientific evi dence supports the idea that sin gle-sex schooling results in better academic outcomes, the article calls on the Education Depart ment to rescind its 2001 regula tions weakening the Title IX prohibi tion against sex discrimination in education. Under those rules, single-sex schooling was permitted as long as it was voluntary, students were provided an equivalent educational option and the separation of the sexes substantially furthered an impor tant governmental objective.

Russell H. Abi, the assistant secretary for civil rights at the Education Department, said it was reviewing the research in the area.

“There are case studies that have been done that show some benefit of single-sex, but like most other educational research, its mixed,” he said. “When you’re talking about separating students, treat ing them differently, you want to do it in a way that’s constitutional, and you want to make sure that there is adequate justification. We certainly want to safeguard against stereotypeing.”

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with a chance of showers. High 70°F. East wind 5-10 mph.

Tonight: East wind 5-10 mph. Low 65°F.

Weather

Satellite rain from sky

By Austin DiOrio

A dead NASA satellite looks to make its reentry into Earth’s atmosphere sometime in the afternoon Friday, EDT. This large hunk of space debris has guesstimated a 1 in 3,200 chance of hitting any person on the surface. NASA expects 26 sizable pieces to remain intact to the ground, the largest of which is tumbling towards a most awe-inspiring trail in the sky over 500 miles long.

NASA has guesstimated the exact time of reentry. If the satellite is most likely to make its reentry into Earth’s atmosphere late Friday afternoon EDT. This large hunk of space debris is tumbling towards a most awe-inspiring trail in the sky over 500 miles long, leaving a awe-inspiring trail in the sky over 500 miles long.

The pattern of slightly lower conditions with highs in the upper 70's.

Situation for noon Eastern time, Friday, September 23, 2011

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Extended Forecast
US eyes business opportunities in Libya as the embassy reopens

By David D. Kirkpatrick

BRUSSELS — The European Union formally reopened its embassy in Libya Thursday as the returning ambassador said that his government was cautiously optimistic about the country’s future and already trying to help U.S. companies exploit business opportunities there.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremonial flag raising over a makeshift post that was once his residence, Ambassador Gene A. Cretz said that about two weeks ago — roughly a week after forces loyal to the deposed Libyan leader, Moammar Gadhafi, were driven out of Tripoli — he had participated in a State Department conference call with about 150 U.S. companies hoping to do business with Libya.

“We know that oil is the jewel in the crown of Libyan natural resources, but even in Gadhafi’s time they were starting from A to Z in terms of building infrastructure and other things,” after the country had begun opening up to the West six years ago, he said. “If we can get U.S. companies here on a fairly big scale, which we will try to do everything we can to do that, then this will redound to improve the situation in the United States with respect to our own jobs.”

His remarks were a rare nod to the tacit economic stakes in the Libyan conflict for the United States and other Western countries, not only because of Libya’s oil resources but also because of the goods and services those resources enable it to purchase.

Oil was never the “predominant reason” for the U.S. intervention, Cretz said, but his comments — which came at a moment when the fighters who chased out Gadhafi had not yet caught him or fully vanquished his forces — underlined the U.S. eagerness for a cut of any potential profits. Libya’s provisional government has already said it is eager to welcome Western businesses, although both Cretz and the Libyan leaders acknowledged that addressing the rampant corruption of the Gadhafi era remains a potential hurdle.

The two excluded countries plan to appeal the decision at a summit next month, but no change is likely.

Romania and Bulgaria, which joined the European Union in 2007, say they have met the technical standards for joining the Schengen zone, but the two objectors said that was not enough.

“If it is also a matter of trust and confidence that our collective external borders will be safe and secure,” said Gerd Leers, the Dutch immigration minister. “At the moment, it is clear that there are still significant shortcomings in the field of anti- terrorism and the fight against organized crime.”

Tsvetan Tsvetanov, the Bulgarian interior minister, said in a televised interview that his country was in a “catch-22,” with new requirements put in its way each time it satisfies the old ones.

The two excluded countries plan to appeal the decision at a summit meeting of European Union leaders next month, but no change is likely before a report is published in February on the progress of the two countries on law enforcement issues.

Sophomores: Jump-start your Career!

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- Enjoy 1:1 and small-group coaching with world-class industry and alumni mentors as well as 1:1 guidance from UPOP staff with our popular credit-bearing program can jump-start your career!

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I think of UPOP as a career success accelerator.

—Jennifer Chang, B.Eng. | MIT 2014

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House Republicans hope to regroup on spending bill

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders struggled Thursday to revive a stopgap spending bill that they hoped to push through in an urgent bid to keep the government in operation and help their party recover from a humiliating political defeat.

Speaker John A. Boehner solicited the views of his colleagues at a closed meeting of the House Republican Conference, where lawmakers expressed frustration at the setback they suffered Wednesday on the bill to provide $3.65 billion in disaster relief for victims of floods, fires, hurricanes and tornados.

Even if the House approves the bill, to finance government operations for seven weeks after the start of the fiscal year Oct. 1, it faces potential problems in the Senate, where Democrats want to spend more, without cutting other programs to offset the cost.

Boehner told members of his caucus that the bill defeated Wednesday was the best deal they were going to get. Some of the 48 Republicans who opposed it Wednesday said they would support it, with minor changes, on Thursday.

Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., who voted for the original bill, said: “If you are a conservative, it just gets worse from here. The Senate wants to spend a lot more.”

If the House made deeper cuts, Republican leaders said, the Senate would promptly send the bill back with much higher spending.

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., said the new bill would be “very similar” to the one rejected Wednesday by a vote of 238-195.


A falling satellite catches the popular imagination

The odds that a falling satellite will kill you Friday are probably zero — but maybe not quite.

A dead hulk of a NASA satellite the size of a bus is skimming the top of the atmosphere, and as air molecules bounce off it, its orbit is decaying until gravity will finally pull it down as a fiery meteor.

To be specific, 26 large pieces of the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite, the heaviest about 330 pounds, are expected to survive all the way and hit the surface. The debris will stretch along a 590-mile path.

At the same time that NASA has been spewing out bland itinerary updates — by Wednesday evening, North America had been ruled out as a crash pad — the event has turned into a bit of a media and pop culture phenomenon. Just about every major news outlet started weighing in on the impending arrival.

NASA has calculated a 1-in-320 chance of anyone on Earth being hit by its satellite’s death plunge.

By Thursday afternoon, NASA had narrowed the time of reentry Friday to between noon and 9 p.m. Eastern time.

The Palestinian statehood ruse: Going for statehood at the UN derails the real peace process

By Rachel Bander

Chairman Joseph Maurer ’12
Editor in Chief
Ethan A. Solomon ’12
Business Manager
George Steinmetz ’13
Managing Editor
Conor Kirschbaum ’13
Executive Editor
Aslynn Schalk ’13

Today, Palestinian leaders may attempt to achieve statehood with a unilateral declaration of independence at the United Nations. This political play on the part of the Palestinians is a mischaracterization of the Middle East, and will not only fail to change the situation on the ground, but will also severely undermine peace and violate past agreements with Israel. Therefore, in the interest of true and meaningful peace, it is important for Congress to use its tools to cut U.S. aid to the United Nations. This is a threat to the United States of America and the pursuit of peace.

It is ironic that the Palestinians have chosen to seek a declaration of statehood in the United Nations, considering the fact that the UN does not actually have the legal right to grant statehood — the UN can only grant existing states membership, and not establish a new state. The legal authority for the United Nations is the General Assembly, which only has the power to support a state in its formation, not to actually establish one. This may seem like mere semantics, but in reality the Palestinians “seeking statehood” at the UN means trying to symbolize their international status while avoiding concrete steps for establishing a state. For example, the international community requires declaring statehood in a manner that states a country has a definite geography and government, and a permanent population. The Palestinians have failed to meet these criteria at the United Nations.

Moreover, a unilateral Palestinian appeal to the UN is in defiance of several agreements that the Palestinians have signed. The United Nations Charter requires UN approval for any new member to join the organization. The Palestinians, if carried out, will not only violate this agreement but could be seen as a rejection of the international community. Furthermore, the Palestinians unilaterally denouncing borders is in clear violation of the Oslo Accords, an agreement that the United Nations is not only an antagonist to, but also a sponsor of.

I am not saying that the Palestinians should remain in their current position of destitution, but that they should rather work to fulfill their demands, which are a righteous cause. By seeking statehood, the Palestinians are attempting to bypass the necessary steps and thus are failing to fulfill their goal.

In conclusion, the Palestinians should seek peace through direct negotiations, not by taking unilateral actions. Peace can only be achieved through mutual trust and a realization of the concessions that each side must make. The Palestinians must show their commitment to peace by following the Oslo Accords and working towards a two-state solution. To achieve this, they must recognize the existence of Israel and the right of its people to self-determination.

Correction

The Tech regrets that a letter published last Friday “Henry Kissinger, the Thai” was published with the wrong author and a wrong telephone number. It is correct to attribute the letter to Sunil Padmanabhan, and the phone number is (617) 258-1540.
Buying houses with other people’s money

It’s time to eliminate the home mortgage interest deduction

By Keith Yost

For decades, the U.S. government has attempted to encourage home ownership through a tax provision called the home mortgage interest rate deduction (HMID). Formed in an era before politicians began christening each of their creations in Orwellian NewSpeak, the HMID does exactly what its moniker suggests: for those taxpayers who itemize, the HMID allows any interest payments on a home mortgage to be deducted from their taxable income.

The rationale for the HMID is a three-part argument: first, that homeowners provide benefits to a community that renters do not; second, that the HMID increases home ownership; and last, that the positive marginal effect of increasing home ownership outweighs the negative inframarginal effect of giving away money to home owners who would have bought homes anyway, with or without an interest rate deduction. The experience of the last quarter-century has bust or given reason to seriously doubt all three of these arguments.

In theory, home ownership raises the stake a person has in their community and can increase the civic participation of owners relative to renters. Empirically, however, there is no conclusive evidence that ownership has this causal effect. Controlling for demographic factors, there is little indication that home ownership increases voting, volunteering, or charity.

The HMID fails to generate any benefits because the deduction has not raised the rate of home ownership.

Meanwhile, home ownership has significant negative effects, the foremost being that it reduces the flexibility of the labor market and makes economic downturns more persistent. By anchoring workers to a particular location, home ownership makes them less mobile — less able to leave low-wage areas and relocate to regions where labor is scarce.

Even if home ownership had positive effects for communities, the HMID fails to generate any benefit simply because the deduction has not raised the rate of home ownership in the United States. Over time, the value of the deduction has fluctuated, and yet the fraction of Americans owning homes has remained relatively constant, suggesting that the presence of the HMID has virtually no effect on the decision to rent instead of buy. International comparisons show the same thing: the trajectory of home ownership in countries with no interest deduction has been no worse than that in the United States.

It is no surprise that the HMID has failed to increase home ownership — after all, the deduction is available only to taxpayers who itemize (a group mostly consisting of high-income individuals who would own homes regardless of whether the U.S. government gave them the tax break or not). Roughly half of all dollars deducted using the HMID are from individuals making more than $90,000 per year — the distribution of tax avoidance is even more highly skewed toward the highest earners in society because their marginal tax rates are higher.

Rather than encouraging low-income individuals to buy instead of rent, the HMID has merely encouraged wealthy individuals to buy pricier homes than they normally would and pass on part of the cost to Uncle Sam. This is not just a giveaway to the wealthy — it’s a blatant misallocation of society’s resources, siphoning investment dollars from research, education, and factories into McMansions.

What makes the HMID even more unfor- givable is the enormity of it all. If the HMID were repealed today, the federal government would take in an additional trillion dollars of revenue over the next ten years. Even a more gradual approach, like reducing the maxim um deduction of the HMID to zero over the course of ten years, would save a whopping $400 billion.

Nor is the HMID the only housing giveaway that the U.S. government offers to homeowners. Besides the interest deduction, there are a host of other perks, the largest of which is the ability to exclude up to $250,000 ($500,000 for couples) of capital gains in home sales from the capital gains tax. If these handouts were cut at the same time as the HMID, revenue would increase by $1.4 trillion over the next decade.

Some cuts are hard to make. But the housing mortgage interest deduction is a no-brainer — with our budget situation, there’s no reason to maintain a distorting tax giveaway to the upper class.

Action: End the home mortgage interest deduction. 10-year savings: $1 trillion.

Letters to the Editor

Marion Griffin should be remembered

I am a writer doing some research on architect Marion Mahony Griffin, who graduated from MIT in 1908. I visited your 150th anniversary exhibition recently and was disappointed not to see any mention of this pioneering woman. She was the second woman to graduate from an architecture course at MIT and the first woman in the country to become a registered architect. She was also one of the first employees of Frank Lloyd Wright and her brilliant drawing skills saved her husband, Walter Burley Griffin, selected to design the capital city of Australia. Does anyone have any information on her time at MIT?

Glenda Korponay
Sydney, Australia

Want to draw graphics that engage, provoke, and speak to the MIT community? The Tech is looking for editorial cartoonists.

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Claims of faster-than-light neutrinos announced

OPERA scientists put results of neutrinos breaking cosmic speed limit out for scrutiny

By Dennis Overbye

The physics world is abuzz with news that a group of European physicists plans to announce Friday — a chorus of physicists had risen up on blogs and elsewhere arguing that it was way too soon to give up on Einstein and that there was probably some experimental error. Incredible claims require incredible evidence. These guys have done their level best, but before throwing Einstein on the boneyard, you would like to see an independent experiment," said John Ellis, a CERN theorist who has published work on the speeds of the ghostly particles known as neutrinos.

According to scientists familiar with the paper, the neutrinos raced from a particle accelerator at CERN outside Geneva, where they were created, to a cavern under the Gran Sasso in Italy, a distance of about 450 miles, about 60 nanoseconds faster than it would take a light beam. That amounts to a speed greater than light by about 0.0025 percent (2.5 parts in a hundred thousand).

Even this small deviation would open up the possibility of time travel and play havoc with long-standing notions of cause and effect. Einstein himself — the author of modern physics, whose theory of relativity established the speed of light as the ultimate limit — said that if you could send a message faster than light, "You could send a telegram to the past."

Alvino DeRujula, a theorist at CERN, called the claim "flabbergasting."

"It is true, then we truly haven’t understood anything about anything," he said, adding: "It looks too big to be true. The correct attitude is to ask oneself what went wrong."

"The group that is reporting the results is known as OPERA, for Oscillation Project with Emulsion-Tracking Apparatus. Antonio Ereditato, the physicist at the University of Bern who heads the group, agreed with DeRujula and others who expressed shock. He told the BBC that OPERA — after much internal discussion — had decided to put its results out there in order to get them scrutinized.

"My dream would be that another, independent experiment finds the same thing," Ereditato told the BBC. "Then I would be relieved."

Neutrinos are among the weirdest denizens of the weird quantum subatomic world. Once thought to be massless and to travel at the speed of light, they can sail through walls and planets like wind through a screen door. Moreover, they come in three varieties and can morph from one form to another as they travel along, an effect that the OPERA experiment was designed to detect by comparing time microsecond pulses of protons on one end with pulses of neutrinos at the other.

DeRujula pointed out however, that if the results of the OPERA experiment are true, then there could be a flaw in the experiment, a "malfunction of the detectors, an error of technology only holds in flat space, so if there is a warped fifth dimension, it is possible that on other slices of it, the speed of light is different."

But it is way too soon for such speculations. The OPERA results may generate a rash of experiments aimed at confirming, refuting or repudiating it, according to John Learned, a neutrino astronomer at the University of Hawaii.

"Special relativity only holds in flat space, so if there is a warped fifth dimension, it is possible that on other slices of it, the speed of light is different."

However, "nothing is certain yet," wrote Jasper in an email to seacoast online.

"Nothing is certain yet, say owners of breakfast joint

Toaster for Sale, from Page 1

The $1.875 million is just for the business and not the real estate. Jasper told seacoast Online — which first reported the listing — that the projected income for the Toasts combined this year is "in excess of $4 million," while Bean Group lists the diners as "in excess of $5,000,000 in two locations."

Many MIT students consider the quirky Friendly Toast a part of their lives and love it for its food, location, and style.

"I hope that if the Friendly Toast switches hands, the new owners keep it just how it is," said Joshua H. Alman ’14, who frequents the diner. "The decor and style of the restaurant, together with the food itself, make for a great and unique dining experience."

"It’s great for midnight breakfast excursions," added Taylor Han ’14. "It’s like an IHOP substitute, but closer and better."

Over weekends, the Kendall Square diner is often filled to its 150-person capacity. It is no surprise, then, that the Friendly Toast was named the 2010 fourth Best Breakfast in America by Good Morning America.

If the Toasts sell, the owners intend to move to Detroit and possibly open another restaurant, attributing their fascination with the city to artists moving into the area and the resistibly cheap Art Deco real estate.

However, "nothing is certain yet," wrote Jasper in an email to The Tech. The past two years have been financially difficult for the Friendly Toasts, and they’re not sure how likely the Toasts are to be sold in the current economy.
Good career moves

With Wednesday a student holiday, students had the entire day to spend at Career Fair. But students’ reactions to the career fair remained mixed.

Maximilian L. Brand ’11 said that the fair was a good chance to network with MIT alumni. “I know some alumni in the companies at the fair, so I’ve been able to visit the alumni and see what their experiences have been like,” he said.

Because several companies did not take resumes at the Fair, some felt that it wasn’t worth going out of their way to attend.

“Many of the companies I visited simply told me to submit my resume online, so I’m not sure whether the Career Fair was worth the time,” said John J. LaColla ’12.

But Anjuli J. Figueroa G said that even if companies did not take resumes, it was still “worthwhile” talking to them. She thought that meeting with companies would help her get a sense of how a PhD would fit in with their needs.

The Career Fair was dominated by companies looking for students in Course 6, but mechanical engineers were also in high demand.

The emphasis on those majors left some life sciences majors feeling a little left out.

“As a major in Course 10B (chemical-biological engineering), I’m interested in internships with a biological emphasis,” noted Erica Chan ’14. “Unfortunately, there were relatively limited companies with biological or pharmaceutical work, and more oil and energy companies.”

Chan also said that the large turnout of small companies meant there were fewer available job openings.

Miyachi said that Fair directors try to “encourage diversity” when looking for companies, and that they have been able to attract a large number of startups and relatively new companies. “We were able to attract a high number of both large and small companies,” she noted.

Still, Chan was happy that the Career Fair was scheduled on a holiday. “It’s definitely easier that the Career Fair is on a holiday,” she said. “Last year I had a heavy workload on the day of the Fair and couldn’t make it.”

Companies benefitted from the placement of the Career Fair on a holiday as well. Christine Chen ’12, day-of logistics director for the Career Fair, noted that the student holiday helped give companies on the fair’s second floor more exposure.

“I think that having the career fair on a student holiday this year significantly helped with student turnout, and I heard from many companies that they have seen more students than they have in the past,” Chen said in an email to The Tech.

“There were many new companies at the fair this year, and many are using their experience as an opportunity to enter the MIT recruiting scene.”

On student holiday, job-seekers flock to Johnson

Companies, many Courses 6 and 2, cite MIT name as a big draw to Institute career fair

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The Hedgehog explores the similarities between three very different Parisians

By Derek Chang  
ARTS EDITOR

The Hedgehog is a French-language movie directed by Mona Achache based on the novel The Elegance of the Hedgehog, by Muriel Barbery. In the movie, unlike other encounters depicted in the setting of an affluent Parisian neighborhood. The film explores the interactions between Paloma, an 11-year-old girl, Renée Michel, a concierge, and Kakuro Ozu, a Japanese man who recently moved to the apartment complex.

The Hedgehog focuses on a steady, subdued mood, which is reflected in Paris’ cool and cloudy days.

Paloma (Garance Le Guillermic) is an autodidact who reads and writes, introspecting in a manner that can only be compared to Madame Michel’s views completely, but they still change and develop. As the movie continues, their personalities begin to depart from their original, pessimistic containment. The hedgehog is often used as a representation of Madame Michel’s prickly exterior outside but completely different interior. References to the hedgehog, whether or not they are directly related to Michel, are brought up consistently.

An aspect of the movie I found refreshing was that the cinematography focuses on a relatively mundane depiction of suburban Paris, while most American cinema has given us portrayals of the “mainstream” Paris we see in postcards. Though the depiction focuses mostly on daily activities — eating dinner, walking to school, or going up elevators — it is done in a way that allows us to have a glimpse into daily life for Parisians and an understanding of what is happening to characters internally.

The movie does not bombard the audience with strong emotions. Indeed, The Hedgehog is not a drama or a thriller; instead, it focuses on a steady, subdued mood, which is reflected in the constant depiction of Paris’s cool, cloudy days. Putting aside the fact that The Hedgehog is based on a book, the movie is not the most original, and it does not have particularly innovative insight, cinematography, acting, or even thematic development. However, the movie does a terrific job at what it sets out to do. It is interesting, though, how the film shapes the expressions of the main characters. Paloma probably expresses herself to the audience the most, although many times her presence is sadly comic. Her characterization in the novel may be that of an artistic soul, mature beyond her years, but in the film she is a highly intelligent, yet ordinary and very often silly, girl burdened with a distant, unsympathetic family. Renée, on the other hand, is a shadowy presence throughout the film whose tangibility as a character builds up slowly but steadily.

Overall, Mona Achache’s adaptation of the novel is a satisfactory one. And even if Paloma’s use of the camera’s upper-class housewife role to perfection as she breezes around in chic kilt-like garments and waters her plants.

While Paloma fakes academic mediocrity, concierge Renée is an autodidact who reads Tolstoy to her cat.

Barbery’s novel centers around the goings-on of a rich Parisian apartment building, particularly the lives of Paloma Josse, a brilliant but suicidal pre-teen, and Renée Michel, the building’s caretaker. Both conceal their true nature — in the film she is a highly intelligent, yet ordinary and very often silly, girl burdened with a distant, unsympathetic family. Renée, on the other hand, is a shadowy presence throughout the film whose tangibility as a character builds up slowly but steadily.

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Can an elegant book be transformed into an elegant film?

By Kathryn Dere  
ARTS EDITOR

The Hedgehog proves that a film is best enjoyed if you watch it with low expectations at the outset. Admittedly, I read Muriel Barbery’s The Elegance of the Hedgehog this summer and enjoyed it so much that I was convinced this film adaptation would be an absolute failure. After all, aren’t all movie adaptations of books at least something of a disappointment? Muriel curiously is what drove me to watch The Hedgehog, and, well, thank goodness for mobi curiosity.

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**Former MIT adult stem cell researcher resumes fight against human embryonic stem cell funding**

James L. Sherley is at it again. When a court decided in July that the NIH could indeed fund human embryonic stem cell research, and that they were not violating a Congressional appropriations rider to do so, Sherley and his co-plaintiff, Theresa A. Deisher, said they would appeal.

On Monday, Sept. 19, that appeal was filed. The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has set the schedule:

- Oct. 20, 2011: Sherley's statement of issues to be raised, and procedural motions and administrative from both sides.
- Nov. 4, 2011: Motions for summary judgment or motions to dismiss, from both sides.

The July ruling was heavily based on an interim ruling from a three-judge panel of the appeals court. That ruling dismissed an earlier preliminary injunction in the case, and concluded that research using existing human embryonic stem cell lines did not fall under Congress’ prohibition on funding research in which embryonic stem cells are destroyed.

The appeal is unlikely to be before the same panel of judges, but Sherley will have an uphill battle. It is unlikely that the appeals court will change its position.

This case has been ongoing since August 2009, when Sherley, Deisher, and several now-excluded co-plaintiffs first filed the suit. Sherley is the former MIT biomedical engineering professor who was denied tenure in 2004 and left MIT after a hunger strike in 2006. Sherley, who is black, alleged racial discrimination on the part of MIT.

—John A. Hawkins

**Judiciary announces page rate increase for electronic court documents**

The Federal Judiciary announced last Tuesday (Sept. 13) it would increase the per-page charge to retrieve electronic court documents from $0.08 per page to $0.10 per page. Court documents are available through PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) at http://pacer.cas.org. Congress requires the judiciary to fund PACER exclusively through fees, they said.

David Sellers, a spokesperson for the judiciary, said the fees are “at the level necessary to operate” the system. There was no explicit opportunity for the public to comment on the fee increase, he said.

In recent years, it has been easier to avoid PACER fees by using RECAP, a project of Princeton University’s Center for Information Technology Policy that allows PACER users to upload purchased documents to a public web site, and provides a Firefox plugin to assist in the administrative process. See http://recapthelaw.org for more details.

—John A. Hawkins

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**East Campus likes Pinkie’s diner**

**Volunteer-driven Talbot diner seeks to unite EC floors**

Pinkies, from Page 1

have given Le positive feedback about his late-night diner. “People really like being able to come down and hang out with their friends. It’s nice seeing people from different halls in EC, all together,” said Le.

“It’s a good place for people to congregate when they’re all working on p-sets at two in the morning,” added one of his diners.

West Campus residents will have to wait to sample Pinkie’s fare. Le said students from other dorms will not be turned away, but currently the diner is mainly intended for East Campus residents “because we want to get things stabilized first” and that the amount of volunteers “can’t handle large inputs from other dorms at the moment.” He estimates the diner serves between 20 and 50 students every night. Le also added that, as Pinkie’s grows, “hopefully other dorms will want to come in the future.”

Le said there are usually three volunteers working each night, although he has had to run Pinkie’s by himself. “The hardest thing is getting people to volunteer and help out. … We’d like to be here two or three times a week but not every night,” he said of himself and the current volunteers.

The diner gets its name from Le’s moniker, “Pinkie,” was inspired by the pink mohawk he sported last year. Le enjoys baking bread, and the grilled cheese served at Pinkie’s is made with homemade loaves. He would like to see Pinkie’s become a “permanent fixture” in East Campus, and he plans to keep it running as long as he has volunteers and enough money from donations to buy food. “We’re bringing people together and we’re providing a nice thing for EC,” said Le. Perhaps the success of Pinkie’s will inspire other student-run food groups around campus.

—Vincent P. Le ‘13

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IFC Rush, from Page 1

oted with nine chapters. Tim J. Stumbaugh ’12, IFC vice president, said that the new “Clearinghouse Express” lets fraternities check in freshmen by scanning their MIT ID cards.

“My chapter [Phi Delta Theta] was … one of the pilot members, and I can say that it definitely helped with the check-in/check-out process during Saturday and Sunday, when there was a con-specific influx of people in and out of the door. Tuesday the later part of the week, it was easier to identify rushers by name, so there was a bit of a falling off of the system’s use,” wrote Stumbaugh in an email to The Tech.

Phi Sigma Kappa President Jas- son B. Hoch ’13 had similar obser-cations. “Clearinghouse Express was convenient early in Rush. Freshmen liked it. It also allowed you to override the case when an- other fraternity forget to check a freshman back in. Later in Rush, when we knew the names of the freshmen, it was easier to type in their names than to scan their IDs,” he wrote in an email.

“There were no privacy con-cerns as far as I could tell,” Hoch added.

For the first time, the IFC also offered a Rush-centered smart-phone application. The app, which is available for iPhone and An- droid users, displays the locations of each fraternity, the scheduled events at each house, and the en-tire Rush schedule among all the fraternities.

This year, the IFC will distrib-ute a survey to gather data about people who went through Rush. The IFC wants to learn more about their experiences and opinions, and gather suggestions for im-provement, said Wintrob. This is a departure from previous years, when the IFC only polled rush chairmen.

Wintrob said that Rush was “safe and effective” this year, although there were a few minor violations of rush rules. “The IFC coordinates alcohol inspections among the different houses to ensure that the recruitment period is dry. There is considerable buy-in from the fra-ternity community and we did not encounter any serious problems, “ he said.

This year, “there were only mi-nor updates to the recruitment rules,” he added.

Rush changed minds

International student and Sig- ma Nu pledge Rafael P. Gazzin ’12 said that he liked IFC rush more than REX. “The frat rush was bet- ter because you spent time with the guys everyday to get to know the people better. … Most of the fra-ternities have really nice houses. They took us to more sophisticated events like shows, dinners, and baseball.”

Before pledging, Gazzin had not thought about joining a frater-nity. “I thought that I would be so happy in my dorm, it’s so close to campus. I don’t know why I would join a fraternity. It’s all about the ‘brotherhood’ [and] jobs. And then I decided that I would give [rush] a chance. It’s free food and free events.”

His mind soon changed. “Ever since I talked with people, joining a fraternity can be really, really good — better than having friends and parties. You have a support system. Really good friends and broth- ers that can help you when you’re sick … help you with your p-set. I changed my mind completely.”

Matthew J. Hunter ’13, a Zeta Psi pledge, also seemed to enjoy Rush. “The events were really interesting, and it was a good way to show that MIT fraternities aren’t a lot like the stereotypes that you have about fraternities in general. As opposed to just drinking all the time and taking advantage of women, I think that these guys are good people to live with and that I’ll have fun in the coming years.”

But there was a downside. “There’s 26 fraternities, and I had only enough time to visit three of them for an ample amount of time.”

The plaza in front of the Marriott Hotel in Kendall Square is now complete after months of renovations. The new plaza includes cement tiles inscribed with names and quotes from famous technology company founders, such as Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. In the center of the plaza is a small grassy knoll surrounded by new benches for people to enjoy.

The Clover food truck, located on Carleton St. near the Kendall T-stop, has recently extended its hours and is now open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hertz Graduate Fellowship Award

The Fannie and John Hertz Foundation is pleased to announce the Fall 2011 Graduate Fellows

Mr. Engreitz, Ms. Maass, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Seagall-Shapiro are exceptionally talented and creative young innovators receiving the Hertz Graduate Fellowship Award of up to $250,000 in the Applied Physical Sciences or Engineering.

The Hertz Foundation would like to extend congratulations to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for attracting these Hertz Fellows to the MIT graduate program.
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MIT endures tough loss against Wellesley Blue Volleyball suffers first defeat of the season

By Katie Bodner

The MIT women’s volleyball team faced off against the Wellesley Blue in a heated contest this Tuesday night but unfortunately endured its first loss (27-25, 18-25, 25-21, 25-20) of the season. Coming off an 11-0 record thus far, the Engineers hoped to gain momentum. But this match moved MIT to 2-1 in the NEWMAC conference and Wellesley also to 2-1 in the conference, but to 6-3 overall.

In the first set, Wellesley started the game fiercely with a 7-3 lead, which soon became a 16-13 lead following an MIT service error. However, MIT was quick to react. The Engineers pushed out a 10-3 run and a 24-21 lead after some misfires by the Blue and a block by Kristine A. Bunker ’14, middle hitter. The Blue fought back to tie the game at 24 after another MIT service error. Then, Trinity P. Leonard ’13, outside hitter, brought the team to 25 after a hit from Wellesley Senior Katie A. Reihs ’13 went out of bounds. Following many lead changes, the Blue took the first set at 27-25 after two errors and a strike.

The second set initially mirrored the first set, with fast paced lead changes and multiple ties. Soon after the Blue went up 12-11, the Engineers gained energy. Leonard’s crucial block triggered an exhilarating 7-0 run by MIT. Wellesley attempted to make its comeback, but the Blue held on long enough to take the second set as the Engineers lost 25-17.

To start off the third set, Wellesley put the pressure on with a 12-4 run. MIT persevered and garnered three points out of the next five, but Wellesley’s agility allowed it to push out a 5-2 run to close the set.

MIT then entered the final set with a renewed energy. The Engineers gained a 5-3 lead over Wellesley before the Blue scored back the set at 15-10. MIT quickly initiated a 5-0 run and was on fire until an ace and a kill from Wellesley pushed the Blue further ahead. An intense end of the set saw a back and forth battle from MIT and the Engineers close to a win at 21-20. But Wellesley answered MIT’s challenge with a 4-0 run to win the game.

The Engineers will next play in the MIT Invitational on Saturday, September 24 and 25th. Nicole C. Gagnier ’15, setter/defensive specialist who had 30 assists and 12 digs, is excited about starting the invitational off stronger and dominating the NEWMAC conference.

“When we let our undefeated record slip away, but next match we definitely have to start off strong and not just pick it up at the end. We took charge during the second set, but needed stronger starts during the other sets. We had a few too many errors on our side that came at tough times, and we need to focus on dynamic defense in order to win the invitational. We need lots of energy,” she said.

Water Polo takes three victories on West Coast Engineers travel to California, competing against schools including Caltech’s Beavers

By Greg McKeever

The MIT water polo team, ranked No. 6 in the latest Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) Division III poll, traveled west to California for a four-day trip over the weekend, taking on some of the top squads in the area while there. The Engineers participated in the Posada Royale Invitational at California Lutheran University, in addition to playing three games at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges. MIT picked up three wins against four losses during the road trip.

MIT opened up against the host Kingsmen on Thursday night. Cal Lutheran, fifth in the CWPA Division III rankings, jumped out to an early 2-0 lead but Tech rallied back to tie the game twice, at 2-2 and 6-6. Trailig 7-6 with under two minutes to go in the third quarter, MIT earned a five-meter penalty shot but Dennis J. Smiley ’14 was denied on the attempt and Cal Lutheran responded with a penalty conversion of its own on the ensuing possession. The Kingsmen scored three quick goals in the fourth and MIT would later cut the gap to 11-10 but unfortunately did not open the closest of the way.

The Cardinal and Gray return to Cal Lutheran on Saturday for a pair of games against the University of La Verne and Fresno Pacific University. After leading 3-2 at halftime against Fresno Pacific, the Engineers outscored the Sunbirds, 4-1 in the third and did not look back en route to an 8-3 victory. Tech finished up its west coast trip on Sunday at Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, falling to the host Stags, 13-6, while losing to the University of Redlands, 12-7, and Navy, 11-5. Five different players scored in the loss to CMS, the top ranked team in Division III water polo, with Cheney pacing the offense with a career high six goals.

The Cardinal and Gray return east to open CWPA Northern Division play on Saturday with a pair of games in New York. The Engineers will play at Fordham University at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 24 before finishing out with a nightcap at Iona College at 8:30 p.m.
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