Eric Grimson to serve as chancellor
'I need to understand the pulse of the students,' says EECs prof.

By Robert McQueen

President Susan J. Hockfield announced yesterday the appointment of W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '70 as the next chancellor of MIT. Grimson will take office on Mat. 1 and will succeed outgoing Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD '75.

Grimson said that one of his first objectives as chancellor will be to listen to faculty and students in a variety of environments. "I need to understand the pulse of the students," he said.

"I think that Grimson hopes to better understand students not only in the academic setting, but also in extracurricular activities. "Half of what happens here is not in a lab," he said. Grimson specifically plans to reach out to student leadership groups, including the National Asian Pacific American Arts and Culture, Sigma Phi Lambda, and the ASA.

When asked his stance on current student issues like dining and orientation, Grimson said he will listen to all perspectives, as the issues will still be handled by the appropriate steps into office. He believes all groups must be heard even if they cannot all be satisfied.

Looking into the future, Grimson wants to prepare students for beyond MIT. "Our students have incredible intellectual abilities," Grimson said, "but we need to empower that."

Grimson also said that he would like to increase interaction between departments and teach students to network and manage their plain ideas. "How do you sell your ideas to Bill Gates?" Grimson said.

CONTINUING PROFESSORSHIP

Although Grimson is leaving as head of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department, he still plans to teach classes. "I love teaching; I really do," Grimson said.

"This semester, Grimson is teaching 6.01. [Introduction to EECs] and next year, he is considering teaching a freshmen seminar. "[Teaching is] a great way for getting to know what students are about," he said. Grimson currently advises 26 students, and he intends to continue advising just as many as chancellor.

Still, Grimson's new responsibilities will require him to cut back on other areas. Grimson expects that he will have to " ramp down " his current research, which relates to machine vision, "in order to leave time ... to pay attention to broader student issues."

Grimson will discontinue a few faculty positions he currently holds because his new role as chancellor will introduce conflicts between those current positions. For example, Grimson will no longer hold a position on the Faculty Advisory Board for Student Support Services because that time. In contrast, sororities currently on campus generally have over 100 members. Unlike existing Greek groups at MIT, the sorority would be unique in its support of both Asian- and female-specific philanthropies. The sorority's recruitment process would be similar to the Asian Pacific American- and female-specific philanthropies currently on campus, " Vivian noted.

The sorority's recruitment petition, which currently consists of five candidates, was approved on campus, " Vivian said. The petition is currently on display in the Student Activities Center.

Chancellor, Page 11

by Derek Chang

Asian-interest sorority planned

Aims to establish colony this year, potential chapter by 2012

Plans are under way this spring to introduce a new sorority aimed at Asian women on campus. The new group would be MIT's seventh sorority and the only Greek letter organization with an Asian focus. Kappa Phi Lambda, Sigma Pi Zeta, and Delta Phi Lambda are among the candidates.

Vivian A. Lee '12, who has been leading plans for the Asian-interest sorority, felt the sorority was needed in order to spread cultural awareness. "Asian culture is still vastly under-represented on campus," Vivian said. "There is currently no student group at MIT that focusses closely on the sociopolitical challenges that Asians and Asian-Americans face everyday as the "silent minority" in the U.S."

The sorority's recruitment process would be similar to the week-long fraternity rush, a departure from the standard sorority recruitment model. The events would be designed to allow potential sisters to get to know each other closely and to be selected by the sorority's specific values. The new sorority intends to be a smaller group with no more than thirty members at any given time. In contrast, sororities currently on campus generally have over 100 members.

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At Walker, students to hear about renovation

By Stan Gill

Student groups affected by the potential restructuring of Walker Memorial may soon learn more about the plans for the future of the space. The administration is holding an open meeting on Monday, Feb. 14 at 5 p.m. in Morss Hall to provide information and updates on the current status of the Walker review process and to represent a pre- sentation by Associate Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '79, a question-and-answer session, and explore potential options.

The meeting is the first public engagement on the situation since the start of the semester. The administration announced plans late last term to repurpose Walker for use by Music and Theater Arts. The Graduate Student Council (GSC) said it would represent the affected student groups and confer with relevant administrators. The GSC has also made formal student engagement proposals to the administration and met with representatives of student groups.

"We are hopeful that the relationship with the administration will continue to improve over the coming months," said GSC President Ulric J. Ferner G, "and we look forward to contributing both to the strategic planning of this project as well as to its due diligence." Ferner added that he and the GSC expect the administration to cooperate with the student community.

Neither the affected student groups nor the College has heard much about the status of the project since the start of the new year. The administration brought in professional architects and surveyors to evaluate the building during the closing weeks of fall term, but, according to the GSC, the results of their evaluation have not yet been released to the student groups.

"Everyone is unclear on the situation at this time," Ferner said. "We do not know what the College has worked on, or how much we can expect to get from the buildings."

Since December, the administration has been meeting with select student groups historically tied to Walker. The meeting on Monday will be the first time the administration will present the floor to all Walker groups — and other student groups — and allowing them to share their specific concerns with the restructuring process.

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US faces stark choice as Mubarak clings to office

By Mark Landler and Neir Mazzetti
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Hosni Mubarak’s refusal to step down Thursday, after a day of ru-
mors galvanizing the crowds in Cairo, confronts the Obama admin-
istration with a stark choice: Break decisively with Mubarak or stick to its call for an “orderly transition” that may no longer be trea-
uble.

On a day of dashed hopes in Egypt, the administration’s at-
tempts to balance the democratic aspirations of the protesters against a fear of contributing to broader in-
stability in the Middle East collided with Mubarak’s defiant refusal to relinquish his office.

To some extent, Mubarak opened the door for President Ba-
ack Obama to appeal even more directly to the protesters, some of whom have felt betrayed by the ad-
mnistration’s cautious approach, saying it placed strategic interests ahead of democratic values.

In speech, Mubarak said he would not brook foreign interference, suggest-
ing that he was digging in his heels after days of U.S. pleading for “im-
mediate, irreversible” change.

Obama’s remarks earlier in the day, in which he celebrated the hopes of a “young generation” of Egyptians, were broadcast in Cairo, drawing cheers from the protesters.

“The administration has to put everything on the line now” said Thomas Malinowski, the Wash-
ington director of Human Rights Watch, who has been among se-
veral outside experts advising the White House on Egypt over the last few days. “Whatever cards they have, this is the time to play them.”

In its first reaction, the admin-
istration offered few overt signs of a change in policy. While criticizing the move as insufficient, it made no direct call for Mubarak’s resignation.

Obama watched Mubarak’s speech on board Air Force One, returning from a trip to Michigan, the press secretary, Robert Gibbs, said. As soon as he arrived at the White House, Obama huddled with his national security aides.

Obama’s appearance appeared as taken attack by Mubarak’s speech as the crowds in Tahrir Square. The director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Leon Panetta, testified before the House of Representa-
tives on Thursday morning that there was a “strong likelihood” that Mubarak would step down by the end of the day. U.S. officials said Panetta was basing his statement not on se-
cret intelligence but on media broadcasts, which began circulant-
ing before he sat down before the House Intelligence Committee.

“People seem to be believing Egypt was on the cusp of dramatic change. Speaking at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, he said, “We are witnessing history unitad,” adding, “America do everything we can to support an orderly and genuine transition to democracy.”

The chaotic events Thursday called much of the administration’s strategy in dealing with the Egyp-
tian crisis into question. For days, the administration had pinned its hopes on a transition process man-
aged by the Egyptian vice president, Omar Suleiman.

Obama links expanding wireless access to economic recovery

MARQUETTE, Mich. — Declaring that “we can’t expect tomorrow’s economy to take root using yesterday’s infra-
structure,” President Barack Obama traveled to this up-
bound town in a remote corner of Michigan on Thursday to make the case that expanding wireless access is critical to the nation’s economic future.

“This isn’t just about a faster Internet or being able to find a Facebook friend on your smartphone,” Obama said in a speech at Michigan University here, after viewing a demonstration on long-distance learning over the Internet.

“It’s about connecting every corner of America to the dig-
ital age,” the president said. “It’s about every young person who no longer has to leave his hometown to seek new oppor-
tunity — because opportunity is right there at his or her fingertips.”

—Sheryl Gay Stolberg, The New York Times

Republic leaders promise push for more cuts

WASHINGTON — House Rep-
pUBLIC leaders said Thursday that they would accede to demands from career analysts for deep cuts into the federal budget for billions of dollars in additional savings this year, exhibiting the power of the Tea Party movement and increasing chances of a major fiscal clash with Democrats.

In response to complaints from rank-and-file Republicans that the party was not enacting a campaign promise to roll back domestic spending this year by $100 billion, the chairman of the House Approp-
riations Committee said his panel would abandon its initial plan and draw up a new one to slice spending more aggressively.

The reversal was the most con-
crete demonstration yet that the wave of fiscal conservatives who cat-
apulted Republicans into the House majority is reshaping the political and policy calculations being made by the party leadership. It highlight-
ed the challenges Republican lead-
ers face as they try to enact a spend-
ing plan for next fiscal year, which must be completed by March 4 deadline, and it portends further clashes as Con-
gress turns to battles over raising the federal debt ceiling and adopting a budget for next fiscal year before a March 4 deadline, and it portends further clashes as Con-
gress turns to battles over raising the federal debt ceiling and adopting a budget for next fiscal year.

House Republicans, who have no more than 50 seats in the House, need to negotiate with their Repub-
lican counterparts in the Senate, which has more than 60 seats, to pass laws.

The initial Republican plan called for $35 billion in cuts for non-security programs for this year, which has more than seven months yet to run.

Republican leaders had said that figure was equivalent to about $74 billion in cuts that had been agreed to in a full fiscal year, mea-
sured against the budget request made last year by the Obama ad-
mnistration.

But that argument rang hollow to many conservative Republicans who did not rely on the idea of ex-
plainning to constituents why the new majority was coming up short of the pledge.

By Carl Hulse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Workplaces turning to tobacco-free hiring

Smokers now face another risk from their habit: It could cost them a job.

More hospitals and medical businesses are adopting strict policies that make smoking a reason to turn away job appli-
cants, saying they want to increase worker productivity, reduce health care costs and encourage healthier living.

The new rules essentially treat cigarettes like an illegal nar-
cotic. Applications now explicitly warn of "tobacco-free hiring," job seekers who no longer have to leave his hometown to seek new oppor-
tunity — because opportunity is right there at his or her fingertips."
Iraq offers to bring its refugees home from Egypt and Yemen

By Jack Healy and Michael S. Schmidt

BRUSSELS — The sexual abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands deepened Thursday when news reports said one of its senior figures had shielded a pedophile priest.

In three news media reports, the Church of North Holland acknowledged that the priest, Adrianus Simonis, the retired archbishop of Utrecht, who testified last month as a witness in a legal action taken by one of almost 2,000 people who have said they were victims of abuse, had shielded a pedophile priest.

The crisis in the Netherlands is another setback for the Roman Catholic Church, which has been struggling with sexual abuse allegations from Ireland and Belgium to the United States.

On Thursday, which was the first day of the 2011 South African Parliament, the Parliament offered to legislate a gap.

Michael S. Schmidt — The New York Times

Mario Cuomo to mediate in Mets-Madoff Case

NEW YORK — Former Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York will serve as mediator in a dispute between the owners of the New York Mets and the Picasso over the wisdom of starting a new baseball team in New York.

Another Obama nominee, the Democratic governor, Andrew M. Cuomo of New York, who was also one of the governors involved in sports management, said Thursday that the Mets owners did not have an option to start a new team in New York.

Mr. Cuomo, a cousin of the late Governor Mario M. Cuomo of New York, does not have a history of mediation in sports controversies.

Mr. Cuomo has been involved in a series of mediation efforts in New York City, including the negotiation of labor contracts for teachers and the mediation of the dispute between the city and the teachers' union.

He also served as city comptroller from 1993 to 1997, and as state comptroller from 1997 to 2006, during which time he was a strong advocate for education and social services.

He was appointed by Governor Mario M. Cuomo as state auditor in 1990, and served in that position until 1993.

He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he studied political science.

Mr. Cuomo is married to Kerry Gannon, a journalist, and they have three children: Matthew, 24; Christopher, 22; and Catherine, 19.

For a biography of Mr. Cuomo, see the New York Times.

By Jack Healy and Michael S. Schmidt

US indict 31 in crackdown on gangs in New York

WHITE PLAINS — Continuing its offensive on the violent gangs that have run roughshod over Newburgh, federal authorities on Thursday unsealed a new indictment against reputed members and associates of the Latin Kings gang.

The indictment, according to the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, was the “first time in memory” that Latin Kings defendants and 16 had been charged in an indictment last May in which 78 people were taken into custody. Each of the defendants is accused of being a member of the Latin Kings, an associate of the gang, or a narcotics supplier.

Eight of the defendants were arrested on Wednesday, according to Gilberto Rodriguez, the special agent in charge of the FBI’s New York field office.

By Jack Healy and Michael S. Schmidt

Scott Shane and David D. Kirkpatrick, The New York Times

Egypts military is caught between two sides

WASHINGTON — As pro-democracy demonstrations in Cairo signaled the overthrow of a regime that had lasted for 17 days, the Egyptian military has managed the crisis with seeming finesse, winning over street protesters, quietly conscripting its domination of top government offices, and signaling its support for President Hosni Mubarak.

The military has managed to balance the demands of protesters calling for President Mubarak’s resignation with the need to ensure stability.

The military has also managed to quell the protests by arresting and intimidating dissenters, and by exploiting the sense of lawlessness that has hovered over the city since about 2008, including the shooting of Zachary Zachary, a bystander, and the stabbing of a protestor.

The military has also managed to maintain control over the streets, and to ensure that protests do not turn violent.

By Jack Healy and Michael S. Schmidt

The New York Times

WikiLeaks angry about ex-staff member’s book

LONDON — WikiLeaks said it was taking “legal action” over a tell-all book to be released Friday by a former staff member that is critical of its founder, Julian Assange, and says the website was disabled by a dispute of allegations.

The book, “Inside WikiLeaks: My Time With Julian Assange at the World’s Most Dangerous Website,” by Brad L. Smith, who was the website’s chief legal officer before leaving out late 2010, has been described as a “tell-all” book.

By Jack Healy and Michael S. Schmidt

Friday, February 11, 2011

The New York Times

US proposes new management plan for national forest system

By By Seewoo Chan

The federal Agriculture Department unveiled a new plan Thursday to manage the national forest system, which is facing upward pressures on water supplies.

The proposed rule also requires that private companies be given more responsibilities to monitor the forests, and that the federal government not be allowed to interfere with the management of the forests.

The proposed rule would also require that the federal government retain control over the national forest system, and ensure that the forests are managed in a way that is consistent with the public interest.

The federal Agriculture Department said it had published a draft plan for the national forest system, which is managed by the Forest Service, in 2008.

But the draft plan was never finalized by the Bush administration, and was suspended after the election of President Barack Obama.

By Seewoo Chan

The New York Times

Solo Fed governor with close ties to conservatives resigns

By By Seewoo Chan

The Federal Reserve, the nation’s central bank, said Wednesday that Warsh, a former member of the Federal Open Market Committee, would resign after serving in the post for five years.

Warsh, 40, a former member of the Federal Reserve Board, is a former member of the board and was nominated by President Obama as the lead Fed governor in 2009.

By Seewoo Chan

The New York Times

Dutch reports say cardinal shielded pedophile priest

BRUSSELS — The sexual abuse crisis in the Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands deepened Thursday when news reports said one of its senior figures had shielded a pedophile priest.

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The New York Times

Iraq offers to bring its refugees home from Egypt and Yemen

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration, in response to a request from the Iraqi government, said Wednesday that it would begin allowing恩施 refugees to return to their country.

But the administration said it was still considering a request from Iran to release恩施 refugees from a camp in the city.

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The New York Times

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The refugees, who are mainly either from the Sunni or Shia communities in恩施, have been held in a camp in the city since 2005.
During the many hours spent in Cairo following the recent protests, the appearance and the behavior of the protesters surprised me more than anything else. Citizens of Cairo are usually very down-to-earth, easygoing people with a great sense of humor, and this mood was evident during the protests. I was even surprised at the lack of animosity the protesters expressed. The masses of people who gathered in Tahrir Square were in a state of light in support and the U.S. has given to Hosni Mubarak’s regime in the past in the initial protest. I knew that the U.S. could not wait to give me his opinion of American politics — which generally boiled down to “Bush: Bad, Carter: Good.” — and assure me that he still liked America and wanted to live here.

This general feeling extended to the protesters as well. Wherever my national- ity came up in conversation with protesters, they would express their excitement that Americans were present and in support of their movement. Due to the regime’s ten- dency to suppress information, this was the first protest, the initial protest on Jan. 25 was such an unusual occurrence for Egyptians that they weren’t sure what it would become or whether they were doing the right thing. The presence of foreigners reassured them and gave them confidence.

As the protests grew, the protesters gained a voice and began to coalesce into a more cohesive group from which goals and purposes began to emerge. At this point, it was clear to me that many of the West’s fears of a post-Mubarak Egypt were unfounded. When the Muslim Brotherhood did not have the widespread support they once held, the new leadership, a government, the protests did not seek alienation from Western leaders. For this reason, it was little in the new Egypt. The Muslim Brotherhood was acting in the more humanistic manner toward the United States. When I first heard the word “revolution,” and this mood was evident during the protests. I knew that the U.S. could not wait to give me his opinion of American politics — which generally boiled down to “Bush: Bad, Carter: Good.” — and assure me that he still liked America and wanted to live here.

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Health care repeal is a terrible, terrible idea

By Keith Yost

Last week, in a 47-51 vote, the U.S. Senate rejected an amendment to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that would have stripped the law of its individual mandate. Sadly, this vote will not end the Republican push to repeal ObamaCare. Going forward, Republicans are insisting on a two-pronged assault on the health care reform's individual insurance mandate before it comes into force in 2014. The first line of attack is to challenge the law in court, arguing that compelling all citizens to purchase health insurance is an unconstitutional overstep of the federal government’s powers. The second is to de-fund the agencies tasked with policing the mandate, which amounts to a de facto repeal.

Their chances for repeal are not bad. InTrade pegs the probability of a Supreme Court decision against the mandate at around 40 percent — the prospect of de-funding is even more likely, as Republicans have a roughly two-in-three chance of controlling both chambers of Congress in 2013.

However, while both the political prospects of a partial repeal (ending the mandate while retaining the rest of the health care reforms) may be better than that of a complete repeal, the consequences would be far worse. Health care reform depends upon two components to tackle the adverse selection problem in insurance markets: a mandate that insurance companies sell insurance to all individuals, and a system of individual premiums that compel all individuals to purchase insurance. Without assessing penalties on those who do not purchase insurance (which, along with targeted subsidies, is ObamaCare’s adverse selection cure), the American health insurance market will go into a spiral of rising premiums and disappearing insurers. We’ve seen the effects of partial reform already — in the children’s non-group insurance market, where rates have飙飞 in the health care act put a full-issue reform into effect before an individual mandate — the market has disappeared entirely. Partial repeal would work like partial reform writ-large, to the detriment of not just ObamaCare’s future beneficiaries, but to all Americans.

What is ironic is that all of the components of health care reform, the insurance mandate should be the one which Republicans find least objectionable. Conservatives, with their distaste for both income redistribution and government spending, should be keener to preserve the benefits of the mandate so that the act’s means-tested insurance subsidies can be substituted out. They should also be even more interested in tweaking the guaranteed issue of health insurance, introducing affordable insurance plans that compete all individuals to purchase insurance. Without assessing penalties on those who do not purchase insurance market, where many in the health care act put a full-issue reform into effect before an individual mandate — the market has disappeared entirely. Partial repeal would work like partial reform writ-large, to the detriment of not just ObamaCare’s future beneficiaries, but to all Americans.

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By mandating students to get health care, colleges are taking measures to ensure we don’t fall into financial ruin.

Health Care Reform, from Page 4

Government Accountability Office report, among the many uninsured, 1.7 million are college students. This makes up 20 percent of the nation’s youth. Choosing the latter simply means going into a halls. Choosing the latter simply means going into a death spiral of rising premiums and disappearing insurers. This is predictable economic behavior — pay more than the emergency room, or surgeries, so the consumers’ economic behaviors are not predictable. For some students, there may be monumental repercussions for not being insured. If they find themselves the need of hospital care, they are putting themselves at risk of paying more than what they can afford, possibly a payment as much as their college tuition. So, in mandating students to get health care, colleges are coming up with creative measures to ensure that their students will be covered by their parents’ insurance plans until they are 26, and they cannot be exempt from insurance for their pre-existing conditions. Students who cannot rely on their parent’s insurance plans, and disagree to their plan’s coverage, can enroll in GradGuard, launched by College Parents of America, a non-profit organization which offers broad coverage for college students.

Also thanks to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, there will be competition more among insurance companies. This means we have more plans to choose from. By now we would have seen someone in the leadership float a list of demands in the form of a compromise plan. Furthermore, Republicans have left themselves few means of exit—the court challenges to ObamaCare, once raised, cannot be dismissed by mere political convenience, and the riled members of the GOP will react poorly to a late-game strategic shift after being proselytized for so long on the evils of mandated insurance. No, it is more likely that the campaign against ObamaCare will be stubbornly carried to its bitter end. It is hard to imagine that Republicans at any level will look at the political calculus and see any benefit to a compromise that preserves the mandate.

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Health Care Reform, from Page 4

Government Accountability Office report, among the many uninsured, 1.7 million are college students. This makes up 20 percent of all college students from ages 18 to 23. Reasonably, this group would need insurance, but the least they can import into 2014, the case will run its course and we are not limited by our college insurers... But what if that means? With fingers crossed, government can mandate health insurance to all individuals, and a system of individual premiums that compel all individuals to purchase insurance.

Everyone should be able to afford to not live with the fear that one day they might just end up bankrupt.

ObamaCare is crucial for students and families alike

By mandating students to get health care, colleges are taking measures to ensure we don’t fall into financial ruin.

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The Tech Friday, February 11, 2011

MOVIE REVIEW

Painfully Beautiful

Iñárritu explores the perseverance of good through the darkness in Biutiful

Javier Bardem plays a man facing end-of-life decisions.

By Nathdita Wiwatwicha

Watch the trailer. I almost cried. Biutiful is another painfully terrific Alejandro González Iñárritu (21 Grams) film: powerful themes, heavy content, and emotionally consuming messages. Though in a similar category, Biutiful is no Crash or Pan’s Labyrinth, for it is a work of genuine realism. Intervals of anxiety and floods of thought-provoking visual input and dialogue, explicit or subtle, do not funnel into a single larger-than-life climax in the end; they simply flow through with constant flux.

Uxbal (Javier Bardem) is an influential figure in the lower class and the underground business community in Barcelona: a medium in his religious community, the spouse of a bipolar drug addict, and a father of two. He is diagnosed with terminal cancer, and the movie captures his attempt to put his affairs in order during the last fraction of his life. Despite the grim tone, the love Uxbal has for his children and people around him illuminates Biutiful with hope and heart-warming optimism.

Biutiful is a commentary on capitalism, not only in the context of the film but also in the larger world, in growing cities, and in the competition — they are the result of complex social mechanisms on humanity wrapped in adversity and destructiveness.

Poverty, immigrants’ problems, corruption, and bribery are a tangled network of problems. Morality is no longer the important question, for these individuals have been forced into passivity by their socioeconomic status. After all, they are not in the competition — they are the result of the competition. In a world driven by survival of the fittest, selfishness is no longer marked by its morality or lack thereof, but rather its innate existence in every human being. Brutality is inevitable, sometimes put in people’s hands to pass to one another.

But what keeps some people from becoming dehumanized?

All characters in Biutiful are rounded, both good and evil, with conflicting values and questions. At times, they are forced to stay human or to treat others with humanity, or to buckle under external pressures. Iñárritu also explores humanity at the individual level: human psychology, philosophy, and ethics through the themes of the afterlife, miracle, and connection with the dead. Uxbal seeks spiritual refuge from a fortune-teller, who symbolizes nature and the universe. He is guided by metaphysics and life philosophy in the form of faith. He is a man full of spirit: he is human.

Beauty does not always take its ideal form, for it is human, fallible and intricate. The misspelling of the word “beautiful” comes from a small scene in which Uxbal’s daughter asks him to help her spell the word so that she can write it down next to her drawing. His illiteracy is a defect, but he does not let it prevent him from responding to his daughter’s request. He does the best he can as a father, as a person. He tries.

Beauty does not always take its ideal form, for it is human, fallible and intricate.

“Biutiful” also refers to a small character in the film. Like everyone else, she is a rounded character, but also a representation of hope and human kindness, a beautiful person against the chaotic and disintegrating backdrop, despite the brutality she experiences. Among the heartbreaking or horrifying scenes and poignant cinematography, there are moments of humor and delight. Towards the beginning of the film, Uxbal’s children complain about the monotony of their meals. When Uxbal asks them what they would like to eat, they name all sorts of wondrous foods. Uxbal sits down at the table with some bread, milk, and sugar. The children giggle and let their father guide them in eating: “Here’s your ice cream,” he says, as he pours a mountain of sugar into his daughter’s bowl.

“The humor in Biutiful is not at all dark or cynical; it is pure and honest. Perhaps it is not even human, for it does not intend to make us laugh; it naturally evokes laughter as we relate to these characters. However, the smiles on the faces in the audience often turn into frowns within seconds. Biutiful surprises you — it makes you lapse into fear and despair, then lets you breathe again for a while — perhaps by making you chuckle like a child at a joke about a booger — before hitting you with another scene of Uxbal urinating blood. Whether dealing with suffering or rejoicing, Biutiful tells it frankly.

Some people find the film not extraordinarily depressing, while others feel emotionally exhausted and crushed. In any case, Biutiful is still worth watching, and its two Oscar nominations — for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Actor in a Leading Role — are testament to this fact. Bardem won an Oscar in 2007 for No Country for Old Men, and it would not be surprising if he won another for Biutiful.

Iñárritu is backed by big-name directors Guillermo del Toro (Pan’s Labyrinth) and Alfonso Cuarón (Y Tu Mamá También; Paris, Je t’aime). Literally coming back to reality after seeing the film feels like figuratively walking away from it. As the door of the theater closes behind me, I shut my eyes to close out the whole picture of the world and feel content again. However, as I move away in space and time from my point of contact with Biutiful, the experience still remains more real than my everyday perception.

Biutiful depicts only one in thousands of cases of dysfunction at an institutional and individual level. Unfortunately, the people who are responsible for and who have the potential to solve these problems are often the ones most unaware of and seemingly uninvolved with the type of world Uxbal is living in. I hope that none of us happens to be one of them.

Biutiful
Directed By Alejandro González Iñárritu
Starring Javier Bardem, Manelcl Alvarez, and Hanaa Bouchab
Rated R, now playing

The Tech Friday, February 11, 2011

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Steal my Comic by Michael Ciuffo

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Sufficient
6 Early adders
11 Coll. goal
14 Billiards shot
15 Computer invader
16 Cell substance letters
17 Warmer on the table
19 G.I. wear
20 Noisemaker
21 Morgue letters
22 Large blob
23 Der __ (Adenauer)
24 Tall building
27 Information
29 Safe and sound
30 Tummy muscles
33 Small harbor
36 Egg: pref.
37 Unseld of the NBA
38 Gunners’ grp.
40 Part of a play
41 Corp. honchos
42 More intoxicated
47 Guitar brand
48 More coarse
49 Arch type
51 Graphics program tool
55 Bailmy
59 Contemporary of Agatha
60 Self: pref.
61 Estevaz of “St. Elmo’s Fire”
63 Darkroom abbr.
64 Elastic substance
66 Bakery boy
67 Sponger
68 Highland groups
69 Sun. hornly
70 Pound and Cornell
71 Japanese fencing

DOWN
1 Ghana’s capital
2 Taj __
3 Whitney’s partner
4 Propelled in a high arc
5 Actor Jannings
6 Part of GPA
7 Hen
8 Melodic passage
9 “Serendipity” star John
10 Sort of ending?
11 Dangle imply
12 Embody with
13 Stomach: pref.
18 Greek advisor at Troy
22 Singer Crystal
25 Polynesian beverage
26 Fund-raising event
28 Answer affirmatively
30 Service winner
31 Harmful
32 R-V hookup
34 WWII arena
36 Egg: pref.
37 Unseid of the NBA
38 Gunners’ grp.
39部分
40 Part of a play
41 Corp. honchos
42 More intoxicated
47 Guitar brand
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

51 Chick calls
52 Putter Palmer
53 More sickly
54 New York city
56 Composer Berg
57 Demon
58 Body bulk
59 Fit
64 __-de-France
65 Signs of delight
Techdoku Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1 through 6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

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.
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New chancellor has a storied history at MIT

Grimson taught 10,000+ undergrads

Chancellor, Page 1

group is indirectly overseen by the chan- nellor. Grimson will also discontinue his position on the Undergraduate COUNCIL, a group he has contributed to for the past twenty years. Grimson acted as the chair of the committee for the past thirteen years.

Executive Officers for Commencement Gayle M. Gullaghler has worked exten- sively with Grimson on preparing com- mencement. “Eric’s leadership as chair of the Commencement Committee has been extraordinary,” Gullaghler said. “He has deep appreciation and respect for the perspective of the faculty, staff, and student committee members, and he has always kept Commencement focused as a day to celebrate our graduates’ achieve- ments. I am delighted to celebrate his as he takes on this new role.”

Grimson also co-chaired the Institute-wide Planning Task Force’s Education Working Group with Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’80, current Dean for Undergraduate Education. “I found that Prof. Grimson was very knowledgeable about MIT, a great leader and a pleasure to work with,” Hastings said. “He knows how to move meetings along, which is a great skill to have. The end result was a serious report which saved resources for MIT.”

As chancellor, Grimson will oversee the Office of the Dean for Undergradu- ate Education, the Office of the Dean for Graduate Education, and the Division of Student Life.

In an MIT News Office article, Hock- field made a statement about Grimson’s appointment. “I am very pleased that Professor Grimson has agreed to take on this new role,” said Hockfield. “He has demonstrated in every imaginable way his commitment to ensuring the fullness of the educational experience of our stu- dents. His record of scholarship, teaching and service to MIT is measured not only in decades, but also in the thousands of students he has taught, advised and mentored.”

Influence on MIT

Grimson has been an MIT faculty member since 1984. He taught 6.001 (Structure and Interpretation of Comput- er Problems) for 25 years and has been doing research in computer vision since 1990. According to the MIT News Office, Grimson has taught over 10,000 under- graduate students and has acted as the thesis supervisor to almost 50 MIT PhDs.

Grimson is also nationally recog- nized as a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligen- cence and the Institute of Electro- nics and Electronics Engineers. He has been named the Bernard Gordon Chair of Medical Engineering at MIT, and, in 2001, he received the Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Engineering at MIT. Grimson received his Bachelor’s of Science in Mathemat- ics and Physics from the University of Regina and did his PhD work in math- ematics at MIT.

New sorority plans swift expansion

Interest in restarting Multicultural Greek Council rekindled

Asian sorority, from Page 1

osteorrhaps research. Social and service events will focus on diver- sity and social issues in addition to the traditional emphasis on culture and pop culture emphasized by most Asian groups on campus.

The new sorority plans to fall under the umbrella of the National Asian Pacific Islander Panhellenic Association (NAPA), in contrast to most Greek groups on campus, which fall under the National Fraternity Council or the Na- tional Panhellenic Association.

Since both NAPA and the poten- tial sorority are panhellenic, once the charter is obtained, the group will offer numerous opportunities for leadership, especially for Asian-identified Greek life at the local and national level, says Lee. The relatively small size of NAPA — it contains only seven sororities and three fraternities — also allows inter-collegiate events between member organiza- tions to happen more often.

Sororities under NAPA follow a unique process in becoming a chapter. After spending a semester as an “interest group,” the soro- rity receives “colony” status for 1–3 years. After this period, the colony can qualify as a formal chapter.

The new sorority would not be the only Greek group on campus with a cultural affiliation. In addi- tion to the fraternities with cultural affinities, Alpha Kappa Alpha is aimed at African-American women and Alpha Epislon Phi is geared toward Jewish women. Like the new Asian sorority, neither AKA nor AE- Phi participate in the conventional sorority recruitment process. There has been recent interest in re-form- ing MIT’s Multicultural Greek Coun- cil, which has been defunct since 2005, in order to provide support for these cultural Greek groups.

The Asian-interest sorority seems moving quickly. There are already plans for the sorority to help advertise the first annual Boston Asian Performing Arts Festival on Apr. 23, featuring over twenty Asian dance, choral, musical, and theatri- cal groups from the Greater Boston area.

Construction in plaza outside Marriott to continue until June

Construction in the Cambridge Center Plaza, in front of the Marriott Hotel and next to the MIT Coop in Kendall, has been hap- pening every day from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. since Jan. 6.

The renovation work, commissioned by Boston Properties, is expected to finish in June. Although the construction does not ap- pear to be a large physical obstruction, staff at the hotel say it does generate significant noise. Marriott workers reported that the noise coming from the construction in the courtyard is most prominent around mid- day.

Rachel Dwyer, a front desk agent at the Marriott, said that the noisy construction can be a problem, especially when she is trying to check guests in. She noted, how- ever, that no guests have filed complaints yet. Nevertheless, Dwyer believes that the construction could be problematic if it lasts for a long time.

Kevin Sheehan, a development manager at Boston Properties in charge of the project, could not reach for comment.

—Lee Zhou

Solution to Crossword

Solution to Sudoku

Solution to Techdoku

LEGAL COUNSEL
MIT students, family, employees and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call James Dennis Leary, Esq. 321-544-0012

For diagrams, please visit the Origami MIT website. Assemble by sliding one into the next as shown.

origami-info@mit.edu http://web.mit.edu/origami/

APPLY ONLINE:
Fencing team hosts Eric Sollee Invitational

Eleven East Coast schools bout at MIT; women's sabre boasts 36-17 record

The MIT Men's and Women's Fencing teams both won two matches at Sunday's Eric Sollee Invitational Fencing Tournament, held at MIT. The women's team scored a 25-27 thrashing of Yeshiva University and a 22-5 victory over Hunter College, while the men's team took care of Yeshiva by the same score and Hunter by a 17-10 tally.

The biggest victory for the women may have been in their 20-7 defeat at the hands of defending national champion Penn State. Sabre Molly A. Kozminsky '12 came through with a 3-0 record in the match, including a 5-2 victory over World Junior Championship bronze medalist Nicole Glen.

The women's sabre team cruised to a 36-17 record, losing only one match, a 5-4 loss to Penn State. Kozminsky had 14 victories, including another sweep of Yeshiva, while Robin S. Shin '12 went 15-3 in her bouts, posting sweeps of Penn State, NYU, and Yeshiva. The epee and foil teams both won 18 matches. Benjamin N. Field '12 took eight points for MIT, sweeping all of his competitors from Penn. Daniel S. Levine '12 also pitched in five points for the Engineers.

The epee squad won 24 of its 54 matches, led by Jackson T. Crane '13. The sophomore finished the afternoon with a 13-5 record, shutting out opponents from Penn, Hunter, and Yeshiva. The foil team won 18 matches. Benjamin N. Field '12 took eight points for MIT, sweeping all of his competitors from Penn. Daniel S. Levine '12 also pitched in five points for the epee team, who went 26-28 to Duke.

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On the men's side, the best record was posted by the sabre team, who won 26-28 in winning three of its matches. Maximilian U. Brand '11 posted 9 victories for the Engineers, including sweeps of NYU, Hunter, and Yeshiva, and Troy's only two points in a loss to Penn.

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By Craig Kaufman

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MIT men's volleyball raises record to 11-7

Engineers post victory over Endicott

By Paul Dill


MIT Men's Volleyball team emerged with a 25-23, 25-18, 25-17 victory over division rival Endicott College on Tuesday night. The national- ly-ranked No. 7 Engineers raised their record to 12-2 for the year and 7-0 in conference play. MIT counted the record of the first three points of the match and later held an 8-4 lead. Endicott countered with a 4-1 spurt which put it in front for a majority of the game. Five ties ensued until a strike by Kenneth M. Siebert '14 ended a 10-0 run to give the Engineers a 17-14 edge. The Visitors built a 4-1 lead in the final game, but it was quickly erased by a 10-0 run by the Engineers. Trailing 17-10, a pair of blocks and an ace narrowed Endicott's deficit to three and resulted in an MIT timeout.

When action resumed, a serving miscue along with a block by Garrett L. Winther '11 and Patrick J. Veit '13 extended the Engineers' advantage to 19-13. The Gulls picked up the next two points courtesy of a blocking error and a solo stop. MIT responded by scoring six of the final eight points to clinch the victory. Siebert finished with a match-high 18 kills to go along with four digs. Matthew P. Hofmeister '13 posted 10 kills and three digs as Irvins added five kills. Vatterott totaled six kills and five blocks, and Winther contributed five kills, five assists, and four blocks. Timothy B. Lyle '13 compiled 8 assists and 11 digs as Jeremy I. Velazquez '12 collected six digs. Camille L. Jerne '10 led the team with two aces.

MIT countered by registering an 8-2 run to wrap up the set.

12 p.m., Johnson Track

Women's Basketball vs. Mount Holyoke College

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, February 12

12 p.m., Johnson Track

2 p.m., Rockwell Cage