Register to vote by tomorrow!

Elections are just around the corner! You have until tomorrow, Oct. 19, to register to vote in the Nov. 8 Cambridge municipal elections. The deadline to register in Massachusetts for the Nov. 2 general election passed on Oct. 13.

Massachusetts residents can register to vote online or obtain a registration form online. To get a Massachusetts voter registration form, visit the City Clerk’s office, any Cambridge post office, or any branch of the Cambridge Public Library. Registration forms must be delivered or faxed to the Cambridge Election Commission (51 Inman St., 1st floor) or postmarked by 8 p.m. on Oct. 9 to be valid for city elections.

You can also fill out a voter registration form right at the election office, which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. tomorrow and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

You’d rather not go out to reg- ister, Cambridge will also accept National Mail Voter Registration forms which must be postmarked by the 19th. Those forms are available online at http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx.

Alternatively, Massachusetts residents may complete a request form for a voter registration form at the Election Commission’s website (http://www.cambridgema.gov/election), fax the form to the Cambridge Election Commission (51 Inman St., 1st floor) or postmarked by 8 p.m. on Oct. 9 to be valid for city elections.

Leland Cheung runs for re-election

Former MIT Sloan student shoots for 2nd term on City Council

By Adisa Kruayatidee, REpORTER

Leland Cheung, a former Sloan School of Management student who made headlines in 2009 for being the youngest person and first Asian-American elected to the Cambridge City Council, is running for re-election.

This season, Cheung’s main initiatives included promoting the local economy, energy conservation, and government transparency. Cambridge residents will head to the polls on Nov. 8.

Running as an incumbent doesn’t make Cheung convince that this campaign will be easier than his last. Historically, elections for councillor in more ways than just be-

By Kit Haines

Oct. 10, Columbus Day, marked the Big Labor and Stu- dent Solidarity March, the largest Occupy Boston protest so far. Since Sept. 30, Boston-area resi- dents have come together to protest in Dewey Square, acting in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement. On Columbus Day, the number of participants in the march was estimated to be around 10,000, according to Nadeem A. Mazum ’06, an Occupy Boston spokesperson and MIT squash coach.

Val Healy ’14 describes Occupy Boston as a new type of protest that acknowledges “the issues that are affecting our country are complex and numerous, that marching for one specific thing really does not address the whole picture. Instead, what we are doing occupying, is building a commu- nity, educating each other, educating ourselves, educating the people around us about these issues, so that we don’t exclude each other from the revolution.”

Student groups joining the march were encouraged to meet at their respective schools before coming together on Boston Com- mon at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon, leaving to join the other half of the protest at 3 p.m. in Dewey Square.

The two groups with the larg- est presence at Dewey Square were Veterans for Peace and Mass Housing.

MIT Occupy Boston — an informal student group — was conceived on the night of Oct. 6 by MIT graduate student James E. White G. Spreading the news through his email list mitoccupy- bostonmit.edu, he received almost 20 RSVPs to the meeting, only four MIT students showed up to walk over to the protest, al- though others met them there, he said.

When the group arrived at the Charlestown Bridge, the police stopped them due to the con-
Jordan's king shakes up his government

AMMAN, Jordan — King Abdullah II of Jordan, under growing pressure to accelerate political reform and genuine anti-corruption measures, fixed his government Monday, eight months after doing so for similar reasons in the early days of the Arab Spring. In a statement announcing the change, Abdullah said, “We have watched with the rest of the region how governments are treating their citizens, it taking into consideration the views of the various sectors of society as well as a letter we have received from the parliamentary opposition.”

Bukhit was seen by many as dragging his feet on political change. The government outraged Jordanians when it made a film that it called a miracle, punishable by a steep fine, to falsely accuse someone of corruption. The law is seen as an infringement on the freedoms of expression and the press.

Also of concern are episodes of lawlessness, especially by groups that support the government, who have attacked opposition gatherings. The most recent example came Saturday when an anti-corruption conference, attended by opposition leaders and non-governmental organizations, was disrupted by attackers firing guns and throwing stones.

Raniketti and Ethel Brown, The New York Times

Blood tests for Down Syndrome are developed

New tests are coming to market that can detect Down syndrome in a fetus using a sample of the mother’s blood, potentially reducing the need for riskier invasive tests while also stirring ethical concerns.

Researchers say the new tests might not be reliable enough yet to replace amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling, two invasive techniques that carry a slight risk of inducing a miscarriage. But they might lower the numbers of women who undergo these tests but then learn their fetus is normal.

“You will have dramatically fewer procedures,” said Dr. Stephen Beazer, chief of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Vermont who has no financial relationship with any of the companies. “It’s a game-changer.”

The first new test, which analyzes fetal DNA in the mother’s blood, is being offered in 20 major cities starting Monday by Sequenom, a biotechnology company in San Diego whose previous work on a Down syndrome test had been marred by a scandal involving data manipulation.

The results of a study published online Monday by the journal Genetics in Medicine showed that Sequenom’s new test picked up 98.6 percent of Down syndrome cases. The false-positive rate — when the test incorrectly said that a baby would have Down syndrome — was 0.2 percent.

—Andrew Pollack, The New York Times

Somali militants threaten Kenya over cross-border troops

NAIROBI, Kenya — A big battle may be shaping up in southern Somalia between the Kenyan military, which took the un-

iverse’s second step of sending hundreds of soldiers into Somalia over the weekend, and the Shabab militant group, a ruthless franchise of al-Qaeda that vowed Monday to attack Kenya in retaliation.

Kenyan military officials sought to reassure the public that they were on guard for possible suicide bombings in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, the busiest hub of East Africa and a popular tourist destination.

Kenyan officials also implied that their military operation might be far more ambitious than the originally stated goal of pushing the Shabab out of the cross-border region — and that Kenyan troops were prepared to go far as Kisumu, a Shabab stronghold about 100 miles up the Indian Ocean coast.

Jeffrey Gettleman, The New York Times

US considered cyberwarfare in Libya attack plan

WASHINGTON — Just before the U.S.-led strikes against Libya in March, the Obama administration intensively debated whether to open the new kind of warfare: a cyberoffensive to disrupt and even disable the Gadhafi government’s air-defense system, which threatened allied warplanes.

While the exact techniques under consideration remain classified, the goal would have been to break through the firewalls of the Libyan government’s computer networks to sever military communications links and prevent the early warning radars from gathering information and relaying it to missile batteries aiming at NATO warplanes.

But administration officials and even some military officers balked, fearing that it might set a precedent for other nations, in particular Russia or China, to carry out such offensives of their own, and questioning whether the attack could be mounted on such short notice. They were also unable to resolve whether the president had the power to proceed with such an attack without informing Congress.

In the end, U.S. officials reject cyberwarfare and used conventional aircraft, cruise missiles and drones to strike the Libyan air-defense missiles and radars used by Moammar Gadhafi’s government.

This previously undisclosed debate among a small circle of advisers demonstrates that cyberoffensives are growing from the work on Gadhafi’s network. The question the United States faces is whether and when to cross the threshold into overt cyberattacks.

Last year, a Stuxnet computer worm apparently wiped out a part of Iran’s nuclear centrifuges and delayed its ability to produce nuclear fuel. Although no entity has acknowledged being the source of the poisonous code, some evidence suggests that the virus was a U.S.-Israel project. And the Pentagon and military contractors regularly repel attacks on their computer networks — many coming from China and Russia.

By Eric Schmitt and Thom Shanker

Supreme Court to hear two human rights cases

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to hear a pair of cases on whether corporations and other foreign entities can be sued by U.S. courts for complicity in human rights abuses abroad.

The Supreme Court has offered only limited and tentative guidance on the question. In both sets of human rights lawsuits may be brought in federal courts in the United States. The lower courts in both cases drew a clear line, saying that only individuals and not arti-

ficial entities like corporations are subject to being sued.

One of the cases was brought by 12 Nigerians, who said oil com-

panies affiliated with Royal Dutch Shell had aided and abetted the Ni-

gerian government in torture and executions in the Ogoni region of the country in the early 1990s. The plaintiffs sued under the Alien Tort Statute, a 1789 law that allows U.S. district courts to hear “any civil action by an alien for a tort only, committed in violation of the law of nations or a treaty of the United States.”

The meaning of that language is not obvious, and the law itself was largely ignored until the 1880s, when federal courts started to apply the same rules to international norms. A 2004 Supreme Court decision, Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain, left the door open to some claims un-

der the law, as long as they involved violations of international norms with “definite content and accep-

tance among civilized nations.”

A footnote in that decision in-

structed lower courts to consider a related question, too: “whether international law extends the scope of liability for a violation of a given norm to the perpetrator, as opposed to assem-

bles possessing protection for their operations.

Supreme Court considers cyberwarfare in Libya attack plan

The Obama administration is weighing up the nation’s digital capa-

bilities, while publicly empha-

sizing only its efforts to defend vital government, military and public infrastructures.

“We don’t want to be the one’s who break the glass on this new kind of warfare,” said James An-

drew Lewis, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Interna-

tional Studies, where he special-
izes in technology and national security.

But that reluctance peaked dur-

ing planning for the opening sal-

vos of the Libya mission, and it was repeated on a smaller scale several weeks later, when military planners suggested a far narrower computer-network attack to pre-

vent Pakistani radars from spot-

ting helicopters carrying Navy Seal commandos on the raid that killed Osama bin Laden on May 2.

Again, officials decided against it. Instead, specially modified, ra-

dy-evading Black Hawk helicop-

ters ferried the strike team, and a still-secret stealth surveillance drone was deployed.

By Adam Liptak

Extended Forecast


Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low near 62°F (17°C).

Tomorrow: Rainy and cool. Possible rain accumulation of 1-2 inches. Temperatures in the 60s (16-19°C).


Friday: Partly sunny. Highs in the low 80s (60°F). Lows in the low 40s (4°C).
Putin defends his decision to seek a return to the presidency

By Michael Schwirtz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin confronted criticism over his decision to seek a return to the presidency next year, warning in a television interview shown Monday of a return to the volatility of previous decades should Russia retrace from its current course.

“They say that things cannot get any worse,” Putin said, referring to his critics. “But I would be wary. It is enough to take two or three incorrect steps and all that can come before could overcome us before we know it.”

He continued: “We lived through the collapse of the country. We lived through a very difficult period in the 1990s. Only in the 2000s did we begin to get to our feet. We are stabilizing the situation, and of course we need stable development ahead.”

The session, which was shown on Russia’s three major government-connected television channels, followed a similar interview last month by Dmitry A. Medvedev, Russia’s current president, in which he tried to allay frustrations, particularly in liberal circles, over his decision announced in September to cede the presidency to Putin.

Supporters credit Putin, who has been in power for 12 years, with pulling Russia from the chaos that enveloped the country after the Soviet collapse. But there are fears that his return to the presidency, possibly for another 12 years, could mire the country in stagnation, or worse, lead it further down on political and human rights.

In Monday’s interview, Putin acknowledged such sentiments, but dismissed his critics, saying they offer no alternatives.

“Our opponents need to propose their own program,” he said. “And more importantly, they need to show through practical work what they can do better.”

Since coming to power, Putin has eliminated most legitimate opposition, leaving Russia with a smattering of parties loyal to the Kremlin and little in the way of civil society.

Few doubt that he will win elections next year, though he took issue with critics who said Russians would have no choice in the matter.

Bank forecasts Eastern Europe will grow more slowly due to debt crisis

By Jack Ewing
FRANKFURT, Germany — A major development bank sharply reduced its growth forecast for Eastern Europe on Tuesday, warning in a television interview shown Monday of a return to the volatility of previous decades should Russia retrace from its current course.

FRANKFURT, Germany — A major development bank sharply reduced its growth forecast for Eastern Europe on Tuesday, warning in a television interview shown Monday of a return to the volatility of previous decades should Russia retrace from its current course.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development — which lends to businesses and governments in the former Soviet bloc and is underwritten by European leaders, which lends to businesses and governments in the former Soviet bloc and is underwritten by Europe — has forecasted an expansion of 3.7 percent in July. Those countries are suffering from their ties to the European Union.

In July, the bank predicted an expansion of 3.4 percent for the eight countries in the region, which stretches from Croatia to Estonia.

Southeastern Europe, which includes Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, and four other countries, will grow 3.6 percent next year, the bank said, down from a forecast of 3.7 percent in July. Those countries are suffering from their ties to Greece, the eurozone country with the gravest debt and economic problems.

Even the revised predictions may be optimistic, because they are based on the assumption that Western Europe will slow to a standstill but avoid recession, and that policymakers will manage to contain the debt crisis.

In recent weeks many economists have started predicting that Europe is headed for recession. Whether European leaders manage to tame the debt crisis is an open question.

Quick release of Ukrainian is unlikely, leader hints

KIEV, Ukraine — President Viktor F. Yushchenko of Ukraine suggested Monday that he is not bending to international pressure to free his political rival, Yulia V. Tymoshenko, despite his desire to complete a deal that would integrate the country with Western Europe.

Tymoshenko was sentenced last week to seven years in prison, in a case that was condemned in both Russia and the West as politically motivated.

European leaders had hoped that the sentence might be hurriedly reversed in Ukraine’s Parliament this week — in part because Yushchenko is due for an official visit Thursday to Brussels, where leaders have warned that they may not receive him. Yushchenko passed cold water on such speculation Monday, however, telling reporters he was willing to take that risk.

For months, Western officials have protested the prosecution of Tymoshenko, a former prime minister, who was charged with harming Ukraine by agreeing to pay a high price for Russian natural gas. The critics seemed to have leverage, since Ukraine is on the verge of signing free trade and association deals with the European Union. Hours after the conviction of Tymoshenko, moreover, Yushchenko said the verdict was “not a final decision.”

— Ellen Barry, The New York Times

Pro-Gadhafi enclave in desert reported to fall after battle

Libyan forces fighting the vestiges of Muammar Gadhafi’s toppled regime said Monday that anti-Gadhafi fighters were in control of Bani Walid, a loyalist desert enclave south of Tripoli, the capital, but had yet to proclaim total victory in his Mediterranean hometown of Sirte.

Bani Walid and Sirte, the last holdouts of pro-Gadhafi resistance, have prevented the National Transitional Council, the interim government, from declaring the official end of the Gadhafi era in the nearly two months since Gadhafi fled Tripoli and went underground.

Western news agencies with correspondents close to Bani Walid said anti-Gadhafi fighters had driven into the center of the enclave, raised the new Libyan flag, fired machine guns into the air and screamed, “God is Great!” in victory chants.

Agence France-Presse quoted Seif al-Islam, a commander of one of the units that assaulted Bani Walid, as saying the city had been “completely liberated.” The news agency also quoted Musa Yunis, the overall commander of the assault force, as saying that all pro-Gadhafi resistance had stopped and that the loyalists had taken off their military uniforms, changing to civilian clothes to avoid arrest.

Previous victory claims by the National Transitional Council have often proved overly optimistic. But if their accounts about Bani Walid are verified, that would mean that a small district within Sirte is the last remaining pocket of pro-Gadhafi forces in Libya.

— Rick Gladstone, The New York Times

Coop Announces an 8.5% Patronage Rebate!

Coop patronage rebate checks will be mailed beginning Tuesday, November 01, 2011 to the address designated in the Coop's membership records. To avoid misdirection of your rebate check visit www.thecoop.com to verify or update your mailing address no later than Saturday, October 29, 2011.
Less red with more green
Carbon tax is a sensible, money-saving option

By Keith Yost
Staff Columnist

Earlier this year, the Inter-Agency Working Group on the Social Cost of Carbon, a panel assembled for the purpose of estimating the harm that a ton of CO₂ emissions causes to the world, concluded its efforts to put a price tag on greenhouse gas emissions. Using up-to-date scientific assessments and an appropriate time discounting of future harms, the working group concluded that the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal bodies should use $22 as the baseline estimate of the damage caused by releasing a ton of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

Conversely, the Congressional Budget Office made an estimate of its own shortly after: how much extra revenue would the U.S. government collect if it were to levy a carbon tax of $20/tone CO₂ and increase that tax by 5.6 percent each year? The answers, as it turns out, is quite a lot. Over a ten-year window, the CBO expects such a carbon tax would collect $1.38 trillion.

There are many legitimate arguments against the introduction of a carbon tax. For one, carbon taxes are regressive, falling disproportionately on the poor. For another, they require the introduction of a wholly new tax administration system. But the most important of the criticisms boils down to this: that any carbon tax on CO₂ causes only 1% of it is inflicted on American citizens. So, why should the U.S. adopt carbon taxes, when such a large fraction of the benefits from reducing global warming accrue to other nations?

There are three reasons why carbon taxes are a sensible solution:

Firstly, U.S. policy should make some allowance for those countries that possess such a carbon tax. The U.S. spends billions of dollars in aid, either directly, through its own programs, or indirectly, through support for international efforts — why should it balk at providing aid through another channel?

Secondly, the U.S., if it plays its diplomatic cards right, should be able to leverage an offer of reducing emissions into wealth transfers to the U.S. from benefiting countries, or corresponding cuts to those countries’ emissions. Just because past efforts to reach an agreement on carbon abatement have failed doesn’t mean that they are forever doomed, and even a partial agreement would mean recouping a sizeable fraction of the $21 billion.

Finally, and most importantly, excise taxes have a very low bar to clear to make that argument against regular income taxes. So long as the choice is between carbon taxes and no taxes, the question is not how much deadweight loss a carbon tax produces in absolute terms, but rather how much it produces relative to the income tax. If, for example, carbon taxes produce twenty cents of loss to society per dollar of revenue, while income taxes destroy fifteen cents of value, then the U.S. benefits from the carbon tax, not American citizens. It could justify a carbon tax of $20/tone.

Taken together, it may well be that the optimal carbon tax is even higher than the textbook optimal Pigovian tax rate of $20/tone. It is important to remember that a dollar of revenue collected through carbon taxes is a dollar less needed in spending cuts and tax hikes — even the most efficiency-minded conservationist, so long as they recognize the harms posed by global warming, should be willing to offset income taxes that underwrite those harms.

Action: Institute a $20/tone tax on Carbon dioxide.

10-year savings: $1.18 trillion

CORRECTIONS
A pie-chart infographic published Nov. 2, 2010 incorrectly indicated that 29 percent of respondents to a political survey answered "unsure" when asked if they would vote for a political party best represented their views. Only 13 percent of the more than 2100 graduating and undergraduate students respondents answered "unsure" to that question (though the relative size of pie-chart segments did reflect this).
Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Dilbert by Scott Adams

Fun Fun Fun Fun

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 The Tech

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Madame Bovary 49 Scottish feudal lord
5 Wise men 51 18th of a certain series
10 Prison knife 53 Sault __ Marie
14 Prom goer 54 End of quip
15 Chubby 63 Halo
16 Helper 64 Kind of trail
17 Gator’s cousin 66 State of relaxation
18 Skylit courtyards 67 Immature seed
19 Wrinkled citrus fruit 68 Be in a huff
20 Start of a quip 69 Latin / verb
23 Unseal, poetically 70 Stitch again
25 Is qualified to 71 Affirmative votes
26 That girl 73 Unlikely
28 Type of tire 75 Impression?
31 Killer whales 76 No more than
35 Is qualified to 77 Feline reply
36 Installed again, as tiles 78 No more than
39 Grab a bite 79 Feline reply
40 Part 2 of quip 80 Relay finisher
43 Frequently 81 Elbow room
44 Change with the times 82 Choir member
46 Name on a check 83 Astram figure
48 Printer’s measures 84 Kuwait’s ruler

DOWN
1 Make a lasting impression? 9 Scottish feudal lord
2 No more than 51 18th of a certain series
3 Feline reply 53 Sault __ Marie
4 Relay finisher 54 End of quip
5 Elbow room 63 Halo
6 Choir member 64 Kind of trail
7 Astram figure 66 State of relaxation
8 Kuwait’s ruler 67 Immature seed
9 Rhubarbs 68 Be in a huff
10 Golden table wine 69 Latin / verb
11 Lofty 70 Stitch again
12 Like a couch potato 71 Affirmative votes
13 Layer of ore 73 Unlikely
14 Massenet work 75 Impression?
15 Layer of ore 76 No more than
16 Royal ruler 77 Feline reply
17 Griff 78 No more than
18 Skylit courtyards 79 Feline reply
19 Wrinkled citrus fruit 80 Relay finisher
20 Start of a quip 81 Elbow room
22 HBO rival 82 Choir member
23 Unseal, poetically 83 Astram figure
24 That girl 84 Kuwait’s ruler
25 Is qualified to 85 Chile
26 That girl 86 First prize
27 Unlikely 87 Fourth of MMXVI
28 One possessed? 88 Thing
29 Synthetic fabric 89 Blink
30 Window bases 90 Golden table wine
31 Killer whales 91 Like a couch potato
32 __ del Sol 92 Like a couch potato
33 Sean of “The Lord of the Rings” 93 Blink
34 Glistened 94 Blink
35 Is qualified to 95 Blink
36 Installed again, as tiles 96 Blink
38 Fourth of MMXVI 97 Blink
39 Grab a bite 98 Blink
40 Part 2 of quip 99 Blink
43 Frequently 100 Blink
44 Change with the times 101 Blink
46 Name on a check 102 Blink
48 Printer’s measures 103 Blink

Techdoku
Solution, page 10

180x
6÷
90x
40x
18+
90x
6x
8x
36x
40x
90x
18+
6x
180x

Sudoku
Solution, page 11

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

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

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

Dilbert by Scott Adams

Surprise, class! We aren’t going to give you a quiz today!!!

I’ve never been this prepared for a quiz before! I’m so glad I spent the past hour studying instead of having lunch with friends...

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Sudoku
Solution, page 11

Techdoku
Solution, page 10

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 11
Nerdy with a Chance of Random

Don’t be a block-head

Tetris isn’t just a mindless procrastination tool; it can teach you some good lessons, too.

By Amanda Aparicio

"Why do you keep playing that game? Shouldn’t you be doing some real work?"

I ponder this. I look at my work, look at the game of Tetris on my computer, now back to my work, now back to Tetris. Sadly, my work is not Tetris. But why does that mean my countless hours of playing multi-player Tetris games are unproductive?

To the untrained eye, I have wasted precious time rotating colorful boxes in order to make them fit together; however, after playing more than 2,500 games of Tetris since January (and no, I’m not exaggerating), I realize that I’ve actually learned some valuable lessons from the game.

Perfection is unnecessary

"Crap!" Anyone who has ever been around me while I play Tetris would say that I come down with a bad case of sailor’s mouth whenever I accidentally put a piece in the wrong place or orientation. In the beginning of my Tetris addiction, my level of frustration and annoyance could be modeled by an exponential function, growing as I frantically attempted to correct my error while simultaneously trying to beat the suckers playing against me. As my work is not Tetris. But why does that mean that defeat has been accepted—rather, it allows for recuperation and the chance to start the fight again in prime condition.

The next time people scold me about playing Tetris, I will proudly proclaim the life lessons I have learned. I will look them in the eye and tell them, without blinking, how Tetris has taught me not to sweat the small stuff, about the importance of creativity, and how to pick my battles. I will then delve into a soliloquy about the trials and tribulations suffered during my Tetris battles, relating each disappointment, each victory, and each awesome combo made.

I learned that there is so much more that can be done to clear lines in Tetris than to just wait for the blue piece. Instead of just pining away, staring longingly at the array waiting for the blue piece to show up, I started to utilize the other pieces to their full potential, thereby eliminating the unknown crunch that dürft of star status performance. Alas, Tetris does not work that way, and my blue piece had become. Using imagination and innovation, better strategies and combinations could be made, giving an edge over those who just wait for the big blue.

Remember your sanity

There have been many times that I’ve played Tetris when I’ve experienced a masochistic wave of performance. ‘Then’s the warm-up when I’m not doing horribly but I’m not doing great either. Then, there’s the peak performance when I’m functioning at the natural frequency of the game, perfectly in sync with the rhythm of Tetris, winning each round with ease. Finally, I have a massive decline in performance, undoing all that I accomplished during the height of my game. I sit at my computer thinking, "Crap, my displacement is so huge either. Then, there’s the sinusoidal wave of performance. There’s the peak performance when I’m functioning at the natural frequency of the game, perfectly in sync with the rhythm of Tetris, winning each round with ease. Finally, I have a massive decline in performance, undoing all that I accomplished during the height of my game. I sit at my computer thinking, "Crap, my displacement is infinite magnitude.

"Oh, that’s convenient feeling. As I played and experimented with configurations of the pieces, I learned that there is so much more that can be done to clear lines in Tetris than to just wait for the blue piece. Instead of just pining away, staring longingly at the array waiting for the blue piece to show up, I started to utilize the other pieces to their full potential, thereby eliminating the unknown crunch that dürft of star status performance. Alas, Tetris does not work that way, and my blue piece had become. Using imagination and innovation, better strategies and combinations could be made, giving an edge over those who just wait for the big blue.

Tetris isn’t just a mindless procrastination tool; it can teach you some good lessons, too.

I will proudly proclaim the life lessons I have learned. I will look them in the eye and tell them, without blinking, how Tetris has taught me not to sweat the small stuff, about the importance of creativity, and how to pick my battles. I will then delve into a soliloquy about the trials and tribulations suffered during my Tetris battles, relating each disappointment, each victory, and each awesome combo made. They will be made to regret the day that they decided to question the validity of Tetris.

Or, I’ll just look at them with an apathetic look on my face and go back to playing my game. Not all people can be made to understand the intricacies of Tetris.
Organ Concerts in the MIT Chapel
Begin this Week
Wednesdays 12:05-12:35 PM

October 19 ~ Mark Dwyer  
Church of the Advent, Boston

October 26 ~ Rosalind Mohsen  
Immaculate Conception Church, Malden-Medford

November 2 ~ Leonardo Ciampa  
Music of the 21st Century, Part I

November 9 ~ Leonardo Ciampa  
Music of the 21st Century, Part II

November 16 ~ Christian Lane  
Harvard University

Questions? cenglish@mit.edu

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If you feel you are qualified for one of these prestigious awards, please discuss this with your academic advisor or your Department Head.

Nominations must be from YOUR DEPARTMENT and are due at the School of Science or School of Engineering Dean’s Office (as appropriate to your major) by Monday, November 14, 2011

For further information:
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School of Engineering contact: Martha Marangiello, x3-8012, mariam@mit.edu
School of Science contact: Elaina Burke, x4-5691, eidzenga@mit.edu

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Two camps emerge
Dewey Square sees larger crowds

Occupy, Page 1

cern that the bridge would buckle under the crowd’s weight. Mazem said that the group was able to discuss among itself the appropriate motion to take — avoiding the bridge. They came to consensus using the “people’s mic,” everyone repeats what they hear so that communications ripple throughout the crowd so everyone can hear what is said; then a vote among the crowd is taken.

When the crowds returned to Dewey Park after the march, the movement wanted to “expand and incorporate these people [the protesters] into the discussion about government and reforming the American financial system,” Mazem said. The crowd was too large to fit on the piece of land that they had originally occupied, so they decided to send a group across the street to another northern part of Dewey square.

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservatory, which manages and maintains the line of parks including Dewey Square, had previously been tolerant of the protesters. Although the protesters had not applied for or received permits for “any set up including but not limited to tables and chairs, tents, podiums or amplifiers,” the Conservatory characterized the occupation in a press release as “cooperative with the Greenway Conservatory and the Boston Police Department.”

The Conservatory and police, however, said that they “have made it clear to the protesters that they could not expand to the areas of the Greenway beyond Dewey Square.” It was unclear if the Conservatory’s statements applied to the northern part of Dewey Square, but the police issued an ultimatum to be out by midnight. It was decided by consensus in a general assembly that the occupiers would continue to occupy both camps.

Healy was linking arms with other protesters around the original camp. Thirty police vehicles rolled in at once, in uniform and riot gear, ignoring the first camp as they surrounded the second camp, said Healy. From where Healy was sitting, the flags of Veterans for Peace could be seen falling as police knocked them down, he said. According to White, the police used zip ties handcuffs on the protesters — including himself — and some protesters who fell on the ground were kicked or picked up by the handcuffs.

Mazem says the “way that [the police] conducted themselves was entirely inappropriate to the constructive and peaceful nature of the protest.” Videos of the arrests have been published online and depict police pulling up the protesters by the neck — something that White said was not nearly as bad as it looked.

Boston police maintain that their behavior was entirely appropriate and justified, and that officers are allowed to defend themselves if threatened in a crowd. According to the Boston Police, 141 people were arrested at the protest. Boston Mayor Tom Menino called NECN’s The Morning Show to say that he “sympathize[s] with their issues, some of those issues we really have to look at in America, but when it comes to civil disobedience, I will not tolerate civil disobedience in the city of Boston. There are a lot of other people in the city who live here, and have to go about their daily chores, and I will not allow people to paralyze our city.”

Since the Columbus Day protest and arrests, Occupy Boston has continued, hosting another large student march this Saturday, from Dewey to Copley and back. They were chanting, “Off of the sidewalks and into the streets,” “Whose streets? Our streets,” “We are the 99 percent and so are you,” “There ain’t no power like the power of the people,” “We stand with the people,” “Civil disobedience, I will not tolerate,” and “The people united, will never be defeated.” Police cleared roads of traffic prior to the marchings.

Costas Boussios ME ’93 has found another way to contribute to the movement. Bousios is working on a social networking site to help college students connect with politi-
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Councilman seeks student support

Cheung sees himself as lead voice representing student interests

Leland, from Page 1

praised Cheung as a quick study: “The real Cambridge is not just MIT, it’s bakeries, garbage pickups, and potholes. Leland is a good person to bounce ideas off of. He gets it.”

“The real Cambridge is not just MIT, it’s bakeries, garbage pickups, and potholes. He gets it.” —Robert Winters POLITICAL OBSERVER

Cheung has gained the respect of the city administration — which is crucial to being an effective councilor — Winters noted. Even people who viewed him as a “career climber” at the start of his campaign have befriended him. “They simply think, ‘He’s been good while he’s here,” Winters said.

A student at heart

Cheung isn’t just a City Councillor — he’s also a part time student at the Harvard Kennedy School. And although he’s no longer knocking door-to-door for student votes like he did two years ago, Cheung is diligent about representing student interests, he says.

As MIT pushes to bring technology companies to the Kendall Square “innovation cluster,” Cheung hopes to advocate for additional construction of residential areas and retail space — things that are more immediately relevant to Cambridge’s student crowd. Many other City Council incumbents have also publicly called for more residential and retail space to come with the Kendall Square revitalization.

“I’m the lead voice representing the interest of the students; I encourage them to come out and participate in their local democracy,” Cheung says.

And — to the relief of many a weary student — those problem sets might turn out to be useful in the end. Cheung confirms that his budgeting and finance classes at Sloan were applicable in his work with the city budget.

“In many respects, Cambridge is the vanguard of leading change in the nation.”

—Leland Cheung
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCILLOR

Tech savvy

As might be expected of a former MIT student, Cheung is tech savvy. The councillor says he wished he had pushed for more government transparency through easy-access technology. So far, he has support-ed live-streaming video and closed captioning of Council meetings on the city website, and mandated that city contracts be posted online before the Council votes on them. If re-elected next term, he hopes to develop more ways to interact with local government online.

By population, the MIT community counts for two of the city’s 33 voting precincts, or about 6,400 people. Of these, only 768 voted in the 2009 election.

Cheung encourages students interested in national policy to recognize that all change originates from the local level and to become more involved in their city government. In many respects, Cambridge is the vanguard of leading change in the nation; often the policy we set serves as role models for policy in cities around the country.”

Election day is Nov. 8. Members of the MIT community will be able to vote at the Kresge Auditorium precinct.

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Solution to Techdoku
from page 6

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by a bunch of senators.”

“The new proposal comes in the wake of a failed restructuring attempt last semester, spearheaded by former UA President Vaishnavi Y. Modi ’11. After failing to drum up enough support from the Dormitory Council—a key component of Modi’s restructuring vision—the UA asked the Restructuring Committee to develop a new plan. The committee’s recommendations borrow heavily from Modi’s proposal for a council of dormitory and FSILG presidents.

The UA has historically restructured itself every 10–15 years.

But unlike Modi’s proposal, the new plan does not necessitate dissolving DormCon. “DormCon is actually undergoing its own restructuring,” said Miramonti, “since the presidents are [representatives on the council], obviously concerns them. If we do work with DormCon, and they change their structure, I will work with them to help them fit into the new UA structure. But again, I’m not telling them what to do.”

The Restructuring Committee’s report suggests absorbing DormCon into the UA and assigning DormCon’s current responsibilities to two new standing UA committees: a Dormitory Affairs committee and a Dormitory Funding committee. A new UA Assistant Vice President for REX would coordinate REX events and programs, which is also something that DormCon currently handles. Miramonti said that he wants DormCon to decide for themselves how, and if, they will restructure, and that DormCon’s dissolution is not required for the rest of restructuring to go through.

A UA council would also represent a shift from a freshmen-dominated body to a largely upperclassmen body. Miramonti said that he hoped to maintain freshman involvement and retain the recently-elected Senate by encouraging committee involvement and, in the future, increasing committee recruitment efforts.

The Restructuring Committee also made suggestions for combating “behavioral” issues within the UA, including “operational improvements and [changes to] the manner in which members within carry out their responsibilities individually and collectively,” according to the committee’s report. Former Chair of the Faculty Thomas A. Kochan—faculty facilitator for the committee—said, because of these issues, “there was not enough trust of some of the elected officials.”

Miramonti said that he hopes to address these problems through constitutional changes even if the proposed restructuring is not approved.

The purpose of the committee was to examine structural and behavioral problems and to “step back a bit from last year’s proposal,” explained Miramonti. “What are the faults of the IAY? What is wrong with us? Who are the stakeholders in the UA? Whose opinion is important to the UA? … then, after identifying what’s wrong and who is important, we developed a plan.”

Miramonti says the Senate would “ideally” approve a restructuring plan by the end of November, before dormitories begin to elect new leadership.

Why restructure now?

The UA has historically restructured itself every 10–15 years to adapt to the changing campus environment. In its current structure, the UA has had problems with effectively representing a diverse student body, said Miramonti.

“There are five student governments [DormCon, the IFC, the Living Group Council, Panhel, and the UA]. So there are a lot of voices, but if they’re not well-coordinated it can lead to problems.”

Kochan agrees with Miramonti.

“It was clear from last year—and maybe the year before—that the structure [of the undergraduate government] was complex and there were multiple groups,” Kochan said. “It wasn’t really clear who was really speaking for the students and how effective it was in mobilizing students’ points of view in working with the administration.”

According to Miramonti, the UA has also had problems with productivity.

“There were times last year when the Senate was having seven-hour meetings. It was outrageous. We were meeting every week for that long and not getting anywhere.”

Additionally, the UA has seen senator retention problems. Since Sept. 18, four students have resigned from the Senate: Yan Zhu ’12, IFC senator; Isaiah Liang ’14, MacGregor senator (also a Tech associate opinion editor); Hollie M. O’Brien ’15, Simmons senator; and Katie M. Kaufman ’12, sorority senator.

The committee is currently soliciting feedback on restructuring from interest groups like the Student Activities Office, the MIT Corporation, and the Division of Student Life, among others.

“It’s hard to reach out to 4,000 people,” said Miramonti. “It’s a logistical problem. It’s a problem that we aren’t ignoring. It’s just one you have to be very deliberate with.”

Overall, however, Kochan said that he felt the committee has successfully incorporated and examined a wide range of input. “[The proposal] reflects a process that brought the people who were critical of it into the discussion. So, in the committee that came up with this proposal, you had people who were quite skeptical of the original proposals that were on the table, and they worked hard and very effectively to come up with this proposal.”

UA plan: ‘step back’ from earlier project

Proposed UA council likely to be composed of more upperclassmen

Restructuring, from Page 1

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Sports Short

Rifle still undefeated after home opener

The MIT rifle team completed its first home match of the season on Saturday, bringing its record to a 6-0. The Engineers won in both smallbore and air rifle competitions against the visiting Wentworth Institute of Technology and John Jay College rifle teams. The MIT team completed the match with its highest scores of the season: 2867 in smallbore (John Jay 1899, Wentworth 1967) and 1522 in air (John Jay 2864, Wentworth 2803). Nigel C. Kojimoto ’12 led the team with a 560 in smallbore and 572 in air rifle, both of which are new personal bests. Elizabeth A. Phillips ’13 scored second highest on the MIT team with a 540 smallbore and a 558 air rifle score. Also contributing towards the win were season-best scores from Jennifer C. de Bruijn ’12 and Michael A. Battista ’12. Though not on the competing team, Kai Liao ’14 shot a personal high score of 538 in air rifle, alongside Christian A. Valledor ’12, Timothy R. Jenkins ’13, David Huang ’14, Alvin Minjukja ’14, and David M. Brock ’15. MIT’s next home match will be held Oct. 28-29 against Navy and W艺术neth.

—Elizabeth Phillips, Team Representative

Water Polo finishes conference season

The Men’s Water Polo team wrapped up their CWPA (Collegiate Water Polo Association) Northern Division season on Saturday with a win against Connecticut College and a loss to St. Francis. In the first game of the day, the Engineers beat the Connecticut College Camels 14-6 with notable performances from much of the team. However, in their match against St. Francis, which has a 6-0 record, the Engineers fell to a 6-0 losing streak. This put the Engineers at 2167 in smallbore (John Jay 1989, Wentworth 2038). Nigel C. Kojimoto ’12 led the team with a 560 in smallbore and 572 in air rifle, both of which are new personal bests. Elizabeth A. Phillips ’13 scored second highest on the MIT team with a 540 smallbore and a 558 air rifle score. Also contributing towards the win were season-best scores from Jennifer C. de Bruijn ’12 and Michael A. Battista ’12. Though not on the competing team, Kai Liao ’14 shot a personal high score of 538 in air rifle, alongside Christian A. Valledor ’12, Timothy R. Jenkins ’13, David Huang ’14, Alvin Minjukja ’14, and David M. Brock ’15. MIT’s next home match will be held Oct. 28-29 against Navy and W艺术neth.

—Elizabeth Phillips, Team Representative

Taekwondo goes international

Engineers compete at world championships in Russia

This summer, several members and instructors of the MIT Sport Taekwondo club represented the United States as part of the national team at two major competitions: the World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships and the World University Games. The club members were competing in the Taekwondo discipline of poomsae, a series of choreographed moves that require power, balance, and flexibility. Poomsae is judged much in the same way that gymnastics or figure skating is scored, according to both accuracy and interpretation. The first of the two competitions was the World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships, held on July 28-31, in Vladivostok, Russia. Club instructor Rene R. Chen ’07, club alumni and co-founder Christina S. Park ’02, and head instructor Dan Chuang competed as part of the U.S. National Poomsae Team. Each qualified for the U.S. Team by placing first in their division at the U.S. National Poomsae Team Trials in Buffalo, NY in May 2011. The level of competition at the World Championships was extraordinarily high, with every country bringing well-trained and well-prepared athletes in every division.

At the event, Chen placed ninth in the world overall out of a competitive field in the Senior 1 (30-35 yrs.) female division. Chen took fifth out of 16 in her preliminary bracket, advancing to the semifinals where she placed sixth out of 16 and just missed the finals by a margin of 0.02 (out of 10). In the Team 1 (14-35 yrs.) male division, Chen, Park, and their teammate Lisa Zhou gave a very solid performance, but missed the very competitive finals (top 8) cut. In the Senior 2 (8-40 yrs.) male division, Chuang competed in a field of 31, and missed the semifinals cut by a close 0.05 margin (out of 10).

Competing at the World Championships among some of the athletes that 1 coach was a great experience. I was proud to represent my country in international competition. Overall, it was an amazing experience of intense training and dedication for the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club.

Chen continued her strong performance, competing in the individual division, and sailing through the preliminaries and second advancing through the semifinals to make the top 8 competitors in the finals. A small mistake in the finals bumped her down from fourth place to eighth place overall, but it was an amazing result in a very competitive field. Chen also competed in the mixed pairs division, with Sophia Denoua from UMass Lowell, and her partner; they performed well, finishing 13th overall but falling shy of the finals round. The U.S. women’s team division was represented by Chen, Lee, and Carinca Fu from Princeton University. The women’s team finished ninth, just one place shy of the finals by a margin of 0.5 points.

The Universeia at Shenzen was a really amazing opportunity to see the state of collegiate sport Taekwondo in other countries. It was an eye-opening experience to meet athletes from such different places and backgrounds, and really inspiring to see us come together for an event that celebrates a common passion,” said Lee of her experience. Overall, it was an amazing experience of intense training and dedication, and a summer of travels for the MIT Sport Taekwondo Club at the world level on the far side of the world. It was an amazing end to another competitive year off for the club, which is hosting its first tournament of the year on Oct. 22 at the Johnson Indoor Track.

Master Dan Chung competes as part of the U.S. National Poomsae Team at the World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in Vladivostok, Russia.

Soccer nets 2-0 victory against Coast Guard

By Katie Bodner

On a cool, crisp Saturday during Family Weekend, MIT defeated the Coast Guard Academy 2-0 in an exhilarating soccer match at Steinbrenner Stadium. The Engineers, as it was a must-win for them to move on to the conference tournament. MIT started off with high energy and maintained it throughout the entire game. Midfielder Matthew A. Monheit ’14 made the first scoring attempt after just five minutes, and eventually succeeded after about 20 minutes, following a 30-yard pass from midfielder Jonathan K. Tebes ’14.

The Engineers’ good offensive continued and then widened the lead to 2-0 only 8 minutes after the first goal. Dynamically, forward Zachary E. Kabelac ’12 cut past two defenders and found an opening to make the unassisted shot when Coast Guard goalie Will Lettfer was caught off-guard.

The Coast Guard Academy struggled to put up a goal throughout the end of first half and almost successfully followed a shot attempt by Trai Lin, otherwise called offside.

MIT’s defense was a vital asset in this game. Goalkeeper Samuel G. Cannon ’15 blocked the first shot on goal of the game by the Bears’ Brett Godkislan. The Engineers’ defense was a vital asset in this game. Goalkeeper Samuel G. Cannon ’15 blocked the first shot on goal of the game by the Bears’ Brett Godkislan. The Bears’ offensive was stopped by a powerful defense, after which the bears put it together. We had a lot of fans today and had a good start. It was a must-win game, and we put it together. We had to step it up and did so.

This game was essential for the Engineers, as it was a must-win for them to move on to the conference tournament.

MIT took 15 shots total, while the Coast Guard took only 4. However, the Coast Guard had 6 saves, while MIT had 2, both by Cannon, who ensured that the Bears did not end the game without a goal. This game is the first win of the team’s first career, started as a more spirited, confident Engineers team that was definitely inspired by the massive crowd support. Cannon said, “We had a lot of fans today and had a good start. It was a must-win game, and we put it together. We had to step it up and did so.”

The Engineers will attempt to carry their renewed energy when they next play at Clark University in a NEWMAC game on Oct. 22 at 11:30 a.m.