MIT holds ethics discourse
Dalai Lama Center promotes more ethical dialogue

By Amiya Gupta

“The Center — housed in the MIT Office of Religious Life (OWL) building — is small, Founding Director Temzin Priyadarsini says that its impact has been large. “People often come into my office and they say with two computers, three phone sets, you run the world from here,” Priyadarsini said.

The Center has big-name support — six Nobel Peace Laureates, including the Dalai Lama, serve as Honorary members who guide the Center’s overall work and mission. The Dalai Lama himself has visited three times.

Nineteen MIT faculty members from across the Institute comprise the Center’s steering committee. The Dalai Lama, Tenzin Priyadarshi says that its activities — one from each dorm — four from the IFC, three from Panhel, and one each for the LGC, and off-campus students. The DormCon Council (DormCon) will meet later this week to decide how they will pick representatives from the dormitories, according to Miramonti.

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The Center was given a single-choice restructuring proposal, which described a “Dorm-Con Governance Structure,” which would take over responsibilities traditionally left to DormCon.

Mitra Miramonti, a member of the Panhellenic Council (DormCon) and the UTC, said that the MIT requires a swim test to graduate.

MIT holds ethics discourses Descent to End, a “collaborative think tank,” aims to promote dialogue between students and faculty about ethics and researches the ethical implications of advanced manufacturing.

In the meantime, the spring course schedule is now online. Remember to leave time for your labs and recitations!

The MIT Corporation’s next quarterly meeting will be this Friday, Dec. 2, at the Whitaker College/HST Division Visiting Committee will meet between tomorrow and Thursday.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

The Senate of the Undergraduate Association voted unanimously Monday night to dissolve itself effective immediately, a milestone in the months-long ef- fort of the organization to substan- tially restructure itself.

A UA Council bylaws call for 12 dormitory representatives — one from each dorm — four from the IFC, three from Panhel, and one each for the LGC, and off-campus students. The DormCon Council (DormCon) will meet later this week to decide how they will pick representatives from the dormitories, according to Miramonti.

Seniors will meet once more this term for their spring budget meeting before officially disbANDING!
Millions vote in Congo despite violence

KINSHASA, Democratic Republic of Congo — Ballots boxes on fire, rebel fighters gunning down poll workers and outbursts of mass murder marred Congo’s national elections Monday, only the second time this vast and troubled country has held anything resembling a democratic vote.

Few here predicted these elections would be easy. President Joseph Kabila, who has been in power for 10 years, is reviled in many parts of the country, and his security forces have already killed at least three people and used live ammunition and bello to squeeze out votes.

And the weekstreet figures nationwide suggest that the answer to Europe’s problems lies in Europe.

The White House press secre-

tary, Jay Carney, told reporters, “We continue to believe that this is a Eu-

ropian issue, that Europe has the re-
sources and capacity to deal with it, and that they need to act decisively and conclusively to resolve this problem.”

Obama met Monday with Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the Eu-

ropean Commission; Herman Van Rompuy, president of the Euro-

pean Council; and Catherine Ashton, the European foreign policy chief.

The summit meeting came as the U.S. received a reminder of its own strengths and weaknesses.

Washington is in deep trouble...
Israelis visit Lebanon to discuss Palestinian issue

By Ethan Bronner

BEIRUT — King Abdullah II of Jordan played host Monday to Shimon Peres, the president of Israel, for the first official meeting between the two leaders since the outbreak of the Palestinian-Israeli crisis, in an effort to revive peace talks that had seemed about to be put on indefinite hold.

Mr. Peres and his delegation from Israel arrived here for a two-day visit with the Jordanian king, who has been an important mediator in the region and has used his position to help facilitate talks.

The meeting comes as a new round of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians begins this week in Cairo, Egypt. Both sides have said they hope to make progress in the talks, which have been stalled for more than a year as the two sides struggle to bridge their differences.

Mr. Peres, who is close to the Jordanian king, is expected to discuss ways to advance the stalled peace process.

Mr. Peres said Monday that he was pleased with the meeting and that he hoped it would lead to progress.

But Mr. Peres also said that he was not optimistic about the chances of reaching a peace agreement in the near future.

Mr. Peres said that he had discussed with the Jordanian king the importance of continuing the negotiations and that he believed the two leaders shared a common goal of achieving a lasting peace.

However, Mr. Peres also said that he was aware of the challenges that lie ahead and that there were many hurdles to overcome.

The meeting comes at a time when both Israel and the Palestinians are facing challenges.

Israelis keep quiet in advance of a visit by the Palestinian prime minister, Salam Fayyad, to Jordan, which is expected to discuss ways to advance the peace process.

Fayyad’s visit comes as the two sides are preparing for a new round of negotiations in Cairo, with the aim of reaching an agreement on a plan for a Palestinian state.

The Palestinians have said they are willing to make concessions to achieve a peace deal, but they have also said that they will not accept any solution that would contradict their national interests.

Many Israeli and Palestinian officials believe that the time is right for a renewed peace process, but they also acknowledge that there are many obstacles that need to be overcome.

Israelis are divided on how to proceed, with some calling for a more aggressive approach and others arguing for a more cautious one.

But the majority of Israelis and Palestinians agree that there is a need for a renewed effort to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Mr. Peres said he was optimistic about the prospects for a peaceful resolution, but he also warned that there are many obstacles that need to be overcome.

Mr. Peres said he believed that a lasting peace could be achieved if both sides are willing to make the necessary concessions.

He said that the two sides should work together to achieve a peaceful resolution, and that the Jordanian king could play a key role in that process.

Mr. Peres said he hoped that the Jordanian king would continue to play a key role in the peace process, and that he would be willing to work with him to achieve a lasting peace.

Mr. Peres said he was confident that the Jordanian king would be willing to play a key role in the peace process, and that he would be willing to work with him to achieve a lasting peace.

But he also said that there were many obstacles that need to be overcome, and that it would take time to achieve a lasting peace.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Course 21W transformative and helpful

By Ryan Normandin

Editor's Note: The UA passed a restructuring bill last night, after the deadline for this column. Vote YES on UA reform
Restructured government will be more efficient and unified

The second motivation behind restructuring is the lack of cohesiveness present in the current undergraduate government. Many students, including myself, have the UA, Dormitory Council (DormCon), the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Panhel, and other separate student groups. The UA is supposed to be the central government representing all students, but it is no secret that the administration will often approach other government bodies if the legislation is contrary to those governments’ constituencies. This is because, to use DormCon as an example, the dorm presidents are often more informed about the goings-on in their living groups than the Senators of those living groups. This makes sense, since they are charged with running (to some extent) the dorm on a daily basis. Further, dorm presidents are almost always elected by a greater percentage of their constituency than are the Senators of that constituency.

It is no secret that the administration will often approach other governments regarding policies that affect their constituencies.

One question that came up during the process is whether an entire overhaul of the government is necessary — could the problems presented here be solved by smaller constitutional amendments or changes in the way the Senate operates? In my opinion, the nomination of the overseeing board (21W Senate) is the most significant issue. Not only is it necessary to change the method of selecting its own representation, it becomes possible through this primary modification for the Senate to be more effective and efficient. Now that several years have passed since I graduated from MIT, I can say with certainty that I benefited immensely from having a student government like the one I had.

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Least Action Principle
by Amanda Aparicio

Sudoku I
Solution, page 8

Dilbert by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 8

ACROSS
1 Urban oasis
5 Apres-ski beverage
10 Fleeting trace
14 Haulboy
15 Passes over
16 Crowning point
17 The inept fashion designer...
20 Summer in Tours
21 Editor’s notation
22 Cowboy milieu
23 Break
25 Predisposition
27 The bankrupt fashion designer...
32 Sparkle
35 Qualified
36 Saloon
37 Bank (on)
38 Trigger or Buttermilk
40 Mayberry deputy
41 Pen fluid
42 Letters for big shots
43 Undue speed

DOWN
44 The penniless fashion designer
48 Past spouses
49 Daydream
53 Sound loudly
56 Fresh Greek bread?
57 Last bit
58 The corrupt fashion designer...
62 Revival shout
63 Make merry
64 Got it!
65 Inventor Elias
66 Seventh heaven
67 Blab

4 The penniless fashion designer
9 Grate stuff
10 Indiana river
11 Screen symbol
12 Noxious cloud
13 Rose of baseball
18 Linguistic quirk
19 Expunge
24 Flexibility
25 Tops of overalls
26 Cay
28 Merciless
29 Marsh wader
30 Floating platform
31 Baobab or banyan
32 Handhold
33 Al Capp’s hyena
34 Wapitis
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36 Saloon
37 Bank (on)
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41 Pen fluid
42 Letters for big shots
43 Undue speed

47 Legendary figures
50 Witherspoon of “Legally Blonde”
51 Chip-making giant
52 Infamous Ford flop
53 So-so

54 Exec’s wheels
55 From scratch
56 Actor Morales
59 Lang. of Israel
60 Out of sorts
61 Hobbyist’s buy
Set Theory

Proof of Zermelo’s well-ordering theorem given the Axiom of Choice:

1: Take $S$ to be any set.

2: When I reach step three, if $S$ hasn’t managed to find a well-ordering relation for itself, I’ll feed it into this wood chipper.

3: Hey, look, $S$ is well-ordered.

THE MOST PRIVATE THING I’M WILLING TO ADMIT: I’m stuck in King’s Quest IV when you dig up the graves and the game keeps crashing. I think I have bad floppy diskettes. Message me if you have a good AGI version.

Hey, baby, looks like you could use some sexual healing.

Wow, med school is already paying off!

My math teacher was a big believer in proof by intimidation.

What a waste of paper and ink. I’m not an idiot.

Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

The Tech Tuesday, November 29, 2011
The Postelles and The Kooks bring rock and roll to Boston

MOVIE REVIEW

Well, I guess this is it The Descendants has potential, but somehow falls flat

By Jaimie Chung

Let me start out by saying that the trailer for The Descendants essentially re-veals the entire movie, so either watch the trailer or don’t expect much at the theater. The premise of The Descendants is refreshingly creative: a mother, Elizabeth (Patricia Hastie), who has been in a coma for months...
Frank will not run for re-election in redrawn district

Long-time Democratic Massachusetts Congressman decides to retire from public life

By Frank Phillips and Noah Bierman

Facing a new electoral hurdle in a dramatically redrawn district, U.S. Representative Barney Frank, a stalwart of Massachusetts politics for more than 40 years and one of the nation's leading liberal voices, announced Monday that he will leave Congress when his term expires.

Frank said the Massachusetts Legislature's decision to carve up his congressional district and, in particular, to separate him from New Bedford, would have forced him to wage a reelection campaign in unfamiliar territory.

"I think I would have won but... it would have been a tough campaign," said Frank, a Democrat first elected to Congress in 1980.

"I could not put the requisite effort into that," Frank said, citing the demands of his current duties, the needs to raise funds and to introduce himself to new communities.

His decision to retire from public life is a milestone in Massachusetts and national politics. Frank, one of the first openly gay members of Congress, has for years been lionized by liberals across the country. Likewise, with his sharp tongue and raconteur wit, Frank provoked antipathy from his most frequent targets, Republicans and social conservatives.

The announcement, delivered at a press conference in Newton's City Hall, stunned the political world because Frank had told confidants, even in recent weeks, that he would fulfill a pledge he made in February to seek reelection, despite personal reservations.

But according to close associates, the 71-year-old Newton Democrat decided on Thanksgiving Day that he did not have the energy or will to mount a difficult campaign in a redrawn district that would have contained 326,000 new constituents. He said it would be too much to tend to his current duties while campaigning in a new district.

"I can't walk away from the fishing industry, and I can't walk away from people I've grown close to and say, I'm sorry; I gotta go and worry about the Blackstone Valley and I don't have time to do you," Frank said, referring to his work with fishermen in New Bedford.

Frank, a New Jersey native who received bachelor's and law degrees from Harvard, is one of the last politicians who earned his stripes as a top aide to Mayor Kevin White of Boston. He first entered elective office when he won a state legislative seat from the Back Bay in 1972, where he made a name for himself as a brush-up-and-comer.

In Congress, Frank was able to weather an early scandal, involving a male prostitute who ran an escort service out of his home, to win reelection easily and become a leading voice on financial regulation and a standard-bearer for the Democratic Party.

"He was brilliant, funny, acerbic, strategic, and unashamedly liberal," said Philip Johnston, a former state Democratic Party chairman who served in the Legislature with Frank. "And they're in short supply these days."

Dan Payne, Frank's longtime media consultant, called his reelection "frantic tickets for Gobie and providing his office's help in fixing 33 traffic tickets for Gobie and providing some misstatements."

Although he has increasingly earned a reputation in recent years for being cranky, short-tempered, and irascible, Frank was particular in his selectivity and reflective as he met with reporters, many of whom he has upbraided over the years.

He gave lengthy and detailed answers defending his role in the financial crisis, said he regretted not supporting the initial 1991 Iraq invasion, and said he would leave it to others to define his legacy.

"One advantage to me of not running for office is, I don't even have to pretend to be nice to people I don't like," Frank said.

"I do not plan to be responsible for anyone's action except for my own and Jim's," he said, referring to his partner, James Ready.
The Tech Chorallaries perform their fall concert on the Friday before Thanksgiving Break. With an opening by the MIT/Wellesley Toons, the free superhero-themed concert entertained a packed crowd in 10-250.

The Logarithms’ Bright Lights Like You’ve Never Seen Them Before in Kresge This Friday

The MIT Chorallaries perform their fall concert on the Friday before Thanksgiving Break. With an opening by the MIT/Wellesley Toons, the free superhero-themed concert entertained a packed crowd in 10-250.

import new_skills

def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python

if you.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"

--- F1 joinTechno.py (Python)--L1--Top

UA will reform
UA aims for IAP transition

UA, from Page 1

And though changes to DormCon may be on the horizon, “DormCon is not part of the current UA restructuring proposal,” wrote DormCon president Ellen B. McIsaac ’12 in an email to The Tech.

The restructuring process was “long and arduous,” said Leonid Grinberg ’14, a senator from East Campus, but he said that he’s “looking forward to the new structure.” Grinberg cited the Senate’s unanimous vote as a positive sign.

The Senate will not exist next semester, but current Senators have plans for staying involved with the UA. The UA’s committee structure, for instance, will remain the same, and some current senators will continue to work on those committees even after Senate dissolves. William F. Steadman ’12, the current Speaker of the Senate, will stay involved with the UA through his work on an Institute Committee.

‘DormCon is not a part of the current UA restructuring proposal.’
—Ellen McIsaac
Dormcon President

The new UA Constitution will take effect on the last day of classes in the fall semester, but its final adoption will happen after ratification by the UA Council.

Anne Cai contributed reporting.
Center spreads ethics abroad
Satellite centers started in India, Mexico, and Italy

Dalai Lama Center, from Page 1

tween the activities of the Center and student life on campus. “These faculty members organize and participate in activities to promote ethical discussions with students,” said Bhardwaj.

Take the Ethics Initiative talks. Often held in Simmons Hall, these roundtable discussions involve approximately 15 students and two or three high profile speakers. Past participants have included MIT Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75, who discussed fiscal responsibility, and best-selling author Rebecca Skloot, who focused on the ethics of research on human biological materials. Some talks are videotaped and made available on MIT OpenCourseware.

Universities can ‘produce people who get into the habit of reductionist thinking’

DeLong feels these talks make people aware of the technical aspects of the ethical issues. As a past participant in talks about climate change policy and geoengineering, DeLong is interested in the responsibilities humans have in environmental “stewardship.”

The Ethics Initiative open sessions involve back and forth conversations between students and professors. These talks can end in policy proposals, but students also periodically bring up an idea for a project, paper, or competition like the MIT 100K. “It’s about people coming together and collaborating on these projects,” said Bhardwaj.

The Center also holds conferences in an effort to reach a larger audience. The Dalai Lama delivered a talk at Kresge Auditorium in April 2009 on Ethics and Enlightened Leadership with over 200 attendees. An October 2011 Conference on Systems Thinking for Contemporary Challenges at Kresge Auditorium had speakers from healthcare, education, and other disciplines.

According to Bhardwaj, the absence of ethical education can be troubling. Universities can “produce people who get into the habit of reductionist thinking,” said Bhardwaj. Himself a PhD in Course 6 from MIT, he observes that many academicians are ill-prepared for ethical problems and try to reduce them to some sort of number or metric.

Bhardwaj hopes that he and the other Dalai Lama Fellows can share their experiences and help make ethics a less abstract concept. “How do you decide to prioritize who gets your services first? What criteria do you pick to move a patient to the front of the line?”

The Center says it is developing programs to train students to think originally and critically about such questions.

The Center ran a three-day-long “Transformative Leadership Workshops” for forty Sloan MBA students in October 2009 and January and March 2010. According to Priyadarshi, the workshop encouraged participants to focus on their originality, asking them, “Why do we try to imitate? What is unique that I can bring forth?” An identical program was also offered at the Yale School of Management.

Bhardwaj observes that many academicians are ill-prepared for ethical problems.

The Center also supports activities abroad through satellite centers in New Delhi, India, Mexico City, and Rome. An ethics center has been established in Mexico and is working with several leading universities there. Additionally, the Center has also been assisting with a leadership development program in Varanasi, India.

MIT Sloan MBA students are working with 98 Indian students of traditional medicine to design a program to provide education in the slums. Priyadarshi said that the Indian students have the “passion and vision and value” and the MIT MBA students have the “knowledge.”

Last year, 200,000 people gathered outside Central Park to listen to the Dalai Lama. “They’re not all Buddhists. The goal is to instill a basic set of human values,” Priyadarshi said. “If you think of an ethical framework [you] enhance your productivity and sense of direction.”
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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS
Wednesday, November 30
Women’s Basketball vs. Wellesley College
7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Women’s B-ball defeats Caltech
Beavers fall to Engineers 100-26

By Mindy Brauer

Despite early foul trouble that put Caltech in the bonus after 2:49 elapsed, the MIT Women’s Basketball team defeated the Beavers, 100-26, on Friday night. The Engineers reached the century mark for the second time in program history and also registered the second largest margin of victory as the Tech set these marks in a 105-30 decision over Rivier College in 1998.

Tamarra R. Pena ’14 amassed a game-high 19 points to go along with six rebounds and three assists. Alexia B. Isaac ’15 tallied 12 points, 10 boards, and three steals, while Allison M. Cottrell ’15 recorded 10 points, seven rebounds, and three assists. Rachel Hunt ’14 notched eight points, seven rebounds, and two blocks while Michelle Battipaglia ’15 contributed eight points and five rebounds. Rebecca Odim ’13 chipped in nine points as Kirstyn Hein ’15 totaled eight points and four boards. Mari R. Korell ’15 rounded out the squad with five assists and four rebounds.

Pena put MIT on the board with a three pointer after 15 seconds elapsed, but two free throws and back-to-back layups gave Caltech a 6-3 edge two minutes later. On the Engineers’ next possession, a put-back by Isaac ignited a string of 31 unanswered points which resulted in a 13-6 advantage with 6:51 remaining in the half.

The Engineers continued to find success in the second stanza as a layup by Elizabeth A. Burton ’12 gave MIT its largest margin of the game (50-23) with 2:01 left to play. The Engineers finished the night with advantages in rebounds (42-38), points off turnovers (46-11), second chance points (31-2), points in the paint (60-14), and bench points (36-5).

MIT, in its first visit to Caltech since the series began in the 2000-01 season, improved to 4-0 all-time against the Beavers and 3-1 for the year. The Engineers will conclude their West Coast road trip on Saturday, Nov. 26 at Occidental College.

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An ode to the NBA lockout

By Nidharsan Anandasivam

Players and owners in the NBA met on Black Fri- day to continue their attempts at negotiations to put an end to the lockout that has plagued the league for the past few months. After 15 hours of discussion that lasted through Friday night into Saturday morn- ing, they reached a tentative agreement that will end the 149-day lockout. They plan to start the season on Christmas day, with promises to feature three highly anticipated matchups (Knicks vs. Celtics, Heat vs. Mavericks, and Lakers vs. Bulls). Although the season will likely be shorter than the usual 82-game regular season, many fans are relieved to hear that there will be a season and a spring of NBA playoffs.

The full details regarding the negotiation terms have not been released, but it is likely that players will take a large pay cut since NBA teams have been los- ing, on average, about $300 million annually. Owners sought to get rid of these losses by cutting down on player salaries. Many other issues were also discussed in the table, including the splitting of basketball-relat- ed income (BRI) between players and owners. The old BRI deal yielded a $7-43 percent split in favor of the players, but the ratio is now anticipated to be nearly 50-50, meaning that the players will have conceded a decent amount of income. Many fans don’t care too much about the details of the agreement; they only care that an agreement is reached so that there will be a season. With so much controversy created by this lockout process, there is no doubt that people have had a lot to express. I certainly do.

Here is my personal ode to the NBA lockout:

Ever since the commencement of the lockout this past summer, Prospects for an NBA season, for the most part, grew glummer. Players and owners agree that new rules must be laid Considering the negative profits the NBA has made. The many issues of contention Create a disagreement too complex to casually mention. Arguments about salary, mid-level exceptions, revenue sharing. Luxury tax issues, escrow, and many other topics with considerable bearing.

Both sides agree that spending on players will have to be cut If the NBA seeks to last, without going bankrupt. Negotiations have been attempted with many a meeting And finally the hopes for a season are not so fleeting. We can only wish that the owners’ wants and needs Will be met by the amount that players are willing to concede. Many desire the two parties to disengage from their own interests And consider what’s good for the fans, what’s good for the rest.

Personally, the utility I receive from watching the NBA is nearly priceless. And if there is no season, my enthusiasm for the sport will lack an egres. All I want for Christmas is the NBA to snap out of its dry spell. So that I can watch my favorite teams while knowing that the NBA is alive and well.

The full details regarding the negotiation terms have not been released, but it is likely that players will take a large pay cut since NBA teams have been los- ing, on average, about $300 million annually. Owners sought to get rid of these losses by cutting down on player salaries. Many other issues were also discussed in the table, including the splitting of basketball-relat- ed income (BRI) between players and owners. The old BRI deal yielded a $7-43 percent split in favor of the players, but the ratio is now anticipated to be nearly 50-50, meaning that the players will have conceded a decent amount of income. Many fans don’t care too much about the details of the agreement; they only care that an agreement is reached so that there will be a season. With so much controversy created by this lockout process, there is no doubt that people have had a lot to express. I certainly do.

Here is my personal ode to the NBA lockout: