For Watson, Jeopardy! is elementary

IBM researcher explained Watson's magic at MIT on Monday

By Evan Moore

Quick! Take a clue, and break it down into keywords, finding out what it's asking for. Rack your brain and generate a list of possible answers to said question. Then evaluate each answer produced for validity, using varying types of evidence. Figure out the best possible choice and report it. And do it in two to six seconds. Such is elementary competition against human researchers who spoke at MIT on Monday, Watson, explained David Gondek, an IBM research scientist, at a talk April 18.

According to Gondek, Watson does not use simple keyword searches in its question-answering routines because they can cover only a fraction of what is in a question. Instead, Watson employs a machine learning technique called “semantic frame” to figure out what type of answer is needed, whether it be a baseball player or an ancient civilization. To aid in this analysis, developers gave Watson so-called “semantic frames” in the form of a “subject — verb — predicate, so that it knew, for example, that “inventor patented invention” and “authors write book,” Gondek said.

Next, Watson searches its massive framework of content — it does not connect to the Internet and is completely self-contained — and generates a list of possible answers. Each answer is then evaluated, as such evidence can come from many categories, including spatial, temporal, and taxonomic clues. After all of this, each possible answer is ranked. The one that has the highest “confidence” rating is the machine’s answer.

Watson, Page 7

IN SHORT

MacGregor and East Campus will be the two dorms open to undergraduates during the summer, the MIT Housing Office announced yesterday. New House, Next House, and Random Hall will be closed for “major construction and renovation projects,” the Housing Strategy Group reported on its website (http://studentlife.mit.edu/housing-strategy-group). Other dorms will be used by summer program groups and conferences, or closed completely.

The Spring 2011 Final Exam Schedule is now available on the Registrar’s website (http://web.mit.edu/registrar/).

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

Orientation 2011 to be largely identical to previous years

In an e-mail sent to undergraduate students yesterday evening, Undergraduate Association President Vrajesh V. Modi ’11, Dormitory Council President Christina R. Johnson ’11, Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’89, and Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo announced that the schedule for Orientation 2011, with the exception of the start date of International Orientation, will not change. Residence Exploration (REX) will be the same length as it was last year. With 90 starting later, the Advanced Standing Exams may overlap with the end of IO. International students who wish to take ASES would be accommodated. The e-mail did not elaborate on the proposed changes to FPOPs or to City Days.

According to the e-mail, which cited “largely negative” student reaction to the proposed changes at a UA meeting last month, “the Deans for Undergraduate Education (DUSE) and Student Life (DSL) will form a committee this spring to review all Orientation programs.” Students will be nominated through the UA to serve on the committee.

“We all share an interest in open communication and a process in which all voices can be heard in a representative way,” the letter read.

“We would like to work together to ensure a successful Orientation for the Class of 2015 and beyond.”

—Poe Lopinski

MIT 150 art crystallizes between Buildings 56 and 66

The corridor between Buildings 56 and 66 is closed until Feb. 21 in order to install a structure for the MIT 150 Fast Arts Festival. The festival, which celebrates the integration of art, science, and technology at MIT, kicked off with an exhibition of Stan VanDerBlok’s work from Feb. 3–5 and will culminate with the FAST Light event on MIT’s waterfront on Feb. 7.

COMMUNITY

reacts to plan for Kendall

Questions raised over revitalization proposal

Cambridge City Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves offered deep misgivings over MIT’s plan to revitalize Kendall Square at this month’s Town Gown meeting, saying that MIT’s motives in the project may be driven by profit and that the Institute lacks expertise in building community spaces.

MIT dominated the discussion at the annual meeting between university and Cambridge City officials. The meeting, which began as a series of updates from MIT, ended with statements from three city councilors and the Planning Board on MIT’s preliminary plans to redevelop Kendall with 1.1 million square feet of new retail, office, lab, and residential buildings, clustered primarily around the Kendall T-station. Some councilors and planning board members expressed skepticism over MIT’s ability to truly remake Kendall into a place where people can gather.

Councilors and members of the Planning Board have previously voiced concerns with MIT’s process and vision for Kendall, and they repeated those sentiments at Town Gown.

Reeves told the Planning Board and community audience that MIT’s concern with its real estate holdings — like those in Kendall — is “how much money can [they] make?” and that how MIT’s investment property contributes to the community is “of no concern to [MIT].”

“We’re being developed by entities whose bottom line is profit, not people or ease of access,” said Reeves.

But Steven C. Marsh, Managing Director for Real Estate of the MIT Investment Management Company (MITIMCo), says that MIT’s motivations in Kendall are the continued development of the area into an “innovation cluster,” with the intent of attracting scientific talent and preserving Cambridge’s global competitiveness. “We see what is growing in Cambridge, says Marsh, who manages MIT’s investment property in Cambridge.

Reeves did not spell out specific concerns with MIT’s revitalization proposals, but he called MITIMCo’s partner entities — joint with Forest City Boston — to develop the University Park area south of Central Square as a failure of the Institute to consider the Cambridge Community’s needs.

“Kendall is a place where people can gather. It’s a place where people can have conversations, be creative, and participate.”

—Peter Lipinski

Weather, p. 2

Friday, February 18, 2011

Where: 37° Sun: 38° Sat: 27° 19°

31° Mostl cloudy

15° Sunny

10° 37° Rainy

19° 32° Sun5° 39°

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Apple is weighing a cheaper iPhone
SAN FRANCISCO — Apple has been exploring ways to broaden the appeal of the iPhone by making the popular device less expensive and allowing users to control it with voice commands.

But contrary to published reports, Apple is not developing a smaller iPhone, according to sources close to Apple’s plans who requested anonymity because the plans are confidential.

Apple’s engineers are focusing on finishing the next version of the smartphone in time to be similar in size to the current iPhone 4, said one of the people. The person said Apple was not planning on introducing a smaller model anytime soon. Analysts expect the new iPhone to be ready this summer.

Another person who is in direct contact with Apple also said that Apple was not planning on introducing a smaller iPhone anytime soon, but he said that Apple was not planning on avoiding the person, the said.

Steve Jobs, Apple’s chief executive, appeared to reinforce that point recently when he praised the iPhone’s uniformity, contrasting it with phones based on Google’s Android software, which come in many formats.

“We think Android is very, very fragmented and getting more fragmented by the day,” Jobs told financial analysts in October. “We think this is a huge strength of our approach compared to Google’s.”

Another senior Apple executive said during a private meeting recently that it did not make sense for the company to make multiple iPhone models, noting that Apple would stick with its practice of dropping the price of older models when it introduced a new one.


British government begins an overhaul of welfare system

LONDON — The British government on Thursday introduced legislation meant to simplify and reduce the cost of the country’s welfare system, saying that it wanted to change a culture in which welfare recipients risked facing income if they found jobs.

Calling his proposals “the most ambitious, fundamental and radical changes to the welfare system since it began,” after World War II, Prime Minister David Cameron said in a speech here that they were based on a simple idea: “New work will again will work be the wrong financial choice.”

He added: “This bill is not an exercise in accounting. It’s about changing our culture.”

The measure, the Welfare Reform Bill, would among other things merge a number of existing benefits — including those for unemployment, known as job seeker’s allowance; income-related housing, and housing — into a single universal benefit, and set a limit of about $42,000 that any one family could receive in a year.

It would also bring tax changes to let welfare recipients keep more of their income when they found jobs; lower caps on housing benefits; make it harder for workers to qualify for disability allowances; and remove benefits for up to three years from those refusing to work.

The bill would also eliminate child benefit payments — sums paid annually to single parents or couples with children, regardless of income — for higher-income parents and couples.

But facing anger from housing advocates, the government back pedaled on an plan to automati cally reduce housing benefits 10 percent for people who had been out of work for a year or more. The plans require Parliament’s approval to become law and are likely to be refined further.

Cameron said that when the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government took office last spring, one in four adults of working age was unemployed, and welfare cost the country $145 billion a year — about one-seventh of total government expenditures. The new proposals, he said, would save near $85 billion over the next four years.

The plans come at an awkward time, during a recession and be side other initiatives to overhaul the health care system and reduce the size of the state.

Overhaul of welfare, some ex perts say, usually happens in boom times, when jobs are abundant and getting people back to work is easier. Britain, on the other hand, is just starting to feel the pain from the recession and only 25 percent in most govern ment departments. With unemployment already high, the cuts are predicted to lead several hundred thousand more people out of work.

But Cameron said that in the boom times, “with millions of new jobs created,” there were still about 5 million people drawing unemployment benefits. “Between 1997 and 2008, more than 40 percent of the increase in employment was accounted for by migrant workers from abroad,” he said.

Advocates for the disabled and the homeless criticized the plans, as did some union officials.

Strong in number and spirit, Republican freshmen hold sway

By Jennifer Steinhauer

WASHINGTON — The last speaker was Rep. Steve Southerland, freshwater lawmaker from Florida, and his speech was marked by two things that propel him through each day — his experience as f u tural home operator, and his general longing of all things Washington — Southerland pointed into the Republi can House leaders one day last week, explaining that he had not come to Washington to whack the federal budget this year by one dollar less than the $100 billion he had pledged to cut in his campaign.

“IT was to be an exercise in accounting. It’s about changing our culture.” — Steve Jobs, Apple’s chief executive

“I wanted them to hear my heart, and not just my words,” said Southerland, one of scores of fresh men lawmakers — there are seven Republicans from his home state alone — who pressed for, and pres sold, in crafting a more aggressive plan to cut government spending.

The big question after the mid term elections: Would this giant class of 87 Republican freshmen in the House, many with little or no elected experience, change the way of Washington or would Washington change them?

In their first weeks of business here, the newcomers upended the budget process, proposing cuts so deep they made even fellow Republicans cringe. They hounded Speaker John A. Boehner embarrassing deficits on several votes, and forced the party to pull a trade measure. This week, the group continued to push for even more cuts through more than 400 amendments to the spending measure, and then escalated to a raucous floor fight that on Wednes day led to the defeat of financing for a fighter jet engine program backed by the Republican leadership.

“If this bothers people, well, the freshmen came to bother.”

“We’re not enamored of this place,” said Southerland, who added that he aligned him that Washington seemed not to have suffered the effects of a prolonged downturn.

“I came out of the private sector, a life I enjoyed,” said. “I sleep well nights.”

Southerland politely lit into Republi can freshmen — there are seven fresh men lawmakers — that all bets are off.

Embodied by their early victo ries and strong in numbers, the new est lawmakers will almost certainly continue to try to exert their influ ence. From the coming fight over raising the nation’s debt limit to the entire political dynamic of budget debates, in which party members traditionally bang together in the service of broad philosophical pri nes, all bets are off.

“There are consequences for our actions,” said Rep. Paul Gosar, a freshman from Arizona.

Popular rage encounters state violence in the Mideast

Thousands of Libyan protesters defied threats of violence and are holding demonstrations in several Libyan cities Thursday, mounting one of the sharpest challenges to Col. Muammar Gadhafi’s 40-year rule in a “day of rage” modeled on the uprisings coursing through neighboring countries.

The accounts were muted by Libya’s strict media controls, but human rights groups said at least four people had been killed in clashes involving marchers, pro-government demonstrators and security forces. Other unreported conflicts put the death toll as high as 20 and said dozens more had been killed in clashes involving marchers, pro-government demonstrators and security forces.

“IT was what started by a seventh day of demonstrations demanding the removal of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Protesters are firing guns, lobbing rocks back and forth with pro-government marchers.” — Jack Healy, The New York Times

In Bahrain, five people were killed and hundreds wounded in a harsh crackdown.

Yielding of smoke, tear gas and fresh unease descended over cities throughout the region, with demonstrations and rolling street barricades in violent new directions as govern ment sought to blunt their momentum and reassess control of the streets. States imposed curfews and ordered people to stay indoors over the next two weeks.

“It wanted them to hear my heart, and not just my words,” said Southerland, one of scores of fresh men lawmakers — there are seven Republicans from his home state alone — who pressed for, and pre sold, in crafting a more aggressive plan to cut government spending.

High temperatures in the upper 30°F s. A cold front will pass through tonight, but a lack of moisture associated with it means any precipitation will be minimal. Saturday and Sunday will be partly cloudy with blustery conditions that will make it feel quite cold compared with yesterday and today, especially on Saturday, when gusts of up to 45 mph are possible. For our day off on Monday, winds will be from the west at 8–12 mph.

For extended forecasts, please visit http://weather.com.

Extended Forecast

Traffic: Mostly cloudy, High 55°F (13°C). Winds from the west at 8–12 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 32°F (0°C). Winds from the west at 8–12 mph.

Planned Parenthood funding caught in budget fight

By Erik Eckholm

Almost unnoticed in the wars over the federal budget is a battle being fought over funding for Planned Parenthood, which provides abortions, contraception, medical services and screenings at about 700 clinics across the country. For decades, those on one side of the abortion debate have been trying to defund clinics, to close them, to require them to post notices that they have not been inspected, and to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood, which hires political operatives to recruit clients and increase the visibility of their clinic sites. 

In 2009, for example, the House of Representatives voted to defund Planned Parenthood for the first time, saying the organization is a "front group for the abortion industry." But in the Senate, the organization's leaders were able to use a procedural tactic to block consideration of the bill.

Now, in a surprise step that has set off a war among advocates for women's health, the newly conservative House of Representatives has proposed cutting the entire $315 million in federal aid for Planned Parenthood for fiscal year 2011 and $30 million from the group's Medicare program for reproductive health.

The bill, which was passed by the House on Thursday, would require the group to prove that it is a public benefit and that its services are provided free of charge.
The Twitter Revolution inside our hospitals

Is there a place for social media in the health care system?

By Keit Yoast

Last year, the Social Security Trust Fund paid out more than it received in tax revenue. This is not good news for the near future of Social Security, but the effects of this problem will be buffered by the vast amount of money already in the trust fund. The Office of the Actuary projects that the trust fund will be exhausted by 2039, just 16 years from now. The Social Security Trust Fund, however, is not the only federal reserve. The Medicare Part A Trust Fund, which is used to cover hospital stays, will have to be cut by 20 percent or taxes will have to be increased. By 2039, the Congressional Budget Office predicts that Social Security will have run out of reserves and Medicare Part A will have zero reserves. The only way to prevent this is to increase the retirement age and cut benefits for the very old. One of the things that the Social Security Administration is considering is raising the retirement age from 65 to 68. This would mean that younger workers would have to put in more money into the system and then draw less out of it, which would improve the rate of return on the Social Security system.

For the little time the Social Security Trust Fund has left before it runs out, there are a few options that could help. First, increasing the retirement age would increase the amount of money that is put into the fund. Second, raising the payroll tax would increase the amount of money that is put into the fund. Third, reducing benefits for the very old would decrease the amount of money that is taken out of the fund. The Social Security Administration is considering these options, and it is likely that they will be implemented in the near future. The Social Security Trust Fund is currently in good shape, but it is important to be aware of the problems that it may face in the future.

The watch is on for the future of Social Security. The Social Security Administration is considering several options to improve the future of Social Security. One option is to raise the retirement age from 65 to 68. This would mean that younger workers would have to put in more money into the system and then draw less out of it, which would improve the rate of return on the Social Security system.

The Social Security Administration is also considering raising the payroll tax. This would increase the amount of money that is put into the fund. The Social Security Administration is also considering reducing benefits for the very old. This would decrease the amount of money that is taken out of the fund.

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America: Align yourself with your strategic allies

By Rachel Bandler

America is confronting significant challenges and turmoil at home and abroad, including severe partisan tensions domestically, collapsed governments and regime changes in the Middle East, the existential threat of a nuclear Iran, and uncertainty about Egypt’s future.

To counter the instability spreading across the Middle East and fallout in the rest of the world, it is crucial that America align itself with strategic allies whose friendship enhances its security and well-being. One such partner is Israel.

America’s interests align with Israel’s when it comes to addressing current conflicts, and the U.S.-Israel relationship has been one of the most unifying and mutually beneficial in history. In an era when radicals and terrorists are emerging from bunkers to be named heads of state, America needs to embrace Israel and her loyalty to democracy and freedom.

The value of the U.S.-Israel alliance is hardly confined to foreign affairs. The close bond spans disciplines as varied as business, science, and advanced technology. American companies like Intel have major research and development operations in Israel. Israel also invented valuable technologies used by U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, including unmanned drones and medical bandages. In fact, it was an Israeli wartime bandage that helped save Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona.

Unfortunately, this tiny country, which has been in a state of emergency since its inception, has been forced to develop expertise in the fields of homeland security and counterterrorism. Israel provides countless strategic and technological resources to the United States and to the rest of the world. Many American airports utilize Israeli aviation security techniques to prevent terrorist attacks, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection has adopted similar best practices. Israel’s innovations are constantly being employed, often out of sight, in order to keep America safe and secure.

The truth is that this special bond exists not only between the governments and leaders of these two nations, but also between the two peoples. In the final analysis, what sustains this strategic partnership is a shared understanding between Americans and Israelis about the meaning of democracy and freedom. It is this commitment to common values that forms the basis of an alliance that is more than six decades strong and with no end in sight.

Rachel Bandler is a member of the Class of 2013 and President of MIT Students for Israel.
Obama administration requires all local jurisdictions to join Secure Communities program

The Obama administration’s strategy for enforcing immigration laws has steadily intensified over the last year, and the administration has explicitly indicated that it will not lower its sights. In a recent statement, the administration said that it would continue to work with local law enforcement agencies to ensure that they are fully committed to enforcing immigration laws.

The program, Secure Communities, is designed to identify and deport undocumented immigrants. It involves local police agencies in the identification and deportation of immigrants who are in violation of immigration laws. The program has been controversial, with some states and localities opposing it, while others support it. The program requires local law enforcement agencies to share information with federal immigration authorities, and the sharing of such information has been a source of contention.

The administration has also issued a number of directives to local law enforcement agencies, including guidance on how to handle immigration cases. The administration has also issued a number of memos to local law enforcement agencies, including guidance on how to handle immigration cases.

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https://isn.mit.edu/internship/index.php

If you have questions about this program, or experience difficulty using any features on website, please contact Marlisha McDaniels - mmcd@mit.edu or the ISN Headquarters, NE47-4thFl. 617.324.4700.

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

Attending college offers the opportunity to come into contact with new and exciting people virtually every day. Case in point: Dr. Annia L. Cowern ’11 hails from Hawaii and is studying physics. She once distributed polio vaccines in the Dominican Republic and plays the ukulele. This Sunday, she will be competing in the Miss Boston Pageant, the first step on the path that potentially leads to becoming Miss America. The Tech had the opportunity to interview Miss Cowern about her pageant preparation and her experiences at MIT.

The Tech: So, you’re competing in the Miss Boston Pageant. How did you come to be doing that?

Diana L. Cowern: I actually did the Miss Massachusetts Pageant [part of Miss USA] in the fall. I found out that one on Facebook (laughs) Facebook gave me an ad about an audition, which is nothing like I’d ever done, but I decided to do it, because it sounded fun. I did that in the fall, and in the spring, I was like, “Well, I’ve learned some new speaking skills, and how to walk in heels, and things that girls usually know, and I have a dress, so why not do it again?” Then I found out that Miss Boston is more towards scholarship and works more with charity organizations. It just seemed like a better experience, so I thought, “why not do it?”

TT: And singing is going to be your talent for the pageant? How are you preparing for that?

DLC: Actually, one of my friends, Allin D. Resposo ’11, who does mashups, he put together an arrangement of “Think of Me” from The Phantom of the Opera, transposed it into the key that I could sing in, so I’ve just been practicing with the track that he made.

TT: How did you end up living in Hawaii?

DLC: Actually, [my family] lived in New Hampshire before. When I was one, my parents decided to move to Hawaii. We didn’t really have a plan. So we were just like, “Maybe we’ll start a macadamia nut factory?” And when [my parents] got there, they decided to start a bed and breakfast. They were struggling for a while, because the cost of living in Hawaii is extremely high. Just when they started the bed and breakfast, a hurricane hit in 1992. It destroyed part of our house and blew the roof of the guest house across the valley. But because the cottage was destroyed, they got a lot of insurance money for that, and that was enough to pay for parts of the house, and continue investing in the bed and breakfast. And now my mom runs that by herself, and my dad followed his dream of becoming a tree farmer. (laughs) He’s now starting a sustainable biomass plant for the community. He’s a very smart man, and he’s very into technology and entrepreneurship. He’s probably the reason I’m here at MIT.

TT: What was it like growing up?

DLC: Hmm … amazing I mean, obviously — it’s Hawaii. It’s just so beautiful, the entire island is like your backyard. There was a waterfall 20 minutes from our house, so we would walk down there and play in the waterfall, go on hikes all the time, go kayaking. I also drove tractors on the tree farm for a while. At the same time, there were things I wish had been different. Hawaii was so small, there weren’t that many opportunities, so coming to MIT was kind of a shock. I got here, and people were so brilliant, and had so much experience, and I had come from a place where I had to struggle to get into a calculus class. My school didn’t have calculus until I went there, and I had a one-on-one teacher in that class. So, schooling wasn’t ideal, but at the same time, the community was incredible. We had so many family friends all over the place, it was a warm place to grow up.

TT: So, according to your pageant profile, you’re interested in the fields of science communications, journalism, or education. What made you choose those?

DLC: Partially, working in physics labs. I’m really interested in lots of different kinds of science. I took a Course 2 class for a while, Course 9, I couldn’t decide — I still can’t decide — what I want to do. So, science journalism is a field where you can study anything in a lot of different areas, and learn it in-depth enough to commu-

nicate it to someone else. Actually started a blog, and the first article was about formaldehyde and how it works, and the second article was about honeymoons, so I went and got some books from the library and I was reading about bees, and learning all this stuff had never known, and loved it. I liked writing the article, I liked trying to explain it in an interesting way using analogies — it’s really fun for me, and I only discovered in the last couple years that I liked writing about science, I liked trying to communi-

cate new things, and I liked the challenge of communicating accurately. I mean, one of the biggest criticisms of science journalism is that either they’re not focusing on the most important facts about science, or getting the facts wrong altogether. So, coming from a science background, I want to take on that challenge of communicating the right issues properly.

TT: Last question — in order to become a strong pageant contestant, you obviously have to be a well-rounded individual in numerous aspects of life. Do you have any advice for people who want to expand their horizons?

DLC: I would say, always remain open-minded. One of the reasons I was hesitant about doing the pageant was because MIT sort of focuses solely on academics, and makes you feel almost inferior if you’re not spending all of your time studying, so I think it’s really important for people to do what helps them promote confidence, and character, and focusing on yourself. Pag-

eants aren’t the usual path that people take at MIT. I would just tell people to keep an open mind, that you don’t have to focus on just one thing to succeed in life. It’s the peo-

ple that have confidence, that can express themselves, who are going to push their ideas forward.

The Miss Boston Pageant takes place this Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Omni Parker House. Tickets are $20. For more information, and to purchase tickets online, visit http://www. missboston.org.

Have humorous commentary about a campus topic?
Send 500 words and a pic to cl@tech.mit.edu.

I would tell people to keep an open mind — you don’t have to focus on just one thing to succeed in life.

DLC: I would say, always remain open-minded. One of the reasons I was hesitant about doing the pageant was because MIT sort of focuses solely on academics, and makes you feel almost inferior if you’re not spending all of your time studying, so I think it’s really important for people to do what helps them promote confidence, and character, and focusing on yourself. Pag-

eants aren’t the usual path that people take at MIT. I would just tell people to keep an open mind, that you don’t have to focus on just one thing to succeed in life. It’s the peo-

ple that have confidence, that can express themselves, who are going to push their ideas forward.

The Miss Boston Pageant takes place this Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Omni Parker House. Tickets are $20. For more information, and to purchase tickets online, visit http://www. missboston.org.
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In collaboration with

Learning to Change the World
Three versions of this hoppy treat show beer's diversity

60 Minute IPA
This beer is probably the closest of the three to the traditional IPA style. They've used less barley than the rest, and the beer is drier (less sweet). The wort is boiled for an hour, which, while normal for an IPA, indicates there is less hop-pinness than its brethren. Because of the lower alcohol content (6 percent ABV), this is one of Dogfish's most popular ses-sion beers, or beers meant to be drunk in quantity over an evening.

My beer had a little bit of head, but no carb. The aroma smelled of pine. The taste on the tongue was very crisp, with the beer being only a month aged. There was a lot of bite in the finish from the bitterness not being balanced by sweetness.

Despite the beer's marketed session-ability, it is hard for me to drink in quan- tity because of its bitter finish. Despite this, I do enjoy this beer occasionally, as sometimes I'm in the mood for lots of bite. The idea of drinking tons of a ses-sion beer has never appealed to me, any-way, since I like trying several beers over a given ABV, it is doubly as strong as a commer-cial beer.

90 Minute IPA
This beer is often described as being an "unique American creation," and rou-tinely receives rave reviews by the tough-est beer critics. Weighing in at 9 percent ABV, it is doubly as strong as a commer-cial beer, and can appropriately be cat-egorized as a Double IPA. More barley is added than the 60 Minute, giving it more sweetness, and hops are added during fermentation, giving it more hop aroma.

There was little initial aroma on my beer, except for the hops. Everything opened up on the tongue. The beer is sweeter, but also more complex, with more oak and smoky maltiness. The aftertaste is much more balanced, and leaves me with a desire to have another sip.

This beer is much more drinkable than the 60 Minute. The alcohol is hid-den well, and along with the superior taste, this beer is worth its price. The 90 Minute also helped put Dogfish Head on the map, and it is still one of their best sell-ers as a moderately priced beer that you can have often.

120 Minute IPA
With a similar naming scheme to the 60 Minute and 90 Minute IPAs, it would be natural to think that this beer is sim-ply an incremental upgrade from the previous two, standing atop the family as the big brother. Just taking the cap off the bottle (or looking at the price sticker) reveals this is not the case — this is the grandchild.

120 Minute IPA has its wort boiled for a full two hours, but just about every-thing else about its brewing is a non-in-cremental upgrade from the grandchild- ren. Two of barley is used, getting the yeast with enough sugar to create a lot of alcohol and still have enough left for sweetness on the tongue. After boiling, the beer is fermented for a month with daily additions of hops, and is finally aged for a month on a fresh bed of hops, creating an incredibly aromatic beer. De-spite about two dozen times the amount of hops going into its creation compared to a regular beer, the hop flavor is not overpowering, and the bitterness is bal-anced well with the sweetness, fruity comple-xity, and high alcohol content (18 percent ABV).

Indeed, this as much in common with branding as it does with beer. At $9 for a 12-ounce bottle, it better be some-thing wonderful and special, and it is. Let the beer sit out of the fridge for a warm and up, freeing the volatiles. Pour the slightly chilled beer into a bran-dy snifter and take a sniff. There are im-mEDIATE notes of hops and the wood the beer aged on. You can tell the alcohol is there, but it is not unpleasant. Upon tast-ing, there are strong flavors of plum and mango. The beer doesn't taste like it is half as strong as most vodka (35–40 per-cent ABV), the alcohol is hidden well and feels more like 10 percent ABV. The finish is super smooth, with little bite. This is the beer I deal only a sipper, and worth sharing with a friend. Splintering a bottle between two sufferers is a good way to spend an evening having a conversation with a friend from out of town. If your conver-sation goes long and your beer becomes too warm, drop in some whiskey stones from ThinkGeek.com; don't dare put in ice.

Unfortunately, it is a bit hard to find this beer at the moment. Dogfish Head had a well-blogged about failure last spring with a batch not fermenting prop-erly, and they then spent the fall ironing out their production process to prevent costly failures in the future. It is difficult to get a hold of this beer, but recently, and Dogfish poured a million bucks down the drain last year dealing with this issue. Also, there is hope, and recent reports say that this beer will become available again in April. I expect it to be at Whole Foods on River St., where I've purchased it before.

The bottle I drank for this review was 1.8 years old, which is a slightly different experience than drinking the beer fresh. The aged beer is perhaps a bit more mel-low with slightly more notes of fruit; the young beer is still pretty smooth and has a bit more carbonation and a stronger hop aroma.

Overall, the 120 Minute is my favorite beer from my favorite brewery. It may seem scary spending $9 for a single beer, and indeed, this beer should be saved for the right night. A budding beer enthusiast should try this brew to know what it's like at the top. Otherwise, you'll still be able to enjoy regular-priced beers after this.

Send agreements, disagreements, sug-gestions for future beer reviews, and offers for project management positions in the Boston area to them@qrstts.edu.
**Steal My Comic** by Michael Ciuffo

**xkcd** by Randall Munroe

*AN UNMATCHED LEFT PARENTHESES CREATES AN UNRESOLVED TENSION THAT WILL STAY WITH YOU ALL DAY.*

**Help Desk** by Michael Benitez

**Unnatural Selection** by Meisel / Tonn / Wang

**Crossword Puzzle**

Solution, page 6

**ACROSS**

1 Makeshift
8 Some metamorphic rocks
15 Sicilian wine
16 Removal mark
17 Rigby of the Beatles song
18 Tropical malady
19 Diamond gal
20 Lowest high tide
22 Hand tool for holding
23 Befuddled
25 Old English bard
27 Like some cereals
28 Slammin’ Sammy
30 John Hersey book
32 Absorbed in thought
34 In search of
35 Old draft org.
36 Playful
37 Sieve
39 605
42 Peter of “Being There”
44 Drivers’ org.
46 Spinnaker or spanker
49 Tropical creepers
50 Pestilent fly
53 Part of the Carpathians
55 Some wading birds
57 Zubenelgenubi or Dubhe
59 Menlo Park initials
60 Bat stium
61 Actor Alejandro
63 Alphabet trio
65 Electra’s brother
66 Succinctly
67 Isle of tennis
68 Bit stium
69 Bit stium
70 Lowest high tide
71 Bit stium

**DOWN**

1 Okors
2 Eye for an eye
3 Vague threat
4 0.1 book
5 Novelist Ernest
6 Lotion ingredients
7 Jumping from a plane
8 Theology sch.
9 Junk
10 British greetings
11 Rider and Bowman
12 Certainties
13 Some Roman galleys
14 Marine predator
21 Chemical warfare agent
24 Bill
26 Part of speech
29 ___ volente (God willing)
31 Olfactory stimulant
33 1901
35 Tender regard
36 Playful
37 Sieve
39 605
42 Peter of “Being There”
44 Drivers’ org.
46 Turkey feature
48 Capital of Transkei
56 Spinnaker or spanker
58 Jef of “The Chris Isaak Show”
61 Actor Alejandro

**Facts aside, I wonder how many perfectly-written code-comment scripts exist.**
Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

It's always so convenient to have so many supplies scattered around the dungeon.

This must contain the ultimate weapon able to defeat the overlord!

Fencing swords? How can these cause any damage?

Clearly you've never read Hamlet! (Spoiler Alert!)

Complete an EECS project lab.

You have 1 hour.

Yes, when one chip explodes the correct answer is to put another one in the same place!

Go ahead, connect power to ground. That’ll fix your entire circuit!

59 minutes later...

Of course your grade goes up every time you break expensive lab equipment!

Don't worry about all that melted plastic. It’ll remove bugs in your code!

If you read page 423 of 856 in the datasheet, you would know that chip does not function properly unless you sing it inspiring songs!

I hope you plan to pay for the door you destroyed, the medical bills for all the guards, the fee to reset all the traps you triggered...

---

Piled Higher and Deeper

by Jorge Cham

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www.phdcomics.com

Grader Types

Optimist

These answers are half right!

Pessimist

These answers are half wrong!

Realist

Statistically speaking, my teaching has had no impact.

---

The Tech Friday, February 18, 2011
Serendipity

The Ecology Of The Løser

Sudoku
Solution, page 6

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

Techdoku
Solution, page 6

2− 2− 3+ 2− 2

2\times 120\times 30\times

288\times 15\times 1

10\times 1− 7+

8\times 30\times

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.

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.

File   Edit   Options   Buffers   Tools   Im-Python   Python   Help

import new_skills

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

if you.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
Zynga, the company behind many of the Web’s most viral games, is in advanced discussions on an investment that would value the company at nearly $10 billion and could pave the way for an initial public offering next year.

The company is in talks with the mutual fund giants T. Rowe Price and Fidelity Investments, among other investors, for a $250 million round of financing, said two people close to the discussions, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential. Zynga is also contemplating filing for an initial public offering as soon as the first quarter of 2012, these people said.

The investment negotiations and the lofty valuation they imply could further drive investors’ intense interest in social media companies, highlighted by last month’s deal between Facebook and Goldman Sachs.

It would also add to the debate over whether the enthusiasm for these fast-growing Internet companies points to an overheated market.

As part of its deal with Goldman, Facebook raised $1.5 billion in January, giving it a $50 billion valuation.

In the same month, the social buying site Groupon closed a $950 million financing round with investors like T. Rowe Price and Fidelity Investments. Groupon is now considering a public offering that could value the company at $15 billion or more, according to people close to the matter. LinkedIn, a professional social network, has also filed for an initial public offering.

Although the Zynga financing has not yet closed and may still fall apart, there has been significant investor interest, these people said.

The bulk of Zynga’s revenue, estimated to be more than $500 million, is tied to the virtual goods it sells on Facebook, analysts say. But Zynga has taken several steps in the past two years to become more independent. The company has signed partnerships with other social networks, like Yahoo, and it has expanded its reach on mobile devices, with applications for the iPhone and iPad.

In what could be its boldest move to date, Zynga is also preparing to start a stand-alone gaming destination that will allow users to play its games outside of Facebook, according to three people briefed on the matter. The project, known as Zynga Live, will also serve as a gaming social network and is expected to make its debut in the middle of this year.

“We’re always looking for ways to improve the user experience, but we don’t ever comment on what we may or may not be working on. We’re focused on building a new form of entertainment that’s connecting the world through games,” Zynga said in a statement.

Miguel A. Helft contributed reporting.
By Denise Grady

When talking to patients about a rare type of cancer linked to breast implants, plastic surgeons should call it “a condition” and avoid using the words cancer, tumor, disease or malignancy, the president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons advised members during an online seminar on Feb. 3.

The surgeons’ group said the drug agency should look into the possibility of an undercount in the breast of this type of lymphoma in women who do not have implants. But even that small number appears to be an excess of cases when compared with the usual incidence in the breast of this type of lymphoma in women who do not have implants: 3 in 100 million.

Though some evidence suggests that the lymphoma associated with implants might be less aggressive than the more common form of the disease, that evidence is not conclusive, said Dr. William Maisel ‘88, the chief scientist and deputy director for science in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health at the Food and Drug Administration.

The disease is exceedingly rare. At the time of the January announcement, the drug agency said it knew of only about 60 cases worldwide, a tiny number compared with the 5 million to 10 million women who have implants. But even that small number appears to be an excess of cases when compared with the usual incidence in the breast of this type of lymphoma in women who do not have implants: 3 in 100 million.

In some cases simply removing the implant and scar tissue appeared to eliminate the disease, he added. In others women were given chemotherapy or radiation, or both. The Food and Drug Administration issued a statement saying it was reviewing Public Citizen’s letter.

The agency has said that women with implants should pay attention to changes in their breasts and see a doctor if swelling, bumps, pain, asymmetry or other symptoms develop. The lymphoma can occur years after the implant surgery.

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Computer MusicMonitor

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Booster and entering at 21 Ames St.

Dec 19
Bldg. 2, 21:00 p.m., Laptop stolen. Officer takes report.

Dec 20
Bldg. 33, 3:30 p.m., Remote control stolen. Sector 3 officer takes report.

Dec 20
Bldg. W51 (Burtin-Connor House), 12:00 p.m., Individual harassed electronically. Report taken.

Dec 22
Bldg. W20 (Student Center), 10:00 p.m., Report of stolen laptop.

Dec 24
Bldg. W20 (Student Center), 7:30 p.m., Report of stolen bike.

Dec 28
Bldg. NW86 (Sidney Pacific), 6:00 p.m., Report of possible abuse of pet dog.

Dec 28
Bldg. 8, 7:45 a.m., Report of hacked e-mail. Sector 3 officer takes report.

Dec 29
Bldg. W35 (Z. Center), 9:00 a.m., Theft of cash from jackets. Sector 4 officer takes report.

Dec 29
Bldg. 32 (Stata Center), 12:30 p.m., Report of stolen received package.

Jan 1
Bldg. 18, 3:28 p.m., Report of iPod theft. Sector 3 officer takes report.

Jan 5
Bldg. 13, 5:02 p.m., Report of stolen laptop. Sector 3 officer takes report.

Jan 5
Bldg. 7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 4:30 p.m., Report of stolen leather jacket. East car officer takes report.

Jan 6
24 Lee St., 3:20 p.m., Aaron Swartz arrested for

CRITICISM EMERGES FROM DOWNPLAY OF BREAST IMPLANT RISK

By Denise Grady

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Hoops teams fall to Mt. Holyoke, Coast Guard

Men’s and women’s teams to close regular seasons in home doubleheader Saturday

By David Zhu
SPORTS EDITOR

Both the MIT Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams lost last weekend, as the men were upset by Coast Guard and the women could not hold on against Mount Holyoke.

The men’s team traveled to New London, Conn. on Saturday to take on the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The Engineers were looking to extend a four-game road winning streak, but could not do so against the Bears, losing 62-53.

Despite leading Coast Guard in shooting percentage — 42.9 percent to 38.9 percent — the Engineers turned the ball over 21 times. The women’s team hosted Mount Holyoke on Saturday, looking to snap a four-game losing streak. They got out to a quick start, scoring the first two baskets and stretching their lead to seven less than six minutes in. The Engineers then went on a 8-0 run to take their first lead of the night, 12-11. The teams then traded leads until the half, with the Engineers entering the break up by two, 30-28.

Coast Guard would not regain the lead until six minutes were left in the game, but took a 51-50 lead for good. The Engineers were held without a field goal for the final 8:16 of the game, during which they were outscored 15-4 and committed six turnovers. William Tashman ’13 led the Engineers with 16 points and was the only MIT player in double-digits. He also grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Engineers kept their momentum coming out of the break, outscoring Mount Holyoke 13-2 in the first seven minutes of the second half to extend their lead to 17 points, 33-16. They were unable to hold the lead, however, as the visitors responded with a 28-6 run in the last 12 minutes for a final score of 44-39.

Tamara R. Pena ’14 led MIT with 15 points, and Rachel A. Hunt ’14 contributed eight points and eight rebounds.

The teams will close their regular seasons at home on Saturday, Feb. 19, with the women facing Smith at 1 p.m., followed by the men taking on Springfield at 3 p.m. The seniors on both teams will be recognized on Saturday.

SPORTS SHORTS

Rifle falls to Coast Guard

In its final competition of the regular season, the MIT Rifle team traveled to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and suffered a pair of narrow setbacks in both the smallbore and air rifle portions of the meet. The Engineers finished just 25 points behind the hosts in smallbore, with a final score of 2114-2091, and were defeated 2194-2135 in air. Elizabeth A. Phillips’ ’13 led the way for Tech in both guns and had the second highest air rifle score in the meet. Phillips scored better than 90 on all six air rifle targets on her way to a total of 562, just four points behind the lead-

shooter on the day. Giulia R. Pan-
talone ’13 had a solid effort, posting a score of 527. Michael A. Batista ’12 (525) and Rebecca L. Gould ’11 (521) rounded out the air rifle scoring for the Cardinal and Gray.

In smallbore, Phillips (539) and Lionel F. Sotomayor ’12 (528) helped Tech account for two of the three highest scores. However, Coast Guard dis- played just a bit more depth with its remaining shooters to come away with the victory by a slim margin.

The Engineers will compete in the Mid Atlantic Rifle Conference Championship in two weeks. The champi-
onship will take place on Saturday, Feb. 26 and is hosted by the U.S. Naval Academy.

—Greg McKee, dAper Staff

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