Weekend incidents rattle Red Line riders

Passenger struck, killed at Central

By Ethan A. Solomon

Two violent incidents disrupted T service along the Red Line, which serves MIT, over the long weekend. A passenger was stabbed on a Cambridge-bound train on Monday, and on Sunday, a Red Line train struck and killed a man at the Central Square station.

The Boston Globe reported on Sunday that a man was killed by a Red Line train inside the Central Square station shortly before 5:25 p.m. Train service was halted for over two hours, during which time buses provided service between the Harvard and Park Street stations. The nature of the death had not been determined as of yesterday evening.

Yesterday, the Globe also reported that a male teenager was stabbed on a Red Line train bound for Cambridge. Police and emergency medical personnel responded to a stabbing report at Park Street station at about 5:15 p.m. A Boston police spokesman told the Globe that the victim was about 18 years old and that he was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital. His injuries are reportedly not life-threatening.

Last November, Omar Khalidi, a librarian at MIT, was killed when he was hit by a Red Line train at the Kendall Square station. Khalidi’s wife told The Times of India last year that Khalidi had been suffering from diabetes and that he “fainted and fell in front of the train. Khalidi was born and raised in Hyderabad, India. Also over the weekend, a Chicago Transit Authority Red Line train struck and killed a man in Chicago’s South Side, reported the Chicago Sun-Times. The man, 32-year-old Thhus Beal, reportedly was a sexual assault suspect who had announced he was going to commit suicide some time prior to jumping in front of the train.

IN SHORT

Classes are on a Monday schedule today! Classes resume normal schedule tomorrow.

Election packets for UA President, Vice President, and all Class Council positions are due this Saturday, Feb. 26, at 12 noon to the UA office, 20-311.

Politzer Prize-winning journalist and Boston University professor Isabel Wilkerson discusses her first book, The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration, today at 7 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium (32-123).

Applications to move to Maseeh Hall for Fall 2011 are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28. The application is binding, and is available at housing.mit.edu/maseeh_hall-application.

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

By Aparna Sud

The empty plinths in Lobby 7 are familiar to anyone who passes through the entrance to MIT’s campus on a regular basis. Originally designed to hold statues depicting the ancient Greek intellectuals Aristotle, Ictinus, Archimedes, and Callimachus, they are commonly adorned today with a rather unique piece of artwork: MIT students. The Lobby 7 Design Competition, which kicked off last May, aims to fill the empty spaces with more appropriate adornment. After reviewing the 60 student-submitted entries in December, the competition announced its twelve finalists two weeks ago. The competition has separate divisions for undergraduate and graduate student entries, and the finalists were evenly split between these divisions.

According to the competition’s website, the evaluating blind jury consists of four MIT faculty members, three local professional architects who are familiar with MIT’s campus, and a class of 1954 engineering alumnus. According to Mark M. Jarzombek PhD ’86, associate dean of the School of Architecture and Planning and director of the competition, there was a vast array of both individual and group entries. Some designs consisted of traditional statues, while others were interactive or included electrical machinery, and a few even had humorous appeal. All of the entries said something unique about MIT.

The twelve finalist teams and individuals have been given $400 to further develop their designs for the final round submissions. In early March, the teams will present their project design, model, video, or any combination of those three media to the panel of judges, which will choose three undergraduate and three graduate winners. First, second, and third prizes at each level will be awarded $10,000, $2,500, and $1,000, respectively.

According to Jennifer Y. Chuong G, a finalist, the competition is very generous and encourages students to feel free to push their limits. Although the jury acknowledges the limitations of constructing the winning design — it is possible that none of the student designs will ultimately be built — Chuong said that “Lobby 7 is a great space and it would be great to see something there, even temporarily, that is student-initiated.”

The concept of the Lobby 7 Design Competition surfaced two years ago, according to Jarzombek. In February of 2010, the students had to listen to a talk called “Something to Worry About” by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and commentator Joel Achenbach, who discussed his first book, The Tyranny of Other Sons: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration, today at 7 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium (32-123).

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MIT student assaulted in Boston

According to an MIT Police crime alert bulletin, two female MIT students were approached in Boston by an unknown male early Monday morning. The first student was assaulted at around 3:15 a.m. while walking down Beacon Street in Boston towards Massachusetts Avenue. The suspect pulled the hood of her jacket after she refused conversation. He attempted to pull her closer by grabbing her stomach, but she escaped to a taxi. The second victim was approached around 3:30 a.m. while sitting with two male companions. The suspect walked up to the group and asked her to come with him. Her companions told the man to leave. The suspect is described as a tall, black male, 20–23 years old, with a light-medium complexion, large eyes, a thin build and face, and short hair. The victims said he was wearing a red baseball hat, dark clothing, and a black windbreaker. He was also carrying a backpack.

To contact the MIT Police with tips regarding the incident, call 617-253-1212. TIPS). In emergencies, campus police can be reached at 617-253-1212.

—Pearle Lipinski
BP to pay $7.2 billion for stake in oil fields in India

MUMBAI, India — British oil giant BP said Monday that it would pay $7.2 billion to buy into India’s fast-growing oil and gas industry. It is BP’s second big deal in two months, as it seeks to return to New England market after the country. The information drip continued Monday with an event in Washington where BP chairman Tony Hayward was expected to address the need for a carbon tax.

The winds will be lighter this week. An area of low pressure, which brought heavy snow to the Midwest, will soon pass north of us today as high pressure begins to dominate the weather pattern. Under clear skies, sunny days and cold nights are in store through Thursday, with the low temperature dropping to 25° F (−4°C).

The cold temperatures of the winter season are back in full swing after an unusually warm period last week. Last Fri-
day evening, the warm weather so-called "false spring" er came to an abrupt end as some snow fell. The south will see increasing demand in India as the country’s economy grows at nearly 9 percent a year. Last month, she signed an agreement with Russia’s Rosneft to drill in the Arctic. That deal, worth $7.8 billion, was the first between the two countries’ national governments to be signed.

BP will take a 30 percent stake in 23 oil and gas fields op-
erated by Reliance Industries, India’s largest private company. Reliance would receive an additional $1.8 billion if the compa-
y is not sold within two years. The companies also said they would create a 50-50 joint venture to develop market natural gas. BP will own 50 percent and Reliance 50 percent of the venture.

The move seemed intended to increase the discomfort of the Dem-
cratic state’s unions here, the top Republican in the State Senate an-
ounced that the body would reconvene consideration of other

BP said that at least two models, not just one, would be
unveiled in 2013: a four-seat, battery-powered vehicle intended for urban areas and known as the i3; and a hybrid sports car, the i8, that the company promised would be able to reach 62 miles per hour in 4 seconds or 60 miles an hour in five seconds, while burning no more fuel than a compact. BMW also said that at least two models, not just one, would be

In Wisconsin, back to work in the Senate — minus a party

The Tech Tuesday, February 22, 2011

The police stood by and watched, the witness said, as the militants, still shooting, chased after the protesters. As the conflict spread to Tripoli, Gadafis’s forces on the ground appeared to be weakening, too, as key advisers and diplomats broke with his government and Lib-
yas second-largest city remained under control of the protesters. Gadafis’s whereabouts were not known. But the heaviness of security forces in the capital late Monday was a clear signal of his determination to hold on to the city. Resi-
dents said planes had been landing for 10 days ferrying mercenar-
ies from African countries into an airbase in Tripoli. They had done much of the shooting, which began Sunday night, they said. Some for-
ces were using particularly lethal, hollow-point bullets, they said.

“The shooting is not designed to disperse the protesters,” said one resident, who wanted to be identi-
fied only as Waled, fearing for his security. “It is meant to kill them.”

“This is not Ben Ali or Mubarak,” he added, referring to the deposed leaders of Tunisia and Egypt — Zine El

Each party maintained an unwill-
ingness to reach a compromise. Other

to resolution than when it began. Each party maintained an unwill-
ingness to reach a compromise. Other

too far away to see the end of the standoff that has captured the na-
tional attention but seems no closer

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TheTech
By Sharon Otterman

CAIRO — The military and civilian leadership controlling Egypt in the wake of a popular revolution took several symbolic steps Monday to reassure Egyptians that it shared their fervor for change and to signal to foreign leaders that the move to a fully civilian government was under way.

The next big project initiative was a $1.3 billion, 10-year plan to expand a network of five million gas and electricity meters, with 5,000 households in five South Korean cities wired. Each customer pays about 30,000 won a month, or less than $27.

"South Korean homes now have greater Internet access than we do," President Barack Obama said in his State of the Union address last week. "Obama administration" officials will be spending on this project.

"In 2005, the US government approved then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's plan to launch a project to connect millions of dollars belonging to state-sponsored beatings of thousands of people are going to realize, 'I'm paying for this!'" Muchadehama said.

"This is a message that, if you attempt anything, we're going to come after you, incarcerate you, lay false charges against you, deny you bail, and occupy you with false trials," Muchadehama said.

The experiment wasn't focused on hair loss. Instead, it was designed to find out how chemical compounds that block the effects of stress could prevent or slow the growth of tumors.

"Turkey is an attractive, growing market for Diageo," Paul Walsh, Diageo's chief executive, said in a statement. The acquisition will allow Diageo to expand Diageo's global reach.

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For South Korea, blazing internet speed isn’t fast enough

SEUL, South Korea — South Korea already claims the world’s fastest Internet connection — but that’s largely by far — that is hardly good enough for the government.

"With the acquisition Cobalt, Blockbuster will open new opportunities. Blockbuster has also reserved the right under certain circumstances to convert Blockbuster’s bankruptcy case into a Chapter 7 liquidation," said Mey Icki, which was acquired by TPG Capital in 2006 for about $290 million as a way to jump-start an auction process that could yield a higher bid.

The offer by the hedge funds — a group composed of Monarch Management and Vaerde Partners — is what is known in bankruptcy law as a stalking horse, which sets a base price for the assets in the bankruptcy auction.

"They are going to cut billions of dollars worth of promotions and advertising, which might also mean the costs for people they watched videos as ‘a way of motivating voters to hold on to their constitu- tionally elected government.’"

The evidence seized by the police included a video projector, two DVD discs and a laptop. Lawyers for the four women and men said they had not yet been formally charged but had been advised that they might be accused of "attempts of overthrowing the government by unconstitutional means or acts dangerous by up to 20 years in prison," Mugabe, who turned 87 on Monday, and his party rallies Zimbabwe's single-handedly from 1980 until 2008, parliamentarians spearheaded a mission to talk to the country’s dictators about solving seemingly intractable problems, taming unions and cutting a deficit without raising taxes — earned him a hero's welcome.

For decades, Chris Christie has captivated the country with stories about tackling the really big problems that few have seen from a chief executive.

"When you cut billions of dollars from local government, you can’t cut everything. Or, do you want the mayor’s ‘liberal fault’ — you’re the one who did it?” said Mayor Bloomberg.

"The illegal meeting’s agenda, according to Mugabe’s party has intensified harassment, beatings and arrests of activists and demonstrators. The revolts in north Africa appear to have made Mugabe’s circle more nervous — and the arrests were a sharp warning to those emboldened by them, they said."

"This is a moment that, if you attempt anything, we’re going to come after you, incarcerate you, lay false charges against you, deny you bail, and occupy you with false trials," Muchadehama said.

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"How come these mice aren’t distinguishable from the others?” he said. "We went back to our data log, and we realized all the mice had grown hair. It was a totally unexpected finding.”

The serendipitous discovery was reported Wednesday in the online medical journal PLoS One.

By Richard Perez-Pena and David M. Halberstam

In a year as governor of New Jer- sey, Chris Christie has captivated conservatives with his combination of brashness and nonstop aggressiveness. But he has seen an uphill battle in trying to turn around the state’s financial problems.

In remarks to reporters, Cam- pign said he wanted to underscore that the Egyptian uprising was "not about extravagant streets on the".

"But while it is clear that Christie, who governed New Jersey’s famously strong economic recovery, tamed unions and cut a deficit without raising taxes — earned him a hero's welcome.

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discussion on hazing misses the point

It disturbs me that most in the MIT community have missed the point when it comes to hazing.

Moreover, this current discussion has been frustrating to follow in large part due to the fact that it has veered off topic—on irrelevant arguments, and the true problem goes unanswered.

This discussion boils down to the following structure:

A) A rights law defines “hazing” as applying to a set of actions (call this set S) that follow a set of criteria that C are all necessary to define hazing.

B) By deciding whether or not the actions performed by a group can be labeled as “hazing” and thus punishable, we must analyze what activities do or do not fit the criteria C (by [insert group here]) follow the criteria C.

For example, the action set S isn’t hazing actions because they weren’t causing harm, or the participation was voluntary, or the definition of hazing is flimsy.

But I call shenanigans on this mode of thought, for it sidesteps the root problems.

First, the MIT community, as well as the Greek sub-community, has its own set of standards that should be considered higher than those set down in Massachusetts law. As a member of the Greek community when hazing occurred last fall, I find it odd and disapproving that any group would base its ethical standards simply on what is in the laws that govern our Massachusetts communities.

This has always been the case when it comes to academic honesty policies and social policies should be no different.

Second, one cannot define something into existence; to define, it requires some mechanism that says to underline that one definition hazing occurs. How do you define another definition of hazing did not.

The term “hazing” is just an arbitrary signifier on some set of actions, with the assumption that this is the “true” definition in some fruitless task.

What the community needs is a discussion on the real question: whether or not some set of actions S (i.e. those we know PRE performed) should be allowed and tolerable. 1) The MIT community and/or 2) The Greek community, both of which should strive to maintain strong ethical standards (especially the Greek community, which markets itself as such). The IFC should have to act in this context in its judgment, but this topic should be in the minds of all students and not just limited to the Greek communities.

In this manner, we displace the question that has been the focus has been on irrelevant arguments, and the true problem goes unanswered.

Author: Byline: Michael Hemond G, Charles Lin
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The rise in income inequality has been largely matched by a rise in the inequality of hours worked.

much higher than his fellow American — indeed, demographically, it is poor whites who are at the top of the life expectancy chart (second only to Asians). Technol- ogy and economic growth have brought most significant technologies within buy- ing reach of the masses; the real mean income of the bottom quintile may have only increased by 28.6 percent to the top quintile’s 70.7 over the past 42 years, but the utility that the bottom quintile got from each marginal dollar was much higher. And at issue is not just the fact that rising income has pushed us all further along the curve of diminishing marginal returns, but the inequality of consumption is also much larger. Circumvention technologies — with increasing wealth comes an increasing tendency to give away (either charity, or the government) a higher fraction of earned income. Not only that, but the rich have also faced much higher inflation relative to the poor. Between Wal-Mart and globalized production, low-end consumer goods have become cheaper at a much faster rate of production, low-end consumer goods.

Don’t buy the inequality hype; the American system remains a fair one, and is deserving of continuation.

Finally, it is unclear whether there are undeniable structural causes for the rise in income of those households that are responsible for most of the increase in income inequality, the top 1 percent of earners. We live in a more global, more connected economy. The creation of new intellectual property, whether it is a book, or a movie, or a piece of software, is more valu- able than it was in earlier times because the number of people who can enjoy it has in- creased. Rashard Lewis, a 31-year-old small forward for the Washington Wizards, has a salary of $11.7 million per year, more than three times (adjusted for inflation) than what Bill Gates or Michael Jordan made at the same age. Is Rashard Lewis a better player, or has the productivity of basketball as an entertainment industry increased due to network effects? Are financial execu- tives earning their extra millions by directing a greater portion of their day to rent seek- ing, or are their rising incomes the result of making decisions that price the activity of a larger absolute market? Is K. K. Rowling a better of an author than Charles Dickens, or is she merely the recipient of a windfall that the information economy has provided? And should we cap the horizon of wealth of money that the M. S. Rowlings of the world earn through their creations even when, by any calculation, the value of those creations are higher today than they were in the past? Inequality alarms suggest proposing the incentives structure that allows the free market to operate, through misappropriation of the labor supply, or taxes that grossly violate the benefits-received principle, or começments, undermining social and per- sonal welfare. They are using statistics whose real story — a tale of demographic and technologic convergence — is far more complex than the obvious (but wrong) inference from those statistics to justify a policy of income redistribution and market meddling. They are motivated not out of concern for the poor, but with the statistics themselves, but by their ideologically preferred and parti- sanal goals.

Don’t buy the inequality hype; the American system remains a fair one, and is deserving of continuation.
Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS
1 Strasbourg’s region
7 City in Transylvania
11 Gov’t. med. grp.
14 Supplies with new weapons
15 Fixed charge
16 Greek Aurora
17 Ancient
20 Actor Estrada
21 Dary Queen offering
22 Anna of “Nana”
25 Chapel Hill inst.
28 Hubbubs
29 Candy bar, formally
34 Defoe character
35 Some signals
36 Rene’s friend
37 Star Wars letters
38 Old Turkish title
39 Size above med.
40 20% of CCLXV
41 Ms. Rowlands
42 Exxon, once
43 Hooked by a horn
44 Mirror image?
46 Layered pavement
47 Oracle of Delphi region
48 Wife of Paris
49 Core groups
50 Cries of disgust
51 Crescent end
52 __ Kringle
53 __ Paulo, Brazil
54 Waiting to bat
55 Get wind of
56 __ di-dah
57 Grass skirt
58 __ Girls
59 Some signals
60 Wales
61 Alternatives
62 Dog days no.
63 Soviet mil. intelligence
14 __, Luigi!
15 __, Israel
16 __, Israel
17 __, Israel
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DOWN
1 Parseghian of football
2 “__ Girls”
3 “__, Brazil”
4 Dahl and Francis
5 USN rank
6 Actor Morales
7 Component of some TVs
8 “__ di-dah”
9 Shoshones
10 King of Israel (842-815 B.C.)
11 Kept back
12 Dancer Petit
13 Evaluate
18 Predatory shorebird
19 Kashmir river
22 Pet protection grp.
23 Period in office
24 Sewing case
26 Chix
27 Book of “The Alexandria Quartet”
30 Ali of the ‘50s Indians
31 Pitcher Martinez
32 Actress Follows
33 Pictures of illusion
35 “__, la Douce”
36 20% of CCLXV
37 Ms. Rowlands
38 Exxon, once
39 Hooked by a horn
40 Mirror image?
41 Layered pavement
42 Oracle of Delphi region
43 Wife of Paris
44 Core groups
45 Cries of disgust
46 Crescent end
47 __, Israel
48 __, Israel
49 __, Israel
50 __, Israel
51 __, Israel
52 __, Israel
53 __, Israel
54 __, Israel
55 __, Israel
56 __, Israel
57 __, Israel
58 __, Israel
59 __, Israel
60 __, Israel
61 __, Israel
62 __, Israel
63 __, Israel
64 Very wide shoe
65 Letters on Cardinal caps
Somewhere on the Search for Meaning… by Letitia Li

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.

Sudoku
Solution, page 11

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

Techdoku
Solution, page 11

We’re awarding $150,000 to innovative technologies that tackle an underserved need.

IDEAS Competition & the MIT Global Challenge

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GENERATOR DINNER

Wed., Feb. 23
7:30 PM
Sala de Puerto Rico, W20
RSVP globalchallenge@mit.edu
http://globalchallenge.mit.edu

Presented by

Wanna make columns?
Not an architect?
Join Campus Life at The Tech!
join@tech.mit.edu

File Edit Options Buffers Tools Im-Python Python Help
from new_skills import *
def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP
if self.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
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Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Leaders in Science and Engineering: The Women of MIT
Monday–Tuesday, March 28–29, 2011

Computation and the Transformation of Practically Everything
Monday–Tuesday, April 11–12, 2011

Earth, Air, Ocean and Space: The Future of Exploration
Tuesday–Wednesday, April 26–27, 2011

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Tuesday–Thursday, May 3–5, 2011

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NERDY WITH A CHANCE OF RANDOM

Infinite congestion

Five ways to quickly navigate the hallways of MIT

By Amanda Aparicio

Ever been impatiently inching along the Infinite in a hurry to be on time but found yourself trapped among the masses of people cluttering the hallway, slowly waddling along like molasses in a cold winter’s day? It can be frustrating, to say the least. Here are a few suggestions to successfully avoid the heavy traffic of MIT’s passageways.

Method 1: Book, Beep!

I’m not sure how the rest of the MIT community feels, but when I’m weaving in and out of the masses of students, tourists, and professors going down the hallway, I always imagine that I’m driving on a congested highway at rush hour. As a result, I feel as though the Rules of the Road should also apply to the Rules of the Hallways — if there is a Sunday driver, pass them; if there is an intersection, the person on the right goes first; if a driver is on the wrong side of the road, then they deserve to be run over. And in these illegal situations, an imaginary Beep, Beep, Beep and hope that people think I’m crazy enough to come out of the way. Perhaps MIT (or hackers) should paint road markings down the hallway. This method will help the speed of MIT (or hackers) should paint road markings enough to move out of the way. Perhaps MIT’s passageways. Gestions to successfully avoid the heavy traffic of MIT’s passageways. Beep, Beep, Beep, then they deserve to be run over; If someone provides a “shiny” object for someone to help publish their work down the hallway, the point is crystal clear: If someone provides a “shiny” object for people to gawk at, the masses will flock to it — similar to how frosting would bombard a reservoir of free electrons. Simply make a distraction to divert people down a hallway that is not the one desired for transportation, and you’ll be home free. Remember, creativity and effectiveness are linearly related.

Method 2: Shiny Objects

“Free energy drinks down that hallway” or “a purple hippopoptamus with fairy wings is down that hallway” or, for physics majors, “someone found a magnetic monopole, and they’re looking for someone to help publish their work down that hallway!” The point is crystal clear. If someone provides a “shiny” object for people to gawk at, the masses will flock to it — similar to how frosting would bombard a reservoir of free electrons. Simply make a distraction to divert people down a hallway that is not the one desired for transportation, and you’ll be home free. Remember, creativity and effectiveness are linearly related.

Method 3: I have Ebola!

Cough, cough. Black, black, sniffle. I don’t feel too well. Oh, dear! I hope I don’t infect anyone else with my highly communicable and life-threatening disease. What a travesty that would be! I’m pretty sure if someone were to act as if some illness held them within its abhorrent clutches by hacking up a lung, I would move. Better yet, pretend that lunch is attempting to make another appearance — but in a more digested manner. Or, just loudly proclaim that you have contracted Ebola, and that anyone who is within a two foot radius will be dead in a week’s time. That should suffice — people will move or suffer the consequences.

Method 4: Segway + Hallway = Lots of Fun

Let’s say that Method 1 no longer suffices. You can’t just pretend to be driving anymore. You have to make it a reality. Enter Segway — a k a. awesomeness. If people don’t kindly move their caboose out of the way when you shriek “Stop, Beep, Beep!” then you can just kindly run them over. You’re on a Segway, for crying out loud. A force field with a three foot radius will be formed around you as soon as you step behind the handles. You have become un-stoppable. All of us lame walkers will just stop and stare in jealousy. Kudos to you, Segway owner. Kudos.

Method 5: Go Below

If you don’t want to do anything fancy and just make it from Point A to Point B, just use the tunnels. MIT has passageways called tunnels! Yeah, we do! They run right under the Infinite and are void of heavy pedestrian traffic. That sounds perfect! They’re very convenient and hardly anyone uses them. You could probably sprint your next class and not worry about bumping into another carbon-based life form (pertaining to sulfur-based beings, I provide no guarantees on the frequency of those encounters). So, the next time you encounter a glob of people in the hallway who won’t move, just use one of these techniques. Don’t rip out your hair or subjugate yourself to those encounters. Don’t rip out your hair or subjugate yourself to those encounters. I’m pretty sure if someone were to act as if some illness held them within its abhorrent clutches by hacking up a lung, I would move. Better yet, pretend that lunch is attempting to make another appearance — but in a more digested manner. Or, just loudly proclaim that you have contracted Ebola, and that anyone who is within a two foot radius will be dead in a week’s time. That should suffice — people will move or suffer the consequences.

Events:

**EVENTS FEB. 22 – FEB. 28**

**TUESDAY**

(11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Celebrate National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day with special events and group exercise classes — Zenger Center

(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Networking dinner for students involved in public service hosted by the MIT Public Service Center and Office of the Dean for Graduate Education — W11-100

**WEDNESDAY**

(10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Diversity Career Fair — Lobby 13

(7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.) IDEAS and MIT Global Challenge: Spring Generator Dinner — W20, La Sala de Puerto Rico

**THURSDAY**

(5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Online News: Public Sphere or Echo Chamber? A presentation by Joshua Benton and Pablo Bockiovski — 3-270

(6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) MIT Transportation Showcase — MIT Museum

**FRIDAY**

(1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) Drumming with Griots: Sabar drumming workshop (beginner level) — NE2-195

(7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows The Social Network — 26-100

**SATURDAY**

(11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) Mujeres Latinas 2nd Annual Conference — W20 Twenty Chimneys

(9:15 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.) Ijevs on Ice — W35

**SUNDAY**

(12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Kita Alef — Hebrew for real beginners — B-113

(2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) American Rumba and East Coast Swing Workshops — W20, La Sala de Puerto Rico

**MONDAY**

(all day) FSILG&D Community Service Challenge Kick Off — 4-104

(7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) Collision 2 Lecture Series: Guillermo Faivovich & Nicolas Goldberg — E15-070, Bartos Theater

Send your campus events to events@tech.mit.edu

By Meng Heng Touch

**Institute Double Take**

An evening view of the west side of campus was taken during a cloudy day in the spring. The astroturf field and the tennis bubble are at the center of the image. On the left stands the MacGregor House tower. To the right of the bubble is Tang Hall and Westgate Apartments. The mixture of blue and orange in the sky creates a striking effect, rendering the MIT skyline exceptionally beautiful.

**UPDATE**

Diana L. Covens ’11, a physics major, was third runner-up in Sun-day’s Miss Boston page-ant at the Omni Parker House. She won a $250 John Roberts Powers Modelling Scholarship. Miss Boston was her second time competing in a pageant. Check out last Friday’s issue for a Q&A with Diana.

Do you like looking for funny typos? Do you have a knack for finding mistakes? The Tech is looking for copy editors!

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Learning to Change the World
Koch brothers’ money fuels Wisconsin union fight

By Eric Lipton

WASHINGTON — Among the thousands of demonstrators who jammed the Wisconsin State Capitol grounds this weekend was a well-financed advocate from Washington who was there to voice praise for cut ting state spending by slashing union benefits and bargaining rights.

The visitor, Tim Phillips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, told counterprotesters in what was otherwise a largely union crowd that the cuts were not only necessary but also represented the start of a much-needed nationwide move to slash public-sector union benefits.

“We are going to bring fiscal sanity to Wisconsin,” Phillips said Monday.

What Phillips did not mention was that his Virginia-based nonprofit group, whose budget surged to $40 million in 2010 from $7 million three years ago, was created and financed in part by the secretive billionaire brothers Charles G. Koch ’57 and David H. Koch ’62.

State records also show that Koch Industries, their energy and consumer products conglomerate based in Wichita, Kan., was one of the largest contributors to the campaign of Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, a Republican who has championed the proposed cuts.

“The Koch brothers are the poster children of Americans for Prosperity,” said Fred Ueber, chief executive of the Supernova Products Corp. in Milwaukee, who serves on Americans for Prosperity’s Wisconsin state advisory board. “Obviously, Washington is interested in this. But it is up to us to do.”

Political action is high on the list of priorities for Charles Koch, who in a letter in September to other business leaders and conservatives explained that he saw no other choice.

“Facts tell us, if not now, when? said the letter, which advised other conservatives to a retreat in January in Rancho Mirage, Calif. “It is up to us to combat what is now the greatest assault on American freedom and prosperity in our lifetimes.”

Campaign finance records in Washington show that donations by Koch Industries and its employees climbed to a total of $2 million in the last election cycle, twice as much as a decade ago, with 92 percent of that money going to Republicans. Donations in state government races — like in Wisconsin — have also surged in recent years, records show.

But the most aggressive expansion of the Koch brothers’ effort to influence public policy has come through the Americans for Prosperity, which runs both a charitable foundation and a grassroots-activists group. Phillips serves as president of both branches, and David Koch is chairman of the Americans for Prosperity Foundation.

The grassroots-activists wing of the organization has chapters in 32 states, including Wisconsin, and an e-mail list of 1.6 million supporters, said Mary Ellen Burke, a spokeswoman.

She would not say how much of last year’s $40 million budget came from the Koch family, but nationwide donations have come in from 70,000 members, she said, offering it as proof that it has wide support.

The organization has taken up a range of topics, including combating the health care law, environmental regulations and spending by state and federal governments. The effort to impose limits on public labor unions has been a particular focus in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all states with Republican governors, Phillips said, adding that he expects new proposals to emerge soon in some of those states to limit union power.

To Bob Edgar, a former House Democrat who is now president of Common Cause, a liberal group that has been critical of what it sees as the rising influence of corporate interests in U.S. politics, the Koch brothers are using their money to create a facade of grassroots support for their favorite causes.

“This is a dangerous moment in American history,” Edgar said. “It is not that these folks don’t have a right to participate in politics. But they are moving democracy into the control of more wealthy corporate hands.”

But Phillips and members of his group and other conservative activists, not surprisingly, see it very differently. Just like unions organize to fight for their priorities, conservatives are entitled to a voice of their own.

“This is a watershed moment in Wisconsin,” Phillips said. “For the last two decades, government unions have used their power to drive pensions and benefits and salaries well beyond anything that can be sustained. We are just trying to change that.”

Steven Greenhouse contributed reporting from Madison, Wis.
Lobby 7 competition focuses on ‘mens et manus’

who said that two alumni, Harvey I. Steinberg ’54 and Joseph P. Blake ’54, approached him with the idea for the competition after reading his book Designing MIT: Bauschulte’s New Tech, which discusses the history of the plinths. With MIT’s 150th anniversary coming up in April, the alumni felt that now was the perfect opportunity for students to represent the Institute in a manner outside of their specialized interests. “The purpose was to see what kinds of ideas today’s students would have regarding what could or should be placed on the plinths,” said Blake.

Open to all MIT students and sponsored by the Class of 1954, the design competition is less an exercise in functional design than one in conceptual design, there is no guarantee that one of the winning designs will be built, as that final decision is made by the President’s office. The intent of the competition is not to produce a functional space-filler, but rather to elicit thought and innovation from students. Jarzombek said that not all of the final entries could be functionally implemented, but they were selected since they represent the essence of MIT.

The only “rule” of the competition is to submit a design in the spirit of MIT’s official creed: mens et manus.

The winning entries will be displayed at the Elliot K. Wolk Gallery in Building 7 from April 15 to May 15 in an exhibition hosted by the MIT Museum. The final winners, in both the graduate and undergraduate groups, will be formally announced on April 15 at a ceremony that will be part of the MIT 150 celebration.

The Lobby 7 plinths were designed for statues of Greek intellectuals, but 12 finalists have designed their own, uniquely MIT adornments.

Fresh from Cairo, Iason Athanasiadis will share about his time inside Tahrir Square when the Mubarak loyalists attacked and how it turned the entire momentum from one of violent repression to one of negotiations and concessions.
The Grand Junction Railroad may become a commuter rail link between Boston’s North Station and Worcester. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has purchased the rights to the rail line, which runs past Simmons Hall and over Massachusetts Avenue, and is investigating the possibility of upgrading the tracks for commuter rail use. If realized, a commuter rail line along Grand Junction could mean that as many as 28 trains per day will travel the tracks, a marked increase over the light freight use it experiences today. The Cambridge City Council has come out against commuter rail, citing a potential impact on already-congested Cambridge streets, noise pollution, and the lack of any apparent benefits of commuter rail for Cambridge communities. MassDOT says that linking Worcester and North Station will strengthen the regional economy. The tracks run directly under Building 46, MIT’s Brain and Cognitive Sciences complex.

Grand Junction changes on the horizon
Google trying to avoid antitrust fight in Europe

By James Kanter
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS — At the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the hottest ticket in recent years has invariably been an invitation to Google’s lavish private party, and 2011 was no exception.

Eric E. Schmidt, soon to leave the post of chief executive, was avidly working the crowd amid free-flowing liquor and pulsating dance music.

But in recent months, Google has been attracting a different kind of attention. As its ambitions have grown, stretching into businesses far beyond Internet search and advertising by the click, so has the scrutiny of antitrust agencies on both sides of the Atlantic.

So Google extended an even more exclusive invitation to another Davos attendee, Joaquin Almunia, the EU antitrust chief, asking him to meet face-to-face with Schmidt.

On the agenda: the investigation Almunia’s team had just begun into allegations from European companies that Google had abused its dominance in online search — by giving preferential placement to its own services and unfavorable treatment to those of competitors. At the meeting, Schmidt asked Almunia to complete the inquiry as quickly as possible. And if the investigation turned up problems, Schmidt requested that Google be given a chance to offer solutions without incurring penalties, according to people with direct knowledge of their conversation.

Almunia told Schmidt he would try to do so, according to these people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of antitrust investigations.

Despite Google’s market dominance in online search — by far beyond Internet search and music.

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The specifics of antitrust cases are typically kept private by regulators and the companies being investigated, but, unusually, Google chose in February 2011 to publicize which companies had filed complaints. They were Foundem; Ciao, a German legal advice site; and Ejustice.fr, a French legal advice site.

The commission’s case team had investigated, but, unusually, Google disclosed its responses to the European Commission.

A Google spokesman, Al Verney, said recently that “there’s always going to be room for improvement” and that Google would “continue to work closely with” European regulators to address any concerns.

But antitrust investigations in the United States are piling up, including a Texas inquiry involving Google’s search dominance and federal scrutiny of Google’s proposed acquisition of ITA Software, a flight information company. And with complaints growing louder on issues like privacy, the last thing Google wants is to get bogged down in a lengthy antitrust battle in Brussels.

The case could also be costly for Google, and not just in tarnishing its “Don’t be evil” motto. If found in violation of European law, Google could be fined as much as 10 percent of its annual worldwide revenue, which topped $29 billion last year. It could also be required to adjust its business model as part of a remedy.

Google has some reason to be hopeful.

Almunia is portrayed by those who know him as more of a consensus-seeker than his immediate predecessor, who imposed huge fines on Microsoft and, in a separate case, the chip giant Intel, a ruling Intel is still appealing. And the commission was wary of rushing into another high-stakes battle with another U.S. corporate powerhouse.

But its members could not ignore the clamoring — from struggling startups, major newspaper publishers and telecom companies, among others — for them to look into Google’s ever-expanding operations.

On Nov. 30, Almunia’s office issued a news release saying it had opened a formal investigation of the company. Despite Google’s market share in Internet searches of more than 90 percent in parts of Europe, the evidence in hand was limited.

The commission’s case team had formal complaints from only three companies, and each was a minor player in the technology world.

In addition, the commission’s old antagonist, Microsoft, was among those pushing hardest for an investigation; two of the three complainants had ties — one directly, the other indirectly — to the company.

Yet during the course of 2010, the case team received signals that if a formal investigation were started and official questionnaires sent industry-wide, they would get plenty more evidence.

During the preliminary inquiries, Google’s own actions were perceived in Brussels as naïve, according to one senior EU official with direct knowledge of the investigation. There were also apparent inconsistencies between Google’s public and private statements regarding practices like “whitelisting,” or adjusting the results of Google’s algorithms to favor certain sites in search results.

That issue has relevance in the United States as well. In an antitrust investigation that strikes at the heart of Google’s search business, investigators in Texas are seeking evidence about the “manual overriding or altering of” search result rankings. That inquiry involves at least one of the websites in the European investigation, a British price-comparison service called Foundem.

The specifics of antitrust cases are typically kept private by regulators and the companies being investigated, but, unusually, Google chose in February 2011 to publicize which companies had filed complaints. They were Foundem; Ciao, another price-comparison site in Germany; and Ejustice.fr, a French legal advice site.

Google highlighted the fact that Ciao was owned by Microsoft and another price-comparison site in Germany; and EJustice.fr, a French legal advice site.

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that Foundem had ties to a Micro-
soft-financed lobbying group in
Brussels.

The company’s decision, how-
ever, was seen as “defensive and
naive,” said one senior commission
official, who spoke on condition of
anonymity.

Officials also saw Google’s early
responses as inadequate in ad-
dressing their central concern:
whether Google had shut out com-
petition. The filings in the case,
which were made available to
The New York Times, showed that
Google frequently dwelt on what it
saw as its prerogative to preserve
the quality of its own service for
consumers.

“Suggesting that Google is un-
der an obligation to show search
results of other search services is
like suggesting that Mercedes is
under an obligation to put Fiat mo-
tors in its cars,” the company’s law-
yers wrote to the commission in a
confidential response on May 3.

That was in response to charges
by Ejustice.fr that Google had re-
moved most of its pages from an
online index. As a result, Ejustice
said, clicks on its site dropped so
sharply that it was effectively invis-
ible on the Web.

Google said in its response that
Ejustice.it was violating guidelines
set by Google about how to make the
website findable in Google’s search
engine. Google said that violation
could result in users never finding a
Web page with the answer to their
question, just more pages of search
results.

Google also said Ejustice.it cre-
ated pages with thousands of hy-
perlinks consisting only of search
keywords, many with little or noth-
ing to do with the content. “This is typi-

cal behavior of sites that seek artifi-
cially to increase search result
ranking without offering authentic
counsel,” Google lawyers wrote.

At the same time, Google ac-

nowledged that it had probably also
removed some potentially useful
Ejustice.it legal search terms.

A complaint by Adam and
Shivian Raff, the husband-and-
wife team behind Foundem, was piv-
tal.

Foundem was a highly regarded
price-comparison site in Britain.
But for some time, the Raffs said,
their site had become virtually in-
visible on Google’s search results,
and in July 2009, the couple head-
visible on the Web.

They contended that their site
had been penalized by Google, start-
ing in June 2006, even though
its ranking remained competitive
on other search engines like Bing
and Yahoo.

They said that Google had then
made it prohibitively expensive for
them to make their site easier to
find in a different way — through paid
advertising that appears next to
Google’s search results. And they
made a third charge: that Google’s
algorithms had the effect of favoring
Google’s own price-
comparisons, originally called
Froogle and since renamed Google
Product Search.

Finally, the Raffs submit-
ted a formal complaint, backed
by written material that seemed at
odds with some of Google’s public
statements.

For example, Julia Holtz,
Google’s chief lawyer in Europe,
told reporters in February 2010
that “we don’t whiten or black-
list” other websites.

Yet the company apparently
has used whitelisting, at least in cer-
tain areas. One message to the
Raffs from Google in September
2007, which focused on returning
Foundem’s paid advertising rates
to normal, was labeled “Update on
Whitelisting.” Two weeks later,
Google informed Foundem that it had
successfully “facilitated a change” and
remedied the problem.

But Foundem was still not satis-
ished with its search ranking, and the
Raffs persisted.

By autumn 2009, Matt Cutts,
the head of Google’s webspam
team, which works on search qual-
ity, had begun a detailed dialogue
with Foundem. Cutts assured
Shivian Raff in an e-mail dated
Nov. 20, 2009, to do more to clean
up garble on the site, and that “we
should see some positive changes to
Foundem’s relative ranking.”

Cutts insisted that there was “no
manual penalty affecting the rank-
ing of Foundem pages.”

In its May 3 filing, Google said it
had given Foundem “the benefit of
the doubt and removed the demo-

cator” after Foundem had fixed “the
most egregious quality deficien-
cies.”

Foundem has produced color
diagrams it says proves that Google
favors its own services.

Foundem, however, charges
that Google’s remedy took too long
— three and a half years — and
that the process was too difficult.

Foundem also charges that
Google used its search algorithms
to favor its own services, and it has pro-
duced color diagrams it says proves
that point. Google did not respond to
doubts seeking specific com-
ment on Foundem’s allegations.

Google, however, is accustomed
to dealing with complaints about
search placement. Last November,
Google wrote on its European Public
Policy Blog that its goal was
to serve users with “the best, most
relevant” information, adding that
"not every Web site can come out on
top, or even appear on the first
page of our results, so there will
almost always be Web site owners
who are unhappy about their rank-

gs.”

A few days before the com-

mission formally opened its case,
Almunia telephoned David C.
Drummond, Google’s chief lawyer,
to alert him of the investigation.
Drummond expressed his disap-


The program generates actionable insights to drive business sustainability. The focus on technology convergence driving exponential change is light years ahead of traditional single trend analysis.”

Next Executive Program: April 1-8, 2011

singularityu.org
Williams women sneak Track win
MIT women rival Williams for Indoor trophy
By Laura Stilwell

MIT Women’s Track and Field once again demonstrated their characteristic competitiveness and tenacity as they competed in the New England Division III Indoor Championships held here at MIT over the weekend. Although rival Williams College was favored to win the event, the Engineers refused to allow Williams to simply walk into their house and take the title without an impressively fought race.

While there were over 20 teams racing on the Shobrys and Aonson Track this weekend, the competition quickly turned into a dual meet between MIT and Williams, and remained so until the very end. Going into the last two events — the 4x400-meter relay and the 4x800 relay — MIT trailed Williams by 9 points. With relentless determination, the women mixed up the relay entries in an effort to maximize their chances of scoring crucial points. Kirsten H. Aarsvold ’11 and Megan E. Bumgarner ’14 were called upon to race in the 4x400 relay, while Hazel L. Briner ’11 and Jamie L. Simmons ’12 were placed in the 4x800 relay. Along with Porcia M. Jones ’12 and Martha M. Gross ’12, Aarsvold and Bumgarner helped the 4x400 relay team take second place, putting them within 6 points of Williams. The 4x800 relay, consisting of Briner, Simmons, Olivia J. Papa ’14, and Louise E. van den Heuvel ’14, ran an impressive time of 9 minutes, 33.42 seconds, scoring second place and beating the Williams squad. However, the Engineers’ inspiring comeback effort fell just short. Williams was still able to claim the championship, scoring only four points more than MIT. The women gave spectacular efforts throughout the entire competition, but “it required a four points more than MIT. With these marks, along with her contribution to the second place finish by the 4x400 relay squad, Jones proved once again why she deserves the title of All-American.

The women’s pole vault remained consistent in their excellent performances this season by sweeping the event and accruing 24 points for MIT. Karen E. Fisher ’11 took the event with a vault of 3.80 meters, extending her record to five out of six first place finishes for the year. Briner placed second, and Lauren B. Kuntz ’13 placed third with a personal record of 3.65.

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Along with her outstanding contribution to the 4x200 relay win, Brew captured third place in the long jump, fifth in the 55 hurdles, and eighth in the triple jump. Amy R. Magnuson G earned third in the 55 hurdles, followed by Briner, as she once again demonstrated the depth of her talent, scoring over 20 points for the Engineers.

Coach Taylor was “very proud of everyone’s effort,” and is looking forward to the Outdoor Track and Field season, in which the women hope to defend their NEWMAC Outdoor Championship title. The Indoor season, however, is far from over. The women will continue with the NEICAAA Championships this upcoming weekend at Boston University.