HAPPY SUPER TUESDAY! DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

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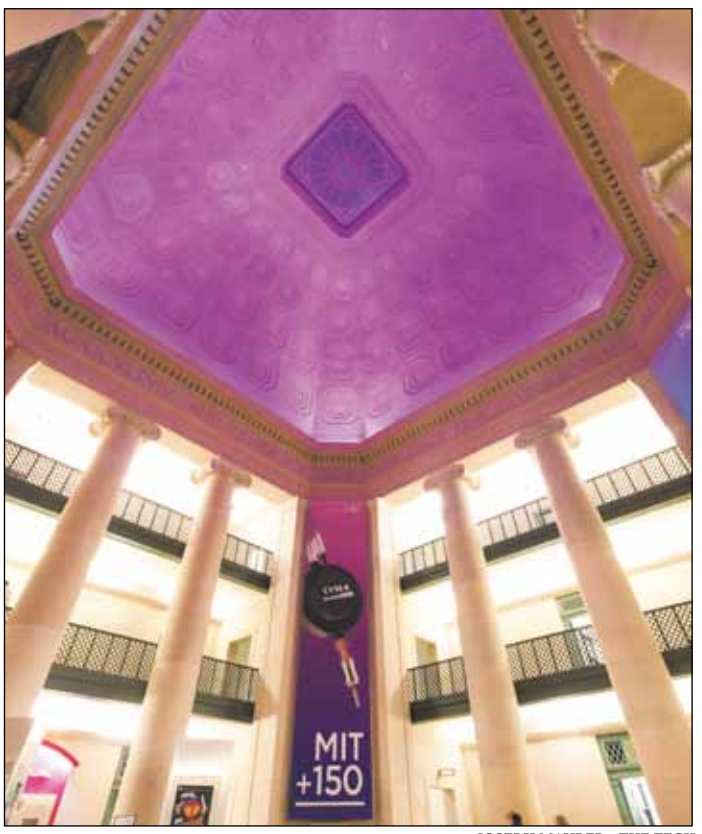
The Tech
Established 1881

WEATHER, p. 2
TUE: 42°F | 19°F Sunny
WED: 55°F | 25°F Sunny
THU: 68°F | 41°F Partly cloudy

Volume 132, Number 9

Tuesday, March 6, 2012



JOSEPH MAURER—THE TECH

Hackers used lighting gels to bathe the interior of Lobby 7 in purple. Like a similar display last year, the hack precedes the Relay for Life, a major fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. MIT will host a relay on March 10 in the Johnson Track.

Burton-Conner housemasters step down after eight years

Smith advises successor to be advocate for students

By Maggie Lloyd
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Burton-Conner housemasters Merritt Roe Smith and Bronwyn M. Mellquist announced that they will be stepping down as housemasters in an email to the dorm on Feb. 24.

"This was a very difficult decision to make as we have relished the opportunity to live and work with so many fantastic residents of Burton-Conner," read the email, "Indeed, being your housemasters has been our best experience at MIT. But all good things must end."

Smith has been a professor for the Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) and the history faculty for 34 years, and will continue teaching after he and his wife leave Burton-Conner.

"We have a house in Newton that has been sitting there for eight years basically, and it's time for us to move back," he said.

The opportunity to resettle will also give Smith more time for other projects, including a book that he says "is going to be sufficiently demanding that I don't think I can be a housemaster and do this sort of writing." The book portrays the American Civil War as a technological event, following not battles but innovative technologies and their impact on the postwar period.

The duo started thinking about the difficult decision to leave Burton-Conner about a year ago. "We always have second thoughts, just about every day, we have second thoughts about 'did we do the right thing?'" Smith said, adding "we want to go out at the top of our game."

Their eight-year tenure far exceeds their original expectations. "What we initially thought would be a four-year stint has stretched to eight years, and for a number of reasons, it seems that now is the time for us to move on," they wrote in their email to Burton-Conner.

According to Smith, "The thing that has been the most interesting, enjoyable, and rewarding has been really living and interacting with the students. We leave the housemaster-ship feeling a lot better about MIT."

The Beginning

The idea to become housemasters began more than 10 years ago at dinner, when the two started talking about their relationship with MIT students. "I didn't know the student life side of MIT at all," Smith said.

The biggest factor in their decision came when Smith's grad student, a GRT for MacGregor, invited him to become a faculty fellow for J-entry. This allowed Smith to interact with students outside of the classroom.

On the night of Sept. 11, 2001, Smith got a call from the GRT that changed the way he viewed student life at MIT. "He called me up and said, 'Can you come down tonight because people are really tense?'

BC Housemasters, Page 10

Memories of junior Brian G. Anderson

Recalling the life of 'a young man who was so spectacularly gifted'

By Steve Bradt
MIT NEWS

At Brian G. Anderson '13's memorial service in Minnesota on Saturday, friends and family agreed on certain things about the MIT junior: He was fearless and strong. He was brilliant and loved MIT. He was frequently barefoot and in trees — often at the same time.

"He was a full-speed-ahead, pedal-to-the-metal type of guy," his mother, Cecilia Anderson, said at the memorial service. "He was quick as a jackrabbit: both physically and mentally gifted. He loved outwitting people, and he had an indomitable spirit. There was nothing he couldn't do if he put his mind to it."

Anderson, 21, whose body was found Feb. 20 in his Next House dorm room, was a management (Course 15) major and a member of the MIT wrestling team.

Brian Gregory Anderson was born Nov. 28, 1990, in Redwood Falls, Minn., the youngest of three sons of Gregory and Cecilia Anderson. Weighing 9 lbs., 6 oz., at birth, he looked like he "had just gone the distance in a boxing match," his brother Tom said. "I always knew [he was] going to be tough."

When his two brothers, five and eight years older, invited friends over to play tackle football, Anderson never hesitated to join in. "Although he was the little bro, it soon became clear that there was nothing little or timid about him," his brother Ray said. "He would get riled up if someone told him he couldn't accomplish something, particularly if that someone was an older brother."

Silos, skydiving and scuba

From a young age, Anderson showed a remarkable lack of fear of heights. While still a preschooler, he climbed to the top of a silo on the family's Minnesota farm, waving and yelling hello to his startled grandmother below. At age 15, he joined his parents and brothers on a rim-to-rim hike of the Grand Canyon.

As a child, Anderson "climbed more trees than anyone else I know," Tom Anderson said. He was particularly fond of doing so barefoot — and of walking barefoot on gravel roads and even through ice and snow. "Your feet were somehow numb to every surface you walked on," Tom An-

Anderson, Page 13

PRIYA GARG

Anjali B. Thakkar '12 (pictured at far back) performs "Maanya Shree — Exceptional Women" with members of the Abhinaya Dance Company in a guest performance hosted by MIT Natya. The concert paid homage to various women from Hindu mythology and concluded with expressive dances focusing on the plight of women in India.

IN SHORT

Add date is Friday, March 9. The add/drop form can be found at *http://web.mit.edu/registrar/forms/reg/AddDropChange.pdf.*

Quarter 4 PE Registration opens at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 7 at *http://mitpe.com/registration/mit-undergraduate-student.*

Alcator C-Mod is hosting an open house on Wednesday, March 7, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tours leave every half-hour starting in NW17.

The 2012 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Ceremony is Wednesday, March 7 at 6:15 p.m. in 10-250. The winner of this year's prize will be announced at the event.

The MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble will be performing in W20-308 tonight at 7 p.m. as part of the Coffeehouse Lounge series.

The first MITx course — 6.002x: Circuits and Electronics — officially began yesterday. It can be accessed at *http://mitx.mit.edu.*

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

HOUSE DINING
It's not as bad as we originally thought!
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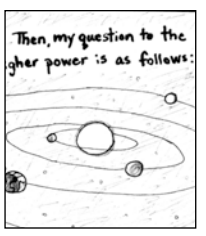
ALCATOR C-MOD
Should Congress shutter the project or not? **LETTERS, p. 5**

IS MITX WORTH IT?
Two sides of MIT's newest venture.
LETTERS, p. 6



A WORLD OF PROBABILITIES
How much can we know about the universe?
FUN, p. 9

BASKETBALL WILL GO TO NATIONALS
First time in Institute's history that team has reached the Sweet 16.
SPORTS, p. 16

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Camp David, not Chicago, to host G-8

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has boasted for months about playing host to the annual summit meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized nations this May in his hometown, Chicago. But Monday, without explanation, the White House announced a shift to the secluded setting of Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland.

Administration officials and associates, speaking only on the condition of anonymity, said the president in recent weeks began discussing the idea of a more intimate setting for the world leaders — both to ease their communications and to cut down on the security concerns and traffic tie-ups of a big-city meeting.

"To facilitate a free-flowing discussion with our close G-8 partners, the president is inviting his fellow G-8 leaders to Camp David on May 18–19 for the G-8 Summit, which will address a broad range of economic, political, and security issues," the brief White House statement said.

Camp David is about an hour from Washington and open only to the president and people he invites there.

—Jackie Calmes, The New York Times

Syria permits UN visits but escalates its attacks

Syria's government made diplomatic gestures Monday toward seeking an end to the uprising that has convulsed the country, agreeing for the first time to allow visits by the top U.N. relief official and by the newly designated envoy who represents the United Nations and the Arab League.

But activists said that Syrian security forces widened their ferocious campaign to crush opposition in the most restive areas, sending troops into Daraa, the southern town where the protests began a year ago. Troops also bombarded the town of Rastan in central Syria, not far from Homs, an epicenter of the uprising that has been devastated by more than month of shelling and gunfire.

The developments came as the tone turned increasingly hawkish in Washington, where Sen. John McCain, a leader among Republicans on military matters, Monday called on the United States to conduct an extensive air bombardment of Syrian targets, with Arab League permission, to protect anti-government fighters and civilians there.

McCain, an early advocate of armed intervention in Libya, said in a speech on the Senate floor that if Syria's president, Bashar Assad, managed to retain power in defiance of world pressure to stop the crackdown and leave office, that would be a "strategic and moral defeat for the United States."

—Rick Gladstone, The New York Times

Observers detail fraud in Russian election

MOSCOW — A day after claiming an overwhelming victory in Russia's presidential elections, Vladimir Putin on Monday faced a range of challenges to his legitimacy, including charges of fraud from international observers and a defiant opposition that vowed to keep him from serving his full six-year term.

While Putin was still celebrating his win, he received a slap in the face from observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. While finding less of the ballot stuffing and other flagrant violations that marred parliamentary elections in December, the observers said Putin had faced no real competition and unfairly benefited from lavish government spending on his behalf.

Putin received milder responses from the European Union and from the United States, which called on the government to investigate fraud allegations.

Thousands of anti-government protesters later gathered in a city square. Yet, the crowd, which police estimated at 15,000, lacked the giddy optimism that pervaded earlier rallies.

—Ellen Barry and Michael Schwirtz, The New York Times

Leadership rift emerges in Pakistani Taliban

By Declan Walsh
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD — The Pakistani Taliban faced the prospect of a damaging leadership rift Monday when the abrupt dismissal of a senior commander provoked an angry reaction in the militants' ranks, offering the Islamabad government a fresh opportunity to weaken a foe that in recent years has killed thousands of Pakistanis and tried to detonate a crude car bomb in Times Square in 2010.

Militant commanders in Bajaur, a small but strategically important tribal district on the Afghan border, spoke out strongly against the news that their leader, the Taliban deputy commander Maulvi Faqir Muhammad, had been fired at a shura, or leadership council, meeting over the weekend.

In a telephone interview with journalists based in Peshawar, the commanders, Maulana Abdul Mutalib, Fazal Khan, Maulvi Abdullah and Liaqat Khan, threatened to set up a rival group. "The decision of the shura has disappointed the Bajaur Taliban," one of the men said. "This is untimely and can create a rift amongst the mujahedeen."

Simmering tensions between Muhammad and the head of the Pakistani Taliban, Hakimullah Mehsud, spilled into the open in January when it emerged that Muhammad had unilaterally entered into peace talks with the Pakistani government. A few weeks ago, Muhammad said the government had released 145 Taliban prisoners as a goodwill gesture, an assertion not confirmed by the government.

"He was removed due to his involvement in talks with the government without the consent of our leadership," said Ehsanullah Ehsan, the main Taliban spokesman. "His successor will be decided over the coming days." Ehsan added that Muhammad had also been demoted to the rank of fighter.

The rift highlights strains within the ranks of the Pakistani Taliban, formally known as Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, whose ability to carry out attacks has been hurt by a combination of U.S. drone strikes in its Waziristan stronghold in the mountainous region of northwest Pakistan, and Pakistani military operations elsewhere in the tribal belt.

"The TTP's peak has passed, it's on the downslide," said Khalid Aziz, a former provincial chief secretary. "Its people are coming under pressure; they are starting to go back to their tribes."

Much of the tumult within the group centers on its leader, Mehsud, who helped build a fearsome militant network that stretches across northwestern Pakistan and into the country's most populated cities. But in recent years Mehsud, who is in his early 30s and has a $5 million U.S. bounty on his head, has been most concerned with staying ahead of his Central Intelligence Agency pursuers.

Since claiming responsibility for a suicide attack on a CIA base in southern Afghanistan in 2009 that killed seven Americans, Mehsud has been firmly in the sights of armed U.S. drones that roam the skies over Waziristan.

Afghanistan talks are embittered after Quran burnings

By Graham Bowley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United States and Afghanistan appeared to make no headway here Monday in high-level negotiations on a long-term strategic partnership that have been embittered somewhat by the Quran burnings last month. Elsewhere, further violence left three people dead, including two children killed in a suicide attack on the main NATO military base where the Qurans were desecrated.

President Hamid Karzai met with Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker and Gen. John R. Allen, the NATO commander in Afghanistan, according to the Afghan government spokesman, Aimal Faizi.

In the meeting, the three officially discussed for the first time a U.S. proposal to accelerate the transfer of detention centers in the country to the Afghans to as soon as six months from now, but Karzai stuck to his position that he wanted an immediate transfer of all detainees to Afghan control by a deadline of Friday, Faizi said.

"It was proposed, but it does not mean that we have accepted it or that we reached an agreement," Faizi said. "It will be discussed in the coming three days."

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Gavin Sundwall, would not comment on the negotiations.

Describing the meeting as "fruitful," Faizi said the fact that the men had met was a sign that talks were still continuing toward reaching an agreement.

"There was a very positive meeting," he said.

But fears were growing that the two sides may be too far apart after the Afghan government's refusal to accept the U.S. offer of a six-month timetable, already a large concession from a U.S. position that even as recently as a few weeks ago delayed any transfer indefinitely.

The three men also discussed Karzai's insistence on the complete cessation of night raids — another issue for the Americans, who maintain that the nighttime operations are critical in the war — but the main focus was authority over the detention centers.

The long-term strategic agreement is supposed lay out a U.S. commitment to continue aid and support to the Afghan government for the next 10 years, and provide the basis for an agreement on the long-term troop presence after the 2014 withdrawal deadline. But the burning of Qurans in February by U.S. soldiers at the Bagram air base, which provoked widespread outrage in Afghanistan, has hardened the atmosphere of the talks over the agreement.

WEATHER

Unusual warming trend will continue until Friday

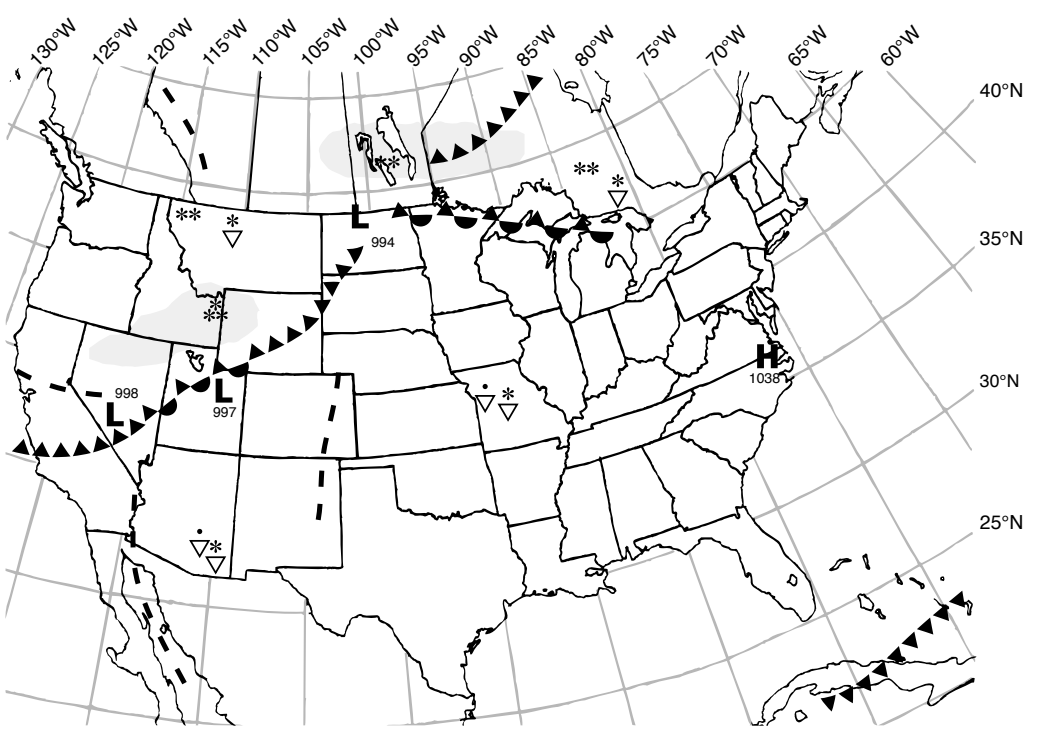
By Roman Kowch
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A broad ridge of high pressure will slowly build over the Atlantic this week. As a result of its slow evolution, New England will benefit from tranquil weather through at least Thursday, including a noticeable increase in temperatures. In fact, temperatures could very well reach the upper 60s (19–21°C) by Thursday due to a sustained, southwesterly flow on the western side of the ridge. This flow and its accompanying surface winds should strengthen day-by-day, reaching their maximum by Thursday and funneling in very warm air from the mid-Atlantic states.

Chances for rain should return by early Friday as a cold front marches eastward. The instability with this system appears marginal. The system's organization will not be like that of the Midwest last Friday, when a strong low pressure and trailing cold front spawned numerous tornadoes and severe storms. That system had plentiful atmospheric wind shear, which allowed storms to quickly rotate. However, this environment is quite unlikely with the front approaching on Friday.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High 42°F (6°C).
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 25°F (-4°C).
Tomorrow: Sunny. High 55°F (13°C).
Thursday: Increasing clouds, unseasonably warm. High 68°F (20°C).
Friday: Chance of morning showers. High 50°F (10°C)



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, March 6, 2012

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts
H High Pressure	Trough
L Low Pressure	Warm Front
§ Hurricane	Cold Front
	Stationary Front

Precipitation Symbols	Snow	Rain
Showers	* ▽	• ▽
Light	*	•
Moderate	**	••
Heavy	⁂	∴

Other Symbols
Fog
Thunderstorm
Haze

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

Study finds a growing student debt load

By Andrew Martin and Ron Lieber
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A report released Monday by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York renews concerns about the growing debt load of college students and graduates.

The report suggests that as many as 27 percent of the 37 million borrowers have past-due balances of 30 days or more.

"In sum, student loan debt is not just a concern for the young," the report said. "Parents and the federal government shoulder a substantial part of the postsecondary education bill."

The report, created by an analysis of Equifax credit reports, said the total balance of student loans was $870 billion. Of the 241 million with Equifax credit reports (there are 311 million people in the United States), 15 percent had student debt.

Forty percent of the people younger than 30 had outstanding student loans and the average outstanding debt is $23,300. About 10 percent of borrowers owe more than $54,000 and three percent owe more than $100,000.

Noting that existing figures on student loans are spotty and largely anecdotal, the Fed said its analysis was an attempt to provide more accurate accounting of delinquency data.

The Federal Reserve came up with the delinquency figure by excluding from their calculation borrowers who were still students or those who were granted permission to postpone payments because of financial hardship, graduate school or some other approved reason.

Those borrowers represent about 47 percent of all borrowers. Fed economists suggest that they should not be considered when measuring the delinquency rate because they aren't making payments.

If they were included in the total, the percentage of borrowers who were 30 days late in making payments is 14 percent.

Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success, said the Fed study reinforced the need for borrowers to understand the distinction between federal loans and private loans and to know the available repayment options.

She noted that borrowers of federal loans were eligible for income-based repayment in which caps are placed on monthly payments, based on income, to make them more affordable. In addition, she noted that borrowers of private student loans, which tend to have higher interest rates and fewer protections than federal loans, could now call the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to register complaints.

The Fed's numbers are similar to those published in a report a year ago by the Institute for Higher Education Policy.

That study, based on a sampling of borrowers, found that 26 percent of borrowers who entered repayment in 2005 became delinquent but did not default. Fifteen percent of borrowers not only became delinquent but defaulted on their loans.

Big sentencing disparity seen among US judges

By Mosi Secret
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A new analysis of hundreds of thousands of cases in federal courts has found vast disparities in the prison sentences handed down by judges presiding over similar cases, raising questions about the extent to which federal sentences are influenced by the particular judges rather than by the specific circumstances of the cases.

The trove of data subjects individual district court judges to a level of scrutiny unprecedented in the history of the judiciary.

In the Eastern District of New York, for example, the 28 judges in the study delivered a median sentence of 24 months for drug cases in the past five years. But there were disparities: Judges Jack B. Weinstein and Kiyo A. Matsumoto gave median drug sentences of 12 months, while the median drug sentence for Judge Arthur D. Spatt was 64 months.

The Eastern District ranked 17th among more than 80 districts in drug sentencing disparities.

Until the release of the data Monday, it was difficult to review a judge's sentencing history over time, because public court records in criminal cases could not be searched by the names of judges, only by the names of criminal defendants or lawyers.

In addition, the U.S. Sentencing Commission excludes the name of the judge from its sentencing data, in part, experts said, because of the judiciary's concern that such data could be used to single out judges, who were freed from restrictive sentencing guidelines in 2005.

The new data were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act and analyzed by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, an organization based at Syracuse University that gathers data on the federal government.

The study covered each sentence imposed by federal district court judges in the past five years, for drug, white-collar, and other kinds of crimes. Judges who had not sentenced at least 50 defendants were excluded, resulting in a pool of 885 judges who cumulatively had sentenced more than 370,000 defendants.

The Southern District of New York ranked eighth in white-collar sentencing disparity. Some judges, like John F. Keenan and Sidney H. Stein, sentenced most of their white-collar defendants to no time at all, while the typical sentence of another judge, Lewis A. Kaplan, was almost 23 months.

The report said that in the Northern District of Texas, the median prison sentence for convicted drug defendants from some judges was 60 months on the low end. A typical sentence for another judge was nearly three times longer, at 160 months.

Former federal judges and sentencing experts pointed to what they said were the limitations in analysis of the data and cautioned against quick conclusions.

At least 20 police officers killed in western Iraq

By Jack Healy
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Yasser Ghazi contributed reporting from Baghdad, and Iraqi employees of The New York Times from Anbar province.

BAGHDAD — At least 20 police officers were killed in western Iraq early Monday by dozens of gunmen masquerading as black-clad SWAT teams out to make a high-level arrest, local security officials said.

The killings in Haditha, a predominantly Sunni Muslim city, were the latest in a long militant campaign to infiltrate, undercut and batter Iraq's military and police forces. The attack came about 10 days after suicide bombers and gunmen killed dozens of people at police checkpoints across Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq.

Around 2 a.m. on Monday, 40 gunmen dressed in police uniforms rolled into Haditha in six trucks painted to look like black emergency police vehicles.

To slip through the checkpoints on the city's edge, the gunmen said they had arrest warrants for criminal suspects, Haditha's police chief said. They flashed police identification cards and their vehicles even had police license plates, security officials said.

It was unclear whether any Iraqi police officers were complicit in the plot or had simply been duped. Dozens of shops across Baghdad sell security uniforms, rank and unit insignias, holsters and other gear that make it easy for militants to disguise themselves as police officers.

Once inside Haditha, the assailants drove to the homes of three police officers and shot them. One of the officers was Col. Mohammed Shafar, a former leader of the Awakening movement, a U.S.-backed group of Sunni militias that switched sides to fight against al-Qaida in Iraq, helping to blunt some of the war's worst violence.

After killing Shafar and the two other officers, the gunmen split up to escape. Clashes erupted when they were confronted while trying to leave the city and they fired on police checkpoints with automatic weapons and lobbed hand grenades.

Three police officers were also wounded in the attacks, local health officials said. At least one gunman was killed, but nearly all of them escaped and were last seen driving north, security officials said.

Local police said they had seized two of the assailants' vehicles and found books and other materials suggesting they were connected to al-Qaida in Iraq, an insurgent group composed largely of Sunnis. The group did not claim responsibility for the attack but posts on its online message board hailed the bloodshed as a great victory.

Iranian court overturns American's spying conviction

The Supreme Court of Iran has tossed out the death penalty conviction of a former U.S. Marine accused of spying and ordered a retrial in a separate court, Iranian news services reported Monday.

The reports, carried by the Iranian Students' News Agency and the Fars News agency, which both have close ties to the government, quoted a state prosecutor as saying that shortcomings had been found in the case against the American, Amir Mirzaei Hekmati, and that a new trial would be held.

"To the extent that I am aware, the Supreme Court has objected to Hekmati's sentence," Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, the prosecutor-general of Iran, was quoted as saying. "It has overturned the conviction and sent it to an equivalent court for retrial."

The Hekmati case has become a source of friction between the United States and Iran, coming against the backdrop of their increasing confrontation over Iran's disputed nuclear program. It was unclear whether the Supreme Court's reported decision to order a new trial represented a political decision in the Iranian hierarchy to offer a diplomatic gesture.

The Supreme Court's decision came as lawyers representing Hekmati said they had begun an appeal of his conviction.

—J. David Goodman, The New York Times

Former Iceland leader goes on trial in financial crisis

LONDON — Iceland opened a criminal trial Monday against its former prime minister, Geir H. Haarde, becoming the first country to prosecute one of its leaders over the financial crisis of 2008.

Haarde is charged, in effect, with doing too little to protect the country against the depredations of its bankers as they pursued wildly expansionary lending that resulted in financial disaster for the country. He was indicted in 2010 by a sharply divided Parliament, charged with violating the laws of ministerial responsibility.

Public opinion in Iceland about the case is split, according to Hannes Holmsteinn Gissurarson, a professor at the University of Iceland. Some people hope the case will help to shine more light on a traumatic episode, but "many think that Haarde is a sacrificial lamb, and that it is strange to drag him in front of court for something he failed to do," Gissurarson said. "He may be a failed politician, but is he a criminal?"

The trial opened a month after a prosecutor indicted the former heads of Kaupthing, one of three failed Icelandic banks, on charges of fraud and market manipulation. Hreidar Mar Sigurdsson, Kaupthing's former chief executive, and Sigurdur Einarsson, the former chairman, have pleaded not guilty and are due in court later this year.

—Julia Werdigier, The New York Times

Half a million US jobs credited to Apple in study

Apple has made its first attempt to quantify how many American jobs can be credited to the sale of its iPads and other products, a group that includes the Apple engineers who design the devices and the drivers who deliver them — even the people who build the trucks that get them there.

On Friday, the company published the results of a study it commissioned saying that it had "created or supported" 514,000 U.S. jobs. The study is an effort to show that Apple's benefit to the U.S. job market goes far beyond the 47,000 people it directly employs here. Apple, based in Cupertino, Calif., released the study on its website but declined to say why it published the results. The company's employment practices have come under closer examination. Apple and other high-tech companies, including Internet companies, create relatively few jobs compared with other stalwarts of U.S. business, like General Motors and General Electric in their heyday. Apple, which has recently become the most valuable company in the world and holds nearly $100 billion in cash, has created more jobs overseas, approximately 700,000 through a network of suppliers that make iPhones, iPads and other products.

A number of companies, including Microsoft, have commissioned similar research aiming to tally up such indirect employment, by suppliers and other partners. The use of "job multipliers" has become common practice, sometimes put forth by businesses when they lobby for tax breaks from local and state governments.

—Nick Wingfield, The New York Times

Limbaugh says 'so be it' over boycott

Defending himself against a growing ad boycott, the radio host Rush Limbaugh told his listeners Monday that the companies that have defected from his program have decided "they don't want you or your business anymore."

"So be it," he said, reminding his audience that the advertisers "have profited handsomely from you" in the past and asserting that the defectors would be replaced.

But shortly before Limbaugh's program started Monday, two more companies, AOL and Tax Resolution Services, said that they had suspended their advertising on his talk show, reflecting a continued campaign by activists against the program's sponsors.

Later in the day, a local station in Hawaii stopped carrying *The Rush Limbaugh Show*, and several other companies said they were taking steps to ensure that their ads did not run on the show. The companies included Allstate Insurance, Sears and Bonobos.

In the past four days, a dozen companies have distanced themselves from Limbaugh, who speculated at length last week about the sex life of a Georgetown University law school student, Sandra Fluke, calling her a "slut" and a "prostitute." Outrage over his comments sparked an ad boycott and a rare apology by Limbaugh, first in a statement Saturday and again on his program Monday.

By attacking Fluke, "I became like the people we oppose," Limbaugh said Monday. "I ended up descending to their level." He insinuated that the advertiser pressure had had no effect on his decision to apologize.

—Brian Stelter, The New York Times

Happy dining

House dining isn't so bad after all

By Kristian Fennessy

A couple months ago, I wrote an article critiquing the new dining plan. Perhaps I am writing this article now because I was a little bit too harsh. Or it could be because I have gone to the dark side.

Yes, I have the dining plan. I am now on the "Any 12" plan, so for $10.76 a meal, I get my choice of 12 breakfasts, brunches, lunches, or dinners per week. To be honest, I actually really like it. But let's just say I've been taken hostage by dining and I now have Stockholm syndrome.

One thing I like about the dining plan is the fact that it is all-you-care-to-eat. Personally, I've got a bit of an appetite, and it's comforting to know that I'm getting the most I can for my money. The food definitely is not bad either. I find that there is always plenty to eat. I look forward to the variety, and between the multiple dining halls, I am never concerned about not having anything to eat for dinner (not that I'm a picky eater to begin with). It is a far cry from the "rice and whatever-meat-is-on-sale-at-Shaw's" meal plan I had before. Plus, I save so much more time.

As an MIT student, time is a precious resource. When I had to cook, not only did it take time to prepare and cook meals, but it also took a good deal of time to go grocery-shopping. The grocery shuttles make lugging groceries easier, but not so much more convenient. Walking is easy for those who live closer to main campus, but quite time consuming when you live in New House like me. Biking with a month's worth of groceries makes you look ridiculous. Take it from me.

On top of that, it is never fun to see a foot-tall pile of dishes waiting to be cleaned because you forgot about them all week in a p-setting frenzy. It is way easier on my psyche when I can stop what I am doing, grab a quick and appetizing meal, and then return to work. In the past, I would constantly worry about when I was going to find time to make dinner. On occasion, I would be so busy that I would just skip meals. That's not particularly healthy. But now, with the dining plan, there are no more dishes to worry about, there is no more cooking to worry about, and there is no more hassle.

> **With the dining plan, there are no more dishes to worry about, there is no more cooking to worry about, and there is no more hassle.**

Speaking of health, I've greatly increased my intake of vegetables and whole grains since getting the dining plan. It was often a struggle for me to keep a lot of vegetables fresh for long periods of time, so out of frustration, I would not get them, or I would resort to the less-healthy canned or frozen versions. I am also much more inclined to eat things like quinoa, brown rice, legumes, and other healthy foods since they are fresh and readily available at dining.

It is also nice to get away from my work for a little bit and socialize with friends over some grub. I often see friends I don't normally get to see because we have different classes or don't have time to meet up on a regular basis. Friends are generally there when I go to the dining hall. This provides a moment, even if brief, during which I can forget about my projects and papers and just enjoy some good company. It provides much needed psychological refreshment after spending an entire day with my head buried in my books and assignments.

Admittedly, I have eaten my previous words. The food is great, and it is pretty good for you. You can eat until you are satisfied, you save time, and it's an easy way to catch up with friends. But I am not going to say the dining plan is perfect. All of the concerns raised in my previous article still stand; the issue about swiping in multiple times during a single dining period is still unresolved, the idea of having unused meals roll over from week to week has also been left unaddressed, and yes, there are still complaints about how much students are being charged for dining. But it is all about weighing the cost and the benefits.

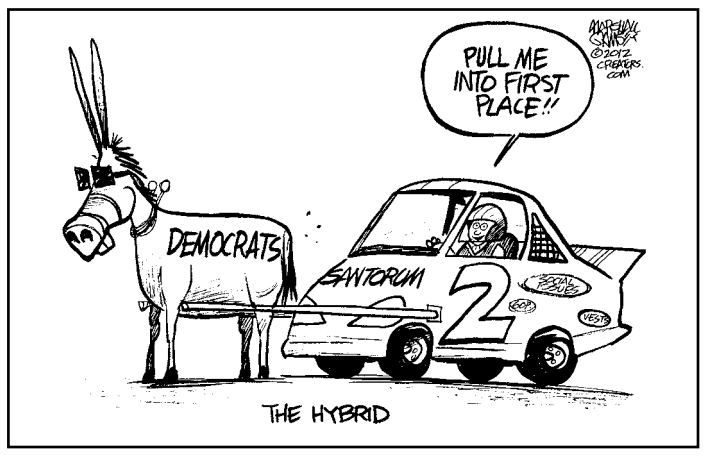
Would I recommend the dining plan to a friend? Yes, I would. Would I tell them that the dining plan is the be-all and end-all? No, most certainly not. I hope that the public opinion is still taken into account, and that the system is altered, even if slightly, in the coming semesters. Until then, happy dining.

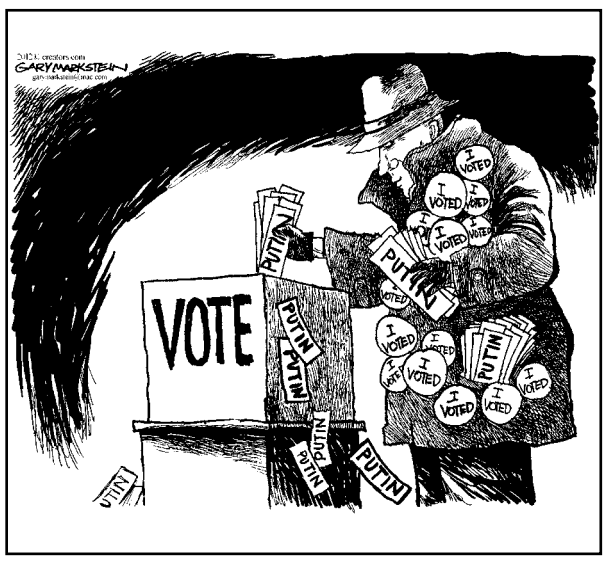
Kristian Fennessy is a member of the Class of 2014.

CORRECTIONS

A brief published on March 7 incorrectly stated that Michael E. Plasmeier '13 of Baker House held a proxy vote for Brian Luque '12. Plasmeier is the current president of Baker — Luque's term expired last month — and voted as a UA Council member.

The same brief also incorrectly named Jonte D. Craighead '13's middle initial.





OPINION POLICY

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Good riddance, Alcator C-Mod

New budget request would rightfully end an expensive and impractical distraction from our energy future

By Keith Yost
STAFF COLUMNIST

No one likes to hear that their work is a waste of time and money. But the job of government is not to assuage the egos of research scientists — the public welfare, writ large, comes first. In a guest column last week, Derek Sutherland '12 bemoaned a proposed cut to state funding of the Alcator C-Mod reactor at MIT. I'm sorry Derek, but it needed to be said: your research was not worthy of the public's money, and to be frank, was also not worth your time and attention as a researcher.

The reason why is simple: there is no future in magnetically confined fusion power. It will never be economical. We know how large the various layers of a commercial fusion reactor would have to be, and we can estimate the construction materials one would need to create such a reactor. Even if the very sizable technical hurdles were surmounted — magnetics, plasma physics, materials, and tritium availability to name a few — the capital cost of fusion's heat island (the reactor sans turbines and other accouterments), would still be two to three times greater than that of a conventional fission reactor, on a per-MW basis. There is no pot of gold at the end of the long, long fusion research tunnel, and accordingly, little rational motivation to expend the time of Sutherland and his colleagues (and the money of the public) on such a fruitless venture.

There is no pot of gold at the end of the long, long fusion research tunnel.

One could argue that the other features of fusion power — its lack of a waste product, its sustainability, its steady energy generation rate, its relative safety — are compelling enough features to warrant a roll of the dice. I suppose that if one thought the safety issues of nuclear waste could never be resolved, or that the peakiness of wind power might never find an answer, such arguments could be justified. These assumptions, however, are overly pessimistic — if Derek were to ask his colleagues in Course 22 whether the kinks in fission power (safety, waste, uranium availability) could ever be solved, I think he would hear a chorus of resounding "Yes." Nuclear reactors are already quite safe, and next generation plants are even safer. The waste is more a political issue than a technological one. And uranium is exceedingly abundant — if supplies seem short, that's only because the price has not gone high enough to motivate fresh exploration. Certainly, the prospects of mending our existing technologies seem much brighter than the "just give us another 30 years" hope of fusion power.

This stems from a lack of political will to tackle the policy problems of today's technology.

Research like Derek's is regularly billed as an investment in our future, but the more apt analogy is buying a Powerball ticket. This is not a sound roll of the dice, this is a move born out of frustration, desperation, and self-deception. It stems from a lack of political will to tackle the policy problems of today's technology. Instead of bringing disparate stakeholders together to settle energy policy issues, we'd much rather cross our fingers and hope for a technological savior to deliver us from the need for political courage.

The basic premise of economics is scarcity. If you want to spend resources on fusion, then you must necessarily take them from somewhere else. We always like to imagine that the resources will be taken from areas we do not like (personally, I would not mind funding fusion if the money somehow came from, say, reality TV). But that is not how such transfers occur — it's more useful to imagine the resources being diverted in proportion to current levels of spending. A dollar in fusion comes out of, to varying degrees, education, health care, and, most importantly, other research.

Tossing a few billion dollars a year towards fusion does not sound like a lot in these wild days of government check-writing until you remember that MIT as an Institute "only" spends about $2.5 billion a year in its entire operating budget. With the amount the American government spends on fusion research every year, we could finance an entire MIT's worth of research.

The Obama administration's attempt to do away with Derek's pet project is an exercise in political courage, and should be recognized as such. If the government is going to be productively involved in research and development, it needs to set priorities and draw lines. Fusion, unfortunately, does not make the cut.

GUEST COLUMN

Fusion research is a wise investment

The United States must not give up its place in the world fusion research program

By Geoff Olynyk

Course 22 senior Derek Sutherland's article in last Friday's *Tech* did a great job of describing why the Alcator C-Mod magnetic fusion experiment, the largest experiment at MIT, deserves to be funded in the fiscal year 2013 federal budget. But it is also imperative to note how magnetic fusion energy research in the United States as a whole is in serious danger at this time, and how the path proposed for fusion in the 2013 budget is harmful to the future of U.S. energy independence and U.S. scientific leadership.

The proposed budget ramps down the U.S. fusion program at a time when other countries are scaling up their efforts. In China, a new long-pulse tokamak called EAST is now producing scientific results, and the government has announced plans to train 2,000 fusion PhDs this decade. In Korea, fusion funding is guaranteed by law until 2040. Germany has a new stellarator (another type of magnetic fusion device) coming online next year. A consortium of six nations plus the EU is constructing the world's first burning-plasma device, the ITER tokamak in France, which will produce 10 times more fusion power than external power put in to heat the plasma. The rest of the world sees the tremendous potential of magnetic fusion energy.

Meanwhile, in the United States, despite the recommendations of the National Academies of Science and Engineering and energy-aware think tanks like the American Security Project, the government is eviscerating the domestic research program, starting with Alcator C-Mod, to pay for its nine percent share of ITER construction. In effect, the United States will be subsidizing tomorrow's foreign fusion industry using its fusion research budget. The U.S. won't be able to reap the benefits of its ITER investment — research results and skills development — without a strong domestic program to capture those gains. It's also important to note how modest the fusion research budget is: Alcator C-Mod employs 120 skilled staff and supports the jobs of 200 more, and trains 30 graduate students at a time, on an annual budget of $28 million. The entire domestic magnetic fusion program costs the taxpayer $298 million per year. This is a mere 0.03% of the U.S. defense budget, or about the cost of buying two of the new F-35 fighter jets.

Magnetic fusion research suffers from numerous misconceptions, dating back to the early years of the research program when, buoyed by the spectacular first results from the tokamak in the late 1960s, a few pundits made optimistic predictions about how long it would take to build an economical fusion reactor. Later, in the 1970s and '80s, new phenomena were discovered that at first were mostly bad news, like turbulence that caused heat to leak out of the plasma much faster than originally predicted. But more recent discoveries have been hugely beneficial, and have propelled fusion research toward the goal of an economical reactor.

The past few decades have seen spectacular increases in fusion performance, due to discoveries like a region of parameter space called H-mode, which halves the energy leak rate for tokamaks and led to experiments in the U.S. and the U.K. that produced more than 16 MW of fusion power. A more recent development is the I-mode, which promises to keep the plasma clean and hot without edge instabilities that act like solar flares and damage wall components. It was discovered right here at MIT, on Alcator C-Mod, and is being actively studied as an operating scenario for ITER.

Furthermore, every time something new is discovered to better control fusion plasmas, our designs for fusion reactors drop in cost and size. The state-of-the-art ARIES-AT reactor study concludes that a fusion reactor is cost-competitive with a fission reactor, and has none of the proliferation or high-level waste issues. Further advances will continue this trend, but these advances will only come about with a strong experimental program in place.

The proposed budget ramps down the U.S. fusion program at a time when other countries are scaling up their efforts.

The U.S. will only be poised to take advantage of the results from ITER and take the next step to build a real prototype electricity-producing magnetic fusion reactor if fusion researchers exist in the U.S. We do not know exactly how long it will take to reach an economical reactor — indeed, this uncertainty defines scientific research. But the progress that fusion research has made, as demonstrated by the ability to simulate and then build tokamaks like EAST and ITER, shows that this is one research risk that the U.S. would be foolish not to take. The potential reward is far too great to ignore.

The United States should fully fund the domestic fusion research program for fiscal 2013, including Alcator C-Mod at MIT, while simultaneously fulfilling its ITER obligation. The U.S. should support a fusion future.

Further information about Alcator C-Mod and the domestic fusion program, as well as a link to contact Congress, can be found at *http://www.fusionfuture.org*.

Geoff Olynyk is a graduate student in the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering. Alcator C-Mod will host an open house for the MIT community on Wednesday, March 7, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., with tours every half-hour starting in NW17.

The benefits of MITx

Students should view MITx as an opportunity to engage in the future of online education

By Ryan Normandin
STAFF COLUMNIST

MITx has stimulated much discussion among MIT students, and seems to have divided them into two camps: the ones who believe that our degree will be devalued by the implementation of MITx and those who do not. In fact, the most likely outcome is that MITx will reap enormous benefits, both on campus and internationally.

Let us first acknowledge that students who learn information through lecture retain only about five to seven percent of that information. In fact, we can see this through MIT's other experiment in education, TEAL, which lowered failure rates in 8.01 and 8.02, increased attendance, and, according to an article by professor John W. Belcher in a 2003 Faculty Newsletter, doubled the learning gains as compared to lecture. Let us also accept that MIT classes are taught largely through lectures. As such, it would seem that the MIT model of education is long overdue for a makeover.

More education is generally good thing; it leads to higher incomes and more benefits for the national economy.

Let us also establish a second truth: countless poor individuals throughout the world will never, ever have a shot at an MIT education purely as a function of the country or zip code they were born into. In addition, more education is generally a good thing; it leads to higher incomes and more benefits for the national economy. From the point of view of the United States, the more developed countries we have around the world, the less money we have to give to countries which desperately need it and the more partners we have in trade.

MITx is a venture which will jointly make a dent in both of these problems. The introduction of MITx will give access to MIT classes and information to students who would have never come close to it otherwise. It will also award them a certificate confirming that they have learned the information presented. Now, if the content of the online MITx is identical to the content of MIT, these certificates will indeed devalue the degrees that MIT students receive. This is why MITx will not happen in isolation. Rather, MIT will also use this as a golden opportunity to improve the education it delivers to students here, and this is what will prevent devaluation.

Under MITx, classes will move away from the pure lecture/recitation format. Instead, professors will take advantage of the information distribution capabilities of MITx and use class time to allow for more interaction and face-time between faculty and students and among students. If done right, this model can cut down on huge 400-person lectures and move to a model that looks more like a pure recitation or TEAL model, both of which have been shown to have greater educational gains. An example of this (by no means what has been decided) might look something like this: A student is assigned a lecture to watch and some basic problems designed to test purely understanding of the content. The next day, the student will go to class and engage in problem-solving, probing the content at deeper levels, and doing lab-like, interactive collaborations in teams of students and with the professor and TAs. While lectures might not vanish entirely, they will no longer be the primary use of scheduled class time at MIT.

Readers might note that not many details have been revealed regarding exactly what this new model will look like, only that it will cut down on lecture sizes and increase interactivity and collaboration at MIT. The reason for this is that the administration sincerely wants student input on this matter. They want to hear what you want your education to look like. How can we accomplish a shift in how MIT delivers its education to both improve the education you get by the time you've graduated and prevent the devaluation of our degrees? This is a unique turning point in MIT's history, and it is something that students should be excited to shape and play a role in.

In fact the influence over this new model is something that may be larger than we can imagine today. Already, for-profit companies have begun compiling lectures and delivering them, but patenting them and making them far less accessible than MITx will be. If MIT does not do this, either for-profit companies will completely take over the online higher education market, or another university will leap at the opportunity to do an MITx-like system. The fact that MIT is the first to do this gives the MIT community a huge degree of influence over what the future of online higher education will look like.

Thus, we have two options before us: we can fight MITx tooth and nail, force it to fail, and then watch as Harvard, Princeton, or Yale creates its own wildly-successful version. Similarly, a for-profit company dominates and, 20 years from now, online content is inaccessible and costly. Or, MIT students and faculty can embrace the inevitable flow of progress and shape it; influencing future generations for years to come. As far as I'm concerned, only one of these views are logical, and I hope you will join me in embracing MITx and approaching your representatives, faculty, and administrators with your ideas and support.

Rethinking MITx

Implementing MITx will detract from the value of an MIT education

By Rachel Bandler
STAFF COLUMNIST

This past December MIT announced the launch of "MITx," a new online learning initiative that will offer a large selection of MIT courses online and will allow those that demonstrate mastery of course material to earn a certificate of completion. The announcement has received much praise from both faculty and students as a mark of progress and a major step towards global education — but has the MIT community really considered the full impact of MITx?

The stated goal of MITx is to "create an open learning infrastructure" where MIT course materials will be available online so that "anyone in the world with the motivation and ability to engage MIT coursework [will] have the opportunity to attain the best MIT-based educational experience that Internet technology enables."

The issue is that online technology is constantly improving. If MIT were to truly work towards this end goal, at some point all of the MIT curricula would be posted online for open access — and eventually, online learning would rival classroom learning. What then, is the purpose of having a residential MIT campus or university — why not just make MIT an online school, and drop the $50,000+ price tag?

Why not just make MIT an online school, and drop the $50,000+ price tag?

MITx will downplay the importance of an on-campus MIT experience and will make people think that they can get an MIT education from their bedrooms. It is true that some MIT students take eight courses a semester, never go to lecture, and complete all of their work without stepping foot in a classroom; however, that is not the typical MIT experience. A large part of the MIT learning experience is the interaction with professors and TAs, struggling over p-set problems with friends, collaboration, and face-to-face communication. If MITx offers MIT students a comprehensive and robust alternative to lectures and recitation, then the incentive for students to go to class will essentially disappear, and this will have a drastic influence not only on campus culture but also on what it means to receive an MIT education.

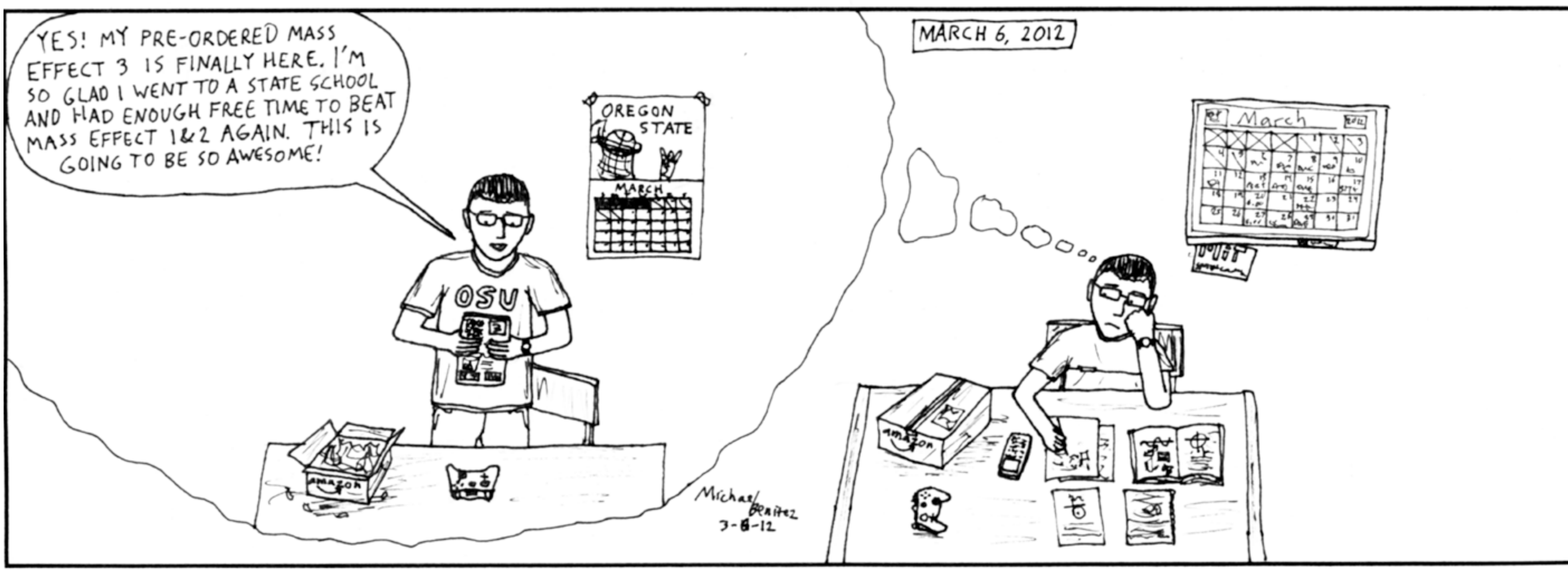
President Susan J. Hockfield said "on our residential campus, the heart of MIT, students and faculty are already integrating on-campus and online learning, but the MITx initiative will greatly accelerate that effort." But in reality what OpenCourseWare (OCW) and other online resources have already accomplished is providing MIT students with a way to sleep through lecture and watch them later — imagine what will happen when MITx is instituted and the online materials are far more comprehensive. There will be a large change in campus climate where MITx will lessen the importance of classroom learning and personal interaction.

Furthermore, instituting a program like MITx detracts from the value of an MIT education. Students at MIT pay tens of thousands of dollars per year to attend the Institute; the thought of the mass public being given for free what we have had to pay for so steeply seems unfair. The point is not that educating the world and spreading information is a bad thing — it is not. However, it is unjust when certain students have to pay extremely high tuition for materials that are being distributed to others online for free — material that ultimately does lessen the competitive advantage of MIT students in the workforce.

That is not to say that a MITx certificate is going to instantaneously eclipse or equate with a real MIT degree. But in the long run, as the online MITx materials improve, the MITx certificate may come to gain more respect among employers. Some may argue that the MIT degree will always be superior to a MITx certificate because MIT teaches problem solving skills that surpass what can be transmitted online. The problem with this is that in the end of the day an MIT diploma is what will brand students as smart and land them a job; it will not matter if they passed their exams from lectures vs. OCW material. Therefore, if the MITx certificates gain enough reputability then they can compete with the MIT diploma. Until MIT tuition is lowered, or some definite limitations are placed on what course material will be posted online, MITx is unfair and detrimental to every enrolled student enrolled at MIT.

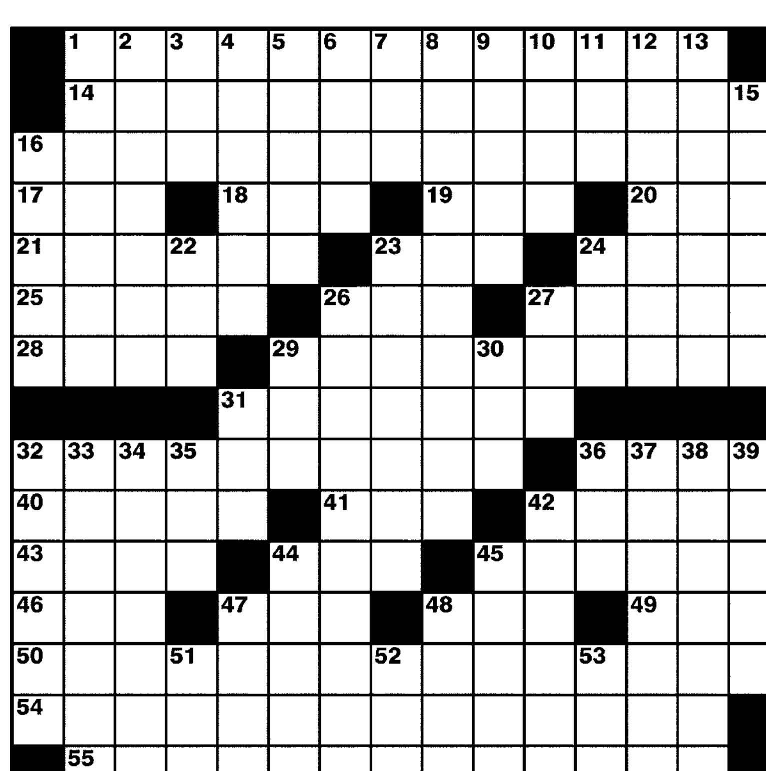
Instead of launching an enormous and work-intensive MITx initiative, the MIT administration should dedicate their limited resources and time to bettering the actual MIT community. There are many students on campus who are struggling with their coursework, feeling the stress of the "pressure-cooker" that is MIT. The MIT administration must stop jeopardizing the classroom and campus experience of its own students to better the resumes of the wider public.

Help Desk by Michael Benitez



Saturday Stumper by S.N.

Solution, page 14

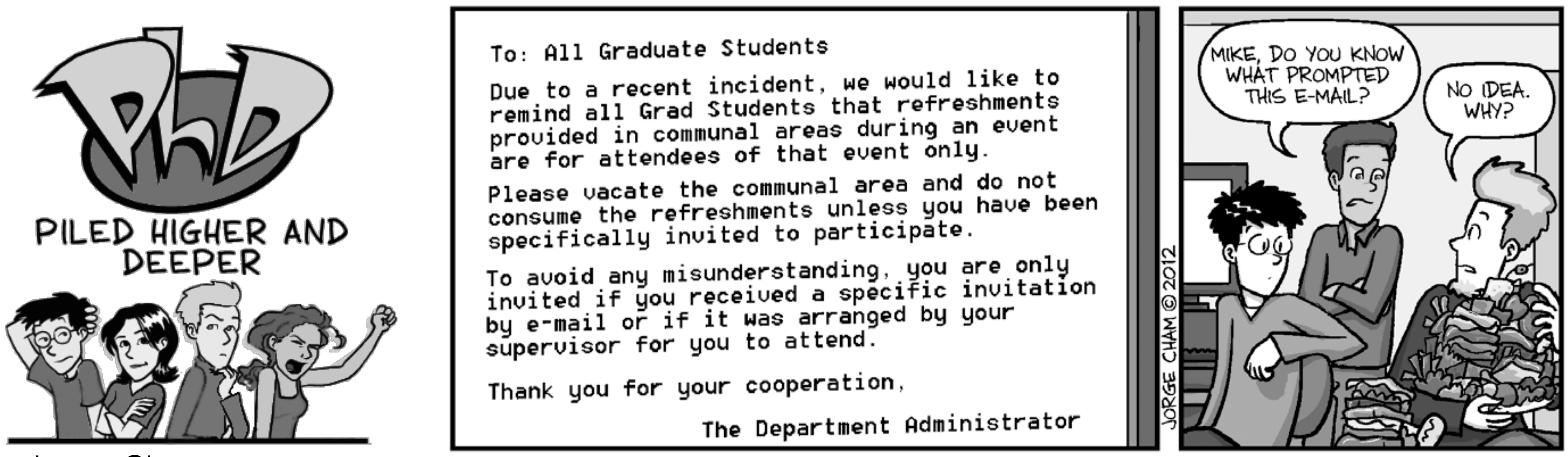


ACROSS

1 Like Gershwin's orchestral works
14 Patisserie purchase
16 Reuben's cousin
17 Streak
18 Normal shape for economic recessions
19 Asian bread
20 "__ like the passage of an angel's tear": Keats
21 Archive hosted by Google Groups
23 Shake up
24 Encourages, perhaps
25 Bold type
26 Age, informally
27 Supplement
28 Wagner heroine
29 World Series participant
31 Hot
32 Chicken
36 Fly-by-nighter, typically
40 Vivid quality
41 Restraining order
42 Pro who coached Lendl and Federer
43 No, for example
44 Jacket-back material
45 Alaska's __ Highway
46 __ blood
47 Appetite
48 White Christmas setting
49 Jury's conclusion
50 Fannie Hurst novel
54 Source of casual fare
55 Obviously

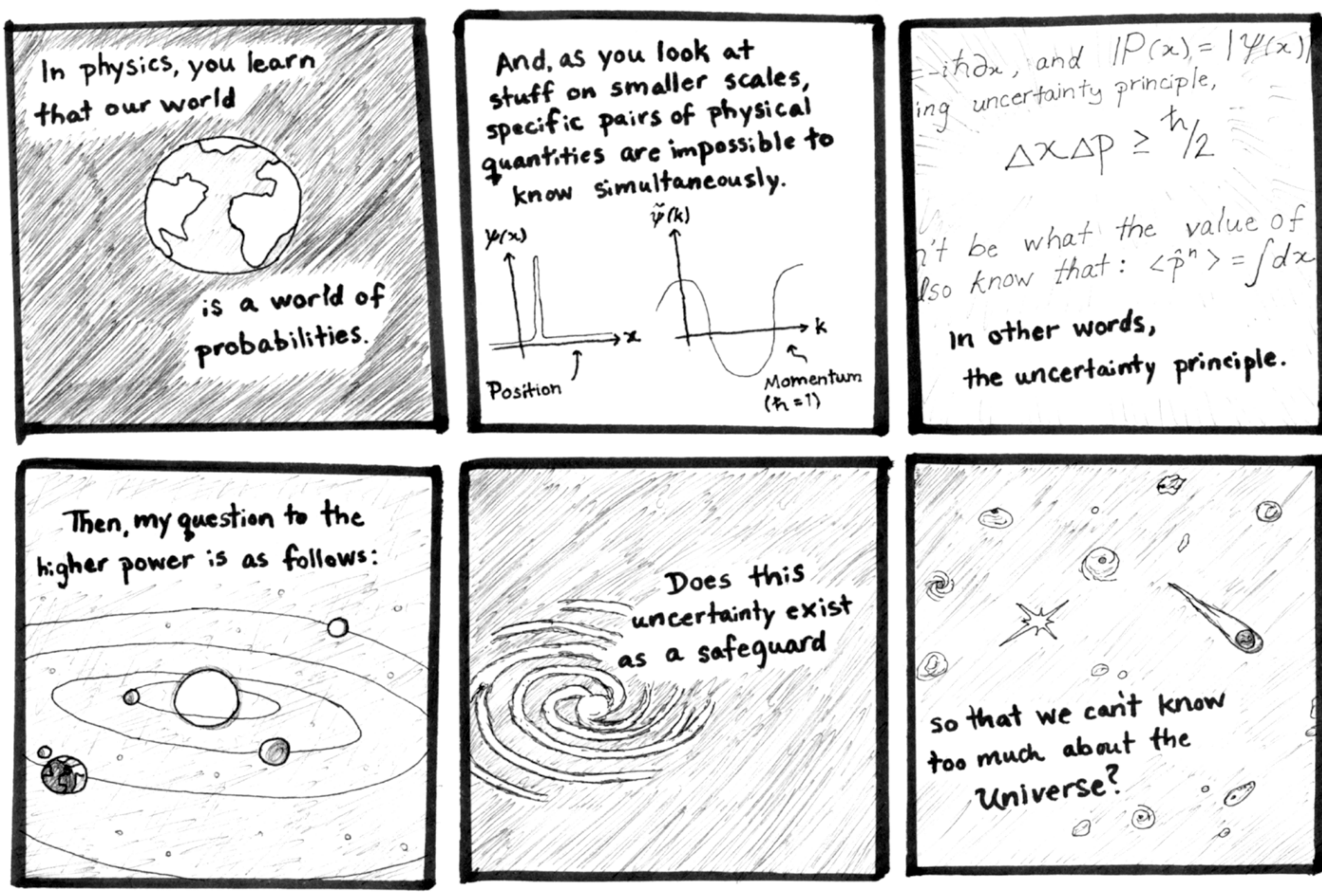
DOWN

1 Adjective for IRA
2 Deserving ones
3 Long-hand indication: Abbr.
4 Exclamation of exasperation
5 Space __
6 It may be done on a lift
7 Cheat, with "out"
8 National Park since 1935
9 Heretofore
10 Word from the Greek for "image"
11 Preposition in musical directions
12 Before
13 Nursery purchase
15 Something stretched in gyms
16 Unpolished
22 Democracy Day cosponsor
23 Jordan Valley city
24 Organiser II was an early one
26 Narrator of When We Left Earth
27 Happy Days hangout
29 Something giraffes chew on
30 Assigned
31 La Dame de __ (Eiffel Tower nickname)
32 Nice to look at
33 Nine to Five villain
34 Herring relative
35 Bk. after Acts
36 Overwhelm, with "down"
37 Flute ancestor
38 Unlikely to go on a spree
39 Loss mitigator
42 Sleepers actor
44 Palm nut
45 Muzzle
47 A standard shown on a Royal Observatory wall
48 Much may follow it
51 Rugby prop
52 Important source of commissions: Abbr.
53 Una palabra ignorada en alfabetización



by Jorge Cham

Least Action Principle by Amanda Aparicio



Sudoku

Solution, page13

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

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

Solution, page 13

6+		144×			30×
48×					
20×		4–		90×	
	108×		2		8×
3		1–	6		
2			10+		

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

EVENTS MAR. 06 – MAR. 12

TUESDAY

(4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) 40th Annual James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award Lecture : "Radicals: Your Life Is In Their Hands" — 10-250

(7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) American Medical Student Association holds MCAT Information Session — 66-144

WEDNESDAY

(2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Poverty, Growth, and the Demand for Energy — E51-376

(6:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) 2012 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Ceremony — 10-250 (Receptions in Lobby 10)

THURSDAY

(4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Brain and Cognitive Sciences The Hans-Lukas Teuber Lecture: Searching for Collective Behavior in Real Neural Networks — 46-3002

(7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) Woman Take the Reel 2012 Film Screening: *Ella es el Matador (She is the Matador)* — 6-120

FRIDAY

(11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) STAGE: a seminar in algebraic geometry and number theory — 2-143

(12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) The Design and Computation Lecture Series presents "Designing Deception in the Magician Craft" — 7-431

SATURDAY

(5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) MIT Figure Skating Club's Annual Exhibition — Johnson Athletic Center Ice Arena

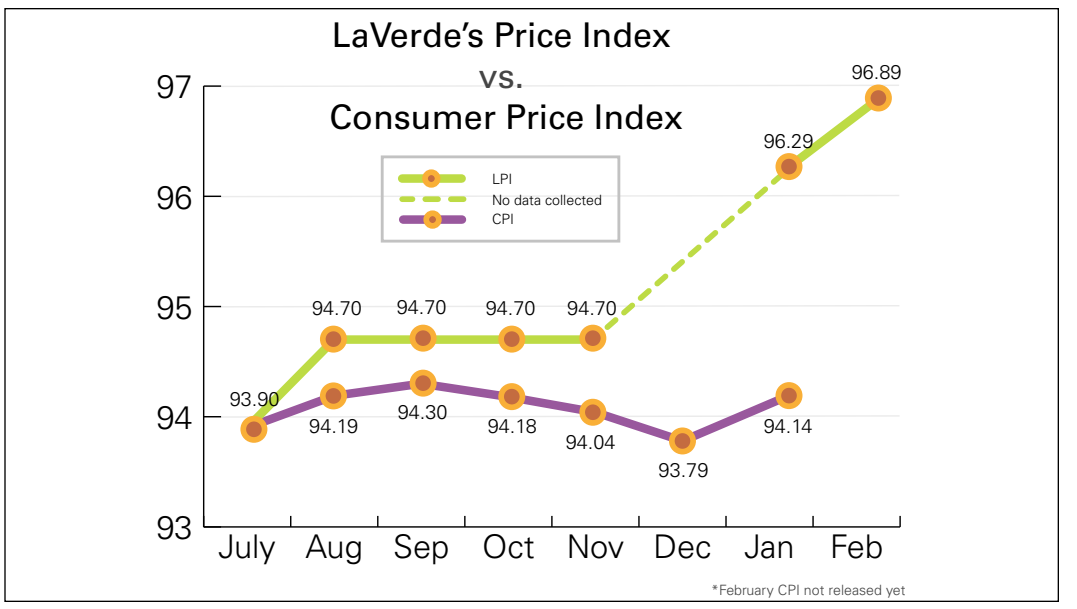
MONDAY

(5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) Legatum Lecture presents Standing on the Sun: The Emerging Economies Drive the Evolution of Capitalism presented by Christopher Meyer — E62-262

(4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) A Noble Attack on Dark Matter — 26-414 (Kolker Room)

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

The LaVerde's Price Index



The LaVerde's Price Index (LPI) is *The Tech's* way of measuring the price changes at LaVerde's. We add together the prices of 23 specific, diverse products that we feel are typical purchases for members of the MIT community, and we plot how that total price changes monthly. Each month, we will also compare the LPI to the Northeast region Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a measure of fairness. The CPI has been scaled so that the starting point in July is the same as the cumulative price of the 23 select items from LaVerde's. LaVerde's is currently outpacing the Consumer Price Index.

Smith and Mellquist will leave Burton-Conner

BC Housemasters, from Page 1

I came down and that evening was really a bonding experience. I didn't say anything at all. I just sort of listened."

The conversation topics weren't about politics or terrorism, but instead ranged from family life to baseball. "I left that thinking I'd really like to be a housemaster," Smith said.

After a three-year wait, Burton-Conner's housemaster position opened up.

According to Smith, "The irony of all this is that initially Bronwyn did not want to become a housemaster."

"'Why would I want to leave a perfectly good house in Newton and move into a dorm?'" Mellquist said, "That was my initial thought — 'What?!'"

After Smith contacted the Division of Student Life about his interest in the position, he took a quick tour of the Burton-Conner housemaster apartment. "I saw the kitchen, and I thought to myself, 'If I can get Bronwyn in here to see this kitchen.'" After much discussion, she finally changed her mind.

Smith's faculty colleagues insisted that he was crazy, but in reality he says the role has helped him become a better professor by understanding how MIT students think and prioritize.

"If I go assigning long papers near the end of term, I'm not doing the right thing because students have got to prioritize with the emphasis on their technical subjects." He's rearranged the way he assigns projects in his classes, trying to front-load the "heavy lifting and reading" of his classes.

The previous housemaster, Halston W. Taylor, and his wife invited Smith to GRT meetings, which Smith said was a good opportunity to meet the GRTs and get a sense of how the house was run.

"Activist Housemasters"

"We always felt ourselves as being sort of activist housemasters," he said.

Smith likes to walk around the halls on the weekend evenings, when students are more likely to be in their lounges and suites. They host floor dinners; they hold a "reverse the stress" study break around finals week "because, 'desserts' spells 'stressed' backwards!" Mellquist said.

According to the housemasters, the worst experience of their tenure came in 2010 when Burton-Conner resident Emily Obert G was paralyzed in fall a few days before classes began. Smith and Mellquist visited her at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center weekly, and said that every time they came, they saw some of her floormates, the Burton Third Bombers, by her bedside. "She is an amazing young woman," Mellquist said. "She's a joy to know."

The two have been impressed with student engagement at BC. When plans for a new RLA apartment were designed to take space away from student rooms, BC students came up with a solution that was easier, simpler, and cost less money. Similarly, when electric work was about to overtake lounge space on one floor, students immediately reacted with their own proposal.

"We have just really enjoyed living and working with [the residents of Burton-Conner]," Mellquist said.

Her husband couldn't agree more: "That is true. That is definitely the best thing about being a housemaster."

They joke that while they have no children of their own, they consider themselves to have more than 340 in the residents of Burton-Conner. The only thing they'd like to change about their time at Burton-Conner is that they wish they'd started earlier, as much as 20 years earlier, as housemasters.

Looking to the future

Mellquist is a little worried about getting the contents housemaster apartment to fit back into their house. "My kitchen is incredibly wonderful here," she said.

She's certainly made good use of it. Her baking is a tradition for Burton-Conner students. "She makes a mean apple crisp. You'd think after eight years [the students] would get sick of it," Smith said.

Their advice to the next Burton-Conner housemasters? "Get new furniture!" Mellquist said, referring to the couches that have been in the apartment since the time of the previous housemaster.

More seriously, they offer one piece of advice: "Be an advocate for the students," Smith suggested. He says housemasters are helping students in their "metamorphosis" from adolescents to adults. "Get to know the students. Try to understand them."

Smith and Mellquist will not be involved in the selection process for their replacement housemasters, but Smith asserts the importance of undergraduate involvement in the search. During his time on the Institute Review Committee on Orientation, six undergraduate members helped the staff members realize what their ideas would mean to students.

Out of all those involved in the selection process when they were applying to become housemasters, Smith and Mellquist recall the smart, pointed questions that came from the undergraduates on the selection committee the most.

ARTHUR PETRON—THE TECH

Housemasters Merritt Roe Smith and Bronywn Melquist at their apartment in Burton-Conner. This will be their last year as housemasters.

The search committee for the Burton-Conner position is currently being formed, and will be led by a current faculty housemaster. Two GRTs, and two students from the Burton-Conner community will serve on the committee, as well as several other Housemasters and housing staff, Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo said in an email to The Tech. The goal is to appoint a new Burton-Conner housemaster by the end of this semester.

Remembering the life of junior Brian G. Anderson

Anderson, from Page 1

derson noted at his brother's memorial service. "You just were really never a sock person."

Anderson's interest in heights continued: He was planning to take skydiving lessons this summer, even convincing his father to join him. "He had no fear of anything or anybody," Cecilia Anderson said.

During his many years as a Boy Scout — culminating in earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 2009, and in winning the coveted "Triple Crown" for attending all three of the Boy Scouts' national camps — Anderson went to a different extreme: He introduced scuba training to Troop 70, leading the troop to participate in 11 deep-sea dives at the National Boy Scout Camp in the Florida Keys.

"The twinkle in his eye"

As Anderson grew older, his family and friends observed the blossoming of his intellect and curiosity. At his memorial service, Pastor Pari Bailey of Grace Lutheran Church in Belview, Minn., described first meeting him as a student in her confirmation class. As Bailey explained various atonement theologies, the high-school sophomore chimed in with a sophisticated question contrasting the views of Lutheran and Eastern Orthodox churches on the matter.

"My mouth fell open," Bailey recalled. "And as I began to respond to this incredibly intelligent question ... I caught the twinkle in his eye. Brian had just taken my measure and let me know three things without actually coming right out and saying them. One, he was brilliant. Two, he was doing some serious extracurricular reading. Three, he was not opposed to yanking the pastor's chain a bit."

By this time, Anderson had already set his sights on MIT. At Saturday's memorial service, Bailey read from the letter of recommendation that she ultimately wrote on his behalf: "He looks me in the eye. He is kind to children. He has the respect of his peers."

The lure of MIT

Anderson's interest in MIT took root early, in seventh grade — although he didn't confide this to his parents for another three years. He was attracted to the Institute, his father said, by "the level of people he'd be dealing with."

"He knew he needed to get away" from rural Minnesota, his mother added. "He needed a lot of intellectual stimulus."

So determined was Anderson to gain acceptance to MIT that he took the ACT four times, hoping to nudge his scores upward. During this time, Gregory and Cecilia Anderson noted, their son also taught himself German, which wasn't offered in the schools around Redwood Falls.

Anderson was elated upon winning early acceptance to MIT midway through his senior year at Redwood Valley High School, his mother recalled. "That night in December 2008 had him high-fiving everyone in the house; he was so happy," Cecilia Anderson said.

Eager to achieve

Anderson entered MIT planning to study brain and cognitive science. He ultimately switched to management, his parents said, because he was driven to achieve things quickly, in a field that wouldn't require many years of graduate school.

At MIT, Anderson was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and spent a spring break building houses for Habitat for Humanity in Jacksonville, Fla. He was also a three-year member of MIT's wrestling team, continuing in the sport he had grown to love in high school — and in which he had persisted following two anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries, during his junior year of high school and his sophomore year at MIT.

During his first year at MIT, the team won the 2010 National Collegiate Wrestling Association Division II National Championship. Tom Layte, coach of MIT's wrestling team — who first encountered Anderson as a high-school sophomore attending a summer wrestling camp at Augsburg College in Minneapolis — described Anderson as having a strong work ethic and a great sense of humor. He was also, Layte said, a team player, dedicated, friendly and polite.

> **'It didn't matter how much bigger or how smart someone was, Brian was determined to keep up with them.'**
>
> *—Gregory Anderson*
> BRIAN G. ANDERSON'S FATHER

"Everyone on the team adored Brian," Layte said. "He was not the quickest or most technical wrestler, but he was methodical and strong and felt like you were wrestling with a bear."

In January, Anderson's parents spent several weeks on the East Coast, following him to various wrestling matches.

"Brian was so happy," his father said. "He loved MIT. He worked hard to handle both the tough academics and the physical training for the small but exceptional wrestling program. It didn't matter how much bigger or how smart someone was, Brian was determined to keep up with them."

Anderson is survived by his parents, Gregory and Cecilia, of Redwood Falls, Minn.; brothers Raymond, of Reedley, Calif., and Thomas, of Anoka, Minn.; grandparents Betty Prahl of Redwood Falls, Minn., and George and Nancy Kroening of Brooklyn Park, Minn.; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

MIT will hold a memorial service commemorating the life of Brian G. Anderson on Saturday, March 17, at 4 p.m. in the MIT Chapel. A reception will follow in Building W11.

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Solution to Techdoku

from page 8

1	5	2	4	3	6
6	4	1	3	2	5
4	2	5	1	6	3
5	3	6	2	1	4
3	1	4	6	5	2
2	6	3	5	4	1

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

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

JASWANTH MADHAVAN—THE TECH

Prince Kavu, from Northeastern University, participates in Man of the Year 2012 this past Sunday evening. The event was hosted by Black Women's Alliance.

Solution to Crossword
from page 7

■	S	E	M	I	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	A	L	■
■	P	A	I	N	A	U	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T
C	O	R	N	E	D	B	E	E	F	O	N	R	Y	E
R	U	N	■	V	E	E	■	N	A	N	■	E	E	N
U	S	E	N	E	T	■	J	A	R	■	P	A	T	S
D	A	R	E	R	■	G	E	N	■	A	D	D	T	O
E	L	S	A	■	C	A	R	D	P	L	A	Y	E	R
■	■	■	■	F	U	R	I	O	U	S	■	■	■	■
S	C	A	R	E	D	Y	C	A	T	■	M	O	T	H
C	O	L	O	R	■	S	H	H	■	R	O	C	H	E
E	L	E	M	■	B	I	O	■	S	E	W	A	R	D
N	E	W	■	Y	E	N	■	I	N	N	■	R	I	G
I	M	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	O	F	L	I	F	E
C	A	F	E	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T	■
■	N	E	E	D	L	E	S	S	T	O	S	A	Y	■

Cancer researchers announce alliance

Koch Institute and Dana-Farber/Harvard Center join in bridge project

By Carolyn Y. Johnson
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The two federally designated cancer centers in the Boston area are embarking on an unusual alliance that will combine the research strengths of both organizations to yield new treatments and insights into two highly lethal cancers.

Researchers at the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT and the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center have collaborated in the past, but the so-called bridge project being unveiled Tuesday is intended to spark increased cross-Charles teamwork.

An initial $2.6 million round of funding, provided by foundations and philanthropists, will support two years of work by four research teams pursuing new approaches to pancreatic cancer and glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer. The project leaders hope to raise $50 million over the next three to five years to support multidiscplinary, multi-institutional research teams studying problems related to those and other cancers.

Linda Weiss, director of the Office of Cancer Centers at the National Cancer Institute, said that as the guidelines for cancer centers are being revised, more emphasis will be put on such partnerships.

"We are in fact moving in that direction and will be recognizing those kinds of collaborations much more strongly," Weiss said. "Collaboration, I think, becomes very important, both for bringing in alternative perspectives and alternative expertise, but also for really moving things through the translational pipeline" and into the clinic.

Basketball makes history, advances to Sweet 16

Men's team vying for Elite Eight at F&M after Skidmore and Farmingdale victories

By Shri Ganeshram
SPORTS STAFF

The MIT's Men's Basketball team made program history last weekend, advancing to the nation's Sweet 16 for the first time in Institute history, beating Skidmore and Farmingdale State. As a team, MIT picked up five double-doubles this weekend en route to the team's hope of a national championship.

The Engineers had a rough start against Skidmore, missing six of their first seven shots to go down 9-2 in the first four-and-a-half minutes. A 20-second timeout helped reorganize MIT's struggling offense and further motivate the team's defense—in under two minutes, MIT established a 9-0 run, taking the lead 11-9. The game was tight for a couple of minutes until MIT's defense contained Skidmore's offense, allowing the Engineers to end what initially looked like a rough half up 10 points, 34-24.

The rest of the first round game was a coast until the final few minutes, during which Skidmore pushed for a chance to continue its season. At the eight-minute mark, MIT held a 10-point, 54-44 lead — in a little over five minutes, Skidmore contained MIT to one point, managing to diminish the Engineers' lead to 55-53. Mitchell H. Kates '13 managed to save the game for MIT, scoring eight of MIT's last 10 points, bringing MIT on top 62-55. William Tashman '13 and Kates ended the game with double-doubles; Tashman scored 12 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, while Kates managed 24 points and 11 rebounds, along with an impressive eight assists and three steals. Noel Hollingsworth '12 also had a good game, scoring 17 points.

MIT's game against Farmingdale played out differently — MIT showed Farmingdale, a team that managed an upset win against a higher-ranked team in the first round, what championship level basketball is about.

Hollingsworth played an impressive game for the Engineers, starting out the first half with a 3-point shot to put MIT ahead, 3-0. In a little over three minutes, MIT downed four 3-point shots, two from Hollingsworth and two from James D. Karraker '12, giving them a 16-3 lead early in the game. MIT's center, Hollingsworth, managed to play outside of his normal role for the remainder of the half, ending the half with four of six 3-point shooting. The Engineers finished the first half ahead by 19, 53-34.

MIT continued to cruise throughout the second half, pumping individual stats along the way. The team ended the game with three double-doubles: Tashman scored 16 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, along with five assists; Kates had an impressive assists-points double-double, with 11 assists and 11 points; and Hollingsworth, the star of the game, led the team forward into its first Sweet 16 appearance, with a career-high 37 points coupled with 12 rebounds. The Engineers finished the game with an 83-63 win.

MIT will next be playing against Staten Island on Friday at Franklin and Marshall for a spot in the Elite Eight. If MIT wins, they will play the winner of the Amherst-Franklin and Marshall game for a spot in the Final Four and an opportunity to play at the championship site, Salem Civic Center in Salem, Va.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Thursday, March 8

Men's Tennis vs. Salem State University — *4 p.m., J. B. Carr Tennis Bubble*

ELIZABETH D'ARIENZO—THE TECH

Paul M. Syta '14 sets Tyler R. Nolan '15 up for a spike in a men's volleyball match against Mount Ida College this Saturday. The Engineers won 3-0.

SPORTS SHORT

Men's Tennis defeats Bentley

MIT's Men's Tennis defeated Bentley on Friday and served the Falcons their first loss of the season. MIT beat Bentley 7-2, walking away with a 3-2 record and a national overall rank of 25th while the Falcons' record declined to 6-1.

MIT won each of the doubles matches. In the first match, Elia S. Harmatz '12 and Robert W. Wheeler '12 joined forces to pick up an 8-1 win in the No. 3 doubles spot. The second doubles match proved tough, but the Engineers came out on top with a victory from Matthew T. Skalak '13 and Edwin M. Zhang '14.

In the singles matches, the Engineers dominated. Zhang won by 6-1 and 6-2 in the No. 1 spot, and Skalak at No. 5 won by 6-1 and 6-1. Hamatz also earned a straight-set win, and Brian K. Oldfield '13 came out at No. 2 with 2-6, 7-5 and 6-3 sets.

MIT will next face Salem State for a home match at the J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble on Thursday, March 8 at 4 p.m.

—Katie Bodner

LA Galaxy to keep Beckham

Renewed commitment to the MLS and American soccer

By Gordon Glober
SPORTS STAFF

This past January, professional soccer player David Beckham ended doubts about leaving the MLS after he re-signed with the Los Angeles Galaxy for an additional two years. As the end of Beckham's five year contract drew near in the late months of 2011, it was unclear whether he would stay with the American club or move to French club, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG). Earlier in 2011, PSG made serious attempts to sign Beckham to their squad, promising to more than match any offers by the Galaxy. Although Beckham deferred his decision until after the MLS Cup Championship, he finally announced that he would stay with the Galaxy. This decision marks a renewed commitment to the Galaxy, the MLS, and soccer in America.

Over the course of his career, Beckham has shown the world that he is a die-hard competitor and has exhibited his true love for the game of soccer. When Beckham was just 13, a soccer coach at his youth academy harshly dismissed him as too small and weak. Beckham met these words with a redoubled energy and motivation to prove his coach wrong. Just four short years later, Beckham signed with English world-renowned Manchester United, beginning his illustrious career. He has admirably overcome much adversity in his career to win league titles in three different countries and appear in 115 matches for the English national side to set the all-time outfield player record, firmly establishing himself as an icon for sports fans all over the world.

In 2007, Beckham shocked the international soccer community as he chose to leave the European stage and sign with American club, the LA Galaxy. This was a monumental change, for a player of Beckham's caliber to move to such a historically weak league, the MLS. In the past, it has not been uncommon for aging European stars much past their primes to play out their few remaining years in less competitive leagues such as this. This was not the case with Beckham. Although Beckham was an older player at 31, he had just helped superclub Real Madrid clinch the "La Liga" (the premier soccer league in Spain) title. The world's most famous soccer player had moved to a midlevel team in an adolescent league.

So, why did he do it?

When Beckham signed with the Galaxy, he received a gaudy package deal of a reported $250 million for five years. Still, his unclear motives did not seem to be financial in nature. After all, he was the highest paid soccer player in the world just three years prior. It quickly became apparent that Beckham's move was motivated by his passion for the game. He saw an opportunity to make an impact on the future of the game in America and took it.

Beckham immediately effected noticeable changes to the sport in America. The year he arrived marked the first time in history in which every single regular season match was telecast live. Beckham's move opened many doors for the Galaxy. The CEO of Anschutz Entertainment Group, the owners of the Galaxy, described the change simply, "Suddenly, we're known as the company that owns the team that David Beckham is going to play for, so our world changed."

The MLS maintained high hopes that Beckham's move to the league was not simply an anomaly, and that others would follow in his footsteps. Upon Beckham's arrival in 2007, the MLS implemented a new rule called the Designated Player Rule, or often referred to as the David Beckham Rule. In short, this rule allowed MLS teams to have two players that were not subjected to the typical salary cap of the league ($335,000). This would allow teams to attract much more talented players to the league. Since Beckham, the league has brought in notable greats including Thierry Henry, Robbie Keane, and Rafael Marquez as designated players.

Over the past five years, Beckham has played an instrumental role in the Galaxy offense, scoring 12 goals and making 39 assists. His success with the team culminated this past November when he helped lead the team to its first MLS Cup Championship in six years. Beckham's recent decision to stay with the Galaxy evidences his continued investment and loyalty to soccer in America. Although Beckham may not have been the answer to the MLS's hopes and prayers, he has not tried to be. He came here to compete and win trophies, and has done just that. His impact has been undeniable. Beckham's contagious passion has elevated the play of his club, the LA Galaxy, as well as that of the rest of the league. Beckham plans to continue his involvement in American soccer after he retires by managing his own MLS team.