Alcator C-Mod’s funding might be cut

Proposed budget cuts will put US fusion research & education at risk

By Austin Hess
STAFF REPORTER

Alcator C-Mod — MIT’s tokamak, a toroidal plasma confinement fusion device — is currently facing the possibility of getting all of its federal funding cut.

Houseled NW2L, Alcator C-Mod has been in operation since 1992. It is one of the three major U.S. fusion facility centers and can produce the highest magnetic field and plasma pressure of any such device in the world.

Fusion research funding aims to find ways in which a self-sustaining fusion reaction could provide a viable energy source.

President Obama’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2013, however, would cut all federal funding to Alcator C-Mod, which received $24 million from the Department of Energy in 2012, forcing the termination of the program. That amount, which currently constitutes almost the entire budget of the project, would be instead be used as part of the U.S.’s contribution to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a plasma fusion

Kendall Biogen back

Biogen to return to Cambridge in 2013

By Clara Park
STAFF REPORTER

Joining the growing biotechnology industry presence in Cambridge, in 2013 Biogen Idec, the third largest biotechnology company in the world, will move its executive office from its location in Weston, Mass. to Kendall Square.

The move reverses the company’s relocation two years ago, when Biogen Idec’s headquarters (including sales and marketing) moved from Cambridge to Weston, leaving its Research and Development (R&D) division in Cambridge.

Biogen Idec will move to two new locations next to the current R&D center near Kendall Square. According to Amsden, Cambridge-based Biogen was co-founded by Harvard biochemist Dr. Stanley Prusiner and MIT Professor of Biology Phillip A. Sharp in 1978. With the return of 530 employees to Kendall Square, the company will put the more workforce in Massachusetts in a single location.

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US war game sees dire results of Israeli attack on Iran

By Mark Mazzetti and Thom Shanker
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — A classified war simulation exercise held this month to assess the U.S. military’s capabilities to respond to an Israeli attack on Iran forecast that the strike would lead to a wider regional war, which could draw in the United States and leave hundreds of Americans dead, according to U.S. officials.

The officials said the so-called war game was not designed as a theatrical performance for U.S. military audiences — and they emphasized that the exercise’s results were not the only possible outcome of a real-world conflict. But the game has raised fears among top U.S. planners that it may be impossible to preclude U.S. involvement in any escalating confrontation with Iran, the officials said.

In closed debate among policymakers over the consequences of any possible Israeli attack, that message may again serve greater weight than those within the White House, Pentagon, and intelligence community who have warned that a strike could prove pernicious for the United States.

The results of the war game were particularly troubling to Gen. James N. Mattis, who commands all U.S. forces in the Middle East, Persian Gulf, and Southwest Asia, according to officials who either participated in the Central Command exercise or who were briefed on the results and spoke on condition of anonymity because of its classified nature.

The exercise had been held earlier this month, according to the officials, Mattis told aides that an Israeli first strike would likely have dire consequences across the region and for U.S. forces there.

The two-week war game, called “Internal Look,” played out a narrative in which the United States found it was pulled into the conflict after Iranian missiles struck a U.S. navy warship in the Persian Gulf, killing about 300 Americans.

The U.S. response then catalyzed by launching its own strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

The initial Israeli attack was assessed to have set back the Iranian nuclear program by roughly a year, and the subsequent U.S. strikes did not slow the Iranian nuclear program by more than an additional two years.

However, other Pentagon planners have said that American arsenals of long-range bombers, refueling aircraft, and precision missiles could do far more damage to the Iranian nuclear program — if President Barack Obama was to order a full-scale retaliation.

The exercise was designed specifically to test military officials’ unpredictable and uncontrollable nature of a strike by Israel, and a counterstrike by Iran, the officials said.

Official raises death toll in Yemen conflict to over 2,000

By Laura Kasinof
THE NEW YORK TIMES

At least 2,000 Yemenis were killed during the year of political unrest after popular protests broke out seeking the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen’s minister of human rights announced in a speech to the United Nations.

He said it was a surprise because it appeared to far exceed estimates by human rights groups that said government forces had killed 200 protesters.

“Despite the commitment of the government and have become increas ingly harder as prices for basic goods soared and public services like electric power were cut,” the minister, Hosnay Mashouf, said in front of the U.N. Human Rights Committee session in New York.

“Many victims died, and, according to initial reports, they are numbered to be over 2,000 martyrs, including 143 children and 20 women,” Mashouf continued, according to an official statement published by Yemen’s official Saba news agency.

In the end, the war game reflected the unpredictable and uncontrollable nature of a strike by Israel, and a counterstrike by Iran, the officials said.

Four killed at Jewish school in southwestern France

TOULOUSE, France — French authorities were searching Monday for a man suspected in a string of methodical killings that have terrorized this city and in the south over the past two years, including a shooting at a Jewish school Monday morning that killed four people, including three schoolchildren.

It was the third murderous attack on unarmed people in the region in little over a week, and the most deadly attack since a Jewish school in a different part of France was attacked last week.

Local police officers, Michel Volet, said a religious instructor, his two children and another child, the daughter of the school’s director, were killed in Monday’s attack and a 15-year-old boy was wounded. That “shock at everything he could see, children and adults, and some children were chased into the school,” Volet said.

The local prosecutor, Jean-Marc Pare, said police were focusing on “a possible terrorist threat.”

The official said the so-called war game was not designed as a theatrical performance for U.S. military audiences — and they emphasized that the exercise’s results were not the only possible outcome of a real-world conflict. But the game has raised fears among top U.S. planners that it may be impossible to preclude U.S. involvement in any escalating confrontation with Iran, the officials said.

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Flush with cash, Apple declares dividend and buyback

Apple announced Monday that it would at last return some of its cash pile to shareholders in the form of dividends and stock buybacks, at a cost of more than $10 billion a year for the next three years. But it is attracting so much cash — $1 billion a week in the last holiday season alone — that the move will not put a dent in Apple’s coffers.

Apple’s decision to pay the dividend was long awaited, yet it is an extraordinary one for a company that, despite its age, is growing more like a startup.

While paying dividends is often a sign of cash-rich companies that are running out of big growth opportunities to invest in, Apple, founded in 1976, has not yet reached that level of maturity. It continues to pump out huge new technology like the iPhone and iPad, and its sales in the recent holiday quarter grew 73 percent from the period in 2010, which itself was 70 percent higher than the holiday 2009 quarter.

Apple’s cash reached nearly $100 billion at the end of last year, a level that seemed increasingly unjustifiable to many investors, who fret about how little interest Apple earns on the money, estimated at less than 1 percent. Apple’s cash figure is almost twice the cash balance of the company with the next biggest hoard, Microsoft.

Shares of Apple rose 2.45 percent, or $15.53, to $601.10 Monday.

—Nick Wingfield, The New York Times

BP settlement leaves some spill victims unhappy

Denise Spievack Haralson and her husband, Larry, figured that they almost had their money. They had settled Haralson’s claims against BP for the losses he suffered as a construction worker in the economic slump after the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

With the settlement papers signed in November, they had been dealing with last bits of paperwork and had been waiting for a $14,600 check.

That is when BP and the core group of plaintiffs in the case announced that they had reached an uncapped settlement that BP estimates at $7.8 billion for individuals and businesses suing the company. The settlement involved shutting down the claims center that BP had set up at the request of the Obama administration. It is being replaced by another center that will be run under the court’s supervision.

No one, the lawyers have emphasized, would have to accept less than the original offer, but that is little satisfaction for Haralson.

"Now they tell us we have to wait again?" she said, fuming. "We feel they’ve broken our contract."

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—Nick Wingfield, The New York Times

US completes sale of $225 billion in mortgage-backed securities

By Annie Lowrey

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department announced Monday that it had finished selling the $225 billion in mortgage-backed securities it bought to help stabilize the housing and financial markets during the worst of the financial crisis.

The government ended up making a $25 billion profit on the securities in 2008 and 2009 as part of a broad and expensive effort to stabilize the market during a critical moment for the housing and financial markets. That is when BP and the core group of plaintiffs in the case announced that they had reached an uncapped settlement that BP estimates at $7.8 billion for individuals and businesses suing the company.

The government ended up making $25 billion profit on the securities it bought to help stabilize the housing and financial markets during the worst of the financial crisis. It helped support the housing system and housing market.

The successful sale of these securities marks another important milestone in the wind-down of the government’s emergency financial crisis response efforts, Mary Miller, assistant secretary for financial markets, said in a statement. "This program helped support the housing and financial markets during a critical moment for our nation’s economy and delivered a substantial profit for taxpayers."

The Treasury Department bought $225 billion in mortgage-backed securities in 2008 and 2009 as part of a wide-ranging effort to stabilize the housing and financial markets, an effort started by the Bush administration and continued and amplified under President Barack Obama.

In March 2011, the Treasury Department announced that this program would start to sell off what remained of its portfolio. To avoid disturbing the still-fragile housing finance market, it limited sales to $10 billion a month and said it would discontinue the sell-off if any market disturbances occurred.

Thus far, Treasury’s sale of its mortgage-backed securities portfolio has provided a lucrative return to the taxpayer. But it is only one piece of a broad and expensive effort to prevent the collapse of the financial system and housing market.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tech lacking in basketball coverage

The MIT Men’s Basketball team just concluded another historic year for the first time in MIT’s 112 year history, the team reached the Final Four in the National Division III tournament. Coach Larry Anderson and the team had another great year, playing tremendous basketball and shutting down opponents. In short, this is a big deal. A great showing of MIT students and alumni including notable Tech basketball alum, David H. Koch ’92, as well as President Susan Hockfield attended the Final Four game to show their support for the team. As alumnus, we don’t often read the Tech, but after reading several pieces covering this historic run in other news outlets, we came to the Tech last Friday to see what kind of extensive coverage the premier student-run campus newsletter would offer on the day of the biggest game in basketball history. To our surprise, there was not a single mention of that night’s game. We cannot think of any reasons for this blatant omission of such a milestone for MIT.

We wrote a similar letter expressing our disappointment in The Tech’s coverage of MIT Basketball achievements 3 years ago. Instead of recognizing the incredible accomplishments of our student-athletes, to its own discredit, The Tech continues to ignore them.

Sarah Bussbarth ’09
Inman Kendall ’09

Students: Participate in the presidential search!

As President Hockfield steps down from her position, it is critical that the entire MIT student community helps select our next president. This is only the second time in history that the MIT Corporation has officially solicited student responses for the selection of our president. Your views matter.

We, your student body, want to hear your opinions. For a large sample of the student population is imperceptible to create a report that accurately reflects the thoughts of the student body. This report will be used by the Presidential Search Committee when selecting our next president.

The continuation of MIT’s global influence and ability to meet the great challenges of the future will depend on the leadership of our future president. Furthermore, it is essential that we select a president with the ability to continue to build and maintain MIT — our campus, reputation, and student experience.

Even if you think that your views are obvious, or possibly already represented, it is essential that you participate in this process. You can get involved by attending one of the three student forums in the coming weeks, or by submitting your opinions through the online form. We urge you to make your voice heard, give us your input, and help select the next president of MIT.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The MIT Presidential Search Student Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 22, 2012

Are you addicted to Facebook or Twitter?

@TheTech is looking for social media expert to help develop our online presence.

Email join@tech.mit.edu or mention @thetech in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become the property of The Tech, and can be found on the World Wide Web at http://tech.mit.edu. The Tech reserves the right to post any contents of this letter in any format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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**Saturday Stumper** by Byron Walden

**Across**
1. Suit icons
2. One who cuts and runs?
3. About
4. Source of local information
5. Source of William the Conqueror's Tower of London stone
16. Intel's home
19. Literary lion
21. Alternate nickname for Sporny Spence
22. __ time
23. School district's examination
25. To whom “bullets” are beans
26. Checkout procedure
27. Pulp fiction hero
28. Mt. Bachelor's home
29. Port near the Red Sea
30. Common Hanoi transportation
31. Had too much
32. Iniquity

**Down**
1. “Give me a museum and I'll fill it” speaker
2. Far from copacetic
3. They take their toll
4. Flat letter
5. Martin Sheen's real first name
6. Subject of a 2011 biography by Shimon Peres
7. Square
8. Comic clothing of yore
9. Iolanthe, per Gilbert and Sullivan
10. Play to __
11. Valley forge
12. Postgame display site
13. Opposite of ennemie
14. Two Years Before the Mast author
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22. Suit icons

Sudoku

Solution, page 12

ACROSS
1 Suit icons
5 One who cuts and runs?
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**Techdoku**

Solution, page 12

ACROSS
1 "Give me a museum and I'll fill it” speaker
3 Service leader
4 Diet cousin
5 Clear off, in a way
6 Story
7 Used the good china, say
8 Brightened up
9 Add to the books
10 Special handling
11 Feel ambivalent, in a way
12 Source of iridescent buttons
13 Cellar dwellers' lament
14 Submarine dive alarms
20 Andre Agassi, e.g.
24 Pool for a pol
27 Bottches, in Britain
30 Scoop Gilke
31 Cleaned without chlorine
33 Scrubbed up, perhaps
34 Eilest of the Andrews Sisters
35 Aretha sang it at Obama's inauguration
36 Easy on the eyes?
37 “We Are Your Movie

DOWN
11 Feel ambivalent, in a way
32 Iniquity
34 Iolanthe, per Gilbert and Sullivan
38 Emergency fixture
39 Rather
41 Battleground of 1942
42 Sister brand of Days
49 Bk. before Philippians
50 End- opposite

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.

Are you a font fiend? Do you like making presentations? π+1 π?

E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

We’re looking for people to help us design infographics to highlight writers' content!

The Production Department of The Tech might be just the place for you!
A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language
by Randall Munroe

I've been learning tricks from pickup artist forums.

Pickup artists are demeaning creeps who see relationships as adversarial and women as sex toys.

No, it's just a bunch of tips! Like negging: you belittle chicks to undermine their self-confidence so they'll be more vulnerable and seek your approval.

I'm going to the bathroom to roll a bowling ball down under the line of stalls.

You look like you're on a diet. That's great. How's the fruit plate?

Ooh—are we negging?

Let me try!

You look like you're going to spend your life having one empathy paper after another, always thinking you've finally figured out what's holding you back, and how you can finally be productive and creative and turn your life around.

But nothing will ever change, that cycle of mediocrity isn't due to some obstacle. It's who you are.

The thing standing in the way of your dreams is that the person having them is you.

You just don't try to play the emotional card, don't make yourself feel bad with the plausibleaddon of making you feel bad.

Want to know what's going on between issues of The Tech?

Go ahead, cross the line
Plyometric workouts give cardio and strength training

By Allison Hamilos ✤ tech writer

Looking for a full-body workout to do at home? Plyometric circuits offer intense combinations of cardio and strength training and can be done in 8-15 minutes every day. So the next time you’re looking for a change of pace at the gym or a tough at-home workout, consider incorporating some or all of the drills in this circuit.

Why Plyometrics?
Athletes incorporate plyometrics into their weekly routines for several reasons. Like core exercises, they promote total body strength, coordination, and injury prevention. As always, a good workout will make your muscles feel sore afterward, but it should never be painful! If something hurts, stop immediately and consult one of the athletic trainers at the Z-Center. This cycle can be repeated as many times as you like during a single workout. You can build up to the full circuit by trying each of the moves for a short burst of time (10–15 seconds). Questions? Email me at freshstart@tech.mit.edu for clarification!

Two-Foot Bunny Hop (Duration: 30s, Rest: 45s)
Choose a line on the ground. Standing with feet together, hop rapidly forward and back over the line. For best results, try to spend the minimum amount of time with your feet touching the floor. Maximize speed, not height.

Two-Foot Side Hops (Duration: 30s, Rest: 45s)
With feet together, hop side to side as quickly as possible over the line. Try to minimize the amount of time with your feet on the ground. Maximize speed, not height.

Front/Back Scissor Hops (Duration: 30s, Rest: 45s)
Stand with one foot in front of the line and one foot behind the line. Rapidly switch positions of your feet relative to the line. Maximize speed.

Chacha Steps (Duration: 30s, Rest: 15s)
Start with both feet behind the line. Step over with your right foot, then your left. Repeat with left foot, then right foot. Repeat as fast as possible. Maximize Speed.

Tuck Jumps (Duration: 30s, Rest: 75s)
Jump up and tuck your knees to your chest. Spend as little time on the ground as possible (i.e., start the next jump as soon as you land).

Lunge Jumps (Duration: 30s, Rest: 75s)
Start in lunge position (right foot forward). Don’t let your front knee extend past your toes! Jump up as high as you can and land in the opposite lunge position (left foot forward). Repeat. Aim for both height and speed.

Emiño (Duration: 30s, Rest: 45s)
Imagine you are standing on the “five” of a die or domino. Start with each foot shoulder-width apart on the “five” dots. Hop forward and bring feet together to land on the “middle” dot. Hop forward again and land shoulder-width apart on the two “top” dots. Hop backwards again to the “middle” dot and then back to the “bottom” dots. Repeat. Aim for quickness.

Lateral Cone Hop (Duration: 20s, Rest: 45s)
Imagine you have a 18 cone on the ground. Stand with both feet together to the side of the cone. Jump sideways over the imaginary cone, tucking your knees up toward your chest. Land softly and jump back to the starting position. Aim for height and minimize time on the ground.

Safety Tips
When doing these exercises, make sure you are in control. No flailing! When doing the moves, you should try to execute them as quickly as possible while maintaining good form. You should look as dignified as possible. If you become too exhausted to do the move correctly, take a minute to rest and try again. If you are still too tired, stop for the day. It’s better to try again when you are feeling fresh.

Be sure to wear athletic shoes when doing these exercises (running, cross-training, indoor, tennis – no flip-flops!). You can do permanent damage to your feet and joints by jumping around barefoot on hard surfaces – yes, even carpet.

Especially important note: when jump/ hopping/stepping, be sure to land softly. This means your footsteps/landings should be very quiet — the whole gym should not be able to hear you! The point of this is to protect your joints. By slamming your feet into the ground, you are not only jarring your knees, ankles, and spine, you are also landing with hyper-extended knees. The dangers of landing this way range from pulled muscles and tendons to torn or damaged soft tissues in your knee joints, among other things. So don’t do it!

To land more quietly, you should try to give” with your knees as you land. Think of your lower body as a spring. When you land, you should have your weight on the balls of your feet (never heels!) and allow your knees to bend to absorb the impact. If you’re unsure of what this looks like, ask an athletic friend to demonstrate the difference. Once you get the hang of it, you won’t have to worry about it.

Disclaimer: I may be a premed, but I’m not a doctor yet! The ideas in this article come from workouts learned from the coaches of the MIT Women’s Varsity Lacrosse team. Be sure to check with your doctor before embarking on a new fitness regimen and to ask for help from a trainer or coach if you are unsure about how to perform any of the moves described. Form is critical. Be healthy, train healthy!

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA L. WASS
PHOTO BY EDUARDO S. VERDIL-LIS
PHOTO BY JAVAIL A. WONG — THE TECH

get on the front page
A WALK THROUGH

THE PSFC

The PSFC

A Walk Through

1. Several of the scientists and engineers who help operate Alcator C-Mod form a human chain in the control center.

2. This coastal cable serves several megawatts of radio frequency power into the tokamak to heat the plasma inside the confining magnetic field.

3. Roza Tesfaye, the power electronics engineer at Alcator, works at a bench changing a high voltage transformer.

4. Wiring for the massive alternator housed in an adjoining building, which provides power to the tokamak during experiments.

5. The tokamak's power output hybrid drive, which supplements the main current with a megawatt of microwave power, sits behind a safety fence.

6. Rows of computer monitors and a massive screen on the rear wall in the control room display crucial data about the tokamak system and its various instruments during experiments.

7. A cramped port that grants access into the innards of the tokamak its various instruments during experiments.

1. Primarily used with devices from MIT plasma scientists, who can access a port of Tri Alpha's tokamak, an improved version of Alcator C-Mod.

2. A cramped port that grants access into the innards of the tokamak its various instruments during experiments.

3. The tokamak supports 100 staff members, and there are currently four 400-megawatt plasma torches depending on the tokamak's needs. Mainly, each torch is slightly more than 33 feet to be able to fire its plasma torches to a point safely.

4. Over a megawatt of microwave power, sits behind a safety fence.

5. Which supplemented the main current with over a megawatt of microwave power, more than 100 megawatts during experiments.

6. A typical tokamak plasma column consists of a diamagnetic plasma surrounded by a toroidal magnetic field.

7. The tokamak wall materials and tertiary electron confinement systems are made of materials that are being tested at MIT, which will allow for the ITER facility.メーカーは、2019年から運用を開始し設計された第一の核融合炉である。
Professors honored for undergraduate teaching
William Broadhead, Leslie P. Kaelbling, David Kaiser, and Nancy L. Rose are fellows

According to Broadhead, who teaches Greek and Roman history in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, undergraduate teaching is an opportunity to introduce students to “material that they might not have expected to encounter.” Each year over IAP, Broadhead takes 10 to 15 students to Rome, an experience that he believes “wakes up” the students to the world around them.

Broadhead enjoys teaching MIT students for their intelligence, curiosity, and humility. “This uniquely MIT combination of qualities makes them fun and easy to teach, it makes them much more enthusiastic about working on this material with me than I could possibly have hoped they would be, and it means that often they push me in directions that I hadn’t thought of before,” said Broadhead. “I get a lot of questions from MIT undergraduates that you would not expect to get from a more conventional student of ancient history at a liberal arts college.”

Rose, who teaches 14.20 (Industrial Organization and Competitive Strategy), also finds the approach to teaching MIT students a unique experience. “They’re very curious about the world and very eager to try and take what they’re learning and apply it,” said Rose. “One of the really fabulous things about teaching at MIT is that I have the opportunity to do things in my class sometimes that I can’t imagine I would get to do at a lot of other places.”

In the spring of 2000, Rose managed to bring in as a guest lecturer Andres Antonio Gonzalez — the chief of staff for Mexico’s then-Secretary of Energy Luis Tellez — who had taken part in reorganizing the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). They had discussed this topic extensively throughout the term as an example of collusion in cartels. “We’d been sitting here during the semester taking about this, and then [Gonzalez] shows up in the middle of my class and gives a 20-minute speech that basically says, ‘Well here’s how we were thinking about it,’ and starts citing the economic models that I’d been teaching the class,” said Rose. “And then, at the end of his presentation, we opened it up and the students got to ask him all kinds of questions. It was one of those moments when you just think, ‘It doesn’t get better than this.’”

Kaelbling, one of the first developers of the introductory computer science course 6.01, sees undergraduate teaching as a “design problem,” optimizing clarity and simplicity while encouraging students to think critically and autonomously. “I really want to figure out how to get students to be enthusiastic about and engaged in the questions and ultimately to ask the questions themselves,” said Kaelbling. “The reason that we have lab the way we have it is so that we can ask somewhat more open-ended things of the students and so that we can put more of the intellectual burden on them.”

MIT’s unique culture has also shaped the way that Kaiser approaches undergraduate teaching. “One of the things that I really love about being at a place like MIT is that every student here can do anything,” said Kaiser. “They’re incredible.”

Kaiser’s “quintessential MIT moment” as he called it, came in September 2000, when he was giving a lecture on medieval Arabic astronomy. As he lectured about a medieval thesis on uniform circular motion of planets, one of his students wrote a few lines of code on an archaic handheld device and managed to model and explain the theory. “That was when I knew I was at MIT,” said Kaiser.

William Broadhead, Leslie P. Kaelbling, David Kaiser, and Nancy L. Rose are fellows...
Biogen Idec returns
Firm will move back to Kendall

Biogen, from Page 1

Cambridge Center in and sought a new place to accommodate the workforce. The decision to move to Worcester was made in 2008 by former CEO James C. Mullen, who thought it would offer more space and convenience for workers and save money on lower lease rates at the same time. But the current CEO, George A. Scangos, who took over in the summer of 2010, a month after the company moved to Weston, instantly disliked the geographical separation between sales and marketing in Weston and R&D facilities that remained in Cambridge.

"It wouldn't have been my choice," he told the Boston Globe. "Today, I'm the only member of senior management who's here (in Cambridge). Everyone else is in Weston. That's not optimal." He commented, "Weston was too far away from Kendall Square," in an email to The Tech. "I totally agree with this and welcome them back to Cambridge. Biogen Idec is a high-tech company and must be in touch with the cutting edge of biotech." Biogen Idec will fully join the growing biotech industry near Kendall Square when construction is scheduled to be complete in 2013. Currently, the area is populated by pharmaceutical giants such as Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi, and Amylin.

In an email to The Tech, Kirk D. Kolenbrander, Vice President and Secretary of the MIT Corporation, noted that the "expanding innovation district in Kendall Square was a principle factor in the decision making process" for the company. "Although MIT did not have any direct involvement" in Biogen Idec's return to Kendall Square, he said, "MIT is delighted to have the company reassemble in Kendall Square."

Forum discusses USPS future
The US postal service in the technological climate
By Rob McQueen CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

USPS Inspector General, Da vid C. Williams came to MIT last Thursday to discuss the future of the United States Postal Service as part of MIT's Communi cation Forum. The talk touched upon important issues that the Postal Service must face in order to survive the current economic climate.

With the Postal Service on the verge of 200,000 jobs, Will iams is on the lookout for solutions that could help the USPS adapt to today's technological environment. "We are losing billions of dollars and have been losing billions of dollars," he said.

The talk's panel also included Richard J. John, Professor in Columbia University's School of Journalism, and Kent B. Smith, manager of strategic business development for the USPS.

This is not the first time the USPS has found itself in trouble as a result of new technology.

All three panelists agreed that the USPS plays an important role by upholding the civic mandate that preserves security, privacy, and confidence in message delivery. Such Internet technologies, like email and text messaging, fail to provide the security that American citizens need from their government. John, who gave a historical lesson at the talk about the emergence of the postal service, described the USPS as a "reserver of goodwill that resides in the mandate."

However, at the pace that tech nology is advancing, it is hard to predict and keep up with future technologies. "Laptops and email because so five nanoseconds ago," joked Williams. As a consequence of the rapid development, security and pri vacy have taken a back seat when it comes to messaging (i.e. email and social media). "Net neutrality should be decided by the public," Williams said.

Smith believes that the USPS can succeed by creating tools that integrate with current technologies and keep the civic mandate up to speed. "We're just begging to see the marriage, where the Internet is connected to mail... that will determine the future," he said.

With the emergence of new communication media like social media and email, time and space have disappeared as limiting boundaries to messaging. "We don't know a lot of things that are currently going on. Is email killing mail? Is tweeting and blogging killing email?" said Williams.

This is not the first time the USPS has found itself in trouble as a result of new technology. The USPS has had a history of adapting to the environment as result of emerging technologies including the telegraph, telephone, and fax.

However, today's situation is more complex. The blending of social media with smartphone devices has created a microcosm with which the USPS has not been able to integrate.

The USPS has grown immense in size. In 2010, the USPS generated a revenue of $67 billion, delivered 171 billion pieces of mail delivered, and employed 574,000 workers. "The Postal Service is a beast," said Smith.

According to Smith, one primary goal for the USPS is to consolidate and simplify its services. Since 2006, the USPS has reduced the number of major mail processing facilities from 673 to 487, with a goal of keeping only 200.

One primary goal for the USPS is to consolidate and simplify its services. Since 2006, the USPS has reduced the number of major mail processing facilities from 673 to 487, with a goal of keeping only 200. The number of employees has also decreased from 698,000 to 574,000 and will continue to decline in the coming year.

Williams agrees, saying that the number of post offices should be reduced, and that these consolidated numbers should be located in "the right places to meet supply and demand.

According to Smith, the USPS will delay the closing of some offices in preparation for the upcoming primary and presidential elections.

Shiva Ayyadurai ’87 — MIT Lecturer in Writing and Humanities, MIT Media Lab, and Lecturer in Writing and Humanities, Department of Biological Engineering — moderated the talk.

Passover @ MIT
Passover First Seder is Friday night, April 6
Passover Second Seder is Saturday night, April 7

First Seder options through MIT Hillel:
• Kosher Seder at Hillel
• Living Group-Organized Seders
• Home Hospitality (hosted by local alumni and faculty)

Second Seder options around campus:
• Undergraduate Seder at AEPl (please RSVP by March 21)
• Grad Hillel Seder

Kosher for Passover Meals through MIT Dining/Bon Appetit
• Offered for MIT community members all eight days

To register for seders and/or meals, go to hillel.mit.edu, "Sign Up for Passover Seders and Meals" on the top right, or use the QR-code above. Pre-registration required.

ALL SIGN-UPS MUST BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 30!

Questions? Email passover@mit.edu

Hag Sameach / Happy Passover!!
Next year may we all be free!

sports@tech.mit.edu
Google expansion approved
Revised plan: more park space for less garden space

By Michael B. Farrell
web.mit.edu/tech

Cambridge City Council voted Monday night to approve a plan for Google Inc. to increase in Ken- dall Square office in an expansion that would add a public rooftop garden.

The proposal sparked an out- cry late last month when it was presented to the City Council by Boston Properties Inc., Google’s landlord, after some councillors and residents said they were sur- prised by losses to the park, which sits atop a Kendall Square park- ing garage and is protected by an open-space covenant.

Boston Properties returned to the City Council Monday with a slightly revised proposal that in- cludes bumping up the amount of new park space the developer will construct in exchange for reducing the garden and pledging $2 mil- lion to design and construct that green space.

“This is a step in a process,” said Steve Vinter, head of Google’s Cambridge office, after the coun- cil’s 7-to-2 vote in favor of the plan. “Growing is a thing that takes time, and we are really appreciative of the work done by the community and the council.”

During the public comment session of the meeting, he said, “What this has really been about is how to make Kendall Square more vibrant, and that should re- ally be what we are discussing.”

The expansion will allow Google to spread out across 300,000 square feet of office space.

The expansion plan includes the construction of two glass-wall connectors that will link Four, Five, and Three Cambridge Center. Bos- ton Properties said construction should begin later this year with an expected completion date of mid-2013. The expansion will add about 60,000 square feet between the buildings, and allow Google to spread out across 300,000 square feet of office space.

The outcry was focused largely on the connector between Four and Five Cambridge Center, be- cause it sits on top of a parking ga- rage and will top off 18,000 square feet from the rooftop garden, which dates back to 1983. Boston Properties needed council ap- proval to build on top of the public park.

“It is an oasis, an Eden, a mar-
vel, something that Boston Prop- erties should be incredibly proud of because of the stellar job they did and the creating and maintain- ing it. Destroying it should be the last thing on their minds,” said Heather Hoffman, a Cambridge resident and member of the East Cambridge Planning Team, who spoke out against the expansion.

The East Cambridge group, which met with Boston Proper-
ties and Google officials last week to discuss the proposal, originally voted against supporting it in its cur- rent form, and instead offered an alternative plan. It suggested that Boston Properties attempt to extend the rooftop garden onto an adjacent building instead of devel-
oping another ground-level park nearby.

Boston Properties said it ex- plored that proposal but it is not structurally feasible.

But on Monday night the East Cambridge group said its board members opted to back the re-vised plan, which Boston Proper-
ties submitted to the City of Cam-
bidge last Friday.

Charles Marquardt, a member of the East Cambridge Planning Team’s executive board, said his group would still like to see more of a commitment from Boston Properties to build residential units in the neighborhood in the near future. As part of the revised plan, which adds 50,000 square feet of open space to Cambridge,

Amsden, from Page 1

known books was The Rise of The ‘Best’ Challenges to the West from Late-Industrializing Economies, published by Oxford University Press in 2010. In it, she examined the way Asian countries such as South Korea and Taiwan had helped produce growth through state-promoted industrialization.

In contrast, Amsden observed, some Latin American countries had accommodated a greater de-
gree of overseas investment, leav-
ing more economic decisions in the hands of multinational firms, not state actors.

Amsden was a co-winner of the 2002 Leontief Prize, along with Harvard University’s Dani Rodrik, an annual award granted by Tufts University in recognition of impor-

tant “contributions to economic theory that ... support just and sustainable societies.” The prize is named for the prominent late economist Wassily Leontief.

In her acceptance remarks for the Leontief Prize, Amsden stressed the importance of the close study of developing coun-
tries, because “there are a lot of people out there that are disap-
pointed and that desperately want improved living conditions and social standards.”

Amsden was born in New York City, and she received her under-
graduate degree from Cornell Uni-

versity in 1965 and her PhD from the London School of Economics in 1971. She began her career as an economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and before joining MIT in 1984, taught at the University of California at Los-
geles, Barnard College, Harvard University, and the New School. At MIT, she held the Ellen Swallow Richards Institute Chair from 1994 until 1997, when she was named the Weller Professor. Amsden is known for her teaching, her research, and her scholarship. Amsden served as a consultant to the OECD, the U.S. government, and multiple pro-
grams within the United Nations.

In 2009, Amsden was appointed by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki- moon to a three-year seat on the U.N. Economic and Social Development Policy, part of the U.N. Economic and Social Council; the committee provides advice to the council on a wide range of economic develop-
ment issues.

Amsden is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Myra Strober and Jay Jackman of Stan-
ford, Calif.; nephew Jason Strober, his wife, Joanna Strober, and their children, Sarah, Jared and Ari, of Morristown, N.J.; niece Elizabeth Strober, her husband, Bryan Cohen, and their son, Leo Strober Cohen, of Seattle; nephew Bashi Jackman, his wife Maire Ahmed, and their son, Jasper Ahmed; nephew Jason Jackman, his wife Lena Chu; and niece Tenaya Jack-
man. Amsden was previously married to John Amsden and to Tahkashi Hikino.

NOTE: A memorial service will be planned at MIT at a later time. More details will be posted as they become available.

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Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

from page 5

from page 7

Solution to "Stumper"

from page 7

LETTERS

to THE TECH

letters@the-tech.mit.edu

Amsden dies at 68
Teacher, scholar, & consultant

PAGE 13
Google, from Page 12

Boston Properties said it would present plans for about 880 residential units after the additions to Google are completed.

Councillor Minka vanBeuzekom, who voted against the expansion along with Councillor Craig Kelley, agreed that the city should have a stronger commitment from Boston Properties that it would pursue residential development. “It doesn’t sound like a good deal to me,” she said.

Despite the two opposing voices on the council, the overwhelming majority appeared eager to see Google expand in Kendall Square. “We value companies like Google in this community,” said Councillor David Maher. “We live in a very competitive economic development world right now — competitive around the country, but also competitive around the area. All of us saw how very quickly Boston was ready to pounce at the opportunity to court one of our companies.”

After the Google expansion plan was delayed last month in Cambridge, Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino invited Google to consider moving across the Charles River.

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The mission of the MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies is to dramatically enhance Soldier protection and survivability through basic research on nanotechnology and collaboration with Army and industry partners to transition promising research into practical capabilities.

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Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2012-2013 academic year.

**MIT Undergraduate Students:**
- Joshua Dunaway, 2014
- Paige Fiddler, 2014
- Emmie Kaus, 2015

**MIT Graduate Students:**
- Ellie Bottani, MBA, Sloan/MPA, HKS, 2013
- Samuel Shumer, PhD, 2015

**Harvard Undergraduate Students:**
- Cody Dean, 2014
- Hilary Haggins, 2015
- Joshua Zhang, 2014

**Harvard Graduate Students:**
- Christina Adams, MBA, 2013
- Oliver Hanson, PhD, 2015
- Mathew Morgan, MPP, 2013
- May Lam, MBS, 2013
- Allison Trop, JD, 2015

Any student Coop member may petition to be a candidate on the election ballot. A Petition application is available online at www.thecoop.com.

The Petition period is March 14 to April 1, 2012. For complete Petition rules consult the information posted in the election section on the Coop website at: www.thecoop.com.
Athlete of the Week: Colleen T. Rock ’14

Rock dominates on and off the ice at MIT

By Katie Bodner

MIT Taekwondo victorious

Engineers place first at third ECC conference

By Shiyang Liu

A blood clot caused irreparable damage to Colleen’s spinal cord when she was just 11 years old, causing her to become para-
plegic at a young age. She has, neverthe-
less, excelled tremendously in computer science, mathematics, and robotics and is a
cheerful Course 6 sophomore in Alpha Chi Omega. Her secret, though? She’s been
on the U.S. Women’s National Taekwondo
Team for over eight years. An extraordinary
athlete and student, Colleen sat down with
The Tech to explain more about her life at
MIT and as a national athlete.

The Tech: What got you into sled hockey?

Rock: I was competing in wheelchair
track and field, and a guy at the sled hockey
tournament said, “You have to do this. It’s a
total of fun.” That was over eight years ago.

TT: What has your involvement been like with the U.S. Women’s Sled Hockey Team?

CR: I’ve been with the team since the be-
ginning and we started before we got a coach
last year. The team has just finally devel-
oped into a A1 team that has been traveling, with my teammates, from Con-
necticut to Canada. We take 12-hour bus bus-
trips, which means a lot of bonding! We’ve
never been in the same room together.

TT: What has it been like to be in an adult league?

CR: Since I’m on the adult team, I’ve al-
ways been the youngest, the “baby.” It’s a lot
of fun to hang out with the team. I love
skating, and I’m more agile in the chair on
the ice. It’s cool that they support the fact
that I have school, but it can definitively frus-
trate at times.

TT: How do you balance your time be-
 tween MIT and sled hockey?

CR: I definitely haven’t had enough time
to practice since coming to MIT. I can’t manage to stay either uninjured or not
sick.

TT: How does the sport of sled hockey
work? Can you explain more about the
games?

CR: The team flies out and plays games
and scrimmage against other coed adult
teams. We’re supposed to compete for
Canada’s Women’s teams soon. It’s really
exciting, really exciting. It’s like normal hockey ex-
cept for there is checking with the women’s
teams. Since you sit on the ice, it makes
goodbreaking really interesting.

TT: What else are you involved with at
MIT?

CR: I’m chief justice of the judiciary com-
mittee at Maseeh Hall, an Residential As-
doctor. The day the B team lost to Johns
Hopkins University by a score of 0-2, with several well-timed head-
toons. Team co-captain Weinberg
scored an out of the blue goal, and
still dominated his matches with
pace and grace. With scores of
8-2 and 16-5 in the finals and
semi-finals respectively, he played
a critical role in leading the team to
the top.

The women’s B1 team (Tiffany
Brown ’12, Tiffany ’14, ’13, Ling)
won silver after taking MIT
through to the quarter-
finals over Duke University.

TT: What are some of your future goals?

CR: I’d like to get into MIT’s SEEng
program for Course 6, stay on the women’s
Team in the future as it gets better and more
competitive, and keep myself at the top
level of women in the U.S. in sled hockey.
Basically, I’d like to do the best I can.

TT: Can you tell us some fun facts about
sled hockey?

CR: Able-bodied people are also al-
lowed to play sled hockey (but there’s a
cap). Also, my team made it into USA
Hockey Magazine last year and became funded by USA Hockey.

Colleen T. Rock ’14 has been a member of the U.S. Women’s National Sled Hockey Team for over eight years.
Historic season for basketball

Men’s team makes it to Division III Final Four

By Shri Ganeshram

Last weekend, the MIT Men’s Basketball team’s best season in history came to an end with a 56-71 loss to Wisconsin-Whitewater in the Final Four. The Engineers had an unfortunate dry streak in the second half of the game after ending the first half with a tie, 26-26. A 14-0 run in less than five minutes for Whitewater took MIT from its slight lead of 32-30 to a huge deficit of 42-32. The Engineers’ range shooting was off-target most of the game, only hitting three of 20 from beyond the arc, an incredible low for an MIT team that prides itself in its high 3-point percentage. With an unlucky exterior game, MIT had trouble getting in the paint, as Whitewater had a defensive force in Chris Davis whose height, volume, and strength made it difficult for the Engineers to score down low. Davis also played well on the other end of the court, scoring a total of 30 points.

William Tashman ‘13 was able to slip by Davis a few times, scoring three layups off offensive rebounds and playing consistently well throughout the game. MIT’s defense played well, on the other hand, enabling MIT to contain Whitewater to low scoring for most of the game. Whitewater’s end result of 71 points was still decent for the team, but they benefited from the last few minutes of the game because of a free-throw shooting contest.

MIT’s loss was mostly a result of a bad-shooting day — a sad way to end such a great season.

By Shri Ganeshram

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MIT’s loss was mostly a result of a bad-shooting day — a sad way to end such a great season. They finished with a record that only tarnished, 29-2, a result of diligence and talent meeting for 5–7 p.m. practices in Rockwell Cage after a full day at MIT. The good news for the fans of the Cambridge, Mass. team is that many of the team’s major components will be back, including Tashman who ended his season with his 12th double-double, scoring 15 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

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Last weekend, the MIT Men’s Basketball team’s best season in history came to an end with a 56-71 loss to Wisconsin-Whitewater in the Final Four. The Engineers had an unfortunate dry streak in the second half of the game after ending the first half with a tie, 26-26. A 14-0 run in less than five minutes for Whitewater took MIT from its slight lead of 32-30 to a huge deficit of 42-32. The Engineers’ range shooting was off-target most of the game, only hitting three of 20 from beyond the arc, an incredible low for an MIT team that prides itself in its high 3-point percentage. With an unlucky exterior game, MIT had trouble getting in the paint, as Whitewater had a defensive force in Chris Davis whose height, volume, and strength made it difficult for the Engineers to score down low. Davis also played well on the other end of the court, scoring a total of 30 points.

William Tashman ‘13 was able to slip by Davis a few times, scoring three layups off offensive rebounds and playing consistently well throughout the game. MIT’s defense played well, on the other hand, enabling MIT to contain Whitewater to low scoring for most of the game. Whitewater’s end result of 71 points was still decent for the team, but they benefited from the last few minutes of the game because of a free-throw shooting contest.

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