Nobel Peace Prize winner speaks at MIT

Shirin Ebadi discusses women's rights in Iran and the Islamic World

By Alya Lyons

With all eyes fixated on her kind but piercing gaze, the overflowing room qui-

eted as 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi stepped to the podium and

addressed the audience. "I want to talk to you about the legal status of women, where\nyever they face discrimination, be it in the East or in the West."

As an accomplished lawyer and former judge born in Iran, Ebadi was most\nnotably the nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her\ncampaign on democracy and human rights, focusing especially on the rights of women and children. She is the first Iranian and first Muslim woman to receive this award.

On Wednesday, April 4, Ebadi addressed a crowd of MIT students, faculty, and visitors on "Women's Rights in Iran and the Islamic World," followed by a reception and book signing in Wong Auditorium in E1. Her once restricted memoir, "The Golden Cage," was published in the United States in 2004 after a prolonged legal battle with the United States Treasury, and her most recent 2011 publication includes the novel "The Golden Cage."

"Setting her expressive hands into flight, Ebadi ad-

dressed the MIT audience in her native tongue of Persian.

"The form of oppression on women is different depending on culture and the country they live in," she began.

Ebadi was dressed in all black — mirroring the so-

lennity of her talk topic — but a single gold and dia-

mante on her left ear.

Ebadi, Page 13

David House sues US after search of laptop

By John A. Hawkinson

Was your laptop searched by US Customs coming back from a spring break trip? It could have been, without a warrant, and the govern-

ment might have kept it for days, weeks, or even months while they searched it.

That happened to David House, on November 3, 2010 at Chicago O'Hare Airport, who held his laptop for 49 days. At the time, he was a researcher at MIT.

Last week, a federal judge in Boston ruled that House's lawsuit against the government could proceed. "We were very happy with the judge's decision," said Catherine Crump, one of House's attorneys.

Who is David House?

David House graduated with a degree in computer science from Boston University in 2010, and went on to work for the MIT Center for Digital Business, part of the Sloan School of Management. House was also a professor.

But he was also a friend of Bradley Manning, the United States Army private who is accused of having leaked classified material to WikiLeaks, a group that pub-

lishes private and classified ma-
terial from anonymous sources, whistle blowers, etc. Manning is being held in military custody as he awaits trial.

House is a founder of the Brad-

ley Manning Support Network, which seeks to raise awareness about Manning's situation and to fund his legal defense. Shortly after filing the lawsuit, House left MIT, and he is now a freelance programmer. He left MIT of his own accord, to spend more time on politics, according to said Prof. Marshall Van Alenye, for whom he worked.

House's passion, he says, is building tools that allow users to communicate securely, a project he calls "Ithiel.

The search

House vacationed in Mexico in the spring of 2010 with his girl-

friend, and he returned to the United States at Chicago O'Hare, where he went through customs. After his belongings were initially searched by Customs and Border

Patrol (CBP), he was waved onwards. Two Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents met House and demanded he surrender his electronic devices and come with them to an interrogat-

ion room.

House says CBP told him, "you're free to go" before the DHS agents stopped him. The govern-

ment disputes that point.

House was taken away for 90 minutes and questioned by the agents (about Manning and WikiLeaks, but not about border

By John A. Hawkinson
US moves toward normalizing relations with Myanmar

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Wednesday announced its most significant moves yet to open relations with Myanmar, lifting the travel ban on senior leaders and easing restrictions in a bid to help the former military junta shed its pariah status.

On Wednesday afternoon, Aung San Suu Kyi, the imprisoned leader of Myanmar’s National League for Democracy, was released from her 18-year house arrest.

The move came after the junta announced that it would reopen a U.S. Agency for International Development office, clearing the way for an expansion of foreign assistance.

It would reopen a U.S. Agency for International Development office, clearing the way for an expansion of foreign assistance.

The administration’s actions do not lift the sweeping arm

...
Low growth in corporate earnings is expected

By Christine Hauser

Corporate profits have been among the brightest lights of the economic recovery, helping to lift the S&P 500 index more than 25 percent since October. But analysts expect that when the first-quarter reporting season starts in earnest next week, U.S. companies will show the slowest rate of growth in operating earnings in three years.

One widely used gauge of profits, the Standard & Poor’s Composite Index, shows that earnings will grow 0.93 percent in the quarter. That compares with 2.6 percent for the first quarter of 2011, for the companies that make up the S&P 500 stock index. That would bring the value of one share of the index to $125.80.

In the same period last year, operating earnings per share were $2.63, the result of 8.8 percent growth from the first quarter to the second.

“It is the lowest quarter of growth we have seen since the third quarter of 2009,” said Christine Short, the senior manager for S&P Global Market Intelligence. “At the same time, analysts predict Beijing will continue to use stimulus to keep the economy growing at a slower pace, “ said Lawrence Huang, a portfolio manager at Federated Investors.

Three of the 10 sectors of the S&P 500 index will show earnings growth in the first quarter of 2012, according to S&P. Most sectors are expected to grow a year ago as the economy continues to benefit from government financial crisis, so comparisons to 2011 will be relatively mild.

“Earnings are still growing, but it is at a slower pace,” said Lawrence Creatura, a portfolio manager at Federated Managers.

“Earnings growth has slowed, but it is not a slower growth,” said Thomas Gallagher, an investment banking analyst at BNP Paribas.

The admission came after months of overlapping police, parliamentary and judicial inquiries into phone hacking, email hacking and financial manipulation. The inquiry has grown from a case involving journalists at the News of the World, whose parent company is controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., admitted Thursday that one of its reporters had hacked into the email accounts of politicians and others involved in high-profile cases.

“On the basis of the information we now have, I am satisfied that hacking did take place,” said Justice Brian Leveson, who is leading the inquiry.

British TV reporter hacked into emails to write stories

LONDON — A British TV reporter said Thursday that she had been hacked into, putting it on par with stories involving a number of other prominent figures who have been targeted by phone hackers.

The episode has prompted a public outpouring, with passers-by naming phone numbers of targets for the first time that Britain’s hacking scandal had spilled into the open.

The Guardian said the reporter, who was left with long black hair, had been targeted by a phone hacker who had also targeted other journalists.

The pensioner, Dimitris Christoulas, a former pharmacist, took his own life in a pensioner’s suicide in the eastern city of Lahore, was “mimicking” and “ridiculous.”

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The Pakistan government and opposition on Thursday united in criticism of a newly announced $30 million fund for Hajj, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, in a bid to resolve a diplomatic impasse resulting from the standoff between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan over the 2008 Mumbai attacks, a heated session of Parliament in which lawmakers and Secretary General Washington provide proof of Saeed's terrorist credentials.

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani warned that the U.S. reward, which was offered by a senior State Department official in a December interview with an Indian news channel, was a “negative message” and would “further harden the stance of the two countries.”

Parliament is in the throes of a contentious debate about ties with the United States, which has been virtually frozen since U.S. warplanes killed 25 civilians in Awaran, Baluchistan, in September. Now, it seems, Saeed's fate may present a new hurdle.

Opposition lawmakers said the U.S. offer of $10 million for information leading to the capture or arrest of Saeed, who is accused of plotting the Mumbai attacks, would be a “negative message” and would “further harden the stance of the two countries.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tech lacks MIT specific coverage

On March 16th, the MIT Wind Ensemble (MITWE) performed a concert in Kresge Auditorium, featuring the world premier of “breakthrough” by Jamin Shubert. The next night, the MIT Symphony Orchestra (MITSO) performed another concert on the same stage. Yet the only coverage in The Tech of these events was a single captioned photo of a single musician from each concert.

In comparison, the April 3 edition of The Tech features a full page article about a concert that took place in South Street and had nothing to do with MIT. The Tech, especially this department, should be ashamed of this disparity.

MITSO and MITWE will be performing again in May (the 4th and the 11th, respectively), with the MITSO concert featuring Yimin Chen ’13 performing Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto no. 1. I hope that the MIT community will show its support of these two ensembles (and soloist) by attending these concerts on mass, and I hope for The Tech’s credibility as a source of MIT-related news that this letter will not be the only coverage of these events.

Matthew Platanos ’09

CORRECTIONS

An article published Tuesday misspelled the first name of Jonell D. Craighead ’13. His name is “Jonell,” not “Jonte.” The accompanying caption also gave the class years of Naren P. Tallapragada and Andrew C. Yang as 2002. They are both in the Class of 2013.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Ashlyn Schalcik, Editor in Chief Jessica J. Pourian, Managing Editor Connor Kirschbaum, Executive Editor Ethan A. Solomon, and Opinion Editor Andy Liang.

Dissents are signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu.

Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397629, Cambridge, Mass. 02393-7629, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech and will not be returned. Letters, columns and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all submitted letters. Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

TO REACH US

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The dangers of American deprecationism

Andy Liang’s opinion piece in the Tuesday edition of The Tech is insulting, disgusting, and wrong on so many counts that it is difficult to know where to start. It is a “shooting blast” article, aiming to incriminate an “unapologetic media,” downplay (if not delegitimize) the notion that PTSD may have been involved, and altogether is indicative of a very troubling trend amongst American culture today.

At its core, Liang’s article argues against the media’s “defence” of Sergeant Robert Bales, who is alleged to have murdered 17 Afghan civilians.

The most troubling portion of Liang’s piece is the overt ridicule of even the possibility of mental health issues playing a role in what was obviously a situation in which Sergeant Bales “snapped.” Liang’s rhetorical questions of “was he drunk when he made that first kill … suffering from a headache when he made the second kill… not been himself when he made the third kill … been the family man … when [he killed] children with bullets to the head?” are absolutely disgusting, PTSD, and other mental health issues are not “drunkenness,” they are not “headaches.” They are very real injuries caused by extended exposure to brutal and horrific situations that most of us will never know, Liang included.

Liang chooses not to consider this point and instead faults the media for even giving voice to Sergeant Bales’ attorney and friends who describe a pattern of emotionally unstable behavior, especially for a soldier on his fourth tour of duty.

Liang does not note the dozens of articles in the media that were the night of the incident detailing a sense-tionally unstable behavior, especially for a soldier on his fourth tour of duty. This is not the case for deprecationists. This might be a fair statement to make if Liang didn’t purposefully omit the murders of over 10 American and NATO troops just before the incident involving Sergeant Bales. Rather, Liang instead mentions that “NATO burning the Qurans eliciting a pandemonium of protests. Many injustices were done to Afghans without any true retribution for them.”

Retribution? I call 10 murders of American soldiers retribution. I call a subsequent car bombing that killed nine more individuals “retribution.” The NATO forces burned the Qurans because those Qurans contained coded messages passed from captured terrorists to one another that might seriously compromise a threat against American soldiers’ lives.

Liang wants an apology? Let’s start with one from President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. Our president apologized for the burnings, yet I’m still wait- ing for Karzai’s apology. Where is Liang’s outrage?

Overall, it is easy to take away a couple of lessons from the shortcomings and distortions of Liang’s piece. For one, the reality of mental health issues as a result of combat on our heroic veterans is very real, yet often dismissed by many people. Secondly, the media should be doing its job better not to apologize in a reactionary way, but to cover both sides of a story. Lastly, American deprecationism is becoming increasingly common in our culture and needs to be con-tained. America is an exceptional land, an extraordinary country. One which (whether people like it or not), routinely gives its services, blood and treasure, to the cause of freedom and helping others. America is exceptional.

Your thinking is dangerous. Our wrongdoings should not be balanced with Afghanistan’s crimes. Retribution is not revenge. Our thinking is dangerous. Our wrongdoings should not be balanced with Afghanistan’s crimes. Retribution is not revenge. Four thinking is dangerous. Our wrongdoings should not be balanced with Afghanistan’s crimes. Retribution is not revenge. The infamous example of the Qurans elicit a pandemonium of protests. Many injustices were done to Afghans without any true retribution for them. Retribution is not revenge.

Ethan: You should join the technology department at The Tech! We pay $14/hr.

Ethan: You get to learn valuable job skills too!

Ethan: We’ve got people who can help you out.

Ethan: E-mail join@tech.mit.edu and we’ll send you more info!

Ethan: What’s up?

Susie: Hey Ethan!

Ethan: susie@tech.mit.edu. We pay $14/hr.

Susie: I’m looking for a job on campus. Do you have any ideas? I like programming and computers.

Susie: Cool, but what if I don’t know that much yet?

Susie: Hey Ethan!

Ethan: You should join the technology department at The Tech! We pay $14/hr.

Ethan: You get to learn valuable job skills too!

Ethan: We’ve got people who can help you out.

Ethan: E-mail join@tech.mit.edu and we’ll send you more info!

Ethan: What’s up?
ACROSS
1 Knock sharply 5 Straddling 11 Country singer Tillis 14 Home to Oberlin College 15 Maze runner 16 Ivy Leaguer 17 Killamey’s locale 19 Drink on draught 20 Ballet movements 21 Julie & Julia director 23 Can’t miss proposition 26 Hits with hailstones 27 Music practice pieces 28 Rare blood 31 Small snare drum 32 Sector 33 Selects, so to speak 36 Quaker possessive 37 City south of San Diego 40 Zodiac beast 41 In the know about 43 Bucks 44 Four Seasons leader 46 Following immediately, as on TV 48 Sollemn agreement 49 Yonder 51 City on the St. Joseph River 52 Enthusiastic agreement

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54 Zodiac beast 55 Place to launch 56 Sight from Waikiki Beach 61 ‘‘boy ___ girl? ’’ 62 Dormant 63 Lake that feeds the Niagara River 64 Hog’s home 65 Polishes, as text 66 Sir’s equivalent

54 Zodiac beast 55 Place to launch 56 Sight from Waikiki Beach 61 ‘‘boy ___ girl? ’’ 62 Dormant 63 Lake that feeds the Niagara River 64 Hog’s home 65 Polishes, as text 66 Sir’s equivalent
UPPERCUT by Steve Sullivan

Fountain

A WEBcomic of Romance, Sarcasm, Math, and Language
by Randall Munroe

Sudoku
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Techdoku
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WE’RE SEEKING TO BUILD OUR FORCES
JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU
The theme for the meeting points to the “unreasonable effectiveness” of the scientific enterprise in creating economic growth, solving societal problems, and satisfying the essential human drive to understand the world in which we live.

The phrase, “unreasonable effectiveness,” was coined in 1960 by physicist Eugene Wigner, who explored the duality of mathematics — both beautiful unto itself, and also eminently practical, often in unexpected ways.

The scientific program will highlight the rich and complicated connections between basic and applied research, and how they bring about both practical benefits and the beauty of pure understanding.

Student Poster Competition

The competition recognizes the individual efforts of students actively working toward an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral degree. **Online entries will be accepted beginning 14 May 2012.**

**For information** about exhibits and sponsorships, contact **meetings@aaas.org**.
MOVIE REVIEW

Film brings book action to life

The Hunger Games upholds its hysterical hype

By Maggie Liu

The Hunger Games, like its prior fantasy predecessors, Twilight and Harry Potter, is a behemoth. It has the hopes and dreams of millions of tween fangirls and fanboys on the line. When I discovered that they were making the bestselling book series into movies, I could not say I was surprised — what I did not anticipate was being impressed by the first movie. Even for those who have not read the series, the movie is a solid standalone film. It has all the necessary elements: beautiful cinematography, breadth of colorful characters, and the right moments to pull the audience’s heartstrings. What makes premise of The Hunger Games so unique though is that the monstrous creatures the protagonist faces are other humans.

The movie opens during a staged “game” where each of the 12 districts sends two youths, a boy and a girl, to participate in a gladiatorial game to the death. Following the model of current reality shows, the games are a televised spectacle complete with host and running commentary. The heart of the first film is the introduction of Katniss Everdeen, our heroine, and the 74th Hunger Games.

Beyoncé. Most of the action in the film takes place during a staged “game” where each of the 12 districts sends two youths, a boy and a girl, to participate in a gladiatorial game to the death. Following the model of current reality shows, the games are a televised spectacle complete with host and running commentary. The heart of the first film is the introduction of Katniss Everdeen, our heroine, and the 74th Hunger Games.

The Sweeping, landscapes, diverse camera technique, and range of color palettes are more characteristic of an arthouse independent film than a blockbuster hit. I will keep it succinct: The Hunger Games has strong traces of the same bloodbath and human psychology of Lord of the Flies and the Japanese gore-thriller Battle Royale. Most of the action in the film takes place during a staged “game” where each of the 12 districts sends two youths, a boy and a girl, to participate in a gladiatorial game to the death. Following the model of current reality shows, the games are a televised spectacle complete with host and running commentary. The heart of the first film is the introduction of Katniss Everdeen, our heroine, and the 74th Hunger Games.

Standard fans of the series will appreciate the attention to detail in designing the sets and costumes, and capturing the atmosphere of the various parts of the book. While many may complain that the Capitol’s makeup and décor was too gaudy, it definitely captured a dimension of the book’s description. Best of all, while the plot is central to the film’s development, the director does not sacrifice quality for content. From a cinematographic perspective, the sweeping landscapes, diverse camera technique, and range of color palettes are more characteristic of an arthouse independent film than a blockbuster hit. I was especially impressed by the Gary Ross’ visual rendition of the Capitol. The Lady Gaga-esque haute couture combined with a neo-New York futuristic city was an unique interpretation. The decadence coupled with a neon and white palette contrasted nicely against the earthy realism of the actual Hunger Games scenes.

In terms of the cast, while it helps that there are two sturdy young male actors (Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth), Jennifer Lawrence really carries the movie on her shoulders as Katniss. She is surprisingly convincing as a level-headed, stubborn, and mildly socially-inept Katniss. Lawrence really carries the movie on her shoulders as Katniss. She is surprisingly convincing as a level-headed, stubborn, and mildly socially-inept Katniss.

District 12’s rep Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks) with a reluctant Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) moments after the Reaping.

Not only does she have natural good looks, she has the acting skills that can capture the full range of Katniss’s complexity. From Huntress with fierce smoldering gaze to a tender-hearted older sister. Unlike fellow counterparts in certain vampire movies, Lawrence brings depth to her character. Even if fans may argue and nitpick about how she doesn’t quite physically resembles the original series’ Katniss, it is difficult to argue that Lawrence did not nail the huskis of the leading role.

If moviegoers are anticipating melodramatic love triangles (as misled by the trailers), they will be sorely disappointed. As stated previously, this first film seeks to establish Katniss as a character and introduce the audience to the world of Panem. Of all the book-turned-film movies, The Hunger Games is actually one of the best-dressed ones, partly due to the nature of the original book. Suzanne Collins, the author of the original book series, was criticized as having spent too many pages describing the action. The film was able to bring a dimension to the action scenes that words alone could not.

The one major flaw I found in the film was that it barely scraped the surface on the political aspects of the original series. The extreme hierarchical class system and limited political freedom emphasized in the book are all issues skirted around cautiously in the movie. While it is true that the first book did not focus on the political aspects, I was disappointed that the film translated even less of it to the audience. Although the cinematography and action scenes provide for entertainment, the film could have pushed itself more by lingering upon the politics of Panem for a scene or two.

In all, The Hunger Games really appeals to a spectrum of audiences. With the PG-13 rating, the visuals avert from direct gore or scenes of blood splatters, making it family-friendly. The complexity of the social system and government structure of Panem also provides food for the thought for more sophisticated audience, despite being construed minimally on screen. Whether you’re a die-hard fan or in the mood for a movie worth the $12 theater experience, The Hunger Games is definitely an option for weekend entertainment.

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Have kids, not a relationship
Cheap laughs and poor chemistry detract from a potentially good film

The Incredible Shrinking Son of Man

By Roberto Perez-Franco

Back in November 2009, I reviewed a book called The Incredible Shrinking Man, which discusses at length his theory about the possibility of shrinking without invoking a historical Jesus. After calling Doherty’s theory marginally superior to the pre-modern apologetic brontosaurus theory, Richard Carrier stated in his review of Doherty’s work that “the tables have turned.” A refutation to Doherty’s theory, Carrier said, would require developing a single, coherent theory of “modern” historicity that can explain all the evidence at least as well as Doherty’s. With funding from both atheist and believers, Carrier himself has taken on the question formally, and his work will be highly valuable. But he’s not the only one who’s been busy after the publication of Carrier’s book. Bart D. Ehrman, a highly respected New Testament scholar, has taken on the challenge of defending the mainstream view on the historical Jesus from the attacks out of the 18th century modern myth (for example, the book, Did Jesus Exist?). Ehrman sets out to provide that single, coherent theory in favor of Jesus’ historicity. Which he does, with less than spectacular results.

Ehrman opens his argument by claiming that the question of Jesus’ historicity is all but settled from the start, since to his knowledge no serious scholar — now or in the past — has ever doubted the existence of the historical Jesus. By serious scholar, Ehrman means one holding a PhD (ex Ehrman) and currently tenured in the field of New Testament studies. Moving on to the New Testament, Ehrman affirms his interest in defending the existence of Jesus as a historical figure. He claims that Jesus was a real person who did exist. He simply was not the person that many others held such beliefs near the end of the first century. His existence is confirmed by such things as the evidence we do not have for a historical Jesus — including no archaeological evidence of any kind” (did you hear that, James Tabor?), nor “any writings from Jesus” (not surprising, says Ehrman, since Jesus probably could not write), and no mentions of Jesus from any “Greek or Roman author from the first century.” The historical argument is so weak as to be cute. “What happened was that Paul said so. I am writing to you, I tell you before God, I am not lying” said Paul. “When Paul swears he is not lying, I generally believe him, ” re-plies Ehrman. Never mind that doubts have been cast on Paul’s account, on the light that such a meeting would bolster his own credentials as apostle of the Christ he never met. The incredible Shrinking argument boils down to two arguments. The first is that many “independent witnesses” provide support for the teachings and deeds of a historical Jesus. Unfortunately, what Ehrman calls prisingly dramatic enough to play Hamon’s disgruntled wife. And Megan Fox’s role as Jason’s love interest seemed to have been written for her. In one scene, the baby has a bad case of diarrhea and Jason is trying his best to keep the poo contained, when Mary Jane (Frot) walks in to see in cream splattered everywhere around the room and on Jason. Her heartfelt expression was priceless. Another memorable poo situation was Julie opening an email containing a picture of her friend’s kid’s successful first number two in the toilet. Indeed, the movie seems to fixate on cheap laughs. Julie and Jason’s interactions are filled with the trademark disproportion of characters that are too awkward to be funny, and too low to publish in print. And keeping with Westfield’s fascination with walking the in-appropriate line was Hamon’s character joke (the shoot’s Wrig’s character) that “she looks like I raped her to have a kid”. Although comedy generally does have to approach that line, this movie favored the wrong side. Nevertheless, it had a good soundtrack to accompany the parts that weren’t uncom-fortable as well as several abrupt but well-placed transitions for comedic effect. For a low-budget, independent film, Friends with Kids does a commendable job. Describing the storyline revolves around the two stars who made the movie uncomfortable at times and the weak chemistry between the two main actors, it is refreshing to see a romantic comedy with a novel storyline and such de-veloped characters — even though the plot is predictable.

The incredible shrinking argument

A mainstream scholar defends the historical Jesus

Did Jesus Exist?
By Bart D. Ehrman
HarperOne
March 2013

affirms his interest in defending the exis-tence of Jesus stems only from his interest in history. Yet he seems reluctant to extend a similar license to other nonbelievers, as he issues a summary admonition: “Humanists, agnostics, atheists, mypanics, and anyone else who does not advocate belief in Jesus would be better served to stress that the Jesus of history is not the Jesus of modern Christianity than to insist — wrongly and counterproductively — that Jesus never ex-isted.” Putting aside the gross generalization that all varieties of halfbaked minds — like yours truly — are out to get Jesus in order to advance some sort of hidden agenda, I agree with Ehrman in what he says next: “Jesus did exist. He simply was not the person that most believers today think he was.”

The historical Jesus that emerges from Ehrman’s mainstream defense is a purely human, miracle-free Jesus, that has a very common name living in first century Palestine, who after an unremarkable youth went on to teach that, what many others had taught before; one more apocalyptic preacher, among many others at the time, whose predictions were proven wrong with in a generation, one more “troublemaker” crucified like countless others by the Ro-mans after a drive-thru trial during the Pi-tate administration. Being such, the Jesus that can be reconstructed from history with any certainty is, for all practical purposes, as irrelevant as the mythical one, effectively shrinking the debate on his existence from a grandiose quest with theological implications to an inconsequential and endless ex-ercise in academic hair-splitting.

The Incredible Shrinking Son of Man

By Bart D. Ehrman

The incredible shrinking argument

A mainstream scholar defends the historical Jesus

By Roberto Perez-Franco

Back in November 2009, I reviewed a book called The Incredible Shrinking Man, which discusses at length his theory about the possibility of shrinking without invoking a historical Jesus. After calling Doherty’s theory marginally superior to the pre-modern apologetic brontosaurus theory, Richard Carrier stated in his review of Doherty’s work that “the tables have turned.” A refutation to Doherty’s theory, Carrier said, would require developing a single, coherent theory of “modern” historicity that can explain all the evidence at least as well as Doherty’s. With funding from both atheist and believers, Carrier himself has taken on the question formally, and his work will be highly valuable. But he’s not the only one who’s been busy after the publication of Carrier’s book. Bart D. Ehrman, a highly respected New Testament scholar, has taken on the challenge of defending the mainstream view on the historical Jesus from the attacks out of the 18th century modern myth (for example, the book, Did Jesus Exist?). Ehrman sets out to provide that single, coherent theory in favor of Jesus’ historicity. Which he does, with less than spectacular results.

Ehrman opens his argument by claiming that the question of Jesus’ historicity is all but settled from the start, since to his knowledge no serious scholar — now or in the past — has ever doubted the existence of the historical Jesus. By serious scholar, Ehrman means one holding a PhD (ex Ehrman) and currently tenured in the field of New Testament studies. Moving on to the New Testament, Ehrman affirms his interest in defending the existence of Jesus as a historical figure. He claims that Jesus was a real person who did exist. He simply was not the person that many others held such beliefs near the end of the first century. His existence is confirmed by such things as the evidence we do not have for a historical Jesus — including no archaeological evidence of any kind” (did you hear that, James Tabor?), nor “any writings from Jesus” (not surprising, says Ehrman, since Jesus probably could not write), and no mentions of Jesus from any “Greek or Roman author from the first century.” The historical argument is so weak as to be cute. “What happened was that Paul said so. I am writing to you, I tell you before God, I am not lying” said Paul. “When Paul swears he is not lying, I generally believe him, ” re-plies Ehrman. Never mind that doubts have been cast on Paul’s account, on the light that such a meeting would bolster his own credentials as apostle of the Christ he never met. The incredible Shrinking argument boils down to two arguments. The first is that many “independent witnesses” provide support for the teachings and deeds of a historical Jesus. Unfortunately, what Ehrman calls witnesses are not really witnesses, but at best oral traditions — different enough to be considered independent, yet similar enough to be understood as referring to the same man — that other scholars regard as bona fide. Which he does, with less than spectacular results.

Ehrman opens his argument by claiming that the question of Jesus’ historicity is all but settled from the start, since to his knowledge no serious scholar — now or in the past — has ever doubted the existence of the historical Jesus.
The suit

A federal court ruled the case could continue. The government’s motion to dismiss the case was denied; next update is in mid-April.

House, from Page 1

On March 28, 2012, Judge Casper ruled that House’s suit could go forward on all three claims.

What’s next?

The federal government has until April 16 to file its answer to House’s original complaint from May, now that the case was not dismissed. In that answer, according to Crump, it could choose to file statements of fact and again move for summary judgement, or it could consent to discovery, which would take place over the coming months. In discovery, both sides can request additional information from each other in order to establish the factual record.

The argument

The government alleges it has the right to search a traveler’s property at the border, for as long as it wishes, without any suspicion whatsoever. However, there is considerable argument to the contrary.

There are several standards of suspicion that can apply to searches, including none whatsoever, “reasonable suspicion”, and “probable cause”. In reasonable suspicion, the government needs to have “specific and articulable facts” and inferences from them that a crime has been committed. In probable cause, the government has to believe that a crime has probably been committed.

House has argued that the government should need reasonable suspicion to hold House’s laptop for 49 days. The judge agreed this idea is plausible, so this argument remains in play.

But House also suggested that the government should need reasonable suspicion to have searched his laptop at all, because of the expressive and personal nature of the content. Judge Casper disagreed, saying that the search was more like a search of a suitcase (requiring no suspicion at the border) than a body cavity or another “highly intrusive search of a person” (requiring reasonable suspicion).

Crump, of the ACLU, said House would not be able to renew the argument for a reasonable suspicion requirement in laptop searches until the case reached the court of appeals.

Another case that relates to laptop searches is United States v. Cotterman, where Howard Cotterman’s laptop was searched when he returned from Mexico. Cotterman is a registered sex offender in the California, and CBP agents referred him for "secondary inspection" based on the fact. His computer was transported 70 miles away and returned to him two days later; child pornography was found in unallocated space on the disk.

The Arizona district court found in favor of Cotterman, and the evidence was suppressed. But a 3-judge panel in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision, ruling for the government. However, the court was critical of the length of the search (2 days for Cotterman, versus 49 days for House).

On March 19, 2012, the Ninth Circuit agreed to re-hear the Cotterman case en banc, or before the entire court. If the en banc court reverses Cotterman, it would be favorable to House — at least if it were to happen before House’s case is decided.

Life after the search

Now, when David House travels internationally, he is on a watchlist. His laptop has never been searched again, but when he goes through customs, he is searched “extremely thoroughly,” he says. It adds 10-35 minutes to his return home, he said.

“Rationaleistically I don’t think I am still a target,” House said. But then he goes on: “It’s scary time to be a freedom-loving computer person.”
Future of Kendall
Meeting will discuss plans for new buildings and housing allocation

Kendall, from Page 1

slides and meeting agenda on their web site, http://cambridge.gov/cdd/cp/zng/k2c2/. The committee’s 20-person membership includes two representatives from MIT, four local real estate developers, and eight local residents (including MIT faculty, staff, and one graduate student).

Dixon said that those who plan to attend could prepare for the meeting by looking at past presentations “to get a sense of where this thing is coming from,” but that this presentation would be much more of an “integrated overview that ties together” the pieces.

Community attendance has been sparse to nonexistent at the meetings, which are generally held at 8:00 a.m. at One Broadway; the next committee meeting is this morning. Beyond a few members of the Committee who work for MIT, or MIT employees who attend in their official capacity, public attendance at meetings has primarily been local residents — the meeting after Google first proposed the reduction of the Three Cambridge Center rooftop garden was especially crowded.

The Committee has not published minutes of its meetings, which are open to the public; instead, “Our approach has been that the result of the discussions are reflected in changes in the recommendations and presentation materials ... at subsequent meetings,” said Ivan Farooq, a project planner for Cambridge Community Development.

(The committee’s meetings do not fall under the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law that requires public minutes, according to Susan Glazer, the deputy director of the community development department.)

Future of Kendall
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Kendall, from Page 1

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Ebadi, from Page 1

mordlly brooch sparkled on her left shoulder. "What do you hope she wished in support of?"

As a proponent of respect and interpreting every few paragraphs, for the Persian speakers in the crowd.

[In the United States], law does not protect women, but rela-
tively, America has not been the oppor-
tunity for all women," she said. "But when we go to the East, especially Islamic countries, laws oppos-

tion has been the most important of all: recognition of full human

The women in Iran gained the right to vote in 1963, even prior to the women in Switzerland.

"Some of the women who have been in prison for equal rights are young students in prison, very young girls. Since we are a univer-
sity here, I would like to point out that 50 university students are in prison for demanding democracy, and over 100 university students have been expelled because of po-
litical or religious views," she said. "[In contrast], in Iran a woman's rights in the society have many problems

"The society of Iran and the women of Iran oppose these laws, and that's why the feminist move-

ment positions."

"Iran has a lot of sun, and we can use solar energy," she said. "Maybe they need to be more enthusias-
tic about solar energy."

As a proponent of respect and freedom for women, she added: "One would wonder whether it would happen if there was even a fight between men and women."

"In Iran, the Secretary of Health is a woman. Now just imagine this woman is a Secretary of Health, serving 75 million people, has a huge budget," she said. "One would wonder whether it would happen if there was even a fight between men and women."

"Women oppose them, " she said. "There is no unique method I can talk about. People should do what-

even if it was as small as dispersed them."

"They need to be more enthusias-
tic about solar energy."

"If you put it into a mathematical formula, revolution is better than reform."

"They had a small demonstration inside the university, but the Ha-

raut [university ideological pol-
ic] dispersed them."

"Ebadi is also right about revolution," Fariborzi continued. "Reform is better than revolution, and both are better than a war. If you put it into a mathematical formula, revolution is better than war. War is worse."

"The pressure is on the people, maybe hoping to cause revolution, from the inside. But that just weak-
en and weakens the people. And weak people cannot do reform," explained Fariborzi.

"As a student of MIT and an Iranian native, Fariborzi hopes that his MIT education to good use. "Now that I have this educa-
tion, first of all, I can have a higher impact on the people who know me. [People of Iran] will know that I have graduated from one of the best schools in America, and I am active in both countries," he said. "I hope through me, they will not believe the propaganda of the Ira-
nian government. On the reverse side, I hope that my American friends will come to realize that Iran is not what you see on Fox News."

"Field is technical, but I would definitely like to contrib-
ute to my country, because I have most of what I have from my coun-
try. I have lived there 22 years, but with the current situation, I can't imagine that happening any time soon. I hope I can have some im-
pact on industry and education in Iran."

"Regarding how other students could help the greater commu-
nity, "I think MIT students need to have a broader focus, not just fo-
cusing in studies," Fariborzi said. "They need to be more enf@
hamic about world issues. They need to also be educated in these areas, otherwise, they can't contribute. The know-
ledge and feel necessary to distrib-
ute that knowledge to people they know."
Summer housing, from Page 1

that we couldn’t do in the building if residents were still there! For example, kitchen areas in East Campus that have particles of asbestos and oil from the original building will see new tiling and equipment.

“We’ve been working with ECE’s house government to discuss re- paints,” said Collins. “There will be some furniture repolishing, fixing radiators that don’t shut off, and repainting white walls that do not have murals.” Additionally, all room floor tiles in Remis of the east parallel, which is the older part of East Campus, will be replaced — the rest of the rooms in the east parallel were taken care of when specific sections of East Campus were closed in the past.

The remaining dorms — Baker House, Massee Hall, New House, Burton-Conner, and Simmons Hall — will house programs and conferences, such as the Research Science Institute (RSI), Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES), Interphase, and student researchers from other universities working at MIT. If you have questions about this program, or experience difficulty using any features on the website, please contact Marlisha McDaniels- mmcd@mit.edu

If you are interested in learning more about this program the first step is to register at the website:

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

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Dorm renovations
Three dorms closed for the summer

Summer housing rates
This marks the third summer since MIT decided to consolidate summer housing into fewer dorms to lower costs, previously, all dorms were open to undergraduates during the summer.

In 2011, MacGregor and East Campus were the only two buildings open for undergraduate summer housing, and only singles were available at the rates of $2,096 in East Campus and $2,347 in MacGregor. Collins, Humphreys, and the Housing Strategy Group decided to keep the rates level for undergraduates this summer, and given the dorm selection, doubles will also be available. Random and Bexley will have singles available for $2,095 and doubles for $4,851, and living in MacGregor and Senior House singles will cost $2,347, with Senior House doubles costing $2,573.

“What we realized when we were looking at the pricing was that students and conference groups were paying disproportion- ately less during the summermos,” said Humphreys. “So although we usually raise the rates every year to match the housing rates for the coming fall, we decided to hold the student rates constant and raise the conference rates this year to fix the balance.” In the future, the rates should be expected to keep pace with the term housing rates each year.

Within this year’s rates, the pricing differentiation is due to the classification of dorms into three tiers based on a variety of factors. Tier 1 represents dorms with higher costs of operations and newer facilities, MacGregor and Senior House are considered Tier 2 dorms, while Random and Bexley are Tier 3.

Summer desk workers
In light of a dorm security report released in February by the Securi- ty Committee charged by Dean for Student Life Erin Collins, Hum- phreys and Collins will be working over the summer to develop ini- tial security plans specific to each dorm, so the desk worker system for this summer will work the same as the previous summer.

“The house managers of the open dorms will work with desk captains to find students to fill the shifts first,” said Collins. “Even in closed buildings, desk will be open for one eight-hour shift a day for things like receiving mail, so if we’re able to find students first for those shifts, that would be our first option.”

The summer student housing application is now online at http://housing.mit.edu/summer/guest/summer_housing_application. Stu- dents who receive summer hous- ing will be able to move into their assignments starting May 30, with the exception of those moving into rooms occupied by graduating se- niors, who will move on June 11.

This program provides opportunities for MIT undergraduate students to conduct research at state-of-the-art Army laboratories working under the direction of Army scientists. Most areas of science and engineering are of interest. Internships typically run from June to August

As a summer intern, students: • Gain valuable research experience • Build new professional relationships • Access world-class facilities • Become part of a team that provides new, life-saving technologies.

If you are interested in learning more about this program the first step is to register at the website:

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

Get on the front page

Summer Intern Research Program *
With the ISN/ARMY Labs Summer Intern Research Program *

Summer Intern Research Program *
With the ISN/ARMY Labs Summer Intern Research Program *

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

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Don’t guess whether you qualify for the EITC. Know it.

I'll qualify, I won’t.

There’s a lot to know about qualifying for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You need to work and earn less than $34,692. If you have children, they must meet three qualifying tests. And that’s just to name a few. But the most important thing to know is you can get help figuring it out. Visit us on the web, call 1-800-TAX-1040 or ask your tax preparer. Either it serves to get help claiming everything you honestly deserve, or save it. When it comes to getting help claiming everything you honestly deserve, consider it done.

Additionally, because of incomplete information provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, an article on Friday, March 23 about the death of Brian G. Anderson omitted information. According to the revised death certificate, Anderson’s death was a result of both “acute and chronic substance abuse,” which refers to short-term and long-term drug abuse, respectively.

“We also want to ensure that our community understands the dangers drugs pose not only to individual well-being but also to the social environment of the entire community,” added Grimson.

—Ethan A. Solomon, MIT Police

Spring 2012 Wulff Lecture
Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Thursday, April 12, 2012
4:30–5:30 pm
Room 32-123
Reception immediately following

A Stretchy, Curvy Future for Electronics

Professor John A. Rogers
Lee J. Flory Founder Chair in Engineering Innovation
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

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Brought to you by the Council for the Advancement of Black Students (CABS). Ebony Affair is an elegant gala and ceremony dedicated to recognizing and honoring members of the MIT Black Community. At MIT we rarely have the opportunity to show our appreciation for those students, administrators, faculty staff, and alumni who work continuously for our community. It is through the recognition of these people that have made major accomplishments within and beyond the Institute that we can make a positive change in our society. All are welcome to join us in this celebration of the MIT Black Community this year at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge MA.
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: BRENDAN T. DEVENEY, ’13
Swimming, startups, and electronic music
Devaney finds focusing on multiple interests allows him to maintain a balanced life

By Gordon Glover
SPORTS EDITOR

There is much more to junior Brendan T. Devaney than meets the eye. On the surface, he is merely a swimming phenomenon. Just a few weeks ago he helped lead the MIT Men’s Swimming Team to a fourth-place finish at the National Championships, placing 5th in the 200-yard individual medley. In an exclusive interview with The Tech, Devaney revealed that his talents in the pool are only the tip of the iceberg, and that he is an incredibly well-rounded individual.

The Tech: What are you studying?
Brendan T. Devaney: Chemistry, and hopefully adding physics.

TT: How do you balance school and sports and social life?
BTD: Having multiple interests and being able to focus on different pursuits at different times and interact with a wide range of people in the process is something I find rewarding and personally beneficial, and I think it’s exactly in maintaining my interests that I’m able to achieve balance in my life.

TT: What do you like about swimming?
BTD: I really enjoy racing and competing, and working hard in practice, in general, tends to be a pretty rewarding experience. The primary reason that I swim, though, is the team. There’s nothing like it and I sometimes wish I was a freshman again just to be a part of the team and with the swimmers on it that much longer.

TT: Have you every played any other sports?
BTD: I played water polo and rodeo in high school, and I played water polo with MIT this past year.

TT: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
BTD: There are a lot of things I like to do in my free time, but in particular I like catching up with my brother, who’s a freshman at Amherst, and my sister, who’s still in high school.

TT: What kind of music do you listen to?
BTD: I really enjoy electronic dance music and a couple friends and I recently created a student group on campus, Electronic Dance Music Society, catered to that interest.

TT: What do you want to do after MIT?
BTD: I’m unsure, though I’m working on a startup as part of the Swayer Lab (where I’m UnderPajamIng) that I may be able to pursue after MIT.

TT: What do you do with the EDM Society?
BTD: We just started up, but we’re hoping to do a couple things with the EDM Society. Our main focus is to host a series of EDM charity benefit concerts and the best electronic dance parties on campus. We’re working now toward hosting our first event during CPW. Aside from the philanthropic mission, we plan to organize trips to EDM events, festivals, and clubs in the area while generally offering opportunities for aficionados and enthusiasts to share in what they love.

Ultimately, we hope to be able to bring some world-class DJs onto campus, but in the meantime, we’re working on a number of cool ideas, so stay tuned.

TT: If you could be any kind of animal what would you be?
BTD: Emperor tamarin, for the mustache.

By Mindy Brauer
DAWN STAR

In a back-and-forth affair, MIT Men’s Lacrosse came out on top with a 9-8 double overtime victory over Umass Boston on Tuesday afternoon. Freshman James C. Slenaker netted the game-winner 57 seconds into the second extra session to complete the hat-trick for the Engineers.

Junior Gabriel V. Blanchet put MIT on the board after 1:11 elapsed but the Beacons scored twice in a three minute span to claim the lead at the 9:55 mark. The game became a defensive battle until Benjamine P. Hessels ’13 found the back of the net with 5:12 left in the second quarter. After winning the ensuing face-off, Joel T. Santisterhan ’14 made an uncontested bid at the net to put the Engineers in front, 3-2.

In the fourth quarter, Hessels set up Sean E. Burke ’13 for the go-ahead goal with 11:27 on the clock but the Beacons registered the equalizer six minutes later.

Ultimately, we hope to be able to bring some world-class DJs onto campus, but in the meantime, we’re working on a number of cool ideas, so stay tuned.

TT: If you could be any kind of animal what would you be?
BTD: Emperor tamarin, for the mustache.

Jonathan E. Rea ’14 rounds third base in Wednesday’s game against Brandeis University. The Engineers managed to break a 1-1 tie in the bottom of the fifth to eventually win the game 9-2.

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Men’s lacrosse wins by one in double overtime

By Mandy Brauer
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