Nominees for UA officer positions were announced Monday evening. At a meeting this coming Tuesday, the UA Council will vote to officially appoint the nominees. Excluding the Chief of Staff, the nominees (see sidebar) were selected from an initial pool of about 40 students who applied for the 19 positions posted online at http://re.invent.mit.edu/apply, 20 of which were most recently approved by UA President Jonté D. Craighead ’13 and Vice President Michael P. Walsh ’13 in consultation with relevant committee members. The chief of staff’s main responsibility is chairing the Nominations Committee, which includes soliciting applications for representatives to Institute Committees, interviewing candidates, and selecting a slate of nominees,” according to the UA Constitution.

“Given the urgent need for a chief of staff, we exclusively interviewed candidates with Institute Committee experience and conducted more in-depth interviews with them,” wrote Craighead to the UA Council Monday night in an email regarding nominations.

“The chief of staff, treasurer, and secretary must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the UA Council at Tuesday’s meeting, and the Finance Board chair must be approved by a majority vote. The remaining nominees for officers and committee chairs will be confirmed if fewer than five objections by Council Representatives against them are registered by Tuesday. If more than five are made objections, the nominee will require approval by a majority of the Council vote. There is no reason to suspect the nominations will not be approved.”

About nine of the originally advertised positions remain to be filled, and the UA plans to continue accepting applications.

“We are going to continue interviewing candidates from our application pool to find a place for everyone who was interested in a leadership position,” wrote Craighead in an email to The Tech. Positions with no candidates as of yet may be left temporarily vacant “depending on the relative importance of the positions.” As the UA Council will not be in session during the summer, nominees selected after next Tuesday may be appointed by the president as acting officers and chairs as per the new UA Constitution, and they will undergo the same approval process at the first meeting when the Council reconvenes in the fall.

“Ideally, we would have preferred to have all of the submissions prepared [by the meeting],” wrote Craighead to the UA Council, “but given the lateness of elections, we are prioritizing quality candidates over hastened candidate reviews.”

With an email sent to all undergraduates last night, the UA Nominations Committee, chaired by the chief of staff, has begun soliciting applications from students for Institute Committee positions, with a priority deadline of May 13 and a final deadline of May 18.

The Nominations Committee is seeking candidates for the following positions:

- Chief of Staff
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Assistant Vice Presidents
- Committee Chairs
- Sustainability Committee
- Working Group Chairs

The committee’s website at http://re.invent.mit.edu/apply provides more information and instructions for applicants.
Greeks look to socialist to form government

ATHENS, Greece — With Greece still rudderless after inconclusive elections, the leader of the Socialist party indicated Thursday that he might be able to establish common ground with the leader of the extreme-right Democratic Left party and try to form a government that would extricate the country from a deepening economic crisis.

Speaking a few hours after he received a presidential mandate to form a government, Alexis Tsipras, the Socialist party’s leader, and the third politician to be given the opportunity of forming a new government, announced that he had agreed to work with Evangelos Venizelos, the leader of the Coalition of the Radical Left, known as Syriza, which beat the Socialists to clinch second place but failed to form a government this week.


Bank to pay $202 million to settle suit on mortgages

Deutsche Bank agreed Thursday to pay the federal government more than $200 million to settle accusations that it knowingly misled the Department of Housing and Urban Development about mortgages.

The settlement resolves a lawsuit filed against Deutsche in May 2011 by the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, Preet Bharara, along with HUD and the Department of Justice. Earlier in the year, the department of MortgageIT, a mortgage provider that Deutsche Bank bought in 2007. Under the terms of the settlement, Deutsche Bank has admitted it should have known that MortgageIT’s practices did not conform to HUD rules after it made the acquisition. The $202 million settlement is a significant blow to the federal Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, which was established to investigate the abuses that culminated in the financial crisis of 2008 and early 2009.


Egyptian candidates clash in TV debate, an Arab first

CAIRO — Two of the leading candidates to become Egypt’s next president met Sunday night in the Arab world’s first televised presidential debate, trading barbs about their political histories and arguments about the role of religion in public life.

Two weeks before the scheduled May 23 start of the election to choose the first president since the ouster of Hosni Mubarak, Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, a former leader of the Muslim Brotherhood campaigning as a liberal Islamist, faced Amr Moussa, a popular former diplomat campaigning as the stable alternative to an “experiment” in Islamist rule.

Moussa, 75, and a more confident debater, was far more aggressive in the debate. But neither candidate delivered a knockout punch as the debate turned repeatedly to the polarizing issue of religious rule. Aboul Fotouh called for a unity government, while Moussa reminded the audience of the “sadness” that the presidential campaign has brought.

Moussa sought repeatedly to drive a wedge into Aboul Fotouh’s unlikely coalition of secular-minded liberals, moderates and Muslim Brotherhood members. “We believe in the values of democracy and we believe in the values of Islam,” he said.

Moussa has an opportunity to act as a moderating force in the run-up to the election, which is already beginning to turn into a contest between two candidates. “I believe in the political process,” he said. “We have to change it. You can’t change the system and continue to have the same people.”

Aboul Fotouh, like Moussa, is a former member of the Muslim Brotherhood, but he has distanced himself from the Brotherhood in the last year.

Despite marked differences in tone between Moussa and Aboul Fotouh, there were some shared views. Both support the idea of an elected president and an elected parliament, and both support free elections in which the people vote for a president who, in turn, selects the parliament.

“Both candidates have a very sophisticated understanding of the democratic process,” said Mohamed El-Erian, the chief executive of Pimco, a bond fund. “They are very experienced politicians and I believe that they are capable of forming a government.”

—David D. Kirkpatrick, The New York Times

Germany likely to allow modest growth policy in Europe

BERLIN — The outlines of a potential compromise in Europe’s bat- tle between deficit-cutting austerity and policies to promote growth have begun to take shape. The question is whether the kind of cautious mea- sures palatable to Germany, au- rority’s champion, will do enough to combat the Continent’s imbal- ances and do its best to end the fiscal austerity policies that partisans of the eurozone. The leaders of the two parties have agreed to a compromise on the question of the status of Islam in governance.

In typical German fashion, the steps under discussion are incre- mental and spread across a range of policy areas so as not to raise the ire of German voters. Germany’s rigid central bank has signed a willing- ness to tolerate slightly higher infla- tion, while the government has in- dicated its openness to modest but real growth wage in Germany.

Many experts in the strictest sense of the German economic, the chancellor, Angela Merkel, may be prepared to accept a longer timetable for curtailing budget deficits for countries like Spain that are reeling from recess- ion. For Merkel, the most import- ant prize is ratification of the finan- cial compact, signed in March by the leaders of 25 of the 27 European Union countries, to control deficits in the long run.

Even since the victory of François Hollande in the French presidential election on Sunday, the debate in Europe has shifted, with attention focusing on Merkel’s growing isola- tion over austerity and whether she would yield to calls for stimulus programs, most recently to promote a “New European social economic growth.”

The recognition seems to be dawning even here that forcing heavily indebted countries to cut spending too quickly and deeply can be counterproductive. “The mood appears to be shifting in Ger- many,” said Sebastian Dallen, a se- nior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. “Even conservative econom- ists are beginning to question whether this austerity is too brutal at the moment.”

Despite marked differences in tone between Merkel and Hol- lande, they may not be so far apart in substance, said Mujtaba Rah- man, an analyst at Eurasia Group, a consultancy in New York. Germany may ultimately accept minor ad- justments to Greece’s aid program if a viable government emerges, Rah- man said.

“This is Germany’s way of signaling both to Hollande and the Greek political elite it is willing to be con- structive to keep the system togeth- er,” Rahman said.

German officials have been ad- miring their public statements that there would be no renegotiation with the Greeks of the terms of the bailout. The sharp reduction in pub- lic spending in the teeth of a reces- sion has sent Greek unemployment over 20 percent, and in, Sunday’s elections, brought radical parties to the right and left into Parliament.

Speaking at a news conference in Berlin on Thursday, Finance Min- ister Wolfgang Schäuble repeated Germany’s mantra that Greece had to stand by its commitments, but this time he added the new element that Berlin could tolerate a slightly higher inflation rate.

House approves $310 billion in cuts, shifts savings to Pentagon

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday approved sweeping leg- islation to cut $310 billion from the federal budget this fiscal year — much of it from programs for the poor — and to shift some of that savings to Pentagon spending in the teeth of a reces- sion.

The legislation has no chance of passing the Senate and will not be- come law. The White House issued a veto threat, saying the bill would “fail the test of fairness and shared responsibility.” But its prescriptions and priorities could define the 2012 congressional elections — and are likely to affect the race for the White House.

The legislation includes a veto threat, saying the bill would “fail the test of fairness and shared responsibility.” But its prescriptions and priorities could define the 2012 congressional elections — and are likely to affect the race for the White House.

Republicans framed the fight as a test of serious, saying their party was only one willing to make the difficult choices necessary to tame the deficit. President Barack Obama’s policies “are not working,” said Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, the Budget Committee chairman.

“We need to change these poli- cies. We need to grow the economy,” he said. “We’re leading. ”

Democrats said Republicans had become captives to a pledge never to raise taxes, insisting on Congress a draconian plan that “asks more from those who have less and less from those who have more,” as Rep. Shelly H. Moore Capito of West Virginia, the No. 2 House Democrat, put it.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Mary- land, the budget committee’s rank- ing Democrat, said: “If you want to pass a budget that asks people making a million dollars a year to help do a little more to reduce our common deficit, if you say you’re not going to ask companies that have these tax loopholes that actually in- centivize them to ship jobs overseas to pay a little bit more, what do you do?” Your budget has to whack every- one else.”

The bill’s political sensitiv- ity came through in the 218-199 vote. Democrats were united in their op- position; sixteen Republicans sided with the bill, and the House’s Republican leader, John A. Boehner of Ohio, stood by in- clusive vote. The legislation laid bare a small portion of the details needed to fill in the broad strokes of the House plan. Democrats have not said when they will vote on the measure in March. That budget instructed six committees to find at least $35 billion in savings from domestic programs and policies to defuse $55 billion in automatic Pentagon cuts scheduled to hit Jan. 1 under last year’s agreement to raise the federal debt limit.

To do that, the committees cut food stamps, children’s health insur- ance, and Medicaid, and eliminated the Social Security Block Grant to state and local governments, among other things.

By Nicholas Kulish and Jack Ewing

WEATHER

Sunny skies to return this weekend

Extended Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 47°F (8°C).

By Allison A. Wing

—Nate Mook

Extended Forecast
Chinese economy losing some of its sizzle, import growth halts

By Keith Bradsher

HONG KONG — As China’s leaders have been preoccupied with a political struggle leading up to a once-in-a-decade leader- ship change this autumn, there are increasing signs that the Chinese economy may be running into trouble.

China announced Thursday that growth in imports had unexpectedly come to a screeching halt in April — rising just 0.3 percent from the same period a year earlier, compared with expectations for an 11 percent increase. Businesses across the country appeared to lose much of their appetite for products as var- ious industries, cited a broad deteriora- tion in business conditions. Growth in other sectors appears to be slowing, too, particularly in real estate. Soufun Holdings, a Chinese real estate data provider, released figures Monday showing that residential land sales in the country’s 20 largest cities had fallen 92 percent last week from the week before, as declining prices for apart- ments have left developers short of cash and reluctant to start further projects.

In a series of interviews over the past week, bankers and senior execu- tives from provinces all over China, in a range of light and heavy industries, cited a broad deterio- ration in business conditions. Two of them said that some tax agen- cies in smaller cities had been telling companies to inflate their sales, while reassuring the compa- nies that their actual tax bills would be left unchanged.

Chinese real estate data provider, released figures Monday showing that residential land sales in the country’s 20 largest cities had fallen 92 percent last week from the week before, as declining prices for apart- ments have left developers short of cash and reluctant to start further projects.

In a series of interviews over the past week, bankers and senior execu- tives from provinces all over China, in a range of light and heavy industries, cited a broad deterio- ration in business conditions. Two of them said that some tax agen- cies in smaller cities had been telling companies to inflate their sales, while reassuring the compa- nies that their actual tax bills would be left unchanged.
Textbooks cramping your style?

Get up to 70% back for your textbooks.

amazon.com/sellbooks

Download the Amazon Student app and check trade-in value instantly
Spiking the football
Bin Laden raid was politicized before it even took place

By A. J. Edelman
staff copy chief

Recently President Obama has come under fire from both the left and the right for politicizing the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden, including a major campaign advertisement a speech from Afghan-i stan to the timeliness of an event. Editor in the position of the President’s desk as a ‘guy call. In the words of the New York Times, “军工品 and the President is responsible for events that flowed in.” But in his book, Bush took responsibility for Katrina, Reagan took responsibility for the Iran-Contra Affair, and so the message that Obama would have taken responsibility for the raid had it failed. It isn’t even clear that the raid even happened. There is nothing wrong with pointing to a policy according to the timeline of a campaign, but the unfortunate truth about the Bin Laden raid is that this historic mission by some of America’s bravest men and women was politicized to the point that the President’s post-raid press conference sounded like a promotional video. In the first few sentences detailing the raid, the President mentioned “Al Bin Laden” or “or” a total of nine times, in all reference to his decision. This was a stark contrast to historical precedent — President Washington, Lincoln, Polk, Wilson, Truman, Reagan, and both Bush’s gave speeches following major wartime decisions, and in all such speeches the President was barely mentioned. Main subjects of such speeches were the sacrifices of the brave and the causes for which they valiantly defended the United States. In President Bush’s speech following the capture of Saddam Hussein, the term “it” was only mentioned in the context of “[shaking] the members of our military and supporting them.” When given a chance recently to respond to the criticism directed at him, President Obama stayed the course, insisting that “I said that I’d go after bin Laden if we had a chance to do so, and I did.”

The problem is not that the raid has been politicized, it’s the degree to which it was. President Obama should be congratulated on this accomplishment, but in the future it would do him well to spend less time focusing on the political angle of a decision and more on the decision itself, and those who ultimately carry it out.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of the Editor in Chief Jessica J. Pourian, Managing Editor Connor Kirschbaum ’13, Associate Editor Liz Tsai ’11, Assistant Editors Bethany M. E. Blomberg ’15, Elizabeth M. Gallez ’15, and Online Media Staff. Opinions expressed in this section are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those 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 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02239-7029, 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 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 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02239-7029, 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. Letters that become property of The Tech will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on the Tech’s website and/or printed in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech reserves the right to make no publication of all or any part of any letter, column, or cartoon.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the Cambridge community.

TO REACH US

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editorial office by e-mailing editorial@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about events that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://tech.mit.edu.
### Help Desk

**FORGOT TO TAKE RELIGION SURVEY**

LIKE A BOSS

**NEVER RATHERTO LOOK AT SURVEY DATA**

LIKE A BOSS

LIKE A BOSS

**AVOIDING THE ISSUE**


### UPPERCUT

**UPPERCUT by Steven Sullivan**

**THE JUMP**

WANT A WHOLE LAUNDRY BASKET OF CLEAN CLOTHES AT OUR POOL, BUT I WAS THE LAST TO FLY THEIR MUGS.

SO I JUST PUT MANY LAUNDRY ON THE FLOOR PAPPING M1, UNTIL I KNOCKED OVER THE BASKET.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, WHICH OF THEM ARE CLEA?

### BOOK SHELF

**1049**

BOOK SHELF

**OX, ATLAS SHREDDED.**

**RUMBLE**

**CLICK**

BY THIS POINT IN THE SERIES, I'VE SORT OF FORGOT WHAT THE CLEAN OUT ARE SUPPOSED TO SPELL LIKE.

THERE'S JUST NO HOPE FOR YOU.

### SHELL GAME

**SHELL GAME by Billie Truitt**

Solution, page 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACROSS</th>
<th>DOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Get to</td>
<td>48 Loop shape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Ingenious</td>
<td>49 Basketball stat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Includes in an email</td>
<td>54 Go-to guy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Political exile, for short</td>
<td>57 Scratch, as a surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Like some eclipses</td>
<td>59 Chorus members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Chaotic scene</td>
<td>60 Justice Dept. agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Capsizes</td>
<td>61 Miracle remedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Busy activity</td>
<td>64 MSN rival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Brief admission</td>
<td>65 Make restitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 &quot;Couples only&quot; ship?</td>
<td>66 Love Story author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Maze solver</td>
<td>67 Size much bigger than M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 House minority leader</td>
<td>68 Some jeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Refer to</td>
<td>69 Burning evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 27 Well-worn story | 10 Poks up the tab |
| 33 Stun gun | 11 Autocrat |
| 34 S&L offerings | 12 Musical postscript |
| 35 Inflation | 13 Flee coating |
| 36 In union | 18 Part of a dress shirt |
| 37 Sarcasm | 23 Well again |
| 38 Infestation | 25 Ashing |
| 39 In unison | 26 Sliding dance step |
| 40 "Send help!" | 28 Cheerless |
| 41 Halloween costume | 29 Sing soothingly |
| 42 Bits of fluff | 30 Stellar phenomenon |
| 43 Shake up | 31 condo dwelling |
| 44 Take to the stump | 32 Prefix for path |
| 45 Failing spectacularly | 33 Towering |

| 53 Championship | 43 Shake up |
| 54 Document sent online | 46 Garden-variety |
| 55 PlayStation alternative | 47 Clothing |
| 56 Sourpuss | 50 Hawthorne’s hometown |

51 "Send me" | 52 Chop alternative |
**Beaver Tails** by Ranbel Sun

---

**Sudoku**

Solution, page 10

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

---

**Techdoku**

Solution, page 10

```
220x 20x
 1 24x
 3 24x
12x 15x
 7 20x
4x 3x 2x
3x 2x
 2 2x
```
A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE
by Randall Munroe

EVERY MAJOR'S TERRIBLE

MODERN MAJOR-GENERAL SONG

PHILOSOPHY : JUST MATH WITH MODERN,
SENSIBLE, AND NON-PRACICALITY

MYTH AND PHYSICS UNCONSTRAINED BY PRECEPTS OF REALITY

A BUSINESS MAJORS JUST A THING YOU GET SO YOU CAN GRADUATE

A BA IN COMMUNICATIONS GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL ACHIEVE

AS A MATH MAJOR, I'M A LITTLE LESS THAN IF YOU LEARNED TO UNDERSTAND THE WAVE FUN

I'D RATHER EAT A FOUNDER'S TOPPY THAN

AND SOCIAL PSYCH IS WORSE THAN EITHER

THE THOUGHT OF PICKING HUP ONE OF THESE IS TOO UNBEARABLE

JUST PUT ME DOWN AS 'UNEDECIDED'—EVERY MAJOR'S TERRIBLE

NOW YOU CAN'T PROGNOSIS, THAT'S OK, IN PSYCHOLOGY

BUT IF YOUR HINGE IS WEAK AS WELL, YOU'D BEST CHECK TO TROODUS

CS WOULD MAKE EACH DAY A QUEST TO FIND A MISSING CLUE-MARKER

VARIOLOGY WILL GUARANTEE YOU'LL NEVER GET A MUG-UP-004

IT PREPARES YOU FOR A LIFE OF FIGHTING WITH PC'S NONSENSE

AS PRATTNEIT SAID,

THOUGH PHYSICS SAYS TO PROMISE YOU A RICH

THE WAY PAGE FOR PHYSICS MAJOR REGARDS E-ENGINEER

THEY SAY TO STUDY HISTORY OR FIND YOURSELF REPEATING IT

BUT ALL THAT IT PREPARES YOU FOR IS 30 YEARS OF TEACHING IT

I RECOGNIZE MY FOUR-YEAR PLANS AT THIS POINT NOT REMARKABLE

BUT PUT ME DOWN AS 'UNEDECIDED'—EVERY MAJOR'S TERRIBLE

ASTRONOMERS ALL...  \n
AGRONOMY'S A NO-GO, I'M A HUGE AGROPHOBIC

I'M TOO APOPHOBIC TO CONSIDER HERPETOLOGY

AND I CAN'T SOMACH ANY PART OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

WHILE PRECOCIS GIVES YOU TWIRLY-EYED OBSESSION WITH YOUR GCP

A POLITY DEGREE BEGINS BECOMING OBSOLETE

THE BEHIND THE RUSH INTO FORENSIC CRIMINOLOGY

OR SO CLAIMS META-ACADEMIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

BY DUBBING ECON "DISPARIL SCIENCE" ADHERENTS DISENTTEGRATE

THE "DISPARIL's FINE-HIS SCIENCE," WHERE THEY FRIENDLY PREPARATORY

IN TERMS OF CHOICES, I'D SAY ONLY SNAKES WAS COMPARABLE

JUST PUT ME DOWN AS 'UNEDECIDED'—EVERY MAJOR'S TERRIBLE
CONVENTION REVIEW

I can has Internet?
The final ROFLCon features memes, activism, commercialism, and nostalgia

By Stephen Suen

Last weekend, the biggest names in Internet fame, academia, and entrepreneurship descended upon MIT for the third installment of ROFLCon, a biannual celebration of web culture. From accidental celebrities such as Scumbag Steve and Chuck Testa to researchers like hacker anthropologist Briella Coleman and MIT’s own Ethan Zuckerman, a diverse cast of guests came together to unite under the common banner of “the Internets.” Prior to the keynote speech, event co-founder Christina Xu put it succinctly: “One out of eight people in this room has done something crazy on the Internet.”

In his opening address on Friday morning, keynote speaker Jonathan Zittrain of Harvard Law School commented on the significant increase in Internet awareness and the growing attention that the Internet is getting: “The trend is with us.”

At its very core, this year’s ROFLCon was an attempt to wrestle with the Internet’s ongoing identity crisis, to try and find some unifying theory bringing together the disparate strands that characterize the state of the Internet today.

Certainly, a good number of the panels at ROFLCon were not that serious in nature and instead focused on showcasing different aspects of Internet culture. The “Global Leaders of Tomorrow” panel, for example, celebrated Internet memes from other parts of the world — namely, China, Brazil, and Syria. Saturday’s keynote speech chronicled the history of supercuts: fast-paced video montages of clips from film and TV, usually of a specific chle or trope.

Several of the panels at ROFLCon focused on niche interests. The webcomic community was prominently represented by the creators of Cyanide & Happiness, Explosm.net, and Cyanide & Happiness: Sweeties. Cyanide & Happiness creator Dave Kellett was an intern at BOOM! Entertainment.

For example, on the “Lifelists” panel, MoMilla’s Dan Sinker described his experience running the @MayorEmanuel Twitter account, through which he told a distressed mother that he was considering running for Rahm Emanuel’s campaign for Mayor of Chicago. Latoya Peterson, editor of the Village Voice, discussed the “the (Not) X Says” meme, its permutations, and how it can be subverted for activist ends, as seen in “Shit Cis People Say to Trans People” or “Shit Everybody Says to Rape Victims.”

Like the Internet, ROFLCon is a phenomena that has been co-opted by the marketers. No, I don’t think so. The Internet has seen many new industries come and go faster than ever. Thus, it comes as no coincidence that this was the last ROFLCon (for now), as the “surprise ending” of the event program — styled as an old-school choose-your-own-adventure book — reveals: “It’s been an amazing run — more stupendously successful than we ever could have possibly imagined for now, so we’re putting this tin foil to bed and riding out into the sunset. Our lives are taking us to new and exciting places, so ROFLCon is on hiatus until we can figure out how to continue doing it just great,” went the pamphlet.

So, did ROFLCon achieve its goals? Was it successful in its quest to resolve the Internet’s existential crisis?

No. I don’t think so. The Internet has grown far too big and far too fragmented to be tamed, and our attempts to understand and represent it are mere approximations.

In the blue fanny packs given out to each attendee — mingled with the Goon-themed ROFLCOndoms and the limited edition holographic Nyan Cat pins — were stickers and other trinkets from companies specializing in predicting soon-to-be “viral” content or claiming to be able to reproduce similar rates of proliferation. Like the Internet, ROFLCon too, appears to have been co-opted by the marketers.

Despite the great victories (epic wins) of the Internet and its limited potential to actually change and mobilize people, it is — like everything else that humankind has ever done — being eaten up by commercial interests. That’s why ROFLCon needs to die. With the way we are now, we can only shrewdly key Board of Governor plays it off. We can only hope that the convention will return one day — as something better — to save the Internet from itself.

For now? I’ll be the first to say it: Good-night, sweet prince.
Solution to Sudoku from page 7

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

Solution to Techdoku from page 7

3 4 5 2 7 1 6
7 1 2 6 4 5 3
5 6 7 4 2 3 1
4 5 6 3 1 2 7
1 2 3 7 5 6 4
6 7 1 5 3 4 2
2 3 4 1 6 7 5

Solution to Crossword from page 8

ACACIA SMART CC
EXFAT LUNAR ZOD
ID laundry LAURAY
ELDORADO CITE
OLD CHESTNUT
TABLE TRASSTONE
ABOONE KOS DEVIL
LINT AMOS BAN
LAVAGAN GO
COAL ASSIST
EXPERT MARATHI
FB MAGICAL OULT
ABONE TONE SEGAL
JUL LEWIS SMOK

 Massage 101

Medlinks Presents:

Saturday March 12th
1pm-2pm
Walker Memorial

Come with a friend and learn how to give a chair massage from a professional instructor.

Reduce Your Accent Now!

FREE SCREENING at mylanguagemaster.com

Learning English is not enough. You must speak clearly with confidence and ease. Reduce your accent up to 90%.

FREE ACENT SCREENING at mylanguagemaster.com.

Get a personalized assessment of your accented speech.

First person to respond to this ad gets one free session.

Be understood the first time every time.

REACH SMART CC
EXFAT LUNAR ZOD
ID laundry LAURAY
ELDORADO CITE
OLD CHESTNUT
TABLE TRASSTONE
ABOONE KOS DEVIL
LINT AMOS BAN
LAVAGAN GO
COAL ASSIST
EXPERT MARATHI
FB MAGICAL OULT
ABONE TONE SEGAL
JUL LEWIS SMOK

Sudoku Solutions:

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

Techdoku Solutions:

1. 3 4 5 2 7 1 6
2. 7 1 2 6 4 5 3
3. 5 6 7 4 2 3 1
4. 4 5 6 3 1 2 7
5. 1 2 3 7 5 6 4
6. 6 7 1 5 3 4 2
7. 2 3 4 1 6 7 5

Crossword Solutions:

ACACIA SMART CC
EXFAT LUNAR ZOD
ID laundry LAURAY
ELDORADO CITE
OLD CHESTNUT
TABLE TRASSTONE
ABOONE KOS DEVIL
LINT AMOS BAN
LAVAGAN GO
COAL ASSIST
EXPERT MARATHI
FB MAGICAL OULT
ABONE TONE SEGAL
JUL LEWIS SMOK
MIT isn’t famous for being a god-fearing place. Few people know that there are 16 chaplains and nearly 30 student groups dedicated to religion at the Institute. So why are they here?

Last week, The Tech surveyed 2,943 undergraduate and graduate students at MIT — about 27 percent of the student population — on their religious life. 1,295 (44 percent) were undergraduates.

We looked at more than just religious affiliation and belief in a higher power. We asked about attendance at religious services, membership in religious student groups, and changes in faith. We studied how religion influences your opinions on sex, science, and politics. We interviewed Robert M. Randolph, chaplain to the Institute, who doubles as the Bexley housemaster; philosophy professor Alex Byrne, who had a lot to say about atheism at MIT; as well as religious group leaders and a number of students. We even spoke with one of the organizers behind all of those TGISM posters.

In addition, our special section on religion includes a discussion between our opinion writers on the roles of science and religion. Our arts department explores religious a cappella groups at the Institute, and examines The Atheist’s Guide to Reality: Enjoying Life without Illusions, a recent book by Alex Rosenberg.

Our feature also highlights stories and thoughts from the community about religion at MIT. These comments were drawn from the free response section at the end of our survey.

MIT is full of great diversity, and religion is no exception. We hope you enjoy reading about the religious life at the Institute!

Maggie Lloyd ’12 and Jessica J. Pourian ’13
Contributing Editor and Editor in Chief
The problem is, it’s not a secular institution. The truth is, for 18- to 22-year-olds, one of the issues on the table is who am I? What am I about? When you talk about holistic education, you need to recognize that people are talking about questions, you can’t pretend that they’re not. I joke that 30 minutes after MIT was founded the first Catholic priest had Mass on campus. We’ve had Catholic chaplains here since 1864. We don’t tip our cap to one particular religious tradition, but religion has played an important role at MIT since its very founding. The chaplains were here 50 years ago. It’s exciting.

Q: What is it like to also be a housesitter and an advisor along with your duties as chaplain?

A: Well, I think it is wonderful, personally like I very much. Living with students makes you aware of what you don’t know. You’re constantly reminded of what it’s like to be 18-25. You can think forget that if you get tied up primarily in the classroom. You’re watching students navigate the pitfalls of growing up, it’s remarkable. From my point of view, it’s an honor to be part of the process and to occasionally be helpful.

I became a housesitter for a year initially but I’ve kept getting re-upped. Even in Berkeley over the time I’ve been here I’ve had students who had regular religious gatherings inside the dormitory. My job is not to impose that but to be supportive of that so they can do things that help them have the opportunity. That would be the same case in the most religious dormitory. There, it might be that I’d be protecting the rights of the non-religious as opposed to the religious.

Q: How else has religious life changed during your time at MIT?

A: It ebbs and flows. We just put in place this new Kosher dining program, it’s something we’ve been working on for 20 years. It’s going to make an important difference for Jewish students and for Muslim students and for dialogue between the two communities, as they come over food. Again, who would have thought that food suddenly becomes a way to promote world peace or at least understanding?

Q: After 9/11 MIT was one of the few colleges in the city that didn’t have Muslim students leave because they were afraid. Families and Muslim students elsewhere were fearful that their children would be harmed in the aftermath of the tragedy. We had Muslims, Christians, and Jews gathered on Killian Court to share prayers and to give support to one another. That’s what should happen.

Now, one of the things we’ve done recently is meeting in the chapel on Tuesday mornings not for religious reasons but just to reflect together and to draw from the traditions that people bring. We do that partly because one of the things about this place is that we’re so harried that we don’t take time to reflect. It turns out that instead of being for students it is a time more for faculty and staff. For 20 minutes we come together, there’s a presentation, there’s some music, there’s centering, and we have coffee. When in doubt, eat. It runs from 10 to 15 [attenders]. It’s not large.

Q: There is a reason why there is inconsistency in religious student group membership? Why do some religious student groups at MIT have 20-30 members whereas Hillel and the Tech Catholic Community have at least 100?

A: Yeah, I think the reason why is for example the Tech Catholic Community, the Muslim Community, Hillel all draw from broad, worldwide bases. So, you can be Catholic and come from Great Britain, you can come from Mexico, you can come from Latin America, and one of the things I’ve always argued is that if you want to see diversity at MIT you should look at the religious communities. You’ll see people from all over the world.

During my time at the Cardenal [Sean O’Malley, a Roman Catholic counselor to the pope] here a few years ago, the line to greet him included students, faculty, and staff, and people that we don’t often notice that have the needs of the staff. Religion cuts across the whole community.

Same with the Muslim community, I joke that the most coveted parking space out here is the one the cal who have when people come for prayers. Every cal who’s Muslim has been here for prayer. That’s a good thing.

Q: Our survey results show that about seven percent of freshmen and sophomores but about 14 percent of juniors and seniors say they dropped their religion since coming to MIT. What kind of influences are there at the technical institute?

A: Well, I don’t think it’s just at MIT. Trying to find your way in the world, you tend to focus on those things that seem to be the most pressing. The most pressing may well not be your religious commitments, which tend to come back when you have family, you have children, you begin to become more comfortable in your job. You know around here, a lot of people don’t have time to eat, I mean that’s just a fact. I’ve had people come here and they used to play the cello a great deal and they gave it up and it breaks my heart. I wish they didn’t feel they had to but then again I don’t know what it’s like to deal with some of these problem sets. I hope that eventually they’ll come back to the cello, and so with their religious inclinations and when they come back to it they’ll ask questions in a more sophisticated and thoughtful way.

Often religion is thought of when you’re 18 as people telling you what not to do. The key is to understand that religious communities really ask a range of questions about what to do and what not to do.

What also happens when you’re a college sophomore, college junior is you may for the first time encounter issues of life, death, mortality, fragility of human relationships. The resources that you draw on may be distant and vice versa very often they’ll be the resources that shaped you when you were younger and by the time you’re 30 then you may come back to asking different questions about these things.
Why exactly do MIT students believe in a god?

By Maggie Lloyd

What does Professor Alex Byrne, who teaches 24.503, Topics in Philosophy of Religion, feel about this question?

“Scientists tend to be atheists,” Byrne said. In an interview with The Tech, he mentioned that he was not surprised to hear that 69 percent of MIT atheists somewhat or strongly disagree that there is a god. Byrne said, “It is a conflict between facts and religion, or theory versus data. Any theory can be in agreement with science, but in a sense that is a matter of a religious agnostic: the agnostic doesn’t believe there is one. Similarly, with religion, the agnostic doesn’t believe there is a god, neither does she believe there is one.”

Agnostics are not having an “either/or” view, he explained. “For example, many people are agnostics about martians. If you believe there is life elsewhere in our galaxy, you are an agnostic about martians.”

Agnostics are not quick to judge based on religious statements. “The main challenge is that people get so caught up in the idea of proving that catastrophic global warming will occur, whereas another student with access to the same evidence believes that it won’t happen.”

“They are not quick to judge based on religious statements,” Byrne said. “Do you suspend judgment? Do you say, ‘There’s a possibility that catastrophic global warming will occur, but I don’t believe it?’”

“That is not a way of life, and provides no guidance about how to live. People who say that atheism is a way of life, are not doing it right. They are absolutizing a concept to the point where there is no life outside of it. And the same evidence whether there is life or not.”

Byrne said, “I never really understood that straw in the New Atheism Movement where there’s this suggestion that atheism is a way of life. Atheism is the most important question in our era, and it’s being reduced to a prescriptive world view like the view that Santa Claus does not exist. It is not a way of life, and provides no guidance about how to live.”

Chinua Shaw ’13, right, and Jen-Hao Ku G ’12, were one of a series of students to organize several MSA events in Islamic Awareness Month, which includes an Evening of Islamic Art and open Friday prayer days.

Coming together

“Every week, we meet together for Family Home Events, a time set aside for families to draw closer to God and each other. But we’re in college, away from our families, so we have our own little group,” said Kerr of the BSF peers for bible studies. "The Bible is a really strong source for where we look for making a lot of our decisions in our lives," he explained, "It allows us to take a step back and look at the content of things going on in our lives."
I no longer follow a religion, but I still consider myself spiritual. My faith has weakened. Undergraduates are more likely to not support stem cell research, while those who say that religion has a strong influence on their views on stem cell research are more likely to support stem cell research.

Those who identify as not religious are more likely to be supportive of same-sex marriage, while those who say that religion has a strong influence on their views on same-sex marriage are more likely to be against same-sex marriage or believe that civil unions should replace marriages for same-sex couples.

When conditioning responses to questions on the use of contraception, respondents were more likely to say they were OK with the use of contraception if they reported that religion had little influence on their views on contraception use. Across all respondents, 28 percent support the death penalty for a person convicted of aggravated murder. As indicated in the charts on the left, the more religion influenced respondents’ views on the death penalty, the more likely they did not support the death penalty.

### Stem cell research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOT RELIGIOUS</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS NO INFLUENCE</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS SOME INFLUENCE</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS A STRONG INFLUENCE</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Same-sex marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>No allowed</th>
<th>Allowed only</th>
<th>Civil unions only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOT RELIGIOUS</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS NO INFLUENCE</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS SOME INFLUENCE</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS A STRONG INFLUENCE</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contraception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOT RELIGIOUS</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS NO INFLUENCE</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS SOME INFLUENCE</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS A STRONG INFLUENCE</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### In favor of the death penalty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOT RELIGIOUS</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS NO INFLUENCE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS SOME INFLUENCE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION HAS A STRONG INFLUENCE</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I no longer follow a religion, but I still consider myself spiritual.

My faith has weakened. My faith has strengthened.

How important is it to convert others?

14% Somewhat Important
30% Not Important at all

Belief in God

28% Very Important
19% Strongly Disagree

Science and religion are not mutually exclusive, but it can sometimes be difficult to reconcile certain spiritual theories with scientific data. Most interestingly, it was found that religious students at MIT tend to think that it is not difficult to reconcile the two whereas non-religious students do. This doesn’t surprise philosophy Professor Alex Byrne, who sat down with The Tech for an interview. See page 13 for the article.

MIT Religious Affiliations

Religious affiliations

About a third of respondents say that they are Christian — of those, 36 percent are Catholic and 28 percent report no denomination. Atheists make up the largest single category, with 26 percent of respondents. Agnostics follow at 15 percent, while those reporting they subscribe to no religion make up 19 percent. These numbers are within a few percent of those reported in the 2011 MIT Enrolled Student Survey.

Science and religion

"Science is difficult to reconcile with religion"

Science and religion are not mutually exclusive, but it can sometimes be difficult to reconcile certain spiritual theories with scientific data. Most interestingly, it was found that religious students at MIT tend to think that it is not difficult to reconcile the two whereas non-religious students do. This doesn’t surprise philosophy Professor Alex Byrne, who sat down with The Tech for an interview. See page 13 for the article.

Losing my religion

College is a formative time for religion. As students attempt to drink from the firehouse of MIT, they realize something’s got to give. Maybe they give up playing a sport, a musical instrument, or attending religious services. Or maybe, once they reach the age of 18, students face issues of life and death more and more frequently, and it shakes their faith in a higher power. Alternatively, students may find their faith strengthened as they’re exposed to peers who share their beliefs or communities that become a home away from home for religious students.

Changes in religious preferences for undergraduates

My faith has strengthened

23% Freshman
18% Sophomore
13% Junior
10% Senior

My faith has weakened

I no longer follow a religion, but I still consider myself spiritual

6% Freshman
5% Sophomore
4% Junior
3% Senior

I am no longer religious

2% Freshman
1% Sophomore
0% Junior
0% Senior

Religious affiliations

About a third of respondents say that they are Christian — of those, 36 percent are Catholic and 28 percent report no denomination. Atheists make up the largest single category, with 26 percent of respondents. Agnostics follow at 15 percent, while those reporting they subscribe to no religion make up 19 percent. These numbers are within a few percent of those reported in the 2011 MIT Enrolled Student Survey.

Science and religion are not mutually exclusive, but it can sometimes be difficult to reconcile certain spiritual theories with scientific data. Most interestingly, it was found that religious students at MIT tend to think that it is not difficult to reconcile the two whereas non-religious students do. This doesn’t surprise philosophy Professor Alex Byrne, who sat down with The Tech for an interview. See page 13 for the article.

Losing my religion

College is a formative time for religion. As students attempt to drink from the firehouse of MIT, they realize something’s got to give. Maybe they give up playing a sport, a musical instrument, or attending religious services. Or maybe, once they reach the age of 18, students face issues of life and death more and more frequently, and it shakes their faith in a higher power. Alternatively, students may find their faith strengthened as they’re exposed to peers who share their beliefs or communities that become a home away from home for religious students.

Changes in religious preferences for undergraduates

My faith has strengthened

23% Freshman
18% Sophomore
13% Junior
10% Senior

My faith has weakened

I no longer follow a religion, but I still consider myself spiritual

6% Freshman
5% Sophomore
4% Junior
3% Senior

I am no longer religious

2% Freshman
1% Sophomore
0% Junior
0% Senior

Religious affiliations

About a third of respondents say that they are Christian — of those, 36 percent are Catholic and 28 percent report no denomination. Atheists make up the largest single category, with 26 percent of respondents. Agnostics follow at 15 percent, while those reporting they subscribe to no religion make up 19 percent. These numbers are within a few percent of those reported in the 2011 MIT Enrolled Student Survey.

Science and religion are not mutually exclusive, but it can sometimes be difficult to reconcile certain spiritual theories with scientific data. Most interestingly, it was found that religious students at MIT tend to think that it is not difficult to reconcile the two whereas non-religious students do. This doesn’t surprise philosophy Professor Alex Byrne, who sat down with The Tech for an interview. See page 13 for the article.

Losing my religion

College is a formative time for religion. As students attempt to drink from the firehouse of MIT, they realize something’s got to give. Maybe they give up playing a sport, a musical instrument, or attending religious services. Or maybe, once they reach the age of 18, students face issues of life and death more and more frequently, and it shakes their faith in a higher power. Alternatively, students may find their faith strengthened as they’re exposed to peers who share their beliefs or communities that become a home away from home for religious students.

Changes in religious preferences for undergraduates

My faith has strengthened

23% Freshman
18% Sophomore
13% Junior
10% Senior

My faith has weakened

I no longer follow a religion, but I still consider myself spiritual

6% Freshman
5% Sophomore
4% Junior
3% Senior

I am no longer religious

2% Freshman
1% Sophomore
0% Junior
0% Senior
Religion from the student center

How does the average MIT student perceive religion? Last week, The Tech talked to students having lunch in W20, and asked them about their thoughts on religion at MIT. How is religion viewed on campus? How and why do people’s religious views get changed by MIT? Some found that their religious views deepened at college while others found that education made them question their previous beliefs. Ask a bunch of MIT students whether religion can be reconciled with science, and you are bound to get some interesting answers. Will you be surprised? For the full spectrum of views, see the interviews below.

—Jingyun Fan

Scott E. Sundvor, Course 2, 2012

What religion do you identify with?
I don’t identify with a religion.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
I think it depends on the religion. Some religions view the universe as being created in six days by God, while others believe in evolution. If you believe in evolution, then religion and science are not compatible. However, if you believe in a God who created the universe in six days, then religion and science can be reconciled.

What do you think the difference in religious views between dorms is?
Between courses?
I have no idea.

How do you think religion should play a larger or smaller role on the MIT campus?
I think it should depend on the person. If someone is religious, they should be encouraged to be so, but if they aren’t, then they shouldn’t be. I think it’s a matter of personal choice.

What do you think is the typical MIT student?
I think there are more people who go to MIT because they are interested in science and technology, rather than because they are religious.

What do you think the religious view of the typical MIT student is?
I’m not sure, but I think it’s more likely that the typical MIT student is agnostic or atheist.

What do you think the difference in religious views between dorms is?
I can’t say for sure, but I think it’s likely that the religious views of students in different dorms are different.

What religion do you identify with?
I don’t identify with a religion.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
I think it can be, but it depends on the religion. Some religions believe in a God who created the universe, while others believe in a universe that evolved on its own. If you believe in a God who created the universe, then religion and science can be reconciled. However, if you believe in a universe that evolved on its own, then religion and science cannot be reconciled.

What do you think the difference in religious views between dorms is?
I can’t say for sure, but I think it’s likely that the religious views of students in different dorms are different.

What religion do you identify with?
I don’t identify with a religion.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
I don’t think so. Science is based on evidence and reason, while religion is based on faith and belief. They cannot be reconciled.

What do you think the difference in religious views between dorms is?
I can’t say for sure, but I think it’s likely that the religious views of students in different dorms are different.
Orevaoghenhe (Reva) S. Attah, Courses 10 and 14, 2015

What religion do you identify with?
Anglican Christian.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
No, I think you can get a wide variety of religious students there than I’ve seen anywhere else. I don’t think there is a difference between courses.

How have your religious views changed after you came to MIT?
They haven’t.


What religion do you identify with?
Agnostic.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
No I don’t think so.

Do you think religion should play a larger or smaller role on the MIT campus?
I believe religion adds conflict, and to avoid conflict it should play a smaller role on campus.

What do you think the difference in religious views between dorms is?
Between courses?
I think dorms attract different people so it makes sense that different dorms would attract different kinds of people, but I’m not really sure if there actually is a pattern.

How have your religious views changed after you came to MIT?
I think it has strengthened because it is one thing to go to church because your family goes to church, and it’s another thing to get up on a Sunday morning and go to church when you have a million other things to do, when you’ve partied the night before and you don’t really want to get up. I’ve been involved in a few Christian groups on campus and it has helped me understand that even though a lot of people don’t share my views, there are also a lot of people who do.

What happened?
Time, stress, and science.

Friday, May 11, 2012

The Tech 17

Orevaoghenhe (Reva) S. Attah, Courses 10 and 14, 2015

What religion do you identify with?
Anglican Christian.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
No, I think you can get a wide variety of religious students there than I’ve seen anywhere else. I don’t think there is a difference between courses.

How have your religious views changed after you came to MIT?
They haven’t.

Mary A. Breton, Course 3, 2014

What religion do you identify with?
Orthodox Christian.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
I do. I think that a lot of people are irreconcilable, but there are a lot of ways to. . . . people like to put things in a box, but there are a lot of ways to make everything fit together.

Do you think religion should play a larger or smaller role on the MIT campus?
I think MIT is very unique that we have a lot of people who are very into the science. I think religion is very personal, and doesn’t necessarily need to be pushed. I think a lot of people are very skeptical, and all we can do is encourage what we know and let people make their own decisions.

What do you think the difference in religious views between dorms is?
Between courses?
I don’t know.

How have your religious views changed after you came to MIT?
They have not changed one bit. I am still Christian, I believe in Jesus.

Lilian L. Guevara, Course 2, 2014

What religion do you identify with?
Baptist Christian.

Do you think that religion can be reconciled with science?
Um, . . . no.

So why are you at MIT then?
I’m not here for religion. I don’t really care about religion like that.

Do you think religion should play a larger or smaller role on the MIT campus?
I think it should be a smaller role, because here we have so much diversity. There are a lot of religions, and it’s good to avoid any controversy.

What do you think the religious view of the typical MIT student is?
I think religion adds conflict, and to avoid conflict it should play a smaller role on campus.

What do you think the difference in religious views between dorms is?
Between courses?
No. I don’t think so.

How have your religious views changed after you came to MIT?
I think I’ve become more religious, just because I missed my family. And my mom is really religious, so that inspired me to get more into it.
Religion is annoying. People are cranky when they’re fasting.

There is no forcing of religion onto anyone that I’ve seen since being here. That is a vast improvement from everywhere else I’ve lived.

I think that people who are super religious and attend MIT have to deal with their contradictions everyday. I feel bad for them until they start telling me I am going to hell.

I have absolutely no problem with anyone believing in Santa Claus, Zeus, unicorns, dragons, God, or any other fairy tales they would like, so long as such views do not discourage open minded, critical thinking, impede the progress of scientific understanding, and promote hatred and bigotry towards others.

When I was younger, I believed very strongly in the existence of God, and this was the cause of a lot of pain in my life at that time. I suffer from OCD and depression, and starting from the age of ~5, I was terrified of performing a “sin”. I remember spending hours praying at night in secret, asking God for forgiveness for various intrusive thoughts. By the time I was 9, I concluded that I was damned to go to hell as a sinner, and only prayed to God to forgive my family and not punish them for my “sins” (telling white lies, cursing, being resentful of others at times). Needless to say, I was lonely and afraid most of the time as a child, and suicidal by middle school. My experience with “God” was not a happy one, and I do not find the idea of my thoughts and actions being watched by a higher power to be comforting in the least. I am currently fighting my family and not punish them for my “sins” (telling white lies, cursing, being resentful of others at times). Needless to say, I was lonely and afraid most of the time as a child, and suicidal by middle school. My experience with “God” was not a happy one, and I do not find the idea of my thoughts and actions being watched by a higher power to be comforting in the least. I am currently fighting my OCD and depression with atheism and antidepressants, and I’ve learned not to tell my religious friends about my mental illnesses. I don’t have a problem with people having different opinions and beliefs from me, and I think it’s great that people can find comfort in something. However, whenever people tell me that I wouldn’t need medication if I learned to believe God’s grace, I want to punch through a window. TLDR — religion, your mileage may vary.

I don’t think it is difficult to reconcile science with religion, but I do think it is difficult to reconcile scientists with people sometimes.

I love the diversity embraced by MIT.

At MIT, I found a rich and friendly religious community that guided and welcomed me upon my decision to convert to a different faith. I had not been religious before matriculating, and my classmates helped me to enrich my life in this way.

Religion is annoying. People are cranky when they’re fasting.

I have occasionally been excluded by Catholic PI’s during fieldwork from scientific discussions because I refused to pray beforehand. I feel that religious discrimination still occurs in New England and that it should not impact how we work. I find people that try to impose their spiritual decisions on me to be rude and unsavory. I would prefer that none of my student activity fees be given to any religious group because these people have treated me so poorly in the past.

I find that MIT is largely split on this issue, where there are fiercely religious people, and fiercely atheist people, and when you are religious but it doesn’t inform every facet of your life, it’s almost like you’ve done it wrong in the eyes of both groups and it can be very isolating. The religious don’t want you because you aren’t religious enough, or they want you a lot and want you to be more religious, and the atheists want you to renounce religion all together. I will add the caveat that there are a large number of religious people that will offer for you to come to church with them, but will not pressure you if you choose not to join.

I find full meaning and joy in my research and studies appreciating it as a God-given opportunity to peek at His amazing wisdom and beauty; seeing good ideas and sparks of insight during my research makes me more in awe of God. Research, study, and teaching are great ways of worshiping God.
Religion and science complement each other; they address separate questions

By Ryan Normandin

Religion is plain: it is what people make of texts, claims of revelation, the form of texts, claims of miracles, and other personal evidence. Some find that evidence compelling enough to form their belief, others do not. There are so many different religious beliefs across the globe, but the belief that a supernatural being exists, that of being religious, is what people make of evidence. Religion is spiritualistic: it can be anything, can be a fish by its ability to climb a tree, can define却是市来...
Heavenly voices
Three a capella groups have strong ties to the religious community

By Deena Wang
COPYRIGHT AND EDITOR

Gospel Choir
Gospel Choir is one of MIT’s Christianity-based music singing groups. Founded over 35 years ago, their 38-some members come from a variety of Christian backgrounds. The group provides an opportunity to practice while they preach, with prayer and scripture readings during rehearsals.

"Gospel Choir is not just a singing group. It’s a family that we are deeply in love with Jesus Christ," said Chelsie W. Liberman ’12. "It’s not uncommon for us to break out of our official list of songs, whether it’s during our practices or even just hanging around. We just love to sing just to Jesus.

One of Gospel Choir’s premiere events is Gospel Fest, a gathering of several Boston-area collegiate gospel music groups. Although the event doesn’t always go off without a hitch, it still provides an opportunity for the group to grow closer.

"We practice and hang out on a few days before Gospel Fest, so we not only didn’t have a director, but we had no band as well,” recalled Jo Y. Elatta ’13. "Everyone came to gether as a choir, shared some of our songs, and we had a better concert run as a family out of love, free to the communi ty!"

Techiya
Techiya is an MIT a capella group devoted to Jewish, Hebrew, and Israeli music. Although most of the music they perform is in Hebrew, Techiya’s repertoire includes a wide variety of styles. According to assistant music director Mauro Brunstein G, their current songs include “a very popular song from 1920’sish Yiddish theater — a pre-Renaissance Sephardic guitar-influenced, and a modern Israeli pop song in Hebrew.”

The group has strong connections to the Jewish community; they sing at temples, Hillfie’s Shabbat dinners, and the annual Memorial Day Memorial Lighting. They also include non-Jewish members.

"I was raised without any religious influences, so I was always indifferent to religion and didn’t understand why people would choose to spend so much time participating in religious activities," said Techiya’s President Jessica M. Noss ’14. "However, many of my close religious friends are Jewish grad students, so last semester I started attending their Shabbat dinners and Hillfie-sponsored social events. I’ve discovered that religion is not as simple as ‘believing or not believing,’ it’s something that brings people together through shared customs, and — at least in my experience with Judaism — it doesn’t even matter whether people believe.”

Cross Products
The Cross Products are a multi-denominational Christian a capella group founded in 1968. The 17 mem ber- team is devoted to spreading the word of Jesus Christ through music; they perform around MIT and elsewhere. The most memorable concerts for Yusung “John” Lim ’12 are “the performances that we do during our spring breaks. This year, we went to Pittsburgh and sang at a Christian homeless shelter that gives men a place to stay as they get back up on their feet. It was amazing to get to sing to groups that we’ve been given and see how our faith has changed our lives.”

The group also has strong ties to the greater Christian community. “We are a part of the United Christian Organization (UCO) so we are connected to a large part of the Christian community on campus,” Lim said. "In addition, many of our members are involved in Christian leadership. Part of our mission as the Cross Products is to run sound for other groups and other events such as the UCO Praise Night and Registration Day Services.”

Enjoy life: skip the latter half of The Atheist’s Guide
A catchy title and a few thought-provoking pages aside, the book is a snoozefest

By Roberto Perez-Franco

The advice not to judge a book by its cover proves wise in the case of Alex Rosenberg’s latest tome. A scarce title and subtitle, which seem to fly out of the page from a Bangladeshi burst of white over the background of a colorful deep-space image, promise hours of thoughtful and imaginative reading about how freethinkers can enjoy life without resort to nonsense. It’s a book that, like a rosary, offers us to turn as we please, as what turns out to be a rather dull and overall undemanding book. The book starts strong, by boldly stating its goal, namely answering the “unanswerable questions” in life. It also dem ons.trates its audience: “This is a book for athe ists,” we are told, for “people who are comfort able with the truth about reality.” It is certainly not for “people who believe,” recalled Jo Y. Elatta ’13, not even for “just doubters and agnostics” that are still confused about what religion means. Those who have “moved past that point” and know for certain that “belief in God is on par with belief in Santa Claus.”

Sounding like a book for me! I thought. “If science has all the answers, then why not read it, and do it?” “You are already as strongly committed to the serious scientific answers to the unanswerable questions as you are to atheism” — I am. I am! For Rosenberg, science and atheism seem to be entangled as quasi-synonyms in my mind. “But we had no band as well,” recalled Jo Y. Elatta ’13, “we not only didn’t have a director, but we had no band as well,” recalled Jo Y. Elatta ’13. “Everyone came together as a choir, shared some of our songs, and we had a better concert run as a family out of love, free to the community!”

Techiya
Techiya is an MIT a capella group devoted to Jewish, Hebrew, and Israeli music. Although most of the music they perform is in Hebrew, Techiya’s repertoire includes a wide variety of styles. According to assistant music director Mauro Brunstein G, their current songs include “a very popular song from 1920’sish Yiddish theater — a pre-Renaissance Sephardic guitar-influenced, and a modern Israeli pop song in Hebrew.”

The group has strong connections to the Jewish community; they sing at temples, Hillfie’s Shabbat dinners, and the annual Memorial Day Memorial Lighting. They also include non-Jewish members.

"I was raised without any religious influences, so I was always indifferent to religion and didn’t understand why people would choose to spend so much time participating in religious activities," said Techiya’s President Jessica M. Noss ’14. "However, many of my close religious friends are Jewish grad students, so last semester I started attending their Shabbat dinners and Hillfie-sponsored social events. I’ve discovered that religion is not as simple as ‘believing or not believing,’ it’s something that brings people together through shared customs, and — at least in my experience with Judaism — it doesn’t even matter whether people believe.”

Cross Products
The Cross Products are a multi-denominational Christian a capella group founded in 1968. The 17 member team is devoted to spreading the word of Jesus Christ through music; they perform around MIT and elsewhere. The most memorable concerts for Yusung “John” Lim ’12 are “the performances that we do during our spring breaks. This year, we went to Pittsburgh and sang at a Christian homeless shelter that gives men a place to stay as they get back up on their feet. It was amazing to get to sing to groups that we’ve been given and see how our faith has changed our lives.”

The group also has strong ties to the greater Christian community. “We are a part of the United Christian Organization (UCO) so we are connected to a large part of the Christian community on campus,” Lim said. “In addition, many of our members are involved in Christian leadership. Part of our mission as the Cross Products is to run sound for other groups and other events such as the UCO Praise Night and Registration Day Services.”

By Alex Rosenberg
W.W. Norton 2011

full in such a boring manner. The endless repitition of ideas, the gratuitous compillation of simple arguments, and an abundance of circular references involving atheism and science feeding on each other (not unlike Mel vil le’s frenzied sharks repeatedly eating their own organs), makes the reading of this volume something akin to torture.

I reject the author’s claim that scientif ic knowledge cannot be put into stories, whereas religion can. As evidence I submit the ever taller pile of fascinating popular science books that are published every year. But I embrace his call to live life without illusions or fear, with the caveat that even that point was made in a prostrated manner. The same idea was better said — again — by Don Draper, when he answered his wife's question of "What else is there?" he quipped: "I don’t know. Life being lived!" I’d like to stop talking about it and get back to it. After suffering through the 350 pages of Rosenberg’s zigzagging philosophical treatise, so do I.
Maseeh lecture series merges arts and sciences

Events include a Master’s Tea, science lecture, and a proposed public art exhibition

Maseeh, from Page 1

“...a necessary fact of College!”

- Deal direct...no middlemen
- Fast turnaround
- Award winning & computer literate art dept.
- Free delivery & reasonable pricing
- Full color t-shirts and coffee mugs - no minimum!
- Locally owned & operated in Somerville, MA.
...and best of all - no boring lectures

Friday, May 11, 2012

The second event in the series was Maggie Koerth-Baker’s lecture “Shedding Light, Online,” held on April 4. Koerth-Baker, a science editor for the popular blogging site BoingBoing.net, spoke about how blogging and interacting with a responsive audience shaped her new book on the future of American energy, Before the Lights Go Out.

The last event was an art reception — “To Extremes: Public Art in a Changing World.” To Extremes was a juried exhibition of proposed public artworks exploring climate change. The jury consisted of nine professional artists and designers. Attend ed by around 30 people, this exhibit was on display in Maseeh’s lobby from April 20 to April 28. London-based artist Sam Jury won the first place of $2,500 for further development of the proposed project for installation at a public site.

Effects on Maseeh Culture

“We believe that Maseeh Hall should be host to visitors to explore new and interesting cultural, academic, and scientific ideas,” said Kintisch. He hopes themes like art, dance, creativity, and scientists and engineers engaging with the world will be part of the Maseeh culture in the future.

“I don’t think the Expressions talks can become that popular given that they are limited to a single residential hall whose culture has no particular attraction to the arts,” said Peña.

“I don’t know how popular it was, considering it was the first time it happened at Maseeh,” noted Senatus, “but I do think they could become very popular if proper advertisement is made in advance.”
MacG not yet filled for summer housing

There is good news for those on the summer housing waitlist. 77 people, mostly from MacGregor, have declined their given housing as of Wednesday. The bad news is that the waitlist only includes students who did not get into Senior House, Bedsey, or Random, but don’t want MacGregor, according to director of housing Dennis J. Collins. Of the four dorms open for summer housing — MacGregor, Random, Bedsey, and Senior House — MacGregor is the only dorm with open space. Random and Bedsey are filled to capacity while Senior House is filled to half capacity to leave room for kitchen renovations. The 73 residents living in Senior House will only have one kitchen open during the summer while the rest are being re-dedicated. Collins said that the dorms open for the summer were selected because of their amenities: Senior House is cat-, smoking-, and handicap-friendly; Bedsey is cat- and smoking-friendly, and Random is cat-friendly. All four dorms are cook-it-yourself, meaning they come equipped with full, communal kitchens on each floor. The combined capacity of the dorms is about 530 students. If MacGregor is not filled to capacity, summer residents will fill in entry by entry, so unused sections can be closed. The final lottery to fill in people from the waitlist will take place on May 14. —Stan Gill

Derek Chang contributed reporting.

SPERM DONORS

Earn up to $1200 per month

Invest minimal time

Make a real difference in the lives of families

Receive free health and genetic screenings

APPLY ONLINE:

SPERMBANK.com

- convenient Cambridge location

Can you beat this drawing?
Join Illustrators at The Tech!
E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

CAT CH THE LATEST CUTTING-EDGE DISPLAY TECHNOLOGY

Don’t miss the excitement when Display Week 2012 comes to Boston! Face off with the industry’s latest and greatest developments at the SID International Symposium, Seminar and Exhibition – the premier display exhibition in North America.

From 3D and printed displays to tablet computers and solid-state lighting, you’ll have a front-row seat for the coolest new and emerging information display technologies. This includes all things green: the industry is working to ensure that display manufacturing is as energy efficient as possible, while still turning out products with the size, resolution and performance that consumers are looking for. DisplayWeek assembles the strongest and broadest set of technical leaders in the display industry, fronting the largest markets for the display industry. DisplayWeek is the best place to demonstrate advanced display technology, and publicize the value for licensing, selling or funding your technology. Be there when the puck drops June 3 - 8, 2012, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

To exhibit or for more event information, visit: http://www.displayweek.org

INGENIOUS PHYSICISTS

MIT students surveyed a wide range of overseas opportunities at Monday’s International Development Career Fair on Monday.
The original idea was the coin flip. Schrödinger's Cat, coin flip, lives or dies, that was the idea.

TF: How did you come up with the instruments for the main theme — English horn for the cat and bass clarinet for Heisenberg?

DK: Heisenberg first was on tuba. One of the difficulties about composing now is that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. You're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring wave mechanics and serve as an inspiration for music. spacious standards for the rest of us. A scienti- st and artist in one, in the four short years of college, Dustin has managed not only to complete a double major in physics and mathematics, dazzle his peers with musical artistry and stay involved in myriad other extracurriculars, but also to have fun while doing it. His crowning artistic achievement is Schrödinger's Cat: a Musical Journey into the Strange World of Quantum Mechanics, a programmatic orchestral work that was premiered by MITSO last Friday. I sat down with Dustin to talk about music and life at MIT.

The Tech: Now that you're graduating, how would you rate your overall MIT experience and what are your favorite moments?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan- tum sequence. Actually, it was really funny — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I took a class on 20th century composition. It was like getting the whole MIT experience. — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan- tum sequence. Actually, it was really funny — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan- tum sequence. Actually, it was really funny — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan- tum sequence. Actually, it was really funny — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan- tum sequence. Actually, it was really funny — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan- tum sequence. Actually, it was really funny — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan- tum sequence. Actually, it was really funny — at the end of the last quantum class 8.04, they backed the last lecture. . . . They made one of the lecturer’s seats into a throne! Which one came first?

TF: Speaking of physics, what do physics and music have in common? Which one came first?

DK: Well, the Big Bang happened. So I think physics came first, and if you want to analyze the waves, music fundamentally is physics. The thing that's interesting about that is that your ear can decompose sound waves so when you listen you can pick out the trumpet and the strings. That's called Fourier analysis. And you're doing that before you can add, so you're already doing calculus, which is pretty awesome! There's the flip side where I've been exploring ways in which physics can influence music and serve as an inspiration for music. There's definitely also a big mathematical component in terms of what sounds good and what doesn't; it comes from combinations of chords and adding up frequencies. There's a class here where you use matrices and other mathematical tools to guide your composition, but I've found that the more math you add in artificially, the worse it sounds. To me, fundamentally, music has to sound good.

The Tech: Any particular classes that you enjoyed?

DK: I really enjoyed a lot of the physics classes, general relativity, the whole quan-
MOVIE REVIEW

Dark humor, Dark Shadows

Tim Burton churns out another entertaining gothic film

By Naththida Wiwatwicha

Remember being five and giggling about clumsy characters and silly scenes such as a vampire not seeing himself in the mirror while brushing his teeth, an orphan under a bed sheet trying to scare away a guest, or while brushing his teeth, an orphan under a vampire not seeing himself in the mirror. Think of orchestral pieces that sound like they are made to make you think of Schrödinger’s Cat.

Dark Shadows is nothing new or exciting, but it is familiar and comforting.

Dark Shadows compares visually to a large collage of Burton’s work throughout his lifetime. Think Charlie and the Chocolate Factory plus Edward Scissorhands plus Big Fish plus Mars Attacks! … The list goes on. The movie is also reminiscent of Burton’s classic collection of poems The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy & Other Stories as recurrent images from his writing, such as little pale children or a woman sinking to the bottom of the ocean, now take the form of living characters. Dark Shadows is noth-

Dark Shadows is an epic fairy tale, Tim Burton style, with occasional innocent morbidity and flamboyant visuals contrasting with Burton’s own ideas about what the music meant to them.

Starting May 7th, S3 has extended hours and additional walk-in times!

Stop by 5-104 during walk-in hours between 9-10am and 2-3pm or call to schedule an appointment, 617-253-4861.

We would also like to remind you to take advantage of the many resources available for academic, social and personal support. S3, Community Wellness, MIT Mental Health & Counseling, Housemasters, GRTs, RLAs and Advisors are all here to support you. If you are feeling overwhelmed, don’t go it alone. Working together, we’ll find a way.
Bridge testing for 1.013 (Civil Engineering Design Project) took place in Lobby 7 at noon on Wednesday. Each of six bridges were required to hold 2,500 pounds without failure. Each group was also required to demonstrate that their bridge could safely hold the weight of all team members combined. Also on Wednesday, teams competed in the qualifying round of this year’s 2.007 competition. Each team’s robot earned points for completing a set of tasks.

1. Scott Landers ’12 loads his team’s bridge. Inspired by Calatrava’s designs, their team took on the challenge of resolving the huge torsion forces that an asymmetrical design creates.

2. Rebecca Heywood ’12 poses in front of her group’s PVC bridge.

3. (Left to right) Catherine John- son ’12, Andrew Pierson ’12, Mer- edith Lis ’12, Tiffany Cheng ’12, and Reece Otsuka ’12 with their 2,500-pound-loaded bridge.

4. Civil and Environmental Engineering seniors (left to right) Abhradeep Sarkar, Michael Chan, Julia Hopkins, John Lim, and Nicky Soane hung weights off of a hanging chain to find the ideal arch geometry for their bridge. Bridge testing for 1.013 took place in Lobby 7 at noon on Wednesday. Each bridge was required to hold 2,500 pounds without failure. Each group was also required to demonstrate that their bridge could safely hold the weight of all team members combined.

5. A robot flings a mass into the air as part of a task during the 2.007 competition Wednesday.

6. A robot scores points by hitting a lever to complete a task.

7. Kelsey S. Brigance ’12 weighs two robots on the scales of justice after their round resulted in a tie. In the event that two robots scored the same number of points, the one that weighed less would win.

8. Jonathan E. Rea ’14 pilots his robot “Jack.” One of the tasks of the 2.007 competition this year was to raise a mass in the air, and some robots, like Jack did this through a ladder mechanism.
MIT holds National Taekwondo Championship

By Casey Denham

The National Taekwondo Colle-
giate Championships were held by MIT Sport Taekwondo on April 7 and 8 with a record- breaking 601 competitors. Although it was a difficult task to orga-
nize a large tournament, the team, led by coach Dan Chuang and captains Seth "Matt" Weinberg G, Erika Lee '12, and Tara S. Samul '14, had a strong showing and received second in the novice and championship divisions, as well as second place overall with a total of 49 points.

Along with winning first place in Division I and the ECTC Cup, Lee and Weinberg took home MVP awards.

In the novice division, MIT placed second with a total of 37 points. In the yellow belt divisions, Anthony "Tony" Choudhury '14 placed third in sparring, Sarah J. Bricault G won bronze in forms, and Daniel J. On-
dina '14 placed third in sparring and silver in forms. For blue belts, Alvin Chen '12 placed third in forms, Shannon Gam8 '10 placed second in sparring and silver in sparring, Maria Z. Tou '14 placed fourth in sparring, and Rebecca Hung, who won in forms in '11. Williams and Hung also took bronze in the poomsae tournament event.

Alumni Rene Chen '07 made the Col-
league National Team and was selec-
ted as Female Athlete of the Year, while placing gold in individual and trio, as well as being named to the poomsae tournament team.

Two schools stood out after Na-
tionals, the team was on the road to RPI in New York to compete in the final Eastern Collegiate Taekwondo Conference (ECTC) tournament of the season and much coveted ECTC Cup. Although it was a small tournament, the Engineers kept the fighting spirit throughout the day, earning a total of 69 points, placing second in the ECTC Conference (209 points) and third in the ECTC Cup (131 points). This led to MIT also winning the ECTC Championship Cup, with a total of 899 points.

The team's hard work this se-
ning fourth, Issac Fenta '14 placing fourth, and Victor Nevarez '12 placing fourth. As at Nationals, our red belts really shined, with women sweep-
ing the forms division, as Menglei, Yang, Chang, Yang, Monaco, and Nanon, each receiving gold and bronze.

The real standout performance of the day was women's A1 (Lee, Sarathii Chien G, Michelle Chen '14) who won gold against tough teams they had worked all season to beat. Men's 8 teams double placed, with B1 (Rosario, Stepanvano, Daniel) win-
ing gold and B2 (Fenta, Novarez, and George T. Cheng '14) winning silver. Women's B1 (Long, Chang, and Tiffany A. Chen '15) also won silver after a series of tough match-
es. Women's CI (Bricault, Casey L. Denham '15, and Jessica J. Yang '15) placed third for the second straight competition, behind Sarah and Tiffany Chen G and Men's CI (Steven Fine '15 and Cecilio Aponte '14) both reached the quarterfinals. Along with winning first place

Hammel admits to hitting rookie Harper with pitch

By J. Austin Osborne

Phillies’ pitcher Cole Hammel earns a five game suspension and mars his reputation

Baseball is a game of unwritten rules. There’s no script, no instructions, no rule book. There’s no rule book. There’s a big lead. Don’t hound to break up a no-hitter. Betrayal when you score a walk on a pitch to hit a pitch. It is under-
standing. Go to the Show, you abide by these rules. There is no need to speak of them to the media, to your teammates, or to anyone else, for that matter. This is what made Cole Hammel’s recent admis-
sion to intentionally plunking rookie shooter Bryce Harper all the more alarming.

In the first inning of Philadelphia’s 9-3 win against the Washington National-
s on May 6, Hammel fired a fastball at Harper who was a small target in the back. Nothing was said, and no one re-
acted. When Hammel came up to bat in the fifth inning, he was hit by Nation-
s pitcher Jordan Zimmermann. Once again, nothing was said, and Harper took his base. This common baseball occurrence became controversial after it passes when Hammel candidly ad-
mitted “I was trying to hit him. I wanted to welcome him to the major leagues.”

Bryce Harper is one of the most liked players, but sometimes overly cocky, prospects in recent memory.

Men’s rugby reinvigorated

Team hopes to play in Division II next year

By Thomas A. Villalon Jr.

You don’t often hear baseball associated with MIT, but for the MIT Men’s Rugby team, it’s something that brings them to-
together. Started in 1949, the club was once a threat to higher level teams. This spring season alone, MIT

Hammel candidly admitted ‘I was trying to hit him. I wanted to welcome him to the major leagues.’

under the leadership of Coach Sean Christie who changed the way MIT played its game, and the team has been improving since. The next two seasons the club finished second in Divi-
sion III and won the NERFU Cup. Now with a fast, strong, and more aggressive style of play, MIT’s Men’s Rugby team is looking forward to a chance to defend their title.

Hammel finished off a very successful sea-
son total of 1,815 points. The result of these continu-
ing changes is visible in the rugby team’s current record. This spring season alone, MIT comple-
ted a series of Division II wins with strong victories against Charles River (57-26) and Portland (50-26), the club has shown itself to be a threat to higher level teams. Additionally, MIT has scrapped some tough wins against Old Gold (19-5) and North Shore (37-15), proving that they are ready for the challenge of Divi-
sion II. However, with its sole advantage of Providence (9-46), MIT was reminded that the club has room to improve. Due to these recent success-
es, they have a positive outlook. In a conversation with team president Mike P. Byrne G, he noted that the team has “a great mix of talented younger guys and more experienced older guys to solidify the club.” He did note, though, that success will not occur without challenges. Most particularly is “attracting new undergrad and grad students to the club.” As “[the team] faces a lot of competition from foot-
ball, soccer, and other sports, particularly for undergrads.” In spite of these challenges, the club looks forward to a bright future. Fuelled by the dedication of the players and Coach Christie’s leadership, the club is ready for the games ahead and ready for the chance to break into Division II.

by the leadership of Coach Sean Christie who changed the way MIT played its game, and the team has been improving since. The next two seasons the club finished second in Divi-
sion III and won the NERFU Cup. Now with a fast, strong, and more aggressive style of play, MIT’s Men’s Rugby team is looking forward to a chance to defend their title.

Hammel finished off a very successful sea-
son total of 1,815 points. The result of these continu-
ing changes is visible in the rugby team’s current record. This spring season alone, MIT comple-
ted a series of Division II wins with strong victories against Charles River (57-26) and Portland (50-26), the club has shown itself to be a threat to higher level teams. Additionally, MIT has scrapped some tough wins against Old Gold (19-5) and North Shore (37-15), proving that they are ready for the challenge of Divi-
sion II. However, with its sole advantage of Providence (9-46), MIT was reminded that the club has room to improve. Due to these recent success-
es, they have a positive outlook. In a conversation with team president Mike P. Byrne G, he noted that the team has “a great mix of talented younger guys and more experienced older guys to solidify the club.” He did note, though, that success will not occur without challenges. Most particularly is “attracting new undergrad and grad students to the club.” As “[the team] faces a lot of competition from foot-
ball, soccer, and other sports, particularly for undergrads.” In spite of these challenges, the club looks forward to a bright future. Fuelled by the dedication of the players and Coach Christie’s leadership, the club is ready for the games ahead and ready for the chance to break into Division II.
football, and wrestling. He began lifting to become stronger and more agile, which is not uncommon for many serious athletes.

"After I found out I was pretty good at Olympic Weightlifting, I stopped playing sports one by one" he said, "I eventually stopped playing football after my freshman year here to focus entirely on weightlifting."

Mike also remarked that part of his draw to the sport was from his admiration for his older brother, also an Olympic lifter. His favorite aspect of the sport is the competitive spirit. "I just fell in love with the competition," he said, "the rest is history."

Mike lives for the feeling he gets walking up the platform, and knowing that it is just him and the bar. Most often, he feels as if he is just competing with himself.

Balancing MIT academics and weightlifting is very demanding as both pursuits are very taxing, mentally and physically. When Mike is not at MIT, he is working with his coach, Zygmunt Smalcerz, (who earned a gold medal for Poland in 1972) in Colorado Springs, Colo. at the Olympic Training Center.

Mike feels that it is his discipline that is most often tested by his training, and he strives not to let himself become overwhelmed. "If you just keep pushing forward and work hard," he said, "most people find that they are capable of a lot more than they realize."

What is his secret? "I am on a pretty similar sched- ule for most of the year," he said. Depending on what my class schedule is like, I either get up early and go the library to do some work if I have an early class, then lift in the early afternoon after class. Or I go lift in the morning, then go to class. If my class is later in the day, then I do school work after. Either way I get up early, so I also usually go to bed early — I have an old man sleep schedule," Mike explained.

Mike’s favorite song is “Jungle Boogie” by Kool and the Gang. He likes to get funky, and you can expect to see Mike representing the USA and MIT at the 2016 Olympics!
Michael A. Nackoul aims for the 2016 Olympics in Rio
Junior earns bronze in the National Collegiate Weightlifting Championships for weight class

By Gordon Globor

How can you balance being a world-class weightlifter while studying mechanical engineering at MIT? Michael A. Nackoul '13 seems to have found the answer. While many students at MIT find that the rigorous academics can make finding time for extracurricular pursuits very difficult, Mike makes it look easy. A brother of DKE, Mike recently earned a bronze medal at the National Collegiate Weightlifting Championships for his weight class. This prestigious competition can be considered one of the early stages of Olympic Trials for the sport and Mike excelled during.

The championship can be considered as one of the early stages for the Olympic Trials. Mike's excellent performance placed him eighth overall in the competition. However, since the USA Olympic Lifting team has decided to take only one male to London this summer, Mike will not travel to the UK event. But since he is still young for the sport, Mike has taken this news in stride, re-focusing his sights on the early stages of Olympic Trials in Rio De Janeiro.

To give a little back-ground on the sport, Olympic Weightlifting is not just weightlifting in the Olympics. This sport is comprised of two functional lifts, the "snatch" and the "clean and jerk." In short, both lifts are a different means of getting a large amount of weight about your head. In addition to strength, these lifts demand much coordination, focus, and athleticism to be done safely and effectively. During the competition, athletes can attempt each lift three times; the combination of their best weights from each lift determines their score. Mike's personal records are 145 kilograms (320 lbs.) for the snatch and 186 kilograms (411 lbs.) for the clean and jerk.

Mike began lifting when he was around 12 years old. Up until this point he had enjoyed playing baseball, tennis, and running. He qualified for the National Collegiate Weightlifting Championships in his weight class.

Michael A. Nackoul '13 earned a bronze medal at the 2016 Olympics in Rio De Janeiro. What's next? Mike has taken this news in stride, re-focusing his sights on the early stages of Olympic Trials in Rio De Janeiro.