A universe of science at the Ig Nobels
Everything from exploding承诺s to dead fish with brain activity

By Jaya Narain
STAFF REPORTER

If you've ever wondered about exploding承诺s or the brain activity of dead承诺s, you might be interested in the work done by this year's Ig Nobel Laureates. The 22nd Ig Nobel Awards, prizes awarded annually for improbable research, feature a range of topics, from a "cherry-accordian" ensemble to "XEROMID", a frog-shaped electronic instrument. Robert Kindslien, a professor in the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, delivered the key-note address during which he ad-dressed the topic of the universe using demonstrations like inhaling from a helium balloon, and cutting a pumpkin pie.

The first award was given to Emmanuel Ben Sassou, a gastroenterologist from Paris, France, who received the Ig Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work showing that if lasers are used for coagulation during a colonoscopy and the patient's bladder is not perfectly clean, the colon will explode. Sassou said this became apparent after fairly large explosions occurred during the procedures of two separate patients. Sassou did not realize the problem was with laser coagulation after the first operation, but after the explosion repeated itself, he real-ized that the explosions were caused by the release of methane and hydrogen gases as the laser burned stool residue. Both patients recovered from the in-cidents, and Sassou said that his discovery has highlighted the Ig Nobel, Page 6

MIT 2030: are the faculty involved or not?
Faculty worries seem to be about com-mercial development of real estate histori-cally reserved for academic use, and about the lack of housing in the plan. But the MIT 2030 presentation at Wednesday's faculty meeting ignored these issues and focused on capital renewal of the campus. Faculty mem-bers have raised these concerns in open dis-cussion following the renewal presentation.

Update on 2030 task force
The faculty committee on 2030 (member-ship sidebar, p. 13) has been meeting every week since Aug. 7 with "no gaps," said Samul M. Allen PhD '75, chair of the faculty. The committee has been handed a significant amount of confidential information to help assist them, he said.

The committee, chaired by Prof. Thomas A. Kornhan, has as its first priority advis-ing the administration on MIT's proposed changes to Kendall Square zoning; later it will take on other RLAD's get dorm offices
Plans underway for first floor RLAD spaces
By Maiko Kitsaoka
STAFF REPORTER

After the end of the first full week of classes, students have moved in and become comfort-able in their assigned residence halls. Everyone has stepped into the flow of a new school year, and learned to navigate the halls of the Infinite Corridor as well as their suites. But do students know who else lives with them in their home away from home?

Perhaps they don’t. Over the summer, MIT created a new position in the residential halls—the residential life area director, or RLAD. Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 plans to have one RLAD in every residence hall on campus to work with their specific house team and sup-port the residents — each one complete with their own apartment and office. Unfortunately, among the six permanent RLADs, only half of them have RLADs.

All seven RLADs declined interviews with The Tech for this article and instead referred The Tech to Division of Student Life spokespersons. According to Henry J. Humphreys, senior associate dean for student life, construction for those offices began a few months ago, but MIT lacked the necessary permits required by the City of Cambridge, slowing down construction. MIT secured the permits last Thursday eve-ning, and construction resumed on Monday. Within the next two weeks, Humphreys plans to have a permanent office for every RLAD in need of one. The offices will be mostly near the lobby area on the first floor near the main desk close to the house manager so that the RLADs can build a working relationship with their house team, Humphreys said.

Only seven residence halls currently house an RLAD — Burton-Conner, Maseeh Hall, Mc-Gerrick Hall, New House, New Houses, and Simmons Hall. MacGregor’s RLAD suddenly left the position due to "personal reasons," and Christina Davis, director of Residential Life Pro-grams, is filling in as the temporary RLAD. The permanent MacGregor RLAD is moving quickly — five candidates will be inter-viewed this week, one per day, for the position. Davis said it’s to make certain that MacGregor House does not slip through the cracks, and she believes that the housing office is watching this very closely due to the raising RLAD.

The other residence halls that currently do not have an RLAD have a chancer over the summer for more time to engage and interact with their students when the school year began
Japan backs off goal to phase out nuclear power by 2040

BRUSSELS — Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said Thursday that China would continue to help the European Union recover from its economic crisis even as he sternly criticized the bloc for embarking on an expensive legal fight to win European Union sanctions against him.

The European Union is the biggest buyer of Chinese exports and the EU Commission, which is the second most important trading partner for China, said it is ready to help the European Union recover from the debt crisis.

A speech by Wen, who is on a four-nation tour of Europe, is expected to be a key part of his tour, and the government and a former ally calling for the prime minister to return from the continent will hold a press conference on the subject.

On the two issues of lifting the arms embargo against China and recognizing China’s full market economy status, we have been seeking hard for 10 years. But the solution has been elusive.


Bill to keep science graduates in US fails

By Julia Preston

The New York Times

A Republican bill to provide permanent resident visas for foreign engineers who graduate from U.S. universities with advanced degrees in science and technology failed to pass the House on Thursday, a setback for technology companies that had strongly supported it.

Republican leaders called the vote under a fast-track procedure that limits debate but guarantees a vote a two-thirds majority to pass. The final tally was 257-156, with all but a few Republicans joined by 38 Democrats in voting yes.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, would have eliminated an annual lottery and instead allocated 55,000 visas for permanent residency, known as green cards, each year to foreign engineers who have completed masters and doctoral degrees in U.S. universities in the so-called STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The lottery now distributes the same number of green cards to foreigners from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

While congressional Republicans have taken a hard line on legal immigration, they said they wanted to show before the November elections that they were ready to pass a measure to fix a widely acknowledged flaw in the legal immigration system.

A fierce fight broke out during the two-week debate, with Democrats strongly opposed to ending the lottery. Democratic leaders accused Republicans of partisanship by pushing a vote on an immigration issue when, they said, bipartisan accord was within reach.

There is uncommonly broad consensus in Congress on the legislation’s underlying goal — keeping talented and highly educated foreign science graduates in the country so they can work and start businesses.

The bill would “help us create jobs, increase our competitiveness and spur our innovation,” Smith said, after the vote. “Unfortunately, the Democrats voted today to send the best and brightest foreign students back home to work for our global competitors.”

Democrats had voted against “economic growth and job creation,” Smith said.

Democrats were led in their challenge by Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California, whose district includes many Silicon Valley technology companies and who had offered an competing bill last week. While saying “it pains me greatly” to vote no, Lofgren said the Republican proposal had “another, in my opinion, more sinister purpose — to actually reduce legal immigration levels.”

Lofgren’s proposal would have created 50,000 new green cards for foreign science graduates, without eliminating or reducing the lottery.

Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, said, “We strongly oppose a zero-sum game that trades one legal immigration program for another.”

Ruling lets Murdoch keep British broadcast license

By Amy Chozick and Ravi Somiya

The New York Times

More than a year after a phone hacking crisis in Britain engulfed Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp., when the embattled media company received a clean bill of corporate health on Thursday from a critical British regulator.

The Office of Communications, known as Ofcom, said Thurs-

day that British Sky Broadcating, 39.1 percent owned by News Corp., was “fit and proper” to hold a broadcast license. The ruling, which was a result of an investigation by the regulator that lasted months, relieves the company from facing an expensive legal fight to maintain its broadcast license.

More important, it helps allay concerns that had sparked within the company that an unfavorable Ofcom ruling could have prompted further scrutiny in the U.S. by the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission that could have affected News Corp.’s domestic television assets.

There are still many hurdles for News Corp. in Britain the hacking scandal set off several inquiries into the company’s use of phone hacking and its connections to the police, criminal trials for several senior executives will begin next year, and the company said it will reduce the lottery.

But the relief over the ruling was palpable at corporate headquar-
ters in New York and London. One executive spoke of a “light at the end of the tunnel,” condition of anonymity to reveal internal conversations said executives should not declare victory just yet.

“Only an idiot would say it was over,” the official said of the scan-
del. “But it’s not as panicked as it was.”

In a sign that the company feels less restrained by British scrutiny, James Murdoch, Murdoch’s son and News Corp.’s deputy chief oper-
ing officer, is expected to take an expanded role within the company’s News of the World tabloid. In April, he resigned as head of BSkyB, and his future at News Corp. was within reach.

James Murdoch was in charge of the company’s holdings when the hacking was revealed, and the Ofcom report was critical of the company’s performance, saying that he “repeatedly fell short” in his re-
sponse to the illegal activities at the company’s News of the World tablo-
loid. In April, he resigned as head of BSkyB, and his future at News Corp. seemed uncertain.

However, a person close to News Corp. confirmed a Financial Times report that James Murdoch’s job could be expanded to oversee the Fox Networks Group, a Los An-
geles-based unit that includes Fox Broadcasting and Fox’s regional sports channels.

Weather

Fall arrives tomorrow

By Vince Agard

The autumnal equinox will occur tomorrow, signaling at 4:00 a.m., marking the end of summer and the beginning of fall. Meteorologically, the beginning of fall in New England is usually marked by the end of heat waves, a slow decline in temperatures, and a general increase in humidity. The weather will be mostly sunny, with a high of 75°F.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny, high 67°F. Wind E at 5-10 mph.

Tonight: Clear, low 55°F. Wind N at 5-10 mph.

Tomorrow: A chance of morning showers; otherwise mostly sunny, high 78°F. Wind SSW at 10-15 mph.

Sunday: Party cloudy with a chance of showers. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday: Sunny, highs in the mid 60s.

Situation for Noon Eastern time, Friday, September 21, 2012

By Amy Chozick and Ravi Somiya

The New York Times

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Spanish leader fails to reach revenue deal with Catalonia

By Raphael Minder

WASHINGTON — Spain’s prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, already under pressure from his European counterparts to clean up Spain’s banks and public finances, faced Thursday to ease what has recently turned into his biggest domestic political challenge — a separatist push by the nation’s most economically powerful region, Catalonia.

Catalonia’s leader, Artur Mas, accused Rajoy of losing a “historic opportunity” to safeguard the relationship between his region and the rest of Spain, after they could not reach agreement on a new tax revenue redistribution plan. Mas warned that Rajoy’s refusal to negotiate any tax changes was likely to increase resentment toward the Madrid government among Catalans, especially after hundreds of thousands of them gathered for a giant pro-independence rally in Barcelona on Sept. 11, the anniversary of a Catalan defeat at the hands of Spanish troops in 1714.

“The people and society of Catalonia are on the move, as we have seen on Sept. 11, and not willing to accept that our future will be gray when it could be more brilliant,” Mas said at a news conference here.

Just as Rajoy’s government finds itself on the front lines of the euro crisis, Catalonia, which accounts for almost a fifth of Spain’s economic output, has moved to the fore of Rajoy’s domestic challenges.

“The demands from Catalonia have developed a lot faster than anybody expected,” said Jordi Alberich, director general of the Cercle d’Economia, a Barcelona business organization. “A difficult crisis situation for Mr. Rajoy has just now got a lot more complex.”

British government blocks disclosure of alleged spy links

A slow-moving effort to hold an inquest into the poisoning death of a Russian whistle-blower, Alexander V. Litvinenko, moved ahead Thursday with British authorities insisting in a preliminary hearing that possible contacts between him and the British secret intelligence service MI6 should not be disclosed.

Litvinenko, a former KGB officer and critic of the Russian authorities who had won asylum and citizenship in Britain, died in November 2006 after ingesting a rare radioactive isotope, polonium 210, from a teapot at a meeting with Russian contacts at the Millennium Hotel in Grosvenor Square in London.

Litvinenko’s death, coinciding with other strains between London and Moscow, sparked relations between Britain and Russia, leading to tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats reminiscent of the cold war. Russia’s refusal to hand over the man accused of killing Litvinenko has since stymied efforts to restore normal ties.

British prosecutors are seeking the extradition of the suspect, Andrei K. Lugovoi, another former KGB officer who was present at the meeting at the Millennium Hotel, to face murder charges. Lugovoi, who is now a member of the Russian Parliament, has denied any wrongdoing. Russian authorities say their Constitution forbids extradition of their own citizens.

—Alan Cowell, The New York Times

Violence over video continues in Pakistan

By Salman Masood

ISLAMABAD — On the eve of a public holiday to protest an anti-Islam video made in the United States, thousands of demonstrators battled with police officers for hours on Thursday near the capital’s diplomatic quarter, and the U.S. Embassy broadcast advertisements on local television stations showing U.S. official seal of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said, “The messages do not matter because all those maligning or supporting the protests benefit from the publicity of the protest.”

Rao Zahid, 30, a government employee in Islamabad, said: “The video message is a cover-up. Google employee in Islamabad, said: “The video message is a cover-up.”

The Department issued a travel warning advising Americans to avoid travel to Pakistan. Some viewers had a lukewarm response to the American ads. A security analyst based in Karachi, Pakistan, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said, “The messages do not matter because all those maligning or supporting the protests benefit from the publicity of the protest.”

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—Alan Cowell, The New York Times

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SMART Scholarship

Science, Mathematics & Research for Transformation

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The distinction between the actual Obama and his myth

This is a response to the opinion piece “Detroit: Obama’s economic blueprint for America” published in The Tech on Sept. 14, 2012 by Keith Yost. I found a few factual inaccuracies in this piece. Another issue with this article is with what is not mentioned. I would also like to briefly paint a more accurate picture of the topic at hand. It is also important to note how some so-called “facts” are just about as accurate as this article. Mr. Yost seems to seek to misconstrue the “success” of the Wall Street bailout with the “failure” of the auto industry and the bailout of the U.S. auto industry. Putting the blame for the 2008-10 crisis in the financial industry, instead of the actions of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union is a complete misrepresentation. This is mainly due to high oil prices in 2008, a weak U.S. economy, and high interest rates especially in the mortgage market. This should not be overlooked in the situation of the U.S. auto industry. Obama and the Democrats were the ones leading this crisis. They have stated that they hold the blame for the State of the Union address in 2009. So all in all, Mr. Yost’s article is misleading and is the one that most reasonably expect to receive no support or service from the president. In the future, I hope that he will be more accurate and factually correct in his articles.

Keith Yost’s claim about job additions — 4,500 jobs added by GM — is also misleading. According to the Treasury’s Treasury Direct database, the auto industry as a whole has added more than 230,000 jobs between GM and Chrysler employment. It is important to look at the total number of jobs added to the auto industry, not just GM. With the current bust, many of its suppliers, too, would have gone out of business, which would have had a negative impact on the overall U.S. economy. If GM does well, so do other car makers and its suppliers.

A compelling myth exists Obama is the savior of the middle class, of the poor and elderly, and a savior of Wall Street and the big corporations and their Wall Street types. Obama’s political favoritism is evident, but his favor extends to pretty much the same corporations and financial players that supported his predecessor, or that George W. Bush (or worse) would have supported. Let’s not forget that Time and again, Obama has shown that he is the representative of not citizens, but of the financial elite. GM Bankruptcy is not a victory for the people. New Big Pharma, Big Oil, insurance companies and other corporations that have been a victim of a recent strike in Chicago between the teachers’ unions and Obama’s former White House chief of staff and now Chicago mayor, Rahm Emanuel, shows Obama’s and the Democrats’s true attitudes towards the people. I hope that Obama will be held accountable for his actions.

Saman Raykar is a graduate student in course 2

LIVING COLUMN

Addison Killean Stark

150 years ago this summer, the U.S. Congress passed a bill introduced by Vermont representative Justin Morrill, which provided for “the endowment, support, and maintenance of colleges of agricultural and mechanical arts.” Shortly thereafter, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act, which led to the development of one of our nation’s greatest educational institutions — the nation’s land-grant colleges and universities, the precursors to today’s public higher education institutions.

In the past century, MIT has played a prominent role in creating and supporting institutions of the upper Midwest (think the Big 10 and Big 12) to the University of California system, the Morrill Act called on the states to provide colleges where the “industrial classes” (had Mr. Morrill introduced the bill today he would have likely written explicitly “industrial classes”) can receive “liberal and practical education” in the agricultural and mechanical arts. The intention was to provide education for the young farmers who drove the industrial revolution.

The money so invested or loaned shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undiminished, and the interest of which shall be irreversibly appropriated, by each State, which may take and claim the benefit of this act, to the endowment, support, and maintenance of a college at least one course of study and research, the leading object being to provide, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.”

The state legislature of Massachusetts designated two land-grant institutions: the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and our academic home, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The act outlines the mission of MIT or local community.

As an institution, MIT’s designation as a land-grant institution identifies us with a serious challenge of our time: how to provide food for a growing global population. Our agricultural system grows fast enough to meet our needs currently, but will it continue to do so? MIT should engage. It is imperative that future leaders of its kind should be educated in agricultural science and engineering. MIT’s agricultural education is centered on the study of crop and animal production, which are essential to our national security and economic well-being. It is central to our ability to provide food for a growing global population.

The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Letters submitted for publication, all information submitted, all letters will be returned. Letters, columns and cartoons may be subject to editing. Copies of this publication can be found in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all letters. Guest columns are only accepted by members of the Tech staff, and the Tech reserves the right to edit any submitted copy and may or may not publish any of them.

Addison Killean Stark is a graduate student in course 2

EDITORIALS

Editors: Stephanie A. Lee ’11, Sarah Hart ’11, Ian T. M. G. Cumming ’11, Grace Z. Cheng ’11, David Chen ’11, Maggie Liu ’11, Guoqing Chen ’11, Emily Nan ’10, Anna Kellett ’11, Melissa Cheung ’11, Xuejing Yang ’11, Carolyn Zhang ’11.

ARTS


EDITORIAL POLICY


ARTS

Beaver Tails by Ranbell Sun

In elementary school, I delighted in the discovery of 10-in-1 tools.

Later, I delighted in the discovery of 10-in-1 pens.

Now all I want is a 10-in-1 resume.

Sudoku
Solution, page 12

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

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Shifting Sands by S.N.
Solution, page 12

ACROSS
1 Military rounds
5 Chocolate shape
9 Family members
14 Rhinelander’s refusal
15 Castaway’s home
18 Lawn-Bay rival
19 Copy room supply
20 Biblical epic film of 1958
23 Slate, for one
24 Three-way pipe connector
25 Aladdin prince
26 Very long time
27 Soft mineral
30 Bizet opera
33 What you eat
35 NASCAR stat
36 Tumult
37 Watches one’s pennies
43 Antagonist
44 Eleanor Roosevelt, __ Roosevelt
45 Tomato type
46 Select
49 Prescribed amount
51 Sort of record book
52 Cry of contempt
53 Printer’s widths
55 Photo finish
57 Overexertion
62 End of a kindergarten tune
63 Barrel of laughs
64 Computer accessories
65 Tie-up
66 “__ hollers, let . . .”
67 Curb alias
68 Overly full
69 Miles away
70 Cozy places

DOWN
1 Sambuca ingredient
2 Era when dinosaurs were dominant
3 Hat designer
4 Two-run homer requirement
5 Green Hornet’s aide
6 Nutritive mineral
7 Microfragrance technology
8 Was brilliant
9 Variety performances
10 “The party’s over!”
11 Frequent day-shift start
12 High-pitched
13 Ankle mishap
21 Ran into
22 Very long time
28 Current measures
29 DJ’s inventory
31 Paid notices
32 Surf sound
34 Spat
38 Speak with a Jersey accent?
39 It means “recent”
40 Candidate author
41 Virtual face
42 Wisdom
46 Dowell (on)
47 Antique coating, perhaps
48 Ultimatum
50 Paramedic, for short
54 Sound of Music heroine
56 Not “clean”
59 Auctioneer’s last word
60 Capital of Qatar
61 Occupational suffix

BY PAMELA PAVIL SEPT. ’12

I’M NOT A GENIUS...

...BUT I HAVE
LOVED MATH FOR
MY WHOLE LIFE.
IT HAS NOT
BEEN EASY AND
I HAVE HAD TO
WORK HARD TO
FIND HELP AND
BE SUCCESSFUL.

I KNOW YOU
BELIEVE IN ME.

BUT SOMETIMES IT
JUST FEELS LIKE
THE REST OF THE WORLD
THinks I CAN’T.
Ig Nobel awards for ponytails and coffee spills

That weird feeling of the Eiffel Tower looks smaller if you lean to the left, explained!

The winners recognized at the ceremony will talk about their work and answer questions during the Ig Informal Lectures on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 1:00 PM in 56-250. The event is free and open to the public.

Fine dining. On The Tech.

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Get your flu shot... before the flu gets you!

Walk-in clinics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults &amp; MIT Students</th>
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<td><strong>Friday, Sept. 28, 2012</strong></td>
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<td>MIT Student Center, 3rd floor</td>
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<td>10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012</strong></td>
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<td>MIT Student Center, 3rd floor</td>
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<td>10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>For MIT students, MIT Medical patients, all MIT employees, retirees</td>
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Ig Nobel, from Page 1

needed for proper surgery preparation for colonoscopies.

Benoit Kachetnikov won the Ig Nobel Prize for Fluid Dynamics for his work on why people spill coffee. He said he was inspired watching his colleagues attempt to return to their seats with coffee while at a conference. Kachetnikov found that the natural frequencies of the oscillations of coffee are on the same order as the frequency of a step. The Ig Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to two projects. The first project was led by Bay Goldstein, a professor of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge University. Robin Ball, a Professor of physics at the University of Warwick, and Patrick Warren, an employee at the company Undreiv. They were awarded the prize for solving the mathematical problem of the physics of the ponytail, drawing upon principles from condensed matter physics and fluid mechanics. Goldstein said that by using variables such as elasticity and linear mass density, they were able to model the ponytail by a differential equation, the solutions of which provided insight into what was going on inside the hair. The group said that their model for bundles is somewhat analogous to the Navier-Stokes model for fluids.

The other award-winning physics project was led by Joseph Keller, a professor emeritus of mathematics and mechanical engineering at Stanford University, with his work on the motion of ponytails. Keller said he was inspired by noticing that the ponytails of joggers on campus swung back and forth despite the fact that their heads were bobbing up and down. He found that if the frequency of the ponytail was around half of the frequency of the jogger’s steps, the side to side motion would occur. A group of four scientists shared the Ig Nobel Prize for Neuroscience. Abigail Baird, a professor of Psychology at Vassar College; Craig Bennett, a postdoctoral research at the University of California – Santa Barbara (UCSB); Michael Miller, professor of Psychology at UCSB; and George Wolpert, a professor of Psychology at Dartmouth University, received the award for imaging work they accomplished while working collaborative at Dartmouth. While working on a research project about adolescent emotional processing, Bennett said they inadvertently noticed brain activity in the MRI of a dead salmon. Bennett said that he and Baird were involved in a “one-sprints-man” competition to use more and more obscure objects as a reference for the machine. They did not actually look at the images until years later when Baird wanted to use the results — which she expected to show no signals — to show the strengths of MRI processing. Instead, the pictures showed they found brain activity as a result of a lack of strong corrections. After running the proper corrections, the activity disappeared.

Other winners included Frans de Waal, a biologist at Emory University and Jennifer Pollon, a researcher at Emory, who won the Ig Nobel in Anatomy for his work showing that chimps match the behinds of other familiar chimps to their faces. The two were trying to determine whether chimpanzees can interpret gender from appearance. Rouslan Krech, a professor of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Stanford University, received the award in Fluid Dynamics for their work analyzing why coffee spills using theories of periodic and statistical citations.

Earland and Zwaan — the only winners not in attendance — could not come to the ceremony because of their upcoming wedding later this weekend.

Anita Erland, Rolf A. Zwaan, and Tido M. Gaadalahe received the Ig Nobel in Psychology for their work showing that the Eiffel Tower looks smaller if you lean to the left. Earland and Zwaan — the only winners not in attendance — could not come to the ceremony because of their upcoming wedding later this weekend. While some of the projects recognized in the ceremony may seem initially frivolous, they often have broader applications to the scientific field. For instance, Kachetnikov said that he hoped his work with coffee would help him develop models for actuated boundary layer flow systems. Bennett and his colleagues said that their research highlighted the importance of corrections in imaging in their field and will help increase the accuracy of data.

The winners said that they were generally pleased to be recognized for their work. Keller said, “It’s great fun. It’s nice that people recognize this type of work.” He added that their project had broader applications and that he hoped it would help stimulate interest in the sciences.

Wolpert said that the Ig Nobel award was a “capstone experience” and he joked that it was a “good thing to retire on.” "I was really pleased that he enjoyed the event because it was both serious and funny. Another highlight of the ceremony was a series of 24/7 Lectures, in which distinguished speakers were allowed 24 seconds to provide the audience with a clear description of their field and then present a seven-word summary. Scientist Erika Ebrel Angle summarized mass spectrometry as “It weights the bits in your gunk” and Nobel Laureate Rich Roberts used his seven words on arsenic-based life to say that “Only assholes believe arsenic can support life.” The ceremony also included an open about the universe, two grand airplane débuts, a “swim a date with a Nobel Laureate” hit, and several Ments of Science.

The winners recognized at the ceremony will talk about their work and answer questions during the Ig Informal Lectures on Saturday, Sept. 22 at 1:00 PM in 56-250. The event is free and open to the public.

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Friday, September 21, 2012

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arts@tech.mit.edu
Woodie reminisces
Gracious professionalism in 2.70

Flowers, from Page 1

High-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.”

Woodie has seen cases in which teams pitch in to help other teams in times of need, even though those teams could be competing against each other in future matches. “The satisfaction from lending tools to a team is one thing,” said FIRST participant James Mach-thur in a written account of his experiences of the 2012 Orlando regional competition. “However, actually helping out a fellow team impressed many people, mentors, volunteers, and students.”

Each year, over 50,000 high school students participate in FIRST. Even more staggering is the statistic that 10 percent of each MIT freshman class participated in the competition when they were in high school. Teams must build a robot using a set number of supplies to perform a task determined by FIRST that changes every year. Last year, competitors needed to build a robot that could score the most basketballs in a two minute and fifteen second match.

FIRST is not the only place where Flowers has seen gracious professionalism. The 2.70 Intro-duction to Design class that he taught for more than two decades (now 2.007) also gave students the chance to express their camaraderie and willingness to help each other. In its 150-year celebration of the Institute’s history, the MIT Mu-seum named 2.70 as MIT’s most famous class, partially because of this competition. Over the years, Flowers has seen ingenuity, failures, and above all, graciousness.

“In 2.70, I had asked the students to act as if all that they did in the course would be seen by their grandparents in a nationally-televised documentary,” said Flowers. “They got it and did exactly that. They did engage in trash talk and teased one another, but the over-all tone was to help each other and teach others everything they learned.”

Although Flowers recently re-tired as a professor at MIT, he still involves himself in MIT affairs. He cares deeply about students, and doesn’t hesitate to give advice. “MIT is a reasonably gracious meritocracy. Sometimes, it is a very tough meritocracy,” said Flowers. “I knew when I walked into the room with you that you’re smart, and ambitious and multi-layered and interesting. And when you’re with a group of your col leagues — that’s true with them too — cherish that diversity.”

Flowers often likes to compare MIT to steamrollers and candy stores; he believes that students choose what their experience in college will be like. It can be either four years of hard, relentless work, or four years of interesting, rewarding work, depending on the student’s mindset.

“While you’re here, an essential part of the candy store is the other people that are shopping. You must pay attention to them and what’s in their market basket too,” said Flowers. “Talk about what they’ve paid [for].” It seems like MIT is as good of a place as any to learn from peers, be it gracious professionalism or something else.

Gracious professionalism in 2.70
The Tech Friday, September 21, 2012

*IF YOU HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN A PUZZLE HUNT, NO WORRIES! THIS PARTICULAR PUZZLE HUNT IS GEARED TOWARDS PEOPLE OF ALL LEVELS. ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS A DESIRE TO HAVE FUN.

Lunch and Dinner provided!
Prizes for all participants

*IF YOU HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN A PUZZLE HUNT, NO WORRIES! THIS PARTICULAR PUZZLE HUNT IS GEARED TOWARDS PEOPLE OF ALL LEVELS. ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS A DESIRE TO HAVE FUN.
Avast Ye Tech Geeks
Let’s show the world we are not just mental freakies
Let’s earn and show our worth
By thinking really big,
Helping to save the planet Earth
It starts with centuries ago, the Charters of Freedom* were written
So all citizens of a new country could be free to think and speak and not be smitten
These documents have infinite potential power
With them true freedom can flower
But they are also very fragile
For they are useless if they are kept hidden and the citizens are in denial
For the documents of freedom
With our minds, my students and I designed environmental encasements
And then with our hands
(mens et manus)
we made them and installed these documents in special emplacements
These great original documents
(we did the originals)
are now on display for all to see
so people can learn how to be truly free
The same can be said for MIT
As it is the supposed place for great thinkers to be
For anything that affects how we work and live
True leaders must not take, but give
Complete openness and debate must happen a priori
Our leaders, who come from us, must not rule by decree
Open debate, and welcoming of questioning, is not enough
It takes vision, compassion, and humility to be truly tough
So here’s to our new fearless leader Rafael Reif
Whose wisdom and power and goodness is almost as great as that of my spouse (wife)
They both (I hope) understand the depth of my love for MIT
For I have forever betrothed myself to thee
(as just let me know what you need to do
to help out, dudes)

(PhD thesis on the design of the encasements).
Finding friends in robots
Amid laughs, Robot & Frank provokes discussion about the future of social robotics

By Zahra Hirji

Robot & Frank is not your standard science fiction flick. It doesn’t owe its dramatic futuristic visions or sexualized characters — instead, it is a stunning masterpiece of subtext. Set in a small town in the near future, the charming and comically reticent retired cat burglar Frank (Frank Langella) is struggling with dementia. Left to his own devices, his house and his memory are in complete chaos.

Confronted by the gravity of the situation, Frank’s concerned son Hunter (James Marsden) buys him a live-at-home health care aid robot (voiced by Peter Sarsgaard) to assist Frank.

Frank is enraged by the idea of having a robot nanny; a particularly hilarious scene in the movie is full of cursing and one of the robot’s contributions to assisting Frank.

At first, the walking, talking, cooking and cleaning robot shines as a live-in caretaker. But, successes in improving Frank’s diet and memory capabilities notwithstanding, the robot has stark limitations in its understanding. For example, when Frank asks about stealing, it responds that it has no thoughts on the matter. Frank’s daughter Madison (Liv Tyler) obliquely touches upon this point during her preposterous tirade against “machine enslavement.” However, the entire plot is a missed opportunity for the director to dive further into the subject, and Tyler’s lackluster performance only makes matters worse.

A more riveting performance comes in the form of Frank’s love interest Jennifer (Susan Sarandon). Jennifer is the town’s librarian and has her own helper robot, which she nicknames Mr. Darcy. Though the town’s library is due to close since the owners believe its unnecessary, Jennifer offers a thoughtful, calm perspective on the matter.

The heart of this movie is about a family’s difficulty identifying and responding to an aging parent.

Rather than take up gardening or cooking, Franks turns his attention to heist planning and training the robot as his devious sidekick. With a human caretaker, such power play would have been far less likely. This pivotal event begs the question: How much do we really gain — or give up — by outsourcing tasks to a robot?

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Robot & Frank never takes sides on the ethical and moral issues of social robots; instead, the film offers a suite of situations that provoke the audience to fully contemplate the issue. Amidst a colorful backstory of jewelry theft, love, and family conflict, the magical on-screen chemistry between Frank and the robot provides the meat of the movie’s humor and wisdom. Disarmingly charming, this movie is a must-see this fall.
Registration and full details for the Beaver Dash and Campus Quest:
web.mit.edu/inauguration/events.html

ONE COMMUNITY ■ TOGETHER IN SERVICE

INAUGURATION 2012
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Faculty, staff, students, MIT families and friends
All are invited to join the fun!

10 AM

BEAVER DASH
5k and a few smoots to benefit Habitat for Humanity

11:30 AM

AROUND THE DOME
CAMPUS QUEST
A scavenger hunt to tackle fun questions and challenges

1 PM

GLOBAL BARBECUE
Food, live music, children’s games and activities in Killian Court. All ages welcome!
Bose is pleased to offer special savings for all students, employees and retirees of M.I.T.

Receive savings on most Bose® products, including the acclaimed Wave® music system III, home entertainment systems, headphones and solutions for today’s most popular portable music devices.

Solution to Crossword

Solution to Sudoku

THE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AT MIT GRANTS PROGRAM

NEXT DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

All current MIT students, staff and faculty are invited to apply for grants to support art related projects.

arts.mit.edu/participate/grants

Friday, September 21, 2012

RLADs settling in Permanent offices are being built

in September. For example, Baker’s housemasters are on sabatical at the moment, so they wanted to wait until they returned to campus and talked with their students before establishing an RLAD. In the meantime, Baker has acting housemasters watching over the dorm, and the Residential Life and Dining office is supporting their efforts.

Davis was very clear on the role of the RLADs in the residence halls — “It’s an extra avenue of support for each building,” she explains. “They work collaboratively with residential life programs, but also with housemasters and resident advisors, on everything from roommates to resident assistants (for those that have them).” The housemasters for several residence halls agree with Davis. Simmons Housemaster John M. Essigmann PhD ’76 praises the Simmons RLAD for “easing the burdens of the housemaster.” Similarly, Kathryn Hess ’95, McCormick’s housemaster, calls the RLAD “a huge asset for us, for McCormick, and for MIT.”

In McCormick Hall, over the summer, one of the extra rooms next to the dance studio was converted into an office for the RLAD, Lauren Pintuskosi. Davis and Humphreys described this office as being “in a ‘prime location’” only on the first floor, next to the very popular dance studio, but also “out of the beaten path,” making it both accessible and private when necessary, an important aspect in choosing the ideal location for an RLAD office.

However, Davis also said that the office will need more signs for easier access. New House, on the other hand, needs to build an office from the ground up, so the RLAD, James Reed, currently works in his apartment off-campus. Burton Conner’s RLAD currently works in W59, the Residential Life and Dining Office. The new BC housemaster, Professor Anne McCants, believes the RLAD currently works in W59, the Residential Life and Dining Office. The new BC housemaster, Professor Anne McCants, believes the RLAD “will be much more visible once the office is moved, and that visibility seems likely to contribute to her capacity to manage issues on a regular basis.”

The other RLADs have temporary offices that are meant to be as accessible to students as possible; but, Simmons Hall seems to be experiencing trouble, as the RLAD’s office is located directly behind the front desk, next to the mailbox. “While the RLAD’s office seems as though it’s ‘out of the way,’ it’s actually not,” Essigmann explains. It was originally designed as the house manager’s office and was architecturally designed to be accessible for and confidentiality! However, in previous years, this room was used largely as a storage room for cars and movies. The desk worker accessed the mailbox through this locked storage room. However, since the storage room has been converted into the RLAD office, desk workers are not allowed to walk through the office. Instead, they must use the outer door — previously locked at all times — to the mailbox rather than slipping through the storage room into the mailroom to pick up packages. Since the mailbox now remains unlocked, this could allow anyone to walk in and take packages.

Essigmann commented on this lapse in security, and also explains that “the plan is to re-operations on the east wall of the mailbox lounge,” to allow easier access to the RLAD’s office. adding that “MIT did not have a lot of time to prepare for the RLAD, offices, and I think they are doing a good job dealing with a tough situation.”

Very few students seem to know about the new position.

Apart from the ongoing work on the offices, Humphreys and Davis are continuing to work with the RLADs and helping them adjust. “I think the RLADs are going above and beyond in getting involved with the community,” Davis said when asked about the current RLAD efforts.

However, while RLADs might be putting on programs, organizing community events, and even eating with students in the dining hall, very few students seem to know about the new position. The majority of freshmen interviewed by The Tech over 20 — either did not know who their RLAD was at all, or only received an introductory e-mail at the beginning of the semester, which quickly got lost amid messages from student organizations and calls for clickers and textbooks. Fansi Gao ’16, who lives in Simmons Hall, said, “The RLAD sent out an email during orientation introducing himself, but I never see him around and I don’t really know much about where he is and what he does.”

When asked about knowl-edge of McCormick’s RLAD’s office, residence Larisa L. Pachuta ’15 exclaimed, “I have no idea!” but also expressed an interest in finding out more about the RLAD’s role. Yuta Kato ’15, a resident of Neal House, explained how he knows about the RLAD, but only through his work with the RLAD during REX events, adding, “I don’t think it’s know who she was without the REX work.”

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With $4B of deferred maintenance, MIT increases yearly spending from $20M to $160M

Friday, September 21, 2012 - The Tech

The MIT 2030, from Page 1

The committee started out meeting with Provost Chris A. Kaiser PhD '87, Associate Provost for Space Prof. Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88 and Vice President and Treasurer of Israel Ruiz SM '91. It then met with a marathon series of stakeholders: members of the MIT Investment Management Corporation, Prof. Jonathan A. King (Biology), who has been a vocal critic of faculty non-involve-

ment, MIT Corporation Chair John S. Reed '61 and member Law-

rence K. Fusi, former chairman CEO of Citizens' Financial; Cam-

bridge City Manager Robert W. Healy, Tim Rowe, CEO of the Cam-

bridge Innovation Center; and, on Thursday of this week, representa-

tives of the Undergraduate Asso-

ciation and the Graduate Student Council.

CSC representatives expressed concerns about the lack of housing in the plan, and are deeply con-

cerned with the lack of time on

in the plan, and are deeply con-

cerned with the lack of housing. Even on-campus rents

can be a new concern for students who are looking at

a new, bigger housing option.

The UA's concerns were focused on the lack of retail options in Ken-

neld. They are a new concern for students who are looking at

a new, bigger housing option.
Olympic gold medalist dedicates self to coaching

Peterko focuses outwardly—values training newest generation, improving the sport

Figure skating, from Page 16

Olympic athlete and consummate showman on the ice seems to melt into the wallpaper when talking about his accomplishments.

"That's how it is," he adds smil-

ing, which is no small accom-

plishment, though, that as a professional skater, he has been cruising through the season on the backs of their defense and outstanding coaching

staff, and this week will be no different. Minnesota is dis-

pointing last week, as Adrian Pet-

enko never got himself going, and unfortunately, they possibly

Look for them to

right the ship this week.

Pettoko says he can easily

translating his skills and needs and

different. Whistler's biggest chal-

lenge? The indisputable quad

(a spinning jump of four revolu-

tions). "For him I think the most

important are the technical ele-

ments, like the quadruple jump. The only way he can

express his style is by the technical elements, which

are skating their elements, and

to skate at high-speed, when you

the ice so far, I asked him for a short lesson.

"For you?" he laughed. But sure enough, at 4.30 p.m. sharp, he was waiting for me before rink No. 2, having made all day to his day's schedule.

Motivated by his irregular steps and turns and other skating mis-

steps, I listened intently. A few in-

side and outside half-circles of for-

ward edges later, the verdict: "Not bad. I definitely need to bend more and correct my posture by pulling in my stomach and every-

thing else. His recommendation

helped improve my skating so much better results.

Curious to experience such dedications, I set out to see if any elements into her preferred

what figure skating really should be like," he

Peterko says he can easily spot talent and competitive potential just by looking at how athletes are skating.

Peterko says he can easily spot talent and competitive potential just by looking at how athletes are skating, and even which "skating school" they ascribe themselves (Ameri-

can, Russian or other style). With this

the crucial point of skating, he

Peterko insists on the students, and anyone he feels he can help.

But it is not just with his time

Neenah Patriots @ Balti-

more Ravens

Sunday, Sept. 23 2:20 p.m.

This could be an AFC Champi-

onship game. Pittsburgh has the

three biggest names in this one. Pittsburgh has the two most


team and actually did heat

Washington Redskins last

week. Chicago, however, will be the Bears’

toughest test yet.

National Football League predictions: week three

Steelers over Raiders (27-13), tight win expected from Patriots over Ravens (20-17)

NFL from Page 16

Prediction: 30-24 Redskins

St. Louis Rams @ Chicago Bears

Sunday, Sept. 23 1:00 p.m.

St. Louis has been observing some heads this season. Picked by some to win the weak NFC West, they came one drive away from beating a very talented De-

voir team and actually did heat

Washington Redskins last

week. Chicago, however, will be the Bears’

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Figure skating reaches out to youth, helps charity
Raised over $300,000 for neo-natal clinic in Odessa, Ukraine with benefit performance

Figure skating, from Page 14 that Petrenko is generous. It is a mind-set that reaches many in his orbit.
His role in helping Oksana Baiul reach her own 1993 World and 1994 Olympic successes, when he convinced Zmievskaya to coach her hospital much-needed medical supplies from his own home pharmacy. In addition to these efforts in his immediate circles, Petrenko has also used his celebrity and influence to raise funds and assist international charitable causes. Concerned about the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster and its aftermath, in 1990, and he brought to her training himself, is convinced Zmievskaya to coach her.

One act of brotherly care.

When I asked about his own orb, "My plan is to help my daughters," the teenager has decided not to pursue figure skating — " Think good?" he laughs, and go into professional tennis instead, which allows the attentive father some emotional distance since in his own words, "I don't understand anything in the sport."

It was that choice, that was important, he said.

Next comes cultivating his passion for figure skating, an activity he chose himself, even if it is his parents who first brought him to a local rink. Admitting that, like many little boys, he dreamed of becoming a footballer, he then "realized that this skating, the movements on the ice, the landing of jumps on one foot, all of this I liked very much, there is something really interesting happening, in the course of the jumps, you gather speed, then take off and even when you fall, it's still interesting." These latter words of wisdom from a dedicated figure skater surely resonate with the students and researchers at MIT, where "mistakes" are often a source of fascination and potential discoveries (not to speak of all those who work studiously to reach their academic and research goals through trials and errors).

Perhaps for Petrenko this is what it all is about, the work, the sweat, the tears, and long hours of personal practice and patient coaching in freezing spaces over all these years, about preparing the way for those who will follow in his steps (or rather his skate marks on the ice), passing on his passion, and giving back to the sport and international community of figure skaters.

May all those at MIT and beyond who are working hard to reach new heights in their academic endeavors be inspired by this exemplary combination of striving for excellence while caring for current and future communities of learners and colleagues. I know this is a beloved approach at the Institute. And now on to sharpening my skating skills, right on time for the MIT Figure Skating Club's seasonal opener to pass a few weeks. After all, I have been assigned an excuse to practice by an Olympic Champion — no more excuses!

Hello, we’re Hudson River Trading. Give us a few nanoseconds and you’ll be hooked. We are MIT, Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, and more. We are bachelors, masters and PhDs; physicists & statisticians, engineers & mathematicians. At HRT, responsibility is distributed according to individual impact, so a system’s engineer will spend every day working on challenging computer science problems.

Become an algo developer and you might find yourself looking at massive amounts of market data and using a variety of tools to come up with complex strategies. If you are a hacker who wants to work in a powerful computing environment, we want programmers who can reduce latency and increase throughput, in a place where every second counts. And don’t be fooled — we’re not a typical finance company; our coders are the most important investment we have — and they know it. It’s no secret that your compensation will be high and you will be rewarded based on performance. Unlike other firms, our developers work in parallel with algo, because we know programming skills are a major part of what makes us successful. We know you might think we’re a bunch of suits, but that’s simply not true. We’re geeks who use FreeBSD, and even have Kernel committers on staff. So, if you’re thinking about going to Silicon Valley to work for a tech company, remember that’s what we are and more: grub-loving, foosball-playing, challenge-seeking problem solvers. Sound like you too? We hrt you. <3

The 2012 Ig Nobel Informal Lectures
Sat., Sept. 22nd 1:00 pm, 10-250
In which the 2012 Ig Nobel Prize winners will attempt to explain what they did, and why they did it. Plus, appearances by previous winners and a special musical performance by “KEROMIN.” The Amazing FROGS. Please join us, it’s free!

For more information: web.mit.edu/bookstore/www

All Ig Nobel Prize activities are organized by the Annals of Improbable Research. This free event is organized in cooperation with the MIT Press Bookstore.

HRT will be on campus for the fall career fair on September 21 and for an info session in Building 14, Room 332 on September 17, 4 PM.

For more information and to apply: www.hudson-trading.com/careers
A chat with Viktor Petrenko, figure skating legend

How disciplined practice and community-minded humility got him to the top

By Florence Gallez

After two decades of personal academic labs that included a B.A. degree, two masters, the relative mastery of the Russian language, and lessons for Adult Beginners at the MIT Figure Skating Club, and after 25 years of long-distance adoration, last month on Aug. 17 I finally got an in-person interview with my figure skating hero, Viktor Petrenko at the MIT Figure Skating Club, and after 25 years of long-distance adoration, last month on Aug. 17 I finally got an in-person interview with my figure skating hero, Viktor Petrenko.

Ever since I first laid eyes on his smooth, graceful skating in the 1986-87 competitive season, where he won the bronze medal in the European and World Championships and Olympic Winter Games, I developed a deep-seated desire to take up the sport—a plan I finally fulfilled at MIT in parallel to my program in Comparative Media Studies. In the early 1990s, I watched on my family TV as the young Ukrainian emerged on the international figure skating scene as one of the best male single skaters in the world. The height and power of his triple jumps, elegant layback spins and ballet-like artistry caught my eye—and many others’. The classical-styled finesse of his original and freestyle programs in amateur competitions and his hilarious interactions with the audience in his comedic numbers in gala shows (that included inviting people to dance with him on the ice and kissing little old ladies in the front rows) had made him a hugely popular skater, even in the U.S.

Whether as a Ukrainian rapper trip-hopping in a bright red baggy sweater, or the male partner in the “Mambo No.5” pair number performed with a life-sized doll strapped around his waist, or the accomplished dancer in the energetic “Do You Love Me” piece—is a truly accomplished figure skater—have to this day brought inspiration to my own skaters and my own feet.

These accomplishments and the long hours of on- and off-ice practice under the guidance of his only coach since he was 10—before the famously perfectionist Galina Zmievskaya—have to this day been passed on to his student in a true art of his own making.

A chat with Viktor Petrenko, figure skating legend

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