Fish v. UT affirmative action case oral arguments heard

How can the ‘diversity’ of a university be evaluated?

By Leon Lin STAFF EDITOR

Last Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard the oral arguments from both sides of Fish v. University of Texas, in the affirmative action case for which MIT and 13 other universities, including the eight Ivy League schools, were supporting the right of a university to consider the race of an applicant, among other factors, in its admissions process.

In Grutter v. Bollinger (2003), the Court upheld an admissions policy of the University of Michigan Law School, ruling that a diverse student body was a compelling interest that contributed to the educational environment.

Because we know that students learn quite differently,” Wamsted added in oral arguments made by the University of Texas, “diversity enhances the educational experience.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked Rehn how the university students learn differently. "You don’t have a sufficient number of blacks: "Pre-Grutter, when he thought the university had reached a sufficient number of blacks: “Pre-Grutter, he thought the University of Texas might have gone too far.

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Strict rules behind debate’s looser town hall format

The format for the second presidential debate is designed to be a little less stiff — a free-flowing question-and-answer session between the candidates and a studio audience. But behind the scenes, little is left to chance. There are 80 participants, called by Gallop, the polling firm, from a sample of uncommitted voters who live near where the debate’s location in Hempstead on Long Island. On Tuesday morning, they are scheduled to arrive at the site to begin rehearsals with the moderator. They will be asked a series of questions to ask but will not use them during the prep session. To preserve as much secrecy as possible, they will rehearse with dummy questions.

Crosley will select the participants to call on during the actual debate, which she will determine by reviewing their questions beforehand. The candidates are not allowed to screen any of her questions.

There are strict time limits and rules. After the audience member asks a question, his or her microphone will be immediately shut off. The candidate will have two minutes to answer. The candidates beforehand. The campaigns are not allowed to screen any of them.

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The next few days in Cam- bridge will display lovely fall weather, with clear skies and temperatures mainly in the 50’s. Autumn foliage is in full color, so be sure to look out.
Student debt relief changes to aid borrowers in default, the federal government is making changes to its income-based repayment plan to help borrowers with relatively high debt and low incomes keep up with their payments. But a report that will be released Tuesday by the New America Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan policy institute, says the changes ultimately will provide only marginal help for low-income borrowers who are at the greatest risk of default.

Rather, the changes would provide big benefits to high-income borrowers, particularly for those seeking a graduate degree, the authors found. The report says that at least one financial planning company is telling law school students that the changes could allow them to write off $40,000 in student debt.

“If left unchanged, the program would financially well-off graduates in today’s job market,” the report says.

As long as Spain’s borrowing costs remain below six percent, as they have since the European Central Bank said it would buy the country’s bonds, the uncertainty the delay engenders, threaten to push the economy deeper into recession. And that, they say, could increase the ultimate cost to Spain and Europe if the aid eventually needs to be granted under crisis conditions.

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Our civil duty not to vote?

By Tom Marongi

As November 6 approaches, we once again observe the overwhelming infatuation with political action in existence. It is not only that our right but our responsibility to vote in the upcoming election. We only allow this hyperbole to man a gap, as a basic necessity of an effective government. But seeing that even informed voters have an amateur understanding of the issues facing the country, are we really prepared to decide which policies should or should not be enacted on a national scale? Does anyone truly understand the issues on which it votes?

The economy, the basic problem of putting together the American tables, will be the deciding factor for most voters this year. To spare us the pain of finding politics for our selves, President Clinton generally summarized the nation's finances for us at the Democratic National Convention: "Since 1984, for 52 years now, the Republicans have been in tune with history: the Democrats 24. In those 52 years, our private economy has produced 66 million private-sector jobs. So what's the job score? Republicans: 24 million. Democrats: 42. Does it not take to see that Clinton's "job scores" are subjective at best and pulled out of his rear-end at worst? How can one measure which administration created which policies, especially when these are "private-sector" jobs not directly created by the government? The answer is that we, consumers, citizens, and voters are truly linking policies to job creation.

There are two problems with this approach. First, we cannot know how long economic policies take to have an effect. Are the prosperous years during Clinton's tenure post-World War II or of his own work or of Bush's? Surely a policy meant to affect the American economy needed several years to show results. If we are to measure a policy's effectiveness, we must give it a sufficient time span to take effect.

Many Americans who tune in to watch debates for most political offices.)

This is true for most political is -

OPINION

Many Americans who tune in to watch a debate are unaware of just how multifac -

ed is a debate. In today's era of public debat -

es, the most Democrat and Republican congress -

men supported the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq when they were first cast. By 2008, the parties had reversed directions and both presidential candidates advocated for withdrawal from these conflicts. Their plans differed. Obama put more pressure on an Israeli-Palestinian settlement, while McCain offered a more flexible timeline, but their primary aim was the same. Thus, while Democrats and Republicans differ with regards to inter -

ational politics, they diverge on details but not on primary goals. An expert is needed to judge between their policies and not an in -

formed, intelligent, but still amateur voter.

In fact this is true for most political is -

ues on which voters base their decisions. The Congressmen themselves often do not read the bills they approve in full because they are too long and technical for anyone but an expert in the field to understand. Certainly we voters cannot effectively judi -

cate between nuanced policy distinctions when even our representatives cannot. In the end, when we vote for something we do not under -

stand, we may as well be flipping a coin. Our choice is ren -

ed even more arbitrary because repre -

sentatives do not always read the bills they pass. Finally, politicians often reveal only what they plan to accomplish once elected but not the details of how they plan to do it, introducing even more randomness into the democratic process.

In this sense casting a ballot is more like playing a game of Russian Roulette. Voter ignorance is the choice of a time-honored civil process. The choice is rights, but the consequences may be drastic.

Even in its imperfect form, voting nev -

ertheless serves some useful purpose. We must vote to ensure the accountability of our representatives and prevent government corruption. We can also choose to vote only on issues that we personally understand at an expert level. If we vote based on issues on which we have a truly expert understanding, then we can reduce the randomness of the democratic process and perhaps salvage the effectiveness of our vote.
An overview of debate style
How are the candidates measuring up?

Debates, from Page 4
process, negotiated in secret between the two campaigns, it is sometimes nevertheless used as a campaign issue when one campaign stands in for its opponent, as opposed to an attack on the other. Such an issue came up in 2004, when the Kerry campaign attacked the Bush town hall-style debates while then-Senator John Kerry wanted to engage in more tradition- town hall-style debates while then-Senator Obama wanted to engage in more tradition- town hall-style debates while then-Senator Obama wanted to engage in more tradition-

Debate Prep
In anticipation of a presidential debate, candidates go through rigorous debate preparation. Usually, someone is chosen to debate alongside the candidate, standing in for the candidate’s opponent. The goal of the debate prep is to simulate the debate as best as possible, and to help the candidate control his mannerisms and answers. The mock opponents can give sharp rebukes, and the moderator should make sure the subject at hand is not too sensitive. If the opponent addressing his opponent’s points — when asked by the moderator — the moderator should ask him the same question. If the subject so that he could deliver another prepared, 30-second segment. In the usual political format, 30-second statements play just fine, with interruptions by the moderator offering the necessary transition from segment to segment. But the open mike night put on by Leh- man and the president, the fact checking has gone to win the remaining debates, but he does to come have ready to debate.

The Spin Room
The debate stage isn’t the only place where campaigns sling it out on debate night. During every debate there are campaigns “spin” the debate, trying to get the spin room is a place to find anything but substantive, new ideas. All representa- tives of the candidates are carefully crafted talking points and are not meant to introduce new ideas that were not part of the campaign’s original goal is to “spin” the situation by attacking the party’s candidate. The Panduits
No debate would be complete without the political spin that heads to the re- spective news shows. There is usually a full debate post-game-show on each network, with political correspondents from both sides of the spectrum, including former candidates and consultants. The pundits usually rehash the important parts of the debate, as well as try to put their own spin on the debate. It is important to remember that each and every one of the candidates is trying to win their point of view in front of a new audience with different qualifications as current or former political advisors and party policy. Post debate “insta-polls” are also conducted by the different networks to try to determine what viewers learned from the different voter demographics.

The End Result
There are so many components of a de- bate. For one, there is the debate itself. The candidates take the stage. If you watch the debate tonight, don’t be surprised if ei- ther candidate comes out with a few careful- ly rehearsed one-liners, or if the post-debate spin doesn’t jive with your own opinions on the debate. It’s all part of the circus. Aides can be contacted at adel- man@usi.org
Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to survive being flattened by a steamroller, as long as there's an air hose nearby?

And it'd be nice to run in the air over chasms, so long as you don't look down!

Ah, you want to live in a world of cartoon physics. I can see the attraction, T-Rex!

I know, right? Cartoon physics aren't so much "wrong" as they are intuitively right. Why shouldn't we leave a perfect us-shaped hole when we run through a wall? I WANT TO DO THIS SO BAD, Dromiceiomimus.

So Bad.

MEANWHILE, IN THE CARTOON PHYSICS UNIVERSE:

Ahhhhhh! Run away!

WHY do we keep them in our KITCHENS?!

Frigging microwaves!!

Sounds Coin-y by Billie Truitt
Solution, page 14

ACROSS
1 Landlocked African country
2 Sledding spot
3 Clip contents
4 Aggressive Olympian
5 Band on a sleeve
6 Slightest
7 Choice for current
8 Stable mom
9 Driver's delight
10 "In what way?"
11 Light-dawning cry
12 Situation Room broadcaster
13 Down for the count
14 Wedding rental
15 Summary
16 "This is terrible!"
17 Red Muppet
18 Madrid mother
19 Mascara applicator
20 Some cologne components
21 Confused
22 Pull along
23 Manuscript marking
24 Perching places
25 Tours of duty
26 Grow incisors
27 Answered back
28 Balk at
29 Atlanta col.
30 Ill humor
31 Manuscript marking
32 Join together
33 Ill humor
34 Positive replies
35 In its current state
36 About to cry
37 Considered only in terms of money
38 Leaves in the kitchen
39 Elegance
40 Radiance
41 Sty dry
42 Woodshop tool
43 Some cologne components
44 Light touch
45 Conundrums
46 Cold treat
47 Heart of __ (Alabama nickname)
48 Light touch
49 "In what way?"
50 Skin soother
51 Baby foxes
52 TV series
53 Take a dip
54 Worldwide fashion mag
55 President with a DC memorial
56 Kauai keepsake
57 Pointy-eared being

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1 Staff symbol
2 Sledding spot
3 Clip contents
4 Aggressive Olympian
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54 Worldwide fashion mag
55 President with a DC memorial
56 Kauai keepsake
57 Pointy-eared being
**Techdoku**

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

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**Sudoku**

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HELLO!
WE MAKE THE TECH, MIT’S STUDENT NEWSPAPER!

If you like writing, graphic design, photography, business, technology, (or pretty much anything else)

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So if you think you might be interested, or even if you just want to see what we do, join us for dinner in our office on the fourth floor of the Student Center (W20-483) on Sundays at 6 pm, or email us at join@tech.mit.edu
Ballot questions, from Page 1

repair shops already have access to similar information. They be-
lieve that this law would ultimately threaten consumer safety and cause prices of cars to rise.

In a departure from the typical ballot fare, Question 2, if enacted, could legally give citizens the right to assisted suicide. Terminally ill patients with less than six months to live would be able to request physicians to prescribe lethal medi-
cine that would provide a “dignified death.” Physicians carry a signifi-
cant responsibility; they must fully inform the patient of his or her ac-
countability and arrange for courier servic-
es once the patient passes away. In order to provide dignity, the death certificate would be issued with the underlying disease as the cause of death. Proponents argue that this enacting this law would reduce the suffering of terminally ill patients, who would otherwise die in dis-
comfort. However, detractors fear that suicide will become a substi-
tute for healthcare.

Also concerning the medically ill, Question 3 would further liber-
alize medical marijuana use after its decriminalization in 2008, which allowed people to carry one ounce of cannabis. If the law is enacted, criminal and civil penalties of pos-
sessing medical marijuana would be eliminated. Patients with serious conditions such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and Parkinson’s Disease would be allowed to have a 60-day supply of marijuana for medical use. Mari-
juana would also be sold at state-regulated centers and in certain cases, patients would be allowed to grow marijuana in their homes. Supporters cite the relief medical marijuana provides for patients, while naysayers believe the vague language of “medical condition” will allow anyone to have access.

In addition, the City of Cam-
brIDGE poses several non-binding questions on the ballot that influ-
ence the local congressmen. These questions are merely suggestions; Congressmen don’t have to adhere to the results when they vote. The first question asks if the state sena-
tor should vote that marijuana be taxed and regulated like alcohol. The second question asks if the state representative should vote that companies are NOT entitled to the constitutional rights of human beings, and (2) both Congress and the states may place limits on political contributions and political spending?

24th Middlesex Representative District (#7)
25th Middlesex Representative District (#5 in Wd. 4 Pct 1 & 3) (#6 in Wd. 4 Pct 2, Wd. 6 Pcts. 2 & 3, Wds. 7 & 8, Wd. 10 Pcts. 1 & 2)
26th Middlesex Representative District (#6)
29th Middlesex Representative District (#6)
8th Suffolk Representative District (#5)

Shall the state senator from this district be in-
structed to vote in favor of legislation that would allow the state to regulate and tax marijuana in the same manner as alcohol?

Shall the state representative from this district be in-
structed to vote in favor of a resolution calling upon Congress and the President to: (1) prevent cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans benefits, or to housing, food and unemployment assistance; (2) create and protect jobs by investing in manufacturing, schools, housing, renewable energy, transporta-
tion and other public services; (3) provide new revenues for these purposes and to reduce the long-term federal deficit by closing corporate tax loopholes, ending offshore tax havens, and raising taxes on incomes over $250,000; and (4) reduce military spending to these domestic needs by reducing the military budget, ending the war in Afghanistan and bringing U.S. troops home safely now?

Supporters cite the relief medical marijuana provides for patients, while naysayers believe the vague language of “medical condition” will allow anyone to have access.
Delayed CityDays sees lower turnout

Organizers say moving the event from Orientation week negatively affected student participation

By Tushar Kamath

While previously a community service event involving only freshmen and some upperclassmen leaders during Orientation week, this year’s CityDays was publicized as a service opportunity for the entire undergraduate and graduate community and took place on Oct. 9, the Tuesday of the long Columbus Day weekend.

189 students, only about half of whom were freshmen, represented 42 teams at CityDays.

CityDays was formally removed from the Orientation program this year, a change recommended by the Review Committee on Orientation (RCO). The RCO, commissioned by Deans Chris Colombo and Daniel Hastings PhD ‘80 to investigate all parts of Orientation, concluded that the spirit of integrating freshmen into the MIT community should extend past the designated week of Orientation. Pursuant to this goal, the RCO recommended that CityDays take place outside of Orientation week so that the whole campus could get involved in the community service. The committee also recommended cutting CityDays because it was not an activity or program “critical or fundamental to an orientation based on national research.”

While the intent of the RCO when rescheduling CityDays was to increase participation around MIT, the overall turnout was negatively affected. In previous years, around 600 freshmen signed up during Orientation with about 200 upperclassmen acting as group leaders for the program. This year a total of 189 students, only about half of whom were freshmen, represented 42 teams and worked at 13 different local community organizations. According to Pratyusha Kalluri ‘16, one of this year’s organizers, they planned for about 300 people to sign up and about 160 to participate.

Jemale D. Lockett ‘14 noted that there were “not as many freshmen who knew what CityDays was. Because it was more group-based, more upperclassmen participated.” Lockett — who has participated in CityDays since his freshman year and worked this year on an 8 a.m. shift — said that “the atmosphere felt sort of dead.”

This year’s program focused on the idea of competing groups, a change from previous years in which mostly freshmen participated in unaffiliated groups. Participants were divided into four leagues: FSILGs (fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups), residence halls, athletic teams, and other (groups that could be formed on any other basis other than those already specified). Groups within each league volunteered in the “ServeOff,” a competition to gain the most participa-
While volunteer numbers did drop, feedback polls from CityDays indicated positive results overall.

“Removing CityDays from Orientation definitely negatively affected the program,” said Dorian A. Burks ’14, the other organizer for this year’s CityDays. “Having CityDays later, and with everyone already having their own schedules, there was less of an opportunity for student leaders to step in.” In general, the planning for CityDays took place within a shorter time: “I was hired in July and Dorian was hired in August when, in the past, planning for the Orientation CityDays started at the beginning of the summer,” said Kalluri.

In its inaugural year as a “ServeOff,” this year’s winners of the $400 grants were: Kappa Alpha Theta (FSILG), New House (residence halls), Women’s Swimming and Diving (athletic teams), and the Freshman Urban Program (“other”). Katalina J. Sher ’14, the service and philanthropy director of Kappa Alpha Theta, said, “We are going to invest the money into our service budget for the semester, which is used to register for future community service events. If we don’t use that money for the semester, we plan on donating to our philanthropy, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, a group that supports advocates for neglected or abused children.”

While volunteer numbers did drop, feedback polls from CityDays indicated positive results overall. Burks added, “Even before CityDays this year, organizations have emailed me and asked for CityDays and how they loved working with students. This year, they said the students were very enthusiastic. Students have really enjoyed their organizations and would like to go back to the same organizations.”

The PSC will be hosting a Spring semester version of CityDays.

“Looking forward, we are planning on having an IAP community service day, which is open to the whole of MIT,” continued Burks. According to the current CityDays website, the Public Service Center will be hosting a Spring semester version of CityDays that may include lectures from faculty members or leaders of community service organizations and also incorporates both a service and educational aspect.

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In its inaugural year as a “ServeOff,” this year’s winners of the $400 grants were: Kappa Alpha Theta (FSILG), New House (residence halls), Women’s Swimming and Diving (athletic teams), and the Freshman Urban Program (“other”). Katalina J. Sher ’14, the service and philanthropy director of Kappa Alpha Theta, said, “We are going to invest the money into our service budget for the semester, which is used to register for future community service events. If we don’t use that money for the semester, we plan on donating to our philanthropy, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, a group that supports advocates for neglected or abused children.”

While volunteer numbers did drop, feedback polls from CityDays indicated positive results overall. Burks added, “Even before CityDays this year, organizations have emailed me and asked for CityDays and how they loved working with students. This year, they said the students were very enthusiastic. Students have really enjoyed their organizations and would like to go back to the same organizations.”

The PSC will be hosting a Spring semester version of CityDays.

“Looking forward, we are planning on having an IAP community service day, which is open to the whole of MIT,” continued Burks. According to the current CityDays website, the Public Service Center will be hosting a Spring semester version of CityDays that may include lectures from faculty members or leaders of community service organizations and also incorporates both a service and educational aspect.

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OCT. 19, 2012 - JAN. 6, 2013
EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, OCT. 18, 6 – 8pm
7pm Florian Hecker performs Speculative Solution, an 8-channel electroacoustic composition.
This event is free. All are welcome.

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IN THE HOLOCENE

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Oct. 10, Fisher oral arguments heard
Supreme Court justices discuss educational mission & diversity

Fisher, from Page 1
campus. "The standard to apply,
diversity in the classroom. We took
dents. We also took into account
data, the feedback from the stu-
that we looked at, the enrollment
"You would look to the criteria
to the same criteria, " Garre said.
ecessary? That's the bottom line of this
judgment that race is still neces-
stop deferring to the university's
ical quotas, and that there was
mass, saying that the Court had
specific number for the critical
lation, " Garre said to Alito.
shocking iso-
from Page 1
arguments heard
Supreme Court justices discuss educational mission & diversity

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for the brain!”

Join MIT Emergency Medical Services!

By Catherine Rampil
The New York Times

Two Americans, Alvin E. Roth
and Lloyd Shapley, were awarded
the Nobel Memorial Prize in Eco-
nomic Science on Monday for their
work on market design and match-
ing theory, which relate to how
people and companies find and se-
lect one another in everything from
school matching to jobs to organ
donations.

Their work primarily applies to
markets that do not have prices, or
at least have strict constraints on prices.
The laureates' breakthrough involves
figuring out how to properly assign
people and things to stable matches
when prices are not available to help
buyers and sellers pair up.

But Roth, 60, has put these theories
to practical use, in his work on a
program that matches new doctors
to hospitals and more recently for
a project matching kidney donors
Public school systems in New York,
Boston, Chicago and Denver, use an
algorithm based on his work to help
assign students to schools. A profes-
or at Harvard, he recently accepted
a new position at Stanford.

"Al has spent the last 30 years
trying to make economics more
like an engineering discipline," said
Purang Pathak, an economics pro-
fessor at MIT who has worked on
school matching systems with Roth.
The idea is to try to diagnose why
resource allocation systems are not
working, and how they can be engi-
nereed to produce something better.

Shapley, 89, a mathematician
long associated with game theory,
is also married
a graduate degree from Harvard and his a Ph.D.

Schmall feels that affirmative
action at MIT has produced the
desired effect. "I hear from stu-
dents all the time how much they
appreciate MIT's diversity, and how
much all our students feel their
educational experience is enriched
due to it.

In a paper with David Gale in
1962, Shapley explained how indi-
viduals could be paired together in
a stable match even when they dis-
agreed about what qualities made
the right match. The paper focused
on designing an ideal, perfectly sta-
bility marriage market: having mates
find one another in a fair way, so that
no one who is already married would
have to tell their relatives to break off and
pair up with someone else who is already
married.

In the 1980s, Roth applied this
work to matches for medical resi-
dency programs and eventually
school choice. He was interested in
how to match programs fairly and how
to keep more sophisticated players
from manipulating the system to
their advantage.

In older matching systems, a stu-
dent would apply to his first-choice
school, which was often popular.
If the student did not get in, then
the application would be sent on to the
student's second choice. But that was
also a popular choice, then that
school's program would have al-
ready filled up by the time his appli-
cation was even considered, and the
process would repeat itself with his
third-choice school and so on.

But if students were qualified to
good into one of their top schools,
they could be shut out because they
did not rank their preferences stra-
tegically. This created an incentive
to try to game the system by listing
a less popular school as their first
choice because they could rank at least
have a chance of getting in
somewhere.

Roth designed a system in which
students had an incentive to tell the
truth about where they wanted to go.
A centralized office could then as-
sign them to a school best suited for
them, based on both their own pref-
erns and the preferences of the schools
they were applying to.

The school systems he helped
create use a "deferred acceptance
algorithm," which was developed
by Shapley's theoretical work.

The system works by tentatively
accepting students to their top-
choice school. It holds off on the final
assignment until it has gone through
all the other applications to make
sure there aren't other students who
have a higher claim to a spot at that
given school (because of higher test
scores, a sibling at the school or
whatever other criteria the school
prioritize), even if those students
happened to rank the school lower on their list of preferences.

The idea is to level the playing
field," Pathak said. "You want to make
sure that not only do sophisticated
players not have to spend the time
learning the strategies and different
heuristics that will get them ahead,
but also that unsophisticated players
are not hurt by the fact that they are
not aware of all this information."
UTexas to join edX initiative
9 universities, 6 health centers added to partnership

UT system Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa emphasized how he believed edX could effectively but inexpensively improve education at the Texas universities. There was a notably lesser focus on how edX courses could provide cheap or free education on a global scale—an idea that got the spotlight when MITx was announced late last year, and when Harvard and MIT announced the formation of edX.

“Are we excited about this partnership with edX and honored to be in the company of such exceptional institutions as MIT, Harvard, and Berkeley. The mission of edX aligns perfectly with that of the UT system and keeps the learner as its central focus,” said Cigarroa. EdX “will allow us to diagnose and address student learning difficulties more easily” and “help them graduate on time,” he added.

The UT system ultimately decided on edX because it is non-profit and run by academics.

UT system officials said their universities would use a “blended model” of education, in which courses and degrees would be a combination of online and in-person components. Development of the “blended model” and pedagogical research would happen through UT’s Institute for Transformational Learning, founded this year to improve educational programs, they did touch on a global education component. David Callender, president of the UT Medical Branch at Galveston, said that the UT health institutions were eager to use edX to offer medical, nursing, and healthcare courses for worldwide consumption.

EdX is hardly the only game in town when it comes to MOOCs—Massive Open Online Courses. Coursera, a for-profit started by Stanford University professors earlier this year, has partnered with 33 universities to offer nearly 200 courses via a platform similar to edX. Udacity, co-founded by Stanford professor and Google engineer Sebastian Thrun, offers 14 courses, mostly in computer science.

Cigarroa said the UT system considered alternatives, but ultimately decided on edX because it is non-profit, run by academics, open-source, and “aligned with our vision” for a “blended model” of education.

And though UT system officials said edX courses previously taken only by MITx was announced late last year, and when Harvard and MIT announced the formation of edX.

edX, from Page 1

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012

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and start digging in the area, which should be done by the end of the calendar year. This work is to replace the site with more suitable soil for the day-care. Foundation and utilities work will go through March, and in April the construction of the new building will begin. The building is modular, and pieces of the structure will be manufactured elsewhere and mailed to MIT for a rapid assembly — ideally by the end of June.

“Then’s the plan,” said Amster.

“It’s always subject to change if there are issues that occur outside of our control.”

The center, which will open

126 daycare spots on campus, will more than double the number of child care slots on campus, which is currently at 142. The construction was made possible by a donation from David H. Koch ’62 and Charles W. Johnson ’55 and Jennifer Johnson.

“When we’re doing project we always try to be good neighbors,” Amster said. “People should know to get in touch with Richard Quade, our senior project manager. If people have issues let us know what they are and we will try to address them.”

Richard Quade can be reached at rquade@plant.mit.edu.

—Jessica J. Pourian

Solution to Techdoku

SMBC, from Page 7

Solution to Sudoku

Solution to Crossword

Rebate checks will be mailed beginning November 1, 2012 to the address designated in Coop records. To avoid misdirection of your rebate check, go to thecoop.com to verify or update your mailing address no later than Saturday, October 28, 2012.
One fish, two fish, fake fish, computer

Computer models of marine communities tease out ecosystem management trade-offs

By Emily Moberg

I like to joke that I study imaginary fish. People often remember that or, even better, ask about my thesis. Thus, I get to explain that I study theoretical ecology; I use mathematical tools to investigate how organisms interact with each other and with their environment. I am studying in the MIT Joint Pro- gram with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, so my organisms of interest tend to be fish. While I am an ecologist, the tools I use are in my computer, in equations, and, alas, in my heart.

Recently, I have become increasingly interested in how metacommunities — imagine groups of coral reef communities that are physically close but can still exchange larvae — are impacted by fishing. I am especially interested in how species interactions change when a fisherman's net corresponds to fishing. Species interactions include the interactions between䲟e and clownfish, clownfish and clownfish, or clownfish and clownfish, or fish and shrimp. They seem to be obvious to study, but we don't know much about how these underlying processes influence human interactions with these systems. Biological systems and their component organisms can do many complicated things — from evolving, to hav- ing babies, to expressing phenotypes de- pendent on their environment, to reacting to their environment. Just knowing this is already a lot of territory, so models for fisheries are for only one species.

That's what attracted me to biology engineering in the first place — it's weird, it's complicated, it's fascinating.

Unfortunately, those complicating fac- tors like species interactions and commu- nity response to fishing are really hard to measure. There are many different aspects of the system — coupled with an economic model which measures how much money we think is being made. We can use these models to help us understand the arrangement of communities and fishing patterns in space influences both the community of fish and fishermen.

The Secret Life of Researchers is a new col- umn and a space for students and research- ers to share their stories, experiences, and knowledge. If you are interested in contribut- ing, please contact Emily Moberg: emoberg@mit.edu and vch@tech.mit.edu.

The Tech 15

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For the lacrosse team in the spring, and I've been play- ing in the fall. I practiced with the girls on the team and the sisters who had been on the team the previous year. I knew that we could and would get us up to speed. I learned a lot from my fellow neophyte sisters as well as my coaches. The final game of the year was a thriller, and I ended up scoring to help secure our spot in the championship. We were losing 1-2, with five minutes until the end of the game. We worked hard and played our best, and in the end, we had a chance to win.

I decided to give everything I had for the rest of the season. I knew that our hard work would pay off. We had worked for all season to get to this point. Our efforts were rewarded when we won the championship and qualified for the national tournament. It was an incredible feeling, knowing that we had accomplished something special. We had worked hard and given our all, and it paid off. We had achieved our goal.

I am proud of what we accomplished as a team. We set goals and worked hard to achieve them. We supported each other through good times and bad. We learned lessons in a friendly environment.

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It's all Greek to me

Computer models of marine communities tease out ecosystem management trade-offs

The secret life of researchers

Tuesday, October 16, 2012 The Tech

For the lacrosse team in the spring, and I've been play- ing field hockey. Some of my sisters convinced me to go out and try it. I was hesitant at first, but I decided to give it a chance. I practiced hard and worked on improving my skills.

As a member of the team, I made friends and learned how to work with a variety of people. I made the decision to join both of these groups because I knew that they would help me grow as a person.

I found it mind-bogglingly, awesomely inter-esting to work with a variety of people. By emily moberg

While these might seem to be different activities, athletics and my sorority have both taught me how to lead by example and how to work with a variety of people.

In the fall of my freshman year, I went through rec- ruitment and joined Alpha Phi while playing varsity field hockey. Some of my sisters convinced me to go out for the lacrosse team in the spring, and I've been playing both ever since. Before I came to MIT, I only had a limited exposure to lacrosse. I came into my freshman season both excited to learn how to throw and catch, but it helped a lot that my fellow neophyte sister Meghan was also learning. We even had upperclassmen in Alpha Phi giving us tips and working with us outside of practice to get us up to speed.

I came into my freshman season hardly knowing how to throw and catch, but it helped a lot that my fellow neophyte sister Meghan was also learning.

Athletics and sorority have been both great expe- riences for me, and I especially love the intersection of the two. I love hearing my sisters cheering at me at my games or reading an email sent to APHIs congratulating another sister on being the Coop Athlete of the Week. I love taking Safetide back to Alpha Phi after a tiring prac- tice or game. I value the support and friendship I receive from my team and sisters.

I love hosting team dinners and showing off our beauti- ful Back Bay home to my coaches. The athleticism and my sorority, I've been able to develop my leadership skills. Alpha Phi gave me op- portunities for leadership both as a freshman and later on. During that year, I served as our athletic chair and felt a great sense of pride and operating on our intramural sports teams. I have to admit that we may not win in every sport, but we always have a lot of fun. As a freshman chair, I became house supervisor and new member educator, ultimately becoming chap- ter president. The role of president can be challenging both to coordinate and manage meetings and making decisions concerning 134 members with an advisory team of seven. Heading the executive board and over- looking four departments within APHIs was a challenge, but at the end of the day I believe that I had the ability to give back to an organization that has given so much to me. I have learned valuable lessons in leadership, like how to delegate effectively and how to work with people from different backgrounds.

As a senior, my perspective has changed. I realize how much we need to work together to solve small problems as they arise and become a much more effective leader as a result. Both athletics and sorority roles have complemented each other: lessons I learned on the APHIs Executive Board I can bring to my engineering role and vice versa. As a senior starting to interview for jobs, I realize how important these experiences have been. I am so thankful for my experiences in my community and my team- mates for giving me a chance to take on these roles and learn lessons in a friendly environment.

Maybe most importantly, Alpha Phi and MIT Ath- letics have helped me make the most amazing friends. Imagining my life next year in another city without all of these friends already makes me sad, but I know that I’ll still be able to call them “sisters” for the rest of my life. Whenever I come back to campus, there are two places I will visit to reconnect: 479 Commonwealth Ave and the Z-Center.

While these might seem to be different activities, athletics and my sorority have both taught me how to lead by example and how to work with a variety of people.

I made the decision to join both of these groups because I had been on the lacrosse team in high school, and I was looking for a way to challenge myself and develop new skills. I knew that I wanted to be involved in Greek life because I knew MIT was going to be a part of MIT's Panhellenic community.

There was a lot more to fraternities and sororities than what you see in movies and on TV. All of the affiliated sororities and fraternities have different personalities and operate in different ways, in my heart. 

Unfortunately, those complicating fac- tors like species interactions and commu- nity response to fishing are really hard to measure. That's what attracted me to biology engineering in the first place — it's weird, it's complicated, it's fascinating.

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There was a lot more to fraternities and sororities than what you see in movies and on TV. All of the affiliated sororities and fraternities have different personalities and operate in different ways, in my heart.
Field hockey dominates
Brings MIT’s conference record up to 5-1

By Mindy Brauer

A solid defensive performance coupled with a second-half goal was all MIT needed in its 1-0 victory over the Springfield College Pride in a NEWMAC field hockey game on Saturday morning. Kimberly A. Barker ’13 provided the lone marker that was set up by Elizabeth A. Dethy ’15. Sophomore goalie Jenna R. Klein stopped the only shot on goal she faced in her second career shutout as the Engineers improved to 12-2 on the year and 5-1 in conference play.

The Engineers continued to attack and eventually broke through in the 42nd minute. Siobhan K. Rigby ’16 took a penalty corner that led to a shot by senior Molly E. McShane which was stopped by Villa. Dethy corralled the rebound and sent a cross past Villa’s outstretched stick where Barker poked in the game-winner at the back post.

Springfield responded with two penalty corners and a shot that was blocked, marking its first offensive charge of the day. The game became a back-and-forth affair as junior Kelly Gallo put the Pride’s only shot on net with 16:13 left to play. The hosts were awarded three penalty corners down the stretch but they could not record the equalizer. MIT nearly tacked on an insurance goal with 1:16 on the clock; however, Villa denied a bid by McShane.

The Engineers begin a three-game homestand on Tuesday, Oct. 16 against NEWMAC rival Wheaton College.

Men’s Tennis victorious in second season match

MIT Men’s Tennis defeated Nichols College, 6-3, on Saturday afternoon making them 2-0 for the season. Though Edwin M. Zhang ’14 and Matthew T. Skalak ’13 had a tough 8-9 loss, sophomores Eugene S. Oh and junior Curtis L. Wu picked up an 8-6 win and seniors Tymor C. Hamamsy and Brian K. Oldfield won their match with a score of 8-1. Heading into singles with a 2-1 lead, the Engineers finished off the match strong. Zhang clinched a win against Nichols with a 6-3, 6-3 score. Though Oh ultimately lost his singles match, Oldfield had an impressive win of 6-3, 6-0. Followed by yet another win by Skalak of 6-4, 6-4 and Jeffrey R. Bu ’15 with a 6-1, 6-0 result, MIT secured the win against Nichols. MIT Men’s Tennis will host its next match against Eastern Nazarene College on Feb. 26.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, October 16

Women’s Tennis vs. Wheaton College
4:00 p.m., duPont Tennis Courts

Field Hockey vs. Wheaton College
6:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field

Wednesday, October 17

Sailing vs. Midweek Tech Invite 2
4:00 p.m., Charles River

Field hockey dominates brings MIT’s conference record up to 5-1