Bexley Hall vandalized on night before move-out date

Facing a 3-year closure for renovation, residents elect representatives, contrary to dorm tradition

By Laura E. Forte and Anthony Yu

This past Saturday morning, Bexley Hall House Manager Jon Nolan notified Bexley residents of vandalism done to the dorm's 50 entry the night of Friday, June 7. According to the email, the damage was significant, including broken glass strewn across the floor, fixtures torn from the walls and ceiling, and a hole in the wall that Nolan described as "the size of a human being." As a result of the vandalism, "no entry is unsafe and needs to be cleared out," he wrote. It is unclear who caused the damage, although several residents replied to Nolan's email to express their dismay at the events. "It is unfortunate that it occurred," wrote Bekeley GRT Matthew Gort G in an email to The Tech, "and I hope it doesn't affect the way the administration treats the Bexley community in the future." Over the past several weeks, Bexley has been at the center of much discussion due to its closure, announced on May 7. The building was reported to have significant water damage and to be structurally unsound, and is scheduled to be closed for up to three years while these issues are addressed. Nolan said that because of the vandalism, no extensions or exceptions would be granted to the senior move-out deadline at noon on June 8, the same day he sent out the email announcing the vandalism. There are now no students still residing in Bexley. GRTs and housemasters were instructed to move out as soon as possible following the final exam period. Gete wrote that the GRTs have signed contracts with MIT that guarantee them housing in a graduate dorm for the next year, but like the undergraduates, they were not guaranteed their residence hall of choice. Following the announcement, Bexley, Page 8

Dennis Freeman is next DUE, succeeds Hastings

By Anne Cai

Dennis Freeman PhD ’86, Professor of Electrical Engineering and the Course 6 undergraduate officer, has been appointed MIT’s next Dean for Undergraduate Education (DUE), succeeding Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’80, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Engineering Systems, who has served as DUE since 2006. Following Hastings’ Jan. 8 announcement that he would be stepping down, a search committee was formed with Graham C. Walker as the chair. The committee consisted of eight other faculty members, three students, and senior associate dean Elizabeth Reed. The committee was charged with recommending three to five candidates to the senior associate dean, who would then make the final choice. "Denny will begin his time as Dean at a significant moment in shaping the future of MIT’s model of residential education," wrote Grimson. Freeman will work with the Task Force on the Future of MIT Education to evaluate MIT’s education support initiatives in the past, including last year’s DormCon retreat. The 12 executive members of DormCon had been in constant communication over Boston area and Summer Square on June 28!

DormCon overspends on already controversial overnight retreat

At a May 16 meeting of MIT’s Dormitory Council (DormCon), members were informed that their annual retreat cost more than anticipated, by an amount not mentioned in the DormCon meeting minutes. The original budgeted cost for the retreat was $4000—a figure that had already caused discontent among some undergraduates who felt the money would be better spent on events that directly benefit residents of each dormitory. The overnight retreat was hosted at Endicott House, a meeting facility that has been the site of many student and faculty meetings and retreats in the past, including last year’s DormCon retreat. The 12 executive members of DormCon and the 11 dorm presidents were invited to attend, and each could bring one guest. These guests were dormitory vice presidents and underclassmen who wished to become more involved in DormCon. The purpose of the retreat, according to former DormCon President Edward A. Maguica ’13, was the “clarification of our goals and intentions” as an organization, as well as the facilitation of communication between members. When asked about the unexpected costs of the retreat, Maguica stated that a miscommunication between members of DormCon occurred, as well as “charges that we didn’t realize would come into play.” The combination of these caused the retreat’s total cost to far exceed the budgeted amount. Those making the decision, Mugica said, were unaware that the group would be charged for rooms that they did not need and used. As a result, the reservation was made for 35 people, only 15 of whom attended; according to Maguica. He said, “We were aware that there was a slight risk” of being charged, but that it was important that there may elect to take gap years or choose to attend other schools.

Regardless, the yield is a record, which Schmill attributed to an excellent, though slightly rainy, CPW, and the overall culture of MIT. “Students are really excited about the learning environment at MIT and the opportunities that they will have to explore their interests and grow as individuals,” he said. With the increasing importance of science and technology in our daily lives, “there really has never been a better time to be a student at MIT.” Many of MIT’s peer institutions also saw increased yields. Harvard
The International Criminal Court in The Hague has decided not to investigate or prosecute the former pope and other leaders of the Roman Catholic Church on allegations of covering up the sexual abuse of children.

Victims of sexual abuse filed a complaint in 2011 asking the court to prosecute Benedict XVI, then pope, and two other Vatican officials for what they called an international and systemic cover-up of sexual abuse that amounted to “crimes against humanity.”

The court responded in a letter dated May 31 that after analyzing the matters it did not appear to fall within the jurisdiction of the Court. The letter said that “some of the allegations fall outside the court’s jurisdiction, however, crimes against humanity and war crimes.”

In either case, the matter did not appear to meet the court’s time limits. For the most part, the court may prosecute only crimes committed after it was constituted in July 2002, and even though the cases submitted by the victims involved some of the allegations, some of the supporting material the victims submitted predated predated 2002.


Obama’s pen may determine scope of gay marriage run-up

WASHINGTON - A Supreme Court ruling this month that could overturn the ban on federal benefits for same-sex couples is presenting the Obama administration with a series of complicated and politically sensitive decisions how aggressively to overturn the marriage through three federal statutes that lay out the laws of the United States.

The court is expected to rule in the next two weeks. Based on the justices’ questions at oral arguments, legal analysts predict that the justices will overturn the laws on the grounds that marriage is a matter for the states.

“We’re going to fight to ensure that legally married gay couples have access to all federal benefits and protections, irrespective of state borders,” said Fred Sainz, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights organization in Washington.

“Federal benefits and protections, that’s what state side of a state border you live on.”

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—Michael D. Shear, The New York Times

Bill Clinton’s dissent on Syrian action puts White House on the spot

WASHINGTON - The director of the National Security Agency said Thursday that he would re- move less information about the top secret programs that sweep up vast quantities of communications data on people here and abroad, and vowed to clear up what he said were inaccuracies and mis- conceptions about how the programs work.

But the disclosure of any further details, said the director, Gen. Keith B. Alexander, would have to bal- ance the public’s right to know with the risks of divulging material that could tip off enemies.

“We have pledged to be as trans- parent as possible,” he said, after emerging from a classified briefing with House members. “I think it’s important that you have that infor- mation. But we don’t want to risk certain lives in doing that. So we’re being as very deliberate in this process so that we don’t end up causing a terrorist attack by giving too much information.”

Alexander did not elaborate on what kinds of information the NSA would disclose, beyond saying that it would involve statistics about the programs in question.

“And if I think when the Ameri- can people hear that, they’re going to stop and say, ‘Wait. The information we’re get- ting is incorrect.’ ”

Among the inaccuracies he said he wanted to clear up was that the NSA is listening to Americans’ phone calls.

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Alexander stressed that grave dam- age was done by the disclosure of the programs, which involves a huge database of the logs of nearly every domestic phone call made by Americans, and the collection of in- formation from American Internet companies like Google without in- dividual court orders if the request is targeted at noncitizens abroad.

“More we know, the more dangerous this situation becomes,” he said, adding that people be- lieved to be in favor of doing Ameri- can harm had already altered their activities since the existence of the programs became public.

He also said that a “damage as- sessment” was underway within the NSA to assess what other kinds of secrets that the leader, Edward J. Snowden, a former NSA contractor, might have tried to obtain.

Rogers went as far as to question whether there was something deep- er to uncover about Snowden’s ties to China, where he fled after mak- ing the NSA programs public.

“We need to ask a lot more ques- tions about his motives, where he is, where he ended up, why he is there,” Rogers said. “How is he sustaining himself while he is there?”

And is the Chinese govern- ment fully cooperating?”

—By Jeremy W. Peters

The announcement came about five months after Palin’s Charlottesville appearance today, creating breezy conditions and drenching rain.

This is the same storm system that brought severe weather, including a large complex of thunderstorms that caused a flash flood on Wednesday evening. Hav- ing moved through the Mid-Atlan- tic and Northeast, the system moved offshore overnight this morning, bringing the aforementioned thunderstorms, strong, forming a storm low pressure center. What low will move northeastward (hence the name) past the tip of Cape Cod to- day, bringing with it an area of un- mentioned rain and wind to our area.

This month is poised to be one of the wettest months of June ever recorded in Boston. Already, 6.88 inches of rain have been recorded, a departure of 5.04 inches from the normal value at this time of the month. Today’s Nor’easter is expected to drop around another inch of rain, before moving to the coast, creating the possibility for some flooding. While the month is not yet even halfway, it re- mains unlikely that the all-time June precipitation record set in 1932 will be surpassed this year.

Extended Forecast


Tonight: Clearing, low 52°F (11°C). Winds light and variable.

Tomorrow: Sunny, high 80°F (27°C). Winds W at 10-15 mph.

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Situation for noon Eastern time, Friday, June 14, 2013
Secret-court ruling in 2008 put tech firms in legal data bind

By Claire Cain Miller

SAN FRANCISCO - In a secret court in 2008, federal agents and their lawyers made their case. The government wanted to obtain access to phone records on certain foreign users, without a warrant, and Yahoo had refused, saying such snooping on U.S. citizens was unconstitutional.

The judge disagreed. That left Yahoo with two choices: hand over the data or break the law.

Seven years later, the revelations of the National Security Agency’s secret Internet surveillance program are prompting workers to strike in protest of ERT, the Greek state broadcaster shut down, tech firms in legal data bind according to leaked NSA documents, as did several other Internet companies.

Like almost all the actions of the secret court, the decisions were shrouded under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the details of the disagreement with Yahoo were never made public beyond a heavily redacted court order, one of the few public documents to emerge from the secret court.

In the name of the company that was not revealed until now, Yahoo's involvement was confirmed by two people with knowledge of the proceedings. Yahoo declined to comment.

But the decision has had last- ing consequences for the tech companies that store troves of their users' data that they might otherwise receive through these national security requests - it puts them on notice that the government might seek to legally compel them to hand over the data. And despite the murky details of the court order, it could serve to galvanize and pull among tech companies and the intelligence and law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction to tap into the personal data stored in technologically sophisticated companies.

It also highlights a paradox of Silicon Valley: While tech companies may have resisted government requests to track their users and sell ever more targeted ads, many also have a libertarian streak and resist sharing data that with the government.

"Even though they have an awful reputation on consumer privacy issues, when it comes to government surveillance, they see the government as their friends," said Christopher Soghoian, a senior policy analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a advocacy group that is among the companies that have been asked to hand over data.

"The tech companies try to pick their battles," said Stephen I. Vladeck, a law professor at American University who has challenged government counterterrorism surveillance in court. "In some cases, different tech companies show different degrees of cooperativeness or pugnaciousness."

In Florida, the collapse of a 15-story residential building in the Black Forest, Colo., on Thursday that killed at least 10 people and injured 15, highlighted the struggle of local government to quickly and safely respond to a disaster. The building was one of several hundred that have been destroyed since it started burning Tuesday.

Driven by searing temperatures and sharply shifting winds, the fire in the suburb of Black Forest within hours became the most destructive fire in Colorado's history. At least 360 homes have been reduced to rubble since it started spreading on Tuesday.

With the wind direction shifting unpredictably, firefighters from local and federal agencies have struggled to contain the fire, which continued to grow Wednesday. Firefighters were called out to save homes in its path and forced nearly 40,000 people to flee the area.

Colorado wildfire destroys hundreds of homes

WASHINGTON - Democratic leaders in Congress and the White Househave renewed their efforts to pass gun control legislation this week, just months after it was defeated in the Senate, amid delicate talks on a new background-check measure that advocates hope could change gun laws.

But those negotiations met a warning from Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the Senate majority leader, who said he would not accept any bill that is substantially weaker than the one defeated in the Senate.

"The bill that passes the Senate must have background checks, and not a watered-down version of background checks," Reid declared in the Capitol, before the families of New York City’s Conn., school shooting victims.

Quiet talks between Sens. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, and Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., officially do not exist. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., who would probably be amended to exempt more рукомпания.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ed Snowden: a quintessential hacker

There aren't many people to look up to in this public eye nowadays, but Edward Snowden is one. The 29-year-old former analyst for the National Security Agency (NSA) was leaked for revealing details of the NSA's massive citizen surveillance programs including PRISM, a secret program collecting data from the networks of more than 50 American technology companies.

Individuals like Snowden, Bradley Manning, and Edward Lillberg (the Pentagon papers) help the U.S. look in the mirror. The videos of journalists and child Tehers capturing themselves in the mirror are the ones that matter more. So is the PRISM program. We have to protect them, if not for the sake of the front line soldiers who put the nation's interests in the front line, and not for the government's interests.

By Keith Youx

Tilting at windmills

Edward Snowden is Don Quixote, not Daniel Ellsberg

As Washington Post staff listened to the fantastical claims written by Edward Snowden, our leaker du jour, I can't help but wonder why they didn't get a taste of the real world by witnessing the memory of Bradley Manning, the private who coined wheels, couldn't get a taste of the NSA's claims. It is not the government's intentions, but what is the NSA's intentions.

The NSA isn't necessarily in the business of collecting telecommunication meta-data, but collecting what numbers and for how long (though not the names of the callers or the content of their conversations) and the collection of metadata is neither illegal, unreasonable or (in the view of) objectionable. It is authorized by FISA court orders, and those court orders are kept from the public by the standards of the long-standing legal precedent a Smith v. Maryland. It is prudent for the police to need a warrant to listen in on your phone calls. They don't need a warrant to observe you walking into a telephone booth.

I can't help but wonder why they didn't have a healthy dose of skepticism. The other NSA program, PRISM, has been greatly exaggerated, and after the former employee suggested that the NSA was not near enough to support Snowden's conten- tions, Snowden claims it is a massive NSA dragnet that captures and reads all of the internet communications of a nation.

I'm not arguing that NSA declaration of authority is false. I just don't believe the NSA's claims. One could presume they are participating, "as WashPo wrote (and assume everyone was lying to them when the NSA was caught up in the 'I got nothing to hide' argument. The unfortunate but realistic reaction would be to award Snowden the National Medal of Freedom, rather than chase him to solitary confinement in substandard conditions, a la Manning.

The MIT community is uniquely positioned to play a special role in this case, and others like it. The long-standing往年风范 of MIT and former home of Daniel Ellsberg, stands for individual freedom and privacy. Snowden is not an individual who refuses to give in to an unjust status quo, and uses his skills as a hacker to make the government's accountability to the people by placing these documents in the public domain. He is an individual who would publicly say society needs no explanation of the unboundany of the NSA's action unless they are charged with the crime of dominance of the world. It likewise needs no reminder of the potential for gathering public support for decent causes through the web, this power must be harnessed to protect people against the state, and not the other way around.

The unfortunate but realistic reaction in our "post-privacy" age is that these matters have been engrossed off with no difference. People already unloved their lives onto venues like Facebook with no regard for privacy, and some might argue the precise moment of that transition was to look through their stuff, "well, it's only" private emails, chats, photos, etc. The old "I got nothing to hide" argument gravely underestimates the potential of government surveillance to dramatically and imply wrongdoing. As Snowden points out, the NSA's dragnet must be monitored and potentially painted as a criminal. Accepting this would mean putting all the government's collection and handling of private data. The government is even less for engaging in unethical activity behind our backs, rather than entrusting that whatever information they might come by, can be handled responsibly.

We need not worry about history as the recent Guardian editorials point out, history will fall on the side of Snowden. But now, the lives and the lives of others like him are on the line, and may be protected by standing up against oppressive and invasive government surveillance. MIT is a first place to do so.

Yost, Page 5

OPINION

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Sarah Lee, Executive Editor Anne Cat, Managing Editor Ian M. Gorodischer, and Professor Eric Verloren. The opinions expressed in editorials are those of the Editorial Board.

The Tech uses the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the original editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and the opinion is the personal property of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Tech. All submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, Room W20-483, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit condense letters, shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters and responses to letters may be posted on The Tech’s Web site and for printed or published in any other form or medium now known or hereafter developed. The Tech in its sole discretion may print all the letters received.

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snooping in that didn’t have access to Google’s servers after the decryption had taken place would get a bunch of gobble-dy gook. The only way the NSA could get around this would be either by finding a way to intercept the traffic and then break the encryption (an impossible task that will become even more impossible once Google switches to 2048-bit RSA keys in a few months time), or by planting powerful moles in the U.S’s major web companies (very unlikely, especially when there is no mention of such a mole network in Snowden’s leaked documents).

The final nail in the coffin for Snowden’s case is the NSA fact sheet that was released in response to the leaks and how well it comports with what we know about the program. Unlike Snowden’s, the NSA’s story fits. PRISM is an internal database. The extent of its information collecting abilities (if they exist) is to automatically refresh the information obtained through legal FISA court orders targeted against specific non-citizens, and only if those court orders allow ongoing surveillance. It primarily serves as a hub through which U.S. authorities and foreign intelligence partners can access information collected through the normal and appropriate FISA channels, but merely a centralized repository of information obtained through congressionally and judicially approved channels, with all of the appropriate oversight, restraint, and safeguards.

Despite these red flags, some would have us believe Snowden’s story over the NSA’s, simply because they want to trust a whistleblower more than the government. "What reason would he have for lying?" they ask. The answer is simple: narcissism. His cringe-worthy interview with Glenn Greenwald tells it all. He wants to be the heroic martyr, the reluctant hero who would have lived his life in peace and quiet were it not for all the monsters he had a moral duty to slay. As a 20-something former consultant who did work he found morally objectionable and later wrote about it, I empathize with Snowden. I applaud the notion that moral obligations come before obligations to an employer. But there is a difference between a Daniel Ellsberg and a Don Quixote. When history remembers Edward Snowden, it won’t be as a shining white knight — just as a poor little fellow who imagined he was one.

Were they so rushed in getting things to print that they didn’t even take a couple hours to get the companies’ reactions on the record?

Yost, from Page 4
DormCon, from Page 1

be enough space should all invited members have decided to attend. When asked for specifics about the cost of the retreat, Magica deferred to newly-elected DormCon President EB H. Ross ’14, who said he did not know the figure, which was planned and budgeted for by the house owner. According to Endicott house’s student rates, the per-person charges amount to $5,530.

DormCon has decided not to return to Endicott House, and its executive members have agreed to explore less expensive options for future retreats. “There is a general consensus … that any future retreats will be on campus and at minimal cost. We want to put as much money as possible into interdorm and dorm-hosted events, which we believe are great ways to enhance campus life,” Ross said, adding that a revamped DormCon website will feature a line-item budget.

—Laura E. Forte

Bexley, from Page 1

of Bexley’s closure, residents elected seven representatives to advocate on their behalf. (As of publication time, none of the representatives have responded to 1Tech.) According to Gertz, “students have been very proactive about meeting with the administration and voicing their concerns.” These concerns include the fate of their tight-knit community as residents are dispersed across campus and the surrounding area.

Bexley “was the first place at MIT that I have lived that felt like home,” Gertz said. Some students have compiled group housing proposals, hoping to live together in another dorm or in off-campus housing with ILG status. The administration and students are working to provide Bexley residents with a communal gathering space on campus. Current plans include a lounge area with key card access in Walker Memorial, a building GT1.

Nolan said that because of the vandalism, no extensions or exceptions would be granted to the senior move-out deadline at noon on June 8.

Class size similar to last year’s, but with a record-high yield

Yield, from Page 1

saw 82 percent of its 2,029 accepted applicants take up its offer, up from 80 percent the year before. Princeton saw its yield rise from 65 percent to 67 percent for the Class of 2017. In California, Caltech’s yield rose from 41 percent to 43 percent, and Stanford saw a record 77 percent of accepted students enroll, up from 73 percent for its Class of 2016.

With MIT’s Class of 2017 roughly the same size as the Class of 2016, no students will be taken off waitlist for the second year in a row. Schmill expressed that he was disappointed that no one would be admitted from the waitlist: “There were so many great students on that list and we were hoping to be able to admit some of them.” For the Class of 2018, Schmill says that the admissions office is “pretty sure” that they will be more conservative. However, many others factors will still influence the number of students admitted in the next cycle, according to Schmill.

In terms of demographics, the Class of 2017 is 45 percent women, 22 percent underrepresented minorities (African American, Hispanic, or Native American), 16 percent first-generation college students, and 8 percent international. They come from 48 of the 50 states and are citizens of 52 countries. These demographics are fairly representative of the admitted students pool, of which 48 percent were women, 24 percent underrepresented minorities, 16 percent first-generation, and 8 percent international.

MIT Corporation elects 12 term members, 5 life members

The MIT Corporation elected 12 term members and five life members during its quarterly meeting on June 6, according to an MIT press release. Entrusted with seeing that MIT carries out its mission, the Corporation approves annual budgets and decisions and advises the president, and forms committees to look into the Institute’s long-term concerns.

The elected members are:

• Bruce N. Anderson ’78, March ’73 (five years), co-founder and CEO of Wilson Solarpower Corp.
• Ursula M. Burns (five years), Chairman and CEO of Xerox Corp.
• Patricia R. Callahan ’75, SM ’77 (five years), co-founder and CEO of Wilson Solarpower Corp.
• T. Erich Cassell SM ’70, PhD ’76 (five years), White House Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative
• David L. deSaldern ’81 (five years), investor, former engineer at Google
• Abigail Johnson (five years), President of Fidelity Financial Services
• Susan J. Kihm (five years), former Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Wells Fargo & Co.
• R. Erich Caufield SM ’70, PhD ’76 (five years), former Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Wells Fargo & Co.
• Lawrence K. Fish (life), former Chairman and President of the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology
• Alan M. Levinthal (one year), Chairman and CEO of Beacon Capital Partners
• Lawrence K. Fish (life), former Chairman and CEO of Citigroup
• Diane B. Greene SM ’78 (life), founder and former CEO of VMware
• Carlienne C. Kabcenell ’79 (life), former Vice President at Oracle Corp.
• Paul M. Kominers ’12 (five years), Research Director at TurboVote

(We probably don’t know about it.)

Let us know.

news@tech.mit.edu
Movie Review
Superman: the man, the hero — and the genre
steel yourself for a retelling of the familiar story

By Roberto Perez-Franco
Staff Writer

Man of Steel is a Superman movie. I don’t mean just with regards to its subject, but as a definition of the genre. And, even though it is a good movie, the self-imposed constraints it followed to fall square within that genre make it a good-enough movie, when it could have been — or at least I was hoping it would be — a great movie. The plot of the movie suffices to keep it afloat, although I do think the city-wrecking fighting went on for too long. The special effects are well-executed, even if the shaky-camera trick may have been overused.

The familiar story of Kal-El is told using effective narrative resources: his birth and its circumstances serve to open the movie and establishes the anchoring points for the rest of the story. Then we are brought to the present, where an adult Clark Kent is trying to figure out his place in the world. Flashbacks are used to give us glimpses of his childhood in Kansas and his youth as a wandering Samaritan. When Clark finally discovers his true nature and origins, he inadvertently starts a chain of events that will bring him face to face with his father’s killer, and the threat of annihilation for everything he has come to love: a girl, the human race, and the whole planet.

The movie showcases a fantastic cast: a buffed Henry Cavill makes for a handsome and compelling Superman, who manages to be as serene as a Zen master in his quest for self-discovery, and then as fierce as a gladiator when facing his enemies; the lovely Amy Adams renders a smart and courageous Lois Lane; and Russell Crowe gives life to a strong and wise Jor-El, who continues to guide his son even after his own death. The antagonists are also very well cast: Michael Shannon incarnates with aplomb and nuance a disgruntled and bellicose General Zod, who leads the attack on Earth to rescue his own race. Yet the character that stole my heart was Zod’s smoking-hot sidekick, Faora-Ul (played by the breathtaking Antje Traue), who displays more superpowers in her fighting skills than any other character on the screen, bar none.

Many worn-out or absurd features of the first big-screen Superman were removed from this movie to good avail: John William’s fanfare is gone, the red Speedo is nowhere to be seen, and there is no reference to kryptonite. Others remained, to my chagrin: the S in the chest, reinvented as the “El” family crest and/or a symbol for “hope,” was as ubiquitous as it was unavoidable, and Clark’s glasses remain miraculous in hiding his identity as Superman as soon as he puts them on to go work at the Daily Planet. Some other features of Superman do get a nice overhaul and work very nicely: his X-ray vision is very convincing, as are his Cyclops-like eye-rays. His ballistic takeoff and supersonic flying abilities are astounding.

The movie loses a few points with me due to an overt reference to Superman as a savior of humanity with a stained-glass of Jesus Christ in the background, and also due to a totally gratuitous and unwarranted jab at evolution. It seems to me that this movie was made to cater for the taste of God-fearing ‘muricans more than any other audience. These few complaints notwithstanding, it is as good a reboot of Superman as we are likely to see any time soon, because — as this movie has made evident — the scope of the genre is rather narrow, especially when the creators play it safe and restrict themselves to the limits of what they know we have learned to love.
MIT's 147th Commencement was on Friday, June 7. Over 2,600 students graduated, receiving over 3,300 degrees.

1. Chiquita White '85, President of the MIT Alumni Association, led the procession into Killian Court holding the ceremonial mace.
2. Drew Houston '05, founder of Dropbox and youngest Commencement speaker in at least 30 years, delivers the keynote address.
3. A graduate excitedly leaves the Commencement podium after receiving her diploma.
4. President Reif hands out diplomas to graduates.
5. During the ceremony, graduates turn their class rings around as a part of MIT tradition.
6. Graduates line up during the Commencement ceremony.
7. The MIT Police Honor Guard marches into Killian Court carrying the American, Massachusetts, and MIT flags to the stage.
8. Graduates walk to their seats in Killian Court.
9. Some graduates decorated their caps.
MOVIEW REVIEW

A recruitment ad for Google

No code was harmed in the making of this film

By Kristen Suter

Wedding crashers Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn team up again in Shawn Levy’s feel-good buddy flick about two underdogs with no technical skills who talk their way into a summer internship program at Google and show that spirit can overcome even the most difficult of projects. Nick (Wilson) and Billy (Vaughn) are watch salesmen who lose their jobs and face a bleak future in which their sales skills can’t translate into anything other than selling mattresses for a scruffy boss. Billy somehow lands them an interview for internships at Google. The committee decides that hiring two charismatic guys with “life experience” who humorously BS-ed their way out of actually answering the interview question represents a nod to diversity at a company where everyone else is too predictably educated.

The real star of this film is Google. The audience hears what the interns hear about Google’s quest to make the world a better place. And a plethora of Google products are name-checked, from the search engine with autocomplete, with which Billy first looks for job listings, to the suite of products showcased by the team of quirky interns selling advertising tools to a local pizzeria. To underscore the film’s theme park wonderland with free food, a giant slide, self-driving cars, and other amenities that Google does offer in reality. If you have a crush on Google, this movie is for you, and you will love the closing credits made by the Google Creative Lab that mimic a Google commercial.

The structure of the internship program is a gleaming but forgivable departure from reality. Teams of five must compete in several challenges, and the winning team is guaranteed full-time employment. The challenges are for the most part relevant to software development, such as finding a bug in two million lines of code or developing an app. But other than having the interns banter with some jargon, actual software development is shown. Although Larry Page claimed that Google became immersed with the film because computer science has a marketing problem, it’s hard to imagine this film making anyone experience knowledge about computer science or software development. This film is about software development in the way Office Space is: it just takes a roaster view. It can be rebuffed as a buddy comedy that just needed a convenient scaffold, which comes painted in Google’s blue, red, yellow and green. There are several scenes of laugh-out-loud comedy including the interview on Google Hangout, Billy’s pitch for an Insta

MOVIE REVIEW

Cult espionage

Eco-terrorism and the evils of capitalism

By Roberto Perez Franco

The East is a movie for our times. It grounds its narrative in the complexity of the two ubiquitous evils of our capitalist societies. The first is negative externalities — power companies make more money if they skimp on environmental measures, thus polluting the water you have to drink. The other is moral hazards — a pharmaceutical company downplays the side effects of a drug in order to boost its sales.

The East picks its characters from two opposing flanks: the lines of those that run the system (corporations, government) and the lines of those that drown it to the point of deciding to fight it. The film’s plot presents us with questions about personal choices, collective responsibilities, and the balancing of means and ends. It is an intellectual thriller with plenty of food for thought relevant to the present.

The movie starts with an interesting premise: Sarah (played by Brit Marling) is a fast-rising operative in a company that specialises in protecting other firms’ names and reputations. Sarah’s newest assignment is to infiltrate an extremist eco-terrorist group called “The East,” with the objective of detecting threats they may pose to customers of her company, and neutralizing these threats.

Through an elaborate sequence of events, Sarah effectively infiltrates “The East” and is welcomed as one of its members. The deeper she goes undercover, the more she learns about the group’s true nature, which borders on cultlike, and the more dangerous the situation becomes for her. She becomes involved in the group’s daily life and some of its operations, and that is when things begin to get complicated.

The movie features an interesting cast, with Alexander Skarsgård as a very convincing quasi-messianic leader of the terrorist cell, and a solid Ellen Page as one of the group’s members, with a convicted past and a personal vendetta on her agenda. There are several memorable moments in the film, including a piano solo that is used to great effect to convey emotion, and a 20-second silence during a moment of extreme confusion, which turns out to be the pivotal moment in the movie, the point of no return for Sarah in her mission into the monster’s belly.

The movie is entirely driven by the plot, so I do not want to give anything away, lest I spoil it for you. But I will say that after a well-paced buildup, which includes a few turns that had me saying “I didn’t see that coming,” there come a sequence of quick plot twists that result in an unexpected and satisfying conclusion to the story. It is a rather smart movie, which could only have been better if the lead actress, Marling, had better portrayed the internal tensions that her character was experiencing. The same deadpan expression that helps her in the first half of the movie works against her in the second half.

But it is worth your time. It will get you thinking about important things. And that’s what counts.
Summer sounds of Danish electronic soul
Quadron's sophomore album reaches out to mainstream audience

By Denis Bozic
Staff Writer
One afternoon during last fall, I came back from class exhausted and frustrated by the never-ending amount of studying and homework waiting for me. I decided to relax and watch a movie that would require minimal mental attachment, which for some reason always helps to clear my mind. I remembered my friend telling me to watch some romantic movie from the 90s called Before Sunrise. I wasn’t very picky at that moment, so I found the movie, made some mood-elevating dinner and sat down for a session of good old leisure.

I turned off the movie after the first 40 minutes. The acting was amazing, the dialogues were phenomenal and the story was amazingly realistic, yet somehow surreal. In other words, the movie was too good and it required my full attention, but at that moment I needed a predictable storyline, a typical Hollywood overhyped production scoring below 30 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. So, I gave up and sadly never watched it again. When I learned that the movie had turned into an informally-acclaimed franchise, whose newest sequel, Before Midnight, was opening this summer, I realized that this was a perfect opportunity for me to redeem myself for my earlier lack of engagement.

The constantly-present moments of unpolished humor and sincere outbursts of love bring the movie even closer to our surrounding reality, in which all of these rehearsed dialogues and scenes have always existed.

I guess it goes without saying that you shouldn’t repeat my mistake and see this movie without watching it predecessors — Before Sunrise and Before Sunrise. If you decide to see only this part after all, here is the trilogy in a nutshell: Jesse (Ethan Hawke) meets Celine (Julie Delpy) on a train ride and they share their life stories in just one night because they think they will never see each other again. They eventually do end up together and even have kids, but there is a huge time gap between their first and second encounter, during which Jesse marries another woman and starts a family. Before Midnight takes place in Greece, where Jesse and Celine are on a vacation with their two little girls. Celine is having issues with the choice of her new career and Jesse is struggling to live away from Hank, the teenager son from his previous marriage, who is living in the U.S.

I don’t want to accept — that love and relationships often give rise to compromises, that love and love can be eternal, but that it doesn’t necessarily have to appear naturally tiring; you might never want to see it again or you might incessantly obsess over it. It brings out the truth that most of us don’t want to accept — that love and relationships often give rise to compromises, which don’t always protect what’s in our best interest. The static, unembellished dialogues and scenes of laughter, friendly conversations and unbelievably realistic characters amplify all of these ideas; they almost eerily follow you throughout the entire experience and break the illusion of a direct — fictional movie. The constantly present moments of unpolished humor and sincere outbursts of love bring the movie even closer to our surrounding reality, in which all of these rehearsed dialogues and scenes have always existed. And, when the moments of heart-breaking reality are replaced by the serene scenes of laughter, friendly conversations and bright-spirited outlooks on life, the movie pulsatés with inspiration. Love, all of it. It seems like an escape to a place where fight seem irrelevant, and where any foolishness is simply another reason to feel the butterflies all over again.

The movie fails only towards the end of the second half, which for some reason always drastically contrast with the brilliantly developed and believable traits of their characters in earlier parts of the movie; their behaviors seem unnecessarily exaggerated. But, that’s a somewhat unconscious fault that comes from the script, not from Hawke and Delpy, who have undoubtedly shown commendable acting skills.

Regardless of what your movie genre preference is, Before Midnight is a movie to see. It is both entertaining and emotionally tiring, you might never want to see it again or you might incessantly obsess over every line in the movie, but you will surely remember it.

MOVIE REVIEW
A poigniant tale of unsettling compromises
The latest sequel of the Beforests frightens and inspires

By Denis Bozic
Staff Writer
This year ought to be a milestone for Robin Hannibal. Just earlier this year, he and Mike Milosh released a spectacularly sensational woman under the artistic moniker Rhye, which swept the critics and the fans off of their feet. Now, only a few months later, he reunites with Coco O, the duo, which Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Celine (Julie Delpy) in Before Midnight. stars in the trilogy in a nutshell: Jesse (Ethan Hawke) meets Celine (Julie Delpy) on a train ride and they share their life stories in just one night because they think they will never see each other again; they even-possibly tiring; you might never want to see it again or you might incessantly obsess over every line in the movie, but you will surely remember it.

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Sudoku
Solution, page 14

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.

Techdoku
Solution, page 14

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Sumodoku
Solution, page 14

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.
Fun Fun Fun

Friday, June 14, 2013

Fashion IQ by Fred Jackson III

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

1 Careless
2 Bryn Mawr graduate
3 Paradise
4 Gets rid of
5 Throng
6 Night fliers
7 Distribute sparingly, with “out”
8 Insolence
9 Jazz instruments
10 Paper processors
11 Auto option, for short
12 Barracks VIP
13 Cowboy nickname
14 Recipe phrase
15 Brown shade
16 One of the Honeymooners
17 Essence of a knock-knock joke
18 Tough tests
19 Office machine giant
20 Dapper one
21 One of the Honeymooners
22 Geological layers
23 Like some letters
24 Disproving sounds
25 “Fancy _!”
26 Cain, first of all
27 Put on the canvas
28 Painter Cézanne
29 Move emotionally
30 Beef cut
31 Debt acknowledgment
32 __-in (sure victor)
33 School support grp.
34 Kids’ game
35 Italian designer
36 Tusked critter
37 Rural cable channel
38 “__ how!”
39 Snazzy threads
40 Ferret’s foot
41 Best-case
42 Wine and dine
43 Rent alternative
44 Tribulation
45 Say further
46 Night fliers
47 “Amen!”
48 Commands respect
49 Say further
50 Nondiscernible
51 Musically discordant
52 Unperturbed
53 Opinion pieces
54 Out for a bit
55 Culturally pretentious
56 Expensive spreads
57 “Get outa here!”
58 Traffic noise
59 Feature of spring fashions
60 Platé de foie __
61 Great weight
62 Turkey topper, traditionally
63 Draught choice
64 Walgreens rival

DOWN

1 Eagerly accepts
2 _-in (sure victor)
3 School support grp.
4 Cartoonist Adams
5 Throng
6 Virtual greetings
7 Distribute sparingly, with “out”
8 Insolence
9 Jazz instruments
10 Paper processors
11 Auto option, for short
12 Barracks VIP
13 Cowboy nickname
14 Recipe phrase
15 Brown shade
16 One of the Honeymooners
17 Essence of a knock-knock joke
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62 Turkey topper, traditionally
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64 Walgreens rival
Student advisory groups

A MacVicar Faculty Fellow since 2006, Freeman has had extensive experience with undergraduate education at MIT. He has previously served as the Course 6 undergraduate advisor and chaired the Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP), which has now grown to be one of several similar groups.

"His contributions to the educational mission of EECS have been substantial," wrote search committee member Collin M. Stultz, Associate Professor of Health Sciences and Technology, in an email to The Tech. "He cares deeply about undergraduate education, and I am confident that he will make long-lasting and significant contributions to the overall mission of MIT!"

Having taught 6.01, Freeman is optimistic about making MITx beneficial to on-campus education.

"He really impressed us with his ideas about the challenges and opportunities we face in undergraduate education," wrote Stephen C. Graves, Professor of Management Science, also on the search committee.

"He has a truly wonderful interpersonal style that will work effectively with all of the constituencies of the DUE office.

Student advisory groups

Over the years, Freeman has found that getting "continuous input from student advisory groups" has been "very effective in Course 6." As an example, he cited the Super UROP program, in which students commit to a full year of undergraduate education at MIT.

"Students should be able to contribute to the important decisions that we make," Freeman said. "Having taught 6.01 (Introduction to Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) for many years, Freeman is optimistic about making MITx beneficial to on-campus education. "We've used MITx-like technology in [6.01] from the beginning," he said. "That was always just a residential component."

Adapting the standard lecture teaching format to directly engage students is something that 6.01 has done for years, and Freeman believes the interactive component of education expands beyond technology to a community of residential students.

For example, this past academic year, Super UROP launched a seminar series that brought together all 7 participants. Rather than being isolated in labs across campus, they got to know each other. "They presented their stuff to each other, they had an automatic audience, they had automatic critics. It generated a sense of community that's enormously helpful!"

Friends plan to address future changes by simply beginning with talking to students and the faculty.

Freeman will also be spearheading the formation of a motion to assign a faculty advisor to every freshman. "The motion passed at the May faculty meeting, is meant to foster greater interaction between the faculty and undergraduates."

"I'm extremely interested in the first few years of the undergraduate education. They're the formative years, " said Freeman. "In the first year that someone comes here, that's when we have the biggest opportunity to make a favorable impression and to do something so that the president does.

And over all of this, there's a larger force driving the scramble to evaluate MIT's educational model: "The biggest challenge [in 6.01] now is anticipating how to keep ahead of the speed at which the world is changing," said Freeman. Anthony Yu contributed reporting.

Solution to Sudoku from page 10

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

Solution to Tachoku from page 12

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

Solution to Sumodoku from page 12

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

Solution to Crossword from page 11

C H A N N E L S
A l l y W o o d s
C h a n n e l s
B R A N D S
I n c l u d e:
S u m o d u k o
T a c h o k u
S o l v e t o t a l y
T h e n t h i s m a y b e t h e r i g h t o p t i o n f o r y o u:
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SMBC, from page 13

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Solution to Tachoku from page 12

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

Solution to Sumodoku from page 12

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

Solution to Crossword from page 11

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Solution to Sumodoku from page 12

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

Solution to Crossword from page 11

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Solution to Sumodoku from page 12

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

Solution to Crossword from page 11

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For a fleeting moment Wednesday afternoon, two rainbows emerged over Boston, pulling the landscape out of the dreary pallor that has characterized the past week. All over campus, work stopped as people noticed the view, and social media exploded with hastily snapped photos. Most of these were from street level or near to it, with buildings obscuring the view, and taken on cameras with sensors incapable of capturing the full dynamic range and spectrum of colors. I wanted to preserve the full view of the moment, and was fortunately able to grab both a wide-angle lens and an excellent view. I left the aperture wide open for this shot, preserving the hazy, almost dreamlike, character of the landscape. It’s wonderful to be reminded how beautiful this campus, and this city, can be.

Institute Double Take

**By Greg Steinbrecher**

**Aperture:** f/2.8  
**Exposure Time:** 1/125 sec.  
**Sensitivity:** ISO 200  
**Effective Focal Length:** 14 mm

**We are The Tech**

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New competition for Volleyball
MIT Men's Volleyball joining United Volleyball Conference

By Mindy Brauer
COLUMN STAFF

ROCHESTER, N. Y. — The MIT men’s volleyball team will join the United Volleyball Conference (UVC) starting in 2014. The Engineers, who have been an independent team for the past two seasons, will begin conference play immediately with the UVC.

“We are very excited to welcome MIT into the United Volleyball Conference,” said Commissioner Chuck Morris. “As an exceptional academic institution and strong volleyball program, this addition enhances an already outstanding men’s volleyball conference.”

“The UVC, a conference that consists of 11 NCAA Division III institutions, completed its third season as an officially sanctioned single-sport conference in 2013. The America Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) consistently ranked seven UVC teams throughout the season in top-15 poll and Nazareth College and Stevens Institute of Technology each competed in the NCAA tournament with the Golden Flyers finishing as the runner-up.”

“MIT is honored to be accepted as a member of the United Volleyball Conference,” said Barb Bolich, assistant athletic director/senior woman administrator. “We are privileged to be associated with this collection of highly reputable and successful NCAA Division III men’s volleyball programs.”

In 10 seasons, MIT has compiled a ledger of 245-95, which features nine straight 20-win seasons.

MIT added men’s volleyball as a varsity sport in 1986 and joined the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (EIVA) New England Division. Under his direction, the Engineers made seven straight EIVA Tournament appearances, including two trips to the semifinals, were crowned New England Division champions twice, and collected 93 individual honors.

“We are extremely excited and grateful for the opportunity to join arguably the premier Division III conference in the country,” said Dill. “We look to add even more strength and depth to the conference and believe that our inclusion will be mutually beneficial to all members.”

During Dill’s 10 seasons at the helm, MIT has compiled a ledger of 245-95, which features nine straight 20-win seasons. The Engineers have maintained a regular presence in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Division III Men’s Coaches Top 15 Poll, as they own a current streak of 37 consecutive weeks in the rankings. In addition, MIT has received five AVCA All-America selections and three Capital One Academic All-America awards.

The other 11 members of the UVC are Bard College, D’Youville College, Elmira College, Hilbert College, Nazareth, New York University, Pace State Behrend College, Stevens, SUNY New Paltz and Vassar College.