MIT's Ludwig Center receives $90 million for cancer research
Ludwig Cancer Research gifts $540 million to 6 centers

By Anne Cai

MIT's Ludwig Center for Molecular Oncology, housed within the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, has received a gift of $90 million from Ludwig Cancer Research to study metastasis, the spread of cancer from a primary tumor to other parts of the body. In FY2013, MIT received $58 million research funds from non-profits, according to the treasurer's report.

MIT is one of a group of six institutions that received a total of $540 million to fund cancer research on behalf of late American shipping magnate Daniel K. Ludwig. This gift comes in addition to $350 million his foundation has previously given to the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research.

"It is our hope that this new funding — which is long-term and flexible in nature — will coordinate and map small new ways to new discoveries," the philanthropic gift comes at a timely moment, said Weinberg, describing federal funding as "in freefall."

"We're in critical times for American biomedical research," said Weinberg. "Research funding in the federal level has decreased, and in certain cases, effectively collapsed."

"Having a permanent endowment means that we will be able to continue the work even in the worst of times," Sive said.

Ludwig, Page 12

Hazel Sive steps down as assoc. dean of science

By Anne Cai

Hazel L. Sive stepped down as the associate dean of the School of Science on Dec. 16, Sive, who has served in the position since its inception in 2007, has returned to her post as a professor of biology.

"Professor Sive has taken the lead in the School's efforts to increase diversity, and she has represented the School well in all Institute-wide educational activities, especially MIFIT," said Marc A. Kasten, who stepped into the associate dean role in December, as well as dean of the School of Science, in a statement. "I have greatly enjoyed working with her and I am deeply grateful for her partnership during my years as dean."

Sive, Page 14

Admissions say yes to 9 percent of early applicants

More apply early, but most must wait until March; application debuts 'Maker Portfolio' section

By Kath Xu

MIT admitted 612 students for the Class of 2018 under its early action program this year. This number represents a record low early acceptance rate of 9.9 percent, a decrease from the 9.9 percent admission rate last year.

Of the 6,020 applicants, 4,538 students were deferred, and 1,483 were rejected. The rest of those not admitted either withdrew before decisions were released or submitted incomplete applications.

Hundreds of applicants showcased projects done outside of school in a new optional section of the application, the "Maker Portfolio," according to Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86.

MIT's early action applicant pool has grown over the past few years: slightly over 6,000 students applied for an early action spot in the Class of 2016, 6,500 for the Class of 2017, and now almost 7,000 for the Class of 2018.

Unlike the early Ivy League institutions, MIT allows students to also submit early applications to other institutions with no penalty.

Harvard, Yale, and Princeton all saw slight increases in their single-choice early action acceptance rates this year — Harvard admitted 23.1 percent of its applicant pool, Yale, 15.5 percent, and Princeton, 18.5 percent.

Sive began her tenure as associate dean of science focusing on educational issues and initiatives, but went on to address issues of diversity and fairness, as well as develop the postdoctoral and junior faculty communities.

"My goals as associate dean were to address education, diversity, community outreach, and engagement, as well as to work with faculty, students, and staff to improve health, economies, security and the quality of life. I must continue to be optimistic in its vision of why we are here and what we can do."

Consistent with Sive's optimistic interest in the photo...
Al-Qaeda leader in Syria seeks to halt rebel infighting

BEBBID – The leader of the Nusra Front, an affiliate of al-Qaeda in Syria, on Tuesday proposed an initiative aimed at halting the worst infighting yet between the armed opponents of President Bashar Assad since the start of the conflict three years ago.

Deadly battles have raged in recent days across northern Syria between rebel forces and another al-Qaeda affiliate, known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, that also seeks to replace the Syrian government with a monolithic Sunni extremist government that rules both communities.

Angered by what they call ISIL’s tendency to take over resources, impose strict social codes and kidnap and kill opponents, rebel leaders have been seeking to drive out the group’s fighters from towns and villages where they are not wanted.

More than 270 people have been killed in four days of fighting as of Monday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition group based in Britain with a network of contacts in Syria. The dead include 46 civilians, 129 rebel fighters and 99 ISIL fighters. Both sides have also executed prisoners, the Observatory said.

--- Ben Hubbard and Anne Barnard, The New York Times

House Financial Services Chairman to seek change to Volcker Rule

When Zions Bank announced last month that it expected to take a big loss because of the Volcker Rule, it set off alarms all over Washington. Regulators scrambled to say they were continuing to monitor the rule, but that was evidently not enough for some legislators.

Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, who is expected to propose a bill that could open up a huge loophole in the rule. The proposed changes would allow banks to create and own new businesses, including many types of businesses that are barred under the Volcker Rule, which is intended to prohibit speculative trading by banks and neutralize bank market power.

The proposed legislation, notable for its brevity, provides that nothing in the Volcker Rule “shall be construed to require the divestiture of any collateralized-debt obligations backed by trust-preferred securities,” as defined before December 18, 2009.

The wording appears to indicate that new collateralized-debt obligations, or CDOs, that banks could hold and trade, as long as they contained at least one Trusts security issued before Dec. 18. The vast bulk of the assets in the collateralized-debt obligation could be bank securities.

Boston Globe hires journalist to focus on Roman Catholicism

The Boston Globe announced Tuesday that it would hire John L. Allen Jr., a journalist for the National Catholic Reporter, and start exploring a full-time publication dedicated to Roman Catholicism.

“There is a resurgence of global interest in the Catholic Church,” said Allen, who has reported on the Vatican from Rome, and started exploring a full-time publication dedicated to Roman Catholicism.

---By Dan Bierly and Selinben Arzu

Another worryingly low inflation rate for the eurozone

PARIS — Consumer prices in the eurozone barely increased last month, raising fears of deflation and putting pressures on the European Central Bank to take further action.

Inflation in the 17 European Union member states that use the euro in 2013 rose in December at an annual rate of only 0.8 percent, Eurostat, the EU statistical agency, reported Tuesday in its first estimate that will be subject to revision in the weeks ahead. The December figure, which did not include Latvia since it adopted the euro in Jan. 1, was slightly lower than the 0.9 percent annual inflation rate for November.

The European Central Bank seeks to keep price growth steady at about 2 percent. The situation now, in which the rate of inflation is falling, is known as deflation. If the situation continues in this direction, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said in December, the ECB could be forced to take additional measures to stimulate the economy.

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Obama lost faith in Afghan strategy, Gates' memoir asserts

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's losses in the troop increase he ordered in Afghanistan in 2009 were a "disaster," but he did not take them "seriously" or act to protect the oil fields in the country from Sudanese forces, a memoir by his former defense secretary, Robert M. Gates, asserts.

In a new memoir, "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War," Gates, the retired five-star general who served as president for two years under Obama, praises the "rigorous thinker" who was his former defense secretary, as he criticizes the president as a "lax and furtive" leader who frequently made decisions "opposite" to the advice he was getting out.

"I have no idea what the president doesn't trust his competitors, can't stand Karzai, believes in his own strategy and doesn't consider the war to be his," Gates writes. "As far as I was concerned, we were getting out.

"Memories of a Secretary of War" is the first book describing years inside the White House and it offers a sea of detailed history of his personal and professional interactions with high-ranking officials, including Congressmen and a top government lawyer.

"It showed that Sudan is on one side against the other," said a statement from the Sudanese government, "a coup against him, an altercation that is very serious.

The foreign minister's announcement comes amid a long history of war and animosity between Sudan and South Sudan about creating a mixed force to protect the oil fields in the South. The Sudanese government has accused the Sudanese president, Salva Kiir, of using American troops not loyal to him to attack Southern Sudan and lead a rebellion against Kiir.

The ministry's statement Tuesday reiterated another one of the announcements he made back during the Bush administration to send South Sudan to "help run the oil fields, at the request of the South Sudanese government and under its administration."

In South Sudan, Sudanese and South Sudanese officials are in consultations about the deployment of a mixed force to protect the oil fields in the South. The foreign minister's announcement was a surprise given the de- cades of war and animosity between the people of what is now South Sudan and the Sudanese government. Sudanese officials began at the highest degree to which both nations rely on these economies on.

But the suggestion of sending Sudanese troops to help South Sudan while it is descending into civil war poses a host of challenges. "It showed that Sudan is on one side against the other," said a statement from the Sudanese government. "A coup against him, an altercation that is very serious.

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In South Sudan, Sudanese and South Sudanese officials are in consultations about the deployment of a mixed force to protect the oil fields in the South."
Set phases to stun — technology like Star Trek’s phasers lies under the radar and behind red tape, but it has the potential to solve a problem that has affected America for decades: gun violence. Unproductive discussions to gun violence discussed in mainstream politics have only brought limited effectiveness and intense partisan gridlock. Fortunately, other solutions have remained unexplored, and they are politically feasible.

While the focus thus far has largely been on limiting guns themselves with more screening and red tape, banning certain makers, etc., a critical element has been ignored — the bullets themselves. A pro-market approach to enabling bullets that are less lethal but that have more stopping power can reduce gun violence while pleasing gun owners, safety advocates, and even the NRA to some extent.

It’s worse to think we’ve made progress when we haven’t than it is to do nothing at all. Assault rifles only account for 2.8 percent of gun deaths, how much can a ban of new guns achieve? Will opposing factions ever stop fighting and disable new restrictions? Can we ever reach an hour of hallowed code rates of other first world countries in which a nation gains ourgun population? How can we ever expect peace when federal restrictions ever stop fighting and disable new restrictions? Can we ever reach an hour of hallowed code rates of other first world countries in which a nation gains ourgun population? How can we ever expect peace when federal restrictions?

The outlook may look bleak, but not if we reform our methods. While we have a 200-year supply of guns in this country, we have a 2-year supply of bullets. Here, it is important to recognize the difference between lethality and stopping power: stopping power is neurological while lethality is physical. Set phasers to stun — technology like bullet technology is the easiest way to reach a goal, but the silence of deadly consequences has been deafening.

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FunFunFunFunFun

Wednesday, January 8, 2014

Genie-ology by Sally R. Stein
Solution, page 13

ACROSS
1. Junk email
5. Top poker cards
9. Billiards bounce
14. Roll of cellophane
15. Spicy Asian cuisine
16. Really like
17. Neck of the woods
18. Diplomacy
19. Gotten up
20. Cordial statement
23. Winter driving hazard
24. __ Angeles
25. Caravan beasts
29. Pack on pounds
31. Crunchy sandwich, for short
34. Antitheft device
35. Crease
36. Theater production
37. Tanning-parlor device
38. __ for (verify)
44. Mom's sister
45. Provides food for
46. List-shortening abbr.
47. __ Baba
48. Annoys
57. Up in arms
58. Vietnam neighbor
59. "Yikes!"
60. Duel ones
61. Silent performer
62. Christmas season
63. Principle of faith
64. Head the cast
65. Stare in wonder

DOWN
1. Wild guess
2. Remove, as a rind
3. Chimps and gorillas
4. Vegetarian's no-no
5. Houses' storage areas
6. Pursue
7. Per person
8. Locate
9. Egg box
10. Mexican farewell
11. Optimistic
12. Triple-decker cookie
13. Diner's list
21. Mrs. Flintstone
22. Lose traction
25. Bring about
26. Director Woody
27. Defeated in chess
28. Makes a mistake
29. Leave the house
30. "__ far in love...
31. Hold responsible
32. Less plausible, as an excuse
33. Mistakes in print
34. Huckleberry of fiction
36. Essence of a novel
38. __ for (verify)
39. Conductor's workplace
44. Give testimony
45. Not as remote
46. Lather of cosmetics
47. Fragrance
48. Very funny one

by Jorge Cham

Piled Higher and Deeper
The problem with Haskell is that it’s a language built on lazy evaluation and no one’s actually called for it.
**A Challenge**

Solution, page 13

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–8. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

**Sudoku**

Solution, page 13

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 13

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.
**MOVIE REVIEW**

**Ear candy**

By Chennah Heroor

**Inside Llewyn Davis** focuses on the life of a young folk singer in Greenwich Village during 1961. But the titular Llewyn Davis (Oscar Isaac) is extremely unlikeable. He is a homeless travelling musician, dependent on his successful friends who allow him to sleep on their couches. Yet he believes it is his right tolecture them on selling out. At times he’s so cruel that I couldn’t help feeling repulsed by his narcissism and needlessness.

The film does tease at his comically tragic life that caused his attitude. For example, he signs away his royalties on a song likely to become a hit to get money to pay for marine union dues, only to find out that he needs more money for a pilot’s license. Repeat misfortunes ad infinitum.

But the thing that truly redeems him is his music. His beautiful voice and the mournful tunes paint a picture of a man whose been shaken up by the times. He’s so talented and persistent that I began to believe he deserved my sympathy because he’s a genius who truly deserves recognition he is unlikely to ever earn. Throughout the film, the songs are the only touches of elegance in Davis’ life. Without audio, the music has this sense of grittyness about it that makes me wistful for a time I never knew (and probably never existed).

In essence, **Inside Llewyn Davis** is story with more style than substance. The film’s dark, monochromatic colors underline the grimness of the time. Whenever the music stops, all the characters are forced back into their difficult, mundane lives, without the embellishment of their songs. Some characters regress to shrill stereotypes, while others simply seem like punch lines for the Coen Brothers to reinforce their themes about the randomness of life.

There isn’t much of a plot, just a test of how awful a man can be and still be sympathetic. Luckily Llewyn Davis is fully dimensional. Thanks to Oscar Isaac’s expressiveness and amazing voice, the film succeeds at holding our attention. **Inside Llewyn Davis** is a good, but not great movie. It’s one with a lesson, but not devoid of hope or hilarious comic irony. It’s the kind of pensive movie that you really need to watch intently to enjoy, as distractions will keep you from feeling the subtle emotions throughout the movie. But if you can master the energy to watch the entire movie, at least make sure you listen to the hauntingly beautiful soundtrack (especially “Fare Thee Well”).

By Kristen Sunter

**Walking With Dinosaurs** draws on what is currently known in paleontology to tell a coming-of-age story about a young Pachycephalosaurus named Patchi (Justin Long), who tries to win over his crush, Juniper (Tiya Sircar), while being bullied by his brother, Scowler (Skyler Stone). The directors, Barry Austin, who is best known as an effects animator with Disney, and Neil Nightingale, who was the executive producer of several nature documentaries, teamed up to create a fictional extension of the acclaimed BBC ministries of the same title. The 3D computer animated dinosaurs stand a beautiful live background filmed in Alaska and New Zealand while they face predators, fires and teenage drama.

“For the first time in movie history, audiences will truly see and feel what it was like when dinosaurs ruled the Earth,” claims the website for the film, so audiences are bound to compare the technical aspects of this film to what was cutting edge in *Jurassic Park*. While special effects in *Jurassic Park* clocked any less than perfect CGI, *Walking With Dinosaurs* shows us everything they could — and couldn’t — do. The movements and musculature of the dinosaurs are superbly animated, so some of the uncanny aspects can be forgiven, such as how the dinosaurs don’t squash the soil where they step, making them seem weightless. However, some of the humor betrays the otherwise painstaking realism with gags that are not physically possible: it’s hard to explain how the saplings get threaded through the hole in Patchi’s bony skull as he tries to bend it to the ground and it springs back on him. Less realistic animation can rely on exaggerated slapstick humor, but here it only breaks our suspension of disbelief.

The dinosaurs interact with each other, but their mouths do not move, which precludes the dignity of the animation style and also probably avoids landing the characters in the uncanny valley. Instead, the voice actors say what the animals are communicating in some other way, much like other animal films like *Milo and Otis*. The body language of the dinosaurs is well-animated, but the voice actors are so talented that they could have almost done the story as a radio program, especially John Leguizamo as Alex, the Alamosaurus (an ancestor of modern birds). Leguizamo absolutely nails an extended cutaway about the Gorgosaurus. There are also cutaways to introduce the other dinosaurs that are educational without being intruding, and anyone who loved learning about dinosaurs in elementary school will enjoy them. But the quality of acting and animation makes the lack of heart in the story and dialogue all the more obvious.

It’s almost unbelievable how emotionally flat *Walking With Dinosaurs* is in contrast to another movie that comes to mind when tracing the history of this final film, *Land Before Time*. The story is never give up, but it springs back on him. Perhaps the filmmakers gave the dinosaurs only the emotional range appropriate for species with brains of their size. It might have been more successful to show a friendless, neglected corpse of their father being pecked over by scavengers, but they could have done something to convey the loss to us, perhaps letting a shadow fall across Patchi and Scowler as they come out of hibernation. The film certainly doesn’t shy away from gross-out gags with feaces and vomit, but it shies from death even while showing predators hunting and killing. Perhaps showing death but otherwise avoiding the subject was meant to create an ambiance of danger for what is otherwise a “boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy wins girl” plot. The overarching message of the story is never give up, but, if you must die, die for a reason, but the film never makes an emotional connection that can truly deliver that message.

By Kristin Sunter
MOVIE REVIEW
An adventure worth watching
Part two of The Hobbit in theaters now

By Karleigh Moore

Tolkien fans have been eagerly await- ing the release part two of The Hobbit, and that day has finally come. The Desolation of Smaug was as exciting, funny, and adventurous as to be expected from a Tolkien uni- verse brought to life by Peter Jackson. The main cast from the first movie returns so this movie is as full of great actors as before. Of course the scenery is breathtaking, featuring incredible spans of mountains and forests — just as magical as Tolkien describes in his series.

For those of you who are Legolas fans, you will be pleased to know that Orlando Bloom does get quite a bit of screen time. He leads some pretty epic and strangely his- torical battle and fight sequences. We get to see a bit of the forest elves and we learn even more about the dwarves. The film includes references to The Lord of the Rings future story and we get to watch as Middle Earth approaches terrifying times with the rise of Sauron’s armies. The movie is packed with personality from the dwarves in the com- pany and their humorous interactions.

While there were many amusing scenes, the movie was definitely suspenseful and action-packed. Bilbo and the dwarves are separated from Gandalf and must continue the journey alone. They quickly discover that overcoming the obstacles in their path is not so easy without the wizard. The company is in a rush to make it to the Misty Mountains before Durin’s Day so that they can find the Secret Door and reclaim their home. But finding the door is only their first problem, because what awaits them in the Mountain is the terrifying dragon Smaug. Benedict Cumberbatch makes a convincing Smaug, adding an eerie hiss to the dragon’s boom- ing voice. As usual, all of the monsters are incredibly creepy and grotesque, ensuring that the protagonists will have their work cut out for them.

Will the dwarves and Bilbo escape the Mountains unscorched and intact? Start your year on an enjoyable note — get to the theaters as soon as possible to find out!

MOVIE REVIEW
A spoonful of saccharine

PL Travers would not have approved of this film either

By Kristen Sunter

It should come as no surprise that a movie with the Walt Disney Company im- primatur shows their founder as a kindly fellow, who insists that he only wants to see a bit of the forest elves and we learn even more about the dwarves. The film includes references to The Lord of the Rings future story and we get to watch as Middle Earth approaches terrifying times with the rise of Sauron’s armies. The movie is packed with personality from the dwarves in the com- pany and their humorous interactions.

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While there were many amusing scenes, the movie was definitely suspenseful and action-packed. Bilbo and the dwarves are separated from Gandalf and must continue the journey alone. They quickly discover that overcoming the obstacles in their path is not so easy without the wizard. The company is in a rush to make it to the Misty Mountains before Durin’s Day so that they can find the Secret Door and reclaim their home. But finding the door is only their first problem, because what awaits them in the Mountain is the terrifying dragon Smaug. Benedict Cumberbatch makes a convincing Smaug, adding an eerie hiss to the dragon’s boom- ing voice. As usual, all of the monsters are incredibly creepy and grotesque, ensuring that the protagonists will have their work cut out for them.

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By Kristen Sunter

It should come as no surprise that a movie with the Walt Disney Company im- primatur shows their founder as a kindly fellow, who insists that he only wants to see a bit of the forest elves and we learn even more about the dwarves. The film includes references to The Lord of the Rings future story and we get to watch as Middle Earth approaches terrifying times with the rise of Sauron’s armies. The movie is packed with personality from the dwarves in the com- pany and their humorous interactions.

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Science fiction war memoir in a surveillance state

It's more frightening when you don't even know if it's Big Brother watching you.

Science fiction war memoir in a surveillance state

BOOK REVIEW

Haldeman on his newest book

INTERVIEW

For Hire

little more sensitive than that.

with business, but most actual people are a

ahead and kill when they have to and go on

guys are not that hard. Fictional people go

hard to do that for a living, and even tough

culture that they're supposedly defending.

are fighting in the desert now are much more

of people you know?

only a backdrop. How did this story draw on

oir, even though the war or the PTSD are

Done for Hire

The horror story Jack writes fol-

By Kristen Sunter

By Joe Haldeman

Joe Haldeman's latest book Work Done For Hire is a riveting near future science fiction story of the dangers of living in a surveillance state. Former sniper Jack Daley was drafted to fight in the continuing war abroad and has been coping with the trauma for nine years since returning home wounded. He has found some solace from his memo-

ries in writing, but no commercial success, and so he readily agrees to

write the novelization of a horror movie that's as in the works. It may be

just work done for hire, but Holly-

wood's money will spend.

the horror story Jack writes fol-

lows a serial killer who hunts people and lives off of their meat. The de-

scriptions of how he exorcistes his victims like deer are exceptionally
gory and detailed: do not read this book while eating. Hunter, as he is

known to the authorities, targets iso-

lated victims: a jogger along a mostly deserted path through the woods, a

woman who's repairing a flat on her bike in the middle of nowhere. These
citches play off of our fears of being alone, far from the protection of the

police, with no witnesses to

run for help or clues left about what happened.

Then one day Jake awakens to

find a sniper rifle on his doorstep and the first installment of a large

payment he will receive if he kills a

“bad man”. He refuses to become an

assassin, but the mysterious woman who calls to give him the orders also

threatens his girlfriend Ke. The En-

emy, as he calls them, seem to be

able to trace his position and even

see his gestures: Jack suspects they

have access to credit card records,

phone calls and security cameras,

but whether they are members of a
governmental organization or have

merely hijacked state technology re-

mains to be discovered.

There is a tension between the
isolation that horror movies reach us

to fear, and the danger when the sur-

veillance systems created to place

those fears are used against us. This

book shows us the end results of

situations having no privacy coupled with a less than transparent govern-

ment, where someone like Jack can-

not even be sure the Department of Homeland Security agents he

turns to are on his side. Jack seeks safety in the rural areas beyond the

reach of technology, precisely where his victims would not be able to

It's more frightening when you don't even know if it's Big Brother watching you. Science fiction war memoir in a surveillance state.

By Joe Haldeman

Joe Haldeman is a well-known science fiction author and adjunct professor in CMS/writing at MIT. He recently spoke with The Tech about his latest novel, Work Done For Hire.

The Tech: I'd be tempted to classify Work Done For Hire as at least partly a war mem-

oir, even though the war or the PTSD are only a backdrop. How did this story draw on

your experiences as a vet or the experiences of people you know?

Joe Haldeman: A lot was from people I'd met long after my own war. It seems to me that the people who fought in the Gulf and are fighting in the desert now are am much more susceptible to PTSD. I think it's partly the separation and partly the isolation from the culture that they're supposedly defending.

To me, PTSD is not an alteration. It's a normal reaction for a normal human being if he has to kill people. You have to be pretty hard to do that for a living, and even tough guys are not that hard. Fictional people go

hard to do that for a living, and even tough

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was the monster, where he's demonstrating

Is your writing process like that of

You have the horror story, where

The whole book was fun to write because

I'm not that methodical. What I had

in mind, insofar as I can put it back to-

together, was just a couple of scary situations with specific kinds of people. I didn't have

a market in mind. I didn't have a publisher in mind. I just started writing. Then I had to put it away for a couple of years while I worked on another book.

I've written dozens of books, most of them from situations, so this is a different

kind of a book for me because I didn't con-

sider it as science fiction. My original idea for the monster was that there was nothing

supernatural about him. He was just a big, mean guy in a very dangerous situation, but then I thought, I'm going to put an envelope and make him an unexplained

mystery.

It's interesting that you started writ-

ting the book and then you put it away, be-

cause the parts about state surveillance are

very topical. It seems to be a warning tale.

Well, I never think that way. You want to

make the things as scary as can be, and the

more likely it is, the scarier it is. Some satel-

lite of Neptune a couple hundred years from

now doesn't have immediacy, but this guy

in the woods could be there waiting for you

when that happened.

I wanted a protagonist who was not sci-

entific, and not even really rational when it comes right down to it, but a likeable

guy who's in a bad situation. I wanted his girlfriend to be a foil, so she's smarter than

he is and actually more level headed, too. I had fun playing with that because he's not a

good家伙, and the first installment of a large

payment he will receive if he kills a

“bad man” . He refuses to become an

assassin, but the mysterious woman who calls to give him the orders also

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ment, where someone like Jack can-

not even be sure the Department of Homeland Security agents he

turns to are on his side. Jack seeks safety in the rural areas beyond the

reach of technology, precisely where

his victims would not be able to

It's very close. In fact, I used some of

my notes from the trip in the novel. I was

keeping very precise notes, and I was go-

ing to write a horror novel about a guy who

was on this bicycle ride, but I decided not to

chain the novel to that to particular set of

circumstances.

What part of this book was the most fun to write? I hope you don't say the part

about skimming people, because that was the hardest to read.

No, that was the easiest to write. "That's really just research. I've never even

skinned an animal, unless you count bass.

With all the fun was full book was fun to write because it wasn't intellectually demanding the way a science fiction novel is. The most fun part was the monster, where he's demonstrating how inhuman he is, because he's the only

science fiction or fantastic thing in the book, and that is my territory.

What was the hardest to write?

I guess the last third or so of the book, where all of the loose ends have to be

brought together. It was a strange book for me because I wrote some of it in Europe, some in Japan, some here, and some down in Florida.

There's a contemplative aspect to writing a

novel. It's a long book, and so the idea is being able to go back to that mindset that

you had in Japan when you're on the other side of the world, with increased aware-

ness about PTSD. It's not just the

war, but also what happened af-

terwards when the soldiers came home that must be remembered.
RESTAURANT REVIEW

Southern comfort food
If only you can get to Inman Square

By Rex Lam

How many squares around MIT can you name? Kendall, Central, and Harvard probably come to mind. You may even be familiar with Tech Square. But one square that I only recently discovered is Inman Square. Located north of Central Square, the neighborhood is a bit of out the way but boasts a wide selection of culturally diverse restaurants. I decided to check it out and went to dine at Tupelo, which offers southern comfort food.

Tupelo was about half full when I got there late on a Thursday night. I immediately noticed that the restaurant was much smaller than I had expected and was primarily lit by the candles on each table. It is also one of those places where the waiters dress casual and where water is served in mason jars. One of the main reasons I chose Tupelo was because I had never been to a southern food restaurant in Boston, or — to be honest — anywhere else. Therefore, my approach was to try as many different dishes as possible.

For appetizers, I had cornbread, cheddar grits, and corndogs. The bread was sweet as expected, but also drier than the usual cornbread. Having never had grits before, I found them to taste similar to oatmeal. Overall, the cheddar grits were very heavy and salty. As it turned out, my favorite appetizer was the pork belly corndog. The crispy exterior complemented extremely well with the tender pork inside, which tasted deliciously fatty.

Another highlight of the meal was the Cajun gumbo, which consisted of Andouille sausage, pulled chicken, and fresh okra. Again, the dish was heavy and slightly salty, but the thick texture and the unique mix of spices made it a memorable experience. In addition to the gumbo, I had the beef brisket and fried chicken with mac and cheese. Unfortunately neither was particularly amazing. The beef brisket was flavorful but, the side dish of mashed potatoes was mediocre, and the mac and cheese was rich and creamy, but the fried chicken tasted overly standard.

For dessert, I very glad I made the decision to try the brown butter pecan pie with Belgian chocolate ice cream on top, as it definitely surpassed the appetizers and entrees in quality. The cold and soft ice cream perfectly complemented the warm, gooey, and chewy pie. Switching back and forth between the pie and the ice cream, I finished the dessert very satisfied.

In all, I enjoyed trying a variety of southern dishes at Tupelo, although the food was not extraordinary. Still, I recommend paying a visit. In particular, the atmosphere is great for casual dates. If southern food is not your priority, Inman Square also offers many other options in different cuisines — especially Brazilian and Portuguese. That said, the neighborhood is not directly accessible by the T, so I suggest either taking a car or walking there when it isn’t freezing outside.

MOVIE REVIEW

A Touch of Wuxia
A violent look inside provincial China

By Suhas Vijaykumar

In A Touch of Sin, director and cinematographer Jia Zhang-ke embracing the winter season in Boston, many ballroom goers might be unaware of another production that happened in the secluded Sanctuary Theatre, located at Harvard Square. While the José Mateo Ballet might be somewhat less familiar than the Boston Ballet Company, this ballet company has been putting up shows for decades. This winter, they returned with their 26th annual production of The Nutcracker, a small-scale and intimate show that delivers the best of the Christmas tradition.

Founded in 1986, the José Mateo Ballet Theatre is one of New England’s leading ballet schools, and its production of The Nutcracker is the only professional production in the area to hold open auditions for students outside of its own school. Many characters of the ballet are therefore performed by local dancers — some of the show’s professional performers started their careers as children in the productions of the José Mateo Ballet Theatre. For those accustomed to seeing large-scale shows with performers of exotic and versatile backgrounds, this production of The Nutcracker might sound like it lacks the same grandeur and wonder, but don’t be fooled — this production is still captivating.

With a stage just big enough to allow room to move for all of the dancers, this show brings out the essence of The Nutcracker: Christmas spirit and warm family atmosphere. This is thanks in part to the cleverly adjusted choreography, flow of the story, and the vivacious colors of the dancers’ costumes. The intimate setting of the show allows one additional feature to the audience — seeing all of the dancers’ facial expressions and gestures up close. Just when it seems that the young dancers couldn’t make the show more entertaining, their acting skills add another dimension to the story and turn this ballet into a funny and mesmerizing fairy tale. With the hilarious depiction of Mother Ginger and lovable portrait of Drosselmeyer, the audience is sure not to smile and enjoy the spirit of this production.

José Mateo Ballet Theatre’s production of The Nutcracker ended on Dec. 22, but be sure to catch the show in the upcoming seasons when the holiday spirit surrounds Boston again.
612 out of 6,820 early action applicants admitted

The number of early action applicants increased 4 percent from the previous year.


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We received hundreds of [Maker Portfolio] submissions, which is probably on par with other years, although we have no way of counting previous years’ submissions,” noted Schmill. “There were two benefits to this new process: First, we were able to provide a scaffold that helped students create the portfolios in ways that were meaningful for us to review. Second, the review process was streamlined, making it more efficient for us to review the many responses we received.”

In addition, Schmill pointed out that merely including the option of submitting a Maker Portfolio brought “making” to the attention of many people.

“Making is a great thing for students to do. It does not have to be part of a formal activity, and it can take many forms. ‘Making is a great thing for students to do. It does not have to be part of a formal activity, and it can take many forms.

MIT Ludwig Center gifted $90 million to study metastasis

$540 million total given to the six Ludwig Centers

Ludwig, from Page 1

We have no plans to increase the size of the freshman class, and, in fact, as our yield has increased, we have been steadily decreasing the number of students we have admitted,” said Schmill. “We are fortunate to have such a strong applicant pool overall, and the challenge is to be able to only select such a small number from that large group.”

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Champion of diversity and openness remembered

Scientific advocate welcomed minorities, saw OCW's rise and endowment's quadrupling

Charles Vest, from Page 1

expansion of knowledge, MIT's research and teaching capacity grew mightily during his tenure. Vest spearheaded expansions into fields including bioengineering, materials science, and environmental sciences (with the establishment of the Institute for Science in the Environment and the Research and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory); nanotechnology (with the creation of the Institute for Solid Nano-technology); and quantum information science (with the creation of the Quantum Information Center); and in the humanities and social sciences (among others).

Practically and professionally, Chuck Vest was an exceptional standard of intellectual clarity, moral courage, and gender—President Vest, MIT President L. Rafael Reis says. "Not only was he part of the vision and values than the creation of MIT OpenCourseWare — the simple, elegant, unprece-
dented idea that MIT should make all of its course materials available online to anyone in the world, free. "Thanks to Chuck's leadership, OCW has given access to 2 million global learners, the model for the global open education revolution, and the foundation and inspiration for other institutions to achieve with edX and MITX.

'I have always believed that contemporary gender discovery within universities is part reality and part perception, but I now understand that reality is by far the greater part of the balance.'—Charles M. Vest MIT'S 15TH PRESIDENT

In 1999, Vest changed a faculty committee with considering how to use the Internet in pursuit of MIT's mission. That committee, led by Professor Victor de Schuymer, and the University's revolutionary proposal the online publication of teaching materials for MIT courses, free and available to learners worldwide. By November the following year, the committee had completed the initial publication of virtually all the courses it had selected, far more than 1800 courses in 33 aca-
demic disciplines MIT's move would open up to learners worldwide, and by universities around the world to demonstrate that the Internet is an important tool for education.

"Chuck was a staunch supporter and champion of OpenCourseWare," says Tom Toolan, a MIT alumnus. "One day OCW would not have been possible without his singular vision, courage and leadership," says Yue, the Philip J. Solomon Professor of Mechanical Engineering at MIT. "When he became a full professor at MIT in 1977, he had earned a BS in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1963, a master's degree in civil engineering from MIT in 1965, and a PhD in aeronautics and cinematography from MIT in 1969.

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Hazel Sive steps down as associate dean of science

Worked on educational initiatives, postdoc community, mentoring of junior faculty

Sive organized a program that allowed junior faculty to learn about aspects of becoming part of the MIT faculty.

Sive also worked to improve the postdoctoral researcher community, co-chairing the faculty advisory committee to the Postdoctoral Association founded in 2011. “I’m very pleased that we implemented an annual review system for our postdocs, both in the School of Science and throughout the Institute,” said Sive. Every other group at MIT had a feedback system: “The undergraduates get grades, graduate students have thesis committees, and faculty have annual reviews. Postdocs had nothing.”

Instrumental in compiling the 2011 “Report on the Status of Women Faculty in the Schools of Science and Engineering” that shed light on a need to improve junior faculty mentoring, Sive found the junior faculty at MIT to be of “great interest.” In addition to overseeing faculty searches, she organized a program that allowed junior faculty to learn about teaching students, mentoring, writing recommendations, and other aspects of becoming part of the MIT faculty. Just as there is adjustment time for students, “it requires some time for a junior faculty member to come here and become part of the Institute,” she said.

Sive’s successor is yet to be determined, as the associate dean is appointed by the dean of the School of Science. Currently, the mathematics department’s Michael Sipser is serving as the interim dean, following the nomination of his predecessor Marc A. Kastner to lead the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science.
The broad landscape of potential knowledge tried to bridge these two opposing directions: developing both skills to be a continual digger, wisely where to delve next. I envisioned into the greater landscape and choose to delve deeply into a very specific question, but also able to see how their inquiry fits with my own. The same time“ sense.

As a scientist, I like to imagine myself as a meerkat. Not in the “I’ll eviscerate my enemies responding to climate change was the niche I wanted to fill for my thesis topic. Plus, reading about implanted memories and how ants can move as a fluid is always fun.

3. Read the news. Knowing the issues that are being thought about politically gives me a much better context for my work. For example, world news articles about political instability or refugees often mention food stability, which may not directly relate to my research question, but gives me a better idea of how my research about a potential food supply (fish) fits into the ‘real world’.

4. Do something totally different. I dance during the week, which lets my brain think about something entirely separate from my research. Forcing myself out of my little research hole and then going back into it often gives me the perspective I need to tackle something in a new way or to question the method I’m using. Hot showers, interestingly, work similarly.

I’m sure this list is incomplete and I look forward to developing my ability to see depth and breadth of my field over time. In the meantime, there is a lion coming that I need to pop back in my meerkat hole!

The Secret Lives of Researchers

I am a meerkat

Navigating the landscape of knowledge

By Emily Mobeg

As a scientist, I am the queen of my little research hole. As I carry out my duties as a digger, I make sure to keep my little hole open and my head above ground. I find it important to balance my meerkat skills, but I have found a few helpful training tips so far:

1. Think about the broader impacts of your research. Honestly acknowledging both why it’s novel and what areas it does not tackle has been a great way for me to get my head above air, plus, it is required by most funding agencies.

2. Read other journals during lunch time. My lab, libraries, and even the internet have lots of interesting papers that range from closely related to not at all related to my research. Skimming these during lunch is a great way to find out what others are doing. In fact, if he states, it’s the exact opposite. “Don’t let not knowing what you’re doing stop you. People who look like they have it together are still backing it. Don’t be afraid to fail.” What about the critics? Ignore them. Ohanian shared an early story of a harsh critic telling him reddit would never amount to anything, a statement which he promptly taped up on the wall next to his bed as a motivating reminder to wake up to every morning. “Haters gonna hate. Eat em’ for breakfast like waffles...de-licious waffles.”

Next, Ohanian brought in Grouper founder Tom Brown, a Course 8 MIT alumnus, to discuss his experience founding a startup in a Small Empires-like fireside chat. Brown reflected on his experience at MIT, telling students to reside in the unique environment: “At MIT you’re with like-minded people. Excitement breeds more excitement.” He also talked about the pan- mick moments as a startup founder trying to update the code of his site prototype in time for demos during a power outage in Silicon Valley and getting selected for Y Combinator. Brown left us with one re- sounding piece of advice: “Do not be afraid to take risks and fail.”

The event, filled with inspiring stories and hilarious moments, culminated in T-shirts being shot out of a T-shirt cannon before Ohanian met with MIT students at a book signing of Without Your Permission. In it, he shares his ideas, tips, and even his own doodles about harnessing the power of the web for good.

Without Your Permission

Alex Ohanian visits MIT

By Victoria Young

In the place of the usual formulas and diagrams, a small alien, chipmunk in a scarf, and pig with bread wings had appeared on the chalkboard. Yes, Alex Ohan- ion, the “start-up guy” of reddit, hipmunk, and breadpig fame had taken over E15-345 on a Saturday night during finals week at MIT to inspire the bears to embark on a mission of making the world suck less. Within a couple of years of graduating from the University of Virginia, Ohanian sold reddit for millions and has since gone on to start many other companies, such as hipmunk and breadpig, all while representing the seed accelerator Y Combinator and in- vesting in over sixty other tech startups. A lover and defender of the Internet, Ohanian is launching his book, Without Your Permis- sion, to evangelize entrepreneurs to use the Internet, which he describes as arguably “the most powerful and democratic tool for disseminating information in human his- tory” to make awesome things that change the world. (A photo of a broad shoulder on a flat landscape popped up on the slideshow.)

Ohanian candidly discussed the chal- lenges that entrepreneurs face in work- ing on a product, facing competitors, and pitching to investors, showing photos of the early days in his startup life, proclaiming “If you can build — you can solve problems.” At MIT, a school full of builders and inven- tors, solving problems is embedded deeply in our culture, and Ohanian was here to in- spire the bears to leverage the power of the Internet to “create new communities, technologies, businesses or charities.” More importantly, he continued to break down the notion that successful entrepreneurs are special or know exactly what they are doing. In fact, he states, it’s the exact op- posite. “Don’t let not knowing what you’re doing stop you. People who look like they have it together are still backing it. Don’t be afraid to fail.” What about the critics? Ignore them. Ohanian shared an early story of a harsh critic telling him reddit would never amount to anything, a statement which he promptly taped up on the wall next to his bed as a motivating reminder to wake up to every morning. “Haters gonna hate. Eat em’ for breakfast like waffles...de-licious waffles.”

Next, Ohanian brought in Grouper founder Tom Brown, a Course 8 MIT alumnus, to discuss his experience founding a startup in a Small Empires-like fireside chat. Brown reflected on his experience at MIT, telling students to reside in the unique environment: “At MIT you’re with like-minded people. Excitement breeds more excitement.” He also talked about the pan- mick moments as a startup founder trying to update the code of his site prototype in time for demos during a power outage in Silicon Valley and getting selected for Y Combinator. Brown left us with one re- sounding piece of advice: “Do not be afraid to take risks and fail.”

The event, filled with inspiring stories and hilarious moments, culminated in T-shirts being shot out of a T-shirt cannon before Ohanian met with MIT students at a book signing of Without Your Permission. In it, he shares his ideas, tips, and even his own doodles about harnessing the power of the web for good.
MIT curling team rocks RPI tournament

The MIT curling club team swept their way to victory in their second tournament of the season, hosted by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at the Schenectady, NY curling club on Dec. 7 and 8. The team, consisting of skip Phillip Nadeau G, vice Andrea Dubin G, and second Greg Dooley G, defeated Colgate University in the finals with a decisive 9-0 win, and gained 10 points towards qualifying for the National Championships in Blaine, MN in March 2014. MIT is currently undefeated this season, with an 8-0 overall win-loss record. The MIT curling club practices weekly at the Broomstones Curling Club and is always looking for new members.

—Phillip Nadeau

Women’s basketball falls
Wellesley defeated MIT 54-42 on Saturday

By Mindy Brauer daPer staff

Host Wellesley College capitalized on a 15-of-21 performance at the free throw line along with 26 points off turnovers as it defeated MIT , 54-42, in a NEWMAC women’s basketball game on Saturday. Sabrina M. Drammis ’16 led the Engineers (5-5, 2-3 NEWMAC) with a game-high 16 points and five assists. Durva N. Bhandare ’16 posted seven points and six rebounds while Rachel A. Hunt ’14 recorded eight boards and five blocks. Maya K. Ramachandran ’16 bolstered MIT’s efforts with eight rebounds and two blocks.

The Engineers jumped out to a 7-2 lead only to see the Blue go ahead, 10-7, after 5:45 elapsed. Baskets by Kendell and Drammis put MIT in front; however, after a pair of lead changes, Wellesley generated seven straight points to go up 18-13 with 4:20 left in the half. A layup by Michelle Battipaglia ’15 sparked a 10-3 run that was capped by a Drammis layup which gave the Engineers a 23-22 edge with 22 seconds on the clock. The Blue replied with a layup of its own to enter the intermission with the slim lead.

Wellesley carried the momentum into the second stanza as it mounted a 16-5 run to claim a 40-28 advantage at the 11:35 mark. Bhandare buried a three-pointer and then added a pair of free throws in fueling an eight-point spurt that brought MIT within four (40-36) with 7:04 remaining. The Blue responded with a 12-2 run during the next four minutes to establish its largest margin of the day at 14 (52-38). The Engineers quickly countered with baskets by Bhandare and Drammis but they could not overcome the 10-point deficit during the final two minutes of regulation.

Upcoming Home events
Wednesday, January 8
Men’s basketball vs. Clark University 7 p.m. Rockwell Cage

Saturday, January 11
Swimming and diving vs. Coast Guard Academy 2:30 p.m. Zesiger Center Pool

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