**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Olafl Eliasson to receive the 2014 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT**

Eliasson, the recipient of the 2014 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT, will be on campus to receive the award on March 12-14. The award, which recognizes innovative talents in any artistic discipline, includes a prize of $100,000 as well as a residency at MIT.

During his brief residency, Eliasson will focus his artistic efforts on environmental issues and sustainable energy. He will primarily lead conferences about sustainable development, community engagement, product engineering, and social entrepreneurship in developing economies. He will also share his experience with campus communities such as the MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI), the Sloan School of Management, MIT's D-Lab, the MIT Center for Civic Media, and the MIT Museum.

Eliasson is known for his large contributions to public art and architectural projects. He worked on the Weather Project, which resulted in the creation of an artificial indoor climate landscape. New York City commissioned him to help design the New York City Waterfalls, four man-made waterfalls located in New York Harbor that ran in 2008.

He has also played a large role in creating Little Sun, a high-quality, solar-powered LED lamp, which attempts to provide affordable and reliable light to people without access to electricity while reducing emissions from kerosene lamps. So far, the innovation has been used in communities in Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, Senegal, Ethiopia, and South Africa. Eliasson will speak about Little Sun at MIT on March 13.

**Reports of Breaking and Entering at Burton Conner**

Sergeant Cheryl Yossman of MIT Police sent out an email to the MIT undergraduate community last Thursday, concerning instances of theft at Burton Conner. Between Feb. 11 and Feb. 12, there were three reports of theft from residents’ rooms. All rooms were closed but unlocked. Items stolen include laptop computers, an iPad, perfume, checkbooks, and a brass rat. Four similar cases of theft were also reported at MacGregor and New House earlier in January.

MIT Police now recommends that students lock their doors and windows and document all electronics and valuables. They are also asking that students remain watchful and report any suspicious activity relating to the crimes to the MIT Police.

The MIT Police can be contacted at (617) 258-TIPS. Anonymous tips can be placed at (617) 253-1212. The Tech will continue to cover this story as it develops.
Behind debt-limit retreat, a GOP eye on retaking the Senate
WASHINGTON — Sean Atch McCollum and John Cornyn, two Republican leaders facing primary challenges, knew they would take an immediate political hit from the Republicans’ Tea Party wing by voting to clear the way for a debt-limit increase. They also knew that their willingness to cast that vote would enhance their party’s chances of gaining a majority in the Senate next year.

“It was not an easy exercise, but it keeps the focus on the issues,” Mr. McCollum, a Republican from Oregon, who argued that by putting the debt limit ﬁght behind it last week, his party had an opportunity to portray Republicans as “reckless.” “We dodged a bullet here.”

Democrats acknowledge that the Republican retreat on the debt limit increases questions about their posture and positions yet another factor in the mounting concerns over their own Senate prospects. Prospects are an issue on both sides of political attention to wound Republican candidates. The move by McConnell, of Kentucky, and Cornyn, of Texas, showed that at least some Republican leaders feared failure.

“They seem to want to be on their best behavior in an election year,” said Sen. Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Senate Democrat.

Republicans feared that an impasse over the debt limit would paved the way for a government default. McConnell and Cornyn chose to expose themselves to primary attacks to fend cans over their threat of a government default. McConnell and Cornyn claimed belonged to the region’s governor and was built illegally for defacing a fence surrounding a vacation house that he telephones interview. “This man has been put in a hopeless situ-

Mostly sunny during the day, with rain showers after the temperatures will rise to around 70°F (21°C). W winds around 10 mph.

The New York Times

Situation for noon Eastern time, Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Pakistan suspends Taliban peace talks over killings

By Nick Cumming-Bruce

GENEVA — A United Nations panel has served notice to Kim Jong Un, the North Korean leader, that he may be personally held liable in court for crimes against hu-

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Nobel winner’s frank advice to China’s leadership

By Jonathan Schleifer

WASHINGTON — When Iranian leaders describe their country as an “Islamic Republic,” they mean a system whose political and economic structures are inspired by the theories of the medieval fatwas of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country’s supreme leader. This month, the European Union’s foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, said that Iran might be “balking” because it will produce plutonium.

Little optimism as Iranian nuclear talks reconvene

By Steven Erlanger

VIENNA — Talks with Iran over a permanent agreement on its nuclear program began Tuesday in Vienna, but the signs of optimism that accompanied previous negotiations were absent.

In the modern era, poor nations have often found that the most effective strategy to jump-start their economy is to engage in niche low- value exports, tapping vast global demand. But the middle-income economies, which require a much more sophisticated economic policy, with nations gradually moving up the ladder of producing more complex industrial goods, and, im- portantly, responding to growing domestic demand for consumer goods.

Immigration reform unlikely before midterm elections

WASHINGTON — Immigration reform: It just gets harder from here.

While some of the primary proponents of reform cling to hopes of getting it done this year, others are far less optimistic.

Democrats of Russian fans gathered Monday outside the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, the latest science suggests.

Russians protest disallowed hockey goal at U.S. Embassy

MOSCOW — It was the biggest demonstration so far concerning the Sochi Olympics, and it had nothing to do with gay rights, environmental damage or corruption.

The current ozone standard — set under President George W. Bush in 2008 — allows up to 75 parts per billion. The new study, which was published in the journal Nature Climate Change, said that a new limit of 40 parts per billion would avoid up to 9,000 premature deaths a year in the United States and Japan limit global demand even more. China therefore faces unusually pressing reasons for buying power of its own consumers if it wants to make the leap to a truly prosperous nation. This is a fairly conventional Western view of the Chinese economy. But what was surprising is that it was a central theme of the non-nonsense 2011 review of the Kas-

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The measure's supporters had lobbied hard for the marriage services and protecting businesses, like photographers and hotels, that could be required to be involved with same-sex marriage ceremonies. But critics said the language of the measure was so broad it would lead to discrimination against gays in marriage.

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Rule of law at stake in Bitcoin wars  

Just because our government is in the wrong doesn’t mean that its critics are always right.

By Ravi Chan

On Nov. 4, four MIT students, including Jeremy L. Rubin ’16, won the “Innovation” award at the online NoDle Knockout programming competition for their project, Tidbit. Tidbit would enable websites to mine traffic by utilizing consumers’ computers to mine Bitcoin while they browse the site (presumably in lieu of advertising). Tidbit, however, may have received considerable attention for its potential to disrupt advertising markets. But, recognizing potential legal issues, our peers declined to make the code operative, although it is available for download on their website.

Tidbit’s caution and respect for the law was met with a New Jersey subpoena. On Dec. 4, Rubin was served with a mandate to provide source code and identifying information of every computer his code had mined to date. The subpoena interpreted that he might have violated the New Jersey version of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (the federal law under which Aaron Swartz was prosecuted). Fortunately for Rubin, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) agreed to represent him; and if the facts are as Rubin’s lawyer alleges, his prospects for jail time are slight.

Nonetheless, if the code did work and was used, why would anyone care that consumers’ computers would have been used to mine bitcoins? Suppose, contrary to fact and intention, the code was deployed and allowed websites to covertly use a reasonable amount of processing power from consumers’ computers. Would we consider it just? More likely, suppose that you visited a website that contemptuously gave you the choice to either mine bitcoins or watch an ad (or even directly remunerate the website). I cannot think of a reason for an informed consumer to object to this.

The Rubin subpoena is a manifestation of a broader series of disputes between the technologically innovative and our state apparatus. While the government’s case against Tidbit is absurd, many of the same criticisms apply to any technologists who rightly support Rubin also go too far in their other condemnations of the government’s attempts to regulate technology.

Consider the following examples. Our state is often captured by vested interests that oppose disruption. Many state governments have attempted to impose a sales tax on Amazon purchases, partly to protect their historically powerful printing and retail coalitions. Libertarians, disliking how government often squander taxes and incurred at state capture, rightly take exception.

But we have no sales taxes to fund the operation of our government so that it can provide services and fulfill other obligations. True, those advocating Amazon pay sales taxes are attempting to protect vested interests. But this would merely remove an unfair advantage — not paying taxes — not create an artificial disadvantage. Paying sales taxes is the fundamental obligation of being a citizen; the only reason Amazon customers might not pay sales taxes is an accident of federal law combined with a self-serving and anti-competitive desire to avoid paying taxes. And such a desire suggests a fundamental contempt for government.

Next, consider the money supply. Reasonable people can criticize excessive coordination of financial products and analogous over-enforced anti-money laundering statutes — that, among other things, protect the interstate fee that credit- and debit-card issuers make on every plastic transaction. They can also complain about excessive inflation. Bitcoin responds to these complaints by removing transaction fees (Bitcoin transactions are processed by miners), increasing anonymity, and pre-determining the money supply. But Bitcoin and its proponents may sometimes overlook the fact that money laundering regulations suggest that many technologists believe that they don’t understand that money laundering is a crime that facilitates actions like terrorism, embezzlement, and pre-determining the monetary supply.

An article last Friday about calls for MIT to take a stand in Tidbit’s legal battle implied that President L. Rafael Reif in his “petition” to President L. Rafael Reif. In fact, the authors are Abeles, Christian Zucman, and they call it an “open letter.” The author also mistated a Maria’s name.

CORRECTIONS

Correction: In the Feb. 12 issue, a photo caption for page 12 stated that friends of D. Cotnoir had arranged to have a “ redundancy” and “ It means…” deleted.

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Somewhere on the Search for Meaning... by Letitia Li

The problems with time travel...
Each of us were born due to a complex series of events... By going back in time, you may accidentally negate all of our existences!

25 years ago in an alternate timeline
That was clearly a sign we’re not meant for each other!

24 years ago...
Ask him out already! You’ll end up together!

And take this list of times and places to avoid!

I just want my best friend to be born.

---

Twin Techdokus
Solutions, page 12

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.

© 2014 Zaid Zayyad and Hesham Zaini
Sudoku Solution, page 12

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.

Saturday Stumper by Frank Longo
Solution, page 12

ACROSS
1 Not many people will get it
11 __ basilica (forearm drainer)
15 Prime
16 Outlook changer, perhaps
17 Scorch
18 Not clean
19 Cabinetry options
20 Nouvelle-Calédonie et al.
21 #5 on AFI's Greatest Female Stars list
22 Protective layer
24 Long-haired 57 Down
26 Like kites
30 “Breakfast never tasted this good!” sloganeer
31 Last name of Boy George
32 They may pop up in the morning
34 Sans sanguinity
35 Old chestnuts
36 Thought-provoking
37 Put down
38 Burgundy mate
39 Squat
40 Literally, “numbness”
41 Marks in Hawaiian

DOWN
1 Half minute?
2 “Sorry”
3 Not just dribble
4 Events with lots of runners
5 First National Bank of __
6 Name akin to Helen
7 One of a pair of tumblers
8 Quartet of a Beethoven octet
9 Notting Hill neighbor
10 About 624 gigaelectronvolts
11 First Song of the Year Grammy winner (1958)
12 Option for a wok
13 Option for a walk
14 “Blah blah blah”
15 Fools
16 With 39 Down, Viking destination
17 Sound marker
18 “There’s more, of course”
19 Sistine Chapel depictions
20 Building blocks of electronic circuits
21 Arcanum
22 Dental concern
23 Primeval data processor
24 “Blah blah blah”
25 Motor starter
26 “There’s more, of course”
27 Sistine Chapel depictions
28 Building blocks of electronic circuits
29 Arcanum
30 Dental concern
31 Primeval data processor
32 “Blah blah blah”
33 Motor starter
34 “Blah blah blah”
35 Old chestnuts
36 Thought-provoking
37 Put down
38 Burgundy mate
39 Squat
40 Literally, “numbness”
41 Marks in Hawaiian

43 Yellowish-buff color
45 Stir up
47 Make sure
48 Sampler selection
49 It may result in an election
51 Haunted setting of a Ulysses novel
56 Gala
56 Waiting for Godot descriptor
58 Not volatile
59 One of Wisconsin’s state symbols
60 Old __
61 “Done!”

Sudoku Solution

9 5 1 8

5 2 3 6

9 8 2 4

1 8 4 3

4 5 3 9

5 2 8 2 4 3

4 3 6 5

1 9 5 8

2 1 3

7

6 3 9

5

8 2 4

3

4

6 5
At MakeMIT, all tools and materials were provided, including 3D printers, Kinect sensors, microcontrollers, sensors and input mechanisms, motors and actuators, and more. Unlike HackMIT, MakeMIT was an overnight event, where materials are more limited, and teams were allocated only a limited amount of material to laser cut. Many teams opted to 3D print their prototypes into more complete designs. These hacks were judged based on three criteria — functionality (how successful they were that day), potential for success (how much further the project could be developed), and hack factor (reusability and creativity). Only the top ten teams from phase one were being invited back next weekend for the second round of MakeMIT, where they will further iterate on their prototypes.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014  THE TECH

MakeMIT hacks judged on functionality, creativity

Guitar-playing robot snags first place and $2000 in prize money, GoPro DataPac wins second

MakeMIT, from Page 1

best represented course at MakeMIT, where they will further iterate on their prototypes.

At the hackathon, all tools and materials were provided, including 3D printers, Kinect sensors, microcontrollers, sensors and input mechanisms, motors and actuators, and more. In order to level the playing field, no outside materials were allowed. “We spent a lot of time just thinking, what is the perfect amount of material? What materials do we get to allow teams to do everything they want to without costing too much? Having a team of ten people try to speak for 200 people is not very easy. It’s a huge risk.” The event organizers consulted with professors and makers to create a comprehensive list of materials, but some teams were unsatisfied. “I think next time they should get some input on what materials to stock,” said Adams. His team built a physical arcade-style version of the late mobile game Flappy Bird, featuring a 3D-printed bird avoiding pipes on a scrolling LED matrix. “They went in expecting individually addressable LED strips, but ended up having to hand-solder the array themselves. At a hackathon — where the time is the most valuable resource — this was a huge productivity sink for the team.

Another bottleneck came when teams were allocated only a limited amount of material to laser cut. Many teams opted to 3D print their larger parts instead, which “took ages and almost Do’d them,” said Adams, comparing the lines to a denial-of-service attack. Some projects had to be cut due to insufficient time for 3D printing and laser cutting near the end of the hackathon. In fact, time was even more valuable than usual for Saturday’s hackers. Typically, hackathons range from 24 to 48 hours in length, but MakeMIT was instead broken up into two one-day phases, due to the extra week giving the team “time to refine [their] design more and time to order materials.”

At the end of Saturday’s event, teams presented a diverse range of projects, ranging from Wakey Wakey, a silent alarm clock, to ShotBot, a robotic bartender. Other projects included a relay batman that tracks sprites times based on handset and a oscilloscope probe built on a budget of under $50. One team, which included one of the developers of Tidbit, created another Bitcoin-related hack, exposing a design flaw in the official Bitcoin wallet.

These hacks were judged based on three criteria — functionality (how successful they were that day), potential for success (how much further the project could be developed), and hack factor (reusability and creativity). Only the top ten teams from phase one were being invited back next weekend for the second round of MakeMIT, where they will further iterate on their prototypes.

Taking first place and $2000 in prize money was a guitar-playing robot capable of both strumming and fretting. In second place was GoPro DataPac, an attachment for GoPro cameras that records data about action sports, such as velocity, altitude, rotation, and acceleration. LexoGlove, an exoskeleton glove that teaches the deaf-blind how to perform American Sign Language fingerings, took third place in Saturday’s competition. Elizabeth Zhang ’16, one of the hackers who built LexoGlove, appreciated the fact that the hackathon was split over two days. “It’s not really the stamina for an overnight event. I like sunlight and fresh air.” Her teammate Julia C. Canning ’16 agreed, saying that the extra week gave the team “time to refine [their] design more and time to order materials.”

The teams advancing to phase two of MakeMIT now have an opportunity to request a bill of materials. “Obviously, now they have more of a sense of what materials they want,” said Wang, “so we’re going to get those for them so we can be prepared.” Additionally, teams will have access to a machine shop and mentorship, giving them a chance to develop their projects into more complete products. LexoGlove currently uses a servo-based underactuated mechanism to pull the wearer’s fingers in and out to show them the sign corresponding to a particular word. This approach was sufficient for a proof of concept, but servos can be bulky. Before next Saturday, Zhang, Canning, and their third teammate, Edwin H. Zhang ’16, will think through the next iteration to make it thinner and lighter, perhaps by switching to a linear motor.

“At this point, it’s a bit less competitive,” noted Doan. “Everyone’s kind of made it, and now it’s more of a we-want-to-make-this-week kind of thing.” And the same can also be said of MakeMIT itself — despite the current trend among hackathons to “grow big,” scaling is far more difficult for a hardware-based event, where materials are paramount.

Unlike HackMIT, MakeMIT wasn’t trying to reach hackers beyond the Boston area. Neverthe- less, 30 percent of participants were from outside MIT, showing a growing demand for hardware-based opportunities. “I definitely want MIT and other schools to do more hardware hackathons,” said Zhang. “I keep telling all my friends who do software, there’s no virtual without the physical.” Despite a few logistical hiccups, the feedback from sponsors and participants was positive. In the near future, MakeMIT may accept more teams, but the organizers don’t want to expand at the cost of quality. Instead, they believe MakeMIT can inspire other schools to organize hardware hackathons. “Our hope was that MIT can lead the charge on this thing and show that it is possible. Hopefully, across the country, we’ll start seeing more of it.”
MIT undergrads hack their way through sixteen hours of designing, coding, 3D printing, and more.

A student uses a MakerBot Replicator 2 to fabricate parts for her project. MakerBot, a company that specializes in desktop 3D printing and scanning, was one of several sponsors of the hackathon.

Hans V. Susilo '14 prepares to solder wire for his project.

A student discusses his design with a representative from MakerBot.

Ryan J. Fish '15 discusses how to mount a knife to a linear actuator in order to make a banana slicer.
REVIEW

Corsets and Curds

Stoddard’s Fine Food and Ale delivers a mostly excellent meal just down the street from the Common

By Daniel Kolodrubetz

Gastropubs are on-trend right now, and Stoddard’s Fine Food and Ale near Downtown Crossing has certainly embraced the spirit of that movement. With a menu that features comfort food, an extensive cocktail list, and (unsurprisingly) ale, this quirky restaurant is a solid choice if you are near the Common. The first thing you notice is the building itself, which is narrow (as are so many restaurants downtown) but which features two floors of bar space. Stoddard’s proudly embraces its history as the former home of a corset factory, decorating the walls with some samples straight out of the 19th century. The bar itself is lively and well-coming. You definitely get the feeling as you walk in that this is a restaurant that wants you to stick around, but anyone looking for a somewhat subdued dinner may want to turn around and walk right back out the door.

The menu at Stoddard’s has enough options to keep most people happy, though vegetarians will find their options sorely lacking. The appetizers list, which takes up a full half of the overall offerings, has perhaps the most interesting options. After deliberating for quite some time, I decided that the fondue would have to wait for another visit and instead chose the poutine. For a reasonable $10, our table got a giant plate of fries smothered in duck fat gravy (once again, apologies to vegetarians) and cheese curds. Now, I’m not Canadian, but if they have poutine this good readily available, I don’t understand how they aren’t all several tons overweight. After the strong start to the meal, I was ready to be impressed by the entrees.

Vegetarians will find the options on Stoddard’s menu sorely lacking.

The first main course that I sampled was the braised short rib, which unfortunately did not live up to the high expectations set by my choosy appetite. While the pommes anna that came on the side had a perfect crunch on the outside and tasted amazing (though it is pretty hard to mess up potatoes and butter), the short rib itself disappointingly, though cooked very well, the meat was too salty and couldn’t even be the star of its own dish. Fortunately, this was only the first set down of the night.

The final dish that I sampled was rabbit. But of course, such an interesting gastropub couldn’t simply serve rabbit as is. So they took rabbit meat, stuffed it with rabbit mouse and wrapped the whole sucker in bacon. This dish managed two feats that are extremely rare — it had a description that was impossible to pass over, while also living up to that description. The bacon had exactly the right amount of crunch and held together a combination of rabbit a mousse that was truly delectable. The various textures coupled extremely well with the different meat flavors to make a dish that truly impressed by the entrees.

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"Alien Citizen: An Earth Odyssey"

Written and Performed by Elizabeth Liang

"Alien Citizen: An Earth Odyssey" is a funny and poignant one-woman show about growing up as a dual citizen of mixed heritage in Central America, North Africa, the Middle East, and New England.

Friday - February 21, 2014
7PM
Location: 6-120

Who are you when you’re from everywhere and nowhere?

Free and open to the public.
refreshments at 6PM, performance at 7PM
EXHIBIT REVIEW

Forward/Play/Pause

The LIST’s new exhibit attempts to compare the science and art of color through abstract paintings

By Daniel Kolodrubetz

Sonia Almeida, a local artist originally hailing from Portugal, created the works displayed in the LIST Visual Arts Center to examine the contrast between how we experience color and our scientific understanding of the theories of color (though I’m not sure I would have figured that out without reading the wall text in the exhibit). This theme was expressed with varying complexity throughout the exhibit, as some of the paintings featured simple gradients while others used wide contrasts of hues and forms to speak to the interplay between art and science. While some of the compositions successfully questioned the separation between my understanding and experience of color, a few of the works missed this mark.

One of the highlights of my visit was the set of sketchbooks quietly displayed along one of the walls. More than any other work, these delved into how art and science speak to each other by giving a glimpse of the artist’s method. I could see some of the remnants of trial and error in her preliminary blueprints for pieces, reminding me of the scientific process. In particular, these sketchbooks gave insight into the various ways Almeida considered shape and color when constructing a painting, which helped reinforce the idea that there are contrasting ways to approach these concepts.

A couple of paintings did not deliver on that promise. Two of the centerpieces of the exhibition, “Dismantling Pi” and “Stacking Pi,” were particularly unsatisfying. By including references to the famous mathematical symbol in these works, it feels like Almeida is forcing science into the art rather than juxtaposing the two concepts naturally. These two works definitely felt more random and disjoint than the other pieces in the collection and simply took the focus away from the more effective pieces.

One of the successes was the largest painting in the hall, entitled “Red Signal” (pictured). While it invokes the idea of infinity with a Mobius-like band, the idea is subtle enough that it does not take away from my enjoyment of the overall work. Additionally, the subtle battle in the background of the piece between two primary colors serves the theme of the exhibit well while also providing a nice contrast with the stark shapes that dominate the foreground. While not a particularly large exhibit, occupying only a couple of rooms in the gallery, this selection features plenty of visually stimulating works. While all of the works are oil paintings on plywood, they exhibit a range of colors and styles. The only downside is that this range comes with a similar variety of success. Still, it is definitely worth walking across Ames to check out this addition to the LIST Collection before it is too late.
New legal resource for student creators
Reif confirms Institute support of Rubin after letter urges action

Tidbit, from Page 1

In a statement provided to The Boston Globe and The Tech, Chancellor Cindy Bacharach PhD ’98 said of the proposal, “We are excited about the potential for such a resource to serve our student innovators, but we are just starting to imagine how it will take shape to serve them best. Provost Marty Schmidt PhD ’88, General Counsel Gregory R. Morgan and I will begin developing these ideas immediately. It will be important to build this thoughtfully and get the structure right, and we are eager to move on this quickly.”

Abelson said in an interview with The Boston Globe that such a program would have to be “very carefully designed” to avoid conflicts of interest.

In both the letter and two interviews with The Tech, Abelson clarified his view that any action MIT takes should focus on the long-term preservation of innovation freedom. He described his perception of the MIT community’s reaction: “When you’re confronted by something like that, your first reaction is ‘Hey, they are students and are getting hounded.’” He maintained, however, that any official action on MIT’s part would have to be on the basis of protecting its long-term interests in innovation.

Hanni Fakhoury, Rubin’s pro bono legal representation with the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), said in an email to The Tech that they are encouraged by Reif’s message. “It’s a good first step and we’re optimistic they’ll follow through on their promises of offering support to the students. That will specifically look like something we’re thinking about right now.”

“We’ve been in touch with the MIT administration and will continue to communicate about how they can help the specific students affiliated with Tidbit, but also how they can help other students in the future who receive similar requests,” said Fakhoury.

While Abelson indicated that he had not been in contact with the members of the Tidbit team, Fakhoury said, “We’re grateful for all the hard work Hal has put in towards getting this on the MIT administration’s radar.” He noted that concern for both the students in this specific case and academic freedom in general were important to the response, adding, “[W]e’re focused on harnessing that concern into specific action.

Referring to the broader implications of the case, Fakhoury stated, “Given MIT’s rich history and its reputation as a place of innovation, it would seem that the university would have a significant interest in allowing its students and faculty to feel that they have the freedom to research and tinker without the fear of overhanded government action.”

Abelson shared a similar view, saying, “There is an MIT issue, and it’s way, way bigger than an MIT issue. It’s an issue about the Internet.”

He said that the overreach of local authorities has “been a threat to the growth of the Internet, because you’re subject to any jurisdiction,” but that the Internet community pushes back in such cases.

Abelson said the authors sent a draft of the letter to Reif, Barnhart, and Morgan last Thursday before soliciting signatures throughout the MIT community. Abelson said that as far as he knew, the top administration was not aware of the Tidbit subpoena before the letter.

MIT’s Student Information Processing Board (SIPB) late last week also emailed multiple MIT lists soliciting signatures for Abelson’s letter and providing a template for contacting Reif’s office regarding the matter.

While the instructions for signing the letter indicated that it would be sent to Reif on Monday, Abelson said, “I haven’t sent it yet. I think the plan is to send it to them [Tuesday].” Since Reif is out of town, Abelson expected Ethan Zuckerman to deliver it to Barnhart.

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Regulators and hackers put Bitcoin to the test

By Nathaniel Popper
The New York Times

Bitcoin is facing significant growing pains as it struggles to move beyond a stormy adolescence. After months of hype and hysteria that have driven up its price at a dizzying pace, Bitcoin recently encountered several hurdles that are likely to determine whether it makes it out of its early speculative phase to become a currency that people actually use, is supplanted by a rival or falls apart altogether.

The most fundamental threat was a bug in some basic software that determines how bitcoins are transferred.

These worries sent the price of Bitcoin swinging between a high of about $700 Feb. 10 and a low of $530 on Friday, with some expecting even bigger declines.

One threat was a bug in the software that determines how bitcoins are transferred.

That forced several of the largest Bitcoin exchanges to shut down for most of last week and raised fears that some of the largest companies to accept Bitcoin as payment, said it was nearing $1 million in purchases made with the currency.

Lawsky has been leading efforts to write regulations for virtual currencies, in part to improve confidence in the system. At an all-day event last Tuesday at the New America Foundation, a nonprofit public policy institute, Lawsky said he hoped to “put forward, during the course of 2014, a proposed regulatory framework for virtual currency firms operating in New York.”

The same day, Canada’s finance minister, Jim Flaherty, announced his plan to create national rules for what has been a largely lawless space.

**Everyday uses for Bitcoin are becoming more common.**

These efforts are more encouraging for Bitcoin’s future than Russia’s recent decision to declare virtual currencies illegal. But the Bitcoin Financial Association started a petition to Lawsky titled “Please Do Not Regulate Bitcoin,” which it argued that Bitcoin was too young and vulnerable to be able to survive significant regulations.

Regulators also indicated last week that they were moving ahead with new rules for virtual currencies, leading to some fears that burdensome laws could halt Bitcoin in its tracks.

Other supporters, however, have recently been proposing for closer cooperation with both regulators.

One of the most contentious efforts by some Bitcoin entrepreneurs is to try to tag the digital coins to make it possible to determine if a particular coin had been used for illegal activities.

Such a system would make banks more comfortable in handling Bitcoin transactions. But the effort has faced intense opposition from early Bitcoin adopters who were drawn to the virtual currency because it allowed them to avoid scrutiny from governments and banks.

This is only one of the disputes dividing the community of Bitcoin supporters. The winners will determine whether the virtual currency will simply be absorbed into the existing financial system or whether it will remain a new tool for everyday uses.

By Nathaniel Popper
The New York Times
Administration lifts ban on CPW events after 1 a.m. 

Events past 1 a.m. will be listed separately in the booklet and may require justification.

MIT ISN - Army Labs

Program Summary: MIT undergraduate students conduct scientific and engineering research at Army Science and Technology Centers under the direction of American scientists, from June to August. The Army host and the student determine the exact starting and finishing dates. Most areas of science and engineering are of interest. The Army Lab host determines the project content and subject matter. Projects can be basic or applied research, or both and do not need to be related to the ISN mission or to nanotechnology.

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For more information or to apply, please contact Marlisha McDaniels, via email: mmcd@mit.edu or at the ISN Headquarters, NE47-4F, 617-324-4739.

You can find out more about the ISN-ARMY Labs Summer Intern Research Program on our website: https://isn.mit.edu/internship/index.php

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EVENTS  FEB. 18 – FEB. 24

TUESDAY
(12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Family Week at the List: Color, with color wheel workshop in the Atrium 12 to 4 p.m. and family friendly tour at 2 p.m. — E16, Upper Atrium
(8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) LSC shows Non-Stop, free advance screening — 26-100

WEDNESDAY
(4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) A Genealogy of the Gift: Blood Donation and Altruism in an Age of Strangers, sponsored by HASTS and the SHAASS Dean’s Office — ES1-095
(4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Off the Record 1:1 with a Silicon Valley Tech Recruiter, free giveaways, sponsored by A9 and MIT GECD — 5-134

THURSDAY
(8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Choose to Reuse, drop-off begins at 8:00 a.m. and choosing starts at 11:00 a.m., sponsored by Working Green Committee and Department of Facilities — 32 first floor
(3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) Women in Energy, featuring panelists from Shell Oil Co. with snacks, refreshments, and speed networking at 4:00 p.m., RSVP by Feb. 19 — Media Lab 6th floor, Silverman Skyline Room

FRIDAY
(5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) Dumpling Feast contest, family friendly, sponsored by MIT Spouses & Partners and the MIT Postdoctoral Association — 66-201 (Walker Lounge)
(8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) Mediterranean Night, with food and music for $10, sponsored by Span@MIT — W20-208

SATURDAY
(1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) Multimedia Chain Reaction with the MIT Society of Women Engineers at the MIT Museum, free with museum admission — N51
(7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.) Romanian Dance Party, free for MIT affiliates, $2 for public, sponsored by the Romanian Students Association and GSC — Walker Memorial (Muddy Charles Pub)

SUNDAY
(3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.) Harpsichord Recital by Peter Sykes, sponsored by Music and Theater Arts — 14W-111 (Killian Hall)
(6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) Chinese Lantern Festival and Riddle Night, sponsored by ARCADE and the Chinese Student and Scholar Association — Ashdown-Hulsizer

MONDAY
(12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.) Lonely Ideas: Can Russia Compete?, public lecture featuring Loren Graham and his new book, with brown bag lunch — E70-1201a
(6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.) Tea with Nefertiti: or How the Arts Shape Culture, sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture — 3-133

Send your campus events to events@tech.mit.edu.

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Friday February 21st
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import new_skills

def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python

if you.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"
The tight play continued into the second stanza as three ties and a lead change occurred before the Engineers slowly mounted a 14-5 run which resulted in a 47-40 advantage at the 7:48 mark. A trio of free throws by Brooke Brennan ended Clark’s scoring drought, but MIT outscored the Cougars by a 7-2 margin to establish its largest margin of the day at 47-42. The Engineers’ turnover on a layup by Osheiza Otori ‘15. Ramachandran ‘16 gave the Cardinal and Gray a much-needed cushion. The Cougars responded with six straight points, including a pair of three-pointers, to get within two, at 49-47. The Engineers made a three-pointer of their own to re-establish a 15-10 margin on a three-pointer by Michelle Battipaglia ‘15 with 1:16 left.

The lead was erased six seconds later by Reilly eventually resulting in Condon going to the charity stripe where she knocked down both of her shots, putting Clark ahead, 58-57, with 2:29 seconds on the clock. The lead was erased six seconds later by Reilly eventually resulting in Condon going to the charity stripe where she knocked down both of her shots, putting Clark ahead, 58-57, with 2:29 seconds on the clock. The lead was erased six seconds later by Reilly eventually resulting in Condon going to the charity stripe where she knocked down both of her shots, putting Clark ahead, 58-57, with 2:29 seconds on the clock. The lead was erased six seconds later by Reilly eventually resulting in Condon going to the charity stripe where she knocked down both of her shots, putting Clark ahead, 58-57, with 2:29 seconds on the clock.

The Engineers’ comeback attempt began with a three-point play by Esther Cohen with 2:12 remaining, which was followed by another conventional three-point shot from Megan Grondin at 1:38. After an offensive foul by the Engineers, Grondin knocked in a layup with just under a minute left. A steal by Reilly eventually resulted in Condon going to the charity stripe where she knocked down both of her shots, putting Clark ahead, 58-57, with 2:29 seconds on the clock. The lead was erased six seconds later by Reilly eventually resulting in Condon going to the charity stripe where she knocked down both of her shots, putting Clark ahead, 58-57, with 2:29 seconds on the clock.

In the five-set thriller with Wentworth, Kenneth M. Siebert ‘14 led the way for MIT with 13 kills on a .321 hitting performance to go along with five digs. Alexander C. Klein recorded 11 kills and three blocks as Bradley L. Gross ’15 connected on six of his 12 attack attempts and added four blocks. Martin J. Krasuski ‘17 tallied 11 digs, nine kills, and two aces as Andrew A. Busse ‘15 racked up seven blocks. Brendan S. Chang ’17 collected a match-high 16 digs while Suyash P. Fulay ‘17 contributed eight digs. Evan P. Wong ‘14 rounded out the squad with 11 assists.

Seán D. Knoop ‘17 paced the Engineers with 11 kills and had two blocks versus CCNY. Gross came in next with nine kills and another .360 hitting performance as Krasuski compiled seven kills, three digs, and two blocks. Narindra N. Peaks ‘17 notched five kills and three blocks while Tyler B. Nolan ‘15 posted five kills, four digs, and two blocks. Busey bolstered the front row with three blocks as Fulay earned four digs and two aces. Wang finished with 11 assists, four aces, and three blocks while Chang had his third high-13 digs of the day.

MIT continues non-conference play on Thursday, Feb. 20 when it hosts No. 6 UC Santa Cruz.