

Coders forsake sleep at weekend hackathon

Victor Hung '14 and CMU's Vincent Siao win MIT's largest hackathon yet

By Leon Lin

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

It was 4 a.m., and amid the empty food wrappers and power cables, still hundreds in Johnson Ice Rink were awake, their bloodshot eyes glued to laptop screens.

INSIDE

For more photos of HackMIT, p.9

Among them was Stephanie Northway of Olin College, a small engineering school in Needham, Mass. She waved a pair of game controllers around in front of her, and two lines on her laptop wobbled hesitantly in response, the jittering eliciting a ripple of laughter that lit up her teammates' tired faces. It was a small triumph.

They were here over the weekend for

HackMIT, the third college hackathon in the U.S. in a month to attract more than 1,000 participants. The challenge: in 22 hours, code or wire up something — anything — that might be useful or fun.

Projects ranged from a browser extension that allowed users to highlight text in images online to a game, billed as "GTA VI," in which players can walk and drive on the streets of the real world, or at least the real world according to Google Maps.

The first prize of \$4,000 went to Vincent Siao from Carnegie Mellon and Victor Hung '14 from MIT, who created an application that allows users to draw three-dimensional pictures by tracing out paths in the air with their phones.

College hackathons have been draw-

HackMIT, Page 8



CONNIE LIU

Julian Ceipek and Matthew Wismer from Olin College work out some bugs in their code.

More freshmen vote in election

More candidates run for class council than in past years

By Alexandra Delmore

The Undergraduate Association announced the results of the 2017 Class Council elections in an email to the class on Friday night, after a week of voting. The freshman class elected Liana R. Ilutzi '17 as president, Sophia Liu '17 as vice president, Pragya Tooteja '17 as treasurer, Larkin V. Sayre '17 as secretary, Frederick O. Daso '17 and Nicole Lu '17 as publicity chairs, an Evan C. "Charlie" Andrews-Jubelt '17 and Mohamed H. Kane '17 as social chairs.

This year, each position had

at least one candidate running so that there were no write-in winners; a total of four candidates ran for class president, two candidates for vice president, two candidates for secretary, three teams of two for publicity chair, and the treasurer and social chair positions were uncontested. This is an increase in candidacy from last year when the secretary and publicity chair positions were only contested by write-in candidates.

More freshman turned out to vote this year. 45 percent of the 1,112 students in the Class of 2017 voted — a steady increase from

40.5 percent in 2016 and 33.5 percent in 2015. "Though I still wish the overall turnout rate was higher, I'm nonetheless very pleased with the upwards trend," said Chair of the UA Elections Commission Leonid Grinberg '14.

All new members of the class council reside on west campus; three live in Baker, and the rest are split evenly amongst MacGregor, McCormick, Next, Burton Conner, and Maseeh.

The residence with the highest voting percentage was McCormick

Elections, Page 14

NEWS BRIEFS

MIT is No. 1 in engineering, OCW is 10 years old

MIT ranking sees improvement

Times of Higher Education's World University Rankings ranked MIT first in Engineering and Technology, second in life and physical sciences, tied for second (with Oxford) for social sciences. The overall ranking is an improvement from last year, when MIT was ranked 7th. Caltech was ranked first overall for the third year in a row.

MIT's OpenCourseWare (OCW) celebrates 10 years of service

This year, OCW celebrates 10 years online. The site, which provides free access to MIT course materials, has been used by more than 137 million individuals since launching in October 2003, according to OCW's website. The site, which began with just 500 courses, now includes

materials from over two thousand courses.

OCW, however, celebrated its 10th anniversary in February 2011 — 10 years from when the program was originally announced.

SAPWeb and SAPweb Self Service Replaced by Atlas

SAPWeb, the website used to access MIT's financial and administrative system, is being replaced by Atlas, a "single online gateway for administrative systems at MIT," according to its web page.

Atlas will also provide information about current events on its homepage.

The site will be expanded over time to provide access to additional systems, according to the site.

—William Navarre

Obama misses out on talks to deal with crisis

Kerry takes over for Obama at conference

By Jane Perlez
and Joe Cochrane

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NUSA DUA, Indonesia — Secretary of State John Kerry sat in the chair reserved for President Barack Obama at the opening session of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting Monday, leaving China's leader, Xi Jinping, as the dominant leader at the gathering, devoted to achieving greater economic integration in the region.

Obama, who canceled his appearance at the meeting to try to resolve the government shutdown in Washington, had planned to use his personal persuasion to push forward negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade bloc that is led by the United States and that excludes China.

A statement by foreign and trade

ministers painted a fairly gloomy economic forecast for the 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group as the leaders met at an international conference center on the Indonesian island of Bali.

"Global growth is too weak, risks remain tilted to the downside, and the economic outlook suggests growth is likely to be slower and less balanced than desired," the ministers said.

To overcome the slow growth, it is imperative for the group to agree on a "comprehensive series of structural reforms so as to increase productivity, labor force participation and high-quality job creation," the statement said.

According to data from the group, its members account for about 40

China, Page 7

IN SHORT

Quarter 2 PE registration begins tomorrow, Oct. 9, at 8 a.m. To view the course schedule and register, visit mitpe.com.

The deadline for applying for externships through the MIT Student/Alumni Externship Program is tomorrow, Oct. 9 at noon. Apply at <https://alum.mit.edu/externship/2014/applicant>.

The Athena clusters have a new code. Type *tellme combo* into your `athena%` prompt for the new code.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

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LITTLE LIFE LESSONS

Connecting the dots between HASS and science. **CAMPUS LIFE**, p. 11

ADDICTING ADVENTURE GAME

... is what I'll suggest you play if you finish your psets early. **FUN**, p. 5



SKETCH YOUR LOOK: LAYERING

Sweaters and layering with warmth and style. **CAMPUS LIFE**, p. 11

I BLAME THE INTERNET

I have a procrastination problem, but it's really my browser's fault. **FUN**, p. 6

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Airbus loosens Boeing’s US grip on Japan’s market

By Eric Pfanner and Nicola Clark
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO — In selling planes to airlines, Boeing has long counted on the United States as its local market. Its big rival, Airbus, holds the home-field advantage in Europe. And the two compete head to head virtually everywhere else. Except for Japan. It is Asia’s second-biggest airline market, and for reasons tracing to World War II had been all but a captive buyer of U.S. airplanes.

On Monday, that changed. As beaming European diplomats looked on here, Airbus announced a \$9.5 billion order from Japan Airlines, finally breaking through Boeing’s market fortress. For JAL, as the airline is known, the contract is partly about diversifying its suppliers — and the need for a class of new planes that Airbus can deliver sooner than Boeing. And as the world’s airlines are demanding new generations of fuel-efficient planes, both Boeing and Airbus are likely to continue receiving orders

that will take them years to fill. That may be why Boeing’s stock price barely budged through midday trading in New York on Monday, while the shares of Airbus’ parent, the European consortium EADS, were up 1.7 percent in Europe. Analysts nonetheless saw it as a blow to Boeing, which has stumbled of late over problems with its 787 Dreamliner, most notably in Japan. “Certainly this is the big order Airbus was hoping for, the big foot in the door that could lead to new orders,” said Will Horton, an analyst at the CAPA Center for Aviation in Hong Kong. JAL and Airbus said the airline would buy 31 A350 wide-body long-distance jets, which are expected to replace Boeing 777s. Airbus is set to begin deliveries of the A350, a new plane that made its first test flight in June, to the airline in 2019. Boeing has its own replacement planned for the 777, which it refers to as the 777X, but that aircraft is not as far along in development at the Airbus A350. And after battery problems grounded Boeing Dreamliners for months this year, JAL indicated a

need for a second aircraft supplier. “I think that there was some recognition that maybe you do need to have dual-sourcing,” Scott Hamilton, managing director of the Leeham Co., an aviation consulting firm in Issaquah, Wash., said Monday. “I think the fact that Airbus could deliver the A350 before the 777X is part of it,” he said. “And I’m sure JAL got a hell of a deal.” Boeing declined to comment, other than issuing a statement that read in part: “Although we are disappointed with the selection, we will continue to provide the most efficient and innovative products and services that meet longer-term fleet requirements for Japan Airlines. We have built a strong relationship with Japan Airlines over the last 50 years and we look to continue our partnership going forward.” European governments went out of their way to acknowledge the symbolism of Airbus’ Japanese breakthrough. Diplomats from France, Germany, Britain and the European Union were on hand as the purchase agreement was signed.

Libya condemns US for seizing terror suspect

By Carlotta Gall and David D. Kirkpatrick
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya’s fragile interim government condemned the United States on Sunday for what it called the “kidnapping of a Libyan citizen” from this capital city a day earlier, and Libyan lawmakers threatened to remove the prime minister if the government was involved. The capture of the Libyan, who goes by the nom de guerre Abu Anas al-Libi and was indicted on a charge of planning al-Qaida’s 1998 bombing of two U.S. embassies in East Africa, was so fast and left so few clues behind that Libyans were only slowly coming to grips with what had occurred. The government denied an American assertion that it had played a role in the operation amid anger that the nation’s sovereignty had been violated. But as a measure of just how tired the public is of the chaos that has gripped the country since the over-

throw of Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, some Libyans angry at the raid expressed exasperation at their government’s failures to bring any measure of security to its people. “There is hardly very much that is going on, except that every three or four days there is a new assassination,” said Mohammed Mufti, a Western-educated physician and liberal intellectual in Benghazi. “This government seems to be suffering terminal inertia.” The reaction to the capture of Abu Anas underscored the stakes for the United States as it gave up on waiting for the Libyan government to grow strong enough to challenge the militias that wield power, and detain fugitives living with impunity on Libyan soil. For months, a swelling team of federal investigators, intelligence agents and Marines waited behind the barbed wire and gun turrets of the fortified compound around the U.S. Embassy here, aware of suspected terrorists at large in the streets —

including suspects in the killing last year of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans in Benghazi — and increasingly frustrated at the inability of the weak Libyan government to move against them. Now, with the Abu Anas raid, the Obama administration has signaled a limit to its patience. Two years after the United States backed the NATO intervention that removed Gadhafi, Washington has demonstrated a new willingness to pursue its targets directly, an action that has now prompted some of those suspected in Stevens’ death to go into hiding, people here said. “Of course people are worried about it in Benghazi,” said Mohammed Abu Sidra, a Benghazi Islamist leader and member of Parliament. Speaking on the sidelines of an economic conference in Indonesia on Monday, Secretary of State John Kerry defended the capture of Abu Anas, saying it complied with American law.

Netanyahu ridiculed after an appeal to Iranian youths

By Thomas Erdbrink
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, Iran — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel tried to take his campaign against the Iranian leadership to Iran’s young population last week, saying that if they were truly free, they would be able to wear jeans, listen to Western music and participate in free elections. The problem is that Iranians do wear jeans and manage to listen to whatever music they want to listen to, just like people almost anywhere, except maybe in North Korea. That is to say, Netanyahu’s effort at outreach backfired, as Twitter lit up Sunday with retorts. “Netanyahu, here are my #Jeans and #Western music,” wrote a user named Sallar, posting a picture of his jeans and his iPad showing a pop album cover, and adding an insult to the prime

minister’s intelligence. A user with the handle mohhzg wrote, “Netanyahu, I’m wearing jeans like many old & young people in #Iran.” Netanyahu made his faux pas — at least when it comes to Iranian fashion — in an interview Thursday with the BBC Persian channel, despised by the Iranian leadership because it allows the government’s adversaries direct access to the public. “If the people of Iran were free, they could wear jeans, listen to Western music and have free elections,” he said, in an apparent effort to get the Iranian public to oppose the nation’s nuclear program. The logic appeared to be this: The Iranian government would be invincible with a nuclear weapon, and with that, the public would have no chance to join the modern world. “You, the Persians, will never get rid of this tyranny if it is armed with

nuclear weapons,” Netanyahu said. “For God’s sake, don’t let them have nuclear weapons.” He also referred to the 2009 anti-government protests, in which dozens were killed after they took to the streets to dispute the re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He singled out Neda Agha-Soltan, a young woman who was fatally shot by unknown assailants during the street protests. Her killing, captured on video, turned her into a symbol of young, modern Iranians taking a stand against their leaders. “I saw her choke in her own blood,” Netanyahu said in the interview, which was dubbed into Persian. No one disputed the horror of Agha-Soltan’s death. But many did note that she had been wearing jeans. “Netanyahu saw Neda die, but didn’t notice she wore jeans,” said a Twitter user with the handle Mohammadmojiran.

Supreme Court’s docket is deep in major cases, and chances for change

WASHINGTON — After back-to-back terms ending in historic rulings that riveted the nation, the Supreme Court might have been expected to return to its usual diet of routine cases that rarely engage the public. Instead, the court’s new term, which starts Monday, will feature an extraordinary series of cases on consequential constitutional issues, including campaign contributions, abortion rights, affirmative action, public prayer and presidential power. An unusually large number of the new cases put important precedents at risk. The new term will include a run of cases on the structure of the political process, including ones on the balance of power between the branches of government and the role of money in politics. One case, National Labor Relations Board v. Noel Canning, No. 12-1281, is a test of President Barack Obama’s ability to bypass the Senate by making recess appointments. It has partisan overtones reminiscent of the clash over the constitutionality of his health care law. A second case continues a signature project of the court, which has been subjecting campaign finance laws to skeptical scrutiny in a half-dozen decisions, including Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which in 2010 freed corporations and unions to spend without limit in candidate elections. The new case moves the court’s focus from such independent spending to caps on direct contributions from individuals to candidates and political parties. The court has two cases concerning abortion on its docket. One of them, McCullen v. Coakley, No. 12-1168, is a challenge to a Massachusetts law that restricted protests near reproductive health care facilities. The second abortion-related case concerns whether states may limit the use of abortion-inducing drugs. The justices will soon decide whether to hear a new challenge to Obama’s health care law. The cases concern the law’s requirement that employers provide insurance coverage for contraception. The term will get off to a fast start, with the court hearing the campaign finance case Tuesday.

—Adam Liptak, *The New York Times*

Muslims in China say bias is increasing

KASHGAR, China — Job seekers looking for opportunities in this ancient oasis town in China’s far western Xinjiang region would seem to have ample options, based on a quick glance at a local help-wanted website. The Kashgar Cultural Center has an opening for an experienced dance choreographer, the prefectural Communist Party office is hiring a driver and nearby Shule County needs an archivist. But these and dozens of other job openings share one caveat: Ethnic Uighurs, the Muslim, Turkic-speaking people who make up nearly 90 percent of Kashgar’s population, need not apply. Such discrimination, common across the region, is one of the many indignities China’s 10 million Uighurs face in a society that increasingly casts them as untrustworthy and prone to religious extremism. Uighurs are largely frozen out of the region’s booming gas and oil industry, airport jobs are mostly reserved for Han applicants, and Uighur truck drivers cannot obtain the licenses required to haul fuel, an unwritten rule based on the fear that oil and gas tankers could easily be turned into weapons, according to several trucking companies. This strategically pivotal expanse of desert and snow-draped mountains that borders several Central Asian nations is tightly controlled by Beijing. Top government positions as well as critical spots in the sprawling security apparatus are dominated by Han Chinese. After a summer of violence that claimed at least 100 lives, analysts, human rights advocates and even a handful of Chinese academics are raising alarms over what they call repressive policies that are fueling increased alienation and radicalization among Uighurs, many of whom subscribe to a moderate brand of Sunni Islam. By failing to consider the root causes of Uighur discontent, Beijing could unwittingly radicalize a generation of young people, said Nicholas Bequelin, a researcher for Human Rights Watch who is based in Hong Kong.

—Andrew Jacobs, *The New York Times*

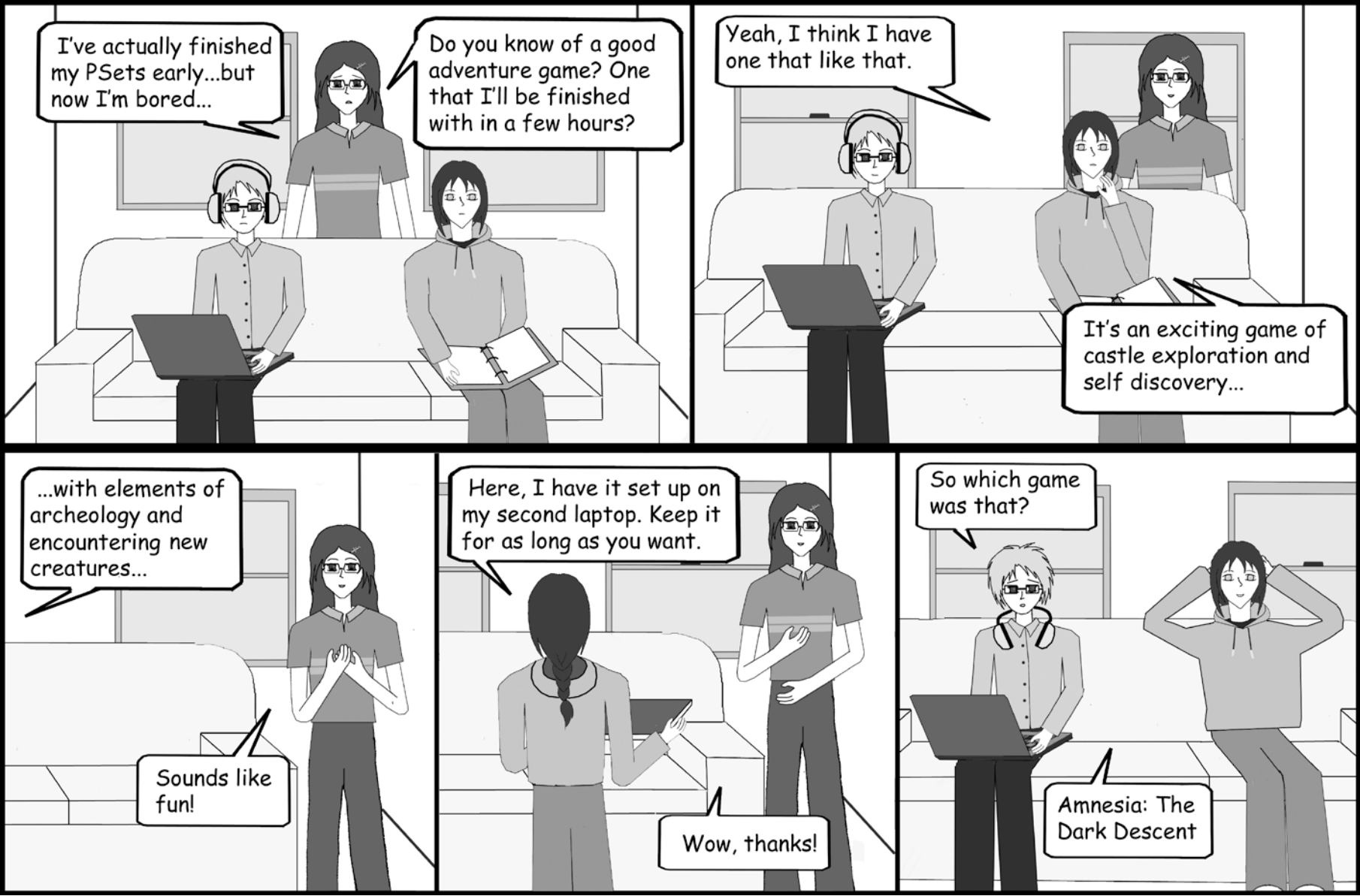
Some civilians return to military academies

WASHINGTON — U.S. military academies got some relief from their government shutdown struggles over the weekend as the Pentagon reinstated most of its furloughed civilian employees, allowing professors and other staff members to return to work Monday. With the shutdown approaching the one-week mark and lawmakers suggesting that a budget deal was still out of reach, a Naval Academy spokesman, Cmdr. John Schofield, released a statement Sunday saying most of the school’s faculty and staff members would be allowed to return to work immediately. The Military Academy at West Point posted a notice on its website recalling furloughed workers who had not been otherwise notified by their supervisors. Local news reports in Colorado said the Air Force Academy had called back more than 950 of its 1,000 furloughed workers. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Saturday that nearly all of the department’s 350,000 civilian employees would also be exempted from the furlough under the law guaranteeing pay to those in the military. Government lawyers advised the department that it could “eliminate furloughs for employees whose responsibilities contribute to the morale, well-being, capabilities and readiness of service members,” including those who work in training. The announcement means midshipmen and cadets will be able to return to their normal schedules. The academies had to suspend classes last week, even as military personnel rushed to cover for their furloughed civilian counterparts. The Naval and Air Force Academies were forced to cancel 20 percent of their classes, unable to provide substitutes in laboratory and language courses in particular. Because nearly all of its employees are civilians, the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., closed when the government shut down last Tuesday, moving up fall break in an effort to minimize the disruption to its academic schedule.

—Emmarie Huetteman, *The New York Times*

WORLD&NATION WORLD&NATION WORLD&NATION WORLD&NATION WORLD

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li



Due to the U.S. Government Shutdown, this comic is currently unavailable.

(Comics have nothing to do with politics, but neither should Science or Research!)

www.phdcomics.com

Saturday Stumper by Anna Stiga

Solution, page 15

ACROSS

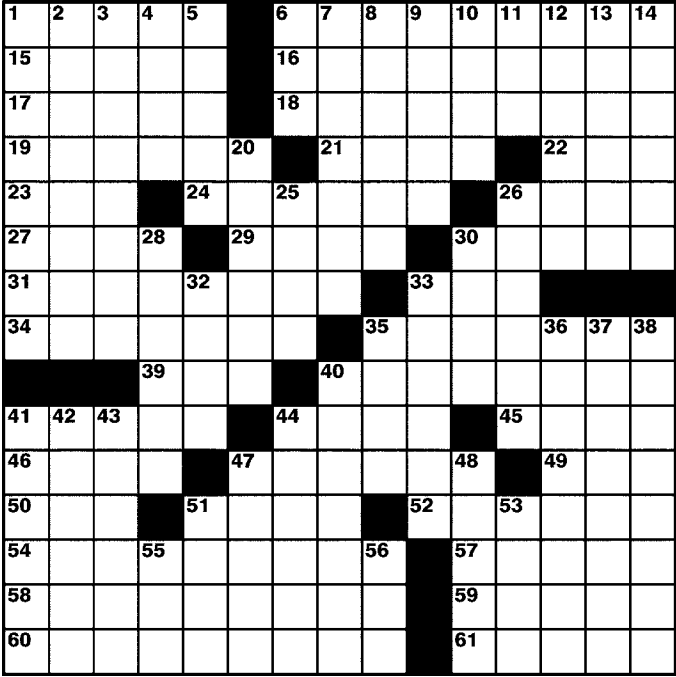
- 1 Stings
- 6 Adolescent rite of passage
- 15 In the dark
- 16 It's just west of Wheeling
- 17 Frugal
- 18 '50s TV superstar
- 19 Shown to be insecure
- 21 Separate
- 22 Employer of some special agents
- 23 Traditional __
- 24 Legal recourse
- 26 Extremely
- 27 "Ice __" (tennis great's nickname)
- 29 Military band
- 30 Co-inventor of the rerun
- 31 Inseparable friend
- 33 Regress
- 34 Shorts, when preceded by "two"
- 35 Gamut of creative techniques
- 39 Quarry
- 40 "Go!"
- 41 Home of the Tyrolean Lodge

- and The Innsbruck hotel
- 44 Narcissus, for example
- 45 "I don't think so"
- 46 Talk and talk and talk
- 47 Rebel
- 49 Dripping
- 50 Trade partner in the oil business
- 51 14 Down folk instruments
- 52 Break
- 54 FAQ reader's desire, perhaps
- 57 Learned works
- 58 Result of some successful pitches
- 59 Pick out
- 60 Hidden track on a DVD
- 61 They may be broken in the army

DOWN

- 1 Quest for some Yelp users
- 2 Walking early
- 3 Cable pricing proposed by McCain
- 4 Surname from the Scottish for "church"

- 5 Take turns
- 6 In place of
- 7 Expression of positive thinking
- 8 Mideast capital
- 9 Woeful
- 10 Step lively
- 11 Cotton to, to Kerouac
- 12 Portraits of Power byline
- 13 Patron of Spain
- 14 Mock
- 20 Most of Mauritania
- 25 Some pubs
- 26 Character last seen at the 2012 Olympics opening ceremony
- 28 Check writer's security device
- 30 OK (to)
- 32 Stage line
- 33 Modern music outlet
- 35 __ driver
- 36 Historic contingent of the 8 Down-based 2012 Olympic team
- 37 Old music outlet
- 38 Letter-reading rituals

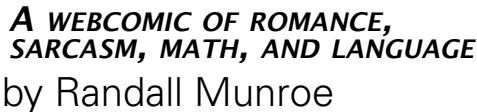


- 40 Going out of one's way
- 41 Charge
- 42 Home of California's largest glacier
- 43 Metaphorical creditors
- 44 Digit I, to scientists
- 47 Something marked off in school
- 48 Last Supper attendee
- 51 Record holder of yore
- 53 It's often flavored with vanilla and cinnamon
- 55 OK (to)
- 56 Perfboard partner

Q.E.D. (QUITE EASILY DONE)



This also guarantees he won't be one of the ones to get a bobcat.



plugged in this lamp and my dog went rigid, spoke a sentence of perfect Akkadian, and then was hurled sideways through the picture window. Even worse, it's one of those lamps where the switch is on the cord.

Solution, page 15

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

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.

Solution, page 15

6x		144x		15x	
20x			6x		2x
16+				2-	
	3x	5			2-
2÷		120x		6	
	6			2-	

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.

Kerry subs in for Obama at summit

Wants Trans-Pacific Partnership

China, from Page 1

percent of the world’s population, 55 percent of global gross domestic product and about 44 percent of world trade. Trade within the group has grown nearly sevenfold since it was founded in 1989, topping \$11 trillion in 2011.

The U.S. trade representative, Michael Froman, said the Obama administration remained committed to trying to complete the negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership by the end of the year. “Our message is ‘Let’s get this done as soon as possible,’” Froman said in an interview. The Dec. 31 goal is “ambitious, but it’s doable,” he said.

The partnership is intended to achieve open market access among the 12 participants.

The partnership, a major element of Obama’s pivot toward Asia, is intended to achieve open market access among the 12 participants, with the United States, Japan, Mexico and Canada as the major economies.

The administration was hoping that the leader of South Korea, Park Geun-hye, would announce at the meeting that South Korea was ready to join the negotiations. But South Korean officials said Park would not make that declaration in Bali.

The absence of Obama took some gravitas out of the conference, and there were deep questions about how the president could get a trade pact through Congress given the hostility of conservative Republicans in the House toward his domestic programs.

The prime minister of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, who maintains friendly relations with China, was the most direct in describing the damage to the summit meeting by Obama’s absence.

“No other country can replace” the American engagement in Asia, he said. “Not China, not Japan, not any other power. That is something which we continue and encourage at every opportunity.”

In opening remarks to the leaders at the summit meeting, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indo-

nesia, the host nation, said the group was even more important today because its 21 member economies continued to “feel the pain” of the global economic crisis.

“In view of the difficult global economic situation these days, it becomes even more critical for all of us to work together in maintaining regional resilience,” he said. “With this resilience, the APEC region will remain an important engine of global growth.”

One of the most important aspects of the summit meeting is the private discussions between leaders on the sidelines of the main gathering.

The Australian leader, Tony Abbott, met with Xi on Sunday night for the first time since becoming prime minister in September. On Monday, he said he hoped a free-trade agreement between Australia and China would be completed within 12 months.

Abbott said he planned to lead a large government and business delegation to China within the first six months of 2014, at the invitation of Xi.

“The prosperity of every country in the region, including Australia, critically depends on trade and investment,” he said. “Our recent prosperity critically depends on the massive expansion of resource exports to countries in our region, particularly to China, and we want that to continue and not slow down.”

Abbott had planned to meet with Obama as well. The Australian leader said it was “a disappointment” that Obama had canceled his trip, but said it was understandable given the political deadlock in Washington. He said the president’s absence would not undermine the American “pivot” strategy in Asia.

“I fully understand the most constructive way America can engage with the world depends upon America being as strong as it can be at home,” Abbott said. “I don’t think anyone here holds it against the president that he has very important business at home, and it is certainly in no way inconsistent with the pivot in Asia.”

Negotiations between China and Australia were described last week as “stalled” by the Australian minister for trade and investment, Andrew Robb.

Shutdown is a big burden at Big Bend

Government shutdown shuts park and leaves workers jobless

By Dane Schiller
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

TERLINGUA — As three wind-burned, graying Navy veterans rolled into town on their Harley Davidson motorcycles, they had covered nearly 2,317 miles of a trip of a lifetime. It was a journey to pay tribute to a buddy who died 30 years ago, and then cruise across Big Bend National Park to ride back home.

They got to pour a can of Budweiser on Ed “Claw” Pufal’s grave in El Paso, but a day later, when they arrived in this West Texas outpost, they couldn’t get into the nearby 800,000-acre jewel of cragged mountains and rugged desert.

A highway barricade that is sometimes manned by armed park rangers warned people that Big Bend park is closed due to the ongoing shutdown of all non-essential federal government operations.

The idea that a place where one can see the Milky Way at night, the

Rio Grande flowing through it, and the nearly 8,000-foot-high Chisos Mountains towering above would be deemed non-essential doesn’t sit well with many.

“It ain’t like we are out a paycheck like some folks, but after a year of planning, we are mad,” said Homer French, 55, of Jacksonville, Fla. “When we left a week ago, it wasn’t closed.”

As the shutdown enters its second week, an array of visitors from across the country, as well as people who make their living off the park, are hoping Big Bend is back in business soon.

The closure could not have come at a worse time for folks here.

‘Give our jobs back’

While many national parks are busiest in the summer, Big Bend is just entering its prime season due to lowering temperatures. It was 55 de-

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Finance Assistant:
Support for busy Finance Group at Technology Licensing Office. Responsibilities involve scanning, filing and organizing financial data; monthly back up printing for billing purposes; creating and modifying PDF documents; Requires fine attention to detail and ability to work efficiently through large volumes of financial documents/invoices . Reports to Financial Manager. 10-15 hours per week 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m./ \$13.00/hr.

Technology Transfer Intern:
Student intern needed to review and summarize inventions in the areas of electronics, semiconductors, and photonics for the Technology Licensing Office website. Graduate student in Chemical Eng. or Electrical Engineering preferred, but will consider upperclassmen undergraduate with Material Science, Chemistry and/or Physics majors also welcome. Must have good writing skills. HTML knowledge is helpful, but not required. 10-15 hours per week/ \$15.00/hr.

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Clerical assistant with strong attention to detail needed for office work. Tasks include filing paperwork, data verification, assembling case folders, and ad-hoc projects as needed. Reports to Patent Assistant. 10 hours per week 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m./\$13.00/hr.

Office Assistant:
Technology Licensing Office seeks student to work with confidential data; entering and scanning contracts. Preparing documents for archives. Ability to manage front desk phone coverage when needed. Additional related tasks may be requested. Attention to detail, great organizational skills and experience with confidential data preferred. Pleasant phone manner. Will work independently. Reports to Administrative Asst. 10 hours/week 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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HackMIT attracts 1,000+ participants

Hackathon began with few hitches but participants still feel 'inspired'

HackMIT, from Page 1

ing more attention recently, attracting sponsors from tech giants, venture capital firms, finance companies, and startups. These companies come to give out prizes and merchandise ("swag"), advertise their developer interfaces (application programming interfaces, or APIs), and recruit.

Lehman opened by advising hackers to avoid wasting time on adhering to best engineering principles.

Seventy sponsors including Sequoia Capital, Palantir, Twitter, and Dropbox doled out a total of \$300,000 to HackMIT, according to Ishaan Gulrajani '16, one of the organizers.

TechX and StartLabs, the MIT student groups that organized the hackathon, reimbursed participants up to \$200 each for travel costs.

The event began with a couple of hitches: At the Saturday kickoff in Kresge Auditorium, slideshow-clicker problems botched the presentations of sponsors who paid for time onstage to show off their APIs, and one presenter resorted to getting the audience to shout "Next slide!" loudly enough for backstage helpers to hear. Later, one of the hackathon projects attempted to offer a remedy, allowing presenters to advance through slides with their phones or Pebble watches.

The ceremony host, Rap Genius co-founder Tom Lehman, made up for some it with his brazen, if sometimes brash, style, but he too was left hanging out to dry several times as organizers scuttled about offstage preparing the next agenda item.

He opened by advising hackers to avoid wasting time on adhering to best engineering principles.

"The shittiest possible thing is the best possible thing," Lehman said.

Students began hacking after the kickoff, but the wireless routers in Johnson could not handle the number of people trying to use the Internet. Many set up their own wireless networks with names like "hide yo kids hide yo wifi," adding to the interference in the room. Some teams scouted out other venues with better Wifi.

The wireless situation was just one of the challenges the sheer scale of the event presented, according to Gulrajani, who said that handling the logistics was like "putting out fires" everywhere.

But most had access to the Internet by 2 p.m. or 3 p.m., after organizers ran to Micro Center and bought scores of Ethernet cables.

By then, Jordan Ceipek, who led the team from Olin College, had started on an ambitious plan for their project: they would make an game in which a "performer" would use hand-held Razer Hydra controllers to deflect virtual fire from audience members, who could shoot at the performer by pressing a button on their laptops or smartphones. The performer would also wear an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset, which would display approaching bullets. The backend would be han-

dled by Firebase, one of the APIs featured at the kickoff, and for the graphics, they would use pixi.js, a rendering engine.

Ceipek soon ran into trouble connecting the controllers to their computers. After trying to set them up for an hour and a half, the task was handed over to Northway, whose laptop could run Windows, an operating system they hadn't tried yet.

"None of us enjoy working in Windows," Ceipek said afterwards.

Progress was steady thereafter. At 4 p.m., team member Matt Wismer was able to sync the movement of a test sprite between two clients through Firebase. By 7:30 p.m., new clients who joined the game would appear as triangles joining a circle. Ceipek set to work on a design for an avatar to replace the triangles, and another team member, Madison May, animated the click of a 'FIRE' button for audience members. By 9:30 p.m. audience members could shoot bullets, and by 1:30 a.m. Northway and Pratoool Gadtaula were mapping movements of a Hydra controller onto the laptop screen rather than merely displaying its coordinates in space.

By 3 a.m., Ceipek had fallen into an exaggerated version of the British accent he grew up with.

Gulrajani hopes that participants will continue going to hackathons.

After some early-morning trigonometry, May, Ceipek, and Wismer had a collision detection mechanism in place to determine whether the performer at the center had successfully blocked the incoming bullets with its arms.

The 9 a.m. deadline, when first-round judging started, rolled around soon enough.

In the end, Ceipek's team wasn't among the 10 teams to make it to the final round.

But that didn't matter.

Gulrajani hopes that participants will continue going to hackathons. "Hackathons are sort of like a gathering of the herd. Everybody who's a really really influential person in the undergraduate computer-science-slash-entrepreneurship community basically these days just frequents these hackathons all the time," he said.

These people "are some of the most amazing people in the world to hang around," he said. "You leave feeling inspired and wanting to go to more and more events."

Ceipek, who has already attended half a dozen hackathons, doesn't need any convincing. "I think the best part is seeing what other people come up with and working with people you've never worked with before," Ceipek said.

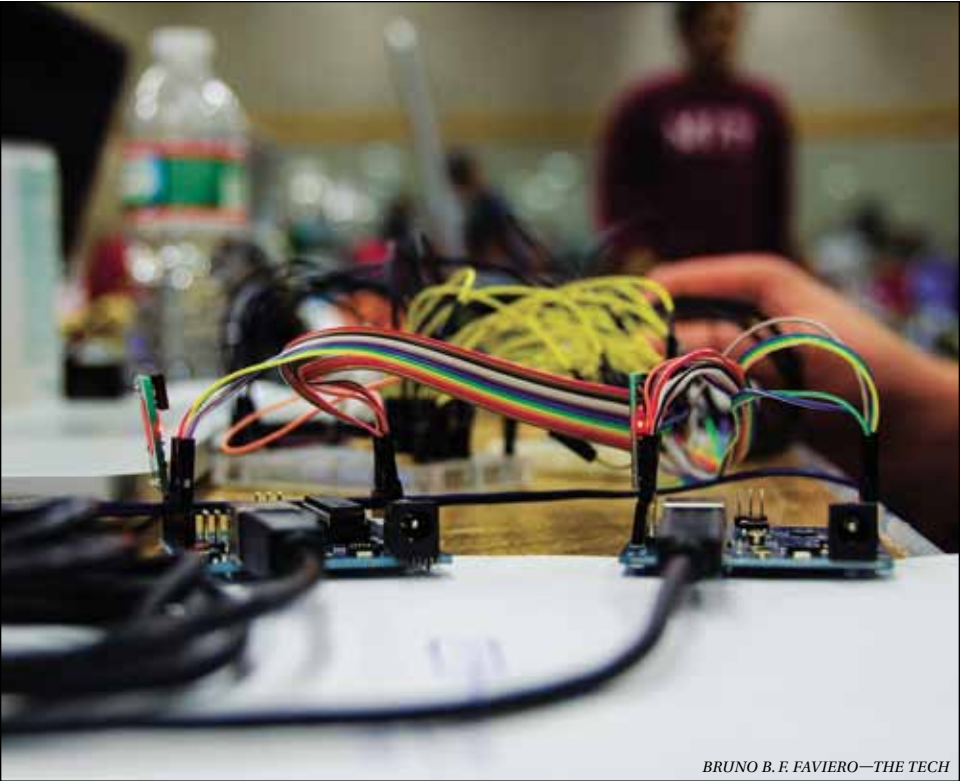
"I think there's a certain sense of camaraderie that will come out of sitting in a room with a 1000 other people, and just sitting there and trying to stay awake, and coding like crazy, and brainstorming ideas," Alice S. Wu '17, one of the organizers, said.

"Out of the 1000 people that we brought to HackMIT, if we made a significant impact on the direction of even 10 people's lives, then that justified the entire effort for us," Gulrajani said. "Based on what we've heard from attendees, I think we've gotten far past that goal."

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Hacking Arts

By Victoria Young

"We believe that everyone is creative, inventive, and imaginative. We believe that everyone can create the future and change the world." The motto for invention kit Makey Makey, created by MIT Media Lab students Eric R.

ously perform “Billie Jean?” By becoming human synthesizers, of course. Makey Makey, a tiny circuit board that connects to Arduino, allows you to transform anything even mildly conductive into a live keyboard. As people became instruments on stage, linked together with bright col-

And nerdy today is awesome. Why? Because nerds are the makers, the designers, the creators who are able to use technology to solve problems and build beautiful experiences. Hacking Arts was the perfect environment for all of us nerds to come together in the hackathon: new ideas that could shape the future of the arts emerged from the marker-frenzied IdeaStorms. Taking home Most Creative from the hackathon, The Golden Bananas developed a way to visualize art that responds to the lyrics and beat of the song you're

A huge thank you to Hacking Arts Co-Chairs Kathleen Stetson G, Catherine Halaby G, and their incredible team from across MIT, Berklee College of Music, and Wellesley for creating such an inspirational, cutting-edge arts event celebrating industry speakers, brilliant performers, and all of those who love the arts. Encore!



EVENTS

OCT. 08 – OCT. 14

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

(7:15 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.) Mastering the Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI), sponsored by Prehealth Advising (registration on CareerBridge required) — 12-172

THURSDAY

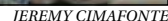
FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

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Members from the audience joined MIT Media Lab student, Eric Ross Rosenbaum G, on stage to create a spontaneous rendition of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" by becoming human synthesizers using Makey Makey, a small circuit board that enables anything conductive to control your computer.

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SKETCH YOUR LOOK

Sweaters

Layering with warmth and style

By Dohyun Lee
STAFF WRITER

The summer weather is slowly fading away, as you can tell from the abrupt change in temperature over the past few days. You’re starting to pull out your warm garments in an attempt to avoid getting a cold. You might already have a few jackets and coats to fight off the cold, but they seem too heavy for early fall. And so I present to you the sweater, which is one of the best types of clothing that is both lightweight and warm.

If I were ever asked to live with

only one garment, I would choose a sweater. Its simplicity, warmth, style, and versatility are rarely beaten by other types of warm clothing. It offers a ton of options for color, fabric, and fit. I personally own several sweaters, and I have never gotten tired of them. Sweaters generally fall into two categories: crew-neck style and V-neck style. They both are great, and I can’t say which one is better than the other. However, there are different features that make each one special. A crew-neck sweater has a U-shaped neckline, which will give you a casual and laid-back look. It can be worn with a

shirt, t-shirt, or other innerwear. I personally think that it is slightly more versatile than a V-neck. But, the negative aspect of a crew-neck sweater is quite frightening: it can make your neck look short. So, if that concerns you, you might want to lean toward the counterpart, the V-neck. The V-neck style is exactly the same as crew-neck in terms of materials used and its overall design, but the major difference is that a V-neck makes you look sharper. Because of its deeper cut in the neck area, it creates a visual illusion that you have a long neck. Another great thing about having a deeper neckline is that it boldly shows off what you are wearing under the sweater, which is why it is more preferred by guys who love showing their tie or their shirt’s pattern. Color-wise, try to stick with a neutral or monochromatic tone. For example, beige, grey, black, white, navy, oatmeal, and similar shades are great choices for sweaters. However, sweaters are one of the few types of clothing for which wild colors are acceptable. For example, royal blue, bright yellow, and light pink can work fantastically on sweaters. Now let’s assume you’ve gotten a sweater that somewhat follows the rules above. You are just wearing it alone. No! That is wrong! A sweater is like a vest, in the sense that it has to be worn

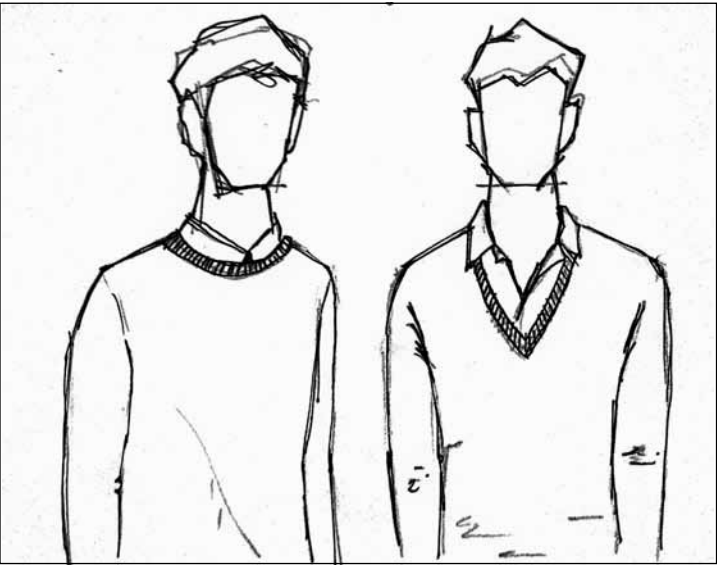


ILLUSTRATION BY DOHYUN LEE

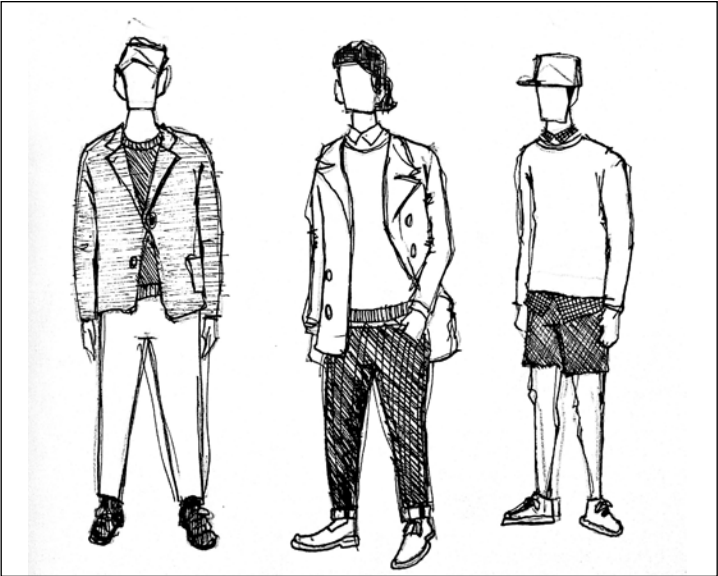


ILLUSTRATION BY DOHYUN LEE

LITTLE LIFE LESSONS

Connecting the dots

The beauty of HASS meets science

By Erika Trent
STAFF WRITER

Life is full of lessons, and not just those learned in lecture. There are some lessons that you acquire not within a classroom, but through experiences outside the realm of academics. With all the new encounters and hardships and rewards that college brings, these four years are an ideal time to start tackling the big questions — why are we here studying? What is really important in life? What is the meaning of Stonehenge? Little Life Lessons will muse on philosophical questions that college students may face at this turning point in our lives. Perhaps you’ve already contemplated these issues before; perhaps such matters have never crossed your mind. My hope is that this column serves as a springboard for the next step along your path of thoughts.

We MIT students pride ourselves on our laser-sharp focus. Whether it is concentrating on a late-night problem set or aiming to land that dream internship, we have the absolute precision of a surgeon when it comes to achieving our goals. It comes as little surprise, therefore, that I recently overheard a classmate question the use of studying fields outside your major. “Why bother studying Y or Z when you are pursuing a career in X?” they wondered aloud. “If

you had instead spent that time fully focused on X, you would have been more knowledgeable in your major and thus a more valuable asset in your field.” A part of me died a little at hearing this. I remembered all those late nights I spent tackling 7.013 problem-sets and deciphering cryptic 8.02 textbooks ... Had I invested that immense amount of time and energy into things I actually love —such as music or philosophy — may I have become a professional pianist by now? Or a Plato of the 21st century? I had chosen to study at MIT because I knew it would stretch me to my limits, throwing me light-years away from my comfort zone. Was studying math and science outside my major just a waste of time? And are humanities classes just a waste of time for the engineers or scientists of MIT? Nothing, I believe, could be further from the truth. Different fields — both in the sciences and humanities — are simply different lenses through which we observe and understand the world that surrounds us. Biology explains the building blocks of life: genetics, evolution, cell and organ development, how our entire body “ticks.” Chemistry lays the foundation of all that: the concentration difference in ions that makes neural systems work, the chemicals and bonds that form the very “building blocks”

of life. And physics is about the interaction of all matter: it’s about gravity that roots us to the ground, about the Earth’s magnetic field that essentially protects us from the inferno of sun flares, about the stars that we see at night and the mystery of the universe. Like a spider’s web, like neural systems in the human brain, and like the T subway system, every academic field is interconnected. The most seemingly dissimilar fields have the most fascinating intersections. Even something as potentially abstract as math offers us elegant tools through which to understand relationships. How else would we understand the definite relationship between time and distance, between supply and demand — or even between two partners’ love for one another? One of my most memorable moments yet at MIT has been an 18.03 lecture during my freshman spring, in which we used differential equations to model the relationship dynamics between Romeo and Juliet. Chalking two equations up on the chalkboard, “R’(t) = aJ” and “J’(t) = bJ + (c - dR)” (where R(t) represents Romeo’s love for Juliet over time, J(t) the opposite, and a, b, and c representing variable parameters),

our professor explained that this means Romeo gets more into Juliet the more she’s into him, but too much of Romeo’s affection gets on Juliet’s nerves. Witnessing an entire Shakespearean tragedy be modelled by two equations made me wonder: what other complex, human phenomena may be so elegantly modelled by mathematics? Without science, we would suffer a state of perpetual and utter confusion, like a child thrown into a foreign country. If science is analogous to teaching that child to speak and write in that foreign language, then the humanities would be analogous to teaching the child how they should communicate, socially and culturally, with people of that country. It is the humanities that teach us how we should utilize our scientific knowledge for the greatest benefit of, well... humanity. No matter what your course number, understanding both the sciences and humanities enables you to appreciate the multifac-

eted nature of the world we live in. Take a musician, for example. Which do you think would possess more remarkable musicianship: the musical prodigy who has done nothing but fiddle and pluck strings all his life? Or the learned musician who has studied the physics underlying acoustics, the motor neurons that control his hands and fingers, the chemistry that makes up his instrument, and the intricate math behind musical composition? Like a spider’s web, like neural systems in the human brain, like the myriad solar systems that make up the universe, and like the T subway system, every academic field is interconnected. The most seemingly dissimilar fields have the most fascinating intersections: the physics of standing waves explains why plucking a guitar string makes different pitched twangs; the math of the Golden Ratio explains why Mona Lisa is (allegedly) so appealing. So as of now, I disagree with the aforementioned statement that time spent studying fields outside your primary field is a waste. If anything, it’s the furthest thing from a waste. Understanding the connections between your field and any other field enhances your understanding of your field — and your overall appreciation of the world. All the dots are there. It’s up to you to connect them.

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Shutdown leads to furloughs for park

Losses affecting local expenditures

Shutdown, from Page 7

grees here Sunday, about 50 degrees cooler than just a few weeks ago.

“I want to talk to President Obama, tell him to give our jobs back,” said Aranni Thomas, 50, a motel housekeeper who is originally from Indonesia. “Use his salary to pay us.”

Government employees have been furloughed from their jobs. And for people who make a living off the park, everyone from tour operators to waitresses, to housekeepers, store clerks and musicians, there is concern about how long they can make it.

Some are not working because the hotels, gas stations or restaurants where they work in the park are closed to the public. Others are hit by the slowdown of fewer people coming and going from the region. Groups large and small have changed their plans.

As of now, the loss means local residents are not going out to eat or drink as much and being more frugal when shopping. It costs a hefty amount of gas to make the 300-mile round trip drive to the nearest Walmart, in Fort Stockton.

Terlingua is a place where very few people are from, and many more come to scratch out a simpler life clear of city woes. Most people know each other, and there is a bond in going through tough times.

“One of the reasons we came here is you can live inexpensively, but we all have bills at some point,” said Kevin Elmore, 48, who normally works in the park helping maintain hundreds of miles of roads.

Elmore has been gradually building a house for his family from shipping containers, and has solar panels for energy and a garden for vegetables. He said people who live paycheck to paycheck are hurting, and others who prepared themselves for a shutdown might not be far behind.

“Do not make it seem like we have the bull by the horns,” he said. “This will impact us.”

Don “BigDon” Staton, 43, tour director for Big Bend Overland Tours, would normally spend a weekend driving visitors around the park in a Ford Excursion with hefty tires and leather seats. Staton, who was raised in Terlingua, prides himself on sharing the park’s back roads and history.

While at some national parks, visitors would be lucky to even have a stretch of trail to themselves, at Big Bend they can go an entire day and not see anyone else.

Staton said he is already losing income, but made up a day’s work by taking a couple on a day trip to an area outside the park where NASA once used the unique terrain to train astronauts.

“I’d be making overtime and gratuity for my family,” he said. “This is when we make money for the slow time.”

While Big Bend National Park, which is about the size of Rhode Island, is the major draw, the 300,000-

acre Big Bend Ranch State Park and other areas are offering tourists options to consider.

Some companies have adjusted by offering rafters trips that start and finish farther up the Rio Grande and go through Colorado Canyon instead of coming down to the majestic Santa Elena Canyon, inside Big Bend.

An Austin-based film production company had booked 34 rooms at Terlingua’s Big Bend Motor Inn and Monday was supposed to go to Big Bend to film the finale of a 12-year project.

Producer Cathleen Sutherland said Santa Elena Canyon, which has walls as high as 1,500 feet, was perfect. “You try to button down as much as you can on a production,” she said. “You imagine other things might shut you down; you don’t imagine the government shutting you down.”

The film crew will stay in the town of Lajitas, 17 miles away, and attempt to film in the state park.

A two-year waiting list

Danny Ferguson, manager of the Chisos Mountains Lodge, which is inside Big Bend, said 97 percent of his rooms would normally be occupied, but the shutdown has left the hotel empty.

Among guests who have lost out are those who had reserved a cottage with an incredible view of the mountains and a two-year waiting list.

“It is a ghost town, there is nobody,” Ferguson said. “It is heart-breaking to see this.”

Dallas attorney Vincent Bhatti and six other members of his family drove here in a recreational vehicle. Three generations of his family were together for the long-awaited trip, which was timed to coincide with there being no moon so they could watch the stars.

“Everyone took off work,” he said. “It is very frustrating.”

Bob Wardlow, 62, who drove here from Mississippi, said he was just fine with the state park, where he planned to take a three-day horseback ride. “I think it could last forever,” he said of the shutdown. “It ain’t hurting my feelings.”

About the time Wardlow would climb on his horse, French and the other veterans were back on their motorcycles.

French isn’t asking anyone to cry for him, but said he and his buddies, Lee Stafford and Richard Bradt, made arrangements with family, jobs and other obligations for the journey.

Even if they won’t see Big Bend’s stunning views, they may forever be awed by visiting Edwin Pufal III, where he is buried at Fort Bliss, along with his father and grandfather.

“When you see that national cemetery, it really takes your breath away,” French said. “It got all of us at the gravesite. We got our composure before we got back on the highway.”

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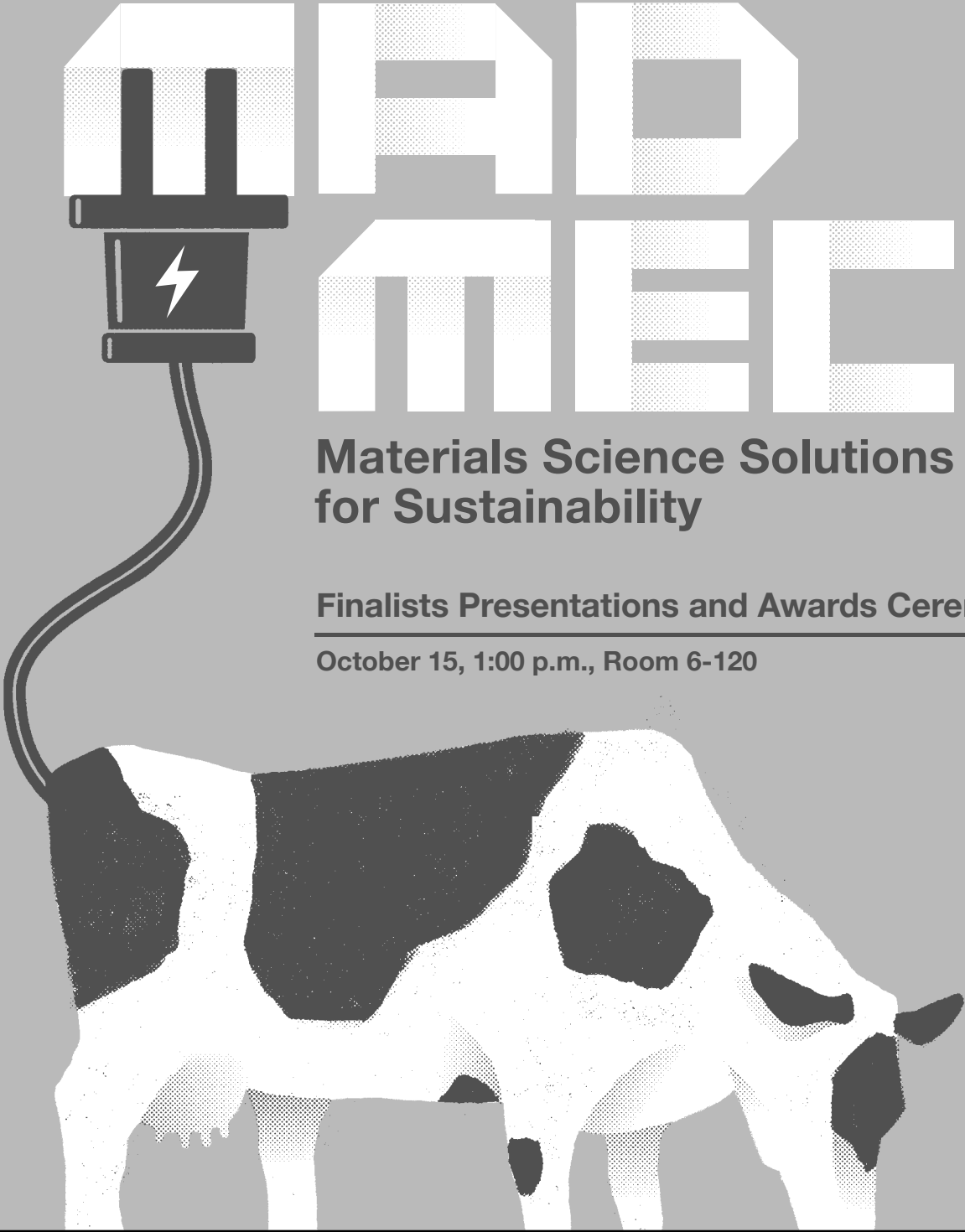
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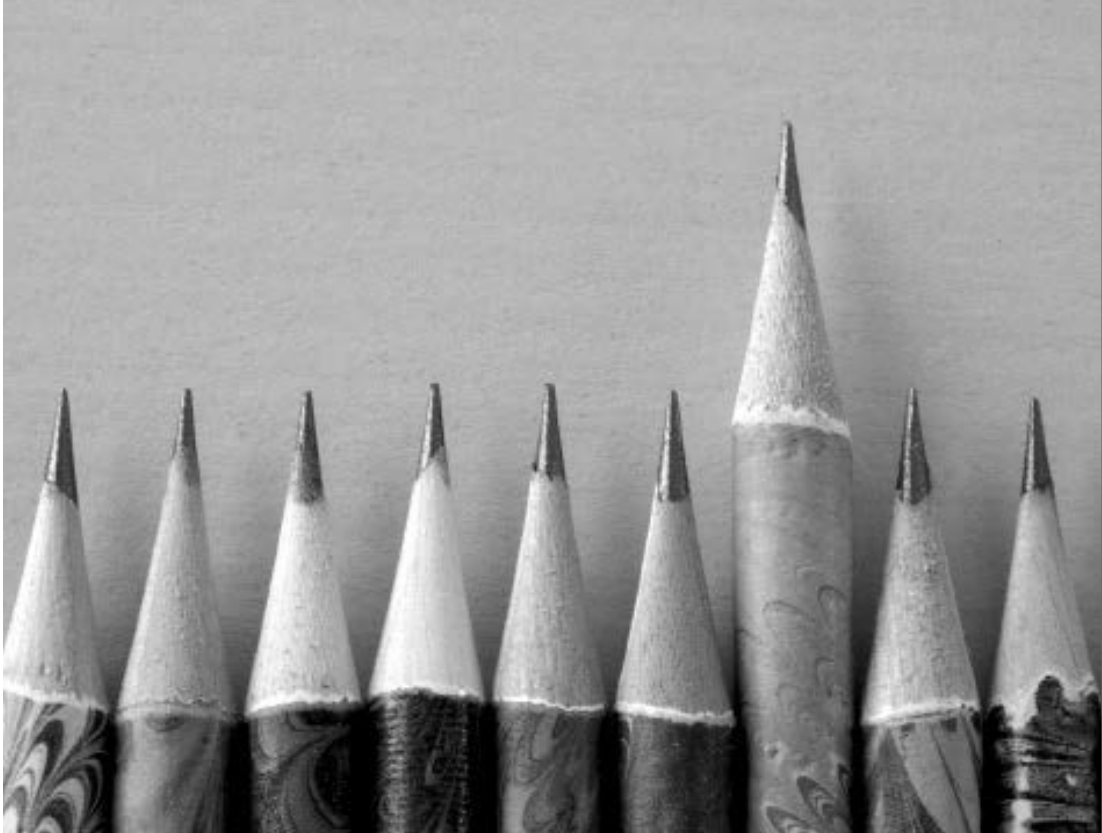
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West campus reps dominate council

In-person campaigning & social media bring out Class of 2017 vote

Elections, from Page 1

with 58 percent of freshman voting in the election.

Though social networking and email communication were useful for campaigning this year, it was also important to some candidates to campaign in person. “During the campaign, the most important thing for me was to meet and make a connection with as many people as possible,” said Ilutzi. She also issued an open invitation for any freshman to come to the student center one evening during the campaign to become more acquainted with her.

Some other campaigning tactics that were utilized included sidewalk chalk that advertised the election and the placement of Munchkins on the tables of 8.01 classes with one of the candidate’s name displayed.

Goals for the upcoming year

Both Ilutzi and Liu plan for the new 2017 Class Council to host events that will allow the freshmen

to get to know each other well and become a close community. “It is extremely important for us freshmen to feel support from one another and continue to meet our classmates,” said Ilutzi.

“It’s hard for people living in East and West Campus to get to know each other.”

Sophia Liu ’17

CLASS OF 2017 VICE PRESIDENT

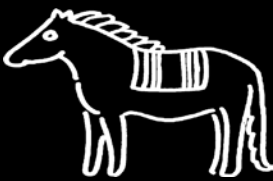
“I’ve noticed that it’s quite difficult for people living in East Campus and West Campus to really get to know each other,” wrote Liu in her platform statement. “Why not a cross-campus mixer?”

“I think the most important goal is allowing the Class of 2017 to be heard and represented at MIT,” Ilutzi added. “I told voters that I would listen to their suggestions, complaints, or concerns and address them in a deliberate manner. I intend to keep that promise.”

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mit.edu/misti/mit-israel



Solution to Techdoku

from page 6

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

Solution to Sudoku

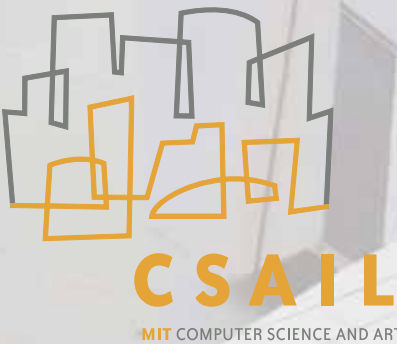
from page 6

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 5

SOAKS	FIRSTDATE
UNLIT	OHIORIVER
SPARE	ROYROGERS
HACKED	PARTDEA
IRA	REMEDYMOST
BORG	SASHARNAZ
ALTEREGO	EBB
REELERS	PALETTE
PIT	FIREAWAY
ASPEN	BULBNOPE
CHIN	RISEUPWET
CAP	JUGSDECODE
USEFULTIP	TOMES
STRIKEONE	ELECT
EASTEREGG	RANKS



Jitendra Malik
University of California, Berkeley

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The Three R's of Computer Vision: Recognition, Reconstruction and Reorganization

Thursday, October 10, 2013
MIT Stata Center
Bldg 32-123/Kirsch Auditorium
4:00-5:30PM

Over the last two decades, we have seen remarkable progress in computer vision with demonstration of capabilities such as face detection, handwritten digit recognition, reconstructing three-dimensional models of cities, automated monitoring of activities, segmenting out organs or tissues in biological images, and sensing for control of robots and cars. Yet there are many problems where computers still perform significantly below human perception. For example, in the recent PASCAL benchmark challenge on visual object detection, the average precision for most 3D object categories was under 50%.

I will argue that further progress on the classic problems of computational vision: recognition, reconstruction and re-organization requires us to study the interaction among these processes. For example recognition of 3d objects could benefit from a preliminary reconstruction of 3d structure, instead of just treating it as a 2d pattern classification problem. Recognition is also reciprocally linked to reorganization, with bottom up grouping processes generating candidates, which with top-down activations of object and part detectors. In this talk, I will show some of the progress we have made towards the goal of a unified framework for the 3R's of computer vision.

Jitendra Malik received the B.Tech degree in EE from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur in 1980 and the PhD degree in CS from Stanford University in 1985. In January 1986, he joined UC Berkeley, where he is currently the Arthur J. Chick Professor in the Department of EECS. He is also on the faculty of the department of Bioengineering, and the Cognitive Science and Vision Science groups. During 2002-2004 he served as the Chair of the Computer Science Division and during 2004-2006 as the Department Chair of EECS.

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```
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if you.interest == True:
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```

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