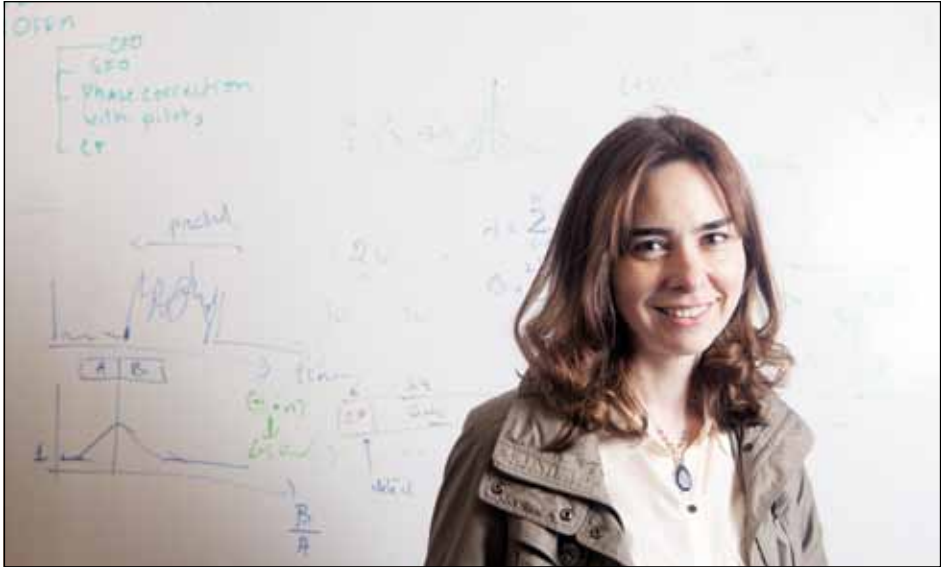




MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Dina Katabi, a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, was recently awarded a MacArthur Fellows Program fellowship. The program “awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction.” Katabi’s work at MIT involves improving electrical communications, especially wireless data transmission.



MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Sara Seager is also a recipient of a 2013 MacArthur Fellows Program fellowship at MIT. A professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences and the Department of Physics, Seager’s work is mainly focused on exploring the possibility of life in our galaxy.

Two MIT professors win MacArthur Fellowships

Katabi and Seager awarded \$625,000 each

By Kath Xu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This year, the MacArthur Foundation selected 24 recipients of their MacArthur Fellowships, otherwise known as the MacArthur “Genius Grants.” Two MIT professors — Dina Katabi MS ’99, PhD ’03 from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Sara Seager from the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences — were named MacArthur Fellows. *The Tech* spoke with them to find out what excites them about their research, and what it’s like to work in male-dominated fields.

Each fellowship includes an award of \$625,000, with no restrictions on how the funds are used. This is an increase from the \$500,000 given out to last year’s recipients, who included MIT writing professor Junot Diaz.

“This year’s class of MacArthur Fellows is an extraordinary group of individuals who collectively reflect the breadth and depth of American creativity,” wrote Cecilia Conrad, Vice President of the MacArthur Fellows Program, on the MacArthur Foundation’s website. Through its no-strings-attached prize money, the fellowship is meant to further encourage the winners’ creativity.

Dina Katabi

For over a decade, Professor Dina Katabi has worked on improving the speed and security of wireless networks. Her research at the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory straddles the traditional division between electrical engineering (EE) and computer science (CS).

According to Katabi, the key limitation of today’s wireless networks is their ability to handle interference. Through her research, she aims to minimize the effects of interference.

“Wireless is a shared medium, so it’s like speaking in your room,” Katabi described. “If you have so many people who are trying

to talk at the same time, nobody can understand anything.”

The community that is working at the intersection of EE and CS has been growing in recent years. “It is still relatively small because it is difficult,” Katabi explained. “You really need to have some background in EE and some background in CS, and most people don’t come equipped with this background.”

A Syrian native, Katabi obtained her bachelor’s degree from Damascus University in Syria before coming to MIT to obtain a Master’s and PhD. After completing her PhD work, she joined the faculty, and is now the director of the MIT Center for Wireless Networks and Mobile Computing (Wireless@MIT) and NETMIT (Networks@MIT).

Although Katabi says that the low representation of women in her field crosses her mind sometimes, she deems it “annoying” but not enough to prevent her from doing the things she wants to do.

“When you are doing what you are passionate about, you love your work, and you don’t worry who [you’re with],” Katabi said. “You are with colleagues who are also passionate about the stuff that they do. You have more in common than the gender with them. You have the passion about what you are doing.”

Katabi is excited not only by her research topic, but also by the process of research itself.

“The thing that fascinates me about research in general — and I think this is probably true for all researchers here working at MIT — is really the process of discovering something new,” said Katabi. “It’s just like you are reading a book. Imagine you are reading a mystery book, every new page reveals something new that just gets you even more attached to discovering more. That process of research is really what’s most exciting.”

Recently, Katabi has worked on developing technology to see through walls and track moving humans on the other side using

MacArthur Page 14

Voodoo magazine has funding restored

UA Council investigated whether Voodoo violated Title IX in its publications

By Omar Ibarra
STAFF REPORTER

The Financial Board (Finboard) of the Undergraduate Association (UA) has now released its trimesterly funding allocations for student groups. This release, delayed by about a week, comes on the heels of *Voodoo Magazine* successfully appealing Finboard’s decision to revoke *Voodoo*’s funding on the grounds of a Title IX complaint. *Voodoo* is headed by Senior House co-president and member of the UA Council Alina Kononov ’14,

In December 2012, Student Activities Office (SAO) director Leah Flynn received an unofficial complaint from the original author of a comic that was recaptioned in *Voodoo*. Flynn forwarded it to the MIT Association of Student Activities (ASA), who brought the complaint to Finboard for consideration in the next allocation cycle.

According to Kononov, *Voodoo*

was denied funding in Finboard’s preliminary allocation decision, which was released to the UA Council for approval on Sept. 25, 2013. One day later, Kononov sent a lengthy email to the UA council describing her objections with *Voodoo*’s defunding, stating, among other things, that she believed Finboard was attempting to exercise “ungrounded, sub rosa financial censorship.” In response, four other council members objected to the allocations, causing the vote to be delayed until the next UA Council meeting on Oct. 9, per council procedure.

Some council members suggested a lack of transparency in Finboard’s allocations process. “It seems the entire process is very cloudy; between the people who want the funding and the people who review the funding, only the people who are doing the allocations know the process,” said Andrew Dorne ’14, president of the Interfraternity Council.

Other council members questioned whether the only reason that *Voodoo* was given this much attention was because the magazine’s editor, Kononov, was on the council board as the president of Senior House. They pointed out that the Council was not closely scrutinizing smaller groups that did not have direct ties to the UA.

The voting members of the UA Council consists of representatives from the dorms, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and Living Group Council.

In the end, the UA council voted to reinstate *Voodoo*’s funding, contingent on the condition that they meet with the SAO and Finboard to discuss the complaint.

This is not the first time *Voodoo* has been denied funding. In the Spring-Summer 2013 allocation cycle, *Voodoo* claimed they were treated unfairly by Finboard when they received only half the amount of their requested funding. In response, Finboard met

Voodoo in May 2013 to discuss these concerns. According to Vice-Chair of Finboard Cory Hernandez ’14 in an email to the UA council, after this meeting, *Voodoo* seemed amendable to meeting with MIT’s General Counsel, SAO, Finboard and Title IX coordinators to ensure their future leadership did not “cross the lines into harassment in their humor.” *Voodoo* eventually successfully appealed to regain their full funding

R. Gregory Morgan, a member of MIT’s General Counsel, recommended against restricting *Voodoo*’s funding in the future, through a written statement presented at the UA Council meeting.

UA president Sidhanth Rao ’14 stated that though a decision should be made at the council meeting, the decision would be open to an appeal process afterwards, giving more time to discuss the implications of Title IX in regards to *Voodoo*’s publication.

IN SHORT

Quarter 2 Registration for undergraduates is open. Graduate student registration opens on Tuesday at 8 a.m. — registration closes for all on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 1 p.m.

Applications for Leadershape this IAP are open. The camp — held Jan. 17–22 — has limited space and is open to all undergraduates. The deadline to apply is Nov. 9.

The next Choose to Reuse event is Thursday, Oct. 17 in the Stata Center lobby closest to Main and Vassar Streets. This one is for clothing and accessories only. Drop-off starts at 8 a.m. and pick up lasts from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There is no school this Monday and Tuesday due to the Columbus day holiday! *The Tech* will not publish on Tuesday. Enjoy the long weekend!

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

DREAMING OF BEING AWAKE

My alarm clock wakes me up — but only in my dreams.
FUN, p. 5

GOODBYE, PU PU HOT POT

Hello, Patty Chen’s Dumpling Room!
ARTS, p. 10

THE PASTA NEXT DOOR

Basta Pasta does not disappoint.
ARTS, p. 8



DURING COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND...

We’ll have fun! If we’re ever done working.
FUN, p. 5

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

Bringing Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* into the 21st century.
ARTS, p. 7

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Standoff on debt has yet to rattle Asia

By Keith Bradsher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG — When the U.S. government was borrowing heavily four years ago to cover costs related to the global financial crisis, Wen Jiabao, then the prime minister of China, strongly and publicly warned Washington to make sure Chinese investments in Treasury securities were safe.

When Congress and the White House faced off two years ago over increasing the ceiling on the United States’ debt, raising worries about a possible default, Chinese Internet users poured scorn on their own government for having invested so much of their country’s savings in Treasuries.

The current round of brinkmanship between Republicans in Congress and the White House over avoiding a default on the national debt has led to considerably less hand-wringing in China or across Asia, although there were signs Thursday that this was starting to change.

The Chinese media have ac-

tively covered the standoff, and a vice minister of finance expressed concern about it Monday, but the Chinese Internet has not lit up with the same energy as during past budget struggles in Washington. China’s top leaders have stayed silent in public, but Prime Minister Li Keqiang raised the issue briefly in private with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of a meeting in Brunei on Thursday, according to a U.S. official and Chinese state media.

“We understand this is a crisis, but we think they will work out a deal,” said Sun Zhe, a politics professor at Tsinghua University who specializes in Chinese-American relations. “The Chinese people are also getting used to it.”

Stock markets in Asia have been mostly resilient over the last week, with a mixed performance Thursday. But there has been little sign of investors’ moving out of dollars and into yen or other Asian currencies as interest rates on short-term Treasury bills rise.

“The media is trying to get people interested in the possibility of a

debt default, and the market isn’t interested,” said Marshall Mays, founder and managing director of Emerging Alpha Advisors, an asset management and advisory firm in Hong Kong that specializes in fixed-income markets and private equity. “Nobody believes it will happen.”

Mays predicted that Washington would find a way to avoid a debt default. “There are lots of accounting tricks, and just because the federal government is not good at accounting does not mean it can’t be done,” he said.

The same view is prevalent in Singapore and Tokyo. “The prospects of the U.S. not making payments on Treasury securities are effectively zero,” said Thomas Lam, the chief economist for industrialized nations at OSK-DMG, a Singapore investment bank and brokerage firm.

“This time, people are not so concerned with the default risk compared to 2011,” said Hajime Takata, the chief economist at the Mizuho Research Institute in Tokyo.

Abductors briefly seize Libyan prime minister

By David D. Kirkpatrick and Gerry Mullany
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO — Libya’s prime minister, Ali Zeidan, was briefly kidnapped from a Tripoli hotel Thursday in an apparent act of retaliation for his supposed consent to the capture of a suspected al-Qaida leader by American Special Forces.

He was seized before dawn and freed by early afternoon, according to Amal al Jarrari, a spokeswoman for the prime minister’s office, who could not immediately provide details.

The short-lived kidnapping was an ominous sign for the stability of Libya’s transitional government and its cooperation with American counterterrorist efforts. Zeidan’s abductors appeared to be among the semi-autonomous militias who serve as his government’s primary police and security force, according to a statement from the prime minister’s office and a coalition of militia leaders.

A spokesman for the coalition, which calls it the Operations Room of Libya’s Revolutionaries, said the prime minister’s “arrest” followed a statement by Secretary of State John Kerry that “the Libyan government was aware of the operation” that captured the al-Qaida leader, Reuters reported.

The prime minister’s kidnapping was the most serious blow yet to the credibility of Libya’s fragile transitional government. And it also could be a grave setback for U.S. efforts to hunt down other terrorist suspects believed to be at large on Libyan soil, including those suspected of a role in the attack last year on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi that killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

Zeidan’s government had said it had no warning or knowledge of the U.S. commando raid last Saturday in which Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, the suspected al-Qaida leader, was captured. In a statement, the government demanded an ex-

planation for what it called “the kidnapping of a Libyan citizen” on the streets of the capital.

At a news conference Tuesday, Justice Minister Salah al-Maghrani appeared shocked: “The news itself was definitely a surprise,” he said. “And having seen the prime minister the same night, I have not seen someone more surprised than the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan.”

But U.S. officials, speaking anonymously, said Zeidan’s government had secretly authorized the arrest and possibly others. Members of the Libyan Parliament had vowed to remove him from office if evidence emerged that he knew in advance.

The kidnapping Thursday was the most ominous sign yet that Libya is sliding toward anarchy two years after the revolution that ended Col. Moammar Gadhafi’s four decades of dictatorship. And it may also serve as a warning to other Libyan officials who contemplate collaborating with the U.S. in its pursuit of alleged terrorists.

Bank of England retains low interest rate

By Julia Werdigier
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — Britain’s central bank decided on Thursday to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at a record low in the face of more evidence that the country’s economic recovery was gaining speed.

The Bank of England voted, as expected, to leave its interest rate at 0.5 percent and to hold its program of economic stimulus at 375 billion pounds, or nearly \$600 billion.

Britain’s economic recovery has been gaining momentum as consumer confidence returns and disposable incomes have improve over recent months. A surprise drop in industrial production in August signaled on Wednesday, however, that some headwinds to the recovery persist.

Recent positive economic data raised some questions about whether Mark J. Carney, who took over as Bank of England governor in July,

would stick to the plan he announced in August. To eliminate uncertainty among households and investors when interest rates would rise again, Carney said then that the rates would remain unchanged at least until unemployment declined to 7 percent, from the current 7.7 percent. Some investors said the positive data put pressure on Carney to raise interest rates earlier, but Carney has resisted.

Policymakers have said unemployment was unlikely to drop to 7 percent before the end of 2016, but some investors said the central bank might be forced to abandon the plan because of higher inflation. Economists at Nomura and Deutsche Bank were among those who predicted higher interest rates for 2015. The benchmark rate has been at 0.5 percent since March 2009. Economists do not anticipate a change in the bank’s bond-buying stimulus program unless the economic recovery stalls.

With monetary policy on hold,

some economists said that Carney’s focus is shifting to his responsibility for maintaining stability in Britain’s financial system. At the top of his list are possible responses to the debt ceiling and budget deadlock in the U.S., and Britain’s Help to Buy plan, a government program to make mortgages more affordable.

“Short of external shocks, which might include the U.S. debt ceiling, there’s not much that can shift monetary policy at the moment,” David Tinsley, an economist at BNP Paribas in London, said. “The only thing that’s a nagging thorn in the side is the housing market.”

Some of Britain’s largest banks have started offering residential mortgages this week for houses worth up to 600,000 pounds, or \$965,000, with a deposit of as little as 5 percent. Under this part of the Help to Buy program, the government is guaranteeing the banks as much as 15 percent of the value of the home in exchange for a fee.

Europe votes to tighten rules on drilling method

European Union lawmakers voted narrowly Wednesday to force energy companies to carry out in-depth environmental audits before they deploy a technique known as “fracking” to recover natural gas from shale rock.

The technique involves shooting a cocktail of water, sand and chemicals under pressure into shale to break it up and release the gas. France has already banned the technique, also known as hydraulic fracturing. And it has produced protests in Britain.

The rules were narrowly approved the European Parliament, which is meeting this week in Strasbourg, France, and still must undergo another round of voting in the Parliament once an agreement on the final language is reached with EU governments. Shale gas projects that do not use fracking would not be covered by the rules, which update environmental legislation in Europe.

Even so, the result is a setback for the shale gas industry in Europe, where it is far less developed than in the United States and where many citizens are more concerned about the environmental impact of recovering the gas than about finding new sources of hydrocarbons as a way of combating stubbornly high energy prices.

Industry groups immediately condemned the result as more red tape for European business at a time when the Continent is seeking growth after five years of economic crises.

“In its current form, the proposed revision clearly goes against the trend to minimize the regulatory burden on business in order to facilitate the economic recovery and strengthen the competitiveness of our industrial core in the EU,” said Markus J. Beyrer, the director general of BusinessEurope, a powerful industry body based in Brussels.

Representatives of BusinessEurope said they were also concerned by new requirements in the draft rules to carry out assessments for preserving the natural environment before starting infrastructure projects like building airports and railways.

—James Kanter, *The New York Times*

Blackberry founders explore bid for company

OTTAWA, Ontario — The two men who founded the company that became BlackBerry may now try to save it.

In a regulatory filing Thursday, Mike Lazaridis and Douglas Fregin said that they were considering a bid for the 92 percent of the company that they do not already own. They also said that they had hired Goldman Sachs and Centerview Partners as advisers.

Their potential bid joins a growing list of expressions of interest in the company, which recently reported a \$1 billion quarterly loss caused by the market’s rejection of new smartphones that were supposed to revive BlackBerry’s prominence.

Fairfax Investment Holdings of Toronto has made a conditional, nonbinding offer to buy the 90 percent of BlackBerry shares it does not own for \$9 each. That would value the company at about \$4.7 billion.

Many investors are skeptical about Fairfax’s ability to finance that proposal by bringing in other investors and borrowing billions of dollars. Similar questions would apply to any rival offer from Lazaridis and Fregin, who are not working with Fairfax at the moment, according to a person briefed on the matter.

—Ian Austen and Michael J. De La Merced, *The New York Times*

US offer would let some states open parks

The governors of at least four states expressed initial interest in an offer Thursday from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to allow them to reopen national parks in their states, although it remained unclear whether any such deals could be reached soon.

After more than a week of requests from several states that they be allowed to reopen parks closed by the federal government shutdown, Jewell said the administration would be willing to consider such agreements as long as the states agreed to pay the full operating costs, including the salaries of all federal park employees.

“South Dakota, Utah, Colorado and Arizona have all expressed some initial interest in exploring a potential agreement,” said Blake Androff, chief spokesman for the Interior Department in Washington. “But discussions are in the early stages. No formal offers have been submitted.”

In Utah, officials hailed the offer as a breakthrough that could defuse rising tensions over the closing of the state’s five national parks. Utah’s governor, Gary R. Herbert, has urged the Interior Department to let the state use its own money to reopen them.

South Dakota’s governor, Dennis Daugaard, also spoke with Jewell on Thursday about the new offer.

“This announcement today is a welcome change,” said the governor’s spokesman, Tony Venhuizen. “The governor is hopeful it can lead to a solution that reopens Mount Rushmore.”

—Rick Lyman, *The New York Times*

On Iran talks, Congress could play ‘bad cop’

WASHINGTON — When Iranian diplomats sit down in Geneva on Tuesday with the United States and five other world powers for a new round of talks about Iran’s nuclear program, Congress will not have a seat at the table. But that doesn’t mean it won’t have a voice.

With a tough new Iran sanctions bill teed up in the Senate, following the overwhelming passage of similar legislation by the House in July, lawmakers are poised to do one of two things: They could tighten the screws on Iran’s leaders in a way that helps produce a nuclear deal. Or they could foul up delicate diplomacy at a crucial moment.

The Senate Banking Committee, under pressure from the Obama administration, agreed to put a brief pause on its bill to avoid spoiling the first bargaining session in Geneva. But the committee’s chairman, Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., has told Secretary of State John Kerry that he plans to move forward with the bill in coming weeks.

—Mark Landler, *The New York Times*

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The government shutdown and Democrats' hypocrisy.

Imagine a scenario in which Republicans controlled both houses of Congress, as well as the presidency. In their haste to preempt the arrival of a newly elected senator they pen a bill that almost none of the legislators read. It is a massive tax cut with all sorts of measures that Democrats believe will hurt the middle class and the economy. The bill passes, but years later, before it is implemented, Democrats, who still believe that this tax cut will be economically harmful, ask for a one year delay in implementation. They pass a measure to keep the government funded with but one caveat—that there be a delay in the implementation for one year. Republicans refuse and the government shuts down, saying that Democrats are “holding the country hostage” and “acting like spoiled children because they didn’t get what they wanted.”

A president who refuses to even sit down and negotiate is assigned absolutely no blame while the shutdown is deemed ‘the Republican shutdown.’

Our current government shutdown is the same, but flipped. Substitute Democrats with Republicans and the tax cut with Obamacare, and you have our current scenario. Yet I don't believe that the vast majority of readers would actually have called the Democrats spoiled children. Left-leaning individuals certainly would have insisted that Democrats fight against a piece of legislation they felt would hurt the economy. But that is not how our system seems to work. Instead, dissent from Republicans is considered an act of unreasonable hostility and is condemned by

liberals and the majority of uninformed
“independents.”

Now there exists, as has existed for decades, a liberal view of “for me but not for thee.” President Obama voted against raising the debt ceiling as a senator. Today, when Republicans claim that we should use the debt ceiling to evaluate spending policies they are labeled “terrorists.” Senator Obama and his Democratic colleagues viciously fought against filibuster reform when Republicans controlled the Senate. But earlier this year Democrats derided Republican filibuster attempts and tried to reform the filibuster to prevent future attempts to stall legislation opposed by Republicans. Wendy Davis of Texas launched a “brave,” “historical” filibuster and was lauded in the press while Senators Rand Paul and Ted Cruz were lampooned and derided for theirs in the U.S. Senate. A president who refuses to even sit down and negotiate is assigned absolutely no blame while the shutdown is deemed “the Republican shutdown.”

The current liberal climate is saturated with the mantra of “for me but not for thee.” When it came to the current legislation, many turned a blind eye to who would pay for the steep increases in premiums and the layoffs that would result to trim a company’s workforce. As reported recently in one San Jose Mercury News piece, “Cindy Vinson, of San Jose, Calif., will reportedly pay \$1,800 more each year for an individual policy. Additionally, Tom Waschura, of Portola Valley, Calif., will pay nearly \$10,000 more for insurance to cover his family of four.” The take-away line, however, comes from Vinson, who remarks, “Of course, I want people to have healthcare, I just didn’t realize I would be the one who was going to pay for it personally.”

Of course Vinson didn't mind supporting a feel-good law to help those she thought needed help, so long as she wasn't the one footing the bill. From taxes to political rhetoric to the healthcare legislation, there exists the classic liberal mantra

of “for me but not for thee.”

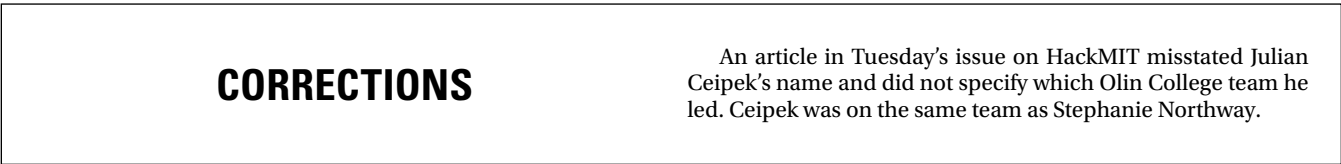
Make no mistake, Republicans believe Obamacare will hurt the middle class. Premiums will skyrocket (in some cases already almost 300 percent), companies will dump employees onto the government plans, and businesses will cut employees to part time hours or fire them completely in order to avoid taking a massive hit.

**Dissent from
Republicans is
considered an act of
unreasonable hostility
and is condemned
by liberals and the
majority of uninformed
'independents.'**

Despite the fact that these drawbacks were predictable, union support for Obamacare was nearly universal. Why would unions (whose members would be adversely affected by the ACA) support such a measure?

Because they expected waivers. “Waivers for me but not for thee.” Now, unions have realized that Obamacare represents a big problem for their membership and they have started to speak out. But it is too little, too late — their members are seeing not only fewer options for their coverage but also increased premiums and decreased employment. So much for hoping for special exemptions.

And so we continue with the shutdown in its second week. Democrats are still whining about the system of democracy we have, all the while refusing to negotiate. Worse, our country is stuck in a cycle where many expect consequences not to affect them, or expect special treatment. Only when people actually get hit does it sink in — “for me but not for thee” only works so long. It’s time to wake up.



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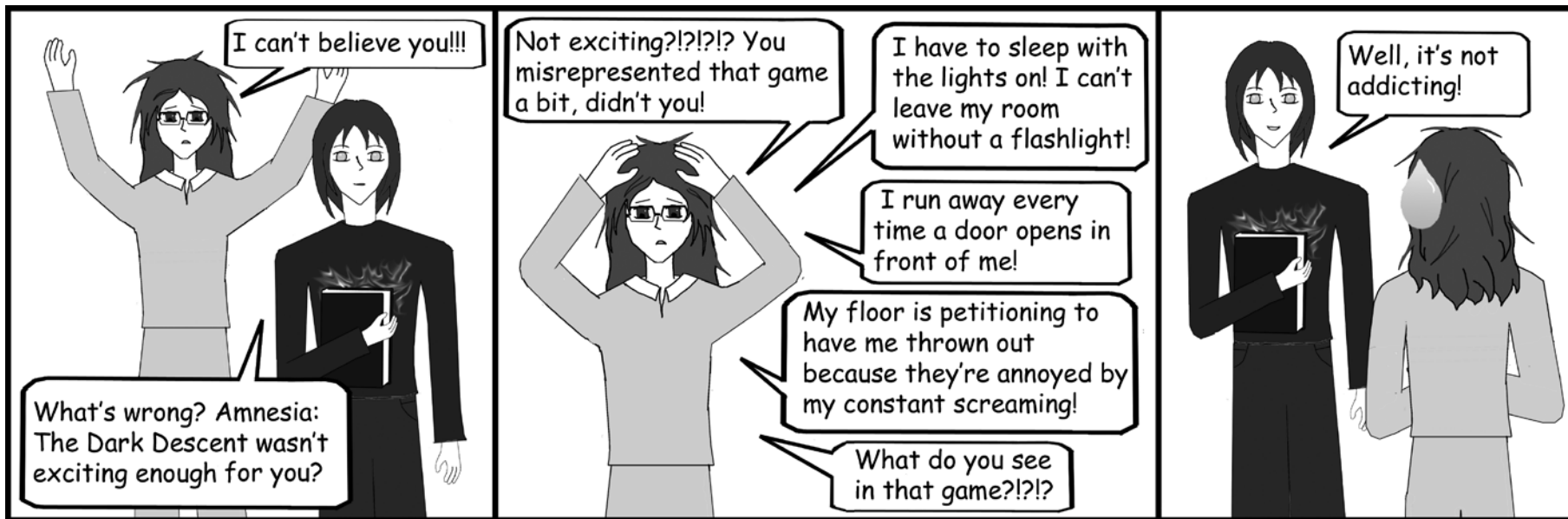
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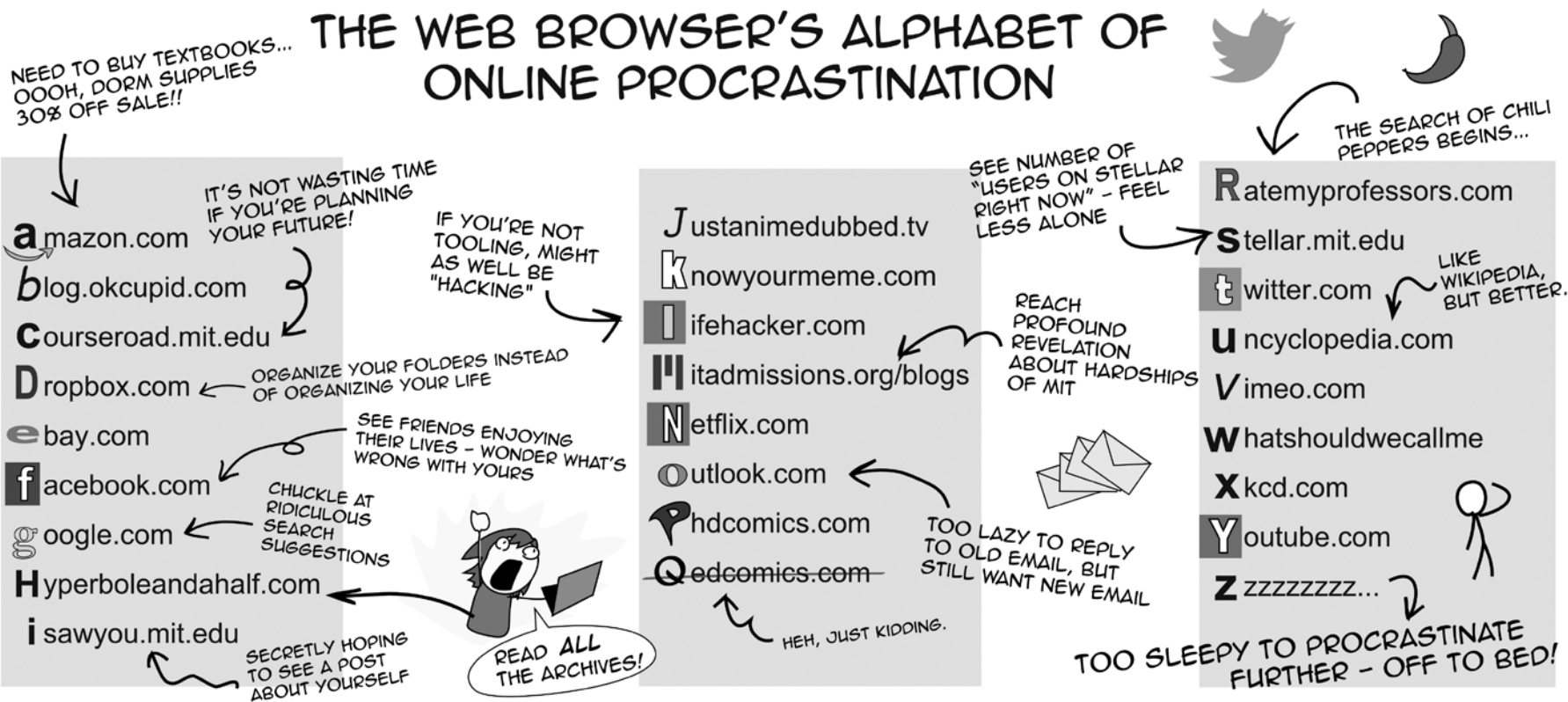
Somewhere in the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li



Q.E.D. (QUITE EASILY DONE)

BY ERIKA TRENT

THE WEB BROWSER'S ALPHABET OF ONLINE PROCRASTINATION



SKETCHY

by Dohyun Lee

- IT IS SO BRIGHT



LET'S DO IT

ОКНННННННННН

GOTCHA.



Losing Altitude by Charles Slack

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

53 Baseless rumor

DOWN

23 Dome-shaped do
24 Hoops org.
25 One side of an issue
27 Woven together
28 __ Mutual Friend (Dickens
novel)
30 Without struggling
33 Most important
34 Hotshot
36 Falling-out
37 45th state
38 Bumped into
40 One side of an issue
42 Monetary gain
43 Money-back play
44 Not at all eager
45 Had
46 Koala color
47 Feudal subjects
51 Take on
53 Film excerpt
54 Forlorn cry
56 Enthusiasm
57 Patterned after
58 Metaphor for hope
59 Productivity measure
60 Stretch (out)

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.

Techdoku

Solution, 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.

OPERA REVIEW

An American version of *The Magic Flute*

Boston Lyric Opera brings the magic of Mozart's music into the 21st century



ERIC ANTONIOU

So Young Park as the Queen of the Night in the BLO's production of *The Magic Flute*, performed at the Shubert Theater.

By Bogdan Fedeles
STAFF WRITER

Imagine Mozart and his librettist Schikaneder enlisting the help of a contemporary dramaturg to pitch their sing-spiel *The Magic Flute* to the American public. This unlikely premise was exactly what Boston Lyric Opera was going for with their world premiere of a new English adaptation of Mozart's famous opera. Bolder than most, the new production featured a more comprehensive backstory, altered geographic setting, clearer symbolism, and delightful English lyrics. The stage décor was enchanting, the costumes eye-catching, and the singing breathtaking. 222 years after its premiere, Mozart's opera sounds incredibly fresh in this ingenious reimaging, delivering its potent mix of jovial humor and nuggets of wisdom with a renewed vitality, and a surprising up-to-date relevance. Attending the BLO's production of *The Magic Flute* made for a spectacular night at the opera, at once entertaining and inspiring.

The opera's original premise is simple; it unfolds as an allegory opposing the forces of the night — led by the Queen of the Night — against the forces of the day — led by Sarastro. Tamino, the protagonist, is on his heroic quest to save the princess Pamina from the evil agent Monostatos. Tamino's side kick, Papageno, is on his own quest to find a wife, which he eventually does, in Papagena. The opera also abounds with freemasonic elements and themes, such as the obsession with the number three (considered magical), the journey of initiation, and trials of the elements, as well as explicit advertising of the freemasons' ideals and creed.

tical Mayan setting and his classmates, and recreates the original *Magic Flute* story. Introducing the whole allegory as a dream or hallucination is very compelling; the additional story layer suggests that the protagonists are ultimately common folk, while the opera is only a mystical reflection of their day-to-day trials and tribulations.

One of the key strengths of BLO's production of *The Magic Flute* is the English translation and adaptation. The creative team, composed of Leon Major, John Conklin, and Kelley Rourke, delivers a well-balanced, ingenious adaptation that unfolds naturally in English, while retaining both the poise and the humorous overtones of the original German text. While the gist of the original text is maintained, the freer translation allows for excellent rhyming and fluidity in the lyrics, which establishes a close connection with the audience. Additionally, the lyrics are projected, which helps the audience appreciate the delectable quality of the translation even more.

Staging is another noteworthy accomplishment. The set is constructed using independently moving rectangular frames, and is richly decorated with vividly colored props full of symbols reminiscent of Mayan civilization. The layered perspective is very appropriate, representing both the mystical labyrinth from which the protagonists are trying to escape, and the stages of initiation that Tamino and Papageno have to go through to prove themselves worthy of their counterparts. This set also afforded very smooth transitions between scenes, because a radically different set could be quickly achieved with relatively small set movements. The

of the three ladies, save for a longer feather in her hat. A more ornate costume, perhaps with a significantly larger headpiece, would have made the Queen stand out better from her underlings.

Mozart's *Magic Flute* may tell an interesting story, but it is the music that transforms it into a timeless masterpiece. The intricate musical beauty of the opera, featuring lively arias, brilliant coloratura passages, tasteful orchestration, and a myriad of symbolic elements, is hard to resist. Under the baton of David Angus, the BLO orchestra delivered an excellent performance, which brought out the variety and crispness of the accompaniment figures in Mozart's music; it offered a bold musical presence when required, but could swiftly dissolve into a shimmering background whenever singers took center stage. The balance between orchestra and singers was also outstanding — due not only to Mozart's masterful orchestration, but also to Mr. Angus' deft conducting.

One of the key strengths of BLO's production of *The Magic Flute* is the English translation and adaptation.

The singing — the main attraction of going to the opera — was the best part of the BLO's production. Featuring an all-local cast, with many singers performing with the BLO for the first time, the operatic spectacle had an ebullient, youthful quality, and offered a smooth blending of superb singing and compelling acting. Tenor Zach Borichevsky, showcasing a precise, nuanced high-register singing and agile acting, delivered a convincing performance as the lead character Tamino. With her soulful and endearing singing, as well as her sleek stage presence, soprano Deborah Selig owned the role of Pamina. Baritone Andrew Garland was delightful and funny as Papageno, vividly expressing the character's humor with his excellent acting and singing. Joining him for one exciting aria was soprano Chelsea Basler, as Papagena, who showcased her comedic talent and warm, mellifluous singing. Up-and-coming sensation soprano So Young Park drove the audience wild by portraying the Queen of the Night with lively acting and breathtaking singing dexterity. In each one of her fiendishly difficult arias, when she reached

The Magic Flute
Boston Lyric Opera
Citi Performing Arts
Center
Shubert Theatre
Through Sunday
October 13, 2013

the stratospherically high notes, it felt like droplets of the sublime tingling one's ears. At the opposite vocal range, bass David Cushing delivered an earthy, booming performance of Sarastro, showcasing an excellent vocal technique and nuance. Rounding out the cast, tenor Neal Ferreira vividly portrayed the lust-crazed villain Monostatos, making use of his alluring, well-projected singing voice and excellent theatrics.

While all the performances were outstanding, if I had to pick the least compelling one, it would have to be the three boys/guiding-spirits. While their tackle of Mozart's grueling singing parts was commendable, their stage presence was often tentative. As guiding spirits, they often seemed in need of guidance themselves. Moreover, being in charge of carrying Tamino's magic flute and Papageno's magic bells (an interesting new concept, at least in theory), made them look even more confused and out of place.

Bass David Cushing delivered an earthy, booming performance of Sarastro, showcasing excellent vocal technique.

A fresh repackaging of Mozart's fantastic tale, now with a solid book, delightful English lyrics and outstanding singing and acting — the BLO's production of *The Magic Flute* is a momentous artistic manifestation with a strong appeal to both opera aficionados and neophytes. If you have never seen *The Magic Flute*, this is probably your best introduction to this opera. If you have seen it, you'll relish the freshness of this interpretation. Either way, you don't want to miss out on this one.

Staging is another noteworthy accomplishment. The set is constructed using independently moving rectangular frames, and is richly decorated with vividly colored props full of symbols reminiscent of Mayan civilization.

The new version of the opera expertly weaves all these elements in with several brand new ones. The setting is moved from the original ancient Egypt to a fresher, more American, but equally mystic ancient Mayan Mexico. A completely new backstory is added, featuring four university students on an exploratory trip to Mayan ruins in modern day Yucatan. When one of them is bitten by a snake, he plunges into a venom-induced hallucination that incorporates both the mys-

symbolism of the moon and the sun representing the night and the day was made abundantly clear, whenever necessary. This was also matched by the well-crafted costumes, which had a silver glitter for the night-aligned characters and a golden glitter for the day-aligned ones. One minor distraction among all these elements was the overly wrinkly texture of the sun disc prop, which seemed at times caricatured. Another was the Queen's dress, which seemed too similar to the dresses

By Rex Lam

Unless you spend your free time walking around the streets of Cambridge, you have probably never heard of Basta Pasta. Hidden in a residential area, the restaurant is about a ten-minute walk from the Central Square T station. After navigating through streets

My initial opinion changed very quickly. Walking into Basta Pasta, I immediately felt like I was in one of the many family-owned eat-in/take-out places back in my hometown in the suburbs of Boston. There are a few tables to the side, but the centerpiece of the restaurant is the counter and the menu.

At the recommendation of the guy at the counter, I ordered three pasta dishes. As I waited for my food, I noticed the constant stream of people coming in. For a small restaurant with an unimpressive exterior, Basta Pasta draws quite the crowd. It seems as if all the locals have known about this hidden gem for years, but have kept their secret from the hungry college students next door.

I immediately felt like I was in one of the many family-owned places back in my hometown in the suburbs of Boston.

I then moved on to the chicken piccata linguini, which turned out to be my favorite. Just like the meatball pomodoro linguini, the pasta was perfect. What made this dish even better was the blend of different flavors. While the linguini itself was relatively bland, it was complemented by the strong, distinct flavors from the mushrooms and capers. Furthermore, slices of lemon gave

Basta Pasta
319 Western Ave.,
Cambridge
Monday – Saturday 11
a.m. – 10 p.m. , and
Sunday 3 p.m. – 10
p.m.

By the time I finished my dinner, all of my first impressions had completely vanished. All I had in mind were the unpredictable flavors of the chicken piccata linguini. As someone who does not eat out at Italian places often, I am glad that I found Basta Pasta. Places like Basta Pasta show that you do not always need a big name or fancy decorations to be a great restaurant. If you ever have some time to venture out to the streets of Cambridge, I highly recommend stopping by Basta Pasta for some great Italian pasta.



Basta Pasta Trattoria, an Italian restaurant near Central Square, dishes out pizza, pasta, risotto, and paninis to customers until 11 p.m. on Tuesday.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

When I dream of *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*

Where to go to satisfy your sushi cravings

Avana Sushi
42 Beach St., Boston
Monday – Sunday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Uni
370 Commonwealth Ave., Boston
Monday – Sunday 5:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

By Ian Matts

After every Netflix binge that inevitably includes an all-too-frequent viewing of *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*, I am always left looking for a way to satisfy my cravings for raw fish. After determining that a flight to Tokyo isn't the most efficient or economical option, I turn to the choices that Boston and Cambridge have to offer. If you too suffer from recurring bouts of hamachi withdrawal, I'd recommend giving either (or both) of my go-to places a try.

Avana Sushi

A veritable diamond in the rough, Avana Sushi is situated in a "Food Court" at 42 Beach St. in Chinatown. If you decide to go and arrive at this address, I'll answer two of your questions before you ask them: no, you aren't lost, and yes, this is the place. Your destination is the sushi stand nestled snugly between a cell phone kiosk and an egg puff cart (also delicious) with only six counter seats. If you go at a prime time,

After you're seated, you'll look at the menu and see it was worth any discomfort that your journey and/or wait may have caused. "Conventional" maki are cheaper than LaVerde's at \$4.95 per roll, sushi and sashimi are around \$4 a serving, special rolls are \$9, and, to top it all off, miso soup is only \$1. Spoiler alert: it's all delicious. My go-to options are the Spicy White Tuna Avocado Roll (\$4.95), the surf clam sushi (\$3.95), and the Spicy Scorpion Maki (Eel, avocado, cucumber, tobiko, and a layer of shrimp, \$8.95), but really anything that is on the menu is worth getting, and then getting more of. If you don't trust me, trust Boston Magazine, who named Avana Sushi "Best Low-Brow Sushi" for 2013.

Uni

When my desire for sushi (almost) deserving of Jiro's approval trumps my desire to have money in my wallet, I usually head over



Chefs prepare rolls and other assorted items at Avana Sushi, a sushi joint in Chinatown with a wide variety of options on its menu.

to Uni Sashimi Bar, which can be found just across the river from campus, at the intersection of Commonwealth Ave. and Mass. Ave. The restaurant occupies a very small basement space (17 seats) in the Eliot Hotel. The space is cozy but modern, with dark tables and dim lighting. The focal point of the room is the sashimi bar, behind which the restaurant's chef makes the sashimi for the restaurant in full view.

Uni serves sashimi and Japanese fare with “fusion” elements, but the use of that skepticism-inducing buzzword of the mid-2000s shouldn’t scare you off.

While the menu may not meet Jiro's exacting standards for traditional cuisine, you certainly won't be disappointed by it. Uni shares a kitchen with Clio, one of the highest-rated French restaurants in the city, and both are owned by James Beard Award winner Ken Oringer. So don't worry, the kitchen staff knows how to incorporate French elements into their Japanese dishes. Two of my favorite dishes are the "Tuna Poke" (\$17), which is cubes of raw tuna in a slightly spicy sauce with mung bean and onion, and Scottish Salmon Sashimi (\$15), which is slices of raw salmon served

Prices for a meal are steep, however, with small dishes averaging about \$15–\$25 each, and a satisfying meal requiring at least two or three of them. For a slightly less pricey option, visit Uni on a Sunday or Monday night for their “Sake Bomb Menu.” It includes a four-course dinner (with the exact dishes chosen by the kitchen), a Sapporo, and a glass of Sake \$35. If you aren’t a picky eater and like surprises with your dinner, you should certainly make your way to Uni for this option.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Passion of the Capt'n

Captain Phillips is proof that a movie can feel like a documentary

By Roberto Perez-Franco
STAFF WRITER

In case you have not seen the trailer — because if you have, you already know the whole plot — *Captain Phillips* is a movie about how Captain Richard Phillips (played by Tom Hanks) sailed a U.S.-flagged merchant ship, Maersk Alabama, too close to the coast of Somalia, and was hijacked by



Tom Hanks being taken hostage in *Captain Phillips*.

COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES, INC.

four Somali pirates with machine guns. The pirates were not too competent in the operation and had to abandon the ship, but not without taking the good Captain with them as a hostage. A few days later, the pirates were killed, and the Captain was rescued by a team of Navy SEALs. That's it.

I imagine this story would be truly shocking if he were a close friend or relative of yours. I can also see how if he were, say,

a friend of a friend, or a third cousin of your wife, his story would still be a great one to tell to friends over dinner. But given that I have no particular acquaintance or close relationship with this man called Captain Phillips, and considering the great scheme of things, the story of his kidnapping and rescue — at least in the movie version — struck me as just one more story in a genre that has seen better.

Some critics have described the movie as thrilling. I even heard some press guys sitting next to me describing how the film created an environment of claustrophobia. It may be because I'm not claustrophobic, or because I'm getting too old for this, but the movie did nothing for me. Don't get me wrong: I am sure Captain Phillips will be emotionally scarred for life, and I am pretty certain that the maritime industry learned some lessons from the experience. But in terms of entertainment, the whole story of this man's kidnapping and rescue has the caliber of a made-for-television Hallmark drama.

Tom Hanks, who is without doubt one of the greatest actors of his generation, delivers an Oscar-worthy performance during a short scene when — after the ordeal — he is examined by a doctor aboard a U.S. Navy ship. The way he breaks down, the way he looks lost and cries, shocked beyond words, emotionally shattered, is just fantastic, one of the best performances I've seen in my life. Besides that fledging scene, there's little else truly remarkable about the film. The Somali pirates look positively like what I imagine Somali pirates would look like, but their acting is kind of bland. The same

★★★★★

Captain Phillips

Directed by Paul Greengrass

**Starring Tom Hanks,
Barkhad Abdi, and
Barkhad Abdirahman**

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

goes for the Navy SEALs, who look the part (strong, professional, efficient) but are a bit one-dimensional. And Hanks himself is kind of “meh” during the rest of the movie.

Throw in some amateurish special effects of the vessels, the fact that not much is happening during most of the movie and — worse — that what happens is exactly what you already knew was going to happen, and the result is closer to a snooze-fest than it is to a thriller. The rescue operation was so disproportionate compared to the pirate threat that I almost felt sorry for the pirates. Captain Phillips's rescue was as predictable and underwhelming as was the hijacking of his ship, and his days of danger at sea are not even remotely in the same league as other maritime adventures, like that of Shackleton.

MOVIE REVIEW

The beauty and terror of space

The special effects alone are enough to pull you in

By Kristen Sunter
STAFF WRITER

The film opens with sobering facts about space written on a black screen, while a sound like a rocket launching grows deafeningly loud, so it is clear from the very beginning that Alfonso Cuarón's *Gravity* will be merciless. But the brutal facts and gripping story are set against the incredible beauty of Earth as seen from space, with sleight-of-hand special effects, and gorgeously rendered scenes of sunrises and the northern lights from orbit.

When a Russian anti-satellite mission accidentally hurls deadly debris into the orbit of a shuttle mission sent to upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope, Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) is flung from the cargo bay arm into space. Mission commander Matt Kowalski (George Clooney), who is wearing a thruster pack, maneuvers out to rescue her, but the debris has destroyed their shuttle, killed all of the other astronauts, and taken down the satellites necessary for them to communicate with mission control.

Almost every protection they have against the perils of space fails them, and almost ev-

ery clever plan is thwarted by harsh physical realities and bad luck. They reach the ISS before Stone's oxygen is depleted, only to face the near impossibility of actually landing on it. The only remaining Soyuz module is entangled in its own parachute lines, there's a fire on board the ISS, and the orbiting debris comes around every 90 minutes to tear through what remains.

Stone may be a highly trained specialist, but from the beginning, when she nearly loses a screw from the Hubble, she is also an everyman, which can excuse some of the lack of character development. Meanwhile, Kowalski is the very picture of an astronaut as he jokes with Houston and wishes he could beat the record for most hours on spacewalks. While Kowalski continues to act almost unbelievably lighthearted after the disaster, Stone is utterly unprepared. But she begins to emulate him: when she radios to him from the ISS, she uses the same questions and suggestions that he used when she was spinning out into space earlier. Later, a conversation with him snaps her out of helplessness and leads to an out-of-the-box solution to a problem.

Although the dialogue is not a strong point,

there are darkly humorous moments, such as when Stone realizes just how difficult survival will be and says, "I hate space." Cuarón masterfully portrays human ingenuity, generosity, and humor in the face of astronomical odds.

Audiences have come to expect howlers and egregious exaggerations in Hollywood movies, but *Gravity* sets the bar high for future science fiction. The physics might surprise people who haven't taken 8.01: when Stone is flung into space spinning, there is no friction to slow her down. The scene is a very visceral demonstration of mechanics: the camera first focuses on her face from outside her helmet and then slowly moves through the glass until we see the same sickening spinning she experiences. Space buffs might know that the ISS and Hubble are not actually so close together, and a real life Kowalski wouldn't have been wasting precious fuel to goof around in the beginning.

However, the unrealistic aspects are not mistakes but rather sacrifices to tell the greater story. When Stone removes her space suit in the airlock of the ISS, she should be wasting no time to rescue the still free-floating Kowalski, but instead she curls up in the fetal

★★★★★

Gravity

Directed by Alfonso Cuarón

**Starring Sandra
Bullock and George
Clooney**

Now Playing

position as though the airlock were a womb, which is one of the most powerful images of the film. Later, she sees the Soyuz as a similarly safe place and does not want to push on. But survival requires going away from the places that were once safe.

Gravity might not make you want to be an astronaut, but it will make you proud to be human.



Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) in *Gravity*, a drama set in space.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

DANCE REVIEW

Taking off from the ground into flight

A modern dance performance with aerial elements

Ground

Ipswich Moving Company

Choreographed by Janet Taisy Craft

Performed by Chandra Cantor, Jenny Carlson, Danielle DiVito, and Tabitha Liversidge

Boston University Dance Theater

October 4-5, 2013

By Kristen Sunter
STAFF WRITER

The word “aerial” has come to connote aerial silks, trapeze, lyra, and similar circus arts, and the performances often involve more acrobatics and gravity-defying tricks than dance per se. That’s not to say that aerial silks are not graceful or expressive, but that Cirque du Soleil has set a high standard for making audiences gasp.

In *Ground*, however, the use of the slings was strictly to serve the dance: the aerial dance concert, choreographed by Janet Taisy Craft and performed by members of the Ipswich Moving Company, was less an aerial performance and more a modern dance routine, in which the dancers often climbed, posed, or swung on the cloth slings and ropes that hung alongside them. The dance involved floor routines as much as, if not more than, aerial stunts. In fact, because the slings are loops, many of the techniques used with silks, which are not tied together at the bottom, cannot be easily replicated with the slings.

Ground did not include the elaborate wrapping and falling typical of aerial silks, and the dancers rarely climbed up high onto them. Instead, the dancers swung, often hanging upside down with their loose hair nearly brushing the floor, and the choreography focused much more on the expressive power of small movements and interactions between the dancers.

Ground was staged at the Boston University Dance Theater, and a tape down the middle of the rows of seats marked the side of the theater where it was suggested that the audience sit to best view the performance. The reason was clear when the lights came on: there were large mirrors along stage left, where, during part of a floor routine, the dancers piled up against their reflections.

Many moments in the choreography involved the dancers moving together into one mass. A particularly impressive example was the final pose, where the four dancers became knotted together while hanging on one sling. In the first pose, when the curtains opened, two dancers hanging from the same sling created a similar visual effect: there was a confusion of limbs that turned the troupe into something greater than the sum of its parts. It would have been interesting to see more exploration of these techniques, which would have perhaps required the use of partner acrobatics but would not necessarily have taken the focus away from dance.

The slings look like incredible fun, and wanting to try them out for myself was part the enjoyment of watching this performance. The tempo of the music was generally meditative, and most of the use of the slings, even when swinging across the stage, was gentle. In aerial routines that awe audiences with the element of danger, where performers nearly tumble to the ground but the silks catch them in the nick of time, it’s hard to identify with the performers, especially if you are afraid of heights and can’t imagine doing anything so dangerous yourself. The thrill of watching that sort of performance is similar to the thrill of watching a daredevil.

Here, however, I felt like a kid watching other kids playing on a swing set. Part of the skill of incorporating aerial elements into a dance is making it all look easier than it really is, of course, but I suspect the audience got an accurate sense of the fun that the dancers were having.



(Top to bottom) Jenny Carlson and Danielle DiVito in rehearsal for the aerial performance *Ground*.

NICK REPOLI

RESTAURANT REVIEW

What happened to Pu Pu Hot Pot?

A homemade dumpling restaurant has opened

★★★★☆

Patty Chen’s Dumpling Room

907 Main St., Cambridge

Monday – Sunday 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

By Ruth Abrams

Unless you are a freshman, you likely recall walking down Mass. Ave. toward Central and seeing for the first time the large white and blue sign that proudly declared “Pu Pu Hot Pot.” While I never set foot inside Pu Pu Hot Pot, when I saw that the banner had been replaced by a sleek new sign, I felt bereft. The walk to Central would never be quite as funny as it used to be. However, I had a hunch it might be tastier, as the new sign announced that a new restaurant would be taking its place, Patty Chen’s Dumpling Room. I love a good dumpling, and dislike going all the way to Chinatown to get good ones. The thought of homemade dumplings close by was incredibly enticing, so I headed over as soon as it opened.

Walking into the restaurant, it was apparent a total overhaul had occurred. The restaurant, though small, is chicly decorated in red and white wallpaper. A large TV in the corner plays top 40 and electropop. The decor is just the start of the overhaul. The menu has been stripped down to just thirteen items, only two of which aren’t dumplings. It consists mostly of variations on pork dumplings, with a vegetarian and vegan option. For dessert there are red bean dumplings and nutella banana dumplings. Quite a change from the space’s former life as a hole-in-the-wall Chinese delivery establishment.

The space and menu may have received a big facelift, but none of that would matter unless the food had received similar treatment. The food is not at that level yet, but has the potential to be. At my first visit, the service and food were mediocre at best. The food took 30 minutes to arrive, and when the chicken and cabbage dumplings did finally arrive, I wasn’t sure if they were steamed or fried. The red bean dumplings were so fried, I had to chip the edges off.

But all these were forgivable problems, as the base of a good dumpling was there; the execution was just off. I had a feeling it was opening week bumps and visited again more recently. The second visit was much better. The vegan dumplings were excellent, full of an earthy mushroom flavor. The vegetarian dumplings were not quite as good, as the way they were fried interfered with the flavor. However, I have the feeling I would have loved them steamed, as the vermicelli, egg, and chive combination is a winning one. The only real issue is the price. Two orders of dumplings costs around \$14. When I spend \$14 on restaurant food, I usually hope to have plenty of leftovers. Instead, I left feeling barely full.

The restaurant certainly has potential, and if they start delivering as intended, it could be a nice way to get homemade dumplings at home. Visiting the restaurant could be a nice break from campus, especially with a stop into Toscanini’s right next door. However, if you are looking for an authentic, cheap meal, you’ll still have to go to Chinatown.

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'I think I'm gonna like it here'

By Karleigh Moore

I have to admit, I am obsessed with this show. I spent the entire summer in a fangirlish craze, watching episode after episode until I completed all eight seasons. (If you are planning a similar feat, may I recommend IAP?) I spent a mere three months in anticipation of this episode, and it did not disappoint.

The season eight finale left fans dumbfounded, asking, with Heaven and Hell in their current states, how could life on Earth continue to be? What will happen to Sam? How many times do the main characters have to die? Will Destiel ever become canon? Does God exist? These are all questions that plague the minds of viewers and have spurred endless discussion on social media sites.

Once again, I am left with only my Tumblr dashboard for answers as I wait for next Tuesday's episode, when hopefully more truths will be uncovered and my ship, Destiel, will be one step closer to canon.

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



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Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

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

Solution to Techdoku

from page 6

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

Solution to Crossword

from page 6

J	I	L	L	T	A	P	S	S	L	A	N	T		
A	L	O	E	O	V	A	L	C	U	R	I	E		
B	L	U	S	H	W	I	N	E	E	X	I	L	E	
			E	E	L		D	E	N	U	D	E	S	
	L	A	T	E	R	A	L		P	E	R			
T	O	T	A	L	S		A	D	O		Y	V	E	S
R	O	O	K	S		T	R	E	X		L	I	R	A
A	N	N	E		R	A	I	N		I	R	O	N	
M	I	C	A		I	R	A	S		S	N	I	D	E
P	E	E	P		C	A	T		F	E	E	L	E	R
			O	L	E		S	P	E	A	R	E	D	
A	L	L	W	I	S	E		R	A	T				
B	E	A	D	S		G	L	O	S	S	O	V	E	R
C	A	M	E	L		G	E	N	T		F	I	V	E
S	P	A	R	E		S	A	G	S		F	E	E	D

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Kochs and conservatives split over health care law

In midst of government shutdown, most vocal conservatives splintering under pressure

By Eric Lipton and Nicholas Confessore
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Under attack for the government shutdown, some of the most vocal elements of the conservative wing of the Republican Party are publicly splintering, a sign of growing concerns among even hard-core conservatives that the defeat-health-care-at-any-cost strategy may have backfired.

The dispute centers on the best way to oppose President Barack Obama’s health care plan: to immediately try to bring it down by blocking any federal budget deal that includes funding for it, or to gradually build public opposition until Congress and the White House are controlled by elected officials willing to repeal the law.

On Thursday, the divisions were on display as conservative groups such as the Heritage Action Fund for America said it would not fight a short-term increase in the debt ceiling while Americans for Prosperity insisted just a few days ago that any increase be tied to cuts in entitlement programs.

Their actions followed an unusual public statement Wednesday by the Koch Cos., the conglomerate controlled by the billionaire conservative brothers Charles and David Koch, who sent a letter to the Senate stating that they did not support the effort spearheaded by Heritage Action to force the partial closure of federal government as a way to eliminate funding for the health care program.

“We want to set the record straight and correct this misinformation,” the letter said.

The conflicting opinions, which had been kept mostly private for

months as the budget conflict in Washington escalated, reflect a growing fear that the Republicans will be blamed for fallout from the government shutdown without anything to show for it.

“We were fighting a battle where we already lost, on the same battlefield where we already lost it,” said Hogan Gidley, a former executive director of the South Carolina Republican Party and an adviser to Rick Santorum’s presidential campaign.

Dan Holler, a spokesman for Heritage Action, which has led the effort to defund the health care program even if it meant a government shutdown, said the divisions among conservative activists were not a surprise.

“Anytime you choose to engage in policy fights in Washington, chances are your supporters are not going to be in 100 percent alignment all the time,” he said. “That is how Washington works.”

Stopping the health care plan should be a years-long effort to marshal growing public animosity

Democrats have seized on the disputes, noting that Freedom Partners, a trade association backed by the Koch brothers and others, donated \$500,000 to Heritage Action before the 2012 presidential election.

“By shutting down the government, Republicans are satisfying the Koch brothers while millions of people are suffering,” Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. and the Senate majority leader, said in a tweet before the

Kochs distanced themselves from the Heritage Action effort.

Holler said that one issue dividing conservatives was the timing of attacks on the health care plan. The supporters of Heritage Action’s strategy believed that the critical moment to mobilize was the convergence of the new budget year that began Oct. 1 — meaning that the government would run out of money if a new budget was not passed — and the opening day of the online markets, known as exchanges, that enabled people to buy health insurance under the new law.

“If there is a better strategy than defunding, we are all ears,” Holler said, recalling a conversation among conservative activists this year as they debated the best path forward. “If it is more workable, sign us up. But nobody was able to present one that would work before October 1st.”

Opponents of the approach are arguing that conservatives would have been better served by trying to force an overall reduction in federal spending and tying that effort to the debt ceiling fight, a step the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity urged this week. Specifically, the group argues that stopping the health care plan should be a years-long effort to marshal what it says will be growing public animosity toward the law. That will help elect Republican majorities in both houses of Congress, which will repeal it.

Stanley S. Hubbard, a Minnesota-based television executive and a donor to groups supported by the Kochs, said he preferred that approach. “Whether you like it or not, it’s the law,” he said. “And if you don’t like it, elect people who can

repeal it.”

The startup of the program offered a perfect opportunity to advance that longer-term approach, supporters of it said, since without the politically manufactured budget crisis, there would have been more media attention on the program’s troubled beginning, including failures of the online enrollment system.

What was clear in Washington was that the focus shifted from defunding the healthcare program.

“We believe tying the fight over Obamacare to the continuing resolution takes our focus off the many flaws of Obamacare, as well as cutting out-of-control government spending,” said James Davis, a spokesman for Freedom Partners.

Lanhee Chen, a fellow at the Hoover Institution and a former policy adviser to Mitt Romney, said he worried that by hurting the Republican brand nationally, the House Republican strategy would set back the cause of repealing Obamacare.

“To the extent that we are compromising our ability to win close races, that is a big problem for those of us who think that the best way to get through this is through a legislative mechanism,” he said.

Others expressed irritation that the House Republicans had been so outmaneuvered on the shutdown that they were now offering a short-term increase in the debt ceiling without any offsetting budget cuts — a worse deal, however

temporary, than they were demanding in the early stages of the budget battle.

Similar divisions emerged among Republicans in Congress several weeks ago. Even Karl Rove, a Republican operative and former adviser to President George W. Bush, questioned the defunding strategy in a column for The Wall Street Journal last month.

“Any strategy to repeal, delay or replace the law must have a credible chance of succeeding or affecting broad public opinion positively,” he wrote. “The defunding strategy doesn’t.”

What was clear in Washington on Thursday was that the focus had shifted away from the defunding of the health care program. Republicans on Capitol Hill were describing the fight as an effort to cut future budget deficits — a major shift in strategy and an acknowledgment that they were expecting the defunding push to fail.

Chris Chocola, president of the conservative Club for Growth, which has supported many Tea Party candidates, said Thursday that the conservatives were still unified on their ultimate goal: killing what they call Obamacare.

“Different people have different views on how to get there,” he said. “Moving in that direction and having the debate are worth the effort.”

Catherine Frazier, a spokeswoman for Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who led a defunding effort in the Senate last month, said she agreed Thursday.

“We believe we have made important headway in our argument to undo Obamacare,” she said. “Any potential backlash is not on our radar right now.”

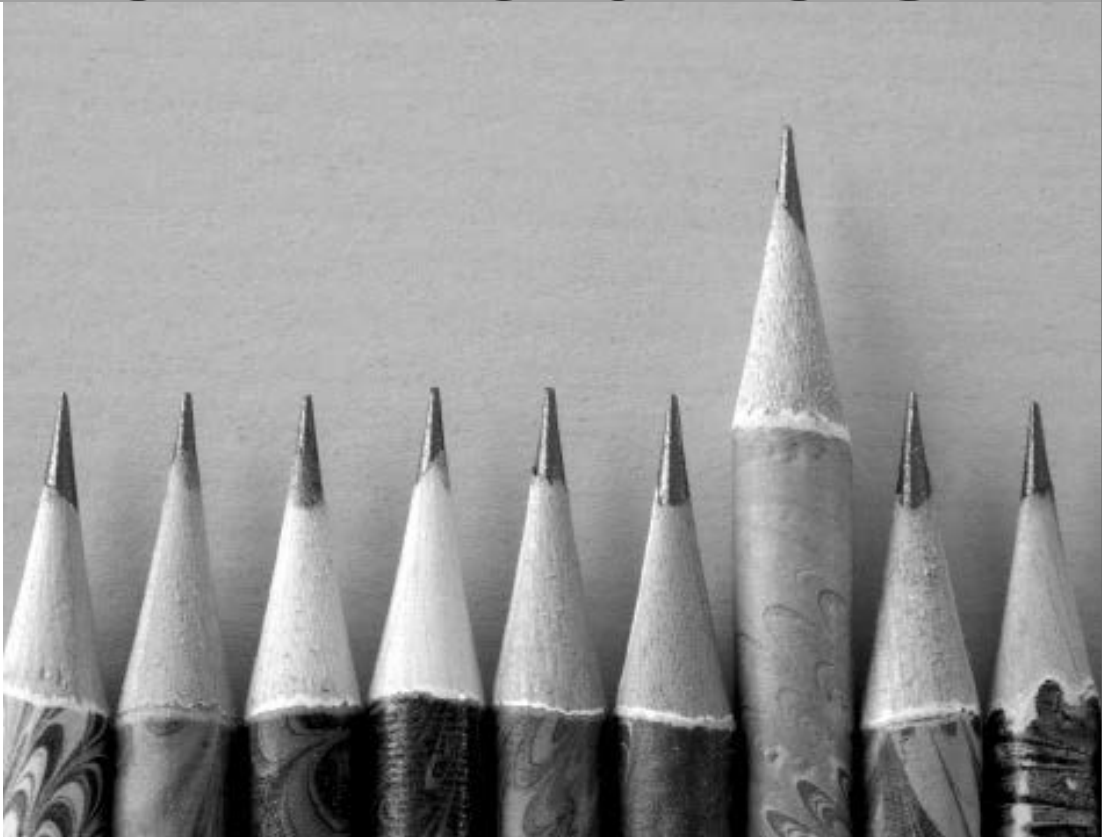
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Genius Grant recipients are pioneers in their fields

MIT computer scientist and astrophysicist win two of this year's MacArthur Fellowships

MacArthur, from Page 1

Wi-Fi signals. Her project, called “Wi-Vi,” has received press attention from multiple media outlets including *TechNewsDaily*, which was subsequently picked up by news outlets such as *Yahoo! News* and *NBC News*. Katabi imagines that Wi-Vi can be used in a range of real-world applications, such as helping firefighters locate victims trapped in burning buildings.

In the future, Katabi hopes to see wireless networks become more than just communication platforms. She compares wireless networks to what computers were a few decades ago, when they functioned only as computation devices. Now, computers are used in a variety of ways, from entertainment to online commerce. Specifically, Katabi imagines that we will be able to wirelessly power devices when the device is relatively far from the transmitter.

Katabi explained, “Then, wireless networks become a way of

powering some devices so they provide power transfer, and then they [also] provide tracking and control and then you can start thinking, ‘Can I make networks become general-purpose networks?’ as opposed to just communication-oriented [networks]

Katabi imagines that we will soon be able to wirelessly power devices.

— similar to how your computers are general-purpose computers.”

Katabi’s research has other important applications as well, such as protecting pacemakers from harmful interference.

“Having a challenge is something interesting,” Katabi stated. “It gets the best out of you.”

Sara Seager

As an astrophysicist who studies planets outside of our solar system (exoplanets), Professor Sara

Seager receives a lot of calls about UFOs and alien sightings. Thus, Seager missed the call the first time the MacArthur Foundation tried notifying her of her award. Her assistant had screened it out.

“In this case, the call was so mysterious that it didn’t go through,” Seager explained in a phone interview with *The Tech*.

In her research, Seager studies the atmosphere of exoplanets and their interiors, ultimately looking for any spectral signatures of chemical compounds that could indicate the existence of life (called biosignature gases).

“On my best days, I usually get to do some computer programming and often will be working with one or two colleagues and just intensely working for five or six hours in a row on a very hard problem,” said Seager.

After obtaining a B.S. from the University of Toronto and a PhD from Harvard, she went on to pursue her postgraduate studies at the Institute for Advanced Study

in Princeton, New Jersey. The Institute claims such famous members in science as Albert Einstein, Noam Chomsky, Alan Turing, and Julius Robert Oppenheimer.

However, in a field dominated by men, it was not always easy being the minority.

“Well, it’s just awkward, because all the guys are kind of friends with each other,” Seager laughed.

As an undergraduate in the University of Toronto, Seager was invited to a Women in Physics event for students, at which they were giving out a prize to an undergraduate. According to Seager, both men and women were invited.

“We were searching the looks on the male faces — the male undergraduates,” recalled Seager. “When they walked into the room and saw all the women, [they] just walked out. It’s like, ‘Well, how do you think we feel?’”

The MacArthur Fellowship is not the only recognition she has

received for her work — *Time* magazine named her among the “25 Most Influential in Space” last year, and *Popular Science* named her in the Fifth Annual Brilliant Ten in 2006.

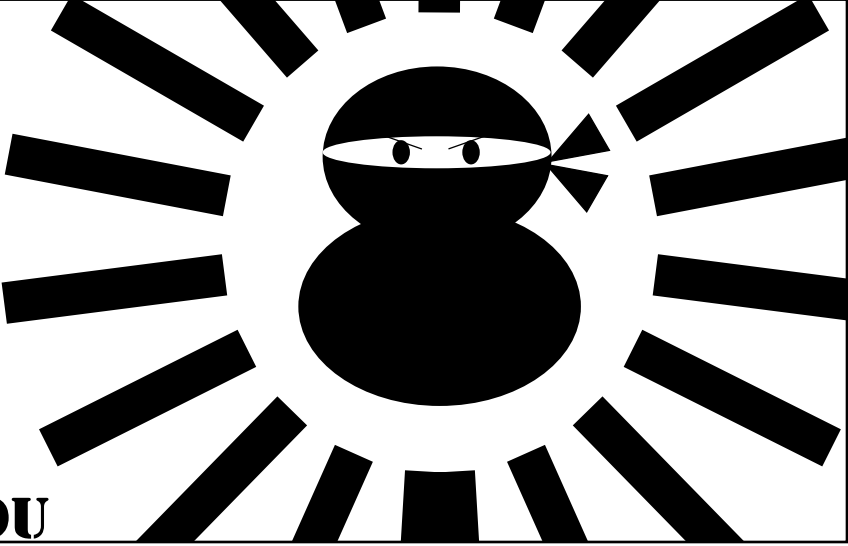
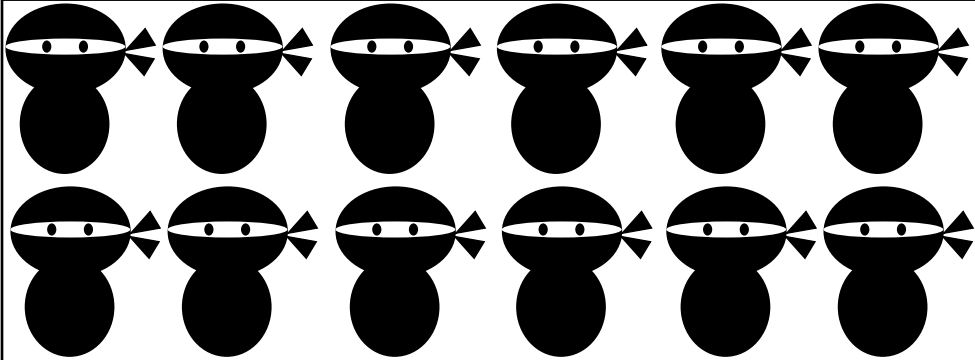
As a Canadian native, Seager chose to move to the U.S. and pursue U.S. citizenship because of the opportunities she saw offered here.

“Of all the places I’ve seen, MIT does the best they can in terms of trying to be a meritocracy,” Seager said. “I plan to be at MIT indefinitely.”

Seager hopes that the award will give her even greater influence in the field. She has already given a TEDx-Talk on her work, and published a commentary in the *Huffington Post* on the scarcity of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) academia.

“I think people will listen to me now, even more than before,” Seager commented. “Assuming I want to get something done, it gives me a platform for a voice.”

Leon Lin contributed reporting.



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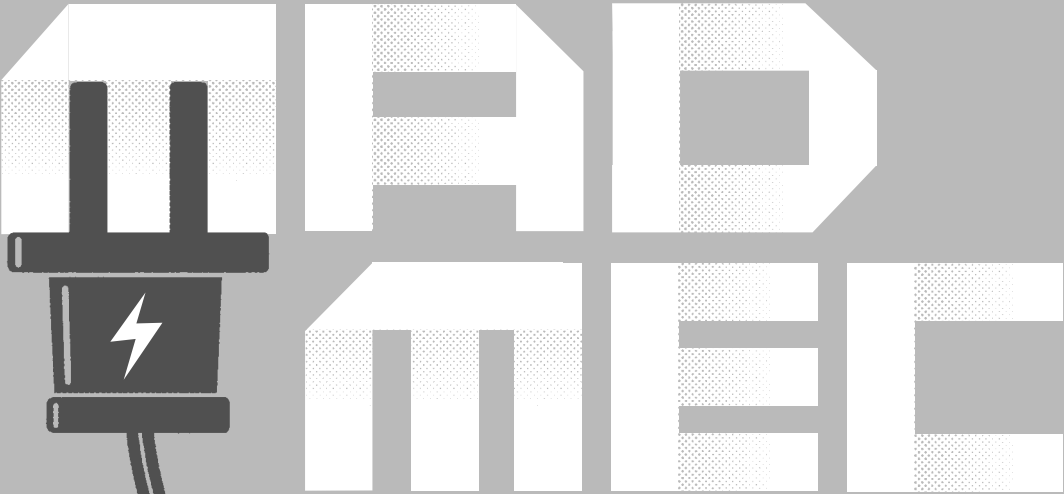
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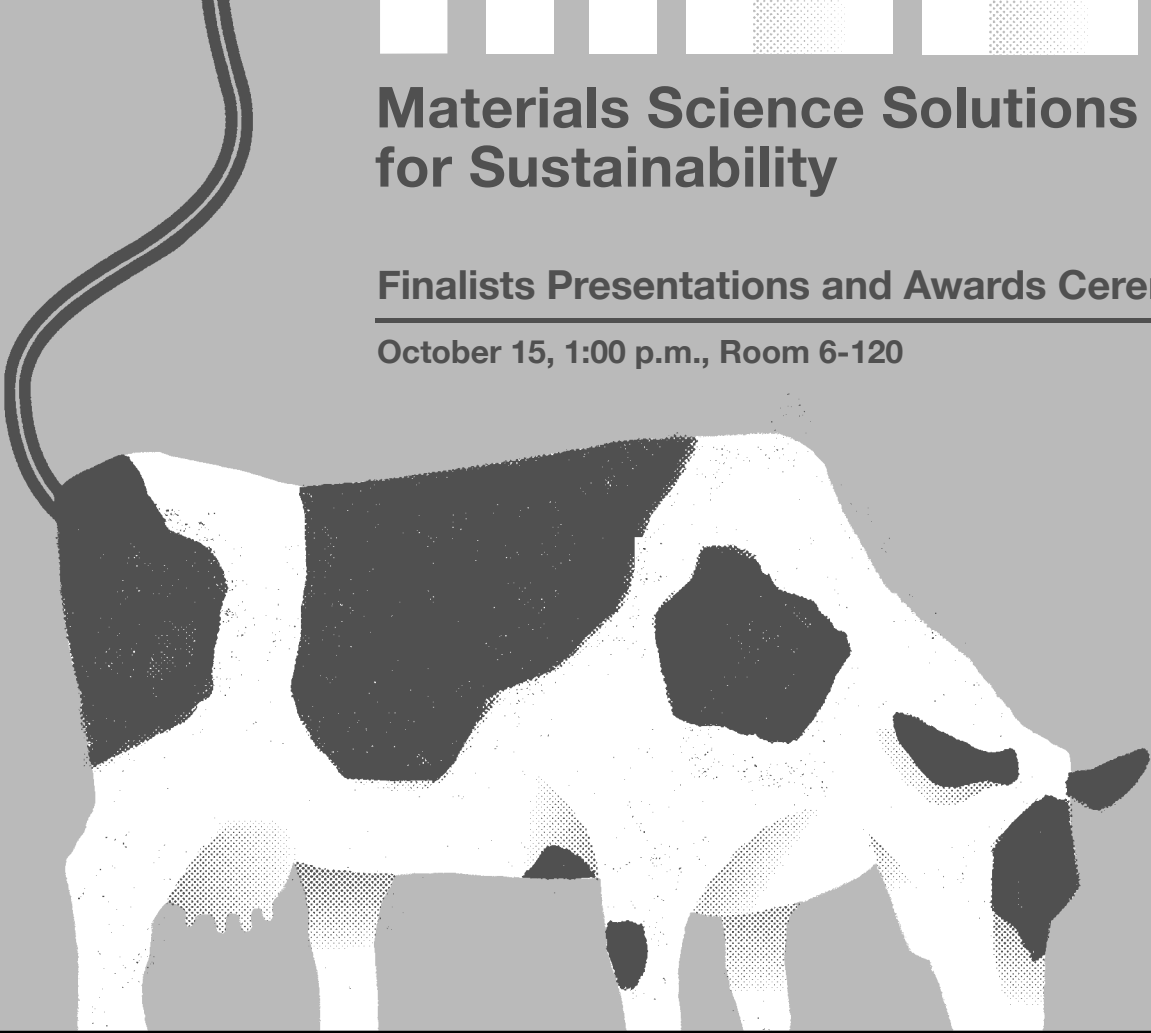


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