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The Tech

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Tuesday, November 26, 2013

WEATHER, p. 2

TUE: 44°F | 43°F
Mostly cloudy

WED: 66°F | 33°F
Wind and rain

THU: 36°F | 22°F
Breezy

Koch childcare center meets parent demand

Provides care to just under 500 families

By Derek Chang

On Oct. 1, MIT opened a new daycare center at 219 Vassar Street. The center, known as David H. Koch Childcare Center or TCC Koch, is the fourth of MIT's Technology Childcare Center (TCC) facilities. Three other on-campus centers are located at Eastgate, Westgate, Stata, and the fourth is in Lincoln, Mass., serving all MIT affiliates including Lincoln Labs employees. Additionally, there is also an on-campus infant care room in Building 68.

"The center was opened smoothly and successfully," said Alison Alden, MIT's Vice President for Human Resources. "The parents are thrilled, and the center had an enormous positive impact in responding to campus demand."

"The opening of [TCC Koch] allowed us to meet nearly all existing demand for MIT childcare," said Kathy L. Simons, senior program manager of childcare services and work-life policy at the MIT Work-Life Center.

Many students and post-doctoral associates who had been in need of childcare were finally able to obtain spots with the opening of TCC Koch. The current parent enrollment there is 38 percent postdocs, 28 percent MIT staff, 26 percent students, and eight percent faculty. "Childcare at MIT tends to be expensive for students, and generally difficult to find in the Cambridge area," noted Brian Spatocco G, former president of the Graduate Student Council.

TCC Koch has a maximum capacity of 126 slots — 21 infant, 45 toddler, and 60 preschool — which nearly doubled campus childcare capacity. 97 of the 126 slots have been opened, and the remaining two classrooms will open later if needed to meet increasing demand.

The center features three infant classrooms, all of which are currently open; four open toddler classrooms with a fifth set to open in the early winter; and two open pre-

Daycare, Page 10

HELEN NIE—THE TECH

Boston College's Synergy Hip Hop Dance Company was one of several teams to perform in the 8th annual Ring the Alarm dance competition, titled "Livin' La Vida Mocha," this past Friday evening in Lobdell. There were numerous MIT teams that performed including Bhangra, Chamak, Fixation, Mirchi, and Ridonkulous, as well as teams from Boston University and Wellesley amongst others. Kinematix, from Northeastern, took first place at this year's event.

John Mikhael awarded Rhodes

2013 MIT alumnus and BCS researcher is 46th MIT alum to win prestigious scholarship to study at Oxford

By Austin Hess
NEWS EDITOR

John G. Mikhael '13 has received a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University next year, the Rhodes Trust announced Saturday. Mikhael is one of 32 U.S. students and the only MIT student this year to receive the prestigious scholarship.

According to the MIT News Office, Mikhael is the 46th recipient of the Rhodes from MIT since the Rhodes Trust began offering the award to American students in 1904.

Mikhael finished his undergraduate studies in three years with a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in chemistry. According to the MIT News Office, he began conducting research in Brain and Cognitive Sciences professor Nancy Kanwisher's lab in 2011, and has since been continuing that research full-time. Mikhael plans to pursue graduate studies in neuroscience and eventually attain an MD/PhD.

He saw a unifying theme behind his diverse academic interests, Mikhael wrote in an email to *The Tech*. "Math, neuroscience, and medicine are all different but very complementary ways of seeking to better understand how the brain works," he wrote, "and I think this is exactly the type of deeply integrated approach that Oxford's especially good at."

Rhodes, Page 9

Externship numbers

This January, 339 undergraduate and graduate students will be participating in alumni-sponsored externships. Now in its 17th year of operation, the externship program is run by the MIT Alumni Association and provides students with opportunities to explore career paths during the January Independent Activities Period (IAP). This year, 993 students submitted 2,459 applications (a student can apply for up to three externships); 861 were undergraduates and 132 were graduate students.

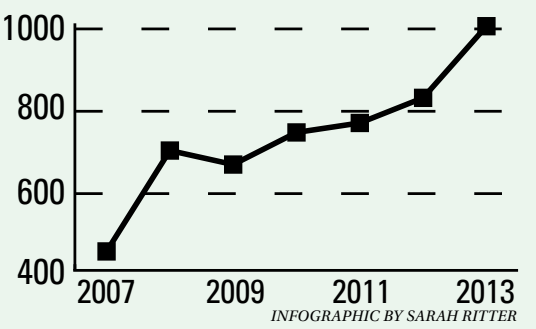
The Alumni Association uses an algorithm to match students with externships during two rounds of matching, which took place from Nov. 8 until Nov. 21. The second round gave spots that were turned down to students that didn't get one in the first round.

The financial services category received the most applications, which has been a consistent trend for the past several years. Jane Street Capital received the most applications of any company; of the 67 applicants to the position, which pays an $8,000 stipend, only 12 students were accepted. Among the other most popular companies were Oliver Wyman ($5,000 stipend) in the category of management consulting with 56 applicants and 3 students accepted. In the category of engineering, Palantir Technologies ($4,800) received 48 applications and accepted 3, and Quora ($8,000) received 41 applications and accepted zero.

—Alexandra Delmore

Going Up!

the number of applicants has consistently increased, going from 446 in 2007 to 993 in 2013



INFOGRAPHIC BY SARAH RITTER

SARAH LIU—THE TECH

A silver Toyota Corolla was hit in the rear on Mass Ave. and Memorial Dr. outside of Maseeh last Friday at around 10:25 P.M. Several units from both CPD and MIT responded, as well as the Cambridge Fire Department. The operator of the other vehicle was arrested for OUI 2nd offense, negligent operation, unregistered motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, illegal U-turn, and an open container of alcohol. No injuries were reported.

IN SHORT

No classes Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving break! *The Tech* will not publish on Friday and will resume our regular publishing schedule Tuesday, Dec. 3.

The Student Center will be closed from 11 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27 through 7 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 30 for Thanksgiving.

The Subject Listing & Schedule for IAP and Spring 2014 is now available online at *http://web.mit.edu/iap/listings/index.html* and *http://student.mit.edu/catalog/index.cgi*. Pre-registration for IAP and Spring opens Monday, Dec. 2.

Registration for IAP PE classes opens for undergraduates at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 and for graduate students at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The deadline to enter the undergraduate December housing switch lottery or to submit the cancellation form for spring housing is Monday, Dec. 1.

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

CHARCUTERIE AT THE SALTY PIG

Open kitchen, crowded bar, exotic menu — the Salty Pig doesn't disappoint. **ARTS, p. 6**

GIVING BACK TO THE INSTITUTE

In your own special way: *Somewhere on the Search for Meaning*. **FUN, p. 7**

STRANGERS TO FICTION

Why my best friend is a freshly-washed sweater. **FUN, p. 8**

CAMBRIDGE AT NIGHT

Photographer Nora Vrublevska's *Cambridge at Night*, on display in W20. **ARTS, p. 6**

SUPPRESSING EXPRESSION

Greg Lukianoff on universities censoring student art. **OPINION, p. 4**

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Gunman is reported on Yale campus

NEW HAVEN — Police officers swarmed onto Yale University, asked nearby shops to shut down and warned students not to go outside after a gunman was reported on campus Monday morning.

There were no immediate reports of shots being fired, and by early afternoon it was not clear whether any gunman existed. Still, the threat brought police teams from local and state departments as well as the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to Yale's Old Campus, where many freshmen live, and several streets were blocked off. Around 1:45 p.m., students were told by text message that the police were about to begin doing room-to-room searches.

Around 9:50 a.m. a call lasting a few seconds came into 911 from a pay phone off campus saying matter-of-factly that the caller's roommate "was heading toward campus with a gun" to shoot people, said Officer David Hartman, a spokesman for the New Haven police. Several people reported seeing a man with a gun, Hartman said.

"There is a fairly well confirmed report of somebody on campus with a long gun," he said a couple of hours after the search began. Police were also checking surveillance videos from the area. But later, Hartman said police had determined that at least some of the people who reported seeing a person with a gun had actually been looking at a police officer, and that another person had seen only a backpack. Police did not release a description of the gunman, and noted that the witnesses' description of him did not all match.

"We don't have a suspect," Hartman said around 2 p.m. "We have nothing tangible."

The campus was busy over the weekend for the annual Harvard-Yale football game, but many students had left by Monday, since classes are out for Thanksgiving break.

—Robert Davey and Ariel Kaminer, The New York Times

Government abuse drives Eritreans to flee, UN says

GENEVA — Severe government abuse, not harsh living conditions, is driving thousands of Eritreans to flee their country every month and risk their lives trying, often by precarious means, to reach other countries, a U.N. investigator said Monday. Her assertion puts a spotlight on an exodus that resulted in tragedy last month when hundreds of migrants, many of them Eritreans, drowned as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to Italy.

Complete deprivation of freedom and security, a "blanket disrespect of fundamental human rights" and the desire to "find a place where they feel protected" was pushing 2,000 to 3,000 Eritreans to flee their country every month, the investigator, Sheila B. Keetharuth, a U.N. special rapporteur, said in a statement after a 10-day visit to Tunisia, where she interviewed Eritrean migrants.

Most of those she interviewed spoke of a daily struggle to get food and water but said that was not their main reason for leaving, said Keetharuth, a human rights lawyer from Mauritius. Instead, they cited a system of compulsory and open-ended military service in Eritrea in which they said punishment amounting to torture and detention in inhumane, degrading conditions was routine. Women said they were particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse by officers, Keetharuth said.

The thousands of Eritreans fleeing the country are well aware that the risks they face crossing deserts and seas may be life-threatening, Keetharuth said. "Nobody in his right mind would take such a decision," she quoted a young Eritrean man as telling her. "We do it because there is no other choice."

More than 7,500 Eritreans reached Italy in the first nine months of the year, the U.N. said, but the dangers of the journey, often made in rickety boats operated by smugglers, were starkly exposed in October when more than 300 people drowned as their boat sank off the coast of Italy.

—Nick Cumming-Bruce, The New York Times

Syrian peace talks to begin on Jan. 22

By Nick Cumming-Bruce and Rick Gladstone
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GENEVA — After months of delay, the United Nations said Monday that Syria's government and the opposition would hold their first negotiations aimed at ending that country's civil war in Geneva on Jan. 22. But the precise agenda for the negotiations, as well as a complete list of participants, remained unresolved.

The fixing of a date, which was announced in Geneva after a meeting of senior diplomats from the United Nations, United States and Russia, was welcomed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York that he regarded the impending negotiations as a "mission of hope" to halt the nearly 3-year-old conflict in Syria. More than 100,000 people have been killed and almost 9 million driven from their homes in the mayhem, which has sent tremors of instability through the Middle East.

"At long last and for the first time, the Syrian government and opposition will meet at the negotiating table instead of the battlefield," Ban said.

His expectation, he said, was that the antagonists would come to the January meeting, known in diplomatic shorthand as Geneva II, with the intention of creating a transitional government with full executive powers — the objective of an international conference on the Syria conflict held in June 2012, known as Geneva I.

Ban's announcement, coming a day after the successful negotiation in Geneva of an interim agreement to freeze parts of Iran's contentious nuclear program, added to a sense of diplomatic momentum aimed at resolving two of the most vexing international problems.

"I would simply say that it was a good weekend for diplomacy," Martin Nesirky, Ban's spokesman, told reporters in New York.

But it was also clear that difficult and perhaps insurmountable issues still confronted the start of peace talks that Russia, which supports the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad, and the United States, which supports what it calls the moderate opposition, first proposed in May.

Hours after Ban spoke, his special representative on Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, who helped settle on the date of the negotiations, told reporters in Geneva that it had not yet been decided who would be invited to participate.

Brahimi, who has met periodically with Russian and U.S. diplomats, said at their last meeting, in early November, that deep divisions within Syria's opposition had been the most immediate obstacle to holding a conference. Since then, the Syrian National Council, the opposition coalition in exile, has decided to participate. But who will be the lead representative of the opposition has not been settled.

Brahimi said he would meet U.S. and Russian officials again in Geneva on Dec. 20, hopefully for the last time before Geneva II, and that he hoped both the Syrian government and opposition would name their delegations before the end of the year.

Oil prices dip after nuclear deal with Iran

By Stanley Reed
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — Oil prices dipped Monday on the heels of an interim agreement between Iran and the United States and other world powers to temporarily freeze Tehran's nuclear program.

But few experts expect any significant change to consumer energy prices, at least in the short term.

In terms of market fundamentals, little has changed, despite the United States' agreement to provide $6 billion to $7 billion in sanctions relief to Iran, much of it in the form of oil revenue that has been frozen in foreign banks.

Analysts say Iran is unlikely to be able to increase its exports much, if at all, during the six-month period covered by the deal, because the Washington-led coalition has not lifted its embargo against Iranian oil.

The main buyers will continue to be those that, given their heavy reliance on energy imports, have been given waivers by the United States: China, India, South Korea and Japan.

Gregg Laskoski, an analyst at *Gasbuddy.com*, a website that advises motorists on where to find the least expensive gasoline in the United States and Canada, said the Iran deal "may bring some calm to markets," but he said he doubted it would have a significant impact soon.

Even before the weekend announcement, American drivers were likely to pay less at the gas pump this Thanksgiving holiday than they did last year. The national average for gasoline is $3.26 a gallon compared with $3.43 a gallon a year earlier, according to Laskoski. Consumers are benefiting from a year that has been "relatively quiet in terms of refinery problems," he said, compared with the autumn of 2012, when refineries took a beating from Hurricane Sandy.

Analysts said the main benefit of the weekend's understanding with Iran may be the psychological impact on the market, which has long been propped up by fears of a supply disruption resulting from the standoff between Iran and the United States and its allies.

If those fears are defused, the energy markets might begin to more fully reflect purer issues like supply and demand, as well as the global search for alternative energy sources.

"There was always the risk of military conflict at the end of the path of sanctions if they proved ineffective," said Simon Wardell, an analyst at the market research firm IHS in London. "That was always one of the factors keeping prices elevated and that begins to deflate now."

WEATHER

Windy Wednesday could cause travel trouble

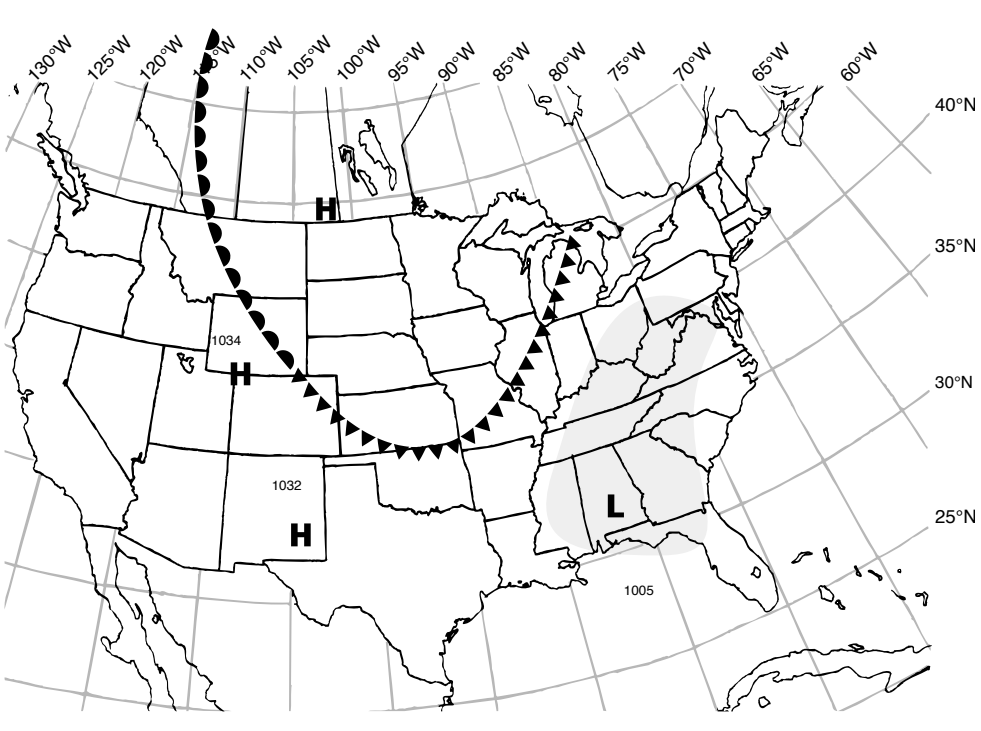
By Vince Agard
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A strong cyclonic storm will have a big impact on this week's weather in the Northeast. The storm, which as of last night was currently forming in the Gulf of Mexico, will bring high winds and heavy rains into New England beginning tonight. Although earlier forecasts had included the possibility of a travel-crippling snowstorm for this system, it is now apparent that there will be enough warm air advected ahead of the Nor'easter to keep the precipitation in the form of rain for each of the major cities in the Northeast Corridor. Still, the storm could pose problems for those traveling home for the Thanksgiving holiday, as winds on Wednesday are expected to exceed 30 mph, with gusts upwards of 50 mph possible in the afternoon. These potentially dangerous conditions had prompted the National Weather Service to issue a High Wind Watch for much of Southern New England at the time of this publication.

Winds will remain breezy on Thanksgiving day after the storm passes, but sunshine will return for the weekend. A high pressure system will move in for Friday and Saturday, resulting in clearing skies, calming winds, and below-normal temperatures.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, high 44°F (7°C). Winds SW at 5–10 mph.
Tonight: Rain beginning in the evening and intensifying overnight, low 43°F (7°C). Winds SE at 15–25 mph.
Tomorrow: Very windy with rain becoming heavy at times before ending in the evening, high 66°F (19°C). Winds S at 25–35 mph, gusting to 50 mph.
Thursday: Sunny and breezy, highs in the mid 30s°F (2°C).
Friday: Sunny, highs in the low to mid 30s°F (1°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow / Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Showers	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*
		Heavy	

In report, 63 percent favor path to citizenship

By Julia Preston
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A consistent and solid majority of Americans — 63 percent — crossing party and religious lines, favors legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for immigrants living in the United States illegally, while only 14 percent support legal residency with no option for citizenship, according to a report published Monday by the nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute.

Those surveyed expressed strong support for citizenship for 11.7 million immigrants in the country without documents just as Congress appears to be shifting away from that approach, with Republican leaders in the House working on measures that would offer legal status without a direct path to naturalization.

Sixty percent of Republicans, 57 percent of independents and 73 percent of Democrats favor a pathway to citizenship, according to the report. Majorities of Protestants, Catholics and Americans with no religious affiliation also support that plan.

The institute found slightly less support for limiting the immigrants to legal residency than there is for a tough enforcement strategy of identifying and deporting them, a policy favored by 18 percent.

The report is based on results from four national surveys, a survey in Ohio and focus groups in Arizona, Florida and Ohio. It compares results from a national poll in March with a similar bilingual telephone survey that was conducted nationwide in English and Spanish from Nov. 6-10 among 1,005 adults, with a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The nonprofit research institute conducts surveys on public policy issues and religious values.

Support for citizenship has not changed significantly since March, the institute found.

The group drilled down into that issue, creating subgroups for the November survey who were asked questions with differing levels of detail about the requirements immigrants should have to meet to become citizens. When there was no mention of requirements, 59 percent supported an option for citizenship. When the question specified that immigrants would have to pay back taxes, learn English and pass background checks, support increased to 71 percent

The requirements were "most important for Republicans," the report said. When the question did not mention requirements, only about 4 in 10 Republicans supported citizenship. When the requirements were described in more detail, Republican support increased to 62 percent.

In June, the Senate passed a broad bipartisan bill with a 13-year pathway to citizenship that includes the hurdles mentioned in the poll: paying back taxes and passing English tests and criminal background checks. House leaders have said they will not take up that measure, but will address immigration issues in smaller bills. Several House Republican leaders have said they are drafting measures that would provide "lawful status" for many unauthorized immigrants but no "special path" to citizenship.

Wal-Mart names chief of international unit as new CEO

By Elizabeth A. Harris
THE NEW YORK TIMES

As Wal-Mart enters a fiercely competitive holiday season while still hampered by sluggish sales, the company's board announced Monday that Michael T. Duke, its chief executive, would retire early next year and a longtime executive, C. Douglas McMillon, would replace him. McMillon, 47, president of Wal-Mart International, will take the helm Feb. 1, just after the holiday season, the company said. He was also elected to the board effective immediately and Duke will help with the transition.

"Doug is uniquely positioned to lead our growing global company and to serve the changing customer, while remaining true to our culture and values," S. Robson Walton, chairman of Wal-Mart's board, said in a statement. "He has broad experience — with successful senior leadership roles in all of Wal-Mart's business segments — and a deep understanding of the economic, social and technological trends shaping our world." Duke, 63, has been the company's chief executive since 2009 and was vice chairman from 2005 to 2009.

His departure had been rumored for several months, industry watchers said. "The question was not whether, but when," said Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consulting and research firm. The choice to name McMillon — who will be the youngest chief executive to lead the company since its founder, Sam Walton — elevates an insider with deep roots in the company.

He joined Wal-Mart in 1984 as a summer associate in a distribution center, then rejoined in 1990. From 2006 to 2009, he was president of Sam's Club, Wal-Mart's warehouse stores division.

McMillon's new salary and compensation package were not revealed Monday. His fiscal 2013 salary was nearly $930,000, while his total compensation was slightly more than $9.5 million, according to the company. Duke's salary was about $1.3 million, and his total compensation was roughly $20 million. After retiring, he will stay on as an adviser for a year.

"The opportunity to lead Wal-Mart is a great privilege," McMillon said in the company's statement. "Our company has a rich history of delivering value to customers across the globe and, as their needs grow and change, we will be there to serve them."

In recent weeks, Wal-Mart has been busily promoting its holiday deals in one of the most competitive sales seasons in recent memory. Major retailers are already slashing prices and many have been chipping away at the lure of Black Friday deals by offering them even earlier, driven partly by the very short window this year between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Nonetheless, this next few days will probably be among the busiest of the holiday season.

Close vote raises tensions in Honduras

By Nicholas Phillips and Elisabeth Malkin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Honduras appeared headed toward days of political tension Sunday as the two leading candidates each declared they had won the presidency. With 43 percent of the votes counted, Juan Orlando Hernández, the conservative candidate of the National Party, led with 35 percent to 28.4 percent for Xiomara Castro, the candidate of the left-wing Libre party.

The dispute came at the end of a long campaign that has cracked open the country's ossified politics. Castro, the wife of former President Manuel Zelaya, who was ousted in a coup four years ago, leads a new party that is challenging the political and business elites in one of Latin America's poorest nations.

The race between her and Hernández, a former president of the National Congress, has been dominated by personality and ideology rather than specific proposals. Over 20 percent of the electorate was undecided before the vote, according to estimates, and voting was extended for an hour because of high turnout. Honduras, one of Latin America's most economically unequal countries, is besieged by crime that has decimated the slums of its major cities, where residents have become the constant victims of gang violence, police corruption and drug trafficking.

Castro, 54, ran as a candidate of change, renewing her husband's promise to rewrite the constitution to give the country's impoverished majority a greater role. Hernández, 45, has focused on security, pinning his campaign on a new military police force that began to patrol the country's most murderous neighborhoods five weeks ago.

The rest of the vote was divided among six other candidates, led by Mauricio Villeda, a leader of the traditional Liberal Party, who had about 21 percent of the vote in the early results. Salvador Nasralla, a television host running on an anticorruption platform, was in fourth place. He said in a radio interview late Sunday that he rejected the official results. Regardless of the final result, it was clear that Honduran politics was entering a new, potentially messy period, when multiple parties would have to negotiate to get laws passed and new voices representing the county's marginalized poor would get a hearing.

After the polls closed, activists flocked to watch the vote count. "I want to see that it's transparent," said Olga Check, 42, an accountant from central Tegucigalpa. She stood with a couple of dozen other people as each ballot was held up for display and placed on the correct pile. There is no second round, so whoever wins will have a weak mandate: No one is likely to take more than 40 percent of the vote.

Deals at climate meeting advance global solution

WARSAW, Poland — Two weeks of U.N. climate talks ended Saturday with a pair of last-minute deals keeping alive the hope that a global effort can ward off a ruinous rise in temperatures.

Delegates agreed to the broad outlines of a proposed system for pledging emissions cuts and gave their support for a new treaty mechanism to tackle the human cost of rising seas, floods, stronger storms and other expected effects of global warming.

The measures added momentum to the talks as U.N. members look toward a 2015 conference in Paris to replace the moribund Kyoto Protocol.

"I think this is what they needed to move the ball forward," said Jennifer Morgan, director of the climate and energy program at the World Resources Institute, "even if you can't say that it provided a lot of new ambition."

The conference, known as the 19th annual meeting of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, got underway two weeks ago in the shadow of the giant Philippine typhoon.

The United States hailed the agreement on calculating emissions reductions, which was along lines proposed by Todd S. Stern, President Barack Obama's climate envoy. Stern had called for each nation to make a public offer early enough to be evaluated for the Paris summit meeting. He argued that peer pressure was the best hope for concerted action after the 2009 Copenhagen meeting showed a binding top-down approach could not succeed at the international level.

Negotiations ended a full day later than originally planned and delegates, who had gone days with little sleep, were nodding exhaustedly.

The language grew heated at times by diplomatic standards, with Stern on Saturday reminding China that it had agreed two years ago that climate action would be "applicable to all parties," and expressing surprise "that China would be assuming no commitments under the future agreement."

Lead negotiators eventually worked out compromise language — changing the word "commitments" to "contributions" — for 2015 to allow some wiggle room.

—David Jolly, The New York Times

Japan answers China's warnings over islands' airspace

TOKYO — Matching China's rhetoric with warnings of his own, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan vowed Monday to defend his nation's airspace after China declared an air defense zone over a disputed group of islands in the East China Sea.

Speaking in Parliament, Abe called China's move an unacceptable effort to change the status quo with threats of force. He described it as a dangerous ratcheting up of tensions in the standoff over the uninhabited islands, which are administered by Japan but also claimed by China.

"We are determined to defend our country's air and sea space," Abe said. "The measures by the Chinese side have no validity whatsoever for Japan."

China and Japan have been locked in an escalating war of words and nerves over the islands for more than a year. China's declaration Saturday that it would identify and possibly take military action against aircraft flying near the islands follows a long period of frequent dispatches of Chinese coast guard ships and aircraft to the area to challenge Japan's control.

Abe's effort to draw a line in the sand reflects his promises to lead his nation in standing up to China, which has eclipsed Japan as Asia's top economic power. Since taking office in December, Abe, an outspoken conservative, has raised defense spending for the first time in a decade and has increased military ties with the United States.

—Martin Fackler, The New York Times

Emissions of methane exceed estimates

Emissions of the greenhouse gas methane due to human activity were roughly 1.5 times greater in the United States in the middle of the last decade than prevailing estimates, according to a new analysis by 15 climate scientists published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The analysis also said that methane discharges in Texas and Oklahoma, where oil and gas production was concentrated at the time, were 2.7 times greater than conventional estimates. Emissions from oil and gas activity alone could be five times greater than the prevailing estimate, the report said.

The study relies on nearly 12,700 measurements of atmospheric methane in 2007 and 2008. Its conclusions are sharply at odds with the two most comprehensive estimates of methane emissions, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and an alliance of the Netherlands and the European Commission.

The EPA has stated that all emissions of methane, from both man-made and natural sources, have been slowly but steadily declining since the mid-1990s.

Only last April, the agency reduced its estimate of methane discharges from 1990 through 2010 by 8 to 12 percent, largely citing sharp decreases in discharges from gas production and transmission, landfills and coal mines.

The new analysis calls that reduction into question, saying that two sources of methane emissions in particular — from oil and gas production and from cattle and other livestock — appear to have been markedly larger than the EPA estimated during 2007 and 2008.

One of the study's principal authors, Scot M. Miller of Harvard University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, said its higher estimates underscore methane's significant contribution to rising temperatures.

"These are pretty substantial numbers we're dealing with, and an important part of greenhouse gas emissions," he said on Monday. "Our study shows that there could be large greenhouse gas emissions in places in the country where we may not necessarily have accounted for them."

—Michael Wines, The New York Times

OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Institute-wide environmental initiative

Dear President Reif, Acting Provost Schmidt, and Vice President Zuber:

Of the numerous grand challenges facing the world in the 21st century, few are as wide-reaching and of such consequence as the global decline in the integrity of environmental systems and resources, and the detrimental effects this decline is having on society. MIT has both the capability and responsibility to provide solutions to environmental problems, and should be applauded for efforts already underway. As representatives of a large and diverse group of MIT students, we wish to express our continued support for an integrated MIT Environment Initiative and to urge the administration to act on the proposal delivered to former Provost Kaiser last month by Professors Rob van der Hilst, Eran Ben-Joseph, and Markus Buehler to make such an initiative a reality.

In their report, the three department heads present a compelling strategy for implementing an environment initiative at MIT that would complement existing Institute-wide, problem-motivated research programs such as the successful Energy and Cancer Initiatives. The report's call for adaptive management of the initiative would allow MIT to build on its current strengths in environment-related research (e.g. water, sustainable cities, and benign design) while building research capacity in topics not currently pursued. The report's cross-departmental vision also enables the creation of new interdisciplinary course offerings, a strategy that will help to build relationships among faculty and students from different parts of the Institute, prerequisite for any effective, long-term research collaborations.

We are very grateful to Professors van der Hilst, Ben-Joseph, and Buehler for engaging with students during their deliberations. We believe that student passion for the subject has been instrumental to keeping the environment initiative on the agenda of senior administrators over the years, and that students can and should continue to play an integral role. We are therefore especially heartened by the committee's call for ongoing student participation in the initiative at all levels, including oversight and management. Student participation gives the plan increased legitimacy in the eyes of our peers, as well as a method for integrating new, innovative ideas from the student body.

The health of the environment is fundamentally intertwined with human welfare. An integrated environment initiative will help researchers from across MIT, including students, to work together to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. We therefore urge you to accept the recommendations from the implementation committee and launch the initiative this fall, as Provost Kaiser had originally envisioned.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Bowen is a graduate student in Urban Studies and Planning. Karen Hao is a junior and chair of the UA Sustainability Committee. Jonathan Krones is a graduate student in Engineering Systems, MIT S.B. 2007, and president of the MIT Sustainability Club. Marguerite Nyhan is a graduate student in Urban Studies and Planning and co-chair of the MIT Global Sustainability Working Group. Sidhant Pai is a senior and officer of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Student Association. Becky Romatowski is a graduate student in Nuclear Science and Engineering and co-chair of the GSC Sustainability Subcommittee. Todd Schenk is a graduate student in Urban Studies and Planning, former chair of the GSC Sustainability Subcommittee. Alexis Schulman is a graduate student in Urban Studies and Planning and co-organizer of New Economy @ MIT. Linda Shi is a graduate student in Urban Studies and Planning and co-chair of the MIT Global Sustainability Working Group.

GUEST COLUMN

When the artist's brush catches the censor's eye

The BC mural controversy demonstrates how far campuses will go to avoid conflict and offense

By Greg Lukianoff

One of the defining characteristics of art is its ability to affect people in strikingly different ways. Some might find a painting inspirational; others might find it poignant; still others might find it offensive. As the Supreme Court explained in *Cohen v. California*, "one man's vulgarity is another's lyric." This is particularly true when an artist attempts to push boundaries. A society dedicated to freedom of expression ought to welcome such work and the potential for thoughtful provocation that it offers. But when unorthodox art triggers controversy on the modern college campus, administrators often take dramatic measures to suppress it.

MIT students recently witnessed this type of suppression when the school painted over certain murals in the Burton-Conner dormitory. Unconventional student art can be found throughout the halls of Burton-Conner. The building is filled with "lovely, quirky, bizarre, exquisitely beautiful art," according to Anne McCants, the dormitory's housemaster. The censored murals, however, touched upon aspects of college life that some might find distasteful, including drinking and sexual activity. McCants stated that these images could have been interpreted "as a celebration of drunkenness" and advocacy of violence and sexual misconduct.

As Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol, or Pablo Picasso could have told you, art is not always popular or free from controversy. Though a private university not bound by the First Amendment, MIT should encourage its students to express themselves in a variety of ways about a wide range of issues, including those that elicit heated debate. The quest for knowledge and insight requires no less.

> **If we want artists — on campus or off — to continue to be able to push boundaries, we can't expect them to walk on eggshells.**

But on campus these days, expressing controversial viewpoints is a risky endeavor. Over a decade of defending free speech rights in higher education has taught me that today's colleges are often surprisingly hostile toward expression that might cause offense. In fact, a 2010 survey conducted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities found that only 16.7 percent of professors and 30.3 percent of college seniors strongly agree that "it is safe to hold unpopular positions on campus." The right to free artistic expression tends to lose when it collides with a newer (and usually implicit) expectation: that students have the right "to not be offended." Consider the following examples.

The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) recently triggered accusations of artistic censorship when it suspended a 20-year program that hosted various art exhibitions. The latest show, Tom Gregg's Unsold, featured paintings that included hand grenades, bullets, and pistols. On July 30, 2013, KUMC shut down the show before schedule and discontinued the entire program, claiming that budget issues necessitated this decision. However, former KUMC library curator Melissa Rountree asserted that the administration told her to remove the paintings because they did not align with the school's core mission.

Indeed, administrators often rely upon flimsy arguments to justify censorship. The

Lukianoff, Page 5

CORRECTIONS

The arts events calendar in Friday's issue provided incorrect times for LSC's *Despicable Me 2*. The showings were Friday and Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

An infographic on gender-inclusive housing policies also in Friday's issue mistakenly designated the gender-inclusive housing availability for Princeton and Stanford. Both institutions only offer gender-inclusive housing to upperclassmen.

OPINION POLICY

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Censorship a disservice to the community

MIT should lead by exercising restraint

Lukianoff, from Page 4

president of Gainesville State College (GSC) scrambled to rationalize her decision to remove a GSC instructor's painting from a faculty art exhibition in January of 2011. Stanley Bermudez' piece superimposed images of a lynching and Ku Klux Klansmen bearing torches on a Confederate flag. After the Southern Heritage Alert blog blasted the art as insulting to the memories of Confederate soldiers, President Martha Nesbitt pulled the painting, arguing that "the negative results" of displaying it "would outweigh the positive ones."

In both of these situations, there is one constant: the expressive rights of artists were deemed inferior to others' desire to avoid having their sensibilities challenged. If merely controversial expression can lead to such censorship, it is no surprise that artistic satire and parody are particularly vulnerable to attack on campus.

In April of 2005, Chris Lee, a student at Washington State University (WSU), discovered this when WSU launched a bizarre attack against his bawdy, irreverent comedy Passion of the Musical. Lee's stated goal for the play, which satirized a vast array of people and beliefs, was "to show people we're not that different, we all have issues that can be made fun of." WSU administrators objected so strongly to the production that they trained approximately 40 students to disrupt it, using university funds to purchase their tickets. The hecklers, who threatened the cast members with violence and repeatedly yelled, "I am offended," managed to shut down the performance.

The desire to prevent "offense" often cloaks the desire to silence one's opponents with the seemingly noble goal of ensuring that everyone is comfortable. And people are generally more comfortable with popular ideas that don't "rock the boat." There is certainly a place for safe, popular art, whether it is the paintings of Thomas Kinkade or the music of Taylor Swift. But there is also tremendous value in art that forces us to challenge our beliefs. Do we want to live in a world where artists are not allowed to stray beyond the confines of comfort, and where unusual expression is quickly suppressed?

Unfortunately, this is the attitude that today's college students are learning to accept. In July of 2013, the First Amendment Center released its annual "State of the First Amendment" survey. The study found that the youngest respondents were by far the least supportive of First Amendment protections. A startling 47 percent of those aged 18–30 felt the First Amendment "goes too far" in the rights it guarantees—approximately double the number of older respondents (24 percent of those aged 40–60 and 23 percent of those over 60).

Our college students appear to be internalizing the message that speech should be restricted, and are taking that outlook with them when they leave campus. The resulting implications for freedom of speech in all forms, from the spoken word to the artist's canvas, are grim. If we want artists — on campus or off — to continue to be able to push boundaries, we can't expect them to walk on eggshells.

MIT would do the students in Burton-Conner, the artists of the murals, and the campus community a tremendous service by refraining from censoring students' art. As Frederick Douglass said over 150 years ago, "To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker." If MIT wants to live up to its world class reputation, it must allow ideas, expression, and art to be free.

Greg Lukianoff is the President of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and author of Unlearning Liberty: Campus Censorship and the End of American Debate.

Want to weigh in?

Write Opinion for *The Tech*
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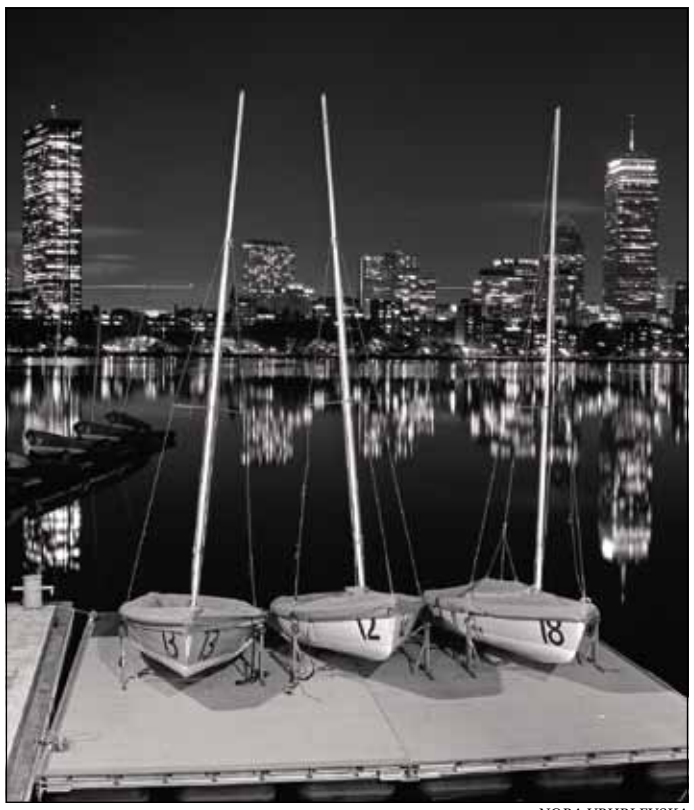
ARTS

INTERVIEW

Capturing a temporary home

The Tech sits down with photographer Nora Vrublevska



NORA VRUBLEVSKA

Photographer Nora Vrublevska presents her work in the exhibit "Cambridge at Night" at the MIT Wiesner Art Gallery, featuring long exposure, black and white photos of the MIT campus and nearby Cambridge.

By Rachel Katz

I sat down with Nora Vrublevska in the Wiesner Art Gallery, walls lined with her black and white prints, to discuss the inception of her exhibit entitled *Cambridge at Night*. Vrublevska, a native Latvian, has been interested in photography for most of her life. When she was younger, she saved her lunch money to buy 35mm film and develop photos, but she says, "I didn't really know what I was doing; I was photographing at that time but I didn't get really serious until I came here."

Vrublevska moved to the United States in 2007, when her husband came to conduct his graduate studies in physics at MIT. The biggest change she felt when coming here was that she could do things that she liked, switch careers at will, and be supported by everyone around her. Vrublevska admits that the cultural change is sometimes hard to note, saying, "I've been here for such a long time that it feels like home; it's more a culture shock now when I go back home to visit Latvia." Even so, she knows she won't be here forever, and that knowledge is part of what sparked her *Cambridge at Night* series.

One foggy night, Vrublevska was walking down Memorial Drive, and was struck by the image of the MIT boathouse with everything in the background obscured by fog. This image was the first in the series, and is smaller than the others. She liked how different the boathouse looked from when she usually passed it in daylight hours, and was inspired to create a series of images documenting places that had become significant to her in her time living here that she could look back on once she'd moved elsewhere.

"How architecture and how the city looks at night is much more compelling to me than how it looks during the day," Vrublevska says about her choice to shoot after dark. Part of it is how the clouds streak and water becomes smooth in long exposure shots of nighttime. The absence of people in daily busy scenes also adds to her ideal aesthetic. "A lot of the places that I photograph ... are busy, people walk through, but at night they become kind of lonely, and I like how that looks," she explains.

The entire series is shot on black and white film. Although she often uses digital techniques for teaching at the New England School of Photography, Vrublevska much prefers film for her personal work. She says "there were more details and nuances in the grays and all the shades in black and white film" when she was shooting the night scenes, so she stuck with it. While the print of the MIT boathouse that started it all was developed in a darkroom, the subsequent images have been created using inject printing.

Vrublevska gives a big thanks to MIT Spouses & Partners, the Council for the Arts at MIT, The Wiesner Art Gallery, and Jennifer Recklet, who have made her photography as well as her adjustment as the wife of a student at the Institute possible.

Cambridge at Night

Nora Vrublevska

Wiesner Student Art Gallery, Student Center Second Floor

Oct. 15 – Dec. 10, 2013

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Surprised by fig jam

Salty Pig's open kitchen, crowded bar, and exotic menu make it more appealing than it may sound

By Rex Lam
STAFF WRITER

Although the restaurant name may not sound very appetizing, The Salty Pig is a great option if you are in the mood for charcuterie. To get to The Salty Pig, you can walk through the Prudential Center and cut through Copley Place. Once you exit the mall, the restaurant will be right there.

Since I went for dinner on a Wednesday night, I had expected that there would be no need for a reservation. However, that assumption turned out to be wrong, and I spent 30 minutes walking around in the mall while waiting for a table. When I first walked into the restaurant, I was struck by the loud conversations and the dark yet warm ambience. Most of the customers looked to be in their late twenties or early thirties, and I noticed that an open kitchen and a crowded bar took up about half the floor space of the restaurant. In particular, a chef stood near the entrance and entertained by throwing dough up in the air to make pizza.

The Salty Pig is known for its meat and cheese, which are served together on a wooden board. However, you can also order pastas or pizzas. Furthermore, the restaurant has an extensive drinks menu, which includes many exotic-sounding cocktails.

REX LAM—THE TECH

The Salty Pig, a charcuterie restaurant in Back Bay, which also serves excellent cheese and pizza options.

The Salty Pig

130 Dartmouth St., Boston

Monday – Thursday
11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Friday 11 a.m. – 1 a.m.

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 1 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 12 a.m.

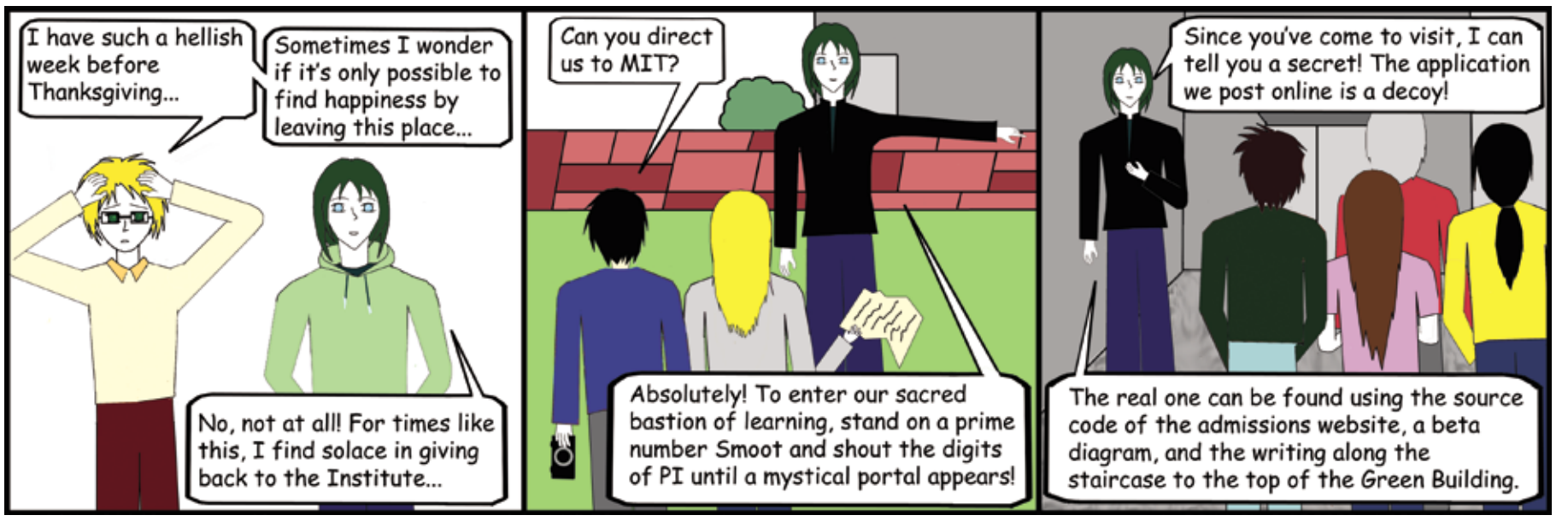
Feeling less than adventurous, I passed up on pork head and beef tongue, and instead ordered the smoked chorizo (pork sausage) and pork ventresca (Italian style pork belly). For the cheese, I chose fresh chèvre, a type of goat cheese from New Hampshire. To supplement both, I added on fig jam.

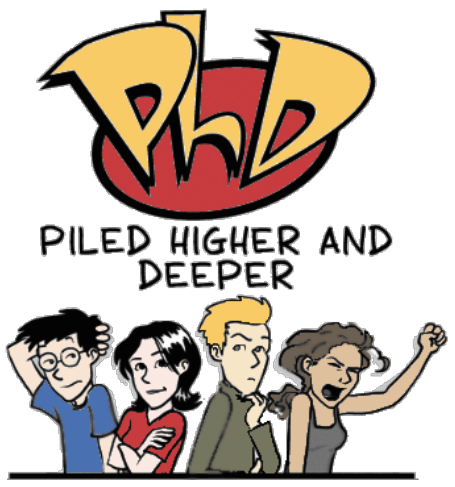
I first tried each item by itself. The chorizo was dark red and tasted similar to other sausages I have had. Still, I very much enjoyed the bursts of spiciness. Between the two meat options, however, I definitely preferred the pork belly, which was sliced extremely thin. Although it appeared very fatty, I hardly felt like I was eating fat because of its thinness. I then moved on to the cheese. I had expected the goat cheese to have a very strong flavor, but it turned out to be quite mild. It was also creamy and seemingly dissolved in my mouth. Finally, I had the fig jam, whose grainy texture amplified its sweetness and slight bitterness. To my surprise, the jam was actually my favorite item on the board. After the individual tasting, I proceeded to mix and match the meat, cheese, and jam. Amazingly, all the combinations tasted great — even the chorizo and jam.

To get a better sense of the food options at The Salty Pig, I also ordered the chicken confit pizza, which had apples, squash, cranberries, goat ricotta, and chicken as toppings. Instead of using tomato sauce, the pizza only had cheese as its base. As a result, this turned out to be the fruitiest pizza I have ever had. The highlight was the cranberries, which burst with every bite, and whose sourness provided a welcoming contrast to the taste of cheese.

Overall, I was very impressed by the offerings at The Salty Pig. If you are looking to try something different, charcuterie is a good start. For me, what made the restaurant even better was the quality of its pizzas. If you are over 21, The Salty Pig is a great place to hang out with your friends and grab some light food and a few drinks. If not, I would still definitely recommend that you give this restaurant a try. Since I only sampled a few of the meat and cheese options, I look forward to coming back and trying out the rest. Perhaps I will even order some pork head and beef tongue next time.

Somewhere on the Search for Meaning by Letitia Li

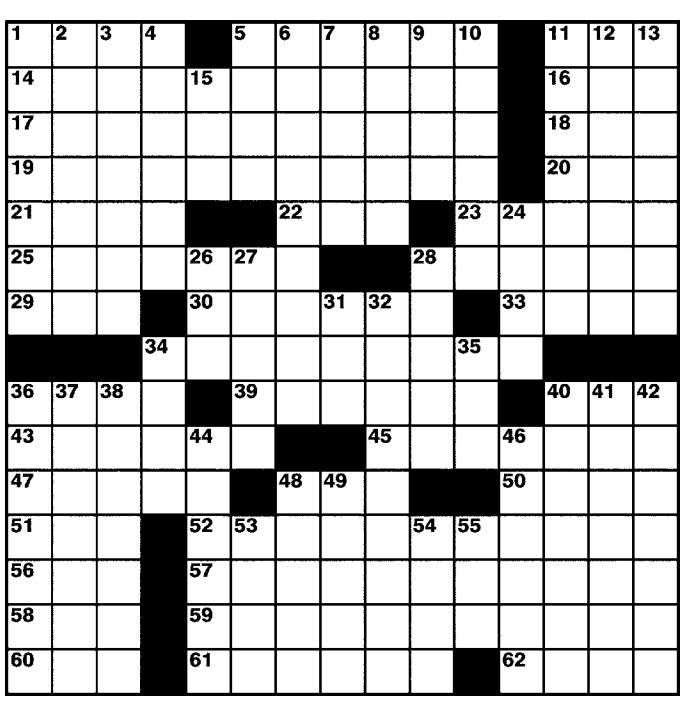




by Jorge Cham

Saturday Stumper by Frank Longo

Solution, page 11



ACROSS

1 They resemble pitchforks
5 Makes young?
11 Give a resounding knock
14 Get over
16 Dog-days arrival
17 Repetition request
18 Charcoals and such
19 Serving in Raku ware
20 Bulldoze
21 Clipping indicator: Abbr.
22 Elementary stuff
23 Big name in cups
25 Patron saint of musicians
28 It'll get you blue in the head
29 Dental click
30 Literally, "one who laces snowshoes"
33 Thoughtful one
34 Renewable-power meter reading
36 Heavy metal music producer
39 Dr. King's "queen of American folk music"
40 Antithesis of grace
43 Rather snarled on the road
45 A doctor may place you on one
47 Singular
48 Stickie notation
50 Work some cords
51 Tell tale territory
52 It may precede a disappearance
56 With 26 Down, leader known for shaking
57 Word-processor pop-up
58 Suit spec
59 Is out of outs
60 Cutting staff, for short
61 Draft picks
62 One of a core group

DOWN

1 Stage coach's direction
2 Chamber groups
3 Wrench application
4 Certain East African
5 Far from wet
6 Wet, before washing
7 Aiming for
8 Work on a mystery, say
9 Its "Welcome to" sign is a gold pan
10 Like many tans from cans
11 Means of rigorous control
12 Solid alternative
13 Fighting a bug
15 From, in some names
24 Drainage development
26 See 56 Across
27 Cry of insistence
28 Goody in a springform pan
31 It's like -like
32 Megagram
34 Site of a ringdove's ring
35 Tell jokes
36 Means of drawing a parallel
37 Went with a totally different plan
38 They're made in the world's largest building
40 Sad song heard in Funny Lady
41 Physicist collaborator of Escher and Hawking
42 Soon to get hooked
44 Learning curves
46 Real last name of designer Arnold Scaasi
48 Looped upholstery fabric
49 Live at the Acropolis artist
53 Army __
54 Census Bureau drink category
55 Quarter of quarante

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FUNFUNFUNF

Strangers to Fiction by Deena Wang

xkcd By Randall Monroe

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[1294] Telescope Names

The Thirty Meter Telescope will be renamed The Flesh-Searing Eye on the Volcano.

Sudoku I

Solution, page 11

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

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 I

Solution, page 11

14+		10×		10+	
		10+			6×
30×		4		6÷	
	12+		5+		4
20×		6		60×	
	8×			3	

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.

Sudoku II

Solution, page 11

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

Techdoku II

Solution, page 11

24×			20+		
	240×				1
5×		2−		20×	
	7+		11+	5+	
24×		8+		2×	
	2		12×		

Kavli, benefactor of science prizes, dies

Fred Kavli, physicist and founder of Kavli Foundation, passes at 86

By William Yardley
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Fred Kavli, a physicist who left Norway for California as a young man and made millions manufacturing sensors for appliances, automobiles and aircraft, then late in life began donating much of his fortune to science, establishing a major prize he intended to rival the Nobel, died Thursday, Nov. 21 at his home in Santa Barbara, Calif. He was 86.

The cause was cancer, according to the Kavli Foundation, which Kavli started in 2000.

The foundation has given more than $200 million to establish 17 scientific research institutes at universities around the world for work in astrophysics, neuroscience, nanoscience and theoretical physics, including MIT's Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, which joined Kavli network in 2004. In 2008, the first Kavli Prizes were awarded, with recipients in each of three categories splitting $1 million. The prizes are awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo in September every other year.

"The point is to create visibility for science," Kavli said in an interview with *The New York Times* in 2005. "The Nobels do a good job. It might take us 100 years to catch up."

Kavli, who as a child marveled at the northern lights from his family's farm on a fjord, earned a degree in applied physics at the Norwegian Institute of Technology in 1955 and arrived in the United States the next year. Two years later, after putting an ad in a newspaper saying he was an engineer seeking financing for a new company, he created the Kavlico Corp.

Kavlico developed a series of sophisticated sensors that help control a wide range of mechanical functions, whether helping car engines save fuel and limit pollution or operating dishwashers. They have been used on the space shuttle, the International Space Station and Trident and Poseidon missiles. By 2000, the company had 1,500 employees. Kavli sold it that year for $340 million.

He knew he wanted to establish a philanthropic foundation to benefit science, but he was unsure of how to do it efficiently. He consulted with several top university leaders, who told him that while they might have staff and facilities, they often lacked seed money to allow their researchers to explore experimental ideas — ideas that might fail.

The 17 Kavli institutes — they are scattered from Delft in the Netherlands to Beijing to Berkeley, Calif. — are intended to provide the seed money. The foundation has given each institute at least $7.5 million, with the assurance that the university hosting it will find another source to match the money. The money serves as an endowment that returns about $400,000 per year toward research. The foundation plans to expand the contribution to each institute to about $10 million, which, when matched, would provide about $1 million annually for research at each location, said Robert W. Conn, the foundation's president.

Several scientists affiliated with the Kavli institutes have gone on to win Nobel Prizes.

"It is unrestricted funds," Conn said, "which is indispensable in discovery science."

Kavli was born on Aug. 20, 1927, in Eresfjord, Norway, near the country's southwest coast. During much of his childhood, Norway was occupied by German forces. Food and gas were in short supply, and he and his brother, Aslak, risked their lives stealing fuel oil from the Nazis. The boys were entrepreneurs, running a lumber business. A lifetime later, Kavli's passions included his 12,000-square-foot-house on a bluff overlooking the Pacific.

Survivors include two children from a marriage that ended in divorce.

Science leaders have praised Kavli and other newer philanthropists, including Paul W. Allen, the Microsoft co-founder, for making large donations toward research at a time when many university research budgets have declined.

The Kavli Foundation has supported a wide range of work. Among the seven winners of the Kavli Prizes in 2012 were, in nanoscience, Mildred S. Dresselhaus, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose research helped usher in the age of nanotechnology; in neuroscience, Cornelia Isabella Bargmann of Rockefeller University, who studies the neural circuits of Caenorhabditis elegans, a worm with only 300 nerve cells, to learn how the brain processes information from the environment; and, in astrophysics, scientists who discovered the Kuiper belt, a cloudy disk of ice and rock near Neptune.

In 2005, when Kavli announced that he planned to start the prizes, he recalled skiing in the Norwegian mountains as a boy.

"At times," he told a gathering in New York, "the whole sky was aflame with the northern lights shifting and dancing across the sky down to the white-clad mountaintops. In the stillness and loneliness of the white mountains, I pondered the universe, the planet, nature and the wonders of man. I'm still pondering."

A random sampling of people you'll meet during a typical dinner at The Tech:

Derek, Course **1**	Austin, Course **8**	Chris, Course **16**
Sarah, Course **2**	Ian, Course **9**	Anne, Course **17**
Annia, Course **3**	Joyce, Course **10**	Leon, Course **18**
Dohyun, Course **4**	Sara, Course **11**	Jack, Course **19**
Elijah, Course **5**	Vince, Course **12**	Stan, Course **20**
Deborah, Course **6**	Anthony, Course **14**	Stephen, **21/CMS**
Kali, Course **7**	Maggie, Course **15**	Keith, Course **22**

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Mikhael excited for Oxford's 'deeply integrated approach'

Rhodes winner hopes to go on to earn an MD/PhD

Rhodes, from Page 1

Mikhael's involvement in neuroscience research began after personal interest in the subject. "I read an interesting article on the MIT website about new research on how our brains process certain visual stimuli, so I emailed the authors of the paper and asked if we could meet to talk about it. We did, and I ended up joining the lab."

> **'Math, neuroscience, and medicine are different but complementary ways of understanding the brain.'**
> *—John Mikhael '13*
> 2014 RHODES SCHOLAR

The Rhodes Scholarship program requires schools to endorse their applicants for consideration. Mikhael said that he received significant guidance from MIT throughout his application process. "It's basically one big learning experience. From the day you decide to go forward with the application, you start to meet with different members of the Distinguished Fellowships team pretty regularly," wrote Mikhael. "They teach you about how the application works, but they spend most of their time getting you to really think about your research and career goals and your different experiences. Then they put you in touch with MIT professors, alumni, and current graduate students, each of whom has their own perspective on this whole process — or on your research — and has something new to teach you."

Mikhael was born in Dallas but spent a decade living in Lebanon before returning to the U.S. to attend MIT, according to an essay for which he won the 2013 Isabelle de Courtivron Prize from the Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies. During his time at MIT, he was also a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, a Medlink, and an Addir Interfaith Fellow during his time as an undergraduate.

Mikhael said he hopes to go to Oxford some time during the upcoming summer.

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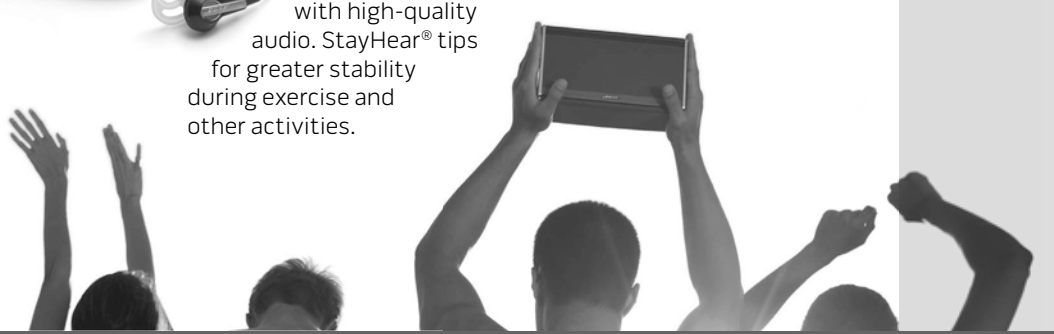

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Postdocs are 38 percent of TCC Koch enrollment

The October opening of TCC Koch met 'nearly all existing demand for MIT childcare'

Daycare, from Page 1

school classrooms with a third set to open in late winter or early spring. TCC Koch currently employs three teachers for each of the nine open classrooms, a director, an administrative assistant, and three educational coordinators who support the teaching staff (one for infant rooms, one for toddlers, and one for preschool).

In addition, the center features a "gross motor room," which allows children to participate in active play such as jumping, dancing, and singing.

The opening of TCC Koch provided spaces for all but 6 of the 500 families on the waiting list.

The opening of TCC Koch provided spaces for all but six of the 500 families that had been on a waiting list and indicated a need for care at the present time. Simons noted that there are 157 families on the waiting list who are still looking for care in the future, either for anticipated children or children who will soon reach the desired age for entry into the appropriate childcare program. Some families also stayed on the waiting list to keep the option open of transferring from another childcare program.

A new enrollment policy has been in place for all daycare centers since the spring to make the process easier for families. Families who apply for a spot on the waiting list are allowed to turn down an open spot that meets their requirements (age group, schedule, and start date) in a childcare program once and remain on the waiting list. However, when a family turns down an open spot a second time, the family will lose their spot on the waiting list, and if they choose to reapply, will be placed toward the bottom of the list according to the date of the new application. The policy is in place so that families who need childcare immediately will have a better chance of getting a space, and all will have a better sense of when they might get a space.

After TCC Koch opened, 187 families declined a space but chose to remain on the waiting list.

Before the building of TCC Koch, some students had voiced concerns of safety because homeless people could frequently be seen across the railroad tracks from the site. However, Alden and Simons are confident about the issue of safety. "There have been no problems or any concerns voiced by parents," said Simons. The children's playground is fully enclosed by a fence that is eight feet high along the train tracks and eight feet high along Vassar. The playground is only accessible from inside the center or with a key, and the center itself is accessible only from the front door by card reader or from the secured playground.

Backup childcare program

In addition to the opening of TCC Koch, Simons notes that MIT Human Resources has been collaborating with Dean of Graduate Education Christine Ortiz and the GSC Housing and Community Affairs Subcommittee to implement programs that satisfy the needs of student families.

One such program is the new backup childcare program that started in July, which provides students with caregivers on short notice through Parents in a Pinch (PiaP), a national vendor for childcare services. "Providing access to reliable, high quality short-term childcare translates into less stress and anxiety, less missed or shortened work days, and enables our graduate student families to find a more manageable work/life balance," commented Ortiz in an email to *The Tech*.

The new backup childcare has freed time for students to engage in opportunities they would otherwise miss.

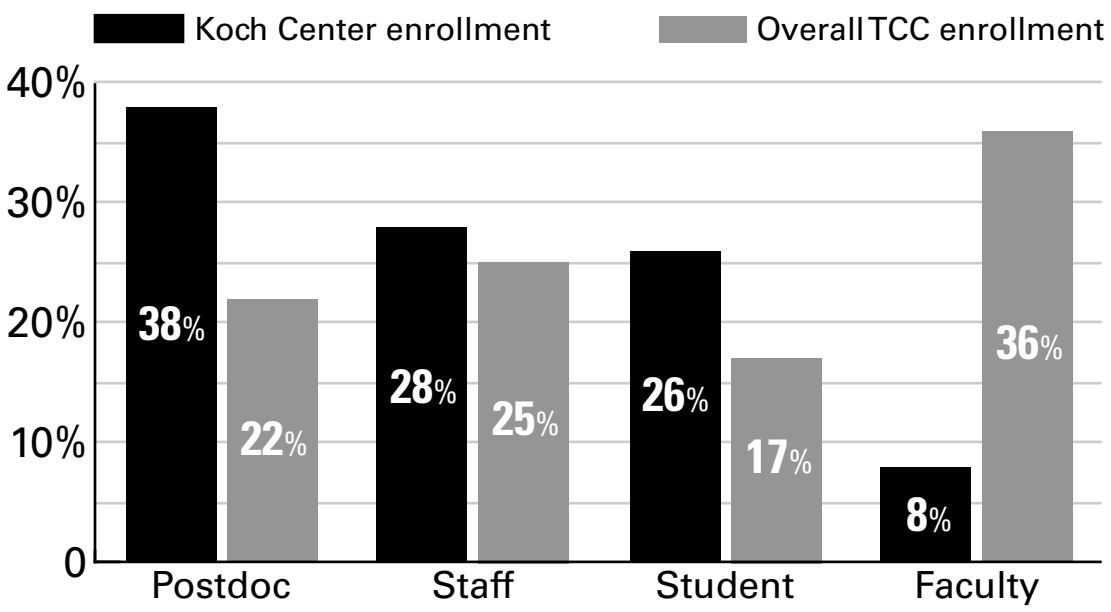
For up to 10 days of the fiscal year, students can use the backup childcare service, which provides a nanny at $5 an hour. Any days beyond the 10 days will cost $18.50 per hour and a daily placement fee ranging from $25 to $50. The program will be run until June 30, 2014 as a pilot, when it will be reexamined for renewal.

During the first four months of the program's operation, 117 students have pre-registered for the program, accounting for about 20 percent of graduate students with children. 54 students have used the service at least once. A PiaP satisfaction survey indicated that 78 percent of respondents were "extremely satisfied" and the remaining 22 percent "satisfied." 100 percent of respondents said they would use the service again."

Spatocco added that, first and foremost, the program allows students to tend to emergencies, but also allows for time for graduate students to engage in opportunities they would otherwise miss, such as networking events, participation in student organizations, and professional development events. "The new program has stimulated more discussion on the most effective ways to provide childcare services to graduate students," he said.

More information regarding TCC Koch and MIT's childcare services is available on *childcare.mit.edu*.

Breakdown of enrolled children by parent position



INFOGRAPHIC BY SARAH RITTER

Getting help is as easy as 1, 2, S³

Student Support Services has tripled the number of walk-in hours Dec 2nd – Dec 13th

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http://together.mit.edu

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- **MIT Mental Health & Counseling**
- **Chaplains**
- **OME**
- **Housemasters**
- **GRTs**
- **Area Directors**
- **Advisors**
- **Department Administrators**

EVENTS NOV. 26 – DEC. 2

TUESDAY

(2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Equilibrium Dynamics in a Fluctuating Environment with speaker Ruitian Lang, sponsored by Organizational Economics — E62-650

WEDNESDAY

(4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.) Combinatorics seminar on recent progress in distinct distances problems with speaker Adam Sheffer, sponsored by the math department — E17-133

THURSDAY

(6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) The Annual Oven Buster Blaster Stuffer on WMBR — 88.1 FM or wmbr.org

FRIDAY

(1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) Friday After Thanksgiving Chain Reaction, sponsored by the MIT museum ($5 for students, $12.50 for adults in advance) — W33 (Rockwell Cage)

SATURDAY

(2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.) Fun Tech Forum: Tech Show Time II, discussion on "the genius in ancient China," sponsored by the GSC Funding Board, MIT CAST, and MIT CSSA — NW10 lounge (Edgerton)

(7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.) Hats: a ballroom social ($6 for students, $8 for MIT affiliates, and $10 for the general public), sponsored by the MIT Ballroom Dance Team and the GSC Funding Board — W20 (La Sala de Puerto Rico)

SUNDAY

(8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.) International Folk Dancing, teaching and beginner dances from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. — Lobdell

MONDAY

(7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.) Folk music of the British Isles and North America, featuring Jeff Warner, sponsored by the Literature Section and MIT Music and Theater Arts — 4-237

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

Solution to Sudoku I

from page 8

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

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Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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

Solution to Sudoku II

from page 8

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

Solution to Techdoku I

from page 8

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

Solution to Techdoku II

from page 8

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

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SPORTS

MIT Men's Basketball takes down Curry, 69-62

Matthew M. Redfield '15 sets career high in points with 27, also grabs 13 rebounds

By Phil Hess
DAPER STAFF

Matthew M. Redfield '15 scored a career-high 27 points and pulled down 13 rebounds to lead the MIT men's basketball team to a 69-62 road victory over Curry College this afternoon. The Engineers built a 17-point second half lead and then held off a comeback attempt by the Colonels, who were led by Antonio Jones' 16 points.

MIT (3-1) and Curry (0-3) exchanged the lead three times in the opening minutes before a pair of free throws by Redfield gave the Engineers a 5-4 advantage. It proved to be the last time in the game that the lead would change hands. MIT slowly pulled ahead and a three-pointer by Justin M. Pedley '16, one of five he would drain in the game, put the Engineers on top 10-6.

A layup by Kenneth Ramos brought the Colonels back to within two, but Redfield answered with a three-point play that started MIT on a 12-2 run. Redfield accounted for seven of the points during the four-minute stretch, and his free throws at the 10:43 mark gave the Engineers a 22-10 advantage.

Redfield, who hit 13 of 19 from the free throw line during the contest, hit one of two with five and a half minutes left in the half to up the MIT lead to 31-19. Curry took advantage of a pair of turnovers by the Engineers to put a quick 7-0 run on the board, cutting the lead down to 31-26 after back-to-back jumpers by Stephen O'Neal. MIT saw Timothy J. Butala '17 score on a layup and Pedley hit another three in the final minutes as the Engineers pushed their lead back to eight at 36-28 at the half.

MIT started the second half on a 9-0 run, holding Curry without a basket until three and a half minutes in. A pair of layups by Andrew M. Acker '15 sandwiched around a trey from Pedley had the Engineers holding a 45-28 advantage at the 17:29 mark. Curry answered with five straight points, cutting the deficit down to 12 after a lay in by Jones.

A Redfield free throw with 9:06 left had the MIT lead back up to 16 at 53-37, but the Curry came back again with another run. Sparked by a Carlos Ribeiro trey with 7:39 left, the Colonels went on an 11-2 run in a little over two minutes. Curry added another trey from Rodney Beldo along the way and when O'Neal hit a layup off an MIT turnover, the Colonels were down just seven at 55-48 with four minutes left.

A dunk by Redfield with two and a half minutes left extended the MIT advantage to nine at 59-50, but the Colonels held the Engineers without a field goal for the rest of the game and crept back to within five at 65-60 after Jones converted a three-point play. MIT hit just four of eight free throws down the stretch, but it was enough to hold off Curry and claim the win for the Engineers.

Redfield also stood out on the defensive end of the floor where he blocked five Curry shots. Pedley finished with 21 points, hitting on 5-of-12 from behind the three-point line. The Engineers held a big advantage at the free throw line where they hit on 24 of 35 attempts, outscoring Curry from the charity stripe by 15 points. Beldo and Lambros Papalambros also reached double figures for Curry, scoring 12 and 10 points apiece.

Both squads will be back in action on Tuesday, Nov. 26 when MIT visits Tufts University for a 7:00 p.m. game and Curry travels to Williams College for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off.

MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

The men's Foot of the Charles regatta was held on Saturday morning. It included heavyweight and lightweight races for crews of two, four, and crews of eight or more. The women's Foot of the Charles was held last Saturday.

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