

His Name is 'Zoz.' Former GRT Stars on *Discovery Channel* *New Building Process Worries Local Board; Traffic is Major Issue*

By Ramya Sankar
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

A team of four engineers prototyping a creation — sounds like a group project at MIT, right? The only difference? These engineers are on TV, in a new show “Prototype This” which aired on the Discovery Channel last October. One of the engineers is a former Senior House Graduate Resident Tutor, Andrew Brooks PhD '07.

Brooks — or Zoz as he was commonly know on campus — left MIT shortly after Spring 2006 to join the “Prototype This” team and spent the last two and a half years working on the show. He completed his thesis later in 2006 to fulfill requirements for his PhD in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science.

Early Childhood

As a child, Brooks was more into chemicals than computers. “There’s only two reasons people get into chemistry; it’s either drugs or fire, and for me it was fire,” joked Brooks. But he did have an early exposure to computers as his parents gave him a second-hand Apple II+ to play with. The 1978 Apple II+ was the first computer he programmed.

After learning all he could about pyrotechnics in high school, Brooks went on to double major in chemistry and computer science in college. He found himself spending more and more time in the computer lab instead of the chemistry lab. He built his first robotic system for a class



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH
Andrew ‘Zoz’ Brooks PhD '07 stands in front of the weather radar dish atop the roof of MIT's Building 54 one afternoon this February.

project where he created an active vision system with cameras that could be controlled by the robot. The project sparked his interest in

creating controllable hardware and understanding human interactions

Zoz, Page 10

Technology Review and News Office Join Forces To Cut Costs, Redundancy

By Sandhya Rawal

MIT is in the process of combining the assets, functions, and personnel of the MIT News Office and *Technology Review* magazine in order to cut spending and run communications more effectively.

Jason Pontin, *TR*'s editor in chief and the new Director of Communications for MIT, stressed that the combination of assets “was not a merger.” He said that *Technology Review* and the News Office retain

their separate governances and that *TR* is still independent, and remains beholden to its Board of Directors.

The News Office, which has historically been MIT's external communication arm, publishes *Tech Talk*, issues news releases, and assists members of the MIT community in dealing with the press. *Technology Review* is a mainstream technology magazine published by Technology Review, Inc., a 501(c)3 charity and subsidiary of MIT. The

mission of the *TR* is to analyze the greater impact of new and emerging technologies.

On Jan. 15, Vice President for Institute Affairs Kirk D. Kolenbrander announced a “reorganization of Institute Communications.” In a letter to the MIT community on Feb. 19, President Susan Joan Hockfield said the changes would bring “substantial savings and more effective ways of bringing MIT's story to the world.”

Concerns had been raised that *Technology Review*'s journalistic

News Office, Page 11

In Short

¶ **Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61** was appointed to a federal intelligence panel on spy satellites, though the appointment was questioned by members of Congress. Deutch had served as Director of Central Intelligence from 1995–1996, and afterwards was found to have wrongly stored classified information on his unclassified computer systems, a serious security breach for which he ultimately received a presidential pardon.

Three people were in line already as of Wednesday night.

¶ **The Campus Police and Cambridge Police will be meeting next week** to determine a response to the daylight muggings last Sunday outside buildings 32 and E15.

¶ **Barker Engineering Library's bound journal collection** is moving to N57 during March. The move will accommodate repairs to the 8th floor of Building 10, which has increasingly seen leaks and water damage.

¶ **The Chorallaries' nth Annual Concert in Bad Taste** is Saturday night at 11:59:59 p.m. in 26-100.

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

ARTS

Hoobastank's new album disappoints Page 6
Waltz with Bashir Page 7

World & Nation 2
Opinion 4
Arts 6
Comics / Fun Pages . . . 8
Sports 12

By Elijah Jordan Turner
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT is meeting resistance from neighborhood residents as it hopes to construct a new building at 650 Main Street, a parking lot diagonally across from Tech Square. The 400,000-square-foot project will come before the Cambridge Planning Board on Tuesday, Mar. 3, amidst concerns from the Area 4 Neighborhood Coalition (A4NC) that it will bring additional vehicular traffic to the area and integrate poorly with the neighborhood.

The current plans call for the building to be commercial, with space leased to outside parties. The ground floor will contain retail space, while the upper floors will be able to accommodate either laboratories or offices.

Sarah Gallop, of the Office of Government and Community Relations, indicated that MIT has been working with the A4NC since October, meeting with them on at least four occasions to solicit feedback and refine the plans for the building. Director of the Center for Real Estate Michael K. Owu '86 said the A4NC's concerns were not a surprise due to MIT's continued interaction with community members.

“The feedback we received from the neighbors,” Owu said, “is similar to what they've stated in their letters to the Planning Board and City Council.”

The number of parking spots in the facility and the additional road traffic they will encourage is one of the A4NC's primary concerns. The site is currently occupied by a 272-space parking lot, but the proposed building would have either 650 or 820 spaces if designated for lab or office space, respectively; there would be an underground parking facility in both situations. The A4NC considers the latter number too high, especially considering the site's proximity to bus routes and the Kendall and Central T stops. Further, even though the coalition does not take issue with the ongoing construction closer to campus, there are concerns that the parking in the plans for 650 Main Street fails to consider the spaces created by those other projects.

“We would hope MIT would look at parking as a campus-wide issue rather than a per-building issue,” said A4NC member Sarah Roszler MCP '05. Gallop and Owu,

650 Main, Page 11

Cut Dining Costs Five Percent by Showing Your ID

If you're an MIT student, you don't have to pay tax on most on-campus food purchases.

Show your MIT student ID and skip the 5 percent meals tax at Anna's Taqueria, Dunkin' Donuts, and many other on-campus vendors — see a full list at <http://web.mit.edu/dining/locations/retailoptions.html>.

You don't have to pay cash to get the discount, although one Dunkin' Donuts employee told this reporter otherwise earlier this month. Some vendors may automatically give you the discount if you look like a student — Anna's and Subway employees often do so. Other vendors, like Cambridge Grill, will ask whether you're a student. If vendors don't ask, you may need to remind them that you're a student whose food is tax-exempt. Although it may technically be required, few vendors will actually ask to see your student ID.

By the way, this won't work at LaVerde's: they're not considered to be operated by MIT. Instead they're owned by a subsidiary of Boston University, and lease their Student Center space from the Institute. At LaVerde's, MIT students, like everyone else, pay a 5 percent tax on prepared food.

—Michael McGraw-Herdeg



SETH A. VILLARREAL—THE TECH
The Goosebeary food truck reopened on Tuesday, after a temporary hiatus due to a fire at the building where they use the kitchens to prepare food. The kitchen fire on Jan. 21 did not involve Goosebeary but prevented them from running their usual service.

WORLD & NATION

Iraq Invokes Death Penalty For 28 Cultists in Attacks

By Campbell Robertson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Twenty-eight members of a Shiite messianic cult responsible for brutal attacks on Shiite pilgrims in Iraq were sentenced to death on Thursday, said an official from the federal court in Dhi Qar province.

The condemned were members of the Followers of the Mahdi, itself a part of the Soldiers of Heaven, a fringe cult that believes that sowing chaos will pave the way for the coming of the Mahdi, the 12th Imam, who disappeared in the ninth century, and who Shiites believe will return as a savior of humanity.

Nineteen other members of the group were sentenced to life imprisonment, and six were acquitted, said the court official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The Soldiers of Heaven have fought Iraqi and U.S. security forces in a series of clashes. None have been more brutal, or bizarre, than a battle in January 2007 on the outskirts of the holy Shiite city of Najaf, where an estimated 1,000 cult members entrenched themselves with plans to overthrow the city's Shiite clerical leadership.

Obama Proposes Sharp Changes In \$3.5 Trillion Budget

By Jackie Calmes

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Obama, proclaiming a "once in a generation" opportunity, proposed a 10-year budget on Thursday that reflects his determination in the face of recession to invest trillions of dollars and his own political capital in reshaping the nation's priorities.

He would overhaul health care, arrest global warming, expand the federal role in education and shift more costs to the wealthiest taxpayers and corporations.

In a veiled jibe at the Bush years, Obama said his budget breaks "from a troubled past" and attributed the current economic maelstrom to "an era of profound irresponsibility that engulfed both private and public institutions from some of our largest companies' executive suites to the seats of power in Washington, D.C."

Without trimming his ambitious campaign promises, the president projects a fiscal 2010 budget of nearly \$3.6 trillion, and a deficit for the current fiscal year of \$1.75 trillion — a level not seen in six decades. He claims he would shrink annual deficits mostly through higher revenues from rich individuals and polluting industries, by reducing war costs and by assuming a rate of economic growth by 2010 that even some White House economists consider overly rosy.

Former C.I.A. Official Is Sentenced To Prison for Fraud

By David Johnston

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A former top-ranking official at the CIA was sentenced Thursday to 37 months in prison for defrauding the government by steering a clandestine contract to a military contractor who was a close friend.

Kyle D. Foggo was the executive director at the CIA from 2004 to 2006. In that position, Foggo directed the agency's administrative operations and budget, including some of its outside contracts.

Prosecutors said Foggo used that job to ensure the award of lucrative contracts to Brent R. Wilkes, a San Diego businessman and childhood friend, who in return took Foggo on expensive vacations, paid for his meals at exclusive restaurants and offered him a job after he retired.

Foggo pleaded guilty in September to a single count of wire fraud. Under an agreement with the government, he could not be sentenced to more than 37 months, the exact prison term handed down by Judge James C. Cacheris of U.S. District Court in Alexandria, VA.

Bosnia's Serbs Threaten To Seek Independence

By Dan Bilefsky

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Bosnian Serb leaders have threatened to pull out of state institutions and are pressing anew for independence from Bosnia-Herzegovina, threatening to throw the fragile, multiethnic country into political crisis once again.

Analysts and observers of the region said the situation could unravel the U.S.-brokered Dayton accords of 1995, which ended a savage war that killed more than 100,000 people, most of them Muslims, between 1992 and 1995. The pact divided Bosnia-Herzegovina into a Muslim-Croat Federation and a Serb Republic, presided over by a decentralized political system that reinforced rather than healed ethnic divisions.

The crisis comes at a critical time, just a few weeks after the U.N. and European Union envoy to Bosnia, Miroslav Lajcak, was appointed foreign minister of his native Slovakia, creating what analysts called a potentially dangerous power vacuum. U.N. officials stressed Tuesday that Lajcak would continue to exercise his powers until a replacement was found.

Srecko Latal, a Bosnia specialist at the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network in Sarajevo, the country's capital, warned that the West, distracted by the global financial crisis, Iraq and Afghanistan, was ignoring trouble signs in Bosnia, in its own backyard. "The United States and the European Union must engage, not just for the sake of Bosnia but because the world can't afford to allow what happened the last time," he said.

Bosnia's security is guaranteed by 2,000 European Union peacekeepers. But Latal said the force was not strong enough to contain hostilities, should they erupt. Sketching a worst-case scenario, he warned that if the Serb Republic declared independence, neighboring Croatia would respond by sending in troops, and Bosnian Muslims would take up arms.

Bosnian Serb officials, Western diplomats and the police said the crisis began last week when the country's state police agency sent a report to the State Prosecutor's Office with allegations involving the Serb Republic's prime minister, Milorad Dodik.

The case outlined in the State Investigation and Protection Agency report related to corruption, fraud

and misuse of finances involving several key government contracts in the Bosnian Serb Republic. They included allegations concerning a \$146 million government building in Banja Luka.

Gordan Milosevic, a spokesman for Dodik, said Tuesday by telephone that the allegations were politically motivated. He said the case breached due process because it had been forwarded without the approval of top Bosnian Serb officials in the State Investigation and Protection Agency and the prosecutor's office.

Dodik expressed indignation last weekend, saying he was the victim of a witch hunt aimed at undermining him and the Bosnian Serb Republic. "Even the little faith I had in the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina is now lost due to this farce with the criminal charges against me," he said last week. "They have made this country pointless."

He also vented his ire at a meeting in Mostar, where leaders of Bosnia's three main ethnic groups were discussing how to press forward with changes to the Constitution. Attendees at the meeting said Dodik stormed out after one hour.

Palestinian Rivals Announce Steps to Healing Rift

By Taghreed El-Khodary and Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAIRO, EGYPT

Leaders of the rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah declared Thursday a "historic day" at the conclusion of a meeting here aimed at healing a 20-month schism.

The long-awaited Cairo talks added another twist to an already complex political situation as President Barack Obama's Middle East envoy arrived in Israel for discussions with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

At a joint news conference in the Egyptian capital, Ahmed Qurei of Fatah and Moussa Abu Marzouk of Hamas announced the establishment of committees to find formulas for a Palestinian unity government and new elections, among other things. The committees aim

to finish their work by the end of March.

Given the bitter divisions between Fatah and Hamas, it remained unclear what kind of unity government might emerge, and whether it would receive international acceptance if it was formed.

Still, representatives of the parties in Cairo said there seemed to be political will on both sides to resolve their differences.

The reconciliation talks, held under Egyptian auspices, were the first since Hamas, the Islamic militant group, took control of Gaza in June 2007, routing the Palestinian Authority forces loyal to President Mahmoud Abbas of the mainstream, secularist Fatah. Hamas took over after a brief but brutal factional war in Gaza in which scores of Palestinians were killed.

The U.S. envoy, George J. Mitch-

ell, is on his second trip to the region in a month, part of "ongoing efforts" to "actively and aggressively" advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, U.S. officials said.

But Israeli politics were also in flux after elections this month, leaving the future of the peace process unclear.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister-designate and the leader of the conservative Likud Party, has been holding coalition talks with right-wing and religious parties as the prospect of a more centrist coalition has dimmed.

A narrow, hawkish government would be unlikely to subscribe to the same peacemaking principles as the Obama administration and the departing Israeli government, which favor a process based on establishing a Palestinian state.

WEATHER

A Cold Winter — Now What?

By Cegeon J. Chan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Sure the calendar doesn't say winter is over until March 20th. But meteorologists are impatient; they don't wait until that date to close the chapter on winter. Instead, they consider December, January, and February (DJF) the winter months. (Meteorologists are also so impatient that the hundreds of weather stations across the U.S. have been programmed to report the hourly meteorological conditions seven minutes before the top of the hour.) With February coming to an end tomorrow, was the DJF temperature in Boston below average? You don't need me to tell you that the answer is yes, but not as much as you might think. Surprisingly, December and February were slightly above-normal, while January was a whopping four and a half degrees Fahrenheit colder than normal. Thus, as a whole, DJF will turn out to be one degree Fahrenheit below normal.

So this winter was especially cold — now what? I was getting my haircut from Technicuts when Oscar proposed that hot summers follow cold winters. Is that true? Looking at the past fifty-seven years, thirty-two have had below-average temperatures during DJF, with slightly more than half (53%) followed by a warm summer. While not statistically robust, Oscar and the fifty-seven years of data suggest a warm summer is to come.

Extended Forecast

Today: Turning mostly cloudy and mild. Highs in the mid 50s°F (12°C). South winds 15 to 25 mph.

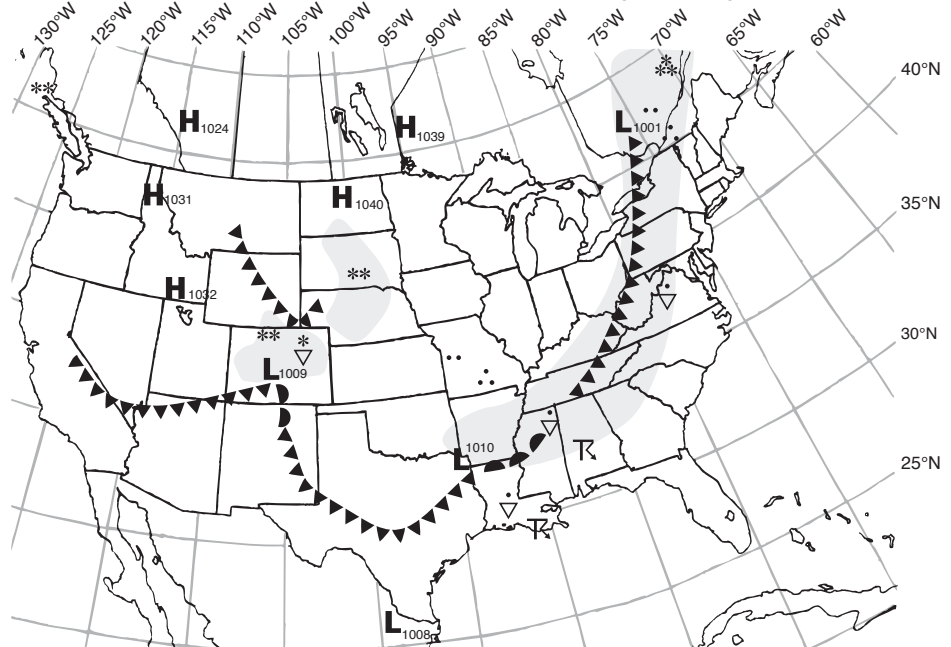
Tonight: Passing rain showers after 8 p.m. Lows in the mid 30s°F (2°C). Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and colder. Highs in the mid 30s°F (2°C).

Sunday: Snow. Potentially up to 5 inches of snow. Highs in the upper 20s°F (-3°C)

Monday: Cloudy and cool. Highs in the upper 20s°F (-3°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 27, 2009



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	- - - Trough	Snow *	Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light *	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front	Moderate **	Haze
	▲ Stationary Front	Heavy ***	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

No Application Needed: College Tours

By Jane Margolies
THE NEW YORK TIMES

On a cold Saturday morning in February, Shawn Pelak and David Parent were at the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University, in New Haven, Conn., soon after the doors opened. But the couple, from Ann Arbor, Mich., wasn't there to hit the books. Pelak and Parent were spending the weekend in Hartford, 45 minutes north, and after downloading a walking tour of the Yale campus from the school's Web site, they had gotten in their car for a firsthand look.

Pausing in the entrance hall of the library, which was inspired by Gothic cathedrals, they peered up at the leaded-glass windows and vaulted ceiling. "We're always curious about how other colleges do things," said Parent,

a management consultant, who, like his wife, graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "Whenever we're near a campus, we check it out."

College students, you've got company. The grassy quads and ivy-covered buildings that attract prospective applicants also make schools of higher education enticing for those with no interest in matriculating. Visitors can partake of world-class art collections and film screenings, not to mention more unusual offerings like the burial sites of Robert E. Lee and his horse, Traveller, on the campus of Washington and Lee University, in Lexington, Va. All this, without the pressure of studying for exams, or anteing up tuition.

Steve Lake, a pit boss at a casino

in Las Vegas, became so enamored of the hallowed academic ambience after visiting Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on his honeymoon to Boston in 1984 that he made touring colleges his hobby. This past October, he said, he dropped in on his 500th campus. "I try to eat in a cafeteria or go to a bookstore or a game," he explained. "I try to live in the moment."

The schools themselves, eager to sweep aside town-gown schisms of the past, say they are happy to play host.

Stanford University — whose palmy, sculpture-dotted campus in Palo Alto, Calif., is considered one of the prettiest in the country — recently redesigned its Web pages, adding a section addressed to "Tourists and First-time Visitors."

\$25 Billion Fund for Electric Cars Is Still Untouched

By Leslie Wayne
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The future of the American auto industry is getting off to a slow start.

The Energy Department has \$25 billion to make loans to hasten the arrival of the next generation of automotive technology — electric-powered cars. But no money has been allocated so far, even though the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan program, established in 2007, has received applications from 75 companies, including start-ups as well as the three Detroit automakers.

With General Motors and Chrysler making repeat visits to Washington to

ask for bailout money to stave off insolvency, some members of Congress are starting to ask why the Energy Department money is not yet flowing. The loans also are intended to help fulfill President Obama's campaign promise of putting one million electric cars on American roads by 2015.

"Politicians are breaking down the door asking why the money isn't being sent out," said Michael Carr, counsel to the Senate Energy Committee, which oversees the Energy Department.

It is a question that Lachlan W. Seward, director of the program, says he hears a lot these days. "We're moving with a sense of urgency,"

said Seward, who also oversaw the Chrysler Loan Guarantee Board from 1981-1984. "But at the same time we are trying to do this in a responsible way that reflects prudent credit policy and taxpayer protections."

Energy Department staff members said they were still reading loan applications, dozens of which arrived on the filing deadline of Dec. 31. On top of that, \$2 billion more is coming to the department from the \$787 billion stimulus package. That money will be used to develop the advanced battery technology needed to power electric cars, batteries more durable, safer and cheaper than anything available today.

Senate Ties D.C.'s Voting Rights To Easing Its Gun Law

By Ian Urbina

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate approved a bill Thursday to provide the nation's capital with a voting representative in the House, but it came with a hitch. A controversial amendment was added that would repeal most of the city's gun-control regulations.

Approved by a 61-37 vote, the D.C. Voting Rights bill would expand the House for the first time since 1913, providing a vote for Washington and an additional seat for Utah, which narrowly missed getting one after the last census.

The measure is likely to end up in the courts, however, even if a similar bill passes the House, as is expected next week. President Barack Obama has said he will sign the legislation.

The gun amendment makes the Senate measure significantly different from the bill in the House, which could slow passage. However, some members of Congress said the amendment was unlikely to survive negotiations between the House and Senate over a final version of the bill.

The amendment was a major victory for the pro-gun lobby, which has battled against the city's tough gun laws.

"I believe it will lead to more weapons and more violence on the streets of the nation's capital," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who called the amendment reckless and irresponsible.

But in the end, the amendment passed 62-36, drawing bipartisan support. Among the Democrats supporting the amendment were Virginia's two senators, Mark Warner and Jim Webb.

After Record Loss, Royal Bank Of Scotland Seeks Protection

By Julia Werdigier

THE NEW YORK TIMES

After reporting the biggest annual loss in British corporate history on Thursday, the Royal Bank of Scotland became the first bank to sign up for Britain's asset protection plan.

The bank, which is already 70 percent owned by the government, said it would dump 325 billion pounds (\$466 billion) of mainly toxic assets into the program, a step that could raise the state's stake to 95 percent.

RBS posted a net loss of 24.1 billion pounds for the year, attributable mainly to its purchase of the Dutch bank ABN Amro. The bank had a profit of 7.3 billion pounds a year earlier. The loss was smaller than analysts had expected, but it stunned many Britons as a record-setting benchmark of corporate disaster.

Alistair Darling, the chancellor of the Exchequer, reaffirmed the government's goal of keeping RBS publicly listed on Thursday because it would be easier to repay taxpayers once the market recovered.



MIT Chinese Students Club Presents

Year of the Ox

Chinese New Year Banquet

Saturday, February 28, 2009, 7:30 pm

@ Walker Memorial

Featuring Performances By



<http://hsu-nami.com>
Performers at the
Beijing Olympics!



Chinese Wushu
Research Institute
feat. Grandmaster Bow Sim Mark

Imobilaire,
MIT Lion Dance,
Traditional Musical Performances
by Angie Chiang, Yi Huang, and
Cynthia Lu,
The Sharpe Brothers,
The Tsai-Fong Dance Troupe,
The Kwong Kow Chinese School
Dancers,
....and more!

Serving Szechuan, Shanghainese, Cantonese, Taiwanese, and other Chinese cuisines.

Sponsored by ARCADE, SAO, and Weekends@MIT

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



Chairman

Austin Chu G

Editor in Chief

Nick Bushak '10

Business Manager

Mark Thompson '11

Managing Editor

Steve Howland '11

Executive Editor

Michael McGraw-Herdeg G

NEWS STAFF

News and Features Director: Arkajit Dey '11; **Editors:** John A. Hawkinson '98, Jeff Guo '11, Natasha Plotkin '11; **Associate Editors:** Emily Prentice '11, Elijah Jordan Turner '11, Pearle Lipinski '12, Robert McQueen '12; **Staff:** Daniela Cako '09, Ji Qi '09, Yiwei Zhang '09, Yuri Hanada '10, JiHye Kim '10, Joyce Kwan '10, Jenny Liu '10, Yan Huang '11, Ryan Ko '11, Lulu Wang '11, Omar Abudayyeh '12, Jessica Lin '12, Maggie Lloyd '12, Zeina Siam '12, Aditi Verma '12; **Meteorologists:** Cegeon Chan G, Garrett P. Marino G, Jon Moskaitis G, Roberto Rondanelli G, Scott Stransky G, Brian H. Tang G, John K. Williams G, Angela Zalucha G.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Staff: K. Nichole Treadway '10, Alexander W. Dehnert '12.

OPINION STAFF

Editor: Andrew T. Lukmann G; **Staff:** Florence Gallez G, Gary Shu G, Keith A. Yost G, Josh Levinger '07, Krishna Gupta '09, Aditya Kohli '09, Jennifer Nelson '09, Daniel Yelin '10, Ethan Solomon '12.

SPORTS STAFF

Editors: Aaron Sampson '10, David Zhu '12; **Staff:** Michael Gerhardt '12, Nydia Ruleman '12.

ARTS STAFF

Editor: S. Balaji Mani '10; **Staff:** Sudeep Agarwala G, Bogdan Fedeles G, Andrew Lee '07, Joanne Y. Shih '10, Kevin Wang '10, Maggie Liu '12, Samuel Markson '12.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: David M. Templeton '08, Andrea Robles '10, William Yee '10; **Associate Editors:** Allison M. Alwan '12, Rachel Fong '12; **Staff:** Vincent Auyeung G, Alex H. Chan G, David Da He G, Perry Hung G, Maksim Imakaev G, Arthur Petron G, David Reshef G, Martin Segado G, Noah Spies G, Scott Johnston '03, Christina Kang '08, Martha Angela Wilcox '08, Chelsea Grimm '09, Peter H. Rigano '09, Eric D. Schmiedl '09, Seth A. Villarreal '09, Diana Ye '09, Biyeun Buczyk '10, Arka P. Dhar '10, Helen Hou '10, Monica Kahn '10, Diane Rak '10, Jongu Shin '10, Dhaval Adjodah '11, Monica Gallegos '11, Vibin Kundukulam '11, Michael Y. McCanna '11, Michael Meyer '11, Kari Williams '11, Andrew Shum '12, Meng Heng Touch '12.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

Editor: Michael T. Lin '11; **Staff:** Roberto Perez-Franco G, Danbee Kim '09, Sarah C. Proehl '09, Christine Yu '11; **Cartoonists:** Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer G, Jason Chan '09, Michael Ciuffo '11, Ben Peters '11.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Managers: Joseph Maurer '12, Greg Steinbrecher '12; **Operations Manager:** Sherry Yan '11; **Staff:** Michael Kuo '10, Heymian Wong '10, Nikhil Sud '11, Connie Chan '12, Mengjie Ding '12, Eric Trac '12.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Quentin Smith '10.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editors: Ramya Sankar G, Shreyes Seshasai G, Nick Semenkovich '09, Caroline Huang '10, Jessica Witchley '10; **Senior Editors:** Brian Hemond G, Charles Lin G, Satwiksai Seshasai G, Benjamin P. Gleitzman '09, Ricardo Ramirez '09, Angeline Wang '09, Praveen Rathinavelu '10.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry S. Surman '84, Robert E. Malchman '85, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Jonathan E. D. Richmond PhD '91, Karen Kaplan '93, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholanteril '02, Jordan Rubin '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Keith J. Winstein '03, Akshay R. Patel '04, Tiffany Dohzen '06, Beckett W. Sterner '06, Marissa Vogt '06, Zachary Ozer '07, Marie Y. Thibault '08, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Shreyes Seshasai G, Jessica Witchley '10

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8227. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © 2009 *The Tech*. Printed on recycled paper by Salhus Press.

The Case for the Status Quo

Over the last few weeks there has been an accelerated amount of debate over student issues, especially dining. There has been debate over how MIT should step into the future, while remembering our roots, and being realistic about our present. There are administrators, trying to enhance MIT as a fun and competitive university, and students, trying to keep MIT ... well, like MIT.

The Tech has done an admirable job showing both sides of this debate, especially recently. First they printed all those articles about the Blue Ribbon Dining Committee, and then Akash Chandawarkar's column about how administrators are awesome. Then lots of angry rebuttals. I'm writing this as a counterpoint to both sides, to advocate that students and administrators do nothing. Do nothing on dining, hacking, housing, judicial committees, the General Institute Requirements ... just do nothing.

First, doing nothing is popular. In today's deteriorating economy, corporations around the world are in a race to do less as fast as possible. Lay-offs, sell-offs, woot-offs — getting rid of crap and responsibility is fashionable right now.

Second, now is not a time to make big plans. It's cold outside. Classes are hard. People can't find jobs. The budget is being cut. With all this bad news, all this planning seems depressing. There is too much happening at the same time right now at MIT for there to be a good chance of us doing things right.

Most importantly, the status quo is foggy and undefined. Does MIT have dining halls? Sort of. Student-run judicial systems? Sort of. Kitchens? Sort of. Does MIT support and treasure student traditions like hacking? Sort of.

I came to MIT three years ago at 17 years old. I have never been asked for ID at an MIT

party. For the record, I'm not a girl. I'm a dude, an overweight, underage, very hairy person with a penis. Yet the world seems filled with frat brothers and dorm groups who love to give me alcohol.

My freshman year I stood next to an MIT cop, at a party, with a red cup, asking him about the state senate while drinking from the red cup. Half a dozen MIT staff and dozens of student risk managers have only created an ill-defined system whose best features are cascading levels of plausible deniability and lots of paperwork. There is no real oomph to anything.

That's why that status quo is so great. Every day the student body defines for itself how it will live and learn. The debate lives on, the boundaries are pushed, and administrators are constantly trying to change things. The constant debate and discontent educates us in a way that the soft moaning of happiness never could. The fact that our problems are never actually solved helps make MIT students such great problem solvers.

So please, keep on debating, meeting, stalling, and protesting, all to no effect. Because to me, doing nothing is the kind of non-change I can believe in.

Christopher B. Palmer '09

Where Is the Student Activism?

I am writing in reply to the column by Yaniv Junno Ophir and Gila Fakterman that appeared in the Jan. 28, 2009, issue of *The Tech*, titled "Expecting More from an MIT Professor: How Prof. Chomsky's Talk Failed the Community."

Although I happen to agree with Professor Chomsky's assessment of the situation in Israel and Palestine, I will let him defend his statements and produce evidence as requested by the authors of the article. I think this will be fairly

easy. For one the authors could have attended a local seminar last Tuesday, Feb. 17, where an Israeli citizen, Shachaf Polakow, gave a presentation and explained the situation that he has personally witnessed in Israel and Palestine.

By the way, I did not see a *Tech* article covering this very informative event that featured several additional speakers, including Professor Chomsky.

I would like to spend most of my effort in debunking the less explicit part of the charge, that Professor Chomsky has somehow failed the community. Now, this is by far the most dangerous statement, in my opinion. One interpretation of it is that if one were to express an opinion different from that coming from CNN or FOX, one fails their community. Maybe the authors did not intend that, but that is how it comes across.

I am actually surprised, although I should not be, that there are no angry articles in *The Tech* stating that 99% of professors have failed the MIT community by keeping quiet. Being quiet on the issue is perhaps the worst stance that MIT students and faculty can adopt.

Where is the renowned student activism? Where is the MIT anti-war movement? Where is the MIT labor movement? Where is the MIT global justice and equality movement? I do not know. Maybe I am not looking hard enough.

Then when one person raises the issue, and raises an unconventional (although not an unreasonable) explanation for the problems, we have a very lengthy article arguing that that person is failing the community. Quite a remarkable achievement for the community of an institution that calls itself a university.

It seems to be healthy to get these debates and dialogues in the open. For one, as Professor Chomsky has also argued, debates, arguments, and disagreements are a sign that "real" education is taking place. We need more of that, not less.

Alexi I. Goranov PhD '06



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Austin Chu, Editor in Chief Nick Bushak, Managing Editor Steve Howland, Executive Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, and Opinion Editor Andrew T. Lukmann.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become

property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech's* Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author's name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by e-mailing eic@the-tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www-tech.mit.edu>.

Obama Knocked it Out of the Park

David A. Weinberg

President Obama delivered a brilliant speech Tuesday evening in what was billed as a quasi-State of the Union address. In fact, a whopping eighty-five percent of people interviewed in a CNN poll said that the speech made them feel more optimistic about where the U.S. is headed in the next few years.

Take a moment to let that number sink in. This is not the fifty-three percent of the popular vote that Obama garnered in the November election. This is eighty-five percent. Hello, public mandate. Goodbye, Washington gridlock.

Sure, public polls can be wrong or misleading. And, certainly, high public approval ratings can be ephemeral — just ask the last president. However, there is no doubting that Obama's speech tapped into the American public's grave concern about the health of our economy and the future of our nation, and offered us reassuring solutions for how we can meet the challenges ahead.

I happen to believe that the policies he articulated — overhauling our nation's energy, health care, and education systems, timely programs for job creation, progressive tax cuts, and restarting the flow of credit — are

the right solutions to this crisis. Regardless of whether or not one agrees with Obama's vision for governance, however, it's difficult to deny that the president has scored a grand success at mobilizing public opinion to push his agenda through Congress and sideline the Republican opposition.

The three policy areas that he chose as the animating principles of the speech — energy, health care, and education — are overwhelmingly popular issues on which the American people, left and right, are craving for transformative change. Although boosting funding for these issues is fundamentally a very liberal idea, he deftly couched these proposals in pragmatic language calling for reform, accountability, and the elimination of waste.

Selling the financial bailout, on the other hand, is a much more challenging issue for any politician — including for former President Bush. The vast majority of the public does not seem to fully understand how essential the financial sector is to both large and small businesses alike. No doubt the image of Wall Street fat cats provides a useful icon for fanning the flames of public resentment.

Even on this point, however, President Obama made a strong case for implementing stimulus while putting his opponents on the de-

fensive. He touted the results of the bipartisan "fiscal responsibility summit" he marshaled the day before and promised to send the Congress a budget that cuts the federal deficit in half by the end of his first term in office.

He advocated a housing plan that "won't help speculators or that neighbor down the street who bought a house he could never afford" and touted the creation of a new lending fund to help consumers obtain automobile, college, and small business loans. In addition, he made clear that he and Vice President Biden would play an aggressive role in ensuring that state governments and bank executives spend their federal stimulus aid responsibly, and he confirmed that he would "force the necessary adjustments" when necessary.

Obama masterfully tapped into the disconnect between people's fears for the future and their "can do" image of an America that has never failed to excel in difficult times.

He cited how, "in the wake of war and depression, the GI Bill sent a generation to college and created the largest middle class in history." He alluded to a government that "didn't supplant private enterprise; it catalyzed private enterprise." He declared that "we are not quitters" and that "we cannot consign our nation to an open-ended recession."

President Obama's skill as a leader and a strong orator was especially apparent in light of the bumbled effort by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal to deliver the Republican answer to his address. Jindal has been promoted as the Republican Party's answer to Obama — young, dynamic, ethnic, and technocratic — but his speech came off as fluff, full of "can do" without any of the "should do."

Further, Jindal's delivery was dreadful. Commentators have since described his tone as "childish," "sing-songy," and "weirdly robotic," and his awkward presentation made him seem more like a Palin redux than the next Obama.

Clearly, Jindal did not perform well, and perhaps he is not yet ready for the national spotlight. But his troubles mirror the Republicans' woes more generally; they remain a party without leadership and without a platform to rival Obama's Presidential agenda.

If the GOP sends this sing-songy version of Jindal against the Democrats in 2012 with his cookie-cutter, Playskool vision of America in tow, Barack Obama will simply eat him alive.

David A. Weinberg is a PhD student in MIT's Department of Political Science. He formerly served as a Middle East advisor to the Democrats on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Budget

Transparency

Dining

Give a damn?

Don't just stew in silence...

Be heard!

Write opinion for *The Tech*.

join@the-tech.mit.edu

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

Wanna Dance?

Los Campesinos!: The Soundtrack to College Life

By Benjamin Shanks

Los Campesinos!
Paradise Lounge
Feb. 13, 2009

I touched Neil Campesinos!'s ass. Both hands, both cheeks.

Anyone with a pair of eyes knows that Los Campesinos! is the best-looking group in underground music today (plus, you know, their songs are all right, too). The Welsh seven-piece, whose members all prefer the surname Campesinos!, packed up their extraneous exclamation point and brought their brand of dancy-indie-twee-pop-whatever to the Paradise Lounge on Friday, Feb. 13.

Opening honors fell on Titus Andronicus, out of New Jersey. The band took a simple pop-punk structure, covered it in distortion, and called it art. I call it My Bloody Pennywise. In any case, they droned off songs from their 2008 record *The Airing of Grievances*. In between bouts of shilling for their merch table, they got around to playing two regional-send-up covers — a Bruce Springsteen song for their home state, and a bizarre rendition of the classic Modern Lovers' Massachusetts anthem

"Roadrunner." Honestly, if they were going to cover a Boston band, they sounded more fit for the Dropkick Murphys — and that, my friends, is no compliment in the circle these guys are from.

Fortunately, we had LC! to atone for the sins of their opening band. They came out brimming with energy, playing "Ways To Make It Through The Wall," the opening track to their newest album, *We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed*. Front man Gareth hopped around the stage with a glockenspiel mallet in one hand and a drumstick in the other, banging on seemingly whatever he could find. By the end of the song, the crowd was frenzied, and one of the bars of the 'spiel had flown across the stage.

The set list (which, incidentally, each band member had scrawled on a pita) was remarkably well-constructed for such a young band. They spread their best known songs through the show and left them interspersed with their best album tracks. They even rewarded their most devout fans with non-album cut "The International TweeXcore Underground." The mood in the audience was one of the best I've seen at a Boston show, with every lyric shouted and every break beat celebrated. There were

even high-fives exchanged after Aleksandra pulled out a melodica.

Of course, for a band that attracts the type of music-obsessed audience Los Campesinos! does, it was inevitable that the calls for Pavement covers would begin. (LC! covered Pavement B-side "Frontwards" on their first EP and reference the band in other songs.) Gareth discharged them handily by nodding to lead guitarist Tom, who launched into the intro hook from "Shady Lane." Apparently the guy knows the guitar parts to essentially every Pavement song, which is so much cooler than I can begin to explain. In the extended intro to their most popular song, "You! Me! Dancing!," LC! took time to launch into the first verse of yet another Pavement B-side, the classic "Box Elder," (a sly nod to the fact that "Dancing", ahem, "adapted" its guitar riff). With these two moves, the band earned some of that elusive "indie cred" and appeased a significant portion of their audience, without ever having to actually play another band's song — again, quite an act of cunning for such a young band.

By the time they got to "Dancing" near the end of their set, the crowd was very much in the hands of Gareth. Not only was there plenty

of dancing, but I wouldn't be surprised if more than one audience member took up the song's suggestion and went for a swim in a fountain on the way home. However, a true crescendo was reached during closer "Sweet Dreams, Sweet Cheeks." Already a standout off their first full-length *Hold on Now, Youngster*, the song took on even more power in person. Midway through the song, second guitarist Neil stage dove into the front of the crowd while continuing to play. And yes, I got to hold him up by the ass. As the song wound down, the entire band came to the front of the stage, climbed onto the monitors, and chanted the final refrain — with the crowd screaming right back at them.

At their core, Los Campesinos! is a band for the young. Barely out of college, they write about life with an unrivaled *joie de vivre*, whether about their favorite bands, getting dumped, or blogging a (final, fatal) LiveJournal entry. Maybe their music isn't the most original or boundary-pushing, but they wear their influences well, and they write some killer hooks. And when it comes down to it, Los Campesinos! is *fun*. When you're a music-nerd college student, what else matters but you, me, and dancing?

CONCERT REVIEW

Antony Delivers, Johnsons Support Outstandingly

This Stuff's Heavy — Whether You're High-Brow or Not

By Benjamin Shanks

Antony and the Johnsons
Berklee Performance Center
Feb. 22, 2009

I touched Antony Hegarty's ass. Both hands, both cheeks.

Okay, so this one didn't really happen. But I did get to see him when he came to Berklee with his band, the Johnsons, last Sunday.

Make no mistake about it, the main draw of Antony's music is his voice. Filled with idiosyncrasy, it can be grating to the uninitiated — while I was listening to him over winter break, my 14-year-old sister informed me that Antony wouldn't make it past the tryouts of American Idol. Simon Cowell aside, Antony possesses a stunning, sprawling and painfully beautiful vibrato that can convey emotion unlike any other singer I've ever heard. No hyperbole: it is God's honest truth.

The voice, however, is only the beginning of Antony's music. Overly understated but powerful arrangements explore deep — and sometimes upsetting — lyrical topics. His breakthrough album *I Am a Bird Now* explored death, transgenderism, and domestic abuse. On his latest effort, *The Crying Light*, he focuses on the balance between birth, life, and death. With both orchestration and voice, Antony finds a way to drive these topics into the listener and pull out pure emotion. It sounds

wonderful in recorded form, and *The Crying Light* stands as one of the best albums of 2009 thus far. Just make sure you bring tissues for your first listen.

2005's *I Am a Bird Now* won the esteemed Mercury Prize, bringing Antony a boatload of new fans and the fawning adoration of National Public Radio. All of this is great for Antony, and I hope he's making boatloads of money, but it also means he's moved onto the theater circuit for his tours. Berklee wasn't a bad choice, and no complaints can be made about the sound, but it lacked the intimacy that would have complemented Antony's music perfectly. Plus, it was packed with affluent middle-aged white people who came after they heard him on NPR. It was a strange setting, to say the least. Or maybe I'm just bitter because the balcony was really far away.

First and foremost, Antony is a creature of his adopted New York City. His aesthetic is closely reminiscent of the Warhol era, and not just because of his transgenderism. This was abundantly evident in his choice of opener, the dancer Johanna Constantine. Now let me disclaim the following by saying I am a music aficionado first and foremost, and I know

nothing about dance. But man, this was weird. Constantine came out in a ghostly sheet and danced a little, then removed the veil to reveal that she was painted like a skeleton. After pouring fake blood on herself, she waved her arms for a few minutes, then disappeared from the stage for a minute. She came back with a wig and kitchen knives strapped to her knuckles on a glove. Imagine Edward Scissorhands doing

The arrangements were scaled back but lost none of their power; if anything, they gained from the hushed and intimate feel.

the Macarena to Edvard Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King," and you'll have a pretty good idea of what was happening. The NPR crowd seemed to lap it up, but I have to wonder if it wasn't one of those "I have no goddamned clue what just happened so I better say I liked it" type of moments that the "high-cultured" art crowd is wont to have.

Regardless of whatever the hell was going on there, Antony came out and was stunning. The performance opened in near-total darkness and gradually came to light through the first three songs. He drew from all three of his albums, relying most heavily on his newest. I was curious how his songs would lend themselves to a live setting, given only six band members. The arrangements were scaled back but lost none of their power; if anything, they

gained from the hushed and intimate feel. And Antony's voice soared even more gracefully in person as he sat perched at his piano. His renditions of songs like "For Today I Am a Boy," "Kiss My Name," and "Everglade" held emotional power unlike anything I've ever experienced in a concert.

For the gravity of his songs, Antony held a surprisingly aloof stage presence. Incredibly composed, he showed great wit and spontaneity. After an incredible cover of "Crazy in Love" — yes, the Beyoncé song — he paused, and then told the audience, "You can't top perfection... but you can sidle up next to it!" He then had the stage lights turned while he had us all repeat it after him, in a phony English accent, while throwing our arms up for exclamation. After a short diatribe about how weird it is that Apple has managed to convince the top 30% of cool people in this country all to use its product, he finished, "I just think it's weird that we're all beholden to Apple." An audience member yelled "I'm not!" prompting Antony to look through his purse — on stage — for a door prize for the guy. He ended up giving him part of a fruit basket from off stage, with apples included.

While his wit provided welcome respite, it was his songs that brought us all to Berklee, and he was sure not to disappoint. He saved his most popular song, "Hope There's Someone," for the encore. A chilling ballad about the fear of death, it left the audience hushed and contemplative, a perfect ending to a powerful night.

CD REVIEW

Hoobastank Hasn't Grown Up

For(N)ever Isn't Bad... It's Just Not Good

By Kevin Wang

STAFF WRITER

Hoobastank
For(N)ever
Produced by Howard Benson
Island Records
Released Jan. 27, 2009

Hoobastank is a lot like the hula-hoop. Everybody knows that they still exist somewhere and that people used to really like them, but it's been so long since they've done anything remotely memorable that no one actually knows what's happened to them. Clocking in at a tepid thirty-eight minutes, *For(N)ever* resembles a married couple's 25th anniversary night activities: too short to be satisfying, but mediocre enough that you're still glad it's over quickly.

For(N)ever is Hoobastank's fourth studio album, coming three years after their last (relatively unsuccessful) release, five years after the double-platinum success of "The Reason," and eight after their 2001 debut, which spawned a number of top 40 hits. On this latest endeavor, Hoobastank again blast out generic alt-rock numbers from start to finish with nary a break

in tempo, guitar tone, or screaming, and I must confess that even after several listens I still have a difficult time telling the majority of the songs on the album apart. Hoobastank exemplify everything that one has come to expect from alt-rock: overly processed guitars, scream-y vocals, and lyrics about being a lonely teenager.

Not to say that *For(N)ever* does not have its share of good moments. It might not be the share that one might hope for, but it's enough to set it apart from a Britney Spears level catastrophe. While Hoobastank does essentially play the same song eleven times in a row, they do deserve credit for not making that one song so terrible that it makes young children weep in agony (I'm looking at you, Limp Bizkit). If *For(N)ever* were a McDonald's menu item, it would be the chicken club; nobody actually buys it, but it's unobjectionable enough that if you got one for free you, wouldn't turn it down.

"You're The One," for example, is an undeniably good rock ballad, and "Tears Of Yesterday" blends genuinely creative guitar work with clever tonalities to craft a delightfully ethereal song. I was also very impressed with guitarist Dan Estrin's funk-like riffs through-

out the album, which evoked an earlier, more sublime time when Hoobastank wrote songs that people actually jumped around to, and not just because they were still hopped up on club drugs from the '90s.

Essentially, Hoobastank are a solid band with fairly cool musical ideas that write lyrics like a roomful of fourteen-year-olds on Xanax. The perfect example of this dichotomy is the painful "Who The Hell Am I," whose title alone should provide an idea of the cheesiness encompassed in its four agonizing minutes. Put simply, the lyrics of this song constitute some of the worst possible ways to combine English words into grammatical sentences. With such epically yelled lines as "I won't apologize for who I come to be / 'Cause who the hell am I if I can't be me," singer Doug Robb perfectly sums up the experience of being a hormonal teenager with a very loud voice. It baffles me that bands still feel the need to use rhyme books to compose their lyrics.

The worst part of the song, however, is that when considered in a purely musical sense, "Who The Hell Am I" isn't actually that bad. Granted, it's not the next "Stairway to Heaven," and it's fairly far from one of Beethoven's sona-

tas, but the track does possess a genuinely nifty melody and some interesting Middle-Eastern-influenced guitar work. The overall effect of these conflicting levels of quality is similar to finding a decomposing raccoon in a slice of your birthday cake: sure you could ignore it and enjoy the other parts, but the overall experience has really been completely ruined.

For(N)ever is not a great album, but I might be lying if I said that I will never listen to it again. Despite Hoobastank's shameless pandering to the "under 16 with serious feelings" demographic, some of the tracks are listenable and one or two even manage to be good. I fear our DRM wielding overlords as much as the next cowardly law-abiding citizen, so I won't condone free music downloads, but *For(N)ever* is the sort of album which one ought to buy only when one has far too much money to spend. Think about where you put your wallet. Go and find it. If, on the way there, you tripped over a surge protector made of solid gold and fell into a flaming tub of \$100 bills that you've been burning instead of paying for heat, then this album is for you. Otherwise, I recommend buying "You're the One" or "Tears of Yesterday" on iTunes and getting on with your life.

CD REVIEW

*'Artificial Fire' Is Raw and Honest Art**Eleni Mandell Challenges Punk, Minimalism, and Country — and Wins*

By S. Balaji Mani

ARTS EDITOR

Eleni Mandell
*Artificial Fire*Produced by Eleni Mandell, Ryan Feves,
Jeremy Drake, Kevin Fitzgerald, and Dave
Trumfio

Zedtone Records

Released Feb. 17, 2009

Two years after the success of her 2007 Zedtone release *Miracle of Five*, Eleni Mandell is back with her latest work, *Artificial Fire*. If you take a quick listen to *Miracle*, you might not imagine that the same artist is the mastermind behind both albums. However, that's where Mandell's strength as a songwriter and band member comes through.

While *Miracle* focused on slower, acoustic-driven ballads ("Wings In His Eyes," "Moon-glow, Lamp Low," "Salt Truck"), Mandell brought out the electric guitars for *Artificial Fire*. The title track opens the album, introducing a piercingly dirty and dissonant guitar riff that calls and responds to itself over a steady drum beat. Mandell's voice is clean through the mix, and the guitar riff returns in between plainly sung lyrics. While Mandell's conversational and casual singing style mimics that of her earlier releases, the rough and bold guitar work demonstrate rebellion.

Throughout the album, Mandell's backing band provides a generous amount of support to enrich her songs. Jeremy Drakes (guitar), Ryan Feves (bass), and Kevin Fitzgerald



COURTESY OF ZEDTONE RECORDS

Eleni Mandell (third from left) recently released a new album, *Artificial Fire*. She is pictured here with (left to right) bassist Ryan Feves, guitarist Jeremy Drake, and drummer Kevin Fitzgerald.

(drums) fill the songs out, and they collaborated with Mandell throughout the recording process.

While Mandell provided guitar work, it's her voice that stands above on this album. She remarks that for this record, she was trying to get in touch with her inner "teenager" and to make her music more fun and upbeat. Songs like "Little Foot" and the punk-rock closer "Cracked" achieve this youthful feel while still remaining authentic. The latter finds Mandell's vocals at their rawest and most harsh.

The track sounds like a Sleater-Kinney or L7 cover, dripping with girl-power, an anthem promoting freedom from too much thinking: "I just want to forget / there are riches to be found in ignorance."

On the country-infused "Bigger Burn," Mandell seems to ruminate on a bad breakup. Her lyrics are direct and forthcoming, as she openly sings "you didn't call to let me know / you simply walked away / and let it end."

The trajectory of the album includes the whiplash of the aforementioned heavy hit-

ters, but also a fair share of lighter, atmospheric ballads. "I Love Planet Earth" features a disjoint drum beat interspersed with a solitary guitar riff that echoes throughout the sonic space — listen on headphones to get the full effect. The song even opens with "space fog," ethereal noises provided by Drake. Mandell approaches minimalism on "Two Faces," whose false starts and bell-like motifs bring the mood down towards the end of the album.

The clear standout tracks are "Front Door" and "Needle and Thread." The former successfully utilizes a ring modulator, a guitar effect pedal that creates a unique gong sound. The hypnotic tone chimes throughout the song, lending an amazing structural element to the verses. Mandell shifts between her signature spoken voice and her elegant folk singing.

"Needle and Thread" includes the most interesting chordal harmonies, and a Nels Cline-influenced guitar solo, adding just enough "weird" to the song. (Cline and guitarist Drake are in fact colleagues, and it was Cline who recommended that Mandell recruit Drake for her band.)

Fans of Mandell's much earlier works may shy away from *Artificial Fire*, but Mandell has contributed some of her strongest songwriting on this album. The sheer variety of songs and the candor of Mandell's out-of-the-diary lyrics present an album concept few artists of Mandell's status have yet mastered.

Eleni Mandell will be performing songs from *Artificial Fire* at T.T. The Bear's Place in Cambridge on Sunday, March 8.

MOVIE REVIEW

*Waltz With Bashir**A Veteran Reconstructs Tragic Lost Memories From The Lebanon War*

By Sun Kim

Waltz With Bashir

Written & Directed by Ari Folman

Rated R

Now Playing

(Scheduled for LSC on May 9, 10)

I made a mad dash to the Kendall Square Cinema one cold day during IAP to see the Academy Award-nominated film by Israeli director Ari Folman, hoping to witness cinematic art and escape my obligations for the day.

Waltz With Bashir chronicles a veteran's devastating journey through his memory in order to unearth his forgotten role in the Lebanon War of 1982. Through interviews with friends and peers who served with him, Folman, who also serves as the protagonist, recalls a collection of narrative accounts, telling his story and his comrades' stories through the unique use of animation, freeing him from the conventional constraints of physics and reality. Folman takes advantage of this liberty, creating dream-like sequences, both riveting and horrific, with one of particular significance stuck in his mind. What he discovers about this image and himself reveals the tragedy, vulnerability, and brutality of human nature.

Folman's particular dream occurs after he meets with a friend who has been plagued by the same nightmare for the past 20 years and asks him about the therapeutic nature of film. This encounter causes Folman to reflect on his own role in the war.

The dream involves him and his peers bathing in an ocean flanked by tall buildings. As he gazes at the sky, he sees bright flares travel in a parabolic trajectory across the skyline of Bei-

rut. The film displays this image three times, with more added to it each subsequent time.

Folman cannot pinpoint this occurrence in his memory, so he sets off to investigate the source of his bizarre dream. He speaks with now well-adjusted, middle-aged men, some entrepreneurs, some family men, and one a well-known journalist. His contacts demonstrate an array of human emotion, from false bravado to overwhelming guilt. One joins the army to demonstrate his manhood but ends up vomiting all night on his first dispatch. Another runs away from his doomed battalion when they engage enemy fire. These depictions of young soldiers contrast the sense of gung-ho militarism and overtures of brute force associated with the army. This contradiction demonstrates the imperfect nature of humans, an element Folman thoroughly approaches in *Waltz*.

Out of all of the scenes in the film, two scenes struck me as especially poignant. One of Folman's comrades commandeers a larger gun from his peer, insisting that he can take control of a highway pass defended by opposing snipers. As he dashes away from cover, the notes of a frantic Chopin waltz play in the background, creating an odd tension between musical energy and visual dizziness. In this chaos, the soldier remains unscathed amid a background of broken buildings, ammunition shells, and posters of Bashir Gemayel, who is depicted as the dashing and brave future leader of Lebanon.

This tumultuous scene serves as the motivation for the title — Gemayel's assassination prompts the Israeli army to enter Beirut, creating the backdrop for Folman's odd, reoccurring image of flares amid skyscrapers.

The second scene that moved me reflects the psychological analysis of a specialist Folman visits to explain the phenomenon of his memory loss. She tells Folman of a photographer who coped with the horror of war by removing himself from the scene, reasoning that he was merely viewing the carnage on the other side of the lens, removed from the destruction. One day his camera broke, resulting in a great degree of trauma for the individual as the images he formerly rationalized as distant instead became devastatingly imminent.

In the same way, the animation style creates a sense of removal from the brutality of human nature. The film, up until this point, is a

mosaic of vivid and moving pictures, but it still seems removed from reality. In the final scene, however, the director uses authentic video footage from the massacre, the very one he helped perpetrate by launching flares to light the way for the allied Lebanese Phalangists to enact the bloodshed. Without the lens of animation creating a separation, a nauseating wave of disbelief and horror overwhelms Folman as well as the viewer.

Waltz with Bashir not only serves as a soldier's realization of the conflicts involving human nature, but also a depiction of a historical account that has current implications in today's turbulent world.



ARI FOLMAN AND DAVID POLONSKY — SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
BENEFIT CONCERT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

8:00 PM

10-250

TICKETS \$5 PRE-SALE FEB 24-27 IN

LOBBY 10

\$8 AT THE DOOR

Featuring Performances by

RESONANCE

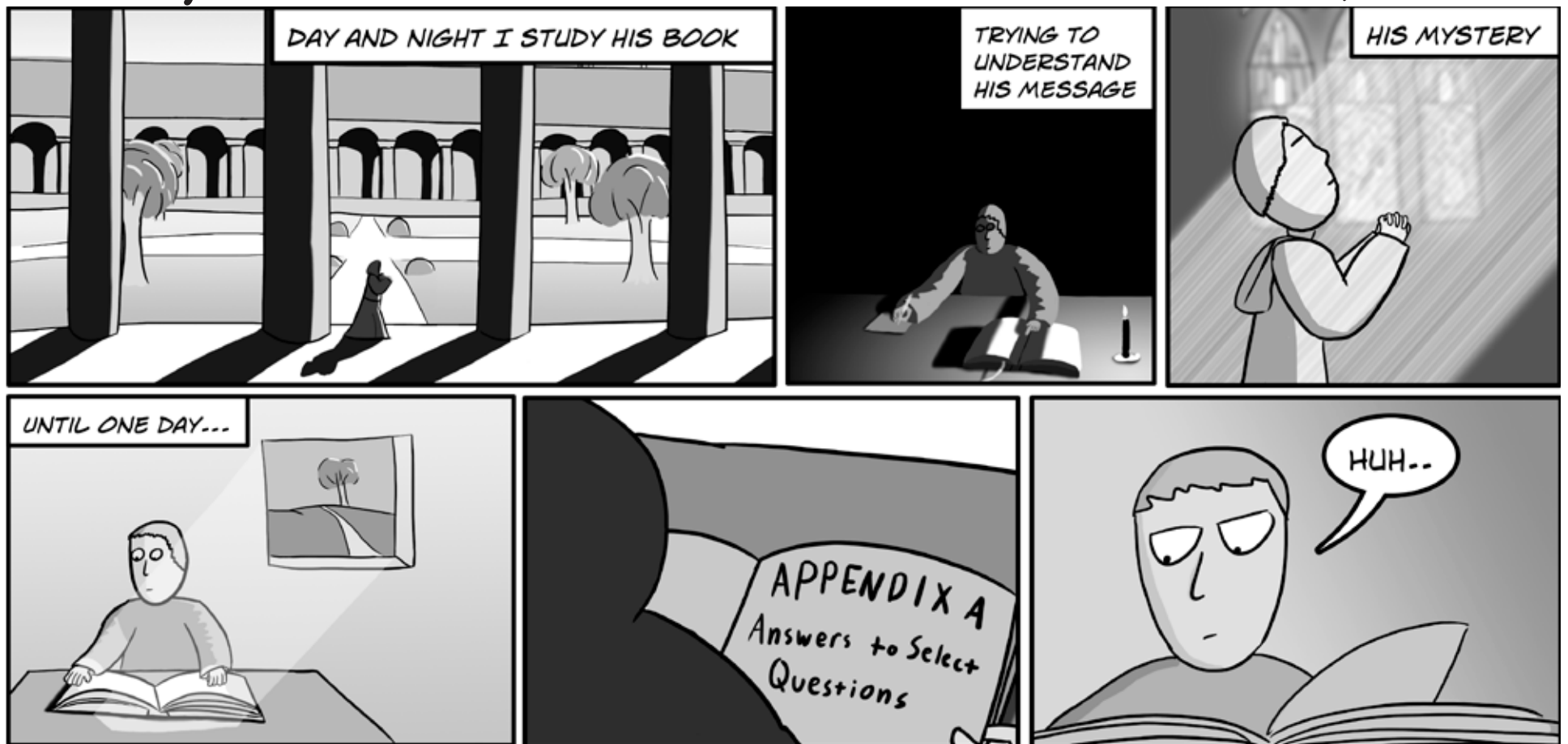
IMOBILARE

SWARA

Cross Products

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Pseudoscience

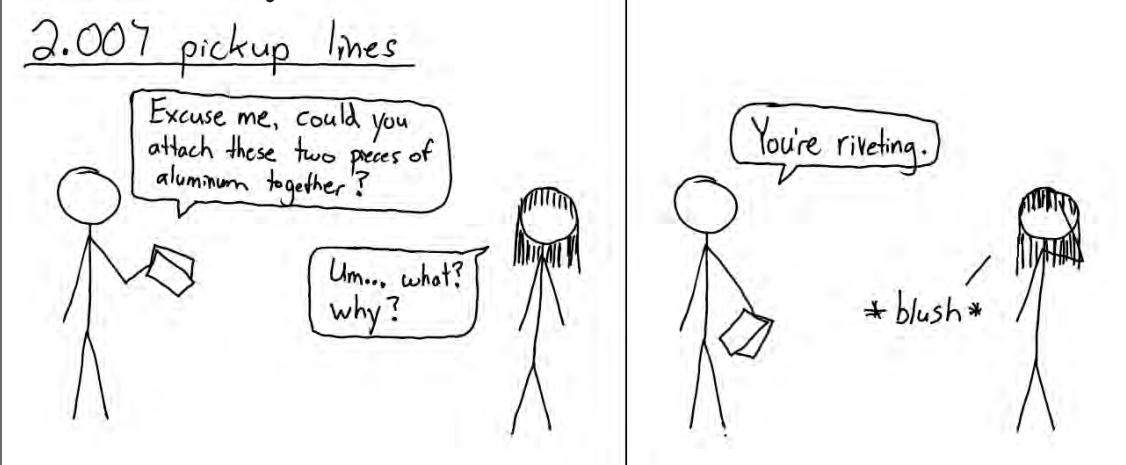
by Daniel Klein-Marcusamer



Figure 50. The above bar graph illustrates an average "procrastination pyramid," using as an example a series of concrete activities. Theoretically, there is an inherent order in the preference of all activities, such that one can define the propensity of each activity to be used for procrastinating others. This propensity is quantified by the ratio of the probability of preferring one activity over another; for instance, in this case, the individual is about 4 times more likely to favor reading (work-related) compared to preparing tax returns. Although the numbers in the plot are representative, they support several trends: (i) the sharp rise in average graduation time with the advent of technologies such as television and the Internet; (ii) the relationship between room tidiness and workload; and (iii) the relatively high number of tax evasion cases in the graduate student population. (See archives at <http://pseudocomic.blogspot.com>)

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters



su | do | ku

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution on page 10.

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

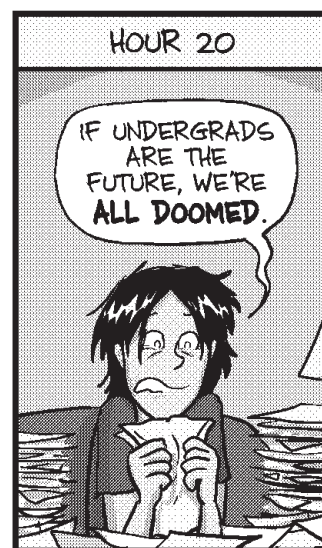
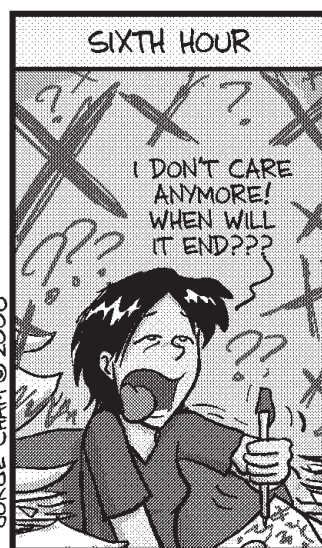
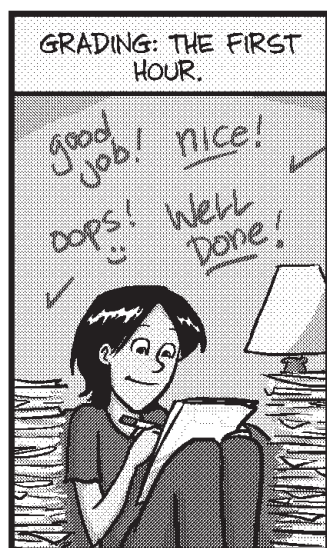
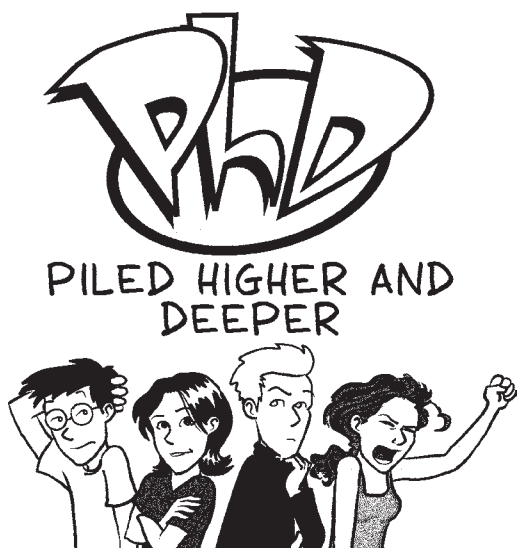
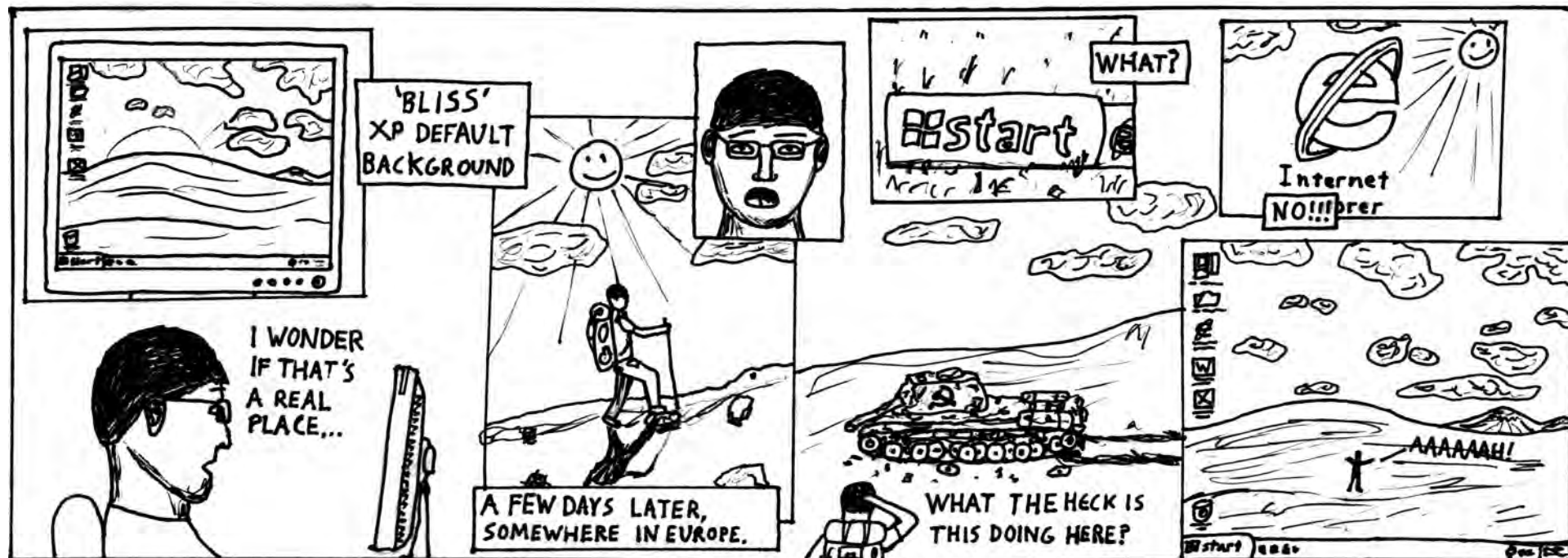
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21				22				
23						24				25	26	27
28			29	30				31	32			
33	34	35		36					37			
38			39	40				41	42			
43						44					45	
46				47	48			49	50			
51				52				53		54	55	56
57	58	59					60	61				
62	63					64				65		
66						67				68		
69						70				71		

ACROSS

- Be vexed
- Part of B.A.
- Carried on
- Gobi's location
- Simpson kid
- State one's case
- Mao Tse-__
- Needle case
- Spouts off
- Long-time illustrator in the New Yorker
- Football great Merlin
- Schuss
- 6th sense
- Philly soul singer
- __ jacet
- Distress signal
- With all one's might
- Sculptor Chillida
- Like golf balls
- Stuffed __ (kishke)
- Actor Silver
- Last letter of plurals?
- Author of "Soft Pretzels with Mustard"
- Peer Gynt's mother
- Wicked
- Consume with relish
- Source of 20A, 28A and 46A namesakes
- Dashing youth
- Evening in Pisa
- Notes of scales
- Dinner bread
- Writer Bagnold
- Suffix for diseases
- Wheel shafts
- Command to Fido
- Oriole home
- DeLuise film
- Garden-variety
- Math sign
- Philly team
- Assist a crook
- Cost per unit
- Platitudes
- Lousy
- Interlaced
- Mimic
- Carbonated beverage
- Tolkien creature
- __ Moines
- Winter ATV, __-Cat
- Hopper
- Clear and blue, e.g.
- Hangs in the balance
- Hallucinogenic stuff
- Tic-tac-toe win
- Comic-strip crash
- Ref's relative
- Hopper of gossip
- Brainstorms
- Slider relative
- Friend of Pierre
- Far out!
- Comic Knotts
- Roadhouse
- Paltry amount
- See-ya, in chat-room-speak
- Brings up
- Yikes!
- Hopper of gossip
- Govt. bond
- Wrinkly fruits
- Sibilant "Yo!"
- Inactive
- Porgy's partner
- Opera highlight
- Title for Godiva
- Lingerie item
- Bagel topper

Help Desk

by Michael Benitez



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

Let's be honest — you probably just opened *The Tech* to this page. Well, so did thousands of other readers.

Don't let us waste this space again.

Visit <http://tech.mit.edu/ads> or e-mail ads@tech.mit.edu

Reduced rates available for student groups, MIT departments, and local businesses.

Brooks Builds Robots, Makes Television Shows; a Perfect Life

Zoz, from Page 1

with robots.

Life at MIT

Wanting to pursue robotics in graduate school, Brooks decided that MIT would be the best place for him. He immediately found himself feeling at home on the east side of campus, leading him to become a GRT at Senior House.

Brooks recalls Steer Roast, an annual alumni event that brings back residents of Senior House for a weekend full of food and music, as his favorite memory of living in the dorm. Steer Roast is "a kind of family reunion, but with a large family," described Brooks. Asked about his experience as a Senior House GRT, Brooks said that it "is very easy because people are very independent; they take care of their own problems."

As a student, Brooks worked in the Media Lab with the then Robotic Life group that is now the Personal Robots Group. His research was focused on designing effective communication between humans

and robots. His research took him to Japan, where he has been many times, to work with Sony's QRIO, a humanoid robot. While there, he implemented the first automatically generated body language that incorporated proxemics, the management of interpersonal space, such as crossing one's arms when one doesn't want to engage in conversation.

Engineers on Television

"Prototype This" was not the first television show Brooks has been on. As a student, he was part of a team of MIT students who took part in "Crop Circles: Mysteries in the Field," a 2002 special on Discovery Channel about crop circles. The program featured undergraduate and graduate students from MIT creating crop circles in the middle of Ohio. The most memorable part of the show for Brooks was when a viewer came up to him and said that he really wanted to go to MIT because he was inspired by the stuff they did on the show.

The members of "Prototype This" that pitched the show to Discovery Channel created a demo tape which included clips from the crop circles show. Unbeknownst to Brooks, the tape also included demos Brooks had done of his gadgets. Once the show was accepted, they contacted Brooks in early 2006 and offered him a part. About to graduate and unsure about what he was going to do next, Brooks decided to accept. At first, he was skeptical since it was TV, but later decided that if he could

use the show as a way to make science and engineering cool, it would be worth it.

"[Prototype This] took over two and a half years to get to what we see on TV," said Brooks. One of his favorite episodes to film was the firefighter episode, which first aired on Nov. 19, 2008, in which the team created a robotic assistant that helped carry equipment up flights of stairs. He enjoyed this project because there was an evident need for the product and it was tested out by the firefighters. "It was the best endorsement for our design," said Brooks.

The team of engineers were given 12 days to shoot each episode. Many things went wrong but were edited out of the show. During the water slide simulator episode which first aired on Nov. 12, 2008, there was trouble with the hydraulics. This project was a good example of the time and resource constraints for the team. The size of the simulator was determined by the smallest size tube they could purchase. Of all the episodes taped, Brooks thought this design was the most aesthetically beautiful.

As advice to students wishing to pursue TV, Brooks warns that one should understand why they want to go into the business. "Decide why you want to do it; if you[re] looking for stardom, cable TV is not really the place," said Brooks adding, "have realistic expectations."

When asked about another season, Brooks responded with "the TV business is very unpredictable."

New Student Center Bike Racks

Bike racks on the south and east sides of the Student Center are being replaced today.

The new racks will be the same style as those recently installed on the southwest corner of the building, near Cambridge Grill and Dunkin' Donuts.

The new racks are a model called Swerve, manufactured by Dero, said Adam J. Serafin, a Campus Planner for Facilities.

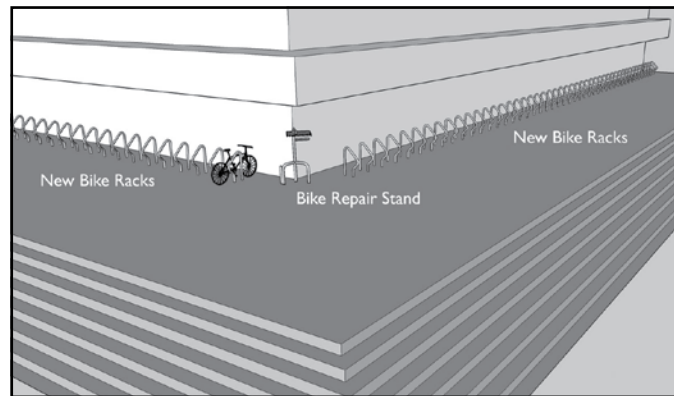
Serafin said the Swerve racks are mounted on rails to "provide easier access," unlike the current "radiator racks," which require cyclists to lift their bicycles over the rack.

In addition to the new racks, Serafin said that Facilities would be installing a Dero FixIt Station, a bicycle repair station. One FixIt station is planned for the south-east corner of the Student Center, and another one will be installed outside of the Stata Center.

The FixIt station, which will be demonstrated at the upcoming Transportation Fair in Stata on March 11, contains an array of bicycle tools, including wrenches, a pump, and tire levers. The tools are cabled to the repair station to prevent theft. The FixIt station won't be installed until after the Fair in March.

Serafin said that 59 Swerve racks would be installed, on the south and east faces of the Student Center, and would accommodate 118 bicycles. Serafin said that new racks would accommodate "the same number" of bicycles as the old racks.

—John A. Hawkinson



SOURCE: ADAM SERAFIN, FACILITIES

A 3D rendering of the new bicycle racks and repair stand outside the Stratton Student Center, Building W20. This view from the southeast corner shows the proposed location of the repair stand, which will be installed in March. The racks go in today.

In Memoriam:
 December 29, 2008
 Albert F. Clear '42,
 General Manager of
 the Tech, 1941

got sperm?

SPERM DONORS NEEDED Up to \$1100 a month!

Healthy MEN in college or with a college degree wanted for our sperm donor program.

Minimal time commitment

Help people fulfill their dreams of starting a family.

Receive free health and genetic screenings.

APPLY ONLINE:

www.SPERMBANK.com

Eating Disorder Treatment

Treatment of Adults Suffering from Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa



Informed clinicians refer their clients to Laurel Hill Inn. LHI provides the most effective treatment and deploys the highest staff-to-client ratio in New England. We provide extensive programming in a highly structured and supervised non-institutional therapeutic setting. Evening, day, and residential treatment as well as weekly support groups in West Medford and West Somerville. Call Linda at 781 396-1116 or visit www.laurelhillinn.com.

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call:

James Dennis Leary, Esq.
 321-544-0012

Depression is an illness, not a weakness.

TREAT DEPRESSION

This space donated by The Tech

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

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

Advertise here!
ads@tech.mit.edu

Call for Nominations!

2009 Student Art Awards

**LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER
 STUDENT ART AWARDS**

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html>

**LOUIS SUDLER
 PRIZE IN THE ARTS**

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 award to the honoree.

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html>

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 20, 2009 to:
 Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205

cohen@media.mit.edu

<http://web.mit.edu/awards/>

News Office Tries to Reach Out More to The Outside World

News Office, from Page 1

independence from the Institute might be compromised by having Pontin simultaneously direct the magazine as well as the News Office. Kolenbrander said that TR still has full editorial independence and can publish anything that its board decides to publish.

As communications director, Pontin is collecting information in order to plan how MIT's communication functions will be reformed, and is still thinking through how the News Office should be run and how it should handle communications for the Institute.

"Honest to god, I'm just wandering around the campus, meeting with every dean, every school, and the senior administration," Pontin said in a telephone interview from an airport in Munich.

Pontin believes this restructuring is attractive because it eliminates redundancy and saves resources. These plans include more direct communication with the outside world, including through the leveraging of TR's web development staff to improve the News Office's website, as well as restructuring the web.mit.edu top-level, which is a "seven-year old design."

Pontin remains "committed to the retention of the basic spotlight feel" of web.mit.edu, saying they will "absolutely continue" to highlight campus events and offer the opportunity for the MIT community to contribute imagery.

Pontin said that MIT "need[s] a much-better MIT news website.

Possibly several. One for press, one for community, one for the wider world." A future website may include social networking functions, Pontin said. Pontin also expects to add a "News from MIT" section to TR's web page, which reaches 650,000 people.

Pamela Dumas Serfes was director of the News Office from December 2005 through January 2009, but as of this restructuring, she no longer retains a role. Neither Kolenbrander nor Pontin were willing to explain her new role, though Pontin said "she still has a desk; she continues to receive a salary." Kolenbrander would not say what Dumas Serfes' current position or role was, but he did say that she was no longer "Executive Director of News and Communications," the title that appears for her in MIT's online personnel directory. Dumas Serfes herself declined to comment.

Staff are now being shared between the two organizations, the News Office and the magazine. Pontin suggested the News Office could make use of TR's editorial staff, noting that currently MIT spokesperson Greg Frost is forced to copyedit his own press releases.

TR's management team consists of Nathaniel W. Nickerson, Deputy Editor of Technology Review; David Foucher, Vice President for Technology Review Online, who manages TR's web development staff; and James E. Coyle, Chief Operating Officer of Technology Review, who will also serve as an operations manager for the News Office.

MIT and Local Board Disagree on Greenery of the Proposed Bldg.

650 Main, from Page 1

meanwhile, counter that the parking estimates are in line with estimates provided by the City of Cambridge. Owu notes that those estimates even consider a ten-percent reduction in single-occupant vehicular traffic to the area.

Despite that, Roszler hopes the city would consider the proximity to public transit when making their estimates.

"We want any development near the T to recognize the access to public transportation," said Roszler. The A4NC is aiming for 650 parking spaces with the new building, although it still feels the site's location would work well with fewer spots.

There was also debate over an MIT-owned parking lot located at the corner of Cherry and School Streets and associated with a building formerly run by Polaroid at 750 Main Street. The lot has remained largely unused since Polaroid's departure at the beginning of the decade and Minka VanBeuzekom, who also works with the A4NC, says members of the community would prefer the site be used for community needs. However, Gallop noted that the lot, located three blocks from 650 Main Street, is entirely separate from this proposed project. The Institute has informed the coalition that they will continue to speak with city officials on the future of the lot until a decision has been made regarding the fate of the former Polaroid building.

"We wouldn't want to give the parking lot away until we decide what to do with 750," said Gallop.

Other concerns surround the size of the building, which is estimated at a height of 120 feet. According to

Roszler, a building that tall would cast shadows on the adjacent residences in the middle of the day during the winter. Were the building, said Roszler, to have one fewer floor, that problem would be alleviated.

Owu says the building will welcome the community in, with nearly thirty percent of the property being covered in open spaces in the form of plazas and grassy areas.

"The overall amount of open space on the site is approximately 29 percent," said Owu, "almost twice the amount suggested in the city's design guidelines." The design of the building would also encourage pedestrians to walk through the development as a shortcut from Main Street to Portland Street and Albany Street. However, Roszler counters that the green space would not be easily visible from the street. While she understands that the geography of the location makes a green space adjacent to Main Street infeasible, she notes that the green space as it is now is designed more for the tenants of the proposed building rather than the community as a whole. Architects have responded to some of these concerns by adding awnings along the sidewalk and including a glass façade. The plan also calls for trees, benches, and sidewalks larger than normal.

"The retail uses on Main Street will create a more active street edge that further enhances the pedestrian experience," said Owu.

The A4NC has overall felt that MIT has not been fully upholding its commitment to environmental friendliness, but a recent decision has allayed some of those worries.

The U.S. Green Building Council has developed a set of standards, known as the Leadership in Energy

and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, that have been used to evaluate the environmental sustainability of more than 14,000 buildings worldwide. MIT was initially only going to seek a "certified" LEED rating for 650 Main Street, but they recently decided to obtain the higher "silver" rating, in line with its academic buildings currently under construction.

MIT will face the Cambridge Planning Board at the Department of Cambridge Community Development (344 Broadway) on Tuesday, Mar. 3, at 7:30 p.m. Both MIT and the A4NC will consider their next steps after Tuesday's meeting, which is open to the public, but the coalition, despite its lingering concerns, has already committed to continuing working with MIT.

"We'll continue to talk to them regardless of the outcome," said VanBeuzekom.

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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

We like new staff members!
join@tech.mit.edu

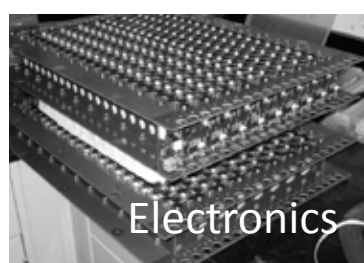


The MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team invites you to the...

Solar Vehicle Unveiling!

Today, 2.27.2009

3 to 5pm, Lobby 13



Check out our new car
 Talk to the team
 Meet our sponsors



Vehicle Presentation at 3pm
 Light refreshments to follow

SPORTS

Men's Fencing Takes Second at N.E. All-Division Championships

By Gabriel A. Chan
and Daniel S. Levine
TEAM MEMBERS

The MIT men's varsity fencing team took second place among 13 schools at the New England All-Division Championship this past Sunday. The Engineers finished the day with 82 victories and 26 losses, just three bouts behind first-place Boston College. Despite finishing second in the three-weapon team competition, MIT finished first in two of the three squad competitions.

The competition, held at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., was held in two rounds. In the initial team round, each team fielded nine fencers, one for each of three positions per weapon (foil, épée, or saber). The top fencers from each position would then qualify for the individual competition in each weapon.

MIT turned in its strongest squad performance in the foil competition, capturing first place with a 30-6 record. Led by freshmen Benjamin N. Nield and Daniel S. Levine, who finished 11-1 and 10-2 respectively, and rounded out by sophomore Richard C. LaGrandier, who finished 9-3, the foil squad's impressive performance can be seen as a sign of things to come from this young squad. During the team competition, Nield finished second among all fencers in his position and Levine finished first, a performance that qualified both for the individual competition. In the individual competition, both advanced to the second and final round of 6, and Nield received the silver medal while Levine finished fifth.

In the épée competition, Matt L. Gethers '09 and captain Gabriel



GABRIEL CHAN

Benjamin N. Nield '12 counterattacks against his opponent in the foil competition. Nield finished 11-1 en route to helping the MIT foil squad place first. Nield himself finished in second place individually.

A. Chan '09 led the squad to a very tight three-way first-place tie with an overall squad record of 26-10. Gethers, a recent Rhodes Scholar, finished 8-4, followed by Chan, who also finished 8-4. Carter A. Chang '12 went 10-2 to place first in his position. All three of MIT's épéeists qualified for the individual competition. Both Chan and Gethers advanced to the top 6 round with Gethers receiving the bronze medal and Chan finishing sixth.

MIT's saber squad also posted a 26-10 record to finish in fourth place. Igor Kopylov '09 notched a third place finish in his position with a 9-3 record, followed by Rangarajan D. Nadadur '10, who tallied a 7-5 re-

cord to finish fourth. Maximilian L. Brand '11, who ended the day with a 10-2 record, placed second. All three saberists qualified for the individual competition.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, MIT will take on some of the highest ranked teams in the nation at one of the oldest athletic competitions in the United States, the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championship, held this year at Brandeis University. The following weekend, the Engineers will each fight for an individual spot at the NCAA National Championship at the NCAA Northeast Regional qualifying meet to be held at MIT's Johnson Athletic Center on Sunday, March 8.

Shin Claims Gold As Women Capture First

By Molly A. Kozminsky

TEAM MEMBER

Last Sunday, the MIT women's fencing team finished first out of 13 teams with a 96-22 record at the New England All-Division Championship. Robin S. Shin '12 went on to claim the gold in the individual sabre competition.

The tournament, held at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., was fenced in an ABC strip format, with each team fielding a fencer for each of three positions ("A," "B," and "C") per weapon (foil, épée, and saber). The top fencers from each position then went on to the individual competition in each weapon.

Winning the Vitale Cup for the most victories, the sabre squad, composed of freshmen Shin, Molly A. Kozminsky, and Lauren M. Chilton,

captured first place with an impressive record of 38-1. All three fencers qualified for the individual competition, each being ranked first in her position. Shin and Kozminsky went on to take first and third, respectively.

The épée squad, which includes Cordelia S. Link '10, Jenna G. Caldwell '11, and Lindley C. Graham '10, achieved a record of 32-8 in the team competition, propelling them to third place. Link and Caldwell qualified for the individual competition, and Link ultimately finished fourth, while Caldwell finished ninth.

With a strong record of 26-13, the épée squad, consisting of Stephanie H. Shin '10, Kirsten Hessler '12, and Sophie M. Monahan '11, finished fifth. All three fencers were promoted to the individual competition, with Shin placing fifth.

Men's Basketball Making History

In the 108-year history of the men's basketball program at MIT, the team has never won a conference championship. That could all change this weekend.

The second-seeded Engineers will play Babson College this Saturday in the semifinals of the New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference Championship. MIT split their season series with Babson, including a two-point loss on February 11. The game will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday night at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Should MIT win, the team would play in the championship game, also at WPI, on Sunday afternoon. The Engineers reached the semifinals after a close 66-62 overtime win against Coast Guard in the quarter finals on Wednesday.

Leading the Engineers is senior guard James M. "Jimmy" Bartolotta '09, who this week was named as the ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America of the Year.

—Shreyes Seshasai, Contributing Editor

The Tech's Athlete of the Week:
Emily Houston '10

Emily F. Houston '10 has been named the Mid-Atlantic Conference Air Rifle Shooter of the Month for January after leading the Engineers to victory in that category in the Bean Pot competition last month. The junior captain has helped the Engineers compile a record of 25-8 this season.

Houston's total of 579 was tied for the top individual total in air rifle at the Bean Pot and helped Tech outscore runner-up Pennsylvania State University, 2235-2229. Houston, who carries a 4.9 grade point average in Mechanical Engineering, has now registered the high score in this category in five of the Engineers' eight competitions on the year.

The Engineers are now looking forward to the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championship, which will be held on Sunday, March 7, hosted by the Virginia Military Academy. MIT defeated Penn State in the Expert Division of air rifle at last year's Championship.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

Made possible by the Council for the Arts at MIT

Free tickets for MIT students!

Radius Ensemble

Featuring Marcus Thompson, viola

Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 8 pm

Killian Hall at MIT, 14W-111

Piazzolla Tangos for wind quintet (arr. Scott)
Gubaidulina Quasi hoquetus for viola, bassoon, & piano
Ibert Aria for flute, clarinet, & piano
Brahms String quintet in F, Op. 88

Boston Modern Orchestra Project
John Harbison: A Winter's Tale

Friday, March 20, 2009, at 8pm

Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory

John Harbison Winter's Tale (1974, rev. 1991)

Concert performance - Opera in two acts

Based on the play by William Shakespeare

2 tickets per MIT student ID

Tickets available at the MIT Office of the Arts (E15-205)

Monday - Friday

2 - 5:30pm in person, first-come, first-served only

<http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html>

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009

U.S. Coast Guard Academy (12-13)	62
MIT (18-8)	66

Men's Volleyball

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009

MIT (13-9)	3
Wentworth Institute of Technology (7-8)	0

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009

MIT (14-9)	3
Daniel Webster College (3-6)	0

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009

Pistol Alumni Match	10 a.m., duPont Athletic Center
Men's Track New England Division III Championship	11 a.m., Johnson Athletic Center
Men's Volleyball vs. Elms College	11 a.m., Rockwell Cage
Women's Tennis vs. Bates College	11 a.m., J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble
Women's Gymnastics vs. SUNY Brockport	1 p.m., duPont Gymnasium
Men's Tennis vs. Emerson College	1 p.m., J.B. Carr Tennis Bubble
Men's Volleyball vs. Emerson College	3 p.m., Rockwell Cage
Rifle Alumni Match	TBA, duPont Athletic Center