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TechTalk
SERVING THE MIT COMMUNITY

NEWS

THE BLOG REPORT

The Lilliputian-sized blogs and e-mails are hobbling the giant established media, according to three journalists who spoke at the Communications Forum event on "New Roles for Old Media?" Will skilled reporters become mere fact-checkers of blog rumors?

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BALANCING ACT

Stratton Lecture panelists compared the nation's need for security with individuals' right to privacy. MIT provost turned Tufts president, Larry Bacow, moderated.

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MANAGING THE SOX

For Dean Richard Schmalensee of the Sloan School, being a fan means business. He wrote an op-ed piece for The Wall Street Journal praising the Red Sox team's management.

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RESEARCH

COLUMBIA GROUP TAKES OFF

A mutidisciplinary collection of researchers looks at safety systems in the Columbia Space Shuttle to see what can be gleaned.

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DOWN TO THE GENES

Novartis and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard have announced a joint project to decipher the genetic causes of type 2 diabetes, which afflicts more than 170 million people worldwide. The team plans to make the findings freely available to scientists internationally.

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A SMALL FISH TALE

The pufferfish genome has quite a bit to say to scientists about the evolution of fish and mammals.

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ARTS

FRAGMENT COMES TO LIFE

Professor Jay Scheib turns a Chevkhov fragment into a multimedia play that premieres here before heading to New York.

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Airplane talks to airplane

Lauren Clark
School of Engineering

Aeronautics researchers at MIT have developed an aircraft guidance system that allows a pilot in one plane to guide a separate, pilotless airplane by speaking commands in English.

In a flight test, the pilotless vehicle, called a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle), responded to sudden changes in plan and avoided unexpected threats en route to its destination, in real time.

"The system allows the pilot to interface with the UAV at a high level—not just 'turn right, turn left' but 'fly to this region and perform this task,'" said Mario Valenti, a flight controls engineer for Boeing who is on leave to pursue a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science at MIT. "The pilot essentially treats the UAV as a wingman," said Valenti, comparing the UAV to a companion pilot in a fighter-plane squadron.

Tom Schouwenaars, a Ph.D. candidate in aeronautics and astronautics, and Valenti are principal researchers on the guidance system, which is part of the capstone demonstration of the Software Enabled Control (SEC) program. Professors Eric Feron and Jonathan How of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics (aero/astro) are among the principal investigators on the SEC program.

The SEC program is a five-year, inter-university effort sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) through the Air Force Research Laboratory. As industry partner, Boeing provided the avionics test platform for the MIT guidance system and the planes used to demonstrate it.

The new guidance system is designed for volatile combat situations. For instance, a pilot might be commanded to gather images of an enemy site located in unknown territory. Rather than putting himself in danger, the pilot could assign a nearby UAV to the task. The UAV moves toward the enemy site, avoiding known threats (no-fly zones) and the unexpected (radar emanating from a missile site), all the while communicating its actions to the pilot in the other aircraft, which follows behind at a higher altitude and a safe distance. The technology also could have

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Trick-or-treaters give out candy to encourage community donations

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

Red Sox regalia outran the classic witch ensemble at this year's annual Halloween kickoff event for the Community Giving campaign, held at various campus locations on Friday, Oct. 29.

To celebrate the campaign launch, 14 costumed volunteers and Tim the Beaver handed out candy and information about MIT's charitable giving program to early morning commuters to MIT.

Karen Fosher, Human Resources administrator at the Picower Center for Learning and Memory, described herself as a "diehard Red Sox fan" whose costume was simply, "World Champion," meaning, Red Sox shirt and cap. Fosher greeted commuters at the Main Street entrance to Building E19.

Patti Pisani, financial assistant in Facilities, wore a Red Sox sweatshirt to honor the World Series winners as she offered candy in front of 77 Massachusetts Ave. Pisani "usually dresses up as an MIT athlete, but this year I'm going with the excitement of the Red Sox," she said.

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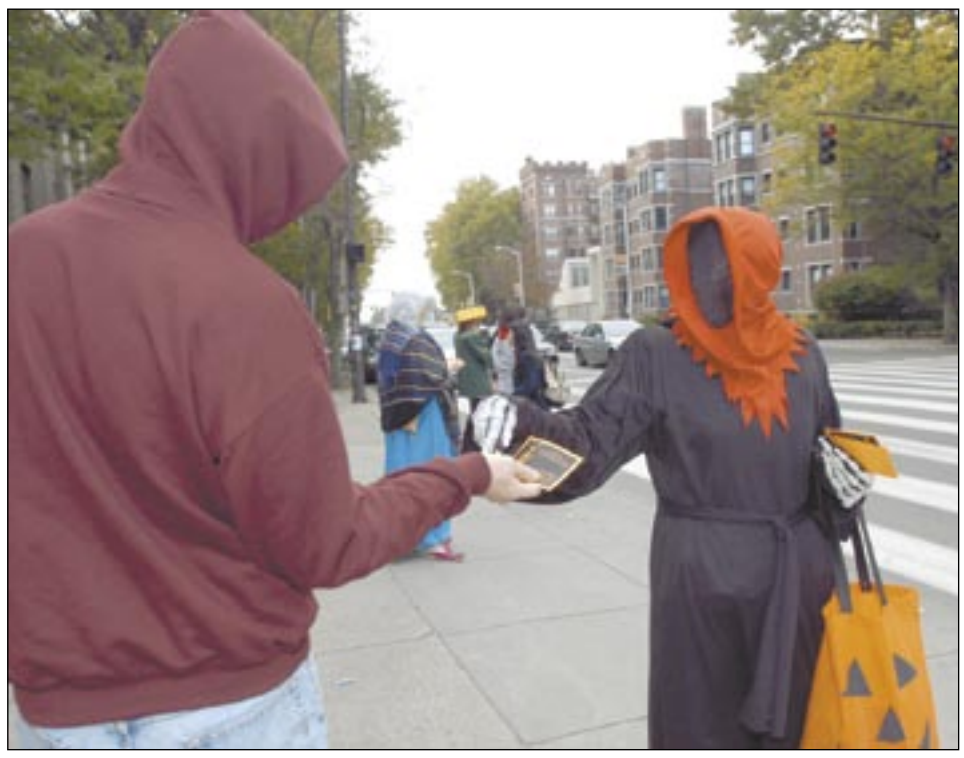
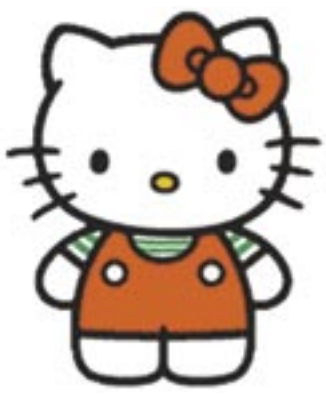


PHOTO / **DONNA COVENEY**

Grim Reaper Meg Westlund of the Center for Educational Computing Initiatives hands out candy and a reminder about the Community Giving campaign at 77 Massachusetts Ave.

FEATURED STORY



HELLO KITTY TURNS 30 WITH GRACE—NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF AGING AND NO LOSS IN EARNING POTENTIAL.

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MIT fans get assist in Red Sox World Series

Sasha Brown
and
Denise Brehm
News Office

Boston went a little baseball crazy last week and the MIT community went right along with it as New England rooted the Red Sox on to the team's first World Series victory in 86 years. Late-night games took a toll on people's energy, but enthusiasm never waned for baseball's long-suffering fans.

Many students watched the series together as the Sox swept four games to beat the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series Oct. 23-27. Groups gathered in front of a large-screen TV in Lobdell Dining Hall eating pizza provided by the Student Life Programs. David Rogers, assistant dean and director of Fraternities, Sororites and Living Groups (FSILGs), provided $200 to each FSILG for pizza and snacks to encourage those students to watch the games together from home rather than joining the crowds in Kenmore Square.

And of course, faculty and staff pursued their own means of baseball madness, some even in the national or international limelight. Nobel laureate Susumu Tonegawa was quoted by reporter Jim Giles in his web log on Nature.com as having discussed baseball during the Society of Neuroscience Conference in San Diego Oct. 24. Dean Richard Schmalensee of the Sloan School published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal Nov. 2 outlining the management decisions that led the Sox to victory (see story on page 4).

"At the end of the first full day, we've been exposed to plenty of top-notch science and quite a few arguments about baseball," Giles wrote in his blog about the neuroscience conference. "The Boston Red Sox have made it to the World Series and, since Boston is arguably the science capital of the United States, many speakers here in San Diego took time out to give the city a nod.

"Susumu Tonegawa, an eminent immunologist-turned-neuroscientist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, has more right to do so than most. He was invited to pitch the first ball of a game for the Red Sox this May. He clearly enjoyed taunting fellow speaker Eric Kandel; Boston beat New York, Kandel's team, to reach the World Series. It's nice to see two Nobel laureates bring the world's biggest scientific

See **SOX**
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Brain and cognitive sciences project on the rise on Vassar

Students returned to MIT this fall to discover that yet another major addition to the campus is taking shape. Following the opening of the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center, Simmons Hall, and most recently the Frank Gehry-designed Stata Center, the new facilities for the brain and cognitive sciences are rising on Vassar Street. Framing and exterior cladding are close to completion, and the complex is scheduled for occupancy in fall 2005.

This project, with a floor area of 411,000 square feet, will house three major entities: the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, the Picower Center for Learning and Memory, and the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT.

The site, facing Vassar Street and Stata on one side, and stretching across the GBMM railroad tracks to face Main Street and Technology Square on the other, posed fundamental problems: how to meet both a set of exceptional urban design challenges and the complex program for the research laboratories and imaging facilities needed for research in this area.

Commenting on the project, MIT President Charles M. Vest said, "The facilities reflect the benefits of a special partnership: the extraordinary urban design sensibilities of the lead designer, Indian architect Charles Correa, who has created limestone and glass forms of immense power and elegance, and the extensive experience of Goody Clancy and Associates in designing academic buildings and laboratories noted for their effectiveness and efficiency. Their combined efforts will constitute one of the finest facilities in the world measured on any dimension."

The combination of this project with the Stata Center across the street and the remaking of Vassar Street itself with new trees, lighting, bicycle lanes, and paving creates a new vitality in what had, for decades, been a grim and run-down area of Cambridge.

Architect: Goody, Clancy & Associates and Charles Correa Associates Architects
MEP Engineers: BR+A Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Structural Engineers: LeMessurier Consultants
Construction Manager: Turner Construction Co.

PHOTO / **DONNA COVENEY**

The brain and cognitive sciences project on Vassar Street will house the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, the Picower Center for Learning and Memory, and the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT.

Online system makes it simpler to track degree requirements

The Registrar's Office, in collaboration with Student Services Information Technology, recently implemented an online degree tracking system and a redesigned registration form for students, faculty and academic administrators.

The new online degree system connects students, academic departments and the Registrar's Office, facilitating the submission of degree applications, review of degree requirements and approval of degree candidacy.

With the new system, students can submit their applications online at WebSIS and provide information critical to the approval of degrees, the production of diplomas and the publication of the commencement book. They can update their information and check on the progress of their applications. Academic departments can use the system to track students' degree requirements, produce reports and communicate with students and the Registrar's Office.

The new registration form provides more pertinent information in a clearer format. New features of the form that support the advising process are a smaller, more manageable size, display of student pictures and messaging capabilities.

"Both initiatives provide the academic community with tools that significantly improve the information available for advising, registration and degree approval," said Registrar Mary Callahan. "The functionality of the new degree system integrates a broad range of academic information to help departments manage the degree process. The new registration form is easier to use and contains more relevant data."

Columbia Group dives into safety issues in aeronautics and other systems

Nancy DuVergne Smith
Center for Technology, Policy and Industrial Development

The Columbia Group, a multidisciplinary collection of faculty, research staff, and graduate students based in the Engineering Systems Division, began meeting in 2003 to dive into safety culture questions surrounding the Columbia Space Shuttle accident.

One year later, the emerging intellectual products include a best paper award from the System Safety Society, a book chapter, and an Engineering Systems Division (ESD) symposium paper, which has become a popular download from the Internet. These early works illustrate ESD's commitment to interdisciplinary collaborations.

Professor Nancy Leveson of aeronautics and astronautics and engineering systems, who is a member of the NASA Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, convened this working group by calling on a colleague she'd met through ESD gatherings. She and Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld, a senior research scientist at the Sloan School who is executive director of the Engineering Systems Learning Center and an expert in large-scale systems change, invited a few colleagues to meet, and the group was born.

"One of the reasons I came to MIT was because of ESD and the opportunity to work with people in multiple disciplines," said Leveson. "This is one of the few universities in the world that houses a structure for promoting this kind of interdisciplinary work. ESD gets us talking so we know who is there, what they are interested in, and then people form these natural group interactions."

Professor John Carroll of Sloan and ESD, a social psychologist, joined the Columbia Group, as did Betty Barrett, an organizational behavior expert in the Center for Technology, Policy and Industrial Development who is associate director of the Engineering Systems Learning Center. Several of Leveson's graduate students also are members of the group.

Building robust interdisciplinary models

"In the first year, we started writing papers about the Columbia accident, generalizing it to safety culture from multiple viewpoints," Leveson said. "This year, we are looking at how to model and engineer safety culture so we prevent accidents."

The Columbia Group's challenge is to develop a robust model that will balance the need for quantifiable evidence with the need for capturing qualitative relationships and complex cultural dynamics. "Part of that involves developing sophisticated, rigorous, technical models that are understandable to the engineering community, but that are attentive to organizational and institutional dynamics," said Cutcher-Gershenfeld. "Our models won't be exactly the same as existing technical models, but they will be mathematically based, technically rigorous, repeatable, and applicable in other settings."

Leveson says her participating engineering students have broadened their research focus and begun taking management and social science classes. "This group was a tremendously important influence on my students and on their dissertations, which now have faculty from multiple schools. What they are doing uses a more interdisciplinary way of attacking problems."

Aeronautics and astronautics Ph.D. student Nicolas Dulac will apply what he learned in the group to his research on the safety architecture of the new NASA Mars-Lunar space exploration system.

"Coming from a very technical background, I had a tendency to believe that technical problems have technical solutions," Dulac said. "My experience at MIT and with the Columbia Group helped me realize that soft problems are often more difficult to address than hard ones. What I like the most about MIT is the shared belief that a multidisciplinary-systems approach is necessary to build and operate complex systems."

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Queen of Cute hits 30 without aging

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

When a little white kitten with a big head, a bow on her ear and a blank space instead of a mouth drops a billion dollars on the welcome mat of her parent company, it's not just something the cat dragged in—it's a business phenomenon. And when that kitten celebrates 30 years of dominating the global character-goods market, it's time to ask, what happened?

Enter Ken Belson, business reporter for The New York Times and co-author with Brian Bremner of "Hello Kitty: The Remarkable Story of Sanrio and the Billion Dollar Feline Phenomenon" (Wiley, 2003). Belson gave a talk on Hello Kitty's history and remarkable market trajectory at MIT on Oct. 29 in Room E51-095. The event occurred just three days before Hello Kitty's 30th birthday. The room was packed.

Belson's presentation described the character-goods industry in Japan and the global reach of Hello Kitty products, as well as the personality and business acumen of Shintaro Tsuji, head of Sanrio Co., Hello Kitty's creator. Belson showed slides displaying Hello Kitty's power in her parent company—she brings in 50 percent of its profits—and her evolution as an icon of graphic design over those 30 years.

"The dark secret of the character-goods business is, nobody knows who will succeed," Belson noted. Sanrio maintains Hello Kitty's success by keeping up a quick and constant turnover of Hello Kitty products, adapting and licensing 600 new items each month and removing 600 from circulation, he said.

PHOTO COURTESY / **WILEY**

Ken Belson (left) and Brian Bremner, are co-authors of "Hello Kitty," a book on the billion-dollar character and licensing phenomenon shown here life-sized and in costume. Belson talked about Miss Kitty at MIT last week.

Hello Kitty items have evolved from the original little pink purse, priced so Japanese children could buy it with their own money, to products that teeter on parody. These include the Hello Kitty toaster, the Hello Kitty robot, the Hello Kitty beaujolais, the Hello Kitty debit card and the online Hello Kitty stress test. (To take the stress test, visit sanriotown.com on the web.)

Hello Kitty herself hasn't changed much, and Sanrio has kept her life story the same. She was born in London Nov. 1, 1974. Her last name is White. She weighs as much as three apples and she has a twin sister, Mimmy. Her boyfriend, Dear Daniel, has far less presence than Barbie's Ken, but then, Barbie is 15 years older. For Sanrio, which actually manufactures no products, anything that carries Hello Kitty on it must project "safety, purity, happiness and goodness," Belson said. Hello Kitty is the child ambassador of UNICEF.

Hello Kitty in danger

Belson described Hello Kitty's celebrity as producing the sort of problems any rock star endures. She has enemies; not all groups are vulnerable to the queen of cute, Belson noted. "Kitty Defilers" include feminists and performance artists who find the character ageist and subversive, anti-consumerist groups who accuse Sanrio of making worthless junk, and Taiwanese and Korean nationalist groups who resent cultural exports from Japan for historical reasons, he said.

And that major cute power faces other mortal dangers, Belson noted. One is "brand fatigue," which Sanrio battles relentlessly by its whirlwind licensing schedule. Another is piracy. Yet another danger inheres in demographic changes inside Japan, where the high school population has dropped 25 percent since 1990.

Yet Hello Kitty prevails, her power undimmed by time or competition from newer collectibles such as Pokemon. Once the crowd in E51-095 had settled in, Belson displayed a slide of the original white-faced kitten alone on the screen. Seventy-five adults sighed in unison, just as they would for a baby.

Giant media hobbled by Lilliputian blogs

Sarah H. Wright
News Office

Three journalists presented their darkening views of the future for established American news media in a panel discussion titled "New Roles for Old Media?" sponsored by the Communications Forum and the Technology and Culture Forum.

Panelists at the Oct. 28 event in Bartos Theatre were Alison Mitchell, associate director of the Project for Excellence in Journalism; Alex Jones, director of the Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University, and Mark Jurkowitz, media columnist for the Boston Globe. Steven van Evera, professor of political science, served as moderator.

The trio collectively identified "old media" as the nation's most prestigious newspapers and television news programs, citing The New York Times, The Washington Post and CBS-TV's "60 Minutes." These giants of the press are being increasingly distracted and sometimes, hobbled, by the growing power of blogs, the panelists agreed. While none referred explicitly to "Gulliver's Travels," the future they described invoked a massive Gulliver, immobilized by hundreds of tiny Lilliputians, each one representing a hostile e-mail, a credible but unverified document, a photo that might be real.

In today's media world, items emerging from the "blogosphere" can gain force and visibility enough to alter and even reverse what was once the traditional flow of news.

Jones, a former New York Times reporter, described the 2000 campaign as an example of an "antique" in terms of media coverage and news flow. Just four years ago, Jones said, news about the candidates and the campaign flowed from mainstream newspapers to network TV to cable TV to smaller outlets, eventually reaching talk radio and the nascent blogosphere.

By alarming contrast, Jones said, blogs and talk radio now form an expanding network of people who are "very informed, very opinionated, and journalists, especially cable people, now read them."

Jones cited the Swift Boat story, intended to besmirch John Kerry's Vietnam record, which was set in motion by people of "inherent believability, but whose facts didn't necessarily check out," said Jones. "The Swift Boat story became well-known, not on the basis of being true, but on the basis of being widely talked about. It took the Post and the Times 10 days to do the fact-checking. News organizations that still have the will to report can be manipulated by blogs and cable news," he said.

Thus, one new role for established media may be devoting reporters' time and costly resources to fact-checking items that rise up from the blogosphere, warned Jones.

Personality parade

Jones and Mitchell expressed grave doubts about whether American media had fulfilled its purpose in educating the citizen electorate.

According to new research published by the Project for Excellence in Journalism, debate coverage across the media spectrum (ranging from the Times to the tiniest blog) had grown more limited and more personality-oriented in scope. Citing the project's figures, Mitchell said that debate coverage was mostly "political insider stuff focused on the elite, on politicians themselves" rather than on policy coverage and explication. "The stories we looked at during a two-week period in October put politics over policy and politicians over citizens" as their primary purpose, she said.

She acknowledged that cable TV news has the attraction of being less slick and packaged than network news. "It's not packaged, but it's also not fact-checked," she said.

The Globe's Jurkowitz discussed the "cafeteria-style news consumerism" resulting from more news media choices. Non-traditional media that now enjoy a new and powerful role in shaping opinions and, perhaps, elections, include blogs as well as "politicized documentaries," Jurkowitz said, citing Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" and Jehane Noujaim's "Control Room" as examples.

"The days of Walter Cronkite bringing the tablets down from Mount Sinai are long gone. We've got not only red and blue states but also red and blue media. For us as a society, fewer and fewer shared truths mean everything will be up for debate," Jurkowitz said.

Personal freedom vs. national security debated

Sasha Brown
News Office

In the months and years following 9/11, balancing national security with personal freedom has been a challenge, a group of public policy experts told a rapt audience in Wong Auditorium during the 11th annual Catherine Stratton Lecture Oct. 26.

Lawrence Bacow, president of Tufts University and former chancellor of MIT, moderated the panel discussion about steps the U.S. government has taken to tighten security since 9/11 and the resistance to those steps from civil libertarians and other concerned citizens. Bacow is an economist and lawyer recognized internationally for his expertise in dispute resolution.

Panelists were Juliette Kayyem, a senior fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; Andrew McCarthy, an attorney and senior fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies; and Robert O'Neil, a law professor and founding director of The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression at the University of Virginia.

Since 9/11 and the Anthrax attack in late 2001, there has not been another attack on U.S. soil, said Bacow. Policies such as the Patriot Act may be the reason. "But any policy looks good if you only examine its benefits," he said. The Patriot Act—which Congress passed 45 days after 9/11—does allow the government access to personal information and items that were harder to obtain prior to the attack. Groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have taken issue with the act.

This is not the first time the U.S. has suspended such rights, said O'Neil. In 1862 during the Civil War, President Lincoln suspended Habeas Corpus—the right of prisoners to determine the legality of their imprisonment. At the time, no one dared speak out. In 1944, Roosevelt sent many Japanese Americans to internment camps. Again, few citizens spoke out against the action.

For O'Neil, the stark contrast between citizens' reactions then and now is comforting. "Already, our courts have interfered to a degree that is unprecedented," said O'Neil, referring to the Supreme Court decision last summer to allow prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay to fight their imprisonment. "The best lessons of history teach us what to avoid and what we might do better," said O'Neil.

McCarthy agreed that discourse about personal freedom is important, but said that during war time Americans have always been asked to give up certain rights. "We are in better shape about what we fight about," he said. "That's progress."

McCarthy led the prosecution against Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, who was convicted in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. More should have been done then, McCarthy said. "September 11, 2001 really almost happened eight years earlier. It is miraculous that only six people lost their lives. We felt in our arrogance that we had thwarted that one," he said.

McCarthy worries that being reactive instead of proactive again will lead to more trouble. "It is simply not adequate to face it as a law enforcement problem. We have to have a holistic approach," he said. "A lot of what has been done has to be done if we are to be safe."

Kayyem agreed that suspension of certain rights was "likely necessary at times," but said she also believes that this threat is very different. Kayyem's concern is lack of clarity. "We are making this stuff up as we go along," she said. "We are still treading water. There is no start or finish, no mission accomplished."

She pointed to the example of Britain as it dealt with the Irish Republican Army (IRA)—a terrorist organization in Northern Ireland. "The U.K. was put in a position where they had to stretch democratic norms. They did a lot wrong," said Kayyem.

While all agreed there are no easy answers and positive arguments could be made on both sides, McCarthy assured the audience that he believes everything possible is being done to preserve freedom in this country. "People in the government hear your concerns about civil liberties," he said.

PHOTO / **DONNA COVENEY**

The MIT dome wore its own festive attire for the Red Sox World Series celebration parade Oct. 30. As the sun rose over the dome Oct. 29, two days after the Sox clinched the victory in Game Four, it revealed that the dome had been transformed into a baseball bearing a Red Sox logo. The fabric logo remained until after the parade, when Facilities workers took it down. The Facilities workers in the photo claimed innocence.

Science shows why fans don't have to 'wait until next year'

The Friday after the Red Sox clinched the World Series by beating the St. Louis Cardinals in a four-game sweep, the MIT dome was mysteriously transformed into a baseball with red stitching and a Red Sox logo.

That same day, Oct. 29, one Ben Bitdiddle circulated a tongue-in-cheek scientific paper via the Internet providing a mathematical explanation for the Red Sox victory, which marked the end of the Curse of the Bambino. The paper "1918-2004: A Hybrid-'Sigh' Analysis of Reversing the Curse" was attributed to students in the so-called MIT Department of Legends and Hexes in Room 6-666. The irrefutable mathematical proof follows.

"The Boston Red Sox last won the world championship of baseball, the World Series, in 1918. In 1920 they sold George Herman Ruth, a.k.a. 'Babe Ruth,' a.k.a. 'The Bambino' to the New York Yankees for $100,000.

"Since that time the Red Sox have been unsuccessful at clinching a world championship title. The Yankees however proceeded to write the greatest success story in baseball history. This ironic twist of fate has come to be known as the Curse of the Bambino, which has prevented Red Sox victory for 86 years, until 2004.

"Is this a coincidence? The researchers here at the Department of Legends and Hexes believe that it is not. We have found conclusive numerical evidence that, in fact, the curse did exist, and that its influence has expired. This brings in a new era of Red Sox domination and Yankee demise.

"The Red Sox last won the World Series in 1918, they were last in the World Series in 1986. There are 86 years between 1918 and 2004. There are 18 years between 1986 and 2004.

"As is such with phenomenon of the paranormal, one can clearly see that this cross-checking analysis is indisputable proof that the 86-18 hybrid cancellation theorem holds. Go Sox."

PHOTO / **DONNA COVENEY**

MIT had its own baseball "cap" for a short time.

Take me out to the boardroom ...

Richard Schmalensee
Sloan School of Management

We're thinking of adding a new course to our curriculum this spring: Boston Red Sox 101.

Too much champagne you say?

Well, it's true that normally a management school like MIT Sloan wouldn't think of using an organization that takes 86 years to achieve its ultimate goal as a positive teaching lesson. But Boston's historic World Series victory—and the way the team meshed quantitative and qualitative elements all season to achieve it—is a case study of business and managerial success.

To start, the way this Red Sox team was constructed during the off-season proves that numbers do matter. By fielding interesting and competitive teams for years, the Red Sox organization has secured a devoted fan base spread across New England and beyond. These fans feed ticket sales, broadcast and cable contracts and other revenue streams that have enabled the team to assemble one of the highest payrolls in baseball.

At the same time, the Red Sox proved the importance of clever and careful quantitative analysis before making major investment decisions. Adhering to the "moneyball" philosophy, the Red Sox paid more attention to hitters' on-base percentages than their batting averages. Similarly, even if a pitcher's actual win-loss record wasn't too great, the team's interest might be piqued by data showing that he got batters to hit a lot of ground balls.

The Red Sox combined the resources to sign high-profile players with the statistical smarts to do so intelligently. The team also made a series of lower profile but clever moves to fill out its roster with affordable talent who became essential role players. But all this number crunching and signings would have mattered little unless all the parts meshed into an effective machine. And that involves not only leadership at the top, but commitment and dedication across and among all levels of the organization.

Red Sox Manager Terry Francona was dubbed a "players' manager," which sports reporters thought was a good thing when the team was playing well and dubbed a weakness when it wasn't. In fact, Francona understood the importance of consistency and of creating an environment that encouraged mutual respect and positive attitudes. Ownership can assemble a great team on paper, but the manager's role is to make those players perform as a group over the course of a long, tiring season, to make the most of what each player brings to the table.

Effective as he has been, Francona is not the only leader of this team. Other players—often quietly—were able to bring out the best from each other, and not just on the field. In the clubhouse, Pedro Martinez would help keep the team loose; Curt Schilling drove others as he drove himself; and in the first lackluster games of the American League Championship Series against the Yankees, lead-off hitter Johnny Damon was willing to publicly put the weight of the team's collective failures on his then-slumping shoulders. No matter how good Francona was as the manager, it would matter little unless the players were just as concerned with making the team work well and were willing and able to play diverse leadership roles.

If the Red Sox succeeded in proving the management lessons of solid analysis and strong, across-the-board leadership, the team has also learned to "turn the page," as Manny Ramirez has put it. Dominant organizations tend to become complacent, and organizations that have been frequent losers tend to become defeatist. Successful or not, any organization that doesn't relentlessly look forward is in trouble. This Red Sox team was able to put the past behind them and look forward. They looked beyond the curse.

Of these management lessons, only "moneyball," is relatively easy to teach. A hard data analysis, for example, would in itself make a strong case for signing catcher Jason Varitek to a new Red Sox contract. But Varitek also has enormous—if harder to quantify—value as a team leader. Every day, managers face this challenge of balancing quantifiable and qualitative factors. If they follow the lead of the 2004 Red Sox, they might have a shot at their own bit of history—and better yet, the knowledge that goes along with it.

Richard Schmalensee is the John C. Head III Dean at the Sloan School of Management. This opinion piece appeared in the Nov. 2 issue of The Wall Street Journal.

SOX

Continued from Page 1

meeting to a halt to argue about baseball."

Though he is not taking full credit for the Red Sox championship, Tonegawa, who is the Whitehead Professor of Biology and Neuroscience and director of the Picower Center for Learning and Memory, hopes the ceremonial first pitch he threw May 7 at Fenway had some effect.

"It crossed my mind that I may have contributed," said Tonegawa last week with a laugh. He threw the ceremonial first pitch as part of the Sox' tribute to Boston-area scientific and medical communities. Last spring, Tonegawa told the MIT News Office (not very seriously) that he sometimes believed the Red Sox won "because I sent energizing waves to them in front of the TV set."

Tonegawa said on the way home from San Diego on Tuesday, Oct. 26, some of his students refused to get on the airplane until they knew the outcome of the game, which was Game 3 of the World Series. "Everybody refused," he said with a laugh. On his own flight, the pilot updated the passengers every 10 to 15 minutes with the score.

Growing up in Japan, another country where baseball holds enormous popularity, Tonegawa learned to loved the sport. But it was not until he came to Boston in the early 1980s that he started rooting for the Red Sox. "I always like the underdog," he said. "It is not fun to root for the strongest. This is my nature."

But after the Sox sweep of the Cardinals last week, "underdog" no longer applies to the hometown team. And Tonegawa, along with the rest of the city of Boston, was still cheering last weekend when the Red Sox celebration parade—or "rolling rally"—attracted about two million people to Boston and Memorial Drive in Cambridge. The players huddled in amphibious "duck boats" on that happy but gray and drizzly day as they were motored down the Charles River past MIT and the hack that transformed the dome into a baseball sporting the Red Sox logo.

The hack appeared Friday morning after the victory. An e-mail circulated later that day with a "mathematical proof" from the so-called Department of Legends and Hexes of why the Sox had achieved victory in 2004.

"No one could believe it," said Tonegawa, who watched the last game of the World Series at home on television. He found the win after 86 dry years inspirational. "It makes you think. Don't ever give up under any circumstances."

Broad, Novartis announce type 2 diabetes initiative

Novartis and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard have announced a joint project to decipher the genetic causes of type 2 diabetes. The team plans to make its findings freely available to scientists worldwide.

Called the Broad-Novartis Diabetes Initiative, this new model for public-private collaboration will place all findings about type 2 diabetes directly onto the Internet. The initiative builds upon the work of researchers at Lund University in Sweden, who have created one of the world's largest and most detailed studies of diabetes and its genetic causes.

The collaboration reflects the mission of the Broad Institute to pull together a community of researchers to tackle complex problems that require multi-disciplinary teams and that are difficult to solve in the traditional laboratory setting, said Broad founding director Eric Lander, a professor in MIT's Department of Biology.

"It is wonderful that Novartis is sharing its vision and expertise in how diabetes alters the body, diabetes therapy and drug discovery, and, as a private company, is willing to work in the public domain," Lander said.

Novartis opened its new global research headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., in part to forge these kind of world-class alliances, according to Mark Fishman, president of Novartis' research division.

Type 2 diabetes is one of the world's most significant and growing public health threats. It affects more than 170 million people worldwide. That number is expected to reach 300 million by 2025.

There is a clear underlying genetic propensity to developing type 2 diabetes. The initiative establishes a research partnership of physicians, geneticists, and others to identify the inherited risk factors for the disease. Identification of these genetic factors will improve scientists' understanding of how genetics contribute to type 2 diabetes and its complications, as well as inform clinical decisions about the disease and perhaps contribute to new medicines tailored to patients.

Broad-Novartis Initiative researchers will study thousands of DNA samples, collected by Professor Leif Groop and colleagues at Lund University. The Lund team will partner in the design and analysis of the research program.

"This collaboration creates a terrific team to tackle type 2 diabetes, which is growing to become one of the most pressing public health problems in the industrialized world," said principal investigator David Altshuler, a professor at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, and director of the Broad's Program in Medical and Population Genetics.

Small fish yields big insights

An international team of scientists, including several from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, has decoded the smallest known vertebrate genome—the puffer fish or Tetraodon nigroviridis. The fish's 21 chromosomes, which together contain more than 300 million letters of DNA, tell a twisting evolutionary tale and even shed light on our own genetic makeup.

Comparison with other genome sequences shows that fish proteins have diverged much more quickly than those in mammals, the team reports in the Oct. 21 issue of Nature. Tetraodon contains several key genes previously thought to be absent from fish.

Further, comparison with the human genome suggests about 900 previously unannotated human genes. Most genes in the human DNA sequence have two counterparts in the Tetraodon genome, the researchers add, showing that the ancestors of this fish must have undergone a genome duplication at some point. Indeed, the Tetraodon sequence may even give us a window on the last common ancestor of Tetraodon and humans—a primitive bony fish that lived hundreds of millions of years ago.

The Broad authors are Nicole Stange-Thomann, Evan Mauceli, Manolis Kellis, Michael Zody, Jill Mesirov, Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, Bruce Birren, Chad Nusbaum and Eric Lander. Lander is also a professor in MIT's Department of Biology.

This work was supported by the Consortium National de Recherche en Génomique.

HALLOWEEN

Continued from **Page 1**

Fosher and Pisani share more than Red Sox fandom, they said. Both had volunteered to help the Community Giving campaign in the past, and they hope to inspire people to "give what they can this year," Fosher said.

Meg Westlund, administrative and facilities coordinator in the Center for Educational Computing Initiatives, was also assigned to greet commuters at 77 Massachusetts Ave. Her disguise: a black nylon Death Eater-type gown with a fiery red hood and long sleeves. "We at MIT are so lucky to be working for such a great institution. Yet we are surrounded by neighborhoods where there is real poverty, and we can make a difference in peoples' lives," Westlund said.

Other volunteers shared the same message about giving but diverged a bit from the costume focus on baseball. Joan Nelson, an administrative assistant in Facilities, wore a Green Bay Packer Brett Favre football jersey topped with a foam cheesehead, a souvenir from her recent trip to Wisconsin. Melissa Kavlakli, an administrative assistant in the Office of Environment, Health and Safety, modeled a black cat mask, thanks to her love of cats. Marielle Risse, administrative assistant in the School of Engineering, wore a fortune-teller ensemble.

Both Nelson and Kavlakli were posted at 77 Massachusetts Ave. "This is a great way to combine something fun with something serious," Nelson said about spending the morning handing out candy to MIT colleagues.

Lynda Nelson, administrative assistant to the Controller, borrowed her son's costume, a large pink "whoopee cushion," to cheer commuters as she gave out candy in front of the Stata Center. "Hopefully, during the time between November and January when it is time to make pledges, maybe a few individuals will remember our amusing efforts and support the Community Giving campaign," Lynda Nelson said.

There was one traditional witch—Linda Patton, assistant director of Off-Campus Housing and special projects, who was assigned to greet people at the entrance to MIT Medical. Patton's message to the community echoed that of her fellow volunteers.

"Share, share, share! Our economy is down. Many people are affected and sharing even a small amount can make a huge difference in someone's life. The money you spend for your cup of coffee each morning can be shared to help the community and others," Patton said.

PHOTO / **DONNA COVENEY**

Community Giving volunteer Joan Nelson of Facilities greeted passersby at 77 Massachusetts Ave. wearing her Green Bay Packers costume.

The Community Giving campaign runs from Oct. 29 through Jan. 21, 2005. Employees will receive pledge packets this week. A Book Fair to support the campaign will be held on Dec. 7 in the Bush Room, and a clothing drive will begin mid-December.

AIRPLANE

Continued from **Page 1**

applications in the coordination of multiple air or space vehicles, such as in air traffic control or the reconfiguration of distributed satellite systems.

The guidance system performed flawlessly in flight tests involving a Boeing F-15 fighter jet and a Lockheed T-33 trainer fighter jet at Edwards Air Force Base in June. A pilot in the F-15 issued mission-level commands in everyday English—"fly to Task Area B"—to the T-33, and the T-33 executed them, maintaining a trajectory safe from threats and at one point adjusting to a last-minute change in the predetermined mission plan. The T-33 was a substitute for the actual UAV in the test. It was manned by a pilot and crewperson who were on board to manage the aircraft in case of failure, but the vehicle was controlled entirely by MIT's software, which ran on laptops placed inside each plane.

"Through the recent experiments, the SEC program has demonstrated advanced behaviors that may now be integrated into the next generation of unmanned vehicles," said John Bay, DARPA's SEC program manager.

A paper published by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) in August discussed the results of the flight test in more detail. Aero/astro graduate student Yoshiaki Kuwata and James L. Paunicka, associate technical fellow at Boeing Phantom Works, authored the paper along with Feron, How, Schouwenaars and Valenti. Schouwenaars' work on autonomous trajectory-planning algorithms earned him the AIAA's Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Graduate Award, which he will receive at a conference in Reno, Nev., in January.

"The aerospace industry is using our system in its most advanced UAV programs," said Feron, whose research team is currently working toward implementing their guidance technology in systems with multiple air vehicles. The work is being done in MIT's Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems.

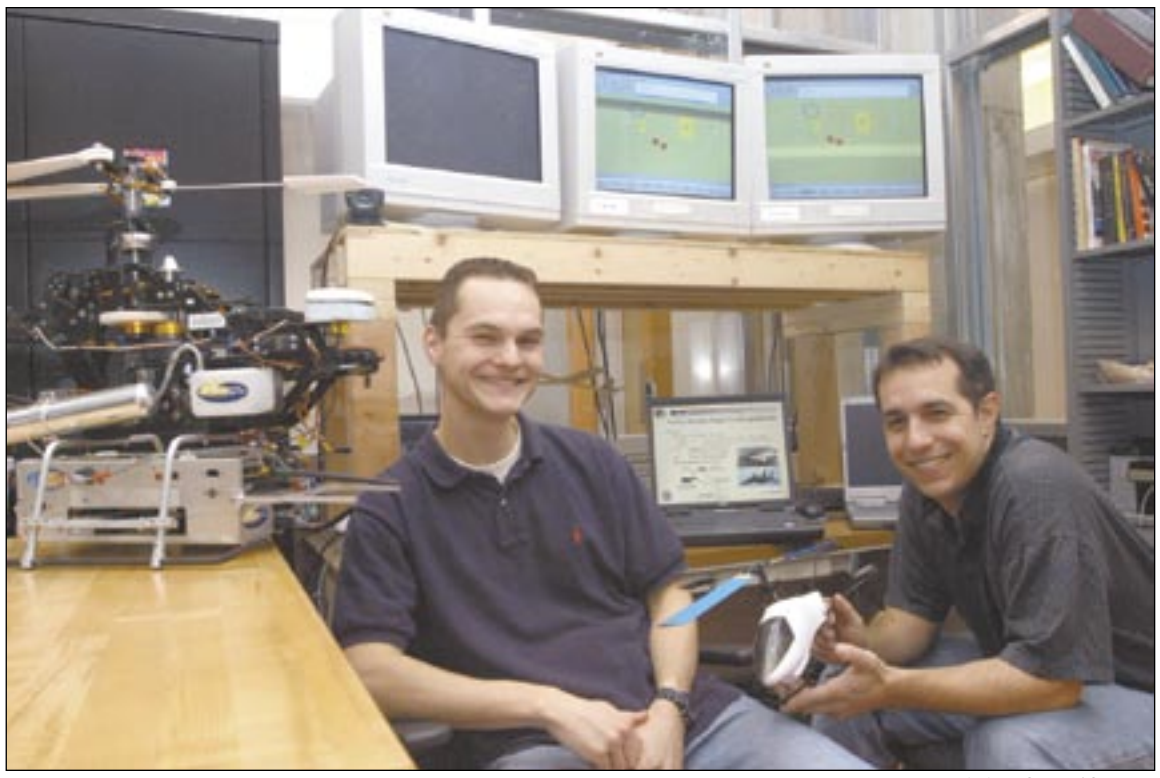

PHOTO / **DONNA COVENEY**

Graduate students Tom Schouwenaars (left) and Mario Valenti sit in front of the aeronautics guidance system they helped develop. They used the system to allow a pilot in one airplane control another unpiloted aircraft. They fly the helicopter at left using the same guidance system.

John Tirman named next executive director of CIS

Amy Tarr
Center for International Studies

John Tirman, a political scientist who has written widely on foreign policy, politics and human rights, has been named executive director of the MIT Center for International Studies (CIS).

Tirman comes to MIT after acting as program director of the Washington, D.C., office of the Social Science Research Council. He previously served as executive director of the Winston Foundation for World Peace, a leading funder of work to prevent nuclear war and promote non-violent resolution of conflict.

"We are delighted to welcome John to CIS and look forward to benefiting from his enormous energy and creativity," said Richard J. Samuels, CIS director and the Ford International Professor of Political Science.

As executive director, Tirman will take the lead on several important new initiatives at CIS, including projects on U.S. foreign policy and the Persian Gulf. He'll also be responsible for helping CIS programs in their development efforts.

John Tirman

Tirman's books include "The Fallacy of Star Wars" (1984) and "Spoils of War: The Human Cost of America's Arms Trade" (1997). He is currently working on a volume on multilateralism, and as a former Fulbright scholar in Cyprus, he produced an educational web site devoted to the Cyprus conflict. He serves as a trustee of several non-governmental organizations and is a recipient of the U.N. Association's Human Rights Award.

CIS supports and promotes international research and education at MIT. Whenever possible, the center capitalizes on MIT's strengths in science and engineering by examining the international aspects of these fields as they relate to both policy and practice, and by focusing on those issues where science and engineering intersect most closely with foreign affairs. CIS sponsors formal programs, multidisciplinary working groups and public events. The center includes visiting scholars from around the world and 160 faculty and staff members drawn mainly from the departments of political science and urban studies and planning.

Fleischer of DUSP dies at age 85

Professor Aaron Fleisher, a pioneer in the use of computers in urban planning, died on Aug. 12 at age 85 following a brief illness. His wife and their children were with him at the time of his death.

Aaron Fleisher

Professor Fleisher, a professor emeritus in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, was known for his use of mathematical models to describe, explain, project and simulate urban areas.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1919. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. from New York University in 1939. He attended Columbia University from 1939 to 1943, interrupting his studies to serve in the U.S. Air Force from 1943 to 1946. He earned the S.M. degree from MIT in 1947, followed by the Sc.D. in 1950, also from MIT.

Upon graduation, he joined MIT's Department of Meteorology as a research associate. In 1960, he began teaching in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning; he received tenure in 1964. Professor Fleisher retired in 1988 and remained in the department as a professor emeritus until his death.

Professor Fleisher, who lived in Brookline, is survived by his wife of 42 years, Polly Doyle, and by their children, Ann, Jacob and his wife Lauren; granddaughter Ava; his sisters Alice and Rhoda; and by many nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were private. Contributions in his memory may be sent to the Leland Cemetery Association, c/o Mary L. Bennoch, treasurer, Box 2, Salisbury Cove, ME 04672, or to the Jesup Memorial Library, c/o Nancy Howland, 34 Mt. Desert St., Bar Harbor, ME 04609.

Faculty named AAAS Fellows

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has awarded the distinction of Fellow to 308 members, including six MIT faculty members.

Fellows are recognized for their efforts advancing science or fostering applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished. New Fellows will be presented with the society's gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin on Feb. 19, at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The following people from MIT are new AAAS Fellows:

Carl Wunsch, professor in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences and director of the Program in Atmosphere, Oceans and Climate, was cited for "fundamental advancements in theory and observation of ocean circulation and for outstanding leadership of the oceanographic community over many years."

Elias Gyftopoulos, professor emeritus in nuclear engineering, was named a Fellow for his "distinguished contributions to the field of energy conversion, with particular emphasis on nuclear and thermionic systems."

Bora Mikic, professor of mechanical engineering, was named to the AAAS for "pioneering contributions in two-phase flow experimentation and electronics cooling and for leadership in engineering education and academia."

Morgan Sheng, the Menicon Professor of Neuroscience, was cited for "fundamental studies of the molecular architecture of brain synapses and the dynamic mechanisms of synaptic modification."

James Fujimoto, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, received the honor for "distinguished contributions to the field of nonlinear interactions of laser light with matter and their application."

Gerald Jay Sussman, the Matsushita Professor of Electrical Engineering, was named a Fellow for "pioneering the design and implementation of the Digital Orrery, an artificial intelligence-based, special-purpose computer for astrophysics, which enabled discovery of chaotic motions in the outer solar system."

Charles Schwartz, PSFC engineer, dies in plane crash

Charles R. Schwartz, an engineer at MIT's Plasma Science and Fusion Center (PSFC) and an accomplished pilot, died Oct. 26 when the small plane he was piloting crashed into a building in Leominster, Mass.

He was test-flying a homebuilt plane registered to a Shrewsbury man when it crashed into the R&S Machine building in Leominster, Mass. on a Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Schwartz, 50, was the chief radio frequency (RF) engineer for the Alcator C-Mod tokamak fusion project at the PSFC, where he managed a group of engineers, technicians and physicists.

"Charley was an excellent engineer and a great asset to the C-Mod project. He was one of those persons who elevated the performance of all those who worked with him," said Dave Terry, chief electrical engineer and Mr. Schwartz's supervisor.

"He had the unusual ability to teach not only the staff, but also the students about RF systems and safety practices. His broad experience made him the foundation for the successful multimegawatt RF heating and current drive program at Alcator C-Mod," said Steve Wukitch, a research scientist and RF physicist.

Mr. Schwartz worked at DuPont Pharmaceutical Co. in Billerica, Mass. for 25 years, and at MIT from 2002 until his death.

He was born Oct. 16, 1954 in Susquehanna, Penn. He studied electronics at the U.S. Army Intelligence School and the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute and Lowell Technical Institute, and business management at Northeastern University. Mr. Schwartz was a flight instructor, a member of the experimental aircraft association, American Radio Relay League, and an avid ham radio operator.

He lived in Shirley, Mass., with his wife Lorraine (Toth). Other survivors include his father and stepmother, Theodore and Sharyl Schwartz of Lanesboro, Penn.; his half-brother John Dininny of Valdese, N.C.; a stepdaughter, Kelley Sliter of Lee, Maine; and his parents-in-law, William and Alberta Toth of Bolton.

A funeral was held Tuesday, Nov. 2. Burial was at the Shirley Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fitchburg Pilots Association Scholarship Fund, c/o Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Fitchburg, MA 01420.

Charles Schwartz

CLASSIFIED ADS

Members of the MIT community may submit one classified ad each issue. Ads can be resubmitted, but not two weeks in a row. Ads should be 30 words maximum; they will be edited. Submit by e-mail to ttads@mit.edu or mail to Classifieds, Rm 11-400. Deadline is noon Wednesday the week before publication.

FOR SALE

Phone Mate answering machine. $15. magowen@mit.edu or 508-653-7123 (evenings).

HOUSING

2 BR, 1.5 bath townhouse in Windsor Village, Waltham. Heat, HW, 2-car pkg. Near Rte. 2, I-95, shuttles to Alewife. Available Dec. through March. $1,400 or B/O. psachi@hotmail.com or (781) 354-7715.

St. John US V.I.: Hill top house, 360° view. 2 BR, 2 showers, 4 sundecks, tropical garden. Private, quiet. Walk to beaches. Dec. 23-Jan. 7, Jan. 16-Feb. 11. Alfred at 781-696-8618.

Back Bay: 1 BR fully furnished condo. 15 min. walk from MIT. Late Dec. for 6-12 mos. $1800/mo inc HW/heat. Quiet, bright, charming. murman@mit.edu or 253-3284.

Cambridge: 2 BR., completely furnished, ten minute walk to campus, laundry, enclosed yard. Avail. Dec. 1. No security deposit. $1550. Johnnatale@verizon.net.

Destin, Florida: Caribbean Dunes Gulf View condo. Avail. this winter. Across from beach. Heated pool, hot tub. Private patio. Biking, fishing, golfing, shops, arts nearby. 508-429-2256.

Lancaster: First floor, 1 BR. Covered porch, large yard, off street parking. 20 miles from Lincoln Lab. $800 w/all utilities. No smoking. First and last. 978-870-7630 or 978-368-3550.

VEHICLES

1995 Volkswagen Cabrio. Auto. 2 dr convertible. Good cond. Well maintained yearly. 65K. AC. Air bags. Central lock. New tires. $4900. Felix at felix2000@gmail.com.

2002 Volkswagen Passat GLS sedan. 5 sp, 1.8L Turbo, 21K, silver, exc. cond. $14,500. Steve at garland@csail.mit.edu or 253-1947.

WANTED

Attention MIT Credit Union members: MIT Federal Credit Union seeks volunteer to join Supervisory Audit Committee. About the role and responsibilities of the committee: mitfcu@mit.edu.

Part time assistance for retired MIT faculty recovering from bone fracture. 10 -15 hrs/week. South Brookline. Possible exchange for room/board. 253-6704 or lsteiner@mit.edu.

Child care needed for 8-year-old girl and 4-year-old boy in Belmont for several weekdays this winter and occasionally on weekend evenings. Please contact elfar@mit.edu or (617) 484-3288.

STUDENT POSITIONS

Positions for students with work-study eligibility.

Tenacity looks for students to work as academic tutors in study hall. Tutors will help students with homework and facilitate supplemental math and literacy activities. South Boston and Harvard University sites. maggiefox@tenacity.org.

Cambridge Community Development Dept. seeks part-time Computer Support Assistant/Intern to install, upgrade, maintain software, operating systems, hardware; maintain database inventory of hardware and software; assist users by answering questions about operation of hardware and software. jmaguire@ci.cambridge.ma.us

Chekhov's 'Platonov' premieres at MIT

A new Chekhov work based on a fragment of what is believed to be the writer's unfinished, first full-length play will premiere at MIT before heading to the Big Apple for the "Chekhov Now Festival."

"In This is the End of Sleeping," will have its MIT run Nov. 3-6 in La Sala de Puerto Rico at 8 p.m. with a cast of MIT and New York actors. Performances are free.

The play was adapted by Assistant Professor Jay Scheib of the Music and Theater Arts section. Scheib will direct the play as a highly physical, multimedia drama of bankrupt desire. It is based on a fragment discovered posthumously without a title page in a safe deposit box. Known now as "Platonov" or "the Play Without a Name" or "Fatherlessness," the play celebrates what Scheib calls Chekhov's "flight into naturalism."

"The early works of major writers attract me because they lack restraint in their daring endeavor to possess life," said Scheib, who calls the work "a masterpiece of unruliness and one of the great mysteries of Russian literature." Scheib's production of the play draws inspiration from the cinema verité and Russian filmmakers like Tarkovsky, "with a nod to crude reality television technology," he said.

In a statement about the play, Scheib calls it a "comic romance about loving each other and selling each other out."

Scheib was recently awarded the Presidential Certificate from Harvard University for his production of Alfred de Musset's "Lorenzaccio." He also was awarded a travel fellowship from the International Theatre Institute and the Theatre Communications Group to develop a performance with Pont Mubely Theatre in Budapest of Tolstoy's "Power of Darkness," a play developed at MIT with students last spring.

"In This is the End of Sleeping," will be performed in the Chekhov Now Festival at the Connelly Theatre in New York (200 East 4th St.) Nov. 12-13 at 8 p.m., Nov. 14 at 2 p.m., Nov. 17-18 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 5 p.m. Tickets cost $15. Call (212) 352-3101 for more information.

IMAGE COURTESY / **LEAH GELPE**

Actor Eric Dean Scott (above) plays Platonov in "In This is the End of Sleeping," a play adapted from Chekhov's writings by Professor Jay Sheib. Scott and other actors will perform the play at MIT this week.

IMAGE COURTESY / **LEAH GELPE**

Cast members from "In This is the End of Sleeping" include Emily Knapp as Sasha (left) and Joan Jubett as Anna.

▶ ARTS NEWS

Experimental art

"Collision Six, Senses," the sixth in a series showcasing experimental exploration of art and technology by artists from MIT and beyond is on view at Art Interactive in Cambridge (130 Bishop Allen Dr.) daily from noon to 6 p.m. through Sunday, Nov. 7. The artwork is presented in an interactive workshop format that uses new technologies, concepts and installation approaches. MIT participants include alumni Stefan Agamanolis and Dan Maynes-Aminzade, electrical engineering graduate students Jessica Banks and Andrew Brooks, Center for Advanced Visual Research Affiliate Nell Breyer, and Media Lab graduate students Ben Dalton, Jeana Frost, Nick Knouf, Jeff Lieberman, Amanda Parkes, James Patten and Hayes Raffle.

Clarinetist takes a turn

Evan Ziporyn, the Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Music, is best known as a clarinetist and for his compositions for gamelan and western instruments, but lately he's taken a turn on the dance floor. As a live accompanist for Elliot Feld's Mandance Project, a new chamber dance group, he's garnering his share of reviews from dance critics. "The New York City Ballet star Damian Woetzel and the bass clarinetist Evan Ziporyn engage in a witty dialogue that enhances the singular blend of majesty and lightness in Mr. Woetzel's dancing," wrote Anna Kisselgoff in a New York Times review of the ensemble's Oct. 21 debut. "Mr. Woetzel breezes through 'Jawbone' as if he owns the world but knows that he must share it with Mr. Ziporyn's insistent and brilliant bass clarinet," Kisselgoff continued. The program of six dances plays at the Joyce Theater in New York City through Nov. 7.

North Indian music revue

"When George E. Ruckert begins his recently published introduction to Hindustani music with an evocative description of the strains of a ballad sung by film music superstar Lata Mangeshkar rising above the din of Rashbehari Avenue in South Calcutta, we know we are in good hands," wrote Thomas Hunter in The Review of Asian Music. He was critiquing "Music in North India: Expressing Music, Expressing Culture" (2004, Oxford University Press), a new book and CD package by Ruckert, a senior lecturer in music. "Through a combination of lively writing and the aptly chosen examples of the accompanying CD, the reader-listener is transported into the byways of North Indian music by a guide whose 30-odd years of devotion to the study, teaching and practice of Hindustani music is reflected at every turn of the path," Hunter wrote.

Documentary on 'Pledge of Allegiance' case to be screened

Taking the Pledge

Filmmaker Lisa Seidenberg will present her "Pledge of Allegiance Blues" (2004) as part of the Chicks Make Flicks film series on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in Room 124 at the Stata Center.

A discussion will follow the screening of the feature-length documentary that follows the story of Michael Newdow, a California physician who brought the landmark "under God" lawsuit to the United States Supreme Court in June 2004. Newdow, an avowed atheist, lost his bid to have the two words removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. The film also features the controversy over the Ten Commandments monument at the Alabama State Courthouse and investigates the intertwining of religion and government in American identity history. Personalities in the film include attorney Alan Dershowitz, publisher Larry Flynt and radio talk-show host Sandy Rios.

The event is co-sponsored by the Program in Women's Studies with Women in Film and Video/ New England, the Comparative Media Studies Program, MIT Women's Independent Living Group, and McCormick Hall.

Kuss Quartet performs in Kresge

The Kuss Quartet, whose performance was called "achingly beautiful" by Wilma Salisbury of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, will perform in Kresge Auditorium at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5.

"They negotiated complex contrapuntal textures, eased into numerous tempo changes and produced ghostly colors, expressive sobs and long arching melodies," wrote Salisbury.

Quartet members Jana Kuss (violin), Oliver Wille (violin), William Coleman (viola) and Felix Nickel (cello) met while studying at the Hannse Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin in1991. Two years later, the ensemble made its official debut in a palace concert for Germany's former president Richard von Weizsäcker. By 2002, the quartet had won first prize at the Borciani International String Quartet Competition and had been selected by the European Concert Halls Organization as the German participant in the 2003-2004 Rising Stars Program.

The performance will include Beethoven's "Grosse Fuge," Haydn's Quartet in C Major, and Bartók's Quartet No. 6.

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 3 - 7

Science/ Technology · Performance · Architecture/ Planning · Humanities
Music · Exhibit · Reading · Special Interest
Business/ Money · Film · Sports · Featured Event

Back before Bach

The Concordia Consort, an ensemble of recorders and voice, will present a concert of German music from 1450-1650 on Thursday, Nov. 4 at noon in the MIT Chapel.

WEDNESDAY November 3

Artist Behind the Desk
Loni Butera, administrative assistant for Chaplaincy, belly dances. Noon-1pm. Killian Hall. 253-9821.

Hybrid Cars Now, Fuel Cell Cars Later
Talk by Professor John Deutch. 12:45pm. E40-496.

"Under the Skin of the City"
2001 Iranian film. 6pm. Room 3-133.

Alcohol abuse
Dan Trujillo, dean for community development and substance abuse programs, discusses MIT's plan for educating students on this issue. 6:30pm. Bush Room. 253-7495.

Tech Model Railroad Club Meeting
Design layouts and run trains. 7-10pm. Room N52-118. 253-3269.

THURSDAY November 4

MIT Chapel Concert
Vocal and instrumental German music from 1450-1650 directed by Sheila Beardslee. Noon. Chapel. 253-9800.

Libraries Book Sale
Proceeds benefit the Libraries' Preservation Fund. 2-4pm; Nov. 5, 10am-3:30pm. Bush Room. 253-5693.

Scrapbooking Workshop
Learn how to organize photos and other items into attractive albums. Bring $5, and up to 8 photos. Pre-registration required. Noon-2pm. 253-2143.

Poetry@mit: August Kleinzahler
Poet and memoirist. 7pm. Room 4-231. 253-7894.

List Film Night
An evening of films by Derek Jarman, organized by filmmaker John Gianvito. 7pm. Bartos Theater. 253-4680.

FRIDAY November 5

"Telling It Like It Is: Student Activism at MIT During the Vietnam War"
Display of 16 posters from the campus-wide protests of the 1970s. MIT Museum. 10am-5pm. 253-4444.

Beyond the Vote
Rally with music and poetry. Noon-1:30pm. Student Center steps.

Interactive Robotics for Neurological Rehabilitation
Neville Hogan, Ph.D., MIT, speaks as part of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Colloquium. 4pm. E25-117.

Weekly Anime Screening
Best of Japanese animation. 7pm. Room 6-120.

Kuss Quartet
Beethoven's Quartet in B-flat Major, "Grosse Fuge," Haydn's Quartet in C Major, Bartók's Quartet No. 6. 8pm. Kresge Auditorium. 253-9800.

SATURDAY November 6

"Yael Bartana: Three Works"
Israeli artist Yael Bartana's three short films not previously shown in the U.S. Noon-6pm. List Visual Arts Center. 253-4680.

Varsity Football vs. Endicott College
Noon. Steinbrenner Stadium. 258-5265.

Night of 1,000 Dinners: Landmine Action
Fund-raising dinner for demining in the Western Hemisphere. $10 (includes meal). 6pm. Stratton Student Center.

"Zatoichi"
LSC. $3. 7pm. 26-100. 253-3791.

"The Taming of the Shrew"
Shakespeare Ensemble. $8, $6 MIT/Wellesley students. 8 pm. Kresge Little Theater. 253-2903.

"Vignettes"
Color photographs by Brad Endicott (S.B. 1949). Wiesner Student Art Gallery. 253-4005.

SUNDAY November 7

"Body Parts: A Self-Portrait by John Coplans"
Series of 26 large-scale, fragmented self-portraits completed shortly before the artist's death in August 2003. List Visual Arts Center. Noon-6pm.

"Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy"
LSC. $3. 7pm. 26-100. 253-3791.

International Folk Dancing (participatory)
8pm. Lobdell Dining Hall. 253-FOLK.

Go Online! For complete events listings, see the MIT Events Calendar at: http://events.mit.edu.
Go Online! Office of the Arts website at: http://web.mit.edu/arts/office.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

"IN THIS IS THE END OF SLEEPING" — *Nov. 3*

Play based on Chekhov's long, unfinished drama, "Platonov," adapted and directed by Assistant Professor Jay Scheib.

Sala de Puerto Rico Student Center
8 p.m.

EVERYDAY FEMINISM — *Nov. 4*

Jane Mansbridge of the Kennedy School of Government gives a talk on the new theory of social movements.

Room 4-234
4:30 p.m.

DIWALI NITE 2004 — *Nov. 5*

Cultural evening packed with performances, fun and Indian food. $12 with ID, $20 others.

Walker Memorial
7 p.m.-midnight

MIT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 8 - 14

MONDAY November 8

American Nuclear Society
Leslie Barbour from the Nuclear Energy Institute discusses the impact of the presidential election. 3-4pm. Room NW14-1112. 253-5730.

MIT-France Special Lecture
Jacques Mistral, Bernard Spitz, Olivier Blanchard, Peter Hall discuss reforming politics in France. 4-6pm. Room E51-372. 253-8095.

Through the Eyes of Arab French Women
McMillan-Stewart Lecture on Women in the Developing World by Nacira Guénif-Souilamas. 5:30pm. Room E51-095. 253-8844.

Mars Settlement Brainstorming Session
Help plan the first permanent settlement constructed on another world. 6-8pm. Building 33 First floor.

TUESDAY November 9

Palestinian Society: Decline or Disintegration?
Talk by Dr. Sara Roy, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University. 4:30-6:30pm. Room E51-095. 253-8961.

Authors@mit
Charles M. Vest "Pursuing the Endless Frontier. Essays on MIT and the Role of Research Universities." 4:30pm. Kresge Auditorium. 253-5249.

Billion
Architecture lecture by Yung Ho Chang, Peking University. 6:30pm. Room 10-250. 253-7791.

Chicks Make Flicks
Lisa Seidenberg with "Pledge of Allegiance Blues." 7pm. Stata Center, Room 124. 253-8844.

Veteran's Day Contra Dance
Live music by Einstein's Little Homunculus. $5. 8-10:30pm. Lobby 13. 354-0864.

WEDNESDAY November 10

List Visual Arts Center Gallery Talk
Led by Bill Arning, curator. Noon. List Center. 253-4680.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Modern Music! Ancient Traditions in the the Modern World
Talk by Elena Ruehr, MIT composer-in-residence.12:30-1:30pm. Killian Hall. 253-3656.

Opportunities in Energy Technology: A Climate for Change?
Panel discussion. $20 members of MIT Enterprise Forum, $25 others, MIT students free. 6-9pm. Kirsch Auditorium. 253-8240.

Human Rights and Private Wrongs: Doctors Across Borders and Their Discontents
Speaker Alison Brysk, University of California-Irvine. 6pm. Room 4-156.

THURSDAY November 11

Veteran's Day
Institute Holiday

Page Hazlegrove Lecture on Glass Art
Talk by the Cambridge-based public artist Mags Harries. Sponsored by the MIT Glass Lab. 7pm. Wong Auditorium. 253-5309.

Lecture on Origami Work: Both Artistic and Mathematical
Talk by origami artist Robert Lang. 7 pm. Room 32-123.

MIT Gamelan Galak Tika
Concert featuring Ziporyn's "Tire Fire" and "Amok!" Tickets: $10, $5, free with MIT ID. 8pm. Kresge Auditorium. 452-2302.

Student-Written One Acts
Dramashop production of "Arlo," "On the Fritz," and "The Trouble with Dating an Artist." Nov. 11-13. 8pm. Kresge Little Theater. 253-4720.

FRIDAY November 12

"The Clipper Ship Era"
Exhibit focuses on the design, construction, speed and social experience of the clipper ship era. 9am-5pm. MIT Museum.

"Body Parts: A Self-Portrait by John Coplans"
Special tour led by Howard Yezerski, of the Howard Yezerski Gallery, Boston. 6pm. List Center. 253-4680.

MIT Anime Screening
Weekly showing. 7pm. Room 6-120.

"Iolanthe"
Gilbert and Sullivan Players. $12; $8 other students, MIT alumni, children, senior citizens; $6 MIT students. 8pm. Sala de Puerto Rico. 253-0190.

SATURDAY November 13

Varsity Women's Openweight Crew
Foot of the Charles Regatta. 9am. Charles River. 258-5265.

Origami Workshop with Robert Lang
Workshop with origami artist Robert Lang, artist-in-residence at MIT Nov. 11-17. 2-4pm. Room 5-134.

MIT Juggle Mania
Olga and Vova Galchenko—The World's Best Passing Jugglers. 7-9pm. Room 54-100. 232-3257.

"Before Sunset"
LSC movie. 10pm. Room 26-100. 253-3791.

SUNDAY November 14

List Visual Arts Center Gallery Talk
Led by Hiroko Kikuchi, Education/ Outreach Coordinator. 2pm. List Center. 253-4680.

Carnatic Vocal Concert
Sanjay Subramanyam performs. $18, $14 MITHAS members, $10 students, MIT students free. 5:30pm. Wong Auditorium

International Folk Dancing (participatory)
International folk dancing. 8pm. Lobdell Dining Hall. 253-FOLK.

MIT Chamber Chorus
William Cutter, musical director. 8pm. Kresge Auditorium. 253-9800.