May 14, 2009 Volume 5, Issue 13



Fashion Corner

Simone Agha

Mr. Westerdale sported a Captain Morgan box (and only a Captain Morgan box) for the piratethemed 3E party this Saturday. On fourth-east, Mr. Westerdale was spotted drinking and eating from matching red dishes.

Playsentations

Fangfei Shen

This year's Playsentations featured the slugs Sebastian Donlan and Jayson Lynch under the instruction of Prof. Ben Peters. Sebastian's group showcased Penguin Bebop, which involves penguins playing music together on an ice stage and rickrolling Playsentations. Jayson's group presented Cave In, a magnetic construction game that allows the user to build from and in all four known dimensions. Other Playsentation highlights include Bend 'n' Bake, a silicone-based bakeware that allows you to create your own custom cake shape mold; Sketch-a-Roo, a sketchy green vibrating kangaroo with a drawing pad on it; and Barnyard Booms, a set of animal-shaped drums that encourages children to abuse farm animals.

Playsentations unfortunately did not supply audience members with infinite Nerf guns as they did last year (the economy is probably to blame), but they did supply chocolate soy milk and cookies.

Word of the Week

Sebastian Donlan

Manifold- The way a man folds his clothes, i.e. just throws them in a drawer.

Example: John Escrow wistfully manifolded his clothes to prepare for his guests; DONLAN was scheduled to repair his light fixture that day.

3W Interhall Feed

Fangfei Shen

Last week's interhall feed with 3W was quite the success. The theme was Italian, and the 3W Wood lounge was filled with Pi-ians and Slugs come foodtime. 3W provided a plenitude of eggplant parmesan, garlic bread, stuffed mushrooms, and an Italian vegetable mix. 4E chefs came to the rescue and prevented the feed from being a solely vegetarian affair by cooking meaty lasagna, pasta e fagioli, and spicy Italian sausage pasta. Much fun and delicious food was had by all.

Formal Cocoa

Fangfei Shen

I hear Formal Cocoa is this Friday at 11pm. Dress your finest/worst. If you want to make something for the occasion, please contact carlesky and fangfei.

Spring Thanksgiving

Andrew Westerdale

The Spring Thanksgiving Pot Luck is on Friday. Seriously, you have no business studying or working then anyways. Sign up to make something on the Slugwiki and then enjoy in the delicious noms Friday evening. More information available on the Slugwiki.

Corner Corner

CornerComm



DROP TABLE MIT

 $Andrew\ Westerdale$

importantly, it marks the 4e Databasement party. Come core dump yourself in the basement of the west parallel Thursday. If you'd like you help set stuff up (and you should) there is a Shaw's trip at 4pm, find arwest or natech if you'd like to come. Also, we will be setting up stuff in the basement (AV, cleaning up and setting up the bar and food) starting at about 6 or 7 (talk to arwest or natech if you'd like to help with any of that). Basement parties are lots of fun, but do require extra work to set up, so come help out!

Characterization Corner

Tucker Chan

It has been a busy two weeks in the 4E characterization laboratory. Research scientists Tucker Chan and Eric Marion recently put a mobile thermal characterization laboratory (MTCL) online, capable of characterizing materials up to 1200 deg C. Unfortunately, due to a faulty feedback mechanism, the MTCL was taken out of commission and is now being repaired. The laboratory has not issued an official statement as to when repairs will be completed and head scientists were not available for comment. During the MTCL's operation, scientists performed valuable experiments, determining that Kosher salt emits an irritating smoke when heated, and that the vaporization point of zinc is below 1200 deg C. Melting points and quenching parameters of various metals were also characterized. A separate group, headed by Professor Walker Chan, recently characterized the effects of microwave radiation on silicon carbide. A publication is expected soon.

Alumni Corner

Walker Chan



Ask Dr. Dice

Dr. Dice

Q: Why is Spam trying to kill us? –Westerdoodle

A: An excellent question, with a comparably excellent answer. The hell bank note is a mark of death, perhaps even a warning. The question, then, is what is Spam warning us about?

First, we must look at Spam. What little is known of her is mostly derived from her user name, spamrita. Our analysis, then, will start with this name, a portmanteau of spam and rita. The spam component is easy: a reference to that most toxic and dangerous of canned products. As anyone with a background in biowarfare knows, spam, when mixed with a small number of other common chemicals, becomes one of the most deadly airborne poisons known to man. The "spam," then, likely warns us of a future terrorist attack based on that very poison.

The "rita" part poses more of a riddle. According to the Internet, rita can mean a genus of catfishes (order Siluriformes) of the family Bagridae, or can refer to Rita's Water Ice, an East Coast regional chain based in Trevose, PA in Bensalem Township, selling mainly water ice, frozen custard, and Gelati. While fish are a critical national resource, and would thus be a tempting target for any terrorist actions, I must go with Rita's Water Ice as the target. Their factories should have all the chemicals necessary to unleash spam's deadly potential, and a successful attack could inconvenience literally dozens of people.

Of course, since Spam is warning us of this attack, Thursday marks the last day of classes, but, more she is likely being forced to participate against her will, at least to some degree. To find the ringleader, we look to that most scheming, evil Walcott resident, who Spam has been spending a disturbing amount of time with: YinMon. Her hatred of water ice is clearly evident, and a plan like this would let her take her revenge on both ice and humanity.

> However, the YinMon-Spam team is insufficient to pull of a plan of this complexity. For that they would need another deep Walcott resident, one with access to great resources and superior planning abilities. The only other resident of the area, who is evil enough to partake in this plot, is Liz!, notorious for her pro-shotgun stance. Together, this triumvirate of evil poses one of the greatest risks to humankind since that fire alarm a few months ago.

> My recommendation is for an immediate military operation to secure and destroy all spam in a 2000 mile radius, with no consumption of water ice products until the threat is over. It will be difficult, but through mutual support, we may get through this

> If you have a question for the doctor, email ask-dr-dice@mit.edu.

Letter from the Editor

David Harvison

This is most likely the last edition of the Weekly Awesome with me as editor. It has been fun while it lasted. Sebastian has graciously volunteered to take over editing responsibilities, which in acuallity just entail yelling at people to write articles.