

Newspaper Clips

December 10, 2010

Hindustan Times ND P14
10/12/2010

UK fee hike blow to be softer on Indians

VARSITY BILL Tuition cap hike won't affect non-EU students immediately

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NEW DELHI: Indian students will not be hurt directly, and may even benefit relative to British counterparts from the massive hike in tuition fee cap for UK universities that the House of Commons passed on Thursday.

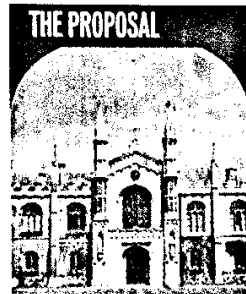
But representatives of top British universities HT spoke to are cautioning against ruling out a resultant fee hike for students from India and other non-EU students to spread the burden of budget cuts for higher education in the UK.

"Fees will not rise immediately for students from India and other non-EU countries. But there may be hikes down the line for all students — including Indian — to meet the university's budget requirements," an administrator, at the University of Cambridge said, specifying his views were not restricted to Cambridge.

"Universities will however make sure that no student — British or foreign — faces an inordinately massive burden. We want British universities to remain the favoured destination of the best students from across the globe."

Over 57,000 Indian students joined higher education in the UK this year, and constitute the second largest group of foreign students after the Chinese.

The House of Commons passed a hike in cap on tuition fees that UK universities can charge domestic and EU students from about 3000 to 9000 pound sterling per year, by a 323 to 302 vote amid massive protests at Parliament Square in London. The hike in fee cap follows a decision by the British government to reduce public spending on universities from about



■ Cambridge University

■ The proposal involves hiking a cap on tuition fees that UK universities can charge domestic and EU students - from about 3000 to 9000 pound sterling per year.

■ Universities have no cap for fees charged from students from countries outside the EU and an Indian student typically pays between 9,000 and 14,000 pound sterling at present - more than a British or EU student.

60% of their total expenditure to about 40% within five years.

Universities have no cap for fees charged from students from countries outside the EU.

UK PM David Cameron, on a recent visit to China, tried to tackle fears of the budget cuts on higher education. The hike in fee cap for domestic and EU students would help ensure that fees for foreign students remain stable, he argued. "But while the PM may try to assuage concerns of foreign students, it would be naive to presume that British universities will make domestic students alone pay for the huge financial crisis they will face as the budget cuts kick in," foreign student advisor at a top London university said.

**Times of India ND p-21
10-Dec-10**

Sparkler in the sky: New planet is a giant diamond

Washington: Astronomers led by Indian American Nikku Madhusudhan have discovered a giant planet with an atmosphere and core dominated by carbon, raising the prospect that diamond-studded stars may exist.

Madhusudan, a Banaras Hindu University alumnus now at Princeton University, New Jersey, and his colleagues have observed that an extremely hot planet discovered last year has more carbon than oxygen — a feature never ob-

served on a planet until now.

The planet, called WASP-12b, orbits a star about 1,200 light-years from Earth, and appears to have temperatures of nearly 2300°C — hot enough to melt stainless steel, the scientists said in the journal *Nature*. A computational technique developed two years ago by Madhusudan while he was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, was used to analyse the atmosphere of the planet. IANS

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Dec 10, 2010;Section: Times Nation;Page: 10

3 girls jailed for ragging in Bengal

Debajyoti Chakraborty | TNN

Durgapur: Three girls accused of ragging a junior in a Durgapur engineering college have been arrested, slapped with non-bailable charges including attempted murder and sent to jail custody for five days, marking a first in the prosecution of ragging cases in West Bengal. The victim — a first-year student — had slashed her wrists after her seniors allegedly made her strip and photographed her.

The arrested girls, identified by cops as Arpita Das, Deblina Halder and Subhoshree Dhar, are fourth-year B Tech students of National Power Training Institute, a central government college.

Times of India ND p-21
10-Dec-10

Genetic trouble in fetus? Mom's blood can tell

Singapore: Parents may soon be able to find out if their unborn child is prone to any inherited diseases, researchers said on Thursday, after developing a non-invasive technique to draw the entire gene map of the human foetus. By analysing a sample of the mother's blood, which contains DNA from the fetus, scientists in Hong Kong and the United States were able to identify all the DNA strands that belong to the child and piece them together.

"Before this work, people only could look for one disease at one time but now you can construct a screen for a number of diseases which are prevalent in any particular population," said lead author Dennis Lo, professor of medicine from the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

The research team's breakthrough was discovering that the mother's plasma holds the entire fetal genome. Previously, only part of the baby's DNA was thought to be in the mother's blood. "Now that we know (the) entire foetal genome is in there, you can look for any disease that is genetically inherited." The study, published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine* on Thursday, recruited a couple undergoing prenatal diagnosis for a hereditary blood disorder, beta-thalassemia.

By analysing a sample of the mother's blood, which contains DNA from the fetus, scientists in Hong Kong and US were able to say if the unborn baby is prone to inherited diseases

"In the mother's blood, 90 percent of the DNA is her own... and 10 percent is the baby's. Half of the fetal genome is from father and half from mother," Lo said.

The team found the fetus inherited a beta-thalassemia mutant gene from father, meaning the baby was a carrier of the disease. Lo described the process as akin to putting together a jigsaw puzzle with millions of pieces — only in this case, 10 times as many pieces from a much larger jigsaw were mixed in with it too. "The whole genome is fragmented into millions of pieces and by this exercise, we assemble it back," Lo said. "It's like assembling a jigsaw puzzle with millions of pieces. But to make it more challenging, you mix in 10 times (the number of pieces) from another jigsaw puzzle, that's the mother's own DNA. And you are trying to assemble the child's." REUTERS

Times of India ND
10-Dec-10 p-21

Tweaking bacteria to make cells act like mini computers

London: A team of researchers at UCSF has engineered E coli with the key molecular circuitry that will enable genetic engineers to program cells to behave like computers.

The work builds into cells the same logic gates found in electronic computers and creates a method to create circuits by "rewiring" communications between cells.

This system can be harnessed to turn cells into miniature computers. That, in turn, will enable cells to be programmed with more intricate functions for a variety of purposes, including agriculture and the production of pharmaceuticals, materials and industrial chemicals, according to Christopher A Voigt.

The most common electronic computers apply logic operations to streams of 1's and 0's to produce more complex functions, which in turn, create software. "Any substrate can act like a computer, including gears, pipes of water, and cells," Voigt said.

"Here, we've taken a colony of bacteria that are receiving two chemical signals from their neighbours, and have created the same logic gates that form the basis of silicon computing," he added. "The purpose of programming cells is not to have them overtake electronic computers. Rather, it is to be able to access all of the things that biology can do in a reliable, programmable way." The study will appear in an upcoming issue of Nature. ANI

Times of India ND 10-Dec-10 p-21

Mom not needed: Now, it takes just two dads to make a baby

Stem Cell Technology Used To Create Offspring From 2 Male Mice

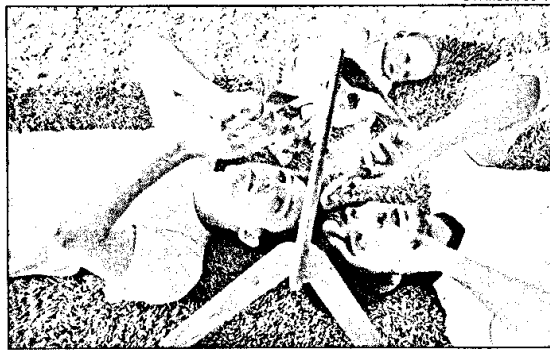
Washington: US scientists have used stem cell technology to create mice from two fathers, an advance that they say could help preserve endangered species and even help same-sex couples have their own genetic children one day.

According to the study published Wednesday in the journal *Biology of Reproduction*, reproductive scientists in Texas were able to manipulate cells from a male (XY) mouse fetus to produce an induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell line.

These iPS cells are adult cells that have undergone some genetic reprogramming in order to enter an embryonic stem cell-like state.

Some of the cells that were grown from this new line spontaneously lost their Y chromosome, turning them into XO cells.

Those XO cells were injected



TWO TO TANGO: The breakthrough can help preserve endangered species and also enable same-sex couples to have their own genetic children

into embryos from donor female mice and transplanted into surrogate mouse moms who gave birth

to babies with one X chromosome from the original male mouse. Those babies grew and later

mated with normal male mice. Their offspring, both male and female, showed genetic contributions from two fathers. The study was led by Richard R Berhringer at the MD Anderson Cancer Center. Researchers said that with a variation of their technique, "it may also be possible to generate sperm from a female donor and produce viable male and female progeny with two mothers."

However, the study cautioned that the ability to replicate the findings in humans was a long way off.

The "generation of human iPS cells still requires significant refinements prior to their use for therapeutic purposes," the study said. Previous research has found ways to create mice without any fathers at all, as well as ways to create mice with two mothers. AFP

Times of India ND 10-Dec-10 p-9

1,000 institutes want to stop IT course

Hemall Chhapla | TNN

Mumbai: About a decade ago, engineering colleges across the country were falling over one another to pitch their information technology departments. Students queued up and companies lapped up virtually every graduate, making the new millennium the golden age for IT professionals.

In stark contrast today, a number of colleges are in the process of downing the shutters on their IT departments. According to startling data sourced from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the overseeing body for professional techni-



NOT SO HOT: One in three institutes offering an IT course wants to shut it down

cal education, one in every three institutes offering this course has sent in an application seeking to close it. Close to 1,000 institutes have applied to AICTE to either close down their IT departments or con-

vert the seats allotted for this to another discipline like mechanical or civil, said AICTE chairman S S Mantha.

Taken aback by the number of requests for closure, AICTE turned them all down and asked colleges to go to their respective state governments, get a no-objection certificate and supplement it with their application. Shutting down so many IT departments would have led to a skewed growth of other streams, added Mantha. Finally, only around six colleges managed to get an NOC from their affiliating university and state government. However, almost every institute plans on filing

a closure application again for the 2011 academic session bringing the IT revolution to a pause if not a full stop.

While most colleges reasoned that this was a necessity, given the tough times they were facing, a mass closure of IT departments will translate into several other issues. What happens, for instance, to the hundreds of faculty teaching IT as well as the infrastructure set up for this stream? Experts were of the opinion that whatever the reasons for the decline in popularity of the IT stream, it was vital for technical education to advance in a scientific rather than whimsical manner.

Times of India Kolkata 09.12.10 p-1

Photo shock for IIT after fake institute denial

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, has all along been in denial that its faculty members were involved in running a fake institute that went by the name of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (I). But those claims now lie in tatters, thanks to photographic proof showing teachers of the institution with J K Tiwari, the brain behind the fake institute. Tiwari, incidentally, has nothing to do with IIT-Kharagpur.

Police recovered the photograph during a raid and will soon question faculty members — both serving and retired — who are seen along with Tiwari. The photograph also shows A K Ghosh, former head of the department of aerospace engineering and a former chief vigilance officer, who has been suspended for his alleged involvement in the racket.



FREEZE FRAME: (from left) Prof A K Ghosh, Prof N K Kishore, Prof Jayanta Pal, Prof P K Chattopadhyay, Prof Punyabrata Dutta Gupta, Prof J C Biswas and J K Tiwari in a meeting believed to have been held at the aerospace department of IIT-Kharagpur

The others caught in freeze frame are N K Kishore, professor, department of electrical engineering; Jayanta Pal, head of the department of electrical engineering; Pallab Kumar Chattopadhyay, retired professor of agricultural

and food engineering; Punyabrata Dutta Gupta, retired professor of electrical engineering; and J C Biswas, retired professor of electronics and electrical communication engineering.

The institute has nothing to hide. We're cooperating with the police

T K Ghosal | OFFICIATING REGISTRAR, IIT-KHARAGPUR

Tiwari, who conceived IEE (I), and even got an official quarter for the institute, is seen seated along with a section of IIT-Kharagpur faculty members. Sources said police are investigating if the photograph was taken during the convocation of IEE (I), as claimed by many students of the fake institute.

Photo not seized at IIT: Registrar

► Continued from P 1

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: T K Ghosal, officiating registrar of IIT-Kharagpur, conceded he had seen the photograph seized by the police of professors of the institute with J K Tiwari, who conceived the fake IEE(I), but denied that it was seized from the IIT. "The institute has nothing to hide. We're cooperating with the police. I've filed an FIR against Ghosh, Biswas, Tiwari and others on behalf of the institute," he said. The issue of the fake institute came up in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday as a question. The HRD ministry informed the House about the FIR, and Prof A K Ghosh, who surrendered before the Midnapur district court on November 30. He was granted bail on December 3.

IITians fancy core sectors in first week of placements

Recruiters and number of students placed have doubled from last year

Shubhra Tandon
Mumbai, Dec. 9

It is just the first week of placements at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and early indications show that traditional sectors such as manufacturing, mining, and oil and gas exploration seem to be gaining favour with students.

"The percentage of students opting for core companies is slightly more than those choosing the IT sector. Stagnancy in software (industry) and recession have

also played some role in this shift," IIT Guwahati's training and placement in-charge, Dr Saurabh Basu, told *Business Line*.

So far, the highest offer at IIT Guwahati is Rs 22 lakh, by leading oilfield services provider, Schlumberger.

At IIT Madras, too, the highest offer so far, of Rs 28 lakh, has come from a multinational offshore drilling contractor, said placement advisor, Prof. N. Ramesh Babu.

Though Facebook has

made an offer of Rs 38 lakh, the company's recruitment process is not yet complete, said a student representative.

'SPECIAL PROFILES'

"Though the pay package is still the main criterion and offers are evenly distributed across sectors, our students are opting more for jobs in analytics. Some companies are also offering special profiles for the students in their research and development centres," said Prof. Babu.

IIT Roorkee received its highest pay package, of Rs 28.5 lakh, from Rio Tinto, a leading mining and exploration company.

However, students prefer jobs in India rather than abroad, said Dr P. K. Jain, placement in-charge, IIT Roorkee.

IIT Bombay said that recruiters coming to the college are from across sectors and streams. "Students prefer companies related to their primary area of specialisation," said Prof Ravi

Sinha, IIT Bombay.

Placements this year have started on a vibrant note in India's top engineering colleges. The recruiters coming in have doubled from last year and so have the number of students placed so far. However, the packages are more or less similar to those offered last year.

"The number of companies has increased two-and-a-half times from last year. Close to 100 companies have visited our campus in the first six days and 130-140

students have been recruited already," said Dr Basu of IIT Guwahati.

At IIT Madras more than 250 companies have come in so far and 250 students have been placed in the first week itself, said Prof. Babu.

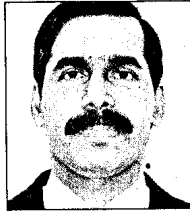
IIT Bombay has seen a 50 per cent increase in the number of companies, and IIT Roorkee has seen 240 students placed so far, which is double that of last year.

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Economic Times, ND
10-Dec-10 p-10

MAN ON THE MOVE

'IIM-Rohtak should be a global leader'



P Rameshan, former professor of strategy and economics at the Indian Institute of Kozhikode, took over as the first director IIM Rohtak, one of the newest IIMs, late last month. Like any other fledgling institute, IIM-Rohtak faces faculty and infrastructure problems. Professor Rameshan tells

Dibyajoti Chatterjee how Rohtak's proximity to rapidly-developing industrial centres in the National Capital Region can be leveraged to aid the institute's growth.

How do you plan to position yourself, vis-a-vis the existing IIMs, in terms of curriculum and management development programmes?

My 13-year association with IIMs would be useful. There is a vast market for executive education, and IIM Rohtak's proximity to Delhi should help it in developing executive training programmes. We are in the process of carrying out faculty selection.

What are the best global practices you plan to experiment with?

Case-based teaching and in-house development of case studies to empower instructors, are common practices around the world. The institute will make research output a part of every faculty member's portfolio. The adoption of new technological tools of learning and delivery, is another one. A third is to give students substantial exposure to management practitioners, international practices and cultures through visits abroad or visiting faculty. In addition, providing opportunities to students to practice entrepreneurial management, is vital.

Brand building does not happen in a short time. How do you plan to go about it?

Ancient India had a great institution in Nalanda that attracted scholars from all over the world. Today, if any institution has that kind of draw, it is probably an institution in the US. Why can't India produce a modern-day Nalanda in management studies, and become the centre of global attention in the years to come? My vision is to see IIM Rohtak emerge as a global leader in management thinking and education in the next 20-30 years. My role would be to create the initial structures, systems and processes required for achieving this vision.

How do you plan to address faculty shortage?

I do not consider faculty recruitment as my biggest challenge. I always believed we can find faculty if we put the right effort (if we have the right attitude, sense of reality, and willingness to spend time to help youngsters develop). When I was dean in charge of faculty recruitment at IIM Kozhikode, in one year I helped nearly double the faculty size (to over 50) without compromising on the quality. I am confident that I can find enough quality faculty members for IIM Rohtak.

In fact, I believe that the task of IIM Rohtak would be easier than IIM Kozhikode, given the location of IIM Rohtak. My main challenge would relate to mobilising financial resources sufficiently rapidly to match the fast pace of progress being planned for IIM Rohtak.

From teaching to administration, you have garnered a wide range of experiences from IIM Kozhikode. Is there anything you want to emulate at IIM Rohtak?

The rapid progress of IIM Kozhikode is worth emulating. Its healthy social environment (of faculty, students and staff) is worth taking note of. Its efforts to carve a niche and stand on its own feet deserve to be emulated, as does its social commitment.

Mail Today ND 10/12/2010 p-21

FIR names ex-profs for fake college at IIT-Kharagpur

INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) – Kharagpur, has named three former faculty members in its FIR against the allegedly fake institute technical institute operating from its premises.

This includes former head of aeronautical engineering professor A.K. Ghosh, former electronics department professor J.C. Biswas and professor Jugal Kishore Tewari.

However, students of the fake Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), have written to Union human resource development minister Kapil Sibal alleging that more IIT teachers were involved with the institute, including three former and two current faculty members.

The students have alleged that the present head of the department of electrical engineering, Jayanta Pal, and N.K. Kishore of the same department, were also involved.

Pal denied the charges. When asked about being present at an IEE convocation held at the aerospace department's seminar room, he said: "I don't remember. I attend so many seminars."

Police sources in West Midnapore confirmed that investiga-

An HoD named in FIR has denied charges

tions point at the involvement of more faculty members. "The complaint is being treated as sensitive as it was lodged by the IIT and involves faculty members."

Refuting charges of indifference despite knowing about the institute, Damodar Acharya, director, IIT Kharagpur, told MAIL TODAY: "We have cancelled the allotment of the quarters to the IEE."

Kavita Chowdhury

Financial Chronicle ND p-10
10-Dec-10

IIM-B among world's top B-schools

IIM Bangalore has been ranked 24th while IIM Ahmedabad ranked 55th in a worldwide survey.

The Dragon returns

SpaceX is the first commercial company to orbit and return a spacecraft to Earth. Nasa will use the Dragon capsule to resupply the International Space Station after the shuttle is retired in 2011

SpaceX

2002
Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) founded by PayPal co-founder Elon Musk

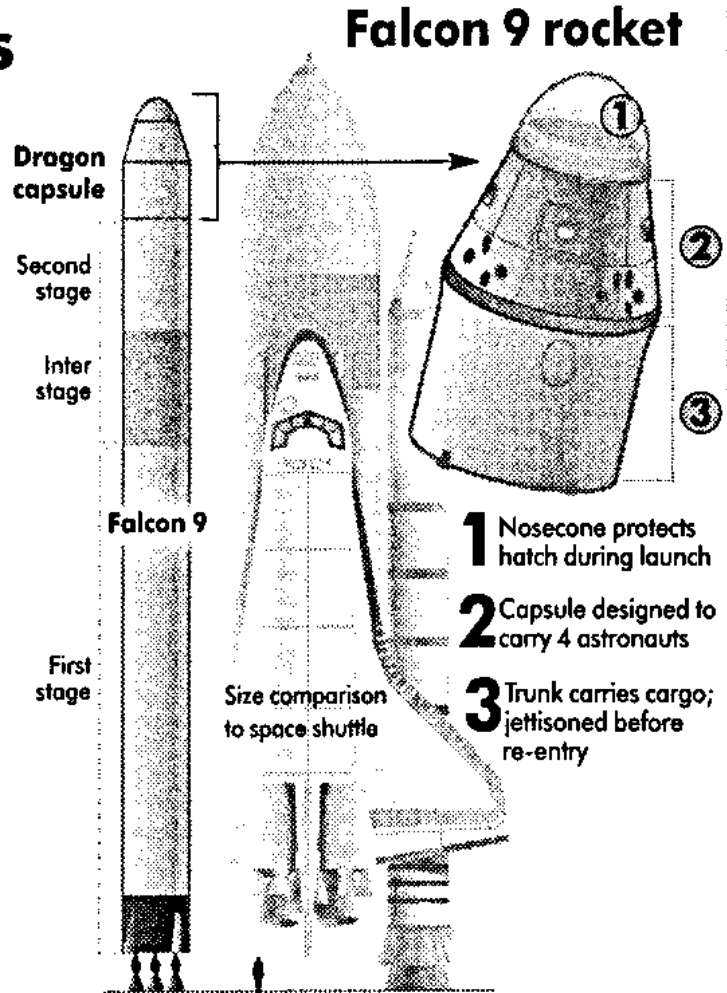
2008
Wins Nasa contract to replace cargo transport function of the space shuttle

Dec 8, 2010
Successful launch of Dragon capsule by the Falcon 9 rocket; capsule returns to Earth after 2 orbits

Cost per flight

Falcon 9
\$100 million

Space shuttle
\$450 million



Source: MCT

Financial Chronicle ND 10-Dec-10 p-10

HP ties up with IIIT-B to launch varsity

KUMAR SHANKAR ROY

Bangalore

HEWLETT-Packard (HP) in partnership with International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B) has launched HP Network University, which will allow IT professionals to advance their IT knowledge in the delivery of next generation enterprise networks.

The growth of networking technologies, new open standards and unified communications has increased the skill requirements of IT professionals. To bridge this need, the Network University will provide the tools, methodologies and labs to teach the latest standards in networking solutions.

Spread over three to six months, the course will cover basic to advanced levels of networking, network security, consulting and converged infrastructure.

HP has already put in an investment of \$1 million to set up the lab and is prepared to invest more in the venture. The certification for all courses will be provided by Prometric.

"Organisations are increasingly network dependent as they develop new ways to engage their customers, employees and partners. This represents both a challenge and an opportunity for the IT community," said Neelam Dhawan, MD, HP India.

Hackers give web firms a test of free speech

ASHLEE VANCE & MIGUEL HELFT
International Herald Tribune

A HACKING free-for-all has exploded on the web, and Facebook and Twitter are stuck in the middle.

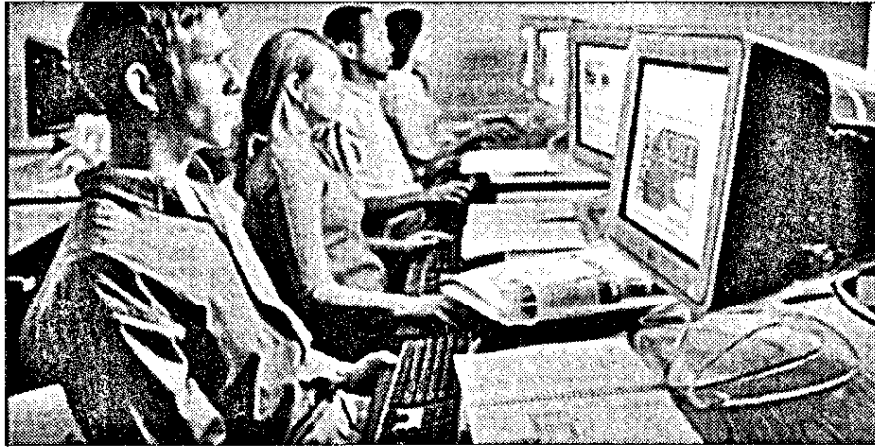
Anonymous hackers took aim at companies perceived to have harmed WikiLeaks after its release of a flood of confidential diplomatic documents. MasterCard, Visa and PayPal, which had cut off people's ability to donate money to WikiLeaks, were hit by attacks that tried to block access to the companies' web sites and services.

To organise their efforts, the hackers have turned to sites like Facebook and Twitter. That has drawn these web giants into the fray and created a precarious situation for them.

Both Facebook and Twitter—but particularly Twitter—have received praise in recent years as outlets for free speech. Governments trying to control the flow of information have found it difficult to block people from voicing their concerns or setting up meetings through the sites.

At the same time, both Facebook and Twitter have corporate aspirations that hinge on their ability to serve as ad platforms for other companies. This leaves them with tough public relations and business decisions around how they should handle situations as politically charged as the WikiLeaks developments.

Some internet experts say the situation highlights the complexities of free spe-



CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE: The hackers have turned to sites like Facebook and Twitter. This has drawn these web giants into the fray and created a precarious situation for them

ech issues on the internet, as grassroots web companies evolve and take central control over what their users can make public. Clay Shirky, who studies the internet and teaches at New York University, said that although the web is the new public sphere, it is actually "a corporate sphere that tolerates public speech."

Marcia Hofmann, a lawyer at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said, "Any internet user who cares about free speech or has a controversial or unpopular message should be concerned about the fact that intermediaries might not let them express it."

She added, "Your free speech rights are only as strong as the weakest intermediary."

The problem came into relief on Wednesday, through an effort called operation Payback, organised by a group calling itself Anonymous. The group spent much of the day posting notes on

Facebook and Twitter that told followers which companies to single out and that documented hacking successes. But Facebook banned one of the group's pages, saying that using the site to organise hacking attacks like that violated its terms of use. The group went on Twitter to complain.

A Facebook spokesman issued a statement saying that the company was "sensitive to content that includes pornography, bullying, hate speech, and threats of violence" and would "take action on content that we find or that's reported to us that promotes unlawful activity."

In an interview on Wednesday morning, Joe Sullivan, Facebook's chief security officer, addressed WikiLeaks's own presence on the site. He said the company had not received any official requests to disable pages or accounts associated with the



WikiLeaks organisation. Facebook generally resists requests by governments or advocacy groups to take down material if that content is not illegal or does not violate Facebook's terms of service, which prohibit attacks on individuals or incitements to violence. "Facebook is a place where people come to talk about all sorts of things, including controversial topics," Sullivan said. It was not clear whether anyone had asked Facebook to take down the operation Payback page.

Twitter allowed the operation Payback account to stay active most of Wednesday. But the group's account was disabled late in the day, after it posted a link to a file that provided thousands of consumer credit card numbers, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation.

A Twitter spokesman declined to discuss the details of the situation. "We don't comment about the specific actions we take around user accounts," he said.

The company is not overly concerned about hackers' attacking Twitter's site, he said, explaining that it faces security issues all the time and has technology to deal with the situation.

Twitter is in a particularly delicate situation because its founders have celebrated their service's role in political protest and free speech. They have not been shy about trying to capitalise on the good will engendered by playing that role.

WikiLeaks's own Twitter account remains active, and it is the group's main channel for reaching supporters and the media.

Last week, Amazon.com fell into a similar position when it decided to stop storing files for WikiLeaks. Advocates of WikiLeaks complained that Amazon.com was bowing to political pressure to cut the organisation from its web services. An Amazon.com spokesman said the company was simply banning an organisation that had violated its terms of service by trying to distribute documents it did not own.

The last week has given rise to a hacking war in which groups have blocked access to WikiLeaks's web sites by bombarding them with requests.

And now the WikiLeaks supporters have responded in kind, flying the freedom of speech banner as the motivation for their actions.