

Two large sections of roofing material fell off of building 18 Monday afternoon during windy conditions. The debris required heavy equipment for its removal.

AARON MIHALIK—THE TECH

Dorm Construction Schedule Threatened

IPOP Clearance Major Remaining Issue

By Laura McGrath Moulton
STAFF REPORTER

Groundbreaking for the new undergraduate dormitory on Vassar Street should occur early this spring.

"We have to get over all of the regulatory hurdles before we can break ground, but that's in process now," said Project Director Deborah Poodry.

By that point, all parties hope the weather will be mild enough to avoid digging through frozen ground. However, Poodry said the cold should not be a major issue for the contracting company, Daniel O'Connell's &

Sons, Inc.

"The permitting issue is the bigger issue right now," Poodry said. The contractors "are chomping at the bit."

Poodry projects that the construction will take eighteen months.

"That's moving very quickly," Poodry said. Assuming the project does take eighteen months, construction would have to begin by late February 2000 in order to open the dormitory by late August 2001.

Anne E. C. McCants, Founders'

Dormitory, Page 23

Spring Weekend Planning Begins

Committee Set to Choose Band

By Karen Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Planning is currently underway for this year's Spring Weekend, and the committee has compiled a short list of possible bands for the Spring Weekend Concert.

"It's pretty competitive, getting bands," said Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00. McGann said the committee could not be sure they would secure the first choice band, They Might Be Giants.

Securing the band is an uncertain proposition, however, due to competition with similar concerts. Most of MIT's peer institutions have similar events, and most want to get the same few bands, McGann said. Many schools have already bid on bands.

Last year, Busta Rhymes was the Spring Weekend Committee's fifth choice band, but this year with more money and a slightly earlier start the committee hopes to get their first choice or second choice.

Committee members sought

The planning committee includes representatives from several student groups, including Dorm-Con, the Graduate Student Council, Graduate Dormitory Council, the Interfraternity Council, International Students Association, Lecture Series Committee, *The Tech*, and the UA. In addition, there will be either two or three student-at-large positions.

Students can apply to these posi-

Spring Weekend, Page 25

6.270 Teams Delayed by Fried Controller Boards

By Sanjay Basu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT's famed autonomous robotics competition, 6.270, has been faced with a series of delays just days before the final competition.

Students in the course, who design and build robots to compete in the popular Independent Activi-

ties Period contest, are expected to finish their projects by January 25. But delays in acquiring controller boards for the robots have prevented some students in the contest from completing their projects.

"The contestants could really work around it," said Anthony Hui '00, one of the contest's organizers.

"A big part of the contest is the mechanical part of the contest and the software API has been out, so they can write the code. They just can't put it all together yet."

Some of the students, however, have found the delay to be debilitating.

"When you build your first chas-

sis, you want to see how it works — how fast it goes. But you can't do that without a circuit board," said Gábor Csányi '00, a student competing in 6.270. "First they said that the boards are going to be late, and were coming last week. Then they told us it would come Wednesday and then Friday. Then they just stopped giving us dates altogether."

Boards arrive with faulty circuits

The boards finally arrived yesterday, but students in the course promptly received an e-mail telling them not to turn the boards on.

The e-mail reported, "We are having problems with the boards. DO NOT TURN IT ON. It may burn up."

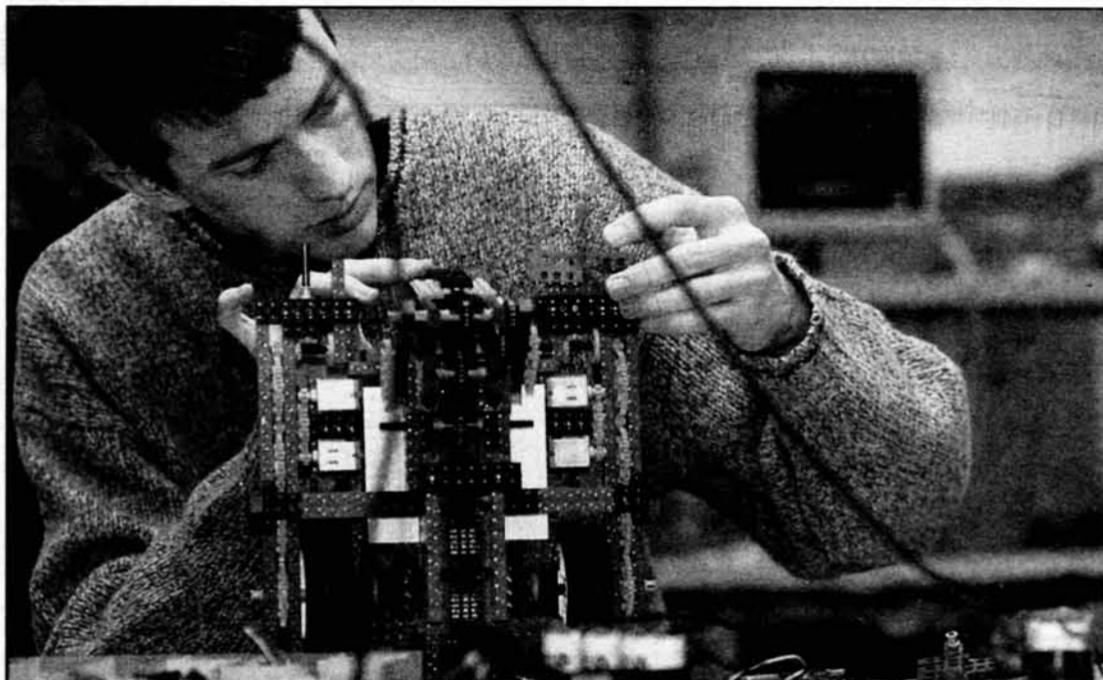
When switched on, the boards reportedly sparked and produced smoke. "It appeared that there was a fabrication problem," said Hui. "As of now, we're currently working on an alternative board."

Organizers did not set a new date for the boards' arrival. The delay has not, however, disabled all of the students in the competition.

"The delay is annoying but our team seems to be on track," said Naveen Goela '03. "I think we will have enough time to finish our robot."

"As for the delay, I can't blame

6.270, Page 24



SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Chris Osborn '01 refines a LEGO frame late Sunday evening. He and teammate Seth Purcell '01 are preparing their robot for head-to-head battle as part of the 6.270 IAP course. The team's strategy is to disorient the opposing robot before moving on to complete the required tasks.

Gay, Bisexual Fraternity Begins Rush in Boston

By Mike Hall
STAFF REPORTER

The Boston colony of Delta Lambda Phi, a national fraternity for gay, bisexual, and progressive men will conduct its first information session for its spring rush tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Coffeehouse.

"Gay people need a supporting group of friends," said Mark Seelig '01, DLP's sole MIT member. Seelig's interest in DLP grew from his involvement with other MIT queer organizations, combined with his interest in the Greek system.

"I saw aspects of fraternity life that I thought were incredible," Seelig said, "especially the close relationships between brothers."

Fraternity offers support, family

DLP President Paul S. Mercurio, an earth sciences major at Boston University, started the local colony as a way to form close friendships with a variety of people. "I really wanted to connect to people," Mercurio said, adding that he is interested in rushing men of all backgrounds and sexual orientations.

"I wasn't going to join at first," stated

Christian P. Pintock, a music major at the New England Conservatory and DLP's secretary and treasurer. After meeting Mercurio at Tufts University's annual Safe Colleges Conference, Pintock started thinking about rushing DLP.

"I was meeting all these these people [at area universities] that I otherwise wouldn't have met," Pintock added. "It's like a family."

"Hands-off" policy among rules

While most queer organizations in Boston's

DLP, Page 23



Thousands of gallons of oil spilled at the Cogen facility.

Page 23



Comics

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President Vest defends need-based financial aid and private funding in his annual report.

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WORLD & NATION

Clinton Attempts to Convince Syrian President to Continue Peace Talks

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Clinton talked by telephone with Syrian President Hafez Assad for almost an hour Tuesday in a determined effort to persuade Syria to resume interrupted Middle East peace talks.

Clinton's call to the wily Syrian autocrat came as Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright predicted that Israel and Syria eventually will overcome half a century of animosity and sign a formal peace treaty, despite the indefinite postponement of high-level negotiations that had been scheduled to resume Wednesday.

Albright and nongovernmental Middle East experts said Assad's objective in delaying the talks was almost certainly to gain procedural advantage, not to torpedo the peace process, which seems closer to success than at any time since the creation of the Israeli state in 1948.

"The logic of peace has become compelling" for both Syria and Israel, Albright said.

Kohl Resigns Party Post in Disgrace

THE WASHINGTON POST

BERLIN

Former chancellor Helmut Kohl resigned Tuesday as honorary chairman of the Christian Democratic Union, adding to the turmoil embroiling the party that for much of the country's post-World War II history has been an anchor of Germany's stability.

Within the past two months, as revelations of illegal party donations and secret slush funds have sullied the reputations of Kohl and other party leaders, the Christian Democrats have become synonymous with sleaze. Facing its worst crisis, the party seems so traumatized by the funding scandal that it now fears for its own survival.

At a five-hour emergency session Tuesday, party executives rejected the resignation of party leader Wolfgang Schäuble, who recently acknowledged that he accepted a \$52,000 donation from a shadowy arms dealer. Instead, they turned with a vengeance on Kohl, demanding that he quit as the honorary chairman of the party he has dominated for 25 years unless he reveals the identity of those who gave him \$520,000 in secret campaign funds while he served as chancellor.

Since admitting last month that he broke the law by taking the unreported cash, Kohl has insisted that he gave his "word of honor" to the donors that he would never make their names public. Within hours of receiving the ultimatum, Kohl surrendered his party position, but showed no willingness to clear up the mystery of who gave him the money.

Government Investigators Unfairly Treated Lee, Attorney Complains

THE WASHINGTON POST

Federal investigators deceived former Los Alamos physicist Wen Ho Lee into agreeing to a polygraph examination last February and then mistreated him throughout the so-called lie detector session, causing him to fail, his lawyer argued in a closed hearing before a federal judge.

A transcript of the Dec. 29 hearing, newly released by the Justice Department, reveals some details of the government's case against Lee but also shows that the FBI used highly aggressive tactics in pursuing him.

FBI agent Robert A. Messemer acknowledged during the bail hearing in New Mexico before U.S. District Judge James A. Parker that investigators misled Lee about the polygraph session, telling him they needed his "help" with an investigation into China's alleged theft of information about America's W-88 nuclear warhead. Only moments before the test did the investigators inform the 60-year-old scientist that he was an espionage suspect.

Russian Soldiers Approach Central Districts in Grozny

By Daniel Williams

THE WASHINGTON POST

NAZRAN, RUSSIA

Russian armor and infantry broke into central districts of Grozny Tuesday, battling separatist guerrillas in a three-pronged advance on the bitterly contested regional capital, according to Russian and Chechen reports.

The Russians were trying to blast snipers and antitank gunners out of their positions, rather than rely solely on airstrikes and long-distance artillery to clear a path. Russian forces were advancing from the northwest, east and southeast with the immediate goals appearing to be Minutka Square, a major intersection in south-central Grozny, and a bridge of the Sunzha River that bisects the Chechen capital.

Russian officials have been predicting a "final" assault on Grozny for several days, to drive rebels from the city and claim the only major Chechen urban center still outside their control. Aided by clear weather, jets and helicopters flew 150 combat missions over the course of 24 hours, hitting both Grozny and mountain routes to the south.

The seizure of Grozny would

come at an opportune time for the government of Acting President Vladimir Putin. A string of battlefield setbacks had begun to prompt criticism of him in Moscow and threatened to become a political issue in advance of elections on March 26 to choose the successor to Boris Yeltsin, who retired Dec. 31. News commentators have begun to question official casualty counts, and military analysts have warned of a prolonged war of attrition.

Since their first probes of the capital in mid-December, the Russians had been stalled at the outskirts and had gained control of only one district, Staropromyslovsky in the northwest. Elsewhere, Russian tanks and artillery duelled inconclusively with rebel snipers and their mobile mortar batteries. The Russians, beset by fog and fear of casualties, were reluctant to penetrate the city's many warrens of mid-rise buildings, which can serve as ideal settings for ambushes.

The Russians also have placed new emphasis on securing areas outside Grozny in hopes of preempting hit-and-run attacks by guerrillas on stationary positions. Refugees reaching Ingushetia, the region to the south, spoke of intensi-

fied searches of basements, expulsions of women and children, and Chechen men being rounded up in Grozny suburbs.

Taking Grozny involves long-term risks for Moscow. In the first Chechen war, from 1994 to 1996, the capture of the city began a long period of guerrilla harassment of Russian outposts throughout the capital. The Chechens also took hostages elsewhere in Russia and weakened Russian resolve to pursue the war. Eventually, a rebel counter-attack drove the Russians from the capital and the Chechens won de facto — albeit chaotic — independence.

Russian officials said combat raged throughout Grozny Tuesday. "The decisive phase of the liberation of Grozny has started," said Konstantin Kukharevko, a Defense Ministry spokesman. Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Rushaylo predicted the offensive will succeed "in the next few days."

Much will depend on the strength of the rebels' resistance, an issue on which officials of President Aslan Maskhadov's government has issued mixed signals.

"The period of battles for strategic positions is coming to an end."

Justices Ask Lower Courts to Review Female Salary Rulings

By Gaylord Shaw

NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court, acting in a case brought by a female professor in New York State, dropped a broad hint Tuesday that it may reconsider the scope of a federal law requiring that men and women get equal pay for equal work.

The court, in a brief order, signaled it is taking a closer look at whether or not states enjoy a constitutional shield from the reach of the federal equal pay law.

In examining the issue, the Supreme Court vacated for "further consideration" a ruling by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals favoring Janice Anderson in her equal pay lawsuit against the State University of New York at New Paltz.

The Manhattan appeals court earlier this year rejected New York's claim of immunity from the suit pressed by Anderson, a tenured associate professor in the school's communications and media department.

Anderson, who has taught in the state university system since 1984, said she was being paid less than her male counterparts and that her employer retaliated against her for complaining about the pay disparity.

The state claimed it was shielded from her suit by the U.S. Constitution's 11th Amendment, which grants states immunity from being sued in federal courts.

The appeals court ruled that Congress wiped out the states' 11th Amendment immunity when it adopted the Equal Pay Act in 1963.

The bare-bones order Tuesday,

which also applied to a class-action lawsuit brought by female professors in Illinois, instructed the federal appellate courts to reconsider their rulings in light of the high court's opinion last week that state college professors in Florida could not sue their employers under the federal age-discrimination law.

A lawyer for the New Paltz professor, Ronald Dunn of Albany, said the justices concluded they "stepped onto a slippery slope" with their opinion in the Florida age-discrimination case and now were "pausing to take a breath and ask lower courts, Tell us what you think."

Many legal and political analysts say the Supreme Court appears to be intent upon curbing congressional power by returning authority to the states.

WEATHER

Chilling Thoughts

By Veronique Bugnion

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Gusty winds on Monday morning chilled the air to an effective temperature of -51F, the coldest feeling day in Beantown in almost twenty years. After the temperatures of the past two days, the forecasted high of 25F for today will feel almost pleasant.

Although the prediction models do not fully agree on the timing and development of the next storm, Boston will likely get more snow on Thursday. The period of snowfall will, however, be fairly brief as the storm will rapidly move on toward the Canadian maritimes.

Expect another blast of Arctic air and strong winds on Friday and Saturday in the wake of the storm ... an already much too familiar thought.

Wednesday: Clear, high of 25°F (-4°C).

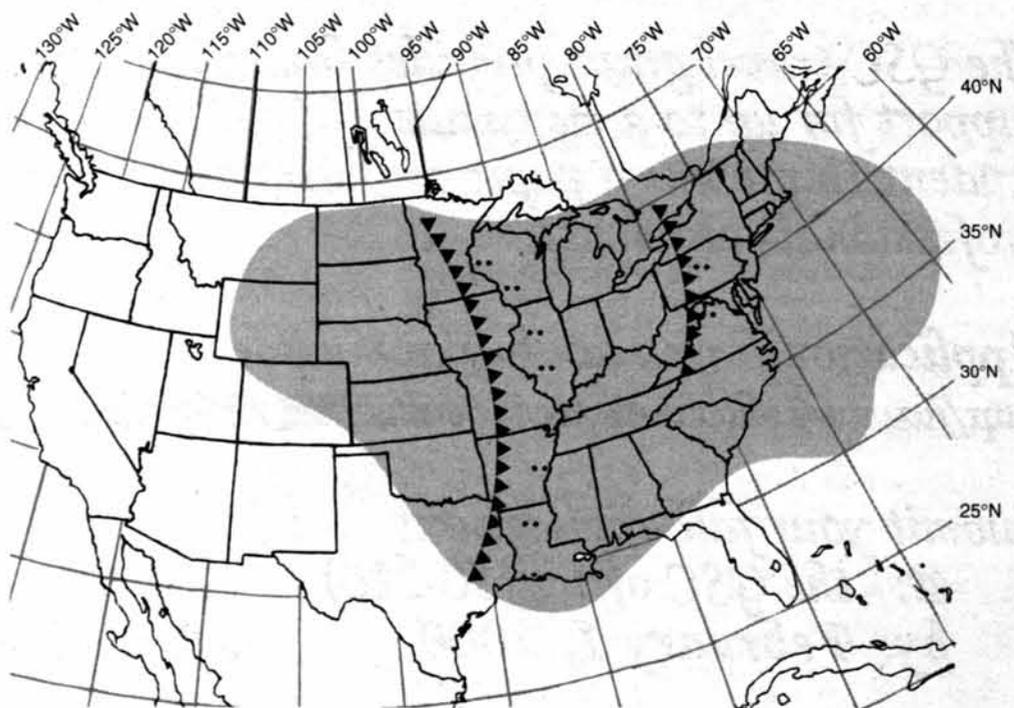
Wednesday night: Increasing cloudiness, low of 7°F (-14°C).

Thursday: Cloudy, snow likely, high of 28°F (-2°C).

Friday: Cloudy and windy, high around 15 to 20°F (-9 to -6°C).

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high around 15 to 25°F (-9 to -4°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, January 19, 2000



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

Clinton Introduces Regulations To Crack Down on Illegal Guns

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Robert L. Jackson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BOSTON

Responding to critics who say that his administration has done too little to enforce gun-control laws already in place, President Clinton proposed \$280 million in new measures Tuesday to crack down on illegal firearms and to improve handgun safety.

On a visit to Boston's Roxbury section, an area notorious for drug-related violence that has seen a marked drop in its crime rate, Clinton called for 500 new agents and inspectors to police gun dealers across the nation, 1,100 more prosecutors at the federal and state level and development of new technology for so-called "smart guns" that can be fired only by their owners, not by children or thieves.

Speaking in a gymnasium

packed with law enforcement officers, lawmakers and community leaders, Clinton soft-pedaled his embrace of a legislative position long espoused by congressional Republicans and the National Rifle Association — that the nation needs better enforcement of existing gun laws rather than restrictive new ones.

"It's a stale debate," Clinton said, declaring that "the real answer is we should do both." He added that "the drop in the national crime rate has been due both to changing laws and to better enforcement and prevention."

Clinton's conservative foes seemed to welcome his new approach.

"I am pleased that President Clinton appears to be partially signing onto the Republican solution to reducing gun violence," said Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, chairman

of the Judiciary Committee.

"The NRA for decades has called for vigorous prosecution of criminals who violate gun laws," NRA spokesman Jim Manown said. "We hope this proposal is serious and sincere."

At a hearing last May, House Republicans charged that one sign of the administration's failure to enforce gun laws was its poor record of prosecuting people who had tried to buy weapons but were rejected when crime data checks showed that they were ineligible as convicted felons.

GOP lawmakers said that there have been only a handful of prosecutions of more than 250,000 felons and others in this category.

But Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder told the hearing that since 1993 the number of violent crimes involving a firearm has declined by 27 percent.

Court Upholds Decision Blocking The Integration of Public Housing

By David G. Savage
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court, turning away appeals from civil rights lawyers, let stand a ruling Monday in a Dallas case that blocks the building of public housing units in mostly white neighborhoods.

Over the last decade, the justices have restricted sharply the use of race-based affirmative action. In the Dallas case, those restrictions were used for the first time to halt the integration of public housing.

While not a final ruling, the outcome shows how far the federal courts have shifted over the last two decades on matters of race and desegregation.

In the 1960s and '70s, federal judges often intervened in Southern cities to order desegregation.

In Dallas, officials acknowledged a "sordid" history of blatant racial segregation in its public housing authority that extended into the 1980s. Yet, when an integration plan was proposed, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals intervened at the behest of white homeowners and stopped a move to put two 40-unit public housing buildings in north Dallas. Most of the roughly 300 residents were expected to be black.

Speaking for the appeals court last year, Judge Edith Jones called the integration order an unconstitutional "race-conscious remedy." A prominent conservative, Jones was interviewed by former President Bush as a finalist in 1990 for the Supreme Court nomination that went to David H. Souter.

Civil rights lawyers from Dallas, joined by the Lawyers Committee

for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, urged the high court to reverse Jones' opinion. They argued that the only way to remedy a policy of racial exclusion is to use race as part of the cure.

But the justices denied the appeal Monday without comment.

The case (Walker vs. City of Mesquite, 99-296) is not over, however. It returns to a trial judge in Dallas to find other ways to reduce housing segregation in the city.

White homeowners who objected to the new public housing said that integration could be achieved by giving rent subsidies to low-income blacks who live in west Dallas.

"It's very difficult for these families to find rental housing at all. And what they can find tends to be in the black neighborhoods," said Joseph Werner, housing attorney.

Wealth of U.S. Families Up Sharply

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Buoyed by the soaring stock market, the wealth of American families has risen sharply since 1995, outpacing actual income growth and pushing the "typical" family well ahead of where it was in 1989 at the end of the last economic expansion, according to a study released Tuesday by the Federal Reserve.

Overall, the typical family's net worth jumped 17.6 percent from 1995 to 1998, the study found. The market's continued growth during 1999, along with a more modest rise in home values, likely means that the typical family is even better off now.

The increase was spread across a broad range of income and ethnic groups, and Fed analysts said some data suggest "that improvements in financial circumstances were shared by many people who did not own stocks."

The net worth of the typical family — the value of real estate, stocks, bonds and other assets minus outstanding debts — totaled \$71,600 in 1998, up from \$60,900 in 1995 and \$59,700 in 1989, the study found. By typical, Fed experts said they meant the family at the median — the level at which half of all families have larger net worths and half have smaller ones.

The average net worth, pulled upward by the assets of the very wealthy, was \$282,500 in 1998, up from \$224,800 in 1995.

The findings from the Fed's triennial Survey of Consumer Finances suggest that the "wealth effect" — people boosting spending faster than their incomes because a rise in asset values makes them feel better off — is a significant factor in the economy.

Arco, BP Amoco Seek to Work Out Merger Deal With U.S. Regulators

LOS ANGELES TIMES

With the merger between BP Amoco and his company under increasing threat, Atlantic Richfield Co. Chief Executive Mike Bowl-in said Tuesday the two oil giants remain willing to haggle with the Federal Trade Commission to come up with an acceptable deal.

But anti-trust experts contend that BP Amoco has bungled the sensitive and highly political process of getting the necessary government approvals for the \$27 billion combination.

Legal sources in Washington said that unless the companies come forward with a new offer to divest even more of their combined production capacity of Alaska North Slope crude oil than they already have promised, the FTC will indeed bring suit against the merger, which was proposed last April 1. A federal lawsuit would delay the merger at the very least — and could sink it.

BP Amoco has negotiated approval from Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles and California Gov. Gray Davis, both in exchange for concession in those states. But California Attorney General Bill Lockyer still has reservations about the deal, and Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., have complained to the FTC because they believe the merger would increase gasoline prices in their states.

BP Amoco's latest aggressive maneuver — declaring that it will close the merger in early February unless the FTC sues to block it — carries risk all around but is especially treacherous for Arco, which has spent nearly a year in merger limbo.

The FTC has an unbroken winning streak when it comes to challenging deals in court.



The MIT Graduate Student Council

office: Walker Memorial, 50-220 (above the Muddy)
phone: 253-2195
website: www.mit.edu/activities/gsc
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Submit your fall applications @: the GSC office (50-220) by: February 1, 2000

December - Calendar

20 Academic, Research, and Careers Committee meeting

* All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.
* @ 5:30 in 50-220 (above the muddy)

* SPRING * WEEKEND

Graduate student volunteers needed!

contact gsc-ac-chair@mit.edu for more info

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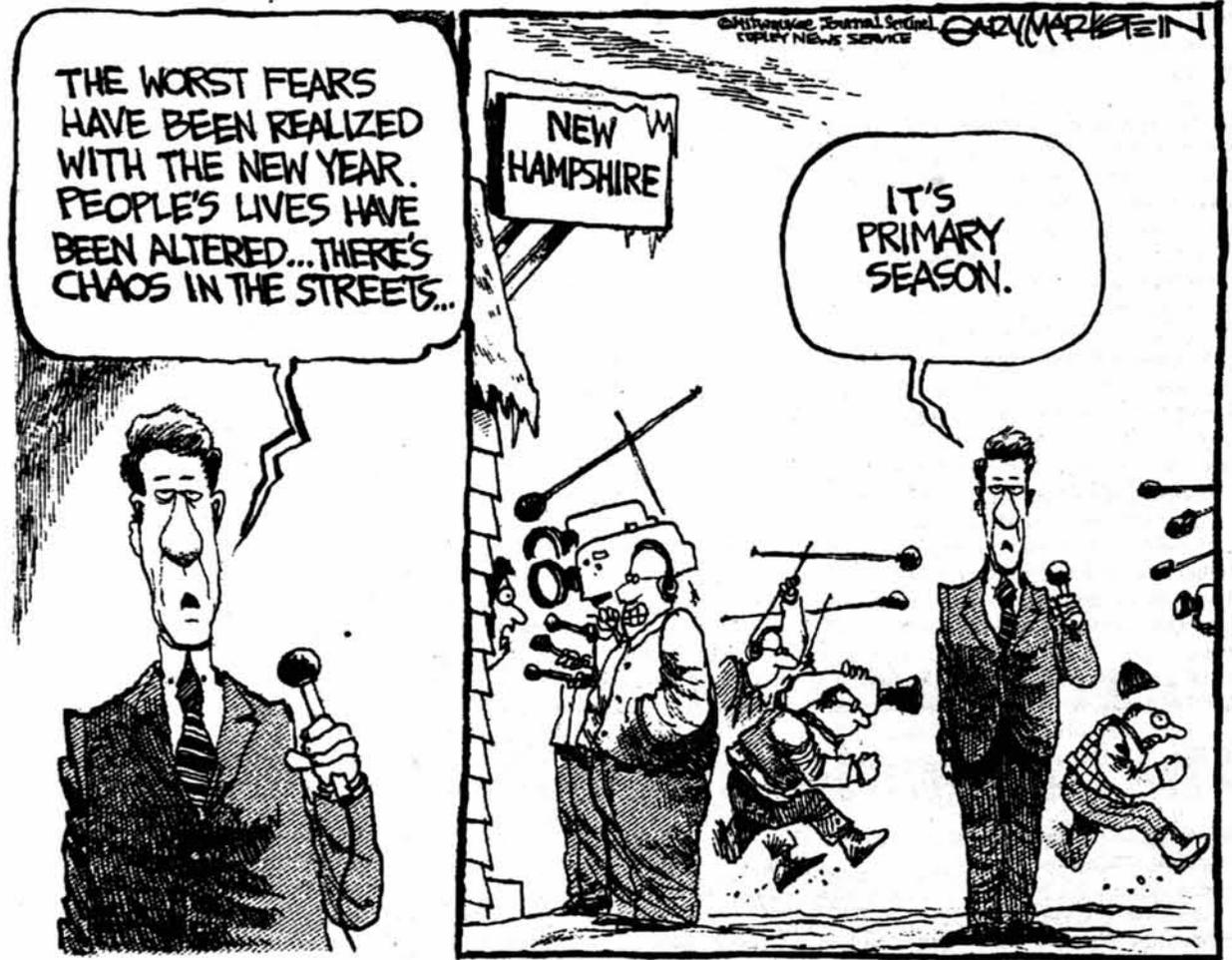
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"I'm not on a diet... I just don't feel like eating anything after seeing this."

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The Other Candidates

Presidential Contenders You Won't See on the Nightly News

Michael J. Ring

So far, much attention has focused on the "serious" presidential candidates — Gore, Bush, Bradley, and McCain. These four men are widely regarded as those with a chance of capturing the White House. They are not, however, the only candidates seeking the office of President of the United States.

Hundreds of candidates, representing tens of parties, are running for president this year. Most of these candidates realize they have absolutely zero chance of actually winning, but see the campaign as an opportunity to attract attention to their pet issue, or just run for the sake of running.

Then there are the others ... delusional lunatic candidates whose ideas range from the bizarre to the hilarious. Their chronicles are documented at <http://www.politics1.com> for our enjoyment.

Lyndon LaRouche, the granddaddy of presidential fringe candidates, is making his seventh run for the White House. LaRouche, who holds several curious conspiracy obsessions, is running on a platform of returning to the Bretton Woods system of exchange rates. LaRouche was imprisoned for five years on fraud charges through the actions of what he calls a "Get LaRouche Strike Force" involving, among others, the FBI, IRS, the Department of Justice, and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Speaking of prison, the political forms of LaRouche's fellow candidate Martin McNally list his current address as "US Penitentiary, Marion, IL 62959."

Thomas Wells is running essentially because he says that at 2:00 a.m. on Christmas Day 1994, God spoke to him.

Reform Party candidate Ken Dixon argues "we are at the time revealed by the Bible in the book of Rev-

elation as tribulation," and his platform consists largely of Biblical quotes.

Candidate Michael Mannichewitz, between stints as king of England, Germany, France, Austria, and Italy, claims to be a former two-term United States President. Someone should remind him that under the provisions of the Twenty-Second Amendment, he is then ineligible to seek a third term.

While their ideas are unorthodox, these candidates fulfill the promise of democracy — demonstrating the ideal that the common American can seek any political office.

Da Vid, running under the Light Party banner, thinks he has a better health care plan than either Al Gore or Bill Bradley. He supports single-payer care but emphasizes "complementary medicine ... acupuncture, nature paths, chiropractors, hypnotherapists" and seeks to make vaccinations voluntary. Among other positions Vid seeks a

"solar/hydrogen/hemp based economy."

Independent Lamar Echols III proposes reducing school violence by having parents "take a vital part out of their children's car" every night so that children won't be able to stay out all night and therefore won't fall under the influences of violence.

Fellow Independent Robert W. Gottier would create jobs by "out-lawing the importation of: A. Motor vehicles B. clothing C. household appliances."

Jack Grimes, leader of the United Fascist Union, promises that if elected, "the doctrines and tenets of the Fascist Regime will begin to be incorporated into the American system of government." This apparently would involve a military dictatorship reminiscent of ancient Rome. Additionally, the United Fascist Union is concerned that the United States will be eroded into a small, triangle-shaped nation. Shockingly, Grimes has spoken to a flying saucer society.

Want to redesign the flag and move the federal capital? Then A.J. Albritton is your candidate.

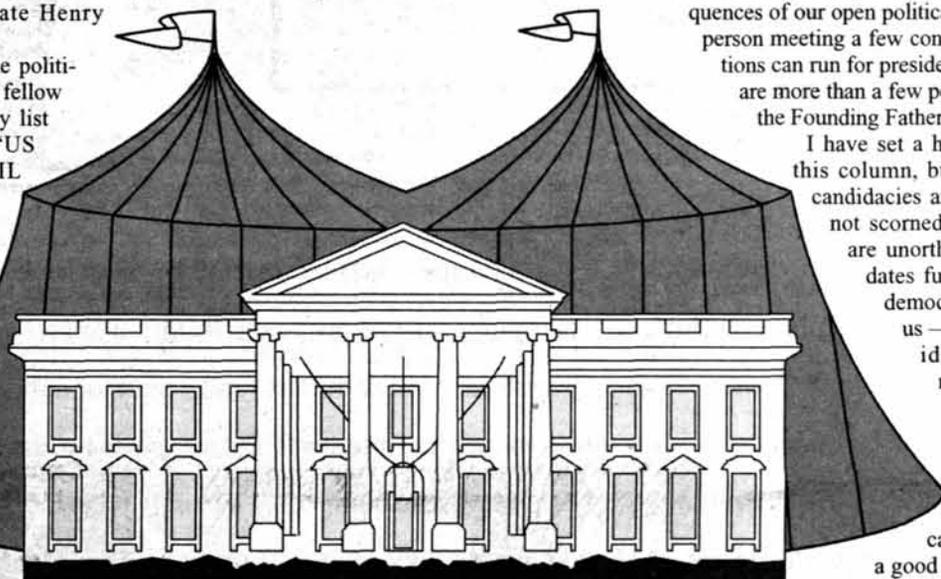
If you favor the "Populist-Democratic-Viking" ticket, then your Clay O. Hill is your man.

Joseph Newman, of the Truth and Action Party, is running for president while he's not promoting his energy production system.

There are plenty of other offbeat candidates seeking election this year with platforms that are unusual, to say the least. One of the consequences of our open political system is that any person meeting a few constitutional qualifications can run for president. As always, there are more than a few people willing to take the Founding Fathers up on the offer.

I have set a humorous tone with this column, but ultimately these candidacies are to be welcomed, not scorned. While their ideas are unorthodox, these candidates fulfill the promise of democracy for the rest of us — demonstrating the ideal that the common American can seek any political office.

And at the very least, some of these candidates are worth a good laugh.



Twenty Irrelevant Pages

Independent Women's Forum Attack on MIT Gender Report Misses the Point

Susan Buchman

Early last month, the Independent Women's Forum presented a report by Judith S. Kleinfeld entitled "MIT Tarnishes Its Reputation with Gender Junk Science." Kleinfeld, who is a professor at the University of Alaska, argues that the "MIT Study on the Status of Women Faculty," the recent report on gender discrimination in the School of Science, "amounts to little more than a political manifesto."

Speaking of political manifestos, it's important to understand the Independent Women's Forum's agenda. The IWF is a right-wing organization that "promotes individual responsibility, strong families, more opportunity, and less government — policies that help all Americans."

The organization makes such well-researched claims as: other feminist groups used false statistics to persuade Congress to pass the Violence Against Women Act, welfare policies "reward [teenage girls] for having babies instead of finishing school," and Title IX is "a crusade to impose unfair quotas in schools." Kleinfeld's report is just another version of IWF's standard rhetoric: it's those crazy liberals who are really hurting women. Recent speakers hosted by the IWF have lectured on such topics as "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Gender Equity — But Were Told Not to Ask" and "Feminism is Not the Story of My Life."

Kleinfeld, who wears her father's Brass Rat (I'll leave the psycho-analysis of that one to you), dismisses the MIT study as a "political tract." She has five main gripes with the MIT report: the "interested parties" (female faculty in the school of Science) were members of the committee evaluating the charge of gender discrimination, the report presents no hard evidence, MIT is "keeping facts secret, claiming that 'confidentiality' is required on such matters," gender discrimination "boils down to the subjective perceptions of senior women," and

the women faculty aren't as outstanding as they think they are. (She had exactly one MIT source for the report, a source which she insisted must remain confidential — exactly three paragraphs after she condemns MIT for keeping the name of its sources confidential).

Yet, instead of explaining why the above claims prove the study "falls below the most elementary standards for scientific evidence," Kleinfeld rambles on for twenty pages about the plentiful opportunities for girls in mathematics and sciences. "From National Science Foundation programs to Hollywood movies starring female scien-

Kleinfeld's argument fails miserably because she fails to understand the scope of the MIT report. It was a report designed to deal with a specific problem in a very small environment: the MIT School of Science.

tists, young women are being urged to enter the sciences and mathematics," she writes. Supposedly, Denise Richards playing a nuclear physicist in a James Bond movie is more than enough encouragement for a young girl. Despite this, however, talented women are still choosing not to enter into the sciences.

How does this have any effect on the issue of gender discrimination at the university level? Her argument goes something like this: young girls are provided with more than

enough support and their mathematical talents are adequately nurtured. Yet, women still perform much worse on the SAT math exam, and even those who perform well are more likely to choose non-scientific careers like law and teaching ("even in Asian families," boys perform better on the SAT than girls. Nothing like racial stereotypes to show those MIT admins how a real scientific report should be done.) In conclusion, that mathematically talented young women are more likely to choose non-scientific fields is proof positive that the women who do choose such field are less dedicated. It's that lack of dedication, and not discrimination, that accounts for the differences in the salaries and office sizes of women.

At this point, it should all become clear: to support the position of the MIT report is sexist, and completely discounts the choice of girls who choose to shun scientific careers and follow their biological destiny. Kleinfeld is correct to quote a qualified scholar, Nel Noddings, who writes, "it is wrong to tell a young woman that she should not consider elementary teaching for example because she's 'too smart for that.'" Noddings is right on the mark — but the point is has nothing to do with the MIT report.

The main issue here is not why women choose to go into math or science, it's how they're treated once they make that choice. Kleinfeld's argument fails miserably because she fails to understand the scope of the MIT report. It was not intended as wide-sweeping social commentary or as a report of academia in general. It was not intended to study why women are less likely to choose careers in the sciences. It was a report designed to deal with a specific problem in a very small environment: the MIT School of Science. Kleinfeld can spend another twenty pages arguing how the report fails to show that schools short change girls, but given that it's not the focus of the MIT report, it's another irrelevant twenty pages to tack onto the original.

Rewarding Genius and Ambition

Guest Column

Sourav K. Mandal

I wish to respond to Michael Borucke's column "In Search of a Better System" (January 12). Borucke writes an essay that is long on irrational sympathy for the "workers," but short on the principles of justice for the ready, willing and able individual; in the end, he damns the very people who make life so kind for everyone.

Borucke's misguided thesis is most concisely crystallized in the eleventh paragraph, where he writes "...it is the worker who produces, and it is the worker upon which the boss is dependent. Call it socialism or communism, it seems much more democratic to take the power from the corporations and give it to the masses."

This position is based on the woefully arcane notion that there are two immiscible classes of people — the oppressed, who toil endlessly to simply subsist; and the oppres-

If one were to examine any vibrant, successful company, the bosses work longer and harder than any of their subordinates — they are driven by desire for money, fame or love of their work.

sors, who own, have always owned, and will forever own the means of this subsistence (sound familiar?). Such a situation existed in medieval Europe and czarist Russia, and still exists in some areas of the world today where cruel dictators rule; it is no doubt unjust. However, Borucke's insinuation that the American capitalist society of today is equivalent to birth-right monarchy or Machiavellian despotism is execrable.

We currently live in the golden age of genius and ambition: Bob Metcalfe helped invent Ethernet, which now provides the wheels for the Internet; Bill Gates had the courage and vision to drop out of Harvard (don't laugh) to found Microsoft, which, for all its software engineering snafus, has driven the concept of the personal computer to its current station; and, the apotheosis of success, Michael Jordan, who rose from relative modesty in North Carolina to being perhaps the greatest athlete of all time, and now is engaged in commercial enterprises which help employ thousands of people. These people are the most glorious examples of the "bosses" that Borucke vilifies.

If one were to examine any vibrant, successful company, the bosses work longer and harder than any of their subordinates — they are driven by desire for money, fame or love of their work, or a combination thereof. In fact, everyone is a boss: there is an obvious chain of accountability from the graveyard shift janitors to the CEO, who in turn is accountable to the shareholders, one of whom may very well be one of those janitors working towards his retirement on E*Trade. We are now in the embryonic stages of what could be a society of dazzling accomplishment.

A "worker" in Borucke's sense of the word is somebody with an over-developed sense of entitlement. To value a person simply because of his or her low station is to devalue the accomplishments of the courageous and able. Furthermore, such an attitude patronizes the people in humble situations who have the drive and talent to be successful.

Borucke does not clearly outline his better system, but it would certainly frustrate these people of ambition; the answer is not government entanglement in the economy, but a clear detachment from it so that the state can be left to the provision of an unshakable rule of law to protect rights.

Yes, I think *laissez-faire* capitalism in its purest form is the "pinnacle of human existence;" no I will never "throw my hands up in the air," but maybe I'll go buy a pair of khakis. I do not wish to wade into a bog of statistics to argue the empirical merits of such a system. If the free market leads to impoverishment for some, so be it — its principles are perfect by me.

Sourav K. Mandal is a member of the Class of 2000.



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THE ARTS

FILM REVIEW

Girl, Interrupted

Film, Incomplete

By Amy Meadows

STAFF WRITER

Directed by James Mangold
Written by James Mangold, Lisa Loomer,
and Anna Hamilton Phelan based on the
memoirs by Susanna Kaysen
With Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, Clea
DuVall, Brittany Murphy, Elizabeth Moss,
Jared Leto, Jeffrey Tambor, Vanessa Red-
grave, Whoopi Goldberg

Mental illness: if all else fails to be entertaining, throw in some crazy people to liven things up. *Girl, Interrupted* does just that. Saddled with a weak plot, the film rests on conflicts between the characters to maintain dramatic credibility. Although compelling and even visually arresting, *Girl, Interrupted* comes across as simply melodramatic.

As the adaptation of Susanna Kaysen's memoir, the movie portrays the psychological struggles of Susanna (Winona Ryder). A privileged teenager, Kaysen is diagnosed with an unclear personality disorder after a suicide attempt and placed in a mental hospital. As she copes with therapy, Susanna not only struggles to heal herself, but struggles to define what is wrong with her.

In the best moments of the movie, Winona Ryder brings depth and intensity to the vulnerability of her character. Unfortunately, some of the worst moments are those in which she tries to be strong, which come across as disjointed. For example, Susanna's choice to go back to the mental institution instead of going to Canada with her pseudo-

boyfriend (Toby, played by Jared Leto) seems strangely out of place. Perhaps these scenes appear disjointed because most of the movie is filled with so much angst.

Other characters, notably sociopath Lisa (Angelina Jolie), provide an increasingly varied range of believable emotions. As the iconoclastic figure in the ward, Jolie's character provides the majority of the conflict in the movie. However, instead of promoting strength in the other patients (a la Jack Nicholson in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*), Jolie asserts psychological control. The ward nurse Valerie is played very understatedly by Whoopi Goldberg. Although omnipresent in the turning points of the movie, her character is used in a disappointingly limited capacity, almost refraining from acting. Surprisingly, though, one of the most complex characters is one of the most minor. Daisy, played by Brittany Murphy of *Clueless* fame, is not so much insane as compulsive or even just odd.

Ultimately, though, the small conflicts provided by Lisa and Daisy (and even Toby and other random characters) are hardly enough to amount to a plot. The movie instead focuses on the emotions of the characters and life in the ward. But the emotions of the characters and life in the ward are topics that have already been portrayed brilliantly. In fact, *The Bell Jar* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* both contain these as structure, but not as the plot itself.

The movie tries to substitute for a plot using several dramatic elements. The first of



SUZANNE TENNER—COLUMBIA PICTURES

Girl Interrupted, starring Winona Ryder (left) and Angelina Jolie, questions the boundaries of freedom and confinement, friendship and betrayal, and madness and sanity at a time when it seemed the whole world might be going crazy. Unfortunately, the film lacks a substantial plot line.

these is flashbacks. One of the most unique parts of the film, the flashbacks are all but completely wiped out by the second half of the movie. If they continued, perhaps the movie would have seemed a bit more interesting. Also, the use of lighting provides an amazing tone to most of the movie, while the colors and shadows of night-time scenes set a very clear mood. The use of shadows is highly reminiscent of black and white movies for fostering tension and tragedy.

Another detail that makes the movie entertaining, if nothing else, is the use of

familiar colleges. In one flashback, for example, Susanna is hit on by an arrhythmically dancing nerd, introducing himself as being from MIT.

Overall, the movie has little in the way of substantial plot and is filled with melodrama. However, there is decent (though not spectacular) acting, and some details that make the movie worthwhile. *Girl, Interrupted* does its best to exploit the strange conflicts that occur in a mental hospital, but falls short of doing the job of making a compelling movie.

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Slean, Self, and Stupid

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

When an amateur music journalist books a concert for the first time, you can bet that he's sure to declare it (clears throat and picks up megaphone) the Airwaves Show Of The Week. This Friday night, Sarah Slean, fresh off a couple of dates with Moxxy Fruvous, will play a free show at the MIT Coffeehouse at 9pm. Sarah's style is very reminiscent of Tori Amos, and most of the songs in her November performance at the Somerville Theater stunned the venue into silence. The rest of the concert weekend is dominated by local artists: Friday finds The World Is My Fuse on stage at Bill's Bar while MIT alums Honest Bob and the Factory-To-Dealer Incentives will play at TT the Bear's; and Saturday the Nields show up at Club Passim in Harvard Square.

So I heard Third Eye Blind's "Never Let You Go" for the first time about a month ago, and predicted I would hear it about nine times before I got completely sick of it. In actuality, I've heard it about twenty times now, and at this point, I'm marginally sick of it. It's got a bright eighties sound to it and sounds like it would be a terrific summer release — but after a while you start to notice that it's really repetitive and doesn't have much to offer beyond one guitar hook. I figure at any given time, there's room for one feelgood fuzzy guitar song in the spotlight — "Never Let You Go" has inherited the airwaves from the Foo Fighters' "Learn To Fly," and it will in turn give it up when Oasis's new single, "Go Let It Out!" breaks into the mainstream.

Forgot to take some time last week to complain about the Grammy nominations, which as always are ridiculously frustrating. Santana's "Smooth" and Ricky Martin's "Livin' La Vida Loca" may be poppy, but they've got some musical cleverness to them; on the other hand, the Backstreet Boys' "I Want It That Way" and TLC's "No Scrubs" are so simplistic and inane that their mere nominations for Record of the Year practically invalidate the award. As usual, it's much faster to point out the bright spots than all the depressingly undeserved nominations, so thumbs up to Santana leading the nomination list and nods to Nine Inch Nails, Moby, Radiohead's tourmentary "Meeting People Is Easy," and Korn's video for "Freak On A Leash."

There are quite a few terrific singles just out from previously released albums, so here's a quick wrap-up: Oleander hit the radio once again with one of the highlights of their debut album, a vicious grunge track called "Stupid." Recent Oleander tourmates Our Lady Peace prepare for a large-scale Canadian tour with Stereophonics by releasing "Is Anybody Home?," a standard verse-chorus-verse rock song vaguely like "Big Dumb Rocket" off the band's sophomore album. And finally, in a blaze of irony, "Suzie Q Sail-away," the song that Self didn't want to put on their album, *Breakfast With Girls* (they were saving it for the upcoming "toy-instrument album," *Gizmodgergy*) is now their followup single to "Meg Ryan." Self happens to be my favorite band, and I will venture to say that "Suzie Q" is the best song with extensive use of bells in the history of pop music. Feel free to write in and correct me.

SotA's a little short this week, because I've been messing around with the Mystery Hunt all week, because I'm generally lazy, but mostly because nobody's sent me interesting comments and questions to respond to. And whose fault is that? Yes, that's right. Redeem yourself by sending your kudos, condemnations, and first-born children to <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu>. Time is running out to submit your ballots for the Airwaves Reader Awards! Categories include Album of the Year, Single of the Year, Video of the Year, Live Act of the Year, Local Act of the Year, and Most Annoying Personality of the Year, and your vote will be counted and treasured for eternity (or at least until the piece of paper I print it out onto goes through my laundry). Until next we meet, keep enjoying your IAP, and keep expanding your horizons.

ALBUM REVIEW

Hallucinogen's Twisted

Aural Pleasure

By Sumit Basu

If your dreams are laced with the sounds of electronica, if your heart beats to a solid techno groove, if you long for a secret weapon that will turn the next ho-hum house party into a mini-rave, you must have Hallucinogen's *Twisted*. The first full-length work by Simon Posford (a.k.a. Hallucinogen), it was originally released in 1995 under the tiny Dragonfly (U.K.) label. The current release under Twisted Records came out in the UK in 1999 and brought Posford's sonic explorations to the rest of the world.

In eight solid tracks, *Twisted* delivers 64 minutes of relentless goa trance. For newbies to the dance world, goa trance is the unique brand of psychedelic dance that originated in Goa in the mid-1990's: a blend of positive energy and mystical refrains that has been rapidly infecting its way into the U.K. (and now U.S.) dance scenes for the last several years. Basically, if you love dance music but are tired of the monotonous drudgery of techno, this is what you've been waiting for.

Hallucinogen is a prime example of this new breed of melodic dance. Posford leads us into the goa scene as both an artist and a DJ, elegantly blending from one mind-bending track to the next. The downside of this is that the tracks are not completely independent — many include the closing refrains of the previous piece, so if you want to do your own mixing, you're going to have to spend some time marking out transitions. The upside, though, is that you could easily pop this bundle of joy into the carousel and just let it go for the next hour. The rest of the party will thank you for it.

The first track, "LSD," begins quietly but builds into a comfortable groove. Holding back on the hard drums, Posford makes this piece a melodic introduction to the heavy dance ahead. The next track, "Orphic Trench," is perhaps the least interesting of the set. The sound here is harsher and more industrial with a heavy dose of distortion lining most of the melodies — not a good one for hangover mornings. It's very danceable, but at times displays some of the repetitiveness of its inbred techno cousins. "Alpha Centauri" quickly dispels any doubts the listener may have formed during the second track. A series of simple melodic themes come in and out of a heavy drum and bass substrate, making for a very pleasurable dance groove. Though over ten minutes long, substrate and melody are constantly evolving, keeping things

fresh at every step. With "Dark Magus," the world gets dreamy again. This track begins with a laid-back theme and quiet rhythm, but this soon gives way to the ominous promise of its title. By the end, it has built itself (and its audience) into a dancing frenzy.

The last four tracks take us into the outer atmosphere. More experimental than their predecessors, these pieces may be the pioneers that lead goa trance into its next stage of evolution. "Shamanix" is imbued with a distinctively vocal character, both in its core rhythmic base and in the accents (speech, screams, and more) that fill out its signature. "Snarling Black Mabel" is another piece with a heavy distortion edge. Though rough to the touch, this piece is far from painful to listen to. The patterns are moving targets, changing almost from measure to measure in this very dynamic piece. "Fluoro Neuro Sponge" then softens things with the purity of electronic space music, bringing the aliens home to us for a seven-minute trance ballet. Innocent in its sound but relentless in its motion, this is a song to go wild over — I challenge anyone to remain in their seat through its entirety.

The album closes with "Solstice," which winds things down and closes with a heartbeat. However, it doesn't let go without a fight. While this piece shares the softer sound of the previous track, holding back on the snare and the distortion, it still packs a serious punch. It asks you to come out to the floor for one last set before you collapse from sheer exhaustion. The title comes from the six-minute gap after the "official" end of the song, leading us into a beautiful hidden track that echoes with haunting, technified Hindustani refrains weaved through with disembodied whispers.

It's rare to find a dance set with so much variation and innovation from a single artist and in a single album, and, as a result, I believe Hallucinogen will headline the dance scene for many months to come. Whether you're looking for music to do problem sets to, new dance tracks for your next party, or just music to make your life better, I strongly suggest a dose of this heavy-duty acoustic drug. If you're still not convinced enough to buy the album, at least check out some of the tracks online — track samples can be found on several online CD stores, including <http://www.cdnow.com>. More info, new sample tracks, and booking requests (hint, hint, Spring Concert Organizers ...) can be found on Twisted Records' web site at <http://www.twisted.co.uk>

FILM REVIEW

Anna and the King

Etcetera, Etcetera, Etcetera

By Zarminae Ansari

STAFF WRITER

Directed by Andy Tennant

Written by Steve Meerson and Peter Krikes, based on the diaries by Anna Leonowens. With Chow Yun Fat, Jodie Foster, Bai Ling, Kay Siu Lim, Melissa Campbell, Deanna Yusoff, Syed Alwi, Randall Duk Kim, Keith Chin, Tom Felton

The latest incarnation of this classic tale of an eastern monarch and an English schoolteacher has been banned in Thailand for not portraying King Mongkut as dignified enough and for the extent of influence Anna claimed to have had at the Siamese court. There may be something to the Thai government's qualms with the historical veracity of *Anna and the King* — but not with Chow Yun Fat, who plays the king with a truly regal and stately air.

Regal Chow Yun Fat is a scene-stealer with riveting screen presence; I can't think of any of my favorite western actors with that kind of charisma. Besides the charisma, Yun-Fat is a great actor; an Oscar nomination is definitely deserved here. He is completely convincing as a king: at times, bemused (his expressive, twinkling eyes giving this away despite a kingly, impassive expression), at other times controlling immense grief and sadness.

The only other three-dimensional character is a concubine in love with a commoner, played by Bai Ling. One has come to expect passionately sincere performances from the beautiful young actress (*Red Corner*) and, unlike Jodie Foster, she does not disappoint. Most of the other characters are cardboard cutout representations, subservient to the scale of the movie and the physical space. This is not necessarily such a bad thing — except for the almost caricatured Anna played by Jodie Foster, which brings us to the biggest and perhaps only problem I had with this movie.

I am completely befuddled by two-time

Oscar-winner Foster's stiff and irritating performance. She is one of the most intelligent, talented, and beautiful actors today; one cannot dismiss her performance without trying to figure out why she was so terrible.

Her character — an imperialistic, high-and-mighty, presumptuous English schoolteacher straight from British India — might be true to the original, but it still felt jarring every time she made a pronouncement about the superiority, noble intentions, and rightful colonization of the British. If one ignores her irritatingly smug character, one stumbles over her acting. Just as jarring is her strange semi-British accent; in addition, she purses her lips as if being uncomfortable with her accent every time she speaks, which is excruciatingly painful to watch. Perhaps Foster was two steps ahead of us and tried to portray an Englishwoman not really brought up in England but in Bombay, and her style of speech tried to convey the terseness and taut repression of her character — take your pick. I would like to be charitable and choose the latter explanation.

This movie might have addressed issues of history, progress, slavery, social order, colonization, and spirituality. However, except for social order and allusions to slavery in America, it aspires to nothing greater than a bittersweet romance with some interesting subplots. So perhaps one should not expect more than a mere acknowledgement of the colonial mindset when Anna refers to India proprietarily while her Indian servants exchange an exasperated knowing look.

I saw the musical version long ago — too long ago to make too many comparisons — but it was hard to miss some of the nods to the original. For example, the scene of King and Anna dancing is as memorable a scene in this film, although for different reasons, and Yul Brynner's "Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera" is at one point echoed by Chow Yun Fat saying "And so on, and so on."

There are a number of interesting subplots, including another tragic romance and palace intrigues, although the machinations of

court life and politics are occasionally a little hard to follow.

Director Andy Tennant's other films include romantic fluff like *Fools Rush In*, but the recent *Ever After*, which he also co-wrote, shows his interest in the exotic and visually rich material. Oscar-winning production designer Luciana Arrighi and Tennant's team visited and documented the real royal palace

contrast is Anna's bland Victorian-era wardrobe, appropriate for the financially limited, practical schoolteacher.

So go see the movie for the stunning visuals: gorgeous, sprawling epic sets that Oscar voters love; beautiful, sensitive details; and lush scenery and colors. Try and ignore Anna, concentrate on the King, and you should be fine.



Anna (Jodie Foster) and King Mongkut (Chow Yun-Fat) share a quiet moment together in Fox 2000 Picture's visually appealing *Anna and the King*.

FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

By Katharyn Jeffreys

FEATURES EDITOR

One area of vegetarianism I have not addressed much is animal rights. I feel fundamentally that harming animals wrong, but it is often difficult to convey this to a person who is insensitive to the role of humans on Earth. They see animals as our servants rather than equals. I recently came across a quote which really made me think about meat. It comes from Plutarch, a Greek writer (c. 45-125 C.E.) who covered many topics including history and science. I hope that the following words present meat in a light you may not have considered.

"Can you really ask what reason Pythagoras had for abstaining from flesh? For my part I rather wonder both by what accident and in what state of soul or mind the first man did so, touched his mouth to gore and brought his lips to the flesh of a dead creature, he who set forth tables of dead, stale bodies and ventured to call food and nourishment the parts that had a little before bellowed and cried, moved and lived. How could his eyes endure the slaughter when throats were slit and hides flayed and limbs torn from limb? How could his nose endure the stench? How was it that the pollution did not turn away his taste, which made contact with the sores of others and sucked juices and serums from mortal wounds? ... It is certainly not lions and wolves that we eat out of self-defense; on the contrary, we ignore these and slaughter harmless, tame creatures without stings or teeth to harm us, creatures that, I swear, Nature appears to have produced for the sake of their beauty and grace. But nothing abashed us, not the flower-like tinting of the flesh, not the persuasiveness of the harmonious voice, not the cleanliness of their habits or the unusual intelligence that may be found in the poor wretches. No, for the sake of a little flesh we deprive them of sun, of light, of the duration of life to which they are entitled by birth and being."

The vegetarian cooking classes sponsored by Aramark and the Vegetarian Student Group which I began to describe last week finished up and were very successful. The second in the series was "Demystifying Soy Foods," in which all the dishes contained soy products. There was a smaller turnout to this session, so each student was assigned a dish to prepare. I made a cold noodle dish with spicy peanut sauce. The tang of the sauce was offset by the coolness of the cucumbers and cilantro mixed in.

The next day was gourmet vegetarian cooking, which allowed participants to utilize the basic cooking developed in the first two classes. Overall the classes were informative both for the recipes and tech-

niques presented. And it goes without saying that the food cooked was delicious. I was impressed by all the dishes and the vegetarian camaraderie that developed because of it. For anyone who was unable to attend the classes, I highly recommend trying it out next year.

I recently had lunch at a relatively new restaurant in Kenmore Square. El Bico is an Italian restaurant which does not serve the Americanized garlic and red sauce Italian fare of many Boston area restaurants. Instead they offer a selection, with many vegetarian options, of salads, soups, and sandwiches. I sampled two soups, one which was very light, with white beans in a tomato broth. Another, the vegetable minestrone, had a much stronger flavor.

The sandwiches are rolled in bico, a crispy flatbread from the Tuscany region of Italy. The fresh flavors of zucchini, eggplant and mozzarella mixed well and were a nice complement to the soup. The sandwich was large enough to share alongside the soup, and at about six dollars, they seem to be a good deal. The menu also includes pizzas and vegetarian lasagna.

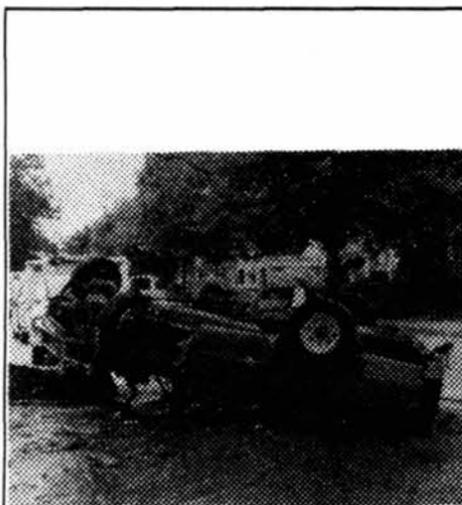
I would like to add that this whole grey box business is getting silly. I have respect for "The" Dan, both as a columnist and musician (check out the Coffeehouse Open Mic nights to see why), and it is just too bad he needs to start petty arguments to encourage readership.

The following recipe was taken from those used in the vegetarian cooking classes last week (this is the one I prepared). As always, e-mail me at <veggie@the-tech.mit.edu> with questions and comments.

Soban Noodles with Spicy Tofu Peanut Sauce

1 lb. Soban noodles
3 tbs. cilantro, minced
1 cucumber, peeled, seeded, and sliced into matchsticks
1 bunch scallions, chopped (green and white parts)
6 oz. firm tofu
1 garlic clove, minced
1/2 inch piece ginger, minced
1/4 tbs cayenne pepper
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 tbs honey
1/4 cup soy milk
1/2 cup natural peanut butter

Have all ingredients at room temperature before preparing recipe. Cook the pasta according to the package directions, drain, and cool to room temperature. Transfer the noodles to a large bowl. Add the cilantro, cucumbers, and scallions to the noodles. Toss gently and set aside. In a food processor whip the tofu until smooth. Add remaining ingredients, to taste. Blend briefly until combined. Add sauce to noodles, toss gently. Serve, garnished with cilantro sprigs, scallions, or crushed peanuts.



Ever Get A Pal Smashed?

TAKE THE KEYS.
CALL A CAB.
TAKE A STAND.



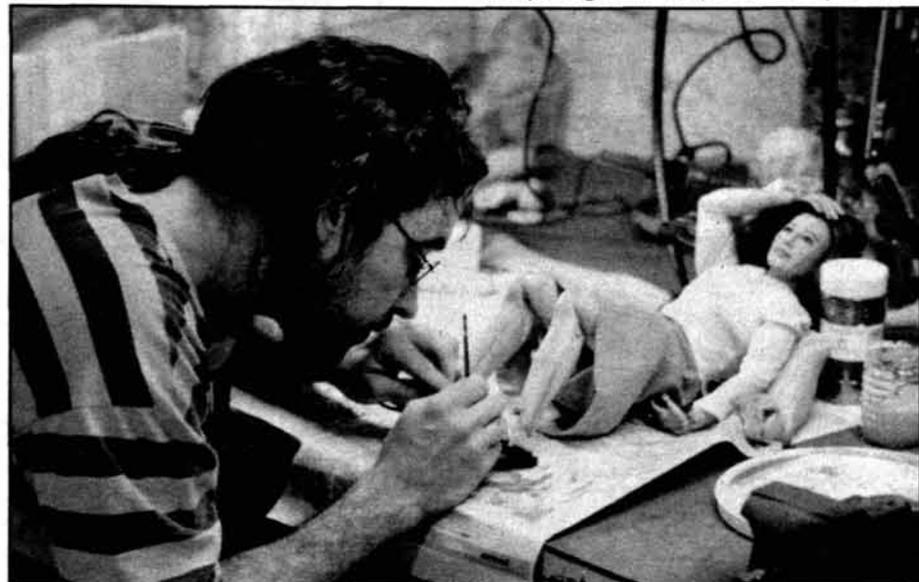
FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

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ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

The following movies are playing this weekend at local theaters. The Tech suggests using <<http://www.boston.com>> for a complete listing of times and locations.



★★★★ Excellent
 ★★★ Good
 ★★ Fair
 ★ Poor

American Beauty (★½)

An extremely annoying movie: this deadpan black tragicomedy is a laughable failure as a work of art, being pretentious, simplistic, and self-important. Excepting a truly remarkable performance by Kevin Spacey (whose part is disappointingly small), there's nothing to this movie beyond tortured metaphors, caricatures instead of characters, and a messy pile-up of red herrings instead of a plot. — Vladimir Zelevinsky

Anna and the King (★★½)

Chow Yun Fat is an Oscar-worthy scene-stealer with riveting screen presence as the Thai King Mongkut; the only other three-dimensional character is played by Bai Ling in a passionately sincere performance. Jodie Foster disappoints for the first time as the British governess Anna Leonowens. See the movie for the stunning visuals: gorgeous, sprawling epic sets, beautiful details, and the regal Chow Yun Fat's performance which keeps lighting up the screen. — Zarminae Ansari

Being John Malkovich (★★★★)

A film so different, so whacked-out, so original, and totally unlike anything else out there — like Monty Python at their most deadpan hilarious. An unconventional mixture of comedy, satire, and frighteningly deep ruminations on the nature of personality. — VZ

The Cider House Rules (★★★)

Despite the fact that the protagonists'

name is Homer, this film ends up feeling less like a Homeric epic and more like a Norman Rockwell painting: hardly great art or even art at all, but something with instantly recognizable humanity and an overall impact that can hardly be ignored. Credit this mostly to lumi-

nous acting and the screenplay's understated emotional complexity. — VZ

Dogma (★★★)

The latest film by Kevin Smith combines the elements of a mystery, suspenseful thriller, surreal fantasy, action movie, and black comedy to produce an engaging examination of religion. Although some may be put off by his irreverent approach, and the topics he brings up are never fully explored, a fairly novel story, excellent cast, and interesting ideas make this a movie that will covertly bring fodder for discussions on religion to the masses. — Fred Choi

Galaxy Quest (★★½)

Not quite the *Star Trek* parody that it starts out like; more of a *Star Trek* rip-off, with the same stupid computer graphics, fake sets, plot holes (all of the above rather irritating), and general air of amiable nonsense (very enjoyable). It's also neat to see a bunch of good actors having fun. Rather stupid, really; at the same time, rather cute. — VZ

Girl, Interrupted (★★½)

Exploring the struggles of a teenage girl in a mental hospital, Winona Ryder manages the lows but not highs of her character effectively, creating a somewhat skewed view of the movie. However, Angelina Jolie and Brittany Murphy are excellent supporting actresses and serve to balance the movie, while the rest of the acting is lukewarm. Additionally, the dramatic details, such as the lighting, create moods and scenes that are compelling, but that do not make up for the lack of plot. — Amy Meadows

The Insider (★★★)

A great story about a tobacco industry whistleblower benefits from great casting (Russell Crowe and Al Pacino) and an excellent screenplay, making the movie as much about the inner workings of big corporations as about inner character drama. On the other hand, we have overbearing direction, which frequently distracts from the power of the story. — VZ

Magnolia (★★½)

A sprawling incoherent mess of a movie, with a story and characters that manage to be both jaw-droppingly obvious and make no sense whatsoever. On the other hand, the annoying narrative bombast is compensated by great visual verve, and the climactic sequence is simply the most wildly creative bit of filmmaking of 1999, even though it has nothing to do with the rest of the movie. — VZ

Princess Mononoke (★★★)

An epic action adventure, a romance, and a philosophical treatise — which also happens to be animated. While it suffers from simply having too much stuff in it, and from being frequently messy and self-indulgent, it also provides thrillingly exciting action sequences and visuals you won't see anywhere else. — VZ

The Sixth Sense (★★★½)

Cole Sear is a young boy whose special power, "the sixth sense," enables him to perceive the ghosts which, unbeknownst to the rest of the world, walk among us every day. Bruce Willis plays the psychologist trying to help him. The strength of their performances carries the movie past its slight flaws, making *The Sixth Sense* one of the best movies of the summer. — Tzu-Mainn Chen

Sleepy Hollow (★★½)

Very loosely adapted from Washington Irving's tale of the Headless Horseman, this

film features huge lavish sets, wall-to-wall special effects, astounding cinematography — and a bland, boring, mediocre screenplay. Johnny Depp is fun, playing Ichabod Crane as a mixture of action hero and frightened schoolgirl, while Christina Ricci looks lovely but is otherwise wasted. — VZ

The Talented Mr. Ripley (★★★)

A lot to recommend: a complex plot, accomplished acting (Matt Damon and Cate Blanchett especially), and gorgeous visuals; especially impressive is the degree to which the audience gets to understand and identify with the film's immoral protagonist. A bit too slowly-paced, though. — VZ

Three Kings (★★½)

As one of the most creative films of the year, David O. Russell's third film *Three Kings* marks his strongest directing effort to date. When American soldiers set out to find Saddam's stolen gold bullion, they also find Iraqi citizens in need of their help. In their efforts to help, the characters are forced to question the point of America's involvement in the Persian Gulf. The creative use of the camera makes for powerful images that help drive the film's message home. — Michael Frakes

Toy Story 2 (★★½)

An instant classic, one of the most creative and fun movies of the year, this completely computer-generated sequel about the adventures of a bunch of toys is clever, funny, complex, and, most surprisingly, deeply emotional. — VZ

The World is Not Enough (★★½)

The nineteenth James Bond adventure is a rather disorienting experience: everything that is supposed to work in a 007 adventure (stunts, gadgets, babes, exotic locations) is underused, while the acting, especially from Sophie Marceau, is spectacular. — VZ



FILM REVIEW

The Cider House Rules

A Maine Odyssey

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ARTS EDITOR

Directed by Lasse Hallström
 Written by John Irving, based on his novel
 With Tobey Maguire, Michael Caine, Charlize Theron, Delroy Lindo, Erykah Badu, Kieran Culkin, Paul Rudd

have to give it to Hollywood studios: once in a while, their pervasive habit of glossing over any complex or potentially painful material can work as a viable artistic choice, focusing the viewers' attention on elements of the story that could have gone unnoticed.

Take *The Cider House Rules*: the original John Irving novel deals, mainly, with abortion, in a rather graphic and disturbing manner. The film version (adapted by Irving himself, compressing the novel's fifteen year storyline by about a factor of ten) still has abortion as one of its main plot elements. In the rather genteel film adaptation, this element ends up being glossed over, in typical Hollywood fashion, and instead of being an incen-

diary topic becomes merely a plot point. But because of this, some other elements of the story come to the foreground, and, surprisingly, end up being perfectly compelling in their own right.

The Cider House Rules is the story of Homer Wells (Tobey Maguire), a boy from an orphanage in St. Cloud, Maine. Since no one wants to adopt him, Homer stays at the orphanage until he grows up, becoming a sort of a second-in-command to Dr. Wilbur Larch (Michael Caine), the institution's overseer. Eventually, Homer starts to wonder what is out there, beyond the gates of the house where he spent all his life, and soon he takes action to venture out.

First and foremost: you can not name the story's protagonist Homer without practically establishing that the story will go in either of two directions. Since it's quite clear this Homer isn't much of a storyteller, it becomes obvious very soon that the entire narrative is going to be modeled after *Iliad* and/or *The Odyssey*; we get both, as a matter of fact. The film's first half is set in one place, with the

increasingly urgent motif of moving beyond the constraining walls — and the second half is the journey in the whole wild world, or, in this particular case, Maine.

The downside is that the story, on a large scale, is mostly devoid of any kind of suspense. Add the fact that director Lasse Hallström's work is solid, careful, and perfectly uninventive — and you get a film ending that is perfectly obvious, oh, about half an hour into the movie, complete with the knowledge of who says the closing line, under what circumstances and, what this closing line is. The avoidance of "big" things like explosive issues and suspenseful plot, whether it was intentional or not (I suspect not), serves to highlight one thing: on the level of small details and understated moments, *The Cider House Rules* is remarkably engrossing, exciting, and fast-paced. It even feels short, much shorter than the two-hours-plus running time.

Most importantly, it is anchored by three remarkable performances. There's Tobey Maguire, always drawing attention even when he's playing a shrinking violet. He is squarely the center of the narrative — basically, *The Cider House Rules* is about him growing up — but despite all the necessary clichés of coming-of-age stories (first job, first romantic encounter, first riff with the parental figure), it feels remarkably fresh, mostly because of Maguire's unmannered take on Homer.

The second great performance comes from

Charlize Theron, who keeps proving she's the one to watch for, ever since she out-acted Al Pacino in *The Devil's Advocate*. Here, her Candy Kendall is more that just eye-candy (first name notwithstanding). Theron takes what would have been a standard suffering girlfriend role and imbues it with depth and conviction.

The third remarkable performance is Kieran Culkin's, the younger brother of you-know-who. Culkin's character, Buster, doesn't really have much to do with the story, so he's content just to be there, adding a welcome dose of humor and authenticity to the world of *Cider House*.

The one who disappoints is Michael Caine. Burdened with an unstable American accent and given the part heavy on pronouncements, there's little feeling of the human being behind the façade, despite all the emotional events that Dr. Larch goes through.

Most welcome is the general feeling of empathy; since the potentially grisly details are being glossed over, the resulting story has just enough particulars and enough generalities to describe something all of us must have gone through at a certain time. *The Cider House Rules* ends up feeling less like a Homeric epic and more like a Norman Rockwell painting: hardly great art or even art at all, but something with instantly recognizable humanity and an emotional impact that can hardly be ignored.

Popular Music

Berklee Performance Center
Berklee College of Music
1140 Boylston St.
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. some weekdays. For info. on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 747-8820.

Feb. 4-5: Margaret Cho \$36.50-\$26.50.
Feb. 26: John Edward \$69-\$39.
Mar. 4: Diana Krall \$38-\$30.
Mar. 18: Bruce Cockburn \$26.50-\$24.50.

Centrum Centre
Ticketmaster 931-2000.

Mar. 25: Britney Spears. Sold Out.
Mar. 30: Korn. \$29.50.

The Middle East
Ticketmaster: 931-2000.
Ticket prices vary. Call 354-8238 for more info.

Jan. 19: Bourbon Princess.
Jan. 20: Rocket From the Crypt.
Jan. 20: Victory At Sea.
Jan. 21: Groove Collective.
Jan. 21: Mark Eitzel.
Jan. 22: 20 Miles (featuring Judah Bauer of the John Spencer Blues Explosion.)
Jan. 22: superZero.
Jan. 23: HumansBeing.
Jan. 24: Room with a View (opening: Kevorkian, Freelance Bishops and Meagan Todhey.)
Jan. 25: Moveable Bubble.

Orpheum Theatre
Ticketmaster: 931-2000
Feb. 6: Marc Anthony. \$56, \$43.50, \$30.50.
Feb. 19: The Kids in the Hall. \$37.50, \$32.50, \$27.50.

Jazz Music

Regattabar
Concertix: 876-7777

Jan. 19: Lee Konitz Trio.
Jan. 20-22: Jim Hall, guitar; Joe Lavano, saxophone; Joe Mraz, bass; Lewis Nash, drums.
Jan. 25: Dan Moretti.
Jan. 27-29: Ahmad Jamal. CD release party.

Scullers Jazz Club
(All performers have two shows per day unless otherwise noted.)

Jan. 19: Bamboleo.
Jan. 20: Vivian Male.
Jan. 21-22: Larry Harlo.
Jan. 25: Jim Porcella's Bombay Jim & The Swinging Safires.
Jan. 26-27: Jeff "Tain" Watts.
Jan. 28-29: Marian McPartland Trio.

Classical Music

Sergey Schepkin

Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. at Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church, 1555 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA (near Harvard Square). Sergey Schepkin, pianist, will perform selections from Johann Sebastian Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2, as well as Bach's Partita No. 5, Two Nocturnes and Scherzo III by Chopin, and three pieces by Debussy. Suggested Donation: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 students. For more information, call (617) 354-0837.

Philip Glass's Akhnaten

Jan. 26, 28, Feb. 1, 4 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 30, Feb. 6 at 3:00 p.m. at the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116. The Boston Lyric Opera presents the third of famed American minimalist Glass's "portrait operas," based on the life of Egypt's first monotheistic ruler. Sung in English, Hebrew, Egyptian Arabic, and the ancient Semitic language Akkadian, with English surtitles. Tickets \$108-\$26, call 1-800-447-7400. In addition, a pre-performance lecture takes place one hour prior to each performance at the Tremont House Hotel, next to the Shubert Theatre. The lecture is free to all ticket hold-

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
January 19 - 26
Compiled by Fred Choi

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.

ers. For further information, call the BLO at (617) 542-4912.

Boston Symphony Orchestra
Tickets: 266-1492.
Performances at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston unless otherwise noted. For MIT Students: Tickets are offered for Thursday evening concerts (8pm) and Friday afternoon concerts (1:30pm) and are available on the day of the concert only at the BSO Box Office at Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Ave. Open 10am-6pm). Two tickets may be obtained with two current valid MIT student IDs, subject to availability. For updated MIT student ticket availability, call 638-9478 after 10am on the day of concert.

Jan. 20-23: Anderson: The Stations of the Sun; Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for violin and viola; Dvorak: Symphony No. 7. Ilan Volkov, conductor, Thomas Zehetmair, violin; Ruth Killius, viola. Limited availability. Call Symphony Charge at 888-266-1200.

Luciano Pavarotti In Recital

Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. at Symphony Hall (301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston). Legendary tenor Luciano Pavarotti will perform in recital with Leone Magiera, pianist as part of the BankBoston Celebrity Series. The performance will mark the 25th Anniversary of the tenor's Celebrity Series debut. Tickets are \$125, \$95, \$65, and \$35, with special "gold" premium center orchestra seating at \$250. For tickets call SymphonyCharge at 617-266-1200 (Mon-Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or through the Symphony Hall box office.

Theater

Hallowed Ground

Through Jan. 29 at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. Boston Playwrights' Theatre in conjunction with Wellesley College Summer Theatre presents the Boston premiere of award-winning Boston playwright, Laura Harrington. The play focuses on four characters: a nineteen year old slave woman, an injured Union soldier, a Southern conscript, and a thirteen year old girl attempt to reevaluate their place within society in the face of a destruction wrought by the Civil War. Performances: Jan. 19-20 at 7 p.m.; Jan. 21-22, 26-29 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 22, 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$15 general, \$10 student and seniors and can be reserved by calling (781) 283-2029 or (617) 353-5443. For more information, call (781) 283-2029.

Sisters Matsumoto

Through January 30 at The Huntington Theatre Company, resident professional theatre at Boston University, 264 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115-4606. The Huntington Theatre Company presents *Sisters Matsumoto* by noted Japanese-American playwright Philip Kan Gotanda. Directed by Sharon Ott, the play depicts the lives of three Japanese-American sisters who struggle to rebuild their lives after being released from a U.S. Government internment camp after World War II. Performances: Evenings: Tues.-



Catch the IMAX film *Mysteries of Egypt* at the Museum of Science's Mugar Omni Theater.

Thurs. at 7:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m.; Matinees Sat. and Sun. at 2 p.m., Wed. Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.

Miss Julie

Previews Jan. 28, 29 at 8:00 p.m. and Jan. 30 at 2:00 p.m.; Feb. 3-19, Th.-Sat. at 8:00 p.m., Sun. 2:00 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. The Coyote Theatre, a professional, non-profit theatre founded in 1991, presents August Stringberg's *Miss Julie*. In the play an aristocratic young woman engages in a heated sexual tryst with her father's servant. Tickets for previews \$15, for performances Th. and Sun. \$20, Fri. and Sat. \$22.50. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the box office at (617) 426-ARTS.

Anne of Green Gables

Feb. 4-27, Fri. at 7:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun. at 3:00 p.m.: The Wheelock Family Theatre (180 The Riverway, Boston) presents the family musical based on the L.M. Montgomery classic. Tickets are \$17, \$15, and \$10. ASL and Audio description Feb. 25 and 27. The theater is wheelchair accessible. To reserve tickets or for more information, call 617-734-4760, TTY 731-4426.

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 426-6912 for tickets and information on how to see the show for free by ushering.

Shear Madness

Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston (426-5225), indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$30-34.

Exhibits

Pauline Lim

Through Jan. 30. "Impotence Pill" and other new works, at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., Newton Centre, MA 02459. For more information call (617) 552-7145.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$10 (\$11 on weekends), \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18.

The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

Threads of Dissent

Through Jan. 30, 2000. Inspired by the Gardner Museum's extraordinary tapestries, this exhibition illuminates the permanent collection in the light of contemporary social, political, and aesthetic issues in the work of living artists. Six works in the special exhibition gallery by the contemporary artists Edward Derwent, Leon Golub, Wojciech Jaskolka, Jorge Pardo, Lilian Tyrrell, and Murray Walker will be related to six tapestries from the collection.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m.

Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Permanent Gallery Installa-

p.m.; "Laser Rush," Sun., 9:15; "Laser Beastie Boys," Thurs.-Sat., 9:15 p.m.; "Laser Floyd's Wall," Fri.-Sat., 10:30 p.m.; "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily.

Commonwealth Museum

220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, 02125. Located across from the JFK Library. Hours: M-F 9-5, S 9-3. Admission is Free. For more info. or to arrange a tour, call 617-727-9268.

The Archaeology of the Central Artery Project: Highway to the Past

The exhibit focuses on life in Colonial Boston as interpreted through artifacts recovered from the "Big Dig" before the construction began. Artifacts and information on display examine leisure activities, tavern life, the life of three colonial women, and Native Americans.

Other Events

Film Festivals

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 02115. For tickets and more information, call 369-3770. Tickets for each showing are \$7, \$6 MFA members, seniors, students, unless otherwise noted.

Boston Film Artists Present

Jan. 19, 20, 22, 29: *A Hero for Daisy* By Mary Mazzio (1999, 42 min.). A moving portrait of Yale rowing legend Chris Ernst. In 1976 Ernst galvanized her rowing team to storm the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women. The story was carried by all of the major international news outlets and Ernst won her fight for new locker rooms two weeks later. She went on to represent the U.S. in two Olympic games, becoming a world champion in 1986.

New German Cinema Festival

Tickets 6-film series \$30, \$24 MFA members, students, seniors. In German with English subtitles.

Jan. 20: *Aimee and Jaguar* By Max Farberbock (1999, 125 min.). Featured at major film festivals around the world, *Aimee & Jaguar* is based on the true love story of two women in Berlin during World War II amid the constant threat of bombing raids and despite certain persecution.

Jan. 22: *Annaliese and Anton* By Caroline Link (1999, 105 min.). Link, whose directorial debut was the popular *Beyond Silence* (nominated for a Best Foreign Language Academy Award in 1998), now brings a film that is as engrossing for children as well as adults. A contemporary version of a children's classic in which friendship transcends differences in social class and children teach adults about loyalty and love.

Boston Review's Short Story Contest

Jan. 21 at 7 p.m., Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St. *Boston Review*, a bimonthly publication, will be holding a reading as part of their Seventh Annual Short Story Contest. Pauls Toutonghi, the winner of the contest, will read from his story "Regeneration." Molly Melina Sultan, the runner-up, will read from her story "Five Ways to Propose Marriage."

Boston Ballet Company: Without Words

Feb. 10-20 at the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston. World premieres choreographed by one of Spain's great modern-dance choreographers and leader of Spain's acclaimed Compania Nacional de Danza, Nacho Duato, and by American Mark Godden, currently in residence at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Paul Taylor's "Company B." For reservations call Telecharge 800-447-7400 or the Ballet's box office 617-695-6950. Tickets: \$73-\$12.50, \$12.50 student rush.

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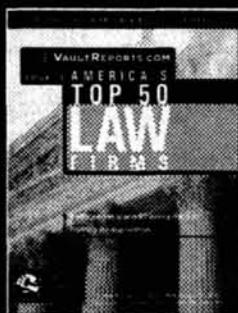
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FEATURES

Glazer & Fieldman Bring *Errers* to MITBy Sonali Mukherjee
STAFF REPORTER

Movies often walk a fine line between fantasy and reality. Take *83 Errers* as an example.

The setting of the movie is Pocono College in Small-town, Anywhere, USA, but it was filmed this summer in conspicuous spots around Boston and MIT.

The film deals with the workings of six college students all somehow intermingled in a comedic cascade of events which begins with a visit from the Dalai Llama. The actors were students from MIT as well as other universities such as Boston University and Stanford.

Writer and producer, Joshua E. Glazer '00 said the film is intended to give the audience

a general feelings of love, life, and happiness but it is giving its creators a sense that they may have stumbled onto a film worth marketing.

Movie explores love and activism

83 Errers, an original musical comedy directed by Michael Feldman, a student at University of California, Berkeley, premieres at MIT on February 17th as part of the LSC Movie Series. The movie features six main characters, one of whom Glazer himself plays.

John, played by Jeff I. Lieberman '00, is the hero of Pocono College. He revamps the dreary, dull university into a place where motivation and spirit reign by establishing various student groups on campus.

One of his main reasons for doing so is to satisfy his philosophy on love: it really means nothing if it is solitary. This feeling stems from a relationship he had in Tibet (during his senior year abroad in high school) with a girl called Maria, played by Laurel P. Smith '00. Maria's death in a freak accident sours his attitude towards love for only one person. He feels it can disappear at any moment without warning, so he attempts to make everyone love him by contributing to campus activities. "If you don't know who this guy is on campus, well, then you're an idiot," says Glazer of John's character.

Meanwhile the plot begins to complicate when John's two friends appear. Marc Lebovitz '00 plays Raphael, a hopeless romantic desperately in love with a girl named Elsie who is played by Kelly McGonigal, a graduate student at Stanford. Elsie happens to know John very well because they are both members of the Tibetan Freedom Club, a one of the many groups John had created on campus. Raphael wants John to set him up with Elsie, even though John's philosophy on love is totally opposite that of his friend's.

The two end up going together to a dinner for the Dalai Llama, who has come to the campus on account of the major activities of the Freedom Club. John, ever the opportunist, sees

enormous publicity and recognition for Pocono College on account of the esteemed Tibetan's visit and wants everything to be perfect. But who could do a comedy where everything was perfect? Especially when Russian terrorists are thrown into the plot.

Glazer hopes for outside recognition

Glazer, a Course 6-3 major, is proud of *83 Errers*. He has been making films as a hobby since he was a senior in high school, but this is his first full-length feature production. He had the goal of making a movie, but the ideas started coming forth after he took the HASS-D Comedy (21L.421). Based on the comic m films and plays such he studied in the class such as *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, he began to integrate the elements of comedy into what would become *83 Errers*.

In addition, he wrote eight original songs to go with the film, such as "Hey Johnny," an illustration of John's popularity, "Good Times," the song played at the Dalai Llama's dinner, and "Baby Do You See," Raphael's declaration of love for Elsie.

Due to the success of student-produced films such as *The Blair Witch Project*, many studios will be scouting film festivals this year to see if they can find the next big underground movie.

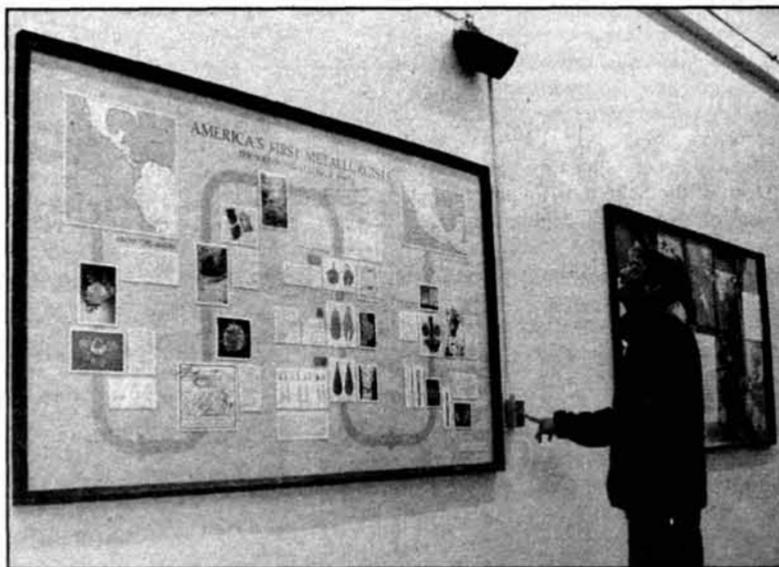
"I think it has the quality of a good cult piece," said Glazer. His movie has better sound quality than *Blair Witch*, and is currently being reviewed by Paramount Studios. The movie only cost \$400 to produce, most of which was invested in a U-Haul.

Glazer expressed high hopes for his movie, and would be pleased if he achieved financial returns as well as artistic recognition in film festivals. The trailer and a complete list of actors for *83 Errers* can be found at the website <<http://vampiric-bunny.mit.edu>>.

Infinite Bells

When walking through the east end of the infinite corridor, passers-by may occasionally be treated to the whimsical tinkling of ancient bells. These sounds emanate from speakers installed as part of an exhibit on early metallurgy practices in ancient western Mexico. The display is based on a book called *The Sounds and Colors of Power* written by MIT Associate Professor of Archeology and Ancient Technology Dorothy Hosler. Pushing the button to the right of the board after business hours (workers in nearby infinite corridor-offices are apparently not amused by the continual ringing) causes the recorded bells to play their short serenade.

This is the first in a weekly series answering questions about life at MIT. To submit a question to be answered in an upcoming column, please email features@the-tech.mit.edu.



AARON D. MIHALIK — THE TECH

Kalpak D. Kothari '01 listens to the whimsical melodies of ancient Mexican bells in the infinite corridor.

TechCalendar

TechCalendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Wednesday's Events

2:30 - 5:30 p.m. — **China Energy Technology Program**. This CETP Forum will present this ABB/AGS program's approach to finding sustainable energy solutions for Shandong Province. AGS and Chinese speakers invite input from participants. Admission \$0. E51-149. Sponsor: Energy Laboratory.

12:10 p.m. — **Data assimilation with the MIT model in the North Atlantic, Nadia Ayoub, MIT**. Open. More info: Call Markus Jochem at 3 2922. Email markus@ocean.mit.edu, <<http://www.mit.edu/~mjochem/sack.html>>. Rm 54-915.

Saturday's Events

8:00 p.m. — **"Strings from Costa Rica"**. Jose Aurelio Castillo and Pablo Ortiz, violin & guitar duo perform traditional Latin American tangos, sambas & boleros composed by Gardel, Jobim and Jimenez, among others. Admission 5.00. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

12:30 p.m. — **Interaction of an Electric Field with Cardiac Tissue, Dr. Alain Pumar, Institut Non Lineaire de Nice, FRANCE**. Open. More info: Call John Bush at 253-4387. Email bush@math.mit.edu. Rm 2-338.

Monday's Events

1:00 - 7:00 p.m. — **UT Forum 2000 in Boston**. The University of Tokyo and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science are proud to present a forum that focuses on the University of Tokyo's research activities. Wong Auditorium. Sponsor: RIKEN/MIT Neuroscience Research Center.

8:00 p.m. — **MIT Faculty Recital: Geoffrey Bureson, piano**. Sonatas and Fantasies from America, France and Egypt, featuring works of Leon Kirchner, Pierre Boulez, Betsy Jolas, George Walker and Riad Abdel-Gawad. Admission 0. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

Viewpoint

Do you think IAP is necessary?



I think it is a good to have it, but it's not totally necessary. It gives us a break and time to explore new things that we don't have time for during the semester.

Warit Wichakool '00

I think it is beneficial to the students because they get to experience things that they don't get to during the semester because they are so busy with their studies.

Justin T. McCue G



I think it is a good time for students to take a well deserved break and it is a good time to concentrate on research.

Tiffany S. Santos '02

It's not necessary, but it is fun.

Marisa J. Kirschbaum '00



Hellz yeah.
David H. Alexander '02

Yes, it's great to be at MIT and do what you want to do — not what you have to do.

Jocelyn L. Wiese G



Compiled by Aaron D. Mihalik

IAP Activity of the Week

20th Mystery Hunt Offers Puzzlers a Chance to Show Their Stuff

By Katie Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

This is the third in a series of articles profiling interesting or unique IAP opportunities.

It is no mystery why 200 students each spent anywhere from one to sixty hours last weekend looking for a solitary coin. They were participating in the twentieth annual IAP Mystery Hunt which began Friday afternoon with about 20 teams competing to solve a complicated puzzle designed by fellow students.

The challenge was won after 62 hours by "Paintttniap" a team consisting of primarily non-MIT participants, many of whom are members of the National Puzzlers Association. The team was run by Eric Albert, who has participated in many mystery hunts "I've done this for 18 years. This was a lovely hunt with great ideas and perfect execution" said Albert.

Daniel J. Katz '03, one of the coordinators this year, explained the makeup of Paintttniap. "He formed a team when he was at MIT and the team has evolved and mutated."

The scenario presented required the participants to help Dorothy, from the *Wizard of Oz*, to get home. The "Munchkin Information Processing Board" had the technology to transport Dorothy home, but they had forgotten where they had placed the coin necessary to operate the system. Thus, it was up to the Mystery Hunt participants to solve puzzles revealing usernames and passwords which could be used in a computer able to scan the campus for the coin.

This information was revealed over five rounds, each which consisted of about 10 different puzzles. The types and topics of puzzles varied widely, and included anagrams, a Scrabble game, literature, music, and MIT geography. "It's good to make it difficult but have enough variety so people can try different things," said Katz.

This goal was met, according to participant Michael J. Walsh '00. "The puzzles were so interesting that ... people who were trying to stay away from the Mystery Hunt started joining us, saying 'Wow! This is cool!'"

One puzzle asked for groups to acquire a living duck to assist in a puzzle. More significantly, it required the group to place chairs in a circle and move the chairs or change seats, then paint letters on the bottom of chairs according to the instructions. When the chairs were turned over, if the instructions were followed correctly, a tricolored message, and thus the answer to that puzzle appeared.

According to Katz, who wrote the puzzle and received a standing ovation for it at the wrap-up party, two groups actually painted chairs

to solve the puzzle. Additionally, although no group used a live duck, one group had a human member play the role which required them to sit under chairs and on other members' laps.

The solution required a letter from each of the puzzles to be arranged to reveal the phrase "APPROACH ROOM BAUM. COIN BENEATH GREENERY." Baum, the name of the author of *Wizard of Oz*, was then converted to a number with a code used in the hunt. The victorious team then found the coin 9-136.

Competition fierce but fair

Teams were in close competition throughout the hunt. About eight teams were still in competition on Friday evening. Katz said that "toward the end there were still three or four teams that could have won." This sort of competition is rare: in many hunts one or two teams pull into the lead early on and stay there for the rest of the competition.

"We got a lot of compliments this year. People said this was the smoothest Mystery Hunt ever run probably because we were really strict," said Katz. About a dozen members of last year's victorious team participated in writing this year's puzzles. "We came up with the structure over the summer and began writing puzzles in September." Katz cites the teams organization as one factor which prevented puzzles from getting lost or otherwise hindering the planning process.

IAP Mystery Hunt Celebrates 20 years

The Mystery Hunt was started by graduate student Brad E. Schaefer '78 in 1980. He continued to run the competition until receiving his doctorate in 1983, at which point the charge of creating the puzzles was bestowed upon the previous years' winners. This tradition continues today, and is the only prize of the hunt. "It was fun. I joined last year, but writing is a lot more fun and a lot less confusing!" said Harvard junior Roger Barkan, who helped coordinate the event this year.

Since then, themes have included Elvis (1997), Clue (1995), the Holy Grail (1993) and most recently "Where in Hell is Carmen Sandiego" (1999). The longest hunt to date was that based on Clue, a hunt which stretched 60 hours, ending at 4 a.m. Monday. In other years the organizers have begun to give clues to ensure that the hunt ended at a reasonable time, allowing for participants to recover before Monday morning.

Completion of the puzzles requires students to be resourceful and persistent. In past hunts, groups have made phone calls around the globe, ransacked offices on campus, and taken the T around the city.



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This Week in MIT History

By Katie Jeffreys
FEATURES EDITOR

When considering advances in technology, it is interesting to consider public opinion at the time of the change. One area of technological growth which shaped a generation was that of space exploration. During this month in 1959, Course XVI added "Astronautics" to the department title, becoming the "Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics." The change was described in "Course XVI Hints at Future in Added Astronautics Title" Published in *The Tech* on January 9, 1959. The text of the article follows.

MIT's Department of Aeronautical Engineering has officially become the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, C. Richard Soderberg, Dean of the School of Engineering, announced last Monday. Charles S. Draper '28, professor of aeronautical engineering, will continue to head the department.

"The change in name," according to Dr. Draper, "is like the very top of an iceberg; much more lies below and is yet to be seen." The trend in the department is away from the drawing boards because basic science seems to be the future master of outer space. New buildings will rise to house the expanding department and plans are now well under way.

One of the first big steps by the department will be the sponsoring of a seminar series dealing with man's problems in outer space. H. Guyford Stever, professor of aeronautical engineering, will direct the seminars, which will attract the nation's top experts as speakers.

"MIT must educate men who are prepared not only to design and build the craft that we conceive of today, but to engineer new types of flight vehicles which at this time we can only imagine," Dr. Draper said.

MIT has been a pioneer in aeronautics. As early as 1896 a wind tunnel was built here for the study of wind pressure. It boasted 20-mph capacity. In contrast, the present hypersonic wind tunnel at MIT's Naval Supersonic Laboratory is capable of airflows at mach 8 (3,100 mph at 2,000 degrees).

Glider experiments were conducted here during the early days of aviation, and in 1913 the Institute's first formal course in aeronautical engineering was offered. By 1926 these beginnings had developed into a full, four-year program.

The department now offers a range of 50 aeronautical subjects, including a course in orbital vehicles. Sponsored research has kept faculty members in close touch with the latest developments in the field. The department's Instrumentation Lab, for instance, directs efforts of 900 in the field of inertial guidance and missile systems. Its latest accomplishment is development of the guidance system for the Navy's Polaris underwater launched missile.

Some of the world's outstanding aviation personalities have been graduates of the department. Donald W. Douglas '14, chairman of the board of Douglas Aircraft, and James H. Doolittle, former commander of the eighth Air Force, and now chairman of the Space Technology Laboratories, both received degrees here, and are now members of the MIT Corporation.

"The airplane is here for a long time, and we will continue to regard aeronautics as fundamental. But the sky, or speaking more precisely, the air, is no longer the limit. Interplanetary travel is yet to be accomplished but clearly it will be feasible," said Dr. Draper.

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Berenson on Hunger Strike to Protest Conditions

By Frank Dabek
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Lori Berenson, a former MIT student convicted of high treason by a Peruvian military tribunal, has begun a hunger strike to protest the conduct of her trial and draw attention to the conditions under which she is serving out her life sentence.

Gail Taylor, national coordinator for The Committee to Free Lori Berenson said that the hunger strike began on January 11, the fourth anniversary of Berenson's conviction on charges treason. Berenson was allegedly involved with the Marxists Tupac Amaru terrorist group.

Taylor said that Berenson has not made any demands but was protesting the conditions of her incarceration. "The prison conditions are absolutely horrendous," Taylor said.

Berenson was initially jailed high in the Andes mountains but was moved to a lower altitude jail when her health declined. Now she has been "taken out of contact with humans," Taylor said, and the incarceration has affected her mental state.

Berenson has not set a timeframe for her strike and Taylor expects her to continue "as long as she physically can," perhaps several weeks.

Supporters hold vigils nationwide

On the same day that Berenson began her hunger strike, supporters held vigils across the country.

In the Boston area, Carolyn Austin, a regional coordinator of the committee, organized a vigil in the South Station area. Austin became involved in the effort after seeing Lori's story in the news. "I couldn't believe that she was still there," Austin said.

James Williamson, a longtime supporter of Berenson's cause and one of the about 50 people at the rally, said, "the point is that she has never received any due process and

deserved to be released."

Berenson's mother, Rhoda, in an interview in the *New York Daily News*, said that she was not surprised that Lori had begun the hunger strike and was anxious about her health but respected her decision and commitment.

Austin urges those interested in the case to contact the President and their Congressional representatives. Detailed contact information can be found at <http://www.freelori.org>.

Failed legal attempts to free Lori
The House of Representatives

defeated legislation in July that would have withheld all but humanitarian aid to Peru if Berenson was not freed.

The American ambassador to Peru, John Hamilton, has also been in negotiations with the Peruvian government concerning

Berenson.

The Peruvian government seems unwilling to grant Berenson a new trial, however. Prime Minister Alberto Bustamante said recently that Berenson will not receive a new trial unless she can produce new evidence of her innocence.

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Wednesday, January 19
"What are the Connections Among Religion, Activism, and Democracy?"

Bishop Barbara Harris
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

W11 - Main Dining Room

Thursday, January 20
"What can You do to Change the World?"

Dr. Janet Moses
MIT Medical

50-105
Walker Memorial
Black Student Union Lounge

All sessions are 6:00 - 7:30 pm

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For more information contact Tobie Weiner (253-3649, iguanatw@mit.edu), or Jane Gould (253-2983, jsgould@mit.edu)

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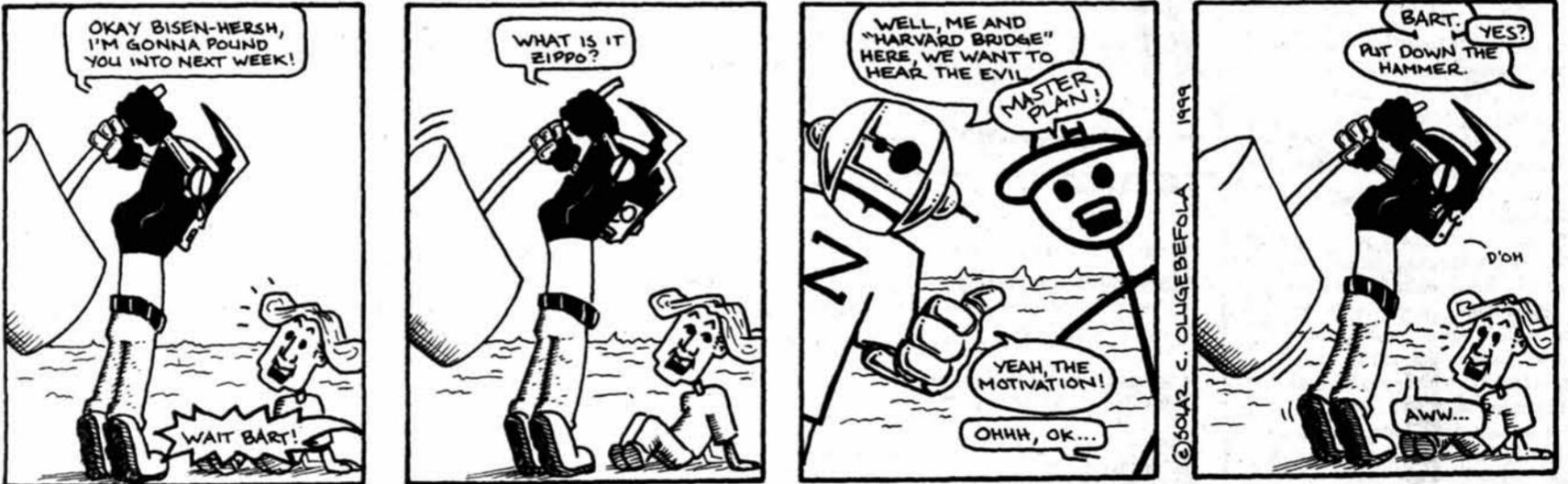
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- Creating a quilt based on the dreams of sweatshop workers
- Building an interactive education installation relating to the scientific contributions of African-American inventors

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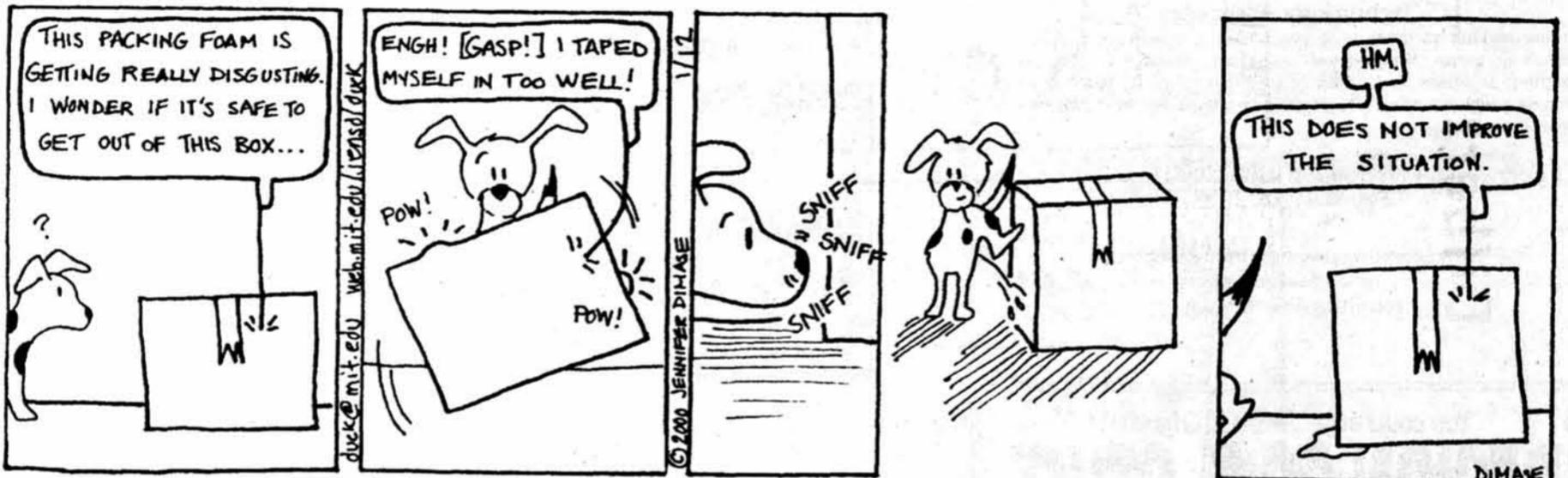
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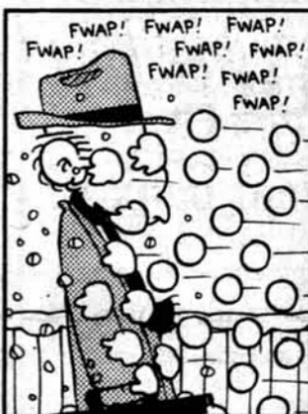
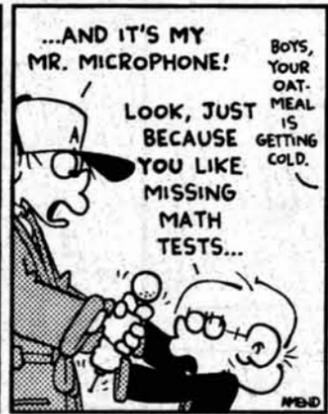
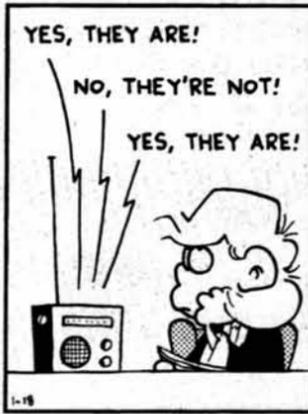
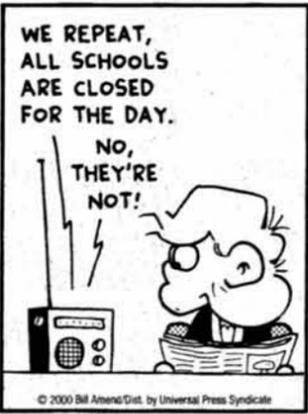
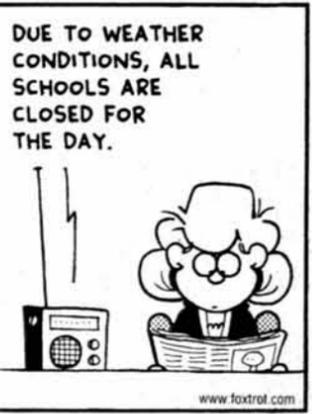
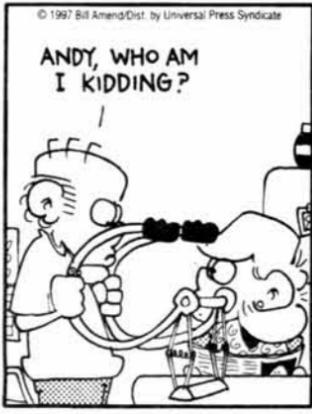
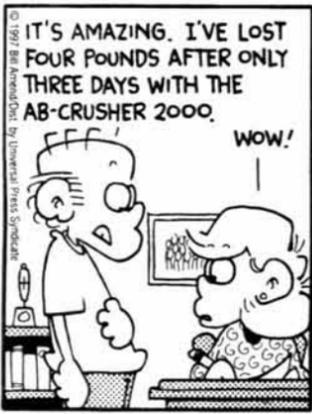
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by Bill Amend

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Vest Publishes Annual Report

Report Covers Financial Aid, Faculty Responsibility, Industry Ties

By Dana Levine
STAFF REPORTER

MIT President Charles M. Vest's recently released annual report for 1998-1999 defends need-based financial aid, addresses the faculty's responsibility to students, and discusses industry sponsorship of MIT research.

Vest emphasized the importance of need-blind admissions, which allows competitive universities to "select students from the richly talented pool of applicants on the basis of their capability, accomplishment, talents, fit to the institution, and contribution to the characteristics of the class as a whole."

Vest noted that many generous alumni were only able to attend MIT because of the financial aid packages which they received, and that they want to help out other needy students.

Vest defends need-based aid

As discussed in the report, increasing college costs and the expansion of need-based aid has forced many institutions to shift the bulk of aid towards merit-based scholarships and away from the neediest students.

"Our current financial aid policies reflect MIT culture well. To go to a merit-based culture would only divide the MIT community," said Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00.

Vest said that "through the quality of our programs, our reputation, and our recruiting efforts, we are able to admit and enroll classes of truly exceptional students," eliminating the need for any sort of "optimization."

In conclusion, Vest reaffirmed his belief that MIT "should remain true to our principles of need-blind admis-

sion and need-based distribution of financial aid."

"MIT alone took on the Justice Department when it accused us and the Ivy institutions of violating anti-trust laws regarding financial aid. MIT spent a lot of money and 18 months of its valuable time fighting to defend the principle of need-based aid," said Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones.

Faculty extend role in student life

Vest also discussed "the faculty's collective responsibility to our students," specifically the interaction of faculty members in student life.

Vest quoted the 1998 "Report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning," which emphasized that MIT should focus its academic philosophy on "a triad of academics, research, and community."

"My view is that faculty do have certain collective responsibilities to our students beyond their formal duties in the laboratory and classroom," Vest said. He emphasized that all members of the faculty should maintain a high code of ethics, recognize that small decisions can have a large effect, and joining life and learning within the community.

As for the matter of the effects of incremental decisions on the larger picture, Vest cited the continual violation of end of term regulations, which "can cause unresolvable conflicts for students who are balancing the demands of several subjects." He also mentioned the Report on the Status of Women Faculty in Science at MIT, which shows that small decisions can lead to widespread discrimination and inequality.

"I was heartened to see President Vest's forceful and eloquent transla-

tion of our goals to tangible changes in behavior for the faculty," said Graduate Student Council President Luis A. Ortiz G.

Industry ties increasingly crucial

Vest also discussed an issue which came into the spotlight with MIT's Project I-Campus Microsoft joint venture — private research funding.

"The federal government has typically given a great deal of funding to MIT, with federal funds covering 65 percent of operating revenues in 1965. This number has dropped drastically in recent years, falling to less than 32 percent in 1999.

Simultaneously, industry sponsorship has risen drastically, serving in Vest's words "to improve our education, to diversify our sources of financial support, and to create new pathways for contributing to the common good."

However, close ties with industry create new problems. "There are a lot of ethical issues involved with private industry funding. Industry partnerships are appropriate only if we can work out those ethical issues," McGann said.

Although these contracts should be non-exclusive and MIT should own all research, Vest said, both MIT and private companies can benefit from such a pairing. "All recognize that producing innovative, well educated students who are knowledgeable about future-oriented fields... is a key goal of the partnership."

"In my experience industry partnership provides a great opportunity for supporting graduate student education," Ortiz said. "The nature of the research becomes a little more applied as a consequence."



JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

WINTER AT LAST — Boston got its first snow of the year last Thursday, giving new students their first glimpse of MIT in the snow and beginning a week of severely cold weather.

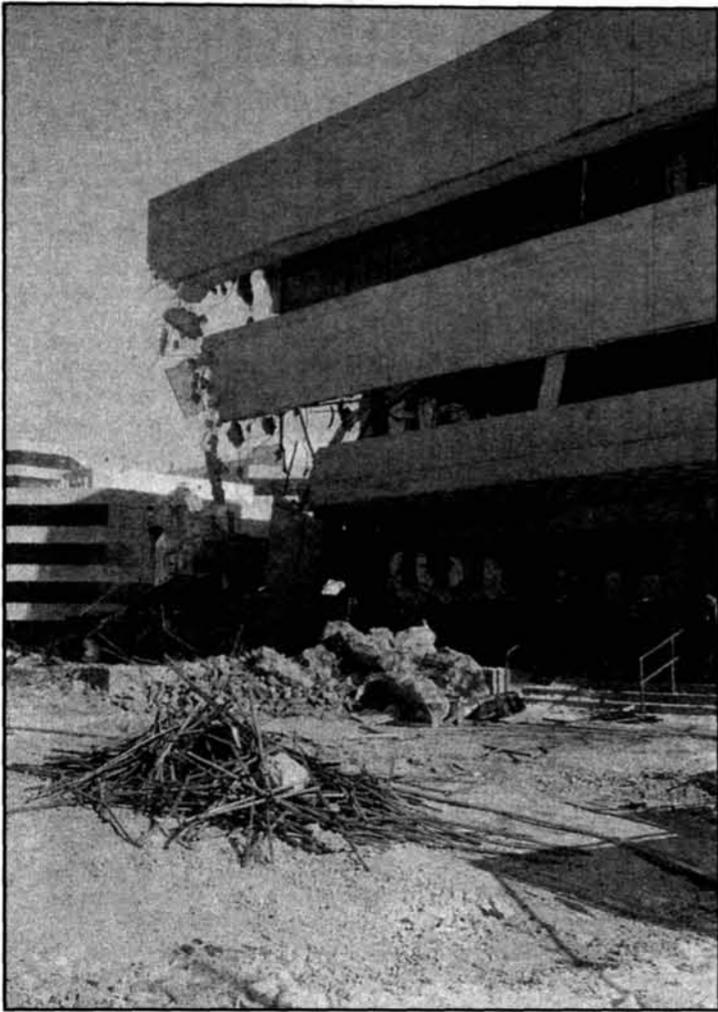
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FRANK DABEK—THE TECH
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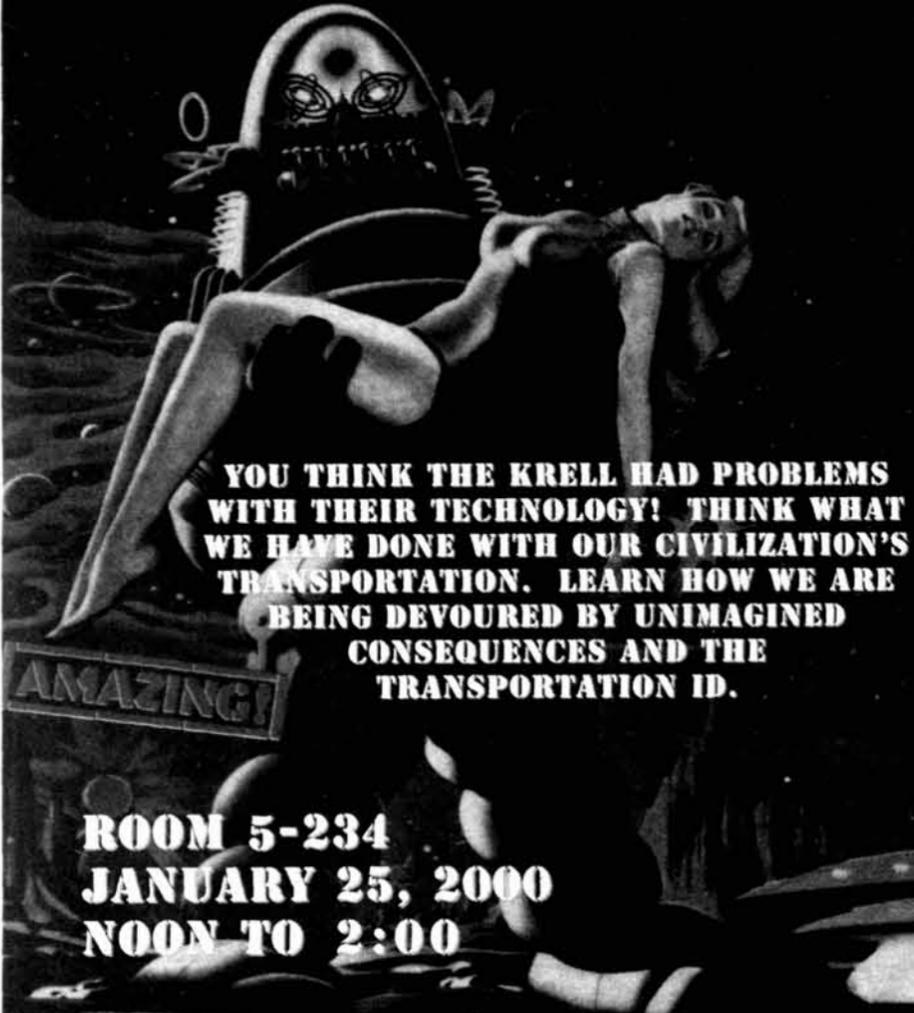
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Oil Spill at MIT Power Plant under Investigation

By Rima Arnaout
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

An oil spill at MIT's Cogeneration Plant Sunday night has prompted an investigation.

The spill occurred when an 8000 gallon oil truck was making a routine delivery behind the Cogen plant on Albany Street.

Thomas C. Sobczynski '01 arrived at the scene at about 11 p.m. on Sunday. "Things were pretty calm there, but the streets were being blocked off in pretty much all directions. There was a Cambridge Police cruiser parked across the road and other cruisers nearby," Sobczynski said.

There was "a reasonably small puddle of oil on the ground near the terminals where they connect the tanker trucks which fill up the tanks in the building," Sobczynski said. The puddle outside the building "was about ten feet by six feet," he said.

Sobczynski talked to a fireman at the scene. The fireman "told me they were estimating 8000 gallons spilled and that they weren't sure how much oil was already under the building."

According to Sobczynski, the fireman said that two tanks are connected with a pipe so that pressure in one tank is relieved into the other tank. "The fireman suggested that the pipe could have been or was blocked and that the pipe burst and started dumping oil on the floor,"



Cambridge Fire Department's HAZMAT team responds to an oil spill at the MIT power plant Monday morning.

Conflicting reports on size of spill

Assistant Chief Engineer at the Department of Facilities George Mac Leod declined to comment about the exact amount of oil spilled but said that it was much less than the truck's 8000-gallon capacity.

"There was delivery of fuel at the time... normally delivery trucks carry 8000 gallons of oil," however less than that amount was spilled,

Mac Leod said.

Some oil spilled outside but "the oil that was a little bit larger in quantity was inside the building," Mac Leod said. The tanks that store the oil sit under the Cogen building.

MIT hired Clean Harbors to clean the accident. "They were contracted to do the cleanup of the spill. They're an emergency response group," Mac Leod said.

The spill "had no environmental impact on anybody that I know of; it was something that was discovered early and contained," Mac Leod said.

Investigation now underway

Mac Leod is a member of the group investigating the cause of the spill. A report about the accident will be ready by the end of week.

Mac Leod declined to give

details about the investigation to find the cause of the spill, saying that the committee is still trying to ascertain who took what actions during the delivery.

The oil delivery team is employed by MIT. "The truck is a contract service. They're fully insured and regulated. They're a bona fide delivery service," Mac Leod said.

An article in the Boston Globe "talked about a clogged pipeline and I don't know who told them that. It may have been an assumption," Mac Leod said.

Except for the investigation, the spill has been taken care of, Mac Leod said. Managing the spill "was a fairly swift operation. It was cleaned up that night because it wasn't a large quantity of oil that was spilled," he said.

MIT's oil imports depend on the weather and the amount of fuel needed. MIT buys oil "when gas is not available because of supply or price," MacLeod said.

Energy service not interrupted

The day after the oil spill some on-campus residents noticed that their dorms were colder than usual.

Mac Leod, however, said there was no connection between the low temperatures in Baker and other residence halls "because we didn't lose any steam supply. There was no interruption of service as a result of the spill."

New Dorm Raises Zoning Issues

Dormitory, from Page 1

Group member and Associate Professor of History, said, "It's an enormously fast schedule."

Dorm could miss fall 2001 deadline

McCants said that "If nobody files suit [appealing the permit], we can still make it; and if we miss the deadline, it will only be by a few months."

McCants said that even the "worst-case scenario" — an opening as late as December — could be effectively dealt with by MIT, and that it would not seriously delay or disrupt the new dormitory's positive contribution to the residence system.

Obstacles currently include a number of standard building permits

and, more significantly, the filing of the Interim Planning Overlay Proposal permit with the City of Cambridge.

Cantabrigians have twenty days from the filing of the permit to formally object to the project. Objections would represent the last possible formal obstacle between MIT and breaking ground for the dormitory.

Potential parking problems

David A. Hoicka '77, a recent candidate for city council and advocate for affordable housing in Cambridge, said that the key issues raised by the new dorm are parking and overcrowding.

He said that MIT assured residents that the building would create additional parking and that parking zones would be redrawn so that the

new dorm falls in an MIT zone. The building currently stands in the Cambridgeport zone, Hoicka said, and residents fear that MIT student cars would crowd their neighborhood permit spaces.

Hoicka also expressed concerns about a possible continuing move of students currently housed in Boston to Cambridge and the additional crowding in the Cambridge market such a move would create.

"MIT should deal with these issues" before they "create more friction in the neighborhood," Hoicka said.

Although the project meets all Cambridge zoning requirements for the location, MIT must still file an IPOP permit with the city, said Sarah E. Gallop, Co-Director of the Office of Government and Community Relations at MIT. This "unusual" permit is required because of the size of the dormitory project, which exceeds 50,000 square feet.

The IPOP requirement was creating by the city to allay concerns about overdevelopment.

"We went through the hearing process and the IPOP was granted. Once the IPOP is granted, it has to be written up by the city with stipulations specific to the project," said Gallop. Cambridge will monitor the project to ensure that MIT does not deviate from the original design described in the permit.

"That language is not finalized yet, but that should be done any day now. When that is done, the permit will be filed," said Gallop. After the permit is filed, a twenty-day waiting period follows during which anyone can appeal the project. If no one has appealed the project at the end of the period, MIT is free to proceed with groundbreaking, said Gallop.

Frank Dabek contributed to the reporting of this article

Housing forum planned

Noting that the work of the Founders' Group is largely done as far as the new dormitory is concerned, McCants called for a broader community focus to examine the future of the residence system as a whole.

The Founders' Group will host a community forum on Monday, February 7th, to discuss both the progress of the new dormitory and larger residence issues. The forum will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Room 10-250, McCants said.

Gay Fraternity to Join MIT Greek Community

DLP, from Page 1

university community, including GAMIT, have supported the organization of DLP, some have questioned the true intentions of gay fraternal life.

Michael K. Tan, co-chairman of the Harvard-Radcliffe Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Supporters Alliance, is supportive of the basic idea behind DLP, but also believes that "if anything's going to draw people, it's going to be the meat-market factor."

Seelig was quick to dismiss this suggestion, emphasizing that DLP has a policy against relationships between big brothers and little brothers, as well as restrictions against members of the same pledge class engaging in a relationship.

DLP's intent, Seelig stated, is to provide "an opportunity to get to know [other gay men] outside a relationship." Relationships between brothers, though, are not officially forbidden.

Tan also questioned the exclusiveness of an all-male fraternity in the larger queer community. "Our officers," Tan stated, "are heavily vested in queer politics that rely on cross-gender groups." Tan also voiced concern that, as a fraternity, DLP would attract predominately white and upper-class men.

"The goal of [DLP] is to share the experience of gay men," Pintock stated in response, adding that females in the Boston area could petition for a chapter in Lambda Delta Lambda, the nation's most publicized lesbian sorority. To allay concerns about DLP being viewed as an elitist organization, Pintock stated that fraternity dues — already low at \$110/year for pledges and \$50/year for brothers — could be

waived by those needing financial support.

MIT frat community supportive

Reaction among leaders in MIT's fraternity community to DLP has been largely positive.

"Each member of the IFC has its own unique attributes that appeal to certain rushees," said Interfraternity Council President-elect Damien A. Brosnan '01. "DLP's status as a homosexual fraternity would be no different in my opinion."

Currently, MIT recognizes two fraternities — Alpha Phi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi — that are aimed specifically at African-Americans. Assistant Dean Neal H. Dorow, advisor to MIT's FSILGs, stated that DLP would probably receive similar recognition from MIT as a special interest group. "If [DLP] affords those students the opportunity that a fraternity or sorority can offer," Dorow added, "it is very positive."

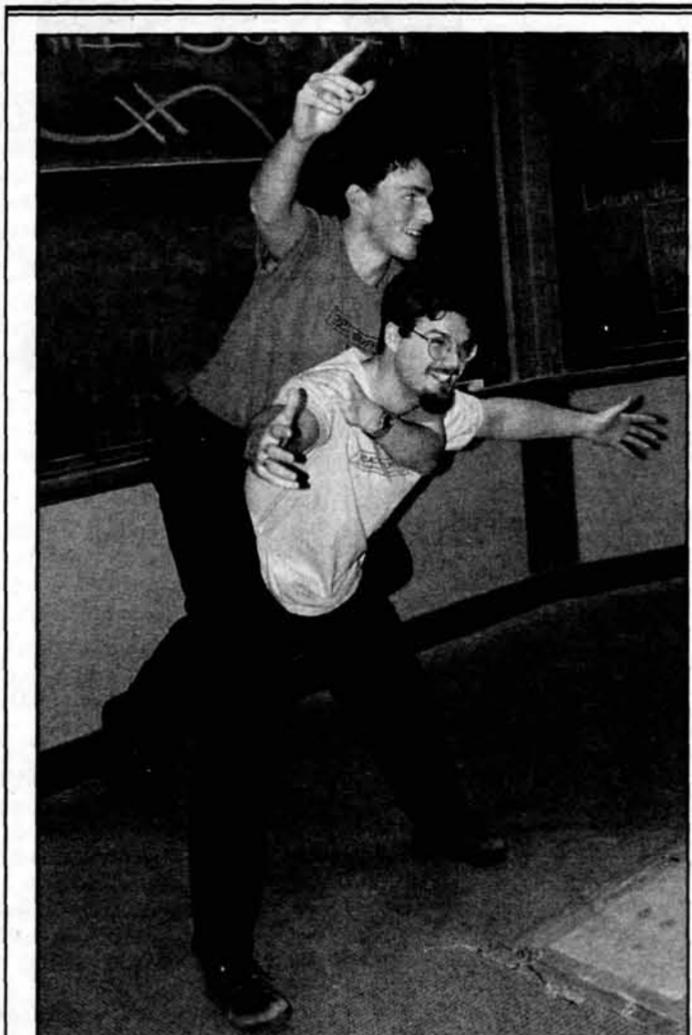
Brosnan also encouraged DLP in its spring rush, adding that he saw "no problem with DLP rushing as a special interest group."

Founded in 1986, DLP is the first and largest national fraternity aimed at homosexual and bisexual men. In its second year locally, DLP currently has seven members throughout the Boston area, including students at MIT, Tufts, and Boston University.

DLP's pledge program is non-hazing and involves community service projects, education in fraternity history, and fundraising.

DLP's spring rush schedule, news and contacts are available at <<http://dpl.mit.edu>> The national homepage for DLP is located at <<http://www.dlp.org>>

Jordan Rubin contributed to the reporting of this story.



KOSHAN BALIGA—THE TECH

Chris Connor G and Luke Weisman '99 show their superhero skills at Saturday's Roadkill Buffet show. The improvisational comedy troupe, performed to a full house in room 6-120.

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Making Guidelines into Details

Kolenbrander will Oversee Implementation of Housing Plan

By Kevin R. Lang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After months of design and debate, Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 presented MIT with a residence plan for 2001 and beyond. Yet one minor detail remained: turning some fifty-odd pages of goals and guidelines into bricks and mortar.

As outlined in the report, much of the responsibility for implementation falls on Associate Dean Kirk D. Kolenbrander, who served as Process Manager for the Residence System Steering Committee.

Bacow's report states that Kolenbrander will "convene a meeting of the relevant parties to clarify the division of responsibility for the management and operation of the residence system."

"It's going to take some time to craft that meeting," Kolenbrander said. The meeting will not consist solely solely administrators, but rather "those persons who feel that they contribute to the living and

learning environment," he said.

Kolenbrander said that although 2001 is fast approaching, the implementation process must be undertaken carefully.

"I think we remain in the very beginning steps. Our plan has been to use IAP as a time to think very carefully about proper and appropriate options," Kolenbrander said. "At this point, very little action has been taken."

Student input remains important

Students disputed the RSSC and other housing proposals throughout the design process, but Kolenbrander does not anticipate the same level of protest and dissent the RSSC faced.

"The work of the RSSC and the implementation process truly are apples and oranges — they have completely different objectives."

However, students will play a significant role in the process. "It's something we take very seriously," Kolenbrander said. Student input is

even being sought in determining how to best seek out and use student input. Kolenbrander said that Bacow's example of using student contributions — notably the Strategic Advisory Committee to the Chancellor — must continue.

"However, the decisions about what needs to be done, many of the important decisions," have already been made by Bacow, Kolenbrander said. "I don't anticipate a great deal of sitting around the table reaching decisions."

Dean changes impact process

The recent resignation announcements of Dean for Student Life Margaret Bates and Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind Williams have had mixed impact on the implementation process. Bates' resignation prompted Bacow to give Kolenbrander the primary responsibility for implementation.

"To bring clarity to the implementation process and to ensure that adequate resources are available to implement the recommendations, I have asked Dean Kirk Kolenbrander to serve as a Special Assistant to the Chancellor for the Residence System on an interim basis," Bacow said in his report.

Williams' resignation has had less effect. "There's no particular piece of the implementation that we have to completely rethink because of her departure," Kolenbrander said.

Though Kolenbrander will coordinate the process, he believes that "RLSLP will have primary responsibility for most of the implementation." However, orientation redesign will fall outside of Residential Life and Student Life Programs, as the Office of Academic Services currently handles orientation.

Specific plans yet to be determined

With the many changes outlined in Bacow's report — including October rush, summer residence selection, and capital outlays — much specific planning remains. Currently, such planning has not yet begun. Regarding rush, Kolenbrander said that "we will work very closely with the IFC" Kolenbrander said that the process has not yet progressed to the point of financial planning.

While Kolenbrander has not selected a specific timeline for implementation, he noted that "we obviously all have the timeline of fall of 2001."

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SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Board Redesign Causes Delays

6.270, from Page 1

the coordinators. They are right now in the lab working hard to get the controller board into our hands as soon as possible," Goela said.

New boards bring new problems

While course organizers for 6.270 had used the same boards for several years, they decided to begin designing new boards last year. Last year's boards were also distributed late, although they did not take as long to reach participants as this year's boards have.

"The new boards were made to repair old bugs and improve functionality," Hui said. Hui and other organizers were working on alternative boards overnight, but none of the organizers provided an estimated date for delivery of the new units.

Committee To Select Members

Spring Weekend, from Page 1

tions through the application at <http://web.mit.edu/spring/www>. The application deadline is today, but questions do not have to be answered in a great deal of detail, McGann said.

There will be one graduate and one undergraduate chair of the committee. Chairs have not been chosen at either of the Spring Weekend Committee meetings yet. The committee may wait until student members-at-large have been chosen, depending on the length of the selection process.

Douglas E. Heimbarger '00, UA representative to the committee, has been acting as an interim process manager until chairs are elected, McGann said.

Chairs may be chosen at the next meeting, McGann said. "We wanted the positions to be open to all members of the undergraduate community," McGann said. Heimbarger has told *The Tech* on earlier occasions that he intends to seek chairmanship, to provide continuity in leadership for the Spring Weekend Committee.

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By Eric D. Nielsen
TEAM MEMBER

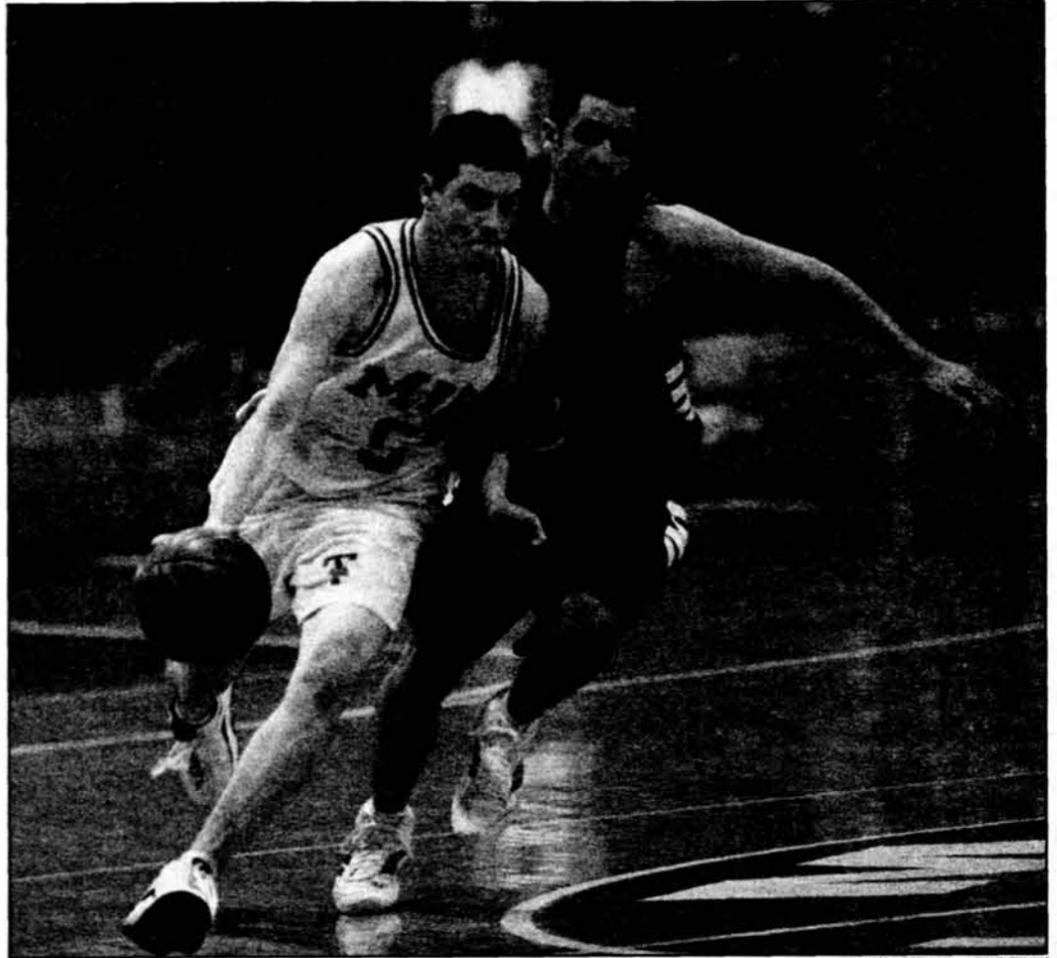
Eighteen dancers from the MIT ballroom dancing team joined over 800 other dancing enthusiasts at the 13th annual Intercontinental Dance Sport Festival. The team members fared well, with every member competing in a least one final. Over the course of the roughly 150 events the team made 307 cuts to higher rounds and took home 78 places, with eight first places.

The festival, held at the Ocean Center convention center in Day-

tona Beach, Florida during the week of January 3rd, was a full seven day series of dance workshops and competitions. A typical day entailed five to six hours of workshops in the morning and early afternoon. Competitions ran from around 3:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. most nights. During the two occasions when their were no scheduled competitions, the main competition floor was used for social dancing.

Mark Herschberg '96 and Vesna Kadelburg of Cambridge University, England, placed first in the Student American Rumba, Student

Ballroom Dance, Page 27



John Lucey '01 leads the Engineers onto offense during the Engineers' 66-51 victory against Babson College last Tuesday.

Ski Team Earns National Ranking With Strong Preseason Results

By Jonathan S. Shefftz
HEAD COACH

The varsity ski team concluded its pre-season activities this past weekend, and is poised for some strong results in its regular season races over the upcoming weeks.

The alpine squads started on-snow training in October, and continued until fall exams, despite the unseasonably warm New England weather.

The team's first pre-season race was a U.S. Ski Association giant slalom (characterized by longer-radius, higher-speed turns) at Mt. Sunapee, NH on January 8. The freshmen class turned in the best results for the team, with Sarah M. Briggs '03 and Marcy E. Paul '03 in 41st and 42nd for the women, and Jonathan C. Bates '03 in 67th for the men.

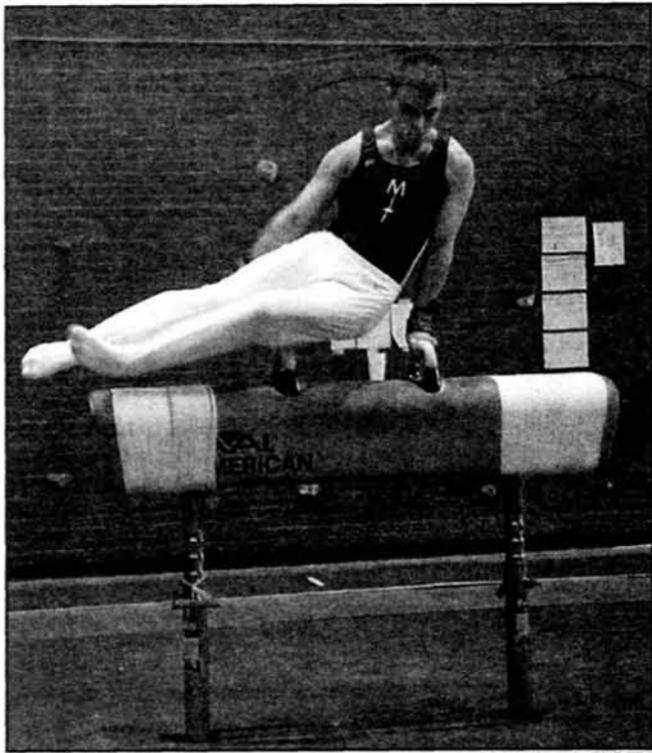
The second pre-season race was a USSA slalom at Pats Peak, NH on January 15. Although a small ski

area, the race course takes up almost the entire vertical, and features many clad-steep pitches in a seemingly permanent ice sheet. Freshmen Paul and Briggs took 38th and 49th, with returning skier Monica L. Taylor '01 sandwiched in between at 44th. Nicholas A. Kulkarni '02, who sat out last season with a knee injury, led the men with 41st, while men's co-captain Todd O. Dumond '00 was close behind in 46th.

Green Mnt. dominates Haystack

The third and final pre-season race was a giant slalom race at Haystack, Vermont, hosted by the generally less competitive Thompson Division of the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference, whose more-competitive Osborne Division hosts MIT's regular-season races. Although MIT knew it could not overtake the Thompson Division's dominant Green Mountain College of Vermont (which offers skiing scholarships), it still hoped for a

Skiing, Page 27



Luke Massery '02 executes his horse routine in a gymnastics meet against Southern Connecticut Saturday.

Incomplete Indoor Women's Track Places Second

Injuries and Other Factors Cause Low Turnout at University of Southern Maine Quad Cup Meet

By Deborah S. Won
TEAM MEMBER

In the second MIT women's indoor track and field season, the Engineers took second place in a Quad Cup meet.

The team traveled north to the University of Southern Maine for competition against Bates, Coast Guard, and the host team. The squad had hoped to repeat last year's three-way victory, but MIT fell to USM 141-172, while defeating Bates (110) and CG (100). This meet allowed the Tech tracksters to reap the benefits of their winter break workouts by turning out some nice performances both on the field and the track.

The addition of three rookies throwers helped to fill out the field event roster. Princess Imoukhuede '02 led MIT with a first place in shot put and a second place in the weight throw. Imoukhuede's mark in the weight throw was a remarkable 45-0, which set a new varsity record and qualified her for the All New England Championship Meet. Teammates Theresa M. Power '00 and Akua A. Asa-Awuku '03 joined Imoukhuede in placing in the shot put event. In addition, they joined Janine Buseman-Williams and Irene Lee '02 in setting personal records in the weight throw event.

With several middle and long distance runners out for injuries or other reasons, Tech track made ends meet by distributing two entrants to

each of the three distance events: 800m, 1500m, and 3000m. In the 800m, Deborah S. Won '00 won the event by a narrow margin with a time of 2:27.7, while Chi-An Wang '01 placed fourth with a personal best time of 2:36.9.

Having planned to race the 800m until the night before the meet, Melanie L. Harris '01 was switched into the 1500m at the last minute in order to maximize team scoring possibilities: she took fourth place with a time of 5:29.1.

Coming back from a first half deficit in the 3K race, Won took the lead and remained in first place for a time of 10:31.7. Jantrui Ting '00 seized 4 points with a fifth place finish in 11:57.8. MIT's outdoor 10K record holder, Ting says she would have preferred to compete in the 5K.

In the 55m hurdles, Alyssa S. Thorvaldsen '00 and Theresa K. Burianek '99 started the season well placing second and seventh respectively. In her first track and field meet ever, Afua B. Banful '03 placed second in the finals of the 55m dash with a time of 7.77 qualifying her for the N. E. Division III meet. Thorvaldsen took fourth place in the 55m. Regina Sam '02 ran a superb 63.71 in the 400m finishing in first place. The time qualifies her for the N.E. Division III meet. In the 200m Banful and Lori A. Eich '03 gave solid performances placing second and seventh respectively.

Tech track also performed well in the jumping events. In the pole vault,

Vanessa Li '02 placed fifth. Also placing fifth was Eich in the high jump. MIT captured three places in each of horizontal jumps. In the long jump, Burianek captured second, followed by Eich and Li in fourth and seventh, respectively. Burianek also led Tech jumpers in the triple jump, taking fourth with a jump of 31 feet, 1.5 inches. Close behind, Stephanie A. Norris '02 took sixth followed by Li in seventh. Although small in numbers, the jumping squad started out well, and looks ahead for higher and farther distances.

MIT's 3200m relay team placed third behind USM and Coast Guard, capturing another six points. Due to a shortage of distance runners, multi-event engineer Burianek finished off her busy day with the second leg of the relay. Harris, Ting, and Wang ran the 1st, 3rd, and anchor legs, respectively.

MIT's 1600m relay team made an excellent showing despite the loss of two of last year's members to graduation. The runners were replaced by two of Tech's pole vaulters. Leading the race, Sam ran her second superb 400m for the day and handed off to vaulter Norris. The benefits of her dedication to conditioning in the past year showed during her leg of the relay. Li breezed past Coast Guard's third leg to move MIT into the lead. Thorvaldsen's leg was a clear-cut clincher for the relay's exhilarating victory. Thorvaldsen completed her leg in a mere 61 seconds, giving the team a

winning time of 4:32.4.

The Tech tracksters will face the same three opponents at MIT's Johnson Athletic Center this Saturday. The team plans to avenge their loss to USM through smoother performances, having the home course advantage, and with the return some absent teammates.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, January 19

Men's Ice Hockey vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 7:00 p.m.
Wrestling vs. Rhode Island College, 7:00 p.m.
Women's Swimming vs. Salem State College, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 21

Men's Ice Hockey vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy, 7:30 p.m.
Pistol vs. U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and U.S. Naval Academy, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 22

Men's Indoor Track Quad Meet, 1:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. Mount Holyoke College, 2:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 7:00 p.m.
Pistol vs. USMMA and USNA, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 23

Women's Ice Hockey vs. Williams College, 4:00 p.m.
Pistol vs. USMMA and USNA, 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25

Men's Ice Hockey vs. Central Connecticut State University, 7:00 p.m.
Squash vs. Yale University, 4:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. Wellesley College, 7:00 p.m.
Women's Swimming vs. UMass-Dartmouth, 5:30 p.m.

Unfortunate Crashes Drop MIT Nordic Men to Seventh Place

Skiing, from Page 26

second-place finish, ahead of the rest of the Thompson Division.

The women arrived to find a surprise in the presence of Osborne Division rival Smith College, which had also decided to "cross over" into this out-of-Division race. In the 1999 season cumulative standings MIT had finished seventh right behind Smith. With the aggregate two-run times of each school's top three skiers counting for the team standings, Green Mountain took first as expected, with Smith close behind. MIT nevertheless met its goal of outskiing all other six Thompson Divi-

sion teams — Amherst College, Holy Cross, Tufts, Boston University, Trinity, and Northeastern, in addition to Osborne Division rival University of Connecticut. For the individual standings, Paul led the women in sixth place, with Briggs in 14th and women's captain Marianne H. Okal Jr. '02 in 17th.

For the men, Green Mountain took first as expected, with an unexpectedly strong Worcester Polytechnic in second (led ironically by a top MIT recruit who had flunked out after his first semester at the Institute). After the first run in the morning, MIT was packed in tightly with four other teams: Trinity, UConn, BU, and Tufts. MIT had four racers

positioned in the top 21 for the afternoon. But disaster struck as Dumond provided his best imitation of Austrian Herman Maier's Nagano Olympic downhill crash, while men's co-captain Ryan Maupin '00 also spun out off the course to lose valuable time. When the snow had settled, MIT found itself in seventh, only three seconds off BU in fifth, and a mere 12 hundredths off Tufts in sixth. In the individual standings, Kulkarni took 15th, Bates 17th, and Maupin 21st.

The first regular season competition is scheduled for January 22-23 at Berkshire East, hosted by U-Mass Amherst. Former standout skier Brooke Baker '99 is expected to make her debut appearance then as Alpine Assistant Coach.

Skiers ranked in national poll

In the U.S. Collegiate Ski Association pre-season national poll of ski coaches and conference directors throughout America, the MIT women took seventh in the nation behind conference rival Clarkson University (1st).

Contributions from freshman Jessica L. Baker '03, combined with returning standout skiers Jessica M. Kleiss '00 and Teresa M. Hung '02, may propel MIT to better results than this.

The men took tenth in the poll, with dominating conference rival Clarkson in first. (Complete poll ranking results are available at <http://www.uscsa.com/coaches.htm>.)

Team captain Derek G. Southwell '01 has not only returning stars James W. Berry '00 and Samuel T. Coradetti '02, but also a bevy of freshmen, who could similarly propel the men to better results than predicted in the poll.

Forty-nine Top Three Finishes for Dancers

Ballroom Dance, from Page 26

American Tango, and the Intercollegiate Tango events. Seth Webster LL and Christine L. Tsien G placed first in the Gold American Foxtrot-Vienna Waltz two-dance event. Alex Bershtyen G and Katya Dolgino '99 placed first in both Beginner International Waltz and Beginner International Tango, while Eric Nielsen '99 and Sofya Pogreb '99 placed first in both Beginner International Cha Cha and Beginner International Jive thereby claiming

all the beginner events for MIT.

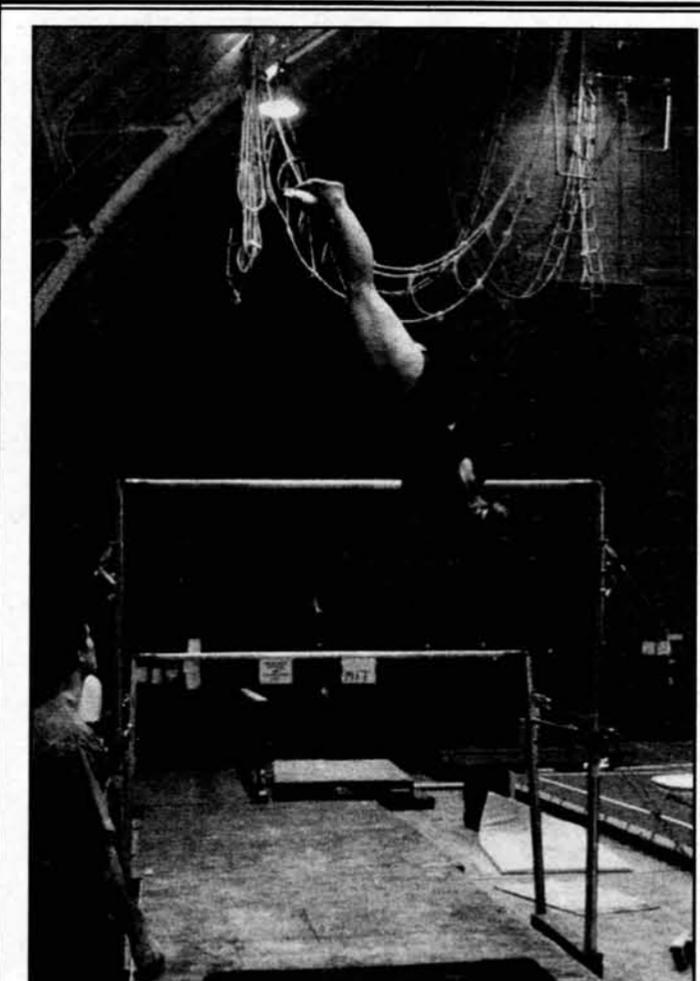
Herschberg and Kadelburg also placed third in the first ever National/World Nineteen Dance Championships. MIT claimed eight first places, nine second places, and 22 thirds.

The dance festival returns to Weymouth, Dorset, England next year. In the meantime team members are gearing up for the Spring competitions which begin in February. Some competitors, however, will be competing earlier at La Classique du Quebec.



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Mark Cappellari '01 (#23) pushes past a Bates opponent as his teammate Russell Roder '01 (#4) cuts off two defenders in pursuit during a home game Saturday in Johnson. The Engineers defeated Bates 6-2.



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Sonja Ellefson '01 performs a spinning dismount from the uneven bars in a meet against Southern Connecticut Saturday.

SARAH SLEAN

Canadian Singer-Songwriter-Pianist Recently Opened For Moxy Frúvous at the Somerville Theater

Appearing with Tory Cassis

Friday, January 21 at 9pm
MIT 24-Hour Coffeehouse
Free Admission!

Brought to you by CAC and the Coffeehouse

MIT Environmental Medical Service 2000 IAP Courses

January 25, 26, 27; Room 56-180



Workers and the Environment - Why Your Company Should Protect Them; Tuesday, January 25, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.; Broad overview of occupational and environmental health risks associated with operating a business. Data on occupational illness and injuries, direct and indirect costs of ill health, and perceptions of employees, customers, investors, and the public will be discussed.

Occupational and Environmental Laws; Tuesday, January 25, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.; Review of the occupational and environmental laws which impact high technology businesses including the Occupational Safety and Health, Environmental Protection, Clean Air, Clean Water, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts. Business-tested advice for combining commercial success and regulatory compliance will be offered.

Chemical Risk Management in High Technology Enterprise; Wednesday, January 26, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.; Overview of the risk presented by the use of hazardous chemicals in the high technology industry. Issues to be discussed will include hazardous properties of materials, i.e., toxicity, flammability, and reactivity, adverse effects on workers and the community, control of hazards, and relevant regulations. The importance of designing for safety in the start-up phase will be discussed. Examples of real work situations will be presented.

Radiation Risk and Compliance Management in Biotechnology; Wednesday, January 26, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.; Hazards associated with the use of radioactive materials and radiation producing equipment (including nonionizing sources) in the typical research setting. A description of the elements of a successful radiation safety program maximizing worker safety and regulatory compliance including specific facility design criteria and considerations.

Biosafety Issues in Gene Therapy; Wednesday, January 26, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.; An overview of the current status of human gene transfer clinical trials, discussion of results, biosafety and ethical issues including in utero and germ line gene transfer and genetic enhancement.

Environmental Health and Safety Case Studies - Startup Companies and the Microelectronics and Biotechnology Industries; Thursday, January 27, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.; Specific health and safety program policies and work controls useful to operate safely and efficiently in a startup venture, and within the microelectronics and biotechnology industries.

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29 January 2000

Ball

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Saturday
29 January 2000
8:00 pm to 12:00 midnight

Stratton Student Center

Refreshments all evening

Black tie or festive attire

Highlighting the best music and style from the '40s to the '90s

DJ, piano bar, live music
Soul City Band

MIT Millennium Ball info
<http://web.mit.edu/iap/2000/ball>

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Available at

MIT Information Center
in Room 7-121;
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