

## SafeRide Removes Signs About Alcohol Policy

By Tiffany Kosolcharoen

Signs informing students of the consequences of intoxication and vomiting on SafeRide have been removed from SafeRide buses.

The signs appeared on the nighttime shuttle buses at the beginning of January and read, "Anyone who has been drinking alcohol and vomits in the bus will be taken to Medical and Campus Police will be notified."

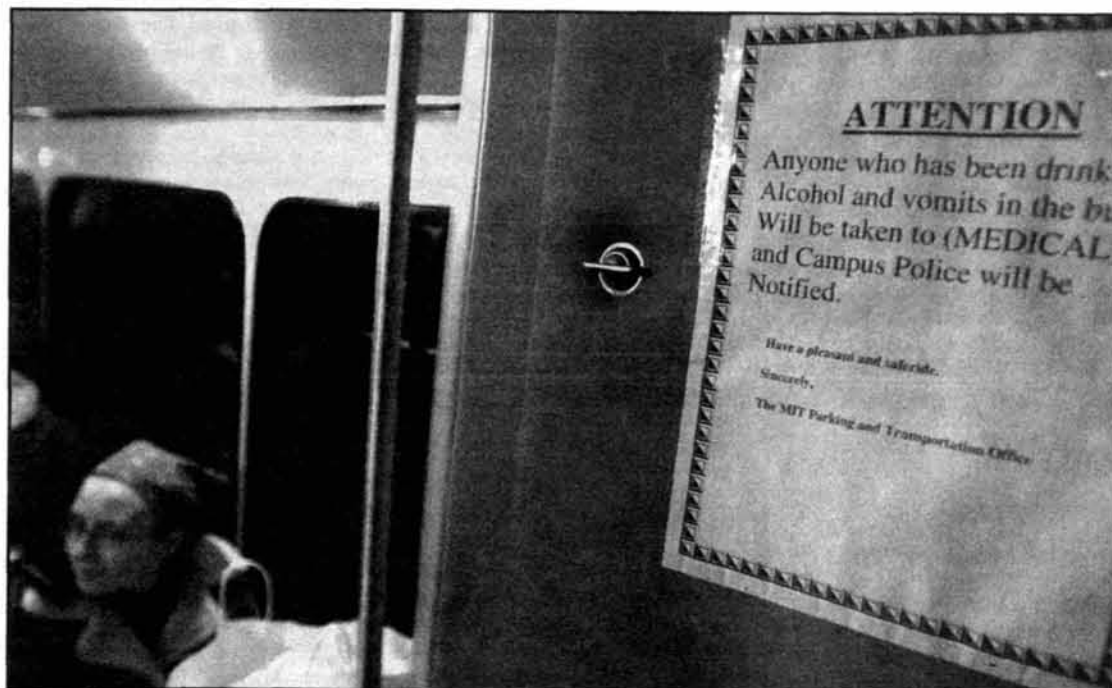
The posters were removed after *The Tech* asked SafeRide Operations Manager Lawrence R. Brutti for comment on the SafeRide alcohol policy.

Brutti responded to inquiries with a Jan. 22 e-mail stating that the posters had been removed.

"Since our new, larger buses were put into service, we experienced two occurrences of intoxicated students vomiting," Brutti wrote. "The signs were posted by the drivers, who had to clean up the intoxicated students' vomit, and were not official MIT signs."

The posters raised concerns about medical confidentiality, a hot-button issue on campus.

"It was realized there was a need to review that practice [outlined in the posters], and we have to engage



SafeRide drivers recently posted this sign in new buses used for both the Tech Shuttle and SafeRide after several vomiting incidents raised concerns about cleanliness and safety.

the student government in it," said Director of Enterprise Services Stephen D. Immerman.

### Medical confidentiality retained

The posters "were put up out of

frustration, and the whole thing was just a misunderstanding," Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict said. "I think MIT values medical confidentiality more than any school in the country. Student confidentiality

is paramount."

The drivers should now be following the normal procedure when a drunk student vomits on SafeRide.

SafeRide, Page 13

## Institute To Limit SEVIS Reports

By Beckett W. Sterner  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT will only report basic data on international students to the federal government, administrators say.

"The [International Students Office] will only report to the SEVIS system data which is federally-mandated and nothing more," said Danielle Guichard-Ashbrook, director of ISO and associate dean for graduate students.

Rather than provide complete registration data, MIT will provide only the date and status of registration, and only the most extreme disciplinary actions will be reported, said Dean of Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert.

Originally, information disseminated by the International Students Office did not explicitly specify what would be sent to the government. The office, instead, provided a list of categories of information, such as "Registration Each Term" and "Disciplinary Action," sent to the government, without specifying the amount of information to be supplied.

"There are issues that lack clarity," Colbert said. "We're feeling our way along."

Colbert said that currently MIT will report to the federal Student Exchange Visitor Information System, a new system to track international students in the U.S., only the date and status of registration as well as a disciplinary action that leads to expulsion.

"Even if there's some Committee on Discipline action that's short of dismissal, we don't see a need to report that," Colbert said.

### MIT handles reporting cautiously

"The ISO will do everything it possibly can to protect the privacy of international students but of course we must abide by federal mandates," Guichard-Ashbrook said.

Colbert said that "we're going to take a conservative approach" to reporting.

He also said that MIT is currently "working out" its potential response to an action or request for information by the Federal Bureau of Investigations about a student.

A press release from the Immigration and Naturalization Service on May 10, 2002, stated that the SEVIS data must include "any disciplinary action taken by the school against the student as a

SEVIS, Page 12

## Card Entries to Campus Buildings, Labs Tracked

By Lauren E. LeBon  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The MIT Card Office has begun recording entrances to campus buildings using the MIT card.

Unsuccessful attempts have always been recorded, but successful entries of buildings and laboratories are tracked now as well.

The new policy was created at the request of departments which wanted the information available to respond to thefts and other crimes.

When MIT upgraded its software this past summer, the Card Office began keeping more detailed records of card usage around cam-

pus, said Card Office Manager Daniel L. Michaud.

### Tracking protects department

The new feature was added because some departments wanted access to the information if a security problem arose.

"We track this information for a two week period. After two weeks, it is overwritten," said Michaud.

Assistant Director of Enterprise Services John M. McDonald said the two week limit was set in the new policy to prevent the records from being examined by a court.

Card, Page 17

## Fellowship Cuts Unlikely To Affect Grad Admissions

By Jenny Zhang  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT academic departments do not anticipate a significant change in the number of graduate students admitted for next year, despite cuts in the Presidential Graduate Fellowship funds for 2003-2004.

The department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science is one of the graduate departments that will have to slightly change the number admitted partially due to reductions in presidential scholarships.

"We currently have around 2,800 applicants, same as last year. This year there will be less openings, but there will not be a significant difference," said Caestine M. Carney, an administrator in EECS.

Provost Robert A. Brown has said there will be 99 Presidential Fellows for academic year 2003-2004, compared to 170 for this year because support from the program from the general Institute budget has been reduced.

Admissions, Page 19



Elizabeth A. Farrelly '05 plays the victim as David R. Dunmeyer G and Thomas M. Jennings G practice upper extremity splinting as part of their emergency medical technician training last Thursday. About 35 MIT students hoping to join the student-run MIT Ambulance Service will take the state EMT exam in the next few months.

NATHAN COLLINS—THE TECH

The Tech will resume Tuesday and Friday publication next week.



Comics

ARTS

Yo-Yo Ma impresses a sold-out crowd at Boston's Symphony Hall.

World & Nation ..... 2  
Opinion ..... 4  
Events Calendar ..... 8  
Arts ..... 9



# WORLD & NATION

## U.S., Allied Troops Attack Group Of Afghan Militants

THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGRAM AIR BASE, AFGHANISTAN

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — In the largest battle of the Afghan war since last spring, U.S. troops and allied forces surrounded and pummeled a group of about 80 Afghan militants on a mountainside in southeastern Afghanistan, killing at least 18 guerrillas, military officials said Tuesday.

The battle, near the Afghan-Pakistan border in southern Kandahar province, was fought through Monday night and continued sporadically Tuesday north of the town of Spin Boldak. According to U.S. military spokesman Col. Roger King, the battle involved the largest concentration of hostile forces that coalition forces have detected in the past nine months.

No American casualties were reported, he said.

King said that based on intelligence and information from one captured fighter, the group is believed to be associated with former Afghan prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar—who has announced his intention of joining al-Qaida and Taliban forces to fight against the American presence in Afghanistan. King said the Afghans were taken by surprise and attacked aggressively.

## Results of AIDS Treatment In South Africa

THE WASHINGTON POST

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Confronting AIDS is a monstrous challenge in a country with about 5 million infected people, and with only about 600 of them receiving free antiretroviral drugs from nonprofit groups. About 20,000 more pay for antiretrovirals through private insurers.

More than half the country's free antiretrovirals are distributed here in the gritty township of Khayelitsha, at the Doctors Without Borders clinic that hosted former president Nelson Mandela's visit last month.

The clinic began giving away the "AIDS cocktail" — three antiretrovirals taken in combination — in May 2001, and like a much larger antiretroviral program in Botswana, the therapy yielded immediate results.

About 90 percent of the patients have improved dramatically. More than 80 patients would have been expected to die within a year without treatment; only eight did.

## Marines Open Desert Supply Depot in Kuwait

THE WASHINGTON POST

KUWAIT

At a vast desert supply depot with columns of armored vehicles stretching across the horizon, newly arrived troops from the 1st Marine Division on Tuesday began drawing the gear they would use if ordered to invade Iraq.

For the past week, about 500 Marine logistics specialists have worked around the clock, unloading, repairing and assembling enough equipment to supply a division of 17,000 for a monthlong operation. This phase of the U.S. military buildup in Kuwait, although unglamorous, is among the most important.

Hundreds of Marines, many of whom arrived in Kuwait just three days ago, spent the day testing their gear and taking inventory to make sure everything they'll need is in place. They're joining several thousand Marines already in Kuwait from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The Marines have staged thousands of tons of equipment in areas where it can be more quickly transported to deploying troops.

# Bush Says Iraq Has Missed 'Final Chance' on Inspections

By Dana Milbank and Mike Allen  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Bush took the nation to the edge of war with Iraq Tuesday night, declaring in his annual State of the Union message that Saddam Hussein had missed his "final chance" by showing contempt for U.N. weapons inspections.

The president, addressing a joint session of Congress and a nationwide television audience of tens of millions, stopped short of committing to war. But he provided a long list of examples of the Iraqi president's efforts to thwart the inspections and left no doubt that he was ready to part ways with allies who favor extended inspections in Iraq, serving notice that "America's purpose is more than to follow a process."

"The course of this nation does not depend on the decisions of others," the president said. "Whatever action is required, whenever action is necessary, I will defend the freedom and security of the American people."

Bush delivered the 50-minute address at a time when his leadership, both domestic and foreign, is less popular than at any point since

the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Facing growing opposition to his Iraq policy, record doubts about his economic stewardship and lukewarm support for his domestic policies, Bush used Tuesday night's speech — as he has other high-visibility addresses in his presidency — to refocus the nation's attention and priorities.

Specifically, he proposed spending \$400 billion over 10 years to give the elderly a prescription drug benefit if they join a Medicare HMO, \$10 billion in new funds over five years to combat AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean, and \$6 billion to develop new vaccines and treatments for bioterror agents. Bush also said the nation is employing an "early warning network" of bio-terrorism sensors. Among various smaller initiatives, Bush proposed \$600 million to expand drug treatment programs, \$450 million for mentoring programs and \$1.2 billion to develop hydrogen-powered automobiles.

"This country has many challenges," Bush recognized Tuesday night, vowing, "We will not deny, we will not ignore, we will not pass along our problems to other Congresses, other presidents, and other

generations. We will confront them with focus, and clarity, and courage."

Bush devoted nearly half of his address to domestic issues, but he dedicated only glancing reference to some of his biggest proposals. His Medicare proposal got just 130 of the speech's 5,400 words, and his dividend tax cut, the centerpiece of his economic proposal, was dealt with in a few sentences. Bush also called for limits on malpractice awards, enactment of his long-stalled energy plan (though he did not specifically mention drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) and more of his "compassion" agenda, including what aides say will be a voucher program to fund social-service organizations that proselytize.

Bush also announced he will form a Terrorist Threat Integration Center to combine domestic and foreign intelligence from throughout the government. The center, to be run by the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, does not require congressional approval, Bush aides said.

In both foreign and domestic affairs, Bush proposed little in the way of sweeping new policies.

# Bush Administration Vague With Respect to Retaliation

By Bradley Graham  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

As they prepare for the possibility that Iraq would unleash chemical or biological weapons against invading U.S. forces, Bush administration officials have remained deliberately vague about how the United States would respond. Officials have refused to rule anything out, including the use of nuclear weapons to counter or forestall the release of chemical or biological agents.

In reality, however, U.S. authorities face few clear-cut options, and a retaliatory strike with nuclear weapons would be especially problematic, according to current and former military officers who have

dealt with the issue.

On the one hand, U.S. authorities could be expected to feel a strong desire to exact punishment and set an example in the interest of deterring a repeat attack by Iraq or the future use of nonconventional weapons by other adversaries. On the other hand, the United States would want to avoid a response that appeared excessive and that risked large numbers of civilian casualties or extensive damage to Iraqi facilities that might be helpful in reconstructing the government and the economy after the war.

A senior military officer involved in the war planning confirmed a report in the Los Angeles Times by defense analyst William Arkin that the range of possible

retaliatory responses includes nuclear weapons. But the officer stressed that conventional bombs would be sufficient in a retaliatory strike. He suggested that the most likely response would involve intensified attacks on Iraqi leadership targets and those forces involved in firing chemical or biological weapons.

"If you want me to go get them with blast and steel and fire, I can do that without resorting to nuclear weapons," the officer said. "The nuclear option is on the table not to meet a military need but a potential political one."

In addition to threatening a severe military response, U.S. officials have taken other steps aimed at preventing a biological or chemical attack.

## WEATHER

### A Brief Respite

By Nikki Privé  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

"BUT hark! the nightly Winds, with hollow Voice,  
Blow, blustering, from the South — the Frost subdu'd,  
Gradual, resolves into a weeping Thaw."

—James Thomson, "Winter, A Poem"

A cold front sweeping in from the west today will be heralded by a light, powdery snow during the afternoon. The front will move out to sea tonight, with high pressure dominating New England tomorrow. Skies will be partly cloudy, with a high in the low 30s the rest of the week. This weekend will see warmer temperatures with a chance of precipitation on Saturday, with highs in the low 40s. Unfortunately, warmer temperatures may be short-lived. The extended forecasts show a large trough settling in over the eastern half of the country, with accompanying below average temperatures.

#### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Cloudy with a chance of snow, maximum accumulation one inch, high near 35°F (1°C).

**Tonight:** Partial clearing, lows near 20°F (-7°C).

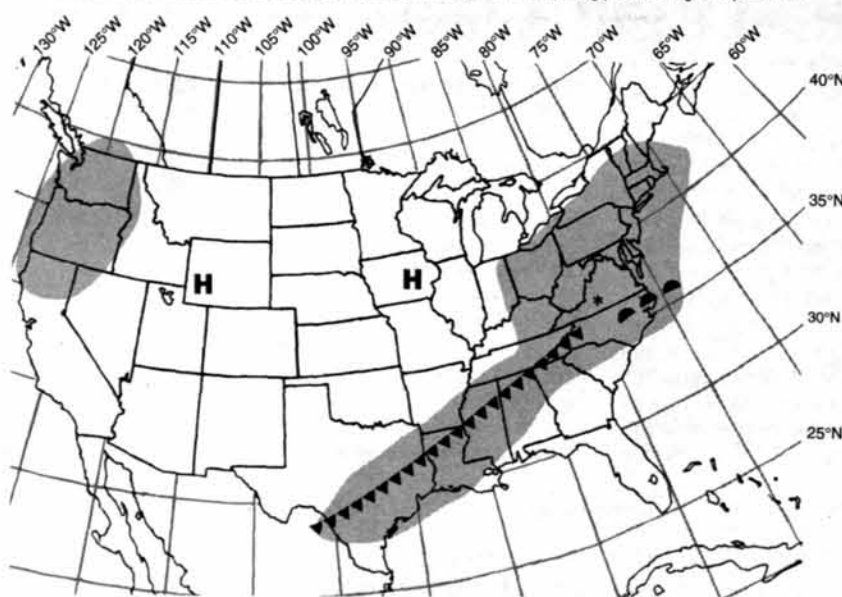
**Thursday:** Partly sunny, highs around 30°F (-1°C).

**Friday:** Partly cloudy, highs near 35°F (1°C).

**Saturday:** Warmer, chance of snow or rain, highs in the low 40s. (6°C).

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy, highs in the low 40s (6°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 29, 2003



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

Compiled by MIT  
Meteorology Staff  
and The Tech



# Smallpox Vaccine Plan Unsafe Health Care Workers Announce

By Delthia Ricks  
NEWSDAY

Organizations representing nurses and other health care workers are asking the Bush administration to reconsider many aspects of its smallpox vaccination plan, including the use of a special needle that they say is unsafe and outdated.

Calls for re-evaluating the campaign come as the program is off to a sputtering start and federal lawmakers begin two days of testimony about the plan — and its problems — Wednesday in Washington.

"Several states in the nation have expressed concerns about the implementation of the plan, and though we all think that being prepared for bioterrorism is a good idea, we are also very concerned about the health and safety of people being vaccinated," said Patricia Greenberg, executive director of the nurse alliance of New York State's Service Employees International Union.

Compensation for illness caused by the vaccine is a huge issue, Greenberg said, and must be

addressed before the program proceeds. The Homeland Security Act, which went into effect Friday, provides liability protection only for the government, those who administer the vaccine and manufacturers.

Unions representing health care workers in California, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania have urged members not to volunteer. More than 80 hospitals across the country have refused to allow their employees to participate.

Announced by President Bush in December, the campaign is designed to inoculate 500,000 clinicians nationwide against smallpox. The program widens in a few months to include 10 million emergency first-responders.

The Senate Appropriations Committee opens hearings Wednesday about implementation. Testimony will be heard from physicians, nurses and other health care workers about need for a federal compensation package for anyone harmed by the vaccine. Tomorrow the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Committee will hear testimony from unions representing nurses as well as from such top public health officials as Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC director.

Parent organizations for New York unions and professional associations will be among those who testify. Among concerns is the bifurcated needle used to inoculate volunteers against smallpox. The two-pronged device was developed a half century ago, decades before safe-needle regulations were enacted. Vaccine doses are delivered by 12 to 15 jabs in the upper arm with the fork-like instrument. The needle does not contract to protect health care workers from needle stick injury.

"Nurses have been concerned about safe needles for some time now because needle sticks are a major source of infection for nurses," said Nancy Webber, spokeswoman for the New York State Nurses Association.

# Sharon, Likud Party Win Decisively In Israeli Elections about Security

By John Ward Anderson  
and Molly Moore  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon won a decisive victory in Israeli elections Tuesday, gaining an overwhelming endorsement for his harsh military crackdown on the Palestinian uprising and his tough response to terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians, according to television exit polls.

The outcome was a blunt repudiation of parties that advocate more conciliatory policies toward the Palestinians, particularly for Amram Mitzna, the Labor Party leader who campaigned on a platform of reopening long-stalled negotiations and withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and most of the West Bank.

The results could make U.S.-Israeli relations more difficult by hardening Israel's stand in U.S. and European efforts to revive peace talks and end the 28-month-old uprising that has killed more than 700 Israelis and 1,800 Palestinians. If the Labor Party and other centrist parties rebuff Sharon's efforts to build a national-unity coalition, he's likely to seek a majority with smaller, ultra-nationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties, reinforcing oppo-

sition to a U.S.-endorsed peace plan calling for a halt to Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and, eventually, a Palestinian state in the two occupied territories.

In a campaign that revolved around security, Sharon's Likud Party overcame concerns about Israel's floundering economy and a looming U.S. war against Iraq to claim an estimated 36 seats in Israel's 120-member parliament, the Knesset, according to the exit polls. Mitzna and his Labor Party captured only an estimated 18, down from 25.

"The parties that collapsed are the parties of Oslo — those that supported concessions to the Palestinians," said the Likud's hard-line minister for public security, Uzi Landau, referring to the 1993 Oslo peace agreement. "The national camp got a clear mandate. Peace and negotiations have to be based on uprooting terrorism. We will protect our security. That is the message."

Sharon led in the polls from the outset of the campaign, but he faltered several weeks ago after he and his sons got caught up in a corruption scandal that has dogged the Likud for about two months. While

some polls showed the Likud's lead over Labor dropping to as little as three seats following the reports, many supporters considered the corruption allegations to be part of a left-wing political vendetta and rallied to Sharon's support. Combined with underlying support for his tough security policies, Sharon bounced back even higher than expected.

The stridently secular Shinui Party more than doubled its membership, to an estimated 16 seats, by promising to push for cuts in state-sponsored benefits to Orthodox Jews. The ultra-Orthodox Shas Party appeared to win 12 seats, a drop from 17, the polls showed. Meretz, one of Israel's clearest-cut peace parties, saw its membership sliced from 10 to an estimated six, prompting its leader, Yossi Sarid, to announce his resignation only minutes after the exit polling was announced.

The Israeli government reported election results as the percentage parties received, promising to translate the outcome into parliamentary seats Wednesday. But television stations, based on exit polls and surveys, provided estimates of how the parties will line up in the new parliament.

# Chief Weapons Inspector Hans Blix Doubts Iraqi Disarmament Intention

By Maggie Farley  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

In a tough report that helps bolster Washington's contention that Iraq has no intention of coming clean, the United Nations' chief weapons inspector told the Security Council on Monday that Iraq does not appear to be serious about disarmament.

In 60 days and 439 inspections, Baghdad has provided prompt access to inspection sites, Hans Blix reported, but has offered little proof that it has rid itself of chemical and biological weapons.

"It is not enough to open doors. Inspection is not a game of catch-as-catch-can," Blix said. "Iraq appears not to have come to genuine acceptance, not even today, of the disarmament that was demanded of it."

The report by Blix came as President Bush, who made his State of the Union address to Congress on Tuesday, faces increasingly vocal demands from domestic and foreign

critics of a possible war, including some of America's oldest allies, to make a convincing case for military action. In the wake of the long-anticipated report, inspectors are likely to have at least several more weeks to work in Iraq while the United States and other members of a sharply divided Security Council make their next moves.

Some experts said they were surprised at how tough Blix was on the Iraqis. "It was much stronger than I expected," said Timothy V. McCarthy, a former U.N. missile inspector who is now at the Monterey Institute for International Studies, located south of San Francisco.

In contrast to the strikingly negative report from Blix, Mohamed ElBaradei, the chief of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, said his team has found no evidence so far that Iraq has revived its nuclear weapons program. He asked for more time for his inspectors to work, saying it "could help us avoid a war."

The report did not contain clear-cut evidence that would provide an easy answer for the 15-member Security Council, which will meet again Wednesday to discuss whether Iraq can be disarmed through peaceful inspections or if that must be done by force.

Britain and the United States are exploring the idea of introducing a resolution containing a deadline for Iraq to provide the inspectors with specific information and authorizing military action if Baghdad fails to do that. But the majority of council members showed sympathy for ElBaradei's contention that giving inspectors more time would be "a valuable investment in peace."

British Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock said that this week's talks are not likely to be conclusive. Germany, which staunchly opposes military action, will take over the rotating presidency of the Security Council Feb. 1 and has asked the inspectors to report again Feb. 14.

# Defense Lawyers Seek To Humanize Shoe Bomber

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Shoe bomber Richard C. Reid did not consider himself "particularly brave" or take "pleasure" in trying to blow up an airplane over the North Atlantic, but instead acted out of a desire "to prevent the destruction of the religion that saved him," his defense lawyers said Tuesday.

Reid is to be sentenced in federal court in Boston on Thursday, and faces a likely sentence of life in prison. The government last week filed a lengthy court memorandum urging that the 29-year-old British native never leave prison.

On Tuesday, his federal public defenders filed their own memo, trying to explain Reid's troubled childhood, his experiences with drugs and minor offenses in England, and his eventual journey to Islam, which he credits for ultimately turning his life around.

"He had come into contact with young Muslims who were convinced that Islam was under attack," the defense lawyers said. "Mr. Reid, who reports that he had neither known nor cared about history or world affairs, soon became convinced that his faith — the faith that he felt had saved his life — was in serious trouble."

The defense argued that airport security officials in Paris should never have let him on the plane, given his unkempt, suspicious appearance and the fact that he had paid cash for his ticket and brought very little luggage.

# Kazaa Owner Seeks Injunction Against Labels, Studios

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Dramatically raising the stakes in the battle over online piracy, the company behind the world's most popular file-sharing service accused the major record labels and Hollywood studios of misusing copyrights and attempting to monopolize the market for digital music and movies.

The move by Sharman Networks, which distributes the Kazaa software, came less than two weeks after U.S. District Judge Stephen V. Wilson in Los Angeles confirmed that the labels and studios could sue Sharman in the United States. Sharman, which is based in the South Pacific tax haven of Vanuatu, had asked Wilson to throw out the copyright-infringement claims for lack of jurisdiction.

Every file-sharing service sued for piracy has tried to defend itself by claiming the major entertainment companies abuse their copyrights and violate antitrust laws, and none has yet succeeded. Sharman has gone a step further, asking Wilson to bar the labels and studios from enforcing copyrights on all music and movies until the alleged misuse has ended and its effects have dissipated.

The injunction would shield Sharman from damages and protect anyone who pirated the labels' and studios' works.

# 911 Error Hindered Search for Four Missing Teens

NEWSDAY

NEW YORK

A 911 operator failed to follow a procedure that would have notified the police Harbor Unit immediately about a distress call from four missing teen-agers, police said Monday.

It remained unclear whether that error cost the boys their lives.

Charles "Carlo" Wertenbaker, 16, Andrew Melnikov, 16, Max Guarino, 17, and Henry Badillo, 17, have been missing since Friday night, when authorities believe they took an 8-foot fiberglass rowboat from a City Island dock and attempted to row out to nearby Hart Island.

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said the department's nearest boat, the Hercules, was 30 minutes away, and it would have taken officers at least 20 minutes to even begin their search in the cold and dark.

Kelly said the teens could have survived about 15 minutes in the frigid 33-degree Long Island Sound.

"It would still have been a challenge to get resources to the scene quickly enough, if you want to hypothesize that they were about to go underwater when they made the call," Kelly said.

But Coast Guard officials said later that the boys could have stayed alive anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours.

# Servicemen Leave Behind the Possibility of Fatherhood

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

Before he ships out for the Persian Gulf to possibly fight a war with Iraq, Navy engineer James Erler is taking care of a long to-do list: He needs to fix things around the house, put the family finances in order, run some last-minute errands.

And, while he's out, pay a quick visit to the sperm bank.

As tens of thousands of troops receive orders to deploy, U.S. servicemen are finding time for an unconventional errand — one that takes Norman Rockwell images of a soldier's farewell and gives them a 21st-century twist. During the past month, the nation's leading sperm banks have reported a record increase in visits by departing military men as couples seek a kind of genetic insurance against the injury, illness and death that war can bring.

By putting sperm in the deep freeze, some servicemen believe they are safeguarding against birth defects or infertility, problems they fear could be caused by exposure to chemical or biological weapons or unexpected side effects of vaccinations. While it may bring peace of mind, the technology also forces couples to confront an uncomfortable new question: whether to start a pregnancy even after the death of the father.

Erler, who is stationed at the 32nd Street Naval Base in San Diego, has met with a doctor and plans to bank his sperm in the coming weeks. He and his wife, Melissa, decided he ought to do so after the couple discussed the dangers of a war.



# OPINION



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

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two

days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

## To Reach Us

*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to [general@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:general@the-tech.mit.edu), and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

## Erratum

An article last Wednesday ["Take the Blue Pill, Wake Up In Bed; Take the Red Pill, Stay in 2003 Hunt"] incorrectly described Mystery Hunt's winning team, Kappa Sig. Although Kappa Sig primarily comprised current and former residents of Third East, several team members came from other East Campus halls and Senior House.



# Bumper Sticker Wisdom

Guest Column  
Christine Casas

A bumper sticker I saw recently, "It's a child, not a choice," sums up what's really at stake in the abortion issue, which is everything that Stephanie W. Wang leaves out of her piece "You'll Have no Choice" (Jan. 22). She spends a lot of time criticizing what she calls the "loaded rhetoric" of Bush and the "anti-choice" movement while at the same time overlooking two things: first, that the term "pro-life" actually clarifies rather than obscures the abortion issue, and second, that an argument that language is important should itself pay more attention to the very language being used.

Wang's insistence that the terms "pro-choice" and "anti-choice" be used in the abortion debate calls for further reflection than she would have you believe. "Sadly, Bush and his anti-choice band have long sought to obscure the central issue of choice in this debate by using the loaded rhetoric of labeling the two sides as pro-life and pro-abortion," she writes. She then attempts to discredit the "pro-life" movement's focus on life by dismissing the focus as the "interminable debate about when life begins" and by subsequently presenting statistics about deaths due to unsafe abortions.

The problem with these arguments is that they do nothing to clarify the debate. Considering what the word rhetoric means as Wang uses it, we can see that the word "pro-life" does not fit the definition. According to Dictionary.com, rhetoric is defined as "language that is elaborate, pretentious, insincere, or intellectually vacuous." The word "pro-life" is not elaborate (if you think the combination of two one-syllable, everyday words is elaborate, you probably wouldn't be reading this). It is neither pretentious nor insincere; it simply describes the movement's insistence that human life at all stages be protected (obviously, abortion doctor killers and others who inflict violence on abortion clinic staff and patients lack concern for others and have questionable sincerity, and so I omit them from the group of rational people who call themselves "pro-life"). Lastly, the word is hardly "intellectually vacuous," and this is of critical

importance. Users of the word seek to engage (and clearly, to take a stand) in the debate over whether a fetus is a living human being.

Wang, and those who insist on using the term "pro-choice," however, seek to remove this crucial debate from the abortion discussion. Instead of arguing that the fetus is not living or is only a potential life, which is the common argument still given in response to a pro-life argument, "pro-choice" proponents reduce the abortion dilemma to one of "choice" or "reproductive choice." The words

are vague, though—what is the "choice" about, and why can't we be more explicit? To what aspect of reproduction does "reproductive choice" refer? Birth control? In vitro fertilization? It is easy to see how they "obscure the central issue." If anyone is

guilty of using language in a deceptive way, then, it is Wang and the pro-abortion movement, not the pro-life movement. (I will now use these terms without quotations, since they are the words I find accurate.)

Moving on, Wang's attempt to discredit the pro-life movement by the use of statistics is both unfair and ineffective. The presentation of abortion death statistics places blame on the opposition (pro-lifers) for actions that they neither condone nor rejoice over, and is the equivalent of arguing that something

should be made legal, and thus be regulated, because people will do it anyway (and, in this case, they will do it unsafely). Unfortunately, this kind of reasoning is ineffective because you can apply it to any situation in which you want to legalize some procedure or substance, and it alone will not necessarily be enough to outweigh the harm done: millions of innocent lives will be lost if abortion is kept legal.

The other major problem with Wang's piece is her language. She condescendingly exaggerates situations and uses rhetoric of her own to engage in ad hominem arguments against Bush, conservatives, and pro-lifers (notice that the three words aren't necessarily

synonyms). Bush is "incapable of understanding" the complex issue of violence against women and is "ill advised [to] unilaterally enforce Puritan morals." She states that "Bush and co." consider themselves "the Enlightened Ones" and that Bush and his "overzealous cheerleaders continue their self-righteous crusade" to overturn Roe v. Wade. Such phrases are insulting, whiny, and imprecise, but not as much as the following: "the administration replaces science with religious fundamentalism." Wang is really off the mark with this one. As is so often the case, Wang erroneously considers people who support abstinence education and/or do not support abortion to be automatically religious fundamentalists. In making such a gross generalization, she implies that she advocates separation of what she calls merely "science" from ethics, which we as a scientific community should know is both impossible and very dangerous, especially if we want to do argumentative justice to issues involving the treatment of unborn human beings.

Overall, Wang's argument was pretentious, unnecessarily defensive, and not in a spirit of careful reflection that should characterize our consideration of important social issues such as abortion. I don't appreciate her name-calling or her rhetoric, and I don't even call myself a Republican or a staunch supporter of Bush. I encourage all readers not to simplify the abortion debate by using vague language or by buying into the argument that it affects/concerns only women, their bodies, or their autonomy. Such thinking polarizes and

obscures the issue even more because it means you can only be for or against women and not for or against the termination of human life in general, and the distinction between the two is key.

Human lives are at stake, and a fetus is not just a wart on a

woman's foot or a lump in her breast or some object that she owns, in a property sense, and should be able to discard. Both men and women should think critically about abortion and its consequences and about whether we as individuals should have the power to end human life that is at an early stage of development.

Christine Casas is a member of the Class of 2004.

*Human lives are at stake,  
and a fetus is not just a wart  
on a woman's foot or a lump  
in her breast or some object  
that she owns.*

*The real problem is deciding  
who most deserves  
the organ. How do we  
determine whether one life  
is more worthy than another?*

a bill to give California organ donors the freedom to decide that their organs not go to inmates. He argued that donors would like to know that their deaths have brought lives to those who will contribute to society, and not to those behind bars who have not only failed at that task but have instead brought harm. Denham recently told the *Los Angeles Times* that he had reports of angry Californians tearing up their organ donor cards upon discovering the state-funded transplant.

Indeed, would you want to give your organs to an ax murderer or child molester? Some would say keeping organs from inmates is inhuman, that the prisoners are human too, and that they deserve organ transplants just like other patients do. However, we take away prisoners' ability to vote and other rights held by most citizens, and nobody is jumping up and down denouncing the inhumanity of such punishment.

Until 1996, every patient who needed an organ transplant was placed on the same waiting list. After the former "Dallas" star Larry Hagman received a new liver, outrage brought the United Network for Organ Sharing to the decision that people who require liver transplant due to excessive use of alcohol and drugs will not be placed on top of the waiting list. Such restriction has happened before, and it might happen again. In the USA, every 90 minutes a patient dies waiting for an organ transplant. How do we decide who gets the next available organ? A spokeswoman for the California Transplant Donor Network answered this question in a *Los Angeles Times* article: "organ allocation system is based solely on medical and scientific criteria, not on which patient is the richest, the smartest or the most socially accept-

able." Fair enough. But can we choose to whom we want to give our organs? After all, the organs are ours.

It is assumed that when we signed up to become organ donors we expressed our wish to help the patient who most needed the organ, and doctors can accurately and fairly determine who needs an organ most. The real problem is deciding who most deserves the organ. How do we determine whether one life is more worthy than another? Just because one is imprisoned does not necessarily mean that he or she is more morally corrupted than a free businessman who embezzles and deceives. Is a robber who takes good care of his elderly parents more immoral than a politician who lies to the

public and neglects his family? Wrongful accusations and undeserved freedom happen; we cannot give an accurate moral judgment of people based on one or two events in which they have participated. On the other hand, it is not so practical to invest the gift of an organ and to spend

millions of taxpayers' money on a serial killer sentenced to life or even an inmate who is on death row. Of course, the possibilities that these prisoners have been wrongfully accused and the real criminals are running free exist. In a real world where anything is possible one can only work with what one knows, but significant effort should be made to ensure the final decision is not driven by impulsive emotion and stereotypes.

Not every inmate deserves a second chance to live and not every immoral, undeserving person is behind bars. Where do we draw the line as to whom the donated organs should go? We don't. Erase the line, forget the yes-no options, and treat it case by case.

# A Chosen One's Example

Basil Enwegbara

The founding fathers of American revolution saw themselves as actors in a historical drama whose script had been written by gods, and so did Nelson Mandela. He knew from the beginning that he was a chosen one, preordained by God with a divine gift: to bring the evils of apartheid to an end. Like other revolutionaries, Mandela's desire for justice was not immune to neurotic conflicts. His inner world—his fantasies, dreams, and wishes—remained important aspects of his personal life.

Conscious of how deep-rooted the evils of apartheid were, this great revolutionary leader tormented himself with how best to confront these institutions. Was the answer to boycott them altogether, or to infiltrate them and try to subvert them from within? Even when his courage and confidence pushed him to choose confrontation as the only available option to rid South Africa of the evils of apartheid, he knew that the devil was to strike back. But Mandela had no option but to accept over a quarter of a century in jail as his punishment.

In jail, Nelson Mandela never lost hope that he was chosen to lead the struggle that would bring to an end the apartheid regime in his country. Rather, Mandela's 27 years in jail provided him with the unique reflective moment that prepared him with the interpersonal skills to work effectively with diverse, and often hostile, groups to dismantle the racist regime. He learned how to negotiate with others and how to bring out the best in both colleagues and opponents. Knowing that sending a different message would have ignited South Africa, upon his release Mandela became a much broader symbol of forgiveness, understanding, and outreach.

He worked hard to transform his South Africa into a fledgling democracy, like America's Washington or Italy's Garibaldi. His clear priority as the first black president was to consolidate the new nation, to hold it together and to transform it into a multiracial democracy in which all citizens could live in peace and harmony.

Mandela, called upon by his party to meet a supreme challenge, was loyal to his party, but remained above it. When many, including his colleagues, balked at his more extreme acts of forgiveness, Mandela made them understand that the liberation struggle has not been a fight against any one group but against a system of oppression, and the once oppressed needed no reminding about past evils because courageous people do not fear forgiveness, for the sake of peace.

He never naively believed that people of different races would readily abandon their communal loyalties to become members of a color-blind nonracial society. Therefore, behind his acts of forgiveness and magnanimity he remained a politician to his fingertips, mastering in its broadest and longest sense how to move and persuade people and to change their attitudes without underestimating reality.

Mandela's incomparable moral authority and concern for the truth as a rock of continuity in a discontinuous world won him the admiration of leaders around the world. United States Presidents Bush and Clinton, British Prime Minister Blair, Queen Elizabeth, and many other Western leaders did not hesitate to proudly seek personal links with him as their source of image burnishing or race relations improvement.

But Mandela had also his own share of human weaknesses, including his stubbornness, autocracy, pride, monarchical instincts, naiveté, and impetuosity. And behind his moral authority and leadership was a consummate politician, who never portrayed himself as a saint, because, as he rightly put it, "No saint could have survived in the political jungle for fifty years and achieved such a worldly transformation." His private life thoroughly demonstrated that, from a lonely life at the height of his popularity and fame to stubbornly rejecting any reconciliation with Winnie, his battered wife, who kept the momentum of the struggle during his twenty-seven years in jail. But more important was that he remained connected with the grassroots despite his aristocratic nature. And in his manners, Mandela remained courteous and attentive to individuals with all people no matter their status or age.

# A New Heart, or Liver, For a Convict

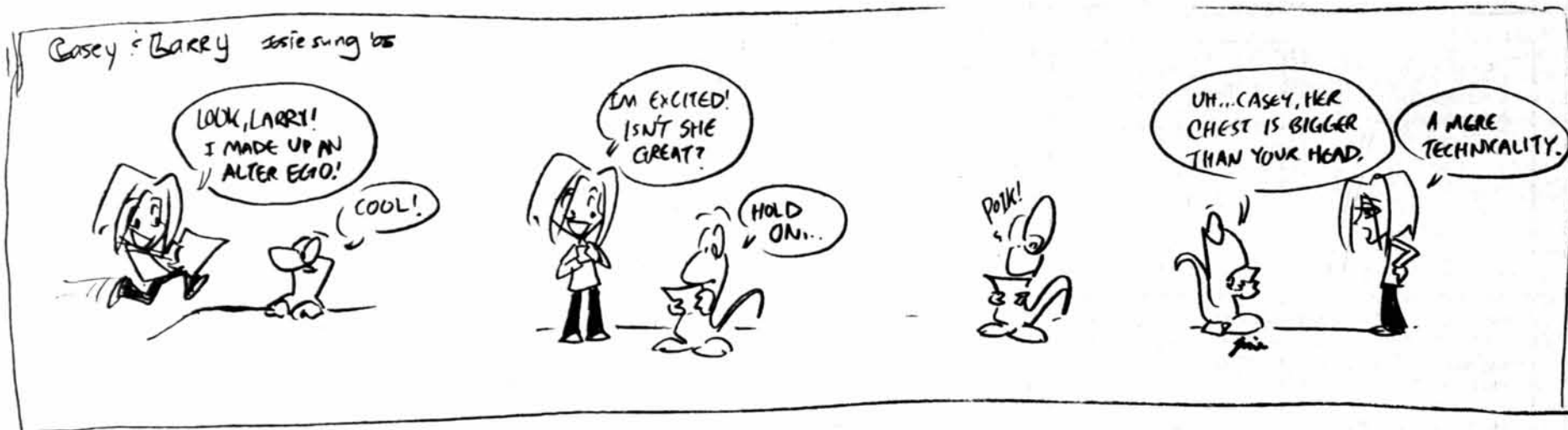
W. Victoria Lee

Imagine you die in a car accident. Because you are a rational and generous citizen, you have indicated an organ donation on your driver's license. Doctors remove all your usable organs, including your heart. This heart, still warm, is immediately prepared for transport to another hospital where a patient is getting ready to receive it. Watching this from above, you smile and are glad that your misfortune has turned into someone else's fortune. This patient is no different from the other 80,000 patients in the nation on the waiting list for an organ transplant: bed-ridden, dying, and desperate. The only thing that might set him apart from the others is that he is an inmate, a man who has committed unforgivable deeds against our society. Would you still be smiling?

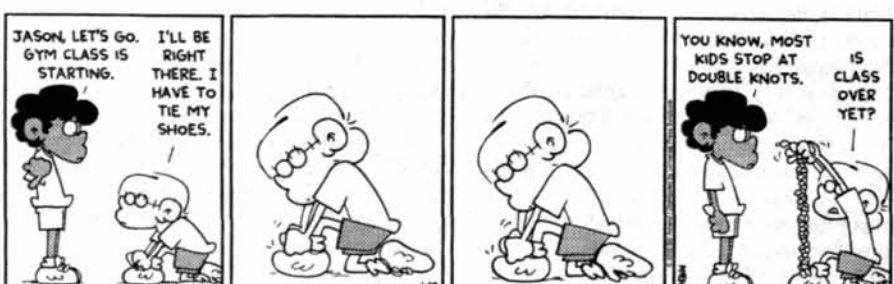
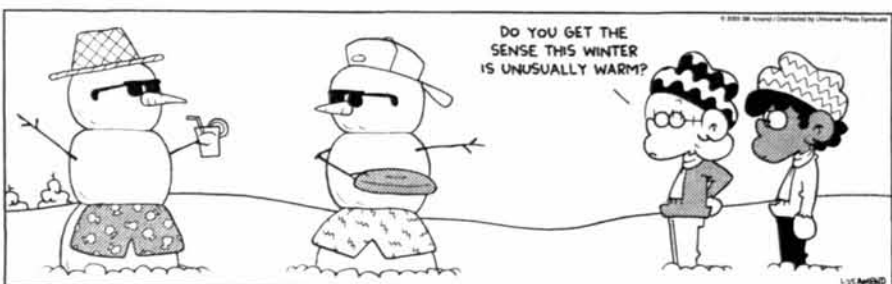
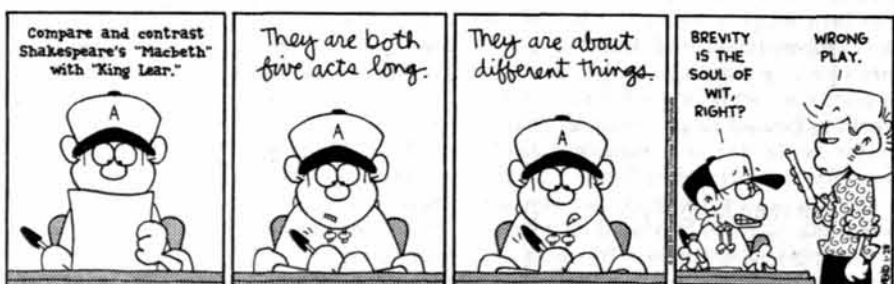
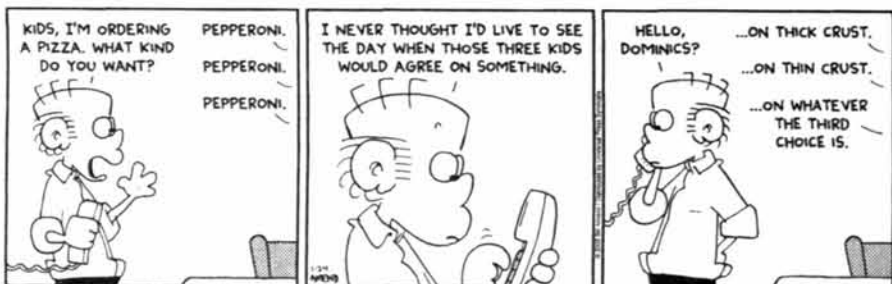
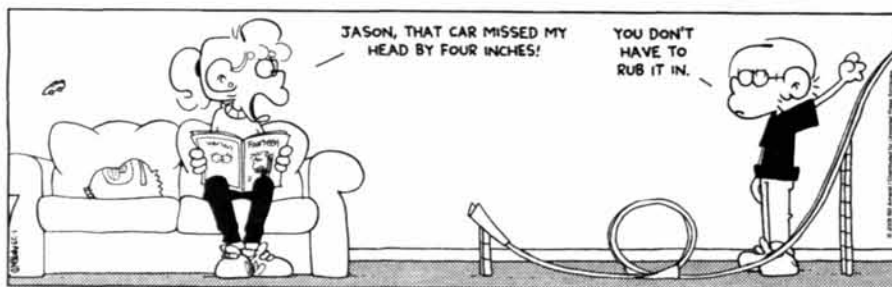
But then imagine yourself as an inmate who is currently serving a sentence for crimes committed during your youth. You have since resolved to be a better person and are looking forward to your imminent eligibility for parole. The only thing that stands in your way is your failing heart. You are told that you need a new heart, but you are also told that you will be placed on a separate waiting list, a list just for inmates. Patients on this list can only pray that someone among the one-third of the people who die with reusable body parts is willing to give his or her organs to an inmate. Would you consider this discrimination, or a violation of human rights?

You probably have not pondered these questions yet; neither did I until recently. A Californian convict, the first inmate to receive a heart transplant while serving his 14-year sentence for robbery, died a few months after his \$2 million taxpayer-funded surgery and medical care. Outraged by this "waste" of the otherwise perfectly reusable heart and money, and inspired by his father's death while waiting for a liver transplant, California State Sen. Jeff Denham proposed



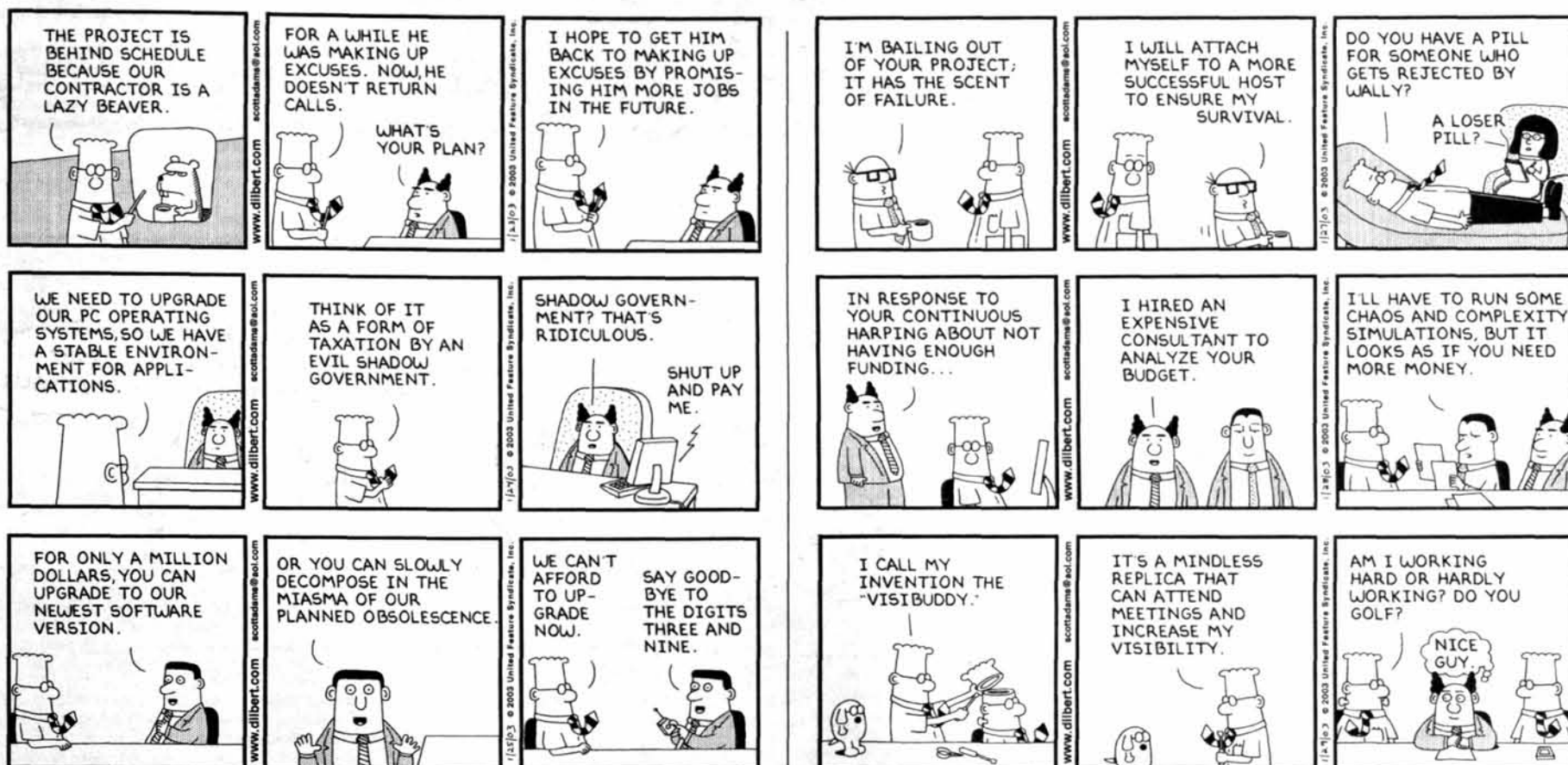


## FoxTrot by Bill Amend





# Dilbert® by Scott Adams



## Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13

### ACROSS

- 1 Fixed charges
- 5 Moose baby
- 9 Throw a wet blanket on
- 14 Bit of a frolic
- 15 Cosmetics ingredient
- 16 Marked Spanish accent?
- 17 Driving force
- 18 Congeal
- 19 Edible bulb
- 20 Is wishy-washy
- 23 Do-over serve
- 24 That's nasty!
- 25 Schematic
- 29 Out of kilter
- 31 \_\_\_ the question
- 34 Quickly wed
- 35 Singer Redding
- 36 Nebraska neighbor
- 37 Gets off the fence

### 40 Seer's sign

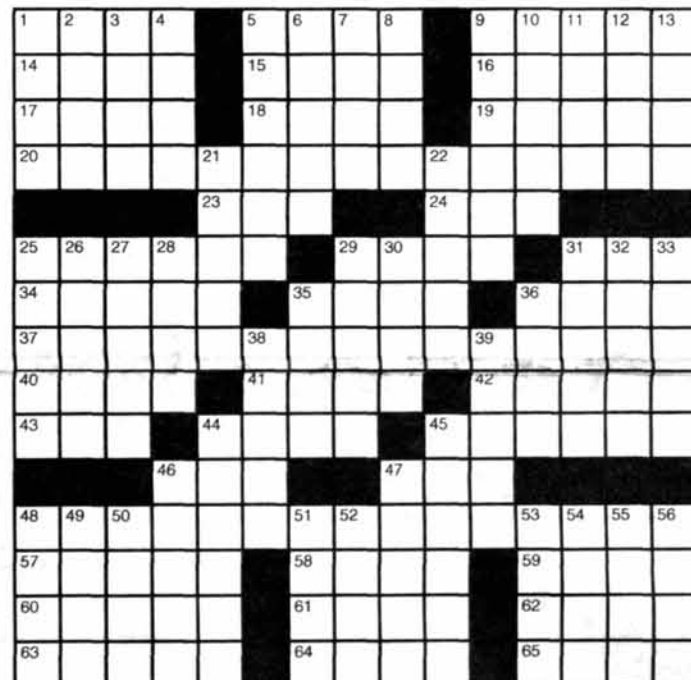
- 41 Lecture
- 42 Beamed, surgically
- 43 Go-ahead sign
- 44 Cow's mate
- 45 Laughing matter
- 46 Miss the mark
- 47 Web address point
- 48 Is adamant
- 57 Speak from a soapbox
- 58 Daily Planet reporter
- 59 Commercial award
- 60 Crayon in
- 61 Banister
- 62 Corridor
- 63 Chips with stone
- 64 Fighting force
- 65 Aware of

### DOWN

- 1 Goof up
- 2 Jimmy Carter's middle name
- 3 Thus
- 4 Give a bias to
- 5 Seal of approval
- 6 Divvy out
- 7 Plunder
- 8 Greek cheese
- 9 Really old-fashioned
- 10 Tiny amount
- 11 Hodgepodge
- 12 Worshiped one
- 13 Advance
- 21 Swings about
- 22 Care for
- 25 Clunker of a car
- 26 Shrine to remember
- 27 Hitched, as oxen
- 28 Exposed
- 29 Coral construction

### 30 Blink of an eye

- 31 Composure
- 32 Held title to
- 33 Rice field
- 35 October birthstone
- 36 Muslim leader
- 38 Driving maneuver
- 39 Indolence
- 44 Richard of Branagh's "Hamlet"
- 45 Dear
- 46 Halt, legally
- 47 Sturdy fabric
- 48 Landing place
- 49 Age after Bronze
- 50 Black-tie affair
- 51 Gumbo ingredient
- 52 Close
- 53 Reverberate
- 54 Panache
- 55 Lively melody
- 56 Flight-school final



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## UNDERGRADUATES!

*Has your Advanced Placement credit been processed?*

**AP credit processing deadline: March 31**

*Check your websis record now!*

Undergraduates have until MARCH 31, 2003 to have outstanding AP credit processed. Please make an appointment with the Admissions Office in 3-108.

After June 1st, the process will convert to an electronic system. Students will need to contact the Educational Testing Service to request that a new electronic record be sent to MIT. ETS's charge will be \$14.



# Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

## Wednesday, January 29

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** Student Led Campus Tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Campus tours start at the conclusion of the Admissions Informations Session. The Campus Tour begins in Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Calendar Quick Start.** Demonstration of the web client for MIT's newly supported calendar program, Oracle Calendar (formerly known as CorporateTime). The session will include opening your account and signing in, working with your calendar entries, working with other users, and setting preferences. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open.** MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

**12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Why Is Everyone Talking About EHS Management Systems?** Prof. David Marks, Lab for Energy and the Environment, James T. Curtis, EHS Office, Tom A. Pedersen, Camp Dresser & McKee Inc. MIT is currently developing a comprehensive Environment, Health & Safety Management System (EHS-MS) that is intended to become a model for large, research-focused colleges and universities. By doing so, MIT joins hundreds of other organizations that are also implementing a management system approach to improving environmental performance. While the reasons for implementing a management system vary, most expect to improve their environmental performance, improve compliance with regulations and laws, and create a safer and healthier workplace. free. Room: E40-496. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, IAP, EHS, The Environment at MIT Web Site.

**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Usability 101 – IAP.** free. Room: 1-150. Sponsor: Usability at MIT.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – How to Find a UROP .** Learn everything you need to know to find a UROP position! We will talk about approaching faculty supervisors, when and where to look for projects, UROP paperwork and registration procedures. Please bring your questions! Discussions will be led by UROP staff free. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: UROP.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Maternity vs. Careers: The How and Why of Declining Birth Rates in Post-Industrial Societies.** Mary Brinton, Margarita Estevez-Abe, Jytte Klausen, Anne McCants, and Martin Rein will discuss: Why are there declining birth rates in contemporary Europe, Japan and the US? Why are increasing numbers of women chosing to delay pregnancy or to refrain from it altogether? Is it by purely choice or is it in response to policies (maternity leaves, child-care, family benefits, etc.)? Co-sponsored by MISTI and Women's Studies. Organized by Pat Gercik, MISTI Associate Director, and Mit-Japan Program Director, Serenella Sferza, MIT-Italy Program Coordinator, and Elizabeth Wood, Director of the Program in Women's Studies and Professor in History. free. Room: 10-105, bush room. Sponsor: MIT Japan Program, Women's Studies Program.

**4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Nanostructures Seminar Series.** Title of Talk: "Time Scales of Ion Beam Sculpting: Towards Building Nanopore MolecularDetectors for Rapid DNA Sequencing. Ion beams can be used to fabricate incredibly small nanopores (~2 nm) to useas molecular detectors for ultra-rapid DNA sequencing. This lecture willfocus on a a study of ion sculpting dynamics in SiO 2 and SiN usingperiodically pulsed ion beams reveals material transport that depends strongly on the time structure of the pulsed beams. It is found thatsifnificant nanoscale matter transport can occur over second long timescales after the ion beam has been extinguished. A simple phenomenologicalmodel described the dynamics of ion beam sculpting in terms of two materialtime scales. The model accounts for the surprising observation of enhancedmatter transport affected by pulsed ion beams over continuous ion beamexposure free. Room: Edgerton Hall, 34-101. Sponsor: Nanostructures Laboratory. Tiny Tech Club and Techlink.

**5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – 6.186 (MASLab) Robotics Exhibition.** Concluding demonstration of robots designed and built during IAP Class 6.186 free. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: EECS, MIT ACM/IEEE.

**7:00 p.m. – Squash vs. Dartmouth College.** free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**8:00 p.m. – Weekly Wednesdays @ the Muddy Charles Pub.** Meet your fellow social graduate students at the Muddy Charles Pub located in the Walker Memorial Building. What will be there for you? \$1 drafts, a variety of beers, wines and sodas, lots of free wings, Sox on the screen. Bring IDs free. Room: Muddy Charles Pub. Sponsor: Edgerton House Residents' Association, MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. TechLink, Wing It.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – IFILM Film Seminar.** Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. free. Room: 4-253. Sponsor: International Film Club.

**8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. – Swing Dancing.** No partner required. Beginners welcome free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society.

## Thursday, January 30

**8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. – LIDS Student Conference.** The conference provides a great opportunity for students to present *their work to fellow students and to the larger MIT community. It also serves to promote communication and collaboration among various research groups at MIT.* This year's conference showcases over twenty student talks from LIDS, the Laboratory for Computer Science (LCS), Mechanical Engineering, the Operations Research Center (ORC), and the Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE). Apart from student speakers, we are fortunate to have several distinguished speakers from industry and academia to share with us their expertise and perspectives in various fields. We are delighted and honored to have the following guest speakers attend the conference: Prof. Stephen Boyd (ISL, Stanford University), Prof. Robert Gallager (LIDS, MIT), Dr. Debasis Mitra (Bell Laboratories), Dr. Radia Perlman (Sun Microsystems), Prof. Madhu Sudan (LCS, MIT). free. Room: 34-401. Sponsor: LIDS Student Conference Committee, LIDS. Draper Laboratory.

**9:30 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. – Implementing the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan.** Presentation of Student Proposals for Campaigns to Reduce Cambridge Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Reports from IAP 17.918, "Implementing the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan." More info: <<http://fee.mit.edu/projects/17.918>>; agramham@mit.edu, bconlin@mit.edu. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, The Environment at MIT Web Site.

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – SAPweb: Purchasing on the Web.** "(formerly Overview of Purchasing on the Web Quick Start) This course covers all aspects of using SAPweb for purchasing, including requisitioning from external vendors and internal providers, as well as ordering from Partner Vendors' online catalogs. Topics include: business rules governing requisitions, creating and displaying requisitions in SAPweb, accessing Partner Vendors' online catalogs." . Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Conversational English Class.** Join us for a free conversational English class for international students and spouses at MIT. Most attendees are women able to speak freely who desire to increase their English skills. Class covers a variety of topics including American culture and holiday descriptions Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers at Work!** free. Room: Women's Lounge-Room 8-219. Sponsor: Weight Watchers.

**1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open.** MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Getting Connected to MITnet.** "This lecture will help guide you through the process of configuring your laptop or home computer to connect to MITnet so that you will have access to online services available to MIT community members only. Attendees learn about the different options for connecting to MIT from on and off campus, and receive a CD containing the necessary software for accessing MITnet and MIT's online services such as email and WebSiS." Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – MIT Events Calendar: Learn to Post Your Events Online.** See how easy it is to post your MIT event online in the web-based MIT Events Calendar system Room: 2-147. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – BioStrategy Seminar: Chris Mirabelli, Partner HealthCare Ventures LLC.** free. Room: E51-315. Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. Sloan BioStrategy Club.

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Veggie dinner.** Dinner. free. Room: Religious Activities Center. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

**7:00 p.m. – QED.** Staged reading of Peter Parnell's play inspired by the writings of Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman (1918-1988) who earned his undergraduate degree from MIT in 1939. Starring Jeremiah Kissel and directed by Jon Lipsky. Performance followed by panel discussion with Feynman friends & colleagues: author Ralph Leighton, musician/bongo drummer Tom Rutishauser, MIT professor Marvin Minsky & MIT science historian David Kaiser. free. Room: Rm 10-250. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Boston Museum of Science.

**7:00 p.m. – The New Congress & US Foreign Policy: Lessons from the Hill.** Discussion with our guests will focus on their experience in Washington: how members of Congress analyze international affairs; and how diplomacy works its way into foreign policy. We will examine the composition of the new Congress; and look at how members of Congress relate to the lobbyists, NGOs, and activists who work to affect Congressional actions. Free. Room: MIT 66-110. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

**8:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m. – Italian, Gypsy Boys, then Campus.** FAQS, MIT's undergraduate queer social group, is holding a movie night! Come for an Italian dinner at 8:00, and watch Gypsy Boys with us at 9:00. After the movie, join us at Campus (a club in Central Square) for one last night of fun before classes start!. free. Room: 4-370. Sponsor: Friendly Alliance of Queers and Straights.

**9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Coffee Hour.** Food and drink — an Ashdown tradition. <<http://www.supercalendar.com/stickers/coffee1.gif>>. free. Room: Hulsizer Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

**10:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – Movie Night.** Movie and food - free for all!! free. Room: Big TV Room (W1). Sponsor: Ashdown House.

**11:59 p.m. – Campus Disc Golf.** Do you like tossing a disc? Do you enjoy friendly competition? Or if you're just up for midnight antics, then come on out! Meet outside the Student Center on the front steps, and don't forget to bring a disc! Don't hesitate to come, newcomers are always welcomed - We meet every Thursday at midnight. Questions, contact Daniel Turek, [macgyver@mit.edu](mailto:macgyver@mit.edu) bring your own disc!. Room: Student Center steps. Sponsor: Campus Disc Golf.

## Friday, January 31

**8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. – LIDS Student Conference.** free. Room: 34-401. Sponsor: LIDS Student Conference Committee, LIDS. Draper Laboratory.

Events Calendar 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 Events Calendar web page.

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – MITAC OPEN in 11-004.** MITAC Box Office Now Open Fridays at CopyTech. Effective Friday, December 6, 2002, MIT employees seeking discounted movie tickets and museum passes can find them at CopyTech's Main Center (11-004) on Fridays. The MIT Activities Committee (MITAC) will sell discounted movie tickets, museum passes and tickets to current MITAC events at CopyTech from 11am – 4pm on Fridays only through January 2003. MITAC tickets will continue to be available at the Walker Memorial (50-005) location Tuesday through Friday from 11am-4pm and at Lincoln Lab (B-210) on Thursdays and Fridays from 11am-4pm. A listing of current events and discounts can be found in the MITAC monthly flyer, mailed to all employees on campus and at Lincoln Laboratory, or online at <<http://web.mit.edu/mitac/>>. If you have any questions, please call 617.253.7990 or email [mitac-office@mit.edu](mailto:mitac-office@mit.edu) See MITAC Flyer. Room: 11-004 - Copy Tech. Sponsor: MITAC.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Orientation to Computing at MIT.** "This seminar provides basic information about the MIT computing environment, presented in language accessible to anyone. Topics include: help resources supported operating systems supported software and recommended hardware the campus network (MITnet and more) security issues and how to address them telephones and voice mail computer-related health issues." Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**1:10 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. – Muslim Friday Prayer.** Weekly congregational prayer for Muslims. People of other faiths welcome to attend. Email [msa-ec@mit.edu](mailto:msa-ec@mit.edu) for more information free. Room: W11-110. Sponsor: Muslim students' Association.

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Getting Connected to MITnet.** Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – 2002 Peter J. Eloranta Fellowship Presentation.** 2002 Peter J. Eloranta Summer Research Fellowship Recipients: Come and learn about the experiences of the 2002 Peter J. Eloranta Summer Research Fellowship recipients. Recipients will report on the outcome/progress of their projects and present their results. A question and answer session will follow each presentation and refreshments will be served. For more information on the fellowships and the 2002 recipients who will present, please see the Eloranta web site: <<http://web.mit.edu/eloranta/>>. free. Room: 2-105. Sponsor: UROP.

**5:00 p.m. – Arts Grant Deadline.** Deadline for 2002-2003 Council for the Arts funding. Forms available at the Office of the Arts, E15-205 or see web site. free. Room: E15-205. Sponsor: Council for the Arts at MIT.

**5:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – Panhellenic Recruitment.** Panhellenic Recruitment Begins! Want to know more about MIT's 5 National Sororities? Come check us out- recruitment is your best opportunity to explore the benefits and rewards of sorority membership. Registration is required and free- visit our website for more information. Panhel Recruitment: Because Life is Not a Spectator Sport! free. Room: Student Center. Sponsor: Panhellenic Association, MIT, Student Life Programs.

**7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – MIT Anime Club showing.** Battles and ballet: tonight we're showing a few episodes of the surprising "Princess Tutu" — about a duck dreaming she is a ballet dancer (or is it a ballet dancer dreaming she is a duck?), who must rescue the prince with the shattered heart. At first it looks like a show for kids, but remember how creepy some Grimm fairy tales can really be? We'll follow this up with some of "Shaman King": high schooler by day, spirit-channelling shaman by night, all on the outskirts of Tokyo free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Easy Rider Movie Night: The Privateer.** A film presentation brought to you by the Easy Rider motorcycle club. Documentary about a privateer racer competing at the 1998 Willow Springs superbike races. Free admission, free food!. free. Room: Room 2-105. Sponsor: Easy Rider: The MIT Motorcycle Club.

**7:30 p.m. – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Rensselaer.** free. Room: Johnson Ice Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**8:00 p.m. – Star Wars: Musical Edition→** World premiere of musical by Rogue Shindler and Jeff Suess (original lyrics and script adaptation), graduate student Stephen Peters (music arranger). Based on the film "Star Wars: A New Hope" by George Lucas. \$9, \$8 MIT community/other students/seniors, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild, MIT.

**8:00 p.m. – Senegalese Drumming.** Culmination of IAP drumming class led by Melissa Edoh '02, List Foundation Fellowship Program recipient and members of MIT Rambax. Also performing: Artist-in-Residence Lamine Toure and Assistant Professor Patricia Tang. Edoh has been studying with master drummer Lamine Toure in Cambridge and also spent last summer in Senegal for intensive study free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

**8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Chinese New Year Performance.** MIT Chinese Student and Scholar Association (MIT CSSA), Boston Chinese Performance Art Association (BCPAA), and New England Chinese Information & Networking Association (NECINA) proudly present Boston Chinese Year of the Ram Performance on Friday January 31, 2003 at 8 p.m., MIT Kresge Auditorium. free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Chinese Student and Scholar Association.

**8:00 p.m. – The Bald Soprano.** Staged reading of play by Eugene Ionesco directed by Elizabeth Jochum. Come meet the Smith's and the Martin's, their maid Mary and the local Fire Chief as they take you through a thoroughly absurd exploration of language and identity. free. Room: Rm 35-225. Sponsor: MIT Community Players.

## Saturday, February 1

**11:00 a.m. – Women's Indoor Track & Field vs. Coast Guard.** free. Room: Johnson Indoor Track. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**1:00 p.m. – Squash vs. RIT.** free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**1:00 p.m. – Men's & Women's Swimming vs. Amherst College.** free. Room: Zesiger Pool. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**3:00 p.m. – Women's Ice Hockey vs. Rensselaer.** free. Room: Johnson Ice Rink. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**3:00 p.m. – Squash vs. Fordham University.** free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**5:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – Panhellenic Recruitment.** Panhellenic Recruitment Begins! Want to know more about MIT's 5 National Sororities? Come check us out- recruitment is your best opportunity to explore the benefits and rewards of sorority membership. Registration is required and free- visit our website for more information. Panhel Recruitment: Because Life is Not a Spectator Sport!. free. Room: Student Center. Sponsor: Panhellenic Association, MIT, Student Life Programs.

**8:00 p.m. – Star Wars: Musical Edition.** World premiere of musical by Rogue Shindler and Jeff Suess (original lyrics and script adaptation), graduate student Stephen Peters (music arranger). Based on the film "Star Wars: A New Hope" by George Lucas. \$9, \$8 MIT community/other students/seniors, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild, MIT.

**8:00 p.m. – The Bald Soprano.** free. Room: Rm 35-225. Sponsor: MIT Community Players.

## Sunday, February 2

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – CEE Summer Internship Program Orientation and Resume Workshop.** For all CEE sophomores and juniors who plan on participating in the CEE Summer Internship Program. free. Room: 1-390. Sponsor: CEE Administrative Staff.

**2:00 p.m. – Star Wars: Musical Edition.** World premiere of musical by Rogue Shindler and Jeff Suess (original lyrics and script adaptation), graduate student Stephen Peters (music arranger). Based on the film "Star Wars: A New Hope" by George Lucas. \$9, \$8 MIT community/other students/seniors, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild, MIT.

**5:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – Panhellenic Recruitment.** free. Room: Student Center. Sponsor: Panhellenic Association, MIT, Student Life Programs.

## Monday, February 3

**12:00 a.m. – National Social Venture Competition - B-Plan Deadline.** Over \$100,000 available in seed capital for social venture plans! The National Social Venture Competition is the only national competition targeting social ventures - for-profit and non-profit ventures with financial and social returns on investment. Its mission is to promote the creation of financially self-sufficient or profitable ventures that have a quantifiable social and/or environmental bottom line. Executive Summaries due November 15, 2002 Business Plans due February 3, 2003. free. Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter. Sponsored by the Haas School of Business, Columbia Business School and The Goldman Sachs Foundation.

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Introduction to Email at MIT.** "This quick start gives an overview of how email works at MIT and the different email protocols that are available. Supported programs for use at MIT are described, along with pros and cons of choosing one over the other, brief instructions on getting started, and pointers to more information. The ÖspamÖ email problem - and what can and can't be done about it - will also be presented. ". Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open.** MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbgt@MIT.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Mechanics Seminar: A continuum mechanical model to predict fiber instabilities in fiber reinforced nonlinearly elastic solids.** A continuum mechanical model to predict fiber instabilities in fiber reinforced composite materials is proposed in the context on Non-Linear Elasticity and examined under plane deformation. The instabilities under consideration are referred also as material in-stabilities and include: fiber kinking, fiber debonding, fiber splitting and matrix failure in fiber-reinforced composite materials. In particular, the material models are isotropic nonlinearly elastic models augmented with a function that accounts for the existence of a unidirectional reinforcing. free. Room: 3-370. Sponsor: Mechanical Engineering Dept

**7:00 p.m. – Women's Basketball vs. Emmanuel College.** free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation.

**7:00 p.m. – MIT Western Hemisphere Project: Reg. Day Open Meeting.** We hold informal sessions throughout the year to discuss events in the news and to work on Project activities. If you want to just chat about these things, or if you want to join in and help organize, we'd love for you to attend Free. Room: MIT 4-231. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.



# THE ARTS

## CONCERT REVIEW

### World Premiere Highlight of Quartet Concert

*Arditti Quartet Presents Well-Rehearsed But Unmoving Program of 20th-Century Works*

By Jacqueline O'Connor

Arditti Quartet  
Kresge Auditorium  
Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

Over the past few decades, some of the world's renowned quartets have performed at Kresge Auditorium as part of the MIT Guest Artist Series. On Friday, England's Arditti Quartet stopped by for a program of four contemporary works, which included a world premiere by Laura Elise Schwendinger. The quartet, founded in 1974 by first violinist Irvine Arditti, also performed string quartets by Bela Bartok, Jonathan Harvey, and Gyorgy Ligeti.

Despite the tremendous difficulty of the program, this well-seasoned group completed the concert with near-perfect technique. Hard-

ly a note was out of place, even in the midst of extreme dissonance, and every effect the instruments could produce was presented clearly.

#### Performances flawless but musically hollow

Though the technical prowess exhibited was impressive, a certain emotional intensity required in contemporary music was lacking. The cellist hardly stirred; eye contact was rarely made between players; and the first and second violinists even went so far as to conduct the music with their instruments instead of depending on the traditional signs of body language for guidance.

The first selection, Bela Bartok's *Quartet No. 4*, showed not only the composer's tonal genius but also his wide demand to produce a broad range of effects and sounds from each instrument and the group as a whole. The

musicians showed their talent in the demanding first movement during which each musician must hold his own part in a sort of dissonant conversation while practicing near impossible technique. Perfect balance and tone were achieved at the beginning of the third movement when the mood was being set for the three gorgeously written solos to follow. Unfortunately, the solos did not speak to the music and showed neither passion nor meaning. The group recovered some emotion in the following movements, playing melodies reminiscent of Eastern European folk songs.

Next on the program was the highlight of the evening, the world premiere of Laura Elise Schwendinger's *String Quartet*. Schwendinger, an Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Illinois in Chicago, wrote the quartet on commission from The Harvard Musical Association of Boston, which co-sponsored this concert with the MIT Guest Artist Series. The piece itself was impressive and appeared very aware of its audience.

The first movement, influenced by Bartok, followed many of his patterns of composition. Though the opening was tonally stressful, the piece was full of movement as it reached false climaxes, only to continue climbing. Intermingling graceful melodies with the complex rhythms and discord, Schwendinger provides a sort of relief from the intensity of the rest of the move-

ment. The second movement, *Molto espressivo, dancelike*, opened with a suspenseful cushion of tremolos on which the cello and viola melodies rested. The dance part of the movement was felt in the short melodies though many pauses interrupted the flow.

The last movement of Schwendinger's quartet mimicked its inspiration, the music of Maurice Ravel, with its intricate orchestration for only four instruments. A perfect balance was struck between the first violin's melodies and the countermelodies that supported it. The Arditti Quartet's performance was well-received, especially by the composer herself, present in the audience.

#### Harvey work a 'cascade of bounces'

The second half of the concert opened with the one-movement *String Quartet No. 3*, by Jonathan Harvey. This wonderful piece started with each musician nonchalantly throwing their bows on the strings in a wonderful cascade of bounces. Following the striking opening, the piece continually searched for tonal unison and almost achieved it a number of times.

Every time the four instruments came near the same note or tonic chord, at least one instrument would be a half-step off from achieving the unison, an effect that seemed to throw the music barreling off into dissonance and discord once more. In this piece, the Arditti Quartet delivered their best performance of the night. The movement and effects within the work came naturally to the group and a certain amount of meaning was projected from their playing. The movement concluded, just as it had opened, disappearing in a trickle of *spicatto*.

The last selection was the *String Quartet No. 2*, by Gyorgy Ligeti. The five-movement work, written in 1968, was well performed by the quartet, which achieved both extreme tonal and dynamical contrasts while retaining coherence and flow. Though each movement differed in tone, overall the piece seemed harsh and came off as unforgiving toward the audience.

While the technical abilities of the Arditti Quartet were superior to many performances seen on Kresge's stage, the feeling for this emotionally demanding music was not there on Friday night. All together, the performance left me impressed, yet unmoved.



Arditti Quartet acknowledges the applause at their concert Friday night. The quartet presented a program of 20th-century works to a large audience at Kresge Auditorium.

## FILM REVIEW ★

### Afraid of the Dark?

*Darkness Falls Fails to Scare*

By Robin Hauck

*Darkness Falls*  
Written by Joseph Harris IV  
Directed by Jonathan Liebesman  
Starring Chaney Kley, Emma Caulfield  
Rated PG-13

Horror movies usually have more than one monster. The very best tap into our collective nightmares and portray the fears we bury under rationality, cynicism, and our daily grind. *Darkness Falls* is by no means in the same league as *Halloween*, *Friday the 13th*, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, or *Psycho*; in fact the most horrifying thing about Sony Pictures' new horror flick is the acting.

The film does tap into a lurking fear of the seemingly innocuous bureaucracy we all live with, a bureaucracy that never seems to care about the little guy no matter how much trouble he's in. As scary as the plot's demon is, what's more likely to leave you shivering on leaving the theater is institutionalized dehumanization in the form of medicine, psychiatry, and the law, which threaten to kill the film's characters if the demon doesn't.

The town in *Darkness Falls* lives with a secret. As the legend goes, 150 years ago, town officials wrongly accused and hung an old woman, Matilda, for the murder of two children. When the children were found safe and sound the next day, the curse Matilda made with her final breath descended upon the guilty inhabitants. On the day a child loses that last baby tooth, she promised, she would get them. If a child dared to look at

her and escape, she would hunt that child forever. One crucial thing: Matilda, alive or dead, can't stand the light.

Twelve years ago, after unsuccessfully hiding his last tooth, Kyle Walsh (Chaney Kley) saw the ghost of Matilda maul his mother to a bloody pulp. Again, police convicted the wrong killer, locking Kyle away. No one believed him when he described what he saw; he was considered psychotic and was heavily medicated. Now living in a barren Las Vegas loft vibrating with heavy metal and lit with industrial strength lamps, Kyle spends his days planning for the night. Instead of guns, he hoards flashlights. When he is in the light she can not get him.

Then, when his middle-school girlfriend Caitlin (Emma Caulfield) calls to say her brother "has what he had," and that he's been in a hospital unable to sleep for 10 days, Kyle packs a bag of batteries and returns to face the demon.

The creepiest moments in the film take place in the psychiatric hospital where Caitlin's brother Michael (Lee Cormie) is under observation. Besides strung-out Michael, his worried sister, and a few robotic hospital personnel, there are few signs of life. The vacant hallways and bleak patient rooms gleam like sterile torture chambers. The lifeless gray that covers the walls, floors and bedsheets blends into the uniforms of indifferent nurses.

Even when ten-year-old Michael screams night after night to keep the lights on, insisting "she" would kill him if he was in the dark, doctors recommend he be put in a deprivation chamber in order to help the boy "face his fear." Similar incidents occur with

the police and the law. No one listens to the truth from Kyle or Michael, people in real need of help. Only imminent death makes them see the light.

*Darkness Falls* grew out of a 2001 short called *Tooth Fairy*. Writer and director Joseph Harris IV received a story credit for this film, turning what was a campy bit of dark humor into an ultimately unsuccessful attempt at a full-blown genre piece. Director Jonathan Liebesman (*Immortals*) wanted *Darkness Falls* to recall its illustrious predecessors, so he filled it with necessary iconography (scary mask, blackouts, haunted bedrooms) and technical motifs (closeups of terrified eyes, hand-held chases through the woods, ominous overhead shots). But the script gives Liebesman and his actors scant material on which to hang these trappings. Though the sound design, living up to tradition, mounts panic when darkness falls on



The acting, not the ghost of Matilda, is the scariest thing in *Darkness Falls*.

the screen, the paltry dialogue often kills the mood.

*Darkness Falls* isn't poised to spawn a series of sequels. Its central conflict between light and dark and deliberate association of darkness with evil, though somewhat indebted to horror tradition, may anger viewers. But, most likely due to the film's mediocrity, people won't take it that seriously. I know I don't.



## RENTAL ADVISORY

# If Only Life Were Like Annie Hall

*What I Wouldn't Give For a Large Sock With Horse Manure In It*

By Amandeep Loomba

STAFF WRITER

Rental Advisory is a regular column that aims to guide you in your weekly selection at the video store (Hollywood Express, not Blockbuster; or if you must, Netflix). By distilling each film to a single moment of importance, the column aims to present the sort of economical viewing strategy that time-strapped MIT students are forced to employ in their film appreciation.

Remember walking out of your first 8.01 exam? Downtrodden, heavy-hearted and fed up with Newton and all the other pricks that made such torture possible, you catch the eye of a friend from recitation. No words need to be exchanged; just a glance between you reinforces the cheerless state the world has suddenly acquired.

And you know tonight is the night you've been saving that bottle of Jack Daniels for. Oh, but not everyone is so ready to move on from that suffocatingly law-bound world of physics.

"Did you put down both the positive and the negative answers for number three? I thought it was vague so I included both with a supplementary note explaining myself."

Uh oh. You didn't put the negative answer down on problem three.

"I thought number two was tricky. I almost forgot how to factor  $(x^2 - 1)$ ! But then I was like, duh!"

Wait. There was definitely no factoring involved in your solution to number two. Who the hell are these chumps anyway?

You know who they are. They are the same chumps who walk out of every exam unwilling to leave the subject in the testing room. The ones who walk behind you through the infinite corridor arguing endlessly over academic minutiae that you couldn't care less about. What do you do with such exasperating intellects? Would it be rude to turn around and ask them to keep their insipid insights to themselves? Would it be awkward if you were to cover your ears with your hands and sprint down the hallway screaming?

Woody Allen found just about the perfect solution to this predicament in *Annie Hall* (1977). When the pseudo-intellectual ramblings of the man behind him in the movie theater line become unbearable, he turns to the camera in frustration: "What I wouldn't give for a large sock with horse manure in it. What do you do when you get stuck in a movie line with a guy like this behind you?"

When the intellect tries to validate his insights into film, television, and Marshall McLuhan, explaining that he teaches a class at Columbia called "TV, media and culture," Allen pulls off the greatest movie theater lobby trick on film. From just off-camera on the right side of the screen, he produces Marshall McLuhan himself. McLuhan then proceeds to excoriate the rogue pontificator, "You know nothing of my work. ... How you ever got to teach a course in anything is totally amazing," and strikes a blow for all time against pseudo-intellectualism.

Of course, Allen turns back to the camera and says, "Boy, if life were only like this." Like many of the memorable scenes in *Annie Hall*, this one seems to have played out entirely in his head. But that never stops me from imagining my own post-8.01 examination scenario.

8.01 Nerd: ...Actually, no you can't assume constant acceleration in that problem because—

Humble Columnist: Don't you guys ever stop? Why don't you just forget the physics and move on?

8N: Hey, we're just displaying a healthy intellectual curiosity toward the subject matter. I think anyone who appreciates physics would understand.

HC: Oh do you? That's funny, because I happen to have Professor Lewin right here...

Walter Lewin: You guys are really going too far. The test is over, you should be out on the town and halfway to being blacked out by now. Stop talking physics!

Sadly, life is almost never like that. As such, it's probably best that we all just carry around large socks filled with horse manure for these situations.

## CONCERT REVIEW

# With Yo-Yo Ma on Center Stage, Who Needs Violins?

*Cellist Presents Recital of French Music for Sold-Out Crowd at Symphony Hall*

By Jeremy Baskin

ARTS EDITOR

Yo-Yo Ma, cello with Kathryn Stott, piano  
Symphony Hall  
Jan. 22, 8 p.m.

Though Yo-Yo Ma's Boston performances are not rare, they are still major events. Last Wednesday, Ma gave a recital at Symphony Hall with pianist Kathryn Stott of romantic and 20th century French music.

The concert, presented by the FleetBoston Celebrity Series, featured an even mix of music originally written for cello and transcriptions of violin music. Except for a few awkward moments, you'd never notice that the *Faure Violin Sonata in A Major* was actually a violin sonata.

With so much cello music around, it's interesting to wonder why cellists often play transcriptions of violin sonatas. There are volumes more violin sonatas than cello sonatas, but the cello is pretty well endowed with solo repertoire compared to its tenor friends, the French horn and bassoon.

Perhaps cellists have a desire to prove that they are technically able to play the hardest passages that violinists have been given to tackle. It could be a grass-is-greener situation made all the more interesting if one considers how many young violinists fall in love with the cello and its rich, warm, melancholy timbre.

Last Wednesday night, Ma ended any doubt in the minds of scores of aspiring violinists by showing them that their music couldn't sound any better than it did when it came out of his cello. And the ultimate reason in favor of playing violin music on the cello, or more generally playing transcriptions, is that instruments are simply the media employed to produce the sound, but it is the musician who conveys the music.

## Coordination in Debussy too perfect

The program began with Debussy's *Sonata for Cello and Piano*, a typical impressionist composition whose outer movements feature sweet melodies and whose middle movement is hair-raising in its lack of resolution, which features pizzicatos and other acrobatics.

Here, the coordination between Ma and Stott was so perfect that one is left to wonder how many times they've performed this work. It seems absurd to complain about everything not only being in place but also played musically, but music is not meant to be interpreted once

and then memorized. If a performer's every move, no matter how expressive, can be predicted or even appears to be prepared, then the whole performance has a somewhat canned sense to it.

Still, this sensation did not pervade the rest of the program. The most moving moment in the evening came right after the intermission, with a performance of "Louange à l'Eternité de Jesus," a movement from Olivier Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. In 1940, while captive in a German prison camp, Messiaen wrote this monumental chamber work, which was premiered for an audience of prisoners in early 1941. Ma and Stott gave "Louange" a performance that was heart-wrenching yet not overly sentimental.

The concert was quite balanced, as evidenced by the placement of Gabriel Faure's romantic *Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 in A Major* at the end of the first half and Cesar Franck's *Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major* at the end of the second half. These two violin sonatas resemble each other stylistically and technically; additionally, they were composed within ten years of each other.

Both work well in their transcriptions for the cello, though the third movement of the Faure sonata had some passagework not particularly suited to a cello; even the unflappably poised Yo-Yo Ma had some intonation problems there. Stott's piano playing was admirable, as she showed her technical prowess during these sonatas.

Equally commendable was her ability to play as Ma's musical equal, more than a mere



MICHAEL LUTCH

Yo-Yo Ma, who resides in Boston, is one of the world's most celebrated cello soloists.

accompanist. This was, for sure, an evening of chamber music, which leaves us to wonder if Symphony Hall weren't a bit on the large side for a chamber. Ma is known to prefer NEC's more intimate Jordan Hall for chamber music, but he did sell out Symphony Hall. Economics, unfortunately, are a factor, even if they get in the way of creating the right environment for performer-spectator communication.

Though applause was delivered somewhat sparingly throughout the evening, the sellout crowd would not let the musicians leave once the Franck sonata was finished. After numerous curtain calls, the audience was indulged with two French encores, the first of them in tune with the theme of the evening: a transcription of a violin encore. Ma and Stott performed beautifully the "Meditation" from Massenet's *Thais* and "The Swan" from Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*, leaving the audience with two pleasant melodies to hum on the way home.

## CONCERT REVIEW

# Metamorphosen in Star Form

*Classical Meets Pop with Corelli, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Cotton*

By Amanda Wang

Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra

Scott Yoo, conductor and soloist

Jordan Hall

Jan. 25, 8 p.m.

As I walked to Jordan Hall to hear the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra perform their second concert of the season, I brought along my usual mixed bag of feelings toward this group. Being one of the premier chamber ensembles of the day, Metamorphosen comprises rising young musicians whose attractive glamour shots — accompanied by impressive credentials — fill the glossy sheets of their *Vogue*-like brochure.

Young, diverse, talented, and even well rounded — several of the group's members majored in science, in fact — the group's members are, as individuals, godlike. Gathered together with their CD-perfect finish, they are a group one could love to hate.

Metamorphosen, a supporter of new music and change, generally commissions and performs one world-premiere piece at each of its concerts. The musicians sported bald heads and dresses that might have appeared on one of MTV's more formal occasions. Watching them and being part of an audience with an unusually large percentage of people under 50 years of age almost made me feel hip to be listening to Corelli. And as the liberal-minded young professionals of today's classical music world, Metamorphosen members democratically rotate their positions after each piece to show that no one is better than anyone else. Call me old-fashioned if I find that a little over-compensating.

In Arcangelo Corelli's *Concerto Grosso in D, Op. 6, No. 4*, the contrasting soloists and orchestra compete for the spotlight amid seamlessly passed transitions and flawless ensemble work. For better or worse, the winner, hands down, would have been conductor and soloist Scott Yoo, whose dominating virtuosic energy

permeates the music and the musicians. Yoo's role extends beyond founder and conductor of Metamorphosen. One could feel his presence bearing over the entire musical output of this performance in a way that was overshadowed by only a few memorable moments throughout the concert.

At times, especially during Schubert's *Du Bist die Ruh*, arranged for clarinet, one could feel a bit distracted by Yoo's frenetic wand technique, enhanced by his towering position atop a two foot dais. Clarinetist Todd Palmer, even with the heavy orchestration, played with full absorption, sincerity and a refreshing independence which captured my attention and admiration.

Jeffrey Cotton, Metamorphosen's composer-in-residence, explained his usage of the "star form," a musical game he has invented to geometrically connect different musical episodes together. As interesting as it might have seemed in front of the blackboard while he traced out five- and seven-point stars, in the end, his *Concerto for Clarinet, Strings, and Harp* lacked cohesion and intuitive direction.

While his episodes moved in well defined patterns around a "star," this particular ear couldn't make too much sense of where it was going. The experience was still pleasant, however, and despite being one of the composer's darker pieces, it did not particularly step out of anyone's comfort zone. The orchestral Greek chorus to Palmer's solos was played with gusto and good understanding. The clarinet's excruciating last two notes in the second movement composed one of the best moments of the entire evening.

Looking at the players' faces, I saw expressions of intense abstraction and at the same time professional detachment. Their rendition of Mendelssohn's *Sinfonia No. 9* was wonderful and brilliant, but somehow not as magical as it could be, like the missing hiss on a sterilized record-turned-CD. Their execution has the perfection of a video game master, so why did it lack that youthful irreverence, that soulful *je ne sais quoi*? My two cents: these talented kids should put away their instruments and go play outside.



## FILM REVIEW ★★★

# Hable Con Almodovar

## Has Pedro Finally Gotten Over His Mother?

By Jed Horne

STAFF WRITER

*Hable con Ella (Talk To Her)*Written and Directed by Pedro Almodóvar  
Starring Javier Cámara, Dario Grandinetti,  
Leonor Watling, and Rosario Flores  
Rated R

Credited with introducing Spanish culture to homosexuals and aesthetes world wide, director Pedro Almodóvar has spent his career on the verge of something big: not a nervous breakdown, as the title of his signature film would suggest, but, rather, a self-indulgent descent into campiness and irrelevance. It would be hard to find a worse example than his last movie, 1999's *Todo Sobre Mi Madre* (*All About My Mother*), which raked in undeserved accolades including an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2000.

It is with a melodramatic sigh of relief, then, that I can announce that his latest movie, *Hable con Ella (Talk to Her)*, doesn't suck. Almodóvar seems to have recap-

tured much of the pathos of his past films without sacrificing his sense of humor. Even more noteworthy is the dramatic maturation of the themes wrestled with unsuccessfully in *Todo Sobre Mi Madre*: homosexuality, womanhood, obsession, and death.

The appropriately-titled Benigno (Javier Cámara) is a sexually-ambiguous nurse in charge of coma-patient Alicia (Leonor Watling). Marco (Dario Grandinetti) is in love with Lydia (Rosario Flores), a female matador who joins Alicia and Benigno when she is mauled by a bull. Can a man love a woman in a catatonic state? Can the woman love him back? Is the friendship between two men ever just friendship?

Although the female leads spend half of the movie motionless (but looking pretty), the little-known Cámara and Grandinetti do respectable jobs as Benigno and Marco, balancing sexual tension and platonic empathy without trivializing their relationship.

The real credit for this film's success, however, should be given to the director himself, who manages the same tension

throughout the movie. *Hable con Ella*, like *Todo Sobre Mi Madre*, uses movies and plays within a movie to its advantage.

The film opens and closes with beautifully choreographed dance sequences, and Benigno's obsession with silent movies (presumably paralleling his own inability to communicate with Alicia) is an entertaining aside. It is in these moments that Almodóvar is most comfortable and adept, self-referentially adapting scenes of Spanish melodrama and passion to parallel the lives of his characters.

Unlike the earlier film, *Hable con Ella* rises above its backdrop and humanizes



MIGUEL BRACHO—SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Lydia (Rosario Flores), a matador in *Hable con Ella*.

moments that are usually left to sexual deviants. I left *Todo Sobre Mi Madre* feeling that, not being a drag queen or a bona fide woman, I had been somehow left out of the joke. *Hable con Ella*, on the other hand, makes having sex with someone in a coma completely understandable, even to those of us who haven't done the same thing.

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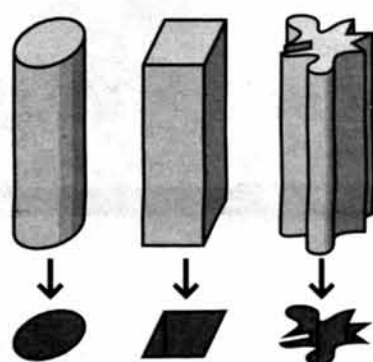
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# MIT Takes Cautious Approach on SEVIS

SEVIS, from Page 1

result of the student being convicted of a crime."

## Input on SEVIS limited

Currently, the avenues for comments and complaints about the new system are limited for both students and administrators.

Colbert said that if the government were to investigate a student, "we've been told not to interfere ... our entreaties will have no bearing."

He said that MIT will "work as quietly and effectively in the right

quarters" to express opposition to any policy with an unnecessarily negative effect on students.

Ruby Y. Lau '04, president of the International Students Association, said that her friends were upset about new registration process. She said that there were "definitely not enough channels to voice their complaints."

She said that she wanted the MIT administration "just to give [international students] more help and support."

*Nathan Collins and Kathy Lin contributed to the reporting of this story.*

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AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Ajay Sudan G sips from a glass of wine during "In Vino Veritas," a wine tasting seminar held over IAP. Participants tasted over 50 wines during the seminar's five sessions.

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# CPs Will Not Press SafeRide Charges

SafeRide, from Page 1

The bus drivers "stop the bus, call Campus Police to take care of the student, and only alert MIT Medical if treatment is required," Immerman said.

Benedict confirmed that students will not be taken to MIT Medical if treatment is not needed.

Campus Police "would be informed [if a drunk student vomited], but we would not press charges against the student," Campus Police Captain David A. Carlson said. "The medical department follows up on any alcohol-related incident and may notify our officers, and I assume they would try talk to the person to understand what happened."

## Passengers affected by vomiting

"Other passengers are required to exit the vehicle and wait at the stop until an alternative vehicle is put into service or the bus is cleaned and returned to service," Brutti said. "This process affects the entire shuttle schedule for a number of hours."

Although she would feel slightly "disgusted" if a student vomited next to her on SafeRide, Lisa R. Messeri '04 said, "Everyone deserves a ride home, especially in this cold weather. If [the students] are drunk, it is a good thing they are riding home and not walking on the streets."

If he was forced off of SafeRide because of an intoxicated student, Vikash Gilja '03 said, "I wouldn't like it and I would be angry, but I would understand. After all, the purpose of SafeRide is to find a safe way to get students home."

"The question is what responsibility we have, to balance the impact of the inconvenience of cleaning up the vomit and whether we want to see students walk home intoxicated," Immerman said.

## Seale says compromise needed

"I know it is not the administration trying to get students to the police," said Undergraduate Association President Josiah D. Seale '03. "There are many options besides calling the police that we can agree on, and students can craft the solutions."

"What concerns me is that students throwing up in vans is irresponsible. It is one thing to make a mistake, but it is another thing to let others suffer the consequences," Seale said.

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- Acquire an understanding of the history of race relations at MIT
- Examine the origins of their own attitudes and history that inform their responses in cross-racial and cross-cultural dialogues
- Identify areas of personal strength and areas for improving how they contribute to and provide leadership in multi-racial groups and interactions.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate strategies for addressing a particular issue within MIT related to the theme of the course.
- Identify resources available through CCRR and other sources to support efforts to improve race relations.

Class Size limit: 30 students

Open to Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Cross listed in the Sloan School and the Departments of Linguistics and Philosophy, Political Science, and Urban Studies and Planning.

Sponsored by the Committee on Campus Race Relations

For more information contact one of the following course instructors:

Francine Crystal ([fcystal@mit.edu](mailto:fcystal@mit.edu))

Sally Haslanger ([shaslang@mit.edu](mailto:shaslang@mit.edu))

Cesar McDowell ([cesar@mit.edu](mailto:cesar@mit.edu))

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## Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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T	E	T	E	L	E	N	I	W	A	H
E	A	R	L	E	R	I	E	O	N	S
W	R	I	G	L	E	Y	F	I	E	L
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A	R	I	D	R	E	C	O	I	L	C
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L	A	I	R	S	E	R	T	E	R	I



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# Few Robots Qualify For Finals in 6.270

By Lakshmi Nambiar  
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT Autonomous Robot Design Competition (6.270) kicked off the end of IAP 2003 with a bang as 57 teams competed in the preliminary rounds of 6.270 on Monday.

After the preliminary round, only 12 teams qualified to move on to the final round this Thursday in 26-100 at 6 pm. Work on the successful robots must stop on Wednesday, and the robots will be impounded until the competition.

"The task of the robots was to bring colored balls to the middle plateau of the playing field to receive one point, and robots that were able to put a single ball in the cup on the bottom plateau received four points," said T. Debbie Wan '03, one of the organizers.

## Feature

**Relatively few robots qualify**  
"Robots were disqualified if they failed to show they could score a point. We were just looking to see that the robots could be able to score a point, even if they didn't," said Wan.

"I was shocked at the low number of robots that made it through to the preliminary rounds. I competed last year and I felt that around 30 teams qualified last year. There was definitely a concern about that," Wan said.

Three teams were able to achieve the feat of dropping the ball in the cup on the bottom plateau.

## Sensors cited as key weaknesses

The main problems most of the robots faced were difficulties with sensors and the inability to properly initiate the start sequence.

"The lighting in 26-100, where the competition was held, is a lot different from the lighting in the lab," Wan said. "These robots are light-sensitive and thus were acting kind of wacky. The phototransistors weren't well shielded."

"A lot of people were prepared for the difficult tasks like navigating the balls, but they hadn't practiced well for the start sequence," said Erica H. Peterson '02, another organizer.

"Make sure you test your start code before you come up here," organizer David P. Ziegler '04 repeatedly reminded participants on Monday.

"The start sequence consisted of a 60 second period to calibrate the robot in order to allow it to detect colors, followed by the arming period to allow the robot to wait for the start light [signaling the beginning of the game] to begin," Wan said. "People messed up this start sequence."

## Robots product of hard work

Organizers noted that the robots that were most likely to qualify were constructed by students that had spent

the most time testing them.

"Spending more time in lab definitely helped participants," Peterson said. "A lot of people were working at home and they didn't have the same access to resources as they would have had in lab. In lab, students were able to test their robots on the tables and consult TA's."

"The people that did the best were the ones that were constantly practicing in lab. In terms of structural elements, I really couldn't say which methods worked best because a variety of structures worked in their own way," Wan said.

## Many prototypes implemented

Tim I. Abrahamsen '06, Ross N. Glashan '06, and James J. Wnorowski '06, members of Team 23, had to test several ideas before they could get their robot to work.

"We scrapped about 4 or 5 ideas. We had a forklift first and then we had a claw," said Abrahamsen.

"Now the robot is a combination of a forklift and a claw," said Glashan.

Keith V. Battocchi G, Andrew G. Gregg '04, and Taku Iida '04 went through an arduous process to create their robot, "Super Duplo."

"First, we brainstormed several ideas and then we started playing around with different prototypes. We finally got one that we were satisfied with," said Gregg.

John A. Aquandro '05, Akash P. Kansagra '05, and Elvio A. Sadun '05, members of Team 16, spent a lot of time working on their robot, which presently remains nameless.

"We've spent far too many all-nighters. We've spent the past 16 hours in lab and I know some people have spent days on end in lab working on their robots," said Sadun.

## Long tradition of 6.270 competition

6.270 is a hands-on IAP class in which participants design and build a robot that will participate in a competition at the end of January. The goal for the students is to design a machine that will be able to navigate its way around the playing surface, recognize other opponents, and manipulate game objects. Robots are totally autonomous, so once a round begins, there is no human intervention.

The goal of 6.270 is to teach students about robotic design by giving them the hardware, software, and information they need to design, build, and debug their own robot. The students work in teams of two or three. Each team is given the same kit containing various sensors, electronic components, batteries, motors, and LEGOs, worth approximately \$1,500. The kits are handed out at the beginning of January and students have three weeks in which to transform the parts into a working robot for the competition at the end of the month.

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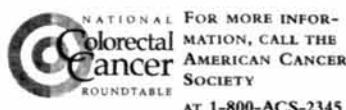
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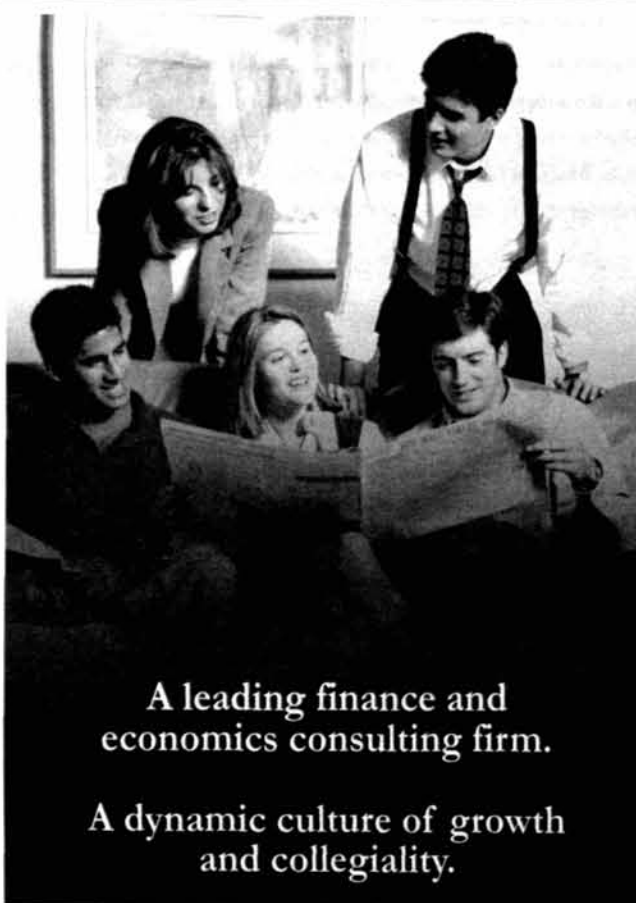
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# Students Not Aware Of New Card Policy

Card, from Page 1

"If people don't know there was a problem in two weeks, then shame on them," said McDonald.

"The only people with access [to this information] are departments responding to an incident or crime," Michaud said.

Michaud said that incidents prompting card tracking ranging from a major theft in the chemistry department a few years ago to a professor's report of a stolen laptop.

Michaud added that the only way to obtain access to the records of entrances is with written permission from the MIT Chief of Police, John DiFava.

"It's a tool that can be utilized if something serious happens," said MIT Deputy Chief of Police John E. Driscoll. "We're not tracking people."

McDonald says that he understands that the new policy intrudes on student privacy.

"It may be an encroachment, but it's in a minimally invasive way," Macdonald said.

## MIT originally against tracking

MIT implemented the card program in 1993. One of the functions of the new identification card was to allow students and faculty to gain entrance into dormitories and labs.

At the time, the software had the capability to track all attempts to use a card in a reader, but Larry Maguire of Housing and Food Services chose to not consider using

this technology unless a "serious campus security problem" arose, according to a memorandum from Amy S. Bruckman PhD '97. Bruckman was the head of a now defunct committee that dealt with privacy issues surrounding the MIT card.

Originally, student information was only recorded if there was an unsuccessful entry attempt into a building or laboratory.

"The key card readers could potentially use the key cards for a tremendous amount of information. No data is stored on the card itself, but the card reader is capable of recording as much or as less as is programmed," Bruckman said in 1994.

## Students unaware of policy

MIT students are unaware of the new changes to the card policy.

"I was not aware of that policy," said Darren D. Chang G.

Chang believes that the tracking would be ineffective in preventing thefts.

"I don't believe there are many students out there with the intention of theft. It sounds like a deterrent rather than" a tool for investigation, Chang said.

Charles Cheng G believes the tracking is related to the tracking of international students by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"This limits our mobility," said Cheng.

"This system is imposed on you. You don't choose to be at MIT, we have to be here," Chang said.



HASSEN ABDU

Julia P. Patriarco '05 gains access to Simmons Hall by using the card entry system instituted in 1993. Recently, the MIT Card Office has begun logging successful entrances using the card in addition to unsuccessful entrance attempts.

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## RESPONDENTS

February 3, 2003

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OF PSYCHIATRY AT HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

**FROM ATHEIST TO BELIEVER: A  
PERSONAL VOYAGE**

February 4, 2003

**DR. KENNETH MILLER** PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY  
AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

**CAN A GENETICIST BE A BELIEVER?  
EVOLUTION AND OTHER CHALLENGES**

February 5, 2003

**THE REVEREND TED PETERS** DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER  
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Grants Guidelines: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantguide.html>

Application form: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantform.html>

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# Fellowship Loss To Affect Funding Source for Some

Admissions, from Page 1

“This decrease in Presidential Fellowships will change the form of support for some students, usually to research assistantships or teaching assistantships,” Brown said.

## Most departments see little change

Most MIT departments have not observed a large change in the number of or strength of applicants. Many anticipate they will accept the same number despite budget cuts affecting the entire university.

“The numbers change every day, however right now we have 580 applications. During this time last year we had 540. The applicant pool is very strong,” said Professor Oral Buyukozturk of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

“So far, we have about 700 applicants, 60 more than last year. The number of applicants has risen

in the past few years,” said Brian E. Canavan, Department of Physics academic administrator.

He does not see a problem with supporting admitted students in light of the reduction of Presidential Fellowships.

“The loss from that area is evened out. We will not be affected directly because there are other fellowships to compensate,” Canavan said.

## Award funds first year of school

The Presidential Fellowships program provides tuition and living stipend for “outstanding” first-year graduate students, according to the fellowship Web site. The program is intended to provide an alternative to teaching assistant positions, which often fund the first year of graduate school. Subsequent years are funded by individual departments.

Prospective MIT graduate school students must apply to spe-

cific departments that subsequently determine financial aid and degrees given. The departments have the option to nominate accepted students for the Presidential Fellowship.

Students “have the option to apply for multiple departments, however most apply to just one,”

Johnson said.

The application deadlines for admission to most of the MIT academic departments fell in the past few weeks, and most departments have not observed big differences in applicant numbers as compared to last year.

“As of January 16, we had

11,662 [graduate school] applicants excluding the Sloan School of Management,” said Elizabeth S. Johnson, Associate Director of Admissions.

MIT averages a total of about 12,000 graduate school applicants per year, according to the admissions Web site.

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MIT Department of  
FACILITIES  
CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Building 7 ADA accessible entrance

New epoxy flooring in the lower level of Building 7 has been completed. Exterior concrete steps and ramps will be installed soon. Interior painting and light installation is complete. Outdoor work is approximately 40 percent complete. Concrete for the ramp and steps will be installed soon.

Lobby 7

Construction on Bosworth's café in Lobby 7 is nearing completion. The café will open sometime in early February.

Simmons Hall

A temporary card swipe has been installed at the front entrance of the building; a more permanent system will be in place soon.

Stata Center

Tunnel breakthrough to Building 26 is complete. Abatement work on the steam line between Building 56 and the Alumni Pool is ongoing.

Dreyfus Chemistry Building

Repair work on the east concrete façade is nearing completion. Installation of mechanical systems continues.

Vassar Street

Installation of steam piping under Main Street will begin soon. No major impact to traffic is anticipated. Pedestrians now walk behind Building 48 on a newly constructed temporary walkway for several months to allow Vassar St. work to continue. Traffic has shifted to the south side of the street to allow for construction in front of Buildings 45 and 48.

Building E19 Renovations

The fifth floor of Building E19 is being converted to laboratory space for new faculty associated with the McGovern Institute for Brain Research and the Picower Center for Learning and Memory. Construction includes new ducts for supply and exhaust and plumbing installation. Asbestos abatement will begin soon.

For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>  
This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

LAURENCE FISHBURNE  
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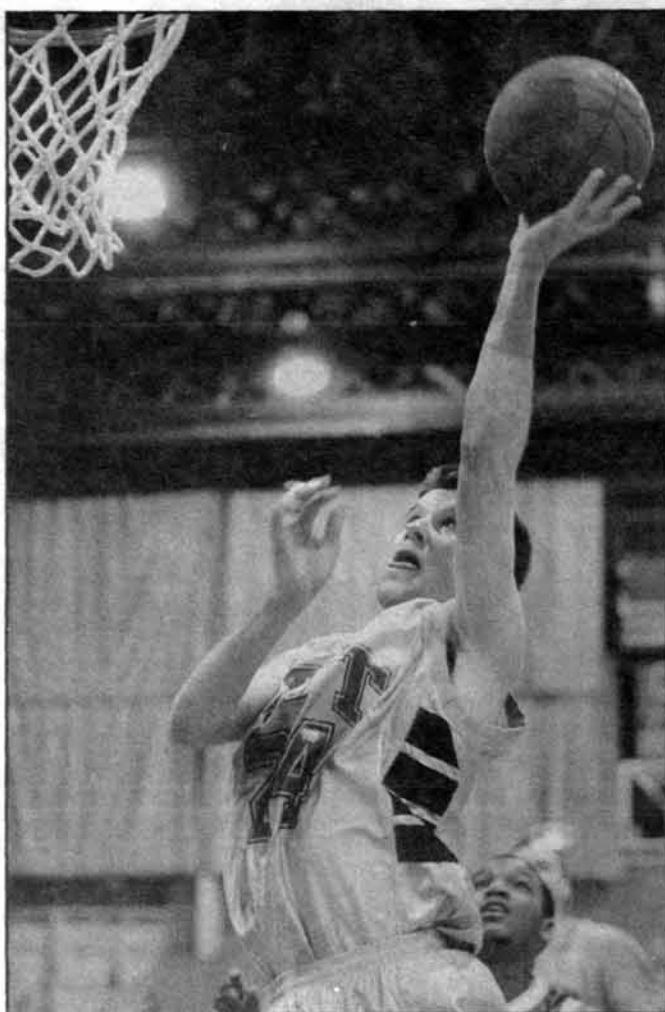
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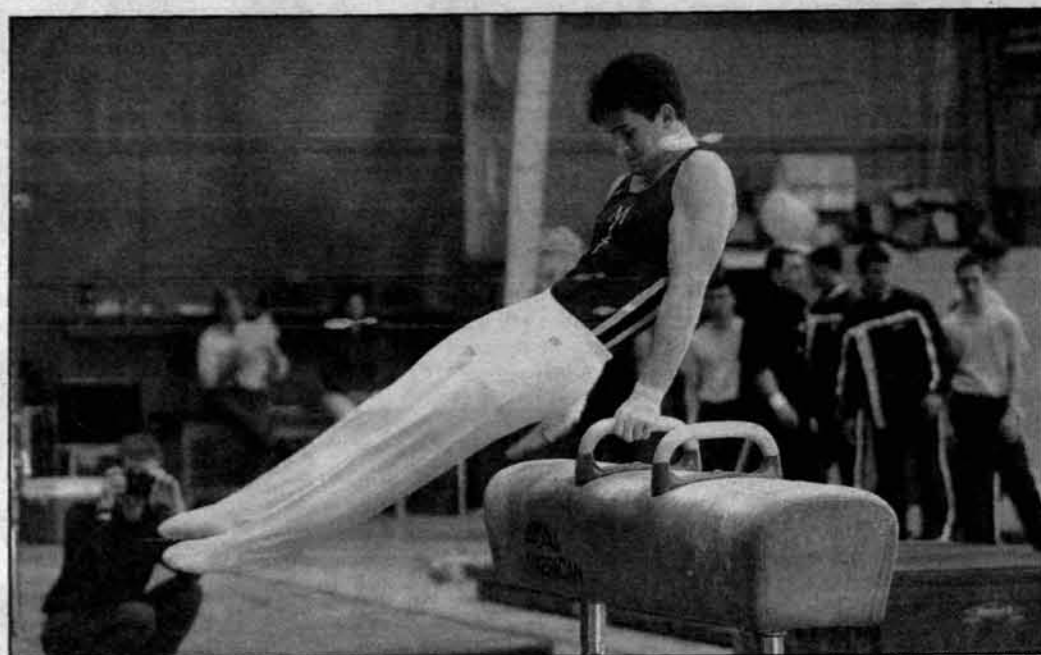
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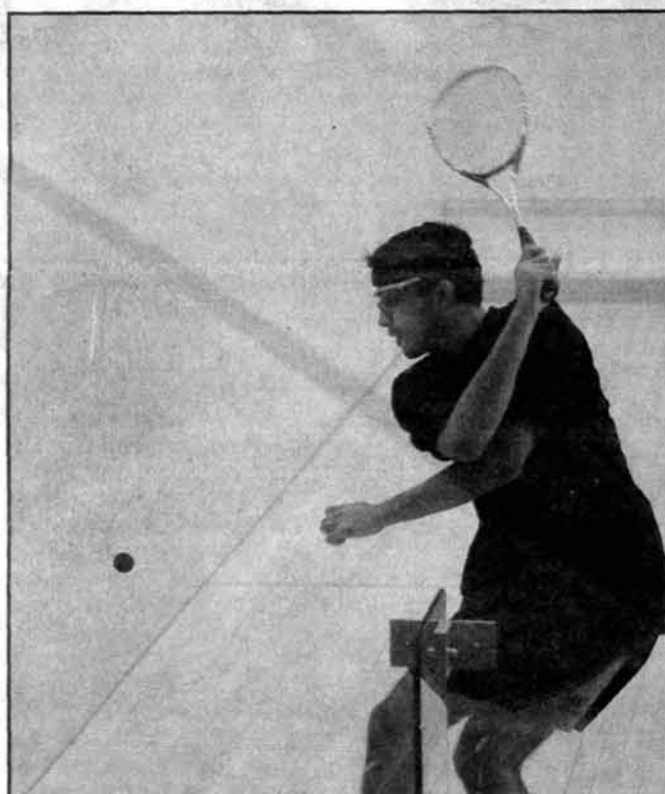
AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Michael W. D'Auria '06 goes up for a layup during the men's basketball game on Tuesday. MIT defeated Newbury College 71-65.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Team captain Damian Engen '03 performs on the pommel horse in men's gymnastics Saturday match against Army. Engen tied for first on floor and won first place on parallel bars, highbar, and all-around. MIT was unable to hold off Army, who defeated MIT 195.2 to 148.3.



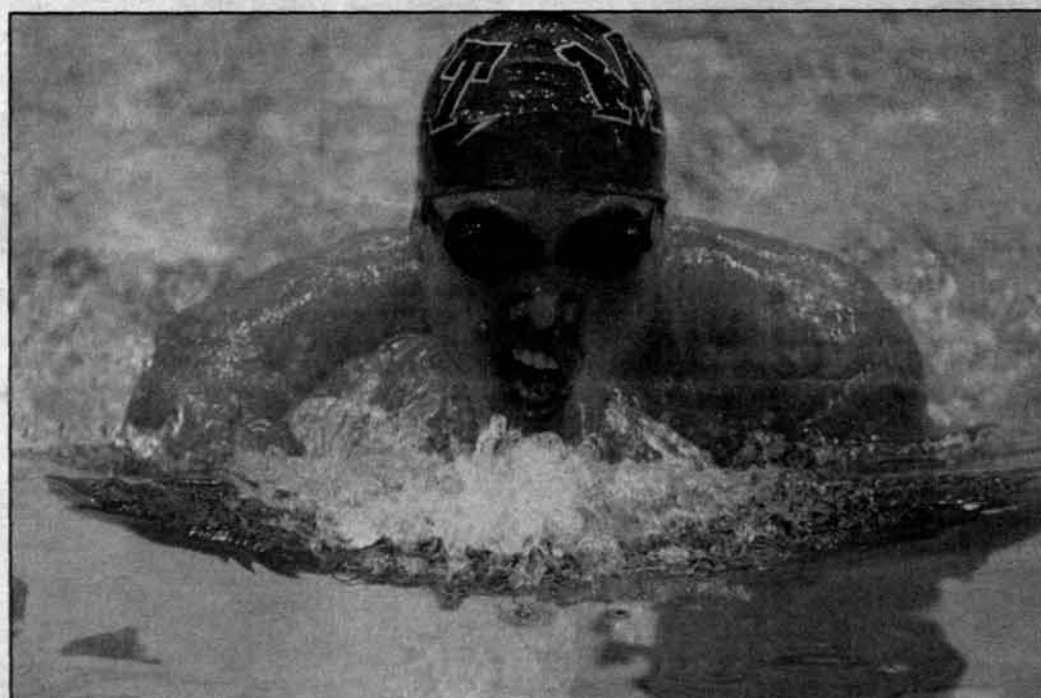
HASSEN ABDU

Naveen Goela '03 prepares to score a point against Trinity College's Colgate Smith. MIT lost to the top ranked team in the nation 0-9.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

With her team facing a late attack by Worcester Polytechnic Institute, women's basketball coach Melissa Hart urges on her players during Saturday's game. The team went on to win 53-46, bringing their record to 8-6 for the season.



JINA KIM—THE TECH

Bruce J. Dibello '05 places third in the 200-meter breaststroke with a time of 2:18.34. The men's swimming team defeated Tufts 124 to 118.

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