

## in the news

### INSIDE

*Two Gentlemen of Verona* is a set of excellent individual performances which aren't quite brought together. Kathy Hardis reviews the Musical Theatre Guild's fall production.

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Scientists trained in engineering and Asian history are investigating ancient mechanical devices to find clues as to the early development of Chinese technology.

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The MIT Women's Volleyball team capped its 17-0 regular season performance by reaching the semi-finals of the University of Rhode Island tournament.

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### OUTSIDE

MIT has received a \$315,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to support research into the environmental impacts of large-scale facilities. Professor Lawrence E. Susskind, Assistant Head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, will lead the research group.

A St. John's University student has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of Thomas Fitzgerald, who died of knife wounds in what was described as an "unauthorized ROTC military training exercise" by college officials but as a "fraternity hazing program" by police in Hauppauge, New York.

Beginning this Friday, all weekend users of the duPont athletic complex must present their athletic card at the main desk in order to receive a chit that will allow them to enter the appropriate facility.

### ERRATA

In the last issue of *The Tech*, it was incorrectly reported that Mary C. Heine, the newly appointed Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, graduated in 1964 from Wellesley College. Actually, Heine attended Wellesley from 1962 to 1964 and received her Bachelor's degree from MIT in 1967.

## UMOC competition grosses \$7000

By Kent Pitman

This year's Ugliest Man on Campus (UMOC) competition raised \$7,273.69, more than doubling the previous record of \$3,083.83.

The winner of the contest was the Hump (Larry DeMar '79 and David Browne '78), who amassed a total of \$1,678.89. On the basis of funds raised, the Hump is not only the Ugliest Man on Campus, but the ugliest man in the history of UMOC competition at MIT. His total surpasses the record of \$1,195.76 set by Count UMOC (Brian Hughes '77) in 1974.

Leo (Leo Harten '77) finished second with \$1,223.51 collected — also surpassing Count UMOC's 1974 record. Leo was followed by the Foon (William Lasser '78), who collected \$1,185.65 and by Count UMOC who collected \$753.61.

The top four candidates will each receive dinner for two at a local restaurant, and the top five contenders will each receive ten free beers at a Strat's Rat, the bi-weekly mixer held in the Sala de Puerto Rico by the Student



UMOC runner-up Leo Harten '77 holds up a rare \$1000 bill as Geoff Baskir and others look on.

Center Committee.

Each candidate who raised over \$500 will receive a candlelight dinner for two at McDonald's. In addition to those mentioned previously, the Spirit of Transparent Horizons (Mitch Weiss '79) with \$625 and the Gorilla (Steve Meretzky '79) with \$505 qualified for this prize.

The remaining official contestants finished as follows: Sadie Bilgewater (Bonnie Mason '79), \$367; Maxwell's Demon (Michael Bleiweiss '77), \$309; Geoffry Baskir '78, \$247; Epsilon Theta Pledge Class, \$47; John Q. Twit (John Q. Peers), \$28; the Mummy (name withheld), \$24; and Thunder Turkey (Vinay Reddy '78), \$11.

Those contestants who raised over \$100 will receive a free breakfast at McDonald's in addition to any other prizes.

The UMOC contest is an annual event sponsored by the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity at MIT to raise money for charity. All proceeds from this year's effort will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

## Blood drive hurt by swine flu shots

By Gerald Radack

The Technology Community Association's eight-day Fall Blood Drive ended Friday after collecting 1,523 pints of blood, 156 pints less than the amount collected last fall.

"This year we were hit by the swine flu shots," said Blood Drive chairman Shannon Maher '78. Potential donors were required to wait 24 hours after receiving flu shots before giving blood.

Maher also blamed the low amount of blood collected on the fact that Draper Laboratories

were moving to a new building. Draper employees are "usually very large donors," he said.

The next blood drive will be during IAP, although no firm date has been set. The IAP Blood Drive is generally smaller and less well publicized than the spring and fall drives.

Last spring, only 1,465 pints of blood were donated. Maher attributed this low figure to the flu outbreak on campus at the time of the drive.

MIT is "still the largest donor in the Northeast, not only by

percentage but by pure quantity," Maher reported.

The Dormitory Council and the Inter-Fraternity Conference will give a half keg of beer to the dormitory and fraternity which donated the largest amount of blood relative to the number of members.

Maher said that "we haven't yet figured out the beer contest winners" and that they will be announced around the end of the week.

Another TCA representative said that before the winners can

be announced, officials will have to verify that people actually came from the living group from which they said they came.

Joel Mandelbaum '78 of Delta Upsilon said, however, that one hundred per cent of the eligible donors from his fraternity had donated. He added that DU will ask for money instead of beer and will donate the anticipated prize to the American Cancer Society in the name of a late entrant in the UMOC contest — Fred Lucas '91, a pseudo-brother who is "here at all our parties."

## Group challenges marijuana laws

By Kate Mulroney

A bill which would decriminalize the private use of marijuana will be debated by the Massachusetts state legislature when it convenes next year.

John O'Donnell, state coordinator for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), said in an interview that the biggest obstacle in the way of the reformers is the apathy of Massachusetts residents.

That apathy was evident at a Halloween "Benefit Bash" on Oct. 30 at the Harvard Law School. O'Donnell described the turnout as "disappointing", adding that the fear of public identification frightened many people away.

NORML has already succeeded in decriminalizing marijuana in eight other states and has obtained legal referrals for persons convicted of minor marijuana offenses. "We like to

think that we are a humanitarian and educational force as well as a lobbying group," said O'Donnell, adding that the group has therefore "had some effect on national justice." NORML supports President-elect Carter's desire to decriminalize marijuana on the national level.

In Massachusetts, NORML hopes to organize a strong group to lobby for the decriminalization of private possession and

use of marijuana. O'Donnell explained that "there is no reason why we should not be able to use it in our own houses since this poses no social or medical dangers."

The passing of the proposed state legislation would make the private use of marijuana a civil instead of a criminal offense. Public use and the sale of marijuana would still be criminal offenses.

O'Donnell said that NORML now has the support of Middlesex county sheriff John Buckley and an estimated twenty to thirty members of the state legislature. He stated that NORML feels that the bill has a good chance of being passed "since this is right after the election, and the legislators will have a year to rectify any disagreements with the public that they had over this bill, so they can get reelected."

At the moment NORML does not have the funds it needs to put the bill through. O'Donnell said that any money the group gets now will be used in a "communication" effort. The group plans to educate the public about marijuana, and to encourage citizens to write to their state senators and representatives in behalf of the decriminalization effort.



# Good performance in *Two Gentlemen*

By Kathy Hardis

The MIT Musical Theatre Guild is currently presenting a rock musical version of Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Their production benefits from energetic, talented leads and from a well-directed, well-rehearsed jazz band. They also have a large multilevel set, complete with ramps, a sliding board and a fireman's pole on which the cast *could* have joyously romped, sang and danced their way through a Shakespearean play.

Somewhere, somehow, the production loses the vitality inherent in the script. Its problems seem to originate in apparently indifferent, unimaginative direction which does not make full use of either the given stage space or the actors' potential. The choreography of group numbers is generally mediocre and unspontaneous; visually, the production lacks life. Each performance has shown improvement, however, and by Thursday night the result could be worth seeing.

The musical version of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* originated as part of Joseph Papp's Shakespeare Festival in Central Park. The adaptation, only loosely based on the original text, doesn't resemble any traditional form of

Shakespearean theatre, although it does capture the essence of its comedy.

The scenes still take place in Verona and Milan, but the characters are drawn from the ethnic diversity of New York City. The "metamorphosed" *dramatis personae*, which includes blacks and Puerto Ricans, captures the energy of the city's street life. The dialogue is filled with multi-racial vernacular, and the music is a pastiche of rock, pop, blues and soul.

The role of Sylvia, as played by Carolyn Rose Towler '80, overflows with the kind of jubilation and effervescence which should characterize the entire play. Her singing and dancing are both excellent and uninhibited; her performance is outstanding. Valentine (Lanier Leonard '80) is a singer of equal caliber; his duet with Sylvia, "Night Letter," is one of the evening's high points.

Jerry Bisantz brings a professional air to the role of Proteus, especially in the singing of the calypso "Calla Lily Lady." Lisa Kaufman's performance as the naive (but just turned pregnant!) Julia is very good, but Thorio (Ron Lyon '79) is perhaps the funniest character in the play.

The superb jazz band, conducted by Howard Boles '76, is an act in itself. They conclude each

performance with a series of wild solo improvisations on the theme that keeps the audience standing in the aisles.

The band, unfortunately, is the production's last strong point. Though not entirely without clever ideas and effects — the Duke's Guard of unicycling Hell's Angels, for example — the direction shows a general lack of imaginative effort.

The choreography leaves most of the stage unused, and the dancing of the chorus is awkward and forced.

The lack of coordination in the costumes doesn't improve the production's already weak visual aspect. Some actors are dressed in street clothes, while others wear bright theatrical costumes. The two styles just don't mix. The lighting effects, similarly, are full of rough edges.

The follow spots never quite follow their targets, and the stage is often either too dark or too bright.

Most important of all, one wonders what has happened to the life and sparkle of the musical as a whole. The play's intrinsic joy and spontaneity are missing. The essential problems, apart from the production difficulties already mentioned, lie not so much in what is present, but in what is not. Too many of the story's loose ends are left untied, and a multitude of delightful effects which could have been profitably added just weren't.

*Two Gentlemen of Verona* is not a first-rate production. It is a collection of excellent performances by a number of very talented people, and to hear the jazz band alone is almost worth the price of admission.



Lanier Leonard '80, here shown on a ten-speed bike, portrays Valentine in the MIT Musical Theatre Guild's production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

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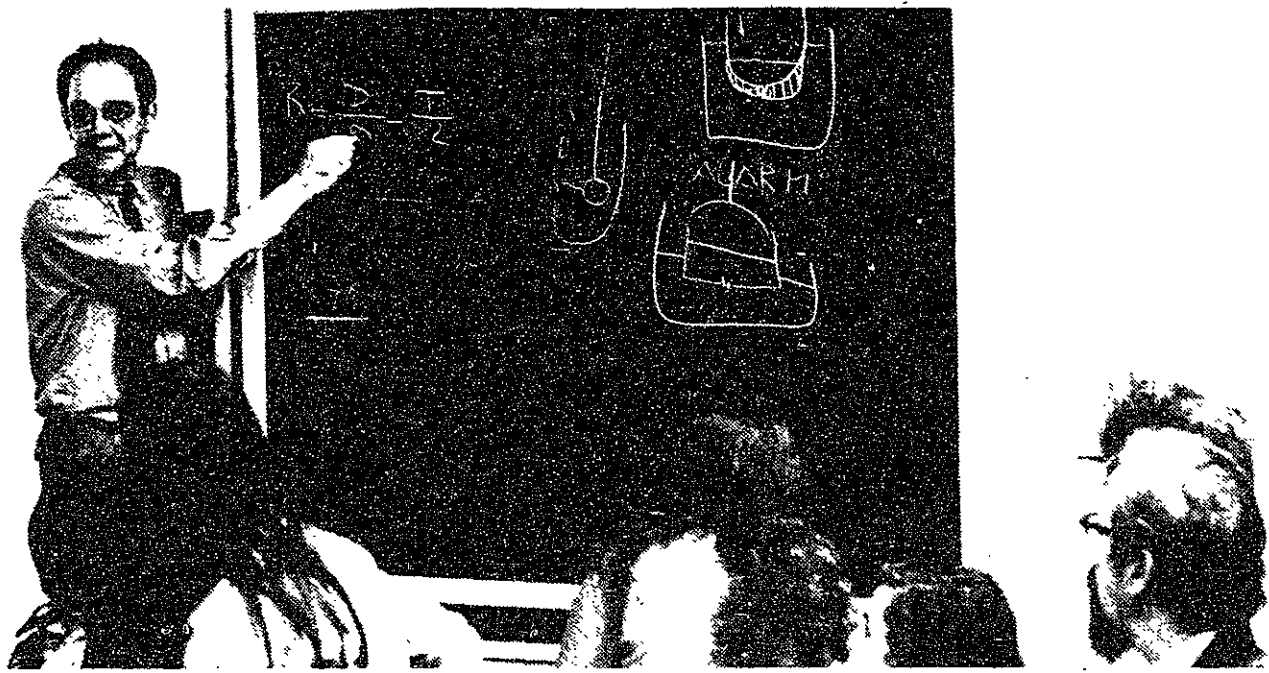
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**More than a Rosé.**





Andre Wegener Sleeswyk explains the mathematics of an ancient Chinese mechanical device.

## Chinese technology examined

By Paul Yen

Ancient Chinese records are being examined in an attempt to reconstruct the design of exceptional mechanical devices built hundreds of years ago.

Professor Andre Wegener Sleeswyk '56, of the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, told a Technology Studies Series Seminar last Thursday that Chinese Imperial Court records were "usually written by scribes with little scientific background — thus it is difficult for us to understand most of them."

Attempts in the past to understand these records by sinologists without engineering background or by engineers without much knowledge of Chinese culture have not been completely satisfactory.

Wegener Sleeswyk chose to re-

construct the ancient marvels by looking into all combinations of the parts described in the obscure text and then eliminating those which were not consistent with engineering principles or Chinese custom.

For example, he showed in detail that the seventh century "celestial river" time-keeping device was a sinking bowl clepsydra — a vessel with a hole in the bottom which sinks in a container of water at a predetermined rate.

Wegener Sleeswyk said he believes that King Alfonso of Spain, who was credited with the invention of the first clock in the western world with an escapement device, learned of the idea from Arabs who had travelled to China.

Professor Nathan Sivin, MIT

Professor of History of Science and Chinese Culture, who introduced the speaker, noted that "all major inventions that changed the western world, such as gun powder, printing and the compass, were invented in China and carried to Europe."

"However, the Chinese technology was not a technology in the modern sense," he said. "It was not an offshoot of a body of scientific knowledge."

Sivin said that, "most craftsmen were illiterate, keeping very few comprehensible records of their work and practicing within a tradition of strict secrecy, restricting the skills from wide application."

There were different levels of technology; some were of a scale of investment and human effort that could only be supported by the Imperial Court, according to He added that, "most of the technology in ancient China was labor intensive, based on wood and bamboo, and unlike our own, managed to keep in harmony with tradition."

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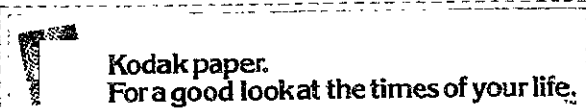
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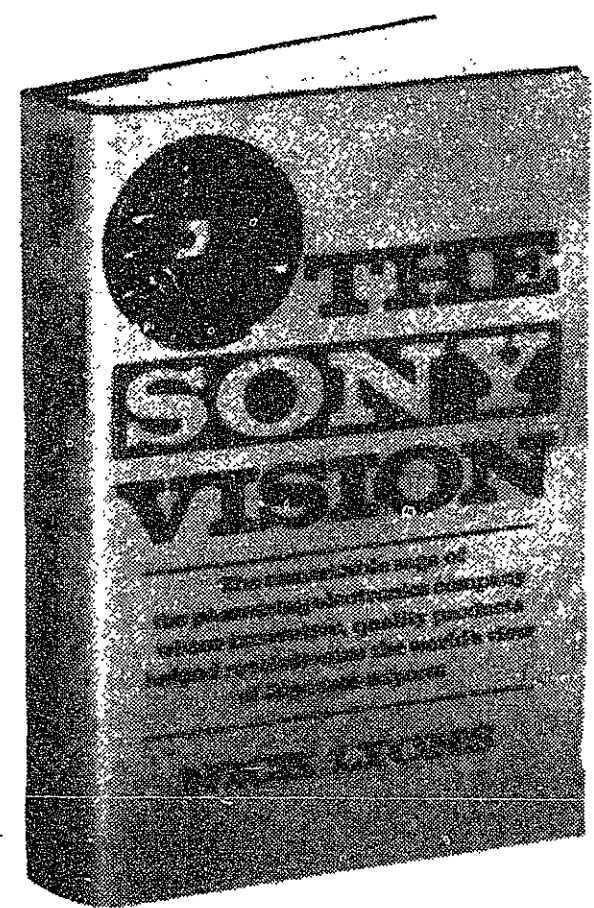
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# sports



Robert Currier '79 pursues the ball, followed by Don Devine '79. The Engineers were edged by Coast Guard, 2-1, last Saturday.

## Soccer nipped by Coast Guard

By Tom Curtis

A goal by Coast Guard's Mark Blanchard with less than ten minutes left in Saturday's soccer match at MIT gave the Cadets a 2-1 victory over the Engineers.

Despite defensive lapses by both sides in the early minutes of the game, neither team was able to score in the first thirty-one minutes. Finally, with 14:00 left in the half, Cadet Mike Scanlon capitalized on sloppy MIT defense to score the game's first goal, giving Coast Guard a 1-0 edge at halftime.

MIT, aided by a favorable wind, managed to keep the ball

consistently near the Coast Guard goal in the opening minutes of the second half. This offensive pressure paid off nine minutes into the second half when MIT was given a direct kick thirty yards from the goal. On the kick, Mike Raphael '79 placed a beautiful shot into the right upper corner of the goal for the equalizing score.

Both teams then fought fiercely up and down the field, hoping to score and take the lead. Coast Guard finally succeeded, penetrating the Engineer defense and scoring on Blanchard's goal with 9:22 left. The score seemed to stun the Engineers, who failed to

## Volleyball bidding for Easterns

By Glenn Brownstein

MIT women's volleyball coach Dave Castanon has proved himself to be a good prophet as well as a good coach. After he predicted that the squad, 17-0 in match competition, would reach the semifinals of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Tournament with a 5-3 round-robin record, the team did exactly that.

While the University of Delaware dashed MIT's championship hopes with a 15-10, 15-1 win in the first head-to-head playoff round, the Engineers justified their fourthseeded position in the tournament by reaching the final four.

Led not so much by one player as by what Castanon calls "tremendous balance," MIT swept two-game matches from Salem State and Barrington, split a set with Central Connecticut, 15-5, 12-15, and lost two games to eventual tourney champion Southern Connecticut 15-17, 14-15.

"Except for the last game of the tournament, we played pretty

well," said co-captain Karyn Altman '78. "The top teams here [at URI] are all teams that've been to the Easterns, and they run really speedy offenses. Yet if we're playing well, we can play with Southern Connecticut, for example, as well as anybody."

Coach Castanon echoes Altman's feelings. "We've produced a classic team here, one that people are looking up to and trying to beat. I see only two ways we can lose a match: either we play a physically stronger team with equivalent skills, or we play against a system we've never seen before."

Part of MIT's success comes from the fact that most of the team's players are juniors, veterans from the freshman-dominated squad of two years ago. Four starters — setters Lisa Albright and Sue Coppersmith, co-captain spikers Sheila Luster and Altman — are juniors, while hitters Kathy Mensler and Lisa Jablonski are in their final year.

While all that experience has moved MIT's three-year-old program (the last two varsity) into a top position in the New England ranks, Castanon foresees problems for the team after next year. "A lot of potentially good volleyball players seem to be awed by the team, which is dominated by upperclass women. Since volleyball is a sport which doesn't lead to much substitution, many of our prospects prefer other sports to fighting for a spot on our team," Castanon explained.

Although the six best players get almost all of the varsity playing time, the rest of the team receives ample practice in the formal two-hour sessions every weekday and in MIT's active junior varsity program. In 13 matches this year, the second squad has compiled a respectable 7-6 record.

"We've used the JV as experience for developing younger

players," Castanon explained. "They play within an advanced pattern, which will make it easier for them to move up to the varsity, but we [Castanon and assistant coach Bob Cassels] put no pressure on them — it's really for experience."

Neither Castanon nor Cassels had ever coached before coming to MIT as graduate students a few years ago, yet the varsity has compiled a 34-1 dual match record over two years. Castanon attributes his coaching success to his strong volleyball background and improved communication with the players.

MIT plays in the state championships this Saturday in Worcester, where the team is favored to repeat as Division II champions. Interestingly enough, MIT has defeated every team in the Division I tournament but one — Springfield, whom the Engineers face tonight at their opponents' court. But what the team really wants — the "big plum" — is the Easterns, matching the top eight small-college teams in the region on Nov. 18-19 at Mansfield State College in Pennsylvania.

Although MIT's record appears to justify an automatic bid, the team was snubbed last year by the selection committee. With a substantially stronger schedule in 1976 though, MIT appears to be on its way. In addition, new Women's Athletic Director Jane Betts has helped in "getting us known and accepted within the state association," Castanon feels. "She's quite a fan, attending all our matches, and she's really gotten the Athletic Department behind us, which makes quite a difference in our team's morale."

Castanon refused to predict any more results this season, except that the team would indeed receive its well-deserved Eastern bid.

threaten thereafter.

The loss ended the Engineers' season at 4-7-1. Despite the losing record, Coach Walter Alessi noted that MIT was competitive in every game all season, even against very strong opponents.

### sporting notices

IM wrestling rosters are due today in the manager's mailbox in W32-131. There will be a seeding meeting at 8pm on Thursday, Nov. 18 at SAE. A representative from each team should attend. The IM tournament will be held on Saturday, Nov. 20, in the duPont Wrestling Room.

\* \* \* \*

IM hockey competition will begin on Saturday, Nov. 20. Any open ice time prior to the start of regularly scheduled games will be available for practices.

## Baker cyclists win

The IM cycling race was run last Saturday on a course stretching thirty-three miles from MIT to Wellesley. Six teams and thirty-five participants took part in this year's event.

The team title was won by Baker's "Team California," composed of Steve Gaskin '77, Dave Gaskin '79, and Carl Duda '78, who finished second, third, and fourth, respectively. Steve Ryan '77 of MITNA, however, beat all competitors across the finish line with a time of 1:41:30, five seconds ahead of Steve Gaskin.

Last Sunday, 113 competitors and 17 teams took part in IM cross country on the 2.5-mile course surrounding Fresh Pond. Joe Egan '77 finished first with a time of 13:10 to lead the FIJI team to the Living Group title. Craig Barbehenn G of Nuclear Engineering was second at 13:28,

and Tom Cotner G took third to carry his team, Biology, to the Independent championship. In the women's division, Helen Sherk G, an independent runner, took the individual title with the time of 16:17.


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