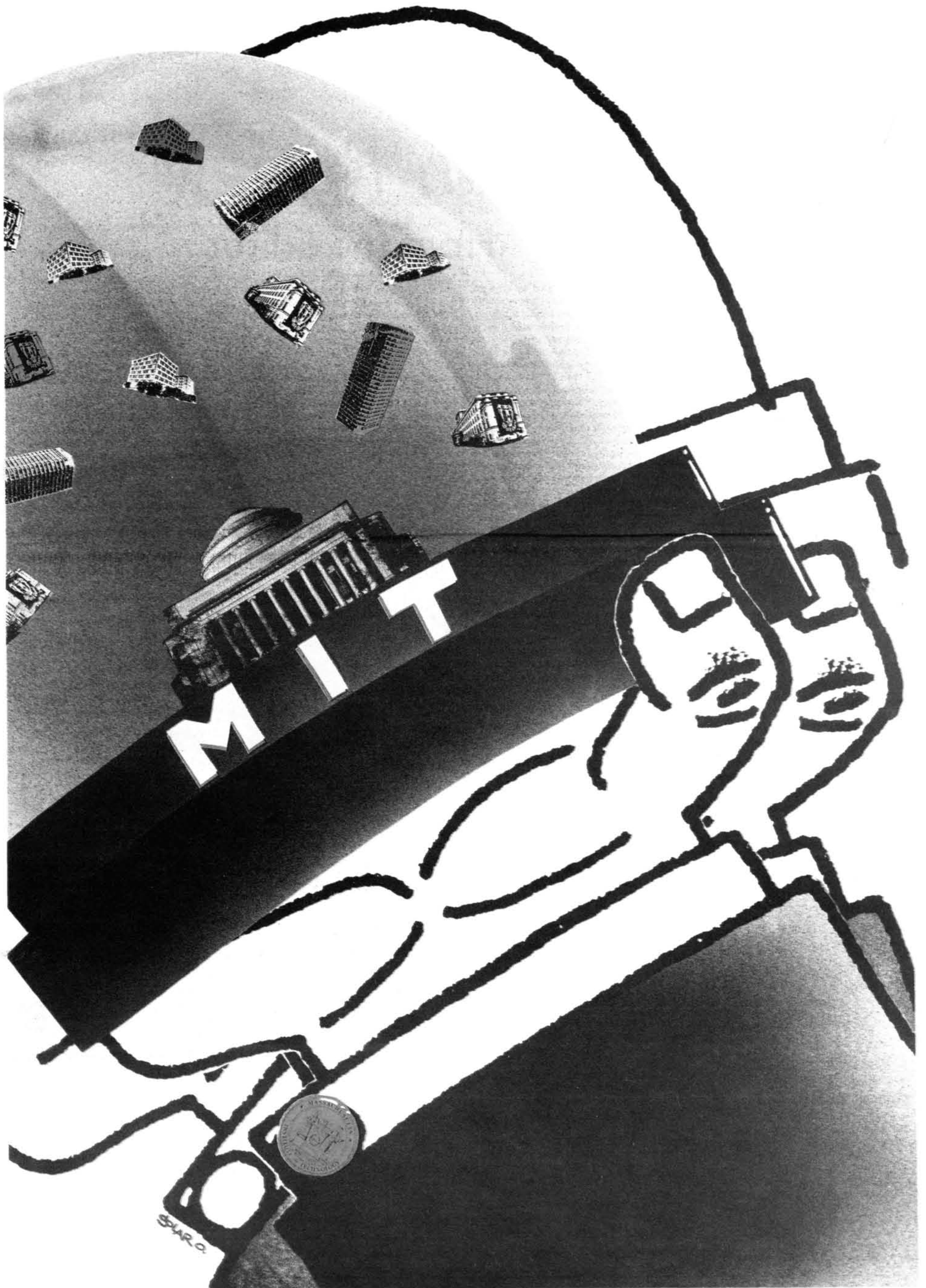


Year in Review



# The Tech

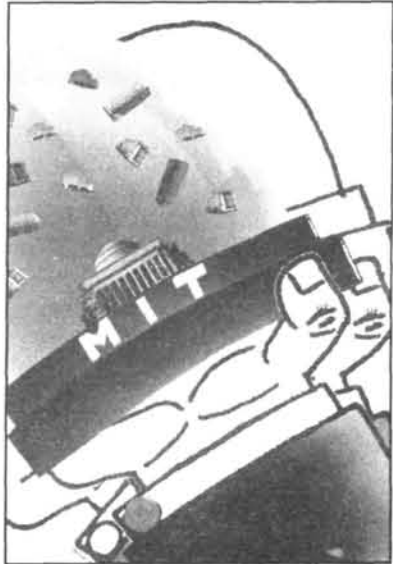
## Year in Review

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"Shaking up the  
Residence System"



Concept and design:  
Solar Olugebefola

Medium: Mixed Media

### From the Editor

An imperative, spray painted on salvaged plywood and displayed at East Campus shortly after Richard Guy's death summed up the Institute's feelings towards the media this year: *press vultures go home*. MIT students spoke with one voice against the national and local media's coverage of embarrassing and tragic events at MIT such as Richard Guy's death, Sigma Alpha Epsilon's departure, and Phi Kappa Sigma's unfortunate accident. The same student body which failed to come together at the polls on election day and was mostly oblivious to the process of residence redesign rallied by the hundreds to protest negative press coverage. And the message was clear: the press is too intrusive, too pushy, and too quick to jump to the faulty conclusion that MIT students are dangerous, drunk, or otherwise undesirable.

These qualms are not without basis — early reports of deaths as a result of the PKS 'blast' were completely false and allegations of a drug ring centered around fifth east were an irresponsible leap.

MIT's reaction to this treatment, however, is a lesson in how not to deal with negative press coverage. Students and administrators alike clammed up and hoped that all of the attention and the coverage would just go away: *press vultures go home*.

Instead of holing up inside of dormitories and offices and rebuffing contact with the media, this campus should have engaged in the dialogue that could have corrected misperceptions about drugs on fifth east or bombs planted by fraternity members. It's unrealistic to expect any reporter to be totally unbiased but we failed to grant the media even the chance to be fair. The product of angry silence, of repressing the voices of students who know the truth about their living groups and their traditions, is the type of one-sided reporting we witnessed this year. But be very clear where the blame lies: not with reporters or editors, but with the campus that failed to find the courage to speak that truth when the city and the nation asked to hear it.

This community must realize that the press

isn't going home, that it will not and should not ignore stories of the magnitude that struck campus this year. The media have an important role to play in our society: we inform, educate, stimulate debate, and monitor governments (and universities). And while being under the post-Watergate era media spotlight is uncomfortable at times, the alternative of a world without a free press is far from preferable.

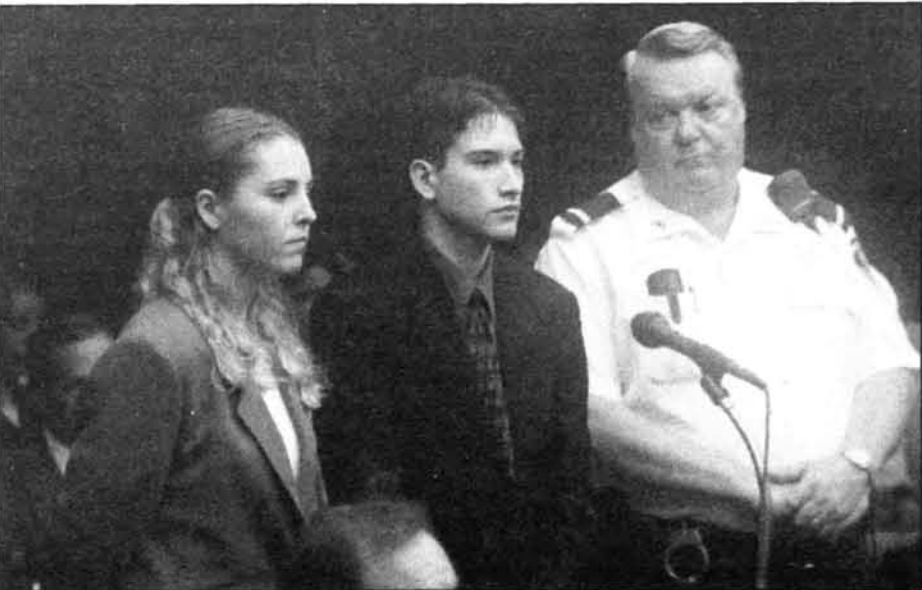
And the role of *The Tech*? These pages are not the place for our administration's latest public relations effort (see *Tech Talk*) nor are they blindly at the service of the student body's opinion (the Undergraduate Association has founded a publication). *The Tech* is a full-fledged member of the media this campus has gone to lengths to vilify — as such, we will continue to report honestly and fairly on MIT's successes and failures.

Frank Dabek



The proposed Stata Center will be made possible by MIT's capital campaign.

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The national media again descends upon MIT students.

Page 6

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# An Uncertain Compromise

*Final Report on the Redesigned Residence System Finds Lukewarm Support Among Students Still Reeling from 2001 Decision*

Rima Arnaout  
& Kevin R. Lang

Your mission, should you choose to accept it: house every first-year student on campus, then convince hundreds of dormitory residents to move off campus each year, all while creating a triad of research, education, and community.

Such was the task entrusted to Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 and the Residence System Steering Committee. While proposed changes to MIT's housing system did not quite self-destruct, they fostered both reasoned debate and outright protest throughout 1999.

## Final report utilizes student input

After months of initial reports, revised reports, debates, disputes, and conflicting committees, Bacow released his final report on December 8. Bacow's report augmented RSSC recommendations with the proposal from the student-led Strategic Advisory Committee to the Chancellor.

"I'm very pleased that [the Chancellor] involved student input" in the process, said Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00. Bacow's report referenced the SAC proposal several times and "pretty much rubber-stamped the IFC's rush proposal," McGann said.

The final report calls for incoming freshmen to select residence halls during the summer before their arrival at the Institute while preserving the option of dormitory selection during Orientation. Rush for fraternities, sororities and independent living groups will occur in October, and FSILGs will receive financial support from the Institute for housing graduate students during the transition.

Bacow's report rejects the mandatory housing lottery for sophomores proposed by the RSSC (the "sophomore shuffle") and firmly recognizes the Institute's guarantee of four-year housing for undergraduates.

## Kolenbrander to implement plan

While the report signifies a final decision on the design of the residence system, it presents only guidelines or principles in most cases. Implementation may prove to be the true challenge, especially working out the countless details of a complex, ever-changing residence system.

Associate Dean Kirk D. Kolenbrander, who served as Process Manager for the RSSC, will head up the effort to implement Bacow's design and fill in many of the missing details.

The planning process is "nowhere near to where we will have to be in 20 months," McGann said.

"There is a great deal of work to do ... We will go with small, measured steps at first," Kolenbrander said. "At this point, very little action has been taken."

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



MIT News Office  
Lawrence S. Bacow '72

the RSSC faced.

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

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

## Initial RSSC report rocks campus

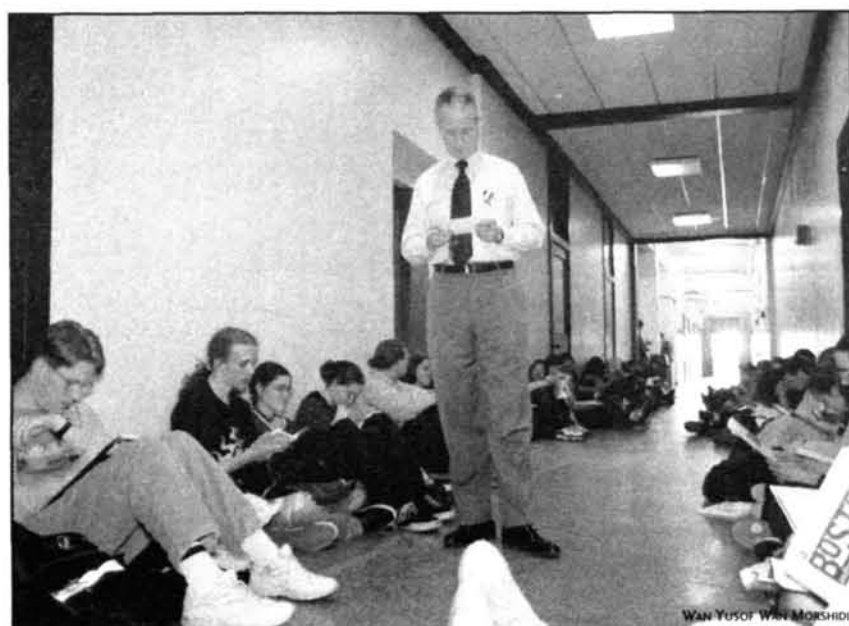
MIT took a major step toward a new vision of residential life on April 30, 1999, when the RSSC released its initial report.

While the report touched on nearly every aspect of MIT life and learning, the RSSC recommendations focused on the creation of a "Freshman Hall" and a changed timeline for residence selection, including IAP rush and a March housing lottery for freshmen.

Incoming students would select a first-year dormitory through a summer mailing; a correction lottery to be held during orientation would give any dissatisfied students the option of moving.

The steering committee also proposed that Ashdown House would serve as the best site for the "Freshman Hall," while MacGregor House would become a graduate dormitory.

Freshmen would comprise sixty percent of the hall's residents, while the remaining forty percent of residents would include Graduate Resident Tutors, Resident Advisors, and



Textbooks and calculators in hand, students occupy the second-floor hallway of building seven to protest changes to the residence system.

## MIT Choice Protests 2001 Decision

Throughout the RSSC's first draft presentation, students expressed anger with plans for on-campus residence selection. Some argued that the RSSC was attempting to solve problems created by the decision to house freshmen on campus in 2001, and that reversing the decision would be simpler than completely changing MIT's residence system.

However, Professor and former President Paul E. Gray '54 said that reversing the decision "will not happen. Give it up."

The anti-2001 forces proved stalwart, however, and continued to protest the original decision while most of campus was discussing tweaks to the second and third drafts of residence redesign reports.

In November, about 150 students staged a sit-in outside the offices of key administrators to protest the freshman housing decision.

MIT Choice organized the protest along the second floor hallway of Building 3. Nicholas E. Matsakis '99, a co-organizer of the event, said the sit-in accomplished several goals, including "letting students know that other students care passionately and by getting out what they had to say."

Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 attended the sit-in briefly and answered students' questions.

Matsakis said the sit-in would be a success if it led to more student and administrative communication about the housing issue. "A community-wide dialogue would be a success," he said. "Students should understand [the housing decision] and the reasons they're changing. We haven't been provided with that yet."

The group formed last September to try and reverse the 2001 decision. MIT Choice views the residence system implementation process as yet another opportunity to combat residence system change.

Matsakis said that the organization continues to be opposed to the 2001 decision. Bacow "underestimates the value of our communities as they exist now to MIT life," he said.

MIT Choice was not alone in its opposition to the decision. Students staged a rally immediately after the decision was announced, and the UA held a referendum demonstrating the student body's massive opposition.

The Interfraternity Council, which saw its livelihood endangered by the decision, announced its official opposition to the plan, and fraternity alumni were extremely vocal in their opposition.

Nor was the MIT Choice tool-in the first of its kind. In April, 75 students staged a tool-in in support of "freshmen choice."

upperclassmen.

The RSSC proposal made no reference to the new undergraduate dormitory to be built on Vassar Street across from New House.

The RSSC's initial proposal also called for a "sophomore shuffle" to help FSILGs adjust to the 2001 transition. This mandatory lottery at the end of the first year was proposed as a means of encouraging students to move off campus.

RSSC chair William J. Hecht '61 recognized the proposal's infancy, saying: "It may well be a superb system. It also may be a disaster ... This is not done."

Hecht could not have possibly realized the extent of his understatement.

## Affected parties mount protests

From the very moment the RSSC report appeared on campus, student feedback — constructive criticism at times, outrage more often — proved a powerful force.

The first student forum, held at Baker House, was attended largely by students from Ashdown and MacGregor, the dormitories most affected by the proposed changes.

"For every reason Ashdown is a good place for freshmen, it's a good place for grad students," said Ashdown resident Shunmugavelu D. Sokka G. "And it's the center of one half of the student community."

One MacGregor resident said that MacGregor fills a specific niche in the undergradu-

ate residence community.

"[MacGregor] as a whole has a lot of students of color and international students. MacGregor is a good community to deal with new people with new perspectives, and to find common ground," he said.

Many students were opposed to change in any form: "I don't understand what's so wrong with our system that it needs such substantial change," said Baker resident Marie L. Blanke '01. "The administration is basically saying that 'you undergrads like the system as it stands, but we know better,'" Blanke said.

The first RSSC report hit MIT at an awkward time — some two weeks before spring final exams. In an attempt to accommodate more student input, Bacow and the RSSC extended the deadline for the final report to October 1.

Despite the timing of the report's release, students took action in the last weeks of the spring term.

Jason H. Wasfy '01 and Autumn Steuckrath '00 co-authored a petition signed by over 75 percent of MacGregor House residents, including nearly 300 students, alumni, Graduate Resident Tutors, and MIT staff.

Ashdown residents presented an alternate plan for MIT housing which included more focus on the graduate community. Their proposal also called for either Baker House, the new Vassar Street dorm, or a new dorm to be

See RSSC, continued on page 19



► move forward on the construction of a new graduate dormitory after being informed that the dorm's completion date slipped three years to Fall 2002; ► In a dramatic reorganization, the local alumni board of Sigma Phi Epsilon expels 30 members after pledges bring a keg to another Sig Ep chapter. ► **Feb. 26:** Five students face disciplinary proceedings following an unsanctioned party in Baker House that ends with a false fire alarm and a review of Baker's lodging house license by the Cambridge Licensing Commission. ► **Mar. 4:** Dormitory Council representatives elect Jennifer A. Frank '00 as President and Gabriel M. Rockefeller '00 as Vice President. ► **Mar. 5:** MIT approves a 3.6 percent tuition hike for the 1999-2000 academic year. However, in an important►



The proposed Stata Center, future home of the Laboratory for Computer Science and the AI Lab, will be one of many capital improvements made possible by MIT's \$1.5 billion capital campaign.

\$100M

# Billionaires & Black Ties: Funding MIT's Future

*Record Donations Jumpstart \$1.5 Billion Campaign*

Sanjay Basu

Amidst the controversy and media pressure surrounding residential change and fraternities in early November, the MIT Corporation announced an ambitious \$1.5 billion capital campaign titled "Calculated Risks. Creative Revolutions."

At the black-tie campaign kickoff, President Charles M. Vest called the campaign a catalyst toward the fulfillment of greater good.

"It is our challenge," said Vest, "to attack and solve the next generation of great problems. Doing that will require some calculated risks: predicting the next generation of intellectual revolutions, and putting our chips down early. It's the kind of gamble we've won before."

"In so doing, we must remind ourselves, and the public, that our value to practical concerns accrues ultimately from our enthusiasm for exploring the truly unknown. That is the ultimate rationale for supporting a university," Vest said.

### Major donors kick off campaign

The campaign started in July 1997, long before the gala ball. Both alumni and corporate moguls reacted immediately to the capital campaign's initiation, with several multimillion dollar donations.

But just as students began to joke about the "compe-

tition" between donors to top one another, one alumnus shocked everyone with his announcement of the largest donation in MIT history. Kenan E. Sahin '63, founder of Kenan Systems Corp. of Cambridge, attended the black-tie gala dinner and ball to celebrate the launch of MIT's \$1.5 billion campaign.

At the dinner, he reportedly asked Vest to allot him some time to speak to the audience. Vest agreed and introduced him coyly.

"I really don't know what he's going to say," Vest said.

Sahin responded: "He really doesn't know what I'm going to say. Up until half an hour ago, I didn't know what I was going to say." Sahin then informed the audience that he would donate \$100 million dollars to the Institute.

He later appointed a committee of advisors to determine how the funds should be distributed. The committee, which has not released any information about Sahin's decision,

includes former MIT presidents Paul E. Gray '54 and Howard W. Johnson, Vest and Alexander V. d'Arbeloff '49, Chairman of the MIT Corporation.

### Industry influence questionable

While most welcomed the influx of donations like Sahin's, some students and administrators reacted ambivalently to the start of the capital campaign, renewing questions about the role of industry in academia.

MIT has enjoyed five decades of federal research sponsorship, but federal support for research universities began eroding in the early 1990s. Federal and other sponsored research support constituted some 60 percent of all of MIT's campus operating revenues in 1965, but last year it accounted for less than 45 percent. Approximately 70 percent of that money came from the federal government, 20 percent from industry, and the remaining 10 percent from private sources.

Over time, the influence of industry and private support on research has dramatically expanded.

In his "Annual Report of the President," Vest wrote that "Some would argue, and I am one, that MIT became over-dependent on federal support ... This is the age of the private sector, and such change is appropriate and, indeed necessary."

MIT has since received a higher proportion of research funding from industry than any other university, but this funding has traditionally restricted researchers to conduct work in fields requested by corporate sponsors.

Institute officials have looked to alumni and individual donors to raise funds for less pragmatic work.

"To fulfill our educational mission we must bring some fraction of what we do closer to the contemporary and future world of industry," wrote Vest. "But we have an even greater responsibility for research that is, in a sense, at the opposite end of the spectrum ... Above all, we must protect the overall freedom and flexibility of our faculty and students to pursue research and scholarship wherever it leads, and to serve society as objective critics."

Some would say that recent collaborations with companies like Microsoft and DuPont violate the Institute's testaments to freedom and flexibility. But time will surely tell whether funds from the capital campaign will truly allow MIT's faculty and students to be the "objective critics" society needs.

"Supporting the university" called for a \$710 million campaign that ran from 1987 to 1992. During that fundraiser, over 44,000 alumni and corporations donated. One hundred of them committed at least \$1 million, while 23 committed over \$5 million.

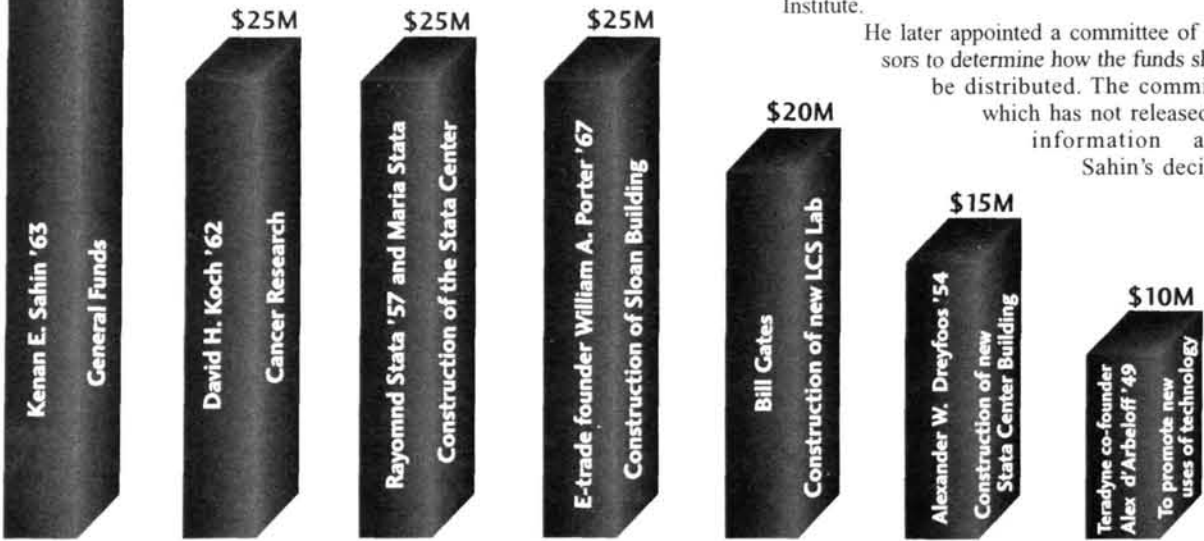
### Capital campaign funding areas

The current campaign seeks funding for distribution in four key areas: \$550 million to support new directions in research and education, \$550 million to enhance the learning community, \$300 million to renew the physical infrastructure of the campus, and \$100 million for an unrestricted "Millennium Fund."

The organization of the campaign, according to Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72, "will help us to truly integrate student life and learning at MIT. The resources generated will make it possible for us to enhance the quality of life for every MIT student for generations to come."

Funds dedicated to research and education for those future generations are expected to be further divided by

See Capital Campaign, continued on page 18



## Capital Campaign Donations



➔ change from previous years, the entire amount of outside scholarships will now go toward a student's self-help contribution instead of reducing MIT grants; ➔ Despite attempts to reorganize MIT Dining into a competitive two-party system, MIT signs a letter of intent with Aramark to service all campus eating establishments; ➔ The results of the Class of 1998 Senior Survey reveal that for the first time MIT women are as satisfied with their undergraduate experience as MIT men. Seniors still criticize advising in their majors and efforts to help students improve writing and communications skills. ➔ Two teams, the Beaver Dream Team and the Dorm-Design Team, are named co-winners of MIT's IAP Residential Design Contest. ➔ Chairman of the MIT Corporation and ➔

# For Sale: Prestigious Research University

*Institute Rushes to Cash in on Lucrative Alliances with Industry, Universities*

Rima Arnaout  
& Thomas Lin

MIT demonstrated its new focus on forming industrial partnerships this year with high-profile alliances with Microsoft Research Corp., Cambridge University in England, and DuPont.

Eager to supplement dwindling government funding, MIT has been aggressive in its pursuit of alliances with industry and other universities this past year. Industry and academia alike have been quick to respond with substantial grants guaranteeing access to the potentially marketable technology being developed in the Institute's laboratories and, in some cases, to capitalize on the prestige of the MIT name.

In recent years MIT has looked "to the private sector for an increasing portion of our support — both philanthropic and for research," said President Charles M. Vest.

"Federal funding at MIT has continued to increase, but since the '70s, has declined as a percentage of our operating revenues," Vest said.

"There may be a few additional partnerships in the future, but there clearly is a limit to the number of such arrangements that we should undertake, and I think we are close to it," Vest said.

Perhaps. But given the recent announcement of a six-year, \$90 million partnership with Nanovation Technologies Inc. on January 21, 2000, MIT is not demonstrating any signs of slowing its giddy march towards the altar of corporate cooperation.

## Microsoft I-Campus

MIT's October 6 announcement of an industrial partnership with Microsoft took the Insti-

tute by surprise. The initiative, Project I-Campus involves a \$25 million contribution from Microsoft over the next five years. In return, MIT offers access to its faculty and research facilities.

"To say that there's \$25 million specifically for education is an enormous opportunity for MIT," said Professor Harold Abelson '73, co-director of Project I-Campus.

"Our main objective, at least at the outset, is to improve learning on campus ... to take programs that we're currently doing and improve them for our current student body," said Thomas L. Magnanti.

Unlike the Microsoft initiative, other partnerships between MIT and industry "aren't designed to engage students as learners but rather in their capacity as researchers," said Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72.

The partnership with Microsoft will be overseen by a steering committee of MIT and Microsoft members, including Abelson, Magnanti, and Microsoft Research Vice President Richard Rashid.

"[Professor Abelson and I are] going to

manage the interactions between this program and other groups and programs ... to make sure this is a program that contributes to the Institute," Magnanti said.

Initial projects included expanding the MIT Shakespeare Electronic Archive and developing long-distance learning technology through collaboration with the National University of Singapore. Project I-Campus is also exploring using distance technology in model design with the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

"We anticipate that many students will be working on the projects ... graduate students working, and we hope to engage a fair number of undergrads as UROPs," Magnanti said.

## DuPont ups the ante

MIT's second significant alliance, with chemical giant DuPont, topped the Microsoft deal with the formation of a \$35 million, five-year alliance to advance research and education in materials for biotechnology.

The \$35 million will go towards the development of new products and procedures in bioelectronics, biosensors, biomimetic materials, alternative energy sources and new high-value materials.

The collaboration is led by Provost Robert A. Brown and Dr. Joseph A. Miller Jr., DuPont's chief science and technology officer. The 5-year agreement went into action on January 1.

## Cambridge-MIT Institute, Ireland

In seeking new sources of funding, MIT hasn't limited itself to industry, signing two agreements with the British and Irish governments.

MIT announced a \$135 million partnership with Cambridge University in Great Britain, forming the Cambridge-MIT Institute. The program was announced November 8 and is due to begin in the academic year 2001-2002.



ANNIE S. CHOI

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates contributes to the Laboratory for Computer Science Time Capsule of Innovations. Gates donated \$25M towards the construction of LCS's new home in the Stata Center.

While not an industrial deal, the Cambridge alliance involves a research and education alliance to MIT similar in scope to that of Microsoft. The broad partnership will involve student and faculty exchange, as well as collaborative research and curriculum development projects.

"This really is unique in all of American education," said Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72, a chief negotiator in the alliance. The Cambridge-MIT Institute will "ultimately engage faculty from all schools" at MIT.

The British government, led by Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, approached MIT in the summer of 1998 with the idea for an alliance. "The interest of the [British] government is in trying to influence the culture of Cambridge ... to capitalize on our entrepreneurial culture," Bacow said.

Eighty percent of the initiative's \$135 million funding over five years is being provided by the British government; the rest will also be raised in the United Kingdom.

The Cambridge-MIT alliance includes the exchange of 50 MIT juniors with 50 Cambridge students. "This is a breakthrough for undergraduate students," said Dean of the School of Science Robert J. Birgeneau.

MIT will also exchange up to 30 faculty members with Cambridge as part of a Cambridge-MIT Fellowship program.

According to Bacow, there will also be "collaboration on research in specific areas: entrepreneurship, productivity, and competitiveness. Beyond that, we will also work collaboratively" in fields including computer science, information technology, biomaterials, genomics, and physics.

To facilitate student exchange, Cambridge and MIT are interested in developing some common engineering courses, particularly in the area where engineering and management overlap.

The Institute followed up on the Cambridge deal in December when it announced that it had come to an agreement with the Republic of Ireland to establish MediaLabEurope, a research center to be based in Dublin and modeled closely after the MIT Media Lab.

The Irish government will provide \$35.6M as seed capital for the project, of which \$10.75M will be donated to MIT. Total expenses for the first ten years of the project are projected to be approximately \$166M.

During the first ten years of the project the two centers will have access to intellectual property developed at both centers. After that period, the Irish center is expected to "produce its own portfolio of basic research, digital applications, and computational methods."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said, "The fusion of MIT's proven experience with the youth, energy and creative talent in Ireland will create a world class institute."

In the deal, MIT gains access to the intellectual property developed at MediaLabEurope, a center which has the financial backing of the Irish Government as well as capable students.

## Implications of partnership

MIT is among the first research universities to form bonds with other institutions. "The strategic partnerships and alliances we have forged over the last few years are nearly unique in academia. Although they are a modest portion of our total research support, I believe they are an important part of MIT's evolution in the post cold-war era," Vest said.

As the first university to make such partnerships, MIT has the chance to define the way research universities will interact with industry in the future. Vest addressed some of the possible dangers in this process in his 1998-1999 Report of the President.

For example, many at MIT fear that deals with profit-oriented industries will mean giving up the authority to plan research projects and will endanger the intellectual property of faculty and students.

Some students protested MIT's entanglement with industry at Futurefest, Microsoft's effort at introducing itself to the community.

About 300 students attended the affair, which included speakers, caterers, and a raffle of software and hardware. But during remarks by Abelson, students shouted "Microsoft sucks!" Near the end of the party, some students took copies of Office 2000 that were part of a raffle and stomped on them.

Vest says that "there are two important safeguards" to the intellectual property of the MIT community. First, the research agendas are determined by MIT faculty and their counterparts in the partner company — not by the MIT administration or the company," Vest

said.

Second, according to the terms of their agreement, Microsoft does not need to approve research publications that result from the of the project, and MIT is not subject to prepublication review from Microsoft.

MIT signed a "standard intellectual property agreement" with Microsoft, Bacow said.

"Microsoft gets a non-exclusive royalty-free license to the intellectual property developed here. MIT owns the intellectual property," Bacow said.

"If they want exclusive rights, they have to negotiate an agreement with MIT" for any combination of equity, royalties, or cash, Bacow said.

Another unresolved question is how the chief negotiators of industrial alliances, MIT administrators, can give faculty and students a say in the type of alliances the Institute forms.

"The research agendas of all partnerships have been determined by faculty, together with their colleagues in the partnering companies," Vest said. However, "I do not envision the student role as being any different in industry sponsored agreements than in federally sponsored agreements."

The new mergers will also help dictate whether the research university of the future is destined to favor marketable discoveries over basic research.

"I strongly believe that the research university of the future will not 'favor' marketable discoveries over basic research," Vest said. However, why does the federal government support our students and our research?"

"In many fields the old distinctions between 'basic' and 'applied' research is increasingly nonexistent, and the time from laboratory to market is shorter and shorter. But at the end of the day we must retain our unique ability to pursuing fundamental knowledge for its own sake," Vest said.

"MIT currently has 1,587 active projects sponsored by 748 different companies," Vest said. "I do not believe that this leads to a narrowing of our perspectives or ingenuity."





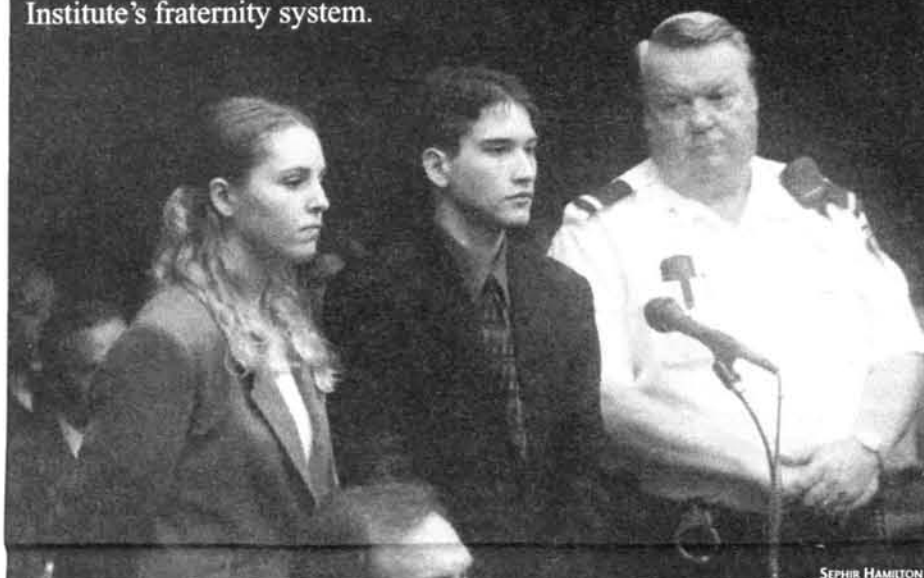
➤ Teradyne co-founder Alexander V. d'Arbeloff '49 and his wife Brit announce a \$10 million donation to the Institute to promote new uses of technology in education. ➤ **Mar. 9:** Harvard students protest the administration's failure to expel two Harvard students convicted of sex crimes against fellow students. The protest coincides with a faculty meeting in which the faculty votes overwhelmingly to dismiss D. Drew Douglas, a Harvard junior convicted of indecent assault on a fellow student. ➤ **Mar. 10:** A rowdy bunch of approximately 30 students march through the Infinite Corridor to participate in the "Nth Annual Spontaneous Tuition Riot," protesting the recent 3.6 percent tuition hike. ➤ **Mar. 16:** Matthew L. McGann '00 and Lex Nemzer '00 are elected ➤

# PRESS VULTURES Go Home

## National and Local Media Continue Their Assault On MIT, Fraternities

Sanjay Basu

In a flurry of activity reminiscent of the media storm following the alcohol-related death of Scott S. Krueger '01 in 1997, Boston journalists descended upon the Institute once again this year, writing both news reports and editorials sharply critical of MIT students and the Institute's fraternity system.



Rene A. Ruiz '99 and Susan M. Mosher '99 are arraigned in Cambridge District Court. The two plead not guilty to charges of drug possession in the wake of the death of Richard A. Guy '99.

### Overdose brings media hailstorm

The first in a series of media reports about MIT focused on the death of Richard A. Guy '99 in late August. Guy, a physics major and resident of East Campus, died after overdosing on nitrous oxide, the inhalant commonly known as "laughing gas."

The story of Guy's death instantly appeared on local newscasts and in most Boston newspapers. A *Boston Globe* article on September 1 compared Guy's death with Krueger's death at Phi Gamma Delta in September 1997.

The *Globe's* coverage of Guy's death included five articles published over the course of a week. The first news report focused on the basic events relating to the Guy case. Other reports included features about drug and alcohol abuse on college campuses.

After details of the case were released to the press, the *Globe* and other newspapers coined the term "drug den" to describe Mosher's room, calling the case a revelation about MIT's "substantive drug operation."

The *Boston Herald* also reported on the death that week, covering the top half of the paper with a single three inch tall headline: "MIT student dies after laughing gas overdose."

Students aghast at media brazenness refused to answer questions to local reporters, who allegedly called friends of Guy to ask them about their thoughts on drugs at MIT.

It was later revealed that the night after Guy's death, approximately 4,000 of *The Tech's* 7,000 issues containing an article on the drug overdose were reported missing. They were presumably stolen from main campus distribution points, reported Satwiksai Seshasai '01, Chairman of *The Tech*.

Seshasai said he had a "strong suspicion that individuals concerned about the article reporting the death of an East Campus resident" had removed the papers.

A *Tech* column by Eric J. Plosky G later responded to the media's comparison of Guy and Krueger.

*Most MIT students  
would never engage  
in that kind of  
irresponsible activity  
for which some of our  
peers have appeared  
on the news.*

—Jeremy D. Sher

"There is no reason, at least at this point, to draw parallels between Krueger and Guy," wrote Plosky.

Plosky added that "students must temper their inspired hatred of the media if they have any desire to set the story straight."

But the efforts of those attempting to curtail a media storm largely failed.

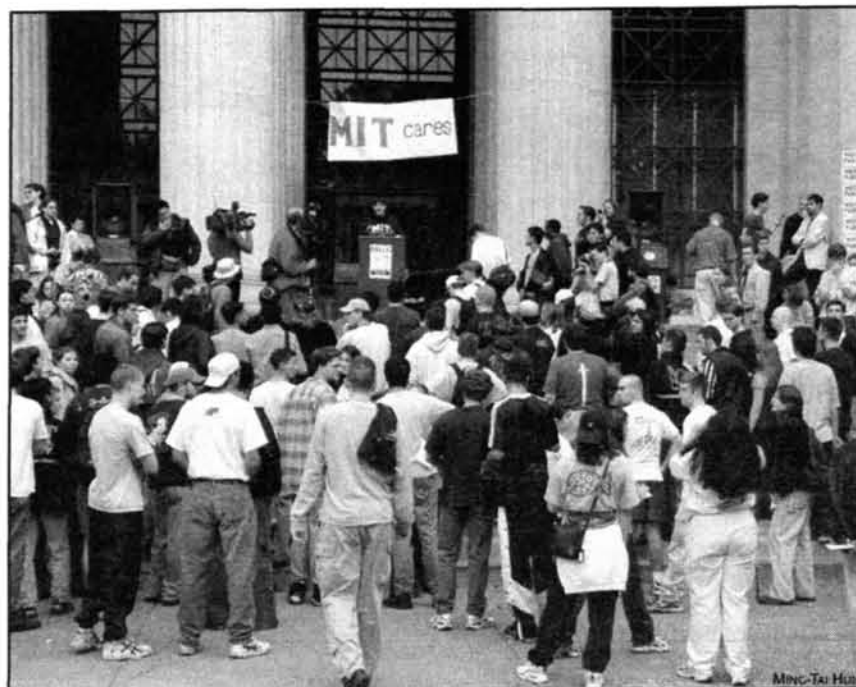
An ensuing Campus Police investigation into Guy's death revealed that two East Campus residents, Susan M. Mosher '99 and Rene A. Ruiz '99 possessed hallucinogenic mushrooms, amphetamines, marijuana, and nitrous oxide in their rooms. The two were charged with four counts of drug possession with intent to distribute. They have since pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial.

### SAE battered by BLB, *Globe*

In the months following Guy's death, a series of accidents and incidents kept MIT in the spotlight.

MIT received an enormous amount of media coverage related to student behavior, particularly regarding its closely-watched fraternity system.

The *Globe* prominently reported on the closing of Sigma Alpha Epsilon following an alcohol violation involving a Wellesley freshman. The front page story covered the Boston Licensing Board decision to close the house



Students rally outside 77 Mass. Ave. to raise money for Leukemia research and to protest negative media coverage of MIT and its fraternities.

## MIT holds rally to protest media

Students protested the negative portrayal of MIT by the media by hosting a rally supporting the Institute's fraternity system on October 30.

Although organizers focused the gathering raising funds for the Leukemia Society of America, the rally was clearly prompted by negative press concerning fraternities. Over 700 students, faculty members, and MIT administrators attended the event held on MIT's front steps at 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

Major donations included a \$1,000 check from President Charles M. Vest and a \$3,000 check from the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Several large donations were also made by fraternity alumni. PKS later presented their largest check ever to the Leukemia Society of America, for \$14,267.

"MIT students will come together to do positive things despite an oppressive atmosphere," said BTP President Russell L. Spieler '01. "We care about our school, we care about Cambridge and Boston and we care about each other."

Some students described their personal stories about leukemia, describing the disease affecting their peer Gary Li '02.

Vest said that he hoped MIT and Boston would deal with the "few [students] who have done dangerous things, then move on." He also proclaimed his support for the "fine young men of Phi Kappa Sigma" who have rallied to "do some good."

The rally was declared a success by most of its organizers. But although local media were notified that the rally was taking place, coverage of the event was scarce, with only one story in the *Boston Herald*.

and touched on the SAE chapter at Louisiana State University, which had previously made headlines when freshman student Benjamin Wynne died of acute alcohol poisoning.

Despite media coverage, few students spoke in defense of SAE. Many of them were visibly outraged by the behavior of the SAE brothers. "Most MIT students would never engage in that kind of irresponsible activity for which some of our peers have appeared on the news," said Jeremy D. Sher '99.

Others echoed Sher's statements on the e-mail discussion list "ifc-talk," on which several students referred to SAE brothers as "the bad apples," indicating that MIT's residential system should terminate such groups. No apologists for the fraternity wrote to the discussion list.

### *Globe* editorial sparks controversy

To generate publicity for their bi-annual Halloween event "Skuffle," members of Phi Kappa Sigma walked through classrooms holding "confetti makers", test tubes filled with flash paper, which would sparkle and create puffs of smoke when ignited.

But the PKS brothers garnered far more publicity than they expected on October 26, when one confetti maker exploded in the hands of sophomore Robert H. Lee '02, sending him to the hospital and forcing the evacuation of several buildings off the Infinite Corridor.

For many students, the shock following the event came not only from the explosion itself, but also from resulting media reports. A Channel 7 news brief claimed that a bomb had exploded inside the Great Dome, killing three

students (the report was later corrected on the evening news). A reporter from WB 56 television asked students to compare the incident to violence at Columbine High School.

A news article in the following day's *Globe* also reported on the event, arguing that although MIT "officials downplayed the incident as just 'an accident' with no harmful intent, it furthers a growing image of MIT as an out-of-control campus where reckless, rambunctious students put themselves and others in danger."

The public relations equivalent of a one-two punch, the SAE closure and PKS prank led to a Nov. 2 *Globe* editorial with the headline "A Little Slow at MIT."

The editorial opened with the words, "There is no college course for curing a combination of stubbornness and stupidity. That's why the Boston Licensing Board has revoked the dormitory license of the MIT fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon ... MIT fraternity members are uncommonly dense."

It also accused donors and alumni of clinging "atavistically to the worst aspects of the Greek-letter system," finishing with the statement: "MIT's off-campus residences are no longer a revered tradition. They're a decaying throwback and cry out for dismissal and decertification."

The editorial prompted immediate action on the part of both MIT administrators and students. President Charles M. Vest reportedly met off-the-record with *Boston Globe* editors over an impromptu lunch.

According to Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00, who also

*MIT fraternity members are  
uncommonly dense ...  
MIT's off-campus resi-  
dences are ... a decaying  
throwback and cry out for  
dismissal and decertifica-  
tion.*

—The *Boston Globe*

See Media, continued on page 18



► Undergraduate Association President and Vice President, defeating the rival ticket of Kartik M. Mani '00 and Rita H. Lin '00. ♦ Mar. 15: Motorola Inc. announces a \$5 million grant to be used towards the creation of a DigitalDNA Laboratory to be housed in the MIT Media Lab. ♦ Mar. 19: MIT's graduate engineering program ranks the best in the nation for the 11th time in a row, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. MIT was also ranked first in seven of twelve engineering specialties ranked by *U.S. News*. ♦ Mar. 17: The Committee on the Writing Requirement announces that students who fail the Freshman Essay Evaluation with subject recommended will now be required to take an introductory writing course in their freshman year. The CWR also►



Former Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers protest the actions of their alumni and national by handing out leaflets in front of Sig Ep's house during rush.



Students file out of Lobby 7 after much of campus was evacuated when an accidental explosion injured a PKS brother promoting a party.

# Changing of the Guard

*MIT's Fraternity System Loses One Member House, Copes with Post-Krueger Pressures.*

**Dana Levine**

Since 1997, the national media have rarely missed a chance to mention the name Scott S. Krueger '01 in the same breath as MIT. Just as this practice began to fade, a new round of fraternity incidents put the Greek system under renewed scrutiny.

Most incidents involved MIT's version of *The Usual Suspects*: Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Sigma Phi Epsilon. Each of these fraternities has weathered numerous violations in past years. Yet nothing drew more national focus than Phi Kappa Sigma's "Skuffle" promotion-gone-wrong.

## Sig Ep, SAE lost to alcohol troubles

Incidents at fraternities continued to revolve around alcohol violations in 1999, as an increasingly intolerant Boston Licensing Board cracked down on underage drinking and loud parties. The beginning of a new, post-Krueger era was marked by the dissolution of two torchbearers of the old way: Sig Ep and SAE.

In February, Sigma Phi Epsilon faced a massive reorganization when its Alumni Advisory Council expelled 28 brothers from the fraternity. This action, which essentially erased Sig Ep's character, arose from disagreements between the active chapter and alumni board, as well as multiple instances of reckless behavior by fraternity members.

The reorganization was prompted most directly by an incident involving Sig Ep's pledges. During a November 1998 road trip, pledges were caught carrying a keg into Sig Ep's Pennsylvania State University chapter.

Following the incident all members of the fraternity were suspended, and the alumni board conducted an internal review to consider reinstatements.

Alumni Board President Shaun L. Meredith G said that the board chose to reinstate members "interested in the founding principles of the fraternity." The house "can't have an *Animal House* atmosphere" any longer, Meredith said.

Only eleven members were reinstated. Expelled brothers were highly critical of the reorganization process both for its effect on the character of the house and practical considerations such as finding new housing.

Dominic J. D'Aleo '00 said that the interviewers never revealed their reasons for his expulsion and simply wanted members to say what the board wanted to hear.

Following the reorganization, Sig Ep became a fraternity of freshmen, with few exceptions. "The house has committed suicide," D'Aleo said. "Sig Ep isn't Sig Ep anymore."

Jason O. Bradford '98 protested his expulsion by fighting the Alumni Board for the

right to live in the Sig Ep house through the end of the Spring term. Bradford eventually won his suit with a court injunction.

"It has been clearly shown that Alumni Board did not have the legal right to evict me or any of my brothers this year," Bradford said.

Disgruntled ex-brothers returned during rush to the house to protest by distributing pamphlets to rushees which explained the tactics that the alumni board had used in the reorganization.

## SAE loses house, MIT recognition

On November 15th, MIT withdrew recog-

nition of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, ending their 100-year presence at MIT. Withdrawal of recognition was largely a formality, however, as the Boston Licensing Board had already suspended the dormitory license of one of SAE's two houses and set a date to revoke the other.

The suspension came after several years of alcohol-related violations. In its last violation, on September 2, SAE brothers illegally served alcohol to six underage Wellesley students. One Wellesley student drank until she became sick, at which point fraternity members reportedly dropped her off at the MIT Medical Center.

SAE was suspended by MIT after the incident, preventing the fraternity's members from taking part in campus events. Members of SAE then failed to appear at a hearing before the Boston Licensing Board. On October 28, the BLB voted to revoke SAE's dormitory license for one of their houses.

"They have to be told they aren't children anymore," said Board Chairman Daniel F. Pokaski. "I don't think they even have a clue."

Earlier sanctions against SAE included the revocation of their privilege to rush in 1998 after serving alcohol to a prospective student during Campus Preview Weekend. SAE was still under an alcohol ban when the most recent incident occurred.

The IFC turned their full authority over to the administration, who then decided to end recognition of the fraternity until at least 2001. As a result of the situation, the fraterni-

ty's Alumni Association decided to expel the upper class members of the fraternity and to reorganize the chapter around the freshmen.

Without a house and without Institute recognition, however, SAE remains all but nonexistent: the coffin's final nail was driv-

en home by the BLB who later voted to revoke SAE's dormitory license for their second house.

## PKS prank explodes

At the same time SAE was facing eviction, three Phi Kappa Sigma brothers accidentally set off a small explosion during a promotion for their "Skuffle" Halloween party.

Although no one was seriously injured, the incident required the temporary evacuation of many main campus buildings. Moreover, local news crews descended on 77 Massachusetts Avenue, some making Columbine comparisons and others reporting three students dead. PKS was quickly lumped in with SAE as part of an out of control fraternity system.

See *Fraternities*, continued on page 20

## CPW Opens To All Students

While not as visible as the Phi Kappa Sigma rally, the IFC's role in this year's Campus Preview Weekend was another example of positive action by the group. In an unprecedented move, the Office of Admissions decided to invite all admitted students to this year's CPW, which took place from April 8th through April 11th.

While Campus Preview Weekend has traditionally included only females and minority students, this year's weekend was a much broader event. The weekend drew 784 prospective freshmen and 437 parents, up from 415 students in 1998.

Due to the massive number of prospective students who came to campus, fraternities and ILGs were called upon to house male visitors. The large number of fraternity events held during CPW (without notable incidents) formed the *de facto* core of the weekend. Some classified the weekend as an early, and helpful, beginning of the rush process.

## Competition prompts new CPW

The move to an open CPW was prompted by competition with other schools, said Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones. Prefrosh weekends have long been known to be powerful recruiting tools. Traditionally, 65 to 75 percent of students who participated have then chosen to enroll as freshmen at MIT, while the overall yield, or

percentage of students who enroll, is 55 percent.

Admissions officers had been contemplating an all-inclusive campus preview weekend for several years, said Zargoza A. Guerra III of the admissions office. Two years ago, after that year's prefrosh weekend, Jones hinted that all-inclusive weekends might be in the works.

CPW was also enlarged two years ago. MIT alumni were invited for the first time, and MIT interviewers joined the prefrosh on campus, to informally meet the students they interviewed.

## Students enjoy CPW activities

Probably as a result of CPW, the percentage of accepted students who chose to come to MIT was 60 percent this year, a "significant improvement over the past three years, when the yield was a constant 55 percent," Jones said.

As CPW's high yield suggests, students who attended the weekend's festivities cite it as a major factor in their decision to attend MIT.

Freshman Jerome A. Chambers '03, who would not have been able to come to CPW in the past, cited the weekend as "the deciding factor in getting me to come to MIT." Before CPW, Chambers was heavily considering the University of Pennsylvania, he said, but chose to come to MIT's weekend. "The people here were very convincing," he said, "and the weekend was well-organized. I liked all the parties."

Elaine J. Chong '03 also cited CPW as what really prompted her to chose MIT. Chong thought that it would not have made a difference to her if only women and minorities had attended.



► announces future plans to require students to take at least one "communications-intensive" course. ♦ **Mar. 19:** In a move that gains widespread national attention, MIT's administration acknowledges gender discrimination against its tenured female professors through the release of a study conducted by a committee composed of tenured women faculty and male colleagues. ♦ **Apr. 1:** The Boston Licensing Board grants the MIT chapter of the Sigma Nu fraternity a dormitory license to move from 523 Newbury Street to 28 The Fenway, formerly home to Phi Gamma Delta after both MIT and Phi representatives agree to support the move; ♦ Not an April Fool's joke: Tom '58 and Ray Magliozzi '72 a.k.a Click and Clack, the Tappet brothers, of ►

# Fact or Fiction: MIT's Gender Bias

*MIT Acknowledges Gender Bias, but is Report on Treatment of Women Scientists Good Science?*

Mike Hall

Who is the typical MIT professor? A nerdy man, complete with lab coat and tousled hair?

While the coat and hair are up for debate, the perception of the typical MIT professor as male is justified. Even while admissions of women have increased in the last decade, the number of female professors at MIT has remained stagnant. As late as 1994, women occupied less than nine percent of faculty positions in MIT's prestigious School of Science. Gender equity has long been a pressing concern for MIT. But were reports by the First and Second Committees on Women Faculty in the School of Science — MIT's attempt at resolving the gender gap — scientific critiques of gender inequity or subjective exercises in manipulation of a media-sensitive administration?

## Informal talks, formal complaints

The question of gender discrimination at MIT first was raised in 1994 when Professor of Biology Nancy H. Hopkins called a meeting of senior women faculty in the School of Science. "We were just sharing experiences and impressions," said Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Mary C. Potter.

The professors found enough consensus to merit approaching the administration. The group submitted their proposal to then-Dean of Science Robert J. Birgeneau in August of 1994, and female science faculty and department heads formed the first committee. Shortly after its formation, the committee submitted preliminary findings to Birgeneau, flagging incidents of discrimination.

In 1996, the committee submitted an interim report to the administration that made a number of recommendations for improving equity in the School of Science. The report called for actively employing female faculty in more influential department positions, as well as a review of salary data. In addition to recommending a general state of awareness regarding discrimination, the report called for an increased number of female faculty.

The committee's 1999 report expanded upon the interim report, offering additional cautions about gender equity issues for the future. "Few issues are as important for a University as the inclusion of women and minorities at the faculty level," the committee reported, advocating reforms such as accommodation of family life by the Institute, placement of female faculty into department administration roles, and integration of gender equity reviews into MIT's other schools. As earlier, most committee members were female professors in the School of Science.

## Benefits improved since mid-1990s

The 1999 report also highlighted the gains made by female faculty in the time between reports. The number of women on the School of Science faculty rose from 22 in 1994 to 31

in 1999, accompanied by a drop in male professors from 252 to 235 in the same period.

Several women professors received increased pay and facilities as a result of the interim report. One anonymous female faculty member commented in the report that, "I was unhappy at MIT for more than a decade ...[but] after the Committee formed and the Dean responded, my life began to change. My research blossomed, my funding tripled. Now I love every aspect of my job. It is hard to understand how I survived those years — or why."

As the driving force behind the report, Hopkins's gains received the most publicity. After receiving her Ph.D. from Harvard in 1971, Hopkins joined the School of Science's biology department. She spent twenty years researching cancer-causing viruses and developmental biology before making her first complaint in 1993.

After the complaint, Hopkins immediately received improvements for her research laboratory, including increased space and an expensive microscope. Hopkins also received additional perks from MIT following the Committee discussions. A December 1999 article in *The Chronicle*

of Higher Education detailed Hopkins's new benefits, including a 5,000 square foot laboratory, an endowed chair, and over \$2.5 million in financial support from MIT and biotechnical corporations.

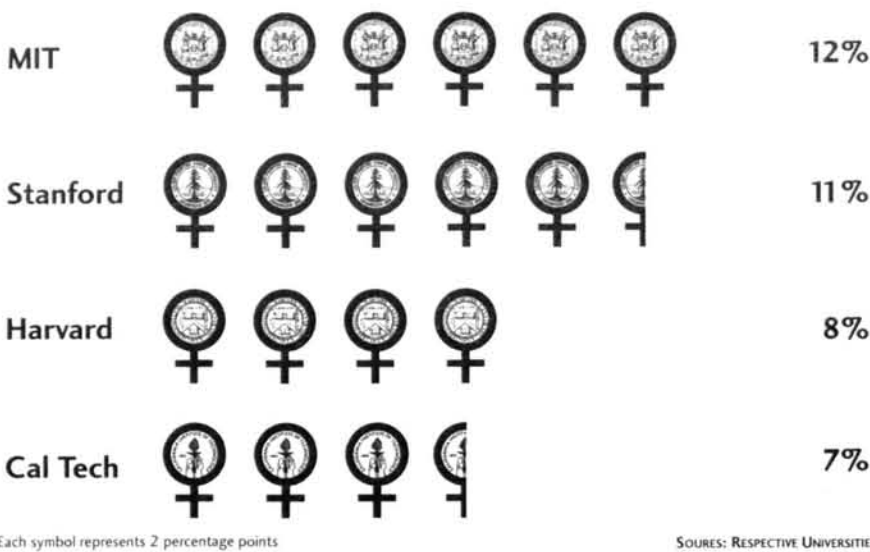
Hopkins also received an appointment in October 1999 to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, joining an exclusive group of under six hundred active members.

## Report earns mainstream praise, but draws intellectual criticism

After its publication, the report garnered immense support from media outlets across the nation. Stories on the report ran on all three major television networks and on the front pages of the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*, which reported that "unlike schools that have waited for lawsuits to act, MIT did something rare in academia: [it] looked at the numbers and admitted it was wrong."

Government leaders also praised the report's discovery of hidden discrimination.

## Women Science Faculty Percentages At Major Research Institutions



The Clinton administration invited Hopkins to a landmark roundtable on equal pay, where President Clinton praised the committee for having the courage to release its findings.

The committee "sought to make things right," said Clinton, "and they told the whole public the truth about it, which is a rare thing."

Though acclaimed by the mainstream, the report was soundly criticized by many observers inside and outside MIT as an exaggeration of gender concerns in the School of Science.

Judith S. Kleinfeld, professor of psychology at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, rebuked the report's major claims in her report, "MIT Tarnishes Its Reputation with Gender Junk Science."

In her paper, Kleinfeld said that, without needed objective evidence of gender discrimination, the report "falls below basic standards for scientific evidence in the social sciences." Since the complainants formed most of the committee, Kleinfeld concluded that their findings were indelibly tainted in favor of the committee members' assumptions. Kleinfeld also criticized MIT's reaction in the aftermath of the report, noting that a majority of the committee were "interested parties who would personally profit from a finding of gender discrimination, and in fact did profit, gaining increased salaries, increased research budgets, more laboratory space and other perks."

The *Wall Street Journal* echoed Kleinfeld's sentiments in a December editorial, calling the committee's findings "anything but conclusive." The *Journal* observed that "when [the Committee] failed to find quantifiable evidence of discrimination, it relied on women's self-reported feelings of unhappiness."

"If a group of faculty members wants to demand higher pay and better perks, that's one thing," the *Journal* added. "But to gussy up their demands as objective science and then hide the data is a poor lesson for the students."

In their joint response to the *Journal's* editorial, Birgeneau and President Charles M. Vest argued that the withholding of data did not compromise the scientific integrity of the report. "All of these data were obtained with the promise of absolute confidentiality," wrote Birgeneau and Vest. "It would be an explicit violation of that promise for us to release these data publicly, and we will not."

Both defended the scientific integrity of the committee by emphasizing the scientific contributions members had made to the academic world outside of committee work, but

did not provide any additional public data to support the report's assertions.

In an interview with *The Chronicle*, Hopkins argued that the committee "didn't want to embarrass anybody and ... didn't want to make trouble" by releasing personal accounts, adding that her colleagues merely wanted "to move forward positively."

Kathryn L. Reed, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Arizona School of Medicine, further defended the omission of data in the report. "If women scientists

report they experience discrimination, why is this experience dismissed?" asked Reed, whose school is also investigating its own gender inequity.

## Report, critics raise major issues

Despite the amount of criticism, some assertions in the report cannot be disputed. Discrimination clearly still exists in modern society, even in the halls of the country's most hallowed educational institutions. Women remain a rarity on MIT's faculty, a clear point of shame for the entire MIT community. Committee members risked their careers to expose what they perceived as systematic gender discrimination.

The committee, however, drew potentially legitimate criticism by publically producing neither objective nor subjective data used in their research. The unwillingness of female faculty to release their personal accounts raises

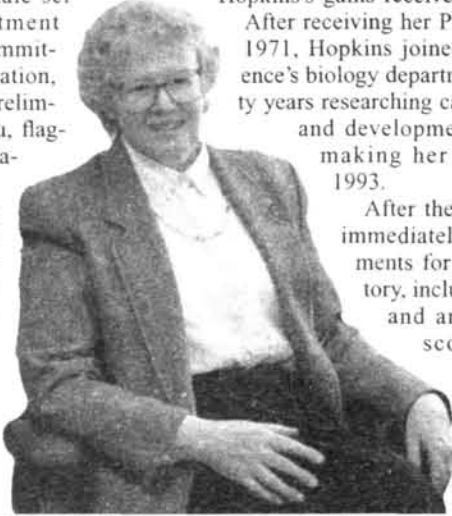
doubts about the truthfulness of the committee's findings, particularly when those faculty members received lucrative rewards after exposing discrimination at MIT. Instead of factual evidence of systematic discrimination, the readers are told instead that "... once you 'get it,' [the discrimination] seems almost obvious."

Female-to-male faculty ratios at MIT are similar to ratios at comparable institutions, including Stanford University, Harvard University, and the California Institute of Technology. While the committee is correct in stating that "to be as bad as these unenlightened institutions is not a defense," the reality is that MIT and other institutions only recently began admitting females at higher rates. The corresponding increase in female faculty is not due for another decade, assuming a fair number of female students will continue their careers at MIT. The committee faultily assumes that MIT and its peers can ameliorate gender inequity existing from time immemorial in under five years.

Although the report may change the perception of the typical MIT professor, concerns about the report's methods and disclosure prevent it from earning universal support. T



Nancy Hopkins



Mary Potter

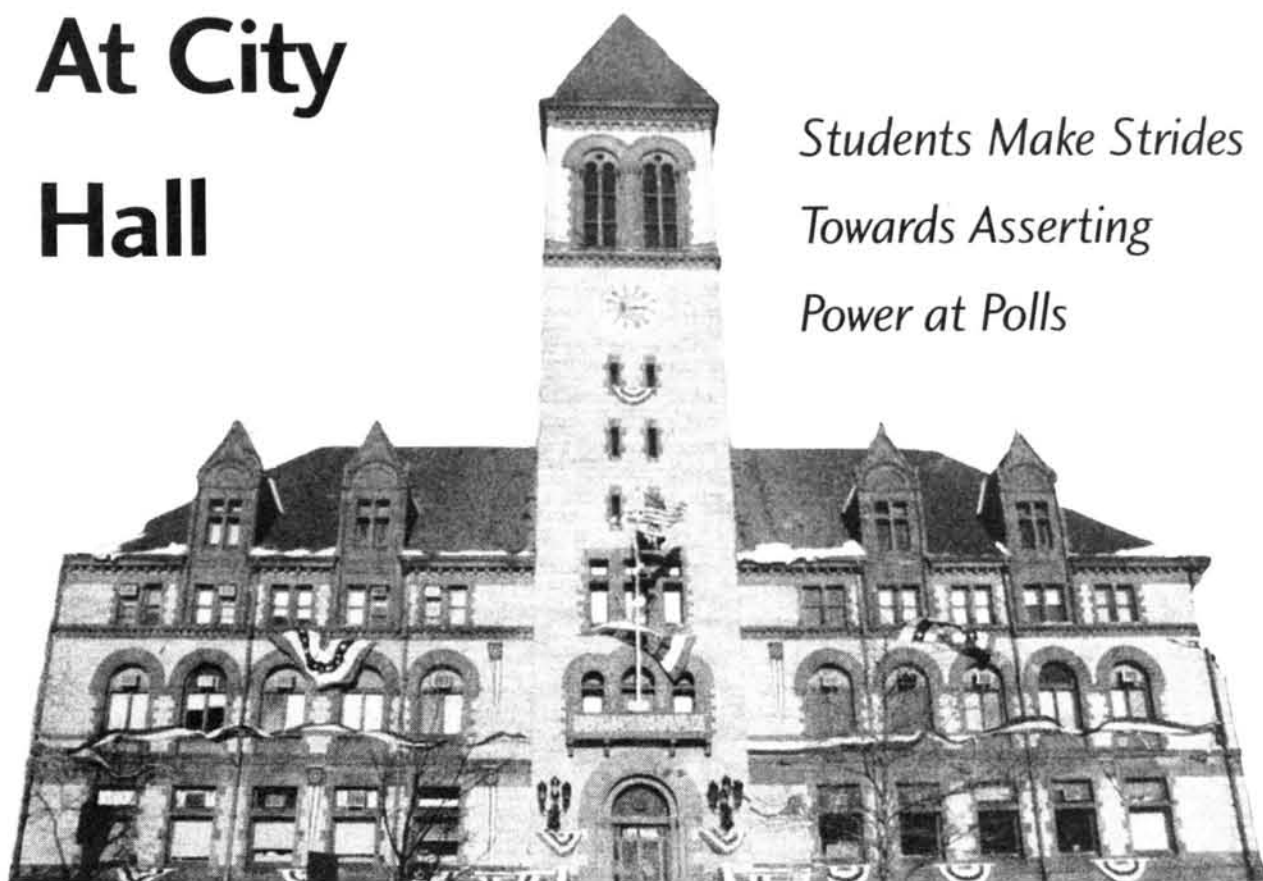
*The report falls below basic standards for scientific evidence in the social sciences.*

—Judith Kleinfeld



# Crashing the Party At City Hall

*Students Make Strides  
Towards Asserting  
Power at Polls*



Kevin R. Lang

When MIT students think of their years at the Institute, what comes to mind: living groups? Hacks? All-night tooling? For most, the cities of Cambridge and Boston remain on the back burner. In much the same way, most MIT students have a reasonable awareness of national politics while utterly neglecting local issues.

1999 was an election year in both Boston and Cambridge and a year that could have held great interest for students. In Cambridge, one of MIT's own, student Erik C. Snowberg '99, ran unsuccessfully for Cambridge City Council. Across the Charles River, Boston University graduate student Mike Ross was victorious in student-dense District Eight, which includes the Back Bay, Kenmore Square, the Fenway, and most of MIT's FSILGs.

From the very beginning, Snowberg's campaign centered on encouraging student participation in local politics. "This campaign is about getting students re-engaged in the political process," Snowberg said. "There is a separation between students and residents, and it's detrimental to both parties." Snowberg would have been the first student elected to the council.

## Student apathy greatest challenge

Success for Snowberg depended on getting his chosen constituency, students, to the polls on November 2. Currently, students make up twenty-five percent of Cambridge's population but have no representation on the council. Though nearly all students are of voting age, only 12 percent of MIT students and five percent of Harvard students are registered Cambridge voters.

Ken Reeves, an incumbent who won reelection, spoke at a rally at the Stratton Student Center about the extent of MIT voter apathy, noting that only nine people from MIT voted at the Johnson Athletic Center polling booth in a recent election.

In addition, Cambridge's council system does not favor student candidates. Councillors in Cambridge are elected by the entire city, and MIT and Harvard do not have their own

districts. Cambridge's proportional representation system guarantees any constituency that makes up ten percent of the voting population a representative, however. In Boston, though, large numbers of student residents, especially in District Eight, represent a significant potential voting bloc.

## Housing, development major issues

The related issues of affordable housing and Cambridge development dominated campaigns in 1999. A number of candidates called for the return of rent control. Candidate David A. Hoicka '77 helped organize the Cambridge Citizens for Rent Equity to push an unsuccessful ballot initiative calling for the return of rent control.

Another tenants' group, the Eviction Free Zone, spoke out against forced evictions and aimed to restore rent control by a statewide referendum.

Snowberg supported returning rent control to Cambridge alongside other housing reforms.

"Housing is for homes, not for investment," he said. Snowberg proposed the creation of a landlord licensing board to govern those who rent and give tenants a forum to air disputes.

Cambridge development proved to be another hot issue. The city, notably East Cam-

bridge, has become increasingly commercialized in recent years.

On one side of the issue, candidates such as James Williamson have worked to halt development in both Harvard and Central Squares. Williamson is involved in the "Save Central Square" campaign, which is battling the opening of a Gap clothing store at Massachusetts Avenue and Prospect Street.

Most other candidates favored slowing or regulating the pace of development to maintain Cambridge's residential, low-rise personality.

Snowberg encouraged the city council to "articulate a plan for the future of Cambridge."

"Development is out of control," he said, while at the same time admitting that new development provided a valuable, substantial increase in Cambridge's tax base.

Among the new council's first actions was the creation of a moratorium on development in East Cambridge. The Larkin petition creates an 18-month ban on new projects in excess of 20,000 square feet.

Development also proved to be an important issue in District Eight, where Ross campaigned against proposed projects on the Massachusetts Turnpike corridor, including two proposed skyscrapers.

## MIT-Cambridge relations debated

Candidates acknowledged that MIT has a role to play in the housing debate. Many citizens expressed concerns that the Institute has added to the pressures of the housing market by failing to house students on campus — students who cannot find Institute housing are forced into the Cambridge market and are often able to pay higher rents than residents.

In addition, many candidates considered wealthy but tax-exempt universities potential sources of income. MIT currently makes payment to Cambridge in lieu of taxes — a new city council would have a chance to renegotiate that amount and several candidates called for an increase.

On September 29, council candidates discussed city-student relations in a development forum at the Cambridge Senior Center.

In his speech, Snowberg spoke about the need to bridge student-community relations in Cambridge.

"On one side of the fence, there's students, and on other side is the community," Snowberg said. "They're often pointing fingers at each other."

Many candidates at the forum expressed

the idea that MIT and Harvard have several councillors in their back pockets, and that the council is unresponsive to the needs of voters.

Hoicka said that current MIT planning provides for "zero units of affordable housing" but constructs "luxury apartments." He spoke of "cultural and economic cleansing" and the need for rent control and downsizing.

Candidate Jim Braude said that Harvard makes \$2.87 million from its endowment every day, and that Harvard President Neil H. Rudenstine and other universities in the area should give back to the community.

Reeves urged voters to send a majority of candidates to the council who would represent their interests rather than MIT's or Harvard's.

## Support from students, community

Early in Snowberg's campaign, MIT students expressed interest at the idea of one of their own running for the council.

"Student interaction with the community is an issue that needs to be addressed," said Andy D. Berkheimer '01. "Having someone on our side ... can help the council better understand the students' views."

Even some Harvard students supported Snowberg's campaign.

"He knows the students' perspective," said Dan Kaganovich, a Harvard junior. Kaganovich added that Snowberg's experience on the council could aid Harvard in future negotiations with Cambridge over the university's land expansion.

In Boston, Ross drew heavy support from the BU community, especially with student campaign volunteers.

Snowberg's campaign received a major boost when the Cambridge Civic Association endorsed him in August. The CCA also endorsed four other candidates for the nine council openings.

"I'm very excited about it," Snowberg said at the time. "I'm running not only to represent students, but also to cover the common ground between students and the community and find positive solutions."

In October, city council candidates from MIT, Emerson College, and Northeastern University announced the formation of the College Students' Political Alliance.

Emerson College senior Giovanni de Francisci began gathering support for the CSPA to represent the concerns of college students in the Boston area. De Francisci ran for Boston City Council from District Eight as a write-in



Erik C. Snowberg '99

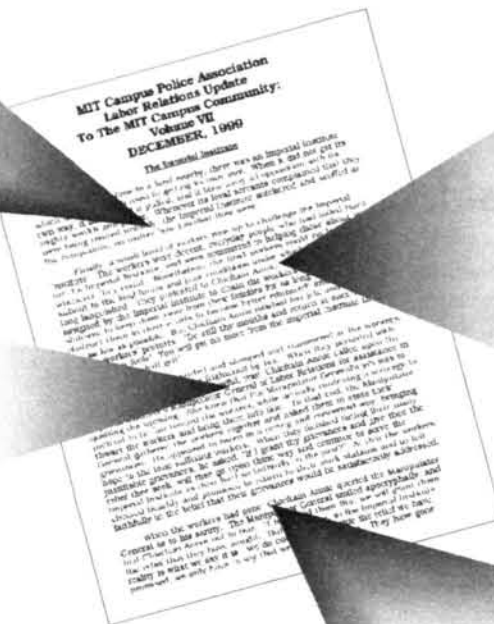
See Local Politics, continued on page 21



► Boston University police officer James Barry files suit against the Institute and individuals associated with the Beta Theta Pi fraternity in response to an incident the previous summer in which summer residents at BTP threw beer cans from the rooftop when BU police arrived to break up a party. ► **Apr. 16:** On the final day of his six-city U.S. tour, Premier Zhu Rongji of the People's Republic of China discusses trade relations and educational cooperation between the United States and China before a capacity crowd in Kresge Auditorium. Zhu downplays issues such as the U.S. trade deficit with China. In demonstrations along Memorial Drive and Massachusetts Ave. supporters of Zhu outnumber protesters; ► Microsoft CEO Bill Gates presents a \$20 million ►

Once upon a time in a land nearby, there was an Imperial Institute which was very much used to getting its own way. When it did not get its own way, it huffed and it puffed, and it blew away all opposition with its mighty wealth and power.

Chieftan Annie snorted and stomped and stammered at the workers, but they would no longer be frightened by her. When they persisted with their protest in a spirited, yet lawful, way, Chieftan Annie called Imperial Institute's Manipulator General of Labor Relations for assistance in quelling the uprising.



Finally, a small band of workers rose up to challenge the Imperial Institute. The workers were decent, everyday people who had toiled hard for the Imperial Institute, and were committed to helping those about them whenever they could.

# To Serve And Protest?

## CPs still entrenched in labor dispute with Institute

Mike Hall

On the surface, 1999 seemed to be business as usual for the Campus Police. CPs patrolled the campus as they always have, whether by foot, bike, cruiser, or behemoth SUV.

Yet the prolonged dispute between MIT and the Campus Police Association shows no sign of resolution, with both sides entrenched and unwilling to compromise. The conflict over scheduling, benefits and staffing entered its eighteenth month in December 1999.

"We are not convinced that MIT is prepared to close the gap," said Alan McDonald of McDonald and Associates, the firm representing the CPA.

Compromise between the CPA and the Institute is growing increasingly unlikely, as both sides appear to be preparing for an extended battle.

### Overtime, education key issues

Involuntary overtime remains a major point of contention between the administration and the CPA. Currently, officers are called to work during "off-hours" to fill staffing needs.

McDonald complained that "MIT continues to rely on overtime rather than fully staffing the department." The CPA is demanding that MIT restrict call-ins to emergencies.

MIT's Manager of Labor Relations, David B. Achenbach, maintains that MIT needs "a certain security presence available" at all times. Under the Institute's current contract proposal, any officer working overtime — either voluntary or involuntary — would move to the bottom of the overtime-eligible list. The plan is designed to distribute involuntary overtime fairly among officers.

The Institute also proposes expanding the number of officers in each watch group in an attempt to diminish the need for involuntary overtime.

The CPA has also demanded additional benefits for officers who further their education. Currently, MIT provides \$5,250 per employee for the pursuit of higher education.

The proposed benefits package follows recommendations from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission to reward officers who complete college-level courses. Harvard University is one of the few local colleges implementing such a plan.

"MIT sees no correlation between education and quality of work," McDonald stated, suggesting that MIT wants to avoid spending more on its police force. MIT should provide additional time and funding for increased officer training, McDonald argued, because the Institute benefits from officers' education.

"[Officers] already receive the same bene-

fit as every other MIT employee," Achenbach countered. He also said that MIT already gives the maximum untaxable educational allowance to its employees seeking a first undergraduate degree.

### Boston deputization questioned

The Institute's call for Boston patrols also has increased friction between the two factions. Following the death of Scott S. Krueger '01, the Institute proposed that the CPs patrol all MIT fraternities to control drinking.

Achenbach contended that the Campus Police has an obligation to protect all MIT students, whether living on campus or in Boston. Achenbach also criticized the CPA for opposing the Institute's efforts to deputize CPs in Suffolk County.

McDonald countered that MIT's demands would expose CPs to a more dangerous environment than assumed upon joining the force.

Increased benefits for those officers serving as Emergency Medical Technicians also remains an unresolved issue. In addition to their police duties, MIT CPs also serve as EMTs and can provide medical assistance that other college police forces cannot provide.

"[MIT] loves the fact that they have EMTs ... they just don't want to pay for it," McDonald contended. Currently, CPs receive an additional \$0.65 per hour for serving as EMTs, which amounts to less than five percent of an officer's total pay.

### Institute in violation of labor law

Under an old agreement between MIT and the CPA, officers could agree to work on a holiday which they were not scheduled to work in return for a "comp day" of vacation time. This policy may have violated federal labor laws which require that hours worked in excess of 40 in one week be paid at time and a

half. As a result the Institute may have inadequately compensated some officers.

Achenbach said that MIT had contacted the Department of Labor regarding the violations and was working to rectify any inadequate compensation caused by the policy. The DOL has issued no fines against MIT since the Institute has acted in "good faith," Achenbach said.

McDonald said that the issue of compensation days is connected to other scheduling concerns.

Achenbach, however, characterized the CP's focus on the issue as a "vexation strategy" intended to prolong negotiations.

A CPA leaflet included a notice to all employees of MIT who may have been subject to inadequate overtime compensation, and McDonald said that the policy was Institute-wide.

Achenbach, however, said that the compensation day agreement was unique to the Campus Police and it was unlikely that other employees would be affected.

### Recent efforts stalled by Institute

In the last three months of 1999, the CPA's attempts to compromise were halted by what McDonald labeled as MIT's unwillingness to negotiate on fair ground.

In October, the CPA unanimously supported a vote of "no confidence" in the MIT police management. The vote addressed key issues in the conflict,

such as involuntary overtime, proper recognition of police officers' EMT skills, and funding for continuing education.

In a corresponding press release, the CPA characterized the police department's managerial style as "negative and obstructive." The CPA also stated that "instead of trying to facilitate the officers' jobs, management seems determined to demean and deride officers in the performance of their important public safety functions."

In late October, the Institute offered what McDonald termed as its "last, best offer," threatening to deduct pay for retroactive pay increases if the offer was not accepted.

"That was their attempt to pressure the officers into accepting this 'proposal' of theirs," McDonald said, adding that the forceful offer was in violation of the National Labor Relations Act. The National Labor Relations Board found probable cause of violations by the Institute on three charges, with a fourth pending.

In November, the Institute tentatively

accepted the CPA's proposal for a modified work schedule with additional free time.

McDonald said that the CPA negotiation staff was "seriously considering going back to our membership" with the proposal, but discovered that MIT had backed a variation of the work schedule which offered free time at the cost of \$2500-3000 from current pay. McDonald and his staff declined the modified proposal, with McDonald calling it "just unacceptable."

Even though a following offer from the CPA included an extra half-hour of work per day, the Institute still refused any offer that kept pay at its present level.

The Institute was "never serious about coming to a fair resolution," McDonald claimed, adding that its altered interpretation of the union's proposal "blew apart what appeared to be substantial progress in negotiations."

In December, the CPA creatively dealt with its frustration by releasing an anecdotal press release portraying MIT as "the Imperial Institute," Chief Anne P. Glavin as "Chieftan Annie," and Achenbach as the "Manipulator General of Labor Relations."

In the story, a small group of "decent, everyday people" laboring for the Imperial Institute protested "in a spirited, yet lawful way" to the stubborn Chieftan Annie about their working conditions. The story concluded with the Manipulator General publicly offering to relieve the workers' grievances, then turning privately to Chieftan Annie and saying,

*We do not have to provide the relief we have promised ... we only have to say that we provided it*

—"Manipulator General"

"We do not have to provide the relief we have promised ... we only have to say that we have provided it."

### Resolution uncertain

According to Achenbach, an agreement may be reached over the coming summer. He expressed hope that scheduling proposals will lead to an agreement.

McDonald is hopeful that progress will be made at the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 4, but cautioned that the Institute's strategy may be to "hold out without dealing effectively with the issue themselves" and wait for the CPA to concede.

A strike remains a possibility since the Campus Police are private sector employees. McDonald said that strike was "a weapon of last resort" but one that could not be ruled out.

Achenbach downplayed the possibility of a strike, stating that "MIT is focused on trying to reach a settlement through negotiations." **T**



►donation on behalf of himself and his wife Melinda for the William H. Gates III Foundation. The donation will be used to create a new home for LCS: the William H. Gates building in the proposed Stata Center. ♦ Apr. 23: Internationally recognized mathematician and beloved professor, Gian-Carlo Rota, dies in his sleep at the age of 66; ♦ Busta Rhymes performs for a sold-out crowd in Johnson Athletics Center. The high attendance at this year's Spring Concert is a marked departure from previous years' events. ♦ Apr. 27: After a year of housing upperclass undergraduates in Tang Hall, a graduate dormitory, the Office of Residence Life and Student Life Programs announces the dormitory will return to full graduate occupancy and undergraduate►

# United We Stand

## Student Governments Unite to Voice Student Opinion on Residence Changes

Kristen Landino

Two themes characterized MIT student government in 1999: cooperation and activism. Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00 thought that "student government associations such as the Interfraternity Council, Dormitory Council, Graduate Student Council, and Undergraduate Association all spoke with one voice, and using these tactics we were able to effect change."

The Undergraduate Association set out to accomplish four major goals in 1999: FinBoard reforms, supporting the Capital Campaign, improving Spring Weekend, and gathering student input for Institute decisions on housing and the freshman pass/no record grading system.

"The UA achieved its biggest goal of being more visible to students by holding many large

accomplished some of our main goals. There was no freshman dormitory, sophomore shuffle, loss of housing guarantee for upperclassmen, or dismantling of the fraternity system," McGann said.

According to McGann, money was the main problem with the final RSSC report. "We need to do significantly more capital investment in order to accomplish the goals set out in the final report," said McGann.

"The final report wasn't perfect, but by and large, it turned out as well as it did because of student activism," McGann said.

### GSC, UA tackle capital issues

When the capital campaign formally began in early November, the GSC and UA formed a joint committee in order to help form ideas to raise the money and define the best uses for the \$100 million allocated to student life and learning.

"We haven't seen this type of cooperation between student government in the past and we hope to see more of it in the future," McGann said.

Some goals for the money include endowments for student activities and athletics. "We are looking at donating about \$15 million toward the athletics program and are also looking into endowing the Dean of Students position. We are looking at where we can best help," McGann said.

MIT plans to use approximately \$300 million to increase the financial aid base for the Institute and a similar amount to finance capital projects such as the Stata Complex and the new athletics complex.

### FinBoard changes help students

One of the most visible changes made by the UA was an overhaul of the student activities funding system. "We shifted from the legacy accounting system to more modern financial software, enabling the system to be a lot more flexible," McGann said.

Since the changes were put into place, students are now able to access their account balances on Athena and track the flow of money into and out of their accounts.

The reimbursement process was also made more flexible through the implementation of category funding. Each group is awarded funds into one of four categories: events, publicity, capital, and operations. As long as group expenditures fall into one of these categories, treasurers can claim reimbursement and submit vouchers.

In the past, student groups had to submit budgets which included expenditures for the coming semester. Thus, groups which had a number of unforeseen expenditures often faced problems covering their expenses.

Issues such as these often forced student groups to spend as little as two thirds of their allocated funds each semester. With the institution of the new system, student

groups are using a much greater percentage of their funds, according to McGann.

### Athletics cuts remain a mystery

Athletics has been and will continue to be a top priority for the UA, according to McGann. Following the elimination of junior varsity teams and a reduction in varsity squad sizes, there has been a general student outcry for more athletics funding.

Although these changes were included in the administration's six-year plan, the Institute has been "very hush-hush" about funding issues, McGann said.

"MIT's policy of budget openness has been changed by the Provost with this issue. Now the administration seems to have a more closed book policy on budgets. The participatory model is taking a diminished role," McGann said.

"Our facilities have low ratings compared to other institutions. Hopefully, some problems will be alleviated with the construction of the new sports and fitness complex," he said.

### Nominations committee revised

UA Nominations Committee chair Christopher R. Rezek '99 worked toward the UA's goal of increased student-administration interaction in 1999.

"The UA strongly supports student representation in Institute decision making. The nominations committee allows that goal to be realized," McGann said.

Described by McGann as a "star", Rezek has redefined the nominations committee. The committee hopes to improve and streamline the selection process for student representatives to institute committees.

"We hope to begin working with course administrators, academic honors societies, committee chairs, and other student government members. We hope to develop a broader and deeper recruiting process," Rezek said.

The Committee on Privacy was eliminated because its scope was "simply too broad." Next term, two committees, the Student Information Policy Committee and a group chaired by the Chancellor, will serve to supplant the former Committee on Privacy.

The SIPC plans to deal with issues such as the new privacy guidelines released by the federal government as well as academic and discipline records. The group headed

by Bacow will oversee the release of



Jennifer A. Frank '00, DormCon president.

aggregate statistical data on such sets as minorities and women at the institute.

McGann cited the Institute's continuation of the freshmen pass/no record grading system as a success for active student committees.

At the time, the issue was largely split between students and faculty. Students want to retain the present freshman system of grading, whereas faculty sought to remove the pass/no record grading system.

"In this case, the administration did not just act. They chartered a subcommittee to take a hard look at the pass/no record grading system," McGann said.

*The UA strongly supports student representation in Institute decision making. The nominations committee allows that goal to be realized*

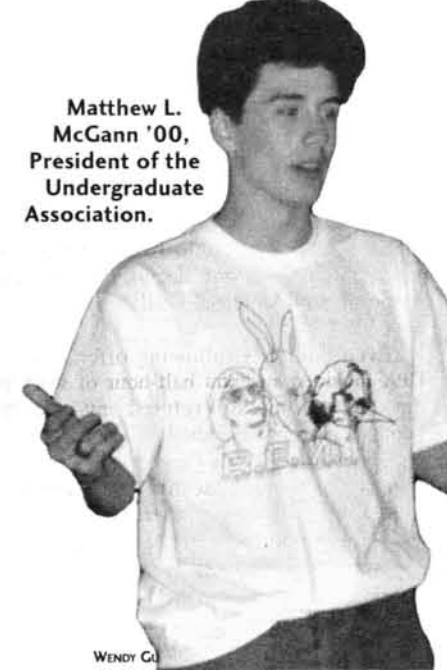
—Matthew L. McGann

### Spring Weekend sustainability

The UA hopes to make Spring Weekend a freestanding, self-sustaining entity in the future.

Currently, large event funding allocates \$30,000 annually for the campus-wide event; however, this is a one time fee paid in expecta-

See Student Government, continued on page 21



Matthew L. McGann '00, President of the Undergraduate Association.

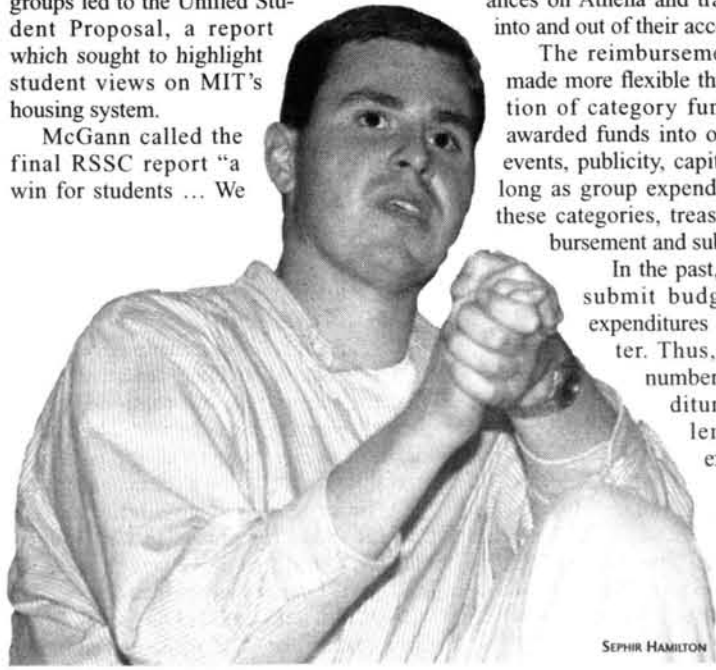
social events and changing internal structure to facilitate better visibility in the future," said 1998-1999 UA President Paul T. Oppold '99.

### RSSC report calls UA to action

Certainly the most crucial issue facing student government in 1999 was the ongoing residence system reformation. On a fundamental level, the final housing decision would undoubtedly impact the entire MIT community. Thus, the UA and GSC sought to include as much student input as possible.

Before the Residence System Steering Committee released its final proposal on December 8, the collective efforts of student groups led to the Unified Student Proposal, a report which sought to highlight student views on MIT's housing system.

McGann called the final RSSC report "a win for students ... We



Luis Ortiz, GSC President



Margaret R. Bates Robert J. Birgeneau Rosalind Williams

## Shake-up at the Top

Among the changes sweeping campus this year was a shake-up of the MIT administration. Three top level administrators have left their posts in the last four months.

In the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education, Deans Rosalind A. Williams and Margaret R. Bates resigned. The dean of the School of Science, Robert J. Birgeneau, departed to become president of the University of Toronto.

The vacuum left by the departure of two high level deans from ODSUE has prompted a rethinking of the structure of that department.

Senior administrators have proposed dividing the office between student life and undergraduate education. "One model under discussion is to have a dean for undergraduate education and a dean for student life, both of whom report to the Chancellor, said Williams. Even with this model we'd have a very, very close relationship between the two deans and the two offices," Williams said.

In this parallel organization both deans would report directly to the chancellor, Lawrence S. Bacow '72. A number of offices that currently report to the two deans may also report directly to Bacow after the restructuring.

Though the close timing of the departures shook up the administration, the circumstances of the departures were routine.

Williams left after a five year term to return to teaching. Bates left to join her husband, a professor at MIT, on a year-long sabbatical.

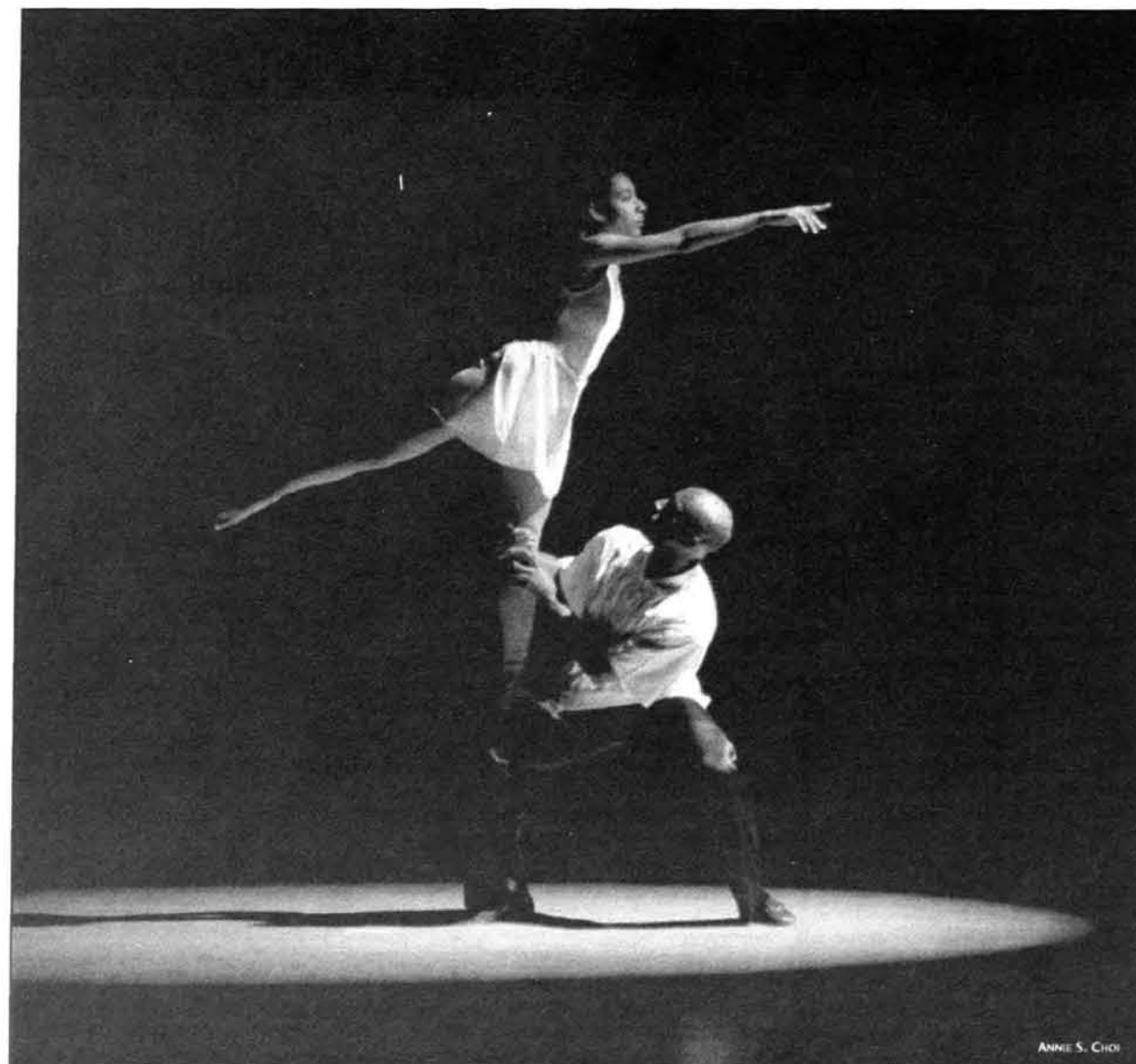
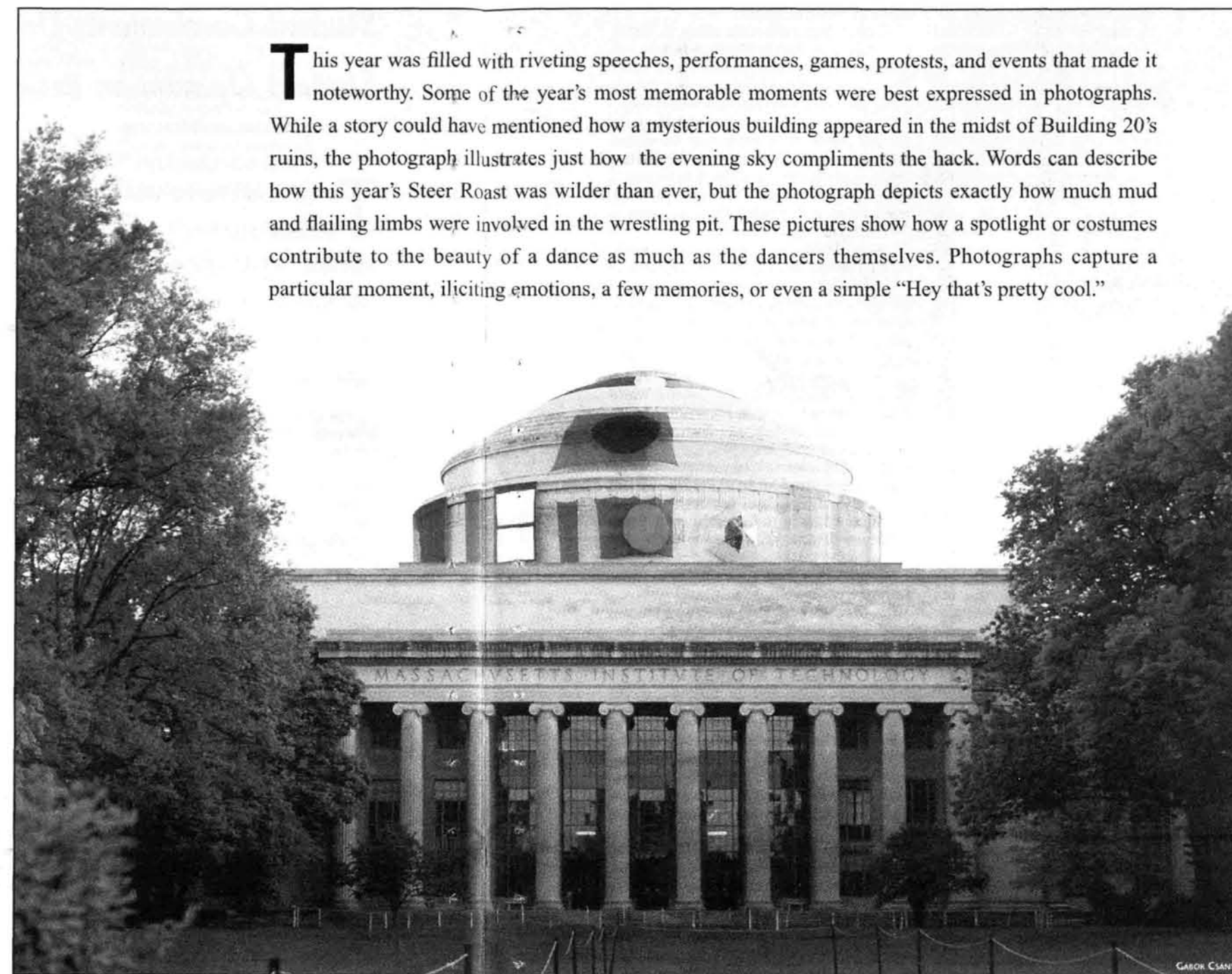
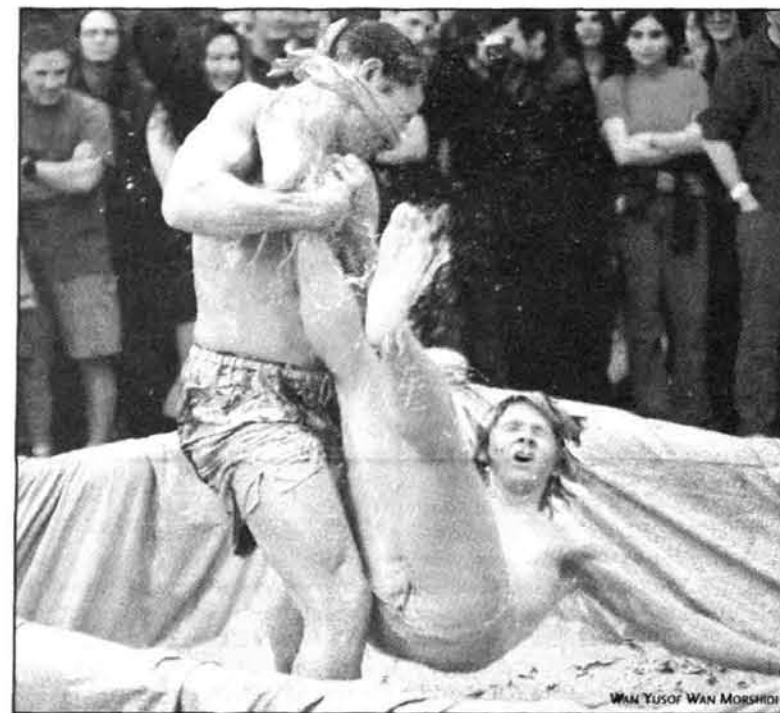
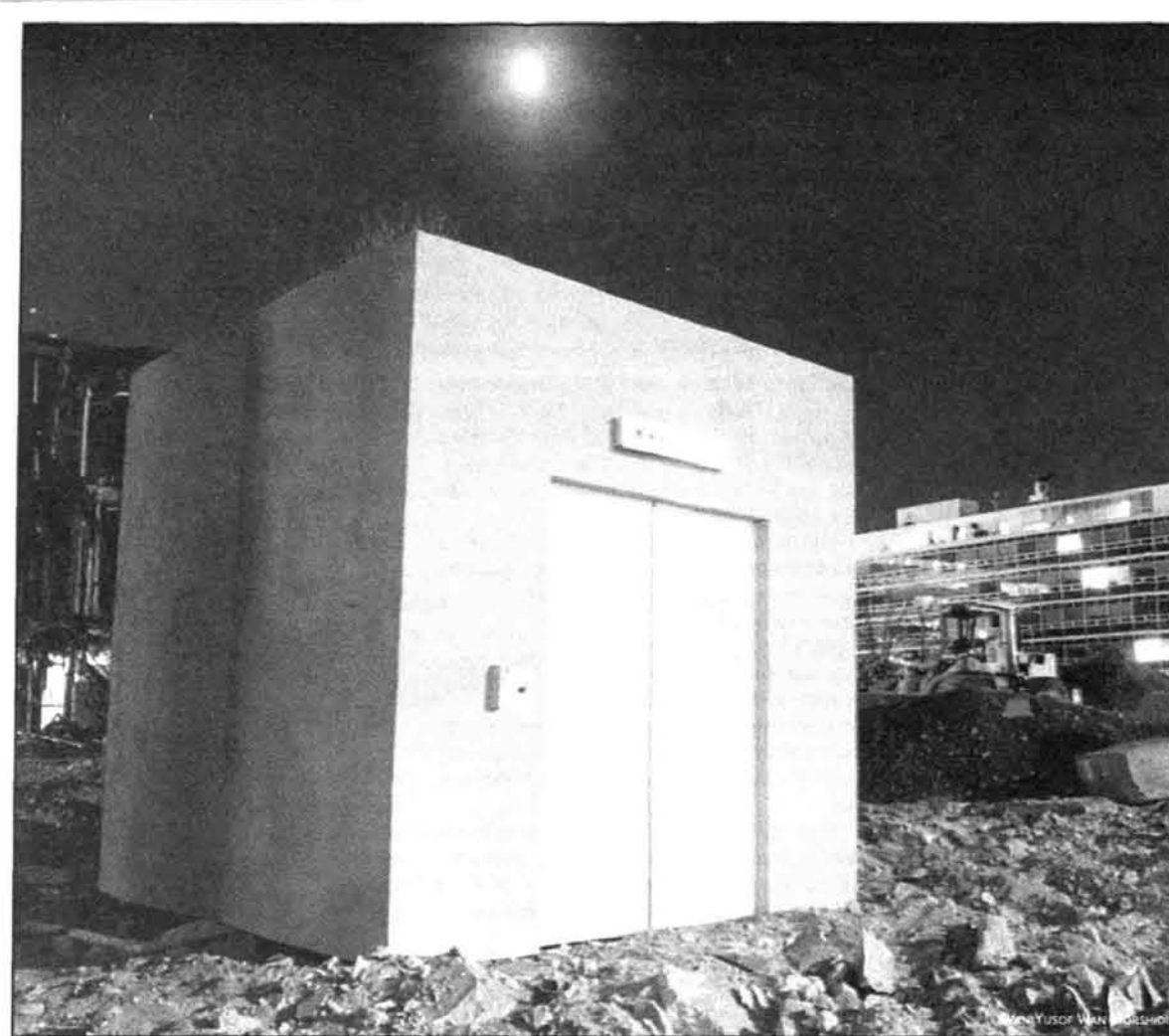
Search committees, which include students, have been formed to find successors for both deans.

Birgeneau departed in late November to assume the presidency of the University of Toronto. He is a native of Toronto and a graduate of the University.

Robert J. Silbey, professor of chemistry, has been named as the interim dean.



# The Year in Photos





► residents will be moved to other residence halls; ► The Residence System Steering Committee releases a preliminary draft of its report on redesigning MIT's residence system. Controversial stands such as converting Ashdown House to a freshman dormitory and MacGregor House to a graduate dormitory promote an outpouring of criticism by students. ► **April 29:** Demolition of the Building 20, MIT's 50 year-old temporary structure, nears completion. ► **Apr. 30:** Mud wrestling, strippers, recreational drugs, and pornography take center stage at Senior House's annual Steer Roast celebration. ► **May 4:** MolecularWare Inc. founded by Seth Taylor MBA '97 and Ngon D. Dao G win the top prize in the \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition. Their company►

# In Memoriam

## Richard Guy

The death of Richard Guy early in the morning of August 31 was strangely reminiscent of the death of Scott S. Krueger '01 two years earlier: Both produced a media firestorm, a hasty review of Institute policies, and legal actions. Lost in the fray of indictments and live spots was the realization of the loss of a promising individual.

Richard A. Guy '99

Guy's death by nitrous oxide poisoning was originally ruled a suicide — he had a history of depression and drug dependence — but friends said that he had recently expressed hope for escaping these problems.

One friend, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that before Guy went to MIT, "he was an incredible baseball player," who had a 95 mph fastball and looking to go straight to the pros. However, after head-on collision with a drunk driver his senior year in high school ruined his pitching arm, Guy decided to go to MIT.

"He never complained about the accident," his friend said.

Guy, a native of Mission Valley, California was entering his junior year as a physics major. "He was interested in quantum computing," his friend said. In addition, he was known for his sense of humor and love of electronic and classical music.

He was 23 years old when he died.

## Irina Libova

Irina Libova's fiancée, Vladimir, named the outing club he founded "Black Alpinist" after a fallen mountaineer from Russian folklore who was killed when his climbing partner cut the rope linking them. The black-clad alpinist, legend says, haunts mountain ranges and kills the last climber to leave the mountain.



COURTESY BLACK ALPINIST OUTING CLUB

Irina Libova G

The dire legend is an eerie footnote to the death of Libova, 23, who was killed in a climbing accident. Libova's fiancée, Vladimir Smirnov, 29, and Ilia Krasic were also killed in the accident which occurred on December 28.

The three were part of a group of six who set out to climb Mt. Orizaba, the tallest mountain in Mexico and the third highest peak in North America. The trio apparently fell to their deaths on the icy-slopes of the mountain while descending from the summit.

Libova was a graduate student in Biology at MIT and was a member of the Gertler biology laboratory.

Igor Balk G, a friend, remembered Libova as "one of the most brilliant" people he had met. Balk said that Libova's priorities were "first biology, then climbing, then everything else."

Everything else included Mathematics, which Libova studied at Moscow University, before studying Biology at Washington University in St. Louis. She also participated in a web-based literary society.

"She had a lot of talent but a short life," Balk said.

Assistant Professor Frank Gertler said that Libova was one of the lab's brightest students.

Libova was a native of Moscow, Russia, and is survived by her parents, Lucy and Alexander, and a sister, Olga, all of Mountain View, CA.

## Michael Manley

Michael P. Manley '02 was killed in a fall from the 14th floor of MacGregor House in February of 1999. His death was an apparent suicide.

Manley, a freshman from Tempe, Arizona, was a student in the Experimental Study Group program and was a writer for *Counterpoint*, a joint MIT-Wellesley journal of the arts.

"Michael was a warm, funny and very bright young man who would have excelled at MIT. He was also a very talented writer and storyteller. He'd often reduce my freshman seminar group to uncontrolled laughter through tales of his day-to-day experiences here. We all enjoyed the pleasure of his company, and are very shocked and saddened by his death," said Patricia J. Culligan, associate professor in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Manley's freshman adviser.

"Michael was such a bright star. It is just unfortunate he didn't realize how much he had going for him," said Jonathan D. Kennell '02, who knew Manley through ESG.

Memorial Services for Manley were held in Tempe, Arizona.

## Amy Beth Segal

Amy Beth Segal, a 34-year-old graduate student in the Sloan School of Management, died of cancer at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston on July 21.



MIT NEWS OFFICE

Amy Beth Segal

She came to MIT in 1992, after earning a bachelor's degree in Labor Relations from Cornell University and a master's degree from the London School of Economics. She was in the final stages of completing her PhD in Organization Studies at the time of her death.

Her thesis work was considered unique in its philosophical and methodological stance, as well as for its "honest portrayal of the emotional side of organizational life, for extending the boundaries of theories of feminism and organizational change," according to a statement by organizers of a scholarship fund being set up to honor Segal.

The group hopes to raise funds to hire a writer who will work with Segal's colleagues to finish her dissertation, and to offer a bi-annual scholarship to women students at the Sloan School.

"Amy focused on building strong relationships with those she loved, but also made time to enjoy literature, photography, yoga and cooking," said Jeffrey Feinsod, Segal's husband. "She was committed to women's issues and community service, and volunteered her time and energy to many worthwhile organizations."

Segal graduated from high school in her hometown of Oradell, NJ. She is survived by her husband; her parents, Judy and Paul Segal of Oradell; her sister; and twin nieces Alanna and Zoe Van Nostrand of Houston.

## Benjamin Krinsky

Benjamin Krinsky '00 died on September 3 after an extended battle with brain cancer. He was 20 years old.



COURTESY OF AMY J. FIENUP

Benjamin R. Krinsky '00

Krinsky majored in Computer Science and Engineering (Course VI-III) and was a member of the Zeta Psi fraternity.

Jonathan P. Pearce '00, a resident of Zeta Psi, described Krinsky as a "witty, funny guy." He was interested in Boston's local music scene and often attended concerts, Pearce said.

Krinsky's mother, Faith, called him an outstanding student "known for his boundless energy, his restless intelligence, his iron-clad

logic, and his acerbic wit."

Krinsky was a member of Eta Kappa Nu, the Course VI academic honor society, and Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society. In 1996, he was awarded a Gold Award for Humor in the Scholastic Writing Competition, an honor bestowed on only three seniors that year.

At MIT, he worked in the Intelligent Graphics group of the Media Lab developing visualizations of railroad timetables for the Department of Transportation.

Krinsky also was an intern at Microsoft Corporation where he contributed software to Windows NT 5.0, and at Charles River Analytics while at MIT.

A native of Long Island, New York, Krinsky was diagnosed with brain cancer in March. During his illness he continued his interest in music by exchanging recordings of concerts over the Internet.

He is survived by a younger sister Sylvia, his parents Samuel and Faith, grandparents Ellen and M. Leonard Kuniholm, and a great-grandmother, Lydia Johnson.

## Gian-Carlo Rota

One of MIT's best loved professors, Gian-Carlo Rota, died last year of heart disease at the age of 66.



GABRIELE MIGLIORINI

Gian-Carlo Rota

Rota, a professor of both Mathematics and Philosophy, is remembered not only for his groundbreaking work in the field of combinatorics, but also as an excellent teacher. Many students of Probability (18.313) said that Rota's instruction encouraged them to continue studies in the field of Mathematics. As the instructor for Differential Equations (18.03), Rota is remembered for his witticisms, the Hershey bars he used to reward students who asked questions, and the can of Coke he always kept at his side during lecture. As homage, students carried cans of the professor's favorite beverage at a candlelight vigil commemorating his life.

At the service, Teresa Rond, Rota's ex-wife, said, "Gian-Carlo always knew his students liked him, but he never guessed how much he truly meant to them."

"He was a truly inspirational professor and person," said Jeffrey C. Gore, who sat in on Rota's 18.03 lectures and took 18.313.

Rota was also known for occasionally assigning unsolved problems without telling students. "When they solve them I ask them to submit it to a research journal, and they are so surprised," Rota said in a 1996 interview with *The Tech*. "It's a great thing."

Rota, a graduate of Princeton, joined MIT's faculty in 1959. During his career he earned a number of honors including the James R. Killian Faculty Achievement Award, The Steele Prize of the American Mathematical Society, and the Medal for Distinguished Service from the National Security Agency.

He was named the Norbert Wiener Professor Mathematics in 1998, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1982, and was vice president of the AMS from 1995-1997.

Rota also published prolifically, authoring or coauthoring seven books and serving as founding editor of three journals. He published nearly 200 papers in the fields of mathematics and philosophy.

He is survived by his sister, Ester Rota Gasperoni; a nephew, Franco Gasperoni; and a niece, Laura Gasperoni Patanella, all of Paris; and an aunt, Rosetta Fliano, of Switzerland.

## Henry W. Kendall

A scuba diving accident claimed the life of Henry W. Kendall PhD '55 in February of last year.

Kendall, a Nobel Laureate, was renowned as an experimental particle physicist who was concerned with questions of nuclear waste dangers and disposals was active in the control of nuclear arms. Kendall was involved in

experiments which showed the correctness of the quark model of matter.

Kendall died while scuba diving in Wakulla Springs State Park in Florida, where he was taking underwater photographs with a friend from the National Geographic Society. He was found floating in water less than 10 feet deep.

Despite his heady academic credentials, Kendall remained in touch with his undergraduate students. "He was one of the last real hands-on professors," said David Robertson, a technical instructor in the physics department, who worked with Kendall for many years in the Freshman Physics Laboratory.

"I would like to emphasize that while Henry Kendall made great contributions to our understanding of physics and great contributions to a variety of humanitarian causes, he never stinted in his devotion to undergraduate education," said Professor of Physics Marc A. Kastner, the head of the Physics Department.

Kendall was born on December 9, 1926 in Boston. In 1945, during the Second World War, he entered the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. After the war, Kendall served on a troop transport ship until 1946.

In 1946, he entered Amherst College, graduating with a SB in Mathematics in 1950. He attended graduate school in Physics at MIT, earning his PhD in 1955. He taught at Stanford from 1956 to 1961, coming to the MIT faculty in 1961. He became a full professor in 1967. In 1969, he was one of the founders of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Professor Kendall is survived by a brother, John, of Sharon, Mass.

## Kenneth A. Johnson

Professor of Physics Kenneth A. Johnson died of cancer last February. He was 67 years old. Johnson had taught at MIT for 40 years and was a leading researcher in the areas of quantum electrodynamics and quantum field theory.

Johnson was the first to observe the dimensional and chiral anomalies of quantum field theory.

He was born on March 26, 1931 in Duluth, Minnesota and received his BS from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1952. He earned a masters and a PhD from Harvard University in 1954 and 1955 respectively.

Johnson joined the MIT faculty in 1958 after having served as a research fellow and lecturer at Harvard and a National Science Foundation Fellow at the Institute for Theoretical Physics in Copenhagen, Denmark. He was promoted to full professor in 1965.

"Ken was an outstanding member of the department in every way," said Marc Kastner, head of the MIT Department of Physics. "He was a superb mentor for young faculty and students, an excellent classroom teacher, and a wise counselor on departmental issues. We all miss him."

## Myron Weiner

Professor of Political Science Myron Weiner, an internationally known authority on refugees and political change in developing countries, died in June at his home in Vermont of brain cancer. He was 68 years old.

Weiner was the author or editor of 32 books dealing with subjects ranging from internal and international migration to child labor and education, and he was an expert on India's politics, ethnic conflicts, education, and agrarian and industrial policies.

"Myron Weiner was a brilliant scholar and an inspiring teacher and colleague, who had a large impact on the world, in particular on the lives of children," said Professor Joshua Cohen, head of the Department of Political Science.

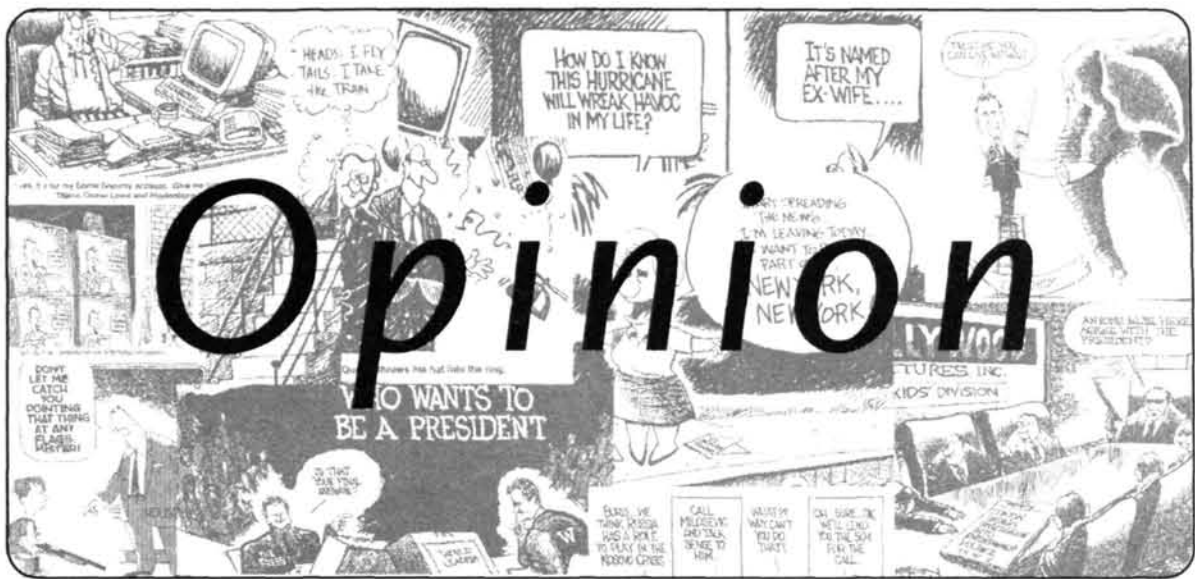
Born March 11, 1931 in New York City, Weiner received his BS from the City College of New York in 1951 and MA and PhD degrees from Princeton in 1953 and 1955, respectively.

He taught at Princeton University and the University of Chicago before coming to MIT in 1961.

During his distinguished career, Weiner also served as a consultant to the U.S. State Department, the National Security Council, the World Bank, and the Agency for International Development.

Dr. Weiner is survived by his wife, Sheila Leiman Weiner; a son, Saul of Chicago; a daughter, Beth Datskodsky of Bala Cynwyd, PA; and five grandchildren.





## A Year of Contrasts

Eric J. Plosky

This past year was a remarkable compare-and-contrast lesson — internationally, across the country, and here at MIT. We would do well to remember these pairs of examples.

**Kosovo vs. Chechnya.** A brutal civil war in the Balkans was eventually brought to a halt by U.S.-led intervention; a brutal civil war within Russia rages on, garnering nothing more than clucks from the West. Are we to be so political about mass murder of civilians in years to come?

**Trade vs. Human Rights.** Sino-American relations are always warmed by trade issues and cooled by China's rather flawed human-rights record. Our schizophrenic attitude toward China must come to some resolution if we are to figure out a coherent way to deal with the twenty-first century's emergent superpower.

**Gun Freedom vs. Gun Control.** Bloody school shootings, particularly that at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, galvanized the debate over gun control, and also provided right-wing extremists a chance to show their worst. It is amazing that Charlton Heston can rage against further controls on gun ownership, and saddening that he is cheered by millions.

**Gay Rights vs. Traditional Values.** Gays in the military, gay marriage, new hate-crimes legislation on one hand; moral zealots, Pat Buchanan and Alan Keyes, and intolerant, shamefully anachronistic bigotry on the other. Even after senseless, horrifying acts, like the murder of Matthew Shepard, we are unable to come to consensus on a way to ensure the rights and dignity of all Americans — unable even to agree that we should.

**'That Woman' vs. Partisan Bickering.** The presidency sinks to a new post-Watergate low; Congress follows. Disillusioned Americans have no choice but to regard their government as a greedy, corrupt, self-obsessed bunch of bickerers. It shouldn't be impossible to have forthright, trustworthy leaders.

**Front-page Death vs. Back-page Death.**

Freshman Michael Manley's suicide, typically, attracted no attention; it was completely eclipsed by the now-legendary 1997 drinking death of Scott Krueger. The administration continues to keep its head in the sand, especially with regards to:

**Reality vs. Media Perception.** The biggest issue at MIT this year. The Boston Globe, citing the death-by-drugs of Richard Guy '99 and an assortment of fraternity hijinks, portrays the Institute as an agglomeration of tense, drugged-out nogoodniks who need a good *in loco parentis* spanking. It's hard to respond properly; one try is a leukemia rally. Doesn't provide much insight, but impressive turnout attracts attention.

**Protest vs. Voting.** Whining and complaining aren't backed up by oomph; students for the most part ignore the Cambridge City Council candidacy of Erik Snowberg '99, who goes on to bomb at the polls. At least student government heads provided a single coherent communique to Chancellor Bacow on the housing issue — maybe we're advancing by hops and skips.

The only surety about present trends is that we are being split down the middle, even at MIT — there is no vast middle 'silent majority' on the critical issues of the day; there's only the few who are in the know and the many who don't know or, if they do know, don't care. Ignorance and indifference are dangerous, and hatred is often a result. We simply have to know, and we sure as hell have got to care, if we want a legacy greater than that bequeathed to 'Generation X' by the current crop of sneering media types. A twenty-first-century social renaissance, much touted by tech-heads as the logical consequence of spiffy new democratizing communications technologies, is not inevitable. We must rediscover the meaning of the word community, must set our sights above piles of stock certificates and past our computer screens, if we are to have a real chance at constructing the first truly civilized society the world has ever known. We can do it. All it takes is the spirit. ⌘

## Misguided Energy

Michael J. Ring

The normally lethargic MIT student body showed rare signs of activism this year.

Unfortunately, they picked the wrong times to show their newfound spirit, and a lack of commitment to their causes.

Campus leaders and regular students alike turned out in force this fall to protest what they believed was unfair treatment from the MIT administration, the City of Boston, and the local media. Over 700 students attended the Phi Kappa Sigma leukemia rally, which more than any other event this year symbolizes the widespread frustration among rank-and-file students over their treatment.

But when the time came for students to come out and make a stand, few could really be bothered. MIT students chose not to be troubled on Election Day. Turnout on campus was shameful. Only 241 voters in Ward 2-Precinct 3, which covers most of the MIT campus, actually cast a ballot in November's Cambridge city elections. And I'd hazard that there wasn't a crush load of absentee ballots postmarked from the 02139 zip code this year.

The autumn protests would have been a most welcome development had they translated into political action. Most of the recent fraternity woes essentially revolve around irresponsible drinking, but the current law which prohibits sale of alcohol to those under 21 — and hence means young adults haven't learned to drink responsibly upon arriving at college — perpetuates those problems. Political power is the way to resolve that question. Another problem hampering fraternities — and all of us — is the negative portrayal of our generation in the media, crystallized in the treatment of fraternity incidents by the press. If we exercised our voting power, politicians would not be so quick to demonize teens and twentysome-things.

But the protesters did not go out and

vote, and they refused to participate in the best and easiest way to add to the public discourse on these social issues. Their noble attempts at reform were thus destroyed, and by not using their political power to assert their demands, the spirit of protest and change was reduced to nothing more than a bunch of whiny students unwilling to back up their angry words with the positive deed of voting.

Fraternity members and other students disenchanted by their treatment had the chance to put one of their own on the Council by electing Erik Snowberg '99, but in the end they turned their back on their chance to improve town-gown relations and the negative image of MIT by local government.

This year the MIT student body arose in anger, but in the end didn't understand how to play the game of politics. While 'chuck Vest' became the battle cry for the more radical protesters and bashing *The Boston Globe* was a campus pastime, students were unwilling to back their words by heading to the polls.

The year 2000 is an election year. We will elect a new president. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 33 seats in the Senate, 11 governorships, and numerous state and municipal offices will be contested this year. Important issues such as health care, education, and affordable housing will be sure to figure in many races at federal, state, and local levels. The choices we will make in 2000 will affect us all.

If we as a student body wish to make changes in the way we are treated and perceived, now would be a good time to start. The primary season is already in full swing — if you are not registered to vote, do it now, and if you are not registered in Cambridge, do not hesitate any longer and apply for your absentee ballot today. For if we are unwilling to stand up and use our political rights in the upcoming elections, all the negative press and images of our protests as a sniveling group of students will sadly be deserved. ⌘



## Institutional Wisdom Watch

By The Tech editorial board



↓ **RSSC Report:** A full year from conception to completion. A few short feet from Larry Bacow's desk to trash can.

↑ **SAC Report:** Thanks for saving us from the RSSC.

**New Dorm:** We'll have something to fill this space ready in time for fall 2001. Really.

↔ **MIT Choice:** Holding the only charm school approved™ protests.

↓ **Boston media:** 'Out of control,' 'reckless,' 'rambunctious' media 'atavistically clings' to poor journalistic standards. These guys are 'a little slow' to see the light.

↑ **CPs:** Who ever thought we'd see the police taking on the man?

↓ **SAE:** IFC boots bad apple fraternity. Analysts downgrade Anheiser-Busch stock.

↔ **PKS:** IW doesn't mind pranks but can't forgive shoddy engineering.

↑ **Erik Snowberg:** Good ideas, good campaign, bad constituency (see below).

↓ **Student Voters:** Students fail to lift noses from textbooks to make imposing trek to poll at Kresge.

↓ **Stata Center:** They moved the food trucks for this?

\$ **Capital Campaign:** Donors give away money faster than Regis Philbin.

↓ **I-Campus:** What the hell does the 'I' stand for anyways?

↓ **MediaLabEurope:** MIT's Media Lab — look for a franchise opening near you soon.

↔ **Athletics Cuts:** MIT — underfunding more varsity teams than any other University.

↑ **Women in Science:** MIT biased against women scientists or women scientists biased against MIT?

↓ **UA:** Beleagured student reps manage not to screw anything up this year. Next year's challenge: get something done.

↑ **Drugs at MIT pamphlet:** Higher Learning.

↓ **Student Center Smell:** Just when you thought an MTG production couldn't get any worse...

↑ **Y2K:** Bottled water, flashlights for sale, cheap. Inquire at W20-483.

↓ **Reform Party:** Watch out Ringling Brothers, IW hears that the Reform Party is selling convention tickets.

↓ **Microsoft Monopoly Decision:** Will the feds split up our \$25M too?





## Best of Film 1999

*The Tech Arts Staff Picks the Best 13 of the Year*



Listing as many top films of the year as there is digits on human hands is rather preposterous. In addition, deciding between several opinionated film critics which films are better is downright impossible. Therefore, we have made two simplifications to the usual Top Ten list. At first, as you see from the headline, we failed to narrow the list to mere ten movies, and therefore present a lucky baker's dozen. These films are listed below in a strictly alphabetical order.

The one startling thing about this collection: it's chock full of comedies, a usually under-represented genre. Only three (*Earth*, *Felicia's Journey*, *The Sixth Sense*) are dramas. Whether these are romantic comedies (*Autumn Tale*, *Trick*), black comedies (*Fight Club*, *Being John Malkovich*), or films that don't feel like comedies to begin with but are consistently funny (*Eyes Wide Shut*, *The Straight Story*), there was a lot to laugh at last year. Even the worst movie, the downright atrocious *The Haunting*, was so bad it was downright laughable. Let's take it as a sign, and enter the new filmgoing year laughing.

### Autumn Tale

Veteran French filmmaker Eric Rohmer continues his gentle, thoughtful, and detailed studies of romantic confusion in this delightful comedy about a middle-aged woman's search for love and happiness. *Autumn Tale* is a vintage Rohmer film with all the sophistication, depth, and intricacy that makes his films so irresistible.

### Being John Malkovich

This is a film so different, so whacked-out, so original, and totally unlike anything else out there, working like Monty Python at their most deadpan hilarious. At its inventive best, this is an unconventional mixture of comedy,

satire, and frighteningly deep ruminations on the nature of personality.

### Cradle Will Rock

This one is a rich, visually inventive, amazingly-acted, and consistently hilarious tapestry of art set in the 1930's, weaving together characters from John Cusack's Nelson Rockefeller to Emily Watson's homeless street performer. Among its other pleasures, *Cradle Will Rock* boasts a perfect opening sequence and a perfect closing shot.

### Earth

Based on Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *Cracking India*, this film sees the partition of the Indian subcontinent into India and Pakistan through a child's eyes. Haunting images, great soundtrack by A.R. Rahman, and unforgettable performances make this film so noteworthy. *Earth* is a romance, a tragedy, a history, and a comment on the human heart: its tenderness and the beast that hides within.

### Eyes Wide Shut

Watching this film one can enjoy the great, nearly forgotten feeling of being in the hands of a master storyteller, with him guiding a story that is paced just right, and with surprises lurking behind every corner. *Eyes Wide Shut* is a gradual descent into a half-comic, half-surreal nightmare — followed by a period of awakening and attempting to recall the dream. It is also a visually rich, excellently acted, and often funny tale, and ultimately Stanley Kubrick's most optimistic film.

### Felicias Journey

Director Atom Egoyan's long-awaited follow up to *The Sweet Hereafter* is the story an abandoned Irish girl and a mysterious stranger who offers to help her. The characters evolve

from amusing to eccentric and far beyond, while a simple story is revealed to contain deep mysteries. With strong acting and beautiful photography and music, the serene eeriness of *Felicia's Journey* lingers on in the mind.

### Fight Club

A explosively enjoyable film, jam-packed with a complex screenplay, strong performances, and visionary artistic direction. It's fast-paced while it unspools and yet its subtleties will be pondered long after the movie ends. Also kudos to Edward Norton for yet another excellent performance and to Brad Pitt for running with his wildest instincts.

### Man on the Moon

If there's a person to direct a film about an misunderstood artist, Milos Forman is the top choice, bar none. Jim Carrey does a spookily precise impersonation of late Andy Kaufman, and the result is a glorious celebration of pure art for the art's sake, even when this art is stand-up comedy. Opening three minutes are the funniest three minutes in cinema this year.

### The Sixth Sense

A Bruce Willis film without terrorists or asteroids, *The Sixth Sense* relies instead on beautifully rendered character interaction. Especially noteworthy is the newcomer Haley Joel Osment, who, with eyes that always look like they're on the verge of tears, convincingly portrays a child who needs to cry, but is too scared — and there are very few things as heart-wrenching as that.

### The Straight Story

A great true story: in 1994, seventy-three year-old Alvin Straight rode a 1966 John Deere lawnmower from Laurens, Iowa, all the way to Mount Zion, Wisconsin, to see his ail-

ing brother. Directed by David Lynch, this G-rated film is remarkable, assured, and unhurried, yet full of action (internal as well as external), amazingly beautiful to look at, frequently hilarious, and emotionally affecting to the point of being mesmerizing.

### Three Kings


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

### Toy Story 2

An instant classic, one of the most creative and fun movies of the year, this completely computer-generated sequel about the adventures of a bunch of toys is clever, funny, complex, and, most surprisingly, deeply emotional; more so, as a matter of fact, that almost all live-action movies of the year.

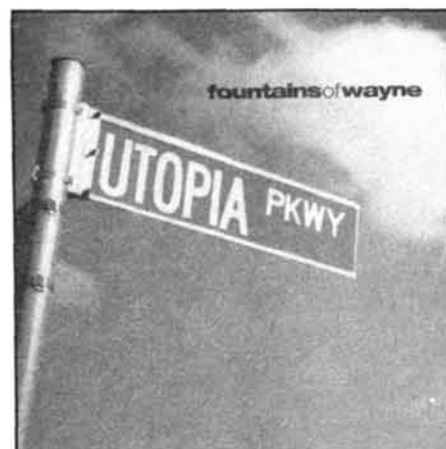
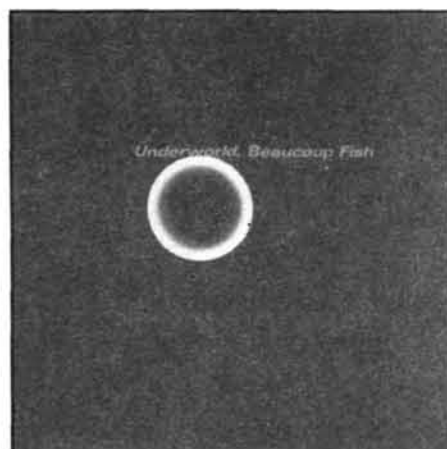
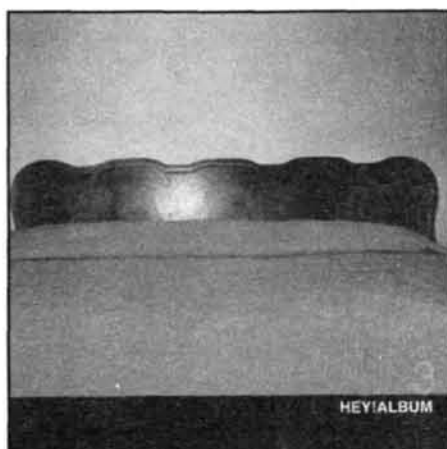
### Trick

At last! A queer romantic comedy in which the main characters are simply regular, well-adjusted gay people going about their everyday lives. A stellar trio of main characters and an excellent supporting cast, along with thoughtful pacing and a wonderful, quirky script, make this not only one of the best gay flicks in a long while, but also a romantic comedy that can hold its own against any straight comedy.

By The Tech Arts staff (Zarminae Ansari, Tzu-Mainn Chen, Fred Choi, Michael Frakes, Bence Olveczky, Roy Rodenstein, Vladimir Zelevinsky) 



◆pamphleteering campaign. The dispute centers around mandatory overtime scheduling; ◆ Admissions yield for the Class of 2003 rises to 60 percent, representing a significant increase over the past three years when yield remained steady at 55 percent. ◆ **Aug. 4:** MIT revokes the degree of Charles Yoo '98, pledge trainer of Fiji at the time of the death of Scott S. Krueger '01. ◆ **Aug. 24:** The Interfraternity Council sanctions Delta Kappa Epsilon after an Interphase student is found intoxicated at the fraternity's house. The sanctions included a year-long ban on alcohol at the house. ◆ **Aug. 27:** President Charles M. Vest delivers his traditional welcome speech to the incoming freshmen class. The speech is punctuated by an impromptu performance of◆



State of the Airwaves Presents

# Best of Music 1999

## Basement, Breakfast, and Brits

Daniel J. Katz

**N**ineteen-ninety-nine was a fascinating year in music, in which most of the best albums were sprawling and swirling pieces of art, redefinitions of the dance genre, or cleverly executed concept albums. Here's a rundown of the ten best discs of the year and the overachievers in a number of other categories.

### Best Album

#### 1. Breakfast With Girls — Self

Halfway through listening to this album was for the first time, I was pretty sure nothing was going to replace it as my choice for best of 1999. Six months later with a year's worth of music to analyze, *Breakfast With Girls* remains the most creative, innovative, and entertaining disc in the field. Deftly weaving between groovy hip-hop (the title track), frantic rock ("Kill The Barflies"), and space-age love ballads ("Better Than Aliens"), Self's third effort is riddled with strange, gripping instrumentations and an eclectic bouncy sort of beat. This is the inevitable future of pop music, and it's a beautiful thing.

#### 2. The Fragile — Nine Inch Nails

You can say all you want about Trent Reznor being angry and overdramatic, but the years he put into recording *The Fragile* created one of the definitive pieces of art in alternative rock history. Taking up over ninety minutes of CD space, this album goes on and on, and yet there's never any filler. The variety is mind-boggling, the songs are well-written, the sounds are innovative, and the mood is that dark and twisted mood that only Nine Inch Nails can present. As I said in my review, this disc was worth waiting for.

#### 3. Happiness Is Not A Fish You Can Catch — Our Lady Peace

Before the release of this album, Our Lady Peace had three things going for them: wonderfully chilling vocals from Raine Maida, interesting stuttering drum lines, and a sound that was bright yet dark at the same time. With *Happiness*, the band's songwriting takes a huge step, resulting in off-time quasi-epics like "Potato Girl" and "Stealing Babies" alongside well-executed rock songs such as "One Man Army" and "Happiness And The Fish." It's an album that soars around corner after corner with a solid sound behind it all the way.

#### 4. Six - Mansun

Relatively unknown in the U.S., apart from some radio play for "Wide Open Space" a few years ago, British art-rockers Mansun release single after single overseas. Clearly the British know something we don't: *Six* is a masterpiece of unpredictability, littered with songs that bend and sway from punk to strings to an unexpected rendition of "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." After making your way through it, it's difficult to remember half the songs you've just listened to. More acquaintance with it, however, proves there is serious method to this madness, and it's great music.

#### 5. Showbiz — Muse

If you melded Muse's *Showbiz* with Mansun's *Six*, you might very well come up with a Radiohead album. What Showbiz lacks in errat-

ic song structures, it makes up for with Thom Yorke soundalike vocals and a much more vicious guitar attack. Their first single, "Muscle Museum," has dramatic guitars and pained shrieking that practically drip angst, while slower songs like "Unintended" are honest and moving. This is a young band with a serious future.

#### 6. Play — Moby

Spin ranked *Play* in its top 100 albums of all time mere months after its release, and although I panned that decision, in retrospect it was an earned honor. Play proves that electronic music doesn't have to be artificial and focused on dancing. Moby's use of real instruments and antique vocal samples come together to create pieces of art with both rhythm and soul.

#### 7. Utopia Parkway — Fountains Of Wayne

This album is pleasant. Really really pleasant. It's packed with soothing vocals, retro guitars, and themes that reminisce about suburban high school life, all of which make every song a pleasure to listen to, whether it's the overdriven guitars and Beach Boys feel of "Denise," or the immensely comforting romanticism of "Troubled Times." Listen to this one when you're feeling a little down, or even if you're not.

#### 8. Beaucoup Fish — Underworld

Less eclectic than Fat Boy Slim but more drummy than Massive Attack, Underworld's *Beaucoup Fish* is a model on how to make a dance album. Sure the everpresent bass is always pounding, but the rest of the music ranges from calm ("Jumbo") to frantic ("King of Snake") to intense ("Moaner"). This is the kind of disc you can throw on at a party and never feel the need to change the CD.

#### 9. Hey! Album - Marvelous 3

It's a little bit eighties, a little bit powerpop, but it's all fun. Boosted by the radio success of "Freak On A Week," *Hey! Album* launched the Marvelous 3 into the spotlight. Their album is littered with fun-filled guitar rock songs based on killer riffs and witty lyrics. This is the trail that's been blazed over the last few years by Third Eye Blind, Eve 6, and Everclear, although the Marvelous 3 finally managed to do it right.

#### 10. The Unauthorized Biography of Reinhold Messner — Ben Folds Five

Last, but not least comes Ben Folds Five's third effort, a CD that's surprisingly laid back (especially considering the in-your-face nature of the leadoff single, "Army"), surprisingly groovy, and most notably, surprisingly short. It's a quality disc of music from some of modern rock's most clever songwriter's, but unfortunately it's really more of a snack than anything deeply satisfying. Hopefully their next album will be just as good, but more substantial.

### Single of the Year

1. Red Alert — Basement Jaxx
2. One Man Army — Our Lady Peace
3. When Worlds Collide — Powerman 5000
4. Freak of the Week — Marvelous 3
5. Stop The Rock — Apollo 440

Although I spent way too much of 1999 singing along with the powerfully rocking "One Man Army," in the end the funky and undeniably sexy beats of Basement Jaxx's

"Red Alert" won me over. Close behind these two comes "When Worlds Collide," arguably the best single yet to come out of the neo-metal movement (note that it's not a Family Values band) Rounding out the top five are the Marvelous 3's hopelessly catchy "Freak of the Week" and Apollo 440's stellar guitar-based dance track, "Stop The Rock."

### Music Video of the Year

1. Stitches—Orgy
2. Falling Away From Me — Korn
3. Muscle Museum — Muse
4. Coffee & TV — Blur
5. All The Small Things — Blink-182

Many of the year's best videos featured a mixture of disturbing and happy images, but the bar-none winner was Orgy's "Stitches," which simulates a futuristic museum exhibit showcasing the 20th century music video and utilizes an awesome color design dominated by sterile white. Korn's cut for "Falling Away From Me" also used great colors, and like Orgy's video, also coincidentally placed the band in a box. "Muscle Museum" exposed the dark side of blissful fifties suburbia, "Coffee & TV" documented the misadventures of the world's happiest milk carton, and "All The Small Things" brilliantly captured every boy band video cliché from the last few years and skewered them all simultaneously.

### Live Act of the Year

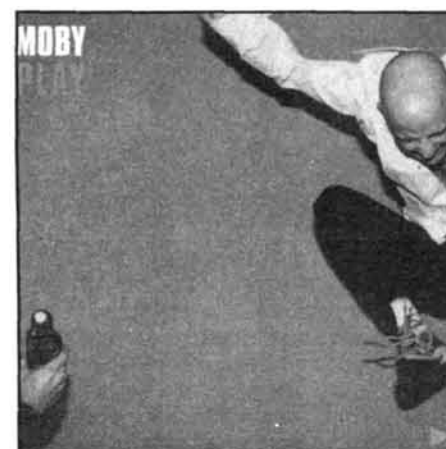
1. The Marvelous 3
2. Moxy Früvous
3. Chemical Brothers
4. Dan Bern
5. Train

Although I still feel Moxy rules over all when it comes to an onstage show, this year the Marvelous 3 came into their own as incredible live performers. Their concerts are packed with energy and charisma, which persuaded me to give them the nod in this category over the more time-tested improvisations of Moxy Früvous. The Chemical Brothers returned to the U.S. this year with a mind-numbing array of lights and beats. Dan Bern's demented folk act has to be seen to be appreciated, and Train may have some of the most talented musicians working today.

### Local Act of the Year

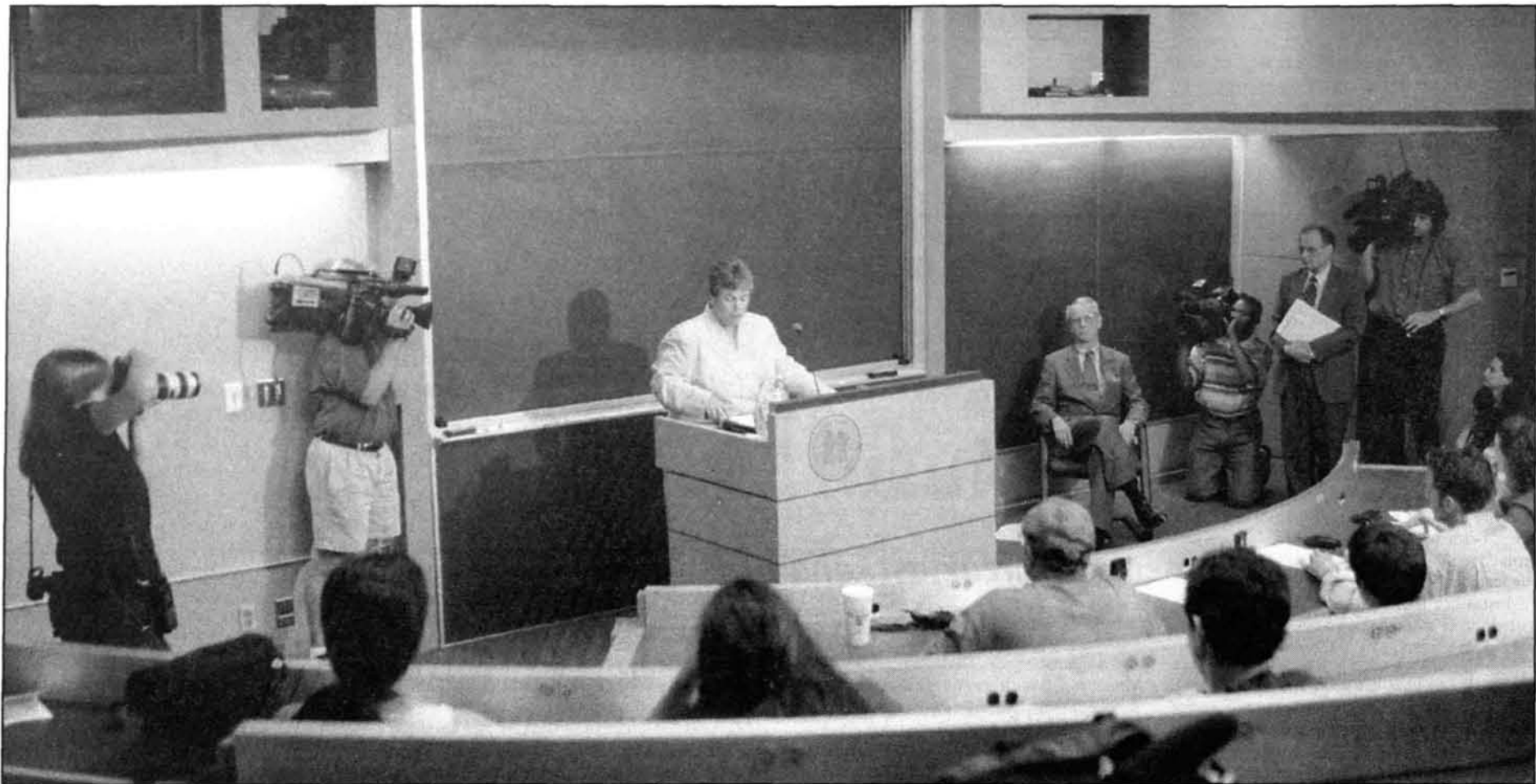
1. Jim's Big Ego
2. Guster
3. Angry Salad
4. Orbit
5. Dispatch

Sure, Guster picked up national airplay, began selling out concerts around the country, and released their most successful album yet, but did they kick ass at the VooDoo party? Nope, but Jim's Big Ego did, and they proved that they're just waiting to be the next big thing. The Angry Salad pulled off a major radio hit with "The Milkshake Song," but they have yet to follow up on it. Alt-rockers Orbit, though banished from their record label, continue to play terrific local live shows, and Dispatch, fresh off a name change and armed with a funky earthy sound, are on their way up in the Boston scene. **T**





➔ the "Engineers' Drinking Song" by a group of upperclassmen. ♦ **Aug. 28:** The Institute finally begins to march to the beat of the rest of the Internet and changes the address of their web server to <<http://www.mit.edu>>, stripping that name from SIPB. ♦ **Aug. 29:** Former members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity protest the house's rush to draw attention to protest the 1998 reorganization of the chapter by its national. ♦ **Aug. 31:** Richard A. Guy '99 is found dead in a room on the fifth floor of East Campus. Guy is the victim of an overdose of nitrous oxide. ♦ **Sept. 1:** Twenty-five freshmen receive no dormitory assignments due to heavy crowding of the dormitory system as initial pledge numbers do not meet expectations. ♦ **Sept. 21:** ➔



Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin discusses the death of Richard A. Guy '99 at a press conference shortly following Guy's death.

ANNIE CHOI

## If you can't beat 'em, join 'em

MIT students even got the short end of the media stick in stories in which they played absolutely no part.

One recent Boston Herald article reported on a stolen duckling statue, which disappeared from the Public Garden and later reappeared in the Boston College library. Although the occurrence was unrelated to MIT students, Boston College spokesman Jack Dunn issued a statement to *Herald* reporters that included the words, "We have no idea how it got there ... You've got to watch those MIT kids."

While some students and alumni laughed or scoffed at the results of such media coverage, others felt that the negative portrayal of MIT required a dramatic response. A group of alumni led by Eugene Kuznetsov '98 have formed a non-profit public relations group to generate positive press releases for MIT.

Kuznetsov hopes his group, which calls itself the Independent Tech Alumni Council, will enable broad alumni involvement in issues relating to undergraduate civil liberties, particularly in the ongoing debate about housing choice. He also plans to work with students and MIT to improve local media portrayal of MIT and its students. The group is simultaneously proposing changes for MIT's residence system as it acts as a press-release-generator.

"Due to the nature of media coverage, the public only hears about the most sensational events. They tend to overlook the fabulous things that go on day-to-day without any fanfare," said Kuznetsov. "Students hold events for charities. They volunteer their time in schools and lots of other place ... Mainly they're devoting their lives to learning the skills to cure cancer, advance technology and improve the world in a hundred other ways."

Many students have criticized the group, calling the organization's members hypocritical for attempting to fight sensationalism with biased propaganda. But ITAC members continue to defend their organization's practices.

"A free and democratic undergraduate life is essential to the continued innovation and creativity of MIT's graduates, who in turn contribute to the future progress of our institution," said Mark Thompson '94. "They have an essential contribution to make to the future of MIT. We intend to make sure they are heard."

A recent letter to *The Tech* called for more extreme measures, including outright attempts to manipulate the media.

"Perhaps a public-relations firm might be retained to turn the MIT News Office and the Campus Police into better spokespeople for our way of life," wrote Matt Reynolds G. "Clearly we need a talking head to churn out cheerful soundbites whenever some incident occurs. A suitably adept outside media manipulator with a good two-faced Janus approach would be best for this job."

"Perhaps he or she could hold the rank of Dean of Campus Affairs or something similarly important-sounding," Reynolds continued. "Really he or she should be the Department Head of the School of Spin Control."

Media, continued from page 6

visited the *Globe's* editorial board, Vest "emphasized that we, the student body, have been unfairly victimized by the news coverage and editorials of the past week and past few years. He acted like a true leader for a commu-

## Viewpoint Flashback—Nov. 2

What do you think of the media's coverage of the recent events at MIT?

I am amazed that they were able to blow a non-event into anything, let alone the spectacle that this has become. However, I am not nearly as angry at the media as I am at BLB [Boston Licensing Board].

Robert J. Buckingham, '00

PKS did not deserve it at all... it was an overreaction on the part of Boston... for the 'on-the-spot' inspection of their house, the eviction and cancelation of the party which was for a good cause.

Kailas N. Narendran, '01

The media is driven by the consumerist market, who is truly to blame for the sensationalistic reports that have caused the reactionary policies around the institute.

Mark C. Feldmeier, '96

The media is looking for a story and MIT and the frats are the victims.

Susan M. Byrne '01

nity in need of one."

McGann also described his meeting that day with Larry Harmon, the *Globe* columnist who wrote the editorial.

During their conversation, Harmon reportedly encouraged McGann to write an op-ed piece, telling the UA President that *Globe* members would help to get the article published. The piece was never printed.

"I later learned that Harmon has quite the reputation as a frat-hater, and has written most of the anti-MIT editorials over the past few years," said McGann. "I also later learned that several administrators have tried to talk to him both over the past few years and over the past few days, and have by-and-large not gotten through."

## Boston Phoenix defends MIT

Not all press MIT received was negative or cast MIT in a bad light. A November 18 article in *The Boston Phoenix* headlined "MIT Frats Aren't Running Amok — Media Coverage of the School Is" evaluated press coverage of MIT, stating that: "Lately, MIT has been portrayed as a school with increasingly rambunctious students, a number of whom belong to animal-house frats that party too hard and then blow things up. Dangerous minds make for good copy, but it may be the press coverage of MIT that's out of control — not the student behavior."

The article noted that MIT's binge-drinking rate across its student body is half the national average, and 30 percent of students here do not drink at all.

"Sigma Alpha Epsilon's case is not the norm at MIT," wrote Michelle Chihara of the *Phoenix*. "In fact, the student-government organization that represents the fraternities recently voted to support the dean in her 'de-recognition' of the fraternity. 'It was almost student led,' says McGann. 'We're all very disappointed.'"

The article also included a cartoon of a television report featuring an MIT student walking with a beer bottle. The caption was: "Breaking News! MIT student caught drinking!!! Live!!!"

⌘

Capital Campaign, continued from page 4

department, contributing to neuroscience, environmental studies, educational technology, health sciences and technology, bioengineering, comparative media studies, political economy, entrepreneurship, engineering systems, national and international collaborations, the arts, and the library system.

Undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships, on the other hand, will receive money from a \$550 million pool of donations intended to "enhance the learning community," although these funds are also expected to be used for educational innovation, campus life, professorships and innovation development.

But in light of recent controversy surrounding issues of student life and housing, capital campaign organizers wisely added a "physical infrastructure" component to their fundraiser. The "infrastructure" pool of donations will be dedicated to housing and facilities, but will also be used to fund new buildings housing the Computer, Information and Intelligence Sciences, the Media Lab, the Neuroscience Department, and the Sloan School of Management.

Campaign organizers also added a \$100 million "Millennium Fund" to the campaign in order to provide the Institute with "the financial agility to act quickly in support of new ideas as they emerge."

⌘

Mergers, continued from page 5

There will also be a faculty and student exchange aspect to the partnership.

## MIT has history of alliances

According to the MIT News Office, 70 percent of the research conducted on the MIT campus is federally funded. MIT gets about 20 percent of research funding from private industry — more than any other university in the country.

Over the past five years MIT has developed relationships with companies such as Amgen,

Merck, Ford Motor Company, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT), and Merrill Lynch. Microsoft's is the third largest gift from industry, behind Amgen's \$30 million and DuPont's \$35 million.

In addition to uniting with Cambridge University, MIT previously also merged forces with the National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

The alliance, announced in November 1998, is an experiment in distance learning: classes held by the alliance take place in specially equipped classrooms at MIT and the Singaporean institutions using live video transmission over Internet.

⌘



➔ Democratic presidential hopeful Bill Bradley addresses students. ♦ **Sept. 10:** MIT student Susan M. Mosher '99 and Rene A. Ruiz '99 plead not guilty to charges of drug possession. The charges stem from a Campus Police investigation into the death of Richard A. Guy '99 ♦ Several City Council candidates speak at a rally on the steps of the Student Center. The event, organized by the MIT group SWASS Distribution, attempted to draw students' attention to local politics. ♦ **Oct. 1:** The athletic department places caps on the number of athletes allowed to compete for each varsity team. The caps are an attempt to trim expenditures in the face of a small budget ♦ Copies of a pamphlet entitled "Drugs at MIT: A Practical Guide for the Intoxicated Engineer" ♦

RSSC, continued from page 3

located at a site currently occupied by the Kresge parking lot and the Omniturf field to be the "Primarily Freshman Dorm."

## RSSC, SAC release final reports

The RSSC took the input gained from the community after their preliminary report of April 30 and put out a drastically different final version in the fall.

Notably, the RSSC rescinded both the proposed Ashdown-MacGregor switch and the creation of a primarily freshman hall. The report states that, "in both cases, we received compelling feedback to convince us that those Phase II recommendations were unwise."

Summer residence selection remained, but the correction lottery did not. Instead, freshmen would choose their dormitory by mail and would know their assignment by July 1. A more traditional housing lottery would occur before March 31 of the freshman year, replacing the "sophomore shuffle" originally suggested.

Instead of IAP rush, the RSSC final report called for an extended rush beginning November 1 of the freshman year and continuing into the spring. Students would move into FSILGs for the start of their sophomore year, as originally proposed.

The RSSC final report also effectively negated MIT's guarantee of four-year housing. "There is a real possibility that upperclass students will be forced to find an apartment against their wishes," said Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00.

Working separately, the SAC presented their proposal to Chancellor Bacow in October. Committee member Jake H. Parrott '00 emphasized that the SAC's report is an extension of the RSSC report, with more attention to funding issues.

SAC chair John Hollywood G spoke mainly about the administrative aspects of the proposal, advocating effective management and governance of the residence system.

"If MIT implements this system, then we

will have a high quality residence system," said Committee member Jeremy D. Sher '99.

## Final report criticized

Despite the laborious process of compromise and student input in the preparation of Bacow's report, it was also with critics.

SAC members criticized Bacow's failure to fully address capital expenditures. Committee member Liana F. Lareau '00 said that the report needs "to make [capital spending] more of a priority."

Graduate student leaders were also unenthusiastic about the Bacow's vision of housing. The lack of support for a graduate residence is "not a retrenchment ... this is a lack of progress," according to GSC President Luis A. Ortiz G.

Ortiz said that the plan to reimburse graduate students living at FSILGs is "basically a way to house M. Eng students ... I don't see it as a great boon for graduate students."

The report also eliminated the bid process currently used by theme houses. Under the new design, theme houses will not be allowed to exclude specific freshmen. Chocolate City resident Raymond Morales '02 said that the report "calls for a restructuring of Chocolate City in a way we are not prepared to make. Our community has to die," as a result of the decision.

## Reports gone, questions remain

The release of Bacow's final report in December brought closure to months of housing debate and dissent. By using SAC suggestions, Bacow did take advantage of student input, a practice often overlooked by MIT administrators.

Yet Bacow hardly listened to the "average" MIT student. The SAC is largely comprised of MIT insiders — those students who seem to be on every committee, in every meeting, and quoted in every *Tech* article. Most students will not realize the full impact of Bacow's report until it is too late, when his plan is already in place. For a truly unified residence system, Bacow's plan must be accepted and supported by the entire MIT community. ☐

## IAP contest led to RSSC drafts

**T**he process leading up to Bacow's final report began more than a year ago. Shortly after its creation in fall 1998, the RSSC sponsored an IAP residence design contest. The RSSC used contest ideas to form an initial and then a final residence system report.

Eleven teams participated in the contest and proposed changes ranging from refinement to overthrow of the residence system. Most ideas centered on FSILG rush and housing first-year students.

Some teams continued to battle the freshmen on campus decision. Kartik M. Mani '00, who participated in the design contest, said in his team's proposal that "students who come [to MIT] are responsible enough to decide where they want to live."

Mani's team prescribed few revisions, adhering to the motto "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Two teams, the Beaver Dream Team and the Dorm-Design Team, were later named co-winners of the contest.

The design contest was, in many ways, a prelude to the ensuing struggle over MIT's housing plan. Many of the same students involved in the design contest — almost all contestants have close ties to the Institute and student government — would later be involved in proposals rivaling the RSSC report. The overwhelming majority of students on campus, however, remained uninvolved in and apparently apathetic towards the design process.

## Viewpoint

### What do you think about the impending changes to the residence system?

"I don't know. I didn't really care much."

Anne L. Thompson '01

"I think the system is fine how it is. Why change what people like?"

Natalie Chouinard '01

"I think MIT is just doing what they have to to prevent the Globe and other media from tearing them apart. I wish it wasn't like this — that the needs of students could be put above the Corporation's financial needs, but they can't. The changes won't make that much difference: The same thing happened 100 years ago, and the same thing will probably happen again in 100 years. It's just a cycle."

Daniel P. Kamalia '99

"I just don't think it's a good idea to make freshmen choose dorms during summer"

Catherine A. Havasi '03

"I have yet to run into a student vehemently for the new system, and I have run into many against it. Apart from that, the whole idea of freshmen on campus seems silly, but it will be interesting to see how a new dorm builds a culture"

Jesse W. B. Cox '03

## Students submit alternate report

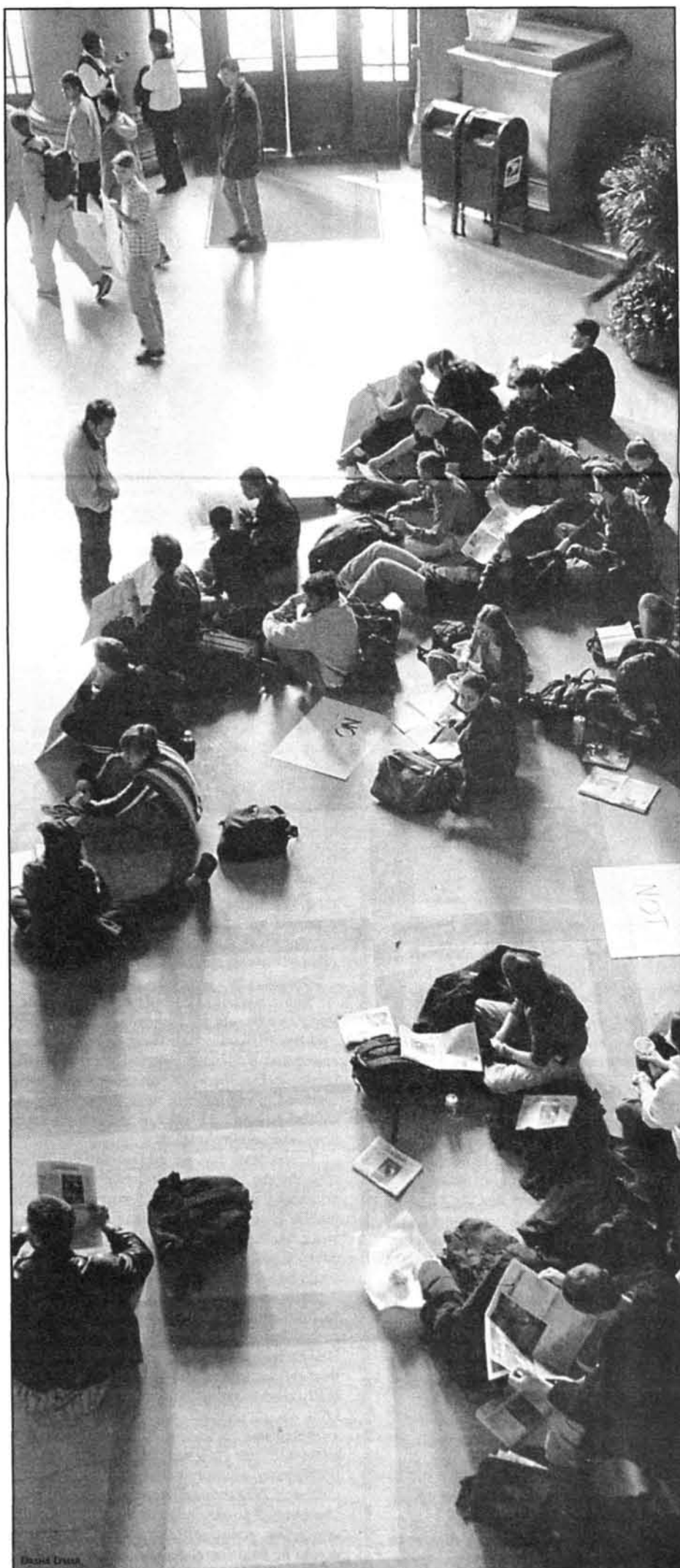
**T**he Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor teamed up with the UA, the GSC, the ASA, the IFC, and DormCon, and ILTFP (a grassroots housing reform movement), to design a Unified Proposal for an MIT Residential System.

The Unified Proposal called for expenditures to cover two new 500-bed graduate dormitories, a new 400-bed undergraduate dormitory, and renovations to East Campus, Walker Memorial, and Stratton Student Center. The proposed capital outlay of the SAC plan topped \$270 million.

The SAC's residence selection plan included summer dorm selection with a correction lottery following orientation. Each spring and fall, a new lottery would be run, allowing students to either stay in their current residence, pledge an independent living group, or enter the dorm lottery. Fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups would receive compensation for empty beds during the 2001 transition.

The plan supported guaranteed housing for all undergraduates and first-year graduate students. In addition, it called for fifty percent of all graduate students be provided with MIT housing.

"MIT can't afford not to do this," said UA Vice President and SAC member Lex Nemzer '00. "It's critical to MIT's residence objective and education mission."



Students gathered in Lobby 7 prior to holding a sit-in near the offices of MIT's administration. The event, organized by MIT Choice, was held to express student discontent with residence system changes.



➔continue to appear across campus. The anonymous publication attempts to educate readers on the safe use of illicit drugs. ♦ Oct. 6: MIT and Microsoft announce a \$25M joint research venture termed project I-Campus. ♦ Oct. 11: MIT celebrates Coming-Out Week around the theme of welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of the community. ♦ Oct. 13: Dean for Students Margaret R. Bates announces that she will resign. ♦ Oct. 19: MIT presents plans for the proposed Vassar St. dormitory to the City of Cambridge. Obtaining city approval is the last roadblock to beginning construction of the dorm and threatens to delay its completion. ♦ Oct. 25: 29 Burton-Conner residents are forced to evacuate their rooms when asbestos tiles are ➔

## Related Fraternity News

**D**espite being disbanded two years ago, Phi Gamma Delta still stayed in the news during 1999.

In late March, Sigma Nu obtained permission to reside in the Fiji house, which has remained empty since the fraternity's housing license was suspended in 1998.

Sigma Nu, formed four years ago, has expanded rapidly to fill its small house on 523 Newbury Street. The Fiji house on 28 The Fenway would allow Sigma Nu to house all of its members and to recruit additional members.

Although there was some initial concern over the relocation to Fiji's old house, neighbor testimony to the good behavior of Sigma Nu convinced the Boston Licensing Board to approve the move. Sigma Nu's alcohol-free status also helped convince the BLB.

"We were very concerned that people thought they were a drinking organization. They are good neighbors and ... are dedicated to their futures," said Elizabeth Dooley of the Ladies' Guild next door.

### COD revokes Yoo's diploma

In late July, the Committee on Discipline decided to revoke the diploma of Charles Yoo '98 for five years.

Yoo, who was Fiji's pledge trainer when Scott S. Krueger '01 died of alcohol poisoning, criticized the process as being unfair.

Timothy Burke, Yoo's lawyer, was not permitted to speak as Yoo's counsel or to ask questions of the Board or witnesses. The only testimony presented at the hearing was a statement from Dean of Undergraduate Education Rosalind Williams which contained information from four unidentified students.

Further obscuring the matter is the fact that the COD commits all details of the actual case to secrecy, releasing only the names of the students and their punishments.

Yoo has filed suit against the Institute and President Charles M. Vest to reclaim his diploma.

## Viewpoint

### Flashback—Mar. 16

#### What would MIT life be like without the Greek system?

"Poor. It wouldn't be a loss for the people who don't live there, but for those who do, it would be an immeasurable loss."

Walter G. Holland '01

"Way better. What use does it have other than being a convenient source of housing for undergraduates? If people need to be proud of something, there are a million things more worthy of pride than a couple Greek letters and a bunch of 'brothers.' As far as having a 'community' or whatever, the only thing the Greek-oriented 'community' does is create divisions, rivalries, and take up the time of its members — time that could otherwise be better spent on more worthwhile things."

Yanni K. Tsipis '01

"We'd have fewer people to make fun of."

Anna B. Folinsky '02

"A lot less interesting. You get a different lifestyle. You can meet a lot of different people. It's like a family."

Eric K. Lee '01



Phi Kappa Sigma members advertise their Skuffle party a day prior to a small explosion which led to the evacuation of a number of main campus buildings.

Fraternities, continued from page 7

"There was no malicious intent. It was an accident, pure and simple," said President Charles M. Vest.

Backed by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Boston's Inspectional Services Department evicted PKS from their house for rodent violations, egress issues and illegal construction. ISD inspected SAE prior to inspecting PKS.

The fraternity was fined several thousand dollars and the building's landlord was fined \$1000 a day for each violation found until the fraternity removed the chemicals and dismantled the haunted house. PKS was later charged an additional \$50 because their emblem was scrawled on a concrete block outside their home, constituting illegal use of a sidewalk.

Their biannual "Skuffle" party, which includes a benefit for leukemia, was cancelled, and the IFC voluntarily cancelled all their scheduled Halloween parties to avoid media scrutiny. The three PKS brothers who were involved in the incident were fined \$1,306.42 by Cambridge and ordered to perform eight hours community service.

It was later discovered that Boston Police officers had actually searched the fraternity house just prior to the ISD inspection. "The police found some turpentine and we had some more flash paper, which we handed over," Chiu said. "The turpentine, they said, could be used to make something explosive."

PKS President Larry R. Chiu '00 said he was unsure why police searched the fraternity just before the scheduled ISD inspection. But he added that he "was really impressed with the inspectors and officials; they worked really hard to get us back in the house quickly."

According to Bacow, Boston officials had asked MIT for "a letter guaranteeing that the [PKS] party would not take place as planned," although ISD commissioners reported that Menino had simply ordered the ISD to maintain safety codes at the fraternity if a party was to be held there. Bacow said Boston offi-

cials had been pressuring MIT administrators to permanently cancel the party. But the fraternity itself cancelled Skuffle well before anyone else could act.

### Alcohol incidents continue

Lower profile alcohol incidents bracketed SAE's demise but produced far lighter sanctions.

After serving alcohol to an Interphase student in July, Delta Kappa Epsilon faced a year long ban on alcohol.

Campus Police found the student, a member of the class of 2003, intoxicated at the DKE house on July 25th. Interphase students are prohibited from entering any fraternity or drinking alcohol.

"There is no way to figure out how it happened. All we know is that he somehow found his way to alcohol in the house and therefore we are responsible," said John D. Morris '00, DKE president.

The fraternity proposed a list of sanctions including a year-long alcohol ban, 500 hours of community service, TIPS training for all members, and alcohol liability training, which the Interfraternity Council accepted.

Despite the incident, DKE was still allowed to participate in rush, and faced no other sanctions.

In the last incident of 1999, four non-students were arrested at Alpha Tau Omega's fraternity house and one MIT student was cited for underage possession of alcohol at a New Year's party.

According to Associate Dean Orme-Johnson, the cited fraternity member will face the "standard sanctions in the case of possession of alcohol by a minor." The student will be required to have a conversation with a Dean and to complete an alcohol education program.

The party, which was not a fraternity-sponsored event, took place when a Boston area brother decided to throw a party for some of his friends. About 100 people showed up at the party, although few brothers of ATO were

present.

Although the IFC is currently reviewing the situation, any sanctions will probably be less severe due to the party's nature. "In my estimation, I don't think it was a fraternity event," said IFC Judicial Committee chair Patrick D. Kremer '00. Fraternity members did not serve any beer, as the event was strictly BYOB.

"Our position is that we really didn't do anything wrong ... we're very concerned because we feel we have been misrepresented," said ATO Vice President Christopher J. Brocoun '00.

### FSILGs look to the future of rush

In spite of, and, at times, because of, difficulties suffered this year, the MIT Greek community united on several occasions.

The Interfraternity Council was a key player in an expanded Campus Preview Weekend, ran a successful rush that reversed the decrease in pledges from previous years, and held a much publicized rally in support of leukemia research and against negative media coverage. The IFC also rallied in opposition to changes to MIT's residence system.

"The alumni in the fraternities and the undergraduate members are smart," said Neil H. Dorow, assistant dean of residence and activities. "I think that through its history and traditions that it will address the changes caused by the 2001 initiative."

Dorow said that MIT's fraternities have been "adjusting successfully" to the new climate at MIT. "Part of that is a result of turnover in the houses," said Dorow, who noted that 50 percent of the FSILG population was not at the Institute at the time of the Krueger incident.

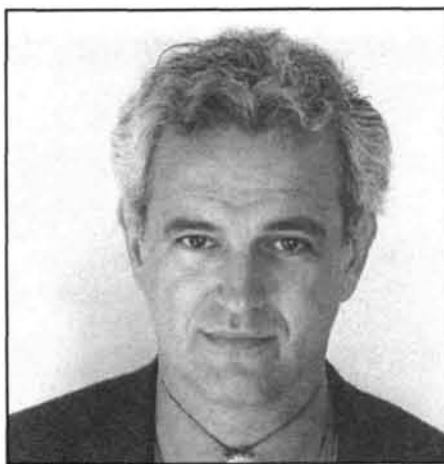
Dorow described the work which the IFC has done to steer the development of the 2001 initiative. "The IFC was very actively working with Larry Bacow. Mike Trupiano (IFC president) and Will Dichtel (IFC 2001 committee chair) did a lot of lobbying," Dorow said. ☐



◆exposed during construction. ◆ Oct. 28: MIT-based web startup Akamai technologies begins trading on the Nasdaq exchange and closes at \$145 a share, posting the fourth largest first-day increase ever and creating numerous MIT millionaires. ◆ Oct. 29: Two fraternities come under fire as SAE loses the dormitory license for one of their two houses (the license for the second house as well as Institute recognition is revoked shortly afterwards). During the same week, PKS is temporarily evicted from its house after a theatrical device used to promote a Halloween party explodes in 10-250, injuring several students. ◆ Nov. 2: Erik C. Snowberg '99 falls short in his bid for a position on the Cambridge City Council. ◆ Nov. 5: MIT Choice, an organization◆



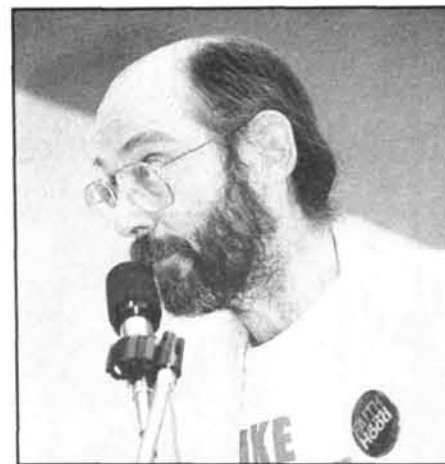
Michael Sullivan



Jim Braude



Marjorie Decker



James Williamson

## Viewpoint

### Flashback—Oct. 26

#### Are you planning on voting in the upcoming election?

"Yes. I'm voting for the guy who goes to MIT — Erik Snowberg."

Daniel Chak '02

"I'm voting by absentee ballot in my home state."

Melissa Horoschak '02

"No. I haven't been paying attention."

Leiter Kang G

"Yeah, I plan on voting. This will actually be the first time. I think it was a good idea for students to promote voting and help others register, because I know that's what got me motivated."

Tamra L. Haby '01

No. I'm too young.

Melissa A. Edoh '02

#### Local Politics, continued from page 9

candidate.

"I'm doing this to launch other candidates' campaigns," de Francisci said. "College students make up a very large percentage of the city."

"We can win this election," de Francisci said. "It's all about momentum."

However, Snowberg was the only CSPA member on a ballot. Others were either running or considering running as write-in candidates.

#### Apathy ends Snowberg's campaign

When votes had been tallied after election night, Snowberg was not among the three new members elected to the Cambridge City Council.

Newcomers Marjorie C. Decker, James S. Braude, and David P. Maher joined elected incumbents Anthony D. Galluccio, Kathleen L. Born, Michael A. Sullivan, Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Henrietta Davis, and Kenneth E. Reeves on the council.

Galluccio ran strongly, garnering 2,716 first place votes and gaining quota in the first count. Snowberg received only 429 votes. Only 18,777 people voted in the election.

The two precincts closest to MIT garnered modest turnout. Precinct 2, covering dormito-

ries west of No. 6 House, reported a total of 161 votes. A record was set in Precinct 3, which covers most of the on-campus living groups, with 241 votes. Of those votes, 161 were for Snowberg.

In previous years, MIT students have turned out to vote in very small numbers; the record number of voters this year was likely due to the efforts of the Snowberg campaign and other groups on campus.

After the loss, Snowberg said, "Losing wasn't that upsetting. What was upsetting was people not having the time to vote, and not caring to vote."

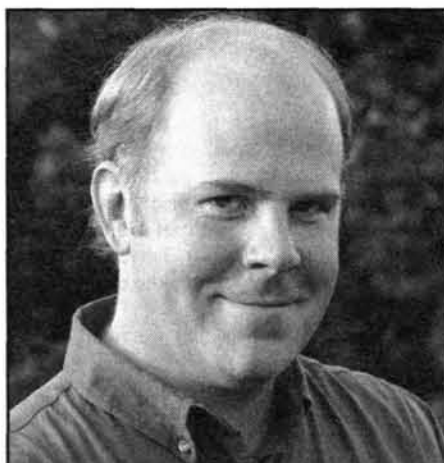
#### Ross victorious in Back Bay

After a closely contested race, 27 year-old BU graduate student Mike Ross beat Suzanne Iannella by 409 votes — nearly eight percent — to win the council seat.

Regardless of Snowberg's fate, student voter turnout may still prove powerful in the future. Certainly, Ross' victory can be attributed at least partially to student activism, especially in the conservative Back Bay. If traditionally apathetic students turn out in blocs, they have the power to reshape Boston and Cambridge politics. Perhaps, in the future, MIT candidates and even councillors will be regular fixtures in the local city councils. C



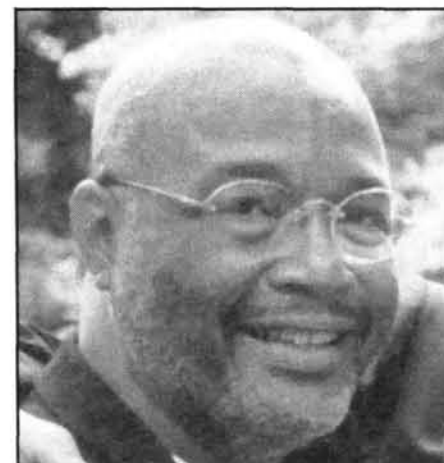
Kathleen Born



Robert Winters



Katherine Triantifilou



Ken Reeves



David Hoicka

## Viewpoint

### Flashback—Mar. 9

#### How can the Undergraduate Association be improved?

"By giving the general population an idea of what the UA does."

Michael W. Tucker '99

"I have no idea what the UA does."

Leiter Kang '99

"I think the UA is ok. They're not doing too bad at all."

Ally W. Ip '99

"It's not a matter of the UA, the bureaucracy is pretty much unpenetrable. The UA has the most clout but it has yet to be constructive. As effective as they want to be, they can't do anything."

Anthony C. Meconiates '01

"They could expand Safe Ride to 24 hours a day, or have a bus shuttle across the river."

Eileen M. Segall '00

"You need to educate the masses on what they do. What do they really do? I'm not a bookworm and I don't even know what they do."

Maisha K. Gray '99

"I think Finboard should be more accessible to students. You know... the way the budget allocation process is organized."

Alice W. Chau '00

"Get them more involved directly with the students. In any kind of association it is best that they get involved directly with the people. The people have more say with what's going on."

Saim Kashmiri '99

"Educate the general student body about the UA and the scope of what they can do for us. I don't even know what the UA does right now."

Phillip B. Armour '02

#### Student Government, continued from page 11

tion of future revenue. With concerts, for example, the UA is able to recoup much of the money it puts out through ticket sales.

The Spring Weekend Committee is comprised of representatives from major student groups such as the IFC, dormcon, UA, GSC, and The Tech.

"We hope to move the Spring Weekend Committee towards a more sustainable membership and financial base. This committee is separate and focused solely on putting out a great Spring Weekend," McGann said.

#### GSC often strong but neglected

Traditionally the most active student government body on campus, the GSC had success in 1999 with the GSC-sponsored career fair, the expansion of the Travel Grant Program, and a professional development seminar series.

With help from the Class of 2000 and the Society of Women Engineers, profits from the GSC Career Fair allowed for an increase in the funds available for the Travel Grant Program.

"A fivefold increase in the number of companies recruiting graduate students was achieved," said GSC President Luis A. Ortiz G.

Improvement in graduate student orientation has served to jump start the GSC presence on campus. "With secure funding, the orientation committee was able to focus on providing a unifying experience to welcome first year graduate students," Ortiz said.

In the future, the GSC plans to facilitate better interaction between Sloan students and other graduate students, as well as senior administrative officials and graduate students.

"The one area where I have been disappointed with progress has been the communication between senior administration and students. While the issue has been improving, I believe that there is a lot of work to be done to develop the trusting relationship I envisioned when elected," Ortiz said.

"Even after turning a blind eye to the needs of graduate students by continuing delays on a major graduate housing project, the senior administration participated in a public forum to explain this decision."

The largest problem facing the GSC during 1999 was the shortage of graduate student housing. "By telling the story time and time again the GSC has been able to elicit a stop gap measure — the renovation of NW30 to produce 130 new beds — while plans for the Sidney and Pacific Street site are finalized," Ortiz said. C



♦ dedicated to fighting change in the housing system, stages an orderly sit-in near offices of MIT's highest administrators. ♦ Nov. 7: Alumnus Kenan E. Sahin '63 donates a record \$100M to MIT. ♦ Nov. 8: MIT announces a \$135M partnership with Cambridge University. ♦ Nov. 21: The noxious odor haunting the Student Center finally abates as the Musical Theater Guild closes its production of *Evita* and removes the source of the smell: sets coated with expired, milk-protein based paint. ♦ Nov. 28: An MIT freshmen, presumably hacking, is injured in a fall down a chimney shaft atop E52. ♦ Nov. 30: Dean of Science Robert Birgeneau announces his resignation to accept a post as President of the University of Toronto. ♦ Dec. 1: Damien A. Brosnan '01 is

# Men's Ice Hockey Travels to Salt Lake

Susan Buchman

**W**e figured we'd get killed." That was how MIT men's hockey member John Rae '99 recalled the team sentiment heading into the American College Hockey Association national championships last spring. MIT did anything but. They finished with a respectable 1-2 record, including a 8-1 blowout of UCLA. Winning it all would have been nice, of course, but MIT accomplished its top goal — proving they belonged. "When we go back there next year, other teams are going to know they're going to need 60 minutes of hard work or we'll be all over them," Jim R. Goodman G said.

## Perfect season was the first step

The team finished the season with a 10-0 league record and entered the New England College Hockey Association Championships as the top seed. After cruising past Springfield College and Franklin Pierce College, MIT faced Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the championship game. WPI had given MIT trouble in the season, and this game would be no different, as MIT fell behind 2-0 in the second period. However, MIT held off WPI, and started to strike back with goals by Rae and Avishai Geller '01. MIT again fell behind by one, but Geller managed to break away and beat two defenders to get a shot up. Though he missed, Rae was there for the rebound to tie up the game. The 3-3 tie held into the end of the third period, and the game headed into sudden death overtime. MIT controlled play for the majority of the OT but was unable to capitalize. Then WPI earned a penalty, and MIT again pulled double-punch of Rae and Geller, giving MIT the win and a trip to nationals.

## MIT asserts self at nationals

Eight days later, the team was in Salt Lake City, Utah, for the American College Hockey



Members of the men's ice hockey team hoist its trophy after capturing the New England College Hockey Association Championship. The title earned the team a trip to nationals.

Association national championship. The first test on the national scene for the team was against the St. Louis University Billikens. MIT fell behind 4-0 in the second, and didn't get on the board until the last five minutes of the period with a goal by Gregory W. Donaldson '00. In the final period, the two teams traded a goal each, and the Billikens pulled out the win. "I think we could have done better in the first game," Goodman said. "The score doesn't reflect how hard we played." "Any other day we would have beaten them," added Rae. "It seemed like they got all the freak bounces." Tech's second game was against Life Col-

lege, the two-time defending champions. MIT scored first in the sixth minute, then again to go up 2-0. The second saw a flurry of scoring, and the score was 4-4 at the beginning of the third period. Life took the lead for the first time with a long slap shot with 14:37 remaining, and MIT pulled goalie Zehren and set up a six-man attack. However, MIT was unable to tie up the game, and Life earned one last goal with 4.3 seconds remaining to win 6-4. MIT's last opponent in Utah was UCLA, who had gone 20-2 in regular-season play. MIT annihilated UCLA 8-1, and further validated their presence at the tournament. "It's the first time that MIT has ever been

at Nationals and nobody expected us to be here," said first-year coach Mark O'Meara. **Coach, goalie earn praise** Much of the team's success is credited to O'Meara and goalie John Zehren '99. "Usually after Christmas we're struggling just to maintain our record," said co-captain Goodman. "A lot of credit goes to coach [O'Meara]." "Zehren is invaluable to this hockey team," Goodman said. "Everyone relies on Z." The team is on track to head back to nationals this year; so far, they have a 7-1-1 record. And now that they don't have to worry about proving themselves, who knows what they can accomplish. "I think people know now that MIT can actually play some hockey, be it in our own incredibly ugly style," Goodman said. **T**

*I think people know now that MIT can actually play some hockey, be it in our own incredibly ugly style.*  
—Jim Goodman

# Tennis Hopes to Follow Championship Season With a Spring Trip to Nationals

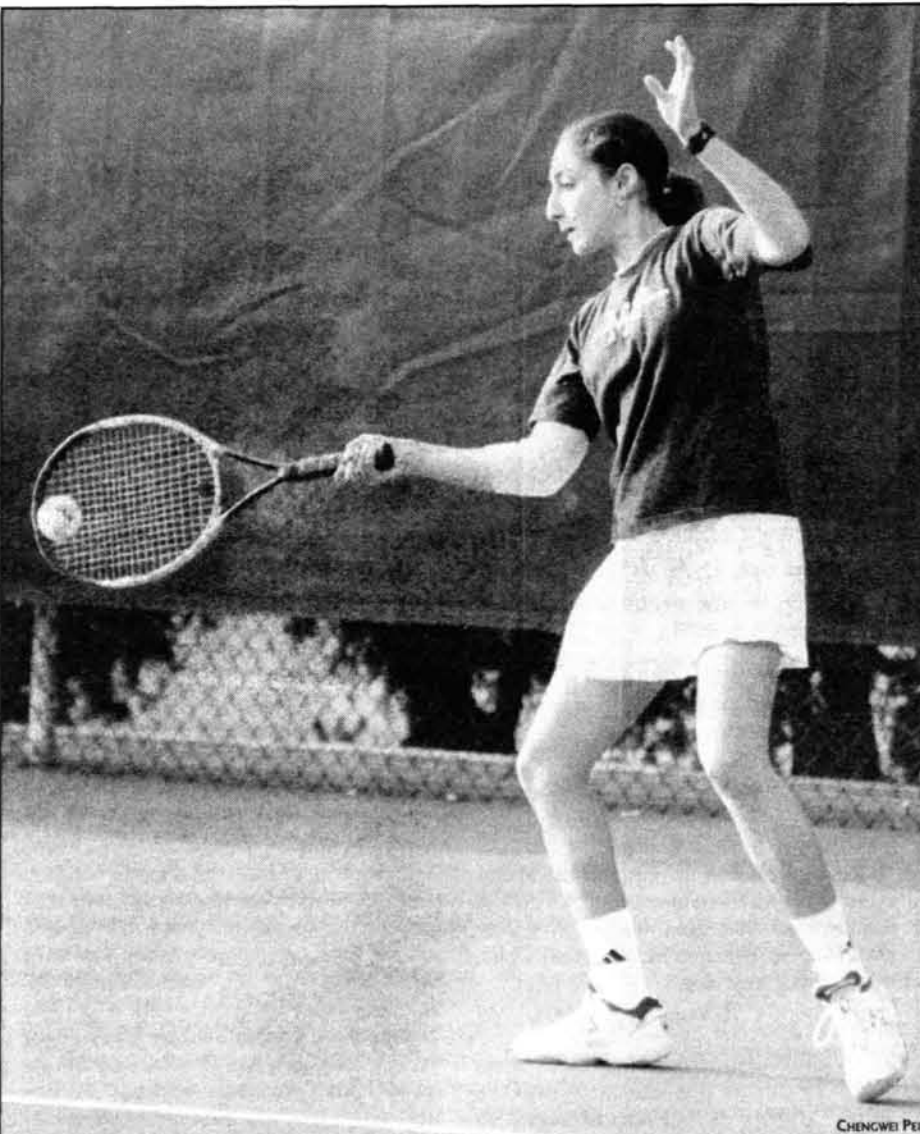
Nisha Singh

**T**he fall 1999 season, capped by a sixth place finish at the New England Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament, was the second most successful women's tennis season in MIT history. Only three years ago, the tennis team placed 5th overall, its highest finish ever. The Engineers went undefeated (8-0) in the New England Women and Men's Athletic Conference, finishing 11-1 overall with the only loss coming to a higher-ranked Tufts University team. MIT earned the top seed in the NEWMAC conference championships, and won the first conference title in women's tennis since 1993. In the finals, they pounded second-ranked Wellesley College, 8-1, after having defeated them by a score of 5-4 during the regular season. The team placed sixth out of 24 teams at the New England Championships and finished the fall season ranked 8th in the Division III East, giving them an excellent shot to attend nationals in the spring. Stand out individual performances were posted by a number of tennis players. Co-captain Mealani K. Nakamura '00, at first singles, had another spectacular year, finishing the season as a semifinalist at New Englands, and ranked fifth in the East. In addition to Nakamura's tournament success,

she earned all-conference honors. Teammate Kelly J. Koskelin '02 (2nd Singles) had a solid season, earning all-conference honors and a 21st rank in the East. Julie J. Koo '03 (3rd Singles) had an incredible freshman season, going unbeaten in dual matches, and making it to the finals at New Englands. She is currently ranked 25th in the east, and was named the NEWMAC rookie of the year. Jessica Hall '02 (4th Singles) clinched the regular season match against Wellesley with her win, and earning all-conference honors.

## Doubles teams dominate

In doubles, all-conference pair Nakamura-Koskelin were undefeated in dual matches, finishing the season ranked third in the east, after making it to the semifinals at New Englands. The second doubles team of Hall-Koo received all-conference honors as well. In only her second full season, Carol Matsuzaki was named coach of the year in the NEWMAC conference. Her classy influence on the team led to the team earning the NEWMAC sportsmanship award. The team looks for some solid wins against tough, higher-ranked, non-conference opponents to earn a trip to Nationals in the spring. **T**



Undefeated, conference champs, numerous post-season honors — it will be hard for the women's tennis team to top last season, but a trip to nationals could certainly do the trick.



◆elected IFC president. ◆Dec. 3: The Media Lab announces a joint venture with Ireland to create MediaLabEurope in Dublin. ◆Dec. 7: The admissions office releases figures showing a precipitous rise in the number of early action applications. ◆Dec. 8: Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 releases his final report outlining the future design of MIT's residence system. ◆Jan. 1: MIT enters the year 2000 with little or no problems thanks to thorough preparations. ◆A New Year's party at Alpha Tau Omega ends with four arrests. ◆The body of Irina Libova G is found on the slopes of Pico de Orizaba in Mexico. Libova is among three killed in a climbing accident. ◆Jan. 12: Rosalind H. Williams announces that she will step down as dean of students. T

## Men's Cross Country Surpasses Seed, Finishes Fourteenth at Div. III Nationals

Ming-Tai Huh

**D**espite budget cuts and numerous injuries, the men's cross country team plowed its way to a 14th place finish at Division III Nationals in Oskosh, Wisconsin. The team surpassed its 21st national ranking, just missing the 13th spot by nine points.



Daniel R. Feldman '02

Daniel R. Feldman '02 led the Engineer pack with a 43rd place finish (24:44) out of hundreds of runners from all over the nation. The team's top seven finished with a total of 356 points.

In a standout performance, Christopher M. Testa '03, usually MIT's ninth runner, replaced an injured Phillip J. Loiselle '01 and beat the odds to finish in MIT's top five at 131.

Christopher S. McGuire '00 and Sean J. Montgomery '01, number two and three runners respectively, finished in the top 105. Montgomery was able to out-sprint McGuire in the final steps for a 95th place finish.

A little bit later, Liyan Guo '01 pushed himself to the finish line to place 130th with Testa immediately following. In back of Testa, but not that far off, William F. Johnston '00 finished in 181st with Sean P. Nolan '03 following him in 189th. All seven runners improved upon their times on the course, and all set 8000m personal records.

### Strategy is key at nationals

"A combination of poor results at the national preview meet, combined with the fact that most runners at nationals run the first mile significantly faster than the other miles of the race, led us to the strategy of a combination of place and time goals for mile one that initially would appear to put us totally out of the race," Coach Halston W. Taylor said.

Tech runners defied Taylor's advice, however, and fell into the trap of speeding off pace in the beginning. Feldman, McGuire, Montgomery and Guo, pulled by the fast pace set by race leaders, all finished the first mile much faster than they intended.

As a result, the Engineers' gas would run out in the final mile of the race causing them to lose places. Feldman was in the 23rd position before falling back. Along with Feldman, three MIT runners were in the top 100 at some point in the race.

### Team looks forward to next year

Seniors McGuire and Johnston will be the only two runners lost to graduation from the team's top seven. Injured Loiselle and Edward A. Keehr '01 will be returning to the squad as veterans. Next year's outlook already appears to be good as long as the pack can remain healthy and improve their running discipline. T

## Alberi Is the Athlete to Watch in 2000

Ming-Tai Huh

**W**hile the rumors of a shark living in Alumni Pool are not true, women's swimming star Kirsten M. Alberi '03 is creating a deadly wake in the water.

In her first two months as an MIT swimmer, Alberi broke two records: 50 yard backstroke and 200 yard backstroke. Her times of 28.70 and 2:11.23 beat the records of 29.36 and 2:17.42. Alberi recently got a chance at the 100 yard event to complete the sweep of backstroke events. Her time for the race was 1:00.21 crushing the old record of 1:03.08 set by teammate Jennifer D. Navarro '00.

Alberi has not come to MIT with as a "stroke" of luck but rather a full list of swimming credentials. The swimming veteran has eleven years of competitive swimming under her belt. In Maine, she swam for a US swim club, Costal Main Aquatics, in addition to her high school varsity team. She helped her high school squad achieve a top three finish at the state swimming championships all four years including a state title in her junior year. Alberi was named Most Valuable Player for the Cape Elizabeth High School swimming program in her final year.

### Transition to college is smooth

"I knew I'd do well, but not this well," Alberi said of swimming in college. Besides breaking three school records, Alberi has

qualified for nine events at the New England Conference Meet. However, she will not be able to compete in all nine events. She predicts the 50, 100, and 200 backstroke will be her events for the three-day-long conference event.

Coach Mary Ellen McLaughlin has been a positive influence in Alberi's training. "Mel's enthusiasm on the deck is so important. She never sits [and is] always involved everyone's workout all the time," she said.

Swimming at MIT has also been a positive for her academics and time management. "Athletics make you balance your academics. I think I would procrastinate if I

Fencing, continued from page 24

"I love the team here at MIT. I'd never really had the team experience that MIT offers me. Each one of my teammates is super-supportive, which makes me want to do twice as well as I had done before," Purcell said.

### Win at New England

MIT defeated Wellesley College, Tufts University, Boston College, and Brown University to win the New England Fencing Championships on February 21. It was the team's third championship in the past four years.

Epeeist Sylwia Daniszewska '00 epitomized the team's excellence by going undefeated against ten schools at the championships. Nora Szasz '99 eventually won the epee event, while Daniszewska took seventh and Sara Perry '99 took ninth. In the foil, team captain Aimee Wiltz '99 took fourth.

didn't swim."

Alberi started tapering in last week of January to prepare herself for the upcoming big races on February 18-20. "I need a long taper, much like the sprinters on the team," she explains. As of January 24th, Alberi is ranked second in the 50 and 100 yard backstroke, and fourth in the 200 yard back-

stroke. The rankings are compiled with the swimmer's best times of the year. Alberi expects a noticeable drop in all her times at the conference meet.

"I'm very flattered, kind of overwhelmed," she said when told that she was being cast as the biggest sports story of the next year. T

It appears that MIT is on track to win yet another championship. On November 13, the squad defeated Boston University, Brown University, Smith College, UMass-Boston, and Wellesley all in one day.

Most of the credit for MIT success is given to the coach, Jarek Koniusz, now in his eighth year.

"He has turned people who had never fenced before into NCAA competitors in four years," Purcell said.

In 1999, four MIT fencers qualified to the NCAA National Championships — three of whom began fencing at MIT.

"Jarek [Koniusz] has formed us into a solid, hardworking group, which is really apparent by the quality of fencing that can be observed in our fencing room every day at practice," Purcell said. T



This marked improvement in this year's football team gave the student body something to rally behind other than opposition to RSSC.

## Football Makes a Turnaround

Susan Buchman

**A**t many universities, school pride is won and lost on the football field. At MIT, students are more likely to worry about the reputation of the Media Lab than the performance of the football team.

But it's hard to let go of the urge to view the football team as the flagship of school pride, and this year, rebounding from last year's dismal 1-8 season, the football team finally turned in a performance worthy of that honor.

The team finished with a 6-4 overall record, tying the 1980 record for most wins in a season.

After a frightening three game losing streak early in the season, the team pulled into midseason with a 2-4 record and the real threat of another losing season.

However, the team buckled down and pulled out the unexpected — a four game winning streak, including a shutout of UMass-Boston in which safety Brian Hoying '03 returned an interception 99 yards for a touchdown, breaking a 19-year-old school record.

### Fan support

The turn-around season brought New England Football Conference Coach of the Year honors for head coach Dwight Smith and numerous post-season honors for Maik Flanagan '99, Nikolas Kozy '00, and Angus Huang '00.

More importantly, however, this year's team has something special to go along with the winning record: increased support from the student body.

The revived homecoming celebration brought an estimated 1,400 people to the game against Curry College. In its final possession, down 14-17, MIT converted two fourth-down plays but could not set itself up for a potentially game-tying field goal or game-winning touchdown. But the fans seemed satisfied just to be watching an exciting game.

"It's a very competitive conference ... all of our players displayed great heart on [homecoming] Saturday. A few key mistakes on our part at crucial times were the determining factors," Smith said. "The team would like to thank the crowd for the great support that was shown during the game." T

*Athletics make you balance your academics.  
I think I would procrastinate if I didn't swim.*

—Kirsten Alberi





# Top Sports Stories of 1999

## Flat Athletics Budget Spells the End of Junior Varsity Teams

Ming-Tai Huh

In the fall of 1999, severe athletic budget cuts raised a heated controversy between the administration and student, and fueled the ever-continuing debate over the administration's commitment to quality of student life.

During October athletes spoke out against the elimination of junior varsity teams and varsity squad cutbacks.

On October 1, 1999, Stanley Hu '00 explained his frustration concerning the men's cross-country varsity squad cuts in the pages of *The Tech*.

"After many weeks of practice, I thought I had earned the privilege to compete. My times qualified me to race in several meets, even after the Athletics Department had reduced the size of the travel team to 24 members. Then they cut even further, reducing that number to 14. Finally, last week — in the middle of the season — the number fell to 12. Ranked 14th on the team, I could no longer compete. My hopes sank. In what may be my final year of collegiate running, I am now forced to sit on the sidelines and watch the remaining weeks of the season fade away."

Hu's column opened the playing field for others to share their disappointment of MIT's underfunded athletic program. Four days later, an editorial in *The Tech* spoke against MIT's concern for students.

"With this [athletic budget cuts] blow, MIT only continues to reaffirm its lack of commitment to improving student life at MIT."

*The bottom line is that varsity athletics are not a high enough priority to receive the proper funding to support its 41 varsity sports. Apparently the choice is to reduce sports and spend the budget on those teams or keep what you've had and do the best you can with inadequate funding.*

—Walter Alessi, men's soccer and lacrosse coach

On October 15, 1999, Richard A. Hill, MIT Director of Athletics, justified the athletic funding decisions.

"In July of 1999, the budget allotted the Department of Athletics forced further constraints. In order to run a cost-effective operation within the constraints imposed by the budget, the Department of Athletics was faced with a choice regarding the intercollegiate program: eliminate programs, or reduce the scope of the programs offered. The latter action was chosen."

The reductions came in the form of cutting junior varsity squads, limiting the number of team members that can travel, and maximum squad sizes.

### Gender issues contested

Most student athletes understood Hill to argue that Title IX gender equity regulations were the main cause of JV cuts. However,

the addition of the new teams were not the main cause, but rather MIT's stagnant budget for athletics. The budget has not increased for nearly 10 years which in turn leads to a near 30 percent decrease of funds in real dollars.

"When there is a flat-budget directive, then we will adhere to that," said Athletics Department Manager of Administration Richard L. Brewer. In order to achieve a balanced budget, the Athletics Department needed to reduce team sizes.

Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams attributes a large part of the recent changes in the Athletics Department to the transition from male-dominated sports to a more evenly balanced program. The Athletics budget is drawn from the Office of the Dean for Students and Undergraduate Education line item in MIT's budget.

"There has been a long history of increasing pressures on the Athletics Department for a wider range of sports," said Williams, a dean in ODSUE. This year, the Athletics Department created two new female varsity teams: ice hockey and indoor track.

"We offer more now, and we are proud of that, but we can't offer everything," said Williams. The Athletics Department, which along with the rest of the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education has been on a flat budget for several years, was forced to cut programs to add the new teams while not running over budget.

"The Institute has been level-budgeted since I arrived in 1995," said Williams. According to Williams, a given department of MIT will only receive a budgetary increase in the case of extenuating circumstances. The flat budgeting of student concerns is especially confusing since it occurs at the same time the Institute is conducting a billion dollar capital campaign.

While MIT in the past could afford to field every team that was desired, Williams stated that this is no longer financially possible.

### Future of sports teams in jeopardy

As more and more freshmen are not allowed to participate in varsity sports due to size constraints, teams will not have much youth to carry themselves into the future.

Men's soccer coach Walter Alessi, who had to cut the men's soccer sub-varsity program this year, commented, "This is a very sensitive issue that goes right to the top of MIT. The bottom line is that varsity athletics are not a high enough priority to receive the proper funding to support its 41 varsity sports. Apparently the choice is to reduce sports and spend the budget on those teams or keep what you've had and do the best you can with inadequate funding."

## Ellefson Considers Individual Success Secondary to Team

Susan Buchman

It can be difficult to gauge exactly how good an athlete is. Differences in conferences, regions and divisions make comparisons difficult: collegiate programs can vary so much that a record-breaker at one school wouldn't even make the team at another. But with gymnast Sonja Ellefson '01, there is no doubt — she is amazing.

She was the only Division III female athlete to qualify for USA Gymnastics Division II National Championships last spring. At the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association, she made All-American in three separate events: the all-around, vault, and uneven bars. She won the East Coast Athletic Conference Division III all-around championship, and also placed first in the floor exercise.

But for Ellefson, who also holds every single individual school record, being a part of the MIT gymnastics team is about much more than having an outlet for her talents.

"Competing for MIT is much more fun than competing for a club team. In club you had a team but the competitions were basically individual competitions. The team score really didn't matter. It was all about doing well individually. At MIT it is all about doing well as a team; doing well individually is just a bonus," Ellefson said.

### Gymnastics a life-long pursuit

As one would expect, Ellefson has been involved in gymnastics for quite some time. "My mom put me in classes when I was

*It is so much more fun trying to do well so that you can help the team do well.*

—Sonja Ellefson

about 3-and-a-half or 4 years old because I had taught myself handstands and cartwheels and stuff and she got sick of me doing them around the house and wrecking the furniture," Ellefson said.

From sixth grade on, Ellefson qualified for the state and regional competition (her region consisted of seven states), and her senior year in high school she did well enough at regionals to be selected as an alternate for nationals.

When it came time to make a decision about college, gymnastics played a large role.

"I knew that I wanted to do college gymnastics so I didn't look at any school that didn't have a team. I also knew that I wouldn't be doing gymnastics for the rest of my life so I didn't apply to schools where I would be doing only gymnastics and not getting a good education," Ellefson said.

Those criteria lead her to choose MIT, and since then she has been leading the women's gymnastics program. But her biggest joy isn't the honors and awards; it's the chance to finally be a part of a team.

"It's so much more fun trying to do well so that you can help the team do well," Ellefson said.

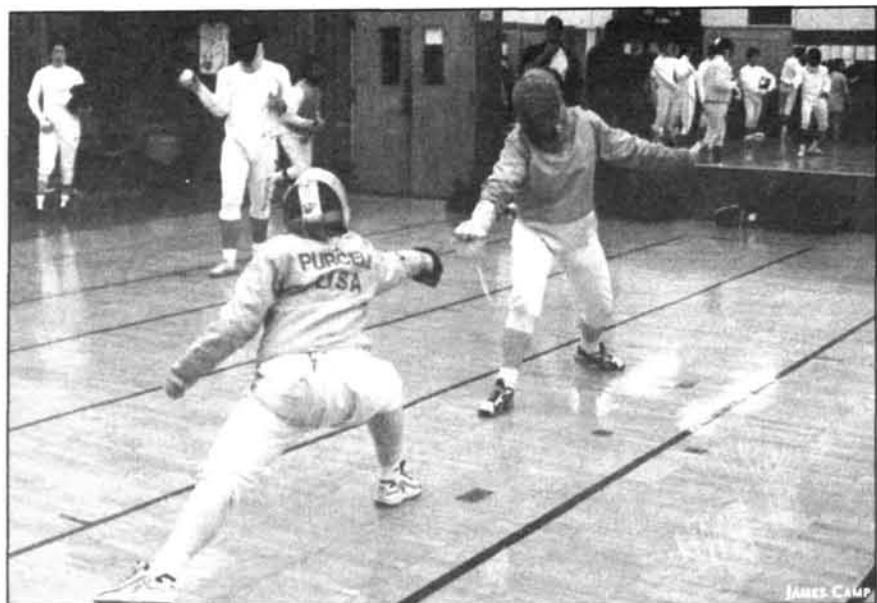
## Women's Fencing, Dominant as Ever

Susan Buchman

When discussing the MIT woman's fencing team, it would be easy to focus solely on Caroline Purcell '02. She is a world-class athlete who won a national championship in woman's sabre before she ever fenced for MIT, and her college career has been just as illustrious: she competed as a member of the national team at the World Championships in April and won the Junior Pan-American Games.

However, it was the entire team that won the New England Division I Championships in March, and just recently beat Harvard University for the first time ever. And it was the entire team that placed 18th at the NCAA Division I national last spring.

See *Fencing*, continued on page 23



MIT fencing stand-out Caroline Purcell