

## Rodriguez and Davidson take UAP/VP

**By Jai Young Kim**  
Manuel A. Rodriguez '89 and Alan B. Davidson '89 were elected president and vice president of the Undergraduate Association in elections held Wednesday.

Rodriguez and Davidson captured 901 (59.1 percent) of the 1524 total votes cast in the UA president/vice president elections. The team of Marino D. Tavarez '88 and Mikey Ishida '89 received 339 votes, or 22.2 percent. The duo of Scott A. Lordi

'88 and Denis R. Gulsen '88 earned 216 votes, or 14.2 percent.

Approximately 36 percent of the undergraduate student body voted in the elections. Last year's turnout was similar.

Rodriguez was especially excited about the upcoming year. "I hope that we can work together next year," Rodriguez said. "I would personally like to see Marino and Scott in the council. There are a lot of issues coming

up, where the position of the students must be decided through the council. We need representatives from every part of campus."

"We're very happy that we ran," said Tavarez on behalf of his team. "We said and brought up many good things... but I'm very disappointed at the low turnout." Tavarez said that their main goal as candidates was to get people out to vote and make them less indifferent to voting.

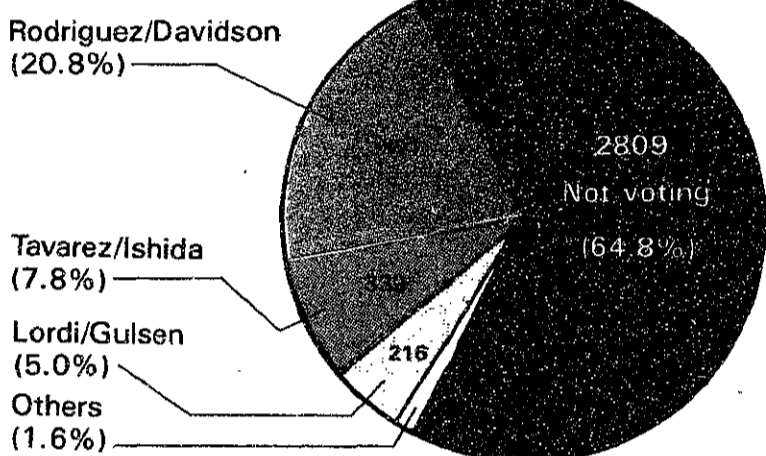
Tavarez also admitted his disappointment in the low number of votes that his team got. He pointed out that "a great number of people disagreed with our strong political views," and that he came out to appear "strongly" (Please turn to page 2)



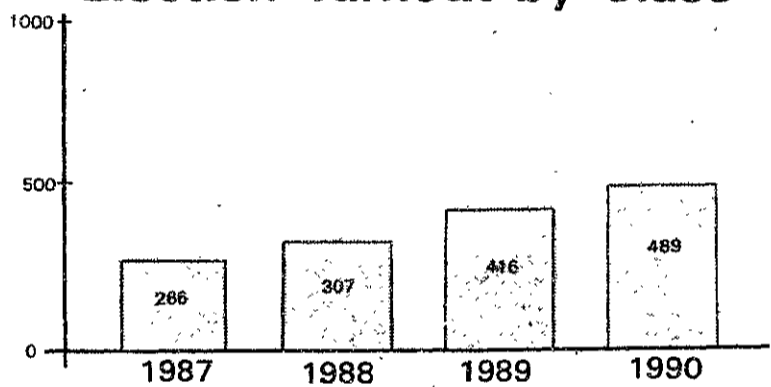
Shari L. Jackson/The Tech  
The new UA team: Manuel Rodriguez '89 (left) and Alan B. Davidson '89.

### UAP/VP Election Breakdown

Number of eligible voters: 4333



### Election Turnout by Class



Tech graphic by Mark Kantowitz

## Freshman races are hotly contested

**By Jai Young Kim**

Many races for freshman and sophomore class offices were hotly contested, while almost all candidates for junior and senior offices won unopposed in Wednesday's Undergraduate Association elections.

Clarissa Climaco won as the Class of 1989's president, receiving 222 votes over Robert Carskadden with 160. R. David Duis, the sophomore class' current president, narrowly defeated F. Curtis Jones for vice president, tallying 188 votes to Jones' 183.

The other sophomore offices were uncontested. This year's vice president Charles Sakamaki became the sophomore class secretary with 320 votes, and Danylo Kihiczak was elected treasurer with 310. Vivian Liu and Cindy Wang collected 336 votes for the post of social chairpersons.

The Class of 1990 had the

most students running for office, with 13 names on the ballot. Three freshmen vied for the presidency, and in the first round of voting, Katie Hays emerged on top of incumbent Vijay Vaitheeswaran and I-Ching Wu, with 186, 175, and 94 votes, respectively. In the final round of ballot counting, Hays won the election, 220 to 205, over Vaitheeswaran.

Incumbent class officers Thomas Knight, Richard Villanueva, and Julie Kim were all re-elected to their posts: Knight outpolled Zara Weng for vice president, 262 to 169; Kim, the current treasurer, defeated Lalit Jain, 335 to 85; and Villanueva overcame Minyuan Tung 238 to 190 to become secretary.

Alison Mehlman and Chelsea Malviya won the positions of social chair, earning 244 votes over the 194 of Kimberly Pace and Eric Nudelman. Jonathan Wood-

man was re-elected as publicity coordinator, beating Manuela Vasilescu 196 to 177.

The freshman class cast a total of 489 votes, the largest turnout of the four classes. The class with the second most voters was the sophomore class with 416, followed by the juniors with 307, and then the seniors with 266.

All the candidates for class offices in the senior and junior classes ran unopposed, and all but one won.

The Class of 1987 elected Charles P. Coleman to serve as its class president for the next five years in the Undergraduate Association elections held Wednesday.

Coleman received 202 of the 266 votes cast by the senior class. Incumbent Eugenie V. Uhlman retained her office as vice president, with 186 votes.

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## Thurrow named dean of Sloan School

**By Michael Gojer**

MIT named Professor Lester C. Thurrow as dean of the Sloan School of Management on Monday, ending a search for a candidate with "a strong interest in developing a vision of what the Sloan School could be [and] a high reputation in the outside world," said Provost John M. Deutch '61.

Thurrow, who holds a joint appointment in the Sloan School and the Department of Economics, succeeds Abraham J. Siegel. Siegel has served as dean since 1980 and will return to teaching and research.

Thurrow has gained wide recognition for his commentary on economic policy issues through his newspaper columns, magazine articles, and frequent appearances as a television commentator.

Deutch said he believes the appointment "promises to be very exciting." In inviting Thurrow to become dean, Deutch and President Paul E. Gray '54 said in a letter to the faculty that they "were particularly struck by his vision of the special challenges

and opportunities facing the management school in a university centered on science and technology." They also praised "his conviction that Sloan should and can take the lead in management education in this country."

Deutch and Gray said in the letter that they have asked Thurrow "to lead a major exploration, first within the school and then more broadly in the MIT community, into the future mission and role of the Sloan School."

The Sloan School is very different from most business schools, Thurrow observed. Most major business schools are fairly autonomous and less connected with their parent universities than Sloan, he said. Thurrow said he thinks the Sloan School's differences give it a unique position.

In particular, Thurrow is interested in the link between technology and management. He said it is becoming important to "bring management and technology back together."

"[Thurrow] will not be the traditional business school dean," assured Robert Solow, Institute Professor of economics, commenting on Thurrow's energy and liveliness. Solow felt that Thurrow's wide interests, especially in public policy, will keep him from "settling into a routine."

"One of the things I think he's going to do is move the Sloan School away from the traditional MBA," Solow said, referring to the changing connection between management and technology at the school.

This is "a good time to take a strategic look at things," agreed

Senior Lecturer Jeffrey Meldman '65, chairman of the undergraduate program at the Sloan School. Meldman also expressed his enthusiasm over Thurrow's appointment. "I think he will help the Sloan School gain its rightful place [among other business schools in the country]."

Thurrow was born in Livingston, Montana in 1938. A graduate of Williams College in 1960, he received his master's degree on a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University in 1962 and his PhD at Harvard University in 1964.

He joined the MIT faculty in

(Please turn to page 2)



Sidhu Banerjee/The Tech  
Professor Lester C. Thurrow, the new dean of the Sloan School of Management.

## Broader opportunities for graduates

**By Catherine K. Su**

Active recruiting this term by major corporations, including those not in the engineering fields, indicates broader job opportunities for MIT students, said Robert K. Weatherall, director of the Office of Career Services. The recruiting season will soon end, but most companies will not extend job offers until May.

A wide range of corporations visited the MIT career office this past year — most notable among them were the financial service companies. Of the 282 companies that recruited on the campus this spring, 27 or roughly one-tenth were Wall Street firms, Weatherall said.

The trend seems to reflect the demand for a background in mathematics, statistics, or computer science for work in management and consulting. Corporations like Solomon Brothers,

Inc., a major Wall Street investment banking firm, come in search of candidates who can perform engineering analysis of such transactions as selling and merging.

The increasing use of personal computers in these firms has also contributed to the rise in recruiting by these companies, he said.

While financial service companies may be increasingly inter-

(Please turn to page 2)

### Peter K. Meic G

Peter K. Meic, a graduate student in the department of political science, died last month after a long illness.

A Boston resident, Meic had only been at MIT for a term, and was studying to be a China scholar, specializing in the political development of China, according to Department Head Donald L. M. Blackmer.

Meic graduated from Stanford University in 1976 with a bachelor's in religion and East Asian studies. Later, he attended Princeton University as a graduate student, Blackmer added.

Meic was "very cultured," according to his advisor, Professor Lucian W. Pye. He had a very strong background in classical Chinese language, Pye said, adding that Meic was also a computer expert.

He was "quite ill when he came," Pye said. It was "extraordinarily courageous" for him to do graduate work, he continued. Meic was born in Queens, New York. He was 34.

## inside

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The Tech reviews "A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To The Forum." Page 10.

# 36 percent of undergraduates vote in election

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Write-in candidate Stephanie Levin became class secretary, defeating incumbent Jennifer Buchner by 116 votes to 98. Jim Lin was reelected as treasurer with 195 votes.

The Class of 1987 chose Constance A. Perrier as the class's member-at-large with 181 votes, and Elizabeth Russell as senior class agent with 186.

In the Class of 1988 elections, current vice president Lisa A. Martin was elected president with 245 votes. Andrea Wong was

elected vice president with 235 votes, Grace Ma for secretary with 237, Brenda Chin for treasurer with 239, and Kim Kellogg and Joe Woo for social chairmen with 237.

This year's UA ballot contained a referendum question, asking about the funding for student activities. It stated that the \$56,000 allotted to over 180 groups was inadequate, and asked for the Institute to investigate ways of increasing the budget of student activities. The UA said 1280 voters agreed, while 211 expressed op-

position.

A total of 1548 undergraduates voted in the election, constituting about a 36 percent voter turnout.

Joe Babiec '90, UA election commissioner said he was very satisfied with the election. He

noted that the turnout was exceptionally good, considering that only one referendum question appeared on the ballot. "[The turnout] was all on the merits of that we had candidates running," Babiec said.

Babiec was also pleased with the competitiveness of the Class of 1990 elections. He said, "Hopefully this will be the beginning of a very good trend in student government and student involvement."

## More Wall Street firms come to MIT

(Continued from page 1)

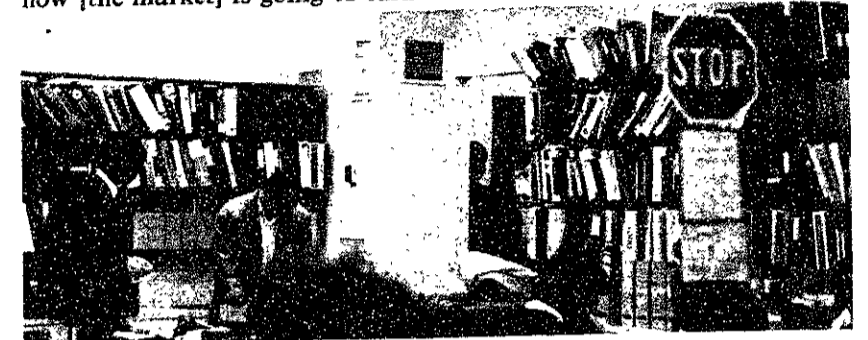
ested in engineering students, the slump in US industry has decreased high-technology recruiting overall. As a whole, the number of jobs being offered is decreasing. According to the College Placement Council survey, job offers to engineering majors across the country decreased between 40 and 60 percent from January 1986 to January 1987.

As students vie for the fewer openings, a few recruiting officials felt their choices were more difficult this year. Weatherall estimated that Hewlett-Packard may hire around 60 to 70 percent of its usual number, Bell Labs 20 percent, and IBM even fewer.

Weatherall felt that part of the problem lies in the variation in popularity among companies. Some of the smaller companies that are doing particularly well in the market do not appear to be receiving the attention they deserve, he said.

Since innovations in engineering and technology cannot be predicted, "it is not easy to tell how [the market] is going to turn

out," Weatherall said. As for the final results of this year's recruiting, it is also too early to tell, he added.



Alice Lei  
Students look for jobs at the Office of Career Services.

## Thurow will not be traditional

(Continued from page 1)

1968 after working on the staff of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Council of Economic Advisors and teaching in the economics department at Harvard.

His participation in the formation of public policy has included Congressional testimony, television commentary and a direct involvement in several political campaigns.

Thurow is a member of the American Economics Association and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received honorary degrees from five colleges and universities.

Thurow's research has focused on the areas of income distribution economics, public finance, and international economics.

In his best-selling book, "The Zero Sum Society," published in 1980, Thurow professed admiration for the Japanese management style as a model for US businesses. In his follow-up book in 1985, "The Zero Sum Solution: Building a World-Class American Economy," Thurow proposed measures the US should take to protect its competitiveness and standard of living.

His appointment becomes effective July 1.

## Tavarez finds voter turnout disappointing

(Continued from page 1)

against the UA," which led to current UA president Bryan R. Moser '87 endorsing Rodriguez and Davidson.

"I can't say whether or not I'll work very closely with Manuel," said Tavarez about the future in the UA. "They [Rodriguez and Davidson] should be concerned with getting things done with less rhetoric and more action."

"I'd like to congratulate Manuel and Alan for winning," Lordi said. "They did a good job."

"I had fun running, and Denis did, too," Lordi continued. "It would have been nicer to see more people vote, though."

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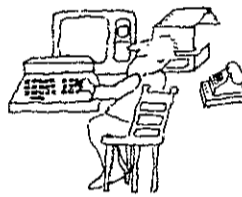
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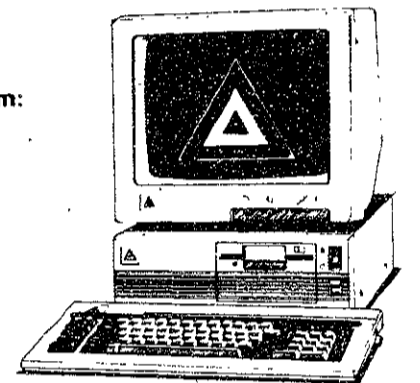
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# news roundup

from the associated press wire

## World

### US proposes elimination of missiles in Europe

The US negotiators in the Geneva arms talks have proposed a new plan to monitor the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe to the Soviets. The plan calls for permanent monitoring stations not only at the missile sites, but also at the missile factories in both the United States and the Soviet Union. Initial responses from the Soviets appear promising, according to a State Department spokesman.

Meanwhile, the Soviets carried out an underground nuclear test explosion Wednesday night, ending their 19-month moratorium when the US refused to go along with the ban. (AP)

### Israeli citizens aid convicted spy

Israeli citizens are pouring out their hearts and pocket-books for Jonathan Jay Pollard — the former US Navy analyst who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment for giving secret US documents to Israel. A group called "Citizens for Pollard" has raised tens of thousands of dollars to pay for Pollard's defense. One Israeli man called the admitted spy a "decent human being who tried to help us."

The Israeli government, however, is less sympathetic to both Pollard and his wife, Anne, who was sentenced to five years for aiding her husband. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Pollard was recruited by intelligence officers working without official approval, and has refused to aid him. The Pollard affair has strained relations between Israel and the United States, especially since Israel promoted the army officer who was Pollard's contact during his years as a spy. (AP)

### Terrorists threaten to kill hostage

A pro-Iranian terrorist group has threatened to kill a French television engineer unless France agrees to a hostage swap and stops supplying arms to Iraq. The written statement by the Revolutionary Justice Organization was accompanied by a picture of the Frenchman kidnapped over one year ago. (AP)

## Local

### Lawrence woman arraigned for arson and murder

Luz Pagan was arraigned yesterday in Salem Superior Court in connection with a New Year's Eve fire that killed a Lawrence couple. A grand jury indicted Pagan on Wednesday on one charge of arson and two charges of second degree murder. The 28 year-old Lawrence resident has been charged by a district court with setting the fire. Pagan was freed on \$1000 bail and was rearrested Wednesday morning at her home. (AP)

## Nation

### Surrogate mother trial about to end

Both sides involved in the "surrogate mother" trial have finished stating their cases and are awaiting the judge's decision. The lawyer for Mary Beth Whitehead, the surrogate mother, said that his client is only guilty of loving her baby too much to give her up. Whitehead is asking to keep the baby that she bore under a contract for a New Jersey couple, William and Emily Stern. The Stern's lawyer argued that the baby is very happy, healthy and thriving in the care of the couple. The judge is expected to hand down his decision soon.

According to a poll by the Gannett News Service and USA Today, most people agreed that the contract should be honored and that the baby should go to the Sterns. (AP)

### SEC accuses Merrill Lynch exec

The Securities and Exchange Commission has accused a top Merrill Lynch executive in London of involvement in a multi-million dollar insider trading scheme. The SEC has won a federal court order in Manhattan freezing the assets of Nahum Vaskevitch, the head of mergers and acquisitions at Merrill Lynch's London office. The Israeli-British citizen allegedly misappropriated confidential corporate information involving 12 public companies and passed it along to David Sofer, an Israeli living in Jerusalem. The SEC says Sofer used the information to make millions of dollars from illegal securities transactions. (AP)

## Sports

### California court stays NCAA drug policy

Stanford University athlete Simone Levant has won a preliminary injunction against the NCAA, allowing her to compete in the upcoming NCAA diving championships. The NCAA requires that all athletes competing in its events submit to a drug test beforehand. Levant, captain of the Stanford women's diving team, took the organization to California state court, claiming that the mandatory drug testing policy violates her right to privacy. (AP)

### Woody Hays dies at 74

Woody Hays died in his sleep of a heart attack yesterday morning. During his 28 years with Ohio State, Hays led the Buckeyes to win 76 percent of their games, 13 Big Ten championships and two national championships. He was later dismissed for striking a Clemson player during the 1978 Gator Bowl. (AP)

### Clemens boycotts training camp

Boston Red Sox righthander Roger Clemens has headed home to Houston to wait out his contract dispute with the Red Sox. The Sox are fining Clemens \$1000 per day. Clemens won the American League's Cy Young Award last year. (AP)

### Judge rejects Deaver motion, defends special prosecutor

A federal judge has denied lobbyist Michael Deaver's request for a preliminary injunction to block a special prosecutor's investigation. Deaver, a former Reagan White House aide, had sought to prevent independent counsel Whitney North Seymour from seeking a grand jury indictment against him.

US District Judge Thomas Jackson's order will permit Seymour to seek an indictment, unless an appellate court temporarily bars him from doing so. There's no word yet on whether Deaver's attorneys would file such an appeal.

Deaver's lawyers had contended that the statue establishing the independent counsel's office was unconstitutional. Seymour was appointed by a three-judge panel under the provision of the Ethics in Government Act to investigate charges that Deaver used his former White House post to enhance his lobbying career.

Jackson's ruling may have important implications for a similar suit filed by Lt. Col. Oliver North. North has challenged the law which provides for the appointment of a special prosecutor. He seeks to disempower Irangate prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who is investigating North's role in the scandal. (AP)

### House delays rebel aid

The House voted on Wednesday to delay \$40 million in aid to the *contras*. President Reagan is expected to veto the measure as soon as it reaches the desk. While he will not predict an override of Reagan's veto, Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-VA) said the vote will let the President know future requests for *contra* aid will not be welcome. (AP)

## Weather

### Cloudiness ahead

A coastal storm, now developing to our south, looks to pass to our east over the next day or so. Fortunately, it will pass far enough east that the Boston area will receive little precipitation. But we will see considerable cloudiness and a few flakes of snow today as a result of the development.

**Friday:** We can expect mostly cloudy skies and there is a chance of some light snow. Winds will be northerly at 5-10 mph (8-16 kph). High temperatures will be near the freezing point. Continued cloudy skies and north winds Friday night. Low temperatures will approach 25°F (-4°C).

**Saturday:** The sun returns! Mostly sunny and a bit warmer. Highs near 40°F (4°C).

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy with highs again near 40°F (4°C).

Forecast by Robert X. Black

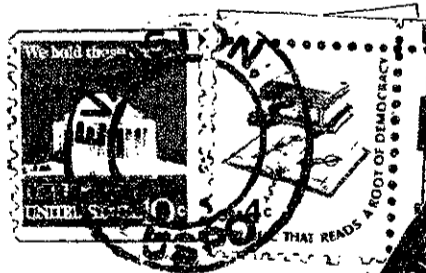
Compiled by Anh Thu N. Vo and Niraj Desai

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# opinion

Column/Ronald E. Becker

## Writing requirement Phase II: Satisfaction not guaranteed

An editorial that appeared on March 3 in *The Tech* stated that MIT should "stand by its Institute Writing Requirement." I agree with the basic idea that MIT should do all that it can to improve the writing quality of its students but I don't agree that the current form of the requirement is the best way to achieve this goal.

The theory behind the implementation of MIT's writing requirement has serious faults. Requiring MIT students to write more will help them recognize and eliminate defects in their writing.

But the requirement *alone* isn't going to significantly improve the quality of any individual's writing. Most people would agree that the most significant benefit of the writing requirement is the incorporation of writing into departmental curricula.

The prevalent attitude at MIT seems to be that the requirement forces students to think about their writing ability, that it presents writing as a discipline that might otherwise be overlooked in the rush of problem sets and quizzes. What seems to be missed

is that Phase II places as much of a requirement on the faculty as it does on the students.

The teaching of writing can be very difficult. Grading 35 papers can take a significant amount of a faculty member's time.

Some faculty resist cooperative efforts with the Committee on the Writing Requirement because they may not want to give up class time to teach writing. Some faculty may simply not be (gasp!) qualified to teach writing and resent the intrusion of a writing professor into "their" classes. Some may not feel that the teaching of writing is an important part of their respective fields. In any case, too few classes involve a writing experience.

Because the requirement is an Institute requirement, departments feel that they can "pass the buck" to the administration. But because the requirement often involves technical writing in the student's field, only the department may be qualified to judge the merit of a particular piece. The fact that some departments have avoided dealing with the requirement only makes life difficult for students.

The delays that departments

have had in addressing the requirement have hit the senior class especially hard. It is exceedingly important that the Committee on the Writing Requirement look closely at the problems that have arisen this year and eliminate these problems in the future.

The administration and departments should have started a campaign last spring, when over 650 juniors (now seniors) had not yet finished the requirement. To avoid this situation next year, departments should now begin to publicize the options for satisfying the requirement for undergrads.

While all the rhetoric like "you knew about the requirement since the time you came here" is valid, some of the responsibility lies with the individual departments and with the MIT administration. After all, the departments have also known about the requirement for three years.

Most co-op courses came far too late to be a good way for seniors to satisfy Phase II. Even now, many departments have no cooperative writing program. Undergrads should realize that the initiation of co-op courses is primarily the responsibility of the departments. Department heads: if your department doesn't have a co-op class, you are making it much more difficult for your undergrads to finish the writing requirement. But, more importantly, you are failing to provide your students with a way to learn a valuable skill.

Procrastination (or "selective neglect") is a way of life for many students, staff, and faculty at MIT. In the case of Phase II, some faculty share this fault equally with their students. All faculty members should consider June 1, 1987, as their deadline for making sure that writing is given its proper place in the curriculum.

Ronald E. Becker '87 is a former chairman of The Tech.



## feedback

### Incident at Media Lab points to racism at MIT

To the Editor:

The enclosed letter was sent to all the members of a group I work with at the Media Laboratory:

*I hope this is a false alarm. This morning at about 6 am I saw a young black guy, perhaps 18-20 years old, who I had never seen before walking around the offices belonging to the Learning Group at the Media Lab. I was confused, since I didn't want to admit to myself I thought he was suspicious just because of his race and his dress.*

*He knew the code to the combination locks to the offices. I did not confront him because he seemed to be familiar with the place. The glass door to Prof. Seymour A. Papert's office was unlocked but I did not see him unlock it. I would feel terrible if he were a legitimate student. On the other hand, he looked like a stereotypical urchin. I decided a few minutes later to call the Campus Police, but I haven't heard anything about the matter since.*

*A year or so ago, in a similar situation, I noticed some white high school students on the fourth*

*floor who were far more conspicuously thieves. After I reported them they were arrested, and I was subpoenaed as a witness.*

*I don't know if I would feel worse if someone lost something valuable, or if I had confronted him due to a racial stereotype. At any rate, I really hope nothing bad happened.*

I am the suspicious young black guy the letter referred to, the "stereotypical urchin." I am 24 years old and have been working with the Media Lab for about a semester and a half now.

I have been a graduate student at MIT for almost two years. I am sending in this letter because I think it amounts to more than racial stereotyping. It is an example of the type of racial harassment that black students receive at MIT as well as all across the country.

The author of the message, a student, saw me that morning and immediately associated me in his mind with four thieves he had run into before. Yet I was doing

(Please turn to page 14)

## feedback

### Institute has right to set policy on X-rated films

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my agreement with the letter of Alan E. Maestri '88 ["Pornography policy is not censorship, March 6], criticizing Adam L. Dershowitz's claim that his constitutional right to free speech protected his showing of "Deep Throat." Maestri argued that because MIT is a private institution, the administration has the right to maintain and enforce a policy as it sees fit.

I would like to offer further examples of perfectly acceptable limitations of free speech on private property.

Only certain types of behavior are permitted in church. If someone spoke heresies, the church leaders would have the right to ask him to leave their property and would be able to use force (by calling the police) if necessary. Furthermore, if someone demanded that he could use the church property to show an X-rated movie, his request could and would be denied. The constitutional right to free speech was not written to apply to private property.

Your right to free speech is not being violated if someone refuses to let you use his audi-

torium, although it is unconstitutional for the government to interfere with an assembly on property you have permission to use. Some stores refuse to sell adult magazines, but it is their prerogative to sell what they wish on their property, just as your parents can forbid adult magazines in their house.

I cannot imagine anyone arguing that his right to free speech allows him to demand entry into someone's house and

access to his videocassette recorder and television. This is analogous, however, to Dershowitz's claim that he has the right to show what he wishes on MIT property, against MIT's policy.

I have no opinion as to what policy MIT should have on pornography. What I do believe, strongly, is that nobody should be able to tell MIT what it must permit on its property.

Ellen Spertus '90

### Students' views are important

To the Editor:

This is in reply to Maestri's letter. Though I agree with most of what was written, and it was written well, one point that kept me hanging was this: who or what is MIT?

There is something unnerving with the tone of the last sentence in the letter: "Within the bounds of restricting a student's reasonable expectations of privacy, MIT should have the right to maintain and enforce policies as it sees fit."

It is as if the "it" refers to something separated from the students. I think the "it" is in reality just us, perhaps some-

what buried under an administration and a corporation. And yes, we do have a say in what that administration and corporation, with which we contract, does to us and others.

I always thought, until recently, that MIT is supposed to be an educational institution. The main reason for its existence is to educate and teach excellence. It is in the school motto, it is evident in its history, and is seen in some of the people at the Institute today.

If MIT is thought of as a corporation (which it is), and if a corporation is an entity unto it-

(Please turn to page 14)

## The Tech

Volume 107, Number 11 Friday, March 13, 1987

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# opinion

## feedback

### Protest of ROTC is not harassment

To the Editor:  
In a March 10 letter ["Don't harass ROTC"], William Jonsson '88 implores the community to not harass members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. He alleges that ROTC members were abused during a recent demonstration in Lobby 7.

The sole evidence that Jonsson offers of harassment is the presence of a sign which called for "ROTC out of MIT." He asserts that there would have been an outcry had the sign instead called for the removal of blacks or gays from MIT. Jonsson then concludes that there is a pattern of dangerous and

### Demonstrators did not harass individual students in ROTC

To the Editor:  
After reading the letter by Jonsson, I was shocked at the incredible shallowness of its sentiment.

Jonsson displayed an utter lack of understanding of prejudice and harassment and attempted to prove a political point with a ridiculously irrelevant analogy.

Jonsson was upset because some protesters at a rally called for "civilian alternatives to ROTC on campus," not "ROTC out of MIT" as he claimed. He claims this constitutes a form of harassment, as though the protesters were some sort of hate group shouting "GAMIT out of MIT," to quote him. He perceives that this normally disallowed behavior is protected because of widespread student/faculty dislike of the military.

Besides the questionable basis of Jonsson's claim about student/faculty support, his argument fails simply on flawed logic. He confuses opposition to an organization (ROTC), with opposition to a group of individuals (ROTC students). The protesters showed no antipathy to ROTC students. In fact, they were trying to help those very

hypocritical intolerance. Jonsson confounds an important distinction when he equates membership in ROTC with being black or gay. Membership in ROTC is voluntary, being black or gay is not. It is legitimate to criticize a person who acts of free will. It is always absurd and often cruel to criticize a person who manifests an involuntary trait. Thus, it is consistent to call simultaneously for an end to ROTC while steadfastly defending the status of the oppressed peoples.

ROTC members ought to be confronted with the consequences of their choice. In joining the military, they relinquish their right to reach independent ethical decisions. In joining the military, they perpetuate an institution that subjugates peoples to totalitarian regimes and threatens the world with nuclear holocaust.

Confrontation of ROTC members need not and should not be harassment. If the decision to enter ROTC is one of free will, then the decision to leave ROTC presumably is subject to a similar act of free will. Given the existence of ROTC on campus, the strategy of peace activists ought to be to convince ROTC members of their error. If peace activists refused to engage ROTC members in dialogue, then they would be denying the ROTC members' ability to engage in moral reasoning.

Unfortunately, the decision to join ROTC is not always completely free. Some people are propelled into the military by financial hardship. Though propulsion does not equal compulsion, and poor people are not absolved of moral responsibility, peace activists must recognize such mitigating circumstances. This is one reason why a peace movement without a class analysis is incomplete.

It would be reactionary to harass individual members of ROTC. To do so would distract from the underlying issue. While ROTC members bear individual responsibility for their participation, ROTC itself cannot be understood simply as a voluntaristic institution. It is not a pluralistic group called forth by its members. ROTC is an integral part of a militarist system whose existence is explicable only in terms of statist and international levels. Demanding "ROTC out of MIT" speaks not to individuals or their right of voluntary association, but rather to systemic forces that pervade, yet extend far beyond, MIT.

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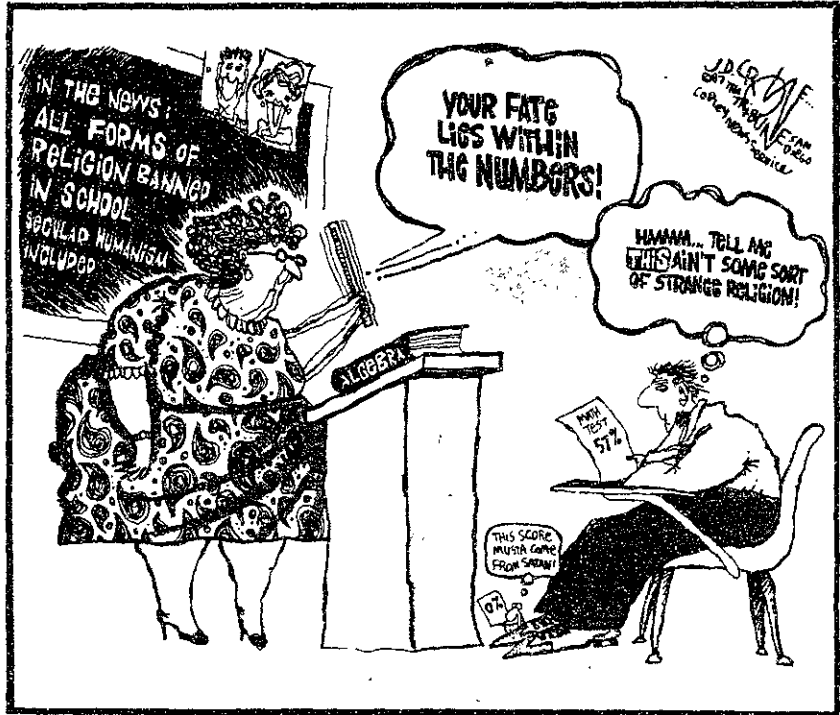
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Andrew Tauber G

Larry Kolodney '85



## feedback

### Protesters are singled out for their views, not their actions

To the Editor:  
We would like to respond to that champion of our educational interests, Frank Poirier '89. Poirier mentions ["Protesters infringe upon rights of others by disrupting education," March 10] an incident he must have found particularly disturbing.

On March 3, protesters (we among them) sang a song outside 10-250. Unless we remember incorrectly, loud cheering emanated from inside. As we finished our song and started to leave, two young men in Air Force ROTC sweatshirts ran out yelling, "Hey, there's a class going on here. Could you quiet down?" After a brief exchange of words, we went on our way.

While no one questions the two gentlemen's estimation of the facts — there was a class, and we were not quiet — we would question their and Poirier's estimation of the severity of the disturbance. Poirier claims we totally disrupted class with our "antics." For the sake of argument, suppose forty seconds of MIT education were irrevocably lost. How much were those forty seconds really worth?

Perhaps Poirier and the others feel we should reimburse them a portion of their tuition. We doubt, however, that this would satisfy them. Further, why would they single us out? Do they feel so educationally threatened by the Logarithms, or by MIT staff rolling noisy equipment carts? We surmise that what bothered them so much were the issues that motivated the protest.

Poirier also makes the vague observation that "freedom of speech does not imply any that this freedom can be exercised at any time." While we agree with his review of constitutional principles, his application of them to this situation is tenuous at best.

What factors govern the exercise of rights? Poirier says "when my education is interrupted only so they can communicate their point, their right to free speech must end." If Poirier feels violated by our actions, we hope he accepts our apology. Perhaps he would also consider accepting protests as an important part of the MIT larger education, not as an interruption.

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# opinion

## feedback

### Preferential admissions are unfair

To the Editor:

The letter of Eliot Marx '89 ["Women deserve equal numbers on campus," March 3] assumed that a woman reading the column of Arthur Hu '80 ["Women are favored in MIT admission policies," Feb. 27] would be offended and hurt by it. As an MIT female undergraduate, it was Marx's letter that shocked me.

Marx seemed to imply that it was fair to apply lower standards to women in the admissions process in order to give them a compensation for whatever is discriminatory in the process itself.

Fairness entails equal standards for all, and in the very near future this may not allow an even male/female ratio at MIT. Since girls in high school are less likely to take advanced math or science courses than boys, and girls' Scholastic Aptitude Test scores in mathematics are generally lower, equality may not be allowed.

The role of MIT is to provide higher education to competent and qualified people, not to offer remedial training. It is regrettable that MIT has not done so.

Of course, this gap in qualifications may be due to earlier bias in the educational system or to stereotypes existing in society at large. I have experienced such bias among teachers, advisors and even friends. An advisor in high school told me that it was unreasonable for

me to consider engineering or related fields, even though I excelled at mathematics.

Many friends, including women, have attempted to coax me into studying humanities, a field which is deemed to be more appropriate for girls.

But does such discrimination justify reverse discrimination? Women still have the choice to ignore such pressure and perform well academically. Isn't it just as unfair for MIT to admit women at lower standards as it is for society to hinder women who wish to pursue a career in engineering?

It would seem more unfair for MIT to admit women at

### Gap in SAT scores between men and women is meaningless

To the Editor:

Arthur Hu '80 in his column ["Women are favored in MIT's admission policy," Feb. 27], wonders "if the academic performance of women has been comparable to that of men, will women continue to do as well if they are given . . . academic allowances?"

He cited as evidence for these allowances the fact that the median Scholastic Aptitude Test mathematics score for this year's freshmen was 27 points below the median for their male counterparts.

Whether or not the Admissions Office is favoring women applicants these days, it is highly questionable whether a difference of this magnitude repre-

sents a loosening of academic standards. In its *ATP Guide for High Schools and Colleges*, the Educational Testing Service admits that the average Standard Error of the difference for the math section of the SAT is at least 47 points. According to the guide, "Score differences of less than 1.5 times the standard error of the difference have little significance. . . Only when scores differ by more than [that amount] can there be reasonable certainty that there is a genuine difference in the abilities being measured."

Further, in the book *None of the Above: Behind the Myth of Scholastic Aptitude*, author David Owen notes that "these fig-

(Please turn to page 14)

ures are meaningless. . . . One consequence of this is that men assume that an MIT woman is not so competent as one of her male fellow students. It is very unpleasant, but I cannot say, "I did as well as you in high school." The solution is for women to perform as well as men do now. The best type of treatment women could be offered is an equal one.

Muriel Medard '89



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Recommendations must be received by March 20, 1987.

# opinion

## feedback

### Arms buildups have been propelled by the American defense industry

To the Editor:

The letter by Edward Friedman '57 ["Institute benefits from Lincoln Labs," Feb. 4] is remarkable in the amount of self-delusion it reveals. Friedman's letter grossly distorts US history and reveals a thoroughly indoctrinated view of our society.

Three major US arms buildups occurred in the early 1950s, the early 1960s, and the early 1980s. John F. Kennedy's famous "missile gap" of the early 1960s consisted of a ratio of forces of ten to one in our favor: the USSR had a grand total of four operational Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, prompting Kennedy to order 1000 additional missiles.

More recently, Reagan's "window of vulnerability" supposedly enabled the USSR to knock out 90 percent of our ICBM's with only one-fifth to one-third of their missiles. This superiority would supposedly enable the USSR to take over the world without fear of US retaliation. Unfortunately, the "window" opened even wider in subsequent years as Reagan phased out old systems before new ones could take their place.

The supposedly inevitable USSR takeover is much in evidence as a tour through the radioactive remains of New York or Boston will show. Obviously, both arms buildups were based on fabricated evidence designed to frighten the public.

But if these buildups were militarily excessive, who or what brought them about? The answer lies in economics and the preservation of power by the business class in the US.

*Business Week* explained in 1949 that "military spending doesn't alter the structure of the economy. It goes through the regular channels. . . . But welfare and public works spending does alter the economy. It makes new channels of its own. It creates new institutions. It redistributes income." In other words, social, instead of military spending would alter the power structure of the economy and therefore the nation as a whole.

Such a change would be intolerable to those in positions of ownership and control, since it would result in a redistribution of power.

As the president of General Electric observed in 1944, this situation has created "a permanent war economy" in the United States: a system in which taxpayers subsidize high-technology waste industries producing high-technology waste products, such as rapidly obsolete weapons.

This system maintains the current power structure in the US and is the equivalent of theft. The only way the public will support such a system is if it is frightened into believing that it is necessary for survival.

Any serious economist can see that this "war economy" is inefficient. Future competitiveness and efficiency are hampered by state-guaranteed markets for big business.

Friedman's self-delusion is also evident when he turns to recent US and world history. His claim that "Americans never being very good at killing people, even during war" flies in the faces of the

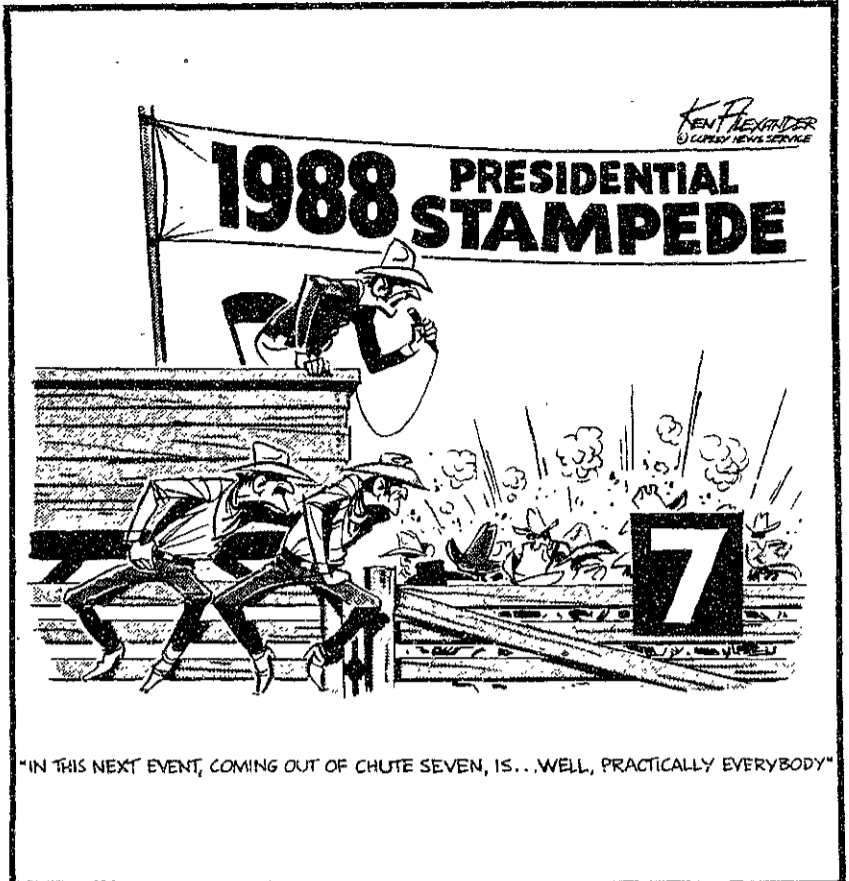
victims of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, of the four million people killed by US aggression in Indochina, of the 60,000 El Salvadorans tortured and murdered this decade by National Security Forces who are supplied, trained, and directed by the US.

His claim that "more people have died in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos under three years of Communist Peace than died there during 12 years of American war" is absurd even if we accept the CIA's inflated figures on the number of Cambodians killed by the Pol Pot regime. While Pol Pot's atrocities occurred Cambodia, Indonesia, with 90 percent of arms from the US, was invading the former Portuguese colony of East Timor. The invasion resulted in the deaths of 200,000 people — more than one-quarter of the population.

One can easily observe the indoctrination in the USSR and its Eastern European satellites, but brainwash is alive and well in the US as well. The notion that the US occupies some sort of special place among nations for its moral integrity and devotion to "democracy," is as old as the country itself and is directly contradicted by history.

The US behaves as every other empire has, although the consequences have sometimes been worse, given the modern methods of war. The moral standards that many Americans apply to the USSR and other "enemies" are exacting, and rightly so. I suggest we apply the same standards to ourselves.

Erik Mar '88



Congratulations to the participants attending the 1987 ACU-I (Association of College Unions International) Regional Tournament!

- Backgammon - 1st place Eric Shukan
- Chess - 2nd place Jim Mottonem
- Darts - 3rd place Bob Hunt
- Table Tennis - 2nd place Ramin Hojati

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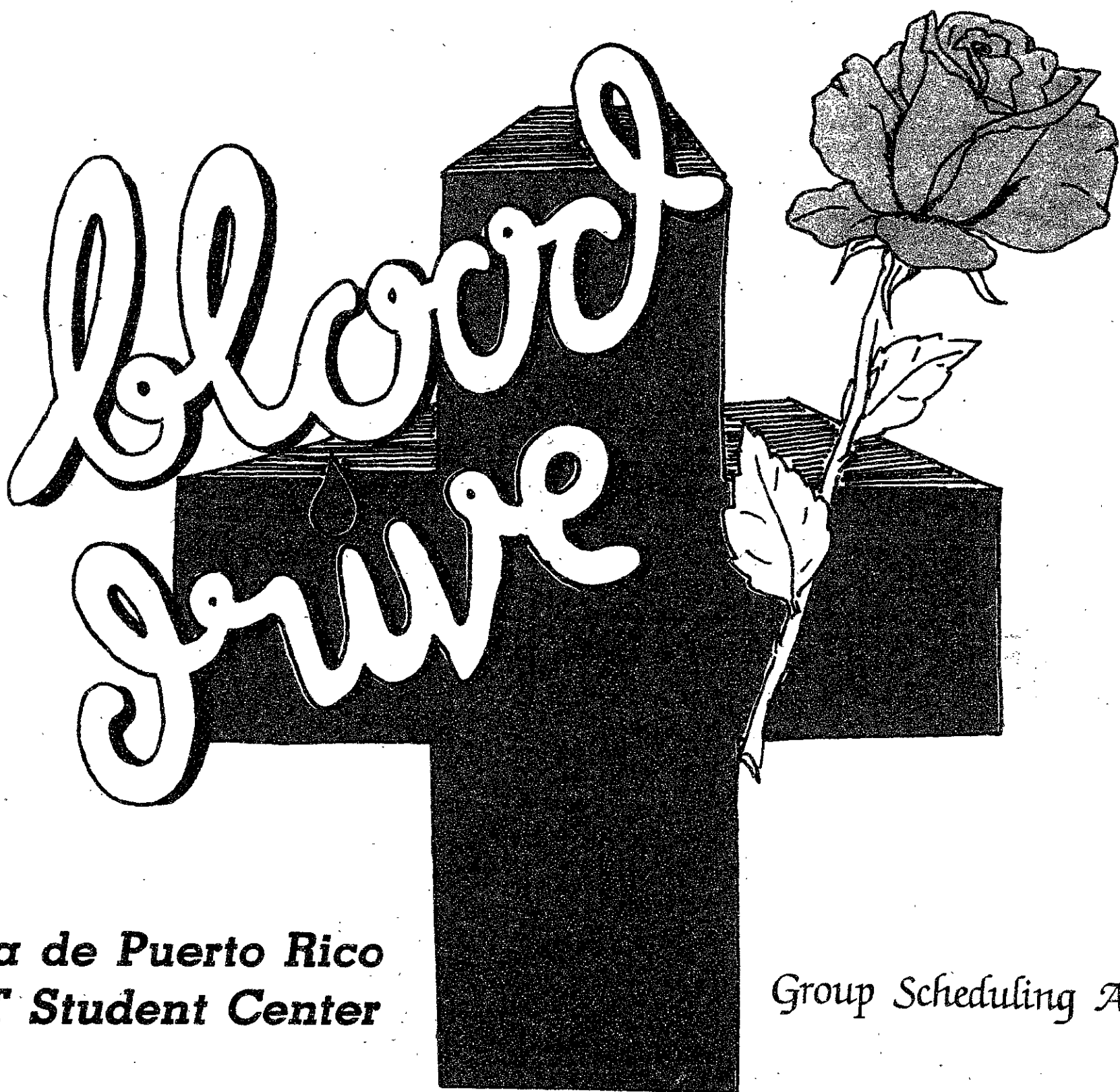
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## ARTS

## Shining performances highlight Dramashop one-acts

## STUDENT SCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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By BARBARA MASI  
and JULIAN WEST

**P**LENTY OF LAUGHS and a modicum of pathos are provided by Dramashop's weekend run of one-act plays. As we have come to expect from their student-written scripts, personal relationships are spotlighted. The twist last night, however, was that many of the characters were wrapped up in themselves, related to other people indirectly, or used their outside relationships to learn more about themselves.

A case in point was the most talked-about play of the evening, "The Mirror" by Kevin Cunningham '82.

Two characters, called simply He and She are alone on a bare, starkly lit stage. As they begin to speak, it sounds as though He is spouting poetry, snatches of Eliot or Whitman, while She is simply stoking the fires of his suffering. But, as becomes abundantly clear, He has no fires at all; he is a *soi-disant* mirror, reflecting her starlight.

At first, they did not seem to be human characters at all. But He and She are human, and if they talk differently from most of us, they interact in much the same way. Indeed, "The Mirror" was in essence a staging of the unstageable, the interaction which takes place between two people on a level which is not verbal and only barely physical. It is a glimpse of the spirit.

As He, Brian Linden '88 was a perfect mirror, a crippled physicalisation of a poetic, autistic soul. He forces himself into a space far smaller than he would normally inhabit, and does not leave it, except when drawn partway out of his shell by She.

She, by contrast, was a dazzling presence, energetically played by Deborah

Kuchnir '89. Kuchnir reacted to initial flattery with a naive sincerity, but She eats electric light, and soon develops a hunger which He could not satisfy. Her character was outgoing, extroverted but egocentric. Kuchnir shone well in her heliocentric universe.

At least, so things went under the expert direction of Julie Theriot '88. Kevin Cunningham '82 had bequeathed her a script which was open to more than one interpretation. Theriot found one which smacked of reality, piercing the gloom of a dark universe which was superficially unreal.

Theriot's directions to the lighting crew were perfectly realized, mirroring subtle mood shifts. The lights made Kuchnir a bright sun in orbit around Linden's reflective moon, grafting one more metaphor atop the raw characterization. In this case, the lighting did more than illuminate two stellar performances, it helped us truly to see the warmth of human relationships in a different light.

The play was cerebral, challenging, but ultimately — and this is a tribute to Theriot as well as the actors — accessible.

\* \* \* \*

The evening was not all such a tough slog. It started with a more familiar relationship, between two courting undergraduates, in the knock-down funny "The Tape" by Gregory Greeley '86.

Derek Clark '89 was Brad, an angst-ridden Romeo who had just broken up with Cindy, who wants to be "just friends." He is just friends with Marlene (played by Dramashop newcomer A.J. Babineau '90), his homework partner — or is he?

Marlene is a woman who, in proper Shakespearean style, is taking the initiative in wooing. She is secretly leaving taped messages for Brad — but her plan backfires when he decides that the tapes are from her friend Janice.

That this did not degenerate to the level of a soap opera is mostly a credit to Clark and Babineau, whose acting was natural



Deborah Kuchnir '89 and Brian Linden '88 sparkle in "The Mirror," an enigmatic play about astral relationships by Kevin Cunningham '82.

and spontaneous. They managed to play believably awkward students, without simply playing themselves. This extended beyond the casual dialogue to the action. In one scene, Clark rested his hand on Babineau's knee, they squirmed a little, and she pulled away, but none of the business seemed forced.

The use of telephones to introduce subsidiary characters was a nice touch. And, just when it was beginning to get tired, both Brad and Marlene picked up receivers at once and held simultaneous conversations. Barak Yedidia '89 takes credit for

the effective, straightforward direction.

Once again, the lighting department had a chance to shine. The niftiest effect had Clark stepping into his room from the corridor and reaching into the air to hit an imagined lightswitch. At once, the lighting shifted from hallway to interior, making the absence of a wall unimportant. This enabled Yedidia to have action take place on both sides of the door at once.

\* \* \* \*

The thoughtful, moving "Inner Voices," written by Patricia Zeitler '88 concerns let-  
(Please turn to page 10)

## Very bad taste, some good humor

## THE CHORALLARIES

In concert in 10-250 at midnight  
on Saturday, March 7.  
J-th Concert in Bad Taste.

By RON BECKER

**I**T WAS A WARM EVENING, but the packed 10-250 was warmer, a perfectly sweaty temperature for all sorts of bad taste.

People were sitting in the aisles 20 minutes before the midnight start. Around ten minutes to twelve some people that had been exhibiting their own bad taste by saving seats started to realize the futility of the act.

Something seemed different about 10-250. No one was falling asleep. There was a noise behind me and the next thing I knew, a rather large pair of woman's underwear fell in my lap. The show had begun.

This was perhaps the concert in worst taste that I have seen at MIT. That's not necessarily the same as the best concert in bad taste. The Chorallaries' funnier material tended to be that which was in less bad taste. Much of this show was devoted to the "gross out." While some of the gross jokes were funny, most were just gross.

The first song was their only satire of current political happening — IranScam. It was well done and reflected the confusion over the current state of affairs.

Next was a good-sex spoof on the *Jeopardy* game show. Although the topics were in very bad taste, the jokes were in worse taste (and quite funny, but unprintable). Placing the punchline before the joke provided most of the humor. The only disappointing part of this skit was the ending, which was somewhat lame.

The MIT Logarithms had one of their best interruptions in a few years — their song was upbeat, witty and rude. They also plugged their upcoming concert, which will be held tomorrow at 7:30.

Next on the Chorallaries hit list was Ivan Boesky and insider trading. The Chorallaries again produced an intelligent invention on a theme. The impact of putting the lyrics to "Big Spender" from *Sweet Charity* was powerfully funny. The

chorus stayed the same but the verses changed. "I don't sell my shares to every guy I see." was an especially memorable line.

The longest skit of the evening was titled "Sounds of Rudeness," a rude take-off on "The Sound of Music." This skit tended to drag in places, and, unfortunately, the whole thing seemed too contrived. High points of the skit were "Do, Re, Mi" changing to "Eat, Suck, Doo" and an interesting play on "Eideweis" which I won't print (this is a family paper).

A couple of unmemorable songs were followed by "One More Polyp Goes Away" to the tune of "One Tin Soldier." Intended as a hack on President Reagan's recent media medical problems, this one hit home.

One amusing non-musical sketch dealt with the effectiveness of various methods of birth control by inviting several people dressed as sperm to go after a centrally placed egg. The egg, sitting coyly on a chair, was relaxed as she deftly resisted the sperms' advances.

Returning to song, the Chorallaries felt obliged to sing the MIT alma mater, but in order to avoid the controversy surrounding the new words they used virtually no word that the MIT Administration would probably admit exists.

The closing number of the evening was the standard "Engineer's Drinking Song" with a number of the rarer (and better) verses. Having the Chorallaries alumni join in definitely improved the fullness of their sound.

But wait! There's more! Because of audience demand the Chorallaries came back for four (count 'em, four) encores.

The best of these — as backlash to the *Amerika* mini series — the Chorallaries sang the Mickey Mouse theme in Russian. The other interesting encore was "Hog Calling in Nebraska," which was just long enough to be funny, and allowed for audience participation in the hog calls.

All in all, the concert this year was good, but not as good as previous years have shown the Chorallaries to be capable of. Even those people that had to sit in the aisles (because the seats they wanted were already being saved for someone else) seemed to feel the evening was well-spent.



Kyle G. Peltonen/The Tech

Fred Boak '84 sings a truly revolting song to a packed audience at the Chorallaries' annual "Concert in Bad Taste" last Saturday.

## On the Town Updates

## Ongoing

Wellesley College Spring Theatre Festival continues with "Lady from the Sea," by Henrik Ibsen, at the Jewett Arts Center on Saturday, March 14 at 7 pm, & Sunday, March 15 at 2 pm and with "Play," by Samuel Beckett, at the Alumnae Hall Ballroom on Friday, March 13 at 8 pm, Saturday, March 14 at 10 pm, & Sunday, March 15 at 8:30 pm.

## Friday, March 13

The finals of SCC's Battle of the Bands will be held at 9 pm in the MIT Student Center's Lobdell Lounge.

\* \* \* \*

"Permanent Wave," about sexual harassment in the workplace, and "Sanda-kan 8," a Japanese feature film on forced prostitution, are presented at 7 pm in Room 2-190 as part of the Women's Studies Program's *Asian Women in Two Worlds*.

## Saturday, March 14

The Frank Chickens, a London-based new-wave music/performance duo who performed at the Brattle Theatre on Thursday and Friday, bring their unique show to the MIT Student Center's Lobdell Lounge at 9 pm as part the Women's Studies Program's *Asian Women in Two Worlds*.  
Compiled by Peter Dunn

## Dramashop features bright acting, sharp lights, and student scripts

(Continued from page 9)



A.J. Babineau '90 and Derek Clark '89 share a secret romance with a ghetto blaster in Dramashop's "The Tape" by Gregory Greeley '86.

### 'A funny thing' happened at the Colonial Theatre

**A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM**  
At the Colonial Theatre through March 22.

By JULIAN WEST

**T**HE REVIVAL OF THIS CLASSICAL Sondheim classic which is embarking on a ten-city tour takes no chances and so comes up, on balance, a winner. It promises "something for everyone" and delivers just enough to keep us all satisfied.

The plot is far too complicated to explain, but that hardly matters because it is just a vehicle for the songs, the most famous of which is "Comedy Tonight." The show, which Sondheim based on the comedies of Plautus, is something very like the nightmares of Latin students, with characters descriptively known as Hero, Senex, Domina, Hysterium, and so forth. There is even a Miles Gloriosus — that is his name, as well as the stock role of a brag-

gart soldier which he fills.

Headlining the cast, and drawing in most of the audience, is Mickey Rooney. Rooney plays the part of the slave Pseudolus, who is on a mission to gain manumission. He is still spry enough to handle the part of the mendacious but lovable slave, with some light footwork when he is called upon for a token dance. And he handles the comedy with a slapstick breadth which would have satisfied Plautus.

But when he starts to sing, it sounds more like the croaking chorus from "The Frogs" of Aristophanes. At least he is aware of this, and talks himself successfully through most of the numbers. Richard Burton managed for years to talk his way through "Camelot," but with the aid of a lilting Welsh voice, which will pass for singing. In Rooney's case, we would have been less forgiving if this were not a comedy.

His other annoying habit is that he cannot resist winking at the audience when-

(Please turn to page 12)

ting go. A young girl (Kim Fusaris '90) cannot accept that her father (Michael Malak '89) is dying. As the play begins, they are fixing an old rocking chair together. Like painting over the fact of his illness, they decide to paint the chair to cover the parts that can no longer be mended. With time, the father can no longer help. Though the girl continues to tell him about her work on the chair, the father has already let go. In scenes brought centerstage, the girl argues with herself. The voiceover of the girl's inner voice, played by Marie Coppola '90, is strong, yet gentle, urging the girl toward the truth. Fusaris and Malak's scenes together are marked by similar quiet sensitivity and control.

\* \* \* \*

Do you find the line between life and art, or at least television, to be ever thin-

ner? Do you find yourself in a funny situation and say to yourself that you feel like your living a situation comedy? Is everything you say or think a cliché? Do you uncontrollably fantasize about Star Trek?

Mike Barry took up these serious sociological and psychological issues in his wild, offbeat play, "The TV Room." Barry's Anyman characters, Dad, Wife, and son, Bobby, can not seem to detach themselves from their television.

Like any Dad, this Harvard MBA look-alike Dad (David Peoppel '89) comes home from work, throws his suit jacket into the refrigerator, grabs himself a beer, and sits on down in front of the TV without greeting his family. His Donna Reed look-alike wife, Wife (Ingrid Olsen W'87), floats in.

Their ensuing conversation is a flirtation scene from a bad B movie. Wife says, "Excuse me, sir, is this seat, taken?" Husband says, "Yes, but you're cuter." Peoppel and Olsen played the scene like plastic dolls, becoming human by whining and stamping if the other missed his cue.

But life can never be truly like television and neither can theatre. Barry's characters put their TV souls into living out their TV fantasies but the result is crazed and contorted.

The son, Bobby (Peter Parnassa '90), for whom Dad and Wife have "given up their lives," comes out of his Star Trek fantasy only when no one is looking. Otherwise, he sits hunched in a chair inches from the TV sucking in new fantasies. As he watches, his eyes bulge; he looks like he's about to rip his own skin off.

But, like TV, Dad and son, Bobby, have a great relationship. Dad loves Star Trek too. While they play out a Star Trek fantasy together, Bobby asks Dad, "How do you know when something's not like the real world?" Perhaps they could watch Barry's "The TV Room."



Pseudolus (Mickey Rooney) flirts with courtesan Gymnasia (Lesley Durnin) in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

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## ARTS

**"Lethal Weapon" says nothing about life, only death****LETHAL WEAPON**

Directed by Richard Donner.

Produced by Joel Silver.

Starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover and introducing Traci Wolfe.

At Cinema 57, the Circle Cinema, and the Somerville Theatre at Assembly Square.

By JULIAN WEST

MEL GIBSON'S LATEST VENTURE, soon to be raking in millions, is a tough-cop flick called "Lethal Weapon." Gibson plays the title character, a.k.a. Martin Riggs, a highly trained combat soldier and borderline psychotic who is now with the LAPD. Riggs teams up with an intelligent, stable career officer, Roger Murtaugh (played by Danny Glover) who is wisely distrustful of Riggs. Until, that is, Murtaugh's teenage daughter is kidnapped and they have to save her.

How much does one need to say about a film with 29 stunt people, and characters called "Drug Dealer #1" and "Girl in Shower #3"? I am going to say plenty.

It is one thing to be told that this is a "police action-thriller." It is another to watch the movie, and then hear director Richard Donner try to explain that the focus of "Lethal Weapon" is "action" and not "violence."

"Compare this to a violent movie," Donner offers, "and you will find just as many people are shot, just as much blood, but it is all implied and inferred."

Don't let him kid you. If you watch this movie, you will see blood. You will see people shot in the chest. Lots of them. You will see explosions. You will see scenes of electric-shock torture. You will see Mel Gibson hitting people with his forehead. Often. You will see a woman in her underwear chained to heating pipes and threatened with rape.

I call this violence. Donner calls it action.

The opening sequence, which is lavishly photographed, establishes where Donner and I differ. The credits play over a long nocturnal helicopter ride over Los Angeles. A nice establishing shot we think but then, without ever cutting, the camera zooms in on an apartment building, on the top floor, on a particular apartment, and through the window at a woman lying on a bed.

After this unpredictable camerawork, we really expect something interesting to happen. But what happens next is no surprise as the woman slowly wanders in a drugged state onto the balcony and plummets to the street below. We see her falling, languidly, toward the roof of a parked car. Suddenly the scene shifts to the inside of the car, and we see the roof buckle under her weight.

I call this violence. Donner calls it "implied and inferred."

I also found it gratuitous. The actress taking the semi-nude plunge to the street does not reappear in the flesh, so to speak, but is featured in segments from a number of pornographic videotapes which are played later in the film.

Which brings us to the treatment of women in "Lethal Weapon." There are three main female characters in the film. First there is Murtaugh's wife, a faithful stay-at-home who minds the kids and suffers her husband's awful jokes about her cooking. Second, there is the blonde of scene one, whose primary roles are to show some skin and to demonstrate how the bad guys get at the good guys through their daughters.

Finally there is Murtaugh's daughter, played by the talented and attractive Traci Wolfe. She seems to be an actress who could do a lot with a good part. However, this film only offers her the opportunity to play damsel in distress, run to Glover for protection, ogle Gibson more than a little, and jump up and down a lot.

Donner explains that in filming one scene he asked Wolfe what her character, who is seventeen, would do. She asked what he was going to do in the scene, and he said "Shoot the guys on either side of you." Wolfe decided that she would probably jump up and down and scream, so Donner let her go to it.

Well, that may be. But that is no reason why women cannot be written into some positive roles. So perhaps the fault is not with Donner but with first-time scriptwriter Shane Black.

To their credit, the production team did try to include women in positive minor roles, as producer Joel Silver is quick to point out. "Any minor role we had to fill, we considered, is there a chance to put a woman in there." Therefore, astute viewers will spot women in management positions,



Mel Gibson and Danny Glover as two LA cops in "Lethal Weapon." as cops in the field, and so on.

But too many women in key roles in business, crime or the police force would skew the peculiar perception of the US establishment espoused by "Lethal Weapon." We are meant to believe that a sort of Old Boys' network of Vietnam veterans is now running the whole show.

Silver denies that this means anything, stressing that "this is not a post-Vietnam film." Gibson himself points out that his character's mania and suicidal thoughts stem not from post-traumatic stress disorder, but from grief over his wife's death.

Nevertheless, two characters seem to greet each other in this world by asking each other what they did in the 'Nam. And all the underworld contacts can be traced back to a covert wartime operation smuggling heroin out of Laos. After that, it is a standard cops and robbers story, except that these days of course it is cops and pushers.

Both Gibson and Glover maintain they were attracted to the film by the opportu-

nity to develop the partners' characters and relationships. Glover, in particular, says that his character appealed to him as a family man. But there is much less character development than gunfire, and when it comes to the climactic scene, the family is neatly spirited out of the house so that the menfolk can go at it on the lawn.

Riggs, naturally enough, served in the same elite Vietnam regiment as Joshua (Gary Busey), the head thug. This probably explains why when they finally corner each other on a suburban lawn with a broken fire plug, they insist on mud wrestling for five or ten minutes. Murtaugh, meanwhile, holds the corps of gun-wielding police at bay, almost shouting at them "don't shoot, the audience payed \$5 to see some unnecessary fisticuffs."

Gibson will happily rattle on about how difficult that scene was to shoot, how it took five solid nights of filming in uncomfortable surroundings.

It is not the only wasted effort in "Lethal Weapon."

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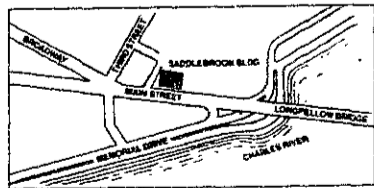
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## A storybook Met "Manon"

### MANON

An opera by Jules Massenet.  
At the Metropolitan Opera.  
Manuel Rosenthal, conductor.  
Catherine Malfitano, soprano.  
Gregory Kunde, tenor.  
Erich Parce, baritone.  
Remaining performances, March 13 & 16.

By JULIAN WEST

**N**EVER THE MOST BELIEVABLE OF operas, Massenet's "Manon" has been placed in an appropriate fairytale setting for the Met's new production. The sets attempt to reproduce eighteenth century Paris on such a grand scale that they wind up larger than life, providing a fitting setting for the large chorus, but tending to dwarf the characters.

Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, who was responsible for the entire production, has provided six enormous sets. It is equally impressive that all six fit backstage as it is that they can be changed between scenes. Perhaps the most astounding was the gambling-house, in which the second floor was sturdy enough to support half the chorus. All are remarkable in some way, although only the last, which provides a dismal setting for Manon's death, contributes to the production beyond setting a general mood.

The best are the courtyard of Act I, which seemingly reconstructs an entire French village down to plaster animals which litter the stage, and the towering grey seminary interior of Act II. Ponnelle did less well with the lovers' apartment, which explodes to ridiculous proportions, and with the carnival scene of Act II.

The jugglers and acrobats of the carnival are a nice touch, but the tightrope walker is just a distracting gimmick. My favorite element in the scene was two pairs of hands which cast shadow figures for our amusement: butterflies, rabbits, moose, and so forth. Admittedly they stopped moving about during the arias, but I found myself paying far too much

attention to the hands and not enough to the opera.

Presumably this is because people want to hear the arias, but nobody really listens to the French recitatives anyway. I found the text easy enough to understand on rare occasions — such as when des Grieux addresses the audience at the beginning of the final scene — but murky in others.

But nobody can fault the singing. Catherine Malfitano was an appealing Manon, shy enough to win our sympathy as well as that of des Grieux, but always sufficiently coquettish that we are ready to say "I told you so" when she begins to go bad.

Gregory Kunde had an auspicious Met debut as Manon's young lover, des Grieux. His small, unprepossessing voice was no handicap given his command of the material and fine French diction. He also very much looked the part of the dashing young courtier.

Kunde was lucky to be on stage at all, covering for Denes Gulyas, who had stepped in for the indisposed Neil Shicoff. One hopes that this did not contribute unduly to the deserted look of the orchestra and dress circle. But if that is the case, how will the Met fill 12 houses with "Manon" next year?

Malfitano and Kunde played together well, in duets such as "Et je sais votre nom. . ." and the final, tragic "Tu pleures!"

Also making his Met debut, after six seasons with the Seattle opera, was Erich Parce, singing the role of Manon's treacherous cousin Lescaut. He was at his best in the early going, with the amusing "Regardez-moi bien dans les yeux. . ."

An intriguing facet of the new production is the use of sung recitatives. The recitatives in "Manon" had always been spoken over music, until the discovery last year of new manuscripts in Massenet's own handwriting, in a piano score owned by his great-granddaughter.

That the sung recitatives did not stick out is an encouraging sign, as spoken ones certainly would have.



Act I, Scene I of Massenet's "Manon" at the Metropolitan Opera.

## Mickey Rooney plays the comic leader of a Latin class gone mad

(Continued from page 10)

ever he gets a chance to feel up Gymnasia. We were able to take this behavior from Zero Mostel in the film version, but from Rooney it makes the production numbers look like reruns of "The Benny Hill Show."

Of course, it doesn't help that the courtesans are dressed like Miss America refugees, with Gymnasia in particular looking like a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader with a whip. As for the other costumes, the slaves look like a pair of escaped convicts in their candystripes, and Miles seems to have put his armor on over his aerobics tights. The set is crafted at great expense to look like a shoddy high-school production.

The supporting cast is quite good, particularly Marsha Bagwell as the domineering wife Domina. Her voice is powerful, and she puts it to good use in the alternately pleading and scolding solo "That dirty old man."

As Marcus Lycus, a procurer so successful that he has eunuchs just to give him straightlines, Mitchell Greenberg is sufficiently amusing but insufficiently lugubrious.

Bob Walton is a suitably drippy Hero, but Jennifer Lee Andrews is perhaps a little too ditzy as his beloved Philia, if that is possible.

But the best performers on the stage, far and away, are the Proteans, a three-person chorus who, as their name suggests, undergo frequent costume changes to fill in all the walk-on parts. They are completely laughable as a trio of eunuchs, then seconds later appear as sailors or porters. Perhaps their best cameos are as foot soldiers for captain Miles. They extract more amusing business than you would have thought possible given a direction to walk on stage with a spear and salute.

Some of the sight gags are excellent — such as making Miles afraid of heights — but others are just silly. But what is really odd is that the delivery of many of the jokes is off. Some of the songs are on, such as the witty "Impossible," but much more could be made of, for instance "Everybody ought to have a maid."

As for the orchestration, there is too much brass and too much of the big band sound. Music Director Sherman Frank earned an appreciative round of applause after the jazzed-up overture, but I cannot say I enjoyed it very much.

I enjoyed what followed, though Sondheim deserves as much of the credit as anyone. If you are not familiar with the show, and want to hear some good songs, laugh a little, and see a completely standard production, this is the one to see.

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**James Galway**

Irish born flute virtuoso **James Galway** and Japanese guitarist **Kazuhito Yamashita**, will give a recital on Friday, March 20 in Symphony Hall at 8 pm, that will include works by Paganini, Rossini, and Dvorak. *MIT price: \$5.00*

**Maurizio Pollini**

Distinguished performer and conductor **Maurizio Pollini**, will give a recital of piano works by Chopin and Debussy on Sunday, March 22 at 3 pm in Symphony Hall. This is Pollini's first Boston appearance since 1985. *MIT price: \$5.00*

**Shauna Rolston**

Young Canadian cellist, **Shauna Rolston**, will give her Boston debut recital on Tuesday, March 24, at 8 pm in Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory. Rolston's performance includes works of Brahms, Debussy, and Caeser Franck. *Free to MIT students.*

**Chamber Orchestra of Europe**

The renowned **Chamber Orchestra of Europe**, Lorin Maazel conducting, will perform works of Mozart, Bizet, and Tschaikovsky in concert on Sunday, March 29 at 3 pm in Symphony Hall. *MIT price: \$5.00*

**Boston Premiere Ensemble**

On Friday, March 27, the **Boston Premiere Ensemble**, under Music Director F. John Adams, will present "Evening for Three Harpsichords" at 8 pm in Old South Church, Copley Square. *MIT price: \$5.00*

**Preservation Hall Jazz Band**

The inimitable **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** — a troupe of world-famous New Orleans musicians — will celebrate the tradition of New Orleans jazz in a single performance on Sunday, March 29, at 8 pm in Symphony Hall. *MIT price: \$5.00*

Tickets will be sold by the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center. If nobody is in, please leave your order and your phone number on the TCA answering machine at x3-4885. You will be called back as soon as possible.

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# opinion

## feedback

### Institute should not restrict students' freedom of speech

To the Editor:

I must object to the assumptions made in Maestri's letter, and clarify some of the points that were raised.

To assert that MIT, being privately owned, has the right to create and enforce any arbitrary set of rules is an over-simplification of a very complex issue.

MIT does not own 135 acres of land in Cambridge in the same way that a person owns his or her own home. MIT is an educational institution that is given extra privileges and assumes extra responsibilities in our society. Therefore, it must conform to a different set of standards than an ordinary property holder.

MIT's tax-exempt status as an institution of higher learning constitutes an agreement with the Commonwealth to uphold certain basic civil rights, including the right to free expression. Part of MIT's educational mandate is to be responsive to its students and to its faculty. These are not new ideas and are already addressed, as Prof. Alan Dershowitz argued, in the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act ["Professor defends nephew's actions," Feb. 20].

In a similar issue last year, State Superior Judge Haskell Freedman ruled that students at privately owned Boston University were protected by the state's Civil Rights Act in their ex-

ercise of free speech on campus. BU had begun to impose a number of disciplinary actions against students who hung political signs from their dormitory windows. To the extent that the cases are similar, MIT is bound by the same set of rules.

Thus, a person's right to limit civil liberties in his or her own home is essentially irrelevant to whether MIT may limit civil liberties on its campus. Arguments that are based on a simplistic view of property rights should be reconsidered in light of the complex role MIT plays as an educational institution in this society.

Adam R. Grossman '87

### Students have right to affect MIT

(Continued from page 4)

self (it can make a profit, must file taxes, has liabilities), then MIT might be viewed as unselfish and benign. Its purpose might be seen as the well-being of students and the quality of education.

To be sure, the Institute was established for professors as well, for they are that half of the MIT community which is supposed to teach. However, the MIT corporation is supposed to be "student-oriented."

It is partly from this fundamental principle of the corpora-

tion that students have a "right" to have some say in how things are done, what is censored, and what policies are set. This is within the founding ideals and guidelines of MIT, as with most educational institutions in general. Students have a right to attempt to change the pornography policy.

Another source of this "right" is \$12,500 in exchange for an education. Maybe a few people would call it campus rental fees. While you are here paying fees, you get free access to MIT facilities, professors, and research. A student can be

considered one of several thousand renters who share the same facilities.

MIT does not really have the right "to maintain and enforce policies as it sees fit." This is because MIT is responsible to students not only out of principle but also because of the tuition it accepts from each student.

I am not saying that everyone should become an activist, assume responsibility for these rights, and protest activities that MIT is engaged in. But students do have rights.

David S. Currier G



## feedback

### The recognition of racism is an important first step

(Continued from page 4)

nothing to warrant that suspicion. I knew my way around, and opened the combination locks known only to staff and students at the lab.

I was not acting conspicuously, as were the four white high-school age thieves he had seen previously, and the age group that he placed me in would have made me old enough to be a college student.

So why didn't he assume I was a college student like him? Why didn't he just ask me who I was if I was curious, instead of treating me like a criminal and calling the Campus Police to question me? The police, incidentally, spent 15 minutes drilling me and checking up on me even after I had shown them my MIT identification.

The fact is that racism continues to perpetuate a climate of mistrust and misunderstanding, which makes it very difficult for me to feel comfortable at MIT,

and which causes others to question whether I even belong here. This can be especially devastating since MIT students need to be confident in who they are and why they are here. Biases based on race, sex, nationality, and class background are at the root of many problems that MIT students and disadvantaged people throughout America face.

Knowing this does not make those problems go away, but at least it can be a starting point for addressing them. This is why I feel that the Minority Student Issues Group's "Racial Climate on the MIT Campus" report is vital to the community. Like the report on sexism at MIT issued a few years ago, it should be supported and put to use in addressing an issue that is all too real to belittle or ignore. Racism does exist and it is a profoundly painful and damaging experience.

Alan Shaw G

### Gap in scores is meaningless

(Continued from page 6)

ures are derived from the average standard error of measurement. For higher scoring students... the margin of error is larger still."

What does all this statistical mumbo-jumbo mean? It means that if we allow that SAT scores are a suitable predictor of academic performance in a college environment, then until there is an SAT math score difference of over 70 points, it just doesn't make any sense to be concerned about differences in the median scores for men and women at MIT.

Discussion of this score difference as if it means anything will only lower the self-confidence of the qualified women who are already here, and provide fuel for the arguments of those in the MIT community who still harbor sexist beliefs.

Steve Barber '84

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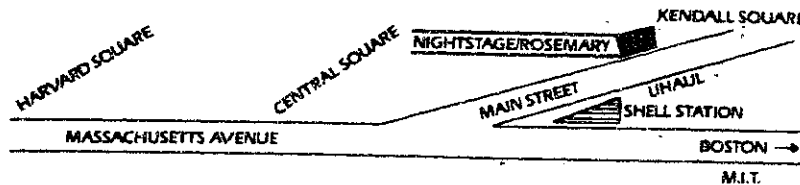
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# sports

## Women's hockey takes a beating, 9-1

By Peter Dunn

The MIT women's hockey team tried to chew more than it could swallow last Tuesday when it played against the Brookline Randolph club team in the last official game of the season. The team from the senior women's A-division of the South Shore league overwhelmed the Engineers by a score of 9-1 before a large crowd at the New Athletic Center.

### First period

The first period began as a standoff. The larger Brookline players skated faster and stick-handled better, but the MIT team passed much better. Neither team gained the upper hand during the first four minutes of play as both MIT and Brookline moved up the ice effectively. Then, a short burst of four goals in less than one minute buried the Engineers for good.

At the 3:30 mark, a pass from the left corner of the MIT zone to the slot deflected off somebody's skate and found its way into the MIT net. The score was 1-0.

Just 35 seconds later, MIT goalie Kelley Grant '86 found herself screened by players tussling just outside her crease, and a slapshot from the right point beat her high to the glove side. The score was 2-0.

A mere 10 seconds later, Grant stopped a wicked shot from the right face-off spot, but the puck rebounded to the front of the net and was popped in by another Brookline forward. The score was 3-0.

Another 10 seconds later, good give and go between Maria Bozzuto '73 and Cathy Biber G up the right wing resulted in Bozzuto going straight up the center unhindered, allowing her to put a

low shot past the Brookline goaltender. The score was 3-1.

The remainder of the period saw little action other than sparkling saves by Grant to keep the Engineers in the money. The MIT defense remained tight, blocking shots at the point and intercepting passes, but these turnovers often seemed fruitless as the Engineers could not move up the ice fast enough to beat the speedier Brookline players. Another goal at the 8:31 mark on a drop pass from a Brookline forward streaking up the slot brought the final score for the period to 4-1.

### Second period

The MIT defense was not as effective during the beginning minutes of the second period as the Engineers failed to clear the slot and gave Brookline too many scoring opportunities. Despite this, the Engineers kept Brookline scoreless during the first half of the period.

On offense, the MIT players were more effective as they skated towards the puck and passed well, often creating three-on-two opportunities. However, Brookline's forechecking in the neutral zone and at their own blue line kept the Engineers from being able to finish their plays.

The other problem slowing the MIT offense was that they were forced to dump the puck into the Brookline zone too often in order to be able to change on the fly. Several good three-on-two and two-on-one chances were lost in this manner.

MIT held Brookline to only two goals for the period but could not trim the lead with any goals of their own, despite several scoring opportunities. The first Brookline goal came just past the half way mark as a low, slow

slapshot from the blue line dribbled its way underneath the MIT goaltender.

The second Brookline goal came after Grant had dropped to her knees to stop the initial shot

from the slot and the rebound was lifted over her. The Brookline lead had been extended to 6-1 by the end of the second period.

### Third period

The MIT players skated harder and faster during the third period, at times creating breakaways. (Please turn to page 15)



Goalie Kelley Grant '86 deflects one of many shots in Tuesday's game against Brookline Randolph. MIT lost, 9-1. Salma I. Saeed

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