Two dorms get new housemasters

By Niraj S. Desai

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs assigned new housemasters to two dormitories that have traditionally had difficulty attracting freshmen. Professor James T. Higginbotham and his wife, Nancy L. Roberts, will live at Senior House, while Professor William H. Osrne-Johnson and his wife, Carol, will be at Bedsey Hall.

Senior House residents "pride themselves on being distinctive," Higginbotham noted. He saw this as being an asset, saying he has been impressed by his students in the past. But he believed house residents had taken steps to improve this year's rush.

At the same time, Higginbotham acknowledged that Senior House had had problems recruiting residents in the past. But he believed house residents had taken steps to improve the year's rush.

As an example, he noted that rush events that might still be an issue, Higginbotham explained. While Hofstra University, it's been made

State enacts retroactive tax on RA's, fellowships

By Niraj S. Desai

Graduate students received bad financial news on two fronts recently. Massachusetts residents imposed a tax on stipends for research assistants and fellows; and the Internal Revenue Service did not notify some students in time that they were eligible for refunds.

The new tax has caused problems for the 600 or so students who are the research assistants who are Massachusetts residents. The tax also affects the Internal Revenue Service, which did not notify some students in time that they were eligible for refunds.

For the most part, the coverage has focused on the humorous side, with a lack of substance to back up the articles. What they all missed was the fact that the history of football as MIT is not nearly as simple as they portray.

In the 1880s, MIT was one of the nation's major intercollegiate powers. Playing the then-top schools such as Harvard, Dartmouth, the "Three" and Brown, MIT's "Techmen" were champions of the Northeastern Intercollegiate Football Association in 1887 and 1888.

In 1900, Henry S. Pritchett was appointed president of MIT. Pritchett disliked football, an understood opinion in a time when serious injuries and deaths were not uncommon. Despite this, the '00 football season began on a positive note, when Pritchett visited a football practice and praised the team for their "clean play." The team had an up-and-down season, losing only one of its first six games but finishing what would be their last full season with a 4-3-2 record.

The MIT football team is now a NCAA Division III squad. They were previously a club sport.

The following year, tragedy struck MIT at the annual Canc (Please turn to page 17)
Senior House, Bexley get housemasters

(Continued from page 1)
the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy for several years. He is also a member of the MIT Press editorial board.

Robert is assistant to the judicial manager at the MIT Press. He is a member of the MIT Press editorial board.

ODSA has tried to find someone to handle fraternity affairs on a part-time basis.

ODSA hired Virginia Sorenson, '67, AIFC chairman, was unsure of the position because it sounded interesting and was attractive in terms of compensation and housing.

Dorow assumes ILG advisor position

(Continued from page 1)

Dorow also believed that ILG advisors have to "recognize the diversity" of the student body at MIT. He thought they were moving in that direction.

Dorow maintained that involvement in fraternities and athletics was on the upswing nationwide.

Long delay in finding new ILG advisor

When Dorow's predecessor, Mark E. Ertel, left in July, 1987, the ODSA had no immediate replacement. Last spring, the ODSA hired Virginia Sorensen and Steven P. Margossian, '88 to handle fraternity affairs on a part-time basis.

Some representatives of the Interfraternity Conference and the Alumni-IFC expressed concern at the time that the absence of a fraternity advisor was hurting the ILG system. Without these services, they said, the ILG system was disorganized.

ODSA has tried to find someone to handle fraternity affairs on a part-time basis. When Dorow's predecessor, Mark E. Ertel, left in July, 1987, the ODSA had no immediate replacement. Last spring, the ODSA hired Virginia Sorensen and Steven P. Margossian, '88 to handle fraternity affairs on a part-time basis.

Representatives of the ODSA, however, said the delay was mostly due to the timing of Ertel's departure. "The best time to advertise for a position like ILG advisor is in the spring," Andrew M. Eisenmann '75, who was then the advisor, said at the time. Dorow also assumed his position two weeks ago, said he had seen nothing that would cause him to doubt MIT's commitment to the fraternity system.

Graduate students receive bad financial news from state, IRS

(Continued from page 1)
IRS had not given them sufficient notification. Many students found out they could receive refunds on their 1984 taxes only after the deadline had passed. "I'm concerned that there was not a good-faith effort on the part of the IRS to inform employers so we in turn could provide information to the students," a UCLA official said in the Chronicle.

Many students and graduate schools had believed in 1984-85 that the stipend money was not taxable. Therefore, the schools did not withhold the taxes, and the students did not pay them. Even though some IRS offices around the country had begun to audit back taxes from these students — demanding back taxes from them — these students are now eligible for refunds.

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World

Fire breaks out at Soviet nuclear plant

The Soviet news agency Tass reported that fire broke out early yesterday at a Lithuanian nuclear power plant. No radiation leak was reported, according to the report; no injuries were sustained by either plant employees or the public.

Gavdshaf forges better relations with United States

Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi said he expects relations with Washington to improve under the new administration. In an interview, Gadhafi said he would like to visit the United States. Gadhafi said Americans who believe President Reagan's charge that he sponsors terrorism are "very simple people, ignorant people."

US military sources say the US forces in the Persian Gulf region for possibly another five days. The craters were reportedly hit by wayside bombs, but sources say at least one Arab government raised last-mi-

Labor Day spotlight on minimum wage

Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin took the offensive yesterday against an across-the-board increase in the mini-

President Bush is expected to reduce the minimum wage to $3.35 an hour by 1991. House legis-

Burmesse studenten threaten to continue protests

Students in Burma are threatening mass protests and further strikes unless the central government is forced to supervise multi-party elections. The Students' Ar-

Yellowstone fire rages on

About 75 fires have raged on as far away as Nebraska have been called in to help protect buildings threatened by for-

Eastern Airlines to fire 4000

Eastern Airlines is preparing to go ahead with plans to fire 4000 employees. The airline called a meeting of 12,000 employees, 5000 of whom said 9000 have burned in the park.

Sports

Giants win battle of Super Bowl champs


Column/Andrew L. Fish

Mediocrity at core of Quayle flap

Due Quayle and Douglas Ginsburg had a lot in common. Both were relatively unknown conser-

vatives who were nominated to serve at the head of a branch of the US government. Both were accused relatively innova-
tive inroads far in the past by a senator and young law professor. His nomination was quickly withdrawn.

Quayle, who achieved a very slender legislative record during his 12 years in Congress, his surprise selec-
tion as the Republican vice-presiden-
tial nominee brought a flood of bad press. Focusing on everything from Paula Parkison to Stopko serving as navy in Vietnam by serving in the National Guard.

In both of these cases, the con-


troversial issues were "...actions taken long ago that would most likely have no impact on the candidate's job perfor-
mance while in office. But they do because driving concerns only come there were no real records to examine. Faced with the job of understanding men with few sub-


tative accomplishings, these little issues became massive problems.

One would find it hard to be-

lieve that Robert Bos's nomina-
tion to the Supreme Court would have been foiled by revelations about pot, or that Lloyd Bentsen's qualifications would have been tainted had he not served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Both men had es-


tablished extensive records which could be analyzed and judged by the public.

But the same was not true of Quayle and Ginsburg. Ginsburg had very little experience in Con-

stitutional law, yet he was select-
ed to the Supreme Court. Quayle was a lightweight senator of ap-

parently limited influence (he scored 19 points below average on the National Guard qualifying exam and had a checkered col-

lege career), yet he was nominat-
ed to serve a heartbeat away from the presidency. Without real ac-

complishments, silly issues are driven to the forefront.

Baby-boomers can breathe a sigh of relief, if they are qualified, pot smoking or National Guard duty should not hurt their chances of holding high office. But the Ginsburg and Quayle flaps should serve as a lesson that when mediocre men are selected to hold important positions small indications can become political nightmares.

Andrew L. Fish, a senior in the Department of Chemistry and Physical Science, is editor in chief of The Tech.
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THE RIGHT CHOICE.
A Week of RUSH
Too much romantic mush Betrays Costa-Gavras’ attack on racism

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

T is abundantly clear that films with only one or two non-white actors, each playing minor roles, must meet particularly stringent criteria before they can be called a major statement against racism and racial violence. Of the two films this past summer that have undertaken this task, Chris Menges’ Of the Two and Costa-Gavras’ Betrayed (both of which miss their intended marks), Menges’ film has a predictable answer, but one the audience won’t care about: the acting isn’t convincing enough to make the relationship believable. It is a measure of just how poorly written the script is, because a romantic couple whose secret lives feel “plot” elements which eventually emerge from the romantic mishmash are that Phillips is really undercover FBI agent Cathy Weaver and that Gary doubles in the leader of the racist hate group.

Costa-Gavras attempts to show how the comfortable veneer of Norman Rockwell landscapes can conceal ugly and brutal truths, but because he spends so much screentime focusing on Cathy’s and Gary’s romance, he reduces his potentially explosive political message to vacuolated and simplistic moralizing. Taken together, the romance scenes crowd out any serious examination of racial issues, and consequently any questions of racism quickly take a back seat to the relatively pedestrian concerns of their relationship.

From his track record as a political filmmaker, it is clear that Costa-Gavras wants to reach out to Americans who would otherwise be exposed to little if any discussion of racism. While it is true that some attention is better than none, the danger of Betrayed is that viewers who have thought little about racism could conclude that the major problems facing racial minorities are confined to these hate groups — when in reality the problems are endemic throughout American society. Because Betrayed embodies racial hatred primarily within these extremist groups, the film conveys the ludicrously simplistic message that by ridding the country of these groups racism will be eliminated. Furthermore, racist hate groups are such easy targets for criticism that any hit contribute only to an empty victory.

The film could have had much of this criticism if only it had been better made, but it wasn’t. The question of whether Cathy will follow heart or duty has a predictable answer, but one the audience won’t care about: the acting isn’t convincing enough to make the relationship believable. It is a measure of just how poorly written the script is, because a romantic couple whose secret lives

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Move recalls years of intercollegiate football

(Continued from page 1)

Rush. This athletic competition between the freshman and sophomore classes was one of three events comprising the Field Day competitions which determined whether freshmen were to be allowed to carry canes on campus.

In the Cane Rush, the freshman class was given possession of a cane, and it was the responsibility of the sophomore class to charge at them and wrest possession of the cane away. Whoever class had the most pairs of hands on the cane at the end of the competition was declared the winner.

Hugh C. Moore '04, a member of the freshman team, "wrapped himself bodily around his end of the cane* to prepare for the sophomore charge. He was buried in the pile, and when the dust cleared, the sophomores were victorious in the pile, and when the dust settled, the sophomore class had the most pairs of hands on the cane, and it was the responsibility of the sophomore class to charge at them and wrest possession of the cane away. Whether class had the most pairs of hands on the cane at the end of the competition was declared the winner.

Hugh C. Moore '04, a member of the freshman team, "wrapped himself bodily around his end of the cane" to prepare for the sophomore charge. He was buried in the pile, and when the dust cleared, the sophomores were victorious by a score of 19 hands to 11 and Moore suffered a broken neck, and later died.

The following year (1901, not 1900 as reported by the News Office), at a meeting of the student body attended by 500, Pritchett proposed an end to the Cane Rush tradition. Later at that meeting, after about half of the attendants left because they thought it was over, the chairman proposed that intercollegiate football also be discontinued due to a lack of practice time. The remaining students voted 119-117 in favor of disbandment (near 115-113, as reported in The New York Times).

On that same day, October 9, 1901, MIT lost its first and only game of the season to Holy Cross, 15-0. The team was abolished immediately afterwards, with an outstanding debt of $190, a considerable sum for those days.

"There may be some difference of opinion respecting their vote to give up football ... with respect to that sport the reasons that seem to justify the step and the moral courage required in taking it will be conceded by all reflecting persons," editorialized the Boston Transcript, then the most respected newspaper in the city.

"In some institutions, a record in intercollegiate football or other athletics appears necessary to attract students, but it is not necessary at Tech," they added. The Boston Herald was less singlum about the move. "Now that football has been abolished, we wonder how MIT will get along without that department."

For nearly 40 years, football at MIT was restricted to intramural competitions between the freshman and sophomore classes; both classes continued the tradition of practicing against neighboring high schools (and not always winning).

In 1940 and 1941, a combined junior-senior football team (called "non-varsity" by the Athletic Board) played several intercollegiate games, compiling a record of 1-5-1 over the two seasons. Due to a lack of interest, lack of success, and a lack of manpower caused by the onset of World War II, the attempts to reestablish competitive football died quietly.

Twenty-four years later, clamor from fraternities resulted in a survey of the student body which indicated a desire for some sort of organized intercollegiate football. But after a year's study, the Athletic Board voted in 1964 against football at MIT.

Finally, in 1978, a club football team developed from participants in "X" league intramural competition. In April of that year, a gift from the New York Yankees' owner George Steinbrenner made MIT's new athletic stadium possible. The stadium was christened in honor of George's father, Henry G. Steinbrenner '27, the only MIT trackman at that time to have won a national championship in his event. Steinbrenner thanked the city of Boston, citing the Red Sox's loss in a playoff that year to the Yankees as the source of the funding for the new track.

After a thirty-five year hiatus, MIT's third attempt at intercollegiate football took the field at Fitchburg State. Although MIT lost that game 27-12, they soon became one of the better teams in the National Collegiate Football Association. In 1981, the Engineers defeated the Roger Williams Hawks 16-9 in season finale to qualify for the NCAA playoffs. MIT faced Worcester State in the first round that year, and took a 16-3 lead at the half before losing to the eventual champions, 23-16.

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