By Darrel Tarasewicz

The MIT budget is being set for the coming year, and reveals activities that will include the allocation of more funds to the student body. The Student Activities Committee is conducting a survey to determine the amount of funds needed to support the activities of the student body. The survey will be conducted by the Student Activities Committee. The results of the survey will be used to determine the amount of funds needed to support the activities of the student body. The survey will be conducted by the Student Activities Committee. The results of the survey will be used to determine the amount of funds needed to support the activities of the student body.
UA will sponsor ethics colloquium

This colloquium is organized around the MIT Colloquium Committee, which has the broad goal of including all the living groups to try to be inclusive as much of the community as possible. This colloquium is “driven largely by student energies,” a distinct change from the past, Merritt said.

Cambridge may have broken EPA parking rule

MIT does operate two commercial parking lots — at the corner of Massachusetts Ave. and Vassar St. and at the corner of Ames St. and Main St., Milne said.

The Institute Colloquium program began three years ago as the brainchild of former Professor Frank Morgan ’74. Five different colloquia were held, covering such topics as South Africa and apartheid, AIDS, Japanese and American economic competition, and image making.

The Tech News Hotline: 253-1541
Kidnappers threaten US hostages

Once again, kidnappers threatened the safety of American hostages in Lebanon. The latest warning came in a typewritten statement accompanied by a photo of American hostage Joseph Cicippio, from a group that also claims to be holding American Edward Tracy. The kidnappers expressed unhappiness with a French proposal to send UN troops to police Lebanon's stalled presidential elections, saying they would use all their cards, including the safety of the hostages, to fight the plan.

Chile celebrates Pinochet's defeat

Thousands of Chileans are celebrating Wednesday's bout-box victory over General Augusto Pinochet. Jubilant Santiago residents tossed confetti, marched in the streets, and shouted, "He has fallen!" Wednesday's crushing re-election defeat of Pinochet marked the safety of the hostages, to fight the plan.

Johnson steroid controversy continues

There is another development in the Ben Johnson Olympic drug scandal. A company that sells the drug Stanozolol, which is the steroid found in Johnson's system after the 100 meters, said it sold some of it to Johnson's doctor, George Astaphan. A spokesman for Sterling Research says company officials have found a record of the sale. The doctor has denied giving Johnson the drug.

Polls show Bentenst defeated Quayle

A US official said the Senate Department team briefing freed Indian hostage Mithileshwar Singh in West Germany is getting a lot of "raw information" that could be helpful in learning about the other hostages in Lebanon. Singh reportedly has told the team that he and the three other Americans were frequently moved by their abductors to thwart efforts to locate them.

Freed hostage gives information

The Defense Department said it is cutting the cost estimate for the first phase of President Reagan's proposed space-based defense system, "Star Wars." As the image was dropped from $112 billion to $69 billion. And it said the first stage of the missile defense system could be available in a decade. However, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn says the cost figure should be regarded skeptically. He says such estimates typically fail during the planning stages but rise when production begins.

VA on track to Cabinet-level position

The Veterans Administration has moved a step closer to becoming a Cabinet-level agency. The House yesterday easily approved a bill transferring the VA into the government's fourteenth Cabinet department. Next stop is the Senate, where passage is also considered likely. President Reagan supports the bill too.

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy and a bit milder. Winds northwest 10 mph. High around 53°F. Lower 30s.

Saturday: Variably cloudy with scattered light rain or mixed rain and snow showers along the coast. The winds will become northeasterly along coastal sections, allowing Atlantic moisture to move onshore. Light precipitation will break out in coastal sections. Evidence of some rain showers or mixed rain and snow showers. After the low passes our area, clearing and milder weather is anticipated through early next week.

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Prabhut Malha

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I was surprised to see David S. Lee, one of my favorite teaching assistants, appear for his appointment on my schedule. It was the beginning of a new term, and I had initially planned to start my new job at MIT. However, he asked about my recent work and mentioned that he was working on a high-tech project. David is known for his enthusiasm and dedication to his work.

"I've been working on a new project at MIT," he said. "It involves the latest advancements in artificial intelligence and robotics. It's really exciting." I was impressed by his passion and commitment to his work.

The conversation continued for a while, and we discussed various topics related to our work and interests. It was a pleasant and informative conversation.

The session ended with David expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with me and sharing his positive experience. I appreciated his professionalism and enthusiasm. Overall, it was a productive and enjoyable meeting.
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On Campus Interviews

Wednesday, October 12

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October 17, 1988
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COVERUP BEHIND THE IRAN CONTRA AFFAIR
Directed by Barbara Trent.
Written by Eve Goldberg.
Narrated by Elizabeth Montgomery.
Opens today at the Coolidge Corner.

BY MANAYENDRA K. THAKUR

The longstanding and bellicose practice of appealing to the lowest common denominator in order to reach a broad audience has come full circle with this film. Instead of diluting or watering down the film's content, Director/Producer Barbara Trent and Producers Gary Meyer and David Kalper have done exactly the opposite: they eagerly tackle as unusually large number of issues. This might seem at first glance to be a positive effort to convey their political convictions at a time when most filmmakers flee from controversial or volatile topics.

However, the film's vast scope crowds out any serious analysis or in-depth discussion of individual issues, and that robs the film of much of its potential impact— which is precisely what would have happened had the filmmakers reduced the film's content to soggy mush. As a result, Coverup: Behind the Iran Contra Affair erects unnecessary barriers that the audience has to overcome before the film can make its points.

The title would seem to suggest that the film examines how effective and comprehensive last year's Congressional investigation into the Iran Contra scandal was. In fact, the film also includes claims about a confession of former intelligence officials who warn “war around the world for their personal profit,” the CIA's involvement with drug traffickers, covert operations designed to overthrow governments, nuclear cutoffs and assassinations, a secret deal between the Reagan/Bush campaign and Khomeini, Oliver North's plans to suspend the Constitution during a crisis. This one simple clip easily makes the most compelling point in the entire film.

Needless to say, each one of these topics could easily fill volumes. (The report of the Iran-Contra Committee alone was over 700 pages long.) It is simply not possible for a film only about 85 minutes long to discuss this many issues with any depth or particular insight. The topics, of course, are interrelated, and the filmmakers have fascinatig implications and facts to present on many of them. However, their film has precious little room left over for substantive debate or examination of evidence to convince skeptics, and even sympathetic viewers are likely to be overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the film's scope. The film does include some opposing views as well as visual evidence, such as video clips and still photographs, and the film is at its best during these moments. At one point, the film charges that the Congressional hearings deliberately avoided controversial topics. It then shows Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) accusing Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Texas) of failing to ground his plans to transform the innocuous Federal Emergency Management Agency into a tool for suspending Constitutional rights during a crisis. This one simple clip easily makes the most compelling point in the entire film.

The bulk of the film, however, falls prey to the filmmakers seeming desire to create a comprehensive testimonial to their political views. Much of the film's evidence consists of little more than quick shots of catchy words in newspaper headlines. Relevant documents are shown through, but only once or twice are any excerpts shown onscreen. Participants in the activities cited by the film are interviewed, but the evidence they have to offer is overheard or read from the filmmakers commentary by professors and Congressmen. The end result is that the film offers just enough evidence to ground its claims within reality but not enough to support its claims without additional help from sympathetic viewers. It's dismaying that the filmmakers have incorporated such a broad spectrum of issues that they can only offer hints and suggestions as proof for their staid claims.

In addition, the entire production was shot on video and then transferred to 16mm film for theatrical distribution. Consequently, the technical merits are about average for television but substantially less for 16mm film production. Because most documentaries work on shooting budgets, shooting in the more expensive 16mm format imposes the need for strong content, directors and Congressmen. The end result is that the filmmakers have incorporated most filmmakers flee from controversial topics that they can only offer hints and suggestions as proof for their staid claims.

This lack of technical quality is important because it becomes yet one more weakness that viewers must maintain while watching the film. In order for a film like this to be truly effective, it has to be air-tight intellectually and cinematically. Documentaries such as Still Killing Us Softly, If You Love This Planet, and other ars are famous precisely because they tackle their complex topics (suicide in advertising, nuclear fallout, and the McCarthy hearings, respectively) with such compelling intensity that their critics are hard pressed to find any holes in their content or technique presentation. Coverup: Behind the Iran Contra Affair does have some interesting points to make, but its content is too disposed to inspire one to overlook its numerous flaws.

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If You Love This Planet, Larry Oz, Bo-Yin Yang
Film's ambiguity insinuates intriguing Oedipal overtones

TRACK 29
Directed by Nicolas Roeg.
Written by Dennis Potter.
Starring Theresa Russell, Gary Oldman, and Christopher Lloyd.
Opens today at the Nickelsdale.

Like so many other directors, Nicolas Roeg loves to erase the distinction between reality and fantasy in his films and add a dash of incoherence as well. He does not, however, demonstrate in Track 29 the sure and guiding hand needed to successfully integrate film and dreams into a memorable experience. The striking moments in Roeg's latest film are few, and even those scenes cannot sustain their power outside the screening room.

The film opens with a young man named Martin (Gary Oldman, who strikingly portrayed St. Vincent in Sid and Nancy) International down a small winding road in the countryside. He abruptly screams out "Monstrum!" as the film cuts to a close-up of his face. Just as quickly, the film shifts its focus to a quiet little home in which Linda Henry (Theresa Russell), Roeg's real-life wife and her husband Henry (Christopher Lloyd) live, and as might be expected in a Roeg film, appearances are deceiving. It turns out that Linda is a bored alcoholic housewife whose indifference is numerous material comforts can't break the monotony of married life with Henry, who devotes all of his attention to model trains and horse racing.

Like everyone else in the film, Henry is slightly warped and psychotic. He loses his job as a physician because he neglects his patients to play manhunting games with Nurse Stein (Sandra Bernhard). The only time he comes alive is when he delivers the keynote address to a railroad exposition in town.

Henry's problems are small, however, compared to Linda's troubles. Martin sneaks up on her as she's swimming in her backyard pool and claims to be her long-lost son. But Martin is a creepy chap, alternating between childish outbursts and semi-rational proclamations like "I want to have my childhood. I'm not my father.

Linda is alternately attracted to and repulsed by Martin, and Martin acts in ways that create a bizarre sexual tension between them. The Oedipal reference becomes complete when Martin goes on a rampage against Henry and his model trains.

Director Roeg plays several cinematic tricks that make Linda (and viewer) doubt whether Martin really exists, and here lies the essential point of the film, such as it is. Linda's life is improved by some violent acts against Henry, such as the big demolition scene already mentioned; the fact is that Martin might really be a fabrication dreamed up by Linda to delegate responsibility for these acts of violence.

In addition, Roeg borrows many motifs from Alfred Hitchcock's Pumas, including an eerie house, but Roeg's film can't match the psychological impact of Hitchcock's masterpiece. And Track 29 clearly has little or nothing to do with feminist statements against confined husband-wife relationships, since Roeg pays a rather curious tribute to leading lady and wife Russell by focusing his camera on her at several moments in the film.

The film is devoid of any serious content, and ends up being little more than a collage of some vivid images, such as Martin smashing baby dolls against ornamental model trains. Track 29 is, at least, more coherent than Roeg's previous film, Castaway, and the characters aren't as completely offensive as in Cassavetes, Stanley Myers's music is particularly subtle and effective, but after all the psychoanalysis and history, the film still doesn't leave you with any lasting impression that's worth speaking of.

This is an expanded version of the review that ran in these pages during last month's Boston Film Festival.
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Women's tennis wins impressively over Brandeis

By Paul McKenzie

The MIT women's tennis team overcame a tough Brandeis University squad for its seventh win of the season on Sunday. Inclement weather forced the match indoors, keeping under wraps MIT's tennis bubble.

Although the final score was 6-3 overall, the women's tennis team outplayed Brandeis University with a strong showing from Gymnastics.

At the 20:50 mark, this was also the MIT men's win over Brandeis University last Friday. MIT won the meet on the top-five runners all finishing in the top five with a score of 24.

Men's soccer loses 3-1 in the rain

By Shawn Musrai

On a swamy Steinbrunner Stadium field, a trio of captains -- from three different universities -- stood together on the rain-soaked turf. The MIT men's soccer squad lost 3-1 to a more experienced Brandeis squad.

Brandeis started the game by controlling the MIT defense, but the stubborn Engineers did not allow the goal until 7:45 into the game. This shot was saved nicely by co-captain Gary Rahl '89.

Men's Varsity Soccer

Finally, Tech broke through and managed a shot of their own at the 20:50 mark. This was also saved, but soon afterwards the ball rolled out of bounds, giving MIT a corner kick. Just then, as if on cue, it started to rain more heavily. Undercooked, Mark Bailey '91 lobbed the corner kick from the left and, Kent McCord '93 headed the ball, allowing MIT to grab a 1-0 lead.

Brandeis' frustration continued with a yellow-card penalty at 29:11 for a tackle too much. Unfortunately, the game continued frustratingly for the Engineers.

In a game seemingly filled with opportunities, the clock showed:

Women's cross country

Women's cross country

Grabs win at Brandeis

By Gabrielle Rocap

The women's cross country team won its first victory of the season by a large margin at Brandeis University on Friday. The first five runners all finished among the top eight, combining for 24 points. Brandeis was second with 42, followed by Bab- ron College and Trinity College with 56.

"Everyone ran a good race," said captain Andrea McNich '91, who finished first overall with a time of 19:00 on the five-kilometer course. Other top performances were turned in by Chris Gable '91, first; Katherine Alvord '91 (20:10) and Stacy Holender '92 (20:22), who finished fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. The men's race was followed closely by Kim McNeel '92 and Charlie Gionnetti '90, who ended up sixth.

Both players seemed to use the first few games as a warm-up with each making her share of errors. However, by the second set players began to chase down loose balls. Both were also doing a lot of running. Finally, the two players played about the same, their points decided more on the quality of their shots. Goh '92 and Theresa Fuenlabrada '92 both finished in the top five with times of 19:01 on the five-kilometer course.

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Women's Tennis

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Although the final score was 6-3 overall, the women's tennis team outplayed Brandeis University with a strong showing from Gymnastics.

At the 20:50 mark, this was also the MIT men's win over Brandeis University last Friday. MIT won the meet on the top-five runners all finishing in the top five with a score of 24. Brandeis was second with 43, while the Engineers had 42.

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Women's Tennis wins impressively over Brandeis

By Gabrielle Rocap

The women's cross country team won its first victory of the season by a large margin at Brandeis University on Friday. The first five runners all finished among the top eight, combining for 24 points. Brandeis was second with 42, followed by Bab- ron College and Trinity College with 56.

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