

## Course XXI to designate majors on its diplomas

By Annabelle Boyd

In order to better recognize the strength of MIT's undergraduate education in the humanities, Course XXI majors are now able to obtain a degree which registers their specific designation in the Department of Humanities, according to Ikey Spear, coordinator of the Humanities, Arts and Social Science Office. In the past, all diplomas granted in

## Judge settles dispute over 1-2-3 wording

By Reuven M. Lerner

Proposition 1-2-3 will appear on the Cambridge ballot with compromise wording next month, according to the *Cambridge Chronicle*. State Supreme Judicial Court Justice John M. Greaney ruled Tuesday that the referendum would "effectuate a change in the existing rent control law in Cambridge" if it were passed, and ordered that wording to that effect appear on the Nov. 7 ballot.

The ruling was the result of a suit filed by Frederick Meyer, a local realtor and the author of Proposition 1-2-3, against the Cambridge Election Commission last week. Meyer wanted the proposition to be placed on the general election ballot, and asked that the commission delay the election if they could not decide on suitable wording.

The proposition was originally written by Meyer as part of the petition signed by thousands of Cambridge residents. In response to concerns raised by opponents of the measure, the Cambridge Election Commission decided to add three phrases to mention that the proposition would "change rent control," something which Meyer adamantly denied.

On Aug. 10, Election Commissioner Artis Spears decided to vote against the proposition, and moved to revise the wording a second time. Donna Scheir, one of the commission's two Democrats (Please turn to page 6)

Course XXI have read "Bachelor of Science in Humanities" thereby failing to note the sectional designation of a student.

Seven sections within Course XXI have been changed to the specific designations of Anthropology/Archaeology, History, Literature, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Music, Science, Technology and Society (STS), and Writing. The major in STS may only be pursued as a joint program in conjunction with another degree program in a field of engineering or science. For the Foreign Languages and Literatures degree, only those students studying French or Spanish are eligible.

The primary impetus behind this change was one of "house-keeping," according to the Degree Designation Proposal, which was voted on by the faculty last spring. With the introduction of the HASS minor in a specific field of study, it became "appropriate" to ask that a major in a specific field in Course XXI receive the designation of that field on his diploma, instead of the generic "Humanities," the proposal states.

The new policy does not include a change in designation for joint majors in Humanities (Courses XXI-E and XXI-S), but is confined to full majors offered under Course XXI alone.

According to the Degree Designation Proposal, each of the seven degree designations had to meet the following five considerations before being passed by the faculty:

- The level of competence signified by the award of the proposed degree had to be equivalent to that signified by the award of other degrees in identical or closely related fields at other institutions of higher learning around the country.

- The degree had to follow the guidelines laid down by the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty.

- The degree awarded had to be consonant in structure and depth of curriculum with other (Please turn to page 6)



Alyssa Parker '91 heads the ball and thwarts an offensive attack in Tuesday's game against Smith. MIT was defeated in overtime, 0-2. Douglas D. Keller

## Tosci's opening marks end of renovations

By Annabelle Boyd

Toscanini's ice cream will be open by Monday for take-out service only, according to the owner, Gus Rançatore. The arrival of Tosci's on the first floor of the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center leaves only one other retail area in the Student Center — the basement slot under Tosci's — to be filled.

The opening of Tosci's marks roughly the completion of the first and most extensive stage of the Stratton Center renovations, according to Philip J. Walsh, director of the Campus Activities Complex. At a price tag of approximately \$14 million, the basement, first, second and third floors of the Student Center have all been substantially remodeled and had their retail spaces re-allocated.

The renovation project began in the summer of 1987. At the time, the project was expected to

last one year and cost roughly \$7 million.

Some of the businesses which have moved into the building over the past 10 months include Newbury Comics, LaVerdes, Networks, the Student Center Committee Game Room, Charlie the Tech Tailor, Council Travel, Technicuts, Tech Barber, MIT Microcomputer Center and a US Post Office.

The two remaining stages of renovation are minor when compared to the restructuring of the first stage, Walsh said. The fifth floor renovation is well underway with the expansion of Project Athena and the new Office of the Dean for Student Affairs. Fifth floor renovation plans also include the building of a medical office, an office for the campus complex operations, and an office for the Student Information Processing Board.

The last stage of renovation is

the fourth floor, Walsh said. The Undergraduate Association, the Association of Student Activities, and the UA Finance Board all have plans for new space allocation, but those plans are still in the preliminary stages, he said.

Walsh said he was especially pleased with the opening last month of the Student Center information desk in the Stratton Center lobby. "At last the Student Center has an outlet for detailed information on not only its own operation but also on the operation the MIT campus in general," he said.

In order to provide an even greater variety of goods to the MIT community, space in the Stratton Center lobby has been rented out to day vendors on a day-to-day basis, Walsh added.

"The stores in the center all seem to be pleased with how things are working out for them," Walsh said.

## Over 100 frosh participate in IFC-sponsored service day

By Neil J. Ross

Last Saturday over 100 freshmen from fraternities, sororities and independent living groups joined in a concerted community service effort. Organized by the InterFraternity Council, the event was run under the umbrella of the IFC social committee and conceived as an opportunity for freshmen from different houses to meet and work with one another.

There were five projects. Some participants (including upperclassmen) arrived at 9 am to help with the Kenmore Square community fair. Alpha Chi Omega ran a face painting booth at the event, which was coordinated by the Kenmore Square Neighborhood Organization.

In the Cambridge area roughly 25 freshmen were involved in two projects. One was in Porter Square where students assisted a meal program. The other was in Central Square where freshmen repaired a church.

Aging Concerns, a Boston-based service organization for the elderly, was helped out by about

20 new students, who donated their time to sand and paint a building which is being renovated as a home for the elderly.

As part of Coast Week, a natural environmental awareness program focusing on the seaside, MIT Sea Grant directed another group of 25 volunteers to clean East Boston Beach, a project organized by Save the Harbor Save the Bay. The IFC party was not the only MIT group involved in a coastal project last weekend, as 14 members of the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, were at the Bell Isle Marsh helping in the management of that area. The coastal projects are part of a state-wide program running from Sept. 16 to Oct. 9 by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Program and involving upwards of 2700 people.

The whole day's events drew volunteer freshmen from 14 living groups. Two groups, Sigma Chi and Kappa Sigma, had 100 percent participation from their new members, and Sigma Phi Epsilon had 13 out of 14 of their newly-pledged members.



Alix Florio

Mini Gupta '90 sticks the ball to Susan Ward '92 driving towards the Wellesley goal. Yesterday's game ended 2-1 in Wellesley's favor.

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Saturday, September 30, 8:30 am & 7:15 pm

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# news roundup

from the associated press wire

## Nation

### Education summit wraps up

President Bush and the nation's governors have come up with a plan to revitalize the country's troubled school system. The argument comes from a two-day education summit in Charlottesville, VA. In closing the summit, Bush promised the governors he would follow up on their agreements in every way possible.

The final summit statement calls for restructuring of the school system to make educators more accountable for their students' classroom performance. Other goals include cutting the dropout rate, keeping drugs out of schools, and improving literacy. Bush has already promised to slice through government red tape so state leaders can implement changes quickly.

### House rejects Democratic capital gains alternatives

The House has rejected a Democratic leadership alternative to Bush's plan to cut the capital gains tax. Conservative Democrats joined with Republicans to vote down a plan to raise taxes on the wealthy and restore deductions in the individual retirement account. Opponents of the Democratic measure had said it was a tax-and-spend approach to government. They said the Bush plan would stimulate the economy. Opponents of the Bush plan had said it would help the rich.

The vote left Bush's proposal intact. However, a final vote on the overall package — which includes other budget provisions — is not expected until next week.

### FDA approves expanded use of AIDS drug

The Food and Drug Administration said it will allow expanded distribution of a drug that seems to stop the AIDS virus from reproducing. The plan is to allow more testing of the drug DDI so that its effectiveness can be compared with that of AZT, the only FDA-approved drug to combat the AIDS virus. The agency said it is the first time it has made an experimental drug so widely available so early in testing. AIDS activists, who have been pushing for faster availability of drugs, applauded the FDA action.

### Braniff declares bankruptcy

Braniff has filed for reorganization under bankruptcy court protection in Orlando, FL. The airline's president said the company had run into what he called "a liquidity problem" resulting from a delay in arranging financing. But airline officials said they think they can bring the ailing airline back as a small carrier. Braniff is cutting 2800 workers from the payroll, and reducing the cities it serves from 36 to 11.

### Army accident claims two

For the second time in as many days, an Army artillery accident has claimed lives. Officials said two soldiers were killed at Fort Stewart, GA, yesterday during an exercise involving mortar fire. Three soldiers died Wednesday night at Fort Sill, OK, when a howitzer shell overshot its target and landed among a group of trainees on a rifle range. An Army official said the victims heard the whistle of the shell just before they were, in his words, "blown off their feet."

### Senate passes relief bill for hurricane areas

The Senate has passed a \$1.1 billion disaster relief package for victims of Hurricane *Hugo*. The emergency relief is meant for Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and North and South Carolina.

The devastation caused by the hurricane has spurred a massive outpouring of aid. And, in Kingston, NY, fund-raising is under way to pay an old debt to hard-hit Charleston, SC. When Kingston was New York's capital, during the Revolutionary War, it was burned to the ground by the British. South Carolina's governor sent the city money to help residents with their crisis.

### PTL donors testify in Bakker's defense

The defense in evangelist Jim Bakker's federal fraud trial in Charlotte, NC, has been presenting his supporters as witnesses. Scores of contributors to Bakker's old PTL television ministry said they never felt mistreated. The prosecution accuses Bakker of using millions of dollars in donations to pay for his own high living.

## World

### Aquino rejects Philippine burial for Marcos

Ferdinand Marcos can't go home again, even in death. Philippine President Corason Aquino said his funeral could inflame passions and create civil unrest. Marcos ran the country for 20 years until Aquino replaced him during a bloodless coup in 1986. He died yesterday morning in a Honolulu hospital from cardiac arrest at age 72. The Philippine vice president has asked Aquino to reconsider and allow Marcos to be buried in his homeland.

## Weather

### More in store

If you enjoyed the weather yesterday and you enjoy the weather today, get ready for more fine autumn weather. A cold front will cross the forecast area this evening and move offshore tonight. Following the front's passage, cool high pressure from Canada will build eastward — providing mostly sunny conditions during the day and mostly clear, cool conditions at night through the weekend.

**Friday afternoon:** Partly cloudy and warm. Winds southwest 15-20 mph. High 75-78°F (24-26°C).

**Friday night:** Clearing with winds shifting to northwest at 15-25 mph. Low 53°F (12°C).

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny and cooler. Winds northwest 8-16 mph. High 65°F (18°C). Low 45°F (7°C).

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy and milder. Winds becoming southwest 10 mph. High 70°F (21°C). Low 47-50°F (8-10°C).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Niraj Desai

## YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN MIT'S REACCREDITATION REVIEW

On October 16 - 19 the New England Association of Schools and Colleges will undertake a reaccréditation review of MIT. The visiting accreditation team will attend sessions on Project Athena, the undergraduate program review, student life, enrollment, research, the libraries, and much more.

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# opinion

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Question 1 threatens Cambridge grad housing

The supply of off-campus housing is threatened by a Cambridge referendum on Nov. 7, referendum Question 1.

Thousands of MIT students and staff live in apartments built before 1969, which are protected by the city's rent control laws. If Question 1 on the ballot passes, all of these apartments could be converted into condominiums, which would no longer be available to students.

This means that thousands of graduate students from Harvard and MIT could be squeezed into surrounding towns and newer, market-rate housing. According to one estimate by a member of the Cambridge Tenants Union, student-shared apartments that now run from \$250 to \$450 a month would cost \$400 to \$650 per person per month after Ques-

tion 1 took effect. This would easily add \$1000 to a student's yearly housing bill.

It would take three or four new graduate dormitories to offset the effects of Question 1. So please help out by registering to vote in Cambridge by Oct. 17 and by urging the Graduate Student Council to get people registered to vote "no" on Question 1. The new taxation of graduate assistantships was bad enough. We actually might have the votes to influence this question.

If you live in Cambridge, you may get a letter from the real estate industry urging a "yes" vote for "choice to buy a condo" on Question 1. These letters do not mention what happened when a similar measure passed in Brookline: landlords harassed poor people, elderly tenants, and stu-

dents to move out so that they could sell off the apartments to wealthier tenants. The question may mean huge profits for the landlords who are sponsoring it. They have tried to trick people by claiming in Question 1 that the new tax revenues generated will be given to the poor. But according to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Question 1 may actually decrease tax revenues.

Cambridge uses a voting system where a voter can rank as many people as he or she wants and nine councillors get elected. Find out the candidates' positions on Proposition 1-2-3 before you vote.

Steven Farber G  
Mark Engel G  
Mike Grossberg G  
David Hersovici G

### Columnist ignores desires of Third World citizenry

I suppose I'm just a disgruntled leftist intellectual. Here's why: I found Pankaj Vaish's column ["Third World countries edging towards freer markets," Sept. 22] frightening. Vaish, in his lengthy piece, expresses enthusiasm for Third World countries edging towards freer markets. This, in itself, is not disturbing.

What is disturbing is that the people of these countries are never mentioned. The encouraging results that Vaish presents include, *inter alia*, Mexico's concessions to its "First World" creditors and her adoption of "union busting," African countries forgoing sovereignty so as to please the International Monetary Fund, and Venezuelan austerity measures. Sadly, none of these are likely to improve the lives of or-

dinary Africans, Mexicans, or Venezuelans.

But even if that were not the case, even if these measures were to prove beneficial to the average citizens of these "less-developed countries," it would still be de-

pressing at best, and frightening at worst, that Vaish does not seem to care. I guess nowadays only leftist intellectuals worry about such trifles as *people*. More's the pity.

Robert J. Stainton G

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*Letters to the Editor* are welcome. They should be typed, double spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without express prior approval of *The Tech*.

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret that we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

### Free markets do not insure political freedom

We write to take issue with Pankaj Vaish's recent column ["Third World countries edging toward freer markets," Sept. 22]: Vaish implies that recent world history has been shaped by a struggle between two economic systems, that of "capitalism" and that of "socialism." His analysis is flawed by an inability to separate economic from political issues.

For example, Vaish cites the Tiananmen Square massacre as evidence that "the big communist giants" might not yet be converted to the free market. On the contrary, although the pace of its economic reform has slowed, China is by no means reverting to a completely centralized economy and has, as Vaish himself points out, sought to "convey a sense of normalcy to those foreign investors." In 1980 the government of South Korea killed perhaps thousands of citizens in the "Kwangju incident," yet that nation has committed itself to the course of corporate capitalism. One must surmise that "free markets" are no guarantee of political freedom or human rights.

Vaish's account of the rise of Third World socialist movements is vague. "The origins of these [socialist] policies," he writes, "perhaps lie in the historic experiences of these former colonies." Indeed, the colonials' experience was quite uniform: that capitalism unflinchingly allied itself with the imperialistic policies of the Western powers. Although he rightly criticizes Third World independence movements for putting in place "stiffing" Leninist "bureaucracies," he fails to acknowledge the historical context

in which these movements developed; namely, that many moderate reform movements were crushed by greater or colonial powers.

Consider for example the claim that, "although involuntarily at times, many less developed countries... have gradually trudged along the path towards freer markets throughout this decade." Absent from this analysis is the history of US political hegemony in, say, Latin America during the latter half-century. The examples of Chile and Guatemala serve as an indicator perhaps of what the author deceptively refers to as "arm twisting."

In 1973 the popularly-elected president of Chile, Salvadore Allende, was assassinated during a coup largely funded by the Central Intelligence Agency, International Telephone and Telegraph, and Anaconda Copper. It should be noted that attempts to instigate a popularly-supported coup in Chile by destroying the Chilean economy were unsuccessful but not for want of effort. The Nixon Administration's National Security Decision Memorandum 93 outlined the plan to bring Chile to its knees by crippling the country's economy. Having isolated Chile internationally and completed the near destruction of its economy but failing to reach its goal of inciting a popular coup, the United States, in the guise of the CIA and free market giant ITT, did what has become the rule when dealing with less-developed countries. They turned to the military. The rest is painful history.

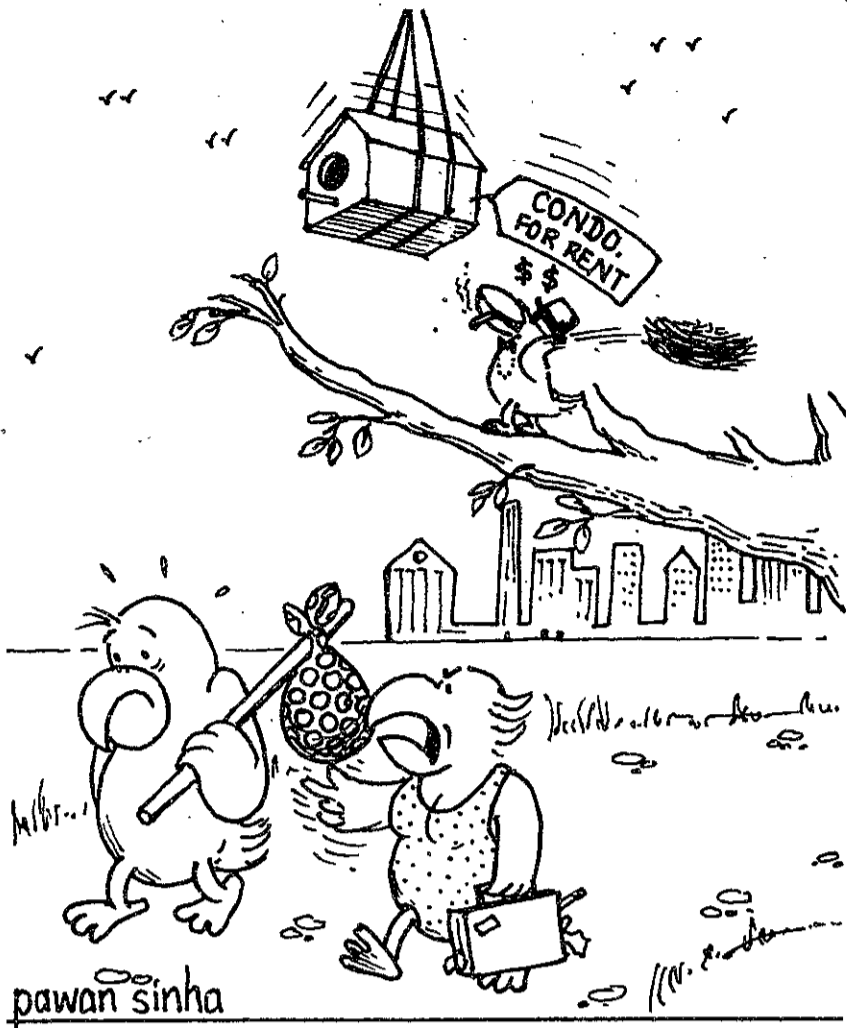
A similar situation occurred in 1954 in Guatemala when the pop-

ularly-elected President Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán instituted a land reform program. Guatemala seized land owned by the United Fruit Company. However, none of the seized land was cultivated, and United Fruit was compensated at the rate it had assessed the land for tax purposes. United Fruit, incensed by Arbenz's "bad faith" turned to US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen Dulles, director of the CIA. The United States removed Arbenz by resorting to psychological warfare, attacks from the air, and by mounting a small invasion from neighboring Honduras. The net result of this intervention was a succession of military dictatorships, civil war, and an estimated 80,000 deaths (most victims of right-wing terror).

These two examples illustrate what has become the *modus operandis* of the right wing in US politics: paint any democratic attempt at social reform in developing nations as a blatant move towards Stalinistic dictatorship.

Vaish's analysis of Third World political economy can be reduced to the following: they are beginning to realize the error of their ways and should have listened to the wiser powers that be long ago. While we welcome any liberalization of Third World markets which will ultimately lead to their prosperity, we believe that any fair examination of the historical facts demonstrates that the Third World has been listening closely all along and has acted in a manner which reflects what it has heard.

Stephen J. Fromm G  
Patrick McDonald G



pawan sinha  
"I warned you Fred, ... don't tell me I didn't. I said, 'Fred dear, don't vote yes on Question 1.' But you didn't listen, did you? What's wrong with you? You stupid or something?... Ma told me not to marry an irresponsible oaf like you..."

# The Tech

Volume 109, Number 39 Friday, September 29, 1989

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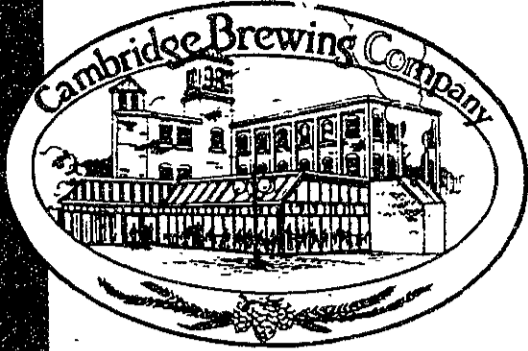
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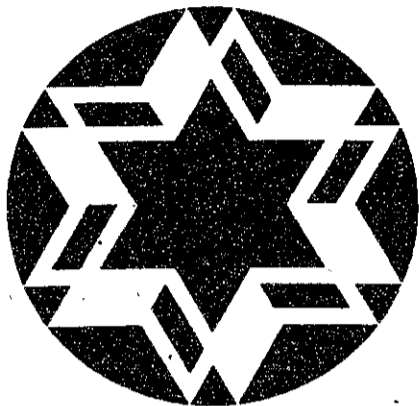
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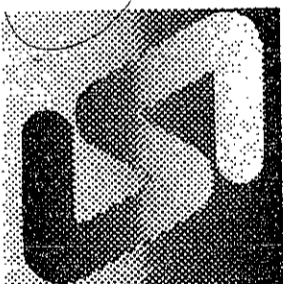
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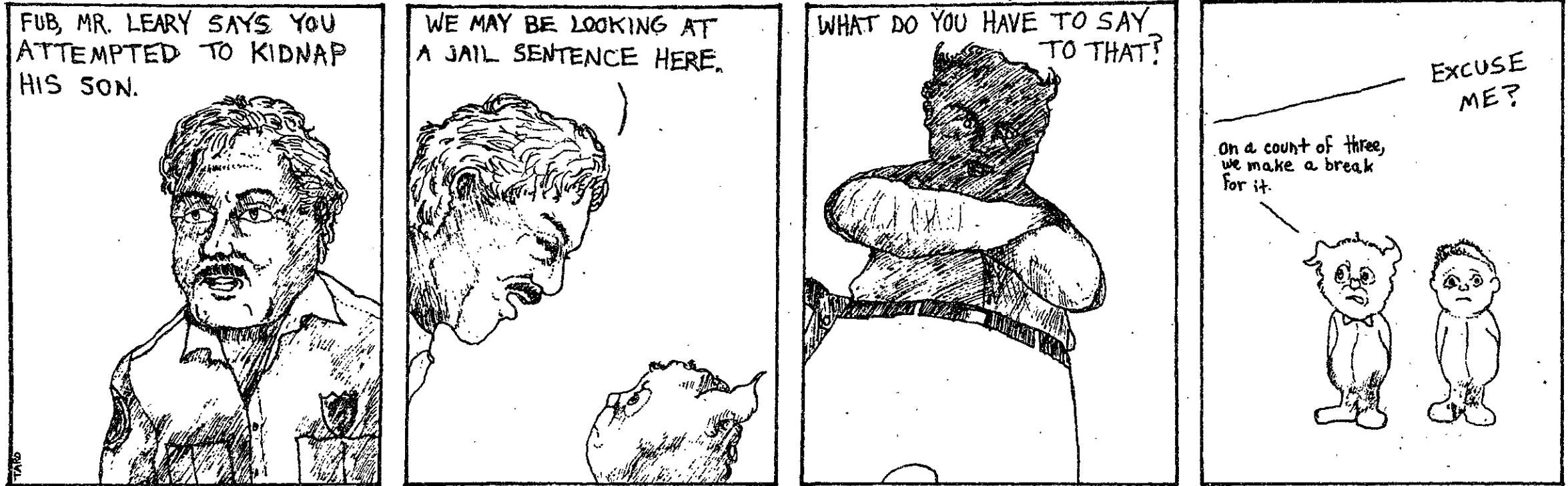
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## FUB

TARO OHKAWA



### Course XXI diplomas to list majors

(Continued from page 1)

undergraduate degrees awarded by the School of Humanities and Social Science.

- The designated section had to offer a sufficient number of subjects at every level of instruction over the next five years to make likely a reasonable array of choices among restricted electives.

- The designated section had to have sufficient personnel and funds to staff the major.

Since not all sections within Course XXI are receiving designations, the generic "Humanities" degree will remain a residual category for those unspecified majors.

According to the proposal, "the [new degree designations] are entirely consistent with the increasing autonomy and professional strength of the fields within the humanities at MIT."

### Judge settles dispute over 1-2-3 wording

(Continued from page 1)

cratic members, was away on vacation at the time, and the motion passed by a margin of 2-1. Since that vote, the commission has been unable to agree on a revised wording.

If it were passed, Proposition 1-2-3 would remove some of the conditions that now stop people from buying rent-controlled apartments. Currently, if someone wants to buy a rent-controlled apartment, they must obtain a "removal permit" which allows them to do so. The proposition would eliminate the need for this permit, thus allowing anyone who has lived in a rent-controlled apartment for more than two years to buy it.

Opponents of the referendum feel that low-cost housing could suffer if people were allowed to buy their apartments. Among the 38 organizations that have voiced their opposition the measure are Local 26 of the Hotel and Restaurant Institutional Employees and Bartenders Union and the Central American Solidarity Association, according to *The Cambridge Tab*. Meyer said that the proposition could only help people, since it would only offer them "more options" than they currently have.

# The coffee is 75¢, but the information is priceless.

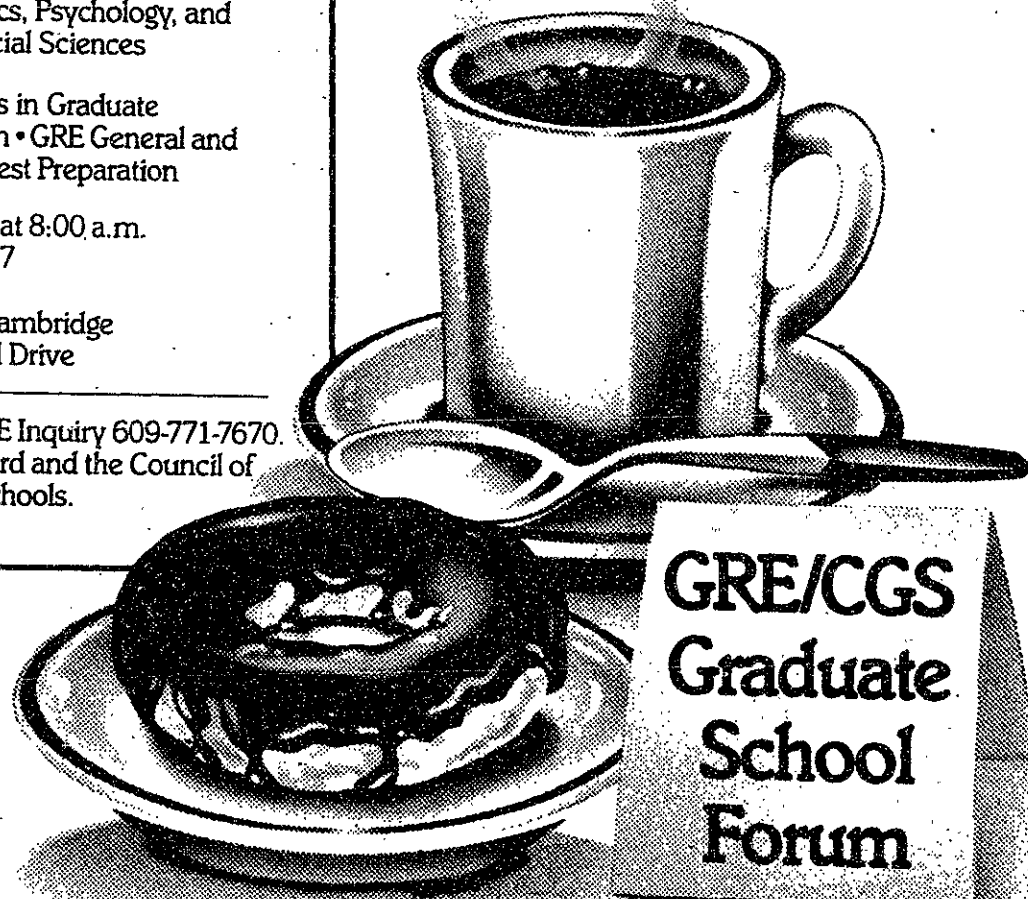
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ARTS

# Birds of Prey is sincere but falls short of full potential

**BIRDS OF PREY**

Directed by Gil Portes.  
Sponsored by the MIT Filipino Students' Association.  
Plays tomorrow at 7 pm in Kresge.  
Admission for MIT students: \$1.50.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

**T**HE "PEOPLE POWER" REVOLUTION in the Philippines three years ago has left an indelible imprint on the Filipino national consciousness. *Birds of Prey* attempts to address the role individuals — specifically Filipinos living abroad — have to play in rebuilding their country following the downfall of the Marcos regime.

But the film's political and social concerns have to compete for attention with a tearjerking love story and mother-child reunion. The technical production and acting quality, furthermore, keep threatening

to fall below acceptable limits. It is a tantalizing film, but it falls short of its full potential.

The film tells the story of Cecilia Santos, who lives in New York. She receives a letter from a friend back in the Philippines that her husband has died in an encounter with the military. Having been pressured by her parents to leave the Philippines because they disapproved of her husband, Cecilia decides to return home to investigate her husband's death and to find her missing daughter. Steve, an American reporter who befriends Cecilia, comes with her. In the end, Cecilia has to decide whether to stay in the Philippines or return to her life in New York.

That central conflict — the conflicting emotions faced by those living outside of their native land — is mirrored by the conflict faced by director Gil Portes in balancing his political and social concerns with

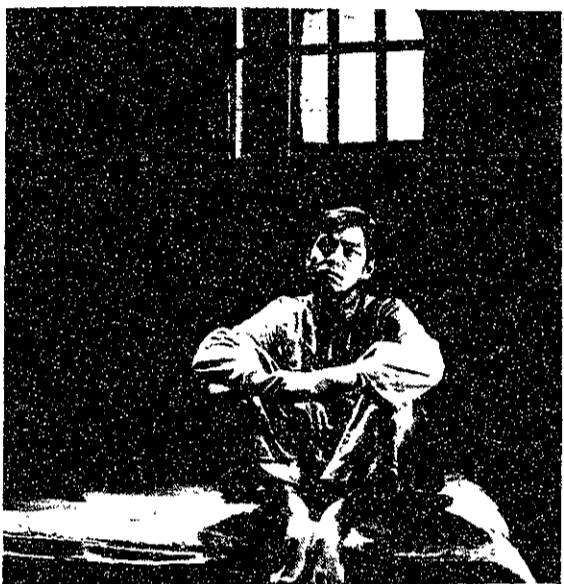
his responsibility as an artist. The proper balance can be elusive and difficult, but as films like Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, Victor Schonfeld's *Shattered Dreams*, Kenneth Loach's *Looks and Smiles*, and Louis Malle's *Au revoir les enfants* demonstrate, it most certainly can be attained.

*Birds of Prey* is obviously the work of a sincere and committed filmmaker, and it does have a few poignant and resonant moments. But it falters when compared with the universal value attained by other films that address similar concerns. If anything, *Birds of Prey* proves that the personal sincerity and commitment to social concerns are insufficient to fuel a work of art on their own. The films mentioned above all transcend numerous barriers and limitations to meld filmmaking and social concerns into symbiotic, organic works of art; one can only lament that such an accomplishment cannot be ascribed to *Birds of Prey*.



A sympathetic nun advises Cecilia Santos about the whereabouts of her daughter in *Birds of Prey*.

# Banned Taiwanese film on wealth and privilege successful if peculiar



Li Hsiao-chang (Alan Tam) reflects on his ruse in *If I Were For Real*.

**IF I WERE FOR REAL**

Directed by Wang Toon.  
Screenplay by Chang Yung-hsiang.  
Story by Sha Yeh-shing.  
Starring Alan Tam, Nancy Hu, and Hsiang Ling.  
Today and tomorrow at the Brattle Theater.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

**W**HILE RECENT TAIWANESE cinema has generally been undistinguished, *If I were for Real* — dating from 1981 — is effective enough at painting the realities of wealth and privilege in a supposedly classless society to have been banned in both China and Hong Kong.

The film tells the story of Li Hsiao-chang (played by pop singer Alan Tam), a

young man assigned to work at the Tung-hai Farm near Shanghai. His girlfriend becomes pregnant; their only hope of making a life together is if Li can get himself transferred to Shanghai. Li, the son of peasants lacks connections and resents the special favors granted to those from influential families.

Desperate, he impersonates the son of a powerful Beijing official, and is readily accorded all the perks and privileges which go along with his supposed father's name. But just as his transfer to Shanghai is about to come through, he is discovered.

Wang Toon's direction seems to have been based on tricks learned from watching old Hollywood films. The film often resorts to obvious or ludicrous constructions. There's no particular "style" or "technique": the film wanders all over the

narrative and emotional landscape. There are even two songs that suddenly begin playing on the soundtrack for no apparent reason.

Nevertheless, there are enough nuances and subtleties to make the characters interesting and bring the narrative and thematic elements to the forefront. The acting, furthermore, ranges from good to excellent, and is responsible for most of this film's success. Produced by a rather out-of-control directorial style, however, it makes for some peculiar viewing. The film is hardly a milestone in Taiwanese or international cinema, but it does warrant attention.

Incidentally, the English subtitles miss an important phrase written on a wall near the film's end: "If I were for real," it reads.

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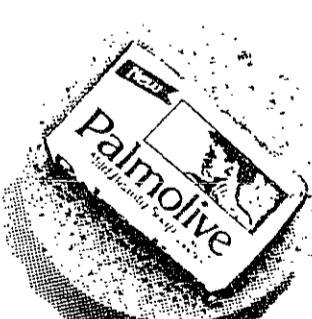
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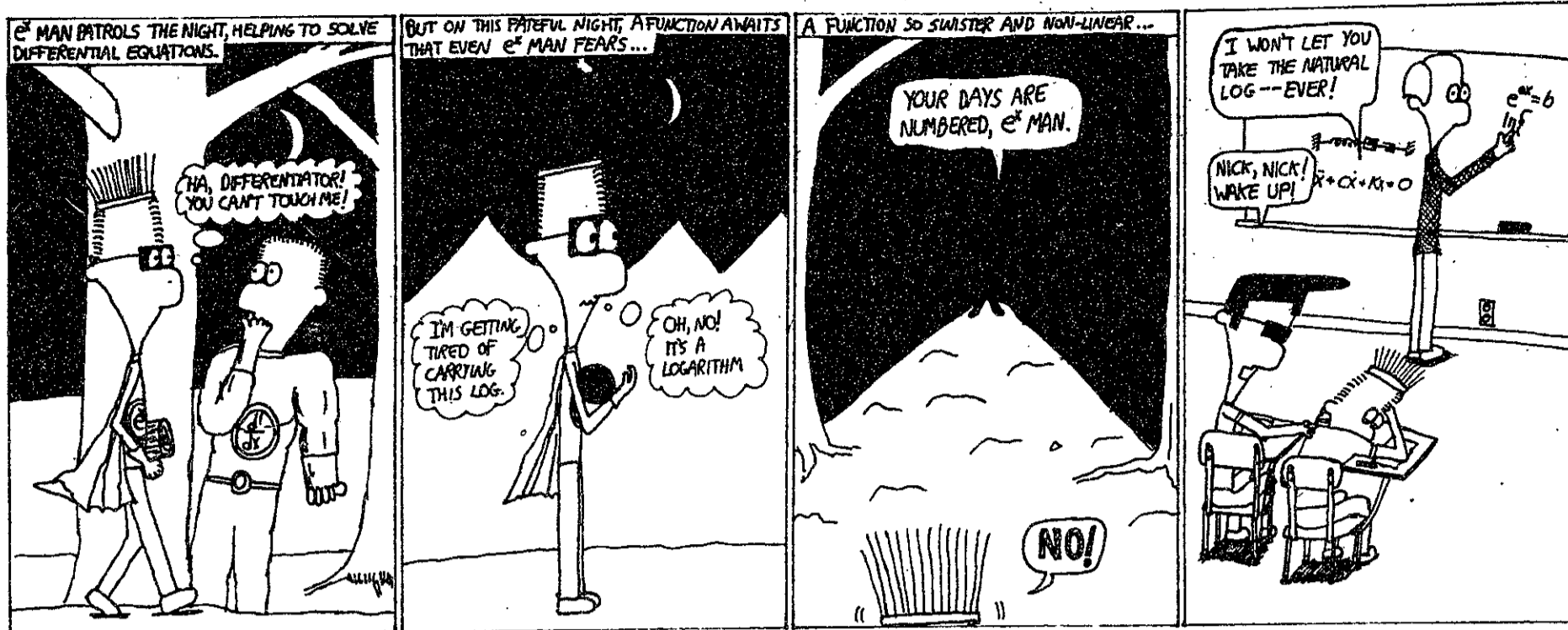
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By Chris Doerr

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