Interim report studies admissions, academics

CUFAA finds faculty concerns over undergraduate performance

By Reuven M. Lerner

The Alumni Admissions and Financial Aid released an interim report, describing an "ongoing review of the undergraduate experience," which will be based on faculty and student opinions, is on the agenda of the April 19 faculty meeting.

According to Professor Keith D. Stollenbach, '66, chairman of CUFAA, the interim report is aimed "to solicit additional input from the faculty," and is "not designed to reflect conclusions or recommendations."

Some faculty members are concerned with undergraduate academic performance, according to the report. CUFAA notes that students "engage in a broad range of intellectual, professional, and extracurricular activities," but are "less focused on mathematics and science than in previous years. Many incoming students seem to have problems with basic skills" such as algebra and trigonometry, according to the report.

Stollenbach said that the "most pointed expressed concern" have been about a lack of core subjects. While chemistry instructors reported that they were "happy and saw no downward trend, the report did find concern about freshman performance in core mathematics and physics subjects. Stollenbach added that not only the Department of Mathematics has experienced a change in the "cumulative accomplishments of individual students.""

According to the report, some students "believe that they do not belong at MIT" or that they "do not fit in." Stollenbach said that "CUFAA is very concerned about the impact of its ongoing review of the self-image of current students," and he stressed that CUFAA is reviewing a decade, not a year, of students' performance.

On a positive note, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science reported its third-year Computer Science majors as the "best ever," and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences was also reportedly pleased with the "number and quality of HASS majors." Stollenbach also stated that "improvement in students' writing ability is evident." The Admissions Office has recruited "more faculty readers" and lowered the minimum number of applications now required, according to the report.

The report said that "CUFAA has reviewed admission procedures in the past, and that reviews "will no doubt occur with similar regularity in the future."

Outgoing UAP Katz recalls new initiative in UA

By Niraj S. Desai

The Undergraduate Association has shifted in the past year from being a largely reactive body to one capable of taking initiative, according to outgoing UA President Jonathan Katz '90. Looking back on his tenure as UAP, Katz cited this shift as a "fundamental feature of the past year."

In particular, the UA began to move out from on the issue of second-term freshman pass/no-credit grading, Katz said. The Institute proposal for changes in freshman grading was not put before the faculty until last month, while the Student Committee on Educational Policy issued its report last year, Katz noted.

Moreover, the educational reform debate this year has been much more open than the 1987 fight over revising the Humanities, Arts, and Sciences Committee, Katz said. "The proposed HASS-D changes were not widely-publicized until shortly before the faculty was scheduled to vote on them — not allowing much time for students to react. The result was a large amount of student complaint about both the proposed changes and the procedures that had been used."

This year, in an effort to avoid a repeat of the 1987 controversy, the administration and the UA made a conscious effort to alert students well ahead of time to the pending educational reform proposals, Katz said. He believed that all Institute committees that deal with curricular issues should work in public. There is no need for secrecy and there is a need to keep students informed, he said.

The UA also sought to open up to student input the process concerning the recently-approved 1989-90 tuition increase, Katz said. In the past, students often felt they had no input into how tuition increases were decided, and did not really understand how such decisions were made.

This year, President Paul E. Gray '54, on a suggestion by Katz, released a background paper explaining the need for the tuition increase. Gray also held an open forum with students to discuss tuition.

Katz credited the UA's increased activity in the past year, in part, to efforts to make the UA into a "single organization."

In the past, the different entities within the UA were "too fractured."

(please turn to page 22)

Professor sees widening differences within NATO

By Mauricio Roman

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is facing considerable pressure to break apart, asserted Douglas T. Stuart, professor of political science and director of international studies at Dickinson College. Stuart gave a talk on "NATO's Out-of-Area Challenges" yesterday at the MIT Center for International Studies.

A substantial source of tension within NATO comes from its members' attitudes towards out-of-area disputes, which are conflicts between NATO member countries and non-member countries — particularly Third World countries.

According to Stuart, when NATO was formed 40 years ago, all of its members viewed the Soviet Union as the primary threat to the group. Today, however, this view has split: European members have regarded Russia in the context of detente while the United States has been adamant about a military component in the world picture, Stuart said. The difference in European and American reactions to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is a good example of this situation, Stuart claimed.

This difference in the way that constitutes a threat to NATO creates tensions within the organization, Stuart said. During the 1970's and up until 1983, the US and the UK were noticeably uneasy with American involvement in the Third World, and failed to cooperate with American solicitation of support. Much of the concern was the US failure to cooperate with European strategies to preserve colonialism during the twenty years that followed World War II, Stuart said.

For instance, during the Yom Kippur war the US solicited the European members of NATO for cooperation in the midst of crisis, and authorization to use bases in case of conflict between the US and another country. The European members, including Turkey and Portugal, loudly protested. Turkey and Portugal had until then been members of NATO, not the US, Stuart said.

During the last five years, Stuart noted, the intense disagreement between European members about the US and the military component in the world picture. European members have stopped co-operating with NATO military initiatives and have even participated in joint ventures abroad. For example, seven European nations participated in the Persian Gulf fleet to protest oil-carrying (please turn to page 22)
The "Village People" perform YMCA at the AXO Lip Sync Contest Friday.

NATO faces pressure to break apart
(Continued from page 1)

Stuart observed that the willingness of European nations to modify tensions within NATO is inconsistent given the opposing views between Europe and the US concerning out-of-area disputes. Stuart noted that this inconsistency may be explained in three related ways.

First, Europeans might be intending to "short-circuit" anti-European policies within the US. Second, Europeans fear that an American feeling that Europe does not support American unilateral decisions; and an unwillingness to jeopardize EU unilateralism, the alliance between NATO countries, which are over out-of-area conflicts, will be more vulnerable to collapse. Stuart believed that although the world is not yet multipole, it is less bipolar than it was forty years ago. This interpretation has met with the most controversy of the three.

Stuart concluded that NATO is in a transition period; a different structure of NATO is desired because the organization currently fails in fulfilling the expectations of its members. A member of the audience objected to the statement that the US might be acting unilaterally with regard to some out-of-area conflicts. Specifically, he cited American policy towards South Africa (an ethical and moral obligation) and the American position in Afghanistan. He claimed that, in the case of Afghanistan, the US did not need European assistance in this particular issue.

Stuart pointed out that, from the perspective of other NATO members, America's attitude toward the Afghan conflict has shown marked unilateralism, and that while the US might not need European consent or support, the Europeans had complained about US actions in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1983.

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The Ad-Hoc Committee on Lesbian and Gay Studies at M.I.T. is pleased to announce the first annual competition for the Gay Studies Prize.

The Gay Studies Prize will be awarded each year to the author of the best undergraduate paper on any topic in Lesbian and Gay Studies or the history of sexuality. Papers should be submitted by 14 April 1989; the winner of the Prize will be announced by 1 May. This year the prize will be $500.

Interested students should submit entries or questions to Prof. D.M. Halperin, 14N-432, x3-5038.
The Bush Administration says it is prepared to support the new Salvadoran government — but only so long as it respects democracy and human rights. Both White House and State Department officials say continued aid to El Salvador will depend on the new government’s actions. The candidate of the right-wing party linked to death squad killings in the past will not be eligible for US aid. The new El Salvadoran president must make progress on human rights and democracy, as well as economic reform.

A PLO ambassador is denying reports that Yasser Arafat will participate in the talks with US officials. But the Palestinian Liberation Organization in Tunis is said to want the talks upgraded so that Arafat can take part. The talks are set to resume tomorrow in Tunisia. US officials say they will hold their next meeting tomorrow in Tunisia. US officials say they will call for an easing of tensions in Israel’s occupied territories, even though PLO officials have already vowed not to retreat in their 15-month uprising. The US ambassador to Israel expressed “strong displeasure” at the Israeli military’s decision to close the Gaza Strip to Palestinians during the holiday season.

Local

Kirk Douglas, the actor who plays “Bull,” the bailiff on the television show “Night Court,” tearfully testified on Capitol Hill yesterday acknowledging that Rose was being investigated, but it did not say why. However, Rose has admitted to betting on horse and dog racing as well as college basketball games but is not accused of betting on baseball games or at race tracks but are not allowed to bet on baseball games. The story suggests that yesterday’s announcement was “a prelude of what’s going to happen in the next couple of days.”

Rose under investigation for gambling

A baseball source says that Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose could face a suspension for gambling activities. The Commissioner’s office released an unusual statement yesterday acknowledging that Rose was being investigated, but it did not say why. However, Rose has admitted to betting on horse and dog racing as well as college basketball games but is not accused of betting on baseball games or at race tracks but are not allowed to bet on baseball games. The story suggests that yesterday’s announcement was “a prelude of what’s going to happen in the next couple of days.”

Pinckney and Lewis pace Celtics to fifth win in six games

Ed Pinckney, the Celtics’ second-leading scorer, scored 14 points, and Robert Parish and Kevin McHale chipped in 18. The Celtics led Boston a 10-point lead. Frank Brickowski led the Spurs with 20 points, and Vernon Maxwell added 19 for San Antonio. The Celtics won the third-quarter run last night that carried the Boston Celtics to a 119-108 victory over the San Antonio Spurs. It marked the 20th straight time the Celtics has beaten San Antonio, and Boston’s fifth win in six games.

Shannon calls for sale of needles and syringes

Attorney General James Shannon joined AIDS activists Wednesday in supporting over-the-counter sales of hypodermic needles and syringes to combat the spread of AIDS. The Department of Public Health needs to study the issue of AIDS treatment and prevention. Shannon told the Legislature’s Health Care Committee that there is no time to waste, contending that two-fifths of intravenous drug users in Boston are already infected with the virus. George F. Burke, director of Health and Hospitals told the Committee that 39 other states allow over-the-counter sales of needles and syringes. Gov. Michael Dukakis, who opposed a needle-exchange program last year, has yet to take a position on over-the-counter sales.

Statewide drought possible

Your day was the first day of spring but some people in New England are wishing for a touch of winter. Too little snow has Massachusetts worried about drought. One official says the reserves that provide water for the eastern half of the state need about eight major snowstorms.

Sports

The San Antonio Spurs — led by future Hall of Famer Tim Duncan — scored 92 points in their 119-108 victory over the Boston Celtics. The Spurs are in the thick of the playoff chase and are chasing the services of prostitutes at two Baltimore clubs, however, enough cold air behind this system that winds south to southwest becoming northwest.

Weather

A low pressure system will be crossing southern New England today. Since the low center will be passing just to our northwest, much of the precipitation will be in the form of rain. There is, however, enough cold air behind this system that the rain could change to snow briefly before ending tonight. Areas to the northeast may see a dusting, as long as the temperatures are cold enough to support a light snowfall. Areas to the southwest may see as much as half an inch of snow before the storm ends.

TODAY:

Cloudy with rain. High 40-45°F (4-7°C). Winds south to southwest becoming northwest 10-15 mph (16-24 km/h).

TONIGHT:

Cloudy with rain or snow ending. Winds north to northwest 10-15 mph (16-24 km/h). Low 25-30°F (-4 to 1°C).

Friday:

Partly to mostly cloudy and cool. High 32-37°F (-2 to 4°C). Low in the 20's. (0 to -7°C).

Saturday:

Mostly sunny, high 45-50°F (7-10°C). No Precip.

Forecast by Robert J. Comess

Compiled by David Rudolph and Niraj S. Desai
CFYP proposals aims mostly at pass/fail

As the faculty prepares to vote on proposed changes to the final term grading system at its last meeting, one thing should be made clear: the debate over eliminating second term pass/no-credit grading for freshmen really has little to do with the Committee on the First-Year Program's goal of increasing grading flexibility in the core subjects. Rather, CFYP's proposal to discard pass/fail in the second term comes directly as a response to some faculty members' personal concerns instead of an examination of the system as a whole.

CFYP claims its main reasons for wanting to eliminate pass/fail in the second term are that freshmen typically overload on subjects and that the present system encourages students to take all their core requirements freshman year, sometimes to their disadvantage. However, any overload problem could be solved by lowering the freshman credit limit or other methods, without imposition of grades. And while some students may need to postpone Physics 1 (3.0) until second semester, most will want to concentrate on their core subjects in the first year. Besides, it is unclear that eliminating second-term pass/fail is the best way to solve any physics problem from first semester. But CFYP has concentrated on pass/fail.

Why should the faculty want to get rid of pass/fail? Some professors at last week's faculty meeting said that upperclassmen are often poorly prepared in core subjects. But is this due to pass/fail? If the current system is failing students who have not mastered the core subjects, then that is the problem, not the grading system, and CFYP should be looking at teaching methods and pedagogical practices rather than pass/fail.

There may be valid criticisms of pass/no-credit grading. But it is disturbing that freshman grade single-handedly blamed for first year problems, and that the CFYP has proposed virtually no other recommendations for freshman year other than examining the pass/fail issue and the timing of core subjects, while other immediate questions remain.

Unfortunately, time is running out on this issue. The faculty will vote on the proposal at its next meeting, and there is not much time to explore alternatives.

Prolife challenges AWS to forum on abortion

In recent months, the abortion issue has erupted on campus via the increased activities of the MIT ProLife Community and the Association of Women Students. In regard to this recent activism, the MIT ProLife Community would like to propose a debate or information session in conjunction with the AWS.

However, after contacting the leaders of the AWS on three separate occasions, offering them our proposal for a closed and open exchange of ideas, they declined repeatedly, offering as one of their reasons their desire not to stifle their recent increase in support, especially for the March for Women's Rights in Washington, DC on April 9. They feel such debates or information sessions would "legitimize the idea that scientists or human beings, not just as scientists or engineers." His main concern is that the pledge be distributed, because the distribution itself makes a statement about the validity of social responsibility. It's a good statement. But I question the use of the commencement ceremony to make such statements.

The matter of the graduation pledge has not been settled by the passage of the referendum. It is an issue that cannot and should not be decided by the general undergraduate student body.

I believe that each individual must consider the consequences of his or her actions. This is not limited to scientists and the use of technology; it includes the everyday consideration we extend to our fellow human beings. I do not disagree with the rest of the pledge. I, and many others who voted for the referendum, feel that distribution of the pledge is inappropriate for the commencement ceremony.

I find it interesting how proponents of the pledge have answered criticisms that the wording is vague and that its beneficiaries of the pledge have an advantage. Why should the faculty want to get rid of pass/fail? Some professors at last week's faculty meeting said that upperclassmen are often poorly prepared in core subjects. But is this due to pass/fail? If the current system is failing students who have not mastered the core subjects, then that is the problem, not the grading system, and CFYP should be looking at teaching methods and pedagogical practices rather than pass/fail.

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Church of Christ members’ attitudes on other religions are unfair and bigoted

After having been badgered by several groups to attend “Bible talks,” I was surprised when someone whom I had known for about a month asked me to attend a Bible discussion. I was assured it was non-denominational, and after hesitating, I gave in. Recently I have been called many times to attend Bible studies even though the moderators know well that I have night classes that conflict with the Bible study classes. Eventually, the requests shifted to “Would you care to go to church with me on Sunday?” Again, after being called three weekends in a row, I finally capitulated. Assured that the services were non-denominational, I went on March 5 to the Boston Garden with a group from the Bible study class. I looked at the slickly printed handout I had been given—it read “BOSTON Church of Christ.”

When the sermon began, my suspicions about this group were amplified tenfold. A small snippet of dialog would illustrate my point: the preacher said of Judaism that it was the “so-called ‘church’” of the Pharisees and Sanhedrin. Evident in this phrase are two themes: religious absolutism, postulating that Judaism is something I’m sure most Jews are two themes: religious absolutism, postulating that Judaism is something I’m sure most Jews are non-denominational. The orator cited many problems facing his church—for instance, the fact that it has been branded as a cult by some experts. He followed up by quoting from an author who dis-liking the Church of Christ’s cam-pus policies. The quoted author, a member of a liberal Protestant religion that does not believe its tenets are the only valid ones, was accused by Church of Christ members to attend a Bible talk. The author reported his astonishment at being rebuffed for his belief that virtuous Jews would go to heaven.

I wondered what point the preacher was trying to make, since I agreed with the sentiments expressed by the quoted author. I was shocked by the audience response: everyone laughed. It was clear to me that the Church of Christ was filled with religious bigots and anti-Semites who were completely sincere in their beliefs. Statistics gleaned from their handout frightened me: they had taken it upon themselves to send “missionaries” to countries that were already predominantly Christian (e.g., England and Australia). The explanation that I received was that people in these countries did not attend church regularly. I wonder about that claim: why are they spending money on missions in technical-ly-developed countries and on multicolor packet handouts printed on slick paper when most major religions spend their money on relief efforts in Third World countries?

I was later informed by some people that the Boston Church of Christ has been involved in scandals at MIT. (On Sept. 1, 1987, The Tech ran an article on Church of Christ recruitment of Interphase freshmen). Freshmen are recruited most often because they are vulnerable and need friendship, and clever recruiters often befriend a freshman long before religious overtures are made. This was my personal experience. Also, the Bible study talks are a subtle means of recruitment. A former member of the Church of Christ has informed me that the Bible studies are broken up into five units: the first two are “devoted to convincing you that if you don’t belong to their church, you’re going to hell.” Part one is an exhortation to follow fundamentalist principles, part two asserts that “the kingdom of God is the church, you have to belong to the kingdom of God to go to heaven, a church has to have certain qualifications or it’s not a church, and they’re the only church with these qualifications.”

Unfortunately, prejudice isn’t a punishable crime; however, students can do something to make a moral statement about these organizations. Remember that refusal to be a part of a Bible discussion group does not make you non-religious or an enemy of the faithful. Be proud of your own religious heritage, whatever it may be.

Let me set the record straight: this is not an anti-organized-religion diatribe. What I am trying to say is this: Freedom of worship is all well and good, but when religions take a stand against other religions, the way is opened for more insidious forms of intolerant behavior.

Robert Poole ’92

Wall Street Financial Software Firm

Digital Transactions Inc. (DTI) develops sophisticated financial trading systems for use by leading banks and corporations worldwide. The company is based in New York City and is relocating in May to the Wall Street area.

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Digital Transactions Inc.
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New York, NY 10012
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**Free Information**
- The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation has prepared a pamphlet explaining consumers' rights. For a free copy, write to the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108 or call 722-7735.
- For software and equipment, we are about to market the shrinking dollar amount, the Computer Division has an exciting new product announcement. The announcement concerns the 1988 Student Travel Program. The foliage is one of the most comprehensive, FED budget travel guides ever. For more information, call (212) 681-4414 or 135, 36th Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, (415) 421-2451, Extension 1 for postage and handling.
- A call for a fund-raising drive being provided by the Florida Institute of Technology. This brochure is to provide information about food addiction, and data about the nature and extent of food addiction, and the populations that food addiction exists. The brochure number is 1823-03, 08008.
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**Counseling**
- The Studentements - someone to talk to and someone to listen. Open on call 36th Street, 7 days a week. The center, which will operate 24 hours a day, is open from 8 pm to 8 pm every day for people to come in and talk. Service is free and completely confidential. Call 247-8326.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Tutoring Plan is looking for volunteer Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and Tutors to assist for two hours per week. If you are interested, please contact Anne Buddner at (617) 547-7670.

The MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program needs instructors and tutors to assist disadvantaged high school students in math, English, science, social studies, computer science, and foreign languages. For more information, call (617) 253-6514.

The Cambridge School Volunteer in-service course will help you help kids learn. Three times and sessions can really make a difference in a child's life. Volunteer opportunities include teaching English as a Second Language, reading to young children, tutoring high school students, teaching computer classes, and helping in the Library. For more information, call 498-9018.

Do you have something to offer the public school students of Brookline? Nearly all of the children are eager to share their talents at arts & music volunteer opportunities. Information is available at Publicity/Marketing, Community Relations, and the Nurse. For more information, call 405-615, or visit the School Volunteer Office at 5 West Street, between the Park St. and Washington stops on the MBTA.

The Peace Corps is offering skill-training for programs involving the backgrounds of college graduates with mathematics and science majors. Service will be for two years. During their service, they will receive a generous living allowance, and medical and dental care. A post-service reemployment allowance of $175 per month is paid to each volunteer. For more information on Peace Corps, call 227-7640, or write PEACE CORPS, 120 Cambridge St., Room 1304, Boston, MA 02114.

The Solomon Project is looking for adults who are willing to spend an hour or more during one evening per week teaching basic math skills to children referred by the community. For more information, call (617) 462-3040.

The Greater Framingham Area Vietnam Veterans' Outreach Program is seeking volunteers to assist Vietnam Veterans every Wednesday night from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact the Asian American Association at 105-205, 170, or 195. For further information, call at 63-3343.

Volunteering Information

Meeting Times

Every Tuesday at 7 pm in Wolfer 128, there is a Japanese Lunch Table. Bring a bag lunch, make friends and join this lively group. All levels are welcome.

After Sex Assault: Monthly Discussion Group is for concerned men on Thursday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Student Activities Center, Room 10. The group is sponsored by the MIT Office of Student Activities, with the participation of the MIT Student Volunteer Program. Sessions will be devoted to small group discussions of personal, sexual, violent, sexual harassment, pornography and rape, and other subjects. The group is aimed at university students as well as members of the Asian American Association. For further information, call at 63-3343.

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A BOUT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE between a night with Comedy-Sportz and a night in the tennis Garden is that the crowd at Play It Again, Sam's doesn't break out into fights and get ejected from the premises.

What is "ComedySportz"? Well, words are almost incapable of describing it. If you're familiar with improvisational comedy, you're halfway there. Picture a non-stop barrage of improv games cast in a competitive setting with the audience providing comic material and judging assistance, and you've got the basic idea.

Nine performers, including MIT undergrads Joe Berghammer '91 and Erik Kay '92 (Kay did not perform the night of this review), are divided into two teams of four "actletes" each plus a referee. The competition, selected by the team captains from a diverse list of improvisational comedy exercises, pits various members of the two teams against one another in fast, audience-involving action. The list of games is so long that at a rate of five games a show, this troupe could easily go for a month or more without repetition.

The comedy pitched up ranges from the purely verbal to the almost totally physical. For example, "storytelling" involved six of the eight actletes doing a rapid-fire narrative, switching storytellers with a flick of the referee's index finger. To make matters even wackier, each character had one-liners, all of which start out with "185...". "185" is a game featuring rapid-fire one-liners, all of which start out with "185..." (whether walk into a bar, and the bar- what entitled "Incas in Outer Space" might go, one-liners, all of which start out with '185..."

The first words out of his mouth were "I'm not really here. I'm actually a fictitious character." Things never looked back (or forward, for that matter) as Wright pursued matters such as his neighbor's circular driveway ("she can't get out"), his new "decafinated coffee table," and how fortunate we are that gravitational character." Things never looked up in the air). Wright was evidently trying out some new material to use in the "Comedic Relief" benefit show on Wednesday night.

Closing the evening was local-boy-made-great Jimmy Tingle. Tingle made his debut on national television three weeks ago and seems to be a true "rising star" these days. His Cambridge-cum-Watertown roots make him a sure-fire draw everywhere in town, especially now that he's a "hot item." Tingle's style, unlike Somerby's and Wright's, plays to the lowest common denominator. While all Boston audiences seem to enjoy the complex political comedy of a Barry Crimmins -- who has many of the same traits as Tingle -- also hot these days -- they also seem to go for the less timely, less daring, and more visceral humor of Tingle.

Reading from a notebook, which is literally unheard of for a headline act, Tingle repeatedly drew upon grass-roots elements. After boiling away all complexities in the topics he chooses, he proceeds to make jokes with the residue. Unfortunately, a first-year college course in political science would render nearly all of Tingle's material unfunny and disturbing. A somewhat distasteful example: "We're building chemical weapons, nuclear weapons, and what's the Appeals court say? A book! We should be building bigger and better books!" Half of his jokes were old (by audience standards), stale, and underprepared. At one point he even re-marked, "By Saturday night, this will be one right off!" And he apologized a lot. Perhaps by this weekend he'll have had time to amortize his jokes.

All three performers Tuesday night received the undeniable acclaim of the audience. Wright's appearance made the expe-rience unforgettable, and Bob Somerby's personal charm was a delight. Somerby and Wright play the lowest common denominator. While all Boston audiences seem to enjoy the complex political comedy of a Barry Crimmins -- who has many of the same traits as Tingle -- also hot these days -- they also seem to go for the less timely, less daring, and more visceral humor of Tingle.

[Discussion of comedy shows, performances, and events]

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I

THE MELODIC MELODY JAZZ NIGHT at STRAT'S was more than just a musical performance; it was a celebration of two local jazz groups, the True Colors Big Band and the N-Tet. True Colors took the stage first, featuring their 16-piece big band instrumentation consisting of trumpet, trombone, French horn, synthesizer, guitar, bass, and drums. Their unique sound was designed to convey a sense of unity and to envelop the audience in a rich tapestry of music.

The N-Tet then took the stage, showcasing their prowess on various instruments, including vocals and harmonica. Their harmonious blend of vocals and harmonica was a standout feature of their performance, captivating the audience with the depth and breadth of their musical expression.

The true beauty of the evening was the collaboration between True Colors and the N-Tet, each group embracing its own identity while harmoniously merging together to create a cohesive and memorable musical experience. The performance ended with an encore featuring both groups, leaving the audience in awe of their musical prowess and the joyous atmosphere they had shared.

(To be continued on page 12...)

Tues, March 17, 1989
The Tech
Grant but unwanted epiphany for Dramashop's one-act play series

(Continued from page 11)

Both of these plays, particularly the latter, were especially topical in the face of the demise of this popular form for its student creativity in favor of the newer, more "commercial" outlook of "Theater Arts" Editor Alan Brody. At the question-and-answer session after the plays, the sentiment was definitely one of sadness and hurt at the end of an era, including the departure of Robert Sametz, longtime director of the company. Both he and this enjoyable program will be missed, both by the Dramashop alumni and the local theater audience they had earned over the years.

The Lographyism hosted MIT's newest singing group, the Muses, as part of their annual Log Jam Concert.

TO ALL MONTSERRAT CABALLE TICKET HOLDERS

The Tech Performing Arts Series regrets to announce that Montserrat Caballe was not able to give her March 19 recital due to illness. Tickets should please be returned to the TCA office for refund. Please note that refunds will not be available at Symphony Hall.

The Tech Performing Arts Series presents...

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

The most popular dance company in the United States will give its 30th anniversary Boston performance with classic Aliley works and world premieres. Wang Center, April 11 and 12 at 8 pm, April 13 at 7 pm. MIT price: $8.

Tickets are on sale at the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center. TCA offices are open only limited hours. Office hours are posted on the door; alternatively, you can call 2-4885 before walking over.

The Tech Performing Arts Series, a service for the MIT community, from in cooperation with the Technology Community Association, MIT's student community service organization.

Peter Parraasso's and Alexander Shaker's "Parts" (features from (left) Rachel Mello, Leah Bateman '90, Seymour Liao '91, Julian West and Rebecca Diel)

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NEW YORK STORIES


By ROB MARTELLO

R

less, all depraved Bostonians who have never experienced the magical aura of New York. Touchstone Pictures has just released New York Stories, a combination of three short works written and directed by Martin Scorsese, Francis Coppola, and Woody Allen. The greatest strength of New York Stories is the contrast among three very different views of New York as seen by three directors who have used the Big Apple as the setting for many of their greatest works. In this respect the film is greater than the sum of its parts; although the individual stories are interesting on their own, each one is colored by the bias of its creator. The true diversity of such a complex city could only be accurately portrayed by a collaboration of high-caliber talents, which is indeed the case. Martin Scorsese leads off with Life Without Zoe, starring Nick Nolte and Rosanna Arquette. Although his segment is at times confusing, Scorsese succeeds in portraying the city in an eerie light occasionally recalling the nightmarish atmosphere of the city in the early hours of night. Nolte plays Lionel, a successful artist who returns to New York, in search of his elegant lifestyle and work habits with Paullette (Arquette), his assistant. Paullette is disillusioned with the city as a place for an artist to earn a living and feed up with Lionel's bestial personality. Lionel believes he is madly in love with her, and tries desperately to sway her to the falsity of art which dominates his life. Yet Lionel's paradoxical personality — irritatedly sensitive and sensitive and in control — results in a character impossible to identify with. Paullette also does not succeed in portraying a believable contrast to Nolte, and relies on cliches and posturing expression. Overall, the acting is more of a distraction than anything else.

If the story is poorly drawn out, the screenplay is truly brilliant. Scorsese takes a creative approach to directing, and uses the camera to produce a piece of art instead of just a documentary. About this in an artist's life. The camera's eye range from long shots of dazzling architecture to extreme close-ups of a cow looking at a sleeping man. In addition to a calming effect, the soundtrack conveys an eerie impression. The city takes on a personality that is more understandable than that of any of the characters.

Francis Coppola directed and co-wrote Life Without Zoe (starring Heather McCambell and Thomas Haden Church), daughter Sofia Coppola. The segment recounts some of the escapades of Tony, a sophisticated twelve-year-old girl brought up in Manhattan. During the course of the story, Zoe must deal with a hotel security agent, her parent's divorce, her own feelings of loneliness, and international intrigue and politics. Zoe's problems seem trivial, however, when compared with the problem that the audience has in understanding the characters.

(Shocked)
The Inter-Fraternity Council needs your support to help make Something Happen for Spina Bifida.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 21, 1989 at 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: M.I.T. 3rd Floor Student Center
WHY: A kick-off reception for the 1989 events to raise money for and awareness of Spina Bifida. This reception will feature free pizza courtesy of Pizza Uno. For the fourth consecutive year, the fundraising events will coincide in the months of Lambda Chi Alpha guiding 15-year-old Spina Bifida victim Patrick Friend through the Boston Marathon course.

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING FOR SPINA BIFIDA is made possible by generous financial support from the M.I.T. Coop Gift Certificate to the top individual student.

WOMEN'S HANDBAGging for Spina Bifida" fundraising events will be eligible for prizes donated by the Una Restaurant Corporation. Prizes include Pizzeria Uno pizza parties for up to 100 people to the top student organizer and a $500 M.I.T. Coop Gift Certificate to the top individual student.

WHY: All students who participate in these "Something's Happening for Spina Bifida" fundraising events will be eligible for prizes donated by the Una Restaurant Corporation. Prizes include Pizzeria Uno pizza parties for up to 100 people to the top student organizer and a $500 M.I.T. Coop Gift Certificate to the top individual student.

HOW: Money will be raised by selling $2 Pizzeria Uno gift certificates. All proceeds are directly to benefit the Una Restaurant Corporation.

For more information, please call Craig Griffin at 266-9519.
Superb photography makes new Omnimax film a success

TO THE LIMIT
Muise-Cines Theater, Boston Museum of Science. Continues through October 22.

By DAVID M. J. SASLAV

The latest IMAX/Omnimax production, To The Limit, is a beautifully made, technically stirring experience. The show is truly unique because of recent breakthroughs in endoscopic photography, a technique which sends specially-designed camera lenses on trips through living tissue.

Throughout the eye (and down the lung) of a veteran rock-climber, an ascendant ballerina, and a world-champion skier, To The Limit affords provocative insights into the physical and mental effects of rigorous training and discipline.

The most daring cinematography comprises the first third of the film. Featured are California rock-climber Tony Yaniro and some death-defying shots taken on the cliffs of Yosemite National Park. However, the scene cuts away intermittently to the incredible depths of sensory experience. With interest in education on the rise and walliser's attempts to repeat as Women's Downhill world champion are fraught with peril and expectation, and we get to experience the climax and denouement in an unbelievably realistic fashion.

The last part showcases ballerina Nina Anashvili of the Bolshoi Ballet company as she prepares for a major performance. Unfortunately, this piece is less informative than the other two. We hear voice-over platitudes "(During a performance, I must forget all that I have learned)" or "(I dance between the notes)"...while we watch ballet slowed down to the point of artistic grotesquerie. The medical insights are less memorable too, the primary points of interest in this segment being the several breathtaking scenes of Moscow's streets and architecture.

Surprisingly, the film seemed for longer than its 38 minutes, possibly as a result of the incredible depths of sensory experience afforded by Omnimax. While there is still a long way to go before this medium can beat the real thing, it is a beautiful companion and prepares for a supreme sonic and visual experience.

Rock climber Tony Yaniro clings by his fingertips to the cliffs of Yosemite National Park in the new Omnimax film To The Limit.
German film-maker Alexander Kluge, two of whose works are currently showing at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Abstract film from Alexander Kluge, father of New German Cinema

(Continued from page 14)

A bstractfilm from

German film-maker Alexander Kluge, two of whose works are currently showing at the Museum of Fine Arts.
A R T S

Red Sorghum flawed despite striking imagery and cinematography

HONG GAO LIANG
(RED SORGHUM)

Directed by Zhang Yimou.
Written by Chen Jianyu, Zhu Wei, and Mo Yan.
Based on an original story by Mo Yan.
Now playing at the Coolidge Corner.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

WHILE MANY OF THE CHINESE films shown in the United States have been nuanced by structural, acting, or narrative flaws. So when the 1988 New York Film Festival premieres Hong Gao Liang ("Red Sorghum") on its prestigious closing night and Donald Ritchie compares it to Kurosawa's Rashomon, one cannot help but assume that the seminal Chinese film has finally arrived. Hong Gao Liang is not that film, however. Its breathtaking color cinematography cannot mask the reality that this film is as plagued by structural shortcomings as its cinematic brethren.

The film begins with a young woman nicknamed Nine (Gong Li) being carried in a sedan chair through some sorghum fields. She is about to be married to a winery-owning old leper in exchange for a mule. Abruptly, a masked bandit drags Nine out of the sedan chair and is about to rape her when one of her bald-headed porters (Jiang Wen) attacks and kills the bandit. When Nine returns to her parents' home after being married, she passes the same sorghum fields, and this time it is the bald-headed man who masks his head and abducts her. She does not resist, and he rapes her after flattening a small clearing so that the men at the winery cannot get intoxicated from them, feeling a closeness to the winery servants as well as to the earth itself as the men at the winery go about their tasks and sing prayers in praise of their wine.

Unfortunately, the film jumps ahead nine years and swiftly degenerates into propaganda. It turns out that the whole film has been taking place in the 1920s and 1930s, and the Japanese are about to invade. There is an utterly predictable Chinese uprising, and the ensuing conflict provides plenty of savagery. Blood flows as freely as the red wine once did as the film winds to its violent conclusion, which does little to raise the film out of the hole it has dug for itself.

The seven-year-old Zhang Yimou, who makes his directorial debut with this film, belongs to the Fifth Generation of filmmakers, members of the first class to graduate from Chinese film schools after the Cultural Revolution. He originally studied as a cinematographer, and he shot several recent Chinese feature films, most notably Yellow Earth and The Big Parade. His experience as a cinematographer is abundantly apparent in Hong Gao Liang, especially when the film links the wine to blood-red imagery and vice versa. No one has captured the color red and all its denotations this strikingly since Ingegard Bergman and Sven Nykvist shot Cries and Whispers in 1972. Undeniably, Yimou and his cinematographer, Gu Changwei, have created a color scheme to match Bergman's and Nykvist's classic.

But Yimou's film is unable to resolve nagging doubts about the artistic freedom available to filmmakers in China. Approval and oversight by government officials is still a fact of life in China, and one wonders if the Fifth Generation will have to pass the torch to a younger Sixth Generation—now making its way through film schools and taking cues from Hitchcock and Spielberg rather than the classical masters—before the seminal Chinese film tradition is made. One can only wait, and hope.


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TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1989 The

For Trekkies

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For Trekkies

black holes

By Jeff Ford
Mom says the house just isn't the same without me. Even though I clean it.

Pick of the Lice

By Chris Door

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Outgoing UA president reflects on his tenure

(Continued from page 1)

Board, Dormitory Council, etc. — operated somewhat like separate organizations, Katz said. Katz and UA Vice President Ephraim Lin '90 sought to make the UA a more cohesive body, Katz noted with authority more centralized experience in the UA's operations that the UAP and UAVP alone previously the system was such that a activities fee would be the best source of funding. Activities funding will be a major problem confronting the the student body in the future, Katz predicted.

Drive to seek MIT volunteers

(Continued from page 1)

don't really know how to. We're willing to do the first steps for them — finding a needy organization to be set up with the willing volunteer. All they have to do is put in the time and work," Lee said. "We hope that in taking the initiative for them, MIT students' involvement in community service will increase," she added. "Although we sometimes forget, we at MIT, are the advantaged. The organizations the Center deals with are some of the neediest and most disadvantaged people in the country. It's more than just charity by choice, it's our obligation to help out," Ma said.
Volleyball outlasts Harvard, faces a must-win-against SC

By Kevin T. Huang
The MIT men’s volleyball team kept its playoff hopes alive by defeating the Harvard University Crimson in five sets (15-11, 12-15, 15-10, 15-12, 15-7), played Thursday in DePort. Because MIT had beaten Harvard four weeks ago in straight games (15-11, 15-5, 15-12, 15-7), played Thursday in DePort. Because MIT had beaten Harvard four weeks ago in straight games (15-11, 15-5, 15-12), Harvard has dominated earlier in the season.

Both teams seemed a bit rattled in the beginning. Neither served consistently, but the Engineers managed to take a 7-0 lead in the first game behind a seemingly improbable wall of blockers. However, Harvard got back into the game by blasting high and hard, utilizing the MIT blockers. They got close as 13-10, but MIT held on to win the game 15-11.

In the second game, it was the Crimson that was blocking well. The Harvard middle hitters, whom Altman referred to as the key to Harvard’s game, also started hitting, and they went on to win the game 15-12.

Behind the strong serves of Joe Harrington ’88 and Jae Sang ’88, MIT fencers Joe Harrington ’88 and Jae Sang ’88 have qualified for the NCAA National Fencing Tournament, according to Sang. Harrington qualified in the epee, while Sang’s weapon is the sabre.

Both fencers were members of MIT’s team squad which placed 11th at the Eastern Regional Tournament earlier this month. Each also competed individually. Harrington made the finals in the epee, finishing eighth. Sang reached the sabre semifinals on the way to an 18th place finish. The field for each weapon consisted of 42 fencers.

The Nationals will be held in mid April, at Northwestern.

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