Institute admits the Class of 1993
Math and science scores rise significantly

By Irene C. Kao

The mean science and math standardized test scores for students admitted to the Class of 1993 were higher than those of students admitted last year, according to Director of Admissions Michael C. Behnke.

The mean science and math section scores increased from 727 to 741, the science achievement test mean jumped from 681 to 697, and the math achievement test mean increased from 753 to 764.

The number of students admitted to the Class of 1993 with SAT math scores between 730 and 800 jumped from 9 to 19, an increase of 224 students. Such students comprised 51 percent of the accepted pool this year, compared to 42 percent last year.

These statistics arrive four months after MIT Physics Professor Anthony P. French released a study showing that the fraction of admitted students with math scores in this range fell by 65 percent in 1968 to 38 percent in 1987.

Behnke attributed the latest increase to a redesigned intellectual curriculum and increased financial aid, which he said was still in its "formative stage," but was optimistic about it. His only government experience was a summer job at the National Economic Advisers in 1967, he said.

Although the council operates differently under each administration, Schmalensee said it was still in its "formative stage," but was optimistic about it. His only government experience was a summer job at the National Economic Advisers in 1967, he said.
Bush appoints Schmalensee to CEA

(Continued from page 1)

proach of dividing responsibility among the council’s members.

John Taylor, a macroeconomics specialist from Stanford, will probably take charge of economic forecasting and monetary policy recommendations, while Boiskin will take public positions on fiscal and tax policy.

Since issues such as regulatory incentives and the effect of anti-trust laws on joint ventures have comprised the bulk of Schmale- nese’s recent research, his background is likely to lead him into policy areas such as minimum wage, industrial regulation, and international competitiveness, he said.

Schmalensee said he thought the council would be much more active under Bush than it was un- der Reagan, when its advice was often ignored. “The council is
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PAGE 2 The Tech TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1989

Standardized test scores rise sharply

(Continued from page 1)

The SAT verbal mean of ad- mitted students rose from 656 to 640, and the average on the En- glish/language/history achievement tests was 664, up from 662.

Larger class expected to enroll

Applications to MIT dropped 10 percent from last year, but the quality of the applicant pool in- creased, according to Behnke. He said that applications to all Ivy League schools except Princeton were down by 5 to 18 percent, with Dartmouth finding the largest decrease. In response to defi- ciencies pressures to yield a larger class, however, the fraction of students accepted by MIT in- creased from 25 percent to 28 percent. Behnke expected roughly 1600 freshmen to enroll this fall, up from the 1500 students in each of the previous three classes.

“Actually, class sizes of 1900 were low for MIT history,” he ex- plained. “In some years, they had been close to 1000.”

Thirteen percent of the stu- dents accepted belong to under- represented minority groups. This figure was down from last year’s 16 percent, but still repre- sented the second highest per- centage in MIT’s history.

Thirty-five percent of the ad- mitted students are female, the same as last year’s fraction. The fraction of international students remained at six percent. The number of Asian-Americans ac- cepted, however, increased from 353 to 451.

Eighty-nine percent of the stu- dents accepted this year were in the top 5 percent of their high school class; last year’s figure was 88 percent. The fraction that were school valedictorians re- mained at 39 percent.

Twenty percent of the students admitted to the Class of 1993 said that their “first choice local- demic interest” lay in electrical engineering or computer science, according to Behnke.

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SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

First Session, 1:00PM-3:00PM

A Historical Perspective
Meee Goldman, Professor of History, Boston University

Freedom of Expression in the People’s Republic of China
Hu Ping, Chairman of the Chinese Alliance for Democracy participant in the “Beijing Spring” democracy wall movement

Second Session, 3:30PM-5:30PM

The Legal System in the People’s Republic of China
Stanley Lubman, attorney and Visiting Professor, Harvard Law School

Human Rights in the Republic of China
Hsiu Chang-Kang, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of China

Third Session, 7:30PM-9:30PM

Human Rights in Tibet
Tenzin Tethong, special representative of the Dalai Lama

Human Rights in China and U.S. Foreign Policy
Mark Cohen, Director of the Center for Taiwan International Relations

SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

Saturday, April 8, Room 10-250

Sponsored by the Academic International MIT Groups,
the MIT Center for International Studies, and the MIT programs in Anthropology/Archaeology and Foreign Languages and Literatures

Mommy, I want to be on The Tech when I grow up.
Bush calls for end to occupation of West Bank, Gaza

There has been no comment so far from Israel on President Bush's call for an end to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Bush made the comment yesterday during a White House meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Bush also endorsed the idea of an international peace conference aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel's prime minister travelled to Washington later this week for talks with Bush.

Namibia accord in jeopardy

The State Department is trying to save a US-sponsored agreement for independence in Namibia. A State Department official accused the South West African People's Organization yesterday of violating the agreement by staging attacks on Namibian bases in Angola. The United States is also urging the outgoing South African-controlled government to exercise restraint.

Valdez captain still in hiding

Police in New York are hoping Joseph Handrews will give himself up. The former captain of the Exxon Valdez dropped out of sight shortly after his ship ran aground off the coast of Alaska, sending millions of gallons of crude oil into the ocean.

Oil clean-up said to be hindered by slow response

Interior Secretary Donald H. Hodel said the battle to clean up the massive oil spill in Alaska was lost just hours after the tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground. He said a lack of proper equipment was to blame. Luzan's comments came after he urged delegates to an oil and gas industry conference to clean up their image — or face public opposition to drilling in sensitive areas.

The more that giant Alaska oil spill spreads, the worse things look for the area's 700 sea otters. A team of wildlife experts has set up a makeshift hospital in Valdez, where workers take two hours to painstakingly clean the black gunk from squirming sea otters.

Gorbachev and Castro discuss differences

The leaders of the Soviet Union and Cuba have begun a marathon session of talks in Havana expected to cover their well-known political disagreements. A spokesman for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said the two Soviet elections came up in Gorbachev's talks yesterday with Cuba's Fidel Castro. Castro has never allowed contested elections in Cuba, and has criticized Gorbachev's recent reforms. Even so, Gorbachev's spokesman said the talks are being held in a "friendly atmosphere."

Reagan put North in charge of contra aid, witness says

Oliver North's side of the Iran-contra story is now being heard at his trial. Yesterday, a witness quoted late Central Intelligence Agency chief William Casey as saying President Reagan had designated North to handle contra aid, witness says.

President Reagan had designated North to handle contra-aid, witness says

Ed Nelson's April Almanac

The following weather disturbance of April find their root on the battleground of the retreating cold air mass, which has been entrenched for the winter, and the warm, moist air mass advancing from the Gulf of Mexico. As these air masses meet, violent thunderstorms are set off, often accompanied by hail and an occasional tornado. The severe weather occurrence starts early in the spring along the Gulf of Mexico, and slowly, but steadily advance northward as the weeks progress.

The average high temperature for the month is 56.3°F (13.5°C) and the average low temperature is 40.8°F (4.9°C), giving a mean temperature for the month of 46.6°F (9.2°C). The normal precipitation for the month is 3.77 inches with an average of 12 days of measurable precipitation. "April showers" will be the weather phrase over the next several days as a cold front now located to our west slowly moves through the area. Several disturbances will move northeast along the front this week providing eastern sections of the United States with some much-needed rainfall. Late in the week colder air will be in place over portions of New England — enhancing chances for precipitation of the frozensort.

Tuesday afternoon: Mostly cloudy with afternoon rain and rain showers arriving. A few thunderstorms are also possible. Mild. High 63°F (17°C). Winds southwest 15-20 mph (24-32 km/h).

Tuesday night: Mostly cloudy with showers. Low 50°F (10°C). Winds southwest 15-20 mph (24-32 km/h).


Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Niraj S. Desai
Color coding would give campus unique look

The severe consequences of the impending end of Paul Gray's tenure as MIT president have clearly not yet been evaluated in full. The tradition of naming various buildings, halls, and courts after former leaders of this fine institution is on a collision course with disaster in the case of our present president.

To set us on a group of Distinguished Visiting Scientists has arrived on campus for a colloquium at the recently-dedicated building? "Where," they ask a random student, "might we find the Gray building?"

"Gray building?" the bewildered student replies. "Why, that's all gray!"

The Distinguished Visiting Scientists then arrive late to the colloquium, miss the free coffee and sandwiches, with honor. Class gifts could fill in the remaining colors, with the choice of color commemorating the amount of money donated. True, one class would have to be sated with less popular shades such as peach and taupe, but this would be a small price to pay for the convenience of the new numbering scheme. Within a few years, building names could forever disappear and confusing maps could be replaced with aesthetically pleasing color combinations. This painting scheme would fit in naturally with that found at the new Student Center and would allow the ever more diverse and well-rounded students out by the Admissions Office to wander the halls of the Institute for years without having to memorize, or even encounter, any numbers during their stay as undergraduates.

I trust this proposal will be given the proper consideration it deserves.

Robert Calhoun '90

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Caller identification lessens phone harassment**

I feel obliged to comment on Mark Kantrowitz's column ("New phone feature could result in loss of privacy.") Mar. 7). Kantrowitz contends that Automatic Number Identification has the potential to reduce the privacy of calling parties, particularly of callers to emergency and assistance lines. I disagree, and believe he misses the larger point.

Automatic Number Identification will undoubtedly reduce the anonymity of callers. It is intended to. When you place an associated call over the public network, you must give up some degree of freedom in privacy. To retain those, don't make the call. The receiving party has no such luxury. His or her phone will receive any call from any number not specifically blocked. As the initiator of a call, you are not the called party, and has a responsibility to respect the privacy of others. ANI offers a method of enforcement that is responsible is avoidance.

Consider the case of harassment, particularly sexual harassment. Consider the case of fraudulent business practices, for example. "Callers" should be given the right to privacy. The damage inflicted by these individuals, even more than a deterrent of forensic privacy, is far greater than any loss of privacy to someone who willingly places a telephone call. As a matter of precedent, I cannot think of a single method of communication in which one party doesn't have the obligation to identify himself. I fully recognize that some public services benefit from anonymity for callers. Help lines and certain police lines could certainly benefit, but surely do not need ANI, or have it suppressed from the central office. On balance, however, I believe that ANI provides the requisite safeguard for millions of individuals who lose their privacy to late night calls, harassment, fraud, and thoughtlessness on a daily basis. I think we should pay more attention to the wishes of too many than to the wishes of a few.

Grant Lehman G
Bell Communications Research, Inc.

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**ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

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**ASSOCIATE PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR**

Robert Brown, Gold, and Chartreuse could be convinced to donate many and have buildings named, and painted, in their honor. Cans gifts could fill in the remaining colors, with the choice of color commemorating the amount of money donated. True, recent classes would have to be satisfied with less popular shades such as peach and taupe, but this would be a small price to pay for the convenience of the new numbering scheme. Within a few years, building names could forever disappear and confusing maps could be replaced with aesthetically pleasing color combinations. This painting scheme would fit in naturally with that found at the new Student Center and would allow the ever more diverse and well-rounded students out by the Admissions Office to wander the halls of the Institute for years without having to memorize, or even encounter, any numbers during their stay as undergraduates.

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MIT groups attempt to duplicate fusion results
(Continued from page 1)

Involvement of students’ parents

Steven Jones, a scientist at Brigham Young University, claimed to have performed a similar experiment two neutrons — an alpha particle — from each reaction.

In the experiment carried out by Jones, there did appear to be some fusion reactions at a low level — a few standard deviations above the background level, Luckhardt said. But the Pons/Fleischmann experiments have much more extravagant claims. The researchers claim to have produced a device that produces an energy output greater than the energy input. They have also said that they can produce fusion reactions at room temperature on solids such as palladium instead of in very hot gases. These claims, if proved to be true, could have far-reaching consequences in the future. Pons and Fleischmann have asserted that if commercialized, the technique could produce enough heat and electricity to cause the virtual elimination of oil, coal and nuclear power.

And though this may send some fusion enthusiasts into speculative flights about the effect of such an inexpensive energy source, researchers at MIT and laboratories across the nation are taking it very cautiously. "Pons and Fleischmann are highly respected in their fields, which is electro-chemistry, and so we owe it to them to give them the benefit of the doubt," said Ian H. Hutchinson, associate professor of nuclear engineering at MIT. "But while we are taking their claims seriously, we are not taking them for granted," he added. Hutchinson felt that the claims called for a lot of investigation and that one would have to wait months before concluding one way or another.

"To achieve the power output that they report, i.e. '1 watt in, 4 watts out', without lethal doses of neutron radiation appears to be one of the mysteries that surround the Utah experiment," Luckhardt said. According to him, theoretically one would expect a tremendous level of neutron radiation. But no one died out of radiation exposure in Utah, and that's a good neutron detector, he added.

Hutchinson also felt that it was "doubly puzzling how on earth such a fusion reaction could take place at room temperature in the first place, and how on earth it could do so without giving rise to neutrons or other radiations."

According to Luckhardt, even if the new fusion method were to be used to build a power reactor of 1000 megawatts, for example, tremendous quantities of palladium would be required. "Therefore it is by no means clear how it can be used for commercial power generation," he said.

So the scientific community will have to spend the next few weeks maintaining both its excitement and its skepticism. As Institute Professor Emeritus Phillip Morrison said in an interview last week, "I think there's a chance it's the most important development for a century, and there's a chance it's nothing at all."
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SOUNDS LIKE IF THEY WEREN'T SO GOOD AT MAKING FINS AND OPENING JARS THEY'D BE ABSOLUTELY WORTHLESS!

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By Taro Ohkawa
Costello gives brash, spectacular show at Boston College

**ELVIS COSTELLO**

With Nick Lowe.

Boston College, Friday, March 31.

By PAIGE PARSONS

**THE ADVENTURES OF BARON MUNCHAUSEN**

Directed by Terry Gilliam.

Screenplay by Charles McKeown and Terry Gilliam.

Starring John Neville and Sarah Polley.

Now playing at the Harvard Square and Nickelsdowen Theaters.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

**A** ll of the qualities that made Terry Gilliam's previous two films notable are plainly visible in The Adventures of Baron Munchausen, but something must have gone terribly wrong while Gilliam was making it. Instead of brilliantly manipulating the distinction between dreams and reality, instead of confronting viewers with images packed with overwhelming detail in the best Mad Magazine tradition, the film merely piles one fantastic scene on top of another, succeeding mainly in proving that fantasy too can collapse under its own weight.

In this film, Gilliam addresses the same close-minded worship of rationality that his strong voice carried like rough silk over the raw power of his guitar, producing one of the best live versions of any song I've ever heard. Never before has feedback been such sweet music to the ears.

Opening for Costello was Nick Lowe, Elvis' long time tour-mate and friend. He, too, was uncompromised and played an acoustic set. Lowe included classics like "Cruet to be kind" and his top-ten hit "I knew the bride when she used to rock-"roll" as well as new material from his soon-to-be-released album. He was very entertaining, but the material didn't always lend itself to an acoustic performance. With only a guitar to embellish the songs, one tune sounded quite a bit like the next, and none packed the punch of the original, more rockabilly, versions.

Baron Munchausen (John Neville, 2nd from right) and his comrades prepare to outwit the Sultan in The Adventures of Baron Munchausen.

**Baron Munchausen doth collapse**

...he attacked in Time Bandits (1981) and Brazil (1985). Time Bandits succeeded because its characters tumbled from one adventure to the next with little sense of any overarching goal or reason. Brazil was more structured, but Gilliam charged his creative talents to the fullest to prevent anyone, including the characters, from predicting where the film's jolting turns and twists would lead.

In The Adventures of Baron Munchausen, however, Gilliam hobble's himself right from the beginning by forcing his characters to work toward the ultimate goal of rescuing a city besieged by some angry Turks. Consequently, when Baron Munchausen (John Neville) flies off in a balloon made of women's knickers to enlist his friends in the fight to save the city, Gilliam has little choice than to "accidently" introduce another comrade at each stop along the way. Once this plot device becomes apparent, the film quickly degenerates into an arduous waiting game to see what will happen once the group is finally reunited. By creating this waiting game, Gilliam not only undermines the potential (Please turn to page 10)
Strongly directional light explored in Andrews photographs

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

CHRISTOPHER J. ANDREWS '88
AND JEAN MARIE HERNANDEZ '89

Wiesner Gallery, Student Center, through Friday, April 7.

By V. MICHAEL BOVE

WHEN REVIEWING AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY, THE WRITER STRUGGLES BETWEEN COMMENTING STRICTLY ON THE INDIVIDUAL PICTURES AND TREATING THE SHOW AS A PHOTO ESSAY IN THREE DIMENSIONS. ALTHOUGH CHRISTOPHER ANDREWS '89 TOLD ME THAT HE DIDN'T INTEND TO HAVE AN OBVIOUS UNIFYING THEME BEHIND THE IMAGES IN THIS EXHIBIT, THE PICTURE AT THE ENTRANCE — AN OBSCURELY-LIT, HEAVILY CARVED BRICK WALL — SET THE TONE. THIS IS AN EXHIBIT OF PICTURES ABOUT THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN STRONGLY DIRECTIONAL LIGHT AND SURFACES. THE LIGHT IN THE OPENING PICTURE IS MADE ALMOST TANGIBLE.

Rose Bernstein, Cliff Island
Po by Christopher J. Andrews

Pven though viewing an exhibition of photography, the writer struggles between commenting strictly on the individual pictures and treating the show as a photo essay in three dimensions. Although Christopher Andrews '89 told me that he didn't intend to have an obvious unifying theme behind the images in this exhibit, the picture at the entrance — an obliquely-lit, heavily carved brick wall — sets the tone. This is an exhibit of pictures about the interplay between strongly directional light and surfaces. The light in the opening picture is made almost tangible.

HENNY YOUNGMAN AND LENNY CLARKE
Sanders Theatre, Saturday, April 1.

By DAVID M. J. SASLAV

THERE ISN'T MUCH TO SAY ABOUT HENNY YOUNGMAN THAT HASN'T BEEN SAID AT LEAST A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE. HE NEVER QUITS. HE TOLD THE SAME ONE-LINERS HE WAS TELLING FIFTY TIMES BEFORE. HE NEVER QUITS. HE HE MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST. A-GISH, he must surely have been one of the first. And there's always somebody out there who hasn't heard it yet.

And once behind the mike, it's impossible to stop Lenny Clarke. True, he too has not updated his material much over the years. He still chases at the bit whenever he finds himself in a "keep it clean" setting. But something about his grass roots origin seems to serve him highly successfully; one always gets that feeling of identification with his nonchalant humor. This is the world which people who win the lottery and then say, "Yeah, I'm gonna keep my job as the shoe." (Please turn to page 10)

The top seven papers which will be presented and distributed at the conference are:

- "A SEAGULL Visits the Race Track" by Michael de la Maza
- "ML Type - Checking is Not Efficient" by Michael D. Ernst
- "A Simple Placement and Routing Algorithm for a Two-Dimensional Congrual Origami Architectural Design" by Robert S. French
- "Pipeline Timing Simulation with Constraint Management" by Edan Kabatchnik and Steven Chanin
- "LAMBDA: A simple but Powerful Parallel Programming Environment" by Michael Benjamin Parker
- "Hybrid Network Routing for Large Store and Forward Networks" by Stephen R. Smoot

The award winning paper is:

- "A NeWS-based Window Object for Graph Interfaces" by Manuela O. Vasilescu

For more information contact:
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(617) 225-8263 stone@wheaties.ai.mit.edu.

MIT - ACM Undergraduate Computer Science Conference

Saturday, April 8, 1989
12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Grier Room (34-401)

This first MIT-ACM Undergraduate Computer Science Conference will recognize and display quality research done by MIT undergraduates. Papers covering topics generally relating to Computer Science were submitted by MIT undergraduates. The goal of this conference is to assemble undergraduates in a forum in which:

- Expands the realm of undergraduate education to issues outside classes;
- Encourages communication of technical ideas among a peer group;
- Allows undergraduates to present their work in a formal setting;
- Provides undergraduates with experience in writing and presenting papers.

Each undergraduate presentation will be a half-hour in length. Special thanks to MIT EECS, ACM and Microsoft for sponsoring this event.
Comical High Hopes can't support anti-Thatcher diatribe

HIGH HOPES
Written and directed by Mike Leigh. Starring Philip Davis, Ruth Sheen, and Edna Dore. At the Nickelodeon Theater.

By CORINNE WAYSHEK

Beneath its sharp political satire of the nouveau riches lurks a warm and saddening story of lost idealism in High Hopes, a British film about present-day England under Margaret Thatcher. In the film, writer-director Mike Leigh straddles the social strata with nerves fully, dreads for characters, inextricably tying the varied range of character's aspirations and ideals to class structure.

Much of the film focuses on Cyril (Philip Davis), a husky intellectual who drives a delivery motorcycle by day and philosophizes about Marxism by night. The movie seems to support Cyril's theory about the inverse relationship of a person's wealth to his worth with its one-dimensional portrait of the nouveau riches. The wealthy characters lead petty but seemingly content lives, but Cyril remains extremely bitter and cynical.

Cyril's one salvation is his relationship of ten years with his live-in-partner Shirley. (Ruth Sheen), a tall woman who oddly defined facial features give her a honey yet intruding appearance. In many ways, Shirley's wins are a perfect match to Cyril's. All of her plants, which seem to overtake the space of their tiny flat, are named after political figures - she has a spiny cactus affectionately named "Mr. Sausage." The couple's dispute stems from Shirley's desire to have a baby, but their relationship remains strong, even superseding the mortuary hardships they endure.

On the opposite side of the social spectrum is a yuppie couple, Laetitia (Leslie Mannville) and Rupert (David Barber). The couple's taut and impeccably dressed bodies and perfectly pink flesh give them a myth of a yuppie couple, a myth that is being late for the evening's opera. The two flatter about as they show up to the opera, only to come home for the evening's round of sex which involves a cute stuffed animal nicknamed "Mr. Sausage." This simple, stylized portrait of the upper class, while hilarious, works against the political message of the movie. The audience has a tough time believing that such meaningless people control England and suppress the lower and working classes.

(Director Leigh) attempts to convey the sad plight of the elderly through the character of Mrs. Bender (Edna Dore). The elderly woman is often shut out from the audience, and her presence is the final note of the film's social message of anti-Thatcherism.

No rhyme or reason to muddled Baron

(Continued from page 8) of his fantasy sequences but makes his film downright tedious at times. Nonetheless, Gilliam's visual sensibilities are matched only by his awareness of the vast possibilities of sound and stereo separations, and Michael Kamen's score is as high as good as his excellent score for Brazil. Nevertheless, the obvious care and technical wizardry that has gone into these moments cannot substitute for the element of unpredictability that the film so badly needs.

The fantasy sequences might have been better if they were not constantly trying to rehash the unnecessary purpose imposed on them. But one can't do this because of the presence of Gilliam's plots and caricature presented in the book. Gilliam's directorial style is perhaps the most satisfying of them all along. Her presence is the final confirmation that the film's plot structure is really nothing more than an excuse, and a particularly lame one at that, for Gilliam to indulge in his penchant for fantasy.

One final note about Saturday's show: comedy at Santros is not pretty. The hall is built for music, concentration, and sonic dispersion, not for listening to the spoken voice amplified a dozen times. From both the back and the ceiling the performers are not able to ask my neighbor what the punchline has been for the joke in three. Given such poor sound, the discomfort of nearly all of Santros' seating, and the expensive nature of the tickets, one can hardly call that the ideal setting for a show such as this. Nevertheless, the sight of one of modern stand-up comedy's grandfathers, the veritable "King of the One-Liners," playing "Hava Nagila" as though he thought he wasn't just a story, was a treat for me. It surely was not for him, but holy for the audience, which knew this all along. Her presence is the final confirmation that the film's plot structure is really nothing more than an excuse, and a particularly lame one at that, for Gilliam to indulge in his penchant for fantasy.

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Novel narrative means prove downfall of ART's In Twilight

IN TWILIGHT: TALES FROM CHEKHOV
Directed by Tina Landau.
The American Repertory Theatre.
At the Hasty Pudding Theatre.

By MARK ROBERTS

The American Repertory Theatre is opening its eighth New Stages series on a gentle note with stage adaptations of four short stories by the Russian writer Chekhov. Although he was better known for his plays, Chekhov was prolific in this miniature literature form, publishing over ten thousand pages of stories and tales in the first twenty years of his artistic life. His stories share the black humor and irony of the plays in their acute observation of people's daily lives. Even set firmly in the society and period in which he wrote, they have universal significance in their theme of the tragedies and joys of human relations and experience.

The pieces in ART's production do not leap further from the form and structure of the original short stories than is needed, for in all four of the characters double as a narrator, often offering direct authorial comment on the action as well as describing it further and filling in details of people's histories. Although this technique allows the precise point of the story to be reproduced exactly, it is disappointing that such a literal approach to the adaptation was taken in all four plays. Given that the program notes quote Chekhov as saying he thought that "The artist must be only an impartial witness of his characters and what they said, not their judge," one might have expected a less intrusive voice. At least the action might have been allowed to stand on its own without extra commentary. The decision to always have a narrator suggests a lack of confidence. It did, however, produce interesting excursions of what we saw, which was further emphasized by the combination of rich period costume with an open, canvas-draped stage, mimed or extemporized props, and a bully of a father. Harry S. Murphy played the father tempestuously and gushingly looked the part of the scowling earthly tyrant. On the very subject matter, the treatment was also a little lighter and produced better results, for the son would step out of character to offer witty commentary on the proceedings.

The longest of the pieces, In the Revels, never found the precision and concentration characteristic of the best short stories. It offered a plethora of interesting images and situations — the sullen village fellowing to pollution from its factories, a counterfeiter with the ability to see the evil in people's hearts, his pious mother who sees only the good, a simple soul who likes to eat jam and loves her baby to the cruelty of a jealous flirt — but in such profusion that the end result was confusion. Perhaps a jumble is a true piece of life than a neatly tailored slice, but often this scene seemed to be intending to go somewhere and then lost its way, making for disassaying drama. Nonetheless, individual performances and episodes were impressive: Charles Geyer as Azazim, the wild eyed forger, and Alice Manning as the saintly Varvara Nikolayevna, "who gets faster and faster" were both absorbing to watch.

The last piece, The Student, returned to the simplicity and brevity of a single strong idea but failed to convince. The episode in which a student, cold and gloomy as the tramps outside, is awakened through his chance encounter with two customers is the short, utter joy of life reflected in the very arrangement of the world around him, is potentially very moving. The episode Chekhov is trying to describe is a powerful one, but Steven Zahn, who played the student, was not able to display this very personal emotion or describe it in his role as narrator. The drawings to be played by the student as the adaptation was particularly apparent here, when it is felt that one neither had the chance to imagine the emotion for oneself as one would if one were to read the story, nor the chance to experience it through another's portrayal on stage.
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Beatrice's Free Brick Oven Pizza

By Chris Doerr

Comics
sports

A trio of senior gymnasts cap their careers at the ECAC Championships

By Eric M. Reifsneider

The MIT varsity pistol team has qualified for the Intercollegiate National Championships in all three shooting events. The competition will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, March 25-26.

The varsity team consists of four members: Tim Day '89, Fred Chong '90, Ken DeCanio, the senior manager, and Isako Hoshino '89. The team has been working hard throughout the season, with a perfect start and quickly coming to the top third position throughout the first semester. They are now doing well in all three team events, bringing medals back. Their rating to 35 strokes per minute secured the position with an impressive "power" 20 strokes of 1.125.

In the individual competition, DeCanio showed his domination in the first place finishes in the final competition. He is currently a member of the Olympic National Development team, and has earned a spot on the US Junior Air Pistol team going to the World Airgun Championships to be held in Sarajevo in late April. Chong, the team's captain, qualified 14th in air, while DeCanio, the senior manager, qualified 19th in air, 20th in standard, and was designated "an alternate" in free pistol.

The MIT varsity pistol team has won several national championship events and has held several national records. The team won the free pistol championship last year at Colorado Springs, setting a national record in that event which still stands.

By Anh Thu Vo

The MIT men's lightweight varsity gymnastics team recently competed at the 1989 NCAA Division III National Championships, held at San Luis Obispo, CA, the team will not go to the meet. Thus, the ECAC Championship was the last meet in the collegiate careers of senior co-captains Tony Antonelli '89 and Mike Oakes '90. As it turned out, the ECAC Championship was the last meet in the collegiate careers of senior co-captains.

The team's captain, Reifschneider, was 6.8 on the Routine with a half-twisting back flip, back flip, front flip. His score would have been higher had he not overrotated the front flip and stopped out of bounds.

Lightweight

crews win convincingly

The MIT varsity eight executed a perfect start and steadily dominated the lead over the first three quarter mile. Their time was 6:58.0, 37 seconds in front of Albany. By the finish line, as they finished fifth in place, only a few points behind the winning team.

Varsity sailing starts season with a pair of solid showings

By Iako Hoshino

The MIT sailing team started first place finishes in the final meet. Their two boats will next compete against Yale University on April 8 at New Haven, followed by Harvard University on April 9 at the New England Division III National Championships. The varsity sailors placed third out of 13 schools, also competing against the University of Connecticut and Dartmouth College who also placed third in the competition. MIT, once a perennial favorite for winning third place in the competition, finished fifth place, only a few points behind the winning team.

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Although MIT qualified for the Division II-III National Championships this weekend in San Luis Obispo, CA, the team's hopes for a strong showing were dashed by the performance of the Engineers. The MIT varsity sailing team placed third out of 13 schools, also competing against the nationally ranked teams. Their two boats were skipped by Chris Kronich '89 and cleaned by Hoshino, securing fifth place, only a few points behind the winning team. The B squad was skippered by the captain, Warren K. Wu '90, and later Doug Sabin '89, and coxed by the B crew sailing team to help the Engineers in securing their fourth-place finish.

The B squad finished third in their division, skippered by Drew Freides '89 and later by Dan Hinniman '90, both cleaned by Iako Hoshino '89. Freides started the regatta and maintained the top third position throughout the first and most of the second day, until Hinniman succeeded him and secured the position with an impressive "power" 20 strokes of 1.125.

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The B squad finished third in their division, skippered by Drew Freides '89 and later by Dan Hinniman '90, both cleaned by Iako Hoshino '89. Freides started the regatta and maintained the top third position throughout the first and most of the second day, until Hinniman succeeded him and secured the position with an impressive "power" 20 strokes of 1.125.