Welcome Freshmen!

Friday, September 1, 1989

Alpha Phi could be first sorority to get a house

By Reven M. Lerner

Alpha Phi is close to obtaining a house for the sorority. If true, the purchase would mark the end of the sorority's five-year search for a house. The search began with the first sorority house at MIT.

Phi President Ann E. Kenjo said she was not aware of any changes in Alpha Phi's housing search.

The Office of the Dean for Student Affairs James R. Tewhey said he was unaware of the situation. Associate Dean for Student Affairs Linda K. Vossmer could not provide comment on Rhee '90 declined to comment on the housing search and said that even sorority members were not fully aware of the situation.

The Zeta Phi chapter of Alpha Phi was founded on February 11, 1984. Then Associate Dean Stephen D. Immerman predicted that the sorority would find a house later that semester. Immerman, Director of Activities for the Campus Activities Complex, could not be reached for comment.

According to members, Alpha Phi, Alpha Chi Omega, and Sigma Kappa, which were established last year, are enrolled. The main impetus for the search was to provide a cultural support group for the building fund, along with $20 for the building fund, along with an initiative $170 charge and $50 dues each year. Alpha Chi Omega charges $100 for their building fund, a $200 one-time fee, and $25 monthly dues. Sigma Kappa was formally installed in February, with $200 for the building fund, a $250 annual fee, and a total of $25 monthly dues.

Phi's housing search.

Phi could be close to obtaining a house for the sorority. If true, the purchase would mark the end of the sorority's five-year search for a house. The search began with the first sorority house at MIT.

Phi, Alpha Chi Omega, and Sigma Kappa are currently searching for housing since the first sorority house was established last year. James R. Tewhey said he was unable to find his way back from Blackstone and Putnam stations to the new $15,000 kilometer station locomotive.

The power failure is one of several that have affected the MIT campus this summer, all of approximately the same duration.}

Blackout strikes MIT

Problems with aligning a new system at Cambridge Electric may cause a power outage shortly after 2:00 PM yesterday. Cambridge Electric was in the process of switching the power load from Blackstone and Putnam stations to the new $15,000 kilometer station locomotive.

The power failure is one of several that have affected the MIT campus this summer, all of approximately the same duration.

Fraternity expects pledges practice will check hazing

By Linda D'Angelo

"Beginning with the class of 1993, freshmen who choose to live at MIT will form brotherhoods immediately," said MIT chapter chairman Rob G. Martinello '92. This follows the announcement last week by both the ZBT and Tau Kappa Epsilon national chapters that this fall the pledge system would be replaced with new rules to emphasize more positive behavior.

In the ZBT, like most fraternities on campus, used an "extended pledge period," Dorow said. "Pledges for the fall semester were initiated as full members prior to the spring semester," he explained.

Towed by both ZBT and TKE, which has no fraternity-related incidents resulting

Reports of bicycle thefts double in past year

By Irene C. Kuo

Approximately 25 bicycles on the MIT campus have been reported stolen since August 1, more than double the figure for the same period last year. Since January 1, 1986, the Campus Police has received 120 such reports.

Among the major concerns of the Campus Police is the rapid increase in bicycle thefts on the campus.

Patrolman Cheryl Vossmer said that fewer thefts occurred near campus buildings rather than the academic buildings. Only a very small number of bikes have been recovered, she added.

Three fourths of the stolen bikes were complete bikes, the others were parts.

One reason she offered for the theft increase is that more students are using bikes, and costlier ones at that. "Most thefts were of mountain bikes and other expensive bikes," she said.

"Thieves have found ways to defeat U-shaped locks," she explained. "Also, many owners park their bikes in random places, since they're not allowed to secure them to railings or keep them in the halls or in labs."

"Thefts have been quite common," said Matt M. Parmelee, who is a parking bikes in the special compound behind Building 13.

She stressed the importance of reporting bike thefts so that the Campus Police can locate bike theft prone areas.

Freshmen can select Chocolate City

By Irene C. Kuo

Freshmen may now designate "Chocolate City," currently an all-black, all male section of New House 1, on their housing preference cards. In the past, students interested in living on those three floors first had to select New House, then choose Chocolate City during the dormitory's internal rush. This plan simplifies the rush procedures of Chocolate City and the language houses at New House. "It allows those who really want to live in Chocolate City the chance to do so," said Chocolate City co-chair Robert Dodd '90.

Chocolate City residents met with Associate Dean for Student Affairs James R. Tewhey to request a change in this procedure last spring, after which they submitted a formal proposal to him. While this year's housing preference cards will list Chocolate City, the chance to select Chocolate City for them, but you don't have to form a separate group," Dodd explained. "But at MIT they do form a small population."

"Black students in Chocolate City had a more comfortable experience at MIT," Tewhey concurred. "Living in that kind of environment was helpful."

Chocolate City will continue to have space for 28 residents.

Feeding frenzy! Freshmen went out to dinner last night with the upperclassmen.

Ken Church/The Tech

Lisa Primiano '92 rehearses her smile for the R/O skills.

Ken Church/The Tech

Feeding frenzy! Freshmen went out to dinner last night with the upperclassmen.
The Cambridge Committee for Responsible Fratermity Programs (CCRR) has been offering skill training programs to approximately 200 students to obtain expensive volunteer positions in construction and related fields. Volunteers this winter and spring will be working in such areas as the Virginia Bridge and Tunnel Authority, Diebold, and Hazelwood. Telephone the Cambridge Committee for Responsible Fratermity Programs at 257-3366 or write to: Student Conservation Association, 1800 Euclid Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612.

The Adult Literacy Resource Institute (ALRI) is providing opportunities for about 150 students to teach reading to children in need. Volunteers this winter and spring will be working in such areas as the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Boston, and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Telephone the Adult Literacy Resource Institute at 259-4505 or write to: Student Conservation Association, 1800 Euclid Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is providing opportunities for about 150 students to teach reading to children in need. Volunteers this winter and spring will be working in such areas as the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Boston, and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Telephone the Adult Literacy Resource Institute at 259-4505 or write to: Student Conservation Association, 1800 Euclid Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612.

The Family Support Network is also sponsoring a support group for teen parents, a group for isolated or overwhelmed parents, a support group for teen parents, and a group for isolated or overwhelmed parents. The Family Support Network is also sponsoring a support group for teen parents, a group for isolated or overwhelmed parents, and an education program. Please call 727-7755 for more information.

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World

China denies Amnesty
International charges
China has denied allegations that it used mass arrests and secret executions in its suppression of the democracy movement. The human rights group Amnesty International made the charges in a message to China's Premier and called for the release of all "prisoners of conscience." A foreign ministry spokesman in Beijing labeled the charges "entirely ungrounded and unreasonable" and insisted that there are no political prisoners in China.

Illegal aliens now ineligible for welfare
Governor Michael Dukakis has said that the practice is per-
fectly legal, Dukakis stated that the state could no longer
afford it. Muriel Heilburger of the Massachusetts Immig-
grant and Refugee Coalition called the move a tragic re-
treat from the state's commitment to help refugees.

East Germany to allow Westward migration?
Sources in the West German government said a plan had been worked out to allow up to 20,000 East Germans into the West in the next few days. The emigrés appar-
ently would not need the usual documentation. Austrian officials confirm they have been asked by the Bonn gov-
ernment to have special rail transportation ready.

Sports

Collusion costs owners $10.5 million
Arbitrator Thomas Roberts yesterday fined major league baseball owners $10.5 million for conspiring to ef-
fectively kill movement by free agents between the 1985 and 1986 seasons. In addition, players have the right to submit additional claims because of damages from the 1985 and 1986 seasons. In addition, players have the-right to
lead the San Diego Padres to a 5-1 victory over the Phila-
second single. There has never been a no-hitter
through by a San Diego pitcher in the club's 21 year his-
hit on a San Diego pitcher in the club's 21 year his-
	ory.

Brown's Mack suspended
Cleveland Browns running back Kevin Mack has been suspended for thirty days by the National Football
League. The penalty stems from Mack's guilty plea to a
criminal charge of cocaine use. The 26 year old Mack is
awaiting sentencing in the case in which he can receive the
maximum legal penalty of 18 months in jail and a $2500 fine.

National

Pan Am accident might have
been unpreventable
The chairman of a house transportation panel said yes-
terday that the bomb that destroyed Pan Am flight 103
might not have been detected by new devices the govern-
ment is ordering. Illinois Democrat Cardiss Collins said
the bomb-detection devices would not be able to tell when
there are small amounts of explosives in luggage. Investi-
gators contend that flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in December due to a small bomb hidden in lugg-
ages. The Federal Aviation Administration wanted the de-
vice installed at 40 of the world's busiest airports.

Forests scanned for pollution
Researchers from NASA and the University of Maine, with the use of aircraft and satellites, are studying forests in
hopes of correlating pollution and global climate
changes. Radar, along with devices that measure sunlight
and heat reflected from the earth, have been used to de-
termine the nature of the underlying surface, measure moisture in the soil, and gauge the density of the forests.
University of Maine associate professor Mike Goltz said
that if the equipment proves accurate, routine use of the
equipment on satellites and airplanes could help deter-
mine the general health and productivity of different
kinds of ecosystems throughout the world and provide
information about global warming trends.

Benzene emission to be restricted
The Environmental Protection Agency said that the sharpest reduction will be in the steel indus-
try, which produces benzene as a byproduct of produc-
tion. Federal scientists estimated that benzene can cause can-
cer and birth defects, as well as damage blood-forming
organs.

Bakker to undergo psychiatric evaluation
The fraud trial of Jim Bakker may be on hold for more
than a month. The television preacher went to federal
prison for psychiatric evaluation yesterday after being
found hiding in his attorney's office. His psychiatrist told
the judge in Charlotte, North Carolina that Bakker was
also hallucinating. The judge ordered the examination to
determine whether Bakker is competent to stand trial.
Prosecutor Mike Swofford said such evaluations usually
take about 45 days.

Weather

Did you pack a raincoat?
Today might start off nicely, but remember to
take your umbrella along with you tonight. Fall has
arrived.

Compiled by Linda D'Angelo

Local

Harbor pollution still has
fish bent out of shape
Scientists said that the deformed and unusual fish sci-
cents collected during a recent Boston Harbor study
meant that pollution in the Harbor has not gotten better.
As many as 50 percent of fish collected in this latest "fish-
in" have bent fins, dwarfing, or liver abnormalities.

Sheriff fired in Providence
Rhode Island Governor DiPere yesterday fired Provi-
cence County's Deputy High Sheriff John Dececco Jr., who allegedly associated with mob gamblers. The gover-
nor's actions against Dececco came after disclosure of FBI
affidavits in which Dececco was alleged to have helped run a gambling operation under the late mob boss Ray-
mond Patriarca. DiPere's letter to Dececco cited two pro-
visions of state that would conflict with the proper dis-
buse of his office. Rhode Island sheriffs primarily handle courthouse security, but Dececco in recent years
had been removed from handling most sensitive informa-
tion because of rumors of his alleged involvement with
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thistle belittled efforts on sexism, alcohol

The National Panhel Con-
ference at MIT consists of three national sororities and over 200 women. At MIT, the NPC soror-
ities are also members of the Interfraternity Council. As mem-
bers of the IFC, the NPC takes
offense to some of the articles in yesterday's Thistle. Contrary to
these opinions, the IFC rush is designed to help freshmen find an
organization which they will be comfortable with for the re-
minder of his or her years at MIT. The articles in the Septem-
ber Thistle belittles the effort that the IFC is making to find
the best placement for both the freshmen and the independent living
groups.

Other issues which the Thistle brought up are harassment and
sexism. MIT makes a large effort to inform freshmen what their
options are if confronted with these issues. These efforts include
distributing pamphlets in the Resi-
dence/Orientation Center, ad-
dressing the issues in pre-orientation combination discussion groups,
and addressing them in the skill
presented to all freshmen during rush week. There is also a sexual
issue taken lightly by either the Institute or the IFC. We strongly
oppose the suggestion that wom-
en at MIT are helpless bystanders incapable of making their own
intelligent decisions.

The IFC recently adopted a dry rush policy which restricts all
freshmen and transfers from drinking during their entire period.
This policy, as well as the stand-
ing IFC party policy, is being widely followed by the freshmen.

We appreciate your timely
response to the R to IFC issue of
The Thistle. We would like the IFC's
intent to help freshmen find the most comfortable living arrange-
ments. However, to thoroughly
understand the issues involved, it
is essential to recognize the dif-
ferences between the IFC's stated official policy and the reality of
Rush. If they feel that Rush ful-
fills its stated intent, then they
should not take offense in hav-
ing some of the harder realities of Rush exposed in "RUSH: An
Insider's Guide." In the past, no other MIT publication has pro-
vided this service to the freshmen. In the future, we hope that the
IFC will assume this responsibility.

This dichotomy between policy and reality continues in the case
of sexual harassment. While MIT has "made a large effort to inform freshmen about the
sexism, the cases of sexual harassment and Rush violations reported in
Thistle that did in fact occur. The
May issue contained knowledge about the hardship, the Insti-
tute is unwilling to effectively
discipline sexual offenders. There are
approximately two harass-
ment cases reported each day, yet
repeat offenders continue unhun-
ded. MIT keeps no record of these cases. The Association for
Women Students has been fight-
ing an uphill battle to implement
an effective harassment policy. On
dry Rush. We feel misrepre-
sentation where you want to live dur-
ing Rush, we recommend staying
fairly sober." We feel misrepre-

sented. How did you draw your inferences? What did you draw your inferences from?

Lastly, do you believe that we feel "women at MIT are helpless
bystanders incapable of making intelligent decision?" We support the efforts of women at MIT to struggle against sexism.
We recognize that some women are able to ade-
quately combat sexist behavior and restrictive social roles, while others are not. Our article ad-
dressed both issues.

Recall that The Thistle devoted its entire April edition to issues concerning women and rights. If the IFC is truly concerned for women's rights, it will have an opportunity to act.

In November, there will be a march on Washington for wom-

en's rights. We will see you there.

Ron Francis G

Arnold Fang '90

Members of the Alternative News Collective

IFC underestimates problems of fraternity rush

The editor's The Alternative News Collective received a copy of the above letter and submitted a copy of their response to the Thistle.

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Members of the Alternative News Collective

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Open an ATM Convenience Account, and you’ll never be at a loss for words.

We’ll give you a free American Heritage Dictionary!

We designed our ATM Convenience Account especially to meet the needs of students. And if you open one before October 1, you’ll get a free American Heritage Dictionary embossed with your monogram. In fact, we’ll give you a free dictionary if you open a checking, NOW, savings, money market or an ATM Convenience Account.

We’re small enough to offer friendly, personal service, yet large enough to help students in many ways — with direct deposit, Credit Reserve, MasterCard, sale deposit boxes and storage lockers, student loans and foreign currency, to name a few.

For student lifestyles, the ATM Convenience Account is what we’d call really convenient. And once you open one and get your free dictionary, you may find yourself calling it commodious, efficacious, expeditious or even wieldy if you dare!

A few words about ATM Convenience Accounts.

Convenient. No standing in line to cash a check. Use any of our ATMs free, as often as you want, for deposits, withdrawals, and balance checks.

Inexpensive. No minimum balance, low monthly service charge of only $2.50, and 5 free checks per month.

Easily accessible. You’ll find our ATMs at Harvard Square, Kendall Square, Harvard Business School, Huron Avenue and University Place.

And when you are not in Cambridge, use your card to make withdrawals and balance inquiries from ATMs in over 20,000 locations nationwide.

Cambridge Trust Company
Kendall Square, across from the MIT Coop
Harvard Sq./353 Huron Ave./University Place/876-5500
Weston Center 893-5500/Member FDIC
Rush Guidelines:

- On Friday of Rush Week visit several houses. Don’t let any one house monopolize your time. Don’t feel like you must stay at a house you visit to be polite. If you’re not comfortable at a particular house, visit another. Rush is short, and you can’t afford to waste your valuable time at a house you don’t like. Thirty-three different living groups belong to the IFC, and it’s entirely possible you may visit many houses before you find three or four at which you want to spend more time.

- Don’t spend time during Rush sightseeing in Boston, or pursuing any other activities for which you will have plenty of time after Rush. This weekend is the only chance you will have to choose from one of the 33 living groups and/or three sororities of the IFC.

- Don’t let your parents tag along or restrict your options. They may know where they want you to live, but only you know what’s right for you.

- Remember to have an open mind. “Animal House” doesn’t exist at MIT. You should forget all Fraternity and Sorority stereotypes. Visit and decide on your own.

- Lastly: Have Fun!

Correction:

Phi Kappa Theta fraternity was incorrectly listed in the IFC Summer Rush book as DK’T. It should have been listed as OK`. 

The InterFraternity Council

Welcomes the Class of 1993
“What did I tell you?... Does this place have terrific tie food or what?!”

Oscar complies with the “truth in advertising” law.

The infamous Long Johns Silver

ANY NUMBER CAN PLAY

Whether you play violin or piano, whether you are a soloist or a member of the chorus, you will find plenty of opportunities to play and sing in the Longy School of Music. In chamber music ensembles, orchestra, early music ensembles, or flute orchestra... vocal chamber groups, opera... in improvisation workshops and performance classes...

All with Boston’s finest teachers and performers, and the most interested and interesting music lovers.

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Stratton Student Center, W20-021
Weekdays 10am-4:30pm, x3-7686

If you’re in the market for a Personal Computer—We may have what you’re looking for.

The Microcomputer Center sells, services and supports IBM Personal System/2 and the Macintosh family of personal computers. From the IBM Model 30 286 (the PC AT compatible computer with PS/2 power), to the Macintosh IIcx (offering all the power of the Macintosh IIx but at half the desk size), and not just computers... You'll find a complete range of computer supplies and software at very competitive pricing. About Microsoft Word for $99 or WordPerfect for just $99.

We have what mail order can’t offer: Immediate delivery on in stock merchandise, a complete service department, and a staff of consultants who will help you before, during, and after the sale. Visit the Microcomputer Center showroom located in the lower level of the Stratton Student Center.

Your Satisfaction is Our Goal.
The draft beer keg. It's awkward. It's bulky. And it's not particularly attractive. But in all our years in the brewing business we've found no other container better suited for maintaining the consistent quality of real, ice-cold draft beer than the keg.

So whenever you purchase Budweiser draft beer, it comes from a keg. Not because we still care that much about kegs, but because we still care that much about quality.

Draft beer in kegs. It's just one of the reasons why Budweiser has remained the King of Beers for more than 110 years.
Next To MIT, The Coop Is The Smartest Place In Town!

Shopping at The MIT Coop has been a tradition since 1916. Students like you have made The Coop what it is today. And it was students who first created The Coop back in 1882. Today The Coop is America’s oldest and largest collegiate bookstore cooperative. The Coop Board of Directors is made up of 11 students from MIT and Harvard and 11 alumni members. If you’d like to see who The Coop Board Members are, just check in the cashier’s office. Best of all, as a Coop Member, you’re entitled to an annual rebate on everything you buy. Here’s a brief checklist of what’s doing at The Coop!

The MIT Coop At Kendall.
Your MITCoop at Kendall is brimming with everything you need during your years at MIT. From all the textbooks that are necessary for class to all sorts of clothing and accessories to jazz up your wardrobe. The MIT Coop at Kendall has a full line of insignia merchandise plus one of the most exciting music sections filled with all your favorite classical and popular CDs and pre-recorded tapes. And you’re free to go to one of The Coop’s extensive selection of home furnishings. The Coop is also famous for computers, calculators, and typewriters that will make your work easier and more professional than ever. We also feature a variety of services to make life simpler for you while you’re studying so hard at MIT.

The Stratton Center Coop!
How convenient! When you need something from The Coop it’s a hurry, just hurry over to your Coop at Stratton Center. It’s your on campus headquarters for school supplies, film and photo-developing, batteries, insignia merchandise, and lots more!

Read All About It!
When it comes to reading material, The Coop is definitely all booked up! In addition to all the textbooks you’ll need for your classes, you’ll find an almost endless selection of general books from the best of the New York Times Best Sellers to books on humor, travel, finance, cooking, history, mystery, facts, fiction and science fiction, too.

You’ll Find All The Write Stuff In Our Stationery Department.
When it comes to pencils, pens, papers, binders, folders, staples, tape, clips and all sorts of school supplies, come to our Stationery department. It’s filled with everything you’ll need to get organized, keep your notes in order and always have your work looking its professional best.

The Coop Gets Around!
Naturally, The MIT Coop at Kendall is the closest to campus. But there are Coop stores almost anywhere you go in and around Boston. Look for The Coop in Harvard Square, the MIT Coop at Kendall, The Coop at Longwood, The Downtown Coop at One Federal Street in Boston and Stratton Center on campus at MIT. The Coop is at Harvard Law and Business Schools, too.

A Cut Above!
Hairstyles with class, are available for men and women in The Coop Barber Shops at our Kendall and Harvard Business School stores.

Save Money, Save Time, Save Steps.
Doing your shopping at The Coop means you’ll save money on everything you need. And since our selection is so extensive, you won’t have to shop all over town. Fashions and accessories for men and women, insignia merchandise, telephones, housewares, typewriters, towels, sheets, you name it, The Coop has it!

Who Qualifies For Coop Membership?
Students, faculty, alumni and employees of MIT. Membership, costs just $1 per year and applications are available at the Cashier’s Desk at any Coop location.

Hungry? Head For Our Food Court!
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LONDON CLASSICAL PLAYERS
Conducted by Roger Norrington.
Great Woods, August 8.

By JONATHAN RICHMOND

The most successful in the recording, too.
This movement was to rapturous effect. This movement was winds and tranquility of strings combining pathos and imagination;
the recording in pathos and imagination; performances at Great Woods far surpassed the recorded with subtlety of coloration and depth of feeling.

The second movement, "By the brook," was the most moving, the gentle cooing of rushing to the music at a great pace, like a racing driver attending to the race course.

Yet, this philosophy, as applied in Norrington's recording of the "Pastoral," results in an overall lack of atmosphere and of feeling. Pastoral scenes are rushed through with careless abandon, and poignant details brushed past unlovingly in an attempt to maintain allegedly "authentic" tempers. Despite a few passages of abrasiveness, the musical images at Great Woods were for the most part idyllic; in contrast with the recording, the music was delivered with subtlety of coloration and depth of feeling.

Roger Norrington rehearses the London Classical Players in London.

The build-up to the fourth movement was full of suspense, but was eclipsed by the radiance of the "Happy and thankful feelings after the storm" in the concluding movement, where measured — not pushed — tempi and thoughtful, feeling interpretation made for a finale of tenderness and beauty.

The concert also included stirring performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral." It was remarkable for its surprising departures from the recording of the same symphony by Norrington and the Classical Players, released earlier this year. Norrington is known for his fast tempi. Despite a few passages of abrasive
tions at Great Woods, August 8.

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MTG's Little Shop could be entertaining, but suffers from over-acting

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
Preseented by the Musical Theatre Guild.
Directed by Michael Friedhoff,
Kresge Little Theatre, September 1-3 and September 7-10.

By DAVID STERN

OVERALL, I WAS UNHAPPY with Little Shop of Horrors. While some of the jokes are hilarious, there are long gaps between them. The version presented by the Musical Theatre Guild, despite a good effort by director Michael Friedhoff '90, comes out awkward at times. The acting (or rather, over-acting) varies from a stilted Douglas Forbes as Mr. Mushnik to an outrageously fauxy Susan Ella W '91 as the ditsy Audrey and a charming F. Burris Jackson '90 as Seymour.

The songs, which alternate between pseudo-'50s doo-wop and standard Broadway show tunes, are uniformly weak. The errant '50s songs would never have been written by any self-respecting songwriter in the 1950s and were more self-parody than parody. The vocals are generally good, especially the Crystal/Chiffon/Ronnette trio in their doo-wop harmonies. The band, while not exactly the Late Night band, is adequate. It features some smooth bluesy guitar work by musical director Dan Hooken '90 on "Now," and an excellent pianist.

The set and props are well done and colorful. Special praise goes to designers of plant/puppet, Audrey II, which single-handedly livens up the stage. The play does make certain attempts to satirize American society in its jokes and plot, but the satire somehow fails to strengthen the play. It seems overwhelmed by the inadequacies of the script as a whole, and sticks out each time it appears.

As with MTG's production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way To the Forum last May, there may be many people who will enjoy this musical. The songs are catchy, and the production has its lively moments, so if you liked Forum, perhaps Little Shop might provide an entertaining evening. But although Little Shop did have its good points, they did not compensate for its weak one; the bottom line is that I was bored.

Unsatisfying film version of Bainbridge's Dressmaker is caught in generation gap

THE DRESSMAKER
Directed by Jim O'Brien.
Screenplay by John McGrath.
Based on the novel by Beryl Bainbridge.
Starring Joan Plowright, Billie Whitlaw, and F. Burris Jackson '90.
Plays through September 8 at the Museum of Fine Arts.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

THIS IS THE TYPE OF FILM WHOSE TITLE IS unrelated to anything else in the film, a sure sign that the filmmakers have stripped away the elements of the novel that gave meaning to the title. In the case of The Dressmaker — a 1973 novel by British author Beryl Bainbridge that was runner-up for the prestigious Booker Prize — one may never know what liberties the filmmakers have taken, since the novel is now out of print. However, one thing seems certain — the film version succumbs to the same generational gap that divides the major characters, and that leads to the film's undoing.

There is a person in this film who makes dresses — the film opens with a shot of a matronly figure working at a sewing machine — but the bulk of the film tells the story of a young girl named Rita who comes of age in 1944 Liverpool. Rita's Aunt Nellie (Joan Plowright) and Aunt Margo (Billie Whitlaw) have been taking care of her ever since her mother died. Nellie (who is the dressmaker) is the sort of prim and proper woman who would be perfectly typecast as an elderly schoolmarm. She mutters things to herself like, "Young girls can get away with murder these days. Shameless." Margo, on the other hand, loves to party, be merry, and enjoy life while she can.

Seventeen-year-old Rita, who is just being... (Please turn to page 19)
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On The Town
Compiled by Peter Dunn

Friday, Sept. 1

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
* * * CRITIC’S CHOICE * * *

SOMERSET WEST, 1080 Main St., 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 PM. Low price for a second week. No charge for college students. Telephone: 934-2622.

Ultra Byte, with guest The Royal Pigeon, Solutions of Greediness, and Settlement, perform at the Chateau, 10 Harvard Square, 9:00 PM. Phone: 495-9402.

Tribble in Atlantis, DeCallahan, The Death and The Righteous perform in the Madhouse at 1054 Massachusetts Ave., 8:00 PM. Phone: 495-4840.

The Wonders of Space and Time, an evening of music and poetry, featuring William S. Burroughs, perform at the Majestic, 91 Harvard Street, 8:00 PM. Phone: 495-1222.

The Beatle Stampede, 50 cents/Girls, 60 cents/Boys, 75 cents/Everyone else, 8:00 PM. Phone: 495-0241.

The Broadway Show, 6:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 9:00 PM. Phone: 495-0101.

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C. J. Hunter and the All Soul Legion.
EEA Gala: Saturday, Sept. 2.
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FILM & VIDEO

The American Museum presents the film "40 Days and 40 Nights" on 1555 Massachusetts Ave., 3:00 PM. Phone: 576-2306.

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* * * CRITIC’S CHOICE * * *

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The Beatle Stampede, 50 cents/Girls, 60 cents/Boys, 75 cents/Everyone else, 8:00 PM. Phone: 495-0241.

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Information for Returning Users about the New Fall Release (6.3B)
Project Athena has installed Release 6.3B of the system software. In addition to a new Mac-like Motif Window Manager mwm, and an on-line help facility help, there is a new graphically-oriented display manager xdm and login process.

Introducing xdm required renaming user customization files (‘dot’ files) by appending .prefall89 to their original names. The process used to do this was designed to ensure the privacy and integrity of the contents each user’s files.

Returning users’ accounts will be fully functional, although in a system-wide ‘default’ mode, without any customizations they may have previously introduced. Restoring prior customizations will involve cutting and pasting the contents of old command files into new command files. User documentation describing the new release and how to get your old customization into the new dot files are available on-line and in the public clusters.

For more information about customization with the new dot files, come to the 11-116 Athena workstation cluster. Consultants will be available there to help you on weekday afternoons starting Wednesday, September 6. Call 3-4435, or check the posters on the 11-115 and 11-116 doors for the precise schedule.

R/O Minicourse Schedule

September 6, How to Get Around Athena (a User’s Introduction) Room 26-100, at 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, & 5pm

September 7, Basic Word Processing at Athena Room 26-100, at 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, & 5pm

September 8, Advanced Word Processing at Athena Room 26-100, at 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, & 5pm

Sept 6-8, 12n-6pm
Student Center 5th floor, Athena workstation cluster
Athena Staff help you try out what you’ve learned.

Information for Faculty and TA’s
Be sure to let the Faculty Liaison Office (x3-0115, x3-0170) know if you will be using Athena in a course this year. It is also important to try out your courseware on a workstation running the new release (6.3B) before the semester starts.
Shifting points of view mark coming-of-age film

(Continued from page 11)

Rita and Wesley in a scene from The Dressmaker.

Planning to develop both emotionally and sexually, gets caught in the middle between these opposing points of view when she finds herself falling in love with a young American soldier named Wesley (Tim Ransom).

Although Joan Plowright's performance has earned the lion's share of critical kudos, the portrayal by newcomer Jane Horrocks as the mixed-up Rita is the movie's most asset, simply because Rita's character is the most interesting one. Rita's growing pains — "I like kissing, not doing rude things," says Rita after Wesley makes a pass at her — are hardly earth-shattering events, but they are certainly genuine, and Horrocks convincingly brings them to life.

The number of films that explore the coming-of-age story from the female point of view is distressingly small, and this film could have been a valuable addition to the list. Unfortunately, while the film evokes the same era as John Boorman's Hope and Glory (1987), The Dressmaker is much less successful because it keeps vacillating from one generational perspective to another and ends up doing justice to none of them.

Generational gaps can be potent subject material for serious filmmakers willing to explore the resulting tensions and pressures, but for whatever reason, director Jim O'Brien seems to have shied away from the very elements that could have made the film interesting and successful. The resulting film can't give enough screen time to meaningfully develop Nellie's and Margo's personae.

The film does eventually come together when the three main characters thrust aside their differences to deal with an unexpected death, but even then the final resolution seems rather shaky and contrived. Worse yet, the film simply ends, completely ignoring the real conflict that will arise if Rita discovers the truth behind the death. As it stands, the promising portrayal of Rita is hopelessly undermined by the film's numerous vacillations in point of view, and the film suffers for it accordingly.

(The above is an expanded version of a review that ran in these pages last September when the film played in the 1988 Boston Film Festival.)
Tools of the trade

All sorts of different things go into putting together MIT's oldest and largest newspaper (items not pictured include pizza and ice cream). You're welcome to come over and see how it all works — and we'd love to teach you to help. The Tech has openings in our news, sports, arts, opinion, production, photography, and business departments. Visit our booth at the Activities Midway, or drop by our offices on the fourth floor of the Student Center any Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday night starting in September.