

Welcome Class of 1995!

MIT
Cambridge
Massachusetts

The Tech

Continuous
News Service
Since 1881

Friday, April 5, 1991

Volume 111, Number 17

IFC votes 23-4 not to recognize AEPi

By Joey Marquez

The Interfraternity Council voted Wednesday night not to recognize the reorganized chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi. The vote came a year after the disbanding of the Mu Tau chapter and the formation of a new fraternity, Delta Pi, by the 45 members asked to leave the chapter last April. The vote was 23 to 4, with five abstentions.

A decision to recognize AEPi would have made the MIT chap-

ter a non-voting member in the IFC for one year. Such a trial membership is subject to suspension by a simple majority vote. Trial members must pay half of the normal dues and give the IFC a list of all activities, officers and financial statements.

Discussion held before the vote brought forth differing opinions from members of both the reorganized AEPi and DPI.

Keith Mackay '91, president of DPI, commented that AEPi is a fraternity that is "uncomfortable with people who don't follow Jewish ideals all the time." He also said that a statement given by AEPi to all living groups indicated that AEPi, although not directly stating that they would like an all-Jewish fraternity, indicated that the chapter was biased toward Jewish members.

Another IFC representative said that the former members of AEPi, who are now members of DPI, were treated unfairly and suggested that the IFC and the Institute should wait to rerecognize AEPi until all DPI brothers have left MIT.

David E. Borison '91, president of the reorganized AEPi,

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William Chu/The Tech

President Charles M. Vest speaks to demonstrators holding a candlelight vigil for divestment Wednesday evening.

Corporation to discuss divestment

By Dave Watt

At the request of the Coalition Against Apartheid, the Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation has agreed to discuss the issue of divestment at its meeting today, according to sources in the CAA.

If the Executive Committee decides not to act, then "activism

will be here through the end of the semester," warned Sue E. Nissman G, a member of the CAA.

Members of the coalition are pleased that the Executive Committee has agreed to discuss divestment at one of its meetings. "Divestment is on the agenda, I think for the first time ever," said Samuel Asséfa G, another CAA member.

Members of the CAA and the Executive Committee met for the third time this academic year yesterday afternoon. The CAA presented the committee with a three-point proposal for divestment. The Executive Committee members did not respond directly to their proposal, but did say that divestment will be on the

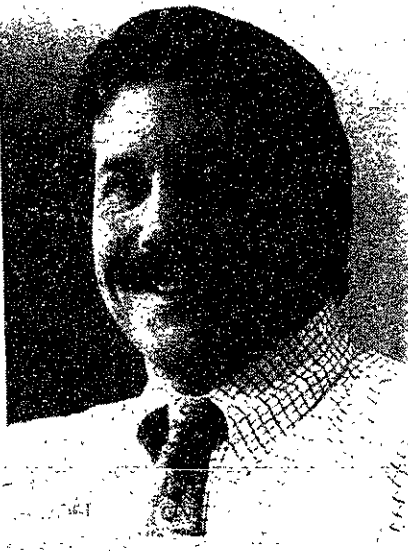
agenda today, according to Nissman.

Some coalition members expressed doubt that the corporation's discussion of divestment would be sincere. "We should hope they are dialoguing in good faith with us," said Ronald W. Francis PhD '91 of the CAA, who attended the meeting with the Executive Committee yesterday.

"I don't have a sense that they're really concerned about the community's opinion on this issue," noted Nissman later on.

Members of the coalition believe they have the support of the MIT community in their call for divestment. In a referendum con-

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William Chu/The Tech

Neal H. Dorow

Professor protests minority policies

By Brian Rosenberg

Professor of Mechanical Engineering James H. Williams '67 fasted Wednesday as part of a continuing protest against MIT's minority education and hiring policies. From 9 am until 5 pm, Williams sat outside Room 3-208, the offices of both President Charles M. Vest and Provost Mark S. Wrighton. Williams plans to continue fasting in this manner each Wednesday during April.

MIT had not prepared a statement on Williams' protest as of yesterday afternoon, according to Kenneth D. Campbell, director of the MIT News Office. Campbell did say, however, that the administration agrees that "there are too few black faculty, and that's become a top priority. In the past five and a half months since President Vest and Provost

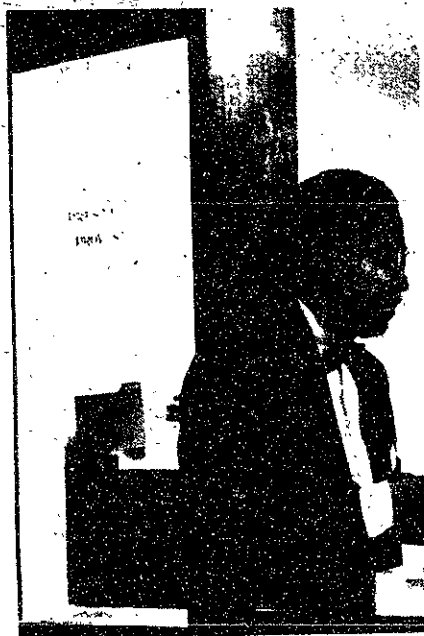
Wrighton came to office, two black faculty have been hired."

In an article written for the March issue of the faculty newsletter, Williams described his actions as being outside the "classic model of protest: I want nothing from the MIT administration. There is nothing to be discussed, demanded, initiated, ceased or capitulated. I am simply protesting."

Williams explained the breadth of his protest in an interview Wednesday. "I'm taking issue not with individuals, but with the whole policy of the administration," he said. Williams said he had deliberately avoided creating a "laundry list [of goals] for someone to pick at."

"As an individual faculty member," Williams said, "I feel it is not my responsibility to generate

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Andy Silber/The Tech

Professor of Mechanical Engineering James H. Williams fasts outside President Charles M. Vest's office.

MIT investigates Lobdell party stabbings

By Andrea Lambert

The stabbing of two Boston-area men at a reggae dance party in Lobdell Court Saturday night, along with concern about how the party's organizers registered the party, have prompted the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs to investigate the circumstances surrounding the party.

The goal of the investigation is to determine exactly what happened at the party, whether MIT party policy could have prevented the situation that led to the stabbing, "whether we need to make changes in [the] procedures, and whether our procedures were followed in this instance," Dean for Student Affairs Arthur C. Smith said.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs James R. Tewhey is conducting the investigation, Smith said, and has been interviewing students involved with the party

this week. Tewhey did not return repeated phone calls yesterday and Wednesday.

Smith, Campus Police Chief Anne P. Glavin and Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 have been discussing the implications of the stabbing at the party, Glavin said. Because they have not completed their discussion of the incident, Glavin did not want to comment on the nature of their talks or on possible changes in party policy.

Last weekend's stabbing was the third violent incident to occur in connection with a party in the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center. In October 1989, a Boston man pulled a revolver on another man in the parking lot behind Kresge Auditorium and fired a shot, but no one was injured. The man had been turned away from a party in the Student Center. And in February 1987, a

Roxbury man stabbed and killed a Northeastern University freshman at an Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity party in the Student Center.

Glavin said she has "had some discussion with the student affairs office [and Dickson]" on these types of incidents and "there needs to be more discussion on that. I have my own ideas as to how we should handle these functions; the discussion obviously surrounds that."

Any possible changes in the party policy will be determined by the outcome of the Dean's Office's investigation, and by the discussions among Smith, Glavin, and Dickson. Smith said, "If we conclude [the stabbing] wasn't the fault of the policy, then the policy won't change. We're not out to stop parties or make them

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CECI will raise money for computing research

By Joanna Stone

As the eight-year experimental run of Project Athena comes to a close, Provost Mark S. Wrighton announced that the educational computing research Athena initiated will now be done under a new umbrella organization — the Center for Educational Computing Initiatives (CECI).

The Athena project will conclude on June 30 of this year when grants and support from IBM and the Digital Equipment Corporation expire. According to the current director of Project Athena, Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Earl M. Murman, until now, Athena has been structured in two parts: "the research part, which has developed the software that people are now out there using, and the service part, which keeps things running."

After June 30, the service part of Project Athena, which has recently merged with Information Systems, will be funded by the Institute. "And the research part is moving to be funded externally," said Murman. It is this research function that CECI will take over, Murman explained.

What students know as Project Athena through their day-to-day use of it will remain basically the same for the near future, said Murman.

Lerman to run CECI

Wrighton appointed Steven R. Lerman '72, professor of civil engineering, to direct CECI. Lerman will also head the Academic Computing Council, recently established by Wrighton to identify computing needs in the community and help gauge what research MIT should be doing. Wrighton plans to announce council appointments next month.

The hope is that IBM and DEC will lend their financial support to this new extension of the

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inside

Festival of Animation provides laughter and delight. Page 8.

Algerian film festival brings unfamiliar treasures to MIT. Page 9.

Grant Hart's latest album with Nova Mob is a disappointment. Page 11.

IFC votes 23-4 against AEPi

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said that IFC members should "not be voting whether one likes AEPi." He stated that voting not to recognize AEPi would not be hurting the fraternity's national organization, but would hurt the members and the incoming freshmen.

Borison also added that the members should not base their votes on information reported by *The Tech*, and told IFC members that *The Tech* "sensationalizes everything they print."

Neal H. Dorow, advisor to fraternities and independent living groups, insisted that the administration was not involved in the reorganization of AEPi and that they were dismayed when they heard that the national was reorganizing the MIT chapter.

Dorow also said that AEPi does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race or religion, as some former members of AEPi had charged.

IFC must release statement

Dorow and IFC president Holly L. Simpson '92 told the IFC that a statement giving the reasons for the decision must be written up for James R. Tewhey, associate dean for student affairs.

Dorow explained that a statement is needed because people outside of the MIT community, including the Mu Tau Corporation, AEPi national, and alumni, have deep interest in what is happening on campus. Some representatives said they felt that the IFC vote was a message to nationals that they should help brothers change their mistakes rather than interfere in or break up fraternities.

Another IFC representative

cited a rumor she had heard that members of AEPi had badgered Jewish freshmen to join during this year's rush, and that she believed this behavior was unacceptable.

Simpson said that at the present time "a couple of presidents are summing up the reasons" given for the vote and that all of the IFC's member organizations will have the opportunity to review the statement and decide if it is what the IFC wants to present. Simpson added that the state-

ment is necessary to "explain reasons" for the decision and to "make [the IFC's] position clear."

Dorow said that he "wished the [IFC] had voted differently." But he also added that the "IFC had some legitimate concerns about how AEPi national dealt with the reorganization" and said that he "respects" their decision.

Dorow and Tewhey both supported the recognition of AEPi at the last IFC meeting in March.

Tewhey could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Williams fasts against MIT minority policies

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a list of revisions to educational policy. I would, however, like to take part in the process of the faculty as a whole developing policy."

Williams said that he has expressed his concerns in writing to both Vest and Wrighton. "Dr. Vest has not responded to my letter, but I spoke with the provost and felt that I was able to communicate my ideas. However, nothing has happened," he said.

Williams explained that his fasts may be only the first of a number of protests. "Depending on faculty and administration response [to this protest], I may do something else in the future, something more specific in its implementation," he added, though he declined to elaborate.

Professor Williams said that he chose Wednesdays for his fasts because he does not teach any classes on Wednesdays, days which he usually reserves for "outside consulting and activities."

Williams' action has generated

both extensive media coverage and support on campus. "My colleagues in the mechanical engineering department have been very supportive," he said.

As an example of minority-related problems at MIT, Williams wrote in the faculty newsletter that he was the only "full-time native born black American faculty in the combined Schools of Engineering and Science" at MIT. Clarence G. Williams, assistant equal opportunity officer, said he could not confirm Williams' claim because his office does not keep records concerning place of birth.

Williams did say, however, that there are currently 14 black faculty members who are US citizens. According to Campbell in the News Office, three of these black faculty members are in the School of Science and three are in the School of Engineering.

Campbell said the administration is trying to deal with "the national problem of a decline in the supply of [minority] faculty in relation to the students."

CECI to take over Athena research efforts

(Continued from page 1)

Athena project, said Lerman. "Certainly we're in discussions with [IBM and DEC about future funding]," he said. However, Lerman said he does not expect future funding to be "large and broad scale," like funding for Athena. Instead, he expects funding for specific projects, funded by multiple industrial partners, similar to the manner most research in laboratories is funded.

According to Lerman, CECI is also "in discussions" with Sony and Bull in Europe. "We're still in the early stage," he said, adding, "There's been no commitment at this point."

Lerman is hoping to get some initial funding by July 1. "Some ideas will be funded early on, [and] additional ideas will be funded as they come up," said Lerman.

The first research idea on Lerman's agenda is to continue the work on multimedia applications, including the development of Muse software, which began while Lerman was director of Athena.

Muse allows students to create — quickly and without programming skills — highly interactive multimedia applications. The prototype for Muse contains interactive ideas on how to write applications, said Lerman. He hopes to further develop, among other things, the software's ability to relate moving video to text and graphics.

There are many other things on Lerman's agenda, including scientific visual tools in which students could interact with a visual concept such as vector fields as they learn about it. Further down the road, Lerman hopes to develop educational tools to help in Kindergarten-12 teaching.

Lerman noted that CECI will eventually merge its developments with those of Athena. The

newly-merged Athena and IS will probably do some work towards making Athena more tolerant to DOS, Unix and Macintoshes, he said.

Now that it is entirely supported by the Institute, funding for any research or upgrading of service for Project Athena has dropped 60 percent for the upcoming academic year, to \$3.7 million.

IBM and DEC said they did not want to continue funding Athena as it is now. "Both DEC and IBM have expressed the viewpoint that the service part of Athena is MIT's responsibility. They helped us to create it, now we should pay for it," said Murman. IBM and DEC feel the same way about library services, he added.

Yet, Wrighton still hopes to obtain outside funding for what he terms the infrastructure of Athena. He said he would still "like very much to secure additional support" for more workstations and improvement of the service segment.

Athena has become a prototype

Wrighton said he was extremely pleased with the results of the

eight-year experimental phase of Project Athena. "I think it's been a remarkable achievement. It went from something very much research-oriented to something that provides [a variety of services] for a large fraction of [the MIT community]," Wrighton said.

According to Wrighton, Athena has become a prototype that many other institutions are using, and some of Athena's research partners are now commercializing products and techniques developed during the past eight years.

Murman also noted how pleased he was with Athena's success in becoming more user-friendly. "So, now a person who knows nothing about Athena can get started [using it]," he said.

Murman said he was not displeased that Athena's experimental period was over and that continued research would have to be done under CECI. "It's like the Apollo program and going to the moon," he said. "You set a goal, you take a giant step forward, and once you've done that, it's time you take on new direction. We've set up a computing environment, Act I has been completed, and it's time we raised the curtains on Act II," he said.



Andy Silber/The Tech

Project Athena clusters will be busy for the rest of the term as students finish writing term papers & theses.

CAA holds candlelight vigil, urges divestment

(Continued from page 1)

ducted by the Undergraduate Association last May, 47.1 percent of undergraduates voting favored divestment, while 42 percent opposed it. An unusually high turnout of 55 percent of undergraduates participated in the referendum.

But further liberalizing legislation in South Africa, including the abolition of the Population Registration Act, which classifies South Africans by race, has led some governments to consider ending their sanctions against South Africa. "Sanctions are in danger of collapse," said Nissman at a candlelight vigil for divestment Wednesday evening.

These reforms also led members of the Executive Committee to question whether or not the CAA's divestment proposal still has community support, said Assefa.

Executive Committee members also asked if the CAA would be willing to conduct another referendum on the divestment question, Assefa said. "Our response was, there is no point unless there is a binding referendum; if it is, then we'd be willing to do this," Assefa said.

The CAA's proposal calls for MIT to divest from companies directly invested in South Africa, and further, to divest from companies identified as "the most blatant examples" of indirect investment in the South African economy.

Finally, they asked that the Executive Committee make a public statement reaffirming MIT's support for economic sanctions until a non-racial democracy is established in South Africa.

75 attend candlelight vigil at Vest's home

About 75 people attended a candlelight vigil for divestment outside President Charles M. Vest's home Wednesday evening.

Coalition supporters listened to speeches and sang songs outside 111 Memorial Dr. between 7 and 8:30 pm Wednesday, while Vest held a dinner inside honoring 1990-91 Killian Award Lecturer George H. Büchi. Vest came outside during the vigil to thank the protesters for their calmness. "I hope we can continue a dialogue," Vest added.

(Editor's note: Andrea Lambert contributed to the reporting of this story.)

FRESHMAN OPEN HOUSE

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3:00 PM

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Tour of Laboratories

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Environmental Impact Assessment Review

Associate Editors Wanted

Environmental Impact Assessment Review is accepting applications from Ph.D. students to fill three of eight vacancies on the Board of Associate Editors. *EIA Review* is a quarterly publication edited at MIT. It covers a wide range of approaches to impact assessment, environmental decision making, and the resolution of environmental disputes. The journal is intended to give planners, engineers, scientists, and administrators in the public and private sectors insight into the multiple problems and processes of environmental decision making. The *Review* covers both the theory and practice of environmental decision making, and offers timely summaries of new forecasting techniques and breakthroughs in the field.

Specific topics have ranged from negotiating better Superfund settlements to improving the Environmental Impact Statement process for offshore oil leasing to managing nuclear waste. A complete set of the *Review* is kept in Rotch Library.

As an Associate Editor you will have an opportunity to learn how a peer-reviewed, professional journal operates. At monthly lunch meetings the Associates work together with members of the Advisory Board to develop the *Review's* editorial policies and the content of upcoming issues, including the annual issue devoted to a single topic of special interest. Associate Editors assist in writing and reviewing editorials as well as contacting peer-reviewers for submitted manuscripts. In the process, Associate Editors make contacts with scholars and practitioners of environmental decision making in and outside of MIT.

If you are interested in being an Associate Editor, please send your resume and a letter of application to Teresa Hill, Editor, *EIA Review* E40-243, MIT, by April 9.

news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Turkey closes border to Iraqi refugees

The United States is urging Turkey to open its border to refugees from Iraq. The Turkish government said it can not handle the refugees, and it will beef up border patrols to keep them out. Turkish President Turgut Ozal said about 100,000 Kurds have pushed in anyway.

More than two million Kurds have fled northern Iraq, where rebels have been fighting government troops. The refugees have camped in the mountains along the Turkish-Iranian border. Many have reportedly died from exposure and starvation, or wounds suffered in Iraqi military attacks.

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said the Turkish government was trying to convince refugees to stay out of Turkey. But Boucher said Turkey is not turning away the refugees that manage to get in.

Kurdish rebels have also been trying to flee to Iran. Iran's official news agency said as many as 1.5 million refugees are heading for an Iranian town near the Iraqi border. The news agency said that at least 40 people died in the cold during their journey.

Three years ago some 60,000 Kurds entered Turkey to escape chemical attacks by Baghdad's troops. About 27,000 refugees remain in camps in Turkey.

A doctor working with the current flood of refugees told Turkish television that some have gunshot wounds and burns that could be the result of a chemical offensive. He said some children are suffering from malnutrition.

Turkey had at least 100,000 troops along its border with Iraq before the current situation began. Military officials say at least 400,000 more are being deployed to the area.

Bush not sending troops to aid Kurds

President George Bush was asked again why the United States is doing so little for the Kurdish rebels fighting the Iraqi government. Bush said it was never a stated objective of the coalition to intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq.

He also repeated that he has no intention of sending US troops into Iraq. The president also condemned, once again, what he called Saddam Hussein's brutality against his own people.

About 600 Kurdish protesters have let Bush know how they feel about his "hands-off" policy toward Iraq. They demonstrated outside a hotel in southern California yesterday as Bush met with the Japanese prime minister. They held up signs that said "Save the Kurds" and "Stop the holocaust in Iraq."

Meanwhile, the United Nations is considering what to do about the deteriorating situation in Iraq. The Security Council adjourned yesterday after private debate on a resolution condemning the military crackdown as a threat to international peace and security. Diplomats say China and the Soviet Union, which have their own internal dissent problems, are trying to tone down the language.

Nation

PA senator killed in plane crash

Flags are flying at half-staff on Capitol Hill and at Pennsylvania's capitol in Harrisburg — a sign of mourning for Sen. John Heinz. The Pennsylvania Republican and six other people died when their small plane collided with a helicopter over suburban Philadelphia yesterday. Burning debris rained on a schoolyard in Bala Cynwyd. Officials said the accident killed Heinz and two other people in the plane, two in the helicopter, and two children and one adult on the ground.

Heinz's colleagues remembered him as a hardworking legislator and a good friend. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) said his friend will be missed for the "considerable energy which he always gave for his state and his country." President George Bush issued a statement saying: "The people of Pennsylvania have lost a great leader and the nation has lost a great senator."

The 52-year-old senator was known for his efforts to protect the steel industry from foreign competition. Heinz, who was heir to the Heinz food fortune, had served three terms.

LA police chief suspended

The Los Angeles Police Commission has forced Police Chief Daryl Gates to take a 60-day paid leave of absence, pending the outcome of investigations into the videotaped police beating of a black motorist.

The decision came after a closed-door meeting with Gates. No reason was given for the move. The new interim police chief, David Dotson, said he will try to bring some stability to the city's police force.

Gates said he feels he has been "disgraced and defamed." He pledges to fight the order. Mayor Tom Bradley urged Gates to resign for the good of the city.

In another development, the two blue-ribbon citizens' groups that were formed to review police training and tactics have decided to merge. One panel was assembled by Gates, the other by Bradley.

Local

Weld gains vote supporting veto of cabinet salary rollback

First-term Republican Sen. Mathew Amorello said he has decided to vote to sustain Gov. William F. Weld's veto of a salary rollback. Amorello's vote gave the administration hope of securing the 14 votes needed, when the issue comes up in the Senate on Monday.

Earlier this week Amorello denied that the administration pressured him for his vote. Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci said only that he expects the vote to be close. The Massachusetts House voted on Monday overwhelmingly to override the Weld veto. The issue centers on the salaries of Weld's cabinet secretaries.

Amorello said in a statement that he believes the governor should have the right to set the salaries of his managers. Weld's chief secretary, John Moffitt, met several times with Amorello about his vote on the veto.

Coal companies fined 5 million dollars

Labor Secretary Lynn Martin said there is "almost an addiction" to cheating on health rules at some coal mines. The government has ordered about 500 companies to pay a record \$5 million dollars in fines for alleged tampering with coal dust samples. The samples are used to determine miners' risk of developing black lung disease.

Martin said she was especially upset at how widespread the abuses were. The president of the National Coal Association said he does not believe that dust samples were tampered with.

The United Mine Workers Union said coal miners will slowly strangle as long as the companies are trusted to monitor their mines. UMW President Richard Trumka said the report demonstrates the need to change the way the dust samples are collected.

Gunmen hold 24 hostage in store

Gunmen continued to hold about two dozen people hostage inside a Sacramento, CA, electronics store as this issue went to press. Earlier yesterday evening, two women and five children were released. Officials said that an interpreter was helping conduct phone negotiations between police and gunmen, who apparently speak little English. There are no reports of injuries.

The store is in a mall about eight miles from the state capitol. The store is surrounded by Sacramento police and highway patrol officers. Authorities have sealed off the area surrounding the store.

Weather

Tops

A high pressure system established over the eastern seaboard will assure us of pleasant temperatures and fair skies. A warm and generally dry air mass in conjunction with a downslope effect augmented by a cold front located to the north of us on Sunday may bring a near record warmth for the second part of the weekend, and possibly into early next week.

Friday afternoon: Sunshine gradually giving way to some increasing clouds. Highs in the 68-72°F (20-22°C) range. Winds from the southwest at 12-20 mph (19-32 kph).

Friday night: Becoming cloudy with some light sprinkles scattered throughout the area. Fresh southwesterly breeze continuing through the night. Low around 50°F (10°C).

Saturday: Clearing early, becoming partly sunny and pleasant in the afternoon. Highs in the low 70s (21-23°C). Westerly winds 10-15 mph (16-24 kph). Sea breeze in the afternoon may cause the temperature to drop in coastal areas.

Saturday night: Clear and mild. Lows in the mid 50s. (10-12°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny, breezy and warm. High flirting with the 80°F (27°C) mark.

Forecast by Marek Zebrowski

Compiled by Jeremy Hyllton

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opinion



The Tech

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The humanity of the Dalai Lama

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

A couple of weeks ago I heard the Dalai Lama speak at Kresge Auditorium in a pricey \$160-a-head symposium. When I heard the Dalai Lama, the spiritual and national leader of Tibet, was coming to town, I felt I had to see him. It isn't often that one gets to hear a world leader, and even less often that one gets to chat with a deity. Besides, press gets in for free.

The present Dalai Lama, the 14th Dalai Lama in the series, is a reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, you see. Yes — it's recursive. The loop terminates at the Bodhisattva of Compassion, who, a long time ago, decided to reincarnate to serve humanity. Get the picture? The Dalai Lama is supposed to be the president and pope rolled into one.

The only problem is Tibet, an icy plateau in Southwest China, used to be part of China, then it gained independence, and then it was seized by China again in 1950. In 1959, the Chinese cracked down on an amazingly effective Tibetan national uprising. The Chinese were so peeved by the fact that Tibetan rebels had been blowing up Chinese military outposts that they forced the Dalai Lama into exile and stole from Tibet any autonomy it had left. Tibet still remains one of the most oppressed regions on the planet.

The Dalai Lama and the order from which he sprang is still very much a mystery to me. His holiness, Tenzin Gyatso, born in 1935, wasn't always holy. At the age of 2 he was identified as his predecessor's reincarnation. (I have no clue how.) After an intensive education he was, well, inaugurated. And this brings us to the present. The Dalai Lama, now based with the Tibetan government-in-exile in India, has been on the lecture circuit, raising support and, I presume, cash for the liberation of Tibet and the maintenance of his exiled government.

So there I was in Kresge, waiting for the Dalai Lama and a panel discussion on mind science. The Dalai Lama was introduced, and walked onto the stage. Smiling humbly, bowing with hands pressed together, he strolled in front of the podium, thanking those around him. Physically unassuming and dressed in flowing orange robes, he peered through his tinted glasses at the packed audience.

The Dalai Lama speaks English, but often refers to a similarly-clad interpreter who always stands beside him. The talk, on the basic tenets of Buddhist philosophy, stressed Buddhism's emphasis on the individual, and the mind-body relationship. The talk pushed the limits of my comprehension, and during the talk I could hear minds disengaging all around

Matthew H. Hersch, a freshman, is associate opinion editor of The Tech.

The abuse of language is rampant

Column by Jason Merkoski

Most columnists write in the hope that people will see their columns and say "Hey! Nice piece of writing!" Not so for me. I have these little tumors in my head, you see, and they make me very irritable. So I write to vent my frustrations and to state my nagging noggin needlers. (I am only kidding about the tumors! It just seemed like an interesting way to grab your attention.) Anyway, one of the things that bothers me at the moment is the abuse of the English language.

For example, in the original version of a recent column, I made a reference to "the darkling sky." However, the phrase "the darling sky" was actually printed. This bothers me. I guess that somewhere along the newsroom chain of command, some editor saw the word "darkling" and cried out "No! That little 'k' does not belong! Off with its head!" And with that he lunged at the delete key with his stubby finger and, with a primal scream, terminated the little "k's" existence. This, as I said, bothers me. "Darkling" is such a beautiful word. You might imagine a poet somewhere giving a child a quarter, saying "Kid, get me a darkling." And of all the words to replace "darkling," why was "darling" chosen? I doubt I am going to be lying in front of a cozy fire with my girlfriend and say to her "I love you darkling."

Another thing that bothers me is cutesiness in the English language. Words like "cuddly-wuddly" and "Kandy Korns." You would think, though, that it would be possible to escape this linguistic silliness at MIT. Not so. I received a flyer the other day inviting me to "The Johnson Games and Inaugural Picnic." This in itself was fine, but when the flyer told me to join "Chuck and Becky Vest," I was confused. "Hey," I asked myself, "Do I know Mr.

me in the audience.

The Dalai Lama, without question, is an impressive, knowledgeable speaker and ambassador. His call for understanding and tolerance was fitting. His timelessness and holy persona, however, were betrayed by moments of reality that crept into his actions from time to time. Speaking about the infinity of time and space, I saw him glance at the Rolex strapped to his wrist under his beads. While discussing the supreme control of the mind over the body, His Holiness, ever so discreetly, reached behind himself and adjusted the jockey shorts underneath his flowing robes. The Dalai Lama, I discovered, is a human being, with schedules to keep and common-man problems.

After his monologue, he sat at a table on the stage, flanked by Harvard neurobiologists who grilled him on questions of neurochemistry. Addressing him with lavish praise, this gang of hyperactive sycophants expected "Oh Exalted Teacher" to fill in the holes of their endorphine research. One eager researcher spent 20 minutes explaining his question on dopamine.

It is here that the true intelligence of the Dalai Lama emerged, and my respect for him was solidified. With modesty and calculated cleverness, he exquisitely and magnificently ducked all of the questions and tied his inquisitors in knots. He, apparently, had kept up enough on modern technology to know how to avoid talking about it, and, in a beautiful contest of minds, triumphed over his examiners by saying almost nothing.

I came into the presentation unsure of what kind of a leader the Dalai Lama was and is. He didn't levitate or walk on hot coals. He didn't seem mentally isolated or ancient. The Dalai Lama, was however, persuasive, affable, modest, and sharp as a spike. Watching him I get the feeling that he is a man who knows, every second of every minute, what he doing and why he is doing it. He seems, in other words, like a leader.

The Dalai Lama only took office after China invaded Tibet — he has no experience running a free and independent country. After 40 years, there is no guarantee that his country still wants him. In short, no one really knows if the Dalai Lama is the right man to lead the struggle for Tibetan independence.

So far, however, the Dalai Lama has been doing a fine diplomatic job of fighting for a cause few people list as a priority and a country with few global strategic resources. His mission is a sad and lonely one — and not the kind of mission to be undertaken by a holy man with his head in the sky. The Dalai Lama, I discovered, has his feet planted firmly on the ground.

and Mrs. Vest on such a personal first-name basis?" Apparently, I do. Well, if that is the case, then I want to apologize to you, Chuck and Becky, for forgetting about our no-doubt very close relationship. Let me make it up to you. Maybe we can all go out to dinner together, my treat. And if you are all tied up with your inauguration, Chuck, then let me take Becky out for a night on the town. Maybe we could take in a show, or take a moonlit stroll along the Charles. Know what I mean? Nudge nudge, wink wink, say no more!

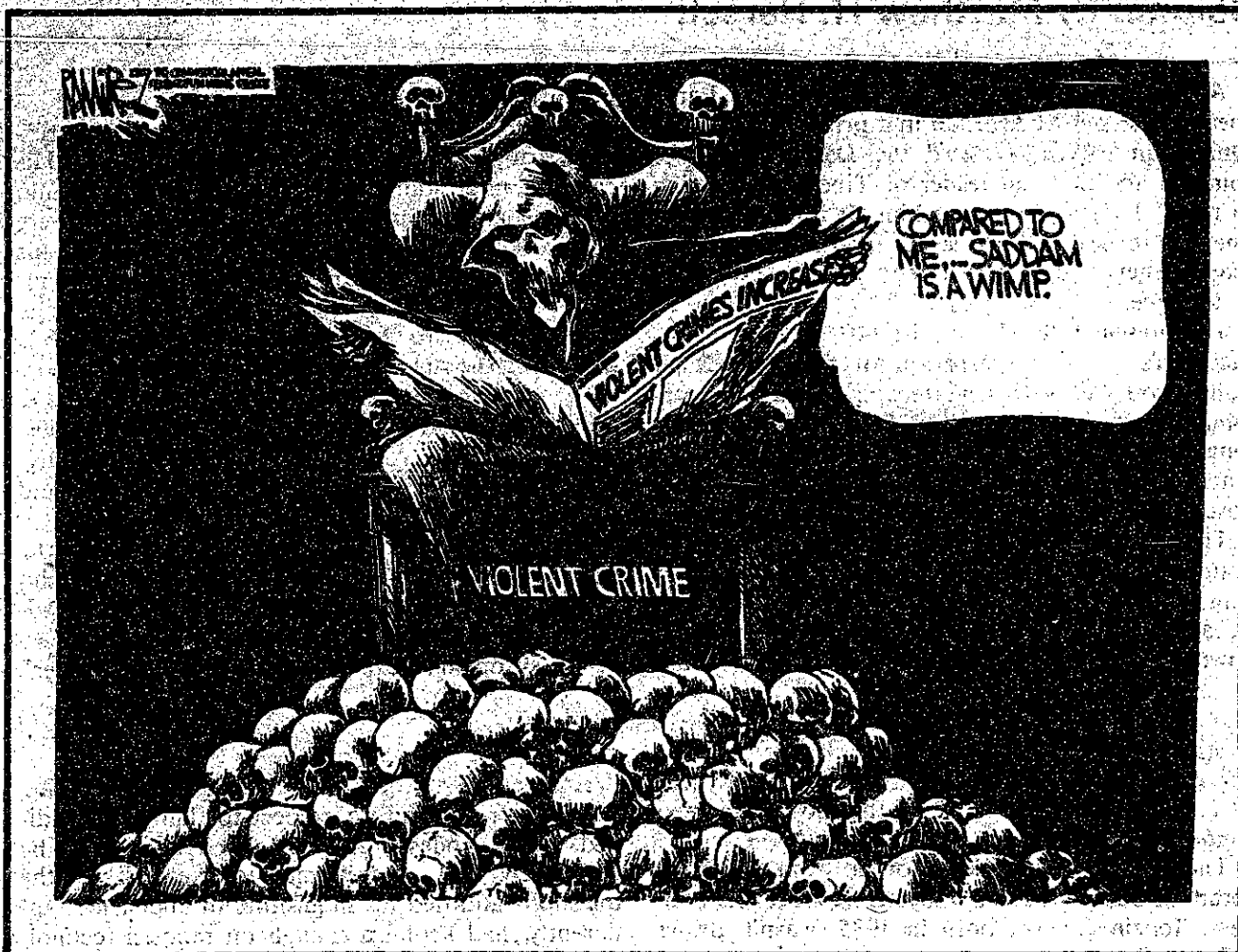
I seem to have digressed. Oh yes, I was writing some sort of harangue about the problems with cutesiness in the English language. I guess I can sum it all up and say that we need to stamp out this cutesiness. Its only imaginable use is in marketing, when using cutesy product names can capture the attention of people with at most a fourth-grade reading level. For example: "Hi there! Tired of a stable, democratic government? Why not try Remco-Brand Kommunism?! It was preferred by four out of five Warsaw-Pact nations only 10 years ago. (And now, for a limited time only, get up to 60 percent off the introductory price! But hurry, supplies are going fast!)"

And while I am on the subject of crumbling old-world institutions which have failed to unite people of all creeds and nations, consider Esperanto. For those of you who may not know, this is a language with all the subtlety of a wheat combine plowing through a field of Steuben crystal vases. Pretty much the only people who learn this language are overly-idealistic, second-rate philosophy-spouting liberal arts majors who have nothing better to do than learn a language that sounds like an obscure brand of Portuguese coffee. Why should I want to learn Esperanto? Everyone I have ever met, and will ever meet, speaks English perfectly well anyway. That is, except for those koo-koo, krazy marketing executives.

Jason Merkoski is a freshman who is anxiously waiting to hear from you, Becky Vest.

opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Input wanted on biology requirement

Are you aware that the Institute is planning to incorporate General Biology (7.01) into the freshman core requirement? What do you think?

In April 1989, the faculty voted to examine the benefits, drawbacks and potential impact of adding a biology requirement to the undergraduate curriculum.

Now, it appears that various Institute committees will recommend to the faculty not only that some form of biology should be required, but also that 7.01 be implemented into the freshman core at the expense of other requirements.

What these other requirements should be is causing debate and controversy among members of the faculty and administration. All of us as students must join this debate.

The incorporation of a biology requirement is not seen as arbitrary at all. Most faculty members feel that the importance of biology in the fundamental understanding of science has rapidly increased over the past decade.

Since the freshman core is designed to ensure that MIT graduates bring to their careers an understanding of a "world deeply influenced by science and technology," the exclusion of biology seems, to many, a fundamental oversight.

A popular proposal would eliminate one Science Distribution requirement to compensate for the added biology requirement. The concern over this proposal lies in the fact that for many science and engineering students, many Sci-D subjects are also required by their departmental programs.

Only one Sci-D is exempt from departmental control, and it is precisely this one that the proposal would eliminate. Thus, the freedom enjoyed by all students to choose unrestricted at least one Sci-D would be constricted.

This is particularly poignant for science and engineering student, for whom the time to take extra classes is scarce. Removing the nondepartmental Sci-D would

be tantamount to requiring them to count this class as an unrestricted elective. Still, are Sci-Ds even important, anyway?

A competing proposal would reduce the number of Sci-Ds from three to one: The time for one of these would go to 7.01, while the time for the other would be allotted to each department to do with as it sees fit. In addition, the number of HASS-Ds would be decreased from three to two.

An additional issue that all this brings up is the time it would take to complete the freshman core under any of these proposals. While it is true that the current freshman core classes such as Physics I (8.01) and Calculus (18.01) don't have to be taken in one's freshman year, most people usually do.

And most science and engineering departments assume completion for sophomore level classes. The addition of any other core requirements would almost certainly mean for at least some students that some core classes would be taken in their sophomore year. What does this mean for pass/fail?

Biologists would say, though, that taking 7.01 in the middle of one's academic career is often wise: 7.01 is "a class which can be most beneficial with a background in science firmly established."

Any addition to the freshman core necessarily means either a decrease in other requirements or increased pressure at the beginning of one's undergraduate career. Balancing the many issues involved is a dialogue from which students must not be excluded.

Members of the faculty and administration are eagerly seeking students' opinions on whether biology should be added to the core, and if so, how it should be implemented — alternative proposals will be welcomed. They are committed to making a responsible decision, which can only mean discussion by all those affected.

Proposals will be submitted to

the faculty at its April 17 meeting, at which they will be discussed at length. The Undergraduate Association is looking to gather students' opinions so that it can represent them at the meeting and offer any possible alternatives.

A final, binding vote will be taken at the May faculty meeting. This chance for input into such a serious long-term decision cannot be passed up.

Stacy McGeever '93
UA President
Jeremy Paul Kirby '92
UA Vice President

Current advisor system does not meet the needs of undergraduates

"I have 15 students that I meet once a term, and for whom I sign papers." That is how my faculty advisor described his relationship with his advisees.

This reply came up after I had asked him for a letter of recommendation for the Engineering Internship Program. My advisor, as well as most advisors, is just too busy to deal with undergrads. But what is sad is that what for him is a mere undergraduate, is me and the issues I am dealing with.

As unworthy as they may seem

American leaders wrong in not supporting rebels

From the outset of the Gulf crisis, President George Bush stated that it was not his intention to harm the Iraqi people. He assured the American public that it was the liberation of Kuwait and not the conquest of Iraq which he sought and that all necessary measures would be taken to prevent the suffering of innocent civilians.

Yet the situation in Iraq today seems to indicate that the civilian sector has been greatly affected by the war. The entire population of Iraq is now living without electricity and running water, and even food has become extremely scarce.

Sewage has begun to back up into homes, babies have been forced to drink unpurified water from one of the most polluted rivers in the world, and most importantly, the dictator who has been responsible for much of this has begun to slaughter his own civilians for attempting to rise against him.

Indeed to describe Saddam Hussein's activity in the rebel-held areas of Iraq as a slaughter is a gross understatement. Some reports maintain that orders have been given to kill all males between the ages 15 and 40 in the village of Najaf.

Sulfuric acid and napalm have been used in large quantities, and refugees claim that the road connecting two of Iraq's holiest cities is strewn with thousands of bodies.

Yet the American government refuses to even vocalize support for the rebels. Can a government which has ordered so many tons

of bombs to be dropped on the state of Iraq and who presently occupies much of its land claim that this uprising is a completely internal affair?

Can a man once dubbed the modern-day Hitler be allowed to massacre his own civilians without so much as a protest from the American government? Is it truly just to deny visas to members of the Iraqi opposition who wish to speak before the United Nations about the atrocities taking place in their country?

Indeed the course of action taken by the United States to date has been extremely distressing to both myself and my fellow Iraqis.

For the United States to wreak so much destruction upon the state of Iraq, to prevent even basic food items such as baby milk from entering the country and then not to even consider helping us in removing Saddam and restoring basic services is absolutely criminal.

Those who believe that this problem will be solved through war reparations and continued sanctions should keep in mind exactly who will be suffering from such measures. I assure you not one penny will come from the pocket of the dictator of Iraq.

Furthermore, Saddam is not a man who tires of war. If he is allowed to remain, he may indeed develop another formidable army posed to invade yet another neighboring country.

The best way to prevent such a scenario is the creation of a democracy in the region, for it is the Iraqi people who are tired of war. We do not wish to begin another disastrous crusade against Persians or enemies of the Arab nation.

We only want to live peacefully among our Arab and Muslim brethren. Unfortunately, from the time of the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1979, this has become absolutely impossible for us.

In short, if the United States truly wishes to see stability in the region, then it must aid the Iraqi opposition groups in removing Saddam from power, for then and only then will Iraq be able to live at peace with her neighbors.

Haider Ala Hamoudi '93
Board Member
Iraqi-American Forum for Democracy and Human Rights



Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed double spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions may be mailed to tech@athena.

April 4th & 5th
On-Campus Interviews

We're Looking for Business Partners, Not Employees

Software Engineers, Programmers, Software Architects

Intuit, the makers of Quicken, the 3rd best selling application software on the planet for Macintosh and IBM computers (behind WordPerfect and Lotus 1-2-3), will be conducting on-campus interviews for software engineers, programmers, and software architects on Thursday, April 4th, and Friday, April 5th.

Our software development team is small enough to be personable and a place where you will enjoy using your creative talents. And it is big enough to offer you a challenging variety of programs to work on. We are responsible for honing existing products and developing true state-of-the-art new products. We are also researching and developing object-oriented technology in multi-platform development.

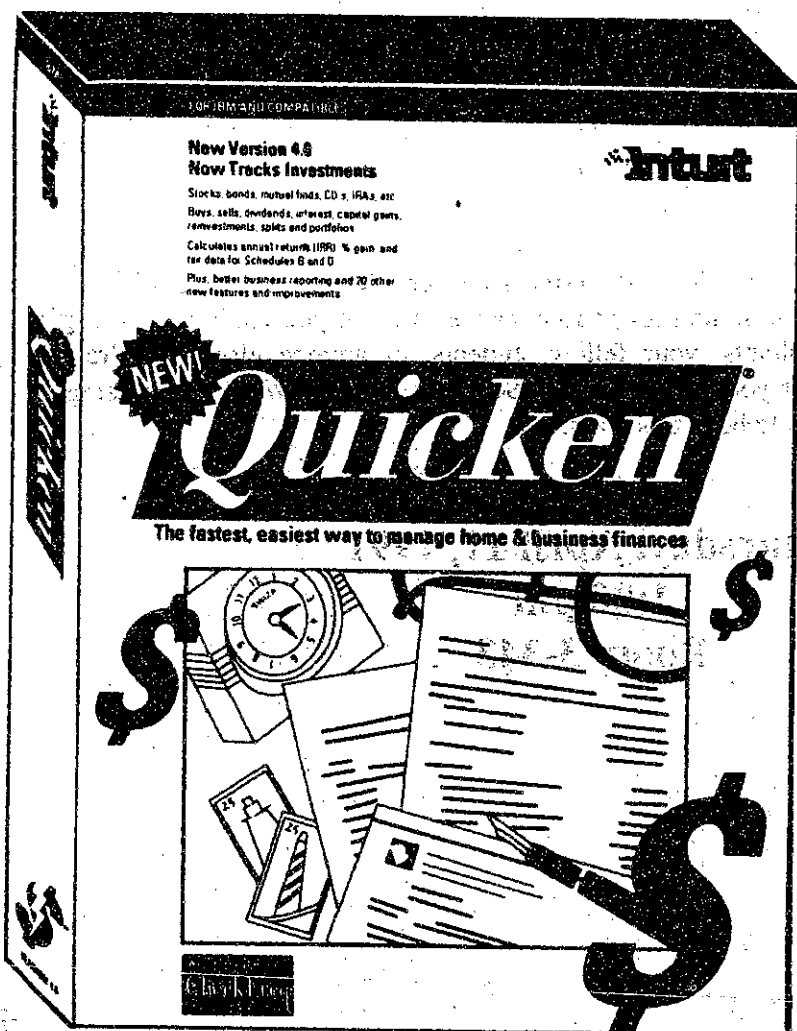
We're looking for individuals who want to make a meaningful contribution to a cutting-edge software development department with a proven track record of successful products. You will be responsible for the design, implementation, and ultimate delivery of significant portions of software products to the con-

sumer marketplace, as well as applying your design expertise to other product areas. We are particularly interested in engineers with strong program internals experience. We have a number of projects going on and several that are just starting out on Macintosh and PC platforms in both C and C++. We'd love to talk with you and find out what excites you.

Qualifications. Exceptionally high IQ (but hey, this is MIT). Bachelor's or Master's degree. C or C++, experience with the Macintosh or IBM PC's, and previous commercial software development experience would be outstanding. You must enjoy creating robust, maintainable, well documented, and easy-to-use (and therefore not easy to program) code that will be sold to and used by millions of users. User interface design expertise is a definite plus. You must be excited about working in small teams and taking on responsibility for large programming tasks. Oh, yes. We do write product specifications, so your HASS-D classes weren't a complete waste of time after all.

Description: Software Engineers.
Location: Menlo Park, California.
Compensation: Great! Including stock.

On-campus interviews: April 4 & 5.
Sign Up: Career Services Office
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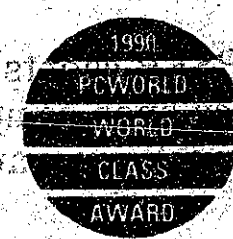
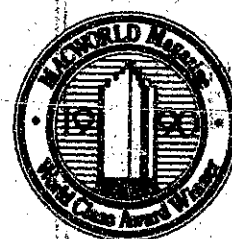
1989
EDITOR'S
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1989



BEST OF
1988 AND 1989



1990
PCWORLD
WORLD
CLASS
AWARD

opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Life under apartheid has not changed enough to lift sanctions yet

Almost every month there is something in the news about reforms in South Africa. F. W. de Klerk has been seen several times on TV talking about "a new South Africa that is just for all people" and promising a lot of things. But has anything really changed, rendering the need for divestment a thing of the past?

The Population Registration Act has been declared abolished by de Klerk. But this abolition has not come into effect yet, nor does it seem likely that it will.

De Klerk did not have the necessary majority to amend the constitution nor did he make a strong effort to get the needed votes to his side. His government has later said that the act would not be abolished but it found a way to "work around" it.

Even as he was promising the abolition of this act, de Klerk's government has been campaigning that a large number of South African blacks are not its citizens.

This targeted section of the blacks includes not only those who immigrated decades ago but even their children who were born in South Africa. To top off his cynical campaign, his government is pitting the "colored" and "Indian" minorities against the blacks by luring them into partial alliances with the whites.

De Klerk promised to repeal the Group Areas Act and the Land Act. Instead of acting on this promise, he brought in legislation "suspending" these two acts.

Even this legislation has not yet materialized owing to intra-party bickering. On the contrary, expulsion of black communities to rural and economically backward Bantustans or "homelands" still continues.

The large-scale "sale" of government property like roads, bridges, land, etc., to the whites has been accelerating. This sale was described by a minority government bureaucrat as "distributing the family silver."

De Klerk made sure that he got enough publicity when he announced that many of the public amenities like parks, waiting lounges, swimming pools, etc., would be open for all people. Not a word was said about public schools.

The literacy rate among blacks remains at 45 percent. Public

spending per capita in black schools is a fifth of that in white schools. While two million black children are looking for schools, large number of white schools remain under-used.

Even a year after the high-publicity release of Nelson Mandela, thousands of grassroots political activists remain jailed, most without trials and with fake criminal charges. As recently as last week, nearly 20 African National Congress supporters were shot dead by the police, again almost a year after the ban on ANC was lifted.

No investigations were carried out to completion on the police who were alleged to be gun-running and even physically participating in violence over the last year.

The cornerstone of apartheid is the disenfranchisement of all indigenous black Africans, who constitute more than 80 percent of the population. From this all the other 316 apartheid laws flow including, in particular, the Bantustan laws.

Yet the minority government has claimed and received considerable credit here and in Europe for scrapping the Immorality and the Mixed Marriage Acts, which are nothing more than an insulting irrelevancy for most blacks.

De Klerk has publicly admitted that sanctions were hurting the country's economy, most of which is controlled and enjoyed by the whites. The more right wing nationalists and the neo-Nazi AWB are opposed to any power-sharing or negotiations with the majority.

De Klerk has been using the faltering of the economy due to sanctions as the reason for his intention to negotiate with the majority. Also, if his government fails to give the voting rights to all the blacks before the next election, which is due in less than three years, he is more than likely to be defeated by the extremists. In the face of such an outcome, the need for stronger and continued sanctions is obvious.

De Klerk has been saying that he will not let the blacks vote unless the white minority gets veto power over any majority decisions. This clearly is not acceptable. Given this intransigent stand, the majority needs to be able to call the sanctions, which is its only economic leverage over

the whites, on or off as it wishes.

Continued sanctions including the pulling out of the US companies making products that are non-essential or those enjoyed exclusively by the whites and their military will lower the standard of living of the whites and push them towards negotiations. This will help the blacks in moving a step closer to democracy.

Another effect of the divestment campaign is that it constantly reminds the Congress and the administration of the need for continued sanctions.

Sasi K. Digavalli G

The issue of MIT's divestment is more crucial now than a purely moral argument would allow. Recent events indicate that various governments around the world — including the Bush administration — are responding to pressure from big business and de Klerk's call to lift sanctions on the false pretense that irreversible steps have been taken to end apartheid.

However, the mass democratic movement in South Africa and its leaders are calling for continued sanctions until a truly irreversible change is constituted in South Africa.

In a letter dated Feb. 1, 1991, Bishop Desmond Tutu appealed to the world community to continue their isolation of the South African government. "I am as eager as anyone to have sanctions lifted," Tutu said.

But "[apartheid] is the denial of political power to people on

the basis of their race. This will be ended only when black South Africans have the vote, and this central thrust of our struggle against apartheid continues."

Many things about South Africa remain the same: Life under apartheid has not changed.

As of today, more than 3000 political prisoners are being held in South African jails; the South African government still spends almost four times as much for a white child's education as it does for a black child; there is still only one doctor for every 12,000 black persons; and as of today a black infant is still 12 times more likely to die than a white infant. This side of apartheid has not changed.

These kinds of living conditions will only be eliminated when the political power to change them is based on democratic rule and not minority privilege.

However, heads of western corporations and de Klerk feel that apartheid is already history and they believe it is time to lift the sanctions. Some MIT Executive Committee members, who are also CEOs of companies which invest in South Africa, have even gone as far as to state that their opposition to divestment is partly because it will hurt black South Africans the most.

The interest of big business and de Klerk are contrary to the interests of South Africa's majority population. It should not be difficult to figure out who holds a more credible view on the question of whether and when

sanctions should be lifted.

When leaders of South Africa's mass democratic movement, such as Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, among others, call to continue the pressure on the apartheid system until there is true democracy in South Africa, we must listen to them; they are more likely to know what is good for the people they represent than the recently converted human rights advocate de Klerk.

They certainly know what is better for their people, who live in sub-human bondage in Soweto, than those who believe they feel the pains of apartheid from their corporate offices in New York.

The MIT Coalition Against Apartheid is currently engaged in a dialogue with MIT Corporation members on the issue of MIT divesting from companies doing business in South Africa.

The MIT community still has a vital part to play in bringing about the end of apartheid: Endorsing the divestment proposal currently being circulated by the MIT CAA would be a reaffirmation of MIT's commitment to a democratic South Africa.

Students, staff and faculty need to reaffirm their commitment for democracy in South Africa by endorsing CAA's divestment proposal. Until apartheid is consigned to South Africa's past, and democracy part of its present, the struggle against injustice in South Africa must continue.

Samuel Assefa G
Sue Nissman G

After this one...

"It's very simple. We just don't support Scribe anymore. Yes, it's still available on Athena, and yes, we'll keep it around for as long as we can; but you can't expect to get much help from the consultants, your fellow students, or anyone else. They're all switching to EZ or Latex. If you're enough of a Scribe fan to even think about using it for your thesis, then you should be at this class."

Thursday, April 11, 1991

1:00 pm

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Park's Grand Day Out is the star of animation festival

BEST OF THE FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION

Continues through April 25 at the Somerville Theatre.

By BILL JACKSON

THE BEST OF the Festival of Animation begins its run today at the Somerville Theatre, right next to the Davis Square stop on the red line. The festival is an amazing combination of laughter and wonderment, the best of past animation festivals along with some new pieces for 1991.

The highlight of the program is the spectacular 23-minute *Grand Day Out*, Nick Park's amazing piece of work, which was

of an English fellow who discovers he's out of cheese. His answer to this dilemma is to build a rocket to fly to the moon, which is, of course, made of cheese. The detail and most especially the characterizations make *Grand Day Out* worth the admission price in itself.

Also in the festival is 1990 Oscar winner *Balance*, by Christoph and Wolfgang Lauenstein of Germany. *Balance* is an indescribably rich and fascinating film allegory which leaves you thinking after you've left the theatre. Not bad for an eight-minute short. *Balance* is atmospheric and poignant, another standout in this festival of standouts.

Special Delivery, by Canadian Eunice McCauley, is an extremely funny, if slightly perverse,

one of the most fun films in the bunch.

Knickknack, John Lasseter's computer-animated short, is pleasing to the eye and funny to boot. The computer-driven animation is flawless. *Chairs*, by Sandy Kopitopoulos, is a nifty little playlet with a surprise ending. *Fingerwave*, a musical by Hungary's Gyula Nagy, is a symphony of 10 fingers, a fun, musically synchronized short. Bill Plympton's *One Of Those Days*, a terrific short done entirely in first-person perspective, will satisfy the masochists in the audience. MIT favorite *The Wizard of Speed and Time*, by Mike Jittlov, closes the show with its amazing trick photography and song-and-dance ending.

There are, of course, disappointments. *Anijam*, an extremely bizarre 10-minute short, is actually an experiment gone awry. To the first time viewer, it is a jarring, inconsistent, confusing series of unconnected images. At the end of the short, the audience is informed that *Anijam* was actually a collaboration of 22 animators. Each animator created one sequence, not knowing what had come before or what was to follow (an "animated jam").

Armed with this knowledge, it might be fun to watch. By not telling the audience this until the end, however, the animators destroy the enjoyment one might get from trying to pick out where the sequences begin and end. It might also be nice to compare the styles of the various animators, all of whose names, along with one cel from their individual sequence, are shown at the end.

Negative Man, another experiment — this one using a film negative as a basis for animation — is simply boring. It is blessedly short, however. *The Great Cognito* has some interesting animation and amusing imitations of celebrities, but it doesn't sustain interest for its six-minute length. The remainder of the animation films range from good to unspectacular.

All in all, the animation festival is good fun. This being the first one I ever attended, I found the films to be engaging the entire way through and my interest rarely flagged. If you are planning to spend an evening out tonight, I highly recommend thinking about heading for the beautiful Somerville Theater for the festival.



no-nominated for an Oscar this year but did not win. (Park's *Creature Comforts* was the

winner.) I can't imagine how *Grand Day Out* lost, because it is a funny and wonderfully animated tale

Grand Day Out

Adding to the fun is the Jack Webb-style narration, panning all of the strange goings-on. It's

tale about a dead mailman, an unsho-veled front walk, and a lot of mistaken identity.

The Tech Performing Arts Series announces

SHIRLEY VERRETT

A beloved Norma, a legendary Aida, and a startling Delilah, soprano Shirley Verrett is the focus of loving, world-wide acclaim. The program will include works by Schubert, Brahms, David Diamond, and Samuel Barber. A Bank of Boston Celebrity Series event.

Symphony Hall, April 12, 8 pm.

MIT price: \$6.

CHRISTOPHER PARKENING

Classical guitarist Christopher Parkening has taken up the mantle of Andres Segovia, his teacher and friend, and made it his own. The program will include works by Villa Lobos, de Falla, and Albeniz, among others. A Bank of Boston Celebrity Series event.

Jordan Hall, April 19, 8 pm.

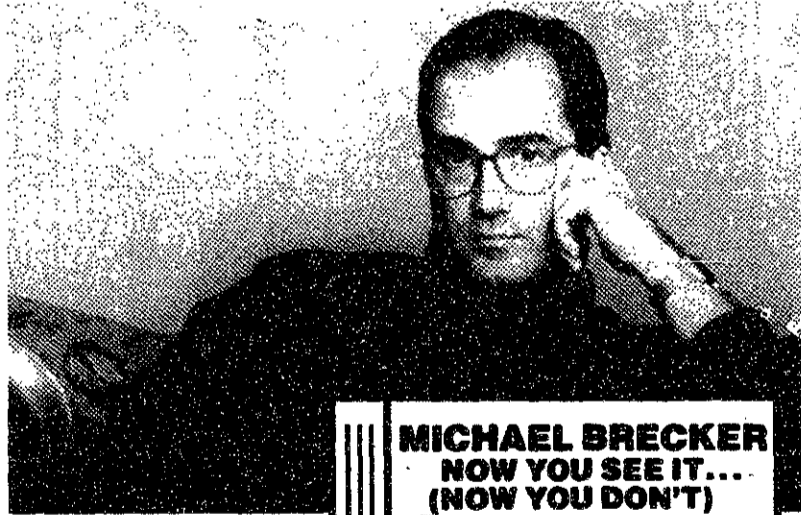
MIT price: \$6.

Tickets are on sale at the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center. Office hours posted on the door.

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New MIT series showcases recent Algerian films

LIBERATION & ALIENATION IN ALGERIAN CINEMA

Begins tonight at 7:30 pm in 10-250.
Continues through April 12.

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

TIME AND AGAIN, countries that have eased official censorship and provided relief from financial and logistical barriers have found that the art produced in those countries blooms and flourishes as a direct consequence. Recent film history, for example, is replete with success stories born on the heels of political and economic liberalization: the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, Argentina in the mid 1980s, Spain in the late 1970s and 1980s. Back in the 1960s, it was Algeria's turn. Gaining political independence from France in 1962, Algeria formed some film organizations, and gradually a national cinema established itself. In 1976, an Algerian film won the Palme d'Or, the top prize at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

Most American filmgoers, however, have virtually no knowledge of the renaissance in Algerian filmmaking. That omission will be corrected by a series of nine films that begin showing tonight here at MIT. As an added bonus, the festival organizers are presenting at least eight of the nine films in their original 35mm format, making this opportunity to experience these films as valuable as it is welcome.

Waqii Sanawat al-Jamr ("Chronicle of the Years of Embers"), the aforementioned Palme d'Or winner, opens the festival tonight. This 175-minute epic, shot in Cinemascope, follows a peasant family in Algeria who migrate to the city for economic reasons but instead end up joining the resistance during the Algerian independence struggle.

In one scene, the peasants listen intently to a shortwave radio as a Nazi propagandist declares that "destiny has already chosen" Germany as the winner of World War II. Viewing France as their oppressors, the

peasants cheer the propagandist's claim that "France will soon be defeated," but one peasant presciently warns that if Hitler wins, the Arabs will be among the first to be annihilated. The parallels to the support Palestinians gave to Saddam Hussein during the recent gulf war are strikingly obvious. But the director of

Waqii Sanawat al-Jamr could not know in 1975 about the events of 1991, and one can't help but speculate that a future filmmaker will have to replicate this scene almost word-for-word when making a film about the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Al-Tahouna ("The Mill"), which will be

shown on Monday night, is renowned not for aesthetic or artistic reasons but because it was banned in Algeria — censorship was not completely abolished, it seems — for two years after it was completed in 1985. The film takes direct satirical aim at the bureaucracy and the intelligentsia in Algeria, topics which, of course, have been a favorite of satirists since time immemorial.

Finally, one film which should not be missed is *Hikayat Liqaa* ("Story of an Encounter"). Drawing on two extraordinarily effective performances, director Brahim Tsaki tells a touchingly human story of a young Algerian boy and an American girl who meet and try to develop a relationship together. Their families provide them neither with solace nor with a sense of identity, and Algerian society shows little hope for the future. Given this environment, their relationship becomes the one thing in their lives that seems to make a difference and provide a measure of happiness.

What makes their relationship particularly poignant, however, is that both the boy and girl are deaf and can communicate only with sign language. As a result, when the girl gets into arguments with her father, the usual sparks that would accompany such scenes are necessarily subdued. Yet the performances are so honestly molded that the film leaves no doubt about the intensity of the frustration, hurt, and despair that the young couple feels.

Perhaps equally as important, the film's implicit criticism of Algeria's newly found economic prosperity for its emphasis on material goods and American pop-culture is as political as the film gets. Director Tsaki keeps his focus on the elemental and human story that constitutes the heart of the film.

Except for a rather clumsy depiction of the girl's father and unnecessary references to her institutionalized mother, Tsaki's

(Please turn to page 11)



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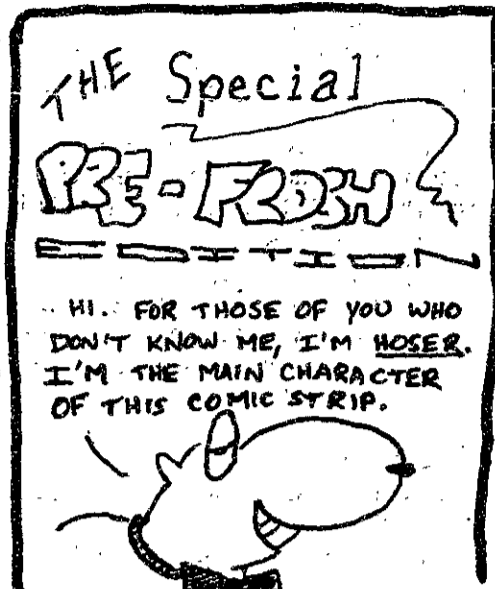
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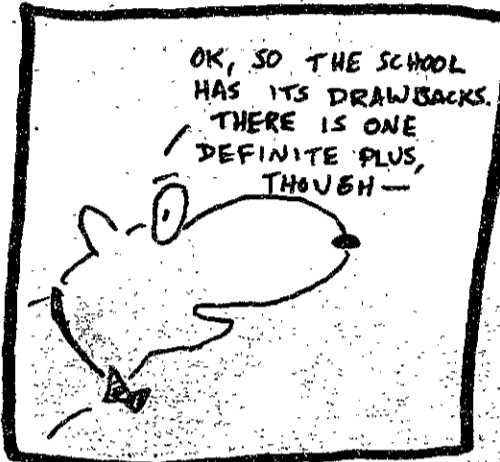
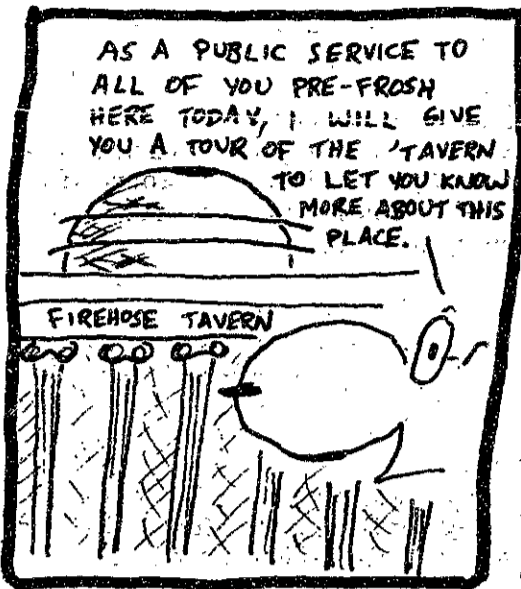
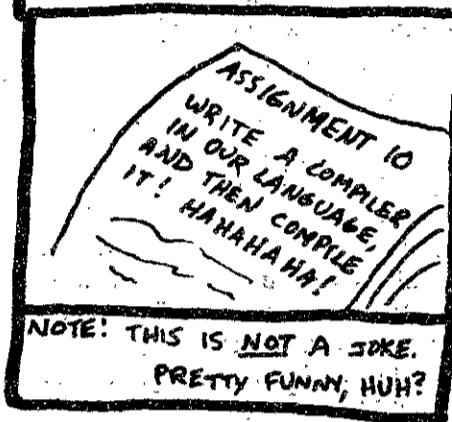
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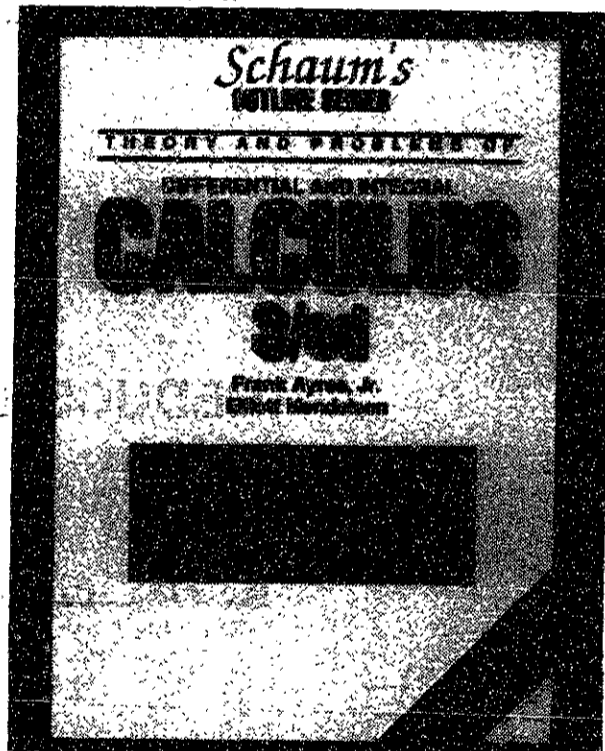
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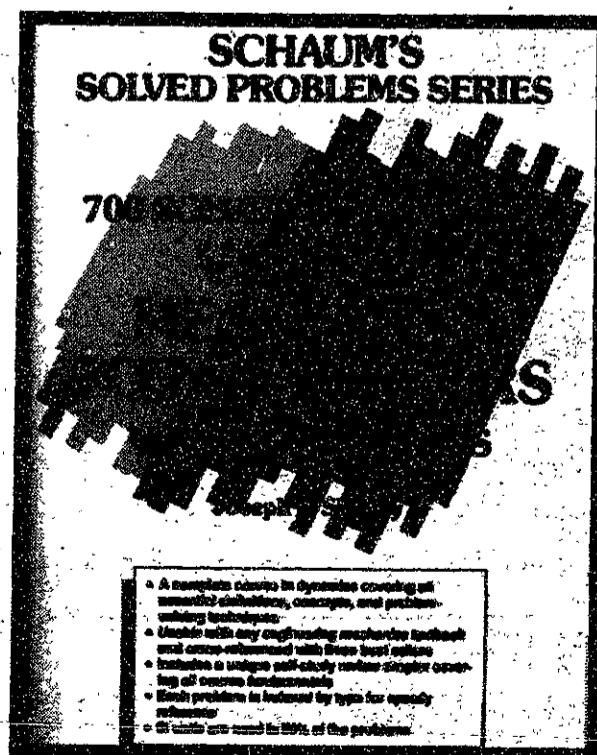
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ARTS

Grant Hart fails to please with new band, Nova Mob

THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII

Nova Mob.
Rough Trade Records.

By RICK ROOS

THE ANXIOUSLY AWAITED new project of former Hüsker Dü member Grant Hart has finally hit record stores. The album, *The Last Days Of Pompeii*, showcases a relatively new style for Hart, one muddled with creative lapses and thoroughly uninteresting lyrics and songs. Fans of Hüsker Dü and alternative music alike will most certainly be disappointed with this uneven, distant work.

What makes the record even more of a letdown is Hart's stellar past. Throughout the 80s, he was one-third of Hüsker Dü, one of the most dynamic, exciting, and critically-hailed alternative music groups. The band's songwriting and musical prowess were matched by few others. Their songs ranged from blistering two-minute

hardcore masterpieces to haunting songs typified by angry, frustrated lyrics. Hart played drums and shared singing duties for the band, but usually took a back seat to one of Hüsker Dü's other members, Bob Mould. When the band split around 1987, it was due mostly to Hart and Mould's growing egos and inability to tolerate one another.

Hart and Mould then ventured into separate solo projects. Mould's first release, *Workbook*, was a resounding success. The album was critically lauded and received significant radio play. Mould also released another solo effort about a year ago entitled *Black Sheets Of Rain*. This disc served to only further elevate Mould's level of commercial and critical acceptance.

As for Hart, the results of his solo projects were far less outstanding. He released a single, "2541," around the time that Mould's *Workbook* came out. The inevitable comparisons were made between him and Mould which, coupled with the single's poor sales, made Hart bitter and re-

sentful. This attitude seemed to rub off heavily on Hart's first full-length album, *Intolerance*. *Intolerance* was marked with Hart's whiny vocals, and a more toned-down, acoustic sound. Gone were the agonizing vocals and explosive guitars of the past which still had an obvious place in Mould's work. It was easy to tell that fans also felt cheated from the old sound, as the album was a total flop. However, instead of logically switching gears, Hart has unfortunately given listeners more of the same drudge on his latest release *The Last Days Of Pompeii*.

The 12 tracks on *Pompeii* (with four exceptions) are dull, monotonous journeys into Hart's revamped musical psyche. The album's sound is best described as a sort of tribute to the psychedelic style of the 60s, with occasional mixes of both hard-edged and softer, darker moments. Most of the songs, however, are just boring. For instance, "Lavender and Gray" is a four-minute piece featuring a steady, simple riff with Hart doing his best Joe Cocker imitation and proceeding to fall flat on his face. "Space Jazz" is a cut which has a heavy, repetitive guitar lick and unintelligible lyrics, coming off as nothing more than annoying noise. "Where You Gonna Land" is similar to the melodic sounds of the Byrds but again suffers from monotony and weak musicianship.

Other duds on the disc include the pathetic "Introduction," the harsh and abra-

sive "Woton," and "Over My Head" with its "row-row-row your boat" lyrics and general lethargy. Worst of all is Hart's attempt to jump on the popular bandwagon by releasing both a fast and a slow version of the same song on one album, in this case the cut "Admiral of the Sea." The slower version is excruciating to listen to, and more importantly robs the listener of the enjoyment produced by the truly eclectic and brilliant faster version of the same song.

Besides the fast version of "Admiral of the Sea," *Pompeii* does contain some songs which appear as bright rays of sunlight on this otherwise gloomy disc. Case in point: "Wernher Von Braun," a cute and simple rocker which will have anyone singing along to its catchy vocals. Also, the title cut of the album, with its addictive riff and clever lyrics, is a pleasant diversion. Lastly, there is "Persuaded," reminiscent of some of the angst apparent on Hüsker Dü's earlier releases *Warehouse: Songs and Stories* and *Candy Apple Gray*.

Simply put, this album brings out two feelings in me: disappointment in hearing this sub-mediocre album coming from someone of such musical genius as Hart, and second, and sadness and regret in thinking of what could have been if Hüsker Dü had only patched things up and stayed together. For whatever it is worth, skip *The Last Days Of Pompeii* and pick up an old Hüsker Dü album instead.

Algerian film festival offerings focus on life, love and culture

(Continued from page 9)

Hikayat Liqaa' will be shown on Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 pm in 10-250.

direction resists the temptation to indulge in melodramatic excess. The closing shot of the film is easily the most potent moment in the film, and it is Tsaki's skill at evoking and focusing on the genuine emotions being expressed by his actors that guides his film to its success.

(Editor's note: *The Museum of Fine Arts* will be repeating two of this festival's films, *Waqaii Sanawat al-Jamr* and *Omar Gatlatu*, as well as premiering a well-regarded new Algerian film called *El-Kalaa* ("The Citadel"), April 11 and April 18.)



Lindasusan Ulrich '91 (left), Chris Crowley '91, and Greg Swieringa '91 star in Sam Shepard's *True West*, a workshop production presented by the MIT Theater Program this Friday at 9:30 pm and next weekend at 8 pm in Kresge Rehearsal Room B.

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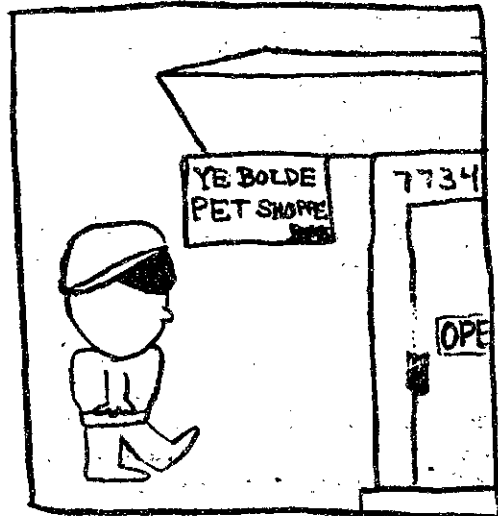
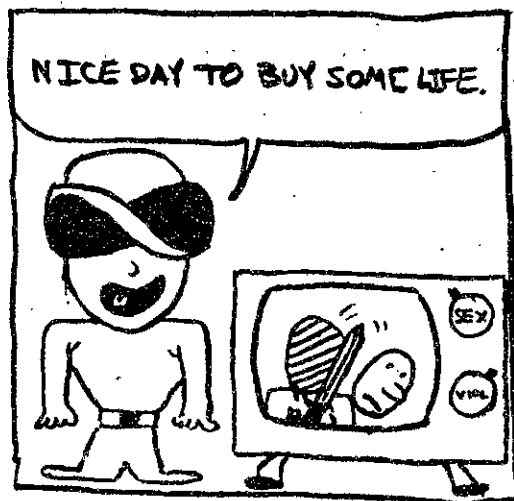
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A R T S

Cocteau Twins show relies too much on recorded tracks

COCTEAU TWINS

With *Galaxie 500*.
Walter Brown Arena, April 3, 7:30 pm.

By JEREMY HYLTON

I CAN THINK OF FEW WAYS to spend an evening that are more enjoyable than listening to the Cocteau Twins. The Scottish alternative band's ethereal music mixes equal parts of Elizabeth Fraser's diaphanous vocals and layers of otherworldly guitars. The sound is unique and beautiful.

The current tour focuses mostly on songs from their last album *Heaven or Las Vegas*. The album is wonderful. Fraser's vocals are barely understandable, but her voice becomes an instrument that conveys more emotion than lyrics ever could. Equally good is the guitar work by Robin Guthrie and bassist Simon Raymonde. Their playing is more skillful than it was on earlier albums, even if it is a bit more conventional.

So buy the album. But paying to see them live is an entirely different question. The heady, floating guitars and synthesizer

that are produced so well in the studio can not be reproduced on stage . . . and the Cocteau Twins don't try to. Much of the music for Wednesday night's concert was prerecorded, a disappointment by any measure.

Please do not misunderstand me, the Twins sounded beautiful. Technically the show was one of the best I have seen. The canned tracks were good, of course, and they brought in two extra guitarists to try to recreate their studio sound. Fraser was in fine form as well. With quivering jaw, she jumped from angelic high notes to a lower, almost throaty sound with ease. The subtle variations she made on the recorded versions of the songs, were engaging and exciting.

Still, the notion of canned concerts rubs me the wrong way. A live performance loses a lot of its excitement when it is not live at all, but rather a copy of the same performance given in 20 other cities across the country.

The band's stage presence did not help matters any. The line of performers on stage reminded me more of Easter Island than any rock concert I have ever seen. Fraser limited herself to a few hand gestures that faded away after the third song. Guthrie fiddled with the recorded music between songs, and Fraser got a drink, but other than that the musicians remained silent and still. Raymonde did acknowledge birthday greetings with a wave of his hand.

The Cocteau Twins played a set that came in just over an hour, including two encores. They played most of the cuts from their latest LP and many from 1988's *Blue Bell Knoll*, but unfortunately absent were early hits like "Wax and Wane" and "The Spangie Maker."

The band was accompanied, however, by a dynamite light show. Five white lights, each casting several beams, traveled across the stage and into the audience, working well with the dense dry-ice fog that shrouded the stage. Equally impressive were the colored lights that danced behind the stage, reminiscent of some primal seascape.

The band has said on more than one occasion that it is more comfortable in the studio than on the stage. The stoicism of the band and the canned background lent a perfunctory feel to the show. The Cocteau Twins really are better on CD.

The opening act, *Galaxie 500*, is a trio of Harvard graduates who are only slightly more energetic on stage than the Cocteau Twins. The band played a short 40-minute set to a near-empty arena. It is a shame that so few people arrived in time to hear them, too.

Galaxie 500 concerns itself little with lyrics, opting for songs long on instrumental solos. The vocals, slightly blurred à la REM, faded into lengthy guitar parts. The guitar was slow, but well done, reminding me a little of Neil Young.



The Cocteau Twins: Robin Guthrie (left), Elizabeth Fraser, Simon Raymonde

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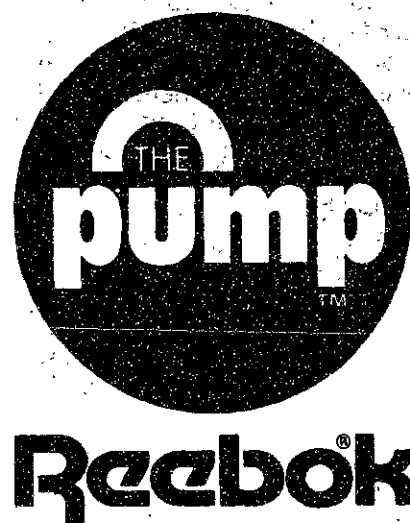
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Lobdell stabbing affects party policy

(Continued from page 1)

less desirable; we'd like to see them succeed."

The 1987 shooting incident prompted Glavin to change the closing time of parties in the Student Center from 2 am to 12:30 am, which was extended to 1 am last September. Glavin said it is still too early to say if changes of this sort will be made. She did say, though, "We've had a relatively good year this year."

Glavin said the police investigation of the stabbing itself has focused on the "possibility of a Cambridge group of individuals." She said that leads in the investigation "are focusing even more on this group; investigators appear to be on the right track."

The way in which Saturday's party was registered with the Residence and Campus Activities Office has already prompted a change in the party registration policy, said Susanna C. Hinds, director of campus activities.

Under a policy which becomes effective today, five people will be designated by the president of each student group president to register parties with the Residence and Campus Activities Office.

The previous policy, under which Steven O. Bertram '92 registered Saturday's party, required the student registering the party to present an MIT identification card. The Residence and Campus Activities Office also checked that the group was recognized by the ASA, and that there were no scheduling conflicts.

Saturday's party was organized by Bertram and William T. Drake '89, who head a party and disc jockey service called High Top Fade.

Bertram registered the party as a Black Student Union event. The BSU was not associated with the party, BSU President Dike N. Ahanotu '93 said, and Bertram is not a member of the BSU, he added. The BSU had discussed sponsoring the event with Bertram, but had not officially decided to do so.

Hinds, with whom Bertram registered the party, confirmed that Bertram put "BSU on the party reservation form and on his party request form." She added, "He said that the party was a BSU event. As far as the BSU is concerned, he's an unpaid member. We had no reason to believe he was not a member."

Hinds said the ASA, which provides Hinds with lists of ASA-recognized student groups, "will certainly [be] much more aggressive" in keeping its membership and officer lists up to date. Hinds said this decision was not related to Saturday's party: "The ASA has been tracking down groups all term," she said.

In preparation for this weekend, MIT is providing all student groups and living groups with lists of prospective freshmen, or prefrish, coming to campus, so that they will be able to attend parties and event organizers will be able to check their identification, Hinds said.

This action comes after numerous high school students reportedly gained access to the party on Saturday.

"Technically the Institute requires college identification" for entrance to parties, Hinds said. Event organizers this weekend will be able to check the names of prefrish at the door against a list provided by MIT.

Hinds, Tewhey and Glavin met with representatives from dormitories, student activities and independent living groups to inform them of the lists on Wednesday, Hinds said.

Glavin said they focused on safety issues at the meeting, including lighting and access control. They stressed that "the requirements for entrance to any party" should be followed and encouraged students to take advantage of Campus Police officers working at parties this weekend. Additionally, Glavin addressed the issue of keeping a minimum level of light, in part as a response to the dim lighting at Saturday's party.

Estimates of the number of

high school students — and MIT students — in attendance at the High Top Fade party varied. Glavin said, "I had heard that there was a high percentage of high school students, and that's part of the access control problem."

Lamont L. Dozier '94, who attended the party, said no more than 12 or 13 MIT students attended the party, and that the largest number of party-goers came from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. Drake disputed those numbers, though, saying that if high school students were inside the party, they numbered no more than one-fourth of those in attendance.

Drake said there were at least two people monitoring the door the entire evening, and that some people were turned away either by party organizers or the Campus Police. He said that at times, though, the crowd around the door became large enough for people to get past the identification check. Drake also said he heard that some people were going into the party through the third-floor entrance to Lobdell.

After visiting Northeastern University student Damion Halfkenny, the victim of the first, more severe stabbing, in the hospital, Drake recounted the circumstances surrounding the incident. According to Drake, Halfkenny was stabbed after approaching a group of people who had surrounded a friend of his. After one person bumped into a member of this group, "a guy swung a punch at [Halfkenny, who] swung back, [and then] they were fighting. While he was fighting . . . someone stabbed him in the back," Drake said.

Executive Director of Middlesex Emergency Medical Services Anthony Fucaloro said that Halfkenny is currently in stable condition at Beth Israel Hospital.

Fucaloro also said that five victims were reported to the EMS, but three refused treatment at the scene. Fucaloro did not know if they had been stabbed as well.

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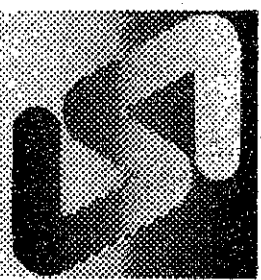
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sports

Upcoming Home Events

Friday, April 5

- 1:15 Golf v. Brandeis, Suffolk, N.E. College
- 3:00 Men's Tennis v. University of Vermont

Saturday, April 6

- 10:30 Lacrosse v. Assumption
- 12:30 Sailing Three Division Invitational
- 12:30 Women's Sailing at Radcliffe
- 1:00 Softball v. Smith
- 1:00 Track v. Bates, Bowdoin
- 2:00 Men's Tennis v. Williams
- TBA Women's Crew v. Smith, Wellesley

Sunday, April 7

- 12:30 Women's Sailing at Radcliffe

Monday, April 8

- 3:00 Track v. Naval Prep., Tufts

Four swimmers break Institute records at NCAA championship

Sports Update

Four swimmers earn All-American status

Four MIT men's swimmers returned with All-American honors from the recent NCAA Division III Championships at Emory University in Atlanta. The 800-meter freestyle relay team, Theodore A. Achtem '94, James H. Bandy '92, Brian R. Meade '92 and Robert D. Rockwell Jr. '92, placed sixth, finishing higher than their eighth place seed. The team shattered the Institute record, beating it by eight seconds.

The relay clocked a final time of 6:55.9. The individual times were: Meade at 1:44.2, Bandy at 1:44.1, Rockwell at 1:44.8, and Achtem at 1:42.8. "We thought that the relay could go under seven minutes, but we weren't sure how far," said Coach John A. Benedick.

Achtem also earned All-American honors in the 200-meter backstroke, finishing eighth and setting a new Institute record at 1:57.9. Rockwell earned honorable mention All-American status by finishing 15th in the 400-meter individual relay.

Benedick, who coaches the men's and women's swim teams, was pleased with the season. "I

thought that overall the program was one of the best that I could remember," Benedick said.

Basketball player wins academic award

Men's basketball forward David R. Tomlinson '91 has been named winner of the New England Basketball Coaches Association Academic Award. Tomlinson, a senior in mechanical engineering, will receive the award at the New England Coaches All-Star game April 8 at Providence College.

Road trip a success for men's track team

The men's track team made its first spring break trip to California a successful one by winning a triangular meet over the University of California at San Diego and

Concordia College. Despite having only 12 competitors, the Engineers scored 70 points to UCSD's 46 and Concordia's 38 points.

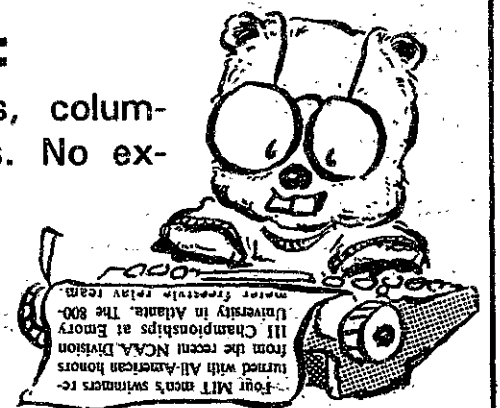
Men's tennis captures pair of road wins

The men's tennis team defeated Gustavus Adolphus College while on their spring trip to Arizona. Gustavus Adolphus was ranked seventh in the nation in Division III at the time. The Engineers also defeated 19th-ranked St. Thomas of Minnesota. Alexis P. Photiades '91 was 3-1 on the trip at the number one singles position, running his season record against nationally ranked Division III players to 4-1.

Compiled by Jeremy Hylton and the Sports Information Office

Wanted:

Tech sports writers, columnists, and reporters. No experience necessary. Stop by room 483 of the Student Center any Sunday at 6 pm for pizza.

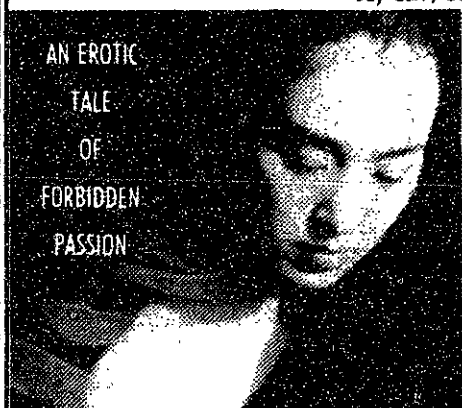


612 units of blood were collected at the March TCA-Red Cross drive!

Congratulations to contest winners Sigma Chi and Baker House. Prizes were donated by Wing-It, Ben & Jerry's, and Herrell's.

Thanks to all the workers and donors who helped make this drive a success!

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Special Thanks to the Peter's Flores Humor Fund

Volunteer Opportunities

Bowl for Kids' Sake

The Boston Big Brother/Little Brother Association is hosting its 10th Anniversary Bowl for Kid's Sake Bowlathon on Saturday, April 6 and May 5. Lanes & Games on Rte. 2 in Cambridge is donating lanes and shoe rentals from 9 am to 6 pm for all Bowlathon bowlers. Prizes, incentives, food and snacks will be available. Individuals or teams of three to four volunteers collect pledges and bowl for one hour. For pledge sheets and registration, call Janine Hite at 426-1237.

Road Race

The Cambridge Council on Aging is hosting a five-mile walk/run race on Sunday, April 7. The race will be held at the Cambridge Fresh Pond Reservoir. Volunteers needed to get pledges for the race. For information on how to register, call Sandy Kahn at 349-6220.

LaVerde's Shop and Share

LaVerde's Market is offering a new fundraising program. Not-for-profit, charitable, or service organizations can get 5% cash back on all purchases made in their behalf for a given three-day period. An excellent way to get the MIT community to help support your group. For more information, please call or visit Ken Ripley at LaVerde's Market, 621-0733.

Old South Church

The Old South Church in Boston is renovating a townhouse for low-income housing. Groups of 7 or more volunteers needed to work weekends now through June. Call, Ellsa Blanchard at 536-1970.

Science Demonstrations

The Boston Partners in Education is looking for inspired college students and faculty to deliver interesting math and science presentations to kids in Boston. Design your own workshop or demonstration and encourage other students to follow in your footsteps. Contact Janet Parker at 451-6145 to set up a project or get more info.

Renovate Brighton High School

The Sterling Community Service Foundation is organizing a special cleanup/renovation project at Brighton High School. April 5 and 6; volunteers are needed to prepare the site for about 500 people that will be working in late April and early May. Brighton High is T accessible. For more info or to volunteer contact Russell Pratt at (508) 582-9038, or Joanne Broadbent at 731-4585.

Tutoring Plus

King and Graham & Parks elementary schools in the Central Square area need tutors for their after school centers. Help is needed with 7th and 8th grade students in all homework subjects, especially math. A two hour per week commitment is requested. Call Suzanne Strauss at 547-7670 for more information.

Compiled by the Public Service Center, rm. 3-123, ext. 3-0742

