

WMBR takes a look back at 30 years of FM radio

Feature

By Katherine Shim

Wednesday night, Walker Memorial Basement Radio celebrated its 30th anniversary of non-commercial, FM radio with a live broadcast of its studio party, featuring segments of its first minutes on air and an interview with President Charles M. Vest about the radio station. WMBR first began broadcasting as an FM station at 8 pm April 10, 1961.

Wednesday night also marked WMBR's return to news broadcasting which was discontinued about five years ago. WMBR Nightly News, a cooperative effort of both WMBR and radio station WGBH, will run on weeknights from 8 to 8:30 pm and will feature both national and local news.

The decision to run a news segment was made largely because of WMBR staff interest, not due to overwhelming listener demand, said Shawn Mamros G, a former member of WMBR.

Radio station looks back

Thirty years ago, the radio station broadcasted from the basement of Senior House for about two hours in the morning and from 5 pm to 1 am at night. Staff numbered approximately 45 people, including three women, and power of transmission was 10 watts. Programming featured exclusively classical or jazz music.

Today, WMBR broadcasts 18 hours a day from 8 am to 2 am, staff numbers over 100, and power of transmission is 360 watts — the second most powerful college radio station in the Boston area, said Allen R. Kent '63, a member of the Technology Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) which holds

WMBR's license. Programming runs the spectrum of "rock, jazz, classical, folk, funk, punk, industrial, reggae and hip-hop," the program guide states.

Before becoming an FM station in 1961, the radio station broadcasted across the MIT campus via restricted radiation transmission, a form of transmission coupled to AM power lines. Dormitories received signal through twisted loop antennas strung from their roofs.

In 1987, WMBR began broadcasting in FM stereo.

Over the past 30 years, a few traditions have developed in WMBR, most notably, broadcast of fictitious commercials and all-nighters of music.

"WMBR has a few traditions that have lasted over the years," Mamros said. "As a non-commercial radio station, we don't run commercials, but we have invented commercials of fictitious

things — the most well known are ads for 'Apple Dunkies' and 'Nocturnal Aviation Slots,'" he said.

"Also, at the end of every year of every term, WMBR used to close out with 'Night Foul,' — an all-nighter of horrible music," Mamros continued. "The music would go on until someone got tired. We still occasionally do all-nighters like that."

"WMBR has continued its tradition of running remotes [broadcasts] at various campus locations," Kent said. "In the same era [in which WMBR first became an FM station] WMBR ran a remote in front of Club 47 on Massachusetts Avenue. One of the performers there was Joan Baez."

"Over the years, WMBR has featured a number of live performers — some famous and many not as famous," Kent added.

Since 1961, the philosophy of

WMBR has shifted, said Todd Glickman, president of TBC and a former WMBR staff member.

"When I as a student, the main concern of WMBR was the technological aspects of radio signal," said Glickman. "Today, the emphasis is on different and interesting programming."

"A long-standing philosophy of the station is to not copy any commercial station," Mamros added. "We try to provide programming that you wouldn't get elsewhere. We explore all types of programming, and the station changes format every two hours."

The station has also made attempts in recent years to extend its audience beyond the MIT community.

"Staff is about 50 percent MIT, and 50 percent from the outside community. Our audience beyond MIT is certainly pretty significant" said Robert D. Dredge '92, former general manager of WMBR.

\$70K in computers stolen from labs

(Continued from page 1)

involved are from a fraternity," though he declined to specify which one. And he commented that he was "very disappointed that [the thieves] were students."

Tewhey and Glavin declined to comment on any living group involvement. "I don't feel it's appropriate to comment on that at this time," Glavin said.

Anonymous sources in both CSR and SERC indicated that the Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity had been involved. "I have heard from two independent, unconfirmed sources that Fiji was involved," the SERC source said.

Fiji President Michael J. Pecoraro '92 denied the allegations. "Fiji was not involved as a fraternity," he said. Pecoraro refused to comment on whether individual members of Fiji were involved in the thefts, saying he was "quite limited in what I can say right now."

Thefts began last summer

The first theft in this case occurred at SERC last summer. Mark S. Barlow G, who works in SERC, said he thought about \$12,000 worth of equipment had been stolen last July. "We lost a Macintosh IIcx with a big monitor, an external hard drive for a Macintosh SE, an SE with an internal hard drive, and a LaserWriter IINT," he said.

Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Edward F. Crawley '76, director of SERC, said he thought \$12,000 was "in the right range." He said that some of the equipment was owned by the Institute, "so it is insured and has been replaced." Crawley said "most of the other equipment was owned by the federal government, which self-insures."

"What that comes down to on the individual lab level," Crawley added, "is a loss of the equipment, since it was almost certainly purchased out of research funds."

Associate Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Paul A. Lagace '78, director of TELAC, said equipment was stolen from TELAC on two separate occasions. "The first batch, which was worth about \$15,000, was stolen in mid-January, and the second, worth about \$6000, was stolen in mid-March. We lost several Macintoshes, screens, and a scanner," he said. Lagace said he doubted there was a connection between the two thefts.

All of the TELAC equipment was MIT-insured and had been replaced, Lagace said. "We had to pay a \$1000 deductible for each event, but the real cost was in lost time and productivity," he

said.

CSR was also robbed twice, said Eugene A. Magnier G, who works in the office where the equipment was taken from. "Personal items, including a CD player, several books and a calculator were stolen on March 11," he said. "On March 14, two hard drives, a keyboard, and a modem were stolen," he added. Magnier estimated the value of the stolen goods at over \$1000.

Magnier added that a Campus Police officer investigating the thefts told him that "\$50,000 in computer equipment had been found in the possession of students."

"Closing the barn door after the horse is gone"

Each lab has changed its security procedures as a result of the thefts. Crawley said the changes were an example of "closing the


barn door after the horse is gone.

"We've tried to increase awareness [of the possibility of theft] in the lab, and we've bolted some equipment to the tables, but in a couple months people get complacent until it happens again," he said.

Lagace said SERC has changed the combination on the front door, but has not done anything else. "In an environment like that at MIT, when you start restricting access [to lab facilities], you've lost it. There has to be a certain amount of openness and trust in the community," he said. "We've looked into tying the computers down, but people took screens and keyboards. It's really too bad that there's not a lot to do," he added.


Kenneth Plaks G, who works in CSR with Magnier, said people in the lab were "locking things up better, which is all we really can do."

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news roundup

from the associated press wire

Nation

Federal court nominee rejected

There is disappointment at the White House over the rejection of President George Bush's nominee to the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals. The Senate Judiciary Committee's rejection of Kenneth Ryskamp is the first rejection for Bush out of 77 judicial nominations.

The Florida jurist had been accused of being insensitive to civil rights issues. But the White House said that is not the case. And in a statement issued in Florida, Ryskamp said the charges against him are false and repugnant to all that he stands for.

Two conservative Democrats considered swing votes on the Senate Judiciary Panel, Dennis Deconcini of Arizona and Howell Heflin of Alabama, joined other members of their party in voting against Ryskamp. Then a tie vote killed a move to let the full Senate consider his nomination with no recommendation from the panel. Ryskamp said he will stay on as a federal district judge in Miami.

Military bases to close

Lawmakers are anxiously awaiting today's Pentagon announcement concerning which US military bases will be closed and which will remain off the "hit" list. Closing a base and the subsequent loss of jobs in a community is bad enough in good economic times, but it is of overwhelming concern during the current recession. This could cost votes.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams pointed out that most military bases from the start were placed in Democratic districts. And he said therefore the base closing will "tend to hit Democrats." But Williams added that some of the bases to be closed are in states with Republican senators and Republican governors and he stressed those bases to be closed are those that are not needed.

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney will announce today what military facilities are no longer thought to be necessary. Pentagon sources said that the bases on Cheney's list could be changed up until the final hours before he reveals which ones get the ax.

King's passenger claims police abuse

In the Los Angeles videotaped police-beating case, a passenger in the car driven by victim Rodney King now claims that he was hit on the head with a police baton as he lay on the ground after the car was stopped for speeding. Freddie Helms said the beating occurred each time he tried to turn to look at what was happening to his friend. He has filed a federal civil rights suit against the Los Angeles police department.

FAA safety measures questioned

Safety officials and airline crash survivors said yesterday that years of government delay on measures to help passengers escape burning airplanes has led to deaths that could have been avoided.

At a hearing on Capitol Hill yesterday, Alex Richman of Halifax, Canada, told lawmakers his son died one row from an exit in the Feb. 1 runway crash at Los Angeles International Airport. Richman said that his son could have survived if there had been less smoke and toxic fumes or if the exits had been more accessible.

David Richman was among 22 people who died aboard a USAir Boeing 737 that collided with a Skywest commuter plane. All 12 people aboard the commuter plane died.

The Federal Aviation Administration is proposing that airliners either expand the space between rows at window exits or remove seats next to the exits. This would make it easier for passengers to evacuate planes filling with smoke and fire. But those who testified yesterday complained that the FAA acknowledged the need for more space near window exits as early as 1986. And they said it could still take years before last week's proposal is put into effect.

The FAA is also planning to order systematic safety inspections of more than 5000 jet engines aboard business aircraft. The National Transportation Safety Board recommended the inspections after an engine exploded in the air over West Virginia last October. Metallurgical testing found on the engine parts showed cracks in the fan disk of the Garrett engine.

Florida man sues Merv Griffin

A Florida man who claims that Merv Griffin promised to support him for life filed a breach of contract suit yesterday. The lawsuit seeks half the profits from "Wheel of Fortune" and other Griffin businesses. Griffin called the suit a shameless attempt to extort money from him.

Brent Plott said he lived with Griffin for nine years as his companion, confidant, secretary, driver and personal adviser. He claims in his suit that he managed many of Griffin's business deals, including development of the popular TV game show.

The lawsuit also states the Plott gave Griffin "advice, consultation, solace and other emotional support." The suit does not specify the amount of money Plott seeks other than to say it is in excess of \$400,000.

Space shuttle lands safely in Houston

A successful mission behind them, the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* astronauts are back at home base in Houston. Co-workers cheered the crew as it arrived. At a post-landing news conference, a Johnson Space Center official called the flight of *Atlantis* an "eminently successful mission."

Social Security tax cuts may slow economic growth

The Congressional Budget Office is cautioning against a proposed cut in the Social Security tax, saying it would push up interest rates, worsen inflation and slow economic growth. But the proposed cut has strong support in the Senate.

World

Gulf war is officially over

The war is officially over. The United Nations Security Council has announced a formal cease-fire, saying it accepts Iraq's pledge to pay for war damages and scrap weapons of mass destruction. Council officials said that a letter officially declaring the truce was handed to Iraqi officials last night.

Once the cease-fire is in place, the withdrawal of US troops from the gulf is expected to accelerate. This worries refugees who are being cared for by the American soldiers occupying southern Iraq. They do not know what will happen to them when UN peacekeepers replace Americans. One refugee leader says his people are so desperate they will sit in front of US tanks to stop them from leaving.

In Saudi Arabia, US troops are welcoming the official end of the war, although some say they are concerned about leaving behind Iraqi rebels to face what is left of Saddam Hussein's army. President George Bush insists he will not let US forces be drawn into the fighting between government troops and rebels in Northern Iraq.

Bush is promising to "do what's right" for the hundreds of thousands of refugees in Turkey, Iran and northern Iraq. Bush said he and European leaders agree on how to proceed with the massive relief effort for the refugees.

The White House has also declared the tip of northern Iraq a "safe haven" for Kurdish refugees. The United States has told Iraq to keep its military forces away from the area while relief efforts go on.

US troop strength in the gulf has dropped sharply to 307,000 soldiers — down from 540,000 during the war. Not all US troops are going home right away. Some medical units, including National Guardsmen, are being redeployed from the gulf to Turkey. Their new mission is to help stricken Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraqi forces.

Peace talks in Israel

Israel radio said yesterday that Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Israeli officials have reached agreement on nine points regarding peace in the Middle East. According to the report, the two sides have agreed that the Palestine Liberation Organization will not be included in peace talks. And it said that they have decided to put aside, for now, the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister has responded favorably to the Israeli proposal.

Turkey wants aid

Turkish officials are pleading for more aid. The refugees' situation is growing more desperate by the day. It is difficult to deliver supplies to some areas because rain and mud have made some roads impassible. And the supplies that do reach the refugees are not enough.

At one refugee camp in southeast Turkey, troops used dogs to drive starving Kurds back from a food truck. But when the dogs were withdrawn, the people swarmed over the truck again, trampling much of the cargo in their frenzy to grab some food.

US and Panama to share criminal data

Under a treaty signed yesterday, the United States and Panama will be sharing information in criminal probes of drug smuggling and other illicit activities. Yesterday's signing ceremony clears the way for the release of \$80 million in US aid to Panama.

El Salvadoran leader refuses to disarm

An El Salvadoran rebel leader said leftists will not leave themselves defenseless just to win a cease-fire during peace talks now under way in Mexico. The field commander said they will neither accept confinement in temporary security zones that the government is proposing. Leaders of rebel forces are participating in the talks for the first time in El Salvador's 11-year-old civil war.

Florida Police to release report

Police in Florida said that they will release a narrative of an alleged assault at the Kennedy family compound in Palm Beach. Authorities have been withholding information from the media because they said the news coverage could jeopardize the investigation. But they said that is no longer the case. They're planning to release some information at a news conference today.

And yesterday, William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), called any suggestion he abused an alleged rape victim a "damnable lie." The 30-year-old medical student is under investigation by police in Palm Beach, FL, for a reported incident at the Kennedy family compound.

Local

Weld says cutting services is necessary to alleviate deficit

Gov. William F. Weld said yesterday that a shutdown of non-essential state services is likely in June. He said that it looks like the shutdown is necessary to help cut a deficit in fiscal year 1991, which ends June 30. He said that the projected red ink now approaches \$1 billion.

Weld said that the only alternative is to get more revenue. He said the shutdown is not projected for the week of June 24 to June 28 and would save about \$22 million. The idea is to close all agencies but those that protect public health and safety.

Weld noted a \$150 million drop in revenue from expected receipts. But he said he expects the administration to balance the books when the fiscal year ends. Weld said he already has contingency plans depending on what the numbers are. The deficit had been pegged at \$850 million.

FDIC to announce BNE bidder

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation said yesterday that it plans to announce later this month which bidder has been picked to take over the failed Bank of New England. The FDIC, which seized the bank in January, said that the winning bid will be announced April 24.

The FDIC received bids from BankAmerica Corporation of San Francisco and Bank of Boston Corporation. There was also a joint offer from Fleet-Norstar Financial Group Inc. of Providence, RI, and the New York investor group, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Company. Also submitting a bid was an investor group led by Marco Desalle of Cape Elizabeth, ME, which reportedly is seeking Bank of New England's Maine subsidiary.

Weather

Back to Spring

Alas! After a summer interlude, complete with days of resplendent sunshine and sultry nights, the warm weather is now a sweet memory as the New England spring returns.

Our weather for the first part of the weekend will be dominated by a ridge of high pressure that will continue to build southeastward from Canada. Cold, blustery nights will be followed by crisp days with seasonable temperatures. Clouds, associated with a big storm in the central part of the country will begin to slowly advance on Saturday (as the high ridge continues to hang tough offshore), and the second part of the weekend (including the marathon Monday) is looking on the cool and showery side.

Friday afternoon: Mostly sunny and cool with some passing clouds. Strong northwesterly winds will gust to 20-30 mph. High about 52°F (11°C).

Friday night: Becoming clear and quite cold with low temperature around 34°F (1°C) in the city; high 20s (-7°C) in the inland locations. Winds will gradually diminish through the night as the center of a high moves over the area.

Saturday: Clear start, cloudy finish. Light winds will gradually shift to southeast. High around 55°F (13°C).

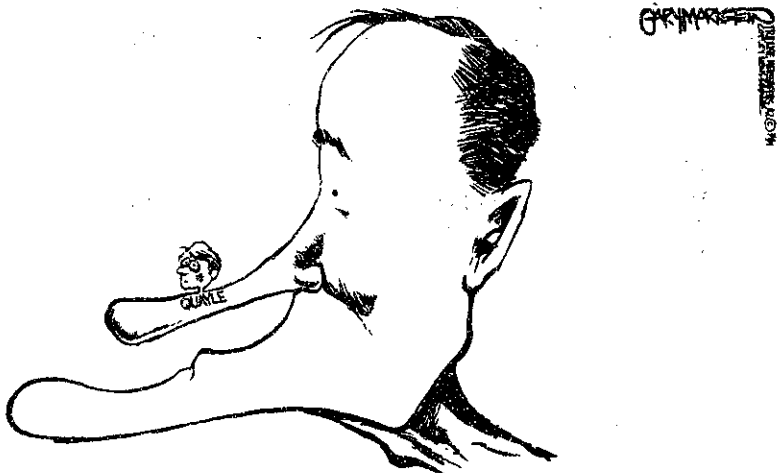
Saturday night: Cloudy and cool. Few light sprinkles or drizzle may develop as a warm front advances toward the southern New England coast. Lows in low 40s (4°C).

Sunday outlook: Mostly cloudy with some light rain or showers, especially late in the day. High in mid-50s (10°C).

Forecast by Marek Zebrowski

Compiled by Joey Marquez and Katherine Shim

opinion



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Remember the Holocaust

Column by Michael J. Franklin

For most people, yesterday was a day like any other — problem sets to finish, or perhaps a thermo test to study for. On a few calendars, however, it could be found that yesterday was Yom ha-Shoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day. Nearly 50 years after the end of the second world war, understanding the Holocaust is not easy for those of us who were not there.

My understanding of the Holocaust began in some nearly forgotten high school history class, sandwiched between the League of Nations and the United Nations, summarized as "Nazi concentration camps — 6 million dead." And it ended, much like thermo, just after the next test.

My interest was limited because I had no links to the region, or to the people. I am not Jewish, and my ancestors, Roger Williams and Benedict Arnold supposedly among them, have lived on the East Coast for centuries. It was only during my last semester at MIT that I finally took a course on the Holocaust at Wellesley. The required reading consisted of more books than there were classes, and we studied more in one class than I had forgotten from high school.

Rapidly it emerged that the Holocaust was not some isolated event in German history, but the culmination of centuries of anti-Semitism. In 1880, the Anti-Semites petition was circulated through Germany, beginning "[i]n all regions of Germany, the conviction has prevailed that the rank growth of the Jewish element bears within it the most serious dangers to our nationhood." And in *Mein Kampf*, Hitler wrote "it is the inexorable Jew who struggles for his domination over the nations. No nation can remove his hand from its throat except by the sword."

Hitler and the Nazis imposed first upon Jews a series of increasingly harsh measures designed to separate them from society and destroy them. Registration of Jews, confiscation of silver and other valuables, confiscation of radios, cars and bikes, elimination of Jews from the civil service and private businesses, denial of schooling for children, proscription from theaters and public areas, disallowing travel on trains and buses, curfews, consolidation of Jews into ghettos all seem unbelievable today. Yet with great efficiency, the German government duly passed laws enacting these regulations, and the bureaucracy and nation efficiently enforced them.

These regulations were but the first step of the "Final Solution" to the "Jewish Problem." After the Germans had stripped the Jews of their possessions, they began to destroy them. Hitler's plan did not call for the reduction of the Jewish population, but rather the complete elimination of it. As regular German soldiers battled their way into Russia, groups of special soldiers, *Einsatzgruppen*, followed them to murder Jews. A group "would enter a village or city and order the prominent Jews to call together all Jews for the purposes of resettlement. They were requested to hand over their valuables. . . The men, women and children were led to a place of execution which in most cases was next to a more deeply excavated anti-tank ditch. Then they were shot, kneeling or standing, and the corpses thrown into the ditch." This somewhat slow method succeeded in killing nearly 2 million Jews before the concentration camps opened.

Chelmno, the first major camp near Lodz, Poland, began operations on Dec. 8, 1941. Belzec, Majdanek, Treblinka, Sobibor and Auschwitz followed to aid in the *Entjudung* — "de-Jewification" — of the occupied countries. Adolf Eichmann wrote that the plan was to "resettle" 40,000 French Jews, 10,000 from Belgium, and 40,000 from Holland to Auschwitz, averaging 1000 people per day. There they were stripped, herded into gas chambers and murdered. Then they were cremated, as the next group was being pushed into the chamber in a process that often continued around the clock. One worker at Auschwitz said that "the stench given off by the pyres contaminated the surrounding countryside. At night the red sky over Auschwitz could be seen for miles." In the end, over 2 million people had been murdered at Auschwitz in two years, most of whom were Jews.

How does one comprehend 6 million? MIT tuition? Donald Trump's daily expenses? The number boggles the mind. Consider more reasonable comparisons: 80 percent of greater New York City, three times the size of greater Boston, or 600 times the number of MIT students. This 6 million came from 9 million Jews in Europe: 90 percent of the Jews in Poland, the Baltics and Germany were eliminated.

Mike Franklin '88, a graduate of the Department of Political Science, is contributing editor of The Tech.

Seventy-five percent of the Jews in Slovakia, Greece, the Netherlands and Hungary were wiped out. The list goes on.

But what do these numbers mean? Books can convey some sense of the destruction, the razed villages, the tens of hundreds of thousands of lives snuffed out, but these statistics alone cannot provide a complete picture. During my travels in Europe, I have been able to see some of the results of the Holocaust even after 45 years.

In Prague, the old Jewish ghetto shows some signs of the community that once flourished. All but one of six or seven synagogues are museums, since there are too few people to pray in them. The one that is open for services, a friend told me, was "packed" on Friday night, with at least 30 people. So much for a pre-war Jewish population of nearly 80,000.

The museums in Prague are special places, for they contain the last remnants of many Czech and Slovak Jewish communities. This city was the central storage location for religious items stolen by the Nazis in preparation for a grand "Museum of the Extinct Race."

The synagogues of Vienna were not so fortunate as those in Prague. Now there is only one to serve the needs of the 7000 Jews in Vienna. It is guarded by three to five Austrian police with machine guns and watched by several cameras. The other 90 synagogues in Vienna were demolished during November 1938, during what is known as *Kristallnacht*, the night of glass. And the Jewish section of the Central Cemetery is overgrown with plants — the relatives of the dead have either left, or more likely were killed during the war.

Jerusalem is home to Yad Vashem, a phrase from Isaiah meaning "everlasting memorial." The vast archives of war documents helped to convict the Nazi Adolf Eichmann. The Hall of Names carefully maintains the descriptions and histories of 3million Nazi victims. Many of the remaining 3million cannot be found, since the Nazis and their allies liquidated whole families and towns, leaving no one to remember the dead.

The Children's Memorial is simple — just a dark room with hundreds of mirrors and a few candles. The flames, which appear to surround the visitor, represent the 1.5 million children who perished during the Nazi terror. Yad Vashem is nearly surrounded by The Avenue of the Righteous, a path shaded by trees planted in recognition of non-Jews who helped the Jews during the Holocaust. I have no doubt that not everyone who had helped has been recognized. Despite this, it is dismaying to see only a few hundred trees.

Seeing these cities helped to add substance to my image of the Holocaust, but like the books, it is indirect, and decades too late. At MIT, I have had the opportunity to speak with several Holocaust survivors, parents or other relatives of friends, and have begun to understand the situations of individuals within the broader scope of the Holocaust.

One of these survivors remembers the Nazi invasion into The Netherlands. Restrictions were imposed, each more severe than the last. Radios were confiscated (too many people were listening to the BBC), Jews were forbidden to travel on public transportation, parks were closed to "dogs and Jews." His father and brother slept away from the house to avoid periodic Nazi roundups for the forced-labor camps.

Eventually, he, his brother and his parents were forced to flee, and with the help of the underground, were housed in a farm. Initially, they lived in the farmhouse, but as Nazi inspections grew more frequent, they moved into the hayloft, where they stayed for more than two years. There was not quite enough room to stand up, no heat in winter and Germans everywhere, but these four people survived while at least 135,000 (75 percent) of their Jewish countrymen were sent to Auschwitz and Sobibor where they died.

What should be done now? Near the Western Wall, in Jerusalem, are six flames atop six-foot Hebrew letters spelling one word, "remember." Remember that 6 million is not just a number, but individuals whose lives were ended for no reason other than their religion. Remember that they did not die as simply as casualties of war, but through the actions of a methodical madman, supported by supposedly civilized countries. Forgetting diminishes the awful importance of the Holocaust allowing the Nazis to reap a posthumous victory. Only through eternal vigilance will such memories prevent a greater disaster against the Jews, or any other group. Remember.

opinion

Some really bad ideas deserve a second chance

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

It's getting harder and harder to be pro-nuclear in the 90s. Is it just me or has "nuclear" become a bad word?

Last week, the Federation of American Scientists leaked information concerning Timberwind, a Pentagon program to build a nuclear powered rocket booster. This device, which is still in its early research and development stage, would be used to launch heavy payloads, particularly anti-missile systems, into orbit. The principle for the booster isn't especially complex — a small nuclear reactor would heat the engine's hydrogen fuel and blast it out the back at high pressure. An uproar has followed this disclosure demanding a termination of the program, particularly due to safety concerns. Many fear that this booster, which would be launched from the ground, would pollute the air with radioactive exhaust gases.

It would, but that's not the point.

Timberwood is a dumb idea. Launching this type of nuclear booster from sea level

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

would pose unacceptable risks. However for Timberwood to receive the kind of paranoid responses as it has in the United States press [*Time*, April 15] is unnecessarily destructive.

This is not the first time the United States has experimented with nuclear propulsion. Throughout the 1960s and 70s the United States researched and constructed a variety of devices under Project Rover. More than a dozen engine designs emerged from Project Rover, ranging from Project Orion, a ship propelled by a stream of small thermonuclear explosions, to designs very similar to Timberwood, which were deemed safe only if launched in space.

In 1972 Rover was killed to make room for the space shuttle, and since then, no non-nuclear technology has been able to compete with the nuclear engine's expected thrust and simplicity. The space shuttle, the Avis rent-a-truck of space, turned out to have leaky cylinders and a tendency to require long, costly repairs. Ten years after the shuttle's first flight, the United States still lacks the launch capability it possessed 20 years ago with the moon-reaching Saturn boosters. We are at a

crossroads. If the United States hopes to fulfill its lofty space goals, we cannot terminate research programs out of irrational fear. Timberwood should not go into production, but the idea upon which it was built should be thoroughly researched. Killing big money construction projects during a recession is dangerous for other reasons.

Proponents of nuclear space research are quick to add that no-nukes would protest any attempt to launch parts for a nuclear engine into space, even if the device were to be assembled and fired there. The only advice I have for the government is to shift launch operations to the Pacific or another secluded area, and try to educate the public as much as possible. Radioactive materials are dangerous, but only if they are improperly packaged.

If nuclear propulsion works (and it will), we can only gain from the experience. Unlike some defense technology, nuclear propulsion information would be immediately applicable to civilian and commercial power interests. Nuclear propulsion centers on controlling fission and fusion phenomena. At the heart of the

Timberwood program is a method for encapsulating bits of uranium fuel for the reactor. These fuel pellets have already been constructed and tested. If they can be utilized successfully, they, and the new technologies in reactor design that they spawn, will provide the United States and the world with safer, more efficient nuclear power systems. Experiments in fusion engines and plasma containment could explore even safer, cheaper technologies. And in a world with safe nuclear power there would be no sulfur dioxide, no acid rain, no smog, and no water pollution.

Nuclear power is not in its final stages. Nukes make people cringe. But in a world without nukes we would have exhausted almost all of our fossil fuels, would never have swam under the north pole, never have seen pictures of Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune, and may still have been at war by now. I am pro-nuclear, and I am not afraid to admit it. We can either abandon all nuclear technology we have developed to date, or we can tread, carefully but surely, into a new era.

Don't stick the United States in the Dark Ages. Don't kill Timberwood.

Athletics: perfect preparation for a world at war

Column by Jason Merkoski

Winston Churchill once said of World War I, "The war was won on the playing fields of Eton." This leads me to believe that the pre-World War II schoolchildren of Great Britain took up basketweaving or pottery instead of playing the traditional cricket or rugby. Today, Great Britain is little more than a nominal world power, whose primary exports are cheesy PBS documentaries and punk rock groups (the color of whose hair would look more appropriate on the heads of elderly diabetic elementary school teachers).

But regardless, I feel that Winston Churchill's dictum has its merits, and I wonder if it could be applied to MIT. Hey! Great idea! It sounds like something I could write a column about. . . .

Jason Merkoski is a freshman who thinks athletic games and the appendix have similar uses.

If I were to look out of my window as I type this, I would see a throng of tank-top-clad and spandex-constricted people outside having fun. They are playing lacrosse, soccer, baseball, frisbee and a host of other sports I would not be caught dead playing (due to 12 years of gym-class trauma). "But what, if anything, would they be learning out on the playing fields?" I ask myself.

For starters, many of the players seem to be yelling and hollering at each other. This could be excellent preparation for primal-scream therapy. In the armed forces, this training would allow soldiers to utter blood-curdling war cries, which would instill terror into the data banks of the descending multi-warhead missiles.

Perhaps the discipline and self-control learned on the playing fields could be of more use to the military. People quickly

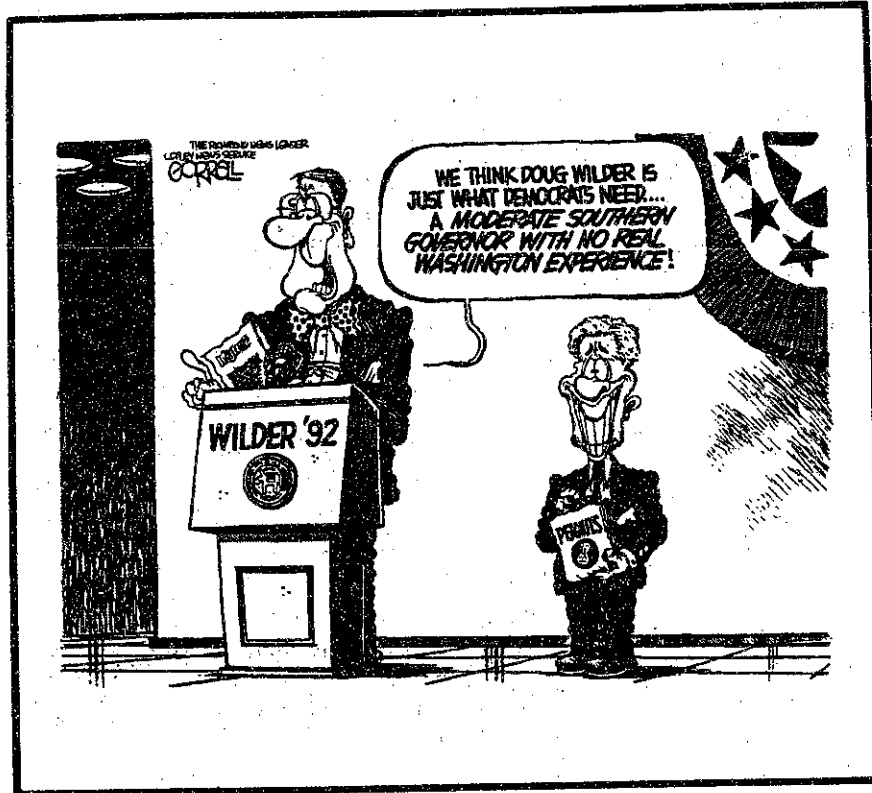
learn when it is appropriate to exert themselves in the pursuit of an errant frisbee. Likewise, they realize when it is appropriate to slink off to the sidelines and laze around. Players learn to group together in a huddle in order to decide the game plans. All of this is of course done in the military, but such behavior is also of the utmost importance in America as a whole. You see, this is excellent preparation for our increasingly bureaucratic society. Little can be done without consulting a superior, having one's motion ratified, having a committee pass judgment, etc. This system is infecting not only the American government, but the scientific community, too. In effect, society is crying out, "The solitary man in dead!"

But I have just realized that it is silly to make these comparisons between MIT students and the winning of future wars. Very

few, if any, MIT students will ever be in the front lines of any war. We, the aspiring scientists and engineers, will never be directly scarred (either emotionally or physically) by the atrocities of war. This is fine by me, because I do not find war romantic or useful in any sense.

I want you to consider one more observation of mine, if you will. Last Sunday, four helicopters flew in and landed on Briggs Field, interrupting the athletic games. The helicopters disgorged their 30-odd troops and quickly flew away. The camouflaged people assembled into ranks and marched away. Following this, the games recommenced. This seemed to be a violation of Churchill's logic: After the war was won, the war came to the playing fields. There must be some cosmic symbolism here, but I cannot find it. I leave that as an exercise for the reader.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Attention Kresge polluters . . . you forgot to clean up the mess

To those of you who turned Kresge Oval and the Student Center plaza into a garbage dump this past weekend, I damn you. Are you this negligent with your own life? Have you no consideration for public safety, no sense of aesthetic taste, no redeeming qualities?

You left glass bottles on a lawn used by others for sports and sunbathing. You left Lobdell trays strewn haphazardly about. You let your cups and napkins

and other random pieces of litter, including parts of *The Tech*, blow around in the wind.

Unless you were raised in a cultural pit, such behavior would never have been tolerated in your own backyard at home. Didn't your parents teach you not to litter and to clean up after yourself? Please learn this common courtesy and assume at least this tiny bit of responsibility.

Joost Bensen '91

Do not make excuses for American Psycho

Bill Jackson '93's column does a disservice to his careful analysis of the killings committed by Pat Bateman, the hero of *American Psycho* [*American Psycho* more than it seems," April 9].

After reading the book and meticulously taking notes with which to write his editorial, he seems not to have invested time in even the most basic research or thought. For this reason, I can't respect his instruction to "relax. It's only a book."

In last month's issue of *Ms.*, responses to the 1990 survey on violence against women were printed. A woman recounted her own experience from her college years in Chicago, providing a horrifying example of the reality of imitative violence.

She writes: "I was . . . living . . . next to the Playboy movie theater. One night about 3 am I was home alone. Someone started knocking on my door, asking for Petulia. . . . He kept pounding on the door. . . . He broke the door down, pushed his way into my room, and started hitting me in the face. A day or so later, I went to the Playboy Theater. The movie playing was called *Petulia*. Sure enough, in the movie Julie Christie's face is shown severely beaten."

Also, Jackson claims that there has been no feminist objection to the treatment of women in *The Silence of the Lambs*.

There may be no organized protest, but there has been considerable commentary on the implications of the deluge of ultra-violence presented in *The Silence of the Lambs*, *American Psycho* and other recent pieces of popular culture.

In *Newsweek's* recent cover story, "Violence Goes Mainstream," results from a 1984 University of Illinois study are paraphrased.

Psychologists Leonard Eron and L. Rowell Huesmann found, after studying a group of children for over two decades, that children "who watched significant amounts of TV violence at the age of eight were consistently more likely to commit violent crimes or engage in child or spouse abuse at 30."

Even though *The Silence of the Lambs* may be told from a strong woman's point of view, it still features women as victims of

gory violence. Since teenage males cheered the gang rape scene in *The Accused*, an intensely anti-rape movie featuring a strong female lawyer, why couldn't viewers just as easily identify with a serial killer who skins women?

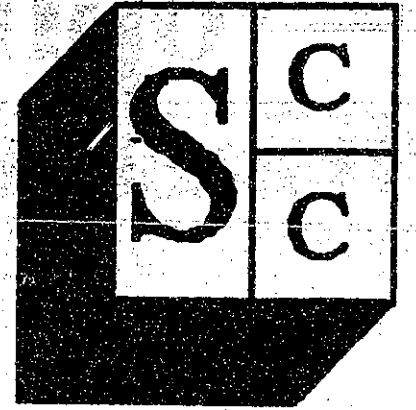
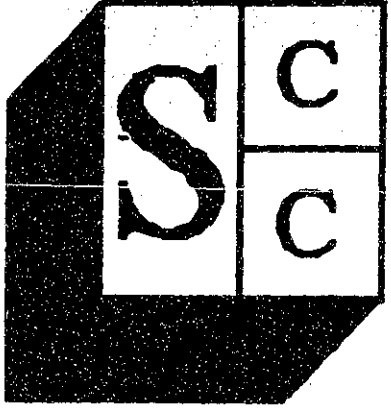
I could say much more, but I'll finish by saying that I can't relax and dismiss *American Psycho* as "just a book," because the disgusting violence against women that takes place every day in America is part of the "real world," which Jackson enthusiastically admires Ellis's evocation of.

Only 7 percent of the respondents to the *Ms.* survey had never been subjected to male violence or didn't know any rape survivors. Publishers, feminists and readers must not help Bret Easton Ellis get richer while women continue to live in fear of Pat Bateman copycats.

Banurekha Ramachandran '92

Letters policy

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.



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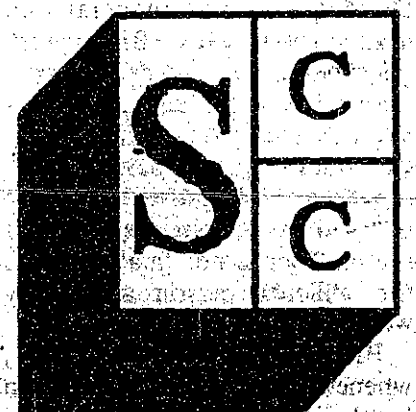
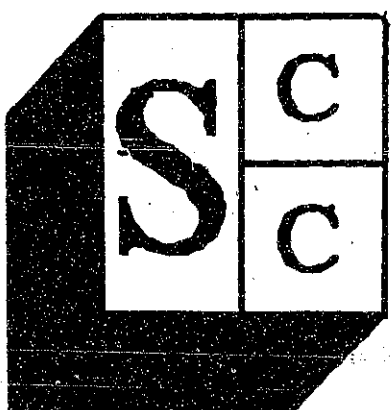
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opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do not take part in the Baker "kiss of death" teaching award

Last week I received a letter urging me to submit a nomination for the Baker Teaching Award. It said, "There are so many aspects of MIT life where significant contributions are made and not recognized, and this is one aspect of MIT life where YOU can make a difference. Exceptional teaching deserves something, but in order to recognize this, we need you to nominate a professor whom you feel has shown exceptional teaching ability and caring for undergraduates."

I remember receiving this letter my freshman year as well. It sounded like such a wonderful opportunity to show my appreciation for good teaching (a somewhat rare commodity at MIT), that I decided to nominate my favorite teacher, let us call him, "Professor X."

I hoped that he would be the one to be selected to receive the delightful \$1000 honorarium and bronze medal for his efforts. Imagine my elation when Professor X won the award! I can really make a difference, I thought.

Soon afterwards, however, Professor X was suddenly denied tenure from MIT. It turned out that I had not nominated him for a teaching award, but instead the reputed "kiss of death."

I tried to make myself feel better for what I had done. I told myself that Professor X would much rather have a thousand dollars, a medal, and the knowledge that his students appreciated him than continue teaching at MIT.

I had my doubts, though. In any case, it became obvious that the stigma of caring for one's

students seemed to be a dangerous one.

I'm no longer the naive freshman I once was. And I'm past the disillusioned sophomore stage. I accept the fact that I'm stuck at this place. I just can't wait to get out.

But I digress. . . . The point is that I am somewhat smarter now and I have learned from my mistakes. I know now what the Baker teaching award can do. Now it is time to use what I have learned:

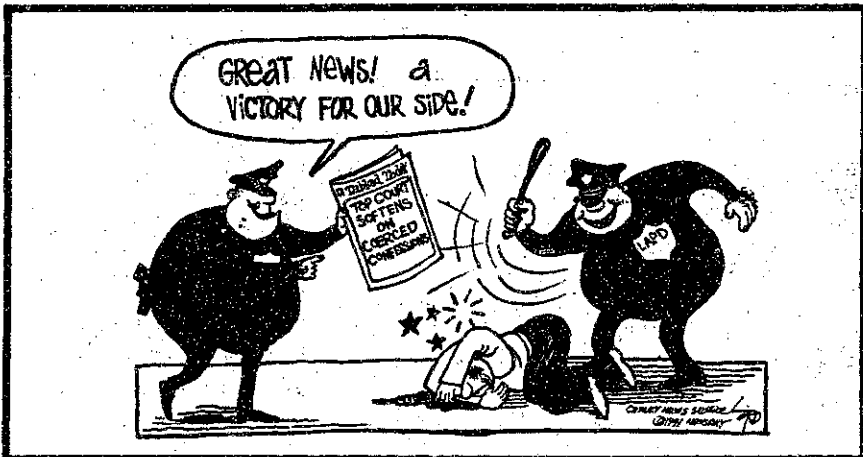
Please accept my nomination for "Professor Y." I really think he deserves the Baker teaching award. He isn't much of a teacher and doesn't care much about his students, but that isn't really what this award is all about, is it? I know what I think Professor Y deserves and I am ready to make a difference in this aspect of MIT life.

Please accept also this request to be a member of the Baker Foundation. I am eager to have an impact on the quality of teaching at MIT.

To all those who thought that this award is a scam as I once did, I urge you to reconsider its usefulness. Retrieve your Baker award nomination form from the trash and take this rare chance to make a difference.

Exercise your power to "recognize" your "favorite" professor. If you actually manage to have someone denied tenure, don't feel guilty. Remember, he or she will receive a thousand bucks severance pay and a handsome bronze medal.

Joseph M. Pierre '91



"Plague" afflicts unsuspecting students

I wish to warn the MIT community of a dangerous threat to its intellectual health. There is something unusual and disturbing about many of the students who attend college here.

This unusual and disturbing behavior, I believe, is caused by a subtle disorder of unknown origin. Possibly the disorder is a result of ozone layer depletion, the impressionable brain of the afflicted somehow being mutated by increased levels of ultraviolet radiation.

Perhaps it is a lingering effect of the emotion trauma caused when *Mr. Belvedere* was cancelled. Maybe those affected by the disorder are just disturbed by Donald Trump's financial and marital troubles. Biological microbes could also be involved, although it seems unlikely. Whatever the cause, something is definitely amiss on campus.

Before I diagnose this most grave illness, let me first say that the disorder is not fatal. In fact, the afflicted person apparently welcomes it.

Problems arise, however, whenever those afflicted, driven by the disorder, attempt to con-

trol others. Evidently, the disease increases the need in afflicted persons to tell other people what to believe and how to behave.

They start talking about "harassment" and "offensive behaviors" constantly, in advanced cases mentioning the words at least a hundred times a day.

They are prone to episodes of irrationality, during which they will say things like "watching dirty movies hurts women," and "freedom of speech does not give you the right to say something which causes another person to feel bad, regardless of your sincerity or intent."

They also tend to be inconsistent. For now, many of you probably realize that the disorder to which I am referring is the dreaded *politicus correctus*, more commonly referred to as the thought police syndrome. Although there is a cure, the affected individual must want to change before he or she can recover. Unfortunately for the rest of us, most of them do not want to.

(I hope this letter does not offend anyone, since I would really hate to be expelled.)

James W. Reiner '94



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ARTS

On The Town will not appear on Tuesday, April 16 because of Patriots' Day holiday. Instead, a week-and-a-half version appeared on April 9 and a short, weekend version will appear on Friday, April 19. *On The Town* will return to its regular Tuesday schedule on April 23.

On The Town Updates

Compiled by Peter Dunn



Boston. Also presented April 13. Tickets: \$5 general, \$3 students. Tel: 353-2748.

Friday, April 12

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The Harvard Din & Tonics and The Radcliffe Pitches perform at 8 pm in Sanders Theater, Harvard University, Quincy and Kirkland Streets, Cambridge. Tickets: \$7 and \$8 general, \$5 and \$6 students. Telephone: 495-5470.

THEATER

CRITIC'S CHOICE

Once Upon a Mattress is presented by Next Act Productions at 8 pm in Next House TFL, 500 Memorial Drive, Cambridge. Also presented April 13. No admission charge. Telephone: 225-8727 or 225-8926.

DANCE

Boston University Dance Group presents *Visions* at 8 pm in Sargent Dance Studio, Boston University, One University Road,

Saturday, April 13

THEATER

True West, by Sam Shepard, is presented in a workshop production by the MIT Theater Program at 8 pm in MIT Kresge Rehearsal Room B. Also presented April 14. Telephone: 253-2877.

Sunday, April 14

EXHIBITS

Contemporary African Artists: *Changing Traditions*, 76 recent works by artists from six sub-Saharan African countries, opens today at the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, 300 Walnut Avenue, Boston. Continues through May

Thursday, April 18

THEATER

The Pajama Game is presented by Baker House Productions at 8:30 at Baker House, 362 Memorial Drive, Cambridge. Also presented April 19 & 21 at 8:30 and April 20 at 7:30 & 10:00. Tickets: \$5 general, \$3.50 students. Telephone: 253-3161.

Dog Thoughts and Pagan Rescue, one-act plays by Loris Rosner and James Doherty, are presented at 8 pm by Flyover Productions and Workhouse Theater at the Leland Center, Boston Center for the Arts, 541 Tremont Street, Boston. Also presented April 19-20 and 25-27. Tickets: \$10. Telephone: 569-7125.

The Errols, by Todd Jonathon Fletcher, is

presented at 8 pm in the Agassiz Theater, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge. Also presented April 19, 20, 25, & 27. Tickets: \$10 general, \$5 students. Telephone: 493-2382 or 493-2460.

A *Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare, is presented at 8 pm in the Arena Theater, Tufts University, Medford. Also presented April 19 & 20. Tickets: \$5 and \$6. Telephone: 381-3493.

DANCE

Oxygen Debt Dance Company and Catherine Musinsky & Dancers perform *Freefall* at 8 pm in Sargent Dance Studio, Boston University, One University Road, Boston. Also presented April 19 & 20. Tickets: \$10 general, \$8 seniors and students. Telephone: 547-3860.

Friday, April 19

THEATER

Merrily We Roll Along, by Stephen Sondheim, is presented at 8 pm by MIT Musical Theater Guild in the Sala de Puerto Rico, MIT Student Center. Also presented April 20-21 and 25-27. Tickets: \$8 general, \$7 seniors, \$6 students. Telephone: 253-6294.

The Tech Arts Hotline: 253-1541



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11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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84 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
(Rain location, MIT Lobby 7, 77 Mass. Ave.)

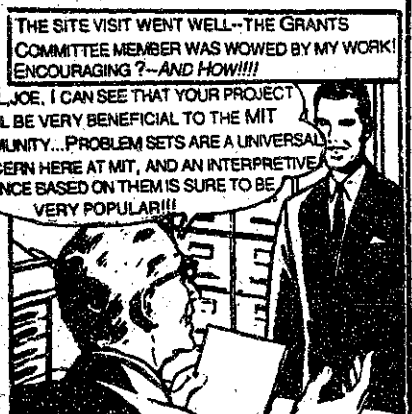
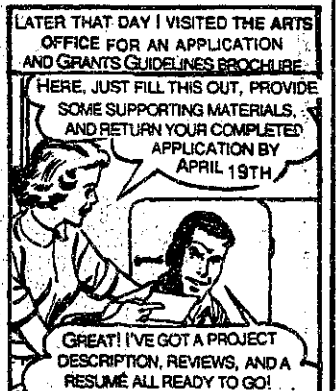
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A R T S

HACKS

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Leibowitz's lecture documents history of hacks

By DAVE WATT

BRIAN LEIBOWITZ IS UNUSUALLY young to have become an MIT institution, but he must have done something right. The Alumni Association flies him all over the country for free, people ask for his autograph, *The Boston Globe* calls him for information, and perfect strangers walk up to him in the Infinite Corridor and start telling him stories.

The reason? Leibowitz is the hack historian. His book, *The Journal of the Institute for Hacks, Tomfoolery and Pranks*, compiles hundreds of photographs of the antics of MIT's hard-working, hard-playing engineers.

The Alumni Association has therefore given him the dubious job of romanticizing MIT life, casting a golden glow on Firehose Tavern. Well, if you were cynical, you'd say that. If not, then Leibowitz provides an entertaining public service, documenting the secret achievements of a band of mischief-makers legendary the world over. Either way, his lectures are always a hell of a good time.

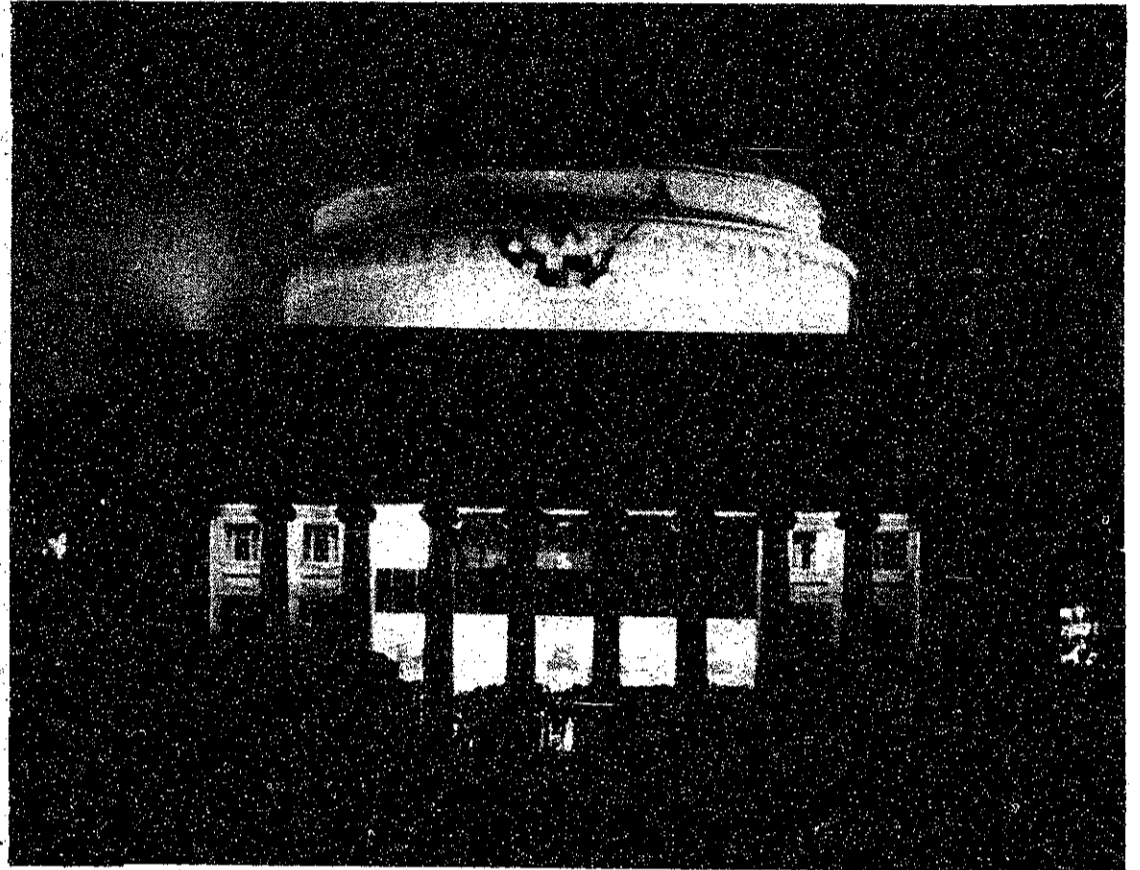
LEIBOWITZ PROVIDES AN ENTERTAINING PUBLIC SERVICE, DOCUMENTING THE SECRET ACHIEVEMENTS OF A BAND OF MISCHIEF-MAKERS LEGENDARY THE WORLD OVER.

Leibowitz, dressed in a light-blue plaid suit, fire-engine red Reeboks, and matching bright red tie and belt, smoothly delivered his polished and by-now familiar (at least to him) material. He's delivered a talk like this at about 10 alumni gatherings this past year, including some as far away as San Francisco and Arizona.

Unfortunately, his talks are not easy to review in print. Most of the laughs are visual: You look at the picture of the working phone booth on top of the Great Dome, and you wonder, "How did they do that?"

The literary hacks tended to be more subtle. Placing a banner declaring "For the love of God, Montresor," at the freshman picnic was a harbinger of the students' future, but only those who had read Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado" got the joke. (In the story, these are the last words of a man about to be encased in bricks.)

Broadly, the lecture was a montage of photographs familiar to readers of *IHTFP*, punctuated by Leibowitz' history and context for each story. All of the old stories were there: wrecked pianos, the USS Tet-



On Oct. 31, 1962, Alpha Tau Omega produced this tribute to Linus of Charles Schultz' famous comic strip, *Peanuts*: the Great Pumpkin. As an ATO spokesman said, "It seemed the humanitarian thing to do . . . so that the Linuses of the world would not be disillusioned."

zoo, the Nerd Crossing sign, the Center for Theatrical Physics, the strange history of Professor R. Catesbiana — these stories of the old masters, passed down through the ages, have become a part of MIT folklore by now.

Leibowitz serves as what Robert Pirsig once called a *Kulturbärer*: His book and his lectures strike a chord in people here, create a common culture, and remind us of the positive side of the values that make MIT famous. MIT is a human place, too,

and Leibowitz and his work will perpetuate the ideals an institution like MIT needs to continue to function.

Leibowitz had the good grace *not* to mention his book during his lecture; I have no such shame. Go buy it. You won't find a more idealized view of life at MIT (except, perhaps, by reading *Tech Talk*), but you won't really mind either. Leibowitz offers a vision of what MIT should be, if not necessarily what it is.

don't hide away in a hole

all term . . .

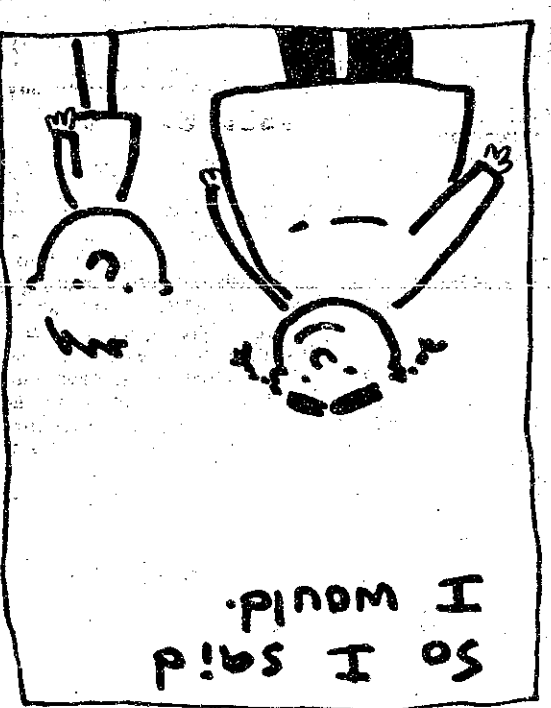
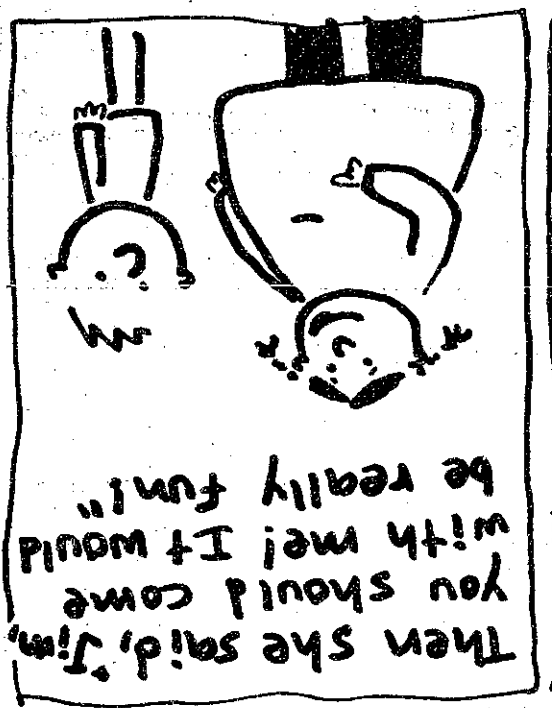
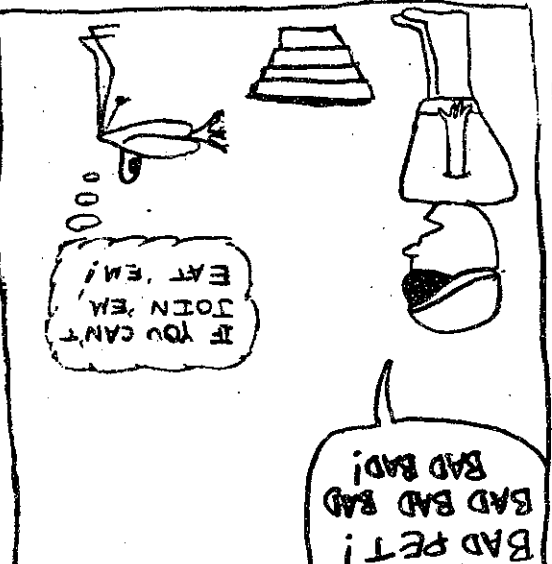
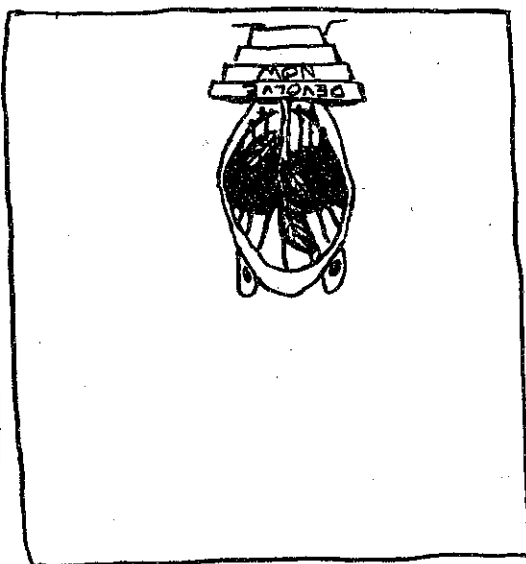
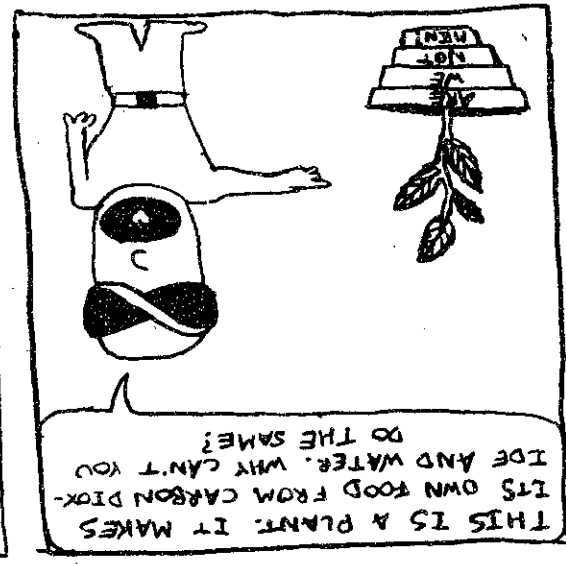
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COMICS

ANGST

Autotrophy Catastrophe

by Jon Orward



Jim's Journal

by Jim

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Property thefts up over 1989 figures

(Continued from page 1)

battery incidents dropped from 14 to 10.

There were 17 cases of harassment reported to Campus Police in 1990, down from 21 in 1989. Two acquaintance rapes were reported to the Campus Police, one in a campus living group, which was reported last fall, and the other in a Boston fraternity in December. In both cases, no charges were filed against the accused. This figure was up one from 1989.

MIT officers made 119 arrests on campus for crimes ranging in severity from trespassing to robbery, resulting in 60 convictions.

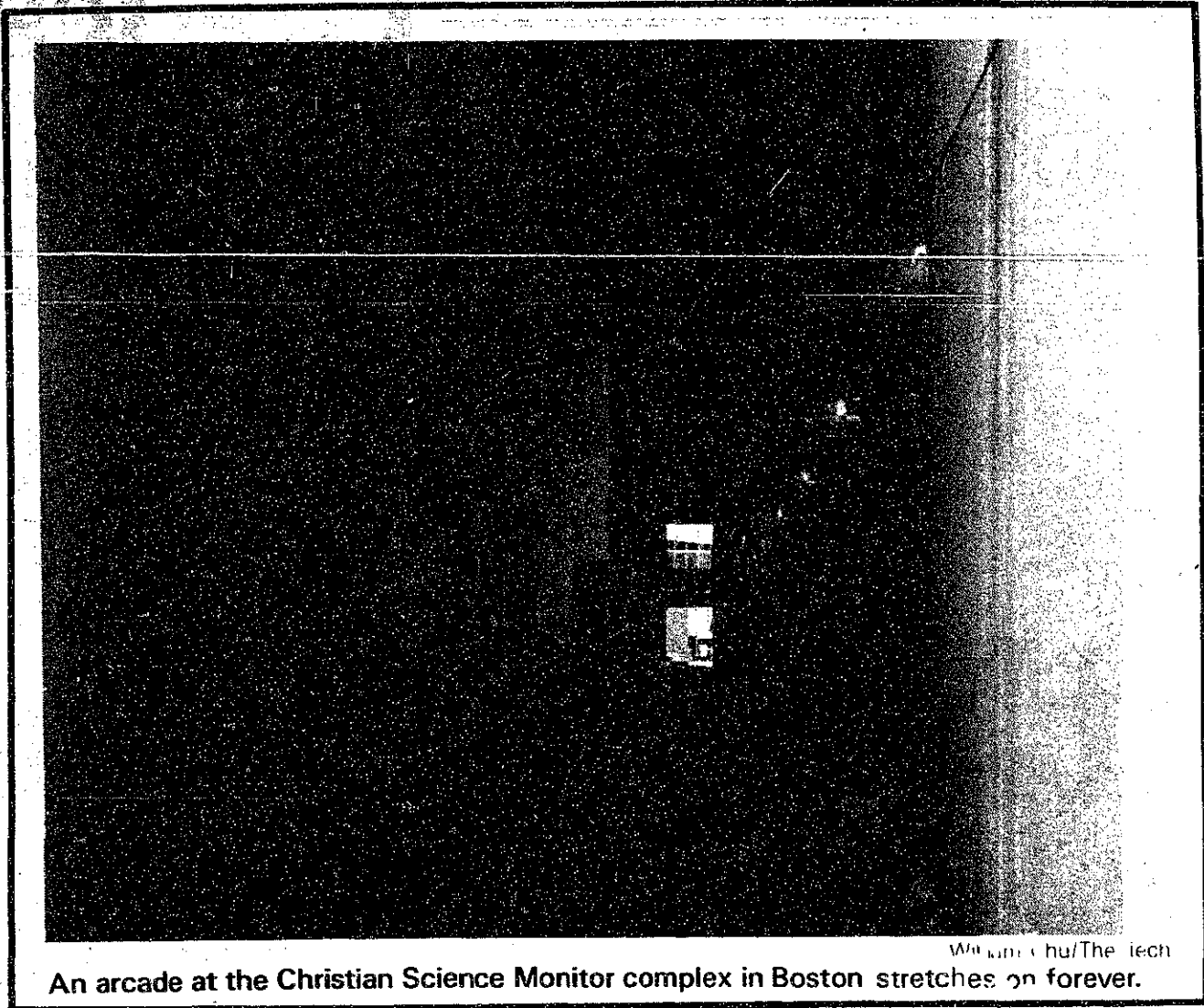
Crime prevention measures on the increase

As an effort to combat the crime rate at MIT, the Campus Police Crime Prevention Unit has been enlarged over the past three years to include a sergeant, a full time patrol officer, and three

officers who work the unit on a rotating basis.

A major focus of the Crime Prevention Unit this year was the distribution of Freshmen Packets. Given to all freshmen and new transfer students, the packets contained flyers and brochures with information on issues such as theft prevention and reporting rape. According to Glavin, approximately 95 percent of the packets make it to the students.

On April 22, the unit will be starting a new program aimed at increasing the distribution of information among the departments and residence halls. One person from each department, lab, and dormitory will be selected to act as a contact person with Campus Police and would receive information about crimes committed on campus. These people will also act as references to help community members contact the Campus Police about services they might need.



An arcade at the Christian Science Monitor complex in Boston stretches on forever.

notices

Listings

Student activities, administrative offices, academic departments and other groups — both on and off the MIT campus — can list meetings, activities, and other announcements in *The Tech's* "Notes" section. Send items of interest (typed and double spaced) via Institute-mail to "News Notes, *The Tech*, room W20-483" or via US mail to "News Notes, *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139." Notes run on a space-available basis only; priority is given to official Institute announcements and MIT student activities. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit all listings, and makes no endorsement of groups or activities listed.

April 13, 1991

The International Careers Forum, presented by The United Nations Association of Greater Boston and the Boston University Career Planning and Placement Office, will be held Saturday, April 13, 1991, from 9:30 am to 4:15 pm at the Boston University Metcalf Science Bldg. at 590 Commonwealth Ave. Registration fee is \$15. (Late registration fee — April 11-13 is

\$18.) Send check to UNAGB, 22 Battery-march St., Boston, MA 02109. Open to the public. For information, call Kim Canale at (617)482-4587.

April 16, 1991

The Office of Minority Education sponsors Secrets and Strategies for Academic Success - "A Farewell to 1990-91," April 16, 6-8 pm in the Black Student Union Lounge.

April 17, 1991

"Airport and Transportation Planning in Japan: The US Competitive Advantage." A Technology Forum Lecture with Professor Richard de Neufville, MIT Department of Civil Engineering. Sponsored by the MIT Japan Program. 5:30-6:30 pm, Wednesday, April 17, Bldg. E38, 6th Floor Conference Room. Free and open to the public. Handicap access. For further information, call 253-8095.

April 20, 1991

NSBE 2000 Day will be held April 20, time and place TBA. For more information, call Charisse Russell at 225-8662.

"Roaring Twenties" Las Vegas Night, planned for Saturday, April 20, 6:30-11:30

pm, to benefit Beaverbrook STEP Inc. an agency serving special needs adults. Event will be held in Hibernian Hall, 151 Watertown Street, Watertown. Black jack, roulette, and other games of chance. Donation at door: \$2.00. For more information, call 926-1113.

April 21, 1991

The MIT Radio Society and the MIT Electronics Research Society will hold a SWAP-FEST from 9 am to 2 pm in the Albany St. parking lot. Buy, sell or swap almost anything electronic. Come early for the best bargains. Buyers' admission \$1.50 - 50¢ off with an MIT ID. Sellers \$8 per tailgate space. The SWAP will be held rain or shine, with sellers in the Albany garage if rain.

April 22, 1991

Research Consortia and Japanese Competitiveness, a lecture by Professor Akira Goto, Department of Economics, Yale University. Monday, April 22, 3:30 pm, Bldg. E38, 7th Floor Conference Room. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the MIT Japan Program.

Japanese Film Showing: "Tora-san Goes North," co-starring Toshiro Mifune and

Kiyoshi Atsumi. The 38th in the world's longest theatrical film series. In Japanese with English subtitles. Sponsored by the MIT Japan Program and the Japanese Language Program at MIT. Monday, April 22, 7:30 pm, Bldg. 10-250. Donation \$2. Everyone welcome. Handicap access. For info, call 253-8095.

The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard & MIT presents a lecture, "Making Algeria French and Unmaking French Algeria" by David Prochaska, associate professor of History, University of Illinois. Monday, April 22, 5:30 pm, Harvard University Sackler Museum, Room 318. Free and open to the public.

April 24, 1991

"Black Perspectives," a discussion focusing on the issue of blacks at "Black Schools" vs. blacks at "White Schools," will be held April 24, at 6 pm in the BSU Lounge.

April 26, 1991

NSBE New England Zone Social, will be held April 26 at MIT, time TBA. Call Charisse Russell at 225-8662 for more information.

Announcements

At Cambridge Forum, Gish Jen, author of the critically acclaimed novel *Typical American* speaks on Wednesday, April 17, 8pm, at 3 Church St., Cambridge. Robert Reich, author of *Wealth of Nations*, speaks on Wednesday, April 24 8pm at same location. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 876-9644.

GO TO JAPAN for a year of fun and excitement — all expenses paid — with the MIT Japan Program. Orientation will be held Wednesday, May 8, 5-7 pm, 20 Chimneys, Student Center. This is a chance for prospective interns to meet the Program director, staff and former interns. The details and requirements of the Program will be explained, and there will be an opportunity for informal discussions as well. Anyone interested in the Program, should definitely plan to attend. Japanese food and drink will be provided. For further information, call 3-2839.

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Values Committee to study academic misconduct

(Continued from page 1)
of Rockefeller University, co-authored the paper. Previously a staunch defender of Imanishi-Kari, he asked for the paper's retraction last month.

Margot O'Toole, a former post-doctoral fellow at MIT and one of the paper's original challengers, said resulting institutional reviews of the research were flawed by "false and damaging" statements, misrepresentations, and the investigators' failure to press for the correction of the paper's false claims, which she characterized at the time as error, not fraud.

Widnall said a detailed investigation of the NIH report and the circumstances surrounding it was "extremely unlikely," citing the report's current unreleased status and the "limited amount we can learn from any particular case." . . . It's not our intention, nor did the provost ask us, to look at that particular case."

Wrighton also said the committee would not focus specifically on the Baltimore case. "This

committee really has an eye toward future, [and] where should we be making improvements. We need to be more sensitive [to] the common feeling [on] these kinds of issues, and communicate more clearly what kind of expectations we have in these kinds of issues."

"Heightened sense of awareness"

Widnall said the committee will address its four-part charge, and will issue an interim report by the end of the semester and a final report next fall. The outcome of the committee's work will "be perhaps a heightened sense of awareness in the community about these issues. . . . Faculty and students can perhaps come together on a field-specific basis to talk about these issues," Widnall said.

While the final report will be issued next fall, Wrighton said, "The issue will be ongoing." One example of a recurring issue, he said, is, the question of "what constitutes a good record of what was done" in a laboratory or re-

search situation. It varies widely in different areas of research, Wrighton said.

A group of faculty members has been examining procedures "for dealing with allegations of academic misconduct" since Vest came to MIT, he wrote in a letter to the MIT community March 21, the day news of the NIH report first appeared in the national press. Wrighton said this group includes members of the Academic Council.

Wrighton explained that upon joining the administration in October, he and Vest realized that the issue of scientific misconduct was "something we might be facing."

In his letter, Vest wrote that faculty members have a profound responsibility to instill in new generations of researchers "the essence of scholarship and research, namely, objective methodologies and attitudes that demand the pursuit of truth with integrity and ethical rigor."



Tech file photo

New Committee on Values chair Sheila E. Widnall '60.

MIT divestment position unchanged

(Continued from page 1)

"We think it's great they're going to make some sort of effort for educational needs in South Africa, but that's not the problem, the problem is apartheid," she added.

The meeting between the CAA and some members of the Executive Committee, which occurred the day before the Executive Committee's monthly meeting, marked the third such gathering this academic year. Neither Gray nor President Charles M. Vest were present, CAA members said.

Prior to this meeting, members of the Corporation had requested information about divestment and the economic and political situation in South Africa. CAA

representatives presented their answers to those questions at last Thursday's meeting. Nissman said it seemed that many at the meeting had not fully digested the contents of the CAA's information packet.

"It's clear to me that the Executive Committee paid very little attention to the information [prepared by the CAA]," based on the phrasing and content of their questions, Nissman said.

The policy governing MIT investments in South Africa is based on the Statement of Principles, a set of guidelines calling on US corporations with operations in South Africa to end racial discrimination in the workplace, to work for an end to apartheid, and to improve their employees' quality of life.



Tech file photo

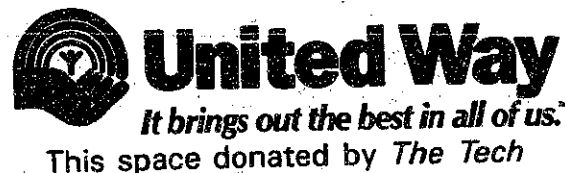
Samuel Assefa G, a member of the Coalition Against Apartheid, holds the South African National Congress flag at one of last year's pro-divestment rallies. The coalition continues to press for MIT to divest its holdings from companies doing business in South Africa.

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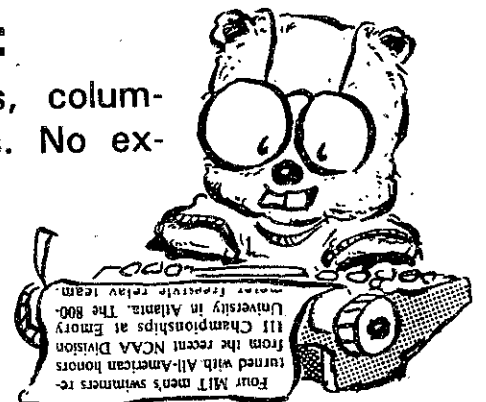
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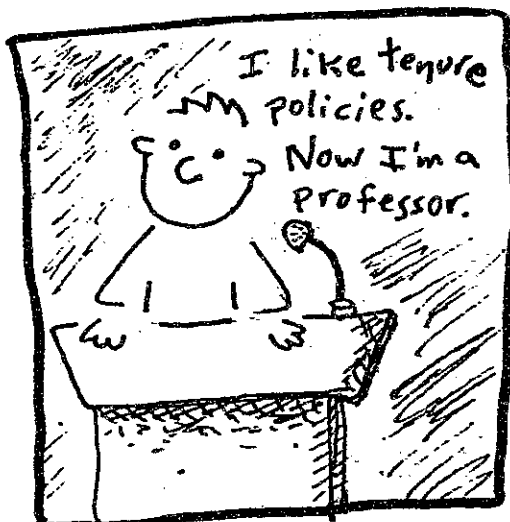
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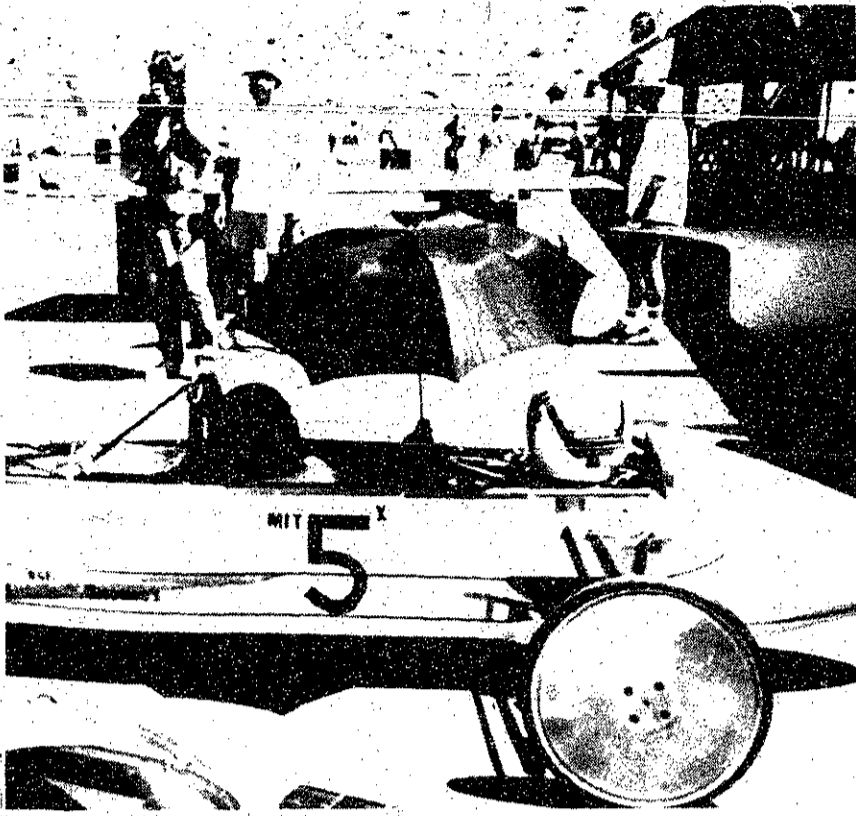
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sports

Alumni began solar car project



The Arizona heat can be scorching. Peter Rexer '91 uses an umbrella to shade himself from the sun's rays.

(Continued from page 16)

Worden heads Solectria Corporation, a company that manufactures solar-electric vehicles. Two of Worden's electric cars took second and fourth place in the electric part of the Solar and Electric 500 in Phoenix.

The team also received a great deal of support from the MIT community. Mark Drela '82, assistant professor of aeronautics and astronautics, helped improve the aerodynamics of the car. William Saddler '66 housed the team while it was in Phoenix, and worked with the team to develop strategy programs that were run on a laptop computer during the race.

The financial challenges the club has faced this year have been as difficult as the technical ones. Money has been very scarce in the declining economy, and even though the club has increased its fund-raising efforts

tenfold, there has barely been enough money to buy necessary items that could not be procured as donations.

The batteries for the Phoenix race cost nearly \$9000 and solar cells for the new Aztec commuter car will cost several thousand dollars. Though the club went to the race several thousand dollars in debt, the prize money has given new hope of being able to finish Aztec in time for Earth Day and the American Tour de Sol.

The MIT solar cars will be the

centerpiece of Cambridge Earth Day this year, and will be featured at University of Massachusetts Boston Earth Day, the City of Boston Earth Day, Wakefield Earth Day and the Earth Day concert at Foxboro Stadium. In addition, the club will race several solar vehicles this summer in the US Tour de Sol, the Swiss Tour de Sol, and possibly in the Clean Air Challenge in California.

(Kristin Slanina '91 is a member of the MIT Solar Car Club.)

Cyclists compete at RPI, Williams

By Jeremy Hylton

The MIT cycling club competed in a pair of criterium races this past weekend, and placed second in a field of six at a meet at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on Sunday. The team also competed at Smith College Saturday.

The Williams criterium, run on a .9-mile circuit, was a hard course. The course had a long slight incline just before a steep hill that led to the finish line. "It was the kind of course that is just guaranteed to shatter a field," said co-captain Tom Moyer G.

The East Coast Cycling Federation, the collegiate division MIT competes in, groups riders in four classifications: A, B and C division for men, and a women's division. Each division completes a different number of laps on the course. The top 20 finishers receive points towards the team score.

Only six of MIT's 18 riders finished the race in the top 20. Kjirste Carlson G, competing in her first collegiate race, finished in fifth place. In the women's division, two cyclists rode away from the field. Carlson was part of a five-person chase group that finished ahead of the pack.

Three MIT men placed in the A division race. Jim Preisig G, seventh; Joe Armstrong G, ninth; and Moyer, 16th, finished with the pack. Charles Oppenheimer G finished 20th in the B division, and Chuck Benson '91 finished 20th in the C division.

Piersig was part of several failed break-aways during the race. "He was in several breaks that didn't make it because the other teams weren't riding well as teams," Moyer explained.

MIT finished fourth overall at Williams, behind University of Massachusetts Amherst, Princeton and Williams. For most of MIT's riders, however, it was their first race. Several first-time riders started too far back in the field and could not work their way forward. The steep descent just past the start-finish line kept much of the pack in single file, as speeds approached 35 miles per hour through sharp curves.

MIT bested teams from Princeton, Williams, Yale and Army to earn second place at the meet at RPI. MIT scored 176 points, just behind the University of New Hampshire's 187.

The RPI oval was a relief after the Williams course, though the circuit did have one small hill. The oval was bumpy though, and

several MIT riders crashed on the course.

Moyer improved on the previous day's performance in division A, finishing in third place. Moyer and Armstrong, who finished seventh, lost the race by inches in the final sprint. Adam Schwartz '91 and Albert Lew '91 finished eighth and tenth, respectively, in the B division.

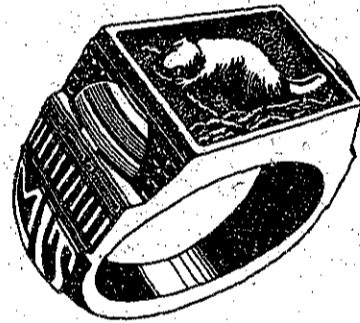
In the women's division Carlson again finished fifth, sprinting up the outside of the field. Carol Chen '91 finished ninth. After approaching the finish line at the

lead of the pack, several riders swept past her in the sprint.

The team competes again this weekend in a stage race at the United States Military Academy. The course is the same one used in the 1981 national championships.

The team is also pleased with its success developing sponsors for the season. "We got a lot more money than we expected," said Moyer. Sponsors include Smartfood, Bridgestone Bicycles, Pearl Izumi and International Bike Centers.

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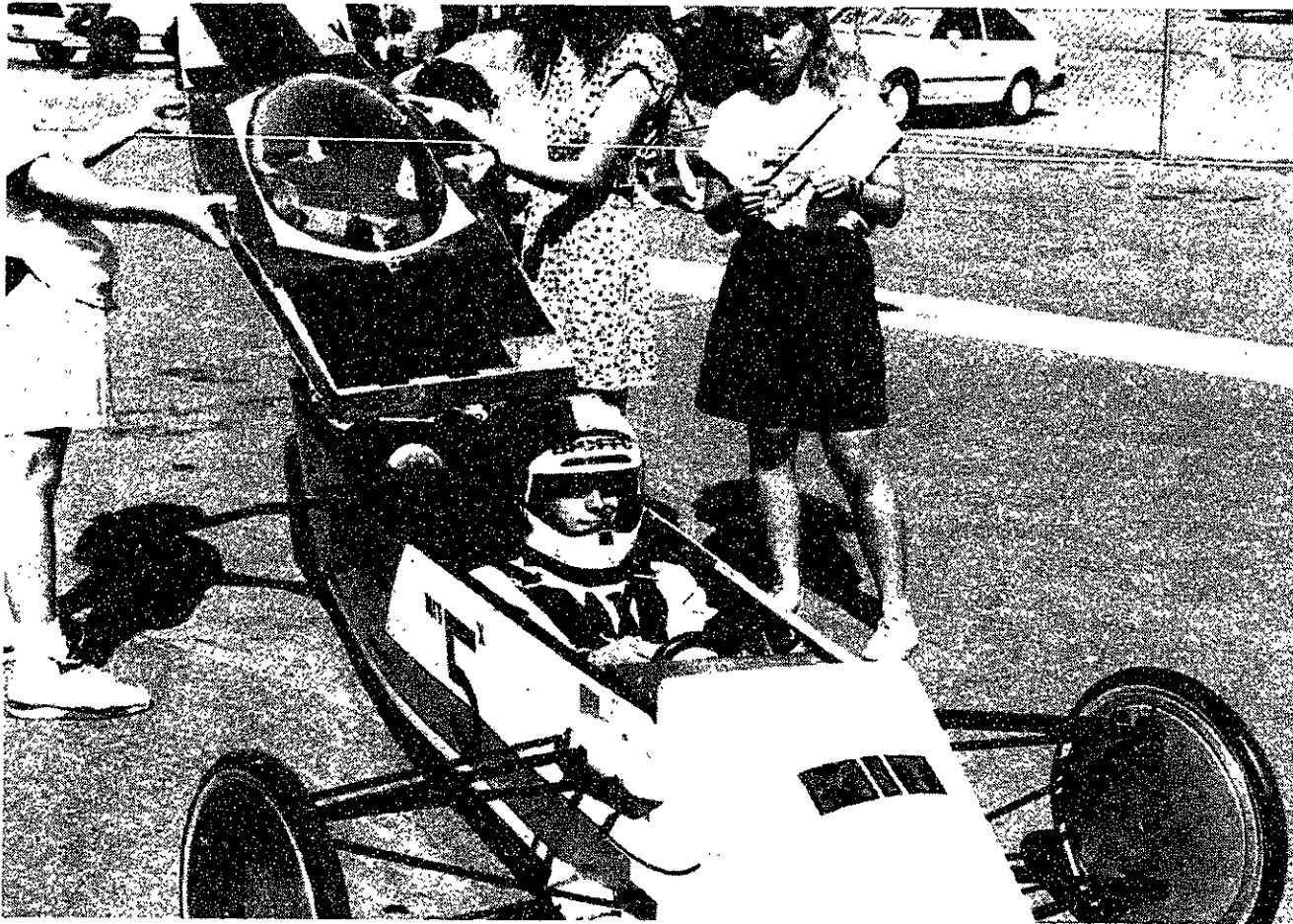
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sports



Peter Rexer '91, driver of the Solectria 5 and captain of the MIT Solar Car Club, prepares to have the car's top, covered with solar panels, put into position before the day's race.

Solar car sets world record Solectria 5 finishes second in Arizona race

By Kristin Slanina

The MIT Solar Car Club returned victorious from the Solar and Electric 500 at the Phoenix International Raceway in Phoenix, AZ, where MIT placed second behind a Swiss team.

The MIT team set several world records at the event, including a solar track lap speed in excess of 62 miles per hour (99 kmh), and straight-away speeds in excess of 70 mph (112 kmh).

The Engineers finished 11 laps behind the Biel School of Engineering, a Swiss team, after two days of racing. The Biel team had completed 300 kmh of racing. California State at Los Angeles finished third, 27 laps down.

The race brought solar racing to new levels of excitement on Saturday, when driver and team captain Peter Rexer '91 passed the lead car, had a rear tire blow-out, and went into the first solar car spin on a race track.

"It was pretty exciting," Rexer said after the first day of the two-day race. "I didn't even see the Biel car go by, because my back was to them as they went around me."

The Engineers lost five laps as the pit crew ran to the scene of the blow-out and changed the rear tire. Even with the five lost laps, MIT was solidly in second place at the end of the first day.

The race was sponsored by Swatch, Inc. and the Arizona Energy Office. The other teams competing were Virginia Tech,

University of California at San Luis Obispo, Western Michigan State, Arizona State, the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and the Mauros brothers, a private team.

Most of the team members who went to Phoenix were participating in a solar race for the first time. Rookies included Amy Smith '84, Kristin Slanina '91, Kathy Nelson '93, Therisa Chiueh '94, and Abraham Farag '94. Veterans included Rexer, co-captain Lee Weinstein '80, Olaf Bleck '89 and Thomas Massie '93.

MIT's entry into the race represented a technical and financial gamble. After reading the race rules carefully, Rexer, Weinstein and team member Mark Henault G concluded that the majority of the power consumed in the high-speed race would come from the reserve batteries of the car, and not from the solar array itself.

A decision was made early on to run with a "solar torpedo," where the solar panels were actually stowed inside the car during the race to reduce aerodynamic drag. The car used in the race was a redesign of MIT's famous winning solar vehicle, Solectria 5.

The design of Solectria 5 was modified by removing the solar wing, adding a narrow, precision-fitted top, and incorporating a number of aerodynamic and mechanical tweaks to achieve maximum efficiency.

The original Solectria 5 vehicle was conceived by James Worden '89, the "father of solar cars," and designed and built by Worden, Gill Pratt '83, Erik Vaaler '84 and Catherine Anderson '90.

The team was badly in need of the extra help after the first day of racing, when one of the car's custom magnesium wheels was damaged. Weinstein and Rexer took the wheel to a nearby airport, where the foreman helped weld new metal onto the wheel. The three worked until 3 am to recreate the lip of the wheel for the next day's racing.

Pratt developed the motor control and power electronics which have been used in all MIT solar cars to date. Pratt, now a staff scientist at the Laboratory for Computer Science, serves as faculty advisor to the club. Vaaler and Anderson also remained at the Institute and offer assistance to the club.

(Please turn to page 15)

Crew team loses to Columbia

By Charles Sindelar

The MIT crew teams have experienced little success in the last two weeks, after the novice lightweight team edged out Amherst College two weeks ago. Last weekend, on the Harlem River in Manhattan, the heavyweight team lost a close race to Columbia University and the freshman team fared no better.

The varsity lightweight team lost to Tufts at a meet on the Charles River and the women's teams were both unsuccessful in a three-way meet with Smith and Wellesley.

At the Tufts match the freshman lightweight eight got off to a slow start, barely holding even as the boats approached the 1000-meter mark. Then they lit the afterburners and did not look back, finishing a full length ahead of the Jumbos on open water.

The varsity lightweights began the race with more promise. By about 750 meters the Engineers had moved up about four seats, but could not hold off a move by their opponents that left them six seats down. They started their sprint early and made up some distance in the final 500, but Tufts successfully countered with its own sprint. MIT finished 2.4 seconds behind Tufts, at 6:45.9.

The heavyweights suffered the same problems that the lightweights did. The race began evenly, and the Engineers gradually edged out Columbia's eight during the first half of the race. After strong third 500, the team was about six seats ahead. At this point Columbia began to make up water; MIT could not hold them off and lost its lead in the last 10 strokes.

(Charles Sindelar '91 is a member of the heavyweight crew team.)

Upcoming Home Events

Friday, April 12

6:00 Women's Tennis vs. Middlebury

Saturday, April 13

1:00 Softball vs. Brandeis

7:15 Golf vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute

2:00 Women's Tennis vs. Bentley

7:30 Heavyweight Crew, the Arlett Cup vs. Boston University, Northeastern

Sunday, April 14

9:30 Varsity Spring League Rugby

Thursday, April 18

6:30 Lacrosse vs. Middlebury

7:30 Softball vs. Swarthmore

CAREER SEMINAR

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ENGINEERING AND THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES AT THE INDIAN DEFENCE R&D ORGANIZATION IN NEW DELHI

A. Sivathanu Pillai,
Director,
Planning & Programme Analysis,
DRDO, New Delhi

Thursday,
April 18

Room 12-170,
4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Office of Career Services

inside

Cycling club places second at meet at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and competes at Williams College. Page 15

Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church

1555 Massachusetts Ave.
opposite Cambridge Common

Sunday Worship: 9 and 11am

Undergrad Forum: 5:30 PM

Alpha Phi's

NERD AUCTION

Saturday, April 20 (11:30-2 pm)

Student Center Steps

Sign up for acts at Spring
Weekend or Alpha Phi booths.