

Inauguration today

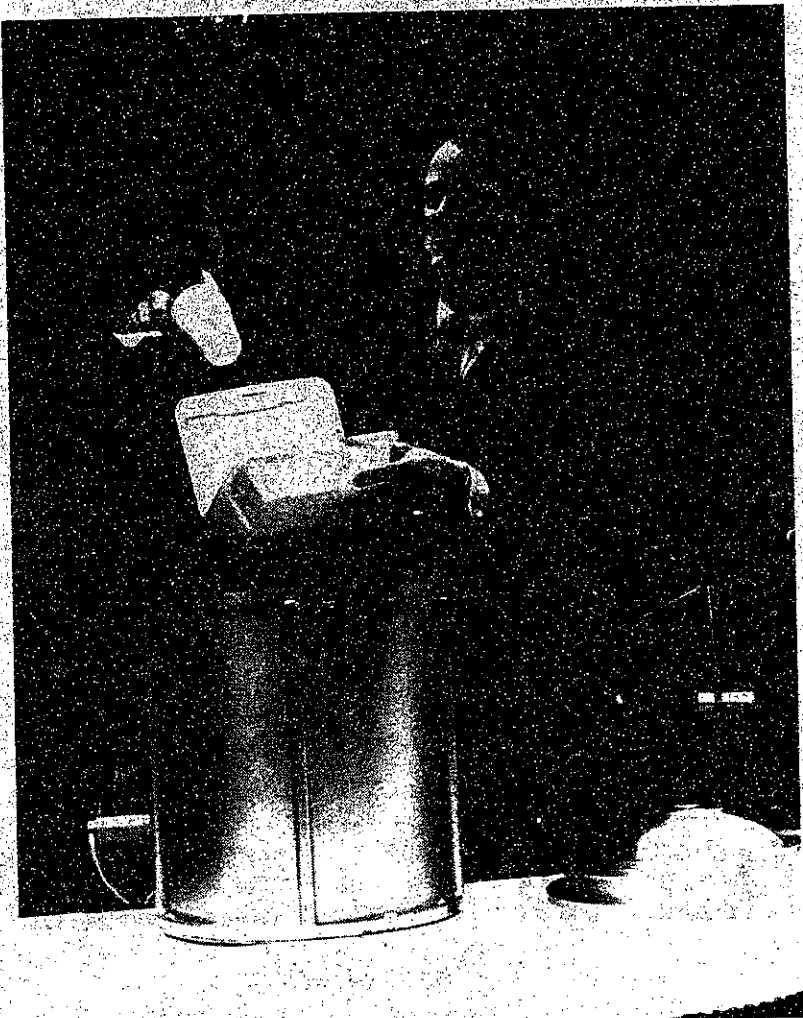
MIT
Cambridge,
Massachusetts

Friday, May 10, 1991

The Tech

Continuous
News Service
Since 1881

Volume 111, Number 26



Morgan Conn/The Tech

President Charles M. Vest places fast food styrofoam packaging into the time capsule buried yesterday in Killian Court. The capsule, which was buried as part of the Inauguration festivities, will not be opened until 2020.

Coalition holds sit-in

Students occupy Vest's office, demand divestment

By Brian Rosenberg

On the eve of President Charles M. Vest's inauguration, about 15 students from the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid entered his office, initiating a sit-in. In a statement released shortly before the occupation began, the students said they will leave the office if Vest publicly announces his support for a binding referendum in the MIT community.

Students entered the office at around 4 pm, just as Vest was leaving the office for the day. "[Vest] talked with the students for a few minutes about things the administration has been doing," according to Laura B.

Mersky, an associate with the Analytical Studies and Planning Group in the president's office.

Mersky said Vest expressed his feeling that there has been a "good dialogue" between the CAA and the administration. Vest said he was not willing to come out in support of a binding referendum, according to one demonstrator.

Approximately eight Campus Police officers went to the office when the sit-in began. Campus Police Chief Anne P. Glavin said the officers were there to "maintain the peace, insure that there is no property damage and prevent people from getting hurt."

Two campus police officers

remained in the room with the protesters, while the others stood in the reception area and the hall outside. At about 6:30 pm, the outer office door was closed. "Those inside will be allowed to come and go freely," Glavin said. "They will not be allowed to bring food into the office, however," she added. Glavin said that additional protesters would not be allowed to enter the office.

Campus Police consistently refused to comment on the number of officers assigned to the protest, but protesters reported that only three officers remained after about 8 pm.

Several top administration officials remained in the room with the protesters, while the others stood in the reception area and the hall outside. At about 6:30 pm, the outer office door was closed. "Those inside will be allowed to come and go freely," Glavin said. "They will not be allowed to bring food into the office, however," she added. Glavin said that additional protesters would not be allowed to enter the office. Campus Police consistently refused to comment on the number of officers assigned to the protest, but protesters reported that only three officers remained after about 8 pm. Several top administration officials

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New science dean chosen

By Alice N. Gilchrist

Professor of Physics Robert J. Birgeneau, the current head of the physics department, has been named as the new dean of the School of Science. He will assume the position on July 1 of this year.

Birgeneau will be replacing

Gene M. Brown, who has held the position since July 1985. Brown is leaving his current post because he wants to return to research and teaching. Brown was the former head of the biology department.

Provost Mark S. Wrighton made the appointment. In a letter announcing his decision, Wrighton said he "concluded that Birgeneau possesses the best combination of experience, vision, and dedication necessary to serve as dean of the School of Science."

Birgeneau was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Birgeneau's selection marks the first time students contributed to the choice of a dean. Two students — Richard R. Kerwell G and Julian P. Sachs '91 — were on the advisory committee that selected Birgeneau. The committee spent six months discussing possible candidates for the position, and then presented Wrighton with their final recommendation.



photo courtesy MIT News Office
Professor of Physics Robert J. Birgeneau has been appointed dean of the School of Science.

Sachs said, "The whole process was extremely democratic." He added that he thought having students on the committee was not necessary; he thought the faculty on the committee were careful to think about issues that would affect students.

Hans C. Godfrey '93, chair-
(Please turn to page 7)

Wolfe may take Harvard job

By Jeremy Hylton

Associate Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Jeremy M. Wolfe PhD '81 may accept a research position in vision sciences with the Harvard Medical School next fall. If he accepts the position, Wolfe would teach Introduction to Psychology (9.00) as a visiting professor next fall.

Last year, the council of the Whitaker College of Health, Sciences, and Technology voted to deny Wolfe tenure, despite a unanimous departmental recommendation.

Wolfe is negotiating with the Center for Clinical Cataract Research at Harvard Medical School. "We're looking for a psychophysicist in the Division of Ophthalmology at Brigham and Women's Hospital to do ophthalmology research," according to Judy Friend, research administra-

tor at the center.

The center has not officially offered Wolfe the position. "The position is open and we're talking to Jeremy Wolfe," Friend said. Other people are interested in the position, she noted.

"This will give me the opportunity to do some clinical research that I have wanted to do for some time," Wolfe said. Working in a clinic would allow him access to patients for his research. "It's something you can't really do in a university setting," he said.

Wolfe cited several other factors that made the position attractive, including Harvard Medical School's strong reputation. In addition, he would be able to stay in Boston, where he has lived for most of his life.

Wolfe also noted that his wife has a research job in Boston.

During a recession, he said, it's "hard to find two research jobs in the same town."

"I expect I know what I'll be doing by the middle of next week," Wolfe said. Purdue University has offered Wolfe a position.

A Harvard researcher initially contacted Wolfe to ask his help in finding someone to fill the position. "The people [at the Brigham] called me and asked me if I knew anyone," Wolfe said. After some consideration, Wolfe told the researcher that he could take the job.

(Please turn to page 7)

Steam leak at East Campus

By Joanna E. Stone

Residents of the east parallel of East Campus were evacuated on Wednesday afternoon when a leak in a basement steam pipe sent a cloud of steam ascending through the staircase and garbage chute of the dorm, setting off several fire alarms and sprinkler systems in the process.

According to John C. Narcotta, a pipe shop supervisor for MIT Physical Plant, the leak occurred during a routine maintenance procedure in which a switch is made from one steam pipe line to another.

A gasket, compressed between the mechanical flange — the mechanical joint of the steam pipe

— let go, Narcotta said.

"The steam leaked into the room, raised the temperature of the basement to about 165° [F] and from there the fire protection system took over," he said.

Ryan A. Smith '92, who lives on the fifth floor of the parallel, was walking up the stairs at the time the gasket broke. "When I first saw the steam and heard the alarm, I thought there was a fire," he said.

When Smith reached the fifth floor, he saw the garbage chute open and watched as steam began to pour from it. "I went to shut the door but the steam fogged up my glasses," he said.

(Please turn to page 13)



Alan Blount

An individual splashes through the flooded basement of the east parallel of East Campus Wednesday after a steam pipe burst.

Women graduate at a higher rate than men

By Karen Kaplan

The graduation rate for women seven years after entering MIT has been consistently higher than the average rate for the entire undergraduate student body over the past 19 years, sometimes by as much as five percent, according to statistics released by the registrar, David S. Wiley '61.

The statistics also indicate that the overall graduation rate has increased from around 85 percent to 90 percent. Graduation statistics are calculated over seven years because many students take leaves of absence, according to Wiley.

"Women sometimes perceive themselves at MIT to have been admitted by chance or by accident. The data clearly shows that [the admission of women is] not a fluke," said Elizabeth S. Johnson, associate director of admissions for information services and research.

"Women have tended to feel, for no good reason, that MIT has dipped to admit women," said Bonny S. Kellermann '72.
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This is the last scheduled issue of The Tech for the spring semester. Summer issues will be published on June 3 (Commencement), June 26 and July 17. Regular Tuesday/Friday publication will resume August 30.

inside

Athena installs
electronic ombudsman
service. Page 2.

Athena gets ombudsman

By Chris Schechter

Project Athena has implemented an electronic ombudsman, "lucy," to provide students with information on virtually any topic of life at MIT.

Lucy was initially set up by the Athena Harassment Action Task Force to provide counseling and help to harassment victims. It has grown significantly in scope, and most of the questions to lucy have broadened to address other issues about the MIT community. The service has been available since February.

"[The range of questions] is not a disappointment for us. Questions range from 'Is the water at MIT drinkable?' to 'Where can I volunteer to help the homeless?'" according to Catherine R. Avril, Athena's manager of external relations.

To gain access to lucy, students do not need an Athena account. The "other option" window on Athena workstations can be used to access lucy without actually logging in. Users can then either pose a question to lucy or browse through some of the ombudsman's responses.

Two methods of feedback to student questions are possible. If requested, the identity of the stu-

dent is erased from the e-mail message and the answer is then written in a file that others can consult. Responses from lucy are only made public if students request it.

If lucy is not able to answer a question, the service will most likely recommend other sources of information or help. The questions addressed to the electronic ombudsman are answered by a diverse group of people from different offices at MIT, who remain anonymous.

"The anonymity goes both ways, for the student as well as for the person answering," Avril said. "[Respondents] are qualified and understanding, but do hold other jobs," she added. Lucy's format was modeled after that of Nightline.

"It is not a substitute to other resources on campus," Avril explained, "but it does offer the benefit of anonymity as opposed to many other ways of seeking help." Since its creation, lucy has processed several hundred messages.

Answers typically take approximately a few days to be returned to the student. "The project is still in its infancy, [and] we are

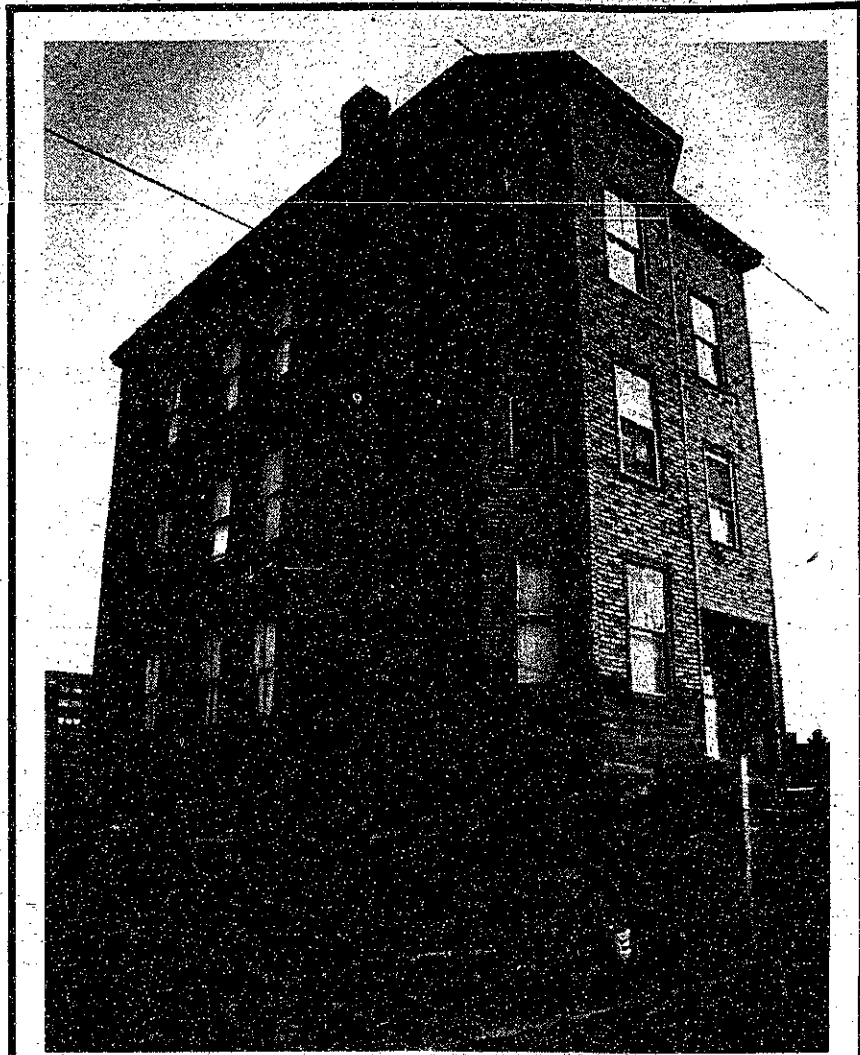
working to make the turnaround faster," Avril said. "Lucy is still growing."

Except for a short article in *Tech Talk*, lucy has not been advertised or otherwise publicized. Avril noted that most of the students who have used lucy so far heard about it through word of mouth. The number of students using lucy is increasing, Avril said.

A group of Athena managers and staff created the Athena Harassment Action Task Force when they realized that people were being harassed through e-mail.

"We tried to turn the whole situation around, offering help via Athena," Avril explained. Avril said that despite the existence of other, similar support systems on campus, the distributed nature of Athena makes it perfectly suited for a counseling role, since many people are available to answer questions.

The ombudsman was named for Lucy van Pelt, the cartoon character who often gives advice in the comic strip *Peanuts*. "We had many different ideas, but this [name] seemed the best for the service we were providing," Avril said.



Josh Hartmann/The Tech

The last of the Blanche Street houses is scheduled to be moved off the MIT-owned site next Friday. The relocation of the house two blocks away, to a site on Franklin Street, will allow developers to complete University Park.

CAA stages apartheid protest

(Continued from page 1)

cialists met across the hall after the protest began to determine what the administration's course of action would be. The group included Corporation Vice President and Secretary Constantine B. Simonides, Provost Mark S. Wrighton, Associate Provost Samuel J. Keyser, Chairman of the Faculty Henry D. Jacoby, Associate Dean for Student Affairs James R. Tewhey, Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver SM '75, Campus Police Lt. John E. Driscoll, Senior Assistant Director of the News Office Charles H. Ball and several others.

Keyser said the group decided to allow the students to stay in the office for the night. "These people are protesting, and that's part of what happens in a university," he said. Several protesters indicated that Keyser offered them dinner, but they declined the offer as a sign of solidarity with South Africans conducting hunger strikes.

Neither the police nor protesters were willing to comment on events beyond this morning. Campus Police Lt. Charles E. Heitman, who was in charge of last night's police detail, said he expected the "status quo" to prevail. Last night Vandiver, the incoming faculty chair, told protesters he would visit them at around 8:30 this morning, according to CAA member Sossina M. Haile '92.

The coalition planned a demonstration to protest a variety of issues, including divestment, in front of the Great Sail this morning. Jory D. Bell '91 explained the "division of labor" the coalition planned for the protest. "Of the 30 people who were here at the beginning, about 12 or 13 are staying for the night, [and the] others went to organize" the demonstration at the metal sculpture.

Both protesters and police described the atmosphere in the office as calm and civil.



Deborah A. Levinson/The Tech

Pro-divestment activists occupied President Charles M. Vest's office yesterday in a sit-in initiated by the Coalition Against Apartheid. The demonstrators would not say how long they intend to stay in the office.

Tuesday classes on Monday

Classes on Monday, May 13 (the last day of classes) will follow a Tuesday class schedule. Today is the last regularly scheduled class day for subjects that meet on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

WHEN WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION NETWORK

The MIT Medical Department's Health Education Service is looking for undergraduate women with an interest in women's health to join the Women's Health Education Network (WHEN). After training, members of the network offer information about women's health and health-related decision-making to interested students and small groups on campus.

If you want to become a member of WHEN or would like more information, contact Anne Gilligan at 253-1316. Interviews and training will be conducted in September.



LAST DAY CLASS BAST

GRAD STUD CELEBRATION

MUDDY CHARLES PUB (50-114)
MONDAY MAY 13TH 9pm - MIDNITE

SERVING THE MUDDY'S USUAL BEVERAGES
 + COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE

ALL ARE INVITED

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL AN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE PRODUCTION

THE MIT *Gilbert & Sullivan* PLAYERS

will be holding

Interviews

for the positions of

Stage Director and Music Director

for our Fall Production of

Yeomen of the Guard

(Playing November 1-3 and November 7-9)

on
TUESDAY, May 14
 and
WEDNESDAY, May 15
 in MIT room 8-105 from 7pm - 9pm

Call Peter Floyd at 625-0229 for an appointment

news roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Numerous tornadoes hit Bangladesh

A Bangladeshi news agency said that the third tornado in as many days has killed at least 13 people. The report said that the tornado ripped through mud huts in a town 65 miles northwest of the capital, Dhaka. The capital, meanwhile, had its own troubles — heavy rains with 60-mile-an-hour winds have disrupted relief efforts for victims of last week's catastrophic typhoon. The official death toll due to the typhoon is 125,000, and the nation's weather service said there are indications that another could be brewing in the Bay of Bengal.

Ten people dead in South Africa

Ten people have died in the latest round of factional fighting in South Africa's black townships, even as the government declared a ban on most weapons in the townships. President F. W. De Klerk announced the ban yesterday, the day the African National Congress had threatened to cut off talks with the government. The ANC ultimatum was contingent upon government action to end the fighting. It is uncertain whether the two sides will meet again soon.

Iraq opposes the US-backed proposal

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that Iraq is clearly opposed to a US-backed proposal for a United Nations police force in northern Iraq. Perez de Cuellar has been talking to President Bush about the British proposal, which would provide for a UN force to protect Kurds in northern Iraq.

Iraq said that its troops will not be shooting at allies in Iraq anymore. US officials said that Iraqi troops fired anti-aircraft guns at a US Navy plane Tuesday night. The Allies said that they have received assurances from Baghdad that incidents like that will not happen again.

Nation

Bush diagnosed with Graves' Disease

Doctors treating President Bush have diagnosed him with Graves' Disease, a condition marked by an overactive thyroid gland. The team of doctors had suspected that hyperthyroidism was causing Bush's irregular heartbeat. White House physician Burton Lee said tests yesterday at Bethesda Naval Hospital confirmed that finding.

A thyroid expert from Walter Reed Medical Center said that once the president's overactive thyroid is controlled, his irregular heartbeat will likely disappear. First Lady Barbara Bush also suffers from Graves' Disease and receives medication to treat it.

The White House said that Bush will cut back on his public appearances, but that naps are out. Lee said he is trying to lighten up the president's schedule. Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that Bush will drop a few public appearances from his daily schedule, but he will not take rest breaks at home.

Beepers linked to young drug dealers

A San Francisco supervisor said that he wants to stop juveniles from owning beepers. Supervisor Jim Gonzalez said that the beepers are being used to link young drug dealers to their suppliers.

Gonzalez is sponsoring a measure that would make it illegal for people under 18 to possess a pager. Beepers would be confiscated on the first offense and a second offense could lead to a \$100 fine and possibly a one month stay at a juvenile detention center.

Teenagers who prove they need a pager for work or to keep in contact with an ailing relative would be able to get a waiver. David Wilson, a spokesman for a California trade association said that the ban sounds unconstitutional. He added that the bill assumes that anyone under age 18 who wants a beeper is a criminal.

Homeless advocates upset with Census Bureau's reporting methods

Homeless advocates have a bone to pick with the Census Bureau and the Bush administration. They are unhappy about America's homeless being counted on a single night last year.

Census takers counted 228,000 homeless when they surveyed more than 10,000 shelters and 24,000 street sites on March 20, 1990.

Homeless advocates said that the figures are bogus, and they say the administration plans to use them as a guide for distributing federal aid for the homeless. A resolution is being considered in the House objecting to this plan, and a stronger measure may be considered in the Senate.

Census officials agreed that the figures should not be considered an accurate picture of homelessness in the United States. But Census Director Barbara Bryant said that the count was the best method available at the time. She said the agency will keep looking for ways to make the count more accurate.

The General Accounting Office said that the bureau did not plan well enough for the 1990 count.

FCC proposes to ease regulations

The Federal Communications Commission has proposed an easing of the regulations concerning the number of radio stations one licensee can own. The commission said that "the fortunes of radio broadcasting, particularly AM broadcasting, are in decline."

The National Association of Broadcasters praised the proposal, saying it is time to take another look at the rules. But the consumer group headed by Ralph Nader accused the commission of sweeping out rules "designed to protect the public from potential abuses of power."

The rules generally prohibit common ownership of more than 12 AM and 12 FM stations, or of more than one AM and one FM in the same area. The public will be able to comment on the proposals before they come up for final adoption.

The commission also is seeking comments on a proposal to increase the minority ownership limitation from 14 to 20 stations of each kind.

Rule changes on travel hurt Sununu

Changes in the rules for White House travel will put a crimp in the travelling style of Chief of Staff John Sununu '61. Under the change, Sununu will not be able to use military aircraft for political and personal travel without special permission. All requests for government planes will be reviewed by White House Counsel Boyden Gray's office.

Bush is banning the use of military aircraft on political trips unless they are for official purposes or the president approves an exception. The change follows reports about Sununu's extensive use of government planes to travel to political events, to the dentist and to ski resorts.

Gray said that Sununu will have to pay for two flights he made to a New Hampshire ski event because they were not official business. But he said the rest of Sununu's trips were properly reimbursed.

Bush aides will still be charged the cost of a commercial ticket for using military planes that cost \$4000 an hour to operate.

FNN merger with CNBC pending

National Broadcast Company's Consumer News and Business Channel may have the go ahead to buy the rival Financial News Network, but the competing bidder is not ready to give up.

The partnership of Dow Jones and Company and Westinghouse Broadcasting Corporation has called the proposed takeover anti-competitive. It is vowing to appeal a federal bankruptcy judge's ruling that allows CNBC to move ahead with its buyout offer worth about \$154,000,000.

The partnership and the states of Illinois and Pennsylvania have filed antitrust suits against the deal. NBC plans to merge the two business networks.

FNN executives say the CNBC offer is "clearly superior." But a Dow Jones official said that the partnership's bid is stronger because it does not raise antitrust questions.

NBC said that merging the two business networks is not anti-competitive because the new network would still be small and because other networks provide business and financial news.

Local

Public defender challenges furloughs

A Massachusetts public defender took her case against unpaid layoffs to the State Supreme Court yesterday, asking the Supreme Judicial Court to strike down the furlough program. Marjory German said that it is an illegal, unconstitutional tax on public employees. The budget-cutting measure requires state workers to take unpaid furloughs or deferred compensation. Assistant Attorney General William Porter urged the court to reject her arguments. He claims the furloughs are a cost-cutting measure, not a tax.

German argued her case on behalf of herself and other non-union state employees. State employee unions have filed suit separately to block the furlough program. Their cases have not reached the high court yet. The unions argued that the furloughs are unconstitutional because they interfere with contracts they have with the state.

German said that she and other non-union employees don't have that argument available to them since most work without a written contract. Virtually all state workers earning more than \$20,000 yearly are required by the law to take the furlough. German, in her arguments, noted that the furloughs do not apply to other wage-earners in the state.

She said that the furlough program is costing her \$1,232, or eight days worth of pay. Porter said the furlough program is better than more drastic cost-saving measures such as a government shutdown or massive layoffs.

Cellucci rejects tax for education

Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci said that the Weld Administration opposed a plan to raise the sales tax by a penny per dollar to provide more money for education. He commented after the Massachusetts Teachers Association released a poll yesterday. It showed that almost two-thirds of the state's voters would support a sales tax increase if the money were dedicated to public education. The MTA poll was conducted by Marttilla and Kiley between April 28 and April 30. It also showed that Massachusetts voters are deeply concerned about the economy.

Cellucci said that any increase in general state taxes would take the pressure away from efforts to cut the size of government. And he said a 20 percent increase in the 5-cents-on-the-dollar sales tax would complete the devastation of the Massachusetts economy.

The poll of 607 voters, with a margin of error of 3 percent, showed that 56 percent of those surveyed felt the economy continues to worsen.

A 51 percent to 40 percent majority said they believe the state's budget problems are worse now than they were a year ago; 62 percent believe economic conditions in the state will be the same or worse in the next six months.

According to the poll, voters by a majority of 55 percent to 42 percent think a combination of spending cuts and increased taxes will be needed to balance the state's budget. But the poll shows voters opposed some types of revenue-raising measures, including increases in local property and auto excise taxes.

Weather

Changes ahead

Unseasonably mild weather is anticipated for most of the weekend as a cyclone passes northwest of here on Saturday. They cyclone will bring in much warmer air from the central United States tomorrow afternoon and evening. Once the cyclone gets northeast of here, a backdoor cold front may cool coastal sections during the day on Sunday. Showers and thundershowers may be associated with the front.

Friday: Becoming partly cloudy and mild. Winds onshore 5-15 mph (8-24 kph). High around 64° F (18° C).

Friday night: Partly cloudy and mild. Low 48-52° F (9-11° C).

Saturday: Mostly sunny, breezy and becoming quite mild. Winds west-southwest 10-15 mph (16-24 kph). High 73-80° F (23-27° C). Low 55-60° F (13-16° C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny early. Becoming partly cloudy with showers and thundershowers possible. Winds may turn onshore in coastal locations — especially to the northeast — holding temperatures in the lower 60s (16-18° C). Inland locations may become quite warm. High 63-83° F (17-28° C). Low 52-59° F (11-15° C).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

opinion

EDITORIAL

Add biology, scrap Science Distribution

Next week, members of the faculty will vote on a proposal to implement a biology requirement into the General Institute Requirements. There are obvious benefits of having all MIT students graduate with a basic knowledge of biology, but the Institute should not accomplish this by adding another requirement to an already limiting degree program. The faculty should make room for biology by scrapping the Science Distribution requirement.

The suggested policy would replace one of the three SD requirements with General Biology (7.01), leaving students with only two SDs to take. But why would students then need to fulfill a science distribution requirement? They would, through GIRs, be taking two semesters of physics, two semesters of calculus, one semester of chemistry, and one semester of biology — a veritable smorgasbord of the basic sciences.

In fact, this question has already been answered for an overwhelming majority of undergraduates. Currently, students in almost every major department can satisfy two of the three SD requirements through their departmental program. That leaves one choice. With the removal of one of the three SDs, the requirement would be effectively eliminated for these students.

Realizing this, the Science-Engineering Working Group, the originator of the biology requirement idea, stated in its 1989 report that "it is preferable (though we would not at this point insist) that no more than one science distribution subject out of the two remaining [after the addition of biology to the GIR] be a departmental requirement." We would at this point insist that SEWG's recommendation be ignored, because it would effectively add one more requirement for those students mentioned above. Not only would they now have to take biology, but their one non-departmental SD would remain.

With the limits now placed on the total number of units freshmen can take, having to take 7.01 would leave students with only two 12-unit classes and one 9-unit class to take during their freshman year. Of course, they have the option of taking science core classes later on in their undergraduate careers, but it seems likely that students would continue to try to complete these classes freshman year. At the end of the first year, after this limited opportunity to explore other majors, freshmen would be expected to choose a major. This all seems exceedingly unfair.

The Institute's desire to have its students well-versed in a variety of subjects is admirable. But it should not be achieved by an increase in the number of Institute requirements. It is preferable to inspire students to take classes that satisfy their curiosity and desire to learn, rather than classes that satisfy requirements.

Burning down the house

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

When a fire ripped through the American Embassy in Moscow weeks ago, American intelligence agents were left with another espionage setback. The paranoid, undermanned Soviet monitoring team lost their "sigint," their radio and telephone intercept capability, as well as most of their secure communications links. Even worse, KGB men dressed as fire fighters managed to sneak off with some minor classified data in the confusion.

With turmoil in the Soviet Union approaching historical proportions, US intelligence in the region is now just about the worst it has ever been. The fire didn't help, but US intelligence in Russia has been suffering from terminal stupidity for at least 10 years.

For much of the 1970s and 1980s, American espionage shifted from human agents to electronic eavesdropping. While the United States accumulated a lot of hard data this way, certain minor events, like the crumbling of Eastern Europe and the unrest in the Soviet Union, took the United States by surprise. Since then, the United States has reinitiated human intelligence operations, and according to the latest intelligence leaks, is not doing too good a job of it.

Intelligence operations in the Soviet Union, in particular, have had their share of setbacks. The Moscow embassy staff, reeling from a 1986 security scandal, was supposed to relocate to a shiny new building last year, until US agents discovered that the Soviet construction workers had built listening devices into walls — an old British trick that the US should have expected. Embassy personnel had enough trouble managing without the Soviet officeworkers who had been fired after the scandal — they were now nearly homeless as well. Even worse, senior officials, fearing disloyalty, clamped down on solo contact between embassy agents and outsiders, the agents' chief method of intelligence gathering.

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

The biggest flaw in US intelligence strategy is that we are aiming for 100 percent security and 100 percent accuracy, two goals that have always been unrealistic in espionage practices. Intelligence forces on all sides have always suffered leaks, been led astray by false data, and been manipulated by double agents. If a nation manages to break even in wins and losses, it is doing well. If it manages to learn more than it loses, even by a marginal amount, it has beaten the odds. US and British intelligence has a history of infamous blunders — trying to prevent the inevitable by keeping agents from making local contacts hurts the United States more than the Soviets. With Soviet control weakening, individual infiltration and associations with nations will be the most beneficial form of espionage, even if 20 or maybe 30 percent of the contacts are false leads or dead ends.

Snooping sounds unethical, but espionage is really one of the most beneficial forms of international contact there is. Espionage is stabilizing — it prevents suspicion and insecurity by making secret plans hard to keep quiet. Good intelligence data has prevented countless crises, and has signaled the beginning of some of the worst confrontations of this century. Without spying, the nations of this planet would have destroyed themselves ages ago. Reports are surfacing that the Soviet Union nearly went to war with the United States in 1983, after the KGB was unable to find evidence that the new US militancy of Ronald Reagan was not a prelude to war.

Intelligence isn't perfect. We can't expect it to be. In an infamous 1950s incident described in Peter Wright's *Spycatcher*, CIA and British MI5 agents dug a tunnel underneath East Germany to what they thought was a KGB building. The building was actually a phony intelligence headquarters, and the Russians pumped phony conversations down into the tunnel for a year. Despite this goof, US intelligence continued, and had more than a few stunning successes. Some intelligence, it seems, is better than no intelligence, a point the United States has yet to learn.

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Student guide regulates finals week

(Editor's note: The Tech received this as an open letter to the MIT community.)

These are just a few comments that we (UA Committee on Educational Policy) have received lately:

- "I have a 15-page paper due on the day of my final exam!"
 - "Not only do we have a two-hour test on Friday, but our lab report is due on Monday. Oh, and that's all in the same class!"
 - "Three problem sets due this week and all of my classes have finals!"
 - "We have a final, but we still have an optional problem set this week and a design project due this Friday!"
- Now, what were those regulations again? Oh, here they are! Here are just a few excerpts from the 1990 "Guide for MIT Undergraduates and Faculty Advisors":

- For each subject which has a final exam, no examination may be given and no assignment may fall due during the six days preceding the reading period. Of course, regular classes and reading assignments may continue during the last week of the term, and new material presented during this period may be covered in the final exam.
- Each subject in which no final exam is given may have at most one of the following during the six days preceding the reading period:
 - a one-hour quiz during a regularly scheduled class period, or
 - one assignment (term paper, take-home exam, problem set, oral presentation, etc.) falling due.
 (A quiz of one and one half hours is allowed, but only if done within a regular class period.)
- No comprehensive examinations (an exam covering most of the term's work) can be given at any time other than during the final exam period.
- Major assignments should be assigned early enough to allow students the opportunity to manage their time effectively. Instructors are asked to provide, during the first three weeks of classes, a complete syllabus of requirements in each subject, including the due dates for required work, and the schedule of examinations during the term, and grading criteria and procedures.
- No assignment, of any kind, may fall due after the last regularly scheduled meeting of the class for that subject. An instructor may give an extension to an individual student, but extensions should not be given to the majority of the class.
- Any departure from these rules requires the permission of the Committee on Academic Performance for undergraduate subjects or the Committee on Graduate School Policy for graduate subjects. *Asking students to vote on some deviation from the rules is not an acceptable procedure.*

We'd love to elaborate, but we have to get back to work.
 Barbara Brady '92
 Chair, SCEP
 Keelan Yang '94
 Vice-Chair, SCEP

opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



There is a demonic side to hacking at MIT

(Editor's note: The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to The Boston Phoenix.)

A recent *B.A.D.* article on "Nerd Humor at MIT" mentions a "hack" in which an Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority streetcar was welded to the tracks by MIT hackers.

If memory serves me right, I once saw a photo of that streetcar. The photo was published sometime in 1955 or 1956; the streetcar in question was situated in front of Northeastern University on Huntington Avenue, and the hackers used thermite to do the welding.

I know of one hack that was not included in the annals of MIT hackers: It happened my freshman year at MIT. Several

freshmen got together and did an old-fashioned demonic mass at midnight in the MIT Chapel.

They did the mass with such scholarly distinction that the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston banned the saying of masses in the Chapel at MIT for over a decade afterwards.

I wasn't a member of that group, but I knew two of the chief perpetrators, both of them mathematicians, because they were residents of my dormitory and lived near me.

They were characters out of C.S. Lewis, harassing other students, leading dormitory riots as undergraduates, and getting into various forms of social mischief.

For some reason, I kept crossing paths with one member of the

ring after I left MIT. He showed up at one of my early summer jobs, and later occupied an office in "my" building when I was a professor of computer science at Purdue University.

So, there is a demonic side to hacking that is assiduously hidden by the MIT administration. I last heard of the black mass perpetrator when he had become chairman of a computer science department in a midwestern state university. (He had never used a computer in all the time I knew him.)

I warn people that, if they say a black mass in MIT's Chapel, they'll end up as chairmen of computer science departments.

Victor Schneider PhD '62

Inauguration conflicts with student schedules

Today is a memorable day in MIT history: It is the Inauguration of our new president, Charles M. Vest. For students, this is probably their only opportunity to see such an event during their stay at MIT.

The Inaugural Committee organized the Johnson Games and other events to bring the MIT community together for this auspicious occasion indicating that they had a sincere desire to bring students, staff and faculty into the festivities.

However, while students were invited to attend the Inauguration itself, it was scheduled at a most inconvenient time for them to participate. The second-to-last day of classes and the due date of theses seems an ironic time for our new president to be installed.

This shortsightedness of the

Inaugural Committee is an indication that the administration is not as in touch with the student community as they believe they are. Any true attempt to bring the entire MIT community together must take into account the schedules of students.

While it is impossible to schedule an event that will accommodate everyone, obvious errors, like scheduling during the last week of classes, need to be avoided.

While we appreciate the tremendous effort put into the organization of the Inauguration, we hope that in the future the administration will consider student life before planning such important events.

Michael Person '92
Judith Yanowitz '91

Letters policy

Editorials, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors and opinion editor.

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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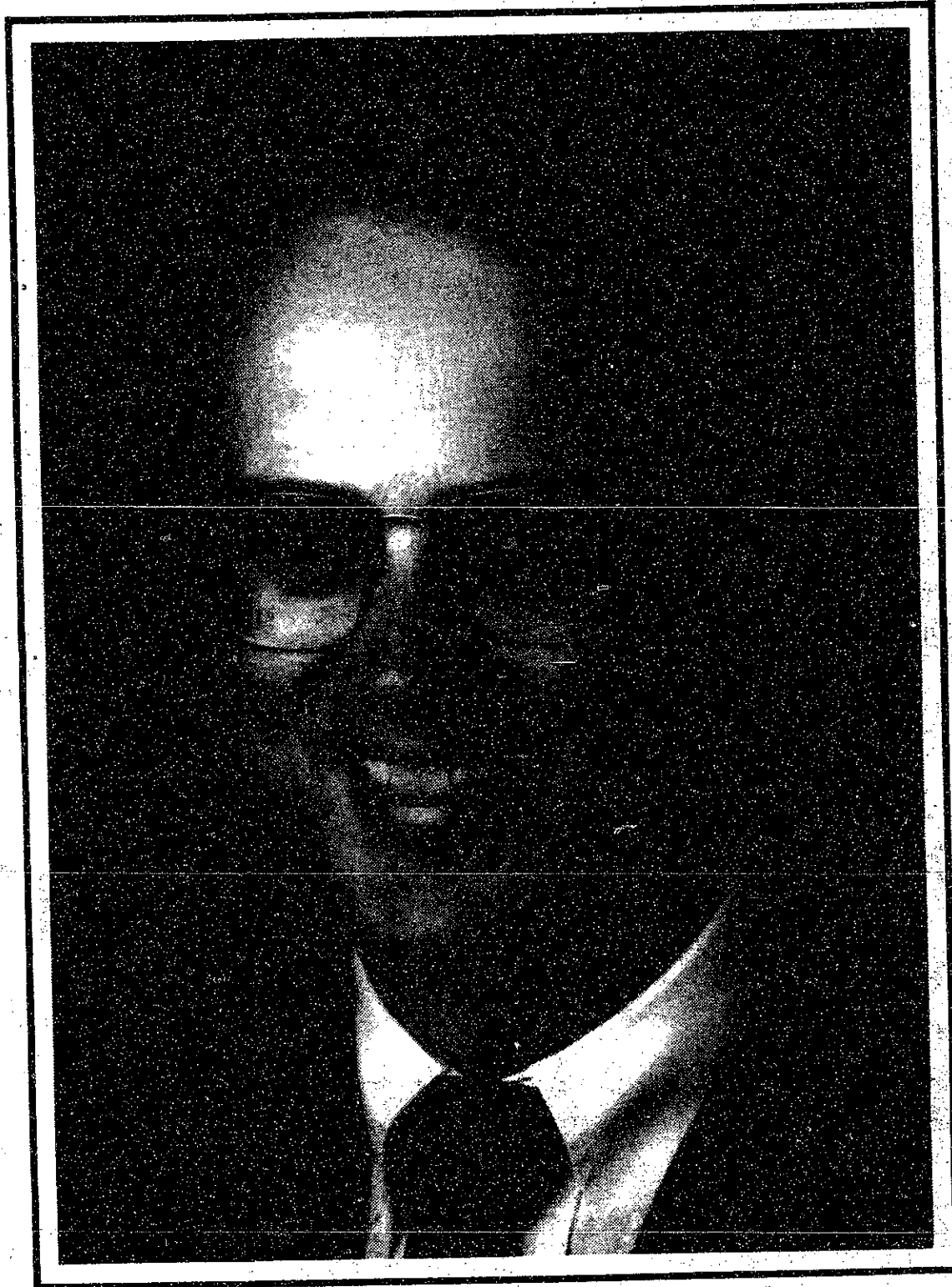
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Birgeneau named new dean

(Continued from page 1)
 man of the UA Governance Committee, has been the leader in the push for increased student input in the selection of deans. He said he is "extremely happy" that students were involved in Birgeneau's appointment.

Godfrey said that it is vital that students have a part in the choice of deans. He said that even though there are many more faculty than students on advisory committees, it is wonderful that students can now present their views.

Godfrey said students on advisory committees can review a candidate's stand on "minority education and money for UROP's" and many other student interests that the faculty may not consider, perhaps because of the "age difference" between students and faculty.

Assistant Professor of Physics Mehran Kardar PhD '83 said he thinks Birgeneau will do a "very good job" as the new dean. Kardar, who worked with Birgeneau five years ago, expressed concern

that Birgeneau's new position could get in the way of his research. Kardar said, however, that he had the same concern when Birgeneau was appointed physics department head, and that position did not hinder Birgeneau's work.

Birgeneau's current research centers on high-temperature superconductivity. He has been the Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics since 1982. He was also associate director of the Research Laboratory of Electronics from 1983 to 1986.

Wolfe considers research post

(Continued from page 1)

The position at Harvard would not involve teaching or advising undergraduate students, according to Wolfe. He sees this as "the part that makes it less than absolutely perfect in my mind."

"If I go to Harvard, I will teach 9.00 as a visiting professor," Wolfe added.

Wolfe earned popularity with students at MIT as the lecturer for 9.00 and head of the Program in Psychology. Twenty percent of last year's freshman class enrolled in 9.00, which has been oversubscribed in recent years. Wolfe also won the Baker Foundation Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

In an interview last year, Wolfe

estimated that he devoted 50 percent of his time to undergraduate education, and noted that he teaches "more undergraduates than the rest of my department put together."

Students protested the decision to deny Wolfe tenure several times. Last fall, student activist Rebecca D. Kaplan '92 staged a demonstration in Lobby 7, arguing that the Institute should create a department of psychology.

Though he would continue to teach 9.00, Wolfe felt the psychology program will be affected by his departure. "I think that the psychology department was reasonably marginal when I was taking care of it. . . . If I leave, it will become even more marginal," he said.



Matt Warren/The Tech Associate Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Jeremy M. Wolfe PhD '81

Inauguration schedule

- Friday, May 10**
 9:30 am Inaugural Ceremony, procession from 77 Massachusetts Ave. to Memorial Drive and into Killian Court
 11:30 am MIT community reception and celebration, Kresge Oval
 8 pm MIT Concert Choir performance, Kresge Auditorium
- Saturday, May 11**
 9:30 am Charles M. Vest Inaugural Road Race, beginning at the Sailing Pavilion
 Registration in McDermott Court from 7:45 am to 9 am
 8 pm MIT Symphony concert, Kresge Auditorium

The Inauguration Ceremony will be shown in the Johnson Athletics Center.

Tickets for the Friday and Saturday night concerts are available in Lobby 10 and the MIT Museum Shop in the Student Center.

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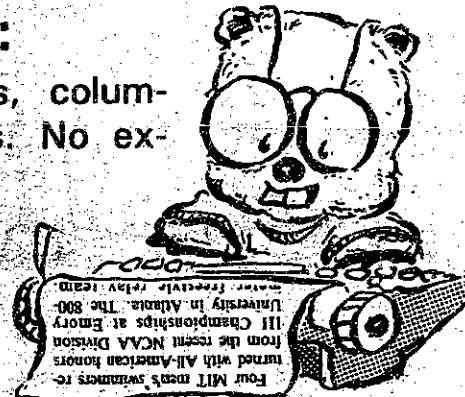
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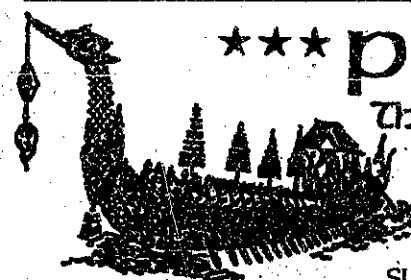
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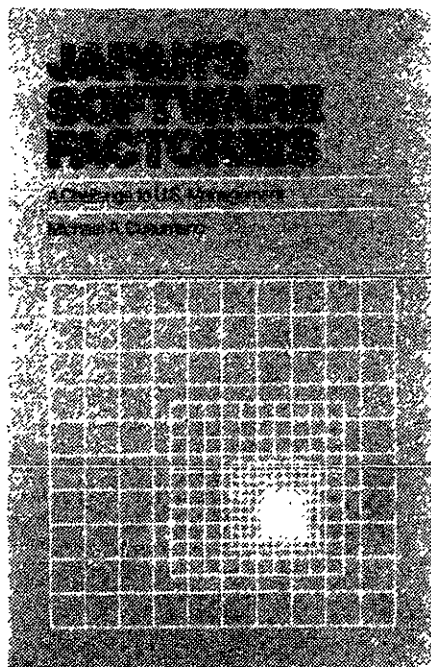
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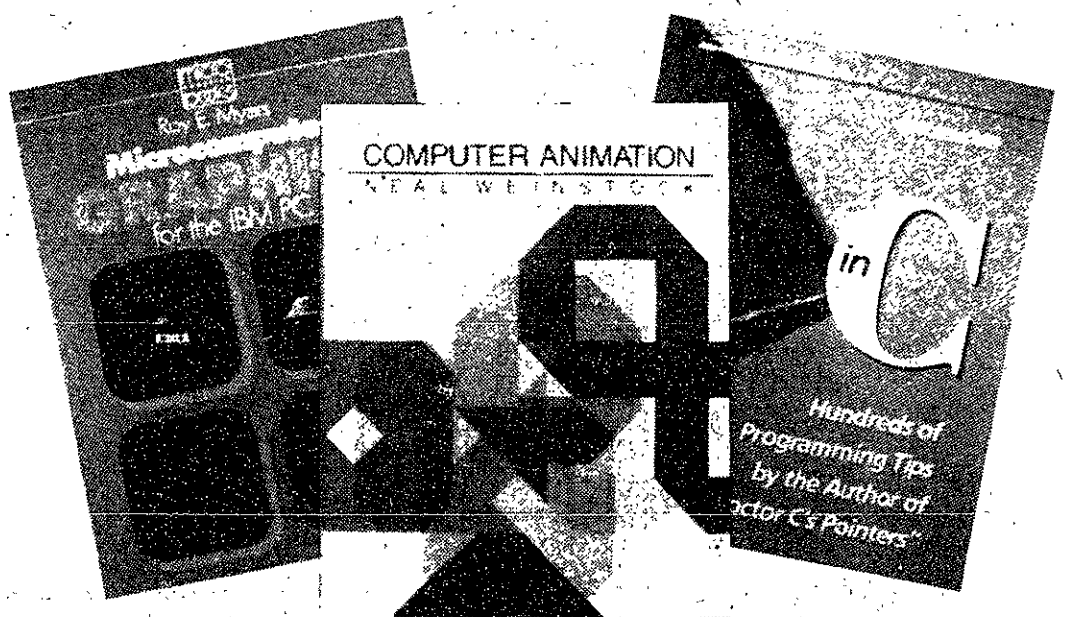
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Soho's Goddess focuses on dance, not lyrics

GODDESS

Soho.
Atco Records.

By SANDE CHEN

SOHOO, THE PEOPLE WHO RIPPED OFF the Smiths with the runaway hit, "Hippychick," are currently touring the United States with Jesus Jones, pushing their new album, *Goddess*. A previous album, *Noise*, released on Virgin Records and considered too embarrassing by Soho, never reached American shores.

The London-based Soho comprises guitarist/songwriter Timothy Brinkhurst, his girlfriend, Jacqueline Cuff, and her identical twin sister, Pauline, formed in 1982 under their original name Groovalax (taken from a Funkadelic track). After a series of line-up changes, Soho, or Timothy London and the Soho Sisters, emerged in 1987, and the Cuff sisters promptly resigned their jobs as psychiatric nurses.

Much of Soho's current success can be attributed to the top single "Hippychick," identifiable by its sample from the popular Smiths song, "How Soon is Now." On the strength of that one song alone, Soho was signed to Atco Records after being dropped by Virgin. "Hippychick" raced up both alternative and Top 40 charts in late 1990 and caused a sensation in dance clubs.

Actually, there seem to be a number of samples on *Goddess*. I would like to see some liner notes on them. On this album, Soho supposedly combines punk, country, rock, reggae, soul and psychedelia with dance rhythms. The lyrics, according to Brinkhurst, reflect the strong-minded women of the 1990s.

"Love Generation," for anyone seeking a revival of 1960s mentality, sets off the album with many shrill notes. At one point, the music fades out completely and then comes back in for no purpose. It's basically annoying.

More subdued stuff, except for "Another Year," an awful bit of sentimental gush,



Soho: Pauline Cuff (left), Jacqueline Cuff and Timothy Brinkhurst

seems to fare better. "Out of My Mind," a song about a woman who is unsatisfied with her man, is loose and funky. "Nuthin' on My Mind" exudes a bright, breezy quality.

"Goddess," like "Love Generation" and "Boy '90," is clearly dance-oriented, even after a slow reverie through the names of

female role models. "Zombie Walk the Cardboard City," an instrumental, is similar to the beginning of "Goddess." Frenetic "Freaky" might do well with the House crowd.

The moronic "Shake Your Thing" with its exotic theme repeats the line "shake your thing — you've got nothing to lose"

ad nauseum. The B-52s could do better. "Girl on a Motorcycle" is plodding, and "God's Little Joke" can be easily dismissed.

For all their hype, Soho has got an album that will probably delight somebody... as long as they like mindless dance music.

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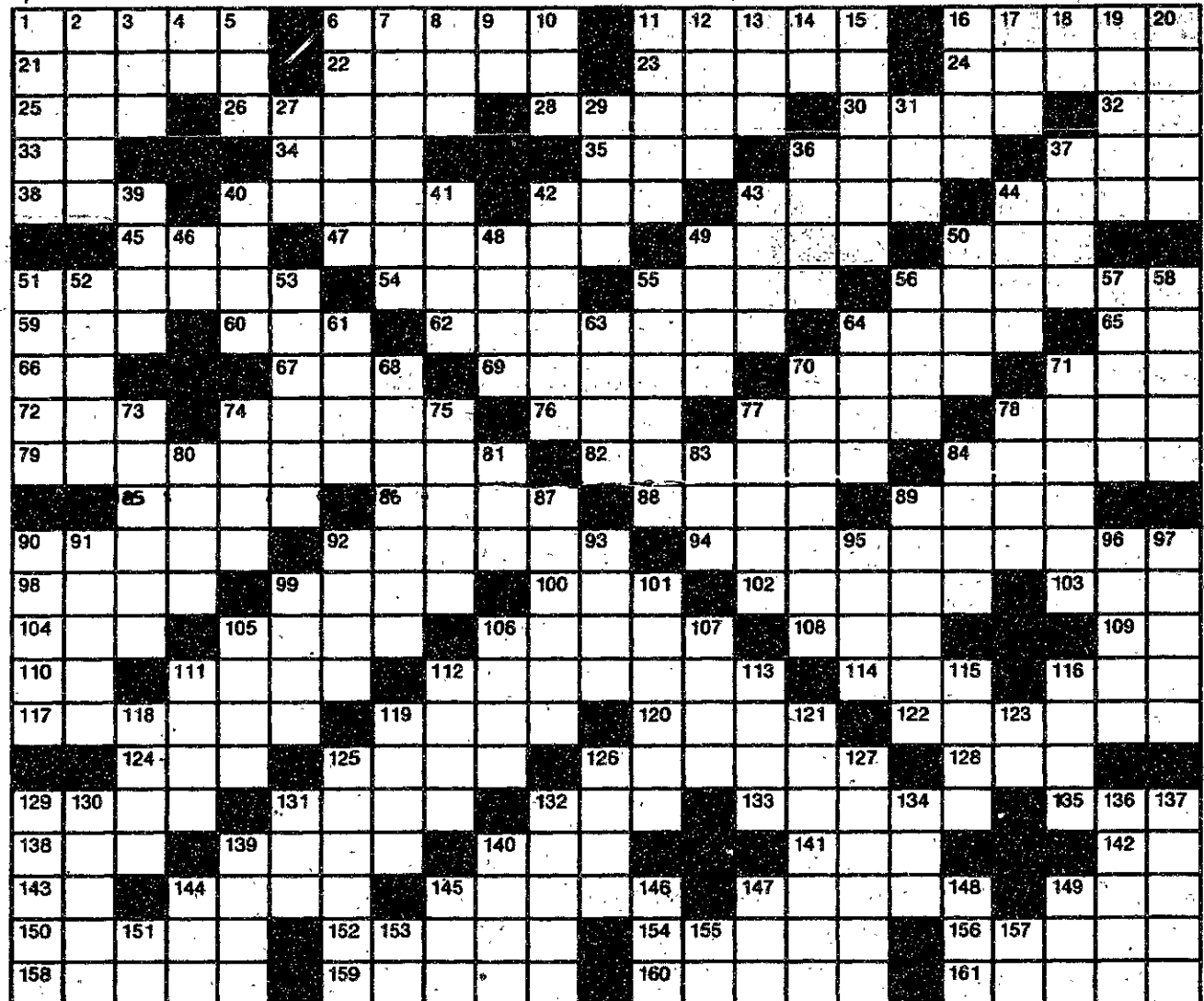
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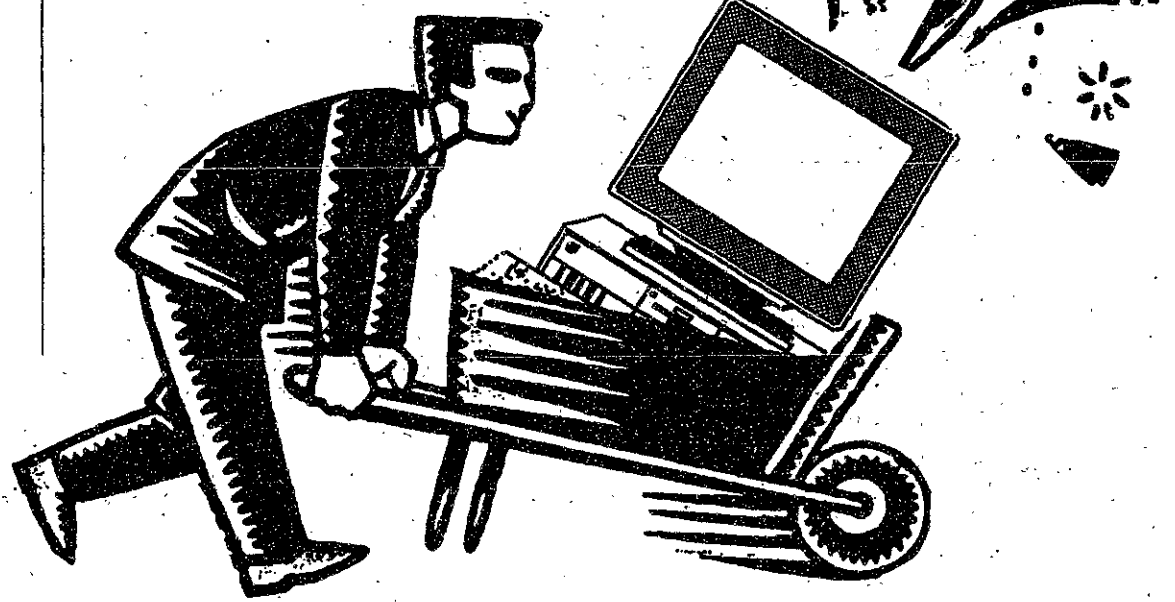
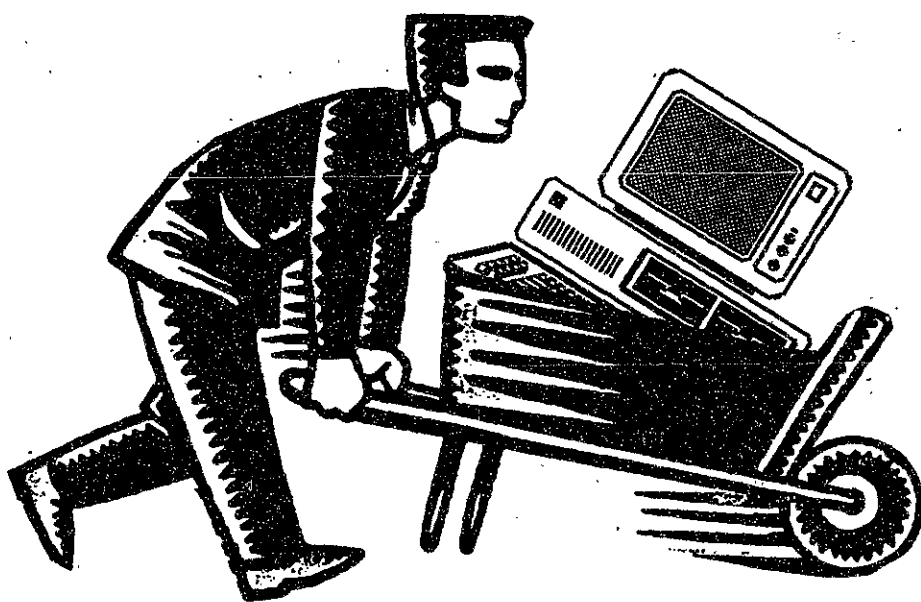


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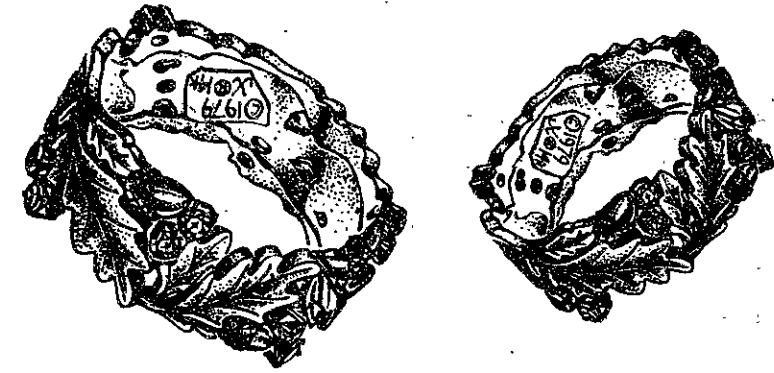
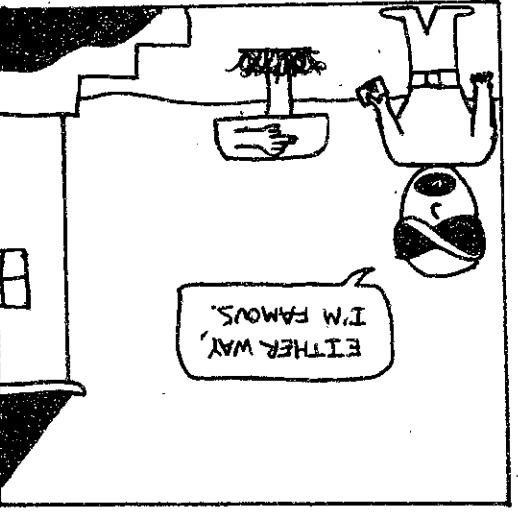
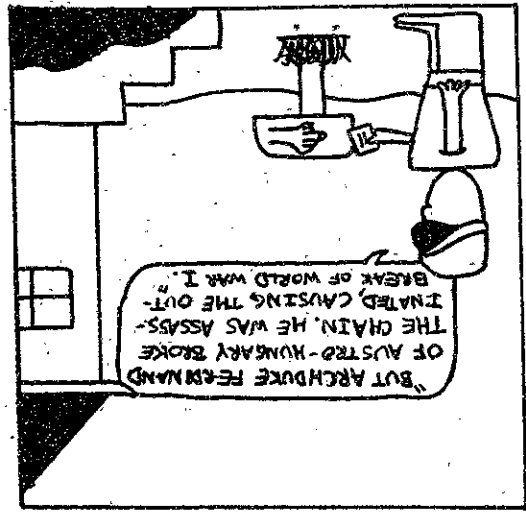
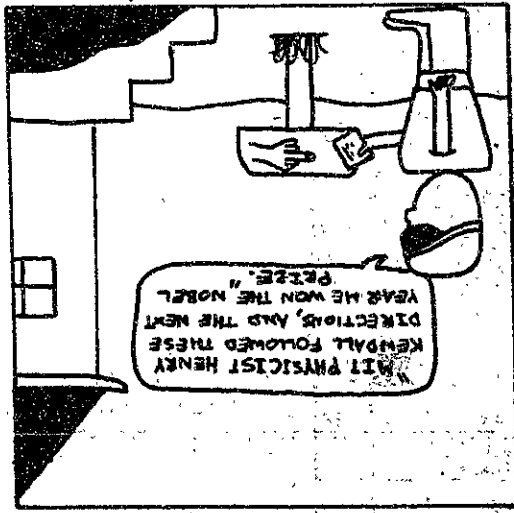
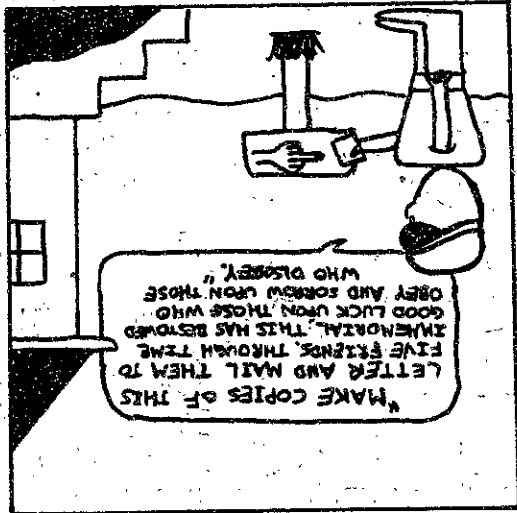
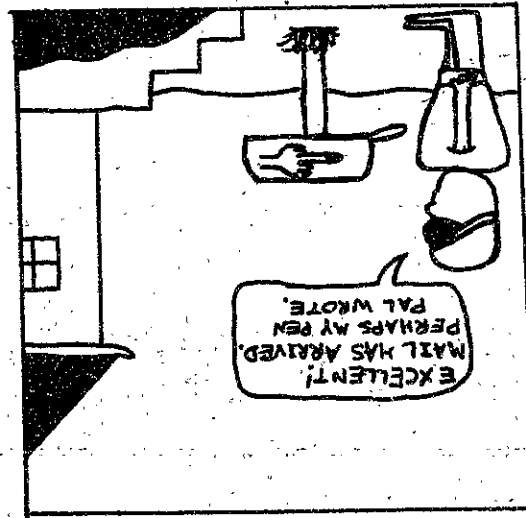
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COMICS

Angst by Tom Ormont



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The Housing Office began its weekly pickups of recyclables on Saturday, March 9, when Jet-A-Way, a recyclables transport company, hauled 4.4 tons of recyclables away from MIT dormitories and apartments. Within the past several weeks, tons of recyclables have been transported, including newspaper, white paper, tin, aluminum, cardboard, clear and colored glass, and plastics (numbers 1 and 2). Within the houses themselves, recycling efforts are led by student coordinators and volunteers. They sort and prepare the materials for Saturday morning pickups. The following is the total tonnage accumulated from the start.

TOTAL	GLASS
NEWSPAPER and CARDBOARD	14.43
WHITE PAPER	.88
PLASTICS and METALS	4.44
TOTAL	25.17 TONS

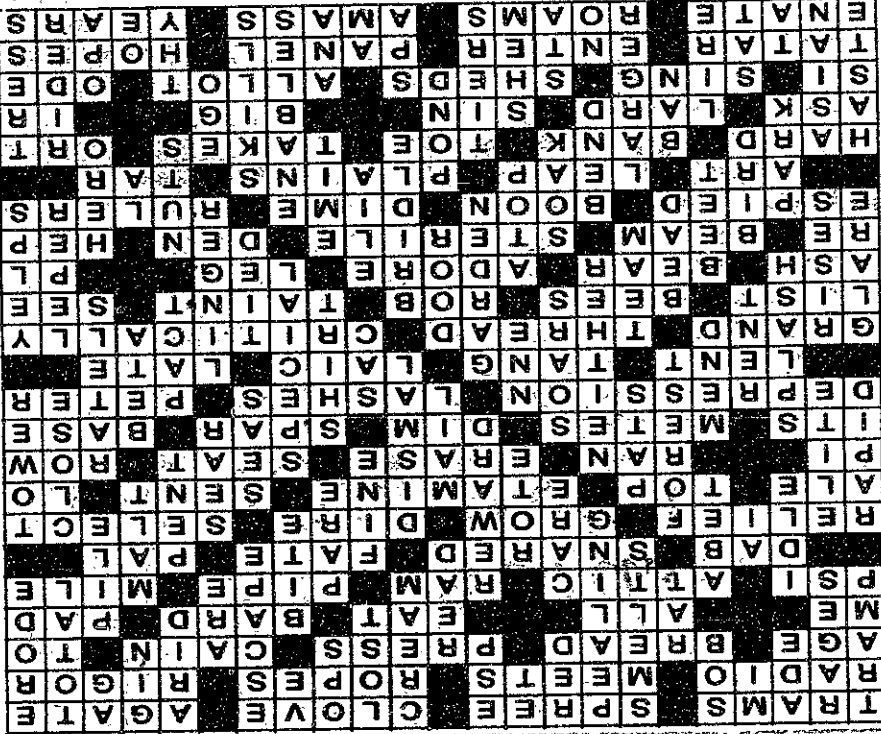
17 tons of newspaper have been recycled and as a result, 204 trees have been saved.

Many thanks to all recycling volunteers. We're hoping the success of this program continues throughout the summer.

Do something good. Feel something real.

From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. To find out how you can help in your community, call 1 (800) 677-5515.

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Puzzle, page 10.



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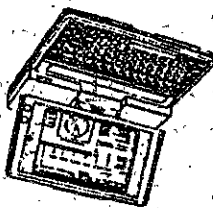
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THE NIKE STORE



Basement pipe leaks at EC

(Continued from page 1)

Smith eventually managed to lock the door to the garbage chute, shut the closet door, and open the window at the end of the hall.

One fifth floor resident expressed her appreciation to Smith. "He probably saved the floor from more excessive water damage," she said.

Floors below were not as fortunate. Residents returned to find

hall carpeting soaked and some found puddles in front of their doors.

"I don't think there was a lot of damage [from the incident], but the moisture could create mold and mildew," Narcotta said.

Narcotta believes that this was an isolated incident and that there is little chance of such a leak occurring again. However, he said that Physical Plant plans to make a close inspection to look for any similar weaknesses

in other steam lines on campus.

Residents of the building were forced to stand outside for nearly an hour waiting for the coast to clear while fire fighters and Physical Plant workers inspected the basement, opened all the staircase windows and let out all the steam.

Students living in the west parallel, who were not affected by the leak, provided background music for their displaced fellow residents, piping "The Doors' 'Light My Fire' onto the scene.

notices

Study Help

The professional tutor staff of the MIT Writing and Communication Center (14N-317) will be glad to consult with you on any writing or oral presentation project (papers, theses, letters, etc.) from 10 am-6 pm Monday through Friday. You may either phone for an appointment (x3-3090) or just drop in. In addition, workshops for those for whom English is a second language are held in the Center on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 pm. All services are free.

Counseling

The Samaritans — someone to talk to and befriend you, are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The center, at 500 Commonwealth Avenue, Kenmore Square, is open from 8 am to 8 pm every day for people to come in and talk. Service is free and completely confidential. Call 247-0220.

The Beth Israel Hospital hosts a Rape Crisis Group on Tuesdays at 7:30 am for women who are experiencing disruption in their lives immediately following or up to six months after being raped. The long-term crisis group meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For more information, call (617) 735-4738.

Today, more than one million men and women are demonstrating by their personal example that alcoholism is an illness that can be arrested. If you have an alcohol related problem please get in touch with the Alcoholics Anonymous group nearest you — with complete assurance that your anonymity will be protected. Call 426-9444 or write: Alcoholics Anonymous, Box 459, Grand Central Station, NY 10163. You will receive free information in a plain envelope.

Counseling and HTLV-III blood screening services are available for individuals concerned about exposure to the virus associated with AIDS. For more information about this free confidential service sponsored by the Department of Public Health and Counseling Services, call 522-4090, weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. Outside Boston call collect.

Parenting is a tough job. If you need help surviving the parenting experience, the Family Support Network and Parents Anonymous are co-sponsoring a support group for isolated or overwhelmed parents. Every Tuesday night from 6 pm to 8 pm at Roxbury Children's Service, 22 Elm Hill Ave., Dorchester.

The Family Support Network is also sponsoring a support group for teen parents, every Thursday night from 6 pm to 8 pm at Roxbury Children's Service.

Getting High? or Getting Desperate? If drugs are becoming a problem, call or write: Narcotics Anonymous, 264 Meridian St., East Boston 02128, (617) 569-0021. Local meetings held at the MIT Medical Department, E23-364, on Mondays from 1-2 pm.

The Greater Framingham Area Veteran's Outreach Center is holding rap sessions for Vietnam veterans every Wednesday (except the third week of the month, when they will be held Thursday) at 7 pm. There is also a group for the wives of Vietnam veterans. For more information, call 879-9888.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Buddy Program of the AIDS ACTION Committee is looking for volunteers to provide emotional and practical support to our clients on a one to one basis. Interested persons need to fill out an application and attend our orientation and training. Info: 437-6200 x450.

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Boston Partners in Education is seeking area college students to serve as school volunteers in the city's public elementary, middle and high schools. Be a tutor, mentor, classroom assistant, story reader, enrichment presenter or motivational speaker. Help especially needed in math and science, Reading Aloud, and English as a second language. Info: 451-6145.

The Cambridge Youth Guidance Center seeks volunteers interested in spending a few hours a week with a child who has emotional problems. Call Dr. Judy Osher at 354-2274.

Help a newly arrived family build a new life: Soviet Immigrants in Boston area need volunteers to help with language and understanding life in America. Please give two to three hours a week. More info: Joanne Spector at 566-1230, Jewish Family & Children's Service, 637 Washington Street, Brookline.

Volunteers needed to bag fresh produce for the Red Cross at 99 Brookline Ave., Boston, on Mondays and Fridays from 10:30 to 12 am. Call Nancy Jamison at 282-0728 or Lynne Klumb at 262-1234 ext. 236.

Women's shelter needs women volunteers to stay overnight once a month. Male or female volunteers needed from time to time to do general maintenance and fix-up work. The shelter is open on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday nights. Call Beth Greeney at 524-3431 or Meg Smith at 265-6006.

Students interested in volunteering in the medical field can find great opportunities at the Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary. There is a full range of regular volunteer opportunities including work in the vision rehabilitation center, pathology lab, and on the patient floors. Contact Ruth Doyle at 573-3164.

The Cambridge Department of Human Services needs volunteers during after school hours to tutor, be a Big Brother/Big Sister, help with elementary school sports (gymnastics especially) and special one-time events. Lots of schools and locations to choose from. Contact Judy Bibbins or Laurel Shepard at 498-9072.

Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

The Massachusetts Risk and Insurance Management Society is making an educational scholarship available to business administration majors with a strong interest in risk management. For more information and an application, please contact Lauren Feinman at (617) 890-6352.

A free financial aid handbook is available for prospective and present college students. The Handbook for College Admission and Financial Aid is available by writing or calling the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Suite 1224, 11 Beacon Street, Boston, 02108-3093; (617) 742-5147.

Free Information

Do you have questions about HASS-D(istribution) subjects and categories, HUM-D(istribution) subjects and fields, concentration requirements or procedures, HASS Elective subjects or HASS Minor programs? Come to the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Information Office, 14N-408 for help with anything to do with the HASS Requirement. We are open 9-5. Stop by or call us at x3-4441.

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation has prepared a pamphlet called "College Consumer" that summarizes students' consumer rights. For a free copy, write the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108 or call 727-7755.

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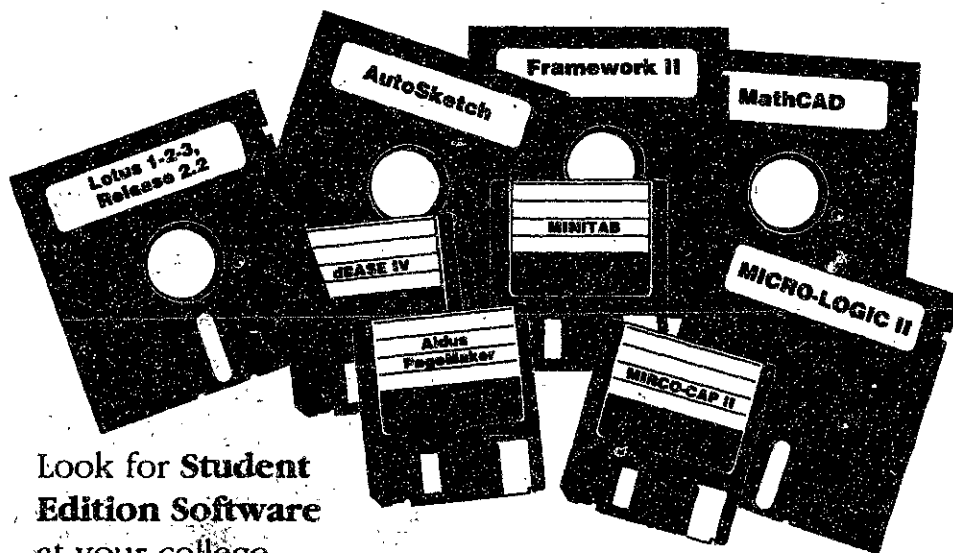


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Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Summer Workshop. Monday, July 29 - Friday, Aug. 2. Coaching and Master Classes for strings and keyboard. Write Chilmark Chamber Players, Box 445, Chilmark, MA 02535, or phone (508) 645-9771.


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The Beth Israel Hospital hosts a Rape Crisis Group on Tuesdays at 7:30 am for women who are experiencing disruption in their lives immediately following or up to six months after being raped. The long-term crisis group meets Thursdays at 6 pm. For more information, call (617) 735-4738.

notices

The Cambridge Dispute Settlement Center has announced that it is making its service of mediating disputes available to roommates in the Cambridge area. Those interested in using CDCSC's service to resolve a roommate dispute or any other dispute should contact the mediation center at 876-5376.

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Overall graduation rates have risen as well.

The statistics also indicate that the overall graduation rate seems to have increased by about five percentage points since 1984. Between 1972 and 1983, the rate hovered around 85 percent, reaching a low of 84 percent for the Classes of 1972-1974, and 1981 and reaching a high of 87 percent for the Class of 1982. After 1984, that rate jumped to 90 percent, with a low of 88 percent in 1986.

The six-year graduation rate for the Class of 1989 is 89 percent. Both of these rates are expected to top 90 percent by the seven-year mark. At 79 percent, the four-year rate for the Class of 1990 is higher than the four-year rate for classes before 1987. "I know the graduation rate at most schools is lower than 90 percent," Wiley said. "At some big state schools, the rate is around 50 or 40 percent." He said the graduation rate for the Ivy League colleges is also around 90 percent, "so we're right up there at the top now."

"The rise is a credit to the quality of our students, programs and faculty," Wiley continued. Smith said his "best guess" for the rise in graduation rates by students more than it does any changes in Institute standards, procedures or admissions policy. If you look at the admitted class, you would expect everyone to graduate," he continued.

Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Director of the Women's Studies Program Susan Carey said that she does not find the discrepancy surprising. "I think that the undergraduate women and men are slightly different populations. The women are more self-selective because it's so much more unusual for them to come here," she explained. "The women who come here are already bucking different stereotypes."

Kellermann's hypothesis is that "women have better survival skills. They are more willing to ask for help if they need it." She suggested that the women who come to MIT are also more self-motivated.

"The statistics are important from the point of view that they dispel stereotypes about women and men," Carey added.

(Continued from page 1)

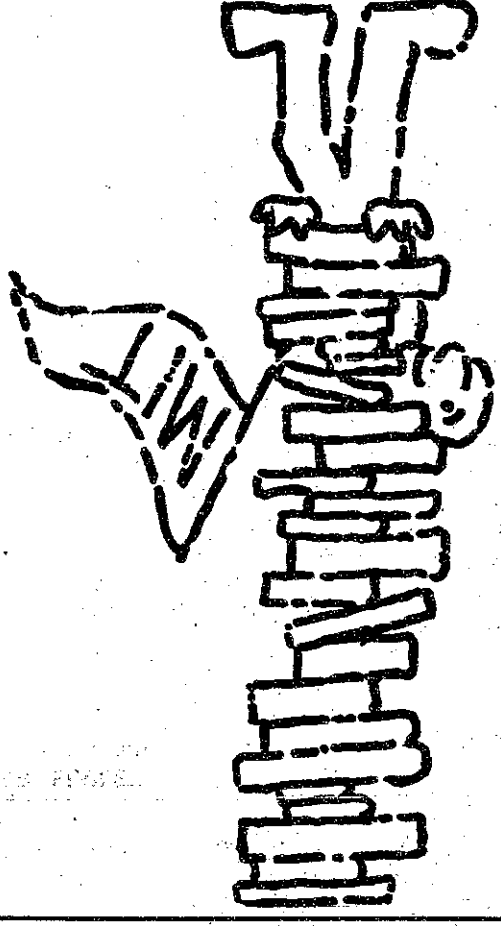
Overall graduation rate rises

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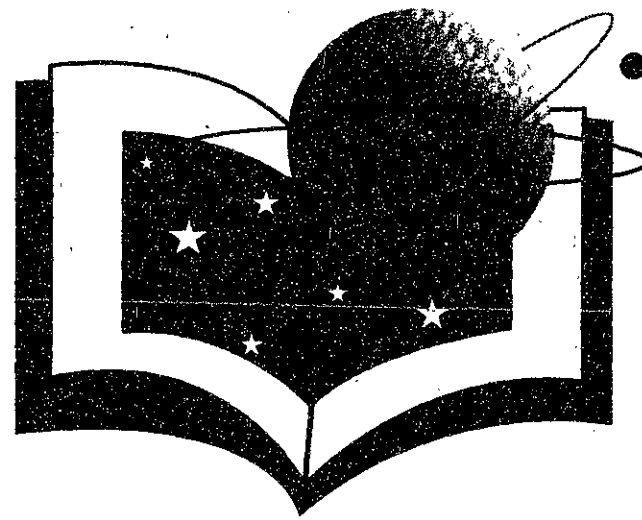
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