

## Conditions for women change over 3 decades

By Karen Kaplan

It is easy to take for granted that MIT has women's varsity athletic teams, a women's studies program, panhellenic sororities and even classes with more than one female student.

But there are some people at the Institute who remember what it was like to be a female student here 10, 20, even 30 years ago. And they remember it very differently.

"The real truth is that back then, if you were a woman and wanted to major in engineering, there was little choice as to where to apply, and MIT was one of the

## WOMEN AT MIT

(First in a series)

few schools that accepted women," said Christina H. Jansen '63, who received her bachelor's, master's and doctor of philosophy degrees from MIT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Jansen, who is now a technology licensing officer at the Institute, was the third woman ever to graduate from the materials sci-

ence department. She was one of about 20 women in the class of 1963, and almost all of them lived together freshman year on Bay State Road in Boston.

### Housing limited in early years

"Katharine McCormick bought a brownstone at 120 Bay State Road, and there was room for 18 students, so MIT tried to get 18 freshmen every year to fill it," Jansen said. The limited availability of housing created a loose quota for incoming female students. In addition to the 18 who lived on Bay State Road, there were a handful of other women from the Boston area who lived at home and commuted to MIT.

With such limited housing, competition among women for admission to MIT was fierce. But the battle had just begun. When they arrived on campus, they fought against those who discouraged women from pursuing careers in science and engineering.

Jansen encountered this attitude in a chemistry class. "I had a senior chemistry professor and although on the first exam I got a very high grade, he told me that I really shouldn't be at a

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## NROTC command merges at MIT, BU

By George Ipe

In a move to streamline its organizational structure, the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at MIT and Boston University recently merged some of their administrative duties, Executive Officer David C. Finch of the BU NROTC said.

Finch, however, stressed that the battalion billeted at MIT would remain operationally distinct from the BU battalion. The merger is largely limited to a "consolidation of position," especially in command structure.

For example, both the MIT and BU battalions are headed by one commanding officer and eventually will also share an executive officer.

The administrative merger is scheduled to be completed by September of next year, Finch said, and will probably include the combining of posts such as storekeeper and quartermaster from both corps. Instructors for both battalions will stay separate.

The regrouping of the staff of the two units came in response to spending cutbacks mandated by the the Department of Defense. Consequently, the Navy is reducing the number of scholarships offered to would-be student cadets nationwide.

According to some MIT sources, Navy cut-backs have, for instance, caused the cancellation of the NROTC program at Wellesley College this year. Although the two current Wellesley students will continue their military training there, they will be the last NROTC cadets from their school. MIT is unlikely to suffer a similar fate, Finch said.

Finch rationalized that the scale back in scholarships would create a more competitive pool of cadets with higher average Scholastic Aptitude Test scores than those of previous years. "A prestigious school like MIT will probably experience no large-scale cutback in its [NROTC] complement," he said.

The NROTC is perhaps more prone to scale-backs than Army ROTC, Finch said. As a rule, the Navy guarantees full tuition and a commission to every cadet who completes NROTC, whereas the Army does not always award full tuition and only commissions 55 percent of its ROTC recruits.

The Army can control spending to some extent by decreasing tuition awards, but the Navy must scale back in other areas, like administration, to maintain its level of service and the quality of its ROTC.

## MIT studies K-12 education

By Eva Moy

The MIT Committee on K-12 Education, created in the fall of 1990 by then-Dean of Engineering Gerald L. Wilson '61, has concluded that MIT should play a larger role as an institution in the present educational crisis, both locally and nationally.

The committee, which was chaired by Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Ronald M. Latanision, met from November to June, and formally presented its findings for review and comment to President Charles M. Vest and Provost Mark S. Wrighton two weeks ago.

Latanision will now head the Council on Primary and Second-

ary Education, which will coordinate and expand efforts to enhance teaching and learning experiences in those grades, according to a Sept. 20 press release from the MIT News Office.

The council will explore ways for MIT to have an impact on American math and science education, especially the education of underprivileged children, while helping to maintain interest in these fields among college-age students, Latanision said. The emphasis will be on implementation of a program rather than documentation, he said, adding that there are already innumerable reports about the state of American education.

The council will include 15

members, including faculty, staff and undergraduate and graduate student representatives, who will each serve for three-year terms.

Among the committee's recommendations were increased use of the media, summer teacher institutes, use of advanced technologies in K-12 education, a program for in-service teachers and a continuation of the individual efforts that are already taking place in the MIT community.

### Council hopes to change science's image

The council hopes to use the media to change the national perception of science and technology as hostile and of MIT as remote,

(Please turn to page 2)

## Students to use Athena to access the registrar

By Judy Kim

A new project to allow students to interact with the registrar on-line through Athena is now being jointly developed by the Distributed Computing and Network Services division of Information Systems and the Office of the Registrar.

When the project is completed, hopefully by the spring semester, students will be able to access information concerning their registration status through the Athena network, according to Registrar David S. Wiley '61.

"Students will be able to look at their grade report, degree audit, biographical information and registration status on Athena," Wiley said. For example, students will be able to make changes in their term addresses at Athena terminals.

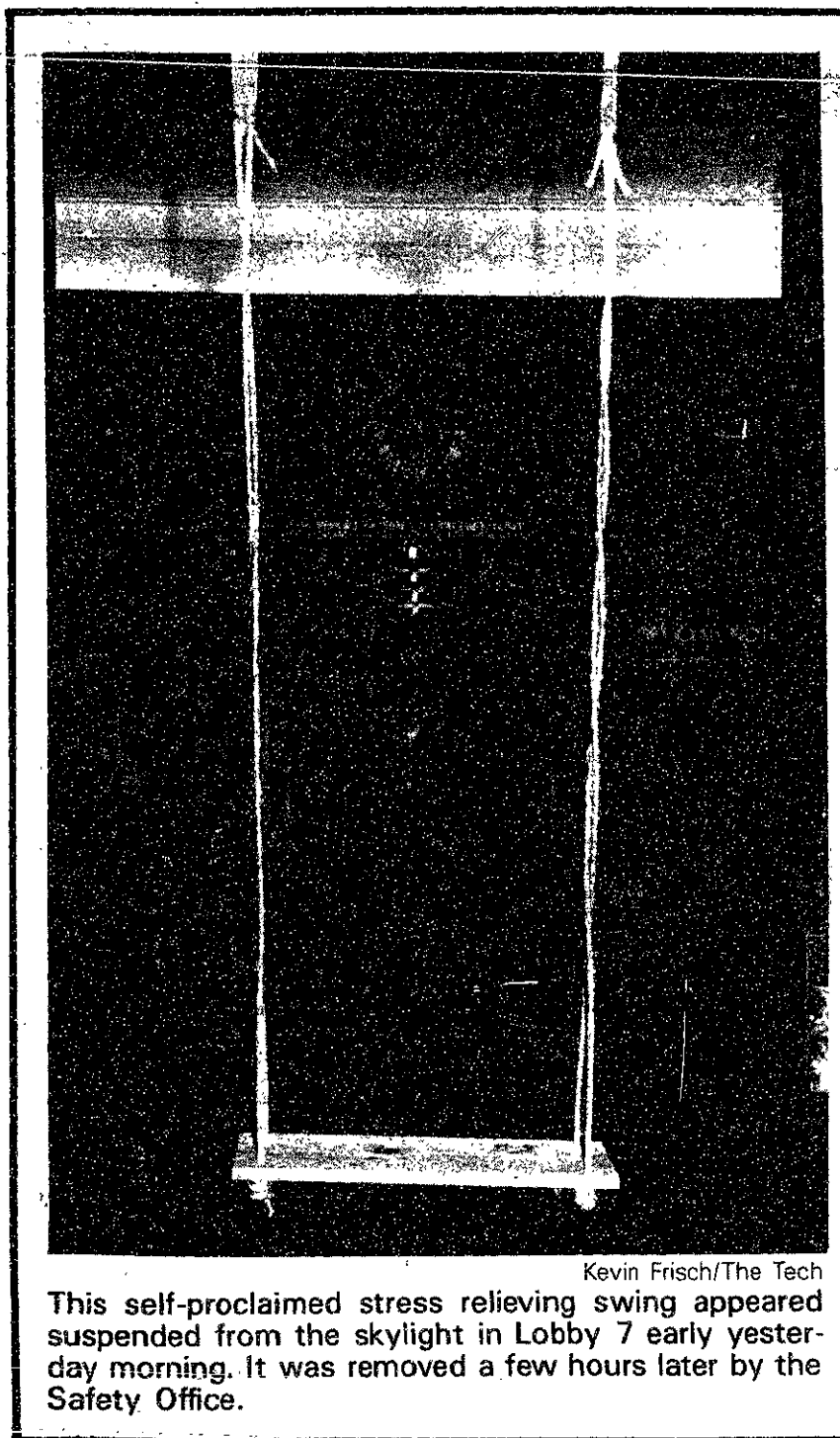
Wiley described this program

as an interface system in which "information basically goes from the registrar's system to a server." If a student wishes to make any changes, "they make the changes in the system, and those changes come back to the registrar's office, where they will be reviewed, and then passed on to the main database."

He said that "what students look at is completely separate from the registrar's database," and believes that this is necessary to "protect students."

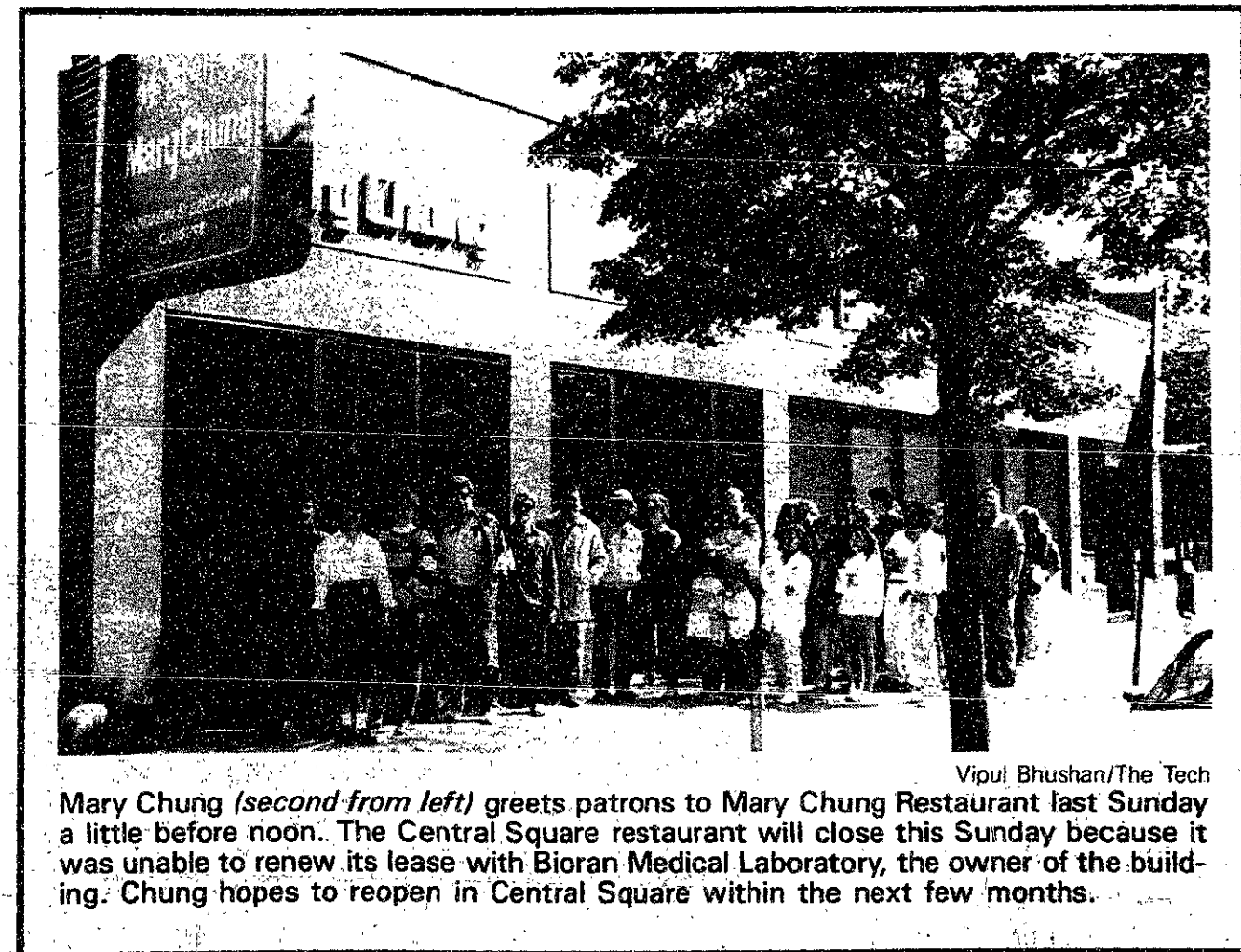
Jon A. Rochlis '85, a technical supervisor with DCNS, also said that student information will be on its own server in the interests of security. He added that "access to this information will only be through Kerberos [the Athena user authentication system]." Because of the sensitivity of an indi-

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Kevin Frisch/The Tech

This self-proclaimed stress relieving swing appeared suspended from the skylight in Lobby 7 early yesterday morning. It was removed a few hours later by the Safety Office.



Vipul Bhushan/The Tech

Mary Chung (second from left) greets patrons to Mary Chung Restaurant last Sunday a little before noon. The Central Square restaurant will close this Sunday because it was unable to renew its lease with Bioran Medical Laboratory, the owner of the building. Chung hopes to reopen in Central Square within the next few months.

# Attitudes toward MIT women change over time

(Continued from page 1)

school like this and that I should go somewhere else, that I didn't belong here. I said, 'Well, I did fine on the exam, and this is what I want to study.' All of [the female students] had some number of incidents like that," she said.

Sometimes the discouragement came from fellow students. "Back then, students referred to women as 'coeds.' In general it was considered a very derogatory term — coeds were considered wierd," Jansen said.

## Administration supportive

"But the administration was really supportive. Any time we reported incidents like that, they'd back us up. We always felt that MIT wanted female students. The administration and the deans went out of their way to recognize that women were in a tough position," Jansen said.

The circumstances also strengthened relationships among the female students, said Jansen, whose friendships from college have lasted thirty years. "The best thing was that the women were very supportive of each other," she said.

For example, the Association of MIT Alumnae kept in touch with female students, inviting them for dinner, offering an emergency loan fund and presenting an academic award to outstanding female students. The students helped each other through a big sister/little sister program, which involved writing to freshmen before they arrived on campus, answering their questions about MIT and offering tutoring assistance.

## More women accepted after McCormick Hall opens

After McCormick Hall opened in the early 60's, the number of women admitted to MIT increased. Bonny S. Kellermann '72, a political science major and now an associate registrar at MIT, entered in 1968 when the second tower of McCormick was opened.

At that time, "all the women on campus lived in McCormick. The advantage was that it enabled people to get to know all the other women students, but the disadvantage was that there weren't that many students to get to know," she said.

Coming to MIT often meant

meeting other women interested in science and engineering for the first time. "The women here were people we had things in common with more than at home. They liked math and science. Coming to MIT was the first time they could express enthusiasm for that and not be put down," Kellermann said.

Aside from their interest in technical fields, MIT women found they had other traits in common as well. "When there were fewer women here, the women who came here were a little more of mavericks who were willing to do something that was untraditional and unusual," Kellermann said. "The women who come here have a good sense of inner direction, or what they want to accomplish for themselves," she said.

When Kellermann lived in McCormick, the dormitory had "parietal rules," including restrictions on the hours that men were allowed above the first floor and a curfew. "Supposedly, the curfew was for our own good, so that we would have an opportunity to let our dates know that we had to be home by a certain hour and did not get into compromising positions," she said.

But enterprising freshmen devised ways to avoid the curfew, and "the whole idea broke down fairly early in my freshman year," she said.

## Women still encountered sexist attitudes

The male-female ratios in the classrooms were improving, but some problems still existed. "I was the only woman in about half of my classes, and it certainly created some self-consciousness," Kellermann said. "In one class, whenever I asked a question, I was made to feel like I was ignorant and didn't understand things very well," she said.

After she noticed that the teaching assistant in that class "was really picking on this other woman and making her feel stupid and putting her down in ways that he didn't do to the men, I noticed that was what he had done to me. He undermined my self confidence. Once I realized that, I decided I was comfortable with the material and my performance went way up," Kellermann said.

The small number of women on campus also meant that op-

portunities for extracurricular activities, including athletics, were extremely limited. "Women's athletics were at the bottom of the totem pole — it wasn't recognized as a real activity. The only teams for women were fencing, sailing and crew," Kellermann said.

## MIT attracts more and more women

Despite these drawbacks, MIT continued to attract more and more women. "I was obsessed with the idea of going to MIT," said Anita M. Killian '85, who earned her undergraduate degree in physics and her masters in earth, atmospheric and planetary sciences.

"I think I expected to have a lot of barriers to overcome and a lot of obstacles that weren't necessarily fair," said Killian, who is the academic administrator for the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

As an undergraduate, she was interested in writing and took a class that made her late to a recitation for a technical class. "I was told by the faculty member teaching the [technical] course that clearly I wasn't taking his class seriously, and it turned out in spite of him that I did fine. He had no appreciation for anything other than physics and a real negative approach to a classical background of learning. I think he thought the reason I was into it was because I was a woman," Killian said.

## Status of women improving

In recent years, conditions for women students at MIT have improved in many ways. "The biggest difference that I've noticed is women are getting taken far more seriously now," said Killian.

"Women on campus do not have to act like men and dress like men and talk like men in order to succeed," she said.

Much of that change in attitude is the result of the increased number of female students here. "The numbers are the obvious change," said Kellermann. "A campus that's approximately one-third women is a significantly different environment than a campus that is approximately five percent women," she said.

Jansen agreed, saying, "I think with the numbers where they are, it can really be a normal college experience for women. There were 60 undergraduate women total when I was an undergrad, and there's no way that can be normal. Looking back, it was a very hard way to get an undergraduate education," she said.

Killian said that increased numbers of women here have made a direct impact on student life. "The fact that there are more women here has enhanced life at MIT for everyone. It's a kinder, gentler MIT," she said.

Kellermann cited the importance of coeducational housing in helping men and women to understand each other. "Coed living groups have made a major change. The opportunity for men and women to be living together has helped break down a lot of sexual stereotypes. It's a positive opportunity for women and men to better understand each other," she said.

## Women "more comfortable"

Mary P. Rowe, special assistant to the president and adjunct professor of management, has been listening to women's concerns on campus in her role as Institute ombudsman for almost 20 years. "Women are far more comfort-

able here than they used to be," she said.

Rowe said that since 1973, her office has consistently received questions from women concerning their careers. "They want to know if it's possible for a professional woman and be happily married and have kids. We get lots of equal treatment questions — people want to know if their work will be seen the same as a man's," she said.

Another perpetual concern, Rowe said, is the availability of women's support groups and housing options. "It was clearly a source of satisfaction to women students here when the sororities started up and when [the Women's Independent Living Group] began. There was some hope that finally we'd be able to meet the interest in single-sex housing that many women share," she said.

The number of reports of sexual harassment to Rowe's office increased during the 1980's, but the number of reports from students has dropped sharply since 1989, she said. But there has been a rise in the number of calls from faculty members who are dealing with harassment complaints in their laboratories or classrooms, she said.

In the past 20 years, the Campus Police have become more attuned to having women at MIT, Rowe said. "When I came here, there was no rape protocol. Now, if a woman is raped, there is a certain way the Institute can respond to support her."

Other changes in the past 20 years that Rowe said have enhanced student life for women are the availability of a women's studies major, the Women's Health Educational Network and the improvement in athletic facilities for women.

# MIT to encourage math and science in schools

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using the economic future of the United States as the "hook," Latanision said. "The problem is that the US doesn't realize how much of an impact science and technology have" on the US's ability to compete economically in the future, he said.

The committee felt there is a need to change the attitudes of all Americans, especially parents, students, teachers and administrators, he said.

There are already numerous programs at MIT that bring science and technology to K-12 students, ranging from campus tours and open houses to having MIT students visit elementary and secondary schools to talk about science, Latanision said.

"It is not uncommon at all for the driving force for entering [a science or engineering field] to be an individual," he said.

Latanision noted that these efforts have not been coordinated by MIT as a whole in the past, and that the committee hoped MIT would take these initiatives as an institution, going "beyond

the mission of higher education and research."

## Commission has widespread support

This committee was only the beginning of MIT's institutional role in promoting science and technology in the United States, Latanision said. He said that even with the expected questions of funding sources, there seems to be widespread support for MIT's initiative.

Having various deans, professors and other people within the Institute behind the program "represents a serious commitment on the part of MIT," Latanision said.

In an article describing the committee's findings, Latanision said: "Science and math education in K-12 is not somebody else's problem — it's a shared responsibility and it is now time for MIT, as an institution, and as a citizen of Cambridge, of Massachusetts and of the United States, to engage the problems of the K-12 system, particularly in the areas of math and science education."

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# news roundup

from the associated press wire

## Nation

### Kerrey of Nebraska enters race for Democratic presidential nomination

Sen. Bob Kerrey, the latest candidate to enter the presidential race, is a Democrat with a generally liberal record who has twice won statewide elections in conservative Nebraska.

He was elected governor of Nebraska in 1982, but walked away after one term even though his re-election was considered sure-fire. Said Kerrey at the time: "I need a little danger." Yet two years later, he returned to politics and won a US Senate seat, again ousting a Republican incumbent.

Kerrey's reputation for toughness extends back to his high school days, when, as a center on the football team, he pushed around players much bigger than his 154 pounds. Kerrey displayed that same toughness years later as a Navy Seal, when he directed an attack on a Viet Cong guerrilla group even after a grenade exploded at his feet. The incident cost him part of his right leg and earned him the Medal of Honor.

Kerrey is perhaps best known nationally for his sporadic relationship with Debra Winger. The two met while he was governor and she was making the movie "Terms of Endearment" in Nebraska.

In the Senate, Kerrey has established himself as an expert on agriculture, an advocate for major health care reforms and a liberal voice on defense matters. He voted against going to war in the Persian Gulf.

## World

### Gorbachev appoints Primakov to head new Soviet intelligence agency

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev appears to be taking more steps to shuffle the government in the wake of last month's failed coup.

The Tass news agency said that, according to a decree, Gorbachev named Yevgeny Primakov to head a new intelligence agency that apparently will take over the KGB's foreign spy operations. Primakov has been serving Gorbachev as a senior adviser on Middle East affairs.

The Tass dispatch said only that plans call for detaching intelligence gathering from the KGB and making it a separate service. It gave no details on what the new agency would be called.

Since the failed coup, Gorbachev has put a radical reformer in charge of the secret state police agency. Many former top officials, including the head of foreign intelligence, have been fired.

### President Aristide flees Haiti

Sources in Port-Au-Prince say Haiti's first elected president is on his way out of Haiti. The sources say Jean-Bertrand Aristide was taken to the airport to be put on a plane to France. The army's commander-in-chief says the military has taken charge of the island nation.

Word of Aristide's arrest earlier yesterday came as a day-long uprising claimed at least 26 lives.

### Fires break out in state prison

Fire and police units were called to the state prison's maximum security unit in Cranston, RI, Monday on a report of several fires and a possible disturbance. Initial details were sketchy. The fires broke out at about 3:30 pm, Police Sgt. William Kirejczyk said. An initial report said one may have started in the prison shop.

An anonymous caller to The Associated Press, who said he was an inmate, said prisoners were upset that there had been a change in prison policies and the inmates felt that administrators were trying to take away some of their privileges. He would not be more specific before hanging up.

### US Commission on Civil Rights criticized on performance

The US Commission on Civil Rights has received a slap on the wrist and a potential budget cut from the House of Representatives.

Even supporters offered faint praise and considerable criticism of the agency's conduct as the House approved a bill extending its life for two more years. That is less than the 10-year extension asked for by the Bush administration.

The bill authorizes a budget of \$6 million a year, \$1 million less than it is spending this year, and far short of the \$10 million a year Bush wants. The bill was approved on a voice vote and sent to the Senate.

Critics complained that the rights panel held no hearings during the past two years while issuing only one report.

The commission's Bush-appointed chairman said that the agency is being pressed to deliver quality work without the resources to do it. The commission is an independent agency charged with investigating and reporting discrimination in the United States.

### AIDS activists march to White House

More than 400 AIDS activists, blowing whistles and shouting slogans, marched to the White House yesterday, demanding that President Bush do more to stop the spread of the deadly disease.

They were joined by Jeanne White, mother of Ryan White, the 18-year-old hemophiliac who became a spokesman for children with AIDS before he died in April 1990.

Dozens of demonstrators chained themselves to each other and to the White House fence. The US Park Police said about 100 people were arrested. The activists, organized by the group Act Up, expressed frustration over the growing dimensions of the AIDS crisis, and during a pre-march rally, burned an American flag.

Asked if she agreed with the flag-burning, White said, "I don't know," but added that, because she understood the activists' frustration with the disease and the Bush administration, "I do not condemn them."

The 10-block march disrupted traffic on downtown streets. Police blocked off traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House.

### Debate on Thomas may be stalled

Senate majority leader George Mitchell (D-ME) said he still hopes that floor debate can begin this week on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. However, opponents of the nomination want to put off debate to give senators more time to study Thomas' judicial record. The Senate Judiciary Committee split 7-7 on the Thomas nomination.

### US government and Exxon strike another agreement in spill case

Alaska's Governor Walter Hickel said that the state and federal governments have reached a second agreement with Exxon on government lawsuits over the Prince William Sound oil spill.

Hickel signed the deal in Anchorage. He said that it calls for a \$150 million criminal fine, of which \$25 million is suspended, and another \$900 million in civil penalties. Hickel said that Exxon will plead guilty to four misdemeanor criminal counts. He said that two felony counts will be dropped in a case that was headed for federal court in Anchorage next week.

An earlier, \$1 billion settlement announced in March fell apart after a federal judge rejected the criminal plea bargain that was part of the deal and the Alaska House voted down the entire agreement.

## Local

### McDonald's to open near Faneuil Hall

The historic area around Boston's Faneuil Hall will soon become home to another McDonald's restaurant. A city commission has given the McDonald's Corporation final permission to build a restaurant there. It turned back objections of some residents who said the national fast-food chain will detract from the area's character. Fletcher Wiley, a lawyer for McDonald's, dismissed the objections. Wiley said that some people want Paul Revere to come back with a silversmith shop.

The McDonald's project already had support from the Boston Redevelopment Authority. It won unanimous approval yesterday from the Boston Parks Commission. This panel has jurisdiction because the restaurant will be within 100 feet of a city park.

McDonald's plans to open a two-story restaurant early next year with seating for 180 people. The eatery will bear the McDonald's name, with the trademark golden arches, on signs over the entrance. McDonald's said that it is committed to upholding the historic ambience of the area.

## Weather

### Showery weather ahead

Showers ahead of a weak cold front will arrive in the local area later today and tonight. The cold front will stall in the area for the next few days. A disturbance developing along the Georgia coast is expected to provide even more rain on Thursday as it moves northward along the Atlantic coast. No extreme hot or cold weather is anticipated for the remainder of the week.

**Tuesday:** Increasing clouds and mild weather. High 75° F (24° C).

**Tuesday night:** Cloudy with showers. Low near 60° F (16° C).

**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy. High 75° F (24° C).

**Thursday:** Cloudy with rain and rain showers likely. High near 70° F (21° C).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Joey Marquez

# The Tech's Response Line

Do you have an opinion on an issue, or a comment about anything you saw in *The Tech*? Then tell us at

**258-8219**

our Response Line. Leave your name, MIT affiliation, and evening phone number with your message.

# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### Something good about sex

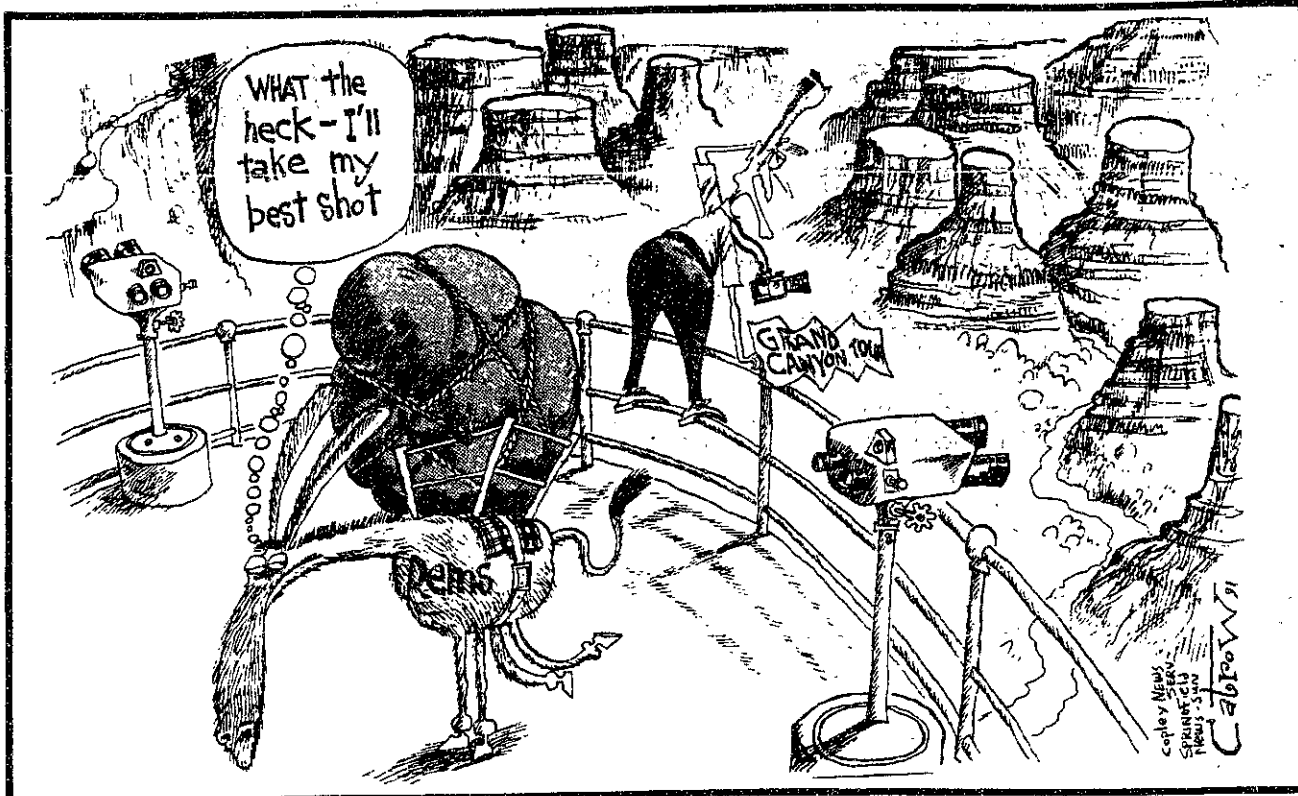
"Silence is not consent" was written on a slide at the recent programs about sex sponsored by the Residence/Orientation Week Committee, Office of the Dean for Student Affairs and MIT Medical Department. Silence about sex issues will lead to no improvement on current rates of rape, unintended pregnancy and spread of sexually-transmitted diseases.

The programs over the last two weeks, initially called *How to Give a Woman an Orgasm* and later changed to *Something About Sex and Orgasm Again*, broke the silence about sex on campus. It has, both in discussions following the programs and in these pages, fostered a debate among members of the MIT community about these issues. That the organizers changed the program's name is evidence that this debate was necessary.

While critics disapproved of the explicit nature of the program, issues were presented in a humorous fashion that brought laughs from the Lobdell Court audience. Archie Roberts' sarcasm was effective, and his delivery of Glen Weinstein's script was informative without being lecturing.

The presentation, however, was narrow in scope and contained questionable information. Many audience members perceived that fraternities and abstinence were mocked unnecessarily, and that the presentation was directed almost exclusively to the concerns of heterosexual males. In addition, the discussion period following Archie Roberts' monologue could stand for some improvement.

Freshman should see this presentation this year and next, but not before Rush if the remarks about fraternities remain in the script. The organizers deserve praise for sponsoring these shows and discussions. Hopefully, the presentation's sponsors will make the necessary modifications in the script, and the community will take the discussion to heart.



### Caller ID helps more than it hurts

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

I was sleeping blissfully in my dorm room last term, dreaming of nuclear weapons, when a murderously loud telephone ring yanked me from my dreams of theater-wide tactical defense. Falling out of my bunk bed onto an open three ring binder, the latest *Economist*, a pizza and a half a dozen Coke cans, I limped to the phone, only to find my tired greeting answered by dead silence.

I hung up the phone and hurled my numb body into my bed, and, just as I was about to return to unconsciousness, heard the phone next door ringing. After a few seconds phones started ringing, sequentially in every room in the hall. My floor had just been hit by a demon dialer, a bit-head with an autodialing modem. Some guy was spending his time calling every number in the phone book looking for computers to hack.

Alas, the identity of this mystery nerd I will never know — not because the technology does not exist to find it, but because Congress and the Federal Communications Commission may kill any chances that I would get a hold of it.

It's called Caller ID, and it's currently produced one of the biggest political and legal fights in the communications industry. Caller ID itself is simple — a box, rented to telephone customers, displays on an LCD panel the phone number of any individual (or computer) that tries to call. While actually tracing a telephone call may take as long as a minute or two, Caller ID works instantaneously. When your phone rings, you see the number of the person who is calling. Look up the number in a backwards phone book and you have the name and address of the caller.

Caller ID is now available in many cities (and MIT as well). If Caller ID is implemented everywhere, harassing and obscene phone calls might become as rare as harassing skywriting and blimp messages.

Privacy pundits are hyperventilating. In Congress, in the FCC and in state communication commissions, people are calling for ways in which individuals can disable Caller ID to maintain their privacy when calling others. Among the arguments for restricting Caller ID are privacy for people who call confidential support lines and people who respond to commercial advertisements. Many legislators fear that people's identities will be uncovered from commercial calls and that unscrupulous telemarketing companies will sell these names without the caller's consent.

I do not know about you, but I do not live paralyzed with a fear that my name is being sold to companies without my consent. That happens anyway whenever I subscribe to a magazine or buy something by mail order. I'd rather get many calls from dorks I know than a few calls from dorks I don't.

Plans for restricting Caller ID include methods for phone users to block tracing for specific calls, or allow automatic blocking on any call from certain, registered phone lines. Allow these blocking measures, and you might as well not have Caller ID at all.

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Matthew H. Hersch, a sophomore in the Department of Physics, is an opinion editor of *The Tech*.

# The Tech

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$20.00 per year Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-0901. Third Class postage paid at Boston, MA. Non-Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139-0901. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. FAX: (617) 253-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 1991 The Tech. The Tech is a member of the Associated Press. Printed by Charles River Publishing, Inc.

## FROM OUR RESPONSE LINE

Of the first calls to the new *Tech* response line, two regard the paper's comics.

• Frank E. Desimone '92 called to express his dislike of the current comic selection. Referring to the "the deplorable state of *Tech* comics," he suggested that *The Tech* look into a new, student-drawn comic called *Pinto and Shag*.

• Dave B. Killian, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Chemistry, related his dismay at the recent lack of *Jim's Journal* strips in *The Tech*. "It's one of the funniest strips around," he said.

*The Tech*: Our comics policy is as follows: As a general rule, student-drawn comics are given higher priority than other comics, but have lower priority than news articles. When articles are longer than the editors anticipated, the comics are taken out to make space. Students interested in drawing comics should stop by the *Tech* office with a sample of their work, which will then be evaluated by the editor in chief and other editors.

Just because a comic is student-drawn does not guarantee publication, however. A comic must conform to reasonable boundaries of taste and quality, as determined by the editors.

*Jim's Journal* is not drawn by an MIT student; it is drawn by a student at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and is syndicated to 20 college newspapers across the country. While we try to print *Jim* as often as possible, it is given lower priority than student-drawn comics. We will, however, try to run *Jim* on a more regular basis in the future.

• On a separate topic, Senior House President David W. Hogg '92 told the Response Line that a recent article on Senior House ["Senior House renovated to meet new fire codes," Sept. 20]

contained errors and misleading information. "I'd really like to see some better reporting on Senior House in the future," he said. "The renovations were to meet building codes, not fire codes (as reported). The writer got most of his information from Mike Mills. We (Senior House government) disagree with Mike Mills about this. We're not happy with the renovations, generally. Many freshman rooms are not as nice as they used to be. Also, many of the murals were vandalized needlessly, including ones in areas where no significant renovations took place."

*The Tech*: Mills, the General Manager for Maintenance and Renovations to Housing, is the official administration source for information on renovations. Apparently, however, there was disagreement between the administration and students about the renovations that *The Tech* was unaware of. The reporter maintains that, according to Mills, the renovations were to meet fire codes.

• Ron Newman '79 was surprised that *The Tech* did not cover the on-campus lecture by Camille Paglia on Thursday, Sept. 19. "It was a very large audience," he said, "... and it was a fairly controversial speech as well."

*The Tech*: We agree that the lecture was important and planned to run a news item on it. Due to unforeseen circumstances, however, the assigned reporter was unable to cover the story.

*The Tech's* Response Line is an opportunity for readers to informally respond to any issues raised in *The Tech*, or to discuss the paper itself.

Readers may call the Line at 258-8219, and leave their name, MIT affiliation and evening phone number along with a message. These summaries will be printed as often as the response demands.

# opinion

## Despite US diplomacy, Syria is still a ruthless player

Column by Mark A. Smith

The Persian Gulf War reminded us to beware of Middle Eastern dictators, especially those with unchallenged authority in their own countries and an expanding military machine. The United States chose to ignore Saddam Hussein's warning signs in the 1980s because we saw Iraq's enemy Iran as the greater villain. Saddam made us regret this oversight by invading Kuwait in 1990.

America's foreign policy makers did not learn their lesson. The United States is currently nurturing a cozy relationship with another barbaric Arab despot, Syria's Hafez al-Assad.

The United States and Syria had a long history of animosity until Syria decided to join the US-led coalition against Iraq. Before and after the war, President George Bush and Secretary of State James A. Baker III praised Assad for Syria's role in the alliance. Assad's subsequent decision to attend an Arab-Israeli peace conference also brought him American goodwill. When Assad volunteered this summer to pressure the groups holding Western hostages, he was rewarded with even more favorable rhetoric from American leaders.

Bush and Baker believe that these few measures of good faith justify rewriting our relationship with Syria. More realistic observers believe otherwise.

Assad's commitment to crushing internal dissent is well-known and documented. Syria practices the same authoritarian style of government as Iraq. Citizens who want to celebrate their next birthday do not publicly criticize the government. Paralleling Saddam's oppression in Iraq, Assad has suppressed uprisings with brutal massacres. Amnesty International has compiled detailed reports of these human rights abuses, including mass killings of Lebanese, Sunnis, Muslims and Shiites.

Influencing another country's internal affairs is a tricky matter, which partly explains why our government frequently overlooks the domestic crimes of ruthless regimes like Assad's. US interests change, though, when a dictator attacks another country. Ignoring Saddam Hussein's atrocities within Iraq, our leaders maintained their friendly relationship until he invaded Kuwait. Unfortunately, the United States has chosen to only selectively oppose aggression, as anyone who has observed Lebanon for the last 15 years can attest.

Syria now occupies and essentially governs Lebanon. For 15 years, the Syrian military has steadily gained control over the country's fractured ethnic enclaves. In October 1990, as the world's eyes were focused on Kuwait, Syrian forces slaughtered the last Lebanese rebels, summarily executing both soldiers and civilians. Unfortunately, the attacks received scant attention from the American media and government. Many observers believe it was the most underreported news story of last year.

Assad has shrewdly maintained a puppet Lebanese government that in reality merely rubber stamps Syrian demands. Given the American public's ignorance of

the true situation, this appearance of autonomy allows our leaders to sidestep the independence issue. In May 1991 Lebanon was forced to sign the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination, which includes a provision giving the Syrian military free reign over Lebanon's territory. The US ambassador to Lebanon blessed the agreement, paradoxically remarking that it would guarantee Lebanon's autonomy when it actually cedes Lebanese independence to Syria. Assad has stated that the two countries' peoples are now unified, separated only by political boundaries.

Syria's offenses extend well beyond Lebanon, however. Syria was one of the few countries singled out for systematic sponsorship of international terrorism when the United States first compiled such a record in 1979. It has never been removed from the list. Since the early 1980s, the attacks have become harder to trace, since they are carried out less frequently by Syrian operatives and more often by non-Syrian terrorist groups which Syria provided with support and sanctuary. Nevertheless, Syria continues to be implicated every year in dozens of international terrorist incidents.

Why has the Bush administration chosen to ignore Syria's atrocities and instead extended the diplomatic welcome mat? Certainly much of the reason rests with Syria's role in the coalition against Iraq. Syria lent credibility to our claim that the Arab world joined us in opposition to Saddam. What Bush and Baker do not seem to realize, however, is that Syria joined the alliance purely out of self-interest. Syria and Iraq are bitter enemies, and a powerful Saddam thwarted Assad's own desire to be the neighborhood bully.

Although Syrian forces contributed very little during the actual fighting, Syria's cooperation was a key component of America's international public relations effort. The immediate price of Syria's entry into the coalition, of course, was our turning a blind eye towards the virtual annexation of Lebanon. Taking this into account, along with Syria's human rights abuses and sponsorship of terrorism, our alliance with Assad against Saddam was a scaled-down version of our choice of Stalin over Hitler before World War II.

Since the Gulf War, Bush and Baker have coddled Assad because they believed that he would play a constructive role in their utopian Middle East "peace process." They apparently have not seen the hypocrisy in asking the man who is tightening his control over another country to help bring peace to the region. They also ignored the fact that countries planning for peace normally do not vastly increase their military expenditures, especially when their most powerful opponent has just been vanquished. Syria has spent its proceeds from the war (over two billion dollars in Saudi gifts) on improved aircraft, tanks and Scud missiles, and the country now spends 40 percent of its gross national product on its military.

The Bush administration has made a grave mistake in conferring credibility to Hafez al-Assad's ruthless government. Saddam Hussein showed vividly that aggressive dictators who can suppress internal dissension while expanding offensive military potential can very easily invade a weaker neighbor. The President believes that somehow Assad is different, and thus far the American public has not questioned him on this assumption.

American journalists are perpetually late in criticizing our friendly relationships with brutal regimes. They generally do not

question our policies until after a country acts strongly against the United States' strategic interests. We all heard the brilliant exposés of two administrations' misguided dealings with Manuel Noreiga and Saddam Hussein, but only after the damage was irreversible. It's time for this criticism to be forward-looking rather than retrospective. A few articles on the real Syria would be a good start.

Mark A. Smith is a senior in the Department of Economics.

## Caller ID technology is useful, should not be legislated against

(Continued from page 4)

Confidential support lines have the only tenable argument for allowing restrictions on Caller ID, and for the sake of these organizations alone I support some limited blocking ability for Caller ID.

One way to balance all concerns would be for an individual to be able to block caller ID only on a call-by-call basis. The phone company would keep a record of all requests to block tracing, the number of the person subsequently called and the number of the person who called him. These records would be available to anyone willing to call and find out. People who call for this information would be automatically traced. If an obscene caller tried to deactivate Caller ID to make a harassing phone call, the phone company would have a record. If an unscrupulous hotline staffer tried to find out who or

dered a trace blocking and then called him, his identity would be recorded for possible legal action. Everybody wins.

Another nifty option I heard from a friend is to enable Caller ID users to detect whether or not a call they are making is being traced, and if so, allow the caller to terminate the call. Another feature could allow a person to block untraceable calls from reaching his phone. Harassing callers with untraceable lines would suddenly find that they can't get through to anyone. People who call hotlines would know if staffers were trying to finger them.

Caller ID is a great technology, and America's phone lines are a public forum. If political candidates must reveal the identities of people who donate to their campaigns, we certainly have the right to keep phantom phoney phone callers from hiding behind anonymity.

### 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 editors.

**Dissents**, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the undersigned members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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

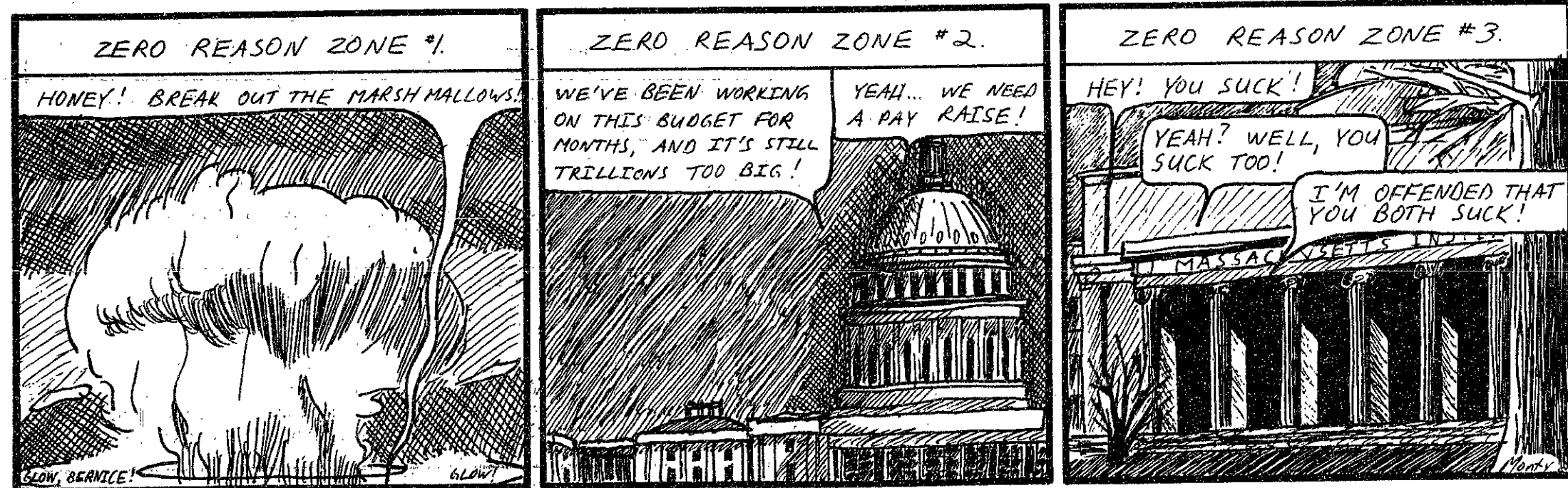
**Letters to the editor** are welcome. They must be typed double spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to tech@athena. All submissions are due by 4 pm two days before the issue date.

**Telephoned opinions** may be recorded by calling *The Tech's* Response Line at 258-8219. All recordings must include the caller's full name, MIT affiliation, and telephone number. Periodic summaries of call-in opinions will be printed.

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.

# NERMAL

C. M. Montgomery



# Registrar services go on-line

(Continued from page 1)

vidual's "term address, courses registered for and previous grade reports," a second password will likely be necessary to access this information, Rochlis said.

### Students will register on-line in the future

Wiley commented that this step "is just the first phase" of a larger program. He said that "more functionality will be added to it, and eventually in a few years,

students will be able to preregister on-line."

The success of the new program depends on "how much it meets students' needs, and how they respond to it." He expressed hope that the program will expand to include other pertinent data, such as information about financial aid awards and bursar's bills.

Wiley distinguished on-line registration through Athena from on-line telephone registration at other schools. He acknowledged

the success of on-line telephone registration "at huge universities with 50,000 students who are spread out," but he felt that on-line network registration would be more useful at MIT.

Since most MIT students "are on campus a lot, and we have such a huge network of computer terminals, registration on a campus network is a lot more convenient for our students," he said.

(Editor's note: Karen Kaplan and Brian Rosenberg contributed to the reporting of this story.)



Vipul Bhushan/The Tech

Conor Moran, who recently retired from his job as Associate Director of the Campus Activities Complex, stands next to the portrait of himself unveiled last Friday at a farewell reception in his honor in the Sala de Puerto Rico. Standing next to him (left to right) are his wife, Rebecca Vest, President Charles M. Vest, Priscilla Gray and Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56. The portrait hangs on the fifth floor of the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center in a lounge named after him.

## 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.

### Saturday, October 5

The Tech Model Railroad Club Open House will be held Saturday in 20E-214 from 2-6pm. All MIT community welcome. For more info x3-3269.

### Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6

A workshop to train VOLUNTEER TUTORS to teach basic English to English-speaking adults will be held at the First Parish Church (Unitarian), Lexington. This workshop is offered free of charge by the Eastern Massachusetts Literacy Council, a non-profit agency affiliated with Laubach Literacy Action. There is a \$21 fee for materials which will be used in tutoring. After the workshop tutors are assigned to a student in their area. For registration and details, please call Donna Salacuse, 862-3706.

### Thursday, October 10

"French Television: Regional, National, International," a seminar on the development of the French media, will be presented by the MIT Communications Forum in the Bartos Theatre in the Weisner Building on Oct. 10, 1991 from 4 to 6 pm. The seminar will present new scholarly approaches to the economic, cultural, and political contexts of French television.

### Thursday, October 17

"Reporting the Gulf War" will be presented by the MIT Communications Forum in the Bartos Theatre in the Weisner Building on Oct. 17, 1991 from 4 to 6 pm. Five experienced reporters who were in the Gulf during the war will discuss the constraints imposed on the coverage and their expectations about how relations between the military and the media will evolve because of the war.

### Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26

The Graduate Management Admission Council will sponsor its 1991 Boston MBA Forum Oct. 25 and 26. The Forum will hold workshops designed to help individuals with the process of applying to a

school for and getting an MBA degree, including admissions, curricula, career planning, and job strategies. Hours will be Friday 2-8 p.m. and Saturday 10-4 p.m. A daily registration fee of \$5 covers all events and is payable at the door.

### Meeting Times

The MIT Folk Dance Club sponsors two evenings of international dancing at MIT on Sunday nights in the Sala de Puerto Rico and Wednesday nights in Walker Gym, both at 7:30 pm. Beginners are welcome; no partner is needed. Call 253-3655 (FOLK) for more information.

The MIT Outing Club holds office hours every Monday and Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm in W20-461. Stop by and help

plan, lead or participate in trips ranging from one day outings to month long treks. The club is especially active in rock climbing, kayaking, canoeing, backpacking, hiking, and winter mountaineering. Beginners are more than welcome. The club rents a variety of equipment at low rates and has two cabins in NH available for rent. Contact Dave at 492-6983.

### 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.

## Join The Tech!



# What Vision!

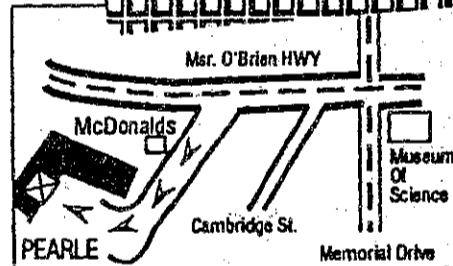
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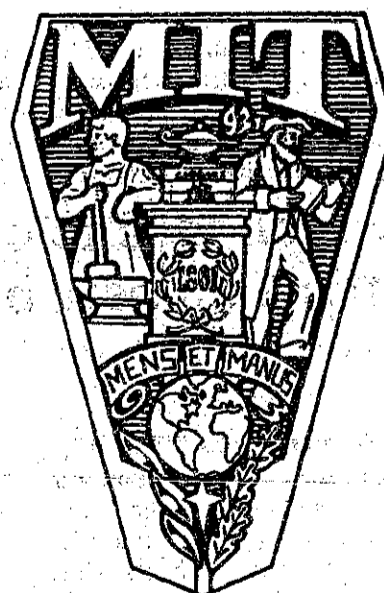
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# opinion

## Nice people lurk all over MIT

Column by Bill Jackson

I was pulling long strings of lint out of my belly button the other day when my thoughts turned to the plight of the aboriginal tribes in northeastern Australia.

Sorry. Wrong columnist.

Actually, I've been nervous about writing columns ever since I found out that the mother of *The Tech's* chairman reads my drivel. Often these columns focus on the negative things about our campus, and I don't want the chairman's mom to think I'm a negative person. So I've decided to turn over a new leaf.

In an Athena cluster somewhere on East Campus, there is an exchange of graffiti on the wall. The first message is from someone who is depressed by life at MIT. One of the responses is "Smile and MIT will smile with you." To which someone else countered, "MIT couldn't smile if you paid it to."

This is a column about those people on campus who do indeed make MIT smile. MIT is, contrary to some people's beliefs, nicer than Hell. And the people who follow are some reasons why. Where appropriate, I've included information on where they can be contacted if you need their service, if you want to help or if this reminds you of something they once did for you and you just want to thank them. So here goes, in no particular order...

• *The MIT Activities Committee.* Unbeknownst to many students, MITAC offers inexpensive tickets to movie theatres, shows and sporting events, as well as trips, coupon books and many other offers for members of the MIT community. If you are willing to enter the gross exterior of Building 20, you will find the trip worthwhile, the tickets cheap and the people pleasant to deal with. (20A-023, 10 am-3 pm Mon-Fri)

• *Asst. Dean Bonnie Walters, UASO.* Anyone who had any sort of problem as a freshman probably remembers Bonnie, and the amazing part is that she remembers all of them too. She takes care of an amazing variety of events and issues during the course of a school year and is one of the nicer people to be found on the Infinite Corridor. (7-104)

• *House Deskworkers.* These are the suckers who listen to your excuses about why you don't have a key and need to be let into a house. They get bitched at a lot, but without them I guarantee theft in dormitories would increase. (Various houses' desks)

• *Nightline Workers.* These people do something I can't imagine: they give up more sleep than they have to, and they do this voluntarily! If people who give up nights to wait by a phone and answer random questions or help with a whole range of problems don't deserve a place on this list, I don't know

who does. (253-8800, 7 pm-7 am during the term.)

• *Sgt. Cheryl Vossmer, Campus Police.* A CP on a list of people who make MIT "smile?" Yes indeed. Sgt. Vossmer volunteers her time for a lot of extra work in the MIT community, she's willing to help victims of all kinds and she's got a unique sense of humor, too. (Campus Police, W31-215)

• *Student Information Processing Board.* Besides having a larger selection of snack foods than the Stop & Shop on Memorial Drive, the SIPB office is full of very patient hackers. They are always willing to take a break from writing a window-driven, fully graphically-implemented simulation of the Earth's ecosystem to help a poor clueless person figure out who the hell this Kerberos fellow is and why he knows my password. (W20-557)

• *GAMIT Contact Line Workers.* This is another resource which fills a necessary vacuum. These people give up their evenings so that the MIT community has a resource for a variety of issues involving sexuality. (3-6460, 8 pm-midnight, Sun-Wed)

• *Ina, The Walker Memorial Vegetable Person.* Nobody in the world has ever been happier that you chose green beans, carrots or summer squash than Ina. Working the vegetable end of the entree line during lunch at Walker, she may very well be the nicest person employed by food service. Ina smiles at every customer, she is polite and she is pleasant to deal with; sometimes it seems as if ARA makes its workers go to an anti-charm school, but Ina missed all the classes.

• *The MIT Women's League.* The League is probably most famous for sponsoring the Furniture Exchange, where members of the Institute Community can buy, sell or (hopefully) donate used furniture. It's a great way to help furnish a dorm or new apartment and a wonderful service they provide for MIT as a whole. (25 Windsor St, near the MIT Museum, Tues and Thurs, 10 am-2 pm)

• *Recycling Volunteers.* These folks give up Friday nights or Saturday mornings to collect, sort and otherwise organize recyclables for their living groups. Pretty cool. And pretty selfless. (Call living groups and ask for their Recycling Chair)

Those are 10 of the individuals or groups who "make MIT smile." They are the first 10 I came up with; I'm sure everyone reading this can come up with ones that I missed. If you did, write in and I'll print the results in a future column.

That felt good. Now I can return to the usual drivel next time.

Tech opinion editor Bill Jackson '93 could not possibly have written this nice a column. The whereabouts of the real Bill Jackson are unknown.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tech editors inappropriate in condensing letters

Imagine my surprise when I opened the Sept. 24 issue of *The Tech* to find that the letter to the editor I had written was on page 5, albeit with a large and very important chunk (approximately 35 percent of the original) missing. This modification altered the meaning of my letter, and I think it was especially unfair of *The Tech* to entitle my letter "Misunderstanding of facts from Vietnam mar Hersch column" after deleting almost all of the facts I

had included.

I realize that *The Tech's* "Letters policy" states that "*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters," but I don't think that the current method of editing is fair to either the letter writer or *The Tech's* readers. I suggest that *The Tech* place the words "This letter compressed due to spacial restrictions" above compressed letters, place ellipses at the location of deleted text and, when possible, contact the

author of the letter prior to publication in order to obtain approval of *The Tech's* modifications or deletions. Most letters in *The Tech* are written by MIT students, faculty or staff who can be reached easily by phone. I periodically hear from other people that they have similar complaints about *The Tech's* letters policy, and I think that the above-mentioned changes will make for a fairer representation of the opinions of members of the MIT community in *The Tech*.

Robert Plotkin '93

(Editor's Note: Letters to the editor are the property of *The Tech*. Due to space considerations, *The Tech* does edit letters on occasion. The editors attempt to, whenever possible, preserve all of the ideas in a letter. In this case, it necessitated shortening a list of facts provided to back up one of the writer's points. *The Tech* does not provide any information regarding publication or editing of a letter.)

### The Tech fails to credit architect in article on new biology building

Allow me to comment on your otherwise fine article on the new MIT biology building ["Biology site, E56 work begins," July 17]. After careful search I found no evidence that an architect was involved in the design of this \$70 million structure. That's like describing a symphony in terms of so many violins, so many brasses, so much percussion, so

many decibels of sound — and not mentioning the composer.

Years ago when I was editor in chief of *The Tech* I thought I had the credits problem licked; that's why I was so disappointed to see the omission.

Aside from that, do keep up the good work. I enjoy receiving the paper each week.

Stephen A. Kliment '53

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ARTS

Spike & Mike's All Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation at the Somerville Theater on Oct. 4. (Shown: "Hello, Dad, I'm in Jail.")



Members of the New York Consort of Chamber Music perform at 8 at Edward Pickman and Le Documentariste on le roman... The French Library in Boston presents Las Cavaliers de Lunerville (1969, Jean-Claude Bruneau and Jean-Francois Gallo)...

Classical Music: MTT Professor of Music Marcus Thompson, viola, performs at 8 at the Kresge Auditorium. No admission charge. Tel.: 253-9800 or 253-2826.

Jazz Music: Raphe Malik Quintet at the Willow Jazz Club. See Oct. 4 listing. Cassandra Wilson at 9 and 11 at the Club. See Oct. 4 listing.

Film & Video: The French Library in Boston presents Las Cavaliers de Lunerville (1969, Jean-Claude Bruneau and Jean-Francois Gallo)...

Contemporary Music: A.R. Rahman's Raga presents the Hindu gods of love, devotion, and desire in the form of a musical journey...

Exhibits: Michael Lewin, piano, performs at 8 to 10 at 53 Marlborough Street. Tickets: \$4 bridge. Tel.: 876-0956.

Classical Music: The French Library in Boston presents Las Cavaliers de Lunerville (1969, Jean-Claude Bruneau and Jean-Francois Gallo)...

Jazz Music: Raphe Malik Quintet at the Willow Jazz Club. See Oct. 4 listing. Cassandra Wilson at 9 and 11 at the Club. See Oct. 4 listing.

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The Neighborhoods perform at Club 3 on Oct. 5.

Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue. Tickets: \$15 general admission, \$12 MFA members, students, and seniors. Telephone: 267-9300.

Keneth Cooper, harpsichord, performs at 1:30 at the Isabelle Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston. Free with museum admission. Tel.: 566-1401.

The Boston Lyric Opera at 3 at the Emerson Malastic Theatre. See Oct. 4 listing.

Michael Lewin, piano, at 3 at Scully Hall. See Oct. 3 listing.

Tommy Sledge at Catch a Rising Star. See Oct. 2 listing.

Significant Others: Dances for Family, Friends, and Lovers at 3 at C. Walsh Theatre. See Oct. 4 listing.

Film & Video: The MIT Lecture Series Committee presents A Man for All Seasons at 7 & 10 in 10-250. Tickets: \$1.50 with MIT/Wellesley ID. Telephone: 258-8881.

Critics' Choice: The Brattle Theatre continues its Sunday Series 1991. From 'Frog' to 'Good Year' with The Malles, Richard John Sierra (at 3:30 and 7:30) and High Sierra (at 5:30 and 9:30) at 40 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Tickets: \$5.50 general, \$3.50 seniors and children (good for the double feature). Telephone: 876-6837.

Shadow of a Doubt: A film noir performance piece for five actors and four marionettes, runs through Oct. 6 Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8, Sundays at 2 at the Performance Place, 277 Broadway, Somerville. Tickets: \$12. Tel.: 625-1500.

Genus, featuring ancient treasures, natural stones, rarest-see collections, and spectacular vases, continues through Oct. 27 at the Museum of Science. See Oct. 27 at the Museum of Science listing.

William Wegman: Paintings, Drawings, Photographs, Videos, an exhibition of the Massachusetts-born artist famous for his pet Weimaraners in a variety of poses and costumes, continues through Oct. 6 at the Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston Street, Boston. Gallery hours are Wednesday and Sunday 11-5, Thursday-Saturday 11-8, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission: \$4 general, \$3 students with valid ID, \$1 fee for ICA members. Telephone: 266-5152.

Bobt Competition 1991, a juried exhibition of works in all media by students of the Museum School, continues through Oct. 17 at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Grosvenor Gallery, 230 The Fenway, Boston. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri., 10-8, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 1-5. Telephone: 267-6100, x656.

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Classical Music: The MIT Choral Series continues with the Mass Choir at noon at the MIT Chapel. No admission charge. Telephone: 253-2826.

The Boston University Wind Ensemble with Alan Wells, flute soloist, performs at 8 at the East Performance Center, 100 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. Telephone: 552-3535.

The Harmonic Folk Opera of Tibet performs at 8 at the East Performance Center, 100 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston. Telephone: 552-3535.

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Jazz Music: The Larry Coryell Quartet at Scully Jazz Club. See Oct. 3 listing.

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Large advertisement for Deborah A. Levinson, featuring the name in a stylized font and a large graphic element.

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Critics' Choice: Spike & Mike's All Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation plays through Oct. 4 at the Somerville Theater, 55 Davis Square, at the Davis stop on the MBTA Red Line. Tickets: \$6.50 (non-MFA members, students, and seniors). Telephone: 267-9300.

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## *SUMMATION*

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MARK S. WRIGHTON, PROVOST

DEPARTMENTAL DISCUSSIONS AT 6:00 PM

## ARTS

# Thompson and Crowded House team up at Orpheum

## CROWDED HOUSE

With Richard Thompson.  
Orpheum Theater, Sept. 27, 8 pm.

By DEBORAH A. LEVINSON

**I** DON'T THINK THAT I WILL EVER understand why Richard Thompson opened for a band. Thompson, arguably one of the greatest modern guitarists, has been involved in the music business since his tenure in English folk group Fairport Convention. He and his wife, Linda, recorded several critically-acclaimed albums together, and after their divorce, Thompson embarked on an equally well-received solo career.

Thompson's guitar skills are nothing short of amazing. Watching Thompson play is a depressing experience for fledgling guitarists like myself; his fingers dance along the frets, his picking hand barely seems to move, yet he manages to make one guitar sound like three.

He opened with "Turning of the Tide," a rollicking song from an earlier solo album, *Amnesia*. Most of his 45-minute set consisted of material from *Rumor and Sigh*, including a moving, emotional version of "1952 Vincent Black Lightning." Thompson even covered his "hits" ("That means it's been played on the radio at least once," he joked), playing "I Feel So Good" and "Read About Love," also from *Rumor and Sigh*. He performed little older material, however; "Shoot Out the Lights" was the only selection from his recordings with Linda.

At least Crowded House, the young group from Australia-via-Tasmania, recognized the magnitude of the star they followed on stage. After they finished jamming with Thompson on their song "Sister Madly," they bowed and scraped to him as



Crowded House: (clockwise from upper left) Nick Seymour, Paul Hester, Tim Finn, and Neil Finn.

he walked off stage.

Crowded House, with only three albums to their name, are relative newcomers, but they play a delicious blend of pop, folk and rock. Formed out of the ashes of Split Enz by singer Neil Finn, Crowded House recorded two albums, *Crowded House* and *Temple of Low Men*, before adding Finn's

brother, Tim, to the lineup for the new recording, *Woodface*.

Both Finns have strong, sweet voices that blend well in harmonies, as in "Tall Trees," the opening song, or "Now We're Getting Somewhere." Tim Finn in particular shone in "All I Ask," the slow, jazzy ballad from *Woodface*, and the high fal-

setto notes of "Six Months in a Leaky Boat," the Finns' nod to their Split Enz fans.

The show drew evenly from Crowded House's first two releases, with the band playing the entire first side of *Crowded House*, and a good half of *Temple of Low Men*. Curiously, the only song from *Crowded House*'s second side was the singularly depressing "Hole in the River," written by Neil Finn after his aunt drowned herself. *Woodface*, of course, received the most promotion, with Tim Finn, ever the showman, encouraging the audience to clap and sing along to "Chocolate Cake."

Crowded House's wry sense of humor played a large part in the show, beginning with drummer Paul Hester dropping his pants on stage during Richard Thompson's set (followed by Thompson dropping his during "Sister Madly"). There was a rubber chicken, a hat with devil horns and a megaphone on stage throughout the concert, and bassist Nick Seymour spent a few minutes offering an amusing comparison between the seat mix-up in the front row and Continental Airlines. ("Will you be having the vegetarian meal, sir?")

Previously that day, Crowded House performed acoustically on WFNX. They sounded wonderful there — just harmonies and sparse guitar — but during their concert, they sometimes got lost in the mix. Tim Finn's piano was never loud enough, and I wondered why the band bothered bringing out a roadie to play percussion on "Tall Trees," because I couldn't hear him at all.

Despite the technical problems, Crowded House and Richard Thompson put on a great show. I just couldn't keep from wondering why the bill wasn't the other way around.

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Tickets are on sale at the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center. Office hours posted on the door. Call x3-4885 for further information.

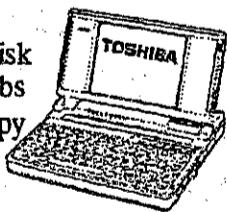
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# Skylark makes a beguiling mix of film and theater

## SKYLARK

Created and performed by Annie Griffin and Franck Loiret.

Directed by Annie Griffin.

Kresge Little Theater, Sept. 26, 8 pm.

By VIPUL BHUSHAN

**S**KYLARK IS AN INTRIGUING and innovative playlet whose purpose is not to relate a plot, but rather to explore the personalities of its two main (and only) characters.

Act One opens on the Paris office of Monsieur Paul Becker (Franck Loiret), a young, energetic bank manager. He starts his morning by interviewing Elizabeth (Annie Griffin) for a job as his secretary. Elizabeth is a middle-aged woman intent on projecting an efficient and businesslike image. M. Becker also aspires to project such an image and brusquely awards her the job on the spot. The remainder of this act is largely composed of scenes from days at the office interspersed with black-and-white film clips projected onto a gauze screen suspended in the middle of the set. This innovative use of film clips is used as an effective tool to provide us with glimpses of the characters' dreams and fantasies.

The characters develop through their interaction. Madame Elizabeth (*not* Made-moiselle, she insists) emerges as a woman who, despite outward appearances and representations, is quite lonely inside and longs for companionship. She fabricates the existence of an architect husband and two young children. She is torn, however, between her desire for a family and her more erotic, though less proper, fantasies. Elizabeth, we learn, generally ends up spending her evenings watching television, at home and very much alone. M. Becker, on the other hand, is much less reserved, though no less crisp and proper. He attempts to balance a promising career with his engagement to a jealous fiancée. His character is not explored as much as it

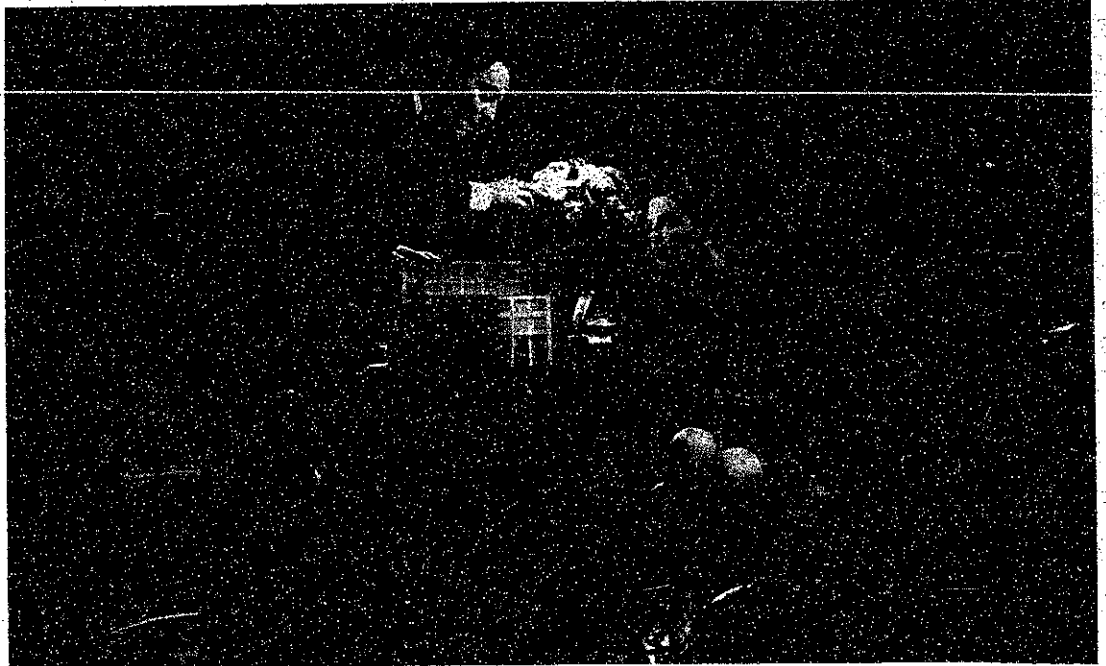
could have been, and we are never led to the roots of his feelings.

The films clips are well-woven into the play. First, we are shown a tender home movie of a wife and her young children playing at home and then going out for a stroll — the traditional family Elizabeth longs for. This clip also represents the socio-economic status M. Becker is working so hard to attain, one complete with suburban barbecues and walks in the park.

The next film clip features a nymphet — a young-looking girl with facial makeup dressed head-to-toe as an armless white rabbit. This symbolic character is at once both sensual and innocent — sensuous in movement, but very innocent in mentality as she wanders in search of her father. She illustrates the contradictory emotions tearing at Elizabeth: an almost desperate search for family, but a gnawing erotic desire.

The days at the office are permeated with a sexual charge which is constantly present just below the surface. The characters' attraction for each other comes close to breaking the surface many times, only to be suppressed by one or the other. The sexual friction creates at least a couple of romantic occurrences which threaten to bring them together, though M. Becker pulls away at the last moment. Elizabeth finally forces the issue and confronts her boss with her love and her assertion that the feelings are mutual. M. Becker, quite taken aback, returns her advance with a cold bewilderment. The first act ends as the embarrassed secretary quickly packs up and walks out, leaving her stunned boss sitting at his desk, composure shaken and declaring to the silent walls "I never said that... I never said that."

The second act opens in a very different setting, with the actors taking on additional roles. The scene is a sleazy bistro late at night. This bistro is the haunt of a gigolo, the antithesis of the order-embracing banker. He is visited by what might well be Elizabeth's alter ego, clad in tight



M. Becker (Franck Loiret) shows off a model of his new bank to his secretary Elizabeth (Annie Griffin) in *Skylark*.

clothes and savvy of the ways of the night. Their indulgences are hedonistic and full of wild abandon. Their interactions are physically close, but emotionally very barren. She pays him for his time and leaves, making a loose agreement to meet him again later. He returns to luring more prey to earn his living.

This is the night that Elizabeth, dressed conservatively as always, has chosen to cautiously explore the night. She peeks in the window of the bistro and quickly pulls away. The master of make-believe has seen her, however, and manages to seduce her inside. She relates her tales of home and family, and he quickly adapts. They discuss the children and their domestic concerns. He then extracts his payment to buy groceries and departs. It is here, in a setting where nothing is as it seems and all emotions are artificial, that for a few fleeting moments, Elizabeth realizes her dreams of home and family. The act closes

awkwardly with a final film clip, a strange mixing of a child's birthday party and a nightclub show.

This two-act play is preceded by a monologue by Elizabeth. She reminisces about a lost companion, introducing her character as one in search of what was, or what might have been. The relationships presented in this play are superficial, leaving everyone involved searching and unfulfilled.

*Skylark* is a very good piece of theater, although the second act was too abrupt, ending almost as soon as I had become absorbed in it. The acting was very good and was the real strength of the play. Loiret and Griffin carried the play through its almost two-hour running time admirably. It's a pity this performance has left the Boston area, but if it, or anything else these actors do, comes here, it should be well worth seeing. I wholeheartedly recommend *Skylark* for a refreshingly intriguing evening of theater.

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ARTS

# Tommy Tune gets another smash hit in Bye Bye Birdie

## BYE BYE BIRDIE

Directed by Gene Saks.  
Starring Tommy Tune and Ann Reinking.  
Playing through Oct. 13  
At the Colonial Theatre.

By KAI-TEH TAO

**H**AVING NEVER BEEN EXPOSED TO the 1960s musical hit, *Bye Bye Birdie*, I was captivated by the musical's recent revival starring nine-time Tony Award winner Tommy Tune and the multi-talented Ann Reinking.

*Bye Bye Birdie* takes place in the small, peaceful town of Sweet Apple, Ohio. The town suddenly receives its few minutes of fame when a lucky town girl is selected to be given a last kiss by Conrad Birdie, the nation's biggest rock and roll superstar, before he joins the army.

Birdie moves into the girl's home, breaking the tranquillity that once existed. Between the complications that arise from

the screaming teenage "Conrad Birdie Fan Club" and the girl's jealous boyfriend, the musical successfully parodies the 1950's frenzy surrounding the draft of Elvis Presley.

The storyline is complemented by Rose Alvarez's (Ann Reinking) efforts to win the love of the confused manager of Conrad Birdie, Albert Peterson (Tommy Tune), whose ambitious and nagging mother prevents him from directly responding to Rose's love. Reinking gave a decent performance as the faithful Rose. Despite a sore throat, she still managed to sing with a husky voice exemplifying Rose's character.

Marilyn Cooper, who played the nagging Mrs. Peterson, stole the show. Her constant rantings about a mother's unappreciated love worked very well. Steve Zahn was also delightful as Hugo Peabody, the jealous boyfriend who cannot understand what the frenzy over Conrad Birdie is about.

Tune's portrayal of Albert Peterson



Tommy Tune stars in *Bye Bye Birdie*.

demonstrated his award-winning talents. Showing a remarkable ability to respond to the reactions of the crowd, Tune extended his warmth and enthusiasm to an appreciative audience. When Albert Peterson talks to Rosie about a woman's duty to serve her man and be at his side, the audience quickly greeted these lines with hissing. Tune then casually smiled and replied, "Come on guys, it's the Fifties!"

Tune's distinguished theatrical career includes *Seesaw*, *Nine*, *Grand Hotel* and Best Musical of 1991, *The Will Rogers Follies*. He has received seven Drama Desk Awards, and is the only person ever to win Tony Awards in four separate categories. Tune is so highly regarded that *Bye Bye Birdie*'s original song-writing team, Charles Strouse and Lee Adams, wrote a new song, "A Giant Step," especially for his character.

With its strong supporting cast and skillful choreography, *Bye Bye Birdie* is definitely a show to see.

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\* my lucky condom \* why I missed my senior prom \* it breaks the mood \* we're in the pink! \* no glove, no love \* ribbed for her pleasure \* rapists are psychopathic men who hide in bushes \* abstinence makes the heart grow fonder \* the binary system

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New Comedy by Glen Weinstein

### Wednesday, October 2

**Lobdell**  
**10:00 PM**

**Seating Limited**  
**(Doors open at 9:30)**  
**Free Drinks, Popcorn, Condoms**

**This show contains adult themes and explicit language. Discretion advised.**

Brought to you by the R/O Committee.  
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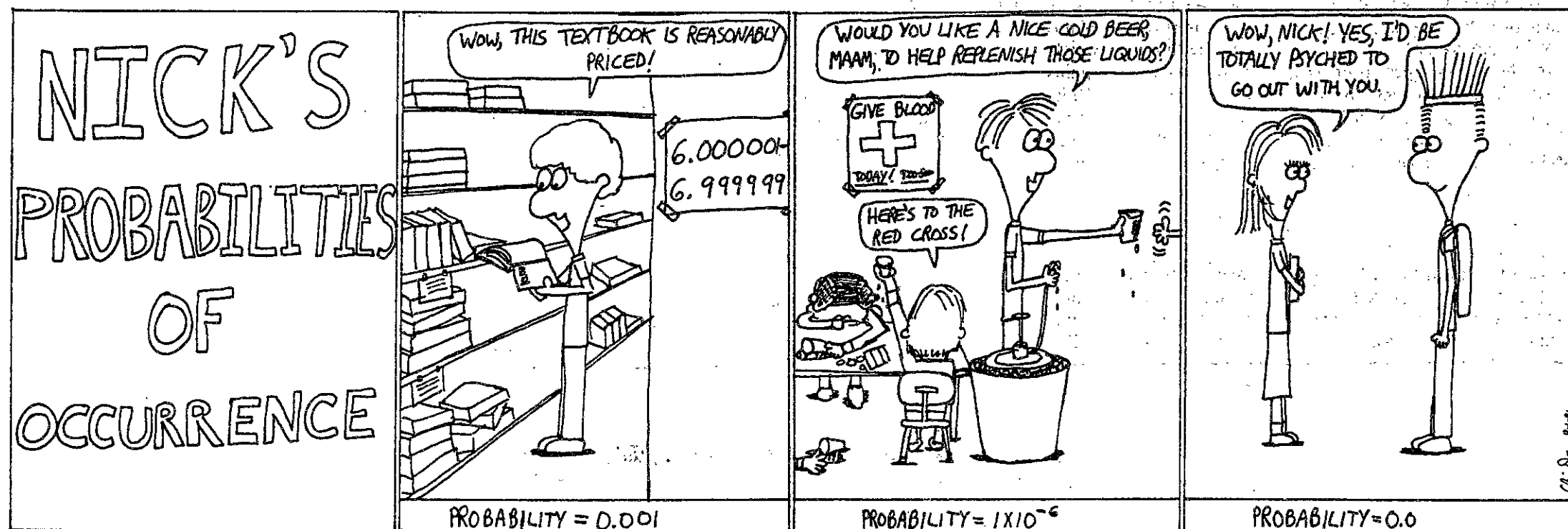
\*Discussion to follow.

**with silence comes consent \* candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker \* beware of Greeks bearing gifts \* change \***

# comics

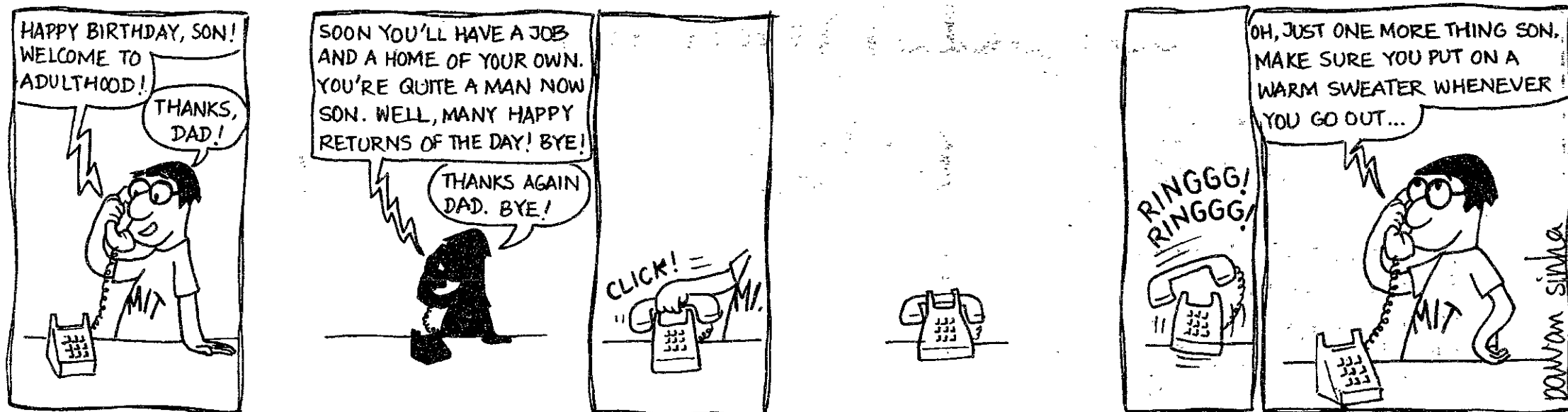
Nick

By Christopher Doerr



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pawan sinha



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## The Thirsty Ear Pub

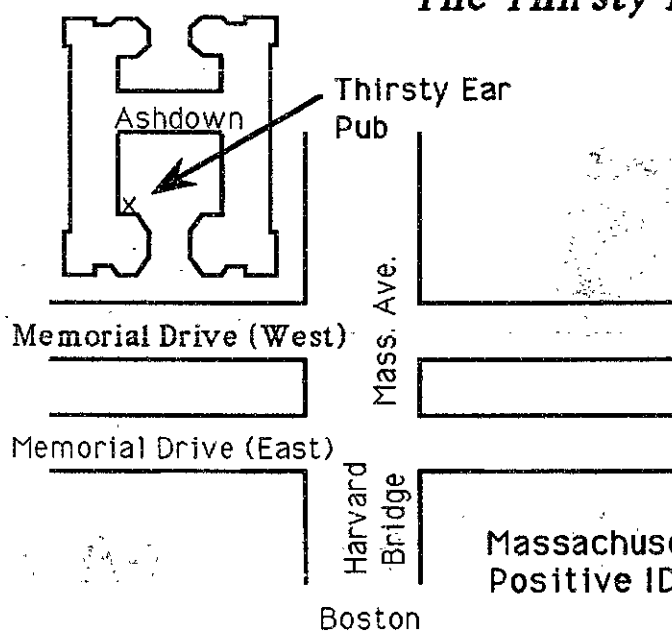
In the basement of Ashdown House 305 Memorial Drive

This month: The Thirsty Ear Pub will be holding weekly events

- Mon:** Monday Night Football: 9 pm
- Tue:** Featuring *Wing-It* Buffalo Wings: 7 pm
- Wed:** Thirsty Ear Movie of the Week: 9 pm
- Fri:** "Bucket of Rocks" A new way to enjoy Rolling Rocks

The Thirsty Ear Pub has a full selection of beers including:

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**Hours:**  
Mon-Thu 6 pm - 1 am  
Fri 4 pm - 1 am

## Crew competes in Head of the Ohio

(Continued from page 16)  
Mellon University and the University of Michigan. Representing MIT (bow to stern) were Tracy E. Adams '93, Amy E. Bowen '92, Rita Baranwal '93, Victoria L. Parson '94, Megan C. Jasek '94, Katherine L. Taylor '95, Jodi J. Wrublewski '92, Becky A. Zavistoski '92 (stroke), and Ann Ray '93 (coxswain).

In the men's open four race, Kevin J. Corgan '93, Brad E. Layton '92, John T. Van Houten '94, Tyler L. Worden '92 and Melissa A. Norcross '91 (coxswain), placed second out of a field of 11 boats with a time of 14:57.3. The winner of this race was Leander Boat Club who crossed the finish line with a time of 14:40.8. Another MIT boat, rowed by Yen Ho '92, Mark J. Amar '92, Bill D. Ramsey '93,

Godard K. Abel '93 and Scott Blackwell G (coxswain), had a solid race, coming in eighth with a time of 15:28.5.

The two men's fours crews took a quick break off the water before they joined forces in the Heinz Invitational Sprint. Spectators lined the shores to watch the US Lightweight National Team and Italian Lightweight National Team compete against Cornell University, MIT, Villanova University, St. Catherine's College and Bachelors Rowing Club. The race was neck and neck down the finish line, which provided the crowd with some exciting action.

The main event of the day was the open eights, which took place early in the afternoon. Except for a slight headwind, the calm water and warm temperatures created great racing conditions. The

competition was fierce, but both MIT crews turned in excellent performances. The men finished fifth behind Cornell, Brown University, the Italian team and American team, with a time of 14:21.2. The women's open eights was won by Brown, followed by Cornell, with MIT capturing the bronze in 16:28.

Both teams had solid races and considering the caliber of their competition, they were happy with their finishing positions. The trip was a great success and a good start to the season. Next Sunday, both crews, along with the varsity lightweight men, will travel to Lowell for the Textile River Regatta.

Tyler L. Worden and Jodi J. Wrublewski are members of the MIT crew teams.

## Tech beats Wellesley in field hockey, 5-0

(Continued from page 16)  
skillful unassisted goal and Meera Saini '95 with a strategically-placed shot off a penalty corner. The Wellesley offense was completely shut down by the tough Tech defense, headed by Kimberly A. Williams '92 as sweep.

This victory was a major step forward for the up-and-coming MIT field hockey team. It was also an excellent indication of the team's potential to play competitive hockey in the New Eight Conference this season.

On Saturday the team lost 2-0 in an intense battle against undefeated Clark College. Despite the final outcome, MIT executed its plays well at this level of competition. Shaughnessy made a particularly amazing save, blocking a goal on a penalty stroke. The team seeks to better its 5-2-1 record by taking on Simmons this afternoon at 4 pm at home.

Sarah D. Brooks and Meera Saini are members of the women's field hockey team.



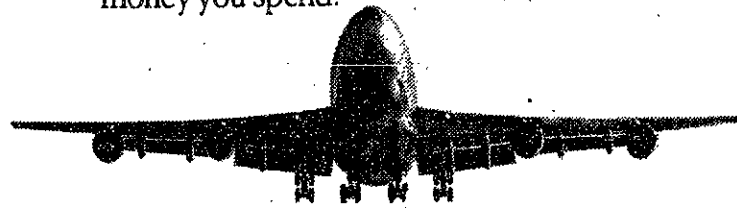
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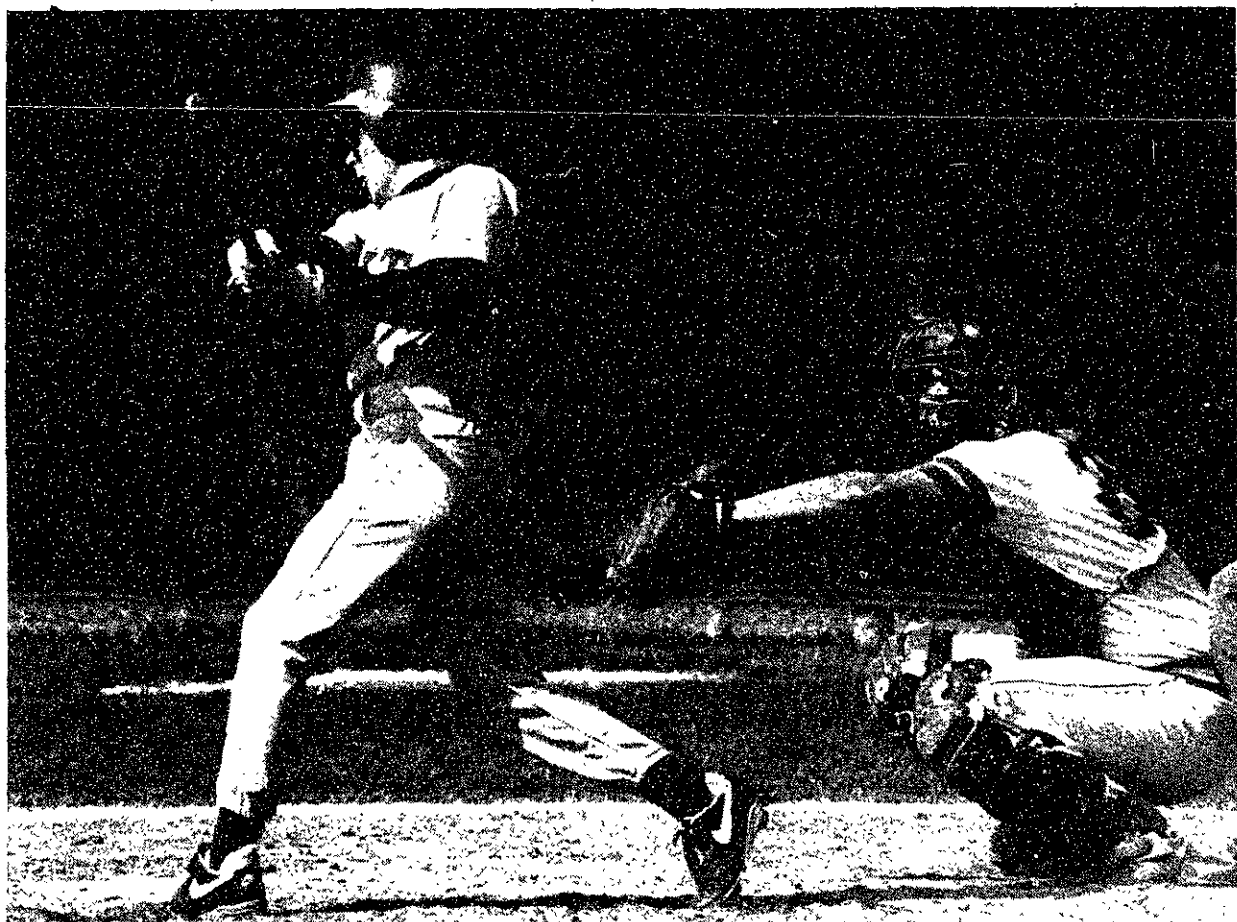
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# sports



Michael Franklin/The Tech  
Scott R. Schiamburg '93 swings at a pitch during the first game of a double header against UMass last Saturday.

## MIT football earns first win

By Jason Hunter

The MIT football squad traveled to Springfield on Saturday to face their Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference foe Western New England College (WNEC) in what was to be a crucial game for both winless teams. Fortunately, the long bus ride did not sap the quickness of the MIT Beavers as they pounded WNEC 22-7 in a defensive slug-fest.

MIT, which is now 1-2, played level-headed and aggressive football against a chippy 0-2 WNEC team that easily outsize the Beavers at almost every position. After a long opening drive that was stopped by a missed 26-yard field goal, WNEC was hard-pressed to find a first down.

The MIT offense sputtered in the first quarter but scored in the second, with fullback co-captain Jeff M. Drbohlav '92 doing much of the work. He had 23 carries and 115 yards for the game. Douglas H. Smith '93 swept in from the third yard line to cap off the drive and ran in a two-point conversion.

After a few defensive holds,

WNEC scored with only 59 seconds left in the half on a 29-yard interception return of a bad pass by quarterback Alex P. Sgouros '95.

In the second half, the MIT defense starred. They stuffed WNEC's running game, holding them to only 20 yards in 37 carries and heavily pressured the WNEC quarterback, making three sacks, 11 pass break-ups and an amazing seven interceptions.

Senior sensation Rodrigo R. Rubiano '92, rookie Corey J. Foster '95 and wily vets Todd W. Riggs '92 and Jason E. Hunter '93 formed a stonewall defensive line that combined for 36 tackles. Sunny Ahn '92 set an MIT school-record with 3 interceptions, including a 64-yard touchdown jaunt late in the fourth quarter. Safety hitting-machine Frederick Y. Loh '92, linebackers Nolan J. Duffin '94 and Matt H. Robinson '94 also turned in strong games.

MIT scored its final touchdown on a 5-yard sweep by Smith. James A. Gleason '92

kicked the point after to wrap up the scoring. Offensively, credit goes to receiver Roderick D. Trantum '93, who had 3 catches for 56 yards, and the entire offensive line who provided good protection all game.

MIT has a bye this week and next week travels to Siena College in New York to battle a team that has not scored against MIT in two years.

Jason E. Hunter is a member of the MIT football team.

## Field hockey dominates game against Wellesley

By Sarah D. Brooks and Meera Saini

Last Thursday the MIT field hockey team crushed Wellesley College in an impressive 5-0 victory. The game was won by an explosive effort by all members of the team.

Co-captain and goalie Helen D. Shaughnessy '92 described the game as "seventy minutes of sol-

id intense hockey; we never let up."

Dynamic forward Carla L. Oshiro '95 set the pace by scoring early in the first half. She was consistent throughout the game, scoring two more goals for the first hat trick this season. Helping to rack up the points were co-captain Susan D. Ward '92 with a

(Please turn to page 15)

## Tech crew rows strong

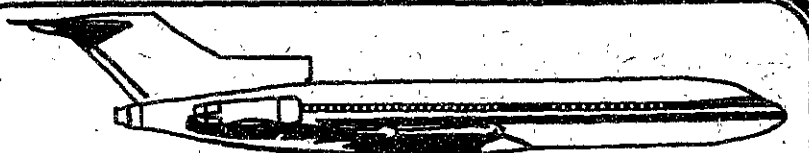
By Tyler Worden and Jodi Wrublewski

MIT's men's heavyweight and women's varsity crews competed in the Fifth Annual Head of the Ohio Regatta in Pittsburgh, PA, on Saturday. The race course consisted of a straight two-and-a-half mile stretch finishing at Three River Stadium. MIT's attendance for the past three years has become a tradition which is heavily supported by MIT alumni in the Pittsburgh area.

The women's squad entered two events — the club eight and the open eight. The eight members of the men's heavyweight squad entered three events — the open fours, open eights and the Heinz Invitational Sprint, a 500-meter dash for fun and show.

After a late start due to fog, the women's team won the club eight race with a time of 15:24.9, beating 11 other crews, including Notre Dame College, Carnegie

(Please turn to page 15)



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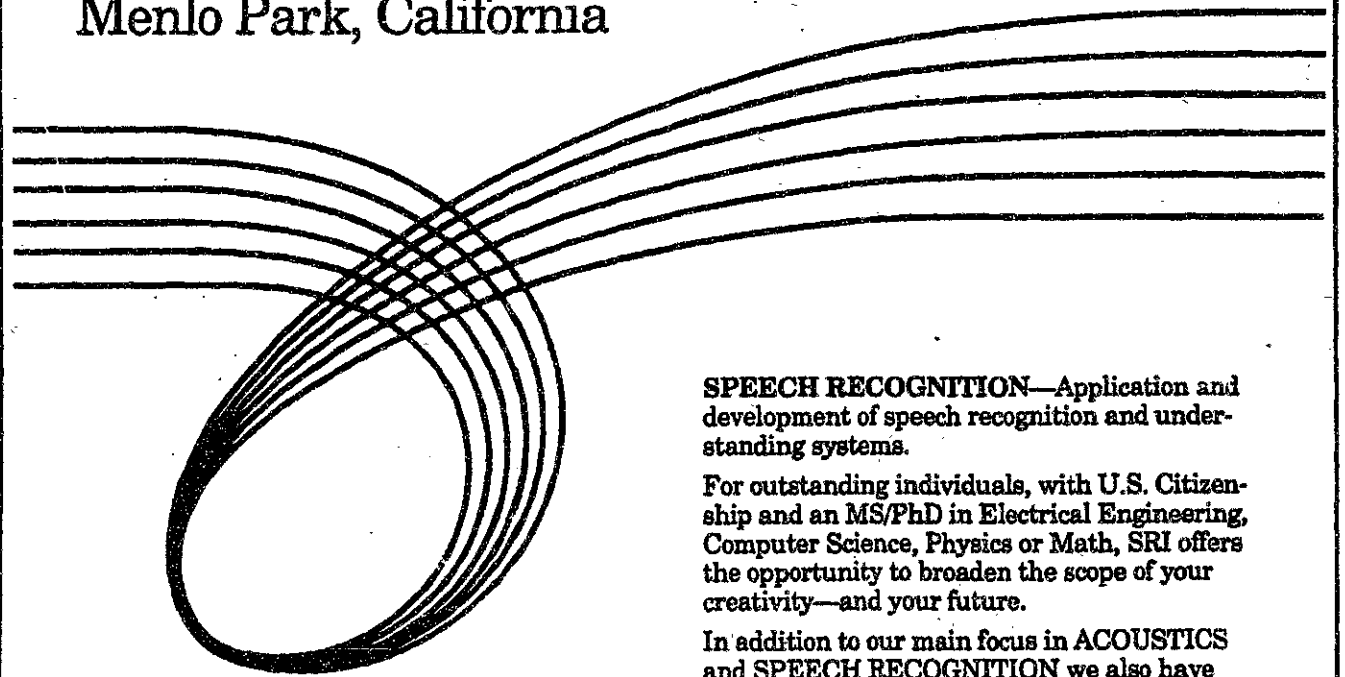
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