

William Chu/The Tech
Physics I (8.01) Professor Michael S. Feld '61 demonstrates action-reaction by breaking boards in 26-100 on Monday. No pencils were hurt in the demonstration.

JudComm rush trials start; fewer violations reported

By Sarah Keightley

The InterFraternity Council Judicial Committee is currently holding trials for alleged violations during this year's rush. The number of trials has fallen from last year, and the general opinion of those involved is that this year's rush was "cleaner" than last year's.

According to JudComm Chairman Helen D. Shaughnessy '92, the outcomes of the trials will be recorded at the end of her term of office and have not been finalized. "It's generally sensitive stuff, and people are uptight this year."

Trials are still taking place, but Shaughnessy said the charges this year are quite minor. "Most were small misunderstandings: message, telephone and sign-in book errors," she explained. The worst charges fraternities can be accused of are actions that hurt freshmen or other houses. These include "hiding a freshman" and

servicing alcohol to freshmen.

Penalties for violations not limited to fines

When punishing fraternities for violations, JudComm "tries not to just fine the offending house since fines don't accomplish much. Fines with a sanction make the fraternities think [of their violation]," Shaughnessy said. The maximum fine per charge is \$500.

During next year's rush, fraternities will have to post signs in their front doorways listing any rush violations they were found guilty of this year.

So far, Beta Theta Pi has been fined \$400 for bad-mouthing Delta Upsilon and \$300 for bad-mouthing Sigma Alpha Epsilon. BTP is appealing the charges. No one from BTP was available for comment.

Alpha Epsilon Pi, the only fraternity not recognized by the IFC, "had some advantages be-

cause they weren't restricted by IFC rules," Shaughnessy said.

Jonathan A. Oleinick '94, AEPi president, said that his house probably would not have run their rush much differently if they were a member of the IFC.

"We had made a large agreement with [Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities James R.] Tewhey, and we abided by 99 percent of the regulations. We consider ourselves a part of the MIT fraternity community, so we naturally thought the rules applied to us as well. Maybe we didn't follow the rules down to the letter, but as best as possible we kept in the spirit of things," he said.

Fraternities praise JudComm sanctions

Most of the fraternities had no opinion on this year's Judicial Committee sanctions. Others had

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Advising seminars a success

By Chris Schechter

More than 75 percent of freshmen asked in an informal poll are satisfied or very satisfied with their advisory seminars. This high rate of satisfaction follows a large increase in the number of seminars offered this term.

The proportion of very satisfied and satisfied freshmen in other advising alternatives was slightly lower. Donna L. Friedman, assistant to the dean for student affairs, found these results "wonderful," although she said she expected them. "We actively sought out and encouraged faculty to teach a seminar to entering students on a more personal level."

The Tech polled 76 freshmen

by phone earlier this week (see graph). The freshmen were chosen to form a representative sample of the Class of 1995. Forty-nine of these freshmen were in advisory seminars, 17 had a faculty advisor and eight participate in in-house advising. Four freshmen were advised through special programs such as Project XL, ESG and ISP.

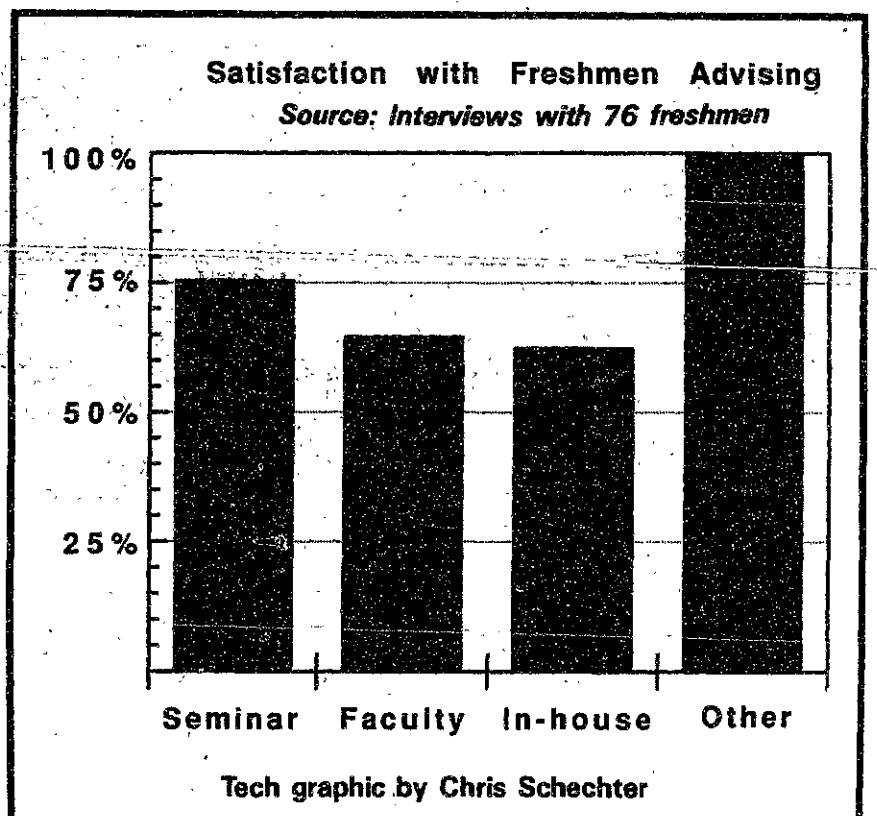
Freshmen were asked if they were very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied or had no opinion on their advising. They were also asked to describe why they felt that way.

Most of the students that were content with their seminar found their advisor knowledgeable and helpful. "My advisor really has a

clue and knows what is going on," said Nathan R. Shnidman '95. In some instances the seminar leaders became more than professors. "I can talk to him on my own level," said Jen L. Tschudy '95. "He helps me out socially," added Shaline C. Bickley '95.

A majority of the students in seminars enjoy their content as well. "My seminar is in the field I want to concentrate in — biology. It's very interesting," said Anne M. Chen '95. Freshmen ranked their top 10 choices of the 96 available seminars by mail over the summer.

About 35 students initially in seminars dropped their seminars (Please turn to page 9)



Graduate telethon to raise money from alumni begins

By Lakshmana Rao

Graduate students from various departments are calling graduate alumni as part of a telethon to raise scholarship funds. The graduate alumni telethons are organized annually by the Alumni Fund in conjunction with the academic departments.

"The departmental telethon is an effective way of raising scholarship funds" directly for a department, said Lore A. Greene, coordinator of the Graduate Alumni Fund. "The telethon is a follow-up to a letter that is sent earlier by the departmental heads to each alumnus," she added.

Greene said that in a typical telethon session, an average of 20 volunteers spend about three hours soliciting funds through telephone calls from graduate alumni within United States and Canada. A telethon session includes an initial training period in which each caller is given a briefing of the telethon operations.

Last year, the alumni office organized a separate telethon to solicit funds for graduate housing at MIT. That telethon has been discontinued because very few callers showed up last year, Greene said.

The Alumni Fund has collected about \$15.1 million from 28,100 alumni during the fiscal year ending in June 1991. Of this, only \$2.1 million was collected from graduate alumni, while \$11.4 million was collected from undergraduate alumni. According to Joseph S. Collins, managing director of alumni activities, this difference could be due to the fact that "the undergraduates have a holistic experience with the Institute and hence feel closer to it."

Graduate students currently constitute 43 percent of the Institute's alumni. Collins said that over the past 15 years the per-

(Please turn to page 2)

Safe sex video shown outside dorms

By Reuven M. Lerner

Approximately 50 students attended a Wednesday night screening of *Truth or Consequences: Safer Sex at MIT*, a video that demonstrates the proper use of condoms, dental dams, contraceptives and other safe sex devices. Jill B. Soley '92, who co-produced the video, estimated that another 60 students attended last night's showing.

The presentations in 6-120 ended with a presentation by AIDS Response at MIT (ARMIT) member Sallie E. Israelit '92, who demonstrated correct use of condoms and discussed the relative safety of different sexual acts.

Soley, who produced, directed and narrated the video along with Aaron T. Curtis PhD '91, was not disappointed by the turnout. "I wasn't sure what to expect — I figured we'd either have 10 people or 300," she said.

This was the first time the video was shown outside a dormitory, Soley said. "There have been two showings at East Campus, two at Bexley and one at Baker," she added.

Soley said, "As far as I'm concerned, it can still be shown in the dorms. Some of the house-

masters and some hall tutors are interested" in showing the video. She showed the video in a lecture hall because "I was curious to see the reaction, and because I can't guarantee" students will be able to see the video in their dormitories.

Housemasters interviewed last night said they had not seen the video, and could not comment on it.

Video used live models

The video has been somewhat controversial because of its use of live models to demonstrate such things as putting on and taking off a condom, the use of a dental dam and using contraceptive foam. The models, whose faces were not visible, are members of the MIT community.

Soley defended the use of live models, saying that "we could have used bananas" instead of live models, but that "the purpose of the video is to educate people, and we figured the best way to do that was to show them what they'll see."

"If you can't handle seeing it on the screen, I don't know how you're going to handle seeing it in reality," she added.

Soley was optimistic that the video would be shown in dormitories. "As far as I'm concerned, it can still be shown in the dorms. Some of the housemasters and some hall tutors are interested," she said.

She admitted that "some of the hall tutors" did not want to show the video, adding that "they have no desire to see it because it's explicit, it shows naked bodies."

Charlotte L. Emoungu '92, who saw the video last night, felt it "should be shown to more students, obviously with the disclaimer that it contains sexual images. . . . I think people should have role models that are comfortable with nudity and

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inside

Clunker movies and poor directors make Toronto Festival of Festivals a disappointment. Page 13.

Graduate student telethon begins

(Continued from page 1)
centage of graduate alumni has been increasing and that recent years have brought a "growing younger graduate population." With the number of graduate students increasing on campus, Collins expects that this trend will continue in the future.

A major portion of the money contributed by alumni is given for unrestricted use (see box). Funds donated for unrestricted use are allocated according to the discretion of the president of MIT. Most unrestricted funds are used for student financial aid, Collins explained.

Funds solicited for classroom renovations

The MIT Alumni Fund board has launched a special program called Project 2000 to collect funds to renovate and modernize every classroom at MIT. Under this scheme, any person making a gift of \$500 or more will be given a piece of the original steps leading up to 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

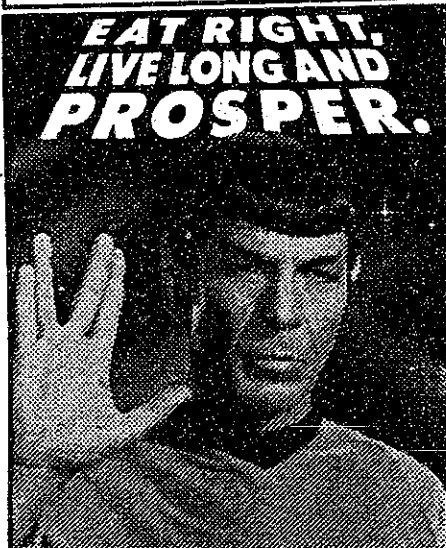
The steps were removed in 1972, and are currently in storage, said Collins.

"Project 2000 has so far been received very well by our alum-

ni," said Collins. "We have sent about 6000 letters and have already received a number of phone calls promising their pledges for the project," he added.

"The key to successful fundraising is to involve the alumni in the whole process," said Collins. "Currently we have about 2000 alumni volunteers who help us raise funds each year. There are also 44 alumni clubs around the country and 25 abroad which organize events throughout the year and help the Institute in other ways," he added.

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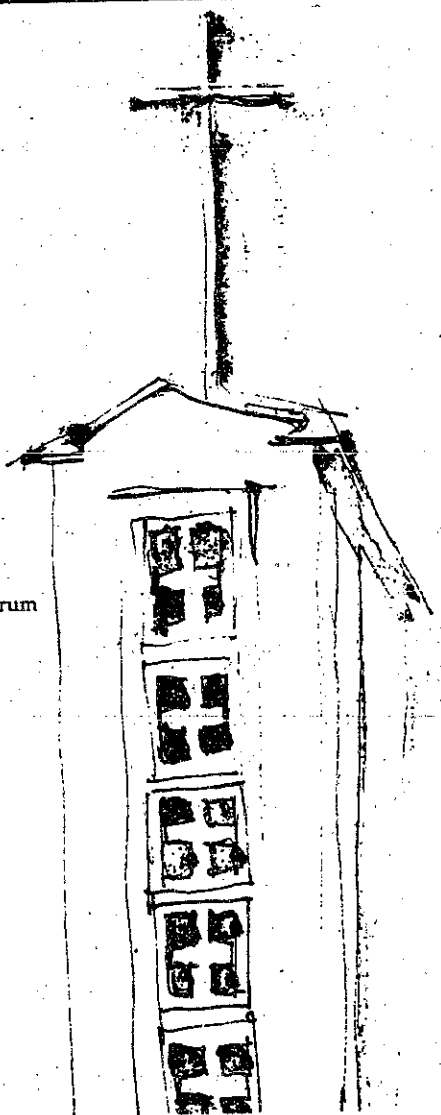
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news roundup

from the associated press wire

Nation

Investigator to examine leak of Thomas charges

A special counsel will try to find out who leaked the FBI report about the sexual harassment allegations against Clarence Thomas. Under the resolution approved yesterday by the Senate, the four-month investigation will also look into leaks of information about five senators' dealings with former savings and loan owner Charles Keating. The vote to approve the probe was 86-12.

Bush blasts confirmation process

President George Bush called for an investigation of the Clarence Thomas leak today, in a speech that blasted the way lawmakers handled the Supreme Court nomination. He also recommended reforms in the confirmation process, including restrictions on congressional access to FBI reports about nominees.

Bush said the sexually graphic testimony in the Judiciary Committee's hearings into the allegations made the Senate look "more like a burlesque show than a civics class."

A member of the Senate committee that conducted the Thomas hearings is rejecting Bush's criticism. As Vermont Democrat Patrick Leahy put it, "the only thing that really needs reforming is the administration's cynical approach to the Supreme Court." And he said changing the advise and comment system would amount to tampering with the Constitution.

Charges may be filed against suicide machine inventor

A sheriff's officer in Pontiac, Mich., said it could take two weeks to decide if charges might be filed against suicide machine inventor Jack Kevorkian in the deaths of two women. Captain Glenn Watson said he does not know if a law has been violated. Kevorkian's lawyer said the two women killed themselves Thursday night. The lawyer said one woman had multiple sclerosis, and the other had a pelvic disease that is painful but not terminal.

World

Yugoslavian fighting continues

Yugoslav forces who arrived by ship now face embattled militiamen in the breakaway republic of Croatia. The federal troops landed in a resort near the Adriatic city of Dubrovnik. The army has also been firing shells into the city where talks under European Community sponsorship were being held to try to create another in a long series of cease-fires. No previous cease-fire has lasted very long.

Turner's stepfather accused of invading his privacy

The State Department is accusing Jesse Turner's stepfather of violating the freed hostage's privacy — and it has barred him from the hospital in Germany where Turner is staying. A videotape Eugene Ronnenburg made of Turner's private reunion with his family aired on CBS last night.

Delegates prepare for Mideast peace conference

Israel is said to be preparing a delegation of hard liners for next week's Middle East peace talks in Spain. Media reports say the group being led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir may even include a representative of Jewish settlers in the occupied territories. But an aide to Shamir would not say who may be going — the aide said no final decisions have been made.

Arab leaders are staking some hard-line positions, too. They are calling for an end to Jewish settlements and for negotiations on control of Jerusalem. Israel refuses to talk about either. Officials of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and the Palestinians also said they would stand together, and that no participants would reach a separate peace with Israel, as Egypt did in 1979.

Meanwhile, security sources said rebellious members of Yasser Arafat's faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization have seized the group's headquarters in Lebanon. The dissidents are said to be upset with Arafat's acceptance of the upcoming Middle East peace conference. They are also said to be meeting with pro-Iranian fundamentalists.

Few still missing from Oakland fire

Authorities in Oakland, Calif., have accounted for nearly all the people missing after a major fire in the parched hills overlooking the San Francisco Bay.

Oakland police Detective Sergeant Greg Bingham said rescue workers are looking for only one or two people, down from about 25 people declared missing Wednesday. Authorities credit the publication of a list of the names of the missing with reducing the number. Bingham said most of the people on the list called.

Although the fire is out, the worst is far from over for the area. Predicted rain could cause mudslides, and workers are building barriers to prevent rocks and soil from falling on homes below the hills.

Decision to release rape victim's name to be appealed

A Florida prosecutor said he will appeal a judge's decision that allows the news media to publish the name of the alleged Kennedy mansion rape victim. David Bludworth said there is a good reason for the 1911 state law that protects privacy in rape cases. The county judge had ruled that the law is an unconstitutional restraint on the freedom of speech. He said a supermarket tabloid, *The Globe*, had gotten the name legally and printed it legally.

Girl Scout mall outing ruined by guard

The members of Girl Scout Troop 823 want an apology from a suburban Los Angeles mall. Security guards at Northridge Fashion Square would not let the girls in for an official troop outing Tuesday night unless they broke up into groups of three and kept quiet. The guards cited a mall policy aimed at preventing gang violence.

Troop leader Lois Young said she asked, "Do we look like a gang?"

Young said the troop was finally allowed to go shopping, but had little fun as a result of the incident. She said the mall owes her an apology.

The security director for the complex said the group wanted to parade around the mall and sing. He said the scouts did not have management's permission for that activity.

Economy looks shaky

Analysts said the government is providing more evidence of a precarious economy. Joel Prakken, with Laurence H. Meyer and Associates in St. Louis, said there is not too much to be optimistic about. Factory orders fell in September, and claims for unemployment insurance rose earlier this month.

Local

Quincy students arrested on gun charges

Police in Quincy said they arrested three high school students on gun charges. They say all three are 15 years old. The three face arraignment in juvenile court on delinquency charges. Officers say that two are accused of carrying guns near the school. The third is charged with selling one of the weapons several weeks ago.

Detectives identified the guns as .25-caliber pistols. They said one was loaded with a single round. Two arrests were made yesterday on the front steps with dozens of students nearby as classes ended for the day. The third came an hour later.

A police lieutenant said that no gang activities were involved, and that the students had the guns on a lark. Principal Lloyd Hill said it was an isolated incident.

Weld releases public school plan

Governor William F. Weld made it official yesterday, disclosing what he hopes can be a broad strategy to improve public schools. He said his goal is to cut the state's dropout by at least 10 percent. His proposals were released during a tour that took him from the classrooms of Holyoke and Springfield to the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The governor also urged businesses to do their part to help train workers in high-tech skills.

Weld called for competence tests for students. Other proposals reportedly call for private funds for public education, abolishing teacher tenure, stricter standards for teacher certification, more parent involvement and longer school days and years.

Bankers deny knowledge of BCCI involvement

The two men who helped oversee First American Bankshares are denying they knew it was secretly owned by a scandal-ridden foreign bank. Clark Clifford and his partner Robert Altman yesterday told a Senate subcommittee that they committed no misconduct in their handling of the Washington-based bank. But a former top executive of the Bank of Commerce and Credit International has testified that the two had to know about the secret ownership.

CDC releases results of smoking survey

US health officials said nearly one in three women of childbearing age smokes cigarettes.

A 39-state survey by the Centers for Disease Control found a median of 30 percent of women between the ages of 18 and 44 smoke. The CDC also warned that if women continue to smoke while pregnant, they increase the risk of miscarriage, premature birth or sudden infant death.

The CDC also warned that if women smoke while using oral contraceptives, they run a greater risk of heart attack, which is rare in younger women.

According to the 1989 study, smokers tended to be older and less educated. More than 30 percent of women over age 24 smoked, compared with 21 percent under age 25. And 44 percent of women who dropped out of high school smoked, compared with 19 percent of those with post-high-school education.

Cuban patrol fires on US fishing boat

The Coast Guard is still trying to find out what prompted a Cuban patrol boat to fire on a US patrol boat. Officials said the 60-foot fishing boat Whitley was still in international waters when fired upon about 18 miles off the western coast of Cuba. Whitley crew member claims the Cuban vessel fired five shots across their boat's bow.

Battered wife acquitted

A woman in Anchorage, Alaska, has used the "battered-woman syndrome" defense in her trial on a second-degree murder charge and two lesser counts of homicide. A jury acquitted the woman. She had admitted stabbing her husband to death, but claimed she was a battered wife acting in self-defense. The jury foreman said the case was decided more on lack of proof from the prosecution, but the defense claims victory on the basis of its case.

Sheriff's deputy alleged to force sex on women

The Los Angeles district attorney said a Temple City sheriff's deputy repeatedly abused his authority to force unwilling victims to have sex with him. Deputy Lloyd Shoemaker, a 10-year veteran of the force, today was charged with raping two women and sexually assaulting a third in the past year. District Attorney Ira Reiner said Shoemaker would stop women on "trumped up" charges and then coerce them to have sex with him by promising not to take them to jail.

Weather

Veiled foliage

A quiet fall weather pattern will continue for the next few days. A large ridge of high pressure, extending from Nova Scotia to south of New England, will remain nearly stationary through Saturday. Light winds and low-level moisture, coupled with sea breeze tendencies, especially along the coast, will cause foggy, calm daybreaks with gradual, partial clearing around midday. Precipitation associated with a cold front currently in the Ohio Valley will only gradually approach from the west, while some scattered showers are a possibility on Sunday morning.

Friday: Becoming partly sunny and mild. High 69° F (20° C). Light south to southeast winds 10-15 mph (16-24 kph).

Friday night: Partly cloudy, areas of fog forming. Lows around 55° F (13° C), winds light and variable.

Saturday: Partly sunny, highs in the low 70s (22° C) with light southerly to southwesterly breezes.

Saturday night: Clouding up with lows in the mid 50s (13° C).

Sunday outlook: Chance of showers early, highs in the high 60s (19° C), with cooling late in the day.

Forecast by Marek Zebrowski

Compiled by Brian Rosenberg

opinion



The Tech

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Genghis Khan rides again

Column by Matthew Hersch

Sometimes weeks will go by and I won't think at all about Mongolia. Other times I can't manage to get the Asiatic highlands out of my mind. At times I even long for the Mongolian lifestyle, the endless frolicking of nomadic goat herders, living in tents and slurping yogurt.

It's great. Despite 70 years of Soviet interference, the Mongols of the Mongolian People's Republic are still the same lovable folks we always knew — so weird, so wacky, so different. . . so damn smart.

Like every other former communist satellite state, Mongolia is moving from its socialist past into a new capitalist economy, and for a lot of reasons, Mongolia is going to make that switch faster than any other nation on the planet.

Situated in the armpit of Soviet Central Asia, Mongolia was once the capital of an empire that spanned most of the continent. Not quite Russian, not quite Chinese, Mongolia has always been a source of contention between China and the Soviet Union. Officially an autonomous region of China for much of this century, Mongolia has been under the influence of the Soviet Union since the 1920s. The Mongolian Communist Party formed early ties with the Russians, and Mongolia has been bordering on Soviet-satellite status ever since. Home of four Red Army divisions, Mongolia was also the battleground for Sino-Soviet border skirmishes in the 1960s.

Mongols are traditionally outdoorsy nomads who herd privately-owned sheep and goats. When Karl Marx rode into Outer Mongolia in the 1920s, Red Mongols tried to establish livestock collectivization and other communal ventures. The Mongolian government and economy ever since has been a mirror the Soviet totalitarian model. Though Mongolia is now partially urbanized, one million Mongols, half the population, still live like characters in *Easy Rider*.

But Marx and Engel never really translated well into local dialects. Mongolia doesn't have a proletariat or an oppressive bourgeoisie — just sheep, goats and Mongols. Instead of thrusting Mongolia to new utopian heights, collectivization only wrecked the ancient economy and robbed the populace of their individual herds.

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

With communism cracking everywhere, Mongolia has followed suit. Pushing aggressively towards a rapid privatization of most state-owned enterprises, Mongolia is bravely moving forward into the radical transformations that no other former communist state is willing to risk. Sure, some of the local yahoos are clamoring that Mongolia needs a little communism, but no one really listens to them. Most of the nation is riding on a tide of political liberalism that peaked last summer when the leader of the main opposition party urinated out the window of the Mongolian parliament building. Stalinist thinking and conservative bodily hygiene just doesn't stand a chance anymore. Mongolia had an economy long before Lenin, and now it wants it back.

Most communist states are strapped by the problem of a lousy currency system. This problem is compounded in Mongolia by the fact that most Mongols don't have any currency, just sheep and goats. Mongolia solved this problem by distributing to the population coupons for shares of ownership in state-owned business, factories and communal assets like livestock. Some people are selling their vouchers, others are pooling theirs to own a larger share of certain enterprises. A secondary market in vouchers also recently emerged, with a few enterprising Mongols scalping shares to forward thinking capitalists. It's starting, you see. The Mongols are putting together.

A stock market. Before you know it, the Genghis Khan Exchange will stand with New York and Tokyo as global financial capitals.

And the Mongols will do it, too. Unlike the endlessly wishy-washy Soviets, the Mongols are diving into reform head-first, dumping everything and starting fresh. Not preoccupied with short-term chaos, the Mongols are confident and hopeful, looking forward to the instabilities of market economies and the freedom and prosperity they will provide. Mongolian reforms will succeed because the people want them to and think they will, and because short of famine, economic life can't get much worse than it is now.

I salute the Mongols, and while I do not wish for them to conquer Asia again, I support them in their efforts towards progress. Eastern Europe could learn a whole lot from yogurt-eaters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thomas is a sellout, not a hero, for black Americans

In his column ["Black community needs a leader like Thomas," Oct. 18], with points patched together like pieces in a hand-sewn quilt, Jae H. Nam '93 argued that the black community, "a community in search of identity," should look towards Clarence Thomas as a strong leader who can instill a "sense of pride" in his people. Unfortunately, while Nam had the insight and bravery to identify some of the problems facing blacks in America today, his solution to those problems is simplistic and ignores the roots of the problems themselves.

First, black Americans are *not* facing an identity crisis, and I cannot make that assertion strongly enough. Contrary to what Nam thinks, blacks are not learning how to be black from television sets or Black Acting School. The problem is not that blacks lack identity; the problem is that Black-American culture is frowned upon by the mainstream into which it is forced to fit. While whites have propagated their culture and many other ethnic groups have assimilated to their satisfaction, blacks have actively fought against such cultural dilution. The gold, fancy cars, and nice clothes that are sought by many black youths are indicative of misplaced values that are ill-representative of blacks as a whole. But American media seems to enjoy promoting this image to mainstream America, and Nam seems to have picked up on it rather well. No, these material items are not "the substance of success." But, then

again, neither are the achievements of Clarence Thomas.

The story that everyone loves to tell about Clarence Thomas is that of a poor, downtrodden Negro from Georgia who worked hard and overcame insurmountable obstacles to eventually become a Supreme Court justice. But while I am happy that Thomas was able to overcome adversity, I do not think that he was exactly at the greatest depths of despair. If you are one of thousands of young blacks who must lie, run, duck, hide, fight, and perhaps even kill just to stay alive, it is hard to believe that Clarence Thomas knows hard times.

If every government authority that you've ever known, from employers to school-teachers to your friendly neighborhood police officer gives you negative feedback, Clarence Thomas is a sellout, not a hero. That Nam can expect blacks nationwide to

forget their correct ideologies and make an about-face in beliefs to follow Thomas is absurd. Thomas has done nothing for the black community, and there is no indication that he will bring us anything but grief. Thomas' is simply another case of a black who, because of having views in line with those of the power structure, was able to reap some personal benefit and given some status. It is by no means a success story.

My father once told me that a great man does not become great by doing great things for himself. Hence, Clarence Thomas will be no leader of mine, thank you. If Nam believes that Thomas is such a great guy, then *he* can follow Thomas to Washington and back, because I don't have time to think about who would make a great leader for our community; I must concentrate on becoming one.

Chip Morton '93

Letters policy

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.

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.

opinion

Cold fusion still hot in the science community

Column by Jason Merkoski

The specter of scientific misconduct looms over all of us. James Clerk Maxwell, the friend of Physics II (8.02) students, epitomized scientific misconduct. "Ampere? Gauss?" he probably said to himself, "Nah... I never heard of them. But look at how neat and compact my equations are!" He knowingly committed misconduct, but nobody really minded — except maybe Ampere and Gauss themselves, but they were dead. Generally speaking, the scientific community idolizes Maxwell. I'd even argue that all of us secretly pay homage to Maxwell. Come on, let's have a show of hands: how many of you bought one of those T-shirts branded with "his" four equations from the Coop?

Such scientific misconduct is also going on now. Consider cold fusion: either Fleischmann and Pons and their supporters are right, or their opponents are right. It's like the Clarence Thomas hearings in that respect. Perhaps the furor over cold fusion could have been more exciting if we got a panel of geriatric senators to bicker over the findings, or if — by some perversity of physics — Long Dong Silver himself were intimately involved. (Yup... just go to your local adult video store and rent *Debby Does Deuterium* or *Electrochemical Coupling*. They're almost as good as those triple-X tapes in the hot fusion section.) For those three or four of you who have not been following cold fusion, this is how it works: ?????

Okay, okay, so nobody really knows. The scientific community is itself divided over whether cold fusion actually exists. Sadly, though, the majority of scientists that poo-poo cold fusion are very ebullient

Tech columnist Jason Merkoski confesses to owning a Maxwell's Equations T-shirt, as well as to watching with Anita Hill a movie by Long Dong Silver.

and even militant. I wouldn't be surprised if a significant number of scientists, even here at MIT, have been bullied into keeping quiet about their pro-cold fusion opinions. "You want tenure? You want full professorship?" jeer their superiors, like snotty kids dangling food above their puppy's mouth. "Then repeat after me: cold fusion does not exist!"

However, not all supporters of cold fusion have been cowed into silence. One of the more vociferous proponents of cold fusion works here at MIT as, curiously enough, one of my writing professors, a Dr. Eugene F. Mallove '69. Somehow, during class, the conversation always shifts to cold fusion. I'd even consider myself an expert on cold fusion, after only a few weeks of classes. (Not that I mind this; I'd rather discuss something interesting in class than regurgitate grammar rules and garbage like that.) "Interesting?" you say. "Cold fusion doesn't sound interesting." Ah, but you haven't had this professor yet. He is more intense than a veteran Shakespeare tragedian. And — as a bonus — he doesn't spit, which is more than I can say for many actors.

According to Mallove, who has martyred himself to cold fusion, experimenters at MIT have been guilty of scientific misconduct. As an example, he cited data included in the *Journal of Fusion Energy*. In the published version of the MIT data, a graph showing excess power versus time had a set of data points that averaged out to zero. But in the unpublished graph (which was only grudgingly handed over for inspection) the data were completely different. You don't have to be a statistician to say: "Hey! There are much more of these little points above the zero-line than below it!" And unless there's some arcane mathematical process that can legally move data points down an arbitrary

amount, I'd say some fudging was going on. For shame! What kind of an example is that to set for MIT students, the nation's future scientists and engineers? Am I allowed to pull stunts like that on my problem sets? Well, I already do, but the problems are subsequently marked as incorrect.

So what can explain such behavior? Well, if cold fusion can be proved to be a viable source of energy, then MIT's Plasma Fusion Center will get massive funding cuts. So will Princeton's Tokamak. So will a host of other hot fusion centers all over the world. As a result, a great number of scientists and engineers will lose their jobs. From that perspective, their fudging of data and denouncing cold fusion as "scientific schlock" makes sense. But I'm saddened. This is MIT, one of the few schools in the world that deserve to be referred to by capital letters. MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Just roll those words around in your mouth, like the way you'd sample a fine wine. MIT, say some, is the definitive institution, a school that (theoretically) projects honesty and integrity, a school that is willing to keep itself on the cutting edge of technology. Should such an institution completely sever itself from cold fusion, whether in academic research or in cold fusion's potential applications to technology?

The answer is "yes" if you believe there is no scientific basis for cold fusion. But have you been keeping track of the more recent developments? There was a cold fusion conference held recently in Como, Italy, which united scientists from all over the world. At the conference, members from over 100 labs reported experiments which yielded excess heat, as well as tritium, helium, neutrons, and gamma radiation, the proposed hallmarks of cold fusion. Moreover, these results are repro-

ducible — seemingly sustainable. Some calculate the net energy production in their labs to be ten times, 100 times, or even 1000 times greater than conventional chemistry permits. This can result in a figure of 45 megajoules per mole of excess energy from a palladium-deuterium system. If I remembered my chemistry, I could convert that to a meaningful figure, but the fact that energy is being produced, and the fact that there is a more-or-less infinite supply of deuterium should say something to you. These are indications that cold fusion could be an excellent source of energy.

I'm still not sure about all this, though. Proponents of cold fusion appear to be claiming that in a few years, we may be driving in palladium-powered cars. Oil shortages, coal-induced pollution and global warming, they seem to be saying, will all be gone with the advent of cold fusion technology. This is too idealistic. One hundred years ago, charlatans sold snake-oil medicines which attempted to cure ulcers, hang-nails, baldness and impotence. Fifty years ago, UFO sightings were the rage. It could be that cold fusion is the next installment of our collective self-delusion. But we won't know for sure unless we examine this phenomenon. Advances in chemistry and pharmacology were the direct results of investigations into snake-oil-type claims. Advances in aviation and astronomy were inspired by the UFO scare. So what about cold fusion, huh?

It will be a while before cold fusion technology comes out, though, even if it is proved to be a viable energy source. Maybe in a few years, I'll invest in some palladium mines, but I'm in no rush. I'll let some heavy water flow under some bridges.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

US Postal Service charity is not in public's interest

Recently, the US Postal Service has come under fire for plans to donate millions of dollars to the US Olympic Team. What seems most objectionable about this use of our postage money is that it comes fast upon the heels of a 16 percent increase in the price of a first-class stamp.

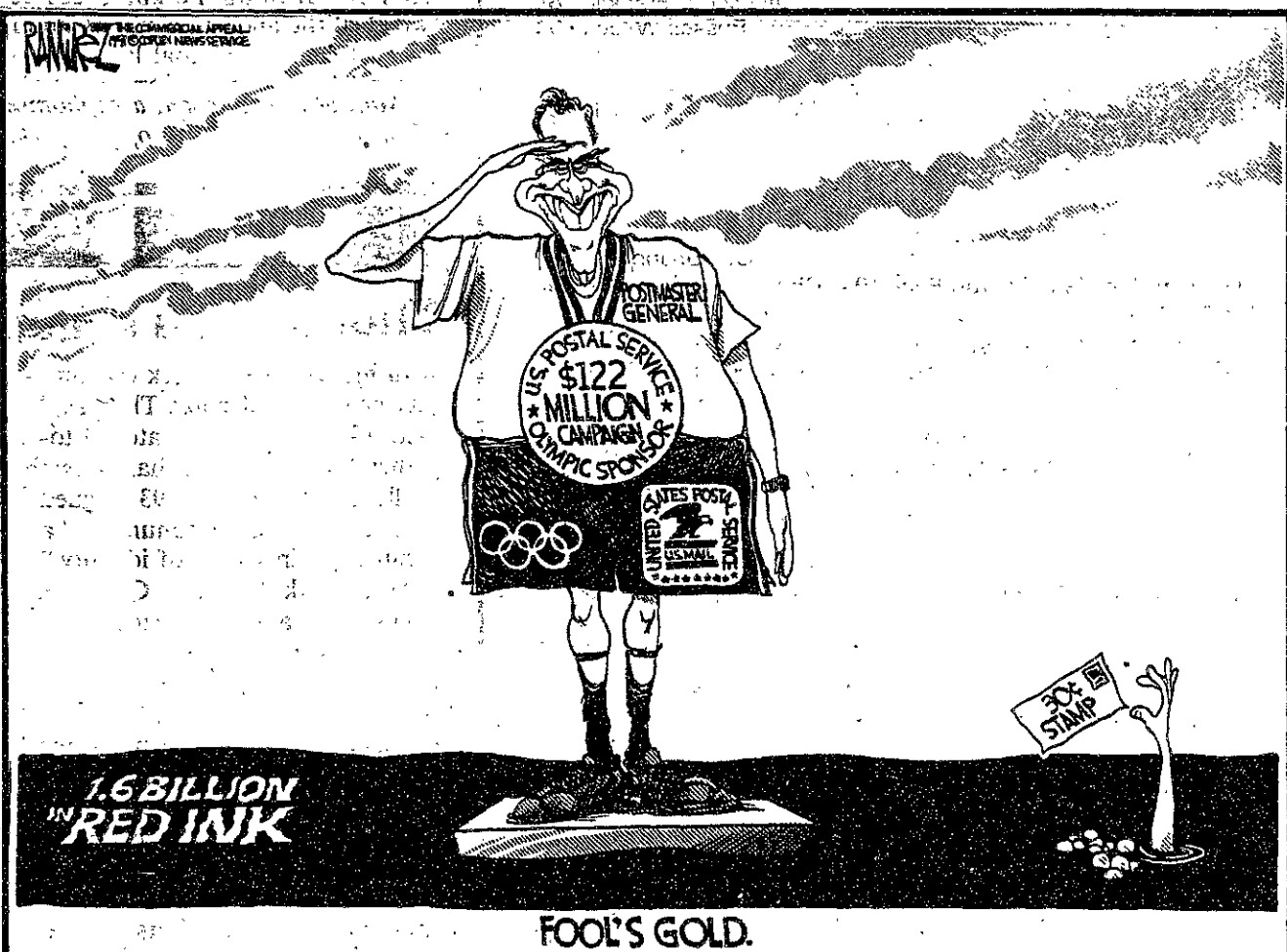
Supporting our athletes is good public relations; poor timing is not. Nevertheless, it's amusing that a country that has dealt with the Iran-Contra notion of selling arms for hostages and "freedom fighters" even blinks at the concept of selling stamps for Olympic athletes.

The US Postal Service has a

long history of supporting worthy charities. Consider, for example, the franking privilege. Few people complain about this generous contribution to our needy Congressmen. And needy they must certainly be; why else would they be bouncing so many checks?

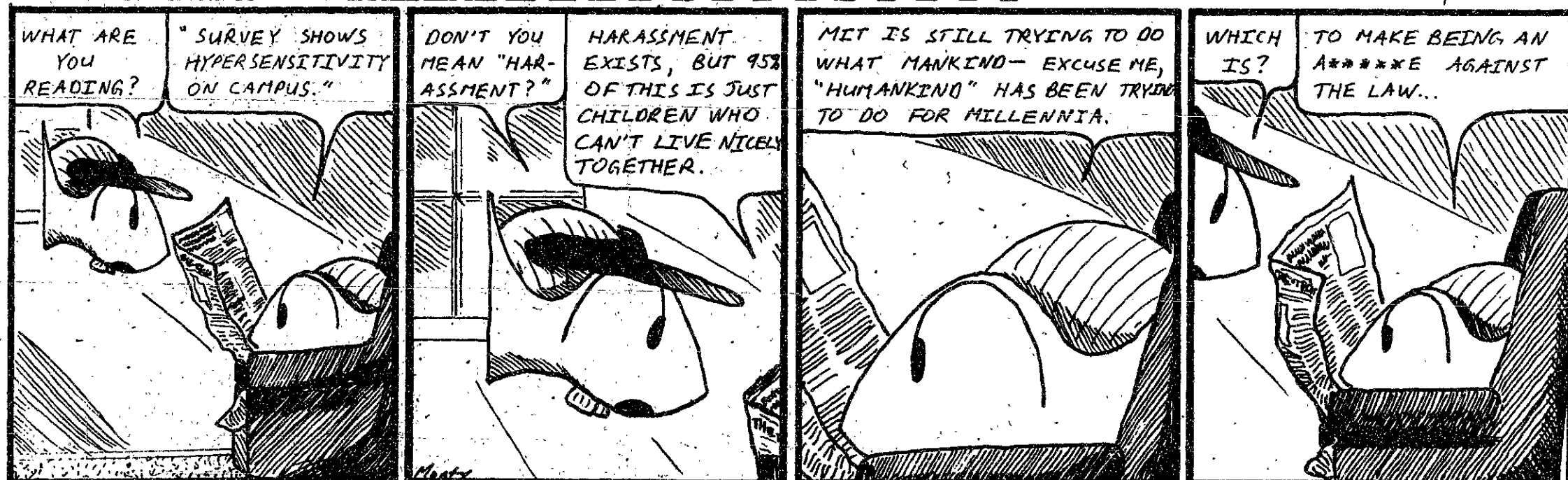
With the excellent work they've done, the Postal Service is pretty far down on my list of wasteful organizations. If they want to support the Olympics, I think that's great. Besides, the slogan "The Official Stamp of the US Olympics" is too funny to pass by.

Matt Giamporcaro '85



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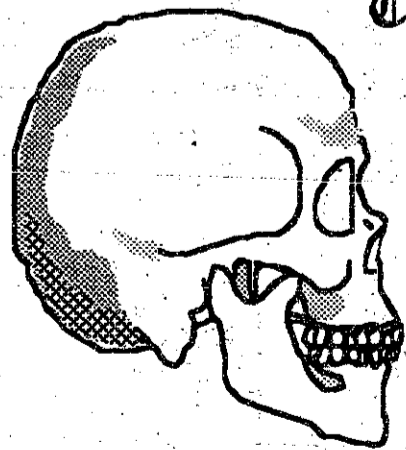
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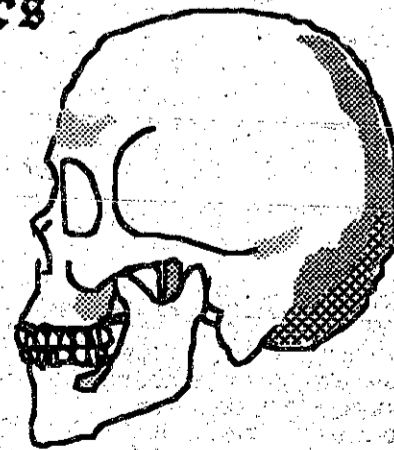
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Safe sex video uses community members as models

(Continued from page 1)

comfortable enough with sexuality to talk about it intelligently, to talk about it practically."

Condoms distributed during discussion

After the video was over, Israelit discussed the risk of contracting the AIDS virus, and methods

students could use to avoid contracting the virus, including hugging, kissing, phone sex and showering together.

Emoungu said she was surprised to hear that one out of every 500 college students has AIDS. This made "the magnitude of the problem" much more apparent, she said. "The ARMIT discussion following [the video]

was very informative," she added.

Israelit gave audience members condoms in order for them to "feel comfortable around them." She then demonstrated how to put on and remove a condom, using a tube of lubricant as her model, while some students inflated their condoms and tossed them around the room.

Fewer rush charges filed this year

(Continued from page 1)

positive comments. David E. Gustafson '92, rush chairman for Sigma Phi Epsilon, said, "I think it was one of the cleanest rushes run in [MIT's] history. It's a good sign that the system is still working. Everyone played fair." He said that his house was not involved in the trials. "We had no major problems. Any problem was immediately handled during rush," he added.

Zeta Psi Rush Chairman Luis C. Maas '92 said that this year's sanctions are fair. ZP pressed charges against another fraternity. "We didn't win our case, but it went smoothly. Regardless of how our house fared individually,

overall, [the sanctions are] fair. JudComm is on the ball."

Christopher H. Prince '92, one of Sigma Alpha Epsilon's rush chairmen, said his house found the sanctions half fair. He said SAE was not charged with anything, though they did press charges.

JudComm consists of a chairman, a six-member review council and an investigative branch with nine members. The officials are elected annually by the IFC. Each of the investigators monitors four or five houses during rush and helps the houses involved in the trials.

JudComm trials are judged by the hearing board, made up of

five members of the review council and headed by the Judicial Committee Chairman.

John K. Sieh '92 of Nu Delta said that the JudComm investigators "were monitoring everything [during Rush] okay. The fact that they were around — their availability — was good."

Advisor to Fraternities and Independent Living Groups Neal H. Dorow said he does not have much influence over the trials. He said his main role is working with new committee members ahead of time in "experiential training." "Occasionally, [JudComm] may ask me what my sense of a situation is because of my experience," he added.

Most freshmen well-advised

(Continued from page 1)

or changed advisors. "This is proportionally much less than last term," Friedman said. The administration strongly discouraged students from dropping their seminars. Most of those who initially wanted to drop the seminars remained in them. "We do not want students to change their mind on a whim, [because] the professors who teach seminars work very hard on them and do it on a voluntary basis," she added.

Some students had to drop their seminars because of the nature of their curriculum or the place they chose to live. Programs such as ISP, ESG or XL require their students to have an advisor from the program. In addition, Bexley Hall has in-house advising and tutoring for all freshmen. All of those polled who were involved in these alternative curricula were satisfied with the advising they receive. "The associate advisor gives me good advice," said Sarah D. Brooks '95.

Those students who do choose to change advising may not participate in in-house advising and are assigned a regular faculty

advisor.

In general, feedback from the faculty is also positive. "It is the best way to teach students and to have an exchange of ideas with them," said a senior faculty member who taught a freshmen seminar for the first time this year.

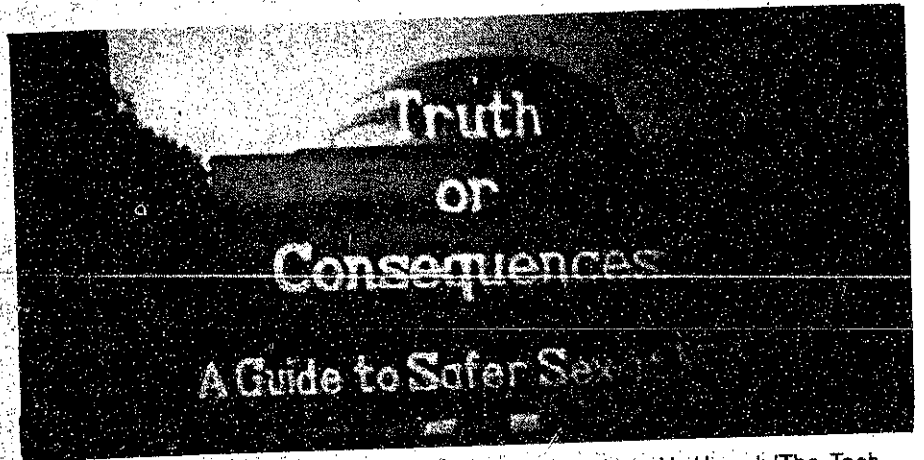
Frustrated students cite poor knowledge, teaching

Students who were dissatisfied mentioned foremost their advisors' lack of knowledge. "My advisor does not give me much help with choosing classes — I have to find out everything on my own," said a freshman who insisted on anonymity. Christine N. Liu '95 added that "I do not feel very satisfied because my advisor is just learning the rules of MIT, just like I am." A few seminars were cancelled more often than they were held, and their professors were not available for academic advice.

"Professors have many other duties, [and] while we do not encourage absenteeism, it does occur in a minority of cases," Friedman said.

Poor teaching was also a very common complaint. "My seminar is way over my head — I have no idea what is going on,"

said another freshman who insisted on anonymity. Most new professors participating in seminar advising underwent two orientation sessions offered by the Undergraduate Academic Support Office to learn how to foster discussion in small groups. According to Friedman, 80 percent of the faculty who teach seminars complained that the freshmen were too passive, but a majority enjoy their seminars.



Matthew H. Hersch/The Tech

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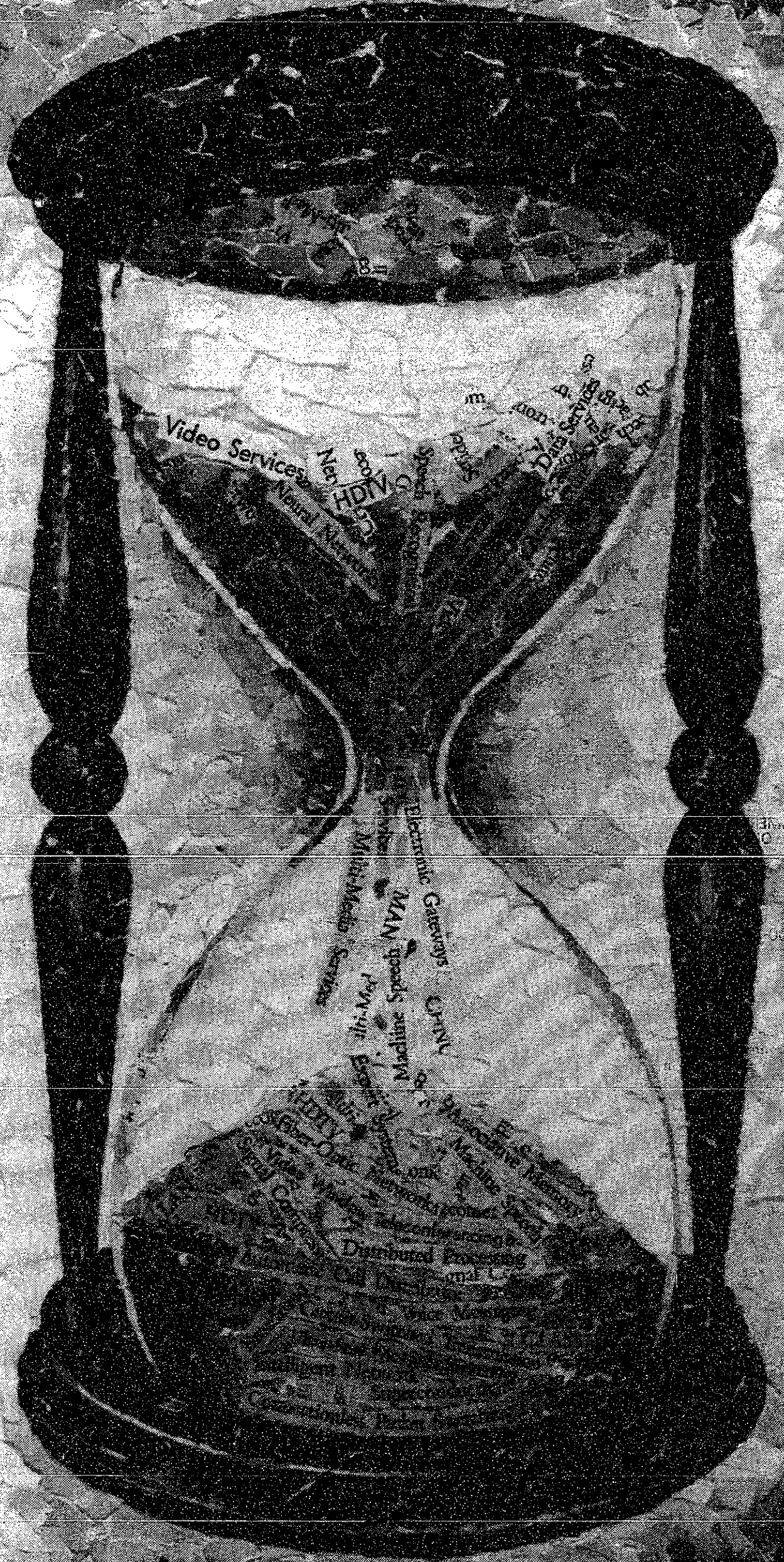
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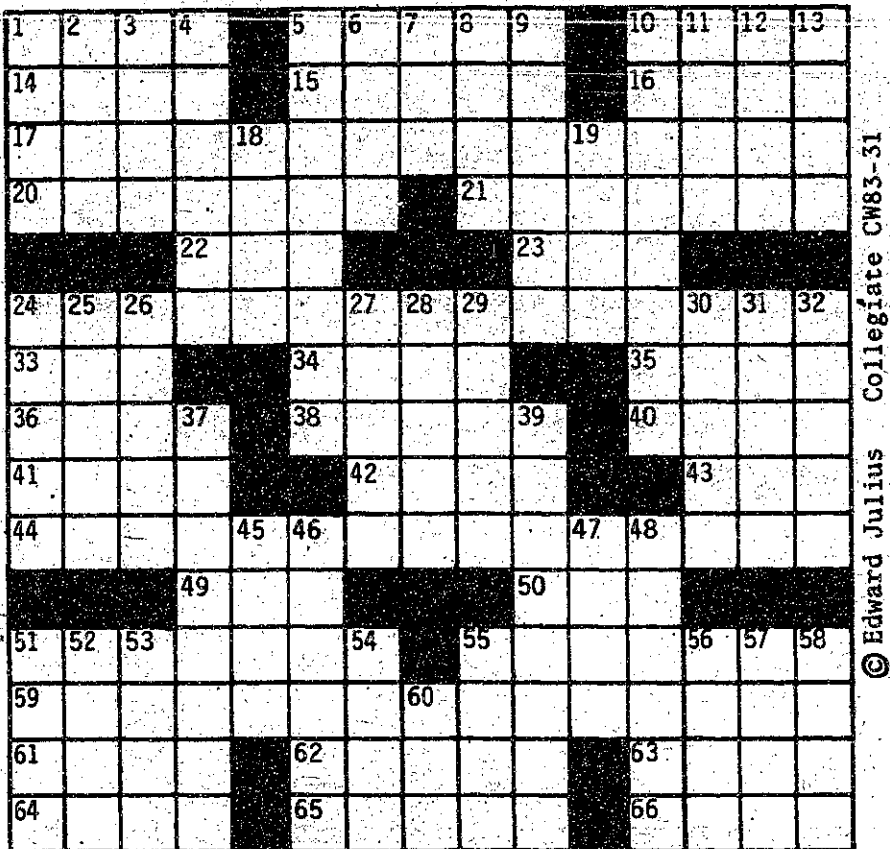
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- 6 British phrase
- 7 Wrestling maneuver
- 8 Actor Byrnes, et al.
- 9 Phone again
- 10 1957 movie, " — the Bachelor"
- 11 Winglike parts
- 12 — souci
- 13 Beef quantity
- 18 The bottom —
- 19 O.K. Corral participant
- 24 Houses, in Hermosillo
- 25 Reproductive organ
- 26 1961 baseball MVP
- 27 Farmer's concern
- 28 Prefix for mural
- 29 Extremely pale
- 30 Seashore structures
- 31 Brilliance of success
- 32 Bridle attachment
- 37 Unselfish person
- 39 Astronaut
- 45 "L' —, c'est moi"
- 46 Prefix for maniac
- 47 China's "Great — forward"
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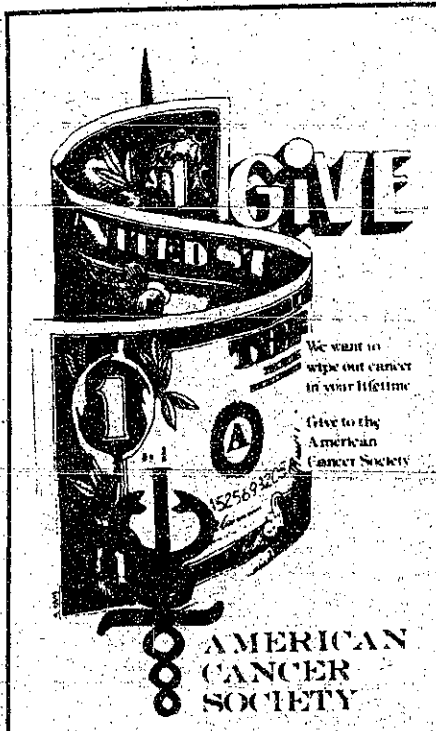
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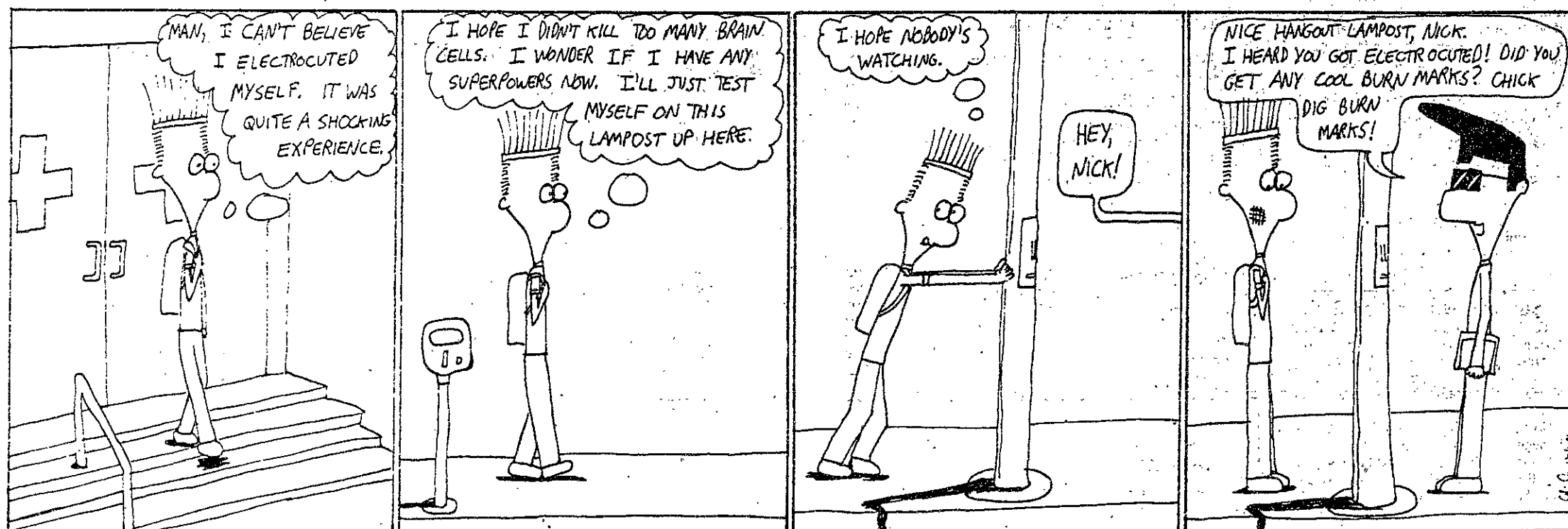
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Travel Sales Representative STS, the leader in collegiate travel, needs motivated individuals and groups to promote Winter/Spring Break trips. For information call Student Travel Services, Ithaca, NY at 1-800-648-4849.

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notices

Announcements

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 2-5 p.m. and Saturday 10-4 p.m. A daily registration fee of \$5 covers all events and is payable at the door.

Friday, November 1

Black Rose Lectures will present lecturer George Katsifas in *The Revolutionary Theory and Practice of Herbert Marcuse* at 8pm in room 9-150. Admission is free and all are welcome. Info: 524-1043.

Sunday, November 3

The Ford Hall Forum will hold "Beyond Political Correctness: Dealing with Diversity on College Campuses" presenting Wellesley President Nannerl Keohane and U.Mass-Boston Chancellor Sherry Penny. The program, moderated by Northeastern President John Curry, will begin at 7 p.m. in Northeastern's Blackman Auditorium, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston and will be open to the public. For info, 437-5800.

Friday, November 8

Outdoor Explorations, which provides wilderness programs for people with special needs, will present its "Summer Nostalgia" slide show at 7:30pm at BU's School of Education, 605 Comm. Ave. Boston. Learn more about this organization and about volunteer opportunities at this free presentation. Info: Carolyn Bess, 969-1168.

The Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, celebrating its 20th anniversary, will present its *French Baroque Concert* in Memorial Church, Harvard Yard at 8pm. Director of Choral Activities Jameson Marvin will lead the seventy-voice mixed choir. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 stds.) and may be purchased at the Holyoke Center Ticket Office in Harvard Square, or by calling 495-5730.

Announcements

Project Contact: Undergraduates who are interested in communicating with high school students (and guidance counselors) about what it is like to be an MIT student are encouraged to join Project Contact. For more information please contact the Educational Council Office, Room 4-240; x3-3354.

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 CDSC's service to resolve a roommate dispute or any other dispute should contact the mediation center at 876-5376.

The Boston University Astronomy Department sponsors *Open Observatory Night* every Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 pm. For more information call 353-2360.

Harvard University Graduate School of Design is sponsoring lectures. For more information call 495-9340.

All first-time student loan borrowers (Perkins, Technology, or Stafford Student Loans) are required to attend a loan counseling session. Please contact the Bursar's Office for a schedule of the sessions.

Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church

1555 Massachusetts Avenue (opposite Cambridge Common)

Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m.

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.



Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising

A MEETING FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN LAW

"So You're Interested in Law School?"

An Open Meeting for Students Interested in Law

Monday October 28th

4:00 P.M.

Room 4-163

All students and members of the MIT community are welcome to attend this meeting. Members of the MIT Prelaw Advisory will present information and answer questions. For further information contact The Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising, Room 12-185, 253-4737.

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COMICS

Jim's Journal

4-5

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"I have a college education for Pete's sake!" he said. "In economics!"

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Tommy was talking today about the ad agency job he was trying to get.

by Jim

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SUPPLY	AND	DEMAND
TESTIFY	SIAM	ESSE
UNNA	ALP	ABER
COMMERCIAL	LAB	ER
AVVA	ERNS	NICE
SARA	ROTHS	DELI
ARRIL	PREP	RAN
SYSTEMS	ANALYSTS	
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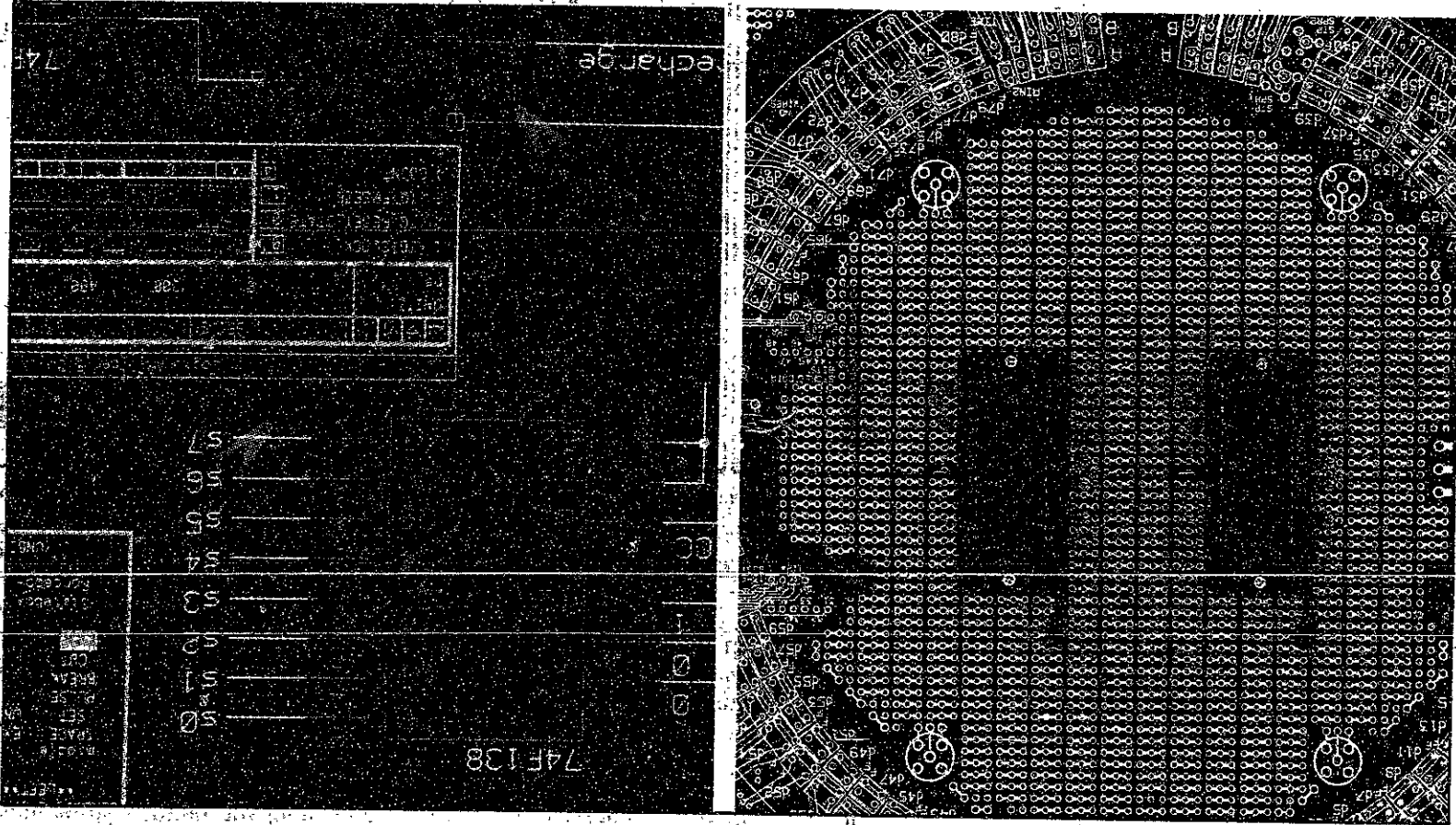
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The Toronto International Festival of Festivals

"Sweet 16" birthday marred by dearth of new directorial talent

THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FESTIVALS

By MANAVENDRA K. THAKUR

THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL Festival of Festivals celebrated its 16th birthday this year. Once the festival was over, however, it became clear that the occasion wasn't quite as sweet as originally hoped.

As usual, the festival showed hundreds of films from around the world and of every conceivable variety. The festival's reputation as a cinematic Mecca for serious filmgoers continues to grow — and certainly the lines seem to get longer every year.

But perhaps due to circumstances beyond the control of the festival's hard-working programmers, the overall quality of the films decreased palpably. While there were definite winners among the bunch, the festival showed more than the usual number of clunkers this year.

To be precise, this was a year when serious filmgoers had to look toward the established directors of contemporary international cinema for challenging, interesting works. While this is almost always the case, in years past one of the richest sources of ground-breaking films has been new and otherwise unknown directors who were "discovered" by the festival programmers. That, however, did not happen this year.

Almost all of the films that achieved or approached perfection were made by directors with established international reputations: Jacques Rivette, Paul Cox, Theo Angelopoulos, and Manoel de Oliveira. Many American viewers are unfamiliar with these directors, despite their fame



Canadian Radha Bharadwaj scored a hit in his new film, *Closet Land*.

abroad, and thus the festival provides a terrific opportunity to view excellent new films such as *La Belle Noiseuse*, *A Woman's Tale*, *To Meteoro Vima Tou Pelargou* ("The Suspended Step of the Stork") and *A Divina Comedia*.

Of course, there were a few first-time and unfamiliar directors who distinguished themselves. Edward Yang of Taiwan created an unquestioned masterpiece in his *A*

Brighter Summer's Day, and Canadian Radha Bharadwaj (*Closet Land*) and Transylvanian expatriate Andrian Velicescu (*Trumpet Number 7*) both marked their directorial debut with flawed but markedly stylish films.

Conversely, established directors such as Peter Greenaway, Krzysztof Kieslowski, Maurizio Nichetti, and Paul Leduc all produced films that were, in one way or an-

other, disappointing and not comparable to their prior successes.

Overall, though, there was a dearth of new talent. What could have caused this? No one knows for sure, of course, but there are at least two possible explanations for the phenomenon. One is the tumultuous effects of the Persian Gulf war, and the second is the addition of three questionable film series to the Toronto festival line-up.

The Persian Gulf theory is that the war restricted people's ability to travel, disrupted previously organized conferences and events and otherwise delayed many ongoing projects. It probably also prevented many projects from even starting in the first place.

The genesis of this theory came during this year's Cannes film festival, where film quality was at an ebb, according to reports of critics attending that festival. While the Cannes festival organizers may be passing the buck, it is plausible that the war disrupted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and also have added financial economic and political risks for filmmakers and artists.

Clearly, the increased risks would affect more heavily the efforts of independent, first-time or unknown directors than it would those of directors with more established reputations. The exact nature and degree of influence of the war is debatable, but it does seem likely there would be some deleterious effect. That effect is being reflected in film festivals that attempt to survey the global filmmaking scene, as do Toronto and Cannes.

The other reason for the lack of new talent originates closer to home. This year's festival included three new film series, and

(Please turn to page 15)

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TWO LATINO CULTURAL EVENINGS PLANNED

•The Office of the Arts is sponsoring two excursions to performances of the IBA - Arte y Cultura Cafe Teatro Series at the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center in the South End.

On Friday Oct. 25 at 9pm:

•Astrid Hadad: "Heavy Nopal." •A reinterpretation of Mexican history through songs and performance.

On Friday Nov. 8 at 8:30pm:

•Giovanni Hildago, congo drum virtuoso.

•Reservations may be made **IN PERSON ONLY** at the Office of the Arts, E15-205. •One ticket per MIT student ID. •A \$5.00 deposit is required (and will be returned after the trip). •Valid MIT student IDs must be presented.

•Tickets will be distributed at Building E15 one hour before curtain time on the date of each event. •Round trip transportation provided. •For information call: 253-4003

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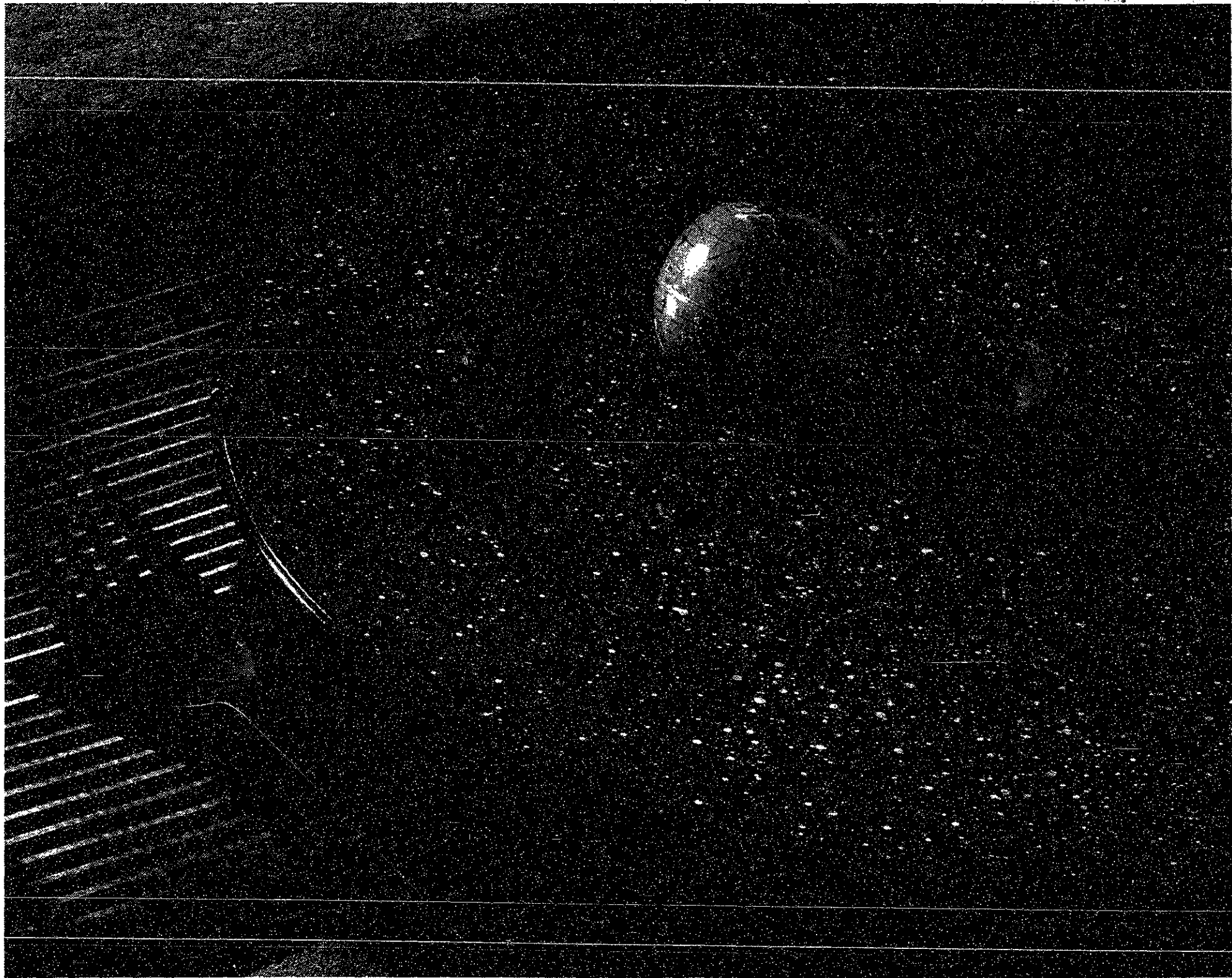
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ARTS

Toronto festival suffers from lack of new talent

(Continued from page 13)

it is too early to decide whether or not this was a good idea. The series were "First Cinema" for directors making their feature film debut, "Asian Horizons" for films from Asian countries (primarily Taiwan and Hong Kong) and "Latin American Panorama" for films from Central and South America.

While the festival has long championed films of first-time directors and films from Asia, Latin America and other parts of the globe, sufficient numbers of high-quality films in each category might not exist. It seems likely that part of the reason why the influx of new talent seems hobbled by clunkers is that these three new series got off to a wobbly start. While the festival organizers do not have any control over global political and economic conditions, they can revise the selection criteria for

these series. Otherwise, the new series risk undergoing the same ghettoization that currently mars — rightly or wrongly — viewer's perceptions of the Perspective Canada series.

Last year the festival celebrated its 15th anniversary, and the quality of films on display seemed at an all-time high. This year was to have been the festival's "Sweet 16," as two organizers described it in the program. Alas, it was not. Still, if the overall quality can decline precipitously in just one year, it can also rise just as quickly in the next year. The Toronto International Festival of Festivals has always worked hard to earn its reputation as the cinematic Mecca of North America, and that gives one confidence and hope that next year's Festival will regain its stride.

(Editor's note: Reviews of films from the Toronto International Festival of Festivals will appear in Tuesday's issue.)



Director Peter Greenaway's new film, *Prospero's Books*, doesn't stand up to earlier work.

The Tech Performing Arts Series announces

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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.

The Tech Performing Arts Series, a service for the entire MIT community, from The Tech, MIT's student newspaper, in conjunction with the Technology Community Association, MIT's student community service organization.

The Tech Arts Staff: Concerts • Movies

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sports

MIT excels in Head of the Charles

By Jeff Kuehn

The MIT varsity rowing teams posted impressive results in Sunday's annual Head of the Charles regatta. MIT entered eight crews in the race, now the world's largest rowing event. In all, 985 rowers competed in 16 categories, with MIT crews entered in six events.

The heavyweight men had an encouraging day, with the varsity eight finishing eighth in a field of 50 and the junior varsity finishing 22nd, both in the club eight event. The varsity boat was three seconds short of finishing in the top five.

Coach Gordon Hamilton said, "The competition was really, really, very tight. [We put in a] good, solid effort. That started me salivating, thinking about the spring season." The heavyweights finished far ahead of Columbia University, which they will face again very early in the spring season. The heavies also entered a club four which finished 25th among 45 entrants.

The varsity women entered a crew in the club eight event as well, finishing 19th among 28. Further, the women entered a

youth four and a youth eight, both for rowers 19 or under. These crews finished seventh of 19 and 16th of 21 in their respective fields.

In the afternoon, the lightweight men rowed an inspired race to finish in the top third of the lightweight eight championship event. The varsity eight finished 12th overall and sixth among 22 college entrants. Beating crews from Rutgers University, Dartmouth College, Tufts University and the US Navy, MIT posted their best showing in recent years. A finishing time of 16:15 put them less than one minute behind the US national

team, 40 seconds behind the French national team and 30 behind the top college crew, from Harvard University. The junior varsity finished 28th in this event, ahead of several varsity teams.

All three varsity and all three freshmen squads will be racing this Saturday in the MIT Invitational against Tufts, Boston College, Simmons and others. Races begin at 7:45 am and run all morning. The course begins at the MIT boathouse across from Baker House and finishes at the Harvard boathouse, just past the Anderson Bridge.

Jeff Kuehn '92 is captain of the varsity lightweight crew team.

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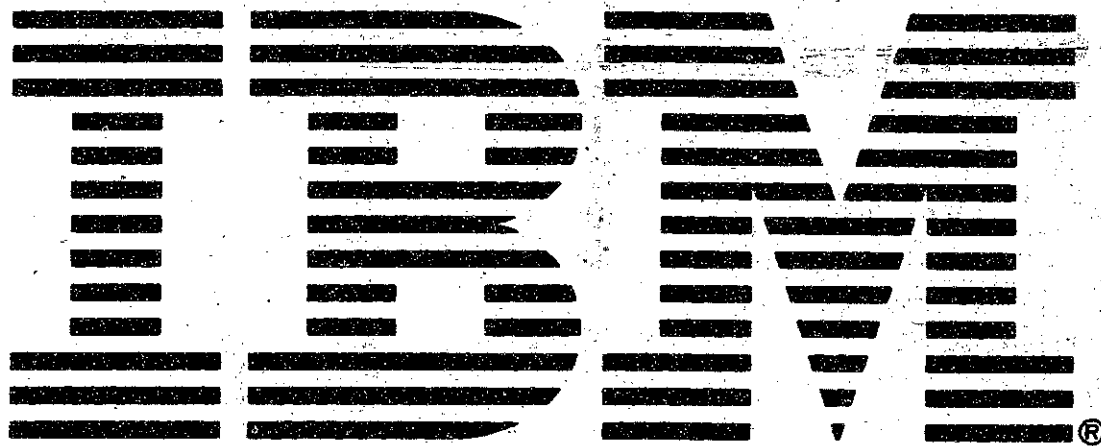
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