

## Tuition to rise by 7.7%

By Karen Kaplan

Undergraduate tuition for the academic year 1991-92 is expected to increase by about 7.7 percent, according to James J. Culliton, vice president for financial operations. The final decision about next year's tuition will likely be decided at the March 1 meeting of the Academic Council, he said.

A tuition increase of \$1200, or 7.7 percent, has been worked into the model for next year's operating budget. This would bring next year's total tuition to \$16,800. The actual increase will be between \$1100 and \$1300.

The self-help level, which is the portion of tuition that must be provided by students and their families excluding loans and grants, was raised by \$300 to \$6000.

Last year, tuition went up by \$1100, or 7.6 percent.

"The most important point is that what's in the budget is just a model, and that it can vary," Culliton said. "It's not decided yet at all. [The increase] could be either higher or lower."

The final decision about tuition will be made by President Charles M. Vest with the advice and guidance of the Academic Council. Council members include Vest, Provost Mark S. Wrighton, associate provosts, vice presidents and deans. Vest will most likely make a recommendation to the council at its March 1 meeting, which it is expected to approve, according to Culliton.

"We like to have a final figure [on tuition] by the March Academic Council meeting so that we can send it out with the admissions and financial aid packets," Culliton said.

### More expenses anticipated

One reason for increasing undergraduate tuition is to curb the deficits MIT has been running in

the recent past. The high level of spending in the past two years is expected to create deficits in the future, even if spending is curbed. The deficit for 1991 is \$4.5 million, and is expected to be \$5.5 million in 1992 and \$6.5 million in 1993, Culliton said.

Culliton pointed out that these deficits were very small in comparison to MIT's annual budget of approximately \$1.07 billion. Nonetheless, tuition will be raised in part to avoid a net deficit in next year's budget.

A variety of factors are taken into account when setting tuition. "We look at how much academic program support is needed, at salaries and at expenses," Culliton said. The amount of unrestricted money needed to continue need-blind admissions is also considered. "Our major source of revenue is tuition income," he said.

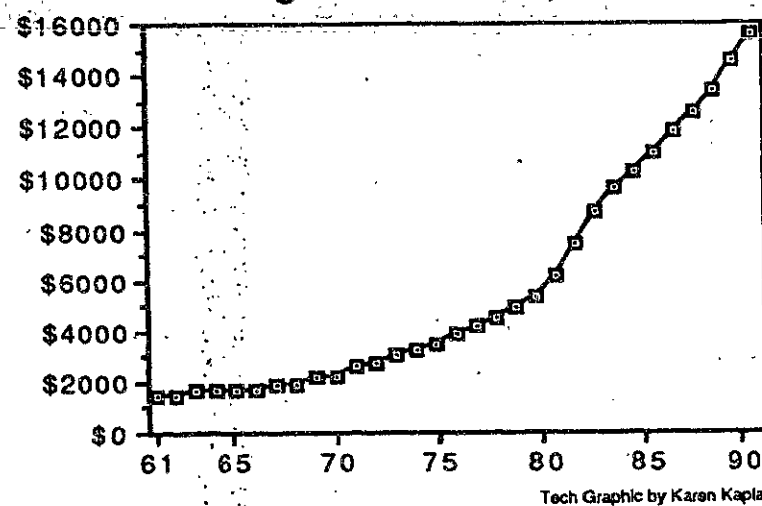
Culliton said that tuition pays for only half of what it costs to educate each student for a year. "The real question [in setting tuition] is how much of a subsidy to give," he continued.

The plan that Culliton prefers would raise the tuition to \$16,900 a year, \$100 higher than the level in the model, and would have a budget surplus of \$1 million. The extra \$100 would be added to the self-help tuition category. This money could be spent on academic computing, increased salaries, rising energy costs, capital and student aid.

"For the first time, we'll need a chunk of money to support academic computing [because corporate sponsorship of Athena will be ending]," Culliton said. "Energy costs are likely to be much higher next year. We have

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Annual Undergraduate Tuition, 1961-1991



Tech Graphic by Karen Kaplan

## Meal plan finalized

By Joey Marquez

At the Undergraduate Association meeting yesterday, Paul L. Antico '91, chairman of the UA Food Service Committee, presented a final proposal for a meal plan that would not require anyone in the MIT community to

purchase a meal plan.

The meal plan proposal would extend hours at Lobdell Court, which would be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Walker Memorial dining hall would be open for lunch and dinner, and a convenience store would be installed there.

Under the plan, McCormick dining hall would provide a "community lunch service focused on healthy food," which could be extended to dinner service, depending on consumer demand. A new convenience store would also be established at McCormick.

Other changes include closing the Baker dining hall for all food services. Also, either the MacGregor or Next House dining hall would open at no extra cost to students living in the dormitory, and an evening snack bar and convenience store would open in the dormitory as well.

Networks would be changed into an "old time diner" that would offer services in the very late hours.

It was also suggested in the proposal that the contractor present a discount to students who purchase a meal card.

Though this plan is in its final form, it still needs the approval

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Jack Hoza, Kathleen Roche, Adam Skwersky '94 and Thomas R. Westcott '93 converse in sign language after a Physics II (8.02) lecture in Room 26-100. See article, page 2.

Hugh B. Morgenbesser/The Tech

## Wrighton appoints students to dean search committee

By Joanna E. Stone

Provost Mark S. Wrighton has appointed two students to the advisory search committee for the next dean of the School of Science.

The two students, Richard R. Kerswell G and Julian P. Sachs '91, said they were appointed to the committee after being recommended to the position by their department heads. Kerswell is in the Department of Mathematics and Sachs is in the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences.

The appointments come after repeated efforts by the Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council to obtain student representation on search committees. Both student governments have formed governance committees to increase student representation on Institute search committees.

"It's a step in the right direction, but it's actually only half a step," said Mark Engel G, chair of the GSC Academic Projects and Policies Committee.

Engel said that although having students on the committee is a positive step, those appointed should be "student representatives." He means that students on the committee should be representative of students — chosen by students through the GSC or UA. Also, Engel said the student committee member should continue to interact with students and student government once on the committee.

Neither Kerswell nor Sachs had been previously involved in the governance issue, and neither have been involved in the GSC or the UA.

Kerswell admitted that his appointment to the committee came as a surprise to him.

"The provost called me up and asked me if I'd like to serve on the committee. . . . Naturally, I asked why me? [He told me it was] because my department head had recommended me." Kerswell said that he was not even aware that he had been nominated for the committee.

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## Faculty discuss Athena changes

By Katherine Shim

Provost Mark S. Wrighton called for the formation of a new academic computing committee to make Project Athena self-sufficient at last Wednesday's faculty meeting. Wrighton also called for the formation of a committee to address gulf war issues. The faculty also discussed a timetable for the construction of a biology facility and a schedule of events for the inauguration of President Charles M. Vest.

In order to "move academic computing to a higher plateau," Wrighton called on Professor of Civil Engineering Stephen R. Lerman '72 to lead a group to "develop new initiatives for Project Athena by January of 1992 with the intent to make [Athena] self-sufficient."

The group will build on the work of the Committee on Academic Computation for the 1990s and Beyond, chaired by Margaret L. A. Mac Vicar '65, which ended its investigations last year. The new committee will consist of faculty members and will include the director of academic computing and the director of information systems.

Mac Vicar, who presented an overview of the findings of the committee, emphasized the need make the current computer sys-

tem "more tolerant to DOS, Unix, and Macs."

She said that computing at MIT had an "insufficiency of user friendliness and efficiency," and that one challenge to the system was "its ability to work within the confines of finite [financial] resources."

Director of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Director of Project Athena, Earl M. Murman, reported that Project Athena will go through a "smooth transition" as committee recommendations are implemented.

Beginning in 1988, attempts were made to integrate the most frequently used Athena services such as Zephyr and e-mail with the Mac-OS and IBM DOS systems, Murman said.

Also, Athena will put increased emphasis on acquiring commercial software, Murman said.

Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Vice President for Information Systems James D. Bruce '60 outlined three goals of Informa-

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## GSC amends constitution

By Lakshmana Rao

The Graduate Student Council voted unanimously to amend its constitution last Tuesday, changing the tenure of representatives to one year starting Oct. 15. At the GSC meeting the council also passed a resolution criticizing the way in which a graduate student was named to the search committee for a new dean of science.

The GSC passed another resolution supporting the current location of the "Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Center" on the third floor of the Julius A. Stratton '23 Student Center.

"The amendments were necessary to clean up our rosters," said GSC President Michael D. Grossberg G. "The amendments will ensure that the representatives meet their constituencies at least once a year. This will also encourage new members to join the council."

The amendment to the GSC constitution will not affect the election of officers, who are elected annually in April.

Preliminary results of a survey conducted by the GSC on Registration Day Jan. 31 indicate that

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# Deaf student group forms

## Feature

By Reuven M. Lerner

Walking down the Infinite Corridor, you might notice a large campus map marked "Guide to the Handicapped." The map indicates the locations of ramps and elevators for students, faculty, staff and visitors who are unable to use the many staircases on campus.

At first glance, this map seems like a noble gesture, proving that MIT is in touch with the needs of the community. But think again: The map, while providing a valuable service, ignores some of the other handicaps which members of our community might have.

It is precisely this problem that a newly-formed group, Hands, intends to solve. Hands, which was formed at the beginning of this semester, is the brainchild of Thomas R. Westcott '93 and Adam Skwersky '94.

Westcott, who is hearing, has been signing for 10 years, and is a mechanical engineering major. Skwersky, who is the only deaf student at MIT to require an interpreter, is thinking about majoring in mechanical engineering.

The group's name is taken from a similar organization that Skwersky's sister, who is also deaf, started at Mount Holyoke College several years ago. The local chapter, which has been meeting weekly since the beginning of the semester and is expected to be granted membership in the Association of Student Activities in the near future, will serve both MIT and Wellesley College.

### Group has many goals

The founders of Hands have set a large number of goals for their new organization. Westcott himself admitted that "some of them are going to be a lot easier than others," but was confident that many of them would be accomplished in time.

Among these goals are providing "a social setting for people who are interested in deaf studies" and "to act as a contact for deaf individuals that are interested in applying or transferring to MIT or Wellesley," Westcott added.

In addition, he said, Hands members will work "to organize community service projects for the deaf and hard-of-hearing in and around Boston."

Skwersky said that Hands has already decided to work on adding captions to videotapes of MIT lectures. "Right now, we're going through the planning stage. I called up a lot of professors, and we pretty much have an idea of what we need to buy, and have an idea of who is going to do the work," he said.

Westcott said that Hands also intends "to provide tours and interpreters for deaf individuals and institutions that are interested in visiting MIT and Wellesley and interacting with students or the faculty."

Eventually, Westcott said, he hopes that there will be "a complete deaf studies program at MIT and Wellesley, including the instruction of sign language for credit during the regular semester and IAP."

### Other schools do more

Westcott said that one major goal of Hands is to make MIT more attractive for deaf students than it currently is.

"MIT loses a lot of deaf students to other universities because they provide better services for the deaf," he said. He added that schools such as Boston University, Northeastern University and Stanford University provide more than the bare minimum required by law.

"You have on the one hand somewhere like Stanford, which is on the same level as MIT," he said. "But," Westcott added, "at the same time, someone that's deaf and wants to go to MIT might not necessarily be able to survive here, because they don't have the services, and they go to Northeastern University. Not to say that it's a bad university, but it's not the same caliber of education."

Skwersky said more deaf students would come to MIT if more services were available. "If they find out that MIT closed captions its videotapes, you will start seeing more deaf people at MIT." He estimated that there are about four deaf students currently studying at MIT.

Skwersky described the spring of his senior year in high school, when he was accepted at both Stanford and MIT. He had been hoping to go to MIT for many years, but was attracted to the many services that Stanford offered him.

One night, a woman from the Stanford Disabilities Resource Center called Skwersky with a teletypewriter (TTY), a device similar to a modem used by deaf people to communicate on the telephone. The next day, a deaf student who had transferred from MIT to Stanford called him on a TTY, and spoke with him for a long time.

"MIT didn't call me up special, or anything like that. But I wanted MIT to have a chance," Skwersky said. He spoke with Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Arnold R. Henderson Jr. through a TTY that Henderson borrowed. "MIT had no deaf services set up. On the other hand, Stanford had what was called a Disabilities Resource Center. And the way they talked about it, they made it sound like a deaf paradise."

He added, "I'm very glad I made this decision [to come to MIT]. But right now, I don't want other deaf people to have to go through what I did. I want people in California to want to go to MIT, not Stanford."

Both Westcott and Skwersky were grateful to the administration for their interest in boosting deaf services on campus. They said that Henderson had been particularly helpful. Westcott said that Henderson had contacted several outside deaf organizations, "working real hard to make Adam's stay here as nice as possible."

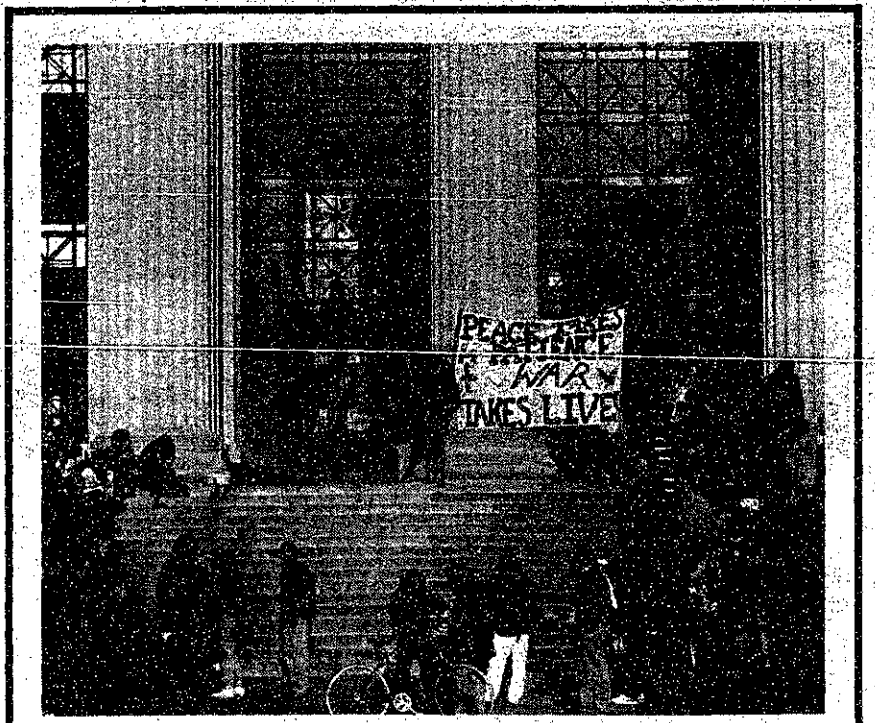
### Sign language attracted many

Many of the founding members of Hands participated in a sign language course that Westcott taught during IAP. He was

surprised by the response, which numbered over 100 people for the first week. Westcott said that while the attendance dropped over the course of the month, many people stayed with the class, despite the fact that participants did not receive credit for it.

Westcott said that there are about 30 members in Hands, from both MIT and Wellesley.

Westcott added that he hopes Hands will interact with deaf organizations outside of MIT and Wellesley. They said local organizations were interested in helping Hands become established on campus. In addition, they said, Hands members might go on trips to deaf schools, including Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.



Morgan Conn/The Tech  
Ronald W. Francis PhD '91 speaks in front of Building 7 at a rally yesterday sponsored by the MIT Initiative for Peace in the Middle East.

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to raise salaries in order to attract and keep the best professors. And as tuition rises, we have to add to our unrestricted funds in order to continue a need-blind admissions policy," he continued.

The higher the tuition, the more money that must be on reserve in the form of unrestricted funds in order to maintain MIT's need-blind admissions process. In the recent past, the elimination of need-blind admissions was considered. "I think the Institute is committed to continue need-blind admissions," Culliton said. "There was no sentiment [among the Academic Council] to move off it."

### Getting information to students a "big concern"

According to Culliton, a "big concern" of the Academic Council was informing students about why tuition is increased annually and how their money is spent. The issue was discussed at the Council's meeting last Tuesday.

Undergraduate Association

President Manish Bapna '91 and Graduate Student Council President Michael D. Grossberg G attended the meeting to make recommendations about "improving the lines of communication between students and those members of the committee that make policy decisions," said Bapna.

"If students are given justified reasons why tuition and self-help levels are set as such before decisions are made, students would understand and respect [the Academic Council's] decisions much more," Bapna continued. "Otherwise they'll feel disenfranchised, which won't do much to integrate the community."

Culliton noted that two years ago, the UA sponsored a question and answer session with former President Paul E. Gray '54 in Room 54-100. However, very few students showed up.

Bapna said that the lecture-hall approach to information dissemination was not effective because "this community doesn't work well . . . with large forums."

He and Grossberg suggested a three-step process by which the

council could inform students. "We suggested that they print an open letter in *The Tech* explaining their rationale [for the tuition increase], that they give a financial analysis, and that they make a letter with complete information available to students," he said. The UA Committee on Financial Aid would be interested in assisting the council in its work, Bapna added.

Bapna reported that the council was "very responsive" to the student requests. "Everyone listened very carefully, and they seemed interested in improving the lines of communication."

Culliton said that Director of Student Financial Aid Leonard V. Gallagher '54 suggested moving up the Academic Council meeting at which tuition increases are first discussed next year so that more student input can be incorporated into the process.

Last year's protest following the announcement of tuition for the 1990-91 academic year "displayed the frustration students felt about the whole process," said Bapna.

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# news roundup

from the associated press wire

## Gulf War

### Allies deliberate Soviet peace plan

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said President George Bush has some serious concerns about the Soviet-Iraqi plan to end the Persian Gulf war. Fitzwater said Bush will consult with his coalition partners. And, he said, in the meantime, the war against the Iraqis will continue.

In London, there has been no immediate reaction from British Prime Minister John Major. The British Foreign Office issued a brief statement saying Britain wants to study what has come out of the meeting in Moscow.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United Nations said his reaction to what the Moscow announcement calls an unconditional withdrawal is that there are too many conditions. Egypt's UN ambassador said the Soviet-Iraqi plan could be a first step toward a political settlement of the war.

Iraq and the Soviet Union have agreed to an eight-point plan that could lead to the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The plan, as outlined by a Kremlin spokesman, makes no mention of a linkage to the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

### War may cost up to \$77 billion

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show the Bush administration estimates the US deployment in the Persian Gulf and a three-month war with Iraq will cost as much as \$77 billion this fiscal year.

According to the documents, the administration plans to announce today that it will ask Congress for \$15 billion in taxpayers' money to pay for the conflict. And it says the administration will also ask for the use of all \$51 billion in aid pledged so far by the US allies.

The costs of Operation Desert Storm will range from \$25 billion to \$44 billion through the end of March. The exact cost will depend on the type of combat that is involved, the documents said.

The administration has never before publicly estimated the costs of combat, other than to say they are running in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

### Helicopter crashes in Saudi Arabia, killing seven

Seven Americans died yesterday in the deadliest non-combat accident since the war began. US military officials say an Army medical evacuation helicopter crashed in western Saudi Arabia, killing the four crew members and three passengers. The US military command said the Blackhawk helicopter was trying to land in bad weather. Sandstorms are swirling in the area where the helicopter went down yesterday.

Another non-combat-related accident occurred when Army Lt. Col. Ralph Hayles mistakenly fired upon two US armored vehicles during a skirmish with Iraqi troops, killing two American soldiers. Hayles, the commander of a battalion of Apache helicopters stationed in Saudi Arabia, has been relieved of his post. Military guidelines bar US commanding officers from engaging enemy forces.

### Patriots shoot down Scuds over Bahrain

Five loud explosions woke residents of the Persian Gulf island of Bahrain early Friday. Western military officials said it was the sound of US Patriot missiles destroying Iraqi Scud missiles.

Three Iraqi missiles were fired at Bahrain. Residents say there was no air raid warning. Allied forces use bases on the island that are protected by Patriot missile batteries. Two Scuds had been fired at Saudi Arabia earlier. Saudi officials said both were shot down by Patriots.

Rubes

By Leigh Rubin



## Nation

### Fed wants to ease credit crunch

The head of the nation's central bank is pledging an aggressive campaign to encourage banks to ease the credit crunch bogging down the economies of some regions. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said the Fed, banking regulators and the Bush administration will present a package of incentives in a few days that should encourage lenders to put more money in the pipeline. Economists blame tight money, in part, for the current recession.

### Gay leaders upset over petition

Gay rights leaders in Pittsburgh are vowing to fight back against what they say is "a vicious attack upon the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community." That's how a spokesman for the Pittsburgh Fairness Campaign described a petition to repeal a city ordinance outlawing discrimination based on sexual preference. A spokesman for the group Citizens of Pittsburgh said it wants to let the people of the city decide the issue.

## Local

### Bank fraud task force to be based in Boston

The Justice Department announced yesterday the formation of a bank fraud task force to be based in Boston. The Justice Department will create a "New England Bank Fraud Task Force" that will monitor banks in the region for possible criminal fraud.

Meanwhile, Democratic Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II kept up his fight against the savings and loan bailout. Kennedy's S&L legislation is set to be debated next Tuesday by the House Banking Committee. It would require the Bush administration to come up with a plan to pay for most of this year's \$30 billion in bailouts.

### State proposes doubling of property tax increases

The House Ways and Means Committee has endorsed budget cuts described as a down-payment on the \$850-million state deficit. The plan includes a provision that could mean the doubling of property tax increases, and could be worth \$120 million to \$150 million. That amount represents only a fraction of the cuts and savings proposed by Gov. William F. Weld. The property tax increases in the package could allow cities and towns to adjust their growth based on the consumer price index, up to a maximum of five percent. Currently, Proposition 2½ limits property tax collections to a rate of no more than 2.5 percent a year. The plan is expected to go to the House on Monday.

### Experimental chemical warfare protection drugs seized

Two Massachusetts companies that produce chemical warfare drugs had their experimental products seized by federal authorities. The officials sought yesterday to prevent the drugs from reaching consumers.

A complaint in the United States District Court alleges that the skin creams are new drugs that have not been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. The skin creams are produced by Interpro Incorporated of Haverhill and Harrison Specialty Company of Canton.

Among the drugs seized was Multi-Shield ISP, which has been promoted as protecting the United States troops in the Persian Gulf against the affects of mustard gas. The Department of Defense canceled its orders for the cream after testing showed it had adverse side-affects.

### AIDS experts decry lack of funding

AIDS experts said there is a widening gap between the extent of the epidemic in Massachusetts and the government resources needed to handle it. AIDS care givers told the legislature's health care committee yesterday that the state's budget crisis is making a serious problem worse.

The AIDS Action Committee said the state will spend \$37 million on AIDS programs this year. AIDS Consortium Executive Director Holly Ladd said she is grateful for Gov. William F. Weld's request for a \$2 million increase in AIDS funding. But she said reductions in other social programs will lead to an overall worsening of the state's fight against AIDS.

### More layoffs at American auto companies

Old-line American car companies are announcing more factory layoffs because of poor sales of domestic models. More than 22,000 layoffs next week are at Ford. The plant closings also affect about 20,000 workers at Chrysler and General Motors.

### Steroid use to be criminalized

The Drug Enforcement Agency wants potential steroid users to know that steroid use will soon be treated as a serious federal crime. Tough new rules governing use of the drugs take effect next Wednesday. They are designed to stem the growing abuse of anabolic steroids by athletes, body builders and others trying to approve their appearance.

### Milken to serve sentence in California

Convicted junk-bond kingpin Michael Milken will be allowed to serve his sentence at a minimum security facility in northern California. Court papers in New York say federal authorities have assigned him to a military base just 30 miles from his alma mater at Berkeley.

### Two murdered in Lowell and Lynn

Police say that two men have been killed in separate shootings in Lowell and Lynn. Lynn police say 50-year-old James Marks was found fatally shot last night outside a Broad Street residence. Neighbors told police they heard gunshots before the victim was found. Police say they have no immediate suspects.

Lowell police also are investigating the death of 29-year-old Edgar Fernandez, who suffered a gunshot wound to the head last night.

### Antiwar protests continue in Boston and Amherst

In Boston yesterday, a crowd of several hundred demonstrators marched through the city streets protesting the Persian Gulf war. Capitol Police say they arrested two people who allegedly spray-painted antiwar slogans on steps in front of the State House. Roger Weaver of Somerville and Jenny McCracken of Cambridge were each arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and defacing an historical monument. They have been released on bail.

Some demonstrators at the rally, which started at the Boston Stock Exchange and ended at the State House, carried a large mural reading "Love and change our country. Protest is American."

In other protest news, about 600 demonstrators in Amherst marched yesterday to the site where a 30-year-old man set himself on fire earlier this week. The demonstrators carried signs and blocked traffic on several streets adjacent to Amherst Common following the antiwar rally. About 43 protesters were arrested when they refused repeated requests to clear the road. The protesters rallied on the spot where Gregory Levey died after dousing himself with paint thinner and setting himself on fire in an apparent peace protest.

## Weather

### More seasonable weather

The warmth of the past few days will be a pleasant memory by 10 pm this evening, as increasing northwest winds and falling temperatures combine to make it feel more like mid-winter. An Arctic front will cross the area early this evening. Following the front, a cold high-pressure center from central Canada will build east-southeastward across the area over the next few days, providing mostly sunny, cold days and clear, cold nights through late Sunday. A disturbance in the Canadian Rockies will provide our precipitation threat early Monday.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy. High around 55°F (13°C).

**Friday night:** Clearing, becoming windy and turning sharply colder. Low 25°F (-4°C).

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, breezy and cold. Winds north-northwest 15-20 mph (24-32 kph). High 30°-32°F (-1 to 0°C).

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny with high clouds arriving late in the day. High 37°F (3°C). Low 25°F (-4°C).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Katherine Shim and Deborah A. Levinson

# opinion

## A kinder, gentler warfare

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

If there is one quality that makes the gulf war stand out from all the others in history, it would have to be the good guys' obsessive compulsion with sparing the lives of civilian bad guys. That this concern has gotten so much press is also unusual because comparatively, civilian deaths in this war have been exceedingly light. In World War I, deaths numbered in the millions, but the wide-scale bombing of civilians that was commonplace in World War II has yet to occur in the gulf war.

The West, it seems, has a fascination with the theory of popular innocence — that wars are fought between governments, not peoples, and that only a nation's leader can be held accountable for the actions of the nation he leads. "Spare civilians," advocates of this doctrine shout, "we have no fight with the people of Iraq." So strong is this sentiment accepted among coalition nations, that reports of civilian deaths in the bombing of an alleged Iraqi command center provoked momentary chaos and disharmony among allies.

While the humanitarian civility of popular innocence sounds too good to hate, I, frankly, have my doubts.

In a war where the opposition isn't playing by the rules, holding to popular innocence doctrines is tactically stupid and gets people killed.

Popular innocence is exalted as the humane way to fight a war. Waged according to these rules, even the conquered nation will suffer the destruction of only military resources, saving its culture and the majority of its population. This is only fair, many say, because most of the tyrants and dictators manipulate and force their civilians into fighting, and are as much the victims of the tyrant as the soldiers

cameras in Baghdad moaning about allied strikes on Iraqi civilians.

In a war where the opposition isn't playing by the rules, holding to popular innocence doctrines is tactically stupid and gets people killed. Wars in which civilian execution was met with likewise response have usually ended more quickly and with less loss

In a world where everyone can agree how to fight a war, gentlemanly conflict is a gem of a concept. Then again.

of life than wars, like World War I, in which opponents tried to observe the rules of war.

Contrary to popular innocence theory, nations that have suffered large civilian deaths have become less belligerent than those like China and North Korea that were spared such onslaughts. Germany and Japan are still shell-shocked from their attempts at world domination in this century. Nations that take a beating are not as quick to go for seconds. This does not mean that civilians should be targeted indiscriminately — only that civilian risks should not rule out military assaults.

If civilians are killed because of their proximity to a military facility, this should not be an example to the attackers that they should be more careful, it should be an example to those on the ground that they should. For eight years in Vietnam, psychotic communist massacres of South Vietnamese civilians were met with military-centered responses only, and for eight years we ran around in circles ripping up the jungle, dropping Agent Orange and cluster bombs and laying waste to the area. In the end, two weeks of B-52 raids on Hanoi in December 1972 succeeded in doing what eight years of ground war could not — bring the North to the bargaining table.



fighting against him. Even better, some pragmatists say, a nation spared from the trauma of civilian massacres will be less likely to start up trouble in the future.

Unfortunately, in this war, popular innocence is a belief shared by one side and not the other, and it may be more a myth than a statement of truth.

Popular innocence is shockingly naive. No dictator can lead a nation into war by brute force and manipulation alone — the fall of the Russian czar during World War I proves this. No matter how evil Saddam Hussein may be, he is a monster that the Iraqi people created themselves, who came to power because he gave the Iraqis something that they wanted — pride — at a time when they needed it. The allies gawk at Saddam's use of chemical weapons on the Kurdish minority in his country. At the time, however, the Iraqi people really didn't care — Saddam was winning the Iran-Iraq War. When Saddam called for holy war against the West, most Iraqis were delighted.

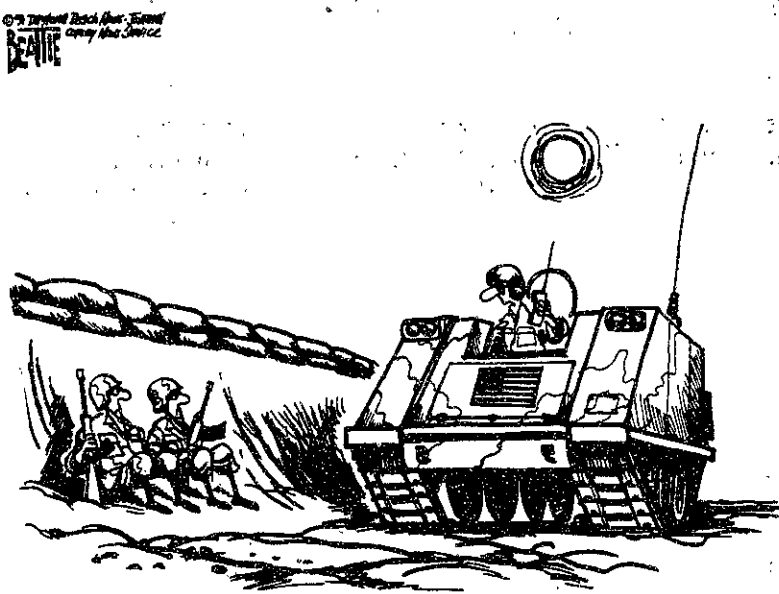
Saddam, in addition, is not playing by popular innocence rules even though we are. Attacks on civilians in Israel and Saudi Arabia, as well as terrorist assaults, reveal a morbid fascination with psychological terror and war on civilians. A fascination, which, to no small extent, is shared by the Saddam supporters who run in front of CNN

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

If civilians know that they will be killed if they are caught near military targets, then air assaults are working. Civilians should be scared to get within 100 feet of a soldier, let alone help one, and soldiers should be so frightened to wear a uniform or hold a gun that they desert their units. Wars end when people are afraid to fight anymore.

No matter how evil Saddam Hussein may be, he is a monster that the Iraqi people created themselves, who came to power because he gave the Iraqis something that they wanted at a time when they needed it.

In a world where everyone can agree how to fight a war, popular innocence and gentlemanly conflict is a gem of a concept, and one that I fervently and unequivocally support. Then again, if all nations could agree how to fight a war, and be trusted to keep their word, wars would never happen in the first place.



"The ground war may be imminent. The president's pollsters just went on their highest state of alert."

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# opinion

## Mathabane gives insight into S. Africa's past, future

Guest column by Grant Schaffner

"Kaffir" is what racist South Africans call a black person. Equivalent to the term "nigger" in the United States, this derogatory name has become synonymous with apartheid. Derived from the Arabic form meaning infidel, it was originally used by Dutch settlers in South Africa to describe the "heathen" black natives.

It is very appropriate that Mark Mathabane chose the title *Kaffir Boy* for his first book. With candor, and sometimes painful honesty, and yet — amazingly — without bitterness, Mathabane tells the story of his growing up in the squalor of a one-square-mile ghetto called Alexandra, one of South Africa's black townships. Born of illiterate parents who could not afford to pay the rent for their shack or put food on their table, he describes a childhood of devastating poverty, terrifying and brutal police raids and relentless humiliation that drove him to attempt suicide at the age of 10.

Mathabane's autobiography left such a deep impression on me, especially as a native white South African trying to face up to the realities of apartheid, that for the past three years I have been looking for a way to meet him and bring him to MIT. This desire was finally realized when, thanks to a grant from the Delta Psi Educational Foundation, Mathabane spoke in Kresge Auditorium on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

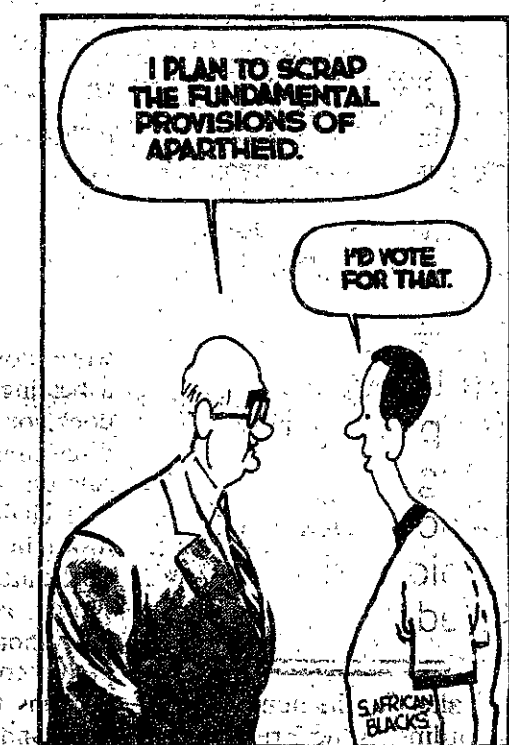
I looked around at the audience of no more than 200 — mostly black — people that speckled the front seating area of Kresge, despite extensive advertising for the lecture. I thought about how ignorance and indifference had formed the very mortar that held apartheid together.

As if he had finally unloaded a heavy backpack that he had carried into the hall with him, he turned to reflections of his childhood experiences. Memories of how his father had been dragged naked from his bed and humiliated in front of his family by the police, and then arrested for the "crime" of being unemployed, because he

*Grant Schaffner '89 lived at Delta Psi (Number Six Club) as an undergraduate and graduated with a degree from the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.*

therefore did not have a valid "pass" that allowed him to live near white neighborhoods. Memories of how, without their father to support them, he had accompanied his mother and sister to the garbage dump each morning to search for half-eaten sandwiches and other scraps of food thrown away by white families. How the debilitating hunger had forced him to "ask questions that no child should have to ask . . . questions of life and death."

He understood the unacknowledged, yet vital importance, of the extended family as a "sanctuary" from the injustices of apartheid.

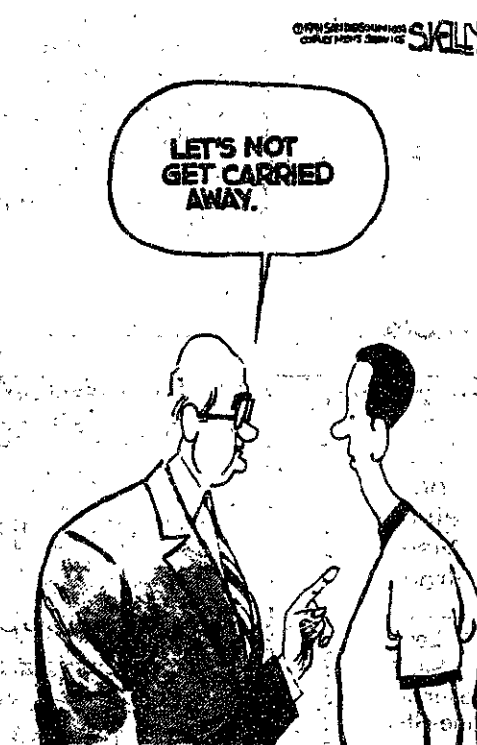


Estranged from his father, who grew embittered by his repeated jail sentences, he gravitated toward his mother. "It is strange that from the tragedy of apartheid could have been born this spirit as embodied by my mother. . . . Because she believed, as I believe, that hope is synonymous with life." It is these words, and above all the word "hope," that helped me understand my earlier conversation with Mathabane about the latest developments in South Africa, in particular President F. W. De Klerk's recent speech at the opening of parliament in Cape Town in which he promised to repeal the remaining stat-

utes of apartheid this year and work towards a new constitution, beginning with a multi-party conference.

Mathabane amazed me by expressing his conviction that credence should be given to the latest developments in South Africa, and that legitimate steps had been taken on the road toward a free South Africa. We agreed that our skepticism had been significantly reduced following the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, and the unbanning of various political organizations, including the African National Congress.

Mathabane warned that the time had



come where people who are really concerned for the future of South Africa, and for the rise of freedom and democracy for all its people, will have to keep pace with the rapid changes occurring there. "People who still walk around yelling nothing but 'Divest now!' are still living in 1986," Mathabane said. Although the ANC and other groups are still calling for sanctions, the time is quickly approaching where we will need to reevaluate this policy and look for alternative ways of supporting the move towards freedom in South Africa.

Sanctions, by design, weaken the already battered South African economy,

where about 12 percent of blacks are unemployed. Up until now many blacks have indicated their willingness to suffer for the sake of change. Yet what of the near future? Mathabane asks. What will happen when the masses, who are gaining their freedom and are being extended the franchise, ask for a share of the wealth of the country, and are told that there remains little to be had? A process of change as revolutionary and historical as the one that is beginning in South Africa will need the support of a strong economy to avoid the rise of anarchy and subsequently further violence and bloodshed.

There are many forces that, even at this time of great hope, threaten to tear the fabric of South Africa apart and perhaps pitch it into bloody civil war. Has not enough blood already been shed to come this far? Yet black-on-black violence, mainly between the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha, continues. The Conservative Party and the small, but dangerous, neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement are continually looking for ways to disrupt the progress towards freedom for all races. Those calling for sanctions today must be aware that they may be contributing to instability in the country and thereby encouraging black-on-black violence, and helping ultra-right wing radicals like the AWB win converts.

I am not suggesting that sanctions be suddenly and completely dropped. A level of pressure needs to be maintained on the South African government. But I believe that the progress that is being made should be encouraged by a lessening of economic pressure that keeps pace with developments. In addition, the time is coming to end South Africa's isolation. Restraints on culture and sports should also be gradually loosened.

I implore you to help continue the struggle for freedom in South Africa, but I ask you to look for ways that will encourage positive developments in South Africa. One means I would suggest is to support the Fund for a Free South Africa, located in Boston, which supports programs that include education, women's and youth movements, health care, media, labor groups, and cultural and community development.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Mastrian's abrasive column reveals truths about unions

Shawn J. Mastrian '91 created quite a stir with his column ["Unions rub this working man the wrong way," Feb. 5]. However, it seems the original point of his article has been overlooked due to the inflammatory and abrasive nature of its delivery.

Two printed responses scolded him for his uncouth manner and then went into long stories about the history of labor unions and all the good they have done for American workers. I feel it necessary to present the opposing view once again; this time in a different style.

Anyone who has taken a standard United States history class knows the horror stories about working conditions in turn-of-the-century sweatshops and mines. We all know that the introduction of labor unions resulted in revolutionary improvements in working conditions.

David W. Hogg '92 ["Attack on unions inspired by hate," Feb. 8] and Deborah A. Levinson '91 ["Union attack lacked logic," Feb. 12] cite such ameliorations as shorter working hours, increased wages, workers' compensation and protection against unlawful termination. Who can deny that working men and women benefited greatly from unions?

Now consider the present day. All of the aforementioned regulations fall under the jurisdiction of federal and state law. All

working Americans have rights and privileges as defined by the government.

These arguments no longer hold water as justification for the presence of unions. But don't unions provide other services for their members? Let's take a look.

Let us assume that minimum wage, as defined by the government, is not enough to allow the typical American to support himself.

With this assumption, we can say the labor unions benefit their members by controlling the supply of workers, and hence, forcing employers to pay reasonable wages. Let us take the current MIT issue as an example:

As presented in a *Tech* article ["Local union protests at MIT," Feb. 15], members of a local painters' union are upset with MIT for allowing a non-union painting company to be contracted.

According to the union spokesman, "The local's only concern is that all workers be able to enjoy a union standard of living." He then goes on that the employees of the non-union company are "uninterested in unions."

It sounds like the non-union painters are happy with their current standard of living. After all, they have had the opportunity to join the union and have chosen to turn it down.

Monopolies are groups that drive prices up by limiting the

supply of a good or service. Monopolies are illegal. However, labor unions strive to monopolize the market of workers in an effort to forcibly increase wages. Is this not the same thing? The local painter's union is upset because another company undercut it and got the job.

If we were simply talking about the price of an object, Americans would pass it off as just another instance of the free-market system at work.

But we are talking about people, so the union says MIT isn't paying so-called fair wages. That might be a reasonable complaint except for one thing: The non-union employees believe they are receiving "fair wages."

The New York state telephone workers regularly go on strike. The reasons vary but money is usually the main issue. I know a woman who works as an operator for this company. She is not a member of the union, and as she has a family to support, she cannot afford to strike every year.

So, she crosses the picket line. This woman drives her husband's car to work during strikes so the strikers won't recognize it and paint graffiti on it or slash the tires. One time, union members drove 30 miles to her house to picket carrying signs with slogans like, "The scab who lives here must die."

Mastrian labels unions as "gangs of thugs." I find it hard

to refute this point in the face of stories such as these. Levinson, on the other hand, claims that groups such as these "are neither representative of unions as a whole, nor do they remain true to the spirit in which unions were originally formed."

However, I have yet to hear of a union which did not resort to strongarm tactics to get what it wanted. If you don't want to play by the union's rules, it will do its damndest to get you out of the picture.

Unions were originally formed to enforce regulations that are now enforced by the government. They were originally formed to serve and protect their members. Instead, what they do today is overinflate the going rate on the

services their members provide and then turn around and soak their members for outrageous dues.

They make it difficult, if not impossible, for people seeking temporary employment to work in union-controlled jobs. They terrorize those who refuse to join them.

Mastrian mentioned that unions have outlived their purpose. I agree most wholeheartedly. The conditions they sought to improve have been ameliorated by government codes. Union demands are at the expense of other hard-working Americans who don't want to take part in their games.

Courtney Moriarta '91

## Tech drowns in ads and fluff

Take a look at what *The Tech* has become. Advertisements consume roughly half of the paper. The "news roundup" page boils down intricate real-world political and social events into easy-to-digest-four-sentence-long news "McNuggets."

We are subjected to endless cartoons that are neither funny nor drawn well. What's more, rambling know-it-alls like Bill Jackson '93 are allocated a full page of *The Tech* on a regular basis for use as their own personal bathroom wall/drivel receptacle.

One possible solution: Publish less often and cut the fluff. Maybe two half-baked editions can be transformed into a single quality edition. Furthermore, allow more editorials from the MIT community at large to be expressed. Remember, the paper belongs to all of us.

In short, please give us a paper we can be proud of — a paper that represents the MIT community — not a paper that represents a waste of newsprint.

Thomas J. Fitzgerald G

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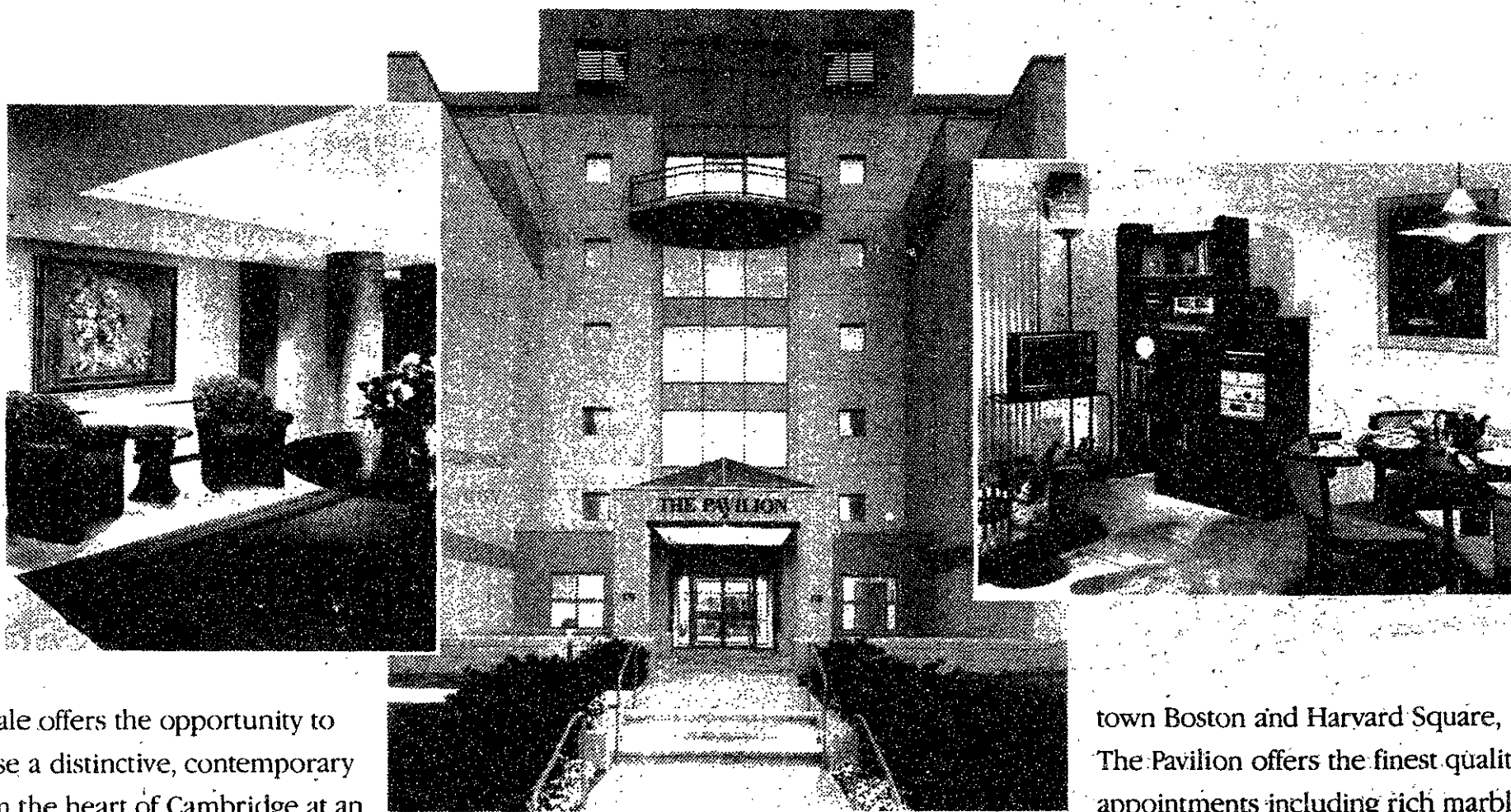
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# Opinion

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tech alcohol survey article misrepresents key results

The Tech's reporting on the recent forum on house taxes and alcohol was inaccurate ["Use of house tax probed," Feb. 19]. To begin with, the article misrepresented the results of the recent Undergraduate Association Alcohol Policy Committee survey, which posed two questions regarding the use of house taxes to purchase alcohol.

The article states that 43 percent of the 305 students who answered the first survey question opposed use of dormitory taxes for alcohol. The correct figure was 41 percent.

More importantly, it also states that "over half of the others who responded disapproved of spending a large proportion of house taxes on alcohol." Not only is this statement false, but the survey did not even pose a question on the subject.

The second of the two questions on the survey merely asked students who approved of the use of dormitory taxes for alcohol in the first question if they considered it "valid" for other students to oppose expenditure of house taxes on alcohol.

The article correctly reports that turnout at the forum was low. But it could have been more precise: Beyond the committee, only three students showed up at Room 10-250. The article suggests that the committee "judged the poll's 15-percent response rate to be good." This is wrong. There are 2801 students in the dormitory system, 305 of whom completed the survey, a response rate of only 11 percent.

At such a response rate, one can safely assume that only those with strong feelings on the subject commented. Beyond the low response rate, the survey was unrepresentative of dormitory resi-

dents as a whole, drawing two-thirds of its responses from three dormitories — Baker, Burton and McCormick — with about one-third of dormitory residents.

No surveys whatsoever were collected from East Campus, Bexley Hall or Senior House. As a member of the Alcohol Policy Committee, I pointed out the unreliability of the poll during the forum.

Still, it is good that The Tech covered the forum. Students need to know how the new alcohol policy will affect life in the dormitories. If, in my opinion, the committee continues in its current direction it will ban dormitory purchases of alcohol, regardless of the source of funds, the proportion of residents over 21 or the proportion of funds spent on alcohol.

To insure no alcohol is purchased, the Bursar's Office may also be given control over dormitory expenditures, forcing house officers to go through cumbersome procedures to gain approval whenever money is spent.

Questioning the direction of the committee has been difficult. While there are several students on the committee, it is difficult for them to address administration concerns about liability, an issue about which students are not experts.

And some student members have listened passively, viewing their role more as "educating" students than representing them. Those who have opinions about the changes the committee is considering should attend the next alcohol forum in the beginning of March, so the committee can take their views into account.

Lars Bader '91  
UA Alcohol Policy Committee



### Letters policy

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

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 may be mailed to tech@athena.

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.

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS

So you're interested in making a difference at MIT? You can do so by becoming the student representative on an institute committee.

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COLS	AFB	EOC	CIIC	COS	CWR

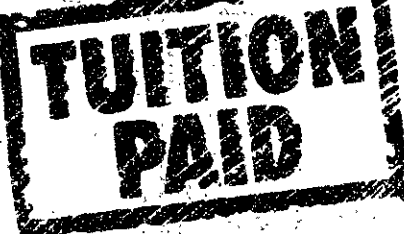
For more info on these committees watch for "Shaping the Future," NomComm's guide to Institute Committees. Available February 21 in the Open House !!

**Open House Time February 28**  
from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
and Place **Vannevar Bush Room 10-105**

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ARTS

# Poet Frank Bidart explores "unity of thought"

**FRANK BIDART**

Poetry at the Media Lab.  
Bartos Theatre, Feb. 20, 7:30 pm.

By DEBORAH A. LEVINSON

**F**RANK BIDART put it best himself when he said that he liked poems that join "something passionate with what is personal." His reading Wednesday at the Bartos Theatre proved to be just that, as Bidart recited a poem from his latest work, *In the Western Night*.

Bidart, an unassuming man in a rumpled brown jacket, delivered a dramatic reading of "In the First Hour of the Night," a poem that took a full 45 minutes to present. Frankly, the word "complicated" doesn't even begin to describe the structure and range of emotions the poem presents — it's not neatly segmented like Adrienne Rich's work, nor is it loose and rambling, like Ginsberg's. Rather, it is one cohesive piece that travels through several

distinct states: an opening, a closing and three dream sequences in between.

The poem is an extended monologue by a character Bidart says is not himself, but whose actions are based on an agglomeration of sources ranging from a Hans Meyerhof book to a letter from one of Jung's patients. Its opening is strange enough: "This happened about 12 years before I died," states the main character matter-of-factly.

Like Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*, the action in Bidart's poem is sparked by a single incident, the unexpected death of a friend. The friend's son invites the protagonist to stay at his home once for old times' sake. Instead of spending a pleasant evening together, however, they sit and stare at each other, the protagonist mournful about his friend, the son bitter about his abandonment. "Everything forever unresolved clearly is ever unresolved between us," says the son about his father. The protagonist is unable to help, realizing that there is "something

structural in human relations making what we felt, well, impersonal."

The rest of the poem is devoted to complex dreams that serve as metaphors for the relationship of protagonist, son and father, and ultimately, metaphors for the endless struggle between carefree life and responsibility, between stability and entropy.

The narrator dreams that he enters Raphael's fresco "The School of Athens" and is confronted by Greek scholars Ptolemy, Euclid and Pythagoras, as well as philosophers of many different eras — Descartes, Hegel, Hobbes and D'Alembert, whose "ironic smile seemed to mock the dreams of the metaphysicians." Heartened by the presence of all the great philosophers, the narrator begins asking esoteric metaphysical questions himself. "What is thought?" he wonders, finally deciding it is "the silently occurring dialogue of the soul within itself." But when the dreamer's dead friend suddenly appears, the philosophers begin arguing, the school collapses into

rubble, and the narrator awakes, despairing of ever finding such perfect order and "unity of thought" again.

This dream, tied in with accompanying ones dealing with the death of the narrator's horse, forms the bulk of Bidart's poem. He spends the rest of his time trying to piece everything together and make sense of not just his thoughts, but how they relate to life and death. Bidart's language is deceptively simple — it sounds more like prose than poetry — but the themes with which he deals are of enormous magnitude, explored through personal channels. "The First Hour of the Night" is relentless self-examination, something Bidart freely admitted when he stated "I really believe in Yeats' statement, 'Poems are an argument with oneself.'"

Bidart's reading showed that he is a poet of immeasurable talent. As Pam Alexander, visiting writer in the MIT Writing Program, said in her introduction, Bidart "presses intently into the dynamics of consciousness."

# Penn and Teller delight in The Refrigerator Tour

**PENN AND TELLER:**  
**THE REFRIGERATOR TOUR**

Starring Penn Jillette and Teller.  
Colonial Theatre through March 3.  
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 8 pm.

By REUVEN M. LERNER

**P**ENN AND TELLER are not your run-of-the-mill magicians. As you might have seen on television, in movies, or in assorted magazine and newspaper articles, they are two guys who enjoy fooling people — and then, just for kicks, showing those people how they were fooled.

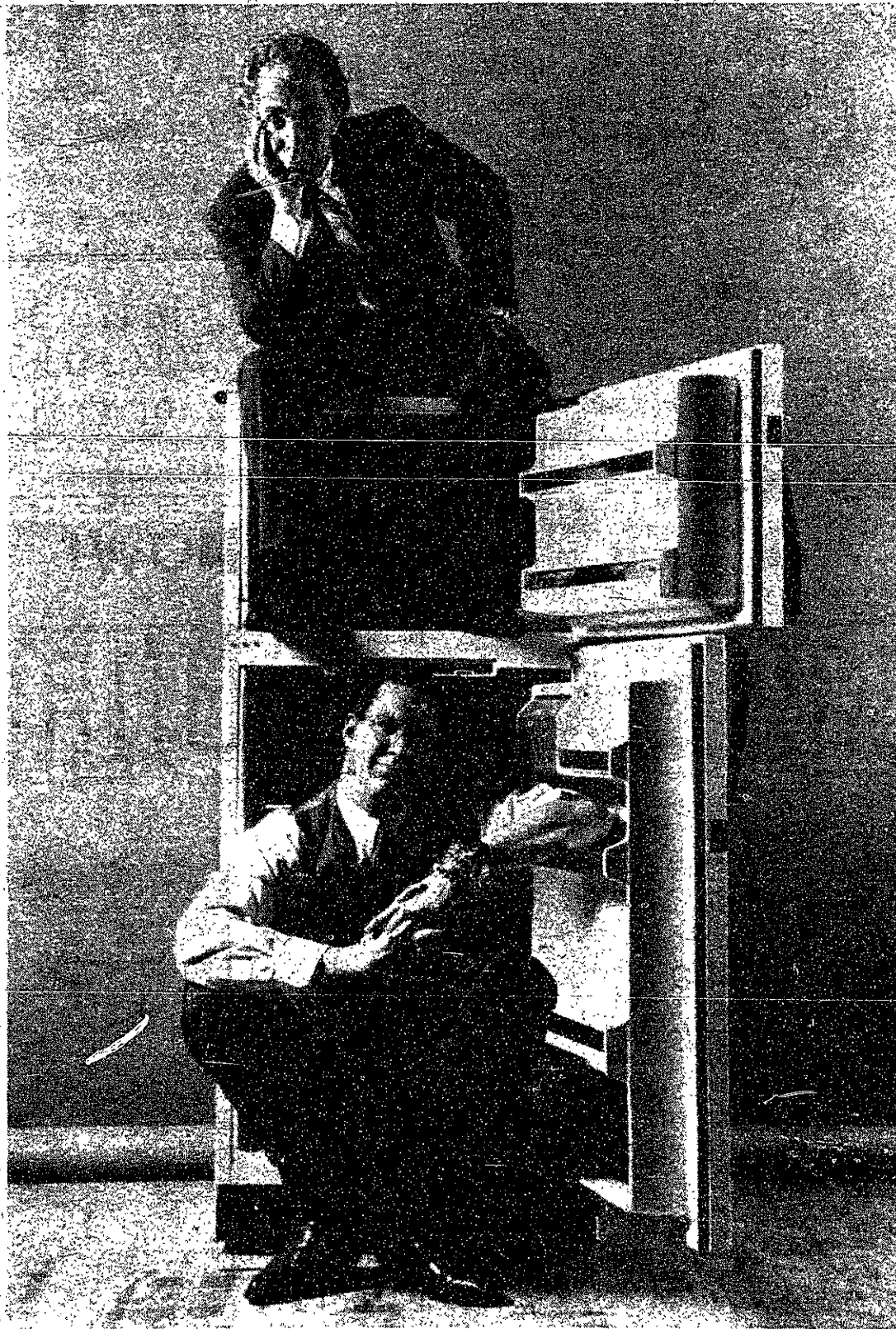
Their latest venture, dubbed *Penn and Teller: The Refrigerator Tour*, opens with, quite appropriately, a refrigerator being dropped on top of them from a height of about 20 feet. All right, so it just looks like the refrigerator is dropped on them. But that illusion begins a program which is exciting, funny and thoroughly entertaining.

The striking contrast between Penn and Teller is half the fun. Penn Jillette (his real name) is over six feet tall, speaks in a loud, booming voice, insults the audience as if he were doing them a favor, and brags about the fact that he's expecting to go to hell.

Teller, on the other hand, only goes by his last name, is almost completely silent during the show. The former Latin professor now spends his time swallowing needles, holding his breath in water-filled telephone booths, and grabbing food out of animal traps.

Several of the presentations were extraordinary: "Liftoff to Love/Ripoff of Love," in which Penn disassembles (and then reassembles) Teller, is a very funny spoof of magicians who need loud rock music and violent pelvic thrusts to keep the attention of an audience. After going through the trick much as any other magician would do, Penn produces a set of props which allow the audience to see exactly how the trick is done — a cardinal sin for most magicians, but nothing special for Penn and Teller.

My other favorite was a new trick, which they called "By Buddha, This Duck is Immortal!" Penn tells the story of an amazing immortal duck he found while eating in a Chinese restaurant. The duck appears on stage moments later. To test the duck's resilience, Penn places the duck in a paper bag, and crushes it under an anvil. Needless to say, the duck is unhurt. ("The Amazing Mortal Duck" probably would not be worth putting on stage.) Just to prove that we weren't paying attention to what they were doing, Penn performs



the trick again — this time, at a much faster pace.

For those of you who were wondering, "Mofo, the Psychic Gorilla" does indeed return in *The Refrigerator Tour*. Mofo, the talking gorilla who can do card tricks and read minds, performs with some of the best humor exhibited in the show. Part of the fun was the fact that most of the audience realized what was going on before the people on stage did — a refreshing feeling, after having been conned for the better

part of an hour.

There were two old favorites in the performance. In "A Card Trick," they give an old trick ("pick a card, any card") a new, and somewhat gruesome, twist. And in "Quotation of the Day," Penn and Teller manage, through some sleight-of-hand, to predict which book of the Bible will be chosen by children with darts and huge dice thrown from the back of the theater.

Penn and Teller also performed what they called "Two Modern Fakir Tricks,"

which they described as modern-day versions of what someone might see on the street in India. These tricks, while some of the simplest of the evening, were also some of the most elegant and entertaining.

The award for simplicity and elegance, however, must go to Teller, for his performance in "Shadows." His pruning of a flower by cutting its shadow was (appropriately) short and silent, making it stand out even more from the rest of the performance.

Also new is "Two Houdini Tricks," in which Penn (and later, Teller) performs "Metamorphosis" while Teller demonstrates the art of threading 100 needles with your throat.

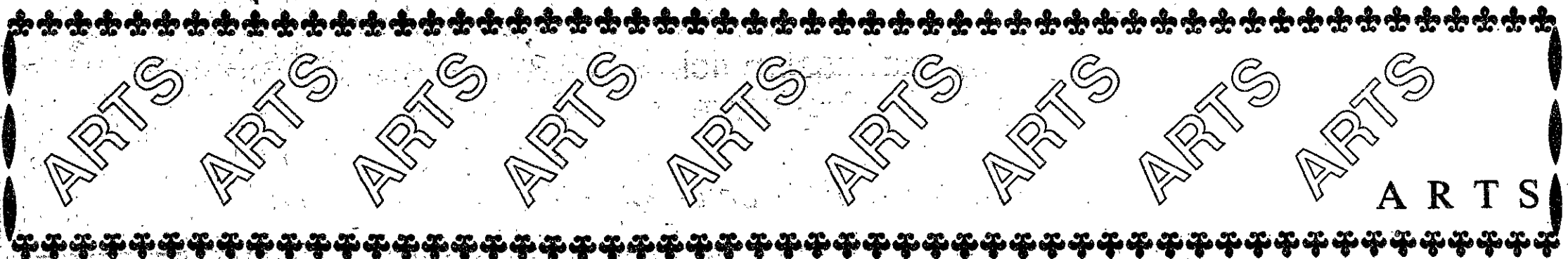
Penn and Teller's final act, called "Kinds of Animal Traps," is a fairly impressive display of dexterity and humor. As Penn discusses his childhood fascination with various types of animal traps, Teller opens each one and loads it with some food. After successfully getting the food out of the traps, Teller performs one last impressive feat, and he and Penn take their well-deserved bows.

There are some weak spots in the performance. "Cuffed to a Creep," in which Teller secretly handcuffs himself to Penn (and then performs a surprisingly easy escape), is the worst of them. The trick itself took only a few seconds; I saw no reason for them to stretch it out with what I saw as a boring dialogue.

As much as I love Penn and Teller, I could not help but feel a little cheated by *The Refrigerator Tour*. It was certainly entertaining and fun, but much of their material was recycled from their Broadway show and a nationally-broadcast television special last fall. Of the 11 segments in their show, I counted only three which I had not seen before. Their sense of humor and style made up for much of the repetition, but someone who has seen them many times before might not appreciate the show nearly as much as someone enjoying Penn and Teller for the very first time.

The theater was not completely full, but it came pretty close. I suggest that anyone interested in seeing Penn and Teller's latest show buy tickets immediately.

By the way: Don't be surprised if you see Penn and Teller wandering around the MIT campus during their three-week stay in Boston. Rumor has it that they enjoy hanging out at the Media Laboratory, playing with the computers that are there. Perhaps it is only appropriate that these two men, who earn money from playing games with people's minds, should spend time at a place where games become reality.



# Grad Students

- How do you feel about graduate life?
- Do you feel there are needed changes at the institute?
- Do you think grad students should participate in making these changes?

## Maybe you should be a GSC committee representative?

The GSC is now accepting nominations for representatives for the following FUN committees:

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- Corporate Joint Advisory Committee
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- The Inauguration Committee
- Committee on Privacy
- Committee on Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects
- Ad Hoc Committee on Military Impact on Campus Research

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## Call for Papers MIT-ACM Computer Science Conference

The third MIT-ACM Undergraduate Computer Science Conference will recognize and display quality research done by MIT undergraduates. MIT undergraduates will present papers on a wide variety of Computer Science subjects. The authors of the best papers will receive cash awards. All accepted papers will be distributed.

The goal of this conference is to assemble undergraduates in a forum which:

1. Expands the realm of undergraduate education to issues beyond class subjects;
2. Encourages communication of technical ideas among a peer group;
3. Allows undergraduates to present their work in a formal setting;
4. Provides undergraduates experience with writing and presenting papers.

The conference will cover topics relating to Computer Science. Suitable sources include:

- Term projects for classes (e.g. 6.111 or 6.036);
- UROP projects;
- Summer jobs, including non-proprietary VI-A assignments;
- In-progress theses;
- Personal hacks, which others would find technologically interesting.

We enthusiastically solicit short papers, of about six typed single-spaced pages, or 1500 words. Please submit three copies of papers to the Conference Chairperson by March 15, 1991. Papers must not have been published or submitted elsewhere for publication. Authors of accepted and rejected papers will be notified by April 1, 1991.

Papers will be judged on technical content, cleverness, interestingness, and quality of writing.

For information, contact: Conference Chairperson, Michael de la Maza, MacGregor E124; x5-9240; mdlm@ai.mit.edu.

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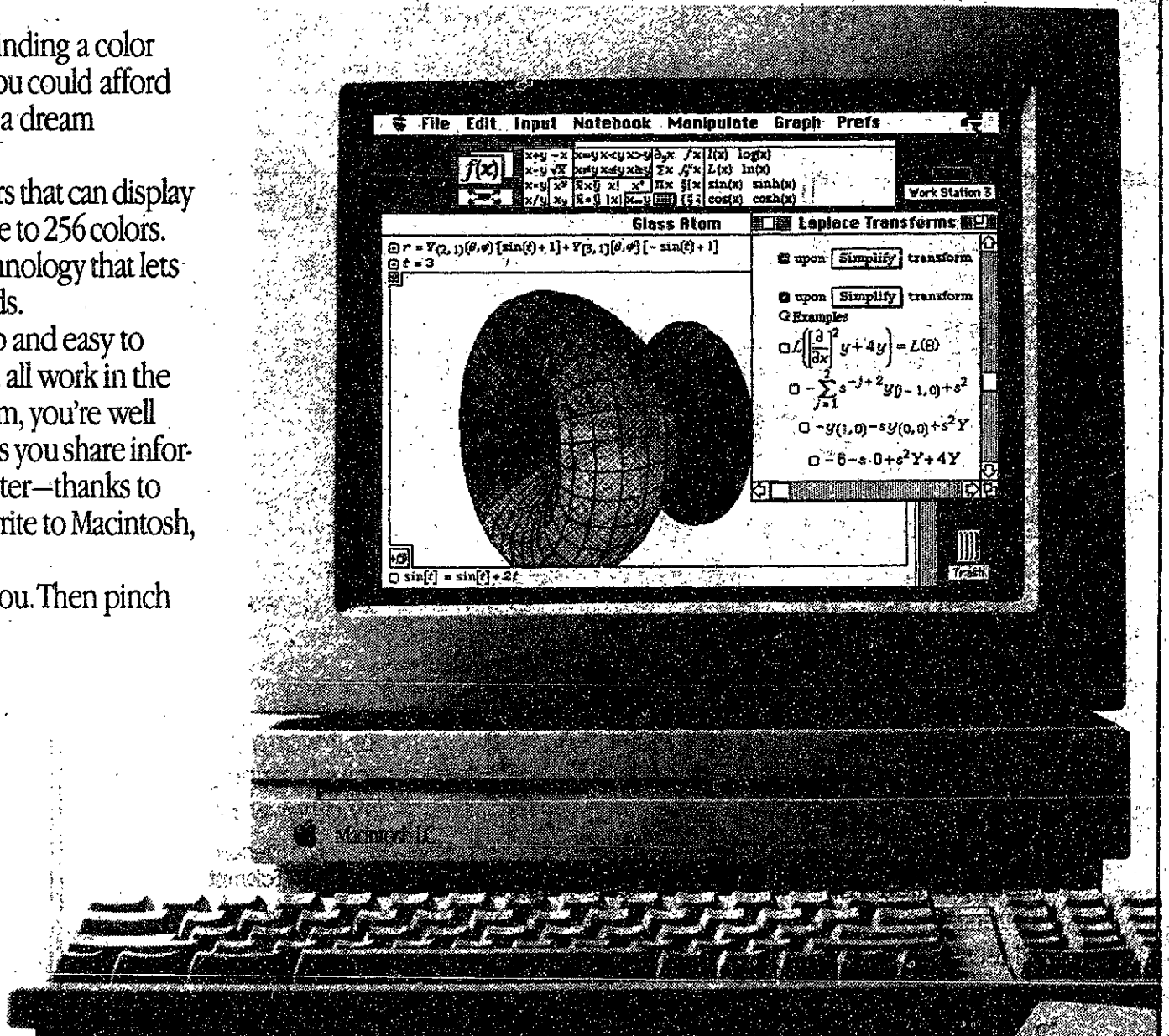
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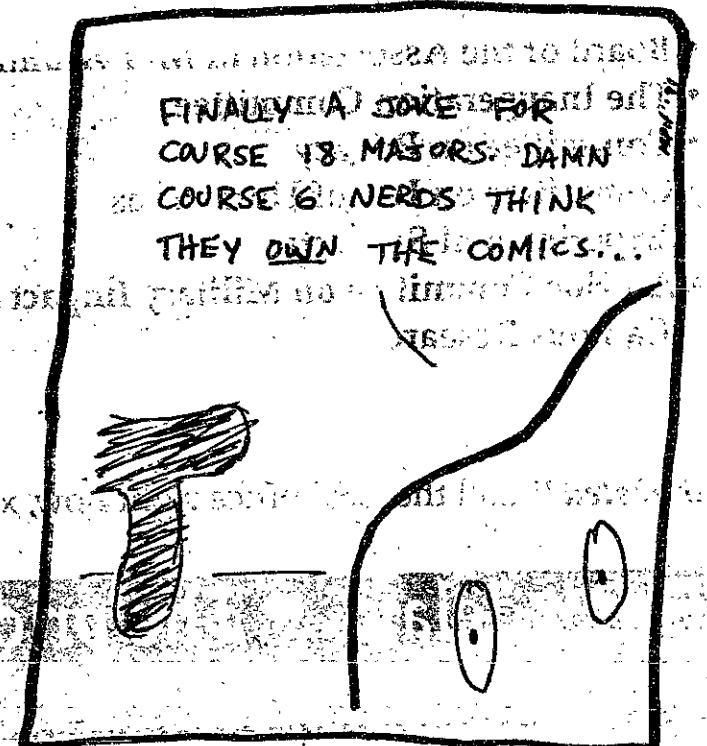
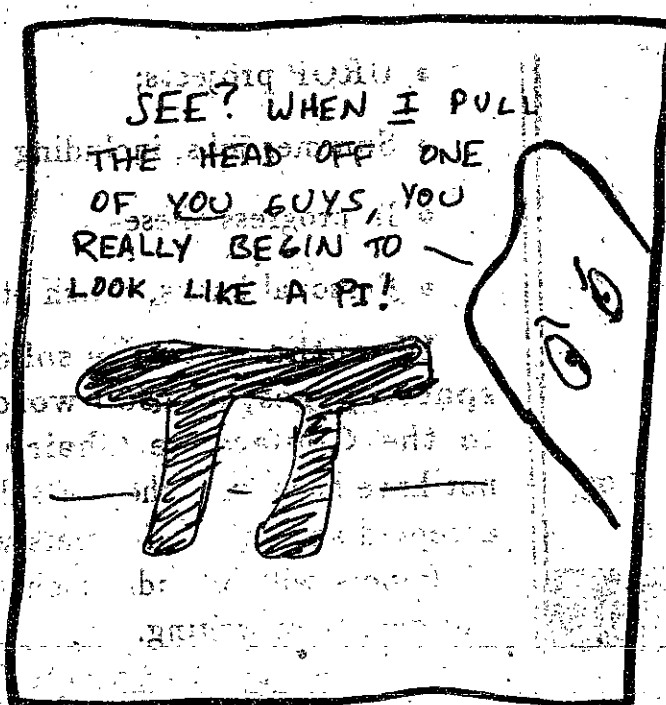
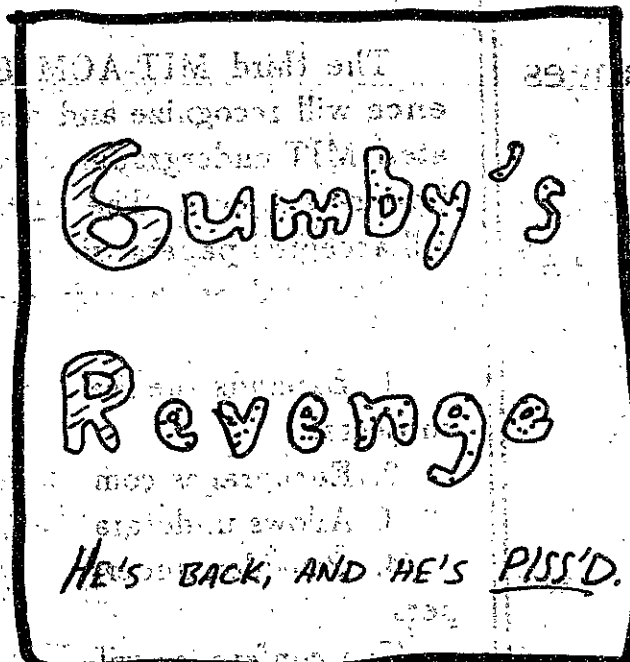
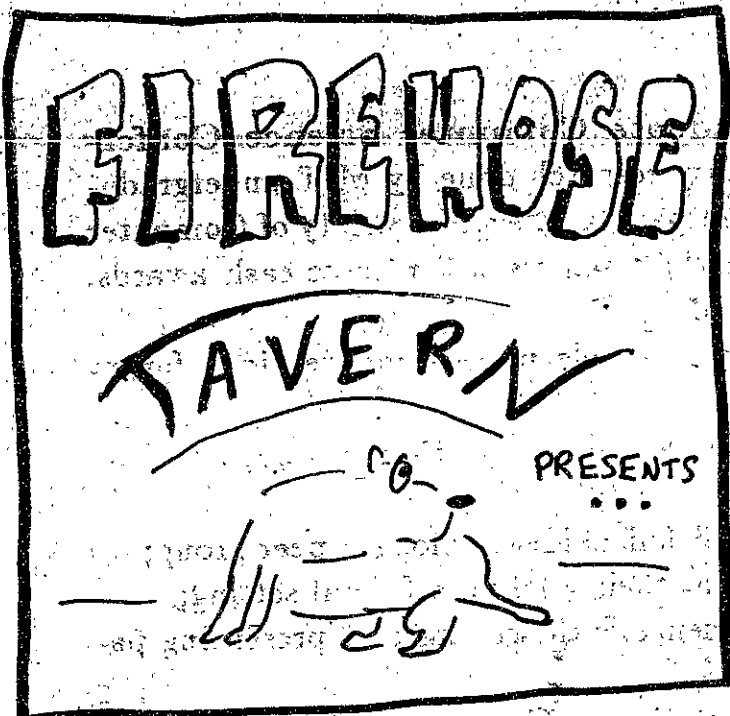
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# comics



By Mark Hurst

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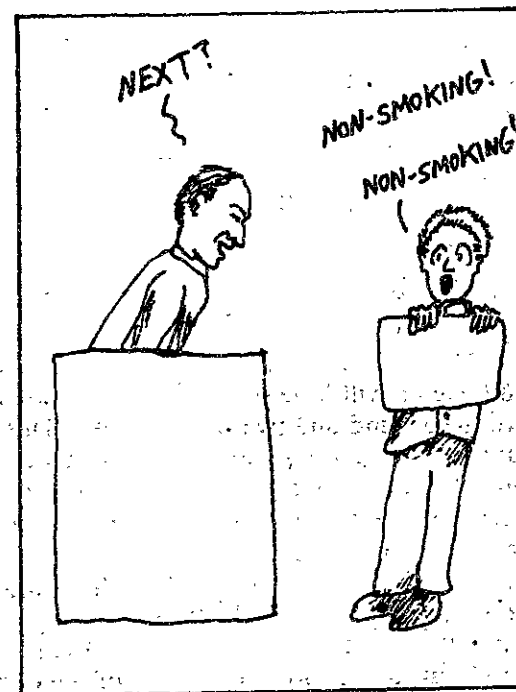
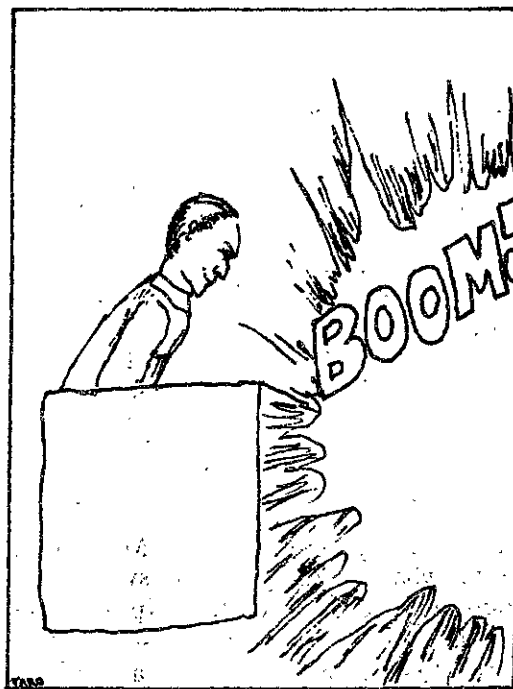
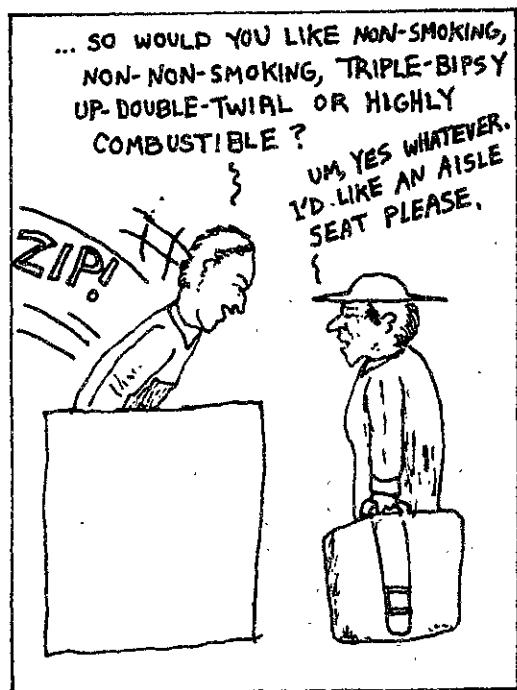
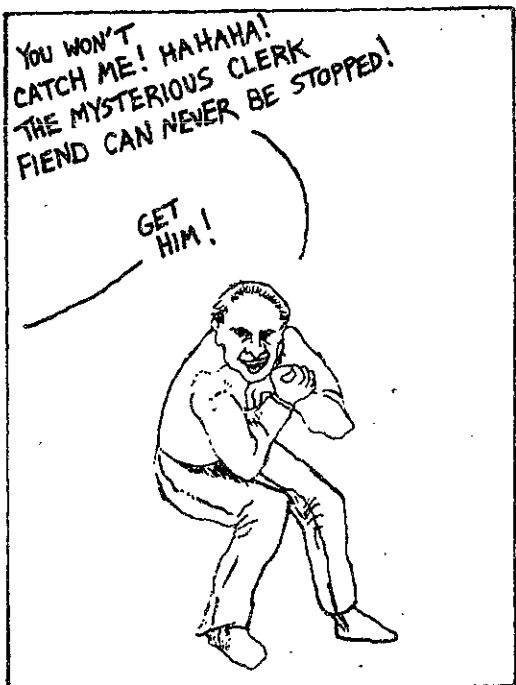
Eric Strecker,  
Senior Project Scientist  
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# comics

TARO OHKAWA



RUB

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- March 1  
(Summer Schedule Only)
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# Faculty discuss Athena

(Continued from page 1)

tion Systems as it integrates Project Athena: to ensure no degradation of service, to continue to provide an academic focus to computing, and to extend Athena into Macintosh and DOS systems.

Bruce added that Information Systems will attempt to offset budget limitations by asking departments to pay for departmental Athena workstations.

In 1992, the Institute will contribute \$3.7 million of the \$9 million it costs to operate Project Athena.

## Biology facilities to be built

Wrighton also announced a timetable for the construction of a new biology building on Ames Street, across from Building E17. The number of the building will be 68.

Ground will be broken on the site for the facility in March, and bids for construction contractors will go out in May. Construction should be completed by the end of 1993, Wrighton said.

Building 68 will have six stories above the ground and two underground. It will have 142,000 net assignable square feet, an area greater than the area of Buildings 16 and 56 combined, Wrighton said.

Construction costs will total about \$70 million.

Wrighton also announced renovations for Buildings 16 and 56 to begin in 1994 and to end by 1996. The renovations will cost

\$40 million.

Wrighton described the costs of the project, to total \$110 million, as "significant," saying though "we have some of the money in the bank, some funding sources are uncertain."

Wrighton hopes to obtain significant funds during the process of naming the building and some of the space inside.

## Gulf crisis committee to form

Also at the meeting, Vest called on Institute Professor Francis E. Low to deal with the impact of the gulf war on MIT.

"The present international situation... has potential for divisiveness on campus. It is important to keep a civil discourse, with differing and opposing opinions expressed without destroying the atmosphere of congeniality and respect here," Low said.

"It would not be proper for MIT to get on about its business as if nothing of this kind were happening in the world. As an Institute we have an obligation to pay attention to what is going on. This group will serve this purpose," Low added.

The committee is to consist of faculty and student members.

## Inauguration agenda announced

Claude R. Canizares, director of the Center for Space Research, announced a timetable of events to occur for the inauguration of Vest.

The festivities will begin on Saturday, May 4 at 10:30 am with the second Johnson Games and inaugural picnic. Registration deadline for the event is April 5.

On Thursday, May 9 at 8 pm an inaugural concert will be held in Kresge Auditorium. On May 10 at 10:30 am the inauguration procession and ceremony will be held in Killian Court, followed by a reception for the MIT community at 11 am in the Kresge Oval.

A presidential ball will take place in late September or early October.

Additional events will take place to "focus ongoing discussion on the future of MIT," Canizares said.

The theme of the events will be "MIT: Shaping the Future," and events will "concentrate on MIT's role as the quintessential research university," he added.

A colloquium will occur in mid-October to deal with the "partnership between education and research."

On May 23 or 24 a Vannevar Bush symposium on the "partnership between the research university and the nation" will occur, and next fall a symposium will occur dealing with the "partnership between the research university and the West."

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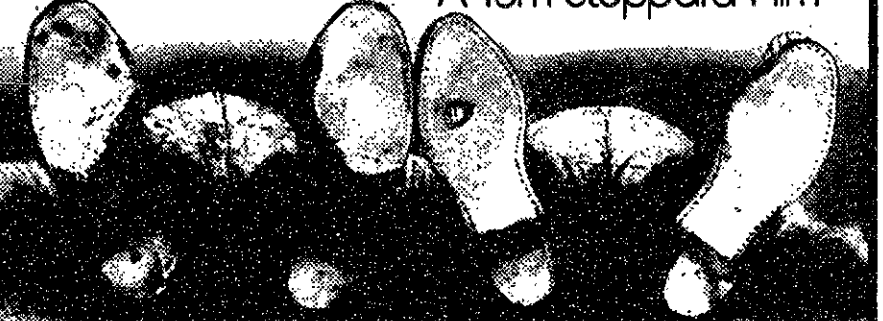
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**Pine Street Inn**  
Help the homeless through the Pine Street Inn of Boston. Due to funding cutbacks and the recession, Pine Street is struggling to stay open. They are collecting money through March 1 to raise funds for dinners in mid-March. Volunteers are also needed to help serve those dinners. Contact Eugene Chen of the Sloan Volunteer Consulting Group at 225-9558. Contributions can be sent via interdepartmental mail to the Sloan VCG at E52 or left at the Public Service Center, rm 3-123.

**Swim for Sight**  
The Eye Research Institute is hosting the third annual SWIM FOR SIGHT fund raiser on March 2-3 at the Boston Harbor Hotel-Rowes Wharf Health Club & Spa. There will be live entertainment, free refreshments, free T-shirts and much more. Volunteers needed to help run the event, as well as participate as swimmers. To register as a swimmer, call 742-3140 ext. 563. To volunteer, call Rich Godfrey at 723-6078 ext. 569.

**Cambridge Rindge and Latin**  
The Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School is holding a SCIENCE FAIR on March 7 from 1-4:00 pm. They need volunteers to come be judges for the event. If you are interested in judging, contact Al Weinstein at 349-6790.

**Cornerstone Community**  
The Cornerstone Community Association is sponsoring a renovation project to develop permanent, affordable housing. Their current project is a 4000-sq.-ft. home on the corner of Pearl and Green streets in Cambridge. Volunteers needed for help with demolition and construction work starting today. For more information contact Pat Reindhart at 864-1507.

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

**Jewish Family and Child Service**  
The Jewish Family and Children's Service of Brookline has opportunities to help newly arrived Soviet immigrants improve their English language skills. Volunteers are needed for two hours weekly to visit an immigrant family in their home and help them make a new life in Boston. For more information call Barbara Kivowitz at 566-1230.

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

**PSC**  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Public Service Center

## Erratum

A Public Service Center announcement in Tuesday's issue of *The Tech* incorrectly listed five volunteer opportunities. These opportunities no longer exist.



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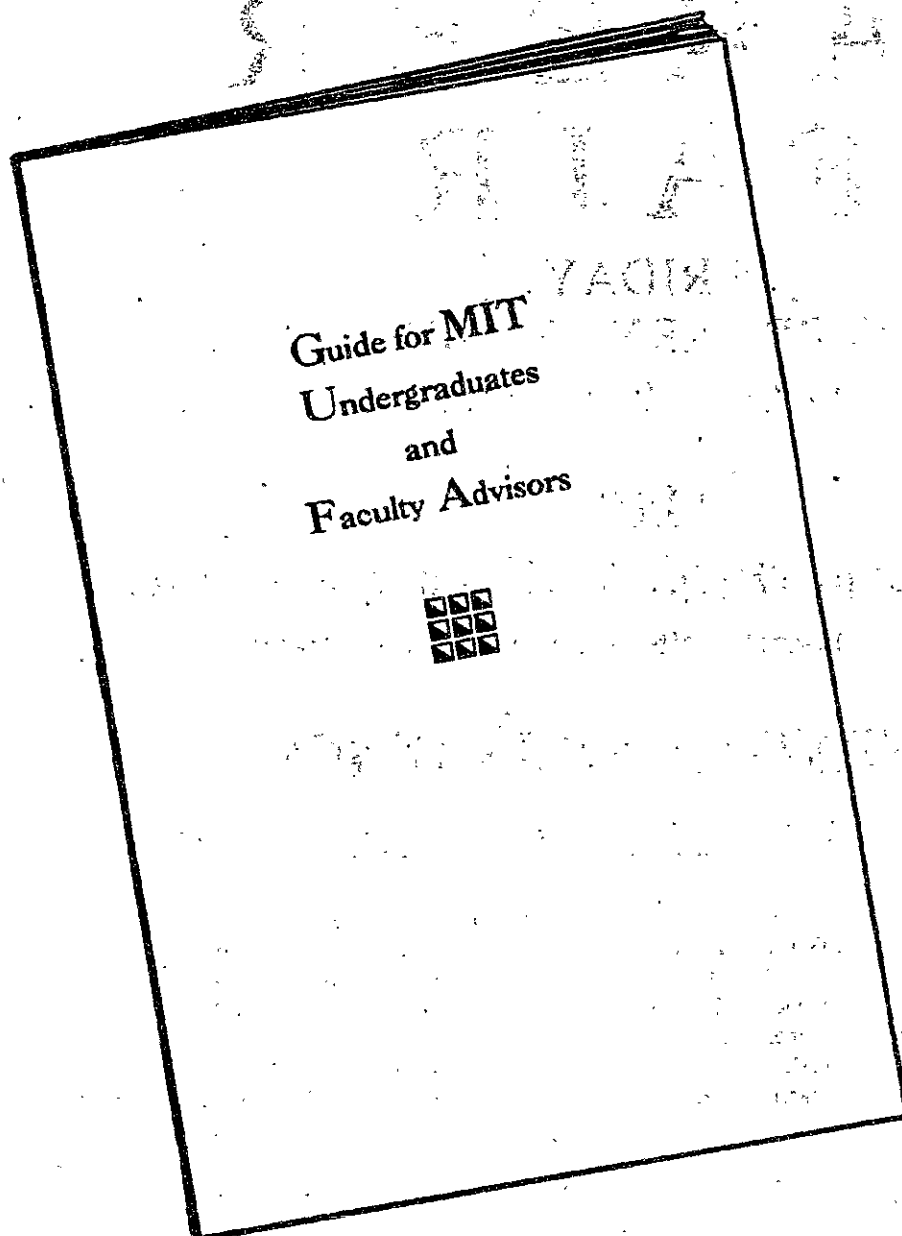
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## UA food service committee presents plan to council

(Continued from page 1)

of the faculty and MIT Corporation in order to be established, Antico said.

Lawrence E. Maguire, director of housing and food services, did not want to comment on the finality of the proposal.

If this proposal is approved by the Corporation, MIT will begin notifying food service contractors in mid-March to explain the structure of the MIT proposal. Bids will begin May 15, according to Maguire.

At that time, a committee of three faculty members, three administrators, one graduate student, and two or three undergraduates will be set up to help determine which contractor will provide the best bid for the new meal plan, Antico said.

A contractor will be chosen by July 1.

This proposal comes at the end of a long investigation by the UA

Food Service Committee in collaboration with Maguire to determine what students want in a meal plan. An initial proposal was presented to the Academic Council by Maguire on Tuesday.

The initial plan proposed that residents of Baker, MacGregor and Next House eat four out of five dinners per week in a dormitory dining hall. It also required them to buy a \$500-per-term minimum mandatory meal plan.

Maguire presented this proposal, but added that surveys conducted by the UA indicated that students were against the proposed meal plan. Maguire added in his presentation scenarios of what students want in a future meal plan.

Maguire said that rejection by the students reflects "the reality" of the students' needs. He added that to meet the students' needs was the only way that a meal plan can be proposed and be successful.

## GSC criticizes appointment of student for committee

(Continued from page 1)

68 percent of those who responded are in favor of the constitutional amendments. Twenty-eight percent said they had no opinion on the proposed changes.

The GSC also polled graduate students on an "all but dissertation (ABD)" status for students who are only working on their doctoral dissertation. In response to the question, "Do you think that MIT should have an ABD status available?" 88 percent responded "yes."

The ABD status is expected to reduce tuition charges of students working on their dissertations while allowing such students to remain on campus and have access to Institute resources.

The GSC has tallied the results of about 1000 surveys, but roughly 400 remain to be counted. The complete results of the survey are expected to be published as a report next month.

### Student appointment to search committee criticized

The council passed a resolution criticizing manner in which a graduate student was selected by

Provost Mark S. Wrighton to the search committee for a new dean of science.

While appreciating the provost's inclusion of a graduate student in the search process, the resolution demanded that student representatives be elected representatives of the graduate student body.

Richard R. Kerswell G, one of two student appointees to the search committee, was invited to the council meeting to answer questions regarding his appointment.

Kerswell was asked to serve on the committee after his department head recommended him to Wrighton. His job is to collect substantial student input for the selection process.

Grossberg described the style of appointing of students as "most disturbing."

The council also adopted a resolution supporting the present location of the "Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Center."

The resolution further encouraged the use of public spaces in the Student Center for open dialogue and information on gulf war.

## Provost picks students for search committee

(Continued from page 1)

Sachs was also surprised at being considered for the committee. Sachs said a faculty member within his department had approached him about the position. Sachs said he was interested, but questioned his own qualifications for the position. "I don't really know what duties the dean of science has."

The search committee held their first meeting last week. However, the committee's chairman was not present and Sachs said his and Kerswell's duties on the committee have still not been made clear.

"We were told by the provost

that we would be full-fledged members of the committee," said Sachs. "I guess we have whatever power that title entails." Since Sachs was unsure what he would be doing on the committee, he did not want to comment on the potential usefulness of having students on the search committee.

Kerswell believed student presence would be helpful to search committees in general. "The more voices from different angles, the better," he said.

Although he has no set agenda, Kerswell has planned out his first duty. "I'm interested in talking to as many graduate students as I can," he said.



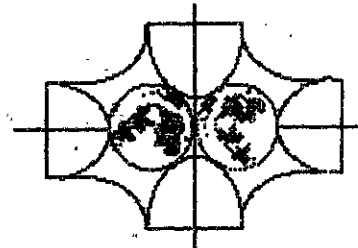
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**12:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

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**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

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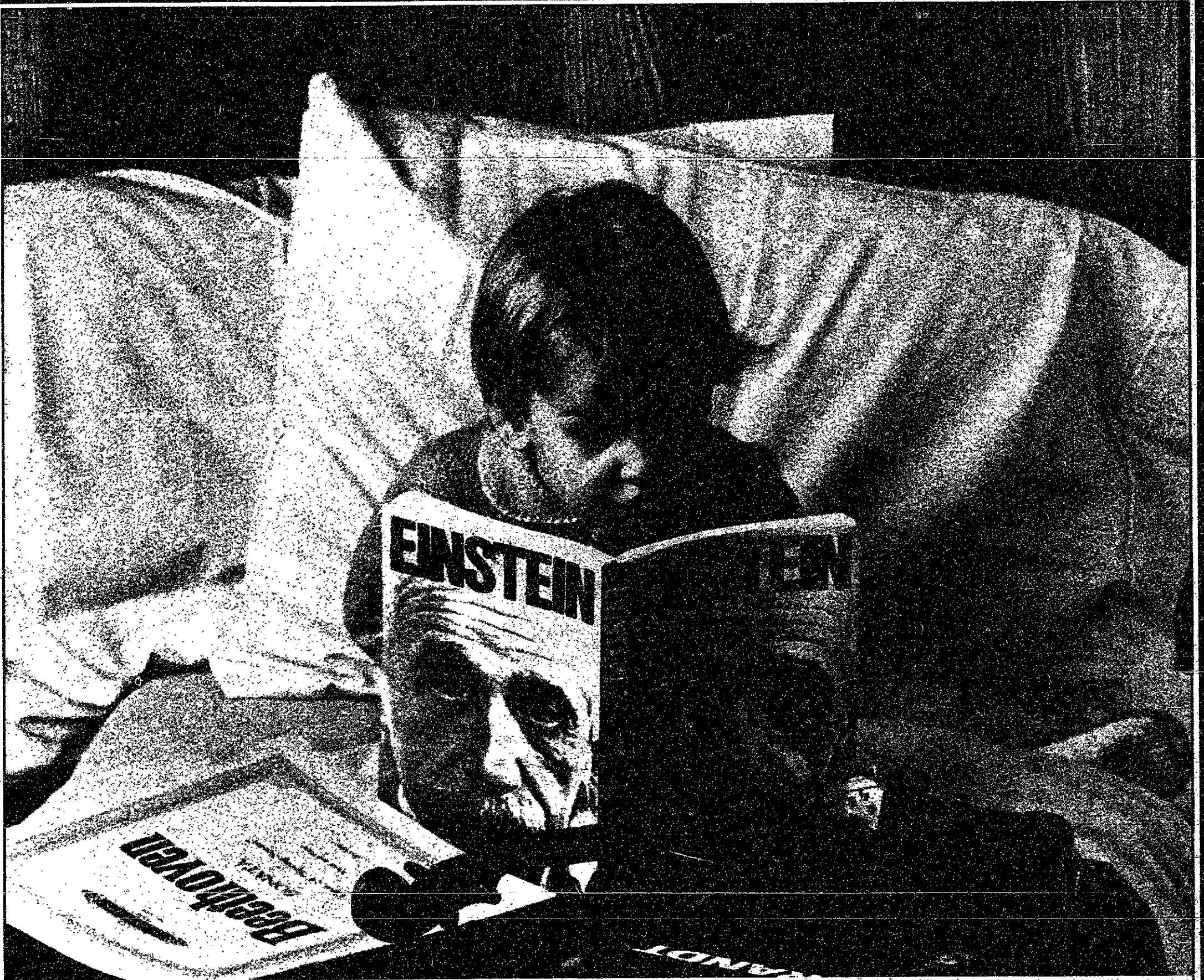
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