

Undergraduate dean MacVicar dies at 47



Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65

Tech File Photo

By Reuven M. Lerner

Dean for Undergraduate Education Margaret L. A. MacVicar '65, whose accomplishments included the creation of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, died on Monday at the age of 47 following a year-long battle with lung cancer.

MacVicar, who was MIT's first dean for undergraduate education, was considered one of the fiercest proponents of reform and improvement in the undergraduate curriculum. "It is not technicians that we seek to prepare, nor bench-tied engineers practicing narrow specialties and intent on deadlines and objectives devised elsewhere. . . . Our purpose is to direct the best minds toward inquiries and enterprises concerned with the human condition," she once told an interviewer.

President Charles M. Vest described MacVicar as "one of

those rare individuals whosethoughts and actions transformed a great institution and influenced thousands of young men and women. Her development of UROP brought a potent combination of teaching and research to the education of MIT undergraduates. She engaged her profession and her life with an intensity and a courage that have inspired and touched us all."

MacVicar died while a patient at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. She will be buried at a small funeral service this weekend. A memorial service will be held in Kresge Auditorium at 3 pm on Oct. 31, and will be followed by a reception at McCormick Hall.

Loss lamented by
faculty, students

Undergraduate Association President Stacy E. McGeever '93 said MacVicar was "an amazing

woman who had a great vision for undergraduate education." She described MacVicar's death as "a great loss to the Institute," adding that "she will be sorely missed by undergraduates."

"I worked with her quite a bit last year, and even when she was very sick . . . her commitment to her work as as strong as ever," McGeever added.

Arthur C. Smith, the dean for student affairs, was also quite saddened by MacVicar's death. She was "very interested in changing the way we did things and looked at things, primarily through UROP," he said.

MacVicar was "an outstanding academic leader for MIT and the nation," said Provost Mark S. Wrighton. He added that "all that she did, she undertook with energy and intense dedication, including her battle with cancer. I

(Please turn to page 2)

New Networks, other ARA projects called successful

By Sarah Keightley

Several of ARA's new food service programs have met with success in their first month, according to Alan Leo, general manager of food service. ARA will continue to make changes in the food service program this year, he said.

According to Leo, the biggest September successes for ARA have been the new Networks restaurant and a contract with Dunkin' Donuts. Last year, Leo reported, Networks served about 250 people a day. This year, approximately 1000 people eat there daily. Leo said that roughly 40 percent of Networks customers eat Pizza Hut pizza, while 60 percent order from the regular restaurant menu. Pizza Hut is more popular than was originally anticipated, selling 700 to 800 pizzas a day, with many people buying two at a time.

Many students are much happier with the new Networks. Jeffrey J. Kim '93 said he likes the "more relaxed atmosphere." Jarrod M. Lewis '92 mentioned that the prices are better than last year, but he believes that Net-

works is popular right now because it is a novelty. "It seems like in a month it won't be as crowded." One reason students preferred the pizza to the menu items was that it takes less time.

Nancy C. Koay '92 was less enthusiastic, however. "I liked Networks a lot better last year, when there was more of a restaurant atmosphere. You take your parents there and feel comfortable, but now it's gotten crowded and noisy," she said.

Dunkin' Donuts products
have a significant impact

The availability of Dunkin' Donuts has also impacted significantly on food service. Three locations on campus now sell Dunkin' Donuts coffee, doughnuts and muffins: Lobdell Court, Refresher Course in the Sloan School of Management and the Infinite Corridor bagel cart. "I have been told that people will go out of their way to get Dunkin' Donuts coffee," Leo said.

Other than these obvious successes, "It is a bit too early to judge if [other food service programs] are successful or not,"

Leo said. "As we go through the year, we'll be making changes to meet [students'] needs."

Leo said he is pleased with the progress of ARA's new mini-convenience stores in Next House and Pritchett Lounge. Last year, ARA began experimenting with the mini-convenience store idea, offering 25 to 30 products. Because that program did quite well, ARA expanded the idea this year, expanding the Next House store to 750 items. Pritchett has less space and less product variety, but it is also doing well and products are selling. Michael K. Chung '94 said, "[Pritchett] is a lot more convenient now." He, along with other students, likes being able to use a meal card to buy a wider variety of items, such as laundry detergent.

"After one month, we know how to adjust the product mix. People are buying a lot of cereal, laundry detergent and surprisingly supplies, such as paper and pencils," Leo said. Items which are not selling well, such as candy, will be reduced to make more

(Please turn to page 11)



Vipul Bhushan/The Tech

King Mswati III of Swaziland visited MIT last Friday afternoon. He toured the Institute and met with people to foster academic and research cooperation between his country and MIT.

Ig Nobel prizes debut

Feature

By Alice Gilchrist

The first annual Ig Nobel Prize ceremony, a humorous event named in memory of Ignacious Nobel, the fictitious inventor of soda pop, was held at the MIT Museum last night. The ceremony honored the inventors of "irreproducible" achievements in the sciences and the arts. Each winner received a parchment, a disc that "screamed" when it was flipped over and a fanfare from the MIT brass quartet.

Four real Nobel laureates were present: Dr. Eric S. Chivian of MIT (peace, 1985), Professor Sheldon Glashow of Harvard (physics, 1979), Professor Dudley Herschbach of Harvard (chemistry, 1986) and Professor Henry W. Kendall '55 of MIT (physics, 1990). Professor Jerome I. Friedman of MIT (physics, 1990) was "present in two-dimensions" on a screen directly behind the Nobel laureates seated on the stage. Each time a new Ig Nobel Prize winner was announced, a recorded message from Friedman was played, saying, "Congratulations,

your work is an inspiration to all of us."

The Master of Ceremonies was Marc Abrahams, the editor of the *Journal of Irreproducible Results*. He introduced the ten Ig Nobel laureates who received their awards in physics, pedestrian technology, education, chemistry, interdisciplinary research, biology, literature, peace, economics and medicine.

The prizes were given with tongue planted firmly in cheek. For instance, the economics prize was awarded to Michael Milken, "titan of Wall Street and father of the junk bond, to whom the world is indebted." Milken was not present because of a "previous 15-20 year engagement."

Vice President Dan Quayle garnered the education prize. He was cited for his skill as a "consumer of time and occupier of space, for demonstrating, better than anyone else, the need for a science education."

The biology prize was awarded to Robert Klark Graham, "selector of seeds and prophet of propagation, for his pioneering development of the Repository for Germinal Choice, a sperm bank that

(Please turn to page 2)

Ethernet may come to dorms, ILGs

By Joey Marquez

Dormitories and independent living groups will soon receive a proposal from Information Systems on the possible installation of network cable to provide easier access to Athena, according to Cecilia R. D'Oliveira '77, director of IS network services.

At present, D'Oliveira and a committee she heads are finishing up two "different scenarios" for delivery of the system. The first would involve installing a network drop for each of the approximately 2600 undergraduate beds, while the second would place Athena clusters in every undergraduate dormitory.

In addition, the committee has produced a proposal for ILGs which would give them a "menu of options if they would like to participate," D'Oliveira said, adding that the menu includes the same proposals for the dor-

mitories, albeit with different costs. "Different ILGs need to decide what they want for themselves," she said. D'Oliveira explained that students in both dormitories and ILGs would bear the brunt of the plan's costs.

The idea of facilitating network access in dormitories and ILGs has been discussed within IS for the past two years. "Students have come in and asked us about such an idea," she said.

Finances are the
main concern

D'Oliveira said the proposal's financial aspects are the main concern of IS. She said the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs and the Department of Housing and Food Services are working with IS to develop a means for students to pay the annual costs of continued service. According to D'Oliveira, the

first proposal would require an "up-front payment of \$1.2 million" to install network lines in each room. Payment suggestions have included an addition to room and board charges and a tuition increase, but D'Oliveira said that nothing is final at this point. The bottom line, she said, is that "students have to buy into it" if this proposal is to follow through.

With final proposals due this month, D'Oliveira said that meetings with dormitories and ILGs will begin in November. If response is good, and a consensus among the dormitories forms, the next step would be approval by President Charles M. Vest and Provost Mark S. Wrighton.

"Our goal would be to start this communication, so there can be something ready for September [1992]," D'Oliveira said.

UROP founder MacVicar dies from lung cancer

(Continued from page 1)

am deeply saddened by the loss of our colleague, and her passing will leave a void in [our] academic leadership."

Former president Paul E. Gray '54, who is currently serving as the chairman of the MIT Corporation, said, "Margaret MacVicar was an extraordinary innovator, leader and educator. . . . The greater community of learners — of teachers and students at all levels — is diminished by her death."

Created UROP, pushed for reform of the curriculum

One of MacVicar's most noted accomplishments was the 1969 creation of UROP, which made hands-on research experience a regular part of undergraduate life at MIT. The program has since been cited for national excellence by the US Secretary of Education, as well as the National Science Foundation and private foundations.

She was also involved in the push for increased diversity among the student body, the adoption of the Humanities, Arts and Social Science Distribution system, a revision of the science distribution requirement and

changes in the pass/no credit freshmen grading system.

Most recently, MacVicar led the fight to make biology a General Institute Requirement, along with calculus, chemistry and physics. Following her suggestion to the faculty that they "take the bold move now," they voted overwhelmingly at their May meeting to add the course to the freshmen requirements.

MacVicar was also the Institute official responsible for policy regarding the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and issued a statement last April criticizing the military's policy of excluding homosexuals from the program. She said such policies were "deeply troubling," and that they "run counter to the values of inclusion and equality which are at the foundation of this institution."

Personal history

MacVicar was born on Nov. 20, 1943, and moved with her family to Flint, MI, when she was three years old. She entered MIT in the fall of 1961, working both during the year and the summer in order to finance her education. MacVicar overloaded on courses while at MIT in an attempt to save more money by

graduating early. She was successful, receiving an SB in physics in 1964.

Her career in graduate school was equally fast-paced and successful, both at MIT, from which she received an ScD in 1967, and the Royal Society Mond section of Cavendish Laboratory, in the University of Cambridge in England, where she was a post-doctoral fellow.

In 1969, MacVicar returned to MIT, where she joined the De-

partment of Physics as a faculty member. In 1973, she was the first recipient of the Class of 1922 Career Development Award, created by class alumni to support young faculty members of exceptional promise and unusual devotion to teaching.

MacVicar's cancer was first diagnosed last year, but she continued working at her job until recently. Smith said that "for the last several months, those of us who were familiar with her situa-

tion were not at all hopeful about it."

He added that there has been little discussion about who will succeed her, despite the fact that "people should have been aware, and were aware, that this was a decision that would be upon us."

MacVicar is survived by her parents, George and Elizabeth MacVicar of DeBary, FL, and two sisters, Anne Amato of Brookline, NH, and Victoria MacVicar of Pepperell, MA.

Buckybonnet wins big at Ig Nobel

(Continued from page 1)

accepts donations from Nobelians and Olympians."

Thomas Kyle's discovery of "the heaviest element in the universe, Administratium," was rewarded with the physics prize. The award also mentioned Kyle's achievements as "detector of atoms and the original man of knowledge."


The Pedestrian Technology Prize was awarded to Paul Defanti, "wizard of structures and crusader for public safety, for his invention of the Bucky-

bonnet, a geodesic fashion structure that pedestrians wear to protect their heads and preserve their composure." Defanti wore a Buckybonnet on his head, encasing it in a cocoon of blue plastic straws extending six inches on all sides of his head.

The ceremony was overseen by "Salient Dignitaries," including Chief of Protocol Michele Meagher, Umpire John Barrett, the Swedish Meatball King and Queen and a representative from the Cambridge Chamber of Com-

merce (David Vlach). The dignitaries marched through the museum with the Nobel laureates during the Traditional Entrance and Exit Parades.

The *Journal of Irreproducible Results*, which launched the award ceremony in conjunction with the MIT Museum, is written by scientists and doctors from around the world. It has been in publication for more than thirty years. The *Journal* has been termed the "Mad Magazine of the Stephen Hawking set."



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news roundup

from the associated press wire

Nation

Gates defends himself for CIA nomination

Robert Gates is trying to save his troubled nomination to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Gates has given a point-by-point rebuttal of charges that he skewed intelligence reports for political reasons. Gates has told the Senate Intelligence Committee he was angered by such charges from several current and former agency employees.

Barry to appeal drug sentence again

Marion Barry, the former mayor of Washington, DC, said he will appeal his six month sentence for cocaine possession again. Barry was resentenced last week by a federal judge. He got the same term that had been thrown out two months earlier by a federal appeals court on grounds that the sentencing judge had not made his reasons for the sentence clear the first time around. There is no word on whether the new appeal will delay the start of Barry's jail term.

World

Haiti explodes in violence

Radio reports from Haiti say random post-coup attacks by soldiers have left at least 150 dead and 300 wounded. There has been no independent confirmation of the report, which said most of the attacks took place between Monday morning and Wednesday.

Radio Lumiere, a Protestant-run station, claims an army-sponsored massacre occurred Wednesday afternoon in a shantytown in the western part of Port-au-Prince, the capital. According to the station, security forces who picked up the body of a dead soldier in the slum returned with reinforcements and went house-to-house, shooting residents indiscriminately. The report said some residents were forced to dig holes to bury people on the spot.

US officials are watching the situation closely in case Americans need to be evacuated. The Bush administration has joined the Organization of American States in condemning this week's military coup in the Caribbean nation. Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is due to visit the White House today.

Pentagon sources said about 500 Marines have been sent to the Caribbean to help with a possible evacuation. Security has also been bolstered at the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Serbia moves to increase control

The Yugoslav republic of Serbia is moving to tighten its grip over what is left of the ethnically and politically torn country. Yesterday Serbia announced, it is taking over the federal parliament — a move that one Western diplomat said means an end to the eight-member collective presidency.

Foley moves to close House bank

House members may soon have to stand in lines at the bank with regular folks. House Speaker Thomas S. Foley (D-WA) said he is moving to close the House bank following embarrassing reports the bank was covering bounced checks for members. Foley also revealed he is among the members who have bounced checks. The speaker told a news conference he was not aware he was short of funds last December when he used a \$540 House bank check to buy a CD player and a stereo receiver.

Banker arrested for fraud

An executive at the bank whose failure triggered Rhode Island's banking crisis has been arrested on a fraud charge.

Peter Iannuccilli, vice president and a director of the defunct Heritage Loan and Investment Company, was arrested at his home and led into the attorney general's office in handcuffs. Prosecutors charge that Iannuccilli doctored bank computer records to cover more than \$1 million in fraudulent loans.

They allege he changed the records to make it appear that the bank's president, Joseph Mollicone Jr., had validly obtained the loans. But, said prosecutors, there was no collateral or any other standard documentation to support the loans, and the transactions were little more than theft.

Mollicone, a fugitive, is charged with embezzling \$13 million from Heritage in the months before its collapse last November.

Clinton announces candidacy

Vowing to help "make America great again," Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton has officially entered the increasingly crowded Democratic race for president. Clinton used his announcement in Little Rock to make a pitch for the middle class. He told about 3000 supporters the Bush administration has turned its back on the middle class. Clinton is the fifth major Democrat to join the race.

Thomas gains more support

It appears Supreme Court Nominee Clarence Thomas has clinched Senate confirmation. Georgia Senator Wyche Fowler has become the 12th Democrat to announce his support for Thomas. That would give Thomas at least 52 votes. The Senate began four days of debate yesterday.

US factory orders fall

The government's latest report on factory orders has some economists wondering whether US industry is strong enough to continue driving the recovery. Orders to US factories fell nearly two percent in August, the biggest drop since March. In July, orders jumped more than six percent — the biggest increase in 21 years.

Alzheimer's may be hereditary

Researchers at the Indiana University School of Medicine said they have come up with more evidence that Alzheimer's disease is sometimes hereditary. The researchers studied members from one family that had the disease and found all the victims had the same mutated gene. Inherited Alzheimer's is believed to account for up to 20 percent of the nation's cases of the disease.

Local

Weld reveals changes to criminal laws

Republican Governor William F. Weld unveiled a sweeping package of proposed changes in the state's criminal laws.

The proposed changes include re-instituting the death penalty and eliminating parole. The package also includes a proposal to try all 14- to 17-year-olds accused of violent crimes as adults.

Some members of a group for families of murder victims oppose the bill, but not in content. They said that the proposal includes too much too fast and will not pass.

Weld said he will introduce the death penalty proposal in a few weeks. He said there will probably be a minimum age, but that age remains unclear. Weld said he has been working on his crime-prevention package since his election last fall.

Murder suspects indicted

Two Everett men were indicted by a Middlesex County grand jury yesterday in connection with the March 1990 murder of another Everett man.

Middlesex District Attorney Thomas F. Reilly said 20-year-old Richard Kendall and 21-year-old Derek Cryer have been indicted on charges of murder and armed robbery in connection with the stabbing death of 32-year-old Martin Santos.

The indictment followed their arrest several weeks ago on burglary charges for stealing a video camera from a home in Raymond, NH. Police claim the two men allegedly recorded themselves confessing to the murder with the stolen camera. The two pleaded innocent to the murder charges at an arraignment in September.

Weather

More muggy weather

A stationary front in the Midwest will slowly inch eastward for the next couple of days, keeping our weather fairly constant. Skies will be mostly cloudy and the air will be humid, with rain off and on. A low pressure center developing in the Midwest will move over to our area late in the weekend, bringing steadier rain.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Light easterly wind from 0-5 mph (0-8 kph). High 75° F (24° C).

Friday night: Partly cloudy with light showers in spots. Continued easterly wind 0-5 mph (0-8 kph). Low 58° F (14° C).

Saturday: Cloudy with light rain possible. High 72° F (22° C). Low 57° F (14° C).

Sunday: Cloudy with steadier rain developing. High 72° F (22° C).

Forecast by Yeh-Kai Tung

Compiled by Brian Rosenberg

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opinion

Democrats need a good loser

Column by Matthew H. Hersch

Anyone can be president — Gerald Ford proved it. If this axiom is true, though, then why are the Democrats having so much trouble finding a credible candidate for the '92 race? Just because the election looks like a solid re-election victory for George Bush, that doesn't mean the Democrats shouldn't try, does it?

Any John Doe Democrat who runs in 1992 and manages to pull off a decent campaign may be a shoe-in for the 1996 Dan Quayle-John Doe presidential election. A Democrat who now stands as a credible alternative to George Bush will remain in the voters' memory when Bush's time is through. Unfortunately, no one likes contributing money to sure losers, and any Democrat in the '92 elections may be forced to Xerox his campaign posters in the public library.

It's a sad thing, too. The United States is supposed to maintain a two-party system, and, — believe it or not — the United States could use a little donkey-thinking right about now. Sure, the current Democratic party is hardly mainstream. It's full of Jesse Jacksonite, quasi-socialist, special-interest-mongering, over-taxing, isolationist, no-nukes, welfare-loving pacifist muffinheads, but it is also America's ideological stronghold for legislation in science, health, education and civil rights and liberties. If the Democratic Party can re-orient itself into a marketable political force, it could, maybe, even win a presidential election now and then.

When the '92 election rolls around, the US economy will probably be on the upswing, and Bush's foreign policy will be continuing on its string of incredibly good luck. Education and the environment will probably show little or no improvement, and law enforcement and civil issues will probably

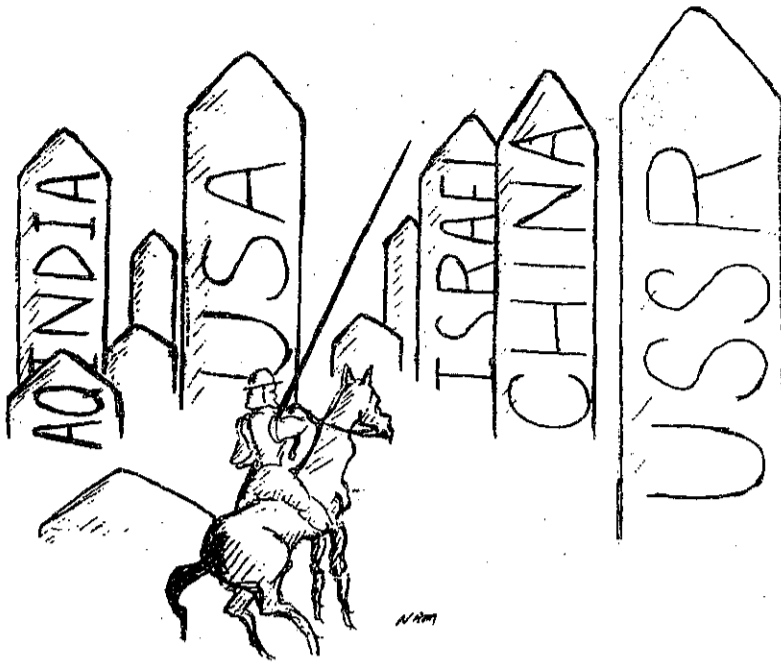
have drooped even further backwards. If Bush fails to pledge to correct these faults, he may leave the Democrats with a platform. The platform, though, won't be big enough to stand on. The Democrats will never win an election with only a domestic agenda — their foreign policy views must be credible. Michael Dukakis lost in 1988 not only due to bad advertising, but to a reputation for cluelessness in defense and foreign policy issues.

This opinion has been shuffled around in the news quite a bit, but it's hardly achieved universal acceptance. Just the other day, I heard George McGovern saying a presidential candidate could win with only a domestic agenda. No wonder the Democrats are so confused.

What should the Democrats do? First, get their act together. Then, unify behind an over-confident candidate with a strong TV presence, a clean record, foreign policy experience and a rogue demeanor. War wounds, Greek parents, experience as a governor and other traits are optional. The candidate should plan a cheapo campaign, attempting to achieve most of his advertisement through debates and public statements. He (or she) should, in effect, become Robert Redford's character in the 1972 film *The Candidate*, a character who says and does anything he wants because he knows he will lose. When our candidate does lose, he'll be ready for the next election, at which time he will want to mellow his image and become a serious contender.

Where can the Democrats find such an individual? I don't know, but I'll be in the *Tech* office if anyone wants to get in touch with me.

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



Tilting at nuclear windmills

The Tech

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NERMA!!!!!!

C.M. Montgomery



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. Telephoned opinions may be recorded by calling *The Tech's* Response Line at 258-8219. All recordings must include the caller's full name, MIT affiliation, and telephone number. Periodic summaries of call-in opinions will be printed. Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

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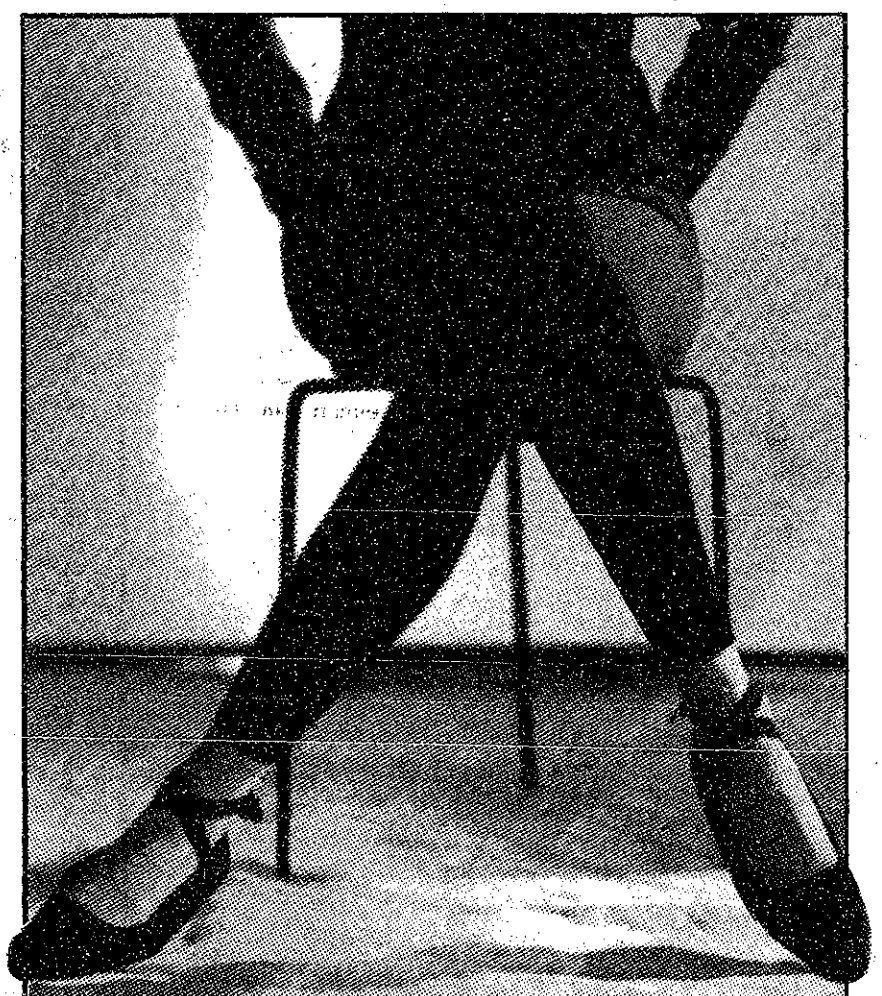
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Child brings together a dysfunctional family in Paradise

PARADISE

Written and directed by Mary Agnes Donoghue. Starring Don Johnson, Melanie Griffith, Elijah Wood and Thora Birch.

By JULIA LEE

FAR FROM BEING A FILM ABOUT A fantasy land, *Paradise* is about reality and emotional truths. Its depiction of a dysfunctional husband and wife and the child that brings them together is at once sensitive and funny, making *Paradise* a sure bet for one of the fall's most popular movies.

Willard Young (portrayed by the adorable Elijah Wood) is a 10-year-old boy conveniently shuffled off to the rural town of Paradise for the summer while his mother tries to mend her life. Although an extremely precocious child — he attends prep school on a scholarship — Willard is painfully shy. He soon discovers that his guardians, Ben and Lily Reed (Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith) still have not recovered from the shock of their own son's death. In the process, the couple have distanced themselves from one another. Lily, numbed by the pain of her loss, passively watches as each day goes by, while Ben finds it more and more difficult to live with a woman who was once care-free, spirited and filled with excitement.

Since the Reeds pay more attention to

their own problems than to Willard, the boy looks for a friend, and meets Billie Pike (Thora Birch), a spirited, nine-year-old tomboy. The two youngsters entertain themselves by spying on her sister's romantic escapades, throwing worms down at a funeral congregation and keeping each other company. They even venture to the neighboring town in hope of finding Billie's father, a roller-skating daredevil. Although the movie is slow-moving at times, the audience cannot help but be enchanted by the twosome's idyllic summer.

By contrast, Ben and Lily hardly communicate. Seemingly cold and diffident at the onset, Ben slowly warms up to Willard. He soon finds himself actually enjoying the time they spend together flying a model World War II plane, fishing and playing poker. (Willard often outplays Ben.) The two characters develop a relationship of love and respect.

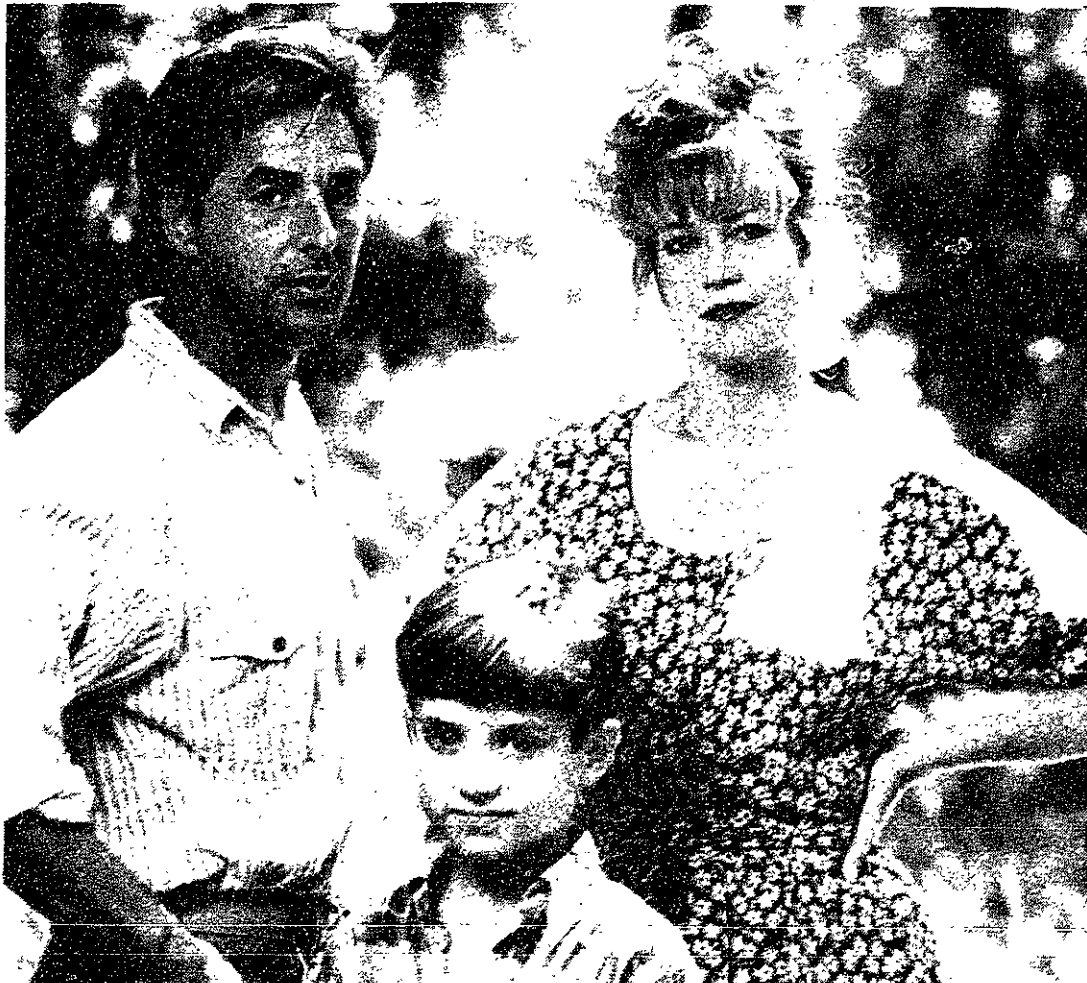
Lily, however, finds herself incapable of being Willard's temporary mother without suffering emotional pain. She desperately needs her husband's love, but ultimately drives him away with the wall she has created to protect herself. Willard's presence, though, eventually brings the troubled pair back together.

Paradise may be too calm and serene a picture compared to all its action-packed competitors, but it is far from boring. Although a few of the nature scenes with exotic birds and animals are overdone, overall, the lush forests and river panora-

mas are soothing and relaxing. The star-studded technical cast brings together a wealth of experience to make this movie both entertaining and heartwarming. Director/screenwriter Mary Agnes Donoghue previously wrote the screenplay for *Beaches*. In her directorial debut, Donoghue brilliantly captures the essence of all the characters. Her screenplay, based on the French film *Le Grand Chemin*, is well-written and leaves no loose ends.

Real-life couple Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith both give impressive per-

formances. Johnson, previously seen only as a flaky actor, shows great talent in his role as a sensitive character hidden beneath a mask of emotional suffering. Melanie Griffith's personal warmth exudes through her character, allowing the audience to perceive Lily as reserved but not cold. Central to the movie are the two child actors, Elijah Wood and Thora Birch. They are the ones who capture the hearts of the audience. In all, *Paradise* is not to be missed; it should prove itself to be one of the most successful films of the year.



Don Johnson (left), Elijah Wood and Melanie Griffith star in *Paradise*.

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Sick and Twisted animation festival is well-named

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Somerville Theatre, through Oct. 31.

By DEBORAH A. LEVINSON

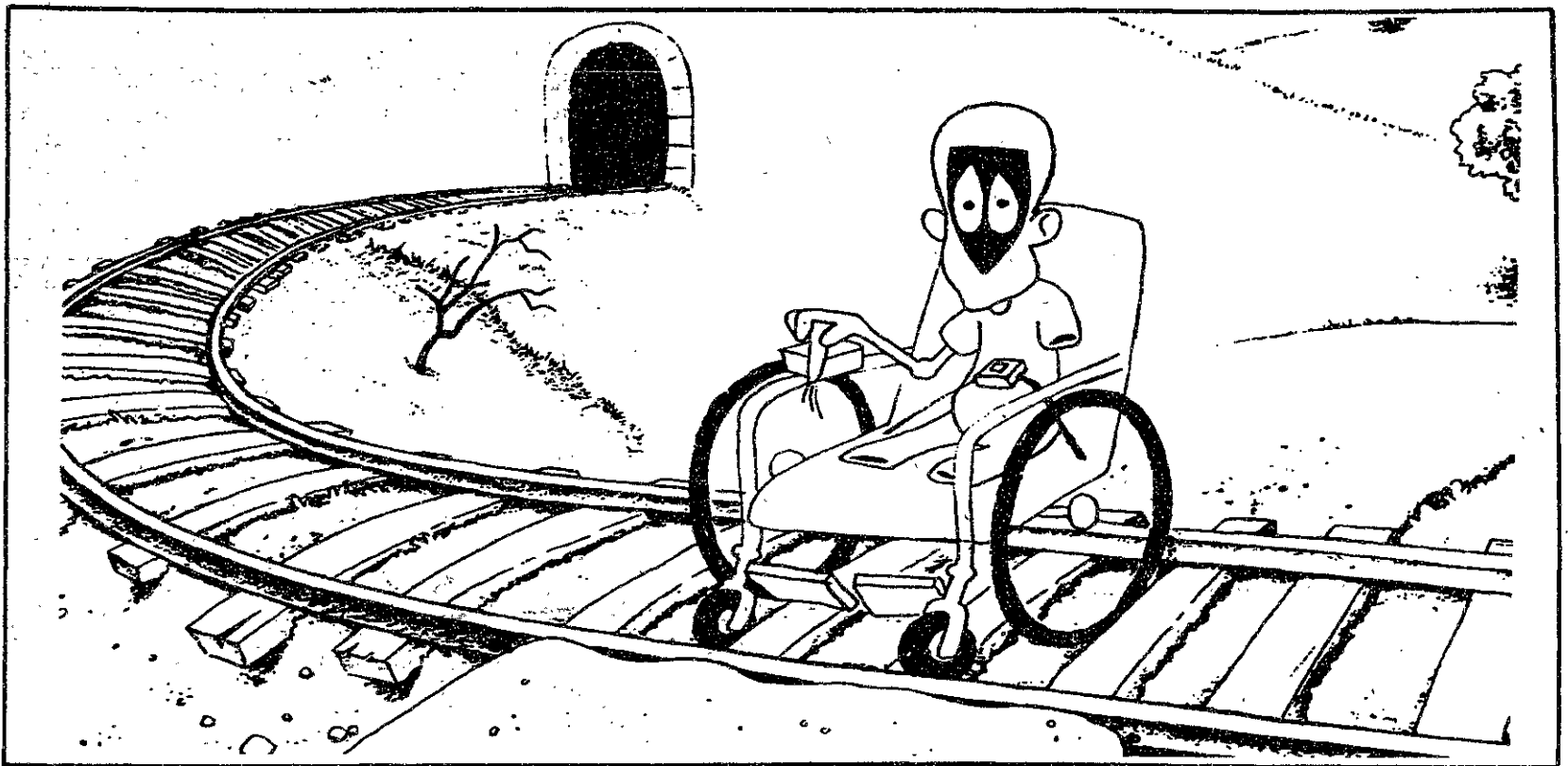
THE LAST FRAME OF "PINK KOMKOMMER," one of the new animated shorts in *Spike & Mike's All Sick & Twisted Animation Festival*, states that the film is "dedicated to those who disapprove, yet continue to watch." That phrase neatly sums up this latest offering from the sponsors of the Festival of Animation, this time devoted to films more like "Lupo the Butcher" than Looney Tunes.

The first half of the festival covers the twisted genre, intended to "ease [the] movie-goers into [the] experience." Two of these, "Hello Dad, I'm in Jail" and the hilarious "One of Those Days" appeared in previous collections, and both are indeed twisted.

Bill Plympton's "One of Those Days" is a look at possibly the worst day ever. Cleverly filmed from the protagonist's point of view — we see things literally *through* his eyes — "One of Those Days" starts with a severe shaving accident, limbs set on fire and electrocution — and progresses from there.

"Hello Dad, I'm in Jail," an animated video set to the Was/Not Was song, is more abstract than the Plympton film. Chalk drawings and strangely shaped figures dance around the screen over lyrics like "Hello Dad, I'm in jail / I like it here / Tell Mom I said 'hi' from jail."

Of the remaining features from the twisted half of the show, only "Thank You Mask Man" and "One Man's Instrument" stand out. The former, a cartoon from the 60s narrated by Lenny Bruce, relates the story of the inhabitants of a town in the old West. The Lone Ranger repeatedly refuses their efforts to thank him for saving



"Woeful Willie," one of the shorts from *Spike & Mike's All Sick & Twisted Animation Festival*.

them, and eventually, they assume that he's just a snob and become hostile. Drawn in a style recalling *Yellow Submarine's* Blue Meanies, "Thank You Mask Man" has a deceptively innocent feel to it, but Bruce's witty, acerbic dialogue proves otherwise.

"One Man's Instrument" stands out if only because it looks good. Its lush watercolor jungle and excellent detail work make it one of the most artistic entries in the festival. I would hesitate to call it "twisted," though; "strange" or "surreal" might be more accurate adjectives.

The second half of the festival lives up to its "sick" appellation. Unfortunately, it relies heavily on scatological humor that wears thin rather quickly. "Quiet Please" is one prime example, a film the sponsors describe as "the sickest film ever made,"

but most of the time, it's just plain gross.

"Pink Komkommer" is the most egregious offender. Directed by Marv Newland, "Pink Komkommer" is an "animated jam session," where nine animators produced different interpretations of the same soundtrack. The sections are framed by the same short sequence of an old woman making tea, then falling asleep and dreaming. Occasionally, the sequences do something really innovative, as in Sara Petty's erotic watercolors of vaguely sexual forms. Most, however, run on far too long, and include graphic sexual material for no obvious purpose.

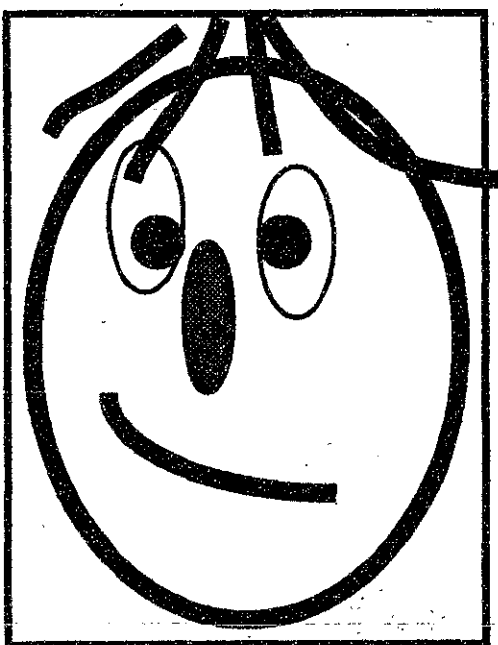
A couple of the last features do stand out. "Woeful Willie" is the "sick" version of "One of Those Days," where a baby gets an iron dropped on his face, loses limb after limb in various accidents and

finally winds up stalled in his electric wheelchair on a train track.

"Deadsey," the other good segment of the second half, is an intriguing blend of animation and live acting. With its stick-like metal protagonist and *Clockwork Orange*-style narration by a ghoulish talking head, "Deadsey" is far and away the most innovative of the bunch. It's fascinating and disturbing — neither sick nor twisted, just thought-provoking.

Spike & Mike's All Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation runs, appropriately enough, through Halloween. (Under 17 not admitted.) Be warned, though; if you are easily offended by blood or bodily functions, you will be better off waiting for the *Festival of Animation '92*, set to show at the Somerville Theatre this spring.

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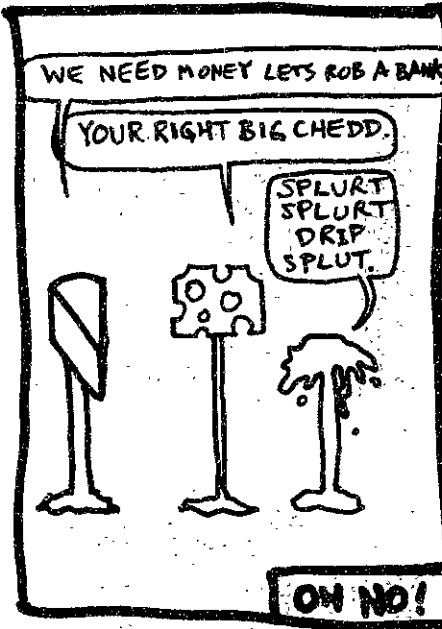
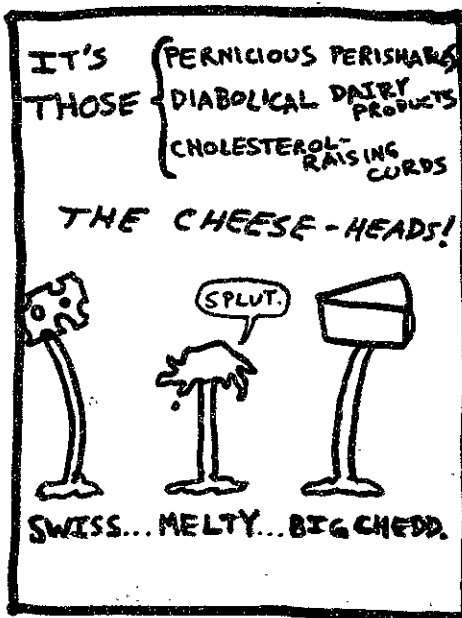
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The Super is a miserable vehicle for Joe Pesci's talents

THE SUPER

Written by Sam Simon.

Directed by Rod Daniel.

Starring Joe Pesci, Ruben Blades,

and Vincent Gardenia.

Now playing at .

By CHRIS ROBERGE

JOE PESCI IS A TALENTED ACTOR. In Martin Scorsese's *Raging Bull* and *GoodFellas*, he played vulgar and violent characters to perfection, filling up the screen with his intensity. In Richard Donner's *Lethal Weapon 2*, he showed great comic skill in the part of the money launderer under police protection. Why, then, did Pesci choose as his first leading role that of Louie Kritskie, the uncaring landlord of the dimly dull comedy, *The Super*?

The Super begins with a scene from Louie's childhood, in which Louie's father, Big Lou (Vincent Gardenia), chases one of his tenants down an alley in an attempt to collect the rent. Big Lou is a superintendent who works with two main rules: buy where there is "death, divorce or destitution" and never change anything.

Next, we see Lou, Jr. going through the same weekly adventure years later in a decrepit apartment building that he received as a birthday gift from his father. The tenants complain about the lack of electricity, plumbing and heat, but all that Louie sees missing is the rent. Eventually, the Housing Authority notices the residents' situation, and Louie is convicted and sentenced to spend 120 days in one of his own apartments. If at the end of that period the violations are not corrected, Louie has to spend one year in prison. To add to his problems, his father tells him that if he even changes one light bulb in the building, Louie will be written out of his will.

From here the movie makes a poor attempt to mold itself into something like *Regarding Henry* and *The Doctor*, in



Joe Pesci plays a slumlord forced to live in his own building in *The Super*.

which a man, when given a different view of his life, realizes what a loser he is. But nothing at all in this film is believable, least of all the change of heart that Louie eventually makes. The screenwriters drag up other clichés as well, including the beautiful lawyer (Madolyn Smith Osborne) whom Louie tries to seduce, the street-smart resident (Ruben Blades) who at first takes advantage of Louie's naiveté but eventually becomes his friend, and the young black tenant (Kenny Blank) who helps Louie realize the similarities between himself and the people who he mistreats.

Of course, all of this could possibly

be overlooked if the movie were funny enough. After all, *The Super* is supposed to be a comedy, right? Wrong. All of the jokes here are even lamer than the contrived plot that frames them. Too much of the humor centers around dumb stereotypes of race and gender, a problem that the film's climactic change of attitudes never really resolves. The comic possibilities of the tenants finally getting to seek revenge on their superintendent never really pay off, and the movie quickly becomes tedious.

What Pesci is doing in the middle of all of this is a mystery. He definitely isn't giv-

ing a good performance. Given a dull and unlikeable character whose dialogue consists mainly of painfully unfunny one-liners, he doesn't have room to give Louie Kritskie any emotion beyond stupidity. Pesci's only other mediocre performance before this was as a bungling thief in last year's *Home Alone*, which was at least well-made, if occasionally brain-dead. One of his most telling lines in *The Super* is his reaction to seeing the apartment where he will have to live: "Well at least its got a motif — wall-to-wall s---." *The Super* isn't that bad, but sometimes it comes close.



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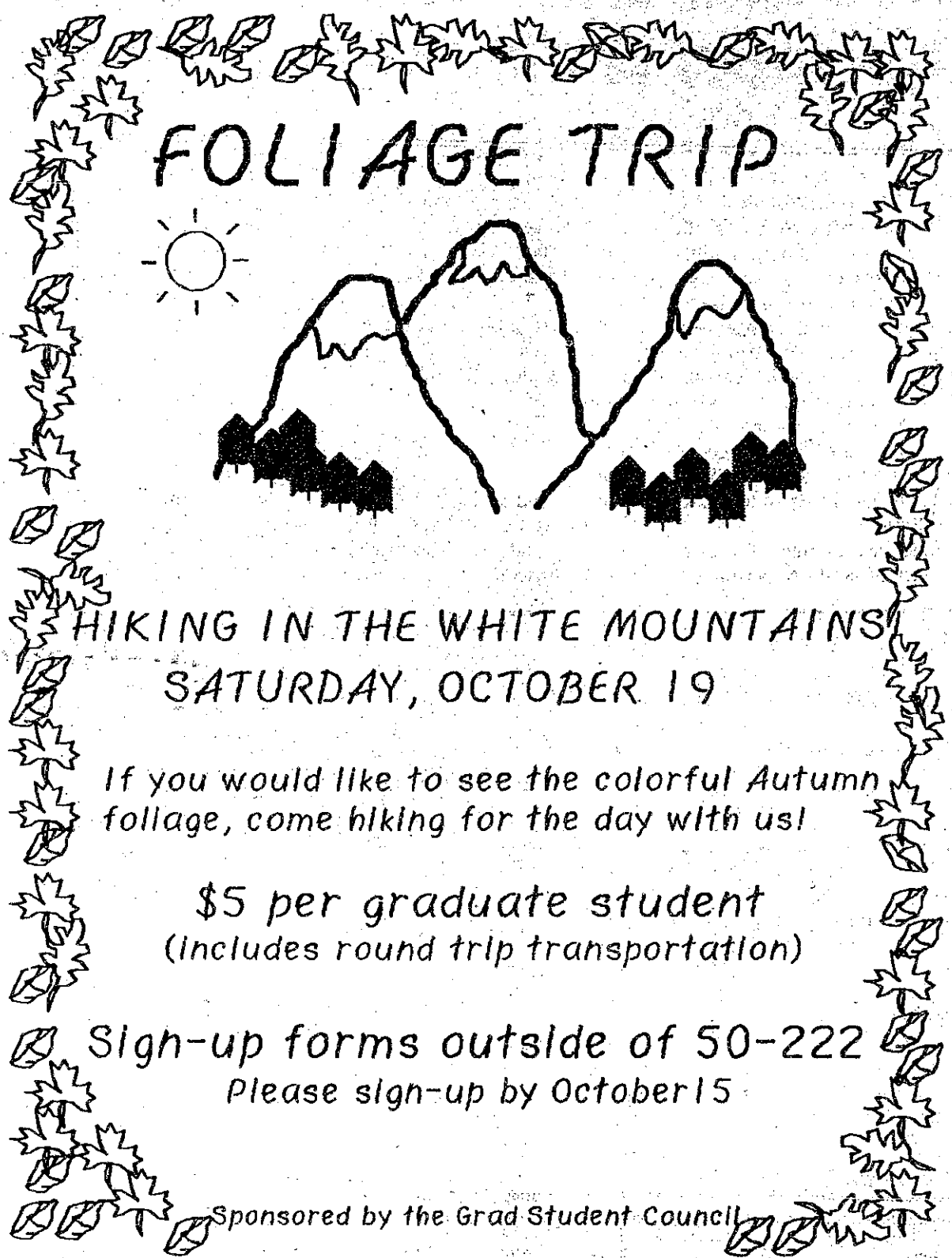
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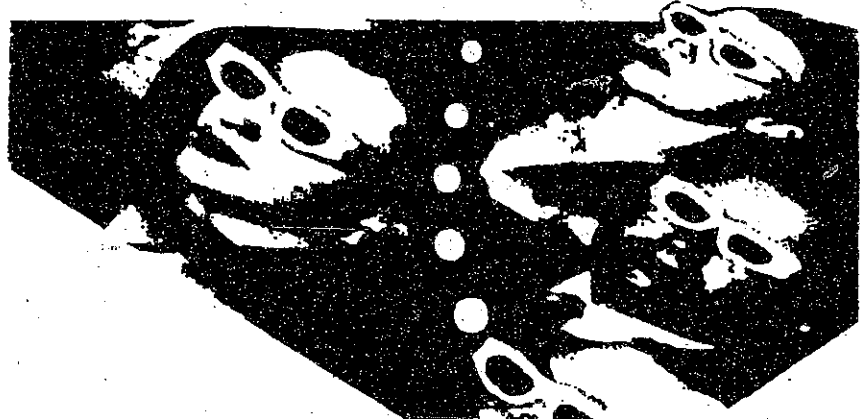
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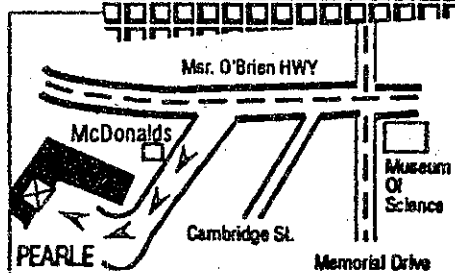
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(Continued from page 1)
room for popular products. This way, a greater variety of cereals may soon be offered, he explained.

More renovations to come this year

Upcoming changes for this year include renovation of the Walker Memorial dining facility and of Refresher Course. ARA wants to "keep with the architectural motif" of Walker Memorial. But Walker is not being restored just for aesthetic reasons. "Practically speaking, the equipment is old and doesn't work properly. It's time for [changes]," Leo said. These areas will be altered during Independent Activities Period.

Changes are planned for Lobdell Court as well. A permanent

stir-fry station will be put in, and there will be grill-area changes. The "Allegro" pasta bar will be redesigned, with the pasta-making machine and three pasta cookers in full view. Also, a permanent Dunkin' Donuts area will be added. Finally, the current convenience section will be more unified since it is presently "confusing to a certain extent," Leo said.

ARA is also looking into a contract with TCBY for frozen yogurt. Colombo yogurt is currently available, but ARA wants to see what its customers prefer. Yogurt will be sold in the renovated Walker and Refresher Course food areas.

Looking into the future, ARA hopes to address the needs of health-conscious and vegetarian

students. Leo mentioned that the mayonnaise used by ARA was changed to a cholesterol-free brand a few weeks ago. ARA is currently working on salad dressings, possibly arranging a contract with Ken's Salad Dressing, which offers a line of "light" dressings. "The objective is to be able to offer something vegetarian at every station," Leo said. ARA wants to provide "options" for this segment of the community, he added.

"We're really encouraging people to give us their feedback. [We] tend to be very flexible," Leo said. There will be a customer satisfaction survey the week of Oct. 14, and a food preference survey the following week. "We're open to any input students have," he said.

nightline seeks new staffers

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notices

Listings

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

Announcements

Saturday, October 5

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

Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6

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

Thursday, October 10

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

Thursday, October 17

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

Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26

The Graduate Management Admission Council will sponsor its 1991 Boston MBA Forum Oct. 25 and 26. The Forum will

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

Meeting Times

The Tech Model Railroad Club meets every Saturday at 6 pm in 20E-214. Visitors are always welcome. For info, call x3-3269.

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

The MIT Outing Club holds office hours every Monday and Thursday from 5:30-6:30 pm in W20-461. Stop by and help plan, lead or participate in trips ranging from one day outings to month long treks. The club is especially active in rock climbing, kayaking, canoeing, backpacking, hiking, and winter mountaineering. Beginners are more than welcome. The club rents a variety of equipment at low rates and has two cabins in NH available for rent. Contact Dave at 492-6983.

Every Tuesday, at 1 pm in Walker 220, there is a Japanese Lunch Table. Bring a bag lunch, make friends and join this lively group. All levels are welcome!

Men Against Sexual Assault: Monthly discussion group for concerned men on issues of rape and violence against women meets the first Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9 pm in room E51-218. The sessions are supported by the MIT Office of Student Affairs and sponsored by MIT students. Sessions will be devoted to such topics as discussions of rape, sexual violence, sexual harassment, pornography and

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rape, and other subjects. The discussion group is aimed at university students as well as the larger Boston/Cambridge area community. For further information, call Jeff at x3-2633.

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sports

Women's hockey snows Simmons

By Cynthia M. Bedell

The MIT women's field hockey team romped its way to a 7-0 victory over Simmons College on Tuesday. Team members were ecstatic, since this win followed the hard fought loss to undefeated Clark College on Saturday. Coach Cheryl Silva said the win sets the team up well for the coming games, especially the game at Smith College this Saturday, which is expected to be a challenge.

The MIT offense was unrelenting, and dominated the first half with at least 18 shots on goal. The MIT defense kept Simmons from even one serious attack during the half. Susan D. Ward '92 took advantage of the pressure her teammates put on Simmons, and turned the half into a scoring fest. At 2:56, she scored the first goal unassisted. Five minutes later, Meera Saini '95 fed her a smooth pass, and Ward put it away.

For 20 hard-fought minutes, Simmons seemed to get a defensive hold. They kept MIT to a half dozen shots on goal without a score, but were unable to turn on their own offense. Simmons' goalie Kristen Finch hung in there, and the score remained 2-0 for MIT. In the last minutes of the half, Robin A. Krolikowski '93 fed a pass to Saini, who again assisted a scoring Ward.

Cyclists to hold meet; Women running strong

Sports Update

MIT cyclists to host competition, IM race

Why will Danforth Street, Amherst Street, Fowler Street and Memorial Drive be blocked off to traffic this weekend? And who are the colorfully clad people who will be streaking past MIT dormitories on their bicycles? Ask the MIT cycling team.

The cycling team, defending East Coast champions, have planned a massive cycling competition for the weekend, combining men's and women's sprints, a half-hour criterium (circuit race), and a 10-lap intramural race open to all MIT students. The IM race, which begins on Sunday at 1:45 pm, costs only \$5.00 to enter. Competitors must have helmets and cannot use triathlon handlebars.

Competition for the varsity races promises to be tough, since nearly every strong competitor in last year's championships is fielding a large team. MIT, however, hopes to continue its incredible performance. In the words of Thomas H. Moyer G, a member of the team and one of the main organizers of this weekend's events, "We took everyone by surprise last year. The question is whether we were a flash in the pan, or whether we can keep on winning."

Police have been hired to detour traffic around the course area, which will be marked off by snow fences, bales of hay and police tape. Funding for the event will come mostly from entry fees, with some sponsorship from the president's office.

Ward earned her first hat trick for the season. Cynthia J. Doane '95 closed out the half with another one in the Simmons net, bringing the score to 4-0, in MIT's favor.

MIT started the second half with a rush on goal. This set Doane up for a second goal of the game, off a well executed corner shot. Simmons came back apparently determined to reverse the situation, but was unable to capitalize on any of their shots. MIT goalie Helen D. Shaughnessy '93 made five saves during this half. Kimberly A. Williams '92 and Sarah D. Brooks '95 on defense were crucial in thwarting the Simmons attack and limiting shots on goal.

MIT finally got some momentum back, and Catherine J. Mangion '95 scored on a breakaway. Four minutes later, Mangion lunged to rescue a pass from leaving the field at the end line. Her resulting backward pass set up Ward for her fourth goal of the game. From this point, on MIT never let up: with 1:29 left in the game, Saini broke away up the middle, dodged Simmons' defense of Amy Walker, and punched the ball past the goalie.

This win takes the MIT record to 6-2-1, with a third-place ranking in the conference.

Cynthia M. Bedell '93 is an alumna of the women's field hockey team.

Women's X-country trots to fourth place

The women's cross-country team turned in a strong performance last Saturday at the Connecticut College Invitational. In a field of eight teams, MIT finished fourth, only seven points behind third-place Mt. Holyoke College. The course was one of the most grueling of the season, consisting almost entirely of hills and including many sharp turns, loose footing and a stream to jump.

One of the team's goals for the season has been to steadily decrease the amount of time between the first and fifth runners, since the top five finishers of each team score. The gap on Saturday was the smallest this season, with only 2:35 between Nicole L. Freedman '94, who finished 6th overall, and Garielle L. Rocap '92, who placed 26th. Amy J. Rovelstad '92, Agnieszka Reiss '95 and Marjorie J. Delo '95 were MIT's other scorers, finishing 12th, 20th and 22nd, respectively.

Coach Joseph Sousa was pleased with the team's performance, but stressed that there is still room for improvement. "With such a young team, we have more capacity to improve over the season than some of the schools that beat us today," he said. The Engineers will have an opportunity to show improvement this afternoon at 4 pm when they run at the Wellesley Invitational.

Amy Rovelstad is the captain of the women's cross-country team.

Compiled by Nick Levitt



Cynthia J. Doane '95 avoids the opponent's stick as she advances the ball upfield to Catherine J. Mangion '95 in MIT's 8-0 rout against Simmons Tuesday. *Erika Hanley*

Men climb to second in tough field

By Dev P. Sinha

This past Saturday at the Middlesex Fells in Medford, the men's cross-country team continued its winning ways. This meet against Tufts University, the University of New Hampshire and Bates College was expected to be very competitive as MIT, Tufts and Bates are all in the New England Div. III top ten, and UNH is a Div. I school. When the dust settled, MIT emerged with 48 points, second only to Bates' 25.

David T. Moyle '94, first for the engineers, finished the tough course in 26:49. Following closely behind were Jerry E. Pratt '94, captain Peter J. Ronco '92,

Ethan A. Crain '95 and Jesse C. Darley '95. Other performances of note came from David M. Brann '94 and Elliott J. Mason III '94. Only 26 seconds separated MIT's first and fifth runners; such a small difference is the mark of a good team. With such a small "delta," in Coach Halston Taylor's terminology, a team can improve quickly. Only a 30-second drop in time per man would have been required to beat Bates, whose team is ranked 17th in the nation.

The meet was the last dual-type meet for the team, which compiled a final record of 4-1,

counting this meet and the Engineer's Cup. The remainder of the season will be invitationals and conference championships, all leading up to New England Div. III qualifiers in mid-November. This weekend, the team will be traveling to Syracuse, NY, to run in the Lemoyne Invitational, a key meet in the season. At Lemoyne will be the team from the Rochester Institute of Technology which is ranked seventh in the nation, giving the Engineers another opportunity to prove itself against tough competition.

Dev P. Sinha '93 is a member of the men's cross country team.

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