

MIT Students Lead Human Rights March Walk To Common Prompted by Verdict

By Sarah Y. Keightley
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In sharp contrast to the recent riots and violence in Los Angeles, hundreds of students from MIT and neighboring universities marched silently from the Student Center to Boston Common yesterday to protest the Rodney King verdict and to unite on behalf of human rights.

Organizers, many of whom live at Chocolate City, hoped the march would be an extension of Friday's on-campus protest, which attracted several hundred participants. Students in yesterday's march, which began at 3:30 p.m., walked silently three abreast to Boston Common. The trip lasted about an hour.

Dale L. Le Febvre '93, one of the protest's coordinators, said the march went well and claimed that the group numbered over a thousand by the time it arrived at the Common. "Everything went smoothly along the walk," he added.

The only incident at the protest was when two protesters chanted for about 20 seconds immediately following the speeches. Le Febvre was pleased that no one joined the chanting.

Route was changed

All four of the police forces involved in planning the demonstration — Boston, Cambridge,

Common, Page 6



DOUGLAS D. KELLER — THE TECH

Students, faculty, administrators, and staff gather in McDermott Court at the beginning of the silent protest against the Rodney King verdict.

Vest Joins Students In Protest on Friday

By Eva Moy
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Over 450 members of the MIT community marched silently across campus on Friday, protesting what they called the injustice and inequality of the American justice system. The march came only three days after a jury in California acquitted four police officers of charges that they had beaten motorist Rodney King excessively.

After gathering at the Great Sail at about 12:15 p.m., the group, which eventually numbered about 600 people, marched in a single file line to Kresge Oval.

Among the participants were President Charles M. Vest and Associate Provost Samuel J. Keyser.

Alluding to last week's verdict, Vest said, "The events in Los Angeles have aroused in all of us a combination of sadness, anger, and frustration. I was moved as an individual to participate in the silent march to indicate that I care about justice and tolerance and to be supportive of MIT's African-American students who organized it."

Marchers were helped across Massachusetts Avenue by Campus Police, who allowed the protesters to proceed unhindered by traffic. After arriving at Kresge Oval, Reginald Parker '92 and Dale L. Le Febvre '93, the organizers of the event, called the turnout "touching," and spoke briefly about the reasons for the protest.

Le Febvre said the march was not just about the King verdict, but also "about the fact that there are a lot of minority groups in this country that are oppressed. I'm not truly free because I have to be afraid when I walk through the streets at night, because I'm a black man. The Declaration of Independence says I have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but I can't adequately pursue happiness with things the way they are."

Vest said, "More than anything, this is a time to reflect on injustice, and the devastating effects that injustice can have on both individuals and on our nation."

Marie E. V. Coppola contributed to the reporting of this story.

Honesty Forum Planned for Fall

By Brian Rosenberg
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Preparing for a proposed colloquium on academic honesty this fall, the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office has released a survey asking students to relate their experiences.

The Colloquium Committee, chaired by UAAO head Travis R. Merritt, plans the colloquium, tentatively called "Success and/or Honesty: In Here, Out There," for Oct. 21.

The name refers to the committee's efforts to foster interaction between members of the MIT community and people in the "real world" with an interest in honesty and integrity.

"We'd like to get some very well-known speakers with an interest" in academic honesty, said Nelson Y.-S. Kiang, chair of the

Committee on Discipline and a member of the colloquium committee. Kiang said the committee is developing a list of potential panelists and expects replies during the summer.

The forum will be similar to the "Teaching in a Research University" colloquium held in the fall, Merritt said. The colloquium will have two parts: a large meeting in Kresge for about an hour and a half,

followed by dinner and discussion within individual departments.

The committee is considering several possible formats, Merritt said. Ideas include a panel discussion or a debate in which on-stage participants choose sides on a particular statement and argue it. Merritt said it may be possible for audience members to interrupt a

Dishonesty, Page 6

Researchers Find Clues To Cause of Alzheimer's

By Karen Kaplan
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

MIT researchers studying Alzheimer's disease are slowly unearthing clues that might lead to a cure.

Alzheimer's is a degenerative neurological disease that results in progressive memory loss. Patients often forget how to speak, become unable to recognize close family members, and eventually are reduced to mental vegetables over an eight-year period, although their bodies may remain completely healthy, said Roger M. Nitsch, a postdoctoral fellow in the brain and cognitive sciences department.

Although no one knows the cause of Alzheimer's disease, researchers are making progress in describing the symptoms and the way in which the disease develops.

About 10 percent of all cases of Alzheimer's are labeled "familial," and thought to be genetically inherited. A point mutation in an amyloid precursor protein (APP) gene is thought to cause the disease in a handful of families, Nitsch said.

Strings of proteins weave through cell membranes in neural cells, crossing the extracellular wall at a section known as B/A4.

Usually, protein strings are severed in the B/A4 region outside the cell membrane. But in Alzheimer's patients, the protein is cut abnormally — twice on the boundaries of the B/A4 region. Once the B/A4 section is loose, it multiplies, forming an amyloid plaque, a self-aggregating accumulation of chemically inert abnormal peptides, or chains of proteins. The plaques accumulate in the extracellular regions of the brain, and although researchers do not understand how the amyloid plaques lead to Alzheimer's, they are one of the hallmarks of the disease.

Three lines of research

Nitsch and other researchers pursue three lines of research: One involves acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter critical to memory. Scientists have shown that when animals are taught to perform certain tricks and later suffer a lack of acetylcholine, they are often unable to repeat the tricks. Animals lacking the neurotransmitter are unable to learn the trick in the first place.

Nitsch and his fellow researchers examined whether acetylcholine acts to stimulate normal cleavage of

Alzheimer's, Page 9



VIPUL BHUSHAN—THE TECH

The Chorallaries gave their Spring Weekend concert Saturday in 10-250. Joining them were Counterpoint from Clark University and InAchor from Boston University.

WORLD & NATION

Korea Sends Group to Assess Damage to Store Owners

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

The South Korean government has dispatched a delegation to Los Angeles to seek reparations for hundreds of Korean store owners who suffered damage in last week's rioting, the country's Foreign Ministry announced Sunday.

The government said a group headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Seung would meet Monday with Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and other officials to discuss compensation for Korean-owned businesses that were destroyed or crippled by the violence.

Los Angeles officials have not yet broken down damage figures for city neighborhoods, such as Koreatown, which was one of the communities hit hardest by the rioting. But South Korean officials, based on their conversations with local Korean leaders, estimate the damage to be as high as \$300 million. The ministry did not say if that much compensation would be sought.

"Damage was more than physical, but the collapse of the American Dream," said Parliament Speaker Park Jyun-Kyu in announcing the government's plans to seek compensation.

A senior U.S. Department of Defense official said that the South Korean government has put its forces on alert to guard against possible attacks on American soldiers and U.S. installations in that country.

Tensions have been high between South Koreans and black American soldiers since a Korean grocer in Los Angeles shot and killed black teenager Latasha Harlins last year for allegedly stealing a bottle of orange juice, according to the Department of Defense official. The tension escalated when the grocer, Soon Ja Du, was convicted of second-degree murder but did not receive a jail sentence.

Israeli-Backed Militia Charged With Torture

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

Prisoners held by an Israeli-backed militia in south Lebanon have been tortured and ill-treated, are cut off from the outside world, and apparently are not subject to any legal process, according to a report issued Monday by the London-based human rights group Amnesty International.

In a study based largely on interviews with former detainees, Amnesty charged that inmates of the Khiam prison, which lies inside the strip of Lebanese territory Israel controls as a "security zone" along its northern border, have been virtual hostages. It said the detainees, most of whom are Lebanese, have not been allowed family visits, have no access to the International Red Cross, and have served open-ended sentences without trial or due process.

For several years, Israel has been trying to exchange the Khiam inmates, who include Muslim fighters of Hezbollah (Party of God) as well as other Lebanese groups, for Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon. Amnesty said about 200 men and women were still being held in the prison, a converted French army barracks, after the release of some 90 detainees in hostage negotiations last year.

Amnesty said Khiam detainees had been tortured during interrogation with electric shocks, beatings with cables, suspension from a pole, and dousing with water. It cited unconfirmed reports by former inmates that several persons had died because of torture.

An Israeli army spokesman said Monday he had no comment on the Amnesty report. Israeli officials said the government's position continued to be that Israel was not responsible for Khiam or the prisoners held there.

WEATHER

Cold rain. May snow.

By Michael C. Morgan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The combined effects of a large cold anticyclone to our north and a developing cyclone over the southeastern United States will produce cold, damp weather for southern New England beginning late tonight and continuing into Thursday. With the anticyclone (or high) to our north, colder and slightly drier air will be advected into the area near the surface as winds become north-northeast. At the same time the low pressure center developing to our south will serve to bring increasingly moist air over the region. This sets the stage for a possible wintry mix of precipitation.

In the spring, onshore winds — particularly northeast winds — can keep coastal areas rather chilly while inland locations can be rather mild. Winds with a more easterly component tend to be not as cold as northeasterly winds as the sea surface temperatures to our east are warmer. As precipitation falls into a drier layer close to the surface it evaporates — cooling the near surface air. The type of precipitation we receive hinges on the time of its arrival. If the precipitation arrives while winds are still northeast, then snow and ice pellets will likely mix in with the rain. As the low develops to our south and the high moves further east, winds will become more easterly and the mixed precipitation will gradually become a plain, cold rain.

Tuesday: Increasing clouds and cool. High near 50°F (10°C).

Tuesday night: Cloudy and chilly with rain, ice pellets, and some snow developing late. Low 36°F (2°C).

Wednesday: Cloudy and cold with rain or mixed rain, ice pellets, and snow. High around 40°F (4°C). Low 35°F (2°C).

Thursday: Cloudy with more rain and rain showers. Highs 40-44°F (4-7°C). Lows 35-40°F (2-4°C).

U.S. Backs Proposal to Reduce Emission of Greenhouse Gases

By Larry B. Stammer and Douglas Jehl

LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The Bush administration has decided to embrace a compromise proposal calling for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and President Bush has telephoned several European leaders this weekend to tell them "we're on board," White House officials said Sunday.

The flurry of telephone calls by Bush to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other European leaders was described by some administration officials as part of a pressure campaign to urge the U.S. allies to support the plan, which is more modest than the Europeans had endorsed.

The officials said that the White House hoped to forge a broader backing for the watered-down plan so that Bush could attend a global environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, next month as part of a coalition of developed nations.

One official declined to specify which leaders Bush had consulted apart from Kohl during a spate of telephoning that began Friday afternoon. Asked whether they had included French President Francois Mitterrand, the official said that Bush may have placed that call Sunday.

The official described the calls, made by Bush from the White House and his weekend retreat in Camp David, Md., as "an opportunity to touch base with the leaders and

say not so much 'come on board' but that 'we're on board.'"

There were other signs of the White House's growing involvement in negotiations here. On Saturday, White House official Robert E. Grady, who has played a key role in fashioning a U.S. position, dropped in on the negotiations and was expected to report back to Washington.

Despite the stepped-up efforts by Washington, some European governments have held out for a much tougher deadline for stabilizing the emissions.

Indeed, the German delegation went out of its way Saturday — one day after Bush's call to Kohl — to knock down rumors among negotiators here that the weaker language was acceptable.

"I'd like to avoid any misunderstanding," Ansgar O. Vogel told negotiators during an open session. "The German delegation has not accepted this text." He said that Germany was committed to reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by 25 percent to 30 percent by the year 2005.

Several European nations, as well as developing countries, are calling for stabilizing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2000 as a minimum. The compromise backed by Bush has no binding deadline but offers the year 2000 as a guideline or goal for stabilizing emissions.

Carbon dioxide, which is

released when fossil fuels such as gasoline and coal are burned, trap the sun's heat in the atmosphere, much as a greenhouse does, causing temperatures to rise. While calculations are imperfect, most scientists say it is probable that the Earth's average temperature will rise from 2 to 8 degrees in the next century unless emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are curbed.

Despite the scientific concerns, the Bush administration has opted for a more lenient treaty, in part because of scientific questions and in part because it fears a binding deadline would force the United States to make economic sacrifices to fulfill the treaty's terms.

Bush's direct involvement in negotiations comes at a time when the United States has come under intense pressure from allies and environmentalists to sign a strong climate-change treaty. But the United States has steadfastly declined to commit itself even to attend the Rio summit, although there are growing indications that Bush will join more than 100 other heads of state at the meeting, known as the U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development.

But with the United States still at odds with its allies over how quickly greenhouse gas emissions ought to be reduced, advisers have been seeking to ensure that Bush does not find himself in embarrassing isolation.

Voluntary House Retirements Reach 54 as McHugh Departs

By Kenneth J. Cooper

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The turmoil in the House claimed an ironic victim Monday when Rep. Matthew F. McHugh (D-N.Y.), a member of the 1974 Watergate class who led the ethics investigation into the House Bank scandal, announced he would not seek re-election in his upstate district.

McHugh's unexpected announcement came on the same day that Rep. Robert W. Davis (R-Mich.), whom the ethics committee identified as one of the top 22 "abusers" of the House Bank, said he would not run again either. Their decisions increased to 54 the post-World War II record for voluntary House retirements in a single year.

House members from both parties and congressional scholars said they were dismayed that McHugh, a liberal who enjoys a bipartisan reputation for integrity, joined the exodus from the House. Several doubted that many House newcomers, whose numbers may reach 100 next year, would match his caliber.

McHugh, 53, cited wide public disrespect of Congress, his frustration with an ineffective federal government and a desire to spend more time with his family as his reasons for leaving.

"I will admit to some pain and frustration when I find myself frequently put in the position of defending my character for simply being a member of Congress," he said. "There is now too great a gulf between my hopeful belief in what our institutions can be and the public perceptions of them."

The two-page announcement did not mention his chairmanship of the ethics subcommittee that investigated the now-defunct bank, but at an

Ithaca, N.Y., news conference McHugh denied that he was retiring solely because of the inquiry's impact on him.

But Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), who said he tried to persuade McHugh to run again, blamed over-reaction by the news media to the bank scandal for making the fellow Appropriations Committee member conclude that serving in the House was no longer worth the trouble.

"It's not the bank investigation, it's getting devoured by a feeding frenzy that makes no distinction between the best and the worst in the House."

Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.)

"It's not the bank investigation, it's getting devoured by a feeding frenzy that makes no distinction between the best and the worst in the House," Obey said. He referred to pressures behind House votes in March to disclose the names of not only 22 top abusers but also 303 members who wrote at least one bad check in a 39-month period ending last October.

Rep. James McDermott (D-Wash.), who serves with McHugh on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the formal name of the ethics panel, also cited the bank inquiry's impact.

"The stress of that took a physical toll on Matt," said McDermott, who declined to be more specific. He said McHugh, a lawyer, became "very, very upset" in particular about leaks of the panel's preliminary list of the top 21 Democratic abusers and other information that

investigators gathered.

Previously, McHugh had been known for his work on the Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations. He was assigned to the ethics committee last year and last fall was tapped as acting chairman of both the full panel and a six-member subcommittee because Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), the permanent chairman, had overdrafts at the bank. Near the end of the six-month inquiry, an embarrassed McHugh

discovered that he had one overdraft.

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.), said McHugh's departure "will be felt all the greater at a time when his qualities of fairness and good will are so clearly required."

Davis, 59, has been under fire in his northern Michigan district for having 878 overdrafts and being the third-worst abuser of the House Bank. A seven-term member and ranking Republican on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Davis said a recent poll done for his campaign showed he could win again.

"However, a victory in the general election would inevitably involve an extremely large fundraising effort, constant campaigning and a great deal of negativism. Ultimately, I decided that I was not interested in that kind of campaign."

White House Blames Liberal Programs for Rioting

By James Gerstenzang
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush dispatched a team of federal officials to Los Angeles Monday to assess the city's needs in the wake of three days of rioting, as the White House blamed the upheaval on "the liberal programs of the '60s and '70s."

The president conferred with Cabinet members responsible for domestic issues in the first of what he said would be daily meetings leading up to his visit to Los Angeles at the end of the week. His spokesman said afterwards that as much as \$600 million in federal grants and loans is being made available for rebuilding efforts.

"I'm very pleased that it's calmed down out there. We will do everything we can to support the people out there, to make things tranquil and then to help get to the core of the problems," Bush said at a photo session before the Cabinet session.

White House officials, meanwhile, scrapped their original plans for the president's trip, which was to include a speech on trade and visits to Mountain View and Fresno, as well as Los Angeles. They held out the possibility that the overnight visit Thursday and Friday would be extended.

A group of high-level White House officials headed to Los Angeles Monday night to beef up the advance team already there, reflecting the high degree of importance Bush is attaching to what had originally been planned as a routine political trip.

White House officials said that Bush is almost certain to visit an area where rioting took place but the specific neighborhood has not been determined.

A Bush campaign official said that the president's schedule for his visit to California is being adjusted to give him as much "face time with the actual folks there" as possible.

While the White House and Bush's re-election campaign organization scrambled to erase any overt political tenor of the trip, the president complained that Congress' refusal to heed his administration's requests are hampering government efforts to deal with urban problems. And White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said that the failure of the Great Society programs undertaken by President Johnson in the 1960s is at the root of these problems.

Calling for "a conservative agenda that creates jobs and housing and home ownership and involvement in the community," Fitzwater criticized liberal programs that "redistribute the wealth or that deal with direct handouts."

"We believe there's a very direct relationship between people's pride in their community and having a job, first of all, having the hope of income and improving their lives ... and being able to own their own property or homes to give them a stake in the community," he said. "We think the social welfare programs of the '60s and '70s ignored that and we're now paying a price."

Among the approaches favored by the administration, he said, are enterprise zones, which give tax advantages to companies establishing operations in inner cities, and the sale of public housing to tenants. During the last three terms of Republican presidents, the government has sought to slow the growth of federal programs offering direct aid to the poor.

Asked if he was blaming Johnson and the Carter administration for the riots, Fitzwater said: "They're still the programs that are in effect and we've been pushing the liberal Democratic Congress to pass these others and we couldn't get them."

"We believe that the liberal programs of the '60s and '70s did not work," Fitzwater said. "If you look at the studies of the family structure and of leadership in the communities and the impact of the welfare programs and so forth, they all tend to reinforce that view."

Under questioning, he did not

cite specific studies or individual programs that he said had failed and acknowledged that some — specifically the Head Start program of early childhood education and welfare programs for mothers and children — were necessary and successful.

In Sacramento, Calif., Assembly

Bush met early Monday morning with Attorney General William P. Barr, Deputy Secretary of Defense Donald Atwood, and Adm. David Jeremiah, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for a report on the situation in Los Angeles.

Fitzwater added that Richard G. Darman, director of the Office of

"We believe there's a very direct relationship between people's pride in their community and having a job, first of all, having the hope of income and improving their lives ... and being able to own their own property or homesto give them a stake in the community."

Marlin Fitzwater

Speaker Willie Brown, said that "the president is clearly disconnected from reality when he would suggest to you that policies of the Great Society some 25 years ago — which included the opportunity for people to go to college, which included anti-poverty efforts, which included economic development, business development — somehow contributed and is responsible for these riots. I think the president is just flat wrong."

Management and Budget, had said that under the disaster declaration signed by Bush Saturday, about \$100 million will be available in assistance for individuals as well as \$200 million for wider government-run repair work. In addition, Small Business Administration loans will reach \$300 million to \$400 million, he said.

But, Fitzwater said, "these are all soft numbers Nobody knows this for sure."

Germany Agrees to Negotiate With Strikers Again

By Tamara Jones
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BONN, GERMANY

Faced with widening strikes that began to disrupt international air traffic, the German government Monday agreed to reopen negotiations with public workers in hopes of ending the country's worst post-war labor dispute.

The Interior Ministry announced that it would sweeten its offer of 4.8 percent pay hikes when both sides meet Wednesday in Stuttgart.

No new figure was disclosed, but the union previously had approved a

mediator's compromise of 5.4 percent, which the government rejected last month, citing the soaring costs of German unification as the reason.

However, the prospect of new talks did not prompt the union to call off a potentially paralyzing walkout scheduled for Tuesday at continental Europe's busiest airport.

Ground personnel and firefighters at Frankfurt International were expected to join colleagues who shut down or crippled several airports across Germany Monday.

Thousands of disgruntled passengers were bused to airports in

Amsterdam or Brussels for rerouting. In Berlin, flights were detoured through Schoenefeld Airport in the formerly Communist eastern sector, which was not striking.

The national airline Lufthansa said Monday's action resulted in more than 200 canceled flights affecting more than 15,000 passengers.

Frankfurt's airport, one of the busiest in the world, handles approximately 30 million passengers pass through each year.

The union claimed that more than 200,000 employees were tak-

ing part in the scattered strikes this week — double the number who launched the walkouts eight days ago.

The strike has disrupted mail delivery, trash collection, and public transportation in the western part of the country.

Eastern Germans negotiate separately and are not officially part of the strike, although transportation workers in eastern Berlin joined Monday's stoppages as a show of solidarity.

Health officials have reported no serious sanitation problems yet as

garbage begins to pile up on Germany's normally pristine sidewalks.

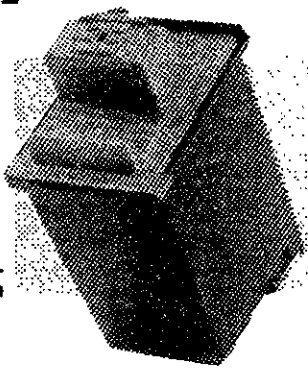
"We're not talking trash mountains yet," said a Hamburg city health official who declined to be identified. "There are some spots in town that smell, but it doesn't have anything to do with the strikes."

"If it goes another week, we could have real problems," the official added in a telephone interview.

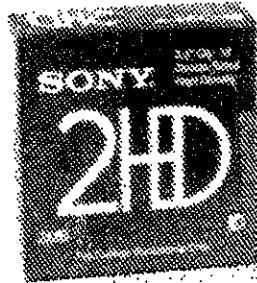
"But we're a port city, so we have plenty of experience with rats. Our rat-catchers are ready."

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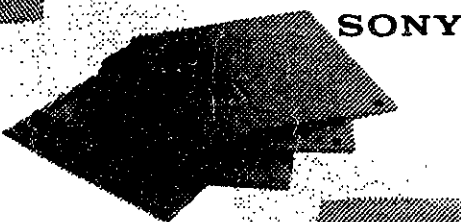


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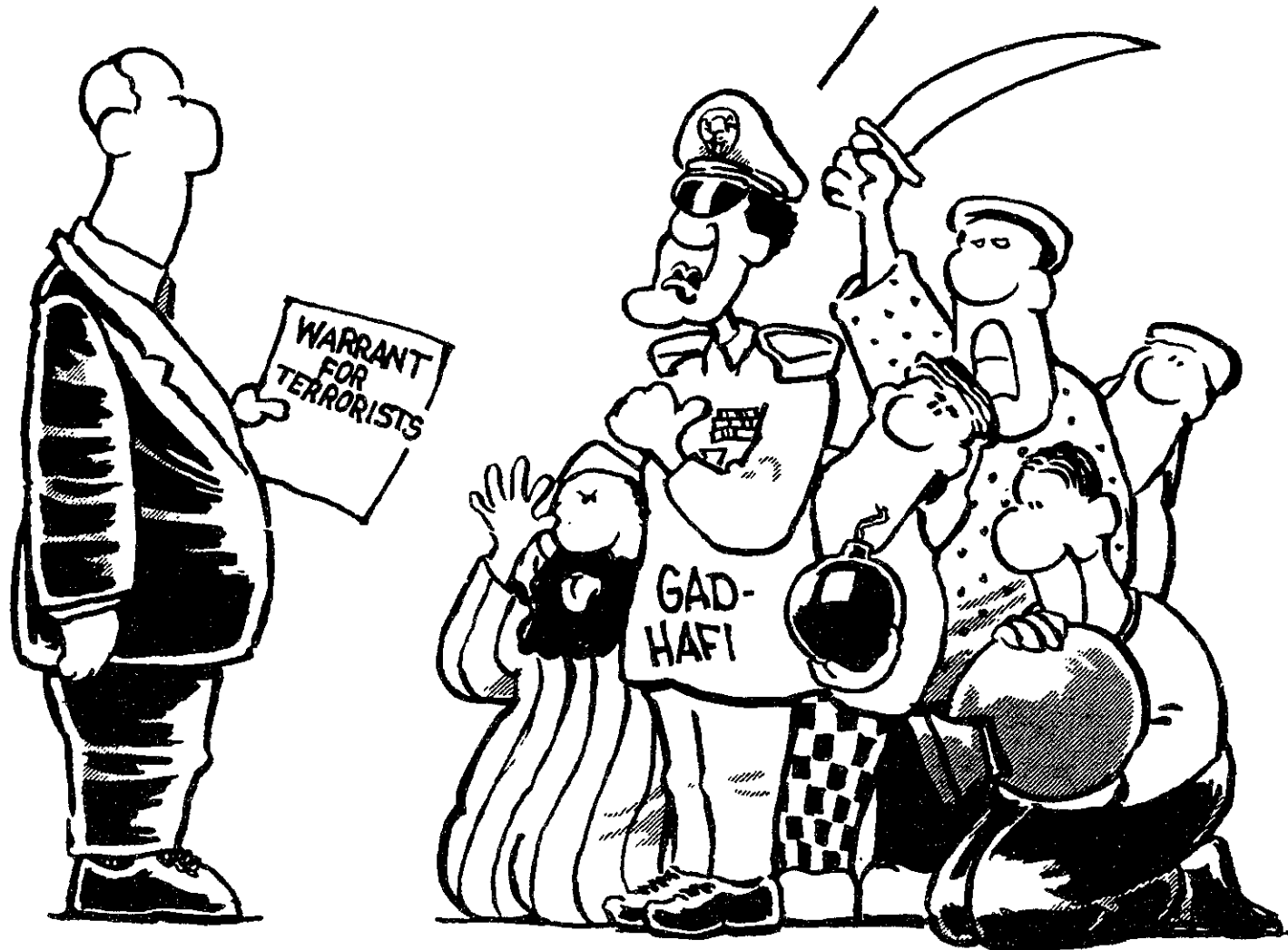
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Athena Not a Forum For Propaganda

As system managers of private mainframes on campus, we would like to express our surprise and disappointment upon discovering that the root account on Project Athena had been used as a forum of advertisement and propaganda of a political nature. We are referring to the electronic mail that was sent from the root account to most of the mailing lists on Athena, and thus to most Athena users, advertising the protest of "Police brutality and the travesty of justice in the recent Rodney King trial."

First, we would like to clarify that we are not offering any opinion on the Rodney King trial, nor are we offering any negative commentary on the protest itself. In fact, our opinions on that matter are positive; we are happy to see that any political activism on campus has been limited to the peaceful and therefore constructive variety.

However, we believe that advertising partisan political activity in the manner in which it was done was completely uncalled for. Project Athena is a public workplace; most probably agree with us that the expressions of political opinion and the groups that espouse them should operate on the private level. That is what mailing lists are for. It is not the privilege of system managers to use their position of power to express their opinions or advertise partisan events. In fact, it is the responsibility of system managers to make sure that such activity does not get out of hand, and that any global electronic mailing activity is limited to what Athena was intended for: announcements regarding the status of applications that help students do their work.

We are surprised and disappointed that the system manager on Athena (1) did not fulfill his/her responsibility to keep the Athena environment free of such activity, and (2) actually assisted in submitting said material in a public forum in which it does not belong. If, by chance, this piece of email was the result of a hack by the protest's organizers, and the system manager knew nothing of it, then our message applies to them as well: you have used the Athena environment in a manner in which it was not intended. Either way, we are saddened to see a mainframe environment used in this manner, and shudder at the thought of this setting a precedent of continued Athena misuse in the future.

John A. Barone '94
Dom J. Sartorio '94

Tech Misrepresents UA Efforts

The Tech, in its editorial last Friday, implicates the Undergraduate Association in a Student Life Fee campaign characterized by deceptive referenda, ulterior motives, and unwarranted conclusions that a fifteen percent referendum constitutes a "mandate" ["Referendum Vote Is Not a Mandate," May 1].

First, UA President Stacy E. McGeever '93 never said the results of the referendum were a "mandate" at all. A 15 percent turnout, even when four out of five people responded yes, is clearly not a "mandate from the people" for change. It was a reporter's mistake that led to that attribution appearing in last Tuesday's article ["Voters Favor Student Life Fee, But Turnout is 'Disappointing,'" April 28], not a statement by McGeever.

Second, the referenda questions were simple ones and students knew what we meant. We wanted a referendum to gather opinion on the general idea of a Student Life Fee, not to involve the entire campus in a debate over minutiae. But more importantly, the referendum questions weren't supposed to embody every detail of the proposal. It was just too complicated to explain fully in a few sentences of reasonable length. We produced the pamphlet to provide the details and designed the referendum to ask the central question — whether the Fee was a good idea in the first place.

The Tech goes searching for a reason for the low turnout and comes up with a lack of "discussion and student input." But do we really need another term's worth of discussion? Are the questions really that thought-provoking? It seems pretty basic: should students control the money, or should the administration? We tried to develop a well-thought out proposal that might just have a chance of being liked by students, being tolerated by administrators, and doing some good along the way. It was a modest proposal and, unfortunately, the cost of that seemed to be lower student interest.

Finally, it has been a feature throughout this ordeal that some people have complained that the information they got was one-sided. Hence *The Tech's* accusation that our pamphlets and posters were "more like propaganda than useful information." But the only persuasion our posters offered was to vote on the Student Life Fee, not to vote for it. The campus may not have screamed "yes" at the top of their lungs, but it conclusively did not scream, or even whisper, "no." That the referendum is a mandate from the campus to plow forward full steam ahead is certainly pushing it. That it guides one to believe that the UA would not be doing students a disservice by going forward with the Fee seems more reasonable.

Stacy E. McGeever '93
UA President
J. Paul Kirby '92
UA Vice President

LETTERS POLICY

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

Dissents, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed 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, Mass. 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to tech@athena.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the 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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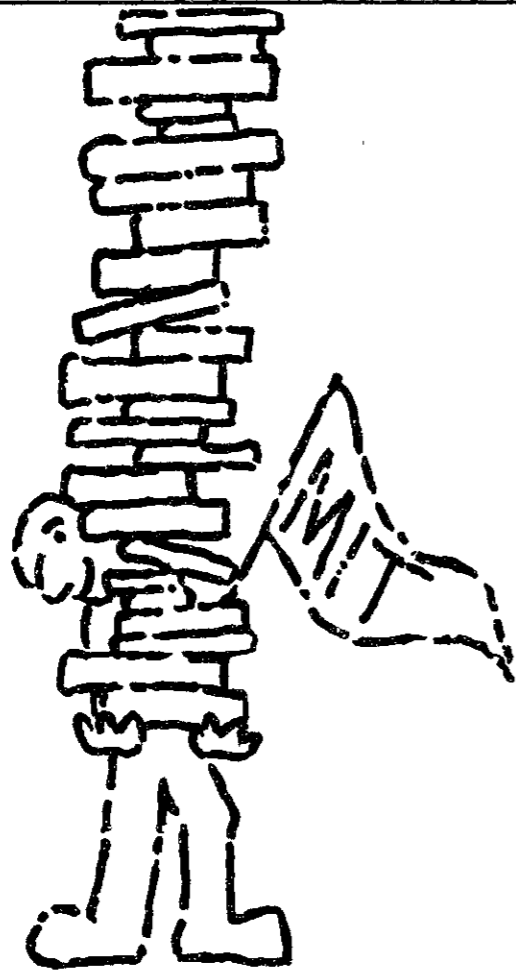
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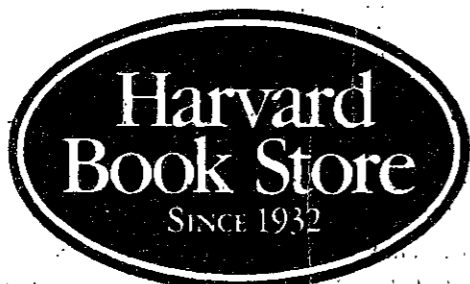


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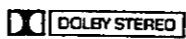
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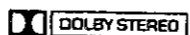
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NOTE ROOM CHANGE!



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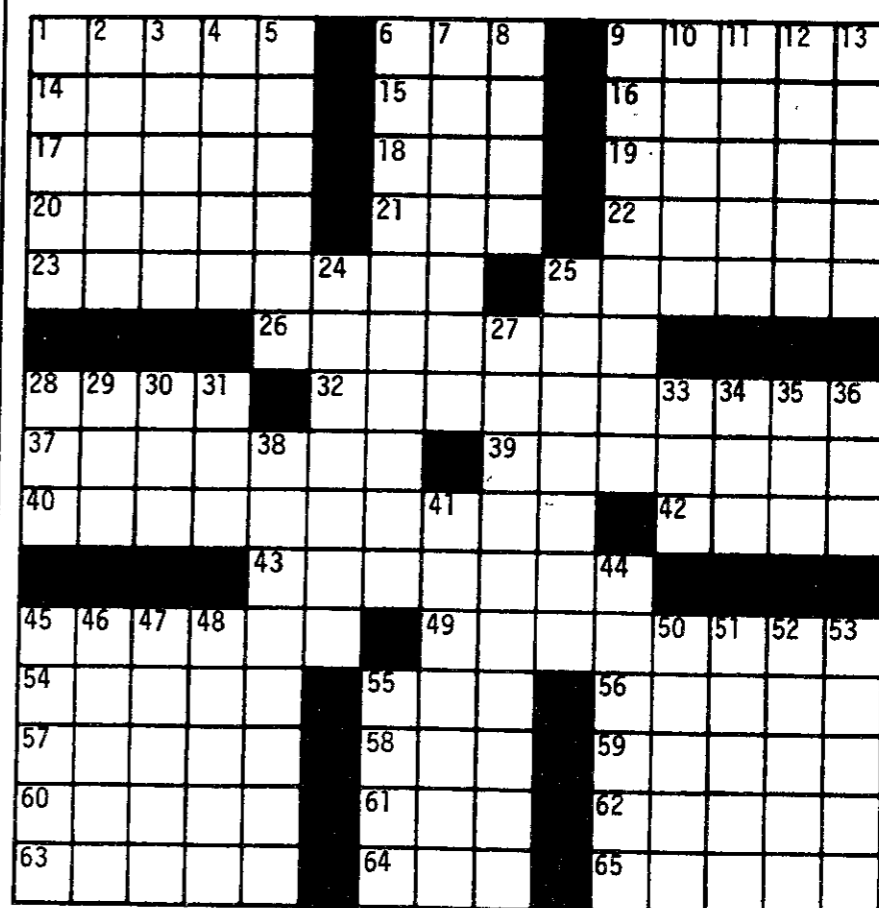
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ACROSS

- 1 — of strength
- 6 Add to, as a story
- 9 Horse or car
- 14 Five books of Moses
- 15 Flightless bird
- 16 Well's partner
- 17 Fearless
- 18 Soak
- 19 Pitcher's statistic
- 20 S.A.G. member
- 21 Small —
- 22 Work assignment
- 23 Of the chest cavity
- 25 Wheat varieties
- 26 Central Calif. city
- 28 Golf shot
- 32 Applying an incorrect name to
- 37 — Hornblower
- 39 Flea market find
- 40 Not speaking well
- 42 Concerning (2 wds.)
- 43 Housecleaning aid (2 wds.)
- 45 Ebb
- 49 In a rush
- 54 Of a central line
- 55 Soldiers
- 56 Ancient region of Asia Minor
- 57 Certain exam answer
- 58 Here: Fr.
- 59 Mongrels
- 60 Handbill
- 61 Pasture sound
- 62 Anchor position
- 63 Asterisks
- 64 Building addition
- 65 Food fishes
- 24 Opera —
- 25 Loud-voiced Trojan War figure
- 27 Baseball hall-of-famer (2 wds.)
- 28 — square
- 29 Term of endearment
- 30 Fury
- 31 " — Joey"
- 33 War casualty
- 34 Results of Binet tests
- 35 Enthusiast
- 36 Prefix for metric
- 38 Infants
- 41 Moral
- 44 Bandleader Louis, and family
- 45 Hodgepodes
- 46 Elevate in rank
- 47 Hairlike projections
- 48 One who comforts
- 50 Part of C.Y.O.
- 51 Prefix for mural
- 52 Lustrous
- 53 Reacts to something shocking
- 55 Ridicule

DOWN

- 1 Up (2 wds.)
- 2 Olympics symbol
- 3 Muse of poetry
- 4 Taste with pleasure
- 5 Well-known constellation (2 wds.)
- 6 Double-dealing
- 7 Punishes
- 8 Jury —
- 9 Traveler's document
- 10 Having wings
- 11 Polite
- 12 Happening
- 13 Takes five

SOLUTIONS, P. 10

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Scientists Come Closer to Finding the Causes of Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's, from Page 1

APP, and therefore whether a lack of the neurotransmitter leads to less normal cleavage and more abnormal cleavage. They hypothesized that Alzheimer's patients have less of the critical neurotransmitter in their brains, resulting in fewer instances of normal cleavage of the acetyl precursor protein. This would result in more abnormal cleavage, where the B/A4 region is separated out and forms the deadly plaques.

The researchers found that acetylcholine levels are lower in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Indeed, they found that several neurotransmitters occurred in lower levels in Alzheimer's brains compared to the brains of healthy people. "This is especially interesting because there's a major decrease in acetylcholine, but all other [neurotransmitters] are decreased as well," though to a lesser extent, Nitsch said. "Acetylcholine is necessary for correct cleavage [of APP], and when you have less of it, that opens the way for a higher incidence of the abnormal cleavage that characterizes Alzheimer's," Nitsch said.

Another line of research also concentrates on the cutting of the protein near the cell membrane. Here, researchers concentrated on how the B/A4 region is cut from the rest of the protein string. One of the cuts on one side of the region occurs inside the wall of the cell membrane. "Usually you don't have cleavage within a membrane, so we hypothesized that there must be a membrane defect in Alzheimer's patients," Nitsch explained.

The researchers studied membrane metabolites, major structural molecules that make up membranes in cells, from the brains of Alzheimer's patients and compared them with membrane metabolites from healthy people and from people who suffer from other neurological diseases, such as Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, and Down's syndrome. They found that "levels of major phospholipids were depleted in Alzheimer's brains," and that there were twice as many breakdown products in Alzheimer's brains compared to the other brains, Nitsch said. This suggests "an accelerated breakdown of cell membranes in the brains of Alzheimer's

patients," he said.

The third research project involved measuring levels of choline, a precursor of acetylcholine and the important membrane component phosphatidylcholine, in Alzheimer's brains. Choline is a nutrient that can be found in some foods, including eggs. Measured choline levels were lower in Alzheimer's brains compared to healthy people and patients with other neurological diseases, "but it's unclear why choline levels are decreasing," Nitsch said.

The results of the membrane

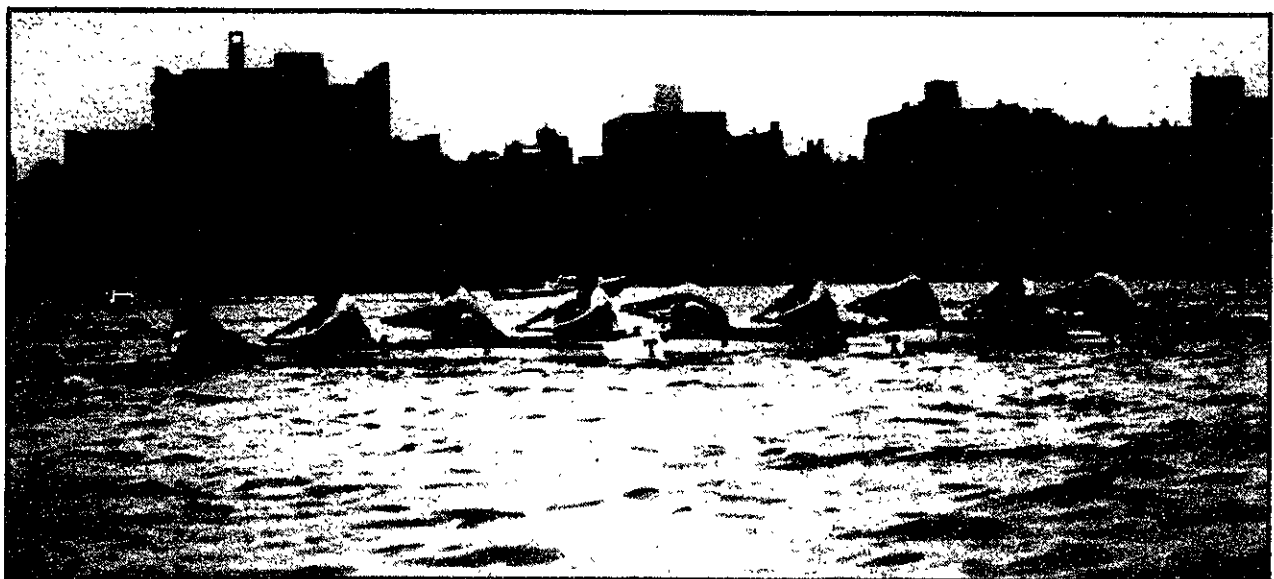
defect research and the choline deficiency research were published last month in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Other research results were submitted for publication two weeks ago, Nitsch said.

Direction for future research

Nitsch will now focus his attention on "how molecular and cellular mechanisms are responsible for abnormal cleavage" of APP. "We hope that as a result we'll understand the mechanism that leads to abnormal APP processing and that

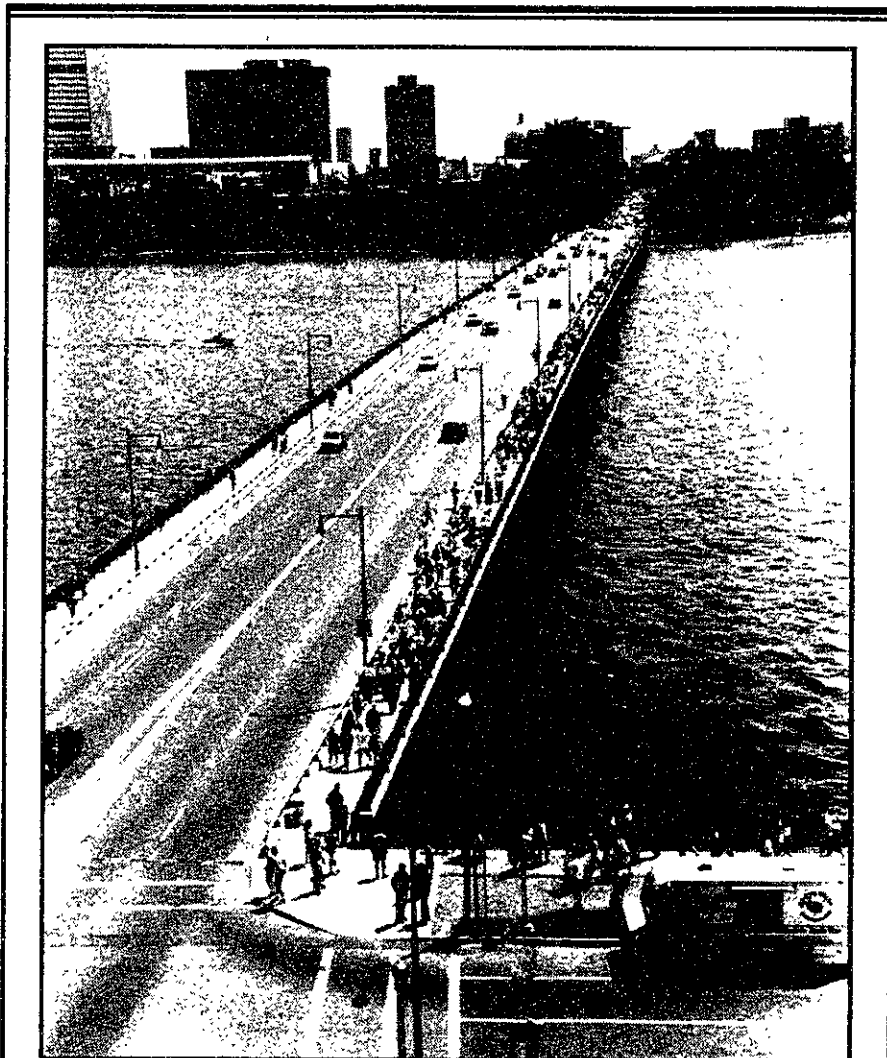
we can find a drug to interfere with the abnormal cleavage process or stimulate the normal cleavage process," he said.

Another avenue to consider is why Alzheimer's develops abnormalities only in the brain, since APP is present throughout one's body. "We suspect that neurons have a selective vulnerability" to the abnormal cleavage process, "but we don't know for sure," he said. "Perhaps we can learn from other cells how to avoid this damage, and teach neurons to learn the processes of other cells by treating them with a drug."



SANG H. PARK—THE TECH

MIT's varsity first boat rows in the Cochrane Cup Saturday. The varsity crew lost to boats from Dartmouth and the University of Wisconsin.



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The 1992 Bose Foundation Fellowship for graduate study in electrical engineering and computer science has been awarded to Matthew D. Trevithick.

This award includes tuition and a stipend for one year of graduate study at M.I.T. The fellowship is awarded on the basis of academic excellence and for technical achievement outside of academic study. Particular emphasis is placed on a high level of initiative and creativity.

This year's applicants demonstrated outstanding and gratifying accomplishments not only in their academic pursuits, but also in their technical achievements in work assignments and class projects.

Matthew D. Trevithick, in particular, exemplifies the criteria for the Bose Fellowship award. Trevithick, a candidate for a Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering, will complete his Bachelor of Science Degree in this same area of study this June, having maintained an outstanding grade point average throughout his academic career.

"Even among the excellent students here, Matthew stands out in terms of energy, enthusiasm, and breadth of interests," remarks his academic advisor. Exhibiting his strong work ethic, Matthew earned the well-deserved respect of his peers and management during his period with IBM. Working independently, he resurrected the Josephson junction model (IBM's circuit simulation program) and became proficient with the simulations. Matthew went on to do the detailed design and layout of a Josephson logic gate test site, which IBM has subsequently built. These outstanding achievements are consistent with the Bose Fellowship standards for excellence.

Matthew's manager at IBM remarked, "Matt is an exceptional individual, among the best MIT VI-A students I have seen. He is smart, industrious, and extremely hard driving."


An active member of Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu national engineering honor societies, Matthew plans to pursue a career as a design engineer in academia or a product coordinator in industry.

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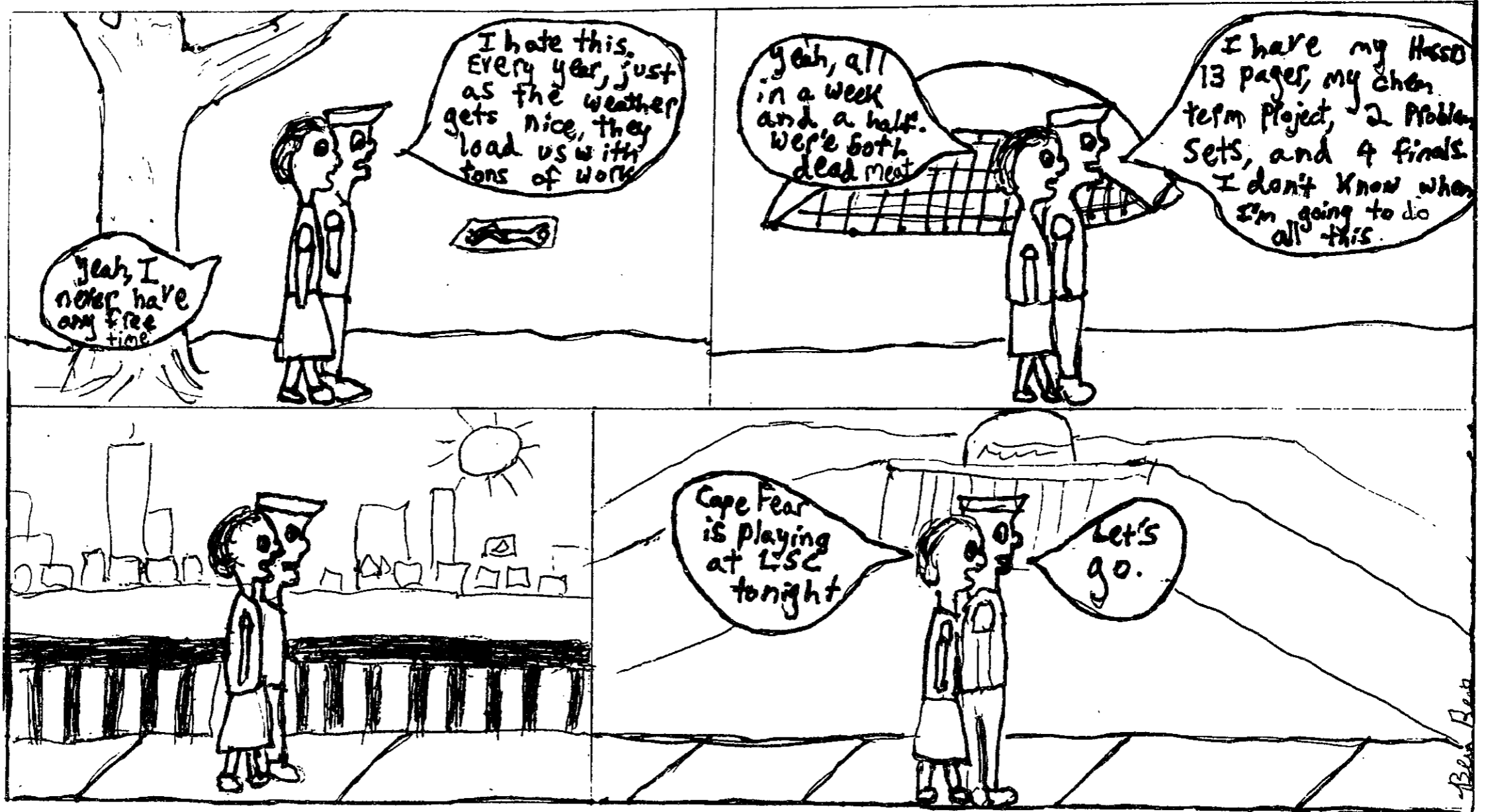
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The Answer . . .



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SOLUTIONS PUZZLE, P. 8

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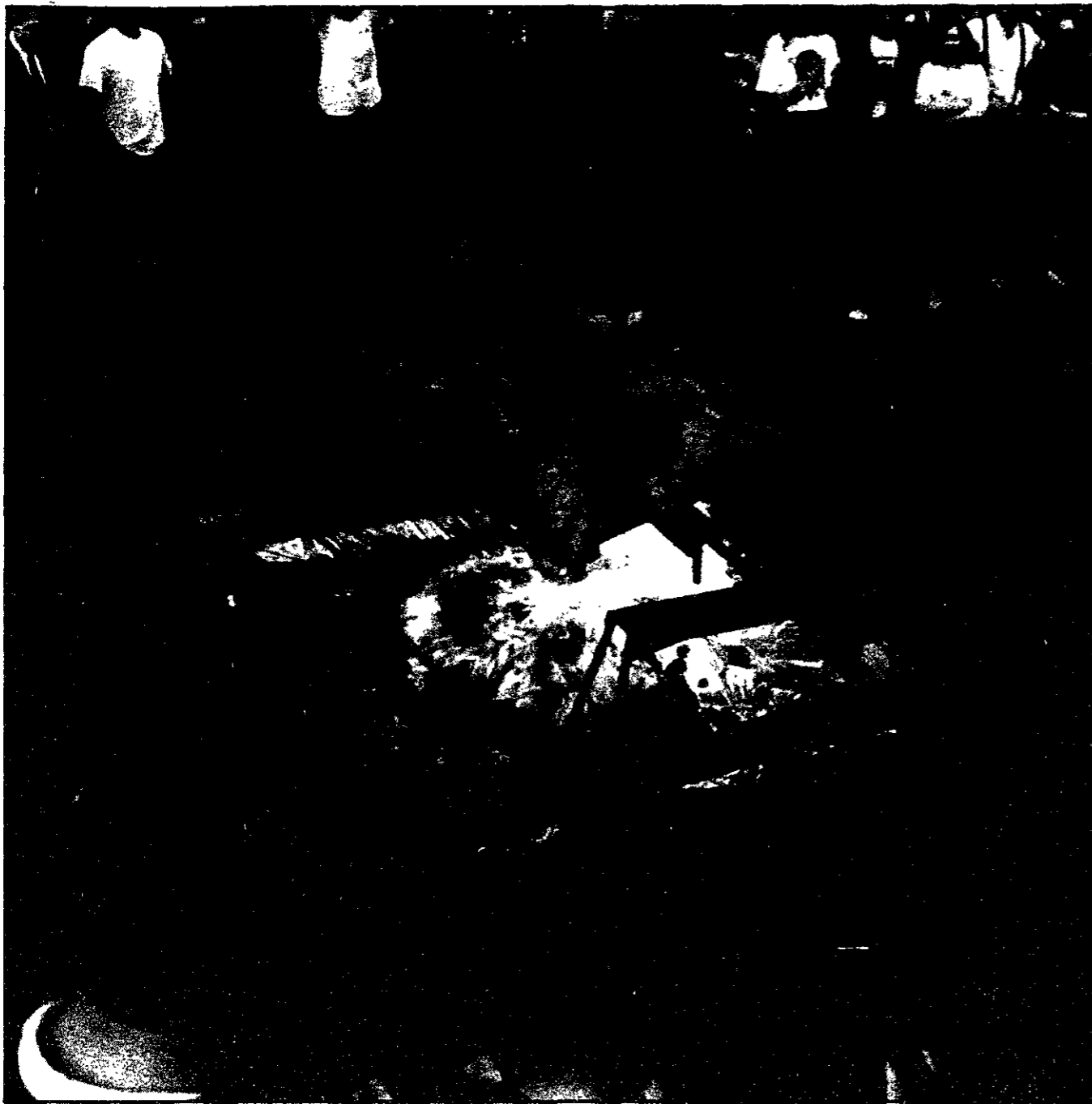
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A Friday Evening At Steer Roast

PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS D. KELLER



Left: With "Ride of the Valkyres" blasting the air, a flaming roll of toilet paper, guided from the roof by wire, set the roast pit ablaze, officially beginning Senior House's 29th Steer Roast.

Below: The "Sport Death" banner is unfolded amid rising smoke from the roast pit.



Above Left: There were generally two approaches in the mud wrestling event: Greco-Roman and World Wrestling Federation. More unconventional wrestling moves included the leg-scissor head lock, which became a crowd favorite.

Left: Proving once again that a fool is born every minute, upperclassmen convinced four freshmen that it was tradition for someone to streak, and they bought it.

Above: In a traditional style, Miriam R. Lawler '93 takes down her brother Robert A. Lawler '92 with a fine leg grab.

Oh Babe!

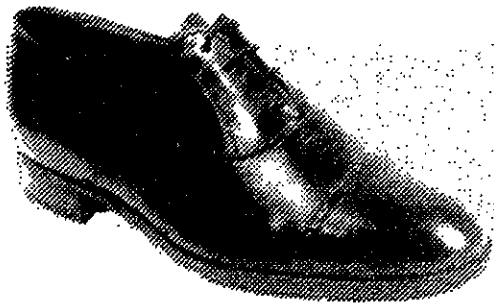
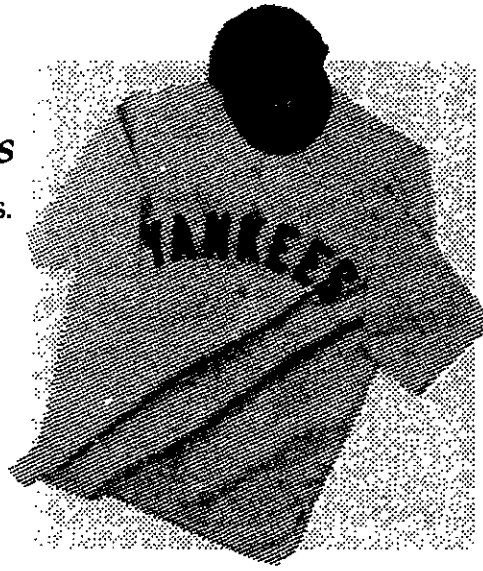
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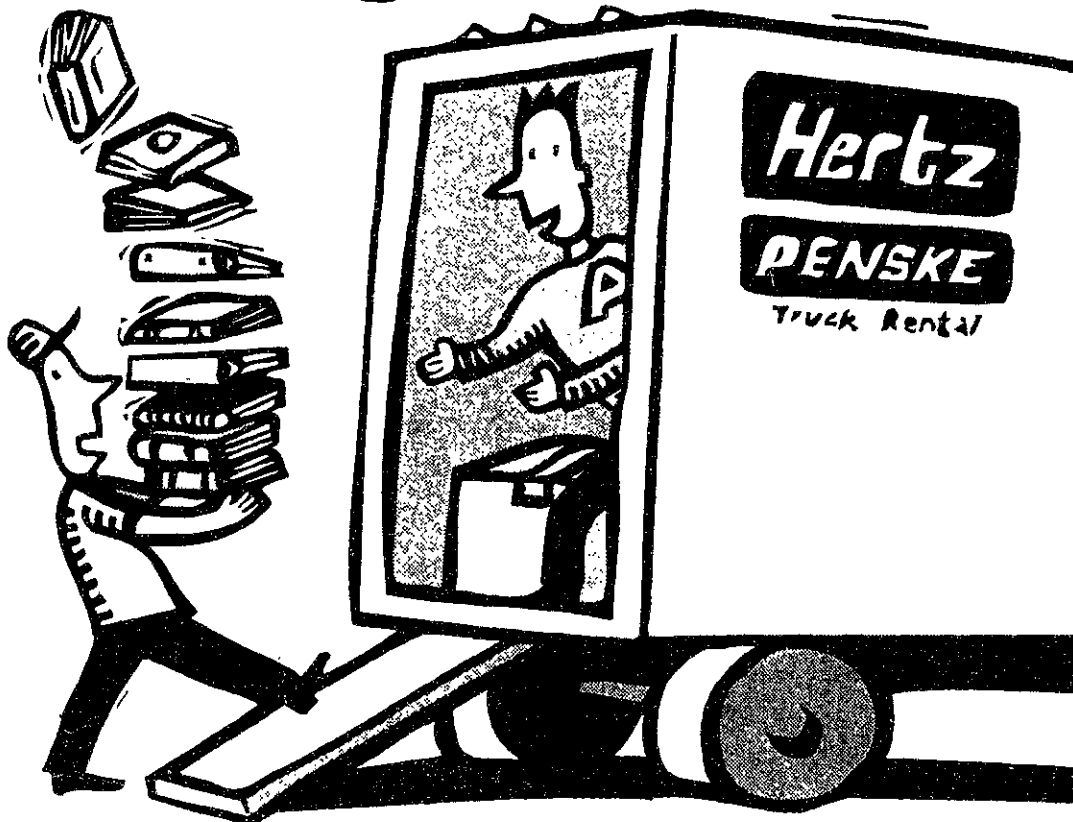
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