

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Rain ending, 62°F (17°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, drizzle, 52°F (11°C)
Tomorrow: Clearing, 65°F (18°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 112, Number 27

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Monday, June 1, 1992

NEA Arts Funding Debate Heats Up With Veto of List Center Art Exhibition

By Joanna Stone
ARTS EDITOR

MIT is currently the focus of a nationwide debate within the arts community which could forever alter the role the government plays in the funding of artistic ventures.

On May 12, Anne-Imelda Radice, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, announced her decision to deny funding for an exhibition on the theme of the human body at MIT's List Visual Arts Center. In her first decision as acting chairman, Radice reviewed 169 applications of projects in line for funding for fiscal year 1992. She rejected both the MIT List Center exhibition, "Corporal Politics," and an exhibition at Virginia Commonwealth University, which also focused on the human body, on the grounds that the proposed works lacked "artistic excellence."

In deciding not to fund "Corporal Politics," Radice rejected the recommendations both of an NEA-appointed peer panel, which voted 6-4 in favor of the exhibition, and the presidentially appointed National Council on the Arts, which voted 11-1 to award \$10,000 for the project.

The arts community reacts

The decision immediately sent shock waves throughout the arts community, prompting a series of protests in the week that followed: The Beacon Press, one of the nation's oldest publishers, withdrew its application for a \$39,000 NEA grant; songwriter Stephen Sondheim turned down the NEA-administered



JOSH HARTMANN—THE TECH

Local rock group Aerosmith came to the Media Laboratory (above) May 20 to see the controversial art exhibit and meet representatives of the press (right).

1992 National Medal of Arts; Artist Trust in Seattle refused two NEA grant awards; and in an unprecedented move, the NEA's Visual Artists Fellowship/Sculpture peer review panel suspended its proceed-

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MIT Says Wolff Debate Belongs on Campus

By Reuven M. Lerner
NEWS EDITOR

Rather than confront allegations of harassment, MIT has responded to a lawsuit brought by Professor of Literature Cynthia G. Wolff by saying that the issues involved are inappropriate for the courthouse and should be decided within the Institute itself.

Wolff's suit, which has drawn national attention, claims that MIT has, over the years, created a "hostile work environment" in which it was impossible to function properly. As an example of this environment, Wolff says that a number of proposals she wrote for subjects within the Women's Studies Program were turned down by the committee governing such proposals.

Wrighton would not comment on MIT's response, saying that while the documents were publicly accessible, his office would play no part in publicizing them.

But according to a faculty member who has read the response, MIT claims that Wolff's charges, however true they might be, are internal disputes meant to be handled within the Institute. The source, who wished to retain anonymity, quickly added that because the charges are completely unfounded, there is all

the more reason for the case not to be heard in court, and for the judge to refuse a trial.

Jerry Weinstein, the senior attorney responsible for representing MIT in the case, was unavailable for comment last week. Wolff also declined to comment on the case, saying that only her attorney would answer questions.

One of the most startling aspects of the suit was Wolff's allegation

that Professor of Literature David M. Halperin harassed Professor of Literature Theoharis C. Theoharis. Halperin is well-known on campus for having helped fight against discrimination on campus, most notably in the case of gay students being forced to leave the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Halperin has adamantly denied the harassment charges, saying in a letter to *The Tech* that he has never

been charged with harassment of any kind in his 20 years as professor.

One member of the literature faculty said that the allegations against Halperin were no more than a "smear," one which would only hurt Wolff's, Halperin's, and the literature department's respective reputations.

Wolff, Page 12

Vest Gives His Support to ROTC Gays

By Sabrina Kwon
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A bill brought before Congress that would allow open homosexuals to serve in the armed forces has received the formal support of President Charles M. Vest.

The significance of the legislation, called the Military Freedom Act of 1992, is that homosexuals would be allowed to participate in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at MIT.

Vest wrote a letter to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Col.), on May 18 indicating his support for the legislation.

"The current Department of

Defense policy to ban gay and lesbian individuals from ROTC is in direct conflict with [MIT's] non-discrimination practice," Vest said in his letter.

A task force, working with area institutions, the American Council on Education, and the National Association of State and Land Grant Colleges, was established "to do everything possible to change the [Department of Defense's] policy," said Sarah J. Eusden, Vest's assistant for government and community relations. "We feel the Department of Defense's policy is wrong, and we are doing everything we can to change it."

Eusden said Vest "sees his letter of support as another step in the implementation of the faculty resolution."

"Vest's letter is wonderful," said Robert L. Bettiker '91, who made headlines two years ago when, after informing his Naval ROTC commander he was gay, he was forced to leave the ROTC program and repay his scholarship. "I was elated to hear that he wrote it."

Schroeder's legislation is "a tool to educate Congress on the issue of discrimination," Bettiker said. "It's good as a focal point for the nationwide effort to have the ban repealed."

Over 1,900 To Graduate Today

By Reuven M. Lerner
NEWS EDITOR

Over 1,900 students will receive nearly 2,000 degrees at MIT's 126th Commencement exercises, to be held today in Killian Court.

Rep. Les Aspin PhD '66 (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, will deliver the Commencement address. President Charles M. Vest will offer the charge to graduates, with Paul E. Gray '54, chairman of the Corporation, presiding over the ceremonies.

Commencement activities will begin at 9:45 a.m. with the academic procession from 77 Massachusetts Ave. to Killian Court via Memorial Drive, after which Corporation Chairman Paul E. Gray '54 will open the graduation exercises.

Following an invocation, Aspin will deliver the Commencement address. Following his speech, Furio Ciacci G, outgoing president of the Graduate Student Council, will salute MIT on behalf of the graduate student body, and Class of 1992 President Aileen W. Lee '92 will present the senior class gift to Vest.

Vest will deliver the traditional charge to the graduates, and then will join Provost Mark S. Wrighton in awarding the degrees. Vest will hand out the bachelor of science degrees while Wrighton will distribute the advanced degrees as two lines of students approach the stage simultaneously. The names of students will be announced in an alternating pattern as the degrees are handed out.

Following Commencement, Vest will join alumni from the classes of 1942 and 1967, which are celebrating their 50th and 25th anniversaries, respectively, at a reception in McDermott Court, just east of Building 8.

In the event of heavy, steady rain, Commencement exercises will be held indoors at Rockwell Cage. Because of the limited space Rockwell Cage offers, the 8,000

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WORLD & NATION

U.S. to Expand Anti-Drug Effort in the Caribbean

By Michael Isikoff
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration is planning a controversial expansion of overseas anti-drug operations that includes deploying about a dozen Pentagon-supplied Black Hawk helicopters for strikes against cocaine traffickers in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, according to administration officials.

Classified plans approved by a National Security Council deputies committee within the last two weeks call for basing the Black Hawks in all three countries and using them to ferry teams of Drug Enforcement Administration agents and local anti-narcotics police on rapid response raids against clandestine landing strips and smuggling ships, the officials said.

The operations, estimated to cost \$30 million over the next two years, would begin this summer and involve scores of U.S. military pilots, State Department contractors and DEA agents in what some officials say represents a significant escalation of the U.S. drug war in the region.

Administration officials have argued that the operations are necessary because of a renewed surge in cocaine trafficking through the eastern Caribbean and Central America. In recent weeks, they said, the need for the operations has increased because the flow of refugees from Haiti has required the diversion of large numbers of Coast Guard ships and personnel to intercept them, creating gaps in U.S. anti-drug surveillance that are being exploited by the traffickers.

A senior administration official rejected suggestions that the NSC-approved plans represent a radical departure from existing U.S. drug operations. He said the planned escalation is a modest expansion of ongoing DEA raids in Guatemala and an extension to Jamaica and the Dominican Republic of an existing joint DEA-DOD operation in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. "What we're doing is tweaking up the system to respond to the traffickers," the official said.

U.N. Votes Curbs on Yugoslavia

By John M. Goshko
THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. Security Council condemned Serbian-controlled Yugoslavia's aggression in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina Saturday and imposed an immediate economic embargo against the Belgrade government to force it to halt its bloody military campaign.

Meanwhile, Serb forces continued to shell Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, and the historic Adriatic city of Dubrovnik in Croatia, which has seceded from Yugoslavia along with Bosnia, Slovenia and Macedonia.

The sanctions resolution, which had been sought by the United States, was adopted by a 13-to-0 vote of the 15-member council, with China and Zimbabwe abstaining.

Its embargo provisions apply to Serbia and its tiny neighbor, Montenegro, which have banded together as the new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The resolution condemned these two states and the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army for failing to heed previous U.N. calls for an end to the fighting.

The sanctions are similar to those imposed by the council on Iraq in August 1990 following its occupation of Kuwait. They ban imports and exports, including oil, but exempt food and medicine. An embargo on arms deliveries has been in effect since September.

In the past two months, Serb forces have seized about 70 percent of Bosnia in fighting that has left at least 2,500 dead and more than 700,000 homeless. Most of the refugees are Slavic Muslims, Bosnia's largest population group.

As was the case with Iraq, the sanctions were approved under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which authorizes measures up to and including military action to enforce the council's will against a recalcitrant country. U.N. sources have stressed that there is no likelihood at this stage that the world body will move toward military action of the kind that culminated in the Persian Gulf War, but the resolution could set the stage for possible air and sea blockades of Serbia and Montenegro.

"Anybody who believes that this is the last word on this matter from the Security Council is in for a bad surprise," said the British ambassador, Sir David Hannay. Asked whether this meant that the council might be prepared to consider military measures, Hannay replied: "I'm not prepared to speculate. But it must be clear that the council is not prepared to walk away from these problems."

WEATHER Rain, rain, GO AWAY!

By Michael C. Morgan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Rain will gradually taper to rain showers and drizzle later this afternoon as a cyclone moves across the region. The effects of the slow moving cyclone won't end until early Tuesday when somewhat drier air reaches southern New England. Mostly sunny, dry weather is anticipated Wednesday and Thursday.

Monday: Morning rain becoming lighter and more showery. Winds south-southeast 10 - 15 mph shifting to north-northeast 10 - 15 mph. Highs 59 - 64° F.

Monday night: Cloudy with patchy fog and drizzle. Low 50 - 55° F.

Tuesday: Clearing and milder. High 65 - 70° F. Low 55 - 60° F.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and warm. High 70 - 75° F. Low 60° F.

Thursday: Partly cloudy and mild High 75° F.

Many Drug Ads Misleading, Illegal, Experts Say

By Janny Scott
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Many drug advertisements in medical journals — long believed to influence doctors' decisions about prescribing — are unbalanced, misleading and in apparent violation of federal regulations governing drug promotion, researchers have found.

In the first large study of its kind, medical specialists at the University of California, Los Angeles, reviewed 109 prescription drug ads published in 10 leading medical journals. They concluded, among other things, that more than half the ads studied had little or no educational value.

They found that advertisers frequently failed to balance information on a drug's effectiveness with information on its side effects and risks. Some ads studied, they suggested, could encourage inappropriate, even dangerous use of drugs.

The study's conclusions, published Monday in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, could be significant in light of the documented role of drug promotion in physician decision-making — particularly at a time when new drugs are proliferating and many doctors have little time to keep up.

"The problem is not that (federal authorities) need new regulations," said Dr. Michael S. Wilkes, a UCLA professor of medicine and lead author of the paper. "They need to enforce the regulations that already exist."

Drug companies spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually advertising their products in medical journals. Research suggests that such ads are highly effective in encouraging physicians to prescribe the latest — and often most expensive — drugs.

Under federal rules, pharmaceutical advertisers must be honest about the side effects, contraindications and effectiveness of their products, and must offer a fair balance between information on effectiveness and risks.

Recently, critics have complained that many advertisers' claims are false or misleading. Fearing that such ads could prompt inappropriate prescribing, they have accused the Food and Drug Administration of failing to enforce its rules.

"The main point is that drug advertising, to the extent that it is false or misleading, can result in patients being injured or killed," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of Public Citizen's Health Research Group, a Washington-based consumer organization.

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, which represents many large drug companies, objected to the conclusions of the UCLA researchers. In a statement, officials of the manufacturers group challenged the suggestion that FDA regulations are being flouted.

"It is unfair to review 109 unidentified advertisements and claim that (most) of them potentially do not comply with FDA standards, thus impugning the reputation of an entire industry," the association officials said.

In the study, Wilkes and two colleagues examined ads published in early 1990 in general and specialty journals. The drugs, used by 11 specialties, ranged from antibiotics to sleeping pills. The journals included, among others, the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The researchers asked two physicians in each specialty plus an academic pharmacist to evaluate each ad consistent with FDA criteria. They

were also asked to judge the ad's educational value and to say whether the journal should have published, altered or refused the ad.

In 57 percent of cases, two or more reviewers found that the ads had little or no educational value. Overall, they would have advised against publishing 28 percent of the ads and would have required major revisions in 34 percent before publication.

In 30 percent of cases, two or more reviewers disagreed with the advertisers' claim that the drug was the "drug of choice." In 40 percent, they thought that information on efficacy was not balanced with information on side effects and contraindications.

Finally, the reviewers found that 32 percent of ads contained headlines that misled the reader about the drug's effectiveness. They thought that 44 percent of the ads would lead to improper prescribing if a physician had no other information about the drug.

"I'm not super-critical, I am a realist," Wilkes said in an interview, saying he is no knee-jerk opponent of pharmaceutical companies and federal regulators. "But we've got a big problem here."

The researchers did not identify the ads or products. But Wilkes said that examples of what they found included sleeping pills promoted for the elderly when they are unsafe in older people, and anti-vomiting drugs promoted for children when there are safer alternatives.

Dr. Jerry Avorn, an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Brigham and Women's Hospital, said the biggest problem is that doctors are not exposed to "countervailing voices" promoting less lucrative drugs or non-drug treatments.

New U.S. Policy Discourages Haitian Boat People

By Kenneth Freed
LOS ANGELES TIMES

PETIT GOAVE, HAITI

The 20-foot boat sat on the beach, its stern to the sea and its hand-hewed ribs open to the rocks and trash beneath. Yet as crude and unseaworthy as it seems, this unfinished shamble of green oak and nails is a kind of Noah's Ark of Haiti, a symbol of hope of a new life.

But that hope, always a gauzy dream at best, is flickering in the vacuum created by President Bush's determination to keep impoverished Haitians from even leaving their desolate homeland, let alone reaching their dream of refuge in the United States.

Just a week after Bush announced that Haitians picked up at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard would be immediately brought back to Haiti, without prior consideration of any claims for asylum, the surge of boat people headed for Miami has begun to wane.

At first the reaction to Bush's announcement was just the opposite, either from ignorance of the new American policy or from defiance. Last Thursday, for example, 1,094 people were picked up from boats and rafts in the Windward Passage off Haiti's northwest coast.

That was one of the biggest pickups in the eight months of the current flood of escaping Haitians. So far, more than 34,000 boat people

have been picked up. Of that figure, more than 18,000 have been returned to Haiti. Another 12,000-plus are being held in an emergency processing center at the U.S. Navy Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. About 9,000 have been judged to have grounds to seek political asylum in the United States.

But overnight Friday and early Saturday, the Coast Guard found only 264 Haitians trying to sail to Florida, and tours by reporters of once-favored departure coves and beaches here in Haiti found few boats being prepared for launching and none actually on the water.

At Miragoane, a port city 45 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the harbor and nearby inlets were empty of all but a few tiny fishing boats and three rusting freighters.

"There haven't been any boats leaving for Miami for a couple of weeks," said a young man standing on a dilapidated pier at the city's outskirts. "There used to be more. The boats were hidden in the woods and taken out at night, but not for a while."

The story was the same at Grand Goave and Leogane, both used by thousands of the boat people since the exodus began last October in the wake of the political and economic crisis that followed a military coup that overthrew the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"Lots of people have gone," said

a storekeeper in Grand Goave, a ramshackle collection of crumbling wooden, gingerbread-style houses and dissolving cement hovels. "But most have been brought back and they don't have the money to try again."

But in Petit Goave, on the shores of the lower jaw of what looks on a map like an alligator's head, there is Francois Felisme and his half-finished little ark.

He said he has run out of money and wood, but "I still expect to sail by June 15." His expectation is that the 60 people he figures can be crammed into the rub-a-dub tub will pay enough in advance to cover the purchase of enough oak and mango wood to at least finish building the vessel, if not caulking the ill-fitting planks.

This is how he arranged for two previous boats he constructed and launched toward Miami. The first, which set sail in December, was picked up by the Coast Guard and its passengers were sent to the temporary refugee camp at Guantanamo Bay.

The second vessel left early in May but turned back when it wasn't picked up and it began leaking.

The price for an attempt to sail to Miami varies widely, with some people paying as much as \$250 and others pooling \$10 or \$12 and building their own rafts. Felisme charges just over \$30 per person.

Expectations of Earth Summit Accomplishments Lowered

By Maura Dolan and Rudy Abramson
WASHINGTON POST

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Earth Summit, once heralded as a sweeping global effort to attack the planet's environmental ills, will open in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Wednesday amid vastly reduced expectations.

Hopes for major breakthroughs on threats ranging from future global warming to the loss of forests plummeted during negotiations over the past several months as developing nations demanded money and technology in exchange for environmental reform and industrialized nations bristled at being blamed for their problems.

Compounding the tensions is a fundamental difference in the perception of the conference. Poorer nations have tended to view it primarily as a conference on development, wealthier countries as a meeting on the environment.

Called the Conference on Environment and Development, the U.N.-sponsored meeting was scheduled before the recession and the breakup of the Soviet bloc. An economic downturn in industrialized countries has shifted political attention from the environment to bread-and-butter issues, and funds for environmental projects in the Third World now must compete with aid to the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.

With those changes, the conference increasingly is being viewed as a beginning, not a conclusion, an opportunity to get something on the table that can be strengthened later.

"Rio leaves us with a lot of processes that may lead to action

someday," said Scott Hajost, international counsel for the Environmental Defense Fund. "The issue is, will it leave enough of a process to make a difference?"

The answer depends on what happens during the 12 days of talks in Rio de Janeiro. Up for signature will be treaties on global warming and wildlife conservation, an ambitious agenda of environmental action for the next century and a declaration of principles on the importance of being able to grow economically without destroying the environment.

For the first time, more than 100 heads of state will meet to discuss environmental concerns, elevating those issues to a level previously enjoyed only by such issues as trade and arms control.

Some nations may use the conference to launch environmental initiatives of their own or to pledge specific amounts of aid to help poorer countries develop in an environmentally sound manner.

Delegates will grapple with ways to share the latest technologies with developing nations without compromising ownership rights and to put in place a system to monitor global environmental initiatives.

The theme of the conference is sustainable development: exploiting resources for economic gain without destroying them. The challenge is to meet today's needs without degrading forests, waterways and other natural resources that future generations also will need for survival.

Poorer nations say that they must have aid if they are to develop without resorting to the cheap, inefficient and polluting technology that allowed industrial nations to prosper

at the environment's expense.

"This is the first time that the world has put the environment and sustainable development very high on its agenda and that probably will never be lost," said Donna Wise, vice president of the World Resources Institute, a Washington-based environmental think tank. "Heretofore, some developing countries would not say the word 'environment,' but now they are talking seriously about the environment and development."

The centerpiece of Earth Summit was supposed to be a strong treaty to curb emission of gases that could lead to climate change.

Scientists, relying on computer models, predict that temperatures will climb between 3 degrees and 8 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the next century if emissions continue unchecked. The chief culprit is carbon dioxide, released by the burning of such fossil fuels as coal, oil and natural gas.

The European Community wanted a treaty requiring signing nations to reduce their emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. But the United States, which emits more carbon dioxide than any other nation, balked.

The Bush administration argued that such a limit could hurt the American economy and was unjustified by science. Researchers still do not know exactly how much temperatures will climb, how quickly and how various regions of the world would be affected.

At U.S. insistence nations agreed merely to try to reduce their emissions to 1990 levels. There is no binding target.

If the United States got its way

in climate change, developing nations got theirs in a draft treaty to conserve the world's biological diversity, which includes plants, animals and microorganisms and their habitat.

Although lacking many specific requirements for conservation, the treaty pledges aid and possible technological assistance to help developing nations protect their wildlife.

The pact calls for more parks and reserves, requires environmental impact statements on federal projects that could harm wildlife and asks nations to make conservation of plants and animals a consideration in national planning.

But the United States has decided not to sign the accord and some other industrialized nations may follow. The Bush administration objects to provisions that could be interpreted as a weakening of protections for patents and trade secrets.

A U.S. official familiar with treaty talks complained that a U.N. environmental official closed the negotiations after accepting language proposed by the Third World and opposed by the United States and other nations. If the United States signed the treaty, Third World nations might be encouraged to pursue similar tactics in future negotiations, the official said.

"I won't say we got rolled because we didn't," the official said. "But if we were to sign it at this point, that would be one way of looking at it."

Officials also are unhappy with language that could lead to a substantial revision of the Global Environmental Facility, the conduit for aid administered by the World

Bank and two U.N. agencies.

A more sweeping action plan called Agenda 21, a non-binding blueprint for environmental initiatives in the 21st century, is expected to be completed and signed at the summit. The plan, running more than 800 pages, touches on everything from population control to conservation of ocean resources to sewage disposal.

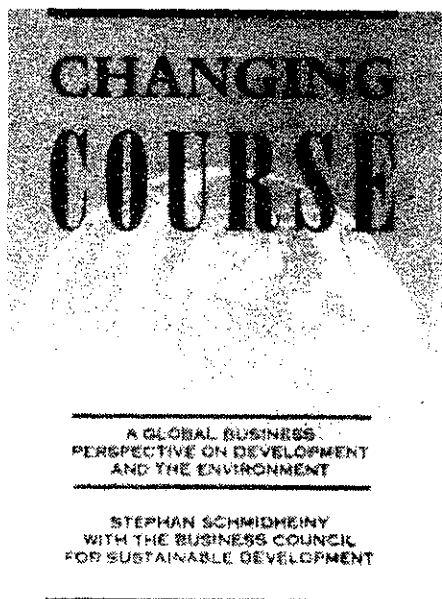
Maurice Strong, secretary general of the conference, previously estimated that the initiatives outlined in Agenda 21 would require \$125 billion a year in aid to the Third World.

But others have suggested that the cost may run as high as \$400 billion. Negotiators have said that there may be only \$5 billion to \$12 billion a year to pay for it.

Delegates also will consider a non-binding 29-point statement of principles building upon the historic Stockholm environmental declaration issued in 1972.

While the Stockholm pronouncement made environmental protection a fundamental obligation of mankind, the broader declaration drafted for Rio addresses the complex link between environment and development — making sustainable development the objective of both rich and poor. The Rio Declaration specifically calls for reform of natural resource consumption and production practices, promotion of "appropriate demographic policies" or family planning, cooperative efforts to alleviate poverty, and accelerated transfer of new technologies to developing countries.

CHANGING COURSE...

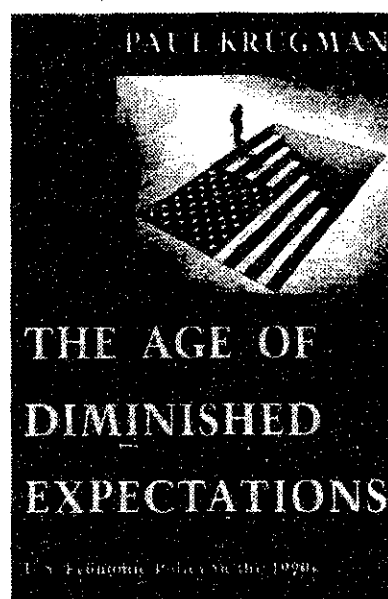


CHANGING COURSE

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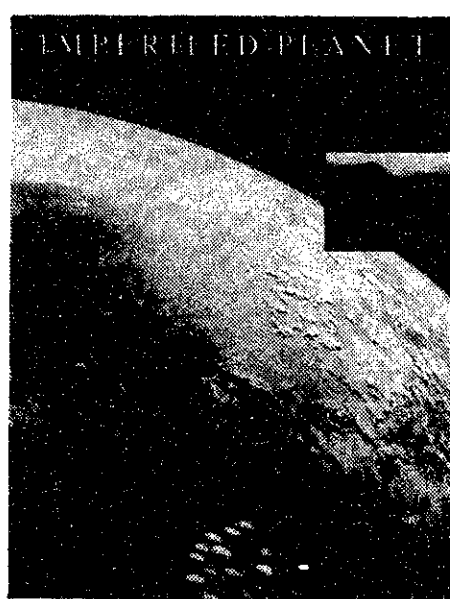


THE AGE OF DIMINISHED EXPECTATIONS

U.S. Economic Policy in the 1990s
Paul Krugman

A straightforward briefing on the U.S. economy for readers who want to be well informed without being overwhelmed by statistics, predictions of disaster, or boundless optimism. In a new preface to this paperback edition, Krugman addresses the current recession, the aftermath of the Gulf war, the plunging trade deficit, and the soaring budget deficit. He notes, however, that little has changed in terms of the fundamental issues: "We still live in the America that the book describes: a huge, wealthy nation that faces no immediate crisis, but which more and more fails to live up to its promise."

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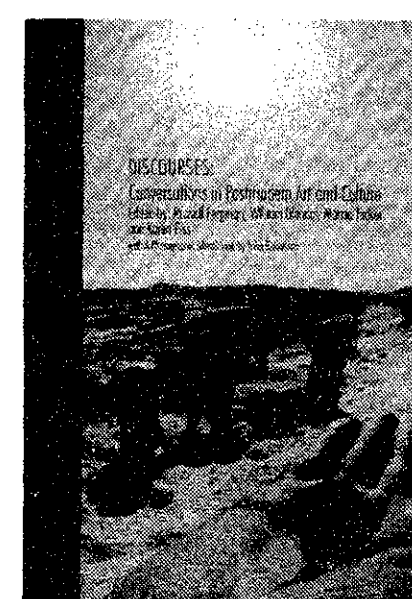
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Sketchbook by John Baldessari.

Engaging nearly 100 artists, theorists, and critics from a variety of fields this anthology documents the polemical positions and strategies of contemporary thought in the making.

OUT THERE

Marginalization and Contemporary Cultures
edited by Russell Ferguson, Martha Gever,
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Felix Gonzales-Torres
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OPINION

Fear No Art

The National Endowment for the Arts' recent refusal to fund an upcoming List Gallery exhibit provides exceptional cause for alarm. The NEA's newly-appointed acting chairman, Anne-Imelda Radice, withdrew support for an exhibit which a review panel had already approved, claiming the show's content, which is sexually explicit, lacked "artistic excellence." One can only assume that in an election year filled with Republican pleas for "family values," President Bush has taken it upon himself to render taboo any kind of artwork involving the human form or junior high school biology.

While the rescue of the show by funds donated by the local rock group Aerosmith is an outstanding contribution to free

expression, it nonetheless forces us to fear the future of federally funded art. While we applaud Aerosmith's altruism and strength of character, we fear that the NEA might use this incident as proof that sufficient private funds exist nationally to support "controversial" art, and that this might encourage the NEA to retreat even further into its narrow field of tolerance.

No matter what the result, though, we can only salute Aerosmith, and hope that by their public endorsement of the cause of fair funding, Washington rulemakers will see that the public indeed supports all types of art, regardless of how sexually explicit it might be. We also hope that voters will become motivated to voice their opinions on this most important issue.

Editorial

Editorial

Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Col.) has introduced a bill which, if enacted by Congress, would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the armed forces.

This legislation would most immediately be felt at the Institute in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, which would be required to accept homosexual students. Current policy prevents known gays and lesbians from entering the program and forces admitted homosexuals to resign. This kind of discrimination is completely inappropriate.

The Institute has worked positively over the last few years to reverse the ban. President Charles M. Vest's formal support of Schroeder's bill is yet another sign of the administration's sensibility regarding this controversy.

One key player in the upcoming debate on Capitol Hill is today's Commencement speaker, Rep. Les Aspin PhD '66, who chairs the House Armed Services Committee. Thus far, Aspin has remained silent on the issue. We hope that Aspin promptly replaces his silence with strong support of Schroeder's worthwhile legislation.

Rep. Aspin: Reverse the Ban



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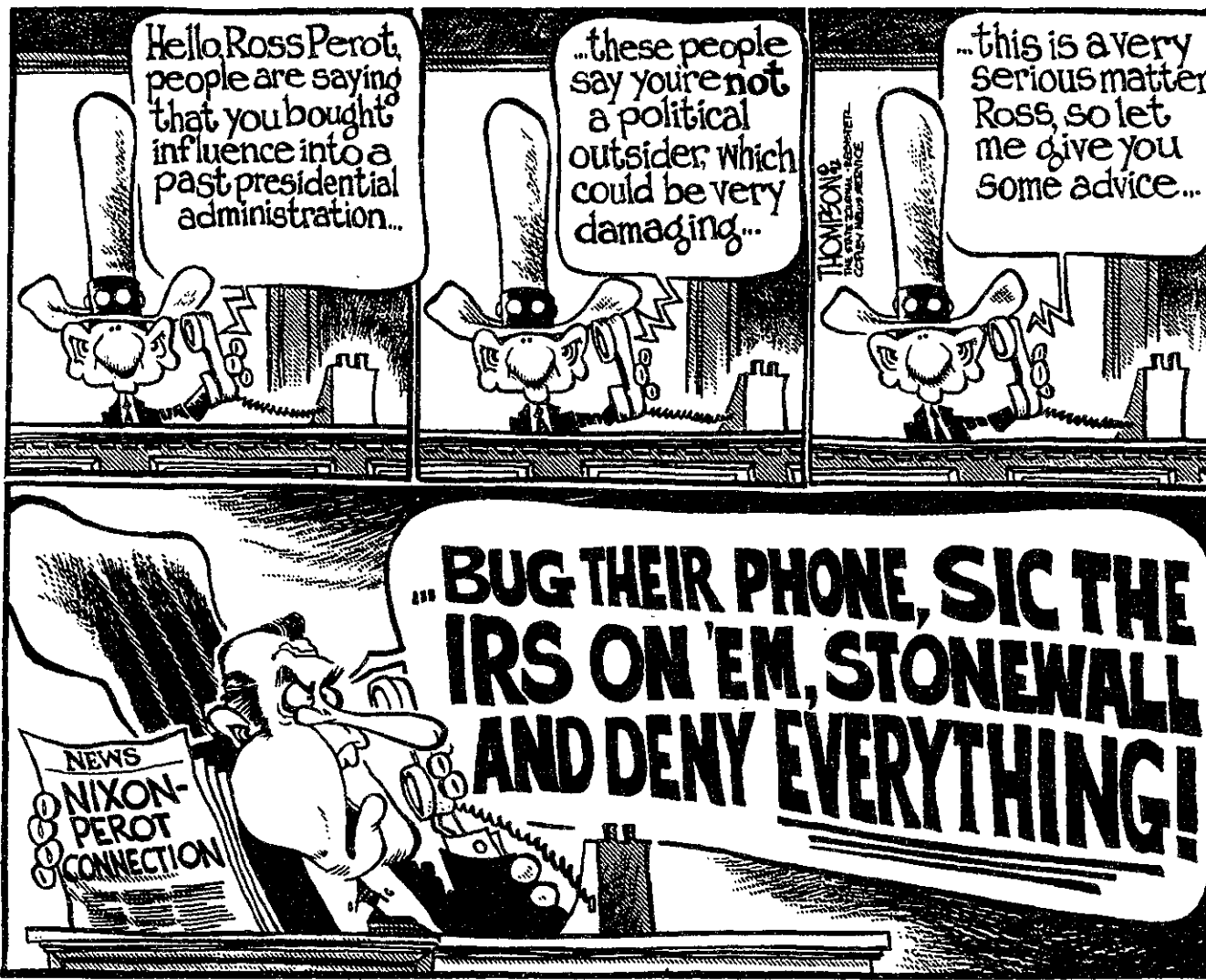
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Former ROTC Cadet Commends Support For Gays in Military

(Editor's Note: The Tech received a copy of the following letter addressed to MIT President Charles M. Vest.)

I heartily commend MIT's public endorsement of the Military Freedom Act of 1992. This act, sponsored by Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Col.), would prohibit military discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The passing of this bill would rectify the unjust stance taken by the Department of Defense, namely regulation 1332.14 that states, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

As you may know, I was discharged from MIT's Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps in 1990 and was ordered to repay \$38,612 in scholarship money because I informed my Commanding Officer that I was gay. The Navy rescinded its recoupment order to me and all other midshipmen in my situation through the combined efforts of the MIT community, the press, and 35 members of Congress. I am glad to see that this alliance is still viable and in use.

At this time, I would like to make a

request. As chairman of the House Armed Services committee, Commencement speaker Rep. Les Aspin PhD '66 is the one of the most influential Members of Congress on military matters. I encourage you to bring Aspin's attention to MIT's concerns on the issue of military discrimination and once again voice MIT's support for the Military Freedom Act. I

believe that such actions would do much to further equality in the military.

Once again, I thank you for your actions on this matter of fundamental civil rights. I'm sure that you join me in looking towards the day when this discriminatory ban is lifted.

Robert L. Bettiker '90

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.

Mom, Dad, Thank You for Everything

Column by Joanna Stone
ARTS EDITOR

When people finally get their 15 minutes on TV, it seems the typical thing for them to say "Hi Mom, Hi Dad." I don't know why people always do this, but I think it has something to do with wanting to show off to one's parents, to make them proud and to say, "thank you."

Today is Commencement. We're not all on television, but we are on stage in a sense, and certainly will find our way into several video cameras. So, I've decided to write this column for the parents — my parents in particular, but everyone else's parents as well.

I've been at MIT for the last two Commencements and both times, I remember being struck by all the parents walking around beaming. There were moms and dads everywhere, all appearing so proud of their children. I felt jealous. I couldn't wait until it was my turn to have my parents here. I couldn't wait to show them off.

It's funny, because it doesn't seem so long ago that I was going through that adolescent stage — constantly embarrassed by the mere presence of my parents. They always seemed to say the wrong things or wear the wrong things or not laugh when they should, or God forbid, laugh when something wasn't even funny, and then compound the tragedy by laughing really loudly so that all in the general vicinity would turn around and stare. But a lot has changed since the days when I would walk several paces behind mom and dad, hoping no one would associate me with them. Then, I believed my parents were a direct reflection upon me, and if they didn't conform to the sitcom ideal then people might think poorly of me.

Now I look to them and the reflection I see is the pride they derive from me mirrored by my own pride and admiration of them. These are my parents! The terms "MIT Mom" and "MIT Dad" have never meant more. Today is our Commencement, and it is my greatest wish that my parents' names be read along with those of this year's graduates.

I don't think I'm alone in my deep desire to thank my parents for their contribution to my MIT degree. In the language of MIT, which has validated words such as "tool" and "punt," the word "hell" has become a recognized synonym for the Institute. Today, we are all about to be released from this place; our duration in "hell" has ended and all of us have sur-

vived. Without our parents, some of us would not have gotten through the all-nighters at Athena, the five cups of coffee in one night (and the ensuing caffeine addiction), the endless problem sets, and the fact that there are more undergraduates awake on the MIT campus at 4 a.m. than there are undergraduates enrolled at say, Williams College.

MIT is unique, to say the least, and stress-provoking, to say the obvious. I can't count how many late-night hysterical telephone calls my mother has had to endure. I would begin those calls, which invariably took place between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m., by asking, "Did I wake you?" — as if there were a more than .01 probability that the answer would be negative.

"That's okay honey, what's wrong?" my mother would reply, bearing her "MIT Mom" cross like a true saint. "I hate this place, I hate Athena, I hate heat transfer and I hate chocolate-covered espresso beans," I would rattle off with mounting panic, "I can't do all my work, I'm going to drop out of school, I'm going to be a failure for the rest of my life!"

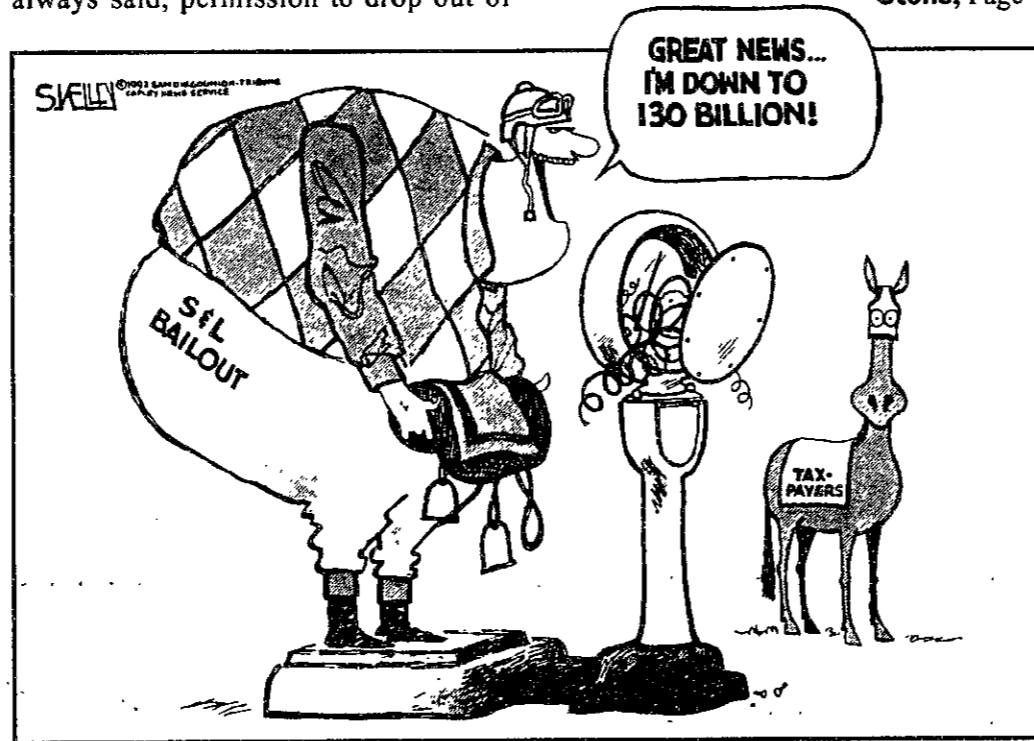
My mother would always calmly put things in perspective: not finishing a problem set was not life-shattering; I was overreacting because I hadn't slept in 27 hours. Even if the worst happened and I failed thermodynamics (or whatever course I was complaining about at the moment) that wouldn't make me a failure, and even if I decided to drop out of MIT, my mother would still love me and be proud of me. Ironically, it was the last thing my mother always said, permission to drop out of

MIT that invariably pulled me through. She'd let me know that with or without an MIT degree, I was assured of her unconditional love and respect. And it was knowing this that gave me the strength to keep on pursuing that degree.

And then there's my dad who went to Yale for Law School and his PhD in English, who tells me, "I couldn't do any of that science and numbers stuff you do! I'm so proud of you, I go up to people on the street I don't even know and tell them, my daughter got above class average on her thermodynamics test ... then I tell them you didn't get a Marshall Scholarship ... None of them had ever heard of a Marshall Scholarship, but they were all really impressed about the thermodynamics." Through his humor, my father could always cheer me up.

Not everyone's parents could give them the time and superhuman patience my parents gave to me. But, most people have someone who's been there for them these past four years, whether it be a sibling or a boyfriend or a girlfriend or a professor whose door was always open. MIT is a hard place, and for many of us, getting this degree took more than just brilliance, sweat, and tears. It also took having the support of someone else — our parents, our friends, teachers. For those people, it seems almost appropriate that we tear off a piece of our diploma — hand it over and say, "this is yours, you earned it with me." If I could, I'd take my diploma and write on it, "MIT Mom, MIT Dad, I love you."

Stone, Page 7



MIT Is Disney Land When Parents Are Here

Column by Bill Jackson
OPINION EDITOR

God, this place is beautiful.

I was walking around campus looking at the freshly mowed lawns and the meticulously manicured flowerbeds and I was thinking that MIT is just a lovely place to walk around and enjoy.

I went outside yesterday, and there were people enjoying the outdoors, throwing frisbees, juggling, and generally having fun. Few people had books open, and those that did were reading light fare: the latest from Stephen King or Dean R. Koontz, perhaps.

I began to whistle, and small cartoon birds fluttered around me and sang along. Then a band appeared out of nowhere, like in an old Elvis movie, and we broke out into a song-and-dance number.

You think this is sickening? I agree. But think about how wonderful this place can seem at times, especially to outsiders, even though the students all know it isn't so. The problem is that the place is made to seem pleasant whenever parents are around.

Think about it. During Parents Weekend (replaced of late with the friendlier generic monicker Family Weekend) MIT turns into Disney World. Instead of a castle, we have a dome. Instead of EPCOT Center, we have the Center for Space Research. Instead of the the creepy old Haunted Mansion, we have creepy old Random Hall. Instead of Mickey Mouse, we have Chuck Vest. The comparisons go on and on.

Consequently, our parents can't see why we hate this place. Dad says something like, "This is great — a record store and a grocery store right in your student center" and Mom says something like, "Look at how pleasant people are around

here" and you can't explain to them what MIT is really like.

My parents still don't understand why I don't have the deep love for my alma mater that they do. Not so long ago they mentioned the contribution my Mom made to her school and I was asked if I would ever donate money to MIT. When the operator-deafening laughter had subsided, they seemed shocked. I calmly told them I hated this f'n place. They had thought it was just a phase I had gone through as a freshman, but I'm still going through the phase. The only difference is I'm no longer angry at the place, just resigned to it.

I propose a new version of Family Weekend for next year, to give relatives a taste of the real MIT. Here's the plan.

First, the Institute should tell the parents, but not the students, when Family Weekend will take place. Then, to ensure that students will be around, every class should assign either a test, a long problem set, or a 10-page paper, due on a Friday in early December. The campus will be frosty and gray, and the combination of all the work done over the course of the term and the impending work to be done for finals will be just right.

The parents should show up at a pre-designated time (May I suggest 2 a.m. Friday morning?) and barge in on the student. Here's a sample conversation between a student, "Ann," and her Mom and Dad upon such an arrival.

(Knock Knock).

Ann: Who is it? What do you want from me?

(She opens the door).

Ann: Who are you people?

Mom: We're your parents, dear.

Dad: We're the ones who shell out \$25,000 a year so you can enjoy the best

four years of your life. You remember us, right?

Ann: Vaguely. Do either of you know the Rydberg Constant?

Mom: No, dear. We're here to visit you. Why don't you take some time off and show us around campus?

Ann: What is "time off"?

Dad: Are all these cans of soda yours, honey? I've never heard of "Jolt" before. Must be tasty stuff if you drink this much of it.

When poor Ann recovers from her overworked stupor, however, she can show them around the real MIT. Gas masks in hand, they can enter an Athena cluster, but they must remember that it is late in the term, so if a Nerd raises its arms to stretch, they must put on the masks immediately.

Then Ann can take her parents to meet some of her professors. Not the ones MIT showcases during the current Family Weekend, mind you, but the ones MIT tries to hide, who peer over their horn-rimmed glasses and say "You say you're an undergraduate? Yes, I remember them. Little short people, as I recall. Of course, it's been a while since I've seen one up close, so give me a minute."

Unfortunately, I suspect that MIT will never allow this. So parents, try to understand the mixed feelings your offspring have about MIT. And graduates, remember, as you leave this place it may start to have a Disney World quality to it. Resist these feelings at all costs! Before you know it you'll be a contributing alumnus and you'll only return for the "happy, shiny" days, and you'll think to yourself ...

God, this place is beautiful.

Tech opinion editor Bill Jackson '93 hopes to ride all the rides before he graduates next year.

Goodbye, MIT. Hello, World.

By Deborah A. Levinson
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

When I said goodbye to Andy two weeks ago, I knew it was finally time to leave MIT.

"Andy" is Andrew L. Fish '89, who just completed Harvard Law School and has gone home to study for the bar exam. He was editor in chief of *The Tech* when I joined in 1988. In the time it took Andy to graduate from Harvard Law, I changed majors once, was elected *Tech* arts editor twice and chairman once, broke up with two boyfriends, went into therapy, changed thesis topics three times, blew off — then eventually wrote — a thesis, and graduated, somewhat anticlimactically, in September 1991 with an SB in creative writing. So why do I feel like three years have gone by in no time at all?

Though I still serve as a *Tech* contributing editor, I wonder why I bother. Most of my friends graduated in 1990 or 1991. *The Tech's* constitution stipulates that a contributing editor — traditionally a position where grizzled *Tech* types are put out to pasture — merely "contribute in some capacity to the operations of *The Tech*." I don't spend 30 to 40 hours a week here anymore; I don't night edit every other issue anymore; I don't play Solarian II instead of writing my thesis anymore. One of my greatest fears is that I will turn into one of those LSC people who, like David Baltimore, never really goes away.

Graduating last September left me in a peculiar position. Having lived like a student all summer — working (occasionally) at my UROP, traveling, going to the beach, playing softball — I reluctantly had to face the fact that I needed a job, a place to live, and a life. My peers had dealt with these realities four months previous; now it was my turn to figure out in a matter of weeks exactly what I wanted to do for the next 40-odd years.

Finding a job and an apartment proved simpler than I expected. But it's easier to hide at *The Tech* than it is to face the world (as any *Tech* senior will tell you), so after I finished my second stint as arts editor, I decided to hang around as a contributing editor. Not that I've been a lazy contributor — I've written arts reviews and a news story, taken photographs for a photo essay, and helped work production.

Still, it's strange discovering that even though I'm only 22, I'm an old woman here at *The Tech*. Are the freshmen getting younger? Or is it just that my friends are older? At Steer Roast this year, I realized that my roommate, Marie E. V. Coppola '90, and I are two of the last links between today's *Tech* and the paper of the 1970s. We have met (and are even friends with) staffers who joined in the late '70s, people most current *Tech* staffers know only from the electronic lexicon, a ridiculously long file of bizarre and often off-color stories about *The Tech* and the people who put it together. Someday people will come to *The Tech* and talk about Marie, Andy, or me in the same way we talk about Jon von Zelowitz '83 or Robert E. Malchman '85 or any of a number of former staffers who drop by the office now and then. Being old at 22 is a hard thing to deal with.

Which brings me to commencement. Since I didn't graduate on time to go through with the 1991 commencement exercises, I chose to march this year. As has every college president before him, Charles M. Vest will deliver a charge to the 1992 graduating class. Though each president may couch his or her message in different terms, it's almost always the same message: Get a job, make bushels of money, and remember that you, the members of the graduating class, hold the Future of America in your capable hands. I have no good reason to believe that Vest's second address to the graduates will stray from this prescribed doctrine.

What is the point of the charge to the graduates? Those who already have jobs know what they are doing for at least the next year; those who are going to graduate school know what they are doing for at least the next year and a half; those who are doing neither will either have a plan for their life or not. Pat Buchanan's Golden Foot approach, which allows that if Buchanan single-handedly kicks every poor person in the rear, they will immediately get up and find a job, does not work for graduating seniors. Charles Marsteller Vest telling us to go out and make lots of money will not make it happen either.

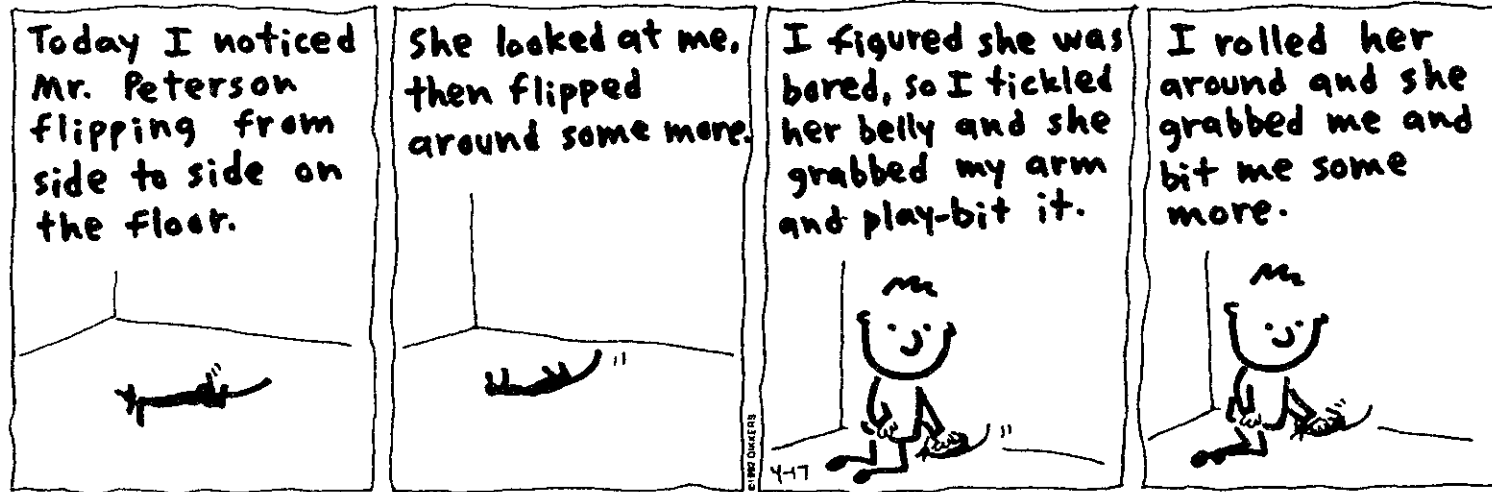
To those graduates of the class of 1992 whose only post-graduation plans involve meeting their parents at Legal Seafoods for dinner afterwards: it's okay to not know what you're doing or where you're going. Sometimes it takes a long time to figure out a plan for living. The college environment is the perfect cocoon — food, friends, and no "real-world" responsibilities — and the real world is not a pleasant place. You can get mugged, or end up working for a paranoid-schizophrenic, or worst of all, be forced to pay off your student loans.

That is why, just as when I was supposed to be doing my thesis, I ended up hiding at *The Tech*. Though I still don't know what I want to do for the next 40-odd years, I do know that I need to leave *The Tech* to do them. And I think that I'll close this column, probably the last column that I will ever write for *The Tech*, the same way that I closed the dedication of my thesis:

Thank you all. I'm ready to go now.

Deborah A. Levinson '91 helps publish books and wants to open a restaurant when she grows up.

Journal



By Jim

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MCKINSEY & COMPANY

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MIT Students Are Often Out of Touch with the World

Stone, from Page 5

A Different Perspective on the World

There's something irresistible about *The New York Times Sunday Edition*: it seems to promise everything within its alphabetically ordered sections. My mother always told me to go through the Sunday paper first before buying it, to make sure all the sections were there, to be certain that it had been packed properly. I still do this. I go to the newsstand and start to flip through the paper. First I have to read the front page headlines though. I then begin my methodical section search. When I was younger I didn't care too much if the newspaper man had forgotten to include the business or real estate sections. But now I find

my eyes drawn to their headlines as well. The whole process takes me nearly 10 minutes as the anticipation of the enclosed articles builds... "What is the latest trend in..., What did people in — have to say about —" Surprisingly, I've never been thrown out of a newsstand, although the Boston vendors tend to be more patient than the New Yorkers who ask, "You gonna buy it or memorize it?"

Growing up in Manhattan, *The Times* was always a part of my Sunday, sometimes my Saturday night as well. I'd always thought it was a part of everyone's Sunday; like pancakes, or church for my Christian side of the family (and sleeping past noon for my non-Christian side.) I used to marvel at the idea that whatever I was reading — mostly feature

articles when I was younger — the same thing was being read by people all over who were so different from myself. And I would wonder what their take on the articles would be, how differently they might be affecting them.

I was shocked when I came to college and found that barely anyone read *The Times*. I was further shocked and dismayed to find myself — at a time when news seemingly became more crucial, as I came upon journalism as my chosen profession — being pulled into a vacuum along with my fellow MIT undergraduates, losing touch with the events of the world around me, going weeks without even seeing the *Sunday Times*.

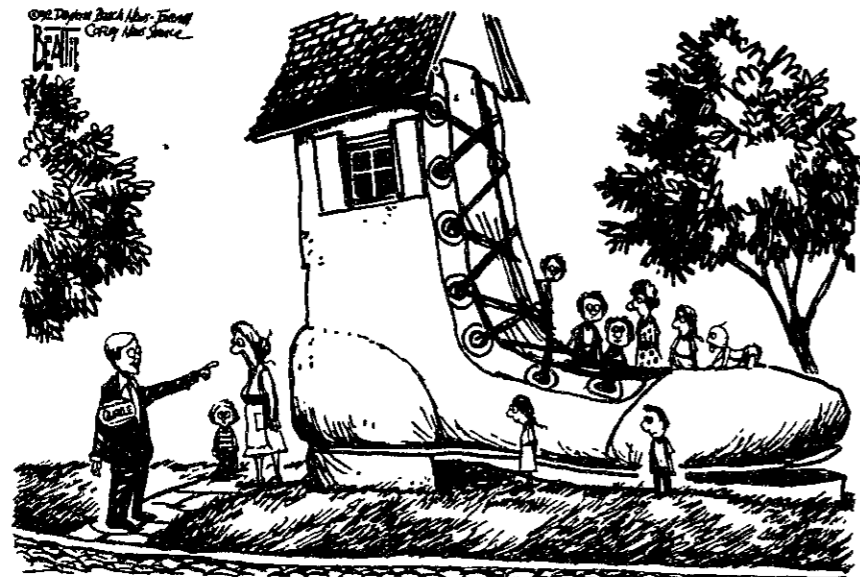
I suppose the argument could go, it's not very practical to read a newspaper when you're being sprayed by a firehose. But the average MIT student's lack of knowledge about current events is not merely a matter of practicality. Certainly there are those who would be avid news readers if they only had the time. Yet, the majority of MIT students seem to hold a general apathy towards activities of the world around them. I've had friends tell me point blank that they don't care about current events. Of course, part of my pride might have me respond that I don't care about RISC technology — parallel processing, integrated circuits — the idea being that you don't care about my chosen profession, journalism, and I don't care about yours. But that's not true. Anything, whether it be some geeky Course VI gadget, or the price of gas, is affected by current events.

When I decided to write a piece for the yearbook discussing how MIT students are so out of touch with current events, I was applauded: the editors felt it needed to be said, my friends agreed it was a problem, the general response I received was, "Oh God, that's so true." Then I mentioned it to my father who warned that I might appear cocky. It's not surprising that my parents would sense a certain arrogance in my dissatisfaction with my peers' knowledge of the goings on in the world around them. After my freshman year, I told my parents I wanted to transfer out of MIT. When they asked me why, I responded, "Salman Rushdie." I explained that one spring day I had found myself at a large table in Lobdell, with a group of freshman and upper-

classmen, I brought up Salman Rushdie and no one at the table knew who he was. This in itself was not a reason to transfer, but at the time it represented the final straw in my growing frustration. I'd always imagined my college experience as a continuous intellectual feasting. I saw myself sitting in cafes discussing literature politics, philosophy, how John Stuart Mill's utilitarianism predicted the 80's boom and the eventual Black Monday. I was desperate for endless discussions about modern times, about how the world around us was affecting us.

At MIT I found myself in such an awkward position. I dropped Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) and struggled in Physics II (8.02). I felt so humbled by my classmates who seemed to complete the freshman core with such ease. Yet, at the same time, I felt particularly aware of this vast knowledge that I possessed and that my peers did not. I knew what was going on in the world. Not that this was not an entirely positive thing — had I not felt the need to read *The New York Times* cover to cover and instead read a bit more of Simmons' *Calculus* and Haliday and Resnick, I might not have been forced to eliminate all the even numbered majors I'd previously had my eye on.

For my senior year Independent Activities Period, I went to Beijing. I met a Chinese journalist there who told me about the university experience in Beijing and eagerly asked me question after question about MIT. He said at Beijing University the students are not allowed to talk politics. "They can't." He then said with enthusiasm and an edge of envy, "At MIT, you talk politics." It was a statement, not a question, nevertheless I felt inclined to respond; "We can, but we don't." That statement seems to sum it all up for me. We had four years here ... we could have but most of us didn't. Graduating from college is a time filled with thoughts of all that could have been. Perhaps it should be thoughts of all that we could be. As we all enter the real world, perhaps we will all start reading about the world. But if MIT students don't read, then who's going to read this?



"I bet you watch 'Murphy Brown' "

The Tech congratulates these graduating students, faithful members of our staff ...

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Sande Chen
William Chuang
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*Thanks for all of your help,
and good luck in your future endeavors.*

Ballot Box Thieves to Perform Community Service

By Reuven M. Lerner
NEWS EDITOR

Four students implicated in the March 13 theft of an Undergraduate Association ballot box from Lobby 7 will have to perform 25 hours of community service and pay a \$60 fine as punishment for their actions.

The punishment was decided by Neal A. Dorow, advisor to fraternities and independent living groups, and Andrew M. Eisenmann '75, assistant dean for student affairs, after a hearing on Friday afternoon.

None of the four students charged with the theft — Ross A. Lippert '93, Valerie J. Ohm '93, Ralph A. Santos '92, and Peter S. Yesley '92 — attended the hearing. Lippert and Santos said they did not participate because it was not open to the public, while Yesley said he told the Dean's Office on Friday morning that he would not attend because his parents were visiting. Lippert said that Ohm "opted out of it just because she was leaving" for the summer.

Neither Dorow nor Eisenmann would comment on the hearing, saying that federal law prevented them from disclosing student disciplinary records, including the names of those who participated.

When asked how the names had been made available to the

Undergraduate Association Council last month without violating this law, Dorow and James R. Tewhey, associate dean for residence and campus activities, said that the UA, not the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs, disclosed the names.

"They were not supposed to make it public," added Tewhey. "I was not real happy about it."

Raajnish A. Chitale '95, who represented the UA before the Dean's Office, would not comment on the hearings or the punishments.

Wanted to defend themselves

Both Lippert and Yesley were upset by the fact that the hearing was held in closed session. "If I couldn't defend myself in a public setting — as I had been condemned in a public forum — then I would not contest the charges," Lippert said. "The same result would happen either way."

Nevertheless, Lippert said that he was "not unsatisfied" with his punishment. "I'm glad it was as light as it was," he said, especially considering "the Institute disregarded our rights to defend ourselves."

Yesley was much more critical of the punishment. "I think it's unfair," he said. "There are many

more people involved in the theft of the ballot box itself. There were at least 10 people in all."

"It makes me wonder about Neal Dorow's and Andrew Eisenmann's educations," he added.

Lippert was not upset about the \$60 fine, meant to reimburse the UA for the money it spent to hold a second election. "Given that I know at least a couple of people who didn't really come forward the same way

we did, I think I'll be able to cut that down to \$30," Lippert said.

While Santos and Yesley are expected to graduate today, the

Punish, Page 11



Memorial Day weekend witnessed the collapse of part of Westgate. Residents were awakened in the early morning hours by a rumbling sound as a section of Westgate's overhang crashed to the ground. No injuries were reported.

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Aerosmith Gives \$10,000 for Controversial Exhibit

NEA, from Page 1

ings.

All of this followed Pulitzer Prize-winning author Wallace Stegner's rejection a National Medal for the Arts and the resignation of an NEA Solo Theatre peer panel.

Prompted by outrage and the desire to protest the NEA's decision, the local rock band Aerosmith announced it would donate the \$10,000 to the MIT List Center for the "Corporal Politics" exhibition.

"I feel the government has betrayed us," said Tom Hamilton, a member of Aerosmith, at a May 20 press conference at the List Center. Hamilton does not believe it is the private sector's responsibility to fund controversial art, but rather to tell the government when "it's not doing what it should be doing."

"It's as if there are brushfires going off. This one's going to get put out and another one will pop up," said Joe Perry of Aerosmith. "We decided to put out this brushfire as a way to create a forum to discuss the underlying issues."

According to Hamilton, the crux of those underlying issues is that "the NEA feels that it has to placate the right, Pat Buchanan, people like that. That's what's behind this because this was all approved this was all set up and ready to go and obviously she's got a mandate to go and clean up some morals."

The recent public outrage has been inspired as much by Radice's decision as by her unwillingness to further elaborate on the reasons behind her decision.

In a statement to the press, Radice said, "Grant applications are evaluated on the basis of artistic excellence and artistic merit." According to Radice, the applications of MIT and Virginia Commonwealth "did not measure up to these criteria and, therefore, are unlikely to have the long-term significance necessary to merit Endowment funding."

Posner said she believes Radice's decision is politically motivated. "I feel absolutely another agenda here — to have the NEA serve as a political watchdog — to reject any projects that are controversial and that's censorship."

List Center responds

The great irony of the matter, according to Posner, is that "Corporal Politics" was rejected for its sexual nature and yet the exhibition is not sexually explicit. In a letter to Radice, responding to her decision to deny funding to the List Center, Posner and Katy Kline, director of the List Visual Arts Center, wrote, "As a careful examination of the artist's supporting visual materials would indicate, the sculptures included in this exhibition are not 'sexually explicit'; the sexual organs and other body parts are metaphorical expressions of a spiritual malaise and disconnection which is a widespread topic in contemporary art."

Perry of Aerosmith, commenting on the exhibit, agreed that its nature was metaphorical rather than sexual. "After we've seen [the exhibition], we feel stronger about the motives."

Posner and Kline's letter expresses their own strong emotions on the matter: "This arbitrary and politically motivated action subverts a decision-making process which has served the NEA well over many years."

Posner and Kline's criticisms were later echoed in a May 19 letter to Radice, written on behalf of the members of the Special Exhibitions Panel B which approved the MIT proposal. The committee wrote: "Had you simply said what you told the Congressional subcommittee two weeks earlier, that you would veto sexually explicit art, then your actions, although regrettable, would be more understandable. However, by giving the false impression that these exhibitions did not meet our panel's standard of artistic quality, your actions can only serve to polarize public opinion and unfairly damage the credibility of the peer review process."

Posner said Radice's rejection came as a great surprise to her. "I knew the NEA was becoming more and more conservative — I thought it might be discussed in the review process," said Posner. However, the project was approved by the National Council of the Arts on May 1, without concern for its possible sexual nature, as far as Posner was aware. On that same day, the Bush administration appointed Radice acting chairman.

Private sector encouraged

Since her decision, Radice has come out with several official statements in response to the series of protests which ensued.

Radice issued a series of statements expressing her "regrets" that the two panels chose to end and suspend their deliberations. In a statement of a different tone, the NEA said it is pleased that Aerosmith has come forward to fund the exhibition. "We always encourage private sector funding of the arts," said Josh Dare, spokesman for the NEA.

According to Dare, NEA funding is given on a dollar-for-dollar match basis. Had "Corporal Politics" been granted the NEA funds the List Center would have been required to match the endowment's \$10,000 with money raised from the private sector. Currently, the List Center is not planning on soliciting further private donations.

"It has been our opinion that artists should seek private sector funding for controversial exhibits," he said. "We are concerned with not having wide appreciation by American taxpayers who essentially write the checks" for these exhibits.

According to Posner, soliciting such funding is not quite that easy. "To say the funding would have been available without the controversy is untrue," said Posner, noting that if she had simply sought out private funding originally, she would not have gotten \$10,000 from

Aerosmith.

An end to the NEA?

Dare points out that the NEA is responsible for only \$176 million dollars of arts funding for the year, compared to the \$8 billion provided by the private sector. This fact, coupled with the censorship implications of the recent NEA decisions, has left some critics preparing for a day when the endowment may no longer exist.

"I don't believe that the NEA should be maintained at any price," said Judith Tannenbaum, associate director and curator of the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Contemporary Art and a member of the review panel that recommended the two projects, in a statement to the press. "There may come a point in time when there is so much that is restricted, and where the compromise is so great, that it is not worth having an endowment anymore."

The Art Institute of Southern California has not sought NEA funding since turning down a grant in 1990. That year, universities were asked to agree — in writing — to "prior restraint," thereby restricting themselves in what they could express with the money they received.

John W. Lottes, president of the Art Institute of Southern California, said his institute was doing very well without the NEA and has made

up for endowment funding by raising more money from foundations and donors. "There are many other sources you can look to for funding," said Lottes.

A vital role

However, Posner, the curator of the List Center, believes the NEA plays a vital role in this country's artistic culture. She said she would hate to see this decision lead to the eventual extinction of the endowment. "It was a very proud part of the NEA history that it would fund challenging new work. I hope that commitment will continue," said Posner. "Many people have taken action recently with the hope that the NEA can go back to its fair process of review."

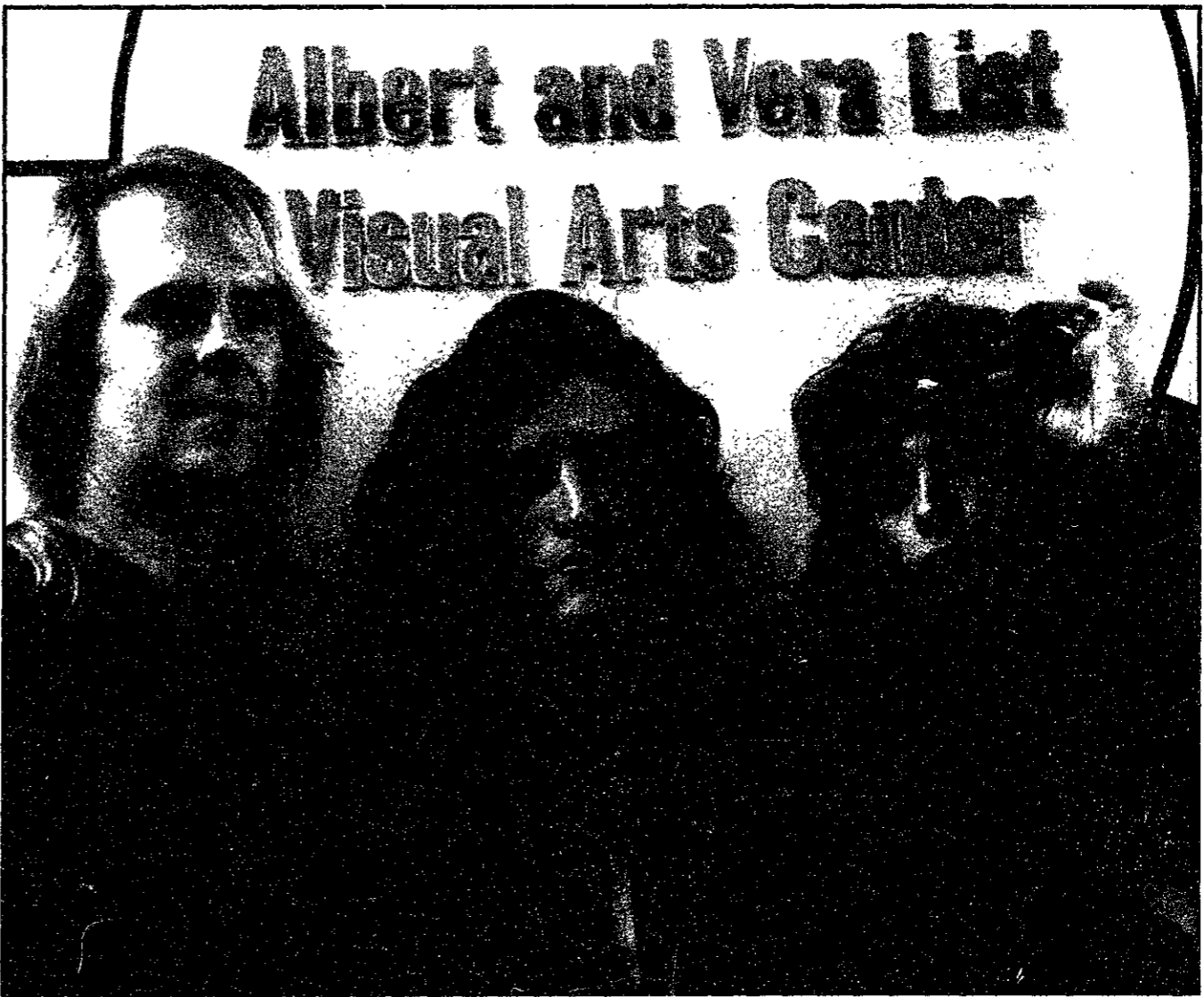
"The NEA has played an enormous role in the cultural events of our country," said Ellen T. Harris, associate provost of the arts at MIT. "I hope the NEA improves its policies and I am going to work to that goal," she said.

According to Harris, the exhibit currently at the List Gallery, "The Kitchen and the Bathroom — The Process of Elimination," was funded by the NEA. The exhibit, consisting of a variety of kitchen and bathroom fixtures, had already opened when Radice's decision was announced, so there was never a question of

NEA, Page 14



Lead crystal sculptures of magnified sperm form one of the works in the exhibit denied funding by the NEA.



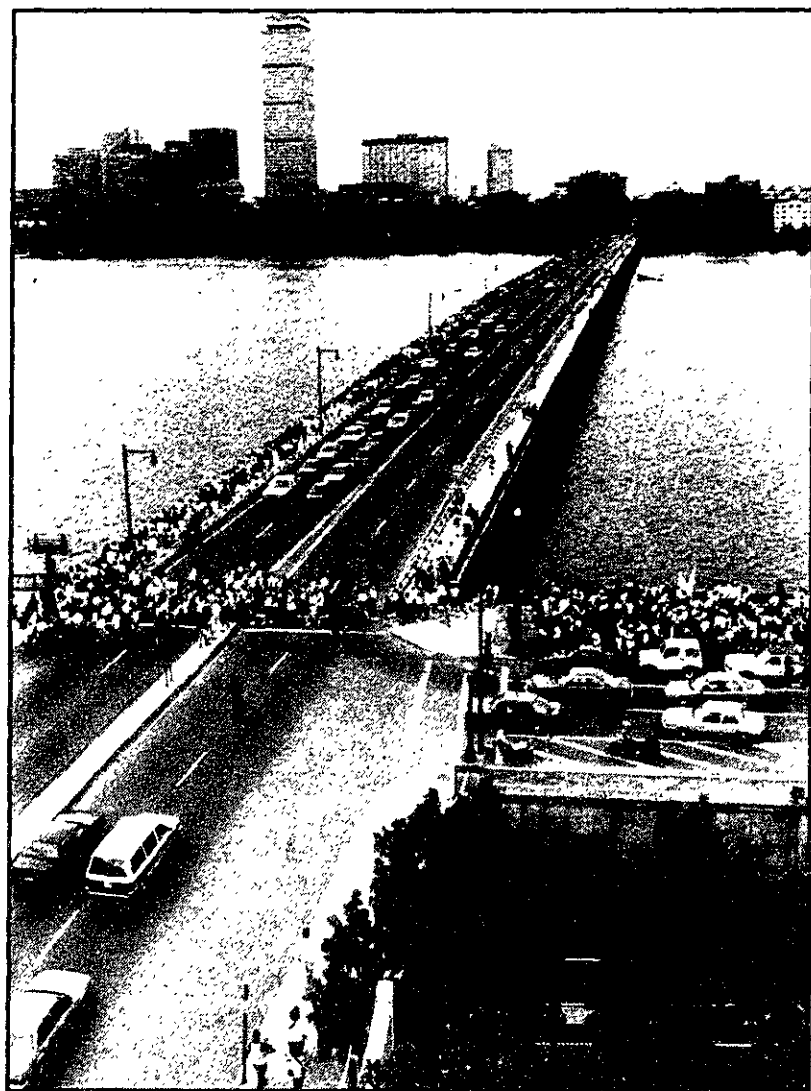
JOSH HARTMANN—THE TECH

The band Aerosmith poses at the Wiesner Building, where "Corporal Politics," a controversial art exhibit, is to be shown later this year. The group donated \$10,000 to fund the exhibition.



MIT NEWS OFFICE

These two multiply-nippled breasts constitute a sculpture titled "Milk," part of the "Corporal Politics" exhibit.



Cars at our end of the Harvard Bridge yield to people from "all walks of life" walking to raise money for AIDS research. Tens of thousands of people reportedly took part in yesterday's 10-kilometer walk sponsored by the AIDS Action Committee, raising well over \$1 million.

Nobel Laureate Baltimore to Return After 2 Years on Rockefeller Faculty

By Lakshmana Rao
STAFF REPORTER

Two years ago, David Baltimore '61 resigned his post as director of the Whitehead Institute after years of stormy controversy about research fraud. At the time, few would have believed that the embattled biology researcher with a Nobel prize under his belt would return.

But Baltimore is coming back. He has been appointed a professor of biology at MIT and will return to the Institute in the spring of 1994.

Baltimore is currently a professor of biology at Rockefeller University, where he also served as president until last December. He stepped down from that position when he lost faculty support because of his role in the fraudulent data that was published in the journal *Cell* in 1986.

Although Baltimore was not accused of committing fraud himself, he was criticized for shrugging off repeated warnings that his collaborator on the paper, Thereza Imanishi-Kari, who was then a post-doctoral student under him, had fabricated some of her data.

MIT started talks

Robert J. Birgeneau, dean of science, said that MIT initiated the dialogue to get Baltimore back to MIT when he announced his resignation as the president of Rockefeller. Baltimore held no standing position at MIT when he left for Rockefeller. "This is effectively a new appointment," Birgeneau said.

Focus on AIDS research

Baltimore's return to MIT will coincide with the inauguration of the new biology building scheduled to take place in the early spring of



M. LAMPERT

David Baltimore '61 will return to the department of Biology in the spring of 1994.

1994. Baltimore will be allocated space in the new building to pursue his research on AIDS research. He will also be teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at MIT.

Birgeneau said that AIDS research is a major focus of the biology department at MIT and there are several professors working on

different aspects of the problem. "Baltimore's arrival will increase the effectiveness of our program significantly" he added.

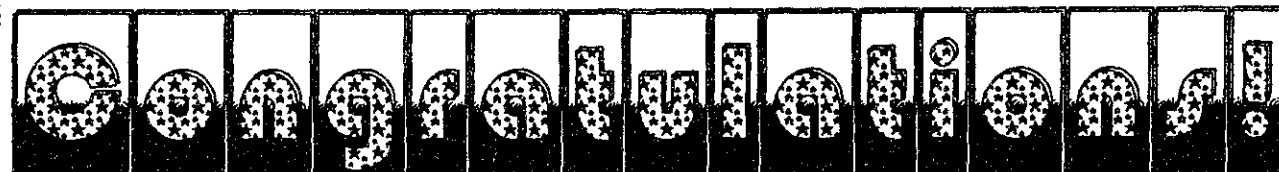
"I am looking forward to my return to MIT," Baltimore said. He plans to continue to work on

Baltimore, Page 11

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UROF Funding Does Not Meet Increasing Requests

By Eva Moy
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Flooded with requests for over \$1 million, but with only \$400,000 to dole out, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program has had to turn away many applicants for summer research funding.

UROF had to "run out of money at one time or another," said Undergraduate Research Director Norma McGavern. She added that UROF has to reach a balance between the amount of money allocated for summer, fall, and spring funding requests.

A student with UROF funding may receive a maximum of \$3,300 for the summer, although students with full faculty funding may receive more.

Students and faculty should treat UROF as a "tertiary source of funds," not as a primary source, said UROF administrator Claude J. Poux. He added that UROF "tries to support junior faculty and first-year undergraduates" who may otherwise not be able to receive funding. UROF also tries to help senior faculty who have lost their grants or are in between grants.

Harder-hit in tough times

"We want our money to be used when there are no other resources," Poux said, adding that there is "more pressure on UROF in depressed economic times."

UROF encourages the faculty sponsoring the research to pay as much as they possibly can, Poux said. In general, the costs of hiring a UROF student is split evenly between the faculty and UROF.

If a faculty member requires 100 percent UROF funding, the UROF office will negotiate a way to divide the funding between them. Poux

said that he has done more negotiating this summer than in the past.

The money which UROF gives to students comes from many different sources, including the Institute, grants, companies, and alumni. Much of this is "soft" money, meaning that the same amount may not be available from year to year, McGavern said.

McGavern emphasized the small part of the total costs UROF pays for hiring students for research positions. Last year, faculty-sponsored research totaled \$3.8 million. Faculty may include the costs of hir-

ing a UROF student as a line-item in a research grant proposal.

UROF can also waive the overhead costs for faculty members who pay students entirely from their own funds, she added.

This year the applications had been considered on a rolling basis, instead of by a deadline. Applications were accepted starting April 1, and the number of requests peaked in early May.

"We don't want people who are just fast to get UROFs," McGavern said.

Thieves Hit With \$60 Fine

Punish, from Page 8

Registrar's Office will not provide them with transcripts until they have performed the community service and paid the fine. "How can you prove you graduated if you don't have any transcripts?" Yesley asked.

While Lippert and Yesley disagreed as to the appropriateness of the punishment, both agreed that stealing the ballot box "was worth it."

"I recommend it to anyone," Lippert said.

Besides, they said, over 850 students signed a petition, sponsored in part by the four students, calling the UA an ineffective and unrepresentative government.

"You really think the UA is a bunch of competent people?" Yesley asked. "I think it's time to try to impeach some of the officers."

Aspin Will Address Graduates

Graduates, from Page 1

parents and other guests expected to attend would watch the exercises on MIT Cable Television, rather than join the graduates at the actual ceremony.

Attended Yale, Oxford, MIT

Aspin, who has represented Wisconsin's first district since his first election victory in 1970, graduated *summa cum laude* from Yale University in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in history. As a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England, Aspin received a master's degree in a combined economics, politics, and philosophy program. In 1966, Aspin received a PhD from MIT's economics department. *The Almanac of American Politics* describes Aspin as "one of the truly important legislators on Capitol Hill," due in no small part to his chairmanship of one of the most influential Congressional committees.

Before running for Congress,

Aspin served in a number of different positions in government and academia. These included work as a staff assistant to Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) and as an assistant professor of economics at Marquette University.

According to Mary L. Morrissey, director of special events, Vest chose Aspin from a three-page list presented to him by the Commencement Committee. In a statement released soon after the choice was made public, Vest explained that Aspin has "a unique perspective on important issues of our time, particularly those involved in our shifting national priorities as defense needs adjust to changing conditions and civilian issues come to the fore."

Those students receiving doctoral degrees were hooded yesterday in a special ceremony. At the ceremony in Kresge Auditorium, department heads or their representatives assisted the school deans in hooding



Rep. Les Aspin (D-Mich.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, will speak at Commencement today.

the degree recipients.

Commencement exercises will conclude at 5 p.m. today with a commissioning ceremony for cadets and midshipmen in MIT's Army, Air Force, and Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Nobel Winner Baltimore to Return to MIT

Baltimore, from Page 10

immune specifications and the role of tumors in immunology, cancer, and AIDS research.

AIDS had been a focus of Baltimore's work throughout his research career. In 1970, he helped discover reverse transcriptase, a critical enzyme found in the group of viruses that cause AIDS. The finding won him the 1975 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

Baltimore's return to MIT is considered by many to be an outcome of his long-term standing among other researchers in this area. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Phillip A. Sharp, head of the Department of Biology said, "He feels comfortable here. He can carry on conversations here with friends without having any hesitations as to his history or his future."

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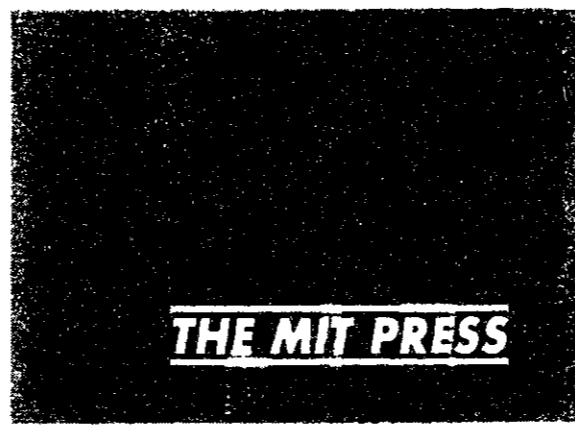
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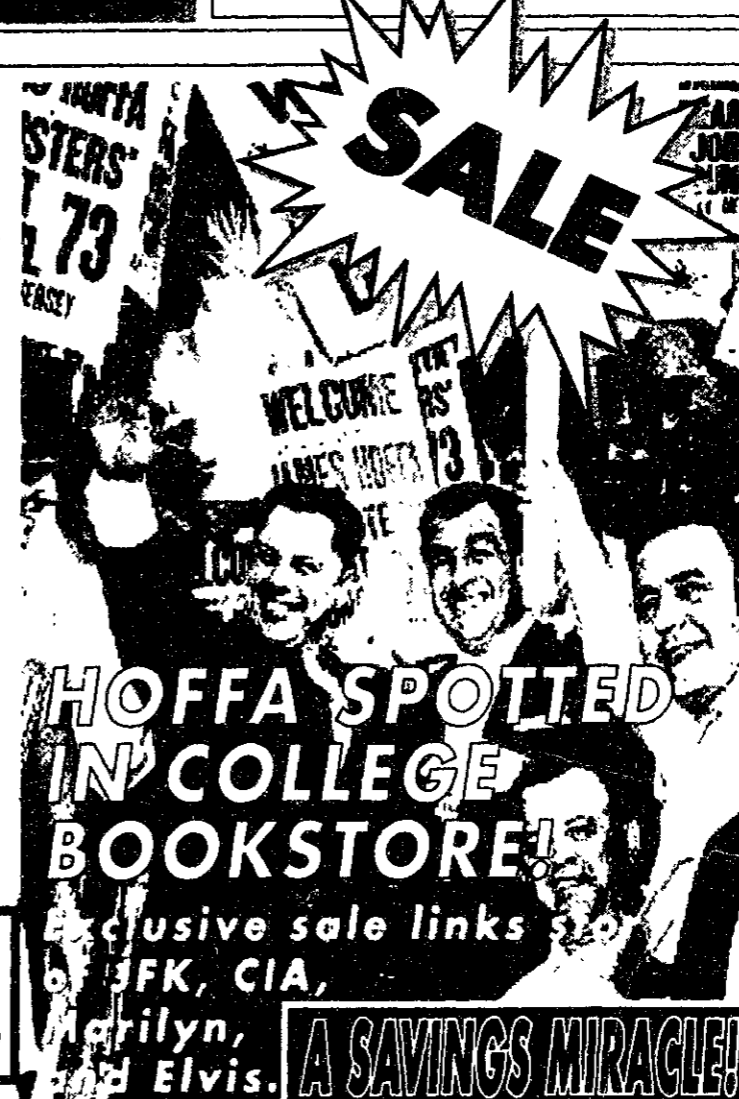


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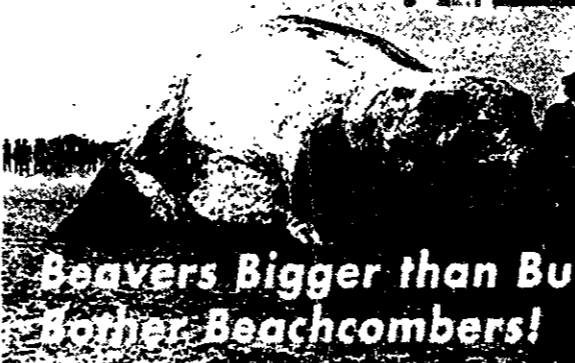


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Responding to Prof. Wolff's Suit, Institute Says that Such Debates Should be Resolved Internally

Wolff, from Page 1

Some of the other members of the literature department named in the suit have also denied Wolff's charges, saying that the case has no legal merit.

Prominent among these is Professor of Literature Ruth Perry, who heads the Women's Studies Program, and was accused by Wolff of having blocked or ignored a number of Wolff's proposals for subjects within Women's Studies.

Members of the committee that oversees Women's Studies have denied this, however, saying that at no time did Wolff submit a subject proposal to the committee.

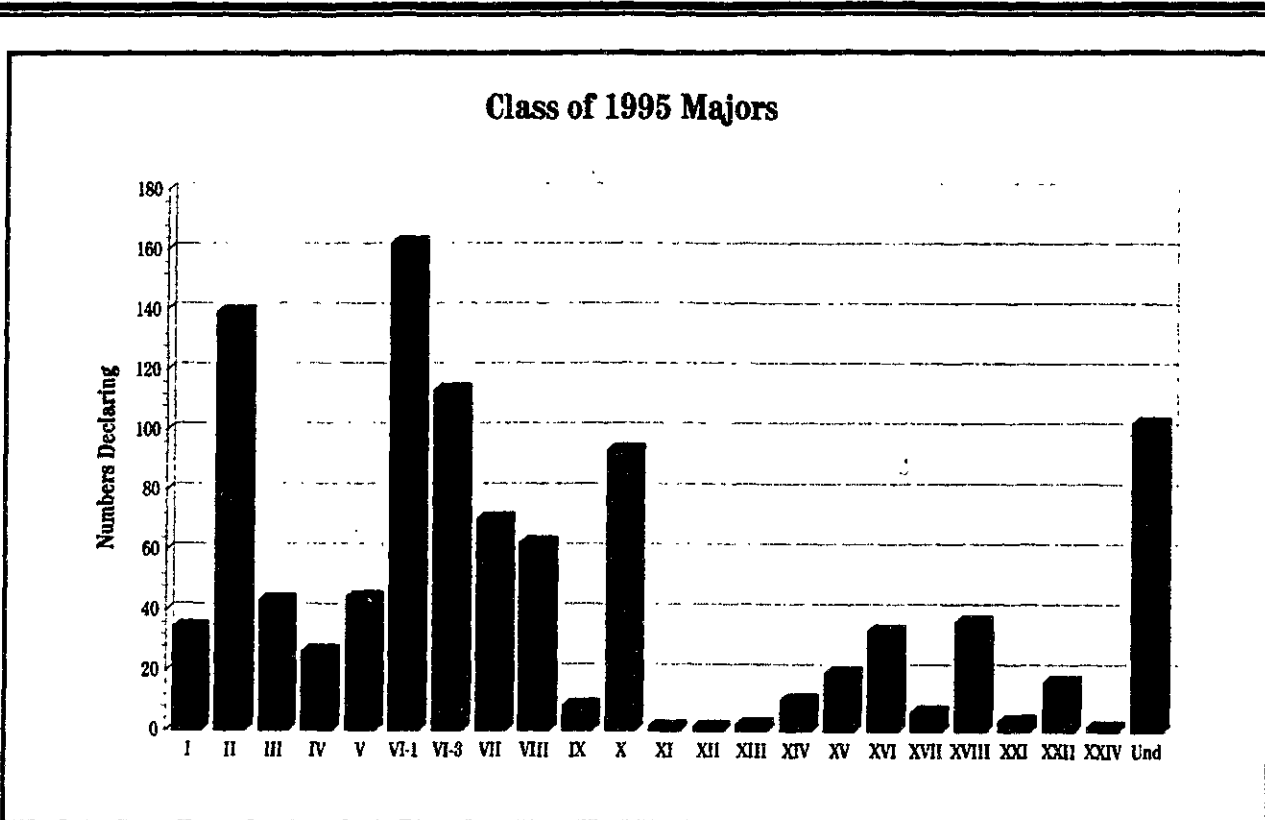
Professor of Literature David Thorburn, who was also named in the suit, said, "Her description of me as a tyrant of the politically correct is ludicrous. ... My intellectual and ideological commitments have always been recognized as democratic and pluralist."

One faculty member speculated that if the case were to reach court, MIT might turn around and blame the literature department for the problems that led up to the case. Such an outcome was unlikely, however, since the judge was unlikely to see enough merit in the case that it would go that far, the source added.

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Most frosh choose engineering majors

By Deborah A. Levinson
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The School of Engineering once again claimed the lion's share of freshmen majors, with 62 percent of the freshman class choosing that school, according to the Registrar's Office. The School of Science came in a distant second at 21 percent, with the School of Architecture and Planning receiving about 2.5 percent of the freshmen. The School of Humanities and Social Science and the Sloan School of Management each took about 2 percent, and the Whitaker College of Health Science and Technology received about .75 percent of the freshmen.

Almost 10 percent of the Class of 1995 — or 102 freshmen — did not declare majors.

Course VI-1, Course II, and Course VI-3 remained the most popular majors among declaring freshmen, with percentages changing little from last year. Sixteen percent of freshmen declared electrical engineering as their major, 13.5 percent declared mechanical engineering, and 11 percent declared computer science.

For the third year in a row, fewer freshman declared majors in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Twenty freshmen declared HASS

majors, as opposed to 28 members of the class of 1994 and 64 members of the class of 1993. Only three freshmen, one in writing and two in a joint program in humanities and science, declared majors in the Department of Humanities. Political science gained two more freshmen than last year, but economics continued its decline, down to 10 majors from last year's 17.

Two other departments, mathematics and aeronautics and astronautics, also showed a considerable decline. Only 36 freshmen declared majors in Course XVIII, down from 76 the previous year. Course XVI attracted 33 freshmen, down from 64 in the class of 1994.

Several majors increased in popularity. Nuclear engineering, materials science and engineering, civil engineering, and chemical engineering all surpassed previous years' numbers, with nuclear engineering jumping to 16 freshmen majors, up from only six for the class of 1994.

The Sloan School of Management attracted 19 majors, down from 28, and the Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology remained steady with eight majors.

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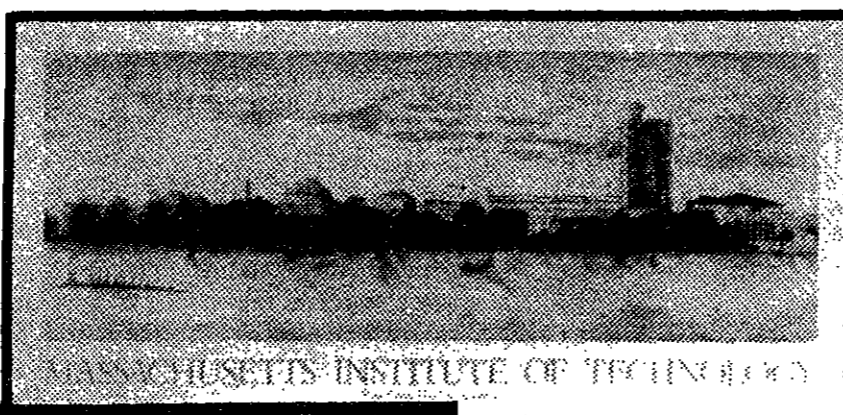
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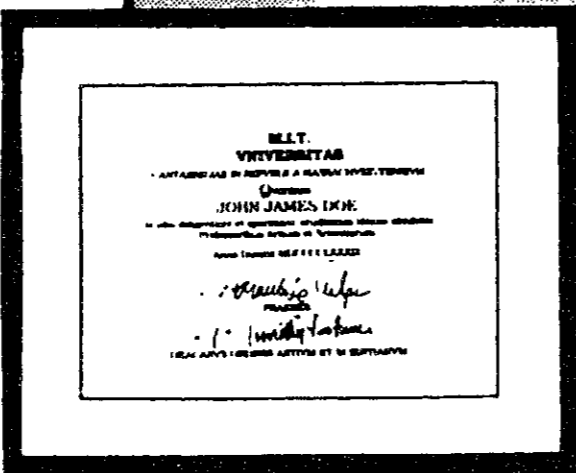
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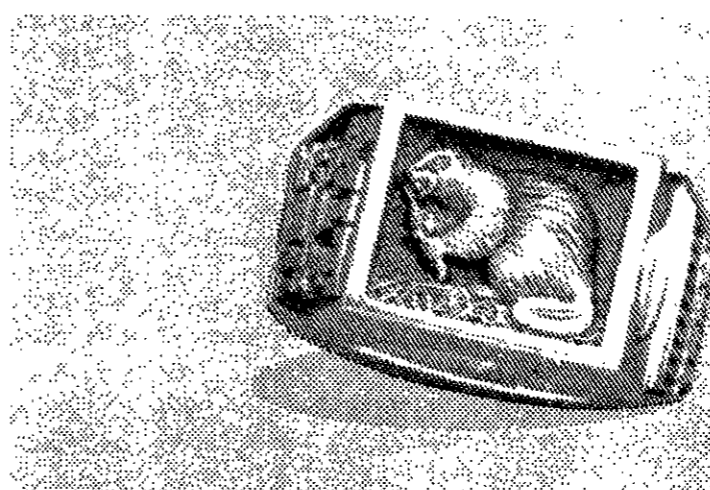
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MIT, DCAA Debate Cost of U.S.-Sponsored Research

By Eva Moy
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In an ongoing effort to correct its long-term oversight of university billing practices, the Defense Contract Audit Agency is questioning many of the research-related costs that universities bill to the government and other contracting agencies.

DCAA resumed the \$22.8 million audit of the Institute's forward pricing budget for fiscal year 1992 at a hearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce in January after having halted it earlier.

Some other universities being audited include Stanford University, Columbia University, and the California Institute of Technology.

MIT responded to the DCAA's audit in early April and is waiting for a response from the DCAA and the Office of Naval Research, the agency to which the DCAA reports.

Most of the disputed amount stems from disagreements and policy changes rather than erroneous or improper accounting.

ONR will make the ultimate decision based on the DCAA's audit and MIT's response.

The audits had been ordered by the House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, headed by Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.), after the committee held a hearing on Stanford's use of government funds a year ago, according to Dennis B. Fitzgibbons, a committee spokesman.

Schools with a high proportion of funding from defense-related pro-

jects are audited by the DCAA, one of several agencies responsible for overseeing research contracts.

Misunderstandings over MOU

Most of the controversy concerning the DCAA's audits deal with several Memoranda of Understanding — signed agreements under which MIT can determine its budget in certain ways.

James J. Culliton, vice president for financial operations, explained that most of the disputed amount stems from disagreements and policy changes rather than erroneous or improper accounting.

MIT has already repaid the government \$778,261 for inappropriate expenses uncovered by the DCAA and an internal audit. However, the Institute does not concede that it owes an additional \$21.6 million, money which the DCAA found unacceptable, according to Culliton.

The "DCAA's audit presence at MIT since 1985 has been limited to

forward pricing audits for the years 1965 through 1992. In each of these audits the DCAA has consistently approved the MOU methodologies which they now choose unilaterally, retroactively, and, MIT contends, illegally to invalidate," Culliton wrote in the executive summary of a response to the FY90 audit.

MIT views the retraction of MOUs as "a serious assault on the effectiveness and ability of MIT to remain an institution at the forefront of science and technology and continue its tradition of national service in the provision of quality research and trained scientists and engineers," Culliton wrote.

The DCAA still has to audit MIT for FY86-89, which they had planned to complete by today. They had previously decided to forego these audits starting in 1986 in an effort to keep better track of private and corporate government-sponsored research.

In addition, the DCAA will

receive the FY91 budget at the close of the fiscal year in June, as well as the FY92 and FY93 forward pricing budgets.

The DCAA headquarters in Washington, D.C., does not know the exact timetable for these audits, according to Executive Officer Phillip E. Rogers. The DCAA could be responding to MIT's rebuttal "if there's something in the response that would warrant ... further review and consideration," he added.

The other audits should quickly fall in line after the DCAA and ONR make decisions affecting the FY90 audit, according to Culliton.

"MIT remains committed to seeking improved administrative and accounting procedures. ... We remain willing at any time to review any and all administrative, accounting, allocation, and reimbursement methodologies on a prospective basis," he wrote in the executive summary.

GSC to Fund Anti-Harassment Book

By Nick Nassuphis
STAFF REPORTER

The controversial *Underground Guide on Stopping Sexual Harassment at MIT* has received the endorsement of the Graduate Student Council, a move that will ensure funding for the guide.

The guide's anonymous authors present the guide as an alternative to the administration's policy on sexual harassment. The guide criticizes MIT's response to sexual harassment on campus.

Made at its last meeting, the GSC's decision to fund the guide was contested because some of the anonymous reports in the guide describe incidents when the administration's response to sexual harassment cases was not helpful. These reports were called inaccurate and harmful.

The GSC, however, maintained that "the GSC is not endorsing any of the opinions contained in the guide, but it considers the information to be useful and representative of a different perspective."

"The MIT administration is dragging its feet in dealing with the problem of sexual harassment for

graduate students," the guide's anonymous authors wrote. "The *Underground Guide* provides extremely valuable information that is not available in MIT's official guide. It contains realistic assessments of where victims should turn. Victims have a right to know all this information, especially in light of the current lack of guidelines and confusion that exists at MIT on the official level."

Mary P. Rowe, the president's special assistant who handles harassment-related issues, was among those criticized in the guide.

"I take the concerns expressed very seriously," she said at the meeting. She added that she had never knowingly pursued a complaint or broken confidentiality without first obtaining formal and explicit permission to do so.

"I do not think this guide is fair," said Samuel J. Keyser, associate provost for Institute life. Keyser said he found the guide to be very useful, but added that it also contains allegations and incomplete facts that could be damaging to individuals within the administration.

The guide's authors argued for

the credibility of the guide's anonymous sources. "All statements can and will be supported if needed," said a representative of the authors. The authors added that the *Course Evaluation Guide* relies solely on anonymous student evaluations of faculty members.

"The charge of being a bad teacher is not the same as saying that someone is helping sexual harassment," Keyser said.

James R. Tewhey, associate dean for residence and campus activities, said that although some of the specific passages referring to individuals were true, there were also incorrect and harmful statements. He also said that the incidents involving members of his staff were not accurate and that he considered the publication to be damaging.

"We are all on the same side," Keyser said, but he did not agree that "ends justify the means." He said that although he was dismayed with the GSC decision, the decision will not affect the administration's willingness for cooperation in any way.

Posner Sees Some Good In NEA Funding Debate

NEA, from Page 9

rejecting funding for the current exhibit out of protest.

Sympathy appreciated

Both Posner and Harris expressed their gratitude to the institutions who have recently rejected NEA funds in protest. "I am very appreciative," said Harris. "I have no doubt that it's a sacrifice."

"I am concerned about the message it may send to critics of the NEA who believe the endowment is not necessary," she said. "But, it shows the arts community is distressed. It sends a very strong message to the NEA."

NEA spokesman Dare said, "We are sad and we regret the actions of qualified grantees to turn money down."

Posner said that despite all the hardship resulting from the NEA decision, there has been a positive side to the whole controversy.

"I think one thing that's positive is that I've enjoyed the solidarity at MIT — the immediate support from

Ellen Harris and President Vest," Posner said. "It's wonderful to be associated with an institution like this. I feel we are speaking out for a cause that is worthy."

Harris added that the Institute has always been unified behind the cause of freedom of expression, but that due to the recent publicity, MIT has had a chance to expand its contacts in the art world nationwide. Therefore, she said, the group which is now solidified behind the cause is larger and stronger.

"Undoubtedly, there are a lot more people in this country today that know that MIT has an arts program and a 20th Century arts gallery than did two weeks ago."

It is unclear what the future may hold for the role of the National Endowment for the Arts. However, one thing is certain, MIT's name will be recalled as the battleground for the war over arts funding for the 1990s and beyond.

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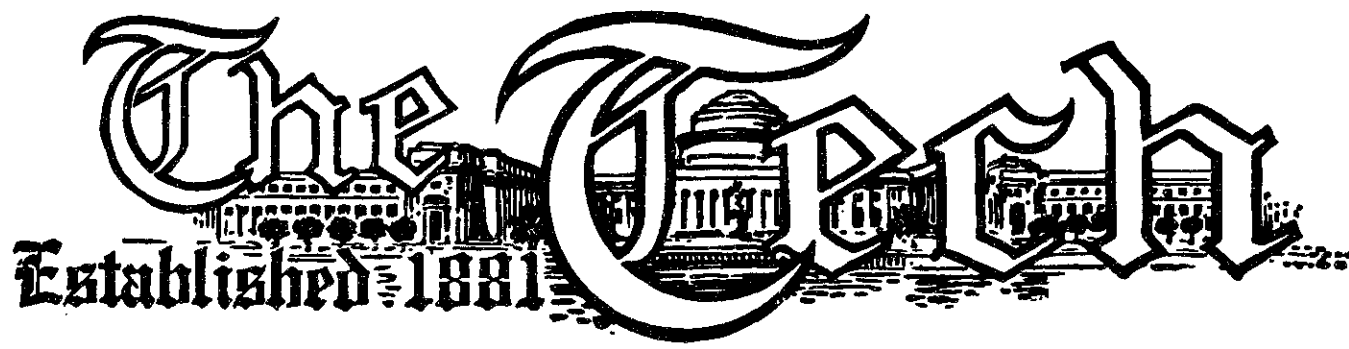
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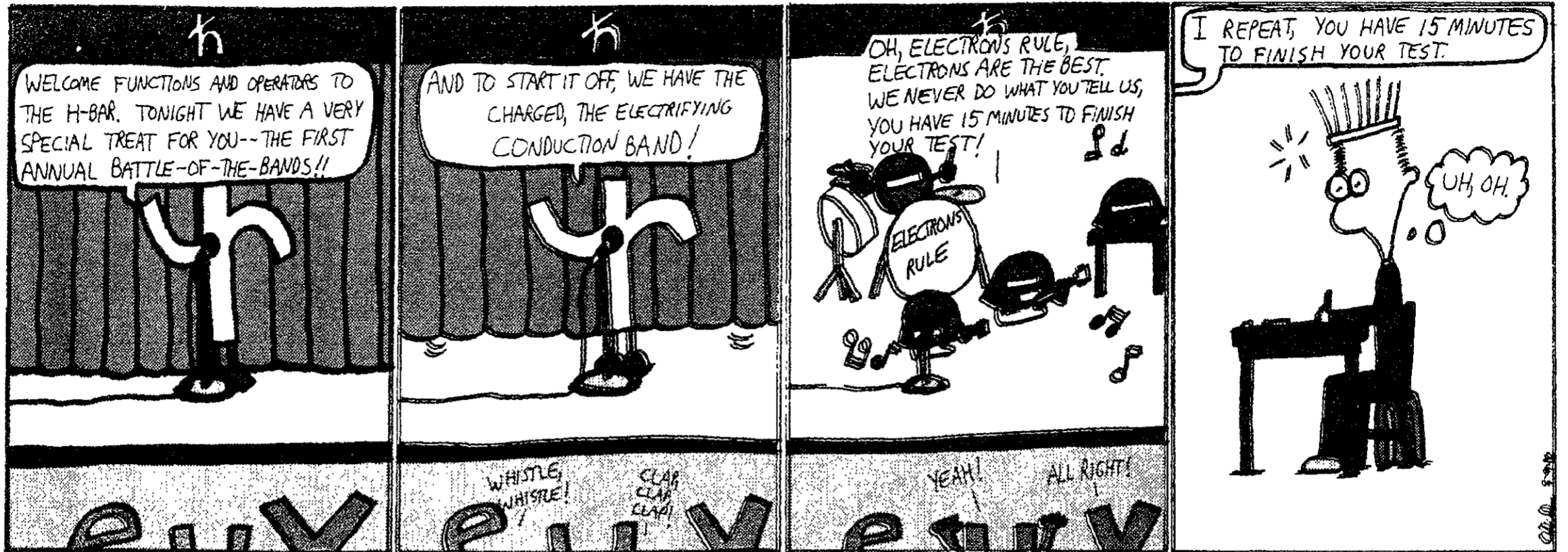
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By Chris Doerr



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