

Thursday
Largest
Paper

Welcome, Class of 1996!



The Weather

Today: Hazy sunshine, 85°F (30°C)
Tonight: Hazy, muggy, 70°F (21°C)
Tomorrow: Cloudy, 80°F (27°C)
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Volume 112, Number 30

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Thursday, August 27, 1992



Two freshmen drop their luggage off at the R/O Center in La Sala de Puerto Rico yesterday afternoon.

DOUGLAS D. KELLER-THE TECH

Bad-Mouthing Rules Change For Dormitory Residents

By Eva Moy
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This year's Residence/Orientation Week marks the beginning of a number of changes aimed at increasing the privacy of incoming students, as well as making the Rush process easier and more successful.

Some of the changes, especially those having to do with the way in which living groups may contact freshmen, are designed to placate complaints that the Institute infringed upon students' constitutional rights.

Rush Central, another feature new to this year's R/O Week, is intended to make residence selection easier and a bit less pressured for students new to MIT.

But other changes — including the scheduling of two mandatory tests in one day — may add to the pressure that freshmen feel on their first full day at MIT.

Bad-mouthing policy changed

In response to complaints that MIT violated students' right to free speech, the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and

Student Affairs retracted its "bad-mouthing" policy, according to Eliot S. Levitt '89, staff assistant for Residence and Campus Activities. In the past, students were restricted from telling freshmen about any living group other than their own.

Dormitory residents still may not speak with malicious intent or accuse of a person of having committed crimes — acts that would be considered harassment under MIT rules. However, residents may say true and unfavorable statements,

R/O, Page 6

Freshmen Arrive on Campus

By Josh Hartmann
CHAIRMAN
and Reuven M. Lerner
NEWS EDITOR

Nearly one-third of the over 1,200 expected new students, including a large number from the South and West Coast, arrived on campus yesterday for the first day of new student registration. The remainder are expected today.

At 4 p.m. today, President Charles M. Vest and Undergraduate Association President Shally Bansal '93 will address new students at the President's Welcome Convocation at Kresge Auditorium. The convocation will mark the formal beginning of Residence/Orientation Week, which lasts through next Friday.

Afterward, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., will be Project MOYA (Move Off Your Assumptions), in which upperclassmen will lead small groups of freshmen in activities on Kresge

Oval. The activities, now in their second year, are meant to introduce students to their peers and help them realize the importance of working with others.

According to workers at the R/O Center, 363 of 1,210 new students registered by 7:30 p.m. yesterday. All but 10 of the 58 new transfer students had arrived. International students, as well as those trying out for sports teams and in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, arrived earlier this week.

As the students entered the R/O Center in La Sala del Puerto Rico, their names were entered into the Clearinghouse database, allowing R/O Center workers to track their movements during R/O Week. Clearinghouse operations were suspended for a short while yesterday morning, when a power outage blacked out the campus shortly after 10 a.m. [See related story, page 1.]

Tomorrow, students will begin their day with the Freshman Essay Evaluation, a test designed to determine test their writing skill. Freshmen who pass the test, or who received a "5" on the Advanced Placement examination in Language/Composition, will be exempt from taking a Phase I writing subject.

While the essay has been offered for a number of years, this is the first time that freshmen are being told that it is mandatory. The administration has not said what will happen to students who do not take the test, but in previous years, students who neither took the examination nor the AP test were simply required to take a Phase I writing subject.

Also mandatory this year is the Math Diagnostic Test, which will be offered starting at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Freshmen, Page 6

MIT Warns Students Of Convicted Rapist

By Katherine Shlm
NEWS EDITOR

A man convicted in 1991 of raping two Harvard summer school students has allegedly approached one MIT student and two Harvard students since his July 15 release from state prison, according to a memorandum sent to all living groups by the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs.

Convicted in 1991 of raping two Harvard summer school students, Baptiste was sentenced in June 1991 to 9 to 10 years in state prison and was to be released on parole after having served one year, said Harvard Police Lt. John F. Rooney.

Since the balance of his sentence was suspended for five years, Baptiste was released from Cedar Junction State Prison June 29.

Baptiste was also accused of harassing students at MIT and Boston University.

Baptiste is described as a black male, 5 feet 8 inches tall, and 140 pounds. He is approximately 40

years old.

In a memo released by Harvard officials in 1990, Baptiste was described as approaching young males in the Harvard Square area, posing as a Harvard professor, admissions officer, or other Harvard employee claiming to be able to get them into Harvard, *The Harvard Crimson* reported.

The memo stated that Baptiste invited at least two male students to dinner, "served them large quantities of alcohol, brought them back to his apartment, and ... engaged them in sex against their will."

When the MIT and Harvard police published a description of Baptiste in 1990, several other MIT and Harvard students said they had also been approached by Baptiste.

Baptiste sighted in July

In July, Campus Police received an unconfirmed report that a person fitting the description of Baptiste "approached someone living in an

Rapist, Page 7



DOUGLAS D. KELLER-THE TECH

Yesterday's power outage also set off false fire alarms in Building 37 and one in Building 56, which brought this fire truck rolling down the sidewalk past East Campus.

Blackout Affects Most of Institute

By Josh Hartmann
CHAIRMAN

A seven-minute power outage caused havoc yesterday morning as computers, telephone systems, and air conditioning units failed across campus.

Despite the short duration of the outage, which took place shortly after 10 a.m., spokesmen for Information Systems said they were busy for much of the day bringing computers back up.

"We lost power to the Cray supercomputer and the IBM mainframe" used for administrative purposes, said David F. Lambert, manager for IS Data Center Operations.

"Pretty much we were out for an hour and a half," Lambert said

Power, Page 9

Daily Issues Return

With this issue, *The Tech* begins daily coverage of Residence/Orientation Week, the first time this has been done in 14 years. Each issue will include a full sampling of news (including world and national news from *The Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times*), opinion, and photography, as well as occasional arts and sports coverage.

Beginning with Friday's issue, the back page will contain *The Daily Confusion*, a schedule of R/O Week and Rush activities published by the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs. Submissions for *The Daily Confusion* should be submitted to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office in 7-103.

Regular Tuesday/Friday publication of *The Tech* will resume on Friday, Sept. 11.

WORLD & NATION

Mistrial Declared in Iran-Contra Trial of Spy Chief

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The prosecution of former CIA official Clair E. George on perjury charges in the Iran-Contra scandal ended in mistrial Wednesday, in the latest setback for the office of Independent Counsel Lawrence E. Walsh.

U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth declared the mistrial and set a new trial for Oct. 19 minutes after a jury of eight women and four men reported for the fourth time that they were hopelessly deadlocked on all nine charges against George in their sixth day of deliberations.

Prosecutor Craig Gillen had recommended a new trial "as quickly as possible" before a new jury that Lamberth will impanel.

But jury foreman Steven Kirk, 38, a management consultant, told reporters that he believed another trial would be unnecessary.

"Twelve other jurors would have a hard time finding the defendant guilty of these charges," Kirk said, explaining that a majority of jurors favored acquittal on all counts. He said that, while some thought that George could have been "more forthcoming" in his congressional testimony in 1986, "from a criminal perspective we did not find that Clair George told false statements to Congress."

The outcome of the George case did nothing to improve the spotty record of the independent counsel. Out of 10 convictions obtained by Walsh's staff in the past 5 years, two have been overturned on appeal — those of former White House aide Oliver L. North and former national security adviser John M. Poindexter. Of the remaining convictions, all but one resulted from negotiated plea agreements. Only one defendant has gone to jail, and that was for income tax charges related to weapons sales.

George, 62, who formerly directed overseas spy operations as the CIA's No. 3 executive, was tried on nine counts of perjury, obstruction and false statements for what he told Congress in 1986 and a federal grand jury in 1991. He was accused of concealing his knowledge of Iranian arms sales and of secret U.S. assistance being given to the Nicaraguan rebels by such officials as North and former Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord, who was North's logistics chief.

Few Optimistic As Conference on Yugoslavia Begins

THE BALTIMORE SUN

LONDON

The international conference on former Yugoslavia opened here Wednesday amid a lot of bluster but diminishing expectations that the Humpty-Dumpty exercise of putting Bosnia-Herzegovina back together again will succeed or that aggressive Serbian expansionism will be contained.

Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said that Serbs face a "spectacularly bleak future," with prolonged international repudiation, unless Serb leaders reverse their expansionist policies.

"The civilized world simply cannot allow this cancer in the heart of Europe to flourish, much less spread," he said.

British Prime Minister John Major promised that pressure would "inexorably increase" on any Yugoslav party that stood in the way of agreement.

"No trade. No aid. No international recognition or role. Economic, cultural, political and diplomatic isolation," he told the joint European Community-U.N. conference.

Major, who is European Community president, and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, co-chairmen at the conference, both asserted that the stakes were too high to entertain the idea of failure.

SAT Scores Rise Slightly This Year

LOS ANGELES TIMES

High school seniors nationwide averaged slightly higher scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test this year, halting at least temporarily a worrisome decline blamed on television, immigration and inadequate education.

However, some experts took little solace in the current scores on the college-entrance examination, which remain far below those of the previous generation of students and also reflect sharp differences among ethnic and income groups.

After dropping to a record low last year, average performance in the verbal section of the much dreaded test rose one point this year to 423, according to a report being released Thursday. Math scores also climbed a bit in 1992, up two points to 476 after declining last year for the first time in a decade. Each section of the multiple-choice exam is graded on a scale from 200 to 800 points.

While conceding that "one or two points may not seem like much," Donald M. Stewart, president of the College Board, the New York-based organization that sponsors the SAT, said he hoped the 1992 results "start an upward trend that puts the score declines of the 1980s behind us." Educational reforms and tougher high school classes may help, Stewart asserted.

WEATHER

Continued Stickiness

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Today: Hazy sunshine, continued warm and humid. High in the upper 70's (25°C) on the coast, mid-80's (30°C) inland. Light variable wind with coastal sea breezes.

Tonight: Hazy and muggy again with increasing clouds. Low around 70°F (21°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers. Highs around 80°F (27°C).

Bush Announces 'No-Fly' Zone over Southern Iraq

By Douglas Jehl and John M. Broder

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush announced Wednesday that allied warplanes will assert control of the skies over southern Iraq, a gesture designed to break Baghdad's repressive control over the Shiite Muslim-dominated region and to signal to Iraqi dissidents that the West continues to seek the fall of Saddam Hussein.

At a White House news conference, Bush said the United States and its coalition partners will begin regular surveillance flights over an area encompassing fully a third of Iraqi territory and will respond militarily if Iraqi aircraft seek to operate in the region.

Pentagon officials said that any Iraqi aircraft entering the skies south of the 32nd Parallel after 10:15 a.m. EDT Thursday would be shot down. Baghdad has been warned that the flight prohibition applies to civilian airliners as well.

"No Iraqi aircraft, either fixed wing or rotary wing, military or civilian, will be allowed to fly south of the 32nd Parallel," said Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Martin Brandtner, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We will respond appropriately and decisively to any Iraqi failure to comply with this requirement or any other interference with our air operations."

At the same time, Bush said the United States will be watching closely to see if Iraqi ground forces

persist in a continuing crackdown against Shiite civilians and anti-government rebels and would be "extraordinarily concerned" if Baghdad does not halt such repression. But officials declined to spell out what steps they would be willing to take to prevent or punish these violations.

Bush rejected a suggestion that the move could be seen as an election-year ploy by a president trailing in the polls, saying he and allied leaders were motivated only by "new evidence of harsh repression" by Hussein.

"What emerges from eyewitness accounts ... is further graphic proof of Saddam's brutality," Bush said.

The president said national security adviser Brent Scowcroft had briefed Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton on the operation. "I don't think the other side will try to put a political spin on this," Bush said. "We're talking about something very serious here. I'm not worried about the politics of it at all."

Speaking to reporters while campaigning in Memphis, Tenn., Clinton said he supported Bush's action. But he renewed criticism that Bush had not moved faster to protect both the southern Shiites and the Kurdish population in the north.

In launching the protective mission — dubbed "Southern Watch" — Bush and his senior advisers stressed that it is not intended to abet a Shiite-led insurgency or to bring about the dismemberment of

Iraq.

Brandtner stressed in a Pentagon briefing that the allies were establishing "a no-fly zone, not a security zone" — meaning that the allies had no intention of offering the Shiite population blanket protection from government attacks, as they had for the Kurds last year in Operation Provide Comfort.

Instead, senior officials said, the goal remains to increase the pressures that might force Saddam Hussein from power while allowing Iraq to remain intact as a nation.

"The United States continues to support Iraq's territorial unity and bears no ill will towards its people," Bush said. "We continue to look forward to working with a new leadership in Baghdad, one that does not brutally suppress its own people and violate the most basic norms of humanity."

A senior administration official, elaborating on the president's statement, said: "One of the effects of this is to deny him the attribute of sovereignty. If that sends the signal that as long as Saddam is in charge, Iraq's sovereignty is eroding, so be it."

An Iraqi spokesman, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, said that the United States, Britain and France aimed to create a crisis to divide the south from the rest of Iraq and draw the whole region "into the fire of racial and sectarian conflicts."

The South Begins Cleanup Of Damage from Andrew

By David Maraniss

THE WASHINGTON POST

MORGAN CITY, LA.

The fierce storm known as Andrew dragged slowly across Louisiana toward Mississippi Wednesday, flattening hundreds of homes, spawning tornadoes and drenching a wide swath of lowlands with torrential rain. But as it diminished from hurricane force into a tropical storm, Andrew appeared to have spared the Gulf Coast from the magnitude of death and catastrophic damage dealt earlier to South Florida.

Louisiana officials reported two hurricane-related deaths and 75 injuries, compared with 19 deaths and hundreds of injuries caused by Andrew's first punches across the Bahamas and the Florida peninsula.

A greater tragedy was averted here, officials said, because the hurricane dawdled while humans in its path did not. Louisianans' familiarity with killer hurricanes, and graphic pictures of Andrew's punishment of the Miami region, prompted most residents to evacuate the danger zone or find shelter before the storm began its slow and dissipating movement inland.

"Given what could have happened, I suppose we should be thankful," Gov. Edwin W. Edwards (D) said during an interview with WWL radio in New Orleans.

By early afternoon, Andrew's sustained winds had fallen below hurricane level of 74 mph. Wednesday evening, the storm continued to drench the region while its strength waned further and it moved toward the Mississippi border near Natchez.

President Bush flew to Lafayette Wednesday afternoon, just as he had visited Miami Monday, and again promised a full-bore federal effort to help local residents recover from the natural disaster. While buildings and cropland in Louisiana suffered extensive damage, state officials said they did not expect costs here to be nearly as high as preliminary damage estimates of \$15 billion to \$20 billion in south Florida.

"My heart goes out to the people of the southern parishes," Bush said after his brief tour with Edwards, who was decked out in a National Guard uniform.

The worst damage in Louisiana was reported along the Atchafalaya River basin in the south-central part of the state, from Morgan City to New Iberia and north-

Bush Earmarks \$10 Million for Florida

By Rudy Abramson

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MIAMI

President Bush Wednesday set aside \$10 million for 5,000 cleanup workers while corporations joined in the first trickle of financial aid to Florida communities laid waste in what may be the country's most expensive natural disaster.

The estimate of homeless, put at 50,000 earlier in the week, was upped to 180,000 three days after the storm broadsided the peninsula.

"If there are three people per home, you are talking about 180,000 homeless," Sen. Bob Graham of Florida said after meeting with Dade County officials who estimated that 63,000 homes were destroyed.

Although survivors were turning to the formidable tasks of rebuilding, the numbers in Red Cross and Dade County shelters did not greatly decline because many returned had home for the first time only to find their dwellings uninhabitable.

On Tuesday night, nearly 120,000 persons remained in shelters. For those in the hardest-hit area of south Dade County, the most desperate need was for money, since scores of thousands had lost everything.

The cost of rebuilding is too stupendous for credible estimate. While Dade County officials put the toll at \$15 billion to \$20 billion, the Federal Emergency Management Agency fixed it at \$6 billion to \$10 billion.

"We're going to move now from being in an adrenaline period of high energy to the second phase, which is the realization that this is going to be a long sustained recovery period," Graham said.

There's No Doubt: We're In for a Rough Campaign

By Ronald Brownstein

LOS ANGELES TIMES

With the battle for the White House officially joined, President Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton have quickly erased any doubts about its nature: This campaign is going to be fast, relentless and mean.

Already, the attacks, counterattacks and flanking maneuvers have reached an intensity not typically seen until October. And in these rancorous engagements, the two sides have exposed an aggressive philosophy—both intend to constantly force the debate back onto one or two central arguments and quickly neutralize issues that threaten to distract from those core contentions.

Bush and Clinton "are each clearly trying to avoid letting the other frame the debate on terms unfavorable to themselves," says Thomas E. Mann, director of the governmental studies program at the Brookings Institution.

As part of that strategy, both men are moving to maximize their differences on issues where they perceive an advantage—and minimize them on questions where they feel vulnerable. Clinton, for instance, moved a bit closer to Bush on the issue of fuel efficiency standards for automobiles—a potentially volatile question in Michigan and other Rust Belt battlegrounds. Bush, meanwhile, has echoed a key Clinton proposal to restrain

American workers.

At the same time, both campaigns are trying to frame in the sharpest possible terms two contrasts with their opponents: one centering on the economy and the other on trust.

In Bush's case the linchpin arguments are trust and taxes. Bush is portraying the Arkansas governor as a tax-and-spend liberal who would make the economy even worse by expanding government and is hiding his intention to do so as part of a broader pattern of misleading voters about his political agenda and personal life.

For Clinton, the centerpiece arguments are the economy and trust as well. Clinton maintains that Bush, trapped in the grip of an obsolete laissez faire economic theory, has failed to produce a plan to revive the economy and, now, in a desperate attempt to save his job is unleashing both wild accusations and implausible promises he has no intention of keeping.

The efforts by both sides to force the debate through these competing prisms is perhaps most visible in their skirmishing over the past week on the economy and the federal budget.

In his acceptance speech last Thursday, Bush moved to reattach himself to the conservative economic agenda of restraining the scope and size of government. That required some artful stitching: Bush has been under fire from conserva-

tives not only for raising taxes, but also for presiding over the most rapid increase in domestic spending since John F. Kennedy, as well as a resurgence in federal regulation.

On the podium in Houston, Bush reversed course on each of those issues. He promised to extend for another year an ongoing ban on most new federal regulations; he again called for Congress to approve a balanced budget amendment; most dramatically, he called for an unspecified across-the-board tax cut—and, as a further restraint on government spending, a new check-off that would allow taxpayers to divert up to 10 percent of their bill toward deficit reduction rather than government operations.

Many economists immediately questioned those proposals because Bush offered little indication of where he would find the spending cuts to reduce the existing \$315 billion deficit—much less offset the revenue lost from his tax proposals.

Then on Monday, Bush followed his ringing call for fiscal restraint with the announcement of a new job training program that will cost \$10 billion over the next five years.

"There is no way these numbers add up," says Stephen Moore, director of fiscal studies at the libertarian Cato Institute. "You can't cut taxes, raise spending and balance the budget."

But summing the numbers economically may be less important than aligning them politically. By

promising to cut overall spending and taxes, Bush underscores his differences with Clinton's proposals to increase taxes and spending on domestic programs.

Seen through that light, Bush's surprising job training announcement comes into sharper focus as an effort to neutralize secondary issues—and shift the debate back onto his preferred battlefield.

Noting that he had earlier proposed to cut training programs for displaced workers, some observers see Bush's new training initiative—like his proposal this spring to allow all Americans access to federal loans for college education—as an effort to deny Clinton a clear contrast on an issue he has stressed.

As Clinton put it in an address to the Detroit Economic Club last Friday: "Across the country, people are eager for real answers about how we can create new jobs and save existing jobs, but the promises Mr. Bush made (in his speech) are intended to only save one job: his."

Still, Clinton in the past few days has shifted his own feet in ways that allow Republicans to question his sincerity. In that same Detroit speech, Clinton moved to neutralize an issue the GOP was banking on in the Midwest, by promising to be "flexible" in urging automakers to increase the fuel efficiency of their cars.

The Bush administration opposes increasing such requirements, and argues that insisting on greater

efficiency could wipe out thousands of auto-manufacturing jobs throughout the Rust Belt; at the Republican convention last week, Michigan's Republican Gov. John Engler maintained higher standards could cost 40,000 jobs in that state alone.

To Republican critics, Clinton's response on the issue fits a pattern of strategic fuzziness: "There are few issues on which Gov. Clinton's instinct is not to waffle," says David Tell, the Bush campaign's director of opposition research. "I would say that he's waffling on this one and he will continue to waffle until he paints himself in a word corner he can't get out of."

Observers like Mann expect quite a bit of waffling—and accusations of inconsistency—from both candidates as they perpetually jostle for tactical advantage. "My view is that for both of these guys all of the details are negotiable," Mann says.

But even amidst that fog, Mann says, the two men continue to offer the voters starkly different approaches: with Bush insisting that the key to prosperity is restraining spending and taxes, and Clinton pinning his hopes for economic revival on often expensive government initiatives in education, training, scientific research, infrastructure and health care.

"There is a dramatic contrast on economic and social policy between these two candidates, and no matter what, that will come through loud and clear," Mann says.

Andrew Appears Partly to Spare Gulf Coast, Louisiana

Andrew, from Page 2

west to Lafayette. Along with hundreds of homes and businesses leveled by high winds and fallen trees, miles of croplands where sugar cane was nearing harvest also were decimated. Highways along that route were littered with fallen trees, telephone poles and giant shards of metal road signs.

"I've been here for 35 years, and I've never seen anything like this,"

Morgan City Police Chief Daniel Dossett said. "I was here for Hurricane Betsy (in 1965), and it was impressive, but I don't remember being quite so impressed with it as I was by Andrew. It was frustrating for me because all we could do was sit here and wait it out right here damn close to the eye of the storm."

Dossett said National Guard troops were headed toward Morgan City tonight to help the police guard

against looting. There had been no reports of looting anywhere in the state.

Authorities gave conflicting reports on the extent of damage to coastline areas that, as of early Wednesday night, had not yet been surveyed by emergency-management officials. Some unofficial reports said that, while wind and rain damage was extensive, there were few injuries. Neil Young, in charge of Red Cross disaster relief

for Terrebonne Parish, said hundreds of families were stranded or homeless in bayou lands south of the Intracoastal Waterway.

The two reported deaths in the state were only indirectly caused by the hurricane, authorities said. One man died of a heart attack at a shelter in Iberia Parish, while another was found dead in rubble of his home after a tornado whipped through La Place near the Mississippi River between New

Orleans and Baton Rouge.

La Place was one of the most heavily damaged areas in Louisiana. One tornado touched down there seven times Tuesday night and this morning, injuring at least 33 residents, including a girl, 2, reported in serious condition, and leveling dozens of homes and trailers. At least one and perhaps two other tornadoes struck the area this morning, officials said.

Win Free Sex!

The Tech
Established 1981

Read *The Tech*.

The Tech comes out Tuesdays

and Fridays during the academic

year with complete, unbiased news

coverage of MIT events. In addition,

you'll find a wrapup of global and

national news, as well as the pulse

of student opinion and reviews of

arts events in the Boston area.

OPINION

Welcome, Class of 1996

To incoming students: Congratulations. You have been rewarded for your hard work with with one of the greatest gifts possible, an MIT undergraduate education.

Not that you will always be thankful for this opportunity. Everyone, even the brightest among us, feels at some point that

Editorial

MIT is too difficult, that the hard work is simply not worth it. And there will undoubtedly be some people for whom these feelings will become so strong that they will leave the Institute, either temporarily or permanently.

But for the rest of you, the majority that will march through Killian Court four years from now, get ready for the most exciting, and perhaps the most exhilarating, time of your life.

You have undoubtedly heard about many of the good things MIT offers its students: Unparalleled research opportunities, more laboratory equipment than almost any other universi-

ty, and the chance to explore and learn alongside some of the greatest minds on the planet.

There is a downside to everything, however, and MIT is no exception: The Institute has its fair share of racism and sexism, unfair policies, boring lectures, bad food, and — as you will probably learn within the next few days — very difficult tests and problem sets.

When you run into these problems, remember that you are probably not the first in your situation, and that someone can probably help you. The most important lesson you can learn during this, your first week at MIT, is that you need other people to survive here. Sooner than you might think, you will be the knowledgeable veteran handing out advice to new students unfamiliar with the terrain.

So welcome to MIT, the best and the worst of all possible worlds. With your help, it can only get better.



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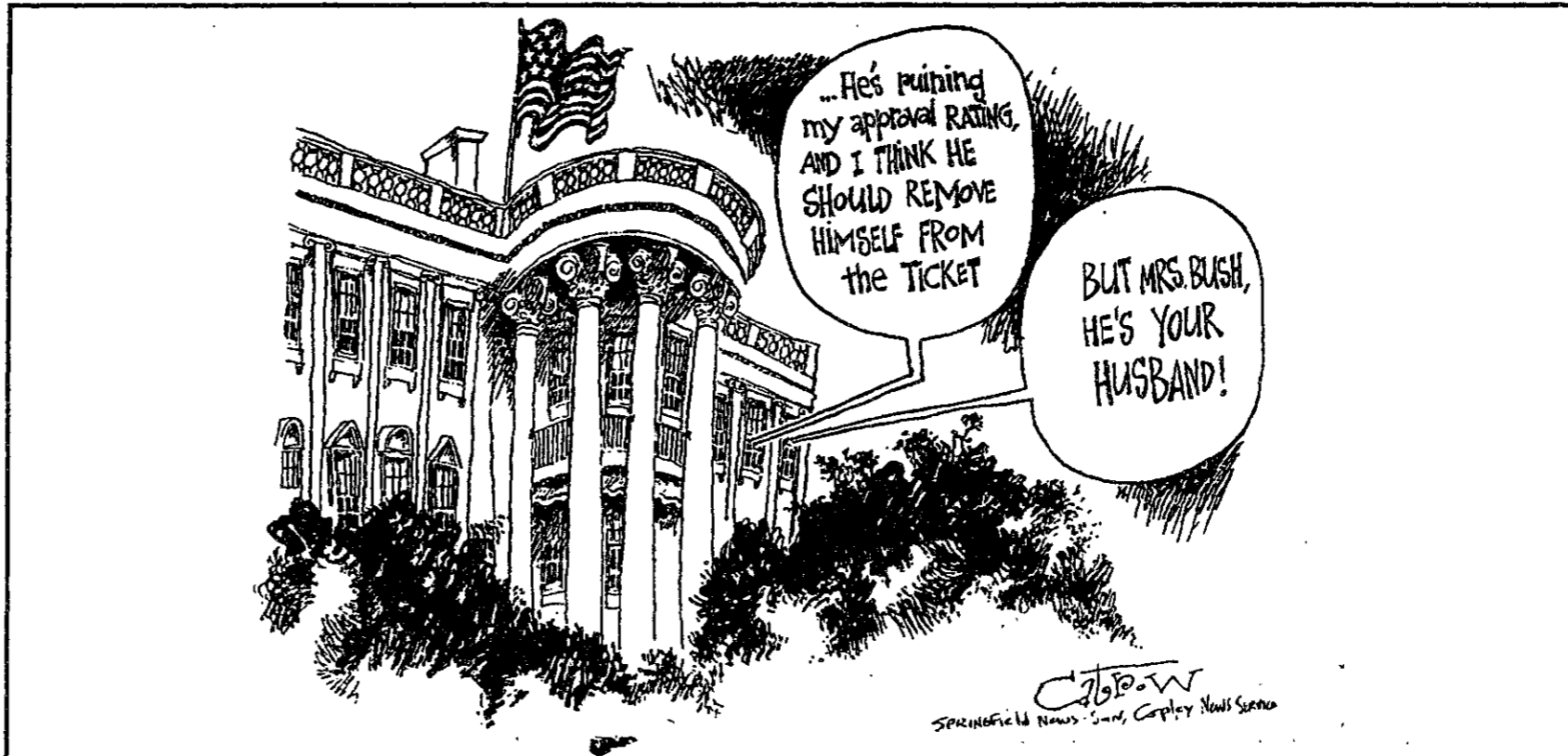
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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer for \$20.00 per year Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-0901. Third Class postage paid at Auburn, Mass. Non Profit Org. Permit No. 59720. **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-0901. Telephone: (617) 253-1541. FAX: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and reprinting rates available. Entire contents © 1992 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by MassWeb Printing Co.



Frosh Guide to Understanding MITspeak

By Bill Jackson
OPINION EDITOR

Yeah, right, welcome to MIT and all that garbage.

I know how it is. You've been spoon-fed a lot of information over the summer and by now you've pretty much already gained the skeptical attitude toward everything you see from and about MIT. This is healthy and good, and you will find it useful not only for reading the drivel of yours truly and the nuke-em-first columns of Matthew "Hazardous" Hersch here in *The Tech*, but especially in reading the other campus publications.

But I certainly don't want to call into question the taste of a competitor, especially *The Thistle*. In fact, at the end of this article I've placed an explicit list of bizarre and rare sexual activities which I will tonight be photocopying and sending to all of your parents.

So let me get away from student publications for now and give you some examples to show you how to understand MIT propaganda. **Warning:** This is satire. Quotes are made up. Over-excitables types with copies of Institute regulations rolled up in their back pockets should take two squares of Ex-Lax and turn immediately to *Jim's Journal*. Do not collect \$200.

MIT might say: Your class is a diverse group, so you will have a chance to interact with all sorts of different people.

Loose Translation: Our admissions officers have carefully combed through your applications and we think that your distribution is as pleasing as possible according to simple statistical categories: race, sex, place of origin, etc. Of course, we can't ask about the things that *really* matter. This means that your freshman roommate will enjoy Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon," Stephen King novels, inexpensive mixed drinks, imitating *Saturday Night Live* sketches, and *The Simpsons*, just like you! MIT will be happy because you are an Asian from California sharing these exact same interests with a Caucasian from Virginia; you will have to live with the frightening realization that a huge percentage of people growing up in the late '80s/early '90s have had the exact same experience.

MIT might say: You will find that everyone here was among the absolute best in his or her high school. Therefore, almost everyone has to live with the disappointment that at MIT, they can no longer be the absolute best. There will always be someone who can do better than you.

Loose Translation: Y'know those people you were forced to be with in high school? Think back — the other "smart" people who were in all your AP classes, schmoozing with faculty, helping set up the physics demonstrations, and running the filmstrip projector for the audiovisually inept history teacher — remember them? Congratulations, genius, you decided a few months ago to spend four years with a worldwide sampling of those people.

However, there is a positive side. Think about the time you felt the most geeky, the most outright *loser-like*, like the time you were the only one going to classes on Senior Skip Day or the time you wrote a 60-page epic poem for an English class and everyone else's poem began with "There once was a man from Venus." Well, on this campus, *probably even within the next few hours*, you are guaranteed to see someone so nerdy that the way you felt during your most embarrassing life moment pales in comparison. In short, not only will there always be someone who can do better than you, there will always be someone geekier than you, too.

MIT might say: To ensure the well-roundedness of graduates, MIT has the Humanities and Social Sciences Distribution (HASS-D) system, which gives students a broad overview of many humanities fields.

Loose Translation: A few humanities professors don't care about undergraduates, are bitter at the Institute, or are simply lazy. You want to take classes taught by these people,

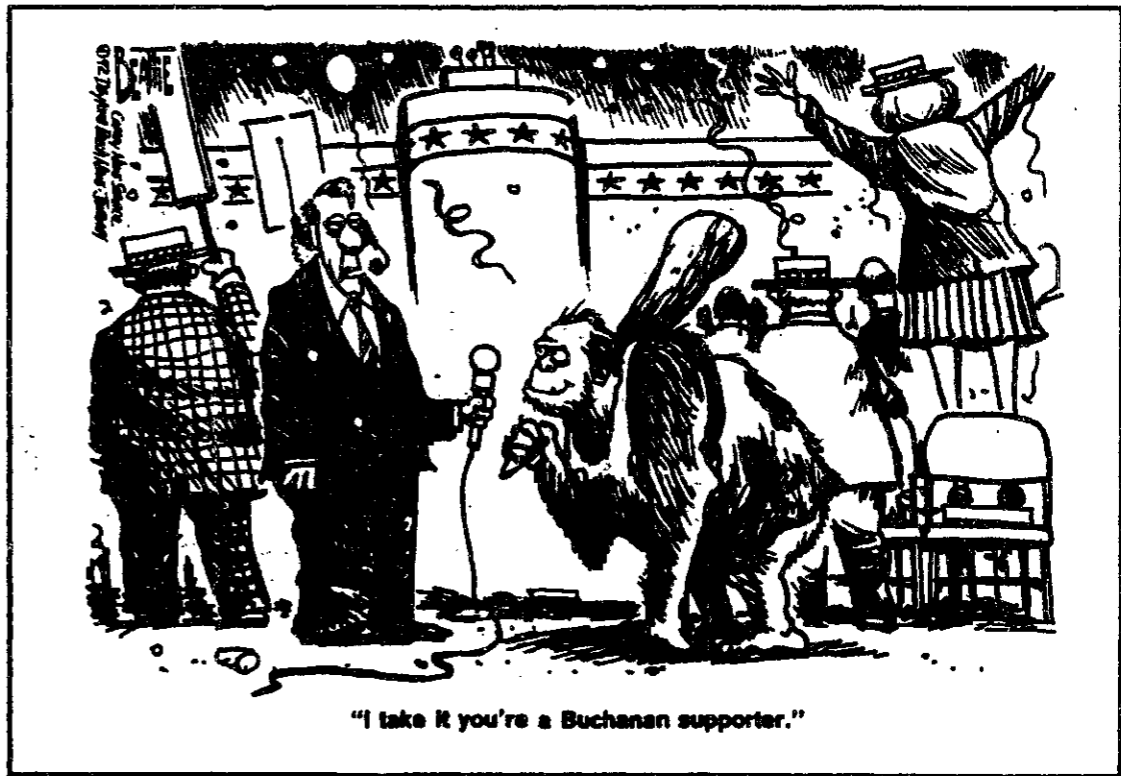
because they frankly don't care if you attend their lectures, write their papers, or take the finals they are forced (by administrators) into giving. The upperclassmen in the living group you chose during rush will tell you about these classes before you meet with your advisor Wednesday. Then you can snore your advisor into believing that you are actually fascinated by the subject matter of 21.921, "Short Stories about Women Cockroaches."

MIT might say: The Housing Office strongly advises freshmen to look into their non-Institute House options this year.

Loose Translation: AAAAAHHHHH-HH! They let too many of you in! Help! We're considering putting a new check-off on the housing form, indicating whether you would prefer to occupy your room during the daytime or nighttime hours. That way we could get 10 freshmen into a quint, by having them live in the room in shifts. I'm sure we could work out some sort of rent reduction for crowding if we did this. Those of us in housing who are frantically dealing with this nightmare probably would like to find the administrator who said "sure, let more people in this year" and, with a bed and desk, convert that person's office into MIT's newest on-campus living option.

But by now you're probably getting the idea of how to handle MITspeak. **Tomorrow in this space:** Straight talk about Rush.

Tech Opinion Editor Bill Jackson '93 is not this caustic in person. He's worse.



Advice on Surviving from a Seasoned Upperclassman

By Matthew H. Hersch
OPINION EDITOR

Welcome, freshman. It seems that around this time everyone on campus will be giving you advice about MIT, and most of it will either be stupidly sexual or filtered-down, wishywashy, non-committal, R/O-safe, bland, banal, trite, and simplistic.

Freshman hear "be yourself" and "don't rape anybody" a little too much. I'd like to help, so instead of writing about politics and diplomacy and nuclear strategy like I usually do in this column, I'm going to write something for freshmen, something that doesn't have the word "condom" in it. Here's what I have learned about MIT in the past few years — here's the advice that I would give:

- Stay up all night. Sleep late. Try to attend more classes than you punt. Change majors...twice. Got Advanced Placement credit? Use it. Fail while you can. Register for more classes than you intend to take, then drop the ones you don't like. Take your HASS-Ds first.
- Do you like pain? Then take 18.012. Do you need sleep? Then take 24.00. Remember, everyone at MIT was a Course VI major at some time or another.
- You're smarter than you think. You're also lazier than you think. Never, ever, ever

punt an exam. Don't count on partial credit, 'cause you won't always get it. If you want it, do it.

- Always hand in your problem sets. Don't trust your advisor. Get to know administrative assistants. Beg your TA.

- Drink lots of orange juice. Don't eat at Lobdell. Learn how to use chopsticks. If you eat pizza every night you will hate it by November. Fresco's makes good burgers.

- Bathe every day. Wash your clothes. Keep your finger out of your nose; you don't know where that finger's been. Don't grow a beard — you'll look like an idiot.

- An average human being can remain awake for 65 hours without losing consciousness or hallucinating. Never walk within 135 feet of the MIT Nuclear Reactor, no matter how much money they offer you.

- Find a UROP... a good UROP. Find something you like to do and do it. Find something new to do and try it. If it hurts when you do it, then stop doing it and consult a physician.

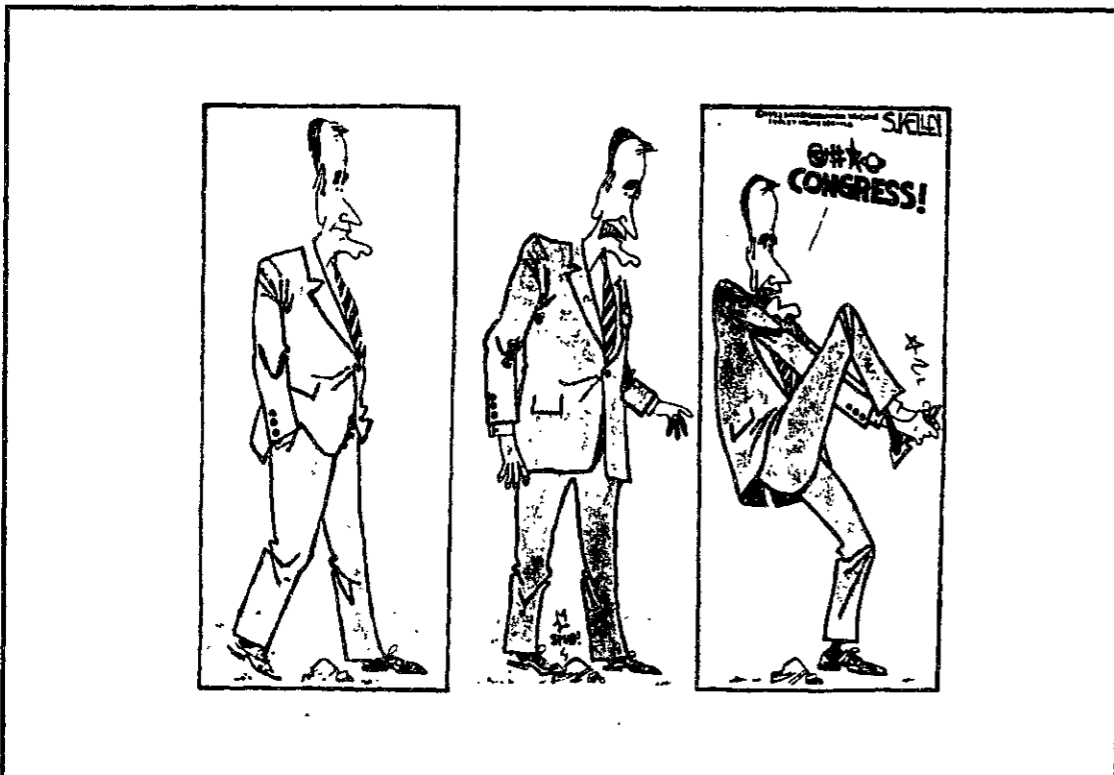
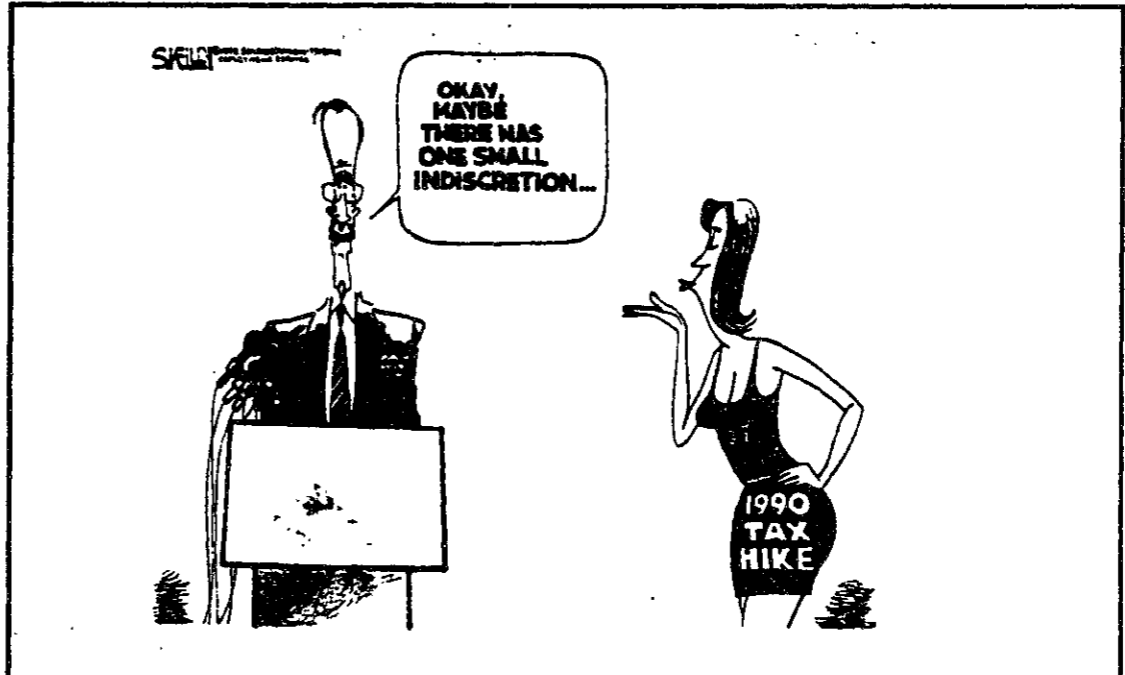
- Find someone you love and love them. Can't find anyone to love? Then find someone you hate and write about them.

- No one cares where you live. Rush doesn't matter. Try living somewhere, then move. Trust your instincts. Alcoholics look stupid.

- Be happy. If you're not happy, then get happy.
- Nothing matters.
- Everything matters.
- You matter.
- Don't read the Thistle.

Because you read *The Tech*, you are superior to your friends.

And remember, if rush is boring you, or if you are sweating profusely, then just come up to the air-conditioned offices of *The Tech* and watch us make a newspaper every day. We won't pretend to like you, and we won't give you free food — we'll just act like real MIT students.



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

Dissents, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, PO Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to tech@athena.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m. two days before the issue date.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters. Shorter letters will be given higher priority. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

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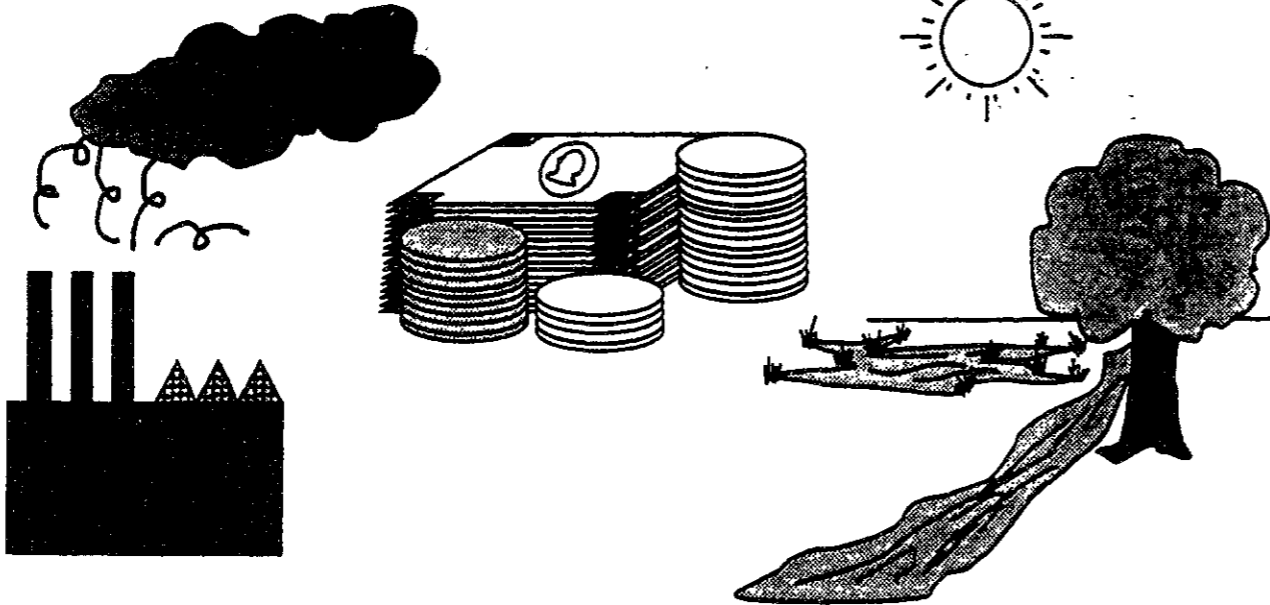


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24 hours **Student Center**
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9:00am-3:30pm **1st floor, Student Center**
New women students can pick up copy of *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves*.

9:00am-3:30pm **R/O Center**
Make a free one-minute phone call home, sponsored by the MIT Alumni/Alumnae Association.

10:00am-3:30pm **1st floor, Student Center**
Information about safer sex and/or being queer on campus.

11:00am-1:00pm **Location TBA**
Transfer students invited to come brunch with administrators and/or faculty in their departments.

11:00am-2:30pm **Meet @Student Center steps**
Explore the rich heritage of African-Americans in Boston on the Black Heritage Trail Tour.

11:00am-3:30pm **312 Memorial Drive**
Kosher snacks available.

noon-2:00pm **20c-108**
Learn about ISP (Integrated Studies Program) while enjoying great food!

1:00pm-2:00pm **Location TBA**
Transfers! Come meet with a representative of your department at the Transfer Open Houses.

1:00pm-3:00pm **24-612**
Come learn about the Experimental Study Group at their Experimental Cafe.

1:30pm-3:30pm **Barbecue Pits**
Enjoy a snack and relax with your fellow freshmen before it all begins.

2:00pm-5:00pm **Kresge Auditorium**
Parents! Come learn about MIT at the Parents Welcome Lounge.

5:00pm-7:30pm **Meet on Kresge Oval**
MIT President Charles M. Vest welcomes you to MIT. For the first time, your entire class is together in one place!

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This Fall, The MIT Judo Club will offer Introductory and Intermediate Judo classes taught for PE credit. Instruction will cover the practice and philosophy of the martial art, Judo, with strong emphases on personal development, physical fitness, self-discipline, and competitive skill. The central precept of judo, to quote its founder, Jigoro Kano, is "...maximum efficiency with minimum effort, for the mutual welfare and benefit of all." This concept reaches into all aspects of judo, including the use of an opponent's momentum and weight against him by speed, timing and technique, without undue strength. This art is based primarily on throws, holds, and submission techniques; opponents are disabled without injuring them.

Practices and lessons will include: stretching, aerobic warm-ups, learning how to fall without injury, instruction in basic and advanced techniques, randori (freesparring) and kata (form exhibition).

For more information call Phillip Alvelda at 625-2423

Much of Institute Is Blacked Out

Power, from Page 1

late yesterday afternoon. "All of the gear is back up and rolling."

Commonwealth Energy Systems spokesman Michael O'Malley said 10,000 Cambridge customers lost power when a relay at a substation on Putnam Street failed.

"We believe it was an overcurrent situation which caused a relay to trip out in the Putnam Street sub-

station," he said. "We had a crew that was working at the substation. They were able to reset the relay."

O'Malley noted that at the time, the total ComEnergy load was 826 megawatts. "That's the highest load we've seen so far this summer."

Generally, customers in the Central Square area lost power, O'Malley. About two-thirds of the MIT campus suffered from the blackout, according to Thomas E.

Shepherd Jr., Physical Plant's Associate Director of Engineering and Utilities.

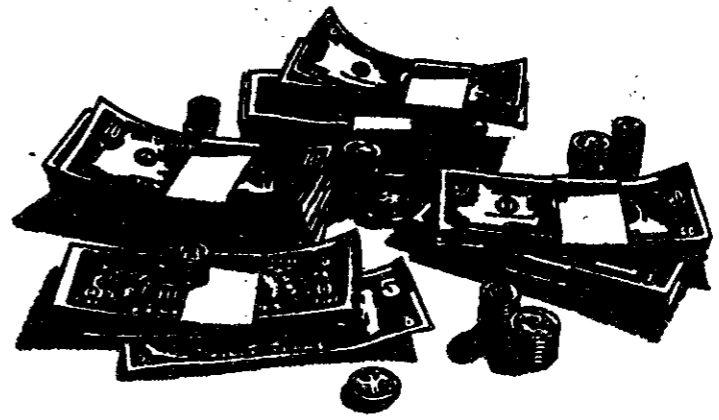
"It was generally to the west of Ames Street," Shepherd said. "I didn't here of any damage to any equipment."

Firefighters and campus police responded to several emergency calls as a result of the power failure. The calls were a result of alarm systems sending false alarms.

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Jim's Journal

by Jim

Steve asked me to come to a baseball game today.

Steve isn't really a baseball fan or anything, but we decided it would be fun.

We sat and talked during the slow parts of the game.

Once, people started booing and Steve yelled, "Ya bum!"

I went out into the woods today.

I hiked around and looked at trees and stuff.

I tried to veer off the path once in a while, but the underbrush was too thick.

When I got home I plucked burrs and other things from my shoes.

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