

Erulkar Testifies in Harassment Suit Against MIT, Sloan's Bitran

By Brian Rosenberg
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Marina R. Erulkar SM '92 is expected to testify in court today that Professor of Management Gabriel R. Bitran kissed her three times while she worked in his office as an administrative assistant. Erulkar began her testimony yesterday, the fourth day of her sexual harassment suit against Bitran and MIT.

Erulkar claims that Bitran sexually harassed her, both by kissing her and by excessively probing into her personal life. She also claims that MIT is responsible for Bitran's actions and alleges that the Institute failed to properly handle her complaint.

In her suit, Erulkar seeks both compensatory and punitive damages. Under state law, however, she can not sue for a specific amount. Instead, the jury will determine whether and in what amount damages should be awarded. A decision is expected later this week.

Judge Elizabeth Butler is presid-

ing over the trial, which is being argued at Middlesex County Superior Court.

Kisses not disputed

All parties agree that Bitran kissed Erulkar while he was her boss. At issue, however, is the frequency and manner of the kisses.

"The discrepancy in testimony concerns both when the exchanges took place . . . and whether [the kisses] were unilaterally given or were an exchange," said John Kahn, Bitran's attorney.

Last week, Bitran testified that he kissed her three times and that the kisses were friendly, instantaneous, and took place with closed lips and no other bodily contact.

Bitran also testified that each of the three times he kissed her was a "special occasion." The first of these was Dec. 29, 1989, the last day of work before the New Year. The other two were on Jan. 29, her birthday, and in March, when she found out she had been admitted to the master's degree program at Sloan.

Erulkar is expected to give a different account of the kisses today. Her attorney, Barbara Johnson, said Erulkar will testify that the second and third kisses took place later than Bitran recalls, and that they were not associated with any notable occasion.

However, Bitran's attorney said "it is not clear from [Erulkar's] deposition whether she is sure" about any kiss beyond the first.

Erulkar is also expected to testify that she explicitly told Bitran that his behavior was unacceptable and that she considered it sexual harassment.

Erulkar worked for Bitran

Erulkar began working in Bitran's office as a temporary secretarial employee in the middle of 1988. She became a full-time administrative assistant in July 1989, working for Bitran, Area Administrator Kim C. LePage, and as an accountant for a small fund.

Trial, Page 6

Interest in Self-Defense Classes Up

By Eva Moy
NEWS EDITOR

Enrollment and interest in MIT and Campus Police self-defense and personal safety classes has risen, perhaps in response to what has so far been an unusually violent semester.

About 20 people registered for a self-defense physical education class last night, twice the number that completed the class last spring, according to physical education staff. This is the second time the class has been offered for PE credit.

The self-defense class is designed to make students aware of their environment and to provide hands-on training. Students actually know "what it's going to feel like" to be confronted in a dangerous situation, said class organizers.

In part of the class, the instructor dons a padded, full-body "Red Man" suit and teaches students how to fight and hit an opponent. The teacher acts as an assailant and the students learn how to escape safely

from an attack situation.

Campus Police officers advise that a person confronted by a possible assailant should first try to avoid the situation. "If you see somebody coming at you, go the other way," said Sergeant Steven Daley, who teaches self-defense to police officers.

Otherwise, the person should be "the best witness possible" by judging the attacker's height and noting what he or she is wearing, said Sergeant Cheryl Vossmer.

"The Campus Police recommend that you cooperate" rather than resist an assailant, Daley added.

Other disciplines, especially the martial arts, emphasize fighting back. For example, Tae Kwon Do teaches offensive and defensive techniques, according to Daley. However, these techniques should be used according to a person's skill, confidence, and experience in fighting.

Self-defense classes, on the other hand, teach people skills that they

can master immediately, Daley said.

The increased awareness about personal safety is heartening, Daley said. "This is our community. I personally don't like to see people become victims," Daley said.

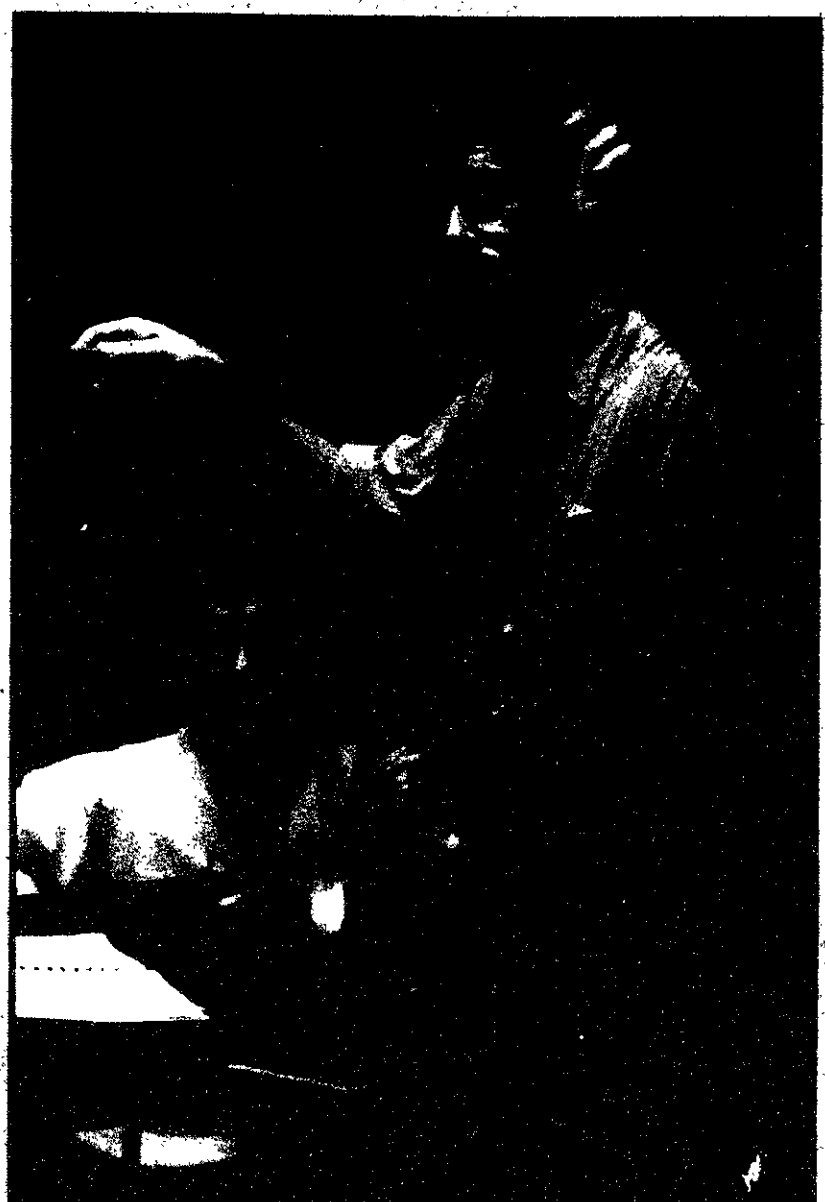
People interested in self-defense can take advantage of a variety of safety programs offered by the Campus Police and other organizations around Boston and Cambridge.

Streetwise and Safe

Daley and Vossmer are also bringing the safety message to students through a Campus Police presentation called "Streetwise and Safe." Through primarily a lecture format, it touches on defensive striking and confrontation techniques. However, these techniques usually cannot be practiced during the presentation because of the large audience size, Vossmer said.

"I don't care if there are five

Safety, Page 6



YUEH Z. LEE—THE TECH
MIT's new Symphony Orchestra Conductor David Commanday leads his musicians through a practice last week.

Commanday Takes Over As Symphony Director

By Hyun Soo Kim
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT Symphony Orchestra gave its first performance with a new guest conductor, David Commanday, on Saturday night. Director David Epstein, who suffered whiplash injuries in a car accident two weeks ago, will not return until the spring semester.

Commanday is now in his fourth season as the Music Director of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras. He is also Music Director of the Mozart Society Orchestra at Harvard University and guest conductor of the Boston University Chamber Orchestra.

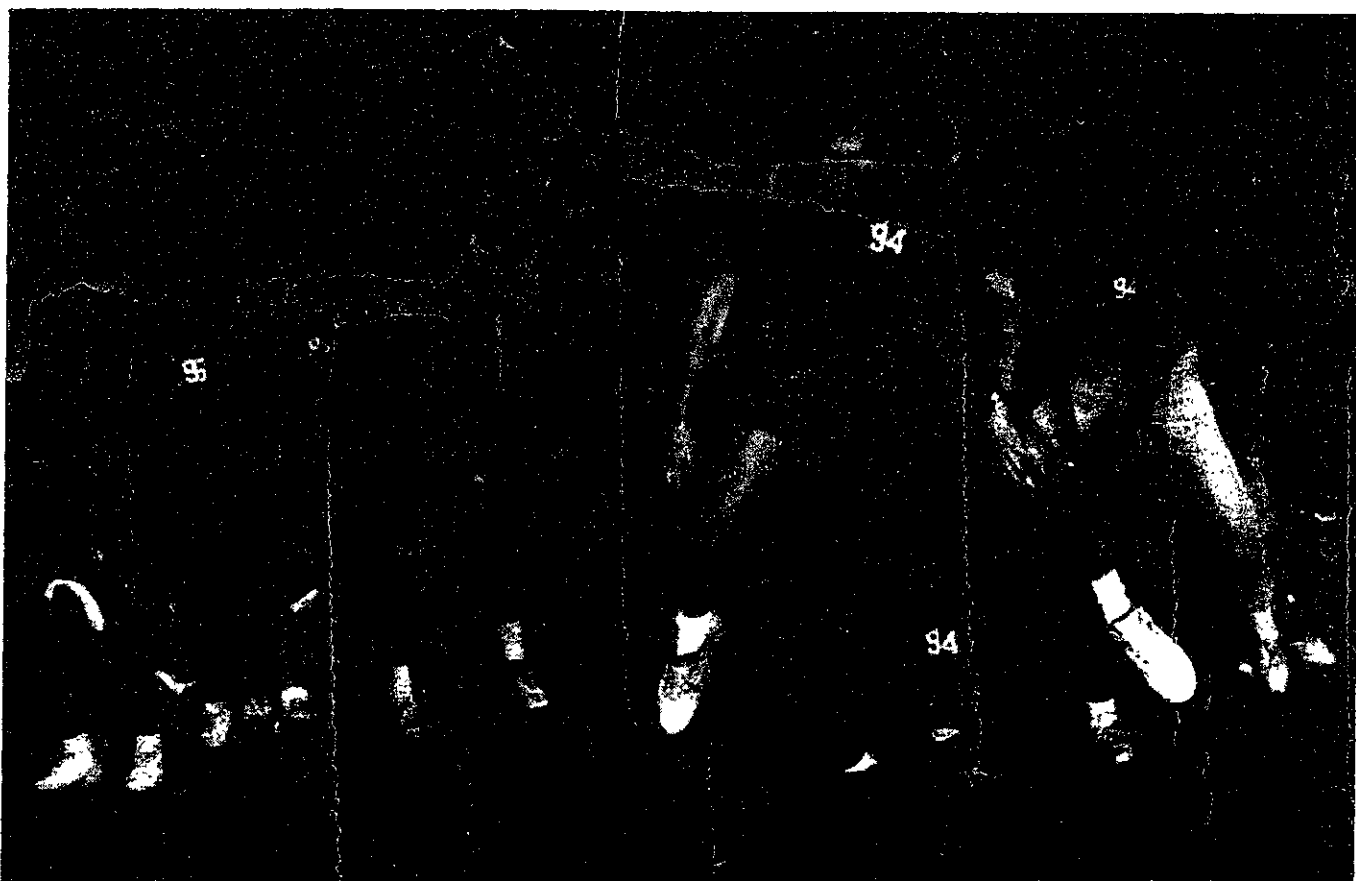
"We are very fortunate to have him on such short notice. David has a strong background with GBYSO and experience with students," said Nancy E. Cavanagh, an administrative officer in the MIT Music Office.

"He knows about inspiring student musicians," agreed Parker E. Monroe, Executive Director of GBYSO.

Currently conducting five orchestras at three universities, Commanday has "discovered that the atmosphere of the universities

Symphony, Page 7

Students Leapfrog, Build Human Pyramids in Battle of the Classes



YUEH Z. LEE—THE TECH
The Class of 1994 leads the sophomores in the leap frog competition. Despite their efforts and those of the freshmen, the Class of 1993 triumphed for the second consecutive year.

By Sarah Y. Keightley
NEWS EDITOR

For the second year in a row, the Class of 1993 was victorious in Saturday afternoon's Battle of the Classes. About 110 students battled it out in the Johnson Athletic Center by playing leapfrog, stuffing marshmallows into their mouths, and building human pyramids while getting to know their classmates.

The Class Council sponsored the second annual Battle of the Classes to foster class spirit. Students were divided by class, then subdivided into smaller teams.

The first event was a three-legged relay race, followed by a game of leapfrog, an obstacle course, a marshmallow-stuffing contest, and pyramid-building. Classes were awarded 30 points for a first-place finish in a competition, 20 points for second place, ten points for third place, and zero points for last place. This year the seniors came out first overall, the juniors were second, the sophomores were third, and the freshmen were fourth.

After the competition, students helped themselves to free food and drinks. Also, several gift certificates were given away in a free raffle.

Classmates get to mix

Sophia Yen '93, senior class treasurer, came up with the idea for Battle of the Classes last year. "My goal in making Battle of the Classes was to promote class spirit and class unity," she said. Furthermore, the Class Council wanted to create more interaction between students from the same class. "We often identify with our living group, fraternity, sorority, or clubs, but we do not identify with our class," she said.

Another purpose was for students to have fun and to relieve stress, Yen added.

"I thought it was an interesting and fun way to meet people. I'm glad I went," said competitor Abram P. Dancy '95.

Rence E. Garcia '96, who also

Battle, Page 7

WORLD & NATION

Attacks in Middle East Continue Despite Negotiations

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

The attack came at mid-day. Out of an alley, gunmen poured automatic weapons fire into the Israeli army's rooftop outpost at the Cave of the Patriarchs, a site holy to Muslims and Jews, in the West Bank town of Hebron, killing one soldier and wounding another. The assailants fled in a car.

Almost three hours later, a roadside bomb in southern Lebanon detonated just as a convoy of trucks rumbled by, sending lethal shards of metal into the air, killing five Israeli soldiers and wounding five others.

And Monday, in retaliation for the roadside blast, Israeli forces bombed and shelled villages in southern Lebanon north of the area Israel occupies as a self-declared "security zone." Reports from the area said the attacks killed one civilian and injured 11 people.

The attacks on Sunday were carried out by separate Arab groups, but together with Monday's Israeli retaliation they underscored a painful reality of the Middle East peace talks that began a year ago at the Madrid conference. Although Israel, a Palestinian delegation and the neighboring Arab states are now at the bargaining table in Washington discussing peace, here in the Middle East there are armies, militias and individuals still fighting a series of deadly day-to-day conflicts.

Perot Steps Up Advertising Blitz

THE WASHINGTON POST

Ross Perot Monday stepped up the most expensive advertising blitz in presidential campaign history, putting nine new 30- and 60-second spots on the air in addition to his already formidable arsenal of half-hour commercials.

In the new ads, Perot takes dead aim at the news media, the two political parties and the argument that a vote for him would be wasted. "You got to stop letting these people tell you who to vote for," he says in one spot. "You got to stop letting these folks in the press tell you you're throwing your vote away. You got to start using your own head."

But Perot's paid media efforts could well be overshadowed by the harsh news coverage of his charges on "60 Minutes" Sunday that President Bush's campaign secretly plotted to disrupt his daughter's wedding and wiretap his office. "He came across on '60 Minutes' like a kook, a wealthy nut," said Democratic consultant Mark Mellman.

Money appears to be no object. Perot has donated almost \$10.8 million to his campaign in the last 12 days, an aide said Monday, although the Federal Election Commission hasn't received any of the required notifications.

The rule, designed to let the public know the source and amount of late donations, says any contribution of \$1,000 or more must be reported to the FEC within 48 hours. Perot spokeswoman Sharon Holman said Monday night that the reports "have been sent."

A Confident Yeltsin Shrugs Off Recent Anti-Reform Protests

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Shrugging off as "hysteria" the anti-reform protests conducted across Russia last weekend, a feisty President Boris N. Yeltsin voiced confidence in his government Monday and said that he saw "no political earthquakes" on the horizon.

But Yeltsin cautioned that changes were entirely possible in acting Prime Minister Yegor T. Gaidar's Cabinet, implying that he may fire some ministers to stem a rising wave of political opposition before the Russian Congress of People's Deputies meets on Dec. 1.

"I cannot exclude changes in personnel before the Congress, but hope they will not be radical," Gaidar himself said Sunday.

But Yeltsin's comments appeared to rule out a wholesale replacement of Gaidar's team of bright young economists now struggling to build capitalism in Russia; they are said by their enemies to be selling Russia out to the West and reducing its populace to poverty.

Yeltsin's remarks, reported by the Itar-Tass news agency, came as he met with American financiers and bankers in the Kremlin to try and spur commercial exchanges between the countries. In particular, the news agency said, Yeltsin reiterated support for forging a democratic, market-driven Russia, assuring his guests that "the strategy of reform is unchanged."

WEATHER

Quiet Autumn Weather

By Michael Morgan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A weak cold front will continue south of the area today as colder air drifts into the area on light northwest winds. High pressure building in the area during the period will be associated with fair weather through mid Thursday. A cyclone approaching the Mid Atlantic coast from the Midwest threatens to bring cold, stormy weather to the area late Thursday into early Saturday.

Today: Partly cloudy. Cool. High 56°F (13°C).

Tonight: Clear and chilly. Low around 39°F (4°C).

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and cool. High 53°F (12°C). Low 35-40°F (2-4°C).

Thursday: Increasing clouds. Rain may arrive late in the day. High near 50°F (10°C).

Analysts Unsure Which Party Will Lose More Votes to Perot

By Robert Shogan
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

As the struggle for the White House enters its final week, a surge of support for independent candidate Ross Perot is generating uncertainty over the outcome and forcing the high commands of both major party candidates to review their battle plans.

Support for the maverick billionaire has roughly doubled as a result of his bravura performance in the televised campaign debates, and his supporters claim he can keep on climbing.

But Perot may have hurt his own cause Sunday by making new charges of "dirty tricks" against the Bush campaign and thus stirring a controversy that could distract attention from the stringent economic remedies and government reforms he is advocating.

On the other hand, analysts say such idiosyncratic behavior is probably part of Perot's gadfly appeal to the discontented voters who have flocked to his banner. They seem more concerned about sending a message of protest than they are about the Texas tycoon's suitability for the Oval Office.

At any rate, Perot's candidacy confronts both Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and President Bush with a conundrum.

"Everybody is wringing their hands over Perot," says Carl Wagner, a veteran Democratic strategist and a Clinton adviser.

Though Clinton still holds the lead in the polls, several surveys indicate his margin is narrowing. His strategists fear that if Perot makes inroads into his support the Texas billionaire could shift certain key states — Michigan, Ohio and Colorado among them — into Bush's column, paving the way for a come-from-behind Bush victory.

If the Arkansas governor follows his present course of focusing on Bush and all but ignoring Perot, he runs the risk that Perot's support will continue to grow.

But confronting him directly could boomerang by making Perot more prominent and making Clinton vulnerable to counterattacks.

"The danger in trying to point out Perot's weaknesses is that Perot can point out Clinton's weaknesses," says Democratic consultant Saul Shorr. "He can go back to his debate arguments and say, 'If Bill Clinton is president, there'll be no real change.' If Clinton takes him on, he gives Perot the ability to do that."

Some Democrats counsel a middle course. "I don't think he wants to have a shootout with Ross Perot, but it is important for him to point out the differences," said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman, who conducts surveys in several key states for the Clinton campaign.

Along those lines, Mickey Kantor, chairman of the Clinton campaign, charged on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday that Perot would raise taxes on the middle class and elderly. "That's where Bill Clinton and Ross Perot depart," he said.

Among Republicans there is also uncertainty about the impact of Perot's role in the campaign and how to deal with it, as reflected by Bush's tactics on the stump. After attacking Perot one day last week for having "nutty ideas," Bush reserved his fire for Clinton for the next two days, then hit back Sunday at the charges of foul play that Perot made against the GOP.

Bush pollster Fred Steeper argues that the president will be the chief beneficiary of further gains by Perot, because they will be made at Clinton's expense.

"Our polls show that Clinton has a ton of soft supporters whose sec-

ond choice is Perot," Steeper said. Though Perot's early post-debate gains came from both major-party candidates, Steeper calculates that further increases in Perot's support will come from Clinton rather than Bush by a ratio of 9-5.

Helping the trend along, Steeper believes, will be the widespread belief that Clinton is the likely winner. "The media is convincing people that Clinton has already won, so they can go into the voting booth and vote for Perot in protest and think it would be a free vote."

But GOP pollster Vince Bugfio, who worked for Bush's 1988 campaign, thinks that "in the short run" Perot poses a bigger threat to Bush than to Clinton. "A lot of his support comes from Republicans who say, 'I have to take a look at this guy,'" Bugfio said. "In the debate he told about how 'I can deal with the deficit. I can deal with a government gone away.' This is meat and potatoes mainstream Republican stuff."

One thing on which nearly all political professionals agree: Despite the recent lull, Perot has little chance of winning the White House. In fact, some of Perot's own supporters view him more as a vehicle for protest than as a potential chief executive.

Take Agustin Marten of Clifton, N.J., a 1988 Bush voter who intends to cast a protest vote for Perot. Marten, who was part of a Los Angeles Times polling sample and agreed to talk to a reporter, complains that "it took Mr. Bush too long to realize we were in a recession" and finds "too many inconsistencies" in Clinton's explanations of his personal life.

"I'm throwing my vote away," Marten said grimly. But would she still vote for Perot if she thought he had a realistic chance of winning? "My God no!" she said.

Bush Campaign Denounces Perot as 'Paranoid, Delusional'

By Karen Hosler

THE BALTIMORE SUN

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

The Bush campaign Monday denounced Ross Perot as a "paranoid person who has delusions" at the same time President Bush was making a pitch for wavering Perot backers.

With just a week to go before the election, Bush outlined a "conservative activist" plan for dealing with the economy that he says a second-term executive is best able to achieve.

Struggling to break through the apparent ceiling on his support, Bush was trying to give voters still hesitant about their choice of either Perot or Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, the Democratic nominee, a positive reason for his re-election.

"As the support for Ross Perot has made clear, there is a strong desire for a new coalition in America to get the job done," Bush told a convention of Ace Hardware store owners and vendors in Denver. "The best time to move is when you are re-elected. No more elections ahead. No worry about the future politics. Just get the people's business done fast."

Bush promised to "move quickly to respond to the demands of the people" by meeting with members of the new Congress immediately after their election Tuesday to "shape a legislative package in a way that will guarantee swift pas-

sage."

Despite years of gridlock with the Democratic-led Congress, Bush said he would meet with those leaders to "form a steering group that can ride herd over Congress ... If we can mobilize for war, if we can mobilize for hurricanes, we can mobilize for our economy."

As a first step, he promised immediately after the election to assemble a special "defense conversion council" to ease the industrial transition from Cold War to peace with a minimum of disruption to the work force.

But while Bush was paying tribute to the movement for change that inspired Perot's independent candidacy, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater was denouncing the Texas billionaire as "a crazy man" and a "paranoid person who has delusions" because of the unsubstantiated dirty-tricks charges Perot has leveled against the Bush campaign.

The Bush campaign fears that if even a small percentage of voters believe the charges, the president will be unfairly hurt.

Fitzwater said that Perot has not "offered one shred of evidence" and yet "this man who might be president of the United States continues to make these ludicrous charges. ... He seems to have latched onto this theory much like other people latch onto UFO theories."

Campaign spokeswoman Torie Clarke, who complained that Bush's

message was being lost in the Perot "dirty tricks" fever, appealed to reporters to either find some proof of Perot's accusations or "quit giving it a platform."

Bush, whose approach to economic issues relies primarily on tax incentives to stimulate private investment, in Denver said that the choice between himself and Clinton, the front-runner, was not between "activity and passivity," as many voters believe.

"The real choice is between a liberal activist government that seeks to impose solutions on individuals, families and the private sector — and a conservative activist government that gives individuals, businesses and families the means to make their own choices through competition and economic opportunity," he said.

Later, at a rally in Albuquerque, Bush told several hundred supporters that Clinton has "no feeling for foreign allies or defense."

"He was the guy that said the Patriot missile was the one that goes down chimneys. Governor, that is Santa Claus."

The Patriot shot down Scud missiles during the Persian Gulf war, but its real "target" is "anybody" that seeks out targets.

"I mean, come on," Bush continued as the crowd cheered. "This guy wants to be commander-in-chief, and he doesn't know the difference between a Patriot and Santa Claus."

Bosnia's Muslims Find No Country Will Rescue Them

By Roy Gutman

NEWSDAY

TRNOPOLJE, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The outdoor privies overflow with human waste, and inside the cold and dirty elementary school building across the muddy schoolyard there is no running water. The refugees have only straw, cardboard and thin blankets to sleep on.

"Perfect conditions for an epidemic," commented Dr. Jack Geiger, a professor of community medicine at the City University of New York, on a visit last week.

But for 3,500 Muslims who pack the squalid former concentration camp, Trnopolje is the last hope of escaping from the bloodletting in northern Bosnia. That civilians would seek refuge at the place where witnesses say hundreds were murdered and raped by Serbs last summer testifies to their desperation.

They flocked here in hopes they might follow the 1,571 survivors of

two death camps who were transported from Trnopolje to Croatia at the beginning of October. But coming here was a miscalculation. For today, there is no exit from Bosnia.

"The world really doesn't care. Nobody wants the Muslims," said an official of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "It is very reminiscent of World War II. Nobody wanted the Jews or even to make a fuss about 'the Final Solution' because then they would have to take them in as refugees."

The Trnopolje refugees share the plight of the Bosnian nation, which, having been recognized by the United States and European nations last spring, now appears to have been abandoned to its fate.

After raising an outcry in August over atrocities in Serbian camps, Western nations will not open their doors even to survivors of the camps. As a result, the Swiss-based

International Red Cross suspended plans to liberate Monday as many as 10,000 still being held.

With no certainty about rescuing the former detainees, aid officials have all but abandoned hope of doing anything soon for the expellees who crowd Trnopolje even though the officials agree they are refugees by any definition of the word. Instead, in a remarkable departure from their usual reserve, they say the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia is at the point where it can be solved only through the use of outside force.

"They have never seen suffering on this scale when no one seemed to care," said Geiger, who visited northern Bosnia with Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the U.N. special investigator on human rights.

Meanwhile, the Serbs, blamed by the international community for initiating the violence, exude confidence even as they step up the terror tactics that comprise "ethnic cleans-

ing" against the 150,000 non-Serbs still living in northern Bosnia.

Radomir Kasic, a Banja Luka official who hosted Mazowiecki on his tour, caustically remarked to reporters accompanying Mazowiecki to Trnopolje last week that Muslim civilians came here "thinking they would have a free ticket to paradise."

Actually, the reasons were mundane. "Our houses have been destroyed and pillaged. My friends have been killed. We had to get out," Erna Muric, a 21-year-old woman from Prijedor, said. Others said that non-Serbs were no longer allowed to use public transportation for the seven-mile trip into Prijedor, although women are allowed to walk the distance in order to forage for food.

Others came because they were "cleansed" from homes they had built after years of working abroad. "I was an honest worker. I fed my family until I was forced out of my

house," Hasan Dzonlagic, 29, said. "Now they (the Serbs) live in my house. They drive my car. All I have left is the head on my shoulders. But what use is that because I have nothing else?"

The camp director, Pero Curguz, confirmed that Serbs from the town of Bugojno in Croatian-controlled Bosnia had moved into Dzonlagic's house and those of other refugees here, including some from Trnopolje itself.

The school is too small to house all who seek refuge, and one group of about 180 are living in a barnlike building of about 18 by 25 feet. About 100 of them huddle in small family groups on the concrete ground floor and about 80 are in a loft. They have one primitive heater downstairs, and only blankets and cardboard on the ground floor and the upstairs floorboards to stop the draft. Rain drips through gaps in the tile roof, and there is no place for all to stretch out at night.

Balancing Act for Britain's Major Over Maastricht

By Eugene Robinson

THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

Prime Minister John Major played a game of political brinkmanship in an attempt to regain control of events Monday, as government spokesmen refused to rule out the possibility that Major would call a general election if he is defeated in a vote in Parliament next week on European union.

The willingness of officials to think the unthinkable — that Major would go back to the voters at a time when his popularity is at an all-time low — was a measure of how firmly Major has linked his political

future to the fate of the Maastricht Treaty, a blueprint for European political and economic union.

A vocal minority of Major's Conservative Party opposes the treaty, but Major has vowed to bring it before Parliament next week.

In reaction to another disputed action by Major, a crowd estimated at 150,000 marched through central London Sunday to protest his announcement of mine closings and to demand aggressive government action to bring Britain out of recession. Polls last week showed him with the lowest approval ratings of any prime minister since such surveys began.

Major apparently has decided to make his stand at Maastricht. Saying that his honor and Britain's economic prospects are at stake, he has defied the Conservative "Euroskeptics" in Parliament by seeking early approval for the treaty.

Rumors that Major might call a general election if he is defeated in a preliminary vote on the treaty began circulating over the weekend, to the dismay of Conservatives on both sides of the issue. "The prime minister's aides must stop bullying the Tory party with threats of extinction," Sir George Gardiner, a Conservative member of Parlia-

ment, told the Times of London. "Our duty is to vote as we see the country's interests."

But Monday, in a briefing for reporters, government spokesmen refused to budge. When given the opportunity to quash all talk of an early election — Major is not obliged to hold elections until 1997 — a spokesman declined to do so, telling reporters they should draw their own conclusions.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd refused to "add to speculation of what might happen if the government retreated on this issue," but added that the Maastricht Treaty

was "a central part of the government's program and will be treated as such."

The Labor Party is more pro-Europe than the Conservative and in a vote on the treaty would almost be compelled to support the government. But there were signs Monday that the party was seeking a way to justify voting against Major.

"He hasn't got the confidence of his party," said John Prescott, a member of Labor's shadow cabinet. "He certainly hasn't got the confidence of the country and he is not entitled to the confidence of the opposition. So our job would be to vote against such a confidence motion."

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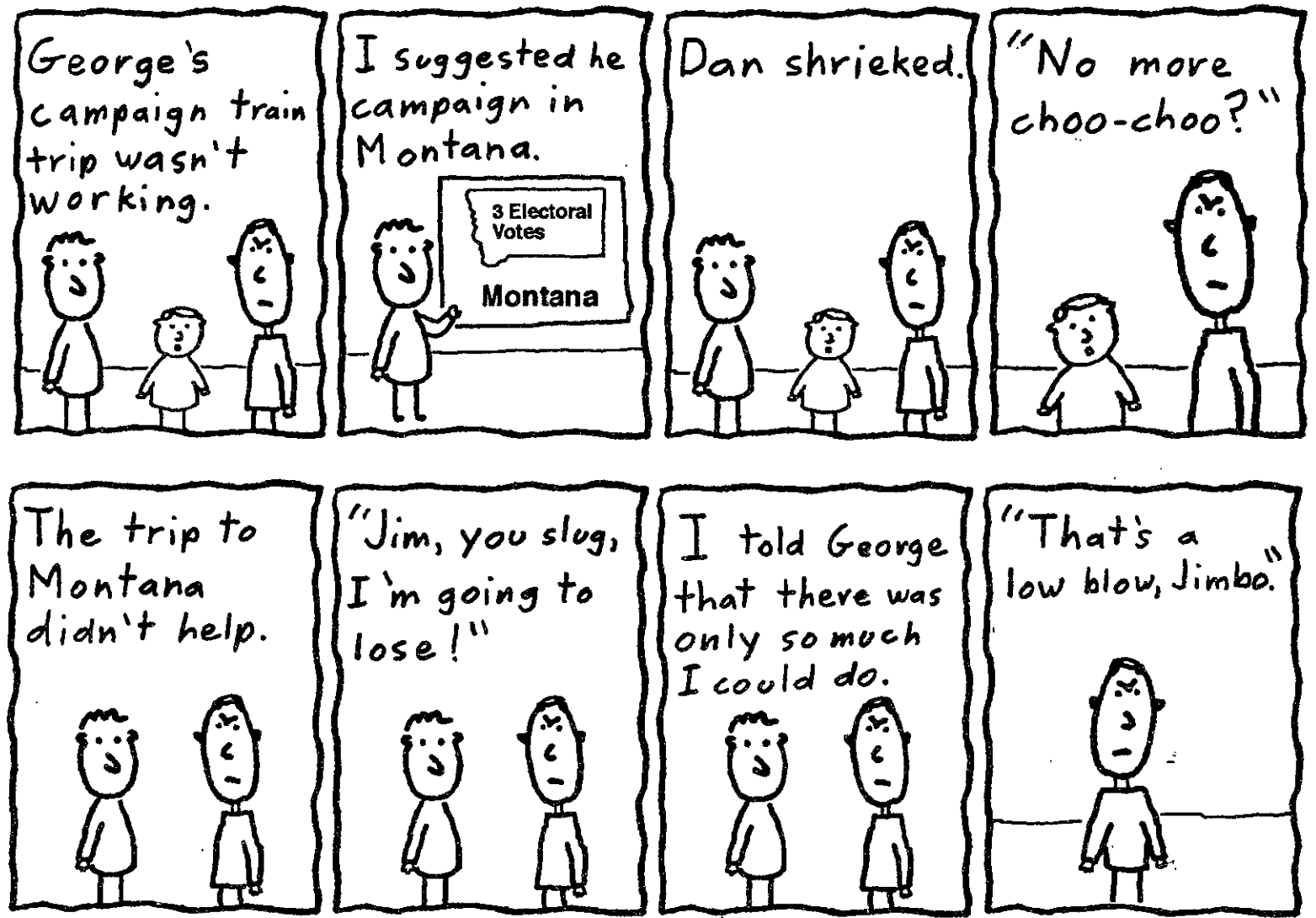
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Jim Baker's Journal by Matthew H. Hersch with apologies to Onion Features Syndicate



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HR 1300: A Third Health Care Alternative

I am writing this letter in response to the article cataloging the three major presidential candidates' positions on various issues ["Where The Candidates Stand," Oct. 23]. In describing Bill Clinton's and George Bush's plans for health care reforms, the articles were certainly accurate. However, it should be pointed out that there is a third alternative, which, in my opinion, would truly ensure that all Americans receive proper and adequate health services while controlling health care costs, which stand at near 14% of GNP and are rising.

This alternative has been proposed by Representative Monty Russo (D-III.) as "Universal Health Care Act of 1991," HR1300. Bill Clinton's position on health care reforms has evolved over the course of the campaign and it is important that those who believe in health care for all Americans make his campaign aware of their support for this universal health care plan.

Minghsun Liu '94

A Safe Ride Incident

I was rather amused when I read the recent article concerning the expansion of the program A Safe Ride, ["Institute to Double Safe Ride Program," Oct. 23] because of something I witnessed last week.

One evening, I was returning to Random

Hall from campus soon after sundown. Standing at the front door were three people waiting for a Safe Ride van which was across the street to turn around and come pick them up. The driver leaned out the window, called to the people waiting, and told them to cross the street to board the van. They called back and said there were too many cars for them to cross the street, and the driver very rudely yelled back that if they wanted the van to come across to the other side of the street, they would have to turn it around themselves,

since he wasn't going to — on account of the dense traffic.

I have no idea what the outcome of this situation was, since I went inside at that point. When I read the article, however, I quickly remembered the incident. How do the Campus Police plan to encourage use of the shuttle service if their drivers are rude and refuse to perform the job we are paying them for, namely to promote the safety of MIT students?

Kevin Lynch '96

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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.

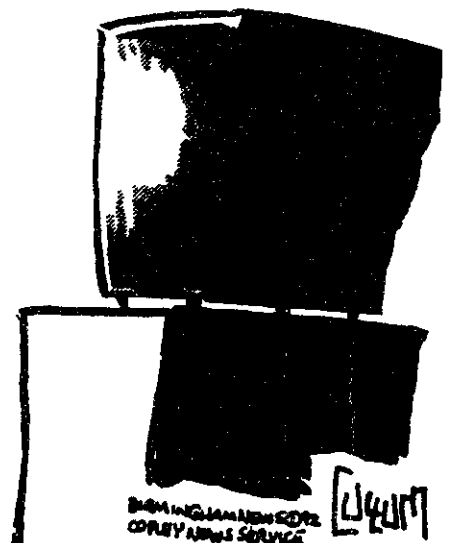
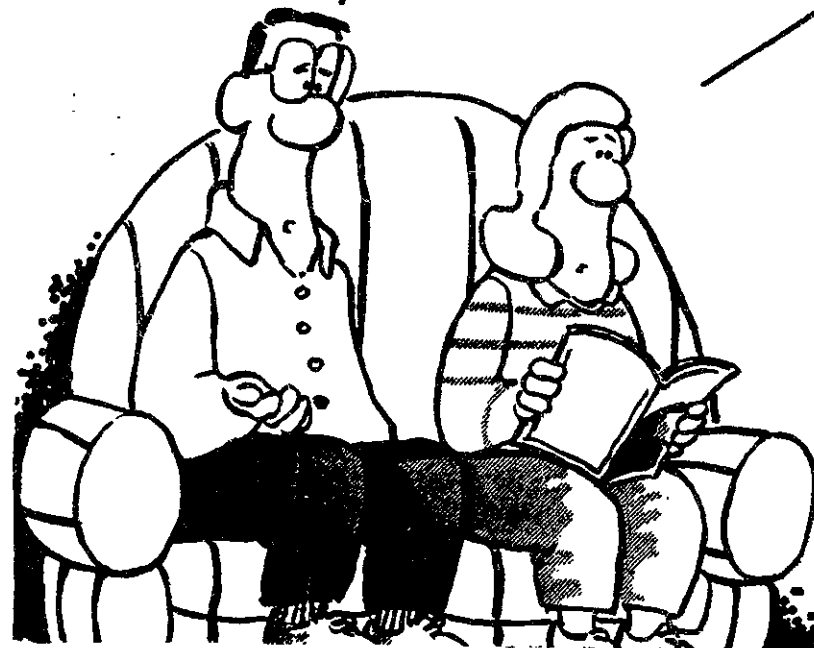
Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

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 letters@the-tech.mit.edu. 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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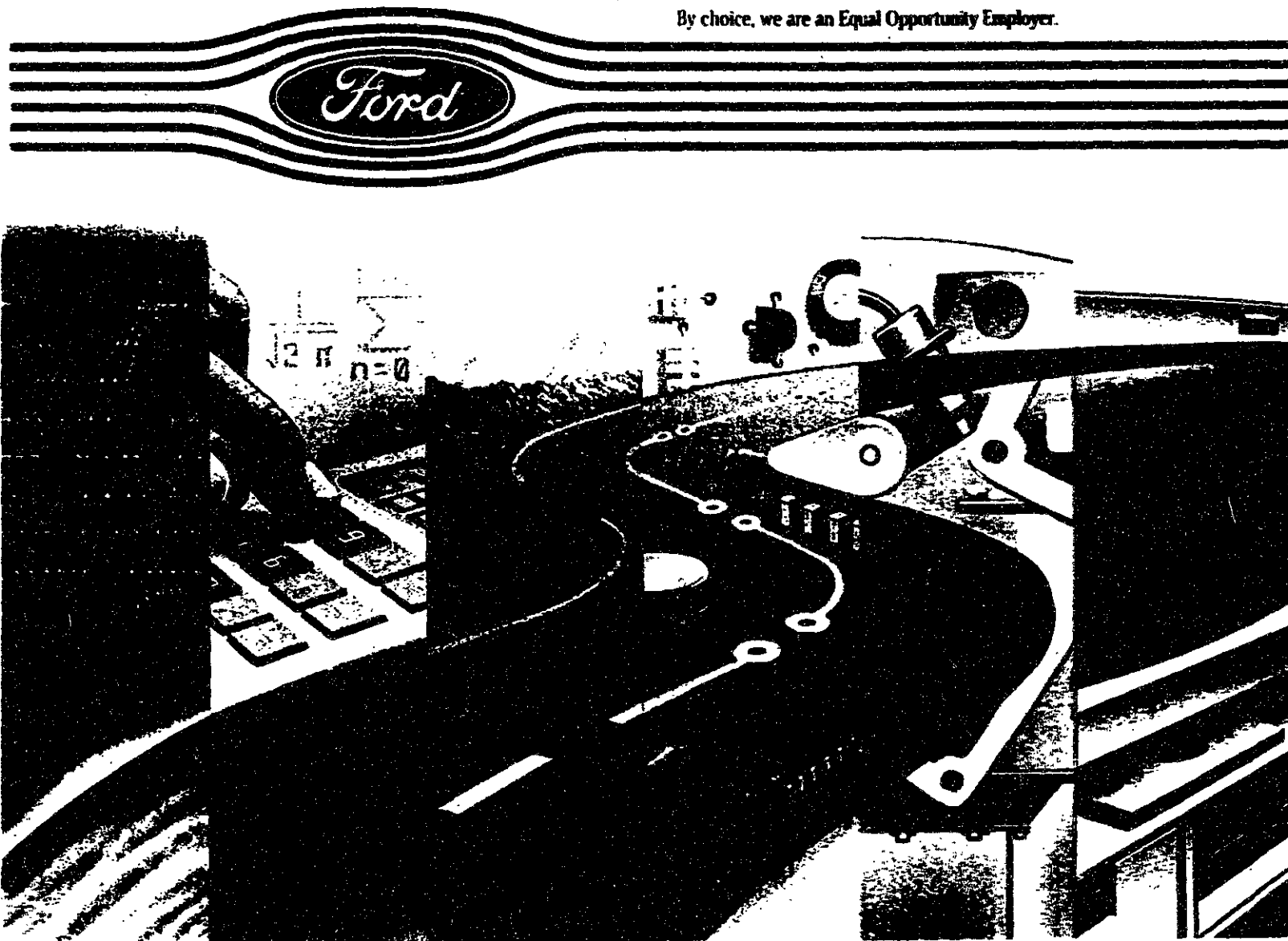
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Housing and Community Affairs Committee, Graduate Student Council

More Students Seek Self-Defense Classes

Safety, from Page 1

people or 55 people in the audience," she said. "Hopefully I have made a difference in one person's life" by speaking to many groups.

Daley said the classes teach students "to be very aware" and to build self-confidence. He added that to be as safe as possible, people should be very familiar with their environment, the campus, and alternate routes to their destination.

"Visualize in your mind what you're going to do in a situation" before anything happens, Daley emphasized. He likened this process to studying for an academic test, when students anticipate the types of questions they are likely to see. "Here's your exam on survival," Daley said.

Vossmer said people could protect themselves against "crimes of opportunity" with their body language. Criminals will watch whether a potential victim is paying attention, listening to a personal stereo, or looking at the ground while walking. "Awareness and body language should be synonymous," she said.

Vossmer warned against carrying incapacitating weapons, such as mace. She said that in Massachusetts, students need to obtain special training and a firearms identification card from a city police department in order to carry such devices.

Instead, she suggested carrying whistles, noisemakers, or shrill alarms instead and practicing their use.

Rowe Takes the Stand In Harassment Trial

Trial, from Page 1

Erulkar testified yesterday that at work, she spent about 85 percent of her time with Bitran. She also said she often worked at the office from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. three days a week and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

Bitran testified last week that he and Erulkar enjoyed a close working relationship. He praised her professional ability, saying she was very talented and had great potential.

Erulkar also said Bitran insisted that she share information about her personal life because of the long hours they spent working together, but she said she put off discussing it until the fall of 1989. She then told him that her sister had been ill recently and that this illness did not affect her work, and that her personal life therefore had no bearing on her work and should not be discussed.

Erulkar soon became interested in entering the master's program at Sloan, and Bitran advised her on what classes to take. He also gave her sample corporate case analyses to perform as an example of the type of work she would be required to do in the program.

Rowe forced to testify

Special Assistant to the President Mary P. Rowe, who serves as an ombudsman at MIT, testified that Erulkar and LePage came to her office to discuss the situation. Rowe also said she told the pair that her position as an adjunct professor in Sloan could cause a conflict of interest, and that as a result she could not serve as an ombudsman in the case. However, Rowe said she told them she would still describe the various options available to Erulkar.

Rowe also testified about the procedure for handling complaints within MIT and gave general information on the number and kinds of complaints she and fellow ombuds-

man Clarence G. Williams handle.

Rowe's testimony was surrounded by the issue of whether she would testify about the specifics of this case. As an ombudsman, Rowe has in the past asserted a judicial privilege not to testify because her position requires extreme confidentiality. In her nearly 20 years as ombudsman, this is the first time she has been forced to testify in court.

"It has always been important both to Dr. Rowe and to MIT to have a place where strict confidentiality is maintained," said Carl Valvo, Rowe's personal attorney. Valvo said Judge Butler "expressed her sympathy with Dr. Rowe's concerns as an ombudsman," but because the ombudsman's privilege has not been recognized in Massachusetts, Rowe was compelled to testify.

"There are several reasons I didn't want to testify," Rowe said during a recess. "First, my testifying erodes the appearance of maintaining confidentiality in my office. Second, if my testimony is used against the plaintiff, no one is going to come see me anymore. Third, I can serve as a neutral party in disputes within MIT, but in an external situation such as this, it's much harder because I am a paid employee of MIT," she said.

Poster causes concern

When the case began last week, all lawyers in the case were concerned about the possible reaction to flyers that appeared on campus. The flyers advertised "The Case of the Kissing Professor" and gave the times and location of the trial.

"The trial is public, but we were a little fearful of a demonstration of some sort," Johnson said. The trial proceeded without incident last week, however.

Steve Cooke and Doug Wyatt, members of the Alternative News Collective, contributed to the reporting of this story.



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Commanday Takes Over as MIT Symphony Conductor

Symphony, from Page 1

differ greatly." "MIT students are extremely conscientious about schoolwork. I hope they learn how to use music-making to increase the productivity of their study time. If you go on a different mode for a little while, you return more focused to your studies," he said.

orchestra only 3 1/2 times before Saturday's concert. One rehearsal was incomplete. "I was very impressed by the focus of the musicians in the concert. They were able to transcend practical limitations in the energy and excitement of the performance," said Commanday.

"It was delightful to discover that the MIT Symphony's good reputation was true," he added.

Commanday, who studied the

cello during his undergraduate years, is planning to institute more string sectionals to teach better phrasings of music. "It's my hope that during this time I can offer them my personal approach and style to music-making, particularly for the string players," he said.

Commanday was chosen to

direct the GBYSO director from a pool of 300 applicants in an international search, according to Monroe. Commanday was also one of four young conductors chosen for the American Repertoire Project, which showcases orchestral pieces by American composers. In 1989, he was a finalist in the Leopold

Stokowski Conducting Competition. He has also won many prestigious awards.

"I think he is absolutely sensational. He has a strong classical training from his years in the Vienna Academy of Music, and from his undergraduate years at Harvard," said Monroe.

Class Council Sponsors Battle of the Classes II

Battle, from Page 1

said she had a good time, said her favorite event was the obstacle course because it involved team unity.

Jose J. Pacheco '94 won one of the marshmallow-stuffing competitions. He said he enjoyed meeting people in the other classes. "I wish more people would have participated, but it's a start," he said.

Class Council organized the contest

The junior class officers are responsible for the competition, and the Class Council works to put it together. The Class Council is composed of the officers from all four classes and is charged with promoting spirit, said Frances Hsieh '95, publicity chair for the UA and the sophomore class.

The council brainstormed to come up with events for this year's Battle of the Classes, Hsieh said. They kept the successful activities from last year, such as leapfrog, pyramid-building, and the marsh-

mallow-stuffing contest, she said. The obstacle course was a new event.

According to Yen, about 350 students participated in last year's battle, more than three times as many as this year. Last weekend may have been a bad time because it conflicted with many other activities, such as the Society of Women Engineers' career fair, Yen said.

"I think the people that went had a lot of fun, and that's basically what matters," she said. "I hope more people will choose to participate in the future," she added.

Planning for the competition began as early as May, but things began to come together in September, Yen said. Finding sponsors is the most time-consuming task. This year's biggest sponsors were Kaplan Test Prep, Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society, the Coop, Sears, and Greek Central. Also, Toscanini's provided free ice cream.

"I'm looking forward to doing it again next year," said Hsieh.



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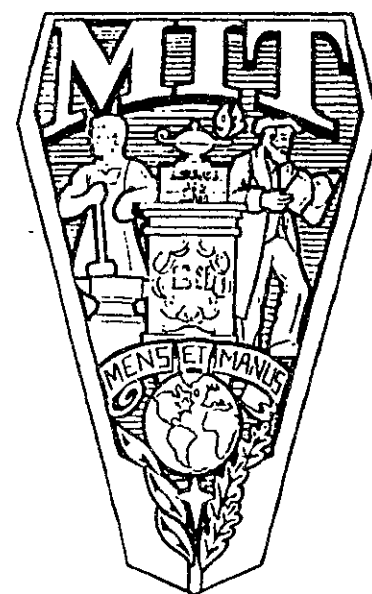
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THE ARTS

MIT Symphony performs well despite conductor change

THE MIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

David Commanday, guest conductor.
Paulina Stark, soprano.
Kresge Auditorium, Oct. 24.

By Joshua Andresen
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT Symphony Orchestra delivered a very enjoyable performance on Friday evening, despite the loss of its regular conductor, David Epstein, only a week before. Epstein was involved in an automobile accident which left him unable to

conduct the symphony. He will return to his conducting position next term.

The first piece performed was Giuseppe Verdi's *Overture to "La Forza del Destino."* The low brass are prominent here, and the symphony's brass section succeeded and failed within the same piece. When playing alone, they had a beautiful, warm tone. When playing over the strings, however, they lost their clean intonation. The strings performed marvelously.

Next, the symphony performed Maurice Ravel's *Shéhérezade*. The biggest problem

with this piece was its lack of balance. The soloist sang beautifully, but had problems competing with the orchestra in an arena the size of Kresge. The violins also seemed to hold back considerably, perhaps in deference to the soloist, or perhaps to counterbalance the 30-to-7 ratio of violins to cellos, which is larger than that of a standard symphony orchestra. In any case, the violins had a thin tone, which detracted from the *Shéhérezade*. Works by Ravel should generally be lush and warm, in keeping with Ravel's turn-of-the-century France environment. The french horn section, composed of only four musicians, played extremely well for its size. The english horn also played well and blended superbly with the soloist.

The showstopper was Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 in E flat, Op. 55 Eroica*. The 50-minute piece was on the whole well-played and even fun to listen to. When the symphony was playing all together,

it had a rich, majestic sound that filled even the remotest corners of Kresge's expanse. When smaller sections played, however, it was apparent that some were not comfortable with their parts. The most glaring example of this was the horn section in the third movement. The same group that played so well in the Ravel piece sounded as though it was groping through the mud in the french horn choir's solo sections. The violin section also ran into intonation problems in the second movement. The statement of the theme at the beginning of the fourth movement was extremely well played, however. Pizzicato strings and the winds engaged in call and response for a chilling effect.

Overall, this was a very enjoyable concert. The symphony tackled some challenging works and succeeded very well, and Commanday did an impressive job considering the short time he had rehearsed with the group.

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By Joshua Andresen
STAFF REPORTER

A Tuna Christmas is an amusing play, but it suffers from its presentation. Sears and Williams deliver hilarious sketches of the 24 residents of Tuna, Texas, but the format resembles a series of disjointed snapshots and lends itself to neither character development nor a coherent plot.

The play is set in Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas. Sears and Williams portray 24 different characters during the course of the play, which involves 47 costume changes in all. The two are entertaining not only with their split-second costume changes, but also with their characterizations of the eccentric Tuna residents. These include Bertha Bumiller, middle-aged mother of three who wonders if her good-for-nothing husband will return for the holiday, and Vera Carp, whose nativity scene includes the

Wisemen, Bing Crosby, and Natalie Wood.

A Tuna Christmas is a sequel to Greater Tuna, which was presented in Boston in 1985. All the characters from the first Tuna return, and a few new ones join the scene. The play is presented in brief sketches containing no more than two characters at a time. Though this format is limiting, it is possible for a coherent, smoothly flowing plot to develop from it. In this play, however, it does not. Sears, Williams, and Howard instead seem more intent on focusing on interplay between the various characters.

In this they do not fail. Sears and Williams are hilarious as they change from petulant teenager to animal activist to used gun salesman. The one-liners and humorous allusions come quickly enough to give a delightful final

product. One particular effect in the second act had the audience laughing for minutes.

A Tuna Christmas is showing at the Schubert Theater now through November 1. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; matinees are Thursday and Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$19.50 to \$34.50 and \$10 student rush tickets are available 30 minutes before all performances except Friday and Saturday evenings.



Joe Sears and Jaston Williams play all of the 24 eccentric characters in A Tuna Christmas.



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ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Excellent
 ★★★: Good
 ★★: Mediocre
 ★: Poor

★★★★ **Blade Runner: The Director's Cut**

The classic film *Blade Runner* celebrates its 10th anniversary with the release of the film director Ridley Scott originally wanted to make, without the annoying voice-over and the upbeat ending. The result is a wonderful, Kubrickian film with a meditative mood and a soaring Vangelis score. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, and Sean Young give career performances in an apocalyptic urban nightmare of the future that was and may still be years ahead of its time. Worth seeing over almost any "new" movie currently playing. *Loews Charles*

★★★½ **Bob Roberts**

Funny and disturbing, this satire of American politics written and directed by its star, Tim Robbins, uses a mock documentary style to chronicle the rise to power of the fictional Bob Roberts. Roberts is a right-wing entertainer, entrepreneur, and political candidate who has adopted folk singing as a medium for his conservative attitudes, and whose only clear beliefs are that individuals should be able to gain as much wealth as they can and that the liberal programs of incumbent Senator Paiste (Gore Vidal) are a waste of money. The film's scathing indictment of candidates and campaigning in the era of entertainment is accurate, hilarious, and troubling. *Loews Nickelodeon*

★★★ **Husbands and Wives**

Bleak and powerful, Woody Allen's new film examines the state of relationships today and decides that unending love is little more than a myth. Shot as a documentary, it follows the members of two marriages as they grow disillusioned with one another and begin to look for happiness elsewhere. Judy Davis gives a wonderfully neurotic comic performance, Sydney Pollack is amazing as a man full of frustration but still deserving pity, and Allen and Mia Farrow appear to be haunted

by pain. The movie is occasionally funny, but it is more convincing when it dramatizes its characters' inability to find fulfillment. *Loews Harvard Square*

★★★★ **School Ties**

This is an amazing film dealing with anti-Semitism in the 1950's. Brendan Fraser delivers a powerful performance as David Greene, who is recruited from a poor town to play football for an elite preparatory school. David at first hides the fact that he is Jewish and fits in well with his new group of friends. When they find out that he is Jewish, each reacts differently. The movie examines different forms of prejudice in the actions of David's friends after their discovery. Overall, the acting is

convincing, the story is feasible, and the moral well presented. The film properly balances a humorous and serious side, yielding a final product that is as meaningful as it is enjoyable to watch. *Loews Copley Place*

★★★ **Singles**

This light and entertaining film focuses on the struggles of six singles in their 20s as they try to understand love and relationships. Steve Cambell, Kyra Sedgwick, Bridget Fonda, and Matt Dillon are all good, the script by director Cameron Crowe is often extremely funny, and Seattle locations and music provide an interesting backdrop. Although it is not as realistic as Crowe's *Say Anything*, the movie is filled with wonderful isolated moments that are

filled with truthful familiarity. *Loews Copley Place*

★★★ **Single White Female**

Strong performances by both Bridget Fonda and Jennifer Jason Leigh and director Barbet Schroeder's interesting use of lighting and color to create a vividly sinister setting start the film off strongly, but the early promise is never followed through. The interesting but glaringly sexist premise is that recently single Fonda has a deep need for companionship and Leigh happily fills the void with a similar but dangerous desire for attention. Eventually formula takes over, but despite a few ridiculous implausibilities, the film remains effective. *Loews Beacon Hill*

★★★ **The Tune**

Animator Bill Plympton's first full length film, involving a young, struggling songwriter who is given a 47-minute deadline, is delightfully enjoyable thanks primarily to Plympton's award-winning animation and excellent music with songs representing different types of popular American genres. Occasionally, the movie clumsily uses material from previously released shorts by Plympton, but for the most part it offers consistent entertainment for both Plympton fans and newcomers. *Coolidge Corner Theater*

★★ **Under Siege**

Under Siege is poorly written film that relies on violence rather than substance to be entertaining. Steven Seagal is Casey Ryback, an ex-Navy SEAL who is masquerading as a cook on the USS Missouri when a gang of hijackers (led by Tommy Lee Jones and Gary Busey) takes over the ship. Ryback must single-handedly eliminate all the bad guys and save the day, which turns into Ryback scouring the ship and coming up with new and creative ways to eliminate the enemy. The martial arts sequences are impressive and Tommy Lee Jones delivers a powerful performance as the mastermind terrorist, but the bad writing evidenced in the incredibly weak female role and the lack of any interesting plot twist ruins everything. *Loews Fresh Pond*



With only one week left until Election Day, this is an excellent time to see Tim Robbins in his hilarious and troubling satire of politics and campaigning, *Bob Roberts*.



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10am-3pm
Lobby 13

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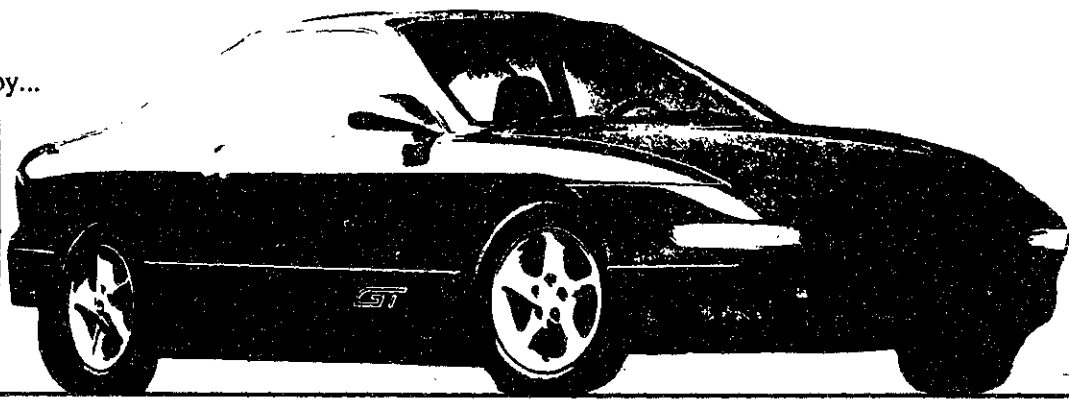
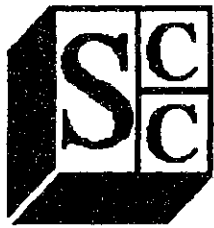
Professional drivers from the Sports Car Club of America will be on hand to offer racing suggestions and answer questions. All that is needed to participate is a student ID and a valid drivers' licence.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1992

BLDG. 4-163
6:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

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Feel free to contact recent alumni:
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Alison Williams '92, XVI
Jennifer Singer '92, IX
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Rich Lightburn '89, II

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x0152



SPORTS

Alumni Team Defeats Fencers; Sabres Win

By Mark Hurst
TEAM CAPTAIN

The varsity fencing team competed in its first meet of the season on Saturday, facing a tough team of experienced alumni. The alumni team defeated the men's and women's varsity by the usual margins, with scores of 20-7 and 13-3, respectively.

Despite the loss, several varsity fencers performed well. The women's team fought to victory three times, with team captain Sara Ontiveros '93 taking two bouts and Ronke Olabisi '93 winning one. Victories on the epee squad went

to new team members Keith Lichten '95 and Dean Christakos '96.

On the sabre squad, team captain Mark Hurst '94 won all three of his bouts, and senior Charles Baroud's victory over nationally ranked Jae Sang '88 brought the sabre squad to a tense 4-4 score. Sabre beginner William Tran '95 then won the tie-breaking bout to bring the varsity sabres to a 5-4 victory over the alumni squad.

With the alumni warmup behind it, the fencing team now looks forward to individual tournaments at Brandeis and Temple on November 7.

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|---|---|
| Did you feel ... | <input type="checkbox"/> short of breath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> like you were choking | <input type="checkbox"/> tingling or numbness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dizzy, unsteady or faint | <input type="checkbox"/> increased perspiration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your heart pound, skip or race | <input type="checkbox"/> hot flashes or chills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trembling or shaking | <input type="checkbox"/> nausea or diarrhea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unreal, detached from your body | <input type="checkbox"/> chest pain or pressure |
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