Economics Department to Initiate Optional Thesis

By Sarah Y. Keightley

Starting with the Class of 1993, undergraduates majoring in economics will no longer be required to write a thesis for graduation, said Gary J. King, administrative secre-
tary of the Department of Economics. The decision was made at a recent department meeting.

"The motion has gone into the [upcoming MIT Bulletin] that the thesis will be optional," King said. The requirement for those who choose not to write a thesis will be an extra elective subject, he said.

Professor Peter Temin '64, head of the department, said that the the-
sis was made optional because the department "discovered it's not always a useful experience." He noted that the economics depart-
ment will continue to offer the Undergraduate Thesis Seminar (14.39), which prepares students for writing their thesis during the fall
semester.

"For some students the thesis works, but for other students, the unstructured nature of the thesis proved to be very difficult—it was not a productive use of their time," Temin said. "An elective would be more useful for these students," he said.

Temin said the department hopes students will be able to "self-select appropriately" whether or not they should write a thesis. He said the department will see in a couple of years if the new arrangement is working well.

The academic thesis issue had been a topic of discussion for almost one year, said Temin. "We hope to improve the quality of life for the undergraduate pursuing an econom-
ics education," he said.

Professor of Economics Jerome Robinson said, "I am one who liked the thesis requirement. It was a capstone for the entire undergrad-
uate educational experience."

"The potentialities of the requirement were not really being met," Rothberg said. "The change makes it possible for students who would appreciate it and have the opportunity, to make the thesis a real challenge, as it was intended to. Others will have the opportunity to get a bread exposure to other econ-
omics courses," he said.

"It's a worthwhile trial—this may be a better arrangement. In principle the thesis requirement was a good idea, but in practice it was flawed," Rothberg said. Professor of Economics Richard S. Eckstein '34 said the new thesis option gives flexibility without reducing standards.

"For some people there don't want to do a thesis. It's a way for them to escape," he added.

William H. Orme-Johnson, pro-
fessor of chemistry and chairperson of the Committee on Curricula, said he has noticed over the years that "there is definitely a trend in univer-
sities to eliminate bachelor thesis requirements".

Currently the departments of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science, political science, nuclear engineering, and certain humanities subjects all require theses.

New Biotech Policy Could Aid MIT

By Karen Kaplan

A new federal policy aimed at biotechnology is gaining momentum. A Biotech, could be a boon to MIT research laboratories doing pioneering work in genetic engineering.

The policy, announced by the White House last week, reflects the Bush administration's position that genetic engineering products not inherently dangerous and therefore should not be subject to special scrutiny by federal regulators.

The new policy"major new ground rules for regula-
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UAC Debates Shift in Control of Activity Fee

By Eva Moy

A proposal to shift control of the student activity fee from the administration to the UA was the focus of debate at Wednesday's Undergraduate Association Council meeting.

The proposal suggests that students "take control... out of the hands of the administrators" on such issues as allocation of funds to student activities and payment for athletic cards, said UA Vice President J. Paul Kathy '92, who sponsored the bill with UA President Stacy E. McGrew '92.

"As costs go up and tuition goes up, it doesn't necessarily mean that more funds for student activities will go up," said Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Arthur C. Smith. He added that the proposal "would get student activity funds out of the competition with other Institute funding requests. Students would have to be "willing to tax themselves," he said.

Kathy emphasized that this new system would have a "zero-sum game" meaning that students would not have to pay more money than they presently do. The UA will try to convince administrators to lower tuition by the amount that students would pay into student activities and possibly getting no net gain or loss in tuition costs, Kathy said. The activity charge, which is currently incorporated into tuition charges, would be added to the stu-
dents' bill in a manner similar to the way a house tax is added, he said.

Students to vote in referendum

Under the proposal, the UA Finance Board would continue to allocate money to student activities as it currently does. The allocations, however, will be voted upon by a student referendum, said Kathy.

The ballots would be multiple choice, and, if students agree, the median response for each category would be used to determine the total amount to be billed.

Some dollar amounts suggested at the UA meeting were $17 for student services in general (the current amount), $7 for the Central Evaluation Guide, $39 for a Safe Ride, and $29 for an athletic card.

UA more 'in touch'

Kathy said that the administra-
tion "makes decisions contrary to the interests of the student body, the people who have to live under these decision.

Some activities are under-funded compared to other campuses or other MIT activities, Kathy said. He would like to help fund living group-based activities which spon-
sor or contribute to on-campus events.

"We surveyed 19 colleges that

Inside

- Bob Kerrey ends his bid for the Democratic nomination.

- Nick's Comedy Stop selects the funniest of student comedians from local colleges.

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"We surveyed 19 colleges that
Virginia Backs Abortion Curbs   

Sen. Bob Kerrey Drops Out of Democratic Presidential Race

By Jonathan Peterson and Karen Tumulty

Los Angeles Times

The Virginia Senate approved a bill Wednesday that would require unmarried少女至少年 one pregnancy before performing abortions on girls aged 17 or under, similar to a measure already passed in South Carolina.

The Senate's 27 to 12 vote came on a bill that both sides said could produce the most important restriction on abortion rights in Virginia since the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision.

The version passed by the House sets the age at which girls' par- ents must be notified at 17 and under. If the two houses compromise on the age, the rear would go to Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, who vetoed in 1990 a strong abortion-rights bill.

Bonn Calls for Honecker's Return

Los Angeles Times

Germany launched a major diplomatic offensive Thursday to get former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker out of the Chilen Embassy in Moscow, where he has sought refuge, and into a Berlin jail, saying Honecker was well enough to travel even though he has cancer.

German ambassadors delivered messages in abruptly unfriendly language informing Chile and Russia that Boris won't the 79-year-old Honecker delivered to German prosecutors immediately. Bonn wants him to stand trial for the deaths of more than 200 East Germans, including their own citizens who fled to the West.

Honecker, the builder of the Berlin Wall, has been holed up inside the Chiol Embassy since December, when the collapse of the Soviet Union removed his protection from German authorities. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had guaranteed his former ally's safety within the union even after the Berlin Wall was pulled down.

Chilean officials have said they allowed Honecker to stay at its embassy in Moscow so they could not reach a verdict on 13 charges of political murder and terrorism. But Russian physicians who examined Honecker over the past week said he had found no signs of illness.

L.A. Officers Acquitted on 14 Counts

Los Angeles Times

The federal civil rights trial of six Los Angeles County police officers ended late last night as the jury added one more acquittal to a string of not-guilty verdicts that demolished the remaining corruption charges.

In a split decision that left defendants elated, the jurors acquitted the officers of 14 criminal counts. However, they told U.S. District Judge Robert M. Takasugi that they could not reach a verdict on 13 others, forcing the judge to declare a mistrial in the 6-month-old trial.

The defendants had worked together as members of a successful unit that targeted drug dealers. But their cooperative style, along with their ostensible commitment to do "A job the right way," was exposed when the FBI launched a major investigation into police corruption.

The proposed settlement, informal in nature, was rejected at least in part by the defendants, who were unhappy with it. Resolution Trust Corp. the right to consider their alleged civil liabilities.

FDIC Rejected Proposed Settlement That Would Have Left Milken in Prison

By Victor F. Zanona

Los Angeles Times

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Thursday rejected a proposed settlement of all the laws brought by the federal agency against financier Michael Milken with a personal fortune of $125 million and his family and former associates with hundreds of millions of dollars more.

In a letter to senior U.S. District Court Judge Milton Pollack, the 83-year-old jurist said the FDIC had been "served notice" to determine if the defendants were "federal officials as to whether the settlement should be rejected under the law.

FDIC officials also told the disorderly court that the settlement would not have left in place any penalty for the criminal fraud that led to the collapse of Drexel Burnham Lambert and left taxpayers with a $3.5 billion-owned firm.

The FDIC decision was a blow to Michael Milken. The 44-year-old financier, who heads a small investment company, has been charged with fraud, racketeering and other criminal violations.

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Weather

"Backdoor" cooling

By Michael C. Morgan

Washington Post

A backdoor front, a sure sign of the season, will be located to our southwest. High around 45°F (7°C). Low 37°F (-3C).

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Weath
By William Clabonne
THE WASHINGTON POST

Ottawa

Anxiety is growing in this 134-year-old capital city over Quebec’s threat to hold a second plebiscite next October if its demands for greater autonomy are not met by the federal government. Many here fear that instead of being a monument to the cultural duality of the Canadian confederation, the national capital that stretches from Ottawa, in Ontario province, across the Ottawa River to the city of Hull, in Quebec, could become a pawn in a bitter dispute over settlement of property and patrimony.

If Quebec separates from Canada, the move would be most severely felt across the river in the predominantly French-speaking region known as the Outaouais, where nearly a third of the workforce could lose their federal jobs. Moreover, the Canadian government would find some of its most important federal offices and prestigious national museums located in another country.

"The very thought of separation has shaken families and neighbors and friends. The shadow of separation is acutely felt here. When people look over the precipice, it’s frightening," said Jean B. Pigott, chairman of the National Capital Commission, the official property steward for the capital region.

Incredibly, Pigott and other officials said, the Quebec side of the river was deliberately developed in the 1960s to give an equal share of the seat of government and to bond together this capital city with a capital region shared by the French and English cultures.

Beginning in 1949, more than 20,000 public servants were moved across the river, federal buildings were erected, and roads and other services were installed to assure the bilingual character of the burgeoning town. From 1971 to 1981, 46 percent of all new jobs created on the Quebec side were in the federal public service.

"This is where the two cultures come together. Even if Quebec doesn’t separate, there will have to be a rationalization of the duplication of services, a downsizing," Pigott said, referring to the insistence of existing and staunch federalists that Canada’s 1982 constitution be referred to transfer many federal responsibilities to the country’s 10 provinces.

Cygnus frequently cite the artificiality of Ottawa as a capital city, noting that Queen Victoria in 1859 selected what had been the rough-and-tumble lumber town of Bytown to be the Dominion’s seat of government because it was halfway between Montreal and Toronto, then fighting for annexation.

Ottawa remained an undistinguished, predominantly English domain until Prime Minister Mackenzie King met the noted French-Canadian planner, Jacques Greber, in 1937 and invited him to lay out a new capital plan.

Currently, the capital region’s population is over 400,000, including about 200,000 on the Ontario side and 600,000 on the Quebec side. About 100,000 people are in public service, a third of Canada’s federal employees.

Many dreams of furthering this expansion have been thrown into doubt and talk has centered on the cost of dividing national assets and national liabilities should the province secede.

There have been a flurry of studies designed to forecast the impact of Quebec separation on the capital region. One, conducted by the National Capital Commission, said a continuation of the present federal-provincial relationship would benefit the French side and intensify its French character.

However, the study predicted that a modified confederation, with more powers being given to the provinces, would result in a reduction of federal departments in Hull.

The Quebec side would face a major task of restructuring its economy and could lose some population, the study said.

The third option studied — outright separation of Quebec — would drastically reduce the federal presence in the Outaouais and would require an overhaul of the Hull region, according to the study.

The City Council of Hull, which frequently is a forum for militant Quebec separatists, has advanced the formation of a common-market relationship between Canada and Quebec if a majority of voters in that province demand independence.

By Sharon LaFrance

The Washington Post

Barr Takes Charge at Justice Dept.

Washington

The rap on William P. Barr may be that he has too much personality. Certainly no one would accuse him of that now. Barr has moved from working behind the scenes to setting the Justice Department’s agenda since he took office. Now the question is not whether he can hold his own, but whether he can look good, "I think it’s just too early to decide," said one department official who had appointed Barr deputy attorney general last August, was the type of official who looked unnatural without his hair, who looked, in fact, even pudgy, looks uncomfortable in a tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even when he wanted to tight-lipped even 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Paul Tsongas: A Democrat with Integrity and Vision

Massachusetts is one of 11 states where voters will make their choice for the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday, and we urge eligible members of the MIT community to exercise their right to vote.

Harassment on Ride Van Causes Discomfort

The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Arthur C. Schmitt.

Although he has practically no chance of winning the democratic presidential nomination, I support former California Governor Jerry Brown for president.

Dissent

Survey Skews Picture of Harassment at MIT

The results of the recent undergraduate harassment survey ("Nearly Half of Women at MIT Say They Were обы" Reproved "Reportedly Harassed," March 3) are, as Prosvam Samuel J. Keyser and President Charles M. Vest suggest, misleading. Discussions have resulted in the realization that certain "one must conclude from these survey results that "Women are as worthy of this nation's trust as any potential presidential nominee."

Harassment of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals is a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

Letters to The Editor
Letters to the Editor

Column Irresponsible; Impungs Counterpoint

The recent column by Bill Jackson '93 ("Thistle, Counterpoint, Woes Rages in Print," Feb. 28) was a piece of irresponsible journalism. In his characteristically pompous style, intended to aggrandize himself and The Tech, Mr. Jackson conveniently mixed specious facts and cowardly opinion to impugn the integrity of staff members of both The Tech and Counterpoint.

Indeed, legitimate differences of opinion exist between Counterpoint and The Thistle in the area of student journalism. The Tech is not beyond the fray of this conflict, considering its substantial control of student journalism resources. Yet instead of responsibly and objectively reporting on all the issues involved, and then perhaps commenting on them, The Tech allowed Jackson to report isolated facts and editorialize on them at the same time.

Jackson has a history of attacking and trivializing competing student journals and journalism. A public apology is unlikely to be forthcoming from either Jackson or The Tech. But members of the community should be aware of this unethical journalism, so that they may demand better behavior, or seek the truth elsewhere.

-P. Angela Heich '94 and the editorial staff of Counterpoint

Abortion Article Meant as 'Facts and Figures'

The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to Alfredo J. Armendariz '93, whose letter in the last issue of The Tech challenged an article by Emily Yeh.

First, let me state that I was not attempting to "justify the killings" by giving a historical background of abortion. When I was given the opportunity to write the article, I was asked to write a "facts and figures" article. It was meant to be mainly a synthesis of facts rather than my opinion about the morality of abortion.

My argument is not that abortion should be a means of "population control." Rather, if a woman wants to have an abortion, she should be allowed that decision, and her decision may indeed be influenced by factors in her life, including her ability to support — to feed, clothe, and care for — a child. I agree wholeheartedly with Monica Williams that "any woman who must say 'I had to get an abortion; I had no choice because I have no money' is a shame on us all." Yes, it is a shame and I wish it weren't so. Like everyone else, I wish we had enough food to feed the United States, let alone the world. However, I do not have a solution for these problems and I cannot personally insure that these poor women have the means to meet the standards of living that every human being deserves. Therefore, if they feel that they simply cannot raise a child at that point in their lives, then it is their right to have an abortion.

Again, on the question of abortion, I do indeed realize that many people of color are living "in poverty and near-poverty conditions and cannot afford the adoption fees." Something should be done to change the way this system works. But until it is changed, I must continue to point out that it is not the perfect solution and some anti-choice actions would make it seem.

-Emily Yeh '93

Tech Applauded for Not Running Holocaust Ad

I applaud The Tech's decision not to run the advertisement from the "Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust" ("No room for Revisionists in the Tech," March 3, "Tech Has Responsibility to Print Truth," March 3). Instead, The Tech ran two columns which explained the situation and the reasoning behind the decision not to run the advertisement.

These columns both pointed out a growing problem in our country — the growth of racism and hatred. The columns by Josh Hartmann and Bill Jackson showed this problem exists. If The Tech had printed the advertisement, it would have given credence to the argument. The only way to fight this problem of anti-Semitism is through education. Unfortunately, ads such as CODOH's misuse our means of education if anyone wants more information about the Holocaust, the library is as far as you need to go.

This year, Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) will fall on April 30. In light of this advertisement and other public disclaimers of the Holocaust, I urge everyone to write this day down on their calendars. On that Thursday, if the MIT community can join together to show solidarity for the memory of the Holocaust, then maybe we can defeat CODOH and its supporters.

-Michelle Greene '93

President

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The Road Warrior from a beat perspective

By Jill Kerouac

As I was watching The Road Warrior, I had to think of Dean Moriarty. As the machine whirled and clicked like a long gone cat on the skin, I fecked my toe and rubbed my belly, just like Dean would have. My tired eyes set upon the long highways of New South Wales, reminding me of the purity of the road. Reminding me of my days with Dean, blasting to Denver with the highway unrolling and hugging our tires as if glued to our groove.

Days with Dean, blasting to Denver with the purity of the road. Reminding me of my days with Dean, blasting to Denver with the highway unrolling and hugging our tires as if glued to our groove.

The bombs had beat out of time, crashing, ever did. World War Three was a memory. The road is one long self-service station with a glorious sign in its window, insisting: Please kill attendant before you pump.
The film opens with Max running flat out, hellbent to save the world, he agrees to carry him to safety. Max meets this crazy, tea smoking, whirlybird pilot where he can dig all the juice he wants. The Gyro Captain leads him to a hilltop lookout where he can eyeball the tank. Nothing happens the next day. Everything just is, and that's the deal. When Max finds this bleeding cat on the side of the road, he agrees to carry him to safety.

Max digs the streets and gets his kicks. In a time of chaos, where man has chosen to ignore law and order, Max stands for nothing. He's a sonofabitch just like the rest of them. Everything just is, that's the deal. When Max finds this bleeding cat on the side of the road, he agrees to carry him to safety.

Max does not do this out of love for his fellow man; he does this for juice. Sometimes he helps people, and sometimes he hurts people, but he always blows true. Max is BEAT - the root, the soul of beatific.
The film opens with Max running flat out, hellbent to save the world, he agrees to carry him to safety. Max meets this crazy, tea smoking, whirlybird pilot where he can dig all the juice he wants.

The Road Warrior, sequel to the 1978 cult classic Mad Max, is fanatically directed by Australian George Miller. His fast paced scenes sing skat. Here's a guy and everybody's there. It's up to him to put down what's on everybody's mind. He starts the first scene, then lines up his ideas, people, yeah, yeah, but get it, then he rises to his face and has to blow equal to it. All of a sudden in the middle of the movie he gets it - I looked up and knew. Time stops. He's filling empty space with the substance of our lives, confessions of his bellybottom strain, remembrance of ideas, relishments of old visions. He takes us on a journey, across boundaries of mortality and back again so everybody knows it's not the movie that counts, but IF.

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The movie lasted longer than a bag of good tea, but I grooved the whole time. The final chase scene hit me hard, like a big shot of heroin in the mainline vein; like a gulp of wine late in the afternoon that makes you shudder, my feet tingled. I can go no further; I shudder. He always blows true. Max is BEAT - the root, the soul of beatific.
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Nick's Comedy Stop hosts Boston's funniest college students

**THE BEANPOUT PLAYOFFS**

Nick's Comedy Stop
Wednesday, March 4, 8:30 p.m.

By Joanna Stone

Networking news reporters, camera crews, columnists, students from colleges all across the city and a Tech reviewer gathered at Nick's Comedy Stop Wednesday night to see who would be named Boston's funniest college student and walk away with fame, titles, a trophy, and $1,000.

In the first annual "Beanpot Playoffs," Nick's Comedy Stop has held a series of competitions over the past several weeks to choose the funniest student from each of eight colleges in the Boston area. Students from a single college competed on one of several designated college nights, and the winner from each was awarded a trophy, $100, and an invitation to the playoffs.

Judging by the size of the crowds that gathered and the news coverage that ensued, the competition was clearly a public relations agency's dream come true. It was also a highly enjoyable evening filled with a wealth of young talent and a lot of laughs.

My own bias duly noted, I thought MIT's contestant, Glen Weinstein '92, should have won the competition. Weinstein received the most consistently positive response from the audience. The audience did not stop laughing from his introduction — "I'm the funniest man at MIT, which is a dubious honor at best." — through his description of the woman he recently began dating. "Courting is the approach through his theme from The Monkees' television show, "Conjunction-Junction, What's Your Function?" and the texture of shock and pity which her act inspired. She talked about her obesity, her lack of a sex life, her poor relationship with her grandmother. Her speech was peppered with curses and accompanied by obscene gestures.

As another arts writer, Leslie Ilanett '92, put it, "She played on her weight and the fact that she's a female comedian receiving recognition, though I thought there were several other contestants who were far superior. Most of the comedians had their especially humorous moments. I thought I'd heard all the Jeffrey Dahmner jokes possible, but the contestant from Tufts University managed to come up with a new one: "Jeffrey Dahmner was killed in a car crash. His body was found in a stream. He's dead, he's done, and he's not coming back."" — waiting for the T after the show, one unidentified audience member could be heard saying, "She shouldn't have won, that guy from MIT should have won." Imagine that! A student from another school designating to admit that we at MIT aren't only smart, hard working, and ultimately successful (all taken as commonly acknowledged truths), but that some of us even have a sense of humor.

The student who did win the competition was Julie Goldman, from Emerson College, the only female contestant. "Goldman won because she was unique," judges were reported to have said on the evening news Wednesday. While most of the comedians' acts were deadpan and demented, Goldman screamed and grated into the microphone, initiated male masturbation on stage, and told the audience that the reason she's become a stand-up comic was because it was her only occupation in which you hold a phallic up to your mouth for five minutes.

I didn't particularly like Goldman's act. I laughed a lot, but it was in response to the nervous energy she created and the strange mixture of shock and pity which her act inspired. She talked about her obesity, her lack of a sex life, her poor relationship with her grandmother. Her speech was peppered with curses and accompanied by obscene gestures.

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The evening's featured guest stars, stand-up comedians Cohn & Moran, performed during the judges' deliberation. The team capitalized on the college audience theme, singing songs that were dear to the collective memory of the audience, such as "Conjunction-Junction, What's Your Function?" and the theme from The Monkeys' television show. After the sing-along ended, Cohn expressed doubt that MIT students' childhoods were similar to those of their peers, saying, "All the MIT students are saying what the $#@&?" As the winner was about to be revealed, Cohn and Moran brought their act to a climactic close with a rap version of "The Brady Bunch" theme song.

MIT may not have won the competition, but we are all indebted to Weinstein for raising the image of MIT students in the minds of others. Waiting for the T after the show, one unidentified audience member could be heard saying, "She shouldn't have won, that guy from MIT should have won." Imagine that! A student from another school designating to admit that we at MIT aren't only smart, hard working, and ultimately successful (all taken as commonly acknowledged truths), but that some of us even have a sense of humor.
Biotech, from Page 1

But the said companies might license more MIT patents, which garners revenue for the Institute. MIT researchers earn between 15 and 20 biotechnology-related patents each year, Nelson estimated.

Professor of Biology Robert A. Weinberg '64, who is involved in cancer research, said the effects at MIT will probably be minimal. "There could be a trickle-down effect from it, although much focus has become much more profitable and as a consequence, we were able to support basic research," he said.

Biggest impact for agriculture

The new policy asserts that "although the new biotechnology processes can be used to produce risky organisms, so can traditional techniques. Indeed, the new technologies of molecular modification may increase the potential for safe, planned introduction of genetically altered organisms into the environment." The policy change is likely to have the biggest effect on genetically-altered plant and agricultural products, since they will no longer be subject to stricter regulations than their parent organisms. "The biggest impact will be in plant biology," Sharp said. "Release of genetically engineered organisms and plants into the environment will not be viewed as releasing a potentially dangerous plant, but as another product, a genetic variant," he said.

Nelson agreed, saying, "I think you're going to see an effect not so much in the pharmaceutical area, but in the agricultural and environmental areas, where those regulatory barriers loom larger in proportion to the potential reward." Some Bush critics have complained that the new policy is "insane and does not contain sufficient measures to ensure that genetically engineered products are safe for release into the environment. Without any natural enemies, they argue, such novel organisms might reproduce unchecked and disturb the delicate balance of nature. Supporters say these concerns are unfounded, and that this shift in thinking was long overdue. "The singing out of biotech products was no longer justifiable in light of their proven record over the past years as being safe," said Weinberg.

Sharp called the change a "reasonable move" as "an appropriate direction." He said, "I think the environmental safety issue has been dramatically overplayed by a number of people. "It's not a correction in which no regulation is left in place -- a significant amount is still there," Sharp continued.
New Class of 1994 Ring Features the Natural Beaver

The design of the traditional ring was finalized by the committee on December 12.

Balfour gets account

Balfour was chosen over Jostens to handle the Class of 1994's account because it offered a better package deal. "If you compare the cheapest Jostens graduate ring, which costs $375, you can see that Balfour, whose most expensive ring is $390, is the better deal," Babiec added. He also mentioned that the account is not particularly lucrative for Balfour, but is highly sought after by many ring companies because it is considered a "prestige account."

Most will buy

Student opinion on the ring was mixed. M. Lily Datta '94 was pleased with the committee's design. "I think they did a really good job with it — the detailing percentage of our class really unique. I especially like the hidden MIT in the beaver's fur," the commented.

Peter K. Verpuatas '94 agreed with Datta. "The design is great — especially the reference to MIT through the fire hose. All things considered, I'm really impressed with the job that the ring committee did," he said.

"It's okay. It's a beaver ... I'm going to buy one because it's one of those things you've just got to have," said Phillip S. Cho '94.

Some students, like Frank C. Popp '94, were unhappy with this year's ring. "This year's beaver looks wimpy. It has MIT carved into its posterior, and it is staring blankly into space. Last year's beaver was bad-ass; I'm very disappointed with this year's," he said.

Another complaint was the price of the ring. "I'm not going to buy a ring ... it's too expensive. I'd rather buy 30 CDs," commented Mohammed A. Hendawi '94.

Balfour was chosen over Jostens with the job that the ring committee

Despite these mixed feelings, the class ring is expected to sell well. "Usually less than 50% of the class buy the ring. ... it's too expensive. I'd rather buy 30 CDs," commented Mohammed A. Hendawi '94.

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For the traditional seal side, "we chose a straight 'MIT' instead of a bookmark in the pages of the book UROP program here. The ribbon-MacVicar's death, who founded the Education Margaret L.A.

The large 1994 on the class side, sits between 'MENS ET MANUS,' which is our school motto, is written on a scroll...

"It's okay. It's a beaver ... I'm going to buy one because it's one of those things you've just got to have," said Phillip S. Cho '94.

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"By graduation, 90 percent of the Class of 1994 will have purchased a class ring. Seventy to 75 percent have," said Phillip S. Cho '94.

"It's okay. It's a beaver ... I'm going to buy one because it's one of those things you've just got to have," said Phillip S. Cho '94.

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