Ballot Box Theft Halts UA Elections

By Reuven M. Lerner

Candidates for Undergraduate Academic Affairs have agreed to hold a special election on Wednesday night. The election, which was delayed because of ballot box theft, will decide whether to hold the election today or on Friday.

The UA Election Commission decided yesterday to hold a special election today. Students who voted in Lobby 7 on Wednesday will be allowed to vote in today's election. The commission had originally intended to hold the special election on Wednesday, but decided to hold them today after protests from a number of candidates.

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Candidates for Undergraduate Academic Affairs office were generally surprised by the Wednesday afternoon theft of a ballot box, and expressed anger at those who took the box from Lobby 7.

"Basically, I think it stinks," said Mark A. Herschberg '95, a candidate for class vice president. "It's incredibly rude of these people, after all that has been done by the candidates, to just steal the ballot box and call the election.

"The election's important enough that it has to be legitimate," said Bansal. "The election is being held by the Wednesday afternoon, so I think it's wrong."

"I'd really like to see them make it," said Bansal. "It's annoying. It's the one reaction I have, but I also find it despicably disgusting."

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The plan, which represents a major departure from the administration's previous intentions to phase out residence-based advising, will require every living group to have at least one advisor/associate adviser team.

The plan arose out of a Tuesday night meeting to discuss the future of residence-based advising. "We went into the meeting with one set of expectations and left with a different outlook," said Travis R. Rinehart '95, associate dean for student affairs. The meeting claimed responsibility for the shift, saying in a "manifesto" distributed Thursday morning that the ballot box theft was "an act of revolution against the current student government.

The SRG feels that the UA is ineffectual," said the group's self-proclaimed ideological leader in an anonymous telephone interview last night. The leader, identified by a number of sources as Peter S. Yesley '92, said, "It was [the group's] right to incorporate a new government.

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Candidates prefer Friday

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The Senate rejected a move Thursday by a small gaggle of lawmakers to scrap the Democratic leadership's proposed middle-income tax cut and instead use the money to reduce the federal budget deficit and bolster the country's neglected infrastructure.

The measure was defeated by a vote of 57-39, but only after Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi switched sides in order to block an effort by Republicans to liberate the proposal and run the Democratic tax-cut legislation.

The legislation, which was proposed by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., would have killed the middle-class tax cut, which is included in the Democratic leadership's plan. The cut would provide $300 per-child tax credit for middle-income families.

The legislation to gut the tax cut for the middle class appeared certain to be approved before the Democratic leadership stepped in to save some lawmakers who were about to change their votes — reflected in a last-ditch effort by the Democratic leader even in Democratic ranks.

Several lawmakers have said publicly they would have preferred to reduce the federal budget deficit sooner and in any event to reduce the middle class. That the Democratic measure would provide.

Many economists have expressed doubts that a tax reduction is needed.

FBI Probes NIH Allegations

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched an investigation into allegations that confidential government documents on ongoing investigations of scientific fraud were stolen from the National Institutes of Health.

The FBI investigation, which was initiated at NIH's request, concerns Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, who resigned last July as a senior official at the NIH's science fraud unit, the Office of Scientific Integrity (OSI).

Humphrey is now employed at another division of NIH. But for the past several months, he had been working part-time — with the approval of NIH — for the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on government oversight and investigation.

John D. Dingell, D-Mich., Dingell has criticized the way in which the NIH has handled allegations of misconduct in science.

The FBI's announcement of the investigation coincides with the charge that NIH officials said Thursday they had received OSI documents since leaving his position at the science fraud unit, but that the information was publicly available. She would not comment on whether she had ever impaired the agency's ability to investigate science fraud.

Crime Stoppers, a private investigative group, has also been working part-time — with the approval of NIH - for the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on government oversight and investigation.

Humphrey confirmed Thursday that she had been involved for 45 minutes Tuesday by an FBI agent. The agent, she said, told her that OSI officials believed that she had illegally obtained and looked confidential OSI documents and that the alleged actions had seriously impaired the agency's ability to investigate scientific fraud.

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In the meantime, diplomatic sources said here, the Security Council probably will have to mark time before deciding to increase the pressure on Iraq through new economic sanctions or renewed military action. In an echo of the threats that have been made of war, the U.N. representative said on Thursday, the United States has told Iraq's leaders that it and its allies would take military action against Iraq if it failed to comply with the cease-fire it has accepted in the Golan Heights.

The council Thursday ended a debate, but postponed voting on the issue by rejecting Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's arguments that Baghdad has met the cease-fire conditions in Security Council resolution 687. Instead, the council issued a statement endorsed by 15 members that concluded: "The government of Iraq has not yet demonstrated fully and unconditionally, particularly with those measures, the ability to fulfill appropriately the provisions in this resolution. The council hopes that the goodwill expressed by the deputy prime minister of Iraq will be matched by the same degree of cooperation by the Iraqi government."
Chicago Mayor Richard Daley

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Chicago organizer.

For more than two years, Clinton has sought to prove the way for an Illinois victory by recruiting David Willemen, Daley's former campaign manager, and other Chicago politicians for his national campaign staff.

Torquay, however, has only a hard-earned MBA and a career in sales in both states, where volunteers were organized only days after his New Hampshire victory.

Even so, Tsongas has been able to cut into voter blocs traditionally controlled by the Chicago machine.

"I just don't trust that Clinton," said Shirley Weeks, whose south side Chicago neighborhood was toured earlier this year by Clinton.

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Midwestern Voters Next in Primary Battle Spotlight

By Steven Kessler and Patrick J. Smyth

CHICAGO

The 1982 race for the White House swept into the fidgety Midwest Wednesday where it is the as-yet undecided voters in Illinois and Michigan who are losing jobs. People are losing homes. Everybody can't work at Wendy's. You can't just blame Congress. Washington is insulated and isolated from this pain. There's going to be a change.

"What I think you will be hearing is a really human cry for help", said Chicago Mayor Richard Daley of the two states primaries next Tuesday. While officially neutral in the Democratic race, Daley, who has a personal liking for Bush, predicted a voter uprising against Washington.

"People are losing jobs. People are losing homes. Everyone can't work at Wendy's. You can't just blame Congress. Washington is insulated and isolated from this pain. There's going to be a change," Daley said.

The anti-Washington theme has been a staple for both Tsongas and Clinton, who have been neck-in-the-blame Congress. Washington is losing jobs. People are losing homes. Everybody can't work at Wendy's. You can't just blame Congress. Washington is insulated and isolated from this pain. There's going to be a change," Daley said.

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U.N. Warns Iraq to Abide by Cease-Fire Agreement

Iraq, from Page 2

not words that will determine what happens next.

Some sources here expressed mild encouragement at Aziz's comments to the council. Thursday, he addressed an unprecedented line-up to the council. The Duncan's, however, has only a handsh suggested that the council's united insistence that Iraq be permitted to sell oil to prevent Saddam's hold as slipping but said he characterized charges that Iraq has closed union shops, and other attacks on civilian instructors as "an accusation, not a question. I reject the accusation."

He denied that Baghdad is blocking Kurdish areas in northern Iraq, saying that Kurdish rebels control the regions and prevented the central government from delivering food and medical supplies or paying the salaries of civil servants. He added that any attacks on Shiites or other refugees in the south are the work of "outsiders," fostered in some cases by agitation from Iraq's hostile neighbors.

But the former Massachusetts senator has gained steadily in both states since his New Hampshire victory Feb. 18 propelled him into the national limelight as the man with the message. "It's his honesty and integrity," said Kitty Keth, Illinois coordinator for Torquay. "That's where Clinton has lost support. A Chicago Tribune poll showed Clinton losing votes in Illinois since January, while Tsongas gained 18 percentage points."

"This is one of the first real testing grounds for the candidates," said Gary Corber, Michigan's Democratic Party chairman.

"Relations are in a mess," Democratic chairman Ron Brown said the sweep of six Southern states by Clinton has put Michigan and Michigan "in the Democratic standard-bearer's sights."

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Thistle article unjustly colored student’s views

The Tech. The Tech

The Thistle was ten years ago, I had no idea that

I feel that they unjustly colored what I had to

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS POLICY


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Harrassment Survey Biased but Meaningful

In a letter to the editor, ["Survey Skews Picture of Harassment at MIT," March 6] Courtney Moriarta offers two methodological criticisms of the Baker House and East

Campus Survey on harassment. First, Moriarta contends that the survey lumps

Student Affairs James R. Tewhey, and Beta

The Tech. The Tech

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The Solar Car Club Looks to Future

By Wes G. Ipa

The Solar Electric Vehicle Club has been successful in its past efforts to build solar-powered race cars. Now it is using its experience for more practical purposes.

"Aztec is an electric, two-seater commuter car. It will be a three-wheeler with a double-wheelbase suspension. It will weigh approximately 800 pounds, which is a lot less than commercial electric cars like General Motors' Impact," said Goro A. Tamai '93, a co-director of the Aztec design group.

Many components of Aztec, the club's entry into the Tour de Sol racing competition later this spring, are lying in various stages of completion in a workshop in Building 20. Within three weeks Aztec will be completed and put through initial driving tests in a car convention, Tamai said.

"During the race, Aztec should have a top speed of 65 miles per hour and a cruising speed of between 45 and 55 miles per hour," Tamai said.

The major parts of Aztec are a Kevlar-fiberglass body shell which is almost done, a chromium-molybdenum frame, a $10,000 DC inboard electric motor, a drive train, a high energy density battery, probably lead-acid, and the electronics which is the hub of Aztec, Tamai said.

"Actually the battery is probably the most important part of an electric car, but we don't do any battery research. So the electronics in the most important as far as the work our club does is concerned," he added.

"The electronics is a motor controller which optimally transfers the power from the battery source to the electric motor. It was designed by Gil Pratt when he was a grad student here at MIT. Any electric car worth driving has a motor controller. Ours is one of the best in the world," Tamai said.

Erik P. Blasch '92, another member of the club, said, "This motor controller is the first to include a regenerating brake device. During braking, the motor controller tells the motor to turn into a generator, so that instead of losing energy into the braking, the motor gets power from the inertia of the braking car."

The 45-pound carbon fiber body shell of Aztec was optimally designed from aerodynamics programs. Its coefficient of drag is about 0.12; a normal road car has a coefficient of about 0.35, Tamai said.

"We have a good chance of winning the Tour de Sol commuter car race because Aztec is so light. Most colleges are entering the solar race, so our competition will be strong. Our goal will be winning the Tour de Sol commuter car race," Tamai said.

Recent California legislation mandates that 2 percent of all cars sold there have to use alternative fuels such as methane or electricity by the end of the decade. The performance and driving range of gasoline-driven cars remain superior to that of commercial electric cars.

But that makes the research even more important. "Electric cars have a huge future," Tamai said.

The club placed second last year in both the Tour de Sol and Arizona Solar races. This is the first time the club will place an entry in the electric commuter car division.

"Aztec is fun. It's a worthwhile cause. Rather than learning only technical stuff its applying what we learned in the classroom in real-world situations. This is a real-world project. We go to Athens to get software packages, we weld and machine parts, we deal with funding like any real company would. Also, the electric car is a current engineering problem that needs to be solved soon. The club is a part of this," Tamai said.

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Class of '92 Gift Will Help Poor Junior High Schools

By Eric Richard

The 1992 Class Gift, announced last week, has been hailed as an ambitious and innovative program, which, according to Senior Class Gift Co-Coordinator Joanna E. Stone '92, may "set precedents" for future class gifts.

The program, called the Program for the Encouragement of Technology Fund, will send MIT students around the nation visiting junior high schools to encourage the use of computers in their schools.

"The objective of the program is to get students excited about science and technology," Stone said. "Studies have shown that the 7th and 8th grade students around the nation visiting junior high schools are critical times in their lives. By showing them MIT students and what futures may hold and inspire them to pursue higher education," said Richard Q. Vilk '92, senior class gift coordinator.

The program is scheduled to continue for five years. At the class's fifth year reunion the project will be re-evaluated, but organizers hope that by that time it will be an overwhelming success and will continue indefinitely.

The next phase of the project is to raise money for the PET Fund. Stone said that the committee hopes to raise $50,000 over five years to pay for transportation costs. The committee has already put together a team of 40 solicitors. According to Alvoeto Association Program Director Maryglenn Vincens, the Class of 1942 has pledged to match what futures may hold and inspire them to pursue higher education," said Richard Q. Vilk '92, senior class gift coordinator.

Junior high schools will also be able to apply for involvement in the program; the admissions office will then select the committee to participate in the competition.

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Ballot Box Theft Stalls UA, Class Elections

Stolen, from Page 1

two men tried to take the ballot box. UA Floor Leader Hans C. Godfrey '91 grabbed the boxes from them. According to Godfrey, they used force in their attempt to take the bal-
lot box.

Noted Parasaharama '95, one of two Campus Police working at the polling booths at 5 p.m., "Two of us were working and then four or five guys came over."

"Three of them blocked us from the booth. Two of the guys started running with it, and took it toward Building 1," Parasaharama said.

A crowd of people followed the ballot box toward Building 1, but did not catch the thieves. Campus Parade found the box about one hour later at Bexley. The box was unopened.

"Right after this happened, peo-
ple went kind of haywire," Parasaharama said. "Kevin, who was working at Walker came over and told me the same thing had hap-
pened."

Called UA, Campus Parade

Parasaharama called Chitley at the UA office right after the theft occurred. "We were supposed to report if anything went wrong. They were supposed to take the box."

Although Chitley claimed that Campus Police found the thieves within 10 minutes, the eyewitnesses of the theft, Parasaharama said they had not asked the police to take the box. "The police haven't contacted me, but I think they knew what the people looked like.

Chitley stressed that the two people working in Lobby 7 did all they could to prevent the theft. "They acted in the best way they could have," he said.

"If it had to be understood how it happened," said Theresa Neigher, executive director of the Cambridge Election Commission, which lent the ballot boxes to the UA. Neigher also found it "diffi- cult to believe" that the thieves had picked the locks on the box, since it can only be opened with a special key.

Jeremy H. Brown '93, candidate for UA vice president, said in a telephone interview that he was invited to join the group by one or two peo-
ple he knew. According to Brown, someone then turned around and said, "Don't invite him. He's the so-called revolutionary." Brown did not catch the thieves. Campus Parade interviewed all the eyewitnesses to the theft, Busch said. "I was identified at the scene... . I didn't inspire me to go and nail them down."

"This is clearly an offense which deserves attention," Smith said. "I have a lot to learn about the situa-
tion."

Professor Nelson Y.-S. Kiang, chair of the Committee on Discipline, said, "If it is a student -- and it's hard to believe it's someone else -- any member of the MIT community can bring charges." But whether someone would actually be punished for stealing the ballot box would depend on "how good a case there is," Kiang added. "I don't know what they can do," Chitley said. "We don't know what MIT process we would have to use. We are interested in making sure the individuals responsible for the incident are punished."

Thieves distributed "manifestos"

The so-called revolutionary group announced itself in a two-

The Tech News Hotline 253-4371

New Freshman Advising Plan

Advising, from Page 1

Students currently involved with residence-based advising admitted there could be some difficulties. "I think there could be problems, but if there is leadership in the house willing to prevent this from happening, it could be done," said Kathy C. Howes '93, an associate advisor in Next House.

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**Babie with the Bathtub is humorously, entertaining, vicious.**

**Babie with the Bathtub**

Presented by the MIT Community Players. A comedic fantasy by Benjamin Eng. Directed by Sean Charles. Kettle Black Little Theater. March 13 and 14, 7 p.m.

By William Chuang

Babie with the Bathtub is exactly what it advertises itself as—a vicarious comedy—where writer Christopher Eng manages to poke fun at all about everything. In this case, everything runs from male/female relationships, married life, exes, children, care, hospitals, poverty, and callousness to inhumanity, female superiority, drug abuse, college, general sillimess, parental resentment, early marriage, and more. This is not to say that Babie isn’t funny. It is, provided you take it lightly and is strike. But afterwards you may find yourself thinking about these same topics in light of your own experiences and it may start you wondering. Older audiences may find the play slightly unsettling. But if you have a group of friends and are in the mood for a night of satire and sarcasm “vicarious comedy,” get some tickets to this play.

Just before the play opens, the audience gets a good look at the prop adorning the stage—a large mural of a happy couple holding up their baby, somewhat reminiscent of the 1950s and a visually pleasing and reassuring backdrop. Helen (Andrea McGimsey ’87) and John (Derek Clark ’90) come on stage as a young couple with their first child. However, as the play progresses this couple acts less and less like the idealized family in the mural.

At first, Helen’s son seems somewhat normal for an excited young mother: when John calls the baby his “little baked potato,” she makes a cute, smiling gesture, saying that she plans to change its name. Eventually, however, the baby causes more trouble than one might expect. Theith is in, fact, that it is often difficult to make out the faces of the singers. Secondly, the set is dark for almost all of the piece, which can best be described as shapeless. The orchestra— conducted by Nello Santi—lacks emotion, making Nucci’s contribution insipid characterization inspired the individual attempts to sing are quite hilarious.

When Leech feels that not only does it have by far the best shot to succeed, but that he should step in to aid our confused parents? The Nanny (Betty Whyte), of course, who scaves the baby silent (and sustains the audience as well), seduces John, and convinces Helen to write a bestseller, all within a few minutes. Another temp tart, Miss Pringle (the baby), two other women with young children; the Principal (Gail Pringle), an extremely aggressive woman with an overdone female superiority complex; and Miss Pringle (J.B. Sweeney), a teacher who is worried about her young charge. Miss Pringle cares for good reason. "Daisy" (the child) <br>

The second half of the play is just as intercating and biting. The audience is introduced to Angela and Kate, two other women with young children: the Principal (Gail Pringle), an extremely aggressive woman with an overdone female superiority complex; and Miss Pringle (J.B. Sweeney), a teacher who is worried about her young charge. Miss Pringle cares for good reason. "Daisy" (the child) runs at buses, hoping to get run over, and believes she is a baked potato!

**Rigoletto**

By Gaetano Donizetti

Metropolitan Opera

Conducted by Nello Santi.


Lincoln Center, New York.

By Jonathan Richmond

"I hope you won't get mugged with all those bags," said the bus driver as the geriatric vehicle lurched away from the airport, and I knew I was in New York. Given a choice of hub airports at which to charge flights, I chose to come here after the alleged departure time, looked at my bags, "said the bus driver as the suitcase and self were loaded into a large cart, into which suitcase and self were loaded to be propelled at high velocity to the distant gate 98. Goodbye, New York.

Thomas goes for an old fashioned production in which the singers don’t have to do much except open their mouths, and what comes out isn’t exactly exhilarating, either. By guest o quello, it was clear that Richard Leech, singing the Duke of Mantua, had rough edges, to say the least. Leech sounded strained on a number of occasions, and the effect was less than attractive. La donna è mobile came across muffled. His insted characterization of the individual sitting in the audience two seats from me to fall asleep.

Leo Nucci’s Rigoletto sinks into the background—Verdi’s greater than life character lacked emotion, making Nucci’s contribution neither entertaining nor tragic. This Rigoletto never seemed believable.

Fortunately, Ruth Ann Swenson’s Gilda faced better, with some tender singing for Cara now, as well as being by a beautiful flute introduction. That flute added a piquant touch once more at opera’s end, exuding a lonelyhumor.

Choral singing was more spirited than many of the solo contributions, injecting fresh air into this stale production. The orchestral performance under Nello Santi was competent, and at times even exciting. That the overall impression of this production was of boredom, nonetheless.

The subway train out of New York broke down for an hour. The check-in agent at the airport, where I presented myself 10 minutes after the alleged departure time, looked at my sweaty mass kindly and ordered an electric cart, into which salute and self were loaded to be propelled at high velocity to the distant gate 98. Goodbye, New York. 

**Metropolitan Opera succeeds on reputation, fails in performance**

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**Mandala Folk Dance Ensemble**

The multi-cultural dance drama and orchestra perform folk dances from such nations as Russia, China, Mexico, Bulgaria, and Poland.

Friday, March 27, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 28, 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, March 29, 2:00 p.m.; New England Hall.

MIT Price: $5

**The Tech Performing Arts Series**

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By Deborah A. Levinson
Concert Reviewer

T
er's something very comforting about folk music, and something even more comforting about sitting in a smoky coffeehouse listening to a musician pluck away at a battered acoustic guitar. That's the kind of comfort The Best of Mountain Stage: Volume Two, Live evokes, capturing the simple, relaxed atmosphere of a folk concert.

"Mountain Stage" is a weekly, two-hour live public radio program featuring music ranging from alternative to Celtic. Stage: Volume Two brings together segments from musicians as musically disparate as Billy Bragg and Delbert McClinton or Robyn Hitchcock and John Prine.

The first track is Michelle Shocked's "God is a Real Estate Developer," from her most recent album, Cap's Swag. Her voice is clear and strong as always, but the Mountain Stage band is muted too low to be effective. Though this version isn't as raucous as the one on Cap's Swag, it does have a gentle country quality.

John Prine offers "It's a Big Old Goofy World," a sort of children's song based on doing a puzzle about animals. Originally titled "When the World Was Flat as a Pancake, Moos Lisa Was Happy as a Clam," the song winds through silly similes, punctuated by the equally silly chorus, "There's a big old goofy man dancing in a big old goofy shirt / Ooh, baby, it's a big old goofy world.

The critic's lyrical twins — like "the love you give, well, it's just a virus — it wants blood for Dr. Hyde" — make this one of the best tracks on the CD. Jimmie Dale Gilmore produces a solid track with "These Blues," a joyful blues piece with lyrics and stuf
ging guitar that recall both Gershwin and Hank. Sara Hickman, whose gorgeous soprano soars above "Simply," gives a sweet, honest perfor
mance of this beautifully naïve love song. "So I'll tell you," she whistles, "I've simply fallen for you."

Other well-known performers with folk roots don't fare as well as Prine or Hickman. R.E.M. delivers a bland, dis
toined rendition of " Losing My Religion." (Admittedly, it's not all their fault: the mic is too close to the bass, making it sound like a giant rubber band.) Robyn Hitchcock, one of my favorites, plays an unins-
pired "The Arms of Love," his bland guitar playing matched only by his uncharacteristically luscious — and therefore ho-

lyric — lyrics. And Kathy Mattea's otherwise pretty voice is wasted on "When've You Been," a light-mood-style song that makes her sound almost exactly like Anne Murray.

Therein lies the problem with The Best of Mountain Stage, Volume Two. With the wealth of tracks they certainly had to choose from, why did they pick the songs they did? I've heard Robyn Hitchcock live and acoustic, and he can play things like " The Arms of Love" a dozen times. Not to mention that one doesn't have to resort to watching "MTV Unplugged" to hear R.E.M. sound like one band, cut five musicians playing together in the same room. When Stage: Volume Two sticks to conventional folk-central shines, but when it branches out, it sometimes stum
bles. Still, as long as "Mountain Stage" is running, there's hope for a Volume Three, and perhaps even a more cohesive record.
Copperfield brings style to his magical illusions

Copperfield, from Page 13

around their arms. When the laugh
began, he excitedly turned his back to
the crowd and lifted his hat, revealing
his face with a smile.

The audience erupted in applause as
Copperfield strode onto the stage, skillfully
manipulating the magic tricks with quick
and precise movements. He mesmerized the
audience with his charmed performance,
enticing them to witness the likes of never
before.

He finished off by bowing as the
applause continued, and the audience
cried out in excitement. They knew they
had witnessed magic at its finest, and
Copperfield had left them in awe with his
dazzling illusions.

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My Cousin Vinny's courtroom is funny, but unrealistic

BY DANNY SU

The packed set for My Cousin Vinny reads, "There have been many courtroom dramas that have glorified the great American legal system. My Cousin Vinny isn't one of them." Yes, this film does not glorify the American legal system. In fact, the movie simply lacks any substance other than the performances of Joe Pesci and Marisa Tomei. As with most courtroom dramas, My Cousin Vinny relies on the presumption that the audience lacks any knowledge of courtroom procedures. Unfortunately, I do have some ideas about how the legal system operates. Still, I do find My Cousin Vinny to be a funny yet unrealistic courtroom drama.

Joe Pesci, who won an Oscar for his role in Goodfellas, plays a New York lawyer, Vincent Gambini, who attempts to defend two college kids who are charged with murder in a small town in Alabama. Unfortunately, he has never tried a case before, and it has taken him six attempts to pass the bar exam.

Although Pesci is fabulous, Vincent Gambini does not come across as a convincing character. First, Gambini lacks knowledge of even the simplest courtroom procedures. When asked by his client (Fred Gwynne) whether his clients will plead guilty or not guilty during the sentencing, Vincent trims to argue the case instead of simply saying "not guilty." Despite numerous instructions from the judge, Vincent does not follow standard procedure and is eventually found in contempt of court - a common occurrence for him. The movie would then have us believe that Vincent is so stupid he does not know how the prosecution must disclose all information to him. If he truly is that incompetent, then the judge should have ordered someone else to represent the defendants because they are not being represented. Of course, such incidents never do occur and Vincent is given the chance of learning on the fly.

Fortunately, Stan (Mitchell Whitfield), one of the two defendants, is astounded by Vincent's incompetence and requests a public defender. Although the public defender looks smooth and able, he has one minor problem. He gets very nervous in court and stutters. As a result of his incoherent speech, he gets nothing accomplished. Well, maybe there are people who share the same problem, but how could the state of Alabama be so blind as to make him a public defender and jeopardize the rights of the accused?

As the trial moves on, Vincent suddenly becomes the best attorney money can buy. He completely destroys every prosecuting witness on cross-examinations. One is forced to contradict his previous testimony, one is forced to admit that he identified the defendant through stained windows and trees, and one is forced to have eyeglasses that are heavily underprescribed. This is the best part of the movie, as Pesci makes Vincent come alive and delivers us with his street smart. Unfortunately, we have seen a complete transformation of Vincent in one day as he goes from a completely incompetent fool to the Clarence Darrow of the '90s. I find this turnaround to be as convincing as the idea of a constant MIT tuition. Furthermore, if the witnesses' testimonies were not credible, then why were they called by the district attorney to testify? I find it hard to believe that a district attorney would press charges when he knows he does not have a case at all.

If you do not particularly care for courtroom procedure and reality, you could potentially find this movie to be entertaining. And if you love to play with cars, you will find the later part of the movie to be an enjoyable experience as Vincent's fiancée, played by Marisa Tomei, describes and compares car performances in great detail during her testimony. Unfortunately, Tomei and Pesci are the only bright spots in a movie that is plagued by a badly written script. Their dialogues are humorous, and their presence makes the film look better than it actually is.

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**Jim's Journal**

**by Jim**

Today at the copy store Julie was wearing a "Save the Earth" sweatshirt.

Everybody was picking on her, saying "It took twice ink to print that shirt, and things like that.

Julie kept saying, "Come on you guys, it's just a stupid shirt. Cut it out."

Later, a customer came in wearing the exact same shirt and everybody was trying not to laugh.

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