Scientists Find a Gene that Grows Longer with Time

By Karen Kaplan

A gene recently implicated in the most common form of muscular dystrophy can increase in length from generation to generation, scientists at the Center for Cancer Research reported in today's issue of the journal Cell. The longer forms of the gene can produce symptoms ranging from cataracts to mental retardation, and even sudden death.

The finding comes just two weeks after the same researchers discovered that the gene, which works by an unusual duplication mechanism, is linked to myotonic dystrophy (DM), the most common form of muscular dystrophy (MD). Dystrophy for nearly 20 years, "I think there's tremendous hope for a breakthrough and now we have it," said Richard T. Moxley III, a neurologist and pediatrician from the University of Rochester who has been treating and studying myotonic dystrophy for nearly 20 years. "I think there's tremendous hope for patients."

The work, which also involved research teams from England and Wales, indicates that when a gene on chromosome 19 contains a trinucleotide sequence 50 times or more, symptoms of MD can occur in patients. Further, the DNA sequence may duplicate or triplicate itself as the gene is passed from one generation to another, resulting in more serious illness, including congenital myotonic dystrophy.

In today's article, researchers in Professor of Biology David A. Housman's laboratory led by David Brook, a postdoctoral fellow at the CCR, describe how a chemical sequence, the trinucleotide repeat consisting of the bases cytosine, thymine, and guanine (CTG), repeats from 50 to 3000 times or more in patients with myotonic dystrophy. The number of repeats is closely correlated with the severity of DM symptoms.

"It's a triplet repeat and we know that it resides in a protein kinase," said Brook, who has studied myotonic dystrophy for nine and a half years. Protein kinases, enzymes which modify other proteins, are important for many different body times, and an abnormality in one of them could affect several organs.

"Protein kinases are understood, so it will be easier to work out a potential treatment" for myotonic dystrophy, he continued.

The discovery was made by closely analyzing a region of chromosome 19 which was believed to contain the amplified CTG fragment 

Institute Ponders 8% Tuition Hike

By Jeremy Hyton

The Academic Council discussed increasing next year's tuition by 6 to 7 percent at its meeting on Tuesday, according to James J. Culliton, vice president for financial operations. The council also looked at employee salaries and the self-help level.

It was the third time this year the council met to advise President Charles M. Vest on a tuition hike. Vest will present his recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Corporation at its March meeting.

"I think there's a very strong interest in the administration to moderate tuition increases and I think they're going to do everything within reason to do that," Culliton said. Neither Vest nor Provost Mark S. Wrighton could be reached for comment on the final recommendations.

Culliton presented two budget models to the council for discussion. One, which has been used by the Executive Committee, would raise tuition by about 8 percent, from $18,600 to about $18,350 a year. The same model would increase the self-help level by about 6 or 7 percent, from $5700 to about $6050.

A model with about a 6 percent increase was also presented so "that the Academic Council can see the effect on the bottom line of each $1000 contributed to salary increases and so forth," Culliton explained. That model includes a smaller raise in the self-help level.

MIT's self-help level, the highest in the nation, was the most important issue discussed, according to Tuition, Page 10

ROTC Working Group Reports Little Progress

By Reuven M. Lerner

Protest Mark S. Wrighton reported little progress by the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Working Group at the faculty's monthly meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

Also discussed were MIT's relationship with the federal government, including a lawsuit over the theft of financial aid information with other universities, and a number of appointments to the Academic Council.

UA Council Discusses Remedies for Cheating

By Reuven M. Lerner

Academic honesty — what is it and how to deal with it — was the primary focus of Wednesday night's Undergraduate Association Council meeting.

The two-hour meeting, which brought about 45 students and several high-ranking administrators together in E1-220, was intended to be a preliminary discussion on what can be done to combat cheating. The council had previously discussed honesty on Feb. 5, when Associate Provost Sheila E. Widawsky '66 addressed the group.

Joining the UAC on Wednesday night were Arthur C. Smith, dean for undergraduate education and student affairs; Nelson Y.-S. King, chairman of the Committee on Discipline; Travis R. Merritt, associate dean for student affairs; and Samuel J. Keyser, associate provost for Institute life.

Corporation Chairman Paul E. Gray '54 was invited to attend, but

The Weather

Today: Clearing, 41°F (5°C) 

Tonight: Clear, 27°F (-3°C) 

February 21, 1992

The Weather

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February 21, 1992
**WEATHER**

**A Clipper Sailing By**

Forecast by Marek Zbrozowski

A fast-moving low pressure system, originating in the Northern Plains (and hence known as an "Alberta Clipper") will be passing through the region on Friday. Expect a strong cold front to move through, bringing with it a significant drop in temperature and the possibility of snow.

**FRIDAY**

**Friday Afternoon:** Clouds breaking slowly towards nightfall with the precipitation moving away into the Gulf of Maine. High: 41°F (5°C). Winds shifting from west to northwest at 10-15 mph.

**Friday night:** Becoming clear with lighter northwest winds. Low: 29°F (-2°C).

**SATURDAY**

**Saturday morning:** Clear with cloudy conditions advancing from the south. High: 46°F (8°C). Light and variable winds may become onshore. High around 39°F (4°C).

**Saturday night:** Some light precipitation, locally mixed with sleet, snow possible away from the coast. Low in the low 30s (0°C).

**SUNDAY**

**Sunday outlook:** Precipitation ending during the day with clearing and colder weather to follow in the afternoon. Winds shifting to northwest.

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**WORLD & NATION**

**De Klerk Calls for Vote on Reforms**

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Stalled by his party's loss to apartheid forces in a local election, President Frederik W. de Klerk put his career and his country's mounting difficulties at the end of apartheid on the line Thursday by calling for a nationwide vote of confidence by white voters.

"If the people of South Africa..." de Klerk said, "we will step down and his government would reach an agreement on a new constitution that would be held within the next six weeks."

"The South African government can confidently pursue reforms aimed at ending apartheid and negotiating with the black majority on a new constitution. But if the whites, the entire reform process would be blocked and South Africa would suffer serious setbacks in its efforts to regain international respectability and internal stability."

"This is something which must be settled," de Klerk said in a speech to Parliament, which is meeting in Cape Town. "It is in the interest of the process itself that we settle this question."

He said that the referendum is necessary because the opposition Congress Party claims to represent the majority of white voters.

"If there is a referendum, I will resign, the government will resign and there will be an election," he said.

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**Buchanan Charges Bush With Promoting 'Reverse Discrimination'**

The White House Press Corps

In a startling attack on President Bush that marred the reunion of race and class, Patrick J. Buchanan pointed his presidential campaign squarely toward the upcoming primaries in South Carolina by charging the president with signing a civil rights bill that would lead to "reverse discrimination."

Speaking to a receptive audience at the annual meeting of the Conservative Political Action Conference on Thursday, Buchanan said that Bush was "an accomplice in a two-decade campaign of reverse discrimination," and that the "ultimate beneficiaries of reverse discrimination are the members of minority races who have no stake in a country which excludes the majority."

Arguing that the law would result in racial quotas, Buchanan declared that the president is "an accomplice in an Exon-Veto GOP that won't go away by getting bigger, because as we know, it is not their children who get housed out of South Boston into Roxbury, it is not their brother who loses contracts because of minority set-asides, it is not the cities of Yale and Harvard who apply to become FIE agents and constitutional lawyers and courts who bear the brunt of this reverse discrimination."

"The time has come to tender the budget of civil rights to South Boston, Roxbury, and many, many other devastated areas of the nation that are suffering from the impact of reverse discrimination," Buchanan declared.

"But while we have the countervailing interests of majority America, the political reality is that the majority is on the losing side."

Buchanan lashed out against the president's signing of the 1991 Civil Rights Act, saying that "it is not going to bother you greatly, because as we know, it is not their children who get housed out of South Boston into Roxbury, it is not their brother who loses contracts because of minority set-asides, it is not the cities of Yale and Harvard who apply to become FIE agents and constitutional lawyers and courts who bear the brunt of this reverse discrimination."

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**Panel Recommends Continued Limited Use of Breast Implants**

By Marlene Clow

WASHINGTON

A federal advisory panel Thursday said that there is no evidence linking silicone gel breast implants, recommending instead that certain women be allowed to obtain them under carefully pre- scripted conditions.

The recommendation by the Food and Drug Administration's advisory panel is expected to ease concern about the potential dangers of silicone with feelings that some women—particularly those who have had mastectomies—have a compelling psychological need for the implants.

Under the recommendation, women seeking the controversial device (for cosmetic reasons) usually breast enlargement—would have limited access as "carefully controlled scientific studies."

The panel said, however, that all women who need the implants for reconstruction purposes should have them, although they too would become part of a research program. These women would include breast cancer patients, women undergoing reconstructive surgery for congenital breast abnormalities, and those who have suffered some kind of trauma that deform their breasts.

This proposal "respects to sci- ence on the one hand and compassion on the other," said medical ethicist Nancy Dubler, a member of the panel, reflected on the panel.

The implants have been the subject of a painful and emotional national debate that has pitted women against women and raised soul-searching questions about the values of a breast-conscious society.

Many women have asked the implants made a profound dif- ference in their lives, especially for reconstruction after breast cancer, as others have opposed the devices as the source of debilitating conditions that caused enormous suffering.

If the proposal is approved by the Food and Drug Administration it would mean that the devices would no longer be available on the general market. Furthermore, women who received them would become participants in a large research program moni- tored by the agency.

"This is wonderful for those women who have had implants and are disappointed for those women who have developed disease," said J. Kenneth Campbell, group vice president for Dow Corning Corp., the leading manufacturer of the devices. "We hope it will not be so restrictive that those women who truly have a need will not be able to get it."

Dr. Norman Cole, president of the American Society for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, said he believed the panel would make it dif- ficult for women making augmenta- tion, since they "will need to make a significant investment of time and money" to be part of the (study) group.

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**Trade Deficit Falls Lowest Point in Nearly a Decade**

By Stuart Auerbach

WASHINGTON

Pushed by record growth in overseas sales of American-made computer, planes, and machinery, the government reported Thursday that the U.S. trade deficit dropped 35 percent last year to $66.2 billion, its lowest level in 10 years.

Although the improvement was welcomed, the report sent a mixed message on the state of the U.S. economy.

The record level of exports, up 7.2 percent over the year to $421.9 billion, provided the only real bright spot in the economy last year. Also spot in the economy last year. Also...
Israel Retaliates for Rockets Fired from Lebanon

By Daniel Williams

Israel's tanks and troops swept into villages in southern Lebanon Thursday on what Israeli officials said was a mission to seek Shiite Muslim guerrillas and to destroy mobile Katyusha rocket launchers that have rained erratic fire on villages of the north-central Israeli district.

Although the maneuver escalat-

...ing the fighting in the area and reminded observers of the events leading to the full-scale invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Israeli officials insisted that their military foray would be limited in time and scope.

"It is serious, but not very seri-

cus," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Thursday of the incursion in which at least two Israeli soldiers and three guerrillas from the extremist Hezbolah movement were killed. "I think it will come to an end in a short time."

A senior military official described the campaign as "very limited," although some of the goals were wider than the publicly reported aim of removing the Katyusha threat.

Lefevre is sending a message to the Lebanese government to join in Hezbolah, the military official said. Although the Lebanese army has been active in disarming local militiamen, Hezbolah has been left to its own devices against Israel and the Israeli-controlled anti-guerrilla buffer zone in the south. Lebanon.

For most of the three days previous to Thursday's attack, Lebanese militiamen had stood short-range Katyusha rockets into the Israeli-occupied areas along the Lebanese, as well as into northern Israel. Israeli responded with tank and artillery barrages from the buffer area onto and around Shiite Muslim villages.

The latest round of Lebanese fighting began after Israel, in a quick and longer attack, estab-

lished Abash Moussaoui, a leader of the Lebanese, the militant, Iran-backed Shiite nationalist group. His killing came after a Palestinian raid on an Israeli base inside Israel in which three Israeli soldiers were killed in a brief battle.

But the timing was a cover-

even, officials have said, planned Moussaoui's assassination as far back as December in frustration over broken negotiations aimed at securing an Israeli air force pre-

emen held in Lebanon.

In Lebanon, thousands of Lebanese fled the villages of Yasser and Kaffa, in advance of the Israeli threat. They were bombarded with intense artillery fire by Gen. Antoine Lahad, the leader of the South Lebanese Army, Israel's client Lebanese militiamen along the northern frontier.

United Nations peacekeeping troops tried to keep Israeli troops out of the villages. But Israeli bulldozer swarmed aside U.N. vehicles blocking the road. "They didn't do anything to stop the Katyusha," complained an Israeli military offi-

cey. "Why should they stop us?"

Two U.S. soldiers, part of a group from the II U.N. force, were hit by guerrilla fire directed at the Lebanese, the U.N. officials said. Another two soldiers were wounded by Herbolaha guerrillas who burst through a U.N. checkpoint.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-

General Boutros-Ghali described the incursion and demanded that the Israelis and their militiam allies withdraw immediately. Boutros-Ghali said that Under Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, the British diplomat in charge of U.N. peacekeeping opera-

tions, had delivered the secretary-

general's protest and demand to

Israel's U.N. ambassador Yoram Avrush on.

U.S. spokesman Francis Cicoli said that an Israeli column of 17 tanks and 22 armed personnel carriers crossed the border at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Lebanese time. He said that the lightly-armed U.N. peacekeepers, without firing weapons, tried to stop the Israelis but were "pushed aside." He said the wounded Fijians were caught in Israeli fire on But the timing was a cover:

the goals dozers shoved aside U.N. vehicles on the northern frontier. The House Democratic Caucus leaders said Thursday they believed they would be able to muster enough votes to defeat both Bush's package and the GOP plan and then present their own plan and send it to the Senate.

"House Speaker Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.), told reporters after the caucus session he was confident that the Democratic alternative would prevail. "This does more for tax fairness, this does more for econom-

ic equity," he said.

But several lawmakers warned that sentiment for the package was so thin during Thursday's caucus that it still was unclear whether the cross-fire between the Israeli Defense Force and Herzeliah but "we do not know who fired the shots."

In comments Wednesday, Shamir had suggested the aim of Israeli action would be to eliminate the Shiite militants. "We will con-

inue striking at Hezbollah until it quits Lebanon," he pledged. Suspensions were also raised that Israel might extend the buffer zone, which it controls with the aid of the South Lebanese Army. Defense Minister Moshe Arens ended press inquiries on the point, saying, "We will not put up with attacks of Katyusha rockets on the civilian population."

State Department officials said they did not expect the Israeli raid to disrupt the Middle East peace talks, set to resume in Washington on Monday.

House Caucus OKs Tax Cut Plan

By Art Pine

The House Democratic Caucus grudgingly approved a package of election-year tax cuts Thursday after removing a controversial provision that would have reduced income taxes for corporations.

The approval came after the full House was asked to choose among three tax-cut plans next week: the Democratic bill, the package that President Bush proposed Jan. 28, and a strengthened version of the president's plan put together by House Republicans.

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ic equity," he said.

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increases.

Bush's plan would provide a similar menu, but would provide a less-generous tax break for middle-

income Americans and would post-

pose it until next January, and

would pay for the tax cuts by chang-

ing the accounting rules for some portions of the federal budget.

Meanwhile, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said any tax-

cut bill that his panel turns out would be paid for by raising taxes elsewhere, at the House bill would, not by reorchestrating savings from defense spending cuts.

Bentsen's committee is sched-

...led to begin drafting its own ver-

sion of the tax bill Feb. 27. The Texas Democrat has not said yet precisely what it would contain, but strategists expect it to be closer to the House Democratic alternative than to the Republican package.

Thursday's approval by the House Democratic Caucus came after a contentious closed session in which caucus members expressed strong reservations about various portions of the bill, forcing a poll on a proposed one percentage-point cut in corporate tax rates that led to eliminating it from the bill entirely.

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Campus Interviews February 26, 27, 28, 1992

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HEWLETT Packard
Jokes Not Intended To Offend

Recently, my posting of Jewish jokes to the computerized newsroom must jokes has become an issue on campus. I would like to apologize to the community for the pain the jokes have caused, and explain the situation, since it has been portrayed unfairly.

There is no defense for what I did. It was irresponsible and an act of extremely bad judgment. The jokes were submitted late one evening and were inspired by other "graffiti" jokes on the same newsgroup. I thought the jokes would fit in, and in an effort to keep people who might be offended from reading the jokes, I started the posting with the phrase "These absolutely disgusting jokes here, that will probably offend a lot of you." I was getting pretty tired at that point of the night, so I didn't proofread the posting to see that it was insufficient as a warning.

The jokes were not meant as a statement about Jews or any other ethnic group. I had no knowledge of how the people who received them would be offended, and I feel terrible for having caused them distress. Had I known, I never would have posted them.

I think this issue has been blown completely out of proportion, due to, the fact that Josephs Richardson PhD '91 failed to fairly inform the community of the entire situation when he wrote his last column in The Tech.

After I posted the jokes, people were offended, or thought that the jokes were inappropriate, sent me e-mail and posted on the newsgroup counts jokes. After a while, as it was slowly occurring to me what I had done, I apologized on counts jokes, and the issue was essentially closed.

At this point, Richmond stood up across the dialogue. He posted part of the discussion about my jokes from onetjokes, taken completely out of context, on the mailing list, jokewritjat.htm, and portrayed me as anti-Semitic. By then, my original posting had been on eunetjokes for a while and had been completely out of context, on the mailing list.

"The road He offers is not one of 'many paths'; it is the only one." The authors do not mention in his column that I had only submitted one offensive posting, and that I had apologized both in the original origamish, where I had posted jokes, and the second forum where he dragged the discussion. I hope you don't judge me solely on the basis of Richardson's comments. You see, my night wasn't bad, but I feel I have been unfairly set up as a scapegoat for anti-Semitic and prejudice in general.

Yvonne K. Raustein '94

Religious Need
To Consider Their Own Beliefs

In his column ["Religion Helps Some Survive Nuclear Age"]; Jan. 3], Swami Sarvapriyananda wrote an article about the innocent suffering caused by Christians in Vietnam, as well as referring to the reasons of differing religions can lead to bloodshed. His solution is for everyone to accept all religions as true. This is clearly impossible: believe in one set of religious dogmas usually precludes belief in another set. This is fine, as the truth of all religions is not the problem; rather the arrogance of Satanism is the problem.

A clear and proper resolution of this arrogance was a recent letter ["Christianity Cannot Be Reconciled With Other Religions", Feb. 1] in The Tech. The author stated of Christianity, "The road He offers is not one of ‘many paths’; it is the only one.” The author's point that Christianity is the only path. Rather, the authors know Christianity is the only path. They don't say, "We believe it is the only path." They instead say, "It is the only path.

What's the matter with you guys? If Christianity is the "only path", what do you think of the rest of us? Are we just stupid? Are we all just damned? Are Jesus wrong? As Muslims wrong? What a nice feeling it must be to know that you are right and everyone else is wrong.

A lot people, think! Please consider that your beliefs, whatever they are, are not the only ones out there. Stay yourself, and think, "I might be wrong."

James Fleming G.
Guide to Cafeteria Cooking Makes Lobdell Fun

Column by Bill Jackson

We’re a few weeks into the term, and ARA food is getting to be a bit bland. Luckily, there is relief on the way.

MIT employee Lynn Harris has co-authored a new book called "The Cookbook: Be Your Own Chef In The College Cafeteria." Harris, who works in the former Undergraduate Education Office, co-wrote the book with two of her friends from Yale, Larry Berger and illustrator Chris Kalb.

Harris told me that her fascination with cafeteria cooking began during her sophomore year at Yale. At first, she says, "I was just fooling around, experimenting, but some people were asking, 'Hey Lynn, could you make me that banana thing?'" So Harris was getting notice for her special cafeteria food, from Fettucine Alfredo to Cheese Fondue.

The resulting cookbook is designed to help college students use the food in their cafeterias to make a variety of interesting dishes. Many of the dishes sound great, and the book is presented with a sense of humor. For example, "Cliff's Oates," a parody on the famous cereal while maintaining the "Cliffs" style. "Cliffs Oates," a parody on the famous "Cliffs Guide to the College Experience."" Apply your interpretation to a personal experience.

(Lynn Harris is presented with a sense of humor. For example, "Chinese Peanut Pasta." "God save me!"

"Sure." He poured some basil leaves into a cup.

"Now," I asked, "I need just a pinch of garlic powder."

I hope somebody at ARA gives this guy a bonus.

As I combined the ingredients, I checked on the progress of the other team members. Mr. Hersch had Mr. Rizzo concerned, demand-

ing one handful of chopped eggplant for the Ratatouille he was attempting to make. Hersch learned that eggplant was unavailable.

Finding this situation as untenable as the political climate in Singapore, he asked for some zucchini. Mr. Rizzo went looking again.

Ms. Levinson was attempting to make "Chinese Peanut Pasta." "God save me!" exclaimed Margaret White, who was working the deli when Ms. Levinson approached looking for ingredients. Ms. White gave out a scoop of peanut butter. When Mr. Council showed her that the recipe he was working on, "Pa amb Tomaquet" (Bread with Tomato, a Catalan dish) required "6-inch length French Bread," Ms. White went to great pains to make sure the bread was exactly 6 inches long. Ms. Eaton seemed to be having little trouble with her team, the "Greek Week Burger," since the feta cheese and peppers required were on the salad bar.

Meanwhile, I came to the rash realization that although my pesto sauce was looking (and smelling) pretty good, Lobdell didn't have English muffins after breakfast. I was forced to settle for different types of breads on which to spread the sauce. Meanwhile, Mr. Rizzo returned from the downstairs kitchen with a summer squash for Mr. Hersch — not quite a zucchini, but in the same family — and the satisfied columnist called off the tactical air strike he had been planning.

We went to the register. I gulped as I watched each of the five meals ring up, not to mention a couple of sodas and extras. The total bill for all of the above items? $11.75. Not bad. I think the unusual combinations of ingredients confounded the Lobdell pricing system.

And the results? Excellent. After sampling all of the dishes, the consensus was that Ms. Levinson's peanut pasta was the best, although the pesto sauce had its share of fans and the bread with tomato was excellent as well. The only limitation was that many of these dishes (including the bread with tomato) require a microwave. Because there isn't one in Lobdell, we used the maker in the Tech office to complete these recipes which needed heating. Perhaps this would work better in house dining halls where students could ask to use a microwave (or take them back to dorm kitchens with microwaves.)

Tech Cafeteria is on sale now, although it may be hard to find due to high demand. The Coop is expecting to receive it any day now, and it should be available at the Harvard Book Store and other local bookstores. A portion of the authors' proceeds goes to the Children's Defense Fund.

Column by Bill Jackson

February 21, 1992

THE TECH

Page 3

IN THE BALANCE.

Extended Deadline: 5 PM Friday, February 28, 1992

Petitions available in the UA Office (Student Ctr. 401) Contact Raaj Chitaley at 3-2696 for more information.
Bankers Trust Research Award

Bankers Trust will sponsor a research award. First year MBA students and all SB and SM candidates are invited to participate.

To compete for the award, you must prepare a proposal, no longer than 3 single spaced typewritten pages, outlining your specific topic within the designated subject area. Students may invite a professor to counsel/advise them on their proposal, but this is not mandatory. Proposals must be submitted by March 2, 1992, to:

A.T. Bellino, SVP
280 Park Avenue, 20 West
New York, NY 10017

You may choose any one of the following topics:

• “Industrial Strength Object Oriented Technology”
• “Technology and the Globalization of the Financial Market”
• “Visualizing Data for Decision Making”
• “Workgroup Computing”

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Technology Department working at Bankers Trust. The finalists (3 at most) will be asked to visit the Bank and verbally discuss their proposals.

A winner will be selected by mid-March. The winner will receive a $10,000 grant payable in two $5,000 installments; one at the beginning of the summer, the other upon submission of the final report.

It should be noted that this is not an internship. The winner will have complete freedom to conduct his/her research over the summer months. Bankers Trust will provide a mentor to touch base with, work space if requested, and access to all relevant information regarding the research being done.

Additional information about Bankers Trust is available from Bob Weatherall and Linda Stantial.
American Buffalo needs to smooth rough edges

AMERICAN BUFFALO

By Deborah A. Levinson

American Buffalo is not a play for the faint of heart. Its characters are brutal and profane; its action is harsh and violent. The author of David Mamet's play brings out these elements, but takes a little too long to get there.

To the actor's credit, I reviewed a rehearsal, and both the actors and the assistant directors admitted they had problems to work out before the two public performances. If they can just iron out the first act, American Buffalo will be worth seeing.

American Buffalo deals with the lives of three men: Don, a junk-shop owner, Bob, a dim-witted ex-junkie; and Teach, a violent Cro-Magnon case whose idea of a platitude is "the only way to teach people is to kill them." Don has just sold a rare buffalo-head nickle to a collector and, having discovered the profitability of coin collecting, plans with Bob to steal the buyer's coins. Enter Teach, who takes charge of the situation and browns Don into cutting off Bob. As plot goes, it's not much, but bees again. Mamet's strength has always been his dialogue.

The stage picture is not colorful essentially, it is a series of profanities strung together. The world of American Buffalo is a world of half-truths, chicanery, and self-deception. It is a world of lies, half-truths, and self-deception. It is a world of lies, half-truths, and self-deception. It is a world of lies, half-truths, and self-deception. It is a world of lies, half-truths, and self-deception.

The calm moments, however, show the critical problem with this production of American Buffalo. In a play where dialogue is everything, the pacing is languid, especially in the first act. Since the bulk of the action takes place in the second act, the actors must hook the audience right away. Unless the director's and actors' promise degenerates, I don't think that's going to happen. Still, for a play as fascinating as American Buffalo, I'd be willing to take a chance on this company of actors again.

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conducted by Seiji Ozawa.
Donizetti's New World Symphony. Haydn's Symphony No. 86. Symphony Hall, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m., Feb. 21 at 2 p.m., and Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.

By Jonathan Richmond

Despite all the calls for adventurous programming, there's always a place for a concert without X-rated items, and this weekend's offering from the BSO offers just that. Ozawa's New World Symphony and Ozawa does it very well indeed. Of course, there's nothing quite like listening to the New World sprawled across the grass at Tanglewood under a starlit sky. But Ozawa's Symphony Hall rendition also brought out the melodies, the romance, and the earthiness of a piece audiences will never stop loving.

Ozawa developed great drama in the opening movement of the New World. The BSO's alert and lively playing gripped one's attention. Strings attacked with energy, bowing sweeps, while winds plied their art of seduction on the ears with gentle subtlety, and brass produced waves of excitement.

The second movement — suggested by the arthritic theme of Minnie's theme from The Song of Hiawatha — was done with a woeful beauty. String attack was accompanied by a slowing sweep, while winds plied their art of seduction on the ears with gentle subtlety, and brass produced waves of excitement.

The orchestra's dynamic, quick playing also suggested wonder afoot in a new world. The work was convulsed with high spirits, making it definitively worth a spot on your weekend agenda.

The concert also included Haydn's Symphony No. 86. Several passages were played felicitously, and the work's wit shone through, at least partially. The BSO was a bit peddling at times, however: Ozawa needs to inject a more lightly-opting touch into his Haydn.

Radio Flyer's childhood theme doesn't quite fly

RADIO FLYER

By Chris Roberge

Children, I've noticed, have been fusing too well at the movies these days. The latest offering from Steven Spielberg, widely praised as the guru of youth childhood themes, was the fairly disappointing Hook. Beauty and the Beast, which has earned $10 million and the first best picture Oscar nomination in an imagined film, would be stifled by the term "a kid's movie." Now Richard Donner, most famous for directing both Lethal Weapon movies, has created Radio Flyer, a story of two brothers who transformed their little red wagon into an imagin- utive means of flight from their abusive stepfather. But despite a very good premise and some strong performances, Radio Flyer never really gets off the ground.

Elijah Wood and Joseph Mazzello play Mike and Bobby Wright (a not-too-funny pun, given the film's fascination with flight), two young boys who travel from New Jersey to California with their single mother (Lorraine Warren, whose sons in Splitter's Family live with the boy in the play). At the new house, when the applieed family arrives at their new home, Mr. Wright meets "The King," a small, unremarkable character who has a tendency to get upset at Bobby for no reason at all. This is a man who will become not just an evil stepfather, but an evil stepfather who daily drinks enough alcohol to raise his blood alcohol level well beyond lethal levels, listens to cheesy country music, and into the night, names himself after Elvis, drives an ugly pick-up truck with tools constantly falling out of the bed, and enjoys wielding electrical wire. Despite all of these warning signs, Ms. Wright marries "The King," and Bobby and Mike discover that a monster much more frightening than anything they see on television or in their comic books has settled in their own home.

The two brothers are able to find a few defenses against their stepfather, including their pet dog, who tries to protect the boys at all costs. Mike and Bobby also begin to spend their days exploring the woods around their home and making money through such ventures as finding and selling lost golf balls and depositing glass bottles. "The King" soon becomes too dangerous, though, and the boys decide to use their secret money to create "The Big Idea" — the only real way to get away from "The King's" anger.

The world of Radio Flyer is a world of crying buffalos, frightening werewolves, secret potions, and boys who can fly, all seen through the eyes of children. Wood, who was very impressive in 1990's Avalon, and Mazzello both do an excellent job in individualistically portraying both the joys and pains associated with the stage of life when such visions are strongest. But the boys acting is far superior to Evan's acting, which frames the story as a anecdotal flashback of an older Mike (Tom Hanks) talking to his own children years later. There are far too many scenes of Wood looking up into the sky as if to say "The King" is a monster, something like "That was the first time I..." or "From that moment on, I realized that..." It doesn't do much for the poignancy narrative to grow tired, driving every signifi- cant point into the ground. And Donner, who is much better at intense action sequences than at touching family scenes, family too often with his natural. A few scenes poignancy an ingenious charm, and more often the story creates unintentional laughter when it tries for heartfelt emotion. Add to these shortcomings one of the weaker endings that I've seen lately, and Radio Flyer doesn't add up to much.

By Chris Roberge

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Radio Flyer's childhood theme doesn't quite fly
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**DM Gene May Grow with Time**

Dystrophy, from Page 1

continued, indicating that this is a subject for future research.

Four other research teams which have studied myotonic dystrophy will corroborate these results in the March 6 issue of the journal Science.

Myotonic dystrophy, which usually appears in adolescence or early adulthood, results in weakness and wasting in some muscles and often produces difficulty in muscle relaxation, a condition called myotonia. The disorder also causes other effects, including heart problems, gastrointestinal complications, cataracts, premature balding, mental slowness, and sleep disorders, according to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, a sponsor of the research.

Genes have novel mechanism

Earlier this month, researchers in Hocan's laboratory reported that the gene that causes myotonic dystrophy can lengthen from one generation to the next, so that mildly affected parents could pass on a more severe form of the disease to their children. It is now clear that lengthening can occur when the CUG series duplicates itself as the gene is passed on. As a result, the onset of symptoms can occur earlier in each generation. This phenomenon is known as "anticipation," although the sequence is not duplicated in every generation.

"Our first hint that the gene might be working this way came last year when Fragile-X mental retardation syndrome was cloned and found to have a triplet repeat," Brook said. "Fragile-X is similar to myotonic dystrophy in that the syndrome gets worse in succeeding generations, so it was suggested that there might be a repeat in myotonic dystrophy too."

Myotonic dystrophy is the third disease found to be related to a gene segment which can change as it is passed from one generation to the next. In addition to Fragile-X syndrome, this mechanism operates in spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy, a wasting disease. "This opens up some new thinking about generic regulation," Mosley said.

Implications of research

Although one in every 7000 to 8000 people worldwide is afflicted with myotonic dystrophy, Brook suspects that many more people may be carriers of the DM gene and therefore "at risk" of developing DM symptoms.

"There are probably many people with very few symptoms that appear normal and are minimally affected and never go to a doctor," Brook explained. "They may have cataracts, which is a common symptom of people who are mildly affected, or they have problems relaxing a grip, but it's not that bad and they don't worry about it. These people may pass the (defective) gene on to their children and grandchildren" who may develop a far more severe case of myotonic dystrophy, he said. Children of myotonic dystrophy patients have a 50 percent chance of inheriting a faulty gene.

Now that the gene's reproductive mechanism is better understood, "people have started to think it's likely that other diseases operate on the same level," Brook said. Diseases which worsen in succeeding generations and which display a variance in the age of onset have been targeted. Currently, researchers are focusing their attention on Huntington's Disease, a hereditary brain disorder.

Another outcome of this recent discovery is that early detection tests for myotonic dystrophy, including tests before birth, will improve now that researchers know exactly where to look for the faulty gene. "If you're worried that you might have a severely affected infant," Mosley said, "new tests will make it easier to determine the severity of the condition by isolating the gene and counting the number of CUG triplets."

"This is going to patients right now," said Mosley, who lost a brother to myotonic dystrophy last year. "We can identify affected individuals without screening their whole families."

Also, since the gene resides in a familiar protein kinase, researchers should be able to understand the disease more easily.

Brook said he suspects that most myotonic dystrophy "are the result of a common ancestral event" which must have occurred very early in evolution, since the disease has been found in North America, Europe, Asia, and Japan. He predicted that myotonic dystrophy may exist in Asia and in Africa, but that "there are so many health problems there that the disease would rarely show up as such."

As in all genetics research, these findings raise complex and troubling ethical questions. For example, "now that it's likely that more people are carriers of [myotonic dystrophy] than were originally thought, how do we identify people who are potentially at risk? Should they be tested?" Brook asked.

"The ethical question is slightly different for this disease because the disease can be passed on with increased severity," Brook continued. "It's a novel mechanism, and it has an additional ethical dimension."

**PUNTO F.**

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unlike the Defense Department would seriously consider changing the name before November’s presidential election.

Still, Wrighton said that there had been a lot of progress since the group was formed 18 months ago. In particular, he said, a number of universities, including MIT, met with Christopher James, a Defense Department representative.

"The bright side of the discussion was that he indicated some receptiveness" to the universities’ ideas, Wrighton said. James might be willing to create a joint committee between the Defense Department and universities to look into changing the policy, Wrighton said.

David L. Haplin, professor of literature, asked Wrighton if the administration had considered joining long-term opponents of the Defense Department’s policy, such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force or the American Civil Liberties Union.

Wrighton said that while MIT had not joined either of those groups, it had recently aligned itself with the American Council on Education, a consortium of colleges and universities planning to mount a suit against the Defense Department for sharing financial aid information with other universities, including MIT, for sharing financial aid information with other universities planning to mount a suit against the Defense Department for sharing financial aid information with other universities planning to mount a suit against the Defense Department for sharing financial aid information with other universities. And Wrighton also described a new committee on federal relations, which she will chair, "taking on the responsibility of the Office of the Provost for issues related to academic responsibility," and "dealing with issues relating to the faculty."

This last point, Wrighton said, would be especially important after 1994, when mandatory retirement will not be possible, Wrighton said.

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**Gymnastics Continues To Shatter Records**

By Catherine Roccio

The women's gymnastics team finished its fourth round of meets this past weekend, competing at Rhode Island College on Feb. 14, then hosting Brown University and Southern Connecticut State on Sunday afternoon in DuPont Gymnasium. Lisa Arel '92 had the way again, breaking her own MIT record for overall score at the meet against Brown and SCS.

The MIT women defeated the Rhode Island College team with a team total score of 189.25 to RIC's 143.55. Southern Connecticut took the tri-meet title with a score of 174.8 over Brown's 172.0 and MIT's 177.45.

Vaulting was again consistent for the Engineers, with Geriann Martin '92 and Karin Oda '93 scoring 7.12 and 7.45 for their handspring vaults, while Leabourne and Lyren both executed solid twisting vaults and scored 7.9 and 8.85. Arel had her best vault of the sea-

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**February 21, 1992**

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