Elserewhere Offers Escape from Rush

By Eva Moy

"Elsewhere" is more than just 15 years of Play-Doh and Legos.

Elsewhere, located on the Fifth Floor reading room in the Student Center, has provided freshmen with a relaxed, rush-free zone for 15 years now, said Jo-Anne M. Kokoski '96, a Residence and Orientation Week worker at Elsewhere.

"It's very important, especially for people who, say, are pressured to Rush but do not want to do it," said Sara Howe '94, one of this year's two Elsewhere coordinators.

No Rush paraphernalia, including T-shirts or name tags representing living groups or sororities, is allowed at Elsewhere, Howe said.

"People have been in and out," Kokoski said. "It seems to be pretty popular with freshmen."

Because freshmen are not required to sign in or out, Clearinghouse tracks residence and orientation week.

Elserewhere also allows students to meet some familiar faces from Project MOYA or other freshmen that they have met so far at MIT, Tsou said.

Overall, it came together pretty well, Howe said.

Protest, Page 6
World Religions Leaders Gather For Global Parliament

Thousands of religious leaders from around the world gathered in Chicago for the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions, a week-long conference that will seek to build global cooperation among religious communities, as well as to discuss a range of issues from AIDS and the environment to the rights of indigenous peoples.

Representatives of religions including Baha'i, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism, Islam, Shintoism, and Zen Buddhism are participating, as well as Americans Indian and other indigenous spiritual leaders.

The Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader, is among those scheduled to speak at the event. Sothos, the Roman Catholic nun and Nobel Peace Prize winner, was scheduled to participate but a recent bout with malaria forced her to cancel plans to travel to Chicago.

The gathering will be marked by prayer, ceremony, workshops, lectures and cultural performances. "Global 2000 Revisited," a report challenging religious leaders to address the difficulties facing future generations will be presented.

Panama Not Sure It Wants U.S. Out

Panama's plans for 7,000 troops remains.

The cry of protest in Latin America has traditionally been, "Yankees, go home!" In Panama these days, it's, "Yankees, please stay!" Panama is scheduled for the withdrawal of 10,000 American troops and the closing of the U.S. military bases as part of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties, Panama is getting cold feet.

No one ever thought that even an American dominance in the region is being replaced by economic reality. Panama stands to lose, at least in the short term, thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars with the departure of the U.S. Southern Command under the treaties.

In a recent survey published by the newspaper La Prensa, more than 70 percent of Panamanians questioned supported saving American military bases.

In a survey report on Tuesday, as his stay on the Caribbean island approached the one-month milestone of 364 days, U.S. President Clinton will speak out against the idea of giving up the U.S. influence in Panama.

"I think that the very large reservoir of public support for the U.S. bases was very dam theingly exposed," said John D. Aldrich, director of the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War and Peace.

The Marbs setback comes after problems with the Galileo mission to Jupiter, the misshapen mirror in the Hubble Space Telescope, and the nuclear disaster in thee.

The key to the treaty's future will be presented.

The gathering will be marked by ceremony, prayer, workshops, lectures and cultural performances. "Global 2000 Revisited," a report challenging religious leaders to address the difficulties facing future generations will be presented.

Trouble With Mars Observer May Undermine NASA's Agenda

The apparent loss of the once-promising Mars Observer spacecraft is turning up the heat on the U.S. space agency, bringing a boil to some simmering doubts about the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's performance, experts say.

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WEATHER

Hurricane Emily Takes Aim At The Southeast U.S. Coast

By Michael Morgan

The latest news on Hurricane Emily for the next few days is that the storm will make its way to the U.S. coast.

Hurricane Emily is likely to make landfall south of our area, we may still experience some effects from her -- wind and rain -- later in the week.

In the meantime, high pressure will provide much more comfort than usual these days, the National Weather Service said.


By Carl M. Cannon

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### A Year After Andrew, Emily Threatens Florida Coastline

By Mike Clay

One year and four days after Hurricane Andrew ripped through southern Florida, a distant but potentially deadly threat loomed on the horizon of the Everglades and the Everglades National Park. Forecasters at the National Hurri...
OPINION

Rush Needs More Truth, Less Rhetoric

Every freshman is greeted the same way at MIT: "You were not admitted by mistake, you are welcome." Each of you is here because you know that you have the intellectual capacity, the energy, the imagination, and the will to succeed," President Vest said to you.

It seems strange that many of the upperclassmen and administrators who ran Residence and Orientation Week — and a fair number of the people who don't like the way it's run — forgot that welcome. They don't give you enough credit.

The wonderful thing about RO Week here is that you are given the freedom to choose where you want to live. Other colleges have computerized schemes that match up students who major in computer science or people who like Star Trek (alas a disheartening fact at MIT). Here it's up to you to find somewhere that you like.

Rush would be a lot better if the Ad Hoc Committee on Informed Rush did its job. The committee should cover the campus in sensational posters about ILGs and you probably have an easier time finding a living group if bad mouthing rules did not limit what people can tell you about independent living groups.

The Ad Hoc Committee's name is something of a misnomer. The group promulgates every stereotype that you can imagine about fraternities and sororities. Some of the fraternities here are highly guilty of some of the things that the committee's posters describe, but the committee's picture of fraternity life is wildly different than the one I saw during my two years in a fraternity.

Admittedly, my experience in a fraternity is colored by the fact that I pledged Zeta Beta Tau, which has no pledge period. That doesn't necessarily mean that freshmen are treated exactly the same as upperclassmen at ZBT, but it does mean I missed out on the pledging rituals of some fraternities.

Living in a fraternity, for the record, was a terrible choice. I did have some extra housework to do as a freshman, I did have to spend a week here during Independent Activities Period doing cleaning and maintenance, I did participate in a secret initiation ceremony. I was not hazed, nor was any other freshman. I never got drunk, nor did anyone care what I did. I made a lot of friends, worked on problem sets into the wee hours of the morning, played football. I took a road trip to Washington, D.C. I got along with some of the people at ZBT, I didn't like some of the people.

In short, I had an experience not unlike the experience of a lot of people had in fraternities. Every living group will have some tension between residents, every group has its traditions — look at the Bunker Brothers or the Belay anti-rush.

One poster suggested the following course of events: "Get shifted... Get hazed... Learn how to rape..." This kind of truth is dangerous. There is no enough and no intelligence this way. If there are problems at fraternities, they should be described fairly and accurately — then you can make an informed decision.

As if the anti-fraternity rhetoric weren't bad enough, the Inter-Fraternity Council strictly enforces a gag rule on all its members. If you're in a fraternity, you can't say anything bad about another fraternity. This stonewalling is as ill-advised as posters that purport only the nils of fraternities.

Ostensibly, the bad mouthing rule prevents a fraternity from lying and making another group to convince you to stay at that fraternity or to avoid you from some other ILG. It's a worthy enough goal to try to keep rush bites free, but it is not very realistic.

When you are given only the good side of other ILGs compromises the basic premise of rush — that you are shown enough and intelligent enough to make your own decision. If someone told you that a particular fraternity treats women poorly (some come to think of it, the Ad hoc committee told you that all fraternities do) and you were interested in visiting that fraternity, you would, I trust, check the claim for yourself. Fraternities are all selling something this week — and you should never trust everything a salesman says.

Suppose, though, that you went to the fraternity's orientation and asked a few questions about how women are treated by the fraternity. You might discover that the fraternity's attitudes toward women are not compatible with your own. They may sound a lot more disgusting when you're notaught, regardless of intent, would have saved you from a big mistake.

The IFC gag rule even limits what factual-true statements can be made about another fraternity. Only the barest facts about the incident at Phi Beta Epsilon, please, the IFC says otherwise it would be bad mouthing. Part of the logic at work here is that if you want to know something — and you can't be told.

To make matters worse, these administra-tors probably are not available to talk to you. Neal H. Dorow, adviser to fraternities and independent living groups, made it clear to one Tech reporter that he did not have any time to answer questions — not even two minutes. Good luck tracking him down yourself.

Today fraternities will be extending bids. Trust your instincts and your judgement. Don't believe everything you are told. It may be difficult to make an informed decision, but try your best.

Policy Opinion

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

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

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

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 29, MIT Branch, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W702. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4 p.m., two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must have the author's signatures, address-es, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No responsibility for the omission of a signature will be assumed. Before the privilege of approval of The Tech, The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once accepted, letters are considered owned by The Tech, and may not be republished with your name. That letter will be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

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Activities for Sunday, August 29

7am–11am: Wake up to ΚΣ’s House of Pancakes featuring today’s special: “Sam, I am—Green Eggs and Ham”

12 noon: Lunch is served: Shish-kebabs on the BBQ

6pm–8pm: An Italian feast beyond compare: Lasagna, Ziti, Sausage, and Meatballs
Protest Generates Discussion of Race

Protest, from Page 1

quickly. We don’t want issues like this to pass by unnoticed. Some freshmen aren’t interested, and say that they don’t want to know about the problem,” he said.

“I just hope that freshmen will make an informed decision that they feel comfortable with,” Daly said.

Mark Randall, another demonstrator, said that PBE has been very cooperative and that there were no hostilities on either side.

Around 15 demonstrators distributed flyers which suggested that freshmen talk to as many people as possible about this subject … to make the best decisions during this R/O Week.”

Tze Ho Lee ’97, after reading the account of the incident in the flyer, said, “No, I wouldn’t rush PBE. I think they were not right in rush as homophobie with a larger possibility about this subject … to make an informed decision that they feel comfortable with,” Daly said.

“This is really a good group,” Smith continued. “They have certain natural problem solving bents.”

In addition to informing freshmen about the incident, the protest group held private meetings before the protest, apparently to discuss plans for the protest and future dialogue. Neither Henderson or Daly would comment on the content of the meetings, however.

“I think that it’s a very positive thing that we can both sit down at the same table,” Daly said.

Smith was pleased that students are working on solutions. “Student generated ideas are generally better than dean generated ideas,” he said.

“Rush signs litter the front of the Student Center.

Queer Elsewhere Provides Needed Support

Queer, from Page 1

system suggests that maybe there should be an ‘Elsewhere’ for persons of color.”

In addition, “there are many persons of color who are out as queer at MIT, and consequently, Queer Elsewhere wants to bridge the critique of rush as homophobic with a larger context of the racism, sexism, and misogyny at MIT and during rush,” Powers said.

Deals with personal concerns

“There is no other group where 99 percent of the time your parents aren’t” from the same group, explained Chris Merrill ’96, one of the staffers at Queer Elsewhere. Queer people need to know that there are other people like them on campus that they can talk with.

“The day we have an Elsewhere that can deal with queers and straights together will also be the day where queer people can walk hand in hand down the street without being harassed,” Huang added.

More freshmen have come to Queer Elsewhere this year than last year, Merrill added.
Residence

All day: Epelstein Theta. What's amazing.

All day: Epelstein Theta. Breakfas. Please eat breakfast... (for a specific event, or just for the fun of it, or for the fun of seeing how many people eat breakfast outside when it's cold out).

All day:egl. Day and we'll still

All day: Tangerine Hall. Breakfas.

All day: Student House. If you think of students as the darlings of the world, you'll love the Tangerine. This is a place to come and experience the beauty of the world.

All day: 5:00. Senior House. Breakfast. What a great start to the day!

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