

Picture Book Cover Called Offensive, Will Be Replaced

By Hyun Soo Kim
NEWS EDITOR

At the last minute, President Charles M. Vest asked the Technology Community Association to stop distribution of its Freshman Picture Book, because he felt its cover drawing of a monkey could be perceived as racist by African Americans. Publishing the books with new covers will delay the delivery of the books until Monday night.

Lori A. Weldon '95, who was in charge of producing the picture books, said that the delay will hurt sales.

The original cover shows a monkey wearing glasses, dressed in a cap and a lab coat with a pocket protector, and holding a calculator.

The monkey has one arm raised and is asking a question: "What does 'intuitively obvious' mean?!" [See cover picture, page 8.]

"The concern about the picture was that the symbolism of a monkey type of creature has traditionally been used negatively in a racist manner in the United States to depict African Americans," said Susan D. Allen, assistant dean for residence and campus activities.

"The caption added to that [perception]. There are three videos produced at MIT that are titled 'Intuitively Obvious' done by Black, Hispanic, and Asian MIT students respectively on what it is like to be a Black, Hispanic, or an Asian at MIT," Allen said.

The videos were produced in the past two years and they have been shown on MIT cable and shown to various student and administrative groups, Allen said.

The TCA, a student-run and funded nonprofit organization, produces the Freshman Picture Books. Risa H. Wechsler '96, who helped to design the cover for TCA, said that there was no particular reason why the monkey was chosen.

"It was done by a freelance artist. The picture is from an old book of fairy tales, and was modified slightly so it would be more relevant to MIT. The 'intuitively obvious' caption is a general comical

Picture, Page 8

Clinton Names Three from MIT To Science Advisory Committee

By Daniel C. Stevenson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Earlier this month, President Charles M. Vest and two MIT faculty members were named to a new private-sector committee to advise President Bill Clinton on major science and technology issues.

Vest, Professor Phillip A. Sharp, head of the department of biology and 1993 Nobel laureate, and Professor of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences Mario J. Molina, are three of the 18 members on the President's Committee of Advisers on Science and Technology. California Institute of Technology physicist Murray Gell-Mann PhD '51 and former astronaut Sally K.

Ride were also named to the committee.

"It's ideally interacting at the level of science and technology policy formation in the country and potentially has the possibility of doing some good," Sharp said.

In appointing the committee, Clinton said, "I am very pleased to name these eminent scientists, engineers, business leaders, and educators as some of my key advisers. Drawn from a cross-section of America, they will help ensure that our science and technology policies reflect our national needs."

Vest said, "I am pleased to have been asked to perform this national service because the country faces

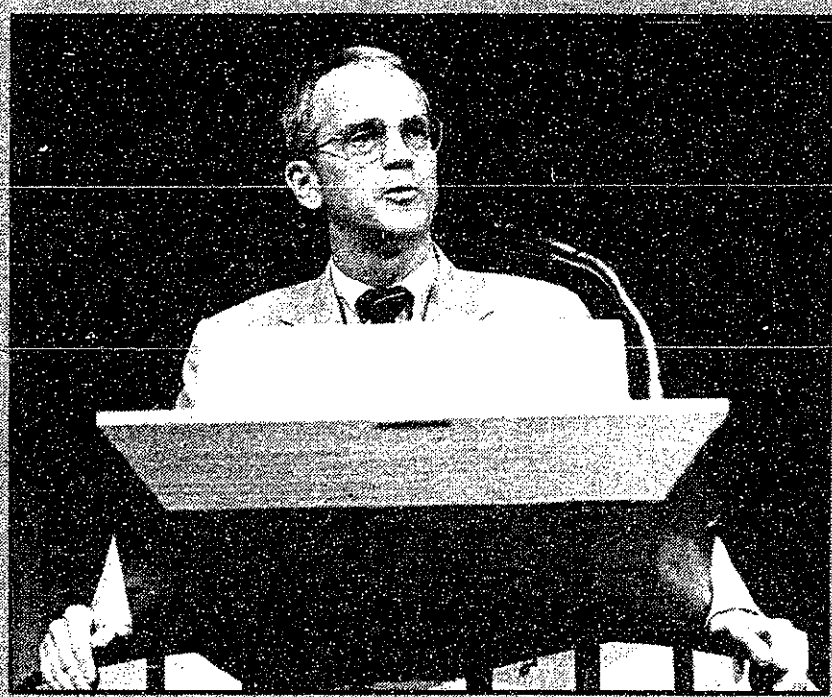
many challenges in establishing and implementing appropriate science and technology policy in the post-Cold War era."

Strong MIT presence

"Frankly, I was surprised, but very pleasantly so, that there are three members of the same institution" on the committee, Vest said. "The [Clinton] Administration's appointments speak clearly to the extraordinary stature of our faculty."

Sharp and Molina are "at the pinnacles of their fields and are enormously well-respected," Vest

Committee, Page 6



President Charles M. Vest speaks to freshmen yesterday.

Vest Addresses Class of 1998

President Charles M. Vest made the following remarks yesterday at the President's Convocation in Kresge Auditorium. The following transcript has been edited slightly.

Good afternoon. I am Charles Vest, president of your university — the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As you will learn, the academic year has a certain rhythm, and for me this is the high point — welcoming 1,000 of the nation's and the world's best and brightest young men and women to our campus.

You are about to embark on the challenge and adventure of an MIT education. You are privileged to be here, and we are privileged to have you here.

Now, I know what you are thinking.

Or if you aren't thinking it now, you probably will at other times during your years at MIT.

It's a thought that is harbored at one time or another by virtually every MIT student, and it's not true: You were not admitted by mistake.

You are not the result of a computer glitch, or the report of an incompetent educational counselor. You are not here because we needed more architecture majors or people from Kansas or because

Vest, Page 3

Project MOYA Activities Promote Freshman Teamwork

By A. Arif Husain
STAFF REPORTER

As Residence and Orientation Week kicked off yesterday, freshmen once again took to Briggs Field for the annual Project Move Off Your Assumptions (MOYA). The activity was designed to promote teamwork and to encourage freshmen to get to know one another.

"I love MOYA," said Nicole A. Larrier '94, a MOYA leader. "We try

to help the freshmen breakdown their barriers and feel comfortable, and hopefully inspire some class unity."

The participants seemed to share the positive attitude.

"It worked," James Habyarimana '98 exclaimed. MOYA ended just when freshmen started to get to know each other, and it would have been nice if MOYA had been longer, he said.

"It was a lot of fun and a great way to meet new people," said Charlie Hsu '98.

"It forced you to speak out and not be shy," said Elise Co '98. "I definitely like it."

"You don't normally have time to meet people, and I really liked being able to do so in small groups," said Ania Mierzejewska '98.

The format of the activity was the same as last year, beginning with calisthenics and stretching. These were followed by trust exercises. Members of a group crossed arms to catch one volunteer who would then fall backwards into their hold. Each member was encouraged to volunteer, but still had the option to decline. The exercises were aimed at building confidence among

the groups.

The trust exercises were followed by several problem solving situations. Among them was Electric Fence, a simulation in which groups had to cross a rope barrier without touching it, and another called Blind Polygon in which groups had to pull a string loop into a given shape while blindfolded.

Another puzzle required groups to collectively decide how to lift a water bucket using an extended rope, without a spill.

A problem called Traffic Jam was added this year. The object of this game was to move two facing lines of people opposite each other in single increments with certain restrictions. The addition was accepted well, Larrier said.

"There was a good variety of activities, and they all taught lessons," said Chris Martin '98. "Besides that they were a lot of fun and you got to know the people you were working with."

Project MOYA was followed by a gathering attended by President Charles M. Vest and Rebecca Vest, Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs Travis R. Merritt, Associate

Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Bonnie J. Walters, and Marshall Hughes, a senior staff assistant in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. They led the freshmen class in the

MIT song, explaining that "they would be the first class since 1888 to learn the song."

The group finally dispersed to the mob of upperclassmen hosting Thursday Night Dinners.



MIT mascot Tim Beaver participates in Project MOYA.

INSIDE

• R/O survey from last fall helped determine this week's activities.

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• Dean Smith speaks about consequences at Convocation.

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WORLD & NATION

Gore Defines U.S. Stand On Abortion Before Conference

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Vice President Al Gore, hoping to defuse a confrontation between the United States and the Roman Catholic Church on the eve of an international population conference, declared Thursday that the Clinton administration will not press other countries to adopt pro-abortion policies as a means of controlling population growth.

"Let us take a false issue off the table," Gore told reporters. "The U.S. does not seek, has not sought, and will not seek any international right to abortion. We do not believe that abortion should be a method of family planning and we abhor and condemn any coerced abortion," he added.

Gore's remarks were in response to the Vatican's criticism of some facets of a multi-national plan that is being designed to stabilize the world's population growth.

The plan, still in draft form, is to be debated at the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, next month. Experts estimate that declining mortality rates and a high birth rate will push the world's population from the current 5.6 billion to 8.5 billion by the year 2025.

Some of the programs in the plan would attempt to slow the growth by improving the economic and social status of women, expanding access to birth control and family planning advice, increasing literacy and improving healthcare for children.

U.S. Humanitarian Task Force Begins Gradual Withdrawal

LOS ANGELES TIMES

KIGALI, RWANDA

Amid signs of returning normalcy in the capital, the U.S. military's humanitarian task force has begun a gradual, quiet pull-out — just a month after President Clinton promised a "massive" American relief effort for this small country and its troubled people.

Whether the commitment by the United States has lived up to the president's promise is likely to remain a question of debate and perspective.

The soldiers and Air Force personnel in Kigali and Goma, Zaire, although modest in number, said they believed that, after a rocky beginning, their deployment ended up saving lives and putting Rwanda on the road to reconstruction.

But some private humanitarian groups, themselves overwhelmed by Rwanda's flood-tide of refugees, remained critical of how little was devoted to the crisis and how slowly the response came from the United States and other Western military forces.

"Not a single nation of the world has decided that Rwanda matters," said John O'Shea, director of the Irish relief agency GOAL. "It's been like trying to keep the tide back with our bare hands."

"I reject that," said U.S. Army Col. James R. McDonough, commander of the 210 American troops still on duty Thursday in Kigali. The deployment was down from a high of 280 and will steadily decline as more of their work is turned over to the United Nations and Rwandans.

"The first thing we had to do here was stop the dying in Goma," McDonough said. "The key to that was water. When we got there, 5,000 people a day were dying. When we left, that was down to fewer than 500. Stopping the dying was a mission given, and met."

Haiti's Battered Economy Is Grinding to a Halt

THE WASHINGTON POST

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Haiti's battered economy, suffering from decades of neglect and months of a full commercial embargo, is grinding to a halt, but that is still not enough to force the country's military leaders to step aside, according to businessmen and diplomats.

Since last month, when the Central Bank expanded the money supply with no hard currency to back up the new money, the nation has been hit by hyperinflation that has devalued the gourde by 40 percent. With few dollars in the economy and virtually no production, economists said, the trend can only accelerate.

"The nation is coming to a full stop," said Leslie Manigat, an academic who served briefly as Haiti's president in 1988. "It is like a locomotive, puffing along, but with the last puff will be the end. Everything is closing, business after business, store after store. Many people cannot eat anymore. Those that ate twice now have only one meal."

But, according to businessmen close to the armed forces, Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras — Haiti's military strongman — is still betting he can outlast U.S. and U.N. determination to force his resignation along with those of his chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Philippe Biamby, and the Port-au-Prince police chief, Lt. Col. Michel Francois.

WEATHER Humidity to Return

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Friday will become partly sunny with the start of the return of warm and humid air. Friday night and Saturday skies will be partly cloudy, with a chance of afternoon shower or thunderstorms. A southwesterly flow of milder and more humid air will continue throughout the weekend.

Today: Partly sunny and warm. High 80-85°F (27-29°C). Southwesterly winds around 10 mph (16 kph).

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 60-65°F (16-18°C). Possible afternoon sea breeze.

Saturday: Partly sunny and warm, high around 85°F (29°C).

Sunday: Fair. High 80-85°F (27-29°C). Low around 60°F (16°C).

Senate Rejects Procedural Move to Block Crime Bill

By Helen Dewar
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A half-dozen Republican moderates joined Senate Democrats yesterday in beating back a GOP-led effort to block passage of President Clinton's \$30.2 billion crime bill, putting the fiercely contested election-year bill on track for final approval.

With only one vote to spare, the Senate voted 61 to 39 to reject a procedural challenge supported by most Republicans that could have derailed the measure a second time less than a week after it had been brought back to life by a similar bipartisan rescue effort in the House.

The bill faces another 60-vote procedural hurdle before it can be sent to Clinton for signature. But Democratic leaders, who earlier promised weary colleagues they could leave for a two-week recess as soon as they approved the bill, said enactment by week's end was a virtual certainty.

The vote gave a big boost to Clinton at a time when his health care bill was slipping away from him, enabling the president to claim credit for the biggest crime bill in history at a time when polls show that few issues energize voters more than fear of violent crime — even though only about 5 percent of violent crime falls under federal jurisdiction.

But the ferocity and near-solidarity of the Republicans' attack seemed to signal that they see a lot to gain — and little to lose — in challenging the president, even on an issue such as crime.

Clinton, in a Rose Garden appearance, portrayed the vote as a signal to the country that Washington can get something done. "Ordinary Americans ought to take heart," he said, calling the vote a sign that Congress has "thrown off

the bonds of politics-as-usual to do the people's business."

Clinton, who had worked as hard in the past two weeks on this vote as he has on anything in his presidency, said senators "of both parties" put "law and order, safety and security" above partisan politics in the vote, and he issued a plea for continued bipartisanship.

The bill — which provides more money for police and prisons, toughens some criminal penalties and imposes a partial ban on assault weapons — had strong support among Republicans when it first passed the Senate last November by a vote of 95 to 4. But Republicans contended it was weakened and fattened with "social pork" by House-Senate conferees and threatened to block it unless changes were made, including restoration of mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes and drug transactions involving minors.

The Democrats' victory was not assured until early yesterday when Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, D-Maine, and Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., devised what turned out to be a successful strategy to beat the Republicans at their own procedural game.

To counter Republican demands for votes on 10 amendments to cut spending for prevention programs and toughen penalty provisions, Mitchell and Biden, after consulting with Republicans on what it would take to break the impasse, offered a single amendment to cut the spending.

The amendment would have failed, and Republicans knew it. So Minority Leader Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., rejected it on behalf of his party, setting in motion the show-down vote.

With the earlier support of Republicans James M. Jeffords (Vt.), William V. Roth Jr. (Del.) and

Arlen Specter (Pa.), the Democrats began the day with 58 votes, or two short. But Dole's rejection of the Democratic offer had the ironic effect of giving Sen. Nancy Landon Kassebaum, his Kansas colleague, cause to bolt and vote with the Democrats. She was "disappointed that a majority of the Republican Party rejected (the offer) as inadequate," she said in a written statement shortly after the Republican decision was announced.

In the vote, Jeffords, Roth, Specter and Kassebaum were joined by Republican Sens. John H. Chafee (Vt.) and John C. Danforth (Mo.). Among Democrats, only Richard C. Shelby (Ala.) voted with the Republicans.

To show the administration's colors during the vote, Vice President Gore was on hand to preside, with his foot-in a cast following surgery for a torn Achilles tendon propped on pillows under his desk.

After the vote, Mitchell and Biden praised the "courageousness" of the six Republicans and credited Clinton's steadfastness on the assault weapons provision as a key factor in keeping the bill alive despite its several near-collapses. Despite Republican claims to the contrary, the issue was "guns, guns, guns, guns and guns," said Biden.

But, despite the National Rifle Association's defeat on the issue, Mitchell was not ready to claim it had lost its clout. "An organization that can wield such enormous power with such an unpopular issue (defending assault weapons) cannot be discounted," he said.

Conservative Republicans expressed a sense of betrayal at the outcome. "We had the votes at 10 a.m. but not at 11 a.m." after the Democrats came out with their final proposal to win over the moderates, said Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss. "The leader (Dole) felt betrayed."

Clinton Refuses Talks with Castro; Weather Turns Bad

By Norman Kempster

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Clinton rejected Fidel Castro's demand for high-level negotiations Thursday, brushing aside pleas from some of his political allies to begin talking to the Cuban leadership about ways to contain the growing refugee crisis in the Florida Straits.

Asked during a late afternoon session with reporters in the White House Rose Garden why the administration negotiates with North Korea while refusing to talk to Castro, Clinton said, "We have a different policy of 30 years' standing" which precludes direct contacts with Cuba.

The weather in Cuba and through the straits turned nasty Thursday and is expected to become much more hazardous this weekend for the Cubans' make-shift rafts. While the rain and high winds clearly discouraged refugees from beginning the difficult voyage, the rough conditions almost certainly will result in the deaths of some rafters already at sea.

News agency reports from Havana said the beach at nearby Cojimar, the departure point for many of the thousands of refugees in the past week, was empty of rafters for the first time in days. Nevertheless, U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships continued to pick up Cubans who had departed earlier.

Coast Guard officials said the weather was deteriorating rapidly in the straits Thursday night, with squalls of between 20 knots and 40 knots and waves of between six and 10 feet — rough enough to swamp all of the rafts and many of the small boats being used by the refugees.

Full-fledged storms are expected over the weekend.

"This is not a tropical storm," said forecaster Lixion Avila of the National Hurricane Center. "But if you have rafters in this situation, it is very dangerous."

Clinton said he is ready to resume low-level talks on Cuban refugee status and immigration, which have been going on occasionally since 1984. But he ruled out discussing other subjects and said he will not upgrade the negotiations by assigning senior officials to conduct them.

He said Castro "needs to be in consultation with his own folks. The people of Cuba want democracy and free markets."

Earlier in the day, Attorney General Janet Reno and Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff said the administration is determined not to give Castro the Washington-Havana dialogue he has long sought.

Both officials said Castro deliberately caused the crisis by throwing open the island's long-barred exit in an effort to force a dialogue with the

United States and it is up to him to end it. But that response ignores the immediate effect of the 3,000-a-day influx of refugees on the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard and the impact of the well-watched humanitarian disaster on the American public.

In a 2½-hour late-night speech Wednesday, Castro called for negotiations not only over immigration and refugees issues but also the longstanding U.S. economic embargo and Washington's control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base under a lease that was signed long before Castro seized power.

Clinton's refusal to talk to Castro continues a policy that was followed by eight previous presidents starting with Dwight D. Eisenhower. Republicans generally praised the president for holding firm against negotiations even though many of them were sharply critical of other elements of his policy. But a growing number of Democrats on Capitol Hill, joined by some outside experts, called for a new dialogue with Cuba.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that "some open negotiations with Castro makes sense. It's anachronistic not to do it."

President-elect Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico also called for talks between Washington and Havana. He offered to mediate.

Health Care Reform Will Wait For Labor Day Senate Recess

By Ann Devroy and Dana Priest
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, D-Maine, said Thursday that the Senate will recess without enacting health care legislation, effectively ending any chance of fulfilling President Clinton's hopes for comprehensive reform this year.

Both Mitchell and Clinton Thursday said the recess until after Labor Day does not mean the end of health care reform. But Democrats and Republicans across the political spectrum, including some of the president's strong defenders and many White House officials, said the epic legislative battle that began last fall when Clinton delivered to Congress his ambitious reform plan is now effectively over.

Most agreed that the only remaining hope is for modest regulatory measures and perhaps low-income subsidies when Congress reconvenes Sept. 12.

"There's a growing consensus that an incremental approach is all we can do," said Sen. Christopher J.

Dodd, D-Conn., who has supported Clinton-style change. "A very legitimate question is, can you even do that? The clock is the 101st senator and has tremendous power around here, with elections" just eight weeks after Congress is scheduled to return.

"The moment of truth, when you have to face facts, has come this week," said Sen. Harris Wofford, D-Pa., whose 1991 upset victory propelled the health care issue into the national political arena. A supporter of broad-based reform, including the universal coverage sought by Clinton, Wofford said Thursday he believes a much scaled-back bill could pass and would be a "historic first installment" that the president should sign.

Part of what strangled the White House hopes was the drawn-out combat this month over the crime bill, which dragged Clinton and many of his aides into a two-week battle, first in the House and this week in the Senate: Their vacation eaten away, senators on both sides of the aisle pressed hard to go home once the crime bill was dealt with.

Asked whether health care reform

is now officially dead, Clinton said Thursday, "I wouldn't say that." In deference to Mitchell's efforts to continue informal discussions over the Labor Day recess, he added, "I think the less I say the better."

But privately, several officials involved in the effort at the White House acknowledged that whatever may emerge from here on will be so far from what the president once envisioned as to leave him with no choice but to opt for "strangling it at birth and calling for a new Congress with a fresh outlook." A senior official said this week that Clinton and his top aides have been "politically gaming" what to do about their lost hopes for major reform, with Clinton opposed to what he calls "half-steps" that do more harm to the health care system than good. The president and his aides have had several discussions about formally calling for a suspension of any further debate on health care in this session of Congress, but have opted in deference to Mitchell to avoid making the decision to totally throw in the towel until after the recess.

Legacy of Racism Dams Up Post-Flood Efforts in Georgia

By Eric Harrison
LOS ANGELES TIMES

ALBANY, GA.

South-central Albany is a ghost town. Who knows where the people have gone, but their houses sit abandoned. For mile after desolate mile, the homes squat beneath a merciless sun, front doors gaping. Some have tumbled down, half swallowed by gigantic sinkholes.

Seven weeks after floods ravaged southwest Georgia and parts of Alabama and Florida, the herculean task of rebuilding in this, the hardest hit section of the hardest hit town, has hardly begun.

But as other communities along the Flint, Ocmulgee and Chattahoochee rivers pull together in the wake of what is being called Georgia's worst natural disaster, in Albany the legacy of racial separation and distrust has further torn people apart.

Many in the black community allege that city and county officials deliberately diverted water to their neighborhoods in order to save northern areas where affluent white people live. Local officials strongly

deny this. But in an African-American community molded by a history of powerlessness and perceived neglect, the rumors spread with the relentlessness of the flood water.

"Immediately after the flood that's all people were talking about as they stood in lines," said Mary Young-Cummings, a lawyer and former state legislator who lost her home in the flood.

"What we want to know is, was the water manipulated in such a way that the more affluent neighborhoods were spared devastation to the detriment of the black community?" she said. "They got flooding, but we got devastated. And we got miles and miles and miles of devastation."

The U.S. Justice Department has launched an investigation of the way the flood was handled at the request of Jesse Jackson, who has visited Albany twice to hear citizen concerns. Last weekend, during his most recent visit, state and local police provided unusually heavy guard because of high racial tension and alleged death threats.

Overall, more than 5,000 families in the county were displaced by

the flood, say officials, who predict the damage in the county will surpass \$500 million.

A Georgia State University economist estimated last week that the flood would have a \$1 billion impact in the state overall, including \$500 million in damage to uninsured property and \$200 million in agricultural losses. Throughout the region, a number of small towns that already were struggling to survive were nearly wiped off the map. In Montezuma, for example, virtually the entire downtown — 68 businesses — was under 10 feet of water at one point. Town officials there optimistically predict all but one or two businesses will reopen.

But in Albany, a city of 80,000 people, the devastation in the south-central section is so widespread that Young-Cummings fears many residents will not resettle there. That could lead to a weakening of black voting strength in a city where blacks make up a majority of the population (57 percent officially) but have only this year won a majority of the seats on the city commission.

Rumors Abound, Confirmable Facts Are Scant in North Korea

THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO

The diplomat at Pakistan's Embassy in North Korea was a bit testy over the phone, because a lot of calls have come in — including one at 2 a.m. the previous night — concerning speculation that a power struggle is under way against North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Il.

"If I knew anything, I wouldn't tell you, but the truth is, I don't. We are as ignorant as anybody sitting outside," said the Pakistani diplomat, who asked that his name not be used. "All I can tell you is, everything here is very calm, very cool, very controlled. I don't think there's any truth to all these reports."

So it goes in the great hunt to divine what is happening in North Korea, the world's most reclusive and mysterious nation, where unsettling rumors abound and confirmable facts are scant.

The speculation about Kim's grip on power has intensified this week amid a spate of reports suggesting that adversaries might be trying to block him from succeeding his late father, Kim Il Sung, who died last month after ruling North Korea for more than four decades. The reports assume extra urgency because Pyongyang's unpredictable regime stands accused of trying to build a nuclear arsenal.

But much of the evidence of a conspiracy against the younger Kim either has proved false or, upon examination, looks rather flimsy. Indeed, veteran North Korea watchers say that while it would be foolish to rule out the possibility of a battle quietly raging for control in Pyongyang, the recent developments simply underscore the lack of reliable information about the inner workings of the totalitarian state built by the Kims.

Court Rules AT&T Can Buy McCaw

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

U.S. District Judge Harold H. Greene Thursday removed the last major roadblock to AT&T Corp.'s acquisition of the country's largest cellular phone company.

The \$12.6 billion buyout of McCaw Cellular Communications Inc. still must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission. But Greene's action and a decision by the Justice Department last month removed the most threatening obstacles to the long-distance telephone giant's attempt to build a nationwide communications grid.

Greene had ruled in April that the proposed purchase would violate a 1982 court order that broke up the Bell telephone system. But Thursday he granted a partial waiver from the order, allowing the deal to proceed.

The decree barred AT&T from the local calling business of the Bell telephone companies and prohibited it from owning assets in those companies. That posed a problem for the acquisition because McCaw's cellular telephone properties in Houston and Los Angeles are owned jointly by the cellular firm and the local telephone companies.

Scientists Studying Chimp DNA Believe There May Be New Species

NEWSDAY

Like chambermaids cleaning up after departed guests, scientists have climbed trees and scoured branches in Africa seeking chimpanzee hair, hoping to figure out who's who among all the world's chimps.

In the first large study of genetic variation among wild chimpanzees, researchers from the University of California, San Diego, used tiny bits of deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, from hair as a guide to chimpanzee relationships, mating preferences and social structure.

The biggest surprise was that chimps from West Africa are genetically distinct from chimps in Central and East Africa, so much so that they may even be a separate species. There are chimps, pygmy chimps and now, maybe, West African chimps.

The discovery should spur a deeper look at chimpanzees — at behavioral and physical differences, for example — that could indicate a truly separate species.



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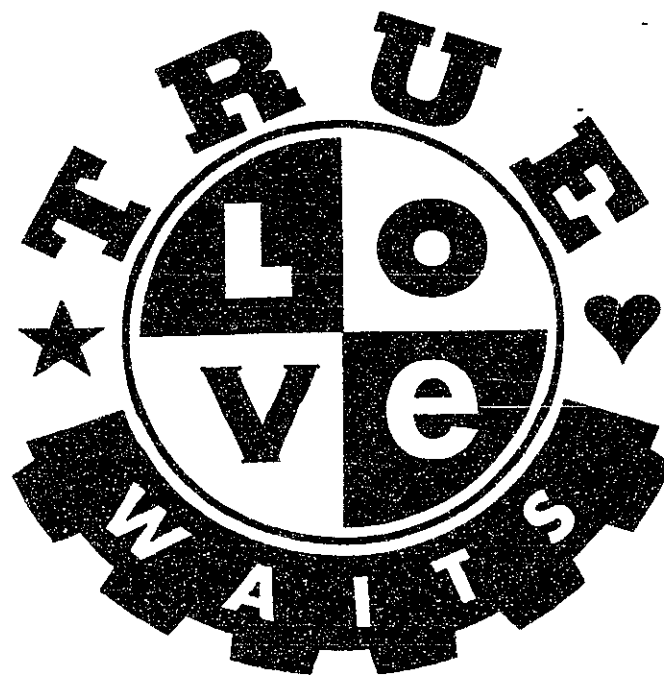
24 Hour Urgent Care 253-1311 (voice, TDD)

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Psychiatry Service 253-2916

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OPINION

Rush Only Happens Once So Enjoy It

Column by Michael K. Chung
COLUMNIST

Assuming that any of you freshmen actually take the time to read anything in this newspaper, by the time you get to this page rush will have probably already started. But that's okay, because rush lasts for at least a couple of days, even though it feels like it lasts a couple of weeks.

My advice to you? Enjoy it while it lasts. You can only really experience this event once, so you may as well milk it for all its worth. For instance, if you have spent any money on food, you're probably doing something wrong. And if you spent that money at one of the cafeterias (Hey dude, the food looks so good! And there's such a great selection!) then you're *definitely* doing something wrong. By this point, you should be eating pretty regally. But prepare yourself for a shock should you frequent a meal card-accepting food vendor anytime soon.

Another thing: if you've set up an Athena account and check your e-mail 11 times a day, then something else is *very* wrong. Wait at least two weeks into the term before doing something like that. (But I just wanted to get some fresh Athena air while I still can, you say. Good point, I say, but you'd be better off getting some fresh *natural* air while you can.)

If you've signed up for a bank account just because they had the biggest sign on campus, or because you thought the customer representatives were exceedingly attractive, then

something may *become* very wrong after a certain age. Just make sure you read the fine print (in some cases its pretty invisible), so be sure to ask that smiling blemish-free face about why such-and-such is free and for how long.

But I'm not going to drone on and on about what I think is so wrong for you to be doing during your Residence and Orientation week at MIT. In fact, I'm sure that many people on campus would be quick to say that if you're reading something by Michael K. Chung and taking it to be the gospel truth, then there's something *hideously* wrong. Instead, I have formulated some hypothetical situations that some of you may encounter during your rush:

During R/O Week at MIT, you may hear from some MIT official that You really owe it to yourself to consider living in a non-dormitory environment, then something is *viley* wrong. Translated roughly, this administrator is telling you that the Admissions Committee let too many people into this school. Plus, since there are so many more women than in previous years, more precious dormitory space is needed.

Now, if you're female, you probably needn't worry about it too much, since there are far more male independent living groups than female ILGs. If you're male, however, and if you're not sure if you want to live off-campus or not, do the easiest thing: show up with a sleeping bag at President Vest's house.

If he kicks you out, there's plenty of space in the Student Center that people already sleep in.

On the subject of ILGs, if you find yourself in a house and the house foosball and pool masters are giving lessons, then be forewarned: This is an entertainment house — don't expect to get any work done in this kind of house.

And if you find yourself in a house with lots of glass decorations adorning every four-inch-wide surface along the walls, neon signs of beverages, a bar looking better than any restaurant bar you've ever seen, dart boards, and animal heads stuck on the wall, then you've probably happened upon the alcoholics anonymous house. If you don't drink, they'll be happy to teach you. Or so they say.

And you may find yourself, ("Once in a Lifetime," The Talking Heads) in a large beat-up house. With a beautiful rug. And a lot of sunglasses. And a lot of long hair. And a huge ventilation system. And a loud stereo playing "Stairway to Heaven," "A Passage to Bangkok," and "Kiss the Sky" continuously. In this event, you're in a drug house. If you don't take up with them, then take off before you get too polluted.

Suffice it to say, make the most of your R/O Week. It's crazy, it's tiring, it's confusing, it's difficult. But it's a helluva good time.

Michael K. Chung '94 is ready to re-live the R/O experience. Look for him wherever you find lobsters and steaks.

Raaj's Quick and Dirty Advice for Rush

Column by Raajnish A. Chitale
GUEST COLUMNIST

You might think that after going through one rush and seeing two others from the bowels, I would have some poignant memories to share. To be honest, I'm too tired to be poignant. To be honest, most of the upper-classman you've been seeing are all dead tired. Taking off T-shirts quickly takes a lot of practice, and they've been practicing a lot. So I'm going to cut to the chase and give you my quick and dirty suggestions for rush.

You've probably heard this before, but it's worth saying again: *be yourself*. Maybe you haven't acclimated to the altitude or something — or perhaps you are substituting for a real MIT freshman who had to be somewhere else? I've always wondered what possesses freshmen during Rush, but many of them don't act like they usually act. I remember one conversation where a freshman exaggerated his interest in baseball, only to be invited to watch the Red Sox game for four hours. Unless you want to live with people who know nothing about the "real" you, it helps to be honest.

I think most of the pressure that freshmen feel during Rush is the desire to belong. You've just come to new place with a populous and culture that's unlike anything that you've read about — of course you want to belong. But don't feel pressure to change or be something different — you are here to stay and no one can tell you that you don't belong. And it's only in your interest to live with people you can get along with.

Think about it this way: These are the people with whom you might be sharing bathrooms and showers. If in your enthusiasm for Residence and Orientation Week you got a tattoo of "MIT Class of 1998" on your chest, these people will soon know. (Any freshman with such a tattoo should seek counseling.) And if you are being yourself, keep in mind that it takes some time to get to know people. Don't expect instant friend-for-life sort of stuff, and don't change your personality or

outlook just for R/O.

My second suggestion may seem rather stupid: *meet lots of people*. I say this because soon after rush, the campus will start splitting up into little groups. You are probably saying to yourself, "Who is this dolt? Chuck Vest was right, they must have made an admissions mistake. Chuck said that MIT was like one big happy family." Well, yes and no. You would be surprised how segregated MIT can be — even among the faculty. It's sort of like cliques in high school except this is not high school and they're not called cliques. Rush is the only chance that you will have to meet people *before* they are segregated into the various clumps that in aggregate constitute MIT. For undergraduates, these are primarily living groups and majors.

This is not to say that we all live in our closets and laboratories, but things change after rush. Classes tend to reduce opportunities to chum around with you and 1,000 of your classmates. And you will be busy getting to know the people in your living group. Only rush affords the opportunity to make as many friends and acquaintances as you can very quickly. And these are good opportunities. Rush is filled with chances to do things that are exciting with people who are fun — for free.

Finally, just because you have decided not to join an independent living group, it is no

reason to stop meeting people or going to rush events. Rush will stop eventually, and you will still have to meet people. After all, when classes start you want to have someone to take notes when you're fast asleep. (Not that I've ever missed lecture, of course. Never.)

Third on my list is: *don't worry about flushing*. "Flushing" is the not-so-polite term that upperclassmen use to describe situations where they tell a freshman that things aren't working out and tell them to move on. If you visit a house for an extended period of time and they don't "click" with you or you don't "click" with them, they will tell you that it's time to go. You should not even let flushing cross your mind; it might or might not happen. First these are not easy sorts of decisions — they are not going to look out the window and turn people away at the door. You will have plenty of time to meet people in the ILG before anything happens. Another thing to know about flushing is that ILGs have a network of "referral chairs"; if you are flushed, you will often be referred to another house.

Flushing is at the heart of a major controversy about rush. Some people (administrators and students) feel that this is not something that freshmen should have to endure during their first five days at the Institute. No one

Chitale, Page 5



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Freshmen Can Find Support Outside of Living Groups

Whitaley, from Page 4

should tell you that you're not welcome. I favor a more practical stand on the issue: No, flushing is not a nice thing, but yes, you have to find a place to live that you can be comfortable in. And as long as R/O stays the way it is, flushing will have to stay too.

You shouldn't take flushing lightly — its' clear indication that your prospects for finding housing can best be satisfied elsewhere. At the same time, flushing is far from the end of the world. I liked to think that it's rather cathartic. (For those of you on Athena, % add up; % webster cathartic.) Many people, famous and otherwise, have been flushed, yours truly included. In fact, there's a small plaque to indicate where John Sununu '61 was flushed. There is even a "Flushing Trail" (à la Freedom Trail) of famous sights where people were flushed. (Look in your *Hitchhiker's Guide* for more details or call the R/O Center.) Move on and you will find a place to live.

My fourth suggestion is the one I believe most strongly: Don't believe anyone who says you can't succeed at MIT outside of a particular living group. This is what I hate about rush. Hundreds of people going around telling freshmen that MIT is an evil that crushes you with one fell swoop. Or telling freshmen that the only place to find support and help is in a living group. In polite terms, that's crap.

If MIT is so terrible a place, why would we come back, year after year — and why would we pay \$25,000 a year to keep coming back. I don't know about you, but my parents and I could find lots of nice things to do with \$25,000 a year, if I had it in the first place. By one theory, this badmouthing of the Institute is something that psychoanalysts call "disobedient dependency." If you really care, ask Jay Keyser, former associate provost for institute life and all-around nice guy. (Also ask him to tell you the frog and light story.)

Forget what a living group might say. You can survive. In fact, you can do better than

survive, you can excel and have a damn good time doing it. To quote The Oatmeal Guy, "It's the right thing to do and a tasty way to do it." (I don't quote him very often, honest.) Now don't get me wrong — God knows there are times (e.g. around finals) when I pray for one of the bomb scares to be real. Unfortunately, our concrete paradise on the Charles can probably withstand a direct ICBM hit. Yes, "Tech is hell," an epithet that alumni know well. But you're here because you can and will make it through and enjoy yourself.

No particular living group has a monopoly on support. Saying that living groups have a lock on support is absurd. MIT employs lots of people whose only job is to get you through in four years (plus or minus some time). They want to see you walk across the stage at Commencement in June of 1998. And if you meet a faculty member you like (perhaps your freshman adviser or your Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program supervisor), feel free to ask them for help too. Many of

them were MIT undergraduates themselves who still have the battle scars to show off.

The point is this: living groups shouldn't use the threat of a bad MIT experience to convince you to join them.

My final suggestion is the most important and the most cliché: have fun. I don't want to be maudlin, but these days are hard to duplicate. MIT will not be the same again after this week. You will be treated like kings and queens for the next week or so. Eat all the free meals you can get your hands on, even if you never intend to live at that house. Trust me, after next week, asking upperclassmen for a steak and lobster dinner (medium well) will get you a drink from the Charles.

That's it — my quick and dirty suggestions for rush. As for me, I'll be sitting back with a remote in one hand and an ice cold beverage in the other. If you happen to stop by, close the door behind you because my air conditioner will be on high.

Have a good Rush and welcome to MIT!

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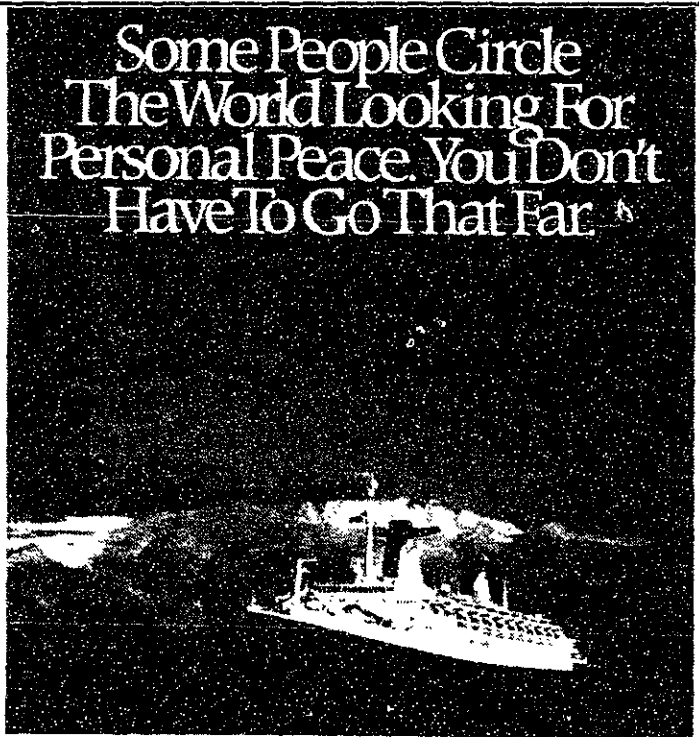
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R/O Survey Results Decided Activities for Current Week

By Ifung Lu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The results of a Residence and Orientation Week survey conducted last year aided in the planning of this year's R/O, said Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Mary Z. Enterline.

The UAA administered the survey last year on Registration Day. It asked freshmen for their reactions to the various R/O week activities, such as the Academic Preview and City Days.

The survey "basically asked them [for some demographic information], to make sure it was a good sample, and it asked them to evaluate all the different programs and rate them [on a five point scale] between 'Very Worthwhile' and 'Not At All Worthwhile,'" Enterline said.

Students also had the option of answering "Did Not Participate."

Poor ratings kill some activities

The survey results helped R/O coordinators decide which activities to continue. For example, the "Breakfast with Professors" was eliminated due to low ratings, according to Enterline. The Academic Preview was also eliminated due to lack of interest.

In addition, the survey results influenced the decision to eliminate the Academic Convocation.

"We tried different formats and the decision was based on three years of data," Enterline said.

On the other hand, the survey data was also used as an endorsement to continue certain R/O activities.

Project MOYA (Move Off Your Assumptions) and City Days both benefited from high ratings.

"If MOYA had not gotten a continued good rating, then we would eliminate it," Enterline said.

Furthermore, survey data revealed which activities needed to be improved.

"There was a big difference [in ratings] with the R/O counselors' meeting, and we tried to improve the training of the counselors," Enterline said.

Although student feedback was definitely considered, Enterline emphasized that feedback from interns and the R/O committee, as well as committee reports from previous years, were all important in this year's R/O planning process.

"The survey gave us a perspective of what students found useful," said R/O Chair Jahnavi Swami '95. However, "we took the information

with a grain of salt," she said.

The UAA will not be polling freshmen this year, according to Enterline.

Frosh liked activities overall

The survey data revealed that students considered most of the activities to be worthwhile," Enterline said. "There wasn't anything that had less than 50 percent participation, and many got more than 70 percent participation," she said.

Enterline also said that the international and minority students found the majority of the activities worthwhile.

Highly-rated activities included the Rush Kickoff in Killian Court and the Keynote Speech in Kresge Auditorium. The Academic Expo also "seemed to have high enough satisfaction to continue it," Enterline said.

City Days received higher ratings last year than in previous years, Enterline added.

Swamy believes that these activities received high ratings because they help freshmen feel welcome and adjust to a new environment.

"[MOYA] gives them the opportunity to meet 12 other freshmen without knowing them. ... City Days is their first opportunity to continue public service.," Swamy said.

Clinton Taps Three From MIT

Committee, from Page 1

said. "They probably threw darts at a board to choose a university president."

Molina, a former research scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is the Lee and Geraldine Martin Professor of Environmental Sciences. Molina has served on federal advisory committees for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health.

Sharp, formerly director of the Center for Cancer Research, is a co-founder of Biogen Inc. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine last year for his gene splicing discovery. Sharp has been involved with policy committees at the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institutes of Health.

Private sector perspective

The PCAST will ensure that the private sector perspective is included in the science and technology policy-making process, according to a press release from the White House.

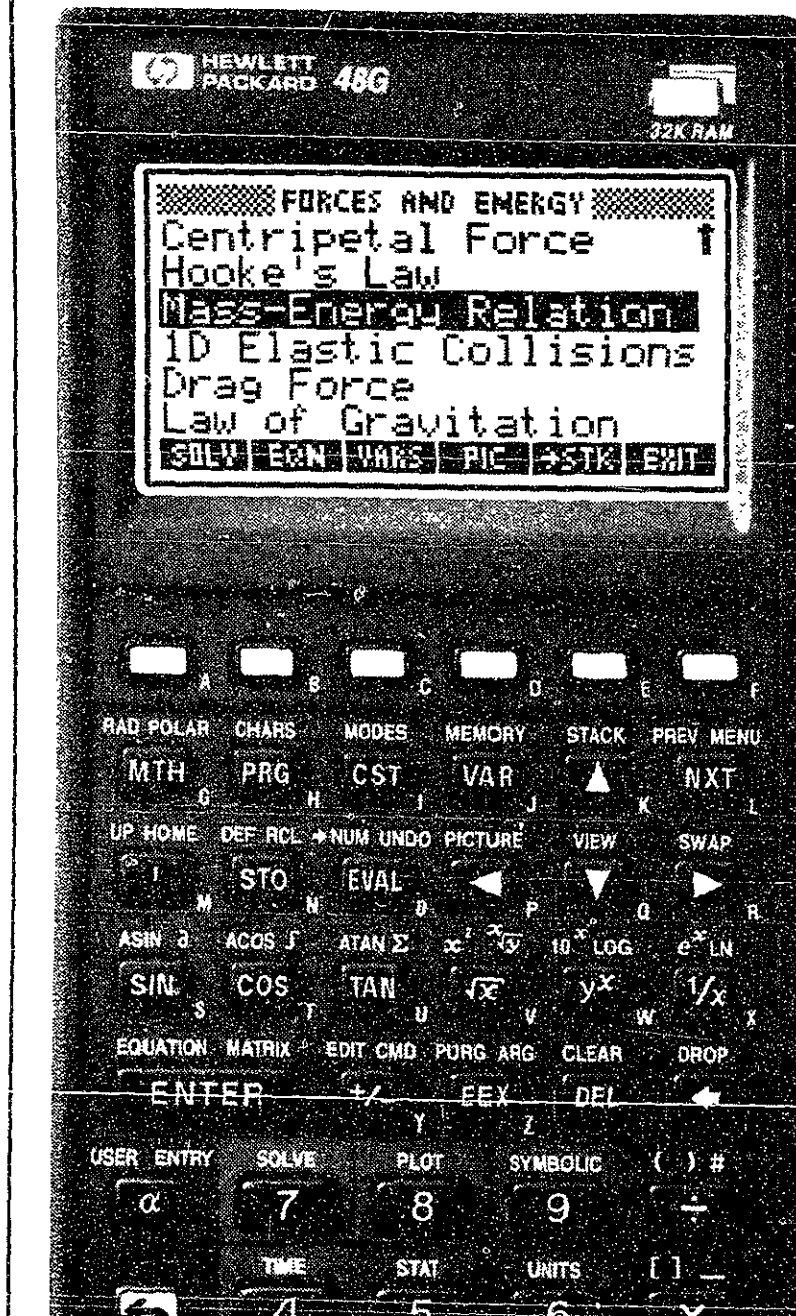
Clinton called for strengthening partnerships with industry, government, and colleges and universities to achieve national science and technology goals.

"I believe we have serious growing inadequacies in our overall R&D base that will require strong interaction of government, academia, and the private sector to alleviate," Vest said. "Hopefully PCAST can be helpful in this regard."

The committee will also "serve as a formal channel for private sector advice to the National Science and Technology Council," a cabinet-level group that coordinates science and technology policies, the press release said.

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Smith Advises Freshmen on Choices, Consequences

Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Arthur C. Smith made the following remarks yesterday at the President's Convocation in Kresge Auditorium. The following transcript has been edited slightly.

I have a couple of words to say first about choices and consequences. One of the things we try to do at MIT is to give you lots of choices. Some of them are obvious to you. For example you're going to start very shortly an important choice on where you're going to live.

You may have noticed if you talked to your friends from high school that this is not the way the university they go to does it. At least that's generally true. All the students that I know who are going elsewhere knew in the middle of summer that they were going to live in Room 215 in Adams Hall with someone who's name they knew — but that's all they knew.

We decided quite some time ago that was not really the way we wanted to start MIT students out on their career. We want you to choose. We want you to think about it: What the choice is and what its consequences are.

It's not a choice that's going to have terrible consequences; almost all students who have made the choice rather like where they live. They often live there for four years.

But it is a choice and it is one we ask you to make. We will not give you time enough to make it. We will not give you all the information you need. We are simulating real life.

I can tell you for sure it would make your parents more comfortable if they knew where your room was now and they could move in with you and get all your stuff settled. Of course you would have to disassemble it and make it your own.

That is a choice that has consequences. Use good sense and it will be a good choice.

You have some other choices to make academically. You get to choose your major. You get to choose how many units you take — after the first year. You can choose to do your assignments or punt them. You can choose whether to go to class. You can choose whether to stay awake or fall asleep. All of those choices have some consequences. Use good sense and you'll do alright.

You have some choices in lifestyle. No one is going to tell you when to get up. No one is going to tell you when to go to sleep. No one else will clean your room. No one will tell you it is time to eat, or what did you have for dinner tonight.

No one will give you good advice about what other substances you might ingest and in what amounts. All of those decisions, all those choices have consequences. Use good sense and you'll be alright.

I hope everyone gets to choose a lifestyle that involves some exercise. MIT has a lot of opportunities for that and I know that it's kept me

sane for over 35 years to play squash three mornings a week. You can find your own way of doing it, but I recommend it highly in this particular environment.

I also recommend activities with others. Quite often your education is limiting you to a somewhat solitary and perhaps even selfish activity. There are lots of opportunities to do things with other people. We have assembled with you in this room probably the most impressive collection of people you will ever be together with for four years. Take advantage of them, do things with them and for them.

Let me move from choices and consequences to a few quick words on what I call real life. People often refer to the non-academic world outside the boundaries of MIT as the real world. That has some virtues, I suppose, but it has some implications which say that while your at MIT it's not real. I just want to be sure you remember that a lot of real life goes on.

If you choose to cross Mass. Avenue against the light, you may find yourself facing some consequences you didn't intend. Since I expect to see 95 percent of you on that morning that Chuck alluded to in Killian Court, I hope you won't do that.

Also, my office looks out on the crossing of Mass. Avenue, and I

have a pretty delicate stomach.

Extrapolate that to matters of your personal safety where and when you walk in Cambridge and its environs. What happens when you have unprotected sex and the risk of AIDS. There are all sorts of real things that haven't been put on hold just because you're a student at MIT.

We had an unfortunate incident a few years ago where everybody had a good deal of concern for public safety. And I heard a student say, "Hey! It's MIT's job to keep you safe." No. You have a responsibility for yourself; there's only so much we can do. Keep that in mind. You have responsibilities for yourself. You have actions to take.

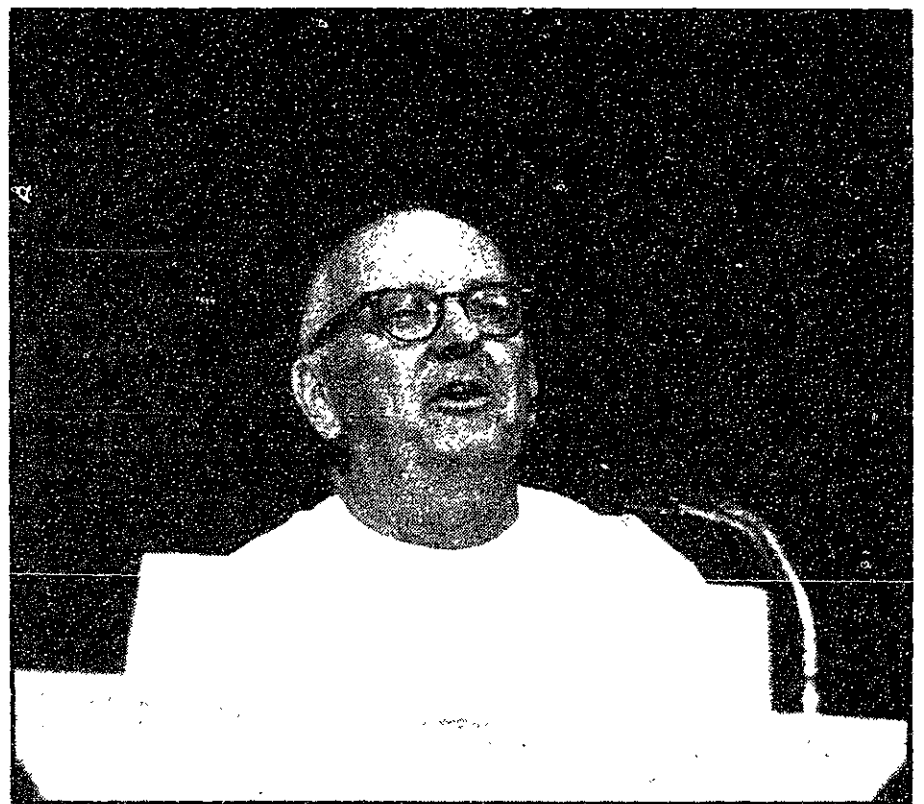
Also there will be things that happen outside of MIT which will affect you. I had a student, an advisee, who came into my office one day and said, "My younger brother is in Beirut. They're bombing the city. What can I do?" I didn't have the answer to that crucial question. We talked. And, in fact, we eventually worked out a way to get him back home for a while to be with his family.

Just last year one of my advisees came back from Christmas, and I said, "How did it go?" She said, "My parents are were just waiting for me to go off to college." That was a tough hour too.

There will always be tough hours for somebody. Life goes on outside MIT, life goes on inside MIT. Be prepared for that and look for help.

And that brings me to the next line, which is sort of a commercial for the Dean's Office: We're there to help — in lots of different ways. My vie that I have is a word that

I haven't quite figured out how to give to you in the five minutes allotted to me. So I condensed it all into one short phrase: Be a doer. Don't just sit and listen. You can take your classes at MIT and think you have done well, by sitting and listening, reproducing on the problem sets and so forth. Be a doer. You know what that means, just do it.



Dean Arthur C. Smith advises freshmen yesterday.

THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

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Some Call Monkey Derogatory

Picture, from Page 1

expression used at MIT. It is a frustrating answer given to students who don't understand things," Wechsler said. "It was a relevant comment to MIT life."

Wechsler added that she had not known that MIT produced videos titled "Intuitively Obvious."

Lori A. Weldon '95, who was in charge of producing the picture book, said that she was surprised that anyone found the cover offensive.

Vest, who convened a meeting Tuesday to discuss the cover with TCA, did not say who brought up the complaint. "I had received no complaint because the pictures had not yet been circulated," he said.

Wechsler speculated that an administrator pointed out the possibility of misinterpretation of the

cover.

Vest takes responsibility

President Vest stopped the distribution of the picture books with the original cover because the cover "could be misinterpreted as racially derogatory."

"Experiences on many campuses, including ours, clearly indicate such events have caused substantial anguish within the student body and community, despite the fact that no ill will was intended," Vest said.

Weldon said that Vest offered TCA two options. "They said to either sell them without the covers or not sell [the Picture Books] at all," she said.

"I thought — they can't do this. This is censorship, this is wrong," Weldon said. But Weldon suggested a way around the administration's stance. "I suggested printing new

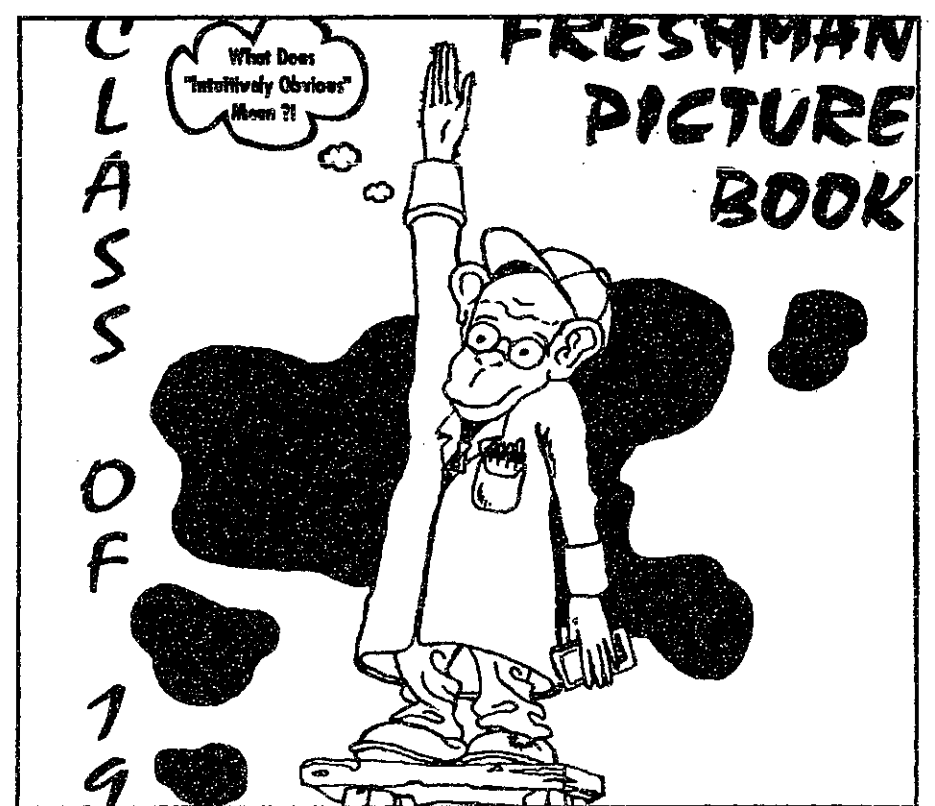
covers and that the administration pay for it," she said.

Vest took up her suggestion. "I took responsibility for the decision to replace the cover before its distribution and offered to pay the costs of printing and binding the new cover," he said.

Weldon said that delaying the selling of the picture books will mean that the TCA will take a loss.

"When freshmen do not see it during registration in the first two days of [Residence and Orientation Week], the books don't sell well. The only next opportunity to sell them is Activities Midway," she said.

The new covers of the picture book have a plain white background and a black oval centered on the page. Weldon said that she and Wechsler did not have enough time to design a more complex cover.



This is the original, controversial cover for the Freshman Picture Book.

Vest Tells Freshmen of Challenges, Expectations at MIT

Vest, from Page 1

someone misread your SAT scores.

You are a member of the freshman class at MIT because we believe that you have the intellectual capacity, energy, imagination, and personal will to succeed and to contribute to this institution.

As you get to know each other, you will quickly sense what a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives you bring to MIT. This can be one of the strongest elements of your education here. You have a remarkable opportunity to get to know — and learn with — others whose experience and outlook are very different from your own. If you seize this opportunity, you will be in a much stronger position to help build the national and world communities of the next century.

One resource to help you make these connections is contained in the packet of materials you received as you checked in. It is a Guide to Studies in Racial, Ethnic and Intercultural Relations at MIT. This booklet includes a listing of some 80 subjects that deal with some aspect of cultural awareness, ethnic diversity, and race relations. You will be surprised at the richness of these offerings, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these resources during your undergraduate years at MIT.

Another opportunity to extend your experience in a way that connects with the larger world will be presented to you next Friday, Sept. 2, when the City Days Festival will take place. This is a day for giving and sharing your time and talent with citizens from your new home town — Cambridge. This may take the form of working with elementary school students, assisting in homeless shelters, or working in soup kitchens. We hope that the spirit of City Days will extend beyond this event — and that many of you will join the LINKS program to work with Cambridge elementary schools throughout the year ahead. This has been a wonderfully rewarding program for hundreds of our students over the past few years.

Why you are here . . . and where you are

Now let me say a bit more about why you are here . . . and where you are.

You are here to learn. You are here to develop your considerable talents to the fullest. You are here

because you know of MIT's reputation as one of the world's great universities.

That reputation is well deserved. MIT is the foremost university in the world focused primarily on science and engineering. Yet, as you will learn, it is much more than that. It is a place in which artistic creativity thrives; it is a place in which the humanities are central to the educational experience; it is a place with world-class social sciences; it is a place that encompasses great architecture and urban planning; it is a place whose management school is setting the new directions for organizations of the twenty-first century.

Now all universities look to and learn from the past. They all engage in issues of the present. And they all lay the groundwork for the future. But MIT is nearly unique in the level of our engagement with contemporary issues, and especially in the strength and effectiveness of our commitment to shaping, indeed to inventing, the future.

MIT is a place of learning, discovery, and invention. It is a community of learning. Now that is not just a tired phrase; it describes a vital, organic system of teaching, research, and scholarship in which everyone participates.

Education at MIT does not consist of professors simply passing along known facts to students. Of course, there is a basis of disciplined, rigorous facts, methodologies, and styles of thought that you must master. This is the core of your education. But beyond that, through freshman seminars, design teams, study groups, research projects, laboratory experiences, computer programming, artistic and musical performances, discussions on the Athena network, and a wide variety of competitions, you will learn and synthesize in many different ways. A surprising number of you, especially through UROP (the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program) will end up contributing in some way at the cutting edge of science, technology and creative activity.

Let me give you an example. Undoubtedly most of you followed with great excitement the incredible observations of the impact of the Shumaker-Levy comet with Jupiter. Hopefully most of you noted that the team that obtained the fantastic images using the Hubble Space Telescope was led by the MIT astronomer Dr. Heidi Hammel. Now get this: An important role in the

Hubble observations was played by Jennifer Mills, an MIT undergraduate UROP student of Dr. Hammel's, who wrote much of the computer code that was used to convert the raw numerical data from Hubble into the clear images we all enjoyed.

This is the MIT you are entering.

What challenges face us?

It is the next step toward the world you will be entering . . . a world that presents enormous challenges and opportunities.

We are living in a time of great change — scientific, technological, economic and social. Our world is connected as never before by instantaneous electronic communication. The economies of the world are linked as never before and the global industrial competition has brought profound change to the companies that many of you will work in after graduation. We have incredible intellectual opportunities as our expanding base of knowledge and scientific instrumentation enable us to explore newer domains of time, space, and matter. Our environment must be understood in much greater detail and must be protected through the development of rational policy. Our education system must be improved. The world's information infrastructure must be designed and assembled in ways that will benefit all of society. Our bridges, highways and water supplies must be rebuilt. We must build an inclusive, just society and solve the problems of violence. We must continue the progress of biotechnology and medical technology as part of the drive to improve human health.

There surely is no lack of great and worthy challenges for you to educate and prepare yourselves to face.

One of the clear, emerging characteristics of scientific and technological advancement is that most contemporary problems require multi-disciplinary teamwork because they are complex and many-faceted. The design of effective consumer products, the establishment of environmentally sustainable societies, the rebuilding of our urban infrastructures, or the development and deployment of new medical treatments all require that knowledge, expertise, and understanding from many different fields be brought together and integrated into a workable solution. This is something that you should think about during your education, and as you look ahead to your careers.

Here is something that the poet Edna St. Vincent Millay said earlier in this century that has remarkable relevance to what faces us today:

Upon this gifted age
in its dark hour
Falls from the sky a meteoric
shower of facts.

They lie unquestioned, uncombined.

Wisdom enough to leach us of
our ill is daily spun

But there exists no loom to weave them into fabric.

This is your challenge: You must be the weavers of scientific, technological, social and artistic fabrics — and not simply the generators of showers of facts. You must be scholars, to be sure, but you must be more: You must be problem solvers and combiners and team members as well. And to do that, you must learn not only to analyze, but to synthesize . . . and you must be able to communicate your ideas, logically and persuasively, through the spoken and written word.

These are all big challenges. You are up to them.

Today is the time to begin this quest.

What you should expect

What should you expect of your years at MIT? First, you should expect to work hard. Everyone here does, so I shouldn't beat around the bush about it. You may recall the words of Thomas Edison who said that "Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." Here at MIT, you will find amazing levels of inspiration — some that will be thrust upon you and others that you must seek out. But, we all know that academic accomplishment does take a lot of hard work.

Hard work at MIT, however, has its joys — the joy of accomplishment and the joy of camaraderie. If you view your university experience as a lonely, solo quest to compete for singular goals, you will miss much of its value. True, part of what you need to accomplish is personal, and you will spend solitary hours in libraries, at computer workstations, or at your desk. But this must be balanced by group experiences. You must strike new balances between competition and cooperation in learning and growth. Frankly, as an institution, we are struggling with how best to help you to create this balance. We are experimenting with new programs such as Team Works, and we are learning to better define when group learning is appropriate, and when individual mastery alone must be encouraged and assessed.

What else can you expect here? You should expect to form friendships that will last a lifetime. You should expect to form a widened world view and personal philosophy that is informed and profoundly influenced by the diversity of background, race, ethnicity, and culture of your new community. Some of you, like myself, come from small towns in Appalachia, others from inner city LA, others from the Great Plains, some from the mill towns of New England, and still others from great capitals around the world.

Let me read you part of a letter to the editor that an MIT alumna wrote to a Texas newspaper a couple of years ago:

"After having spent 10 years of my life in the prominent private schools [of my city], I was naively convinced that all parents were

lawyers, doctors or business people. My first week on the MIT campus was a rude yet pleasant awakening — one roommate's father was an electrician; the other refused to speak about her father; a close friend's father drove a bus for the city of New York." She went on to comment that the students she knew and valued were diverse in many ways, but had "the drive, desire, and potential to succeed."

Work together; learn together; grow together. It is not always easy, but you must value and gain from your interactions. Widen your horizons. Learn from your differences. But at the same time never forget that there must be a solid core of values and goals that we all share. These include the centrality of knowledge, learning and discovery, and the necessity of absolute integrity and intellectual honesty.

What we will expect of you

We expect you to learn, grow, explore and contribute to the MIT community.

We also expect that during your years here on campus you come to understand why MIT exists and how its excellence is maintained. Above all else, it remains excellent because of the quality, commitment and creativity of faculty, students, and staff it attracts and nurtures. It is excellent because the federal government has provided great resources to support research and education here.

But it also is great because of the generous gifts of thousands of men and women who graduated before you. Those of you who receive financial aid — and that is most of you — are the direct beneficiaries of those who have stepped forward and said, "I was able to attend MIT because of the generosity of others, and I want those who follow me to attend because they are talented and motivated, regardless of their financial state." This is an important tradition and spirit that we hope you will appreciate while you are here and will perpetuate after you graduate.

We also hope that the MIT Class of 1998 will be the most distinguished ever — distinguished by its quality and attainments during the next four years, and by its commitment and achievements in advancing the world in the next century.

Now, before I close, I have a question for you: How many of you saw our recruiting video?

Remember the skier taking the headlong plunge off the snowy cliff?

Well, now it's your turn.

Let's begin by meeting one of the most interesting and creative thinkers on the world scene — MIT cosmologist Professor Alan Guth.

The next time we will all be gathered together will be four years from now — when we come together in Killian Court, and I address you as MIT's graduating class in 1998.

And now, Professor Alan Guth . . .

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