Frosh Receive Housing Spots

By Sarah Y. Kightley

The Student Center Athenea cluster was bustling with activity yesterday evening as small groups of freshmen gave out happy cries and disappointed groans. They had just received their dormitory assignments, and another 44 will have to wait until the second round of the housing lottery, according to Assistant Dean and Campus Activities Andrew M.

New Student Housing Assignments

By Stacey E. Blau

Forty-eight percent of the freshmen who took the Freshman Essay Evaluation received satisfactory scores, up by 9 percent from last year, according to Coordinator for the Writing Requirement Leslie C. Perelman. However, the number of students passing the Pre-Calculus Mathematics Diagnostic Exam dropped by 9 percent to 49 percent, according to Peggy S. Enders, associate dean of undergraduate academic affairs.

"The general consensus was that (the math exam) was harder, reflected in both the lower scores and the increased length of time students needed to complete the exam," said Professor of Mathematics Arthur P. Mattuck, who wrote both this year's and last year's mathematics exams. The exams, administered each year to freshmen and transfer students, are used as gauges of students' abilities in expository writing and pre-calculus skills.

Essay topics: difficulty, diversity

Of the 1032 students who took the essay evaluation, 48 percent, or 495 students, passed the exam, Perelman said. Thirty-six students, or 3 percent, passed conditionally — meaning that they will have to attend a two-hour workshop to review the minor flaws in their essays. An additional 401, or 39 percent, received a score of "not acceptable" because they did not show proficiency in expository writing. The remaining 100 students, or 10 percent, received a score of "not acceptable — subject recommend," meaning that the students could immediately receive a writing subject but are not required to do so.

The two-hour essay test consisted of a narrative and an argumentative essay, the same format as last year. The narrative essay offered students the choice of two topics: to describe a situation in which they encountered a difficulty with bureaucracy and how they resolved it, or to tell about an experience they had with people different from themselves and what they learned from it.

The argumentative question, which only had one possible topic, focused on the issue of pirated software on computer networks.

"Designing these questions is not an easy task given the constraints we have," Perelman said. "The questions must be accessible to 1100 diverse students. I am always on the lookout for questions for next year."

GSC Orientation Introduces New Students to MIT, Boston

By Hyun Soo Kim

Several new events have been added this year, Bunsbahn said. These include a totebag tour, the Puzzle Rally, which is a scavenger hunt around Boston, and in the Leary, an introduction to graduate life presenting faculty and students' views.

"They are really impressed by all the things going on at MIT, all the activities," said first year graduate student Chris M. Ciocciopolo.

Ciocciopolo added that graduate students "are not provided with as much documentation as the freshmen who are handled much information."

Vendors organize GSC orientation.

8.01 Changes Format To Smaller Lectures

By Daniel C. Stevenson

Physics 8.01 (Fall 01), a course taken by approximately 600 freshmen in the fall term, was extensively changed this past summer, according to Professor of Physics Wet Busza, designer of the new course. The lecture and recitation system was restructured, and a new 300-page study guide was written by Busza and Professor Susan Cartwright of Sheffield University in England, to reflect a model used at Princeton University.

Instead of three large lectures and two recitations each week, students will attend two small lectures of 16 students and one large lecture for all of the students. Busza will teach the large lecture, which will include demonstrations and provide "a little bit of a global philosophical overview of the course," he said.

Another difference is that the new course will not have any graded homework problems, Busza said. "Instead, we monitor your progress through short weekly quizzes which contribute to your final grade," he said. "The basic idea is that you are in charge of your own learning, while we provide you with the help and resources you will need," Busza said. This way, students can structure the course to take maximum advantage of what they already know and concentrate on material that is new and difficult, he said.

Another difference is the amount of help available for students. Busza said. Along with the extensive homework problems, there will be weekly one-on-one conferences with instructors. In addition, all instructors and faculty will be available to help students with any questions, he said. Students are encouraged..."
Cloudy in the afternoon. High 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C). Chance of rain.

Conference to Egypt.

organizing a conference that ran counter to Islamic beliefs. But an filed a lawsuit trying to force its cancellation, accusing the U.N. of such conferences.

belongs to his country's Coptic Christian minority, professed a lack Islamic extremists to oppose the conference, but the Vatican has that the subjects are abhorrent and contrary to Islamic faith.

derision also has swelled in recent weeks from Muslims who insist discussions of birth control and abortion as immoral. But the chorus of national Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, LOS ANGELES TIMES

movements of suspected drunk drivers.

common field sobriety test in which police officers check the eye knowing on the DNA issue, dwelling largely on questions about a

General Dan Lungren to broaden the state's evidence rules to allow the O.J. Simpson murder trial, the California Supreme Court began

National high-tech giants as Hughes Aircraft Co., Northrop-Grumman employees, making this by far the biggest in a series of successively swap valued at $10 billion and create a company with 170,000

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A combination would give the company market power in virtually

A high pressure system will move out to sea to our south this morning, clearing our sky this afternoon. A strong cold front will approach western New England late today, then track through south- east Massachusetts and eastern New Hampshire late tonight.

It will be mostly cloudy today, and rain is likely across the region tonight and early tomorrow, following by clearing late tomorrow. To approach the cold front, we can expect a 20 to 30 percent chance of light rain towards evening. High 70 to 75°F (21 to 24°C). Wind blowing southwest to 10 mph (15 to 24 kph).

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itself, at least for some residents in the southwest, is seen as a viable option.

Despite heavy security and aモンking court, over 100 Cubans have been cหลed over the past two weeks. But the fact that the capital, which has been on alert for a possible revolution — is a sign that the crisis has quietly spread beyond Havana and into areas long accorded for their com- mitment to communism and to Pres- ident Fidel Castro in particular.

Unlike the chaotic exodus from the capital, which has turned by the thousands have fled on makeshift rafts, residents here described a much more orga- nized effort involving dozens of fishing boats, many of which were stolen or commandeered from marines here in surrounding towns.

Although comparatively small in number, the steady migration from this historic city — Cuba's second largest and one that prides itself on being a major destination for tourists — is a sign that the crisis has quietly spread beyond Havana and into areas long accorded for their commit- ment to communism and to Pres- ident Fidel Castro in particular.

Indeed, the national silence that has characterized discussions here from the onset of the crisis. On tele- vision last Wednesday night, Presi- dent Castro said he had ordered that no Cubans be allowed to leave the base by land to seek refuge because that might ignite local con- flict. Waterborne arrivals were not addressed.

Residents of Guantánamo City say police now are restricting entry to the town to people who prove they live there. With access by land cut off, resi- dents said water supplies, such as El Cangrejo, a marina by the bay here, and other coastal towns just east of Havana, became major launch- ing areas about two weeks ago.

Residents said police were const- antly present, inspecting boats, settling disputes, controlling the new influx and confiscating the identifica- tion cards of those who were leav- ing. Many of those who were caught, warnings from U.S. officials that Cuba faced lengthy detention and possible legal trouble for fleeing.

Late Monday night, two boats were seized here, with the заяvors and passengers reportedly numbered 14, a man holding a black flag and a woman in a dark and trepidated exercised without answering questions.

The revolution is stronger here than anywhere else, which is only true because it guar- anteed the United Issues, but not not their resignations.

Cedras had agreed to give up his logistic support. Cedras had agreed to give up his international certified free and fair elections in the region's history.

Deutch said that Cuba's desire to enter into the international community for action has command of the army under an

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The revolution is stronger here than anywhere else, which is only true because it guaranteed the United Issues, but not not their resignations. The Pentagon will informed of a "drastic change" in the administration. But only four of the 11 member

U.S. and Caribbean officials have united in their determination to take the government. But only four of the 11 member

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Trade, Human Rights Benefit From ‘Commercial Diplomacy’

By David Holley

WASHINGTON

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown said Tuesday that a new U.S. emphasis on "commercial diplomacy" toward China is not only producing big trade deals but also progress on human rights.

A formal U.S.-China dialogue on human rights issues, suspended in the spring, will resume in late September when Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen visits the United States, Brown announced at a news conference in Beijing.

While resumption of talks will not automatically benefit Chinese dissidents, Brown noted renewal of the dialogue as a significant step forward.

Since his arrival Saturday, executives of leading U.S. corporations traveling with him have "already signed agreements with a total value of almost $5 billion," Brown said.

The overall tone of Brown’s remarks Tuesday, both at the news conference and in a business lunch speech, was the warmest by any top U.S. official since the 1989 crackdown on the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy demonstrations.

President Clinton stressed the link between human rights and trade issues in May. But Brown went further in his comments Tuesday, stressing that while the United States wants to see human rights progress, "there are limits to our patience as well."

The mood of exhilarated optimism, reminiscent of attitudes often shown by high-level U.S. delegations to China in the 1970s and 1980s, also was evident among the 24 chief executive officers of leading U.S. corporations traveling with Brown.

"I’ve been extremely pleased with the dialogue, with the opening up," said Leslie McCraw, chairman and chief executive officer of Floor Corp. "The attitude of the Chinese has been exceptionally positive. E - We view China as clearly one of the great emerging market opportunities for a company like ours."

Brown’s visit marks a shift of the main focus in U.S.-China relations from "business issues, commercial issues, rather than philosophical issues," McCraw said. "I think these other agendas can be addressed if we are engaged commercially."

U.S. Grants IRA Members Visas To Help Negotiate Cease-Fire

By Thomas W. Lippman

WASHINGTON

Anticipating an announcement that the Irish Republican Army will proclaim a cease-fire, the Clinton administration Tuesday allowed two prominent IRA members to enter the United States on a diplomatic mission to sell the new strategy to the U.S. Irish community.

U.S. officials said reports from Ireland of an imminent cease-fire are apparently accurate, and confirmed the Clinton administration’s consideration of an increase in the annual U.S. contribution to an Irish economic development fund once the cease-fire is in place.

Diplomatic reports and news accounts from Ireland and Britain said the IRA is planning to announce within the next day or two a cease-fire in the long-running guerilla campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland. The announcement would cap a two-year effort by London and Dublin to persuade the IRA to give up bombings and to begin discussions in exchange for a seat at the negotiating table where the future of British rule in Northern Ireland would be determined.

If the IRA carries out its report ed commitment—and if it can deliver on its promises to end the violence that has been its chief weapon—the cease-fire could mark a major turning point in Irish history. But it also could ignite a new round of terrorism, this time from Protestant extremists fearing Protestant domination of Northern Ireland. Irish life would be threatened by IRA attacks, and political negotiations.

If that turns out to be a near mirage of negotiations skill that would satisfy the militants of Northern Ireland’s Catholic minority without jeopardizing the British interests of the Protestant majority, the Clinton administration might be prepared to increase its contributions to an international Irish economic development fund, officials said.

The current U.S. contribution is $10.6 million a year.

Fighting Dashes Hopes of Peace In Afghanistan

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fierce rocket and artillery duels have killed more than 800 people this year in Afghanistan, where the faltering peace efforts demonstrate the difficulty of resolving a conflict based on centuries-old religious, ethnic and tribal rivalries. The renewed fighting has also accelerated efforts to find a peace mission for a country that has not seen battle in years. Fighting this year has claimed almost 5,000 lives, wounded more than 25,000 and forced 600,000 people to flee Kabul, the capital.

And despite clear evidence that Afghanistan’s people are terribly weary of war, fighting in recent months has spread to areas of the country that have not seen battles in years, including Mazraa Sharif in the north and Herat in the west.

The faltering peace efforts demonstrate the difficulty of resolving the crisis in Afghanistan, which began when the Soviet Union invaded the country in 1979. After prison forced for 13 years to expel the Soviets and topple its communist successor regime in 1992, Afghanistan’s warring factions have been unable to agree on which of them should rule the country. The dispute has degenerated into a brutal power struggle based on centuries-old religious, ethnic and tribal rivalries.

The renewed fighting has also increased fears that peace missions by the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference, both of which sent special envoys to Afghanistan this past spring, will succeed.
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The Plight of UROP: Live and Let Die?

By Raajnish A. Chitalaya

Even if you were breathing in a Course VI laboratory last term, you heard about the crisis with the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. Unlike most events that was and went at MIT, this one captured our attention. Ask the average undergraduate about the Center for Material Research in Archaeology and Ethnology closure dispute or the sudden death of Constantine B. Simondes '97, and you're likely to receive a blank stare. The UROP crisis was different — it was our bread and butter issue. But I think most of us have probably put UROP aside since last term. There hasn't been much news, and we've been away for awhile. And UROP is admittedly more stable now than at the end of last term. Let me tell you why you should still care about UROP.

For the freshmen and those with their heads in their noodle kits last year, let me give you a brief history. Last fall, MIT was told that an important set of government accounting regulations (commonly referred to as Circular 212) would be implemented beginning in July of this year. The regulations are far too complex to be explained here, but they essentially "tax" government research spending. Despite a concerted lobbying effort, the administration was unable to reverse the accounting treatment of UROP. We were startled by the response to our petition, as people were surprised and pleased to see actual living, breathing undergraduates — particularly those doing research.

The fact of the matter is that many people in Washington seemed tired of seeing faculty and administrators acting for the federal government support for undergraduate research. With this advantage, we were able to make some headway with "the players" on this issue. Our victory, unfortunately, was a small one, especially because the follow-through on the administration's part was lost in the fray of other MIT lobbying. In a nutshell, that's what happened to UROP. It was lost in the fray. For those in the senior administration, UROP was only one priority on a long list of priorities, and those in the UROP Office or the Office of the Dean for Student Affairs cannot always convey their attention on UROP when necessary.

If that's not enough of a problem, MIT itself (through the well-intentioned, but conservative Compitroller's Office) often interprets rules in a way detrimental to UROP. And it seems as though MIT has never been able to fund raise aggressively.

When push comes to shove, UROP is our program. We share in a legacy passed down 25 years ago by a dean unknown to most undergraduates. We cannot continue to rely on the President, Provost, Comptroller, or even the Dean's Office to protect UROP from the federal government or MIT itself. If this means going to Washington and making our case, or — God forbid — going to faculty meetings and making noise, we'll have no choice but to go for it. As undergraduates, our responsibility to UROP can be nothing less.

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Despite Slight Delay, Housing Lottery Goes Smoothly

Housing, from Page 1

Eisenmann ’75.

This year’s students entered their housing preferences using the Athena Computing Environment. Eisenmann processed this information using software on his Macintosh. The results were then e-mailed to the new students.

The new system seems to have alleviated problems that came up last year. Last year’s freshmen had to wait in long lines to receive their dormitory assignments. Also, about 100 students had to wait for a second lottery, and 55 had to wait again for a third lottery.

Yesterday’s messages were scheduled to be sent out by 6 p.m., but there was some delay. The program’s creator S. Anders Oakland had to deliberately slow down the way the program sent mail because he did not want to clog the mail server. Still, he had planned to have the messages sent by 6 p.m.

Most students were happy with their permanent housing assignments.

Prya Bhargava ’94 took some time before logging in to learn her housing assignment. She was really nervous because, “You have no idea where you’re going to end up.” She later found out that she received her first choice, MacGregor House. Still, some students were upset by the lottery results.

Gael Ferrante ’98 was assigned to Bates House, which was her fifth or sixth choice. “I blocked with a friend of mine,” she said. “I’m very upset because everybody was telling you get your first or second choice.”

Lottery has full participation

Oakland said that they were “delighted by how well the students adapted.” The total number of students with dormitory assignments and students who had not yet committed to an independent living option seems to equal the number of freshmen in the class, he said.

Eisenmann said that no one seems to have missed out on the lottery. He did say that three or four students missed Monday’s 3 p.m. deadline for particular rooms, and they entered their preferences manually in the Residence and Campus Activities office.

The second round lottery assignments will go out today by 6 p.m., Eisenmann said. This still enables students to present themselves for dormitory rush events. The second round is necessary because pledging is a continual process, Eisenmann said. As students accept bids from fraternities, some sororities, and other independent living groups, new spaces are opened up in the dormitory system, he said.

Several dormitories, including Baker House, MacGregor, and McCormick Hall will be doing room assignments before the freshmen actually move in on Thursday. Eisenmann said. This means that students will be able to move directly into their final dormitory room.

In previous years, all freshmen started moving into their permanent dormitory assignments after the lottery results were released. They were then placed in temporary rooms before in-house dormitory rush, and had to wait a few days before getting their final room assignments.

Hack assignments

Prior to receiving the actual mail from housing lottery officials, some freshmen received messages telling them that they had been given “a less traditional housing assignment.” For example, Eric M. Niemela ’93 was assigned to W-51-103, the Chemistry and Physics Hall. He was one of many freshmen who had to remove their names from the system because they were “amusing.” He hopes that not too many freshmen were confused by the “fake” messages.

In response to the joke, the real letter starts off: “No, you haven’t really been assigned to live in a police cruiser, a freight elevator, or the chapel.”

New 8.01 Includes Study Guide With Detailed Examples, Hints

8.01, from Page 1

aged to work together.

The changes to 8.01 will “pro-

vide opportunity for the physics department to influence the MIT experience for the student and lay a good solid foundation for the rest of their career at MIT,” Busza said.

All problems solved

The study guide is designed to help “both the instructor and stu-
dents,” Busza said. However, it is not meant to be a study guide, he said. The textbook will be the book used in the 8.01 last year: “University Physics” by Hugh D. Young, which received very good reviews from students, Busza said.

Each unit in the study guide begins with a brief overview and a list of aims “detailing exactly what you’re expected to know the end of the week,” according to the guide’s introduction.

Following the aims is a set of sample quiz questions, a list of new ideas for the lesson, and a summary explaining the lesson along with cross-references to the textbook.

A set of fully-worked example problems and a set of 10 regular problems are followed by hints for each problem. Finally, complete answers are given for every quiz question, all of the problems, and the hints.

“Every quiz, exam, and final exam problem will all be from the problems in the book,” Busza said, with minor modifications.

Eisenmann said that the transfers is an “insult to the stu-
dents.” The changes to 8.01 were made for the benefit of the students, Busza said.

Concerns addressed

One concern with the Princeton program is that the course “has become primarily a mechanism for teaching physics problems” and that less time is spent on discussing important concepts, said Princeton Professor Joseph Taylor in an inter-

view last spring.

To deal with this concern, we’ve added a lot of material which tries to explain what science is about using mechanics. “A major portion of the weekly main lectures will be an explanation of the importance and meaning of the topic in relation to physics and sci-

ence in general,” he said.

A concern raised by Professor of Physics Walter H. G. Lewin, who taught the older version of 8.01 for three of the past four years, was that students would not be able to trans-

fer between their lecture sections.

“A lot of students are going to be unhappy,” Lewin said in an interview last spring. Forbidding the transfers is an “vital to the stu-
dents,” he said.

But the classes need to be kept small, Busza said, to make the course effective. “Because of that, there will be little flexibility in switching between lectures,” he said.

August 31, 1994

THE TECH Page 7

49 Percent Did Well On Math Diagnostic

Tests, from Page 1

Enaders said. The test consisted of four five-problem sections in the areas of algebra, geometry and analytic geometry, trigonometry, and logarithms, exponents, and complex numbers.

About 49 percent, or 535 of the 1090 students who took the exam, received satisfactory scores. That means “they have adequate pre-cal-
culus and problem-solving abilities,” Enaders said.

Another 382 freshmen received unsatisfactory scores, meaning that they showed weaknesses in two or more test areas. And 174 stu-
dents performed poorly in only one area, Enaders said. This year’s freshmen took an average of 10.6 minutes for the test; students last year took only 70 minutes, she said.

Of all the areas tested, “trigonometry was definitely the weak one” in terms of freshman perform-

ance, according to Enders. “A lot of these students understand the staff. They’ve just forgotten.”

“Students with weak back-
grounds in pre-calculus tend to do worse, particularly in Physics 1 (8.01). About 15 percent get a D or F,” Enaders said. “Students really need to have this material at their fingertips. They need to be Sane in it for both calculus and physics.”

Unlike last year, students with unsatisfactory scores will not be required to pass a second diagnost-
cal, instead, study guides in each of the four areas were produced for students, Enaders said.

IFong Lu contributed to the reporting of this story.

new and untested students.

members of Club Chem demonstrate the proper way to mix ammonia and bleach at last night’s activities midway held in the Johnson Athletic Center.

Volunteers Run Grad Student Orientation

GSC, from Page 1

Kernode said that the GSC is trying to expand the program by adding more events this year. “We feel like the GSC should be able to get un-
tergraduate students and figure out what they want and need,” Kernode said.

But administrative support would not be unwelcome. “Com-
pared to undergraduate orientation, we need more support from the administra-
tion. Graduate students don’t have the time,” Li said. Gradu-
ate students sometimes have to ask their faculty advisers if they can spare any time from their work to volunteer, Li said.

“It means a lot of work on our parts, but the only way to get the stu-
dents to learn anything is through the system,” Kernode said.

Facts about the system include that it is a non-credit, valu-
able learning experiences and a good orientations for the freshmen,” Kernode said.

All this week, students can pick up information at the GSC booth in Lobby 10. The report of 87 minutes includes MBA schedules and GSC activi-
ties schedules. Today’s main events are the English Evaluation Test, the
Who? Me? Give a presentation???

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Toastmasters at MIT
Fri., September 9, 1994
12:05-1:30 p.m.
E19-220

FREE
ROSH HASHANAH
DINNER
FOR STUDENTS
MONDAY, SEPT. 5

• Come celebrate the new year and visit our new building.

• A delicious holiday dinner with traditional specialties will be served following services at 8:30 p.m.

• Free for students -Everyone must reserve by Wednesday, Aug. 31 at Hillel.

• Conservative and Reform Rosh Hashana services are held on campus.

• Other holiday meals available for $8.95 on Tuesday & Wednesday

• MIT Hillel has a full schedule of holiday and general events. Stop by or give us a call.

MIT Hillel is now located in the Student Center, 40 Mass. Ave., MIT Bldg. W11 (corner of Mass. Ave. and Amherst St.) #253-2982.

This dinner is sponsored by MIT Hillel and supported with funds from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

THE LUTHERAN-EPISCOPAL MINISTRY AT MIT

R/O ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994

FIRST WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Wednesday, August 31; 5:30pm in the MIT Chapel
Joint weekly worship alternating between Lutheran and Episcopalian liturgies. If you are new to MIT, we would like to meet you and introduce you to our community. And if you’re returning student—welcome back! And please join us!

VIVA ITALIA!
Wednesday, August 31; 6:00pm
Share a delicious Italian repast with members of the Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry at MIT in the brand-new Religious Activities Center (W11, corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Amherst)

Evensong (Vespers) Service
Sunday, September 4; 7:00pm in the MIT Chapel
Special music featuring renowned New England tenor Marshall Hughes (who also happens to be the Edgerton Center Coordinator) followed by a gourmet dessert party catered by Cezanne Desserts of Cambridge.

Stuyvesant High School Alumni/MIT has a Stuy alumni chapter for YOU Get involved and keep those Stuy bonds strong! Get to know more upperclassmen who are in your major! For more information, call Angel at 225-8651.

Donate Your Live Brain to Science! (well, for 15 minutes anyway...) The Dept. of Brain & Cognitive Sciences seeks subjects whose first language is American English for exciting psycholinguistic research. Pays $3 for 15 minutes. Call Marie at 275-7599 or send e-mail to fsl and @mit.edu.

HEALTHY MEN NEEDED as sperm donors. Help others and gain up to $100! Free exams and counseling. Call Angel at 225-8651.

MAC GRAPHIC SPECIALIST Rank: consultant/contractor to produce client presentations using PowerPoint, Mac Draw Pro, Excel and Word. Must be familiar with page layout, business letter format, correspondence, word processing, working to tight deadlines and quality standards. Excellent experience in fast-paced, client-focused industry a must. Must have secretarial skills and typing (150 WPM). Please send resume and salary requirements to: Briston Associates, 200b Wellesley St., Boston, MA 02116. Attn: Jim C. Phone lines will be courtesy.

Donated Your Live Brain, Part II The Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences seeks subjects who are romantic and artistic. If you’re a romantic, artistic or non-conventional MIT student, please contact Angel at 225-8651 for more information.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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