

Vote in UA Elections Tomorrow

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Mild, 59°F (15°C)
Tonight: Rain, 46°F (8°C)
Tomorrow: Rain, clearing, 54°F (15°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 115, Number 13

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, March 21, 1995

Grades Referendum Added To Tomorrow's UA Ballot

By A. Arif Husain
STAFF REPORTER

A referendum on changing the Institute grading policy was recently added to this week's Undergraduate Association election ballot.

The ballot is topped by the UA president/vice president contest, which has three candidate pairs. However, only 8 of 25 class council offices have candidates. [See box, page 13.]

Electronic voting, which was delayed due to technical difficulties, begins today. Booths will open tomorrow morning in Lobby 7, Walker Memorial, and the Student Center for regular paper voting.

The referendum is intended to provide the Committee on Academic Performance with more student input on intermediate grades, said

UA Judicial Review Board Chair Albert L. Hsu '96, who sponsored the item.

The referendum lists four grading policy choices that students will rank preferentially, said Russell S. Light '98, UA Council floor leader. The first option proposes adding a plus and minus to each passing grade, with the exceptions of A+ and D-. A second option adds the grades AB, BC, and CD between corresponding grades.

There will also be an option to maintain the present grading format, and another to implement pass/fail grading, Hsu said. The proposed changes pertain only to upperclassmen grading.

The choices were added to the ballot through petitioning by UA members, Hsu said. Over 400 students signed the petition.

The referendum will be supplemented by specific questions regarding grading policy, Light said. The

questions should give a better perspective on student opinion, he said.

"We're hoping to gather solid data that we can pass on to the CAP as a result of this referendum," Light said. The results should be announced at Thursday's UA Council meeting, he said.

According to Hsu, CAP will submit its recommendation on the grading change to the Faculty Policy Committee. The FPC will consider whether to send the proposal on to the full faculty for a vote.

"The student vote will become very important if the faculty vote is ambiguous," Hsu said.

Many offices unfilled

The principal contests in the elections will be for the UA president and vice president positions. The candidate pairs are John S. Hollywood '96 and Jennifer A. Pin-

Elections, Page 13



JUAN P. VERNON—THE TECH

Institute Professor Noam A. Chomsky speaks last night in 26-100 during a teach-in about the GOP's "Contract with America."

Poorly Organized Elections Suffer from Bad Publicity

By Shang-Lin Chuang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Undergraduate Association elections will be held on Wednesday, but many class council positions have no candidates and UA officers say that the election process has been run poorly.

"There has been a serious lack of publicity throughout the elections," said Russell S. Light '98, UA Council floor leader.

"People didn't know that elections were occurring. The election had to be extended because there weren't a lot of candidates, and even now there are still a lot of people who don't realize that the elections are coming up."

While election commissioner John Kymissis '98 agrees that students are showing little interest in the

elections, he says that publicity is not a problem.

"The fact that not everybody knows it is going on is not because of what we have been doing, but because not that many people are interested in the UA," Kymissis said.

"We have been getting the word out encouraging people to vote. Most of the campus is covered with posters. There is little else that we can do," Kymissis said.

According to Light and UA President Vijay P. Sankaran '95, there were many problems with the election process.

The election commission is severely understaffed, Light said. There were not a lot of people involved to do the posters and all the publicity required in order to have a successful election, he said.

Publicity, Page 13

Biology To Pay Only For Summer UROPs

By Ray Hwang

The Department of Biology stopped paying students for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects during the academic year. The change, implemented at the beginning of the semester, forces students who want a biology UROP during the semester to take one for credit only.

"The biology department... has limited funds to work with. We would like to use these funds to the best advantage possible," said Professor of Biology Gene M. Brown, biology UROP coordinator.

"However, if a student really needs financial support for a UROP during the academic year, we shall

try to find the funds," Brown said.

"Summer UROPs are important because they allow students to pay

UROP, Page 11

INSIDE

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- Investigation of attack moving slowly. Page 11

Fish Tank Electrical Fire Forces Evacuation of Ashdown

By Ifung Lu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

An electrical fire in the Ashdown House lounge at 7:30 p.m. last night forced an evacuation of the graduate dormitory, according to a Campus Police officer at the scene.

An electrical component in a fish tank ignited, setting fire to pieces of paper scattered underneath the tank as well as to the wooden frame supporting it, according to Ashdown desk worker Alain Curodeau G.

The fish in the tank were not injured by the fire, according to Judy Chen G, who was working Ashdown desk at the time of the fire.

Firefighters from the Cambridge Fire Department entered the building with water hoses, but did not need to use them because the fire was partially extinguished when they arrived, according to the officer.

The fire fighters did check the floor for structural integrity before allowing residents back into the building, the officer said.

"The whole thing was smoky, but nobody was hurt," the officer said.

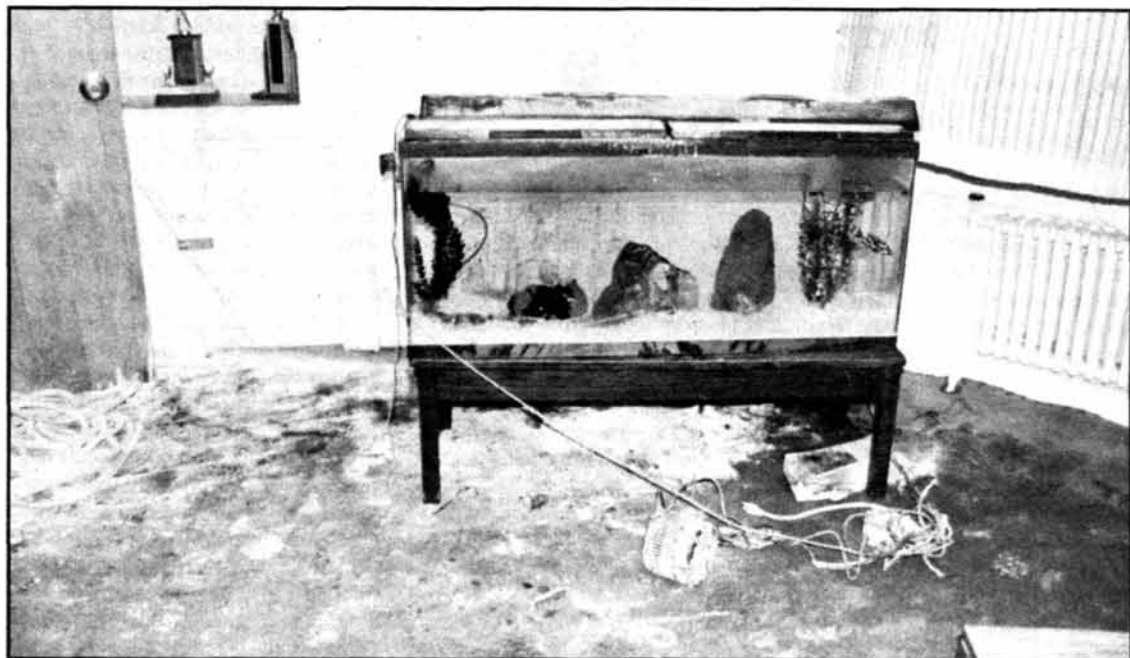
Todd S. Anderson G was the first to notice the fire. He and David W. Pratt G alerted the desk workers. They couldn't find a fire extinguisher in the area, so they had to go to the second floor to get a fire extinguisher.

Curodeau entered the lounge and unplugged the cord.

Pratt then "brought in a fire extinguisher, but there was so much smoke that I called the police," Chen said.

Anderson and Pratt worked to extinguish the fire.

Christopher L. Falling contributed to the reporting of this story.



JIMMY WONG—THE TECH

An electrical component in this fish tank started a fire that forced the evacuation of Ashdown House.

WORLD & NATION

Boston's Red-Light District Flickers

THE WASHINGTON POST

BOSTON

It is known officially as the Lower Washington Street Adult Entertainment District, but everyone calls it the Combat Zone.

It is the place where the commercial sex industry finds its public, and where Boston — a city once synonymous with sexual prudery — has carried out a successful containment strategy by creating one of the few formal red-light districts in North America.

Now the red light is flickering, about to be extinguished by a convergence of trends here. The story of the Combat Zone's brief heyday, long decline, and imminent fall is an instructive tale of sex, money, violence and urban development.

The area acquired its name before it became zoned for sex. Initially, it was home to a number of small tailor shops, and troops shipped through Boston during World War II got their uniforms altered there. When members of different branches bumped into each other on the sidewalks, combat often erupted.

Later, during the 1950s and 1960s, Boston, like many cities, embarked on a large-scale "urban-renewal" effort, which involved leveling districts of the city and replacing them with new office towers and apartment buildings.

One of the last places to go under the wrecker's ball was Scollay Square, which had been home to Boston's burlesque houses. When the area was torn down to make way for the new City Hall and government center, the honky-tonk businesses migrated to the Combat Zone.

During the late 1980s, the Zone's fate was sealed, according to Robert Campbell, the architecture critic for *The Boston Globe* and a student of urban development.

Rushdie Asks France for Help In Ending Iranian Death Threat

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PARIS

Salman Rushdie — the author whom Iran six years ago marked for death for his book *The Satanic Verses* — met France's highest politicians on Monday, winning assurances they would lead a European effort to persuade Iran to declare a "cease-fire" on him.

"I think we are at the beginning of a very serious step," Rushdie said after meeting with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and other top French officials.

"This is a situation that can be resolved, but what is needed is the will," the British writer told a well-guarded news conference at the French National Assembly. "And this visit has been an important step in creating the will to remove the deadlock."

After meeting with Rushdie, Juppe, the French foreign minister, said pressure on Iran had failed so far in Rushdie's case. But he declared that France was prepared to bring the issue up again next month among European foreign ministers, which Juppe will chair.

"We are ready to take new initiatives in this direction," he said. He added that "new pressures" might be necessary, if Iran did not comply, though he declined to say whether those pressures might include sanctions or diplomatic isolation.

Bosnian Truce Near Collapse

LOS ANGELES TIMES

ZAGREB, CROATIA

The faltering truce in Bosnia-Herzegovina teetered near collapse Monday when heavy fighting broke out in central and eastern Bosnia, killing and injuring dozens and dashing hopes that spring will bring a permanent thaw in the protracted civil war.

Officials with the U.N. Protection Force said early-morning fighting in and around the towns of Travnik and Tuzla was the worst since the two sides launched a four-month cease-fire on Jan. 1, as part of a peace initiative by former U.S. President Carter.

The battles came after more than a week of increasingly deadly flare-ups in the capital of Sarajevo, including sniper fire that ripped a hole in an airplane carrying the U.N. special envoy to the former Yugoslavia. Three people were killed in weekend sniper attacks, and at least a dozen have been gunned down since the cease-fire began.

"We are seriously concerned about the status of the cessation of hostilities agreement," said U.N. spokesman Christopher Gunnes. "We are at the point where we are asking: 'When can you say something is really dead?'"

WEATHER Spring Is Sprung

By Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Spring officially began yesterday as the vernal equinox occurred at 9:14 p.m. The weather, however, doesn't really seem to appreciate the fact, as a somewhat typical winter pattern sits over the country. Nature in the form of the Pacific jet stream is still firing storm systems at long-suffering northern California; rain can be expected to continue there for the rest of the week. We are going to be feeling the effects of a big low pressure area meandering across from the mid-west and southern Canada. Warm and blustery winds from the south will push temperatures up towards 60°F (15°C) and strong vertical motion makes for the possibility of a late afternoon thunderstorm. A cold front crossing late today will likely give moderate to heavy showers. Tomorrow afternoon should see some clearing but another low tracking in the wake of the front will bring back the clouds later in the week.

Today: Mild. Winds from the south at 15 to 20 mph (24 to 32 kph). Overcast with afternoon drizzle possible. High 59°F (15°C).

Tonight: Rain, moderate to heavy. Chance of a thunderstorm. Winds shifting to westerly as the front passes. Low 46°F (8°C).

Wednesday: Rain likely in the morning. Clearing enough to see some blue by late afternoon. High 54°F (15°C). Low 39°F (5°C).

Thursday: Clouds likely. High 52°F (10°C). Low 36°F (2°C).

Suspect Captured in Fatal Tokyo Subway Gas Attack

By T.R. Reid

THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO

Police reportedly had one suspect under guard Tuesday as they searched for a well-organized terrorist gang believed to be responsible for the release of poison gas on the Tokyo subway Monday, which left 8 dead, 76 critically injured and more than 600 hospitalized overnight.

According to the national police agency, the World War II-era nerve gas sarin apparently was released on at least five widely scattered trains during a half-hour period starting around 8 a.m. Monday. Handling this powerful poison — so potent that a single drop on the skin can be fatal — and coordinating its delivery around the city probably required a careful team effort, a police spokesman said.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, which one official called "a case virtually unparalleled in the history of crime in this country." Police said they were reviewing several other recent cases in which noxious fumes were released — including an incident last June in which seven people died from inhaling what appeared to be the same substance released in the subways on Monday.

The Tokyo Shimbun newspaper reported Tuesday that passengers at the Kodenmacho station in downtown Tokyo spotted and chased a man who had left a vial of vaporous liquid on the train shortly after 8 a.m. The suspect was overcome by the fumes and could not get away. He is now under guard in a hospital, the newspaper said, but was too ill to be questioned Monday.

The poison gas attack was a shock in a city that prides itself on civility, courtesy and the lowest crime rate of any big city on Earth. It brought back memories of the frightening years of the late 1960s and '70s, when the self-styled Red

Army and other terrorist groups resorted to occasional violence in pursuit of various political aims.

There was little sign of panic in Tokyo following Monday morning's attacks. The thousands of people who came gasping and retching out of the subways — many temporarily blinded by the stinging gas — lined up and waited quietly for on-the-spot treatment or transport to hospitals.

Outside the subway station at Kasumigaseki, bureaucrats sat atop their briefcases while police gave them oxygen. Meanwhile, police and military personnel wearing gas masks and spacesuit-style protective gear searched inch-by-inch through trains and stations.

More than 4,600 people sought hospital treatment. At St. Luke's International Hospital downtown, beds lined the lobby and corridors as nurses washed the eyes of victims and gave them oxygen. Most victims left the hospital under their own power after a few hours. Police said 603 persons were hospitalized overnight.

Service was restored on all but one of the city's 12 subway lines by Monday afternoon, and officials said trains were as packed as usual during the evening rush hour. "Look, I've got to get home," said a woman on the Ginza subway line Monday night. "And it's probably worse if you go up (on the street) and take the bus."

Since the first day of spring is a national holiday in Japan, Tuesday morning was calm and quiet on the subways, with all lines running and all stations open.

In contrast to the delays and confusion that marked the government's response to the disastrous Kobe earthquake in January, rescue and relief efforts Monday seemed to be timely and adequate. Subway lines were shut within minutes after the gas was discovered, and medical teams were quickly dispatched to

the affected stations.

U.S. government sources in Washington expressed some skepticism that the substance used in the attack was actually sarin. They said they understood that Japanese police had not completed testing needed to prove what chemical was used and that the data collected so far indicate the substance instead may have been a mixture of agricultural chemicals and other hazardous pesticide-like compounds. The U.S. officials also said they believe the number of deaths is low for a genuine sarin-like agent.

Experts said that sarin itself is in relatively scarce supply and would be difficult, though not impossible, for a terrorist group to make. But structurally similar compounds, with similarly lethal properties, can be made relatively easily and cheaply, according to chemists and other experts.

Other than the report that a suspect was under guard, police said almost nothing about their investigation, but other media reports indicated that there were several witnesses who saw unusual actions on the subways Monday morning.

At Nakameguro station, southwest of the city center on the Hibiya subway line, witnesses told police, a man about 40 years old jumped on the train just before 8 a.m. When he got off at Ebisu, the next stop, he left behind on the floor a plastic lunch box wrapped in newspaper. Within eight minutes, or three more stops, a sharp odor coming from the package forced everybody off the train.

At a train on the Marunouchi line, a wad of wet newspaper on the floor began giving off noxious fumes. A similar wad of papers was found inside a plastic trash bag on a different train.

Government and private experts said these reports suggested that the perpetrators may have brought sealed bottles of sarin onto the trains, poured the clear, lethal liquid onto newspaper, then left the train.

Clinton to Mark Nazis' Defeat With U.S. Vets, Then Yeltsin

By John M. Broder and Sonni Efron

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Clinton, trying to mollify American war veterans and butress Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin, will preside over ceremonies here on May 8 marking the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, then fly overnight to Moscow to participate in Russia's V-E Day observances on May 9, the White House said Monday.

After deliberating for weeks on whether to accept Yeltsin's invitation to Russia's events as Russian troops are violently suppressing a rebellion in the southern province of Chechnya, the White House decided to go to Moscow over the weekend after Yeltsin promised the ceremonies would include a minimum of military pomp.

Clinton's jet-age scheduling leg-erdmann claimed one victim — British Prime Minister John Major, who had hoped that Clinton would participate in activities in London on May 8. The snub compounds the offense Major reportedly took over Clinton's lavish entertainment last week of Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

Rather than journey to London, Clinton will mark the anniversary at Arlington National Cemetery with "U.S. veterans, their families, and

their loved ones," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

To soften the blow to Britain, the White House announced that Major would receive two consolations — an invitation to Washington for a working visit with Clinton on April 3-4 and a V-E Day visit from Vice President Al Gore on May 8.

The United States, Britain and France celebrate the end of World War II in Europe on May 8; the Russians on May 9.

Gore also will attend events marking the end of World War II in Europe in Paris and Berlin.

Clinton spoke with Major over the weekend to explain his decision to go to Moscow and to schedule the April visit to symbolize the "very special and warm" relationship between Britain and the United States, McCurry said.

Aides said Clinton concluded that it was critical to stand beside Yeltsin at a time when the Russian leader is feeling increasing hostility from the West as a result of the misadventure in Chechnya, Moscow's opposition to the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and halting economic reform efforts at home.

And Yeltsin has let it be known publicly and privately that he and the Russian people would consider it an unforgivable insult should Clinton fail to show.

"For Clinton not to come would

mean further damage to Yeltsin and further isolation for Russia," said John D. Steinbruner, director of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution. "Yeltsin's relationship with Clinton is his major political asset ... Their mere appearance together ... will reaffirm a degree of normalcy in the relationship."

U.S. and Russian officials said the two-day Clinton-Yeltsin summit would cover the gamut of bilateral and global issues, including U.S. displeasure over the war in Chechnya and Russia's sale of nuclear power technology to Iran; European security issues; dismantling Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons; and progress toward economic and political reform in Russia.

Clinton also will describe for Yeltsin the political changes in Washington that will make it more difficult to provide the billions of dollars in economic aid that Clinton had pledged to assist the conversion of the Russian economy, aides said.

Clinton will stop in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, on his way back to Washington. There, aides said, he will meet with President Leonid Kuchma to discuss Western aid issues, retiring nuclear weapons and Ukraine's efforts to prevent the secession of the Crimea, whose Russian ethnic majority wants to create an independent state allied with Russia.

Americans Think GOP Program Cuts Go Too Far, Survey Shows

By Richard Morin
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Most Americans believe that Republican lawmakers are going too far in cutting federal social programs that benefit children, the elderly, the poor and the middle class, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News survey.

As a result, the survey suggests, President Clinton may be slowly winning back some of the political ground he surrendered to Republicans immediately after the GOP landslide in last November's congressional elections.

Clinton also appears to be getting a sustained second look from many middle-class voters who deserted the Democratic Party last year. In a critical reversal of attitudes, the survey found that people now say they trust Clinton more than Republicans in Congress to

help middle-class Americans. Barely a month ago, Republicans enjoyed a clear advantage over Clinton.

Yet these doubts about congressional Republicans have not yet appreciably helped Clinton's overall public standing. His personal job approval rating stood at 52 percent in the latest survey, essentially unchanged from last month. And Republicans still remain more trusted than Clinton to deal with the "main problems the nation faces."

A total of 1,524 randomly selected adults were interviewed March 16-19. Margin of sampling error for the overall results is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The survey suggests that the honeymoon may be over for the Republican Contract with America. While a majority of those interviewed still give approval in concept to the contract, 52 percent also

agreed with the statement "the more I hear about what Republicans do in Congress, the less I like it." Forty-four percent expressed the opposite view.

Among the public's biggest worries: that the Republican majority in Congress will cut too deeply and too quickly into social programs to finance tax cuts and other benefits to wealthy Americans.

Nearly six out of 10 persons — 59 percent — agreed with the statement that Republicans "will go too far in helping the rich and cutting needed government services that benefit average Americans as well as the poor." That's a 14 percent increase since January in public concern with Republican initiatives.

Pluralities specifically said Republicans in Congress were trying to make too many cuts in the nation's education programs and in the school lunch program.

Turkey Launches Military Campaign Against Kurdish Rebel Bases in Iraq

By Kelly Couturier
THE WASHINGTON POST

ANKARA, TURKEY

Turkey launched a large-scale military assault against Kurdish separatist bases in northern Iraq Monday, dispatching a 35,000-man force backed by warplanes, armored vehicles and artillery along a front stretching 135 miles through rugged border mountains.

The attack, on the eve of the Newroz spring festival celebrated by many Kurds, marked Turkey's largest military campaign on foreign soil, including the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, according to government spokesman Yildirim Aktuna. But Turkey has launched previous raids into Iraq, notably in 1992, when 20,000 troops were sent in to flush rebels from their mountain bases and 2,500 rebels were

killed, according to the government.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller described Monday's offensive as part of a growing battle to vanquish the separatist insurgency in southeastern Turkey being waged by guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party. An estimated 15,000 people have been killed in the 10-year-old conflict, which has included terrorist tactics by the separatists and widely criticized reprisals by the Turkish military.

Ciller said the offensive will continue until the objective of clearing the Iraqi border area of Kurdish forces is achieved. She forcefully reiterated what she described as her government's determination to "stamp out terrorism against the state."

"The operation will be of limited duration and the forces involved

will be withdrawn immediately following the elimination of the targets," a government statement said.

The massive operation, involving mostly elite commando units, was the latest illustration of the Ciller government's pursuit of a military solution to the Kurdish insurgency, despite the heavy costs to Turkey's already battered economy — an estimated \$7 billion last year — and mounting accusations of human rights abuses associated with the conflict.

Western nations, especially European ones, have increasingly urged Turkey to improve its human rights record. At the same time, Ankara has received support from the United States and Western European governments for its fight against Kurdish terrorism.

Game of Dare Ends as Detective Arrests Heir to Fortune

LOS ANGELES TIMES

FRESNO, CALIF.

Dana Ewell was a rich kid with the ultimate alibi.

On Easter Sunday 1992, as a gunman executed his father, mother and sister inside their adobe ranch house, he was 200 miles away, spending the holiday with his girlfriend and her FBI agent father.

The 21-year-old Ewell, only surviving heir to an \$8 million fortune, offered a \$50,000 reward for the killer's capture. He vowed to make his father proud by taking over the family farms and airplane dealership.

Fresno County Sheriff's Detective John Souza didn't buy the aggrieved son demeanor. He believed that the college student with high-roller tastes and a reported 180 IQ had masterminded the sensational triple murder, and Ewell was publicly named as the prime suspect.

So began a three-year game of dare between the wealthy, cocky Ewell and the local detective who shadowed him and his cohorts around the state in a hunt for elusive evidence. Souza finally arrested Ewell, now 23, this month on three counts of first-degree murder.

The charges against Ewell in connection with the deaths of his father, Dale, 59, mother, Glee, 57, and sister, Tiffany, 24, could carry the death penalty. The suspected motive: the millions he stood to gain from the estate of his parents.

Three of Ewell's friends from the Los Angeles area have been arrested as accomplices in the murders.

Buchanan Enters Race, Vows To Defend Workers, Values

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MANCHESTER, N.H.

Staking a claim to leadership of the conservative rebellion he sparked by challenging George Bush four years ago, Pat Buchanan on Monday formally announced his entrance into the fast-growing field for the 1996 GOP presidential nomination.

A crowd of about 200 supporters in a downtown auditorium shouted "Go Pat, Go!" as the 56-year-old columnist and television commentator expounded on the major nationalist and populist themes of his 1992 campaign, only with a different emphasis.

When he used the phrase "America First" in 1992, he mainly meant re-establishing U.S. primacy in world affairs. Here on Monday, Buchanan stressed the threat to American workers from unfair competition abroad while condemning the Clinton administration for failing to protect their interests.

"Our people (are) not realizing the fruit of their labor," he declared, because "we have a government ... that is too busy taking phone calls from lobbyists for foreign countries and the corporate contributors of the Fortune 500."

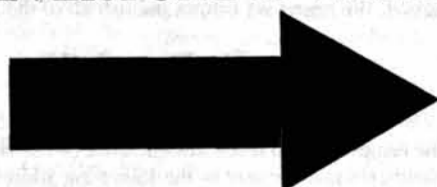
Few Republicans believe Buchanan's new candidacy will have the impact of his 1992 insurgency, when as the only consequential challenger to Bush he got 37 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary and damaged the president's prestige. In the current field many believe his main impact will be to draw votes away from Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, viewed as the leading conservative in the race.

Graduate Student Council

Federal and Mass. tax forms are still available in the GSC office. Stop by and help yourself!

Upcoming Meetings:
HCA Committee - March 21
APPC Committee - March 22
Formal Planning - March 27

All students are invited to be a part of planning the future look of graduate housing at MIT. If you are any bit interested or curious, PLEASE come be a part of the discussion at the meeting TONIGHT!!!!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs

Invite all interested to attend an open meeting on...

The Future of Graduate Housing at MIT

Tuesday, March 21

7 - 8:30 pm 50-222

This meeting will be the start of discussions to address the third housing issue identified by the administration in the process of formulating long term housing plans.

All Graduate Students are invited to all our meetings. All are held at 5:30pm in 50-222 and dinner is served.

Stay informed about all our events! Check out our web page <http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/gsc/gsc.html>
Add yourself to our mailing list by typing **blanche gsc-students -a username**, or send email to **gsc-request@mit**.
Questions, comments, ideas? Give us a call at 3-2195 or send email to **gsc-admin@mit**.

OPINION

Muh Is Best Choice for UA President...

After considering the candidates' respective records, platforms, and ideas, we believe that Carrie R. Muh '96 is the best choice for Undergraduate Association president. The other candidates — John S. Hollywood '96 and Sheldon W. Myrie '95 — have some good ideas, and have

Editorial

enlivened this year's campaign, but concerns over their abilities and platforms lead us to believe that Muh offers the best chance at a more effective UA.

Muh has offered a number of proposals for improving how the UA does business. First, she wants to increase the involvement of the Association of Student Activities in the budgetary process. This plan is good in principle, but care must be taken when implementing it.

Second, Muh has proposed that the UA's Executive Committee supervise the UA's administrative and procedural functions. This would go a long way toward freeing the UA Council to discuss more pressing issues — issues that are more important to students, and more likely to attract interest.

While the other two candidates have some points in their favor, concerns raised during the campaign recommend against their election. Hollywood has shown impressive enthusiasm for advocacy of specific issues and managing large projects, including the Survey on Undergraduate Life and the UA Housing Report. But he has demonstrated an unfortunate flair for offering a single view of an issue, rather than assessing the complete range of student opinion.

Hollywood also seems to have difficulty consulting and coordinating with other concerned student groups, especially when making hasty compromises with the administration. Often the only student called to offer a student viewpoint, the UA president must work from a strong foundation of student support and consensus. Furthermore, Hollywood's independent working style may hurt recruitment, as will his nit-picking pronouncements about office supplies. Saving paper clips will not improve the UA.

Myrie, certainly the most charismatic of the candidates, has shown poise and perseverance in the campaign. But his ideas and issues — multiculturalism among them — have a hollow ring. Myrie's emphasis on multiculturalism (a worthy notion) is more of a theoretical than practical consideration.

As the chief representative of all undergraduates, concen-

trating on multiculturalism may exclude other campus groups, and defer other issues that will be important in the coming year. Housing and food services, for example, are important to all students at MIT, and they require a UAP who is willing and able to work on these larger concerns.

In examining the candidates, four major campaign questions are important to consider. First, how can UA Council meetings become more meaningful and useful? Even the current UA president, Vijay P. Sankaran '95, has complained that meetings are boring and trivial. Understandably, attendance has dropped. And although the UAC floor leader chairs the council, are the candidates prepared to turn the UAC away from tedious procedural changes in order to focus on issues students actually care about?

Another important issue involves how the UA handles its money. How can the UA improve the efficiency of the fund-allocation process? How can the UA itself become more efficient?

A third consideration involves responding to administration proposals. Intermediate grades, undergraduate housing, grievance procedures, and student judicial reorganization have all been the subject of administration schemes and proposals during the past year. How well are the candidates prepared to work with administrators, and effectively advocate student views?

Finally, the UAP must be careful to represent the wide-range of student opinion. The UAP needs to understand student concerns, and actively help other student groups who are advocating them. How have the candidate's backgrounds prepared them for this task?

We believe that Muh and running mate Erik S. Balsley '96 offer the best combination of ideas, experience, and energy on these issues. Their proposal for using the Executive Committee for more internal and trivial matters, and the UA Council for more important matters, would better focus the UA on real student concerns. Both have experience dealing with the administration, representing a wide range of student views, and defending student interests. However, we must note that Muh has accomplished little as vice president after showing some promise as a class officer; she must re-focus her energies and efforts as UA president. Nonetheless, we recommend Carrie R. Muh '96.

...In Mismanaged UA Elections

With all the confusion over this year's Undergraduate Association elections, many students don't even know that tomorrow is election day — much less who is running or where

Editorial

to vote. The mismanagement of elections reflects poorly on those that run elections, and of the UA as a whole. The new UA leadership will have to work hard to recover from this year's election nightmare.

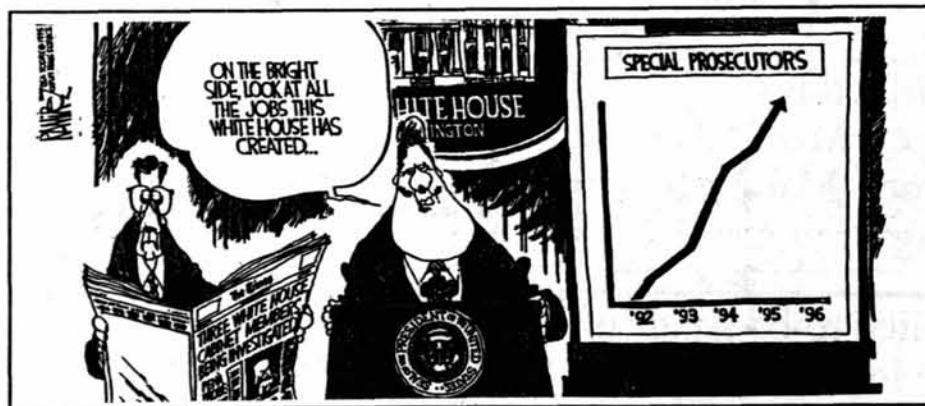
The effects of poor organization were widespread: the debate was poorly run, publicized, and attended; class council forums were unpublicized; and the election commission was unable to organize the annual election supplement in *The Tech*, leaving students without candidate profiles and platforms.

The confusion began with an amendment to the election code made in February that lowered candidate signature requirements. The UA Judicial Review Board chair overturned

this amendment, but UA President Vijay P. Sankaran '95 vetoed the measure, leaving the dates and requirements for elections uncertain. As we have said before, regardless of the merits of the amendment, the UA should not have changed the election code a month before elections.

Whether the blame for this mismanagement lies with the UA election commission, UA Council, or other UA officials is unclear and irrelevant. Even if the UA does nothing else — or everything badly — it must run elections fairly and successfully. Otherwise, its mandate as a student government will wear thin.

Students will not be surprised with low turnout in tomorrow's elections. Poor management and organization has probably alienated those few voters who somehow manage to find out about the elections. Hopefully, the new UA leadership elected tomorrow will not repeat this year's mistakes.



ERRATUM

An article about an intermediate grades discussion ["Grading Proposal Debated at Forum," March 14] incorrectly attributed a statement to Cindy W. Fung '96. Contrary to what was reported in the article, Fung is opposed to the proposed changes in the grading system.

Opinion Policy

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

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

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

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the author's signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

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Letters To The Editor

Myrie, Johnson, Turner, Carter and Morton are Best Choices

As MIT continues its re-engineering process and as we face the appointment of new undergraduate and graduate school deans we have realized that the old system of doing business has to change. We are writing this letter to the MIT community to let you know who we believe will best represent all of us in the Undergraduate Association as this process takes place. After examining their respective platforms it is clear to us that several candidates present the clearest ideas on how to go about changing the UA for the better. These candidates are: Sheldon W. Myrie '95, UA president; Jennifer K. Johnson '98, UA vice president; Matthew J. Turner '96, Class of '96 president; Dedic A. Carter '98, Class of '98 president; and Charles I. Morton IV '97, Class of '97 vice president.

As UAP candidate Sheldon Myrie stated in his recent letter to *The Tech* [UAP Candidate Myrie Answers "Who Am I?" and "What Am I Doing Here?," March 14] that we have to change things from business as usual to business as it ought to be. Now is the right time to introduce the spirit and energy which have been lacking in the UA in order to achieve this change. We believe in the ideas presented by Myrie and Johnson because they help empower us as students to make the most of our experience here. They stay clear from the elitist perception which has been attributed to the UA by scandals such as the secret Bush Fund.

Matt Turner has excelled as president of his class for the past two years and we expect him to continue to do the same if elected. His past accomplishments have included the 1993 boat cruise and the 1994 pep rally.

Two newcomers to the scene are Carter and Morton. Carter is running on a "Goal Echelon" defined by increased communication, participation, and understanding on the part of the Class of '98. Morton views participation as essential in effectively representing his class.

We believe in the importance the UA has in building a sense of community and the role it

should play in fostering that sense at MIT. We strongly believe these candidates are the right ones to do this job and urge you to take a look at their platforms and vote on Wednesday.

Alim M. Needham '97 and Carlos Iñaki Gutierrez '96 for the Black Students' Union and Mexican Students' Association

Why Does the UA Need All That Money?

It's time for Undergraduate Association elections again, that big annual event with ballot boxes, pictures of smiling candidates on the front page of *The Tech*, and all the usual hoopla. Every year around this time I wonder what is the UA, and what is it supposed to do?

Looking through the three campaign platforms, I see a lot of proposals for what the candidates intend to do, but these platforms are diverse and little help in figuring out what the UA is actually supposed to do. Presumably the UA was created to fill some sort of need, and thus has regular duties which all candidates are expected to perform, but what is that need? Judging by the voter turnout for past UA elections, most people are as baffled as I am on this issue.

This issue recently became more interesting when I learned about how the money flows in that organization. While I can't vouch for the total accuracy of this information, from what I've seen the buck gets passed like this: the Dean's Office hands the UA about \$90,000 every year. UA takes almost \$20,000 of this, and hands the rest to the UA Finance Board to divide up among the many student-run activities. This should raise a number of questions, such as: Why is the money given to the UA instead of directly to Finboard? Why is the UA approving Finboard's allocation to student groups when the UA has nothing to do with student groups? (The Association of Student Activities is responsible for coordinating student groups.) And most of all, why does the UA automatically get this chunk of money without having to present a justified budget to Finboard first?

I'm not saying that the UA is all bad or needs to go away or be stronger. However, I

am most curious to know what they are supposed to be doing, and why they need all that money to do it.

B. Matthew Knapp '95
Former ASA Secretary

Students Must Take Opportunity to Affect Housing Policy

I am writing to encourage any student who is interested in graduate housing to come to an important meeting Tuesday night.

For several months, there was a significant campus dialogue and much uproar as various members of the Institute community expressed concern that the Strategic Housing Planning Committee was being used as a de facto housing policy-making body. Furthermore, there was much anxiety with the recommendations of the committee. Thankfully, as a result of this dialogue, the administration amended the process in order to allow for significant, perhaps unprecedented, student input into the long range future of MIT housing.

In short, the administration has given students what they wanted — an opportunity to participate. But with it, students have been given a responsibility to accept that offer. Now that the crisis is over and some of the most troublesome recommendations appear dead, at least in the short term, it is tempting to walk away from the issue. That is exactly the wrong approach — one that will lead, once again, to sub-optimal recommendations and a future disinclination on the part of the administration toward allowing student input on major decisions.

On Tuesday night, the first steps will be taken in what promises to be a long, yet rich and fascinating journey of determining the long-term policy for graduate housing. Issues will include the long term use of Ashdown House and the construction of a new graduate housing facility. I implore any student who is interested in these and other graduate housing issues to come play a part in the process. The meeting will be from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Graduate Student Council office in Walker Memorial (50-222) and will be led by Dean for

Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs
Arthur C. Smith.

Joseph J. Bambenek G
Co-chair, GSC Housing and Community
Affairs Committee

Myrie Clarifies "Multiculturalism"

Many people I have talked to about my Undergraduate Association presidential campaign position on "multiculturalism" have supported the idea that we need to eradicate cultural ignorance. However, I understand that others have felt alienated by the position. I am sorry that my intentions have been misinterpreted by some. I care too much about the undergraduate population to let any misunderstanding hinder any form of cultural discourse.

One of the things that sets MIT apart from other institutions is the option of choosing where we live beginning freshman year. Often, this leads to students living with those who share similar backgrounds. This is a good thing because it promotes a sense of security in an already tense environment. However, the disadvantage of this system is that people who are from different cultural backgrounds tend not to get to know each other. Hence, when conflict arises, there is no common ground between groups that can help resolve their differences. As UA president I hope to help create this common ground through multiculturalism.

In my opinion, multiculturalism is the interaction, understanding, and appreciation of all cultures. Furthermore, I feel that the term culture encompasses more than ethnic heritage and custom. To me, a culture is any body of people who share similar life experiences and deal with similar issues. I acknowledge that I am not well versed on every issue, which is why I encourage the community as a whole to assist in dealing with cultural ignorance. I am not calling for all people to come together, hold hands, and sing "Kum Ba Yah." What I am saying is that we should be able to get a degree without having to deal with the problems that cultural ignorance causes.

Sheldon W. Myrie '96
UAP candidate

Wednesday

UA Elections

Intermediate Grading

Referendum

Athena voting until 10 PM Tuesday:

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Or vote Wednesday until 6 PM:
Lobby 7, Student Center, or Walker

THE ARTS

Peckinpah's *Wild Bunch* affects with brutal style

THE WILD BUNCH

Directed by Sam Peckinpah.
Written by Sam Peckinpah and Walon Green;
based on a story by Roy N. Sickner and
Walon Green.
Starring William Holden, Ernest Borgnine,
Robert Ryan, Edmund O'Brien, Warren
Oates, Jaime Sanchez, Ben Johnson, and
Emilio Fernandez.
Sony Harvard Square.

By Scott Deskin

ARTS EDITOR

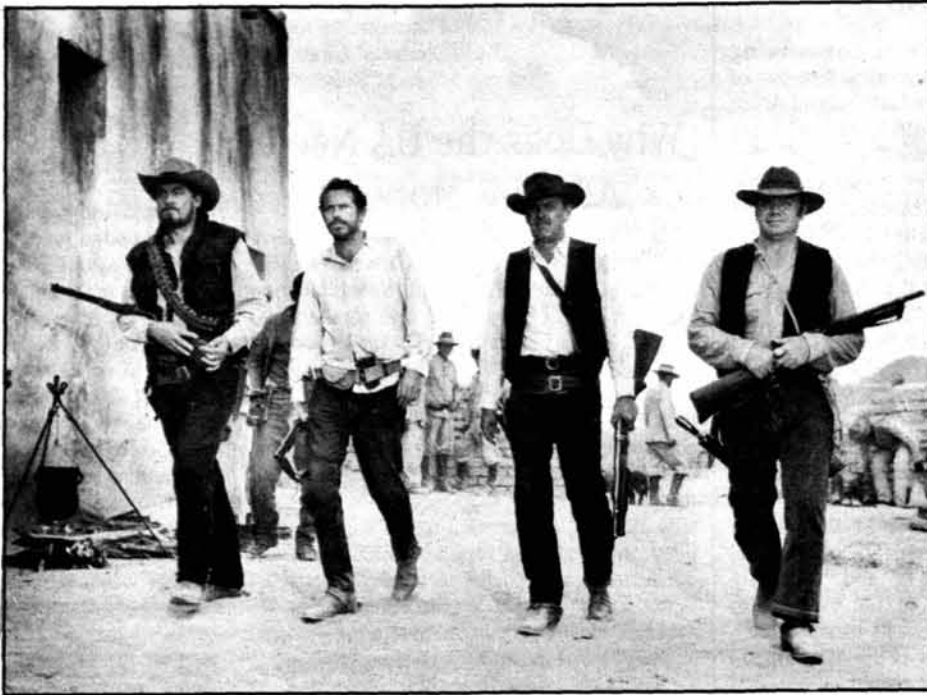
The re-release of Sam Peckinpah's western epic, *The Wild Bunch*, 25 years after it was first shown in 1969, may be a puzzling sight. Aside from Clint Eastwood's *Unforgiven*, Hollywood seems to have fallen out of the tradition of making westerns that aren't either locked into the tragic hero motif (*Wyatt Earp*) or lightweight entertainment (*Maverick*). Looking at Peckinpah's film today, I gain an appreciation for the western as a viable cinematic canvas. *The Wild Bunch* was released in the same year as Oscar-winner *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, but its dark shades of death, betrayal, and retribution make it a much more satisfying experience.

The film opens with four men wearing U.S. Army uniforms riding into a south Texas border town; the year is 1913. They spy a group of children by the side of the tracks and ride on as the giggling young tykes pour a pile of ravenous red ants onto a couple of scorpions. The men casually stroll into the town railway office, with guns in tow, and reveal themselves as thieves: The gravity of the situation is compounded when the leader of the bunch, Pike Bishop (William Holden) tells the others, "If they move, kill 'em." As we learn later, this is to be his last big score, as hired guns working for the railroad wait outside for an imminent ambush of the robbers. While a local temperance union parades down the street, the massacre that occurs is both shocking and poetically beautiful: innocent

and guilty parties alike are either shot or trampled to death in the street as the men escape to Mexico.

Hot in pursuit of the bunch is former member Deke Thornton (Robert Ryan), one of Pike's old buddies who's been sprung from jail by the railroad company especially for this seek-and-destroy mission. Thornton leads a ragtag group of scumbag bounty hunters as he follows Pike's trail. You can tell by looking in both men's eyes that they know their time is short, and that their days of fast living and kicking ass in the wild frontier are almost up — partly because the frontier is disappearing. You wouldn't know it by the desert locales and the simple Mexican villages that the men ride through, but they all sense that their freewheeling way of life is in danger. Pike and his companions — reliable Dutch Engstrom (Ernest Borgnine), the notorious Gorch brothers (Ben Johnson and Warren Oates), and the idealistic Angel (Jaime Sanchez) — are all wary about the future.

Their trip down to Mexico doesn't supply them with much comfort. Out of a need for cash, they hire their services out to Generalissimo Mapache (Emilio Fernandez), a warlord out to crush Pancho Villa's rebel forces. In between the robbing and the gunrunning, the men drink and flaunt their promiscuity; yet, there is an uneasiness to the agreement they

Ben Johnson, Warren Oates, William Holden, and Ernest Borgnine are *The Wild Bunch*.

make with Mapache. Worst of all, when rebel-supporting Angel finds out his former love has become one of Mapache's personal whores, his conscience nearly collapses when framed against the motives of the other members of the bunch.

By the end of the film, the men must put their collective code of honor to the test when they come to aid of Angel, who finds himself in the malevolent hands of Mapache. In one of the most celebrated displays of violence in cinematic history, the men are forced into a standoff against Mexican soldiers within the enemy fortress. The men are face-to-face with death; yet, instead of succumbing to the enemy with the blithe, smart-ass ignorance of *Butch Cassidy* and the *Sundance Kid*, they go down fighting. Bullets rip through bodies with frightening intensity, but the men keep on

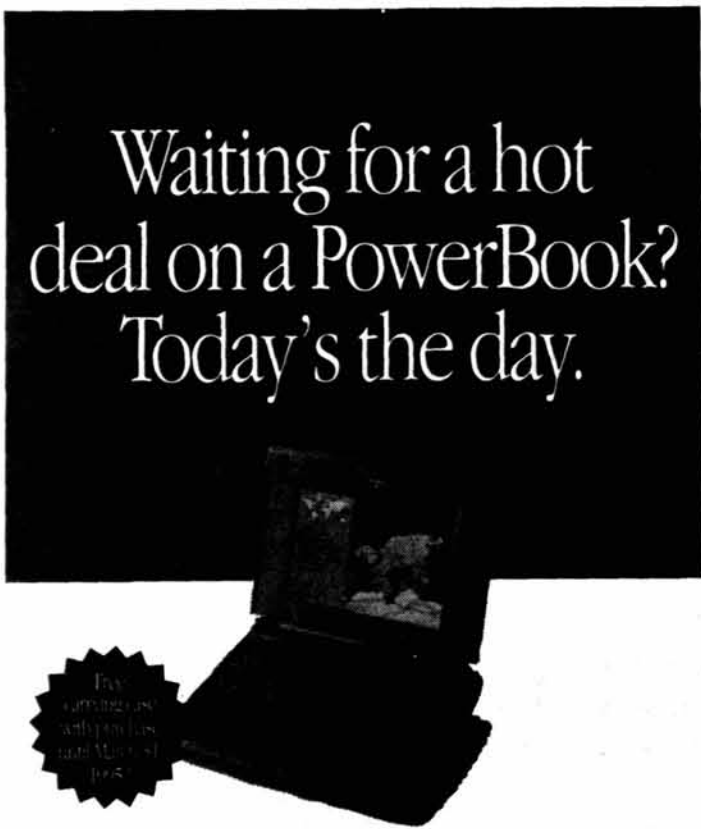
shooting and fight through their pain. The camera angle changes back and forth at different speeds: Peckinpah and cinematographer Lucien Ballard create a beautifully choreographed dance of death.

But I care about every one of the characters beyond their moral flaws and vices. Holden, as Pike, brings his bold and weary charisma to the part (reportedly modeled after the infamous director) — perhaps his most common line is "Let's go," a signal for the rest of his gang to move on. Emilio Fernandez is an evil foil for the gang whose actions are manifest through his drunken, childish fits of sadism. Some people may object

to Peckinpah's grotesque characterizations — Mexican military officers smiling with depraved glee, or women betraying their lovers/customers after sex. In fact, the men can't trust anyone, which is why Pike warns his gang to stick together and not turn on each other like a pack of wild animals. It's the savagery of the outside world that will destroy the bunch first.

The indelible images from the violent confrontations in the film nicely bookend the enjoyable action sequences in between. Some viewers may be bored if they aren't exhilarated in the same way that the thematically incoherent *Natural Born Killers* impresses its audience. Instead, *The Wild Bunch* is a bold, poignant, and stunning tribute to the time-honored western tradition that doesn't desecrate its source material.

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Superficial Wedding is a good start for director Hogan

MURIEL'S WEDDING

Written and directed by P.J. Hogan.
Starring Toni Collette, Bill Hunter,
Rachel Griffiths, and Jeanie Drynan.
Sony Nickelodeon.

By Teresa Esser
STAFF REPORTER

Muriel's Wedding is Australian director P.J. Hogan's first film. Although steeped in the new tradition of the low-budget, big-hit *Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of The Desert* (from which this movie steals scenes shamelessly), Hogan has succeeded in producing a small, good movie that entertains without challenging and forces audiences to look again at that most hyped-up of all historical traditions: the wedding.

Muriel (Toni Collette) begins the film as an overweight loser from Queensland, a woman trapped by a dysfunctional family, an apathetic neighborhood, and a clique of beautiful "best friends." The movie opens with a shot of a beautiful friend's wedding, where one of the clique members is shown having an affair with the groom. The movie moves that fast: credits, wedding, affair. Before the scandalous couple have time to emerge from their private room the ugly misfit Muriel is taken into custody by the police. Apparently, she never paid for her leopard-print dress.

When watching *Muriel's Wedding* it is important to keep in mind that the community of Porpoise Spit, Australia, where Muriel lives, is extremely different from the culture here at MIT. Instead of juggling four projects at once and complaining "I'm so hosed," the residents of Queensland lament their unemployment and console each other with: "No worries, mate."

Hogan establishes his characters rather quickly. The evil clique is made up of Barbie look-alikes who criticize Muriel for not wearing frosted lipstick. Muriel is clumsy, overweight and "useless," hopelessly ostracized from the inner circle by her unemployment and consequent failure to follow fashion. "I've got a job," Muriel tells them, referring to

a cosmetics sales position offered by her father's mistress. "It's not your clothes," the friends retort, it's you."

Crushed, Muriel steals money from her parents and buys a holiday at the same resort where the clique is staying. Once there she meets up with a friend from high school (Rachel Griffiths) whose noble character is symbolized by her short black hair and indifference toward fashion.

The two women celebrate their independence from the neurosis of Porpoise Spit by running away to Sydney, where they get jobs, meet men, and have the time of their lives. "When I was living in Porpoise Spit I used to sit in my room all day and listen to Abba songs," Muriel says. "Since I've come to Sydney, I haven't listened to Abba at all."

The point of this movie is very simple: in order to escape from insecurity and stagnant immobility one must rebel against the conventions held by beautiful people, cut one's hair, buy a new wardrobe, and forge a new life on one's own. If theft and dishonesty are the only ways that these ends can be achieved, so much the better.

This movie is far too contrived. None of the scenes appear natural, instead, they look like Hogan has manipulated the gray shades of everyday experience in order to come up with a cast of characters that are either too black, too white, too good, or too obviously evil. Although *Muriel's Wedding* does an excellent job of conveying the attitudes and economic realities of small Australian towns, it fails to capture the subtle interludes

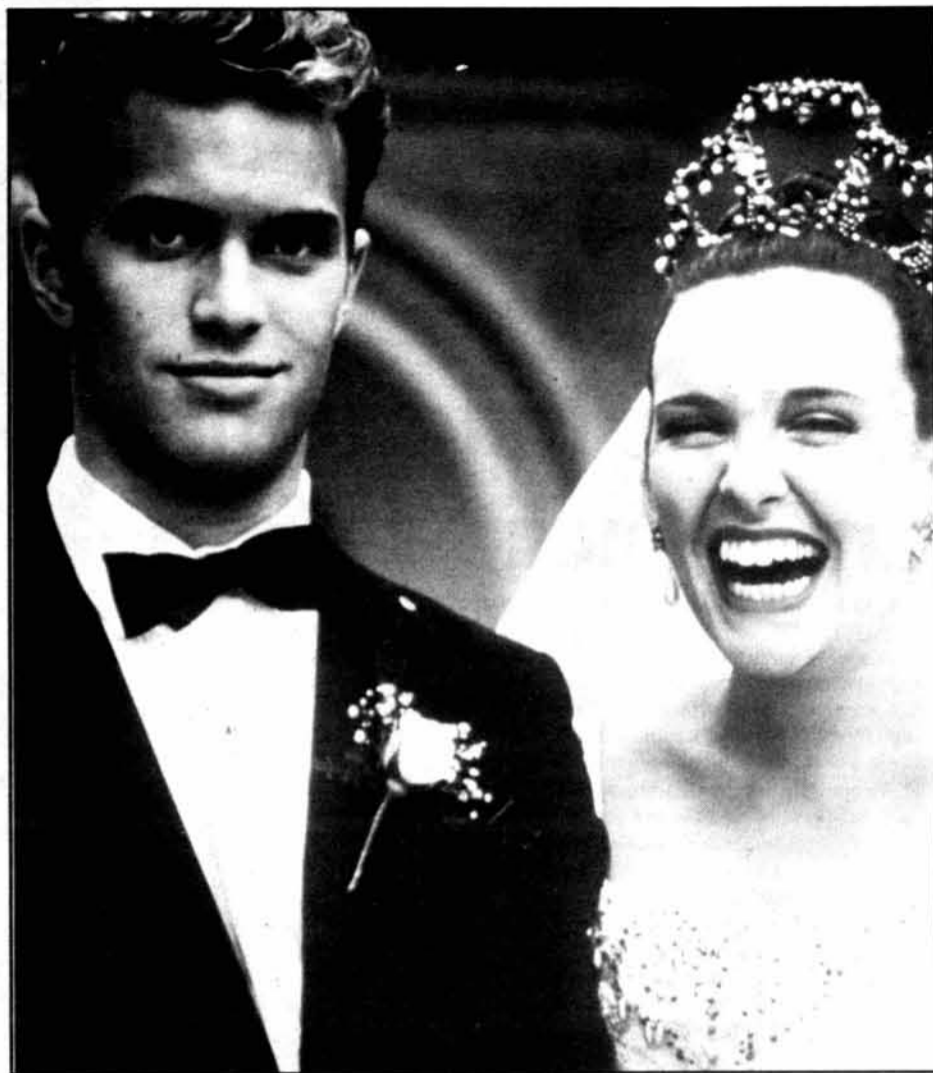
muriel's Wedding

she's not just getting married, she's getting even.

of conversation that make characters seem like real people.

For example, the character of Muriel's mother (Jeanie Drynan) is not developed at all. She is shown once standing in her kitchen, lost in a zombie-like trance, and then again in a restaurant, oblivious to the presence of her husband's mistress. It is not until Muriel ignores her at her own wedding and Muriel's father moves in with his mistress that we see this woman come to life, and then she kills herself.

Muriel's father (Bill Hunter) is another



Daniel Lapaine and Toni Collette in *Muriel's Wedding*.

stock character, as is her celebrity immigrant husband (Daniel Lapaine). Hogan may as well have used cardboard cutouts to play their roles, writing "philandering politician" on one and "Olympic diver" on the other. Their lives do not figure into the plot of the movie; what matters is what they can do for Muriel. In the end they each contribute about ten grand.

If audience members can identify with Muriel's quest for beauty and popularity, they

might really enjoy watching this movie. If not, it's at least interesting to watch the trials and tribulations of people in another culture. P. J. Hogan did a good job with this first film, and for that he deserves a pot of beer in the local tavern. The film does not, however, merit any awards, honors, or serious contemplation. It is a superficial film about superficial topics and the vague notion of getting things started.

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Lip Sync Entertains Amid Much Fanfare

By Stacey E. Blau
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Phi Kappa Sigma took top honors at Alpha Chi Omega's seventh annual Lip Sync Contest with its performance of the musical number "Officer Krupke" from *West Side Story*.

PKS captured the award for overall best act for the third consecutive year at the Friday night event in Kresge Auditorium.

The contest raised over \$2,600, which will be donated to Bridge over Troubled Waters, a local outreach center for run-away and homeless youth, and to the MacDowell Colony, an organization which houses and supports artists and writers on its estate in New Hampshire.

"We had a lot of really good acts this year," said Lip Sync Co-chair Chen Tan '97. People came to support charities, but the event was also "really funny and entertaining," she said.

"It took quite a while to put [the event] together," Tan said. Early and widespread posterering helped encourage more people to participate. "We had more acts than last year," she said. There was also more participation from people outside of the fraternity and sorority community, she said.

Other winners included Fast Forward's performance of "One More Minute," which won the award for best

lip sync, and Dance Troupe's performance of "This is Halloween," which won for best choreography.

The women's soccer team won for most original act for its performance of "Un Ballo in Maschera," the only act featuring opera.

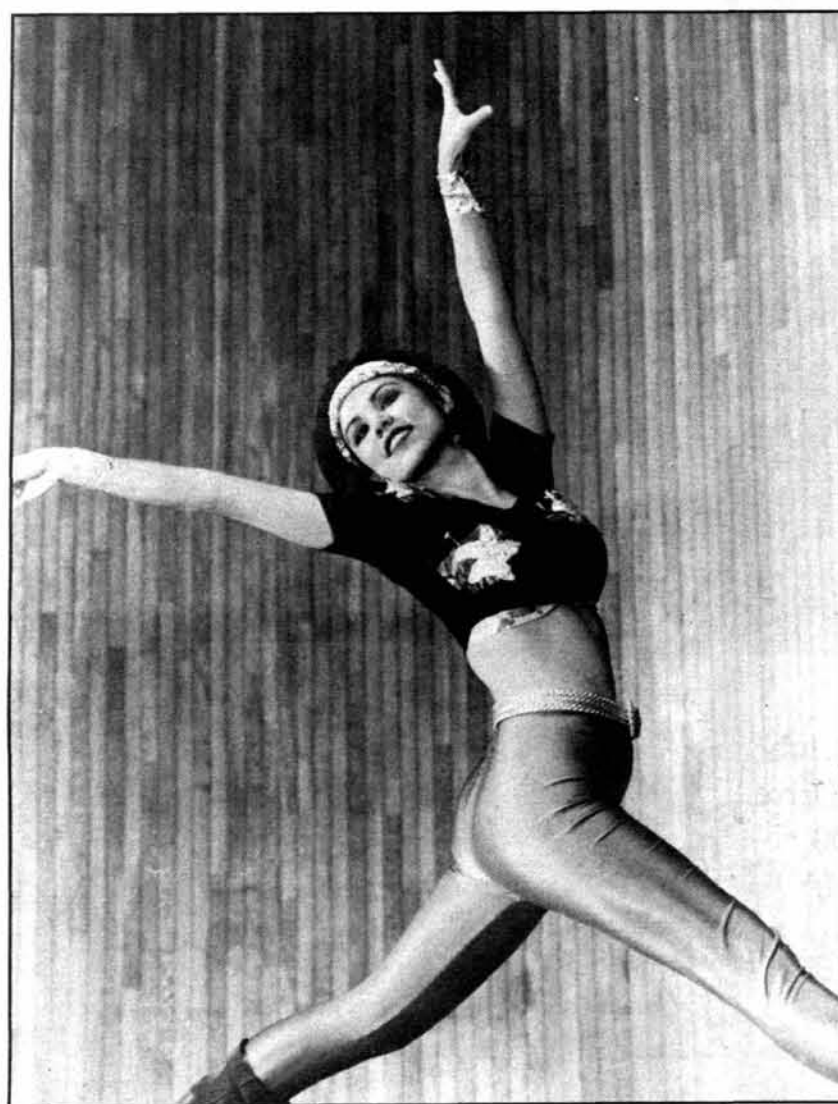
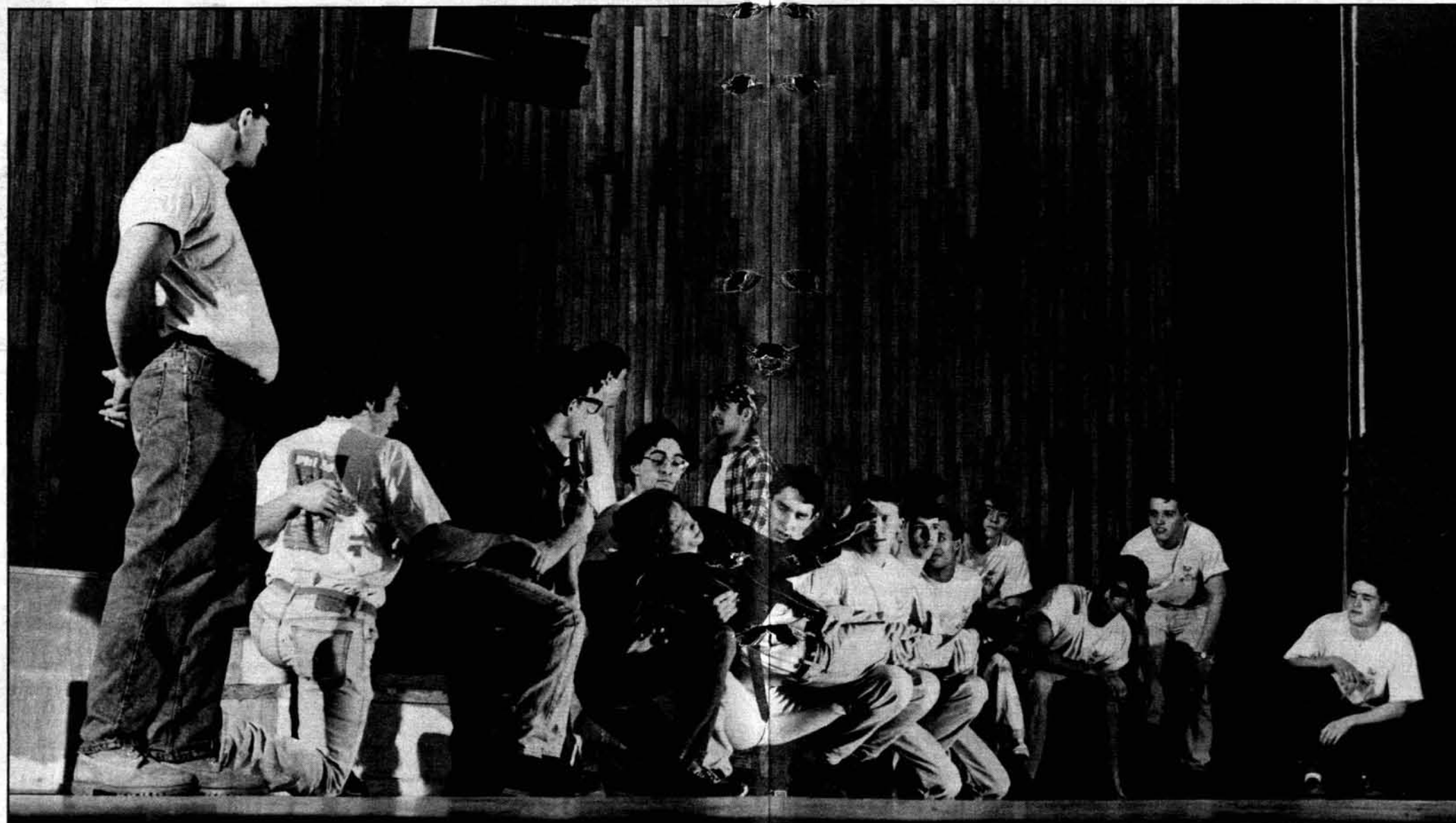
Residents of Bexley Hall performed one of the non-Greek acts and caused a "big mess," Tan said. The Bexley group began with Nine Inch Nails' "Mr. Self Destruct," interrupted that for Janet Jackson's "Control," and then returned to Nine Inch Nails. Four of the participants were covered in wet mud, which dirtied the floor, Tan said. AXO members and the Bexley participants stayed after the event to clean up, she said.

The contest also featured the musical group Hidden Agenda, who performed before the contest began and again before the winners were announced.

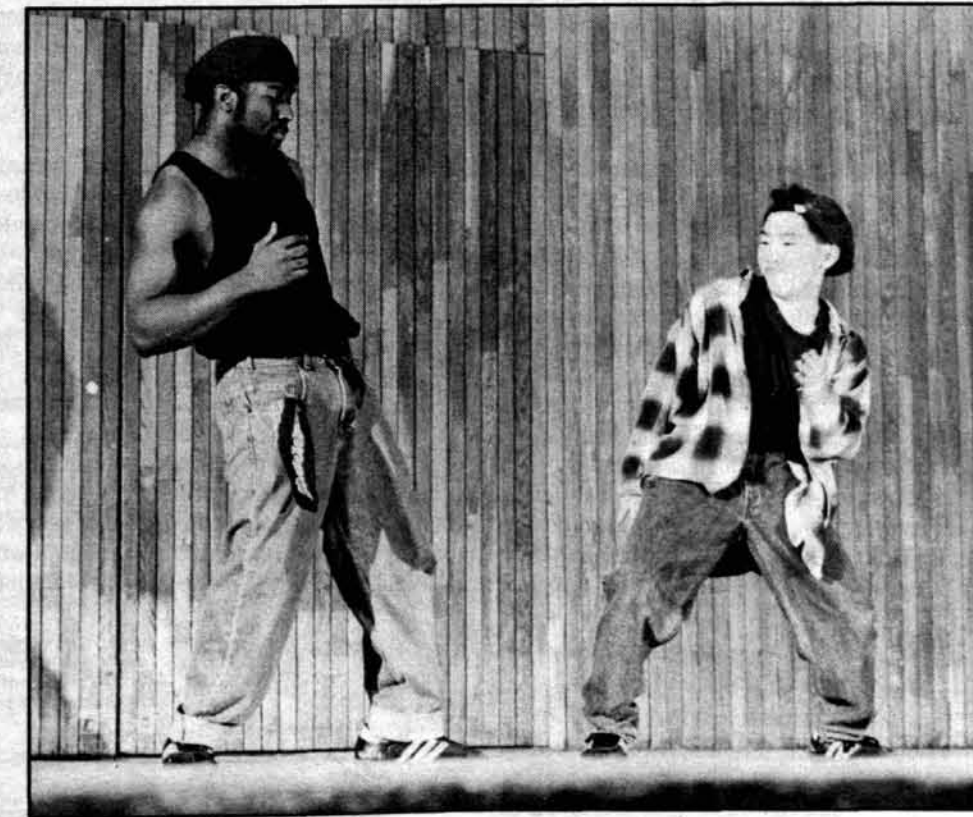
All acts were judged by a panel that included Assistant Dean for Resident and Campus Activities Neal H. Dorow, women's crew coach Mayrene T. Earle, electrical engineering and computer science program administrator Marshall Hughes, Baker Housemasters William B. Watson, associate professor of history, and Myra Harrison-Watson, and Barbara Wheelan, a representative from Bridge over Troubled Waters.



Alpha Chi Omega LIP SYNC MARCH 17, 1995



PHOTOS BY
INDRANATH NEOGY



Top right: Sigma Kappa TV Classics "Charlie's Angels"
Center right: Beta Epsilon Chi (Bexley Hall) "Mr. Self Destruct"/"Control"
Bottom right: Brainstorm "Black Coffee"
Bottom middle: Dance Troupe "This is Halloween"
Bottom left: Sigma Kappa TV Classics "Wonder Woman"
Top Left: Alpha Chi Omega New Member Act "Friend Like Me"
Center: The winners, Phi Sigma Kappa "Officer Krupke"

MIT Graduate Student Council Elections

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS

Want to get involved in student government and try to improve MIT for your fellow graduate students?

Want to develop valuable managerial and interpersonal skills for when you graduate?

Then run for office!

(Interest, not experience necessary!!!)

We're looking for motivated people to keep the momentum going. We've had a pretty good year this year highlighted by:

- Improved Communication
- Ensuring Student Input on Housing
- A Longer Orientation (Fully documented)
- Cheap T Passes
- Lots of Fun Activities (don't forget the Ball on April 28)

Nominations due:	Wednesday, April 5	5pm	50-222
Meet the Candidates Forum:	Thursday, April 6	5-7pm	50-222
Elections:	Wednesday, April 12	5:30pm	50-222
(only GSC representatives can vote)			

To run, send a letter of nomination to the Graduate Student Council, 50-222, or send the letter by email to gsc-secretary@mit.

To vote, become a representative! Pick up a petition at the GSC office or contact gsc-secretary@mit for more information. Representative forms due Monday, April 10 at 5pm.

For more information please contact the GSC office, 50-222, x3-2195 or on the WWW: <http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/gsc/gsc.html>

MIT Graduate Student Council Officer Job Descriptions

There are 4 officer positions within the GSC: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These four officers form the core team within the GSC and as such work together to coordinate the GSC's efforts throughout the year. The load of this responsibility is equally shared amongst the officers and thus allow them to cover for one another when the demands of their courses become too much. Communication occurs through regular officers meetings and regular meetings with the MIT Deans (about monthly), and each officer attending one of the GSC committee's monthly meetings. It should be noted that as the officers share the above tasks in a roughly equal manner, each has the opportunity to hone their leadership skills through interactions with other graduate students and the MIT administration. Feel free to contact the current officers with any questions.

President

The GSC President's job is a very challenging one that offers many rewards and opportunities for the development of managerial and inter-personal skills. In broad terms the President is responsible for leading the GSC, focusing the desires voiced by the graduate students into achievable goals, helping the GSC Officers, GSC Committee Chairs, and GSC Administrative Assistant achieve these goals and coordinating GSC contact with the administration and faculty. Election to the office of President of the GSC also entails automatic membership to several other MIT organizations specifically; ex officio membership of the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee (meets 3 to 4 times per year), ex officio membership of the Alumni Funding Board (meets 3 times per year, ex officio membership of the Muddy Charles Pub Board of Governors (meets monthly), membership of the Commencement Committee (meets 3 times per year). In addition the President has speaking privileges at meetings of the Faculty Committee (meets monthly). Specific tasks of the President include but are not limited to running monthly general meetings of the full council, defining the direction of the GSC with the other GSC officers, approving and/or appointing chairs to the GSC committees (Orientation, Activities, HCA, and APPC), running regular meetings of the GSC Executive Committee, meeting regularly with MIT Deans, providing moral support and guidance to the other members of the GSC in the course of their own duties, addressing the incoming students during orientation, and saluting MIT at Commencement. As can be seen from the above description the office of GSC President encompasses many responsibilities that require a substantial time commitment in the order of five to fifteen hours per week. However, the office also offers the motivated individual an unique opportunity to not only make MIT a better place for graduate students but also to develop and hone leadership, motivational and general managerial skills that will serve him or her in the working world upon graduation. Current President: Roger Kermodé, gsc-president@mit.

Vice President

The GSC Vice-President's primary official job duty is making sure that MIT graduate students are adequately represented on Institute Committees and various governing boards. This involves interviewing and screening student applicants for the various positions, staying in contact with the appropriate committee chairs, forwarding student applications, and making selection recommendations. In addition, the Vice-President is responsible for helping out the President in all types of tasks. The Vice-President is the acting President in the President's absence, and helps take some of the load off the President's shoulders throughout the term. The Vice-President also serves as the liaison with the departmental graduate administrators. Last, the Vice-President usually takes on many projects on his/her own accord, and carries them through to ensure the longevity and success of the GSC. It is a job that is extremely rewarding and frequently challenging, which enables the Vice-President to hone his/hers motivational, organizational, and leadership skills. The time commitment varies, though the Vice-President should expect a baseline commitment of five hours a week. Current Vice President: Stan Reiss, gsc-vice-president@mit.

Secretary

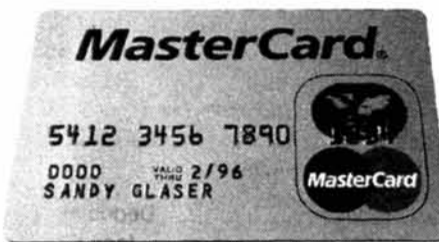
The role of the Graduate Student Council Secretary is one of communication. The secretary is responsible for presenting the GSC in a coherent and exciting framework, and ensuring that the graduate student population is well informed of all activities and issues. Weekly Tech Ads, monthly VooDoo and Thistle Ads, and well maintained email lists form the core of the GSC communication lines. The secretary is also responsible for the correspondence and communication within the executive committee, and aids the President in following up on the decisions of those meetings. The Secretary facilitates correspondence with the administration, as well as agendas and minutes from officer meetings with the administration. This position offers time flexibility in performing its functions and is heightened by the opportunity to interact with many people and express creativity in maintaining the advertising. This commitment varies from three to ten hours per week. Current Secretary: Susan Ipri, gsc-secretary@mit.

Treasurer


The position of treasurer provides a valuable opportunity to be responsible for a monitoring substantial budget including handling monthly statements. The treasurer is also responsible for seeing to it that the day to day expenses of the GSC are paid in a timely fashion in order to maintain professional relationships with the many vendors the GSC deals with regularly. Another important responsibility of the treasurer is to organize the Funding Board which allocates money to graduate student groups at the beginning of each term. This process includes soliciting requests for funding, organizing a meeting to allocate the funding, and handling the reimbursements. There is a lot of room for initiative in the treasurer's position. Often, the treasurer is in charge of major purchases including office equipment, furniture, and other expensive items. This can be exciting and fun! The time commitment of the treasurer beyond that of what is expected of any officer is minimal and amounts to an average of approximately 1-2 hours per week. The work load is heaviest at the beginning of each term. Current Treasurer: Katy Evanco, gsc-treasurer@mit.

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Roommates tend to get weird when you borrow their stuff. (They're funny



like that.) Better to get yourself a MasterCard® card. Then you could use it to buy the things you really want.

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 <p>FREE Pair of Shorts (A \$23 Value)</p> <p>Run away with savings and our shorts, too. Receive a FREE pair of shorts (a \$23 value), when you purchase \$65 or more on your next catalog order and use your MasterCard® card. Call 1-800-551-5558 for a free catalog or to place an order. Mention offer #RRP-0720.</p> <p>Offer valid 2/1/95 to 5/31/95. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Coupon cannot be combined with any other discount, points or offer. One free pair of shorts per customer.</p> 	 <p>SAVE 25% ON THE BEATLES' GREATEST HITS ON CD</p> <p>Choose either the Red album, with hits from 1962 to 1966 (26 hits including: A Hard Day's Night, Ticket To Ride and Help) or the Blue album, 1967 to 1970 (28 hits including: Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, All You Need Is Love, and Revolution). Buy one 2-CD set for \$25.98 (a \$31.98 value) or get the pair of CD sets for \$47.98. To order call 1-800-313-3323.</p> <p>Offer valid 2/1/95 to 5/31/95. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Offer may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Shipping and handling additional. (\$3.50 per address in the U.S.A.) Please add applicable sales tax. Offer void where prohibited.</p> 	<p>ARTCARVED College Jewelry</p> <p>SAVE UP TO \$120</p> <p>Your college ring, from ArtCarved, is a keepsake you'll always treasure. Save \$30 on 10K gold, \$60 on 14K gold or \$120 on 18K gold. Call 1-800-952-7002 for more details.</p> <p>Offer valid 2/1/95 to 5/31/95. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Coupon may not be combined with any other coupon or discount. Offer does not apply to shipping and handling. Limit one order per person. Some limitations may apply.</p> 	<p>Carnival THE MOST POPULAR CRUISE LINE IN THE WORLD.</p> <p>CRUISE AND SAVE, PLUS RECEIVE A FREE FANNY PACK*</p> <p>Cruise the "Fun Ships" and save up to \$400 per cabin on 3- or 4-day cruises when you use your MasterCard® card. Cruise for as little as \$299 per person. 3rd and 4th passengers cruise FREE! Call 1-800-352-3454 for information and bookings. West Coast callers dial: 1-800-633-0220.</p> <p>Ask for COLLEGE MasterValues® Savings! Offer valid on selected sailings through 1995, holiday blackout apply. Must book by 5/31/95. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Rates are per person, double occupancy, cruise-only with air add-ons available. Port charges/fees and taxes are additional. Offer subject to availability and not combinable with any other discount. Ship's Registry: Liberia, Bahamas. *Double-zipper nylon "fanny pack" with black adjustable waist strap.</p> 
<p>LENS EXPRESS</p> <p>Save 40%</p> <p>Join the club...and save 40% off the \$25, three-year membership fee when you use your MasterCard® card. Enjoy discounts of up to 50% on contact lenses, glasses, designer sunglasses and much more at "America's #1 Vision Care Service". For more details, call 1-800-USA-LENS and mention offer #101.</p> <p>Offer and coupon valid 2/1/95 to 5/31/95. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Offer void where prohibited by law.</p> 	<p>Pier 1 Imports for a change</p> <p>Save 15% On Your Next Purchase</p> <p>Your dorm or apartment could use a few changes. You could use a good deal. Pier 1 can supply both. We'll take 15% off your total purchase of all regular price items, from colorful pillows to fun framed art. All the supplies school calls for, plus 15% off when you use your MasterCard® card at Pier 1.</p> <p>Offer and coupon valid 2/1/95 to 5/31/95. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Offer valid on regular priced merchandise only, excludes clearance and sale items, delivery and other service charges. Coupon must be redeemed at the time of purchase. Offer does not apply to prior purchases and cannot be used to purchase Gift Certificates. Coupon is not valid in combination with any other coupon or discount. Coupon is valid at all Pier 1 company stores and participating franchise stores. Coupon #446.</p> <p>Offer Not Valid Without This Coupon.</p> 	<p>TIME WARNER <i>Viewer's Edge</i></p> <p>GET ONE VIDEO FREE WHEN YOU BUY THREE</p> <p>Video values just for you! Enjoy a full selection of top-quality videos at discount prices. All videos are priced at \$9.95 or less and are 100% satisfaction guaranteed. Act now and get one video FREE when you buy three and use your MasterCard® card. Call 1-800-862-7100 for your FREE catalog and ask for the COLLEGE MasterValues® offer.</p> <p>Offer valid 2/1/95 to 5/31/95. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Offer may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Offer valid for U.S. residents only. Void where prohibited.</p> 	<p>ONE HOUR MOTOPHOTO</p> <p>50% Off Film Developing</p> <p>Hold on to the good times and your money, too. MotoPhoto...the best place for better pictures guaranteed! Take 50% off the regular price of processing and printing when you use your MasterCard® card. Call 1-800-733-6686 for the location nearest you. Limit 1.</p> <p>Offer and coupon valid 2/1/95 to 5/31/95. Cash redemption value 1/20. Offer valid only on purchases using a MasterCard® card. Limit one coupon per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Offer valid on C-41 process, 35 mm film, and standard size prints only. Offer valid at participating stores only.</p> <p>Offer Not Valid Without This Coupon.</p> 
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Late Changes in Election Code, Poor Publicity Cause Confusion

Publicity, from Page 1

The election process also got off to a late start, and there was confusion and frustration about it among the current UA members. As a result, few people ran for office, Sankaran said.

"Compared to previous years in which there was a large group of people committed to help with publicity, there were relatively few people in the UA to run elections even after repeated requests," Light said.

"As a result, the election commissioner found himself with not enough support and with very few people, and they were unprepared for the amount of free time needed to do all the publicity," Light continued.

Another problem was that Kymissis was given no formal training as election commissioner, Light explained. "Since all the previous election commissioners had left the UA, he was on his own," he said.

Many spots have no candidates

There are no candidates for more than half of the class council positions, and most of the other positions have only a single candidate running.

"There are many people who are

interested and involved, and there are people who just aren't. People just don't want to serve on class council," Kymissis said.



RAYMOND LOUIE—THE TECH
John Kymissis '98

"Another reason for the lack of candidates in class council has to do with an internal problem. The current officers are losing a little bit of hope, and that's why they are not running again," Sankaran said.

There have been a lot of problems in the class council which have frustrated the current officers. The storm that caused the Class of 1996 boat cruise to be canceled and a lack of enthusiasm from the student body

contributed to the problem, Sankaran said.

"There has been a noticeable lack of commitment to the UA this year in comparison to prior years. As a result, there are fewer people who would be involved," Light said.

Late changes cause confusion

"The changes the UA Council made in the beginning of the second term also created a lot of confusion," Sankaran said. "Changes should be made in the first term or else the election committee will have a hard time adjusting. That was a big mistake by the UA."

At the beginning of the second term, a proposal was made to lower the petition signature limit and extend the deadline for registering in order to encourage more people to run for UA offices.

These changes were first passed and then both vetoed by Sankaran and ruled unconstitutional by the UA Judicial Review Board. The miscue caused a great deal of confusion, Sankaran said. In the end Kymissis was allowed to decide which rules would change; he extended the registration deadline but did not lower the signature limit.



ADRIANE P. CHAPMAN—THE TECH
MIT women's water polo players battle with Dartmouth during their 16-8 win Saturday afternoon at the Alumni Pool.

Many Class Council Positions Vacant

Elections, from Page 1

son '98, Carrie R. Muh '96 and Erik S. Balsley '96, and Sheldon W. Myrie '95 and Jennifer K. Johnson '98.

Class council positions are also part of the ballot. Only 8 of 25 possible class offices have candidates, and many of those are uncontested. "People will be chosen for the vacant offices in some fashion, but I'm not really sure how," Light said.

Offices with more than two candidates will be voted on preferentially.

Voters must bring student IDs to the ballot boxes, Light said. Voting will end at 6 p.m. To vote electronically, students can type "add ua; vote" on any Athena workstation. Light encouraged students to vote electronically.

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UA Elections

UA President and Vice President

John S. Hollywood '96 and Jennifer A. Pinson '98
Carrie R. Muh '96 and Erik S. Balsley '96
Sheldon W. Myrie '95 and Jennifer K. Johnson '98

Class of 1995

President.....no candidate
 Vice President.....no candidate
 Secretary.....Ranjini Srikantiah
 Treasurer.....no candidate
 Members-at-Large (2 positions).....no candidates
 Class Agent.....no candidate

Class of 1996

President.....Matthew J. Turner
 Surekha Vajjhala
 Vice President.....no candidate
 Secretary.....no candidate
 Treasurer.....no candidate
 Publicity Chair.....no candidate
 Social Chair.....no candidate

Class of 1997

President.....Pardis C. Sabeti
 Charles I. Morton IV
 Vice President.....no candidate
 Secretary.....no candidate
 Treasurer.....no candidate
 Publicity Chair.....Richard B. Coelho and Sean A. Levin
 Social Chair.....Leah M. Lieber and Lily J. Koo

Class of 1998

President.....Dedric A. Carter
 Jane Ginsburg
 Don Lacey
 Jeffrey B. LeBlanc
 Vice President.....Andrew K. Boral
 John DiBacco
 Secretary.....no candidate
 Treasurer.....John Gavenonis
 Publicity Chair.....no candidate
 Social Chair.....no candidate

Finance Board (4 positions)

Andrew K. Boral '98
 Heramb R. Hajarnavis '96
 David C. Hellmuth '98
 Matilde N. Kamiya '97
 Don Lacey '98
 Ashwin Viswanathan '98

Referendum

The UA shall recommend to the Institute that sophomore, junior, and senior year grades be changed as follows:

- a) A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F
- b) A, AB, B, BC, C, CD, D, F
- c) A, B, C, D, F (no change)
- d) Pass, Fail

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- Positions Wanted
- For Sale

- Housing
- Services Offered
- Lost & Found
- Greeks

- Travel
- Information
- Clubs
- Miscellaneous

Advertising Policies

Classified ads are due at 5 p.m. two days before day of publication, and must be prepaid and accompanied by a complete address and phone number. Send or bring ads, with payment, to W20-483 (84 Mass. Ave., Room 483, Cambridge, MA 02139). Account numbers for MIT departments accepted. Sorry, no "personal" ads. Contact our office for more details at 258-8324 (fax: 258-8226) or ads@the-tech.mit.edu.

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2-3 insertions.....	\$2.75
4-5 insertions.....	\$2.50
6-9 insertions.....	\$2.25
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Cruise Ships Now Hiring-Earn up to \$2,000+/month working on Cruise Ships or Land-Tour companies. World travel. Seasonal & full-time employment available. No experience necessary. For more information call 1-206-634-0468 ext. C50333

\$1750 weekly possible mailing our circulars. No experience required. Begin now. For info call 202-298-0807.

Help Wanted

Healthy men needed as sperm donors. Help others and earn up to \$105/week. All ethnicities needed, call to see if you qualify: 497-8646 M-F 8:00-4:00. California Cyrobank, Cambridge

Housing

Condominium townhouse for sale or long term rental Relocating MIT faculty needs to sell this large 5 room+ garage town house in quiet residential neighborhood near Kendall Square. Spring/summer occupancy negotiable. Principals only. Contact owner's attorney Stephen Clark (617-494-4800) Asking \$189,000

Services Offered

Attention All Students! Over \$6 Billion in private sector grants & scholarships is now available. All students are eligible. Let us help. For more info, call: 1-800-263-6495 ext F50331.

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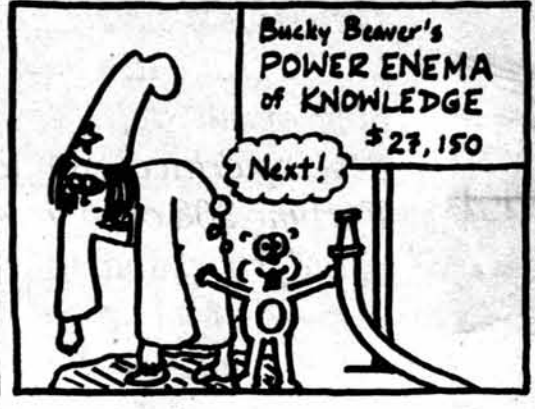
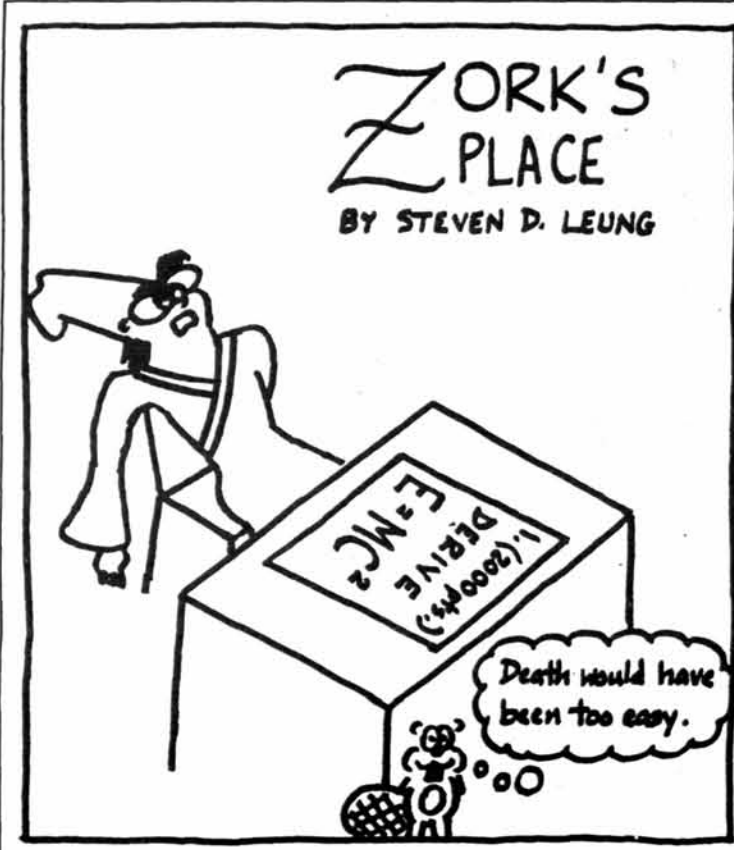
Legal problems? I am an experienced attorney and a graduate of MIT who will work with you to solve your legal problems. My office is conveniently located in downtown Boston, just minutes from MIT via MBTA. If you have a question involving litigation, high tech law, consumer or business law, family law, real estate or accidents, call Attorney Esther J. Horwich at 523-1150 for a free initial consultation.

Clubs

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, contact Angela at 225-8547.

Events

A Memorial Service will be held for Mr. William H. Ramsey, '51, former Executive Director, Engineering Special Programs of the School of Engineering. Date: Thursday, March 23, 1995. Time: 3:00pm-3:45pm Memorial Service, 3:45pm-4:15pm Reception, W11. Place: MIT Chapel, W15



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ACROSS

- 1 Exclude
- 6 Power
- 14 Cuban cigar
- 15 Standards
- 16 Type style
- 17 Showing deep respect
- 18 Carried out
- 19 Obliterates
- 21 Prefix: outside
- 22 "If — I Would Leave You"
- 24 More mature
- 25 Being: Sp.
- 26 Explains again
- 28 —-de-lis
- 29 "The Mill on the —"
- 30 "The Treasure of the — Madre"
- 31 Put into action
- 34 "— have it"
- 35 Cognition
- 36 Emulate students
- 37 To go: Fr.
- 38 Apollo 16 commander (2 wds.)

- 42 Hardens
- 43 Representative (abbr.)
- 44 Iranian coin
- 45 Letter trio
- 46 Baseball hall-of-famer, George —
- 47 African antelope
- 48 Menu term (3 wds.)
- 50 Attribute
- 53 Shirk
- 54 Looked at slyly
- 55 Knitted garments
- 56 Collect together

DOWN

- 1 Grammatical case
- 2 Eluded
- 3 Amount in an account (abbr.)
- 4 Black cuckoo
- 5 Ethnic disturbances (2 wds.)
- 6 Abrades
- 7 Threes: Sp.
- 8 "Cry Me a —"
- 9 Summers in Soissons
- 10 Saul's uncle
- 11 "Mountain —"
- 12 — of iodine
- 13 Cape —
- 14 Concealer
- 20 Washing machine cycle
- 23 Turns down
- 25 — of Aquitaine
- 27 Natural talent
- 28 Of strong emotion
- 30 "Lost Horizon" locale
- 31 Word game
- 32 Delicatessen food
- 33 Poe's "The — Heart"
- 34 Light laughter
- 36 Loungers
- 38 Medieval entertainer
- 39 Medieval Turks
- 40 French city
- 41 Stuck together
- 43 Funeral hymn
- 46 Capital of Chile (abbr.)
- 49 Government agency
- 51 Hebrew letter
- 52 — soup

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

S	A	C	R	O	I	L	I	A	C	A	C	M	E
A	C	R	O	P	H	O	B	I	A	P	A	I	N
L	I	O	N	T	A	M	E	R	S	I	N	S	T
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SPORTS

Women's Water Polo Opens with 3 Invitational Wins

By Darren T. Castro
STAFF REPORTER

The women's water polo team opened its season by winning three of its four games at the MIT Invitational Women's Water Polo Tournament held this past weekend at the Alumni Pool. The women dropped their Friday night opener to Harvard by the score of 17-4, but rebounded to defeat Wellesley 10-6 and Dartmouth 16-8 on Saturday. The team finished by beating Wellesley again by a score of 8-7 on Sunday.

The MIT women were led by three veterans: Maroula Bratakos G, 7 goals and 6 assists; Cheryl Klepser G, 10 goals and 4 assists; and Amy Smith G, 4 goals and 4 assists. Two newcomers stood out among the team's nine first year players: Adriane Chapman '98, 5 goals and 3 assists; and Shan Lee '98, 7 goals and 2 assists.

The Engineers are next in action April 8 and 9 in a tournament in Amherst, Mass.

MIT fell behind quickly in its opener against Harvard and was never able to close the gap. Harvard led 5-0 after the first quarter before MIT got on the scoreboard with a 6-on-5 goal following a major foul against Harvard.

The teams then split the first 6

goals of the second half, after which Harvard led 8-4. Harvard notched one additional goal before the end of the third quarter and stretched its lead to 9-4. MIT emptied its bench and Harvard went on an 8-0 run to finish the game.

Solid goaltending brings victories

In Saturday's games, MIT combined strong offensive performances with some solid goaltending by Jeanette Chian '98. Against Wellesley, MIT scored on two of its first three possessions to take a quick 2-0 lead. However, Wellesley battled back to tally the next three goals and take a 3-2 lead. Bratakos pulled MIT even before the half by scoring on a 4-meter penalty shot.

MIT took over the game in the third quarter by scoring six unanswered goals. Wellesley tallied three of the game's last four goals to tighten the final score to 10-6.

The first quarter of the Dartmouth game was dominated by Bratakos and Klepser. Bratakos scored first with a 6-on-5 goal 28 seconds into the game following a pass from Klepser in the hole. Dartmouth then tied the score at 1-1 during a 6-on-4 advantage.

Klepser answered quickly with 3

straight goals. The first and third came in the hole following passes in from Bratakos. In between those possessions, Klepser stole the ball and swam it all the way in herself unassisted.

MIT notched the final goal of the first quarter to lead 5-1 when Emily Yeh G scored on a 2-1 breakaway with Klepser. MIT scored two additional goals to open the 2nd quarter before Dartmouth came back with four of the next five goals to cut the lead to 8-5 at halftime.

Dartmouth made things interesting by scoring the next goal on a 6-on-5 advantage to cut MIT's lead to two goals. However, MIT then put the game out of reach by scoring eight of the next ten goals to account for the final score of 16-8.

Chapman, with three goals and one assist, and Smith, who scored two goals, made key contributions during the run. Chian recorded 12 saves and played a strong game in goal, turning back point-blank shots by Dartmouth on several occasions.

Close final game against Wellesley

Sunday saw MIT establish an early lead only to see Wellesley close within one goal before falling short in its comeback attempt. MIT led 4-0 on the strength of single

goals by Bratakos, Smith, Klepser and Lee. Good passing and ball movement created open shots against the Wellesley goaltender.

MIT sputtered a bit before half-time though, and Wellesley scored twice to cut the deficit in half. MIT then re-established their offense at the start of the second half and scored four straight goals to take an 8-2 lead.

However, Wellesley stormed back with five unanswered goals against MIT's substitutes. The regulars returned after the fifth goal with MIT clinging to a one goal lead

with two minutes remaining in the game. Chian came up with a big save on a 1-0 breakaway with 33 seconds left that would have tied the game 8-8.

However, MIT lost control of the ball and Wellesley had one last chance with eight seconds remaining in the game. Following a timeout, the Wellesley players worked the ball to mid-pool where they tried to pass into the hole. Klepser tipped the entry pass away to Bratakos who swam to the corner, running out the clock and preserving the 8-7 victory for MIT.

Fencers Face Stiff Competition in NYC

By Wanda Chin
TEAM MEMBER

The men's and women's varsity fencing teams concluded their seasons separately in New York City with admirable performances against some of the toughest competition in the nation.

The women's team placed 5th at the National Women's Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championship, behind NYU, Rutgers, and Temple University. The nineteen school tournament was held Saturday, March 11 at Brooklyn College.

The foil squad, comprised of Wanda Chin '97, Amy Hwang '97, Leejee Suh '97, Christina Eng '98, and Wendy Cheng '98, took easy first round victories of 3-1 and 4-0. In the second round, showing signs of mental and physical fatigue, the team finished at 2-2 against Boston College. Rallyback in the next round, the squad pummeled last year's champions, Princeton, 4-0, with beautiful fencing such as Suh's flèche and Chin's suspenseful bout with nationally ranked Nina Lightdale.

The women's épée team, comprised of Merideth Rising '98, Jennifer Mosier '96, Nicky Leifer '98, and Christa Ansbergs '98, also put on a fair performance to top off a good season. In the first matches the squad tied Johns Hopkins and went on to defeat both Baruch and Temple for an overall finish in 5th place.

Rising took the silver medal in the final round of the women's épée competition.

Men's competition

Across the city, at New York University, the men's team competed in a tournament sponsored by the Intercollegiate Fencing Association, the nation's oldest athletic organization. Other schools competing were Princeton, Yale, St. John's, UPenn, Brandeis, and Brown.

The varsity team placed 8th for épée, 11th for foil, and 10th for sabre, as well as qualifying three players — Keith Lichten '95, Will Tran '95, and Jonathon Blandford '98 — to the final round of top 40 fencers. Tran placed 15th in sabre while Blandford, in his first season fencing épée, placed 18th.

Both were named to the IFA All Star Second Team, while senior captain Lichten placed fourth and was named to the first team.



THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

An MIT women's water polo player races for the ball during MIT's 10-6 win over Wellesley Saturday morning.

For Rocchio, National Title Finishes a Good Season

By Daniel Wang
SPORTS EDITOR

Last weekend, Sheila Rocchio '97 became the first MIT woman gymnast to win a national championship. She took first place in the individual all-around at the Division III National Gymnastics Championships, held in St. Paul, Minn.

Rocchio admitted that during the competition, she felt good about her performance, but did not know how well it compared to the rest of the field. "I had no conception of how I was doing, place-wise, but I just thought I was having the best meet I ever had," she said.

"I was excited to think that I could probably break the MIT record. It's been my goal to break 36 — I have never done it, and I thought that this would possibly be the day." Rocchio broke the record, with a score of 36.3. The thought of accomplishing a goal like that "just gives you more adrenaline" while competing, she said.

Since many of the other schools were still performing when MIT finished its last event, Rocchio and her teammates did not know how well they did relative to everyone else. "We knew what we had gotten, but you have absolutely no idea of how anyone else has done," she said.

"I thought I was going to be third, and I was going to be happy with that," Rocchio said. "Only when they announced second place, did I know."

"I was very excited. I don't know how people in the Olympics survive," she said.

Sheila was not the only Rocchio ecstatic about the result. Her sister, head coach Catherine Rocchio Garrett '89, was so thrilled that Sheila thought she was going to die.

Along with the national championship, Rocchio's score earned her All-American honors in the all-around category.

The following day, Rocchio returned for the event finals, where contests are held on each of the four apparatuses separately. Unfortunately, Rocchio sustained an injury to her elbow during the warmups shortly before the beginning of the competition. Surprisingly, it actually helped her performance, she said.

"I guess it helped me in a way, because, instead of worrying about whether I would fall, or do [a routine] perfectly, I was more concerned with just getting through," she said. Rocchio did more than get through, earning three additional All-American honors.

Team behind success

According to Rocchio, the fact

that her teammates joined her at nationals was something that inspired her to attain better results. "My team was there — that was the biggest thing" contributing to her success, she said.

"This year, if I hadn't had a team, I don't know if I would have competed," Rocchio said. "Before nationals, we had talked about remembering everything that we had said, and to think about the main goal: we're here as a team, just have fun, and just go out and do what you know you can do."

Rocchio attributed much of the team's and her own improvement to the new assistant coach, Eduardo Ovalle. "He really did a lot of work. Last year we all worked out at different times, because everyone has their own schedules. But this year, we worked a lot on trying to work out together, watch each other, and know what the other person is doing," she said. "Also, he is a very good spotter, so a lot of my tricks have gotten better."

Last year, in her first year of collegiate competition, Rocchio also qualified for the national championships. Although she placed fifth in the all-around, and earned two All-American awards, she said that the experience then was different.

"I had a rough freshman year," she said. "I wasn't as excited by

gymnastics. I wasn't as confident about my abilities," she said. "I was glad to go to nationals, but I didn't think that I was as prepared." The meet took place right before spring break, and she admitted to looking forward more to the vacation.

This year, however, she had the advantages of added experience and the support of teammates. "I was more ready to do well in a meet."

Despite winning the national title, Rocchio said that there is still more that she can do. She hopes to improve on her scores on the individual apparatuses. For next season, the team's goal is to place in the top three in the nation, an effort that Rocchio will try to contribute to, she said.

In addition, some Division III athletes who score well enough at nationals often qualify for, and have a chance to compete at, Division I and II events. Rocchio qualified for the Division II regionals this year but decided not to participate. She hopes to qualify for the Division I competition next year.

Life surrounded by gymnastics

Rocchio, who has participated in gymnastics since she was five, has always been surrounded by the sport. Each of her three older sisters were gymnasts, including one who was once among the top Division I

gymnasts in the nation.

Although the athletic program was not the primary reason Rocchio decided to attend the Institute, "I wouldn't have come here if MIT didn't have gymnastics," she said.

Even though she still places great importance on academics, Rocchio acknowledges that she often puts gymnastics ahead, since she has very few years to compete. "It's something I do because I love it, and I know I don't have very much longer, so I want to get everything I can out of it."

Rocchio said that after finishing her competitive career, she would want to stay involved in the sport. "I would love to coach, because I have been involved in it so long, and I can't imagine not having gymnastics as part of my life somehow."

Rocchio is the first MIT woman to be crowned national champion in about five years. The last one to do so was swimmer Yvonne Grierson '90, who captured three consecutive titles in the 100-yard butterfly from 1988 to 1990. Grierson still owns the national Division III record in that event. Before Rocchio, the most recent national champion from MIT was runner Ethan Crain '95, who won the 1500-meter race at the NCAA Division III Championships last spring.