

## Frosh Lose Choice in Temp Dormitory Assignments

By Stacey E. Blau  
NEWS EDITOR

For the first time in several years, freshmen did not submit a list of preferences for temporary housing assignments. Instead, members of the Class of 1999 have been assigned dormitories on an alphabetical basis, according to Residence and Campus Activities Staff Associate Phillip M. Bernard.

The change was made because the RCA office decided that the time and effort needed to sort freshmen preference cards and to assign freshmen one of their top three choices was excessive, according to Associate Dean for RCA Andrew M. Eisenmann '75.

Freshmen this year were assigned temporary dormitories alphabetically by their last names. Starting with Next House, which is housing freshmen with last names beginning with letters from A to C, each dormitory is temporarily housing freshmen whose names fall within a specific alphabetical range.

In years when freshmen took part in selecting their temporary residences, the assignment process was "quite a bear to administer," Bernard said. "It took two people 50 hours a week for two weeks to complete the temporary assignments — something students only live in a week," he said. The RCA staff thought it more worthwhile "to concentrate our energy on better service to students," he said.

Studies of the housing assignment systems that other schools use have shown that "any way you do it, people are satisfied at about the same rate," Bernard said.

The RCA office consulted house presidents and Residence and Orientation Week coordinators about the idea of changing the temporary assignment process at the end of last year's R/O period, Bernard said.

Initially, the office attempted to randomly assign freshmen their temporary dormitories by their MIT identification numbers, but comput-

er problems derailed that effort, Bernard said, and the alphabetical scheme was introduced.

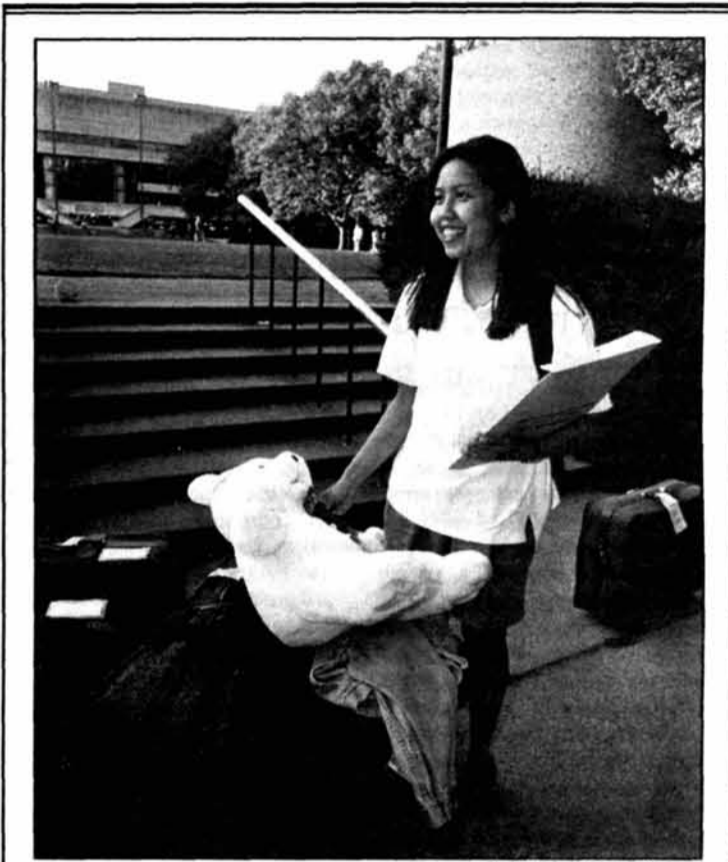
Only McCormick Hall, the sole all-female dormitory, was exempt from the main assignment system. A set number of female freshmen were initially assigned to McCormick, and the remaining freshmen were assigned alphabetically to the other dormitories, Bernard said.

### Effects might be better

As in past years, incoming freshmen received a booklet describing their on- and off-campus housing options. But the fact that freshmen did not have to send in a card listing their dormitory preferences this year may have meant that "the incoming class didn't go through the book so carefully," Bernard said.

This may have the effect of many students "ending up making decisions on the basis of actual visits" to dormitories, Eisenmann said.

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THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

Pia DeLeon '99, accompanied by a stuffed bear, waits for a shuttle to her temporary housing after arriving on campus. The bear was a going away gift from friends at home.

## International R/O Acclimates Students

By Jennifer Lane  
STAFF REPORTER

Over eighty new international students, representing 47 countries, yesterday completed the three-day International Residence and Orientation program. The freshmen participated in tours of Boston and Cambridge, listened to presentations about MIT and immigration issues, and socialized at dinners and dance mixes.

Although International R/O is only recommended and not mandatory, the majority of international students participate, said John M. de Guzmán '97, Institute R/O publicity and personnel manager overseeing the international program. Eighty to

ninety percent of the international freshmen participated in R/O this year, said Kelly K. Chan '98, a member of the International R/O committee.

### Program eases 'culture shock'

The first three days before formal R/O allow international students to become acclimated to American culture. "It's a real culture shock for some freshmen," de Guzmán said.

"Everything went really well this year," de Guzmán said. The freshmen enjoyed meeting each other and being introduced to American and MIT culture, he said.

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## Record Numbers of Admittees, Women Join Class of 1999

By David D. Hsu  
NEWS EDITOR

More people accepted by MIT chose to attend the Institute this year than in any of the last 10 to 15 years, according to Assistant Director of Admissions Lisa J. Oliveira '90. Fifty-three percent of accepted students chose to join the 1,130 students in the Class of 1999.

The Admissions Office did not anticipate the increased matriculation rate, Associate Director of Admissions for Information Service and Research Elizabeth S. Johnson said. "We plan on a one percent increase" each year in admissions calculations, she said.

Over the last ten years, the per-

centage of admitted students enrolling did not rise above about 51 percent, Johnson said.

### Reputations help yield

Johnson attributes the increase to "a lot of different things." The strong reputations of biology and other science majors, along with the popular engineering majors, attracted many students, she said. Recent news stories about the Institute also generated positive publicity, she said.

This year's high enrollment rate comes from a record applicant pool of nearly 8,000 students, Oliveira said.

The Admissions Office expects the yield to return to lower numbers

for the Class of 2000. "We don't expect things to continue," Oliveira said. Already, "application requests are down this year," she said.

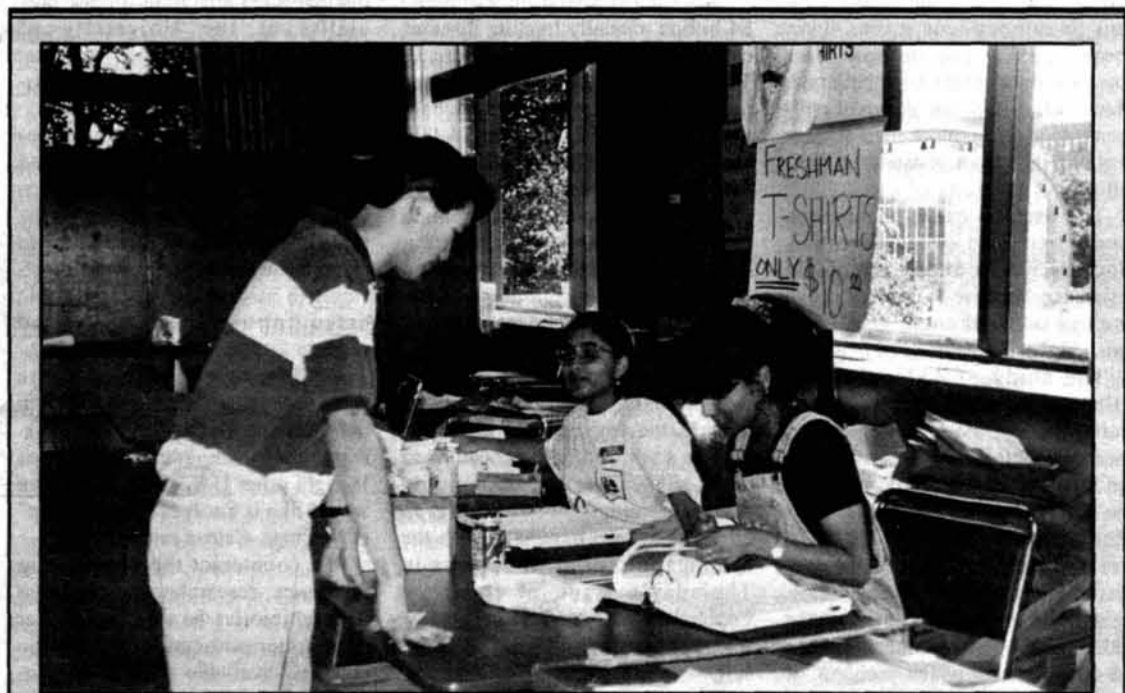
To offset the increased matriculation, fewer transfer students could be accepted, Oliveira said. Only 16 students, about half of the previous year, were accepted as transfers this year, she said.

### Women attend in record numbers

A record number of women, forty-two percent, enrolled this year, eclipsing last year's record by two percent, Johnson said.

According to Oliveira, the

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EVA MOY—THE TECH

Victor Jean '99 buys an official Residence and Orientation Week T-shirt from Mary Joseph '96 and Radha Nadagopal '97 at the R/O Center.

## Professor Emeritus George Bekefi

Professor Emeritus of Physics George Bekefi, who retired this summer after 38 years of teaching and research, died Thursday after a battle with leukemia. He was 70.

Bekefi was best known for his accomplishments in the field of plasma physics, specifically in the production of high-powered microwave generators. His recent work focused on the production of free-electron lasers, very short wavelength coherent emissions that are used in communications and many other fields.

Bekefi taught several classes, including 8.02 (Physics II) and 8.03 (Physics III), during his tenure. He was "a superb teacher, very warm and humorous," said Physics Department Head Ernest J. Moniz. "Students appreciated him. He was

usually rated in the six region [out of a possible seven-point rating] by his students" in Course Evaluation Guide evaluations, Moniz said.

In retiring, Bekefi remarked on his enjoyment "of revealing to hun-

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## R/O Issues

Beginning with today's issue, *The Tech* will publish daily through the end of Residence and Orientation Week, September 1. Regular Tuesday/Friday publication resumes September 8.

# WORLD & NATION

## Israel Smashes Hamas Group Blamed for Bombing

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Shin Bet, Israel's secret security force, said Wednesday that it smashed a network of the Hamas militant Islamic movement in the West Bank that it blamed for planning and carrying out Monday's suicide bombing here and an earlier attack in Tel Aviv.

"This cell represented the infrastructure of the military wing of Hamas in the West Bank," Shin Bet's chief told Israeli military reporters in a briefing.

Military censors do not allow Shin Bet's director to be named and it is highly unusual for the agency's head to conduct a news conference.

But Shin Bet has been under increasing pressure as Israeli casualties mount from the string of suicide bombing attacks by Islamic militants since Israel signed its September 1993, framework peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The security agency seemed eager to take credit Wednesday for uncovering the suspected Hamas cell, with its director describing in detail for reporters a complex network of relationships that he said are rooted in Gaza and Damascus.

## Bombing Defendant Nichols Says Trial Judge Biased

LOS ANGELES TIMES

OKLAHOMA CITY

Oklahoma City bombing defendant Terry Lynn Nichols said Wednesday that the federal judge assigned to preside over his trial has an "actual, personal bias against me" and should be removed from the case because of his extensive contact with victims of the explosion.

In an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Oklahoma City, Nichols also embraced a series of allegations raised by attorneys for co-defendant Timothy J. McVeigh that say the trial should be moved because of the heavy damage to the courthouse caused by the bombing of the nearby Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

But while the McVeigh allegations focused on the courthouse damage, the Nichols affidavit goes a step further. The 40-year-old Nichols argues that U.S. District Judge Wayne E. Alley has had an "extra-judicial exposure" to victims of the bombing because so many courthouse employees were related to or friends with many of the 168 killed and hundreds injured in the April 19 blast.

In addition, the Nichols affidavit is in his own words, in contrast to the McVeigh court motion filed Tuesday, which was prepared by McVeigh's attorneys.

## Russian Prime Minister's Party Soundly Beaten in Elections

THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Voters in the industrial heartland where President Boris Yeltsin rose to political prominence have dealt a sharp rebuff to the Kremlin leadership, electing a populist governor who has pledged to wrest more economic independence from Moscow.

The vote in the Ural Mountain region of Yekaterinburg was the first for a regional governor in Russia in two years and was being closely watched by political analysts as a bellwether of parliamentary elections scheduled for December. The ballot was also the first direct electoral test for Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin's centrist party, and its performance was an embarrassment.

The victor, Eduard Rossel, was sacked last year as governor by Yeltsin after he threatened to declare an autonomous "Urals Republic" in the heavily industrialized region. In his campaign, he tried to capitalize on voter resentment growing out of Russia's post-Soviet industrial collapse and ran openly against Moscow's ruling establishment, at the center of which is Chernomyrdin's party, Our Home Is Russia.

A final tally of Sunday's vote showed that Rossel won a two-to-one victory over incumbent governor Alexei Strakhov, the regional leader of Chernomyrdin's party, who had outspent Rossel by more than three to one.

## WEATHER

### The real action elsewhere

By Gerard Roe  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A relatively gentle start weather-wise to this year's Tech run, at least for the Boston area. A ridge in the steering flow sitting squarely in the middle of the country will save us from the worst of a low pressure system heading out of central Canada. Northern New England will see some showers Thursday but we should remain dry. Temperatures will rise towards 90°F (32°C) by noon. Expect a few scattered clouds ahead of a cold front and then a shift of the winds to north keeping night time temperatures down to around 60°F (16°C). The real action is to the south of us in the Atlantic where there are currently three named tropical storms on the go and a possibility of more. Way out east Hurricane Humberto is expected to gather steam while drifting northwestward. Closer in Hurricane Iris is sitting 500 miles (800 km) east of the lesser Antilles. Tropical storm Jerry has just made landfall over Florida which is in for yet another lashing of rain. This year promises the most active hurricane season for two decades.

**Today:** Partly cloudy but dry in the morning. Moderate winds out of the west at 15-20 mph (24-32 kph). Then clearing and turning cooler. High 87°F (31°C).

**Tonight:** Clear with a brisk wind. Low 58°F (15°C).

**Tomorrow:** Continuing fair with northerly winds. High 80°F (27°C).

# New Iraq Documents Show Effort to Produce Weapons

By R. Jeffrey Smith  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Iraq abruptly has turned over to the United Nations thousands of documents that describe a broader and more advanced effort by the country to produce nuclear arms, germ weapons and ballistic missiles than previously known, senior U.N. and U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Iraq previously claimed that all pertinent documents on its weapons of mass destruction programs had been turned over to the U.N. or deliberately destroyed to hide their contents. But on Sunday, Iraqi officials released what one official described as "several plane-loads" of documents in 147 boxes and two large cargo containers.

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, who chairs the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq and was given the documents moments before ending a three-day visit there, Wednesday said the Iraqi disclosures contain "radically new valuable data." He said they will give the United Nations a fuller picture of the deadly arsenal Iraq developed during the 1980s to use against its enemies.

Among the new disclosures is an Iraqi admission that it had germ- or toxin-filled artillery shells, aircraft bombs and ballistic missile warheads ready for possible use during the 1991 Persian Gulf War with U.S. and allied forces that ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Iraq first denied having such arms, then said they were destroyed before the war.

Iraq never used the weapons during the conflict, but if it had, the effects could have been devastating. Only some of the U.S. soldiers sent to the region were given vaccinations, and the shots covered only two of the three highly lethal biological and toxin weapons that Iraq has now admitted it produced.

Despite having previously claimed that it produced its entire arsenal at one factory, Iraqi officials admitted last weekend that five different sites were used to produce a larger quantity of anthrax bacteria than previously admitted, as well as botulinum toxin and another toxin. It said all the weapons were eliminated in 1991, after the war ended.

Iraq also admitted to having begun a crash program in August 1990 — the month it invaded Kuwait — aimed at producing a single nuclear weapon within one year, two U.N. officials said. The apparent aim was to deter any military action against its occupying forces, but the program was still at least three months from completion when the Gulf war ended and the United Nations ordered all nuclear efforts eliminated.

These secrets, as well as new details about Iraq's missile program, were divulged because Iraq wanted to preempt what it feared a defector would tell Ekeus this week, U.N. officials said. The defector, Hussein Kamel Hassan Majeed, directed the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction programs before fleeing to Jordan on Aug. 7.

Iraqi officials blamed Kamel for keeping the data secret before his defection, claiming he had threatened to kill anyone who revealed it. In an unusual bit of drama, they diverted Ekeus's car while he was en route to the airport and took him to a farm that they said was owned by Kamel. There, in a chicken house, were the document-filled boxes and cargo containers.

U.N. and U.S. officials privately dismiss this as an utter fiction, noting that Kamel could not single-handedly have kept this information secret in a government so tightly ruled by one man, President Saddam Hussein. They note, for example,

that Iraq admitted last weekend that its biological warfare effort was secretly commanded by Ahmad Murthada Ahmad Khalil, who is still in Saddam's cabinet as the Minister of Communications and Transportation and obviously knew what had been withheld from the U.N. commission.

Diplomatic sources said Kamel told Ekeus, who went to Jordan from Baghdad, that the Iraqi government's new admissions are correct, and that Kamel also disclosed additional information about Iraq's weapons programs. "I do not want to address the extent of discrepancies between the two types of information," Ekeus told reporters, according to the Associated Press.

"We must verify these statements," Ekeus said about the new information provided by Baghdad. "We cannot take it (at) face value. Every time we have done that before, we have been misled." He noted that "the Iraqi leadership declared to me that its policy from now on is 100 percent implementation" of the 1991 and 1992 U.N. resolutions authorizing the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs.

The documents that Iraq turned over are in Arabic and will have to be translated before their contents can be verified, a process that U.N. officials have said will take months. The documents also will be subjected to delicate scientific testing to confirm that they are at least five years old and were not created recently for the purpose of deceiving the U.N. special commission, officials said.

"The toughest problem—and our key mission—will be verifying destruction" of the biological weapons, Charles Duelfer, the commission's deputy chairman, said in an interview.

# Antibiotic-Resistant Bugs on The Rise, Federal Study Finds

By Terence Monmaney  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In a disturbing sign of the growing danger of drug-resistant microbes, a new federal survey has found that 25 percent of the people sampled had pneumococcal infections resistant to penicillin, which was once nearly infallible in killing the bugs.

That figure is 1,000 times greater than estimates made only a decade ago, indicating that antibiotic-resistant pneumococcus germs have spread quickly and are now more common than researchers believed. Moreover, among one group of children under age 6, more than 40 percent had infections resistant to penicillin.

The bacteria cause pneumonia, meningitis and other diseases. Doctors worry about antibiotic resistance because it renders drugs useless or weakened, requiring much higher doses.

The study of 431 people in Atlanta, by researchers at Emory University and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the most thorough analysis yet of the prevalence of drug-resistant pneumococcus in a U.S. city. "We were quite shocked," said Dr. Martin S. Cetron, a CDC epidemiologist involved in the study. He added, "This gives us the first handle on the extent of the problem, at least in Atlanta."

In the Atlanta study, drug-resistant pneumococcus infections were

twice as common among inner-city blacks compared with suburban blacks.

The group with the highest proportion of drug-resistant infections — 41 percent — was white children 6 and under. Other studies have shown that pediatricians make especially heavy use of antibiotics in this group and that day-care centers are prime incubators of antibiotic-resistant infections.

Americans spend an estimated \$4 billion annually treating diseases caused by pneumococcus bacteria. They include 500,000 cases of pneumonia; 55,000 cases of bacteremia, a blood infection; 6,000 cases of meningitis; and as many as 6 million inner-ear infections.

In addition to the "disturbingly high" level of penicillin resistance, the Atlanta researchers also found that 25 percent of the pneumococcus samples were resistant to at least three other commonly used antibiotics. However, none of the samples were resistant to the last line of defense, the drug vancomycin.

The study had been scheduled to cover all of 1994, but striking early results prompted the researchers to curtail it by two months to rush the findings into print. It appears in Thursday's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Over the last decade, medical scientists have grown increasingly concerned about the emergence of antibiotic resistance as seemingly vanquished microbes have bounced

back, newly endowed with an ability to fend off the antibiotic drugs that are the glory of 20th century medicine. In addition to the pneumonia bugs, those that cause tuberculosis, gonorrhea, staph infections, and certain intestinal diseases, have also humbled medical scientists by proving that the victory over infectious diseases was not final.

"We've been lucky it hasn't hit us sooner," Dr. Robert Austrian, a distinguished infectious disease specialist at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, said of the emergence of drug-resistant pneumococcus.

Drug resistance poses an especially serious obstacle to treating pneumococcal meningitis, an often fatal infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord. Blood flow to those tissues is minimal, so it is difficult to mount a heavy antibiotic assault on infections ensconced there.

Following up on the Atlanta work, researchers are planning to determine the prevalence of drug-resistant pneumococcus infections in eight other U.S. cities. "What we would like is a sort of weather map" of the bugs, Cetron said.

To counteract the rise in drug resistance, researchers suggest that new antibiotics be developed, that more Americans consider taking the currently available pneumonia vaccine and that doctors cut back on the indiscriminate use of antibiotics.

# Mexican Government and Banks Cap Rates to Defuse Debt Crisis

By Juanita Darling  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY

Mexico put a cap on soaring interest rates Wednesday as part of an attempt to defuse a mounting debt crisis.

Interest rates on existing business loans will be limited to 25 percent and on credit card loans, 38.5 percent, under an agreement negotiated between the Finance Ministry and the Mexican Bankers Association. The cap affects only outstanding debt, not new loans.

Mortgages will peak at 6 percent if homeowners agree to renegotiate the principal owed under a complex system that integrates inflation rates into the value of the principal.

The bankers also agreed to halt foreclosures until Oct. 31, to absorb part of the administrative costs of

restructuring loans, and to stop charging late-payment fees.

"We think this is an extremely important step in helping those who want to pay their debts," said a senior Finance Ministry official.

The bad-debt portfolio of Mexican banks has swollen to 15 percent of total outstanding loans as some interest rates have exceeded 100 percent. High interest rates are a result of the economic crisis provoked by the devaluation that has cut the peso's value more than 40 percent since December.

In response, farmers, small business owners and credit card holders have banded together in increasingly militant movements to demand debt relief, insisting that the government and banks share the burden.

The program announced

Wednesday is expected to cost banks about 5 billion pesos — slightly less than \$1 billion — and the government 7 billion pesos — slightly more than \$1 billion.

The cost to banks will come out of their margins, the difference between the market rate they pay on savings accounts and the now-lower rates they will be charging on loans. The government will absorb some of that cost by loaning the banks money at lower interest rates than they would have to pay on savings accounts.

Finance Ministry officials said the program would cut interest payments in half for 75 percent of all bank debtors.

The announcement was greeted with skepticism by consumer and small business debtors as well as independent economists.

# Three More Want to Join Legal Challenge to Citadel, Lawyers Say

By Debbi Wilgoren  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Three more South Carolina women want to join the legal challenge to The Citadel's all-male admissions policy, according to lawyers for Shannon Faulkner, the 20-year-old who dropped out of the institution last week after attending only one day.

The lawyers said they expect to file papers in U.S. District Court this week on behalf of at least one of the women. They hope to have several plaintiffs so the women can lend each other moral support in court and — if they win — on campus, said attorney Robert R. Black.

"That's how The Citadel was able to deal with Shannon Faulkner, by isolating her as an individual," said Black, noting that the first coed class at West Point in 1976 included 120 women. "My own feeling is that we'll need a handful of hardy pioneers here."

School officials said they will fight the addition of any plaintiffs to the lawsuit, which is scheduled for a November trial to determine if a planned women's leadership program at another school is a suitable alternative to admitting women to the state-sponsored Citadel.

Faulkner, whose original victory in the lawsuit was appealed by the school, was allowed to become a

cadet this month after the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled it was unfair to make her wait for a verdict in the November lawsuit. She originally wanted to enroll at the school in 1993.

Noting that all women will have the right to apply to The Citadel if the school loses in November, Citadel lawyer Dawes Cooke Jr. said there was no reason for more women to join the suit.

School spokesman Terrence Leedom accused Faulkner's lawyers of "trying to make sure they eventually get their fees, because right now, they're without a client."

But Val Vojdik, a New York city lawyer who is on Faulkner's team, said women who do not sign onto the lawsuit could be barred from next year's freshman class if The Citadel loses in November, then appeals.

"They're not going to open their doors. They're going to appeal this thing all the way to the Supreme Court," Vojdik said. "It could take another two years ... and in the meantime, these young women are being discriminated against."

The judge in the case has not ruled on a motion filed by Faulkner's lawyers months ago to make the case a class action.

The woman most likely to apply

this week to become a plaintiff is a 20-year-old student at another South Carolina college who has been involved in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps on her campus, Faulkner's lawyers said. They would not describe the other women.

School officials say they have mailed information on the school to about 200 women in the past two years, but that only two have applied. Both those applicants are on hold pending the outcome of the court case, Leedom said.

Faulkner arrived on campus 11 days ago with nearly 600 other first-year students, and moved her uniforms and other belongings into what normally would have been a two-person room in Law Barracks. Two days later, on the first day of the orientation session cadets call "Hell Week," she was admitted to the infirmary with four other first-year students who became ill in the sweltering heat.

Faulkner stayed in the infirmary until Friday, then called her parents to say she wanted to go home. She said she was defeated not by the rigors of Hell Week, but by the emotional rollercoaster she'd been on since applying to the school without revealing her sex 2 1/2 years ago.

Many women reportedly have canceled their plans to attend the nongovernmental forum and the conference.

Chen said the main reason for the delays in visa processing "is that there are too many applicants." But he said Chinese officials are "working around the clock to solve this problem."

He also said women from countries without diplomatic relations with China could apply from neighboring countries and they would not be excluded.

But in his remarks, Chen made clear that it was China as the host country, and not the United Nations, that has the final say on who will be allowed to attend and who will be barred. His comments seemed to contradict an agreement between the Beijing government and the United Nations that all those groups approved by the world body would be allowed into the country for the conference.

"As the host nation of this conference, China is responsible for guaranteeing the smooth and safe operation of this conference, and the safety of the delegates," Chen said.

# China Won't Link Hillary Clinton Visit To Continued Detention of Harry Wu

By Keith B. Richburg  
THE WASHINGTON POST

BEIJING

A Chinese government spokesman said Tuesday it is up to the United States to decide whether first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attends next month's United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, but he said the decision must not be linked to China's continued detention of Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu.

"Those two issues have nothing to do with each other at all," Chen Jian, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, told reporters in his weekly press briefing. He said the case of Wu, who has been accused of the capital crime of espionage, was being handled through "normal judicial procedures."

In his news conference, Chen also spelled out for the first time the two "categories" of people he said would not be admitted to China to attend the women's conference, which begins Sept. 4, or a meeting of nongovernmental groups that begins Aug. 30. Chen said groups not approved by the United Nations will be barred, as well as anyone

"whose activities actually threaten the safety of the conference."

Chen denied that China is trying to block thousands of women from attending the conference by delaying visa processing or rejecting some delegates outright. He said groups or individuals that might fall into those two excluded categories was "very, very small in number."

"The vast majority of applicants will get their visa at the appropriate time," he said. "To say a lot of people have been denied visas is false."

Several organizations, particularly those advocating Tibetan independence, have complained that they already have been denied visas, while many other women have said that delays and bureaucratic obstacles — such as requiring attendees to obtain a confirmed hotel room in advance — would prevent many women from coming. Many of those affected are from developing countries.

Another issue to arise recently was concern that some countries, such as Niger, which recognize Taiwan, were being denied access or finding it too difficult to obtain visas. Beijing considers Taiwan to be a breakaway province of China.

# Public Education Gets Mixed Report Card

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

American public school students are dropping out less and scoring higher on math and science tests than a decade ago, but educators are still not moving quickly enough to close a stubborn proficiency gap between white and Hispanic students, according to a report issued by the Department of Education.

The annual "Condition of Education" report, released this week by the department's National Center for Education Statistics, also said that students are taking more difficult courses than they were before the landmark report "A Nation at Risk" was issued in 1983, and that more high school graduates head for college right after high school.

"Areas on which schools, communities and states have focused attention are now showing results of greater student achievement," Education Secretary Richard W. Riley said in an interview.

While he acknowledged that progress was "not as fast as we'd like it" and that some areas of the American educational system remain "in crisis," Riley said the country was "on the right path, and ... this is no time to retreat from our efforts to keep education a national priority."

Riley criticized the \$3.8 billion in education budget cuts passed by the House, especially when the number of students enrolled — in kindergarten through grade 12 — will reach a record high of more than 51 million in 1997, according to Education Department projections. The Senate has yet to take up the budget cuts.

# FBI's Freeh Says Agency Capable Of Policing Itself

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

FBI Director Louis J. Freeh, saying he does not doubt the FBI's ability to police itself, Wednesday rejected any suggestion that bureau officials' conduct be examined by a review process outside the U.S. Justice Department, as has been done at some big city police departments.

At the same time, Freeh said, he could not think of allegations "more serious" than those against the five senior FBI officials he recently suspended because of accusations that they did not accurately disclose what took place in a 1992 siege at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. A white separatist's wife was killed during the siege by an FBI sniper in what Freeh has described as a "tragic accident."

If the allegations prove to be true, Freeh said, "I can't think of anything more serious, and I would be very concerned about undermining the public confidence in the FBI."

Freeh, in a telephone interview, voiced no alarm at a new poll showing that public confidence in the FBI had plummeted in the last three months, possibly tied to congressional hearings on the FBI's 1993 siege of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, in which more than 80 people died.

# Investigators Focus on Engine Trouble in Commuter Plane Crash

THE WASHINGTON POST

Federal investigators focused Tuesday on whether a problem with the left engine could have caused the crash Monday of an Atlantic Southeast Airlines commuter plane in Georgia that killed five people.

Several of the 24 surviving passengers on the flight from Atlanta to Gulfport, Miss., reported hearing an explosion on the left side of the Brazilian-made Embraer 120 twin-engine turboprop and seeing the left propeller torn apart. The pilot, who died in the crash, told passengers and air traffic controllers the plane was having engine trouble.

At a briefing Tuesday night in Georgia, John Hammerschmidt of the National Transportation Safety Board said investigators found nothing mechanically wrong with the left engine, although it had been ripped from its mount.

A turboprop uses a jet engine to turn a propeller. Part of the propeller blade was found missing from the left propeller, though Hammerschmidt said the blade could have snapped before or after the crash. A 16-inch piece of the shattered propeller blade was retrieved in the wreckage and will be analyzed.

The flight data and cockpit voice recorders — the "black boxes" — were recovered. Hammerschmidt said the data recorder indicated the left engine failed at 18,000 feet.

# Rwanda's Suffering Refugees Forced back Home

LOS ANGELES TIMES

GOMA, ZAIRE

At the point of a gun, Rwanda's suffering refugees are being sent home.

This week, as of Wednesday, 13,000 or so men, women and children have been rounded up and trucked to the border here and at two other locations in eastern Zaire. They have been uprooted from entrenched camps, plucked off streets, corralled at watering stations, marched from jails, packed along, then ordered to walk the last eerie 100 feet across no-man's-land, back to the country they left in panic 14 months ago.

Back to the unknown.

This is, some say, exactly what was needed. But not this way. It's a shame. But it might work. It's brutal. But it could forestall even greater tragedy ahead. Or, it may be just another kind of misery in one of the world's most infernal reaches.

Still, a few of those crossing from Goma Wednesday bore smiles. Most were stoic, holding the hands of their children and following orders. One man resisted and was dragged screaming.

Another 100,000 refugees from Rwanda and neighboring Burundi have refused to leave Zaire, and, instead fled for shelter in more distant refugee camps or into the forbidding rain forests of Central Africa. Perhaps 1 million others spent Wednesday night holding tight and wondering what fate held for them.

# OPINION

## Welcome, Class of 1999

Congratulations and welcome, Class of 1999. While your hard work has indeed gotten you far, be proud not only of your admission but also of your decision to come to MIT to begin the first of what may well be the most important years of your life.

That decision was not unique. During your time here, you'll face many decisions, both trivial and vital, immediate and long-term. On your way to Commencement you will be challenged in ways you may not be able to imagine yet. But fret not. Whether academic, physical, or social, those challenges will teach you what MIT is really about: expanding your mind, honing your abilities, and pushing yourself to the limit.

The important thing is being ready for the challenge. Expect and embrace it. Go ahead and take that hard class, try out for that team, join that activity. Rush your favorite living group; meet as many people as you can. But while you can count on the challenge, don't assume success: Don't be disappointed if you don't get an A+ (though with the new grading system, you just might), don't make the team, or don't have time for an activity. Don't get upset if you don't get a bid, don't get invited back to a party, or

don't find your kind of people right away.

While you should of course do your best, the important thing is to keep perspective. College is where you find out who you really are, and part of who you want to be. Live it for yourself; don't waste your time pretending or trying to please others. If you try to please somebody other than yourself, especially during rush, consider if it will be worth it in the long run. Don't be afraid to explore new activities, people, and ideas, even for discovery's sake.

And as you face new challenges and make tough decisions, never be afraid to ask for help, especially of your peers. MIT students are extraordinarily helpful in giving advice, and there are many people who will just listen as well. For better or worse, you're all in this together: If you remember it, that bond will serve you well, both at MIT and beyond.

MIT is a great place to be. While the system has its flaws, you will find your time here well spent. The Institute's resources are vast, and its reputation and quality will help you wherever you may go afterwards. Though we may call it hell, you will look back on this place fondly. And so once again, congratulations, Class of 1999. Welcome to MIT.

### Editorial

## Letters To The Editor

### Lines on Soccer Field Present Danger

The Tech received a copy of the following letter addressed to Grounds Supervisor John R. Butts and Director of Athletics Richard A. Hill:

There is a problem with the placement of the lines for soccer on Briggs Field. The east endline is partway up a large hill. In addition, there are several dangerous obstacles on the field near the east goal: two large metal access covers just outside the goal box on the south side and a sprinkler control box inside the goal box. As an avid soccer player and a goalkeeper I consider these obstacle extremely

dangerous, and their location so close to one of the goals makes it very likely that someone will be injured. Both of these problems (the hill and the obstacles) can be corrected by moving the field 10 feet to the west. This would move both the hill and the obstacles off the east end of the field.

John P. Mellor G

## How to Survive Rush and Keep Smiling

Column By A. Arif Husain  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

On this first day of Residence and Orientation Week, I extend my pen in a gesture of welcome to this year's freshmen, our newest stock. Your decision to join the ranks of the world's most technologically-endowed has landed you on the doorstep of a two-week initiation. You will be faced with life-shaping choices and newfound obstacles. At the same time, you will be overrun by new opportunities and potential.

Think of it this way: rush is like puberty. Everybody goes through it. Nobody really likes it. But you're basically better off when it's over.

The good thing is, rush has loads of potential. Unfortunately, when I was a frosh, I didn't have the perspective to tap into it. If only someone could have written a column in *The Tech* with some useful suggestions.

Okay, so that was a cheap transition, but you're still reading aren't you? Now where was I? Right, Rush.

The most important thing to remember is that through all the pomp and circumstance, this thing was set up for your benefit. Secondly, realize that my last statement was a bold-faced lie. Rush is as much for your benefit as Operation Desert Storm was for Kuwait's. The real issue is that there are more freshmen than there are Institute beds. The Institute therefore depends on the independent living group system (i.e. fraternities and sororities) to compensate, and rush is the time for them to do so. True, there is also a dormitory rush element, but that's just the bun; ILGs are the real beef.

Don't get me wrong, however. I don't fault the system. I don't really mind the book; I just don't like the cover.

In any case, you'll have to make a choice about your living arrangements. Fraternities and sororities prepare all year for these few weeks. Because of this, you can expect to be

approached by more than your share of pledge-seeking Greeks inviting you to everything from dinner to dance aerobics. If you feel the urge, by all means, don't let me interfere. But if "fun with velcro" isn't your thing, help is just around the column.

Obviously, our dear brothers and sisters are working hard to distinguish freshmen from the few upperclassmen filtering about. You have the power to profit from the difficulty of their task. To get noticed, stroll around looking lost while singing your favorite Top 40 hit. Carry at least three campus maps and make sure they're visible. If possible, stop and get directions to the Charles River. Make conversation about that lovely cafeteria in the Student Center. Inquire as to the differences between the courses "one-eight-point-zero-one" and "one-eight-point-zero-one-one." I guarantee you'll hit Beacon Street before you can say omicron.

On the other hand, impersonating an upperclassman can be perfected quite easily. First, make sure you're in a hurry. My theory is: if it can't be done fast, it's not worth doing.

Second, don't carry any textbooks: Real nerds don't read. Third, complain a lot. Sure, getting admitted to MIT was the best thing to happen to you since the invention of the tactile-feedback keyboard; but that doesn't mean you can go around looking excited. Two months from now you'd sell your soul for a vacation in Siberia; so don't start off looking like you're in La La Land. Besides, it's just not right.

Most importantly you need to have the right demeanor. Your expression should reflect maturity, wisdom, and a deeper understanding of the world, while maintaining the dazed apathy characteristic of an overworked beaver. If you need help, drink about 5 cups of coffee and then run to Wellesely and back. That should give you the right flavor.

I'm willing to wager my monogrammed Chuck Vest boxer shorts that a little careful planning will make rush a far more palatable experience. After all, you're bound to end up living somewhere. Even if it turns out to be the sofas on the fifth floor of the Student Center, I guarantee you won't be alone.



### 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.

### To Reach Us

*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Electronic mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. Mail to specific departments may be sent to the following addresses on the Internet: ads@the-tech.mit.edu, news@the-tech.mit.edu, sports@the-tech.mit.edu, arts@the-tech.mit.edu, photo@the-tech.mit.edu, circ@the-tech.mit.edu (circulation department). For other matters, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person.



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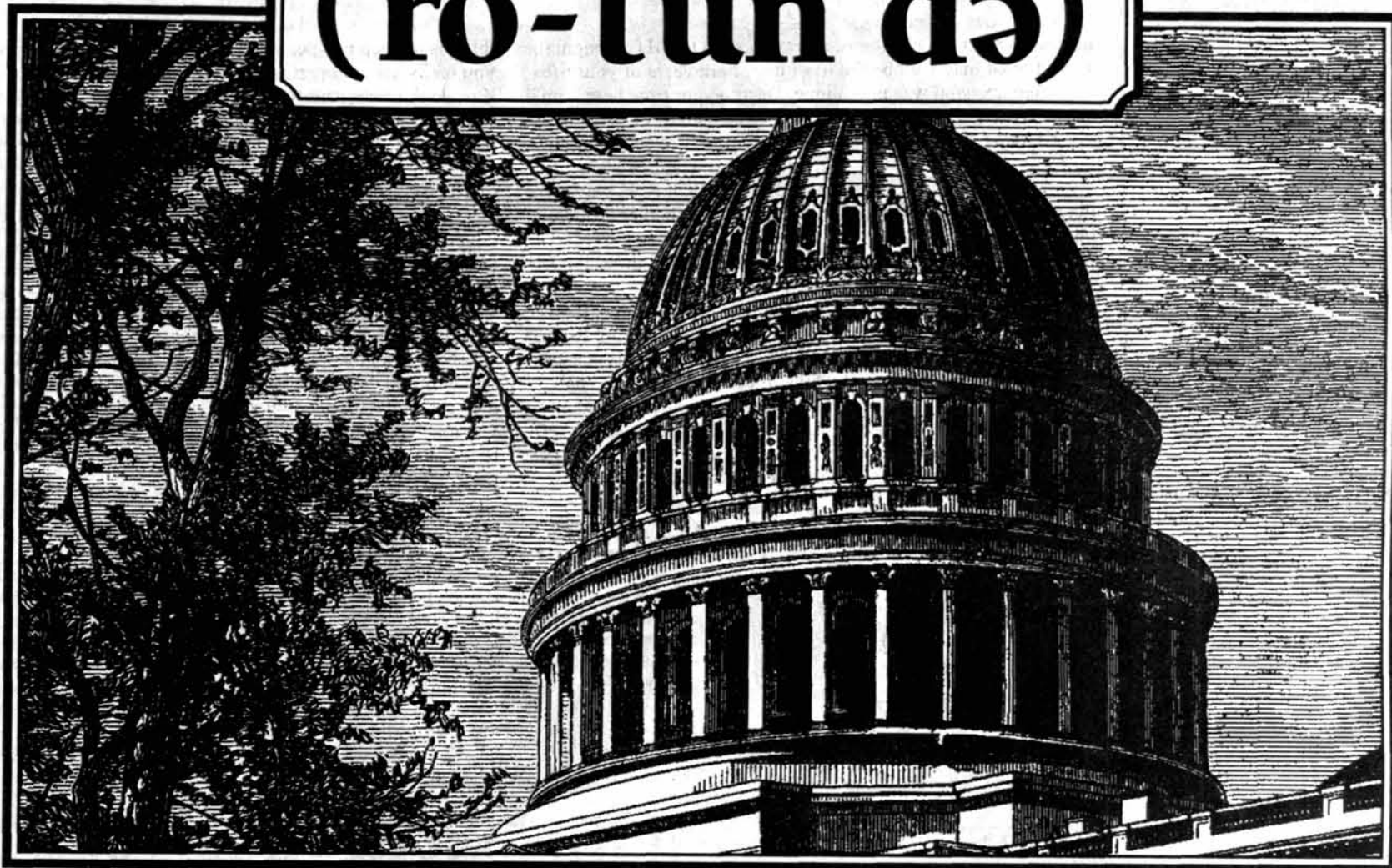
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# Creative



# Teamwork

Putting together a newspaper takes a lot of hard work, cooperation, and creativity. During R/O, we'll be doing it every day.

Drop by our office on the fourth floor of the Student Center at noon for lunch and our daily news meeting, or come by later to see us put the issue together. Or help out — no experience necessary. Really.

If you want to write arts, sports, opinion or news stories, if you want to take pictures or lay things out, if computers are your thing, or if business and advertising are more your style, come by our booth at next Tuesday's Activities Midway, and meet the staff of MIT's oldest and largest newspaper.

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# POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between July 14 and August 8:

**July 14:** Bldg. E15, laptop stolen \$4,500; Bldg. 11, \$70 cash stolen.

**July 15:** Tang Hall tennis courts, wallet stolen, \$50.

**July 16:** Bldg. E52 plaza, bicycle stolen, \$520.

**July 17:** Bldg. E15, malicious destruction; Bldg. E15, male arrested for trespassing: Jamal Greene, of 137 Marcella St., Dorchester.

**July 18:** Bldg. 9, suspicious person; East Campus, 1) volleyball court, wallet stolen, \$80; 2) basement, bicycle stolen, \$600; Bldg. 16, stamps stolen, \$50.

**July 19:** Briggs Field, persons known to each other became upset while playing soccer, and one punched the other.

**July 20:** Bldg. 7, larceny of tools, \$4,000; Bldg. N52, projector stolen, \$7,500; Bldg. 18, 1) AM/FM radio stolen, \$30; 2) radio stolen, \$10; Hermann garage, bicycle stolen, \$35.

**July 21:** Boathouse, wallet and contents stolen; Bldg. E38, tape recorder stolen, \$50; Westgate, bicycle stolen, \$250.

**July 22:** Bldg. 33, calculator stolen, \$200; Bldg. 54, bicycle stolen from hallway, \$100; Bldg E25, vending machine vandalized; Baker House, various items stolen, \$400.

**July 24:** Bldg. 2, \$100 cash stolen; Bldg. E38, squash racquets stolen, \$200; Bldg. E52 plaza, bicycle stolen, \$300; Student Center, 1) wallet stolen, \$20; 2) wallet and contents stolen; Alumni Pool, wallet stolen, \$60; DuPont men's locker-room, wallet stolen, \$25.

**July 25:** Bexley courtyard, bicycle stolen, \$90; Alumni Pool, wallet stolen, \$8; Bldg. E17, 1) wallet stolen, \$30; 2) wallet stolen, \$25; Bldg. E10, wallet stolen, \$15.

**July 26:** Outside Bldg. E19, bicycle tire stolen, \$80.

**July 27:** Student Center, radio stolen, \$20.

**July 28:** Bldg. 18, fax machine stolen, \$1,800; Bldg. E38, video camera stolen, \$300; Bldg. 35, suspicious activity.

**July 29:** Bexley Hall basement, backpack stolen, \$110; Tang, \$160 bicycle removed from rack; Baker, \$500 cash stolen; Bldg. E15 bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$350; Tang, harassing phone calls; Eastgate, bicycle stolen, no value.

**July 30:** Baker, bicycle stolen from hallway, \$300; Bldg. 66, typewriter stolen, \$1,000.

**July 31:** Student Center, backpack stolen, no value; Bldg. E52, pocketbook and contents stolen, \$67; Bldg E17, stereo stolen, \$150; Bldg. 54, bicycle stolen from racks, \$500; Bldg. NW10, suspicious activity; DuPont weight room, wallet stolen, \$25.

**Aug. 1:** Student Center, 1) bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$500; 2) food stolen from food court; 3) male juvenile arrested for attempted larceny of a bicycle and other related charges; Bldg. 54, suspicious persons around bicycle racks; Bldg. 66, 1) speakers stolen, \$200; 2) CD player stolen, \$150; East Garage, 1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera stolen; Alpha Tau Omega, bicycle stolen, \$400; New House, bicycle stolen, \$100; Student Center, malicious damage; Next House, bicycle stolen, \$400; Bldg. E40, suspicious person; Bldg E25, suspicious activity.

**Aug. 2:** Student Center, two gym bags stolen and later recovered 1) minus checkbook; 2) CDs stolen, \$40; Bldg. 2, pocketbook and contents stolen, \$170; Bldg E52, suspicious activity; Oldsmobile stolen in Boston, recovered in East Garage.

**Aug. 3:** Bldg. 14, vending machine vandalized; Buick stolen out of Lawrence, recovered in East Garage; Bldg. 12, VCR stolen, \$480; East Garage, Toyota stolen; Bldg. 3, memory chips stolen, \$13,000; Bldg E25, CD player stolen, \$120; Walker, attempted larceny of a gym bag.

**Aug. 4:** Sailing Pavilion, attempted breaking and entering; Bldg. 68, suspicious activity; Bldg. E15, male arrested for trespassing: Michael Nee, of 384 Washington St., Braintree; Bldg. E53, bicycle stolen from plaza, \$800.

**Aug. 6:** MacGregor, harassing phone calls.

**Aug. 7:** Bldg. 33, computer stolen, \$4,000; Bldg. 10, harassing phone call.

**Aug. 8:** Tang, attempted larceny of a bicycle; Bldg. 14, bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$120; ATO, wallet stolen, \$20.



Esther Kim '97 paints her name on a sorority rush poster. Rush begins tomorrow night.

THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

# International Students Enjoy Boston Tours, Free Food

International, from Page 1

International students really enjoyed "talking to upper class international students, especially sophomores," said Chris Gil '99, an international freshman from Spain. Students had the opportunity to do this during the dance mix party held in Baker House Dining Hall on Tuesday night.

Other popular R/O events were tours of Boston, including a harbor cruise and tour of Faneuil Hall, and the many free food events like restaurant tours and organized breakfasts and dinners, said freshmen Michel Alslam '99, from Kuwait, and Carlos Tapia '99, from Mexico.

One of the most useful services provided to students during R/O is offered by the International Students Office, de Guzmán said. International students may bring their immigration or visa papers to the ISO and receive information on how to avoid or fix potential problems related to the students' international status, de Guzmán said.

Other useful events included presentations about United States banking, health care, and immigration. The MIT Medical Center put on several skits about loneliness, drinking, and sex, said Satayan Mahajan Jr. '96, who acted in all of the skits. "It was really good to see that the freshmen are making friends," he said.

## New International Students, by Country of Origin

Canada.....	10
Hong Kong.....	4
Malaysia.....	4
Mexico.....	4
Singapore.....	4
Thailand.....	4
Turkey.....	4
Hungary.....	3
Pakistan.....	3
Colombia.....	2
Cyprus.....	2
Greece.....	2
India.....	2
Jordan.....	2
Kenya.....	2
South Africa.....	2
United Arab Emirates.....	2
Venezuela.....	2

Countries sending one new MIT student: Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, Finland, France, Guyana/Jamai, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vietnam, and Yugoslavia

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICE

# CRIME ALERT

The theft of computer memory chips appears to be a growing problem on campus and has gained recent media attention.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been five incidents of memory chip thefts on campus, at a loss of several thousand dollars. The thefts of memory chips have included, but are not limited to, Sun, Hewlett Packard, and high-end Macintosh systems.

In these recent thefts, the thieves enter both locked or unlocked rooms, carefully remove the computer case, remove the memory chips, and replace the cover. To the user the machine does not appear to have a problem until it fails to start or starts but has little memory space available.

The Campus Police Special Services Division is investigating these thefts. Special Services is also researching how wide the memory theft problem is in the Cambridge and Boston areas and if certain suspects are responsible for these types of crimes.

The Campus Police Crime Prevention Unit, along with the MIT Computer Connection recommend the following crime prevention tips:

- Install a security enclosure device manufactured by Anchor Pad or Compu-Gard. Additional information about these devices can be obtained from the Crime Prevention unit at x3-9755, or the MCC, W20-021, x3-7686.
- Contact Jerry Issacson, Information Systems Security, at x3-1440, for virus and storage data security. Information Security Office Web Page: <http://web.mit.edu/security/www/>
- Always keep your office, lab, or dorm room secure.
- Contact the Campus Police at 3-1212 to report any suspicious activity and any incidents of theft.

# Benefit Seen in Assigned Temps

Temps, from Page 1

"Making choices that way is a great way to do it" because students get more of an idea of what a dormitory and its residents are like when they visit, he said.

Freshman Christy L. Canida '99 said, "It would have been nice if I had a bit of a choice about where I am." Canida is temporarily housed at Next and said that the dormitory was not her first choice. "I would have preferred to have an inside

look at something that was a bit higher on my list," she said.

Canida said that she plans to visit all the dormitories before she decides which dormitories she will list as her preferences in the housing lottery.

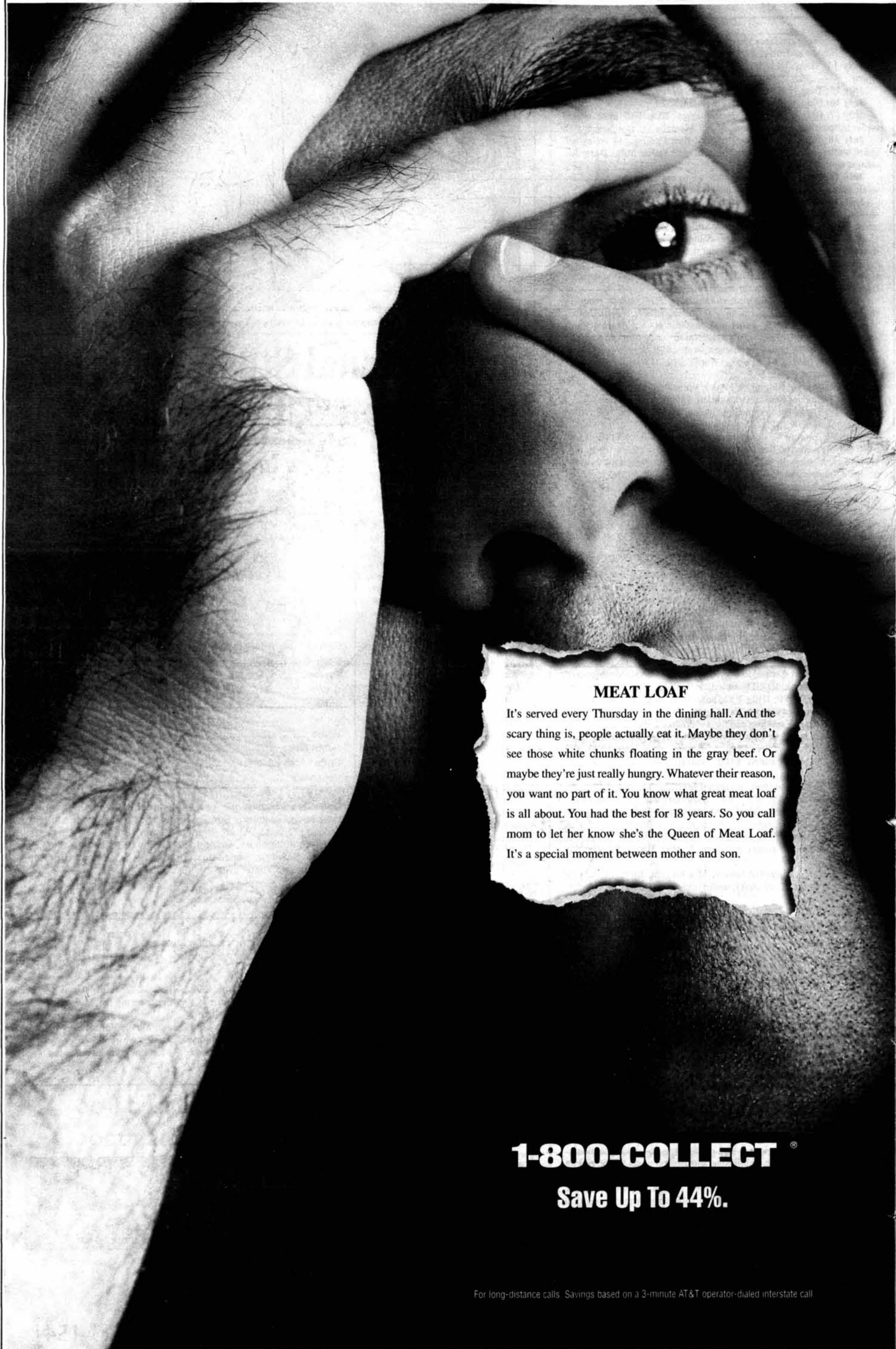
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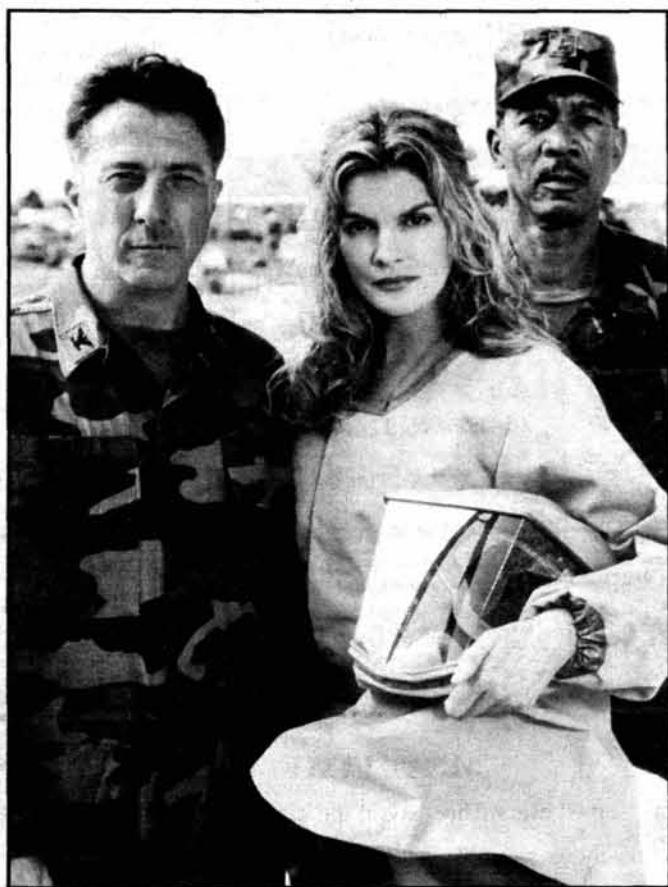
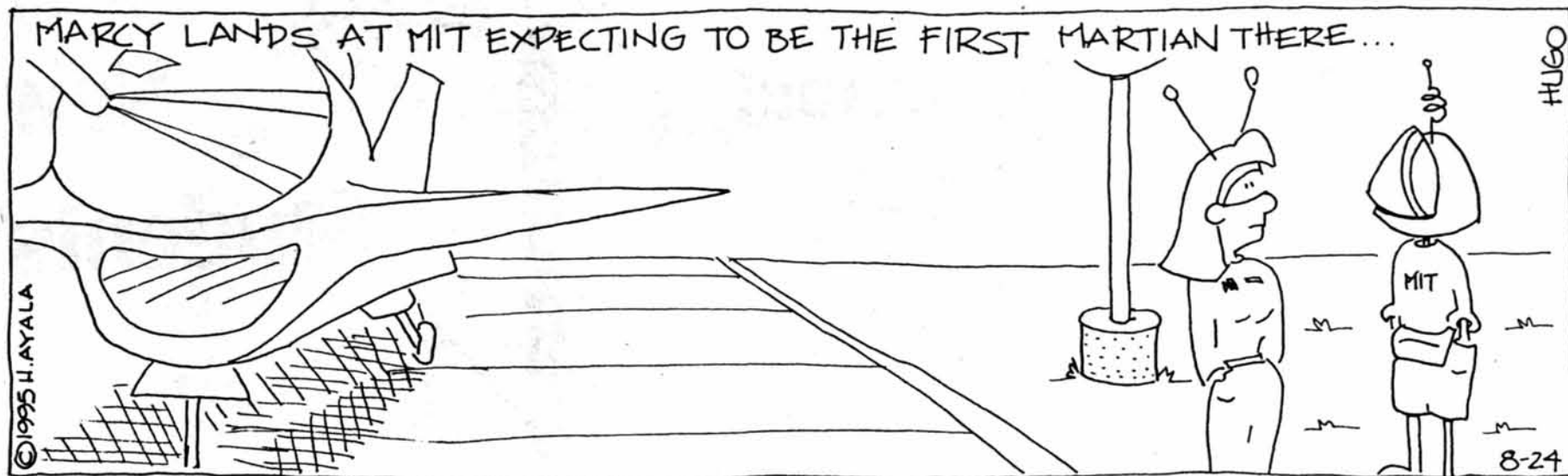
It's served every Thursday in the dining hall. And the scary thing is, people actually eat it. Maybe they don't see those white chunks floating in the gray beef. Or maybe they're just really hungry. Whatever their reason, you want no part of it. You know what great meat loaf is all about. You had the best for 18 years. So you call mom to let her know she's the Queen of Meat Loaf. It's a special moment between mother and son.

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# Off Course

## By H. Ayala



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# Bekefi, Well-liked Lecturer, Dies at 70

Bekefi, from Page 1

dreds of undergraduates the mysteries of physics and guiding some 50 [graduate students] toward their MS and PhD degrees."

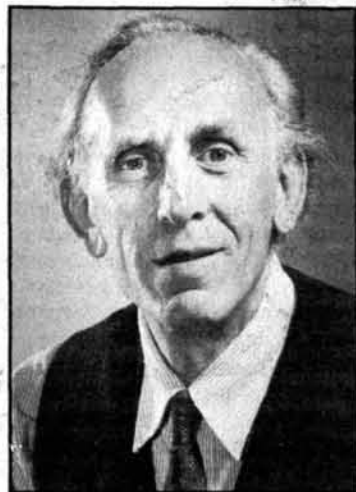
Bekefi was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1925, but left for England following the Nazi occupation in 1939. At University College in London he received a bachelor of science degree with first-class honors in physics and mathematics. He went on to earn a masters degree from McGill University in Canada.

In 1957 he left McGill for MIT, where he served first as a research associate and later as assistant professor.

In 1961 he became full professor. Early on he joined the Plasma Physics Group in the Research Laboratory of Electronics, with which he continued affiliation throughout his career.

In 1976, Bekefi and a staff researcher, Thaddeus J. Orzechowski PhD '75, developed a source of radiation that produced bursts of microwaves 50 times more powerful than the largest conventional microwaves then in existence. Bekefi's work earned him the

1995 Free-Electron Laser Award by the American Physical Society, the Gold Honorary Medal for Merits in the Field of Physical Sciences from



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE  
**Professor Emeritus of Physics George Bekefi**

the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in 1993, and numerous other awards and recognitions.

He leaves his wife, Chaia; a son, Ariel; and a daughter, Tamara, all of Brookline.



EVA MOY—THE TECH  
**Tim Beaver (Surekha Vajjhala '96) takes a short rest at the Residence and Orientation Center with R/O workers Noemi L. Giszpenc '98, Mark A. Herschberg '95, and Sanjay Chugh '97 (left to right).**

# Campus Preview, Dean's Letters Helped Increase Applicant Pool

Women, from Page 1

Admissions Office's only goal this year was to create a freshman class composed of forty percent female students.

The record female population at MIT reflects nationwide trends of women's increased interest in science and engineering, Johnson said. The Admissions Office found women applicants to be well-qualified, "more so than their male counterparts," Oliveira said.

The office made a strong effort to encourage women to enroll, Johnson said. Both Dean of the School of Science Robert J. Birgeneau and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department Head Paul L. Penfield

Jr. ScD '60, wrote letters to prospective female students, Johnson said. Telethons and letters from Admission Office interns also helped to recruit women, she said.

### Minority enrollment drops

A record 360-plus students attended Campus Preview Weekend, Oliveira said. Campus Preview Weekend is a chance for admitted women and minorities to visit the Institute during the school year.

According to survey information, students definitely felt that Campus Preview Weekend affected their decision whether or not to attend MIT, Oliveira said.

The number of underrepresented minorities who accepted offers of admission decreased slightly from

15 percent last year to 14 percent, Johnson said. Last year's minority count was one of the highest ever, Oliveira said. The number of Asian-Americans also dropped 1 percent from last year to 28 percent, Johnson said.

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# SPORTS

## Mudville Begins Baseball Review with NL East

Column by David Berl and Jeremy Cohen  
SPORTS COLUMNISTS

From the dark, seedy underworld of Mudville comes a team-by-team review of major league baseball. Our first installment details the National League East.

### The View from MUDVILLE

#### Atlanta Braves

It's hard to imagine that a team with an overall batting average hovering around .250 can win anything, but this year's Braves have been the exception to the rule. Behind a stellar starting rotation that includes "God with a curveball" Greg Maddux and a rejuvenated John Smoltz, the Braves have easily distanced themselves from a mediocre pack in the National League East, reaffirming the ancient adage, "When God is on the mound, even the Angels can't hit you."

A key factor in Atlanta's success this season has been the rise to prominence of three highly touted prospects — left-fielder Ryan Klesko, third-baseman Chipper Jones, and catcher Javier Lopez — who have supplied enough pop to carry the offense in the wake of disappointing years from veterans Fred McGriff, Dave Justice, and Marquis Grissom. In addition, flame-throwing closer Mark "Concussion waiting to happen" Wohlers seems to have overcome his inability to throw over small, white, plate-like surfaces and converted his last 18 save opportunities.

**Outlook:** Unless the Braves' recent acquisition of firearms-toting

Luis Polonia from the Yankees gets the FBI on their trail, look for the Tomahawk Chop (along with thousands of bitter Florida State alumni) to rear its ugly head come the second week of October:

**Dugout Chatter:** "Greg, stop giving Lemke the ten plagues and get back to work." — Manager Bobby Cox

#### Montreal Expos

The only constant for the Expos this year has been their inconsistency. After a pre-season fire sale that included MVP candidate Larry "I'm Canadian, Darn it" Walker, swollen-headed and salaried center fielder Marquis Grissom as well as rent-a-wreck starting pitcher Ken Hill and closer John Wetteland, the Expos began their second rebuilding process in the last three years. With the advent of young outfielders Rondell White and Tony Tarasco, as well as the promising play of shortstop Wilfredo Cordero, Felipe Alou's Expos have now officially been reborn more times than Darryl Strawberry.

The strength of this team, however, has surprisingly been the starting pitching, which has achieved despite a subpar year from left-hander Jeff Fassero. Montreal has been the beneficiary of some brilliant performances by ace Pedro Martinez, but the most consistent performers have been spastic rookie Carlos "Where did I put my surfboard" Perez and second-year southpaw Butch Henry, who, after an unfortunate muscle tear, may have to have Tommy John's aging left arm attached in place of his own.

**Outlook:** Montreal figures to fight off the Phillies for second

place in the east this year and make a solid push for the wildcard next season provided star left-fielder Moises Alou (rumor has it he has an "in" with the management) sticks around and midseason acquisition David Segui stays hot at first base.

**Dugout Chatter:** "Perez, get down from there" — Manager Felipe Alou.

#### Philadelphia Phillies

Although the defending National League champions came out of the gate with the same confidence they exuded so aromatically in 1993, their stench began to change in the middle of June. The poor play of catcher Darren "Dutch" Daulton and chronic injuries to sparkplug chewing-tobacco fiend Lenny Dykstra and baby-faced Greg Jeffries have left general manager Lee Thomas with John Kruk-sized headache. Unfortunately for Mr. Thomas, all the Tylenol in the clubhouse is already in the bloodstream of a patchwork starting pitching staff that has included such dignitaries as Jim Deshaies, Tommy Greene, David West, and Mike Williams. Indeed, the only two pitchers of consequence this year for the Phils have been knuckle-curveballer Tyler Green and overweight reclamation project Sid Fernandez, whom the Orioles attempted to convert into a self-contained "bullpen by committee."

The only positive signs for the Phillies this year have been Daulton's relievers Heathcliff Slocumb, Ricky Bottalico and Toby Borland. The three have combined for an ERA well under 3.00 and have, until some slips of late, safeguarded the Phillies' late-inning leads.

**Outlook:** Dismal. Although Thomas is a genius with veteran acquisitions, the farm system is the weakest in baseball.

**Dugout Chatter:** "Lenny, stop spitting on my couch" — Third baseman Charlie Hayes.

#### Florida Marlins

The Marlins seem to have turned the hot corner since the All-Star break and are playing the best ball in the young franchise's history. The keys to their outstanding play of late have been the steady improvement of rookie catcher Charles Johnson and the slugging of veteran leader Terry Pendleton. Johnson, a superstar signal-caller at the University of Miami only two years ago (are you out there, Gino Toretta?), is finally adjusting to major league pitching. He already has the best arm behind any plate in baseball — he's thrown out more runners than the International Olympic Committee (are you out there, Ben Johnson?) — and appears to be learning to handle his pitching staff with greater ease.

**Outlook:** With Pendleton and Gary Sheffield due back next year alongside Jeff Conine and Greg Colbrunn, the Marlins have the makings of an outstanding lineup. If second baseman Quilvio Veras can continue to keep his on-base percentage high and the front office can obtain an ace starter, the Marlins will contend next year.

**Dugout Chatter:** "What kind of name is Quilvio?" — Reliever Yorkis Perez

#### New York Mets

After trading away three veteran worms from the Big Apple, the Mets

could film an episode of Romper Room in their clubhouse. Babysitters Dallas Green and "Mean" Joe Mcllvaine did the right thing in purging themselves of Bobby Bonilla, Bret Saberhagen, and Brett Butler (may this be the last "Grace Under Fire" reference ever) for prospects Alex Ochoa and Juan Acevedo, but setting the lineup for next year and scheduling diaper changing times may prove a difficult task. Three outfielders must be chosen from a list of over-ripe prospects: Ryan Thompson, Damon Buford, Carl Everett, Chris Jones, and Ochoa. In addition, Rico Brogna is the only certainty in an infield that may herald in the arrivals of Triple A slugging leader Butch Huskey and slick-fielding shortstop Rey Ordenez.

The pitching staff is also in a state of transition with future All-Stars Bill Pulsipher and Jason Istringhausen beginning to acclimate themselves to the major leagues. Rounding out the staff for next year will likely be Dave Mlicki, Bobby Jones and Reid Cornelius, although the arrival of stud pitchers Paul Wilson, Kirk Presley and Acevedo is imminent.

**Outlook:** Damned if we know.  
**Dugout Chatter:** "Why is there a velcro nametag on my locker, Dallas?" — Ryan Thompson

#### Trivia Question

Today's trivia question rises from the dust that has settled in Montreal's "Big O," which is incidentally their salary cap as well:

Name at least four current or former major league ballplayers related to current Expos. Freshmen, be the first to get your Athena accounts and e-mail your answer to bell@mit.edu.

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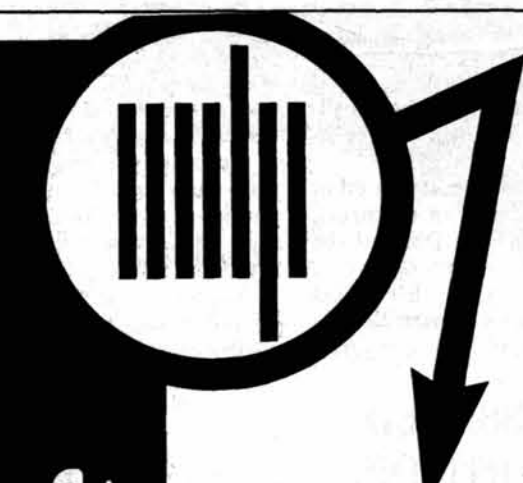
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