

Student Keynote Launches Rush

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

Catherine D. Conley '96, Dormitory Council President Dhaya Lakshminarayanan '96, and Chair of the Women's Conference Stephanie A. Sparvero '96 addressed the Class of 1999 for Killian Kick-Off yesterday.

Conley, the first student ever to deliver the keynote address, reminded the freshmen that their high-school years are relatively unimportant at MIT. "Whether you were destined to attend or you squeaked in by your amazing charm and wit, you're just in," she said. [See transcript, page 8.]

Conley stressed to the freshmen and upperclassmen gathered to launch rush the importance of broadening their views. She asked

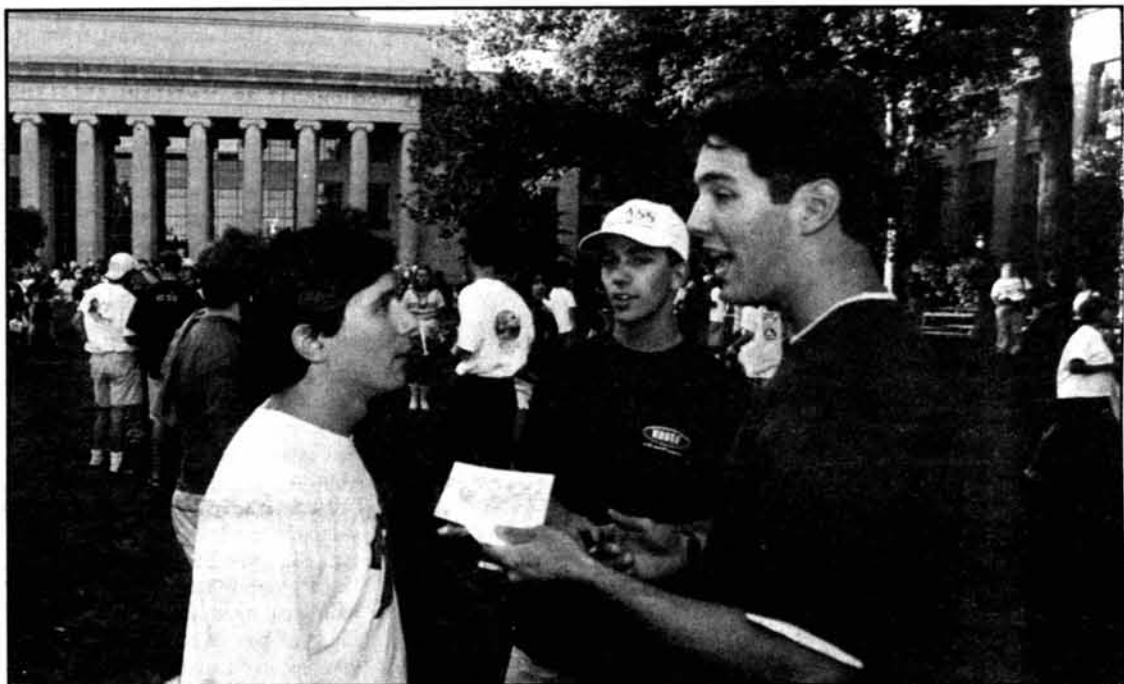
the freshmen to stand and look first at the Great Dome then at the city of Boston. "This is Cambridge," she said. "Welcome home."

Just as MIT has now become an integral part of freshmen's lives, the Class of 1999 has now become a part of the Institute, Conley said. "Each of you has been accepted into this greatness."

Freshman to create own legend

Conley at one point asked the freshmen to jump up and down as a way of emphasizing their newfound independence and self-responsibility. "You're not in high school anymore. It's no longer a matter of just following directions blindly," she said after the freshmen stopped

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THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

Rush began yesterday as hundreds of fraternity, sorority, and independent living group members rushed into the crowd of freshmen assembled in Killian Court to invite them to visit their respective houses. The upperclassman at left, carrying the extra shirt used to conceal his affiliation before the beginning of rush, is distributing the schedule of his house's rush events to two freshmen.

Counterpoint Issues Trashed; Contained Fraternity Review

By Stacey E. Blau
NEWS EDITOR

Issues of the MIT-Wellesley publication *Counterpoint* were vandalized in the Infinite Corridor and in the Student Center Thursday around midnight, according to *Counterpoint* Editor Han Y. Huang G.

At about 12:30 a.m. Friday, *Counterpoint* President Richard Y. Lee '97 discovered copies of the issue dumped in garbage cans in Lobby 7, stained with chocolate and coffee, Huang said. Issues set out on the first and second floors of the Student Center were also dumped into nearby garbage cans.

Chia-Ying D. Yang '96, who witnessed the Student Center lobby vandalism, said that at around midnight he "saw two guys grabbing a whole stack of *Counterpoints* and

dumping them in a garbage can next to the elevator" near LaVerde's Market.

Yang described one of the perpetrators as an Asian male and the other as a male wearing a dirty ivory-white baseball cap.

Yang said that a Campus Police officer was near the first floor when the incident occurred but was not "looking in [our] direction, so he didn't see it."

The vandalism took place just hours after copies of *Counterpoint* had been dropped off at distribution sites, Huang said.

This is the second time that issues of *Counterpoint* have been tampered with in the past year. Nearly all 4,500 copies of the magazine's February issue, which featured an interview with Harvard

professor Alan Dershowitz, were stolen and never recovered.

Tense rush could be to blame

The *Counterpoint* issue in question was subtitled "The Insider's Guide to Rush" and included an article containing descriptions of most independent living groups at MIT as well as a guide to rushing at MIT.

Huang said that he suspects "a disgruntled fraternity" that was not pleased by its description in the article "Wherever You May Roam: A Frank Guide to ILGs at MIT" may be the perpetrator.

Also, "the fact that the vandalism happened during [Residence and Orientation Week] makes you suspect

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150 Crowds Will Strain Housing

By Daniel C. Stevenson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The undergraduate dormitory system will be filled about 150 to 160 people beyond capacity once all 1,130 new students have chosen housing, according to current projections by the Office of Residence and Campus Activities.

Starting tomorrow, the new freshmen and transfers will enter the housing lottery, running for the second year in a row on Athena.

The level of crowding represents "a strain on the system,"

according to RCA Staff Associate Phillip M. Bernard. However, it is hard to tell whether the effect on the quality of life will be negative, because of cramped living quarters, or positive, due for example to increased interaction and living group spirit, Bernard said.

The estimated crowding level may change either way depending on the success of rush and the number of freshmen who don't show up, Bernard said.

The major cause of this

Housing, Page 7

IFC Rush Rules Aim To Keep Rush Fair

By Jennifer Lane
STAFF REPORTER

The Interfraternity Council enforces a set of rush rules in order to "maintain an even playing field for all the freshmen," said Gregory J. Miliotes '96, IFC Judicial Committee Chair. As in the past, this year the IFC plans to keep close watch for violations to help keep rush fair.

Despite threats of fines, several such violations typically take place every rush. Last year, the IFC collected over \$8,000 in fines from 13 independent living groups it found guilty of rules breaches ranging from badmouthing other ILGs to hiding freshmen.

Most violations are for keeping freshmen for overly long periods of time or for keeping poor track of them. The rules' purpose is essentially twofold: first, to comply with the Clearinghouse tracking system's safety regulations, and second, to ensure competing ILGs have equal access to freshmen.

"It is very rare that we run

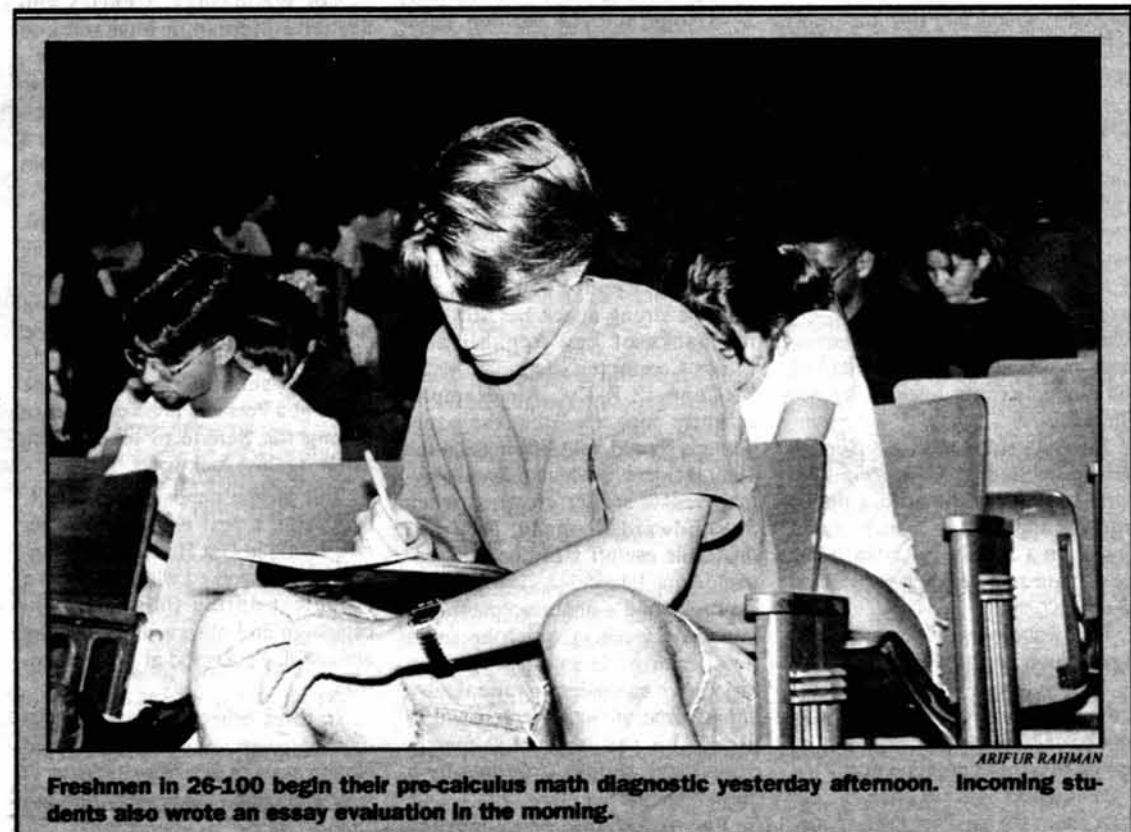
across malicious intent," Miliotes said. Instead, he said, most violations are a result of carelessness or accident.

But in recent years, some violations have been noteworthy, such as Sigma Alpha Epsilon's inadvertent abduction of a prospective student

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INSIDE

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- McMullen elicits mixed reviews. *Page 6*



Freshmen in 26-100 begin their pre-calculus math diagnostic yesterday afternoon. Incoming students also wrote an essay evaluation in the morning.

WORLD & NATION

Israeli Troops Kill Two Palestinians in Hamas Safehouse

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Continuing its campaign against the Islamic extremist movement Hamas, Israeli troops on Friday killed two Palestinians holed up in a safehouse in the West Bank town of Hebron.

They were not part of the Hamas cell that carried out Monday's fatal bus bombing in Jerusalem but belonged to another unit expected to launch revenge attacks for Israel's arrest of about 30 Hamas members in the last week, Israeli officials said.

Israeli radio reported that Hamas issued a statement early Friday vowing to increase terrorist attacks on Israel, despite this week's arrests.

Israeli Gen. Ilan Biran, the West Bank's army commander, congratulated his troops for the urban assault. It was unclear, however, if the Israeli army made any effort in Hebron to take the Palestinian militants alive.

"This is a very important operation. It prevented murderous terrorism against Jews in the Judea and Hebron regions," Biran said. "In the course of a search, the Cherry Unit has carried out an excellent, model operation."

Russia Pumps \$295 Million Into Insolvent Banking System

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Russia's commercial banking system, a dynamic but shaky pillar of the post-Soviet economy, has been paralyzed by its first insolvency crisis, prompting the government Friday to commit nearly \$300 million to revive it.

Officials said they had avoided a systemwide collapse but still face the politically risky task of forcing a shakeout that could close as many as 100 banks, along with enterprises they have kept afloat with unsound loans.

The crisis is one inevitable downside of a long-awaited achievement by free-market advocates in President Boris N. Yeltsin's government — the sustained drop in Russia's inflation rate and the shoring up of the ruble.

In the high-inflation climate of recent years, banks were able to augment unpredictable cash flows from risky loans to unsound Russian businesses by engaging in currency speculation. Many of Russia's 3,000 or so banks are little more than currency-exchange houses.

Banks most dependent on currency trading suffered as inflation dropped steadily, from 18 percent in January to 5.4 percent last month. They got more bad news on July 5, when the government set a narrow, fixed range for the ruble's value against the dollar and vowed to maintain it until Oct. 1.

"The crisis is not over yet; it is only suspended," said Mikhail Berger, an economic commentator for Izvestia. "The leading bankers ... are in genuine panic and hysteria. These are not small banks. These are banks of the first dozen."

Fed Policymakers Leaned Strongly Toward Rate Cut

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

When Federal Reserve policymakers decided to cut short-term interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point early last month, most of them anticipated that further cuts would follow, according to minutes of their meeting released Friday.

While one of the 11 members of the policymaking group, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), wanted no cut at all, the other 10 also voted to give Chairman Alan Greenspan added authority to reduce rates between then and the next meeting, which was held Tuesday.

This lean toward lower rates "was consistent with the view shared by most members that the risks to the (economic) expansion were biased to the downside," the Fed release said.

Many analysts said after last month's rate cut that they expected additional cuts before the year is over. The minutes generally tend to support that view.

On the other hand, the minutes show that there were substantial differences last month among the policymakers both about the likely course for the economy in the second half of this year and the extent to which inflation will subside after an upward blip early this year.

WEATHER Parched August

By Gerard Roe
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A series of energetic ripples travelling along the jet stream in central Canada are the main contributors to our weather picture at the moment. At this distance their effect is a succession of weak frontal passages producing a few clouds but not much else. August has been abnormally dry this year with less than a third of the average precipitation falling. Saturday will start off clear early but with increased moisture in the area and gently rising air ahead of a warm front, clouds will build up during the day to leave little blue showing by evening. However, rain will hold off, with winds becoming southwesterly pushing temperatures up from Friday. Sunday is looking fine with temperatures heading back up towards 90°F (32°C) and onshore winds bringing a few clouds.

Today: Scattered clouds in the morning. Winds moderate at 10-15 mph (16-24 kph). Mostly cloudy by evening. High 81°F (27°C).

Tonight: Cloudy keeping temperatures up to about 65°F (18°C).

Iraq Tells U.N. It Was Ready To Use Chemical Weapons

By R. Jeffrey Smith
THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

Iraq has released to the United Nations new evidence that it was prepared to use deadly toxins and bacteria against U.S. and allied forces during the 1991 Persian Gulf War to liberate Kuwait from its Iraqi occupiers, U.N. Ambassador Rolf Ekeus said Friday.

Ekeus, the chief U.N. investigator of Iraq's weapons programs, said Iraqi officials admitted to him in Baghdad last week that in December 1990 they loaded three types of biological agents into roughly 200 missile warheads and aircraft bombs that were then distributed to key air bases and a missile site.

The Iraqis began this process the day after the U.N. Security Council voted to authorize using "all necessary means" to liberate Kuwait, Ekeus said. He said the action was akin to playing "Russian roulette" with extraordinarily dangerous weapons on the eve of war.

U.S. and U.N. officials said the Iraqi weapons contained enough biological agent to have killed thousands of people and spread horrible diseases in cities or military bases in Israel, Saudi Arabia or wherever Iraq aimed the medium-range missiles or squeaked a bomb-laden aircraft through enemy air defenses.

Ekeus said Iraqi officials claimed they decided not to use the weapons after receiving a strong but ambiguously worded U.S. warning from the Bush administration on Jan. 9, 1991, that any use of unconventional warfare would provoke a devastating U.S. response.

Iraq's leadership assumed this meant Washington would retaliate with nuclear weapons, Ekeus said he was told. U.N. officials said they believe the statement by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is the first authoritative account for why Iraq did not employ the biological or chemical arms at its disposal.

Several U.N. Security Council

envoys who heard Ekeus's lengthy briefing on Iraq's armaments program today expressed shock at learning how Iraq had behaved on the eve of war. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine K. Albright described the news as "chilling" and said it revealed for the first time "how close we came to a potential disaster."

British Ambassador to the U.N. John Weston said he was startled by the immense scale of the Iraqi biological weapons program and "the advanced state of production and deployment" of the weapons. He said the news demonstrated the "political irresponsibility of the regime" in Baghdad controlled by President Saddam Hussein.

Both envoys indicated that the new Iraqi admissions about its biological program, as well as other new disclosures about the advanced state of its past effort to complete a nuclear weapon and develop its own missile force, will force the United Nations to postpone for a considerable period any withdrawal of the global trade embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Albright told reporters after the briefing that "it's pretty tough for me to imagine" the U.N.-backed sanctions against Iraq could be lifted within the next year. Later in the day she repeated a 1993 statement by other senior Clinton administration officials that Iraq's leadership probably could not satisfy all related U.N. demands while Saddam remains in power.

In a blistering denunciation of Iraq's behavior, Albright said the disclosures had proven that the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq "was correct to resist pressure from Iraq and some (Security) Council members" to say that its probe of the weapons of mass destruction programs was complete. Her reference was to France and Russia, which have long supported Iraq's bid to lift the sanctions.

Unlike Albright, diplomats from these two countries both sought to emphasize the positive implications of the Iraqi disclosures in their comments to the Security Council today, according to an official who was present. The French envoy described the admissions as a welcome break from past dissembling, while the Russian envoy expressed hope that the U.N.'s continuing probe of the Iraqi programs might be completed in just a few months.

Ekeus said his principal aim now is to verify Iraq's claim that it destroyed its entire stockpile of biological agents in July and August 1991, after the war ended.

He said the commission has not yet found any evidence to back up the Iraqi claim, but noted that it has not yet digested thousands of new arms-related documents that were turned over to him at a chicken farm outside Baghdad hours before his departure from Iraq.

Iraqi officials said the documents were hidden there by Hussein Kamel Hassan Majeed, the director of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program who fled to Jordan on Aug. 7 and whose defection prompted Iraq to summon Ekeus to hear the new disclosures.

Albright called this "a story even a child could not believe." Kamel, who met with Ekeus in Jordan last week, provided data that generally confirmed the Iraqi disclosures but denied having hidden the documents at the farm, Ekeus said.

Iraq admitted to filling a total of 150 aircraft bombs with botulinum toxin and bacteria capable of causing anthrax disease, each of which is among the most deadly substances known and can kill in extremely small quantities, Ekeus said. It also claimed to have put the two agents into 25 warheads that could be carried by al-Hussayn missiles—a medium-range rocket that Iraq fired at both Israel and Saudi Arabia with conventional explosives.

Packwood Reverses, Calls for Public Hearings on Charges

By David G. Savage
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Embattled Sen. Bob Packwood, under investigation for more than two years over alleged sexual misconduct, announced Friday he wants public hearings on the complaints against him and a "public cross-examination" of his female accusers.

The surprise reversal by the Oregon Republican intensifies the spotlight on a festering controversy many senators hoped would just go away. And it creates the possibility of another embarrassing spectacle for the Senate, akin to the 1991 hearings over alleged sexual harassment involving Law Prof. Anita Hill and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Earlier this month, Senate Democrats, led by California Sen. Barbara Boxer, demanded a public airing of the charges against Packwood. On a largely party-line vote, the Senate rejected her request on 52-48.

Packwood's switch means hearings are now almost certain.

The National Organization for Women called Packwood's announcement "a political act of desperation by a desperate man."

Packwood said he changed his mind about the need for public hear-

ings because Boxer and the Democrats, invoking the new gender politics, were accusing the male-dominated Senate and its Republican majority of covering up the charges filed by women.

Altogether, 19 women have complained that Packwood made crude advances to them since 1969. Many said they were surprised when the senator grabbed them and kissed them.

"It was a dangerous day when Sen. Boxer politicized the ethics process," Packwood said in a statement.

Senate Republican aides say Boxer's strong attack has stiffened the backs of key Republicans. Ethics Committee Chairman Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., for example, recently suggested that the panel perhaps should hold hearings on the 1969 incident in which a female former Senate staffer drowned when Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., drove his car off a bridge at Chapquiddick Island.

Packwood's announcement culminates a week in which he and a new team of lawyers waged an aggressive campaign to raise doubts about some of his accusers, and to portray his past conduct as merely occasional clumsy gropings by a normally reserved man.

Packwood and his supporters

complained about what they say is one-sided press coverage that repeats the allegations without investigating "discrepancies" in their accounts.

On Wednesday, Charles and Jeanette Slepian, a husband and wife team of Portland, Ore., lawyers, filed four depositions with the Ethics Committee undercutting a complaint filed by Gena Hutton, a former campaign volunteer from Eugene.

Hutton has alleged that in 1980, Packwood grabbed her in a parking lot after a meeting, forcibly kissed her, and suggested they go to a motel. Shaken by the incident, she said she had nothing more to do with the senator. Recently, she spoke at a Portland press conference urging the Senate to take strong action against Packwood.

But in one deposition, John R. Morrison, a real estate developer now living in Gig Harbor, Washington, said he worked with Hutton as a volunteer during the same 1980 campaign and observed her locking arms with Packwood at private dinners.

In three other depositions, former campaign volunteers stated that Hutton was an active participant in later Packwood campaigns through 1986.

U.S. Diplomat Calls Bosnian Serbs Biggest Obstacle to Peace Mission

By Thomas W. Lippman
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Preparing to return to Europe and resume his Balkan peace negotiations, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke Friday identified Bosnian Serbs as the biggest obstacle to the success of his long-shot mission.

The rebel Serbs, whose refusal to live in a multiethnic Bosnia that they do not control was a principal cause of the 4-year-old war, are the only faction in the Balkan conflict that Holbrooke's team did not visit before the diplomatic mission was interrupted last weekend by a road accident that killed three members.

They represent the only faction that has refused to negotiate a settlement on the basis of a plan that would divide Bosnia roughly in half, giving the Serbs control of 49 percent of the country.

And they are the perpetrators, Holbrooke said Friday, of "a war crime of historic proportions" at Srebrenica, the United Nations-designated "safe haven" in eastern Bosnia that the Serbs overran July 11.

Holbrooke and his reconstituted team will meet in Paris Monday with representatives of European governments, including the "contact group" nations that devised the 51-49 separation plan. Then they will consult Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic and fly on to Belgrade to see Serb Republic president Slobodan Milosevic.

When will they meet with the Bosnian Serbs? "I don't know," Holbrooke said at a State Department briefing. "I don't know."

He said the Bosnian Serbs "must in the end be party to a deal." But he said that negotiating with them now, when they have refused to consider a plan all other parties to the conflict have agreed to use as a basis for dividing Bosnia on ethnic lines, would be "tantamount to a major change in (the U.S.) position in return for nothing at all."

Holbrooke refused to say what he thought the chance of success is for his mission, saying "I'm not going to bet on games I'm playing in." Earlier, on ABC television, he said the chance of success is "pretty

small," a retreat from the assessments of other U.S. officials this week who said they were hopeful, if not optimistic.

The Clinton administration undertook the latest peace initiative after the biggest military setback in the war for the ethnic Serbs of the former Yugoslavia: their crushing defeat by Croatia in the region known as the Krajina and their expulsion from communities there where Serbs had lived for centuries. The U.S. assumption was that Bosnia's Serbs, weakened by the loss of support from their compatriots across the border in Croatia and facing a more vigorous Bosnian government army, might have been softened up enough to negotiate on the basis of the 51-49 plan. So far there is no sign of such an outcome. Although the peace plan calls for division of Bosnia along ethnic lines, with the Serbs getting control of 49 percent instead of the 70 percent they now have, Holbrooke insisted Friday that the United States is not promoting "partition" of a member of the United Nations.

Eyewitness Gives Differing Account Of McVeigh's Movements before Blast

By Richard A. Serrano
LOS ANGELES TIMES

OKLAHOMA CITY

In a development that could complicate prosecution in the Oklahoma City bombing, a local attorney has given an eyewitness account of the movements of defendant Timothy J. McVeigh minutes before the explosion that seem incompatible with the government's present scenario of events.

In the account the government has laid out, McVeigh parked a Ryder rental truck laden with explosives at the north side of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building the morning of April 19 and then fled in a nearby getaway car before the bomb exploded.

However, James R. Linehan, in an interview with the Los Angeles Times, said that shortly before the blast he saw McVeigh driving erratically in a car — not the Ryder truck — around the federal building and then suddenly disappearing into its underground parking area.

Linehan's description of the car matches the battered yellow 1977 Mercury Marquis that McVeigh was driving when he was arrested the day of the blast.

Linehan, 39, has been interviewed by the FBI and other investigators but was not called to testify before the grand jury that indicted McVeigh and alleged accomplice Terry Nichols earlier this month.

While the government account portrays McVeigh as the central figure directly responsible for putting the bomb in place, Linehan's version appears to cast him more as a possible getaway driver or in some other secondary role.

Linehan specializes in representing federal employees in Social Security and workers' compensation claims. On the morning of April 19, he was driving from his Midwest City, Okla., office to a hearing downtown when he pulled up to a red light directly on the south side of the Murrah building.

"That's when I notice a yellow vehicle beside me," he said. "The driver of this vehicle is hunched over the wheel. It's a white person because there's a white hand showing."

"I cannot see a face because there's either hair or a hood covering his head and because the driver is hunched over the wheel and looking up at the Murrah building."

"The next second this vehicle just peels out," Linehan said. "Peels out across this intersection. I thought I'd missed the light but the light was still red."

Linehan noticed the rear of the Mercury. "All I remember is I don't see a tag," he said.

When McVeigh was arrested near Perry, Okla., about 70 minutes after the bombing, his Mercury Marquis did not have a rear license plate.

Linehan then noticed that the driver had slowed and swerved far into the left lane in order to crane his neck and look up at the Murrah building.

Linehan said it forced him to pull into the oncoming traffic lane to avoid hitting the Mercury.

At this point, Linehan could see into the Mercury again.

"The person driving it is leaning over the wheel so much trying to look at the Murrah building," he said.

"What I saw was either a hood or hair or something dark that covered the left eye completely. All I could see was the end of a sharp nose, no facial hair and a kind of sharp chin. It was smooth features."

Chicago Heat Wave Victims Buried Together

By Judy Pasternak
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOMWOOD, ILL.

As quietly and dispassionately as they died, the last victims of the brutal heat wave of 1995 were laid to rest Friday in a mass grave 160 feet long, 10 feet wide and the traditional six feet deep.

The temperature was a muggy 78 degrees, 28 degrees cooler than the record set on July 13 — the 106-degree day that probably felled most of the 591 people in metropolitan Chicago who did not survive the blast-oven weather.

No one will know the dates of death for sure. Most of the fatalities were elderly, poor and alone, leaving so small a mark on the world that it was days before anyone noticed they were gone and their bodies were finally discovered. For Chicago, the astonishingly high toll was a lesson in how easy it is to disappear while still alive, a stunning realization of how isolated and fearful many old people here are.

Forty-one of the corpses taken to the Cook County morgue during those horrible days of revelation

still remain alone in death. They never were claimed, despite the best efforts of county investigators.

They found the name of a daughter for Mildred Stojkovic, age 70, but the certified letter they sent was returned.

The daughter of Leonard Hymer, 66, was located in an affluent suburb. She said on the telephone she'd like to see the furnished room where her father had spent his last days, but she never took responsibility for his funeral.

"So many cases," said Mark Roach, who helped whittle the list of indigent heat-wave dead down from 145. "They all blur together."

Robert Yankovich, wheelchair-bound. Edward Hoffman, who liked to drink. Lisa Kimberley, William Reidsville, Lydia Payne, Ethel Young.

At the county's contract cemetery, Homewood Memorial Gardens, they were laid side by side, each encased in a plain pine box with a numbered brass tag. The nails in the top had already left a crack in one casket. A sheet of white plastic extended from the side of another.

The heat victims were not even differentiated from the other July paupers; the more typical monthly caseload of 27 who died from other causes was placed in the trench as well.

"This is kind of the end of the operation for us," said Mike Boehmer, who represented the medical examiner's office at the funeral.

He was one of a handful of county officials who attended. The president of the Homewood Historical Society came as well. She wanted to gather details because the group re-enacts famous local funerals.

The Revs. Robert Stepek and Michael Nallen, priests from a Catholic parish in this south suburb, stepped up to the line of pine boxes.

"Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name," intoned one. Within minutes, with a sign of the cross and a shake of holy water, they were done.

They came unsolicited. "It seemed as though no one was around. No one was there to care," said Stepek afterward. "We need to pray for those people. Their lives had worth."

Canadian Leaders Prepare For Quebec Separation Vote

LOS ANGELES TIMES

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland — When the premiers of this nation's 12 provinces and territories gathered in this port city for their annual meeting this week, the issue of Quebec's possible separation from the country was not even on the agenda.

But, with a provincial referendum on Quebec independence looming on the autumn calendar, they found themselves drawn irresistibly into the incipient campaign.

The meeting, similar to the U.S. National Governor's Conference, ended Friday after bitter wrangling between the leaders of Canada's English-speaking provinces — who favor continued Canadian unity — and Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau, leader of the separatists.

Each side is maneuvering for early advantage with Quebec voters, who according to a poll released Friday are nearly evenly divided on the likely referendum question. In the next 10 days, Parizeau is expected to announce an election date, probably between Oct. 30 and mid-November.

The separatists have risen in the polls since they announced a major change in strategy last spring. Faced with near-certain loss if they asked Quebec voters to endorse an unconditional declaration of independence, Parizeau and his separatist allies now are coupling Quebec independence with an offer to negotiate an economic and political partnership with what would be left of Canada.

If Canada rejected such an offer, however, Quebec still would go its own way, according to Parizeau.

Clinton Pledges to Protect Park System

LOS ANGELES TIMES

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYO.

President Clinton, standing before Old Faithful geyser in a driving rain, on Friday pledged to protect the national park system against what he considers wrongheaded Republican plans to cut federal funds for the parks.

Clinton accused Republicans in Congress of attempting to close as many as 200 national parks and "sell some of our national treasures off to the highest bidder."

"And that's wrong," Clinton declared, as billowing smoke from Yellowstone's famous geothermal geysers was highlighted against a rain-darkened sky. "I am committed to preserving these parks."

Clinton spent the day hopscotching around the park by helicopter to mark the 79th anniversary of the National Park Service, the Interior Department unit responsible for maintaining the national park system.

He returned to work for a day from his two-week Wyoming vacation to excoriate Republican budget proposals and to score points with environmental-minded voters in other parts of the country.

He took pains to weave into his remarks at Yellowstone a theme he has adopted this summer in an effort to position himself in the broad middle of the political landscape. He called Yellowstone and the other national parks, visited by 270 million people last year, the nation's "common ground," the phrase he has been using to describe his position on affirmative action, school prayer and public morality.

Perot, Republicans Prescribe Similar Health-Cost Cures

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Ross Perot may be a political maverick, but not when it comes to Medicare and Medicaid. His prescription for curing the financial ills of the two weighty programs closely resembles the strong medicine being concocted by House and Senate Republicans as they prepare for a tremendous Capitol Hill fight next month.

"If the United States can put men on the moon and bring them back, then surely we can figure out how to save and improve Medicare and Medicaid," the optimistic titan of United We Stand America declares in a just-published book called "Intensive Care."

The book lays out Perot's ideas on how to overhaul the Medicare and Medicaid health programs and cut their growth rates to avert a budget train wreck. It outlines the problem as he sees it: Program costs are rising so fast that without some action, Medicare's hospital program will go broke in 2002 and combined federal spending on Medicare and Medicaid will skyrocket from \$267 billion a year to \$690 billion in 2005.

Perot's options for holding down the growth of Medicare, which covers 37 million elderly and disabled Americans, include cutting payments to doctors and hospitals, forcing beneficiaries (particularly the well-to-do) to pay more out of pocket, and giving beneficiaries an option to buy their own health policies on the private market with a government-funded voucher. His theory is that competition for business will hold prices down.

Sweatshop Merchandise Destined For Major Retail Stores

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Merchandise manufactured at three alleged Los Angeles sweatshops raided by federal agents this week was destined for major national retail chains, including Disney, J.C. Penney and Bloomingdale's, the U.S. Department of Labor said Friday.

At one of the sites — where authorities say they discovered a 12-year-old girl toiling in violation of child-labor laws — workers were assembling Classic Pooh label children's clothing for Disney, said Scott Sutherland, a spokesman for the Labor Department, which is investigating the matter. Disney-destined clothing was also found at a second alleged Los Angeles sweatshop, the Labor Department officials said.

A Disney spokesman later said the company was unaware that any goods were manufactured in violation of the law.

Meantime, as revelations continued about how clothing produced at Los Angeles-area sweatshops is winding up on the racks and counters of prestigious national retailers, a California legislative committee subjected the garment industry to intense scrutiny during a hearing in nearby El Monte.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



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Thursday Night Dinners Shouldn't Be Cancelled

The Tech received a copy of the following letter addressed to the Residence and Orientation Week Committee and R/O Committee member Mark A. Herschberg '95:

I was disappointed to read in a recent article in *The Tech* ["Overzealous Crowd Mars Frosh Dinners," Aug. 25] the suggestion that Freshman Thursday Night Dinners might be cancelled.

Freshmen dinners are a good way for the freshman to ask questions and see some of the Boston and Cambridge area before classes start.

I have watched the progression in the last couple of years as the upperclassmen have moved closer and closer to the football fields to wait for the freshmen, and would like to observe that my freshman year, when Project Move Off Your Assumptions didn't exist, this wasn't a problem because the freshmen came from their dormitories to the oval. If you want to avoid the problems, either schedule an activity that has the freshman scattered across

the Institute or schedule an hour between MOYA and freshman dinners so that freshman can go home for a short break and come back.

It is right to say that the upperclassmen should behave better, but cancelling freshman dinners will only punish the freshmen. When I look back on my freshman dinner, I remember meeting some wonderful people, one of whom has remained a good friend since then, and others that made R/O Week more comfortable because I recognized a friendly face, and could ask them questions.

Theresa V. Iuzzolino G

QUICKEST KNOCKOUTS IN RECENT HISTORY...



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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.

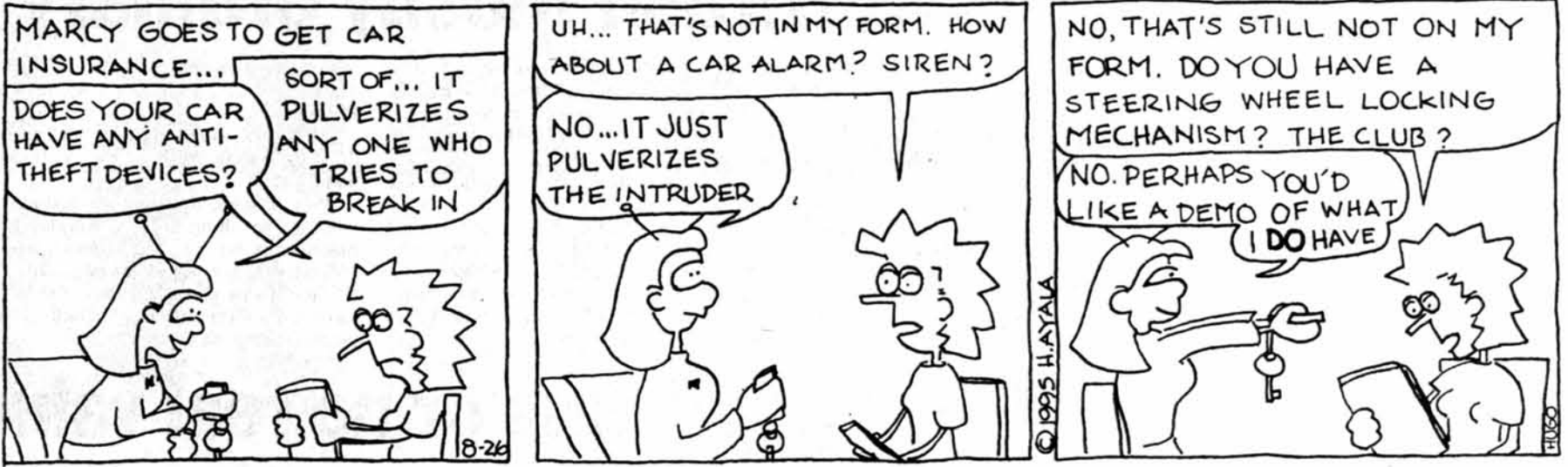
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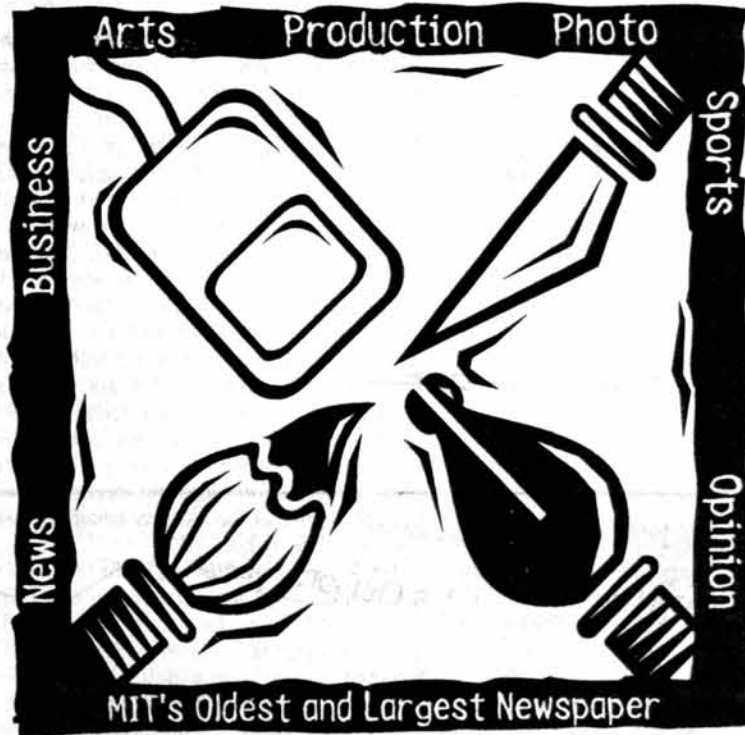
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Off Course

By H. Ayala



Creative



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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 of 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.



THE ARTS

R/O Concert's Mistle Thrush mostly ordinary

MISTLE THRUSH

MIT Unplugged.
Residence and Orientation Week Concert.
Student Center steps.
August 24, 10 p.m.

By John Jacobs

STAFF REPORTER

Mistle Thrush played Thursday night to a crowd of about two hundred on the Student Center steps, most of whom were there to scope out freshmen for rush (and other purposes), and

did not seem to recognize the fact that a live band was playing. But I think the lack of enthusiasm was also due, in part, to Mistle Thrush's lackluster performance. At the very least, Mistle Thrush gave the thinning crowd a soundtrack to talk over.

Mistle Thrush, barring a clever promotion scheme on its behalf, will stay a local band, with local fans. The reason for this is simple: no spark of anything, not anywhere. All of their songs searched for identity in the same slow and clumsy ways. Although Mistle Thrush is completely origi-

nal, mediocrity is hardly anything new. I did like "Six Star Song," though, despite the fact that they gutlessly clung to the same melodic hooks (and echo-chime texture) throughout it.

On the other hand, they did come to MIT at a moment's notice, thanks to themselves, Student Center Committee personnel, and their manager. And they have a great drummer. In fact, the drummer is the best thing about Mistle Thrush, and his rhythms dominated the character of the vocals and rhythm guitar. It was as if the other players were rest-

ing on the drummer's self-assured rhythms. The drummer, I'll bet, is the backbone of Mistle Thrush.

Mistle Thrush last played at MIT on April 22 at the Spring Weekend concert featuring Sonic Youth.

In a nutshell, watching the performance was like watching MTV's "Singled Out." Sometimes we get a glimpse of Jenny McCarthy: sometimes we are swayed by Mistle Thrush's psychedelic texture. But in both cases, most of the time we have ordinary people dominating the view.

Two views on *Brothers*: good time or no real value

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN

Directed by Edward Burns.
Written by Edward Burns.
Starring Edward Burns, Mike McGlone, and Jack Mulcahy.
Produced by Edward Burns and Dick Fisher.
Music by Seamus Egan.
Sony Harvard Square.

By Rob Wagner and Audrey Wu

Reviewers Audrey Wu and Rob Wagner offer a he said/she said look at Edward Burns' new film, *The Brothers McMullen*.

Audrey:

The Brothers McMullen traces a brief period in the lives of three Irish Catholic brothers, all of whom are struggling with their romantic relationships. Impressively, though, the film addresses such time-honored themes as insecurity and fear of commitment from a male — not the typical female — point of view. In addition, the film is a refreshingly no-frills type of movie. It offers just frank, oftentimes humorous talk by the brothers about their perspectives on their relationships.

Patrick (Mike McGlone), the youngest brother, has just graduated from college and is not yet ready to face the world outside the confines of his college. "I never thought college would actually end. I'm not ready to move out of my dorm." His problem is with his longtime girlfriend, a stereotypical Jewish American princess named Susan, who is pressuring Patrick into marrying her after they graduate and has already arranged for him to be working for her father.

She is an interesting match for Patrick, who is a devout (well, trying to be) Catholic, and has no qualms about manipulating him when it becomes clear that he wants out of the relationship. In his conversations with his brothers, Patrick says a line that most young adults have said at one time: "I love her, but I'm not in love with her." A romantic believer in soul mates, Patrick knows Susan is not "the

one," but is too afraid of the alternatives to completely break things off with her.

Barry (writer/director Edward Burns), the middle brother, has similar fears. He is terrified of committing to any woman. His older brother Jack (Jack Mulcahy) accuses him of being too much of an idealist: "To you," Jack tells him, "the grass is always greener on the other side. Or thinner. Or taller. Or has bigger [breasts]," to which Barry replies, "or hopefully, all three."

Barry is every woman's nightmare: incredibly good-looking and charming, but a huge heartbreaker. Women believe that they can change his anti-love, anti-commitment attitude, but find out they can't. However, things get interesting when he meets and falls in love with Audrey.

Jack is married and both loves and is in love with his wife. But things get interesting for him too: He screws up when Ann, an ex-girlfriend of Barry's, propositions him and he is unable to contain his lust. The movie explores the changes in the relationship of Jack with his wife, Molly, during and after his affair.

Overall, I was very impressed by film. I thought that it was very humorous and did an excellent job of presenting the different perspectives on relationships that the three brothers had. It was a very believable film. What I found most impressive was that it was obviously done on a very low budget: no big actors, and film quality not much better than your family's camcorder. Instead of theatrics, the viewer could then focus on things that are often overlooked in movies: an intriguing plot and great dialogue — not to be missed is Barry's banana metaphor.

The movie was like taking a peek into the brother's lives, and the movie also never gets too profound so it's not like you're being forced into the brothers' heads. You walk away from it at least understanding the brothers, and everyone can relate to them in some way. But don't look for this film to answer all your questions about your relationship problems, and don't look for random insight into

the male psyche. *The Brothers McMullen* is just a good time; you should be able to relate to it.

Rob:

Well, I'll agree that it doesn't get too profound; certainly, that much can be said. The dialogue is far too contrived to get profound. I found myself forgetting the names of the characters, but I could always catch them again, since they addressed each other by name in a most unnatural way, so as to remind the audience of the names.

This film is ostensibly about the plight of Irish Catholics in today's society, but only one of the brothers is even remotely religious. With hardly any mention of distinctly Catholic subjects, this lightweight strictly-verbal comedy is mere fluff trying to attract attention by playing on the Irish Catholic theme, which it doesn't really deal with.

Writer, director, co-producer, and star Edward Burns said that the film was about the dilemmas of Irish Catholics in today's society, choosing between Jesus and sex. The film, however, deals only in passing with this religious dilemma. Instead, it deals with more general dilemmas of living in today's society, such as premarital sex, abortion, commitment, and adultery, issues not specific to Catholicism. And the film does not deal at all with the upbringing of the brothers except for their hatred of their father.

Jack, the faithful loving husband, suddenly changes his loyal ways and has an affair without any real reason for the change. He resists at first, saying that he loves his wife too much, but then goes through with it without displaying any visible psychological change. It's just not very believable. To this end, it didn't help that he looks like Joey Buttafuoco and lives on Long Island.

The film is about three brothers, whose common bond is their hatred of their "wife-beating, child-abusing, alcoholic father," and who remember his sayings, such as, "All I want to hear from you is nothing!" and "Shut

your mouth when you're talking to me!" Their mother had waited 35 years for her husband to die before she could finally return to Ireland to marry her true love. She makes Barry promise not to make a similar mistake.

Perhaps a result of his mother's example, Barry just can't commit himself to one woman. Even when he falls in love, he just can't make himself commit. He is indeed just too scared to change.

But the film suffers from abandoning its setting. There is nothing distinctly Irish about the brothers. "Luck of the Irish" is mentioned only once, as is Barry's "phony Irish charm," but there's nothing definitely Irish about them.

There is no distinctly Catholic theme to this film, either. In addition, only two conversations echo Irish themes — a parley about some tenets of Catholicism which prevent a healthy sex life and an argument about abortion between Patrick and his Jewish ex-fiancee.

So, there is nothing that makes this film about the Irish Catholic experience, despite what Edward Burns says. This is merely a talky crap film that was made on a low budget. Though it did have some funny lines and a few hilarious situations, *The Brothers McMullen* is merely a talky film trying to allow the audience to relate to supposed real-life situations.

On what seems to be a growing trend in entertainment today, this film has realism in its script but no real value to the audience. The audience merely finds out about the lives of different people. When I go to see a movie, I want to see robots that turn into cars, a giant gorilla wreaking havoc on a city, immortals who fight with swords, or even the adventures of a killer whale. Anything but ordinary people in ordinary situations.

Though it did have some snappy dialogue — enough to win Best Picture at the Sundance Film Festival, in fact — *The Brothers McMullen* is just plain ordinary, with no real entertainment value.

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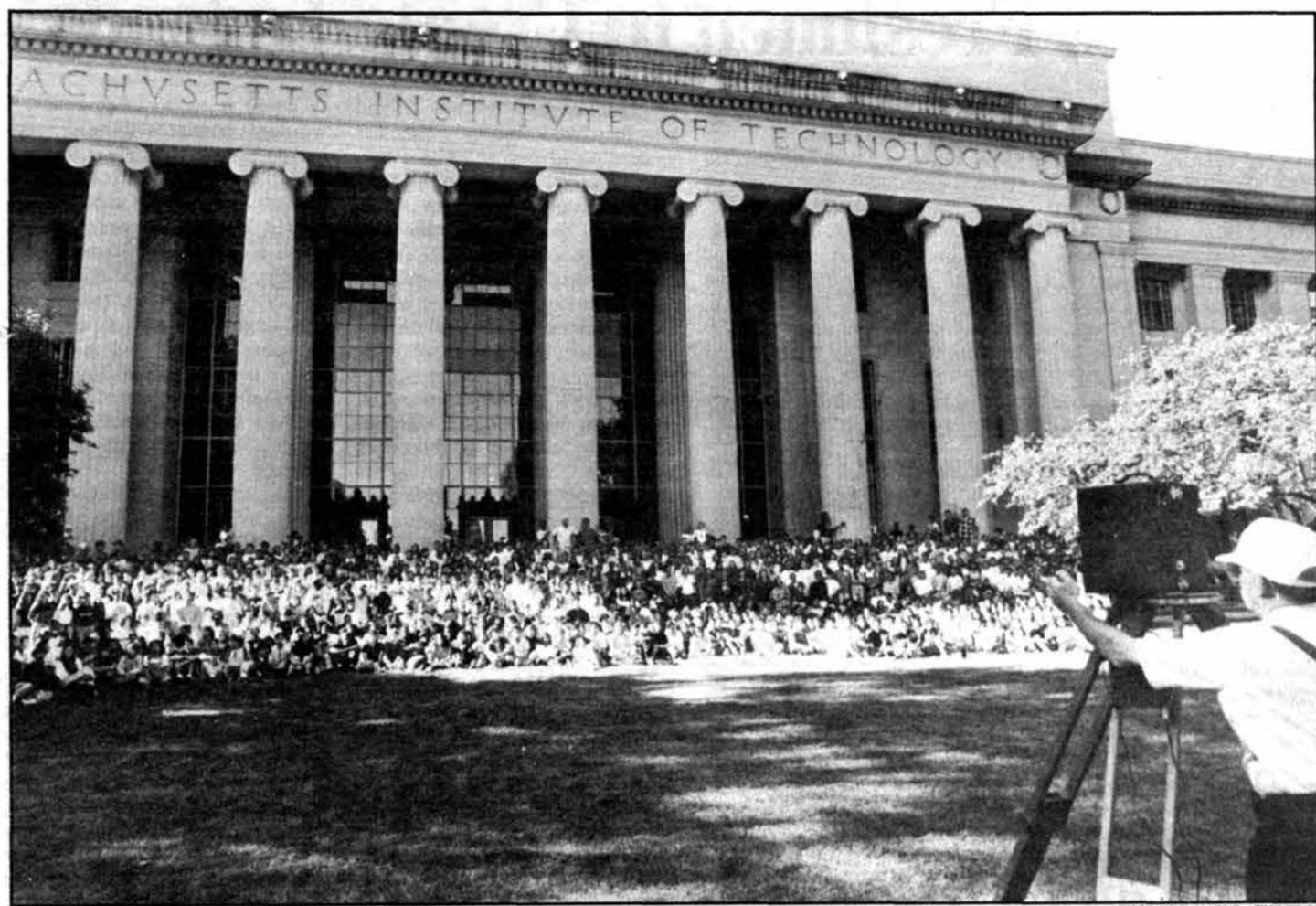
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Stop by our office in room 483 of the Student Center every day at noon and help us produce MIT's oldest and largest newspaper. No experience necessary.



Yesterday afternoon, the Class of 1999 stood on the steps of Killian Court for the annual freshman class picture.

THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

Quints Won't be Needed

Housing, from Page 1

year's crowding was that a larger than expected number of students admitted to MIT chose to attend — 53 percent, the highest in over ten years.

Quints, lounge doubles not needed

Crowding of 150 to 160 is below the point where MacGregor House lounges would be converted to doubles or Baker House quadruples would be crowded to quintuples, as has been done in the past, Bernard said. Most likely, some doubles in dormitories such as New House and McCormick Hall would become triples, and some singles in East Campus would be converted to doubles, he said.

The loss of several rooms in Senior House to a new elevator shaft installed during summer renovations also contributed to a housing space shortage, Bernard said.

The renovations to Senior House, which will continue next summer, will not have much other effect on the housing system, Bernard said. Renovations this past summer did not focus on living quarters, so the rooms will not be any more attractive to potential residents.

MIT will no longer house students at the Huntington Hall dormitory, leased for the last two years from the Massachusetts College of Art and located near Northeastern University. However, the 40 or so spaces used at Huntington were absorbed in the system with the housing of 45 members of Sigma Kappa in the graduate dormitory Ashdown House, Bernard said.

Dorm, IFC Speakers Give Rush Advice

Kickoff, from Page 1

jumping. "Like you told mom and dad: 'Let me go out and live my own life,' right?"

Conley also appealed to the audience to "make an impression on MIT." Leaving that mark takes several steps, she said.

As Conley described each step, she placed large cut-out puzzle pieces on a large white board set up behind her. When the puzzle was completed, it formed a picture of a key. "The key is yours," she said. "The key is complete, ready to unlock all your dreams."

While completing the key during their four years in college, freshmen should grasp three tenets. "No regrets. No excuses. Don't waste time," Conley said. "You're ready, so shatter the myths, go out, and start creating your own legend," she said.

Last minute rush advice given

Lakshminarayanan encouraged the freshmen not only to explore the fraternities, sororities, and indepen-

dent living groups but to look at dormitories as well. "Rush with your head, heart, and stomach," she said.

Speaking to a 42 percent female freshman class, Sparvero suggested that women explore several living options. She also noted that the three speakers were female.

Interfraternity Council Rush Chair Alison L. Walters '96 acknowledged the hectic nature of rush. "You will be confused, but you'll get through it," she said.

Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs Travis R. Merritt also made an appearance at the Kick-Off. He returned, in rags, tired out from having lost his staged marathon challenge to the Class of 1999 on Thursday at the Project Move Off Your Assumptions finale.

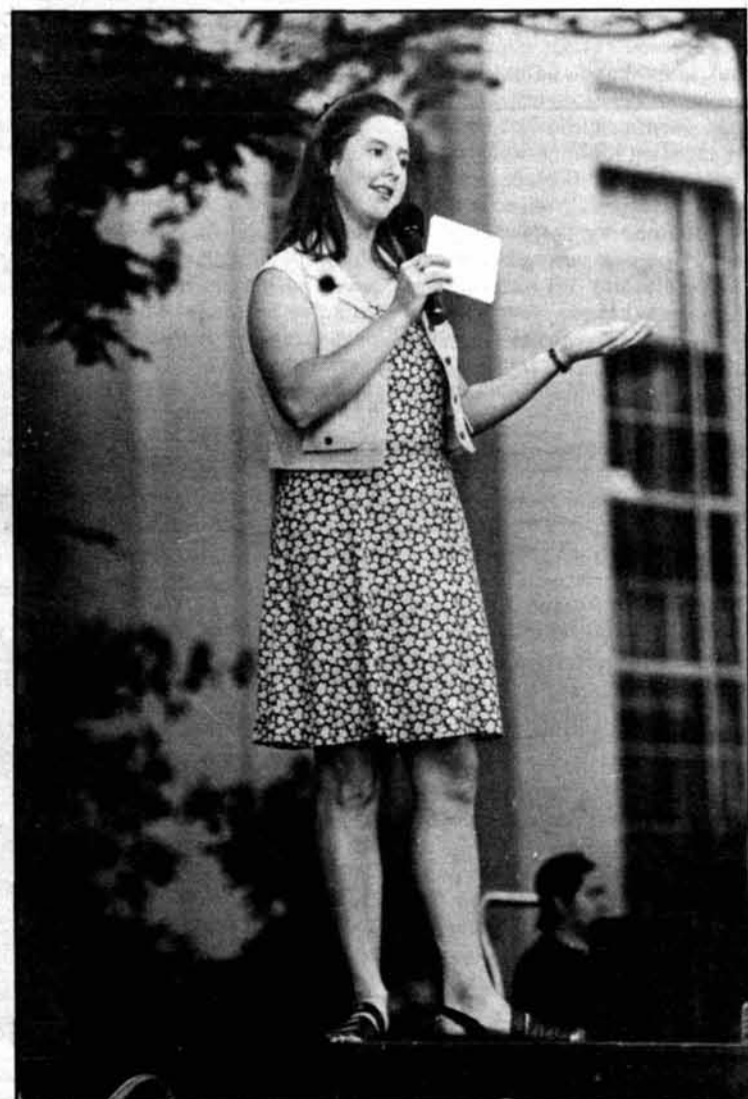
"I heard a rumor that you play by different rules," Merritt said. "I heard a rumor that you used teamwork."

Although unlike previous years, no hack was played on this year's festivities, the kick-off was marked by an unusual scene. Dressed in a blue vinyl dress and yellow wig, Joaquin S. Terrones '97 stood off to the side of the event and imitated the speakers with mocking gestures.

Residence and Orientation Week Committee Chair Sanjay K. Chugh '97, who emceed the event, was pleased with the kick-off. "Any negativity from [Thursday night] wasn't evident here," he said. He referred to the rowdiness that accompanied the beginning of this year's Thursday Night Dinners ["Overzealous Crowd Mars Frosh Dinners," Aug.

25]. Chugh also was enthusiastic about Conley's keynote address. The speech was both funny and well delivered, he said. "I hope the student speaker keeps going. I think it's a great innovation," he said.

Following the speeches, Walters signaled the official start of rush.



Catherine D. Conley '96 gives the keynote address yesterday afternoon at the Killian Kick-Off.

THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

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Conley Encourages Freshmen to Create Legends

Baker House President Catherine D. Conley '96 gave the following address at yesterday afternoon's Killian Kick-Off. Conley is the first student keynote speaker at the event, which launches rush.

Must be thinking you're pretty smart, right? Congratulations, you managed to get accepted and get yourself here. You've finally made it, you've survived two whole days so far! That's plenty. OK, you can go home now.

Excuse me? Did you say you want to stay? Well, all right, but don't say I didn't warn you. Did you all flip when President Vest told you that you were the Class of 1999? You just got done being the class of '95, anticipating that for forever, now another four years! You have the only chance to be the last graduating class of 19-anything. Your class with the 1.5 million cumulative SAT, your AP test scores. You've got those scores, those grades, and do you know what all that means now? Do you have any idea? Automatic A? Survey says: ehh! The #1 answer on the board is: nothing! Whether you were destined to attend or you squeaked in by your amazing charm and wit, you're just in. But look what you've won! A year's supply of Ramen noodles, the college student treat! A hitchhiker's guide to the hallways! And yes, a four year excursion in the exotic paradise of Boston, where you'll enjoy frivolous falls, windy winters, and scrumptious springs on the joy ride of your life as you enter...the college zone. Picture if you will, a courtyard, filled with young minds and fresh ideas, tossed amidst a time and place they've never encountered. The halls are vast, the challenge great, and each one will find a new self within the college zone.

Unbelievable as it may sound sitting here for the very first time, in four short years you'll walk out of this very courtyard with just the thing you came here for: one measly piece of paper — but it holds the words, "MIT Graduate." So how do you get from here to there? We all

I have three ideas for you as you head in. They're short, so whether you're set on winning the Nobel or the Lotto, hold on to these three. Here goes: No regrets. No excuses. Don't waste time.

take different points of view. You got your world view, peeking down on this little elbow of land from a plane and thinking it looks pretty much like land all right. You got your city view, from the top of the Prudential, where the Citgo sign is two inches away and the entire city stretches beyond that. You got your subway approach, where you mysteriously pop up in places that must somehow connect above ground too, but above ground implies scary drivers who have yet to learn the meaning of the turn signal. You got your MIT approach, where the great dome right here in front of us is the most imposing structure, yet somehow jars you to reality. You even have your within MIT approach, where you see your book, your bed, and your computer terminal, exclusively. Don't limit yourself to just one of these. Keep them all in mind. It's important to look around and see not only where you're going but also remember where you've been.

So, just where are you? You made it to Killian Court with the help of your handy dandy R/O Hitchhiker's Guide — guard that thing with your life, I'm a senior and I still carry it in my backpack. And just where did it lead you? I'd like you all to stand up now and take a look around. Specifically, direct

your attention over here to your right. This is the great dome of MIT. You've seen its image on application materials, maybe decorated with police cars, but guess what? You are now a little chunk of the pillar which suspends it. Pretty impressive, isn't it? Now sneak a peak at all the famous smart people engraved on the buildings around the courtyard. Each one of you has been accepted into this greatness.

Now turn around and look out

Right now you're excited, you're nervous, you sorta have to pee, you really want another ice cream sandwich but if you drip it on your shirt you'll be labeled Supreme Moron for Life.

toward the river. That's Boston stretching before you, one of the most exciting cities in the world. MIT has carved its own little niche that will shape your life as this city slowly becomes home. Right now that idea probably seems pretty foreign to you. To me, home was my old bedroom, this was just somewhere I was crashing for a few years. But these years determine the rest of your life, so get started. This is Cambridge, welcome home.

Direct your attention back up here. Right now you're excited, you're nervous, you sorta have to pee, you really want another ice cream sandwich but if you drip it on your shirt you'll be labeled Supreme Moron for Life. Look around you. You're looking at the people who will be your partners in crime for the next four years. In the short time you've been here you've already come in contact with a number of unique individuals, and you're sure to find many more.

OK, now jump up and down right where you are. Go ahead. Hey, hey, hey, what are you doing? This isn't Simon Says! You're not in high school anymore! It's no longer a matter of just following directions blindly. What if I'd said, "Go play kickball on Memorial Drive?" OK,

please have a seat. Really, I won't make you roll around on the ground. I'm just trying to show you that it's time to start thinking for yourself. Like you told mom and dad, let me go out and live my own life, right? Well, that's exactly what you HAVE to do.

Right now being here seems like you're at summer camp. The difference is that when you go to summer camp, you eventually go home and tell everyone there all about it, then settle back in to home life. Now at this camp, you aren't going home in a week, and these camp friends aren't just for a few days, we're talking integral parts of life for a few years. You'll go back this Thanksgiving and tell your home friends about MIT friends. Eventually you'll find yourself waiting to come back here after breaks to tell MIT friends about home. All in time.

Now you're probably taking this in one of two ways. a) You may be feeling a little shaky, thinking maybe that state school an hour away from home is looking pretty good right now. Or 2) you may be thinking that you're ready to live up to the greatness, the tradition, the life at MIT, and that you spotted a corner over there between Galileo and Kepler that your name could just fit into. Hate to break it to you,

but I know both of those feelings will go away eventually. Now you're thinking, "And just how do you know all this?" I guess I haven't really introduced myself. I'm Cathy Conley, proud to hail from Lansing, Michigan. That's right here, for those of you who didn't realize Michigan is shaped like a mitten, hello! Anyway, I'm now a senior, but three years ago I came from being valedictorian of my high school, having spent my summer

doing goodbye partying with my friends. I made it to Killian Court and found a bunch of other people who had been at the top of their class. So... they were each the smartest person where they came from, but I was the smartest person where I came from. What does that tell you? Well, um, I can count, and that means we can't all be the smartest people at MIT. Can you say competition, for many of us for the first time? But look at it in a different light. If I don't understand something, I have a whole bunch of really smart people around to help me! After all, what do you call a doctor who graduated last in his class? Doctor. So I began to realize that being number one is not what's important. I'm at MIT, and why did I come here? I wanted to know if I could hack it against the best and brightest in the world. So you may not know everything better than everyone else, but that doesn't matter. You will find your own strengths. MIT doesn't even have such a thing as class rank, because everyone here is top rate. Yes, we want to do well in classes, we strive to achieve high goals, we expect success, that's what makes us MIT students. What got you in was not just your SAT scores or your state championship math team. It was your drive and ambition that brought you here, and that will see you through.

I want you to shatter the myth, and create your own legend. Think about that. Every one of you has come here with some myth, some apprehensions about college and preconceived notions about MIT. You may have delusions of grandeur or delusions of a bunch of nerds. There's a distinction between just attending MIT and really being at MIT. It's the difference between history and legend. Your attendance is evidenced by facts like your major, your extracurriculars. Make that come to life! It's contributions you make to campus, your sense of style, whether you say pop or soda — that's what makes a legend. Blazing a trail doesn't mean doing everything differently or even doing everything. Rather, it's giving yourself the freedom to fail in order to find out what you're good at. This is your legend. You have an impression of MIT, but now, why not make an impression on MIT.

I know, I know, you're raring to set out on this journey. Sure, you all have the same dream as everyone, that college is the key to happiness. That's all well and good, but this key to happiness isn't something you get after standing in line and telling your name, rank, and serial number. You don't even know what doors you want to open.

We're going to start building this key, so we need to figure out first where it's taking us. Freshman year, time to check out all the different doorways. Peer in one, find out

who's in there, what they do and why they like it. It could be another student, an advisor or TA, a coach. Move around and talk to different kinds of people this year, find where you might fit best. That's the key-hole in the door you pick. You're going to need access to it, so start forging the key.

Sophomore year is when you start welding things together, basic classes, your real advisor, classmates with similar interests. Strengthen the foundation with bits of wisdom and a bit of relaxation too. Welding's the hard part, but it's really starting to be concrete now, take on some sort of recognizable form.

Now the art begins. Junior year is the time to carve specific grooves in your key. Get a close relationship with a professor or supervisor. Audition for a solo. Become editor of the Tech. Exploration is the path to education. Find what exactly it is you like about what you're doing, how to personalize it like those cheesy air brushed T-shirts at amusement parks. Not saying you have to be cheesy, but in the end, no one else's key will match yours exactly.

The final frontier: Senior year. You've tackled all the choices, made all your own cuts. Make sure it's solid enough to withstand time and weather, but flexible so it won't snap easily. This key is yours. It might even let it take you to somewhere new. The key is complete, ready to unlock all your dreams.

I have three ideas for you as you head in. They're short, so whether you're set on winning the Nobel or the Lotto, hold on to these three. Here goes: No regrets. No excuses. Don't waste time. Let me start backwards.

Don't waste time. You have four long years ahead of you, right? Well, I'm going into my fourth and I can't quite say where the others have gone! Make yourselves aware of every opportunity and don't miss out, whether it be an a capella singing group or a trip to New York City. Get done what needs to be done then go for what has to be done to make you a balanced person. Live every minute that you're here. That doesn't mean you can't be a bum on a Saturday afternoon, but pretty soon all the nice Saturdays are gone and you didn't go to Boston Common for a picnic. Make a list of things to see and do before the year is up and make time to do them! Moving on.

No excuses. You are at MIT. You made it. You're good enough, you're smart enough, and doggone it, there must be someone out there who likes you! Each one of you is blessed with extraordinary talents, have confidence in that. Yes, it's going to be tough. So what? To paraphrase Winston Churchill, "Never give up." Actually, that whole speech was, "Never, never, never, never give up." Pretty much says it, doesn't it? We are all capable of so much more than we imagine, just try.

Most importantly, no regrets. You only have one chance to be a

You're young, you're free, you're at MIT. You're ready, so shatter the myths, go out and start creating your own legend.

freshman, one chance to make important decisions and not-so-important decisions. Try that new sport. Audition for a musical. Run for student government. Whatever! I want you to come to me in four years and say, "Cath, you know, I think I really had a full experience.

If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't change a thing. Except maybe my ID picture, what, did I gain four chins that day?" If you can say that, you're going to be just fine in life. If you find yourself in a world of if-onlys — "If only I were smarter, if only I could type faster, if only I hadn't snarfed those burritos" — come on back to the world of consequences and move on. That's it. That simple. No regrets. No excuses. Don't waste time.

Take all this wildness in stride. Stephen Wright puts it all rather eloquently: "You know when your leaning back in a four legged chair so you're just resting on two legs and then you hit that point where you know you're gonna fall and you reel back but then somehow catch your balance and sit up right before it happens? I feel like that all the time." Well, welcome to MIT! The ability to laugh at yourself comes in pretty darn handy. Laugh first, beat everyone else to it. You will wonder if they let you in by mistake. But then you find out that pass/no record is more than just something to brag about to your friends at other schools. It's your chance to get your feet wet and realize that the range from here to here, whether it be A or C, it's a P, and it means you belong.

OK, going from MIT to real life is something I know nothing about. But, for the next four years, MIT IS real life. So, make it a life! Life is not just an experiment, it's an experience. It's listening to the "Ooga Shaka" song when you can't do your physics. It's buying a frappe — not a milkshake, mind you, in Boston they like harsh words like frappe — when you do. It's watching people juggle in Kresge Oval on Sunday afternoons. It's going to Fenway to cheer for your home team while everyone else cheers for the Red Sox. You get roommates and find out that toothpaste brands can become a knock down, drag out fight. It's deciding who gets to put the message on the answering machine, and if it's going to be generic or stupid funny. You and three thousand other people decide to "try crew" and feel pain in muscles you never knew you had. You e-mail friends from home because it's so cool and quick, keeping up on their lives as you make a brand new one for yourself.

Realize that you come here with a clean slate. You have nothing to lose and everything to prove. "There is a time to let things happen, and a time to make things happen." Well, make it happen. You have this week to make a brave, crashing start. I challenge you to meet as many people as you possibly can. They may turn out to be roommates, classmates, someone who gives you an extra dime for the bus to Harvard Square. In fact, meet three new people before you leave this court. You feel like an idiot at first, "Hi, what's yer name, uh huh." Go with that! If you're gonna look like an idiot, do it well. Expand those horizons, not too tough with people here from all over the world. My roommate's

from Australia and the guy downstairs is from South Dakota. How's that for diversity? Remember: No regrets, no excuses, don't waste time. You're young, you're free, you're at MIT. You're ready, so shatter the myths, go out and start creating your own legend.

President Vest Welcomes Class of 1999

MIT President Charles M. Vest gave the following address at the President's Convocation, 2 p.m. Thursday in Kresge Auditorium.

Good afternoon. I am Chuck Vest, President of MIT. And you are the MIT Class of 1999!

Now, I know what you are thinking. It is a thought that is harbored at one time or another by virtually every MIT student. Let me assure you that it is not true: you were not admitted by mistake. You are not here as the result of a computer glitch, or the report of an incompetent educational counselor. You are not here because we needed more architecture majors or people from Kansas or because someone misread your SAT scores.

You are a member of the freshman class at MIT because we believe — we know — that you have the intellectual capacity, the energy, the imagination and the personal will to succeed here. And we are confident that you will bring to us as much as we have to offer you.

Let me tell you the first thing that strikes me as I stand here. It may surprise you, but I envy you. Just think: you are about to set forth on an extraordinary adventure, and you will be entering the new millennium prepared with all the tools of an MIT education. This is a great privilege. And it is a great privilege for us to have you as members of the MIT community.

Ours is a unique group of men and women who are devoted to learning — learning in its many forms. This means learning by formal study and teaching, learning by disciplined research, learning by doing and by working on real problems, and above all, learning from each other.

Your experiences as MIT students will play very important roles in defining your lives. This remarkable institution will be a gateway and a guide to your future in very profound ways. During your years here, we hope that you will dream great and worthy dreams, and that you will obtain many of the skills and insights needed to achieve them.

For our part, we hope to strengthen your commitment to the world of the mind. We intend to teach you to connect the theoretical and analytical to the practical and the real. We hope to intensify your appreciation of knowledge of the past and your dedication to the future. Above all, we want you to understand in the deepest way possible that the world is not something that happens to you — it is something you can shape and contribute to mightily.

What should you expect about studying and learning at MIT? First off, MIT is a place that values hard and effective work. I should be very honest about this. We expect you to

study and work hard. On the other hand, we avoid the trivial in what we ask you to think about and do. We also know that most of you will realize the joy of accomplishment and the rewards of deep learning.

What MIT is not about is "credentialing." It is about learning — learning to understand and apply fundamental principles, acquiring skills and "know-how," and being exposed to many of the finest minds anywhere — and this includes your fellow students as well as the faculty. It is also about having the opportunity to consider the context, meaning and potentials of science, technology and their applications.

Of course, your MIT degree will be highly respected throughout the world. It is a valuable credential. But the reason it is valued is that everyone knows that the students who come to MIT are among the best and the brightest, and that they have succeeded in a rigorous, up-to-the-minute education.

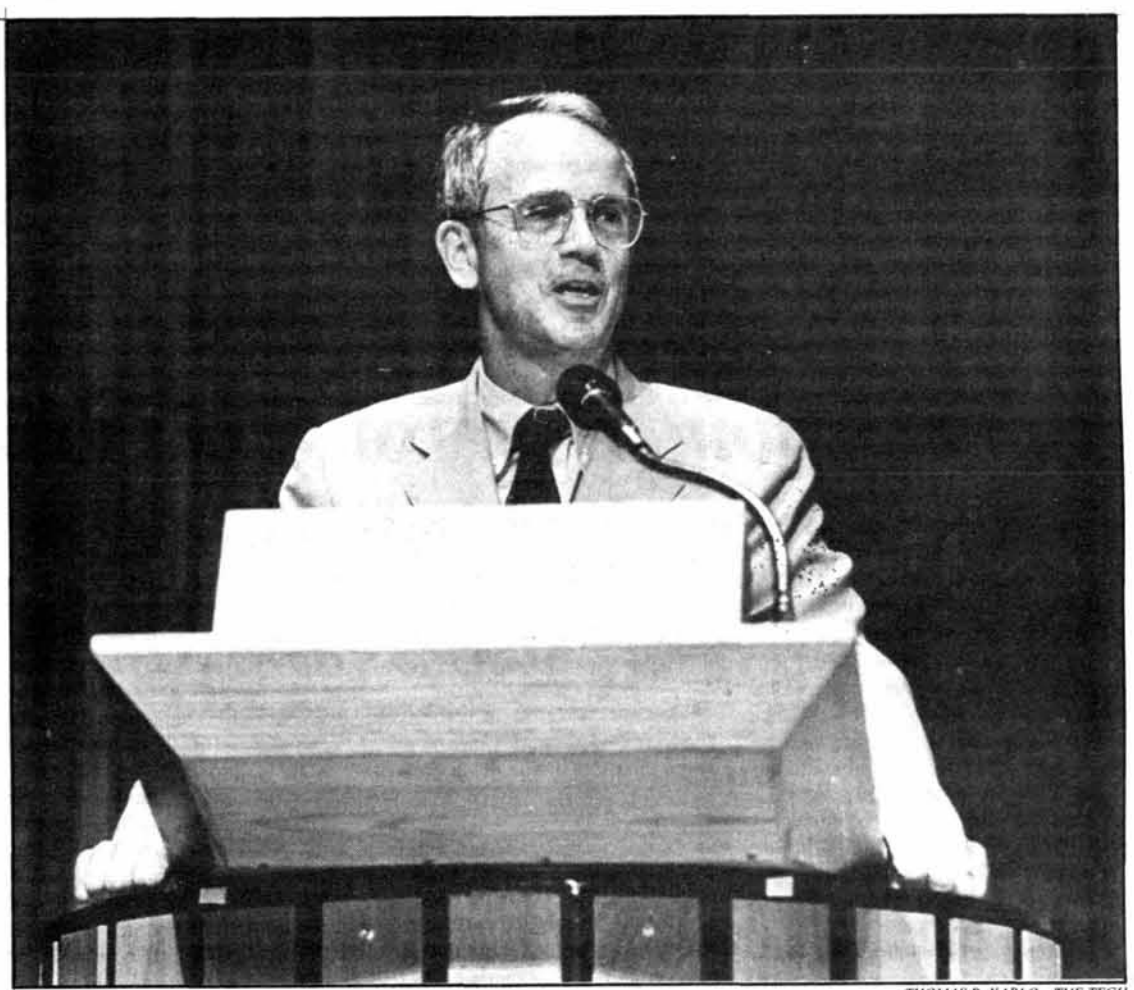
Educational rigor characterizes the MIT experience — whether you major in engineering, science, the humanities or social sciences, architecture or management. MIT thinks about and works on "big" subjects — major issues facing humankind. Faculty and students study and work on fundamental scientific and technological problems, to be sure, but they do so right along with work on the challenges presented by the environment, manufacturing, macroeconomics, energy, defense, transportation, biotechnology, global networking and telecommunications, and the like.

Through both formal classroom study, and through programs like UROP, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, we hope that you will devote some time to such matters, regardless of whether you aspire to be a cutting-edge bench scientist, or a corporate or political leader.

This brings me to another point about learning at MIT. You may be thinking that these next four years will prepare you for the real world. Well, it's time to get yourself out of the "preparation" mind-set. Real life begins today. Right here at MIT.

Don't think of yourself as a container to be filled with information and skills by faculty lectures. MIT is an active place. And learning at MIT is active. You are about to enter into a collaborative partnership in learning — learning for innovation and learning for leadership. Leadership and teamwork are closely interdependent: They feed on each other.

Your partners are other students. Teaching others (and being taught by them) is one of the keys to learning. Indeed, something that is very much on our minds these days is the perceived tension between individual achievement and group accomplish-



President Charles M. Vest addresses the Class of 1999 in Kresge Auditorium Thursday afternoon.

ment. Academia has traditionally valued individual excellence, and we certainly still do. As you might imagine, students at MIT tend to be very competitive with each other. In most circumstances this is healthy, but modern organizations, whether in business, government or academia, deal with problems that are very complex. So group work — team work — is increasingly important.

You will have many opportunities, both formal and informal, to gain the ability to communicate effectively, and to work together to integrate the efforts of many to achieve a goal. Take advantage of them, and recognize their value to you.

Your partners are also the hundreds of individuals who make up MIT's faculty and senior research staff. Make contact with them, and keep up those contacts over your years here. Don't assume they are too preoccupied with their loftier godlike enterprises to be bothered with the likes of you. You are a central part of their mission here. You will meet them in class, of course. And the UROP program that I mentioned earlier is another way for you to work with faculty, as part of their research teams. Most students do this at one time or another, although usually not as first term freshmen.

You do have an opportunity this fall, however, to form a lasting

partnership with at least one faculty member. And that is in the Freshman Advisor Seminars, which well over 90 percent of you have opted to join. Ask your friends at other universities and colleges how many of them get to gather for a couple of hours every week in a close circle with a half-dozen other freshmen and a world-renowned faculty mentor, and spend that time talking about ideas, trying out hands-on learning, and exchanging insights about life issues. Your freshman advisor seminar is a unique opportunity to do just that. I hope you will take advantage of it from the outset.

Now let me tell you a little secret about the professors at MIT. You may wonder how we maintain a faculty of such world-class distinction. Is it because MIT always pays them more than other universities? No. Is it because our laboratories and facilities are superior to others? Often this is the case; sometimes, frankly, it is not. Is it because housing costs are so low in the Boston area? I don't think so.

The fact is that if you ask MIT professors why they are at MIT, nine times out of ten they will say emphatically "Because of the students!" That is, because MIT students are bright, interesting, creative, challenging and fun to work with. There is a unique quality and culture among MIT students, and it is unmatched anywhere else. We are, indeed, privileged to have you here.

I should also warn you that there will be times when you will be certain that we have forgotten that we are privileged to have you here. There will be times when your self-confidence will wane. Believe me, this happens to all of us. But you will overcome these feelings. You have what it takes, and you will succeed wonderfully.

Now this brings me back to you — MIT's Class of 1999. Look about you. Your class is not simply one whose talents, abilities and aspirations stack up against any group of first-year students in the world. Your class is also one of the most diverse in America:

- You come from every state and from scores of other countries.
- This year, for the first time, over 40 percent of you are women, and it's about time!
- You come from an extraordinary array of ethnic, racial, economic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

What you have in common are brains, determination, a belief in the importance of education, and now, a distinguished Cambridge address — 77 Massachusetts Avenue.

As you get to know each other, you will quickly sense the wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives you bring to MIT. This can be one of the strongest elements of your education here. Learn from each other. Learn together. Be proud of who and what you are, but be prouder still of what we can become together. Diversity is most valuable when we weave its various threads together to achieve a coherent whole.

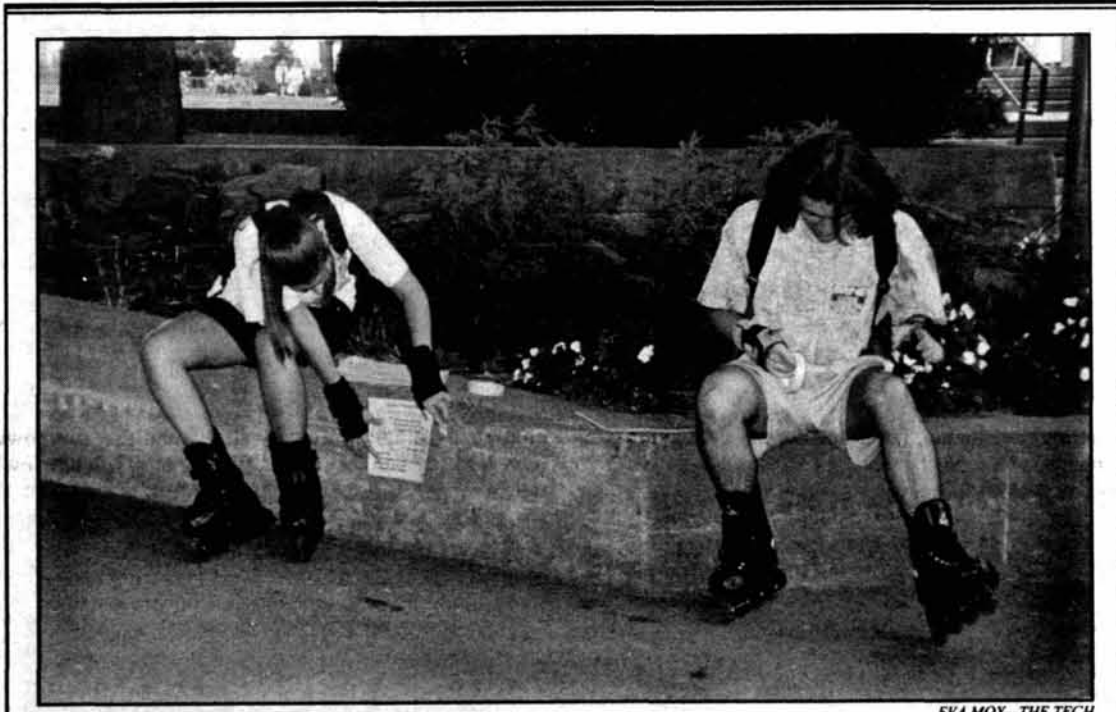
You have a remarkable opportunity to get to know — and learn with — others whose experience and outlook are very different from your own. If you seize this opportunity, you will be in a much stronger position to help build the national and world communities of the next century.

In closing, I should tell you that I think this convocation is the most energizing event of the academic year. To have this entire class assembled in one place at one time, filled with that wonderful mixture of enthusiasm and apprehension, and having four defining years immediately ahead of you, is just spectacular.

You join an astounding procession of previous MIT freshmen. They include: Richard Feynman, who revolutionized 20th Century physics; Shirley Jackson, head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; I. M. Pei, one of the world's best recognized architects; Ken Olsen, founder of Digital Equipment Corporation; Katharine Dexter McCormick, pioneer of modern contraception and of women's right to vote; John Reed, Chairman of Citicorp; and many others whose names you may or may not recognize, but who have made immense contributions to society.

This is an extraordinary moment. But there will be one more moment that you will find even more exhilarating, and that is when we gather together as an entire class in Killian Court — the great court of MIT — for your Commencement in June, 1999. I look forward to seeing you there!

Now before I introduce the next speaker, I have one question for you: How many of you saw our recruiting video? Remember the skier taking the headlong plunge off the snowy cliff? Well, now it's your turn.



EVA MOY—THE TECH

Rush brings some of the most prolific self-promotion and advertising of the year. These two students made the task of postering around campus a bit less tedious yesterday by doing it on wheels.

Fraternities, Sororities Penalized for Violations

Rush, from Page 1

last year ["SAE Takes Prefrosh by Mistake," April 21]. No charges were brought against the fraternity for that incident.

Others, though, have been downright "disgraceful," as then-SAE Rush Chair David M. Sukoff '95 said of Lambda Chi Alpha last year. SAE filed five bad-mouthing charges against LCA last year, which costed LCA \$2,500 in fines.

As a result of what Sukoff called "numerous and blatant" violations, LCA was in fact put on probation for this year's rush, and will have to have a Judcomm investigator present at their house at all times, said then-IFC Judcomm Chair Daniel P. Dunn '94 in an interview last year.

And such harsh punishment was not unique. Alpha Epsilon Pi paid \$1,500 in fines, the second highest total of any ILG, and was placed

under sanctions for improper message-taking and failing to produce freshmen to speak with members of other fraternities within the IFC-allowed time of 15 minutes.

As a result, AEPi will be required to maintain a sign-in sheet at its front door this year, and will be forbidden from having any in-house entertainment, Dunn said.

Sororities violated rules, too

For the first time, sororities, like

fraternities, were also the target of investigations for violating rush IFC rules, Dunn said last year.

"Sororities operate by such totally different rush rules they often forget that they are a part of IFC and have to follow IFC rush rules," he said.

Only one sorority, Sigma Kappa, was put on probation last year for interacting with freshman females at a fraternity party, said then-Panhellenic Association President A.

Rebecca Mallin '95.

Alpha Phi was fined \$250 for Clearinghouse and overnight violations, Dunn said. Sigma Kappa was fined \$150 for Clearinghouse violations, he said.

Overall, the IFC was very diligent in its investigation of ILGs last year, and penalties were effective, Miliotes said. For this reason, despite past violations, he expects "pretty clean" rush this year, he said.

Counterpoint Wary of Vandalism After Earlier Incident This Year

Counterpoint, from Page 1

an ILG" was responsible, Huang said. Some ILGs "may take offense at the issue simply because rush is such an intense time," he said.

Many of the descriptions included information about the respective drinking practices of ILGs and two or three fraternities told *Counterpoint* staff members that they were upset at the way in which they were portrayed, Huang said.

Huang believes *Counterpoint* in particular may have been targeted specifically because no issues of either *The Thistle*, which included

several negative articles about rush, or *The Tech*, which also came out Thursday, were vandalized.

Magazine was wary of vandalism

Extra copies of *Counterpoint* were printed because of concern that some issues might be destroyed, Huang said.

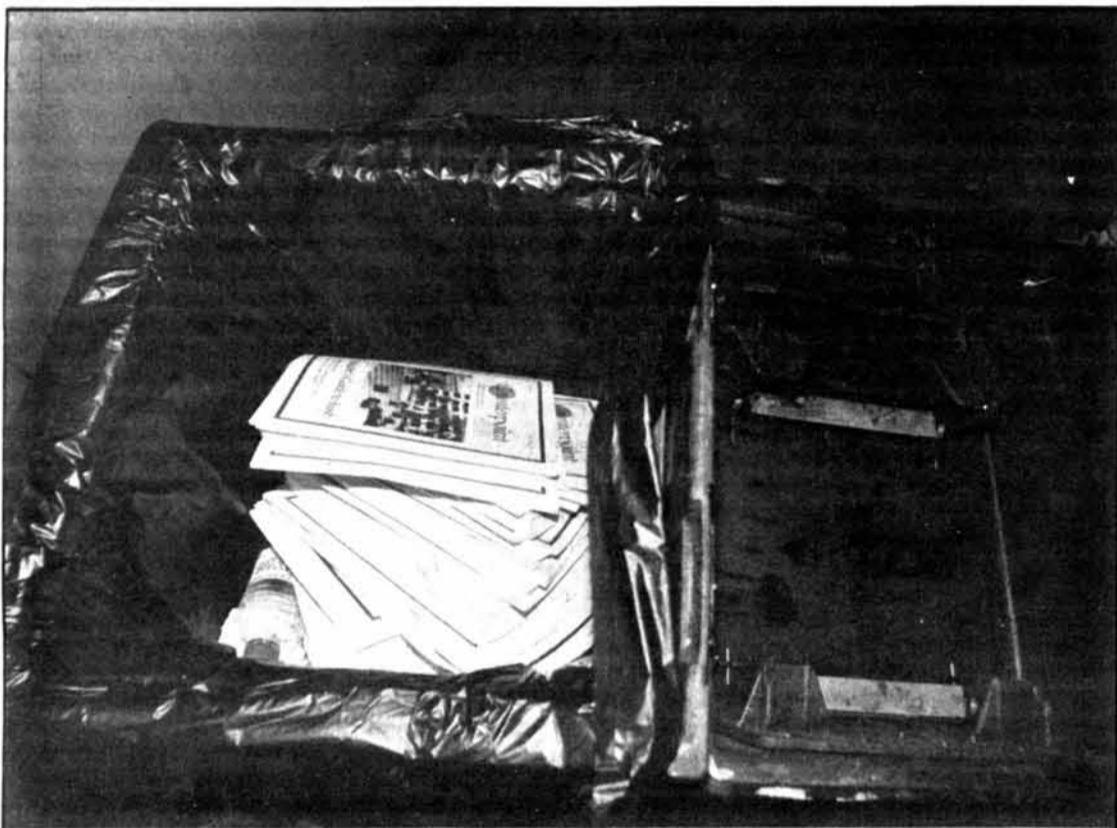
"I don't think we said anything negative about any fraternity or ILG," Huang said, but "we were concerned because tensions are high" during rush.

In response to Thursday's vandalism, *Counterpoint* has posted signs around campus publicizing the

incident.

Counterpoint plans to go ahead with distribution at Wellesley College during Labor Day weekend when Wellesley students return to campus and freshmen arrive, Huang said.

Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin said that the incident has not yet been classified as vandalism because according to the police report, the issues are only missing, not destroyed. "I don't know where [the issues] went. There could have been a run on them," she said. "But it certainly appears as a problem," she added.



THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

The vandalism of *Counterpoint* issues late Thursday night included the trashing of these copies, which had been placed in Lobby 7 for distribution.

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Aug. 9 and Aug. 24:

Aug. 9: Bldg. E23, MIT chair stolen, \$235; Bldg. 3, \$40 stolen; Bldg. E15, keys stolen; Senior House, attempted larceny of a TV.

Aug. 10: Bldg. NW22, suspicious package, same later discovered to contain T-shirts and a coffee mug; Bldg. E39, bicycle stolen, \$88; Bexley, 1) TV/VCR and other items stolen, \$640, 2) \$200 cash stolen; Tang Hall, suspicious activity.

Aug. 11: Bldg. E15, malicious damage; Bldg. 26, bicycle stolen, \$300.

Aug. 12: Rockwell Cage, several wallets left in a gym bag stolen, \$190; Number 6 Club, wallet stolen, \$18.

Aug. 14: Bldg. E18, malicious damage; Kresge lot, number plate stolen.

Aug. 15: Bexley Hall, \$60 cash stolen; Bldg. 20, radio stolen, \$50; Bldg. 37, computer memory and other parts stolen, \$30,298; Bldg. 8, two wheelers stolen, \$80; Bldg. 68, wallet stolen, \$20.

Aug. 16: Burton-Conner House, bicycle stolen from rack, \$265; Bexley, bicycle tire stolen, \$100; Student Center Game room, backpack stolen, \$50.

Aug. 17: Bldg. N10, suspicious persons; Bldg. 68, harassing phone calls.

Aug. 18: Ashdown House, 1) bicycle tire stolen, \$80; 2) attempted larceny of a bicycle; Bldg. E52, suspicious activity; Bldg. E10, tire slashed; DuPont Gymnasium, locker broken into and \$80 stolen; Bexley, \$250 bicycle stolen.

Aug. 19: Baker House, Omri Barboza, of 9 Mullins Court, Cambridge, arrested for larceny from a building and trespassing.

Aug. 20: Bexley, jewelry stolen, value unknown; Alpha Tau Omega, computer stolen, \$1,500; Albany Lot, computer mouse stolen from swapfest, \$70; Bldg. 54, computer part stolen, \$200; Senior House, harassing phone calls.

Aug. 21: Bldg. E52 plaza, bicycle stolen, value unknown; Bldg. E19, recycling containers stolen; Bldg. E38, suspicious person; Bldg. NE43, laptop stolen, \$3,000.

Aug. 22: 355 Massachusetts Ave., Carlos Cruz (homeless) arrested for breaking and entering; Bldg. 37, annoying mail; Bldg. 7, computer memory stolen, \$400; Bldg. E19, suspicious activity; Bldg. 4, harassment; Wadsworth Street, attempted larceny of a bicycle; Bldg. E53, TV stolen, \$200.

Aug. 23: CRA Lot, parking permit stolen; Bldg. W32, laptop stolen \$2,595; Next House, bicycle stolen, \$500; Johnson Athletic Center, \$300 bicycle stolen from rack; Bldg. E53, computer equipment stolen, \$600.

Aug. 24: Westgate, Walker Memorial and Student Center, three bicycles stolen, \$850; New House, wallet stolen, \$100; 233 Massachusetts Ave., \$200 cash stolen; East Garage, '83 Pontiac stolen.



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mit medical

Continued from back page

4:00p: WILG. Learn Filipino Dance from Geveevie and Emily. Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride...

6:18p: AETI. COMEDY - Later Tonight! Call 247-3170 for details.

Thrill to readings of Thoreau, Emerson, Goethe, and Seuss. Call 576-POET (576-2792) and we'll pick you up right away.

9:06p: Number Six Club. Club Six: Dance the night away at an infamous No 6 party with the latest dance/club music and energizing refreshments.

11:00p: Russian House. What an awesome party. If you aren't here, you are really missing out. But you still have time to head over so get going!

