

Frosh Get at Least Fifth Choice Dorm

Women find shortage of single-sex rooms

By Daniel C. Stevenson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

No freshman who participated in this year's Athena-based housing lottery received lower than his or her fifth choice dormitory when the results were announced yesterday afternoon.

However, because female enrollment has grown while women-only housing remains constant, most of the freshmen unhappy with their assignments are women, said Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Margaret A. Jablonski.

Ninety percent of freshmen received one of their top three choices; the remaining students received their fourth or fifth choice dormitory. Last year, some freshmen who ranked Senior House and East Campus as low as seventh place were assigned those dormitories.

"I'm very, very happy with how it went," said RCA Staff Associate Phillip M. Bernard, who managed the lottery. An effort was made to better distribute the housing assignments so fewer students were assigned low-ranked choices, he said.

According to RCA figures, 759 students received their assignments via the lottery. Fewer than 10 students were specifically assigned housing for medical or religious reasons, Bernard said.

Those students unhappy with

their assignment should go to the RCA office and speak with Bernard or Associate Dean Andrew M. Eisenmann '75, Bernard said.

Students can fill out a house-to-house change request form, Bernard said.

Mostly women unhappy

Fifty-nine percent, or 448, of those assigned housing were women, compared with 53 percent, or 401, last year. Women make up 42 percent of the freshman class, the highest number ever.

Most of the women unhappy with their assignments had requested McCormick Hall or MacGregor House, "thinking they would get all single-sex in McCormick or a single in MacGregor," Jablonski said. All 62 freshmen assigned McCormick ranked it first, and 68 out of 71 freshmen assigned to MacGregor ranked it first.

"We're about at the point where we really have to take a look at how the Institute has increased the number of women in its population but really hasn't changed the number of single-sex housing spaces available," Jablonski said.

To address current concerns, the RCA office will "work with the room assignment chairs in the houses and with the housemasters to try

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Shiu-Chung Au '97 talks with Christopher K. Merrill '96 and Edgar R. Gonzalez '99, all from Tau Epsilon Phi, as they recover following a collision involving the TEP van and a station wagon at the intersection of Amherst Street and Massachusetts Avenue. A Campus Police officer directs traffic.

Fraternity Van in Collision

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

A Ford minivan carrying two members of Tau Epsilon Phi collided with a Chrysler station wagon at the intersection of Amherst Street and Massachusetts Avenue yesterday at 2:15 p.m.

Christopher K. Merrill '96 was driving TEP pledge Edgar R. Gonzalez '99 to New House to pick up his belongings, said Shiu-Chung Au '97, a TEP brother who was dropped off before the accident.

The minivan switched lanes and cut across the intersection to make a left turn onto Amherst Avenue when the station wagon collided with it, said Cambridge Police Officer David Gittens.

The right side of the minivan absorbed the impact. Two passenger-side windows were completely shattered. The station wagon's hood was crushed.

Gonzalez was sitting in the left seat directly behind the driver's seat. Neither Merrill nor Gonzalez were sent to the hospital, although Merrill was visibly shaken.

The driver of the station wagon suffered a knee and slight head injury and was sent to Cambridge City Hospital, Gittens said.

Campus Police units were the first to arrive at the scene, said CP Lieutenant David Carlson. Although CP officers assisted with traffic, the accident was handled primarily by the Cambridge Police, he said.

IFC Rush on Par with Previous Years; Many ILGs Meet Targets

By Stacey E. Blau
NEWS EDITOR

The number of freshmen pledging independent living groups is about on target with previous years, said Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean and adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

Many ILGs are pleased with how rush has gone so far, and have met or exceeded their pledge targets.

Rush "went perfectly" this year, said Beta Theta Pi Rush Chair Peter E. Berger '97. "We give out as many bids as cool guys we meet, and we met some really good guys this year," he said.

"Rush went incredibly well for us," said Kappa Sigma Rush Chair Marc G. Glick '97. Kappa Sigma reached their target number for accepted bids and closed rush on Tuesday, Glick said.

"We've had an exceptionally good rush," said Epsilon Theta Rush Chair Rachel E. Molenaar '96. "We had a lot more people come to the house during the first two days of rush," which was probably responsible for making this year's rush successful, she said.

"Rush went very well this year," Delta Upsilon Rush Chair Brian P. Bilello '97 said. DU met their target of 14 and closed rush on Monday night, Bilello said.

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Independent Living Group	Bids Accepted	Bids Extended	Target
Alpha Delta Phi	14	17	14
Alpha Epsilon Pi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alpha Tau Omega	14	N/A	N/A
Beta Theta Pi	10	17	10-12
Chi Phi	9	21	12
Delta Kappa Epsilon	5	17	11
Delta Psi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delta Tau Delta	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delta Upsilon	14	17	12
Epsilon Theta	8	22	8
Fenway House	4	N/A	N/A
Kappa Sigma	18	N/A	18
Lambda Chi Alpha	9	13	10-12
Nu Delta	7	12	8-10
Phi Beta Epsilon	15	20	13-15
Phi Delta Theta	13	N/A	10-15
Phi Gamma Delta	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phi Kappa Sigma	12	N/A	10-13
Phi Kappa Theta	9	17	10-12
Phi Sigma Kappa	13	19	13
pika	6	8	6
Pi Lambda Phi	15	18	N/A
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	17	19	N/A
Sigma Chi	11	12	11
Sigma Nu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sigma Phi Epsilon	17	30	20
Student House	6	21	11
Tau Epsilon Phi	11	13	10
Theta Chi	6	7-8	10-12
Theta Delta Chi	8	N/A	14
Theta Xi	7	18-19	12
Women's Independent Living Group	11	N/A	N/A
Zeta Beta Tau	13	19	N/A
Zeta Psi	13	N/A	15

Source: fraternity and ILG rush chairs or other members. Not final until end of rush 5 p.m. Friday.

Nawrocki to Explain Women at Kresge Talk

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

Norman Nawrocki will perform his one-man show, "I Don't Understand Women," at Kresge Auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today.

The performance is sponsored by the Interfraternity Council as a Residence and Orientation Week event for its members. However, the event is open to the entire MIT community.

Nawrocki has presented his show at almost every major university and college campus in Canada.

"I Don't Understand Women" is a show, not a "static presentation," Nawrocki said. "It's a bit of everything," he said. He will play 14 characters in 25 sketches, along with costumes and a soundtrack, he said.

The show is advertised to reach men ranging from wimps to womanizers. "Most guys have to deal with the situation of being men," Nawrocki said. "The subjects are pretty universal."

Women will also be entertained, Nawrocki said. "I can't guarantee what women will learn, but I can guarantee they will be pleasantly surprised," he said.

"Everybody gets something different from the show, depending on where they're coming from," Nawrocki said.

After viewing video clips of Nawrocki, IFC students became interested in the show, said Neal H.

Dorow, adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

Since dormitories would be having in-house rush, "it left the independent living groups with a void," Dorow said. The "IFC thought it would be worthwhile to run their own activity," he said.

The IFC is "really encouraging independent living groups to bring their pledge classes to the program," Dorow said.

Although sorority pledges will be in dormitory rush, "I think women will be entertained equally as they see the type of dynamics between men and women," Dorow said.

Nawrocki's show is the first in a series of IFC programs concentrating on topics including sexism, diversity, and alcohol, Dorow said.

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WORLD & NATION

Leg Found in Oklahoma Blast Belonged to a Woman

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Casting doubts on defense theories that a severed leg found in the Oklahoma City federal building rubble belonged to the "real bomber," authorities said Wednesday the limb was that of an unidentified black woman.

The conclusion, announced by state medical examiner Fred Jordan in Oklahoma City, boosted the official death toll from the April 19 bombing to 169.

Defense lawyers for accused bomber Timothy J. McVeigh had speculated that the leg belonged to the "real bomber," despite the substantial circumstantial evidence that appears to link McVeigh to the explosion. But no black women have been tied to the crime or linked to McVeigh or his co-defendant, Terry L. Nichols.

The laboratory conclusions will intensify the hunt for a person missing in the blast. For weeks, FBI and other federal agents have been scouring homeless shelters, kitchens and food stamp outlets in the Oklahoma City area for any word of missing individuals, but a source said Wednesday he knew of no promising leads.

Jordan said the leg was identified as belonging to a black female after a series of three special DNA and hair fiber tests were completed by FBI analysts. The finding sharply differed from an earlier statement by Jordan's office that there was a 75 percent probability that the limb belonged to a white male.

"No one can have confidence now in any of the forensic work in this case," Jones said. "Today a white male became a black female. No wonder DNA testing is being discredited."

Administration Rejects Proposal To Relax Border Inspections

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Clinton administration officials have rejected two vice presidential task force recommendations that would reduce customs inspections at international airports and create an "open border" with Canada in an effort aimed at eliminating delays at customs checkpoints.

U.S. Customs Commissioner George Weise said the federal government has considered many ideas intended to improve entry and exit procedures at international portals, but relaxing border inspections is one of the bad ideas offered by the National Performance Review, a task force on reinventing government headed by Vice President Al Gore.

"That's just not reasonable," Weise said. "It's not doable at any time in the foreseeable future. It's kind of pie in the sky and it's not being considered seriously."

Federal officials Wednesday unveiled details of the task force's accepted proposals affecting customs and immigration policies. Miami International Airport, which has been designated as a federal "reinvention lab," will test the new law enforcement practices aimed at speeding travelers through the nation's busy international airports.

Among the rejected ideas was one to abolish checkpoints on the Canadian border, permitting passage between the two countries with little or no checking. Weise said that suggestion was never taken seriously by his office, which must approve any such recommendation before it can be implemented.

Perot Urges Medicare Reform

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Ross Perot encouraged the Republican-led Congress on Wednesday to proceed with plans to place a tight lid on future Medicare spending but said that any radical changes in the delivery of medical services should be tested on a small scale before being adopted nationwide.

The billionaire businessman and former presidential candidate, who accumulated much of his fortune by providing computer processing of Medicare claims, said changes must be made so the program's 37 million beneficiaries themselves play a more active role in controlling costs. Under the current system, "they have no incentive to look at the bill," Perot told members of the Senate Finance Committee.

At the hearing, he backed in principle the Republican concept of placing a strictly enforced ceiling on future Medicare spending. But he stopped far short of embracing some of the specific changes that many experts believe will be needed to implement the GOP plan to reduce the growth of outlays by \$270 billion over seven years.

WEATHER Rained Out

By Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Temperatures are set to rise somewhat as the warm sector of a low now centered in southern Canada passes over Boston on Thursday. There is however a downside: beginning early morning with the passage of the warm front, clouds will build up from the west during the day. The concomitant cold front looks to be strong and that means ahead of it there is a good chance of rain or even a thunderstorm from Thursday evening on into Friday morning. Tightening pressure gradients will bring strong southwesterly winds of up to 20 mph (32 kph) during the day. In the outlook, things are shaping up to be rather pleasant — a large high pressure ridge will develop over the eastern US giving clear skies for the start of the labor day weekend.

Today: Winds strengthening and turning southerly. Scattered clouds early morning changing to overcast by evening. High 84°F (29°C).

Tonight: Good chance of rain and possibly a thunderstorm. High humidity. Low 64°F (18°C).

NATO Airstrikes on Serbs Rally Fragmented Alliance

By Tyler Marshall

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Whatever success the first Western military air and artillery attacks in Bosnia-Herzegovina may have in moving the stubborn war there toward the negotiating table, they had an immediate political impact in Europe, restoring the unity and credibility of the Atlantic Alliance after months of serious internal strains over the Balkans crisis.

Among the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 16 member nations, backing for the attacks was strong, especially among key countries that have differed openly and sometimes sharply over tactics.

"A proper step," British Prime Minister John Major declared, echoing similar comments from other European capitals and from President Clinton.

Tensions within NATO have been driven largely by U.S. frustration over the inability of its European allies to resolve the first major post-Cold War conflict in their own back yard. Europeans have been equally dismayed by what they see as the Clinton administration's lack of leadership and its dizzying policy zig-zags.

Congressional calls for a unilateral U.S. lifting of the arms embargo imposed by the United Nations against Bosnia — a move Europeans believe would dramatically diminish chances for peace — added to trans-Atlantic differences over the Balkans.

The large-scale, sustained air

strikes also will help restore NATO's rather tarnished image as a potent military force.

"Morale is very, very high," an alliance official said during an interview at NATO headquarters. "The feeling is that we were asked to do something in Bosnia a year and a half ago and we're finally starting to do it."

In February 1994, after 68 people died in an artillery attack on a Sarajevo marketplace, NATO first agreed to help protect and enforce a 12-mile zone around the city in which heavy weapons, such as artillery, would be banned. But for months the United Nations refused to permit the use of NATO's military might to enforce the zone.

On a purely political level, the action Wednesday appeared certain to lift the morale and confidence of Western leaders and their electorates, whose feelings of humiliation and impotence in the face of Bosnia's agony had grown even greater as they watched television reports of the mortar attack that killed 37 people in Sarajevo Monday.

To Europeans, NATO's action provided a catharsis in reasserting Europe's authority and power and demonstrating its willingness to exercise them.

For many, the attack also contained an unspoken message of hope: maybe, just maybe, this use of force might bring the war closer to resolution.

The attacks showed that NATO and the United Nations despite months of frustration, even tension

between them, over their differing approaches to the Bosnian problem could work effectively together.

NATO's initial air sorties against Bosnian Serb targets around Sarajevo early Wednesday were immediately followed by artillery and mortar barrages from French and British troops under U.N. command. Whether meant as a political signal or not, there was a firm and direct message for the Bosnian Serbs: the international community was united and reacting with force.

NATO officials see the attacks as a direct result from the agreement less than three weeks ago to establish a new joint command. That structure skirts civilian involvement, removing U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi from the loop and placing the decisions for military action in the hands of the U.N.'s senior commander in the former-Yugoslavia, French Gen. Bernard Janvier, and the chief of NATO's Southern Command, U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith.

"I intend to continue close cooperation with Janvier," Smith told the Cable News Network after the fourth wave of strikes.

Other developments weakened the U.N. resistance to using force. The U.N. peacekeeping missions in Croatia and in the declared "safe areas" of Bosnia had collapsed. The United Nations also had gradually withdrawn peacekeepers from areas where they could be taken hostage by Bosnian Serbs in reprisal for NATO attacks.

Japanese Bank Collapses For First Time Since WWII

By David Holley

LOS ANGELES TIMES

TOKYO

Panicky depositors Wednesday helped trigger the first collapse of a Japanese commercial bank since shortly after World War II, part of a financial double whammy that appeared to bring the nation's festering banking crisis to a head.

The government closed the country's second largest credit union and announced it would dissolve the bank, and then declared that the worst is over because no other financial institutions are both as large and as weak as the two liquidated Wednesday.

Authorities also moved quickly to contain the damage, pledging that depositors at both failed institutions will get their money back and that the government will use taxpayer money if needed to ensure the overall system's stability.

"Fear will not spread," insisted Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita.

But the news sent shivers through international financial markets and prompted both foreign and domestic investors to sell yen. That sent the dollar to as high as 99.25 yen, a 6½-month high, virtually wiping out its worrisome losses for the year.

Now the continuing banking crisis and generally fragile economic outlook in Japan mean the dollar can reach 110 yen by the end of the year, said Hillel Waxman, manager of foreign exchange at Bank Leumi Trust Co. in New York.

However, analysts were encouraged by Japan's unusual decision to dissolve a weak bank, saying it could assure Japanese savers that future bank insolvencies can be han-

dled smoothly.

"This sets a good precedent," said Betsy Daniels, a Tokyo-based banking industry analyst with Morgan Stanley. "The Ministry of Finance is starting to take action, and that's very positive. I definitely think there's going to be more of this, but it's good that it's being dealt with."

Sei Nakai, deputy director of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau, said that while there may still be more failures among small institutions, there are no other large credit unions or regional banks in as weak a condition as Kizu Credit Union and Hyogo Bank.

"The major problems" in this category, he said, "are all solved."

The decision to eliminate the two institutions but guarantee their depositors' funds — even in excess of the amount legally covered by deposit insurance — means that "the settlement of our big problem involving individual financial institutions is in sight," Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference. "With this, the worst is behind us."

Authorities decided to liquidate Hyogo, a major regional bank located in the western city of Kobe, after depositors started a run Wednesday on Kizu Credit Union, located in nearby Osaka. Both institutions were known to be weak, and officials decided Kizu's troubles would undermine Hyogo.

The devastating earthquake that hit Kobe early this year drove many of Hyogo Bank's borrowers into bankruptcy and also pushed down local land values, worsening the bank's bad-loan problem.

Hyogo Bank will continue functioning normally until its operations

are transferred to a new bank sometime next year, but stockholders will lose their investment, authorities said. Kizu Credit Union will immediately cease business except for customers' withdrawal of deposits.

Finance Ministry officials have acknowledged that the Japanese banking system is burdened with at least \$500 billion in non-performing loans, many of them backed by real estate that has plunged in value since the collapse of Japan's late-1980s speculative boom.

Most major banks hold problem loans equal to about 10 percent of their total portfolios, but they also have sufficient cash flow and profits to gradually write off their losses over a period of years, officials say.

Concerns within Japan thus have focused not on the big banks but on two categories of weaker firms: housing finance companies, which take no deposits but instead borrow from other financial institutions in order to make real estate loans, and relatively small deposit-taking institutions including regional banks and credit unions. Many of these institutions have credit or ownership links with the country's large banks, while the entire system is tightly regulated by the Finance Ministry.

Some American analysts have expressed fear that if a domino effect were to trigger a sudden overall worsening of the bad-loan problem, Japanese banks might sell off foreign stocks and bonds to cope with the problem, which could trigger a plunge in New York stock prices and a sharp rise in U.S. interest rates.

Speaking at a late-evening news conference, Nakai insisted that plans are coming into place for dealing with the overall problem.

Time Warner, Ted Turner Start Talks on an \$8 Billion Merger

By Paul Farhi
THE WASHINGTON POST

Time Warner Inc. and Ted Turner's Turner Broadcasting System confirmed Wednesday they have begun talking about an \$8 billion merger that — for the second time in a month — would create the world's largest media and entertainment company.

But in a summer of giant media mergers, analysts cautioned this might be the big one that gets away.

Unlike Disney's apparently rock-solid \$19 billion buyout of Capital Cities/ABC Inc., the proposed stock-swap marriage of Time Warner and Turner appears full of uncertainty.

The first challenge could come from other prospective buyers of Turner, which — by talking merger with Time Warner — might have put itself on the auction block, executives and analysts said. The most likely bidders would be Seagram Co.'s Edgar Bronfman Jr., who owns 15 percent of Time Warner; News Corp.'s Rupert Murdoch; or

General Electric Co., which owns NBC and said Wednesday it remains interested in acquiring Turner.

Or the deal could fall apart from the inside. Several analysts noted Wednesday that a merger depends on three powerful and volatile personalities: Ted Turner; Time Warner chief executive Gerald Levin; and Tele-Communications Inc.'s chief John Malone, who owns a 21 percent stake in Turner and could veto the merger.

While Time Warner executives were privately touting the deal, and analysts were praising its prospects, the two companies' brief official statement was reserved: "Significant issues remain to be negotiated and there can be no assurance that agreement will be reached..." it warned.

Wall Street investor Mario Gabelli said it was "a 70 percent probability that Ted wants (a merger), and 30 percent that he's just trying to smoke out (a higher) cash price. I think there's a shot someone else could come in and knock on the door if Ted does decide to go this

route."

Said a senior television industry executive, "Of all the big deals announced this summer, this one strikes me as the most problematic."

Combined, Time Warner and Turner would leapfrog Disney-ABC to become the biggest of the emerging media superpowers, with total revenue of \$18.7 billion (Disney-ABC would be second at \$16.4 billion).

Like the ABC-Disney alliance, the rationale for a Turner-Time Warner merger is to combine a major creator of TV programming (Turner) with a major distributor (Time Warner). Turner owns seven cable networks, including Cable News Network, two mini-movie studios (Castle Rock and New Line) and a valuable library of MGM films.

These match up well with Time Warner's cable TV systems, and its HBO and WB television networks. Turner's production facilities complement Time Warner's Warner Bros. studios, the leading film and TV producer.

Activists Oppose Constitutional Amendment for School Prayer

By Larry B. Stammer
and Richard Lee Colvin
LOS ANGELES TIMES

A coalition of old line religious leaders and liberal activists stepped up their opposition Wednesday to a proposed constitutional amendment allowing prayer in public schools, saying that existing law makes such an amendment unnecessary.

Public schools are neither "religious free zones," nor venues for imposing religious beliefs on students who do not agree, they said, echoing new federal guidelines on school prayer issued earlier this month by the Clinton administration. But they warned that a proposed "religious equality amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, sought by conservative politicians and leaders of the religious right, could subject students to unwanted religious harassment and proselytizing on campus — a charge strongly denied by amendment backers.

The administration issued its school prayer guidelines in hopes of both heading off the constitutional amendment and staking out its support of "traditional values" as it looks to next year's presidential election.

The guidelines, based on existing laws, reaffirm student rights to say grace before meals, pray individually or in informally organized prayer groups in public schools as long as they do not cause a disruption. Student religious clubs, like any other extra-curricular activity, also are permitted to meet on campus during non-instructional time.

But, they would not permit such things as organized prayer at graduation ceremonies or other school events where a captive audience would be compelled to participate. And they forbid teachers from promoting or opposing religious activities.

"For some people that is not enough," said Rabbi Gary Greenebaum of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Jewish Committee. "What they want in the public schools is the inclusion of daily prayer for other peoples' children, whether those parents want this or not. They want the public schools to be used for religious proselytizing."

Greenebaum was joined by officials of the American Civil Liberties Union, All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, Calif., and the

Unitarian-Universalist Association at a news conference outside the headquarters of the Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

It was one of a series of news conferences held across the nation Wednesday to marshal support for the guidelines, characterized by the Clinton administration as recommendations to guide school boards in determining what religious expression is allowed by law on public school campuses.

In Washington, U.S. Education Secretary Richard W. Riley acknowledged that the subject of religion, especially in schools, will remain controversial.

"Nothing can be more sensitive to people than their religion. Add that with their children, and then add the public space of a school where you have different views and teaching is taking place," he said. "... We need to stop and think about it and it is not something to take a dogmatic approach on."

But backers of the proposed constitutional amendment say current laws do too little to protect the rights of students to exercise their religious beliefs.

Back from Vacation in Wyoming, Clinton Gets Ready for Campaign

By Doyle McManus
LOS ANGELES TIMES

JACKSON, WYO.

President Clinton wound up the longest vacation of his White House tenure on Wednesday, staving off his return to work one more day with two final rounds of golf and a last wistful look at the towering serenity of the Grand Teton mountains.

The notoriously workaholic president surprised some of his own aides this year by indulging wholeheartedly in his 17-day vacation and resisting all temptations to cut it short. In his first two years in office, Clinton never took as much as two weeks off in a row.

But the president's leisure — which included camping, horseback riding, white water rafting and an estimated 171 holes of golf — had a serious purpose, aides said: to recharge Clinton's batteries before he plunges into his 1996 re-election campaign.

For most of the next 14 months, beginning with a round of cam-

paign-style trips in September, the president will devote much of his time trying to avoid winning a long involuntary vacation in 1997.

"This has been really relaxing and restful ... before he dives back into the heady schedule he's going to have back in Washington," White House spokeswoman Ginny Terzano said.

"They have really thoroughly enjoyed this," added Bruce Lindsey, the close aide who accompanied the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton throughout the vacation. "You know, yesterday they just took it easy," he added in a tone of mild wonder. "They lay out by the pool. He took a nap."

Clinton himself made the point at a party sponsored by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Tuesday evening to thank local residents who helped organize the vacation.

"I wish I could somehow lift up every child in America that has never been 30 miles from home and show them the snow-covered peaks and the rivers and give them the

vacation we just had," Clinton said. "You are sending me back to my labors with an enormous amount of energy and enthusiasm."

Despite earnest attempts to be lazy, however, by the end of his vacation the president was already succumbing to the siren temptations of work.

He met with a delegation of ranchers to talk about the management of federally owned grazing lands, an issue that blew up in 1992 when Clinton's new administration briefly attempted to increase grazing fees and was accused of waging a "war on the West."

He held a long political lunch with a group of sympathetic oil and gas executives led by Truman Arnold of Texarkana, Texas, who headed the Clinton campaign's energy advisory committee in 1992.

And he spent several hours reading briefing papers for his three-day stay in Hawaii this weekend for ceremonies celebrating the 50th anniversary of V-J Day, the victory over Japan in World War II.

Abortion Drug Found Effective

NEWSDAY

NEW YORK

A drug long used to treat cancer is apparently "safe and effective" 96 percent of the time for women having an abortion, according to a report to be published in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Richard Hausknecht, a New York City obstetrician-gynecologist, said his study of 178 women showed only minor side effects from the use of the drug. He said the drug, called methotrexate, allowed women to terminate their pregnancies without any waiting period within the first two months.

"It's psychologically safe and much better than surgical termination," said Hausknecht, who announced that he was testing the new method six months ago. "This gives women a new alternative and more privacy."

Proponents of the new medical approach — which includes Planned Parenthood — say it could be available commercially as an inexpensive alternative to surgical abortion within two years with government approval.

Because of the recent violence surrounding the abortion issue, major pharmaceutical companies have shied away from this drug, experts said Wednesday.

Proponents of the new approach — including Planned Parenthood — say it could be available commercially as an inexpensive alternative to surgical abortion within two years with government approval.

U.S. Economic Growth Estimate Revised Upward

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The economy expanded in the spring at more than double the pace previously estimated but still had its weakest quarterly performance in nearly four years, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

The revised assessment prompted some economists to conclude the nation's four-year-old expansion is somewhat sturdier than expected, but many others said the economy's long-term growth prospects remain modest.

"I don't think our general view of the economy is in any way altered" by the new estimate, said Joseph E. Stiglitz, chairman of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers.

The gross domestic product — a broad measure of the value of the nation's total output of goods and services — grew at a revised 1.1 percent annual inflation-adjusted rate in the three months from April through June, the Commerce Department said. Last month, the department initially estimated second-quarter growth at an anemic 0.5 percent.

In large part, the improvement reflected revised data showing that consumer spending, which accounts for about two-thirds of the GDP, was much stronger in May and June than had been previously estimated.

Hoffa Jr. to Run For Teamsters' Presidency

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

James P. Hoffa, son of the legendary Teamster who disappeared mysteriously 20 years ago, announced Wednesday he will run for president of the union his father once ran.

Before announcing his candidacy during a taping of the "Larry King Live" show here, the 54-year-old Detroit lawyer said he wants to restore "the greatest union in the world that has been sinking because of a lack of leadership."

"I was very fortunate to be his son," he said of his late father, James R. Hoffa. "And I believe that some of his knowledge and charisma have rubbed off on me."

Hoffa's campaign kickoff Wednesday included a rally in El Monte and handshakes with other members in Southern California, an important union base that is home to about 135,000 Teamsters.

Jimmy Jr., as the stocky man with his father's piercing eyes is called, is the first Teamster to file candidacy papers for general president of the 1.4 million-member union.

The election for top officers of the union is late next year, and like the last one in 1992, secret mail ballot votes will be counted by federal officials under a settlement agreement that involved charges of union corruption and affiliation with mobsters.

Hoffa has already secured the support of Joint Council 42 in Los Angeles, a 90,000-member umbrella group that has long been the union's West Coast power base. The council, which oversees 20 Teamster locals in the region, is headed by Mike Riley, a fierce opponent of current Teamster President Ron Carey.

GOPAC Asks to Halt Inquiries

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The political action committee formed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich is asking a federal judge to stop the Federal Election Commission from contacting its charter members — people who have contributed more than \$10,000 to the cause of ousting Democrats and electing Republicans throughout the country.

Beginning the week of Aug. 14, FEC staff members started calling and asking charter members of GOPAC Inc., the political committee that was instrumental in helping Republicans seize control of the House for the first time in 40 years, what they were told when they first became involved with the group.

FEC lawyer Stephen E. Hershkowitz said the agency simply wants to know what the charter members initially were told about GOPAC's mission and what they heard or saw when they attended meetings with the group's leaders.

The FEC wants to know because it is in the middle of a legal battle with GOPAC over whether the group violated federal law by becoming involved in federal elections in 1989 and 1990, before it registered as a federal political committee. A political committee is any group which receives contributions of more than \$1,000 or spends more than \$1,000 in a year.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor

Tech Should Have Covered Fire In Building 2

We were surprised to find no reporting in the subsequent issues of *The Tech* of the fire that occurred Sunday night in Building 2, causing smoke to spread throughout the base-

ments of the main campus buildings.

We find this incident much more newsworthy than reiteration of information available from other sources, such as the *Bulletin*. We expect *The Tech* to report on important news, regardless of its possible negative effect on the new community at MIT.

Daniele S. Lantagne '96
Dianne E. Egnor '97
Nathan J. Williams '98

ERRATUM

A story about local bank plans ["Local Area Banks Offer Variety of Student Packages," Aug. 25] failed to mention that Shawmut Bank waives the \$0.75 fee for more than 10 checks per month provided the student is on a work-study program and uses direct deposit. The error was due to a bank employee.



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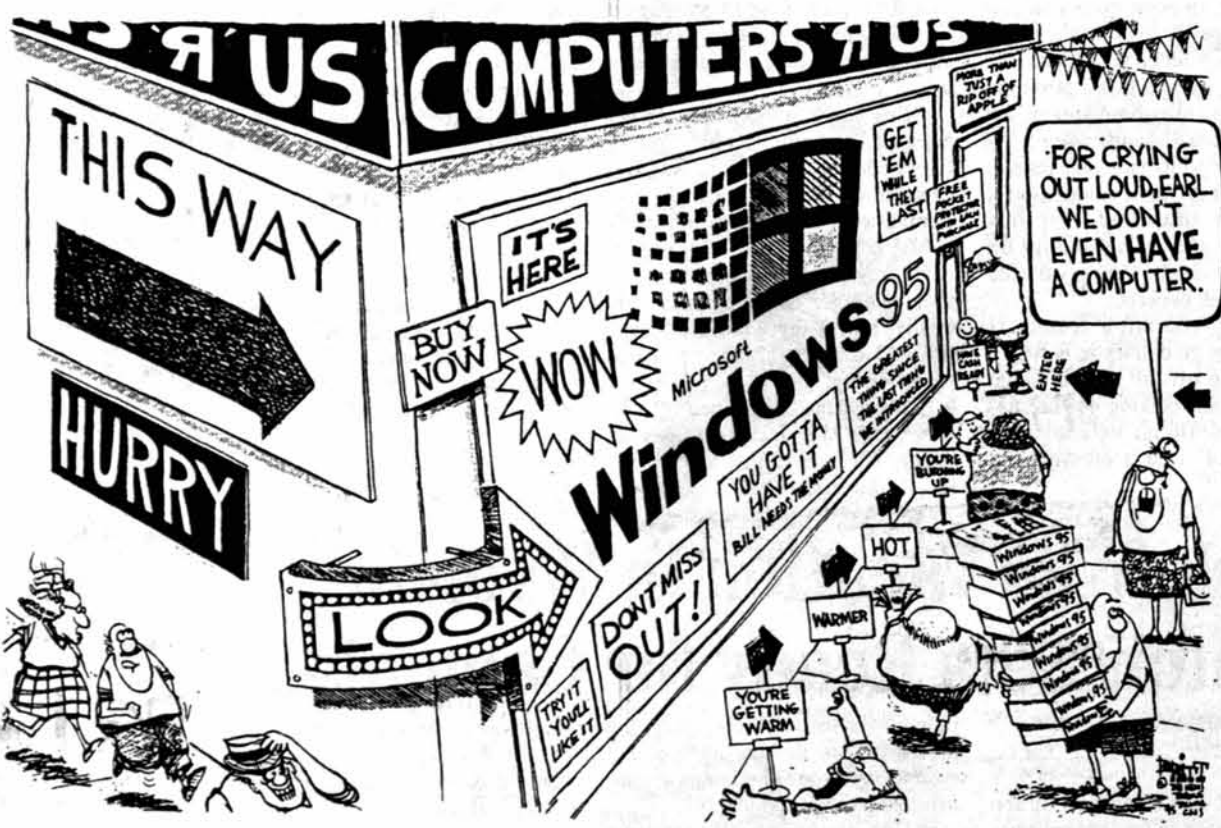
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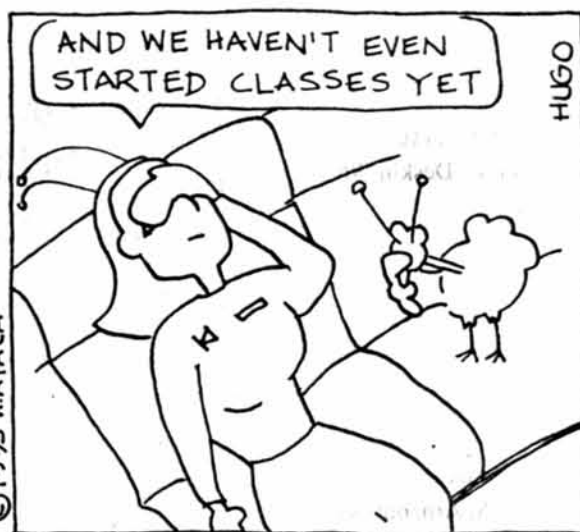
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To Reach Us

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.

Off Course

By H. Ayala



Jim's Journal

by Jim



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William J. Mitchell

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THE DOCTOR IS IN



mit medical

2 Arrested for Drugs Near 77 Mass. Ave.

By Daniel C. Stevenson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A State Police trooper arrested two men on drug charges near the 77 Massachusetts Ave. entrance to MIT at 10:15 a.m. yesterday.

The arrests, assisted by Campus Police and Cambridge Police officers, came after a brief scuffle during which one of the suspects was subdued with pepper spray.

Trooper David Kervick pulled over a 1987 Nissan Sentra heading north on Massachusetts Avenue for having a cracked windshield, according to the State Police Public Affairs Office.

Kervick found out the driver did not have a license and had him get out of the car. The trooper padded him down for weapons and found several bindles, or packets, of heroin, State Police said.

The driver, tentatively identified as 38-year-old Alexander DeLeon of Parker Street in Boston, was then placed under arrest.

The trooper removed both passengers from the car and frisked them as well; hypodermic needles were found on Joseph Bolus, 31, of Fox Run apartments in Marshfield.

Bolus then grabbed for the narcotics evidence on the roof of the car and attempted to flee, according

to the State Police.

Kervick, aided by Campus Police officers, attempted to restrain Bolus and arrest him, but "he became highly combative, unruly and non-cooperative," according to State Police.

The trooper maced Bolus with a pepper spray to control him. Bolus reacted strongly to the spray, allegedly from being under the influence of drugs, State Police said.

Bolus was taken to Cambridge City Hospital, treated for bruises he received when he fell to the ground, and released to State Police custody.

DeLeon, also known as Alex Cintron, was charged with defective equipment (the broken windshield), giving a false name to a police officer, driving without a license, possession of a class A substance (heroin), and possession of a class A substance with intent to distribute.

Bolus was charged with possession of a class A substance with intent to distribute after several more bindles of heroin were found among his possessions.

Both will likely answer charges in Cambridge District Court today, State Police said.

The car was registered to Sandra Miranda, of Wachusett Street in Mattapan.

UAA Plans to Discuss Next Year's Residence And Orientation

By Christopher Falling
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After residence and orientation activities end, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office Staff Assistant for Student Programs Ida G. Faber will hold a series of meetings with R/O Week Committee members to get their impressions of how rush went.

Faber will also debrief Dean's Office staff members for their ideas on future improvements, she said. No concrete timetable has yet been set for these meetings.

"Innovative ideas will be born out this series of meetings and next year's committee," Faber said. "The entity of R/O is constantly evolving."

No decisions have yet been made regarding R/O schedules or activities for next year, but the informal feedback from freshmen has been quite positive, Faber said.

"R/O was great. I loved it," said Jeremy D. Sher '99. "There are a lot of faculty and support staff that are really helpful. It is really nice to find people who care about you," he said.

The current committee "has done a wonderful

job with the budget that they have," Faber said. "I don't anticipate any cuts for next year."

Events being reviewed for next year

Some of the events of this year will be seriously considered in the meetings, Faber said. While there has been a positive response to the student speaker at the Killian Kick-Off, no definite decision has been made on whether or not to continue with student speakers, Faber said.

Thursday Night Dinners will also come under intense review, in large part because of the unruly crowd that surrounded its start this year ["Overzealous Crowd Mars Frosh Dinners," Aug. 25], Faber said.

Three new paid interns will be selected along with a new R/O Week Committee to help make decisions about next year's R/O, Faber said.

This year about 35 students, including many sophomores, were involved with the volunteer R/O Week Committee, which manages and staffs R/O Week activities. "There was a real cooperative spirit among the committee members this year," Faber said.

Chem Laboratory Catches Fire; Hall Floods, Buildings Evacuated

By Stacey E. Blau
NEWS EDITOR

A fire in a chemistry lab in Building 2 caused the sealing off and evacuation of Buildings 2, 4, 6, and 8 late Sunday night, said Physical Plant Assistant for Administrative Services Larry Donaghey.

At about 11:35 p.m. on Sunday a fire began in a chemistry laboratory in room 2-007, said Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin.

"Some dichlorine monoxide apparently warmed up to room temperature and reacted with isopropyl alcohol and melted dry ice and produced a fireball," said James A. Janni G, a Department of Chemistry graduate student who works in the Building 2 lab, which is headed by Professor of Chemistry Jeffrey I. Steinfeld.

The fireball apparently went up

into the duct work and the ventilation system caught on fire, Janni said. The hood, the device used to funnel potentially harmful fumes out of a room, also caught fire, Donaghey said.

Lab sustains damage

The basement area filled with smoke and vapors, and Buildings 2, 4, 6, and 8 had to be evacuated and sealed off, Donaghey said.

Smoke penetrated "throughout the entire main complex, all floors," Glavin said.

Sprinklers in the lab extinguished the fire "in just a matter of a few minutes," Donaghey said, but the water sprayed by the sprinklers in 2-007 and surrounding laboratories caused the corridor to flood. About 1,750 gallons of water had to be removed from the area, he said.

Cambridge Fire Department responded with several vehicles, but arrived after the fire had been extinguished, Glavin said.

Three Physical Plant workers "had to be taken home" because they were overcome by smoke, Donaghey said.

The smoke generated from the reaction damaged the plastic duct work in the lab and caused the fixtures and paint in the lab to blister, Donaghey said.

The damage to the lab "is pretty bad," Janni said. In addition to the smoke and water damage, the fire left behind a noxious smell, and the hood was destroyed, he said.

Janni said that only one person in the lab performed research in 2-007 but that everyone in the lab would have to relocate for the time being.

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Fewer Men and More Women Toughen Rush for Some

Rush, from Page 1

"We are very happy and lucky with the freshmen," said Theta Chi Rush Chair Jonathan S. Levene '97. TC is "slightly below target," Levene said, but "[we're] looking for quality, not quantity," he said.

"Overall activity was a little slower this year," said Phi Beta Epsilon Rush chair Hyder S. Husain but rush "ended up being really good," he said.

Fewer men make rush tougher

The fact that the number of male students has been decreasing in past

years has made rush "more of a scramble every year," Berger said.

"Things get a little bit more competitive every year," said PSK Rush Chair Neel J. Doshi '97 said. "Every five years or so it seems there's a new fraternity," he said.

Some ILGs say they have not been affected by the fact that there are fewer men to rush.

"Numbers are down, but a lot of the qualities improved in the guys," Alpha Tau Omega Rush Chair Shane M. Norton '97 said. "It think more social people are coming to the school than before," he said.

"I think MIT is pushing rush

more," said Jason K. Bucy '96, pledge educator for Tau Epsilon Phi. Because the housing lottery was pushed up and freshmen did not get to choose their temporary dormitories, more freshmen than usual seemed to look at fraternities, Bucy said. "It's not entirely fair," he said.

"We do well every year, so the issue of fewer men hasn't been a problem for us personally," Bilello said.

ET, a coed fraternity, has actually had more male than female pledges. So far, six men and two women have accepted bids, Mole-naar said.

"Because the fraternities rush the men so hard, we get fewer men and more women" coming to the house, said Fenway House Rush Chair Melanie Soderstrom '98. Fenway is coed, but Fenway's pledges so far are split evenly between men and women, two of each, Soderstrom said.

Several living groups declined to

comment on the number of bids extended and their targets. Delta Psi (No. 6 Club) declined to divulge any statistics because of house policy.

Alpha Epsilon Pi declined to comment because they "want to see how the next two days go," said Rush Chair Benjamin S. Levin '97.

Shang-Lin Chuang contributed to the reporting in this story.

Housing Lottery Pleases Most Frosh

Housing, from Page 1

to come up with a plan that will try to address the needs of women who need, for cultural or religious reasons, or just as their preference," single-sex housing, Jablonski said.

Lottery runs smoothly

Despite a shaky start, the lottery system "seemed to go fairly well," said S. Anders Oakland, an Information Systems employee who wrote the lottery program. The system was delayed an hour Sunday afternoon due to a program error, Oakland said.

Freshmen received their assignment via electronic mail and, as a new feature of the program, by running the lottery program "froshpref" a second time, Oakland said.

The results were available at 3 p.m. yesterday and were mailed to students by 4 p.m., Oakland said.

This is the second year with a computerized lottery, which alleviated problems that came up in previ-

ous years. The system has been streamlined from three lotteries two years ago, to two lotteries last year, to only one this year.

Senior House works to welcome

Of the 58 freshmen assigned to Senior House, only 20 listed it as one of their top two choices, despite the dormitory having "probably one of the better communities we have on campus," Bernard said.

Students assigned to Senior House historically rank it lower than other dormitories; last year more than half the students assigned to Senior House ranked it sixth or seventh.

To counteract new residents' apprehensions, the new housemaster, Professor of Literature Henry L. Jenkins, spearheaded a "welcome wagon" drive to "make all the students feel welcome at Senior House," he said.

Any bad reputation is "based on old news and rumor and problems that have happened in the past,"

Jenkins said.

Along with physical renovations begun last summer, Senior House has undergone "renovations socially and culturally" that should make it more palatable to new residents, Jenkins said.

"We're trying to build a strong community at Senior House which is friendly and open" but at the same time "accommodating to the diversity that Senior House has always attracted," Jenkins said.

Jenkins organized teams of students to meet with freshmen assigned to Senior House, he said.

More than 20 students, including current and former residents and tutors, volunteered for the teams, Jenkins said. "Senior House has really rallied behind this," he said.

Many freshmen "don't have a very strong and clear impression of what the house is like," Jenkins said. He hopes to convince them that it is "one of the warmest and friendliest houses on campus."

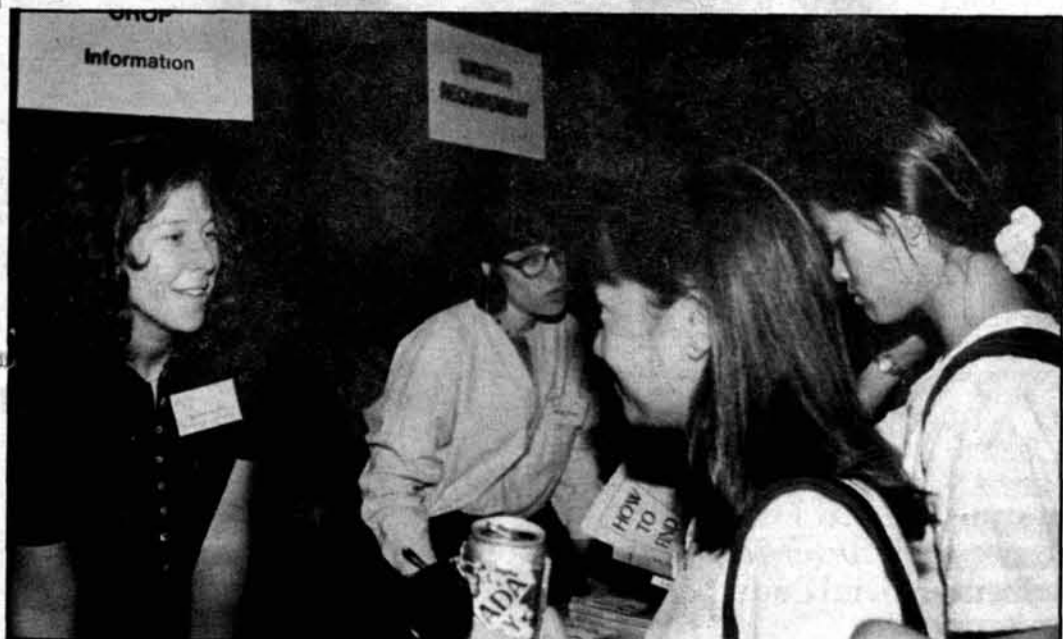
Housing Lottery Results

Totals and number of students assigned by choices

	Total	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Baker House	119	57	19	36	7	—
Bexley Hall	33	11	3	6	5	8
Burton-Conner House	103	94	9	—	—	—
East Campus	101	41	16	15	15	14
MacGregor House	71	68	3	—	—	—
McCormick Hall	62	62	—	—	—	—
New House	63	33	26	3	1	—
Chocolate City	6	6	—	—	—	—
French House	4	4	—	—	—	—
German House	6	6	—	—	—	—
Russian House	4	4	—	—	—	—
Spanish House	6	6	—	—	—	—
Next House	103	86	17	—	—	—
Random Hall	20	17	—	3	—	—
Senior House	58	15	5	12	11	15
Totals	759	510	98	75	39	37

Each column in the chart shows the rank students gave to the dormitory they now live in. For example, the second entry on the first line indicates the number of new Baker residents who ranked it as their first choice in the lottery.

Source: Office of Residence and Campus Activities



Freshmen talk with Rachel Jacobs from the Undergraduate Academic Affairs office at yesterday's Academic Expo, held in the Johnson Athletic Center.

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THE ARTS

Roberts expands range with *Something to Talk About*

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Directed by Lasse Hallstrom.

Written by Callie Khouri.

Starring Julia Roberts, Dennis Quaid, Robert Duvall, Gena Rowlands, and Kyra Sedgewick. Sony Cheri.

By Scott Deskin

CHAIRMAN

Julia Roberts has come to a turning point in her career. No longer the simple, nubile "Pretty Woman" of yesteryear, she's failed to reinvent her cinematic persona in several different starring roles. In *Sleeping with the Enemy*, she was terrorized by an obsessive ex-husband; in *The Pelican Brief*, she was terrorized by corrupt government agents; and in *I Love Trouble*, she was terrorized by the lack of chemistry with co-star Nick Nolte in a lame romantic-adventure-comedy. Roberts was fine in the celebrity hodgepodge of *Ready to Wear*, but that was just a minor role. Industry insiders have no doubt been poised to slay her next starring performance (unlike the fawning music critics

of Roberts' ex-husband, Lyle Lovett).

Roberts' latest film, *Something to Talk About*, is change of pace for the 29-year-old actress. She goes out on a limb as Grace, a frazzled thirty-ish wife and mother who leads a fairly dull and unhappy life. From the opening scenes, we can tell this much about her: The love between Grace and her husband (Dennis Quaid) has fizzled to the point where they barely acknowledge each other in the morning; her scatterbrained nature prompts her to leave for work, driving a few blocks before realizing she's left her daughter at home; and her immediate family, which breeds and rides horses, causes her eternal grief as her parents and sister are as impulsive and headstrong as she is.

When Grace learns that her husband is a philanderer (she actually sees him in a loving embrace with another woman on the street), her life goes to pieces. After finding him in a bar and confronting him with the news in her nightgown, she retreats to her family's ranch for safety and comfort — not that they provide her with much. Her parents are arche-

types of dysfunction, and it serves as a reminder of Grace's own marital problems, adding to her guilt and frustration. When her father (Robert Duvall) tries to convince Grace of her duty to keep the family together, the stage is set for her personal revenge on her husband. First, in a preliminary visit to the ranch, Grace's acid-tongued sister (Kyra Sedgewick) knees her husband in the crotch. Later, one of Grace's aunts gives her a sure-fire recipe for her husbands' dinner. Obviously, the marriage isn't beyond what a "near-death experience" can remedy.

If these plot twists sound cruel and crass, they are; but, they provide some relief from the seriousness of the underlying subject matter — marital infidelity and broken families. To call the film mean-spirited is missing the point of humor as a caustic but necessary medium to contextualize the story's foundations in reality. To this effect, director Lasse Hallstrom (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*) handles the subject matter with delicacy and poignancy, not letting the characters' actions overwhelm the characters themselves. Sedgewick gets most of the

good lines as the younger sibling, but Roberts carries the film with the charm and earnestness she gives her role.

Screenwriter Callie Khouri (*Thelma and Louise*) has middling success with the storyline. She molds some imperfect and rough characters and gives them the opportunity to cut loose and rail against the injustices society and family have dealt them. But after a lengthy setup, the film loses steam and opts for a climax that brings the subplot about horse riding front and center. There is also a conventional Hollywood happy ending that feels vaguely artificial.

Still, the movie's positive attributes outweigh its negative ones. Despite a shaky start and a slick finish, so many of the performances clicked that I found myself drawn in anyway. It's certainly not the best movie to deal with such subject matter, but it offers a new, fresh perspective on who actually gets hurt in relationships. And Julia Roberts has expanded her cinematic range at long last: Hopefully she won't have to return to any more obnoxious thrillers to revive her career.

The Daily Confusion

Residence

5:00p: **Baker House** Baker Dining Today: Pork Chops with Stuffing Vegetarian Chili Sandwiches to order*

Activities

All day: **Science Fiction Society**. The MITSFS Library is open most of the day again, and will be for the rest of R/O. So come by, pick up a good book and spend some time reading. We've got the world's largest open-shelf collection of science fiction and fantasy, so we're sure to have something you'll like. We're conveniently located in the MIT Student Center, room W20-473. Our phone is (253)8-5126.*

5:00p: **Chinese Students Club**. CSC Open House. Room 439 - Student Center. Meet CSC. More food. More fun.*

9:30p: **Asian Baptist Student Koinonia** Iimb. Bowling and Chinatown. Meet at Student Center Steps*

10:00p: **Science Fiction Society**. There's nothing like a good book before bed. Come to the Science Fiction Library and take one out. MITSFS, W20-473, (253)8-5126.*

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Delta Psi or St. Anthony Hall: please see No.6

The Daily Confusion
Editors: Dudzai Saburi, Vik Mukherjee, Sanjay Chugh

NOTE: A single asterisk (*) following a listing indicates a coed or female living group. A double asterisk (**) indicates an activity to which women are cordially invited.

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