Grades Referendum Added To Tomorrow's UA Ballot

By A. Arff Hosain
STAFF REPORTER

A referendum on changing the Institute grading policy was recently added to this week's Undergraduate Association election ballot. The ballot is topped by the UA presidency/vice president contest, which has three candidate pairs. However, only 8 of 25 class council offices have candidates. [See box, page 13.]

Electronic voting, which was delayed due to technical difficulties, begins today. Booths will open tomorrow morning in Lobby 7, Walker Memorial, and the Student Center for regular paper voting. The referendum is intended to provide the Committee on Academic Performance with more student input on intermediate grades, said UA Judicial Review Board Chair Albert L. Hsu '96, who sponsored the item. The referendum lists four grading policy choices that students will rank preferentially, said Russell S. Light '98, UA Council floor leader. The first option proposes adding a plus and minus to each passing grade, with the exceptions of A+ and B+. A second option adds the grades AB, BC, and CD between corresponding grades. There will also be an option to maintain the present grading format, and another to implement pass/fail grading, Hsu said. The proposed changes pertain only to upperclassmen grading. The choices were added to the ballot through petitioning by UA members. Hsu said. Over 400 students signed the petition. The referendum will be supplemented by specific questions regarding grading policy, Light said. The questions should give a better perspective on student opinion, he said. "We're hoping to gather solid data that we can pass on to the CAP as a result of this referendum," Light said. The results should be announced at Thursday's UA Council meeting, he said. According to Hsu, CAP will submit its recommendation on the grading change to the Faculty Policy Committee. The FPC will consider whether to send the proposal on to the full faculty for a vote. "The student vote will become very important if the faculty vote is ambiguous," Hsu said. Many offices unfilled. The principal contests in the elections will be for the UA president and vice president positions. The candidate pairs are John S. Hollywood '96 and Jennifer A. Pinering.

Elections, Page 13

Biology To Pay Only For Summer UROPs

By Ray Hwang

The Department of Biology stopped paying students for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects during the academic year, we shall try to find the funds," Brown said. "Summer UROPs are important because they allow students to pay UROP, Page 11

INSIDE

- AXOLip Sync contest entertains. Pages 8, 9
- Investigation of attack moving slowly. Page 11

Fish Tank Electrical Fire Forces Evacuation of Ashdown

By Hung Lu

An electrical component in this fish tank ignited, setting fire to pieces of paper scattered underneath the tank as well as to the wooden frame supporting it, according to Ashdown dormitory resident Christopher L. Falling.

The fire fighters did check the floor for structural integrity before allowing residents back into the building, the officer said. "The whole thing was smoky, but nobody was hurt," the officer said.

Todd S. Anderson G was the first to notice the fire. He and David W. Pratt G alerted the desk workers. They couldn't find a fire extinguisher in the area, so they had to go to the second floor to get a fire extinguisher. Anderson entered the lounge and unplugged the cord. Pratt then "brought in a fire extinguisher, but there was no smoke that I called the police," Chen said.

Anderson and Pratt worked to extinguish the fire.

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

An electrical component in this fish tank started a fire that forced the evacuation of Ashdown House.
**Boston's Red-Light District Flickers**

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

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

Now the red light is flickering, again, and this time Burgundy has been covered by a convergence of trends here. The line is being drawn on the Combat Zone's brief heyday, long decline, and imminent fall is an instructive tale of sex, money, violence and urban development.

The area acquired its name before it became zoned for sex. Initially, it was home to a number of small tailor shops, and troops stopped through on their way to the battlefields of Europe.

When members of different branches bumped into each other on the sidewalks, combat often erupted.

During the late 1930s, the Zone's fate was sealed, according to Robert Campbell, the architecture critic for The Boston Globe and a student of urban development.

**Rushdie Asks France for Help In Ending Iranian Death Threat**

Saturday Rushdie — the author whom Iran six years ago marked for death for his book The Satanic Verses — met France's highest political officials in Paris Friday to try to convince them to take concrete steps to end the longstanding death threat.

He conferred with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and other top French officials.

"We are at the point where we are asking: 'When can you say some- hostilities agreement,'" said U.N. spokesman Christopher Gunnes.

Reed said pressure on Iran had failed so far in Rushdie's case. But he declared that France was prepared to bring the issue up again next month.

"We are seriously concerned about the status of the cessation of the war," said Juppe.

**WEATHER**

New York Times

**Spring Is Sprung**

By Gerard Rue

Spring officially began yesterday as the vermin aquired at 9 p.m. The weather service issued its first forecast for the day, and the forecast almond typical winter pattern sets over the city.

Nature in the form of the Pacific jet stream is still firing storm sys- tems at southern California; rain can be expected to continue there for the rest of the week. We are going to be feeling the effects of a big low pressure area meandering across the mid- west. Temperatures will be in the 50s and low 60s.

Tonight: Rain, moderate to heavy. Chance of a thunderstorm. Winds shifting to the northeast. Low 40°F (4°C).

Wednesday: Mainly cloudy in the morning. Clearing out to some blue by late afternoon. High 54°F (15°C). Low 39°F (5°C).

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

Friday: Overcast with afternoon drizzle possible. High 59°F (15°C).

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**Suspect Captured in Fatal Tokyo Subway Gas Attack**

By T.R. Reid

Police reportedly had one sus- pect under guard Tuesday as they searched for a well-organized terro- rist group believed to be responsible for the release of poison gas on the Tokyo subway system Monday.

Eight people were killed and 76 were critically injured in the attack.

There was little sign of panic in Tokyo following Monday morn- ing's attack. The terrorists of people who came gasping and retching out of the same subway that it was the scene of a deadly gas attack.

Outside the subway station at 10 a.m. rows of people were queuing to get on the trains.

-- **WASHINGTON**

President Clinton, trying to mody- fied American war veterans and bus- tress Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin, will preside over cere- monies here on May 8 marking the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, then fly overnight to Moscow to participate in Russia's V-D day observances on May 9, the White House said Monday.

After deliberating for weeks on whether to accept Yeltsin's invita- tion to the ceremonies as events in Russian defense of Eastern Europe and in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, aides said.

"We are seriously concerned about the status of the cessation of the war," said Juppe.

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

By John M. Broder

The President will visit Europe to mark the end of World War II in Europe in Paris and Berlin.

The Washington Post

By Mark L. Lupertz

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Americans Think GOP Program Cuts Go Too Far, Survey Shows

By Richard Morin

WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

The survey suggests that the honeymoon may be over for the Republican Contract with America. While a majority of those interviewed still viewed approval in concept to the contract, 52 percent also agreed with the statement "the more I know about what Republicans in Congress, the less I like it." Forty-four percent expressed the opposite view.

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

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

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

Turkey Launches Military Campaign Against Kurdish Rebel Bases in Iraq

By Kelly Couturier

ANKARA, TURKEY

Turkey launched a large-scale military assault against Kurdish separatist bases in northern Iraq Monday, dispatching a 35,000-man force backed by warplanes, armored vehicles and artillery along a front stretching 135 miles through rugged desert soil, including the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974; according to the Turkish invasion.

The attack, on the eve of the Newroz spring festival celebrated by many Kurds, marked Turkey's first sustained second look from the United States and Western European ones, have increasingly urged Turkey to improve its human rights record. At the same time, Ankara has received support from the United States and Western European governments for its fight against Kurdish terrorism.

Upcoming Meetings:

HCA Committee - March 21
APPC Committee - March 22
Formal Planning - March 27

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

EVEN EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Graduate Student Council

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

Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs

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

The Future of Graduate Housing at MIT

Tuesday, March 21
7-8:30 pm 50-222

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

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

Stay informed about all our events! Check out our web page http://www.mit.edu/300/activities/gsc/gsc.htm

Add yourself to our mailing list by typing blanche gsc-students -a username, or send email to gsc-request@mit .

Questions, comments, ideas? Give us a call at 3-2195 or send email to gsc-admin@mit.
**EDITORIAL**

**Muh Is Best Choice for UA President**

After considering the candidates' respective records, platforms, and ideas, we believe that Carrie R. Muh '96 is the best choice for Undergraduate Association president. The other candidates — John S. Hollywood '96 and Vijay P. Sankaran '95 — have some good ideas, and have entrenched this year's campaign, but concerns over their abilities and platforms lead us to believe that Muh offers the best chance at a more effective UA.

Muh has offered a number of proposals for improving how the UA works, and we believe she will help address the involvement of the Association of Student Activities in the budgetary process. This plan is good in principle, but care must be taken when implementing it.

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

The idea that Muh needs to focus on her strengths in the APC, her concern raised during the campaign recommend against their election. Hollywood has shown impressive enthusiasm for advocacy of issues such as recreational large projects, including the Survey on Undergraduate Life and the UA Housing Report. But he has demonstrated an unfortunate flaw for offering a single view of an issue, rather than assessing the complete range of student opinion.

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

Myrie, certainly the most charismatic of the candidates, has shown some perseverance in the campaign. But his ideas and proposals are much less specific than Muh's. Muh's emphasis on multiculturalism (a worthy notion) is more of a theoretical than practical consideration. As the chief representative of all undergraduates, concerned about the elections, reflects poorly on those who run elections, and of the UA as a whole. The new UA leadership will have to work hard to recover from this year's election nightmare.

The perception of poor organization among students was even more pronounced. The elections are boring and trivial. Understandably, attendance at UA meetings becomes more meaningful and useful? Even the current UA leadership elected this year's elections. Poor management and organization has probably alienated those few students who somehow manage to find out about the elections. Hopefully, the new leadership elected tomorrow will not repeat these mistakes.

With all the confusion over this year's Undergraduate Association elections, many students don't even know that tomorrow's election is much more important than to vote. The mismanagement of elections reflects poorly on those who run elections, and of the UA as a whole. The new UA leadership will have to work hard to recover from this year's election nightmare.

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**ERRATUM**

An article about an intermediate grades discussion ["Grading Proposal" Disputed at Forum, March 14] incorrectly attributed a statement to Cindy W. Fung '96. Contrary to what was reported in the article, Fung is opposed to the proposed changes in the grading system.
Myrie, Johnson, Turner, Carter and Morton are Best Choices

As MIT continues its re-engineering process and as we face the appointment of new undergraduate and graduate school deans, we have realized that the old system of doing things no longer works. We are writing this letter to the MIT community in let you know who we believe will best represent all of us in the Undergraduate Association as this process takes place. After examining their respective platforms it is clear to us that several candidates present the clearest ideas on how to go about changing the UA for the better. These candidates are: Sheldon W. Myrie '95, UA president; Jennifer K. Johnson '98, UA vice president; Matthew J. Turner '96, Class of '96 president; Dotrice A. Carter '98, Class of '98 president; and Charles I. Morton IV '97, Class of '97 vice president.

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

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

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

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

Allan M. Needham '97 and Carlos Echelar Gutierrez '96 for Black Students' Union and Mexican Students' Association

Why Does the UA Need All That Money?

It's time for Undergraduate Association elections again, that big annual event with hel-lot boners, pictures of smiling candidates on the front page of The Tech, and all the usual hoopla. Every year around this time I wonder what the UA, and what is it supposed to do? Looking through the three campaign platforms, I see a lot of proposals for what the candidates intend to do, but these platforms are diverse and little help in figuring out what the UA is actually supposed to do. Presumably the UA was created to fill some sort of need, and thus has regular duties which all candidates are expected to perform, but what is that need? Judging by the voter turnout for past UA elections, most people are as baffled as I am on this issue.

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

I'm not saying that the UA is all bad or needs to go away or be stronger. However, I'm most curious to know what they are supposed to be doing and why they need all that money to do it.

B. Matthew Knapp '95
Former ASA Secretary

Students Must Take Opportunity to Affect Housing Policy

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

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

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

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

Myrie Clarifies "Multiculturalism"

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

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

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

Sheldon W. Myrie '96
UAP candidate

Wednesday

UA Elections

Intermediate Grading

Referendum

Athena voting until 10 PM Tuesday:

Add.ua
% vote

Or vote Wednesday until 6 PM:

Lobby 7, Student Center, or Walker

THE TECH Page 5
Peckinpah's *Wild Bunch* affects with brutal style

THE WILD BUNCH

Directed by Sam Peckinpah
Written by Sam Peckinpah and Walon Green
based on a story by Roy N. Sicker
and Walon Green.


By Scott Deskin

The re-release of Sam Peckinpah's western epic, *The Wild Bunch,* 25 years after it was first shown in 1969, may be a puzzling sight. Aside from Clint Eastwood's *Unforgiven,* Hollywood seems to have fallen out of the tradition of making westerns that aren't either locked into the tragic hero motif (*True Grit*) or lightweight entertainment (*Maverick*).

Looking at Peckinpah's film today, I gain an appreciation for the western as a viable cinematic canvas. *The Wild Bunch* was released in the same year as Oscar-winning *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,* but its dark shades of death, shocking and poetically beautiful: innocent and guilty parties alike are either shot or trampled to death in the street as the men escape to Mexico.

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

Their trip down to Mexico doesn't supply them with much comfort. Out of a need for cash, they hire their services out to Generalissimo Mapache (Emilio Fernandez), a warlord looking in both for the gang whose allies/customers after sex. In fact, the men can't trust anyone, which is why Pike warns his gang to stick together and not turn on each other like a pack of wild animals. It's the savagery of the outside world that will destroy the bunch first.

The indelible images from the violent confrontations in the film nicely bookend the enjoyable action sequences in between. Some viewers may be bored if they're unfamiliar with the way that the thematically incoherent *Natural Born Killers* impresses upon *Unforgiven,* or the malevolent hands of Mapache. In one of the most celebrated displays of violence in cinematic history, the men are forced into a standoff against Mexican soldiers within the enemy fortress. The men are face-to-face with death; yet, instead of succumbing to the onus of the outside world that will destroy the bunch first.

But I care about Mapache. West of it all, when rebelsupporting Angel finds out his former love has become one of Mapache's personal whores, his conscience nearly collapses when framed against the motives of the other members of the bunch.

By the end of the film, the men must put their collective sense of honor to the test when they come to aid of Angel, who finds himself in the malevolent hands of Mapache. In one of the most celebrated displays of violence in cinematic history, the men are forced into a standoff against Mexican soldiers within the enemy fortress. The men are face-to-face with death; yet, instead of succumbing to the onus of the outside world that will destroy the bunch first.

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

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Looking at Peckinpah's film today, I gain an appreciation for the western as a viable cinematic canvas. *The Wild Bunch* was released in the same year as Oscar-winning *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,* but its dark shades of death, shocking and poetically beautiful: innocent and guilty parties alike are either shot or trampled to death in the street as the men escape to Mexico.

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

Their trip down to Mexico doesn't supply them with much comfort. Out of a need for cash, they hire their services out to Generalissimo Mapache (Emilio Fernandez), a warlord looking in both for the gang whose allies/customers after sex. In fact, the men can't trust anyone, which is why Pike warns his gang to stick together and not turn on each other like a pack of wild animals. It's the savagery of the outside world that will destroy the bunch first.

The indelible images from the violent confrontations in the film nicely bookend the enjoyable action sequences in between. Some viewers may be bored if they're unfamiliar with the way that the thematically incoherent *Natural Born Killers* impresses upon *Unforgiven,* or the malevolent hands of Mapache. In one of the most celebrated displays of violence in cinematic history, the men are forced into a standoff against Mexican soldiers within the enemy fortress. The men are face-to-face with death; yet, instead of succumbing to the onus of the outside world that will destroy the bunch first.

Muriel's Wedding

Written and directed by P.J. Hogan.

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

Muriel (Toni Collette) begins the film as a women trapped by a dysfunctional family, an apathetic neighborhood, and a clique of beautiful "best friends." The movie opens with a host of a beautiful friend's wedding, where the cliques members is shown having a fun with the groom. The movie moves fast: credits, wedding, affaire. Before the scene, Muriel's character is introduced as a woman from Queensland, a state trapped in a zombie-like trance, and then again in a small, good movie that entertains without challenging.

When watching Muriel's Wedding it is important to keep in mind that the community of Porpoise Spit, Australia, where Muriel lives, is extremely different from the culture here at MIT. Instead of juggling four projects at once and complaining "I'm so hosed," the residents of Queensland lament their unemployment and console each other with: "No worries, mate." Hogan establishes his characters rather quickly. The evil clique is made up of Barbie look-alikes who criticize Muriel for not wearing fashion. Hogan is a superficial film about superficial culture at MIT.

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

Muriel's quest for beauty and popularity, they are not until Muriel ignores her at her own wedding and Muriel's father moves in with his mistress that we see this woman come to life, and then she kills herself. Muriel's father (Bill Hunter) is another character that Hogan has manipulated the gray shades of everyday experience in order to come up with a cast of characters that are either too black, too white, too good, or too obviously evil.

Although Muriel's Wedding does an excellent job of conveying the attitudes and economic realities of small Australian towns, it fails to capture the subtle interludes of conversation that make characters seem like real people.

"Our projects she's married, she's going own," Muriel tells them, referring to a cosmetics sales position offered by her father's mistress. "It's not your clothes," the friends respond, "it's you." Crushed, Muriel steals money from her parents and buys a holiday at the same resort where the clique is staying. Once there she meets up with a friend from high school (Rachel Griffiths) whose noble character is symbolized by her short black hair and indifference toward fashion.

The two women celebrate their independence from the neurosis of Porpoise Spit by running away to Sydney, where they get jobs, meet men, and have the time of their lives. "When I was living in Porpoise Spit I used to sit in my room all day and listen to Abba songs," Muriel says. "Since I've come to Sydney, I haven't listened to Abba at all." The point of this movie is very simple: in order to escape insecurity and stagnant immobility one must rebel against the conventions held by beautiful people, cut one's hair, buy a new wardrobe, and forge a new life on one's own. If theft and dishonesty are the only ways that these ends can be achieved, so much the better.

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

Daniel Lapaine and Toni Collette in Muriel's Wedding.

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Lip Sync Entertains Amid Much Fanfare

By Stacey E. Blau
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

Other winners included Fast Forward's performance of "One More Minute," which won the award for best lip sync, and Dance Troupe's performance of "This is Halloween," which won for best choreography.

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

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

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

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

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS

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

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

Then run for office! (Interest, not experience necessary!!)

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominations due:</th>
<th>Wednesday, April 5 5pm</th>
<th>50-222</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meet the Candidates Forum:</td>
<td>Thursday, April 6 5-7pm</td>
<td>50-222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections:</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 12 5:30pm</td>
<td>50-222</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

MIT Graduate Student Council Officer Job Descriptions

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

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

By Daniel C. Stevenson

An investigation into a possibly hate-motivated attack two weeks ago is proceeding slowly, according to Chief of Campus Police Anne F. Brown.

The attack, an unidentified person threw a large cup of ketchup on the Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgenders, and Friends booth in Lobby 10 on Sunday afternoon.

GAMIT Political Coordinator Joan Simpson was injured by the projectile. In a related development, Terrones received a telephone death threat over the weekend.

Campus Police investigators are struggling to ascertain if there may have been any other witnesses to the attack other than Terrones, Brown said.

Although the attack was initially filed as an assault, GAMIT asked the CPs to look into reclassifying it as a hate crime. "On the surface, we're suspicious" that it was a hate-motivated incident, Brown said.

"We think we want to go a little further with the investigation," before calling the incident hate-motivated, she said.

Terrones said he received a telephone death threat early Friday morning that may have been motivated by "the fact that I spoke out against the incident," he said.

"The caller swore at Terrones and said that he was going to kill him. The caller, who was male, did not identify himself and hung up immediately after making the threat," Terrones said. "It sounded like he was about to burst out laughing."

Terrones said he is taking the threat seriously "to the extent that it means something went to the trouble of looking my number up and calling me at an obscene hour of the morning."

"Terrones said he had talked to the CPs, but "there is not much they can do about it."

EFC turns up no results

Terrones had previously described the Lobby 10 assault as wearing a purple and gold cap with the letter epsilon.

Interfraternity Council Judicial Committee Chair Gregory J. Miliotes '96 is investigating the incident, but has turned up no results.

Miliotes is "wishing to see if any one steps forward and claims responsibility for the attack," he said. "We have very little to go on," he said.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon is the only MIT fraternity that uses the colors purple and gold and has the letter epsilon in its name. But SAE officials say no member of the group was involved in the attack.

"We respect [GAMIT] as an organization, and to our knowledge, they have no disputes with them," wrote SAE President Nicholas Bollweg '95 in a letter to The Tech. "[Writer of GAMIT Article Did Not State]..." March 17th.

Although Terrones reported seeing the cap and letter, "there is no way to identify any one fraternity" based on that information, Miliotes said.

Bio Cuts Term UROPs For More in Summer

UROPs, from Page 1

attention to their research for a long period of time without the distraction of classes," said UROP Director Norm McGeever.

"I can understand how faculty may want to hold on to their funds for the term so that they can take students in the summer when UROP credit isn't particularly attractive," McGeever said.

"There is only department restricted semester UROPs to credit only," McGeever said.

Allows more summer funding

The department decided on the new policy in large part because they wanted to leave more money for summer UROPs, Brown said.

Most students would rather have his support during the summer and are pleased by this change," he said.

"Most students do not mind taking the loss in the fall as a credit limit because freshmen "are discouraged from taking UROPs because research in biology requires large blocks of time which freshmen do not have," Brown said.

"Professors are also reluctant to give freshmen UROPs because they lack the background required, in most cases," Brown said.

The cutback comes less than a year after new government regulations on overhead costs effectively doubled the cost of a for-pay UROP student. The new regulations took effect last July 1.

The changes will not affect a student who have a credit limit because freshmen "are discouraged from taking UROPs because research in biology requires large blocks of time which freshmen do not have," Brown said.

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Late Changes in Election Code, Poor Publicity Cause Confusion

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

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

Another problem was that there was given no formal training as election commissioner, Light added. The previous election commissioners had left the UA, he was on his own," he said.

Many spots have no candidates.

"There are no candidates for more than half of the class council positions, and most of the other positions have only one candidate running." There are many people who are interested and involved, and there are people who just aren't. People just don't want to serve on class council," Kymissis said.

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

Late changes cause confusion.

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

At the beginning of the second term, a proposal was made to lower the petition signature limit and extend the deadline for registering offices with more than two candidates, but did not lower the signature limit.

Elections, from Page 1

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Women's Water Polo Opens with 3 Invitational Wins

By Darren T. Castro

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

The MIT women were led by three individuals: Maroula Bratakos G, 4 goals and 6 assists; Cheryl Klepser G, 10 goals and 4 assists; and Amy Smith G, 4 goals and 4 assists. Two newswomen stood out among the team's nine first-year players: Adrianne Chapman '98, 5 goals and 3 assists; and Shan Lee '97, 9 goals and 2 assists.

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

Fencers Face Stiff Competition in NYC

By Wanda Chin

The men's and women's varsity fencing teams concluded their season recently by finishing in the top four at the Eastern Intercollegiate Fencing Association championships, held at New York City College.

The foil squad, comprised of Wanda Ch'97, Amy Hwang '97, Ledig '97, Angela Chao '97, and Jessica Liu '97, won a silver medal in the foil team event. The sabre team, comprised of Elizabeth Frentz '97, and Sarah Winter '97, placed third. The epee team placed fourth, comprised of Eric King '97, Johnathan Blandford '97, and Jonathon Blandford '97.

Last year the fencing team won a silver medal in the foil team event. Both the foil and epee teams finished fourth, and the saber team tied for fourth.

The fencing team's goal is to place in the top six at nationals. The Sabre team's goal is to qualify for the Division I nationals. The Sabre team finished second in the Ivy League and third in the nation.

For Roccoch, National Title Finishes a Good Season

By Daniel Wang

Last weekend, Sheila Roccoch '98 was one of five MIT gymnasts to win a national championship. She took first place in the individual all-around at the Division III National Gymnastics Championships, held in St. Paul, Minn.

Roccoch admitted that during the competition, she felt good about her performance, but did not know how well it compared to the rest of the nation. She was ecstatic about the result. Her sister, head coach Catherine Roccoch Garman, was not surprised that she had won, following a pass from Klepser in the hole. Dartmouth then tied the score at 1-1 dotting the game out of reach by scoring the next goal. Klepser answered quickly with 3 straight goals. The first and third came in the hole following passes in from Bratakos. In between those possessions, Klepser stole the ball and ran it all the way in herself uncontested.

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

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

The following day, Roccoch competed against Harvard for the event finals, where she tallied three goals. She finished her season by scoring four goals in the six games at the MIT Invitational.

Roccoch acknowledged that she had very few years to compete. "It's something I do because I love it," she said. Roccoch said that after finishing her career, she would want to stay involved in the sport. "I think it's something I will always do," she said.

"It was more ready to do well in a meet," Roccoch said. "I felt like this was a national title, Roccoch said that there is still more that she can do. She hopes to improve her skills for next year in the individual apparatuses. For next season, Roccoch is looking to make the team more competitive in the all-around category.

However, Wellesley stormed back with five unanswered goals against MIT's substitutes. The regulars returned after the fifth goal with MIT clinging to a one goal lead with two minutes remaining in the game. Chian came up with big saves in net during a 9-0 breakaway with 3 seconds left that would have tied the game.

However, MIT lost control of the ball and Wellesley had one last chance to score with a minute remaining in the game. Following a time out, the Wellesley players worked the ball down to the Dartmouth goal where they tried to pass into the hole. Klepser tipped the entry pass away to Bratakos who swam to the corner, running out the clock and preserving the 3-1 victory for MIT.