

Lee and Carter Win UA Elections by a Small Margin

By A. Arif Husain
NEWS EDITOR

With a slim 95-vote margin, Richard Y. Lee '97 and Dedric A. Carter '98 won the offices of Undergraduate Association president and vice president yesterday in the closest election in four years.

Lee and Carter beat opponent pair Ashwin Viswanathan '98 and Orli G. Bahcall '99 by just four percent of the total vote. Since candidates were ranked preferentially, lower-ranked candidates were redistributed until a first-place majority was achieved.

The third pair, Steven E. Jens '97 and Andrew R. Menard '97, along with several write-in candidates, were defeated in the first round. There were a total of 1,077 ballots in the final round.

Lee and Carter will take office at the end of this term.

"[Lee] and I have a kind of

team-oriented concept," Carter said. Their immediate plans are to organize groups assigned to look into and address a variety of issues.

"We have already started assembling teams," Lee said. "First order of priority is to find the right people to work with us — not just new people, but people within the UA as well."

"Right now it's the toughest job ahead of us. There are a lot of criticisms about what we can do. A lot of them are very legitimate and very valid," Lee said. "The job now is to fulfill those promises and work with everyone so that everything we sought to accomplish comes to fruition."

"We're going to let people know we're here and we're ready to work for them," he said.

Voter turnout was "pretty good" according to UA Treasurer Russell S. Light '98. All results had not been finalized at press time, but about 1,500 votes were collected, Light said.

This year's election was marked

by the highest electronic ballot-to-paper ballot ratio in history. About 900 votes were cast through the UA's electronic voting program on Athena, with the remainder cast at polling stations in Lobby 7, Walker Memorial, the Student Center, and in front of Baker House.

Class officers also elected

Incumbent candidate Pardis C. Sabeti '97 will remain president of the class of '97, with 57 percent of the 282 votes. Candidates Christina Hsu '97 and Mary E. Hamilton '97 lost with 28 and 15 percent of the vote, respectively.

In an election of 238 votes, Efe E. Cakarel '98 claimed a five percent lead over Anya J. Freedman '98, to win the class of 1998 president spot.

With a similar lead, Kareem Howard '99 was victorious over Jin S. Kim '99 in securing the office of president for the Class of 1999. The freshman class elections had the

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BRIAN VANDEN BOSCH—THE TECH

Richard Y. Lee '97 and Dedric A. Carter '98

Search Committee for RCA Dean Narrows Pool to Three Finalists

By Stacey E. Blau
NEWS EDITOR

The search committee for the new assistant dean for the Office of Residence and Campus Activities has narrowed down its candidate pool to three finalists.

The three are all from outside MIT, said Richard L. Brewer, manager of administration in the Office of Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs, who chaired the search committee.

The candidates will be introduced separately at student forums that will be held next Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Ashdown House's Hulsizer Room.

The search comes after former Assistant Dean for RCA Susan D. Allen left to become Dean of Students at Roxbury Community College earlier this year. She had served

as associate dean for three years.

The assistant dean functions as an overseer for issues related to student activities, from organization of events to management of activities' finances.

Other members of the search committee include Ida G. Faber, staff assistant for Undergraduate Academic Affairs; Ted E. Johnson, assistant director for programs in the Campus Activities Complex; Emily B. Sandberg, Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Public Service Center program director; Marie E. Seamon, Public Relations Services conference coordinator; Andrew J. Rhomberg G; Marc A. Manders '97; and Ashwin Viswanathan '98, Undergraduate Association floor leader.

Forums intended for student input

The forums next week are

designed to collect student input on the candidates, Rhomberg said.

"I've insisted on having a student-organized event," Rhomberg said. "The administration has promised they would be receptive to student input."

The final decision on the candidates lies with Margaret A. Jablonski, associate dean for residence and campus activities. "She's said that she is going to value the meetings very highly," Rhomberg said.

The identities of the three candidates will not be revealed until the actual forums, where each one will appear individually on one of the three nights. The secrecy is out of fairness to the candidates, who were not put on warning; Brewer said. It would not be fair to reveal

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Hike in Tuition Reflects MIT Payroll Increases

By Brett Altschul
STAFF REPORTER

The \$1,000 hike in next year's tuition comes mostly in response to rapidly increasing payroll expenses at the Institute, according to Vice President for Finance and Treasurer Glen P. Strehle '58. The increase was announced March 1.

Although the 4.8 percent tuition increase is well above the rate of inflation, Strehle defended the rate increase.

"The overall percentage increase in expenses, including housing and dining, was slightly less than the percentage increase in tuition alone and may be a better measure of the overall increase in the cost to MIT students next year," Strehle said.

The estimated actual total cost of a year at MIT increased to \$28,350 for the 1996-97 academic year, a 4.4 percent increase over last year. The

cost of room and board increased by 3.3 percent.

"The expenses of MIT are driven largely by salary and wage increases, which rose faster than the Consumer Price Index increase of 2.5 to 3 percent, both at MIT and at other greater Boston employers with whom we might be compared," Strehle said.

Tuition is one of three major sources of revenue for MIT, said President Charles M. Vest. Historically, tuition covers only half the cost of a student's education. Endowment and unrestricted gifts and grants cover the remainder, he said.

The amount of money students are expected to provide from work and loans before receiving scholarship assistance also increased by \$450 to \$8,600, a 5.5 percent increase.

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Netscape, SGI Founder James Clark Shares the Secrets of His Success

By Kwong H. Yung

Netscape Communications Corporation Founder and Chief Executive Officer James Clark spoke yesterday before a packed audience in 26-100.

The talk, part of the Laboratory of Computer Science Distinguished Lecture Series, featured Clark's outlook on how the Internet has impacted society, together with the story of his success.

The Internet has transformed a largely telephone-based society to a "data-net" society, said Clark, who is also founder and former chairman of Silicon Graphics Inc.

Clark identified four business sectors most influenced by the World-Wide Web: telecommunications, media industries, information services, and consumer electronics. In the consumer electronics industry, Clark said that a television Internet browser will soon transform the television into an valuable information agent.

Still, Clark feels strongly that a web browser terminal will not replace the PC. "Bill Gates is not shaking in his boots," he joked in a reference to the Microsoft Chairman and CEO. "Will someone buy both a PC and a browser terminal? I don't know," he said.

Clark also addressed Netscape's competition with Microsoft, especially in light of the software giant's recent move to license its browser as the default browser to both America Online and CompuServe.

"Microsoft is a little desperate right now because they don't have control," Clark said. "And they don't know how to behave when they don't have control," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

"Microsoft is a great company, but no single company can dominate in an open market in all areas and for all times," Clark added.

Netscape has become the most widely used web browser on the

Internet, capturing 80 percent of the market.

Clark shares secrets of success

Clark also offered some advice for the up-and-coming. "Be intensely focused and committed. Have integrity and treat others right," Clark said.

Clark spent part of his life in academia. As an associate professor at Stanford University, he decided that "you just got to go do things." So he implemented his creation — the geometry engine — as the basis for Silicon Graphics.

Instead of assuming the CEO title, Clark initially became chair-

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JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH

Netscape CEO James Clark shares his views on the Web in 26-100.

Ronge Memorial

A memorial service for Melissa N. Ronge '98 will be held on March 18 at 8 p.m. at the MIT Chapel. A reception will follow in the Hulsizer room at Ashdown House.

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WORLD & NATION

Forbes Ends Presidential Bid, Grudgingly Endorses Dole

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

As supporters chanted "Steve 2000," an upbeat Steve Forbes ended his Republican presidential campaign here Thursday with a pledge to keep promoting the flat tax idea he had pushed so fervently.

In withdrawing from the race, he endorsed Sen. Bob Dole, the likely Republican nominee. But Forbes did so perfunctorily, at least at first, describing the Senate majority leader, in essence, as the lesser of two evils in a general election matchup with President Clinton.

"I ran in this race not to be someone but to do something," said the millionaire publishing heir, surrounded by friends and family, including his wife, Sabina, and their five daughters, who wiped tears from their eyes. "Our journey has just begun."

Forbes, who declined to rule out a second run for public office, set a record in his first try. He said he spent somewhere between \$25 million and \$40 million of his personal fortune — estimated in excess of \$400 million — more than any presidential primary candidate in history.

In light of his failure to win, "it was obviously too much or not enough," he joked. But, he added, "despite my Scottish blood, I do not begrudge the money, even if perhaps, sometimes, my kids, looking to the future, did."

When he began his campaign six months ago, Forbes noted, few in politics or the news media took him seriously. But what he lacked in experience or national reputation he made up for with his wealth, which allowed him to push his candidacy, and attack his opponents, by flooding the airwaves of the early primary and caucus states with campaign ads.

Panel Splits Immigration Bill

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

In a victory for the U.S. business community and its pro-immigration allies, a Senate panel Thursday voted to split a controversial immigration reform bill in a move that complicates congressional efforts to cut back on legal immigrants.

By a 12 to 6 vote, the Senate Judiciary Committee adopted an amendment sponsored by Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich., that divides the bill's provisions on legal and illegal immigration into two separate pieces of legislation.

The action, taken over the objections of the bill's sponsor, Sen. Alan K. Simpson, R-Wyo., dealt a major blow to proposals aimed at reducing legal immigration for employment and family reunification. While unlikely to survive in the committee, the measures appear headed for a divisive debate among Republicans on the Senate floor.

The vote to split the bill was applauded by business leaders and a coalition of religious, ethnic and pro-immigration groups, but criticized by advocates of lower immigration. Clinton administration officials expressed concern that the end result could be to weaken protections for American workers.

Nine Companies Charged with Fraud

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the government's first crackdown on fraudulent advertising on the Internet, the Federal Trade Commission has charged nine businesses with making false claims on the global computer network, officials said Thursday.

Eight of the companies have settled the FTC charges and agreed to stop the alleged fraud or face fines of up to \$10,000 per violation, FTC officials said.

Four companies were charged with making false claims about lucrative earnings that consumers could collect by setting up businesses at home.

In advertisements on the Internet, the companies said consumers could earn thousands of dollars each month after buying work-at-home programs priced between \$9.95 and \$147. But the companies could not substantiate those rosy income projections, FTC officials said.

WEATHER

Hints of spring?

By Marek Zebroski

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Not quite yet, it seems! A slow-moving cold front will approach us on Friday, ending our brief warm-up with thickening clouds and rain showers. A low pressure will develop just south of New England Friday night and deepen rapidly, as it crosses into the Gulf of Maine early Saturday. Cold air will be pulled back into our area behind the storm, and there is a good chance of cold rain turning to mixed precipitation (especially away from the coast), before the skies clear by Saturday afternoon. Cold and blustery weekend will then follow, with more ominous developments by mid-week, just around the Vernal Equinox. A coastal storm and a cold pool of air overhead may yet better this year's snow records, especially over the interior sections. Alas, spring in New England is but a state of mind!

Today: Cloudy with rain developing. Midday highs near 52°F (11°C) will begin to drop as the rain commences and the southerly breezes stiffen considerably.

Tonight: Rainy, windy and turning colder after midnight. Some snow may mix in with rain towards dawn. Low 32°F (0°C) with strong northwesterly winds.

Saturday: Clouds early; some scattered flurries possible. Blustery and cold with temperatures struggling toward the 40°F (5°C) mark as skies clear in the afternoon.

Sunday outlook: Mostly clear but chilly, with highs in low 40s (5-6°C) after a frosty morning. Increasing cloudiness late in the day.

China Says It Will Conclude Military Exercises Next Week

By Rone Tempest

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING

Satisfied that a threatening message about independence has been sent to the Taiwan electorate and political leadership, China on Thursday said its military exercises and missile tests in the Taiwan Strait will not be extended beyond next week's presidential election on the island.

A foreign ministry spokesman announced Thursday that China will conclude its naval and air force exercises off the coast as scheduled Wednesday, three days before Taiwan's first direct presidential election. Test firings of medium-range M-9 missiles to target zones near the Taiwan coast are scheduled to end Friday.

"The exercises will come to an end as scheduled," foreign ministry spokesman Shen Guofang informed reporters. However, Shen stopped short of ruling out new military activities in the 100-mile-wide strait at some future date.

The announcement was one of several simultaneous signals sent by the Beijing leadership, including statements by the country's top military leadership and a report in a pro-Beijing newspaper in Hong Kong, that appeared to be aimed at calming fears of a military conflict in the Taiwan Strait.

In a statement before the National People's Congress session in Beijing, China's top general, Liu Huaqing, said the massive naval and air exercises that began on Monday in the waters separating Taiwan and the mainland were "purely for the sake of defense."

"China will neither invade any other country nor join in the arms race even when it lays claim to a greater national strength in the future," said Liu, China's most senior general and vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong newspaper Ta Kung Pao, often used by the Beijing government to disseminate its views, published an interview with a senior Chinese diplomat reassuring Hong Kong residents worried about a military conflict between the mainland and Taiwan.

"Hong Kong people need not to worry. They should continue with their work," said Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of the Chinese Xinhua news agency bureau, which serves as China's de facto embassy in Hong Kong.

The Chinese peace signals came two days after senior Taiwanese officials told the Los Angeles Times they are ready to upgrade relations with the mainland after the March 23 presidential election. Taiwanese Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien and Defense Minister Ma Ying-jeou said that if China halts its military activities in the strait, Taiwan will push for new talks.

"Everyone realizes that we should ... make relations closer and more cooperative," said Ma. Although the heightened military tensions have raised alarms in Washington and other capitals, some more optimistic analysts have characterized Taiwan's presidential elections and China's military exercises as an elaborate chess game leading to a more stable political

and economic relationship.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Shen said China's decision to stick to its announced military timetable will remain intact even if Nationalist Party leader Lee Teng-hui is elected as Taiwan's first popularly chosen president. Lee, 73, who has been accused by the Beijing leadership of conducting a secret campaign seeking independence for Taiwan, is heavily favored to win the vote.

Several Hong Kong and Taiwanese newspapers, quoting sources in Beijing, had reported that China planned to extend or enlarge its military exercises if it is not satisfied with the Taiwan election results.

However, in response to a reporter's question about Lee Teng-hui's probable victory, Shen affirmed the right of the Taiwanese electorate to choose its leadership.

"The people of Taiwan should be able to choose by their own will the candidates of their choice," Shen said. "Our real concern is whether the Taiwanese authorities will give up their two-China policy. No matter what the outcome of the election, Taiwan will remain part of China and its leaders will just be leaders of a Chinese region."

The statement is consistent with the mainland China position that Taiwan is a province of China — albeit the only "province" to hold open and free elections.

China's live-ammunition military exercises, involving as many as 40 People's Liberation Army warships, have raised alarms in neighboring Asian countries and panicked regional stock markets in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Clinton Increases Anti-Terrorism Funding as Assistance to Israel

By John M. Broder

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

President Clinton Thursday pledged \$100 million to help Israel combat terrorism and initiated an unprecedented intelligence-sharing arrangement.

The CIA and Pentagon will begin work immediately on a program of technical and human intelligence-gathering that will make U.S. intelligence links with Israel deeper than those with any other nation, officials said.

The new counter-terrorism funds, to be spread over two years, are in addition to the \$3 billion the United States already grants Israel annually in economic and military assistance. And they are separate from the \$22 million in emergency aid for Israel that Clinton authorized 10 days ago in the immediate aftermath of four deadly terrorist bombings.

Clinton announced the new program at a joint news conference here with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Clinton said intensified surveillance activities and anti-terror operations cannot guarantee that the recent suicide bombings will not be repeated. "But we can do more to identify the sources of support, to try to dry up money, to develop better technical and other means to prevent things from happening," Clinton said.

The new plan offers no short-term solution to Israel's anguish and insecurity, he said, which derive from ancient cultural, historical and geographic realities, and that only a change of heart among Israel's enemies will bring the Jewish state the peace it craves.

The "Summit of Peacemakers" in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, a day earlier marked a milestone in Arab acceptance of Israel and recognition of its legitimate security needs, Clinton said. The answer to Israel's current difficulties, however, lies not in the Palestinian territories or Damascus or Tehran but in the unpredictable passions of men, the president said.

"I wish I had it in my power to reach into the hearts of those young men who have bought some apocalyptic version of Islam and politics that together causes them to strap their bodies with bombs and blow themselves to smithereens and kill innocent children," Clinton said.

"I wish I could do that. I don't pretend to be able to do that. But that's not the question. The question is: Can we improve the capacity of Israel and of the Palestinian Authority to prevent these things from occurring? The answer to that question is yes," the president continued.

Peres expressed his gratitude for the new U.S. aid and for Clinton's implicit endorsement in his difficult re-election bid in elections set for late May. "In my eyes, President Clinton is the first world leader that put on the agenda peace in our time as the major goal," Peres said.

He added that Clinton "is really a great leader, but not less than that, a moving friend" who shares Israel's current sorrow.

Throughout his two-day visit to the region, Clinton offered sympathies to a nation still in shock and grief after the latest wave of extremist violence. In an early afternoon drizzle, Clinton stood hand in hand with Leah Rabin at the grave of her

husband, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was slain by a Jewish fanatic on Nov. 4.

Clinton, wearing a black skull cap and following Jewish custom, placed a stone upon the former prime minister's grave as evidence of his visit. He brought the stone from the White House south lawn, where Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook hands two years ago on a pact to bring self-rule to Palestinian territories.

Clinton also briefly visited Bet Haruch high school, which lost three graduates in the recent political violence. Outside, he told reporters: "If you want to be free and safe, you have to stand against terror."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher and CIA Director John Deutch remained in Israel after Clinton departed Thursday night.

They were to meet with their counterparts in the Israeli foreign ministry, the defense agency and Mossad, Israel's foreign-intelligence service, to seek ways to improve Israel's capacity to detect and deter terrorist violence.

Clinton sent Congress a request Wednesday night for \$50 million in new funding for the Defense Department to be used to enhance Israel's anti-terrorist capabilities.

The assistance program will include training and technical assistance, advanced bomb-detection devices, X-ray systems to find explosives in packages and on people, robots to handle suspect packages and state-of-the-art thermal and radar sensors.

The United States and Israel will also cooperate on research and development efforts to find new means to prevent future attacks.

Study Links Agent Orange to Birth Defects in Children of War Veterans

By Earl Lane
NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON
The children of soldiers exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange during the Vietnam War may be at greater risk of having a serious birth defect called spina bifida, an expert panel has found.

The finding by a committee of the Institute of Medicine is the first time a large, independent review has suggested a link between Agent Orange exposure and birth defects in the veterans' offspring, the panel chairman said Thursday.

"The newest studies give us hope that researchers are getting closer to answering the lingering questions about the health effects of herbicide exposure," said the chairman, Dr. David Tollerud, a specialist on environmental medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

While there long have been suspicions that Agent Orange may have

had reproductive effects, previous major reviews — including an Institute of Medicine study two years ago — have found the evidence to be inadequate.

The new report, citing a new analysis of data from a large population study of Vietnam vets called the Ranch Hand study, says there is "limited or suggestive evidence" of a link between spina bifida and Agent Orange. Spina bifida is a malformation of the spine and spinal cord that can cause neurological problems.

"It's the first time that children have come into play here," said William W. Lewis, executive director of the New Jersey state Agent Orange Commission. "That's been a major concern of veterans over the years." He called the new finding a "bombshell" for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown said he was "deeply

concerned" about the report. He ordered his agency to review the issue and present recommendations for further study within 90 days. A department spokeswoman said the review likely would discuss whether compensation is appropriate for affected vets and their children.

U.S. forces sprayed some 11.2 million gallons of Agent Orange over Vietnam, beginning in 1962. Thousands of U.S. personnel were exposed to varying doses of the defoliant.

Under a law passed in 1991, the Institute of Medicine — an arm of the congressionally chartered National Academy of Sciences — conducts a review every two years of the scientific literature on Agent Orange's health effects. The study panels put diseases into categories, ranging from those with "sufficient" evidence of a link to Agent Orange to those with no solid evidence of association.

Allies Reluctant to Give Aid to Bosnian Army That Would Train, Arm Military

By Art Pine
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON
The Clinton administration's bid to muster international help to arm and train the Bosnian government army received a serious setback Thursday as several key European countries served notice that they will not provide significant help.

With a meeting of potential donors scheduled for Ankara, Turkey, Friday,

France, Britain, Germany and the Netherlands all have declined to contribute substantially. Other potential donors, such as Saudi Arabia, have signaled that they, too, may hold back.

U.S. officials worry that a poor showing at the Ankara conference could undermine their efforts to stabilize Bosnia so that U.S. peace-keeping troops can leave by the end

of this year, as President Clinton has promised.

In particular, Washington had hoped to amass a sizable list of contributors in Ankara to prod the Muslim-led government of Bosnia into ejecting some 800 remaining Islamic militiamen from the country and severing their military ties with Iran.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Warren Christopher called senior officials of the three Balkan factions to a meeting in Geneva Monday to discuss ways to shore up compliance with the Dayton, Ohio, peace accord in the face of increasing strains in the peacemaking process.

The session, which officials said is expected to last half a day, was designed as a prelude to a high-level conference on Bosnia in Moscow March 23. Christopher is scheduled to be in Geneva Monday for a meeting on the comprehensive nuclear

test-ban treaty.

U.S. officials said the Geneva session, which will include officials of Britain, France, Germany and Russia, will focus on disputes between the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats, the refusal of Serbs to live in Muslim-run Sarajevo and economic reconstruction.

Assistant Secretary of State John Kornblum, who has just replaced Richard C. Holbrooke as the chief U.S. mediator in the Bosnian arena, is expected to fly to Geneva for the session, which will be the first such meeting since he assumed that post.

The setback in the arm-and-train effort came amid growing congressional concern about the Bosnian Muslims' ties with Islamic militants. The Senate voted Wednesday to withhold \$200 million in aid to Bosnia unless that government stops sharing intelligence with Iran.

NIH Head Vows He'll Follow Panel's Advice on Research to Produce a Vaccine for AIDS Virus

By Laurie Garrett
NEWSDAY

BETHESDA, MD.
Saying he will "move quickly to implement sweeping reforms in the nation's \$1.4 billion AIDS research," the director of the National Institutes of Health vowed Thursday to follow the controversial recommendations of a panel that has sharply criticized the agency's AIDS efforts.

That committee, established by the NIH's own Office of AIDS Research, concluded that the drive to find vaccines, treatments and cures for AIDS has been stymied by the diversion of tens of millions of dollars to non-AIDS research, as well as by mismanagement and the NIH's failure to adequately fund the most crucial areas of scientific investigation.

Implementing the many recommendations of the panel's report, which was officially released Thursday, will entail shifting millions of dollars, personnel and other resources away from some research areas to others.

And that will be difficult, Dr. Harold Varmus, the NIH's director, conceded in a news conference, because some powerful administrators and scientists in the 24 health institutes that comprise the NIH will be required to give up funds, personnel and lab space, losing clout in the process.

"We can't expect the same time course for response and implementation of every one of the (14 committee) recommendations," Varmus said. "Some things, such as structural changes inside the institutes, will take longer ... but we believe there

is room for some course correction even in 1996.

"People will have to live with whatever changes are made," Varmus warned.

Dr. William Paul, director of the Office of AIDS Research, announced that he would immediately act on one of the report's primary recommendations — shifting funds from staff scientists at NIH to scientists working in universities and research institutes around the country. Paul said he will channel his office's full \$10 million discretionary fund to such efforts.

The committee recommended more sweeping changes as well, including a complete overhaul of the nation's AIDS vaccine effort and an end to funding of non-AIDS research with money Congress designated for AIDS.

Paul and Varmus said that, over the next two weeks, they will meet with all 24 institute directors, starting the needed negotiations.

The committee that made the recommendations was led by Princeton biologist Arnold Levine, who Thursday conceded that implementation of its recommendations "will create a certain amount of friction." He urged a cautious, go-slow approach.

But AIDS activists and many scientists working outside the National Institutes are in no mood to be patient.

The New York City-based Treatment Action Group, for example, issued a statement calling for all NIH institute directors to agree on a plan within three months.

"I think we (activists) have to

Amtrak Purchases New Trains

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Amtrak said it will announce plans Friday to purchase new high-speed tilt-trains for the Northeast Corridor, replacing the Washington-New York Metroliner with faster and smoother service and slashing travel time to Boston.

The Amtrak board of directors met into the evening Thursday and planned another meeting Friday morning to choose between bids from two international consortia, one led by Bombardier Corp. of Canada and the other by Siemens AG of Germany.

Government and industry sources said Thursday that Amtrak management had recommended the Bombardier bid, based on technical considerations and the generosity of the financing package offered by Bombardier. The final decision will be made by the board, however.

The contract, expected to require spending about \$800 million, including maintenance facilities, was to be announced with a splash Friday at a Union Station news conference hosted by Vice President Gore, Transportation Secretary Federico Pena and Amtrak President Thomas Downs. Although Amtrak is technically a private corporation, it receives federal subsidies and a Pena representative sits on its board.

Gore and President Clinton pushed a high-speed rail agenda in the 1992 election campaign, but until now little has been done other than provide money to study a few possible high-speed corridors.

Farrakhan May Have Violated Ban By Accepting Aid From Libya

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan Thursday proclaimed his right to accept "aid" from Libya — even though financial dealings with that country are banned by U.S. law — but did not confirm he actually is drawing any such money.

Farrakhan also declared his willingness at a 35-minute news conference to register with the Justice Department as "an agent of God," but not as a foreign agent representing Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

Farrakhan's comments came as government officials said letters from the Justice and Treasury departments had been hand-delivered Wednesday to a Farrakhan representative. The letters seek information to help determine whether Farrakhan's recent trip to Libya violated the ban on financial dealings with that country and to notify him of his possible obligation to register as a foreign agent.

A Customs Service agent delivered the letters at Farrakhan's Chicago headquarters after both departments failed in earlier attempts to obtain confirmation that Farrakhan had actually received the correspondence, a Justice Department official confirmed.

The issue of Libyan representation and Farrakhan's acceptance of any funds were raised during the controversial minister's 18-nation tour of African and Middle Eastern nations.

Whitewater Extension Fails Again

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Republican efforts to revive the Senate's Whitewater investigation ran into another Democratic roadblock Thursday as Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle, D-S.D., vowed that Democrats will block any attempt by GOP leaders to turn the suspended probe over to the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

Daschle's threat was made as Republicans failed for the third time in as many days to cut off a Democratic filibuster blocking an open-ended extension of the special Senate Whitewater committee, which expired Feb. 29. The vote was 51 to 46, strictly along party lines.

Whitewater committee Chairman Alfonse M. D'Amato, R-N.Y., has threatened to turn the probe over to the banking committee, which he also heads, if Democrats continue to block extension of the Whitewater committee's authority. He escalated those threats Wednesday.

In response, Daschle said there would be serious "practical, legal and financial" complications in shifting the probe to the banking committee and argued that such a transfer is prohibited by the statute that created the special panel last spring.

The 1996 Carroll L. Wilson Awards

2 Graduate Student Awards planned at \$5,000 each

These awards have been established as a memorial to the late Carroll L. Wilson ('32) Professor of Management at the Sloan School and first Mitsui Professor in Problems of Contemporary Technology at MIT.

Professor Wilson devoted much of his career toward seeking solutions to important global problems through the application of scientific, engineering, economic, and political analysis to programs of action. The underlying goal of his work was the improvement of relations among countries and the strengthening of their institutions and people.

The purpose of the Wilson Awards is to provide opportunities for MIT students to pursue a challenging activity which would have excited the interest and enthusiasm of Carroll Wilson.

The prizes will be awarded to graduate students in any department at MIT on the basis of a competitive evaluation of proposals by a Prize Committee.

Application Deadline Date:
March 22, 1996

Interviews of Finalists:
April 26, 1996

Announcement of Winners:
May 6, 1996

Application forms and additional information are available from:

The Graduate Education Office, 3-138

OPINION

Open Forums not Done Right

The administration has replaced a half-dozen deans in the past year and in the process has shown a passive, often blatant disregard for student opinion. As it prepares to choose the new assistant dean for residence and campus activities, who is in charge of overseeing student activities, it looks like it may repeat the mistake: The administration will have to seriously rethink next week's student input forums to get it right this time.

Search committee member Andrew J. Rhomberg G has organized the open forums in the hope of helping the committee gather student opinion about the candidates so that a more informed selection can be made. Only one candidate will appear at each forum; the forums are currently scheduled for next Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings. As it stands, this plan won't work.

The problem with these forums is twofold. First, the timing and length of the forums are such that few students will be able to attend even one, let alone all three of the hour-and-a-half meetings. Yet in order to make an informed decision about all the candidates, students who care must do just that. At 90 minutes apiece, on three nights a week, that will not happen.

Second, since the search committee has refused to release any information about the candidates in advance, it is unwise to

expect students to come to the meetings prepared to discuss the candidates' merits. While it is admirable to use such forums as a litmus test for future selection procedures, the current scheme will almost certainly fail to generate useful input.

The most disturbing element of the forums is that the identities of the three candidates — none of whom are from MIT — will not be revealed until the evening of each forum. This seeming shroud of secrecy is counterproductive. While the administration has valid concerns about shielding the candidates from scrutiny the second they set foot on campus, to hide their names from the very student body they purport to serve is at best wrong-headed and at worst hypocritical.

There are ways to avoid this mistake. A better idea would be to hold a single two-hour question-and-answer session with all three candidates. This format would much better encourage an intelligent exchange of ideas between students and candidates.

This series of forums marks a milestone. Issues like allocating funds, reserving space, and accessing student bank accounts herald the importance of finding a helpful assistant dean for RCA. But if the administration truly cares about student opinions regarding appointment of student deans, it should really try to be more accessible and open to student input in the future. These drawn-out, exclusive forums are not the answer.

Editorial

As it prepares to choose the new assistant dean for residence and campus activities, who is in charge of overseeing student activities, it looks like it may repeat the mistake: The administration will have to seriously rethink next week's student input forums to get it right this time.

Letters To The Editor

Column Perpetuated Fraternity Stereotypes

On page 7 of the March 12 issue of *The Tech*, under the eye-catching headline "Dry R/O Week Would Lead to Downfall of Fraternity System," A. Arif Husain presents his views on alcohol consumption during Residence and Orientation Week. However the piece doesn't concern itself with rush. Instead, it is a confused condemnation of fraternity life steeped in sarcasm to the point that its real meaning, if it ever had one, is lost.

Under the guise of a discussion of R/O Week, Husain presents us with his view that "it is a clear and indisputable fact that booze is the lifeblood of our fraternity system." He

further illustrates his point: "A frat without a keg is like an ocean without water." There are other choice quotes in the same vein, but these are typical. Does this drivel even qualify as sarcasm? There is no irony here; nothing suggests it. To the contrary. Husain supports the view that fraternities exist only to drink even in the "serious" part of his article where he sums up that "freshmen need to be made aware of... how the fraternity system is inevitably 'based on alcohol,' as Interfraternity Council President Jason D. Pride '97 admits... how they actually decide should be left up to them."

The debate on alcohol during R/O Week is a valid one, as is the debate on underage drinking at MIT. Husain presents an unsubstantiated attack on MIT fraternities which

deals with neither of these issues. I am offended by his reduction of the fraternity experience to an extended drunken torpor. In fact it does promote social interaction and brotherhood among men with or without alcohol. In addition, maintaining an autonomous self-governed collective requires assuming leadership, being responsible for one's actions, sacrificing for others, and dealing with the differences among people. As is typical of detractors of fraternities, Husain makes the sweeping comments of an outsider who has not taken the time to understand the system he is criticizing. His article serves no purpose but to perpetuate the unwarranted stereotype of fraternities as drinking clubs.

Radu T. Aghinii '98

Physics Department Disregards Students

Column by Rob Wagner

STAFF REPORTER

As part of re-engineering, the Department of Physics recently decided "to consolidate the undergraduate and graduate physics offices into one office under the direction of an educational coordinator," according to acting Department Head Jerome I. Friedman. Because of seniority, the current graduate administrator will assume the position of educational coordinator, and the current undergraduate administrator, Isabel Cunha-Vasconcelos, will be leaving her position.

Now it bothers me that we'll be losing Isabel. During my years here, she has been unbelievably caring and helpful to me and to a number of other students. We will truly miss her presence in the physics office.

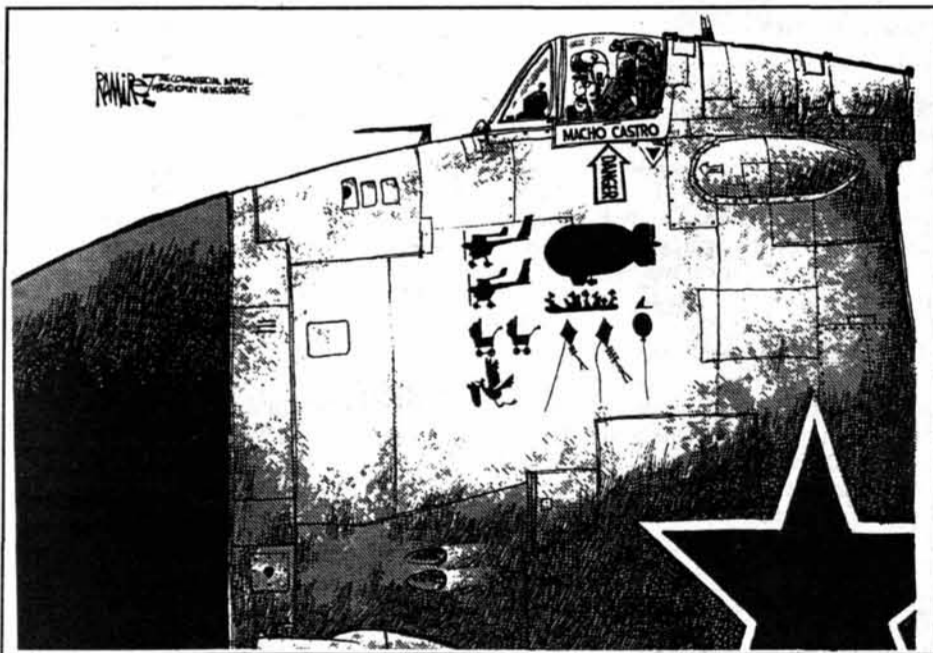
But what really bothers me is that the decision to make this consolidation was made in secret. Those responsible for this decision consulted neither faculty members nor students. And because the decision was secret, nobody could offer input. Thus the needs, concerns, and welfare of the department's faculty and students were completely ignored. Those responsible for this decision are insidious. They thought only of the bottom line in this case. They thought they could affect, and possibly harm, people's lives here without their either noticing or caring.

I view those responsible for this decision

with great contempt. I would like it known that this kind of flagrant abuse of students and manipulation of their academic lives is a disgrace to the Institute.

The enactment of this decision comes on the heels of *U.S. News and World Report's* annual ranking, which found the graduate

physics program tops in the nation. If the department has absolutely no regard for its undergraduates, or even its faculty, as is indicated by this decision process and the way it ignored student and faculty concerns, then this ranking is completely worthless, as is the department itself.



Opinion Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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I GET THE SAME REACTION. SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T LIKE PET OWNERS, I GUESS...



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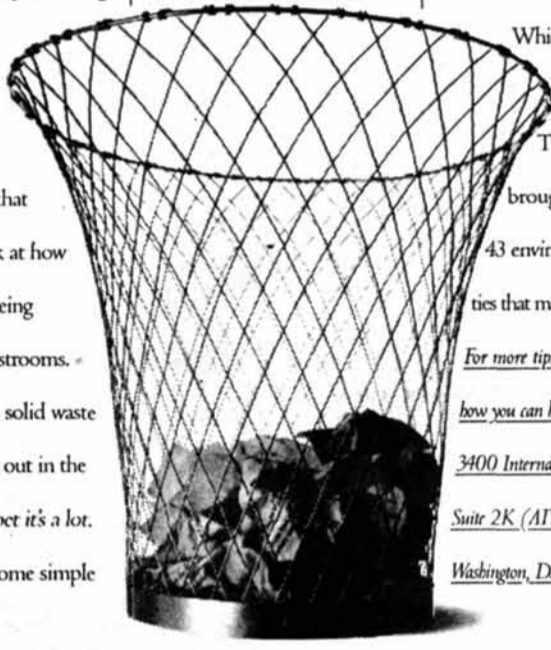
The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot. Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work. When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups. Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you're in the bathroom brushing your teeth or washing your face, don't let the faucet run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we'll save more for tomorrow.



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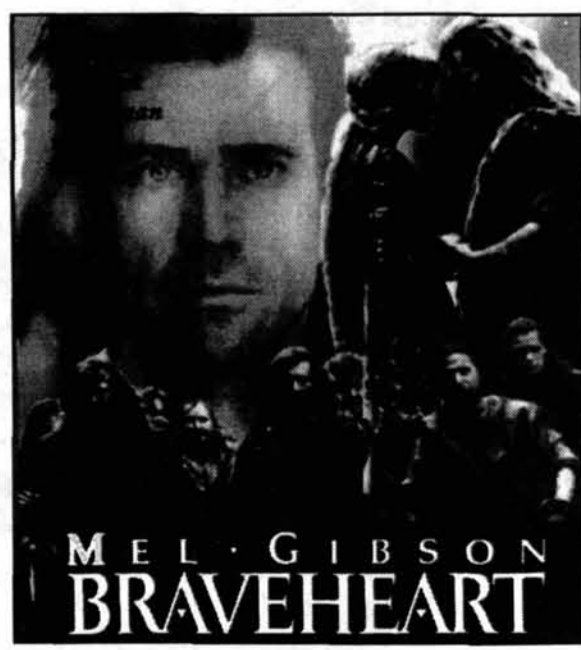
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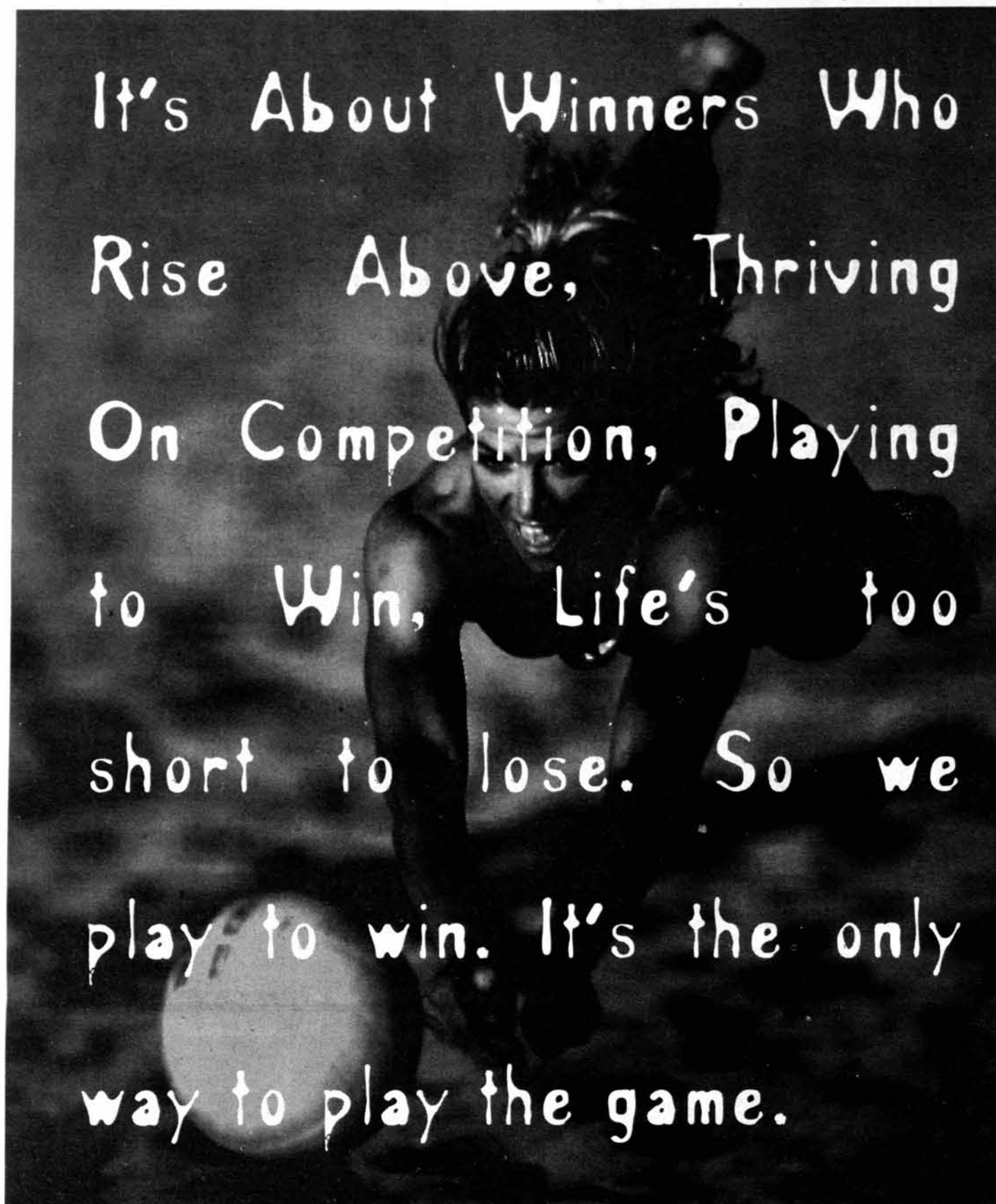
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THE ARTS

Executive Decision a whiz-bang, if campy, action flick

EXECUTIVE DECISION

Directed by Stuart Baird.
Starring Kurt Russell, Steven Seagal, and Halle Berry.

By Yaron Koren
STAFF REPORTER

Claustrophobics beware: *Executive Decision* is set almost entirely on a single airplane bound for Washington D.C. The movie cuts occasionally to concerned officials in Washington, but you should be prepared to spend a lot of time looking at the engine room, the aisles, and the cockpit. This film delivers the goods, though, and its suspenseful two hours manage to turn its cramped setting to advantage, gaining in tautness what it loses in panoramic setting. If *Executive Decision* doesn't soar, it at least stays afloat the whole way through.

The conflict begins fast and furious. The plane and its 400 American passengers are hijacked by a squad of heavily armed fundamentalist Muslim terrorists (continuing recent trend of Arab terrorists as all-purpose villains). The hijacking has been masterminded by the evil Nagi Hassan (David Suchet), who announces he will safely land the plane and its passengers in exchange for money and the release of his spiritual mentor, a world terrorist who is now in U.S. custody. In truth, he has more nefarious plans: He has stocked the ship's cargo with DZ-5, the world's most



Halle Berry and Kurt Russell share a special moment in front of the lavatory of a hijacked plane in *Executive Decision*.

lethal nerve toxin, and is set on ramming it into the capitol, instantly killing himself and the rest of the plane's passengers and sending a deadly plume of gas over much of the eastern seaboard.

Enter David Grant (Kurt Russell), a Pentagon intelligence analyst who understands Has-

san's motivations better than anyone, and Lt. Col. Austin Travis (Steven Seagal), the leader of an elite anti-terrorist unit. In a mission to free the plane from Hassan's hands, Travis suggests deploying an experimental aircraft named the "Remora" (really just a modified Stealth fighter) to intercept the plane and

ambush the terrorists before they know what hit them.

The mission is deployed, and the Special Forces team (a multicultural cast headed by the always entertaining John Leguizamo) now has approximately two hours to finish the job, and make the world safe again for mom and apple pie, before the plane reaches Dulles International Airport. A host of complications ensue, including a bomb that resists defusing and a power-hungry senator, who happens to be on the plane, who tries to use the hijacking to further his own political aims. They finally must rely on the aid of Jean (Halle Berry, who plays the damsel-in-distress role with grace), a frightened stewardess who bravely shields Grant and the rest of the crew from Hassan's ever-suspicious eyes. Of course, we know how it's all going to turn out, but the movie still keeps us hooked from one climax to the next with surprising efficiency.

Yes, you've seen this movie before. This is *Passenger 57* meets *Speed* meets *Die Hard* meets *Under Siege*, with a little bit of *Delta Force* thrown in there for good measure. *Executive Decision* isn't afraid to take a few risks to stray from convention, including killing off one of the principal characters during a dangerous action sequence half an hour into the movie. Still, the movie makes no attempt to disguise its campy techno-thriller sensibilities. Extraneous carnage and

Executive, Page 11

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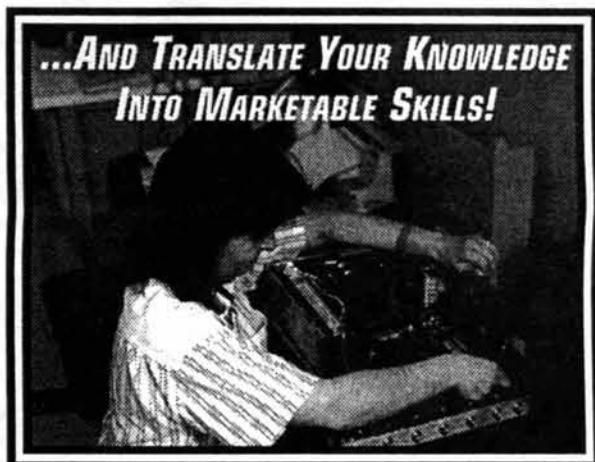
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Cottonwood Cafe is Cambridge's culinary treasure

THE COTTONWOOD CAFE

Porter Exchange, Cambridge.

By Aaron R. Prazan

STAFF REPORTER

If you ever need to buy a good lock, there is a distributor that has really good prices one doorstep from the Porter T stop. Leaving the locksmith's, you may glance to your left and see an innocuous cafe on the corner. While it may not be the reason you came to Porter, it should be a reason to stay. Fronted by a turquoise sign with stylized white letters, ubiquitous plate glass windows, it is an easily missed landmark. Many pass without a second thought, but they are missing out. I encourage you to tear yourself away from Athena or the comfort of your room and take advantage of that storefront's top notch cuisine. It is the Cottonwood Cafe and it is a gem, offering some of the best food and surroundings in all of Cambridge.

The interior of the Cottonwood gives so much more than the sign implies. Blue and turquoise lights bathe the room in cool color. Throne-like upholstered wooden chairs cradle the diner between weathered armrests with oak peeking through the paint. Jon Carlos, the musician, drifts from table to table, crooning high Spanish ballads for tips. Beyond the frets of his guitar leap orange flames and swirling drafts of fragrance-filled steam from the open kitchen. Also sitting smartly in the center of the room is a gleaming bar serving only the best spirits. Indeed, the plain glass exterior hides an unexpected opulence and a perfect place to eat well.

To be sure, the Cottonwood pulls no punches, mellows no flavors in order to

appease the inadvertent eater. Snake bites, one of the tastiest and most popular appetizers, are an example. Consisting of a jumbo shrimp riding a whole jalapeno pepper in a saddle of Monterey Jack cheese, all fried in a light breading, snake bites are not watered down. They are hot and, as if mocking the customer's blistering lips, served with a fresh pico de gallo that is also not for the meek. It is an excellent combination and one of the most memorable dishes I've had in recent times. After getting "bitten" I pleaded for bread and

was offered steaming cubes of cornbread. I learned the bread was filled with more jalapenos. The Cottonwood never goes for the expected.

The rest of the food was just as consistently unique. Paella is a Spanish seafood, vegetable, and rice dish. It had more ingredients than I cared to count, most notable of which were fresh asparagus, artichokes, colossal olives, black beans, and a myriad of fresh seafood. Sweet mussels with not a grain of sand and steamed chunks of swordfish were

highlights. The dish was also very rich in saffron, the world's rarest spice. The paella was beautiful and, according to the menu, a "healthy choice." Though satisfying, it was the least flavorful of the dishes I tried, maybe because it was sans fat. Another "healthy choice," Salmon Veracruz may be a better pick for the dieter. It was extremely juicy and came with a great tomato-pepper sauce.

Barbacoa was another good meal, but was certainly made without strict regard to health. It consisted of grilled shrimp and barbecued chicken with a bourbon based sauce. Perhaps the best thing about Barbacoa are the roasted bananas it comes with. Who knew that bananas went well with shrimp? Don't knock it till you try it. After dinner, I had the pleasure of trying a novel dessert, chocolate nachos. Definitely different, they must attract a lot of attention, since the dish seemed to come out of the kitchen at least every three minutes. The nachos require the help of at least two, if not three people to finish.

All in all, the Cottonwood Cafe was exceptional. Some of the dishes were better than others: Of the four I tried, Barbacoa was the favorite, but many of those I missed looked to be excellent. The menu is also in constant transition. The specials change every two weeks to keep up with chef Rich Sierra's new ideas. One other complaint is the service, which is not the fastest. The Cottonwood is not a quick meal but a slow indulgence, so don't expect to be finished in less than an hour. The Cottonwood Cafe is a great place to take parents, both to impress them with your good taste and to have them foot the not-so-economical bill; meals at the Cottonwood are priced in the mid-teens.



Located in Porter Exchange off the Porter T stop, the Cottonwood Cafe offers a hearty feast of flavors for the bold of heart.

Lala Rokh brings authentic Persian cuisine to Beacon Hill

LALA ROKH

97 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston.

By Shawdee Eshghi and Anders Hove

STAFF REPORTERS

Good Persian cuisine is hard to come by stateside. So, in spite of Boston's flair for ethnic food, you might not expect to see an authentic Iranian restaurant here — particularly not on Beacon Hill. Lala Rokh bucks these expectations: The food is relatively authentic and the decor is certainly tasteful as far as Beacon Hill goes. Prices are a little on the high side, but not unreasonably so. Without a doubt, this establishment is a fine addition to the area's gastronomic repertoire.

Lala Rokh is tucked away in the basement of typical Beacon Hill brownstone on Mount Vernon Street. The name "Lala Rokh" itself means lily. Perhaps that explains the plain,

subdued decor, marked only by an arrangement of tasteful, traditional Iranian paintings. The fine linen tablecloths, unfortunately, are covered with white paper sheets. The general atmosphere reflects a quiet and attractive elegance. Perhaps it is the atmosphere, then, that draws the mostly white, affluent, Beacon Hill crowd, although the room is dotted with a few Iranians of various ages.

The service at Lala Rokh can be described as attentive. The attention starts, however, when you sit down; don't expect them to notice you waiting in the foyer. The cheerful waiters are eager to tell all about the menu, the chefs, and the history of the establishment. They will also describe a number of specials, which in some cases are not regional dishes, but merely contemporary items.

Lala Rokh does not boast a very extensive wine list, but does provide a reasonable variety. The prices on the wines available are

decent, but beware of the Riesling. As for the menu, entrées range from \$12 to \$20. Many of these dishes are regional specialties from around the country. Both hot and cold appetizers run around \$5, with the exception of the \$20 renowned Caspian Sea caviar. There is also a range of side dishes, all priced at around \$2 to \$3.

For appetizers we ordered Kotlet-e-Gusht (\$5), two spicy medium-sized cutlets of moist beef in grated potatoes and spices; and Mirza Ghasemi (\$5), a melange of grilled eggplant, garlic, egg, and tomatoes.

For entrées, we ordered the Ghormeh Sabzi (\$15), boneless leg of lamb in a stew of dried lime, kidney beans, and a bouquet of greens, whose quantity was somewhat overstated on the menu. We also ordered the Sultani Kabob (\$16) which includes Barg (strips of sirloin) and Kubideh (ground sirloin spiced with turmeric and saffron). The Barg

and Kubideh are also offered separately on the menu. Both are served with Basmati, a tasty, long-grained rice prepared in the traditional fashion — steamed and seasoned with butter and Soumaq, a Middle Eastern spice. Both dishes were tasty and quite authentic. We discovered, however, that the meat was laced with fat, and somewhat tough in places.

For dessert we sampled the Baklava (\$4.50), which was exquisite. The Iranian style of baklava is made with pistachios, almonds and sugar water flavored with rose water, as opposed to the more common Greek style, which uses walnuts and honey. We then capped off the meal with a cup of Persian tea, served steaming hot.

In general, we recommend Lala Rokh highly for providing an impressive variety of authentic Iranian dishes in a pleasant if simple atmosphere.



TO: All of the 326 Student Telethon '96 Callers

FROM: The MIT Alumni/ae Association

RE: **THANK YOU!**

Congratulations to the following groups and individuals for participating in and excelling at the Telethons!

Groups who participated:

Alpha Chi Omega
Alpha Phi
Alpha Tau Omega
Baker House
Beta Theta Pi
Chi Phi
Circle K
Delta Tau Delta
Kappa Alpha Theta
Lambda Chi Alpha
Next House
Phi Delta Theta

Phi Gamma Delta
Phi Kappa Theta
Phi Sigma Kappa
Pi Lambda Phi
Sigma Chi
Sigma Kappa
Sigma Nu
Theta Delta Chi
WILG
Zeta Beta Tau
Zeta Psi

Top Callers:

Peggy Chen '99
Alex Zhang '99

Top Fraternity:

Phi Delta Theta

Top Sorority:

Kappa Alpha Theta

Top Student Org:

Circle K

Top Residence Hall:

Next House



Over 5000 alumni/ae were contacted by the 326 students who participated in the Telethons. \$250,990.00 was raised! This sets a new record for dollars raised during the Student Telethons. Congratulations and THANK YOU!

Child's perspective allows *White Balloon* to fly high

THIS WEEK AT THE KENDALL

The White Balloon.

Directed by Jafar Panahi.

Starring Aida Mohammadkhani as Razieh.

By Stephen Brophy

STAFF REPORTER

While lots of movies are made for children, and some of them even feature children, not so many movies are made for adults that look at the world through the eyes of a child. When a new one comes along, it invariably gets compared to the few that preceded it, but the comparison almost invariably misrepresents the movie. Such is the case with *The White*

Balloon, a gently told gem about a Tehran girl who wants to get a special goldfish for her family's Naw-Ruz, or New Year's celebration.

Trailers trumpet *The White Balloon* as being "in the spirit of *The 400 Blows* and *The Bicycle Thief*," but that is at the very least misleading. Those movies follow adolescent male protagonists as they contend with problems of poverty and an uncaring adult world. Razieh, the seven-year-old at the center of *The White Balloon* lives in a neighborhood that doesn't seem overburdened with material wealth, but she can depend on the support of parents and older brother, and even strangers on the street, even if she can't quite get them to understand the magnitude of her desire for a special fish.

Razieh's story is filmed in real time; we experience with her the countdown to New Year's as she struggles first to convince her mother to let her buy the fish, and next to set out on the adventurous journey to fulfill her mission. Along the way she is tricked out of her money by some devious snake charmers, but manages to get it back. A more serious problem arises when she gets to the goldfish shop and discovers that she has misplaced the all the household money, which her mother had entrusted to her care.

This simple story enables director Jafar Panahi to capture a large slice of contemporary urban Persian life (while Iran is in what the West calls the Middle East, it is not an Arab country). Panahi makes his story even

more racially complex by populating it with characters from other parts of Iran and neighboring countries, including an adolescent Afghani balloon seller. You probably shouldn't see this movie if you have learned to demonize "militant Muslims" and want to keep your prejudices intact.

Also opening today at the Kendall is the long-anticipated Hong Kong art film, *Chunking Express*, directed by Wong Kar-hai (more on that next week). Meanwhile, don't miss the opportunity to catch three other Wong films at the Brattle Theatre this weekend. *Ashes of Time* will screen on Friday and Saturday, coupled with *As Tears Go By* on Friday, and *Days of Being Wild* on Saturday.



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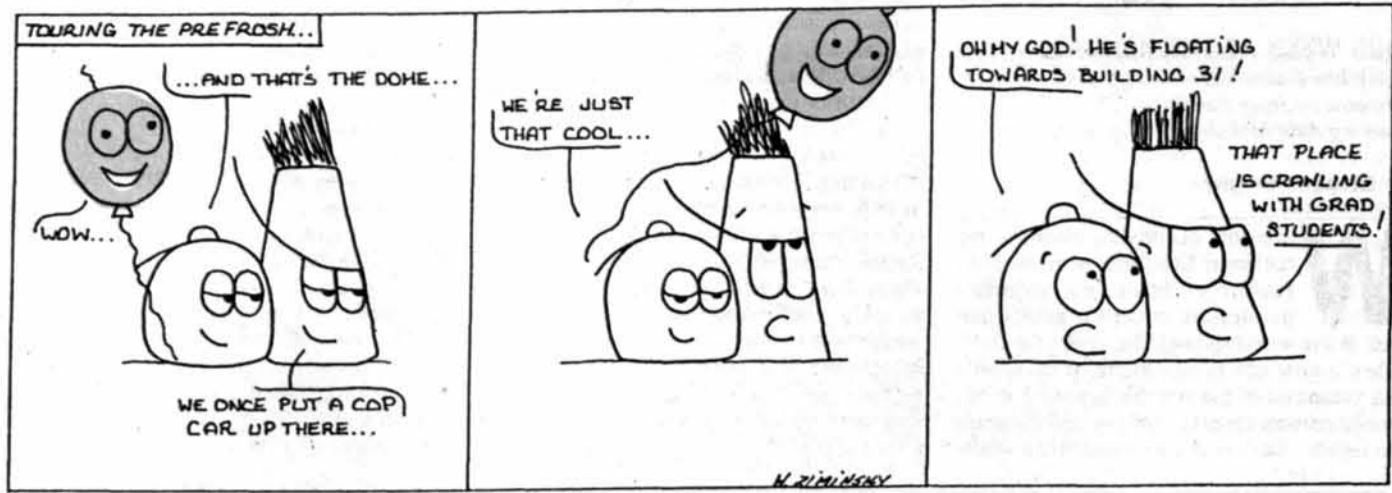
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ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Excellent
 ★★★: Good
 ★★: Average
 ★: Poor

★★★½ **Braveheart**

Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* is a curious combination of historical legend and modern dramatic techniques woven together into a tapestry of connected stories. With the plot based loosely on Scotland's real-life attempt for independence from England and the screenplay straight from modern Hollywood, the three-hour show reminds one more of *Lethal Weapon* than *Rob Roy*. *Braveheart* increases its appeal by contrasting highland goings-on with portrayals of British royalty, especially the powerful King Edward I (Patrick McGoohan). The battle scenes may be gruesome and a bit extreme, but the film as a whole is immensely satisfying. —Teresa Esser. *Saturday at LSC.*

★★★½ **Broken Arrow**

John Travolta and Christian Slater play Vic Deakins and Riley Hale, two Air Force pilots who fly a Stealth bomber on a predawn run over the Utah desert. Travolta is the older, wiser mercenary who steals the two nuclear warheads from the bomber's cargo bay; Slater is the young, idealistic whipper-snapper who enlists a spunky park ranger (Samantha Mathis) to foil the plan. The action sequences shouldn't disappoint fans of director John Woo — they're all executed with humor and finesse, with people leaping across the screen in slow-motion with both barrels blazing. But the story is trite and predictable in comic-book fashion (it's basically a rewrite by Graham Yost of his own script for *Speed*), and the pivotal fight scenes feel staged and choreographed. But you don't get to see an exploding nuclear warhead (below-ground) every day, and more often than not the special

effects team delivers the goods. —Scott C. Deskin. *Sony Copley.*

★★★★ **Dead Man Walking**

Dead Man Walking, directed by Tim Robbins and starring Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon, addresses the death penalty issue unflinchingly and comprehensively. It follows convicted killer Matthew Poncelet (Penn) from the murders, through his several appeals, and finally to his execution in excruciating detail, escorted by his spiritual adviser, Sister Helen Prejean (Sarandon). Don't look to this movie for much action, adventure, or excitement. This emotionally brutal film challenges you to think about the issues surrounding the death penalty. You'll walk away from the theater with a profound sense of the tragedy that any murder is, whether it is committed by a person or by the government. And you will leave with a bitter sense of pity both for the original victims and the convicts on death row. —Audrey Wu. *Sony Nickelodeon.*

★★★ **If Lucy Fell**

If Lucy Fell doesn't begin like your typical love story. Lucy (Sarah Jessica Parker) starts off reminding her college friend, Joe, of the death pact they made while in college. If they haven't found their true loves by the age of 30 (which is one month away for Lucy) they are to jump off the Brooklyn Bridge together. The next two hours are spent reaching the expected, but still satisfying, conclusion. —Charlene Chen. *Sony Copley.*

★★★★ **Leaving Las Vegas**

This sometimes-harrowing, often-redemptive look at a relationship between a destructive alcoholic (Nicholas Cage) and a prostitute (Elisabeth Shue) could be a spiritual antidote to the excesses of *Showgirls*. Cage is a newly-fired screenwriter whose vices have torn apart his family and led him to Las



Lucy (Sarah Jessica Parker) counts the days until her 30th birthday in *If Lucy Fell*.

Vegas, where he resolves to drink himself to death. Shue falls in love with him for his lack of pretense, and both embark on a journey of love and self-revelation. Director Mike Figgis completely redeems himself for the pathetic *Mr. Jones*; here, he paints the characters with warm, natural emotions and uses the garish backdrop of the Vegas Strip (where even the golden arches of McDonald's are adorned with a multitude of flashing lights). The soundtrack of soulful contemporary songs by Sting, Don Henley, and other performers is hypnotic and artfully used. It's definitely worthwhile and uplifting for those who can take it. —SCD. *Friday at LSC.*

★★★½ **Sense and Sensibility**

Director Ang Lee (*The Wedding Banquet*) and screenwriter-actress Emma Thompson

present one of the newest Jane Austen adaptations this year. Despite the similarities to BBC-TV's *Pride and Prejudice*, the film is a treat to watch. Thompson plays Elinor, the older, more sensible sister of the family, while Kate Winslet plays Marianne, her younger, more passionate sister. When struck by the loss of their father, the family must look to its daughters to seek out prospective husbands; through their trials and misfortunes (including liaisons with prospective suitors Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman), the family stands together and never forsakes its honor. The dialogue and ruminations on sexual impropriety may seem quaint by today's standards, but Thompson's screenplay does justice to 18th-century romance and chivalry. —SCD. *Sony Copley.*

Character sacrificed for terrorist stereotype in *Decision*

Executive, from Page 7

explosions abound, and there is enough gloriously nonsensical high-tech wizardry to keep the kids happy. Sure, there have been lots of bomb-defusing scenes in the movies, but how many of them involved using a digital multimeter to perform detailed circuit analysis?

The cat-and-mouse scenario is well-directed by David Baird, a veteran film editor (among his previous credits: *Die Hard 2*). Baird knows how to frame a spellbinding action sequence, and even manages to milk

some laughs from the humorless, cardboard script. And the film does maintain continuity throughout despite a dizzying pace, especially in the requisite pull-out-all-the-stops finale.

The ensemble cast generates a lot of chemistry. Even the normally wooden Kurt Russell turns in a passable performance. The same cannot be said for the constipated, self-righteous Steven Seagal, who at least isn't saddled with the ridiculous prospect of a love interest. Oliver Platt is notable in a comic turn as Cahill, a bumbling civilian aircraft engineer unwillingly drafted to aid in the mission.

The movie's linear storyline and fast pac-

ing do come at the cost of any real characterization. Ethnic stereotyping provides an easy substitute for actual delineation of separate personalities. This is most obvious in the racist portrayal of the team of terrorists on the plane, a group of swarthy, poorly dressed Arabs (most of them played by Westerners) who, with one exception, show little regard for human life. They always seem to be unsure whether they should speak to each other in Arabic or broken English. No subtitles are provided for the Arabic spoken, but they are unnecessary; it undoubtedly has something to do with "Allah's will" striking

"into the belly of the infidel." It's probably only a matter of time until Arab villains in movies reach saturation point, and white supremacist skinheads take over their position as chief celluloid crazies.

Despite its flaws, *Executive Decision* accomplishes what it sets out to do, which is deliver mindless fun and high-voltage thrills, and rattle your nervous system. There's no need to rush to the theaters for this one; it probably wouldn't lose much on its way to video. Then again, it's not likely to become a TWA in-flight main selection anytime soon.

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Students Will Seek Guidance In Dean

RCA, from Page 1

their names and qualifications for scrutiny yet, he said.

More important than the candidates' resumes and other similar qualifications is what students want from a new dean, Brewer said. "The students know what they want," he said. "They have to find out if the candidates are going to do that for them."

All of the three candidates are qualified, Brewer said. They all have master's degrees and three to five years' experience in a student

Students need "guidance rather than a watchdog."

Graduate Student Council President Bonnie J. Souter G

setting. The search committee, which started its work in December, selected the three finalists from a pool of about 200 applicants.

Rhomberg is drawing up a series of questions that the candidates will be prepared to address at the meetings. The questions were culled from input from members of the Association of Student Activities and the Graduate Student Council as well as from other student input, Rhomberg said.

Students want guidance from dean

The new dean will need to understand the importance of student activities, said President of the Graduate Student Council Bonnie J. Souter G. Students need "guidance rather than a watchdog," she said.

"We have fewer graduate students than undergraduates," Rhomberg said. But graduates still have quite an interest in the selection process, he said.

The new dean must be "willing to build a relationship with students," Souter said. A particularly important role for the dean to take on will involve teaching students financial responsibility for their activities, she said.

The mechanical functions of the dean's position involve things like processing checks, signing event registration forms, and making decisions to loan money to student groups, said Undergraduate Association Treasurer Russell S. Light '98.

Such tasks always have to happen and should happen "as quickly could be reasonably expected" so that student groups do not have to "go through hassles to get checks written and events registered," Light said. "Your money is your money, and you need to have access to it."

One way to improve some of the problems with activities' access to their money is the current initiative to allow student groups to open outside bank accounts, Light said. "This will reduce the burden on the student accounts system so that it can better meet the needs of groups that would prefer not have outside accounts," he said.

But the dean should also "be somebody you can go to when you need problems solved," Light said. "You need somebody whose office you can just walk into." The new dean "should have an open mind to the generally unique way MIT does things," he said.



KEVIN SIMMONS

Antonlo (Michael W. Tucker II '98) prepares to stab Alonso (Jenny J. Burh '98) in the Shakespeare Ensemble's production of *The Tempest*, playing Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Student Center's La Sala de Puerto Rico.

Other Top Universities Announce Comparable Tuition Rate Hikes

Tuition, from Page 1

The tuition increase was in line with past year's tuition hikes. Last year, MIT raised tuition by \$900 to \$21,000, a 4.5 percent increase.

Others increase tuition rates

Other top colleges posted similar rate increases. Stanford University's tuition and total costs will each be four percent higher in the 1996-97 academic year, rising to \$20,490 and \$27,827, respectively. The tuition and total costs of a year at the California Institute of Technology will also rise four percent to \$18,000 and \$27,465.

On Wednesday, Harvard Univer-

sity announced that its hike for next year would be 2.1 percent, leaving the total cost at \$28,896. A 2.4 percent increase makes next year's tuition \$19,770. This marked the smallest increase in the last four years.

"Still, I don't think students are too thrilled about paying this much," said Anne Krendl, an editor at *The Harvard Crimson*. "The rising costs can be a problem."

Princeton University announced a tuition increase of 4.6 percent increase in its tuition for its next academic year. "That's actually the lowest increase in 28 years," said Massie E. Ritsch, a senior writer for *The Daily Princetonian*. Next

year, Princeton will cost \$28,325 total.

"People would feel happier with an increase if they could see where the money was going," Ritsch said. "One big thing that's going on right now are budget cuts," he said.

Princeton had a budget deficit of four million dollars and is planning on cuts that will affect libraries and the computing office on campus. "Those are two areas that students are very reliant on," he said.

"Why can't we stay closer to the rate of inflation? That's definitely a concern," Ritsch said. "It's admirable that they've made it the lowest in 28 years, but it's still certainly a hefty chunk of change."

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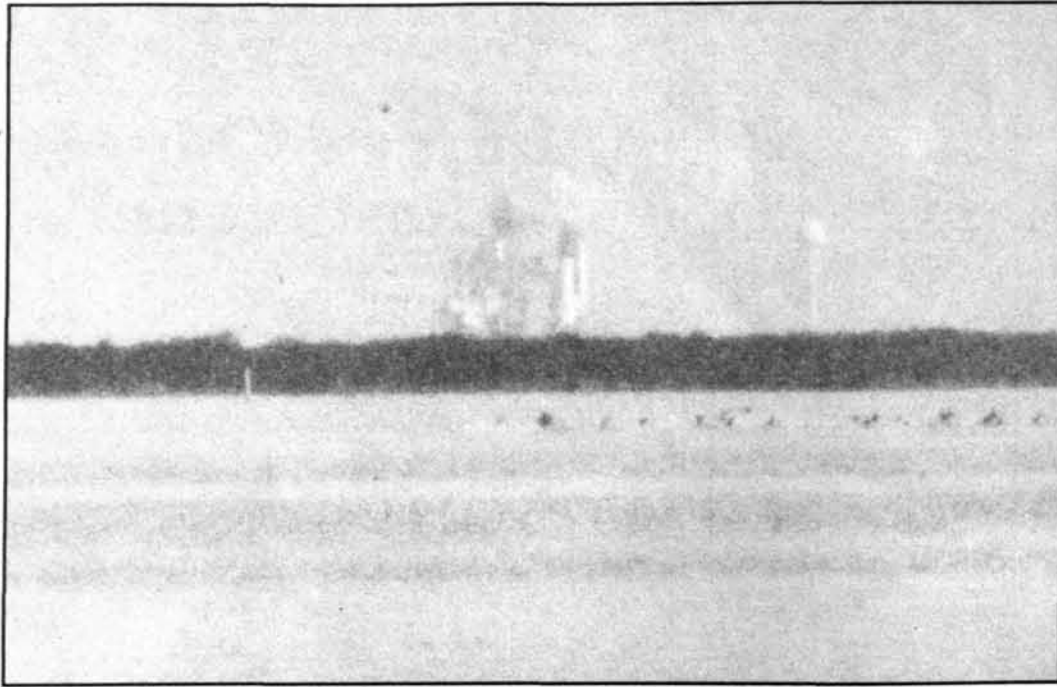
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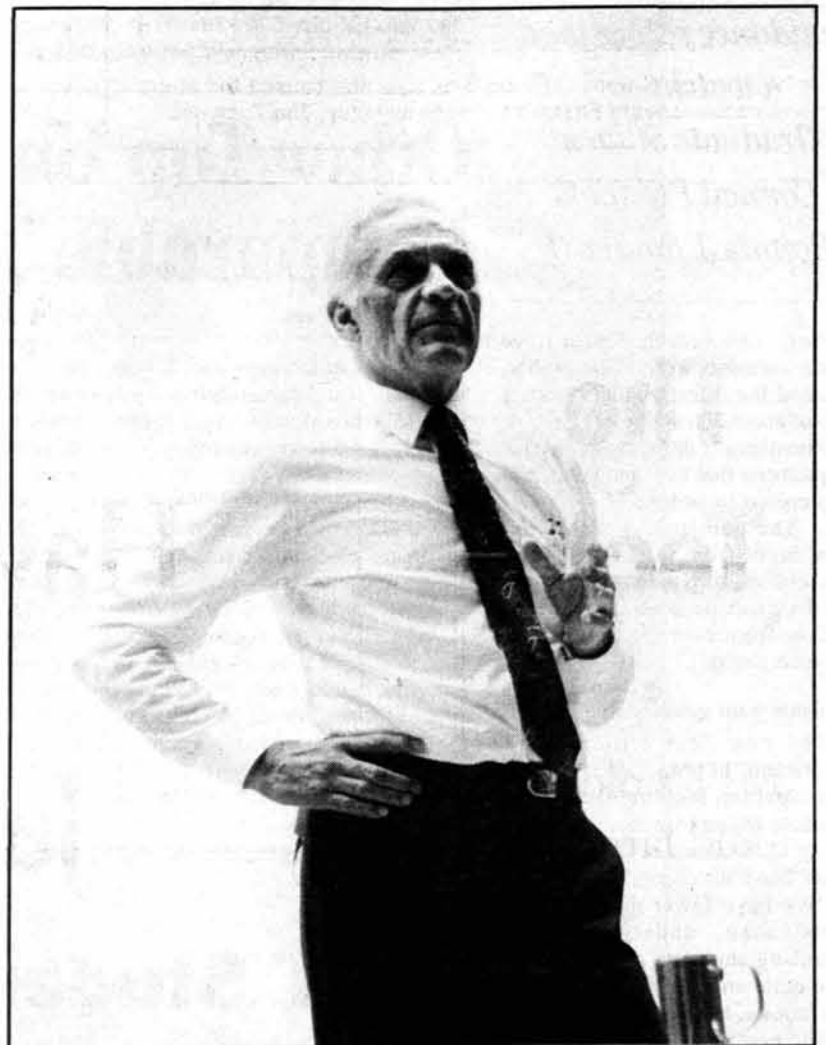
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Ariel (Monica Y. Gomi '96) explains how she caused the storm in the Shakespeare Ensemble's Saturday play, *The Tempest*.

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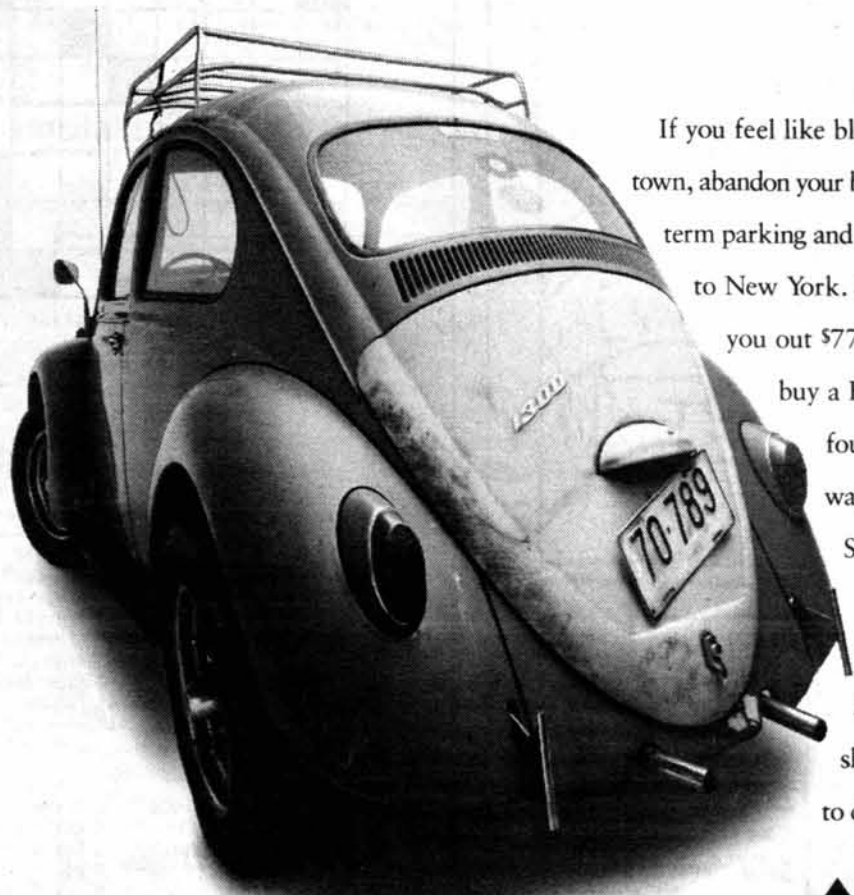
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61									62			

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Having magnitude
 - 7 Occur
 - 13 Underwater ICBM
 - 15 — roll
 - 16 Hug
 - 17 Pierces with a sharpened stake
 - 18 Ostrichlike bird
 - 19 Roman general
 - 21 Dorothy's aunt, et al.
 - 22 Cupola
 - 24 Wanders about
 - 25 French cheese
 - 26 Mortimer —
 - 28 Desire
 - 29 Jim Nabors role
 - 30 — pace
 - 32 Museum sculptures
 - 34 Bio—
 - 35 Owns
 - 36 Bill Haley and the —
 - 39 More inquisitive
 - 42 Happen again
 - 43 Most common written word
 - 45 French relatives
 - 47 Subject of the movie, "Them"
 - 48 Feeling honored
 - 50 Arrividerci —
 - 51 "Give — try"
 - 52 Sparkle
 - 54 "My boy"
 - 55 State tree of Georgia (2 wds.)
 - 57 Cleverly avoiding
 - 59 Arab jurisdiction
 - 60 Experiences again
 - 61 Famine
 - 62 — rat
 - 10 Capital of Sicily
 - 11 Adversaries
 - 12 Sadat succeeded him
 - 14 Indian soldiers
 - 15 Sitting, as a statue
 - 20 Suffix for detect
 - 23 Dutch scholar
 - 25 More domineering
 - 27 Kitchen gadget
 - 29 Understand
 - 31 Illuminated
 - 33 Shout of surprise
 - 36 French money
 - 37 Antony's wife
 - 38 Bowling term
 - 39 Spay
 - 40 Wearing away
 - 41 Spot —
 - 42 Talked wildly
 - 44 On a lucky streak
 - 46 Most rational
 - 48 Writer Sylvia —
 - 49 Removed by an editor
 - 52 Capricorn
 - 53 Mark with lines
 - 56 Blunder
 - 58 Relative, for short
- DOWN**
- 1 Rushes
 - 2 College dining room
 - 3 Egg part
 - 4 Hagman, for short
 - 5 Soviet sea
 - 6 Kitchen gadget
 - 7 Organic part of soil
 - 8 Location of the Matterhorn
 - 9 "Harper Valley —"

Netscape Founder Created 'Mozilla'

Clark, from Page 1

man so that he could concentrate on technological innovation. Although Silicon Graphics grew to become a success, he was not happy that it produced only high-end hardware.

After 12 years with Silicon Graphics, Clark decided to resign from the board of directors and leave behind \$16 million worth stock options.

As he was leaving, a friend referred him to then-University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign student Mark Andressen. Together they decided to create Mozilla, the "Mosaic killer" that eventually became the Netscape Navigator.

Clark realized his own scientific and engineering skills after joining the U.S. Navy and developed it at Navy electronics school.

Clark went on to complete a bachelors and masters degree in physics. But instead of completing a PhD in physics, Clark decided to earn a PhD in computer science from the University of Utah. He later held academic positions at the University of California at Santa Cruz and later at Stanford, before leaving academia to enter business.



Matthew B. E. Casey '96, Sanford B. Fitch '96, Whitney A. Pine '98, and Amit Srivastava '96 held a pool party of sorts in the snow on Kresge Oval yesterday.

TIFFANY LIN—THE TECH

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 253-4971
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SPORTS

Orioles, Indians, Angels to Take Home AL Pennants

By Bo Light
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Hello, all you folks in sports-section land. Hope your Final Four picks haven't been eliminated yet. Not to inundate you with more college basketball, but with all the talk about the men's tournament lately, the women's basketball tournament has been completely overlooked (at least in this column). That's not fair, so here is a brief overview of the 1996 women's basketball tournament.

The women's field was expanded to 64 teams this year. It's nice to see that women's basketball is rapidly advancing to the level of men's basketball, at least in terms of competitiveness. The expanded field means extra bids for a lot of conferences and regions. Six teams from the New England area were invited to this year's tournament, but that doesn't compare to the mighty Southeastern Conference, which sent seven.

In the East, perennial powerhouse Tennessee is the top seed, and has a fairly easy run to the regional finals, but will have trouble getting into the Final Four. Why? Unlike the men's tournament, there is no

rule against a team playing on its home floor; in fact, first- and second-round games are played at the home sites of the top four regional seeds. Amazingly enough, third seed Virginia will play all of its regional games on its own home floor, and the home-court advantage will send them to Charlotte for the finals.

For the second year in a row, Connecticut has a no. 1 seed in both tournaments. The Lady Huskies are tops in the Mideast, and should roll to the Final Four. Along the way, they will probably face UMass (about time; people have been clamoring for a UMass-UConn game all year) and Big Ten power Iowa.

Over in the Midwest, the top seed is Louisiana Tech, which sports a 28-1 record and the no. 1 ranking in the country. Texas Tech and SEC power Georgia will be tough, but Tech should have no trouble advancing through the region. Just imagine; a tech school in the Final Four!

Last but not least, Stanford is once again top seed in the West. Is Stanford ever not the top seed in the West? There isn't a whole lot of competition in this region, except perhaps for Penn State; Stanford to the Final Four.

In the Final Four, UConn should get past Virginia, and Louisiana Tech will send the Cardinal home. The final will be a tough match, with Connecticut eager to repeat as national champs. In the end, though, Louisiana Tech will prevail (hey, you just can't argue with 28-1).

Well, that was painless. Let's move on.

EAS goes inside the batter's box

As promised, EA Sports begins the countdown to Opening Day with its American League preview. This should be quick because, let's face it, who can be that interested in baseball this early in March?

First, the AL East. Last year, Baltimore, New York, and Toronto made huge improvements to their rosters in the off-season. If you recall, at the All-Star break, Boston had a three-game lead on Detroit for first place. This year, however, big free agent signings by the Orioles should bring them a pennant.

The Red Sox have also made some moves, improving both their pitching staff and their hitting. Of course, with all the potential designated hitters, you know Jose Canseco will be in right field. The horror. Still, the Sox should get the wild card.

The Yankees, on the other hand,

unloaded a lot of their high-priced free agents. It makes good business sense, but the Yanks won't be in the playoffs this year. The Blue Jays, still trying to recapture the magic that made them world champs in '93, will finish poorly, but they won't finish last, because Detroit is in the East. Yes, the Tigers will finish in the basement, but they will lead the league in home runs (and strikeouts).

In a stupendous freak occurrence, Milwaukee, Chicago, Minnesota, and Kansas City will all finish in a tie for second place with 82-80 records in the AL Central, but no one will care. Why? Because the Cleveland Indians, who strengthened an already lethal pitching staff with the addition of Jack McDowell, will win the division by forty games on their way to the World Series. Any questions? No? Good.

Moving on, then, Seattle has a good shot at repeating as West

champs, but the Angels came too close last year to be denied, and their free agent signings make them the favorites for the pennant. The Rangers won't be in the hunt like they were last year, but take heart, Texas fans; your team isn't as bad as the A's. Meanwhile, Oakland fans can console themselves with the fact that their team isn't as bad as, oh, say, the Padres.

Next week: the just-as-brief National League preview.

As for the trivia question...

Can't think of one this week. Wait for next week's issue.

Answer to last week's question: The last Big East team to win the NCAA basketball championship was Villanova, which upset Georgetown in the 1985 tournament. Correct answers were sent in by Jaime Sarabia '98, Matt Congo '97, Thomas Epps '97, Frank Greer '97, Stephen Vetere '97, Howard Cheng '96, and Walter Sun G.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Mar. 19
Men's volleyball vs. Harvard University

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