

SHARON YOUNG PONG—THE TECH  
Waleed Aabar '99 sings the solo in "Roll to Me" at the Loga-rhythms concert Saturday in 10-250.

## Assistant Dean Candidates Share Ideas at Open Forums

By Oril G. Bahcall  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Three candidates for the unfilled position of assistant dean for residence and campus activities addressed issues of student concern at three open forums this week.

Each forum, one with each candidate, was attended by about 20 students representing student governments and clubs.

The three candidates — University of Southern California Student Organization Adviser Rebecca A. Chavez, Emerson College Student Activities Director Jeanne M. Maguire, and Tufts University Assistant Director of Student Activities Katherine G. O'Dair — discussed their experience and fielded questions from the various student leaders in the audience.

The open position was vacated earlier this year when former Assistant Dean for RCA Susan D. Allen left to become dean of students at Roxbury Community College earlier this year.

**Chavez would be student advocate**

The position of assistant dean of student activities "really caught

my eye," Chavez said. "This position could get me back to advisement of student government," she said.

Chavez stressed a desire to be "instrumental in setting a framework," to teach students skills such as leadership that complement academics.

The "position is not only to advise students, but also to be an advocate for them," by serving as a communication link between students and other administrative offices, Chavez said. This will "allow me to work with students in a different level than I am used to working at."

Chavez suggested presidential forums, where the presidents of all the student clubs would meet several times a year to "throw out things that students are upset with," in an open forum.

While Chavez plans to advocate for the students, "this is just one peg in the whole board," she said. "The larger question is if we are working with an institute that is willing to change. [Students] are one part of that, and RCA is just one part of that," Chavez said.

Chavez received a BA degree in Speech and Theater Arts and a MA in Education from Colorado State University in 1984. At USC Chavez has been active in the advising on finances, student issues, and mediation of student issues.

**Maguire discusses procedures**

Maguire discussed the procedures that student organizations there were required to follow in order to access their funding, including having the group's advisor sign-off on all requests for payments.

Maguire is most proud of her "ability to make connections, build bridges and work collaboratively with students," and believes that often the "experience outweighs the product," she said. She plans to take a proactive role as the assistant dean for RCA.

"My style is not as a mother," Maguire said. "I am here to help make sure there is a system that is helpful to students, as well as being safe, sincere and honest."

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## Faculty Express Doubt Over Final ROTC Plan

By Anders Hove  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The members of the ROTC task force met a mixed response Wednesday as they presented their final report Wednesday at the March faculty meeting.

The faculty also approved a measure to establish a master of engineering program in nuclear engineering.

Professor of Management Stephen C. Graves, chair of the task force, called for a "model ROTC program" that would combine the best aspects of other schools' approaches to the military's "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy on homosexuals.

Graves began by discussing the phases of the task force's work. In the first two phases, the task force collected information, issued an interim report, and gathered com-

munity input through a series of open forums, he said.

While the final report released this week represents the completion of the third phase, the task force has been asked to oversee a fourth phase in which the final recommendations are again brought before the community for discussion, Graves said.

**Task force goals discussed**

Graves outlined several key issues or goals for MIT ROTC. ROTC should provide an "open, honest environment that respects the rights and privileges of all," he said.

The task force respects the value of ROTC to students at MIT, as well as "a citizen-soldier principle" according to which "the military should be representative of the society," Graves said.

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## MIT Admits Fewer Students After Record Numbers Apply

By Kwong H. Yung  
STAFF REPORTER

MIT received a record number of applications for the incoming Class of 2000, but admitted fewer students than last year, the admissions office announced this week.

From the 8,023 completed applications, only 1,894, or 23.6 percent, were admitted. Last year, 2,102 out of 7,955, or 26.4 percent, were admitted.

Even though the number of applications received increased, fewer people were admitted to "make absolutely sure that we do not exceed the class size target," said Director of Admissions Michael C. Behnke.

Last year, 1,130 of accepted students, or 53 percent, chose to attend, far more than expected.

"Extra caution was called for

this year because three out of four main competitors for students — Stanford, Princeton, and Yale — had Early Decision programs for the first time this year," Behnke said.

The admissions office is unsure how these early decision programs will affect the the number of admittees that choose to enroll this fall.

"Because we are being so cautious, we do expect to admit some students from the waiting list later in May to bring the class up to the 1,080 target," Behnke said. "We will also be admitting about 40 transfer" students, he added.

This year, the percentage of under-represented minorities among admitted students increased to 18 percent. Last year, the number was 14 percent. Under-represented minorities include blacks, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, and

Puerto Ricans. In all four individual categories, the actual number of admitted students also increased.

Women comprised 43 percent of this year's class, a slight decrease from last year's record 45 percent.

**Test scores remain unchanged**

The mean SAT verbal score and mean SAT math score were 712 and 752, respectively. Last year, the mean verbal and math scores were 649 and 747.

Although the change represents a significant nominal increase in the verbal score, the numbers cannot be compared directly. This year, the SAT verbal scores were re-centered. If the same re-centering were applied to last year's verbal score average, the two verbal scores would be nearly identical.

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JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH  
MIT players swarm to the defend goal during the match against Assumption College yesterday. MIT won the game, 8-5.

# WORLD & NATION

## GM Auto Workers End Strike

THE WASHINGTON POST

General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers agreed Thursday to end the 17-day strike against two Ohio brake plants that has idled hundreds of thousands of workers and shut down GM's North American auto operations.

Neither side would disclose details of the settlement until workers ratify it, but essentially it reiterates the terms of the existing contract, according to company and union sources.

The 3,000 workers at the two GM brake plants in Dayton are scheduled to vote on the agreement Friday, and brake production could resume immediately.

The strike began March 5 with a local union dispute over GM's plans to "outsource" 128 future jobs to a nonunion supplier without notifying the union. The strike's effects were soon felt by the company's North American assembly plants and their suppliers. GM laid off 175,800 workers in the United States, Mexico and Canada, and thousands of others were idled by suppliers caught in a just-in-time system of manufacturing that has no room for stockpiles.

Sources on both sides said the new agreement reaffirms the union's right to be given a chance to compete for work the company wants to send to outside suppliers. In exchange, GM has received a firm promise from the union that if it cannot meet the costs of the outside supplier the company has the right to outsource the work.

As part of the agreement, a company source said, the union allowed GM to outsource the 128 jobs that began the strike. Robert Bosch, a German company with nonunion operations in South Carolina, will build antilock brake systems for the 1998 model Camaros and Firebirds.

## Scientists Discover Gene That Causes Rare Form of Epilepsy

NEWSDAY

Discovery of a faulty gene that directly causes a rare form of epilepsy was announced Thursday by scientists in California and Finland, opening the way, perhaps, to understanding more common forms of the neurological disorder.

"This opens a whole new area of research, and the real hope is in the new ideas about what goes wrong to cause epilepsy," said geneticist Richard Myers at Stanford University. "It gives us hints that other forms of epilepsy may be in the same biochemical pathway."

In collaboration with researchers in two Helsinki laboratories, Myers and his colleagues found the exact gene mutation that causes progressive myoclonus epilepsy, a rare and severe form of the disease that involves repeated seizures. They reported their findings in the journal *Science*.

The discovery was surprising because the gene, which sits on chromosome 21, was already known. It makes a so-called protease inhibitor, a protein that keeps enzymes from chopping up other proteins. But the inhibitor, cystatin B, had not been a suspect in epilepsy before.

## WEATHER Spring Break!

By Marek Zebrowski

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As surface and upper level lows gradually move towards the Maritimes, a slight break in the damp and dreary weather is foreseen for the weekend. A weak surface low offshore will cause some more showers on Friday and, as it merges with the upper-level system, the resulting northwesterly flow will usher in a colder airmass for the rest of our weekend. More cold air will build up over the Northern Plains by Sunday, and there are indications of a good-size storm paying us a visit by Tuesday. Thus, cold and wet weather (with white mixed-in over the higher terrain) will likely persist through a good portion of next week in our region.

**Today:** Partly cloudy with a few breaks early. Scattered sprinkles and showers are likely in the afternoon. Cool highs in mid 40s (6-7°C)

**Tonight:** Scattered showers early (mixed precipitation possible inland), then partial clearing and turning colder. Low near 30°F (-1°C)

**Saturday:** Partly sunny early, clouds moving in during the afternoon. Becoming chilly with scattered rainshowers and wet snow possible inland. High around 42°F (5°C) with blustery northwesterly winds.

**Sunday:** Becoming partly to mostly sunny, but windy and chilly with lows in mid 20s (-2° to -4°C) and highs in upper 30s to low 40s (4-6°C)

Meanwhile, for the lucky ones who plan to escape fickle fronts and locally chilled spring fever, here is the all-important Florida forecast:

**For northern sections (Panama City, Gainesville and Jacksonville):**

**Friday and Saturday:** Sunny. High 65°F (19°C), low near 40°F (6°C)

**Sunday and Monday:** Partly sunny and warmer. Highs in low 70s (22°C), lows in mid 50s (13°C)

**Tuesday and Wednesday:** Partly cloudy, chance of showers. Highs in upper 70s (24-26°C), lows near 60°F (16°C)

**For southern Florida and the Keys:**

**Friday and Saturday:** Sunny and pleasant; Highs in mid to upper 70s (24-27°C), lows near 60°F (16°C)

**Sunday and Monday:** Fair and warmer. Highs near 80°F (27-28°C), lows in mid 60s (17-19°C), except near 70°F (21°C) in the Keys

**Tuesday and Wednesday:** Partly cloudy, chance of showers, warm. High in low 80s (28-29°C), lows 65-70°F (18-21°C)

# Court Hearing on Internet Decency Law Commences

By John Schwartz

THE WASHINGTON POST

PHILADELPHIA

It was the first day of a legal proceeding that puts the Internet on trial, but the star witness was balky.

"Well, we've just had a little crash of the computer," witness Ann W. Duvall said, after trying to show a panel of three federal judges how easy it is to bring up the Phillies' latest scores on-line. After a second attempt to retrieve the scores failed, Judge Stewart Dalzell quipped, "They've had a tough year."

Crashes are standard operating procedure during high-tech demonstrations, or "demos," as they call them in the business. But this demo was anything but routine. It was part of an attempt by a broad coalition of 27 plaintiffs — including the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Library Association and trade groups for high-tech companies and journalism organizations — to strike down the new Communications Decency Act, a part of the new telecommunications law that bans making "indecent" or "patently offensive" material available to minors via computers.

The plaintiffs argue that restrictions to ensure that the Internet is suitable for children would be unenforceable on the global network and will choke the emerging medium.

If the government is allowed to enforce the new law, "the most important innovation to human society since the development of the printing press will be effectively destroyed," said Vanderbilt University business professor Donna Hoffman in written testimony submitted

to the court. Hoffman cited estimates that the value of electronic commerce on the Internet will approach \$45.8 billion by the year 2000.

Duvall was trying to take the judges on a tour of the global computer network to show them why the burgeoning new medium differs from traditional communications technologies like television and telephones — a crucial point, since the laws being applied to the new medium are based on regulations for the old ones. Although television programs enter the home unbidden, at the push of a button, people have to seek out information on-line — "it doesn't just come at you," Duvall said.

The other goal of the on-line demonstration was to show the judges that Duvall's company's program, Surfwatch, puts tools in parents' hands to keep objectionable materials away from children. Programs like SurfWatch, which Duvall's husband developed after becoming concerned that some material he found on-line was unsuitable for their daughter, constitute the heart of the plaintiffs' contention that Congress did not fulfill its constitutional responsibility to find the least restrictive means to curtail protected speech when it passed the Communications Decency Act.

Eventually, Duvall's technicians worked out the bugs, and the judges watched as their computer screens filled with images from London's National Gallery and medical information about Fragile X syndrome, an inherited disease. But when

Duvall entered the on-line address for Penthouse Magazine's page, the connection failed to go through, and the screen read, "Blocked by SurfWatch."

The case, which is on a fast track for consideration by the federal court system, will "give the Supreme Court the opportunity to decide what the First Amendment rules will be in cyberspace," said Christopher Hansen, an attorney for the ACLU. The judges will hear four more days of testimony between now and April 15th.

The unusual proceeding was an example of the uneasy relationship between law and high technology. The courtroom, although rigged with jumbo projection screens and a high-speed Internet connection to display the various on-line wares, seemed an uncomfortable venue for Duvall, the software entrepreneur, and for the Internet expert whose testimony preceded hers.

Justice Department lawyers defending the government's position would not speak with reporters Thursday, but Bruce A. Taylor, president of the National Law Center for Children and Families, said opponents of the law are trying to make Internet regulation sound more burdensome than it is. Taylor, whose organization favors banning on-line indecency and who helped shape the legislation, said the law would allow youngsters to use the Internet while protecting them from pornography and would "allow adults to get their precious porn, if that's what they want."

# House Approves Tough Bill To Penalize Illegal Aliens

By Marc Lacey

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The House overwhelmingly approved a tough crackdown on illegal immigration Thursday night, but struck from the bill a series of new restrictions on the number and type of legal immigrants allowed in the country and rejected the admittance of 250,000 foreign agricultural workers.

The bill, on a vote of 333-87, would further restrict public benefits for illegal immigrants, increase penalties for smugglers and document counterfeiters, and boost border enforcement by adding 5,000 more agents and 14 miles of triple fencing near San Diego.

The most contentious aspects of the legislation would allow states the option of denying free public schooling to undocumented students, would increase cooperation between local law enforcement officials and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and would permanently ban those who violate immigration laws from ever legally entering the country.

Although most legal immigration restrictions were removed, the bill would still cut public benefits for legal immigrants and make their sponsors financially responsible for their well-being.

"Americans got the whole loaf on illegal immigration reform and half the loaf on legal immigration reform," said Rep. Lamar S. Smith, R-Texas, putting the best face on the breakup of the bill he sponsored. "Three-fourths of a loaf tastes pretty good."

The bill pleases neither immigrant rights groups nor strong foes

of illegal immigrants. The hard-line Federation for American Immigration Reform announced its opposition to the bill Thursday after lawmakers stripped legal immigration reform and weakened worker verification provisions.

"Despite a variety of high-minded sounding attempts to reform immigration policy, Congress — with the full support of a do-nothing administration — is on its way to passing another bill that may only make things worse," said Dan Stein, executive director of FAIR.

In a last-minute change, lawmakers eliminated the proposed 30 percent cuts in the number of legal immigrants and rejected a plan to disallow siblings and adult children of U.S. citizens from receiving family visas.

The move to excise legal immigration reform from the bill was a blow to those who argued that foreign workers were reducing wages and taking jobs from U.S. citizens. The reform was also aimed at reducing the huge backlog of immigrants seeking to join family members here by eliminating adult children and siblings from the eligibility list.

"In a country of 260 million people, 700,000 legal immigrants (a year) is not an exorbitant amount," said Rep. Dick Chrysler, D-Mich., who argued for deleting many of the proposed changes in legal immigration. "We are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants."

He was aided by a bipartisan coalition of groups, ranging from labor unions to the Christian Coalition. The 238-183 vote to retain current immigration levels — now capped at roughly 700,000 people per year — cut deeply across parti-

san lines.

The elimination of legal immigration reform from the bill decreases significantly the chances that the House will address the issue this year. Already, the Senate Judiciary Committee has voted to consider legal and illegal immigration in two separate bills. The Senate is expected to approve a similar illegal immigration bill next month.

On illegal immigration, the House bill aims to tighten security at the border but acknowledges that some people will still elude the new agents and barriers there.

Other provisions would make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to find work and receive government benefits. And deportation procedures would be streamlined to remove the undocumented, especially those who committed crimes.

The bill would reduce the 30-odd identification documents that immigrants can now present to employers to just six. And it would treat those who forge immigration papers like counterfeiters of U.S. currency.

The legislation calls for a pilot program that would allow participating employers to check the immigration status of new hires in government database. To defuse opposition from businesses and civil libertarians who call it intrusive, the program is voluntary.

The bill would forbid undocumented parents from receiving government benefits even if their children are U.S. citizens, a provision critics called "anti-child." Current law forbids illegal immigrants from receiving benefits for themselves but allows parents to receive the benefits for citizen children.

# Major Describes Election Plan For Peace in Northern Ireland

By Fred Barbash  
THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

Prime Minister John Major announced Thursday a complicated election plan as the next step in the Northern Ireland peace process, saying, with visible frustration, that he was forced to produce his own proposal because rival political parties there could not agree on one.

Major's plan, as outlined to the House of Commons, calls for voters in the British-ruled province to elect a 110-member body, or forum, on May 30; that forum will then select delegates to "all-party" negotiations aimed at achieving a permanent settlement to decades of political and sectarian turmoil in Northern Ireland.

The plan appeared to please only one of the many fractious parties in the troubled province — the Ulster Unionists, who represent the majority of Northern Ireland's Protestants. Catholic-based parties, as well as a smaller Protestant group led by the Rev. Ian Paisley, ridiculed it. Still,

none explicitly declined to participate — except Sinn Fein, the political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which is barred from the process in any case unless the IRA agrees to halt its new campaign of violence.

The election plan — put together by Major from an amalgam of proposals by the Northern Ireland parties — is designed to re-energize peace talks that began nearly a year ago, after Catholic and Protestant paramilitary groups declared a halt to 25 years of warfare in the province. Discussions broke down about six months ago over the IRA's refusal to "decommission" its weapons as a condition to Sinn Fein's participation in all-party negotiations.

The IRA ended its cease-fire on Feb. 9 by detonating a car bomb at London's Docklands development that killed two people and injured dozens. A second IRA bomb was found days later in London's theater district and defused; a third later exploded prematurely aboard a Lon-

don bus, killing the man carrying it and injuring a number of bystanders.

Seeking to end the impasse, Major and Irish Prime Minister John Bruton jointly proposed an election as a prelude to all-party talks that would begin on June 10. Bitter arguments about the form, wisdom and comparative advantages to various parties of such an election erupted immediately, leading to Major's announcement today.

Under his plan, voters in each of the 18 parliamentary constituencies located in Northern Ireland will cast ballots for political parties, and the top five vote-getters in each constituency will send delegates to the forum. In addition, 20 more delegates will be allotted to the 10 parties receiving the highest number of votes province-wide. Each party represented will then select from its delegates a negotiating team for the June 10 all-party talks; the forum itself will have no role in those talks.

# Panel Votes to Sanction Those Conducting Business with Iran

By Thomas W. Lippman  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Shrugging off strong objections from U.S. allies, a key House committee voted 32-0 Thursday to impose far-reaching economic sanctions on foreign corporations that do business with the oil industries of Iran or Libya.

A similar but somewhat narrower measure has already cleared the Senate, with Clinton administration approval. At least two more House committees must approve the bill before it reaches the full House, but congressional sentiment against Iran in particular is so strong that members predicted quick passage.

Following on the heels of President Clinton's signature of a new law subjecting foreign companies that invest in Cuba to U.S. court action, the Iran-Libya measure has outraged major U.S. trading partners such as Canada and the 15-nation European Union.

They have accused the United States of trying to impose its law on them, and of trying to force them to pursue what they see as a futile policy of seeking to change the behavior of hostile states through isolation.

The United States can expect to

be the target of formal complaints filed with the World Trade Organization, which was set up with strong U.S. backing to enforce international free-trade agreements, administration officials said Thursday. Complaints were aired informally at a WTO trade council meeting Tuesday, European diplomats said, but no formal charges have been filed because no sanctions have actually been imposed.

"We see certain risks to United States policy interests," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State C. Richard Welch, leader of the administration's Iran sanctions team, told the House International Relations Committee as it marked up the legislation for passage Thursday. "But there are considerable benefits also" from trying to head off investments in the economies of hostile nations, he said.

"The administration supports sanctions, but we want them to hurt Iran more than they hurt us," said acting Assistant Secretary of State Barbara Larkin, signaling that the administration prefers the Senate version because it carries less risk of retaliation by U.S. trade partners.

Clinton has already barred U.S.-owned corporations from doing

business with Iran, which the United States regards as the major state sponsor of international terrorism, but other nations have not followed Washington's lead.

"American diplomacy has a taste for embargoes and boycotts which we do not share," a European ambassador said Thursday. "You have always used that as a weapon, with a remarkable degree of ineffectiveness."

Legislation aimed at isolating Cuba, Iran and Libya economically amounts to a "secondary boycott," the ambassador said. "That is unacceptable. ... We have not elected the American Congress, we never voted for it, and I don't see why we should let it legislate for the rest of the world."

At Thursday's committee session, Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., read a letter from the European Union expressing "our strong and unequivocal opposition" to the bill.

Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., responded that the Europeans have forfeited their standing to complain about U.S. legislation by continuing to do business with "sickening regimes." He said "the Europeans come in with no moral standing on these issues."

# Secret Ink Used in New \$100 Bills Will Help To Fight Counterfeiting

By Marylou Touseignant  
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Security is almost a religion at the firm's low-slung headquarters and manufacturing plant, tucked into the recesses of an industrial park. Agored trucks pull in and out at regular intervals, and a list of expected visitors is kept at the locked front gate.

"You're two minutes late," notes a uniformed guard as he hands over a company security badge and directs the tardy guest to park close by, where he can keep an eye on the stranger's car. Once inside, the visitor signs a logbook and is escorted to the second-floor offices of Eduardo Beruff, president of SICPA Industries of America Inc.

The Cuban-born Beruff is all smiles, his manner at once graciously welcoming yet resolutely withholding. Clearly, he is not about to spill any secrets on how his company is helping the United States — and more than 40 other countries — keep what he calls "the bad guys" at

bay.

This much, though, is known: For more than 10 years, SICPA, the American subsidiary of a 70-year-old Swiss ink-making company, has been the world's sole producer of a hot commodity called Optically Variable Ink.

When viewed from different angles, the ink appears to change colors, and when applied to paper currency, it makes counterfeiting impossible, SICPA maintains.

Some have tried but none has succeeded, according to Beruff.

This makes "the good guys" over at the U.S. Treasury — and in government currency circles from Albania to Zaire — very happy indeed.

In the fall, U.S. money-makers announced a monetary face lift, the first heavy-duty nip-and-tuck in 66 years, beginning with Ben Franklin on the \$100 bill. The \$765,000 redesign incorporates several anti-counterfeiting devices, including a splotch of SICPA's color-shifting ink in one corner that changes from

green to black depending on how light hits it.

The first of the new \$100 bills will be shipped to banks Monday, putting the U.S. greenback on a par, technology-wise, with the French franc, the Italian lira and the German mark, to name just a few of the currencies that use color-changing ink.

SICPA, which has a \$10 million U.S. contract to provide 20,000 pounds of the special ink — enough to print more than 2 billion bills — assiduously guards the proprietary technology behind it.

"It's like Coca-Cola," Beruff said. "Few people know all the pieces." Does he? "I know a little bit about it." Only a little? Well, maybe more, maybe a lot more, "after having it explained to me several times," he said.

Like the ink itself, the pigment that goes into it is made in only one place, by a company in Santa Rosa, Calif.

# Federal Workers Face Reduced Pay

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Changes the president has proposed in measuring inflation would mean slightly smaller cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in federal and military pay and Social Security retirement benefits. But the budget plan would save taxpayers billions of dollars.

Currently, government retirees get annual COLAs to help protect them from inflation, which typically doubles every decade. Partial, occasional COLAs are rare in private pension plans. Full, annual COLAs are unknown.

Social Security COLAs are paid each January. That would not change. But under the president's budget, a "temporary" delay in federal-military retiree COLAs (from January until April of each year) would continue for another seven years.

The Clinton plan has been endorsed by congressional Republicans and many economists. It would lead to a .3 percent drop in the annual rate of growth of the Consumer Price Index. In effect, the Bureau of Labor Statistics would use new "estimation procedures" to measure changes in the cost of living.

Many economists feel the current CPI overstates inflation because it measures big-ticket items that people don't buy every year and may purchase only once or twice in a lifetime. Eliminating or discounting some of those items from the CPI measurement would almost certainly reduce annual COLAs.

# Guatemalan President Delivers Cease-Fire Order to Troops

LOS ANGELES

GUATEMALA CITY

Sealing a two-way cease-fire, the most significant advance yet toward peace in Central America's last remaining civil war, President Alvaro Arzu on Thursday personally told soldiers in strife-torn Quiche province to stop anti-guerrilla operations.

Arzu had ordered a halt to counterinsurgency operations late Wednesday, hours after guerrilla commanders declared a cease-fire from their Mexico City office.

"I think it's the end of the conflict," said Frank La Rue, a political analyst at the Washington-based Legal Action Center for Human Rights.

The ending of hostilities is a major breakthrough in the five years of peace talks to halt three decades of civil war and appears to vindicate Arzu's decision to name a government negotiator who many military supporters grumbled was too sympathetic to the guerrillas.

The cease-fire also lends credibility to Arzu's promise that within seven months of his January inauguration he would end the fighting that has claimed more than 150,000 lives, produced 45,000 refugees and left 40,000 people missing. Most of the victims have been Indian peasants, and the heaviest casualties were in Quiche, 100 miles north of Guatemala City, where Arzu spoke Thursday.

# Clinton Authorizes Spending For Additional B-2 Bombers

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Lifting its cap on the B-2 bomber program by one more plane, the Clinton administration announced Thursday it would seek to increase the number of stealth aircraft from 20 to 21, using the extra money Congress appropriated for the program last year.

The surprise move was derided by some Republicans as an election-year maneuver, but was applauded by B-2 proponents in Congress. The plane's supporters had all but given up hope of securing more of the controversial aircraft after President Clinton reaffirmed the 20-bomber limit as recently as last month and announced that the congressional add-on would be applied to upgrades of the current fleet.

Explaining the switch, Pentagon officials said they had discovered that the extra \$493 million appropriated by Congress could just about cover the cost of refurbishing an early B-2 test model now in storage at Northrop-Grumman Corp.'s assembly plant in Palmdale, Calif., and previously destined for a museum. Earlier cost estimates for transforming the test plane into a fully operational bomber had run around \$700 million, the officials said.

The Pentagon has long opposed buying more of the bat-winged B-2s, saying there are less costly ways of meeting potential threats than expanding the bomber fleet. But with several thousand subcontractors spread around the country standing to benefit from additional sales, political pressure to order more bombers has come from congressional Republicans and Democrats alike.

# Public Reacts to British Beef Scare

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON

Consumers at home and abroad revolted against British beef Thursday after the British government conceded that there may be a link between what is known as "mad-cow disease" and the deaths of 10 people from an incurable brain disorder.

The government denied there is any cause for alarm, but said the entire national herd of 11 million cows could be slaughtered if scientists advise it.

In a move Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg called "unreasonable, unnecessary and probably illegal," France, Belgium and five German states banned imports of British beef. In Brussels, Belgium, British scientists conferred with worried European Union officials.

Across Britain, school boards announced they would scrap beef from lunch menus, joining an estimated one-third of British schools that were already beefless. It was burgers as usual at fast food restaurants in downtown London Thursday night, but cattle prices slumped 15 percent, food-processing companies lost ground on the stock market, and crisis gripped the \$6 billion a year cattle industry. Nearly half of all British farmers have some cattle.

Mad-cow alarm has been a regular visitor to Britain for a decade: Cattle began dying of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or BSE, in 1985. The disease in cattle has been traced to infected sheep offal in cattle feed. The sale of offal, including spinal cords and brains, was banned in 1989.

# OPINION

## Letters To The Editor



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## Forums, Committee Provided Adequate Input

As an organizer of the student forums with the final candidates for the position of assistant dean for Residence and Campus Activities, I feel obliged to respond to *The Tech's* editorial of March 15 ["Open Forums Not Done Right"].

The format of these events, to meet each candidate individually, has been criticized. This point was raised by many students prior to the meeting and rejected. The forums are only part of a larger interview process in which candidates meet members of the community with whom they will interact in the future. Time at the end of the interview day was set aside courtesy of Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Margaret R. Jablonski, who is in charge of hiring for this position. In order for the students to jointly meet with all candidates they would have to be invited for a third time at considerable expense and effort. Furthermore a single ques-

tion-and-answer session would not serve the student population well. We are seeking a dean who can work well with students, advise and support them, be an advocate for their issues, help them organize events and also be a respected and fair supervisor. A three-way debate may yield the most telegenic politician, but not a good advocate for students. We are hiring a professional and to do so, we have to meet with the candidates in a personal setting that will reveal their individual strengths and skills. Imagine if you were to be hired for your first job in the way suggested by the editorial.

It is already remarkable that we have the opportunity to interview candidates before the final decision is made. Students were represented on the search committee, and this has also been true for previous dean searches. It was my aim to offer all students the opportunity to decide for themselves if the candidates meet their expectations. I fear that despite heavy publicity, most students will not come no matter what format the meeting has. Problem sets, classes, or laboratories have higher

priority. For this reason we trust friends and student representatives to make a fair judgment. Occasionally, however, we feel so strongly about a subject that we do get involved personally.

The anonymous monster called "the administration" is quite receptive to student input. The largest obstacle is student apathy. Influence on decisions of the administration can only be gained by working with the individuals that make them. Nothing is served on a silver platter. Many processes are overly burdensome for students, but active participation will always be necessary for obtaining results, passive criticism rarely brings about change. Those who scream the loudest of not being heard are typically those who do not show up no matter how much you plead for their participation.

Furthermore, I want to add that these forums provide student input on a decision that Dean Jablonski will make. The mission of the search committee was completed when the three finalists were proposed.

Andrew Rhomberg G

## ROTC Task Force's Proposals Inadequate

Guest Column by Robert N. Wedgwood

In spite of their superficial attractions, the recommendations outlined in the "Final Report of the ROTC Task Force" are totally misconceived and should not, under any circumstances, be adopted by the faculty.

"Some of our sister institutions," the report says, "have decided to distance themselves from ROTC, in order to remove the conflict from campus... We recommend a different course for MIT. We propose that MIT work with the [Department of Defense] to create a model ROTC program that is more inclusive and more aligned with the values and mission of MIT." The idea is to take advantage of the fact that almost all ROTC subjects are open to all MIT students, even if, on account of being openly gay, they have no hope of being commissioned. If a student completes all of the ROTC subjects that would be required in order to receive a commission, ROTC commanders could write a letter stating that they have done so. So, in this sense, they could be said to have "enrolled in an ROTC program." The report says that they could also "participate in all parts of the program without discrimination or differential treatment" — for example (if the DoD kindly agrees) they could be allowed to wear the same uniforms as students who are expected to receive commissions.

This proposal will not improve the lot of gay students in any meaningful way. Since you cannot get MIT credit for ROTC subjects, the only point of taking such subjects ("enrolling in a ROTC program") is to receive a commission to serve as a junior officer in the Armed Forces. So it is still the case that any gay students enrolled in these programs will have to remain deeply closeted if they are to achieve any meaningful career goals through enrolling in the program.

More seriously, the proposal only touches on the most trivial aspects of discrimination (such as uniforms), leaving the serious forms of discrimination totally untouched. Indeed, there is no way in which MIT can change the serious forms of discrimination, which are required by federal law. Even if MIT ensures that the ROTC commanders here are totally opposed to the military's policy on homosexuals, these ROTC commanders are required, by the rigorous requirements of martial law, to take note of any evidence that comes to light of a student's homosexuality, so that this evidence may be used to deny the student an ROTC scholarship or an ROTC commission.

So, even in a "model ROTC program" the serious forms of discrimination will continue unabated.

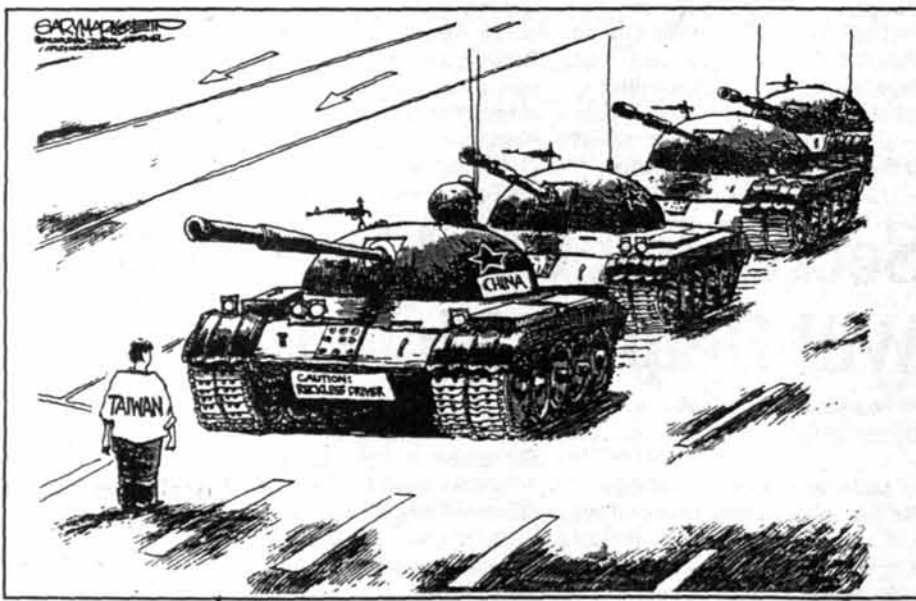
But there is worse to come. The whole idea of a model ROTC program requires the MIT administration to collaborate, more closely than before, with the ROTC commanders, so that the administration can ensure that our ROTC program is a model of inclusiveness and the "citizen soldier" principle. The inevitable consequence is that the MIT administration will be more closely involved in the implementation of discrimination. The report calls for an ROTC oversight committee, consisting of full-fledged members of MIT faculty, appointed by the president of the Institute. Page 12 of the report proposes that "The chairman of the oversight committee, along with a representative of the dean for undergraduate education and student affairs, will serve on any inquiry into the homosexual conduct of an MIT ROTC cadet called by any of the commanders of ROTC units."

Let us be clear about what is proposed here. Members of the MIT faculty, the president, and appointed members of committees of the Institute will be charged with the task of sifting evidence regarding the homosexual conduct of MIT students. The professors of MIT who serve on these committees will be required to scrutinize the evidence of students' unguarded remarks or misdirected e-mails to determine whether or not MIT students are gay, or whether they have engaged

in homosexual conduct. If these MIT officers determine that the evidence warrants the conclusion that a student is gay, then they will have to set their seal of approval on an inquiry whose purpose is to punish this student for allowing his or her homosexuality to become known. The purpose of such an inquiry would be to strip the student of an ROTC scholarship, possibly to order the student to reimburse the DoD for tens of thousands of dollars of scholarship money, and ensure that the student cannot pursue his or her chosen career, for the sole reason that he or she is gay. The MIT professors who are appointed, by the Institute administration, to sit on these committees will play an active role in carrying out the discrimination that is practiced by the ROTC. What the report proposes is nothing less than thorough-going Institute complicity in ROTC discrimination.

Is that what it meant on the front page of the Bulletin, where it says, "MIT does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of... sexual orientation... in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship or loan programs and other institute administered programs and activities?" Or was I wrong to think that the statement of non-discrimination puts any limits on what the MIT administration would ever instruct its officials to do?

Robert N. Wedgwood is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at MIT.



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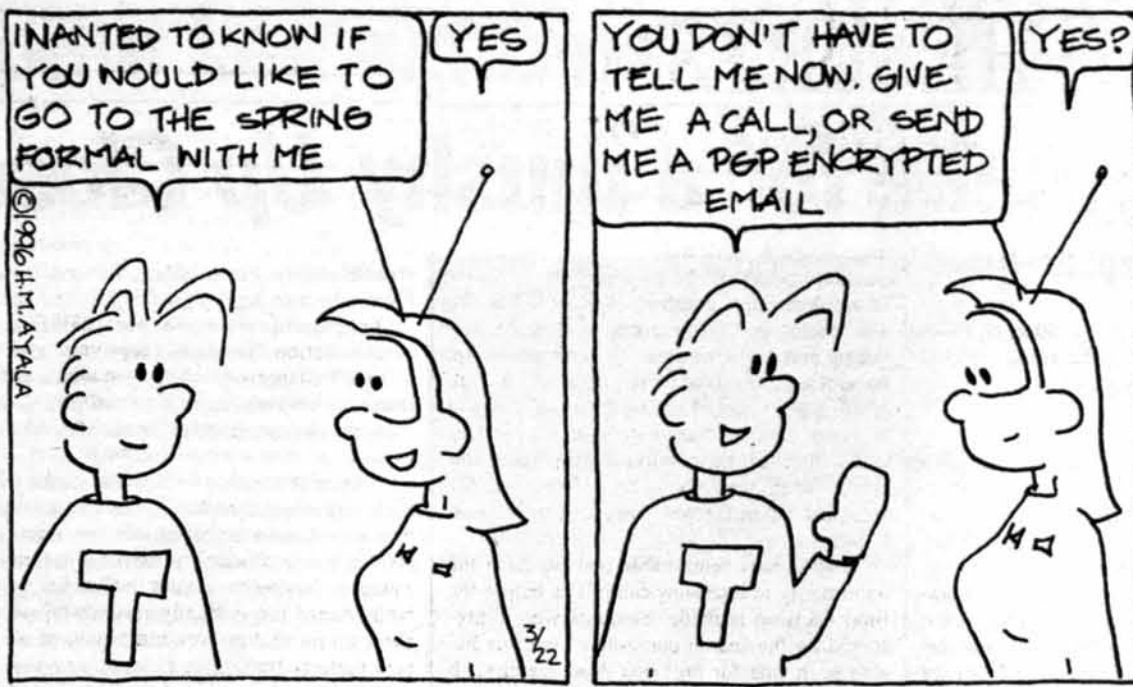
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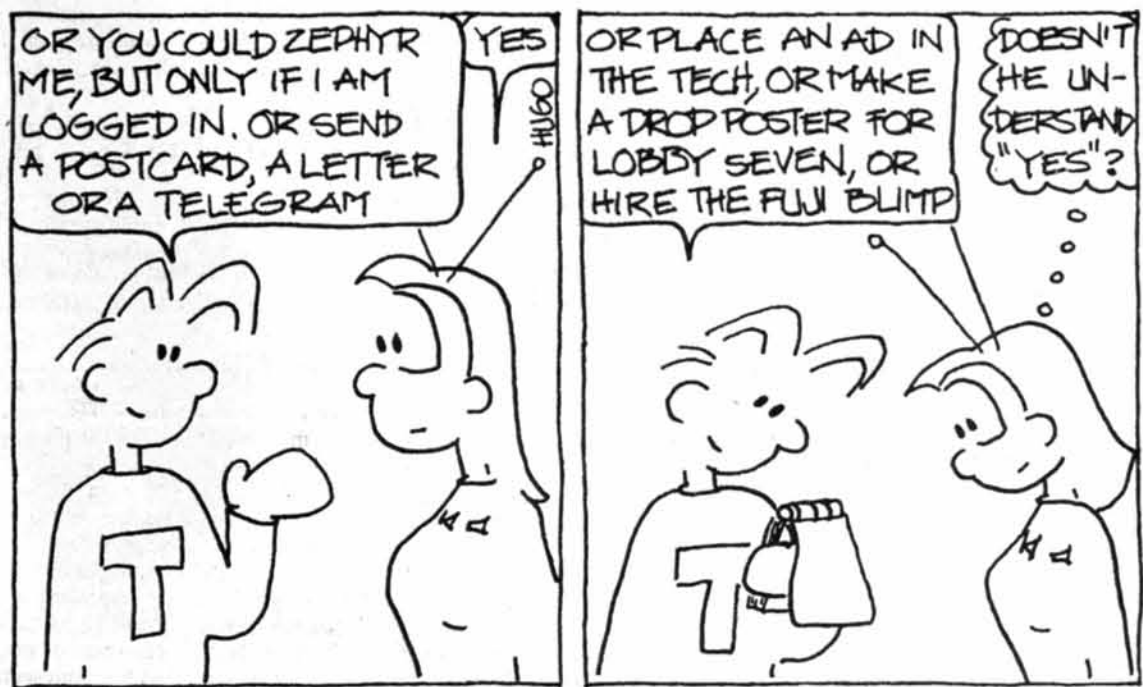
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# Off Course



By H. Ayala



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## THE ARTS

Redford, Pfeiffer make for a mushy *Up Close*

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Directed by Jon Avnet.

Written by John Gregory Dunne and Joan Didion.

Starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford.

Sony Cheri.

By Teresa Huang

STAFF REPORTER

**U**p *Close and Personal* is Hollywood's latest look at the fantastically exciting world of television, particularly the news. Robert Redford plays Warren Justice, a seasoned news director who is king behind the scenes at a local television station in Miami. Michelle Pfeiffer is the inexperienced news wannabe Tally Atwater, whom Redford takes under his wing and makes a star. There's tension between them at first, but that disappears over time with a few arm brushes in the control room and various tender moments. As she rises to national news fame, she falls in love with him and vice versa.

Plot sound familiar? Maybe that's because it's been done a million times before. This movie rings of clichés and predictability. The focus is obviously on the relationship between Pfeiffer and Redford and not on being a credible inspection of television politics. Many situations are pushed to the extremes in terms of

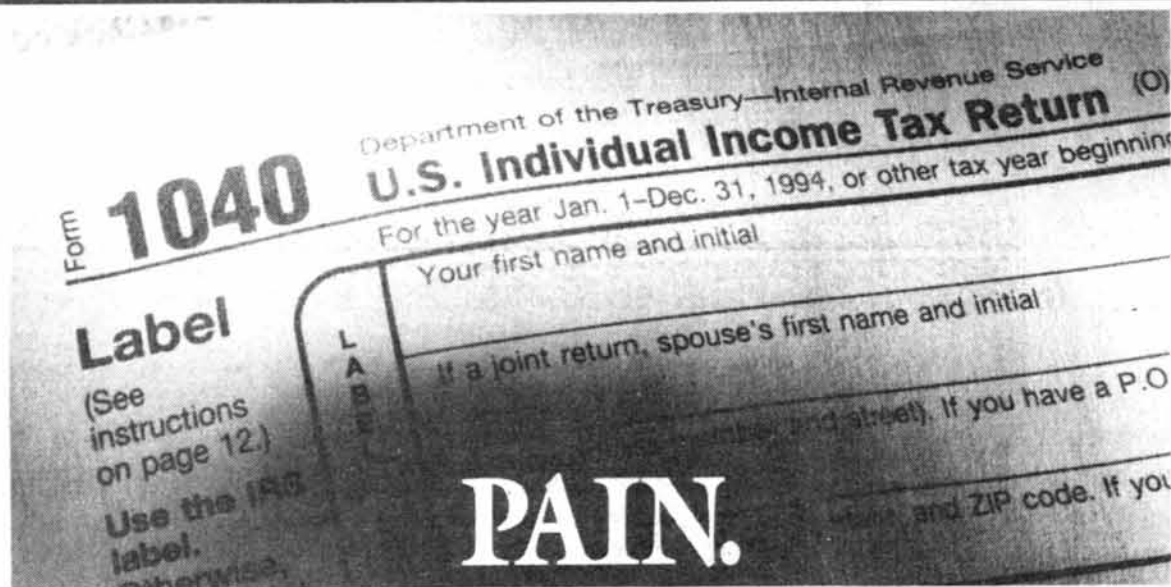
Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford in *Up Close and Personal*.

believability. For instance, I found it hard to believe that, until Pfeiffer cuts her hair and improves her wardrobe, everyone is a chauvinist or inconsiderate. There were also times when I almost didn't know what was going on because the dialogue was too mired in sarcasm and news lingo to further the story effectively.

Most frustrating is how the women in the movie, Pfeiffer included, are all portrayed in terms of their relationships with men. Pfeiffer's Tally Atwater is nothing without her Warren behind the scenes to hold her together. They both know it, and everyone around them knows it. And this is okay? Only in a cameo appearance by Stockard Channing do we see a woman with independence, though she's portrayed as cold as ice.

*Up Close and Personal* is good if you're in the mood for a mushy movie and so long as you don't mind usually knowing what will happen next. Nevertheless, this movie has its moments, particularly in the romancing between a well-dressed and charming Pfeiffer and Redford, who, despite his age, is still sexy enough to make you hold your breath when he takes off his shirt. This movie seemed to be Redford's "see, I can still make the women swoon" project, and as someone who has rediscovered just how sexy he can be, I can say it was a successful endeavor.

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# Spike Lee lightens up for a well balanced *Girl 6*

## GIRL 6

Directed by Spike Lee.  
Starring Theresa Randle, Isaiah Washington, Spike Lee, Debi Mazar, Jenifer Lewis.  
Sony Nickelodeon.

By David Rodriguez  
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Director Spike Lee has never been one to let you forget he's black. He often speaks on race relations, and his movies often overdose on this high sensitivity to black issues. This problem was most obvious in *Jungle Fever*, a story about a black man dating a white woman and the problems that went along with it. Wesley Snipes spends so much time posturing that he never develops a personality. When he marches into his white boss's office to quit because he is not given enough respect, it seems horribly contrived.

Lee's tendency for putting the message over the story seems to be fading. In his latest movie, *Girl 6*, race is no longer the focus and seems completely incidental. This frees up the story, and gives Lee the opportunity to create genuinely interesting characters. The result is a movie that stays interesting for two hours. The story is about an aspiring actress (Theresa Randle) who takes a job as a phone sex girl, and goes by the name Girl 6. Much of the movie's time is spent listening in on these calls, which are funny because they are absurd, but not surprising. Some of it is pretty graphic, but it never seems vulgar.

What sustains the comedy for two hours is the mood. All the characters know on some level that phone sex is not a job to stay in. *Girl 6*'s neighbor, played by Spike Lee himself, is the most vocal in pointing out that the "phone bone" is keeping her away from real acting. But *Girl 6* sees a good side to what she does. She has developed a set of regular callers, including Tucson Bob, who even talks to her about his dying mother.

*Girl 6* succeeds because it is well balanced. It is a comedy at heart, and a good one, with material and characters rich enough to prevent it from passing into sitcom territory.



Teresa Randle works the phone sex line in Spike Lee's *Girl 6*.

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# Poisoner's probes darker side of people, chemistry sets

## THIS WEEK AT THE KENDALL

*The Young Poisoner's Handbook.*  
Directed by Benjamin Ross.  
Starring Hugh O'Connor.

*Chungking Express.*  
Directed by Wong Kar-wai.

*It's My Party.*  
Directed by Randal Kleiser.  
Starring Eric Roberts and Gregory Harrison.

By Stephen Brophy  
STAFF REPORTER

If you're reading *The Tech*, there's a pretty good chance you have some idea of how it feels to love the absolute beauty of pure scientific truth and to have everyone else in your world think you're a little nutty because of it. If you don't really want to go mad, you can either come to MIT or become a mass murderer. Or at least that's the way it seems in *The Young Poisoner's Handbook*, a new movie at the Kendall Square Theatre.

Following the real-life career of Graham Young, the film starts with his chemistry set experiments when he was 14 and growing up in North London in 1961. His uncomprehending family sits agape in front of the television while he dreams in his bedroom of scientific glory. The story is viewed entirely through his perceptions, so it feels almost natural when he

begins to use the couch potatoes in the front room as part of his investigation into the effects of such chemicals as antimony and thallium. The effect is similar to that of *Taxi Driver*, though much more comical in a very dark way.

"I think film occupies the psychological landscape even better than it does that of the senses," said writer/director Benjamin Ross in a recent interview at the Kendall. "I tried to make everything slightly uglier than it would really be, and used distorting lenses, to give a sense of what was driving Graham." He also explained the way he structured his story in the style of Anthony Burgess and Stanley Kubrick (*A Clockwork Orange*). "I wanted to make clear the fatuousness of the authorities, especially the liberal ones who let Graham out of the mental hospital." Ross' use of Purcell's *Funeral Music for Queen Mary* underscores his debt to *A Clockwork Orange*, which opens with the same theme.

*Young Poisoner's Handbook* is a cold movie, which is to be expected from such a severe satire. Except for Graham, you will not find any character with whom to sympathize, and it's hard to connect with his total lack of human feeling. In fine British tradition, the movie never passes up a chance to gross out its audience. If you liked *Delicatessen*, you'll probably like this too, but be careful who you take with you. It's not for everybody.

*Chungking Express* is a visual delight and total eye candy from start to finish. It's also the first movie to be released by Rolling Thunder, a new distribution company started by Quentin Tarantino. Even though Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai uses the same genres and actors that have made Hong Kong films the most dynamic force in world film in the past few years, he uses them like no one else. Just check out the credit sequence to see what he does that's so amazing, combining hand-held camera, stop motion, comic book colors and hypnotizing rhythm into a simultaneously artful and action-packed whole.

Wong tells the same story twice, with two different sets of actors. A policeman has been dumped by his girlfriend, and takes up with another woman to try to get over it. In the first story the woman works for drug smugglers and packs a gun; the second story centers on a young woman who works behind a fast-food counter and her obsession with a policeman who is slow to notice her. The two stories balance each other out very nicely, and proceed at a leisurely enough pace that a little philosophizing about time and solitude can be slipped in. But it's the storytelling that counts here, much more than the stories.

Speaking of which, an entire love story is told over the opening credits of *It's My Party*. Two men skiing together, obviously the magnets of each other's lives. The same two men

in a sumptuous house designed by one of them in the hills above Los Angeles. Watching old movies in bed together, and turning the TV off. The architect learning that he is HIV positive. The two sitting farther and farther apart on the bed. By the time we get to "Directed by" the divorce is final.

When Nico, the architect finds out that his brain lesions are going to blind him and make him a vegetable in less than a week, he decides to throw a big house party and go out laughing with the help of a handful of seconal. But his ex shows up at the party, so there's lots of tension as old business gets worked out before the final fade. There are a lot of familiar faces at the party, and some good performances and scenes, but the movie doesn't really work.

For one thing, much of it has already been done equally well in *Longtime Companion* almost a decade ago. Granted this film is much more brave in facing the issue of suicide, but it tends to get lost in all the other melodrama. The main problem is in the structure. Parties always come to an end, and people have to say goodbye. They do it over and over here, and it gets tedious. And can we have an AIDS movie in which the protagonist isn't a rich saint? If you ever read Dicken's *The Old Curiosity Shop*, you will probably remember the guilty feeling of wishing Little Nell would just die and get it over with. Against our wills, that happens here too.

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# ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

- ★★★★: Excellent
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- ★: Poor

★★★½ **Antonia's Line**

*Antonia's Line* A magnificently open-hearted feminist vision of a way the world could be if men were not always struggling to dominate it. This epic magical-realist story begins just after World War II and culminates the day after tomorrow. It's not some matriarchal never-never land, however — the roses in this paradise still hold thorns. As the seasons turn over, friends and lovers grow older and die, and those who are left behind have to mix some sadness with their satisfaction. But its vision is inspired, and it plants hope in our hearts that what has had to be separated in the past can be brought together again. —Stephen Brophy. *Kendall Square.*

★★★½ **The Birdcage**

The American version of the French farce *La Cage aux Folles* succeeds on many levels, thanks in part to the ebullient performances of Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. Armand (Williams) is the owner and musical director of a nightclub in Miami's South Beach section, while his lover Albert (Lane) is the diva-in-drag who's the star performer at the club. The trouble starts when Armand's son (Dan Futterman) starts courting the daughter of a conservative U.S. Senator (Gene Hackman) whose election platform is steeped in "moral order" and "family values." By the time the film reaches its climactic, comic showdown between the two families, the message of "family" and the characters' foibles are so skillfully exploited that one overlooks the expected degrees of slapstick, even when resorting to gay stereotypes. Director Mike Nichols and screenwriter Elaine May have struck the appropriate comic and social chords for this film to be a witty, beguiling, and relevant film. —Scott C. Deskin. *Sony Cheri.*

★★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) everyday, and more often than not the special effects team delivers the goods. —SCD. *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 Poncet (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.*

★★½ **Executive Decision**

In *Executive Decision*, Muslim terrorists threaten to crash a passenger plane loaded with DZ-5, a lethal nerve toxin, killing all the passengers aboard, most of Washington, and sending a deadly plume of gas over much of the eastern seaboard. Enter Kurt Russell and Steven Segal, who must sneak aboard the plane to stop them. Although we know how it will turn out, *Executive Decision* keeps us hooked from one climax to the next with surprising efficiency. —Yaron Koren. *Sony Cheri.*

★★★ **Fargo**

Joel and Ethan Coen revisit familiar territory, both personal and professional, in this tale of crime in the heartland. Set in the wintry Minnesota landscape from which the two brothers escaped a few years ago, this story of a kidnapping plot gone bad retreats the success of the Coen's first movie, *Blood Simple*. This revisiting is underlined by the casting of Frances McDormand, *Blood Simple's* femme fatale, but in a very different role — a pregnant police chief with more brains, determination, and grit, not to mention moral sense, than anyone else in the movie. —SB. *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 expect-



Nathan Lane and Robin Williams play lovers in director Mike Nichols' ebullient *The Birdcage*.

ed, 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 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. *Sony Copley.*

★★★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 television'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 Harvard Square.*

★★ **Starmaker**

A disappointing new film from the maker of *Cinema Paradiso*, tells the story of a con-man travelling through Sicily selling dreams of international movie stardom. Two things make this movie watchable — the magnificent location photography and the way people reveal themselves before the con-man's camera. When they can't remember the words from *Gone With the Wind* that he wants them to spout, they fill in with the contents of their own psyches — fears, desires, and the rest. But the central story was much better told in Fellini's *La Strada*. —SB. *Kendall Square.*

★★★½ **White Balloon**

A gently-told little gem of a story of a little Tehran girl who wants to get a special goldfish for her families Naw-Ruz, or New Year's celebration. Razieh's story is filmed in real time; we experience with her the countdown to the New Year as she struggles first to convince her mother to let her buy the fish, then sets out on the adventurous journey to fulfill her mission. This simple story enables its director, Jafar Panahi, to capture a large slice of contemporary urban Persian life. —SB. *Kendall Square.*

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# AIDS Panel Recommends a 'Mid-course Correction'

By Brett Altschul  
STAFF REPORTER

Last week, a government-appointed panel released its advisory report on the state of the nation's \$1.4 billion AIDS research program. The panel, which included Professor of Biology David Baltimore '61, called for significant changes in the way the program is run.

"The AIDS program has gone well but not perfectly," Baltimore said. "It is in need of a serious mid-course correction and that is what the panel recommends."

A pioneer in virology, Baltimore received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1975 for his discovery of retroviruses, the group of viruses that includes HIV, which causes AIDS.

The report said the AIDS research program had accomplished impressive things, but there is still room for improvement.

The panel criticized the National

Institutes of Health, the government agency responsible for the majority of public sector AIDS research. It said the NIH needed more input and involvement from non-governmental scientists.

The panel worked with the full support of NIH Director William Paul, Baltimore said. "The director of the office of AIDS research as well as the director of the NIH have committed themselves to a careful review of the recommendations," he said.

"Their commitment is real and public and I would expect that a majority of the changes will be implemented," Baltimore said.

### Outside involvement needed

The report said the NIH needed more involvement from scientists outside the government. It called for the NIH to double the amount it gives in grants to outside scientists. Such grants currently make up 20 percent of AIDS expenditures at the

NIH.

"Much of the intelligence of the research community lies outside of NIH, so bringing outside people closer to the decision-making process will strengthen that process," Baltimore said. "There are many senior and junior scientists whose programs could contribute to the AIDS effort but who have not been encouraged to get involved."

The report also called for changes in the NIH's programs for developing new drugs and vaccines. It recommended a reduction in the budget for research into new AIDS drugs, because pharmaceutical companies could do the same research.

It said that the drug discovery program hadn't produced any important and novel new drugs since AZT, which has been used to treat AIDS for about 15 years.

The vaccine development program received criticism for having

too few human studies. The panel recommended that a nongovernment scientist be appointed to oversee the vaccine program.

### AIDS research needs organization

"AIDS research has not been coordinated over the units that make up the NIH," Baltimore said. "That has led to unnecessary duplication. That is one of the organizational issues," he said. "Another is that the definition of AIDS-related work has been different across the Institutes."

The report called on the NIH to establish a more universal definition of AIDS. It said differing definitions caused some AIDS funding to go to research projects only marginally related to AIDS, although Baltimore admitted that the severity of this problem is unclear.

"How much money is going to work that should not really be considered AIDS-related is uncertain," Baltimore said. "Once there is a consistent definition of AIDS-relat-

ed research, that will become clearer."

The panel was made up of 114 leading scientists, drug company representatives, and people from AIDS action and community groups.



David Baltimore '61

# Students Plan Awareness Week

By Eva Moy  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The first week of April will mark MIT's first multicultural awareness week, with speakers and activities organized by an alliance of student groups.

Entitled "Stand Up, Stand Out, Speak Out: A Week of Multicultural Solidarity," activities will include discussions on hunger and human rights, violence against women, environmental racism, and the display of a collage in Lobby 7. The activities will conclude with a rally on the steps of the Student Center.

"We dedicate the week... to celebrating our diverse histories, protesting the myriad injustices against us, drawing inspiration from our past struggles against these injustices, and articulating our visions for a just future," said Basav Sen, one of the coordinators.

The alliance "is not a group per se," said Alan L. Shihadeh, one of the event's organizers, but "groups that have come together to promote

politics of multiculturalism."

The alliance includes members of several campus groups including Lucha, Mujeres Latinas, Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgenders, and Friends at MIT, Hunger Action Group, Amnesty International, Alliance for a Secular and Democratic South Asia, *The Thistle*, Share A Vital Earth, MIT Student Pugwash, and the Committee for Social Justice.

Some groups were hesitant about joining the alliance, Shihadeh said. "I think that our lack of feeling safe enough to raise our voices with others who are fighting oppression here underscores the need to dismantle the cultural domination we experience as third world peoples in the first world. Why is it safe for some people to speak out but not others?" he said.

### MIT not safe from discrimination

"On the pretext of a technical education, social issues are almost completely ignored, so MIT graduates do not place their technical education within a social and political context," Sen said.

Coordinator Shamim M. Islam

'96 agreed. "MIT hasn't always been and need not be an apathetic, detached environment, where too many people function unaware of their world around them."

"We keep hearing of reverse discrimination and special rights, and the alleged tyranny of political correctness," Sen said. "Not only is this untrue, but blatant discrimination and inequality are still widespread. They never went away; in fact they are growing."

Sometimes efforts like the multicultural alliance are seen as angry, Sen said. "Though anger is often stereotyped as being destructive, we see anger directed against injustice with the goal of overcoming it to be a profoundly constructive sentiment. We intend this to be the first step to building something more long term."

Coordinator Prashant Sinha G wanted to get involved as part of learning about the history of such injustices. "We are fighting the pride and greed and prejudice that creates such legislation," he said. "Hopefully by educating those around us, we fight apathy and produce socially responsible citizens."

# Graduate Council To Elect Officers

By Ramy A. Arnaout  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On April 2, the Graduate Student Council will elect a new president, vice president, and other officers. The deadline for candidacy is Monday.

As of yesterday evening, two students had been nominated for president and three for vice president; the positions of treasurer and secretary are uncontested.

Important issues facing the graduate student body range from the re-engineering of student services and tuition costs to parking and housing, said presidential candidate Andrew J. Rhomberg G.

In addressing these concerns, it will be important to get thorough representation of the student body and to bring the issues to students' attention, Rhomberg said. His goal is to make sure people don't overlook the issues that affect them, he said.

Rhomberg cited his experience as a GSC representative and a dean search committee member and his involvement in graduate student activities as reasons for his interest in being president. The search committee is looking for a new associate dean of residence and campus activities.

Maria Ehsan G, the other candidate for president, could not be reached for comment. Both Rhomberg and Ehsan have also been nominated for vice president.

The other vice-presidential candidate, Constantine A. Morfopoulos G, plans to build on the current officers' work to ensure graduate student involvement in decisions that affect them. He cited graduates' involvement in the dean search as an example.

Morfopoulos is currently a departmental representative and has helped organize GSC events in the past. "I have a feeling for how things work," he said.

### Candidates for secretary, treasurer unchallenged

"I have always believed that outside activities should play a role in student life, and I have been a part of a variety of student groups in my five years at MIT," said Eva Moy G, who is the sole candidate for secretary.

"I think the GSC does many good things in looking out for students, from lobbying the recent parking fee increases to actively participating in the selection of a new RCA dean to organizing winter skiing trips," Moy said.

Lawrence D. Barrett G, the candidate for treasurer, stressed the importance of student/faculty interaction for improving the graduate student experience. If elected, he would work at "getting the grad students out of the lab. I'd hope to be in a position to allocate funding for" events that would put graduate students more in touch with each other, he said.

The full graduate council is composed of these four officers, together with representatives from each degree-granting program and graduate student living group. Any student may run for office.

Unlike the undergraduate elections process, only students on the council can vote for GSC officers. A student must have 20 students in his or her department or living group sign a petition to become a voting council member, Rhomberg said.

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Completed applications	8023	7955	68
Applications admitted	1894	2102	-208
Percent admitted	24	26	-2
Male	1071	1158	-87
Female	823	944	-121
Under-represented minorities	350	302	48
Asian American	515	574	-59
International	115	121	-6

SOURCE: ADMISSIONS OFFICE

# Democrat Club Makes Debut

By Orli G. Bahcall  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The MIT College Democrats club made its debut on campus with its first general meeting last week. "Our main goal is to increase political awareness and political involvement at MIT," said Monisha M. Merchant '99, the club's co-president.

Areej Hassan '99, the other co-president, agreed. "We have found that most MIT students are pretty apathetic when it comes to politics," she said.

In an effort to increase political awareness, the club plans to invite Democratic speakers to MIT, said Andrew W. Howard '98, treasurer and director of party affairs.

"The first thing that we noticed during the activities midway, after we passed by the Republican Club booth," was the definite absence of an active Democratic group on campus, Hassan said. There is no central advocate for Democrats on campus, he added.

While the club wants "to get as many Democrats involved," in politics on campus as possible, "we

[would] be just as happy if more people — regardless of their party affiliation — get involved," Merchant said.

To increase political participation on campus, the College Democrats will encourage discussion between the existing Republican club and Libertarian club.

Other plans include starting "dialogue and debate between groups and individuals that tend to take different stands on issues," Howard said.

Some of "our specific plans include starting a voter registration project," Hassan said. While most students are of voting age, many have not yet registered to vote, he said.

The College Democrats are also working to organize an on-campus debate this fall between Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Republican Governor William F. Weld for the Massachusetts senatorial race, Merchant said.

"I have been involved with Democratic politics for some time now, and the prime reason for forming this new group is the upcoming

presidential election. Politics is going to be a bigger issue [on campus] in the coming year." This will be both a driving force for the group and motivation for students to become involved in politics, Howard said.

"We will also try to get involved in Democratic campaigns and support [not only campaigns but the] issues themselves," Howard said.

The Democrats Club is working to affiliate itself with the Massachusetts state coalition of the Democratic party, as well as the College Democrats of America, Hassan said.

Democrats of America is a national political organization that networks all the college Democrat organizations. Some members of the Democrat Club plan to attend that organization's New England regional conference held at Brown University over Patriot's Day weekend, Hassan said.

The College Democrats have also made contact with and gotten support from the Democratic National Party to establish connections, Hassan said.

# Information Technology Experts Gather to Speak at Symposium

By Venkatesh Satish  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A diverse group of experts gathered at MIT last Saturday to discuss a number of media-related issues at a symposium on the role of information technology in society.

The symposium, entitled "Information Technology for Society," was held in the Bechtel Lecture Hall (1-390) before an audience of mostly of MIT students.

The keynote speaker was Walter R. Bender, associate director for information technology in the Media Lab. He opened the discussion with a talk about changes in the focus of developers in the field.

"In the 80s, engineers spent time on the infrastructure, how to get information from one place to another," Bender said. "A lot of effort was on [data] compression."

But that has changed, Bender said. The emphasis today is on adding information, so that the data is "made relevant to the community and individuals. It has to be engaging."

The event was organized by a group of students from MIT and Harvard University, including Mayukh V. Sukhatme '97 and Teresa Huang '97.

"I think it's a unique forum that gets people from different backgrounds with similar areas of interest to interact," Sukhatme said.

## Internet publications are failing

An introductory speech was also given by Gary Welz, a journalist for

the magazine *Internet World*. He spoke about the task of creating content for Internet publications.

Companies that have attempted to publish things specifically on the Internet are failing financially, Welz said. "Advertising revenues don't begin to approach the costs" involved in producing a publication, he said.

"Big companies are discovering that they can't even compete with some lone individuals who have insight into what people want," Welz said.

The most successful World-Wide Web sites, in terms of the number of accesses, or "hits," include search engines like those of Infoseek, Yahoo, and Netscape, instead of publishers, Welz said.

## Panels discuss access, censorship

A panel including Hiawatha Bray, a technology reporter from *The Boston Globe*, and Larry Goldberg, from WGBH Public Television, detailed some problems in making the Internet accessible to everyone.

"The problem is that people who aren't affluent don't want to get on the Internet" because they were never exposed to it, Bray said.

But "young people who don't have access to it are in trouble," Bray said, pointing out that Massachusetts is in the lowest quartile among states for the number of computers in school classrooms.

Goldberg also stressed the need for making the Internet more user-

friendly for the visually impaired. Because many web sites make text a graphical element in advertisements and toolbars, for example, they can not be read using the screen-reading software often the blind often use to access the Internet, he said.

Another panel, which included Media Lab student Alan D. Wexelblat G, Virtually Wired Educational Foundation President Coralee Whitcomb, and Director of Boston University's Institute for Democratic Communication Phyllis Zagano, discussed the censorship of different media.

This year's Telecommunications Act, which prohibits "indecentcy" on the Internet, treats the Internet as a broadcast medium like television, instead of a publication, like a magazine, Zagano said.

"The cyber-community concept doesn't work," Zagano said, in reference to judicial rulings that have barred indecent material from being broadcast to the public.

"Censorship is a dead issue," Wexelblat said, insisting that the emphasis of current tools to block out undesirable material should change.

"People should be able to set up their software to avoid [such] materials," Wexelblat said, describing a system where users could choose from a variety of standards that rate material that is broadcast or published. "If we produce a good rating system, people will subscribe to it," he added.

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# Former Northeastern Student Is Found Guilty

By Dan McGuire  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

## Short Takes

Former Northeastern University student Stephen Womack was convicted of receiving stolen property and maliciously destroying books from Northeastern and Harvard libraries early this month. He faces a maximum of 30 years in prison from the charges.

Womack was acquitted of attempting to extort the school. Womack admitted sending four letters threatening to bomb the university unless it fired all Jewish faculty members and paid him money. He also said he would kill and mutilate four Northeastern librarians if his demands were not met. Womack's

defense attorney, William Homans, argued that the claims were pranks. [Northeastern News, March 6]

## Harvard tuition up to \$29K

Harvard University administrators announced March 13 that it would raise its tuition next year to \$28,896, up 4.8 percent from the current tuition of \$27,575. "Increases are limited to those necessary for sustaining the quality of our academic programs and operating the facilities that house them," said University Dean for the Faculty Jeremy R. Knowles.

Officials said the rise in tuition was due mainly to the increasing demands for funds by the libraries and the Harvard informational technology systems.

[Harvard Crimson, March 14]

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# TUFTS

# Dean Candidates Address Student Activity Concerns

By Orli G. Bahcall  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Three candidates for the post of assistant dean for residence and campus activities were introduced separately at three student forums this week [see story, page 1].

All three candidates are qualified; "the real decision is the fit between the person and MIT and the people they will be working with," said Associate Dean for RCA Margaret A. Jablonski.

The decision process includes getting feedback from the students at the forums, as well as from administrators that the candidates have met with.

An offer should be made by the end of next week. The position should be filled by May 1, Jablonski said.

The position was vacated earlier this year when former Assistant

Dean for RCA Susan D. Allen left to become Dean of Students at Roxbury Community College earlier this year.

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

## RCA endorses forums

The student "forums are a good opportunity [for students] to ask whatever they want of a candidate, and gives the candidate the opportunity to get an understanding of what the real issues are for students" Jablonski said.

While logistically it may have been easier for students to attend a single forum where the candidates debated each other, it is "not standard practice to have several candidates compete for a job... [a debate]

would put candidates in a difficult position," she said.

The forums were successful in allowing students to have more input in this decision, Jablonski said.

The forums were attended on average by about 20 students and several administrators.

"To have about 20 student leaders show up is extraordinary," Jablonski said. The forums were attended by representatives of student government and various student clubs.

Those students or groups that would be working directly with the assistant dean were present or had their opinions represented, Jablonski said.

Chavez questioned the students at the forum regarding a sense of animosity between students and the administration, citing editorials in

*The Tech.*

Undergraduate Association Treasurer Russell S. Light '98 agreed with Chavez's sentiment. "While 80 percent of the administration would like to help you, the system is just so entangled and complicated that they can't. [It's] not because of a lack of trying," Light said.

"I think that this perception comes from the fact that MIT is very large, and it can be confusing to deal with such an entangled structure." This is why students often feel they "get the run around" Jeremy D. Sher '99 said.

Other students centralized the problem to the student governments. "If I am the UA and I want to get something done, I can't just vote it in. All the UA can do is allocate money and elect itself," said Doug K. Wyatt '96, president

of the Association of Student Activities. Too much effort is required to get anything done, he said.

Graduate Student Council President Bonnie Souter G replied that in fact "you can get things done here, but you need to know how to work with the administration."

"One of most important functions [of this office] is to teach students how to be leaders, and work in teams" she said.

O'Dair asked the students what they were expecting from this position. The consensus was that students just want an administrator who will be on their side.

"We are going through lots of changes here at MIT, and we would like to see someone who is willing to take a lot of risks," said Light.

## Candidates Would Advise Students

RCA, from Page 1

Maguire would try to bring the heads of various organizations together to facilitate collaboration. She described herself as being

*"I'm sensing that the financial issue is probably the major concern, and no matter how it is resolved, not everyone will be happy, but I want to be seen as a resource to the students."*

*Katherine G. O'Dair*

"pretty much what you see is what you get." She also expressed hope in improving the relationship between student activities and the administration.

Maguire said that if selected

she would like to meet with the student organizations by sitting in government meetings, campus publications and student focus groups.

Maguire received her Masters in Counseling Psychology from Villanova University where she was active with student organizations. She continued to serve four years in the Villanova student activities office.

### O'Dair says it's students' money

O'Dair said she became interested in the RCA position because of all the changes going on at MIT and the opportunity to be a part of such change.

O'Dair said student finance is important. In her current position at Tufts, the student government directly supervises their own finances, she said. "It's the students' money, so they should have control over it... my job is just to make sure that everyone is on track."

O'Dair said that increasing funding for co-curricular activities was a major concern. Several ways to

RCA, Page 13



William Lee G of the Logarithms sings solo from the song "In Your Eyes."

SHARON YOUNG PONG

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**MIT Professors Negotiate Prisoner Release with Soviets**

Thirty-five years ago this week, the U.S. government revealed that two MIT faculty members — former Professor of Electrical Engineering Jerome B. Wiesner and former Professor of Political Science Walt W. Rostow — had worked to free two American pilots captured and imprisoned by the Soviet government.

Wiesner, who died two years ago, would later become the 13th President of MIT.

Rostow and Wiesner spoke with Soviet officials while they were attending a meeting of the Pugwash Conferences in Moscow in November 1960. They were acting as unofficial agents of the incoming Kennedy administration.

Arguing that the detention of the U.S. airmen was a major obstacle to bettering East-West relations, Wiesner and Rostow successfully convinced the Soviets, who released the two pilots five days after



President Kennedy took office in January, 1961.

After the incident, Wiesner and Rostow continued to work for international peace. Rostow became an adviser to President Kennedy, serving as deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs.

Wiesner was Kennedy's scientific adviser and was instrumental in the creation of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He also assisted in organizing the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963, an agreement with the Soviet Union that banned atmospheric nuclear weapons tests.

The Pugwash Conferences Rostow and Wiesner had been attending were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year for their efforts to end nuclear proliferation and toward the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. At least six scientists currently affiliated with MIT are members of Pugwash.

**Faculty Reaction to Final Report Mixed**

Faculty, from Page 1

The final report of the task force addresses these issues by proposing "a model ROTC program that is inclusive and nondiscriminatory," Graves said.

The program would have three main features: ROTC programs open to all students, a policy of reinsurance for cadets who lose their scholarship for reasons of homosexual conduct, and an MIT committee responsible for advocating change in the federal law, Graves said.

While the recommendations were made "in the shadow of 'anti-ROTC' legislation," the task force had "tried as best we could to ignore this legislation" in its deliberations, Graves said.

"We have not formally talked to anyone in the [Department of Defense]," Graves said, although the task force did discuss the recommendations with the commanders on campus. Graves said that if the DoD rebuffed efforts at negotiation, the issue would be brought back to the faculty in one year.

"What we're asking for is an attempt, and not an endless commitment," said task force member Alan E. Pierson '96.

Graduate Student Council President Barbara J. Souter G questioned the value of the reinsurance idea. "Whether MIT paid [for a revoked scholarship] or not, I would still feel very discriminated against," she said.

Professor of Literature David M. Halperin called the proposal "a compromise that is not truly workable." While he said he did not wish to hold the faculty to the 1990 resolution on ROTC which he helped draft, "MIT should try to distance itself further from the U.S. military."

"I can't accept the findings of the task force," Halperin said. He called the report "vague and imprecise in a number of factual areas." He questioned whether MIT could negotiate with the DoD without violating federal laws, which "make a mockery of MIT's nondiscrimination policy."

Professor of Material Science and Engineering Thomas W. Eagar '72 offered a more positive response to the committee's recommendations. "I don't mind compromise," said Eagar. "I would like to endorse [the task force's proposal] as something that continues the dialogue."

The faculty is expected to vote on the committee's recommendations at their April meeting. Allowing one month for discussion is customary for important matters, President Charles M. Vest said.

Vest stated that it would be inappropriate for him to participate in the discussion about the task force recommendations, but said he has "been very proud of the MIT community while this topic has been under discussion."

"I have been impressed at the plane in which this discussion is taking place," Vest said.

**Faculty response mixed**

Members of the faculty raised a number of objections to the task force proposal. Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Joshua Cohen questioned how the recommendations differed from the policy adopted by other universities in which ROTC is exempted from statements of nondiscrimination.

The proposed program would merely "violate [MIT's statement of nondiscrimination] in the best way that we know how," Cohen said.

**Open Forums Introduce RCA Associate Dean Candidates**

RCA, from Page 12

increase funding, including adding an activities fee or taking a fixed percentage or lump sum out of tuition, were brought up. "I'm really not quite sure of the system here, but again, this is very important, especially in light of re-engineering," she said.

"I'm sensing that the financial issue is probably the major concern, and no matter how it is resolved, not everyone will be happy, but I want to be seen as a resource to the students," O'Dair said.

O'Dair stressed the point that she wanted to build a good relation-

ship with the student body. "Trust cannot be established overnight," she said.

O'Dair also brought up several ideas that would be new to the Institute. At Tufts O'Dair has lead large information sessions on various topics including leadership and programming.

O'Dair would like to see a similar program at MIT. She also favors meetings where student leaders would meet to discuss the goals of their groups and share leadership ideas.

O'Dair received a BA degree in Communication from Miami University in 1988 and an MA in Edu-

cation, Student Personnel and Counseling from Northeastern University in 1991.

*Shawdee Eshghi and Christopher C. Falling contributed to the reporting of this story.*

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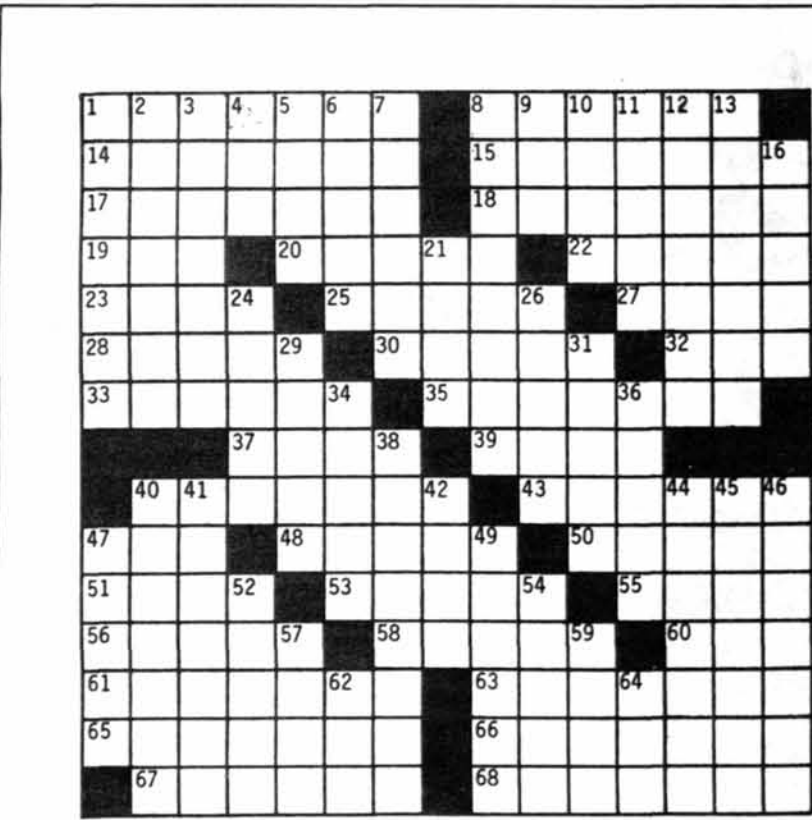
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Dutch philosopher
  - 8 Wonder of the world locale
  - 14 Degree of quality
  - 15 Boat race
  - 17 Everything counted (2 wds.)
  - 18 Gave forth
  - 19 Prefix: wool
  - 20 Barbara and Sir Anthony
  - 22 Coast
  - 23 Ms. Arden, et al.
  - 25 Close to (poet.)
  - 27 Actor Jannings
  - 28 Avian abodes
  - 30 Shoe parts
  - 32 Cakes and —
  - 33 Inferior substitute
  - 35 God of the sea
  - 37 Swerve
  - 39 Mr. Connery
  - 40 Eileen or Walter
  - 43 On the stock exchange
  - 47 "Light-horse Harry"
  - 48 Hatred
  - 50 Audacity
  - 51 Formerly, formerly
  - 53 Tree of the birch family
  - 55 French kings
  - 56 French morning locale
  - 58 Unsatisfactory product
  - 60 Presidential monogram
  - 61 Put to use
  - 63 Hemophiliac
  - 65 Merry-maker
  - 66 Molybdenum, e.g.
  - 67 Disavow again
  - 68 Gnawing animals
  - 13 Infertile
  - 16 Fred Astaire's sister
  - 21 — sign
  - 24 Ward (off)
  - 26 Drive back
  - 29 Taker of dictation
  - 31 Cleaning problem
  - 34 "The Prisoner of —"
  - 36 Racer Al or Bobby
  - 38 Good-natured ridicule
  - 40 One who scolds
  - 41 Fidgety
  - 42 Unclad
  - 44 Walked on
  - 45 Apparent
  - 46 Gobi and Mojave
  - 47 Relative of the monkey
  - 49 Organization component
  - 52 Like a bathroom wall
  - 54 Comic strip character
  - 57 Shade of green
  - 59 Exigency
  - 62 Buddhist sect
  - 64 Scottish uncle
- DOWN**
- 1 Triangle with unequal sides
  - 2 Idle chatter
  - 3 Disease
  - 4 Insect egg
  - 5 Woodwind instrument
  - 6 Classmate of Dobie Gillis
  - 7 Eve and Enoch
  - 8 Beforehand bargains
  - 9 — and haw
  - 10 Spartan king
  - 11 Early-blooming (poet.)
  - 12 Empire or footstool

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# Jim's Journal

by Jim

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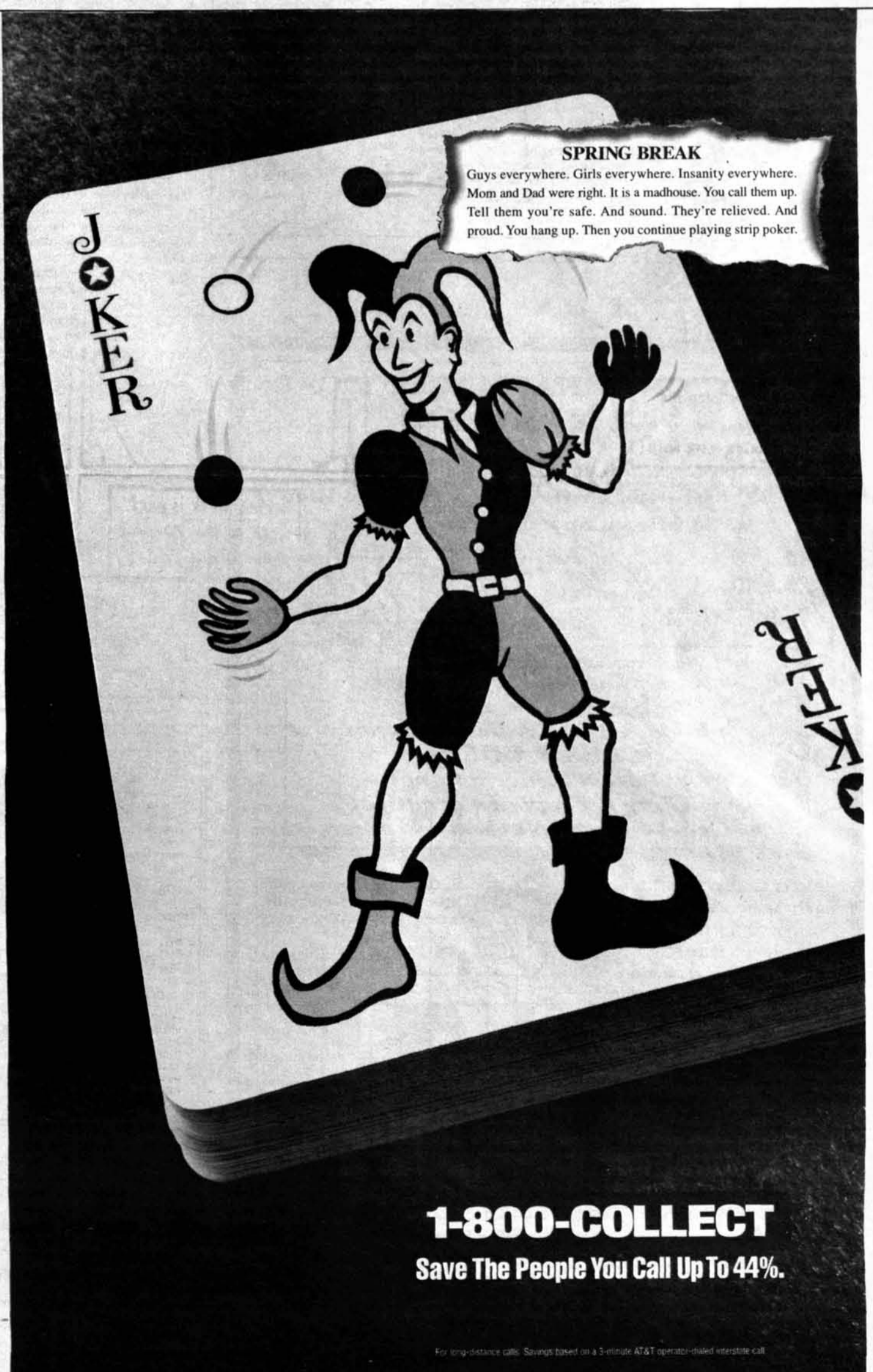
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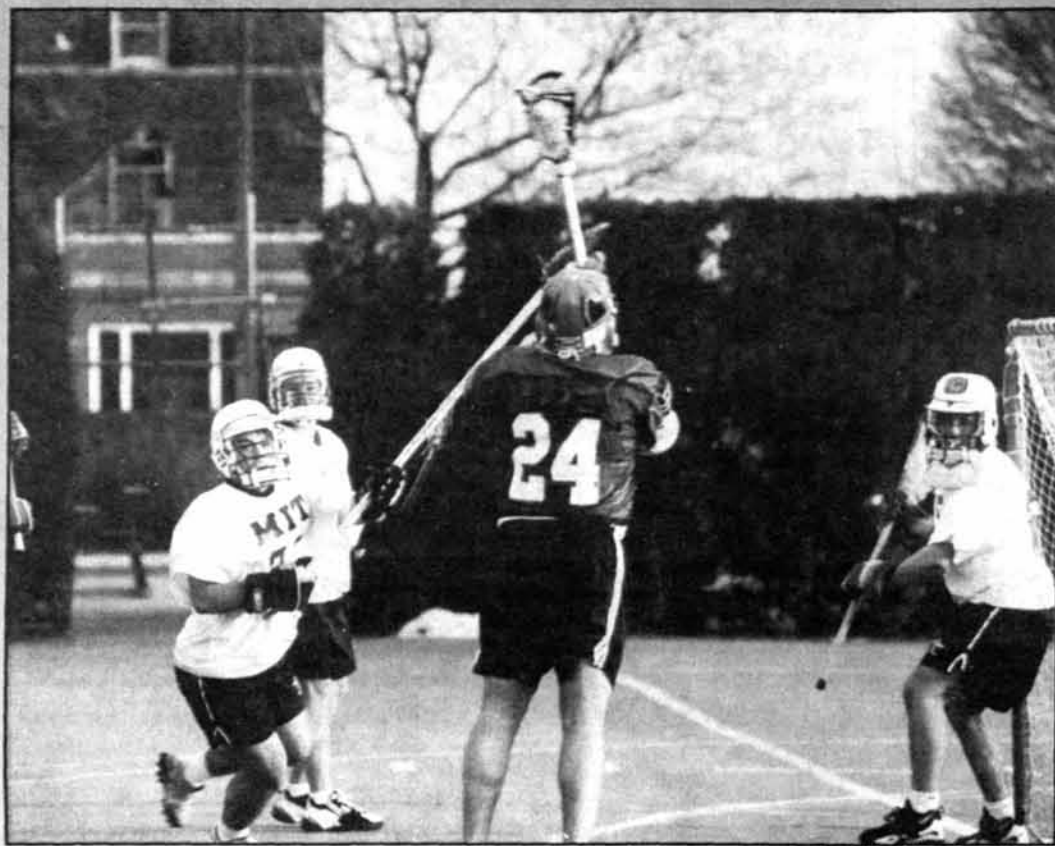
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## SPORTS



Goalie Robert P. Bennett '99 defends the MIT goal from the Assumption College forward. MIT won the game 8-5.

JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH

# Individual Varsity Fencers Perform Well at Regionals

By Jennifer Mosler  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The men's and women's varsity fencing teams concluded their seasons March 10 at the Division I NCAA Regional Championships, held at Wellesley College. Thirteen individuals qualified for this prestigious tournament; the regionals serve as part of the criteria for selection to the NCAA National Championships.

The format differs from the regular season's format in that there is no team competition and only individuals can qualify to regional or national competition this year. The tournament is run in pools of five or six people, all the way up to a final pool of six people to determine the winner.

Since the fencers who qualify for higher rounds do so on the basis of their record for the previous round, every touch counts to determine placement if two competitors tie for wins.

In men's épée, Jonathan Blandford '97 had an outstanding performance, defeating some of the top fencers in the competition. He finished 13th, only four touches away from a spot in the final 10. David Lewinnek '97 also competed well, ending in 21st place.

In women's foil, captain Wanda Chin '97 finished 17th out of the 43 competitors. Amy Hwang '97 and Leejee Suh '97 also fenced well, ending up in 30th and 38th place, respectively.

In men's foil, captain David Nauman '97 fenced beautifully, ending the day in eighth place. Jae Park '98 finished 20th out of the 26

fencers competing.

In men's sabre, Brian Bower '99 once again competed well, missing the top ten by only one touch, and finishing in 11th place. Teammate Josh Trauner '97 was close behind in 19th place.

## Women's épée places well

Once again the women's épée squad dominated the competition. All four starters not only qualified, but placed among the top 24 out of 41 fencers at the tournament.

Merideth Rising '98 fenced a very strong tournament and finished eighth, only eight touches away from the final pool of six. Kari Backes '96 was not far behind in 12th place and fenced an outstanding tournament, especially given that she has only been competing in the sport for six months. Jennifer Mosier '96 also fenced well, ending in 14th place, only two touches away from the round of 12, while Nicky Leifer '98 finished in 22nd place.

Based on their season records and their performances at regionals, three MIT fencers — Rising in women's épée, Nauman in men's foil, and Bower in men's sabre — were in the running for nationals. Unfortunately, the special regional committee's final decision resulted in none of the fencers qualifying to Nationals, despite their excellent performances.

Despite the disappointing results of the regional selection committee, the team is looking forward to an even stronger finish next season, with only two out of the 22 varsity members graduating.

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