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Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



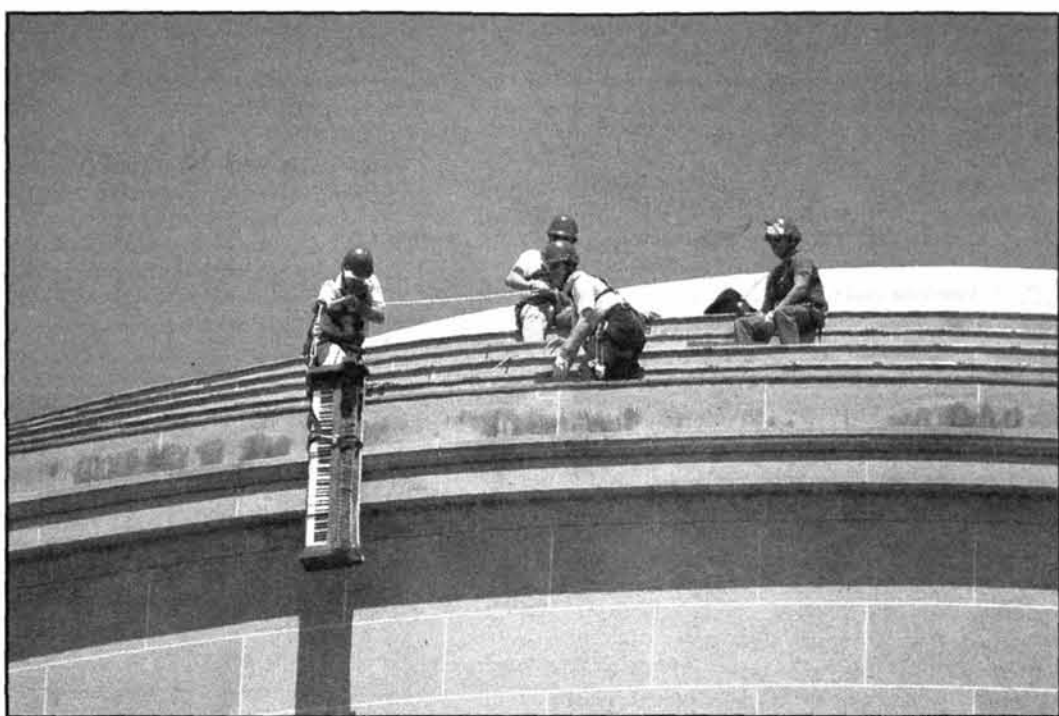
The Weather

Today: Warm, breezy, 81°F (27°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, muggy, 64°F (18°C)
Tomorrow: Cloudy, cooler, 76°F (25°C)
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Volume 116, Number 27

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, June 7, 1996



Physical plant workers remove a piano placed as a hack on the Great Dome on May 21.

JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH

1,800 to Graduate At Killian Today

By Orli G. Bahcall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT will hold its 130th commencement today in Killian Court. Over 1,800 seniors and graduate students will receive some 2,000 degrees from the MIT's five schools and 21 academic departments.

Vice President Al Gore will deliver the main address to the nearly 8,000 relatives and guests expected to attend the outdoor exercises; he plans to focus his remarks on the role of technology in society.

President Charles M. Vest will deliver the charge to the graduates; Chair of the Corporation Paul E. Gray '54 will preside over the exercises.

Formal exercises begin with the traditional academic procession at 9:45 a.m. Students will start at 77 Massachusetts Avenue and will

proceed east on Memorial Drive to Killian Court. Chief Marshall Karen W. Arenson '70 will lead them in.

The Commencement program begins at 10 a.m. in Killian Court. Following an invocation by MIT Catholic Chaplain Mary Karen Powers, Gore will deliver the Commencement address to the graduates.

Other Commencement speakers include outgoing Graduate Student Council President Barbara J. Souter G and Senior Class President Matthew J. Turner '96. Souter will deliver a salute to the graduates from the graduate student body, while Turner will present the senior class gift to Vest, who will then deliver the charge.

Commencement, Page 23

Gates Explores Web's Future in LCS Lecture

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

Bill Gates, the chairman and Chief Executive Officer of software giant Microsoft, spoke to a packed audience in Kresge Auditorium on May 29.

The talk, part of the Laboratory for Computer Science's Distinguished Lecture Series, was entitled "The Internet: Today and Tomorrow" and talked about Gates' experiences in the computing industry

and the possibilities of the new information age.

"The PC has come a long way [in] the 20 years" since Microsoft was founded, Gates said.

Right now, people wonder how we dealt with primitive technology four or five years ago, Gates said. And people four or five years from now people will say the same thing.

As computers gain power, Gates

Gates, Page 21

Athena Survey Shows Increased Resnet Use; Clusters to Change

By May K. Tse
STAFF REPORTER

Results of a recent computer cluster usage survey indicated a growing use of Athena, corroborating previous Information Systems projections of usage.

"The numbers confirmed the qualitative impressions that one gets by simply wandering through the clusters and looking at what's on the screen," said Naomi B. Schmidt,

Manager of Educational Planning and Support for Academic Computing.

The survey revealed that most Athena users logged on for an average of 12.9 hours per week and spent a third of their time reading and sending electronic mail, with document preparation and Web browsing also taking up significant portions of login time.

"Especially during the daytime, there's a lot of casual use, such as e-mail, [World-Wide Web] browsing, and Zephyr," Schmidt said. "On the other hand, there is also definitely solid use made of our more sophisticated packages. We learn from our yearly rounds visits with academic department heads that more and more departments are depending on high-end software and hardware for teaching their subjects.

The most popular third-party software packages (excluding the text editor Emacs, e-mail applications, and Web browsers) were the page-layout program Framemaker and mathematics software Matlab.

EZ, another text editor, and Maple, another mathematics package, together with the page-layout software Latex, the spreadsheet Xess, and the C or C++ programming languages were also mentioned frequently. Of those surveyed, 85 percent reported using at least one third-party software package while online.

The survey group had 480 people, including 330 undergraduates, 125 graduate students, and 25 faculty, staff members, and researchers.

Although "most interviews were conducted during the daytime, and departmental clusters were not surveyed," Schmidt believes the survey is "fairly accurate."

IS hopes to move load to MITnet

Thirty-five percent of people surveyed in an Athena cluster said that they had access to a computer attached to the MIT campus network. Information Systems would

Athena, Page 23

Vest Discusses Budget Cuts, Retirement at Town Meeting

By Timothy K Layman
STAFF REPORTER

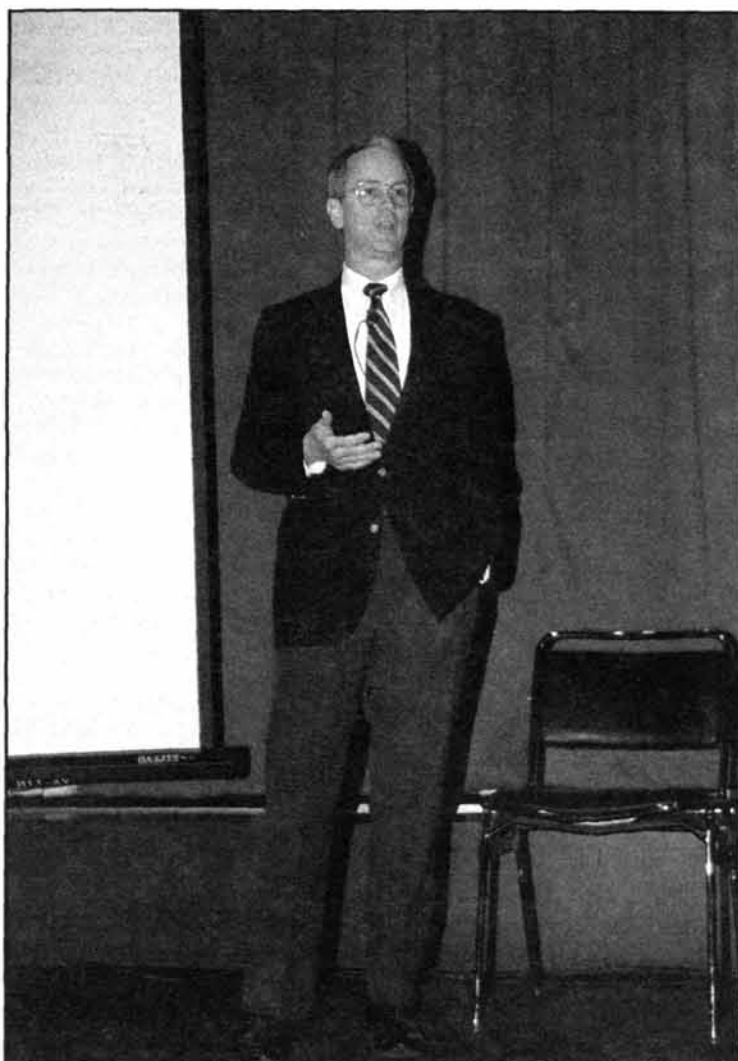
Institute President Charles M. Vest held the third in a series of annual MIT town meetings in La Sala de Puerto Rico last month. The meeting, which was open to all members of the MIT community, attracted 250 participants.

Unlike previous town meetings, this year's meeting had no preordained theme. Vest said he preferred having no set topic "because the range of questions was broad and the tone remained informal. The purpose was to address what was on people's minds — what they wanted to ask," he said.

One topic of current interest was the retirement incentive program, which offered eligible faculty and staff incentives to retire early. Vest called the program "very successful," and said that 640 employees had accepted the offer.

There is "a goal of reducing the total level of employment on campus," Vest said. The plan is to fill

Meeting, Page 23



President Charles M. Vest speaks at a town meeting in La Sala de Puerto Rico last month.

JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH

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WORLD & NATION

China Agrees to Stop Nuclear Tests

THE WASHINGTON POST

BEIJING

China said Thursday that it will drop its insistence on carrying out "peaceful nuclear explosions," thus removing a major obstacle to the signing of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty by the end of the month.

The move means that for the first time, all five declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — are on record as supporting a ban on all nuclear explosions, without loopholes.

Of all the declared nuclear powers, China has conducted the fewest nuclear explosions and, until now, had wanted to keep alive the possibility of conducting additional blasts under the "peaceful" explosions rubric. But China's request wound up angering many of its traditional allies in the developing world, which have favored a complete ban.

China's ambassador to Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Sha Zukang, said the treaty ban on "peaceful" blasts should be "temporary" and the issue should be reconsidered at a treaty review conference — generally expected in 10 years.

North Korea Gets \$6 Million in Food

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Clinton administration plans to grant an additional \$6 million of food aid to North Korea to help avert a famine this summer that Washington fears might cause a massive exodus of refugees into South Korea, senior U.S. officials said Thursday.

The U.S. decision was made in the expectation — under a secret, informal arrangement worked out last month by a U.S. congressman — that North Korea will respond by making a concession regarding U.S.-proposed, multilateral talks aimed at finally forging a peace treaty for the Korean War. North Korea also is expected to move up the timing of a joint operation to recover the remains of U.S. forces who perished in that war, the officials said.

The administration's plan to assist the Communist regime in North Korea, at a time when that government is under serious economic strain, represents a direct political challenge to the Republicans. The GOP's presumptive presidential candidate, Sen. Robert J. Dole, of Kansas, has accused the administration of "coddling" and otherwise appeasing North Korea, and said that U.S. contacts should be conditioned on North Korea starting a bilateral dialogue with the South.

But U.S. officials said the recommendation for more food aid — even in the absence of such an inter-Korean dialogue — was made unanimously by senior administration officials and is slated for approval by President Clinton soon.

No Luck with New EU Beef Ban

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON

The European Union partly lifted a ban against British beef Wednesday, but the action failed to defuse Britain's "mad cow" war against its closest trading partners.

European Commission President Jacques Santer told community leaders in Brussels, Belgium, he hoped the action would lead Britain to abandon its policy of blocking all measures before EU bodies in protest against the ban. But the government of Prime Minister John Major indicated that the British offensive will continue until a full lifting of the export prohibitions.

British delegates have vetoed about 40 EU measures in the past 10 days. Most involved cooperative ventures that Britain openly backed before the beef war, which was sparked by suspicions — not proven — that the disease bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in British cattle may be linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a fatal human brain illness.

Meeting in Brussels Wednesday, the 20-member European Commission voted to allow the export of bull semen and beef derivatives tallow and gelatin.

WEATHER

Several Hundred Degrees In Killian Court

By Michael C. Morgan and Gerard H. Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGISTS

The forest of graduating students, nattily attired in their robes, will not be needing Johnson Athletic Center for Commencement ceremonies. While precipitation is not anticipated to mar the day, some cloudiness will gradually overspread the area especially towards evening. A weakening cold front approaching from the northwest will increase the likelihood of showers late tonight and early Saturday. The weak front will remain in southern New England through the weekend. As a result, clouds and a few showers are a possibility. Somewhat cooler weather, especially along the immediate coast (due to a sea breeze) is also anticipated.

This morning: Partly cloudy and warm. Wind southwest 10-15 mph (16-24 kph). Temperature at 10:00 a.m.: 77°F (25°C).

This afternoon: Slowly increasing clouds. Warm. High 84°F (29°C). Wind southwest 10-15 mph (16-24 kph). Temperature at 2:00p.m.: 81°F (27°C).

This evening: Partly to mostly cloudy with showers possible late. A bit muggier. Patchy fog developing. Low 64°F (18°C).

Saturday: Any showers ending during the morning, then partly cloudy and cooler. Temperatures reaching the middle and upper 70s (26°C) early in the day but falling back to the lower 60s (17°C) in near shore regions. Winds northwest 10 mph (16 kph) shifting to northeast along the coast during the afternoon.

Sunday: Partly sunny with scattered showers possible. High 74-78°F (23-26°C). Low around 60°F (16°C).

White House Requests FBI's Dossier on Fired Travel Chief

By Susan Schmidt and Ann Devroy

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

White House officials obtained FBI background material on Billy Dale seven months after he was ousted as head of the White House travel office, incorrectly asserting they were considering giving him access to the building.

The Clinton administration said it mistakenly sought the information in renewing White House passes. But Rep. William F. Clinger Jr., R-Pa., chairman of a House oversight panel that is looking into the travel office affair, suggested the White House was looking for negative information about Dale that might justify its controversial decision to fire him in May 1993.

FBI Director Louis J. Freeh asked the bureau's general counsel Wednesday to conduct a "thorough inquiry" into the White House request for Dale's background files. Freeh said the results will be furnished to Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr, who is examining whether White House officials tried to block or mislead investigators looking into dismissal of Dale and six other travel office employees.

Clinger questioned whether the White House violated Dale's rights as a private citizen and lied to the FBI about why it wanted information on him. "We can't conjure up any legitimate reason why they would be requesting this information, except to find some material they could leak or float to build their sense that they did the right thing in firing Billy Dale," he said.

"I must assume that they wanted the FBI background checks to see if

there was anything in Billy Dale's past that could be exploited for political advantage."

White House officials said the form was sent to the FBI as a routine matter when they had fallen behind in processing applications and renewals for passes into the White House complex. The information was never sought or seen by political aides, they said. According to spokesman Mark Fabiani, the material was given to the White House security office and eventually ended up in White House archives.

The White House form, sent to the FBI on Dec. 20, 1993, asked for results of routine background investigations of Dale, who had worked at the White House for 32 years before he was fired and escorted from the White House complex seven months earlier. It said the information was needed because Dale was being considered for "access." The top of the document says "To: FBI liaison, From: Bernard W. Nussbaum." Nussbaum, who was then White House counsel, said in a statement Wednesday he had "absolutely no knowledge of any request being made by anyone in the White House to the FBI for any report concerning Billy Dale."

"I made no such request. Nor did I authorize anyone to make such a request. Nor did I ever see any FBI reports concerning Billy Dale," Nussbaum said.

The FBI gave the White House 11 letters and 11 memos it had compiled on Dale. According to evidence presented at Dale's criminal trial, FBI background interviews with neighbors and acquaintances turned up nothing negative.

The White House relinquished the request form last week to

Clinger's Government Reform and Oversight Committee along with about 1,000 other documents, after first asserting the papers should remain confidential under a claim of executive privilege.

The firing of Dale and his colleagues in the early months of the administration spawned enormous controversy. The first Whitewater independent counsel, Robert B. Fiske Jr., found the furor over the firings was a factor in the suicide of deputy White House counsel Vincent Foster in July 1993.

The White House was accused of pushing out veteran workers to make way for friends of the Clintons, and of bringing in the FBI to trump up criminal charges to justify their actions. Dale was tried and acquitted of charges he embezzled money from the travel office.

A grand jury, empaneled this week in Washington, will begin hearing evidence on whether administration officials tried to impede investigators looking into the dismissals.

Fabiani said background investigative files for every White House employee are kept in a vault of the security office. These files are requested from the FBI using a standard form, like the one Clinger produced, under the White House counsel's name.

One former White House official said when the form went to the FBI, the White House had been repeatedly embarrassed by delays in getting officials through the security clearance process. Under orders from then-Chief of Staff Thomas F. "Mack" McClarty a crash effort was undertaken to get the security pass situation cleared up.

Dole Pledges to Keep Contested Abortion Ban in GOP Platform

By Blaine Harden and Dan Balz

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole categorically stated his support Thursday for a constitutional amendment banning abortion that is contained in the Republican Party's platform. At the same time, however, he said he wants a "declaration of tolerance" within the platform to welcome those with differing views.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee, who has been saying for weeks that he wants to make the party more inclusive for those with divergent views on abortion, said in a statement late today that he "will not seek or accept a retreat" from the 1992 Republican Party platform.

"Our convention must reflect not only our strong pro-life convictions, but a decent regard for the opinions of those who disagree," Dole said. "This is not compromise, it is civility."

In his statement Thursday, Dole seems to be trying to square a circle. He is attempting to welcome moderates who support abortion rights, while at the same time insisting that the ban cannot be abandoned or in any way weakened.

Dole sought both to clarify his own position and to head off a costly fight at the Republican convention in San Diego, but it was not immediately clear from Thursday's statement, as well from comments Dole made in television interviews, whether he would be successful.

"Just as important as the wording in our platform," Dole said in the statement, "is the spirit we carry into this election. I will stand up for

my beliefs with confidence, but I will not silence those who disagree."

The 1992 platform plank on abortion contained no language recognizing that there were differing points within the party on abortion. In 1980, the abortion plank did explicitly recognize such differing points of view.

Dole campaign aides Thursday night issued conflicting interpretations of how the declaration of tolerance would be dealt with in the platform. This seemingly arcane point is of great importance to the anti-abortion wing of the party. Some leaders of the movement have said they would not accept such language as part of the abortion plank.

Nelson Warfield, Dole's press secretary, said "Sen. Dole's statement indicated that there are a number of issues where Republicans of goodwill may disagree. But it remains to be seen precisely where in the platform that committee will decide to include a declaration of tolerance."

But another senior Dole advisor said suggestions that Dole wanted to replicate the 1980 abortion plank is "not what he is talking about here." He said the Dole campaign was not trying to "say specifically" what the platform committee should do. But he said Dole is seeking "an umbrella modifier" and not urging "specific language in a specific plank."

In an interview on ABC, Dole appeared to be softening his stance on the party's position on abortion.

"We hope to have a plank in our platform that will reach out to all

Republicans so everybody will understand we can have diversity in our party and still reach out to people who have different views," Dole said. "I don't want to build a fence around our party and say everybody has to agree with me on this issue."

Later Thursday, apparently trying to head off news reports that Dole was backing away from the abortion ban in order to broaden his party's electoral base, Dole campaign headquarters circulated the no-retreat statement.

Early last month, a major battle over the antiabortion plank was fought among the conservative members of the Republican Party. Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, suggested a revision of the language that would replace a constitutional ban on abortion with a statement of policy that pledges to "seek by all legal and constitutional means to protect the right to life for the elderly, the unborn, the disabled, and the disabled."

But this language proved unacceptable to many antiabortion leaders, including GOP presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan and anti-abortion organizations such as the American Life League.

Trailing by about 20 points behind President Clinton in most national polls, Dole is under intense pressure to broaden his appeal, particularly in key states such as California and New Jersey, where moderates such as Govs. Pete Wilson and Christine Todd Whitman are insisting that the GOP is out of step with the mainstream of the Republican Party.

Czech Prime Minister Gets Approval To Form New Coalition Government

By Dean E. Murphy

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

After five days of uncharacteristic squirming in the political spotlight, Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus got the go-ahead Thursday to form a new government, even though his right-wing coalition narrowly lost its parliamentary majority in weekend elections.

Czech President Vaclav Havel made the announcement after meeting with Klaus and leaders from the country's other major political parties. Havel said he had received assurances that the parties are willing to support a Klaus-led minority government if power-sharing details can be worked out over the coming weeks.

In a humbling blow to the normally self-assured Klaus, Havel gave his nod to the ruling prime minister only after the opposition Social Democrats — the surprise

left-wing spoilers in the election — consented to the arrangement. A furious Klaus had expected the go-ahead days ago, but Social Democratic leader Milos Zeman hesitated about going along.

Klaus and Zeman have long been political enemies, but Havel made it clear after the election that a new government "would be unthinkable" without the concurrence of the Social Democrats. The delay temporarily shook financial markets and raised concerns among some Western investors of political instability, but most analysts do not expect the Social Democrats to threaten the country's economic turnaround.

The party, a minor player in the 1992 elections, surged into second place this weekend with more than a quarter of the vote, finishing just three percentage points behind Klaus' Civic Democratic Party. Unlike other social democratic par-

ties in Eastern Europe, the Czech party is not a retooled Communist party, and its leaders have supported free-market reforms — albeit with a social twist.

"We are prepared to support the current coalition, but only with guarantees," Egon T. Lansky, a top Zeman adviser, said in an interview. "We want the power in Parliament to stop some events, or control and help push through others."

Havel's decision means the only conservative government remaining in newly democratic Eastern Europe is likely to continue in power, despite a backlash across the region by left-leaning voters against post-Communist reformers. But it also means Klaus joins a long list of reform-minded politicians who have been chastened, if not tossed aside, by resurgent left-wing opponents.

Some analysts say, that Klaus underestimated voter dissatisfaction with his high-handed style.

Britain and Ireland Ask Former U.S. Senator to Chair Revived Peace Talks

By William D. Montalbano

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON

Britain and Ireland played an American card in their tortuous search for peace in Northern Ireland on Thursday, asking former Maine Sen. George Mitchell to chair long-shot talks aimed at ending the sectarian strife.

The choice of Mitchell angered some in both Britain and Ireland, for whom the specter of a foreigner involved in delicate matters of state is demeaning. Moreover, hard-line Protestants are leery of Mitchell. They want the province to remain part of the United Kingdom and say Mitchell is too close to Catholic nationalists seeking closer links with Ireland.

And Mitchell's task is daunting: Multi-party talks in Belfast will

likely begin next Monday without Sinn Fein, the political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

Analysts say the talks are dramatically weakened without Sinn Fein. And peace is not a possibility if the IRA refuses a cease-fire.

Mitchell, who nudged baleful enemies toward the table in January with a compromise proposal on weapons surrender that led to the upcoming talks, will be overall chairman and preside at plenary sessions.

But he will simultaneously head a commission meeting parallel to the main sessions to negotiate the surrender of arsenals by Catholic and Protestant extremists, whose war of assassination and bombing has claimed 3,200 lives since 1969.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and Britain's Northern Ire-

land Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, announced Mitchell's appointment at a joint news conference in London.

"I believe this represents the best basis we can offer for meaningful, comprehensive and inclusive negotiations," said Spring. Mayhew called it "an historic turning point for the better" in Northern Ireland.

Mayhew said Mitchell "can clearly bring to bear a special insight and authority to take these issues forward."

The White House weighed in supportively after President Clinton spoke by telephone with Irish leader John Bruton and Britain Prime Minister John Major. Clinton said the talks offer "a real chance to set aside the past and negotiate a future of hope and promise, justice and peace."

Orange County to Regain Solvency

LOS ANGELES TIMES

California's Orange County won over a reluctant Wall Street Wednesday, clearing the final hurdle in its efforts to emerge from the nation's largest-ever municipal bankruptcy filing.

Buoyed by strong demand from both East Coast bond funds and well-heeled California investors, the county successfully sold \$880 million of bonds, giving it just enough money to pay back its bondholders, vendors and other creditors.

"We're very, very pleased," said Jan Mittermeier, Orange County's chief executive officer, who flew to New York for the bond sale. "We have been able to overcome this financial blow-up."

Cash from the bond sale will allow Orange County to emerge from bankruptcy protection next Wednesday, just 18 months after it filed under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code with \$1.64 billion in losses from wrong-way interest rate bets by former county Treasurer Robert L. Citron.

"This marks the end of the bankruptcy," said Christopher Varelas, a vice president with Salomon Bros., which is advising the county on the sale. "But more importantly, this validates the county's efforts to limit costs by emerging so quickly and paying all creditors 100 cents on the dollar."

Still, the exit price wasn't cheap.

Orange County's bonds were priced to yield 0.10 to 0.25 of a percentage point more than other similarly rated bonds, meaning county taxpayers paid roughly \$43.8 million extra in borrowing costs, according to data from Zane Mann, publisher of California Municipal Bond Advisor, a newsletter in Palm Springs.

Disney Linked to Sweatshops in Haiti

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK

Mickey Mouse, one of the few American faces more famous than Kathie Lee Gifford's, will be the next target of the National Labor Committee, the small, New York-based worker rights group that first linked the talk-show host to sweatshop labor.

"Our next campaign is Disney; I've already sent a 13-page letter to (Walt Disney Co. CEO) Michael Eisner," Charles Kernaghan, the committee's executive director, said in an interview Wednesday. "Disney has sweatshops in Haiti that pay starvation wages with inhumane conditions."

Kernaghan's allegations refer to two U.S. apparel manufacturers under contract to produce children's clothing with the Disney label.

Disney has been denying such allegations since January, when the committee first made them public in a report titled "The U.S. in Haiti. How to Get Rich on 11 Cents an Hour."

Disney spokesman Chuck Champlin said the charges are disputed by not only its manufacturers in Haiti, but also by the U.S. State Department.

Champlin cited a recent letter from a State Department official to Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo. The letter said that based on unannounced visits, the U.S. embassy staff in Haiti found "a pattern of widespread compliance with minimum wages laws with most workers earning substantially more than the minimum wage."

Champlin also said that Disney representative had been to Haiti to verify that the factories are following the laws and are properly maintained.

Graduate Student Council

The grocery shuttle will only run on Saturdays during the summer, with pick-ups at 9, 10, and 11 am at the regular stops.

The GSC congratulates the new graduates and wishes to thank all those who made Commencement 1996 a success. MIT counts on your active support as alumni of the Institute to continually improve the quality of graduate student life. Good luck and best wishes!

Upcoming meetings: **HCA** - June 11 (7pm)...
Activities - June 12 (5:30pm)... **Orientation** - June 13 (5:30pm)

Get involved!

The orientation committee needs help organizing activities for the incoming graduate students. Come to the meeting next Thursday and find out how you can participate.

Join us for the GSC's annual trip to the Montreal Jazz Festival

June 28 - June 30

We only have 94 spaces on a first come, first serve basis. Tickets on sale now at the GSC office.

Buy early!

\$65 for MIT graduate Students
\$75 for guests (one guest per grad student)

Cost includes transportation to and from Montreal and two nights in a single room at the McGill University residence halls.

Check out the festival's web site:
<http://www.montrealjazzfestival.worldlinx.com>

All graduate students are invited to all our meetings held in Room 50-222 at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is included.

Stay informed about all our events! Check out our web page <http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/gsc/gsc.html>. Add yourself to our mailing list by sending e-mail to gsc-request@mit.edu. Questions, comments, ideas? Call us at x3-2195 or send e-mail to gsc-admin@mit.edu.

OPINION

Renovation Schedule Ignored Concerns

A little over a year ago, Senior House was spared from conversion into graduate housing — and from the verdict of a secret decision-making process aimed at reducing student input as well. In the end, it was decided that the dormitory would continue to house undergraduates, but that it would undergo renovations that would overhaul its interior. While significant student input about the renovations was received over the past year, Senior House's recent renovations have been carried out in a way that demonstrates a continued lack of concern for keeping promises to students and for valuing student input.

The bulk of these renovations, aimed at improving overall living conditions, were to be completed this summer. The renovations began with a near-optimal level of student and administration interaction. Residents met with the contractor and administrators, providing input on the future appearance and voicing concerns about renovation deadlines. This was in keeping with both the high words of the Report of the Strategic Housing Planning Committee, which promised to "maximize student input from this point forward," and the demands of residents and their leaders.

The responsiveness of the administration and contractor to student concerns has quickly degraded. During planning stages, one of the residents' major demands was to ensure that Senior House would be presentable by Residence and Orientation Week. While Senior House was open last R/O Week, the dormitory will not be available as temporary housing for this year's R/O. Even worse, parts of the building may even be closed for

tours and other dormitory R/O events.

These renovations went ahead with the understanding that the changes would benefit everyone in the end. By limiting dormitory R/O events, this new renovation schedule will undoubtedly result in a dismal rush for Senior House. And what guarantee do residents have that construction will not continue well into the next school year? This hardly appears to be in the best interests of the residents.

Nor has that particular instance of disrespect for student concerns been an isolated occurrence. During the end of the semester, heavy construction work was undertaken in the morning, as early as 7:30 a.m., plaguing residents catching precious sleep before finals. The reason offered for the inopportune work schedule? President Charles M. Vest was out of town, and thus wouldn't be inconvenienced by electrical work. Again, students were not involved or even considered in the decision, much less informed of it in advance.

Yet again, student concerns have fallen on deaf years. Keeping students in the dark on scheduling changes and ignoring student input, the administration and the contractor have duplicated the closed process epitomized by the infamous SHPC. Senior House was supposed to be a test case for student involvement, the basis for rebuilding the trust shattered by the administration nearly two years ago. It now appears that the administrators involved in the renovations have blindsided students yet again. The brass has heard this complaint before in contexts from dean selection to food service. Will they ever learn? With this latest transgression, the answer seems to be "no."



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Institutional Wisdom Watch

by *The Tech* editorial board



Commencement Speaker Roundup



Boston College: Bill Cosby — The immortal Dr. Huxtable comes out of hiding. Hey, hey, hey.



Brown: Andrea Anderson and Michael Palmer — Graduating seniors deliver address. A sign to dump Gore for Hsu and Hollywood?



Princeton: Bill Clinton — Busy incumbent candidate takes time to frolic in the ivy.



Yale: Henry Winkler — The Fonz brings happy days to riotous campus strike.



Harvard: Harold Varmis — NIH Director rubbing elbows in the Yard? Holy grant money, Batman!



Boston University: John Silber — Tyrannical John leaves in a fuss only to return behind the podium.



UMass - Amherst: Stephen G. Breyer — Supreme Court Justice robes. Keep your burning flags at home.



Rice: Anita K. Jones — With a pocket full of Star Wars toys, DoD Research Director hails over Houston.



Stanford: Mae Jemison — Pioneering astronaut launches speech out West.

Letters To The Editor

Writing Requirement Demands Student Input

An MIT workload makes for a rarefied Institute. Students tend to become isolated from events outside the Infinite Corridor. There simply isn't much time for newspapers, magazines, or television.

In much the same way, the Institute is cloistered. Students don't pay much more attention to the events inside the Institute than they do to the politics of the outside world. News is lost in the buzz of tooling pencils.

Many discussions of import to the student body just don't reach student ears.

Such is the case with the Writing Requirement. A paper in the January/February issue of the MIT Faculty Newsletter called for "a revision of the current writing system" modeled on the current "Writing Initiative," a program in which six-unit writing practica are attached to regular engineering subjects.

This paper was written by the faculty attached to the Writing Requirement. Professor of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sci-

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ERRATUM

The caption for a photograph on May 14 of Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Alan V. Oppenheim mistakenly identified his last name as Oppenheimer. Oppenheim is this year's winner of the Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Opinion Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Electronic mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. Mail to specific departments June be sent to the following addresses on the Internet: ads@the-tech.mit.edu, news@the-tech.mit.edu, sports@the-tech.mit.edu, arts@the-tech.mit.edu, photo@the-tech.mit.edu, circ@the-tech.mit.edu (circulation department). For other matters, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World-Wide Web at http://the-tech.mit.edu.

Lame Duck Chairman Ponders MIT Career, Future

Column by Scott C. Deskin
CHAIRMAN

During this week of Commencement, I've had some time to be introspective — about my past four years at MIT, about my future, about how I'll cope with the loss of access to the Athena clusters. While I feel I've managed to calm the fears about that last point, the other two items are still bugging me. The other evening, however, I saw a television rerun of a film which seemed to help put things in a bit more perspective: Mike Nichols' film *The Graduate*.

The film tells the story of Benjamin Braddock (played by Dustin Hoffman), a young and emotionally reserved recent graduate. Not having much to do except float around in his parents' pool all day and drink beer, he becomes bored, idly listens to the advice of his parents' friends, and has, despite some hesitation and romantic ineptitude, an affair with Mrs. Robinson (played by Anne Bancroft), the wife of his father's law partner.

Aside from the affair with an older woman, I feel as if I may compare Benjamin's state of mind to my own. When his father approaches him in the pool and asks him what he's doing, he replies that he's "drifting." When his father asks him what he plans to do with his degree, or what the four years as an undergraduate meant, he says, "You got me." I don't think these are inherently smart-aleck answers but rather truthful ones; if I were approached with similar questions (as I have been asked in recent job interviews), I would stammer my way around a truthful answer.

I'll admit, my situation is not as dire as that of the fictional Benjamin Braddock. Out of my chemical engineering curriculum, I have definitely learned a few things about thermodynamics, chemical kinetics, and sepa-

ration processes; but, am I smarter (or "better off," as politics would say) than I was four years ago? I think not. More than anything else, MIT has been a place where I've suffered and matured in the face of oppression and impersonal attitudes; my naïve high-school cynicism has been tempered and molded by this school into a more practical, world-wise realism.

When I came to MIT, I had the vague idea that I was making an investment in my future. Everyone knows nowadays that you're not anybody until you've gone to college, and you won't get hired by anybody unless 1) you know somebody in your field or 2) you're a science or engineering major at a top-notch school. Needless to say, I was disappointed when the job offers didn't come flowing in. I know a certain amount of personal ambition is required in getting a job, but I didn't get much advice from my department regarding a career path. Instead, I had to compete with my fellow classmates outside of the classroom in numerous interviews for companies that seemed bent on hiring personality types rather than diligent workers.

I will gladly accept my diploma today, and I hope others realize how much work went into earning the degree as I do. But there is a touch of disappointment amidst the memories of friends and colleagues I've worked with during my time here. Never again will I be in such a high-IQ environment, and I'll miss most of the intelligent conversations I've had with people during late-night problem sets and in lecture. Most of all, I will miss *The Tech* — the newspaper, the office, the people. *The Tech* gave me an extracurricular raison d'être and gave me an outlet to spew my random thoughts about film, music, and art, no matter how pretentious.

In *The Graduate*, the pearl of wisdom offered by one of Benjamin's elders is just one word: "Plastics." The real world, and my future, are not so clear-cut. I've served my time at MIT and, still without a good grasp of my ultimate career goals — no five- or 10-year plans for me — I leave the Institute a little older and a little wiser but probably not much

smarter than when I first arrived. I'm ready to leap out into the great unknown and, until I land on my feet somewhere, I'll enjoy the trip.

Congratulations to all the graduates. Have a drink. You've earned it.

Scott C. Deskin '96 hopes to dabble in film studies while attending graduate school at UCLA this fall.

Letters To The Editor

Letters, from Page 4

ences Kip V. Hodges is the chair of the Committee on the Writing Requirement. Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Associate Dean Leslie C. Perelman is the associate dean in charge of the writing requirement. Professor of Science and Writing Alan P. Lightman is head of the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies.

The paper described a writing program that was failing. Only 41 percent of interviewed MIT students thought that their writing had improved significantly. This compared to 71 percent of a comparison group at other schools.

Worse, writing seems to be completely irrelevant as far as academics at MIT are concerned. The study quoted by the paper found no correlation between a student's GPA and writing ability, as shown in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences distribution courses.

It is disturbing that such reports of failure do not interest MIT students. It is alarming that plans for change in requirements aren't noticed.

It might not be so surprising if administration here at MIT didn't seem so willing not to include students in important deliberations. But as things stand, there is no reason that students shouldn't make their voices heard.

There is no reason that faculty thought on issues like the Writing Requirement shouldn't be presented to the student body.

Matthew J. Herper '99

Corridor Condom Posters Were Offensive

On May 9 I found myself confronted by what I feel were offensive and publicly indecent flyers along the Infinite Corridor. The content of the flyers might be described as a public service announcement encouraging the use of condoms. In presenting this message, our benefactor chose to display a life size photograph of an erect penis.

I may or may not disagree with what you are saying, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it. This oft repeated phrase well expresses the nation's (as well as my own personal) notion of free speech. With that right comes responsibility. That responsibility was shirked by whatever individual or group decided the entire MIT community needed to see male genitalia.

I am not questioning the content of the message, nor do I question their right to express it. However, their right to express themselves has now infringed on my right to not be publicly confronted by sexually explicit material. I believe an apology is in order. At the very least, given their manner of presentation, I sincerely hope they will forego any flyers encouraging regular breast, prostrate, or cervical examinations.

Charles C. Hardy G

Networks Sandwich Selection Nixes EC

I am shocked and amazed at Networks' prejudiced sandwich selection. For a few months now, it has been possible to buy a sandwich at Networks named after MIT dormitories. I am concerned and disappointed that there is no East Campus sandwich when there is a McCormick, a Senior House, a MacGregor and even an Ashdown. I suppose the tasteless, back-to-nature, alfalfa-filled Mother Earth sandwich is supposed to satisfy us alternative-lifestyle East Campus residents.

East Campus is the largest dormitory on campus and the second oldest. We have one of the most active, congenial, and wealthy governments. EC has been home to many future MIT professors, famous and successful alumni, and at least one lovable dean.

We also have large, spacious kitchens which encourage cooking and eating within the dorm. It is almost intuitive that eating is associated with this hungry dorm.

As a current resident and recent president of East Campus, I urge Aramark to offer an East Campus sandwich at Networks. And please, hold the mayo.

Dhaya Lakshminarayanan G

Altschul's Arrogance Doesn't Pass Muster

I read Brett Altschul's column ["Freshman Year Policies Need Revision," May 14] with great dismay. His smug, "smarter-than-thou" arguments have been floating around MIT for years, and it saddens me to see a freshman denigrating useful policies just because he thinks he's too bright to need them.

So you're smarter than the rest of your class at MIT, and you want credit for it. That's nice. Welcome to the real world, Altschul, where you don't always get credit for the good things you do. Yes, people abuse freshman Pass/No Record, and probably abused it more back when you could pass with a D. But there were many of us who worked hard our freshman year and still couldn't cut it. This is not to say we couldn't handle MIT; we got in, and we graduated. What we couldn't handle was the transition from smooth sailing in high school to all-nighters in college. That's a big leap for most people. I'm glad that you are one of the fortunate ones able to swallow a big drink from MIT's firehose; most of us were not quite so lucky.

I'm still grateful for freshman Pass/No Record. Without it my first year GPA would have been miserable; with it I learned how to survive my classes at MIT. Lest you think Pass/No Record taught me to be a slacker, I graduated with a perfectly respectable B average.

Your argument that "better-prepared" is merely a euphemism for "more intelligent" is as specious as your argument on slacking off. Preparedness is half the battle at MIT, as at any other school: Attending recitations, taking careful notes, learning good study habits, and generally paying attention may not get you as far as Einsteinian genius, but they do make a significant difference. I knew a lot of people at MIT. All of them were intelligent, but only a handful, and I mean fewer than 20, were of a category I consider brilliant enough to never have needed pass/fail. Maybe you're in that category. But with an overly superior attitude like yours, I'm not sure I'd want to know you.

Deborah A. Levinson '91

Hostile Staff Attitude Insults Students

What has moved the powers-that-be to their current position of hostility against the students here? I have two cases.

Lately, I've seen the Athena panthers who wear the black jackets going around rebooting terminals in Athena clusters. I've been told by friends that sometimes they send them in to straighten up around morning, but straightening up doesn't mean being hostile. My laboratory partner was running a compile on a machine at the time and because she was 10 feet away, the Athena staff logged her out, also costing us about 30 minutes. The cluster was also empty. I've also heard of Athena staff doing this in mid-afternoon, which makes no sense even from a tidying up point of view.

The second case happened just today when a Campus Police officer marched into the Student reading room on the fifth floor and demanded that all present show their MIT Cards. This didn't happen in the term when people come and are noisy with their friends, but today when people were quietly studying for finals. I fail to see the wisdom in such hostile behavior towards students. There may have been one or two non-MIT students — the others that left had forgotten their cards. Even if all were non-MIT students I wouldn't care. I don't feel worried, upset, or threatened if someone comes here to study from another school. There are far worse things someone could do from outside. As far that night is concerned, there was no situation to worry about, just a tremendous inconvenience and an outright insult to students here.

Mitch White '97



Clinton Address Highlights Need for College Education

Column by Orli G. Bahcall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This past week I had the chance to attend another commencement, in my hometown of Princeton. As I found myself with a special seat behind the White House staff, Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, and the governor of Georgia, I knew the day would be memorable. After lunging to shake their hands and get their autographs, I was thrilled that the chief of staff didn't mind talking to a simple MIT undergraduate. He was even more friendly (or just more good-natured) than many of my friends — he chuckled at my silly joke.

However, as President Bill Clinton took his place in front of historic Nassau Hall to deliver a commencement address, I realized that this day would be even more memorable for all those who strive to better themselves through education.

The President had come to deliver a message not just to honor Princeton's graduating class, but to pledge support of all those who strive for a higher education.

Clinton's message reached beyond the four years of education each graduate was completing to question how education related to larger American goals.

As the 21st century nears, he explained,

students face a revolutionary era of probability. This is an era of opportunity for those with a higher education. Their degrees open up the possibilities of the world.

"Because of the education you have," Clinton told the Princeton graduates, "if America does well, you will do very well. If America is a good country to live in, you will be able to build a very good life."

But, Clinton said, it is not enough to open the future for graduates of top universities.

What about the rest of America? "America will be stronger if all Americans have at least two years of higher education."

As the only Rhodes Scholar president, Clinton showed a profound appreciation of how personal education can contribute to the growth of the entire community.

I'm sure that as the election nears we will hear more about Clinton's plans for how he will make education possible for every American, but until then perhaps his words will provide a vision for some of our own graduating class.

The highly technical knowledge students receive at MIT will start them on the path of leading the technological advancement of our country.

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Clinton showed a profound appreciation of how personal education can contribute to the growth of the community

Column Underrates Media Lab's Technological Goals

Column by Rich Fletcher
STAFF REPORTER

The recent column by Scott Deskin ["Media Lab's Smart Clothing Is a Dumb Idea, May 10] presented several issues and misconceptions which deserve a response.

First, the Media Lab is not in the clothing fashion business any more than Dilbert is in making social commentaries about our personal array of wireless electronics. I was taken aback by Deskin's serious interpretation of Neil Gershenfeld's tongue-in-cheek article which appeared in the *New York Times*. His comment about MIT students' fashion sense — or lack thereof — is a separate issue which deserves to be debated in its own right.

Second, Gershenfeld's research has nothing to do with video and the only connection with the Smart Clothing project is to provide the electromagnetic sensors and flat display technology which could be incorporated into shoes or clothing if someone so desired. Steve Mann G, wearable computing, and vision modeling belong to a different part of the Media Lab.

Third, Deskin confuses experiment with commercial use. Many of the devices we build are experiments or surrogate tests for new technology. In the context of vision, some of the visual experiments at the Media Lab are just extensions of the knowledge we gain through experiment; they will be incorporated into future commercial products.

Fourth, Deskin's notion of what is practical and what is dumb is questionable. Real images overlaid with computer graphics have been used successfully in Air Force fighter planes for many years and as a commercial product. Experimentally, the place where I used to work once fired live ducks at aircraft canopies; and the branch where I worked last summer built a flight simulator that can be controlled directly from brain signals. I agree that many people might consider such experiments dumb or offensive, but they have a purpose. And certainly the Media Lab is not the only place on the MIT campus where "dumb" ideas are conceived and given a chance to teach us something.

Fifth, Deskin's concern about "the partitioning of society" is valid, but is not an issue unique to the Media Lab. In fact, one of the Media Lab's fundamental *raison d'être* is to bridge the technology gap between high-tech research and development and non-technical people with real-world needs. I want to make high performance technology that artists or even my grandmother can use without having to brush up on UNIX. And in my visits to South America and Southeast Asia I was pleased to see that cellular telephone networks now extend into regions where telephone wires were never possible and satellite dishes now populate the rooftops amidst tall mountains which once isolated the people who live under them.

The Media Lab is an unusual place. Unlike most of MIT, we are almost entirely not funded by the military or the government. The "masterminds" that Deskin refers to are facul-

ty, students, and sponsors who come from a variety of backgrounds and professional cultures to promote each other's needs and technology. We explore purely commercial or artistic applications, which can even be solely for entertainment alone. We take on projects that sometimes fall through the cracks because they are either too risky for commercial research and development or too interdisciplinary for most academic labs to pursue. Not everybody likes working here.

The arguments Deskin presents seem exceedingly prejudiced and lacking in facts. The gee-whiz lectures given in the freshman-level MAS100 survey class perhaps neglected to mention important applications of Gershenfeld's research, such as a wireless airbag baby seat sensor being used by Ford

Motor Co. to prevent accidental deaths caused by airbags, or an electronic means of tagging medical drugs and equipment in order to help prevent deaths caused by human error in the hospitals. People associated with the Media Lab are not so naive and technically ignorant as Deskin seems to imply. A large fraction of Media Lab grad students as well as faculty have worked in industry for a number of years before coming to MIT and are well aware of the practical issues involved in developing commercially viable technology.

So to twist the quote Deskin cited: Given the enthusiasm of the people funding and working on the current crude version of the Media Lab's sci-fi vision of the future, there must be something much deeper than novelty attracting them. Maybe it is to have fun, or maybe it's the desire to contribute to something that will make a real difference in everyday lives, or maybe both. You decide, but please check your facts first.

The Media Lab is not in the clothing business any more than Dilbert is in making social commentaries about our personal array of wireless electronics.

Getting Names Right Can Often Be a Confusing Task

Column by Eva Moy
STAFF REPORTER

Benjamin Netanyahu '75 was elected prime minister of Israel last week by a mere one percent of the vote. Because his campaign promises were much different from those of Shimon Peres, Israel's neighbors are worried about the future peace in the Middle East.

Politically ignorant MIT student and worrywart that I am, I was more distracted by the fact that the world's news reporters could not decide on the proper pronunciation of the prime minister-elect's name.

Most of my news came by way of a combination of National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Company on the WBUR radio station. The British said "ne-tan-YA-hu" while most Americans said something like "ne-un-YA-hoo."

For days, I didn't see Netanyahu's name spelled in print. I kept wondering what strange combination of foreign letters and accents would create a name that was so difficult to pronounce. When I finally happened to buy the Sunday paper, lo and behold, I found that his name is pronounced just like it's spelled.

Well, it's really not that much of a mystery. The name happens to follow the disappearing consonant trick, like when "CAW-ton" becomes "caw-n," "SIT-ing" becomes "sit-n," or "did you eat?" becomes "djeet?"

Sometimes there are regional or dialect differences, but I always assumed that in the news business, all of the reporters would have learned the large-metropolitan-region dialect.

Personal habits aside, a name is a more than just another word pronounced at somebody else's whim. Is the Netanyahu discrepancy as offensive as Andrew "CAR-ni-gee" instead of "car-NEY-ghee?" or maybe the town of "WOR-ches-ter" instead of "WOOS-ter?"

I generally think that it is okay to speak English in this lazy kind of way — after all

it's the meaning that matters — but there is a certain refinement in the British accent. Certainly, correct pronunciation would make grade school spelling lessons a lot easier.

My own name has only six letters, three in the first name and three in the last name. It is very convenient for filling in standardized test forms. I am lucky to have a name that is easy to both pronounce and to spell.

Even so, there have always been a few confusions. The electric company insisted that my name was "Moi," even after I called and wrote several times to change it. My address labels showed "May," even though I tried to reduce confusion between the "O" and "A" by writing in all capital letters.

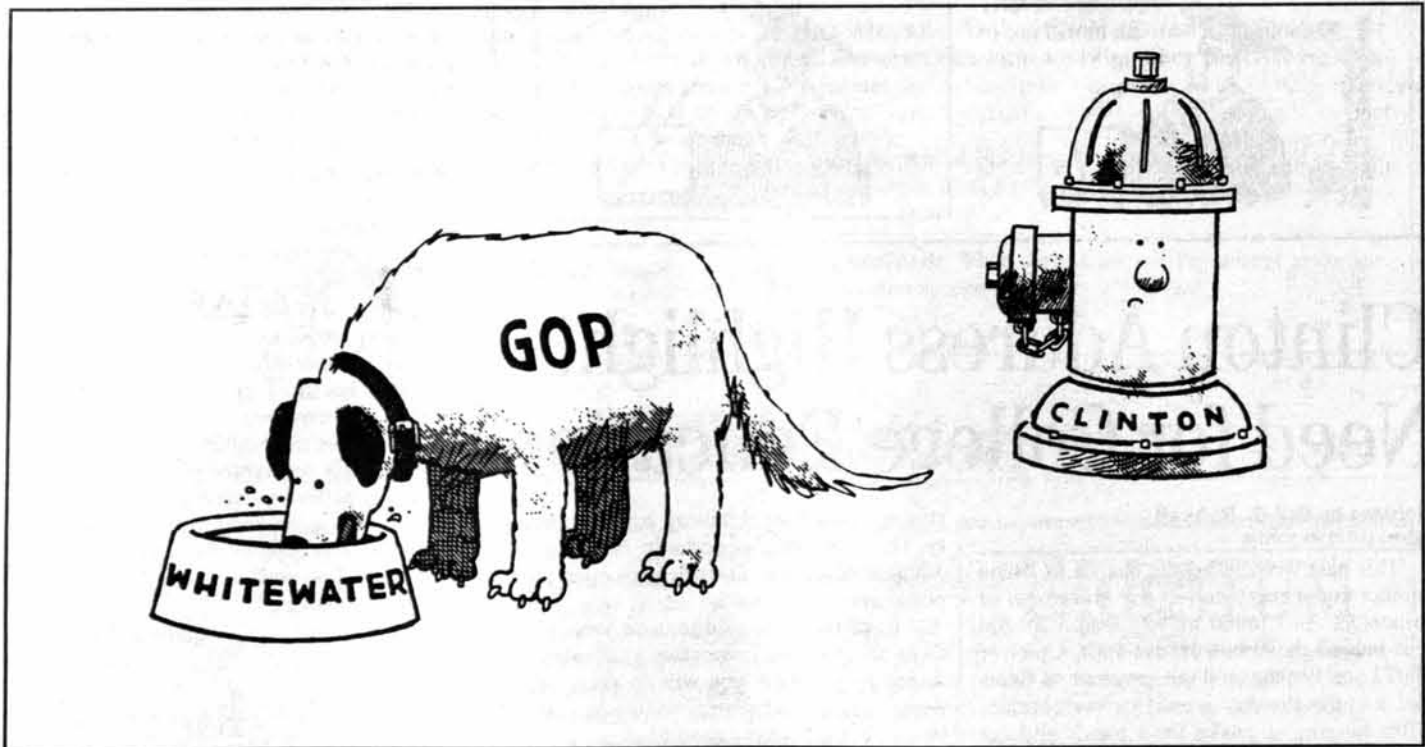
My first name is pronounced "EE-va" which often gets confused with "eff-a" or "A-va." Even 13 weeks into the spring semester, neither the students nor the professors of the class for which I was a teaching assistant really knew how to say my name.

I must admit, however, that those instances didn't really phase me. After all, I didn't make a strong effort to correct other people, and I myself don't follow the strict rules of pronunciation either.

But I was bothered once. It was the day of my graduation, in June 1995. A few weeks previously, I had filled out the little pronunciation card so that President Charles M. Vest could practice ahead of time. "EE-va," I wrote. He must have called out a thousand names that day. To his credit, he said most of them with a straight face and only corrected himself once or twice. But I noticed one mistake, the only "eff-a" that has ever really bothered me.

There is something sacrosanct about one's name. It is allowed to bend the rules of language. And whether that name is broadcast repeatedly during the day, or announced just once on commencement day, close enough just isn't good enough.

There is something sacrosanct about one's name. It is allowed to bend the rules of language.



Graduates Should Consider the Larger American Community

Bahcall, from Page 5

The degree they receive will grant them a better opportunity to succeed in the job market and to do well in life.

However, those students who are graduating also have the opportunity to leave a campus often isolated from the larger picture of what this country is striving for.

And while all who graduate from MIT are enabled to be world leaders in science, engi-

neering, and technology, leaders can't exist in a vacuum. They need to make sure that the rest of America has every opportunity to succeed. For if only the graduates of MIT, Princeton, or other top-level universities can do well in life — if the American community as a whole does not advance and do well together — there will be no community in which college graduates can succeed.

Clinton would also likely share his personal inspiration toward service and his dreams

for a country in which everyone can have the opportunity to walk through our halls. "The older I get," he said, "and the more I become aware that I have more yesterdays than tomorrows, the more I think that in our final hours, which all of us have to face, very rarely will we say, 'Gosh, I wish I'd spent more time at the office,' or 'If only I'd just made a little more money.'"

"But we will think about the dreams we lived out," Clinton continued, "the wonders

we knew when we were most fully alive. This is about giving every single, solitary soul in this country the chance to be most alive."

I am awed by those who are graduating because they now have the incredible opportunity to use their education to make the world a better place. As they walk across Killian Court today, they should consider how we as a community can advance together.

**Do you disagree with everything on these pages?
Then flame! Send letters to letters@the-tech.mit.edu.**

Hypocrite Gore Should Practice What He Preaches

Guest column by Gary M. Rubman

During his years as Vice President, Al Gore has served as the Clinton Administration's spokesman for science and technology. In evaluating his credibility on these issues, it is important for us to carefully examine his record. While claiming to support scientific advancement, in reality, Gore has positioned himself at the radical left wing of the political spectrum.

This wing, in defense of its beloved doctrine of "social construction," all too often equates science as being social science and political science, as opposed to biological science and computer science. Gore has been an ardent proponent of cutting Department of Defense research funding and increasing the bureaucratic stranglehold of Washington agencies over technological advancement. His actions will affect nearly every one of my fellow graduates. Unfortunately, the only ones who will benefit are those who aspire to the security and power of a job as a Washington bureaucrat.

The scientific community must begin to recognize that Al Gore's rhetoric, while it may sound impressive, represents a frontal assault on scientific advancement.

Over the past few years, Gore has spoken often in support of the information superhighway. While I applaud him for his enthusiasm, I condemn him for his approach. Time and again, he has opposed a free-market approach to the Internet's development in favor of yet another big government program that the American people have overwhelmingly rejected. Even after private industry has proven itself to be more than capable of developing the superhighway, Gore is still feebly trying to impose his big government bureaucracy. Would you prefer Robert Reich, George Stephanopoulos, and Al Gore making these decisions, or Bill Gates and our fellow MIT students? The choice is clear.

MIT depends heavily on federal research funding to run most of the laboratories throughout campus. This money directly benefits all of MIT. The 1997 defense authorization bill the Clinton administration presented to Congress on March 4 calls for a six percent cut in the 1996 defense budget approved by Congress just last year, using inflation-adjusted dollars.

The Republican defense authorization bill would increase DoD funding \$12.4 billion over the Clinton administration's proposed budget. In addition, Republicans in Congress have also proposed \$249.6 million more in civilian science basic research funding than the

Clinton administration. While Al Gore will try to fool the American people into believing that Republicans are "slashing" science funding, the numbers disagree. Unfortunately, as we have seen, the only numbers that Gore cares about are those from the polls, not the numbers that actually matter. Which one is better for MIT, the Clinton budget or the Republican budget which includes \$249.6 million more for basic research? The choice is clear.

Government regulations hinder technological progress. The Food and Drug Administration, for example, creates a regulatory environment which frustrates innovation. Due to red tape, it takes an average of 12 years and \$359 million to bring a new drug from test tube to patient.

These delays and costs put a company's very existence at risk, often causing them to move overseas. Al Gore supports this system. Republicans in Congress want to make the system better by eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy, speeding up the approval process, and giving back to American companies the incentive to invest in research and development. Which one is better for the American people and science in general? The choice is clear.

Following the publication of his book, *Earth in the Balance*, the liberal media anointed Al Gore an environmental expert and political spokesman for the scientific community, possibly contributing to why he was chosen to deliver the commencement address at MIT, the epitome of scientific discovery and innovation. When one carefully examines Gore's writings, though, it is shocking to see the clear parallels between his views and those articulated by the Unabomber in his 35,000-word manifesto, the epitome of scientific mistrust and the leading advocate for returning society to the Stone Age. As syndicated columnist Tony Snow recently wrote, "Gore, like the Unabomber, distrusts unbridled technology. While Gore prefers to concentrate power in the hands of a wise and gigantic government, the Unabomber prefers anarchy."

Interestingly, one of the books found in the Unabomber's cabin after his arrest was a dog-eared copy of Gore's *Earth in the Balance*, complete with copious notes in the margins and underlined sections. For some reason, federal investigators decided to leave this off of the evidence list released to the media. Could it be that Gore recognizes the similarities and is embarrassed by the fact that he is the leading defender of the same eco-hysteria as the Unabomber? The answer is obvious.

If Gore truly wants to maintain any credibility among the science community, he

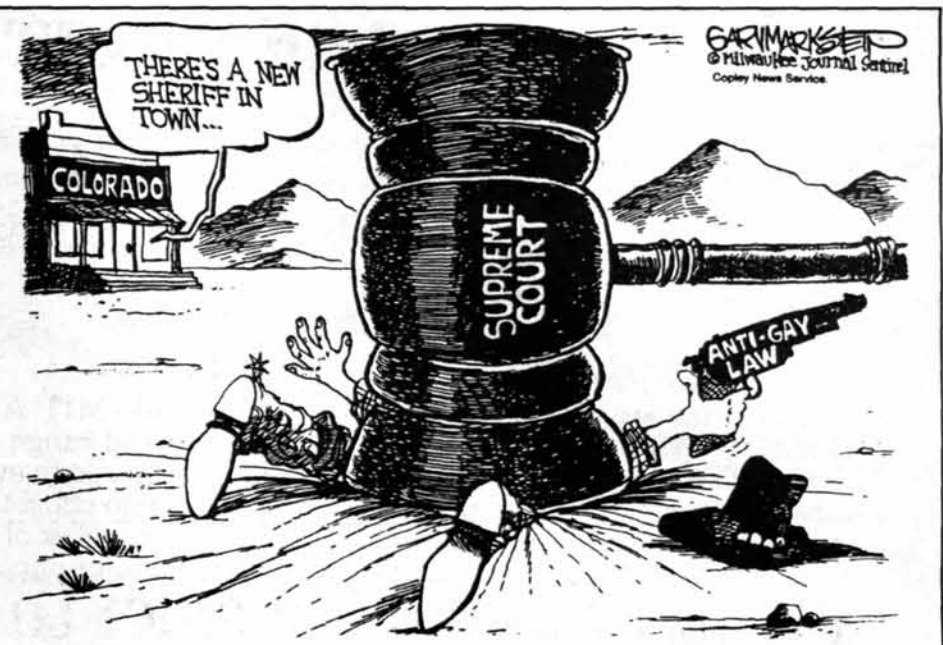
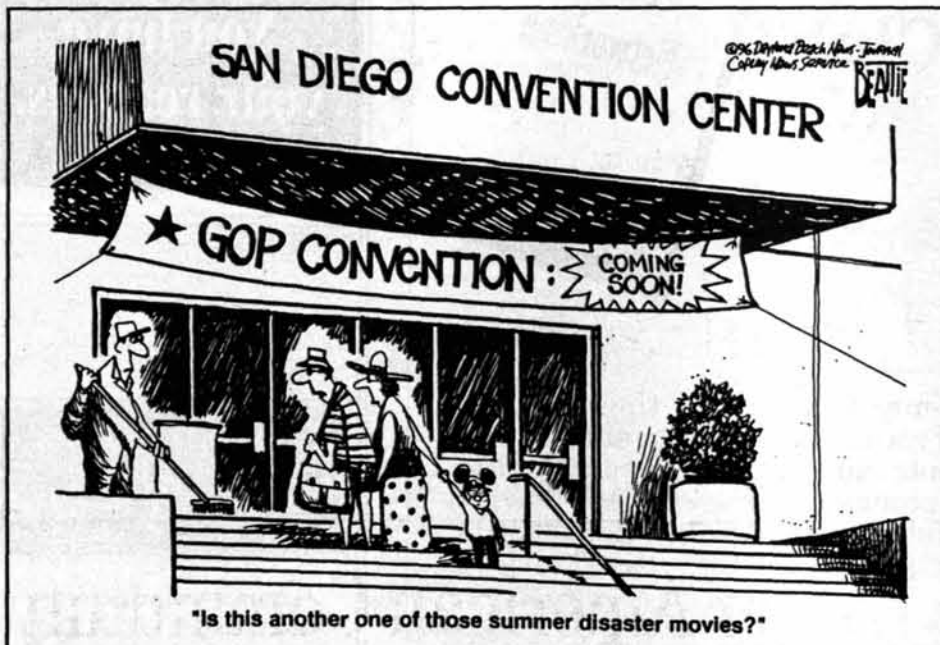


Would you prefer Robert Reich, George Stephanopoulos, and Al Gore making these decisions, or Bill Gates and our fellow MIT students? The choice is clear.

for a campaign photo-op for Gore in front of the South Platte River. Finally, even though he has supposedly long been a foe of logging the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, shortly after being sworn in as Vice President, Gore added a verandah made of old-growth redwood and Douglas fir to the Vice President's mansion. Clearly, Gore should learn to listen more closely to the rhetoric that his speech writers have given him.

After an examination of his record, it becomes clear that Vice President Al Gore talking about science and technology is like Fidel Castro talking about freedom and democracy — each knows little about what he speaks. While his words may sound good and his show may be impressive, his actions are destructive. Gore believes that our salvation lies just beyond another round of federal legislation. We need a leader who understands true science and has the strength to avoid the use of shallow rhetoric. During the upcoming election I hope people will listen carefully to Gore's words and think about the consequences. Which administration would truly represent the best interests of science and technology, the status quo or a Dole administration? The choice is clear.

should at the very least practice what he preaches. During the 1992 election campaign, for example, a Nashville television station obtained footage proving the existence of a dump filled with aluminum cans, old tires, and filters of waste oil — a dump Gore insisted did not exist — on property owned by Gore's father. The close proximity of the dump to a river suggested that it was an environmental hazard. More recently, in March 1996, the Denver Water Department released an extra 96 million gallons of water — enough for 300 families for a year — to improve the backdrop



Scott's Journal

by Scott



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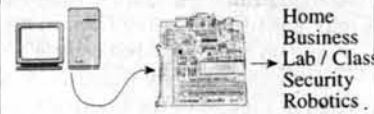


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While Thought-Provoking, Altschul's Idea Misguided

Guest Column by George X. Torres

While I did find Brett Altschul's column ["Freshman Year Policies Need Revision," May 14] thought-provoking, I feel that some of the alternative viewpoints on this issue should be addressed.

Altschul claims there are two groups of students that are adversely affected by the Pass/No Record policy for MIT freshmen: hard working freshmen and slackers. I do not see this as the case; I see Pass/No Record as an opportunity. As with any opportunity, you can utilize it to the fullest, or you can abuse it to your detriment.

The case for the first group, the hard workers, lacks support. Altschul states that official recognition for hard work through grades is lacking. I think that these are not the only rewards to be had from freshman year, and that the desire for skill and knowledge should outweigh the desire to be praised and have something to show to others. I am not Pavlov's dog. Rewards come in many forms; one merely has to be aware of them.

If there were no grades entirely during freshman year I would be equally displeased. Grades as I see it are an assessment of one's comprehension of a subject and should be used as such. If people feel their comprehension of a subject does not match their personal standards, they can change the way they get the grades they do. They can study more, or whatever it takes. Students should use grades as a tool, not as a reward.

As for the second group, Altschul's argument is well-founded but misguided. The reason that many freshman choose not to work stems from the opportunity that Pass/No Record presents and a lack of forethought about their futures at MIT.

With college comes a wealth of opportunities. With this comes the opportunity to slack off. If an A equals a C equals a P, why do all the work? The case is simple for doing the work. Pass/No Record doesn't last forever and most will need the knowledge later.

The case is simple for doing the work. Pass/No Record doesn't last forever and most will need the knowledge later.

When sophomore year finally gets here, how will slackers study? The way they learned. If they did not take the opportunity to change their study habits while they were freshmen, the bad habits will remain.

There is a point of having prerequisites. It is to ensure that one has sufficient knowledge to comprehend and acquire the subject matter of a given course. I would find it extremely difficult to do differential equations without all of my prior mathematics background. It includes arithmetic through multivariable calculus. If freshmen cannot see this, it is their own fault that they are not prepared to take a class.

Altschul also states that the opinion of most students of why some students do better than others is that they have a better background and not that they are more intelligent. This is clearly a case of lack of observation. Preparation can carry you to a point, but after that the A's go to the students who work the hardest for the most part.

Altschul does bring up a very good point on the subject of Interphase. I agree with him that this does beg the question as to why Interphase cannot be for all students who have poor educational backgrounds. I can personally vouch for the fact that not all underrepresented minorities have poor educational backgrounds. I would say that my background is good, and I am an American of Mexican descent. Yet those who are not underrepresented minorities have no such opportunity to improve their background as underrepresented minorities do.

Pass/No Record Is Vital To Learning, Not Grades

Guest Column by Douglas S. J. De Couto

I am writing in response to Brett Altschul's column ["Freshman Year Policies Need Revision," May 14]. I am dismayed with Altschul's feelings about freshman year Pass/No Record, and I feel that his reasoning reflects what I consider to be the wrong attitude towards a university education. He complains of receiving no "official recognition" for his hard work during freshman year, and is also worried that Pass/No Record encourages many students to not learn the basic concepts well enough.

I feel that the Pass/No Record system is one of the best parts of MIT. The students who come to MIT are unique in their ability to concentrate and focus intensely on problems. They have worked extremely hard to get to MIT, and if they came to MIT and were immediately faced with grades, they would work just as hard to maintain the sort of grades that they had before they came to MIT. But this is just not possible for most, MIT being what it is. I feel that MIT attracts individuals with a certain intensity; the pressure of trying to achieve the sort of GPA that they had in high school at MIT is not necessary because of this intensity.

As to Altschul's statement that "students at other colleges get along quite nicely without such a system," I would point out that MIT is not just another college. You will most likely never be as challenged anywhere else as you are here at MIT. So the fact that Pass/No Record is not necessary at other schools is not relevant to MIT. Also, the fact that Pass/No Record was not always part of freshman year does not mean that it is not an improvement to the freshman year experience.

The primary reason for being at MIT is to learn. It is possible to learn without grades; in fact, worrying about grades and tooling for those extra few points can get in the way of learning. So the Pass/No Record system is part of trying to get students into a mode of learning, as opposed to simply getting high grades. Also, without the pressure of grades, freshman are able to get more out of the uni-

I see no reason why the university is obliged to give recognition to us for being willing to work hard and learn.

versity experience. There is a little more time for getting involved in activities, playing a sport, or even socializing. These dimensions of university life are just as important as the academic dimension, and are easily overlooked at MIT. The time spent getting involved freshman year often determines our interests and activities until we graduate. Without Pass/No Record, I feel that more people would be uninvolved, withdrawn, and unnecessarily stressed.

I see no reason why the university is obliged to give recognition to us for being willing to work hard and learn. We should come to university to learn, which requires hard work. But what we learn or get out of our experience at university cannot be expressed in a grade. I am sorry that Altschul does not feel that he has anything to show for his hard work without a grade. Hard work has its own reward: knowledge. Why do we need any external recognition?

As for the idea that Pass/No Record encourages laziness in learning basic concepts, Altschul may be right. But if you are lazy freshman year and do not learn the necessary material, you will pay the price yourself. In the end, only you can be held responsible for your education. In university, you must take initiative if you wish to learn; the university provides the resources for you take advantage of.

Although grades are an important part of university, they are not the only part. That is why I think that there is no reason to abolish Pass/No Record freshman year.

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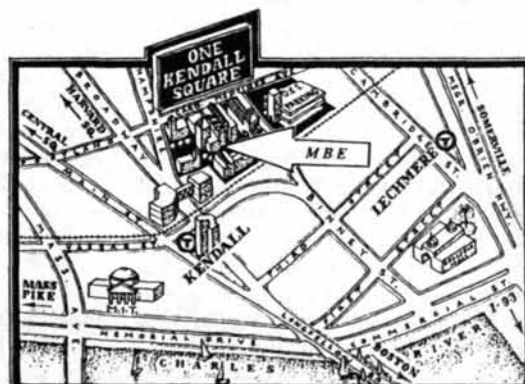
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THE ARTS

MIT prof writes book on magnets you'll like reading

DRIVING FORCE: THE NATURAL MAGIC OF MAGNETS

James D. Livingston
Harvard University Press
\$24.95

By Joel M. Rosenberg
STAFF REPORTER

Many children go through a phase, perhaps near the age of 12, when they take things apart to see how they work. I reached this phase about 50 years late," writes Materials Science and Engineering Senior Lecturer James Livingston in his book "Driving Force: The Natural Magic of Magnets."

The book deals exclusively with magnets, describing past, present, and future applications and history. Livingston's light and conversational style makes the material easy to read, quite accessible, and rather entertaining. His lifetime of experience with magnets, both at MIT and while doing research and develop-

ment with General Electric, which he refers to often, comes through in his thorough treatment of the subject.

Livingston starts out by presenting a general working knowledge of magnets, and then moves into individual uses chapter by chapter. The large extent to which magnets are used becomes apparent quickly as the subject changes from stereos and speakers to power plants and shoplifting equipment to medical applications and beyond.

By framing magnetic developments in a historic context, Livingston impresses audiences with much more than just natural magic. There's stuff on quack doctors trying to heal people using "magnetic therapy." While the idea has no scientific basis, it still helped lay the groundwork for what was later to become the study of healing and the mind, since people did seem to get better from the quack treatments. The battle of AC versus DC is even more incredible: Harold Brown, a DC proponent, challenged George Westinghouse,

AC's hero, to a duel by electricity, gradually increasing voltages of each person's favorite type of electricity until one either surrendered, or died. The duel never happened, AC and Westinghouse won, and today, both are extremely widespread.

Parts of the book satisfies the way-things-work spirit that engineers tend to love. Other parts are just plain magnet trivia, such as what cow magnets are (three-inch long cylinders that cows swallow and keep in their stomachs to prevent steel objects they may gulp down my accident from ripping up their intestines). The book definitely makes it clear that magnets don't just hold tests and report cards to the refrigerator.

Livingston does have a tendency to emphasize MIT in his discussions, which won't be a problem for people from MIT, but might exclude those outside the MIT community to a small extent — an interesting point, considering the spine of the book reads "Livingston/Driving Force/Harvard," because of

the book's publisher.

While not as suspenseful as a Stephen King novel, the book is definitely worth reading if the subject interests you. With several months before textbooks come back into play, — or training manuals, for that matter, if that's where life is taking you — Livingston's book will make for good summer reading, as far as science books go. Besides, an autographed copy is as close as Building 13.

After reading the book, it will become apparent that magnets are everywhere. They're in the computer you type on. They're in the TV you watch. And they're all over the car that you'll drive to the bookstore. They're in the power plant that supplies the electricity for the lights and registers at the bookstore. They're in and on the refrigerator at home that keeps snacks cold for breaks from reading your book. They're in the stereo that provides background music for your reading. And now they're in the book itself.

House of Blues' food and atmosphere worth a trip

THE HOUSE OF BLUES

114 Mt. Auburn, Harvard Square.

By Aaron R. Prazan
STAFF REPORTER

It's 106 miles to Chicago. We've got a full tank of gas and half a pack of cigarettes. It's dark and we're wearing sunglasses. Hit it." Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi immortalized these words. Though only one of the Blues Brothers remains, anyone can get that bluesy feeling in the Aykroyd-owned House of Blues. Featuring a rustic and colorful atmosphere, a southern menu with worldly influences, and boasting a "Best of Boston" Award for great live music, the House of Blues is a great place to eat, drink, and be merry.

A laid back decor and interesting layout make up the first layer of the House of Blues' unique character. The walls are adorned with primitive paintings in plywood frames. On the ceiling are bas relief tiles depicting blues greats like Robert Johnson, Aretha Franklin, Lightning Hopkins, Muddy Waters, and the like. The same great names play on the juke-

box, creating a dining room full of blues. The stage on the upper level sees lives performances from local and national bluesmen. And each Sunday there is a legendary Gospel Brunch that gets everyone on their feet and clapping. If your blues are not gone when you walk through the door, a full meal at the House of Blues is needed to relax you completely.

In two words, I can describe the food at The House of Blues: spicy and messy. The Blues' Cajun southern food gives you a two day ration of fat and a week's ration of flavor. Appetizers are highly recommended. The Crispy Cheese and Chicken Quesadilla is popular, but not extraordinary. Better are the New Orleans BBQ shrimp or Mississippi Cat Bites. The prawns are spiced (like nearly everything else) and sauteed with beer and Worcestershire. Cat Bites are fried nuggets of the river-bound staple of southern cooking — catfish. Despite its nasty diet and appearance, catfish is one of the better eating freshwater fish, more tender than any I can think of, and worth a try. The House of Blues chef, Don Dickerson, takes advantage of it more than once on the menu.

After the first course, the House of Blues offers smoked meats, more Cajun classics, and some surprising international selections. Meaty ribs and succulent smoked chicken are expected favorites, making up about half of the menu's entrees and sandwiches. There is a choice of barbecue sauces: the thick and spicy Texan, a classic Memphis recipe, and a very sweet Jack Daniel's based sauce. All are very good, with rich, lasting flavors. Most meals are also served with garlic mashed potatoes and collard greens. The potatoes are redskins mashed with skins on, and are deserving of praise. Liberal use of garlic and butter make the potatoes just as flavorful as the entree. Jambalaya and Shrimp & Crawfish Etouffee make up the Cajun selections. Jambalaya, a rice-based dish with a quartet of meats and a lively creole sauce, is an indispensable part of Cajun cooking and the House of Blues does it well, not afraid to make it hot and generous with the seafood. Also on the menu are dishes based on Indian and Thai styles. Dishes like Coconut Curry Fettucini are unexpected, but celebrate the House of Blue's "Unity

in Diversity" theme. Pizzas topped with Tandoor chicken and smoked salmon seem a little out of place. I never had the chance to try the pasta or the pizza, but judging from the rest of the menu, I would not be afraid to give them a taste, as they are probably outstanding.

Southern dessert selections are also designed to satiate your tastebuds and expand your waistline. Bread pudding with whipped cream and bourbon sauce tastes just like Grandma's. Hot fudge sundaes and peanut butter pie should appease even the most demanding chocoholic. All desserts are made from scratch on the premises. It would be wrong any other way.

All in all, The House of Blues was one of the best restaurants I visited all semester. It is just oozing with charisma and charm. The food is elaborately flavored and inexpensive, with most meals fetching less than ten dollars. Eating there is an experience and a pleasure, whether you need a few wetnaps afterwards or not. Mr. Aykroyd has made a blues heaven without making it into a tourist trap and deserves a visit.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

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

★★★½ The Birdcage

The American version of the French farce *La Cage aux Folles* succeeds on many levels, thanks in part to its ebullient performances. Armand (Robin Williams) is the owner and musical director of a nightclub in Miami's South Beach section, while his lover Albert (Nathan 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 Copley Place.*

★½ Dead Man

Johnny Depp stars as William Blake, an accountant from Cleveland running for his life in the Old West. He travels west to get a job but he is soon involved in a murder, and men are hired to find him. He meets an out-cast Indian who agrees to help him because he mistakes William for a famous poet by the same name. The characters are interesting, and the movie does a good job at conveying the subtlety within a scene, but the story moves at such a crawl that the rewards aren't worth it. —David V. Rodriguez. *Kendall Square.*

★★★ 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 retreads the success of the Coens' 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. —Stephen Brophy. *Sony Nickelodeon.*

★★★ Flirting with Disaster

David O. Russell (*Spanking the Monkey*) fulfills the promise of his directoral debut with this delightful, offbeat film about a man (Ben Stiller) who travels west with his wife (Patricia Arquette) and an adoption counselor (Tea Leoni) to find his natural parents. As the adoptive parents, Mary Tyler Moore and George Segal make a believable neurotic impression; as the natural parents, Alan Alda and Lily Tomlin are the ex-flower children with a dark side. Taken all together, the cast and the slapstick situations are enjoyable in a feel-good sort of way, which is more than you can say about most film comedies these days. —SCD. *Sony Nickelodeon.*

★★ Heaven's Prisoners

In this crass crime melodrama, hard-boiled ex-cop Dave Robicheaux (Alec Baldwin) and his wife (Kelly Lynch) become embroiled in a plot that involves drug enforcement agents, New Orleans mobsters, and an eight-year-old Latin American illegal immigrant girl. As convoluted as this all sounds, there are guilty pleasures to be found in the shootouts and the



On The Screen, Page 11 Tom Cruise makes an extraordinary break-in in *Mission: Impossible*.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —



Agent WD-40 (Leslie Nielsen) teams up with Agent 3.14 (Nicollette Sheridan) in *Spy Hard*.

On The Screen, from Page 10

dialogue from the back-room dealings. Eric Roberts plays a half-wit drug dealer with disaffected tough-guy panache and Teri Hatcher is an amusing, somewhat over-the-top femme fatale. Even Alec Baldwin turns in a good performance; but then again, why should you care? —SCD. *Sony Copley Place*.

★★½ Mission Impossible

Never mind the title: Besides the famous theme tune and the initial premise of the Impossible Mission Force, Brian De Palma's film version of the 60s spy drama has very little to do with the TV show. IMF leader Jim Phelps (Jon Voight) presents his team with a mission to intercept a top-secret list of agents for sale to a worldwide legion of criminals, but when things go awry in Prague, superagent Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) has to weave his way through the various plots and counterplots to find a traitor within the organization. This is Cruise's picture, and, though much of the "team" is dispatched early on, the remainder of the big-name cast is wasted. Even though the film moves at a swift enough pace

so that you don't have time to dwell on the implausible plot details, the only memorable setpiece is Cruise's wire-suspended entrance into an impregnable, sterile CIA computer room. —SCD. *Sony Cheri*.

★★½ Spy Hard

Leslie Nielsen plays Dick Steele, a.k.a. agent WD-40. The movie feels a lot like the *Naked Gun* series, but is not as funny. The film looks thrown together, and much of the humor feels like it was written moments before being filmed. Most of these jokes work, and the film is overall pretty good, but it is a mystery how some of these jokes could have made their way into the final product. —DVR. *Sony Copley*.

★½ Twister

Not surprisingly, *Twister's* only redeeming quality is its stunning special effects. Considerably less effort was put into the drama side. After the first 10 minutes, an accurate outline of the story is obvious, and there isn't a unique plot element throughout — Helen Hunt is driven by a childhood trauma, and hopes to someday conquer the force that killed her father; Bill Harding wants to get out of the storm-chasing business, even though his instincts are renowned and unmatched by anyone in the field. The visuals are good, but not good enough to carry the mediocre story.—A. Arif Husain. *Sony Cheri*.

Turn to page 13 for a review of and color photos from this year's *Technique*.



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This year's *Technique* a fitting souvenir from four years at MIT

TECHNIQUE 1996

Ana T. Echániz, Editor in Chief.
Lori Ann Maiorino, Managing Editor.
Kevin A. Simmons, Photography Editor.
Jeremy J. Sawicki, Layout Editor.
384 pp.

By Scott C. Deskin

CHAIRMAN

Encapsulating a year's worth of memories in a yearbook is no easy task. Especially for seniors, the momento should adequately represent the images, feelings, and experiences in one's undergraduate career. To that end, *Technique 1996* is a moderate success in its quest to reconcile "Life in Hell," as one of its sections is called, with our more positive memories of our college years.

The contents of the new volume are the same as in years past except that "Life in Hell" has been moved before the "Journal" section, which is a time capsule of the past year's major MIT-related events. This switch quickly emphasizes people's experience living, working, and coping with life here. One photo by Michael S. Mermelstein G, which shows a student walking along a sidewalk bounded on either side by a wall of snow, as much as proves that despite the severity of winter in New England, hell as we know it will never freeze over. Other pictures of the 24-Hour Coffeehouse, the 2.70 Design Laboratory, and Walker Memorial during test-time give the obligatory nods to what students have to endure during their time here. There are also a few pictures of labs at MIT, but strangely there are none that catch the masses toiling at the electronic dungeon we know as Athena.

Perhaps the best thing about "Life in Hell" is the poetry by written by members of the MIT community.

The pieces' overarching theme is that MIT is a foreboding, often impersonal place where things get lost in the shuffle; or, as Kevin A. Simmons '98 puts it, "There is no reflection, no patient attention to a multitude of perspectives." In "Concrete," Jin Park '96 boils the Institute down to "education, tough and unyielding. It scrapes your knees when you fall. And it is the Great Dome of Killian Court, rising above the treetops like the headquarters of the Legion of Doom." Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy Samuel J. Keyser addresses the apparent incongruity of subjects, both academic and extracurricular, within the MIT jungle in "Safari So Good;" although in Keyser's appropriately warped metaphorical vision, the Institute will survive.

After "Journal," which offers a fairly standard chronicle of MIT in the news, clubs and activities and athletics get their due in eponymous sections. I personally thought those sections were one of the weaker parts of past volumes of *Technique*, given that each major activity gets only one or two photos, most of only one or two people. Even though the sports photos are well done and I realize that the standard, boring high school group photos are a thing of the past (except for in "Living Groups"), it would be nice to have a little more representation of each club or sport. Then again, the staffers at *Technique* may prefer the effect of anonymity they conjure up by using athletes as stand-ins for well-rounded MIT students.

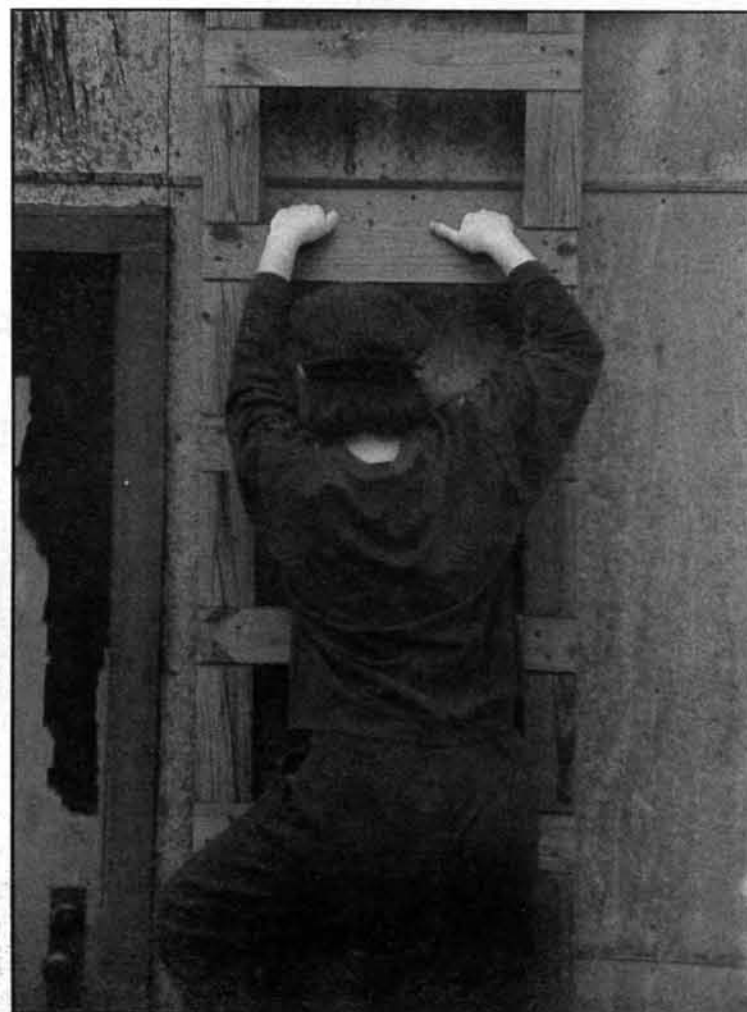
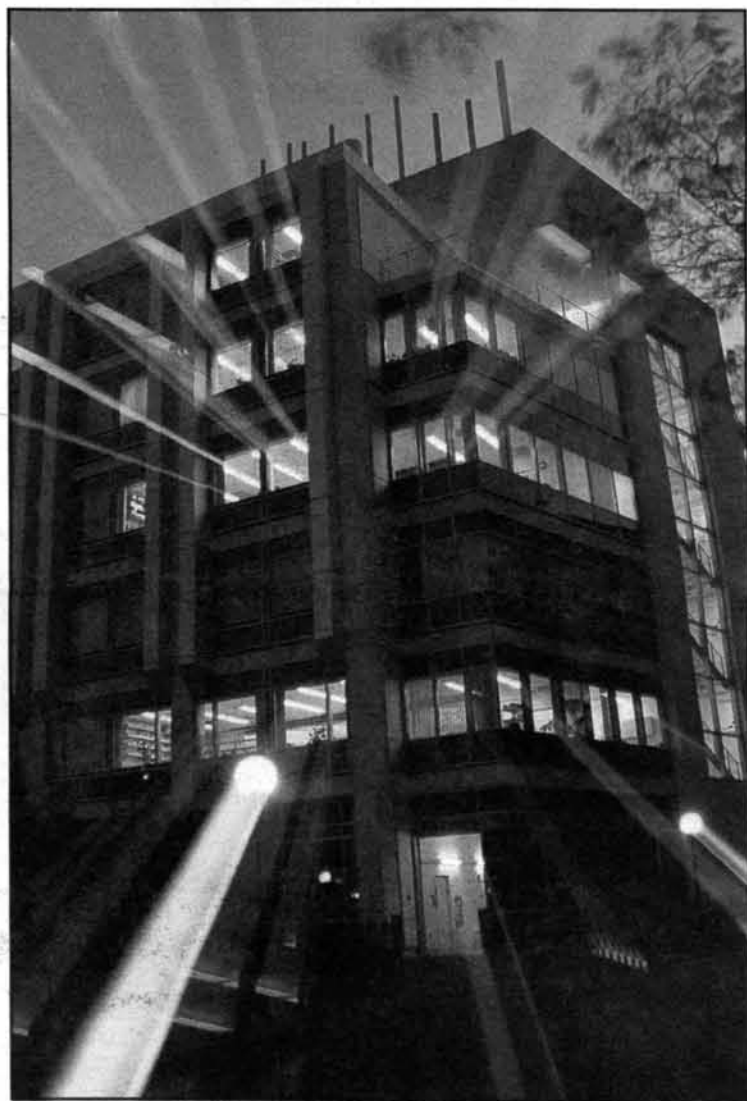
The personalized sections, "Living Groups" and "Seniors," seem geared toward students who care to pick themselves out and their friends as being a part of the MIT tradition. As such, certain fraternities and living groups stay true to outlandish or conservative poses; Bexley residents not too surprisingly boycott the photo opportunity entirely. It's always fun, though, to see oneself physically change from freshman to senior year; the changes are subtle but visible. Perhaps the signs of age and maturity show through in the quotes from seniors that appear amidst the sea of individual black-and-white portraits. I always knew that my classmates were smart, but I took that for granted; among the senior quotes, I have a new respect for the thoughts and ideas behind the faces I only new through fleeting glimpses in hallways these past four years.

The volume culminates with 12 pages of color photos. These shots, which have come at the front of the last three volumes of *Technique*, are stand-alone pieces: the Boston skyline suffused with fireworks, the great dome from Killian Court, a festival on the Student Center steps; all these remind me of the tremendous amount of activity that

went on at MIT and make me wish that I had only seen and done more while I was here. But why weren't more of these photos of people? Why choose in stead to reserve four-color processing for a shot of a backpack and soft drink cup sitting on a bench? Editorial decisions like those don't add anything to the nostalgia or improve the artistic integrity of *Technique's* conceptmeisters.

Those considerations aside, *Technique 1996* is a worthy keepsake of my undergraduate career. Though primarily geared toward seniors, the yearbook is an attractive piece of work, and I commend Editor in Chief Ana T. Echániz '96 and her staff for sticking to the high standard of previous years.

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thoughts and ideas
behind the faces I
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hallways these past
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James J. Culliton

Vice President for Administration James J. Culliton died Monday of multiple myeloma. Culliton, who had been fighting the illness for some time, was 58.

Culliton served as vice president for administration since 1994, and held responsibility for the Admissions Office, the Bursar's Office, the Registrar's Office, the Office of Student Financial Aid, the Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising, the Athletics Department, the Medical Department, and the Office of Sponsored Programs.

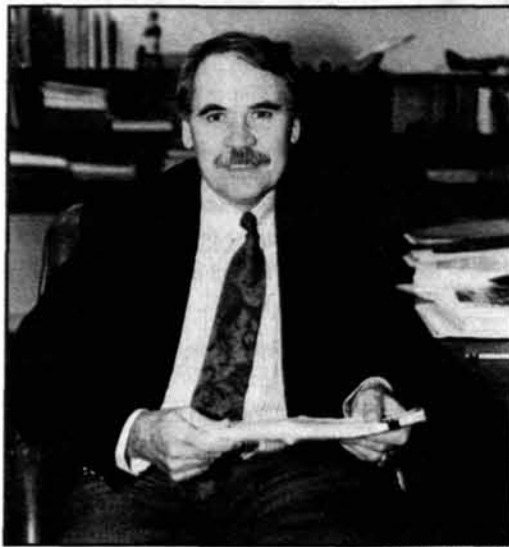
In addition to managing these administrative departments, Culliton also was a member of the Academic Council, the Faculty Council, and the MIT Research Committee.

Born June 11, 1937, in Trenton, New Jersey Culliton received his bachelor of science degree in engineering from the Annapolis Naval Academy in 1959. After graduation, he served as a naval aviator for five years. He then went on to earn a masters of science degree from the Graduate School of Industrial Administration at Carnegie-Mellon University in 1966.

Culliton then became a management consultant with the Birla Group of Industries in Bombay, India. From 1968 to 1970, he worked as a project specialist for the Ford Foundation at the Administrative Staff College of India.

Returning from India in 1970, Culliton joined the MIT administration as assistant to the vice president in the Office of the President. He became director of personnel services in 1973 and director of personnel in 1978. In 1984 Culliton was named vice president for financial operations. In this position, he was responsible for all of MIT's internal financial management, as well as negotiations with the federal government over accounting regulation and indirect cost reimbursement.

"He brought great humanity to the management of MIT," said President Charles M. Vest. "I know that I am just one of many at MIT — staff, faculty, and students — who will deeply miss Jim's ready



James J. Culliton

MIT NEWS OFFICE

smile, his ability to find humor in any situation, and his good words for each person who came his way."

"Jim Culliton was my friend and close colleague for more than 25 years," said Chairman of the Corporation Paul E. Gray '54. "MIT has become a more diverse, more humane place because of Jim's efforts here."

In addition to managing the finances of MIT, Culliton enjoyed participating in the MIT rugby club; he was both the club's advisor and a frequent player on the club's team for many years.

Culliton is survived by his parents, Agnes and Thomas Culliton, Jr., of Hudson, Florida; his brother, Thomas Culliton of Louisville, Kentucky; his daughter, Mary; and two sons, Christopher and Mark, all of Cambridge. A memorial service will be held at MIT next week.

Faculty OK Change in Policy on Incompletes

By Stacey E. Blau
NEWS EDITOR

Seventy-eight retiring faculty members were recognized for their years of service to the Institute at the faculty meeting on May 15.

The faculty also approved a measure to tighten MIT's policy on incomplete grades, received an update on the task forces on student life and learning, announced this year's Killian lecturer, and voted to accept the report of the Committee on Nominations.

Chair of the Faculty Lawrence S. Bacow recognized retiring faculty members who have served collectively served the Institute for 2,817 years. "We wish to express to [them] our appreciation for your many years of distinguished contribution and service," he said.

The 78 faculty members chose to take MIT's early retirement plan, which offers a number of benefits to eligible staff who retire early. Facul-

ty and staff members over 60 qualify for the plan.

Most retiring members do not plan to retire completely and will continue to teach and do research, Bacow said.

Incompletes policy approved

The faculty unanimously approved a measure on incomplete grades that will make MIT's current system stricter.

Under MIT's current policy, students can receive incompletes for a variety of reasons and have a long and indeterminate period of time to make up the work and receive a grade.

The new policy will require students receiving incompletes to formally outline with professors how the incomplete work will be made up, with the expectation that the work will be finished by add date of the next semester. Students will be required to clear all incompletes by graduation.

The hope is that the new policy will reduce the petitions and paperwork that the Committee on Academic Performance must deal with under the current system, Bacow said.

MIT's new policy on incompletes will still be more lenient than that of most other schools on the Institute's level, which don't allow professors to hand out incompletes, he said.

"We wish to express to our appreciation for [retirees'] many years of distinguished contribution and service."
— Lawrence S. Bacow

Student life task forces starting

Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams spoke about the task forces on student life and learning, which will begin their work this fall.

The groups will be conducting "a fundamental review" of four main areas: MIT's past and present educational principles and their relevance, how the educational process is functioning at MIT, changes in leadership roles, and motivational and financial mechanisms.

The task forces will have the flexibility to create other bodies as they see fit, including a mechanism for student involvement "that is very helpful and meaningful rather than token," Williams said.

Rota to be Killian lecturer

Chair of the Killian Committee George Stephanopoulos, professor of Chemical Engineering, announced that Professor of Mathematics and Philosophy Gian-Carlo Rota will be the Killian Award Lecturer for the 1996-97 academic year.

Stephanopoulos noted the "breadth and vigor" of Rota's work. Rota is "a leading innovator and theorist" in combinatorics and discrete mathematics, Stephanopoulos said.

The Rotafest, a three-day celebratory conference held at MIT during April, was "a testament to the role that Rota has played in the world of mathematics," Stephanopoulos said. Rota is "as close to a modern renaissance mind as can be."

The Killian award exists to honor "extraordinary accomplishment in a faculty member," Stephanopoulos said. The lecturer presents one or more lectures on his professional work to the community during the academic year and receives an honorarium.

The faculty also unanimously voted to accept the report of the Committee on Nominations. The report includes the nominee for the next faculty chair, Professor of Management Lotte Bailyn, as well as nominations for positions on standing committees.

The faculty also unanimously voted to make a clarification in the wording of the current end-of-term calendar. The calendar now clearly states that the final date an assignment can be due is the Friday preceding the start of the reading period.



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Please keep in touch with us so we can keep in touch with you!

Alumni Set to Get Lifetime E-mail Accounts from MIT

By Dan McGuire
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The graduating Class of 1996 will be the first to use a new array of electronic services currently being rolled out by the Alumni Association.

The first will be Electronic Mail Forwarding for Life, a service that gives alumni an electronic mail address of the form user@alum.mit.edu that will forward e-mail to an internet account that they designate.

Diana Strange, director of special projects for the Alumni Association, said that the increasing electronic presence of alumni was a major factor in the decision. The number of alumni e-mail addresses registered with the association jumped from "5,000 to 11,000 in about 15 months," she said. "That's what makes the service interesting."

"The Internet is an obvious tool that allows alumni to keep their connections" to each other and to the

Institute, she said. The most important part of the service is that "there is kind of an MIT quality of interchange," she said.

"One of the things that the internet does is allow [alumni to] stay in touch with [MIT's] kind of intellectual activity without coming here," Strange said.

It's like "bringing the firehouse into your living room," said L. R. Johnson '63, the chair of the ad-hoc committee on alumni network services.

"The Alumni Association had been doing some surveys," Johnson said. "One of the things that alumni wanted most is to be able to find each other," he said. With e-mail forwarding, alumni could keep in contact even if residences and e-mail addresses change."

"That's kind of the electronic community that we're talking about," Johnson said. "It can't help but be good for common linkages between alumni. We just have to

make them feel good about the Institute."

E-mail the first step

The current e-mail forwarding program came from a discussion that started last summer about how to exploit technology to allow alumni to keep in closer contact with each other. "There was informal discussion for probably a year," Johnson said. "There were experiments [into using e-mail] being done by other schools and we were aware of that."

"We talked about things like putting the Alumni Register out on a CD-ROM," Johnson said. "It was an evolutionary discussion of how to use the technology to better the alumni relationship," he said.

An e-mail forwarding service "could be done relatively quickly and was very visible," Johnson said. "I have to admit that [we had] kind of a marketing hat on but, face it, that's what you've got to do," he added.

The forwarding service was put

out for bids and over the past several months the committee whittled the choices down to two: one external vendor and one internal vendor, Information Systems.

The service will cost between \$10,000 and \$50,000 to start up, depending on how much money will be invested in the beginning and how much will be invested later.

"One vendor... has recommended an entire package including World-Wide Web services," Strange said. The ability to present Web pages will be used for another upcoming rollout of career services for alumni. Also waiting in the wings are online directory and location services, as well as some type of real-time communication services like Zephyr, she said.

Alumni can get more information and register for the e-mail forwarding program at <http://web.mit.edu/alum/Information/Services>.

"That's kind of the electronic community that we're talking about. It can't help but be good for common linkages between alumni. We just have to make them feel good about the Institute."

— L. R. Johnson '63

LeVay Shares Thoughts On 'Gay Gene' Research

By Rebecca Zacks

People in Building 34 last week may have caught an unusual sight: a pair of female Bonobo chimpanzees having sex. The amorous primates were not escapees from the Franklin Park Zoo but the subject of the first slide in a seminar given by neuroscientist Simon LeVay, former Harvard University researcher and founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education.

LeVay spoke on May 22 as part of the Center for Biological and Computational Learning seminar series. His seminar, entitled "Queer Science: The Use and Abuse of Research into Homosexuality," gave a historical overview of research into the causes of homosexuality. He also discussed the social and political implications of this type of work.

The author of three books on the history, culture, and science of sex, LeVay is no passive observer when it comes to research into sexuality. While at Harvard and through later work at the Salk Institute, he won acclaim for his research on the visual system. More recently, he has used his experience in neuroanatomy to study sexuality.

In 1991 LeVay published a controversial paper in the journal *Science* that described an anatomical difference between the brains of homosexual and heterosexual men.

Specifically, he found that a structure called the third interstitial nucleus of the anterior hypothalamus (INAH-3) was smaller in the brains of gay men than it was in men known or assumed to be heterosexual.

In his seminar, LeVay described his own work and that of other researchers who give nature their vote in the nature versus nurture debate. LeVay referred to studies of separately-raised twins that suggest that sexual orientation has a genetic component.

LeVay went on to describe a 1993 study by Dean H. Hamer of the National Cancer Institute. The two have collaborated on writing about their field for the general public. In his study of 40 pairs of gay brothers, Hamer's group found a specific region of the X chromosome seemed to be associated with homosexuality.

LeVay's work has drawn scrutiny

These types of experiments have sparked controversy in both lay and scientific communities. Interpreting LeVay's data can be difficult. Several researchers have pointed out that based on LeVay's work, it is impossible to tell if differences in human brain structure are the cause or effect of a homosexual lifestyle. And LeVay himself noted that his

and Hamer's studies have yet to be corroborated.

Still, LeVay believes strongly that biology plays a role in the determination of sexual orientation. In a radio interview last week on the WBUR talk show program "The Connection," he gave a rough estimate that "half the reason why you're gay or straight is genetic" — what the other half is, he said, we don't know. He added that the influence of genes on sexual orientation is believed to be stronger in men than it is in women.

In his seminar, LeVay emphasized the political ramifications of his research. A proponent of gay rights and himself a gay man, LeVay believes that it is important for homosexuals to be seen as a discrete biological group or "natural kind" rather than as heterosexuals acting inappropriately. He cited a New York Times/CBS poll that found that people who thought that homosexuality was a choice were more likely to be homophobic than those who believed sexual orientation was biologically determined.

But LeVay was also fully aware of the danger in pinpointing a biological cause of homosexuality — in particular the potential for attempts at "curing" homosexuals of their homosexuality. He described studies in which homosexual behavior was caused in male rats through castration and hormonal manipulation, then returned to heterosexuality through brain surgery. LeVay showed frightening footage of similar surgeries being performed on gay men in Germany in the 60s.

Despite these and other abuses, LeVay remained convinced that improving scientific understanding of homosexuality will lead to greater social understanding. But "far more than science, it is the collective coming out of gay people" over the last few decades that has improved the social and political climate for gays, he said.

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 22

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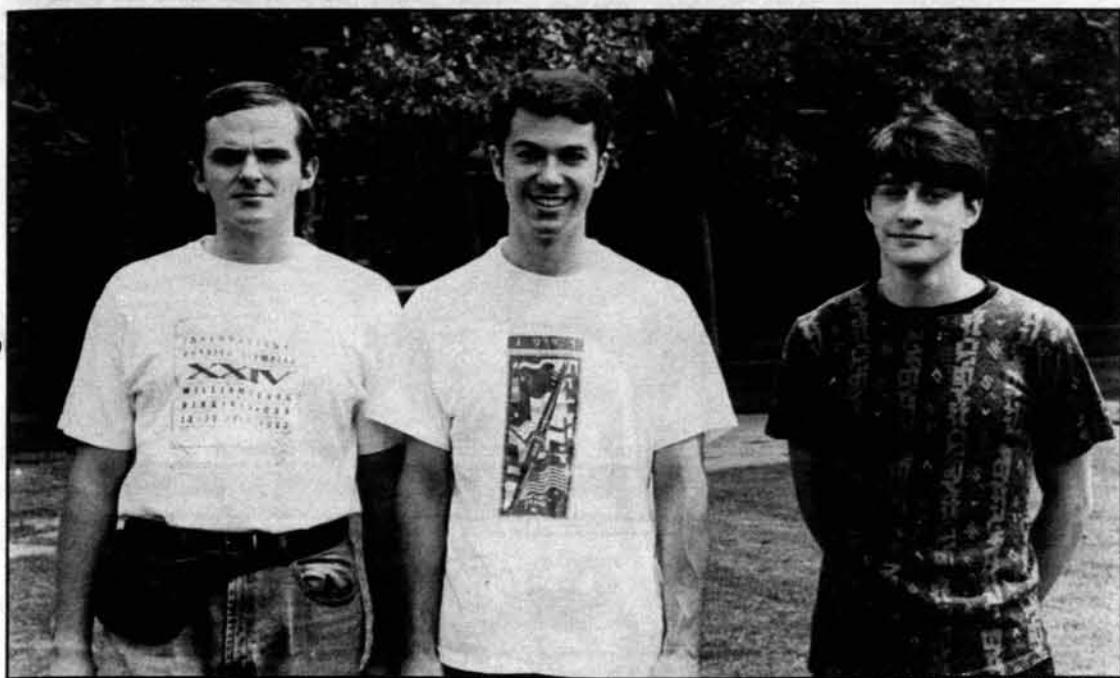
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MIT business analysts.

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- Soyoung Kang



INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

Iosif L. Bena '97, Mike B. Schulz '96, Sergei Krupenin '98 and Charles M. Santori '97 (not pictured) placed first for MIT in the Boston Area Undergraduate Physics Competition last month.

Four MIT Students Win Harvard Undergraduate Physics Contest

By Gábor Csányi
STAFF REPORTER

For the second year running, a team of undergraduate Physics majors won the Boston Area Undergraduate Physics Competition. The contest was started last year by the Harvard University Graduate Problem Group in an attempt to provide physics undergraduates with an exam similar to the annual William Lowell Putnam Examination in mathematics.

Harvard came second in the team portion of the competition. Ranking is set by tallying the scores of the three best-finishing students from each university. Overall 44 students participated from MIT, Harvard, Northeastern University,

and Boston University. Harvard's Lenny Ng took the \$250 first prize; MIT's Mike B. Schulz '96 came second and was awarded \$150. Iosif L. Bena '97, Sergei Krupenin '98, and Charles M. Santori '97 tied for third place and won \$50 each.

"We don't feel at all bad about losing to Lenny, if we had to lose to someone," Schultz said. "He has won the Putnam exam many times, and is the only person ever to get a perfect score on the American High School Math Exam all four years of high school. After three years at Harvard, he has seen the light, and is coming to MIT for graduate study in the fall," he said.

Last year, Schultz, Bena, Krupenin, and Santori ranked first through fourth.

The problems, which come from classical mechanics and electromagnetism, are usually very difficult: The average score on the exam was 22 out of 60, while the highest score was 44.

The test stresses physical thinking rather than knowledge of material; the only requirements are freshman-level math and physics. A typical problem might involve a complicated resistor network, say a planar square lattice, or a cube with the edges and diagonals as resistors, and participants would be asked to find currents and resistances between various points.

Disability Coordinator Roberts Looks Back on a Year of Progress

By Eva Moy
STAFF REPORTER

When Barbara Roberts took the post of MIT's disability coordinator just over a year ago, she did not have an easy task ahead of her. The Institute had fallen short of federal standards for accommodating students with disabilities, and was under pressure to make changes.

While construction like that at Building 68 and Senior House are automatically designed to be in compliance of ADA requirements, older buildings need to be only partially accessible, Roberts said.

"It was obvious to me that physically there were [accessibility] problems," Roberts said. In many areas, "nothing had been done before."

The Institute kicked off an effort to improve compliance last summer and has invested several million dollars in improvements around the campus. Bathrooms were redesigned, automatic doors installed, signs pointing to accessible entrances posted, and public telephones moved closer to the floor.

A large portion of the money for this six-year plan has been allocated for renovating Kresge Auditorium and Walker Memorial, two of the largest public meeting places on campus.

Other improvements, like increasing the accessibility of MIT housing or the Athena clusters, fall under their respective departments both in terms of funding and decision-making, Roberts said.

Despite the fragmentation, Roberts said that MIT now has a long-term outlook on this issue, and credits the Institute in its efforts to improve. It has worked aggressively

on compliance, she said. "If [it] could get the six-year plan moving, then attitudes will change" even more, she said.

Learning disabilities considered

"I assist a student in advocating what their needs are," Roberts said. Students and employees have immediate problems to be solved, and "keeping up with their peers was a priority," she said. "They can't be put off."

Roberts' office spends time planning course schedules with students. It tries to obtain course notes ahead of time for translation into braille or recording on audio tape. Staffers have managed to translate tables, graphs, and even Latex formatting into braille.

Learning disabilities like dyslexia also fall under information access; in most cases, students find they have the disorder only after being exposed to the pressures of college. A way of dealing with the problem might be spending more time studying instead of joining activities, or requesting extra time on an exam, Roberts said.

A large part of the job is finding a "balance between academic integrity, of course, and students' needs," Roberts said. However, she emphasizes, "the standards are not lowered for these students."

In an environment of people eager to solve new problems, "MIT is going to be the leading place for informational access," she said.

Disabilities focus late in coming

In mid-1994, the Undergraduate Association pushed the administration to address problems with compliance to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

One of the principal requirements of the ADA is the creation

of a Section 504 coordinator, a person "intended by the federal government to be a central person that could aid disabled students and personnel via counseling, referrals, and advocacy," said then-UA Vice President Anne S. Tsao '94.

Within a few months, an ad hoc committee was formed to design and implement a strategy to improve MIT's services for disabled persons, and one year after the UA's initial push, a new ADA coordinator was chosen.

Roberts' long-term goal, ironically, is to eliminate her own position by having members of the community understand disability issues and come to solutions on their own.

"This is not a job you retire from," she said. A Section 504 coordinator needs to have a fresh perspective on the needs of the community. But for now, Roberts still thinks that she has many good ideas to try to implement.

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between May 10 and May 30:

May 10: Bldg. E23, harassing phone calls; Bldg. E53 bicycle rack, 10-speed bicycle stolen, \$100; Bldg. 5, erasable board stolen, \$35; Bldg. 54 bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$360; DuPont Gymnasium, wallet stolen from coat, \$4; Bexley Hall, credit card stolen; Bldg. E40, suspicious activity.

May 11: Sloan School of Management parking lot, 1985 Cadillac stolen.

May 12: 33 Massachusetts Avenue bicycle rack, \$400 bicycle stolen.

May 13: Burton House, harassing phone calls; Bldg. 16, CD player stolen, \$165; Bldg. E51, cash stolen, \$4; Main Street parking lot, vehicle broken into and cash stolen, \$1,500; Bldg. E10, pocketbook stolen, \$50; Sloan lot, attempted larceny of a BMW; Student Center, wallet containing \$90 and credit cards stolen; Bldg. 13, harassing phone calls; 1996 Nissan stolen in Boston recovered on Vassar Street; Student Center, Henry Green Jr., of no known address, arrested for trespassing; Westgate Lot 1) 1996 Toyota stolen 2) attempted break-in of a 1990 Honda; Walker Memorial, unarmed robbery: Non-affiliated person walking along Memorial Drive was approached by suspect riding a bicycle who asked for the time, and when the victim stopped to check the suspect grabbed the victim's arm and demanded his wallet. Suspect fled with \$10 in cash and credit cards.

May 14: Bldg. W53, vandalism; 1988 Acura stolen in Boston recovered in Herman Garage; Bldg. E19, annoying phone calls; Bldg. E53, pocketbook stolen no cash; 1990 Oldsmobile stolen from Kresge Auditorium parking lot recovered in Roxbury; 1990 Oldsmobile stolen in Boston recovered in Kresge lot.

May 15: Bldg. 68, annoying phone calls; Student Center bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$145; Bldg. 9, bicycle stolen from rack, \$345; MacGregor House, harassing mail; New House, VCR stolen, \$220.

May 16: Bldg. 11, suspicious activity; East Campus, peeping tom; Bldg. NW21, Sherly Santaskas of 270 Washington Street, Somerville and Perry Redell and Kurt Bennett, both of 240 Albany Street, Cambridge, arrested for trespassing.

May 17: Bldg. E38, bicycle stolen \$300; Bldg. 20, computer parts stolen, \$100; Bldg. N52, Richard Coady of 43 White Street, Belmont, taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; Next House, jacket stolen.

May 18: DuPont Tennis Courts, malicious destruction; Bldg. W31, tires slashed on two police cruisers; Zeta Psi, malicious destruction to a room; Student Center, wallet stolen, \$40; East Campus, peeping tom.

May 19: Astro turf, wallet stolen, \$5; Bldg. 54, sports pack stolen, \$1,135; Bldg. 5, suspicious activity; DuPont Gymnasium, computer stolen, \$500; Student Center, wallet stolen \$80.

May 20: 33 Massachusetts Avenue bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$1,000; Bldg. 20, bicycle stolen, \$200; Bldg. E51, computer stolen, \$2,500; Westgate Lot, bicycle stolen, \$100; Kresge Oval, backpack stolen, \$50; Hayden Library bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$400.

May 21: Bldg. E40, bicycle stolen, \$300; Bldg. E55, disorderly person; Sloan Plaza, bicycle stolen, \$750; MacGregor, annoying phone calls.

May 22: Bldg. 3, unauthorized use of an office; Bldg. E19, bicycle stolen, \$100; Bldg. E15, camera stolen, \$1,200; 33 Massachusetts Avenue bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$600.

May 23: Bldg. 11, CD player stolen, \$105; Memorial Drive near MIT Boathouse, Jennifer Clington of 43 Richdale Avenue, Somerville and Scott M. McPherson of 13 Putnam Gardens, Cambridge, arrested for possession of a stolen motor vehicle; Ashdown House, annoying phone calls; Bldg. 14, CD Player stolen, \$200; Bldg. W31, Jennifer Clington taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; Thomas R. Kettler of 296 Columbia St., Cambridge, arrested for trespassing.

May 24: Baker House, suspicious activity; Walker, computer stolen, \$950; Bldg. 5, harassment.

May 25: East Campus, clothes stolen from dryer, \$200; Westgate, two bicycles stolen 1) \$140, 2) \$180.

May 26: Baker, suspicious activity; Student Center, Blakely Burl of 91 Ames Street, Dorchester, taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; Bldg. E40, plant stolen; Walker, malicious destruction to a blue emergency light; Bldg. 24, suspicious activity; Kresge, backpack stolen, \$350.

May 27: Student Center, Jeffrey Banks, of no known address, arrested for trespassing.

May 28: Bldg. 44, laptop stolen, \$1,000; Bldg. 10, gift certificates stolen, \$160; Tang Center, bicycle reported stolen two weeks ago, \$230; Bldg. 66, traffic cones stolen, \$130; Bldg. NE43, \$400 cash stolen; Windsor lot, car radio stolen from a Honda; Walker, Edward D. Russell Jr. of 40 Irving Street, Everett taken into custody on an outstanding warrant.

May 29: Bldg. E52, pocketbook stolen, \$25; Bldg. NW17, 1985 Honda motorcycle stolen.

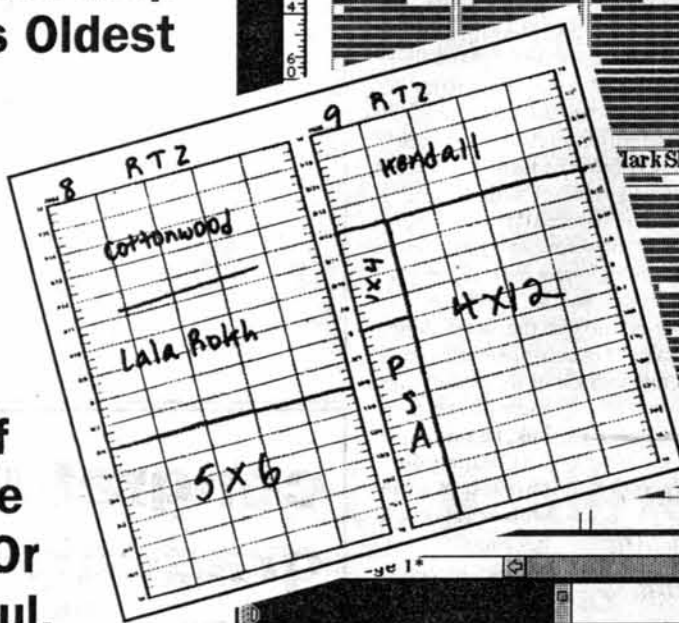
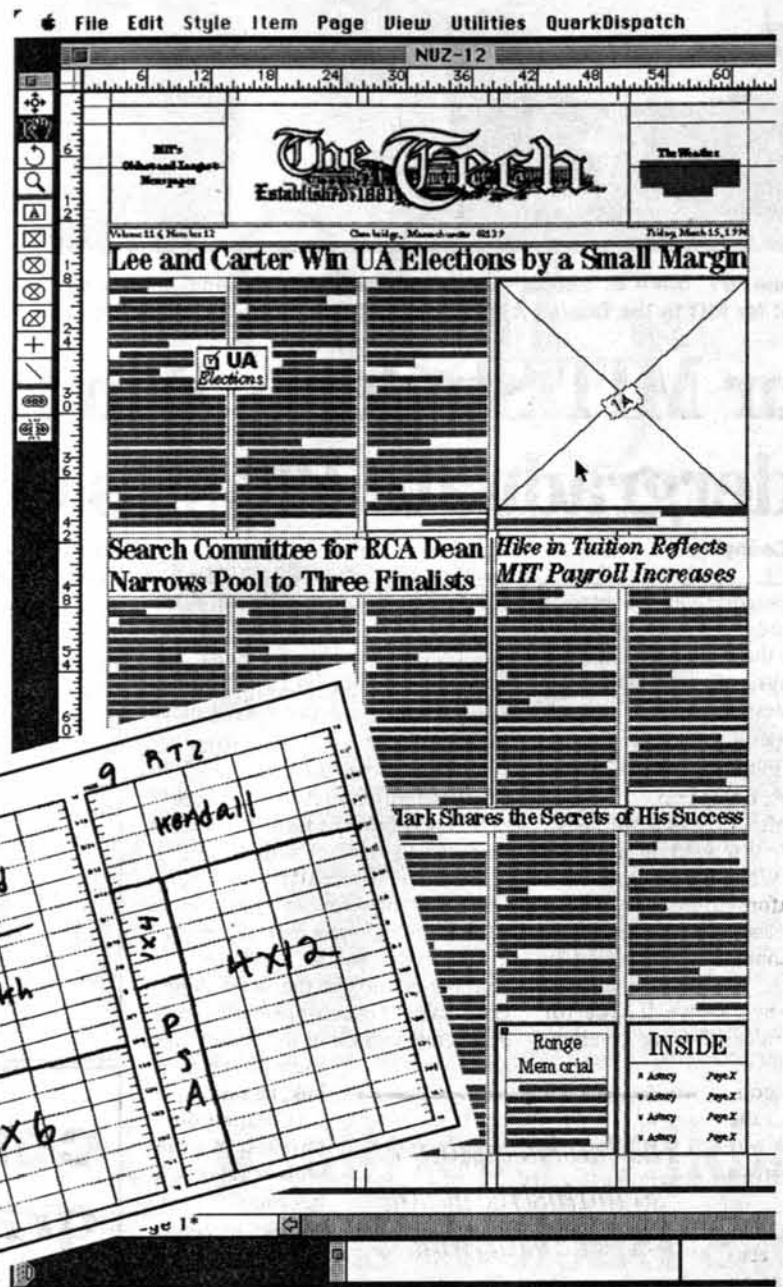
May 30: Bldg. E40, wallet stolen, \$400; Bldg. 18, suspicious female; 33 Massachusetts Avenue, bicycle stolen, \$300; Student Center, suspicious male; Pacific Street parking lot, 1983 Toyota stolen; 1980 Toyota stolen from Boston recovered in Pacific Lot.

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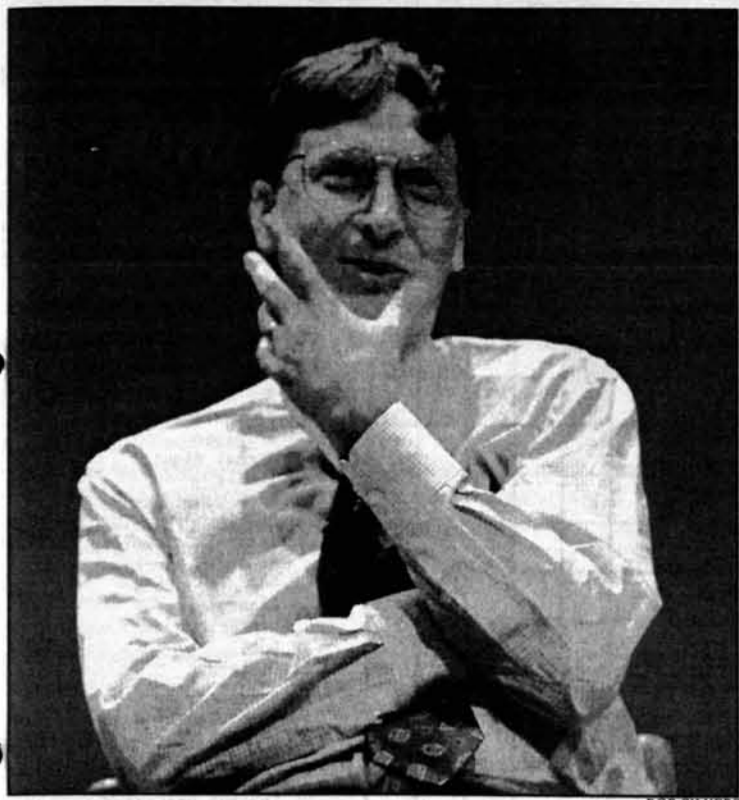
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The Tech Production



ROB SILVERS

Microsoft Chair Bill Gates shared his thoughts about the future of the Internet with a packed audience in Kresge Auditorium May 29.

Gates Says Microsoft Still No. 2 in Browsers

Gates, from Page 1

says, they will take a more important role in daily life. With the popularity of the Internet, the PC will be as an important a technological advance as the telephone, Gates said.

People often say that we are in or are heading toward an information age. "What the heck does it mean — information age?" Gates said. "In the same way we take electricity or running water completely for granted — it's part of our regular experience — we'll take for granted the idea of using a variety of information appliances connected up to the Internet as our way of getting information."

Gates admits that the real implementation of such an appliance may still be far off. "I always find myself picking up the *Wall Street Journal* and reading it" even though the online version is available, he said. It will take time before people can accept it as an everyday experience, he said.

Gates surprised by the Internet

The explosive growth of the internet caught Gates off guard, he said. "We were optimistic about online services," he said, "but it was disappointing. It never caught on."

Instead, said Gates, the electronic communications protocols that form the backbone of the Internet became more popular and gained a critical mass of users.

Today, the Internet is "so mainstream you can't get away from it," he said. World-Wide Web addresses are listed everywhere from television news to magazines to movie trailers, he said.

Gates went on to show a pseudo-reggae music video describing computing and the information age. The video spoofed AT&T's "You Will" commercials and IBM's foreign language commercials.

To the delight of the audience, the video poked fun at Internet hype. In a mock infomercial called, "Web of Wealth," a man sells the Web as a guaranteed money maker with testimonials from Gates, Allen, and Steven Spielberg.

Microsoft thinks "Web"

But this mirth masks a larger problem as Microsoft tries to gain ground from Netscape Corporation's popular Navigator for dominance of the Web browser market.

"Microsoft is a distant no. 2" in the browser market, Gates said.

Microsoft is working to improve its own browser, Internet Explorer, in an effort to compete with Netscape, Gates said. A Microsoft employee got up to demonstrate a new type of chat software used in Internet Explorer. Audience members — a number of them Macintosh supporters — reacted with hisses.

Despite the chilly reception, Gates said that browsers would soon become an important part of computing. Browsers and an operating system are essentially the same thing, Gates said. "Today's directories are a degenerate version of the Web" with each file being a link, he said.

Creating documents for the web will soon become very similar to creating documents in a word processor, Gates said. Most people creating Web pages will not program, he added, because there will be software that will allow users to just point and click to create Web programs.

Despite the promise of the web, Gates attacked the idea of having a stripped-down, less expensive computer acting as an Internet terminal. This "network computer" has been pushed by companies like Sun Microsystems, Inc. and Oracle.

A network computer would be unrealistic, Gates said. It's "tough to eliminate much in a PC," he said. A browser is a very demanding application, requiring a lot of memory and disk space. Netscape Communications Corp.'s Navigator, currently the leading Web browser, doubles in size every nine months, he said.

Audience asks about competition

In a question-and-answer session, several people in the audience asked Gates about competition in the software industry. Microsoft has dominated the software industry to such an extent that the Justice Department had considered charging Microsoft with antitrust violations.

One audience member gained applause after asking about Microsoft developing their own standards and cutting competition in the software market.

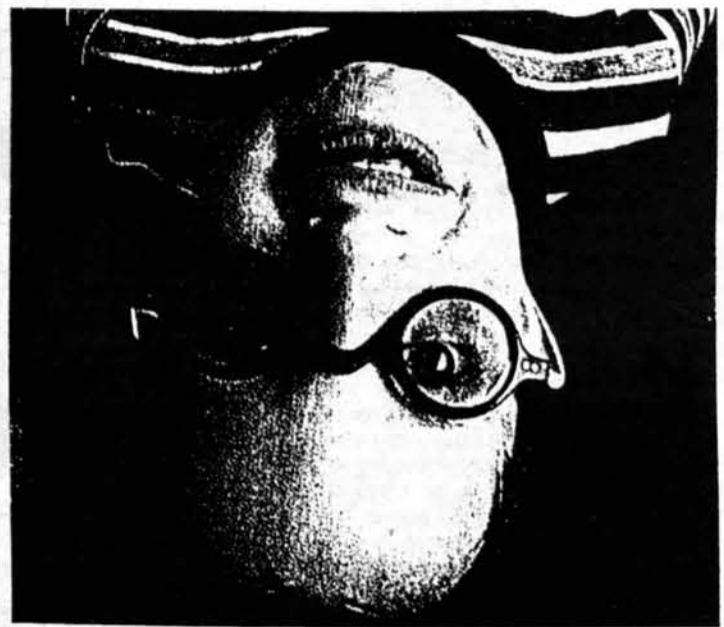
Gates said that there is lots of competition in software and that a lot of people are developing operating systems.

Any product out there is cloneable, and the only way to stay ahead is to develop a better product than what's out there, Gates said.

There is nothing that stops people from competing, Gates said.

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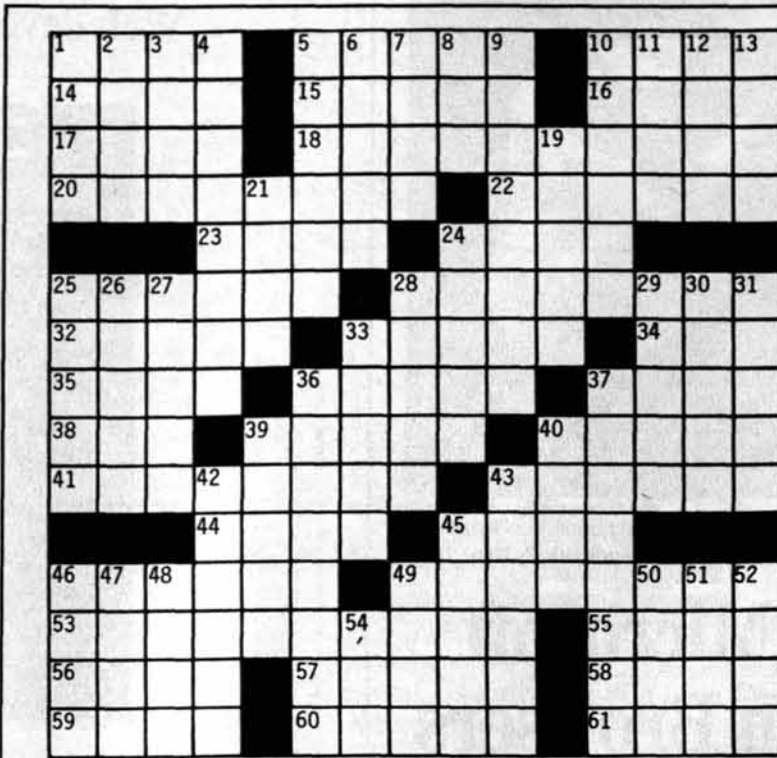
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ACROSS

- 1 Football players
- 5 Rich or prominent man
- 10 Scarlett's home
- 14 Defeat soundly
- 15 Market place
- 16 English river
- 17 Roman road
- 18 Military stance (2 wds.)
- 20 Living by a certain religious vow
- 22 French painter
- 23 Take out

- 24 — up
- 25 Free from sin
- 28 Warlike persons
- 32 Chemical additive
- 33 Microscope shelf
- 34 Vigor
- 35 Money
- 36 Condiment
- 37 Half of Samoan town
- 38 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 39 Trite
- 40 Donkey
- 41 Firm supporter
- 43 English city

- 44 Slender
- 45 African country
- 46 Piece of thread
- 49 Contribution
- 53 Change
- 55 Author Grey
- 56 Detroit output
- 57 Mother-of-pearl
- 58 Give off
- 59 Items for Tom Watson
- 60 Ms. Garson
- 61 Charlie Brown expression

DOWN

- 1 Mr. Severeid
- 2 Beginning for book or paper
- 3 Formal fight
- 4 ShriII
- 5 Bomb substance
- 6 Marble
- 7 Interior diameter of a gun barrel
- 8 — pro nobis
- 9 Light, playful banter
- 10 Goal
- 11 Declare
- 12 A Kennedy
- 13 Picnic problem
- 19 Between: Fr.
- 21 Red as a —
- 24 Swiftly
- 25 Spreads unchecked
- 26 Pass off
- 27 Mouth of a river
- 28 Circus pole
- 29 Asunder
- 30 Brazilian river
- 31 Golf club
- 33 — plug
- 36 — army
- 37 — Prize
- 39 Web-footed birds
- 40 Gaucho gear
- 42 Venezuelan grasslands
- 43 Flag
- 45 Actor Dudley
- 46 Immediately, in hospitals
- 47 Authentic
- 48 Scold
- 49 Recipe direction
- 50 " — Camera"
- 51 "I wouldn't bet —"
- 52 New Jersey team
- 54 Whale the — out of

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 17

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Gore to Focus on Technology and Society in Speech

By Orli G. Bahcall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Vice President Al Gore plans to focus on the role of technology in society in his Commencement address, according to his Director of Communication, Lorraine Boles.

Gore "will talk about how technology is changing our world in a positive way and some possible negative ways," Boles said.

Gore visited MIT about six weeks ago to get student and faculty input on the issues graduates face, as well as general ideas for his speech. He specifically asked graduating students for input about the impact that they think technology has on society.

Gregory A. Jackson, Director of Academic Computing for Information Systems, arranged a system so

that the replies of students could be sent to Gore anonymously over electronic mail.

Gore also met with administrators including President Charles M. Vest and the Provost Joel Moses, as well as Jackson, and paid a visit to the Media Lab. "He wanted to talk about technology and its social role," Jackson said.

Gore was interested in how he could not only talk about technology but show its importance by making use of it during his speech, Jackson said. He considered several ideas but "ultimately it seemed that each one would prove enormously expensive" or hard to execute, Jackson said.

Instead, Gore went with a lower-tech path. "We thought of how he could pose questions to the stu-

dents," Jackson said. "So we did a huge mailing to all of the graduating students and I collected responses... and took names out of them" and made these available to Gore's Washington staff, he said.

While the technology required for this exchange was very simple, Jackson said it was unique in that

"in a fairly short time period there was a back-and-forth between a Commencement speaker and those he was talking to. This does not happen very often."

Some of the student comments "were extraordinarily thoughtful," and may well be useful in Gore's speech, Jackson said.

In one final effort to reach out to the graduating class, Gore plans to meet with a small group of graduating students before commencement early Friday morning to discuss issues faced in technology, Boles said. The students were selected and the meeting coordinated by the President's Office.

Iacocca, de Gortari among Past Speakers

Commencement, from Page 1

Vest will award diplomas to the bachelor of science degree recipients and to those receiving both that and the master of science degrees, while Provost Joel Moses will give out advanced degrees. Following the program, Vest will hold a reception for gradu-

ates and their guests in or near McDermott Court.

Past years' speakers have included former Chrysler Corporation CEO Lee Iacocca, Hewlett-Packard Company founder William R. Hewlett SM '36, and former Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. University of Chicago President Emerita Hanna H. Gray delivered last year's address.

Federal Funding Problems Loom in MIT's Future, Vest Says

Meeting, from Page 1

only half of the positions vacated by retiring personnel.

"The goal is not to reduce the number of faculty at MIT," Vest said. Professors who accept the retirement incentive will have the option of coming back at slightly less than half-time.

Vest also said that the Institute would try to combat short staffing that may arise as a result of the program. There will be an oversight committee "to realign work where necessary," he said.

That committee will include Vice President for Human Resources Joan F. Rice, Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56, and Jonathan Allen '68, professor of electrical engineering and computer science and director of the Research Laboratory of Electronics.

Linked to the issue of staffing is MIT's ongoing reengineering effort and, as with the previous town meetings, that proved to be a topic of interest.

While cautioning that he does "not think the issue of re-engineering will be resolved in one year, two years, [or even] three years," Vest said "we have come a long way toward what we think the goals ought to be."

There are a lot of things to be criticized about re-engineering, Vest said. But it is also "time to pay attention to the inspirational aspects."

"I want to see the Institute setting new paradigms," Vest said. "I

This country is investing too little in science.

— Charles M. Vest

think that is an extremely important thing for us to do."

Funding problems loom

President Vest said he expects to see a modest increase this year in federal research support, most of that gain coming from funds supplied by the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation. He predicted that the long term prospects are more bleak, saying that there will be a 12 percent decrease in those funds by 2002.

"I feel that [this is] unwise, not just for us at MIT, but unwise for the nation," Vest said.

As a result, new facilities will probably have to be funded privately through gifts, Vest said. "We are going to look very much to the private sector in new and different ways as we go forward," he said. "Where they see real value in working together, it will work."

Despite the dour outlook, Vest also said that MIT has raised more money within the past 10 months than in any previous 12-month period.

Academic departments are safe

One audience member asked about the future of people going into science and research.

"This country, in my opinion, is investing too little and planning to invest too little" in science, Vest replied. While universities are going to be better supported in the future, Vest added, right now is "a time of reduced opportunity for all but the very best."

Dean of Science Robert J. Birge-neau noted that the number of science majors — especially the life sciences — has increased significantly in the past few years.

Another person asked if MIT might consider trimming either the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences or the School of Architecture and Planning as part of the re-engineering process.

"It has been understood that we will not solve our problems by cutting them," Vest replied. "It has not been an approach that we are going to take."

Students are important

One student attending the meeting asked President Vest how he felt about student involvement in MIT's decision-making processes.

"I have a lot of respect for student opinion," Vest said. "It is incredibly important to listen to students because they have important things to say."

"But we have not done as good a job as we should," Vest added. "I am very open to getting more student involvement."

Vest also took the opportunity to comment on the Institute's changing relations with its alumni. "Our alumni are a great group, increasingly finding itself in a new kind of leadership in America," he said.

"Alumni relations at MIT are somewhat unusual," Vest said. "Unlike Ivy League schools, we do not have a 200 year tradition. They have a sense of presence, continuity, and fellowship that doesn't exist here."

"Alumni tend to be critical of the institution," Vest said. But that criticism is usually positive, he added.

When asked about Lori H. Berenson, a former student sentenced, many say unjustly, to life in a Peruvian prison for aiding anti-government guerrillas, Vest said that her treatment by the Peruvian government was "shocking and improper.... The level of punishment is absolutely inappropriate," he said.

Vest added that he has contacted Secretary of State Warren Christopher, both senators from Massachusetts, and other key congressmen on her behalf.

IS Survey Favors Starting Dedicated Use Clusters

Athena, from Page 1

like to move some of the load generated by casual work being done on Athena to students' personal computers, Schmidt said.

"Our eventual goal would be to have more low-level, everyday stuff done on students' dorm computers," Schmidt said. "We want to encourage equitable use of our facilities in the short term. In the longer term vision, we have a 'three-tier' model under discussion, separated by low-level, mid-range, and high-range computing," she said.

"This summer, we are planning on having some of the [Residential Computing Consultants] work on ways to promote effective use of the network from the living groups," said Carla J. Fermann, Senior Consultant of Computing Support Services, a branch of IS. "I think that if people had more information about what was available and the advantages to using it they would be more inclined to do so," she said.

"The evolution of Athena to address the changing landscape of technology and its use in MIT education will continue to be an important focus of Academic Computing," said Vijay Kumar, Director of Academic Computing, another

branch of IS. That means tracking "not only developments in technology but also... factors such as [the residence network] Resnet and increasing ownership of computers by students," he said.

The information gained through the survey will be used to help decide how to spend the \$1.6-million budget allocated to Academic Computing for hardware upgrades, Kumar said.

"I can speculate that some directions and ideas to explore would include dedicated-use facilities [supporting] specific applications, facilities for short-duration and high-use applications such as e-mail; Macintosh and Windows functionality in some... facilities, as well as more extensive access to some courseware and software tools in the residential halls," Kumar said.

"A reasonable approach would be to test some of these approaches on a limited scale this coming year... and develop a plan for implementation," Kumar said.

The goal is to make Athena better suited while still keeping it a robust and powerful tool, Schmidt said. In general, "We plan to brainstorm ways that we can have our facilities used to the best advantage," she said.

we don't go home for the summer

regular internal medicine

and nurse practitioner appointments:
253-4481 (voice, TDD)
8:30am-5pm,
monday-friday
(ask about appointments on Tuesdays til 8pm)

urgent care:
253-1311 (voice, TDD)
24 hours a day,
every day in the year

THE DOCTOR

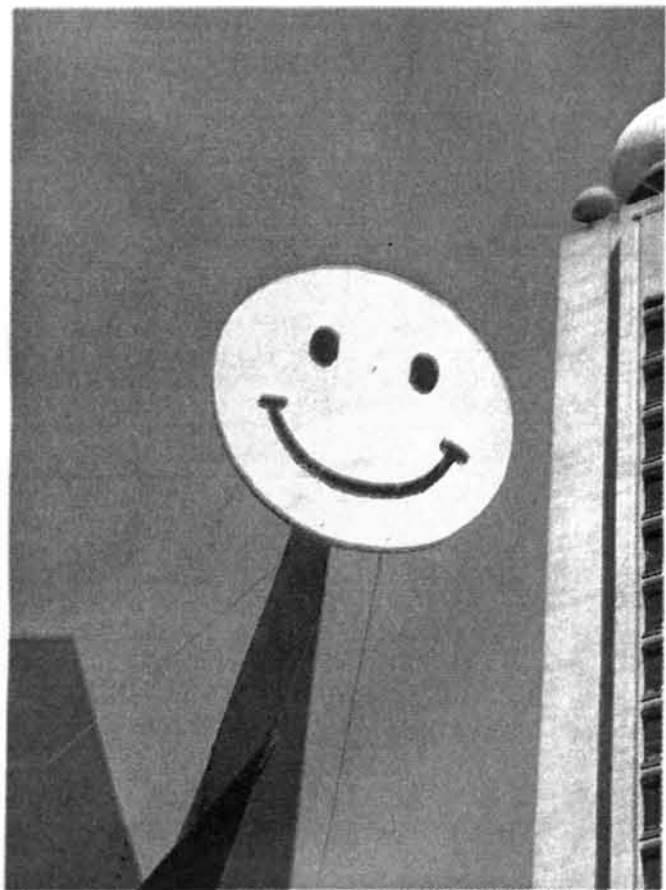
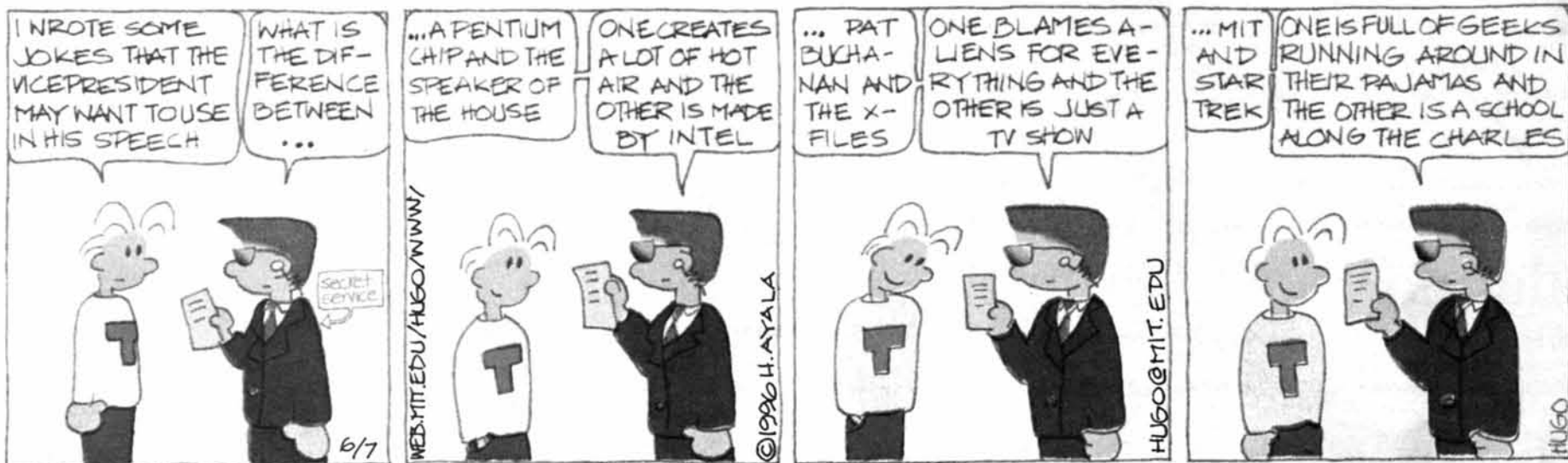
IS IN



mit medical

Off Course

By Hugo Ayala



SAUL BLUMENTHAL—THE TECH

It's a good sign when hackers can make the Great Sail smile.



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Bettina Kimpton dances with the Gamelan Galak Tika in an open air performance on the Student Center steps on May 14.

Congratulations!

The Tech congratulates these graduating staffers.

Craig K. Chang

Scott C. Deskin

Anders Hove

Jeremy Hylton

Teresa Lee

Steven D. Leung

Bo Light

Jennifer N. Mosier

Cherry Ogata

Jiri Schindler

Stanley Shyn

Michelle Sonu

Brian Vanden Bosch

Audrey Wu

Sharon N. Young-Pong

Thanks for all your help,
and good luck with your
future endeavors.