

Killian Kick-Off Today

Friday
Largest
Paper



The Weather

Today: Sunny, muggy, 89°F (32°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, light rain, 72°F (22°C)
Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 77°F (25°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 116, Number 31

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, August 23, 1996



HELEN M. LIN—THE TECH

Paul Ibarra '00 learned to trust fellow freshmen as he was pushed with his eyes closed in one of the Project Move Off Your Assumptions activities at Briggs Field yesterday afternoon. See story page 8.

New Senior House Set for Occupancy

By Dan McGuire
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Cambridge City officials yesterday granted MIT a temporary certificate of occupancy for Senior House, permitting house residents to move back into the renovated dorm.

MIT's insurance had granted Senior House residents the right to do an in-house rush even if the certificate had not been obtained.

The furniture moving and painting for the dormitory have not yet been completed, and residents, along with new freshmen, will not be moving in until August 29. Many Senior House residents are currently living in nearby East Campus.

The alarm system approval means that any contingency plans, including one that would have involved Senior House residents crowding into in East Campus residents' rooms, will not be imple-

mented, said Director of Special Services Stephen D. Immerman.

While structural, electrical, and plumbing inspections had been successfully completed some time ago, problems with the dormitory's new computerized fire alarm system held up approval.

Contractors had been working to resolve the problem and get the system inspected before August 29.

Inspectors with the Cambridge Fire Department tested and approved the fire system yesterday.

"We're kind of out of the hard-hat stage," said James I. Summers, vice president of Ondras Associated Architects, MIT's architect for the project.

Residents approve of changes

Even though steps were taken to preserve house spirit, Immerman

Renovations, Page 9

Essay, Pre-Calculus Tests Await Freshmen

By May K. Tse
STAFF REPORTER

The housing and social pressures of Residence and Orientation Week will be put on hold temporarily by academic pressures as freshmen take two tests today: the Freshman Essay Evaluation and the Pre-Calculus Mathematics Diagnostic.

With possible changes in the future for the MIT Writing Requirement, grading for the essay evaluation will likely remain as tough as it was last year, when strict cutoffs resulted in a passing rate of only 17 percent, a huge drop from the previous year's 48 percent.

The FEE, taken from 9 to noon today, plays an important part of the Phase I of the Writing Requirement. Students can pass out of the requirement if they have received a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition test.

But the past exemption for a score of 750 or higher on the SAT II English exam was removed this year because "the SATs have been renormed, so that what was a 750 before is now an 800," said Coordinator for the Writing Requirement Leslie C. Perelman.

"We have no intention of raising the standards even more this year" for the essay cutoff, Perelman said. "But the percentage of students who pass could rise or fall, depending on the comparative quality of the writing skills of the Class of 2000," said Chair of the Committee on the Writing Requirement Kip V. Hodges PhD '82.

At present, students who do not pass the FEE have a few options for passing Phase I, by either submitting a paper or taking a writing class.

Tests, Page 10

Renovated Coop to Focus on Students, Books



INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

The renovated Kendall Square Coop features a more spacious interior and bookshelves straight from Barnes & Noble Bookstores.

By Eric Sit

The Kendall Square Coop underwent renovations this summer, changing both its facade and its focus. The Coop is transforming itself from a broad-based department store to a leading technical bookstore with merchandise directed towards students, said Martha Piotti, a store manager for the Coop.

"We are trying to position ourselves as the complete bookstore service. Our goal is to be the best technical bookstore," said Allan Powell, a Coop store manager. Previously, the Coop sold a wide variety of merchandise, from books to lingerie.

New store design to improve organization

The Coop began a downsizing process this past March, and demolition and construction began in May. Renovations were done in stages so that the store would not have to close down its various departments like clothing, insignia, and textbooks. Powell estimates that renovations cost under a million dollars.

Wider aisles and more storage for bulk books were

Coop, Page 9

Van to Deliver Killian Kick-Off Address To Inspire, Prepare Frosh for MIT Life

By Stacey E. Blau
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"I don't get to say, 'Let the rush begin,'" said Van Van '97. "I wanted to, but they wouldn't let me."

Although Van won't be making the announcement that launches living group rush, he will be delivering

tomorrow's keynote speech at Killian

Kick-Off. The keynote speech, about 15 minutes of the scheduled hour and 14 minutes of Killian Kick-Off, is a central part of the event, intended give a focus to freshmen's immediate and long-term experiences at MIT before rush begins.

Van said that his speech will focus on "preparing students first for MIT, second for rush." The

speech "doesn't give that much formal advice, though — I think that's preachy."

The speech is entitled "More Than Meets the Eye," but the title "doesn't give too much away," Van said. "It's a funny speech. Hopefully people will laugh and learn something out of it, too."

Van the second student speaker

This is the second year that a student will be delivering the keynote speech. Catherine D. Conley '96 gave last year's speech, replacing William Keim, the speaker for the three previous years.

"It was inspiring to watch" Keim speak, Van said. "I really wanted a chance to do something like that."

But when student auditions were held in the spring of 1995, Van didn't try out. "I didn't because I

chickened out," he said. "I chickened out at the very last minute."

"It was a lesson that I learned," Van said. "I decided not to miss it again."

Van had included that experience in an original draft of his speech as a way to communicate to freshmen that "you have to take advantage of everything that's here," an idea that is still a theme of the speech.

Van also hopes to convey his feelings about MIT in his speech. "I don't think MIT is a concrete paradise — it's a paradise," he said.

Fraternities differ at MIT

Van said that he did in fact go through fraternity rush, although he didn't join a fraternity. He has lived

Van, Page 9

INSIDE

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WORLD & NATION

NASA to Join Investigation Of TWA Flight 800 Crash

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SMITHTOWN, N.Y.

Scientists at the Marshall Space Center in Huntsville, Ala., are joining the attempt to solve the five-week-old mystery of what caused the crash of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island.

National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Robert Francis said Thursday that shattered components of the Boeing 747's belly fuel tank system are being flown to the space agency facility in the hope that "the same folks who worked on the Challenger" spacecraft crash investigation can shed some light on the Flight 800 disaster.

Francis declined to speculate on what the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's examination of fuel pumps, probes that monitor the amount of fuel and other belly-tank debris recovered from the ocean bottom might reveal.

But he has said repeatedly that there is strong evidence of a fiery explosion in the tank, which underlies a portion of the passenger cabin directly ahead of the wings. That evidence includes bits of charred, twisted metal from the fuel tank area.

The tank was nearly empty when the jetliner took off from New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, but it still contained about 100 gallons of high-grade kerosene — enough jet fuel to generate volatile fumes that could have detonated in an explosive burst of flame.

The question is: What might have ignited those fumes?

Most investigators still favor the possibility that it was a small but powerful bomb, perhaps one placed under a passenger seat directly above the tank. A bomb placed beneath a seat exploded on an Avianca Colombian jetliner in 1989, triggering a blast in the belly fuel tank that felled the Boeing 727.

Future of Israel, Arab Peace Process Unknown

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Less than three months into Benjamin Netanyahu's term as Israel's prime minister, Israelis and Arabs alike say they fear that the deadlocked Middle East peace process may collapse.

After Israel and Syria traded angry accusations this week, with each side blaming each other for heightened tensions, Israeli politicians and columnists, for the first time in years, are speaking openly about the renewed possibility of war with Syria.

At the same time, the chill between Netanyahu's government and the Palestinians grew deeper Thursday after a diplomatic tiff over a meeting between former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The crisis was resolved in hours but prominent Palestinians said it was just the latest frustration in Palestinian efforts to deal with Netanyahu's government.

"What we are feeling now is fear, because this government's intention is not a peaceful one," said Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian Cabinet minister recently appointed to lead peace talks with Israel. "We feel that peace is slipping through our fingers like sand."

Netanyahu and other Israeli officials have downplayed tensions, issuing assurances that Israel wants peace with its neighbors. Israel asked the United States to tell Syria that the Israelis are committed to peace and hope to resume talks without preconditions.

American Neo-Nazi Jailed For Four Years in Germany

THE WASHINGTON POST

BERLIN

Gary Rex Lauck, an American neo-Nazi who proclaims to admire Adolf Hitler, was sentenced to four years in jail Thursday on conviction of inciting racial hatred and disseminating illegal propaganda in Germany.

Lauck, from Lincoln, Neb., broke a self-imposed silence that he had maintained throughout the four-month trial in Hamburg, shouting in slightly American-accented German as security guards led him away: "Neither the Communists nor the Nazis would ever have dared kidnap an American citizen. The fight will go on."

The outburst reflected his insistence that he was wrongly arrested in Denmark March 1995 and extradited to Hamburg last August to face charges here that would not exist in the United States under U.S. freedom of speech laws. His lawyer, Hans-Otto Sieg, immediately said he will appeal the sentence on grounds that the so-called Farm Belt Fuehrer's Nebraska-based mail order exports are legal in the United States despite Germany's draconian laws punishing neo-Nazi propaganda and paraphernalia.

WEATHER Stuck with Sticky

By Gerard Roe
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The pressure gradients will tighten today as the axis of a cold front swings by tonight. The long southerly fetch of warm air ahead of it will, however, produce hot and muggy conditions across the region. The air is quite unstable ahead of the front, so as clouds build during the afternoon, we may see some thunderstorms in the area. Saturday looks to be quite pleasant with clouds clearing and a cooler northwesterly wind bringing some relief.

Friday: Mostly sunny in the morning, clouds developing during the afternoon. Muggy southwesterly winds. An uncomfortable high of 89°F (32°C). A late afternoon thunderstorm is a distinct possibility.

Friday night: Mostly cloudy with some light rain possible. A sticky night with a low of 72°F (22°C).

Saturday: Partly sunny. A cooler northwest wind blowing, and becoming clearer. High 77°F (25°C). Low 60°F (16°C).

Clinton Signs Welfare Reform, Turns Programs Over to States

By Barbara Vobejda
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Clinton signed historic welfare legislation Thursday that rewrites six decades of social policy, ending the federal guarantee of cash assistance to the poor and turning welfare programs over to the states.

"Today, we are ending welfare as we know it," Clinton said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by three former welfare recipients. "But I hope this day will be remembered not for what it ended, but for what it began."

Clinton's endorsement of the bill, which requires recipients to work and limits benefits to five years, fulfills a 1992 campaign promise that came to symbolize his image as a centrist Democrat. But Thursday, as the bill passed its final hurdle, there seemed to be less an atmosphere of celebration than a cloud of controversy hanging over the Rose Garden.

Gone were the Marine Band and Democratic congressional leaders who had attended bill-signing ceremonies earlier this week for bills increasing the minimum wage and making health insurance more accessible. Republicans, who had prodded Clinton for months to sign a welfare bill, refused to give him credit. And the divisions among Democrats over the legislation were readily apparent.

Even as Clinton signed the measure, women's groups and advocates for the poor protested along Pennsylvania Avenue, vowing to carry their dispute to the Democratic convention in Chicago

next week.

Whatever divisiveness it has inspired, the bill's enactment is likely to be remembered as a defining moment for Clinton, who vetoed two previous versions and battled with himself over whether to reject this measure as well.

Thursday, he labeled the measure "far from perfect," criticizing provisions that reduce spending on food stamps and deny aid to many legal immigrants. But he offered an explanation why he was signing it. "We can change what is wrong," Clinton said. "We should not have passed this historic opportunity to do what is right."

And he suggested that his decision to accept the bill should remove welfare from the political arena. "The two parties cannot attack each other over it. Politicians cannot attack poor people over it. ... This is not the end of welfare reform, this is the beginning. And we have to all assume responsibility."

The president challenged Americans to join together to make the legislation work, to end the denigration of the poor, to offer jobs to welfare recipients and reflect on ways to make the new welfare system better.

Sharing the stage with Clinton was Lillie Harden, a 42-year-old mother of three from Little Rock, Ark. Harden received welfare for two years before finding work and is now employed at a supermarket. Clinton said his thinking on welfare has been influenced by Harden, whom he met a decade ago at a governors' panel on welfare reform. He said when he asked her what was

the best thing about being off welfare, she answered, "When my boy goes to school and they say what does your mama do for a living, he can give an answer."

"I have never forgotten that," Clinton said.

In a statement, Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole praised the bill and said it would be remembered as a Republican victory. "My only regret today is that President Clinton did not join with us sooner in helping end a welfare system that has failed the taxpayers and those it was designed to serve," Dole said. "After two vetoes of similar welfare reform bills, President Clinton knew he couldn't afford a third strike."

The bill ends the long-standing cash-assistance known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, abolishing an entitlement created 61 years ago that guarantees that any eligible poor person can receive aid.

States will establish their own assistance programs, funded by an annual federal payment instead of the open-ended stream of federal funds they have received in the past. States can determine who is eligible and for how long, although federal funds may not be used to provide benefits for more than five years over a lifetime.

Under the measure, states are required to move half of adults on welfare into jobs by 2002. The bill also creates a comprehensive child support collection system, requires unmarried teen parents on welfare to live at home and stay in school and provide \$4 billion more in child care funding than is currently available for welfare parents required to work.

Yeltsin Gives Television Address, Rebukes Lebed on Chechen War

By Lee Hockstader
THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

As fierce fighting in Chechnya eased, a relatively robust-looking Boris Yeltsin went on television Thursday and rebuked Alexander Lebed, who had defused a massive Russian attack and brokered a shaky cease-fire just hours earlier.

The Russian president, seen for the first time in nearly two weeks, teased the media for spreading rumors about his health and reprimanded Lebed, his national-security chief, for not ending the war after 12 days on the job as his personal envoy to Chechnya. The war started 20 months ago when Yeltsin ordered troops into the separatist region to crush an independence drive.

"I'm not completely satisfied with Lebed and his work in Chechnya," Yeltsin said gravely in remarks to journalists broadcast on Russian television.

The president's comments seemed intended to whittle his brash and increasingly popular security chief down to size after a whirlwind two weeks in which Lebed has monopolized the nation's media and assumed the starring role of peacemaker.

But there seemed to be a risk that in undercutting Lebed, Yeltsin would also undercut the tenuous peace deal that Lebed clinched Thursday. A couple of hours after Yeltsin's broadcast appearance, there was a report that more than 50 Russian soldiers were killed in fresh fighting in Grozny, according to the independent Interfax news agency, which quoted a Russian military source in Chechnya.

Thursday's broadcast "is vintage

Yeltsin," said a foreign diplomat in Moscow. "He watches his subordinates to see who emerges in the strongest role, then slaps down anyone who oversteps. Lebed overstepped."

Yeltsin recalled that Lebed, who ran for president this spring, had "constantly" promised to wind down the war if he were elected. "Well, now he has power," Yeltsin said. "But unfortunately I don't see any results so far."

Millions of Russians did see results, at least for the moment. It was Lebed's shuttle diplomacy between federal forces and Chechen guerrillas late Wednesday that seemed to scuttle plans for an all-out Russian air and artillery attack Thursday morning.

Tens of thousands of terrified residents had fled Grozny, the Chechen capital, after a Russian military commander issued an ultimatum Monday, warning he would pulverize the city starting at 8 a.m. Thursday.

However, a ferocious Russian bombardment began Wednesday afternoon. Hundreds of shells, bombs and rockets smashed into Grozny, but the Russian guns fell silent that evening when Lebed arrived in Chechnya on his third peacemaking trip to the southern region in 10 days. The guns remained relatively quiet for most of Thursday as Lebed closed a cease-fire deal with rebel military commander Aslan Maskhadov after hours of negotiations.

The deal is extraordinary in that it appears to leave the Chechen guerrillas in control of most of Grozny, which they captured from Russian forces after an audacious raid that began Aug. 6.

Under the agreement, Russian troops would be pulled back from their positions near Chechen strongholds throughout the region next week, Interfax reported. They would also nearly abandon Grozny by withdrawing to just a handful of bases on the city's outskirts. The several thousand Chechen rebels in the city would not be required to remove their forces from areas they control.

Joint Russian-rebel command offices would be set up starting this weekend, and a special conciliation commission would be established to enforce the cease-fire.

Cease-fire agreements have come and gone in the course of the war, and there is no reason to believe this one will be more durable than the others. Lebed's cease-fire accord seemed particularly shaky after Yeltsin scolded him on television Thursday. Nonetheless, Russian commanders ordered their forces to suspend attacks Thursday, and the guerrillas also curtailed operations.

Lebed said he expects little credit as a result of his mediating efforts. "I foresee public attacks on me on the part of gung-ho patriots and gung-ho democrats," he said after the deal was signed.

What he did not foresee, apparently, was the attack by Yeltsin. But the Russian president seemed to be using his favorite management technique — keeping his warring aides and advisers in delicate balance, never letting any one star shine too brightly. In this case, analysts said, Lebed was threatening to upstage his boss.

Yeltsin, 65, who had two bouts of heart trouble last year, dismissed rumors about his health.

African National Congress Violated Human Rights During White Rule

By Bob Drogin
LOS ANGELES TIMES

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Opening its files for the first time, the African National Congress admitted Thursday that its members and supporters had committed grisly human rights violations during the bitter struggle against white rule but insisted the abuses were unintentional.

Thabo Mbeki, deputy president of both the ANC and the government, apologized to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for what he called "excesses" and said he "deeply regrets" the civilian deaths.

The ANC, the former liberation movement that is now the ruling party in a vibrant democracy, handed over some 420 pages of docu-

ments to the commission. They included graphic details of bombings, use of land mines and other attacks that killed civilians, as well as three long-hidden internal reports describing horrific living conditions and mistreatment at former ANC military training camps.

Hundreds of ANC operatives and guerrillas who died or disappeared in exile were identified, including the names of 34 suspected spies, murderers and mutineers executed by the ANC at the notorious Quatro Camp in Angola.

Testifying for three hours, Mbeki insisted that none of the abuses "arose out of official policy, or were in any case sanctioned by the leadership. There are instances where we could have acted more firmly and speedily to prevent or

stop abuses, and for that, the ANC accepts collective responsibility."

He said the ANC "never permitted random attacks" on civilians but said they inevitably died in bombings, shootouts and other attacks. He cited, for example, an infamous car bomb at the Magoos and Why Not bars in Durban in 1986, in which three civilians were killed and 69 injured.

Other civilian deaths, Mbeki said, "including (victims of) 'necklacings' and attacks on a cinema and restaurants, were in fact carried out by agents of the apartheid state in their continuing attempts to damage the image of the ANC."

He denied that the ANC sanctioned necklacing, in which a victim is burned alive with a gasoline-filled tire around the neck.

United States Relations with Cuba Bring on New Period of Tensions

By Douglas Farah
THE WASHINGTON POST

HAVANA

Recent tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions in Havana and Washington have highlighted a new period of deteriorating relations between Cuba and the United States.

The soured atmosphere, replacing a period of hope for reduced tensions earlier in the Clinton administration, has arisen out of Cuban anger over Washington's efforts to tighten its economic embargo on the island, along with fears in Havana of a new mass emigration of Cubans in rafts and small boats.

Added to these irritants is a determination by the United States to maintain contact with small groups of Cuban dissidents, whom the Havana government views as traitors, with the declared goal of inciting more dissent.

Relations between the two nations have been rocky since Fidel Castro's revolution triumphed in 1959, and the governments have viewed each other as enemies for decades.

But ties have deteriorated in recent months to their lowest point since the Cuban missile crisis of 1963.

"You have two countries who do not understand each other, caught in

a downward spiral neither knows how to get out of," said a Latin American diplomat.

"Everything each side does compounds the mistrust and apprehension."

The downturn began in February, when Cuban fighter jets shot down two small civilian airplanes flown by a Miami-based Cuban exile group that had, in preceding months, repeatedly violated Cuban airspace.

In response, President Clinton signed the Helms-Burton law, which he initially opposed, tightening the economic embargo on Cuba and seeking to punish foreign companies that invest in the island.

Two Military Jets Crash In Separate Incidents

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Two single-seat military jets crashed in separate incidents Thursday, one off Maryland's Atlantic coast and the other on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Both pilots were missing as of early evening.

In the first incident, a Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet plummeted into the sea about 36 miles southeast of Ocean City, Md., about 10 a.m. The attack jet, attached to a reserve unit at Andrews Air Force Base, outside Washington, was on a training mission, according to a Marine spokesman.

In the second incident, an Air National Guard A-10 plane crashed about 1:25 p.m. in a marshy area of Fishing Bay, a Dorchester County, Md., inlet of the Chesapeake Bay.

The two-engine anti-tank jet, also known as a Warthog, was flying from Willow Grove Air Reserve Base near Philadelphia on a maintenance test flight after repairs, according to Fred Walters, press secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran Affairs.

Near Ocean City, a fishing boat captain who said he was about five miles away from the crash recalled that he saw no impact or explosion, just "a huge wall of water" after the plane plunged into the ocean.

The captain, Eddie Berger of the boat "Fish Tales," said he then looked up and saw another plane flying away. A Marine Corps spokesman confirmed that other jets also were training in the area.

FAA Proposes Safety Changes In Boeing 737 Fleet

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Federal Aviation Administration Thursday proposed changes in the flight-control systems of Boeing 737s, the world's most numerous airliner.

The changes grew out of an in-depth "critical design review" of the systems following the crash of USAir Flight 427 at Pittsburgh on Sept. 8, 1994, which killed 132 people. That crash, as well as the crash of United Airlines Flight 585 at Colorado Springs on March 31, 1991, which killed 25 people, are still unexplained.

A sudden full deflection of the rudder is suspected as one of the causes of the USAir crash. The rudder, a panel at the rear of the vertical stabilizer, assists in keeping the aircraft stable and sometimes is used to assist in turns.

Tom McSweeney, director of aircraft certification service for the FAA, said the special design review found the 737 in full compliance with FAA requirements and discovered nothing that could have contributed to the Pittsburgh or Colorado Springs crashes.

Welcome new students!

Information booth

Aug. 27 - 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Aug. 30, 10 a.m. - noon.

Pick up information about housing, MIT offices, and more! Tickets to GSC events sold here.

Orientation picnic

Aug. 29, noon - 2 p.m.

Meet students from other departments, eat good food, and listen to President Vest, Dean Litster, and others!

GSC Open House

Aug. 29, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Come see our newly-renovated office and become a part of the oldest* student government on campus.

* highest average age

Night on the Town

Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 7, 9 p.m.

Explore Boston's night life!

Seminars

Sept. 3, 3 p.m. "Student Health"

Sept. 3, 4 p.m. "Urban Safety Tips/ Dealing with Harassment,"

Sept. 3, 6 p.m. "GL 001 Introduction to Grad Life"

Sept. 12, 7 p.m. "Can We Talk"

Keep in Touch

Stay informed about GSC events! Add yourself to our mailing list by sending e-mail to gsc-request@mit. Questions? Ideas? Write to gsc-admin@mit or call x3-2195.

Graduate Student Council

Room 50-222 • x3-2195 • <http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc>

Orientation schedule Aug. 23 - Sept. 15

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23		
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Int'l Student Coffee Hour/Student Panel	Bush Room, 10-105
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Int'l Student Office - Social Security Registration	1-203
MONDAY, AUGUST 26		
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Int'l Student Coffee Hour/Int'l Clubs	Bush Room, 10-105
8:00 p.m. -	Pub Night hosted by European Club	Steps of Walker Memorial
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27		
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	English Evaluation Test	10-250
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Information Booth	Lobby 10
11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.	Campus Walking Tour	Lobby 10
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Int'l Student Coffee Hour/Campus Police	Bush Room, 10-105
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Activities Midway	Johnson Center
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28		
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	ID Photos	Lobby 13
9:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Int'l Student Open House	Bush Room, 10-105
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Information Booth	Lobby 10
11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.	Campus Walking Tour	Lobby 10
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	MIT Information Fair	Lobby 13
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Athletic Midway	Johnson Athletic Center
7:30 p.m. -	Faculty Panel/Int'l Student Office	Bush Room, 10-105
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29		
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	ID Photos	Lobby 13
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Information Booth	Lobby 10
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Picnic	Killian Court
2:00 p.m. -	(Most Departmental Orientations)	See Department
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	GSC Open House	50-222
7:30 p.m. -	Night on the Town	50-222
FRIDAY, AUGUST 30		
10:00 a.m. - Noon	Information Booth	Lobby 10
12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Beverages at the Muddy Charles Pub	50-120
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	*Trolley Tour around Boston	77 Mass Ave
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Int'l Student Welcome Party	Bush Room 10-105
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31		
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	*Hiking Trip	Ashdown House
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1		
7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	*Boston Harbor Cruise	Long Wharf, Boston
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2		
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	*Charles River Cruise	Map at Info Booth
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 - REGISTRATION DAY		
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Student Health	6-120
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Urban Safety Tips/Dealing with Harassment	6-120
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	GL 001 "Introduction to Grad Life"	6-120
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 - FIRST DAY OF CLASS		
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6		
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Beverages at the Thirsty Ear Pub	Ashdown, Thirsty Ear
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7		
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	TA Workshop	E51-Wong Auditorium
9:00 p.m. -	Night on the Town	50-222
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12		
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Reception for Women Graduate Students	Bush Room, 10-105
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Can We Talk?	West Lounge, W20-201
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13		
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Reception for Graduate Students of Color	Ashdown, Hulsizer Room
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15		
1:00 p.m. -	*Boston Red Sox vs. Chicago White Sox	Fenway Park, Boston

GSC ORGANIZED EVENTS IN ITALICS. *A NOMINAL FEE MAY BE CHARGED. PURCHASE TICKETS AT INFO BOOTH. †RAIN LOCATION, JOHNSON ATHLETIC CENTER

OPINION

Freshmen Should Scorn Bearded Look

Column by Anders Hove

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When I published my first advice column last year I didn't expect to make a repeat performance. I am older and wiser now, however, and I understand that my wisdom must be expended now before it matures and acquires value.

Another reason I am repeating my advice column is because I have seen the fruits of last year's efforts. Taking stock, it is evident that those who followed my advice are now successful and happy, and those who scorned my counsel are wretched and pitiable.

I take no credit for my friends' success. The advice I gave them was merely received wisdom. I had good teachers: my sister, Barbara M. Balents '89, and her husband, Leon M. Balents '89. I am almost ashamed to say, however, that the most important thing I learned during my first week at MIT I learned from a column just like this.

The advice was this: Don't grow a beard — you'll look like an idiot.

If I surround this tidbit with an aura of mystery and importance, it is because I know how powerful it can be. Those who abide by it will enjoy life and enrich the lives of others. Those who do not will spend most of their lives on the fifth floor of the Student Center playing with disc guns and customizing their Athena accounts.

More advice follows. You may know much of it already. If you scrutinize it closely, however, you just might find something that empowers you to change your life for the better. And please, don't be afraid to change your life.

• Boston is an exciting town. Don't miss out by spending weekends playing "Netrek."

• Write something down on paper. Memories are valuable, so you'll want to record them now before you forget English.

• Shower. Wait 24 hours. Shower again. Repeat as necessary.

• Boston has several cult-like evangelical religions. Don't feel compelled to give out your phone number or attend any "prayer meetings" in the Boston Common.

• Just because you met 100 people who want to major in electrical engineering and computer science doesn't mean you have to major in it, too. Indeed, some people actually come to MIT for the social sciences, and rightly so.

• Nobody cares about your SAT score, your high school GPA, or, for that matter, anything about your high school.

• The label "mandatory for all freshmen" is a lie. Nobody can force you to do anything, especially if it seems inane or just plain silly. Do yourself a favor and skip at least one event.

• Do not give out your phone number unless you know how it's going to be used. Anyone who says you must write down that number for them is lying.

• Avoid soap cakes by putting the powdered detergent in before the clothes.

• Skip your first class. Or your second class. Relax.

• Buy a textbook from a sophomore. Unless they ripped you off, chances are you just made a friend.

• MIT needs "rush" because it can't afford more on-campus undergraduate housing. Even so, incoming students don't have to choose between an Independent Living Group and a quint.

• Getting a single room is a lame priority to set for yourself during Residence and Orientation Week. Go ahead and meet people and find out what they found attractive about their living arrangements.

• That said, don't take R/O very seriously. Have fun and relax. You can always move later.

• Last but not least, don't grow a beard — you'll look like an idiot.

Do not give out your phone number unless you know how it's going to be used. Anyone who says you must write down that number for them is lying.

• Get to know the undergraduate administrative coordinator in a department you are interested in. He or she is the source of all knowledge about the department's undergraduate life.

• The faculty study science and engineering, not MIT life. Don't expect much more than free food and a signature from your adviser.

• Visit the library. Read the newspaper. Just because you made it to Cambridge doesn't mean the outside world has ceased to exist.

• Don't sweat over grades. $A = B = C$. On Pass/No Record, there's no excuse for not getting involved in your community.

If Fraternity Life Is for You, Stay the Night

Column by David V. Rodriguez

ARTS EDITOR

The worst part of rush was not knowing what was going to happen. On the afternoon before rush began, I met with my Project Move Off Your Assumptions group, and after all the word games and other get-acquainted activities, my advisors asked if we had any questions about anything. Everyone had a question about rush, but they answered none of them. When given a question, they would pause, look at each other and try to think of the best way to give us the least information possible. They only told us how great rush was, and that we shouldn't worry. The last thing they told us were the emergency numbers and gave us each a plastic red whistle to blow if we got into trouble.

They were right about rush being fun. But there was no reason for us to be kept in the dark, and in fact, we probably would have been better off if we knew more. Rush moves quickly, and if you don't know what is going on, you're likely to make mistakes.

The goal of rush is for fraternities to find freshman who are good matches, and vice versa. The fraternities' strategy is to get as many freshman to their houses as possible, meet them, and then whittle their way down to a smaller, more promising group — better matches, not better freshmen.

Fraternity members will be eager to meet you, and when you arrive at one, a brother will talk to you and get to know you. They may want to get your name, so they can later talk about you with other brothers. They'll have meetings to decide which freshmen are good candidates.

It sounds like a heartless process, but it

isn't. The fraternities need to be efficient; there are too many freshman for every brother to be able to hear every freshman's life story.

The down side is that it moves fast. Before they'll give someone a bid, they'll want to get to know the freshman well, and have the person meet everyone in the fraternity. This means they'll soon need to turn their focus from the larger group to a smaller pool.

If you're interested in a fraternity, you should make your presence known. At the end of the first night, a fraternity may invite you to spend the night. If there is any possibility of your living there, you shouldn't refuse. It's a chance for you to meet the brothers and a chance for the brothers to get to know you. And it's a sign that you are interested in that fraternity; they know you can have steak and lobster everywhere you go, but you can only sleep at one place.

During my rush, I made the mistake of going back to my dorm room. I was exhausted from meeting everyone and thought I'd start again the next morning. When I woke up, I gave another fraternity a phone call. The night before I had been given a card from them with a phone number I could call if I wanted to be picked up and taken to their house. On the phone, I talked to the rush chair, who said they were no longer really looking for new freshmen, that they had already found their pool of candidates. It was only noon on Saturday.

Realizing I was close to being shut out of

the night before, the only one I thought I may want to pledge. I was just in time to catch a van going to the beach. In the van with me were a few brothers and two other freshmen I recognized from the night before. The other freshmen were still wearing the same clothes; I could tell I was the only one who hadn't spent the night.

The van ride was an hour long. I don't know if they chose the beach because it was someone's favorite beach, or because the brothers wanted to have an hour-long ride to get to know potential pledges, but it was more time for us to talk. I quickly saw the difference between me and the other freshmen — they had already met everyone, and were now telling each other high school stories while I was still at the stage of telling everyone that I was from California, played volleyball, and was considering Course VI. This was the same so-called conversation I had had with countless brothers at numerous fraternities the night before.

The long ride was useful. I got to know a handful of brothers, and while they were nice guys, I knew their fraternity wasn't the place for me. So I sat back, tired of repeating details about myself, and watched everyone else.

At the beach I saw a brother pull the two other freshmen aside individually and tell them that things were going well, and that

If you're interested in a fraternity, you should make your presence known.

Rodriguez, Page 5



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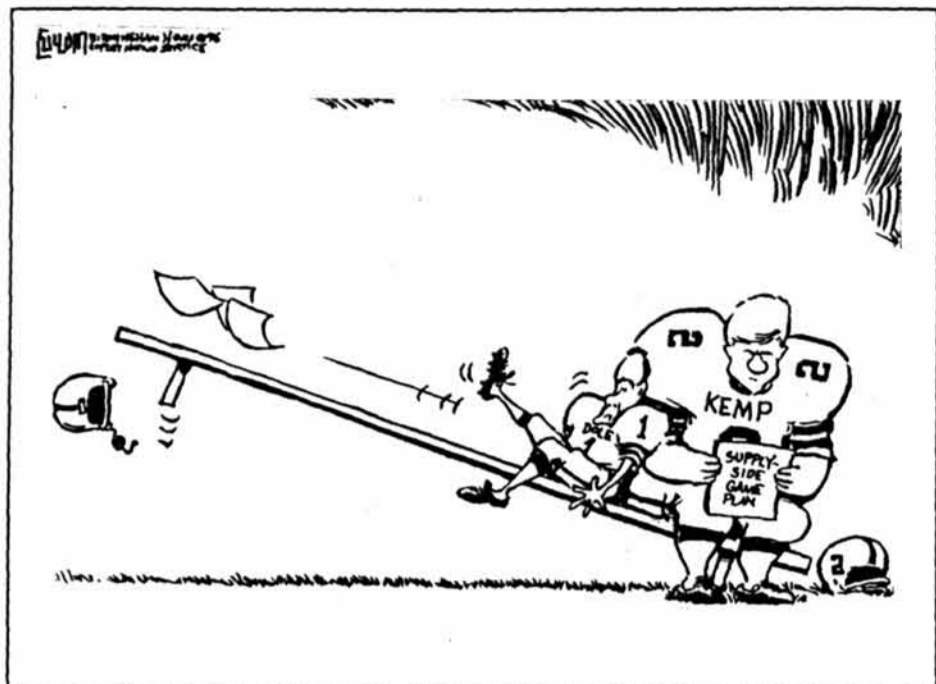
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Life at a Fraternity Is Good, If You Find the Right One

Rodriguez, from Page 4

they were probably going to get bids the next morning. He never pulled me aside, but I knew my silence and apparent disinterest had put me out of the running. When we got back to the house, the brothers were good hosts and offered me lunch, but I went back to my dorm, not wanting to distract them. I saw the two other freshmen a few weeks later; both wearing the fraternity's T-shirt.

Living at a fraternity is a good thing if you can find the right fraternity. A few years ago I saw a poll that asked MIT students how happy they were, and fraternity members on average were happier. Your goal during rush is to find a good match. The door closes quickly, so you need to be quick — see as many fraternities as possible, but know when to commit. If your

rush is a string of hollow greetings, you're not doing it correctly.

The worst possible action is to walk around with a generic smile, not saying anything because you're afraid of making a mistake. And if you do make a mistake, just go next door to the next fraternity and start over.

Many of you will find that fraternity life isn't for you. Brotherhood is a big issue for fraternities, and this may put you off. At one fraternity I visited, a brother told me how great it was to have his brothers wandering through his room at all hours. If your value your privacy greatly, or your first priority is getting a single room, (or you can't imagine yourself wearing a baseball-style shirt with a cute nickname on back), then you should consider dorm life. In any case, you should enjoy rush. It only comes once, and there is nothing else like it.

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THE ARTS

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

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

★★ Chain Reaction

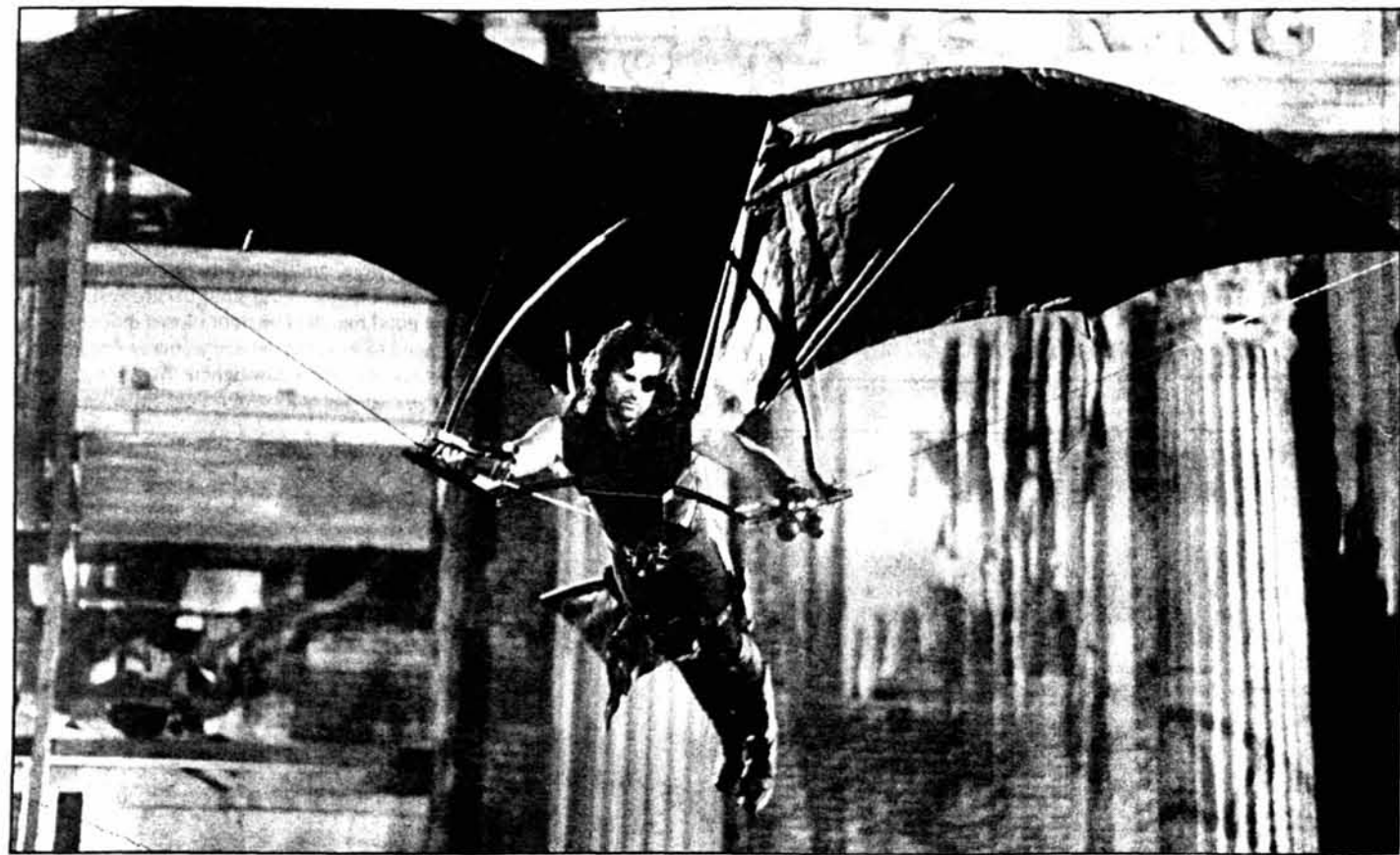
Keanu Reeves is a student machinist in a lab perfecting a clean and limitless energy source. Once it is completed, someone breaks into the lab, kills the inventor, and blows up the invention (taking several city blocks with it). Keanu is framed for the crime and is forced into hiding until he can prove his innocence. *Chain Reaction* was directed by the same person who directed *The Fugitive*, which may explain the similar story line. But *Chain Reaction* pales in comparison — the story isn't as good, and Keanu is no Harrison Ford. The one high point of the film is Morgan Freeman, who easily steals the movie. —DVR. Sony Copley.

★1/2 Escape From L.A.

Part action movie, part comedy, part something else that can't be identified. *Escape from L.A.* tries to be all of these and succeeds at none of them. The story is about Snake (Kurt Russell), a man who has committed major crimes in the new hyper-ethical future and is banished to the island of Los Angeles, now the holding area for all criminals (people who use profanity and have premarital sex). Snake is given an offer — a full pardon if he can retrieve from L.A. a dangerous high-tech device stolen from the president and now in the hands of a L.A. gang leader. Much of the humor is about L.A., as when Snake is taken captive by a plastic surgeon who wants to cut him up and use him for his parts. The film's weakest point is the lack of an interesting main character: Snake is unnecessarily raspy and does everything he can to look like a comic book character. —DVR. Sony Cheri.

★★★★1/2 Kingpin

Roy Munson (Woody Harrelson) is a promising young bowler, but he makes the mistake of teaming up with Bill Murray, whose scam results in his losing his hand. Twenty years later, he's left bitter, perpetually drunk, and wearing the world's worst plastic hand. Dreaming of a comeback (and a large cash prize), he persuades a promising Amish bowler (Randy Quaid) that he needs a manager, and the two of them head off to Vegas. *Kingpin* was made by the two who



made *Dumb and Dumber*, but it is far better — the jokes are funnier, and there is a storyline strong enough to stand on its own. It's likely the best comedy of the year. —DVR. Sony Copley.

★★★★ Trainspotting

Trainspotting tells the story of a group of Scottish heroin users. Already released in England, it has become the third-largest grossing British-made film and has received a large amount of criticism for not condemning heroin use. The story is told from the view of heroin user, without judgement, which makes the story feel completely genuine and totally fascinating. —DVR. Sony Nickelodeon.

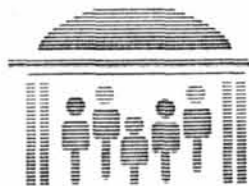


Above: Snake (Kurt Russell) rides on a glider in *Escape From L.A.*
Right: Keanu Reeves is on the run with an attractive but useless coworker in *Chain Reaction*.

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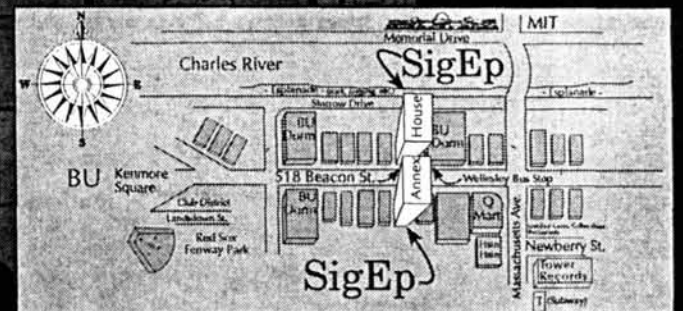
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12:45 pm Red Sox game (by invite only)
6:30 pm Boston Harbor cruise on 120 foot luxury yacht, with comedian and dinner.

Monday

Afternoon Wellesley trip



MOYA, Tech Trek Get Mixed Reviews From Class of 2000

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

The sun shone on Briggs Field as freshmen participated in a revamped Project Move Off Your Assumptions program yesterday afternoon.

"It never rains when the freshmen arrive," said Director of Crew Stuart Schmill '86, who was on hand to help supervise MOYA activities.

The usual name-learning and trust-building exercises associated with MOYA were limited to the first hour. MOYA was then followed by Tech Trek, an activity that sent MOYA groups searching for answers to riddles across campus.

MOYA teaches trust, teamwork

After the President's Welcome Convocation, freshmen left Kresge Auditorium and headed toward their pre-assigned MOYA groups. There were 90 groups, named after the chemical elements, of approximately 12 freshmen each.

After some drinks and stretching exercises, groups started some name games similar to previous years. In one, a freshman would make some motion while saying their names. The other group members would then repeat the name and the motion.

MOYA then moved on to activities that would build trust within the group. In the trust fall, members of a group held out arms to catch a volunteer who would fall backwards into their arms.

Freshmen also participated in several teamwork activities. In one such activity, freshmen would line up with half facing one way and half facing the opposite direction. Then, following a set of movement rules, all those facing one way would have to exchange places with the other half.

Another required blindfolded group members to pull a cord loop into various different shapes.

Freshmen reacted fairly positively to MOYA.

"Well, it's a good opportunity to meet people. We learn to trust each other. It's a fun activity that relieves stress after all I've been through this summer," said Fernando Perez '00, who was at MIT over the summer participating in the Interphase program.

"I thought it was pretty good," said David A. Shear '00. Although he had done some of the activities before, Shear felt MOYA helped freshmen get to know each other.

Still, some had criticism for MOYA.

"I think there should be more activities. I think everyone should be doing these activities," said Peter C. Huang '00. There are people who do not participate in the trust fall which partially defeats the purpose

of the activity, he said.

Nina A. Irani '97, a member of the MOYA subcommittee of the Residence and Orientation Week committee, said that the MOYA activities went well.

Tech Trek confusing

Tech Trek, the finale of MOYA, was kept a secret from everyone, even the MOYA leaders.

Schmill speculated that organizers probably did not want the event to be hacked, he said.

Tech Trek kicked off with MOYA groups working to remove a can of water from the center of a circle without touching the ground in the circle or spilling water. The can contained the first clue to the mystery hunt.

Armed with campus maps and How to Get Around MIT guides, MOYA groups and their leaders explored the Institute for answers to riddles. The answers to the riddles would also be used to help crack a coded message.

One riddle asked the groups to identify a philosopher written on the even-numbered side of Killian Court. Once the groups arrived at an answer, they would report it to a worker nearby. Regardless of what the answer is, the MOYA group would then receive another riddle which would lead

them to another area on campus.

Groups traveled all over campus, from Kresge Auditorium to the Media Laboratory to the 26-100 lecture hall.

Groups were then to finish at Kresge Oval about two hours after Tech Trek started. Prizes will be awarded to groups today based on their success solving the riddles.

"It was confusing, because no one knew what was going on," said Cindy H. Liang '00.

"It was fun but confusing," said Gillian M. Deutch '00. The groups ended up following their leaders since the leaders knew the campus better, she said.

MOYA leaders were not guaranteed to be correct, however. One group, looking for the reading room in the same building that houses the Campus Activities Complex, headed past the Student Center into the Infinite Corridor.

"It was definitely different," said Eva C. Lee '98, a MOYA leader. "I think it was a good experience." Tech Trek also was a complete surprise, she said.

Since there was confusion, "MOYA leaders should not have been kept in the dark as long as they were," said Aaron R. McCabe '97, a MOYA leader.



HELEN M. LIN—THE TECH

After the President's Welcome Convocation, Project Move Off Your Assumptions leaders held up signs to help freshmen identify their respective MOYA groups on Kresge Oval.

Thursday Night Dinners Avoid Past Problems

By Jennifer Lane
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The new format for Thursday Night Dinners was greeted with approval by most students last night despite serious doubts early on about the effectiveness of the changes.

"The entire day went smoothly. It was a very positive experience," said Residence and Orientation Week Publicity and Personnel Manager Erica R. Fuchs '99.

Upperclassmen greeted freshmen in the Johnson Athletic Center rather than on Kresge Oval as in years past.

The changes were made in "hopes of avoiding a reoccurrence of last year's events" when Campus Police had to be called in to control the crowd of upperclassmen that rushed to collect freshmen before the end of the Project Move Off Your Assumptions finale.

"This is kind of the last chance for Thursday Night Dinners," said Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for residence and campus activities and adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, as he addressed the crowd only minutes before the freshmen arrived.

Dinners plan faces initial doubts

The roughly 1,000 upperclassmen who attended the event repre-

sented a mix of living groups and student activities.

They pre-registered for a chance to take incoming students out to dinner and were allowed into Johnson between 5 and 5:45 p.m., said Sanjay K. Chugh '97, who was involved with the organization of Thursday Night Dinners. Well over half of the upperclassmen at the event represented fraternities, sororities, or independent living groups, he said.

As the upperclassmen waited for freshmen to arrive, many expressed frustration with the new system. "This setup is totally ridiculous. We're not going to be able to tell who is who," said John W. Schlumpf '97.

Even more upperclassmen expressed concern over the safety of the new system. The logistics of having roughly 2,000 people flowing through Johnson had some worried. "There's a strong possibility for death," said Sarah E. Anderson '99.

Schlumpf was also concerned about the behavior of the upperclassmen. "Everyone is going to be jumping over these railings," he said, referring to the traffic barriers that had been set up to control the freshmen's entrance.

Anderson also had doubts about

the motivation behind the changes. "There are rumors that this has been done so something will happen and Thursday Night Dinners can be canceled," she said.

Johnson proves good location

As the freshmen entered, the fears of the upperclassmen proved unwarranted as many apparently

"This is kind of the last chance for Thursday Night Dinners."

—Neal H. Dorow

had listened when Dorow offered advice before freshmen arrived. "This event is for the freshmen. Let them pick where they want to eat. This is their initiation, not yours," he said.

Freshmen entered Johnson slowly and came to a halt at the end of the traffic barriers in front of upperclassmen. To get things started, R/O workers even had to encourage freshmen to penetrate the crowd.

Anderson and others conceded the event was much calmer than she had expected. The system "worked great," said Alexander D. Moskovitz G.

Reactions among freshmen were mixed. When asked if she had been overwhelmed by the crowd, a dazed Cindy A. Reinhart '00 said, "everything today has been overwhelming."

Terrain K. Melconian '00 thought that even though Johnson was a bit crowded, the experience was "wicked cool."

Student groups make changes

The changes to the format of the Dinners were made at a meeting with the Interfraternity Council, the Dormitory Council, and the Association of Student Activities.

In order to be able to fit everyone in Johnson and be fair to all groups, each fraternity was allowed to send only 15 people to the Dinners, and each sorority was allowed 30 people, said IFC member Heather A. Harrison '97. Project MOYA leaders were not allowed to attend the Dinners.

"There were a lot of people who would have liked to have been here but couldn't," said Raeghan M. Byrne '99, referring to MOYA leaders and fraternity or sorority members who were prevented from attending with their student activities or dormitories.

IFC representatives were at each entrance spotting for FSILG members entering Johnson, either with their living groups or with student groups, in order to insure no group exceeded its limit, Harrison said.

Dormcon succeeded in making some needed changes to the Dinners, said Dormcon president Christopher H. Barron '97. Each dormitory group had to register an escort who would take freshmen back to campus if they wanted to leave early, he said.

ASA president Douglas K. Wyatt G repeatedly disavowed any responsibility for the changes, citing concerns over the increased manpower and hours necessary to pull the event off with relatively little actual difference from past years.

CPs and administrators were at every entrance to control the crowd, and representatives from Dormcon, IFC, and ASA checked in groups.



ANDERS HOVE—THE TECH

Upperclassmen lined up in the Johnson Athletic Center last night as they waited to whisk freshmen off to Thursday Night Dinners.

Construction Crews Work to Complete Senior House

Renovations, from Page 1

admits that "Senior House will be different; there will be an impact. What that difference will be, time will only tell," he said.

The character "is bound to change a bit," said Senior House resident Victor P. Morales '98. But if anything, the dormitory "will be a better house and a better place to live."

"We are not six separate houses as we once were," said Senior House Desk Captain Jagruti S. Patel '97. "Maybe it will unify us some more."

"Five or six years down the line, it won't matter what we think right now," Patel said. The dormitory has been changing for decades and will simply change more as new freshmen are admitted to the improved dorm, she said.

The most important thing is that the dorm keeps its sense of family. "It doesn't feel like an institution," Morales said. "It feels like a home."

The murals that decorated the

walls of Senior House entries have also been considered. "There are areas for murals," Summers said. There will be a process for submitting designs, but "it won't be a free-for-all," he said.

Work gets through rocky period

Renovations went through a rocky period last spring as workers began structural and electrical work near finals period, disrupting a number of residents who, angered at the lack of communication on the part of administration officials and the architectural firm, organized a dormitory-wide meeting and demanded that the work stop.

Electrical work continued quietly during that week, and there were no more complaints, Immerman said. The work needed to be done to ensure that renovations could remain on schedule, he said.

The certificate of occupancy granted yesterday brings the \$12-million renovation of the interior of the building nearer to a close.

The renovation left Senior House

"totally gutted," Immerman said. The new building completely complies with Cambridge building codes and is now fully compliant with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, he said.

The certification came just in time. "We pushed to get it done" early, Summers said. "But just because we were doing something quickly didn't mean that we could let down our standards," he said.

Nevertheless, every day was critical. "You don't have much leeway when you're working 16 to 17 hours a day, seven days a week," he said.

The three-month ordeal was complicated by the fact that tests found lead in the building's paint.

"Supposedly the building was lead free, but when you are dealing with an old building you have to be wary," said Michael Potter, the assistant project manager for Shawmut Design and Construction.

The management of Shawmut "pulled an all-nighter" and figured out how to turn a three weeks of decontamination work into one

week, Immerman said.

"It proved to be very successful given the incredible intensity of that project meant double shifts and

sometimes triple shifts," she said. "Shawmut needs to take a lot of the credit for managing the situation," she added.



James I. Summers Jr. (left), the architect of the Senior House renovations and Stephen D. Immerman, director of special services, sat yesterday on a bench in front of Runkle, the most notorious of Senior House entries.

With New Workstations, Software Coop Hopes to Integrate with Athena

Coop, from Page 1

installed during the renovation process. Textbooks, professional books, and other books have been separated to ease traffic. Additional registers to handle the long lines of paying customers have been put in place.

Renovations also include better lighting and better layout, and many customers have taken note. The store is "much brighter — more room," said Hubert Vailong '97.

"Before the store seemed very restricted, as if they were funneling you from one section to another," said Mike Lohse G. "It's now a full, normal bookstore as it should have been. [It] has the Barnes & Noble atmosphere. All they need now is a

cafe," he said.

Also featured is a new academic media center. This center will be open for customers to use and test software. It includes workstations, printers, and 26 different programs. Piotti said that the Coop hopes to integrate this center with the Athena Computing Environment sometime in the future.

"We're proud of our renovations at the MIT Coop. The feedback we've been getting from students is that they seem to like the change," said Powell. "Customers will tell us if it's the right thing."

Coop will again not offer rebate

As part of a major restructuring, Barnes & Nobles Bookstores announced that they would manage store operations for the Harvard Cooperative Society last year. The Coop has continued to exist as a cooperative.

It also has continued to independently operate its other businesses, including its real estate interests in Harvard Square and mail orders of its merchandise. The Coop hoped that this change of management would improve the quality of ser-

vice to students and bring profitability to the organization.

As a cooperative, the Coop has traditionally promised that they would give patronage rebates to students on any profits. But for the last two years, the Coop has not given its traditional rebates, aside from a 10 percent textbook rebate offered in the fall of 1994. "I don't foresee any rebate this year," Powell said.

Coop prices to remain stable

Continuing complaints about the Coop's expensive textbook prices have led to increased competition in textbook sales. Most MIT students buy their books from the Coop, but Text Express, Quantum Books, and the Alpha Phi Omega book exchange have provided competitive alternatives, if not exhaustive inventories.

While prices of textbooks at the Coop will remain the same, the cost of other products may change as the store tests different pricing structures. For other books, there is a new pricing policy, with better discounts. For example, there is a 30 percent discount on *New York Times* bestsellers versus the previous 25 percent discount.

Van to Offer Realistic View of MIT Life, Rush

Van, from Page 1

in Baker House since he was a freshman, although many of his friends are members of independent living groups.

"Two months before I came to MIT I wouldn't be caught dead at rush," Van said. "But I found out that it's quite true fraternities are different at MIT."

The speech will try "to give a sense of what's going to happen in the in the next few hours" when rush begins, although the speech is not quite a rush pep talk, Van said.

"I don't want to do that," he said. "They're smart enough to figure out some things, and I don't want to impose."

In addition to being a dancer and a choreographer, Van is a member of the gymnastics team. He is majoring in electrical engineering and computer science and is a teacher in Concourse. He was a recitation instructor for 18.01 last year and will teach again this fall — once he gets back, that is.

"I'm flying in to do this speech and then I'm flying right back out," Van said. He has been working this summer in Seattle. "I called up my boss and asked, 'Um, could I have a couple of days off?'" and his boss agreed.

"I wanted to do the speech," Van said. "I wanted to be able to contribute to MIT."

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between August 13 and 20:

Aug. 9: Bldg. 16, computer stolen, \$1,757; Tang Residence Hall, attempted larceny of a bicycle; Bexley Hall alley, Frank Coles, of 88 Pine St., Nashua, NH, arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior; Senior House, Peter Sugrue, of 25 Brookline St., Hull; Kevin McLaughlin, of 208 Golden St., Stoughton; and Bruce Catalano, of 70 Clisby Ave., Dedham, arrested for trespassing.

Aug. 11: Student Center, two juveniles arrested for larceny of bicycle parts.

Aug. 12: Bldg. 36, master keys stolen.

Aug. 14: Bldg. 68, jacket stolen, \$50; Kresge lot, car tire vandalized; Bldg. 66, laser toner stolen, \$300.

Aug. 15: Senior House, assault and battery between persons known to each other; Bldg. 13, suspicious activity.

Aug. 16: Bldg. E34, clock stolen, \$250; Student Center, laptop stolen, \$1,000; Kresge lot, windshields of two motor vehicles broken; Bldg. 7, suspicious activity; Amherst Alley, Kenneth Scott, of 52 Fenwood Rd., Boston, arrested for trespassing; Senior House, Andrew Louis Howe, 2 Village Way, Brookline, arrested for trespassing; Tang, bicycle stolen from rack, \$350.

Aug. 17: Indoor Tennis Facility, suspicious activity; Amherst Alley, Natasha Woods, of the Pine Street Inn, Boston, arrested for assault and battery; Louis E. Houlsen, of 363 Dorchester St., Boston, arrested for trespassing; Bldg. 6, portable CD player stolen, \$115; N10 parking lot, vandalism to car; Bldg. E53 plaza, bicycle stolen from rack, \$200.

Aug. 18: McDermott Court, John Braxton, of 28 Whiting St., Boston, arrested for larceny and other related charges.

Aug. 19: Bldg. 56, tools stolen, \$485; Bldg. E53, suspicious activity; Bldg 68, bike stolen, \$100.

Aug. 20: Student Center plaza, Matthew Farrell, of Lincoln St., Boston, and a juvenile arrested for trespassing; Bldg. 13, bicycle stolen, \$80; Bldg. 14, Santiago Viera, of 62 Cheney St., Boston, and a juvenile arrested for attempted larceny.



A car careered from Memorial Drive into a tree near the Sloan School of Management yesterday afternoon.

INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

President's Convocation Welcomes Class of 2000

By Kal-Yuh Hsiao

The Class of 2000 was officially welcomed to MIT yesterday afternoon at the annual President's Welcome Convocation in Kresge Auditorium.

Speeches by President Vest and other members of the MIT community emphasized the potential of the "class of the new millennium" and charged them to get involved in campus affairs and activities, accept responsibility, and to take an active role in their education.

President Charles M. Vest kicked off the Convocation by reassuring the freshmen that they all have the potential to succeed at MIT. "You can make a difference,

and because of your talent and what we will offer you here, you will make a difference in the world," he said.

Vest then told the freshmen that it was time to leave the "preparation mind-set," emphasizing that "Real life begins today. Right here at MIT."

He encouraged freshman to learn to work together and with the faculty, in a collaborative "partnership in learning," citing the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, the Freshman Advising Seminars, and the various alternative freshman programs as examples of success.

Vest spoke optimistically about the future of science, disagreeing with those who predict "the end of

science" and listing many areas of science that mankind still needs to learn more about.

Vest closed his speech by addressing the increased diversity of the freshmen class. He urged them to "be proud of who and what you are, but be prouder still of what we can become together."

Molina, Lee, Williams speak

Professor of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences Mario J. Molina gave the convocation's keynote speech. He began with a brief overview of his Nobel Prize-winning work on chlorofluorocarbons and moved on to address environmental issues and social issues. He closed his speech by urging stu-

dents to learn actively, to challenge the system, and to enjoy learning.

President of the Undergraduate Association Richard K. Lee '97 took the opportunity in his speech to emphasize the need for student action. He spoke about his original intentions to go to Princeton University and how his attitude about MIT changed once he became involved in student affairs here.

Lee said that his experience with *Counterpoint* magazine taught him that he could have an effect on his experiences at MIT. This realization led to his involvement with student government.

He closed his speech by emphasizing to students that by getting involved, "the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology will serve you well in shaping your experiences."

Last to speak at yesterday's convocation was Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams, who gave the incoming class advice about how to live and take responsibility for themselves.

She then talked at length about the people who had spent the summer organizing Residence and Orientation Week. She acknowledged the workers, introduced the leaders, and in closing provided a transition for the freshmen to head straight to the Project Move Off Your Assumptions festivities that followed the convocation.

Come and help put together *The Tech* during R/O ... where there's free food all the time, not just on Thursday Night. We'll be publishing daily right through the end of R/O, so stop by our office on the fourth floor of the Student Center, room 483. No experience necessary, and certainly not to eat all the food!

Come Teach With Us!

On November 23rd and 24th, the MIT Educational Studies Program will bring over 600 7th-12th grade students onto the MIT campus to enjoy **Splash**, a program of lectures, seminars, and workshops. **Splash** courses are designed by our volunteer instructors, and in the past have included everything from Chess, The Calculator In Your Head, Technology Risks, and Beginning Knitting, to African Literature, Philosophy Lounge, and Build Your Own Robot. If you have an idea for a course you'd like to present, please call 253-4882 and request teacher information. All are welcome. Application deadline is September 13th.

MIT Educational Studies Program
MIT Student Center
77 Mass. Ave., Room W20-467
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 253-4882



Math Test Includes Physics

Tests, from Page 1

"We are currently trying to find ways of injecting more writing for all four years, but the idea is on a very conceptual level right now," said Chair of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program Charles Stewart III, who is also an associate professor of political science and McCormick Hall housemaster.

Before a change is implemented, the Committee on the Writing Requirement will engage in discussions with students and departments, Perelman said.

At present, the proposal for changes is in a draft form, and probably will not be phased in until four to five years from now, Perelman said.

Math test to include physics

The math diagnostic, administered today from 1 to 3 p.m., will cover mostly pre-calculus. The test's 20 questions will try to determine the level of knowledge of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

"This test is used to help students gauge where they stand in regard to choosing math and physics classes," said Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Peggy S. Enders.

Last year's cutoff score was 70, but "the cut-off is always based on the year's results," so the cutoff could be higher or lower this year, she said.

While Enders cautioned that "this is merely a diagnostic test, not one which [students] pass or fail," a low score may indicate that a student needs to re-examine certain material.

If a student receives a score lower than the cutoff score, they might be advised to take the version of Physics I (8.01L) and Calculus I (18.01), or Calculus II (18.02S) or Calculus (18.01A) — a class for students with a year of high school calculus — if they already have advanced placement credit. Math review nights are also available during the first week of classes.

One new addition to the math diagnostic is a set of five physics questions at the end. The results of this pilot will be used to help design a possible physics diagnostic test in the future.

The physics department will use the results "as a way to see what students' conceptual ideas are in regard to mechanics before they take Physics I (8.01), and compare them to the same sort of questions after they take 8.01," said John W. Belcher, professor of physics.

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President Vest Imparts Advice to Class of 2000

The following is the complete text of President Charles M. Vest's Welcome Convocation to the Class of 2000.

Good afternoon. I am Charles Vest, President of MIT. And you... are the MIT Class of 2000!

Now, I know what you are thinking... and it's not true.

You were not admitted by mistake. You are not here as the result of a computer glitch, or the report of an incompetent educational counselor. You are not here because we needed more architecture majors or people from Montana or because someone misread your SAT scores.

You are a member of the freshman class at MIT because we believe — we know — that you have the intellectual capacity, the energy, the imagination, and the personal will to succeed here.

Learning at MIT

Let me tell you the first thing that strikes me as I stand here. It may surprise you, but I envy you. Just think: you are about to set forth on an extraordinary adventure, and you will be entering the new millennium prepared with all the tools of an MIT education.

During your years here, we hope that you will dream great and worthy dreams, and that you will obtain many of the skills and insights needed to achieve them. Above all, we want you to understand that the world is not something that happens to you — it is something you can shape. You can make a difference... and because of your talent and what we will offer you here... you will make a difference in the world.

What to expect

What should you expect about studying and learning at MIT?

First: MIT is made up of men and women who are devoted to learning — learning in its many forms. This means learning by formal study and teaching; learning by disciplined research; learning by designing... building and operating... and working on real problems; and above all, learning from each other.

Second: MIT is a place that values hard and effective work. I should be very honest about this. We expect you to study and work hard — on things that matter. And this is true whether you major in engineering, science, the humanities or social sciences, architecture, or management.

Third: MIT thinks about and works on "big" subjects — major issues facing humankind — ranging from cancer research to the environment to industrial productivity. Of course, at MIT, science is at the core of all that we do.

This year much has been made about what is termed "the end of science." That may be a great book title, but science is not ending. It is advancing, transforming, and expanding.

There is a reasonable chance that we have in our hands clear evidence of life on Mars. Just imagine! And science, moving through engineering, has brought us the age of information technology, which is transforming the ways in which we learn, work, and communicate.

But the really important things are our ignorance, our curiosity, and our sense of wonder. There are so many things we do not know.

Last year, I asked several of our faculty members to tell me what they considered to be some of the key unanswered questions in their fields. Here is just a sample:

- We do not know, even in principle, which aspects of climate are predictable.
- We do not know why national economies grow at different rates.
- We do not know how we learn and remember, or how we think and communicate.
- We do not know how to transform materials without creating waste by-products.
- We do not know how and why cells die, why tumor cells migrate to new sites in the body.
- We do not know how to convert solar energy into practical, cost-efficient fuels.
- We do not know how old the universe is, what it is made of, or what its fate will be.

These are just a few of the things we do not know. They offer immense opportunities for exploration and discovery and learning:

- Learning to understand fundamental laws and principles.
- Learning the skills and "know-how" that

will enable you to apply what you learn.

- Learning about the historical, social, and political settings in which ideas re-embedded and decisions are made.
- And learning how to learn.

Partnerships in learning

This brings me to another point about learning at MIT. You may be thinking that these next four years will prepare you for the real world. It is true that MIT will be a gate-

MIT is a place that values hard and effective work. I should be very honest about this. We expect you to study and work hard — on things that matter.

way and a guide to your future in very profound ways. But it's time to get yourself out of the "preparation" mind-set. Real life begins today. Right here at MIT.

Don't think of yourself as a container to be filled with information and skills by faculty lectures. MIT is an active place. And learning at MIT is active. You are about to enter into a collaborative partnership in learning.

Your partners are other students. As you might imagine, students at MIT tend to be very competitive with each other. In most circumstances this is healthy. But modern organizations, whether in business, government, or academia, deal with problems that are very complex. They require group work, and team work, and the ability both to teach and to learn from others. You will have many opportunities, both formal and informal, to work together to integrate the efforts of many to achieve a goal. Take advantage of them.

Your partners are also the hundreds of individuals who make up MIT's faculty and senior research staff. You should know them. Don't assume that they are preoccupied with their loftier, god-like enterprises to be bothered with the likes of you. You are a central part of their mission here.

You will meet them in class, of course. But there are other settings in which you have an opportunity to work closely with the faculty. Let me mention just three:

• First, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. This program is for you to work with faculty, as part of their research teams. Most students do this for one time or another, although usually during their first year as freshmen.

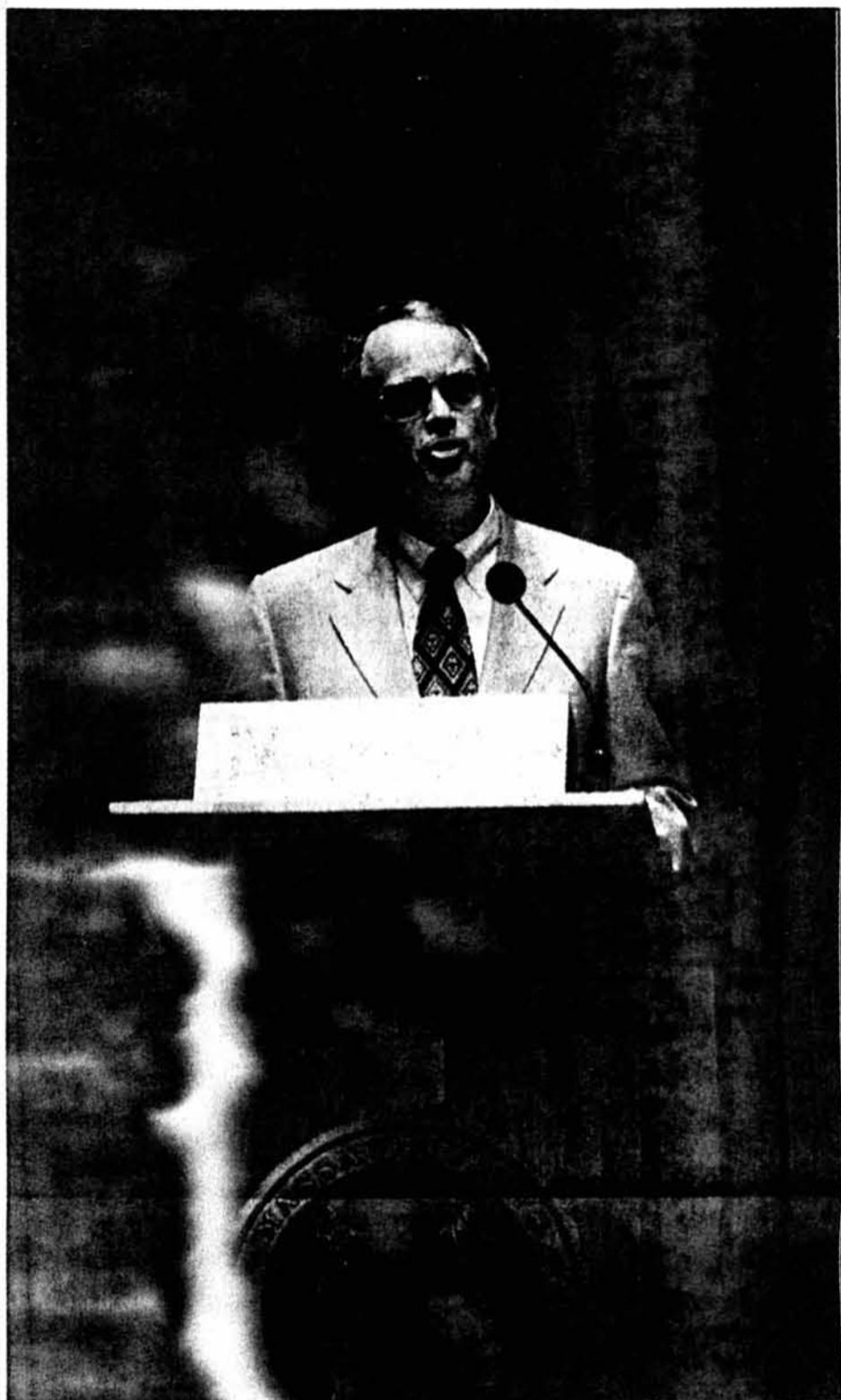
• Second, the Freshman Advising Seminars. Over 90 percent of you have opportunities to join one of these seminars... which are led by faculty members who will also be your advisors.

Ask your friends at other colleges how many of them have spent a couple of hours every week with a half dozen other students and a world-renowned faculty member... and spend that time talking about their research, their hands-on learning, and their insights about life issues. Your freshman advisor seminar is a unique opportunity to do just that. I hope you will take advantage of it from the outset.

• Third, the special freshman programs — Concourse, the Experimental Study Group, and the Integrated Studies Program. Each of these covers the basic first-year subjects — but does so in the setting of a small and close-knit educational community. I urge you to look into these alternative programs. You may find that one of them is just right for you.

Now let me tell you a little secret about the professors at MIT. You may wonder how we maintain a faculty of such world-class distinction. Is it because MIT always pays them more or provides better laboratories than other universities? No.

The fact is that if you ask MIT professors why they are at MIT, nine times out of 10 they will say, "Because of the students!" That is because MIT students are bright, interesting, creative, challenging, and fun to work with. In other words, you bring to us as much



President Charles M. Vest gave his annual convocation speech in Kresge Auditorium yesterday afternoon.

The fact is that if you ask MIT professors why they are at MIT, nine times out of 10 they will say, "Because of the students!" That is because MIT students are bright, interesting, creative, challenging, and fun to work with.

as we have to offer you. I should also want you to be certain that there will be times when you will be certain that we have your self-confidence will wane. Believe me, this happens to all of us. But you will overcome these feelings and you will succeed.

Building on diversity: Now this brings me back to you... MIT's Class of 2000. Look at you. Your class is not simply one whose talents, abilities, and aspirations stack up against any group of first-year students in the world.

Your class is also one of the most diverse in America:

- You come from every state and from scores of other countries.
- 26 of you have transferred to MIT from other institutions. Welcome.
- Over 40 percent of you are women.
- You come from an extraordinary array of ethnic, racial, economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

What you have in common are brains, determination, and a belief in the importance of education. And now, you all have the same distinguished Cambridge address — 77 Massachusetts Ave.

As you get to know each other, you will quickly sense the wide variety of backgrounds

and perspectives you bring to MIT. This can be one of the strongest elements of your education here: Learn from each other. Learn together. Be proud of who and what you are, but be prouder still of what we can become together.

You have a remarkable opportunity to get to know — and learn with — others whose experience and outlook are very different from your own. If you seize this opportunity, you will be much better prepared to help build the national and world communities of the next century.

Closing

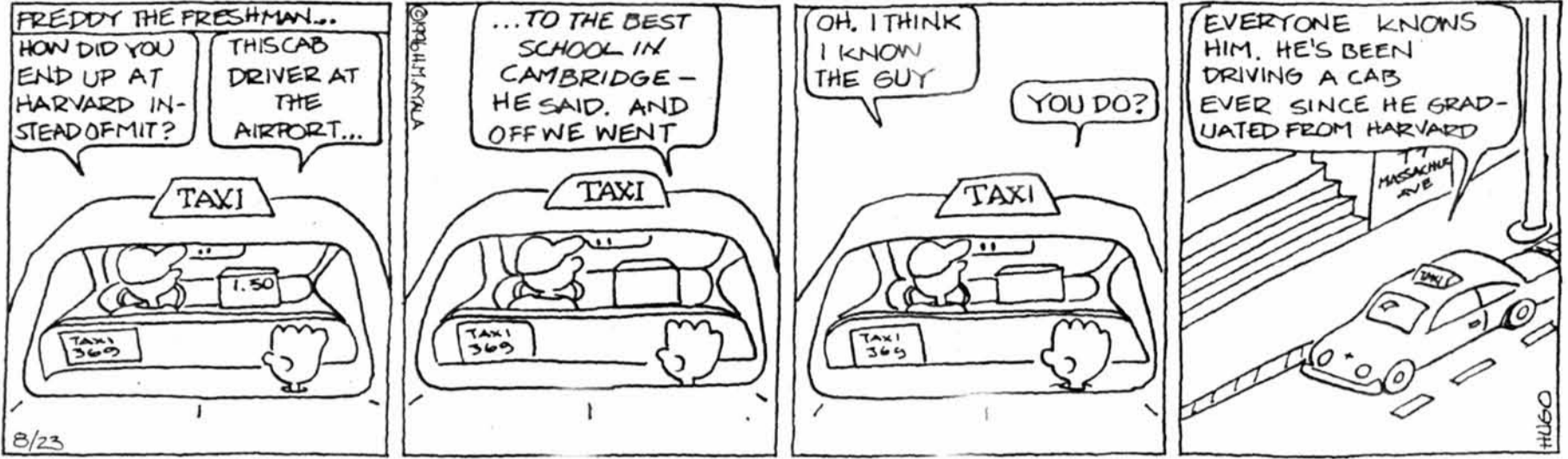
In closing, I should tell you that I think this convocation is the most energizing event of the academic year. To have this entire class assembled in one place at one time, filled with that wonderful mixture of enthusiasm and apprehension, is just spectacular.

This is an extraordinary moment. But there will be one more moment that you will find even more exhilarating. And that is when we gather together as an entire class in Killian Court — the great court of MIT — for your commencement on June 2, in the year 2000.

I look forward to seeing you there.

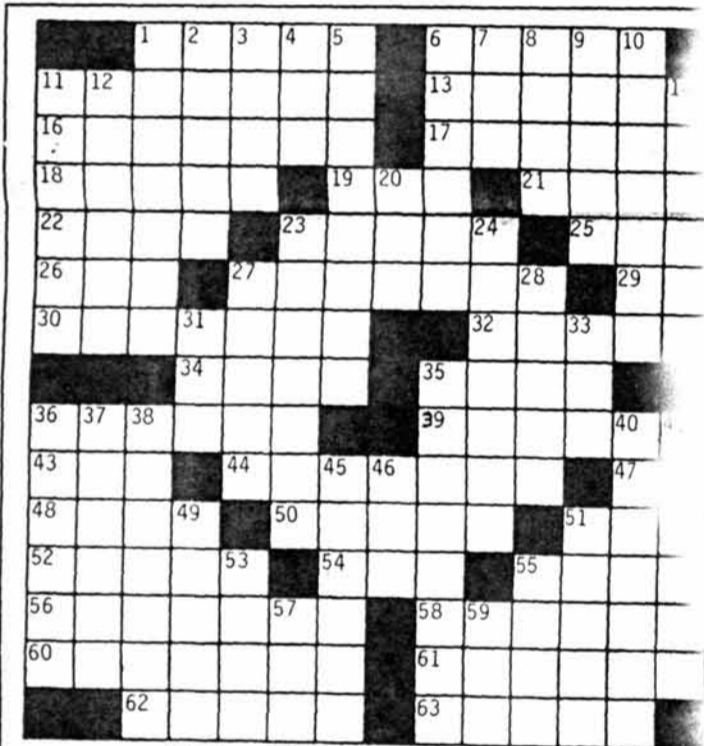
Off Course

By Hugo



Dammed for Life

by Jessica Wu



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- ACROSS**
- 1 Gold, for one
 - 6 Columbus's seaport
 - 11 Goblet
 - 13 Pain relievers
 - 16 Gnawing animals
 - 17 Crawly creature
 - 18 Priestly vestment
 - 19 Race-starter's word
 - 21 Flower part
 - 22 Very extensive
 - 23 Zane Grey locales
 - 25 Playwright Simon
 - 26 Yore
 - 27 Saddle parts
 - 29 Compass point
 - 30 Capable of being stretched
 - 32 Weather outlook
 - 34 Mild expletive
 - 35 Molokai dance
 - 36 Like most streets
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 - 43 Paddle
 - 47 Harsher
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- DOWN**
- 14 Girl in "The Graduate"
 - 15 Vendor
 - 20 Boston time (abbr.)
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 - 24 Protects
 - 27 George Burns' prop
 - 28 ___ system
 - 31 Mend
 - 33 Campus room
 - 35 Snoods (2 wds.)
 - 36 Flips
 - 37 North American deer
 - 38 Webster, et al.
 - 40 "Think of it!"
 - 41 Uttering
 - 42 Works for a winery
 - 45 Spiritual session
 - 46 Critic's term
 - 49 Continue a subscription
 - 51 Pay
 - 53 ___-Japanese War
 - 55 Miss Wood
 - 57 Car feature, for short
 - 59 King ___

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