

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Sunny, cool, 54°F (12°C)
Tonight: Clear, cold, 33°F (1°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, 56°F (13°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 116, Number 48

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Friday, October 4, 1996

Co-curricular Redesign Team Prepares for Implementation

By Shang-Lin Chuang
NEWS EDITOR

The re-engineering co-curricular redesign team has started planning for the implementation of its final recommendations on student group management after receiving approval for the plans last week from the steering committee.

The co-curricular team, which is part of the larger student services re-engineering effort, analyzed how student groups manage their accounts, receive resources, obtain

recognition for their groups, and plan and register events, said Anthony J. Ives G, team captain.

Assistant Director of the Campus Activities Complex Ted E. Johnson, a member of the team, said that the team was trying to make the changes take effect as quickly as possible "We are... working on establishing temporary measures that would allow groups to register for simple events quicker," he said. "We don't want students to have to wait until the project is completed to

use its efficient functions."

The team's "report is thorough," said Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56, who sits on the steering committee. The report "addresses several of the issues that have long been recognized as 'needing fixing'."

"The Steering Committee is very accepting, pleased, and excited about the report," Ives said. "The implementation stage will hopefully

Re-engineering, Page 20

Forum to Solicit Student Opinion On Writing Requirement Proposal

By Venkatesh Satish
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The Committee on the Writing Requirement will host a forum later this month for students to ask questions and express opinions about the new proposal to revamp the current Phase I and Phase II system.

The proposed changed mandate that students would have to take a "communication-intensive" each of their four years at the Institute. ["Committee Plans to Revamp Institute Writing Requirement," Sept. 20]

Students will get a chance to ask members of the committee about the proposal at the meeting, which will take place on Monday Oct. 21 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in room 10-250, said Undergraduate Association President Richard Y. Lee '97, who is helping organize the event.

"I am very happy the committee decided to solicit student input... I was really impressed," Lee said.

"Student input is absolutely essential... Students will often know the problem better and have different ways of approaching it," said Coordinator of the Writing Requirement Leslie C. Perelman.

After the forum, the committee

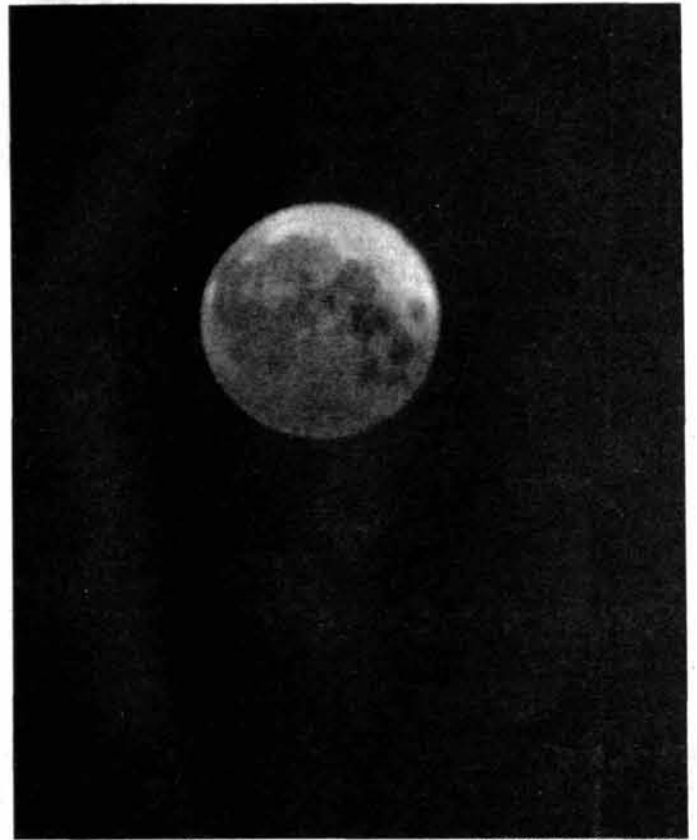
members will try to speak to smaller groups of students, Perelman said. "We are going to try to reach as many students as we can," he said.

Plan emphasizes communication

The proposed changes say that

students could satisfy the yearly communication class requirement by taking courses such as specialized writing classes, seminars, or classes in their department that

Forum, Page 21



THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

A glimpse of the last lunar eclipse of the millennium was captured last Thursday night.

Burst Water Pipe Damages East Campus Rooms

By Zareena Hussain
STAFF REPORTER

Students in ten East Campus rooms will spend the next several days without water and without parts of their walls after a water pipe burst in Walcott House early last week.

The burst pipe caused major flooding in some of the lower-level rooms in Walcott, a vertical column of rooms extending from the first to fifth floors of the East parallel of East Campus.

Walcott is currently undergoing emergency repairs as crews from Physical Plant attempt to patch the aging plumbing system.

At least one room on the second floor was rendered uninhabitable due to water damage caused by the burst and the large access ports drilled into the wall by the repair crews. One room adjacent to the flooded room and the two rooms below were also affected.

There is currently no completion date set for the work, but students hope that it will conclude quickly.

Lex Nemzer '00, who lives on the 5th of Walcott had his wall torn through last Friday. He and other affected students were told to keep the area surrounding the hole clear of any and all belongings. "It's annoying, I can't clean up," said Nemzer.

Atreyee Gupta '99, the inhabitant of the room with the greatest damage, had her suitcases and two rugs completely soaked. So far, she has not been compensated for any damages.

"Given the age of the building it would only have been a matter of time" said Bryson K. Kido '98, whose room suffered minor water damage.

The break "was just a result of old age," said Donna M. Augustine '97, the president of East Campus. "It was a fluke."

Augustine said that the breaking of the water pipe could not have been prevented "There are some things we can't control. It's what we're used to," she said.

The construction this week caused confusion in the dormitory as different messages were sent out by physical plant to house residents.

Physical plant needed to disconnect the water to the dormitory's east parallel in order to repair the plumbing. Water shutdowns were scheduled for Sept. 28 then Sept. 30th but were then cancelled.

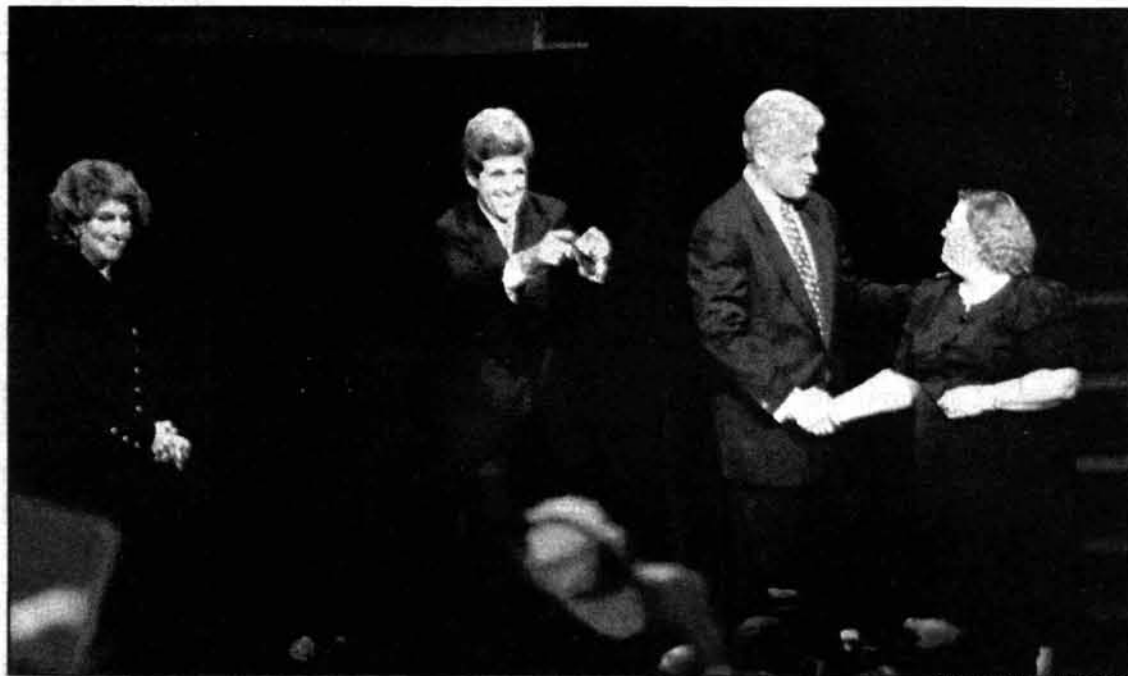
"I couldn't shower so I smelt bad" said Michael W. Baker '00, a dormitory resident.

"We angered the Gods," commented Robert E. Gruhl '97, another resident.

East Campus residents think of all the damages as ordinary but needing to be acted upon soon.

"We need some renovation," Augustine said.

Kerry and Clinton Benefit Show Sets Politics to Comedy and Music



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

President Clinton greets a supporter while Senator Kerry addresses the audience during Saturday's Democratic rally at the Fleet Center.

By Dan McGuire
NEWS EDITOR

What would Bill Clinton, Ted Kennedy, Whoppi Goldberg, and a host of music personalities be doing together? To endorse Massachusetts Senator John F. Kerry last Saturday evening at the Fleet Center where several thousand people had gathered to witness the event of course.

What makes this worthy of a story is that two members of the crowd were members of the Tech's dedicated press corps, myself and photographer Gabor Csyani. We had managed to obtain tickets from a kind MIT graduate student and were attending because we wanted to get the feeling of what it's like to be part of the media big time and to figure out exactly what happens when democrats get funky.

I attended on the general principle that it included two inherently entertaining parts, music and politics. I was not disappointed.

The Fleet Center was reverberat-

ing with a sort of low, thudding music with lots of bass and no discernable tune as I entered. Members

Kerry, Page 13

INSIDE

- Immerman looks ahead to new Dean's Office position. Page 10
- Panhel votes down motion to bring new sorority. Page 18
- Medesky, Martin, and Wood mix jazz and rock in concert. Page 6

WORLD & NATION

Poet Wins Literature Nobel Prize

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WARSAW, POLAND

Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska, a reclusive widow whose seductively simple verse has captured the wit and wisdom of everyday life for the past half century, has won the 1996 Nobel Literature Prize, the Swedish Academy announced Thursday in Stockholm.

Unassuming, shy and obsessively protective of her privacy, Szymborska had been considered a longshot for the prestigious award, which was presented to another poet, Irishman Seamus Heaney, last year. Although she is perhaps Poland's most famous female writer, Szymborska is often overshadowed in Polish literary circles by poets Zbigniew Herbert and Tadeusz Rozewicz, both of whom have been mentioned as Nobel contenders.

"She has gone through a long evolution, and has reached maturity," said renowned Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who won the Nobel prize in 1980. "Polish poetry in the 20th century has reached a strong international position on the European continent. Szymborska represents it well."

Szymborska reacted to news of her award with characteristic humility and humor. She granted several brief telephone interviews from a faraway mountain retreat she frequents in southern Poland, then took an afternoon nap — with strict orders not to be disturbed.

Judge for Oklahoma Bombing Case Throws Out Defense Subpoenas

NEWSDAY

DENVER

The presiding judge in the Oklahoma City bombing case Thursday threw out defense subpoenas for 63 government agencies, brushing aside a claim by Timothy McVeigh's lawyer that "there's a cover-up going on here." But later the judge said he would order the government to respond to dozens of specific defense requests for documents.

Information is being "withheld from us and possibly the prosecution," lawyer Stephen Jones said as U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch heard arguments on a prosecution motion to quash the subpoenas McVeigh's lawyers wanted to serve on the White House and dozens of other federal offices.

Prosecutors argued that the scores of defense subpoenas were "a fishing expedition." Matsch granted the government's motion to block the subpoenas, but reminded prosecutors "you are representative of the whole government" and responsible for making certain that information in government files is made available to the defense.

Compound May Inhibit Alzheimer's

NEWSDAY

A compound has for the first time in animal tests reduced the level of the plaque-forming substance in the brain associated with Alzheimer's disease, researchers reported.

Scientists at Athena Neuroscience, a San Francisco biotechnology company, say the compound significantly inhibits the production of beta-amyloid, the substance that accumulates in the brains of people with Alzheimer's. The compound, and others being tested, are still in the early stages of animal testing and could be available for human trials by 1998.

"These compounds look like they may be able to significantly slow the amyloid buildup that we now believe initiates Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Dennis Selkoe, professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. "This is very exciting. For the first time, there appears to be compounds that inhibit a key step in the production of the amyloid protein, and do so at a very low dose."

Four million Americans suffer from Alzheimers, which causes memory loss, altered behavior, paranoia and hallucinations. One of the hallmarks of the condition is amyloid plaques, sticky fibers in the brain. No one is sure yet whether beta-amyloid triggers dementia, or is secondary to the disease process.

WEATHER

November Preview

By Marek Zebrowski

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A massive and cold high pressure system will slowly edge eastwards toward New England from the Mid West, cresting overhead by Saturday. With temperatures averaging about 10-15 degrees Fahrenheit below normal, first frost of the season is expected inland by Friday morning, and widespread frost — even near the coast — by dawn on Saturday. Gradual warming of the airmass over the next few days is forecast, with temperatures returning to a more seasonable levels for early October. Thus, by Monday, under fair skies and some high clouds associated with warmer air aloft streaming in from the west, we'll be back to normal highs in mid 60s (16-18°C) and more tolerable lows in the upper 40s (8-9°C).

Hints of stormy weather for the middle of next week hinge on a developing low pressure system in the Gulf by late in the weekend, a stationary through over the western Atlantic, and an upper air impulse swinging in from the west, converging on the Carolina Capes by late Tuesday. Meanwhile, a crisp, brilliant fall weekend with early foliage viewing well to the north is assured.

Today: Mostly sunny and cool. Bracing northwesterly breezes. High 54°F (12°C).

Tonight: Clear and very cold with diminishing winds. Widespread frost due to ideal conditions for radiational cooling. Low in town 33°F (1°C), mid to upper 20s (-4 to -1°C) elsewhere.

Saturday: Cold morning, then warming up to a mostly sunny daytime high of 56°F (13°C). Light northerly winds may turn into afternoon sea breezes.

Sunday outlook: Mostly sunny amid patches of high thin clouds. Milder highs near 60°F (14-16°C), with lows near 40°F (4-5°C).

Bosnia, Serbia Move to Open Full Diplomatic Relations

By Tracy Wilkinson

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PARIS

In a surprise move hailed as a critical step toward building peace in the Balkans, the presidents of Serbia and Bosnia agreed Thursday to open full diplomatic relations between their two countries.

The bitter wartime enemies, holding their first-ever bilateral meeting, announced they would exchange ambassadors, permit their citizens to travel to each other's country without visas and open rail and road connections.

In addition, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, representing Yugoslavia, reiterated that state's respect for Bosnia's integrity. Yugoslavia is the federation formed by Serbia and the smaller republic of Montenegro.

In turn, Alija Izetbegovic, president of neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina, recognized the "continuity" of Yugoslavia — that it is the successor state to the Communist-era federation of six republics that bore the same name.

"We are setting behind us the period of confrontation and replacing it with a period of cooperation," said Milosevic, who chatted amiably with his host, French President Jacques Chirac, during a brief signing ceremony under eight crystal chandeliers in the official presidential residence the regal Elysee Palace.

"I believe we have taken a crucial step toward the total stabilization of the region."

A more subdued Izetbegovic said: "I did not come here to make a speech. It is all in the document, and

now I would like to see that the substance (of the document) is implemented."

The seven-point agreement was the product of a day of talks between the two men arranged by Chirac. Expectations were low at the start of the sessions because the two men have never had any rapport, and the brutal war that Milosevic is widely believed to have masterminded is still too fresh for many Bosnians.

Indeed, the presidents did not set a date for exchanging ambassadors, and all the trade and infrastructure points in the document were short on details and specifics.

In the Balkan conflicts that have followed the breakup of the old Yugoslavia, signed agreements have often dissolved into thin air unless deadlines were set and external pressure applied continually.

Still, several participants credited Chirac with persuading the two Balkan leaders to reach the breakthrough on diplomatic relations.

The morning meeting between Izetbegovic and Milosevic had not gone well, a source said. But over a three-hour lunch of seafood and beef, Chirac spoke to the two presidents, shifting back and forth, insisting on the importance of compromise and agreement.

"It was like Ping-Pong," said one participant.

"There had been no movement in the morning and everything seemed stopped," said a member of the Yugoslav delegation. "Then everything softened at lunch and they found a formula."

Milosevic, whose Bosnian Serb allies waged a 43-month war against

Bosnia's Muslim-led government in Sarajevo, agreed to respect the sovereignty and integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Such recognition undermines the Bosnian Serbs' goals of splitting off the parts of Bosnia they control and uniting them with Serbia.

In exchange, Izetbegovic agreed to respect the "continuity" of Serbian-led Yugoslavia. That bolsters the claim of the government in Belgrade that their state is the rightful successor to the old Yugoslavia, which disintegrated into bloodshed at the start of the decade.

Eventually, this could entitle the Belgrade government to a seat in the United Nations, among other things. In 1992, after Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia each had asserted its independence, leaving Serbia and Montenegro to form a new federation and assume the name of Yugoslavia, the U.N. General Assembly voted to exclude the truncated state. The United States does not formally recognize the rump Yugoslavia as independent state.

However, the most contentious point in Thursday's negotiations may have been a lawsuit filed by the Bosnian government in the World Court at The Hague accusing Serbia of genocide.

Milosevic had repeatedly demanded that the Bosnians drop the claim as a condition for diplomatic relations.

In Thursday's agreement, the two presidents committed their countries to refrain from "political and legal acts that do not contribute to the development of amicable relations."

Social Security Errors Shorted Retirees by Over \$850 Million

By Ralph Vartabedian

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WOODLAWN, MD.

In a major computer snafu, the Social Security Administration has determined that 700,000 Americans have been shortchanged out of more than \$850 million in retirement benefits since 1972, agency officials disclosed Thursday.

Although the Social Security Administration recognized two years ago that there was a glitch ticking in its computers, only recently did it determine the full extent and complexity of the problem.

The agency already is making back payments of nearly \$400 million to about 402,000 retirees. Social Security officials now estimate that another 295,000 as-yet-unknown recipients, all of whom continued to work after they began receiving Social Security benefits, are owed back benefits of another \$450 million.

"We think that the average amount of back benefits is going to be about \$1,500 per person," said D. Dean Mesterharm, deputy Social Security commissioner for systems. "We need to do the right thing. So we have decided to correct this down to the last dollar."

The agency hopes to identify all of the 295,000 additional retirees during the next year.

Mesterharm acknowledged that they may not meet that deadline because of the complexity of the problem.

The fix will be too late for many retirees. More than 57,500 of the first group of 400,000 are dead, having missed out on benefits of \$34.8 million. The Social Security

Administration does not know how many of the additional 295,000 retirees are dead.

The agency is having difficulty locating survivors and in many cases no survivors exist to accept the money. Under federal law, retirees are not entitled to back interest on any of the benefits.

The software glitch involved the formula used to calculate benefits for individuals who continued to work after they began collecting Social Security — a small portion of the 44 million Americans who will collect a total of \$350 billion this year.

As a result of the glitch, some Social Security recipients who continued working did not get any credit in their benefit calculation for their post-retirement income.

The error in the formula was coded into the software system in 1972 and went undetected until late 1994 when the agency's inspector general and its office of integrity review discovered the error.

Programmers have written a new software code to make sure the error does not happen again.

Phil Gambino, Social Security press secretary, said that the problem affected only a tiny fraction of the retirees who have post-retirement income. "I don't want to needlessly alarm every beneficiary who worked past retirement," Gambino said.

Nonetheless, the Social Security glitch without doubt ranks among the most serious computing errors in government history, when measured by the number of people and the amount of money involved.

Mesterharm said the glitch reflected problems that existed in

the 1970s, not today.

Although Social Security is credited with operating a fairly competent computer system, Gambino said that Congress had reduced computer modernization spending below the planned level in each of the last five years.

The 295,000 retirees owed back payments make up about 0.7 percent of the 44 million Social Security beneficiaries.

Although the average back payment will be \$1,500, some retirees could get as much as \$2,000 and others might receive only a few hundred dollars. Agency officials said that they would not know the range until they compute the back benefits.

The software glitch that skewed computations for 22 years has left the agency with a shockingly complex technical problem. The basic software system is capable of making automatic adjustments in benefits only as far back as four years, Mesterharm said.

The Social Security benefit formula is exceptionally complex, vastly more so than federal income tax computations.

It makes dozens of distinctions among individuals — for example, workers with railroad income are subject to different rules from those that apply to other workers. Benefit calculations are particularly convoluted for retirees who have had several spouses.

Another complicating factor is that Congress has changed the Social Security benefit formula 16 times since 1973 and each year's worth of back benefits must be calculated with the formula that was in effect that year.

Congress Passes Bill Extending Definition of Child Pornography

By John Schwartz
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A new law included in the omnibus spending bill in the final days of the congressional session extends the definition of child pornography to include images that do not involve children at all, including movies that use adult actors to portray minors and even images created on computers.

The Child Pornography Prevention Act of 1996 has caused a furor among civil libertarians and constitutional law professors, many of whom sharply criticized the bill when it was first proposed by its sponsor, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah. The law took effect Monday when President Clinton signed the omnibus spending bill.

The new law outlaws "any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video image or picture" that "is, or appears to be, of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct." The law lengthens maximum sentences for child sexual exploita-

tion and child pornography, with penalties ranging from five to 30 years in prison.

As far as could be determined Thursday, no cases of the type of computer-generated child pornography described in the bill have been reported. However, advances in digital alteration of photography make the creation of such images possible.

"While federal law has failed to keep pace with technology, the purveyors of child pornography have been right on line with it," Hatch said in a statement.

Critics of the law said it would allow prosecution of legitimate works, potentially including such films as "Kids," and could cause a chilling effect on future productions based on such works as Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita."

The bill also creates an exception to laws restricting newsroom searches. It would allow such searches in cases involving child pornography.

Though lawmakers are trying to

protect children from the evils of child pornography, "what they're going to do is sweep up a great deal of constitutionally protected activity," said Daniel E. Katz, legislative counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Neither obscenity nor child pornography are protected by the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech. The legal definition of child pornography, however, is broader than the legal definition of obscenity because of the need to protect children from the exploitation and abuse that making child pornography entails. Child pornography has been defined to include "actual or simulated" sexual acts and "lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area" by minors.

In prior child pornography cases, the Supreme Court stated that filmmakers could still use adults pretending to be minors in order to avoid exploiting children and breaking the law. But that course of action is expressly banned under the new law.

Netanyahu Returns from Summit; Welcomed by Israeli Supporters

By Marjorie Miller
LOS ANGELES TIMES

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

While Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived home from the Washington summit to a hero's welcome from his right-wing constituency in Israel, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat did not come home at all Thursday.

Netanyahu's supporters lined the highway from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem with banners thanking the hard-line prime minister for not "caving in" to U.S. pressure to make concessions for peace. Arafat's adherents, meanwhile, roamed the streets of Ramallah licking their wounds while their leader consulted allies abroad.

Tofiq Anda, 25, waved his left arm — the one in a cast that took a bullet in last week's clashes with Israeli soldiers — to dismiss the summit as a failure for concluding only with an agreement for more negotiations beginning Sunday. Notably, however, he was not using his good arm to throw stones.

"From here to Sunday, we have promised to give Arafat a chance," said Anda, a member of the Palestinian leader's Fatah organization.

Like Anda, tens of thousands of Palestinian teen-agers and young

men heeded President Clinton's plea to give negotiators time.

Aside from a few skirmishes between Israeli police and Palestinian demonstrators, the region was relatively calm Thursday. The emergency summit seemed to have taken the wind out of the sails of Israel-Palestinian clashes, and the scheduling of a follow-up meeting seemed to have prevented another immediate explosion of violence.

The question is for how long.

The two-day summit — the first meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat after Israeli-Palestinian gun battles left more than 75 dead and 1,000 wounded — failed to resolve any of the substantive issues that led to the fighting in the first place.

As Arafat flew to Morocco, Tunis and France, Israeli officials openly rejoiced over the results of the summit and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas issued leaflets from Beirut and Jerusalem calling for "confrontations" with Israeli troops.

"I think this is the first prime minister who stood his ground, stood by the national interest and didn't fold, grovel or flatter," Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan said of Netanyahu on Israeli radio.

Hamas responded by urging

Palestinians to go out after Friday prayers in marches and confrontations with Israeli forces to continue their "sacrifices and martyrdom" in defense of Muslim Holy sites.

The group, which has long opposed the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords, raised the specter of conflict among Palestinians with a warning to Arafat's police forces to refrain from obstructing "the national and Islamic forces that are determined to continue the military and popular resistance."

Hamas' political base has been weakened since it launched a wave of deadly bombings in Israel in the spring that caused a freezing of the peace process and helped Netanyahu into office and Arafat and his security forces won popular support for defending Palestinians against Israeli troops. But that support could quickly turn around if Palestinian police were to clash with their own people.

After Palestinian and Israeli security officials agreed to cooperate to keep the West Bank calm, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai ordered some of Israel's tanks moved back from the outskirts of Bethlehem. But he decided to leave the state of emergency in place throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

TWA Crash Divers Hunt for Missing Fuel Pump with New Sonar System

By John J. Goldman
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK

Salvage experts working over the crash site of TWA Flight 800 said Thursday they plan to use a special low frequency sonar designed to find bits of wreckage buried beneath the ocean's bottom.

Investigators have been using high frequency sonar sensitive enough to search out objects as small as a clam sitting on the ocean floor. But a series of storms have churned the Atlantic and caused sand and silt to shift, further complicating the recovery process.

Hopefully, the sand-penetrating sonar will identify key missing buried pieces that could determine whether the Boeing 747 jet was brought down July 17 by massive mechanical failure, a bomb or a missile.

So far about 95 percent of the

plane has been recovered, with no resolution to the puzzle. All 230 passengers and crew were killed in the crash.

In an effort to rule out mechanical failure, divers have mounted an intensive search for a third fuel pump that serviced the plane's center fuel tank — the site of a massive explosion. One theory is that an unexplained malfunction in the pump might have triggered an explosion.

Two other pumps — about the size of large soft drink cans — have been recovered by divers 110 feet below the Atlantic. They show no signs of a malfunction.

If the special sand-penetrating sonar can identify buried or partially hidden plane parts, it might not be necessary to mount a large-scale dredging operation, which carries with it risks that missing wreckage could be damaged.

Whether the special sonar will be successful is uncertain.

"We are hoping to get some penetration," said Navy Adm. Edward Kristensen, the on-scene salvage commander, at a briefing Thursday. "We might get more than 8 inches or so, but it all depends what the bottom is. If it is silt, we may get very little penetration. If it is a sandy area, we may get more penetration. We are not sure what it (the sonar) is going to give us."

Kristensen said with the passage of the hurricanes, divers are finding that portions of the ocean's bottom shifted, partially burying some pieces of the plane.

"Now the current itself has started to move the silt off some of these pieces and we are finding edges of things sticking up on the bottom," Kristensen said. "Divers will grab it (the piece) and end up with a larger piece than had been exposed."

Missing Records May Document Soldiers' Exposure to Nerve Gas

NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON

Defense officials say there is a mysterious gap in official Desert Storm records covering the two days at the end of the 1991 gulf war when thousands of American soldiers may have been exposed to clouds of sarin nerve gas.

Some military officials said the missing documents were destroyed during routine housekeeping, but others said only selected pages were removed from the logs. "There's something wrong here," said one senior Army officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The records, kept at Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf's Central Command headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, could be crucial for veterans who believe an array of symptoms dubbed the gulf war syndrome may be the result of Iraqi army chemical munitions that included sarin, mustard gas and biological agents.

"It's becoming as big as the 18-minute gap on the Nixon Watergate tapes," said a senior military officer. The records might have also shed light on the Pentagon's contention that there was no hint of sarin exposures until U.N. investigators uncovered new evidence in Iraq last spring.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said he could not explain the missing logs. "But any suggestion that we are trying to cover up what happened at Khamsiyah is ludicrous," he said.

But the missing records may explain the lack of official Pentagon evidence. Defense Secretary William Perry conceded that some important records had disappeared.

NASA Finds Important Internet Transmission in Space Faulty

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In a significant setback for the satellite industry, NASA scientists have discovered that a key transmission standard that is the foundation of communications over the Internet and corporate computer networks does not work well in space.

The discovery could delay the satellite industry's ambitious efforts to offer high-speed Internet access to companies with remote plants or offices, as well as to Pacific Islanders and millions of others without high-speed access to the content-rich portions of the Internet such as the World Wide Web.

"Allowing satellites to be a part of the Internet would provide huge benefits to companies and individuals — if we could make it work," said Daniel R. Glover, a National Aeronautics Space Administration project engineer in Cleveland who has been spearheading the investigation into the problem. "But (the Internet) and satellites really weren't designed to go together."

Officials who oversee the Internet say they will oppose any solutions to the problem that involve modifications of TCP that might adversely affect its performance over land links.

"It would not be an acceptable solution to degrade the current performance of TCP in order to improve it for satellite use," said Fred Baker, a software executive at Cisco Systems Inc. "An improvement of TCP is a good thing, but we don't want to break it just so somebody in New Caledonia can have better Internet access."

Many Species at Risk of Extinction

THE WASHINGTON POST

Fully one-fourth of the world's species of mammals are threatened with extinction, and about half of those may be gone in as little as a decade, according to the most complete global analysis of endangered animal species ever compiled.

The report, which several conservationists described as surprising and frightening, was released Thursday by the IUCN-World Conservation Union, the recently renamed international body that has collected endangered species data for more than 35 years.

In a statement released Thursday, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt called the report "probably the most thorough scientific assessment of the state of the world's wildlife ever undertaken. It clearly indicates that, unless people of all nations make extraordinary efforts, we face a looming natural catastrophe of almost Biblical proportions."

This year's list is the first to evaluate all 4,600 known species of mammals, the class of animal that includes all warmblooded, milk-producing animals. It finds 1,096 at risk. And it concludes that about a third of 275 primate species examined are also at risk, nearly three times the percentage previously believed.

Indian Tribe Postpones Casino Effort

LOS ANGELES TIMES

RIVERSIDE, CALIF.

An impoverished American Indian tribe says it has postponed efforts to develop a casino, given the death of a Senate bill Thursday that would have allowed the tribe to expand its reservation beyond the shores of California's Salton Sea.

The legislation would have endorsed a government settlement awarding the Torres-Martinez Indians \$14 million, with which to buy up to 11,800 acres in desert resort areas northwest of their existing reservation.

That new reservation land would replace trust land that was flooded — and became the Salton Sea — after the turn of the century.

But because of opposition to the bill from both Nevada senators, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., was unable to bypass normal committee hearings and take it directly to a Senate floor vote before its adjournment Thursday.

"We're frustrated, but optimistic that this will still be resolved in the next Congress," said Mary Bellardo, Torres-Martinez tribal chair. "We're a patient people."

The sticking point was the Torres-Martinez tribe's request to build a casino on new reservation land. A handful of senators initially opposed the bill, following lobbying efforts by a neighboring Indian tribe and the Marriott resort hotel chain, which both opposed Torres-Martinez' gambling plans.

An 11th-hour compromise by the tribe — promising to build a casino only on land immediately adjacent to existing reservation property — was rejected by both Nevada senators.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



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Reorganization Needed Additional Debate

The Tech received a copy of this letter addressed to President Charles M. Vest, Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams, and Director of Administration and Operations Stephen D. Immerman:

I was a bit surprised when I got the news release describing the reorganization of many of the student service departments in MIT's administration. I was, and still am, concerned that there was no public discussion on the change, or even an announcement that changes were being considered. The services offered by the organizations are probably the most important aspect of students' lives outside the classroom, yet I never heard a rumor that changing them was even a possibility, let alone a probability.

I am sure many students, including me, would have had things to say about such a plan had they been given the chance. It is even more disconcerting that such surprise actions are being taken during the re-engineering process, when so many things are up in the air.

I do not think that many positive changes can be made by a few people in the administration operating without the help of students and staff. Not only will many wrongheaded decisions be made, but possibly beneficial ones will meet resistance because of the decision-making process used.

Douglas K. Wyatt G
President, Association of Student Activities

Decision Reinforces Student Leadership Gap

Everyone complains that MIT graduates go on to work for Harvard grads. The faculty and staff of MIT are in a position to partially correct this by involving MIT students in the processes that guide and shape their environment. Instead, the Institute has chosen repeatedly in recent years to reinforce the belief that MIT students do not belong in fundamental decision-making processes.

While there are token students on low impact committees, I think most students believe that they have almost no impact on decisions of any real, medium to long-term importance. Think about the Aramark contract renewal a few years back: Students kept saying "get rid of them," and MIT signed them again for five more years.

Scott Centurino '94

Administrators Do What They Want Anyway

I've been reading the editorial, columns, articles, etc., in your Oct. 2 extra issue about your dismay at the lack of student input in reorganizing the management of MIT.

Although one might have some sympathy for you, and for your belief that a good reorganization plan will gather data from all of those affected (after all, it's only been a year or so since that vicious Total Quality Management virus was finally eradicated from the campus), I fear that you are lacking a vital insight into the nature of the situation. Here, to clarify things, is a comparison of management choices available to the administration, and the outcome of each:

Method A

1. Administration decides to reorganize.
2. They invite and then have to listen to student input.
3. They do what they think is right.
4. You continue to pay tuition each semester, and then...
 - 4a. You leave.

Method B

1. Administration decides to reorganize.
2. (Skip step 2)
3. They do what they think is right.
4. You continue to pay tuition each semester, and then...
 - 4a. You leave.

Notice the essential similarities? I hope this helps.

Gary L. Dryfoos
Consultant, Information Systems

Karlo Lacked Evidence

I would like to respond to the column by Thomas R. Karlo '97 in *The Tech's* extra issue ["Office Reshuffling Endangers Student Needs," Oct. 2]. Karlo's column was absurdly unconvincing because he wallowed in generalities — some of which seemed quite outlandish — without even one specific example to back them up.

That I disagree with Karlo is not of concern; people will and must disagree. However, I am concerned that Karlo can write about administrators doing power grabs after admitting that he's completely uninvolved with the administration and student government. He did not even take the space to ground his views in fact. Perhaps Karlo used no examples because there are none. In this case, *The Tech* should not have printed the column at all.

Jeremy D. Sher '99
Publisher, *Counterpoint*

Israel Letter Was Unfair

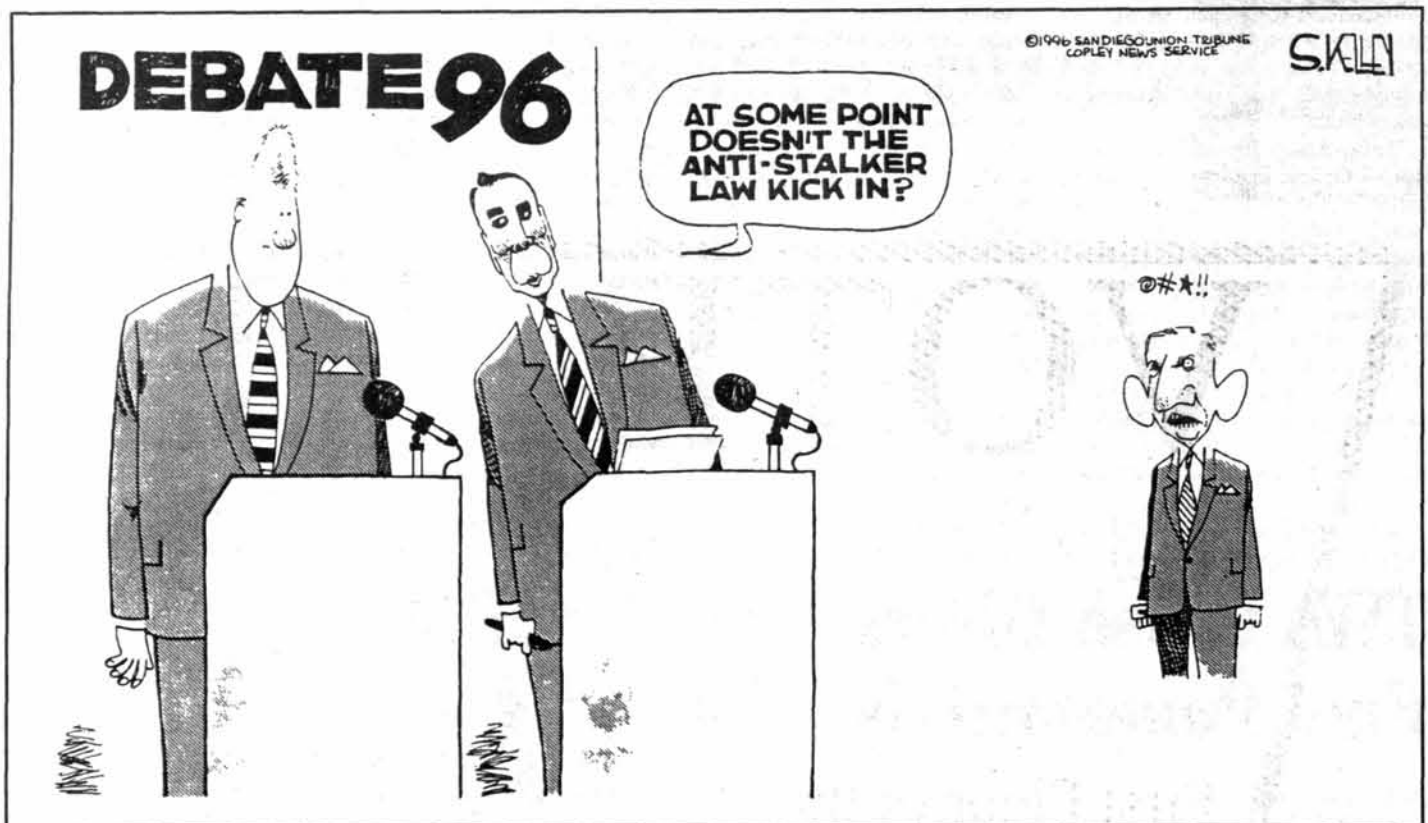
I am outraged by a letter that appeared in *The Tech's* Oct. 1 issue, suggesting that Israel is not putting in a fair share of effort and sacrifice to make peace a reality in the Middle East ["Israel Must Accept Equality In Peace Accord," Rima Askalan G].

I think that it is fair to say that a state can not enter into a peace agreement that does not provide some kind of real guarantees of security for its own citizens. Peace without security is meaningless. During the Cold War, would the United States have signed a treaty with the USSR in which the Soviets promised to "play fair" provided the United States unilaterally got rid of all of its nuclear weapons?

Until last year, the Palestinian Liberation Organization's charter held a clause that stated that its ultimate goal was the complete destruction of the Jewish state in Palestine. That clause was removed under heavy pressure from the Clinton administration when the Labor government of Israel stated unequivocally that it would not continue the peace talks otherwise.

Israel holds the land it does today because otherwise the state of Israel will be militarily indefensible.

Alexander Reznik G



Opinion Policy

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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 may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the 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.

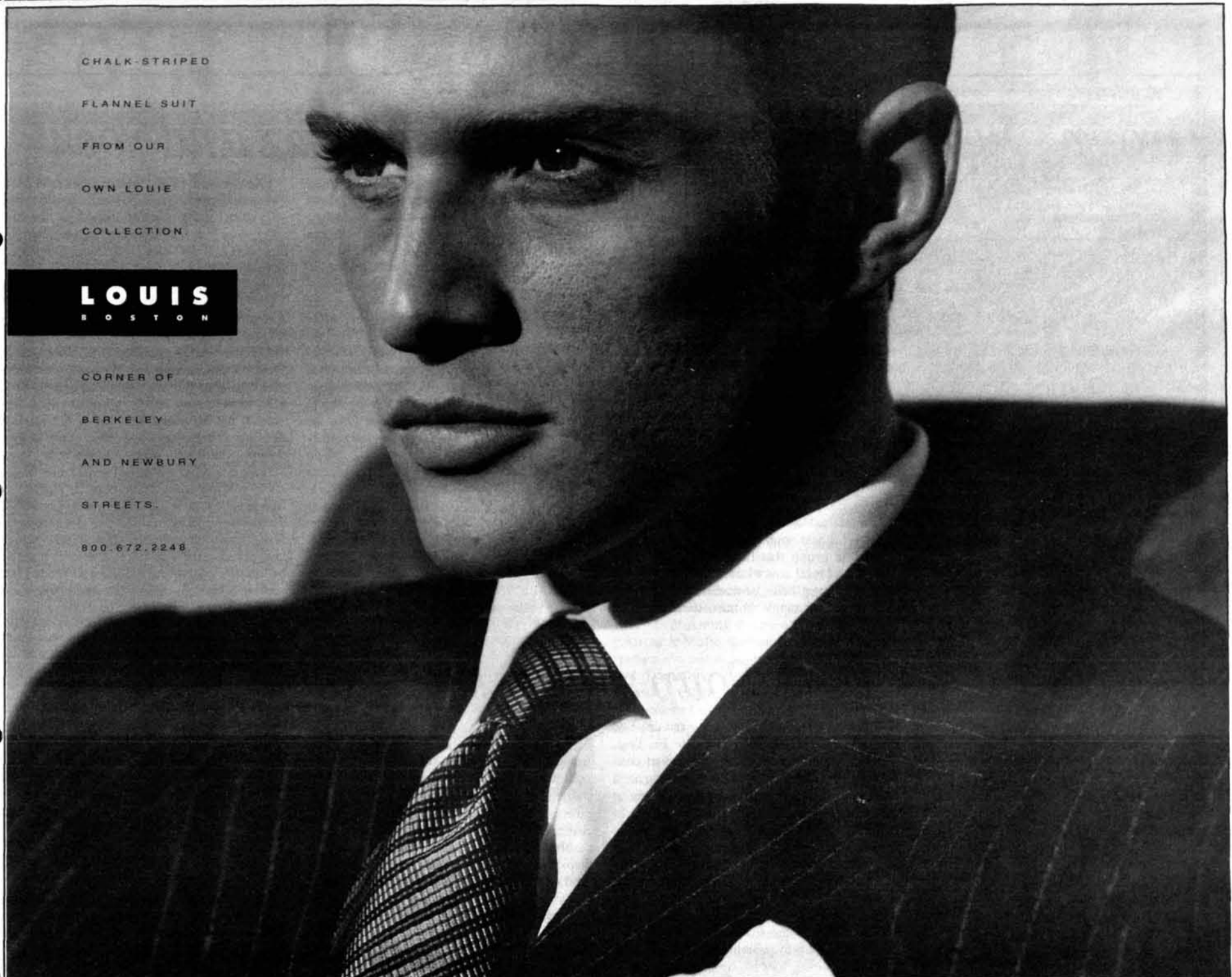
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THE ARTS

MUSIC REVIEW

Group pushes the boundaries between jazz and rock

MEDESKI, MARTIN, AND WOOD

By Joel M. Rosenberg
STAFF REPORTER

Never before have I thought so highly of a band after hearing them for the first time. But Medeski, Martin, and Wood, who played at the Somerville Theater last Sunday night before a sold-out crowd, deserved it.

The audience there was like the crowd you'd find at a Phish or Dead show. But unlike the Dead, and to some extent Phish, the music came before the atmosphere. And what amazing music it was.

Their sound doesn't fall into any category. They use the untraditional jazz combo of bass, drums/percussion, and organ — keyboardist John Medeski uses an old Hammond B-3, which gives him a huge range. "To a rock guy, we're jazz. To a jazz person, we're rock. We're right in between, and on the fringes of everything," said bassist Chris Wood.

These guys are no musical slouches by any means. Medeski was playing with Jaco Pastorius by high school. Martin is the son of

a Radio City rockette and a professional violinist, with lots of Brazilian and African percussion experience. And Wood's background is jazz and classical bass, with time spent at the New England Conservatory (Medeski went to NEC too). The high level of training is easy to hear.

The show was incredible. They accomplish what bands like God Street Wine fail to do — fill the time between songs with experimental material without having it sound like noise. When they play their tunes, they groove better than anyone I've seen in a long time. What was amazing about the group was their unpredictability. Martin had total control over his kit, covering tons of drums, rims, cowbells, woodblocks, and an endless supply of miscellaneous toys I

had never seen before. Wood switched from electric to upright bass and back the whole night and added in a bow to boot. And while Medeski had all of his keys and Martin had his huge collection of drums, I thought Wood only had his four strings. That was before the encore, however, when Wood used his upright as a drum. It always made you wonder what would happen next.

MM&W is a group to watch. Judging from the crowd at the show, they have the potential to do for jazz what Weather Report, Spyro Gyra, Chick Corea, and the rest of the jazz rock fusion people did in the seventies — make jazz popular with younger listeners. Billy Martin explained: "We'll hear stuff like, 'That's jazz, right? I didn't think I liked jazz.' But we've done a lot of crossing over."

At the end of the show, Medeski said, "People's attention spans are so short that they don't want to hang around for the digging, they just want to hear the treasure. But the search is part of it. Otherwise you won't appreciate the treasure."

Over the course of the three-hour evening I fell in love with MM&W. To say that I recommend them is an understatement. They have three albums out, *Notes From The Underground* (Accurate), *It's A Jungle In Here* (Gramavision), and *Friday Afternoon In The Universe* (Gramavision/Rykodisc). They also have a new one coming out in a few weeks, but Newbury Comics in the Student Center has been kind enough to put it in their listening station for now. Check it out.

Also, the Somerville Theater has added another MM&W show for Nov. 3. Tickets are \$14 plus fees from Ticketmaster (931-2000). There's an alternative place to get tickets — Songstreet Productions (628-3390), which charges an extra \$2.50 to every ticket but may be more helpful than Ticketmaster. When I had problems with my tickets the day of the show (a Sunday, mind you), they took care of it.



FILM REVIEW

Marx Brothers' *Duck Soup* satire still delights audiences

DUCK SOUP

Directed by Leo McCarey.
Written by Bert Kalmer, Harry Ruby, Arthur Sheekman, Nat Perrin.
Starring Groucho, Chico, and Harpo Marx, and Margaret Dumont.
Tonight at LSC, 7:30 p.m. in 10-250.

By Stephen Brophy
STAFF REPORTER

Ten years ago, in *Hannah and Her Sisters*, one of his two best films, Woody Allen created and played a character afraid of disease and dying

who tries various religious panaceas to reduce, control, or at least evade his fear. This quintessential doubting Jew even contemplates converting to Catholicism in a hilarious sequence involving the changes in diet he imagines he will have to endure. In the end he is not saved by religion but by the Marx Brothers, when he chanches into an afternoon screening of *Duck Soup* at his local repertory movie theater. Tonight, thanks to LSC Classics, you too can be saved.

The Marx Brothers were a New York phenomenon, rising to prominence in vaudeville

and then on Broadway in comedies like *Coconuts* and *Animal Crackers*. Just as they were peaking on Broadway, sound technology was sweeping the film world, and New York stage talent suddenly became highly desirable commodities in that world. The Marx Brothers, like many other theatrical stars, succumbed to the enticements dangled before them and made a few films at the Paramount Studios in New York City before relocating to Hollywood.

The Brothers' films were initially successful, but with the deepening of the Depression, their anarchic style became less

popular. *Duck Soup* has long held a high place in the pantheon of American comedy, but in 1933, when it was released, it was a commercial disappointment to Paramount. Soon after its release, Paramount canceled the Brothers' contract, and they moved on to MGM, where they made *A Night at the Opera* and *A Day at the Races* under the tutelage of Irving Thalberg before sliding into B-movie limbo.

Whatever the circumstances, we can only be grateful that their comic genius was record-

Marx Brothers, Page 8

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ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

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

★★★ **American Buffalo**

Dennis Franz is a junk shop owner and Dustin Hoffman his best friend in this well-crafted film version of the David Mamet play. The movie covers the scheme the two hatch to steal a mysterious customer's coin collection while he's away on vacation, thus reaping themselves a small fortune. But Bobby (Sean Nelson), a local street youth, also wants in on the deal, and the interplay between the three in the hours before the planned heist leads to

disaster. The movie is somewhat done in by its limited scope (three characters, one set) and its near-complete reliance on dialogue to carry the story. Still, the acting is superb, especially on Franz's part, and the screenplay (also by Mamet) is razor-sharp. The movie ultimately resonates with a powerful message about the corrupting influence of money on even the closest of friendships. —Yaron Koren, *Coolidge Corner Theatre*.

★★★½ **Bound**

Bound tells a familiar film noir story — a drifter comes into contact with a sultry, dissatisfied woman and is lured into a chain of events that escalates into some serious vio-



James is trapped in Ms. Spider's web in *James and the Giant Peach*, showing tomorrow at LSC.



Gina Gershon and Jennifer Tilly star in the sexy, stylish thriller *Bound*.

lence. But in this sexy, intelligent, and stylish new thriller, the drifter is a lesbian ex-con who is repainting a vacant apartment next door to a Mafia money launderer and his restless mistress. As played by Gina Gershon and Jennifer Tilly, these two dangerous women bond immediately, and then take on the mob and the boyfriend to snatch \$2 million in a caper that will leave you breathless as it unwinds. The production design emphasizes gunmetal gray and black with highlights of white, against which red blood and green money stand out with startling intensity. *Bound* is tightly written, beautifully filmed, and adroitly edited to keep the tension twisting tighter and tighter. Imagine a

cross between *The Last Seduction*, *Goodfellas*, and *Go Fish*. — Stephen Brophy, *Sony Nickelodeon*.

★★½ **James and the Giant Peach**

For *James and the Giant Peach*, Disney brings together the team from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* to create another film that is visually intriguing and virtually oozes with dark, surreal stop-animation. The story, adapted from the children's tale by Ronald Dahl, is given the full the Disney treatment, and is full of exuberant characters and an intriguing plot. It is a fascinating film, visually appealing, and at only 80minutes long, it certainly won't bore you. —Audrey Wu, *Saturday at LSC*.

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ARTS AROUND BOSTON

College Fest, Soul Coughing hit Boston

By Joel M. Rosenberg
STAFF REPORTER

The College Fest Way More Weekend is this Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. at the Hynes Convention Center. About 25,000 college students will pay their \$6 to be advertised at. It's actually not bad — lots of free stuff, raffles, and Jerry Springer will be there. A few bands on hand will make the money worth it.

Letters to Cleo is best, playing Saturday at 4 p.m. Fun Lovin' Criminals will also be there Sunday at 3 p.m. Check <http://www.collegefest.com>, or call 859-5767 for info.

Jonatha Brooke and The Story are at the Paradise this Sunday. Brooke is awesome and puts on a great show. Tickets are \$10 before, \$12 at the door and probably will not sell out. Call Ticketmaster or go to the Paradise on Commonwealth Avenue (562-8800).

Los Lobos will be at Avalon on the Monday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$17. It's a 21+

show, but that's okay because nobody really wants to dance La Bamba sober.

On Tuesday, the Iguanas playing are downstairs at the Middle East, which is a pretty good place to see a show. The Iguanas are on Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville label, which should give you a clue as to what they sound like. They're actually more Tex-Mex southwest rock than Jimmy. Tickets are 18+, \$8 before, \$10 at the door. Call 864-EAST for more information.

Don't like concerts? This weekend is your last chance to see Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Animation Festival at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, located right at the T stop of the same name on the green line. Shows are tonight and tomorrow and at midnight only. There's no T to take you home, but it's worth it if you have a high tolerance for crude jokes. Buy your tickets from Ticketmaster since the shows will probably sell out for these last nights.

As always, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Science Museum are free to MIT students, if none of the above options appeal to you.

Events further ahead

Unless otherwise indicated, tickets for all of these events are available from Ticketmaster (931-2000).

Soul Coughing, MIT's spring act from last year, will be at the Paradise Oct. 16. Tickets are \$10. Stabbing Westward plays at Axis on Lansdowne on the same night at 8 p.m. The show is 18+ and tickets are on sale for \$10.

Soundgarden is playing at Brandeis University on Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m.. Tickets are still available for \$18.

Fishbone, De La Soul, and Goodie Mob are at Avalon together on the Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. The show is 18+, and tickets are \$15. Also at the Avalon are the Lemonheads, playing Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$15.

Suzanne Vega will be playing at the Berklee Performance Center on Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are selling for \$20 and are available from Next Tickets (423-NEXT).

Anarchy as art in Marx's Duck Soup

Marx Brothers, from Page 6

ed on film. *Duck Soup* in particular packs an amazing quantity of gags, japes, and satires into its 70-minute span. There is the wonderful mirror sequence, lovingly recreated years later on *I Love Lucy*, but never topped. There are the brief musical bits that poke fun at the Busby Berkely musicals of the period. There is the joke about Paul Revere. And of course there are Groucho, Chico, and Harpo running, jumping, and leapfrogging from one lunatic situation to another.

All this hilarity is strung up on a plot at once too complicated and too silly to have any independent meaning. *Duck Soup* can be read as an indictment of the insanity of war and a critique of the relationship between wealth and political power, but to do so is to miss much of the fun. The movie was banned in fascist Italy because it seemed to be a statement against dictatorship. But it makes fun of the entire range of political arrangements and patriotic icons. Mussolini just didn't get it.

One other artist should be mentioned when credit for the uniqueness of *Duck Soup* is being handed out, and that is the director, Leo McCarey. McCarey learned the ropes in silent movie days, writing, and supervising the short movies of Laurel and Hardy, and eventually directing four of them. After working with the Marx Brothers he moved on to *Six of a Kind* with W.C. Fields and *Belle of the Nineties* with Mae West before winning the first of two Academy Awards for directing one of the screwiest of screwball comedies, *The Awful Truth*. McCarey was more compatible with the Marx Brothers' style than any of their other directors, and the perfection of *Duck Soup* is the proof.

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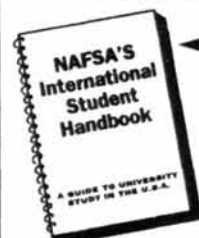
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Immerman Reflects on His 17 Years of MIT Career

By Shang-Lin Chuang
NEWS EDITOR

With the administration restructuring announced earlier this week, several key operational and administrative offices moved from Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 to the Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams.

The new chain of command was not the only change, however. Stephen D. Immerman, formerly director of special services under Dickson, has been named the new director of operations and administration in the Dean's Office, and will likely play a major role in managing the reorganization of the Dean's Office.

The new position caps a 17-year career at the Institute that has seen Immerman working in areas as diverse as the Dean's Office, the Student Center, resource development, and re-engineering.

Barely one day after Immerman assumed his new position, I caught up with him for a 90-minute interview. Immerman, taking a break from his increasingly hectic schedule, reflected on his past experiences, his new responsibilities and how they relate to re-engineering, and what he sees in the future of student services at MIT.

The Tech: Can you provide a description of your MIT career?

Immerman: I started in 1979 as MIT's first full time adviser for fraternities and independent living

groups, much like Neal Dorow is right now. Back then there were no sororities on campus. I was instrumental in the process that brought the first sorority on campus.

Eventually I was handling by myself what Dorow, Phil Walsh [Director of the Campus Activities Complex Phillip J. Walsh], and Katie O'Dair [Assistance Dean for Residence and Campus Life Katherine O'Dair] take care of now. Because I was unable at the time to adequately do the jobs of three people, I left the Dean's Office to go to resource development. There, I met with successful alumni, people who are out in the real world doing interesting things. And it was remarkable for me to go from seeing students as undergraduates to alumni using their MIT experience to make the world a better place.

In the interim, the decision was made to move the Coop [Harvard Cooperative Society] out of the Student Center and into its current location in Kendall Square, leaving some 30,000 square feet that needed to be dealt with. Back then the Student Center was often described to me as large and largely dysfunctional. Before I left the Dean's Office, I had talked to Vice President Dickson about a vision for the Student Center to better support students.

The current structure is based largely on that vision. And this is one of the great things about MIT, that if you have a good idea, people will hear you out and try to carry it

out. This was in many ways a re-engineering activity, where 300 to 400 volunteers, mostly students, were involved.

As a result, I left resource development and came back to the Dean's Office to develop the Student Center, which was literally a four year process. Students told us what they wanted — where they spent their money and what stores they wanted. That was a great experience for me, and I am hoping that someone will take another whack at the building in 20 years because there are always changes to be made.

When the restructuring of the Student Center was completed about ten years ago, Vice President Dickson invited me to work in his office on a variety of special projects as director of special services. A lot of them would not have been visible to students because there were targeted solely to the administration. But some of the student-related projects were buying the first sorority house, starting Safe Ride, creating the Religious Activities Center, starting student services re-engineering, and renovating Senior House.

The Tech: What part of your past experience will help you in your new position?

Immerman: I have been at MIT for 17 years, and I have had the opportunity to work across boundaries. Some of the projects that I have been able to work on are not appreciably different than what I think I will be doing in my new job. I have always been involved with students, whether as a dean, freshmen adviser, nightline adviser, or fraternity adviser.

The things that make me feel the most useful and satisfied have always related to student life and activities, so this is basically just a homecoming for me. My guess is that it is not going to be easy, and none of us have a clear understanding of where it is going. However the expression of bringing all these activities into the educational fold is a strong statement of what MIT stands for. It is time to support MIT's mission and the needs of students.

The Tech: What is your new job? What specific areas will fall under your new job?

Immerman: Some of it remains to be seen. What I do know is that a

team of us have the opportunity to bring together an integrated division of student affairs that thinks about supporting students in a holistic way. My job is to help figure out how to make that happen, and what that means on a day to day basis. Come and talk to me in a few months and perhaps I will a better understanding of it.

We are still talking about the specific areas that will be falling under my new job.

The Tech: Who will do your old job?

Immerman: There are many issues on how the transition will occur, and I don't know the answer to that.

The Tech: Is this the position that you have always wanted?

Immerman: What I wanted was for MIT to bring these services together and to allow for an integrated and holistic approach to student development. I have always been less worried about my position or title, and more worried about how effective I will be and how much I can do in my job.

The Tech: What was your part in planning the reorganization?

Immerman: It has not been any secret that I have advocated the need, desire, and hope that we might bring what is now in place into reality for at least 15 years. But this is the president's decision on where the Institute needs to go. I certainly endorse it, and am excited by it. This is one of the greatest opportunities we have had to make a strong statement of the importance of student life and services.

If you would have asked me whether this would happen last year I would have said no. However, the president has thrown the boulders out of the way. It is an incredibly visionary decision. And I believe as a community we will be able to pull it off.

The Tech: Was the plan a result of re-engineering?

Immerman: It would be a mistake to say that. Did re-engineering

have an effect? Definitely. The basic tenet of re-engineering is to break down institutional barriers and look at processes rather than functions. Re-engineering had a huge impact on the reorganization, but to say that it is the only thing responsible would be overstating it.

By the reorganization, the president gave us the opportunity to realize what re-engineering wants to achieve.

The Tech: How will re-engineering be affected?

Immerman: This also remains to be seen. If you are asking me to guess, then I would say that the reorganization will dramatically energize re-

The things that make me feel the most useful and satisfied have always related to student life and activities.

engineering and help it move forward. It will in some part remove the kinds of worries people have of where they will end up and what the Institute will look like. The reorganization does not presuppose what any re-engineering team is doing, and will certainly not take anything away from them.

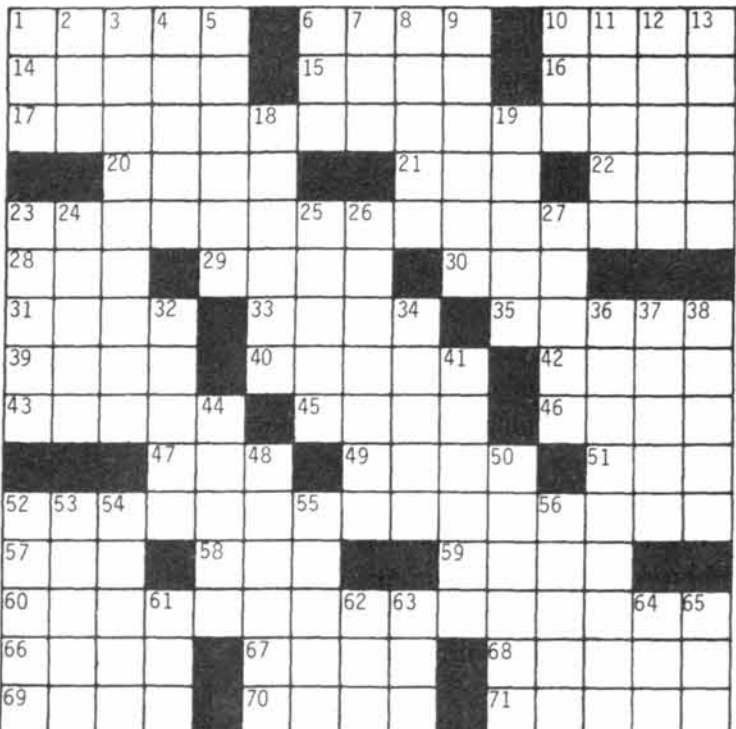
The Tech: Will you remain closely involved with re-engineering?

Immerman: I don't know. These new responsibilities will in some way make changes in my work life, but I don't know what these changes will be. I have learned so much from re-engineering in such a short time and I am forever grateful for the personal growth it has offered me. Re-engineering is difficult, but it has allowed us to make more progress faster than anything I have seen thus far.

The Tech: What do you see as your biggest challenge in your new position?

Immerman: To understand and figure out how to put together a system that supports student services fully and maximizes our resources. The good news is that there are a lot of bright people who care deeply about MIT, including a lot of students, and together we will figure it out.

Immerman, Page 11



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ACROSS

- 1 Wigwam
- 6 Miss d'Orsay
- 10 Emulates 6-Across
- 14 1938 movie, "Chicago"
- 15 Horse color
- 16 Mrs. David Copperfield
- 17 Increasingly near (3 wds.)
- 20 1963 movie, "David and Goliath"
- 21 de cologne
- 22 Tennessee power complex
- 23 Tension (3 wds.)
- 28 Bird call
- 29 1958 movie, "God's Little Girl"
- 30 "Haw"
- 31 Chinese port
- 33 "Three men in a suit"
- 35 More convinced — duck
- 40 Metric volume
- 42 Aswan's river
- 43 Indian state
- 45 Of an age
- 46 Nefarious
- 47 Blubber

- 49 Yoko, et al.
- 51 "So there!"
- 52 Mythological twins (3 wds.)
- 57 Exclamation of disgust
- 58 2.0 grade-point average
- 59 Environmental science (abbr.)
- 60 Luxury (3 wds.)
- 66 Black
- 67 — defense
- 68 Come next
- 69 Harry Belafonte song
- 70 Fencing foil
- 71 "The defense —"

DOWN

- 1 Spasm
- 2 Make bigger (abbr.)
- 3 Popular hangouts
- 4 Borden's cow
- 5 Macedonian city
- 6 "Diavolo"
- 7 Charged particle
- 8 Like some jeans
- 9 One way to pay (2 wds.)
- 10 Hubbub
- 11 — Mesa
- 12 Famous fountain
- 13 — wrap
- 18 Knave
- 19 Ancient instruments
- 23 Milan's "La —"
- 24 Spanish man's name
- 25 Bandleader Shaw
- 26 Nuclear particle
- 27 What old grads do
- 32 Baker's ingredient
- 34 Product's maker
- 36 Unmatched
- 37 Nobel prize-winner — Root
- 38 Take ten
- 41 Emulated Romeo
- 44 Emulate Minnie
- 48 Zephyr
- 50 World Cup sport
- 52 One of Santa's reindeer
- 53 Rocket stage
- 54 Trembling
- 55 Author of old
- 56 Actor Greene
- 61 Youth group
- 62 Chemical suffix
- 63 Once named
- 64 Prefix: self
- 65 French possessive

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE



New Integrated Structure to Better Serve Students

Immerman, from Page 10

The Tech: Is this the right thing for MIT's future?

Immerman: Absolutely. What is the central mission of MIT? Research, education, and public service. Lots of people talk about the definition of education, the president gave us the opportunity to make it real. I don't want to presuppose what the task force on student life will establish, but think about what the president is asking us to do.

What does a student have to learn outside of the classroom? They learn to recreate, to socialize, and to obtain skills that are needed to be successful in the real world. Students need to learn how to work in a group, to deal with people different from than themselves, and to express themselves. They need to know how to negotiate in an organization, how to participate as a citizen, how to make decisions, how to deal with issues of injustice, how to balance work and recreation.

We here at MIT have the best opportunity of any other university I have ever seen to allow students to help students realize their potential. That's why tying student life to the educational process is so important. The two are not separated, they are a whole, and should be thought of as integrated. This is a very practical thing to do in a very practical place — people who are incredibly bright, who don't need much coaching, will use the opportunities and tools put before them and run with them. Our job is to put forth the opportunities and tools, and then get out of the way.

The Tech: Are you happy about this from a personal standpoint?

Immerman: It is funny because I don't usually think in those terms. I am incredibly happy for MIT, and hopeful the impact will benefit endless generations of students. Students who are here are an endless resource for the world, and we need to be conscious of that and serve them the best way we can. At the prospect of doing that, I am beyond happy.

I am really motivated and energized, and to some extent, respectfully terrified about what lies before us. It is big, it is complicated, and how do you make sure you are doing the right thing? We have daunting responsibilities. I like to work, which is not uncommon in this community, and for the first time in my life I felt I really belonged when I came here. Students at MIT are an absolute joy to work with.

The Tech: Why did the reorganization happen when it did, and was it the best time?

Immerman: We will have to evaluate that later. Right now I have to assume that the right time is now. There are arguments for any action. You need to go with what you got and assume that it is the right answer.

The Tech: It seems recently that when MIT administrators leave a position because of death or retirement, a major restructuring and realignment of their responsibilities takes place? Do you think this position will outlast you?

Immerman: If I do my job well, then no. And that is the best kind of job. If I am successful, the need for this position will not continue. But this is only speculative on my part.

My goal is to help facilitate a transition and to do that in such a way to allow the system to operate itself. Part of re-engineering is to remove management, and to empower folks who are close to the students and the problems.

The Tech: Is the recent administrative turnover at MIT healthy?

Immerman: It depends on who you ask. One set of people say it will be a constant change and flux, since change is needed so rapidly. Another perspective is that things have to come to some point of stability, that it is difficult to be in this much change and to constantly to have to learn new things.

There are so many variables it is difficult for me to speculate. I think we need to be stable, but that stability will not be stagnant because of all the changes happening around us. It would probably be a mix.

The bottom line is, students know how to serve students better than we do, and you need that kind of input to do your job well.

The Tech: Where do you see yourself one and five years from now?

Immerman: In one year, I will be up to my elbow with organizational changes. I will also be thinking about the closing of re-engineering. In five years? I have no idea. I hope I will still be doing interesting work.

The Tech: What positions at MIT do you see in your future?

Immerman: I literally love MIT, and I would hope that I will be here for a very long time. However, some of us believe it is not a good idea to stay at one place for a long



time. They believe that we should do what needs to be done, but then move up and out to provide growth. I don't know what will happen. Too much is going on for me to say for certain.

The Tech: What do you have to say about the perennial concerns of the administration not getting enough student input?

Immerman: We have to together define a process that will help us solve that problem. Even if there is no problem, the fact that there is a perception that there is a problem, then we have a problem. I view the problem in less problematic terms than have been described in student media.

I have always been surprised to the extent to which students

describe the great skill and forethought the administration has put into this conspiracy. It is absurd to believe that the administration has such well thought out and devious plans. The administration and the students need to sit down together, understand, and figure out how to solve the problem.

But with whom do we sit down? Who speaks for students? How do you come to a point of agreement with so many student groups with so many different views? Who needs to be involved? These are very difficult questions and unless people are willing to be open-minded, they will not be resolved. Do I know how to solve these problems? No. Do I know how to start? To sit down with everyone and talk.

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Clinton Aims to Boost Kerry's Ratings with Concert

Kerry, from Page 1

of the press were pushing and shoving for spaces in the cramped press bleachers facing the stage.

"I think they might collapse," one reporter confided to me as he skittered away.

Television cameramen tried to tune their equipment while the manager of the White House press pool screamed at the event's staff about the accommodations.

But I didn't really care. Gabor disappeared into the mass of photo

folks in the stands, leaving me alone to read over the press materials.

Democrats filtered in, waving t-shirts and signs displaying support for Clinton and Kerry. Traditionally democratic groups turned out big, with union members taking up much of the lower level.

College students also showed up. A reporter from United Press International and I watched as an enthusiastic bunch of students on an upper level took the Clinton/Kerry signs sprinkled about the arena and used them to make words such as "KERRY" and "HI".

Crowd focused on Clinton

The general mirth rippling through the audience turned to adulation as President William J. Clinton entered the arena. While the concert was for Kerry, the evening clearly belonged to Clinton.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino kicked off the evening by welcoming the President to Boston before handing the stage over to comedian Whoppi Goldberg. Goldberg spoke only briefly, branding as soulless the republican candidate and expressing her support for Kerry.

"It has come to my attention that some of you think that John Kerry is not as 'cuddly' as he could be," she said. "Well, I'm telling you that if you're going to send someone to the U.S. Senate, you don't want him to be cuddly!"

Whoppi left to cheers and then the music began. Peter, Paul, and Mary kicked off the concert, playing "Blowing in the Wind", "Where have all the Flowers Gone?" and other favorites.

The evening climaxed early for me when Mary dedicated a rendition of "Puff the Magic Dragon" to Kerry,

who she called "our own magic dragon" for standing up for his ideals.

Don Helney followed, kicking his section off with "Dirty Laundry", which criticizes the media ("Kick them when they're up, kick them when they're down... airing in the evening news their dirty laundry"). I nearly dropped my pen.

"I'm not using that quote," a paper reporter beside me declared. The TV folks seemed happy, though. They were swaying gently to the beat, trying not to disturb their cameras.

David Crosby dedicated "Helplessly Hoping" to Republican Presidential contender Robert Dole, a move that was greeted by much applause by the audience.

Crosby, Stills, and Nash also pitched in, speaking briefly about the environment and noting the importance of education before launching into "Teach your Children Well".

Walsh endorses Clinton

The best speech, I think, was made by Joe Walsh who jokingly announced that he was "withdrawing from the presidential campaign and endorsing the incumbent."

After about an hour and a half, the Democratic festival began to get tiring. It was then that I noticed the group of Republicans sitting far up in the corner of the arena. The spotlight hit them once, and then skirted the area thereafter. Every now and then, prompted by some invisible force, they held up their "Weld for Senate" signs and cheered. Paired with their "Love the music, but I'm for Weld" t-shirts, the entire surreal scene held my attention for some time.

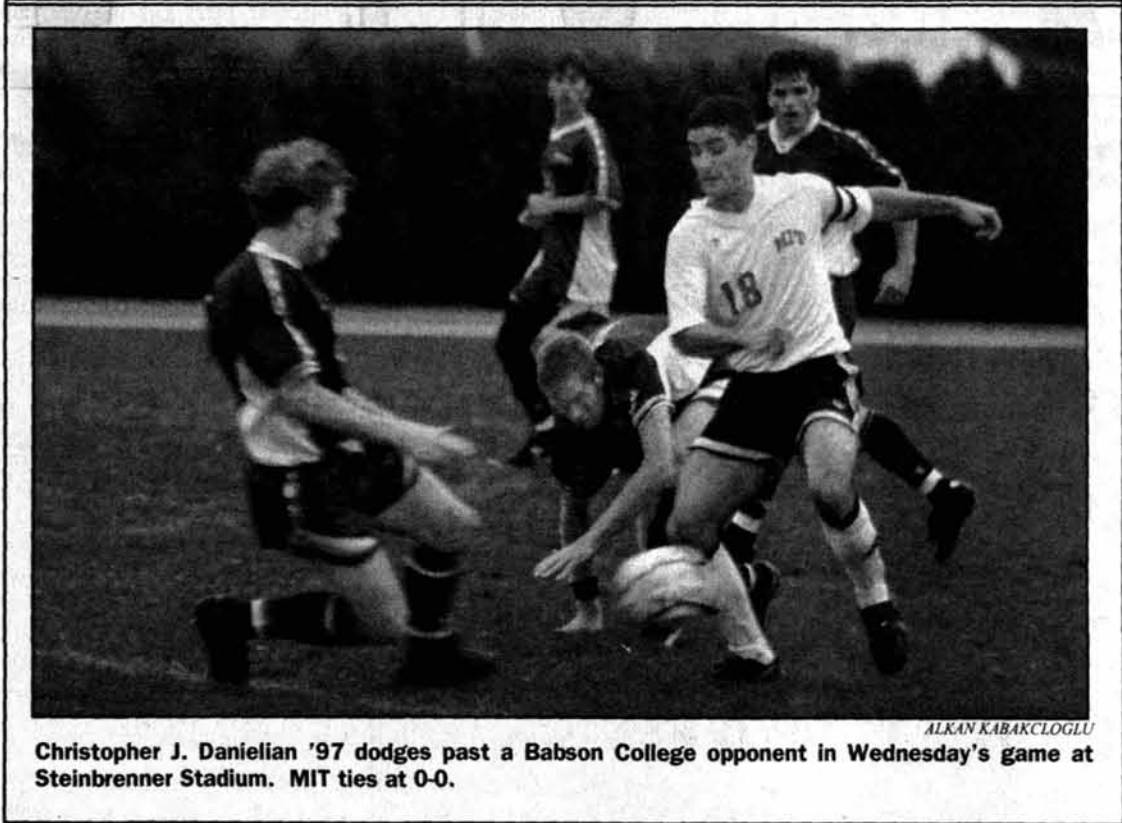
Kerry gave an animated speech, thanking the musicians for retaining the dream of "changing the world".



A spotlight focuses on President Clinton crowded amidst supporters during the Clinton/Kerry convention held at the Fleet Center Saturday.



Massachusetts Senator John F. Kerry speaks at the Victory '96 celebration at the Fleet Center last Saturday.



Christopher J. Danielian '97 dodges past a Babson College opponent in Wednesday's game at Steinbrenner Stadium. MIT ties at 0-0.

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Whitehead Institute Dedicates New Research Wing

By Orli G Bahcall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The dedication of a new research wing at the Whitehead Institute was made on Monday.

The new wing adds approximately 76,000 square feet, increasing the space available for research and training by more than 45 percent.

Guest speakers at the dedication included Senator Paul E. Tsongas, Director of the National Institute of Health Harold Varmus, and President Charles M. Vest.

The Whitehead Institute is a non-profit independent research

institute affiliated with MIT through its teaching activities. It has contributed substantially to the Human Genome Project research and has been active in genetic and biomedical research.

The Institute was founded 14 years ago by Jack Whitehead, and the new wing is named the John, Peter, and Susan wing in honor of Whitehead's three children.

Whitehead has enjoyed a close connection with MIT over the past decade. "We at MIT are very proud of the Whitehead and look forward to many more years of fruitful scientific investigation," Vest said.

Senator Tsongas opened the dedication ceremony by looking back on the things that made its founding possible. Tsongas said that the "free enterprise system that rewards innovation and risk and hard work... gave Jack Whitehead the ability" to create the Institute.

He said that Whitehead thrives largely because of its proximity to MIT, which has "the great capacity to be innovative." MIT also provides a critical mass of young investigators that provide an essential base, "and the values of their research must be appreciated," he said.

In addition to being a testimony to Jack Whitehead, Tsongas said that Whitehead is "in a more fundamental sense... a tribute to the country we live in and to the genius that made this possible."

Whitehead Aims to Educate

The Whitehead dedication marks the beginning of a very exciting era at Whitehead, important to research worldwide, said Director of Whitehead Gerald R. Fink.

Foremost, Whitehead is a "place to nurture young minds and foster innovative science," Fink said.

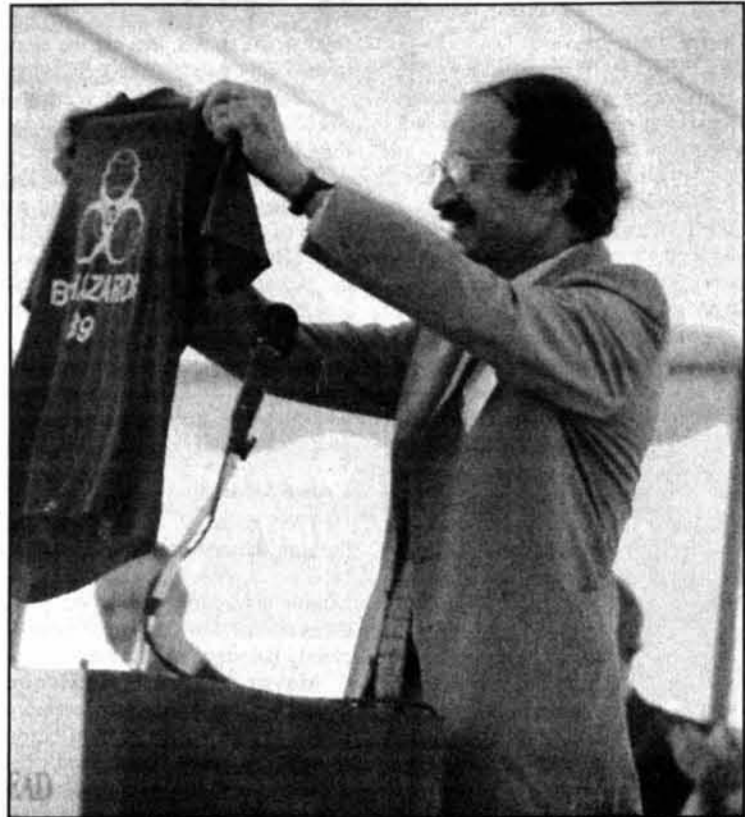
"One of the reasons behind the meteoric rise of the Whitehead Institute has been our ability to support new ideas at the very earliest stages of development— taking a chance on brilliant young scientists eager to extend the boundaries of their chosen fields," Fink said.

"The new facilities will ensure that our young researchers continue to have the tools and resources they need to pursue novel ideas— solving basic science problems in ways that yield practical benefits for all of us," he added.

"Today we dedicate the new wing to the young scientists of the next generation that will make our lives and the lives of our children better," Fink said.

NIH Director Harold Varmus' keynote address attributed the growth of the Whitehead family to several factors.

Whitehead's "strong linkage to MIT offers prestige, wonderful stu-



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Dr. Harold E. Varmus, Director of the National Institutes of Health, delivers the keynote address at Whitehead Institute's dedication ceremony held on Monday. He spent his sabbatical year at Whitehead, and played for Biohazard, its intramural softball team.

dents, and many disciplines," he said.

Varmus also said that the tone of the work at the Institute was unusual and powerful.

The environment fostered here is one "in which serious work is done in playful manner," he said. "Science at Whitehead is a playful, joyful activity that incorporates fun with seriousness," he added.

Professor of Biology Gene Brown, who served as chair of the Department of Biology when Whitehead was created, recalls the support of the faculty in building the new Institute.

"We knew all along it would be a huge success," Brown said. "It is great to have the really top notch professors in Whitehead" as part of our faculty.

"In my 14 years here, it is

incredible what a community we have formed," Whitehead Professor and Director of the Human Genome Center Eric Lander said.

The most satisfying part of his time here, Lander said, has been "watching young scientists launch new projects and grow into international leaders. The secret: Never letting on what might be impossible."

Faculty members also agree that science at Whitehead is fun. "People here strive to be the best because they love it," said Whitehead Professor Terry Orr-Weaver. The Orr-Weaver lab will be expanding and moving to a space in the new wing.

Undergraduate learning stressed

Undergraduates working in Whitehead laboratories were also invited to the dedication. They expressed enthusiasm about the opportunity to be a part of the leading research institution and the Whitehead family.

"Whitehead is a great place— we are very pleased that faculty at Whitehead are so involved with undergraduate education at MIT," said Sarah Tegen '97, president of the biology undergraduate student association.

"Whitehead has been undoubtedly the most rewarding academic experience I could dream of," said Edmund T. Karam '98, a UROP student in the Lodish lab.

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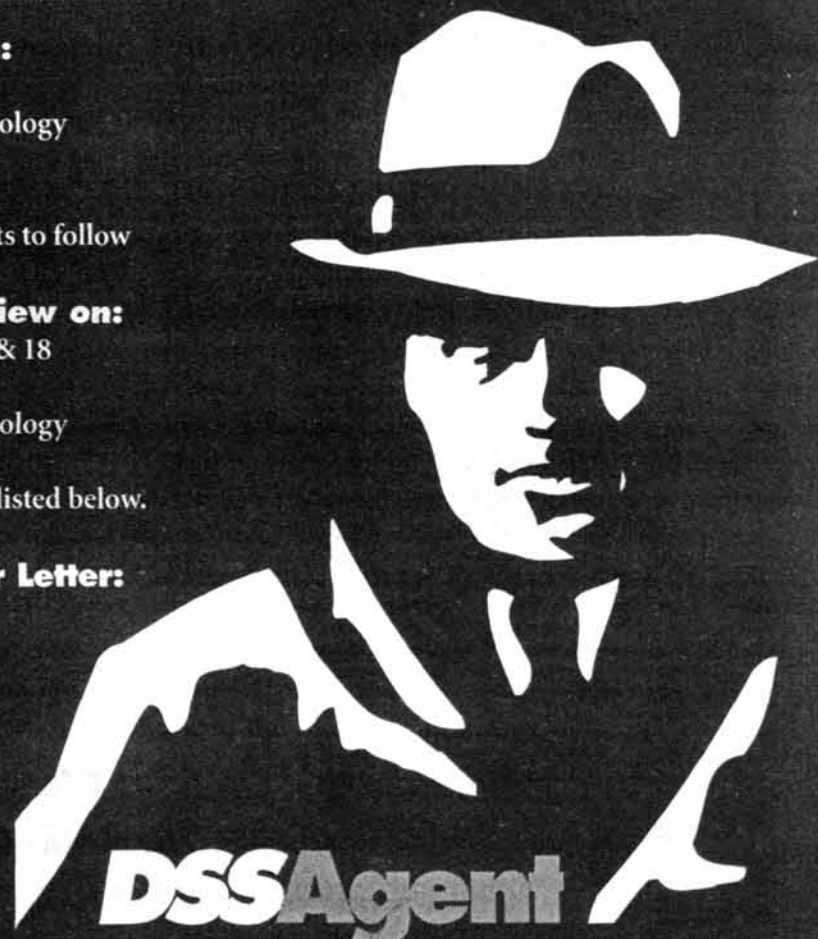
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You slam on the brakes and pull the wheel hard to the right, the sounds of horns blaring from every direction. OK, that one was too close, way too close. That other driver didn't even look before changing lanes. They call them the express lanes, but you think "extinction lanes" is really more appropriate. Today seems worse than usual. Almost like it's Celebrate

psychotic

Driving Month or something and you're in the parade. No matter. You're almost at the restaurant. A very chic, very you-know restaurant that you cannot afford. It is here that you are meeting your **well-intentioned** friend whose cousin twice-removed is in town. Cousin needs a date. Cousin is just right for you! your friend claims. Sure. That's what your friend said about Dream Date Y last month. The dream ended at the police station. Don't ask. "Sorry," you tell your friend, "I'm booked." **Friend laughs.**

Friend knows you are never booked. An hour later you're cruising for parking. Five blocks. Six. Seven. Eight. Suddenly, you see it. A space. A real, live legal parking space. With...can it be? Time left on the meter. You slow to a stop. Flip your blinker. Stick your arm out the window for good measure. Sure, it's a tricky parallel parking problem, but hey, you're a mathematician. You calculate, then begin the backup. Suddenly out of nowhere, it comes: a cheesy little red sports car zipping into your space, the driver laughing maniacally.

Your blood pressure rises.

The jerk. You start to pull away but suddenly remember. Well, of course. You smile. Pull out your laptop. Connect the modem to the cell phone. Go. Ahh, there it is. OK, download. Now, display. Virtually out of nowhere a police officer materializes. She gestures at Mister Sports Car. "Move this vehicle now, sir." Mister Sports Car argues, but the police officer is firm. You watch as Mister Sports Car reluctantly pulls away. You smile. Log off. Power down. Parallel parking is tricky. **Damn, that's good software.**

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Sigma Kappa House May Open in Fall '97

By Liz Krams

Sigma Kappa sorority recently started the process of confirming the location of a permanent home for its members.

The Institute finds possible locations for sorority houses and then presents the groups with building choices for their approval.

After consultations, SK has chosen the property at 480 Commonwealth Avenue, an apartment building next to Alpha Chi Omega's house and across the street from Alpha Phi's house.

The building was originally zoned for residential use and contained mostly apartments. It also had a florist shop in the basement and a fortune teller on the first floor.

Tara L. Fernando '97, the president of SK, said that the sisters were "really excited to have a place of their own."

The SK Housing Chair Anita S. Juneja '98 said that the house would be an asset to the chapter.

SK currently occupies the basement and part of the first floor of the graduate dormitory Ashdown House. Once the sorority women move out, the space will revert to house graduate students.

The anticipated changes are in line with the original agreement between SK and Ashdown, said Phillip Bernard, a staff associate in Residence and Campus Activities.

SK members moved into Ashdown last year after the closing of Huntington Hall dramatically increased undergraduate crowding.

The relationship between SK and Ashdown has been "really wonderful" and there were no problems during the stay, Bernard said.

SK was supposed to stay for two years and afterwards the space would slowly go back to house only graduate students.

"Ashdown did not want this to be a permanent thing. They did not want the undergraduates to take over," Bernard said.

The rising numbers of women in entering class and the increasing number of requests for all-female housing has added emphasis on the search.

On-campus houses had done a good job at accommodating these requests and they would continue to do so in the future, Bernard said.

Sorority may move next fall

While the sorority was still in the early stages of getting the house, there was hope that the sorority could move in to its new facilities as early as the fall of next year, Juneja said.

The house as currently envisioned would accommodate 24 people. Juneja did not know the exact costs, but said she expected that they would be comparable to the other sorority houses.

Much of the time between now and next fall will be used to secure government and community approval for the site. The community's opinions are an integral part of this process.

There "has not been any reaction yet" to the proposed move by the community, Juneja said. But the attempt should be made easier with the presence of the two existing sorority houses.

The sororities are given opportunities to choose houses in the order of their establishment at MIT. Kappa Alpha Theta is the next sorority in line for a house.



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Motion to Bring New Sorority Voted Down

By May K. Tse
STAFF REPORTER

The idea of bringing a sixth sorority to MIT by extension has been under discussion since last term, but the idea was finally voted down by members of the Panhellenic Association last month.

"A meeting to discuss extension to a new sorority on campus was held last term on May 13, and one was held this term on September 4. The actual vote took place on September 12, but the motion was denied," said Panhel President Laura L. DePaoli '97.

The vote was done by a written secret ballot, with one representative from each of five MIT's five sororities voting. In order for the motion of extension to pass, four out of five Panhel delegates needed to vote in favor of it, but the count fell short.

"I was not really surprised, because no one really said anything at the September 4 meeting," said Lauren B. Klatsky '97, president of Alpha Epsilon Phi. The lack of interest is in part due to the slower rush experienced this fall as compared to last fall.

"There are several pros and cons.

On the whole, it was felt that now was not a good time, because interest was not high enough," said Christina A. Ildebrando '99, Kappa Alpha Theta's Panhel delegate.

The motion to bring a new sorority onto campus was first made last year, after unusually high number of women rushing.

"As the number of women coming to MIT increases, pledge class sizes increase," Ildebrando said. "A new sorority would give more options so more people can find a group they're happy with, plus it would decrease the number of those with no bids."

"Anyone who wants a bid should get a bid. If chapters grow too large and a lot of girls don't get bids, this isn't what we want. A new sorority would give another option," said Julie A. Townsend '98, Alpha Chi Omega's Panhel delegate.

Poor rush affected vote

This year's rush results might have affected the voting that denied the extension.

"In light of how rush went this year, I feel that the delegates voted accordingly," said Julie J. Muyo '98, Panhel executive vice-president.

"There was some concern [among the sororities] that the number of pledges was lower than last year's," Klatsky said.

"If there's a new sorority, and the number of women rushing does not increase, then all the sororities will be hurt, including the newest one," Ildebrando said.

Another drawback is that "smaller pledge class sizes would bring about concerns for those who need to fill sorority houses," said Jeanette E. Chian '98, Alpha Phi's Panhel delegate.

Alpha Phi and Alpha Chi Omega are the only two that currently have houses, and Sigma Kappa is in the process of getting one [see story, page 17].

"It seems like the trend of high numbers from last year was a fluke. This year seemed a lot different. If we had a rush like last year again, then I think it'd be time for a new sorority," said Tara L. Fernando '97, president of Sigma Kappa.

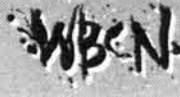
There was agreement as to when that time would be. "The right time for a new sorority will be when pledge classes are consistently larger, and everyone has a comfortable number of sisters," Chian said.

For the moment, any discussion of a new sorority is closed, but if a member of Panhel makes a motion of this type again in the future, Panhel will reopen the discussion and once again look into the issue.

"The earliest time [Panhel will discuss an extension again] may be next year, but my guess is that it won't be that early," DePaoli said.

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Redesign Includes Activities Database

Re-engineering, from Page 1

be started by the end of this semester."

Interim steps to help groups

"We will be working in the next few months to start the interim steps" mandated by the team, said Assistant Dean for Student Activities Katherine G. O'Dair. "These steps will reduce the time needed to register for an event for 50 percent of the student activities."

"The interim steps are meant to be temporary measures that will serve to benefit student groups while the implementation phase is being planned," Johnson said. "The steps will hopefully save a lot of time and work for the student groups."

"We are also currently investigating the possibility to obtain a blanket license for Institute facilities," O'Dair said. Student groups currently have to obtain one day licenses from the city of Cambridge if they wish to hold events on campus. A blanket license, if obtained, will allow the Institute to obtain a license for a long period of time, and save the student groups the time to obtain one day licenses individu-

ally, she said.

Another interim measure "we are looking into implementing is the paying for Campus Police details through student groups' MIT accounts," Ives said. "If this is established, groups can get the same discount without using checks or cash."

The team has already started talking to student government groups such as the Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council to get input on the best way to proceed with these plans, Ives said.

Team recommends new database

One of the ideas being brought forward by the team is a student activity database which will contain the information on the financial operations and event management of activities.

Student groups will also be assigned their own individual MIT bank accounts instead of being a part of the general account for student activities, as is currently the case, Johnson said. Activities may also choose to have accounts with outside banks.

The changes to the system will allow groups to review their financial status 24 hours a day instead of waiting for their statements to arrive once a month, Johnson said. Activities also will be able to place electronic requests to spend money.

The final recommendation calls for the creation of a Central Allocations Board, which would be led by students and consist of administration and staff members as well, Ives said.

The board will provide a list of funds available from academic departments in the central database. Students may still request funds from individual departments under the new system. The new system will also permit students, faculty, and staff to look at and request available space online.

Activities will be able to do event registration, such as reserving equipment needed for the event, at the same time that space is reserved for the event. Groups will also be able to choose if the event will be listed on a master social calendar, Johnson said.

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Forum to Discuss Writing Proposal

Forum, from Page 1

incorporate "practica," six-unit subjects that integrate communication skills with the material in a traditionally technical field.

The details of the proposal will be finalized during the fall and would then be submitted to the faculty for approval.

The plan would only affect future students, since it would take approximately seven years to create all the subjects the new system would need.

Student opinions mixed

While the proposal is still taking shape, students state that the plan has some benefits, but also some possible pitfalls.

"I'm very glad they are taking a proactive [stand] on improving the communication skills of MIT students," Lee said.

"It would be good because there's the outside impression that we don't have any humanities [at MIT]... Obviously you're going to be writing reports or proposals your whole life," said Christopher S. McGuire '00.

"I think writing is an important part of communication. Reading a book in equations isn't good enough. I think courses that are in your major and allow you to write at the same time," work best to help students express themselves, said Robert W. LaChance '97.

Some expressed concern over the change and felt that requiring certain writing classes would restrict their choices of humanities courses.

"I would definitely prefer the current system. Four, or even two or three more classes, take a good chunk of time from taking more general humanities classes. I'd rather have the writing be a part of the current humanities classes," said Matthew S. DeBergalis '99

"I don't think it's useful to have courses devoted specifically to writing. I would not want to take four classes out of a constrained set of humanities classes. You don't get enough variety if you choose only four writing classes," said Hussein M. Waljee '97.

"I'm concerned about the negation of other HASS [subject areas], like music and philosophy," said Avi C. Weiss '99.

"If you pass Phase II, you should have the basic skills [to write reports]," and this is the main writing ability that students need, said Marlon D. Shows '97.

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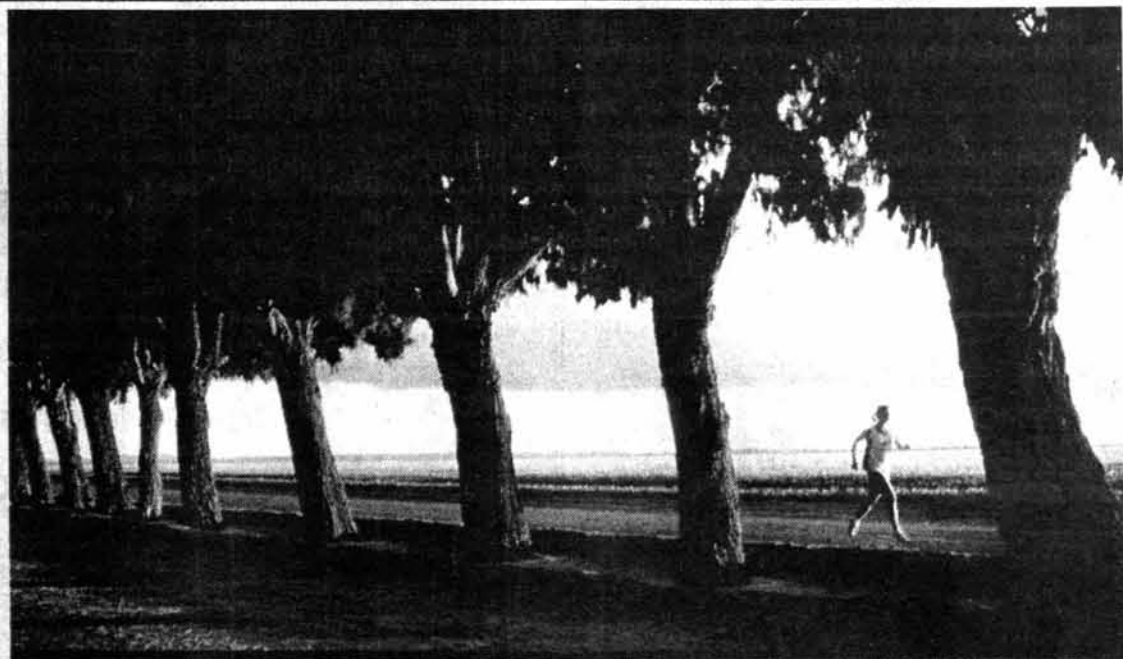
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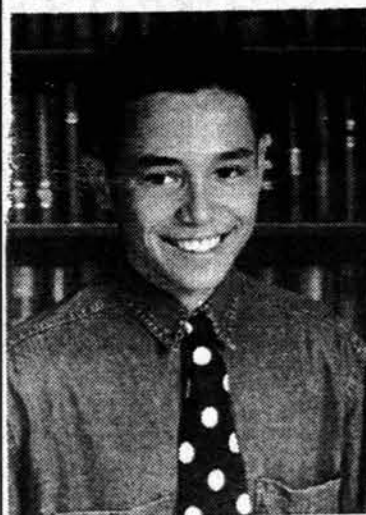
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MIT Players Make Football Honor Roll

By Roger Crosley
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

MIT wide receiver Trent Redman '97 and running back Troy Gayeski '98 have been named to the Eastern Collegiate Football Conference Weekly Honor Roll for their play in Saturday's last-minute 22-25 loss to Western New England College.

Redman had seven receptions for 109 yards with touchdowns of 57 and 22 yards.

Gayeski carried the ball 36 times for 131 yards and a touchdown. He also returned a kickoff for 25 yards and threw a 26-yard pass for a first down on a fake punt.

Men's tennis beats BU

The MIT men's tennis team is off to a 4-0 start. Last week, the

team defeated Boston University 4-3. The Engineers' victory over the Terriers was the first time in five years MIT that topped BU. Last Friday, the Engineers overcame Babson College with a score of 6-1.

Women's tennis at 5-1

The MIT women's tennis team also has started quickly. After an opening match loss to Skidmore College, the women rebounded to a 5-1 record including a 9-0 shutout of rival Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Saturday.

Track teams running strong

MIT runners Lauren Klatsky '97, and Janis Eisenberg '98 placed first and second in last weekend's Rhode Island College Cross Country Invitational. Klatsky covered the 3.1 mile course in 20:02, with Eisenberg finishing seven seconds later.

Rucking to Second Win, Women's Rugby Tops Wellesley

By Marianne Bitler
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT women's rugby football club rucked to the second victory of its season Saturday, beating archrival Wellesley College 27-0.

Back at wing after a season of rehab, Jennifer Joy blew past the opposition twice in the first half for several tries. MIT's pack dominated the scrums and line outs leaving Wellesley with little room to maneuver.

Crunching tackles by Crystal Harris '00 also helped shake up the opposition. A third try was scored in the first half by inside center Marianne Bitler G after a well-executed switch with fly half Sara Woodring G.

The score at half time was 17-0, with scrum half Karen Willcox G converting on one try in the face of

a strong head wind. Wing Jennifer Joy G added a third try in the second half, and Woodring also ran in for a score.

The second half was more difficult for MIT, but Wellesley was unable to score despite being inside the 22 line several times. MIT was able to fight them back with the aid of powerful mauls and strategic kicking.

MIT won the second game handily with a 15-0 final score. Tries were scored by Woodring at scrum half, Dana Ayotte G at wing, and Bitler at center.

Solid scrums and strong offensive pressure from the backline kept the Wellesley team on its toes.

MIT's next home game will be against Providence College next Saturday at 11 a.m. on Briggs Field.

Week Six — Brocoum Stands 23-16

Brocoum, from Page 24

Additional author's note: Any games decided by less than a touchdown which I call correctly take incredible skill. Any such games which I lose can be explained as a terrible case of bad luck.

The picks, week six

I know New England is the home team, and I know I'm going to get run out of town for this one but... take the Baltimore Browns.

Atlanta is bad, very bad. Take Detroit in a romp.

Carolina and Minnesota both had disastrous games last week (as noted above). Being a Minnesota fan... barely... I will go with the Vikings' experience to triumph over the expansion Panthers in the Metrodome.

Da Bears are da Bears. Da Bears

ain't dat good. The Packers are coming to Chicago from up in Green Bay and da Bears better look da heck out.

Oakland's season looks spectacular when you compare it with the Jets' season. Unfortunately for the Jets, Neil O'Donnell, their regular starting quarterback, is the starting quarterback again this week.

Miami has had a bit of a quarterback controversy, but it pales in comparison to Seattle's internal controversy over "How to win football games."

Indianapolis at Buffalo. Don't miss this one. Well, actually, never mind. I forgot the Bills aren't that good anymore.

Jacksonville over the Saints, just because if New Orleans won it would tarnish their perfect 0-5 record.

San Diego and Denver are going to have a good time getting to know each other real well this weekend. Take Elway.

San Francisco and St. Louis. I'm taking a chance with this one: 49ers.

Houston and Cincinnati. I flipped for it and the penny landed on its edge. Take Houston.

Monday Night Brawl for the Ages: Pittsburgh at K.C. on Monday Night. Wow. For obvious reasons, I am looking forward to this game. Both teams are gritty and powerful. Pittsburgh will be more powerful. Jerome Bettis, Kordell Stewart and Pegram will be way too much for the Chiefs. The Steelers are quietly assuming the position as AFC leader in preparation for The Show.

Last week's record: 8-5, season record: 23-16 (yes that is over 500, thank you very much).

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Gurus Look Toward Exciting Baseball, Hockey, Football

By Grant Smith, Anuj Mohan, and Tosh Demsey

As major league baseball enters its second postseason since its infamous strike, we think that it is about time to look at the changes our "national pastime" has undergone in recent years. Thus we present a brief breakdown of baseball as it exists today.

Baseball: the good

The revised playoff format, introduced two seasons ago, which allows eight teams to advance to postseason play has created exciting pennant and wild-card races, allowing even Red Sox fans to have hope in the last week of the season.

Unlike many professional sports, baseball is one where parents can take their children to a game without having to take money out of their college fund. Despite a few bad apples, baseball offers some of the best role models, like Mo Vaughn and Cal Ripken, who are conscious of the youths who look up to them and do not cease to remember that baseball is a game for the fans.

Baseball: the bad

This season's offensive explosion has led to record-breaking home run statistics while ERAs under 3.00 have become nearly as rare as a triple play.

Some fans may view the upward spiraling scores as an improvement, but we think there is something wrong when the scores of baseball games can be easily confused with the scores of football games.

Also, although the strike is over, the players and owners have yet to come to a labor agreement, and the lack of a real baseball commissioner has left the future of baseball uncertain. The soon-to-be-implemented interleague play will break baseball's long standing tradition of keeping the American and National Leagues separate until the World Series.

Baseball: the ugly

The disgraceful quarrel between Roberto Alomar and umpire John Hirschbeck which began with Alomar spitting in the face of Hirschbeck and followed by Alomar remarking that Hirschbeck has changed since his son died (and resulting in Hirschbeck charging at Alomar while threatening to kill him), proves that grown men still

have the capacity to behave like kindergartners (or worse).

Finally, what would an article about baseball be without playoff predictions? This year we expect a rerun of the politically incorrect World Series between the Atlanta Braves and the Cleveland Indians.

Once again, the Braves have the best pitching in the majors and the Indians have the best hitting in the majors. The old baseball adage that "good pitching beats good hitting" will ring true again this year as the Braves defeat the Indians in seven games.

Hockey season looks exciting

The new National Hockey League season is just around the corner, with games beginning this Friday, and coming off the excitement of the world cup, it's time to note the teams to watch in the new year.

The usual flurry of off season trades and signings and the addition of the Phoenix Coyotes has shaken up the league a fair bit and should result in some exciting play in the months to come.

One of the teams to watch in the upcoming season is the Colorado Avalanche. These Stanley Cup Champs were well deserving of their victory and have lost very little of their cup-winning core. One sore spot is the loss of backup goaltender Stephane Fiset, but with St. Patrick in net, much can be forgiven.

The New York Rangers are another team to watch. What will Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier be able to produce together? In any event, the Great One will be fantastic in the Big Apple. His rejuvenated look and tremendous insight into the game could help the Rangers go far.

The defense, anchored by the likes of Leetch, Beukeboom, and Samuelsson will also help the team tremendously. Richter's goaltending in the World Cup, as in '94, illustrated that a team will rise and fall with its goalie.

Both St. Louis and Toronto discovered that a team built on players who could have won a cup five years ago is a team with a very shaky foundation, and age could very easily catch up to this team. Watch for injuries and wear and tear to rip this team apart, or else for a very strong contender.

The Philadelphia Flyers are a team in transition. Eric Lindros,

fresh off a Hart MVP Trophy performance and with the powerful Legion of Doom, was poised to lead his team to a breakthrough year last year. Hextall looked good in net, and Bobby Clarke's trades as GM suggested some sort of hypnotic power.

However, after a strong closing and stealing the top spot in the east on the very last day of the season,

The old baseball adage that "good pitching beats good hitting" will ring true again this year as the Braves defeat the Indians in seven games.

they ran into a very hot Florida team and couldn't overcome the rat.

Lindros' failure to take over leadership of Team Canada in a convincing manner places the onus on him to produce this year. Further keys to success, the play of John LeClair, and Clarke's ability to find a money goaltender.

Some teams sinking in ranks

The Florida Panthers are beginning to look more and more like the New Jersey Devils. Riding on the strength of a hot goaltender and a strong defensive system, a team with substandard scoring ability beats the Bruins, Penguins and Flyers to make it to the Stanley Cup Finals, only to fall apart the next year. We have a remarkable sense of deja vu going on here.

The Pittsburgh Penguins are a team in trouble. Year after year, they lose talent and get older, and year after year they continue to battle. Lemieux and Jagr are indeed formidable, and Nedved has finally found a system which can benefit from his skills.

However, trading Sergei Zubov to Dallas for Kevin Hatcher will not bolster the offense, and the cup years are indeed over.

The Detroit Red Wings need to do something quick to resolve their downward spiral. Four Russians did not work. Five Russians did not work. Keith Primeau wants out. Rumors surround Sergei Fedorov. This team can rack up as many wins in the regular season as it wants, but it will not mean a thing without the playoffs.

Team on the rise

The Ottawa Senators look to be an up and coming team. We are serious. Enough years at the bottom of the league and those number one draft picks have to produce. And judging from the end of last season and from the pre-season games, this will be a breakout year.

Alexandre Daigle's starting to develop (finally!), and Daniel Alfredsson's Calder (rookie of the year) trophy was no joke. Now with some leadership from Yashin and strong youthful goaltending from Damian Rhodes, this team will almost make the playoffs (yeah, rising slowly, but just wait a couple more years).

The home team: the Bruins

The Boston Bruins will be entertaining this year, at least you can say that about them. The addition of players like Trent MacLeary, Jeff Odgers, and Troy Mallette will bolster Tocchet's valuable addition of grit.

This will be a rough and tumble

team that will hit, fight and bang heads around. The problem is that with the loss of Neely, Reid and MacEachern the team's scoring is remarkably thin.

As a result, they'll need strong goaltending to survive. Oh, and for Al lafrate fans who are upset about his trade to San Jose, sometime last week, he stopped training with the Sharks due to pain in his knee.

New offside rule to change game

The delayed offside rule is now officially gone. For the past seven years, the defensemen have been able to dump the puck into an offensive zone despite stranding players offside in the knowledge that the forwards can negate the offside by clearing the zone.

This is no longer the case. Under the argument that this rule has reduced the talent of NHL defensemen by allowing them to be lax on stickhandling skill, an immediate whistle will be blown if any players are in the offensive zone when the puck is sent in. Watch for more turnovers and breakaways as defensemen are left high and dry.

Avalanche should win again

A year ago, when we picked the Avalanche to win the cup, we had the distinction of choosing the winner without seeming like we were jumping on a bandwagon. So this year, while we again feel the Avalanche will top the Flyers in the finals, it is unfortunately nothing new to people who have heard the same prediction time and time again.

But in the end, the Red Wings are too soft, the Penguins too thin, the Blackhawks without enough punch, and the Panthers without promise. A season full of hockey awaits, however, and that is reward enough.

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SPORTS



THOMAS R. KARLO—THE TECH

Lynn K. Yu '00 races for the ball near the goal in last Thursday's field hockey game against Nichols College. MIT won 3-0.

Men's Rugby Team Defeats BU Gents

By Chris Townsend
TEAM MEMBER

Last weekend, the men's rugby team chalked up their fourth straight win of the fall season, beating the Boston Gentlemen 38-5 under difficult wind conditions.

MIT won the toss and decided to start the game with their backs to a strong wind. They used the gusty conditions to their advantage, with Visiting Scholar Christopher Bruneton kicking tactically to pen the opposition deep into their own territory for most of the half.

The forwards played well, with rookies Fernando Vargas and Tim Braier adding solidity to the attack. Possession was efficiently used by the back line, which by half-time had run in four tries and amassed a twenty-six point lead.

In the third minute of the game Bruneton received the ball and managed a beautiful shot into the corner of the opponent's try area. Left wing Chris Kantner '97 gave chase and outsprinted his opposite number to touch down for the opening try.

On the fifteen minute mark the ball moved to the MIT back line following some blind-side forward driving, and Huw Price charged over the try line to score.

Mike Fife G gave the team its third score with a darting run at the

opposition's 22-meter line.

Just before half time right wing Will Logan '97 added another tick to the score sheet, running over in the corner following a scrum.

After the break the Boston Gentlemen came out fighting. With strong ruck-and- Maul play they put MIT under a lot of pressure and were rewarded with a push-over try after just a few minutes.

They were not able to sustain this level of play, however, and for most of the remaining half the game was fairly even with a tit-for-tat exchange of possession. Just before the end MIT stepped up a gear once more with Price running in two more tries following excellent second-phase play from the forwards.

After the final whistle, the Gents captain said ruefully that clearly gone were the days when his team could always look forward to winning at MIT.

Beaver coach Stephen Wilhelm was pleased with the team's performance. "At last we are combining intelligent forward play with real style from the backs," he said.

This coming Saturday, the Beavers will defend their record against the Dinosaurs in a match that will decide the winner of the Boston social league.

Field Hockey Drops by Two Games

By Laura Williams
TEAM MEMBER

After losing a tough battle to Springfield College Tuesday night, the women's field hockey team lost another hard-fought contest against the undefeated Amherst team 2-1 Tuesday night.

The Engineers knew that this would be a difficult game because

of last year's lost to Amherst during the postseason.

During the last 12 minutes of play, the team stepped up the intensity level and played in Amherst's defensive end almost the entire time. With only 34 seconds remaining, Katherine Merilees '97 scored to bring the team within one, but MIT could not finish the rally.

The games were very even matches, and both teams played extremely well. Down 1-0 at half time, MIT had several chances at goal but couldn't find the net. Amherst came out and scored early in the second half to go up 2-0, before MIT got the game back under control and scored later on in the second half. The rally was not enough, however, and MIT lost.

The team was not wholly dispirited by the loss, however. The team's new members held a "Freshmen Psyche Day" party for the team. Members of the Class of 2000 hung a banner with the names of all of the players and coaches on the fence around the field. They also decorated the team's locker room and gave good luck charms to upperclassmen.

The women's field hockey team now has a 3-2 record for the season. The team travels to Worcester Polytechnic Institute tomorrow to begin their conference play. The next home game will be Tuesday against Wheaton College at 4 p.m. on the turf.

Brocum Ponders Football Matchups for Fall Season

By Chris Brocum
SPORTS COLUMNIST

With the season finally in full swing, several teams in the NFL are probably already looking at their situations with

wistful eyes, namely the previously surging Dolphins and

Eagles, with Dan Marino and Rodney Peete down with serious injuries.

Miami isn't in quite as bad shape

since Marino should be back in a few weeks and they have had an off week to prepare. The Eagles, on the other hand, are looking at a serious speed bump. In desperation, there has even been talk of signing Randall Cunningham to a contract for the rest of the season.

This is unfortunate for the NFL because these two teams seemed destined to become major powerhouses in their respective AFC and NFC Eastern divisions. You can be sure that Dallas, Washington, and Indianapolis are breathing easier.

This weekend has a few key matchups between AFC division leaders, and their results could prove extremely important come playoff time. Indianapolis at Buffalo, San Diego at Denver, and a classic on Monday night with Pittsburgh at Kansas City make up a blockbuster weekend. All these teams can take the opportunity this weekend to make a statement about who will be the team to beat (other than Pittsburgh, of course, which is the team to beat).

The Jets, New Orleans, and Atlanta will themselves be deadlocked in a grueling contest to establish who will be distinguished as the worst team in the NFL. Unfortunately, Tampa Bay has the weekend off. But then, they could barely compete in the Bud Bowl.

Minor cruel comment: Dallas is one lucky 2-3 team. The way Philly played defense last Monday they should have won the game hands down.

Major cruel comment: Minnesota stinks bad. That funky smell wafting off the river was no busted sewer main, it was the jet stream straight from the Twin Cities with a touch of rank left over from New York. The Giants?

Author's note: Due to three ridiculous games (one in overtime) decided by a total of 10 points, I was 8-5 instead of a stellar 11-2. For what it's worth, I wanted to point out that I got shafted.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 4

Men's Tennis Division III Championship Tournament, TBA.

Saturday, Oct. 5

Football vs. Stonehill College, noon.
Women's Sailing New England Singlehanded Championship, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Soccer vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 3:30 p.m.
Men's Tennis Division III Championship Tournament, TBA.
Water Polo Alumni Game, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 6

Women's Sailing New England Singlehanded Championship, 9:30 a.m.

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