

Happy Thanksgiving

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Cold, rainy, 45°F (6°C)
Tonight: Rainy, windy, 26°F (-3°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny, 34°F (1°C)
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Volume 116, Number 62

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, November 26, 1996



The MIT Dance Troupe performs in Kresge Little Theater last weekend. The group's performances consisted of 20 student-choreographed pieces ranging from jazz to modern ballet to funk.

LSC Pornography Committee Considers Showing Erotic Films

By Frank Dabek
STAFF REPORTER

The Lecture Series Committee is currently considering restoring its former tradition of showing erotic and pornographic films.

This move comes after the expiration last year of a voluntary ban that LSC had accepted on the showing of erotic and pornographic films several years ago. To evaluate the possibility of starting to show such films again, the LSC Pornography Committee was reformed.

The current Porncom is "researching films, preferably of an artistic nature," to be shown at LSC events, said Chairman-elect of LSC Christopher C. Marchant '98.

Pornographic films have been extremely popular events in the past, with up to 2,000 people in attendance, Marchant said. However, such crowds were also not unusual for non-erotic films during that time, he said.

LSC has shown "very art-ish slightly racy films" that have all "done very well," said Joseph T. Foley '98, publicity director for LSC.

This term has not been as profitable as past terms for LSC. The "video market has hit us pretty hard," Foley said. "Pornography might do well."

LSC might show a movie or two of an explicit nature next semester, Foley said. The films will be

screened first by Porncom, which will then direct a few to the LSC Executive Committee, which will make the final decision on whether to show the films.

"We don't know if [pornography] is something the MIT community would be interested in," Marchant said.

"MIT's demographics have changed," he said. "If we'd be displeasing a large portion of the MIT community, that's something we'd like to stay away from."

Marchant did not expect any opposition from the administration but said that LSC would have to take responsibility for any problems caused by the showing of such films.

As long as the film is legal in Massachusetts and the proper precautions are taken to ensure that viewers of the film are of age, there should be no legal problems, Foley said.

Erotic films have history with LSC

The history of pornographic films at LSC goes back some 20 years when a film of a pornographic nature was shown each Registration Day, Marchant said.

In 1983, LSC decided not to show *Deep Throat* — a sexually explicit film that might have been considered illegal under Massachusetts law — on Registration Day after students sub-

mitted a petition and several women's groups threatened to protest. This event and the showing of other sexually explicit material led to an MIT policy in 1985 that restricted such films from being shown on Registration Day and required a committee to screen such films prior to their screening.

LSC later agreed to accept a temporary, voluntary ban on the showing of such films. That ban expired approximately one year ago.

New Coordinator Runs Talbot House

By Rita H. Lin
STAFF REPORTER

A new coordinator and advisory board will be in charge of managing Talbot House, an old New England farmhouse used as a retreat spot for the MIT community.

Franklin A. Tuitt, senior office assistant in the Office of Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs, is the new Talbot House coordinator. As the coordinator, Tuitt will take care of the day-to-day operations related to Talbot House.

Tuitt previously worked in the Campus Activities Complex as an assistant to Ted E. Johnson, assistant director for programs, before becoming coordinator.

Tuitt replaces the former coordinator, Sarah Tom. Tom left her position as administrative assistant in Residence and Campus Activities to continue her education.

Tuitt also plans for the creation of a Talbot House advisory board.

During a Nov. 13 informational meeting, the possibility of creating an advisory board to identify and address specific issues related to the needs of Talbot House was discussed, Tuitt said.

Although the idea is not definite, matters like potential board members, the board's role, what issues the board will address, and the board's structure still need to be discussed, "the general feeling

Finboard Allocates Funds to Activities

By Stacey E. Blau
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Undergraduate Association Finance Board held its spring budget meetings this weekend to allocate funds totalling \$37,000 to student activities.

All except for one of the approximately 80 groups who requested spring-term allocations received funding, said Finboard Chair Jennifer Yang '97.

This term, however, a number of groups who usually request funding — including the MIT College Democrats, the MIT College Republicans, the National Society of Black Engineers, *Rune*, and *The Course Evaluation Guide* — did not submit budgets to Finboard for next term, Yang said.

Voodoo received the largest allocation of any group (\$2,400), followed by *Sangam* (\$1,600), the Black Students Union (\$1,500), the Chinese Students Club (\$1,500), Gays, Lesbians, Transgenders, and their Friends at MIT (\$1,500), and the South Asian American Students (\$1,500).

"We usually give a lot of the big groups somewhere over \$1,000," Yang said.

Finboard, which decides how to distribute a sum of about \$40,000 given to the UA for each term to allocate to student activities, will likely allocate an additional \$3,000 or so during funding appeals early next year, when groups who received no funds or are dissatisfied with their allocations ask for more money. The appeals will take place in early February.

This weekend's budgets decisions are subject to approval by the UA Council, which will vote on the budgets at its next meeting on Dec. 4. The council will also vote on the appeals in February.

Some do not submit requests

Several groups that usually request funding did not submit requests for next term.

The College Republicans did not request funds because "we don't expect any expenses in the upcoming semester," said College Republicans Treasurer Michael Stanley '99. The group focused on volunteer work during the election season and now that elections are over does not anticipate any upcoming expenses.

Stanley is also treasurer of the Debate Team, which received \$1,400 for next term, a small increase over the \$1,287 the team received for this term. The team is trying to expand into policy debate, which will require more funding. "The UA understood our need and increased our budget," he said.

The *CEG* did not request funds for next term from Finboard. In addition to the separate budget it receives from the UA, the *CEG* has always received "a traditional source of funding from the deans," said UA President Richard Y. Lee '97.

The *CEG* has also worked to minimize some of the costs of the inefficient paperwork that must

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was that the creation of an advisory board was a great idea," Tuitt said.

One undergraduate student will be named to the advisory board, said Undergraduate Association Richard Y. Lee '97.

RCA will select the student. "I think it's better if Talbot House is making the selection," Lee said. While the UA can help publicize, "they know better who they're looking for."

Tuitt's short-term goal is to make Talbot House accommodate as many visitors as possible, Tuitt

said. In the long term, he will aim to keep the advisory board running.

The cost of maintaining Talbot House is directly related to the number of people who visit the house in each given year. Although visitors pay \$67 per MIT student or \$82 per non-MIT student for two nights and three meals, the house has not been doing too well during the last few years.

"The cost effectiveness of maintaining Talbot House is definitely one of the issues where an advisory

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The Student Center will be closed from 10 p.m. tomorrow until 6:30 a.m. Friday because of the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday.

Regular dining services will be closed for the holiday, but Aramark will provide a Thanksgiving meal at Morss Hall in Walker Memorial from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Thursday for \$8.95 per person.



Talbot House, a popular retreat in Vermont for the MIT community, is currently undergoing organizational changes.

WORLD & NATION

Federal Judge to Rule Soon On California's Proposition 209

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

A federal judge who was asked to block enforcement of California's Proposition 209 assured lawyers Monday that he will base his decision on constitutional issues, not on the merits of affirmative action.

U.S. District Judge Thelton E. Henderson, a former civil rights lawyer, promised a ruling "very soon" after closely questioning lawyers at a hearing that lasted more than three hours.

"This case is not about whether affirmative action is right or wrong," said Henderson, a liberal whom Gov. Pete Wilson wants to step aside to allow a state court to rule first.

Rather, Henderson said, he will examine only constitutional questions "to determine whether it is appropriate to continue the pre-election status quo."

Lawyers representing a coalition of Proposition 209 opponents argued that the ballot measure that seeks to end government preferences denies equal protection to women and minorities because they will no longer be able to ask for state programs to address discrimination.

The lawyers also contended that the measure improperly usurps federal anti-discrimination policies.

But lawyers for California retorted that the proposition simply bars all discrimination and pointed to a provision that would allow state agencies to continue an individual affirmative action program if federal funds would be lost without it.

WEATHER

Fowl Experience Ahead

By Chris Forest, Gerard Roe, and Marek Zebrowski

STAFF METEOROLOGISTS

Today: An expansive system covering most of the East Coast will produce heavy showers in Boston throughout the day, continuing into the evening. Temperatures will remain cool this morning inland with snow likely, while the coastal regions will warm up during the day with precipitation changing over from sleet to rain. Rainfall totals of between 1 and 1.5 inches (2.5-3.25 cm) can be expected. Gusty winds will rapidly shift northerly toward dusk, bringing a precipitous plunge in temperatures, bottoming out at somewhat below freezing by Wednesday morning.

Tomorrow: A large cold high pressure will dominate most of the country. Travel destinations in the Midwest may be affected by localized snow showers in the lee of the Great Lakes. The Northwest will also see some rain as a storm churns the waters in the Gulf of Alaska. Enthusiastic skiers may see a fresh dusting of early season snow on the slopes of the Rockies.

Thanksgiving Day: Cold turkey. Mostly sunny skies and unseasonably chilly readings over much of the nation, the exceptions being the Pacific Northwest, with persisting scattered showers and some light drizzle over Florida and Texas.

In the highly-suspect long-range forecast (Friday and beyond), there are indications of a storm developing off the East Coast and complicating return travel to New England by early in the weekend. In addition, delays are also possible owing to some inclement weather visiting the Southwest on Saturday.

Travel Forecast (weather/high/low)

CITY	Wednesday	Thursday
Atlanta	CLR 55/33	SCT 52/35
Chicago	CLR 28/16	SCT 33/20
Cranberry Lake, WA (near Seattle)	R 49/42	R 51/44
Denver	SW 29/18	CLR 34/24
Grandma's House	(near fireplace) CZY 79/68	(at the table) CZY 78/68
Los Angeles	CLR 79/56	CLR 82/57
Miami	SCT 80/62	SCT 82/63
New York, NY	CLR 38/26	CLR 41/35
Potato Creek, PA (near Erie)	SW 32/24	SCT 36/26
Pumpkin Creek, MT (near Billings)	SCT 40/24	OVC 44/33
Raleigh-Durham Birds Landing	CLR 51/30	SCT 48/30
(near San Francisco)	CLR 67/48	SW 62/48
St. Louis, MO	CLR 32/20	SCT 38/21
Turkey, TX (near Amarillo)	SW 35/21	SCT 45/25
Washington, DC (turkeys, all)	CLR 42/32	CLR 44/34

Code: CLR: clear; OVC: overcast; R: rain; S: snow; SCT: scattered clouds/partly cloudy; SW: snow shower RW: rain shower, TRW: thundershower, CZY: cozy and toasty.

Local Forecast

Today: Cold rain with temperatures slowly rising by afternoon. High: 45°F (6°C).

Tonight: Rainy and windy. Winds will shift to north after dark. Low: 26°F (-3°C).

Tomorrow: Skies clearing to mostly sunny. Chance of flurries toward the Cape and Islands. Temperatures rising only to a high of 34°F (1°C) with some scattered afternoon clouds.

Tomorrow night: Clear and very cold. Northerly winds with considerable wind chill. Low: 20°F (-7°C).

Thanksgiving Day: Cold and clear. Crisp and frosty high of 34°F (1°C) and a low near 24°F (-5°C).

Weekend outlook: Keep an eye out for a storm developing offshore on Saturday. Colder than normal temperatures to be expected.

FDA Commissioner Kessler Will Resign Early Next Year

By John Schwartz
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

David A. Kessler, who extended the regulatory ambit of the Food and Drug Administration into everything from orange juice labels to tobacco, announced Monday that he will resign early in the coming year.

Kessler said he was stepping down voluntarily after six years as commissioner because he had accomplished his major goals: "We did what we set out to do," he said.

Yet it had become clear to FDA observers that Kessler had become a major target of the anti-regulatory mood in Washington. Kessler's departure could free the Clinton administration to broker agreements on contentious issues ranging from FDA reform to the controversial proposal for the agency to regulate tobacco.

Kessler, a 45-year-old pediatrician and attorney, said he had no immediate career plans. Before taking the FDA job, he had served as medical director of Albert Einstein Hospital in the Bronx, New York, and said he would be happy to return to such work.

Kessler also said he would stay until a successor was named. Though he said he did not know who the president might choose, Kessler said several top officials at the agency are capable of running it. Respected current and former FDA officials include deputy commissioners Mary Pendergast, William Schultz, and Michael Friedman, as well as former FDA official Michael Taylor, now heading up the food safety program at the Department of Agriculture.

During his tenure, Kessler implemented a list of initiatives that transformed the beleaguered agency and U.S. public health policy. Those include the creation of a uniform nutrition label on packaged food that simplified choices for American consumers, as well as the proposed youth smoking curbs and speedier approvals of drugs and most medical devices.

"David Kessler represents the best that Americans can give in public service to their country — a tireless commitment to better the lives of our citizens," said President Bill Clinton in a statement. "His contributions to improve the health of our nation are many and their effect will continue to be felt for generations to come."

But Kessler was criticized from both ends of the political spectrum — from AIDS activists who accused him of delaying approvals of life-saving drugs to conservatives who accused him of heavy-handed government regulation of everything from vitamins to cigarettes. Attacked as a glaring example of the overprotective "nanny state," Kessler's FDA has been a target of sweeping regulatory reform efforts.

Many of Kessler's detractors were elated by his announcement, which "is great news both for FDA and for the public health," said former FDA general counsel Peter Barton Hut. "The FDA is in the worst state of disarray in four decades," said Hut, who has consulted with industry to help draft FDA reform proposals and who has also been mentioned as a candidate for Kessler's job. "The agency now needs a real leader who will focus

on the agency and not on their own personal agenda," Hut said.

Hut and other Kessler critics characterized him as an overzealous regulator who put publicity-grabbing initiatives before issues of public health. Many criticized Kessler, for example, for a high-profile seizure of 40,000 gallons of Procter & Gamble orange juice that had been labeled "fresh" which had actually been made from concentrate. And others said that his decision to declare a moratorium on the use of silicone breast implants because of health concerns was premature and ultimately not justified by the science.

Others who had locked horns with him had little to say Monday. The Tobacco Institute said it had no comment (though tobacco stocks rose sharply), nor did the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association.

Rep. Thomas J. Bliley, R-Va., chairman of the House Commerce Committee who once excoriated the "bureaucrats in Rockville (Md., where FDA offices are located)," said only, "I wish him well," through a spokesman. Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas), whose Commerce subcommittee had oversight authority over the FDA and who sponsored a failed bill to loosen medical device regulation, said that "it's a decision that was overdue." Kessler's absence could pave the way to a bipartisan bill to reform the agency, said Barton.

"I don't think there's any other commissioner in my memory who's had the kind of impact David Kessler has had," said Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.).

Daschle's Newly-Formed Views Break with White House Dems

By David S. Broder
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) Monday staked out fresh positions on Social Security, Medicare, welfare, late-term abortions, and campaign finance reform, signaling a growing independence from the White House by key Capitol Hill Democrats.

In a breakfast meeting with reporters, Daschle endorsed the concept of investing a portion of Social Security taxes in the stock market, said he was seeking compromise language that would "get 100 votes" for a limited ban on a controversial late-term abortion procedure-called "partial-birth" abortion by its opponents — and said he would introduce his own constitutional amendment to limit spending in future political campaigns.

He also said he would seek a July deadline on congressional action on Medicare rather than supporting creation of a bipartisan commission to deal with the program's financing crisis. And he said President Clinton should use his executive power to cope with problems arising from the welfare reform bill he signed this year, rather than asking Congress to return to that issue.

On all these matters, the Senate Democratic leader, starting his third year in the job, appeared less deferential to White House views than he had been in the last Congress. Daschle joked that his stands were "closely coordinated" with the president's but joined in the reporters' laughter at the assertion.

Saying he enjoyed "a very good relationship" with Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Daschle

nonetheless suggested the Republicans' agenda for 1997 may make it difficult to fulfill what he called the evident public desire for "more cooperation" between the parties.

He showed no give on the GOP-backed flag-burning amendment to the Constitution, asking, "When was the last time you saw a flag burned? Why not just make the flags of fire-resistant material?"

He offered little more conciliation on the balanced-budget amendment, saying he and other Democrats would again demand a version that fenced off Social Security — an insistence that sank the amendment in the last Congress. Daschle questioned GOP claims that the amendment will pass this time without that concession.

But he took a more conciliatory approach to two other issues that produced partisan fighting and presidential vetoes in the past two years.

On the partial-birth abortion issue, Daschle said he had begun staff-level discussions with supporters of a ban in hopes "we could get 100 votes" for a rewritten measure. He is proposing a ban on all third-trimester abortions, he said, "that would more clearly define the exceptions" and limit them to cases involving "the life of the mother and severe impairment of her health."

Last year, Congress voted down a broader exemption for the health of the woman and Clinton vetoed the bill on those grounds. Catholic bishops and others led a major drive to override the veto, but it failed. Daschle made it clear he would like to move the issue off the political agenda and said the kind of language he was proposing was "something many others in my caucus can

support."

As for Medicare — an issue on which Democrats and their allies hammered Republicans in the last campaign — Daschle said, "I am not averse to a commission," as suggested by Clinton and GOP nominee Bob Dole, "but I'd like to see Congress take it on itself." He said the committees of jurisdiction could propose reforms to deal with the immediate financing crisis "and as much else as we can" of the long-term problem by July 1, and the Senate could "take the whole month of July if we have to and finish action by the August recess."

On the related issue of Social Security, Daschle said he "would not be surprised to see Congress approve" a fundamental change in policy that would allow an unspecified portion of payroll taxes to be invested, not in government bonds as is the case now, but in stocks and other equities. Administration officials, led by Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin, have adamantly opposed "privatizing" Social Security this way, but Daschle said "people want a better return on their savings" and lent his support to the idea.

On the welfare legislation, Daschle conceded that "ultimately, Congress will have to deal with the problems of legal immigrants and children" who may lose their benefits under the 1996 legislation, but said that for now, "the president and the states have the flexibility" to make the needed adjustments.

On campaign finance, Daschle said he would propose a constitutional amendment to limit spending by candidates, parties and independent groups as one of his three top priorities for the new year.

North Korea Plans to Release American Accused of Spying

By Kevin Sullivan
THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO

An American held captive on spy charges for three months in North Korea will be released Tuesday, according to the U.S. embassy here. The man's father said his family agreed to pay the North Korean government \$5,000 "room and board" as part of the deal to get him out of prison.

An embassy statement issued Monday in Tokyo said Evan Carl Hunziker, 26, is being released to Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.) in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, then will be flown to Tokyo aboard a U.S. military aircraft. Edwin Hunziker, the jailed man's father, said Friday that State Department officials told him Richardson was carrying the \$5,000 payment demanded by the North Koreans.

"It's just ransom," said Edwin Hunziker, 65, in a telephone interview from his Parkland, Washington, home. He added that the North Koreans had originally demanded \$100,000.

Richardson's office has not commented on Edwin Hunziker's assertions. Richardson, an unofficial White House emissary making the first high-level U.S. contact with North Korea since Hunziker's capture, is scheduled to meet reporters Tuesday night in Tokyo.

The younger Hunziker was captured by North Korean soldiers in August when he crossed the Yalu River from China into North Korea. He was charged with spying for South Korea, which U.S. and South Korean officials dismissed as ridiculous.

According to family members, he is 6 feet 3 inches tall, weighs more than 200 pounds, speaks no

Korean, and, in the tightly sealed North Korean countryside, could not blend in because he resembles his father, who is of Swedish descent, as much as his South Korean-born mother. A former fisherman and laborer, he recently had become an evangelical Christian and was attempting to enter communist North Korea to preach, his family said.

The case has strained tense relations between the United States and North Korea. Evan Hunziker's anticipated release comes as North Korea is heading into winter short of cash, food, and oil. Some analysts viewed the cash demand as a sign of how strapped for currency the country has become.

"Asking for money shows they are in a very, very desperate situation," said Chung In Moon, professor of political science at South Korea's Yonsei University.

Belarus President Gains Power; Widespread Voter Fraud Alleged

By Lee Hockstader
THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Amid widespread allegations of fraud, voters in the former Soviet republic of Belarus overwhelmingly approved a new constitution that would give the country's authoritarian president vast powers to crack down on his political opponents and would make him a cabinet member for life, according to results announced Monday.

Slightly more than 70 percent of voters approved President Alexander Lukashenko's proposed constitution in a referendum that ended Sunday, despite the heated objections of opposition lawmakers, the courts and international human rights groups.

Turnout was reported at 84 percent, but Viktor Gonchar, the for-

mer head of the country's electoral commission who was fired last week by Lukashenko, said the turnout figure was impossibly high and clearly indicated that the vote was falsified.

The vote appeared to nudge the country of 10 million people a step closer to constitutional crisis, which already has raised fears in Moscow that Russia might be forced to intervene if the showdown turns violent.

Lukashenko, 42, a former Communist state-farm director, has said the referendum is legally binding. His opponents in parliament view it as advisory, allege that thousands of violations were committed in the balloting and vow to move forward this week with plans to impeach the president.

Semyon Sharetzky, chairman of the Belarusian parliament, appealed

to the international community Monday to help "prevent the strengthening of dictatorship in Belarus."

Under the new constitution, Lukashenko's term in office would be extended to 2001. He would be immune from prosecution for life and would have a permanent seat in the cabinet after leaving the presidency.

He would have sweeping powers to control or dissolve parliament, would broaden his hold on the courts and would be authorized to declare a state of emergency even if he suspected no more than a vaguely defined threat of violence. He would also be able to bring criminal charges against members of parliament "for defamation and insult" — a provision that rights groups say could be used to dampen dissent.

Cyberspace Hate Crimes Suspect Fails to Attend Arraignment

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA ANA, CALIF.

A former University of California, Irvine, student was declared a fugitive Monday when he failed to show up for his arraignment in the nation's first federal prosecution of hate crimes allegedly committed in cyberspace.

A federal magistrate issued an arrest warrant for 19-year-old Richard Machado of Irvine, who is facing 10 counts of civil rights violations for allegedly sending an anonymous computer message threatening to "hunt... down and kill" Asians on campus. About 60 students received the Sept. 20 message.

Machado's failure to show up for the arraignment adds an unexpected twist to an unusual case, among only a few prosecutions involving alleged cyberspace crimes and the first with hate as a motive, prosecutors said. College campuses have been at the center of a debate involving censorship of their computer networks.

Machado was scheduled to be arraigned before U.S. Magistrate Judge Elgin Edwards, but authorities said the defendant stole his roommate's car and apparently fled the Southern California area last week after learning that he faced up to two years in prison if convicted on the misdemeanor counts.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Gennaco said FBI agents had been in touch with Machado before his indictment and did not consider him a flight risk.

Deployment to Zaire Unnecessary, Canadian Defense Minister Says

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

No country is prepared at this time to send troops into Zaire on a refugee aid mission and it is possible that such a deployment will never be necessary, Canadian Defense Minister Douglas Young said Monday.

"We are not anxious, nor are any of our partners, to go rushing in where fools fear to tread," Young said after meeting Defense Secretary William J. Perry at the Pentagon. "In Zaire, I am not prepared to suggest anybody is prepared to put their troops on the ground."

Young thus ratified what the State Department called the "least intrusive" of the intervention options laid out over the weekend in a meeting in Germany of nations that were potential donors to the military rescue mission.

The current deployment of several hundred support troops in central Africa to expedite the shipment into Rwanda of aid for the returning refugees will continue and may be all that is needed, Young said.

Less than two weeks ago, Canada was preparing to lead a military security force of more than 10,000 troops, including U.S. units, on a military mission to help stave off starvation among hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees.

Now most of those refugees have gone home. As a result, Young said, "it is possible that we will be able to resolve this... without military intervention. We have already succeeded beyond our wildest dreams" in getting hundreds of thousands of refugees out of their camps and heading home "without firing a shot."

Graduate Student Council

Walker Memorial Rm 220 • 253-2195 • <http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc>

Keep in Touch! Stay informed about GSC events! Add yourself to our mailing list by sending e-mail to gsc-request@mit. Questions? Ideas? Write to gsc-admin@mit or call 253-2195.

Holiday Social

Dec. 11, 7:00pm in 50-220

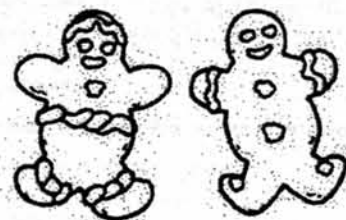
Spread the holiday cheer on the last day of classes! All graduate students are welcome!



Grocery Shuttle

Due to low ridership, the Tuesday grocery shuttle will suspend operations after Nov. 26 and probably resume in February.

The Saturday shuttle continues all four runs, including Nov. 30 (during the Thanksgiving break).



Muddy Charles Pub

The Muddy Charles Pub in Walker Memorial will be OPEN this Friday, Nov. 29! What better place to wash down your Thanksgiving dinner?



Upcoming Meetings

- Dec 10 Housing and Community Affairs
- Dec 11 Activities
- Jan 9 Academic Projects and Policy

(Meetings are open to all graduate at 5:30 pm in 50-220. Dinner is served.)

Boston Ballet's The Nutcracker
Dec. 8, 6:30pm at Wang Center

GSC Ski Trip To Smuggler's Notch
Dec. 13 to Dec. 15



GSC Needs a Logo!

- Due Dec. 1 in Room 50-220
- Design fits within 2" x 2" (doesn't have to be square)
- Design is black-and-white, but may have two-color option
- "Graduate Student Council" is not required
- Multiple submissions welcome



OPINION

Vague Goals Limit Student Involvement

In the past, we have heartily endorsed a more inclusive Institute policy that involves both students and administrators in decisions that will affect them. We have supported town meetings and public forums, like those currently being sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs.

These sorts of events are geared to allow information exchange at the general level between administrators and community. But true committed efforts to getting student participation must not be so broad. Like the aphorism of too many cooks, it seems that the overwhelming number of advisory, steering, and planning committees have diluted the available student interest beyond usefulness.

The variety of committees and groups that the Institute interacts with are nominally intended to obtain student input. But what does this choice phrase "student input" really mean? Students, faculty, and administrators throw it around as if student interest (and the resulting input) is an inexhaustible resource. In reality, however, interest depends upon how a question or issue is framed to the community — and, more to the point, how many questions are framed.

Students will voice their opinions on issues that bear immedi-

ate pertinence to their lives. Housing changes, campus dining, and student activity finance have been just a few such areas in which students have been roused and vocal, although even in these cases, the number of students involved has been limited, and there has been little apparent reaction from the student body at large.

Another way to bring students to the table is to design forums with higher stakes and explicit goals. MIT's Institute Committees, for example, generally play fuzzy oversight roles. Re-engineering teams have bogged themselves down in minute organizational tasks. Shadow task forces, advisory groups, and working groups have too often been created only to "gather input," rather than empowered to recommend specific, major changes.

Students need a small number of groups whose goals are clear and important. Nobody wants to invest time in futile or minute endeavors, least of all wearied MIT students. Meetings with vague ambitions of discussion and advising lack the necessary tangible aims to be of interest to more than a small handful of politically-charged students.

It appears grossly ill-considered for the Institute to invent so many opportunities for students to participate when they rarely touch on relevant issues and rarely state specific and realistic objectives. It is no wonder that even the most noble efforts at soliciting participation have failed.



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Editorial

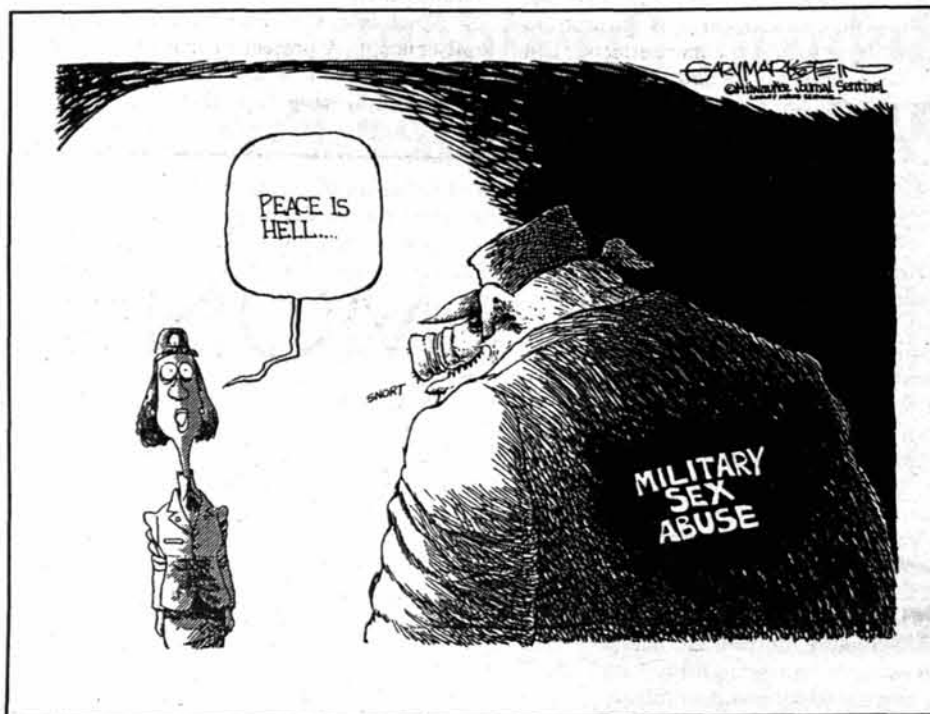
Letters

To The Editor

Campus Police Took Undeserved Credit

The front-page article on the Campus Police's third quarter report ["Added CP Patrolling Nets More Arrests," Nov. 22] shows a mixed bag of changes from last year. Violent crime is up, bicycle theft down; arrests up, fire alarms up. Yet Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin takes the credit for every beneficial change and blames every adverse change on fluctuations. Surely short-term statistics are subject to large fluctuations, but that can explain the good changes as easily as the bad. So perhaps the headline should have instead read, "Random Variation Produces More Arrests," or, at a minimum, "Too Soon to See Effect of CP Changes."

Ken Olum G



Monorail Will Expand Creative Potential

Column by A. Arif Husain

OPINION EDITOR

What MIT needs is a monorail. A really fast one like they have at Disney World, with roundtrip service from Tang Hall to the Sloan School. It should have convenient stops at locations throughout east and west campus, and it should run 24 hours.

We might call it the Charles River Express, or Cambridge Cyclotrain, or perhaps Safe Rail. If the MBTA has a management stake in it, we might settle on the Institute-appropriate Gray Line. Regardless, this matter should be looked into without delay.

It's about time that we start applying some of our world-famous engineering prowess to work right here where we can appreciate it. Before I came here, I envisioned MIT like Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, where all of the pioneering developments made here would also be in place here. I think maybe it

was too many episodes of *The Jetsons*, but I always took fancy with the technically nifty, in addition to the technically sound.

Perhaps the one common element that unites our nerdy masses is the intrigue of good quality toy — a crafty piece of design that uses complexity to appear simple.

As children, many of us spent more time toying with our toys than playing with them. Toy makers often have really dull ideas for what might be an entertaining game, but more often than not their design and construction is fairly clever. When I was about seven, I had a nice collection of hand-held wind-up games that kept me busy for hours once I found a Phillips-head screw driver and a pair of pliers. It's this basic curiosity that is the soil in which every engineer grows his technical expertise.

The Media Lab, despite its negative criticism, actually has the right idea. Here you have a few hundred bright engineering minds with nearly unlimited resources, doing nothing more than playing around with potential concepts that could have a positive impact on our society. Ultimately, Fourier transforms and finite-element analyses prove useful only as brushes for the technical

artist. But this line of thinking tends not to leave the bathroom-tiled walls of the Media Lab cube.

Engineering is about taking knowledge of the physical world and using it to develop, create, modify, and produce items to better our living. But why wait until we take jobs elsewhere? Most of us will be here for a few years, and it wouldn't hurt us to make a small investment in our stays.

So why, then, with several odd-thousand engineering types on this campus, is it so technically deplete? Every now and then somebody sets up one curious contraption or another in the Infinite Corridor, but for the most part the basic layout of this campus is completely devoid of any noticeable engineering merit. All across campus, everything from elevators to window shades are old fashioned and often barely functional. This has always struck me as odd. Here MIT has in its clutches a huge resource which it never seems to tap. I want to see students involved in the engineering of this campus. Who better?

I'm not suggesting that sophomores in electrical engineering should be called in to

Husain, Page 5

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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.

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Institute Should Stimulate Attendance at Sports Events

Column by Thomas R. Karlo
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

With hundreds of preppies visiting Cambridge for last weekend's Harvard-Yale football game, MIT student athletes must be wondering why their own matches are so sparsely attended. If you've been to an MIT football game lately, you know how it can be hard to tell which school is playing at home, considering the stands are usually filled with folks rooting for the visiting school.

But considering how few people from MIT attend the games, you probably aren't one of the faithful who visited Steinbrenner Stadium to watch the Engineers this fall. Like many other MIT teams, the football team can't seem to get much of an audience come game day.

And that's a shame.

Why do MIT students not attend sporting events? It's not like our other events have big attendance problems. We've all seen full houses at a capella concerts, engineering competitions, LSC movies, and guest lectures. Obviously, finding the time to attend events is not the problem. We all enjoy going out on a nice day with our friends. Sports events are just as entertaining as any of the above; they're more relaxed, and there's obviously a lot more drama to what's going on.

Some would say that it's because MIT teams aren't good enough. That's a really lame thing to say. I'd be willing to bet that Columbia University's football team had more people in the stands during their incredible multi-year losing streak than we do at our homecoming game. I've attended a lot of games over the years; whether a team is having a winning or losing season seems to make little difference in how many fans show up.

When a friend invites you to listen to their

concert, you don't worry about how technically perfect the performance is going to be. You go because you support them and all the weeks of practice and struggle that goes into every performance. If this were true of MIT teams, you'd see more than the 10 people who usually go out to watch regattas. Each race is the result of weeks of waking up before dawn, working until collapse, and doing it again the next day. Few people here put so much into an activity and ask for so little in return. No, MIT athletes probably aren't headed for professional athletic careers, and they might not be the best on the face of the earth. But they come from the ranks of our community and have to do all the work the rest of us do while pursuing athletics. We should support them all the more for it; the fact that they choose to do this without any financial incentive only makes their efforts more compelling to watch.

Not all of the blame for low attendance should fall on the students, though. MIT could

do more to make sporting events interesting and comfortable to attend. The fact that the announcer at MIT basketball games sometimes introduces the Rockwell Cage as "the coldest arena in the NCAA" should be a tip off that it's time to turn up the heat. A cold arena might be acceptable for the players as they run back and forth, but not many casual fans want to sit huddled for two hours watching their breath condense. Keeping scoreboard and public announcement systems maintained should also be kept in mind. It's a lot more exciting to watch a game when you know who's winning.

As we head into the winter sports season, keep in mind that MIT athletes are the folks you live and work with everyday. They're your friends and your classmates. Take some time to go to a game and cheer for our team. They'll play better, and you might just have a good time. If you don't go to at least a few games while you're here at MIT, it will be your loss.

Institute's Technical Creativity Must Not Be Lost to Details

Husain, from Page 4

rewire the lights in 10-250 if they burn out, but it wouldn't be a stretch to assign such students a project to design a more effective control system for its chalkboards. By linking the rigorous technical work of classes with our

engineers' original creative instincts, both education and quality of life will take a turn for the better.

Which brings me back back to the monorail concept. A project of that scale would provide plenty of opportunity for students in every engineering department. Electrical,

civil, and mechanical engineers to design the track and the stations; and aerospace, ocean, and environmental engineers to take test rides. For the next few years we could have input from the world's best crop of future engineers who would incorporate their learning into a self-serving project.

We are all more mature than we were as 7-year-olds. But that's no reason to smother the innovative spirit that brought us here. So let's get to work on a monorail. It's the best approach to coping with MIT's expansive linear campus, and it's a really great toy.

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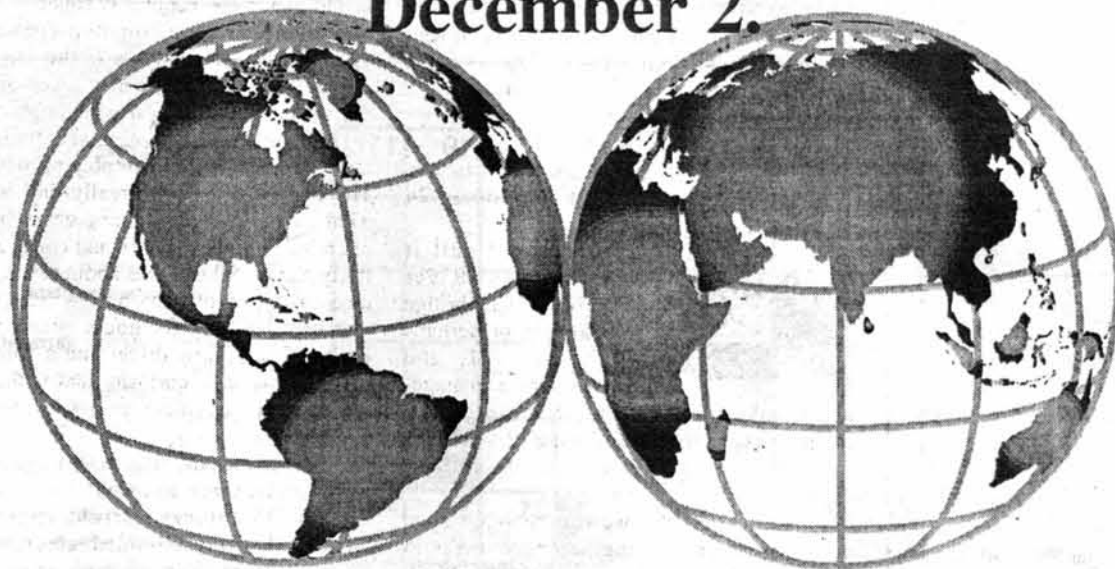
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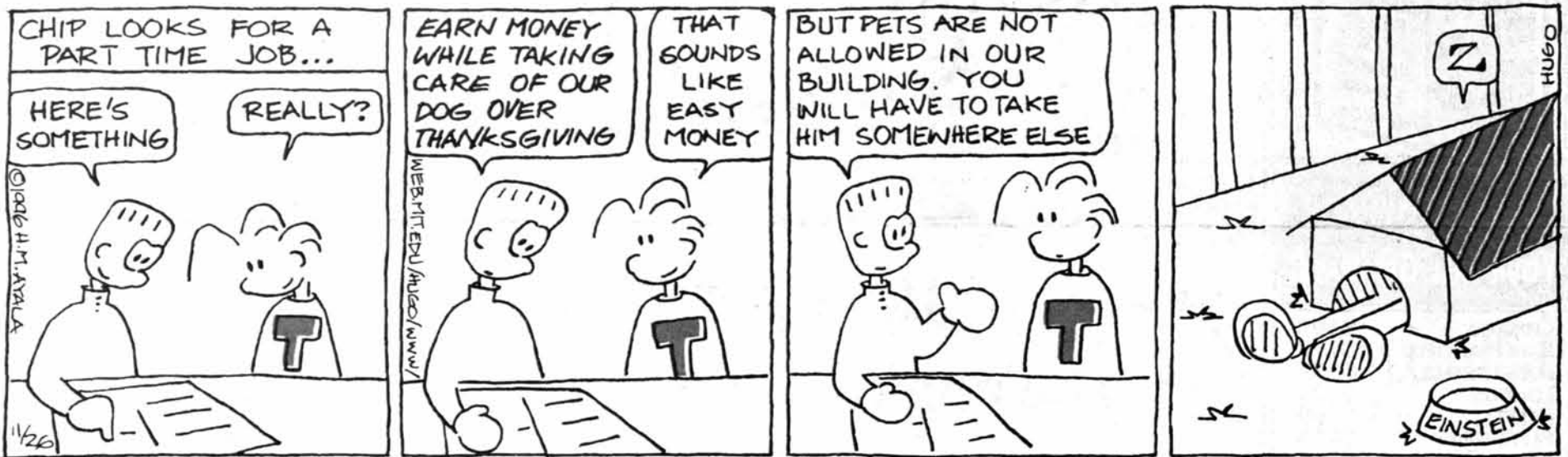
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by JESSICA WU



Off Course

By Hugo



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ACROSS

1. Light
5. Snare
9. Feminine pronoun
12. S. African native plant
13. Unusual
14. Sleeveless Arabic garment
15. Stellar
17. Elevated railway
18. Decay
19. Lawsuit
21. Across; over (pref.)
23. One who leaves
27. Indicates pl. form
28. Architectural design
29. Drooping of head
31. Place
34. Mother (informal)
35. Giving loving care (abbr.)
37. Excavate
39. Southern state (abbr.)
40. Finis
42. Potato
44. Servant
46. Bone
48. Unending
50. Poison
53. Painful
54. Egg (pl.)
55. Near
57. Slanted type
61. Vietnam offensive
62. Circuits
64. Yugoslav statesman
65. Direction (abbr.)
66. Way to go out
67. First garden

DOWN

1. Vegas
2. High note in music
3. Long-necked, flightless bird
4. Out of each hundred
5. Arranged meeting place
6. Egyptian sun god
7. Be (p.t.)
8. Animal skin
9. Irritate persistently
10. Black
11. Rodents
16. Not usually
20. Even (Poetic)
22. For example
23. Wife of knight
24. Dash
25. Yes (Span.)
26. Fishing Pole
30. Distract
32. Nights
33. Fashions lace
36. Feline
38. Helmet-shaped
41. Give
43. Error (pref.)
45. Football position (abbr.)
47. Consequently
49. Wet
50. Result of election
51. Tied
52. Man
56. Levied fee
58. Cover
59. Native of (suf.)
60. Against
63. 16th Greek letter

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

B	O	W	G	R	I	N	S	A	W
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THE ARTS

THEATRE REVIEW

Boston's *Rent* lives up to expectations

RENT

Written by Jonathan Larson.

Directed by Michael Greif.

At the Shubert Theatre through April 27.
Tuesday through Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday
7 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m.

By Joel M. Rosenberg

STAFF REPORTER

Go see *Rent*. It's incredible. The first rock opera that successfully fuses music with the show, *Rent* starts out strong and just keeps getting stronger during its 35-song look at a year in the life of struggling artists in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. It's got everything — it's funny yet heartbreaking, extremely engrossing, with addictive music, and the energy is tremendous from a young, unknown cast. Even with all of the hype surrounding this show, it surpasses expectations.

There are two stories to *Rent*. The first is the show itself, which won the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for drama and four 1996 Tony awards, including best musical. *Rent* portrays Mark, a filmmaker, living with his roommate Roger, an ex-junkie musician recovering from his girlfriend's suicide after she found out they had AIDS. Their ex-roommate, Benny, who now owns the building, wants to evict them in order to build a studio complex. That is, unless they help Benny by stopping Mark's ex-girlfriend, Maureen, now a lesbian involved with JoAnne, a black Harvard Law graduate, from performing at a protest rally to stop Benny's plans.

Mark's and Roger's other ex-roommate, Tom Collins, falls in love with a drag queen, Angel, while at an HIV-positive life support meeting. Meanwhile, Roger starts seeing Mimi, a sadomasochistic stripper, who loses her heroin stash in his room. The story develops from there.

Everything about this show is great. From the opening number you can tell this is no

ordinary rock opera, with the actors wearing headsets because the music is so loud and rocking. Because the characters are so likable, the story so contemporary, and the play so good, putting in a mix of issues but not making them issues — interracial couples, homosexual couples, interracial homosexual couples, most of whom have AIDS — gives them a more mainstream acceptance with a more diverse audience, as opposed to other attempts like *Angels in America*. The performances are all strong, especially Stephan Alexander as Angel, whose solo number "Today 4 U" could have gotten a standing ovation on its own. This show even has references to MIT, where Tom Collins sings, "They expelled me for my theory of actual reality/which I'll soon impart/to the couch potatoes at New York/University." Collins later rewires an ATM machine. The Harvard Law grad, on the other hand, can't fix a broken microphone.

The second story of *Rent* involves composer and playwright Jonathan Larson, who obsessed over this play for seven years, only to find his health failing due to stress, and his wallet as empty as those of his characters. The day of the final dress rehearsal, Larson died in his kitchen of

an aortic aneurysm. It led to tremendous press and speculation, and makes some of the songs incredibly eerie — "One Song Glory," Roger's solo about writing, "one song/before I go/glory/one song to leave behind," and "Seasons of Love," which talks about the length of a year, "five hundred twenty-five thousand/six hundred minutes/how do you figure/a last year on earth?" The speculation has been realized, and it just adds to the legend of the show that is lauded as the harbinger for

the future of Broadway.

I've read other reviews of this show, and they make it seem only pretty good, with lines like "at once overwhelms and disappoints." They criticize it by comparing it to the play's inspiration, Puccini's *La Boheme*. They complain that the lack of criticism is due to the dramatic story of the playwright, and that nobody would dare suggest improvements. They complain that the hype isn't justified. They're full of crap. This show is one of the most entertaining things I've ever seen, theater or otherwise, and is easily the best thing to do in Boston right now.

Go see *Rent*. You have no excuse not to, nor should you need one.



Rent, Jonathan Larson's rock opera, tells the story of struggling artists in New York's Greenwich Village. The musical is playing at the Shubert Theatre now through April.



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IS Now Structured by Processes

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

As a result of re-engineering, Information Systems has changed from a structure organized by functions to one organized around teams and processes.

"Re-engineering provided an opportunity for MIT to rethink the way information technology is used to support the way our academic, research, and administrative work is done," said Vice President for Information Systems James D. Bruce ScD '60.

The old structure of IS included six groups that were in charge of specific areas. Academic computing services, telecommunications systems, operations and systems, distributed computing and network services, administrative systems development, and computing support services composed IS before re-engineering, Bruce said.

Through the information technology transformation redesign — the name of the redesign process — IS is now divided into processes, practices, and competencies, Bruce said.

Five process groups added

In the redesign, IS identified five work processes: discovery, delivery, service, and support, Bruce said.

The I/T discovery process group, as the "first in the chain" of groups, defines the information technology requirements of the MIT community, Bruce said.

If people have an idea about providing a type of service, they can start a discovery process to find out about the service, said Erin Rae Hoffer, a member of IS.

Products and services that are "discovered" move on to the I/T delivery process group, Bruce said. This group works to implement rapidly these new products and services.

The delivered products will be maintained and upgraded by the next group, the I/T service process, Bruce said. The service process also ensures that MIT's entire information technology infrastructure — including everything from Athena, to telephones, to PC repair — runs efficiently.

The I/T support process is charged with effectively delivering timely, high-quality support to information technology users, Bruce said.

The I/T integration process pays attention to making the products and services fit into the existing environment, Hoffer said.

One question that the integration process might ask is how Kerberos, the authentication and encryption system used to protect certain information on Athena, would work with new operating environments, said Director of Academic Computing M. S. Vijay Kumar.

The five processes work in close partnership, Bruce said.

While projects move through the various processes, some people will also move along with the project, Kumar said. In this manner, there will be memory and continuity, and the processes will not be separate and discrete, he said.

Practices focus on customers

The second large category in IS is the practices, which focus on customers, Hoffer said.

The office computing practice, the academic computing practice, and the voice, data, and image networking practice work to ensure that information technology systems are available to support academic, research, and administrative efforts, Bruce said.

Formerly academic computing services, the academic computing practice has two main focuses, Kumar said. On one end, the practice strives to understand people's needs and to translate them to IS processes. The practice also tries to explain IS to the academic community so that the community can better benefit.

The practices also will work with the IS processes and outside vendors to make sure current systems are accessible, Bruce said.

The last of the three categories in

IS is the I/T competency groups.

The competency groups ensure that people with the appropriate skills are available to staff the processes and projects IS undertakes, Bruce said.

The ability of the staff to learn is the most critical aspect for the competency groups, said Hoffer, the director of the I/T competency groups. The groups need to make sure that the staff have the best skills and competency to deliver to customers.

To this end, the competency groups seek to ensure training is available to the IS staff, Hoffer said.

Currently, the competency groups are defining a competency model to find out what priorities should be, Hoffer said.

In the old organization, there were some meaningless integrations and divisions that prevented IS from using resources well, Kumar said.

In the new IS structure, "there won't be unnecessary duplication," Kumar said. The MIT community will be able to get services more efficiently.

The goal of re-engineering was to contain the growth in information technology costs while demand increased, Bruce said. During the past four years, IS has had zero-growth budgets except for salary and employee benefits increases despite an increasing workload.

One thing the competency groups will look at is the turnover rate of employees in IS, Hoffer said.

"Information Systems staff are highly skilled, and their skill sets are very much in demand in the hyper-charged information technology market," Bruce said. "As we know, salaries in higher education cannot compete with salaries in today's marketplace."

IS will need to try to stay competitive in this setting, Hoffer said.

Despite several recent senior management departures, IS has not seen a larger than average staff turnover since the redesign, Bruce said.

Hoffer and Kumar both came to IS after the redesign.

IS to move out of Building 11

Also because of re-engineering, IS will move from its current location in Building 11, to Building N42, the former home of Graphic Arts, Bruce said. Replacing IS in Building 11 will be the new Student Services Center, which needs to stay close to MIT student activity, he said.

An IS client design team is working with architects, the Planning Office, and Physical Plant to create a new home for parts of IS in Building N42.

Some of IS will still remain in the main campus, Bruce said. "We are committed to make it easy for our customers to interact with us."

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Nov. 15 and 21:

Nov. 15: Bldg. NW62, suspicious activity; Bldg. 6, 37, 45, E39, annoying phone calls; Student Center, 1) suspicious package; 2) suspicious activity; Du Pont Gymnasium bicycle rack, bicycle stolen, \$200.

Nov. 16: Kappa Sigma, coat and sweater stolen, \$350; Alpha Tau Omega, coat and wallet stolen, \$230.

Nov. 18: Bldg. 10, malicious destruction to vending machines; Bldg. 56, construction tools stolen, \$1,500; Bldg. E38, suspicious activity; Bldg. 26, suspicious activity; Bldg. E25, malicious damage to vending machines; Bldg. 11, annoying phone call; Du Pont, disturbance; Walker Memorial, bicycle stolen, \$300; Bldg. E52, compact discs stolen, \$420; Herman garage, car vandalized.

Nov. 19: Bldg. 5, suspicious activity; Bldg. 54, annoying phone call; Hayden Memorial Library, disorderly person; Bldg. 2, unauthorized use of a computer; Alumni Pool, leather jacket and wallet stolen, \$365.

Nov. 20: Bldg. 12, wallet stolen, \$60; MIT Museum, bicycle stolen, \$250.

Nov. 21: Bldg. 20, suspicious activity; Kappa Sigma, coat and wallet stolen, \$245; Bldg. 48, suspicious person; Bldg. E15, scaffolding stolen, \$4,500



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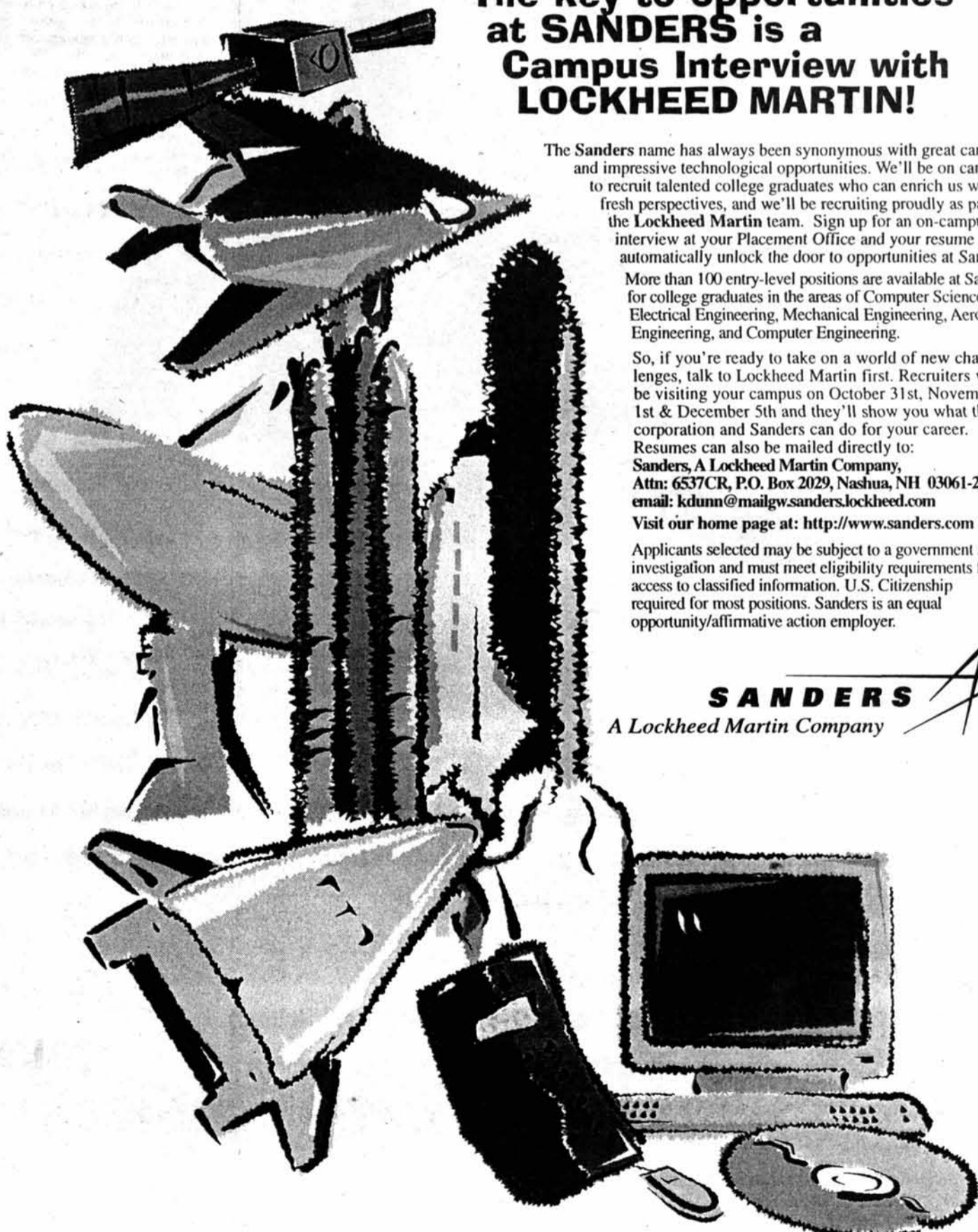
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The last thing I remember was getting home about 43 minutes after I was supposed to call Jen. I was definitely in the doghouse. But I had used up my change trying to remedy a laundry fiasco where all of my tightie-whities were dyed pink by a single red sock. I couldn't even call her to patch things up.

So I stopped at the store and bought a NYNEX Prepaid Calling Card. There were FREE movie tickets in the package. Then it hit me: Not only could I use my Prepaid Card to call and beg her forgiveness, but I could take her to a FREE flick, too. I knew I had thought up something brilliant to win her back. I just couldn't remember what it was. Hope she likes pink.

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*Some restrictions apply. Tickets valid through November 1997.

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Court Finds Brown University Athletics Violate Title IX Law

By Dan McGuire
NEWS EDITOR

The First Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday that Brown University's athletic program violates federal Title IX legislation and discriminates against women because it does not provide sufficient opportunities for them to participate in athletics.

Short Takes

The suit against Brown was filed in 1992 by members of the women's volleyball and gymnastics teams when funding for those teams was cut off for budgetary reasons. The decision by the court preserves an injunction instituted by a lower court that prevents the university from cutting any women's athletics program.

Brown is considering petitioning the First Circuit to have its full slate of six judges, rather than only the three-judge panel that ruled on this case, make a ruling.

Brown President Vartan Gregorian said that the only significant increases in the Athletic Department's budget would come from donors. University funding of

athletics, he has said, has reached a maximum because other funding needs take priority.

At the beginning of the 1995-96 academic year, Brown imposed caps on the sizes of all men's teams "to move our percentages [of male and female athletes] closer together," said Athletic Director David Roach. He added that the strategy has worked, moving Brown "very close numbers-wise to" a gender-mix that would be approved by the court.

"The numbers we presently have are drastically different from the numbers the court case was based on," Roach said. "The numbers [the District Court] liked to use were drastically different."

[The Brown Daily Herald, Nov. 22]

Labor board charges Yale in strike

The National Labor Relations Board last week charged Yale University with violating federal labor law in its treatment of teaching assistants during the grade strike last winter organized by Yale's self-styled graduate student union, the Graduate Employees and Students Organization. Yale maintains that graduate students cannot

unionize and that the group is not a union.

"We will try to make the case... that we don't believe that graduate students should be regarded as employees," said Yale President Richard Levin. "It would be quite fair to say that there is a difference in perspective [between Yale and the NLRB] that has important implications for the University," Levin said.

The NLRB will prosecute Yale in front of one of the board's administrative law judges. If necessary, Yale can then appeal to the five-member NLRB judiciary board in Washington, D.C., and then to the federal court of appeals. Officials said that the review process could take several years.

In the meantime, GESO can petition for a government-sponsored election to determine if graduate students wanted a union to represent them, Kennedy said.

"We've been in serious battles before, and we've stood our ground," said newly-elected GESO Chair Eloise Pasachoff. "The bottom line is that we care about a written agreement."

[Yale Daily News, Nov. 22]

Students Can Enjoy Outdoor Activities Near Talbot House

Talbot, from Page 1

board will be helpful," Tuitt said.

Talbot House currently falls under the control of RCA, but re-engineering efforts are currently under way to study whether or not the current arrangement is best suited to Talbot House and MIT, Tuitt said.

Talbot House is currently managed in the same Student Center office as the UA. However, the Talbot House office is slated to move out of the UA office and perhaps move to the RCA office, Lee said.

Outdoor activities, skiing nearby

Talbot House, built in 1891, is located in South Pomfret, Vermont, approximately five minutes from downtown Woodstock and about 2.5 hours driving from MIT.

In 1967, the house was donated to MIT by Laurance Rockefeller. During the past two decades, significant changes were made by increasing bathroom and shower capacity

and increasing the numbers of bedrooms.

The alterations enabled groups of over 20 people to visit the house at any one time.

Members of the MIT community take advantage of Talbot House as a place to enjoy outdoor activities that Vermont has to offer. Many student groups go during the winter season to enjoy skiing at places like Killington, Pico, Okemo and Suicide Six.

The scheduling for groups who want to visit Talbot House is done by straight lottery, especially during the popular skiing season in January and February. Student groups are given priority over non-student groups of alumni or staff.

The deadline for January applications has passed. However, some weekdays are still available for the MIT community. The deadline for February applications is Dec. 13. In addition, there are still a few weekends available in December. Vacancy scheduling is done on a first come, first served basis.

Activities Can Appeal Allocations

Finboard, from Page 1

done for the publication, thereby reducing costs, Lee said.

The only group that requested funding but did not receive any was the MIT Equestrian Team, a new activity, Yang said. "We didn't quite understand their budget," she said, and because of a scheduling problem, the team's members could not make it to the meeting to answer questions.

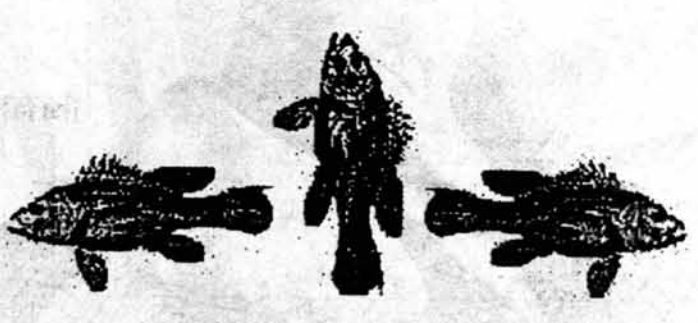
Finboard recommended that the group resubmit a proposal with more information at the appeals meetings.

"There's not really any other group like us at MIT," said Heather D. Drake '99, treasurer of the equestrian team. "We're definitely going to appeal."

"There's a lot of interest in the group," Drake said. Funding "would be nice since we are a new group."


To be eligible for Finboard funding, groups must submit budgets to Finboard, although they do not actually have to show up to the budget compilation meetings to receive money. Some groups do show up, however, to "explain an activity, explain the nature of their club," Yang said.

Several Finboard members were ill over the weekend and could not make it to the Saturday and Sunday budget meetings, Yang said. Two or three members were sick each day. "A lot of the board wasn't there," she said. "It was kind of unfortunate."



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SPORTS

Heavyweight Crews Finish Fall Strongly

By Robert Lentz
and Karl Richter

TEAM MEMBERS

The varsity heavyweight crew team finished a successful fall racing season with strong performances in the Foot of the Charles regatta Saturday morning.

The varsity crews from New England's best rowing colleges raced the 2.4-mile distance from MIT's Pierce Boathouse to Harvard's Newell Boathouse in fours, while the freshmen competed for the first time against Division I rivals in eights.

Heavyweight Varsity Coach Gordon Hamilton said he was "very pleased with the varsity results, especially for this year's young crew."

The heavyweight A four of Dan Parker '99, Shane Wu '99, Mike Perry '99, Robert Lentz '98, and Jen Lykens '99 (coxswain), finished seventh among the college crews with a time of 13:44. Harvard University won the varsity fours event in a time of 13:10, followed by Dartmouth College and Northeastern University.

This finish puts the MIT four, with three sophomore oarsmen, on par with last year's all-senior top four which was touted as one of the fastest MIT fours ever. Northeastern, Harvard, and Dartmouth finished first, fourth, and sixth respectively at the 1996

Eastern Sprints, equivalently the Division I national championships for rowing.

The heavyweight B four of Brian Smith '97, Charlie Able '97, Karsten Kallevig '99, Karl Richter '99, and Eric Sit '99 (coxswain), finished just three places behind the first four. The B four caught up to the Harvard lightweight A four, making up the 20 second starting difference between the boats. The MIT boat had been plagued by illness in the week preceding the race and could have been even faster had it been healthier.

The C four of Solar Olugebefola '99, Mads Schmidt '98, Brad Lichtenstein G, and Chris Putnam G, finished much better than last year's boat. This relative improvement and the close finishes of the first two fours show an improved depth in MIT's heavyweight program and the potential for a fast varsity eight in the spring.

The freshman heavyweight eight, missing two rowers to illness, finished 13th out of over 30 boats.

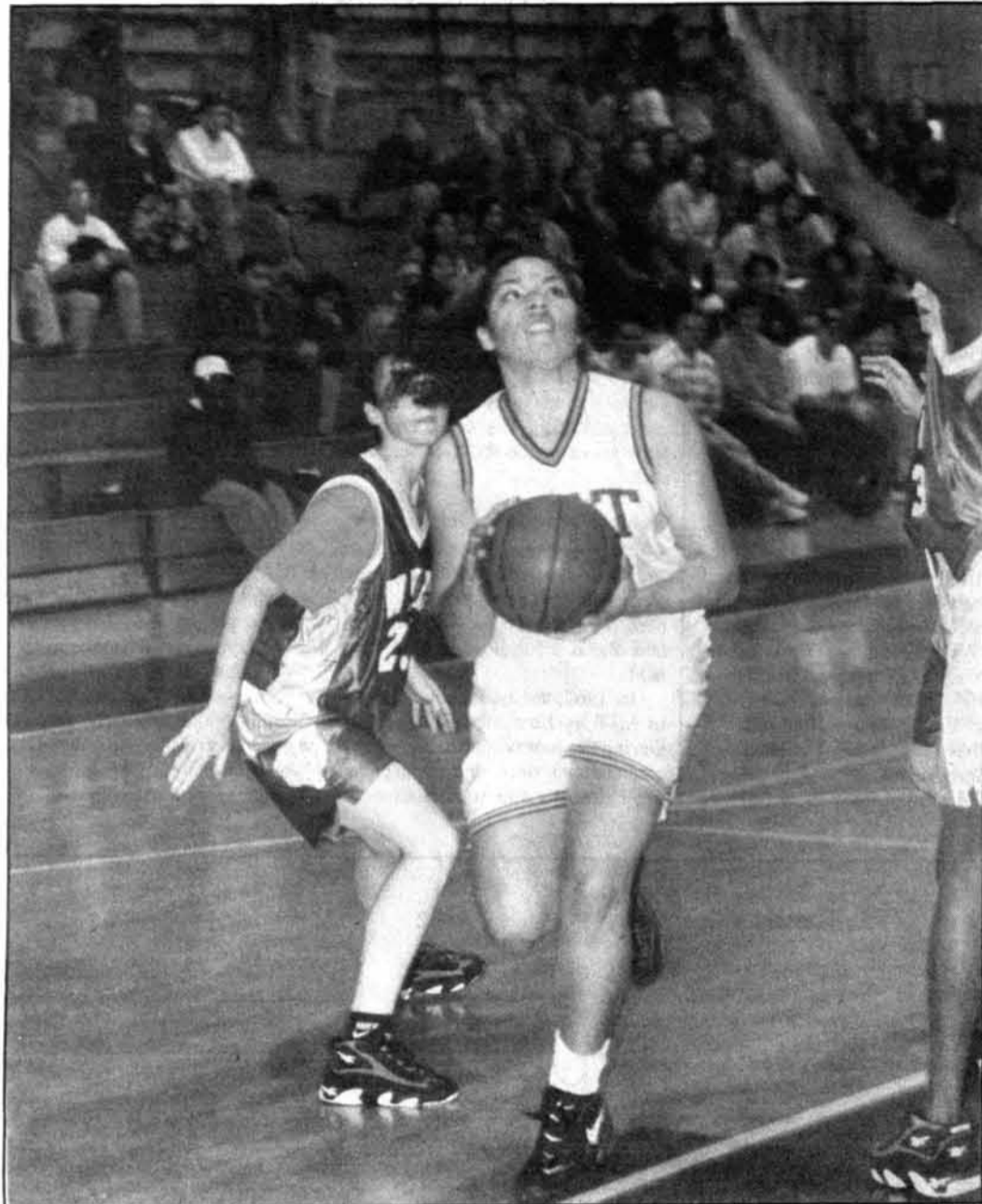
"We hope to gain some speed this winter by training hard and recruiting more novice rowers — we have a lot of power and we just need more time on the water to smooth it out," said stroke Dan Wolf '00.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 26

Men's Basketball vs. Babson College, 8 p.m.

Wrestling vs. University of Massachusetts at Lowell, 7 p.m.



JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH

Vicky Canto-Ponce '00 attempts to break through the defense in Friday's game against Western New England College in the fourth annual Women's Basketball Tip Off Classic. MIT won the game 73-58.

Dregs of the NFL Contend for Honor of First Draft Pick

By Martin Duke
SPORTS COLUMNIST

All of this talk about playoff possibilities and huge games is all fine and good, but what about the other end of the spectrum? What hopes do the dregs of the NFL have for the rest of the season, especially when you consider that the worst team gets the all-important first draft pick?

The front-runner for the honor, of course, is the New York Jets (1-11), who have somehow managed to set a pace that should have them finish even worse than last year. The scary part is they went 1-11 against the soft part of their schedule!

Their remaining four opponents are all .500 or better: Houston, New England, Philadelphia, and Miami. Given that, it's not hard to pick the Jets to go 1-15 and once again get the first pick.

The latest rumors indicate that the Jets will retain the services of Rich Kotite next season. Why ownership would tolerate a probable 4-28 record over two years, especially considering the huge infusion of cash last off-season, is beyond me.

Right ahead of the Jets are the refuse of the NFC West: the Atlanta Falcons and New Orleans Saints. Both are 2-10, but Atlanta, tragically, defeated the Saints in their first matchup to capture the all-important first tiebreaker.

The Falcons still have to play San Francisco, but besides that both

face nothing but quite beatable teams, including each other in the Georgia Dome. Look for the loser of that game on Dec. 8 to capture the second pick.

Granted, the Saints are operating with what may be an interim coach, but it was a peculiar choice, to say the least, to hire Rick Venturi, someone who hasn't even won five games at the college level, much less the pros.

Among the worst of the rest, the Baltimore Ravens stick out with their 3-8 record. With home games against Pittsburgh and Houston, and games at Cincinnati and home-field juggernaut Carolina, they are quite unlikely to win another game. Of course, for Baltimore fans starved for football for over a decade, it'll hardly matter.

The St. Louis Rams are 3-8 going into last Sunday, but have a game against Atlanta and two against the Saints. Given that atrocious opposition, five wins is not too much to ask.

More mediocrity in the NBA

I'm trying to like the Boston Celtics, but they're making it very hard. They have played four quarters of basketball only once, in a rout of the Atlanta Hawks. Their only other win was a come-from-behind affair against Indiana.

In every other game they have been on the other end of those equations. No lead is safe when it is held by the Boston Celtics. They have blown double-digit leads in each of their other games, except for dismantlings at the hands of Seattle and Milwaukee.

There are two rays of hope in this dismal season — one is the play of Antoine Walker and Dana Barros, even if Barros is tremendously overpaid. The other is that Boston owns the Mavericks' first-round draft pick, meaning the Celtics ought to have two high lottery picks.

As much as M.L. Carr has contributed to the disintegration of the franchise, he did make an interesting proposal last week. He offered the Nets a straight-up trade of first round draft picks, so that neither club could be accused of trying to improve their lottery position. As much as this would have improved both teams' situation from a sportsmanship perspective, John Calipari (oh-by-the-way, John, didn't we warn you about New Jersey?) realized that his team was probably going to end up a lot worse than Boston. Oh, well.

I hope other lottery GMs pick this tactic up, as it could do a lot for

the competitive integrity of the league.

Defense wins championships

There has been much wringing of hands about the lack of scoring in the NBA this season, but it seems to just be a symptom of a much larger situation in American team sports.

It is an accident of all the major team spectator sports that defensive skills and strategies are the quickest ways to success, even if it attracts fewer fans. We saw the same thing in hockey the last few years, with the slow-it-down defenses of New Jersey advancing deep into the playoffs, despite the best efforts of the NHL rules committee.

When one looks at NFL games between two teams of good caliber, one can't help but notice that rarely does a team exceed 30 points. In fact 14 to 17 points seems to have become the norm. This is because coaches have realized that defense, though unglamorous, is the hallmark of the class teams of the league.

In baseball, offense generally rules the day, but Atlanta, the perennial World Series contender, is based on one of the greatest rotations of all time. Even the Yankees were built around pitching and defense, not power.

Meanwhile, offensive behemoths that can't pitch or play defense, like Boston, sit at home. Even in the NBA, the defensive trend is older than this season.

The handchecking rules and tinkering with the already mystifying illegal defense rule have failed to counteract what is a very strong defensive trend everywhere in the sports world. Expect it to be a major part of the crisis that will face the NBA when Michael Jordan retires again.

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