



Vice President Al Gore, who spoke at an environmental conference at MIT last October, will return in June as the keynote speaker for commencement.

Al Gore to Deliver Address At 130th Commencement

By Oril G. Bahcall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Vice President Al Gore will be the speaker at MIT's 130th Commencement ceremonies, President Charles M. Vest announced Wednesday.

"We are delighted that... Gore can be with us on this happy occasion," Vest said. "It is always exciting to have someone of his stature with us."

"But his role as commencement speaker is particularly appropriate at MIT because he has been a leader as congressman, senator, and vice president in the areas of science, space, and technology policy," Vest said.

"In addition, Al Gore's commitment and leadership on environmental issues is unparalleled. He has said repeatedly that the protection and preservation of the earth's environment is one of the most important issues facing this generation —

and I brought those suggestions to a closed meeting of the Commencement Committee where we created a short list of suggestions for the consideration of President Vest," said Barbara J. Souter G, President of the Graduate Student Council and a member of the committee.

Former Chairman and CEO of the Chrysler Corporation Lee Iacocca, former Secretary of Defense Les Aspin PhD '66, and Germany Chancellor Helmut Kohl are among the people who have delivered commencement addresses since 1982.

From 1964 to 1982, the Commencement address traditionally was given by the president of MIT. Last year's speaker was President Emeritus of the University of Chicago Hannah H. Gray.

Committee wanted Gore

Composed of students and members of the faculty and administration, the Commencement Committee is in charge of the arrangement and conduct of commencement exercises.

"We solicited suggestions through e-mail and our Tech ads,

and I brought those suggestions to a closed meeting of the Commencement Committee where we created a short list of suggestions for the consideration of President Vest," said Barbara J. Souter G, President of the Graduate Student Council and a member of the committee.

"Al Gore was a popular suggestion, and we are extremely happy that he is coming," she said. "I'm glad that this year's graduating class will have the opportunity to hear Gore speak," Souter said.

"I think maybe it would be cooler to get the Fonz" — Yale University alum Henry Winkler, who will speak at Yale's commencement — "but the vice president isn't somebody off the street. I'm impressed," said Heather M. Norton '96.

"It's at least somebody that we've heard of," Glenn Koh '96.

"I'd never heard of the speaker for

Gore, Page 13

Administrators, Friends React to Student's Death

By Ramy A. Arnaout
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The community is slowly coming to terms with news of the death of Melissa N. Ronge '98, four days after she fell to her death from a MacGregor House tower lounge early Monday morning.

Campus Police have called the circumstances of her death consistent with suicide.

The mood is a mix of sorrow, resignation, and disbelief as students and administrators re-examine the physical and procedural aspects of the tragedy. But the consensus is that it was not preventable.

"An incident like this does cause us to reconsider what we're doing, but we have [no reason] to believe what we were doing was inappropriate," said Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Margaret A. Jablonski.

All of the windows — including the one

Ronge fell from — had been bolted, said MacGregor Housemaster Munther A. Dahleh. "The safety lock was working," allowing the window to open only a few inches, although "the opening even with the lock was somewhat large," he said. Plans are underway to make the opening smaller, he said.

But no general changes are planned as yet, Jablonski said. "We did ask housing to take a look at the windows again," she said. "There was a concern expressed by some students that this particular window opened too far."

"We're always trying to make sure our residences are safe for people, but we have to balance" that with concern for students as a whole, Jablonski said.

The incident should not, for example, be taken as a cue to close down all tall dormitories or roof decks, Jablonski said.

"As of right now, we are not looking at making any major changes in any residential design based on" the incident, Jablonski said.

Students should know where to get help

Ronge had been talking with friends, tutors, and other people on campus Sunday night, said Senior Associate Dean Robert M. Randolph.

In general, the key to getting help is always asking, Randolph said. He encouraged students who need advice on serious matters to approach friends, tutors, and housemasters first. "Those are the people they know best," he said.

Next to ask are medical center staff and the consulting deans, although students should talk with whomever they feel comfortable with, Randolph said. Those people might include advisers, coaches, or chap-

lains, he said.

"There should always be a number of ways people can access the system," Randolph said. Students should know what those resources are.

"This is very terribly, terribly painful," Randolph said. Any decision that comes out of the incident will involve the input of the larger community, he said. "We will really continue to think and look at this for awhile."

The Undergraduate Association is working with MacGregor residents to plan an informal on-campus memorial service for late next week, said Stephanie M. Zielenski '98, one of the service's planners.

The planners hope it will help provide some sense of closure to the tragedy, Zielenski said.

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IS Survey Will Gauge Student Usage of Athena Clusters



Information Systems' Naomi Schmidt, Bruce R. Lewis '90, (center) and Tim McGovern model the caps to be worn by people interviewing students in Athena clusters.

By Jennifer Lane
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

A team of staff and students from Information Systems will be interviewing students in Athena clusters starting this Monday.

The surveys will help IS get a better idea of what students use the clusters for and whether the clusters are meeting student needs, said Naomi B. Schmidt, manager of educational planning and support for Academic Computing Services.

"It is my hope that information about the way in which Athena clusters are being used will be of value to the Council on Technology and Education," said Provost Joel Moses PhD '67. Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning William J. Mitchell will chair the council.

"One of the council's goals will be to review the use of computer and communications technology in our educational programs, both on and off campus," Moses said.

The decision to conduct a survey was made by the Academic Computing Management Group at IS, a policy-making group involved with Athena and academic computing.

As an incentive, students who

take the time to complete the interview will get Toscanini's gift certificates.

Athena usage changes with time

The current data that IS has on Athena usage is severely outdated, which shocked both IS staff and Moses, who is responsible for fund-

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WORLD & NATION

Many Say Yeltsin Can Still Win

THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

President Boris Yeltsin, whose approval ratings have been stuck in single digits for more than a year, is lagging badly in all the polls — third place in one recent survey, tied for fifth in another. It is no exaggeration to say that he is among the most despised men in Russia.

Yet many analysts and ordinary Russians — and not only his partisans — say he remains the man to beat in presidential elections this summer, even if the resurgent Communists are currently more than twice as popular as the president in the polls. Some say flatly that Yeltsin, 65, will win.

Their confidence in him is rooted partly in the power of the Russian presidency and partly in his own nearly mythic political instincts, which in the past have kicked into high gear precisely when he most looked like a goner.

But it is more than blind faith and constitutional clout that favors Yeltsin, some analysts say. More to the point, he has fashioned an electoral game plan that, coupled with some basic political arithmetic, gives him at least a plausible shot at reelection.

The election — a first round is to be held June 16, followed by a probable runoff between the two top finishers in July — is a crucial test for Russia's flimsy young democracy and shaky transition to a market economy.

Anti-AIDS Drug Passes Federal Panel

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal advisory committee Thursday recommended limited government approval of a powerful new AIDS drug that recent research has shown can decrease or prevent AIDS-related complications, and prolong life in very sick patients.

The drug, ritonavir, developed by Abbott Laboratories, is one of a new class of potent antiviral drugs called protease inhibitors that has AIDS specialists very excited.

Researchers studying ritonavir said that once on the drug, patients already very sick with AIDS suffered fewer symptoms and lived significantly longer than those taking a placebo.

However, committee members, troubled by the lack of information on patients with earlier stage AIDS infection, approved the drug for use only in advanced cases. They urged the company to design further research in healthier infected populations in order to gain wider marketing approval. Experts do not yet know how well protease inhibitors will work over the long term, particularly in infected individuals who have not yet developed symptoms. One of the problems with all AIDS drugs is the eventual development of viral strains that are drug-resistant. Also, the long-term toxicities of the drug are unknown.

U.S. to Help With Nuclear Materials

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Clinton administration fears that nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union remain "very vulnerable" to theft by terrorists or rogue nations and plans to spend \$330 million on new security measures to help prevent such thefts over the next six years, a senior Energy Department official said Wednesday.

The aim of the increased U.S. effort is to assist authorities in seven former Soviet republics to develop and install modern surveillance and monitoring equipment for use at an estimated 40 to 50 sites on their territory where such sensitive materials are stored, Deputy Secretary Charles B. Curtis said.

Explaining that he visited several of the sites last year and found antiquated security measures consisting largely of "guards, guns and gates," Curtis said the task of upgrading this security will take years. "We are going to have to be lucky" to complete the job before a major theft occurs, Curtis told a luncheon group called the Nuclear Roundtable, associated with the Stimson Center.

WEATHER

March towards winter!

By Marek Zebrowski
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A cold high pressure system will assure us a fair Friday, but a sloppy, snowy Saturday and a wintry weekend are then to follow. By dawn on Saturday a low pressure system will be developing off Cape Hatteras, along the stalled frontal boundary lying just off shore. Meanwhile, in the northern stream, a clipper-type shortwave is going to drop into the western Great Lakes, sharpening the East coast trough and allowing for a rapid backing of upper flow along the Northeast, as the aforementioned storm develops off the Carolina Capes. There are indications that the southern stream energy will win out, and that phasing of the mid-Atlantic and the Great Lakes systems will not take place. Nonetheless, there is enough moisture and cold air in place to cause a moderate snowfall in the Northeast, just inland from coastal locations, where mixed precipitation is expected. A twin-center area of low pressure (with the coastal storm rapidly intensifying over the Maritimes by early Sunday) will bring a cold and unsettled week.

Today: Mostly sunny with light winds. High 39° F (4° C)

Tonight: Partly cloudy early; clouds thickening after midnight. Light winds turning onshore. Low 27° F (-3° C)

Saturday: Cloudy with snow developing early. Possible accumulations of 6 in. (15cm), especially from Boston area west- and northward. Snow may change to rain over Cape and the islands, southeastern Massachusetts, and near the coast. High 36° F (2° C) with increasing onshore winds.

Sunday outlook: Partly to mostly cloudy, with scattered snow showers or flurries. Blustery highs near freezing, lows in the 15-20° F (-9 to -6° C) range.

Cuba Says Reports of Air Space Breach Were Ignored

By Juanita Darling
LOS ANGELES TIMES

HAVANA

In the 20 months before Cuban jet fighters shot down two airplanes piloted by members of an exile group, officials of Fidel Castro's government had formally complained four times to their U.S. counterparts that the organization was routinely invading their air space, a Foreign Relations Ministry official said Wednesday.

U.S. authorities appeared to have been acting on the complaints, but too slowly to satisfy Cuban concerns about what they perceived as the increasing frequency and aggressiveness of the flights, including anti-Castro leaflet drops over Havana, Cuban authorities said.

"We were left to the conclusion that they were not taking the measures necessary to stop the flights," said Rafael Dausa, subdirector of Cuba's U.S.-Canada Department of the Foreign Relations Ministry. Since May 1994, planes from the exile organization Brothers to the Rescue have invaded Cuban airspace 26 times, he said.

"We have shown great patience," he said. "This can be seen from the number of flights by these pirates."

Saturday, Cuban authorities lost patience, they have insisted, and shot down two Cessnas belonging to the organization. The four men aboard are believed dead.

International condemnation of

Cuban actions in shooting down the planes has given Castro's regime a new rallying point. During a well-orchestrated demonstration at the military academy Wednesday, cadets and instructors recited poetry and gave speeches comparing the current situation to the 1961 Cuban Missile Crisis, when President Kennedy forced the Soviet Union to remove its atomic missiles from Cuba.

Cubans consider the actions of Brothers to the Rescue and the international disapproval that followed the shoot-down of the planes as another chapter in more than three decades of infringement on their sovereignty.

Tensions over the alleged entries into Cuban territory reached a high point on July 13, 1995, when Brothers to the Rescue founder Jose Basulto flew over Havana dropping anti-communist leaflets. The following day, Cuban authorities threatened to shoot any planes that entered their air space.

They also provided requested information when the Federal Aviation Administration began disciplinary action against Basulto in August 1995 to revoke his pilot's license for violating Cuban air space — action he has appealed.

However, the measures against Basulto did not discourage his organization. Brothers to the Rescue illegally entered Cuban airspace twice last month to drop leaflets, witnesses here said.

Following the second incident,

the Cuban weekly newspaper *Workers* reported that the Cuban government sent a formal diplomatic note to the United States on Jan. 16 protesting the flights.

Brothers to the Rescue plans to drop memorial flowers Saturday on the area where the planes were shot down, Basulto has said. The Cubans claim that area is inside their territorial limits, although the United States government has said it is in international waters.

Meanwhile in Washington, the Clinton administration groped for ways to discourage Basulto's group from going ahead with their plans.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said the administration has warned Basulto repeatedly about the dangers of taunting Castro's government with its flights.

"We will continue that dialogue," McCurry said. "We will work through issues associated with some of the plans that they have publicly announced, and we will do so in a manner that is consistent with our obligation to protect the safety of American citizens, but our obligation also to acknowledge that there is a right to free travel in international airways and international waters."

A spokesman for the FAA confirmed that the organization is investigating recent flights by Brothers to the Rescue to determine if there are grounds for revoking the pilot's licenses of the group's flyers.

Federal Judge Dismisses Suit Against Gingrich PAC

By Alan C. Miller
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A federal district court judge dismissed a lawsuit Thursday charging that a Republican political committee headed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich violated federal restrictions by spending large sums six years ago to elect GOP congressional candidates.

The suit, filed by the Federal Election Commission, sought to compel the GOP Action Committee, or GOPAC, to disclose the sources and disposition of more than \$500,000 in contributions in the 1989-90 election cycle. The FEC contended that the money was spent to influence federal elections at a time when GOPAC was prohibited from such activities because it had not registered as a federal political action committee.

But U.S. District Court Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer concurred with GOPAC's claim that it had directly assisted only state and local candidates and therefore was not a federal PAC. The judge also rejected the election watchdog agency's assertion that GOPAC spent at least \$250,000 for consultants' salaries, travel costs and other "Newt support" in 1990 to re-elect Gingrich, a Georgia Republican.

Oberdorfer's action, which had been sought by GOPAC, was a major victory for Gingrich. But he still faces an inquiry by James M. Cole, the special counsel appointed by the House ethics committee to probe allegations that Gingrich improperly used tax-deductible donations to finance his teaching of a college course, and additional complaints before the ethics panel.

"The fact is we obey the law," Gingrich told reporters at the Capi-

itol. "We're trying to do what's right and I think this is a very good day for free speech. It's a very good day for the political process."

A spokesman for the FEC said the bipartisan agency had not decided whether to appeal Oberdorfer's decision. "We're pretty disappointed," spokesman Ron Harris said.

In his 32-page ruling, Oberdorfer said that it was undisputed that "GOPAC's ultimate major purpose was to influence the election of Republican candidates for the House of Representatives" by recruiting, training and funding strong local and state candidates with the expectation that they would seek higher office in the future.

But, he added, "GOPAC's immediate major purpose in 1989 and 1990 was to elect state and local candidates and to develop ideas and circulate them generally to Republican Party candidates and supporters."

GOPAC distributed some of its materials to federal candidates, among others, in 1990, Oberdorfer said, "but the distribution was not targeted to federal candidates." Moreover, he said, "GOPAC did not make any direct contribution to any particular federal candidate."

Although documents submitted by the FEC quote GOPAC officials as discussing steps "to inoculate Newt Gingrich from Democratic attacks" and targeting Georgia during the 1989-90 election cycle in part "to protect Congressman Newt Gingrich" during the redrawing of congressional districts, Oberdorfer said that the FEC offered no evidence that any aid provided to Gingrich as GOPAC chairman was used "to support his re-election campaign."

Gingrich, who narrowly won a

seventh term in 1990, stepped down as GOPAC general chairman last year. The political committee was considered a vehicle to enhance Gingrich's stature and help elect the first Republican House majority in 40 years in 1994.

"From the beginning, this case has been about an effort by the Washington establishment to discredit those who have contributed to the realignment and shift in American politics that has been under way since the late 1980s," GOPAC said in a prepared statement.

House Whip David Bonior, D-Mich., Gingrich's chief ethics nemesis, maintained that Oberdorfer's decision "raises more questions than it answers."

"GOPAC documents make repeated references that \$250,000 a year was spent on Newt support. If this wasn't a direct contribution to Mr. Gingrich's re-election campaign, then what was it?" Bonior asked in a news release.

The FEC's 2-year-old lawsuit was based on a complaint filed by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 1990. The following year, the FEC found reason to believe that GOPAC had improperly failed to register as a federal PAC. GOPAC did so the following day, but declared that only a small portion of its funds were spent on federal elections.

In addition to requiring PACs to reveal their funding sources and spending, federal election law limits individual contributions to a candidate to a maximum of \$1,000 per election and political action committees to \$5,000. GOPAC, which did not regard itself as a federal PAC, set \$10,000 as the minimum annual donation for charter members.

Mexico Balks at U.S. Review Of Global War Against Drugs

By Mark Fineman
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY

In the week leading up to the Clinton administration's Friday deadline to certify the progress of key nations in the global war on drugs, Mexico's stock market plunged, its frustration soared and its rhetoric seethed with nationalist pique.

"The Mexican government does not recognize any legitimacy to the 'process of certification,'" declared Jorge Pinto, Mexico's consul general in New York.

And Mexican Health Secretary Dr. Juan Ramon de la Fuente delivered a scathing speech recalling the U.S. invasion of Mexico in 1847 and evoking the words of Mexico's first indigenous president, Benito Juarez: "We do not need a foreigner to establish reforms for our country."

He cited recent academic studies in Mexico and the United States to

bolster Mexico's decade-old position that the world's largest drug-consuming nation has no right to pass judgment on its suppliers:

—For each Mexican who has used illegal drugs, there are nine Americans who have used them;

—Nearly 24 million Americans used illegal drugs last year, compared with 320,000 Mexicans;

—And one of every five Mexican students who admitted to using cocaine or heroin in a 1993 national survey here said they first tried it in the United States.

Behind the numbers and the rhetoric is a real concern here that President Clinton, responding to election-year Republican pressure, could stop short of fully certifying Mexico, a nation where the DEA estimates powerful smuggling cartels are supplying up to three-fourths of the South American cocaine sold in the United States each year.

Decertification would mean suspension of U.S. foreign aid to Mexico, and a U.S. vote against all World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans to this already cash-strapped nation. It also would jeopardize billions of dollars in remaining credit in Clinton's \$20 billion loan package for Mexico.

In Washington, U.S. officials said there is little chance that Clinton will decertify Mexico; most said Mexico is too important to risk such a step.

Nevertheless, they added, some U.S. drug enforcement officials would like to give the Mexicans a wake-up call. Among Clinton's options are to give Mexico a "national-interest waiver," which was applied last year to Colombia. A waiver would mean that the country's anti-narcotics efforts are too poor to certify but U.S. national interest compels Washington to waive the penalties.

Former Spymasters Launch Computer Game Together

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Old spies never die. They just interface away.

In a new twist to the post-Cold War world, William Colby, former CIA director, and Oleg Kalugin, former head of foreign counterintelligence for the KGB, have teamed for a bit of over-the-counter intelligence: an interactive computer thriller called "Spycraft: The Great Game."

The sight of two old adversaries joined in friendship and capitalism was just too good to pass up, which is why more than 200 folks jammed into a hearing room in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Wednesday night for the launch party of the CD-ROM adventure.

The two men were hired by the software company Activision as consultants to bring their expertise to the spy game, and both appear on the computer screen playing themselves. "I'm sort of the avuncular fellow the player can turn to for advice," said Colby, who helps flush out a mole from the agency and says such things as "That's just a dumb thing to do."

Using the latest computer and video tricks and real-life, state-of-the-art intelligence technologies, the game — part "Mission: Impossible," part John le Carre — sends CIA agent Thorn (you, the player) on a mission to the dark side of espionage.

"It's got the assassinations, the rampant crime, the treachery; it's all a reflection of life today," said Kalugin, now a businessman specializing in Russian-U.S. ventures. "That's what attracted me. It reflected the realities."

Art imitates life; life imitates art.

Mrs. Fields Told Her 'Low Fat' Cookies Could Stand a Diet

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Food and Drug Administration recently approved marketing of fake fat, but the Federal Trade Commission is continuing to crack down on fake "low fat."

The FTC said Friday that Mrs. Fields Cookies Inc., the largest seller in the United States of fresh-baked cookies, has agreed to settle charges it misled consumers with inflated claims that two of its cookies were low-fat.

In fact, two of the cookies promoted as "our new line of LOW FAT cookies" contained almost twice as much as the FDA's standard for low-fat products, the FTC said. The Chocolate and Semi-Sweet Classic cookies in the line contained 5.5 grams of fat, versus the FDA standard of 3 grams or fewer.

A release from Mrs. Fields Cookies said the company had discovered that the claims were in error before being notified by the FTC and had contacted its stores and instructed them to remove and destroy incorrect material.

Mrs. Fields, which is headquartered in Salt Lake City and sells cookies through more than 600 bakeries nationwide, is the latest manufacturer to find its low-fat claims under fire. Last year Haagen-Dazs and Dannon Co. agreed to settle charges with the FTC that they had made false and misleading claims about the dietary nature of their frozen yogurts.

New Breast Cancer Gene Could Prove Useful in Treating Patients

By David Brown
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Recent experiments with the "breast cancer gene" discovered 18 months ago suggest that the normal version of the gene may theoretically be useful as a treatment for the disease.

The gene, named BRCA1, produces a protein that slows both the formation and growth of breast tumors in laboratory animals. Equally important, the protein appears to do its work outside, rather than inside, cancer cells — a fact that greatly enhances its potential usefulness as a drug.

Abnormal versions of BRCA1 originally were found in families containing large numbers of women with breast cancer and, less frequently, ovarian cancer. Although

these women account for only 3 percent of the 184,000 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed each year, researchers hoped that studying them would shed light on the far more common "non-familial" form of the disease.

The researchers found a protein that appears to be BRCA1 attached to membranes in breast cells — the site where secreted proteins are found. They collected it from fluid bathing breast cells grown in culture. Using an electron microscope, they even photographed a cell in the act of releasing several "labeled" molecules of the protein.

All three findings strongly suggested the BRCA1 protein, while manufactured inside the cell, does its work outside it.

Then the researchers looked for what that work might be. They

injected a virus carrying the BRCA1 gene into mice with breast tumors. Some of the injected genes were taken up by the cancer cells, restoring the BRCA1 function that the cells had lost. Mice getting such treatments survived three times longer than animals that hadn't gotten them.

In a similar study, cancer-prone mice were injected with cancer cells, and some also with the BRCA1-carrying virus. Those getting the BRCA1 treatment developed tumors much more slowly than those that hadn't gotten it.

Together, the experiments suggest that the BRCA1 protein suppresses tumor growth — although it doesn't destroy tumors and may not prevent them completely. And it somehow does this outside the cell.

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Institutional Wisdom Watch



by *The Tech* editorial board



Ashwin Viswanathan: Slim, plain platform reflects status quo campaign.



Al Gore: Let's hope Al moves off the stump for the commencement address.



Steve Jens: UMOG wannabe wants food service competition, but that might be a tall order.



IFC: President Pride says having "fraternities not based on alcohol" is too idealistic a goal. Hiccup!



Richard Lee: Counterpoint publisher promises "renaissance of passion." Can he really up UA funds where his predecessors couldn't?



MEng: Faculty nit-pickers table a new degree because of semantics. Is this part of the educational vision?



College Bowl: With Harvard gone, the MIT brains are heading for the nationals. Next stop, Disneyworld!

UA Elections: Deadline for direction-arrow petition extended.



DEAD MAN WALKING

BOB DOLE AS THE FRONT-WALKER



Opinion Policy

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Letters and cartoons must bear the author's 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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rookies

by willy ziminsky



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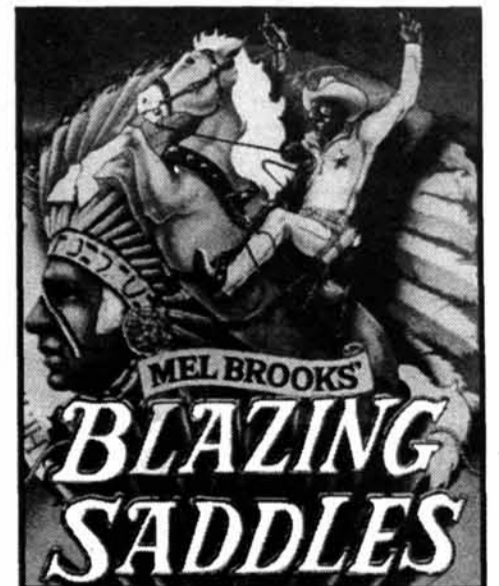
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THE ARTS

CAMPUS pick

By Craig K. Chang

Techiya celebrates spirit of Jewish religion and music through a cappella

JEWISH A CAPPELLA CONCERT

Techiya
Directed by Raquell L. Lieberman.
Featuring Jewish songs in English, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino.

Singing has long been central to Jewish culture. This tradition stems in part from the Sabbath, during which many Jews refrain from using musical instruments. Outside of this religious constraint, love for Jewish and Israeli songs is still alive and strong, especially among many young university students.

MIT's Jewish a cappella group, Techiya, has celebrated this rich heritage of singing for almost two years. But Techiya members haven't done it alone. They commonly perform with Jewish a cappella groups from neighboring schools. Together with Harvard's Mizmor Shir and Brandeis' Manginah, Techiya gave a concert last April that completely filled the Student Center's Twenty Chimneys. And in January, the group was invited to sing with Yale's highly respected Magevet group.

The existence of such singing groups reflects more than a trend. Techiya's name has roots in the bellowing of the shofar by ancient Jews for battle and religious holidays. Any inspiration borrowed from the group's name reaches deep into the Jewish spirit. After a recent concert for the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly, Techiya, and Brown's Kol B'Yachad shared a spiritual experience singing various Jewish songs for over two hours in a lobby. This kind of warmth and intimacy is at the heart of the Jewish tradition of sharing feelings through song and prayer, and will undoubtedly be present at Techiya's concert this weekend.



Members of the Jewish singing group Techiya will give their spring concert Sunday.

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Though not always authentic, José's is still fun

JOSE'S MEXICAN FOOD
131 Sherman St., Porter Square.

By Aaron R. Prazan

Boston, or New England, is usually not the place to find great Mexican food. Not only is it rare; it is often unappreciated by the population. Face it: More people know good chowder from mediocrity than know good tamales from spicy corn dogs. Located at 131 Sherman Street near Porter Square, José's Mexican Food makes an honest attempt at giving us the real thing. Being the only son of a Mexican mother, I grew up on fantastic Mexican food. I'm not going to say José's took me back to the years in San Diego I spent eating homecooked Menudo and acquiring a taste for dishes above the melting point of the fork they sat on. I will say that unlike the chains and "Southwest style" eateries around, José's does capture the character of real Mexican food. That alone is quite a feat for a New England restaurant.

First, the place really looks Mexican. There is no track lighting, no tacky, fake stucco with even cheesier patches of "time-worn" bricks, and no larger-than-life plastic Corona bottles. It is simple, and the low concentration of cliché Mexican decoration only makes it more authentic. Mexican music in the background brings the place closer still to the real thing. José's looks like it could be a real Mexican restaurant, not a Chili's at the mall.

Of course, the true test of quality is in the food, which was sometimes not spectacular. But in Boston, a Mexican food fan must take the good with the bad. Good indicators were

the chips and salsa. This was not made in San Antonio by people who know what Picante sauce should taste like, but obviously made right on the premises. The salsa appears to be often homemade; the pico de gallo could have been hotter, but not fresher.

Nachos are also well done at José's. They are hot and do not skimp on meat, beans, or fresh vegetables. Also as an appetizer, I tried a Mexican pizza. The menu said shredded beef, but the shreds looked a lot like hamburger to me. Mexican pizza in general seems to be a Taco Bell creation, so I was not discouraged that it was not authentic enough.

On the whole, the food had a general hit-and-miss quality. I had the opportunity to taste chile rellenos, a chicken quesadilla, an enormous chimichanga, and José's version of enchiladas. The chile rellenos were the closest to my grandmother's cooking. Again, greasy hamburger replaced shredded beef. The chicken was great, though, a fact which led me to suspect they simply ran out of shredded beef that busy Saturday night. Another strong point were the beans, both pinto and black. They had good flavor and thick, chunky consistency.

Other entrées were not so successful. The enchiladas had plenty of meat, but no sauce. That was so unusual that I almost asked if I had the right plate. The rice-filled chimichanga was similarly undressed. A saving grace was the chicken quesadilla, which overflowed with hot cheese and tender chicken. Again, the dinner was not the strongest regional cuisine, but average by my standards.

On the other hand, dessert was definitely an unexpected strength. It is generally tough to find flan (a caramel covered custard) anywhere. José's has managed to find someone

capable of making a very impressive one. The flan is a rather difficult dessert to make well, as it is very easy to curdle or over-cook. Flan at José's was without a doubt the softest, most delectable I have ever had anywhere. Sopapillas were also far above average, crisp and drizzled with just enough honey to make them sweet, but not sticky.

Overall, José's is a fun place. It is a good place to go with a group for a good time. For fine dining, go somewhere else, but at José's full bar and great finger foods foster conversation and raucous laughter. Go for talk, a good margarita, and something new for dessert. Don't expect to find scrumptious Mexican food, especially if you've had the best before. Boston definitely is much better at seafood.

From the Porter T stop, go north on Mass. Ave. Turn left by the KFC and follow that road to Sherman St. Turn right there; José's is a few blocks down on the right.



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH
José Catuzzo welcomes everyone to lunch at José's Mexican Food near Porter Square.

Kendall Theater's Nico-Icon looks back at the 60s

THIS WEEK AT THE KENDALL

Kendall Square Theater, One Kendall Square, Cambridge.

By Stephen Brophy
STAFF REPORTER

Sometimes I wonder how anyone from my generation has managed to survive. I came of age in the late 1960s, a time when we had a whole world to change — with no blueprint, we had to experiment a lot. There were, and are, lots of casualties from our experiments. Music was one of the many things we permanently changed, and one of the great changers was a New York band called the Velvet Underground.

The Velvets sang about what was going on in our world. Songs like "I'm Waitin' For My Man" and "Heroin" recorded the allure and despair of the drugs in our culture. They had two distinctive voices: Lou Reed, one of the guitarists and writers, and Nico, a model from Germany who couldn't really sing, but nevertheless delivered some unforgettable performances. She is currently the subject of a documentary, *Nico/Icon*, which opens today at the Kendall Square Theatre.

Nico (who died in a bicycle accident in 1988) was an incredibly beautiful woman who recognized and resented that her beauty made people want to possess her. Born Christa Päffgen in 1939 in Cologne, she lived her first six years surrounded by war and falling bombs, and her father died mysteriously in the army when she was three years old. After the insecurity of the war years, she could not accept the stifling conformity of the 1950s and sought out stardom of any sort as a way to escape from Germany.

Her path led her to Paris (where she adopted her professional name), London, and eventually New York, where she fell in with the circus surrounding Andy Warhol, and was made lead singer of his house band, the Vel-

vet Underground, much to the band's dismay. After just two years together, the group disbanded, and Nico pursued a solo career, writing her songs and occasionally acting. But heroin became the main force in her life.

Many people have seen her in many different ways, and Susanne Ofteringer, the filmmaker who gives us *Nico/Icon*, is no exception. Simultaneously fascinated and repelled by the excesses of her subject's addiction, she reveals details like the introduction of Nico's son to heroin by his mother, but does not report that Nico was on methadone when she died. Nevertheless, with the many interviews of fellow travellers like Lou Reed, Jackson Browne, John Cale, Paul Morrissey, and Viva, and the sometimes rare footage of Nico's pre-and post-Velvet Underground existence, Ofteringer creates a tantalizing collage of an intriguing woman and her captivating times.

There's something sneaky about *Bottle Rocket*, which opened at the Kendall last Friday. For a movie with such a silly story and stupid protagonists, it is much more charming than it has any right to be. This is one of those independent little films shot on a shoestring that gets noticed by distributors and out of nowhere win major awards at places like Sundance. *Bottle Rocket* tells the tale of three 20-something adolescents in Nowhere, Texas who try to dream themselves out of their mundane lives by becoming

small-time crooks.

Actually, only Dignan (played by Owen G. Wilson, also one of the writers) does the dreaming. The other two, Anthony and Joe,

just follow along, because they care about him and they can't think of anything better to do. Wilson's brother Luke plays Anthony, and also shares a screenwriting credit. A few

guns get fired and a little blood gets spilled (mostly from noses), but the prevailing tone goes back and forth from comic to poignant.

The Wilson brothers bring out a surprising number of fresh nuances from their stale plot, and had the good sense to talk Lumi Cavasos (*Like Water For Chocolate*) and James Caan into taking small parts in their story. Both serve more as icons than as actors here, but in these limited roles they serve well. Wes Anderson directs, and keeps it interesting as he keeps it moving along. *Bottle Rocket* is a pleasant diversion, and a promise of better work to come.

Also opening at Kendall today, but not previewed, is a new work of Japanese animation called *The Ghost in the Shell*. Read about it here next week. Still playing: *Angels and Insects*, *Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead*, *Leaving Las Vegas*, *Georgia*, *Antonia's Line*, *Richard III*, and *Midwinter's Tale*.



Nico/Icon, a documentary that explores the life of Velvet Underground's star singer, opens at the Kendall today.

Silent beauty marks Bergman's haunting *Persona*

PERSONA

LSC Classics.
10-250, 7:30 p.m.

By Stephen Brophy
STAFF REPORTER

Ingmar Bergman uses all sorts of devices to distance us from the story he tells in *Persona*. But we are still drawn in, mystified and then horrified at this tale of emotional possession told as if it were a dream. The narrative proceeds so calmly and the mood seems so tranquil that it is hard for us to recognize that we are watching what amounts

to a vampire taking her victim.

The story concerns an actress, played by Liv Ullman, who decides to stop talking. This seems to be caused by her distress over the cruelty of the world — as expressed in television coverage of things like the Vietnam War — but it could also reflect her guilt over her remote relationship with her husband and young son. From her austere hospital room she is sent to a vacation home on a rocky seashore, where she is attended by a perky young nurse, played by Bibi Andersson.

It might seem awkward to tell a story so tightly focused on two characters, one of whom doesn't speak. But Bergman uses these

silences as expertly as he uses the bright sunlight of his location to gradually expose how the actress takes over the nurse's spirit. As the nurse chatters about her fiance and the boyfriends of past summers, the actress watches and listens with a seemingly sympathetic expression. Using tight close-ups of the two faces, the director shows us the gradual merging of the two personalities, and the disappearance of the younger woman's being into the triumphant persona of her patient.

Words do not suffice to describe the poetry of images Bergman has created to tell his story. Most of the words in the movie are just idle chatter. He primes us from the beginning

to pay attention to his pictures by starting with an abstract assemblage of shots that includes scenes of film passing through a projector. We are reminded that what we are watching is not reality, but an artist's reconstruction of it.

But this does nothing to lessen the cumulative power of the art. Bergman is noted for his dissections of the emptiness of modern life, his explorations of the "silence of God." Many of his stories are assumed to have autobiographical significance, to analyze weaknesses he finds in his own character. In *Persona*, Bergman looks at artists' inherent exploitation, and creates a masterpiece in the process.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

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

★1/2 Before and After

Before and After (starring Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson) is the story of a family dealing with their son being accused of murdering his girlfriend. This includes both the legal issues, (which are interesting) and the emotional issues (which are done to excess). The movie spends so much time trying to tug on our heart-strings that it quickly become ineffective: In a supposedly heart-wrenching scene, when the father started crying and the heavy music started, most of the audience started laughing. —David V. Rodriguez. *Sony Copley*.

★★★ Black Sheep

This film, the latest attempt by Lorne Michaels to milk money out of *Saturday Night Live*, is truly funny. Chris Farley and David Spade revive their roles as big fat spaz and wimpy sarcastic guy, both the same type of characters they played on *SNL*. The story is predictable, but the film works because Farley's wild antics make the film fun. The fact that their routine still seems fresh shows that Farley and Spade are a great comedy team. —Rob Wagner. *Sony Copley*.

★★★ 1/2 Braveheart

Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* is a curious combination of historical legend and modern dramatic techniques woven together into a tapestry of connected stories. With the plot based loosely on Scotland's real-life attempt for independence from England and the screenplay straight from modern Hollywood, the three-hour show reminds one more of *Lethal Weapon* than *Rob Roy*.

Braveheart increases its appeal by contrasting highland goings-on with portrayals of British royalty, especially the powerful King Edward I (Patrick McGeehan). The battle scenes in *Braveheart* may be gruesome and a bit extreme, but the film as a whole is immensely satisfying. —Teresa Esser. *Sony Cinema 57*.

★★1/2 Broken Arrow

John Travolta and Christian Slater play Vic Deakins and Riley Hale, two Air Force pilots who fly a Stealth bomber on a predawn run over the Utah desert. Travolta is the older,

wiser mercenary who steals the two nuclear warheads from the bomber's cargo bay; Slater is the young, idealistic whipper-snapper who enlists a spunky park ranger (Samantha Mathis) to foil the plan. The action sequences shouldn't disappoint fans of director John Woo — they're all executed with humor and finesse, with people leaping across the screen in slow-motion with both barrels blazing. But the story is trite and predictable in comic-book fashion (it's basically a rewrite by Graham Yost of his own script for *Speed*), and the pivotal fight scenes feel staged and choreographed. But you don't get to see an exploding nuclear warhead (below-ground) everyday, and more often than not the special effects team delivers the goods. —Scott C. Deskin. *Sony Cheri*.

★★★★ Dead Man Walking

Dead Man Walking, directed by Tim Robbins and starring Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon, addresses the death penalty issue unflinchingly and comprehensively. It follows convicted killer Matthew Poncet (Penn) from the murders, through his several appeals, and finally to his execution in excruciating detail, escorted by his spiritual adviser, Sister Helen Prejean (Sarandon). Don't look to this movie for much action, adventure, or excitement. This emotionally brutal film challenges you to think about the issues surrounding the death penalty. You'll walk away from the theater with a profound sense of the tragedy that any murder is, whether it is committed by a person or by the government. And you will leave with a bitter sense of pity both for the original victims and the convicts on death row. —Audrey Wu. *Sony Nickelodeon*.

★★★ Georgia

The title character is a popular country-pop singer, played by Mare Winningham (who received an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress). But her little sister Sadie, played with an almost unbearable, naked intensity by Jennifer Jason Leigh, runs away with the show. Leigh documents the dissolution of Sadie, who dreams of topping her sister's success, even as she slides into a self-destructive haze of drugs, alcohol, and abusive sex. Not for the faint-hearted. —Stephen Brophy. *Kendall Square*.

★★★ Heat

Rarely do Hollywood films play both sides of the fence in a cops-and-robbers saga, but

that's exactly what writer-director Michael Mann does in his latest film. Robert De Niro is the robber determined to make one last big score, but complications develop when he falls in love with a young graphic designer won over by his candor; Al Pacino is the cop who doggedly pursues De Niro at the expense of his crumbling third marriage. Although the dialogue is a bit excessive at times - the film is about three hours long - Mann's sense of pacing serves him well in setting up the pulse-pounding action sequences. The supporting actors, too, deserve a lot of credit for bringing life and credibility to the scores of characters in the film. —SCD. *Saturday at LSC*.

★★★★ Leaving Las Vegas

This sometimes-harrowing, often-redemptive look at a relationship between a destructive alcoholic (Nicholas Cage) and a prostitute (Elisabeth Shue) could be a spiritual antidote to the excesses of *Showgirls*. Cage is a newly-fired screenwriter whose vices have torn apart his family and led him to Las Vegas, where he resolves to drink himself to death. Shue falls in love with him for his lack of pretense, and both embark on a journey of love and self-revelation. Director Mike Figgis completely redeems himself for the pathetic *Mr. Jones*; here, he paints the characters with warm, natural emotions and uses the garish backdrop of the Vegas Strip (where even the golden arches of McDonalds are adorned with a multitude of flashing lights). The soundtrack of soulful contemporary songs by Sting, Don Henley, and other performers is hypnotic and artfully used. It's definitely worthwhile and uplifting for those who can take it. —SCD. *Kendall Square*.

★★★ Mallrats

Mallrats is director Kevin Smith's lesser known — but better — followup to *Clerks*. While not a sequel, the movie does have a similar style and a similar focus: two underachievers and their problems with women, life, etc. In this case it's TJ and Brody, two guys who have been dumped by their girlfriends for being uncaring and unmotivated (respectively). The two head to the mall, the only place guaranteed to give them comfort, where they spent the day having small and entertaining adventures. —DVR. *Friday at LSC*.

★★★ Nixon

Oliver Stone's most recent flick, *Nixon*, manages to capture the essential features of

Richard Nixon's twisted character. While Anthony Hopkins doesn't exactly resemble Nixon, he does effectively mimic many of the president's nervous mannerisms. *Nixon* contains a number of fictional scenes created by director Stone — scenes that blur the already unseemly facts of the Nixon scandal. In spite of the canards, Stone accurately lays out some of the late president's strange psychoses, including phantasms of his saintly mother, dead brothers, and "enemies." The outstanding supporting cast helps weave the entire story into a tapestry of deceit and betrayal that can't fail to impress even true Nixon aficionados. —Anders Hove.

★★★ Restoration

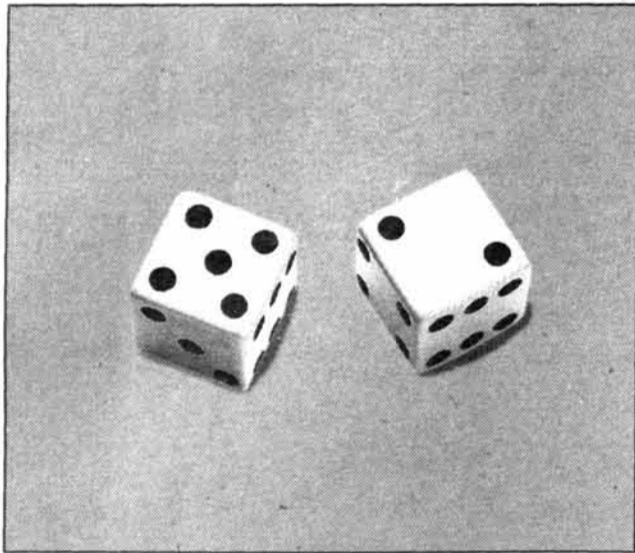
This 17th-century tale focuses on James Merivel (Robert Downey Jr.), a ne'er-do-well English physician who has an amazing stroke of luck and falls into the court of King Charles III (Sam Neill). Merivel lets his healing talents go to waste when he wallows in opulence and pleasures of the flesh. However, Charles soon bestows on him the ultimate reward-temptation: a title, an estate, and a wife (Polly Bergen) — actually one of the king's mistresses with whom he must never fall in love. But Merivel blows it, and is consequently banished from this paradise to the plague and squalor of the real world; there he must learn how to regain his faith in medicine and in himself, aided by fellow doctor John Pearce (David Thewlis) and mental asylum inmate Katherine (Meg Ryan), a woman who isn't really crazy and manages to teach him a few things about love.

If you aren't overwhelmed by the decadent set designs, this film can be a very rewarding experience; anchored by Downey's poignant performance, the protagonist's journey in this film is like a more cerebral *Forrest Gump*. —SCD. *Sony Harvard Square*.

★★★ Richard III

Even when translated to the big screen, many Shakespeare plays can often feel too rote or constrained. Writer-director Richard Loncraine's version of *Richard III* tries to dispel this feeling of "boredom." As the title character, Ian McKellen (also co-screenwriter) remakes Richard as an Anglicized Hitler in the midst of an updated, 1930s England. Richard's reign of terror doesn't end with the brutal killing of the opposing monarchs at the beginning of the film; he sets his sights on the throne, secretly impli-

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ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

cating his younger brother Clarence (Nigel Hawthorne) as traitor to the royal court headed by his older brother King Edward (John Wood). Along the way, Richard must get rid of his brothers, deal with Queen Elizabeth (Annette Bening) and prevent Edward's young sons from reaching the throne. McKellen is the standout, playing his villainous part to gleeful, devilish perfection.

This latest Shakespeare adaptation may not be a masterpiece, but it helps revitalize the

genre in much the same way *Pulp Fiction* did for gangster pictures. —SCD. *Kendall Square*.

★★½ Sense and Sensibility
Director Ang Lee (*The Wedding Banquet*) and screenwriter-actress Emma Thompson present one of the newest Jane Austen adaptations this year. Despite the similarities to BBC-TV's *Pride and Prejudice*, the film is a treat to watch. Thompson plays Elinor, the older, more sensible sister of the family, while

Kate Winslet plays Marianne, her younger, more passionate sister.

When struck by the loss of their father, the family must look to its daughters to seek out prospective husbands; through their trials and misfortunes (including liaisons with prospective suitors Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman), the family stands together and never forsakes its honor. The dialogue and ruminations on sexual impropriety may seem quaint by today's standards, but Thompson's screenplay does justice to 18th-century

romance and chivalry. —SCD. *Sony Nick-elodeon*.

★★½ Twelve Monkeys

In this science-fiction offering from director Terry Gilliam (*Brazil*, *The Fisher King*) and writer David Peoples (*Blade Runner*, *Unforgiven*), Bruce Willis plays Cole, a prisoner in a post-apocalyptic future. Scientists hand-pick him as a "volunteer" to go back in time to uncover information regarding a mysterious virus that wiped out most of the earth's population. He runs into problems, however, when he gets thrown in a mental institution and meets a sympathetic doctor (Madeleine Stowe) and a defective inmate (Brad Pitt). Cole trips through time much like Billy Pilgrim in Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Unlike Pilgrim, Cole seems trapped in an infinite loop; he's haunted by an image from his childhood, and once we see what this means for his mission, we pity him even more.

What results is an incredibly bleak picture; a romantic development between Stowe and Willis toward the end is a pretentious and unsuccessful attempt to offset the film's inevitable, depressing conclusion. However, *Twelve Monkeys* is partially redeemed by some comic relief from Pitt's character and Gilliam's distinctive, engaging visuals. —SCD. *Sony Harvard Square*.

½ White Squall

"Dead Sailors Society" is a more apt title for this drivel. Although it is a true story and the film arguably contains the best "at sea" action sequence this season, the movie is awful. Seeing half-naked teenage boys prance around a ship, exposing more flesh and buttocks than a Calvin Klein ad, is not what I want out of a movie. The only recognizable star in the movie is Jeff Bridges, who is awful. The boys who makes up his crew are supposedly inspired by his monotone voice — so much so that when the ship goes down and he winds up on trial, all the boys support him. The film in general is unbelievably emetic and completely worthless. —RW. *Sony Copley*.



Heat simmers from the tension between Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.

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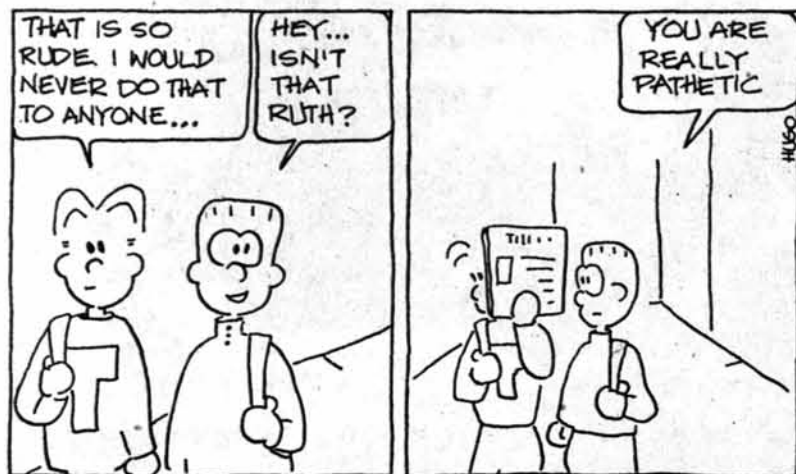
Saturday, March 2
&
Sunday, March 3

- Committee on Library Systems (COLS)
- Committee on Academic Performance (CAP)
- Corporation Joint Advisory Committee (CJAC)
- Committee on Discipline (COD)
- Committee on Student Affairs (CSA)
- Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP)
- HASS-D Overview Committee
- UA Judicial Review Board
- UA Finance Board
- UA Nominations Committee
- Medical Consumers Advisory Council (MCAC)
- Committee on the Writing Requirement (CWR)

Get an application and sign up for an interview at the UA office (W20-401). Get more info at:

<http://web.mit.edu/sudafed/NomComm/home.html>

Off Course By H. Ayala



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New Eudora Pro Mail System Will Replace Techmail

By Thomas R. Karlo
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Information Systems has begun to introduce Eudora Pro, a commercial electronic mail program that will replace Techmail, the software package traditionally distributed to MIT users.

"We started thinking about changing programs about a year ago," said Carol A. Elder, training lab coordinator for Computing Support Services. "We felt it would make sending files and working between Macintoshes and PCs a lot easier. Also, the application would now be the same on both platforms," she said.

Eudora is an e-mail program produced by Qualcomm, Inc. The software is available for both Macintosh and Windows machines connected to MITnet either by Ethernet or point-to-point protocol dialup connections like Tether, the Institute's PPP dialup system.

Eudora will be the latest piece of network software IS distributes free to users of MITnet. IS is making it available free to members of the MIT community under a site license agreement with Qualcomm.

So far, users have encountered no major difficulties in migrating from Techmail to Eudora. "We encountered some first-day conflicts

with other programs on Macintoshes, but we were able to fix them and now have a list of solutions to common problems," Elder said.

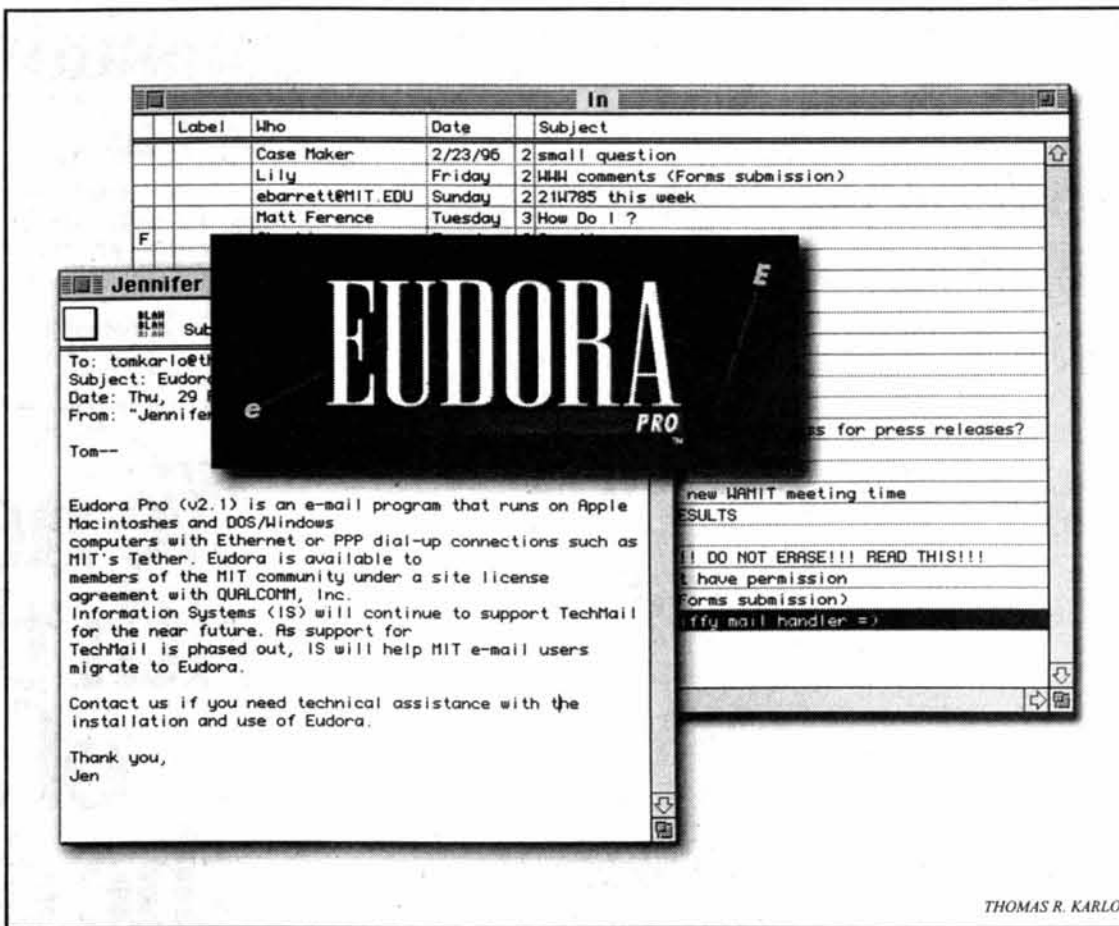
"Not many students are using Eudora so far," said Kevin E. Fu '98, a residential computer consultant at Baker House. "At the help desk we get a lot of people using Eudora. I'm guessing it's more faculty, but more faculty used Techmail. Students are more used to the Athena environment."

"I like Eudora a lot better," said Henry Chiu '97, who installed the software on his PC. "It's a lot easier to organize and sort your mail. I think it's just more convenient."

"It can encode and decode files for sending by e-mail," unlike Techmail, Chiu said.

IS will continue to support Techmail users for the near future and will assist them in switching to Eudora before Techmail is completely phased out.

Eudora, together with information on installing and using the program with MITnet, can be obtained on the World-Wide Web at <http://web.mit.edu/tps/www/eudora/>. The software can be downloaded from MIT's "net-dist" distribution servers using either an Appleshare or FTP client.



THOMAS R. KARLO

IS Survey Aims to Assess Student Usage of Athena

Survey, from Page 1

ing academic computing.

"The last survey of Athena use was in the mid-'80s, and Athena was totally different then," Schmidt said. "We didn't have third-party software like Matlab or Framemaker, and the conclusion then was that Athena was used for gaming."

With the addition of third-party software and more powerful machines to the Athena environment, things have changed dramatically, Schmidt said. "We need to respond to what the marketplace brings and what the community needs," she said.

"Any organization that provides services to the community needs to collect data from that community," Schmidt said. "We're just gathering information that we probably should

have had in the past, but it's never too late to start."

Interviews probe use of Athena

In order to make the surveys clear and effective, a group of 15 to 20 students and IS staffers will be responsible for writing them. This group will be conducting interviews in the clusters over the next few weeks, Schmidt said.

The staff members will be wearing hats with the logo "Poll Patrol" so they will be easily to identify as they move through the clusters. The interviews should last about 10 to 15 minutes, she said.

The 12 questions on the survey cover topics that range from students' years and majors and what kind of work they typically use the clusters for to what software they use regularly and how many hours per week they spend logged in.

Athena equipment will change

One question focuses specifically on what percentage of a student's Athena sessions are spent doing "quick" things like electronic mail and Zephyr, Schmidt said.

"We're looking into developing kiosks or express clusters that have very little on them but e-mail and Zephyr. It would be like an automatic teller machine — you could get in quick and not have to fight with someone writing papers," Schmidt said.

To further balance the load on machines and place appropriate equipment in the clusters, the computing management group will examine what third-party software people are using to determine "how much we need powerful machines

versus those that simply do word processing and document preparation," Schmidt said.

"For the past year, we've had Silicon Graphics machines in the clusters that can do high end graphics. We may be moving towards more of a mix of machines," she said.

The survey will continue for a few weeks, and there may be a second round later in the semester depending on the response rate this time, Schmidt said. Results will be available in May.

"We don't expect any drastic changes in the next few years," Schmidt said.

More data will be collected later

In the future, there is more data that IS would like to collect that the

survey does not cover, like what percentage of people with Athena accounts actually use the clusters, Schmidt said.

The effect of Resnet on cluster usage has yet to be measured, Schmidt said. The current survey includes questions about whether or not students have computers on MITnet in their dormitory rooms and what kinds of computing they do there.

"We can't do a before-and-after comparison because there was no survey before Resnet. But we're interested in what people do in the clusters versus in their dorm room," Schmidt said.

Students can send e-mail to athena-survey@mit.edu with their comments.

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Four Days after Tragedy, MIT Community Remembers Ronge

Ronge, from Page 1

"I've been very impressed by the way students have gotten together and tried... to support each other," said MacGregor Housemaster Jinane A. Dahleh.

Ronge's friends remembered her as an outgoing person. "I was

impressed by her ability to organize things," said one friend of Ronge. "She did so much with sports at MIT. She was well known and respected on campus.

"She was always a week ahead in all her classes," the friend said. "You don't know exactly what to say. You can't bundle up a person's

memory in a number of lines."

A funeral service will be held tomorrow in Ronge's home town of North Syracuse, New York. MIT has arranged for a bus to take students to the service free of charge, Randolph said. It will leave MacGregor at 3 a.m. tomorrow to make the 10 a.m. service.

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Al Gore Will Speak At Commencement

Gore, from Page 1

last year."

"I like him," Thomas T. Kawamoto '96. When Gore visited in October for the Society of Environmental Journalists conference, "I went to see his speech at Kresge, and I liked it. I think he's a good speaker."

But not everyone agreed on the choice. "I'm really not that excited about Al Gore. He's on his little down spiral," said Felix Chen '96. "I could care less about what his views are these days. I'm sick of him."

"I'd sure he'll do fine," Chen said. "I think we could have done better, though. I'd rather have an entrepreneur — some one who made it big" like Iacocca, he said.

"I would wish they would get someone who wasn't a political figure," said Craig R. Leathers '96. "Name recognition doesn't necessarily correlate with speaking ability."

"I'm very excited. I'm thrilled to be having him on campus again," said Undergraduate Association President Carrie R. Muh '96. "I think he's an excellent speaker, and I'm looking forward to it. "I think he appeals to a wider audience than the average politician," she said.

Gore talks of discovery in science

"Having coined the term 'information superhighway' 17 years ago — [something] which will rely heavily on fiber-optic networks being developed at MIT — he is now the recognized public leader of the National Information Infrastructure," Vest said.

Gore recently recognized Vest's support of scientific research in an appeal for federal funding at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Baltimore.

During a speech on the role of science in American society, Gore referred to Vest's annual report as an example of the many critical problems whose answers remain unknown to scientists.

Vest "decided to present his annual report as a series of questions his faculty told him were the most urgent ones in their fields. What he told us in that report underscores the need to deliver on these crucial investments in science and technology," Gore said.

"He reminded us that we don't know which aspects of climate change are predictable. And we need to know," Gore said. "We don't know how best to use our information infrastructure and new media to promote learning among children. And we need to know."

"We don't know how to extract all the energy from existing fuel sources," Gore said. "We don't know how old the universe is, what it is made of, or what its fate will be. We do not understand what mechanism generates mass in the building blocks of matter. And we need to know."

"We need to know these things. We need to understand these things," Gore said. "We need to discover these things."

"We need to create a learning society, a society that harnesses the power of distributed intelligence and uses it to lift our lives. And as the very embodiment of that ideal, you have an obligation to help make it happen."

"As always in America, it's possible — but it's up to us. Let's get to work," Gore said.

Ten Years of Commencement Speakers

- 1996 Al Gore, vice president
- 1995 Hannah H. Gray, president emeritus of the University of Chicago
- 1994 The Aga Khan, religious leader of Shia Ismaili Muslims
- 1993 Carlos Salinas de Gortari, former president of Mexico
- 1992 Les Aspin PhD '66, former secretary of defense
- 1991 Walter E. Massey, former director of the National Science Foundation
- 1990 Virgilio Barco '43, former president of Colombia
- 1989 Paul Tsongas, former U.S. senator and presidential candidate
- 1988 A. Bartlett Giamati, former major league baseball commissioner
- 1987 Kenneth H. Olsen '90, former head of Digital Equipment Corporation

Med Schools May Cut Salaries; Harvard Student Tied to Theft

By Eva Moy
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Faced with too many tenured faculty, many medical schools are considering cutting salaries and managing the tenure process differently.

Medical schools, unlike graduate schools, depend on revenue from patient care instead of grant and tuition revenue. Competition from managed-care companies has made their work less profitable.

Medical schools failed to consider the consequences of hiring more and more clinical professors. Now their revenues are stagnating as a result of competition with managed-care companies, but the schools must still pay the high salaries of those tenured clinicians. [Chronicle of Higher Education, Feb. 16]

Law schools cut enrollment

Law schools across the country are feeling pressure to cut the size of their classes. The pressure stems from declining numbers of applicants (a 16 percent increase over the past four years) and a tough job market: 15.3 percent of graduates were unemployed six months after graduating.

"We are an expensive institution," said Daan Braveman, dean of the Syracuse University law school. "And if we are taking money from students, we want to have some assurance that they will be able to find the jobs they want."

Schools claim they will be able to offer a better faculty-to-student ratio, and they encourage students to look into specialized fields or work with non-profit groups.

Top schools are not yet cutting

their class sizes, although they also see declining applications in the future. [Chronicle of Higher Education, Feb. 16]

Currier house official to be tried

Harvard University junior Natalie J. Szekeres will be arraigned in Middlesex district court this month for allegedly embezzling funds from

Harvard's Currier House.

Szekeres, who served on the house's governing committee, is charged with writing \$7,550 worth of checks to herself and cashing them at area banks. Harvard police say she is the only suspect. Szekeres is on leave from school and could not be reached for comment. [The Harvard Crimson, Feb. 23]



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Harvard Law School, above, is one of many law schools across the country under pressure to cut the size of its classes.



sarah jessica parker eric schaeffer elle macpherson

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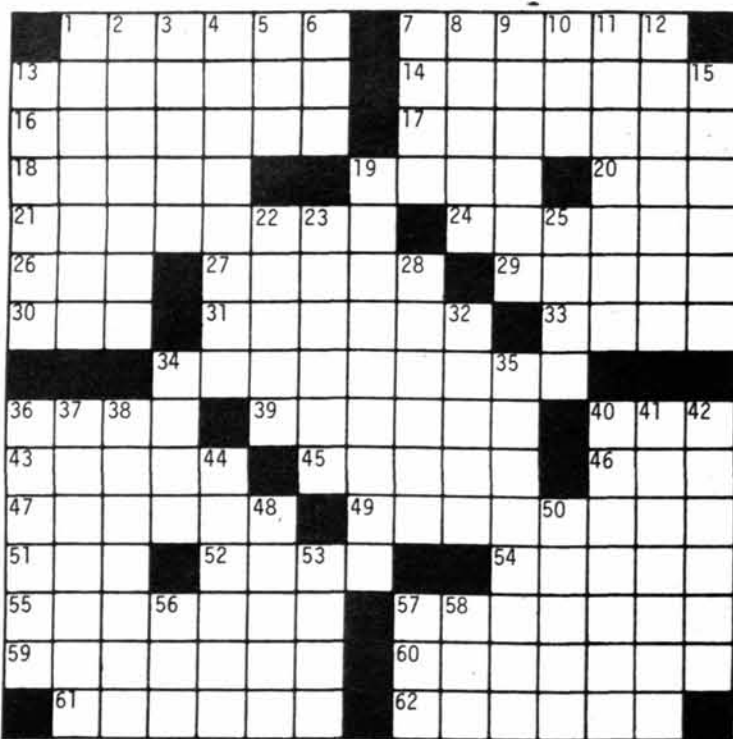
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 - 38 Ailment of swimmers
 - 40 Old song, "I Love"
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 - 42 Tickets
 - 44 Donkey in "Winnie-the-Pooh"
 - 48 Thinks
 - 50 Alluded to
 - 53 Sheet music symbol
 - 56 English course, for short
 - 57 Telephone-dial trio
 - 58 Shoe width

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE



Crew's Ayer, Gieffers Do Well

Rowing, from Page 16

Ayer rowed his heat in 6:05.1, his best time ever, placing him in the collegiate heavyweight final. Ayer was tied for third place just past the 1000m mark, but finished fifth with 6:05.2, ten seconds behind the winning time.

Based on the results of this and the International finals, he was given a rank of eleventh out of 290.

In the same event, Steve Morales

'96 placed 55th with a score of 6:18.3, with Adam Cotner '96 right behind him in 56th place with 6:18.4.

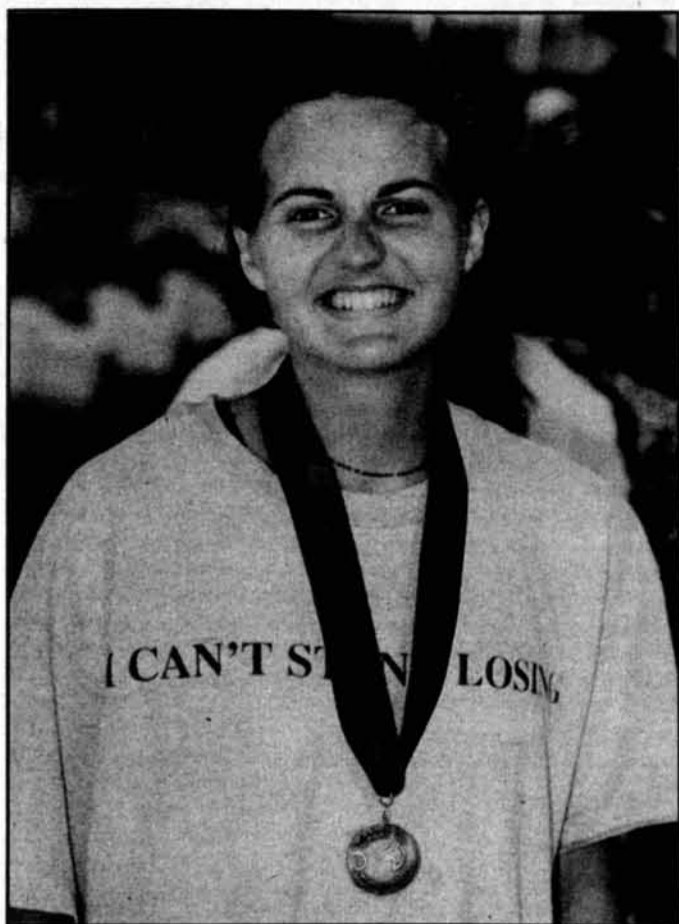
Also from the varsity heavyweights: Brian Smith '97 was 68th (6:19.7), Chris Putnam '96 was 97th (6:23.9), Robert Lentz '98 was 102nd (6:29.6), Victor van Berkel '96 was 129th (6:27.0), and Marc Carlin '96 was 156th (6:37.3).

Alumnus Pete Peterson '58 won a silver medal, and Professor Hart-

ley Rogers Jr. finished fifth, in their respective veteran men's events.

Karen Chenausky '89 placed 19th in the International Women with a time of 7:37. MIT freshmen lightweight coach Greg Barringer won a silver in the Master's Men.

This was the first time that MIT varsity rowers had qualified for the CRASH-B finals. It places them decisively among the best college teams in the country.



JONATHAN LI—THE TECH

Amy Gleffers '97 placed third in the Lightweight women's event at the World Indoor Rowing Championships on Saturday.

Individual Fencers Perform Well

Fencing, from Page 16

and a half minutes.

The performance that showed the most promise, however, was that of Brian Bower '98. Facing stiff

competition from upperclassmen of opposing schools, Bower took control from the beginning and dominated the sabre pool, placing first without giving up a bout.

These excellent individual fin-

ishes were more representative of MIT's level of fencing than the team round. The next competition will be the IFA Championships Saturday and Sunday in Rockwell Cage.

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SPORTS

Boxers Bradley, Whale Fall Short In Tough Fights

By Brendan Bellew

TEAM MEMBER

The boxing club began its fifth season of intercollegiate competition on Saturday in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Mac Whale G and Michael Bradley G represented MIT at the 17th Annual Lock Haven University Boxing Show.

In addition to MIT and the host school, the United States Naval Academy, Virginia Military Institute, and Pennsylvania State, Kentucky, Westfield State, Duke, and Buffalo Universities were represented at the National College Boxing Association show.

Whale, a welterweight, led the charge for the Beavers. Fighting in his first inter-collegiate bout, Whale was matched with Matt Arentz from boxing powerhouse Penn State. Arentz had the upper hand during the first round, and Whale was forced to take a standing eight count after Arentz landed a solid left to the solar plexus.

Despite that setback, Whale gained confidence as the bout progressed. Following the advice of his coach, Colonel Kandiah, Whale started the last round by following feint left jabs with hard rights to the face three times. He followed up

with a flurry of body blows which left his opponent groaning audibly. But Arentz won by a controversial decision that outraged the audience.

Bradley, a light-middleweight, was matched with Shane Stille, who is a member of the Naval ROTC at VMI. Bradley charged his opponent right after the opening bell and landed a straight left to his opponent's forehead.

The 6'-2" Bradley, took advantage of his greater reach throughout the rest of the match to deliver many more left jabs while keeping his opponent too far away to strike back.

In the last round, Bradley seemed to tire. Stille got close to Bradley, where his shorter stockier build was an advantage, and took the bout by a close decision.

After the fights, Coach Kandiah commended the two boxers for their exemplary technique, although he admonished Whale for failing to "put his opponent away" during the third round and chastened Bradley for letting his fatigue show.

Coach Kandiah is former Bantamweight Champion of Sri Lanka and former coach of the Sri Lankan National Boxing Team.

Rowers Succeed in Crash B World Indoor Championships

By Gordon Hamilton

TEAM COACH

Two MIT rowers reached the finals of their events at Sunday's CRASH-B regatta, the World Indoor Rowing Championships. Amy Gieffers '97 won a bronze medal in the lightweight women's event, while Toby Ayer '96 finished fifth in the collegiate heavyweight men's event.

Held at Harvard University's indoor track facility, the CRASH-B is the largest ergometer, or rowing machine, regatta in the world. It attracts the best US collegiate oarspeople, recreational rowers in a number of age categories, and many international competitors.

All competitors row 2000 meters on the ergometer. Heats for the sixteen events took place through-

out the morning; the eight best times in each event qualified for the afternoon finals.

Gieffers rowed a 7:33 in her heat, somewhat slower than her previous best, but still qualified for the lightweight final.

The eight finalists' machines were connected to computer monitors which depicted the competitors as virtual boats racing each other down a 2000-meter course.

Gieffers rowed a strong race, often getting to second place. She finished third with a time of 7:25.8, earning a bronze medal and an eighth-place rank overall for lightweight women.

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Tobias H. Ayer '96 competes in the collegiate event during Sunday's Crash B finals.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

March 2

Men's and women's fencing at Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships (team), 8 a.m.

Rifle at Mid-Atlantic Conference Rifle Championship

March 3

Men's and women's fencing at Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships (individuals), 9 a.m.

March 5

Intercollegiate Volleyball Club vs. Salem State

Fencing Championships to Bring Foils, Epees, and Sabres to MIT

By Jennifer Mosier

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The 99th Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships will take place here tomorrow and Sunday. This is the oldest collegiate championship in the country — even older than the NCAA Championships — for this ancient sport.

Fencing has been practiced for centuries. The sport is nothing like the action you see on television or in movies — do not expect to see men in black leaping from a balcony with a weapon in each hand and a dagger between their teeth in formal competition.

Modern fencing uses three weapons, each with its own rules and tactics. Men compete in foil, epee, and sabre, while women compete in just foil and epee.

In the old days, the foil was tra-

ditionally the teaching or practice weapon. That heritage can be seen in the way the weapon is used today: The torso is the only valid target, and points are scored only with the weapon's tip. Score is determined by the rules of "right of way" and is judged by the director of the bout.

Epee is the descendant of the rapier, or dueling sword. The blade is larger and heavier, and the entire body — including the head, hands and feet — is a valid target. Although touches can be made only with the tip of the weapon, the point goes to the fencer that hits first.

Sabre is the modern version of the slashing and thrusting cavalry sword. Touches are scored both with the tip and the sides of the blade; the target area is from the waist up, including the arms and

head.

The IFAs are possibly the largest collegiate fencing championship tournament in the country, with nine schools represented and over 150 fencers competing.

Teams competing include New York, St. John's, Brown, Columbia, Brandeis, Harvard, Cornell (women only), and Yale Universities, the University of Pennsylvania, and MIT.

These teams represent some of the top fencing schools in the nation. This such a prestigious tournament that UPenn is missing its own regional NCAA qualifier in order to attend.

The team competition will take place tomorrow, while the individual competition will happen Sunday. Both events will be held in Rockwell Cage and DuPont Athletic Center.

Men Fence Well at New Englands

By David Nauman

TEAM CAPTAIN

With strong and consistent fencers, the men's fencing team placed fourth overall at the New England Championships this week, fighting to within two bouts of the first place team, Boston College, and beating Tufts and Boston University.

The top five schools were all within two victories of each other, revealing just how evenly matched the competition, which was hosted by the University of New Hampshire, was.

With David Lewinnek '97 and Jonathan Blandford '98 fencing in the A and B slots respectively, the

epee squad finished the team round with a record of 14-6. Lewinnek placed first in his pool with only one loss, and qualified to the individual competition.

Foilists David Nauman '97 (A) and Jae Park '98 (B) tallied 16 victories for MIT, each with an 8-3 record. Both Nauman and Park also qualified for the individual round.

The sabre squad, composed of Brian Bower '99 (A) and Ruben Brown '99 (B), added the final 11 wins. Bower finished the team round in second place, and also qualified for the individual competition.

While the overall result of the team round was disappointing, four of the six MIT fencers qualified to

the individual competition. Only two other schools, Boston College and Dartmouth, were able to do the same, though neither was able to match MIT's results in this round.

Park finished the day sixth, while Nauman carried away a third place trophy in foil. Lewinnek ended the round 7-1, tied for first with Ron Gold from Tufts and Zach Stein of Dartmouth. In the three-way barrage to determine the winner, Stein beat both Lewinnek and Gold 5-0 to clinch the gold medal.

Fencing for the silver, Lewinnek then beat Gold 5-2 in a close bout that was scoreless for the first three

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JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH

Lynn D. Cornell '96 competes in the seven and a half kilometer classical race on Saturday. She finished 5th.