Assistant Dean Candidates
Share Ideas at Open Forums

By Greg G. Bahcall
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Three candidates for the unfilled position of assistant dean for residence and campus activities addressed issues of student concern at three open forums this week. Each forum, one with each candidate, was attended by about 20 students representing student governments and clubs.

The three candidates — University of Southern California Student Organization Adviser Rebecca A. Chavez, Emerson College Student Activitites Director Jeanne M. Maguire, and Tufts University Assistant Director of Student Activities Katherine G. O’Dair — discussed their experience and fielded questions from the various student leaders in the audience.

The open position was vacated earlier this year when former Assistant Dean for RCA Susan D. Allen left to become dean of students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. faculty meeting.

Chavez would be student advocate

The position of assistant dean of student activities “really caught my eye,” Chavez said. “This position could get me back to advising of student government,” she said.

Chavez stressed the desire to be “instrumental in setting a framework,” to teach students skills such as leadership but complement academics.

“The position is not only to advise students, but also to be an advocate for them,” by serving as a communication link between students and other administrative officers, Chavez said. This will “allow me to work with students in a different level than I am used to working at.”

Chavez suggested presidential forums, where the presidents of all the student clubs would meet several times a year to “throw out things that students are upset with,” in an open forum.

While Chavez plans to advocate for the students, “this is just one peg in the whole board,” she said. “The larger question is if we are working with an institute that is willing to change. [Students] are one part of that, and RCA is just one part of that,” Chavez said.

Faculty Express Doubt Over Final ROTC Plan

By Anders Hove
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The members of the ROTC task force met a mixed response Wednesday as they presented their final report Wednesday at a March faculty meeting.

The faculty also approved a new interim report, and gathered community input through a series of open forums, he said.

While the final report released this week represents the completion of the third phase, the task force has been asked to oversee a fourth phase in which the final recommendations are again brought back before the community for discussion, Graves said.

Task force goals discussed

Graves outlined several key issues or goals for MIT ROTC. ROTC should provide an “open, honest environment that respects the rights and privileges of all,” he said.

The task force respects the value of ROTC to students at MIT, as well as “a citizen-soldier principle” according to which “the military should be representative of the society,” Graves said.

By Kwong H. Yung
ASSOCIATE EWS EDITOR

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Assistant Dean Admits Fewer Students After Record Numbers Apply

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GM Auto Workers End Strike

The Washington Post

General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers agreed Thursday to end the 17-day strike against two Ohio brake plants that has idled hundreds of thousands of workers and shut down GM's North American auto operations.

Neither side disclosed details of the settlement until workers ratified it, but essentially it reiterates the terms of the existing contract, according to company and union sources.

The 3,000 workers at the two GM brake plants in Dayton were scheduled to vote on the agreement Friday, and brake production could resume immediately.

The strike began March 5 with a local union dispute over GM's right to close a plant in an area of low unemployment without notifying the union. The strike's effects were soon felt by the company's North American assembly plants and their suppliers. GM said Monday that orders to its Canadian suppliers have held up, and thousands of others were idled by suppliers caught in a just-in-time system of manufacturing that has no room for stockpiles.

For southern Florida and the Key:

For northern Florida (Panama City, Gainesville and Tallahassee):

Chilled spring fever; here is the all-important Florida forecast:

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Today: Partly cloudy with a few breaks early. Scattered sprinkles in the afternoon. Cool highs in mid 40s (6°C) and highs in upper 30s to low 40s (1°C).

Saturday: Partly sunny early, clouds moving in during the afternoon. High in low 80s (28°C), lows in mid 60s (I7-19°C), except near 70°F (21°C) in the inland, then partial clearing and turning colder. Low near 30°F (-1°C). The elimination of legal immigration, by its very nature, is a double-edged sword. It can lead to a more secure society, but it also means more problems for illegal immigrants and their families. 

According to company and union sources, the agreement allowed GM to oust the 128 jobs that began the strike. Robert Bosch, a German company with operations in South Carolina, will build antilock brake systems for the 1999 model Camaros and Firebirds.

Scientists Discover Gene That Causes Rare Form of Epilepsy

Discovery of a faulty gene that directly causes a rare form of epilepsy was announced Thursday by scientists in California and Finland.

The breakthrough, according to one researcher, is understanding more common forms of the neurological disorder.

"This opens a whole new area of research, and the real hope is in the future that drugs that go wrong to cause epilepsy," said geneticist Richard Myers at Stanford University. "It gives us hints that we should be pursuing other possibilities."

In collaboration with researchers in two Helsinki laboratories, Myers and his colleagues found the exact gene mutation that causes progressive myoclonus epilepsy, a rare and severe form of the disease.

They found a mutation in a gene called protease inhibitor, or PI.

The mutation causes a protein called PI to accumulate in the brain, causing the nerve cells to die. The gene is usually activated under normal conditions, but in this case, it is activated under abnormal conditions.

The breakthrough could lead to new treatments for the disease, which has no cure. The gene is already known to be linked to other diseases, including a type of cancer and a form of the neurological disorder.

The gene was found using a new technique called whole-genome sequencing.

The technique involves sequencing the entire genome of a patient, and then comparing it to the genomes of healthy individuals to find differences that may be causing disease.

This technique has been used successfully in other diseases, but it has not been used in epilepsy before.

The breakthrough is significant because it could lead to new treatments for other diseases caused by faulty genes, and it could also lead to a better understanding of how genes cause disease.

The researchers plan to continue their work to understand how the gene works, and to find new treatments for the disease.
Federal Workers Face Reduced Pay

Changes the president has proposed in measuring inflation would mean slightly smaller cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in federal and military pay and Social Security retirement benefits. But the budget plan would save taxpayers billions of dollars.

Current law requires government agencies to COLAs to help protect them from inflation, which typically doubles every decade. Partial, occasional COLAs are rare in private pension plans. Full, annual COLAs are a standard benefit for private employees.

Social Security COLAs are paid each January. That would not change. But under the president's bill, a group of retired federal workers, called "survivor beneficiaries," would receive COLAs only from January until April of each year, which would continue for another seven years.

The changes were approved by congressional Republicans and many economists. It would lead to a 3 percent drop in the annual rate of growth of the Consumer Price Index. In effect, the Bureau of Labor Statistics would have to compensate for seasonal changes in the cost of living.

Now, government employees, the current CPI overstates inflation because it measures big-ticket items that people don't buy every year and may purchase only once or twice in a lifetime. Eliminating or discounting some of these items, the CPI measurement would actually reduce annual COLAs.

Guatemalan President Delivers Cease-Fire Order to Troops

Sealing a two-way cease-fire, the most significant advance yet toward Central American peace, President Alvaro Arzu on Thursday personally told soldiers in strife-torn Quiche province to stop anti-guerrilla operations.

The signing of a truce was the latest in a series of last-minute deals to curb fighting during the last days of the traditional 40-day observance, when the faithful observe a state of truce.

The military claimed the numbers of dead soldiers continues to decline. But human rights groups and members of Congress are demanding a more thorough investigation of the precise death toll.

Clinton Authorizes Spending For Additional B-2 Bombers

Lifting its cap on the B-2 bomber program by one more warplane, the Clinton administration announced Thursday it would seek to increase the number of stealth aircraft from 20 to 21, using the extra money to counteract any erosion in an insecure brain damage.

The surprise move was derided by some Republicans as an election-year maneuver, but was applauded by B-2 proponents in Congress. The Pentagon's supporters had all but given up hope of securing more of the controversial aircraft after President Clinton reaffirmed his commitment to stopping the practice.

The Clinton administration, which has sought the same congressional add-on would be applied to upgrades of the current fleet.

The Pentagon has long opposed buying more of the bat-winged B-2s, which are cost ways of meeting potential threats than expanding the bomber fleet. But with several thousand subcontracts spread around the country standing to benefit from additional sales, a political pressure to order more bombs has come from congressional Republicans and Democrats alike.

Public Reacts to British Beef Scare

Residents at home and abroad revolted against British beef Thursday after the British government conceded that there may be a link between what is known as "mad-cow disease" and the deaths of 150,000 cattle in France.

The government denied there is any cause for alarm, but said the entire national herd of 11 million cows could be slaughtered if scientists are correct.

In a move Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg called "outrageous," the British government granted an import ban on U.S. beef, and the German government banned imports of beef from the European Union.

Some U.S. meat producers welcomed the news, while others were hard-pressed to print more than 2 billion bills — assiduously guards the proprietary technology behind it.

"It's like Coca-Cola," Beruff said. "Few people know all the ingredients. Now and then we tell you a little bit about it." Only a little? Well, maybe more, maybe a lot more, "after several months of rather heavy data collection," he said.

"Like the ink itself, the pigment goes into it is made only out of the same k, or I, ump in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Secret Ink Used in New $100 Bills Will Help To Fight Counterfeiting

By Marylou Toupin

WASHINGTON — Security is almost a religion at the firm's law-shrouded headquarters and the company's slimy slogan (to steel rollers plastic and inked into the recesses of an industrial park. Aggregated trucks pull in and out at regular intervals. In an area as expected visitors are kept at the locked gate.

"Security is a twenty-four-hour operation," a uniformed guard who hands over a compilation of features and denotes the lady guard to park close by, where he can keep an eye on the estimated 200,000-odd visitors and the visitors to lunch and a. guard to look out for the second floor of the main entrance, by the security guard of the Lincoln of the independent companies.

On the fringes, as usual, smiles his manner at once gracious- ly welcoming yet resolutely with-holding. Clearly, he is not about to spurn any secrets on how his compay- is basically a printer, a manufacturer and — as the name depicts — a company in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Some explicitly declined to partici- pate — except Sean Fein, the polit- ical wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which got itself from the process in any case by refusing to halt its new campaign of violence.

The election plan — put together by a company in Santa Rosa, Calif., and designed to re-shape peace talks that began nearly a year ago, after Catholic and Protestant leaders selected delegates to "all-party" negotiations aimed at achieving a permanent set- tlement to decades of political and sectarian turmoil in Northern Ire- land.

The plan appeared to please only one of the many fractious parties in the troubled province, the UUP, Ulster Unionists, who represent the major- ity of Northern Ireland's Protestants. Catholic-based parties, as well as a smaller Protestant group led by the Rev. Ian Paisley, ridiculed it, Still, it made explicit declines to partici- pate — except Sean Fein, the polit- ical wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which got itself from the process in any case by refusing to halt its new campaign of violence.

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In spite of their superficial attractions, the recommendations outlined in the "Final Report of the ROTC Task Force" are totally mismatched with the reality, in part, under the circumstances, be adapted by the faculty.

The report says, "have decided to distance themselves from ROTC, in order to remove the conflict from the ROTC mission. They have identified a different course for MIT. We propose that MIT work with the students who are interested in the alternative model ROTC program that is more inclusive and more aligned with the values and mission of MIT. Students who are interested in the ROTC but who want to receive a commission, ROTC commanders could write a letter stating that they have done so. The letter could then be sent to the students who have been enrolled in an ROTC program." The report says that they could also "participate in all the other parts of the program without discrimination or differential treatment." For example (of the DoD kindly agrees) they could be allowed to wear the uniform as students who are expected to receive commissions. Thus, the ROTC task force says we should not discriminate against the gay students in any meaningful way. Since you cannot get MIT credit for ROTC subjects, the only point of taking such courses is to "enrolling in a ROTC program." To receive a commission, ROTC commanders should be to strip the student of an ROTC scholarship and to remove the deficit that is proposed here. Members of the MIT faculty, the president, and appointed members of committees of the Institute will be charged with the task of determining the homosexual conduct of MIT students. The professors of MIT who serve on these committees will be required to scrutinize the evidence of student conduct and to make a decision as to whether or not MIT students are gay, or whether they have engaged in homosexual conduct. If these MIT officers decide that the evidence warrants the conclusion that a student is gay, then they will be required to strip him or her of her ROTC scholarship money, and ensure that the student is not permitted to serve in the armed forces. In spite of the superficial attractions, the recommendations outlined in the "Final Report of the ROTC Task Force" are totally mismatched with the reality, in part, under the circumstances, be adapted by the faculty.

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Interested parties of all levels of expertise should sign up for interviews on April 2, 1996 at the MIT Career Center. If unable to attend please forward resumes to the address below via fax, mail, or Internet.

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**THE ARTS**

**Redford, Pfeiffer make for a mushy Up Close**

**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL**

Directed by Jon Avnet.
Written by John Gregory Dunne and Joan Didion.
Starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford.

**By Teresa Huang**

STAFF REPORTER

Close and Personal is Hollywood’s latest look at the fantastically exciting world of television, particularly the news. Robert Redford plays Warren Justice, a seasoned new director who is king behind the scenes at a local television station in Miami. Michelle Pfeiffer is the inexperienced new wannabe Tally Atwater, whom Redford takes under his wing and makes a star. There’s tension between them at first, but that disappears over time with a few arm brushes in the control room and various tender moments. As she rises to national news fame, she falls in love with him and vice versa.

Plot sound familiar? Maybe that’s because it’s been done a million times before. This movie rings of cliches and predictability. The focus is obviously on the relationship between Pfeiffer and Redford and not on being a credible inspection of television politics. Many situations are pushed to the extremes in terms of believability. For instance, I found it hard to believe that, until Pfeiffer cuts her hair and improves her wardrobe, everyone is a chauvinist or inconsiderate. There were also times when I almost didn’t know what was going on because the dialogue was too mired in sarcasm and news lingo to further the story effectively.

Most frustrating is how the women in the movie, Pfeiffer included, are all portrayed in terms of their relationships with men. Pfeiffer’s Tally Atwater is nothing without her Warren behind the scenes to hold her together. They both know it, and everyone around them knows it. And this is okay? Only in a cameo appearance by Stockard Channing do we see a woman with independence, though she’s portrayed as cold as ice.

Up Close and Personal is good if you’re in the mood for a mushy movie and so long as you don’t mind usually knowing what will happen next. Nevertheless, this movie has its moments, particularly in the romancing between a well-dressed and charming Pfeiffer and Redford, who, despite his age, is still sexy enough to make you hold your breath when he takes off his shirt. This movie seemed to be Redford’s “see, I can still make the women swoon” project, and as someone who has rediscovered just how sexy he can be, I can say it was a successful endeavor.

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Spike Lee lightens up for a well balanced *Girl 6*

**GIRL 6**

Directed by Spike Lee.
Starring Theresa Randle, Isaiah Washington, Spike Lee, Debi Mazar, Jennifer Lewis.

Sony Nickelodeon.

By David Rodriguez

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Director Spike Lee has never been one to let you forget he’s black. He often speaks on race relations, and his movies often overdose on this high sensitivity to black issues. This problem was most obvious in *Jungle Fever*, a story about a black man dating a white woman and the problems that went along with it. Wesley Snipes spends so much time posturing that he never develops a personality. When he marches into his white boss’s office to quit because he is not given enough respect, it seems horribly contrived.

Lee’s tendency for putting the message over the story seems to be fading. In his latest movie, *Girl 6*, race is no longer the focus and seems completely incidental. This frees up the story, and gives Lee the opportunity to create genuinely interesting characters. The result is a movie that stays interesting for two hours. The movie is about a young woman (Theresa Randle) who takes a job as a phone sex girl, and goes by the name Girl 6. Much of the movie’s time is spent listening in on these calls, which are funny because they are absurd, but not surprising. Some of it is pretty graphic, but it never seems vulgar.

What sustains the comedy for two hours is the mood. All the characters know on some level that phone sex is not a job to stay in. Girl 6’s neighbor, played by Spike Lee himself, is the most vocal in pointing out that the “phone bone” is keeping her away from real acting. But Girl 6 sees a good side to what she does. She has developed a set of regular callers, including Tucson Bob, who even talks to her about his dying mother.

*Girl 6* succeeds because it is well balanced. It is a comedy at heart, and a good one, with material and characters rich enough to prevent it from passing into sitcom territory.

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Poisoner’s probes darker side of people, chemistry sets

THI WEEK AT THE KENDALL
The Young Poisoner’s Handbook.
Directed by Benjamin Ross.
Starring Hugh O’Conor.
Chungking Express.
Directed by Wong Kar-wai.
It’s My Party.
Directed by Randal Kleiser.
Chungking Express.
Directed by Benjamin Ross.
The Young Poisoner’s Handbook.
Directed by Anthony Burgess and Stanley Kubrick (A Clockwork Orange).

If you’re reading The Tech, there’s a pretty good chance you have some idea of how it feels to love the absolute beauty of pure scientific truth and to have everyone else in your world think you’re a little nutty because of it. If you don’t really want to go mad, you can either come to MIT or become a mad scientist. Because of it. If you don’t really want to go mad, you can either come to MIT or become a mad scientist.

Young, the film starts with his chemistry set experiments when he was 14 and growing up in North London in 1961. His uncomprehending family sits agape in front of the television as he dream in his bedroom of scientific truth.

In the past few years, he uses them like no one else. Just check out the credit sequence to see what he does that’s so amazing, combining hand-held camera, stop motion, comic book colors and hypnotizing rhythm into a simultaneously artful and action-packed whole. Wong tells the same story twice, with two different sets of actors. A policeman has been dumped by his girlfriend, and takes up with another woman to try to get over it. In the first story the woman works for drug smugglers and packs a gun; the second story centers on a young woman who works behind a fast-food counter and her obsession with a policeman who is slow to notice her. The two stories balance each other out very nicely, and proceed at a leisurely enough pace that a little philosophy about time and solitude can be slipped in. But it’s the storytelling that counts here, much more than the story.

Speaking of which, an entire love story is told over the opening credits of It’s My Party. Two men sking together, obviously the magnets of each other’s lives. The same two men in a sumptuous house designed by one of them in the hills above Los Angeles. Watching old movies in bed together, and turning the TV off. The architect learning that he is HIV positive. The second sitting further and farther apart on the bed. By the time we get to “Directed by,” the divorce is final.

When Wong, the architect finds out that his brain lesions are going to blind him and make everything slightly uglier than it would otherwise be, and used distorting lenses, to give a sense of what was driving Graham.” He also explained the way he structured his story in the style of Anthony Burgess and Stanley Kubrick (A Clockwork Orange). “I wanted to make clear the fatuousness of the authorities, especially the liberal ones who let Graham out of the mental hospital.” Ross’s use of Puccini’s Funeral Music for Queen Mary underlines his debt to Kubrick (A Clockwork Orange), which opens with the same theme.

Young Poisoner’s Handbook is a cold movie, which is to be expected from such a severe satire. Except for Graham, you will not find any character with whom to sympathize, and it’s hard to connect with his total lack of human feeling. In fine British tradition, the movie never passes up a chance to gross out its audience. If you liked Delicatessen, you’ll probably like this too, but be careful who you take with you. It’s not for everybody.

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**4 1/2** Executive Decision

In Executive Decision, Muslim terrorists threaten to crash a passenger plane loaded with D-25, a lethal nerve toxin, killing all the passengers. In Washington, the FBI and the CIA are trying to prevent the tragedy. Despite the similarities to the Coen's first movie, Blood Simple, this reverting is underlined by the casting of Frances McDormand, Blood Simple's femme fatale, but in a very different role—a pregnant police chief with more brains, determination, and grit, not to mention moral sense, than anyone else in the movie. —SB. Sony Nickelodeon.

**4 1/2** Fargo

Joel and Ethan Coen revisit familiar territory, this time in Minnesota and North Dakota, in this tale of crime in the heartland. Set in the winter, the story follows the two brothers separated a few years ago, this story of a kidnapping plot gone bad retraces the success of the Coen's first movie, Blood Simple. This revisiting is underlined by the casting of Frances McDormand, Blood Simple's femme fatale, but in a very different role—a pregnant police chief with more brains, determination, and grit, not to mention moral sense, than anyone else in the movie. —SB. Sony Nickelodeon.

**4 1/2** Life Fell

Lucy Fell loves love. Lucy (Sarah Jessica Parker) starts off reminding her college friend, Joe, of the death pact they made while in college. If they haven't found their true loves by the age of 30 (which is one month away for Lucy) they are to shoot themselves. The next two hours are spent reaching the expected, but still satisfying, conclusion. —Charlene Chen. Sony Copley.

**4 1/2** Leaving Las Vegas

This sometimes-harrowing, often-redemptive look at a relationship between a disastrous alcoholic (Nicholas Cage) and a prostitute (Elizabeth Shue) could be a spiritual antidote to the excesses of Showgirls. Cage is a newly-fired streetwalker 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 McDonald's 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. Sony Copley.

**4 1/2** Sense and Sensibility

Directs Ang Lee (The Wedding Banquet) and screenwriter-director Emma Thompson present one of the latest Jane Austen adaptations this year. Despite the similarities to BBC television'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 reunions on sexual impurity may seem quaint by today's standards, but Thompson's screenplay does justice to 18th-century romance and chick lit. —SCD. Sony Harvard Square.

**4** Starmaker

A disappointing new film from the maker of Cinema Paradiso, tells the story of a common man travelling through Sicily selling dreams of international movie stardom. Two things make this movie watchable—the magnificent location photography and the way people reveal themselves before the com-man's camera—we can't remember the words from Gone With The Wind that he wants them to spout, they fill in with the contents of their own psyches—fears, desires, and the rest. But the central story was much better told in Fellini's Le Strade. —SB. Kendall Square.

**4** White Ballon

A gently-told little gem of a story about a little Tehran girl who wants to get a special goldfish for her families Naw-Ruz, or New Year's celebration. Razieh's story is filmed in real time; we experience with her the countdown to the New Year as she struggles first to convince her mother to let her buy the fish, then sets out on the adventurous journey to fulfill her mission. This simple story enables its director, Jafar Panahi, to capture a large slice of contemporary urban Persian life. —SB. Kendall Square.

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**Excellent**

**Good**

**2**

**Poor**

***1/2***

Antonia's Line

**Antonia's Line** A magnificently openhearted, intimate look at a way of the world that could be if men were not always struggling to dominate it. This epic magical-realist story begins in the Middle East and culminates in London the day after tomorrow. It's not some matriarchal never-never land, however—the roses in this paradise still hold thorns. As the seasons turn over, friends and lovers grow older and die, and those who are left behind have to mix some sadness with their satisfaction. But its vision is inspired, and it plants hope in our hearts that what has been dedicated in past can be brought together again. —Stephen Brophy. Kendall Square.

**3 1/2** The Birdcage

The American version of the French farce La Cage aux Folles succeeds on many levels, thanks in part to the brilliant performances of Robin Williams and Nathan Lane. Armand (Williams) is the owner and musical director of a nightclub in Miami's South Beach section, while his lover Albert (Lane) is the diva-in-drag who's the star performer at the club. Sony Cheri. enlists a spunky park ranger (Samantha Math-Péchez) and screenwriter Elaine May has struck the appropriate comic and social chord for this film to be a witty, beguiling, and relevant film. —Audrey Wu. Sony Nickelodeon.

**4** Executive Decision

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AIDS Panel Recommends a 'Mid-Correction'...to the AIDS research community lies outside of the NIH. "Much of the intelligence of the research community lies outside of NIH, so bringing outside people closer to the decision-making process will strengthen that process," Balliro said. "There are many senior and junior scientists that have not contributed to the AIDS effort but who have not been encouraged to get involved."

The report also called for changes in the NIH's programs for developing new drugs and vaccines. It recommended a reduction in the number of labs involved in research into new AIDS drugs, because pharmaceutical companies could do the same research. It said that the drug discovery program therefore must end, and that the program that has a profound impact on the students body and to bring the issues to students' attention, Rhomberg said. His goal is to make sure people don't over-look the issues that affect them, he said.

"We keep hearing of reverse discrimination, and the alleged tyranny of a group, and that is one of the organizational principles that we want to put into the program," he said. Coordinator Frankh Sinha G. wanted to get involved with the average 80 students in a "thorough understanding of the history of such injustices," he said. "We are fighting against pride and prejudice that creates such legislation," he said.

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Democrat Club Makes Debut

By Orli G. Bahcall
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The MIT College Democrats club made its debut on campus with its first general meeting last week. "Our goal is to increase political awareness and political involvement at MIT," said Monisha M. Ghandi, "We want to help students affiliated with the Democratic party." Ghandi said that the club will begin a "campaign to increase political organization on campus as possible, "we would be just as happy if more people — regardless of their party affiliation — got involved," Merchant said.

To increase political participation on campus, the College Democrats will encourage discussion between the existing Republican club and Libertarian club.

Other plans include starting "dialogue and debate between groups and individuals that tend to take different stands on issues," Howard said.

Some of "our specific plans include starting a voter registration project," Howard said. While most students are voting of age, many have not yet registered to vote, he said.

The College Democrats are also working to resolve a debate this fall between Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Republican Governor William F. Weld for the Massachusetts senatorial race, Morris said.

"I have been involved with Democratic politics for some time now, and the prime reason for forming this new group is the upcoming presidential election. Politics is going to be a bigger issue [on campus] in the coming year," this will be both a driving force for the group, and motivation for students to become involved in politics, Howard said.

"We will also try to get involved in Democratic campaigns and support [not only campaigns but the issues themselves]," Howard said.

The Democrat Club is working to affiliate itself with the Massachusetts state coalition of the Democratic party, as well as the College Democrats of America, Hassan said.

Democrats of America is a national political organization that networks all the college Democratic organizations. Some members of the Democrat Club plan to attend that organization's New England regional conference held at Brown University over President's Day weekend, Hassan said.

The College Democrats have also made contact with and gotten support from the Democratic National Party to establish connections, Hassan said.

Information Technology Experts Gather to Speak at Symposium

By Venkatesh Sethi
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A diverse group of experts gathered at MIT last week to discuss a number of media-related issues at a symposium on media and information technology in society.

The symposium, entitled "Information and Society," was held in the Lechlet Lecture Hall (3-170) in front of an audience of mostly MIT students.

The keynote speaker was Walter F. Blumberg, associate director for information technology in the Media Lab. He opened the discussion on changes in the focus of developers in the field.

"People are spending more time on the infrastructure, how to get information from one place to another," Blumberg said. "A lot of effort was on [data] compression." But that has changed, Blumberg said. The emphasis today is on adding information, so that the data is "more relevant to the community and individuals. It has to be engaging." The symposium was organized by a group of students from MIT and Harvard. The organizing committee, including Maylak S. Sukhatrne, "tries to interact," Sukhatrne said.

"In the 80s, engineers spent time instead of publishing other things, for example, they can't be read using the screen-reading software of the blind either use to access the Internet, he said.

Another panel, which included Wikipedia's founder Larry Sanger, 斷 Virtually Wired Educational Foundation President Corinne Whitcomb, and Director of Boston University's Institute for Democratic Communication Phyllis Zagano, discussed the censorship of different media.

This year's Telecommunications Act, which prohibits "indecency" on the Internet, treats the Internet as a broadcast medium like television, instead of a publication, like a magazine, Zagano said.

"The cyber-community concept doesn't work," Zagano said, in reference to rating systems that have barred indecent material from being broadcast to the public.

"Censorship is a dead issue," Wexelblatt said, insisting that the emphasis of current tools to block objectionable material should change.

"People should be able to set up their own software and [with] material," Wexelblatt said, describing a system where users could choose from a variety of standards that rate material that is broadcast or published, "If we produce a good rating system, people will subscribe to it," he added.

For more information, visit [www.tescom.com] (February 28, 1996)
By Orr G. Bahcall

Three candidates for the post of assistant dean for residence and campus activities were introduced separately at three student forums this week [see story, page 1]. All three candidates are qualified; "the real decision is the fit between the person and MIT and the people they will be working with," said Associate Dean for RCA Margaret A. Jablonski.

The real decision involves the fit between the person and MIT and the students. "The real decision is the fit between the person and MIT and the students," Jablonski said. The forums were attended by about 20 students and several administrators. "To have about 20 student leaders show up is extraordinary," said Jablonski. The forums were attended by representatives of student government and various student clubs.

Several administrators. "To have about 20 student leaders show up is extraordinary," Jablonski said. The forums were attended by representatives of student government and various student clubs.

Those students or groups that would be working directly with the assistant dean were present or had their opinions represented, Jablonski said. Jablonski questioned the student forums regarding the administration. "I'm sensing that the financial issue is probably the major concern, and no matter how it is resolved, not everyone will be happy, but I want to be seen as a resource to the students."

Katherine G. O'Dair

"pretty much what you see is what you get." She also expressed hope in improving the relationship between student activities and the administration. Maguire said that if selected she would like to meet with the student organizations by sitting in government meetings, campus publications and student focus groups.

Maguire received her Masters in Counseling Psychology from Villanova University where she was very active with student organizations. She continued to serve four years in the Villanova student activities office.

O'Dair says it's students' money

O'Dair said she became interested in the RCA position because of all the changes going on at MIT and the opportunity to be a part of such change. O'Dair said student finance is important. In her current position at Tufts, the student government directly supervises their own finances, she said. "It's the students' money, so they should have control over it... my job is just to make sure that everyone is on track."

O'Dair said that increasing fund raising for co-curricular activities was a major concern. Several ways to
Thirty-five years ago this week, the U.S. government revealed that two MIT faculty members — former Professor of Electrical Engineering Jerome W. Wiesner and former Professor of Political Science Walter W. Rostow — had worked to free two American pilots captured and imprisoned by the Soviet government.

Wiesner, who died two years ago, would later become the 13th President of MIT. Rostow and Wiesner spoke with Soviet officials while they were attending a meeting of the Pugwash Conferences in Moscow in November 1960. They were acting as unofficial agents of the incoming Kennedy administration.

Arguing that the detention of the U.S. airmen was a major obstacle to bettering East-West relations, Wiesner and Rostow successfully convinced the Soviets, who released the two pilots five days after President Kennedy took office in January, 1961. After the incident, Wiesner and Rostow continued to work for international peace. Rostow became an adviser to President Kennedy, serving as deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs.

Wiesner was Kennedy’s scientific advisor and was instrumental in the creation of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He also assisted in organizing the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963, an agreement with the Soviet Union that banned atmospheric nuclear weapons tests.

The Pugwash Conferences Rostow and Wiesner had been attending were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year for their efforts to end nuclear proliferation and toward the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. At least six scientists currently affiliated with MIT are members of Pugwash.
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The men's and women's varsity fencing teams concluded their seasons March 10 at the Division I NCAA Regional Championships, held at Wellesley College. Thirteen individuals qualified for this prestigious tournament; the regionals serve as part of the criteria for selection to the NCAA National Championships.

The format differs from the regular season's format in that there is no team competition and only individuals can qualify to regional or national competition this year. The tournament is run in pools of five or six people, all the way up to a final pool of six people to determine the winner. Since the fencers who qualify for higher rounds do so on the basis of their record for the previous round, every touch counts to determine placement if two competitors tie for wins.

In men's epee, Jonathan Blanford '97 had an outstanding performance, defeating some of the top fencers in the competition. He finished 13th, only four touches away from a spot in the final 12, while Nicky Leifer '98 finished in 30th place, only two touches away from the final pool of six. Kari Hackack '96 was not far behind in 28th place and finished an outstanding tournament, especially given that she has only been competing at the sport for six months.

Jennifer Mosier '96 also fenced well, ending in 14th place, only two touches away from the round of 12, while Nikki Laiyer '98 finished in 22nd place. Based on their season records and their performances at regionals, three MIT fencers — Rising in women's epee, Nauman in men's foil, and Bower in men's sabre — were in the running for nationals. Unfortunately, the special regional committee's final decision resulted in none of the fencers qualifying to nationals, despite their excellent performances.

Despite the disappointing results of the regional selection committee, the team is looking forward to an even stronger finish next season, with only two out of the 22 varsity members graduating.

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Stratton Center/Sala de Puerto Rico
84 Massachusetts Avenue
Friday, Mar. 29
12 noon — 6 p.m.
Saturday, Mar. 30
9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Participating Companies include—
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• Diacrin
• Food & Drug Administration (CBER & CDER)
• Parexel International
• Chugai Biopharmaceutical
• Gen-Probe
• Nexum • others

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS
Saturday, March 23
Men's heavyweight crew at Class Challenge Alumni Race, 9:30 a.m.
Women's crew vs. alimnnae, 9:00 a.m.

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ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

By Jennifer Mosier

In men's sabre, Brian Bower '99 once again competed well, missing the top ten by only one touch, and finishing in 11th place. Teammate Josh Trauner '97 was close behind in 19th place.

Women's epee places well

Once again the women's epee squad dominated the competition. All four starters not only qualified, but placed among the top 24 out of 41 fencers at the tournament. Meredith Rising '98 fenced a very strong tournament and finished eighth, only eight touches away from the final pool of six. Kari Hackack '96 was not far behind in 12th place and fenced an outstanding tournament, especially given that she has only been competing at the sport for six months.

Jennifer Mosier '96 also fenced well, ending in 14th place, only two touches away from the round of 12, while Nikki Laiyer '98 finished in 22nd place.

Based on their season records and their performances at regionals, three MIT fencers — Rising in women's epee, Nauman in men's foil, and Bower in men's sabre — were in the running for nationals. Unfortunately, the special regional committee's final decision resulted in none of the fencers qualifying to nationals, despite their excellent performances.

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GOALS
Robert P. Bennett '99 defends the MIT goal from the Assumption College forward. MIT won the game 8-5.