Rochester Death Halts MIT-Funded Study

By Dan McGuire

By Aarif Husain

By A. Arif Husain

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

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Tuesday, April 9, 1996

By Stacey E. Blau

In the three weeks since the release of the ROTC task force’s final report, which recommended creating a “model” ROTC program, students and faculty continue to express mixed feelings about the plan.

The model program proposal has three main features: It calls for ROTC programs to be open to all students, for MIT to promise to fully compensate cadets who lose their scholarships for reasons of homosexuality, and for the faculty to create a committee advocating change in the military’s discriminatory “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on gays.

The task force is now “trying to get their recommendations” to respond to some of the issues raised at the meeting, said Chair of the Faculty Lawrence S. Bacow. The task force is also holding an open community forum this Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. in 10-250 to gather more input, Bacow said.

“We can’t do drastic changes myself,” Bacow said. The faculty plans to discuss the revised proposal at next week’s meeting.

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Several people have expressed misgivings about the proposal.

“It seems to me a little bit weak,” said outgoing Graduate Student Council President Dennis J. South. “I think there are some good ideas and says ‘we’re going to try to work on discrimination,’ but it does not say what MIT will do if the Department of Defense does not comply with our proposals.

‘I’ve heard from many gay and lesbian graduate students that this is

Re-engineering Teams Get Down to Business

By Shang-Lin Chuang

Two new student services re-engineering teams are looking for ways to improve the way students access information like financial aid and grades records and to plan and manage events.

The financial and academic services transition team is planning to implement the recommendations by the students services transition team. Those proposed include automated access to student financial and academic records and a timely response to student complaints and teaching assistant appointment process.

The other team, the co-curricular redesign team, is following the recommendations made by the student services assessment team and is looking for ways to redesign event registration and planning, management of student accounts, space allocation and scheduling of student activities, and resource allocation.

The team is introducing ISS to MIT at a meeting this morning at 9 a.m. in the Building E56 posthouse. The redesign team will be hosting an open meeting tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the first floor of the Student Center.

Teams plan to work success of student services re-engi-

enging,” Weber said.

“Was the key with the assess-

ment and redesign teams, each of the two new teams will be relying heavily on community input,” said Director of Special Services Stephen D. Immerman, also project manager. “They will be doing a lot of their work in outreach to the community.”

MIT Stroke Drug Could Top Market

By A. Arif Husain

An MIT-patented drug has shown evidence of potentially dominating the stroke treatment market by reducing disability after illness by as much as 50 percent.

Stroke, which is the third leading killer in the United States, presently has no reliable treatments, said Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Richard J. Wurtman, who proposed use of the drug.

Wurtman, who is also director of the Clinical Research Center, began studying the biochemistry of the drug about 10 years ago.

The Technology Licensing Office could not predict MIT’s royalty earnings on sales of the drug, although the San Francisco-based investment firm Montgomery Securities, which specializes in biotechnology, predicts $300 million in sales in its first five years.

Investigators have shown that not only did more than twice as many patients fully recover from their strokes compared with placebo trials, but also cognitive functions of patients receiving the drug were significantly improved, Wurtman said.

Since the publication of those findings by Interneuron Pharmaceuticals, which Wurtman co-founded, Wurtman and his group have been able to show how the drug is metabolized in the body and how the breakdown products are useful in the treatment of stroke.

MIT owns rights on the drug as a treatment for stroke and other brain injuries, but the patent is subli-

dated with Interneuron. The company has exclusive development and commercialization privileges of the drug in the U.S. and Canada.

The compound is not yet approved for public use, but is “on a fast track through the [Food and Drug Administration],” Wurtman said.

“Until now, there has been very, very little progress in dealing with stroke and I’m very happy that this drug seems to make a difference,” Wurtman said.

Drug seems to have few side effects

A stroke occurs when an area of the brain is deprived of its blood supply due to a blockage in a cerebral artery, resulting in pain and numbness in the arm, leg, or face. The symptoms are usually severe and often appear suddenly.

A rare spring storm covers Killian Court in a blanket of snow yesterday morning.

The proposal, which is meant to address the conflict between the military’s policy and MIT’s non-discrimination policy, was intro-

duced and discussed at the March faculty meeting.

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**WEATHER**

**Mushy slush**

By Gerard Roe

Rome, New York - Rain and sleet, which fell in eastern New York State on Wednesday, will linger into Thursday, making travel difficult, according to the National Weather Service.

The rain and sleet are expected to continue through Thursday, with a high of about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, followed by a chance of snow on Friday.

**WORLD & NATION**

**Clinton Secretly Oked Iraq Arms Shipments to Bosnia**

By James Risen

President Clinton secretly gave a green light to covert Iraqi arms shipments into Bosnia in 1994, even though the United States was a party to an arms embargo and the transfers were seen as a way to boost Saddam Hussein's forces in the Bosnian conflict, according to a new book by the former White House lawyer Susan Swanson.


**Brother of Unabomber Suspect Had Hired Private Investigator**

By Serge F. Kovaleski and Pierre Thomas

WASHDCON, D.C. - The brother of the man who admitted to being the Unabomber had hired private investigators to help him and his family track the suspect, according to a new book by the former White House lawyer Susan Swanson.


**Mexico Says U.S. Abuses Its Diplomats**

By Jeff M. Jones

WASHINGTON - Mexico said Tuesday it had suspended two U.S. diplomats who were accused of abusing Mexican citizens during the high-profile import raids in Texas last year, and that it would not allow them to enter the country.

The State Department said it would not object to the expansion of the arms embargo, which is seen by many as an effective way to curb the flow of small arms to countries in conflict.

**California Police Beat Mexican Immigrants**

WENDELL, ALA. - California police beat three Mexican immigrants after their family said Monday.

The family said that neither he nor David Kaczynski had given him financial support for the Unabomber, and that the family had no idea who he was.

**Afghan Refugees in Southern Iran**

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**Stop the Brutyality" screamed the front-page editorial in one of Mexico's leading dailies.

In one of their most vociferous outbursts of U.S.-bashing in recent months, Mexican newspapers on Monday launched back-to-back attacks across the border in which California police beat three Mexican immigrants -- and were caught on videotape -- and a second episode Alfaro, the family said Monday.

The family said that neither he nor David Kaczynski had given him financial support for the Unabomber, and the family had no idea who he was.

**State of the Nation**

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Man Will Face Assisted Suicide Charges Despite Court Rulings

Concluding that recent court decisions allowing assisted suicide apply only to physicians, a Los Angeles Municipal Court judge refused Monday to dismiss a case against a man who helped his AIDS-ravaged lover commit suicide last year.

In the first such test of California law since the issuance of opinions by two federal appeals courts, Judge Linda Lefkowitz rejected arguments that the rulings had rendered the state’s ban on assisted suicide unconstitutional.

Referring at length to the federal rulings, Lefkowitz wove to a narrow interpretation, ultimately agreeing with the prosecution that the opinions did not open the door to all forms of assisted suicide involving the terminally ill.

“It read the opinion to stand for no more than the right of physicians to help terminally ill patients end their lives, Lefkowitz said of last month’s U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision.

That means Kevin W. Green continues to face prosecution for helping Los Angeles designer James Northcutt kill himself in his garage last December.

Northcut, 54, was in the advanced stages of AIDS and had previously attempted suicide when Green helped him run a hose from his car’s exhaust pipe to the rear window.

Judge Rejects Request for 25-Year Sentence for Smuggler

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In a defeat for prosecutors seeking to increase prison sentences for smugglers of illegal immigrants, a San Diego judge Monday rejected the U.S. attorney’s request for a 25-year sentence for a smuggler involved in a high-speed crash that killed three people and injured 16.

Federal District Court Judge Marilyn Huff gave Gilberto Baez-Luna, 37, a sentence of 16 years and six months, to run concurrently with a sentence of eight years handed down by a state court after Baez-Luna pleaded guilty to three counts of murder.

Huff declined to sentence Baez-Luna, 27, an ex-con, under a 1994 law that calls for sentences up to life in prison for smugglers involved in cases where people are put in danger, injured or killed.

Since the sentences will run concurrently, the term handed down by Huff will not increase the time Baez-Luna spends behind bars. With time off for good behavior, he could be free in four to five years.

Alberto A. Arevalo, the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the smuggling case, said Huff’s decision will not keep prosecutors from going to the 1994 again? other smugglers.

Huff said she was bound by the “quote low” sentencing guidelines for immigrant smuggling set forth by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, created in 1984 by Congress to ensure that judges throughout the country give similar sentences for similar offenses.

Astronomers Investigating Intriguing And Hard To Detect “Brown Dwarfs”

By Kathy Sawyer

Astronomers reported yesterday new evidence that the universe is populated with dim, intrinsically bright objects too small to be stars but too large to be planets.

At least some of them are loners, and one of them in some ways resembles Sirius B, the dimmer of Sirius’s Twin Stars.

These objects — known as brown dwarfs — are stubbornly difficult to detect because they are dimmer than stars and are too small to be seen with current telescopes.

Several likely candidates have been discovered previously, but the first “unambiguous detection” was confirmed only late last year, orbiting a star 18 light years from Earth called Gliese 229.

This week, researchers reported at a meeting in Liverpool, England, that they have “uniquely” detected at least 10 brown dwarfs, each a giant in the previously “dim” universe.

Using a computerized measuring machine known as COSMOS, they were able to detect brown dwarf candidates in photographic plates taken with the United Kingdom’s Schmidt telescope in Australia.

The new brown dwarfs are all relatively close — within 150 light years of the sun. Their detection “raises the real possibility that there may be a lot of these objects,” said one of Liverpool John Moores University, who led the discovery team. They used a computerized measuring machine known as COSMOS, to detect brown dwarf candidates in photographic plates taken with the United Kingdom’s Schmidt telescope in Australia.

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Government Responsibility For Military's Policies

In my humble opinion, the views of Aaron Golub on the U.S. military as stated in his letter ("ROTC Is Anything But Right for MIT"). April 2) and his argument that one should not enroll in or support MIT's ROC T program are incorrect for the following reasons: First, the military is not an autonomous organization. It is merely a tool of the people-makers of the nation (which might be the proviso that he was attempting to disprove, the ruling hegemony, or whatever). As such, it is not responsible for its actions past and present.

Rhetoric of honor and tradition notwithstanding, this nation's war machine has throughout history remained subservient to the ruling faction, carrying out the policies and mandates generated by the faction, with varying degrees of success and efficiency. When a sword is used to slay another human being, the sword is not to blame, but rather the hand and mind that wields the sword. Similarly, when the U.S. military is used to carry out ethnically objectionable actions, the organization itself is not responsible, but rather the power and will that wields it.

The question at hand is ROTC's policy on homosexuality, which follows the current policy on the same issue, which ultimately results from the ruling hegemony's mandate. The question can be distilled to two components: the president's and executive's bureaucracies. The first question is: does the policy ban on homosexual conduct on base discriminate on individual characteristics that has no bearing on the individual's combat effectiveness, and does it affect the physical embodiment of the policy in the apparent racist or other, ultimately effective method of altering the ruling faction's position on this issue. Complicating the discussion by introducing personal moral judgments that are irrelevant to the discussion is counterproductive, and should therefore be avoided.

I am not implying that I am keeping my personal views on the ethical considerations of discrimination, violence, socioeconomic domination, modern imperialism, individual career choice, and other such personal moral judgments free from the discussion. In my opinion, any discrimination based on one's sexual orientation seems to me to be a breach of the military organization, and should therefore be abandoned. What about the rest of you? Do you really want a cohesive, collective body move through MIT (as I understand, individuals always had the choice not to join in the first place)? I think not. You are in the correct situation (that of discrimination against someone who is not of your political, racial, or sexual persuasion), and it is myopic and naive to debate, and I wish to withhold my opinion on that topic.

Hui-Cheng Chiu '96

Column by Anders Hove

Montana's Not Interested in Syndicalism

The Tech's mailing address: Mass. Non-profit Organization Permit 0. 59720.

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Column by Anders Hove

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Anders Hove '96

Executive Editor: Christopher Hove '96

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Papa Gino's

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Political Science Department

COURSE 17 OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, April 10
3-5 pm

E33-460

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COMICS

THE TECH

Page 7
A special one-afternoon, "Roving" Open House will be held for freshmen interested in finding out more about MIT's Nuclear Engineering Department.

Why is this a "Roving" Open House? Because interested students will be taken on a tour of 5 different research laboratories. You will have an opportunity to see, first hand, the variety of industrial and medical research applications that our faculty and students are currently working on. NED UROPs, other undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty will be present at each laboratory to describe the research projects, answer questions, and provide demonstrations.

**Roving Open House - Participating Laboratories:**

- Nuclear Reactor Laboratory (including medical therapy facility)
- Lab. for Accelerator Beam Applications - medical uses of neutrons
- Radiofrequency Accelerator Lab. - industrial uses of neutrons
- Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Lab.
- Plasma Fusion Center - Alcator C-Mod

Tours will leave from building 24 (near room 105) at 2, 3 and 4 pm, sharp and will visit all 5 laboratories listed above. The tours will take roughly 2 hours (and you can leave the tour at any time).

**Be on hand to pick up information on:**

- How to be pre-med in Course 22
- How to become a licensed reactor operator as an undergrad
- Biomedical UROPs for Course 22 students

*** Refreshments will be provided ***

*Sign up for the tour by calling Sonia White at 3-7407*
Trials, from Page 1

Environmental Health Sciences. The project is researching how environmental air quality affects lung cancer.

MIT "did a lot of the research and analysis" with the grant money, said Robert Loeb, public information director of the University at Rochester Medical Center. MIT "turned to [the University of Rochester] and several other universities to do the clinical work," he said.

Researchers at Rochester paid participants $150 for submitting themselves to a bronchoscopy, a procedure that involves the insertion of a flexible tube to gather lung cells. Lidocaine is applied to the throat to gather lung cells. Lidocaine is to anesthetize the bronchial tubes to prevent the patient from gagging. "Bronchoscopy is a well-accepted, well-established procedure but was not experienced. There was definitely a trauma involving human subjects - even though such protocols have all received prior internal and governmental approval," said Rochester President Thomas H. Jackson.

Family threatens suit

While officials at the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office said it would be "some time" before the results of the autopsy on Wan were complete, lawyers for Wan's family said that a preliminary report indicated that Rochester officials should have known that the doctor performing the bronchoscopy was not experienced.

"There was definitely a trauma to Nicole's lung [and] there was bleeding so that we know... during the procedure she not only coughed but was coughing blood," Aspromonte said.

Aspromonte said that Wan's father was unaware of his daughter's participation in the project. "He's extremely upset over the fact that a preliminary report indicated that Rochester officials should have known that the doctor performing the bronchoscopy was not experienced.

"There was definitely a trauma to Nicole's lung [and] there was bleeding so that we know... during the procedure she not only coughed but was coughing blood," Aspromonte said.

Aspromonte said that Wan's family was lobbying for legislation requiring parental permission before using people under the age of 21 in experiments.

Wan graduated Brooklyn Technical High School with honors and wanted to become a doctor. Her funeral will be held this afternoon.

The death completely blindsided us; it was so unusual...

— Robert Loeb

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CONFINTEntial

STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH!
A King's Coronation. "Raj Abhisheka, A King's Coronation," welcomed its audience with a mystical journey of richness and diversity of South Asian culture with performances produced by the Association of South Asian American Students, Sangam, and the Wellesley Association for South Asian Culture. The celebration took place Saturday night in Kresge Auditorium.

The groups displayed different styles and colors of South Asian and Western clothing and dance in over 15 performances.

by Tiffany Lin
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Subliminal abolition at The MIT Press results in out-of-this-world savings. Cambridge, Mass. - They're back. The detested little green creatures, alien beings no more than four feet tall, have once again targeted The MIT Press in their scheme to take over the world. Unlike their attack of two years ago, this time their strategy is more sinister. MIT Press staff, who in 1994 were impressed into service by the aliens as robot slaves, are not even needed. This time the aliens are morphing into the actual books that The MIT Press has put on sale. Wrapped in the guise of some supplies won't last!

Some Call ROTC Plan Inadequate

ROTC, from Page 1

an unacceptable solution because it lacks teeth,” Souder said.

“ar task force should reorder its list of priorities,” Souder said. The top priority should have been to lobby on a national level to change the discrimination policy, she said.

“I certainly think that as it stands, the proposal is indefensible,” said Assistant Professor of Philosophy Ralph N. Wedgwood. The proposal supports openness among cadets, but commanding officers would still be bound by law to notify superiors of any “propensity they observe toward homosexual conduct” among cadets, Wedgwood said. “The discrimination still survives.

The task force is billing the proposal as a model program, which could mean that MIT could get away with saying that there has been progress. “It amounts to pretending they’ve done something about it when they haven’t,” Wedgwood said.

“I don’t think that it will improve the lives of gay and lesbian students,” Wedgwood said.

“The way they presented [the plan] as this ‘model ROTC’ was naïve,” said Pallavi Nuka ’98. “The success of the proposal is predicated on the DoD’s cooperation. ‘I really don’t see that happening,” she said.

The plan would allow gay students to wear uniforms and attend classes, but they still could not be commissioned as officers. Nuka said. “It seems both condescending and totally ignorant of the concerns of students,” she said.

Others are optimistic about plan

“ar task force is proving that it’s doing a terrific job of listening” to outside input, Bacow said. “They’ve been trying to engage the community for the benefit of all our students.”

They have tried to think hard about MIT’s dual objective of an open, tolerant campus and having a program that MIT can keep for its students to participate in, he said.

Professor of Management Stephen C. Graves, who is chairing the task force, said that the task force is now working to revise its proposal to address concerns and misceptions about the plan.

“I think we’ve gotten some very good feedback that will help us

"The MIT Press Bookstore

 arketing, page 17
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ECONOMICS OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY APRIL 9
4:00-5:00 E52-244

All Undergraduates Welcome

Come meet our faculty and undergraduate majors

Refreshments

Department of Earth, Atmospheric, & Planetary Sciences

Open House

Free Food!

Come see how you can help save the Earth by majoring in Course 12!

Thursday, April 11
11:30 am - 2:00 pm
10-105 Bush Room

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Freshman Open House

Wednesday, April 10, 1996

11 AM to 1 PM
Stratton Student Center, 20 Chimneys

Free CEE T-Shirts and Pizza
Not Sure What To Do This Summer? We Bet We Can Help...

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Re-engineering Teams Seeking Students' Participation, Input

The leadership staff of the team include Margaret S. Badders, associate dean for undergraduate academic affairs; Robert A. Rippconд, manager of student information systems; Bursar Carolyn A. Bunker; and Stanley O. Hudson, director of student financial aid.

Team looks for student members

The team has already started conducting interviews to determine who will be made team members. The Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council have been helping out with the interviews and making recommendations, Ives said.

The redesign team will be working during the summer to produce preliminary recommendations.

“We realize that most students will not be around during the summer,” Ives said, “so we will probably be holding most of the open meetings during September to receive feedback from the community.”

The team has already started working with the UA, GSC, and the Association of Student Activists. In addition, the team has worked with administration groups including the offices of Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs, Residence and Campus Activities, and Campus Activities Complex.

THE STUDENT MIND DURING A FINAL EXAM.

The prof never covered this!

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I knew I should have read the book.

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Amansari Cherubin '99 stops the ball at first base for an out in Friday's softball game against Wheaton College. MIT lost, 11-2.

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The African Ballet of the Republic of Guinea offers a magnificent adventure in total theater. The 35-member company comes blazing on to the stage and engulfs the audience in a whirl of color, sound and motion. For more than 40 years, Les Ballet Africains has served as its country's most irresistible cultural demonstration of how Africa's prodigious cultural heritage has been passed down from generation to generation, the emissary, and now after two years in rehearsal, will premiere a new production entitled "Heritage." In this living demonstration of how Africa's prodigious cultural heritage has been passed down from generation to generation, the throbbing beat and rapid-fire staccato of drums are fused with dazzling dances, airborne acrobatics, swaying costumes and colorful animal masks to create a thrilling cultural tapestry.

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30pm
Northeastern University
Blackman Auditorium
Huntington Avenue, Boston

Sign up in person only at the Office of the Arts (E15-205) with you MIT student ID and a $5 deposit are required
Campus Undecided
On ROTC Proposal

ROTC, from Page 12

refine the proposal and make it into a better proposal," Graves said.

One point the task force hopes to clarify is MIT's involvement in any investigation of a student's homosexual conduct, Graves said. The original proposal said that MIT could be directly involved in the investigation process, but the task force now plans to suggest that the faculty take on a monitoring role in the process and help advise the student, Graves said.

Another important point Graves wants to clarify is the fact that "the changes we recommend to the ROTC program don't do anything to affect or eliminate the core discrimination," he said.

If the DoD does not cooperate with MIT's proposal, the issue of what to do with ROTC will likely be brought back before the faculty.

The task force is in the process of deciding on its expectations of the DoD's willingness to work with the proposed changes, Graves said. ROTC cadets declined to comment on the proposal.

OPEN HOUSE
DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN ENGINEERING

FRIDAY, APRIL 12
3 to 5pm in Room 5-314

EXPLORE NEW DEPTHS........

Are you interested in the ocean? Would you like to be a part of the future development, utilization and protection of the ocean? We cordially invite you to join us at the Department of Ocean Engineering Open House.

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ZORK'S PLACE

BY STEVEN D. LEUNG

What are you going to do after you graduate?

I've already committed myself to a life of indentured slavery.

At MIT, you can look forward to 4 years of pain and endlessathi.

After that, you graduate, get a job, and...

-Jecome like him?-

WHERE WERE YOU 5 YEARS AGO?


PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

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ACROSS


DOWN

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

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SOLUTIONS IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE TECH
The Sounds of Silents

Charlie Chaplin's

The Circus

Sunday April 28 8:00pm
Kresge Auditorium

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at the Office of the Arts (E15-205)
Valid MIT student ID required

Special showing of Charlie Chaplin's The Circus with its original score, performed live and conducted by Gillian Anderson. The original music score, composed by Chaplin, was discovered in 1992 by Gillian Anderson in the private archives of the Chaplin home in Switzerland. This will be the first time The Circus has been performed in Boston as Chaplin intended, with his original score played live.

Gillian Anderson is a noted conductor and musicologist, specializing in American music and film music. She has conducted orchestras in Europe, Canada and the US. Her performances have been described as 'brilliant' (The Washington Post) and 'extraordinary' (The New York Times). Because of the special nature of the performance, no one can be admitted after the film has begun.
The Office of Admissions is now accepting applications for the position of Admissions Counselor for Information Services. This is a one year full-time position beginning in July, 1996 (some flexibility is possible).

Duties include:
- assisting with database and programming tasks
- helping with the planning of future computer services
- engaging in general admissions work as time allows

Applications are available in the Admissions Office, 3-108, from Robin Day and should be returned no later than May 1, 1996.

Note: This is for 1996 (January or June) MIT graduates.

By Carol Matuszak

The women’s tennis team traveled to Poughkeepsie, New York last Saturday for their spring season opening match against Vassar College. The team looked to avenge last year’s loss and did so in a stellar 6-3 win. “We had solid performances from no. 1 all the way to no. 6 in both singles and doubles,” said Head Coach Katie McNamara.

The dual match started with the doubles partners. Third doubles pair Sarah Kringer ’97 and Pardisabeti ’99 cruised through their opponents in an 8-2 slaughter to give MIT its first point. However, Carol Matuszak ’96 and Seetha Ramnath ’96 could not bring home their point at first doubles as they lost their match 6-6.

At second doubles, Nora Humphrey ’98 and Angela Mislowsky ’99 came through under pressure with an 8-6 win to give MIT a 2-1 edge going into the singles portion of the dual match. Kringer earned MIT its third point with a 6-4, 6-3 victory at fourth singles. However, Sabeti had a tough match and lost 6-3, 6-3 at sixth singles, which brought the overall score to 3-2 with 4 matches still in progress. At third singles, Humphrey had a close first set but went on a rampage and crushed her opponent 6-4, 6-2, giving MIT a 4-2 lead.

By Toby Ayer

MIT and Columbia University split the victories in Saturday’s heavyweight crew races on the Charles. Columbia went home with the varsity race in 5:54.1 (MIT finished in 6:03.3). Columbia also won the second novice event. The tech first novice boat was victorious, as was the second varsity A four.

The first day of the spring season brought the exciting atmosphere of home races to the Pireneou Bouthouse, which hosted a number of visiting crews on Saturday. A number of MIT fans watched the day’s events from the 24th floor lounge at Tang Hall, where they had a clear view of the entire 2000-meter course from above the finish line.

The first novice boat won its first light blue Columbia racing shirts, beating the Lions 6:13 to 6:17 in Saturday’s light tailwind.

“Although we beat Columbia by open water, we cannot be satisfied with this race if we are going to contend with the powerhouse of our conference,” said 5-man Kenneth Kelleher ’99.

MIT races in the EARC, the top flight of rowing schools, which includes the Ivy League, Northeastern and Boston Universities, as well as other fast crews. Novice coach and Director of Crew Stu Schmill ’86 is hopeful that this year’s freshmen will be strong and successful.

A four pulls out narrow victory

The second varsity race in fourth place – Demos McMillan ’98, Charlie Able ’97, Brad Lichtenstein ’96, Greg Miliotis ’96, and Jason Wertheim ’96 (coxswain) – were just up on Columbia for the first half of the race. They finished about one length ahead in 6:54.1, six seconds ahead of Columbia and 18 seconds ahead of the B four. Wertheim felt that his crew rowed a good race.

In contrast, the first varsity eight could hardly claim to have raced at all. Adam Conover ’96, captain, commodore, and varsity stroke, had no comment about the rowing.

The boat’s practice starts had been slow, which proved accurate harbingers for the real thing. Columbia was up four seats almost immediately, a lead they increased to a length without a challenge as the crews passed the Harvard Bridge just past the midpoint of the course. MIT failed to move up as the boats passed the MIT Bouthouse, and Columbia won with some open water.

In a long past-mortem boat meeting, coach Gordon Hamilton (a Columbia alumna who graduated his alma mater every one of their victories) concluded the crew, pointing out that Columbia was indeed fast this year, having just returned from a victory at the San Diego Crew Classic, where they beat some good crews to win the Visitor’s Cup.

The tech eight learned that they need to be more committed and to “have the ability to come back from behind,” as bowman Rob Lenz ’98 pointed out. “We really need to capitalize on our experience and row our best.”

In other crew racing on Saturday, Oxford University lost to Cambridge by 2.75 lengths in the 142nd Boat Race.

Next weekend, the MIT crews have a chance to feel their confidence as they travel to the Charles Bridge by 2.75 lengths in the 142nd Boat Race.

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Next weekend, the MIT crews have a chance to feel their confidence as they travel to the Charles Bridge by 2.75 lengths in the 142nd Boat Race.

Women’s Tennis Slams Vassar, 6-3

Mislowsky clinched the MIT team win at second singles with an intense 6-4, 6-4 win.

Co-captains Ramnath and Matuszak were still out on the courts, both involved in three set matches. At fifth singles, Ramnath started out on fire as she won the first set in a matter of minutes, but her opponent put it together in the second and third sets to win the match 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

At first singles, Matuszak, who was eager to avenge her straight set loss from last year, played with good intensity throughout the match and snatched a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 victory from her opponent, finalizing the dual match score with MIT 6, Vassar 3.

Coach McNamara was quite pleased with each individual’s contribution to the win. “The Vassar match was our best team match to date,” she said.

The team’s next home match is coming up on Wednesday at the duPont Tennis Courts.