**Gates Explores Web's Future in LCS Lecture**

**By David D. Hsu**

Bill Gates, the chairman and Chief Executive Officer of software giant Microsoft, spoke to a packed audience at Kresge Auditorium on May 29.

The talk, part of the Laboratory for Computer Science's Distinguished Lecture Series, was entitled "The Internet: Today and Tomorrow" and talked about Gates' experiences in the computing industry and the possibilities of the new information age.

"The PC has come a long way [in] the 20 years," since Microsoft was founded, Gates said.

Right now, people wonder how we dealt with primitive technology four or five years ago, Gates said. And people four or five years from now people will say the same thing.

"As computers gain power," Gates, Page 21

**Vest Discusses Budget Cuts, Retirement at Town Meeting**

**By Timothy A Layman**

Institute President Charles M. Vest held the third in a series of annual MIT town meetings in La Sala de Puerto Rico last month. The meeting, which was open to all members of the MIT community, attracted 251 participants.

Unlike previous town meetings, this year's meeting had no preordained theme. Vest said he preferred having no set topic "because the range of questions was broad and the tone remained informal." The purpose was to address what was on people's minds — what they wanted to ask," he said.

One topic of current interest was the retirement incentive program, which offered eligible faculty and staff incentives to retire early. Vest called the program "very successful," and said that 640 employees had accepted the offer.

There is "a goal of reducing the total level of employment on campus," Vest said. The plan is to fill

Meeting, Page 23

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**Athena Survey Shows Increased Resnet Use; Clusters to Change**

**By May K. Tse**

**START REPORTER**

Results of a recent computer cluster usage survey indicated a growing use of Athena, corroborating previous Information Systems projections of usage.

"The numbers confirmed the qualitative impressions that one gets by simply wandering through the clusters and looking at what's on the screen," said Naomi B. Schmidt, Manager of Educational Planning and Support for Academic Computing.

The survey revealed that most Athena users logged on for an average of 12.9 hours per week and spent a third of their time reading and sending electronic mail, with document preparation and Web browsing also taking up significant portions of login time.

"Especially during the daytime, there's a lot of casual use, such as e-mail, [World-Wide Web] browsing, and Zephyr," Schmidt said. "On the other hand, there is also definitely solid use made of our more sophisticated packages. We learn from our yearly rounds visits with academic department heads that more and more departments are depending on high-end software and hardware for teaching their subjects."

The most popular third-party software packages (excluding the text editor Emacs, e-mail applications, and Web browsers) were the page-layout program for typesetter and mathematics software Matlab.

"Athena's on the increase," Schmidt said. "The survey group had 480 people, including 330 undergraduates, 125 graduate students, and 25 faculty, staff members, and researchers. Although "most interviews were conducted during the daytime, and departmental clusters were not surveyed." Schmidt believes the survey is "fairly accurate.

It hopes to move lead to MITnet.

Thirty-five percent of people surveyed in an Athena cluster said that they had access to a computer attached to the MIT campus network. Information Systems would

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**President Charles M. Vest speaks at a town meeting in La Sala de Puerto Rico last month.**

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**The Weather**

**Today**

*Warm, breezy, 81°F (27°C)*

*Tonight* Cloudy, muggy, 79°F (26°C)

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**Details, Page 2**
China Agrees to Stop Nuclear Tests

China said Thursday that it will drop its insistence on carrying out "peaceful nuclear explosions," thus removing a major obstacle to the signing of a comprehensive test ban treaty by the end of the month.

The move means that, for the first time, all five declared nuclear powers -- China, France, Britain, the United States and Russia -- will be on record as supporting a ban on all nuclear explosions, without loopholes.

In all of the declared nuclear powers, China has conducted the fewest nuclear explosions and, until now, had kept alive the possibility of conducting additional blasts under the "peaceful explosions" rubric. But China's request would unnerve many of its traditional allies in the developing world, which have favored a test ban treaty.

China's ambassador to Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Su Xuefeng, said that it was "absolutely not a non-nuclear country." It should be "temporary," and the issue should be revisited at a conference treaty -- generally expected in 10 years.

North Korea Gets $6 Million in Food

The Clinton administration plans to grant an additional $6 million of food aid to North Korea to help avert a famine this summer that Washington fears might cause a massive exodus of refugees into South Korea, senior U.S. officials said Thursday.

The aid, in the form of food, will be made in the expectation -- under a secret, informal arrangement worked out last month by a U.S. congressional delegation that visited the peninsula -- that 20% of the grain could be kept for the North Korean people and 80% for the military, the officials said.

The administration intends to work within the United Nations, which funds the operation, to ensure that the food is distributed to ordinary North Koreans and not to the military, the officials said.

It is not clear, however, whether the North Korean government will accept the food, which will be flown in from the United States.

No Luck with New EU Beef Ban

The European Union partly lifted a ban against British beef Wednesday, but continued to reject the action by Britain to abandon its policy of blocking all beef imports before EU bodies in protest against the ban.

But the government of Prime Minister John Major indicated that the British offensive will continue until a full lifting of the export restrictions.

British EU officials said about 40 EU measures in the past 10 days. Most involved cooperative ventures that Britain openly backed Britain to have a vote in the security council. One such opportunity is being provided through the24-member European Commission voted to allow the export of beef and dairy products tional polls, Dole is under intense pressure to win over voters in key states such as California and Texas. In the national polls, Dole is under intense pressure to win over voters in key states such as California and Texas. In the national polls, Dole is under intense pressure to win over voters in key states such as California and Texas. In the national polls, Dole is under intense pressure to win over voters in key states such as California and Texas.
**Czech Prime Minister Gets Approval To Form New Coalition Government**

By Dean E. Murphy

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

After five days of uncharacteristic squirming in the political spotlight, Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus got the go-ahead Thursday to form a new government, even though his right-wing coalition barely lost its parliamentary majority in weekend elections.

Czech President Vaclav Havel made the announcement after meeting with Klaus and leaders from the country's other major political parties. Havel said he had received assurances that the parties are willing to support a left-leaning minority government if power-sharing details can be worked out over the coming weeks.

In a humiliating blow to the normally self-assured Klaus, Havel gave his nod to the opposition Social Democrats — the surprise left-wing spoilers in the election — conscious of the arrangements for a triumvirate Klaus had expected by the go-ahead days ago, but Social Democratic leader Milos Zeman insisted about going along.

Klaus and Zeman have long been political enemies, but Havel made it clear after the election that a new government "would be unthinkable" without the concurrence of the Social Democrats. The delay temporarily shook financial markets and raised concerns among some Western investors of political instability, but most analysts do not expect the Social Democrats to threaten the country's economic turnaround.

The party, a minor player in the 1992 elections, surged into second place this weekend with more than a quarter of the vote, finishing just three percentage points behind Klaus' Civic Democratic Party. Unlike other social democratic par-

ties in Eastern Europe, the Czech party is not a retooled Communist party, and its leaders have supported free-market reforms — albeit with a staunch twist.

"We are prepared to support the current coalition, but only with guarantees," Egon T. Lamky, a top Zeman adviser, said in an interview. "We want the power in Parliament to stop some events, or control and help push through others."

Havel's decision means the only conservative government remaining in newly democratic Eastern Europe is likely to continue in power, despite a backlash across the region by left-leaning voters against post-Communist reformers. But it also means Klaus joins a long list of reform-minded politicians who have been chastened, if not tossed aside, by the electorate.

"We believe this represents the best basis we can offer for meaningful, comprehensive and inclusive negoti-
ations," said Springer. Mayhew called it "an historic turning point for the peace process in Northern Ireland."

Mayhew said Mitchell "can clearly bring to bear a special insight and a unique ability to take the issues forward."

The White House weighed in simultaneously. After President Clinton spoke by telephone with Irish leader John Bruton and Britain Prime Min-
ister John Major. Clinton said the talks offer "a real chance to set aside the past and negotiate a future of hope and promise, justice and peace."

**Britain and Ireland Ask Former U.S. Senator to Chair Revived Peace Talks**

By William D. Montalbano

LONDON

Britain and Ireland played an American card in their tenuous search for peace in Northern Ireland on Thursday, asking former Maine Sen. George Mitchell to chair long-
talks aimed at ending the sec-
tarian conflict.

The choice of Mitchell angered some both in Britain and Ireland, for whom and the idea of a foreigner involved in delicate matters of state is demeaning. Moreover, hard-line Protestant voters in debilitated Ulster. They want the province to remain part of the United Kingdom and say Mitchell is too close to Catholic nationalists seeking closer links with Ireland.

And Mitchell's task is daunting. Multi-party talks in Belfast will likely begin next Monday without Sinn Fein, the political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army. Analysts say the talks are dra-
matical-
ly weakened without Sinn Fein. And peace is not a possibility if the IRA refuses a cease-fire. Mitchell, who nudged baleful enemies toward the table in January 1993 to compromise proposals for a weapons surrender that led to the main sessions to negotiate the wide-
spread compliance with minimum wages laws with most work-
ers earning substantially more than the minimum wage."}

**Get involved!**

The orientation committee needs help organizing activities for the incoming students. Come to the meeting next Thursday and find out how you can participate.

The GSC congratulates the new graduates and wishes to thank all those who made Commencement 1996 a success. MIT counts on your active support as alumni of the Institute to continually improve the quality of graduate student life. Good luck and best wishes!

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**Orange County to Regain Solvency**

LOS ANGELES TIMES

California's Orange County won over a reluctant Wall Street Wednesday, clearing the final hurdle in its efforts to emerge from the nation's largest-ever municipal bankruptcy filing.

Buoyed by strong demand from both East Coast bond funds and well-heeled California investors, the county successfully sold $880 million of bonds, giving it just enough money to pay back its bondholders, venders and other creditors.

"We're very, very pleased," said Jan Mittermeier, Orange Coun-
y's chief executive officer, who flew to New York for the bond sale. "We have been able to overcome this financial blow-up.

Cash from the bond sale will allow Orange County to emerge from bankruptcy protection next Wednesday, just 18 months after it filed under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code with $1.64 billion in losses from wrong-way interest rate bets by former county Trea-
urer Robert L. Citron.

"This marks the end of the bankruptcy," said Christopher Vierela, a vice president with Salomon Bros., which is advising the county on the sale. "But more importantly, this validates the county's efforts to limit costs by emerging so quickly and paying all creditors 100 cents on the dollar."

Still, the exit price wasn't cheap.

Orange County's bonds were priced to yield 0.10 to 0.25 of a per-
centage point more than other similarly rated bonds, meaning county taxpayers paid roughly $43.8 million extra in borrowing costs, according to data from Zane Mann, publisher of California Municipal Bond Advisor, a newsletter in Palm Springs.

**Disney Linked to Sweatshops in Haiti**

LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK

Mickey Mouse, one of the few American faces more famous than Katha D'Souza, will soon face her former employer, the committee that runs the Montreal Jazz Festival, in court.

"Next campaign is Disney; I've already sent a 13-page letter to (Walt Disney Co. CEO) Michael Eisner," Charles Kernaghan, the committee's executive director, said in an interview Wednesday. "Disney has sweatshops in Haiti that pay starvation wages with inhu-
mane conditions."

Kernaghan's allegations refer to two U.S. apparel manufacturers under contract to produce children's clothing with the Disney label.

Disney has been denying such allegations since January, when the committee began its campaign. In a letter to (Walt Disney Co. CEO) Michael Eisner," Charles Kernaghan, the committee's executive director, said in an interview Wednesday. "Disney has sweatshops in Haiti that pay starvation wages with inhu-
mane conditions."

Kernaghan also said that Disney representative had been to Haiti to verify that the factories are following the laws and are properly main-
tained.

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**Graduate Student Council**

The grocery shuttle will only run on Saturdays during the summer, with pick-ups at 9, 10, and 11 am at the regular stops.

Upcoming meetings:

- BCA - June 11 (7pm)
- Activities - June 12 (5:30pm)
- Orientation - June 13 (5:30pm)

Join us for the GSC's annual trip to the Montreal Jazz Festival

June 28 - June 30

We only have 94 spaces on a first come, first serve basis. Tickets on sale now at the GSC office.

Buy early!

$65 for MIT graduate Students

$75 for guests (one guest per student guest)

Cost includes transportation to and from Montreal and two nights in a single room at the McGill Univer-
sity residence halls.

Check out the festival's web site:

http://www.montrealjazzfestival.worldline.com

All graduate students are invited to all our meetings held in Room 50-222 at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is included.

Stay informed about all our events! Check out our web page [http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/gsc/gsc.html](http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/gsc/gsc.html). Add yourself to our mailing list by sending e-mail to [gsc-request@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-request@mit.edu). Questions, comments, ideas? Call us at x3-2195 or send e-mail to [gsc-admin@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-admin@mit.edu).
A little over a year ago, Senior House was spared from conversion into graduate housing — and from the verdict of a secret decision-making process aimed at reducing student input as well. In the end, it was decided that the dormitory would continue to house undergraduates, but that it would undergo renovation that would take its entire floor. While significant student input about the renovations was received over the past year, Senior House residents have been left out of the decision-making process. This was by necessity, as there was no public discussion or transparency about the renovations. When the process was finally revealed, it became clear that the changes would benefit everyone in the end. By limiting dormitory residents to the floor that would be renovated, the house would be able to have more space for students and their leaders.

The responsiveness of the administration and contractor to student concerns has quickly degraded. During planning stages, one of the residents' major demands was to ensure that Senior House would be presentable for Residence and Orientation Week. When the floor was open in the spring, the renovation process was under way in another part of the building, but the contractors were not involved or even considered in the decision, much less informed of it in advance. Yet again, student concerns have fallen on deaf ears. Keeping students in the dark on scheduling changes and ignoring student input, the administration and contractor have duplicated the closed process epitomized by the infamous SHPC. Senior House was supposed to be a test case for student involvement, the basis for redeveloping the trust that the administration made nearly two years ago. It now appears that the administrators involved in the renovations have blindsided students yet again. The brass has heard this complaint before in contexts from dean selection to food service. Will they ever learn? With this latest transgression, the answer seems to be “no.”

Many discussions of import to the student body just don’t reach students ears. Such is the case with the Writing Requirement. A paper in the January/February issue of the MIT Faculty Newsletter called for “a revision of the current writing system” mod- edled on the current “Writing Initiative,” a pro- gram in which unit writing practices are attached to regular engineering subjects. This paper was written by the faculty attached to the Writing Requirement. Profes- sor of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sci- ence Michael Blumenthal.

Letters, Page 5

Letters to The Editor

Writing Requirement Demands Student Input

An MIT workload makes for a ratified Institute. Students tend to become isolated from events outside the Infinite Corridor. There simply isn’t much time for newspapers, magazines, or television. In such a busy environment, the Institute is cluttered. Students can’t be expected to keep up with the politics of the world and the issues that are raised by it. News is the best way to keep informed.

Editorials, printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Disputes, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced, and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, MA 02239-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format are encouraged, and must be mailed to news@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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Institutional Wisdom Watch

Commencement Speaker Roundup

Boston College: Bill Cosby — The immortal Dr. Huxtable comes out of hiding. Hey, hey, hey.

Brown: Andrea Anderson and Michael Palmer — Graduating seniors deliver address. A sign to dump Gosi for Hsu and Hollywood?

Princeton: Bill Clinton — Busy incumbent candidate takes time to frolic in the ivy.

Yale: Henry Winkler — The Fonz brings happy days to roaring campus strike.

ERRATUM

The caption for a photograph on May 14 of Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Alan V. Oppenheim appears to have been misstated. Professer of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Alan V. Oppenheim has the last name as Oppenheim. Oppenheim is this year’s winner of the Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Letters To The Editor

The Tech, a student newspaper of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT’s Spring Recess, Spring Break, and Winter Recess) and on a reduced schedule during the summer. For subscription information, contact the Tech’s business office at 773-3822; in Massachusetts, Cambridge, MA 02139-7032; in New Hampshire, Manchester, NH 03101-0793; in New York, New York, NY 10022; or in Washington, D.C., 20001. Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced, and addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, MA 02239-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format are encouraged, and must be mailed to news@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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Letters, Page 5

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters. In general, letters shorter than 300 words will be given higher priority. Once a letter has been submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

To Reach Us

The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1510. Electronic mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. Mail to specific people may be sent by the following addresses on the Internet:

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Business Manager, Christine Chan ’98
Managing Editor, John P. Stoll ’98
Executive Manager, Anders Hove ’99

The Tech is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year. The Tech is an independent student newspaper. All opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of its editors and are not necessarily those of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corporation, or the MIT Corporation’s board of trustees. The Tech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology do not assume any responsibility for statements made in The Tech, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is not responsible for opinions expressed in The Tech. The Tech, a student newspaper of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year. The Tech is an independent student newspaper. All opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of its editors and are not necessarily those of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corporation, or the MIT Corporation’s board of trustees. The Tech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology do not assume any responsibility for statements made in The Tech, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is not responsible for opinions expressed in The Tech. The Tech, a student newspaper of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year. The Tech is an independent student newspaper. All opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of its editors and are not necessarily those of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corporation, or the MIT Corporation’s board of trustees. The Tech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology do not assume any responsibility for statements made in The Tech, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is not responsible for opinions expressed in The Tech.
Letters to the Editor

From Page 4

ences Kip V. Hodges is the chair of the Com- mittee on the Writing Requirement. Under- graduate Council of Student Affairs Associa- tion Dean Leslie C. Pedersen is the associate dean in charge of the writing requirement. Undergraduate Council of Student Affairs Presi- dent Stephen Lightman is head of the Program in Writing and the Writing Requirement Committee.

The paper described a writing program that was failing. Only 41 percent of interviewed students thought that the writing had improved significantly. This compared to 71 percent of the previous year. Worrisome, writing seems to be completely irrelevant as far as academics at MIT are concerned. The study quoted by the paper found no correlation between a student's GPA and writing ability, as shown if in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences courses. It is disturbing that such reports of failure do not attract more attention. MIT's plans for change in requirements aren't noticeable. That responsibility was shirked by whatever individual or group decided the entire MIT community needed to see male genitalia. I am not questioning the content of the nation, nor do I question their right to express it. However, it is right to express themselves in a form that is appropriate for a general audience. I believe an apology is in order. At the very least, given their manner of presenta- tion, they should have forewarned their audience. That responsibility was shirked by whatever individual or group decided the entire MIT community needed to see male genitalia. I am not questioning the content of the nation, nor do I question their right to express it. However, it is right to express themselves in a form that is appropriate for a general audience. I believe an apology is in order. At the very least, given their manner of presenta- tion, they should have forewarned their audience. That responsibility was shirked by whatever individual or group decided the entire MIT community needed to see male genitalia. I am not questioning the content of the nation, nor do I question their right to express it. However, it is right to express themselves in a form that is appropriate for a general audience. I believe an apology is in order. 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Column Underrates Media Lab's Technological Goals

Column by Rich Fletcher

The recent column by Scott Deakin ["Media Lab's Smart Clothing Is a Delusion," Idea, May 10] presented several issues and misconceptions which deserve a response.

First, the Media Lab is not in the clothing business any more than Dilbert is a management expert. The degree they receive will grant them a position in the American community and to do well in life.

Second, Gershenfeld's research has nothing to do with the only connection with the Smart Clothing project-the cellular telephone networks and flat display technology which could be incorporated into shoes or clothing if someone so desired. Man G, wearable computing, and vision modeling belong to a different part of the equation.

Third, Deskin confuses experiment with commercial use. Many of the devices we build are in experimental form, not in industry. In the context of vision, some of them are 'off the shelf', but this is just an extension of the knowledge we gain through experiment, they will be incorporated into industry later.

Fourth, Deskin's notion of what is practicable and what is dumb is questionable. Real mature technologies which have already been used successfully in Air Force fighter planes and flat display technology could be incorporated into shoes or clothing if someone so desired. Man G, wearable computing, and vision modeling belong to a different part of the equation.

Motor Co. to prevent accidental deaths caused by airbags, or an electronic means of tagging medical drugs and equipment in order to help prevent deaths caused by human error in the hospitals. People associated with the Media Lab are not so naive, and technically ignorant, Deskin seems to imply. A large fraction of Media Lab grad students as well as faculty have worked in industry for a number of years before coming to MIT and are well aware of the practical issues involved in developing commercially viable technology.

So to twist the quote Deskin cited: Given the enthusiasm of the people funding and working on the current crusde version of the Media Lab's sci-fi vision of the future, there must be something much closer to reality attracting them. Maybe it is to have fun, or maybe it's the desire to create lectures which will make that real difference in everyday lives, or maybe both. You decide, but please check your facts first.

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Getting Names Right Can Often Be a Confusing Task

Column by Eve Moy

Benjamin Netanyahu '75 was elected prime minister of Israel last week by a mere one percent of the vote. Because his campaign promises were much different from those of Shimon Peres, Israel's neighbors are worried about the future peace in the Middle East. Politically ignorant MIT student and wor- rysthat I am, I was more distracted by the fact that the world's news reporters could not decide on the proper pronunciation of the prime minister's name.

Most of my news is a combination of National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Company on the WBUR radio station. The British said "ne-tan-Ya-hu" while most Americans said something like "ne-min-Ya-hoo." For days, I didn't see Netanyahu's name spelled in print. I kept wondering what strange combination of foreign letters and accents would create a name that was so difficult to pronounce. When finally happened to buy the Sunday paper, lo and behold, I found that his name is pronounced just like it's spelled. Well, it's really not that much of a mystery. The name happens to follow the disappearing consonant trick, like when "CAVTY" becomes "CAVEY" becomes "CAFEY" becomes "slay" or "did you eat?" becomes "djay?" Sometimes there are regional or dialectal differences, but I always assumed that in the news business, all of the reporters would have learned the large-metropolitan-region dialect.

Personal habits aside, a name is a more than or twice. But I noticed one mistake, the only "effa" that has ever really bothered me. My own name has only six letters, three in fact that the world's news reporters could not confusions. The electric company insisted that my name was "Moi," even after I called and wrote several times to change it. My address labels shows "Moy," even though I tried to reduce confusion between the "O" and "A" by writing in all capital letters. My first name is pronounced "EE-a" which often gets confused with "effa" or "Av-a." Even 13 weeks into the spring semester, neither the students nor the professors of the class for which I was a teaching assistant really knew how to say my name.

I must admit, however, that those instances didn't really phase me. After all, I didn't make a strong effort to correct other people, and I myself don't follow the strict rules of pronun- ciation either.

But I was bothered once. It was the day of my graduation last year (June 7, 1995). I had filled out the little pronunciation card so that President Charles M. Vest could practice ahead of time. "EE-a," I wrote. He must have called out a thousand names that day. To his credit, he said most of them with a straight face and only corrected himself once or twice. But I noticed one mistake, the only "effa" that has ever really bothered me.

There is something sacrosanct about one's name. It is allowed to bend the rules of lan- guage. And whether that name is broadcast repeatedly during the day, or announced just once on commencement day, close enough just isn't good enough.

Column by Rich Fletcher

Report

The degree they receive will grant them a better opportunity to succeed in the job mar- ket and to do well in life.

However, these students who are graduating also have the opportunity to leave a cam- pus filled with imagination, creativity and unconventionality - a place which is an asset to this country for years.

And while all who graduate from MIT are enabled to be world leaders in science, engi- neering, and technology, leaders can't exist in a vacuum. They need to make sure that the rest of America has every opportunity to succeed. For if only the graduates of MIT, Princeton, or other top-level universities can do well in life - if the American community as a whole does not advance and do well together - there will not be a healthy community in which college graduates can succeed.

Clinton would also like share his personal im partation toward service and the arts: "We need to work for a country in which everyone can have the opportunity to walk through our halls. "The arts, " he said, "are not only a good thing, but a good thing for society."

"The arts are a good thing," he said, "and the more I become aware that there is more to life than just numbers, the more I think that in our final hours, we say, 'Gosh, I wish I'd spent more time at the Sunday paper, lo and behold, I found that his name is pronounced just like it's spelled. Well, it's really not that much of a mystery. The name happens to follow the disappearing consonant trick, like when "CAVTY" becomes "CAVEY" becomes "CAFEY" becomes "slay" or "did you eat?" becomes "djay?" Sometimes there are regional or dialectal differences, but I always assumed that in the news business, all of the reporters would have learned the large-metropolitan-region dialect.

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Hypocrite Gore Should Practice What He Preaches

By Gary M. Rubman

During his years as Vice President, Al Gore has served as the Clinton Administration's spokesman for science and technology. In evaluating his credibility on these issues, it is important for us to carefully examine his record. While claiming to support scientific advancement, in reality, Gore has positioned himself at the radical left wing of the political spectrum.

The budget of the Clinton Administration's Science Research and Development budget, which includes $249.6 million more for basic research. The choice is clear.

Gore has been an ardent proponent of cutting Department of Defense research funding and reducing the bureaucratic stranglehold of Washington agencies over the defense budget. This money directly benefits the Clinton administration. While Al Gore will try to fool the American people into believing that Republicans are "slashing" science funding, the numbers disagree. Unfortunately, as we have seen, the only numbers that Gore cares about are those from the polls, not the numbers that actually matter. Which one is better for the American people and science in general? The choice is clear.

Following the publication of his book, Earth in the Balance, the liberal media anointed Al Gore as an environmental expert and political spokesman for the scientific community. He would take any congratulations for accomplishments that deliver the commencement address at MIT, the epitome of scientific discovery and innovation. When one carefully examines Gore's writings, though, it is shocking to see the parallels between his views and those articulated by the Unabomber in his 35,000-word manifesto, the epitome of scientific mistrust and the leading advocate for returning society to the Stone Age. As syndicated columnist Tony Snow recently wrote, "Gore, like the Unabomber, professes to be more concerned with the hands of a wise and gigantic government, the Unabomber prefers anarchy."

Interestingly, one of the books found in the Unabomber's cabin after his arrest was a dog-eared copy of Gore's Earth in the Balance, complete with captions scrawled in the margins and underlined sections. For some reason, federal investigators decided to leave this off of the evidence list related to the media. Could it be that Gore recognizes the similarities and is embarrassed by the fact that he is the leading defender of the same eco-hysteria as the Unabomber? The answer is obvious. If Gore wants to maintain any credibility among the scientific community, he should at the very least practice what he preaches. During the 1992 election campaign, for example, a Nashville television station obtained footage proving the existence of a dump filled with aluminum cans, old tires, and fiberglass of waste oil — a dump Gore insisted did not exist — on property owned by Gore's father. The close proximity of the dump to a river suggested that it was an environmental hazard. More recently, in March 1996, the Denver Water Department released an extra 96 million gallons of water — enough for 300 families for a year — to improve the backdrop for a campaign photo-op for Gore in front of the South Platte River. Finally, even though he has supposedly long been a foe of logging the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, shortly after being sworn in as Vice President, Gore added a verandah made of old-growth redwood and Douglas fir to the Vice President's mansion. Clearly, Gore should learn to listen more closely to the rhetoric that his speech writers have given him.

After an examination of his record, it becomes clear that Vice President Al Gore talking about science and technology is like Fidel Castro talking about freedom and democracy — each knows little about what he speaks. While his words may sound good and his show may be impressive, his actions are destructive. Gore believes that our salvation lies just beyond another round of federal legislation. We need a leader who understands true science and has the strength to avoid the use of shallow rhetoric. During the upcoming election I hope people will listen carefully to Gore's words and think about the consequences. Which administration would truly represent the best interests of science and technology, the status quo or a Dole administration? The choice is clear.
Scott’s Journal

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Club leadership is drawn from local alumni volunteers who serve as officers or board members and often rise to positions on Alumni Association national boards and committees.

For more information on a club near you, email clubs@mit.edu> find us on the web at http://web.mit.edu/alum/www/Information/Clubs> or call Nancy Howells at (617) 253-8246. You can also fax us at (617) 253-6211, or try our 800 number: 1-800-MIT-1868.

We look forward to seeing you soon and often at MIT Club activities and welcome your support.

We’re there for you.

Across the nation and around the world, MIT Alumni Clubs draw thousands of alumni, parents, students, and friends to a broad range of social and educational activities. Since MIT clubs reflect the diversity of our alumni body, events range from faculty speakers to career workshops, from plant tours to opera, all in an effort to promote the Institute and provide enlightenment about its programs. In addition, a number of clubs have a public service entity in which one may find people tutoring high-school students or painting a shelter for battered women.

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Guest Column by George X. Torres

While I did find Brett Altschul’s column “[Freshman Year Policies Need Revision],” May 14 thought-provoking, I feel that some of the alternative viewpoints on this issue should be addressed.

Altschul claims there are two groups of students that are affected by the Pass/No Record policy for MIT freshmen: hard working freshmen and slackers. I do not see this as the case; I see Pass/No Record as an opportunity. As with any opportunity, you can utilize it to the fullest or you can let it go by your side.

The case for the first group, the hard workers, lacks support. Altschul states that official recognition for hard work through grades is lacking. I think that these are not the only rewards to be had from freshman year, and that the desire for skill and knowledge should outweigh the desire to be praised and have something to show to others. I am not Pevelin’s dog. Rewards come in many forms; one merely has to be aware of them.

If there were no grades entirely during freshman year I would be equally displeased. Grades as I see it are an assessment of one’s comprehension of a subject and should be used as such. If people feel their comprehension of a subject does not match their personal standards, they can change the way they get the grades they do. They can study more, or whatever it takes. Students should use grades as a tool, not as a reward.

As for the second group, Altschul’s argument is well-founded but misguided. The reason that many freshman choose not to work stems from the opportunity that Pass/No Record presents and a lack of forethought about what to do instead.

With college comes a wealth of opportunities. With this comes the opportunity to slack off. If in a equals a C equals a P, why do the work? The case is simple for doing the work. Pass/No Record doesn’t last forever and most will need the knowledge later.

When sophomore year finally gets here, how will slackers study? The way they learned. If they did not take the opportunity to change their study habits while they were freshmen, the bad habits will remain.

There is a point of having prerequisites. It is to ensure that one has sufficient knowledge to comprehend and acquire the subject matter of a given course. I would find it extremely difficult to do differential equations without all of my prior mathematics background. It includes arithmetical through multivariable calculus. If freshmen cannot see this, it is their own fault that they are not prepared to take a class.

Altschul also states that the opinion of most students of why some students do better than others is that they have a better background and not that they are more intelligent. This is clearly a case of lack of observation. Preparation can carry you to a point, but after that the A’s go to the students who work the hardest for the most part.

Altschul does bring up a very good point. It is to ensure that one has sufficient knowledge to comprehend and acquire the subject matter of a given course. I would find it extremely difficult to do differential equations without all of my prior mathematics background. It includes arithmetical through multivariable calculus. If freshmen cannot see this, it is their own fault that they are not prepared to take a class.

I see no reason why the university is obligated to give recognition to us for being willing to work hard and learn. We should come to college to learn, which requires hard work.

But what we learn or get out of our experience at university cannot be expressed in a grade. I am sorry that Altschul does not feel that he has anything to show for his hard work with-out a grade. Hard work has its own reward: knowledge. Why do we need any external recognition?

As for the idea that Pass/No Record encourages laziness in learning basic concepts, Altschul may be right. But if you are lazy freshman year and do not learn the necessary material, you will pay the price yourself. The primary reason for being at MIT is to learn. It is possible to learn without grades; in fact, worrying about the grading system is one of the reasons why those extra few points can get in the way of learning. So the Pass/No Record system is part of trying to get students into a mode of learning, as opposed to simply getting high grades. Also, without the pressure of grades, freshmen are able to get more out of the university experience. There is a little more time for getting involved in activities, playing a sport, or even socializing. These dimensions of university life are just as important as the academic dimension, and are easily overlooked at MIT. The time spent getting involved freshman year determines our interests and activities until we graduate. Without Pass/No Record, I feel that more people would be unmotivated, withdrawn, and unnecessarily stressed.

I see no reason why the university should not consider to be the wrong attitude towards a freshman year. PassINo Record is not necessary at other schools is not relevant to MIT. Also, the fact that Pass/No Record was not always part of freshman year does not mean that it is not an improvement to the freshman year experience.

Altschul states that students at other colleges get along quite nicely without such a system. I would point out that MIT is not just another college. You will most likely never be as challenged anywhere else as you are here at MIT. So the fact that Pass/No Record is not necessary at other schools is not relevant to MIT. Also, the fact that Pass/No Record was not always part of freshman year does not mean that it is not an improvement to the freshman year experience.

The Tech congratulates all graduating students! Good luck in all future endeavors.
September 3, 1996

THE ARTS

MIT prof writes book on magnets you'll like reading

By Joel M. Rosenberg

any children go through a phase, perhaps near the age of 12, when they seem to understand things apart to see how they work. I reached this phase about 30 years ago, when I made my first science fiction novel. I've always been interested in magnets, and I've spent a lot of time thinking about their properties and the way they work.

I'm still interested in magnets, and I've written a book about them. The book is called "The Magic of Magnets," and it's available at most bookstores. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. I'd be happy to hear from you.
On The Screen, from Page 10

**1/2 Spy Hard**
Leslie Nielsen plays Dick Steele, a.k.a. agent WD-40. The movie feels a lot like the Naked Gun series, but is not as funny. The film looks thrown together, and much of the humor feels like it was written moments before being filmed. Most of these jokes work, and the film is over adequately good, but it is a mystery how some of these jokes could have made their way into the final product. —DVR.

**1/2 Twister**
Not surprisingly, Twister's only redeeming quality is its stunning special effects. Considerably less effort was put into the drama side. After the first 10 minutes, an accurate outline of the story is obvious, and there isn't a unique plot element throughout — Helen Hunt is driven by a childhood trauma, and hopes to someday conquer the force that killed her father; Bill Harding wants to get out of the storm-chasing business, even though his instincts are renowned and unmatched by anyone in the field. The visuals are good, but not good enough to carry the mediocre story. — A. Arif Husain, Sony Cheri.

**1/2 Mission Impossible**
Never mind the title: Besides the famous theme tune and the initial premise of the Impossible Mission Force, Brian De Palma's film version of the 60s spy drama has very little to do with the TV show. IMF leader Jim Phelps (Jon Voight) presents his team with a mission to intercept a top-secret list of agents for sale to a worldwide legion of criminals, but when things go awry in Prague, superagent Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) has to weave his way through the various plots and counterplots to find a traitor within the organization. This is Cruise's picture, and, though much of the "team" is dispatched early on, the remainder of the big-name cast is wasted. Even though the film moves at a swift enough pace so that you don't have time to dwell on the implausible plot details, the only memorable sequence is Cruise's wire-suspended entrance into an impregnable, sterile CIA computer room. —SCD. Sony Copley.

**1/2 Spy Hard**
Eric Roberts plays a half-wit drug dealer with disaffected tough-guy panache and Teri Hatcher is an amusing, somewhat over-the-top femme fatale. Even Alec Baldwin turns in a good performance; but then again, why should you care? —SCD. Sony Copley Place.

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Bear Stearns congratulates the
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and
welcomes the following graduates to our team:

Arlene A. Chang
Helen Yang

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This year's *Technique*:

a fitting souvenir from four years at MIT

**TECHNIQUE 1996**

Ana T. Echaniz, Editor in Chief.
Lori Ann Maiorino, Managing Editor.
Kevin A. Simmons, Photography Editor.
Jeremy S. Sawicki, Layout Editor.
384 pp.

By Scott C. Deskin

*Editor's Note*

Encapsulating a year's worth of memories in a yearbook is no easy task. Especially for seniors, the moments should adequately represent the images, feelings, and experiences in one's undergraduate career. To that end, *Technique 1996* is a moderate success in its quest to reconcile "Life in Hell," as one of its sections is called, with our more positive memories of our college years.

The contents of the new volume are the same as in years past except that "Life in Hell" has been moved before the "Journal" section, which is a time capsule of the past year's major MIT-related events. This switch quickly emphasizes people's experience living, working, and coping with life here. One photo by Michael S. Mermelstein G, which shows a student walking along a sidewalk bounded on either side by a wall of snow, as much as proves that despite the severity of winter in New England, hell as we know it will never freeze over. Other pictures of the 24-Hour Coffeehouse, the 2.70 Design Laboratory, and Walker Memorial during test-time give the obligato nods to what students have to endure during their time here. There are also a few pictures of labs at MIT, but strangely there are none that catch the masses toiling at the electronic dungeon we know as Athena.

Perhaps the best thing about "Life in Hell" is the poetry by written by members of the MIT community. The pieces' overarching theme is that MIT is a forbidding, often impersonal place where things get lost in the shuffle; or, as Kevin A. Simmons '98 puts it, "There is no reflection, no patient attention to a multitude of perspectives." In "Concrete," Jin Park '96 boils the Institute down to "education, tough and unyielding. It scratches your knees when you fall. And it is the Great Dome of Killian Court, rising above the treetops like the Dome of Killian Court, a festival on the Student Center steps; all these things are stand-alone pieces: the Boston skyline suffused with fireworks, the great dome from Killian Court, a festival on the Student Center steps, all these remind me of the tremendous amount of activity that went on at MIT and make me wish that I had only seen and done more while I was here. But why weren't more of these photos of people? Why choose in situ to reserve four-color processing for a shot of a backpack and soft drink cup sitting on a bench? Editorial decisions like those don't add anything to the artistic integrity of *Technique*.'s conceptmeisters.

Tony's consideration aside, *Technique 1996* is a worthy keepake of my undergraduate career. Though primarily geared toward seniors, the yearbook is an attractive piece of work, and I commend Editor in Chief Ana T. Echaniz '96 and her staff for sticking to the high standard of previous years.

I always knew that my classmates were smart, but I took that for granted... I have a new respect for the thoughts and ideas behind the faces I only knew through fleeting glimpses in hallways these past four years.
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LeVay Shares Thoughts
On 'Gay Gene' Research

By Rebecca Zackes

People in Building 34 last week may have caught an unusual sight: a pair of female Bonobo chimpanzees having sex. The anonymous primates were not escaped from the Franklin Park Zoo but the subject of the first slide in a seminar given by neuroscientist Simon LeVay, former Harvard University researcher and founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education. LeVay spoke on May 22 as part of the Center for Biological and Computational Learning seminar series. His seminar, entitled "Queer Science: The Use and Abuse of Research into Homosexuality," gave a historical overview of research into the causes of homosexuality. He also discussed the social and political implications of this type of work.

The author of three books on the history, culture, and science of sex, LeVay is no passive observer when it comes to research into sexuality. While at Harvard and through later work at the Salk Institute, he won acclaim for his research on the visual system. More recently, he has used his experience in neuroanatomy to study sexuality. In 1993 LeVay published a controversial paper in the journal Science that described an anatomical difference between the brains of homosexual and heterosexual men. Specifically, he found that a structure called the third interstitial nucleus of the anterior hypothalamus (INAH-3) was smaller in the brains of gay men than it was in men known or assumed to be heterosexual.

In his seminar, LeVay described his own work and that of other researchers who give nature their vote in the determination of sexual orientation. He referred to studies of separated twins that suggest that sexual orientation has a genetic component. When a twin pair is reared in the same environment, the chances that both will be gay are higher than if they are reared apart. Similarly, adoption studies have shown that children adopted by gay parents are more likely to be gay than children adopted by heterosexual parents.

LeVay went on to describe a 1991 study by David Reiner of the National Cancer Institute. The two have collaborated on writing about sexual orientation for the general public. In his study of 40 pairs of gay brothers, Reiner's group found a specific region of the X chromosome that seemed to be associated with homosexuality. LeVay's work has drawn scrutiny from some opponents who have sparked controversy in both lay and scientific communities. Interpreting LeVay's data can be difficult. Several researchers have pointed out that based on LeVay's work, it is impossible to tell if differences in human brain structure are the cause or effect of a homosexual lifestyle. And LeVay himself noted that his and Reiner's studies have yet to be corroborated.

Still, LeVay believes strongly that biology plays a role in the determination of sexual orientation. In a radio interview last week on the WBUR talk show program "The Connection," he gave a rough estimate that "half the reason why you're gay or straight is genetic," whatever the other half is, he said. He added that the influence of genes on sexual orientation is believed to be stronger in men than in women.

In his seminar, LeVay emphasized the political ramifications of his research. A proponent of gay rights and himself a gay man, LeVay believes that it is important for humanists to be seen as a discrete biological group or "natural kind" rather than as heterosexuals acting inappropriately. He cited a New York Times/CBS poll that found that people who thought that homosexuality was a choice were more likely to be homophobic than those who believed sexual orientation was biologically determined. But LeVay was also fully aware of the danger in imposing a biological view of homosexuality — in particular the potential for attempts at "curing" homosexuals of their homosexuality. He described studies in which homosexual behavior was caused in male rats through castration and hormonal manipulation, then returned to heterosexuality through brain surgery. LeVay showed frightening footage of similar surgeries being performed on gay men in Germany in the 60s. Despite these and other abuses, LeVay remained convinced that giving scientific understanding of homosexuality will lead to greater social understanding. But "far more than science, it is the collective coming out of gay people" over the last few decades that has improved the social and political climate for gay, he said.

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 22

"We talked about things like putting the Alumni Register on a CD-ROM," Johnson said. "It was an evolutionary discussion of how to use the technology to better the alumni relationship," he said.

An e-mail forwarding service "could be done relatively quickly and was very visible," Johnson said. "I have to admit that [we had] kind of a marketing hat on but, face it, that's what you've got to do," he added.

The forwarding service was put out for bids and over the past several months the committee whittled the choices down to two: one external vendor and one internal vendor, Information Systems.

The service will cost between $10,000 and $50,000 to start up, depending on how much money will be invested in the beginning and how much will be invested later.

"One vendor... has recommend ed an entire package including World Wide Web services," Strange said. The ability to present Web pages will be used for another upcoming rollout of career services for alumni. Also waiting in the wings are online directory and location services, as well as some type of real-time communication services like Zephyr, she said.

Alumni can get more information and register for the e-mail forwarding program at http://web.mit.edu/alum/Information/Services.

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Disability Coordinator Roberts Looks Back on a Year of Progress

By Eva Moy

The Institute kicked off an effort to improve compliance last summer and has invested several million dollars in improvements around the campus. Bathrooms were redesigned, automatic doors installed, signs pointing to accessible entrances posted, and public telephones moved closer to the floor.

A large portion of the money for the six-year plan has been allocated to renovating Kresge Auditorium and Walker Memorial, two of the largest public meeting places on campus.

In addition, improvements, like increasing the accessibility of MIT housing or the Athena clusters, fall under their respective departments, both in terms of funding and decision-making, Roberts said.

Despite the fragmentation, Roberts said that MIT now has a long-term outlook on this issue, and credits the Institute in its efforts to improve. It has worked aggressively on compliance, she said. "If it [could get the six-year plan moving, then attitudes will change," even more, she said.

"The test stresses physical thinking rather than knowledge of material," she said. "The only requirements are freshman-level math and physics. A typical problem might involve a complicated resistor network, say, planar square lattice, or a cube with the edges and diagonals as resistors, and participants would be asked to find currents and resistances between various points."

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According to a recent academic assessment, the Institute is making good progress on improving access to the physical and academic environment for students with disabilities. The assessment, conducted by a team of faculty, staff, and students, found that the Institute has made significant strides in increasing accessibility, although there is still room for improvement.

One of the key findings of the assessment is that the Institute has made progress in increasing the number of accessible buildings and facilities, and in improving the physical accessibility of the campus. However, the assessment also identified areas where improvement is needed, such as in the provision of accessible transportation and in the provision of accessible information technology.

The Institute has responded to the assessment by implementing a number of actions, including the creation of a new office of disability services, the appointment of a new dean for accessibility, and the development of a new accessibility plan. The Institute is committed to continuing to improve access to the physical and academic environment for students with disabilities, and to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed at MIT.

The Institute has also established a number of initiatives to support students with disabilities, including an accessibility advisor program, a disabilities support group, and a number of student-led organizations focused on disability issues.

In addition, the Institute has worked to increase the visibility and inclusion of students with disabilities in the academic and social life of the Institute. The Institute has established a number of initiatives to help students with disabilities feel welcome and supported, including the establishment of a disabilities office in the student center, and the creation of a number of student-led organizations focused on disability issues.

The Institute is committed to continuing to improve access to the physical and academic environment for students with disabilities, and to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed at MIT.
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Gates Says Microsoft Still No. 2 in Browsers

Gates, from Page 1

Microsoft Chair Bill Gates shared his thoughts about the future of the Internet with a packed audience in Kresge Auditorium May 29.

Gates Says Microsoft Still No. 2 in Browsers

Microsoft is working to improve its own browser, Internet Explorer, in an effort to compete with Netscape, Gates said. A Microsoft employee got up to demonstrate a new type of chat software used in Internet Explorer. Audience members — a number of them Macintosh supporters — reacted with hisses.

Despite the chilly reception, Gates said that browsers would soon become an important part of computing. Browsers and an operating system are essentially the same thing, Gates said. "Today's directories are a guaranteed money maker for a small world," he said.

Microsoft is a distant, distant no. 2 to the browser market, Gates said.

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Microsoft is a distant, distant no. 2 to the browser market, Gates said.

"Microsoft is a distant, distant no. 2" in the browser market, Gates said.

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Gore to Focus on Technology and Society in Speech

By Orli G. Bahcall

Vice President Al Gore plans to focus on the role of technology in society and its impact on his presidential campaign, according to his Director of Communications, Lorraine Boles. Gore said that technology "is changing our world in a positive way and some possibly negative ways," Boles said.

Gore visited MIT about six weeks ago to meet with student and faculty input on the issues graduates face, as well as general ideas for his speech. He specifically asked graduating students for input about the importance of technology in society and its role in society.

Gore was interested in how he could not only talk about technology but also about the "way of the future," Jackman said. He considered several ideas but "ultimately it seemed that each one would prove enormously expensive" or hard to execute, Jackman said.

Indeed, Gore went with a "new tech" path. "We thought of how we could pose questions to the students," Jackson said. "In a fairly short time period there was a back-and-forth between a Committeeman speaker and those who was talking. This does not happen very often.

Some of the student comments were "extraordinarily thoughtful," said Jackson. "It was all in Gore's speech, Jackson said.

Iacocca, de Gortari among Past Speakers

Commencement, from Page 1

Vest will award diplomas to the bachelor of science degree recipients and to those receiving both the master and the science degrees, while Provost Joel Moses will award advanced degrees. Following the program, Vest will hold a reception for graduates and their guests in or near McDermott Court.

Past years' speakers have included former Chrysler Corporation CEO Lee Iacocca, Hewlett-Packard Company founder William R. Hewlett SM '56, and former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, University of Chicago President Emeritus Hanna H. Gray delivered last year's address.

Federal Funding Problems Loom in MIT's Future, Vest Says

Meeting, from Page 1

only half of the positions vacated by retiring personnel.

The goal is not to reduce the number of faculty at MIT." Vest said. "Professors who accept the retiree's package will have the option of coming back at slightly less salary.

Vest also said that the Institute would try to maintain a "steady flow" as a result of the trend. There will be an oversight committee to re-examine work where necessary, he said.

That committee will include Vice President, for Human Resources JoAnn F. Rice, Senior Vice President, for Development, W. Dickson '56, and Jonathan Allen '66, professor of electrical engineering and computer science and director of the Research Laboratory of Electronics.

In general, the absence of staffing is MIT's ongoing reengineering effort and, as with the previous town meetings, proved to be a topic of interest.

While cautioning that he does "not think the issue of re-engineering will be resolved in one year, two years, or even three years," Vest said, "we have come a long way toward what we think the goals ought to be.

There are a lot of things to be criticized about re-engineering, Vest said. But it is also "time to pay attention to the inspirational parts of it. We want to see the Institute set- ting new paradigms," Vest said. "I think that is an extremely important thing for us to do."

Funding problems loom

Vest also said that he expects to see a modest increase this year in federal research support, most of it, he said, coming from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. He predicted that the long term prospects are more bleak, and that there could be a significant decrease in these funds by 2002.

"I feel that [this is] unwise, not just for us at MIT, but unwise for the country," Vest said. As a result, new facilities will probably have to be funded private- ly or by foundation, Vest said. "We are going to look very much to the private sector in new and different ways as we go forward," he said.

"Where they see real value in work- ing together, it will work.

Despite the doomsday outlook, Vest also said that MIT has raised more money within the past 10 months than in any previous 12-month period.

Academic departments are safe

One audience member asked about the future of people going into science and research.

"It has been understood that we will not solve our problems by cut- ting them," Vest replied. "It has not focused on the idea that we are going to take.

Students are important

One student attending the meet- ing asked Vest how he felt about student involvement in MIT's decision-making processes.

"I have a lot of respect for student opinions," Vest said. "It is incredibly important to listen to students because they have important things to say."

"But we have not done so as a good job as we should," Vest added. "I am very open to getting more stu- dent involvement.

Vest also too the opportunity to comment on the Institute's changing relationship with alumni. "I think that alumni are a great group, increas- ingly finding itself in a new kind of leadership in America," he said.

"Alumni relations at MIT are somewhat unusual," Vest said. "Unlike Ivy League schools, we do not have a 200-year tradition. They have a sense of presence, continuity, and fellowship that doesn't exist here.

"Alumni tend to be critical of the institution," Vest said. "But that criti- cism is usually positive, he added.

When asked about Lori H. Berenson, a former student sen- tenced to life in prison for aiding anti- government guerrillas, Vest said that her treatment by the Peruvian government was "shocking and improper.... The level of punish- ment is absolutely inappropriate," he said.

Vest added that he has contacted Secretary of State Warren Chris- topher, both senators from Massachu- setts, and other key congressmen on her behalf.

IS Survey Favors Starting Dedicated Use Clusters

Athens, from Page 1

like to move some of the load gen- erated by casual work being done on Athenas to students' personal com- puters," Schmidt said.

The eventual goal would be to have more low-level, everyday stuff done on students' "dorm computers," Schmidt said. "You have to be able to encour- age equitable use of our facilities in the short term. In the long term, we have to be able to model under discussion, separated by low-, mid-range, and high-range computing," she said.

"This summer, we are planning on having some of the [Residential Computing Consultants] work on making our workstations more effective use of our facilities," Schmidt said. "We don't want to be unduly restrictive," she said. "I think that people had more information about what was available and the advan- tages to using it they would be more inclined to do so," she said.

The evolution of Athens to address the changing landscape of technology and its use in MIT edu- cation will continue to be an impor- tant focus of Academic Comput- ing," said Vipul Kumar, Director of Academic Computing, another

branch of IS. That means tracking "not only developments in technolo- gy but also... factors such as [the residential network] Resnet and increasing ownership of computers by students," he said.

The information gathered through the survey will be used to help decide how to spend the $1.6-out- lay per student allocated to Academic Computing for hardware upgrades, Kumar said.

"I can speculate that some of these direc- tions and ideas to explore would include... dedicated-use facilities [supporting specific applications, facilities for short-duration and high-use in the residential halls]," he said. "A reasonable approach would be to test some of these approaches on a limited scale this coming year... and develop a plan for implementation," Kumar said.

The goal is to make Athens bet- ter suited while still keeping it a robust and powerful tool, Schmidt said. "In general, we plan to brain- storm ways that we can have our facilities used to the best advan- tage," she said.

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Thanks for all your help, and good luck with your future endeavors.