Van to Deliver Killian Kick-Off Address

To Inspire, Prepare Frosh for MIT Life

By Stacey E. Blau

"I don't get to say, "Let the rush begin,"" said Van Van '97. "I wanted to, but they wouldn't let me." Although Van wasn't making the announcement that launches living group rush, he will be delivering tomorrow's keynote speech at Killian Kick-Off. The keynote speech, about 15 minutes of the scheduled hour and 14 minutes of Killian Kick-Off, is a central part of the event, intended give a focus to freshmen's immediate and long-term experiences at MIT before rush begins.

Van said that his speech will focus on "preparing students first for MIT, second for rush." The speech "doesn't give that much for- 206 | Vol. 116, No. 31 mation," he said. "It's a funny speech. Van said. "I decided not to miss it here," an idea that is still a theme of the speech. Van had included that experience in an original draft of his speech as a way to communicate to freshmen that "you have to take advantage of everything that's here," an idea that is still a theme of the speech.

Van also hopes to convey his feelings about MIT in his speech. "I don't think MIT is a concrete par- 306 | Page 9 adise — it's a paradise," he said.

Fractional differences at MIT
Van said that he did in fact get through fraternity rush, although he didn't join a fraternity. He has lived...
Becoming clearer. High 77°F (25°C).

Saturday looks to be quite pleasant with clouds clearing and a cooler... 

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

By Belt Fuehrer's Nebraska-based mail order exports are legal in the... 

American Neo-Nazi Jailed For Four Years in Germany

Gary Rex Lanck, an American neo-nazi who proclaims to admire Adolf Hitler, was sentenced to four years in jail Thursday on conviction of inciting racial hatred and disseminating illegal propaganda in Germany.

Lanck, from Lincoln, Neb., broke a self-imposed silence that he had maintained throughout the four-month trial in Hamburg, shouting, in English, that he accepted German as security guards led him away. "Neither the Communists nor the Nazis ever had a reason to kidnap an American citizen. The fight will go on."

Saturday marked the anniversary of his arrest in 1994.

Weather

Stuck with Sticky

The pressure gradients will tighten today as the axis of a cold front sweep across the state. High 77°F (25°C). A late afternoon thunderstorm is a distinct possibility.

Friday: Mostly sunny in the morning, clouds developing during the afternoon. Muggy southwesterly winds. An uncomfortable high of 88°F (31°C). A late afternoon thunderstorm is a distinct possibility.

Friday night: Mostly cloudy with some light rain possible. A sticky night with a low of 72°F (22°C).

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African National Congress Violated Human Rights During White Rule

By Bob Dreglin
CAPITOL HILL, SOUTH AFRICA

Opening its files for the first time, the African National Congress admitted Thursday that its members and supporters had committed gross human rights violations during the bitter struggle against white rule but insisted the abuses were unintentional.

Thabo Mbeki, deputy president of both the ANC and the government, apologized to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for what he called "excesses" and said he "deeply regrets" the civilian deaths.

The ANC, the former liberation movement that is now the ruling party in a vibrant democracy, handed over some 420 pages of documents to the commission. They included graphic details of bombings, use of land mines and other attacks that killed civilians, as well as three long-hold reports on describing horrific living conditions and mismanagement at former ANC military training camps.

Hundreds of ANC operatives and guerrillas who died or disappeared in exile were identified, including the names of 34 suspected spies, murderers and mutineers executed by the ANC at the notorious Oupa Quasho Camp in Krugersdorp.

Testifying for three hours, Mbeki maintained that none of the abuses "arose out of official policy, or were in any case sanctioned by the leadership. There are instances where we could have acted more firmly and speedily to prevent or stop abuses, and for that, the ANC accepts collective responsibility, " he said the ANC "never permitted random attacks" on civilians but said they inevitably died in bombings, shootouts and other attacks.

He cited, for example, an infamous car bomb at the Magojo and Wye Not bars in Durban in 1986, in which three civilians were killed and 69 injured.

Other civilian deaths, Mbeki said, including (victims of) "neck-lacings" and attacks on a cinema and restaurants, were in fact carried out by agents of the apartheid state in their continuing attempts to damage the image of the ANC." He denied that the ANC sanctioned "neck-lacing, in which a victim is burned alive with a gasoline-filled tire around the neck."

He said the ANC "never permitted the mistreatment and apprehension."

The hearings began in February, when Cuban fighter jets shot down two small civilian airplanes flown by a Miami-based Cuban exile group that had, in preceding months, repeatedly violated Cuban airspace.

In response, President Clinton signed the Helms-L意义上的 law, which he believed a proper, tightening the economic embargo on Cuba and seeking to punish foreign companies that invest in the island.

United States Relations with Cuba
Bring on New Period of Tensions

By Douglas Farah
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Recent tit-for-tat diplomatic explosions in Havana and Washington have highlighted a new period of deteriorating relations between Cuba and the United States.

The souring atmosphere, replacing a period of hope for reduced tensions earlier in the Clinton administration, has arisen out of Cuban anger over Washington's efforts to tighten its economic embargo and parallels in Cuba of a new mass emigration of Cubans in rafts and small boats.

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The Federal Aviation Administration Thursday proposed changes in the flight-control systems of Boeing 737s, the world's most numerous passenger jets.

The changes grew out of an in-depth "critical design review" of the systems following the crash of USAir Flight 427 at Pittsburgh on Sept. 1, 1994, which killed 136 people. That crash, as well as a 1991 crash of United Airlines Flight 885 in Colorado Springs on March 31, 1991, which killed 23 people, are still unexplained.

A sudden full deflection of the rudder is suspected as one of the causes of the USAir crash. The rudder, a panel at the rear of the vertical stabilizer, assists in keeping the aircraft stable and sometimes is used to assist in turns.

Tom McSweeney, director of aircraft certification service for the FAA, said the special design review found the 737 in full compliance with FAA requirements and discovered nothing that could have contributed to the Pittsburgh or Colorado Springs crashes.

Information booth
Aug. 27 - 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Aug. 30, 10 a.m. - noon.
Pick up information about housing, MIT offices, and more!
Tickets to GSC events sold here.

Orientation picnic
Aug. 29, noon - 2 p.m.
Meet students from other departments, eat good food, and listen to President Vest, Dean Litster, and others!

GSC Open House
Aug. 29, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Come see our newlyrenovated office and become a part of the oldest student government on campus.
* highest average age

Orientation schedule Aug. 23 - Sept. 15

Night on the Town
Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Explore Boston's nightlife!

Seminars
Sept. 3, p.m. "Student Health"
Sept. 4, p.m. "Urban Safety Tips/Dealing with Harassment."
Sept. 6, p.m. "GL 001 Introduction to Grad Life"
Sept. 7, 12 p.m. "Can We Talk?"

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Two Military Jets Crash in Separate Incidents

One man was killed and three others missing after a two-engine anti-tank jet, also known as a Warthog, was flying Tuesday evening near the Philadelphia International Airport when it disappeared.

One week earlier, in the second incident, an Air National Guard A-10 plane crashed and burned in a marshy area of fishing bays in a Delaware County, Md., inlet of the Chesapeake Bay.

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FBI Proposes Safety Changes In Boeing 737 Fleet

WASHINGTON

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The changes grew out of an in-depth "critical design review" of the systems following the crash of USAir Flight 427 at Pittsburgh on Sept. 1, 1994, which killed 136 people. That crash, as well as a 1991 crash of United Airlines Flight 885 in Colorado Springs on March 31, 1991, which killed 23 people, are still unexplained.

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Tom McSweeney, director of aircraft certification service for the FAA, said the special design review found the 737 in full compliance with FAA requirements and discovered nothing that could have contributed to the Pittsburgh or Colorado Springs crashes.
Column by David V. Rodriguez

The worst part of rush was not knowing what was going to happen. On the afternoon before rush started, the students from the upperclassmen's fraternities would call a group meeting for all of the freshmen to attend. These meetings were all the same: Move Off Your Assumptions group, and after all the world games and get-acquainted activities, my advisors asked if I had any questions about anything. Everyone had a different way of doing things. They all seemed to have a priori assumptions about us freshmen. When I called them, they would probably pick up and talk to me. One brother even gave another fraternity a phone call. The night before I had been given a card from them with their focus from the larger group. This means that there are too many freshman for every brother. The fraternities need to be efficient; it isn’t. The fraternities need to be efficient; they need to be able to hear every freshman’s life story. The down side is that it moves fast. Before rush begins, you’ll get to know potential brothers fast. After rush begins, you’ll get to know potential brothers fast. If Fraternity Life is for you, stay the night. If you’re interested in a fraternity, you should make your presence known. A fraternity is the closest you can get to knowing the full capability of your living there. You can’t make mistakes. It’s your chance for you to meet the brothers. And your chance for you to meet the brothers. And your chance for you to meet the brothers. If fraternities were the emergency number, we would pick up and take to their house. On the phone, I gave another fraternity a phone call. The night before I had been given a card from them with their phone number or attend all “prayer meetings” in the Boston Common.

Opinion Policy

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

Disputes, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the opinion of 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 390729, Cambridge, Mass, 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Rooms W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format are encouraged, and may be model for the appropriate person. The tech@the-tech.mit.edu, circ@the-tech.mit.edu (circulation department). For other matters, press@the-tech.mit.edu, news@the-tech.mit.edu, sports@the-tech.mit.edu. The Tech, 48 MassMutual Center, Cambridge, Mass, 02114-6227. No confidential mail will be accepted. In your letter, please be sure to include your name, class standing, and phone number. Letters of 50 words or fewer will be given preference. The Tech reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish any letter. On any subject, make your points in a single short letter. Letters that are too long may be edited for brevity. The Tech reserves the right to print editorials and letters as space permits. If you send a letter by hand, please type it on a separate sheet of paper. The Tech regrets that it cannot publish all the letters it receives.

To Reach Us

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Life at a Fraternity Is Good, If You Find the Right One

Rodriguez, from Page 4

they were probably going to get bids the next morning. He never pulled me aside. but I knew my silence and apparent disinterest had put me out of the running. When we got back to the house, the brothers were good hosts and offered me lunch, but I went back to my dorm, not wanting to disturb them. I saw the two other freshmen a few weeks later, both wearing the fraternity's T-shirt.

Living at a fraternity is a good thing if you can find the right fraternity. A few years ago I saw a poll that asked MIT students how happy they were, and fraternity members on average were happier. Your goal during rush is to find a good match. The door closes quickly, so you need to be quick — see as many fraternities as possible, but know when to commit. If your rush is a string of hollow greetings, you're not doing it correctly.

The worst possible action is to walk around with a generic smile, not saying anything because you're afraid of making a mistake. And if you do make a mistake, just go next door to the next fraternity and start over.

Many of you will find that fraternity life isn't for you. Brotherhood is a big issue for fraternities, and this may put you off. At one fraternity I visited, a brother told me how great it was to have his brothers wandering through his room at all hours. If your value your privacy greatly, or your first priority is getting a single room, or you can't imagine yourself wearing a baseball-style shirt with a cute nickname on it), then you should consider dorm life.

In any case, you should enjoy rush. It only comes once, and there is nothing else like it.

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THE ARTS

ON THE SCREEN

BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF

****: Excellent
***: Good
** : Average
* : Poor

** * Chain Reaction
Kea. Reeves is a student machinist in a lab perfecting a clean and limitless energy source. Once it is completed, someone breaks into the lab, kills the inventor, and blows up the invention (taking several city blocks with it). Keanu is framed for the crime and is forced into hiding until he can prove his innocence. Chain Reaction was directed by the same person who directed The Fugitive, which may explain the similar story line. But Chain Reaction pales in comparison — the story isn’t as good, and Keanu is no Harrison Ford. The one high point of the film is i’dorgan Frecman, who easily steals the movie.

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*1/2 Escape From L.A.
Part action movie, part comedy, part something else that can’t be identified. Escape From L.A. tries to be all of these and succeeds at none of them. The story is about Snake (Kurt Russel), a man who has committed major crimes in the new hyper-ethical future and is barred to the island of Los Angeles, now the holding area for all criminals (people who use profanity and have premarital sex). Snake is given an offer — a full pardon if he can retrieve from L.A. a dangerous high-tech device stolen from the president and now in the hands of a L.A. gang leader. Much of the humor is about L.A., as when Snake is taken captive by a plastic surgeon who wants to cut him up and use him for parts. The film’s weakest point is the lack of an interesting main character: Snake is unnecessarily raspy and does everything he can to look like a comic book character.

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**** 1/2 Kingpin
Roy Manson (Woody Harrelson) is a promising young bowler, but he makes the mistake of teaming up with Bill Murray, whose scams results in his losing his hand. Twenty years later, he’s left bitter, perpetually drunk, and wearing the world’s worst plastic hand. Dreaming of a comeback (and a large cash prize), he persuades a promising Amish bowler (Randy Quaid) that he needs a manager, and the two of them head off to Vegas. Kingpin was made by the two who made Dumb and Dumber, but it is far better — the jokes are funnier, and there is a storyline strong enough to stand on its own. It’s likely the best comedy of the year.

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**** Trainspotting
Trainspotting tells the story of a group of Scottish heroin users. Already released in England, it has become the third-largest grossing British-made film and has received a large amount of criticism for not condemning heroin use. The story is told from the view of heroin user, without judgment, which makes the story feel completely genuine and totally fascinating.

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Friday
107.3 WAAF - live broadcast
Wring eating contest, ribs and other Bar-B-Q stuff
Hot tubs and videos, Jiu Jitsu lessons, Shuttle service in Limos

Saturday
All Day
deloping off roofdeck,
Lots of Food, Hot tubs and movies, Jiu Jitsu lessons, Shuttle service
in Limos, Sailing
11 am Canoe trip and lunch
6 pm Steak and Lobster Dinner
9 pm Mr. Ev’s Casino Party, cool prizes auctioned at the end of the night, One of Boston’s best jazz bands playing live.

Sunday
All Day
deloping off roofdeck,
Lots of Food, Hot tubs and movies, Jiu Jitsu lessons, Shuttle service
in Limos, Sailing
12:45 pm Red Sox game (by invite only)
6:30 pm Boston Harbor cruise on 120 foot luxury yacht, with comedian and dinner.

Call us for a ride:
536-1300
Upperclassmen lined up in the Johnson Athletic Center last night as they waited to whisk freshmen off to Thursday Night Dinners.
Construction Crews Work to Complete Senior House

Renovations, from Page 1

admits that "Senior House will be different, there will be an impact. What that difference will be, time will tell," he said.

The character "is bound to change a bit," said Senior House Dorm Captain Jagruti S. Patel '97. "It might not change in some manner.

"Five or six years down the line, it's hard to predict what we think right now," Patel said. The dormitory has been changing for decades and will simply change more as new freshmen are admitted to the improved dorm, she said.

The most important thing is that the dorm will maintain its sense of family, "it doesn't feel like an institution," Morales said. "It feels like a home."

The murals that decorated the walls of Senior House entries have also been considered. "There are areas for murals," Summers said. There will be a process for submitting designs, but "it won't be a free-for-all," he said.

Work gets through rocky period

Renovations went through a rocky period last spring as workers began structural and electrical work near finals period, disrupting a number of residents, who angered at the lack of communication on the part of administration officials and the architectural firm, organized a dormitory-wide meeting and demanded that the work stop.

Electrical work continued quietly during that week, and their were no more complaints, Immerman said. The work needed to be done to ensure that renovations could remain on schedule, he said.

The certificate of occupancy granted yesterday brings the $12-million renovation of the interior of the building nearer to a close.

"This renovation also includes better lighting and better layout, and many changes have been taken note of. The store is "much brighter — more room," said Hubert Vailong '97.

"I was surprised," said Morales. "I was not expecting it now." Van said. "It's now a full, normal bookstore as it should have been.

The Coop has continued to exist as a cooperative. As a cooperative, the Coop has traditionally promised that they would give patronage rebates to students on any profits. But for the last two years, the Coop has not given its traditional rebates, aside from a 10 percent textbook rebate offered in the fall of 1994. "I don't foresee any rebate this year," Powell said.

Coop prices to remain stable

Continuing complaints about the Coop's expensive textbook prices have led to increased competition in textbook sales. Most M.H.L. students buy their books from the Coop, but Text Express, Quantum Books, and the Alpha Phi Omega book exchange have provided competitive alternatives, if not exhaustive inventories.

Personnel at the Coop has "pulled an all-nighter" and figured out new pricing policy, with better discounts to students and bring profitability.

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Come and help put together *The Tech* during R/O... where there's free food all the time, not just on Thursday Night. We'll be publishing daily right through the end of R/O, so stop by our office on the fourth floor of the Student Center, room 483.

No experience necessary, and certainly not to eat all the food!

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**Come Teach With Us!**

On November 23rd and 24th, the MIT Educational Studies Program will bring over 600 7th-12th grade students onto the MIT campus to enjoy Splash, a program of lectures, seminars, and workshops. Splash courses are designed by our volunteer instructors, and in the past have included everything from Chess, The Calculator In Your Head, Technology Risks, and Beginning Knitting, to African Literature, Philosophy Lounge, and Build Your Own Robot. If you have an idea for a course you'd like to present, please call 253-4882 and request teacher information. All are welcome. Application deadline is September 13th.

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**Math Test Includes Physics**

Tests. From Page 1

"We are currently trying to find ways of integrating more writing for all four years, but the idea is on a very conceptual level right now," said Chair of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program Charles Stewart III, who is also an associate professor of political science and McCormick Hall housemaster.

Before a change is implemented, the Committee on the Writing Requirement will engage in discussions with students and departmental representatives.

At present, the proposal for changes is in a draft form, and probably will not be phased in until four to five years from now, Perelman said.

Math test to include physics

The math diagnostic, administered today from 1 to 3 p.m., will cover mostly pre-calculus. The test's 26 questions will try to determine the level of knowledge of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

"This test is used to help students gauge where they stand in regard to choosing math and physics classes," said Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Peter S. Enders.

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**President's Convocation Welcomes Class of 2000**

The Class of 2000 was officially welcomed to MIT yesterday afternoon at the annual President's Welcome Convocation in Kresge Auditorium.

Speakers by President Vest and other members of the MIT community emphasized the potential of the "class of the new millennium" and charged them to get involved in campus affairs and activities, accept responsibility, and to take an active role in their education.

President Charles M. Vest kicked off the Convocation by reassuring the freshmen that they all have the potential to succeed at MIT. "You can make a difference, and because of your talent and what we will offer you here, you will make a difference in the world," he said.

Vest then told the freshmen that it was time to leave the "preparation mindset," emphasizing that "real life begins today. Right here at MIT!"

He encouraged freshmen to learn to work together and with the faculty, in a collaborative "partnership in learning," citing the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, the Freshman Advising Seminars, and the various alternative freshman programs as examples of success.

Vest spoke optimistically about the future of science, disagreeing on environmental issues and social issues. He closed his speech by emphasizing the need for student involvement, "the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will serve you well in shaping your experiences."

Last to speak at yesterday's convocation was Dean for Students J. Lee "Jim" H. Williams, who gave the incoming class advice about how to live and take responsibility for themselves.

She then talked at length about the people who had spent the summer organizing Residence and Orientation Week. She acknowledged the workers, introduced the leaders, and in closing provided a transition for the freshmen to head straight to the Project Move Off Your Assumptions festivities that followed the convocation.

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**Test Includes Physics**

Last year's cutoff score was 70, but "the cut-off is always on the year's results," so the cutoff could be higher or lower this year, she said.

While Enders cautioned that "this is merely a diagnostic test, not one which [students] pass or fail," a low score may indicate that a student needs to re-examine certain material.

If a student receives a score lower than the cutoff score, they might be advised to take the version from Calculus I (18.01) and Calculus II (18.02), or Calculus I (18.01) or Calculus II (18.02) or Calculus II (18.01A) — a class for students with a year of high school calculus — if they already have advanced placement credit. Math review sessions are also available during the first week of classes.

One new addition to the math diagnostic is a set of five physics questions at the end. The results of this pilot work on computerized testing and design a possible physics diagnostic test in the future.

The physics department will use the results "as a way of seeing what students' conceptual ideas are in regard to mechanics before they take Physics I (8.01), and compare them to the same sort of questions after they take 8.01," said John W. Belcher, professor of physics.
President Vest Imparts Advice to Class of 2000

The following is the complete text of President Charles M. Vest’s Welcome Convocation to the Class of 2000.

Good afternoon, I am Charles Vest, President of MIT. And you... are the MIT Class of 2000.

Now, I know what you are thinking... and it’s not what you think. You are not admitted by mistake. You are not here as the result of a computer glitch, or the result of an incompetent educational counselor. You are not here because we needed more architecture majors or people from Montana or because someone misread your SAT scores.

We are a member of the freshman class at MIT because we believe — we know — that you have the intellectual capacity, the energy, the imagination, and the personal will to succeed here.

Learning at MIT

Let me tell you the first thing that strikes me as I stand here. It may surprise you, but I envy you. Just think: you are about to set forth on an extraordinary adventure, and you will be entering the new millennium prepared with all the tools of an MIT education.

During your years here, we hope that you will dream great and worthy dreams, and that you will obtain many of the skills and insights needed to achieve them. Above all, we want you to understand that the world is not something that happens to you — it is something you can shape. You can make a difference... and be proud of your talent and what we will offer you here... you will make a difference in the world.

What to expect

What should you expect about studying and learning at MIT?

First: MIT is made up of men and women who are devoted to learning — learning in all its many forms. This means learning by formal study and teaching; learning by disciplined research, learning by designing... building and operating... and working on real problems, and above all, learning from each other.

Second: MIT is a place that values hard work and effective work. I should be very honest about this. We expect you to study and work hard — to the best of your ability. It is true whether you major in engineering, science, the humanities or social sciences, architecture, or any other field.

Third: MIT thinks about and works on "big" subjects — major issues facing contemporary society. For example, we are working with the likes of... but there will be one more moment that you will remember. 2000.

The following is the complete text of President Charles M. Vest’s Advice to the Class of 2000.

The fact is, if you ask MIT professors why they are at MIT, nine times out of 10 they will say “Because of the students!” That is because MIT students are bright, interesting, creative, challenging, and fun to work with.

MIT is a place that values hard and effective work. I should be very honest about this. We expect you to study and work hard — on things that matter.

way and a guide to your future in very profound ways. But it’s time to get yourself out of the "preparation" mindset. Real life begins today. Right here at MIT.

Don’t think of yourself as a container to be filled with information and skills by faculty lecturers. MIT is an active place. And learning at MIT is active. You are about to enter into a collaborative partnership in learning.

Your partners are other students. As you might imagine, students at MIT tend to be very competitive with each other. In most cases, this is healthy. But modern organizations, whether in business, government, or academia, deal with problems that are very complex. They require group work, and team work, and the ability both to teach and to learn, from others. You will have many opportunities, both formal and informal, to work together to integrate the efforts of many more able students than you are a central part of their mission here.

You will meet them in the classroom of course. But there are other settings in which you have an opportunity to work closely with the faculty. Let me mention just three:

• First, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. This is your opportunity to work with faculty, in your time or free.

• Second, the Freshman Advisee Program. Over 90 percent of you have or will have an advisee... an advisor... a counselor. You were not admitted by mistake. You have the intellectual capacity, the energy, the imagination, and the personal will to succeed here.

• Third, the special freshmen program... which includes these freshmen... who are here to help you... the Freshman Advisee Program... these freshmen... This brings me to another point about learning at MIT. You may be thinking that these next four years will prepare you for the real world. It is true that MIT will be a gate... a guide to your future in very profound ways. But it’s time to get yourself out of the "preparation" mindset. Real life begins today. Right here at MIT.

... and because of your talent and what we will offer you here... you will make a difference in the world.

The real important things are our ignorance, our curiosity, and our sense of wonder. There are so many things we do not know.

Last year, I asked several of our faculty members to tell me what they considered to be some of the key unanswered questions in their fields. Here is just a sample:

• We do not know, even in principle, whether we can stop the flow of entropy.

• We do not know why national economies grow at different rates.

• We do not know how we learn and what our fate will be.

• We do not know how we learn, even in principle, to work together to integrate the efforts of many more able students than MIT is a place that values hard work and effective work. I should be very honest about this. We expect you to study and work hard — to the best of your ability. It is true whether you major in engineering, science, the humanities or social sciences, architecture, or any other field.

There is a reasonable chance that we have in our hands clear evidence of life on Mars. Just imagine! And science, moving through engineering, has brought us the age of information technology, which is transforming the way in which we learn, work, and communicate.

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You have a remarkable opportunity to get to know — and learn with — others whose experience and outlook are very different from your own. If you seize this opportunity, you will be much better prepared to help build the national and world communities of the next century.

Closing

In closing, I should tell you that I think this convocation is the most energizing event of the academic year. To have this entire class assembled in one place at one time, filled with that wonderful mixture of enthusiasm and apprehension, is just spectacular.

This is an extraordinary moment. But there will be one more moment that you will find even more exhilarating. And that is when we gather together as an entire class in Killian Court — the great court of MIT — for your commencement on June 2, in the year 2000.

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