

## TB Exposure Spurs Testing on Students

By Daniel C. Stevenson  
CHAIRMAN

Over the next few weeks, the Medical Department will test at least 150 students for exposure to tuberculosis, the result of a full-blown case of TB discovered in a student last fall. Any other student may also be tested for free by the Medical Department.

Nine students close to the original patient have already been tested, five of whom are undergoing antibiotic treatment for passive TB infection. Those students, along with the others who tested negative, are not contagious and pose no risk to other students.

Additional students who were associated with the original patient through her living group or small classes are now being tested because of the several cases in the

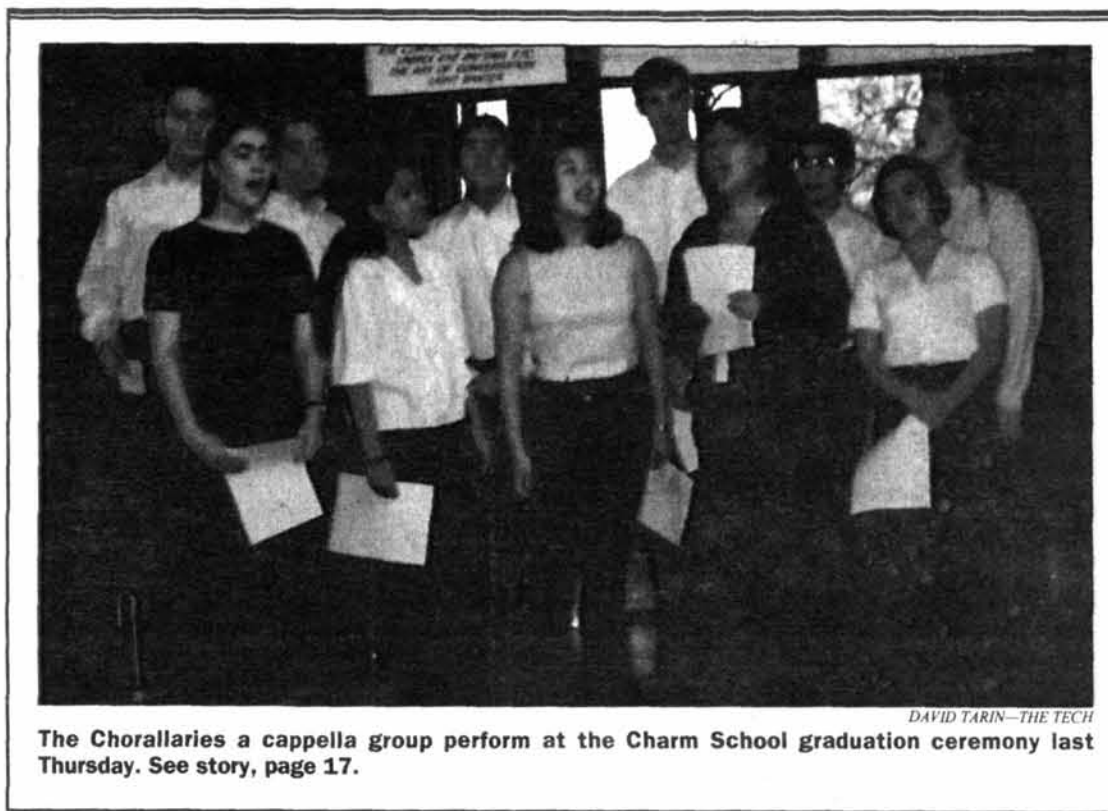
first group.

"We expect the number of positive tests to be very small, but feel this additional testing is prudent," the Medical Department said in a press release.

"We don't think MIT students are more at risk than any others, but we're going to take it seriously. We're going to respond appropriately," said Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Robert M. Randolph, calling the response a "conservative approach."

The community wasn't notified of the infection earlier partially because of "concern for the person who was ill," Randolph said. Also, testing before last month would not have revealed very many infections

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The Chorallaries a cappella group perform at the Charm School graduation ceremony last Thursday. See story, page 17.

## 'Iron Maiden' Crushes Opponents In 6.270 Lego Robot Competition

By Thomas R. Karlo  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Three seniors accomplished a goal they set out to achieve as freshmen, winning Wednesday night's 6.270 Autonomous Lego Robot Design competition with their entry, "Iron Maiden."

Danilo D. Almeida '97, Michael P. Schmidt-Lange '97, and Derek W. Truesdale '97 beat 39 other teams to win the competition, dominating the evening's double-elimination tournament without a single loss.

This year's contest, entitled "RoboRats," challenged competitors to build robots, or "rats" that would collect the most foam blocks from the playing field during a 60-second round. To make the blocks easier to manipulate, each block face had a hole so that robots could impale the blocks to maneuver them.

Organizers amended the contest rules midway through the contest to require robots to move the blocks in the center of the table before they could receive points for possessing the blocks.

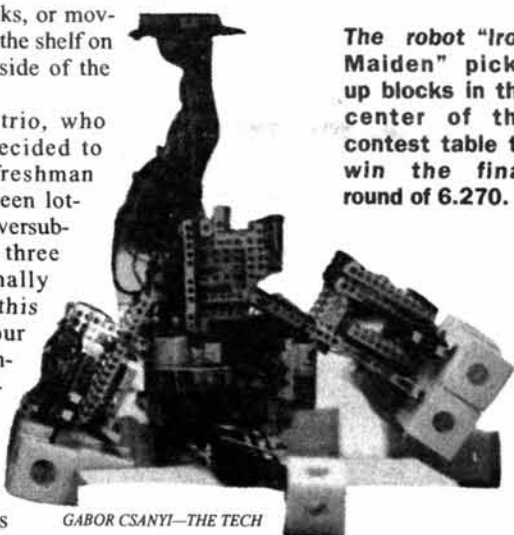
A varying number of points were awarded for collecting neutral blocks from the middle of the table,

an opponent's blocks, or moving those blocks to the shelf on the robot's home side of the contest table.

The winning trio, who originally had decided to team up while freshman roommates, had been lotteried out of the oversubscribed class for three years before finally being admitted this year. "It's been our dream since" freshman year, Schmidt-Lange said.

The team's robot employed a strategy of driving over the rows of blocks, lowering a set of rods through the holes in the blocks, and then lifting them. "At first, we were just going to impale them, but then the rule change forced us to move them," Truesdale said.

Placing second was "Moo Cow," built by Praveen



The robot "Iron Maiden" picks up blocks in the center of the contest table to win the final round of 6.270.

Ghanta '99, Terrance Harmon '99, and Amit Khetan '99. This robot's strategy was to quickly grab blocks and then attack the opposing robot, hopefully pinning or confusing it.

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## Dining Report Reveals Many Are Not Satisfied

By Douglas E. Heimburger  
STAFF REPORTER

The dining review working group recently released its interim report, which summarizes student opinion garnered from open meetings and focus groups held last fall.

The report, originally scheduled to be released in December, was released behind schedule because of difficulties in scheduling meetings with all the members of the group, said Campus Activities Complex Director Philip J. Walsh, who leads the committee. "Time is a difficult issue right now," he said.

Difficulties in holding focus group sessions with students and staff members also delayed the issuance of the interim report, Walsh said.

### Students comment on dining

A major section of the interim report is devoted to presenting a summary of student comments on dining as gathered through the focus group meetings and the open meetings during September and October.

One of the chief complaints of students was that Aramark facilities are not open during hours when students eat. "MIT needs 'real' dinner options that serve healthy meals after 7 p.m.," the report said.

Students also complained about the general lack of healthy dining options on campus. "Time constraints, poor food quality, food expense, and a lack of healthy options are all forcing some students into unhealthy eating habits," the report said.

Walsh cautioned that the opinions expressed in the interim report are not necessarily those that are going to be adopted by the group as they address changes. However, the report "reflects the opinions and the perspectives of the community," he added.

### Group identified dining sources

One area of focus for the dining group was identifying all the sources for student dining on and

Dining, Page 24

## Worm-Like Objects Seen in Walker Food

By Douglas E. Heimburger  
STAFF REPORTER

Aramark, MIT's dining contractor, has been remedying health deficiencies noted in a recent inspection by the City of Cambridge as well as an image damaged by the discovery of two worm-like objects in corn served to students at Walker Memorial last week.

The inspection report details 13 deficiencies noted at Walker during a routine inspection conducted by the City of Cambridge Department of Inspectional Services late last November.

While most of the problems noted were minor, more serious problems noted by the agency included a refrigerator that was holding poultry at a temperature of 58°F, far higher than the near-freezing temperatures required for safe storage, and the discovery of chipping walls and paint in the basement area, where food is kept.

In addition, the inspector found a roach and droppings near the Walker dining room.

A later inspection in December found that most of the problems addressed had been fixed, according to the agency.

Walker's also had an inspection in August 1995, when a similar number of problems were found. At that time, another refrigerator was found to be above the guidelines for safe food processing, according to reports made by the agency.

### Worm-like object found in corn

In the most recent incidents, two small worm-like objects were found in corn served to students at Walker last week.

One of the students involved, Hugo B. Barra '00, was eating a dinner consisting of a chicken breast, rice, corn, and a roll on Friday when he discovered what looked like a "small centipede," Barra said.

The manager of Walker at the time "really had a nervous breakdown" and said a similar event had happened a few days before, Barra said. "He was frightened" about the

incident, he added.

As reconciliation for the incident, Aramark "gave me my money back and offered me another lunch," Barra said. Barra declined the meal, however.

Barra said he was distressed about the state of Aramark's facilities as a result of the incident. "I'm starting to wonder what the kitchen would look like," he said.

In 1994, students reported seeing rats in the food-serving areas of Lobdell Court. At the same time, mice were found in the eating areas of Lobdell and in other areas of the Student Center.

### Aramark takes steps to respond

Aramark is concerned about the recent incident at Walker, said Elizabeth Emery, food services director for the company.

When the manager at Walker was alerted to the presence of the worm, he immediately removed that tray of corn from the serving line,

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## The Year in Review



The 12th annual supplement to *The Tech* is included as a special insert in this issue.

# WORLD & NATION

## Courthouse Bomber Surrenders In California, Faces Life in Prison

THE WASHINGTON POST

LOS ANGELES

A felon suspected of engineering a series of bombings at a Northern California courthouse and bank in order to derail a drug trial that could imprison him for life surrendered Monday.

Kevin Lee Robinson, 29, allegedly hired several men to carry out the bombings so he could disrupt his cocaine trial at the Solano County Courthouse in Vallejo, a city north of San Francisco.

Robinson, previously convicted of drug and weapons charges, was facing "a third strike" trial that under California law exposes him to a prison sentence of 25 years to life. Robinson, described as the mastermind behind the bombings, was arrested Monday afternoon. His trial was scheduled to begin Monday.

"We believe it was an attempt to stop pending hearings," Vallejo Police Chief Robert Nichelini told reporters at a news conference today. "What they thought that would accomplish, I'm not sure."

Vallejo police said authorities received a call early Monday morning from someone who reportedly was in contact with Robinson and encouraged him to surrender.

Police arranged to meet Robinson on the street, then brought him in for questioning and placed him under arrest.

## Governors Fear States Will Bear Burden of Federal Budget

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., provided pledges of cooperation to the nation's governors Monday, but provided few assurances to relieve governors' fears that the impact of balancing the federal budget could fall heavily on the states.

Clinton, who met privately with the governors at the White House, won no fans in the East Room with his plan to impose a cap on Medicaid spending as part of his new budget, a move many governors said would strain their own budgets.

Clinton, who asked the governors for their indulgence until they see his full budget later in the week, tried to lessen the sting by promising again to provide governors with greater flexibility in managing the costly health insurance program for the poor and disabled, including an end to the need to seek waivers to move Medicaid recipients into managed care programs.

"He (Clinton) said he was open to discussion and there will be discussion because depending on how it's written, it could create some some real hardship," said Republican Gov. Pete Wilson of California.

## Talk of Troop Reductions in Asia Raise Concerns Among U. S. Allies

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In a disclosure that could raise concern among Pacific allies, a top defense official said Monday that the Pentagon is considering scaling back the 100,000-troop deployment in Asia that has been a symbol of American commitment to the region.

Adm. Joseph A. Prueher, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen has made it clear that the size of the deployment is "on the table" in the wholesale review of American military forces now underway.

Prueher reported that Cohen made his views known in a meeting with Pentagon officials last week.

American allies in the region have watched with concern in recent years as U.S. forces have retrenched around the world while Chinese assertiveness and military strength have grown.

To calm allies in nations such as Japan, South Korea, Australia and Taiwan, U.S. officials have cited the continued troop strength as a proof of American commitment.

Only last December, Clinton mentioned it in a speech to the Australian parliament in Canberra, when he declared: "We will maintain about 100,000 troops across the Pacific, just as we maintain about 100,000 troops in Europe. ... We share the view of almost every nation in Asia that a strong American security presence is a bedrock for regional stability."

## WEATHER Fickle February

By Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

There will be a deceptively pleasant start to Tuesday, with mostly sunny skies, and temperatures in the low 30s. A large storm system brewing in the Midwest will be heralded by high clouds developing during the afternoon, and a shift in the winds from northerly to southeasterly. Beginning around midnight, the winds off the ocean will cause Boston precipitation to be in the form of rain, although northern and inland areas may start off with some snow before the rain takes hold. A rainy Wednesday will see temperatures pushing up toward 50 as warm air floods over the region. Precipitation should taper off by evening, with totals reaching about an inch but with locally higher amounts. Thursday is set for fairer, if colder, weather.

**Today:** Starting off mainly sunny. High clouds developing in the afternoon, turning overcast. High 36°F (2°C).

**Tonight:** Rain starting around midnight turning heavy. Low 34°F (1°C).

**Tomorrow:** Rainy, windy, and warm. High 49°F (9°C). Low 32°F (0°C). Cooler after passage of cold front.

**Thursday:** Fair but colder. High 38°F (3°C). Low 25°F (-4°C).

# Pakistani Elections Likely To Return Sharif to Office

By Kenneth J. Cooper

THE WASHINGTON POST

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Nawaz Sharif, forced out as Pakistan's prime minister in 1993 for economic mismanagement and alleged corruption, was poised today to return to office after an election marked by a record low voter turnout.

Preliminary results from Monday's election for the 217-seat parliament showed Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League dominating races across the country, ahead of the Pakistan People's Party of ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto. The election was ordered after President Farooq Leghari dismissed Bhutto in November for alleged corruption and abuse of power.

Analysts predicted that the final count would leave the Muslim League as the largest party in parliament. It was unclear whether the party would win the parliamentary majority needed to form a government, but analysts said Sharif, a 47-year-old former industrialist, could muster one with support from regional parties and independents if necessary. In addition, winners of 10 seats reserved for religious minorities have traditionally backed the largest party.

Although relatively peaceful, Pakistan's fourth election in eight years did little to strengthen an unsteady democracy that has never seen a prime minister complete a five-year term. Military dictators have ruled Pakistan for nearly half the 50 years since independence from Britain, and the army remains the most stable force in the nation of 130 million.

About 30 percent of Pakistan's 56.5 million voters went to the polls, the smallest percentage in seven national votes since Pakistan's first free election in 1970. The low turnout amounted to a massive expression of dismay with the performance of three governments headed by Bhutto or Sharif since democracy was restored in 1988.

The widespread perception that prime ministers and other elected leaders have used government to enrich themselves has reduced faith in democracy and inspired in many Pakistanis a nostalgic yearning for martial law.

A recent poll conducted for the monthly Herald magazine indicated that 95 percent of respondents considered most of the nation's politicians to be corrupt. A slim majority of 52 percent said martial law harmed the country, while 43 percent said dictatorship brought benefits. Majorities in Pakistan's largest cities, Karachi and Lahore, judged martial law to have been beneficial.

However, Western observers expressed doubt Monday that the nation's military leaders, who have sought international acceptance through heavy Pakistani participation in United Nations peacekeeping efforts, would reclaim direct control of the government. And Leghari, a parliamentary appointee who has wielded his presidential powers with vigor in recent months, told reporters tonight: "I think democracy is here to stay."

Unless his Muslim League captures a sizeable majority, Sharif could be constrained by Leghari's assertiveness and by a newly created advisory council of military and

civilian leaders. Tough bargaining by the International Monetary Fund before releasing loan funds could further limit the new government's flexibility to solve Pakistan's serious economic troubles, which include unemployment, inflation, heavy debt, deficit spending and a shortage of foreign currency.

Sharif's likely return to the prime minister's office could also inject uncertainty into Pakistan's relations with the United States. When he served as prime minister from 1990 to 1993, the State Department was upset by his failure to control illegal drug trafficking and terrorist activity based in Pakistan. Pakistan relations by taking stronger measures to curb drug dealing and terrorism.

Pakistanis harbor some fond memories of Sharif, particularly for two pet projects: initiating a multi-lane highway connecting Islamabad to Lahore and subsidizing the purchase of yellow taxicabs by drivers. The return of the former industrialist from Lahore, capital of Punjab province, is likely to restore the confidence of Pakistan's business leaders in a struggling economy.

But Sharif's re-emergence was less a political embrace of him than a rejection of Bhutto, in whom many Pakistanis had placed great hopes as a crusader for democracy.

Bhutto, a two-time prime minister, is the charismatic daughter of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was executed by a military government in 1979. Like her most recent administration, her first government ended in 1990 on a president's dismissal order.

# Clinton Meets, Praises Peru's Fujimori on Hostage Standoff

By Anthony Faiola

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

During a hastily arranged meeting at the White House Monday, President Clinton openly praised Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's handling of the 49-day standoff with leftist guerrillas who hold hostages at the Japanese ambassador's home in Lima.

"The president told President Fujimori that he was skillfully walking a very fine line... between resolving this crisis peacefully without giving in to terror," White House spokesman David Johnson said after the visit, which also included Vice President Gore and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"(Clinton) told (Fujimori) that it is a hard line to walk but it's the right one," Johnson said.

Fujimori landed in Washington Saturday after an emergency weekend summit with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in Toronto to discuss the hostage crisis. Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement guerrillas stormed the Japanese Embassy's residence during a reception on Dec. 17, taking more than 400 persons captive. They continue to hold 72 hostages, nearly all of them Peruvians.

Fujimori is in Washington to attend an international meeting on small business lending and did not have an appointment with Clinton. However, White House officials said Clinton offered an invitation after a briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America Jeffrey Davidow, who met Fujimori at the airport Saturday to discuss the summit in Toronto.

In offering the invitation,

Clinton waved off cautionary signals from within his administration. Clinton's foreign policy advisers had earlier advised that meetings between heads of state are usually not a good idea unless planned in advance. And the State Department counter-terrorism experts have repeatedly warned Clinton against doing anything that would further raise the public profile of the crisis.

In part because of this advice, an administration official said, only newspaper and magazine photographers were allowed to record the start of the 20-minute meeting. The White House wanted to ensure that the session was not shown around the world via CNN.

Clinton's decision to break with his advisers' advice — and to offer his first open praise of Fujimori's handling of the crisis — stemmed from progress in Toronto, where Fujimori and Hashimoto agreed to push for direct talks with the rebels but ruled out granting the guerrillas' demand for the liberation of about 400 jailed Tupac Amaru members.

In an interview with *The Washington Post* on Saturday, Fujimori provided details into private, indirect talks with the rebels, in which he said they agreed that freeing jailed Tupac Amaru rebels would not be on the table when the time came for serious negotiations.

Sunday, the leader of Marxist group inside the embassy — often called by its Spanish initials, MRTA — issued a statement denying that the hostage-takers had retreated from that key demand, and reiterated that jailed guerrilla members be released before they will free their captives, according to a *Reuters* report from Lima.

During a press conference fol-

lowing his meeting with Clinton, Fujimori said he had heard the rebels' denials. But he reaffirmed his earlier statements, saying the MRTA "has two positions, one in public, the other in private."

Both White House and Peruvian officials said Monday that Fujimori had not requested a meeting with Clinton prior to his arrival here. Peruvian officials said they did not want to "inconvenience" the White House "with requests for meetings every time the (Peruvian) president was in town."

But privately, Peruvian officials said they were grateful that Clinton extended the invitation, which came Sunday morning, saying that back-to-back meetings with leaders of Japan and the United States — two of the most important countries to Peru's economy — would bolster Fujimori's public image.

The rebels have also demanded improved prison conditions, an overhaul of Peru's secret court system for people accused of terrorism and an end to Fujimori's free-market economic reforms.

But during the press conference following his meeting with Clinton, a fresh-looking and confident Fujimori reiterated his position not to "give into blackmail" by offering concessions to the terrorists, but also said he would not use force unless the hostages are harmed.

Speaking briefly of his meeting at the White House, Fujimori said Clinton "expressed his continued... support to our strategy to deal with the terrorists." Fujimori he discussed other issues with Clinton, including the status of the fight against cocaine production in Peru, as well the border dispute with neighboring Ecuador.

# Milosevic Deploys Riot Police As Opposition Pleads for Calm

By Tracy Wilkinson

LOS ANGELES TIMES  
BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, declaring Serbia will not become a "proving ground for terrorism," again deployed riot police Monday to club and corral anti-government demonstrators who returned to the streets despite bloody skirmishes the night before.

Thousands of students and others were allowed to march briefly, then were blocked by police who chased and beat small groups of people hurling rocks and insults. Arrests and injuries were reported, but most in the crowds fled before the violence escalated.

Police and demonstrators appeared more restrained Monday in comparison with the night before, when opposition leaders and a U.S. Marine waving his diplomatic iden-

tification were among scores of people beaten by police.

The clashes were the most violent show of force in 78 days of generally peaceful demonstrations and appeared to be an attempt by Milosevic to reassert his challenged authority at a time the economy is in a tailspin and strikes are spreading.

But in the short term, the action may backfire by further galvanizing an opposition movement that had seemed to be losing steam. Certainly, the mood in the streets Monday was angrier than before.

"We have embarked on a very dangerous road of escalation," said Zarko Korac, a political analyst who supports the opposition. "This is like a prairie fire, spreading but slowly. It will drag on for weeks, but what is clear is Milosevic will not back down."

Demonstrators Monday screeched insults at police, calling them Ustashe, a term for Nazi-era Croatian fascists who were responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Serbs in World War II.

Leaders of the Zajedno ("Together") opposition coalition — which initiated the demonstrations after Milosevic annulled Nov. 17 municipal elections that his Socialist Party lost — pleaded for calm and ordered followers not to provoke police.

"This is just the beginning of a great Gandhi-like, nonviolent resistance to brutal force," said Vuk Draskovic, president of the opposition Serbian Renewal Movement, backing down from an apparent appeal earlier for protesters to arm themselves in self-defense. "Complete civil disobedience is the only right answer."

# Moscow Warns Clinton on NATO, Urges New Direction for Alliance

By Jim Hoagland and David Hoffman

THE WASHINGTON POST  
MOSCOW

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Monday he will warn President Clinton and Vice President Gore in Washington this week that the rapid expansion of NATO into Central Europe threatens to undermine the Yeltsin government and will fuel extremist demands in Russia for a return to armed confrontation with the West.

Chernomyrdin's forceful remarks were clearly meant to advance Russia's negotiating posture in discussions with the United States and other NATO allies. He also demanded that NATO sign with Russia "a binding treaty, with verification" that would commit the Atlantic Alliance to change from a

military body into "a political organization" that would not treat Russia as its main threat and enemy.

These positions have already been ruled out by NATO, which is expected at its July summit in Madrid to invite Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to become members two years from now.

Russian leaders, including President Boris Yeltsin and many nationalists and Communists, have denounced the expansion plans from the start. But over the last year, there has been a growing realization here that expansion is inevitable, despite Russia's objections. In response, Russia has tried floating trial balloons — creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe, for example — but none have been acceptable to the West.

But Chernomyrdin's expressions

of alarm, delivered against the backdrop of Yeltsin's continuing ill health and intense political maneuvering in Moscow, also seemed to reflect a genuine concern that Washington and other Western capitals have not grasped the potential damage he said the NATO debate could do to the already weakened Russian government.

Chernomyrdin, who normally sees Gore twice a year for narrowly-focused sessions on trade, investment and science, portrayed the U.S.-Russian relationship at a significant turning point. He suggested that failure to resolve the NATO expansion issue by the time Clinton and Yeltsin are scheduled to meet in March could lead to a Russia increasingly swayed by ultranationalists "and the tanks will be rolling out" of now inactive factories.

## Lockheed Martin Makes Plans To Spin Off 10 Divisions

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Lockheed Martin Corp. announced Monday that it will spin off 10 "non-core" divisions with 5,000 employees to a newly created company jointly owned by a Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. partnership, a management team and Lockheed Martin.

Nine of the 10 divisions are pieces of Loral Corp. that have been left in a free-standing group, in preparation for a spinoff, since Lockheed Martin acquired Loral last April.

The new company, to be called L3 Communications, will be run by Frank C. Lanza, who was Loral's chief operating officer. After the purchase of Loral, he became a Lockheed Martin executive vice president and was viewed as a possible successor to Chief Executive Norman R. Augustine when Augustine retires in about five years.

Loral was a feisty collection of defense electronics units that had been assembled over two decades by Wall Street investor Bernard L. Schwartz, who let Lanza run the company.

A taciturn New Yorker admired for his creativity and engineering genius, Lanza chafed at the buttoned-down atmosphere at Lockheed Martin's Bethesda, Md., headquarters, according to people who know him. He never moved permanently to this area, and will set up the new company's headquarters in New York.

At the time of the merger last year, Loral spun off its space divisions into a separate firm, Loral Space & Communications Ltd., run by Schwartz. Joining Lanza in the new venture will be Robert V. LaPenta, a Lockheed Martin vice president who had been Loral's comptroller.

## DynCorp Wins Big Contract From Pentagon for Military Services

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

DynCorp has won a potentially huge contract to provide a host of support services — digging latrines, installing telephones or whatever else is needed — for the U.S. military's deployments into foreign trouble spots over the next five years.

The contract is worth a minimum of \$25 million to the Reston, Va., company, but the actual value could be significantly higher, depending on the number and scope of overseas deployments.

Halliburton Co.'s Brown & Root Inc. unit, which has had the contract since 1991, received \$738 million from 1993 to 1996 for supporting missions in Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, Saudi Arabia and Bosnia, said Rey Aponte, a spokesman for the Army Materiel Command, which awarded the contract.

Under the contract, DynCorp will have to be ready to deploy thousands of workers anywhere in the world on a few days' notice. Those employees will have to perform myriad tasks, including cooking meals, washing clothes, building roads and installing sophisticated communications networks.

The contract in many ways represents the changing nature of overseas military operations. Companies like DynCorp often can provide support services faster and cheaper than can military personnel. Using private-sector support workers also allow the Defense Department to deploy fewer soldiers, which is politically helpful for it in a time of thinning ranks and increasing scrutiny of foreign troop commitments.

## graduate student council

walker memorial room 50-220  
253-2195 • gsc-request@mit.edu  
<http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc>

- FEB 05 February General Council Meeting\*
- 12 Activities Meeting \*
- 18 Housing and Community Affairs Meeting \*
- 20 Academic Policy and Projects Committee Meeting \*
- 21 Friday Social \*
- 23 "RENT" at 7pm  
Watch for more info about tickets
- 24 Formal Ball Committee \*
- 25 Budget Review  
Adhoc Committee Meeting \*

\* at 5:30pm in Room 50-220. All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

# GSAir

Serving the needs of graduate students

Do you want to get away from school?



Join us aboard the GSAir — both crew and passengers are welcome! The next flight leaves on Wednesday, February 5 at 5:30pm, departing at gate 50-220. We promise the food will be better than standard airline fare!

# OPINION

## Dining Process Must Move to Bidding

The dining review working group recently released its interim report on the progress it has made thus far examining MIT's dining situation. The report, which details input from numerous meet-

### Editorial

ings and focus groups the working group has organized, recounts many of the opinions that anyone even vaguely familiar with dining services at MIT could have said in the space of 20 minutes, in contrast to the more than half year the working group has taken to present us with these conclusions.

While the group's extensive efforts to consult far and wide in determining the long-term framework of MIT's food services are laudable, the group has been deplorably slow in making progress. It should move faster to discuss the real issues involved — namely expanded services and competition — so it can complete its work. The bidding process must begin as soon as possible to ensure that MIT's future dining services provider (or providers) will meet these needs.

Not surprisingly, most of the comments that the working group received zeroed in on problems that students have been complaining about for years about Aramark, MIT's current dining services provider. Many people say Aramark has been unresponsive to complaints, lacks variety in its food options (a problem Aramark began addressing recently), charges too much for

the food it serves, and has limited and inconvenient hours.

Students want to be able to use their MIT Cards at local non-MIT places like LaVerde's Market, they want eateries all around campus, and they want competition. These are all demands that Aramark has not delivered on. If Aramark — or any other potential bidder — is not willing to accommodate these demands under a new contract, MIT should refuse the company. Judging by its record, Aramark should not be high on the list of candidates.

The decision this fall to extend Aramark's five-year contract for a second time (through the 1997-98 school year) was a mistake, but one necessitated by the failure of the Department of Housing and Food Services to move forward in a timely manner with the food services examination that the working group is now pursuing. If HFS knew it wanted to make such an extensive study, it should have planned for it several years ago rather than force the extension of a contract for a very unpopular company for two extra years.

HFS is not even close to the point of soliciting bids; the process won't start until October. Even at this far too belated stage, we hope that the working group and HFS can keep to the present schedule so that starting the 1998-99 school year MIT can have something better than an unresponsive food services monopoly.

## Letters To The Editor

### Rape Is a Problem In All Facets of Life

I neither agree nor disagree with the main opinion put forth by Dianne Egnor '97 in her letter to the editor ["Name Change Can Make IFC Less Greek-Centric," Jan. 29]. I do, however, take issue with Egnor's assertion that "the new member education program including rape awareness may be beneficial to some fraternities but that it doesn't really apply to a house of 30 men and women living together."

The assumption that rape exists only in fraternities but not in coed groups like Egnor's is naive, insulting, and — worst of all — dangerous. Evil resides in all of our organizations, all of our families, and in each one of us. The misconception that rape is a danger only in other people's groups is one of the unfortunate myths that hampers the prevention of sexual violence.

Allen N. Jordan '97

The writer is a member of Chi Phi

### Seniors Should Give To the Senior Gift

As graduating seniors, we must begin to assume the responsibilities of alumni. There are many things that alums do to help MIT. Alums serve as educational counselors and interview applicants to MIT; they recruit students for summer and full-time jobs. MIT alums also are generous in making donations to the endowment. This is perhaps the most significant way alums can make a lasting contribution.

Like other prominent academic institutions, MIT will remain great only as long as it continues attracting world-class faculty and students. This takes money and lots of it. A little-known fact is that an undergraduate tuition pays only about half of an MIT education. So in a sense, all students are already receiving a \$22,000 scholarship to pay for the actual cost of being here. All seniors can make their first contribution as future alums by giving to the senior gift. This year, the Senior Gift Committee is focusing on a project that will improve the quality of student life.

I would like all seniors to take time to think about how much this place already has changed our lives. Giving back is part of the MIT tradition of leaving things a little better than how we found them.

Pang Lee '97

Chairman, Senior Gift Committee

### 'Red Meat' Is Hilarious

This is in response to the letter from Justin O. Cave '98 ["'Red Meat' Is Inappropriate," Jan. 29].

I disagree with Cave in that I find "Red Meat" the most hilarious cartoon *The Tech* has had for a long time. Its bizarre humor is a refreshing change from the somewhat adolescent variety we are treated to in the other comics. I was quite disappointed not to find new "Red Meat" clips in the Jan. 29 issue of *The Tech*. Hopefully, this was just a creative break, and we'll see more meat in future issues.

Maximilian K. Riesenhuber G

### Vile 'Red Meat' Is Good

What a disgusting, vile, snide, sarcastic comic strip that is! Kudos for printing something that's not warm and fuzzy.

James P. Sarvis G

### 'Red Meat' Rivals Jackson

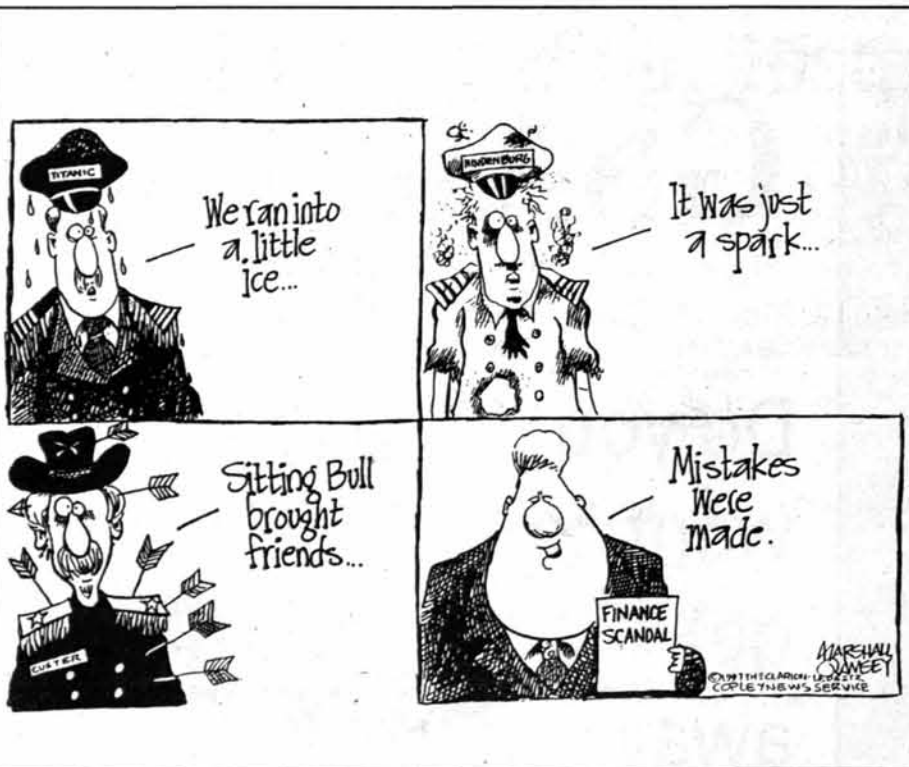
"Red Meat" is the best thing to happen to *The Tech* since Bill Jackson.

Jeremy H. Brown G

[Editor's note: Bill Jackson '93 is a former opinion editor of *The Tech*. We plan to run at least another 27 strips of "Red Meat."]

## ERRATUM

An article in Wednesday's issue ["U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan To Speak at Commencement"] incorrectly stated the date for Commencement ceremonies. Commencement will take place on June 6.



## 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 chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, and opinion editor.

**Dissents**, 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, Mass. 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format are encouraged, and may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

**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; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. We regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive.

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A big thank-you to Star Market Corporation, which sponsors the service by chartering the bus.

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<b>Ashdown House</b> (Amherst)	8:04 am	9:04 am	10:04 am	11:04 am	7:04 pm	8:04 pm	9:14 pm
<b>Burton/Conner</b>	8:06 am	9:06 am	10:06 am	11:06 am	7:06 pm	8:06 pm	9:16 pm
<b>Tang/Westgate</b> (at the red triangle)	8:07 am	9:07 am	10:07 am	11:07 am	7:07 pm	8:07 pm	9:17 pm
<b>Edgerton</b> (in front of Edgerton)	8:09 am	9:09 am	10:09 am	11:09 am	7:09 pm	8:09 pm	9:19 pm
<b>Arrive at Star Market</b>	8:25 am	9:25 am	10:25 am	11:25 am	7:25 pm	8:25 pm	9:35 pm
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You may request to be dropped off at any residence hall, not just those listed.

\*The last two return trips will make an extra stop at the Tang loading dock (rear entrance on Audrey St.)  
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# Knowing Your Paper: Editorials and Everything After

Column by Stacey E. Blau  
OPINION EDITOR

Working for *The Tech*, I'm often confronted by people who have questions about the things we write and why we write them. It's easy for me to talk about the news stories we write, and I am more than happy to defend them.

Many times, however, I'll hear things about what we print on the opinion pages, and often the comments surprise me. "Why did *The Tech* write that column?" someone will ask. "I can't believe *The Tech* printed that letter" is another frequent gripe. These comments have come from lots of different people — everyone from administrators to so-called student leaders to people I live with in my dormitory.

If someone makes a comment accusing *The Tech* of doing something incorrigible in reference to columns or letters, I'll bristle a little bit. It's not because I can't deal with criticism; on the contrary, I very much like a good, if not violent, fight. The problem I have is that a large number of people don't ever seem to read the nice box we print on page 4 of every issue of *The Tech*: our opinion policy.

It's right there, and I'm always amazed at the fact that people who are willing to take the time to complain about what *The Tech* has printed don't bother to take the time to read about the stuff they are actually talking about. Indeed, it seems nearly bizarre that I am writing a column expounding on what is spelled out plainly in the opinion policy box — I even objected to the idea of writing such a piece about a year ago at this time, but that was long

before I was editor in chief or opinion editor. Judging by the number of comments I've received since I made that case against the proposal, such an explanation seems like a necessity.

The only thing in the opinion section that represents the official view of *The Tech* is an editorial, which is clearly denoted as an editorial by the "Editorial" tag it appears with and the two-column layout and 10-point font it is printed in. The editorial has no one's name attached to it. It is the official view of *The Tech*, agreed to by a majority of the editorial board (whose members are listed in the opinion policy box).

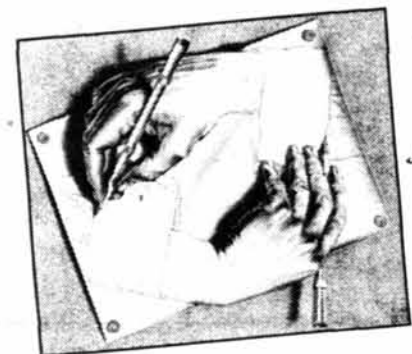
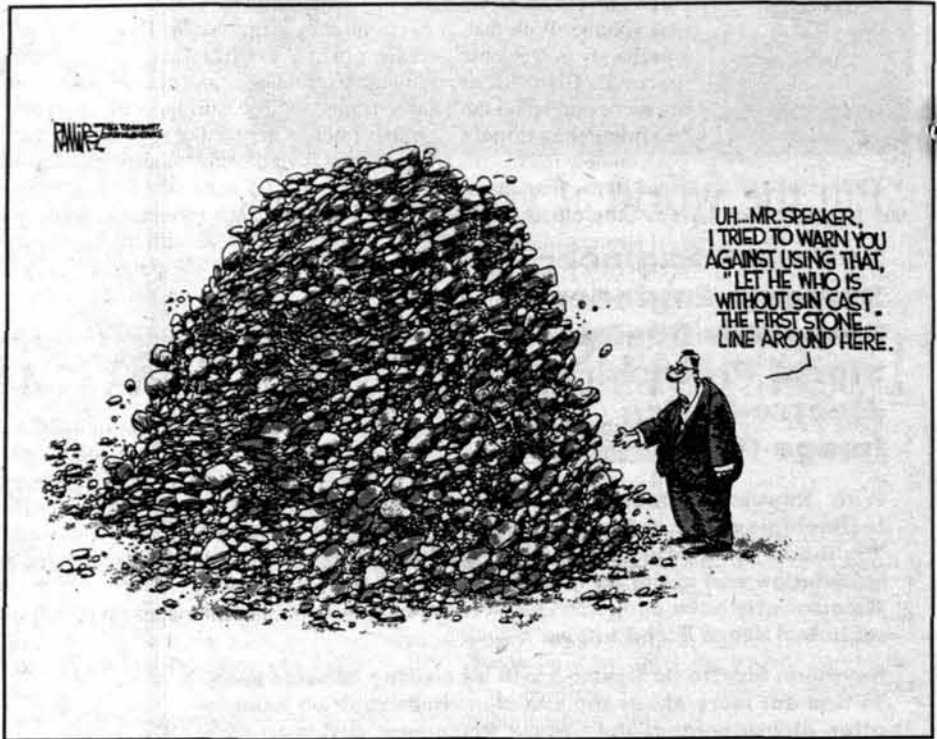
Anything else on the opinion pages has a name attached to it and, not surprisingly, represents the views of the person to whom that name belongs — not the opinion of *The Tech*. That goes for dissents, columns, letters, and cartoons. We may edit these pieces, although we don't censor the views that the authors express in them. But the fact that we publish them does not mean that we agree with them. The views expressed in those pieces aren't *The Tech's*.

As we enter a new term and *The Tech* enters a new volume, I hope to see a lot of enthusiasm on these opinion pages. Three editorial comics on page 4 about Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich don't constitute to me an exciting opinion department. (Those political comics, by the way, are not drawn by members of *The Tech*; we get them from a news service, and their selection most often represents an arbitrary manifestation of the political leanings of the opinion editor and editor in chief).

We plan to have the opinion pages filled with editorials and some of our frequent writers' columns, but the pages also function as a way for people who are not part of *The Tech* to write about something at MIT they have an opinion on or to give us some feedback about something in *The Tech*. I encourage anyone who has something to say to write us a letter or a column or even to submit a comic. I

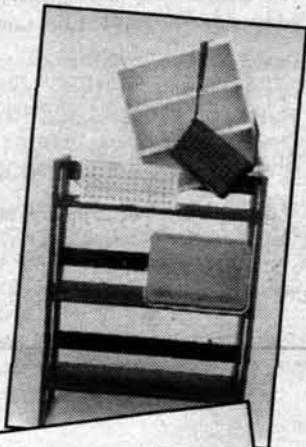
could tell you the deadlines and other details about submitting something and why, no, you can't write an editorial for us, but I think maybe I should just let you read about all that in the opinion policy box back on page 4.

Stacey E. Blau is a junior at MIT majoring in mathematics with computer science. She looks forward to getting sleep as well as chance to do her work this term.



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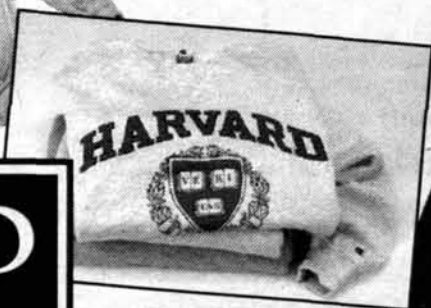


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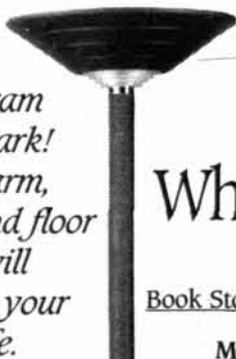


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# Husain's Parting Shot at the Institute — He'll Be Back

Column by A. Arif Husain

COLUMNIST

Oddly, it is with a good deal of pressure that I write this last column as opinion editor of *The Tech*. So much so that I managed to miss my actual final issue, which was last Wednesday, instead hoping to slip my writings in belatedly without much notice on this first issue of the new volume. With that, I am happy to welcome Stacey E. Blau '98 as my successor, who I am confident has done a fine editing job on the print you now read.

The pressure that I feel stems perhaps in part from a need to give some closure to a small body of work that, if successful, made a little bit of my Institute experience accessible to the public. I find this sentiment compounded



by the somber currents of nostalgia and introspection that slosh about me as I finally pack up my things and say goodbye to Mother Tute.

Sitting here in my makeshift room/lounge finishing up last minute business — suitcases and boxes strewn about — I notice a peculiar circularity. Three-and-a-half years ago, in a distinctly similar situation during my rush, I wrote my first opinion contribution as an MIT student, in response to the administration's sloppy mishandling of freshman housing assignments. Since then, I've managed to maintain my administrative irreverence enough to produce commentaries — occasionally tinged with a smidgen of sarcasm — which I hoped may either suggest a course of correction toward some widespread affliction, or at the very least irritate the transgressors.

On occasion, I was fortunate enough to see some results that agreed with my enjoinders, not that that was ever the point. I did finally get housed, for example. Charges against

Danieli and Tsang were dropped, Goosebeary's served me well for many a lunch, column portraits are still going strong, and a 50-cent write-off mysteriously appeared on my Bursar's bill, dated the same as the column in which I mentioned the charge.

Twenty columns later, however, I don't really know how to tie things up. By this point I presume that most February graduates have gone on their merry ways, so I feel confident that I can, instead, get away with churning out some pre-departure words of wisdom, with little competition from my similarly inspired graduating peers.

I saw a Steven Spielberg quote recently which read: A good story doesn't have a middle and an end but a beginning that just keeps beginning. In a way, that's how I feel about my college years. Most of us will have roughly six to 10 beginnings (an average of 8) before that relaxing afternoon in Killian Court, and for my part I suggest you make the most of them.

New arrivals to this campus are often stifled by intimidation. Seasoned veterans may suffer from the pressure to keep up. Even the best among us must at least once or twice feel less than sure-footed. But these are old truths.

Whether today is the first day of your last semester or the first of your second, keep in mind that you have time ahead to steer yourself back on track. Pick up that second sport, learn oil painting, join *The Tech*, get that UROP, and enjoy doing it. You'll be surprised when you look back at what you've done.

As I leave my post, I look forward to an MIT left better than the MIT I walked into a few years ago. I look forward to an MIT I will be proud to include on my resume, one that I will be proud to recount as my alma mater, and one that I may return to at some later date with as much goodwill as I now have leaving it. But of course, it musn't get too polished to warrant a column or two from this writer.

Somehow, though, I'm not worried.

## Fishbowl Should Not Have to Vacate Building 11 Location

Column by Douglas E. Heimbarger

STAFF REPORTER

In the five or so months that I've been at MIT now, I've come to appreciate the Athena clusters. Located all over campus, they've allowed me to quickly check my e-mail between classes or send some messages to other people.

I've grown especially fond of the clusters since I can always find one near where my classes are — especially on main campus, where it's inconvenient to go to the Student Center or the cluster in Building 37, the two largest clusters on campus.

Thus, the recent news that the Building 11 cluster — affectionately referred to as the "Fishbowl" — would be closing and moving to Building 12 seemed strange to me. Why would the administration be relocating one of the most used clusters of campus to a more inconvenient location on a side of campus already populated with many computer clusters?

The answer, as I read on, was that Building 11 was going to be converted into Phase II of the Student Services Center. Already, MIT students can go to 3-123 and sign their schol-

arship checks, have transcripts printed on the spot, turn in registration forms, and take care of all kinds of other things that used to require a trip to Building E19, where the main offices of the Registrar and Bursar are located, or Building 5, where the Financial Aid and Student Employment Offices are located.

Phase II of the center apparently will offer even more services. Most of the services of the offices will now be offered in the renovated Building 11.

Yet, is the convenience of the Student Services Center worth the movement of the Fishbowl to Building 12? I think not.

First, one must consider how many times a year the average MIT student actually interacts with those in the offices consolidated into the Student Services Center. Last term, I made only one trip over to building E19 to sign a loan check. While others may have made more, the truth is that students don't often need to interact with those in the Bursar's or Registrar's office.

Second, the impact on the Athena system as a whole has to be investigated. The Fishbowl cluster is only one of two clusters on

the west side of the Great Dome within the main complex. The other cluster — in 1-142 — is already consistently filled to capacity. With the loss of the Fishbowl, there will be only 25 Athena workstations on the west side of main campus, compared to 60 on the east side of main campus with the new machines in Building 12. This doesn't even include the nearby clusters like the one in Hayden Memorial Library and the one opening this morning in Building 56.

Clearly, the movement of the Fishbowl cluster to Building 12 will adversely affect those who like me spend a lot of time on the west side of main campus. If the cluster in Building 1 is full, there are now fewer alternative options. All of them require a long walk to an inconvenient cluster.

So do the advantages of the new and improved Student Services Center outweigh the loss involved with moving an extremely busy Athena cluster? It's clear that they don't. Students will be inconvenienced on a daily basis in order to centrally locate services that students may only need a few times a term.

I wouldn't feel so strongly about this issue

if the administration had followed through with its initial promises to relocate the Fishbowl cluster to a nearby location. Building 12 isn't anywhere near Building 11 except in numerical order.

I'm also dismayed that the administration didn't find a better space on the Infinite Corridor. The Fishbowl cluster now serves as an easy place to duck in and check e-mail while just passing down the hall. I doubt that the Building 12 cluster will serve the same purpose. It will be just one more computer cluster in an area already densely populated with Athena terminals — the Building 56, Building 4, and Building 2 clusters are all extremely close to the site.

It's clear that the limited advantages of the new and improved Student Services Center do not outweigh the significant disadvantages of the movement of the Fishbowl cluster. Not only is it a historic place on the MIT campus, but it is also one of the most useful places for students.

*Douglas E. Heimbarger is a freshman who is growing increasingly wary of the mounds of junk e-mail he receives every day.*

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# In Spite of Itself, MIT Musters Its Own Peculiar Spirit

Column by Jenny Lind

The first time I thought about MIT school spirit was at a happy hour when someone at my table started yelling out a peppy cheer that involved something to do with secants, cosines, and pi. My first reaction was to look around and make certain that no one had heard. If someone had, I was prepared to act as if I didn't know these people; I was just sharing their table because the bar was so crowded. Luckily, no one heard.

I think my gut reaction was high school survival training at work. Nerds who drew attention to themselves back then were soon surrounded by chuckling defensive linemen whose idea of college was nine years at the local junior college. Any nerd who would belt out a cheer involving trigonometry was courting disaster. Believe me, I understand these things. I was in band.

It has come to my attention that at MIT people actually yell such cheers out at public sporting events. I guess MIT students feel safe because the taunting jocks have been weeded out by now, but aren't they afraid of anyone?

Perhaps a few Sloan School former frat boys? No, I guess grad students have better things to do, and besides, if a Sloan guy wanted to torment you, he'd probably just figure out a way to ruin your credit rating or something. At any rate, I both admire and puzzle about the MIT undergrads' total embrace of their nerdiness.

Because this is my third institution of higher learning, I feel rather qualified to comment on the topic of school spirit. At Berkeley we had all sorts of pagan rituals in our rivalry with Stanford. (Not a typo.) There is the pre-"Big Game" bonfire, and there is the parading of the Axe (which is the trophy of the Big Game). There are hacks (although not called that) that involve stealing the Axe from whomever has it at the time, dyeing Berkeley's Strawberry Creek red, or setting loose hundreds of blue-and-gold painted mice on the Stanford campus. (Also not a typo. Poor mice.) Anyway, most people go to these schools because of the quality of academics — God help them if they went there because of football. But because of the rivalry, school spirit at both schools is still very sports oriented. Academically, there's a lot of cooperation,

so that's nothing to get riled up about.

After surviving the Cal-Stanford rivalry, I ventured to San Diego for my master's degree. At the University of California at San Diego, school spirit seemed to be primarily reflected in the activity of buying sweatshirts with smiley faces and the school letters on them. I don't know what it is, but students appeared rather blasé about the whole school pride issue, calmly oblivious to the manichean battles that had obsessed Berkeley and Stanford undergrads.

I suppose not having a football team makes a great difference. And even if UCSD had a team, it would need a rival to make things really interesting — preferably a local one. But UCSD isn't any fun, and Cal State San Diego? Give me a break. USC is already paired up fighting tooth and nail with UCLA, and besides, a rivalry with USC would inflict upon San Diegans that ghastly fight song that the Trojan band plays incessantly.

Anyway, at UCSD it struck me that the lack of a nemesis translates to a lack of interest, sort of like post-Cold War politics. Or maybe it's all the sun. Down there with the warm breeze wafting through the palm trees,

people are just too damn happy and relaxed to get worked up about such things.

What about school spirit at MIT? We clearly lack a distinguishable rival. I guess Harvard is always there up the road, but they have their Yale thing to get all worked up about. Furthermore, Harvard and MIT have different emphases and specialties, so it's hard to compare the two schools directly. I find it difficult to imagine us caring enough to call them Harvard or something (although hey — that's kind of fun). One would expect school spirit to be diminished at a school without a clear rival, as I perceived at UCSD.

But instead I see that at MIT people have so much school spirit that they happily break into trigonometric cheers in the middle of bars, clearly identifying themselves as hopeless nerds, while running the risk of being taunted by people who just might not be doctoral candidates in engineering.

How is it that MIT students are so secure in their self-image, in the excellence of their institution? I guess the cheer, "It's all right, it's okay, you will work for us someday" says it all.

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# THE ARTS

## FILM REVIEW

### *I'm moving back home, mom... what did you do to my room?*

#### MOTHER

Written and directed by Albert Brooks.  
Starring Albert Brooks, Debbie Reynolds, Rob Morrow, and Lisa Kudrow.

By Scott C. Deskin  
STAFF REPORTER

**M**other, the latest film from Albert Brooks, has the earmarks of a terrifying neurosis-fest. The plot is at once familiar with and subversive of the ubiquitous middle class (Hollywood-style, of course). Man goes through second divorce. Man ponders relationships with women, wonders if relationship with own mother hasn't damaged him in some way. Also, feelings of inadequacy linger regarding mother's outward favoritism of a more successful younger brother. And the kicker: Man decides to move back in with mother in order to find out what went wrong.

In this film, the man, John Henderson (Brooks), is engulfed in mid-life crisis. When he tries to coax his second wife to talk about "the good times" in front of the divorce lawyer, she gets up and leaves him with the

bill; he confesses to the lawyer, "She has good furniture." Thus, he returns to his newly-unfurnished home, pondering his next move. He decides to call his mother (Debbie Reynolds) for some moral support: no such luck. The cadence of their dialogue suggests a mere vestige of a familial relationship long since allowed to wither away. The closest they get to affection is suggested by her "I love you" and his "I know you think you do."

Intent on hitting the dating scene once more, and after declaring to a friend that he wants to pass on his seed, he goes out to dinner with a young blonde (Lisa Kudrow) he met in the supermarket. Since he's a novelist, he figures he can break the ice on discussing favorite authors: She comes up with Jacqueline Susann and Charlie Chaplin ("You know, *Tale of Two Cities*?"). Needless to say, after this horrifying experience, John retreats from dating altogether and looks inward. He asks his younger brother Jeff (Rob Morrow) why their mother likes him better. Jeff, a sports agent and prodigious gift-giver of company-supplied picture phones, brushes John's concerns aside,

contending that Mother wouldn't favor one brother over the other on the basis of personal success. John isn't so sure, so he takes the next logical step in his mind to heal his inner child and re-establish an emotional kinship with Mother by moving back in with her.

In "the experiment," as John calls it, he drives up from L.A. to Sausalito and lets the details of his indefinite stay unfold layer by layer. Mother welcomes him with open arms and comments, "Now why didn't you want to stay in a hotel?" Their wry verbal jabs they make at each other are only the outward sign of a much larger rift between them — John is certain. Since he's also suffering a case of writer's block (regarding his latest science fiction novel), he figures that moving back into his old room and redeploying nostalgic elements of his youth (*2001* and *Barbarella* posters on the wall, Jimi Hendrix and Wilson Pickett on the stereo) will give him some inspiration.

Of course, this all proves distressing to John's mother, who wants to help her son but is reluctant to change her life around for him. As played by Reynolds, Mother looks upon

John with squinted eyes and pursed lips, as if her son has gone a little bonkers or, even worse, that he might unearth the problem in their relationship that he is supposedly investigating. John's stay in her home even encroaches on her semi-secretive love life, as she reluctantly confesses that she and her gentleman caller do "have sex occasionally."

*Mother* is a bold experiment, not just in the plot it entails but as a film as well, endeavoring to produce comedy from family dysfunction, a formula which most of us think has been done to death (did we really need a sequel to *Terms of Endearment*?). But Brooks finds life in the formula yet, and it helps that co-star Reynolds turns in a wonderfully comic but restrained performance of a woman who really embodies the role for all its strengths and foibles. Those who remember her from *Singin' in the Rain* or *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* are in for a surprise. In spite of a nicely pat resolution, the film still succeeds in deconstructing its subject matter by the sly exuberance of its performances. Hopefully this comic gem won't be overlooked at Oscar time.

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The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Jan. 23 and 29:

**Jan. 23:** Bldg. 4, area broken into and tools stolen, \$250; Bldg. E53, illegal use of a credit card; Bldg. 10, VCR stolen, unknown value; Johnson Athletics Center, hockey pads stolen, \$100.

**Jan. 24:** Ashdown House, noise complaint; Bldg. 4, computer parts stolen, \$520, Bldg. 4, computer equipment stolen, \$5,228.

**Jan. 25:** New House, noise complaint; Baker House, suspicious person; Bldg. 66, 1) AM/FM walkman radio, \$110; 2) CD player stolen, \$100; Alpha Delta Phi, clothes stolen, \$380.

**Jan. 26:** Alpha Tau Omega, noise complaint; Tang Hall, annoying phone call; Du Pont Gymnasium, men's locker room, wallet stolen, \$70; East Campus, suspicious package.

**Jan. 27:** Kappa Sigma, 1) bicycle stolen, \$700; 2) air conditioner stolen, \$280; Bldg. 66, 3 CDs stolen, \$30; Zeta Psi, illegal use of checking account; Tang, bicycle stolen.

**Jan. 28:** Bldg. 14, sign stolen, \$200; West lot, 1996 Jeep stolen but recovered in Cambridge; Bldg. E15, 1) computer, binoculars, and carry bag stolen, \$6,125; 2) wallet containing credit cards stolen; Bldg. 10, suspicious activity; Bldg. 9, wallet containing \$67 cash stolen; West lot, car broken into and \$5 cash stolen; Bldg. E25, suspicious person.

**Jan. 29:** Bldg. 56, suspicious activity; Bldg. E17, drill stolen, \$200; Beacon Construction, laptop stolen, \$3,000; Bldg. 56, malicious destruction.

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#### ACROSS

1. Gorilla
4. Paid in addition to salary
9. Amount (abbr.)
12. Friend
13. Mature
14. \_\_\_\_\_ West
15. Prophecy
17. Verb identifying predicate with the subject
19. Father of Am. short story
20. Drive away
21. Hurl; toss; fling
23. Meridian (abbr.)
24. Remove from set type
27. Mineral
28. Devotee of famous person
29. Wand
30. 3rd Note in musical scale
31. Awful
33. Books of Bible (abbr.)
34. Vinegar ether
36. Pale
37. Enzyme (chem. suf.)
38. Unit
39. Will
40. One who does (suf.)
41. Character judgment
43. Scrap of food
44. Mars
46. Not on shore
49. Lubricant
50. Ethnic division
52. Dove sound
53. Small
54. Copy
55. That girl

#### DOWN

1. Army Post Office (abbr.)
2. Equal
3. Gone by
4. Wrap hay
5. Poem
6. 13th Greek letter
7. Result of stress
8. Halt
9. Charm against injury
10. Bad; wrong (pref.)
11. Brewed drink
16. Bed
18. Treadle
20. Restore service
21. Haley's \_\_\_\_\_
22. Get up
23. Damage
25. Not tight
26. Come in
28. Evergreen
29. Bread roll
31. Devil
32. Ardent follower
35. Mexican food
37. Add to
39. Provide food
40. Standing Room Only (abbr.)
42. Payment for occupancy
43. Reed instrument
44. War prisoner (abbr.)
45. Untruth
46. Bowed; curved
47. Fish eggs
48. Beetle
51. Southern state (abbr.)

#### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

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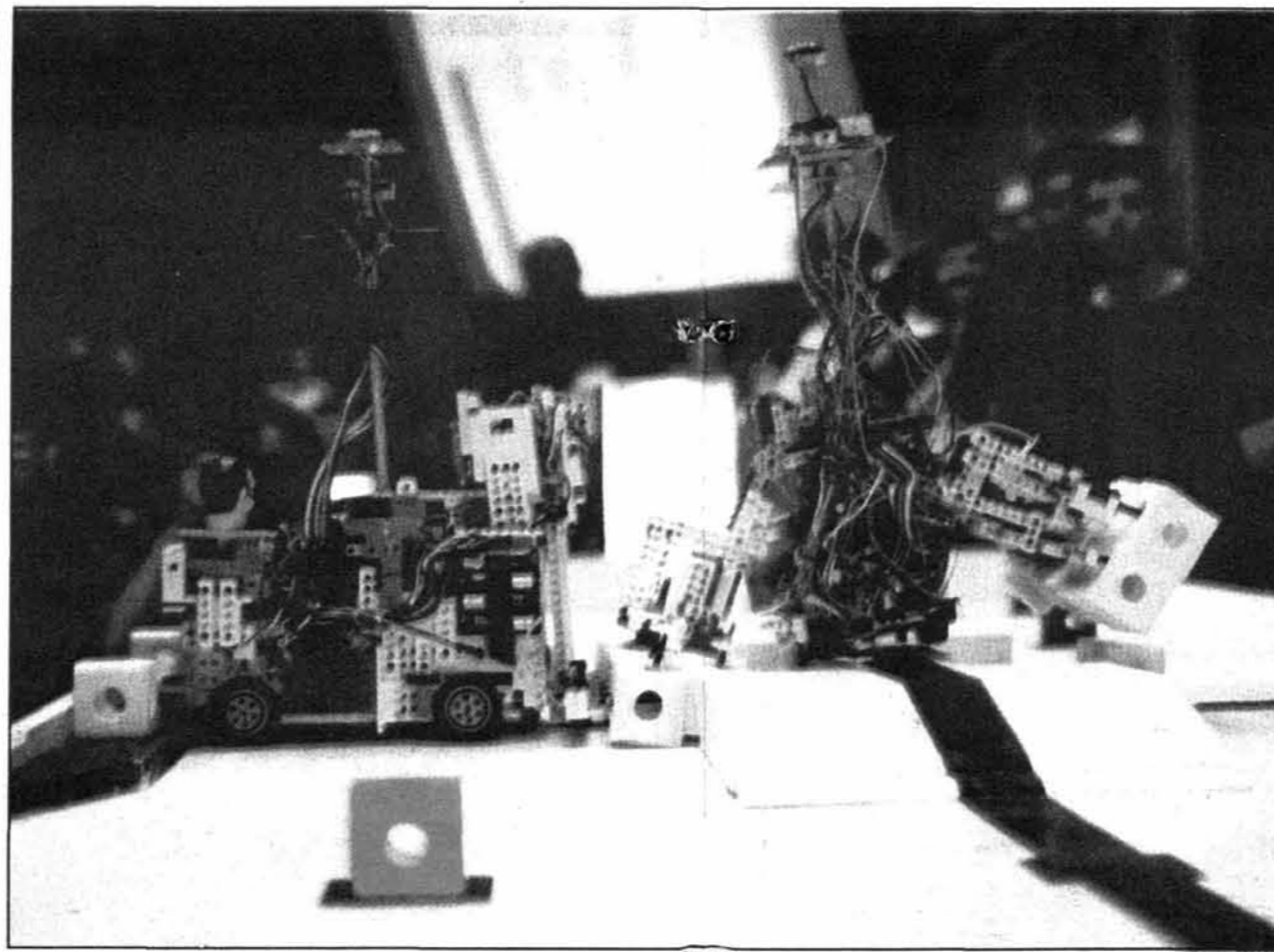
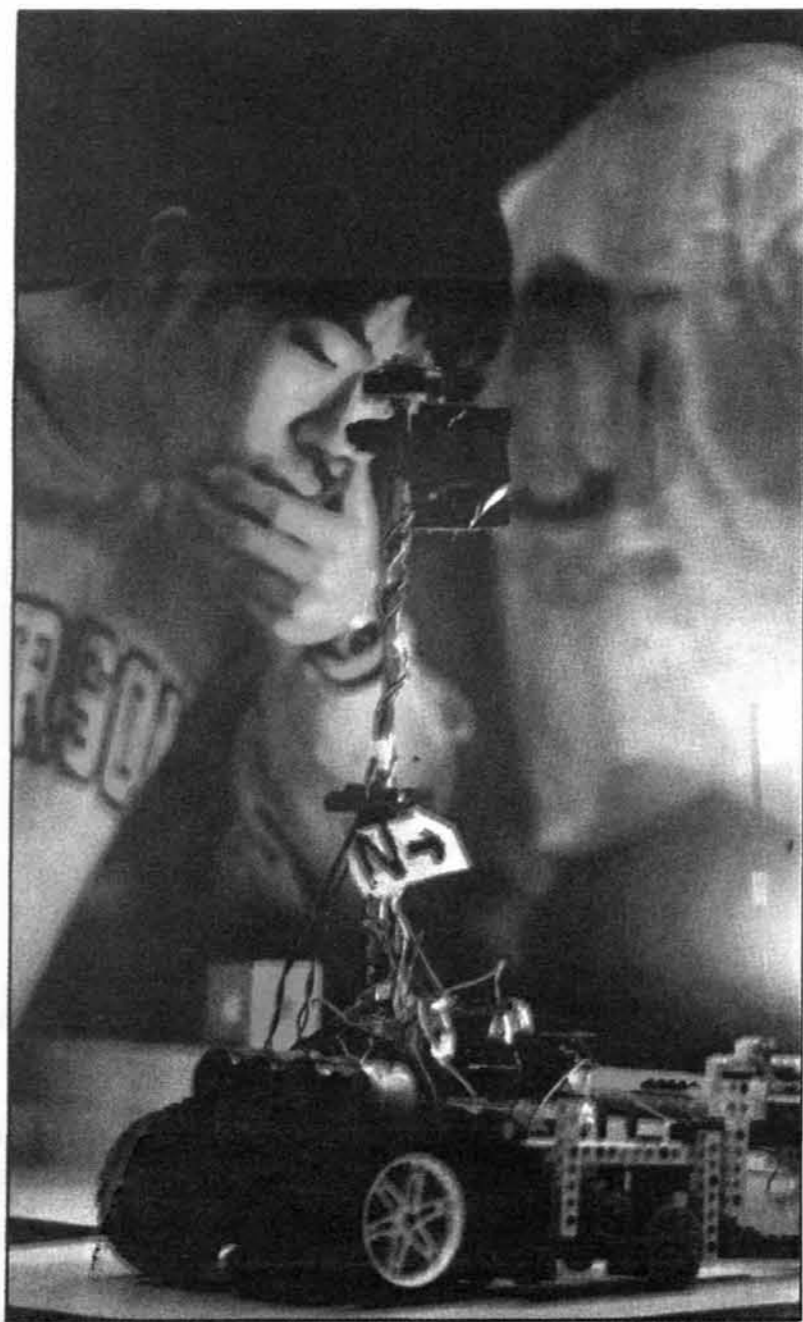
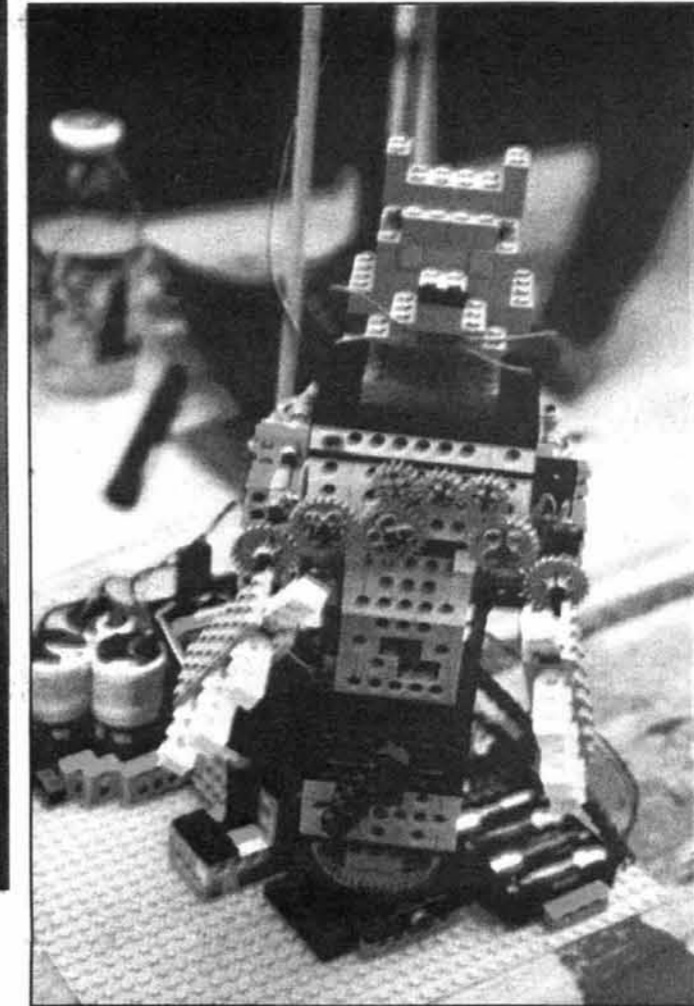
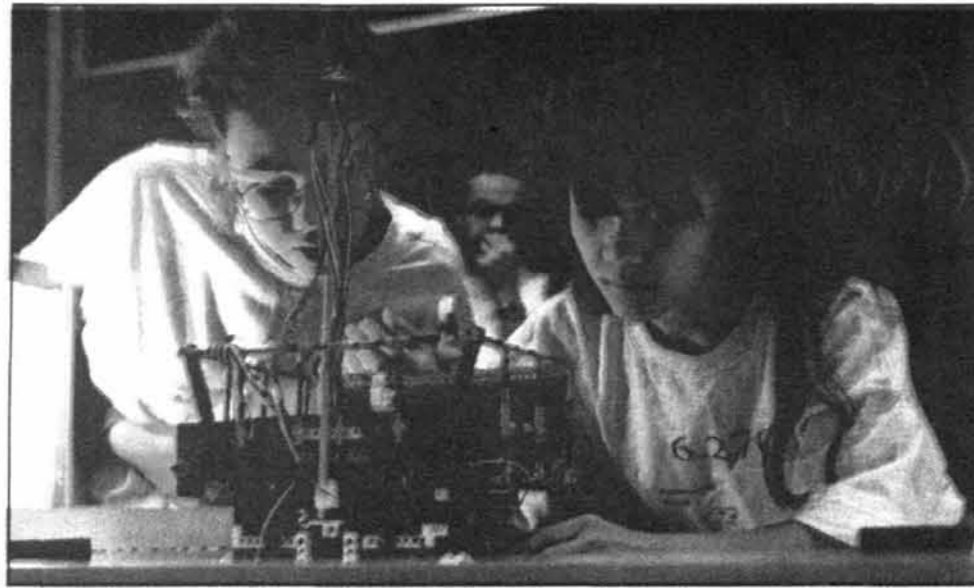
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# 6.270

## ROBOT DESIGN COMPETITION



*Photos by Gábor Csányi,  
Tiffany Lin, and David Tarin*

Top Left: Wandy Sae-tan '97 and Laurel A. Schaidler '97 work between rounds on the setup of their robot, "Pooper Scooper."

Top Center: The winners Derek W. Truesdale '97, Michael P. Schmidt-Lange '97, and Danilo D. Almeida '97 embrace as their robot, "Iron Maiden," wins the final round.

Top Right: The placebo, "Macarena Rat," dances in a demonstration round.

Bottom Left: Gilbert Y. Cheung '97 muses over the state of the robot, "The Leper Machine," between rounds.

Bottom Center: The robot, "Iron Maiden," holds off the attack of "Moo Cow", built by Praveen Ghanta '99, Terrance Harmon '99, and Amit Khetan '99, to win the final round of competition.

Bottom Right: Audience members show their support for "Boucho," built by Adrian B. Daneli '97, Brian A. Zabel '97 and Janet Marques '98.

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E52-045  
 M-F 8A.M.-6P.M.  
 SATURDAY-CLOSED  
 253-5203

## MLK Celebration to Honor Professors, Community Leaders

By May K. Tse  
 ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This weekend, MIT will hold the 23rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, themed "The Strength to Love: Facing the Crisis of the Underclass."

"The Institute and President Vest feel very strongly that the ideals of Dr. King should be imbedded in the life and work of MIT, and this is one way this can be done," said Professor of Physics Michael S. Feld '62, a member of the Martin Luther King committee.

The festivities kick off with a celebratory breakfast on Thursday morning in the Student Center.

The guest speaker will be Elaine R. Jones, the director-counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She is the first woman ever to head the organization and serves as the fourth such director in the NAACP's history.

"She's a very outstanding and eloquent figure in the national community. We always try to find exciting people," Feld said.

**Several will be recognized**

Another highlight of the breakfast will be the presentation of the annual MLK Leadership Awards. This year's recipients include the Committee on Campus Race Relations, as well two notable individuals.

Sylvester J. Gates Jr. '73, an assistant professor of mathematics at MIT from 1982-84, will be one of the two individuals honored. Gates is now a physics professor at the University of Maryland.

"Dr. Gates has worked for edu-

cating minority youth. He led a program while he was here at MIT, and he's always worked for promulgating the ideals of Dr. King," Feld said.

The other individual to receive the award is Myra Rodrigues, who was a Medical Department social worker for 25 years before she retired last July. She is credited with helping to create separate discussion groups for male and female minority students.

The six MLK Visiting Professors at the Institute will also be recognized at the breakfast. The program recognizes the contribution of minority scholars and to bring a greater presence of them to campus.

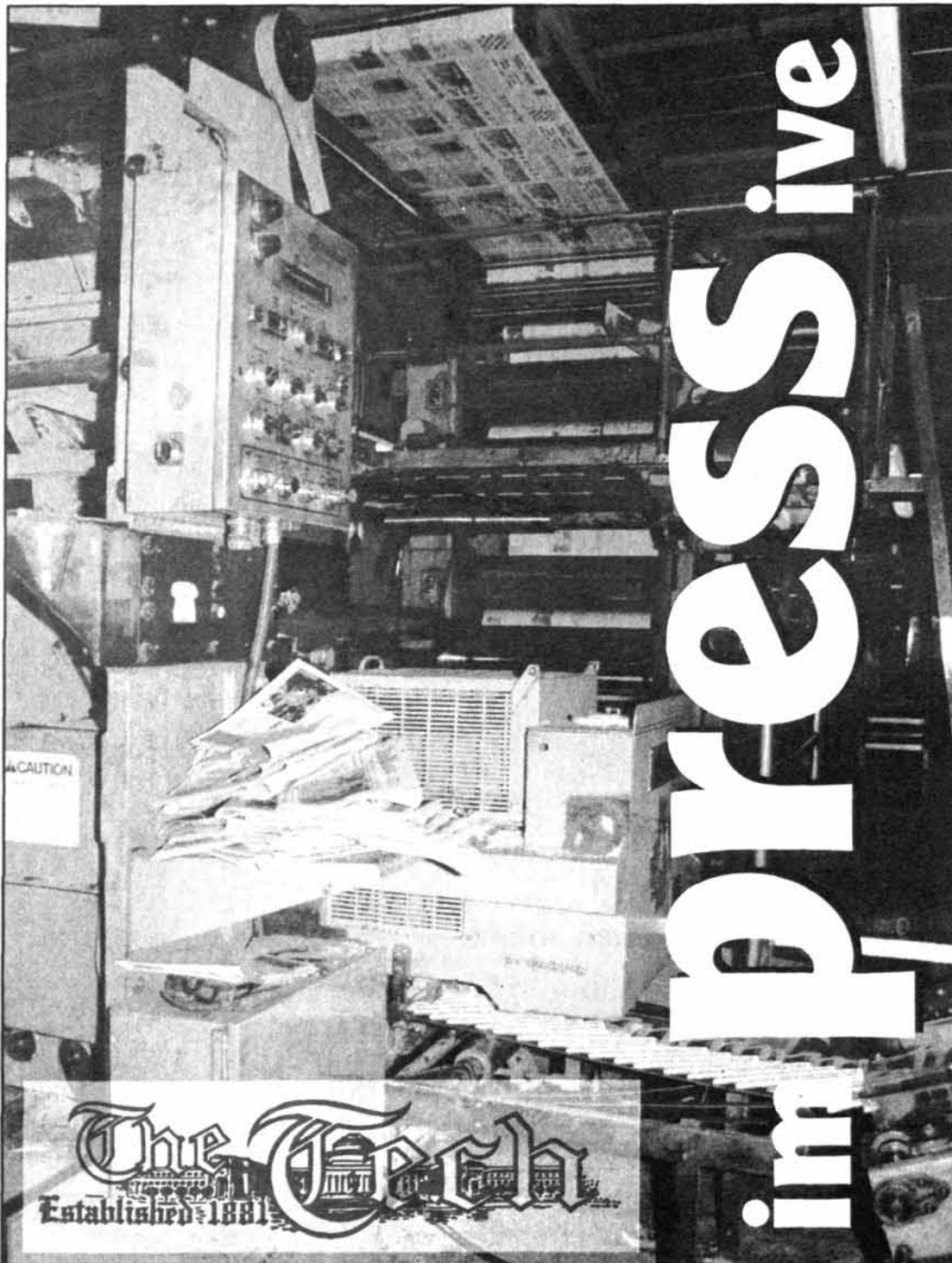
"The visiting professors are nominated by the individual departments, and we support and finance the program," said Associate Provost Phillip L. Clay PhD '75. "Since we're only in the second year of the program, not every department has nominated more than we can support, but we'd love to have that 'good' problem."

Steven L. Lee, a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, just finished his two terms as an MLK Visiting Professor. He credited King with having a great impact on his life.

"The death of Dr. King is one of my most vivid childhood memories. I recall sitting in my mother's lap as she talked to me about the death of a special person and the importance of making the most of my abilities and opportunities in life," Lee said.

"The significance of Dr. King's message, coupled with the strong

MLK, Page 23



Pressive

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# Students Master Social Skills In Fifth Annual Charm School

By Eric Sit  
STAFF REPORTER

Conventional wisdom says that you can pick your friends, and you can pick your nose, but you can't pick your friend's nose.

Not so — you shouldn't pick your own nose, either — according to the fifth annual Charm School, held over the last week of the Independent Activities Period in Lobbies 7 and 10, which debunked this and a host of other common faux pas regarding proper etiquette and style.

Four hours of classes and seminars in the afternoon concluded with an evening commencement ceremony and a presentation of diplomas.

Subjects taught included Nerd Love (Asking for a Date), Clothing Statements, Ballroom Dance, Butting Up Big Shots, Small Talk, Impressive Interviewing, and Body Language.

Studying a subject might have entailed asking a few relevant questions on the subject or participating in a short discussion.

Over 80 faculty, students, and administrators volunteered to teach the seminars.

More ambitious students could earn "charm credits" toward a formal Charm School degree. A bachelor's degree was awarded for completing six subjects, a master's for eight, and a doctorate for 12.

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Alberta G. Lipson, Senior Office Assistant of UAA Rosanne J. Swire, and Stacey J. Young '96 were in charge of organizing the event.

## Students learn do's and don'ts

Lori Breslow, a senior lecturer at the Sloan School of Management, and Rishi Shrivastava '97 listed all the "do's" and "don'ts" in their class, Impressive Interviewing. "Do your homework before the interview," Breslow said.

"Don't relive your glory days in high school," Shrivastava added.

Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs Travis R. Merritt taught the class Exemplary Locomotion. "MIT people tend to make walking a utilitarian act with an emphasis on efficiency," he said. He calls this style the "Institute scuttle," where individuals keep their heads down, make no eye contact, and only make motions from their knees down.

Merritt also ran the Charm School Basement, which touched on "bathroom etiquette, bodily functions, and other unmentionables."

Merritt founded Charm School because he was tired of hearing the generalization that MIT people could not function socially.

"Travis Merritt is the best part of Charm School. He is Charm School," Young said.

## Vest presides at 'commencement'

The degrees were awarded by none other than President Charles M. Vest at Charm School commencement. The ceremony, which took place in Lobby 10, featured appearances by the Chorallaries and MIT mascot Tim Beaver.

"I did take several classes. The one I enjoyed the most was Schmoozing," which was taught by Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Daniel E. Hastings '80, Vest said.

"You were pretty darn wonderful before Charm School, and now you're simply unstoppable," Vest said to the 'graduates.'

"What I like best about Charm School is that I get to follow the beaver to the stage," Vest said. He also said he was pleased with the way students and faculty worked together to organize Charm School and how they were enjoying themselves.

Vest said that the class that he really would have liked to take was How to Overcome Shyness. "It was very hard for me to do when I first got into these kinds of positions where I had to meet a lot of people I didn't know," he said.

## Organizers needed for next year

"Charm School went great — better than expected," Young said. As the "CEO of Charm School," she said she most enjoyed meeting faculty, staff, and students from all different parts of MIT.

However, five or six people will be needed to fill next year's Charm School student board, Young said.

Most of the organizers for this year's event have been volunteering to organize Charm School for the last five years, Young said. "Charm School may not happen next year unless we can organize this student board," she said.

The volunteers must be willing to work 10 hours per week during the fall and most of IAP, she said. The current group will begin its search for volunteers in February.



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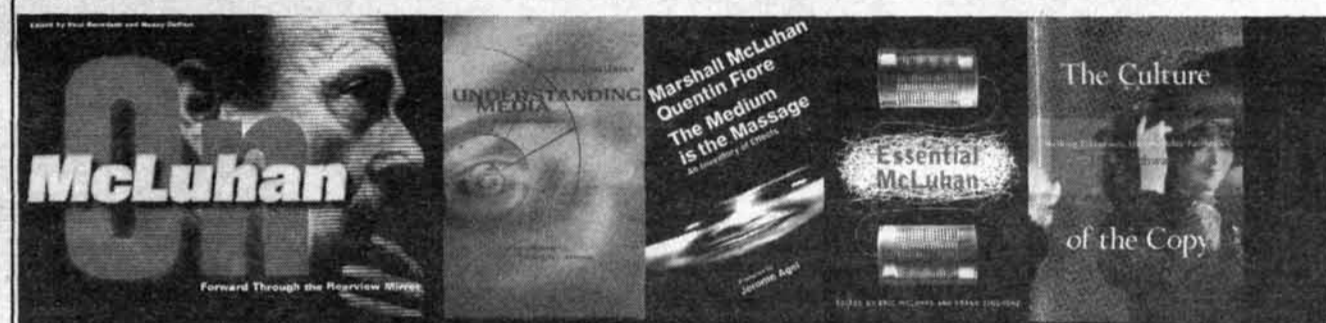
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# Health Officials Look at Walker

Walker, from Page 1

Emery said. The foreign object has been sent to an Aramark sanitarian to be tested, Emery said. The object likely was a worm that burrowed itself into the corn while it was on the plant and was subsequently not noticed during the packaging processes, she added.

The supplier of the corn, Hallsmith/Sysco, has been alerted to the object's presence, Emery said. As a precautionary measure, Aramark is "going to use another [supplier] until we get to the bottom of this," she said.

In addition, Aramark's central purchasing department requires "very strict [quality control] standards throughout the whole system," Emery said.

The presence of two closely-related incidents in a week may indicate that "there may be a particular problem with that lot of corn," Emery said. Still, "there are systems in place to hopefully keep these things from happening."

Unlike fresh vegetables and meats, which are visually inspected upon delivery, frozen corn and other vegetables receive no inspection prior to cooking because they have been bagged and boxed for transport, Emery said.

The delivered corn is taken out of the bag by the cook and then heated, Emery said. It is unlikely that the cook would have noticed an object like the worm because its color and shape approximated that of the corn, she said.

Aramark is subject to unannounced monthly inspections by an inspection company contracted by MIT to oversee the sanitation of the facilities. Additionally, routine inspections are carried out by the Cambridge Inspections Department on all Aramark facilities as well as the kitchen facilities of Cambridge-based fraternities.

Aramark workers receive at least two classes in sanitation each year, Emery said. In addition, supervisors are required to be certified in food safety and sanitation.

Once a year, a registered sanitarian visits the dining facilities, Emery said. The sanitarian reviews the inspection reports and conducts more intensive training, she said.

Emery said Aramark would continue to investigate the problem. "We don't want something like this to happen again," she said.

# Pan Asia



## How to order Pan Asia

1. Select a sauce (or blend 2)
2. Choose a menu selection
3. Select a protein



## Today's Sauce Flavors

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garlic, Sesame, Chile, Brown Sugar | <input type="checkbox"/> Soy, Ginger, Garlic, Scallions | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Bean and Garlic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Szechuan hot & spicy               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet & Sour                   |  |

## Today's Menu Selections

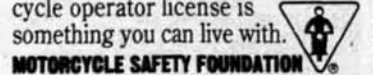
- Broth Bowl** – Miso broth, noodles, greens, vegetable garnish, crunchy garnish, and protein selection
- Noodle Bowl** – Noodles, stir fried vegetables, crunchy garnish and protein selection
  - Ramen
  - Udon
  - Soba
- Rice Bowl** – Basmati rice, stir fried vegetables, crunchy garnish and protein selection
- Rice Stick** – Puffed bean thread noodles, stir fried vegetables, vegetable garnish, and protein selection

## Today's Protein Selections

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- Pork
- Beef
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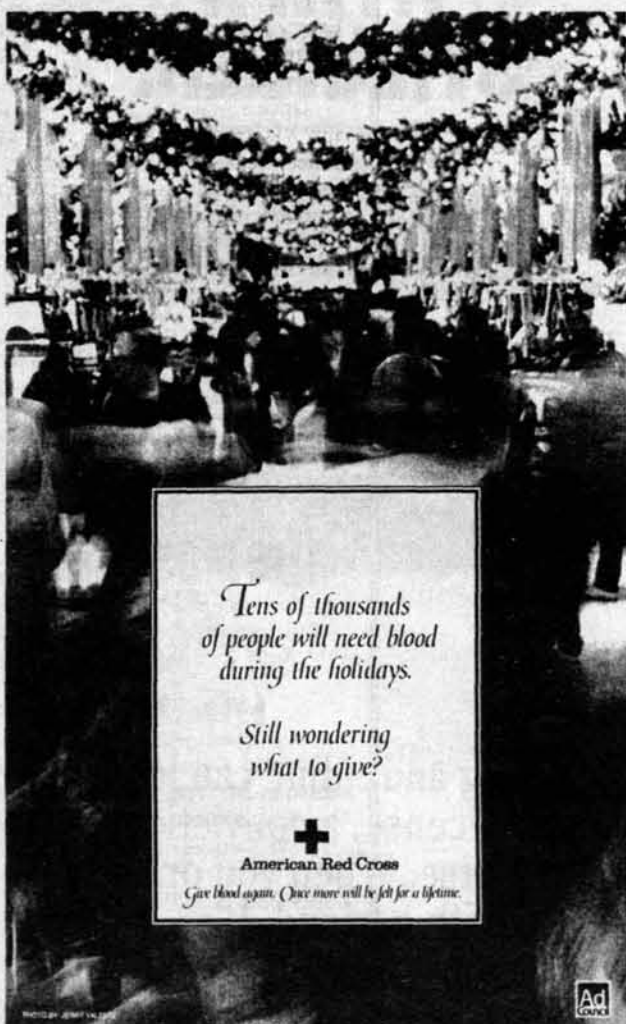
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# Tuberculosis Tests To Start This Week

**Tuberculosis**, from Page 1

because of the long time it takes for an infection to appear.

"This is the time that we can do something, and we're acting now," Randolph said.

Randolph declined to identify the student.

### Dorms to be tested Thursday

Representatives from the Medical Department will meet with residents of Burton-Conner House and Next House on Thursday, and they will be able to administer the skin test if students want it.

Doctors met with residents of the Alpha Tau Omega house and administered the tests last night.

Another 90 students who were in small classes with the original patient will be getting mail asking them to get tested at the Medical Center.

Up to 400 students could be tested, but Randolph said he expects only about 150 tests.

MIT has notified the City of Cambridge of the infection and their treatment and testing plan, as required by law.

### Case began in fall

The case began when a female student contracted TB from an unknown source, Randolph said. "It's not uncommon for people to be exposed to TB every so often," he said.

The student spent part of the summer and all of the fall term at MIT, during which time the infection developed into the full-blown TB disease. Only when someone is in the disease stage are they contagious, according to the Medical Department.

The student was treated and is now healthy and not infectious. According to the Medical Department, "we know of no one on the MIT campus who is now infectious and spreading further illness."

Immediately after the disease was discovered in the student, nine people who spent a lot of time near her were given the tuberculin skin test. One person, the student's boyfriend, tested positive at that time and was treated with an anti-tuberculous antibiotic.

Since the tuberculin immune reaction to passive infection can take six to 12 weeks to develop, those who initially tested negative were tested again last month, and five of them have now tested positive and are being treated with the antibiotic.

Any passive infections, including those among the student's close friends, almost certainly resulted from that student's infection.

The initial discovery of the disease and the treatment of all patients has been handled by the Medical Department, under the direction of Director Arnold Weinberg. The Medical Department isolated the TB and identified the strain. Weinberg is also the infectious disease specialist for the Medical Department.

Students interested in getting a free test should call the Medical Department at x3-4481 and request a tuberculin skin test, Weinberg said.

The test involved injecting 100 microliters of a purified protein derivative of the bacterium intradermally. The site of the injection is read and the result determined in 48 hours, Weinberg said.

### First case in recent memory

This case is the first time in recent memory for an infectious disease outbreak at MIT, Randolph said. The Institute was not affected by the widespread measles outbreak at colleges in 1995.

TB is an infectious disease that is not highly contagious. It is spread when a person coughs, producing droplets of mucous which contain the TB bacterium. The bacterium is killed when the droplets are exposed to sunlight or settle on a surface, so another person can only be infected

by inhaling many of the droplets. The chance of infection is low; even family members living in the same home have only a 20 percent chance of being infected.

Healthy people infected with TB do not normally develop the full-blown disease; rather, their immune system contains the bacterium. In this case, the student had a history of asthma.

The symptoms of full-blown TB include persistent fevers, cough, weight loss, and night sweats.

The strain of tuberculosis found in the student is not one of the newer, antibiotic-resistant strains, but an old, "very responsive" strain, Randolph said.

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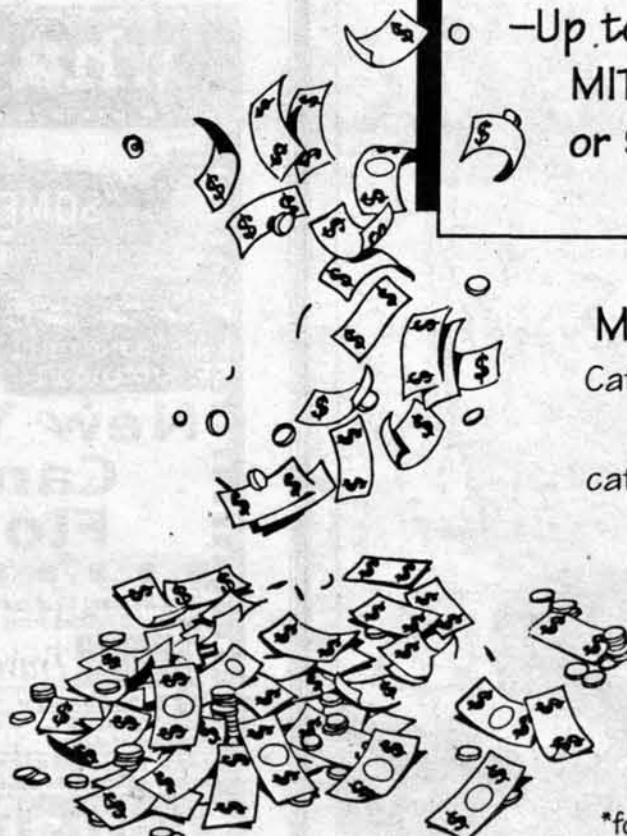


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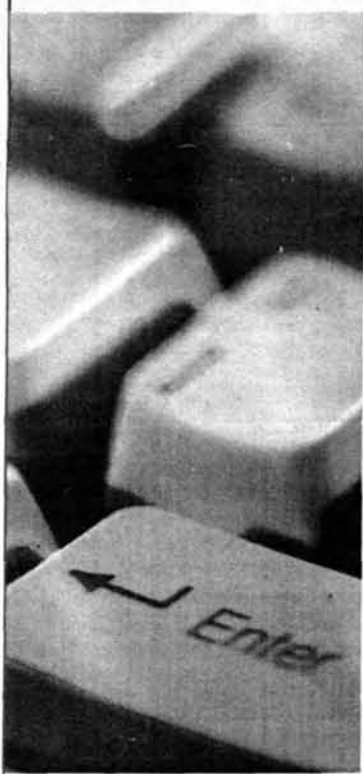
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Room 4-153, Refreshments will be served

### Interviews

Tuesday, February 25, Career Center

# FACTSET

## 'Iron Maiden' Bests RoboRat Opponents

6.270, from Page 1

The mechanical components of the robots are built using Lego pieces, while the "brains" were provided by an onboard processor.

Contestants received the processor board with most of the electronic components already in place, and built other items like the sensors that robots used to navigate during the contest as well as the infrared beacons all robots were required to carry. The beacons allowed competing robots to "see" each other by using infrared sensors to look for the beacon's signal.

This year's contest table was designed to encourage interaction between competing robots, something organizers hoped would result in a more interesting final competition.

Robots employed strategies ranging from forklifts meant to pick up the blocks from the center and carry them to the shelf on the end of the table to others that grabbed a few blocks and then pursued their opponent, hoping to block or confuse them.

### Team faced stiff competition

"There were a couple of teams really scaring us," Truesdale said. A critical matchup for Iron Maiden was against "Boucho," the creation of Adrian B. Danieli '97, Brian A. Zabel '97, Janet Marques '98.

Boucho scored 84 points in the first round of the evening, the largest number of points scored in any single round during the competition. It was "an overwhelming victory," said contest organizer Geoffrey Phillippe '95.

The robot used a forklift strategy, lifting half of the blocks in the center of the table and moving them to the shelf on its side of the table.

During the fifth-round faceoff between these two top competitors, strategies collided as Boucho impaled twelve blocks from the side while Iron Maiden drove its pincers into the same blocks from above. At the end of the round, the robots remained locked together, their mechanisms intersecting in the captured blocks.

After some deliberation, the contest judges awarded joint possession of the blocks, giving each robot half the value of those blocks trapped between them. Iron Maiden emerged the victor, 41-36, because of the blocks it had picked up on the other side of the table's center.

Iron Maiden "was the only robot

we were really scared of," Marques said.

### Event was well attended

The competition, along with the 2.70 contest for Design and Manufacturing I (2.007), continues to be one of MIT's biggest spectator events, with a large live audience as well as many watching the event on MIT Student Cable. The contest venue, 26-100, was filled to capacity, as some audience members sat in the aisles and stood in the back of the room during the three-hour event.

"We do have school pride," said Amy Kang '99, who was among the live audience.

Some audience members came from farther away; Ryland Bennet and Siman Wechsler, both nine years old, came with their father from Belmont, Mass. to watch. "These robots are amazing," Bennet said.

Other audience members came because of friends or relatives participating in the competition or because they were competitors in previous years.

"There are a lot of people who think this is cool," said Roberto M. Aimi '97. Aimi participated in the contest during his freshman year.

The contest was run by a team of organizers and teaching assistants, most of whom are current students who participated as contestants in past years.

Funding and equipment for the contest was provided by the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Microsoft, Motorola, Lego dacta, and several other companies.

Teams were charged a \$150 fee to enter, but the components provided to them were worth several times that amount, and become the property of the team members following the competition.

This year's tournament was broadcast on MIT Student Cable, and could also be viewed on the Internet via the m-bone, an interactive video network. During breaks in the competition, organizers fielded questions from several Internet viewers.

Although the winning team knew for years they wanted to compete, they weren't so sure about how they would do. "We didn't think we were going to win a week ago," Schmidt-Lange said.

The team's robot did not perform to expectations during the qualifying round on Tuesday. "We qualified by blind luck. Enough things went wrong that we scored," Schmidt-Lange said.



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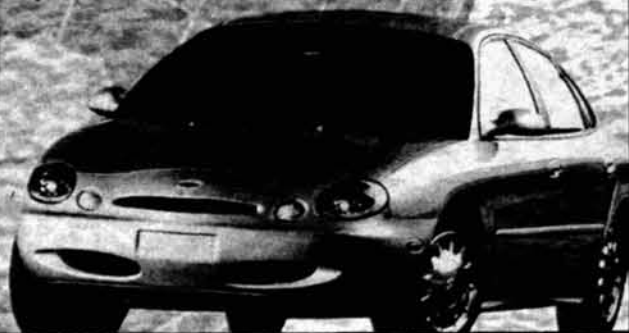
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# Music Planned For King Events

MLK, from Page 16

parental encouragement to learn and to achieve, is a continuing source of inspiration for me," Lee said.

Five students were also chosen to take part in the morning's program. "I've attended this celebration every year I've been here. If they ask me to do it again next year, I'd definitely like to," said Kira M. Huseby '98, one of the students who will be in charge of welcoming guests. "It's always important to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. because of all he did," she said.

#### Variety of events will be held

This weekend's celebration also includes a jazz presentation that will be held on Saturday night in Kresge Auditorium. The event will be hosted by artistic director Semenya McCord, a jazz singer who has been featured in MIT's annual MLK celebration for the past four years.

The program's theme is "Journey into Dream" and features local Boston area artists who will sing, dance, read poetry, and play music.

"Jazz music, vocals, and dance offer artistic opportunities by which we come to a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of Dr. King's teachings and legacy," said Maureen Costello, a member of the MLK committee. "We hope the audience comes away [from the jazz presentation] being reminded again of the importance of Dr. King through art," Costello said.

A Youth Conference will also be held on Friday and Saturday in the Student Center. It will be the eighth annual conference of its kind at MIT.

The theme of the conference is "Building Bridges for Youth into the Future" and features two workshops on helping youth to build better relationships as well as a youth choir. The conference is free and open to "the youth of the greater Boston community," Feld said.

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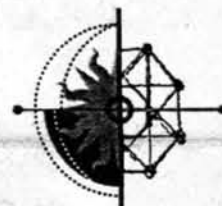
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# Review Group Looks For 'Dining Models'

Dining, from Page 1

near campus.

The identification process was difficult because of the number of sources of food available near campus. "Less than 50 percent of every dollar is spent at Aramark facilities" on campus, Walsh said. Other large sources of food include LaVerde's Market, the graduate pubs, the junior class doughnut stand, the 24-Hour Coffee House, and the vending machines, which are supplied to MIT through a contract with the Daka Corporation, he said.

Dining has "always [been] approached in a traditional vein," Walsh said. "That's got to shift" to a model where dining is characterized as an "experience," he added.

One result of the wide variety of groups providing dining options near campus is that MIT has only limited control over the system. As a result, there are "no common goals or strategies," Walsh said.

### Group will now form report

During the coming weeks, the group will turn its focus to the creation of new dining models for the Institute.

By mid-February, the group hopes to have models of various dining options for the Institute available for perusal and comment on the World Wide Web, Walsh said. The group is "looking at things from a structure point... all the way to the end," he said.

In each area, the group will present proposals to the community that the group might have summarily rejected previously, Walsh said. In the area of home cooking, for

example, the group may present proposals ranging from an outright ban on student cooking to increased Institute support for the practice.

The committee will also look at areas related to dining like the MIT Card program, Walsh said. Other universities have expanded the use of the card to great success, he added.

### Final report to come in April

In the end, "what makes the most sense" in each area will become the basis of the final report, which should be released in April, Walsh said.

The group is still finding it difficult to recruit individuals to serve as intermediaries and to solicit input on the models, Walsh said. "Time is a difficult thing right now," he said.

The final report, which will be presented to Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 and Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams, will then be used to prepare a new request for proposals. The new contractor, if chosen, would take over for the 1998-99 school year.

Although the final report will be several months behind schedule, the dining group is working well, Williams said. "The group has uncovered some extremely complicated issues and is trying to get a full sense of community opinion on those issues. This just takes time," she said.

Walsh said the group had considered the idea of having MIT take over the day-to-day control of the dining system. However, "there is not a great deal of excitement" about the idea, he said.



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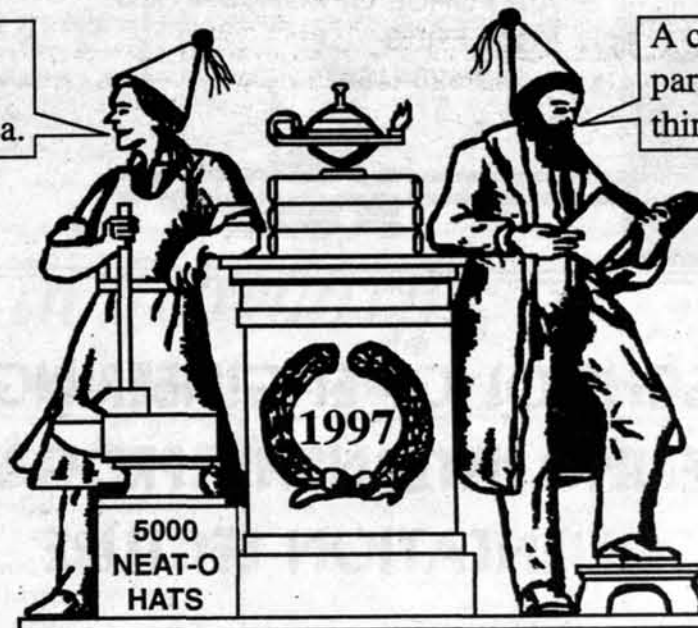
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# Skiers Finish Solidly in First Meets Despite Weather

Skilling, from Page 28

to determine each skier's finish for that day. The times of the fastest five men and the fastest three women determine the team standings for each squad.

The relatively short slalom course at Berkshire East Ski Area seemed tame in comparison to some of the team's training courses, as well as to the previous weekend's steep, long, and icy course at the individual warm-up race at Pats Peak, N.H. However, a tightly set series of fast turns took its toll on the team.

The women's squad struggled to produce its three finishers because of many crashes and missed turns. The finishers were Sarah Carlson '00, Valentina Sequi '97, and Chrissy Hartmann '98. Carlson and Sequi both made their college debuts in the meet. In spite of the difficulties, MIT did beat out Trinity for ninth place out of 10 teams.

The men also had their share of

crashes but so did their competitors. As a result, MIT finished sixth out of nine teams. Dave Kurd '98, in his college debut, led the team with a 25th-place finish, followed by Mike Protz '97, co-captain Nate Kushman '98, Jeremy Gerstle '99, and Andy Boral '98, who was also in his college debut.

The Berkshire mountains produced some extremely cold weather for Sunday's giant slalom, but that did not stop Brooke Baker '99 from turning in some hot skiing for a 15th-place finish, with supporting finishes from Hartmann and Marj Rosenthal '98, scoring her first college points of the season. The women settled into a comfortable eighth place, making the previous day's loss to UConn look like a fluke.

The men, by contrast, had trouble keeping a fast line through the difficult bottom section of the course, and were edged out of sixth place by Babson by only one second — which translates into one-tenth of

a second per finisher per run. Kurd once again led the team, with the other four scoring finishes coming from Protz, co-captain Geoff Johnson '97, Gerstle, and Sean Lavin '97.

During the next week, the team kept one eye on their Wachusett Mountain training courses and one eye on the evolving weather forecast for the Waterville Valley Ski Area in New Hampshire, for the Jan. 25 and 26 races hosted by Plymouth State College. A pattern all too familiar from last year's Waterville races was emerging. Snow fell Friday night but had changed to rain and a heavy fog Saturday morning.

Consequently the soft snow led to large ruts and holes in the long World Cup level slalom course. On her first run, Baker hooked a ski tip on one of the gates and spun around, with subsequent acrobatic recoveries, but managed to finish along with Rosenthal and Hartmann to lead the women to an eighth-place finish.

The men had entered the weekend tied with Babson for sixth place, and needed at least a sixth-place finish in the slalom to take the lead over their Boston-area rivals. After the first run, MIT was, as usual, packed right in there with Brown, Babson, and St. Anselm's.

Although anything can happen in the second run, MIT still had seven finishers from the first run, from which only five finishers would be necessary for the scoring. The afternoon got off to a strong start, with Kurd finishing 19th and Johnson 28th.

However, the next two racers exited the course within sight of the start. All three of the remaining racers would now need to finish the long and difficult course, now mostly shrouded in fog. Lavin, next in the gate, skied off and successfully completed the course. Next up was Dan Zelazo '99, who made it through for his first scoring opportunity.

Gerstle, the sole remaining skier, headed off into the fog but was able

to finish. The five successful finishers put MIT in sixth place — but ahead of St. Anselm's this time, but not Babson, which had turned in an astoundingly strong performance with all of their top skiers finishing.

As is almost on cue from last January, the temperature plummeted overnight and turned the soft snow into bulletproof ice. Then the winds started to blow, which prevented any of the ski area's chairlifts from operating. Instead, skier had to use a short t-bar lift and an invigorating hike to the top of the giant slalom course. Baker took 10th place for the women, followed once again by a much-improved and speedier Rosenthal and Hartmann, with the team finishing its usual eighth place.

The men finished in seventh place, three seconds off Brown, and five seconds off Babson — only half-a-second per racer per run. Kurd led the team with 29th place, followed by Protz, Lavin, Gerstle, and Johnson.

## Sports in February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Events for Saturday, February 8: Men's Basketball vs. Springfield College, 8 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. WPI, 1 p.m. Men's and Women's Fencing vs. Yale University Men's Gymnastics vs. Dartmouth College, 1 p.m. Men's Indoor Track and Field in the Quad Invitational Men's and Women's Swimming vs. Amherst College, 1 p.m.		<b>4</b>	Men's Hockey vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 7 p.m. Men's Volleyball vs. Harvard University, 7 p.m.	<b>5</b>	Men's Basketball vs. Connecticut College, 7 p.m.	Squash vs. Amherst College, 4 p.m. <b>7</b>	See far left. <b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	Men's Basketball vs. Tufts University, 7:30 p.m. <b>11</b> Women's Basketball vs. Babson College, 5:30 p.m. Squash vs. Dartmouth College, 1 p.m.	Men's Hockey vs. Franklin Pierce College, 7 p.m. <b>12</b> Men's Volleyball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology, 7 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	Men's Basketball vs. Western New England College, 1 p.m. <b>15</b> Men's Hockey vs. Central Connecticut State University, 2 p.m. Men's Indoor Track and Field in the New England Division III Championships	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	Men's Basketball vs. Norwich University, 7 p.m. <b>18</b>	Men's Volleyball vs. Roger Williams University, 7 p.m. <b>19</b>	Men's Basketball vs. WPI, 7 p.m. <b>20</b>	Pistol in the Intercollegiate Sectionals <b>21</b>	Women's Basketball vs. Mount Holyoke College, 1 p.m. <b>22</b> Men's Gymnastics vs. University of Vermont, 2 p.m. Pistol in the Intercollegiate Sectionals	

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# SPORTS

## Ski Teams Finish in Seventh and Eighth

By Jonathan Shefftz  
HEAD COACH

The men's and women's alpine squads of the ski racing team completed their second of five regular season race weekends on Jan. 25 and 26. At the race, hosted by the University of Massachusetts, the teams battled the slopes, competing colleges, and the ever uncooperative New England weather.

The team had already run training courses at nearby Wachusett Mountain for two-and-a-half weeks prior to their first weekend race on Jan. 20 and 21. The team races in the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference's Osborne Division, which contains the second most

competitive collection of teams in the Eastern United States: Boston College, Plymouth State College, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Smith College, Babson, Saint Anselm's College, Brown University, University of Connecticut, and Trinity College.

Each weekend competition has each skier taking two runs down a slalom course on Saturday and two down a giant slalom course on Sunday. The slalom course consists of quick short-radius turns, while the giant slalom consists of longer-radius turns at higher speeds. Each day's run times are added together

Skiing, Page 27

## Ice Hockey Beats Springfield 7-3

By Hana Ohkawa  
STAFF REPORTER

The men's ice hockey team earned a satisfying 7-3 victory over league rival Springfield College Wednesday at the Johnson Athletics Center. Longtime fans may recall the Springfield-MIT clash which was described as "arguably... the most dramatic win in MIT hockey history" ["Hockey Continues Win Streak with Tough Springfield Victory," Jan. 31, 1996]. In that memorable match-up, a goal by team captain Tetsu Inada '97 with four seconds remaining in the final period gave MIT a 5-4 win.

A month later, Springfield extracted a bitter revenge from MIT, as they eliminated the heavily favored Engineers from the league playoffs. In this year's season opener, the two opponents fought to a standstill, to end the game with a

frustrating 2-2 tie.

The stage was set for more drama as the Pride of Springfield College and the Engineers of MIT faced off yet again Wednesday night. Both teams struggled offensively in the first period. The Engineers failed to score in spite of having a two-man advantage for over a minute.

The Pride converted a power play in the final seconds of the period and took a 1-0 lead into the locker room. A fired up MIT team took the ice at the start of the second period, and the offensive fireworks began.

Joe Charlson G started off the scoring with a goal in the first minute of the period. Offensive powerhouses John Rae '99 and Greg Donaldson '00 each contributed a goal to give MIT a 3-1 lead.

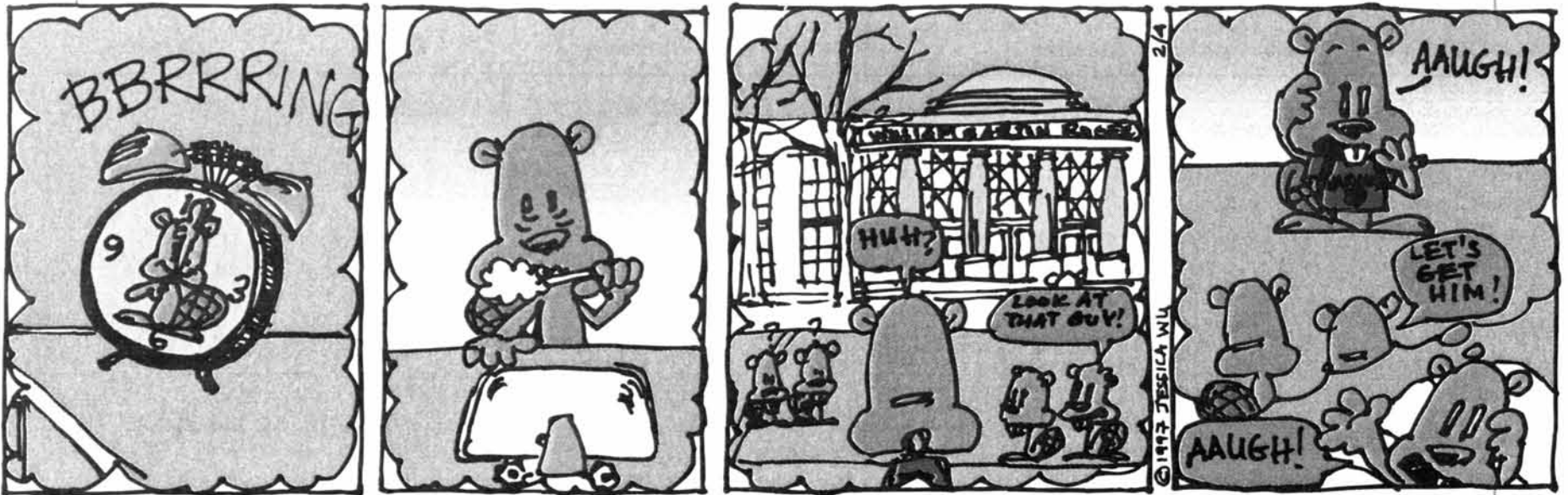
Wing Jonathan Bennett '98

cemented the lead with two consecutive goals. The first was a break-away capped with a beautiful shot about 20 feet from the net. For the second, in a good heads-up play, Bennett followed up a shot by Inada, flipping the rebound past the falling Springfield goalie.

Inada started off the third period with a loose puck goal to bring the score to 6-1. The final MIT goal was scored by Brett McKeone '98. The Springfield game gave MIT a much needed league win. With four games left in league play, the Engineers have an unimpressive 3-2-1 league record. MIT has improved greatly since the rocky first half of the season, and a strong finish is within reach.

The Engineers will host Worcester Polytechnic Institute at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

## dammed for life



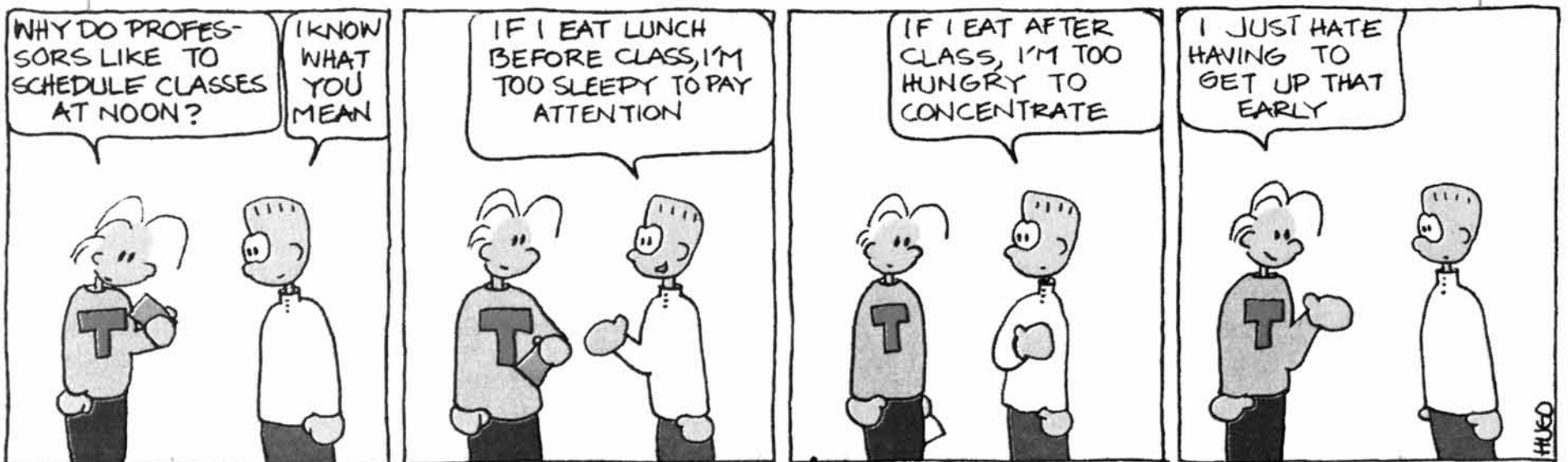
by Jessica

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# COMICS

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## Off Course



by Hugo