

Dormitory Council Holds Elections to Name New Officers

By Zareena Hussain
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In elections held Thursday, the Dormitory Council appointed Ashesh P. Shah '98 as its new president and named Manju V. Madhavan '99 the vice president.

In addition, Victor Morales '98 was named the Residence and Orientation Week chair, Kelly A. Druzisky '99 was elected secretary and treasurer, and Misha K. Hill '98 was named as Judicial Committee officer.

Dormcon is the governing body for undergraduate dormitories. The council's main function is to act as an advocacy group for students, representing the interests of dormitory residents to administrators.

"We have 'continued to try to make our organization and the people we represent, i.e. dorm residents, more visible to the administration,'" said current Dormcon President Christopher H. Barron '97.

This increased visibility is exemplified by representation of Dormcon on committees like the Presidential Task Force on Student Life and Learning and the housing and resident life re-engineering team, Barron said.

"It's been great [the administration] has realized dorm residents are organized and well represented," Barron said.

The newly elected officers will take office shortly after Spring Break, said current Dormcon Vice President Jen Peltz '98.

Dormcon to examine dining, rush

Shah said he hopes to continue to tackle current issues involving dining, dormitory party policy, main campus security, and rush.

There have been some logistical problems with getting Dormcon representatives invited to the right meetings of the Institute dining review working group, Barron

said. However, Barron said he was confident that Dormcon would have a say in any future decision-making.

The working group released a report that considered a range of issues including the feasibility of a mandatory meal plan and the amount of support for dormitory dining.

"I think it's the sentiment of most dorm residents that they want in-house dining," Shah said. Some ideas are unnecessary such as a mandatory meal plan for freshman, Shah said.

Plans to increase main campus security, which may involve increasing the number of card readers on campus, is also an issue the Dormitory Council might have some input on in the coming year, Shah said.

"If student security is in question, it's definitely something that should be dealt with," Shah said.

Shah also recognized that some students find it an inconvenience to have to deal with card readers when gaining access to main campus buildings, he said.

R/O Week is also an issue that Dormcon will continue to examine, Shah said.

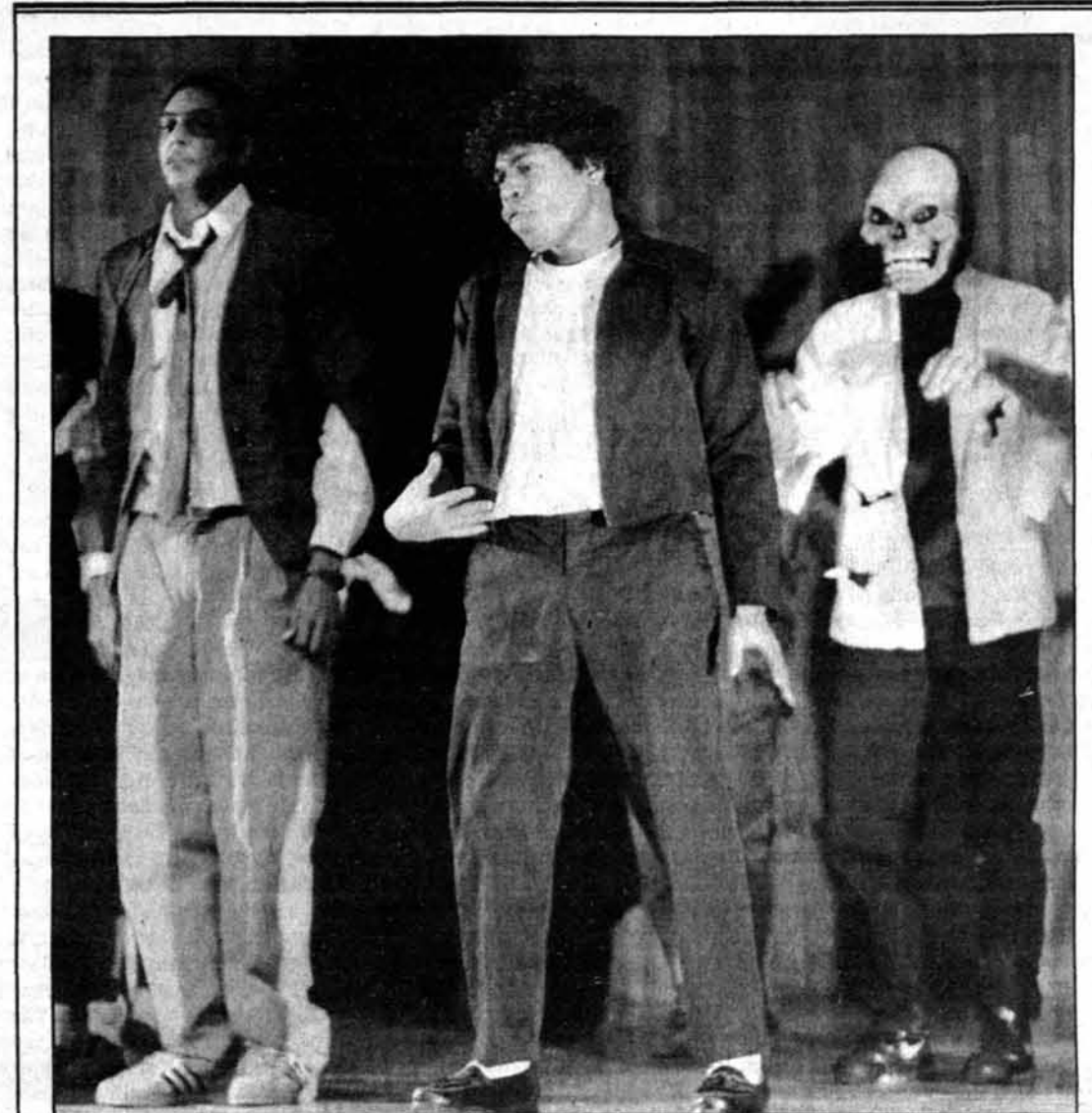
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CP Annual Report Shows Decrease in Thefts

By Jennifer Lane
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The total number of thefts in 1996 at the Institute fell by about 36 percent compared to 1995, according to the annual report released by the Campus Police last Wednesday.

The Campus Police Crime Prevention Unit's series of seminars and other crime prevention measures promoted precautionary measures, thus reducing the temptation and opportunity for petty thieves,



Kareem A. Benjamin '97 leads the overall winning group, The Jackson 15, in their performance of "Thriller" at the Alpha Chi Omega Lip Sync on Friday evening in Kresge Auditorium.

MIT Students Sponsor Mes Latino And Women's History Month Events

By Dan McGuire
NEWS EDITOR

Activities for Mes Latino, which celebrates Hispanic culture, and Women's History Month are slowly drawing to a close.

Mes Latino is "going alright, we've had 15 or 16 events, and I think that most of them were pretty well-attended," said Marco A. Pravia '97, financial coordinator for the Mes Latino organizing committee. "The goal [of the events] was to share our culture with ourselves, the Latino community, but also with" others, he said.

"MIT is helping us out a lot. Of course the Latino student activities donated funds" from their own funds and from funds remaining from past years' budgets, Pravia said. In all, this month's activities will cost \$6,000. All of those funds have come from student organizations and the administration. "It's been a completely MIT-sponsored activity," he said.

Pravia said that this year's events were well received and well attended. "We had a Spanish mass

and that was overflowing," he said. "Over 100 people showed up."

Symposia and discussions were also held as part of the event series. Four Latino alumni hosted a discussion, covering topics from the controversial book, *The Bell Curve*, to environmental discrimination. Pravia said that 50 to 60 people showed up to the talk. There was also a luncheon with Latino faculty and staff.

The Mes Latino committee, which includes about 10 people, also paid to fly in Aztec dancers from California. They performed in the Student Center lobby last week.

Several more events will be held this week. There will be a forum today at the Black Students Union lounge where MIT administrators are going to moderate a discussion about the "Intuitively Obvious" series of videos on minorities at MIT, Pravia said.

A Latin American film series entitled "Zoot Suit" will be held on tomorrow in Room 2-105 at 7 p.m., and there will be a panel discussion

said Chief of Police Anne P. Glavin in *Tech Talk*.

Larceny was still the most widespread campus crime problem, and according to the report, could be partially attributed to MIT's "open campus" policy, the report said.

There were a total of 704 reported thefts at the Institute, down from 1,105 in 1995. The incidents were divided into three categories — residence, non-residence, and Institute property.

Theft in residences fell roughly

63 percent from last year to 68 reported thefts. The value of the stolen property was \$40,669. Wallets, cash, bicycles, and camera equipment were the most frequently stolen items from residences.

Non-resident thefts dropped 33 percent to 475. The value of the stolen personal property was \$218,361 with wallets, backpacks, and compact disc players leading the list of stolen items.

Thefts of Institute property also fell roughly 25 percent. This amounted to \$220,420 in stolen property, once again composed mostly of computers and computer components.

Bicycle thefts fell from 227 in 1995 to 143 in 1996, with May being the month of most bicycle theft.

Arrests rose from 73 to 101, according to the report. This could also contribute to the decreased larceny rate, Glavin said. The most serious charge was assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, while the most common charge was trespassing.

According to the report, the "24-hour open campus policy is the major contributing factor to the trespassing problem. The hallways of this open campus frequently become street extensions, bringing in many of the problems of urban living."

Thirty-eight arrests resulted in convictions or guilty pleas, while 29 cases are still pending.

Serious crime on the decline

Incidents of aggravated assault fell to eight in 1996, from 17 in 1995. At the same time, incidents of simple assault rose from five to 13. During an aggravated assault, the victim is injured; in a simple assault, he or she is threatened but

not harmed.

Three rapes were reported in 1996. One happened in 1993 and one in 1995. The last previous report of rape was in 1993.

Reports of hate crimes or incidents dropped from nine in 1995 to four last year. Two of these were related to sexual orientation, and the other two were tied to race or ethnic origin.

The number of reported obscene and annoying phone calls nearly doubled this year to 135 incidents.

The Campus Police received 17,053 requests for service during 1996. These incidents include criminal activity, emergency medical calls, escorts, and lockouts.

The Campus Police provided 371 details for clubs, organizations, departments, and non-MIT functions during 1996. This amounted to a total of 2,874 hours of detail time.

The full Campus Police Annual Report can be obtained on the World Wide Web at <http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/anrep>.

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WORLD & NATION

Yeltsin Appoints Potential Successor to His Cabinet

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin lured a potential presidential successor into his camp Monday, appointing charismatic young governor Boris Y. Nemtsov to a powerful post in his Cabinet.

Yeltsin's surprise move, on the eve of his summit in Finland with President Clinton, gave the job of first deputy premier to the popular, 37-year-old governor of Nizhny Novgorod — who not long ago was leading protests against nuclear power and Yeltsin's war in Chechnya.

"I will not lie; I will not take bribes or steal," pledged Nemtsov, who has been a leader in his region's economic reconstruction. In his first act in his new post, he called on government officials to give up their Mercedes and Rolls-Royces and get into Russian-made cars — which are the main product of his home region.

The appointment of Nemtsov was one of several moves Yeltsin made Monday in an effort to revitalize his troubled government and jump-start the country's stagnant economy. Several conservative ministers were replaced by market-oriented Yeltsin allies, who will now take firm control of the Cabinet.

Wang Jun's Visit to White House Deemed Inappropriate

THE WASHINGTON POST

BEIJING

China International Trust and Investment Corp. (CITIC) said Monday that although Lehman Brothers Inc. invited CITIC's chairman, Wang Jun, to visit the United States in February 1996, the principal intermediary for Wang's attendance at a White House coffee for Democratic fund-raisers was the Little Rock, Ark., restaurateur Charles Yah Lin Trie.

As explained by Wang last week, the purpose of his U.S. visit was to explore the American market's interest in possible new Chinese bond issues. His explanation raised the possibility that his visit might have been linked to efforts of American financiers seeking to court CITIC and Wang for their business, rather than Wang seeking to sway U.S. government policy.

The issue of what Wang was doing in the United States and at the White House has been controversial because Wang, in addition to running China's most influential financial and industrial conglomerate, also is chairman of a Chinese arms-trading company under investigation for alleged involvement in a weapons smuggling case in San Francisco.

Clinton has called Wang's attendance at the White House coffee "clearly inappropriate."

Panel Rebukes Torricelli for Claims in Guatemala Murder Cases

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In a rare public rebuke to a fellow member of Congress, the Republican majority of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has concluded that Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., made false allegations about the CIA's role in two high-profile murder cases in Guatemala involving a U.S. citizen and a rebel married to another American.

But in its final report on the lingering controversy on the CIA's role in Guatemala, the House intelligence panel still agreed with earlier government investigations that the CIA's paid informants in the Guatemalan army were involved in serious human rights abuses, that CIA officials knew of their involvement and kept that information from Congress.

Toricelli's office angrily responded to the House report, saying in a statement: "It is the Central Intelligence Agency and not Sen. Torricelli that has failed in its duty to the American people."

The statement said Torricelli stood by "the general accuracy" of his contentions, and maintained the facts remained murky.

Democratic members of the House intelligence committee also dissented from the Republican majority report, disagreeing that Torricelli had been discredited.

WEATHER

Winter's Tight Grip

By Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Winter is holding on tenaciously despite the approaching equinox. Significant snowfall is in store for tonight and tomorrow. A large storm is gathering strength in the central states which by tonight will be encroaching on western Massachusetts. Temperatures have still not recovered from the weekend drop and the passage of a weak cold front will lower them further. Snow should set in from the west after midnight and with winds out of the northeast. Several inches of accumulation are likely, especially in the south. Snow should diminish somewhat by tomorrow afternoon and will be tapering off by nightfall. However, with surface winds persisting out of the northeast, and with an unsettled atmosphere, there is a chance of clouds and flurries persisting through Thursday.

Today: A partly cloudy start then becoming overcast. Brisk winds out of the northwest. High 41°F (5°C).

Tonight: Snow spreading in from south and west after midnight. Heaviest totals close to the shore and south. Low 27°F (-3°C).

Wednesday: A classic. Brisk northeast winds. And snow with 4-5 inches possible. Snow should ease by evening. High 34°F (1°C). Low 26°F (-3°C).

Thursday: Some clearing, but a chance of residual flurries. High around 35°F (2°C). Low in the lower 20s (about -5°C).

New U.N. Secretary Annan Announces Personnel Cuts

By John M. Goshko

THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

New United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan SM '72, under heavy pressure from the United States for far-reaching reform of the world body, Monday announced personnel and financial steps that include trimming 1,000 staff jobs and cutting \$123 million from the 1998-99 budget.

Annan presented the measures two days before U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson goes to Capitol Hill for the first time to testify to congressional committees seeking tough, cost-cutting steps by the United Nations before approving U.S. payments to it. U.S. and U.N. officials expressed hope here Monday that Annan's announcement would give Richardson the ammunition to get the hearings off to a positive start.

But the initial reaction from congressional conservatives was negative. The package drew criticism in part for leaving unclear whether the staff reductions were real eliminations of jobs, or merely the result of leaving unfilled for now positions that are temporarily vacant.

"These look like repackaged ideas from old, discredited reform proposals that didn't fly with Congress before, and we're very concerned about whether Annan is playing a shell game," said Marc Thiessen, spokesman for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The panel's chairman, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., advocates a major downsizing of U.N. staff and functions.

Annan called the package, which

had been awaited eagerly since he took office Jan. 1, the first or "track one" phase of his proposed reforms including steps that he said can be implemented immediately. Most had been discussed widely but unofficially.

A "track two" series of long-range initiatives that will require cooperation by the 185 U.N. member states is being prepared by Annan's staff, and he reiterated Monday that he intends to make them public in July.

In Monday's proposals, Annan announced that "new efficiencies will enable the reduction of 1,000 posts" from the secretariat or core staff which works directly for the secretary general. It currently has between 8,500 and 9,000 employees based primarily in New York, Geneva, Vienna, and Nairobi.

The other major reform announced Monday was Annan's intention to cut the U.N. budget, which is adopted for a two-year period, by \$123 million for 1998-99. His announcement said details of where the cuts would be made will be spelled out later. The regular U.N. operating budget this year is roughly \$1.3 billion.

The measures clearly were intended to send a signal that the secretary general is prepared to undertake the kind of serious reform demanded by Republican conservatives who now control the U.S. Congress.

Leaders of both the House and Senate have told Annan that otherwise there is no chance of Congress voting to pay the U.S. back dues and other arrears — estimated by the United Nations at about \$1.3 bil-

lion — needed to pull the organization back from the brink of bankruptcy.

"The secretary general has taken a significant step toward the kind of structural reform that will help the United Nations do more, better and for less," Richardson said. "This is a very good start. I want to commend the secretary general again for this substantial initiative. We look forward to working with him ... toward a United Nations that can better serve all our people in the years ahead."

Thiessen, however, expressed skepticism about Annan's proposed staff reductions. Last year, then-Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali instituted a reduction of about 1,000 secretariat employees. But instead of actually eliminating positions from the secretariat's table of organization, almost all of the reductions were achieved through attrition or not filling vacancies. As a result, the secretariat still is authorized more than 10,000 employees, and critics have expressed concern that there might be pressure from the bureaucracy and some member states to fill currently vacant posts once the drive for reform eases.

U.N. officials said Monday that most of the new round of 1,000 job reductions will be accomplished in the same way to minimize hardship among career employees. They added, though, that roughly 1,000 of those jobs that currently are vacant but still exist on paper will be eliminated. That, Thiessen said, is the area that Helms and other congressional critics "want to know a lot more about."

British Prime Minister Major Sets May 1 for U.K. Elections

By Fred Barbash

THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

British Prime Minister John Major Monday set May 1 as the date for general elections, kicking off a formal campaign that is widely viewed here as the most Americanized in the country's history: longer, more expensive and more personality-oriented than ever.

For the first time, the two major parties have agreed to hold a televised debate between the contenders for prime minister — Major, the Conservative Party leader, and Labor Party leader Tony Blair. Prime ministerial candidate debates were resisted in the past in part because they were perceived to be inappropriate since voters cast their ballots for a party's candidate in their district rather than for its leader.

This year, with Labor heavily favored to end 18 years of rule by the Conservatives, also called Tories, sources close to Major said he believes the gap in the polls is so wide (20 to 25 percent) that he had nothing to lose by accepting Blair's debate challenge. Widely quoted Monday was Major's response in 1992 when he rejected an invitation to debate Neil Kinnock, then leader of the Labor Party: "Every party leader who expects to lose tries that trick," Major said; "Every politician who expects to win says 'no.'"

The Liberal Democratic Party, the third party here, will challenge the debate plan in court because Major conditioned his participation on the exclusion of the Liberal Democrats' leader, Paddy Ashdown.

Debate or not, most commenta-

tors agreed that Britain has succumbed to a type of campaigning it had taken pride in avoiding, less a competition between parties and more a contest between leaders, a campaign in the presidential style, as virtually all British news reports said Monday.

"I think that it is almost the final act of confirmation that British politics is adopting all those American features" previously deplored here, said Patrick Seyd, a specialist in British politics at Sheffield University, noting that "spin doctors" and other U.S. techniques are also in fashion this year.

"People do cringe in fear," said Byron Shafer, an Oxford University professor of American government. But he said that what is happening in Britain is also happening in every developed nation. "American politics may have gotten there first, but in some sense what we're talking about is modern politics in a highly educated society that is media-driven. People make decisions for themselves. They are concerned about leadership, finding a person who's reasonable, able and shares some of their values."

British political analysts, as well as many Americans, traditionally have regarded election campaigns here as somehow more sensible. Voters elect members of parliament by party, and the majority party, not the voter, chooses the prime minister. The campaigns' relatively short duration and the prohibition on paid television advertising has limited campaign costs, while the comparatively heavier stress on parties and party manifestos has made discussion more policy-oriented.

British law sets no fixed date for general elections, the only require-

ment being that no more than five years pass between them, meaning the latest possible date this time would have been May 22. Other than that, the timing is up to the government and prime minister, who starts the official campaign period by going to the queen, as Major did Monday, and naming the date.

Allegations of questionable campaign contributions — including money from foreigners to the Conservative Party — have been swirling here for four years. The fact that British law places no restrictions on sources or amounts of party campaign funds and imposes no requirements for disclosure of campaign finance has become an issue, albeit not a major issue. Spending by individual House of Commons candidates in their districts is restricted, but they all benefit from party expenditures.

The convergence of campaign styles is no accident. British political operatives from both parties have gone to the United States to observe campaign techniques in recent years, Shafer noted. Labor has copied the rapid-response "war room" technique perfected by the Clinton campaign in 1992.

And Labor — which has not won a general election here since 1974 — has all but dumped its socialist rhetoric and many of its traditional differences with the Conservatives, leaving the personalities and styles of the two party leaders as the most visible difference. Tory strategists, in particular, have decided that Major is significantly more liked than the party itself and have thrust the prime minister forward on his own.

Mexico's Ruling Party Faces Defeats in Morelos Elections

By Mark Fineman
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY

The party that has governed Mexico for nearly seven decades was headed for several bitter defeats Monday in elections in the state of Morelos, setting the stage for a series of midterm polls expected to redraw Mexico's political landscape this year.

With more than 80 percent of the vote counted in the strategic state near the nation's capital, election officials said the results of Sunday's voting show the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, losing key mayoral contests in major cities. The PRI also appears it will lose its majority in the state legislature for the first time in the 68 years it has ruled most of this nation.

State election board member Humberto Valverde Prado said the municipal tallies will not be com-

plete until Wednesday; state legislative results will be final Sunday. But he said the preliminary returns show clear "tendencies" toward PRI defeats in at least 10 major cities and towns and give the party just a third of the seats in the state legislature.

"These results are broadly representative of what we're going to wind up seeing in July, at least in this region," said Federico Estévez, a political scientist at the Autonomous Technical Institute of Mexico in the nation's capital. "It seems the well has run dry for the PRI in the electorate here."

Despite the clear protest vote against the ruling party in many parts of the agricultural and industrial state, Monday's partial returns showed the PRI was headed for victories in more than half of 33 mostly small, rural municipalities in the state.

But the PRI had controlled all except one of those town halls before Sunday's vote. It was losing in some of Morelos' largest and most important cities, and running second to the left-leaning Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, in a struggle to maintain control of the state legislature, where it has held an overwhelming majority through most of the century.

Loss of the state legislature would give a combined opposition force control over the state's budget and cut into the power of the PRI governor, Jorge Carrillo Olea.

Monday's emerging PRD victories appeared to boost the chances of the party's candidate for Mexico City mayor, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. Cardenas, who finished a distant third to President Ernesto Zedillo of the PRI in the 1994 presidential polls, officially launched his campaign here Sunday.

Judge Denies Motion by McVeigh Attorneys to Change Trial Venue

By Tom Kenworthy
THE WASHINGTON POST

DENVER

A federal judge Monday rejected appeals by accused Oklahoma City bomber Timothy J. McVeigh to block, delay or move his trial because of a flurry of news reports that he had confessed to his own defense lawyers.

"I have full confidence that a fair-minded jury can and will be empaneled and that those selected will return a just verdict based on the law and evidence presented to them," U.S. District Judge Richard P. Matsch wrote in a five-page opinion.

Matsch's ruling clears the way for McVeigh's trial to begin as scheduled on March 31. He and his co-defendant Terry L. Nichols, who will be tried later, face the death

penalty on murder and conspiracy charges stemming from the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building that killed 168 people and injured more than 500 others.

Matsch pointedly rejected arguments by McVeigh's lead attorney, Stephen Jones, that damaging accounts of his client's purported "confession" had made a fair trial impossible and had deprived him of the right to counsel by breaching the attorney-client privilege. Jones asked the court last Friday to dismiss the charges against McVeigh or, failing that, to delay the case for a year or move it to a distant locale.

But Matsch said it is unlikely that the recent accounts in the *Dallas Morning News* and *Playboy* magazine have had as widespread or

decisive an impact on the Colorado jury pool as Jones fears. He said that careful questioning of potential jurors should weed out those whose ability to weigh the evidence impartially has been compromised.

"The two published stories and the publicity surrounding them must be considered in the full context of all that has been said and done in connection with this case," wrote Matsch. "There is no reason to believe that fair-minded persons would be so influenced by anything contained in this recent publicity that they would not be ready, willing and able to perform the duty to follow the law and decide according to the evidence presented in a vigorously contested trial."

Neither Jones nor the prosecution team had any response to the ruling.

Judge Rejects Release Of Draft Report on FBI Errors

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Forcing the Justice Department to make public a draft report of an inspector general's investigation into allegations of misconduct and slipshod work in the FBI's forensic lab would be "premature" and "confusing" to the public, a federal judge ruled Monday.

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler said it also would be unfair to the Justice Department's inspector general, who deserves time to finish his work. "Premature disclosure of what's only a draft could clearly interfere and undercut future actions the government may wish to take based on whatever facts and conclusions are contained in the final report," she said.

The investigation by inspector general Michael Bromwich has already led the Justice Department to notify prosecutors in about 50 criminal cases that there may be problems with the quality of the lab's work. Also, the FBI has suspended Whitehurst and transferred three lab supervisors.

The FBI's handling of Whitehurst was the subject of some extraordinarily blunt correspondence between FBI Director Louis J. Freeh and Bromwich which was made public Monday.

In releasing the correspondence, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa depicted Freeh's testimony as "the latest case of misleading by the FBI."

Rockwell to Spin Off Auto Parts Into Separate Company

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SEAL BEACH, CALIF.

Rockwell International Corp. said Monday it will spin off its \$3.1 billion automotive parts business into a separate publicly traded company and will concentrate on building its formidable commercial electronics businesses.

The move rid's Rockwell of a 78-year-old business founded by axle maker Willard F. Rockwell '08 and completes what Chairman Donald R. Beall has called the "deconglomeration" of the company.

Once renowned as an aerospace and defense giant — the maker of the B-1 bomber and the U.S. space shuttle fleet — Rockwell no longer has any of the business that once formed its foundation.

Instead, it has shifted its focus to the fast-growing, high-profit electronics arena. With the spinoff of its Michigan-based automotive business, Rockwell will consist of a semiconductor unit in Newport Beach, an industrial automation unit in Milwaukee, Wis., and an avionics and communications business in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The proposed spinoff is expected to be completed by Sept. 30, the end of Rockwell's 1997 fiscal year. If approved by regulators, the move would give Rockwell shareholders one share of the new automotive company's stock for every three shares of Rockwell stock they hold. Sprague estimated the market value of the automotive unit at about \$1.8 billion. Rockwell said it hopes the new company's stock will trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

The new company will change its name. Rockwell, which gets a one-time special dividend of \$400 million, will not be a shareholder.



Graduate Student Council

Walker Memorial, 50-220 ☎ 253-2195 ✉ gsc-request@mit.edu ● www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

Nomination Deadline Extended to 2 April

Nominations are requested for the positions of

- ▶ President
- ▶ Vice President
- ▶ Secretary
- ▶ Treasurer

The deadline for nominations is extended to 2 April because the April general meeting was moved to 9 April.

All graduate students are eligible for office.

More information can be obtained at www.mit.edu/activities/gsc or by contacting the current officers at gsc-officers@mit.edu

VOTE!

25 Calendar

▶ MARCH

- 18 Academic Projects and Policy Mtg* (Topics: Teaching Awards, academic job search seminar, Career Fair) today
- 18 Athletics and Extracurricular Activities Adhoc Committee Mtg* today
- 19 Formal Ball Committee Meeting*
- 20 "Pint Night" Muddy Charles Pub at 6:30 pm Free pint glasses and T-shirts
- 20 Carmen: The Ballet Wang Center at 7pm SOLD OUT!
- 21 Deadline for Teaching Awards and Perkins Award for advising

▶ APRIL

- 02 Elections nominations close
- 09 April General Council meeting and Elections

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

OPINION

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Rao and Others Should Get Involved with the UA

In Friday's issue of *The Tech*, Sunil K. Rao '99 is quoted as saying he hopes the Undergraduate Association will address school spirit next year ["Carter, Sandoval Triumph in UAP, UAVP Elections," March 14].

I'd like to encourage Rao and anyone else who wants the UA to do something to get involved — the UA Social Committee is looking for new members, as are most of the other committees. The committees of the UA are where the work gets done, and anyone with an idea or just a willingness to do the work can participate.

If you have ideas or comments, you can send them to ua-comments@mit.edu.

Steven E. Jens '97

Institute Does Not Value Good Teachers

Last week my Chinese instructor invited everyone in the class (it was a small class) to go to her house this weekend for a homemade dinner.

Everybody was really looking forward to it. So imagine our disappointment when our instructor told us she has to spend this weekend sending out letters and resumes because she just learned that she will be let go after this term.

We are disappointed not because of the missed dinner but because our favorite

instructor has been forced to leave by the inscrutable MIT administration. To students in Professor Yuehua Liu's class (I give all college instructors the honorary title of "professor" no matter what official title they may have), she is much more than a teacher of the highest caliber — she is our link to the world of Chinese culture and history. She has always treated us with respect, compassion, and above all, humanity. Some students enjoy her class so much that they take both of her classes as listeners.

MIT has done a lot of things that I did not like over the years. But this time MIT has really done it. All that crap about how MIT is here to provide the best education for its students that President Charles M. Vest preaches whenever the time comes for a tuition hike. Well, MIT can take its pack of lies and stuff it. That's right, stuff it.

Some students in the class are writing a petition and trying to get whoever is in charge to change the decision. But I know the effort is futile. When was the last time MIT cared about the feelings of its students? It makes me laugh to see MIT giving out awards for excellence in teaching but at the same time ridding the Institute of its best teachers.

I've had people approaching me for senior class gift donations. "Don't you want to give back to the institution after what it has done for you?" is the most common line. Well, I'm going to put the money in the paper shredder before I give one cent back to this place.

MingHui Kuang '97

Israel's Presence In Lebanon Not Illegal

Though I agree that Israeli attacks upon the Lebanese civilian population are abominable and I have been vocal in saying so back in Israel, I must take issue with one part of the column "Occupation And Violence Mark Israel's Treatment Against Lebanese People" [March 14] — that "Israel has illegally occupied over 10 percent of Lebanese territory..." I take issue with the word "illegally."

Since time immemorial, it has been the duty of every country to prevent any land on which it claims sovereignty to secure said land from being used for aggression against its neighbors. Israel has occupied the Security Zone because Lebanon failed in its duty and the Galilee was being attacked by rockets fired from Lebanese territory. This principle of international law is also the grounds behind America's invasion and annexation of Florida and for Pershing's Expedition to capture Pancho Villa. If the Israeli invasion really is illegal, then the United States should return Florida to Spanish rule and apologize to Mexico and pay reparations for Pershing's expedition.

But if the invasion is legal, I ask one thing: If Israel retreats from the Security Zone, will the Galilee once again be subject to rocket attacks? If Lebanon will again be derelict in its duties, then with apologies to all I may offend, I must continue to support Israeli presence in the Security Zone.

Omri Schwarz '97

Lobby 7 Poster Insulting and Unjustified

Column by Zachary Emig

CARTOONIST

If the label used to categorize my comic "Rhino Man" on the pillar poster in Lobby 7 wasn't so offensive, I might consider the whole matter laughable.

But I cannot silently accept the unjustified use of my cartoon as an example of an "anti-Asian stereotype" or the specific heading it is under, which states that it is a "caricature" or a racial slur which I won't dignify by repeating.

Unfortunately, the sponsors of the poster didn't feel it was necessary to provide any insight into what exactly they found so offensive, other than to tag "Rhino Man" with an inaccurate label. In the first place, the slur used to condemn "Rhino Man" is, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, a derogatory term for Chinese people dating from the turn of the century. Perhaps before using it, the sponsors of the poster should have considered (besides basic civility) whether any of the characters in the comic are actually Chinese. How a Japanese arch-villain, Dr. Sasori, could be considered derogatory toward Chinese people is beyond me.

That leaves the word "caricature," which also completely misses the mark. Since I didn't draw Dr. Sasori to resemble anyone in particular, he's obviously not a caricature in that sense of the word. The other definition of a caricature is a "grotesque or ludicrous representation of persons or things by exaggeration of their most characteristic and striking features" (*Oxford English Dictionary*, emphasis mine). Is a metallic claw for a hand a "characteristic" feature of Asians? Is a handlebar mustache? These notions are ridiculous, but apparently the poster makers find some merit in them.

So perhaps Dr. Sasori wasn't meant to fall under the category of a "caricature" but instead was included on the poster as a general purpose "anti-Asian stereotype." True, Dr. Sasori is both Asian and a villain, but if that is all that's required to be a negative stereotype, the art community is in serious trouble. Under that rationale, Shakespeare's work is teeming with anti-English stereotypes.

Along the same lines, wouldn't the fact that another of my characters, Professor Atama, is both Asian and a hero be an example of a pro-Asian stereotype? I suppose it is just coincidence that the cartoon appearing on the poster is one of the two (out of six cartoons published at the time) which did not contain a shot of Professor Atama. This is just speculation, of course, since the poster's sponsors didn't provide any explanation for their charges.

In the end, it is the careless and casual nature with which these inflammatory statements were made that concerns me the most. When one is preparing to make such insulting assertions in a public forum, civility dictates that they be backed up with arguments. Upon reading the poster on Wednesday, I wrote my e-mail address on it imploring anyone who found it offensive to talk directly to me. The silence has been deafening.

At the same time, I sent e-mail to the sponsors of the poster, which includes the Asian Caucus and Arab Students Organization, at the e-mail addresses provided (ascor@mit.edu and arab-comm@mit.edu). All I asked for was some explanation of their actions. They haven't had the dignity to respond.



In the end, it is the careless and casual nature with which these inflammatory statements were made that concerns me the most.

As of this writing (Sunday morning), nobody who found "Rhino Man" to be an "anti-Asian stereotype" has sent me anything, much less a logical argument for its inclusion on the poster. It's as if they slapped it up there as a trial balloon, waiting to see if it struck a nerve with the MIT community. Taking so cavalier an attitude while using such harsh rhetoric is completely irresponsible. I suppose it is much easier slinging mud from behind the veil of anonymity and the self-righteous shield of political correctness. It is also an act of extreme cowardice.

As always, if anyone has any constructive comments, suggestions, or criticisms (preferably things more specific than "it sucks" or "it's cool"), feel free to e-mail me at zbemig@mit.edu.

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. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions are accepted as well, although e-mail is preferable. Hard copy submissions must be typed, double-spaced, and addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. 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.

To Reach Us

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Husain's Complaints Against Aramark Are Unfounded

Guest column by Jude Federspiel

I have watched with a certain amusement the campus discussion of the Aramark and food services issue, but the column by A. Arif Husain '97 ["Dorm Dining Must be Important Priority for Institute," March 11] has finally moved me to speak.

I work part time for Aramark. I am currently at Networks but have also been placed in Lobdell Food Court. Furthermore, I have worked for other food service companies before coming to MIT and therefore have experiences to which I can compare Aramark. I am a member of the MIT community (Class of 1997) and eat several times each week at campus dining facilities as well as off campus and in any of several kitchens where I do some of my own cooking.

Husain wrote in his opinion that "the dining system at MIT is by far the most deplorable aspect of student life." He evidences this by citing the "densely packed pages of the dining review working group's comprehensive World Wide Web site." On the contrary, a mass of information does not imply a mass of discontent. In general, it takes only a few passionately discontented people to make many people think that all people are discontented. Remember, the most vocal indi-

viduals are usually those that are the most upset.

Husain further wrote that "dining together on campus must be an objective as specific and requisite as living together." This is ridiculous. Have you ever walked into Lobdell during business hours? If you have, then you know that about half of the diners eat alone with a few exceptions from large groups that will take over a clump of tables. People are alone if and only if they want to be alone. Exactly how does Husain propose — or even imagine — that MIT can make people eat together if the campus is about half composed of reclusive people?

Husain related his experiences feeding almost solely on cereal and pasta, a task so irritating that he avoided it until his hunger was strong enough. This can only happen if one of the following is true:

1. He does not care enough about his eating habits to invest time or money into eating well, or
2. He does not have enough money to eat well.

If the second were true, we might listen to him to hear the poor man's opinion. But I would wager that the first is actually the case. If it is, why would we seek the input of such a person on dining matters?

Husain then spoke glowingly of Harvard University's "guaranteed three meals a day." This is what we refer to at MIT as a mandatory meal plan. No single dining option has been rejected by the MIT populace as completely and thoroughly as the mandatory meal plan.

Under the current system, you can eat at any of several locations at just about any reasonable dining hour and at some locations at almost any hour. You eat when and where you want. You even get back what you don't spend at the end of the year. You can eat over Independent Activities Period. You can eat over the summer. Aramark bends over backward to make sure that facilities are always open somewhere. Husain distinguishes somehow between "mandatory" and "forced," but perhaps he could clarify this for those of us that missed his meaning.

I want to say a few things about working at Networks. First, the managers there are incredible. They make amazing efforts to please their customers. They are very quick to respond to special requests, are willing to meet with anyone to discuss their gripes, suggestions, praise, or comments (most of what they get at MIT are complaints because if you haven't noticed, we are a school of professional whiners). There are customer

comment boxes in every Aramark facility I know of.

Second, the managers push the workers to keep the place very clean, and everything I serve is something I would eat myself. The food is fresh, and the menu is very large for a place with the space limitations Networks has. Third, if orders get confused, the managers are quick to apologize and offer free food to keep their customers happy. Networks compares very favorably with the food places at which I have worked in almost every respect.

In closing, I would like to ask a few questions of anyone who is interested in responding to my letter or criticizing the MIT dining system as it is. Have you ever seen up close any food service to which you can compare MIT's? If you have not, your ability to objectively critique the system we have is less than ideal. Are your eating problems due to MIT's and Aramark's lack of service or your own lack of discipline or desire? Be honest. No one forces you to do all-nighters and feed yourself at 3 a.m.

To be frank, I don't think the MIT food system needs revamping. I think we just need to move on and find our next issue to whine about. I propose the lack of a campus-wide free foot massaging service. I think I've found my next mission.

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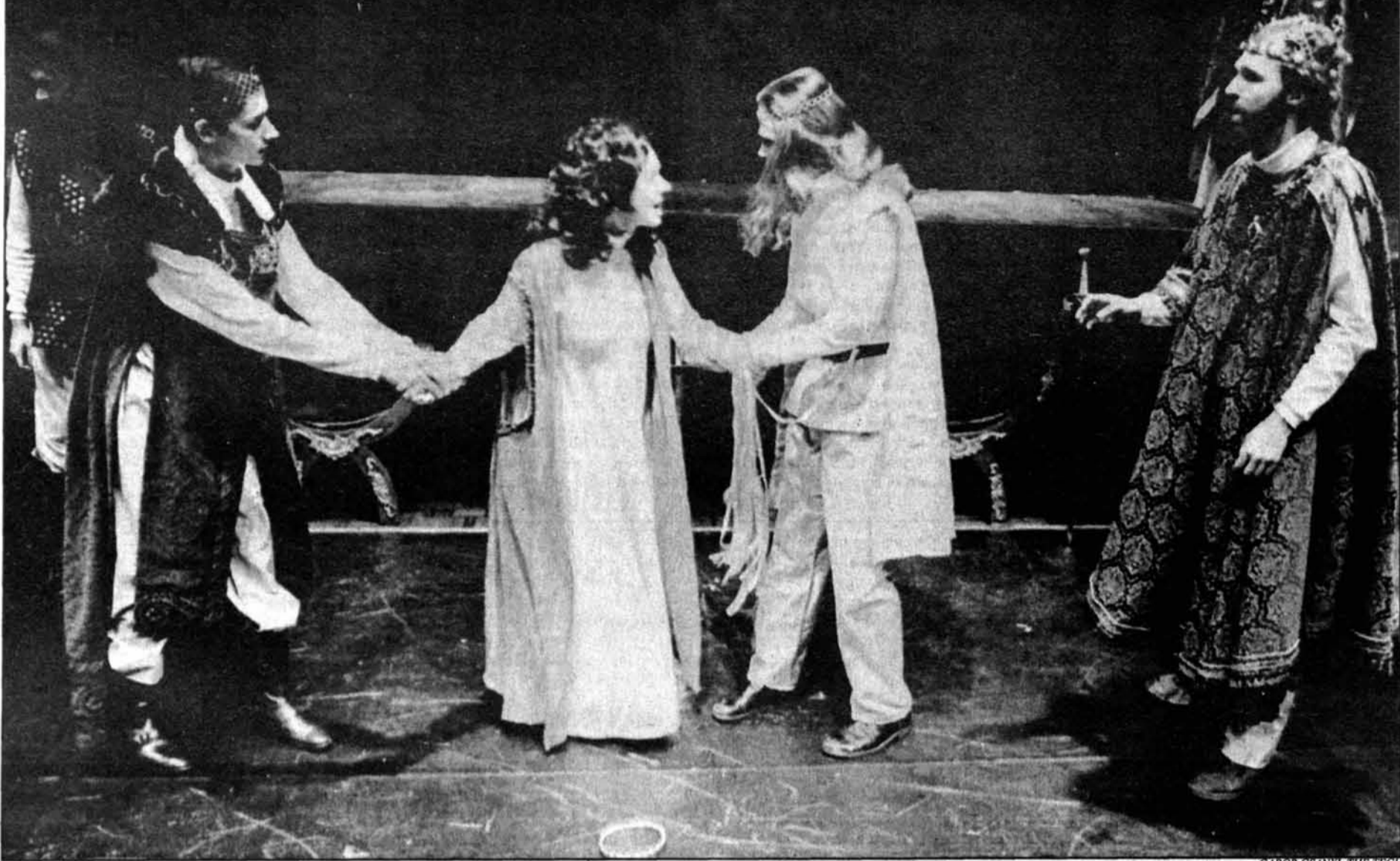
You may also forward your resume with salary requirements to: **Recruiting & Staffing, Dept. Code JF-04-12/97, Bellcore, 6 Corporate Place, Piscataway, NJ 08854; e-mail: jf97002@hr.bellcore.com**, (Please indicate dept. code in document text). As all resumes are electronically scanned, please submit on plain white bond paper, using standard format and fonts. Only applicants who are being considered will be contacted. No phone calls, please. We are an equal opportunity employer.

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THE ARTS

The Battles of King John



GABOR CSANYI-THE TECH

KING JOHN

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble Major Production
Directed by Tina Packer, Shakespeare and Company

La Sala de Puerto Rico

March 20-22 at 8 p.m.

Starring Damon W. Suden '99, Mitali Dhar '99, Fernando J. Paiz '98, Kevin D. Dahm G, Robert J. Pensalfini G, and Young E. Kim '98

By Teresa Huang

STAFF REPORTER

The Shakespeare Ensemble's production of *King John*, one of Shakespeare's lesser known plays, is a fiery blend of angst-ridden characters and sword fights surrounding the continuing struggle for power following *Henry VIII*. Under the direction of Tina Packer, artistic director of the prestigious drama troupe Shakespeare and Company, the Shakespeare Ensemble presents a powerful production of this chapter in Shakespeare's historical drama.

King John (Damon W. Suden '99) assumes the throne of England, backed by his mother Elinor of Aquitaine (Mitali Dhar '99), after the death of Richard the Lionheart, only to hear that Philip (Kevin D. Dahm G), the King of France, is preparing to back Arthur (Portia L. Vescio '96), nephew of the king, in claiming the throne as well.

King John, with his mother and niece, Blanche of Spain (Elizabeth A. Stoehr G), travel to France to oppose this decision. He is accompanied by Philip Faulconbridge, knight and bastard son to Richard the Lionheart.

The English and the French meet outside the town of Angiers, whose citizens refuse to open their gates until they know who is the rightful king. After a bloody battle is fought, the women of Angiers propose a compromise: let Blanche of Spain marry Lewis the Dauphin (Dylan J. McConaghy '00), son of the king of France. The two kings agree and all seems well until the ominous figure Pandulph, Cardinal of Milan, steps in and the drama continues.

Packer, a visiting scholar in music and theater arts, admitted that at first, *King John* seemed a play without themes, but after working with the talented cast and crew, Shakespeare's themes emerged of their own accord. "I didn't start out with an idea of what it was about," she said, "but it started becoming clear as we were doing it. I don't like to conceptualize very much before I begin. I feel that dramatic action throws up its own story, and if you conceptualize too much, if you're just reading the play, you've usually got it wrong." One of Shakespeare's themes deals with the appearance of several devoted mother characters, from Elinor of Aquitaine, who guides and advises her son King John, to

Constance (Jenny James Buhr '97), mother to Arthur, whom she clings to as her last remembrance of her late husband. The other theme that becomes apparent is the issue of children getting caught up in an adult game of war, and how the parents manipulate and justify war through their children. The sins of the mothers and fathers find their consequence in following generations.

King John is abundant with powerful and skilled performances. The people of England display fervent disdain for the people of France, and the animosity between the opposing sides explodes on stage in the frighteningly authentic sword battles, cacophonous and complete with real solid metal swords. Strong performances are turned out by Buhr as Constance, whose wailing lamenting over the kidnapping of her son Arthur leads to her demise and Robert J. Pensalfini G as the honorable gentleman Hubert. Also excellent are Suden as the ill-fated King John, Stoehr and Dylan J. McConaghy '00 as the couple torn apart by war, and the arrogant illegitimate son of Richard the Lionheart, Philip the Bastard, played with terrific haughtiness by Fernando J. Paiz '98.

Despite the grave story line, Shakespeare and the Shakespeare Ensemble find time to add some dimension of humor to the story, mostly embodied by Philip the Bastard. Most ingenious was the transformation of the men of Angiers to a set of homemaking, bathrobe-

clad women of Angiers, a creative juxtaposition to the seriousness of the conflict between England and France. Packer explained the modification, "It seemed to me that that was more interesting. ... I had women playing men. I didn't see why I shouldn't have men playing women."

The stage set for *King John* is simple, yet foreboding and utilized in a precise manner. The action seldom took place on the higher level stage, though when it did, it was usually one of the dramatic highlights of the play. Another highlight of the production is the original music written by Eddie Kohler G, which is dark yet not overbearing and provides an excellent background to the performance.

The Shakespeare Ensemble's production of *King John* is a professional telling of the constant struggle between nations and with the church. Its success lies in its knowledgeable presentation and emotionally charged action. The actors flourish under the direction of Packer from Shakespeare and Company, who says she enjoyed the experience as well. "They're extremely clever, bright students, and their interest range is enormous — it's terrific. I guess because their life is so intellectual and my life is so visceral, it's a good combination. It makes life real interesting." Filled with accomplished performances and great drama, the lesser-known *King John* makes itself known.

FILM REVIEW

Hicks with dreams: the farm today, Broadway tomorrow

WAITING FOR GUFFMAN

Written by Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy.

Directed by Christopher Guest.

Starring Lewis Arquette, Bob Balaban, Christopher Guest, Matt Keeslar, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey, and Fred Willard

By Teresa Esser

STAFF REPORTER

Waiting for Guffman is a hilarious comedy about the small southern town of Blaine, Mo. as it prepares for its sesquicentennial. The people of Blaine become obsessed with the creation of a musical in order to promote spirit and enthusiasm in their town, "The Stool Capitol of the World."

The film's humor revolves around the degree of seriousness with which the towns-

people regard themselves. "It's not always easy to be a Blaine Fayve," says one of the members of the town council, and the direct descendant of the town's wilderness guide/namesake. "I can understand how the Kennedys must feel."

The mock documentary feeling of *Waiting for Guffman* is very similar to the technique employed in *This Is Spinal Tap*, in which Christopher Guest (Corky St. Clair) was the lead guitarist. The documentary tone is established through the use of numerous interviews with Blaine townspeople, including one yokel who claims he was abducted and "probed" by a UFO full of Martian spacemen. To this day, the man claims, his rear end goes numb every Sunday morning at the precise time that the spaceship picked him up.

Waiting for Guffman is filled with thinly veiled references to homosexuality, from the alien anal encounter to Corky's affected voice

and earring to a town council member's comparison of Corky's diverse talents to those of Barbra Streissand. A recurrent but unstated theme is the repression of homosexuality and transgender behavior among males in small-town Missouri, which is contrasted against the low-class heterosexuality practiced openly by the town's hick residents. "Grab your girlfriend by the arm," goes one line from a song in the musical, "and take her out behind the barn."

It is funny to listen to townsfolk describe incidents of running into Corky in the pantyhose section of a women's clothing store, where he is ostensibly shopping for his absent wife. None of the townspeople bother to question the fact that they have never seen the woman to whom Corky claims to be married.

The actual plot of *Waiting for Guffman* involves the actors' attempts to pool their talents into the creation of a decent musical and Corky's desire to receive enough attention

from a New York talent scout to give his group a chance to work on Broadway. Unfortunately, this "conflict" is not developed at all. Regardless of what the title implies, it does not seem to matter to the characters whether or not Mr. Guffman will visit the town in time to see the one performance of their musical.

Waiting for Guffman is a truly funny film, and an excellent way to spend two hours on a weekend afternoon. Parker Posey (Libby Mae Brown) delivers a stellar performance as a distracted Dairy Queen employee/actress, but Christopher Guest carries the film with his earnest and amusing affectations. Another noteworthy performance was turned in by Catherine O'Hara (Sheila Albertson), with her portrayal of an insecure travel agent who is repeatedly forced to take a back seat while her husband Ron (Fred Willard) engages in shameless self-promotion.

MUSIC REVIEW

This year's model: U2's Pop mixes old with new

By Scott C. Deskin
ADVISORY BOARD

These days, it's not hard to feel alienated by pop music. With the alternative music wave finally diminishing (a good thing), and lots of upstart mediocre pop/rock bands filling the void (definitely a bad thing), it's hard to know who to trust anymore. Discounting the talent of most of the Grammy nominees this year (which I normally do), the current state of media overexposure only leaves the established musical megastars in the spotlight. And let's face it: Most of these performers' glory days are behind them. Eric Clapton made his best music 20-plus years ago; Lionel Richie should remain a fixture of the 80s; and Phil Collins should just go away, period. Of current rock musicians, that leaves R.E.M. and Pearl Jam, good bands who were their own worst enemies at promoting their latest albums (which, according to industry expectations, flopped).

Which brings me to the curious case of U2. Industry favorites since their breakthrough album, *The Joshua Tree*, 10 years ago, this Irish band deserves credit for not resting on their laurels, for continually exploring new territory with each subsequent release. Though they've kept a low profile over the past few years (with the exception of the regrettable "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me" contribution to the *Batman Forever* soundtrack), commercial and critical successes like *Achtung Baby* and *Zooropa* still linger in the pop world's collective consciousness. In the case of *Achtung Baby*, U2's first album of the 90s and their musical/cultural manifesto of synthed-up dance tunes and European decadence, a friend once told me that "all the songs from that album sound the same"; however, I can't deny the thematic coherence of that album, which remains a pop-music touchstone for twentysomethings like myself.

At first, I wasn't sure what to think of U2's promotion for their new album, *Pop*: Band members in gaudy 70s garb at a Kmart in

New York City? The Village People motif in the video for the lead single "Discotheque"? I had my doubts about this apparent bid for nostalgia, concurrent with the band's flirtation with predominantly electronic dance music, as evidenced on "Discotheque." Oh yeah, and the knee-jerk, four-star review from *Rolling Stone* did little to assuage my fears.

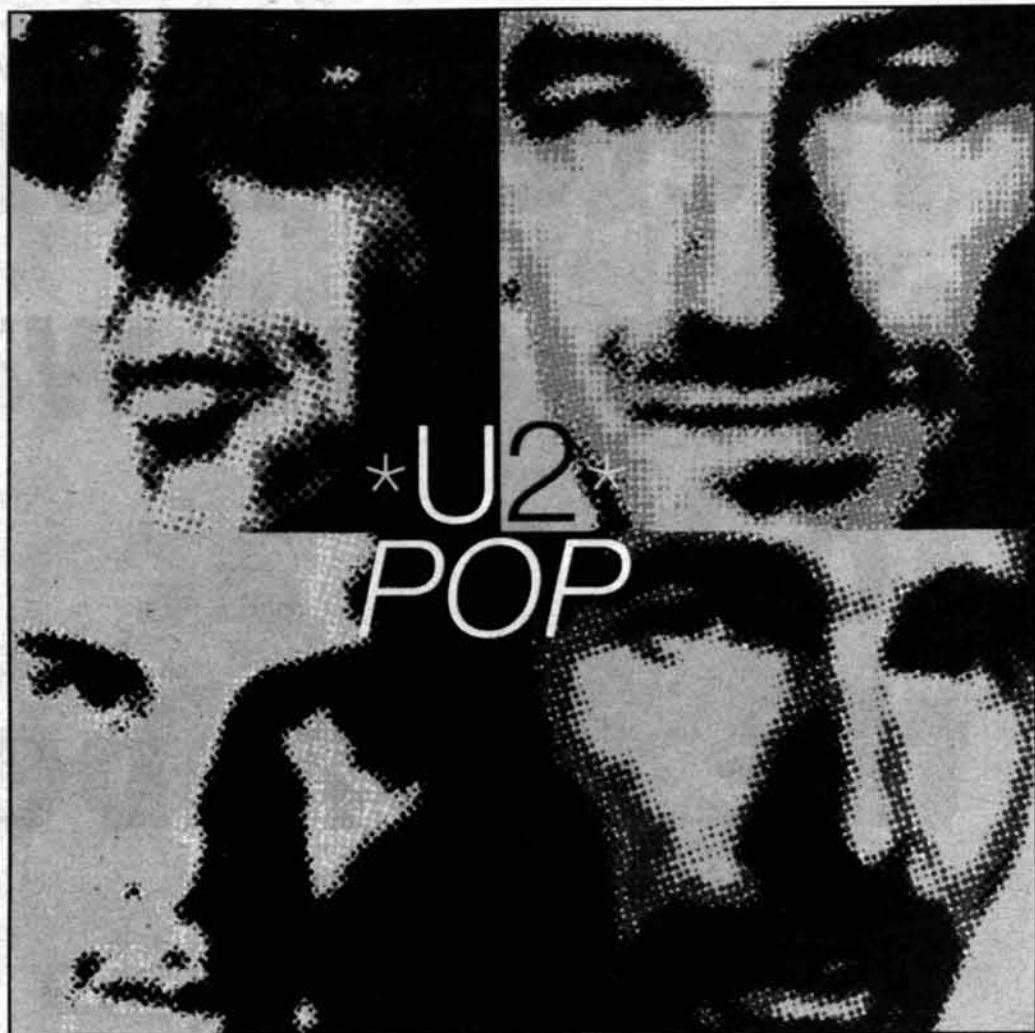
As it happens, "Discotheque" is the lead track on *Pop*; it's followed by "Do You Feel Loved" and "MoFo", and these three songs grab the listener by the sheer persistence of the Larry Mullen's drums and the hissing, distorted guitars of The Edge. But lead singer Bono's words are often too facile for most teenagers: In the slight "Discotheque," he sings, "You know you're chewing bubblegum/You know that is but you still want some/'Cause you just can't get enough of that lovie dovie stuff." Bono serves up a kinder (though not gentler) tune in "Do You Feel Loved," another song about lovemaking. But "MoFo," a paean to soul-searching and rock and roll, serves up lyrics about "lookin' for to fill that GOD shaped hole/mother mother sucking rock and roll," strangely followed by "lookin' for baby Jesus under the trash."

After these dense concoctions of techno-funk and rock, the band hits its stride and segues into the middle of the album, where not coincidentally the best songs are found. "If God Will Send His Angels" is a soft ballad, where Bono is once again searching for salvation (10 years after "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For"). "Last Night on Earth" is "Until the End of the World" redux, only a bit more nihilistic, and the

refrain ("You got to give it away") is sung with the right amount of dramatic bravura to hook the listener. The best songs, "Staring at the Sun" and "Gone," carry their strong melodic hooks with anthem-like refrains that, amazingly, aren't mushy: "Not just deaf and dumb I'm staring at the sun/Not the only one who's happy to go blind" ("Staring at the Sun") and "Goodbye you can keep this suit of lights/I'll be up with the sun/And not coming down" ("Gone").

From there, the album winds down with a couple of reflections on America: Both "Miami" and "The Playboy Mansion" (the latter song is just a string of pop culture refer-

ences) seem more than a bit inspired by the Passengers' (aka U2 and Brian Eno) "Elvis Ate America," although a bit more restrained. In fact, "If You Wear That Velvet Dress" and "Wake Up Dead Man" are the most subdued U2 songs in recent memory. In the case of "Dead Man," which closes the album on a somewhat serious note, in contrast to the frivolity of "Discotheque", Bono, The Edge, Clayton, and Mullen, all pushing 40, still haven't found what they're looking for. But in the process, they've made *Pop*, which, although not as successful of capturing the cultural zeitgeist as *Achtung Baby*, is still a fine listen.



1997 Institute Awards Convocation Call for Nominations Final Reminder

The Nominations deadline for the 1997 Institute Awards is *Friday, March 21, 1997.*

Additional copies of the awards descriptions can be picked up in W20-549.
(RCA)

Please mail all nominations to the attention of the Awards Committee, W20-549. The Awards Convocation will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 1997 in 10-250.

Questions? Contact Katie O'Dair at 3-6777.

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**H
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C O M I C S

RHINO MAN

by Zachary Emig



To be continued...

dammed for life

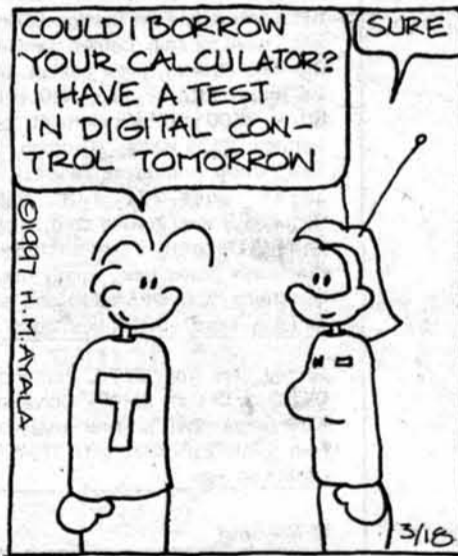
by jessica



TO BE CONTINUED!!!

Off Course

By Hugo



tumbleweed garden

pawan sinha

What do you think of the new rule requiring all male students to wear a 35D bra during finals week?

What?!

There it is! Yet another instance of a wave of apathy sweeping across the campus these days. We asked Prof. Straübnér for the likely cause...

It's clearly a case of repressed sexuality. In Chomsky's words "Voulez-vous un chat avec fromage?" Society has always given these students the bamboo, so it's no wonder that they, uh,... whatever.

'Whatever' indeed! Yes. Thank God for our brilliant personality psychologists. 20 grams of fish gonads daily will do that to you. Beware of tofu, though! Well, that's all the time we have. Ciao, baby! Kiss, kiss!

Note

This strip does not make any #@\$%&* sense to us. Help us get such smut off our pages! Write to your senator today!



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DAVID TARIN—THE TECH

A prehistoric critic expresses his opinion in "Bedrock Anthem," performed by Zebe and Friends at the Alpha Chi Omega Lip Sync contest held in Kresge Auditorium on Friday evening.

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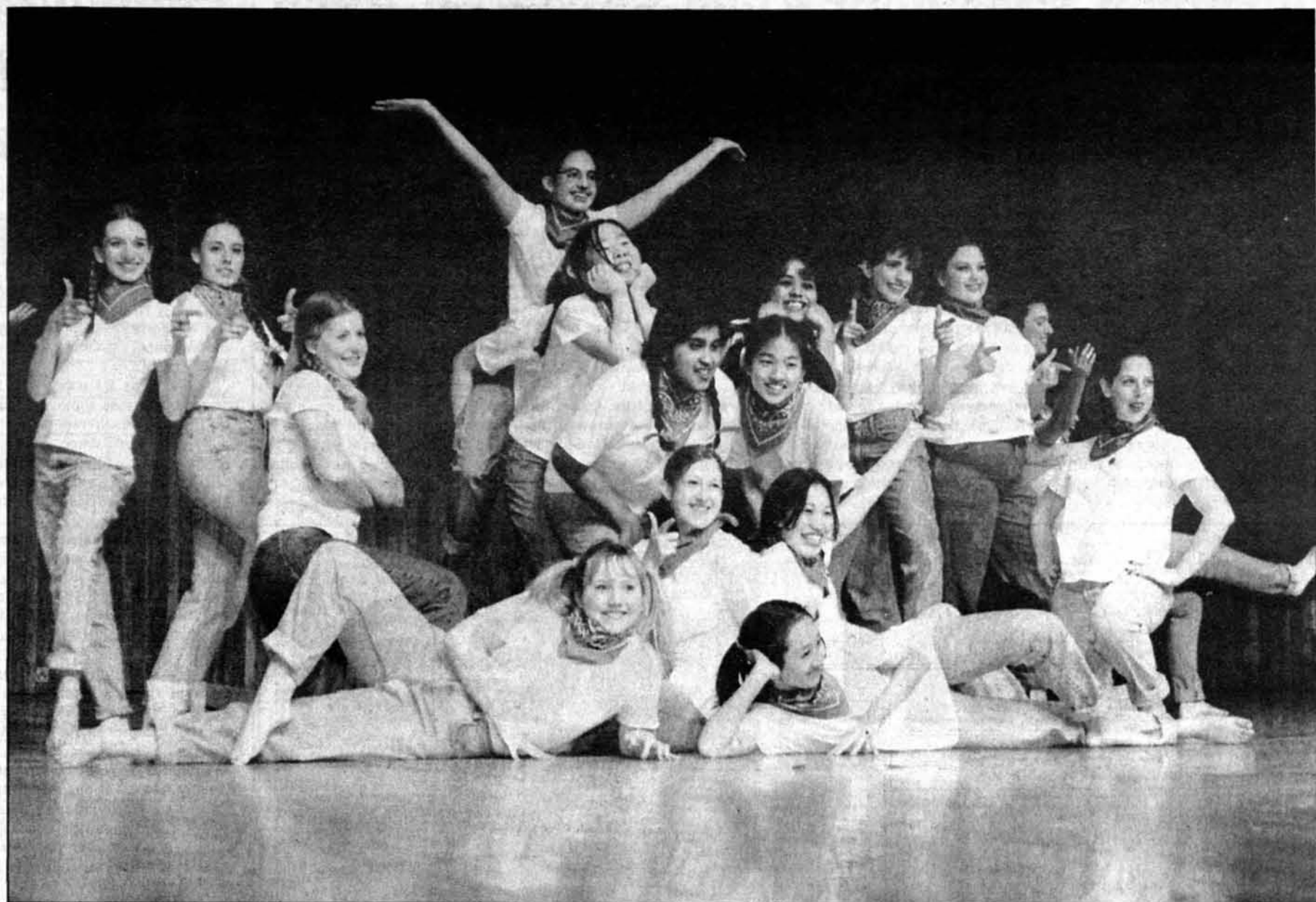
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The Alpha Chi Omega new member class perform "Cotton-eyed Joe" in the AXO Lip Sync contest held on Friday evening in Kresge Auditorium.

THOMAS R. KARLO - THE TECH

To: Members of the MIT Community

From: The Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs

Last year on May 15th the establishment of the Arthur C. Smith Award was announced. The first recipient will be named at the Awards Convocation on May 14th. This Award which honors the service to MIT by Professor Arthur C. Smith is to be given

**"to a member of the MIT faculty
for meaningful contributions and devotion
to undergraduate student life."**

Nominations for the Award, in a brief letter describing the candidates' qualifications, should be sent or dropped off by Friday, March 28 to:

**The Arthur C. Smith Award Committee
c/o Dean Robert M. Randolph - RM 7-133**

For further information please call Dean Randolph at 253-4052.

Dormcon President-Elect Says Fall Rush And Party Policies Need Examination

Dormcon, from Page 1

"Fall rush is silly. [Choosing where to live] is a difficult decision for a 40-year-old to make, let alone an 18-year-old," Shah said.

While a spring rush would make more sense, fall rush is fundamental to how the administration deals with shortages of on-campus housing and to how students decide where to live on campus, Shah said.

"It's a big issue, and it's a difficult one to tackle," Shah said.

This year, Dormcon made some changes to rush policy. Dormitories did not participate in Clearinghouse — a program used to track a freshman's whereabouts during rush —

and instead replaced it with a messaging system where Dormcon members delivered messages to freshmen. In addition, there were more stringent rules with respect to prohibiting non-residents on dormitory property during rush, Barron said.

Dormcon works on party policy

Dormcon is also currently working on a party policy to present to the Campus Police. The goal is to "find some way dorms can assure the CPs some sort of uniformity on policies dealing with parties," Barron said.

The need for the presentation of a uniform dormitory party policy stems from the "campus-wide problem of dorms trying to hold social

events and the CPs shutting them down for lots of different reasons," Barron said.

The policy is also intended to ensure better communication between Campus Police and dormitory social chairs.

"A lot of students feel the CPs frequently shut down dorm parties," said incoming president Shah.

The hope is that fewer parties will get shut down. "When a party is shut down, it's a waste of dorm resources," Barron said.

Barron attributed the reason for which parties are shut down to the general lack of information about Institute party policy on the part of Campus Police.

"The CPs and students are not really on the same page. We don't know enough about the CPs obligations and CPs don't know what we want," Shah said.

There's "not a whole lot of communication between the CPs and RCA," Barron said. One example is that Campus Police are not told which students organize the dorm events, he said.

Because of legal responsibility, once the Campus Police see or suspect something they are forced to act, and this may involve shutting the party down, Barron said.

Shah is the current president of Next House. Madhavan is the president of Burton-Conner House.

Planning Office Will Distribute Surveys

By Christopher M. R. Rezek

The Planning Office started distributing a survey to undergraduates this week asking them to evaluate and comment on their experiences at the Institute.

"This year's survey will ask detailed questions about... residential life, athletics, library usage, faculty and peer interactions, clubs and organizations, writing, and cultural activities," said Lydia S. Snover, senior planning officer for institutional research.

The College Student Experience Questionnaire, the survey's official name, was originally developed at Indiana University. The basic survey is eight pages long, followed by 20 questions specifically intended for MIT students.

The last section includes questions about the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and similar topics unique to the MIT undergraduate experience.

Surveys will be distributed directly to the various fraternities, sororities, independent living groups, and dormitories, rather than being sent out through the interdepartmental mail system, as were last year's questionnaires.

Low response rate last year

Last year's survey focused on student satisfaction, gains, harassment, writing, computer usage, and aspects of community life at MIT.

The overall return rate for last year's survey was 20 percent, with women and freshmen disproportionately represented, Snover said.

This is substantially lower than the 42 percent response rate that the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs received for its senior survey in Spring 1994.

"We are considering various incentives for each living group/residence hall" to increase the response rate, Snover said.

The Interfraternity Council is distributing the forms to fraternity presidents to boost both overall response rates and male response rates.

Snover hopes for a higher rate of return for this year's survey. "We would like every undergraduate to complete the survey this year so that we have an even representation of view of all the diverse groups of our undergraduate population," she said.

Task groups use data

Data from last year's survey was used extensively by several task groups, including the Presidential Task Force on Student Life and Learning, the student services re-engineering team, and the dining review working group, Snover said. She expects that this year's data will be similarly distributed to task forces and policy-making bodies.

"Data collected by the Planning Office is available for use [by] offices and groups within MIT, with certain restrictions, of course," Snover said.

In addition to offices obtaining access, students enrolled in the Managerial Psychology Laboratory (15.301) used the data as part of a project.

Results from this year's survey should be available by summer, though the Planning Office will complete a preliminary analysis before making the data accessible to groups, Snover said. "Comparative data [between MIT and other schools taking similar surveys] may take longer and will be subject to greater restrictions [on access] because of MIT's privacy agreements with other schools."

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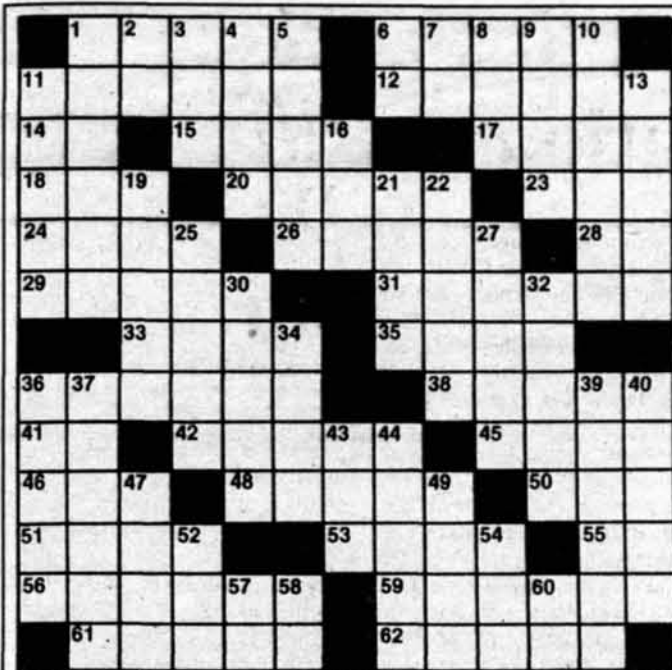


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DOWN

- 1. Planet
- 2. Near
- 3. Drag; haul
- 4. Speak
- 5. No
- 6. Public announcement (abbr.)
- 7. Football position (abbr.)
- 8. Extravehicular activity (abbr.)
- 9. No one
- 10. Lacking tonal center
- 11. King of golden touch
- 13. Passage or opening
- 16. Christmas
- 19. My sister's daughter
- 21. Black
- 22. Take pleasure in
- 25. Strange
- 27. Machine pivoted on fulcrum
- 30. Not a winner
- 32. Royal
- 34. Roman emperor
- 36. Shout of approval
- 37. Firmament
- 39. Number
- 40. Repave
- 43. Large vessel; tub
- 44. Decree by legislation
- 47. Distance (pref.)
- 49. Blemish
- 52. No (Scot.)
- 54. Indicates tumor (suf.)
- 57. 3 feet (abbr.)
- 58. Steamship (abbr.)
- 60. 3.14159

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE



ACROSS

- 1. Area to receive guests
- 6. Contest area
- 11. Age
- 12. Vow
- 14. Impersonal pronoun
- 15. Donated
- 17. Unknown (abbr.)
- 18. Bill
- 20. Means of accomplishment
- 23. Having the quality of (suf.)
- 24. Solo vocal piece
- 26. Resist; defy
- 28. Argon symbol (abbr.)
- 29. Fish hook leader
- 31. To an excessive degree
- 33. Variant of scion
- 35. Upper part of glacier
- 36. Edam
- 38. Fr. Painter Fernand
- 41. Male pronoun
- 42. Transmits sensory stimuli
- 45. Rattling throat sound
- 46. Dine
- 48. Horses
- 50. Rent
- 51. Same
- 53. Mexican food
- 55. Southern state (abbr.)
- 56. Races
- 59. Outdoors person
- 61. Desires
- 62. Coach

SOLUTIONS IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE TECH

ATTENTION SENIORS

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The Office of Admissions is now accepting applications for the position of Admissions Counselor. This is a one-year full-time position beginning in July, 1997. Duties include:

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- interviewing prospective applicants
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Applications are available in the Admissions Office, 3-108, with Sharon Lim-Hing and should be returned no later than April 1, 1997.

Note: This is for 1997 (January or June) MIT graduates.

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POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between March 7 and 12:

March 7: Westgate, bicycle parts stolen, \$100; Bldg. E25, backpack stolen, \$400; Student Center, Michael F. Stone, of 784 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, arrested for a default warrant and trespassing.

March 8: Student Center, leather jacket stolen, \$120.

March 9: Westgate, suspicious motor vehicle; East Campus, noise complaint; Bldg. 8, suspicious activity; Sloan lot, 2 Hondas broken into; Student Center, malicious damage.

March 10: Bldg. 8, George Perez, of Pine Street Inn, Boston, arrested for trespassing; Bldg. WW15, computer stolen, \$2,000; Bldg. 20, laptop stolen, \$3,950; WILG, graffiti; Bldg. 14, malicious damage; Bldg. E17, backpack stolen, \$50; Rockwell Cage, suspicious activity.

March 11: Senior House, larceny of credit cards; Bldg. 66, harassment; Bldg. 14, cash and cellular phone stolen \$100; Bldg. 7, suspicious person.

March 12: Bldg. 5, ring and change purse stolen, \$1,150; Bldg. 20, VCR stolen, \$200; Bldg. 68, CDs stolen, \$180; Bldg. E25, Perez arrested for trespassing; West garage, suspicious activity; Johnson Athletics Center, cash stolen from wallets, \$295.

Women's Display Case Damaged by Vandals

Latino, from Page 1

should develop in the future."

"The display case was smashed. ... They ripped out information from the display," Oshima said. The paper that was removed was "not particularly proactive. ... It's not something that would typically enrage someone," she said. The paper listed information about the

state of women in the United States and around the world.

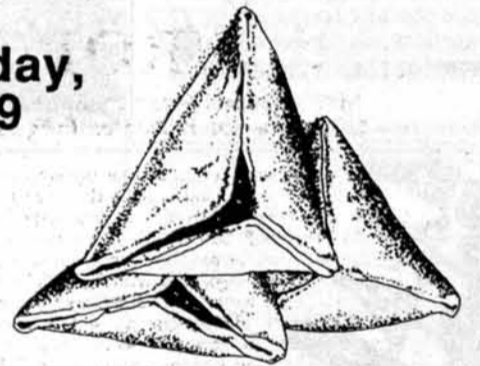
"It's really odd. I don't know if there's something... that rubbed somebody the wrong way," Oshima said.

"The students, staff, and I get very upset," Oshima said. "We try to be pretty inclusive." "The students who work on it take a great deal of pride in it," she said.

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JOSH BITTKER—THE TECH

The Chorallaries perform at the National Championship of College A Cappella Northeastern Semifinals Friday night in Wong Auditorium in the Tang Center. MIT was the host for the event this year, having won the division last year. The Brown Derbies and the Chattertocks, both from Brown University, placed first and second respectively.

MIT Students Finish in Ninth At ACM Programming Contest

By Rita H. Lin
STAFF REPORTER

Earlier this month, a team of three MIT students placed ninth in the Association for Computing Machinery Intercollegiate Programming Contest.

Justin S. Legakis '98, Scott T. Smith '98, and Svetoslav D. Tzvetkov '99 represented MIT in the international competition, the largest programming contest for universities and colleges.

Harvey Mudd College finished first, followed by the University of Washington; University of Queensland, Australia; National Taiwan University; and the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

MIT faced tough competition

The MIT students competed in a final round that included 50 teams from Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

In order to qualify for the final, the team first participated in an internal qualifying round at MIT. It then competed at a preliminary round held at Harvard University and subsequently advanced at the regional level.

The finalists were chosen from an initial pool of over 1,000 groups.

During the ACM contest finals, each three-member team was given eight problems to consider. The teams tried to solve as many problems as possible in five hours, but solutions were also examined for completeness and accuracy.

The judging was "harsh, even the slightest error is enough for the judges to return" a determination of "wrong" for a solution, Tzvetkov said.

The teams were first ranked by

the number of problems solved correctly, and next by the time used. For each wrong submission, teams were assessed a 20-minute penalty.

There were several types of problems given to the teams. Some were tricky and required the development of a complicated algorithm before individuals could write any code, Tzvetkov said. "There are also problems that are straightforward, but require [a] significant amount of coding."

The topics covered by the problems varied. The problems were presented as real-life situations. The team had to figure out the mathematical models first before coding the solutions.

An archive of problems used in the contests are available at http://www.acm.org/contest/archive/finals_problems/.

Team members not pleased

The three members of the team said they were not satisfied with the ninth place finish. "I expected us to do much better, possibly even win," Legakis said.

"I expected to do better. The three of us are certainly competent, but we got off to a bad start. Part of the contest is luck. The best people aren't going to do the best all the time. I am sure there were 10 teams there capable of getting first place; we were one of those teams," Smith said.

"I believed that we could do better, even that we could win, but it wasn't our day," Tzvetkov said.

The MIT team was selected and trained by Professor of Mathematics F. Thomson Leighton PhD '81. The group also received guidance from Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering M. Frans Kaashoek and Amit Sahai G, who

won last year's contest.

The team had practiced solving previous years' problems individually and as a team. "We did much better in our practices. There is some amount of luck involved," Legakis said.

Last year, Tzvetkov represented the University of Sofia and finished fourth individually, while Smith finished fifth representing MIT. Both Smith and Tzvetkov will not be able to participate next year because according to the rules of the contest, a student can only compete in the finals twice.

This year's competition was sponsored by Microsoft Corp. in collaboration with ACM.

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UROOP

MIT Laboratory for Computer Science
UROOP Summer Studies Program, 1997

This summer program is intended for undergraduate students who are interested in participating in research projects in the Laboratory for Computer Science. Although no prior experience is necessary, pay under this UROOP Summer Studies Program is commensurate with experience, and the program is open to all undergraduates not currently or formally associated with the Laboratory. Students are expected to continue work in the fall semester (either for credit or for pay). We hope to identify creative and energetic undergraduate students interested in computer science and to encourage their development. An informational meeting will be held:

Thursday, April 3, NE43-518 4:00 pm

If you are unable to attend but are still interested in the program, send e-mail to denise@hq.lcs.mit.edu

****ATTENTION STUDENTS INTERESTED IN MEDICINE****

Christopher M. Nelson, Assistant Director of Admissions from Dartmouth Medical School, will be visiting M.I.T. to give a presentation about Dartmouth Medical School and to answer your questions. We hope to see you there!

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SPORTS

Men's Volleyball Team Captures Second in Tourney

By Thomas Klemas
TEAM COACH

The men's varsity volleyball team took second place in the 1997 Rivier College Invitational Tournament on Saturday to improve their season record to 8-13.

On Saturday, the Engineers traveled to Nashua, N.H. for the Rivier Tournament. The opening matchup saw the Engineers dominate every aspect of play against a hapless Rivier College team (15-0, 15-5, 15-10), behind the powerful hitting of Jesper Jensen '97 (.800, 3 service aces) and Dave Lehman '97 (.710).

The second match featured a rematch between the Engineers and Ramapo College, which MIT defeated 3-2 during the Vassar Tournament in February. Some of the physical and emotional fatigue from the previous night's State University of New York at New Paltz contest began to show during

this match, as Ramapo took the first game 15-12.

The Engineers recovered some composure and took the second game 15-13 but dropped the third by the same score as Ramapo was still riding the high of taking the opening game.

However, MIT seemed to regain control of the match during the fourth game, to win it, 16-14. The Engineers, smelling another dramatic fifth-game victory, overcame early deficits to win 15-13 to advance to the playoffs behind the play of Mike Margetts '99 (19 kills) and Charles Morton '97 (10 blocks).

In the semifinals, the Engineers faced Johnson and Wales University. Fueled by the prospect of playing for the tournament championship, the Engineers pounded Johnson and Wales 15-3 and 15-7 in the first two games, behind the team's aggressive serving led by

five aces from Stan Hong '99 and three each from James Hsiao '99 and Morton.

The Engineers dropped the third game 15-11 but recovered to win the fourth 15-9 behind clutch hitting from Lehman and Margetts (20 kills) and aggressive blocking from Morton and swing hitter Hans Robertson '99.

The Engineers managed to battle Roger Williams University, which is ranked 10th in Division III, during the finals, as both teams were exhausted from the day's play. MIT benefitted from stellar offense from Lehman (9 kills, .667) and Robertson's 12-kill debut at outside hitter but had trouble digging RWU's powerful hitters, allowing RWU to sideout at will and keep the Engineers off of the scoreboard. Margetts (9 kills) and Morton (8 kills, 6 blocks) also contributed for the Engineers, who fell in three sets (15-12, 15-10, 15-9) to claim second place.

The Engineers were disappointed with not taking home the championship trophy but were pleased with one of their most impressive tournament showings in several years, highlighted by Lehman and Morton being named to the all-tournament team.

Margetts and Morton continue to be among the leaders in kills and blocking, respectively, as Margetts has averaged 4.49 kills per game to be ranked 12th in the nation and

Morton has averaged 1.36 blocks per game for a eighth-place ranking.

MIT defeated Friday by rival

The Engineers' performance Rivier College Invitational Tournament was a rebound from Friday night's heartbreaking loss to the State University of New York College at New Paltz.

SUNY-New Paltz was ranked seventh in Division III and had won two major 1997 tournaments. The marathon match against SUNY, which went the full five sets and lasted nearly three hours, saw the Engineers jump on top of SUNY during the first two games, to win 15-12 and 15-11 behind double-double performances of outside hitter Margetts (35 kills, 16 digs, 9 blocks), middle blocker Morton (12 kills, 10 blocks), and setter Hong (18 digs, 76 assists).

Outstanding defensive play from Margetts, Lehman, Hsiao, and Hong really contributed to the upset victories in the first two games. The entire team stepped up its defense to a whole new level, continuing its trend of improvement, but SUNY managed to

fight off three Engineer match points during the third game and win 17-15.

The final two games were see-saw battles, as both teams struggled to maintain the momentum, but the Engineers were unable to overcome a virtually error-free SUNY performance, and SUNY took the last two games (15-13, 15-13), despite outstanding offensive numbers from opposite hitter Hsiao (10 kills, .529 hitting percentage), outside hitter Jensen (12 kills), and middle blocker Lehman (10 kills). MIT's tip coverage was weak in two rotations which allowed a SUNY opponent to exploit it.

The loss dropped the Engineers to 1-4 in Odenaal Conference play, essentially eliminating them from conference playoffs despite a challenging schedule which featured five of the top 10 Division III teams in the country.

The Engineers close their season tomorrow night at 7 p.m. against rival Harvard University at Harvard's Malkin Athletic Center, in a rematch of the closely contested, Feb. 8 matchup that saw Harvard defeat MIT 3-1.



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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

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Women's Lacrosse vs. Plymouth State College, 6 p.m.

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