



Timothy S. Zue '99 celebrates after winning the 2.70 "Pass the Puck" design competition.

Zue Triumphant in 2.70 Design Contest

By Frank Dabek
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After two days of rigorous competition, Timothy S. Zue '99 was victorious in "Pass the Puck," this year's annual 2.70 design contest. Sawyer B. Fuller '99 finished in second place.

"I really didn't think I'd win," Zue said. There were a "lot of better of designs" in the competition, he added. Zue spent three to four hours a day in the lab constructing his machine in the weeks prior to the competition.

Zue attributed his win to his simple but robust design as well as having an opportunity to practice driving, he said. Zue's machine was a robot with a large bumper emblazoned with the name of his machine, "Fuzz Bumper." Design and Manufacture I (2.007), the class that accompanies the contest, was a "great class," and he had a "great time," he said.

Fuller placed second with an intricate robot which threw balls across the court. While he knew that complex robots usually are not as successful as ones with simpler designs, he said, "What the hell, I'll do something fun." Sawyer was "quite happy" with the results of the competition, he said. "I didn't

expect to get so far."

After the competition, a visibly relieved Professor of Mechanical Engineering Alexander H. Slocum '82, who taught 2.007, said "Ahh ... I need a cigarette." He also said this year's crop of robots were "technogasmic."

Contestants battle for low score

The "Pass the Puck" competition marked a change from previous years' contests with the goal being to attain the lowest point total. Keith J. Breinlinger G, a 2.007 teaching assistant, was integral in the design of the contest, which pitted two robots against each other in a contest to get rid of as many balls as possible in 30 seconds.

The roughly rectangular playing field was separated into two halves by a steep barrier, and a short ledge sat at each end of the table. Thirty-six balls sat on the two ledges, and 23 were on the top of the barrier, an area scored neutrally. There were also eight pucks sitting on each side. The machines were powered for 30 seconds.

Players gained a point for every ball on their side of the court and

2.70, Page 15

Online Preregistration Ready for Fall Term

By Douglas E. Heimbarger
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT's electronic Student Information System, long limited to use only in Athena Clusters, is being replaced by a new, more flexible World Wide Web-based system. As of now, students can preregister for fall term classes over the Web.

The preregistration process, which started yesterday, is only part of the new WebSIS system. By May 12, biographical, financial, and grade information will also be available at the site, which is located at <http://student.mit.edu>.

As the new Web-based system comes up to speed, the current Athena-based SIS will be discontinued because both systems cannot be simultaneously updated, said Jagruti S. Patel '97, who leads the student access team of student services re-engineering. The new system should

be more accessible than the old Athena-based system because any computer running Netscape Navigator 3.0 can access it.

Also, the new preregistration will be easier for students than the older Web-based system, said Mary R. Callahan, assistant registrar for facilities and scheduling. WebSIS allowed the Registrar's Office to extend the deadline for preregistration to May 31 since information no longer has to be transcribed from paper.

The new system appears to be popular with students. By 11 a.m. yesterday, 73 students had preregistered with the new system, Callahan said. Six students registered within five minutes of the system's opening.

The enhancements to WebSIS planned for mid-May will give the system additional flexibility.

Preregistration, Page 12

Crab Apple Trees Move to Killian

By Dan McGuire
NEWS EDITOR

The unseasonal April blizzard closed the Institute flattened vegetation around campus. Among the casualties were the two grand, old crab apple trees that graced the sides of Killian Court.

The trees had to be cut down after they were damaged beyond repair during the storm.

The loss of those trees altered the appearance of Killian Court, and would have set the stage for an odd Commencement. "These trees skirt each side of the Commencement stage," said Norman H. Magnuson Jr., the route supervisor for grounds services on east campus. "The stage

would look a lot different without the trees."

So this morning at 8 a.m., two large crab apple trees from outside of Building E53, which houses the Dewey Library, will make their way a few hundred yards to the west, where they will put down new roots in Killian Court. A third tree near E53 will move in front of Building 35, where another tree was lost.

Physical Plant pursued other options before taking the trees from E53, Magnuson said. "No nursery would have trees that large."

However, "sometimes people will sell trees that they have on their property," he said. A search for

property owners willing to sell mature trees yielded nothing, though. Moving the trees from E53 was "the only option [that would allow MIT to get] these trees replaced before Commencement."

Tree transport is troublesome

MIT contracted the tree removal out to another company, Magnuson said. "We're not really equipped to do" the tree removal, he said. In addition, "We don't have the manpower to do that sort of thing, especially at this time of year," when the campus is being groomed for Commencement.

Trees, Page 13

INSIDE

■ ATIC lab aids disabled, battles RSI from new office in Building 12. Page 11

■ Dramashop's *Down and Dirty* explores sex and sexuality. Page 6

■ Bill Paxton discusses move from actor to producer. Page 6

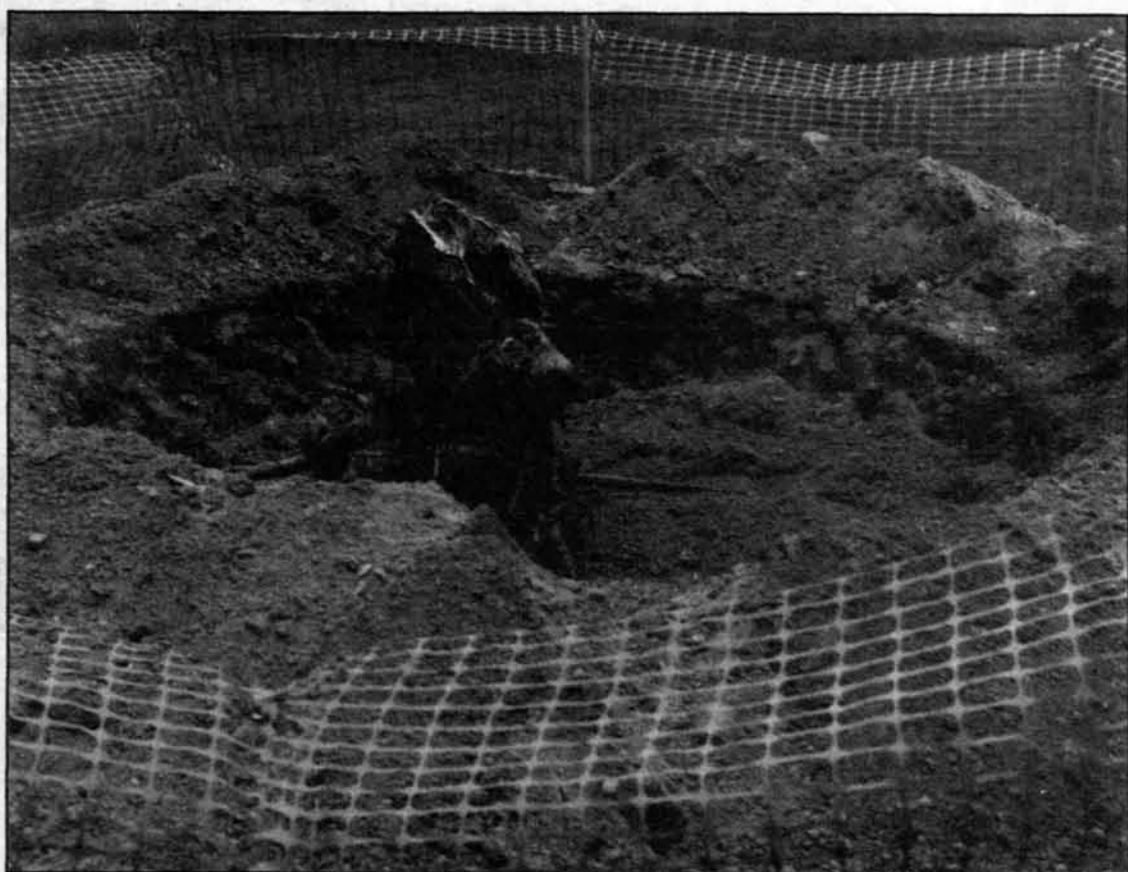
■ On the Town Page 9

Dilbert's Here

In the grand and humorous tradition of "Nerds," "Firehose Tavern," "Jim's Journal," and other comics of years past, *The Tech* is proud to announce the arrival in these pages of a strip you all know and love: Scott Adams' "Dogbert."

For those who haven't heard, "Dogbert" chronicles the antic misadventures of an ambitious, lovable pup bent on world domination.

We're sorry; we couldn't ditch his nerdy owner. See page 7.



April's blizzard destroyed two crab apple trees in Killian Court. Their stumps will be replaced today with trees from Building E53.

WORLD & NATION

Online Firms Settle FCC Complaints

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

They promised a "10 free hours ... to surf the Internet," a "joy ride on the information superhighway," or a "free trial ... at no risk."

But the federal government says some consumers got a rude surprise when the free ride on several computer online services ended.

Regulators Thursday said America Online, CompuServe, and Prodigy gave consumers inadequate warning that they could incur automatic monthly charges by signing up for free trial offers.

The Federal Trade Commission also alleged that the three services violated consumer protection laws by making unauthorized withdrawals from subscribers' bank accounts.

AOL, CompuServe and Prodigy agreed to settle the government's complaints by promising not to commit such offenses in the future. In the settlements, they neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing.

AOL and Prodigy said they already had made the changes the settlements prescribe.

CompuServe issued a statement saying it "has done nothing wrong" but will take "extra steps requested by the FTC."

FTC officials said many consumers incurred unexpected charges as a result of the violations, but they were unable to measure the cost.

Under the law, the alleged violations carry no monetary penalties, though fines could be assessed for any failure to comply with settlements. The settlements wouldn't become binding until a 60-day public comment period ends and the commission ratifies them.

Witnesses at Bombing Trial Describe an Angry McVeigh

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DENVER

A cousin, a friend from his teen-age years, a fellow gun dealer — they and others took the witness stand Thursday and described the transformation of Timothy J. McVeigh from an average kid in upstate New York to a young man angry at his government and desperate to purchase key components for a bomb.

But none of the half a dozen witnesses said McVeigh actually obtained bomb materials from them — a development that left government prosecutors able to only suggest McVeigh's alleged intention to bomb the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

The witnesses talked about McVeigh's hatred for FBI agents after the 1993 government raid on a religious compound at Waco, Texas, and they detailed a series of phone calls he made in search of detonation cord and racing fuel oil in the months before the bombing of the Murrah building.

Gregory Pfaff, a dealer McVeigh met on the gun show circuit, recalled how the former Army hero telephoned him in the hopes of purchasing detonation cord for an explosive. "He needed it bad," Pfaff said.

He said McVeigh also once told him he was stockpiling weapons. "He said he had some things buried in the woods," Pfaff said. "In case he ever needed them, he knew where they were and nobody else did."

FBI Again Downplays Sabotage In Crash of TWA Flight 800

NEWSDAY

In his strongest statement yet downplaying sabotage as the cause of the crash of TWA Flight 800, the FBI's chief investigator said Wednesday "the mechanical explanation is looking more likely."

James Kallstrom said while he is still not dismissing the possibility that a bomb or missile downed the Boeing 747 last July 17, "there was no evidence" in all the pieces that have been recovered that anything but an accident had caused the fatal explosion "and we have recovered a lot of the pieces."

He has said recently the two sabotage scenarios could be ruled out within 60 or 90 days. He said, however, that the bureau has not set any date for an FBI pullout of the investigation.

The FBI and the National Transportation Safety Board confirmed Wednesday that dredging operations ceased Tuesday at midnight, a move that makes it unlikely that investigators would find what they call a "eureka piece" of wreckage that would furnish evidence of a cause to the crash, which killed all 230 people on board.

WEATHER

May Sun, May Rain

By Marek Zebrowski

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As the cold front clears the coast early Friday and the attendant low pressure system continues towards the Maritimes, a high pressure cell will settle in overhead, assuring a pleasant spring afternoon. However, another storm system, charging out of the Plains will continue on a similar track, approaching our area with showers by late Saturday. Once again, scattered rains and a cold front will sweep through, with clearing skies for later on Sunday. This second system will usher in a somewhat cooler air, arriving on a broad northwesterly flow and also bring us nice weather for the early part of next week.

Today: Becoming partly to mostly sunny with fresh westerly breezes. High 68°F (20°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear and cool. Diminishing winds. Low 43°F (6°C).

Saturday: Increasing clouds with showers approaching from the west late in the day. Afternoon highs near 60°F (15°C) with some onshore winds shifting to southwest and increasing towards dark.

Saturday night: Showers likely. Windy. Low near 46°F (8°C)

Sunday outlook: Morning clouds and leftover showers departing, with a partly sunny afternoon. Cooler, with highs near 60°F (15°C), lows near 40°F (5°C).

Labor Party Heads Toward Victory in British Election

By William D. Montalbano

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON

Promising a just and dynamic new Britain, political modernizer Tony Blair on Thursday led his restructured Labor Party toward an apparent landslide election victory of historic proportions.

Blair and his newly middle-of-the-road party seemed poised Friday to deal ruling Conservatives under Prime Minister John Major their worst defeat in more than a century.

From the instant the polls closed Thursday night, the question was not whether Labor had won, but by how much. The answer: by the bushel. One early-reporting Birmingham district fell to Labor for the first time in British history.

Voting went smoothly as the Irish Republican Army stayed off the phone after causing repeated major disruptions through telephoned bomb threats in recent weeks. There were some minor alarms in London and some major ones in Belfast, where police attributed them to Protestant terrorists.

Television network exit polls echoed what opinion samplers have been predicting for months. Labor was nearly 20 percent more popular than the Conservatives, according to the polls.

Blair, 43, whose victory would make him the youngest prime minister this century, has every prospect of leading Britain into the new millennium. He would have a mammoth majority in the House of Commons — far more votes than he would need to serve the full five-year term.

Michael Heseltine, the outgoing

deputy prime minister, said that what is critical for the Conservatives in the aftermath is "to find a way to regroup and ... fight back." Most commentators expect a quick and nasty succession battle among Conservatives to replace Major as party leader.

The BBC projected 45 percent of the vote for Labor, 31 percent for the Conservatives, or Tories as they are called, and 17 percent for the third-party Liberal Democrats under Paddy Ashdown. In the last election in 1992, the Conservatives won 42 percent and 336 seats to Labor's 34 percent and 271 seats.

The publicly funded BBC projected a Labor majority of 150 to 171 seats this time around. The commercially funded independent ITV network projected a 159-seat Labor majority, and the satellite TV channel Sky News estimated 150.

Labor went into the election needing a 4.5 percent vote swing to win the parliamentary majority that is essential to govern the world's oldest democracy. As returns mounted, it seemed as if a swing to Labor would at least double that.

When a constituency in northern Sunderland, the first to declare, was won by the Labor candidate with 27,174 votes to the Conservative's 4,606, jubilant Laborites sensed it was their game.

Labor icon Neil Kinnock, defeated by Major five years ago, called the result "sensational ... We're in for a spectacular evening."

"If there had been more focus on the economy and less on sleaze we might have done better. Now we must compose ourselves, lose with dignity," said Kenneth Clarke, the

departing Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Turnout was encouraged by a spectacular spring day when cautions against the IRA were replaced by warnings against overexposure to the sun. By midafternoon on the hottest day of the year, election-day London had temperatures in the mid-70s under a cloudless sky.

Labor's last victory came in 1974, when Blair was a shaggy-haired, rock-music-singing law student at college. Not since Lord Liverpool, who was 42 when he took office in 1812, has Britain had a leader as young as Blair. Major was 47 when he became prime minister in 1990.

Thursday's election was presidential in the sense that it was simplified in saturation coverage to a showdown between Major and Blair. But in fact the two never faced off on any ballot.

Each appeared only on the ballots in the constituencies they represent in Parliament — Blair in Sedgefield near the Scottish border, Major in Huntingdon an hour north of London. Both appeared to win handily.

Another American-like feature of the campaign was the absence of visceral differences between the two parties. That was a big change for a country where over the decades Tories vs. Labor have been Us vs. Them, Right vs. Left shootouts.

And there was plenty of mudslinging this time, but overall the atmosphere journeyed down the middle of the political road. The six-week campaign was long by British standards.

Judge Prevents Punishment Of Doctors Who Prescribe Pot

By Maria La Ganga and Eric Bailey

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Saying the Clinton administration has sent mixed signals on medical marijuana, a judge blocked the federal government Wednesday from carrying out threats to punish California doctors who recommend the drug to patients.

U.S. District Judge Fern Smith issued a preliminary injunction barring retaliation against physicians who endorse the therapeutic use of marijuana, which was legalized by last November's Proposition 215, but remains illegal under federal law.

But the judge said she would "draw the line at criminal conduct," such as a physician aiding or conspiring to help a patient obtain or cultivate marijuana. And though Proposition 215 allows doctors to recommend pot for any illness they deem fit, Smith limited her ruling to only four specific illnesses, including AIDS and cancer.

Unless overturned by a higher court, the injunction will remain in effect until the lawsuit is decided at trial.

The doctors and patients who filed the class-action lawsuit against the federal government heralded Smith's ruling, saying it helps to ease fears that mounted after federal drug czar Barry McCaffrey and other administration officials threatened a crack down.

"I feel a heck of a lot better today," said Dr. Virginia Cafaro, medical director of a large AIDS practice in San Francisco. "I can go back to practicing medicine without the idea that the government will be in the room."

Other boosters of medical marijuana called Smith's decision a repudiation of the Clinton administration's efforts to undercut Proposition 215.

"Today's ruling is a huge victory for the rights of physicians and patients, and for the authority of voters to make important policy decisions," said Dave Fratello, a spokesman for Americans for Medical Rights, which pushed the November ballot measure. "The Clinton administration must now accept the will of the people."

Smith's order applies to doctors who recommend marijuana for patients with AIDS or the HIV virus that causes the disease, cancer, glaucoma, and seizures or muscle spasms associated with a chronic, debilitating condition.

While the federal government contends pot has no proven therapeutic value, boosters of medical marijuana say it can help relieve pain, stimulate the appetite and combat the wasting effects of chemotherapy.

The lawsuit was filed after McCaffrey's December announcement that doctors who recommend pot would face the loss of their authority to prescribe most medicines, be excluded from Medicare and potentially face criminal prosecution.

Although there have been only isolated episodes of drug agents contacting doctors, physicians said the administration policy had a chilling effect on their ability to talk with patients about the drug.

U.S. officials in February attempted to clarify their position in a letter to medical leaders stressing that doctors could discuss the use of pot as medicine with patients, but

could not recommend it as outlined in Proposition 215.

The judge said Wednesday that the government's policy was unclear and the statements remained "ambiguous and conflicting."

"When faced with the fickle iterations of the government's policy, physicians have been forced to suppress speech," Smith said in her decision.

She also said "the government's fear that frank dialogue between physicians and patients about medical marijuana might foster drug use" doesn't justify putting restraints on a doctor's privilege to talk frankly with a patient.

Doctors and patients said Smith's decision brought some clarity to a fuzzy issue. But the edges are still a bit blurred.

Under Smith's decision, any effort by the physician to help a patient get pot could put them in jeopardy.

"What's not protected is helping the patient get the marijuana," said Graham Boyd, the San Francisco attorney pressing the lawsuit. "A physician should not take a telephone call from a marijuana buyers' club and should not fill out a form from a buyers' club."

That aspect of the ruling drew complaints from some. "It's a totally dead-end game if we can recommend marijuana but people aren't able to access marijuana," said Dr. Steve O'Brien, of Berkeley's East Bay AIDS Center.

But the judge's decision did give California doctors unrestricted freedom to discuss and recommend the drug without fear of repercussions, Boyd said. Doctors should take "a large degree of comfort from the judge's ruling," he added.

Angolan Armor Divisions Join Rebel Drive Toward Kinshasa

By Thomas W. Lippman
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Troops from Angola equipped with armored vehicles and heavy artillery have joined Zairian rebel forces pushing steadily toward Kinshasa in what appears to be the final drive to unseat President Mobutu Sese Seko, U.S. officials and reports from Zaire said Thursday.

The accelerating rebel advance — the Reuter news agency said government troops fled the river town of Kenge, only 150 miles east of the capital — has led to a widely shared assessment that Mobutu's fall from power is imminent, the U.S. officials said. As a result, the focus of diplomatic efforts is now on minimizing the bloodshed when the forces of rebel leader Laurent Kabila enter Kinshasa.

"At this stage the objective would be to arrange a cessation of hostilities, Mobutu stepping down and some kind of arrangement that would lead to elections," White

House national security adviser Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger said at a meeting Thursday. "I don't know if that's feasible or not."

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, was in Luanda, Angola, Thursday night, still trying to arrange a meeting between Mobutu and Kabila that would lead to an orderly transfer of power. With troops in Zaire and a stake in the outcome, Angola has become a key player whose restraint will be required if bloodshed is to be minimized, U.S. officials said.

Several thousand former Zairian paramilitary policemen and their sons from the province of Shaba, formerly Katanga, who have been living in Angola for many years, are advancing through south-central Zaire toward the capital, several sources said. These forces wore Angolan army uniforms and had Angolan equipment including armored personnel carriers and long-range cannons, reports from the region said.

Regular Angolan troops also have massed in the Angolan enclave of Cabinda, north of Zaire's narrow western neck, but U.S. officials said they could not confirm reports that these troops have crossed into Zaire.

The Angolans want to get rid of Mobutu because for years he supported Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi. "They want to see Mobutu go, but they are also interested in how he goes" because large-scale violence could spill over and disrupt their country, a U.S. official said.

Kabila said again Thursday that the only purpose of a meeting with Mobutu would be to set the terms for Mobutu's departure. Mobutu has agreed to the meeting but it was not clear Thursday night when it would be held, if at all, U.S. officials said. Mobutu, weakened by prostate cancer, failed to show up Thursday for a flight to Pointe Noire, a port in neighboring Congo where he was expected to board a South African naval vessel for the meeting with Kabila.

Advocates Sign Global Agreement On Internet Domain Name Policy

By Karen Kaplan
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Dignitaries from the Internet community signed an international agreement in Geneva Thursday designed to bring a degree of self-governance to the global computer network. But advocates of the plan had little time to celebrate before they had to defend the accord in a Los Angeles County courtroom.

The agreement, a memorandum of understanding, was devised by the Internet Society, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority — which is operated by the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute — the United Nations' International Telecommunications Union and other organizations that help administer the loosely governed global computer network. Several major companies — including MCI Communications, Digital Equipment Corp., UUNet Technologies and France Telecom — have voiced support for the plan.

The agreement aims to increase the Internet's capacity for domain names — the online version of addresses or telephone numbers — to accommodate the millions of companies, organizations and individuals that have been flocking to

the Net in search of fame or fortune.

Since 1993, Network Solutions Inc. of Herndon, Va., has administered the registration of Internet domain names under contract from the National Science Foundation. But many worry that demand for Web addresses with the ".com" suffix will soon surpass the remaining supply. The Geneva plan will create seven new categories of domain names that end in suffixes such as ".firm," ".store," ".info" and ".web" and empower 28 new companies to join Network Solutions in the domain name registration business.

Chris Ambler, president of a San Luis Obispo, Calif., Web site design firm, asked Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Alan B. Habner to issue a temporary restraining order that would have prevented the agreement from taking effect. He said his company, Image Online Design, had previously reserved the right to assign Web addresses that end in ".web" and therefore stands to lose business if the Geneva plan gains wide acceptance.

But Habner, who describes himself as "technically challenged," declined Thursday to put the agreement on hold. He said he is reluctant to have a California trial court derail the efforts of Internet experts

around the world and is not convinced that Image Online has a legitimate claim.

Although the international ad hoc committee has cleared its first legal challenge, more daunting obstacles remain. Several important players, including key Internet service providers, the United States and the European Commission, have yet to endorse the plan.

Earlier in the week, Secretary of State Madeline Albright said the U.S. government "has concerns" about the committee's authority to implement the plan. The United States is still studying the matter and has decided to remain neutral on the proposal for now, she said.

Private companies have criticized the plan for not doing enough to promote competition for domain name registration. The 28 new players will be chosen in a lottery administered by consulting firm Arthur Andersen and will have to pay a \$20,000 fee if chosen.

It's not clear that objectors to the plan could stop it from going forward. However, the plan's success depends on its widespread acceptance. For example, a disgruntled ISP could block access to Web sites ending in one of the new suffixes, although none have threatened this.

Contractor's Arrest for Espionage Confuses Seoul-American Relations

By Kevin Sullivan
THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO

U.S. officials in Seoul said Thursday they were puzzled over the case of an American businessman arrested on espionage charges by South Korea.

Donald Ratcliffe, 62, an executive of a subsidiary of defense contractor Litton Industries Inc., was arrested Wednesday and charged with obtaining classified military documents related to South Korea's plans to purchase Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes.

"There doesn't seem to be any reason why he would be interested in that," said a U.S. official. He said Litton has a "near monopoly" on sales of navigational control and guidance systems for South Korean military aircraft.

"If they're enjoying that kind of a good business climate in South Korea, you wouldn't think they would need classified documents," the official said, noting that

AWACS "wouldn't even be a major part of their business here."

The case is also unusual because Washington and Seoul are close military allies, sharing a wide range of military intelligence and equipment.

In a development reported by the Associated Press from Seoul, South Korea's defense ministry announced Thursday that its general in charge of procuring weapons, Maj. Gen. Lee Poong Kil, has lost his job for failing to prevent the leaking of information.

Seoul's plans to spend billions of dollars in the next few years to beef up its aircraft, missile defense systems and other military hardware are commonly known. American military contractors do a lucrative business in South Korea and stand to benefit from Seoul's increased military spending.

A Litton spokesman said the company was not aware of any illegal activity by Ratcliffe, a retired military officer who has worked for Litton for 20 years.

U.S. officials here said Ratcliffe has spent 18 years working for Litton in East Asia and currently is based in the Bangkok office of Litton Guidance and Controls Systems.

Officials from the South Korean military and the Agency for National Security Planning, the domestic intelligence service, were questioning Ratcliffe at an undisclosed location Thursday.

Some U.S. officials have said that the government's military purchasing plans might not necessarily be classified information in the United States. But that is what the South Korean government has charged Ratcliffe with obtaining, and he could face the death penalty if convicted of espionage.

South Korean media reports have said that security officials will question Ratcliffe about whether he handed over any military secrets to the U.S. government. U.S. officials deny that the U.S. government was involved in any espionage laid to Ratcliffe.

Millions Watch Ellen's Coming Out

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD

"Ellen" came out of the closet and packed much of America into the living room, as Wednesday's one-hour episode rode a staggering publicity wave to a national audience of more than 36 million people.

Those results exceeded even the most optimistic estimates as to the program's performance, besting viewing levels for television's most-watched program, "Seinfeld," which is seen by 30.6 million viewers in an average week.

Viewing better than doubled the average "Ellen" audience this season (13.7 million), delivering the show's highest rating ever and the biggest for any ABC entertainment program in more than three years.

ABC Entertainment President Jamie Tarses said in a statement Thursday that the network is "extremely pleased" by the ratings, adding that it's "even more satisfying ... knowing that American viewers embraced the show's creativity."

Breaking down the audience demographically, the lion's share of viewers fell in the 18-34 and 18-49 age brackets that sponsors use to determine ad rates. Considerably smaller percentages of teens and children tuned in.

DeGeneres was honored Wednesday at Creative Artists Agency, which represents her. Cast members Joely Fisher and Clea Lewis joined a crowd of about 500 at a Manhattan nightclub to watch the show and raise money for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Republicans Set to Support Restoring Benefits to Immigrants

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Faced with a powerful backlash from immigrants and their advocates, Republican lawmakers are on the brink of proposing a plan to restore some of the benefits taken away from legal immigrants by last year's welfare reform law.

As the White House and congressional leaders hammer out the final details of a balanced budget package, Republicans are set to recommend softening the impact of welfare reform on the 500,000 legal immigrants due to lose disability payments as early as this August.

While intensive negotiations continued, congressional sources said Republicans have agreed to propose spending roughly \$10 billion over five years to continue disability benefits to most legal immigrant noncitizens who were in the country and receiving disability payments when the welfare bill was signed on Aug. 22, 1996.

Sources say the turnabout came after GOP members were put on the defensive over the issue by Democrats and, perhaps most damaging, by some of the nation's most prominent Republican governors. And it followed an intensive campaign by immigrant groups to publicize the often heart-rending stories of frail, elderly and disabled noncitizens who would lose their only means of support under the 1996 welfare bill. According to published reports, the bill has driven some elderly immigrants to suicide and prompted nursing homes nationwide to turn away noncitizens regardless of their circumstances.

Pentagon Plans to Close Bases

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Desperate for money to pay for new weapons, the Pentagon is poised to push for another round of military base closings, a proposal likely to spark fierce resistance from states still reeling from closings initiated two years ago.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, has declared the Defense Department still has too much overhead for the size of its forces. As a result, he may call for further cuts in a major review on Pentagon functions due in two weeks. Closing additional domestic bases "is essential to reducing unnecessary defense expenses," Cohen said in a report submitted this week to the White House and Congress.

To begin a new round of closings, Congress would have to pass a law setting up a commission to select bases for elimination. Such a commission would consider the views of the public and probably would not complete its work until at least 1999.

Part of the pressure for more closings is generated by concerns among military leaders that they can no longer delay new weapons spending, as they have done for much of this decade. With military budgets likely to remain at about \$250 billion, plus inflation, for the next five years, additional money for new weapons has to come from somewhere.

The military chiefs would prefer to take the savings from bases than from troops, defense analysts note.

Time Warner Ends Interactive TV

THE WASHINGTON POST

Time Warner Inc.'s interactive television experiment in Orlando will be unplugged at the end of the year, putting a halt to the most ambitious effort to allow consumers to shop, order movies, and bank through their TVs.

In the end, the gold-plated system proved too expensive to make a viable business, analysts believe. Customers were charged just \$3.95 a month for use of a computerized box on their TV sets that cost the company thousands of dollars each.

Time Warner won't say how much it spent on the three-year project, but analyst Gary Arlen of Arlen Communications Inc. in Bethesda, Md., estimates the price tag at \$700 million. Using high-speed cables to 4,000 homes, the system allowed customers to choose movies or news when they wanted them, order pizza, stamps, or retail goods, and play TV games with neighbors.

The company said the Orlando trial should be viewed as a research and development exercise, rather than a market failure. The project, it says, provided valuable data showing that consumers, after all, will pay for at least some types of interactive TV.

"It was never intended to be a cost-effective, deployable model," said company spokeswoman Tammy Lindsay. "We didn't know what consumers would pay for this. We do now."

Time Warner will convert its Orlando customers to Internet access in June as a market test using the same boxes before removing the devices at year's end.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



Chairman
Daniel C. Stevenson '97

Editor in Chief
David D. Hsu '98

Business Manager
Angela Y. Liao '98

Managing Editor
Josh Bittker '99

Executive Editor
Thomas R. Karlo '97

NEWS STAFF

Editors: Venkatesh Satish '98, Dan McGuire '99; **Associate Editors:** Brett Altschul '99, Jean K. Lee '99, May K. Tse '99, Frank Dabek '00, Douglas E. Heimburger '00, Zareena Hussain '00; **Staff:** Eva Moy G, Kyle Young G, James M. Wahl '97, Christopher L. Falling '98, Noémi Giszpenc '98, Orli G. Bahcall '99, Shawdee Eshghi '99, Carina Fung '99, Fenny Lin '99, Eric Sit '99, Stuart Jackson '00, Liz Krams '00, Dudley W. Lamming '00; **Meteorologists:** Michael C. Morgan PhD '95, Gerard Roe G, Marek Zebrowski.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editors: Saul Blumenthal '98, Russell S. Light '98, Jason C. Yang '99; **Staff:** Jimmy Wong '97, Betty Chang '98, Larry Chao '98, Moksha Ranasinghe '99, Sharon Shen '99, Binh Truong '99, Stephanie Yang '99, Brent Yen '99, Erica Pfister '00, Brian T. Sniffen '00, Billie Wang '00.

OPINION STAFF

Editor: Stacey E. Blau '98; **Staff:** Anders Hove G, A. Arif Husain '97, Abigail Miekko Vargus '97, David S. Kelman '99.

SPORTS STAFF

Editor: Erik S. Balsley G; **Staff:** Hana Ohkawa G, Bo Light '96, Martin Duke '97, Chris Lin '97, Jason Weintraub '97, Chris Brocoum '00.

ARTS STAFF

Editor: David V. Rodriguez '97; **Staff:** Thomas Chen G, Jonathan Litt G, Teresa Esser '95, Brian Hoffman '97, Teresa Huang '97, Kamal Swamidoss '97, Rob Wagner '97, Hur Koser '98, Yaron Koren '99, Daniel Ramirez '99, Joel M. Rosenberg '99, Stephen Brophy.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editors: Gábor Csányi G, Indranath Neogy '98; **Staff:** Rich Fletcher G, Alkan Kabakcioglu G, Jonathan Li G, Gabriele Migliorini G, Arifur Rahman G, Jiri Schindler G, Helen Lin '97, Tiffany Lin '97, Christine Chan '98, Adriane Chapman '98, Ahmed Ait-Ghezala '99, David Tarin '99, Ian Chan '00, Gregory F. Kuhnen '00, Rita H. Lin '00.

FEATURES STAFF

Hugo M. Ayala G, Zachary Emig '98, Jessica Wu '99, Pawan Sinha.

BUSINESS STAFF

Advertising Manager: Cristián A. González '99; **Associate Advertising Manager:** Jennifer Koo '00; **Operations Manager:** Pamela Shade '98; **Staff:** Jessica Maia '98, Terri A. Wilson '99, Joey Dieckhans '00.

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

Director: Timothy K. Layman '97; **Associate Director:** Christina Chu '98; **Staff:** Ifung Lu '97, Laurie M. Leong '00.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Contributing Editors: Shang-Lin Chuang '98, Jennifer Lane '98; **Senior Editor:** Ramy A. Arnaout '97.

ADVISORY BOARD

V. Michael Bove '83, Robert E. Malchman '85, Thomas T. Huang '86, Reuven M. Lerner '92, Josh Hartmann '93, Jeremy Hylton '94, Garlen C. Leung '95, Scott C. Deskin '96.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Night Editors: Saul Blumenthal '98, Josh Bittker '99, Jason C. Yang '99; **Staff:** Ramy A. Arnaout '97, Stacey E. Blau '98, David D. Hsu '98.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$35.00 per year. Third Class by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Non-profit Organization Permit No. 59720. **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial: (617) 258-8324, business: (617) 258-8226, facsimile: (617) 258-8324. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 1997 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Mass Web Printing Co.

The Tech Is Not Racist

News has reached me that *The Tech* has received a letter signed by several organizations — among them Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgenders, and Friends at MIT — that criticizes *The Tech* for publishing material harassing to minorities including gays.

I am sorry to hear that some people are offended. But I cannot remain silent and let the position expressed in that letter be mistaken for mine. I am a GAMIT alum, an out-of-the-closet gay employee, and a white man who had a long term relationship with a black man. With this experience, I do not presume to say what is racist. I only say what does and does not offend me personally.

If the letter truly represents the position of GAMIT, then it serves more to show that I must distance myself from that organization and the fights its executives choose to pick. It seems to me that the letter represents a call to arms to engage in some sort of just war on the evil *Tech* for being racist, as if racism were some absolute thing that is obvious to all. Speaking only from my limited experience, I have seen racism but generally from ignorant people who chose to ignore how they were unfairly pressuring other people with their thoughtless acts.

I have never seen *The Tech* to exhibit an editorial policy in favor of oppression of any minority. The MIT administration bends over backward to try and foster plurality and diversity. What I see from the letter signed by GAMIT is an attempt on the part of deeply

offended people, who have only the force of their convictions, to try and establish a particular aesthetic and to call all else racist. Personally, I find the letter to be analogous to the sort of call for censorship by people who wish to boycott anything that talks openly about homosexuality because it is offensive to family values.

What is the intended outcome here? I would prefer an outcome where people become more sensitized to their actions and learn to listen to more sides of a discussion. I do not want to see the outcome where people feel they cannot express themselves for fear of being beaten up, whether that expression is holding hands with a member of the same sex publicly or drawing pictures of rhinoceros-shaped superheroes.

William D. Cattey '83
Senior Analyst Programmer
Information Systems

Bureaucracy Explains Policy on T Pass Subsidy

In response to the letter by Farhan H. Zaidi G ["Dormitory Residents Should Also Be Eligible for Subsidized T Passes," April 25], I would like to present the point of view of an independent living group resident.

Fenway House, where I live, is several blocks south and west of Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Street, making the walk from the Boston end of the Harvard Bridge non-trivial. In the winter months, I take the #1 MBTA bus to class every morning and back

again in the evening. I am by no means alone; especially on the colder and wetter days, the bus is full to overflowing from the masses of MIT fraternity, sorority, and ILG residents trying to get to class warm and dry.

The subsidized T passes that MIT provides makes excellent economic sense for me and many other off-campus residents. It seems that what Zaidi should be advocating is subsidized T passes for cross-registered on-campus students. However, as an FSILG resident who benefits from free Safe Ride service, paid for by the tuition of all MIT students, I personally would not object to subsidized passes for all MIT-affiliated persons.

Somehow, I do not believe that the MIT's administration sees dormitory residents as second-class members of the MIT community. More likely, the rules of the Parking and Transportation Office are the product of a bureaucracy that is (like many bureaucracies) not entirely in touch with reality. Besides, if FSILG residents are being pampered, as Zaidi claims, then why are we stuck behind a 56 kilobit/second net connection, while dormitory residents enjoy a direct link to a state-of-the-art high-speed network?

Perhaps these complaints are simply another symptom of the split between dormitory and FSILG residents. However, I believe that that division is exaggerated in the popular conception. It seems to me that many misunderstandings could be resolved if only students took the time to really talk with others outside of their immediate surroundings.

Christopher D. Beland '00



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

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. Mail to specific departments may be sent to the following addresses: ads@the-tech.mit.edu, news@the-tech.mit.edu, sports@the-tech.mit.edu, arts@the-tech.mit.edu, production@the-tech.mit.edu, photo@the-tech.mit.edu, circ@the-tech.mit.edu (circulation department). For other matters, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Attacks Accusing *The Tech* of Racism Are Unfounded

Column by Martin Duke
SPORTS COLUMNIST

I should begin by saying that I have, from time to time, submitted a sports article to *The Tech*. I don't really know the staff at all, but I am nevertheless appalled by the anti-*Tech* protest last Friday. Since organizer Joaquin S. Terrones '97 made some pretty serious accusations and some pretty sweeping proposals, I think we should take a serious look at them. Let me address the points one by one, as outlined in the Tuesday's *Tech*.

First, Terrones comments that *The Tech's* humor is "indicative of a growing atmosphere of intolerance on campus." Growing atmosphere? Has there been some increase in hate crimes and racial incidents between students in the past, say, four years? I'm half-Asian myself (sadly, one must be a minority to have credibility when discussing this, it seems) and have a number of minority friends, yet I have not detected any upsurge (or even a detectable, constant level) of bigotry among students.

Terrones also calls for an Asian American administrator to address the needs of Asian American students. Funny, I always thought

Asian American students had pretty much the same needs as anyone else. I guess you learn something new every day.

The protesters also argue for an ethnic studies program and a multicultural center. While many may take an attitude of "why not?" it is precisely that kind of thinking that has helped cause tuition to skyrocket at campuses across the nation. More courses means more professors, more staff, more administration, and more money. Surely this alone is not the cause, but the incremental addition of academic programs that diverge from the mission of the Institute clearly plays a part.

And to what gain? There are a variety of cultural options in the rich diversity of the Boston area. Students can cross-enroll Harvard University to take advantage of their ethnic studies programs. Additionally, I don't see how such a program at MIT would create an atmosphere of racial tolerance, as most budding racists probably will not take any ethnic studies courses. Surely there is value in ethnic studies, but we all understood when we agreed to come here that to some extent the quality of most humanities would suffer for the sake of science and

engineering, which represent MIT's primary mission.

Most interesting of all is the continuing attacks against *The Tech* itself, especially the attacks on "Rhino Man," the comic drawn by Zachary Emig '98. After making the ridiculous assertion that the cartoon is racist simply because it has an Asian villain, the attackers ignored repeated offers to debate the issue publicly, failed to respond publicly to Emig's clear reasoning, and then — most irresponsibly of all — continued their groundless attacks.

Terrones says that "it takes very little to rile people up against people of color." I don't know about you, but my WASP friends always think about joining the Ku Klux Klan after reading "Rhino Man." Emig is clearly an innocent bystander and convenient target for whatever larger agenda these people may have.

The protesters' letter to *The Tech* accuses the newspaper of perpetuating the "stereotypes used to oppress us daily" and announces their boycott until they "see a substantive change in [their] attitudes towards people of color." Now, I don't know anyone on the editorial staff; for all I know,

they could all be violently bigoted. But am I alone in failing to detect one shred of evidence that the newspaper itself has a racist agenda?

All the groups that signed the letter have declined to comment further in *The Tech*. How very convenient for them to avoid any discussion in what is the most relevant and widely read publication on campus. It is not surprising when you consider the flimsiness of most of their accusations.

What I find most amusing is the trumped-up sense of moral indignation the protesters have, as if the lack of an ethnic studies program and a comic strip about a talking rhino were attempts to oppress them, rather than a simple allocation of financial priorities and a guy innocently trying to entertain us, respectively.

I can afford to be amused; I'm a graduating senior. If you're going to be here longer and don't want every group that uses hyperbole and strong-arm tactics to succeed, stand up now. Write letters. If you are a member of one of the groups that signed the letter and you disagree with your leadership, speak out. It's the least you can do to make this a better place.

Project Bread's *Walk for Hunger*

**This Sunday,
May 4**

Registration: 7-9 a.m.
at Boston Common

Feeding people. Nourishing Hope.

This space donated by *The Tech*

School Spirit?



At MIT??!!

Tell us what you think

Check out the new CSL Survey on the Web:

<http://bho.mit.edu/ua/cslsurvey/>

catch the



UA Shuttle

The Undergraduate Association will be running a FREE shuttle to Logan Airport from Wednesday, May 21st to Saturday, May 24th.

Find out more, including how to register, on the web at:

<http://bho.mit.edu/ua/shuttle/>

Social Scene!

Check us out at <http://bho.mit.edu/ua/socialscene.html>

Kathak Dance Performance: Marathe

An intimate recital of the rhythmic classical dance of North India-Kathak

Killian Hall, Friday, 7PM, 10PM; \$10



MIT Concert Choir

MIT Symphony

Kresge Auditorium, Friday, 8PM

\$5 at door, \$2 in advance

Steer Roast

Senior Haus

Saturday, Food 2PM, Bands 8PM

\$10 Meat, \$7 Veggie

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble

Love Throughout the Ages

Room 4-159

Friday and Saturday, 8PM; FREE

MIT Concert Band

Concert

Saturday, Kresge, 8PM; Free

MIT Dramashop

Down and Dirty: Taking It All Off

Little Kresge Theater

Friday and Saturday, 8PM; \$5

THE ARTS

INTERVIEW

Bill Paxton

No more days of 'Hey, aren't you Chet?'

By Jonathan Litt
STAFF REPORTER

In just a short span of time, Bill Paxton has transformed from a moderately successful supporting actor to one of Hollywood's leading men. For many years, he was considered a cult favorite in some circles for his roles as big brother Chet in *Weird Science* and as Private Hudson in *Aliens*. In 1994, his career took off with his hilarious role in the summer hit *True Lies*, and the next year brought *Apollo 13*. Last summer, his career skyrocketed when he starred in the mammoth blockbuster *Twister*, which grossed over \$700 million worldwide. The trend is sure to continue with this summer's epic film *Titanic*, in which he plays an important character.

As much as he is an accomplished actor, Paxton is no stranger to the art of filmmaking. As a teenager he made short films with his friends, and in 1973, at the age of 18, he moved to Hollywood to find a career in the movie industry. He recently took a big step forward by producing his first major motion picture, *Traveller*.

Inspired by such classics as Peter Bogdanovich's *Paper Moon* and David Mamet's *House of Games*, *Traveller* tells the story of an Irish con man (Paxton) and his protegee (Mark Wahlberg), members of a nomadic group of grifters and con artists called "travellers."

"I've always loved movies about con men. I think con men are as American as apple pie," says Paxton. And travellers really exist in this country, as well. "They say it's easier to infiltrate the mafia than this particular group of people. There are three factions of them, and there are several families: the Irish travellers, the English travellers, and the Scottish travellers."

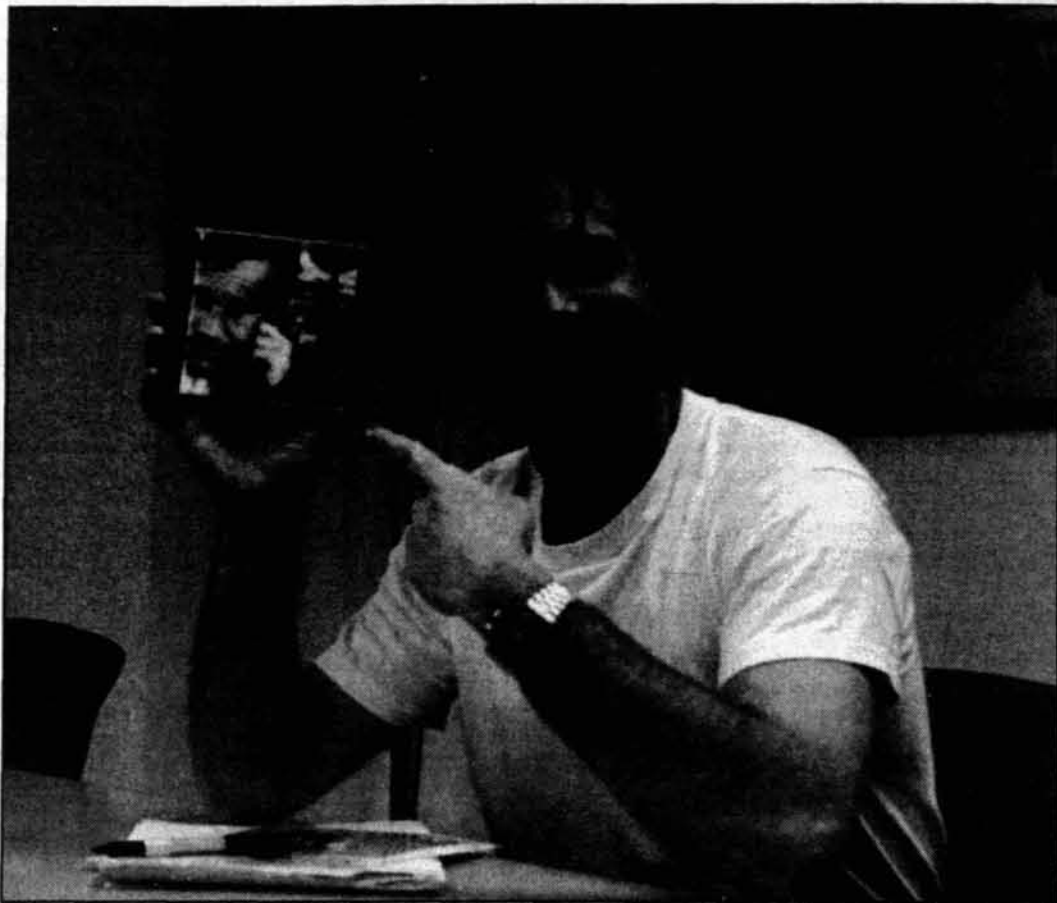
Paxton's character, an Irish traveller named Bokky, finds himself at a crossroads in his life. "The character is really a Gothic character. He's carrying around the baggage of a dead wife and a child that died in childbirth. He meets this woman he rips off, and she has a daughter, and he falls for her. He realizes this might be his chance for redemption — to start again."

Bokky meets up with a young traveller named Pat (Wahlberg) and an older traveller named Double D (James Gammon). Together they pull off a host of small-time scams, but the action takes off when, in the spirit of all great con-men movies, they decide to pull off "the big one," a scam to end all scams. The pace builds up to a shocking climax when their plan goes awry.

Paxton describes how he managed to find himself producing a movie, something he has wanted to do for a long time. "I knew critically they were going to paint a bull's eye on me when *Twister* came out. So I thought, what's the best thing I can do right now for myself and my friends? It was to go make this movie. And because of *Twister*, I was in a position to get five million dollars backing to go and make *Traveller*."

"To take it a step further, I was on the set of *Twister*, and I was getting to know this cinematographer, Jack Green, and he's the guy who shoots all of Clint Eastwood's movies. I thought I had died and gone to heaven because Clint has been a huge role model of mine, as an actor, a director, and a producer. So I said to Jack (I knew he was dying to direct a movie), 'I got a little script, Jack. Would you mind reading it?' So he read it and said 'This is great,' and I said, 'I'll tell you what. If you shoot it, then you can direct it as your debut film.'"

With a script, a director, and a budget in hand, Paxton's next job as producer was to cast all of the roles. He ended up finding great chemistry with "Marky" Mark Wahlberg and *E.R.*'s Juliana Margulies for the two other main characters. (Wahlberg had impressed him with strong performances in "The Basketball Diaries" and "Fear.") He also cast his long-time acting coach Vincent Chase for one of the more memorable roles, the Gypsy boss who is involved in the elaborate final con of the film.



Paxton is especially proud of the high production values of *Traveller*, despite the low budget. "When you start out as a filmmaker, you do parodies, because you can't really compete on a studio level. That's part of the reason I wanted to produce this film — by having Jack Green, I knew that I would visually have a studio look. Then I took it a step further — we got into post production, and I wanted the sound quality to be as good as a studio film."

Paxton pulls out a copy of the *Traveller* soundtrack to show it off. It contains 18 songs by 13 artists, all of the songs re-recorded especially for the movie. One of the more memorable ones from the film is Randy Travis' cover of "King of the Road," which plays during the opening sequence. "I wanted the feeling of driving across the country and the south with all the honky-tonks and roadhouses and motels and trucks. This soundtrack is like a homecooked meal."

So what does Paxton see for himself in the

future? "I've had a great career up until now, and I'm trying to kind of take the reins. Unfortunately, I've seen so many actors who reach a certain prominence, and then they do a couple of films that don't get accepted by the public or are critically panned and the next thing you know, they're out the door. It's really sad, and you kind of have to project yourself; you've got to guide your own career. In the old days the studios guided your career. Now it's all up to you. Guys like Tom Hanks and Tom Cruise are superstars not only because they are incredibly gifted performers, but because they're also really great strategists. It's really a question of playing the game right and finding the next great project."

Paxton should have no trouble finding further success both in front of and behind the camera. *Traveller* opened to great reviews last week and was the highest grossing limited-release picture in the country. It starts its run in Boston today at the Nickelodeon and Harvard Square.

ON CAMPUS

Dramashop's daring, actor-created look at sex and identity

DOWN AND DIRTY: TAKING IT ALL OFF

MIT Dramashop
Directed by Brenda Cotto-Escalera
May 2-3 at 8 p.m.
Kresge Little Theater
Starring Aomawa L. Baker '97, Katherine E. Hardacre '99, Nicole J. Homan '00, Joseph N. Kaye '99, Rachel Perry, S. Toby Segaran '00, Andrea H. Zengion '99.

By Teresa Huang
STAFF REPORTER

Down and Dirty: Taking It All Off is a collective theater piece that explores sex and sexuality. The script, characters, and design were created entirely by the cast and director through improvisation and collaboration. The production is fresh and different, pushing the boundaries of traditional theater and presenting a new experience for MIT audiences.

Director Brenda Cotto-Escalera, an assistant professor in music and theater arts, describes *Down and Dirty* as "a collection of pieces based on stories that were told by the cast, by the designers, and by myself." The main space in which the actors chose to explore these issues is the backstage of a strip show. Seven MIT students make up the cast: Cassie (Aomawa L. Baker '97), Jenny (Katherine E. Hardacre '99), Luke (Joseph N. Kaye '99), and Gwen (Andrea H. Zengion '99) are strippers, each with their own complex lives and memories. Jack (S. Toby Segaran '00) is a bouncer for the strip club and Amy (Nicole J. Homan '00) is the daughter of the club's owner. Overlooking these characters and sometimes interacting with them is Fantasia the Fuck Fairy, a quasi-mythical and bizarre character played with terrific humor by Rachel Perry.

As the characters interact with each other, they depart into their memories and fantasies,

each piece having been created within the group. Each character in the strip show has a particular issue they explore in their own manner. The issues the characters deal with are not just contained within the production, but rather are universal and free of the time frame of the strip show. The actors explore issues of sexuality through the space and through their characters. The performances were skilled and powerful. Perry was tremendously versatile and alive on stage as Fantasia. Each of the strippers were comfortable in their dialogue and interactions with each other. Baker — as Cassie, a stripper who values control over her body — was especially natural in her role and good in relating her feelings to the audience in a humorous yet frightening flashback. Also notable was a scene involving Jenny's father appearance at the club one night and how Jenny faces her past with him.

At the center of the production, of course, is sex, and the cast members of *Down and Dirty* are bold and straightforward with their own bodies and with their dealings with each other. The subject matter of their work is sure



Rachel Perry plays the role of Fantasia the Fuck Fairy. She offered assorted sweets and condoms before the show.

to shock some audience members, but their intensity and fearless approach to issues of sexuality is admirable and professional. Though a lot of their material is over the top, it's meant to incite serious thought and discus-

sion, not offend people, and it succeeds in being daring but not tasteless.

Cotto-Escalera has directed several professional theater productions in a similar style, including *Motherlands*, a collective piece about sexual and cultural identities produced by Boston's Theatre Offensive. Her style involves "empowering the actors to be the creators of the whole process. It's empowering everyone, so the actors have to be researchers, they have to be writers plus performers and weave everything together."

The actors push at the boundary between audience and actor from the beginning with their powerful entrance into the theater, depicting their transformation from MIT student to actor. The cast members of *Down and Dirty* were fortunate to have this opportunity to work with Cotto-Escalera and her improvisational directing style. Zengion, who plays Gwen, stripper and mother of two, said, "I think that the thing that I was most pleased with in this whole process was that as a designer you have a great opportunity to be creative and create in a production, but as an actor you have a character you're usually given in a script. ... With this we started with nothing and we created characters, a plot, and everything, and ... it's like a child now. We made it, and it came from us and it is us."

Baker agreed, "A lot of times with a traditional play that's been done you have all these guidelines where you can't go that far from what the character 'should be,' but we were able to really mold our characters ourselves and be in charge of what we felt, how far we wanted to go with the character."

Humorous at one moment, sad at another, and incredibly passionate and moving at the next, *Down and Dirty* covers a variety of emotions, energies, frustrations, and sexual issues. A brave production, *Down and Dirty* is pure creation and an important step toward expanding traditional notions of theater.

CLASSIFIEDS

- Events
- Help Wanted
- Positions Wanted
- For Sale

- Housing
- Services Offered
- Lost & Found
- Greeks

- Travel
- Information
- Clubs
- Miscellaneous

Advertising Policy

Classified ads are due at 4:30 p.m. two days before day of publication, and must be prepaid and accompanied by a complete address and phone number. Send or bring ads, with payment, to W20-483 (84 Mass. Ave., Room 483, Cambridge, MA 02139). Account numbers for MIT departments accepted. Sorry, no "personal" ads. Contact our office for more details at 258-8324 (fax: 258-8226) or ads@the-tech.mit.edu.

Rates per insertion per unit of 35 words

MIT community.....\$5.00
All other advertisers.....\$5.00

Help Wanted

Healthy men needed as sperm donors. Help others and earn up to \$120/wk. Must be between 19-34 & 5'9" or over. Call 497-8646 to see if you qualify! California Cryobank, Inc., Cambridge.

Help Wanted

Please help (\$5,000.00 Compensation). Infertile couple seek (oocyte) donation. The ideal candidate is a healthy Caucasian, average or above average height (drug free) age 20 to 29. Confidential screening, minor outpatient procedure is required. Compensation for time and effort. Please call 617-979-4311.

Help Wanted

Webmaster and database administrator positions available with Project Vote Smart, a Voter Information Organization based at Oregon State University. Check <http://www.vote-smart.org/jobs.html> for details or call 541-754-2746.

Help Wanted

Advanced Internet Web site creation - VirtuFlex software offers aspiring web developers weekly training sessions every Thursday evening from 7 pm to 9 pm. People with a basic working knowledge of HTML can learn more advanced methods of creating web sites for most telecommunications via the internet. This training seminar is free. Please call for more information: VirtuFlex Software 930 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139. 617-497-8006 ext. 32. Or find out more via the internet: <http://www.virtuflex.com>.

For Sale

Motorola Dynasty Deluxe Cellular Telephone. Comes with: 60 & 120 minute batteries, car adapter, original box, instructions, and video. Price: \$250 o.b.o. If interested, leave a message at 288-2206.

SyQuest EZ135: External, SCSI, removable cartridge drive. Faster and holds more than Zip drives. Four 135MB cartridges included (also available separately). Power supply and SCSI cable included. Originally \$200, slightly used for \$120. Contact daniels@the-tech.mit.edu

Positions Wanted

Person with 25 years of hands-on experience in metal casting, lost wax and sand. Has strong problem solving ability, would be interested in working a few hours per month as a consultant, call 508-653-9484.

Housing

Researcher (and family of 5) from Copenhagen, Denmark looking to rent/exchange house from 7/1/97 to 6/31/98. Contact Coleen McSharry - New England Medical Center 636-8655.

Roommate Wanted. Starting May 1 we will be subletting one room in an expansive, four-bedroom apartment in Winter Hill, Somerville. Rent: \$366.00 + utilities. Contact Anders at (617) 629-5949 or anders@mit.edu.

Starry Night Bed & Breakfast. Brick colonial home, spacious rooms, a/c, marble fireplace livingroom, continental breakfast, home baked goods. 4.5 miles to Harvard Square, close to Tufts, MIT, Boston. Drive to Lexington, Concord. (617) 646-8236.

Travel

Surf & Sun Tours Cancun, Jamaica and Nassau \$399.00 all inclusive: air, trans, hotel (20 to choose from), 2 free meals daily, 3 hrs free drinks every night, VIP cover to all clubs. Call Toll free (888) 244 3733. Group discounts and greek specials. Ask how you can travel free.

Europe \$169 OW. Mexico/Caribbean \$189 RT & World Wide Destinations Cheap!! If you can beat these prices start your own airline. Air-Tech Ltd. 212/219-7000. info@aerotech.com <http://campus.net/aerotech>

Europe \$175. Within USA \$79-\$129. Caribbean/Mexico \$199 r/t. Cheap fares worldwide! <http://www.airhitch.org>. Airhitch 1-800-326-2009.

Information

Bavicchi lives! Join the MIT concert band for the last concert of the semester, Saturday, May 3, at 8 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. Hear John Bavicchi's Suite No. 3 (Op. 60) and works by Gregory Tucker, Vaclav Nelhybel, Edward Madden, and others. Come to finish those concert reports before the end of classes, or just to hear some good music.

Web page designer to help create new web site, must be experienced, motivated, creative. Resume & URL references to 259 Walnut St. #2, Newton, MA 02160. Fax to 617-527-7074.

Web & graphic designers, business & marketing major. To be equity partner in on-line start-up team. Must be motivated, reliable, willing to commit time. Resume to 259 Walnut St., #2, Newton, MA 02160, or fax 617-527-7074.

College financial aid - Student Financial Services has information on 3,400+ public and private sector funding sources. A must for anyone seeking financial aid! For information: call 1-800-263-6495 ext. F50332 (We are a research and publishing co.)

Fundraiser - Motivated groups needed to earn \$500+ promoting AT&T, Discover, gas, and retail cards. Since 1969, we've helped thousands of groups raise the money they need. Call Gina at (800-592-2121x110). Free CD to qualified callers.

South Africa Study Abroad May-June 1997. Three week travel study abroad program offered by the University of Vermont and Mary Washington College. Visit us at www.africastudy.com or call (888) 597-8839.

Students needed to pack and ship parcels to be sent via UPS at the end of the semester. \$10/hour call 1(888)654-SHIP or e-mail upsn444@aol.com

For Sale

8752 Integrity Five Station Brewer with faucet for sale. Comes complete with line strainer, brew basket, and 25 paper filters. 115/230 volts 60/hz. 3500 watt tank element, total wattage: 4435 watts, 20 amps. 17 1/4" deep (including faucet) 23 11/16" wide, 21 7/8" high. Requires 3 wire ground cord, single phase. Decanters not included. Practically brand new, hardly used. Questions? Call 225-1500 and ask for Erica. Worth ~\$300; best offer.

Seized cars from \$175. Porsches, Cadillac, Chevys, BMW's, Corvettes. Also Jeeps, 4WD's. Your Area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 ext. 3797 for current listings.

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

IT'S TIME NOW FOR THE WALLY REPORT, A WEEKLY STATUS UPDATE.

MY INCOME IS 80% OF INDUSTRY AVERAGE, ENTHUSIASM IS AT 63% OF CAPACITY AND MY EGO SHIELD IS HOLDING AT 15%.

YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS UP FROM LAST WEEK.

SOMEONE LEFT THE SUPPLY CABINET UNLOCKED!

GOOD NEWS ABOUT YOUR COMPENSATION PLAN...

I HATE GOOD NEWS ABOUT MY COMPENSATION PLAN.

TWENTY PERCENT OF YOUR PAY WILL NOW BE IN THE FORM OF STOCK OPTIONS INSTEAD OF CASH!

TO GET YOUR STOCK OPTIONS, SIMPLY SIGN THIS UPDATED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT.

WHY DOES GOOD NEWS FEEL LIKE A MUGGING?

MY COMPANY WON'T GIVE ME MY STOCK OPTIONS UNLESS I SIGN THIS NEW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT.

HERE.

YADA, YADA, YADA, YADA, YADA, YADA, YADA, YADA, YADA, YADA.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I'M NOT READING IT. I JUST LIKE TO LOOK AT DOCUMENTS AND GO YADA, YADA, YADA.

YOU WANT ME TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT THAT I WON'T WORK FOR A COMPETITOR FOR FIVE YEARS IF I LEAVE HERE?

NO PROBLEM. HERE YOU GO.

THIS IS TOO EASY.

I HAVEN'T DONE ANY WORK HERE FOR FIVE YEARS, SO HOW HARD COULD IT BE?

NEW GAME?

I WANT YOU TO WORK WITH OUR MARKETING PEOPLE TO DESIGN A PRODUCT BROCHURE.

GROAN.

REMEMBER, WHAT WE DO HERE MIGHT SEEM LIKE CRIMINAL FRAUD BUT IT'S NOT. IT'S MARKETING!

OKAY, AS LONG AS IT'S NOT WRONG...

HERE'S A JAR TO KEEP YOUR CONSCIENCE IN. I'LL PUT IT IN THE CLOSET WITH MINE.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13						14	
15			16			17		18		
		19			20	21				
22	23			24		25		26	27	28
29			30		31		32		33	
34		35		36		37		38		39
40		41		42		43		44		45
46		47		48		49		50		
		51		52		53		54		
55	56			57		58			59	60
61			62		63				64	
65			66							67

ACROSS

- Vegas
- Dislike
- Drunkard
- Pismire
- Section
- Boston party beverage
- Nearsightedness
- Bar
- Rent
- Damage
- Assist
- Black street substance
- Bird's home
- Pertaining to punishment
- Rodent
- Row
- Page (abbr.)
- Lease
- Gov. agency (abbr.)
- Titanium symbol
- Untruth
- Beaver construction
- Assert
- Jealousy
- Kettle
- Cans
- Promise to repay
- Skin openings
- Part of hour
- Coarse cloth
- Bow shaped
- Slackens
- Look
- Born
- Long-legged wading bird
- Ocean
- Start
- Male sheep
- Soft cloth
- Borders
- Showed the way
- Spasmodic muscular contraction
- Rap
- Change
- Exhibit
- Atlas
- Passageways
- Not me
- Peace prize
- Utah Indians
- Corrode
- Male
- Anger
- Consume
- Yes vote
- Green vegetable
- Yes (Spanish)

DOWN

- To escape (slang)
- Some
- Taken
- Largest continent
- Blow up
- Hello
- Fall month (abbr.)
- Paper measurement
- Sound system
- Over (poetic)
- Summer browning
- Flower part
- Recreational vehicle
- Auricle
- Fruit

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

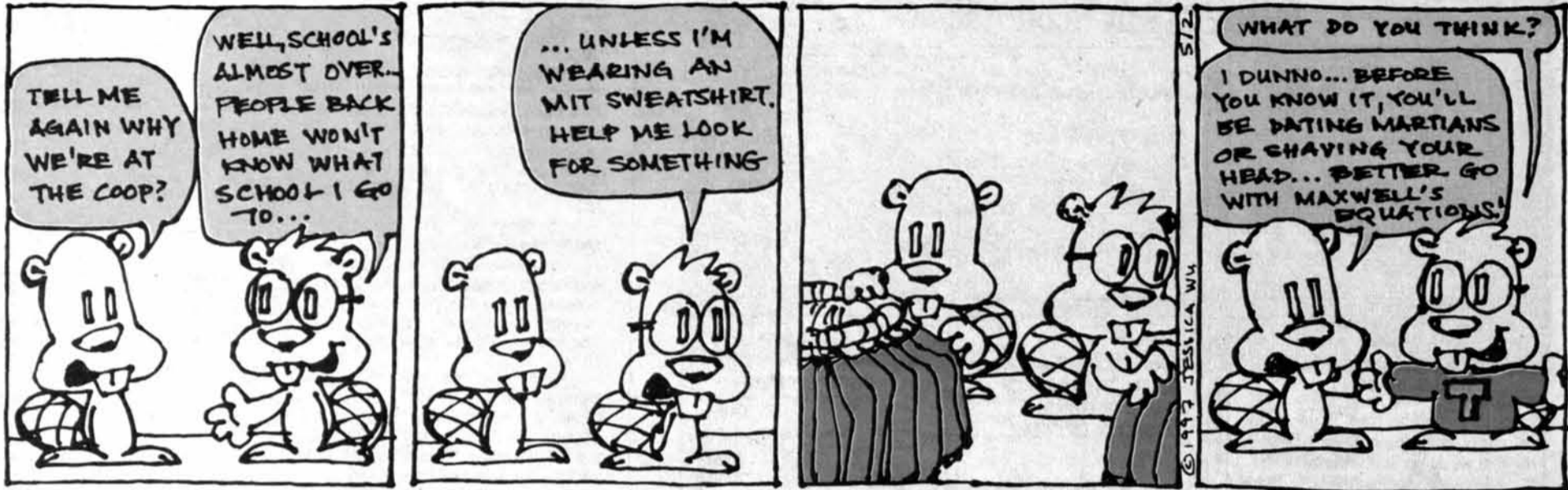
```

LOG AJAR TOAD
AVE TONE ANTE
PARROT NIB TE
MAP DEN AND
SEAT DEW AR
TAN PUN ACTOR
ES VANTAGE RI
MEDAL TRE DAD
IN ESE GALE
GEM VAT BAN
EX TAG TARGET
LIM AED IT ERE
STOW ROSE RAN
    
```

COMICS

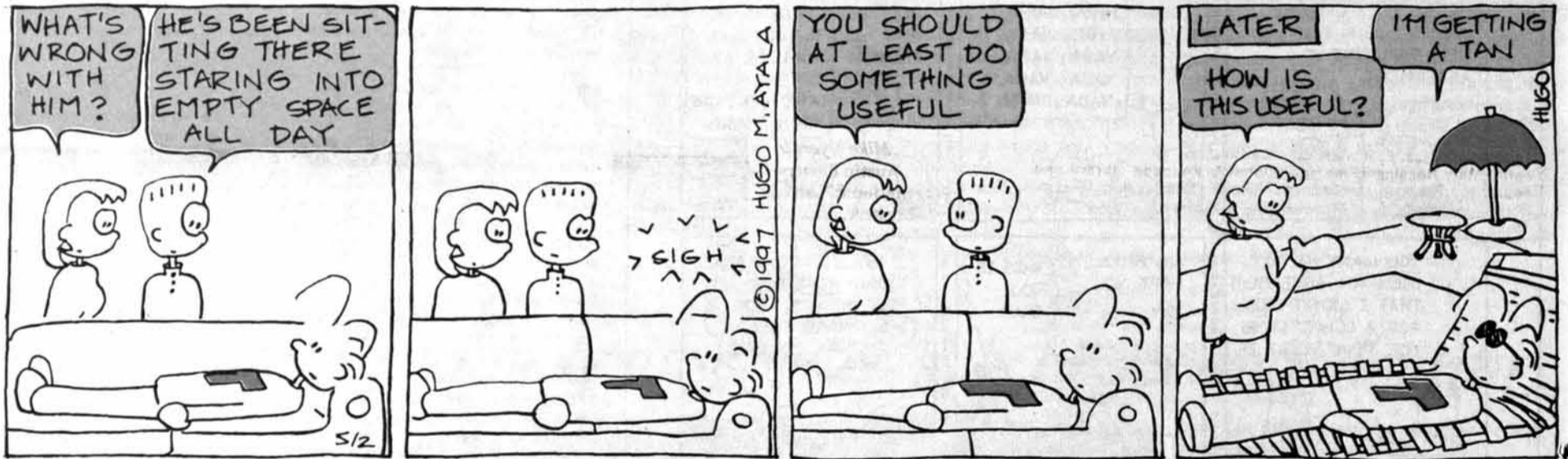
DAMNED FOR LIFE

by Jessica Wu



Off Course

by Hugo



RHINO MAN

by Zachary Emig



Dilbert®
 Starting today in
 The Tech! See page 7.

ON THE TOWN

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston

.....
 COMPILED BY CRISTIÁN A. GONZÁLEZ

Classical Music

Schubert/Brahms Anniversary
 Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. May 2, 8 p.m.; May 4, 3 p.m. Admission: \$18, \$24, \$35, \$45. Information: 266-3605. Christopher Hogwood conducts the Handel and Haydn Society period orchestra in this program that marks the 200th birthday of Franz Schubert and the deaths of Johannes Brahms and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. This concert gives audiences a unique opportunity to hear the music of these three nineteenth-century Romantic composers. The program includes Mendelssohn, *Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 21; Schubert, *Symphony No. 5 in B flat, D485*; Brahms, *Serenade No. 1 in D, Op. 11*.

Musicians from Marlboro
 Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2 Palace Rd., Boston. May 4, 1:30 p.m. Admission: adults, \$15; senior citizens, \$11; college students, \$9; ages 12-17, \$7; ages 5-11 \$4; members \$5. Information: 734-1359. Naomi Katz and Scott St. John, violins. Ellen dePasquale and Steven Tenenbom, violas. Paul Watkins, cello. Mary Nessinger, mezzo-soprano. Program includes Boccherini, *String Quartet in G Major, Op. 60, No. 5*; Respighi, "*Il Tramonto*" for Mezzo-Soprano and String Quartet; Dvorak, *String Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 97*.

Popular Music

Claudio Ragazzi Quintet
 Café Teatro, 405 Shawmut Ave., Boston. May 2, 8 p.m. Admission: \$10. Information: 927-1715. Nationally acclaimed guitarist and composer Claudio Ragazzi offers an evening of New Tango, a new blend of South American Jazz and a refreshing new voice in Latin Jazz.

Ongoing Theater

Rent
 Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston. Through May 23. Tues.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m.; matinees, Sat.-Sun., 2 p.m. Admission: \$25-\$67.50. Information: (800)447-7400. Musical based on Puccini's 1896 opera *La Boheme*.

Saturday at LSC

BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD DO AMERICA SCENE

Film

The Museum at the John F. Kennedy Library
 Columbia Point, Boston. Through June 1: Fri.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$6; seniors and students, \$4; ages 6-12, \$2; under 6, free. Information: 929-4523. Films run continuously during the day. *Cuban Missile Crisis*. Film documenting the October 1962 confrontation with the Soviet Union. Through June 1. *Fight Against Segregation*. A film on events leading up to JFK's national address on civil rights. *Son of Ireland*. Portrays Kennedy's visit to his ancestral home. Through June 1.

Whales
 Museum of Science, Science Park, Cambridge. Through April 30. Admission: \$7.50; seniors and ages 3-14, \$5.50 (Tues., bargain nights for all shows 7 p.m. and later, \$5; seniors and ages 3-14, \$3). Information: 723-2500. Film follows the life cycles and travels of blue, humpback, and right whales from Argentina to Alaska.

Lectures

Carl Anthony
 John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston. May 6, 5:30 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 929-4571. Anthony is the author of *As We Remember Her: Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in the Works of Family and Friends*. The public image of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is misleading. Behind the myths, careful biographers find a substantive, yet irreverently humorous, woman who felt uncomfortable in the public eye. She was, writers conclude, an extremely intelligent human being who adored her family, relished her privacy, possessed exquisite taste and effortless style, and pursued her interests with passion. Carl Anthony is also the author of *First Ladies: The Saga of Presidential Wives and their Power, 1789-1990*. His story-

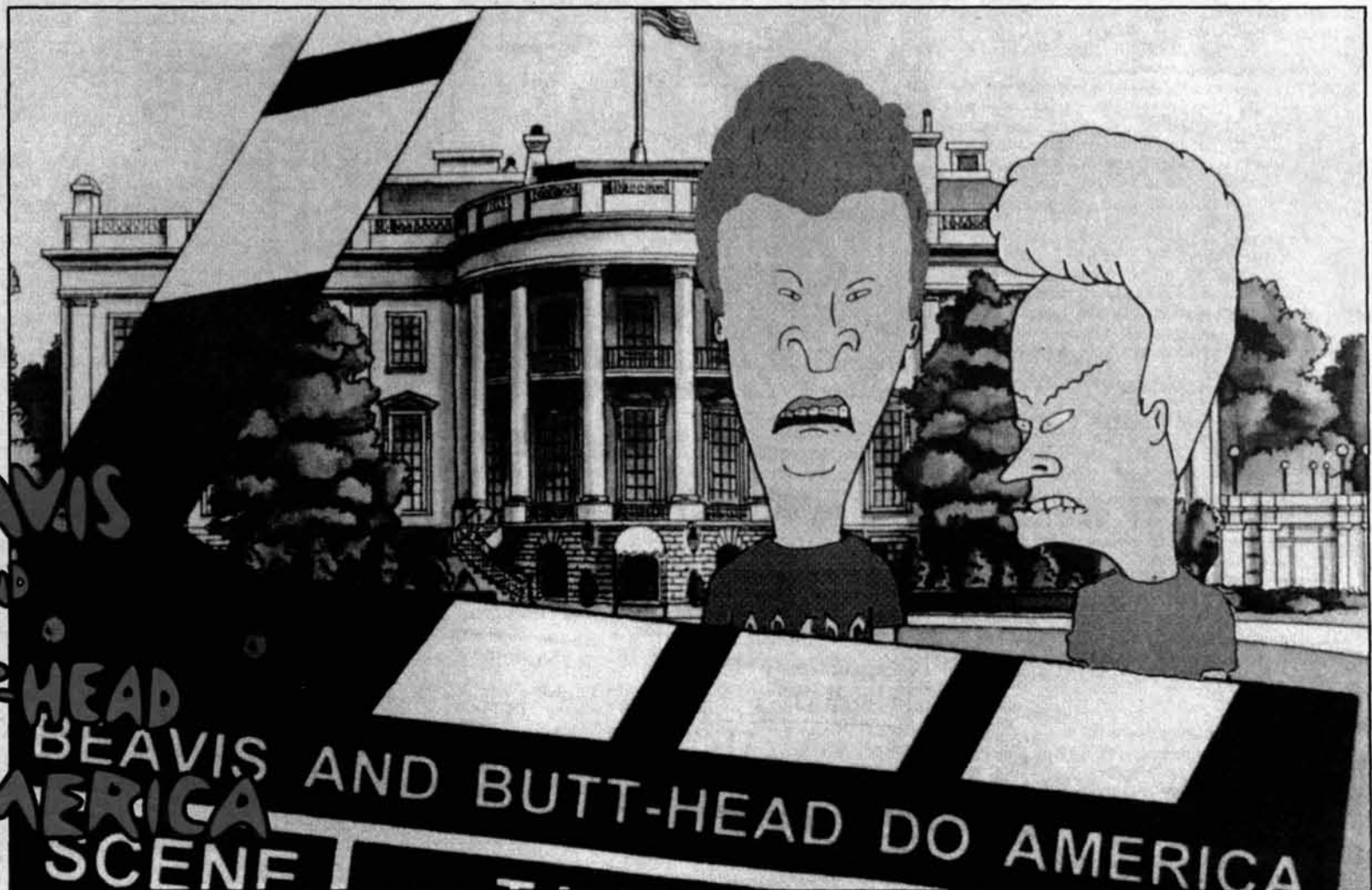
telling approach to history has made him a popular lecturer and news commentator.

Exhibits

MIT Museum
 265 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission: \$3; non-MIT students, seniors, and under 12, \$1; MIT students, free. Information: 253-4444. *What's So Funny About Science?* Cartoons of Sidney Harris offer a hilarious look at unexpected and incongruous moments in science. Through May 31. *Maps from the Age of Atlases*. Rare maps from the Museum's Hart Nautical Collections illuminate the golden age of cartography. Through May 4. *Gestural Engineering: The Sculpture of Arthur Ganson*. Ganson's kinetic sculptures exude the wit of their creator, a self-described cross between a mechanical engineer and a choreographer. Ongoing. *Lightforest: The Holographic Rainforest*. Large-scale hologram exhibit by Betsy Connors. Ongoing.

Continued on next page

Mike Myers in Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery, opening today across Boston.



From previous page

Holography. The exhibition explores the holographic universe from its inception in the late 1940s through its artistic and technical evolution and highlights works by the world's foremost holographers. Ongoing.

Math in 3D. Morton C. Bradley's mathematical sculptures inspire inventors of all ages to create their own structures in the adjacent Mathspace activity center. Ongoing.

MIT Hall of Hacks. Chronicling MIT's rich hacking tradition, this exhibition features historic photographs and a collection of artifacts. Ongoing.

Light Sculptures. Vivid interactive

plasma sculptures by Center for Advanced Visual Studies alumnus Bill Parker. Ongoing.

On the Surface of Things: Images in Science and Engineering by Felice Frankel.

Compton Gallery, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Through June 27: Mon.-Sun., 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-4444. Stunning photographs communicate recent research in a variety of disciplines at MIT and other institutions.

Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Rd., Lexington. Starting May 4, through September 14. Admission: free. Information: 861-6559. The Museum of Our

National Heritage presents a major exhibition of Native American paintings and Southwestern Hispanic textiles. **Collecting the Southwest: The Harvey Family Legacy** comprises two traveling exhibitions drawn from Arizona museums in Phoenix and Flagstaff. It has been assembled from **Personal Passion, Profitable Pursuit: The Katherine Harvey Collection of Native American Fine Art** organized by the Museum of Northern Arizona, and the Heard Museum's **Classics and Dazzlers: Textiles from the Fred Harvey Company Collection.**

Botticelli's Witness: Changing Style in a Changing Florence

2 Palace Rd., Boston. Through May

11. Admission: adults, \$15; senior citizens, \$11; college students, \$9; ages 12-17, \$7; ages 5-11, \$4; members, \$5. Information: 734-1359. The work of Sandro Botticelli, one of the most influential artists of the Italian Renaissance, is examined in an exhibition exploring each decade of his artistic career. Changing society, politics, and religion in 15th century Florence influenced Botticelli's style. The exhibition follows his work as it evolved.

The Race to the Moon

The Museum at the John F. Kennedy Library. Off Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester. Through June 1: Fri.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$6; seniors and stu-

dents, \$4; ages 6-12, \$2; under 6, free. Information: 929-4523. Exhibit on America's pioneering space exploration.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed.-Fri., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Admission: \$10; seniors and college students, \$8; ages 17 and under, free; Wed. after 4 p.m., voluntary contribution; Thurs.-Fri., after 5 p.m., \$2 discount. Information: 267-9300.

Beyond the Screen: Chinese Furniture of the 16th and 17th Centuries. The exhibit aims not only to explore the beauty of Chinese art forms, but also to carry the viewer into the physical surroundings of their time. Through May 18.

This is the Modern World: Furnishings of the 20th Century. The exhibit relates the look of objects intended for everyday use to the creative vision of the artist-maker or designer, and the demands of technology, function, cost, and the needs and desires of the potential buyer or user. Through September.

USS Constitution Museum

Navy Yard, Charlestown. Mon.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: \$4; seniors, \$3; ages 6-16, \$2; under 6, free; under 16 when unaccompanied by an adult, free. Information: 426-1812.

Old Ironsides in War and Peace. Retrospective celebrating the USS Constitution's upcoming 200th birthday. Includes artifacts such as the sea bag and possessions of an 1812 crew member, hands-on activities, and photographs. Ongoing.

Strengthening Old Ironsides. Color photographs documenting the four-year rehabilitation and restorations of the ship. Ongoing.

Capturing Old Ironsides on Canvas. Works by artist Cheslie D'Andrea. Ongoing.

Living with Ants and the Science of E.O. Wilson

Harvard Museums of Cultural and Natural History, 26 Oxford St.,

Cambridge. Through April 30: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$5; seniors and students, \$4; ages 3-13, \$3; Sat. 9 a.m.-noon, free. Information: 495-3045.

Inside Fort Independence: An Archaeological View of Military Life

Commonwealth Museum, 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 727-9268.

The Pyramids and the Sphinx: 100 Years of American Archaeology at Giza

Semitic Museum, Harvard University, 6 Divinity Ave., Cambridge. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., 1-4 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 495-4631. Collection of photos and artifacts. Ongoing.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission: ages 12 and up, \$9.50; seniors, \$8.50; ages 3-11, \$5; under 3, free. Information: 973-5200.

The Otter Limits. Construction relocation of aquarium's colony of harbor seals and sea otters to a new, enlarged habitat behind the aquarium.

Ponds: The Earth's Eyes. Self-guided tour of freshwater habitats.

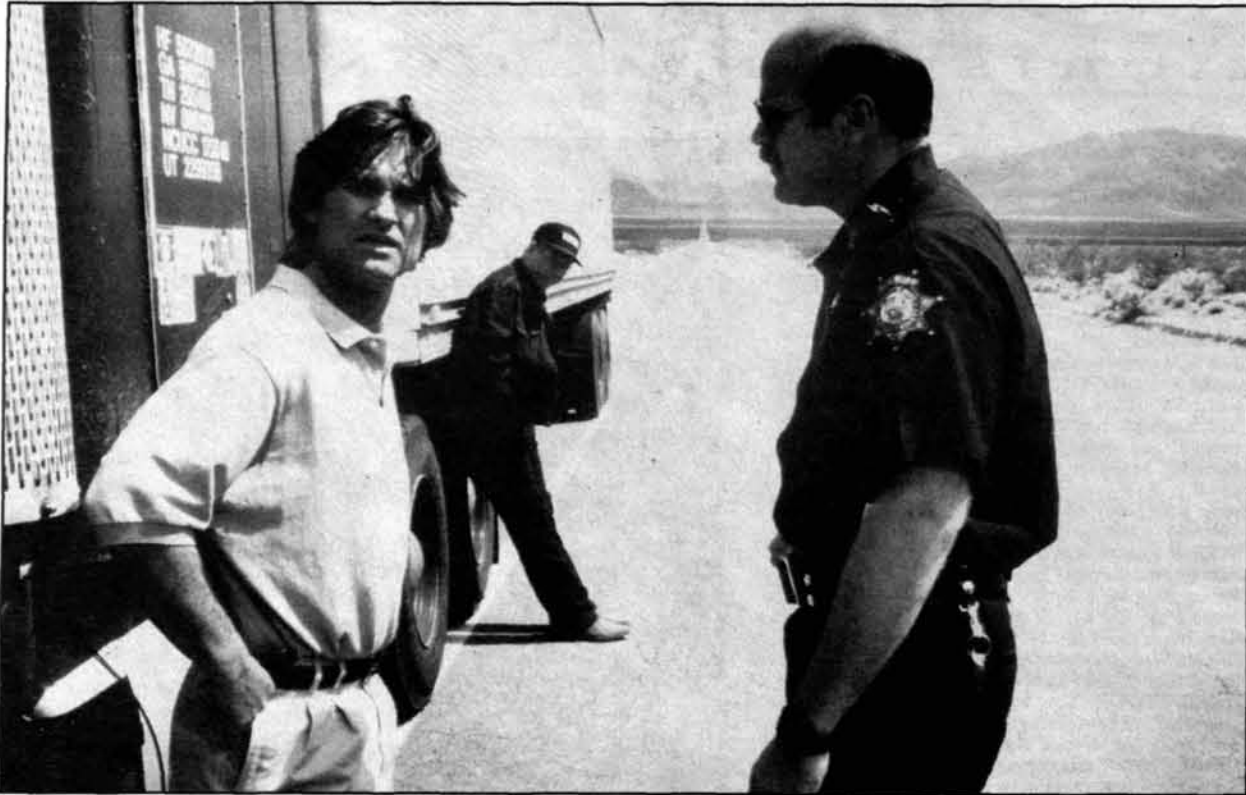
Go with the Flow. Problems and solutions for Boston Harbor.

Giant Ocean Tank. 187,000-gallon coral reef tank.

Rivers of Americas: Amazon and Connecticut.

Original Visions: Shifting the Paradigm, Women's Art 1970-1996

Boston College Museum of Art, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill. Through May 18. Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 552-8100. Exhibit includes paintings, photographs and sculptures.



Kurt Russell (left, shown with Rex Linn) plays a man trying to find his wife in *Breakdown*, opening today across Boston.

O N C A M P U S

LSC

77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Admission: \$2. Information: 258-8881.

One Fine Day

May 2, 7 and 10 p.m. Room 26-100. In this romantic comedy, two divorced parents, a struggling architect (Michele Pfeiffer) and a hard-driving political columnist (George Clooney), are forced to help each other care for their kids during a hectic day and unexpectedly find themselves falling in love.

Midnight Cowboy

May 2, 7:30 p.m. Room 10-250. Directed by John Schlesinger. Starring John Voight, Dustin Hoffman, Brenda Vaccaro. Hayseed (John Voight) comes to New York City, becomes a stud, and develops an unusual friendship with seedy Ratso Rizzo (Hoffman). The steamiest side of New York City is the backdrop for a compelling, keen-eyed character study of the meaning of friendship. Winner of three Oscars for best picture, best director, and best screenplay.

Beavis and Butt-Head Do America

May 3, 7 and 10 p.m. Room 26-100. The misfits from the MTV cartoon series bring their low-grade IQs, obnoxious commentaries, and amusing antics to the big screen. The story follows the duo as they hit the highway in search of their stolen TV. Mike Judge directs, co-scripts, stars as the lead voices, and creates the lead music.

Out for Laughs

Kresge Auditorium, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. May 17, 8 p.m. Admission: \$14.50; \$16.50 at the door. Information: 524-0415. A wild night of women's comedy. The fifth annual comedy night benefit for Sojourner will feature emcee Kathy Najimy and comedians Bertice Berry, Michele Balan, and Tina D'Elia.



George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer in *One Fine Day*, showing Friday at LSC.

Music

MIT Concert Choir and MIT Symphony Orchestra

Kresge Auditorium, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. May 2, 8 p.m. Admission: \$2; \$5 at the door. Information: 253-9800. Lecturer of Music and Theater Arts William C. Cutter, director. Program includes Britten, *Cantata Academica*; Purcell, *Come Ye Sons of Art*; Vaughan Williams, *Serenade to Music*. Andrea Ehrenreich, soprano; Patricia Thom, mezzo-soprano; Paul Flight, Gary Crichlow, countertenor, Matthew DiBattista, tenor; Thomas Jones, bass.

Prabha Marathe, Kathak Dance

Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Dr., Cambridge. May 2, 8 p.m. Admission: \$15, \$12, \$10, \$2 with MIT ID. Information: 258-7971. Puna's graceful disciple of the great Birju Maharaj.

MIT Concert Band

Kresge Auditorium, 84 Massachusetts Ave.,

Cambridge. May 3, 8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. Lecturer of Music and Theater Arts John Corley, director. Program includes John Bovicchi, *Suite No. 3, Op. 60*; Edward Madden, *The Eve of Saint Agnes*; Gregory Tucker, *Centennial Overture*.

Two-piano Student recital

Kresge Auditorium, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. May 6, 8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. Four-hands recital.

AMP Student Recital

Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Dr., Cambridge. May 7, 5 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. Andrew R. Newberg '97, piano. Program includes Mozart, *Sonata, K. 533 and Rondo, K. 494*; Chopin, *Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60*; Ravel, *Miroirs*.

MIT's African Performance Ensemble

Kresge Auditorium, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. May 8, 8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. Assistant Professor in Music

and Theater Arts James Makubuya, director. MIT's newest world music ensemble performs traditional music, song, and dance from East and South Africa, featuring African lyres, fiddles, harps, thumb pianos, log xylophones, and drums.

Anime

77 Massachusetts Ave., Room 6-120. May 2, 7 p.m. Admission: free. Featuring *Escaflowne 13-14* (25 minutes each, subtitled); *Fam and Iri* (30 minutes each, subtitled); *Good Morning Althea* (52 minutes, subtitled); *Handsome Girl* (36 minutes, subtitled).

Theatre

Down and Dirty: Taking It All Off

Dramashop production. Kresge Auditorium's Little Theater, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. May 2, 3; 8 p.m. Admission: \$7; \$5 for students with MIT ID. Information: 253-2908. Brenda Cotto-Escalera,

lecturer in music and theater arts, is directing the Dramashop spring production. This production has been created by the actors during the rehearsal process. See story, page 6.

Love's Light in Flight

31 Ames St., Room 66-110. May 1-3, 8 p.m. Admission: \$5, \$3 with MIT ID. Information: 695-1964. Black Theatre Guild production of play by Charles Michael Moore. A comedy about a man who leaves his girlfriend and goes home, finding love with his boss' wife.

Christmas on Mars

Walker Memorial, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Room 50-201. May 2, 3; 8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-2877. Student Workshop MIT student Charles P. Armesto '97 directs Harry Kondoleon's play "Christmas on Mars." It is a hilarious comedy about four dysfunctional people struggling to find love from each other. Themes of loneliness, love, sexual frustration, and a regrettable childhood are brought about through absurdist dialogue and relentless and unexpected events.

ATIC Lab Combats RSI in New Space

By Zareena Hussain
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT's Adaptive Technology for Information and Computation lab surrendered its space in room 11-112 to the Student Services Center renovation project, but in return it will be getting new, visible space in 3-123, the office currently holding the pilot Student Services Center.

The lab will move to the new location from its temporary space in 12-150 sometime during August, said Kathleen Cahill, Information Systems consultant and director of the ATIC lab.

The ATIC lab is designed to serve students and faculty members with disabilities like repetitive strain injury, visual impairment, learning disabilities, as well as other physical and mental disabilities.

The lab is open 24 hours a day for students and staff. "A lot of people with disabilities can't use the normal computer setup; we are there to provide alternative access," Cahill said.

ATIC addresses needs of disabled

The lab came to MIT in 1992, an outgrowth of the work by Information Systems Consultant M. Susan Jones, who worked as a computer consultant at Oberlin College. She saw the need at the Institute for a computer lab to address the needs of students with disabilities, Cahill said.

The lab centralizes technological aids for the disabled, offering a host of specially designed computers and input devices to offer alternative ways of interacting with computers. The lab contains two Athena workstations, two personal computers, and four Macintosh computers, Cahill said. Specialized keyboards, trackballs, voice recognition software, screen reading software, magnification, scanners, and Braille printing are among the interfaces available.

There are currently 20 students who regularly access the services of the ATIC lab as well as many stu-

dents who come in to try the equipment on a short-term basis.

Students who feel they may need to access the services of the ATIC lab can call or e-mail the lab to set up an appointment in order to get an understanding of the problem and to see a demonstration of the equipment.

ATIC a resource for RSI sufferers

In addition to serving students with learning and physical disabilities, the ATIC lab also helps students who may suffer from RSI.

RSI is a class of injuries to the muscles, tendons, and nerves that results from chronic overuse or misuse. Repetitive actions, especially small rapid movements like typing, poor working posture, strenuous movements, and working without taking regular breaks may cause RSI.

Over a three-month period from January to March, the ATIC lab had 17 new people come in with RSI-related problems, Cahill said.

RSI is a growing problem on campus. In 1996, the number of RSI-related cases that the MIT Medical Center dealt with increased 20 percent, said Dr. David V. Diamond, who sees most of MIT's RSI patients.

Precautions prevent injury

Most people who suffer from RSI can get better if they follow a few guidelines, Diamond said. Posture, an ergonomic working environment, and "pacing" can all prevent repetitive stress injuries.

Pacing involves taking "micro-breaks" as frequently as every 10 minutes, to stretch and relax the muscles of the neck and shoulder.

Students should not try to work through the pain, nor is taking medication or wearing braces necessarily a good idea, Diamond said.

Working through the pain sometimes helps strengthen weak muscles, but in RSI the pain is produced by a lack of endurance, not a lack of muscle strength.

The Tech News Hotline: 253-1541

Discussion -> Wednesday >> May 7th @ 12 Noon

<!--Evan Schwartz-->

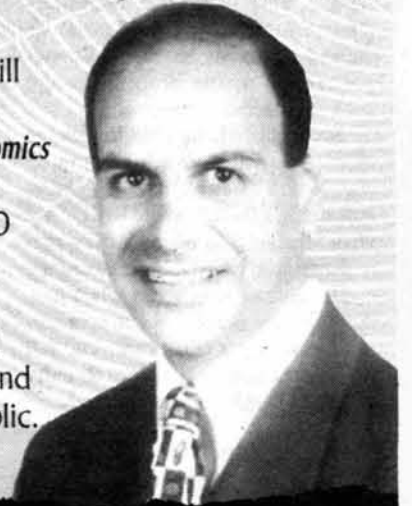
Webonomics:

Nine Essential Principles for Growing Your Business on the World Wide Web

Newsweek's former editor and reporter, Evan Schwartz, shows how using traditional business approaches on the Web can backfire. Discover how to capture the only scarce commodity on this information-based terrain: the attention of the people spending time there.

Tens of millions of people are now on-line and Web sites are springing up at a rate of one per minute.

Evan Schwartz will discuss and sign copies of *Webonomics* on Wednesday, May 7th at 12:00 Noon in the Tradebook Department. All events are free and open to the public.



Kendall Square • 3 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 617.499.3200
Open Monday - Saturday, 9am-6pm • www.bkstore.com/mit



The Most Exciting Thing You'll Discover at Amgen Is Something New About Yourself

At Amgen, research is our focus, but people are our inspiration. Which is why individual contributions are valued. Diversity is respected. And at Amgen, your knowledge and skills bring unique rewards. Not only will your work serve critical advances in healthcare, but you'll discover unlimited potential for achievement. With over 17 years of award-winning discovery behind us, Amgen emerges today as the world's leading biotechnology company. Discover Amgen, and you'll discover a world of opportunity at our state-of-the-art headquarters in Thousand Oaks, California - uniquely located about one hour from both Santa Barbara and downtown Los Angeles.

If you are seeking a full-time career opportunity or a summer internship, and your degree is in Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biology, Nursing, Chemical Engineering or a related discipline, please mail or fax your resume to:

Amgen Staffing,
Attn: SD-COL,
MS 24-2-C,
1840 DeHavilland Drive,
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Fax: (805) 498-8131

We recognize that diverse perspectives are a key factor in the process of discovery

Visit our web site at www.amgen.com to learn about other career opportunities. Principals only, please.

EEO/AA Employer M/F/D/V

AMGEN®

Online Preregistration Includes Security Measures

Preregistration, from Page 1

Students will be able to view biographical, financial, and grade information, Patel said. Students will also be able to update additional addresses, including temporary and parent billing addresses, which was impossible in the Athena version of SIS. In addition, WebSIS will have information on the status of billing issues.

Transcript request forms and student address withholding forms, among others, will also be available online, where students can print them. Enhancements, however, may make printing unnecessary. "Eventually, some forms will be submitted" electronically, Patel said.

Registration integrates lotteries

The new Web-based preregistration system provides feedback to users if there is a scheduling conflict, Callahan said. But "it's up to the student to make an informed decision" on whether to schedule conflicting classes.

In addition, students who wish to enter classes offered at the Sloan School of Management or other lottery classes will enter the class lottery on the Web. The Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Distribution lottery still must be entered separately because it has not yet moved to the Web, although such an interface is planned.

Students will be able to change their preregistration information on the WebSIS system until mid-August, Callahan said. Still, "we want [students] to take the May preregistration seriously," because many classes change their times when they discover that students have scheduling conflicts, Callahan said. The fall term schedules will be continually updated at <http://registrar.mit.edu>.

System uses digital certificates

In order to protect the security

of personal information available on the WebSIS system, students must first download their own "personal certificate" which will identify them to the system, Callahan said.

The certificates can be generated and downloaded from the Web page, said Information Systems Network Manager Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, who implemented the certificate technology.

The user can choose to encrypt the downloaded certificate with a "Netscape password." "This password is never stored anywhere, including on the Web browser where you use it," Schiller said.

The IS process for downloading the industry-standard certificates currently only works with Netscape 3.0 or higher. "We are working on support for [Microsoft] Internet Explorer, but it isn't ready yet," Schiller said.

The digital certificate technology is more advanced than most other schools' student information systems, said Associate Manager of Student Information Services JoAnne Stevenson.

SSL encryption protects data

In addition to using personal certificates, the new WebSIS system uses the Secure Sockets Layer protocol to protect all data transmitted to or from the server, Callahan said.

Export versions of Netscape, such as the default version on Athena, use 40-bit security. In January, a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley broke a 40-bit key in under four hours as part of a challenge issued by RSA Data Security, Inc.

U.S.-only versions of Netscape incorporate 128-bit security, Schiller said. Athena users should use the 'netscape-US' command to invoke the stronger program.

Account Statement

Statement Date: 17-APR-97
 Amount Due: \$ 100.00
 Minimum Payment: \$ 100.00
 Payment Due Date: 15-MAY-97
 Previous Balance: \$ 100.00

New Charges and Credits:

Date	Term	Amount	Description	Questions? Call
17-APR-97	Spring Term 1996-1997	100.00	Multi Plan	253-2815
15-APR-97	Spring Term 1996-1997	-100.00	Student Service Center Payment	000-0000

Messages:

You will pre-register for Fall term and can review your financial and academic records on the web using WebSIS beginning May 1. For more information, go to <http://student.mit.edu> at the beginning of May.

Previous Balance	New Credits	New Charges	Late Fee	New Balance	Anticipated Funds	Past Due	Amount Due	Minimum Payment
100.00	-100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

Balance Subject to Late Fee \$ 0.00

COURTESY OF STUDENT SERVICES RE-ENGINEERING

The Web-based Student Information System, available at <http://student.mit.edu>, will eventually allow students to access their account balances with the Bursar's Office by May 12. A pre-release version is shown here. Online preregistration started yesterday via the World Wide Web. Personal digital certificates and Secure Socket Layer encryption protect student information.



Want to view and update your student information without always running around campus? Now you can, on...

WebSIS

- Pre-register On-line
- View Financial Records
- View Academic Record
- Update Student Addresses
- View Biographic Record
- Download Forms
- And more, starting in May, on:

Try it today!

<http://student.mit.edu>

Workers Transplant Trees This Morning

Trees, from Page 1

In preparation for the move, holes have been dug around the trees near E53, and the root systems were trimmed. The contractors "had to cut a lot of the roots so that they could have a manageable" sized ball of roots and dirt which could be wrapped in burlap for transportation, he said.

A crane will be at E53 this morning to lift the trees onto a flat-bed truck, Magnuson said. With the help of the police, they will bring the trees down Memorial Drive to Killian Court. "We have about 150 to 200 sheets of plywood to protect the grass" and allow the crane and the truck to move to the location of the old trees. The stumps of the old trees will then be removed and disposed.

The whole process should take "a minimum of six hours," Magnuson said.

Staffers sorry to see trees go

People in the area of E53 were sad to see the trees go. "It's the one piece of greenery that we have around here," said Alison L. Salisbury, the administrative officer of the Department of Political Science. For "those of use who have our windows facing out the back, ... all we see is the asphalt and the roof of the Dibner Building [Building E56]."

"It's nice to see some greenery," she added. "I hated to give them up, but it was to a very good cause."

"Every spring when they're in bloom, it's a welcoming sight for a very impersonal building," she said.

"I'm going to miss [them. They are] part of your day," said Helen F. Ray, an administrative secretary in

the Department of Political Science. "I pass them every morning as I come in. ... They're just part of you, and you miss them when they're gone."

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCS

Open to all who are interested. All talks held in 4-163 at 4 P.M. No pre-registration required.

• • • • •

Mon., April 28: Presenting Your Work (and Yourself) to a Business Audience, by JoAnne Yates, Assoc. Prof. of Management Communication, Sloan School

Mon., May 5: An Overview of American Patent Law, by Jeffrey Meldman, Sr. Lecturer & Dir. of Undergraduate Programs, Sloan School

Mon., May 12: Entrepreneurship: What's Hot and What's Not, by Ken Morse, Managing Dir., MIT Entrepreneurship Center

Mon., May 19: Case Study: The Economics of Standards and the Competitive Effects of Uncertainty, by Scott Stern, Asst. Prof. of Management, Sloan School

Sponsor: Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising. Questions? Contact hannahb@mit.edu.

HEALTH EXPO '97: LIVE LONG AND PROSPER

COME FOR...

FITNESS TESTING
MASSAGES

NUTRITIOUS SNACKS AND DRINKS
ADVICE FROM MIT MEDICAL EXPERTS
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!!!

MAY 2 from 11:00-3:00 on the KRESGE OVAL

(Lobby 7 if it rains)

Sponsored by the MedLINKS of the MIT Medical Department, Health Education Services
For more information, call Health Education Services at 3-1316.

Campus Activities Complex

PRESENTS

P.u.b.l.i.c.i.t.y

STARRING

Student Activities and Departments

Coming Soon...
Tuesday, May 6th

Reservations for Fall Term 1997 after Activities Midway:

Promotional Spaces reserved for

Lobby 7 Drop Poster space, Lobby 10 Booths

Infinite Corridor Panels

Student Center Tables

* Student Center Balcony poster spaces for September only.



You may pick up and drop off applications at the Campus Activities Complex, W20-500. Tel: 253-3913.

PURE GENIUS



Sundays, 6 p.m., W20-483

Join The Tech Photo Department.



PARDIS SABETI

The Class of 1997 dances the night away at the Senior Ball held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel last Friday.

The Topper Established 18 COMICS

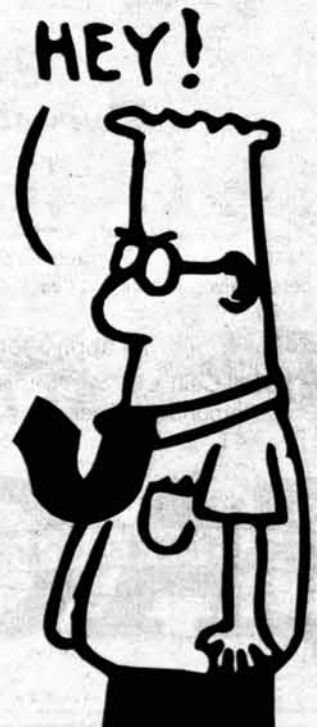
Dammed for Life

Off Course



...and starting today

Dilbert



Audience Vote Allows Visiting Student to Participate

2.70, from Page 1

three for every puck. They received 10 points if there was a robot on their side of the court at the end of the competition. If a machine split into pieces, more than half of the mass of the machine was required to cross to the other side if the 10 points were to be avoided. In addition, the ledges on each end of the court doubled the value of anything placed on them.

Contestants were given identical kits of parts with electronic and pneumatic devices to construct a device that would score the least amount of points. Last year's winner, Sami S. Busch '98, advised participants to "stay calm" during the 30-second competition.

The most common strategy was to move the machine to the other side of the court, as the winning machine was able to do consistently.

Other strategies, however, involved moving balls off the double-value ledge or pushing the balls off the barrier onto the opponent's side of the court.

Some more unusual designs, however, used grappling hooks, walked along the walls of the court or launched balls or even themselves across the court. "The wall-crawler was the most unusual and impressive" machine at this competition, Slocum said.

Visiting student in final eight

A complication arose during this year's competition when a visiting foreign student was one of the final eight remaining students. By contest rules, only students actually enrolled in 2.007 may be the final eight players of the competition.

After a commotion in the crowd, Slocum asked all present to vote on whether to allow the student to com-

pete. Nearly everyone agreed to allow the student to compete. "Everybody said, 'Let's do what's right and delete the rules,'" Slocum said.

However, Slocum noted that it was an MIT mechanical engineering student who was victorious. When the visiting student lost, the crowd erupted into cheers of "MIT, MIT."

Feelings on the competition among students were mixed. Kenneth I. Pettigrew '99 said that "the work was insane. You burn out and realize you have to work on other classes, too."

Annabel Flores '99 whose strategy "is for [the machine] to work," said 2.007 was "a class I looked forward to the most before I took it and the most happy that it's over."

Robin C. Evans '99 went into the competition "hoping to maintain my dignity" but called the class a "lot of fun."

2.007 "made me glad I came to MIT," Evans said.

Chorallaries perform at 2.70

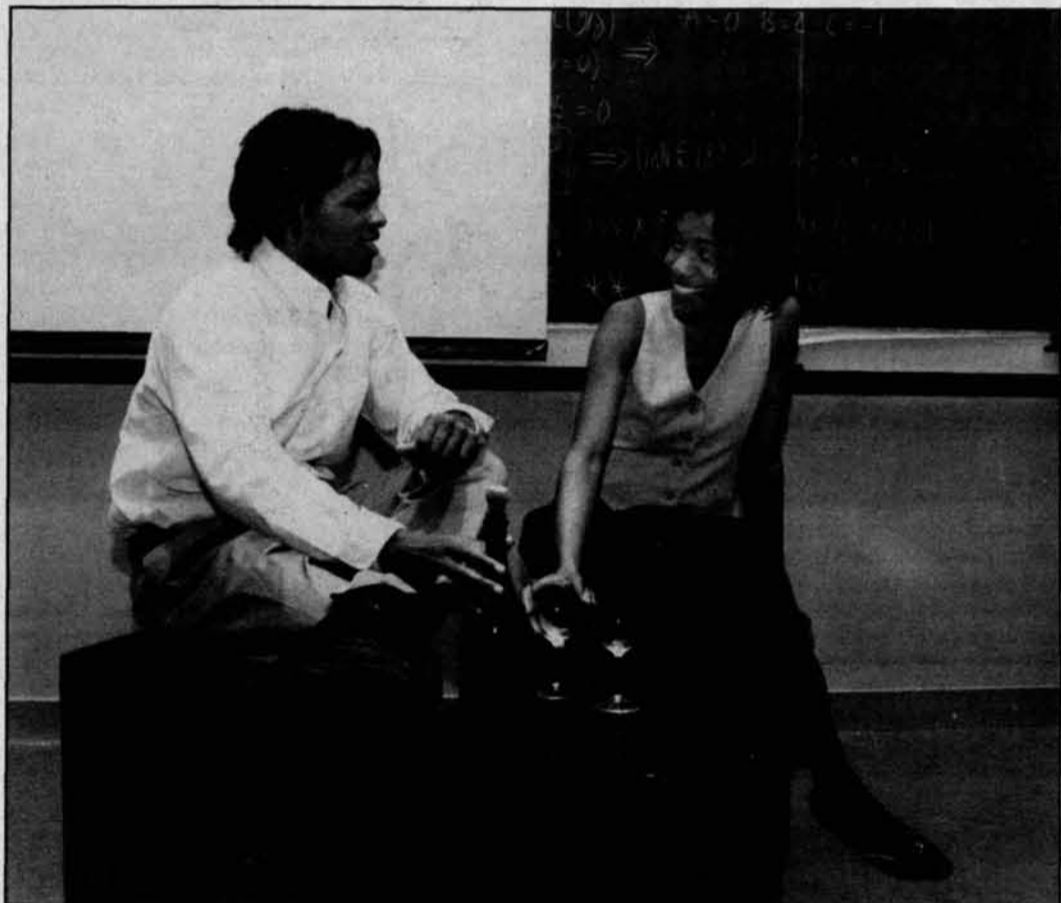
The second night of competition began with a "2.70 rap" and the traditional appearance of the Chorallaries who performed MIT's drinking song. Other highlights of

the competition included "security" officers who held back the crowd with Super Soakers, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering Woodie C. Flowers PhD '73, who made a dramatic appearance as a "bio-placebo," an inert robot, in the final match of the qualifying round and later during a break in the final competition.



CHUN HUA ZHENG—THE TECH

Benjamin F. Polito '99 maneuvers his machine into enemy territory, bringing him 10 points closer to winning the preliminary bout.



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Lawrence C. Durant '98 and Erica I. Shelton '99 share a drink in the Black Theatre Guild's production of *Love's Light in Flight*.

Create a Worldwide Electronic Community

The MIT Alumni Association seeks a full-time webmaster who wants to develop and sustain a new set of services which make it easy for alumni to stay in touch with friends, colleagues and the Institute.

E-mail Forwarding for Life is up and running and an on-line directory is in the pilot stage. Distance learning, library access and community forums are just a few of the ideas being discussed. Over 3,500 alumni have registered for the service in its first three months of operation!

Check out our site.
<http://web.mit.edu/alum/ans>

The Official Description

Webmaster, Alumni Network Services

Develop and implement internet publishing solutions. Manage customersupport related to the Association web site and other network services; edit HTML documents and upload pages to the site; integrate multimedia assets and database applications. Total quality management of the site includes the evaluation of user interfaces, design clarity, server maintenance and staff support. Maintain cross-platform and cross-browser compatibility so that the web site is accessible from a variety of different environments. Provide ongoing training and consulting to Alumni Association staff and volunteers.

Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree required; MIT degree strongly preferred. Excellent communications skills a necessity. Must have strong working knowledge of HTML and CGI scripting. Familiarity with C, C++, and Javascript an advantage. Requires work in MAC, PC and UNIX environments. Ability to manage and analyze the web site from a client as well as a server perspective. Experience designing, programming or managing web content required.



To apply, send your resume and cover letter to:

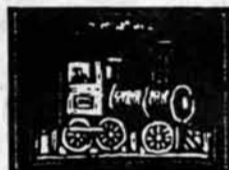
Bill Cain
Personnel Officer
MIT
400 Main Street
Building E19-230
Cambridge, MA 02139

and

Maggy Bruzelius
Director, Alumni Network Services
MIT
201 Vassar Street, Building W59-224
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
maggyb@mit.edu
fax 617-258-8778

MIT is an EOE employer and offers excellent benefits and competitive salaries.

Summer in Europe!



Planes, Trains & Automobiles

GARBER
TRAVEL

Cambridge
1105 Mass. Ave
(617) 492-2300

- Hotel
- Tour Packages
- Rail Europe

TUFTS Summer

Visiting students welcome!

Day and evening classes are available in two six-week sessions:
May 21 – June 27 • July 1 – August 8



Discover the best value in Boston! \$1050 for most courses. No problems transferring credit — courses are four semester hours.

Located just five miles from Boston, our scenic campus is easy to get to, offers ample parking and convenient access.

Benefit from a summer course. Lighten your fall course load, concentrate on a difficult course or make up credit.

For a catalog:

Call (617) 627-3454, or

e-mail: summer@infonet.tufts.edu

Our catalog is also on the web: www.tufts.edu/as/summer or mail the coupon below.

Please send a Tufts Summer Session catalog to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Tufts Summer Session, 108 Packard Avenue, Medford, MA 02155



SPORTS

Softball Slides into Semifinals

By Joanna Garellick
and Sherry Mowry
TEAM MEMBERS

The women's softball team finished their season with a difficult loss to Clark University in the semifinals of the New England Women's Eight conference tournament.

Their conference final record of 5-9 was a vast improvement over last year, when the team had only two wins. The team's strong season play carried into the Clark match but was not enough to secure a victory in extra-inning play.

The team jumped to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning behind the strong offensive play of Sherry Mowry '98 and Kristy Stoke '99.

Clark was able to answer back in the bottom of the first with one run, but MIT did not quit as they extended their lead to 4-1 in the second inning with the powerful bats of Anna Cherubin '99 and Katie Barron '00.

Through the next three innings,

the squad held off Clark's hard-hitting lineup, with impeccable defense behind the strong pitching of Amber Crabbe '00. But in the fifth, the Clark bats came alive and knotted the score at four.

With the game tied at the end of regulation play, an eighth inning began with the International Tie-Breaker Rule. This rule grants each team a runner on second base at the beginning of each extra inning. Clark was able to capitalize on this advantage and score the game winning run, to win the game 5-4.

Team avenges earlier Smith loss

Before making the semifinals, MIT had to beat one of the best teams in the league, Smith College, in order to advance. After a 1-0 loss to Smith during the regular season, the team was fired up to meet them in postseason play.

Again MIT jumped to an early lead by scoring a single run in the

top of the third inning with the help of Sarah Davis '97. Davis continued a strong showing throughout the game with two more hits and errorless defense in center field.

In the fifth, Mowry punched a double into deep left field to drive Davis in from third base, increasing the lead to 2-0. The rest of the inning went quickly, despite one run collected by Smith in the bottom half.

In the sixth inning, MIT added a much needed insurance run when Cherubin scored from third on a passed ball. Smith added another run in the bottom of the seventh, and they threatened more.

MIT did not give in, and recorded the final out to end the seventh and another MIT-Smith one-run game, with a score of 3-2; this time with MIT as the victors. A strong hitting display was also put on by third baseman Cherubin who went three for four with two doubles.

Merchant Captures Softball Squash Title

By Eva Moy and Imran Haq

Ali Merchant G triumphed in the 1997 State "A" Massachusetts Softball Squash Championship, held last Sunday at the Concord-Acton Squash Club. Merchant, who was seeded second in the tournament, took five games to defeat Robert Davis (9-6, 8-10, 2-9, 9-1, 9-2).

Merchant advanced to the finals by easily winning the quarterfinals on April 21 and the semifinals on Saturday. The strong audience of over 30 people cheered on both players at Sunday's final.

"In the first game, I caught him by surprise, and basically I won because of that. In the second game he was getting back in the rallies," Merchant said. The first game was characterized by long rallies from the back court.

"His shots were cleaner and very

well controlled ... even though he made a few unforced errors in the beginning," said Chris Van Schalkwyk PhD '96, a squash player watching the finals.

With Davis controlling the pace in the second and third games, Merchant was forced to play a defensive game. Merchant jumped to an early lead in the fourth game, and Davis seemed to essentially concede the game.

"It was clear that in the last two games, Ali became very relaxed, and his selection of shots [worked] very well," Van Schalkwyk said. In the fifth game, Merchant unleashed his "Dingpo" shot, hitting the ball harder and volleying to his advantage, to win the game and the championship.

Merchant is currently a doctorate student in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Women's Track Finishes Third in NEW 8 Meet

By Eugenia Hahn

TEAM MEMBER

On Saturday, the women's varsity track and field team completed their regular season with a third-place finish at the New England Women's Eight Championship meet at Mount Holyoke College.

Smith College won the meet with 189 points, followed by Wheaton College with 185 points. MIT came in third with a total of 119 points, ahead of Mount Holyoke College's 103 and Worcester Polytechnic Institute's 13.

This gives the Engineers a final record of 8-4, their best season ever with a record number of athletes qualifying for New England Division III and Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference championship meets.

The 1997 NEW 8 Track and Field Championship meet was a memorable meet with four conference meet records falling. For MIT, this was another meet that continued the successful trend of breaking school records.

School records were broken in the 200-meter dash, 800-meter run, javelin, and the 4 x 100 meter relay. Breaking her old record of 28.44 seconds in the 200, Elaine Chen '99 finished with a time of 27.58.

Leah Nichols '00 established a new varsity and freshman record in the 800 with a time of 2 minutes 28.57 seconds. This performance also enables Nichols to advance to the NE Division III meet.

In winning the javelin, Jennifer Elizondo '99 threw a personal best and knocked down an old record set in 1992. With a distance of 109 feet 1 inch, Elizondo qualified for the Division III and ECAC meets.

The 4 x 100 meter relay team came in third, ahead of Mount Holyoke and WPI. But more importantly, the combined efforts of Chen, Eugenia Hahn '97, Renee Bowen '00, and Natalie Smith '00 allowed them to break a school record with a time of 53.27 seconds.

Other stellar performances included solid finishes in the 1,500 meters by Janis Eisenberg '98, Michelle Hardiman '00, and Debbie Won '00 with times of 5:04.46, 5:08.45, and 5:12.85 respectively. Eisenberg, Hardiman, and Won finished within 10 seconds of each other and placed second, fourth, and fifth.

In the 3,000 meters, Eisenberg and Won scored 16 points with first- and third-place finishes. Eisenberg ran her season best with a time of 10:47.75. In her second attempt at the event, Won qualified for the Division III meet with an improved time of 11:18.05, a time that was 65 seconds faster than her first attempt.

In field events, noteworthy performances included the second- and fourth-place finishes in the high jump by Jill Eich '99 and Chen. Eich tied the current record of 5 feet 1 inch. Both Chen and Eich qualified for the Division III meet as well as the ECAC championship meet.

With a throw of 107 feet 11 inches in the hammer, Elizondo earned the opportunity to compete in the Division III meet.

This weekend, the women's track and field team will compete at the New England Division III championship meet at Tufts University. It will be an opportunity for the team to achieve more personal bests as well as a chance to break some more records in a competitive field.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, May 2

Men's Rugby vs. University of Western Ontario Ivey Business School, 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

Baseball vs. Suffolk University, 12 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse vs. Alumni, 1 p.m.

Men's Rugby vs. Boston Gentlemen, 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Williams College, 1 p.m.

Need to **TALK?**
We're here to listen.
NIGHTLINE
Give us a call!
x3-8800
This space donated by The Tech

A Quickstation is a workstation with a timer.

Think of Quickstations as the Athena equivalents of ATMs. Quickstation sessions are identical to regular Athena session, except that countdown messages are displayed regularly, and, after ten minutes, warning messages are displayed repeatedly until you log out. Everything else is regular Athena: you login and out as usual, all your files are available as usual, and all the Athena capabilities are at your disposal.

What can you do at a Quickstation?

- Do use Quickstations for quick tasks: checking e-mail, sending a document to a printer, or looking up information.
- Don't use Quickstations for any set of tasks that together take longer than ten minutes: surfing the web, making significant changes to a document, or starting a new project. For these, use a regular workstation in an Athena cluster.

Speed up your login. Customize a quick session.

Use the \$ATHENA_QUICK environment variable in your dotfiles to specify which of your customizations to run and which to ignore. To use this variable, include syntax such as the following in the appropriate dotfile(s). For most users, this is .startup.X and .environment. Remember, adding lockers and starting up applications on login takes time.

```
if ($?ATHENA_QUICK) then
# commands for quickstation only
else
# commands for normal athena login
endif
```

If you want a command executed whether you are on a Quickstation or not, you can leave it in the dotfile as it is.

Where are the Quickstations?

Quickstation are planned for many campus sites. At present, you can find them in the following locations;

Bldg 12-182

Bldg 56-129

Bldg W20-300 Corridor

Where to find more info.

To find more information about Quickstations and about speeding up your login, see:

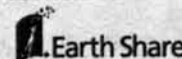
<http://consult.mit.edu/answers/workstations/quickstations>

BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE.

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where natural resources can fall behind. So here are some easy ways to reduce waste at the office. Turn off your lights when you leave. Drink out of a mug instead of throwaway cups. And to cut down on trash, use both sides of a memo. Doing these things today will help save resources for tomorrow.

Which is truly a job well done. 1-800-MY-SHARE.

IT'S A CONNECTED WORLD. DO YOUR SHARE.



This space donated by The Tech