

Paul E. Gray '54 rises to speak at his last Commencement as the chairman of the MIT Corporation.

RICH FLETCHER—THE TECH

## Tuition Vouchers to Be Taxed Under Proposed Revenue Bill

By Brett Altschul  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A new tax bill under consideration by the U.S. House of Representatives has aroused the ire of many graduate students at MIT. A controversial provision in House bill H.R. 2144 repeals Section 117(d) of the tax code. That section exempts the tuition vouchers that colleges grant to graduate students from income taxes.

"It's a serious proposal to tax tuition," said Isaac M. Colbert, senior associate dean of the graduate school.

The Graduate Student Council held a petition drive in Lobby 7 last week and collected over 450 signatures from students opposing the measure, said Geoffrey J. Coram G, president of the GSC. "We feel that it's the wrong thing to do," he said. The petition was sent to several members of the House and Senate, he said.

Effects of bill are unclear

How the bill would affect MIT

graduate students remains difficult to determine. Coram said that the graduate students with whom he had spoken differed on the bill's impact.

"Some of the students feel that the repeal would not affect MIT," since some tuition relief is dispensed in the form of non-taxable scholarships, he said.

Tuition vouchers, however, which are deductible under current law could be changed. Colbert said that he had not actually read the bill, so he could not be sure if the tuition vouchers would be deductible under the new legislation.

However, even if the tuition payments remain tax-deductible, "the proposal would cause cash flow problems," he said. If the IRS withholds some money for taxation and then refunds it, students could be seriously inconvenienced.

Colbert criticized the idea as pointless. "It's superfluous to tax money that the government doesn't expect to have in the treasury," he said.

If tuition vouchers are not tax

deductible, the consequences could be dire. The move would "place an immediate pressure on many professors to raise stipend levels to cover the taxes," Colbert said.

As a result, professors would have to hire fewer graduate students, he said. "This could seriously impair people's ability to get a graduate education," he said.

In addition, students getting their funding from other sources could also be taxed under the proposed code, Coram said, imposing a heavy financial burden.

Bill faces rocky road in Senate

The fact that the provision is not contained in the Senate tax bill lowers its chances for survival. "I would think it does not have a real chance in the Senate," Colbert said. "My understanding is that the bill has no real support" there, Colbert said.

"The whole business is frankly a little bit premature," said Thomas R.

Taxes, Page 10

## Vest, Annan Depict a Challenging Future at 131st Commencement

By Jean K. Lee  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After a week of clouds, sunny skies prevailed Friday, June 6 as graduates, families, and guests gathered in Killian Court for the 131st commencement. A total of 2,280 degrees were awarded, including 1,023 bachelor of science and 1,257 advanced degrees.

President Charles M. Vest began his remarks with a tribute to Paul E. Gray '54, his predecessor as president and the outgoing chairman of the MIT Corporation. Gray was presiding over commencement for the last time.

In his charge to the new graduates, Vest emphasized the importance of taking professional and social responsibility in a changing world driven by three forces: science and technology, international-

ization, and shifts in demography

"Take your education, your talent, and your energy and build us a nation and a world community that consider knowledge a gift to be shared, a healthy planet a place to be cherished, and human dignity and opportunity fundamental conditions to be enjoyed by all people," Vest said.

Vest sees a future with new goals

Vest emphasized the need for society to rebalance the roles of private and public sectors in a world with a decreasing trust in government and which is moving towards privatization. "Increasingly, industry will be called on to address issues of common good that extend beyond the traditional principles of market-driven efficiency and shareholder value, and you will be

charged with seeing this through," he said.

Vest outlined three areas which would provide opportunities for achieving this goal: "creating — and sharing — scientific and technical knowledge for the greater good, exercising responsibility for our environment, and addressing the problems and opportunities of a changing population in America and elsewhere."

Vest added that colleges and universities play an important role in addressing the dilemmas posed by changing population by enrolling students from diverse backgrounds. He urged continued support for affirmative action, and explained why MIT continued to champion the program. "We have done so

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## Registrar Accidentally Sent Grades to Parents

By Douglas E. Heimbarger  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A computer problem caused spring term grade reports for 197 undergraduate students to be mailed to their home addresses despite the fact that they had registered another grade report address, it was revealed yesterday.

Those affected by the glitch will be receiving new grade reports at their grade report address soon, said Constance C. Scribner, associate registrar for records and administration. "We're thinking that address will still be good."

Normally, spring term grade reports are mailed to students' term addresses except for undergraduates who live within the U.S. and Canada, according to the MIT Bulletin. They receive their grade reports at their home addresses, unless they specify otherwise.

"I think it's a serious problem" said Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Joseph Ferreira Jr., who chairs the Committee on Privacy. "I certainly expect that it is something that won't happen again."

Computer glitch delays reports

"There were some problems with disk space, so we had to spend some time clearing out disk space," Scribner said. When the reports were finally printed, the grade report addresses had expired.

Temporary addresses, including grade report addresses, have expiration dates associated with them in the MIT Student Information System database, which holds the WebSIS data. "It's invisible to the student," Scribner said.

Miscommunication between the

Grades, Page 10

## Annan Compares Science, Diplomacy at Graduation

By Carina Fung  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Applause resounded through Killian Court as United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan SM '72 stepped up to the podium on

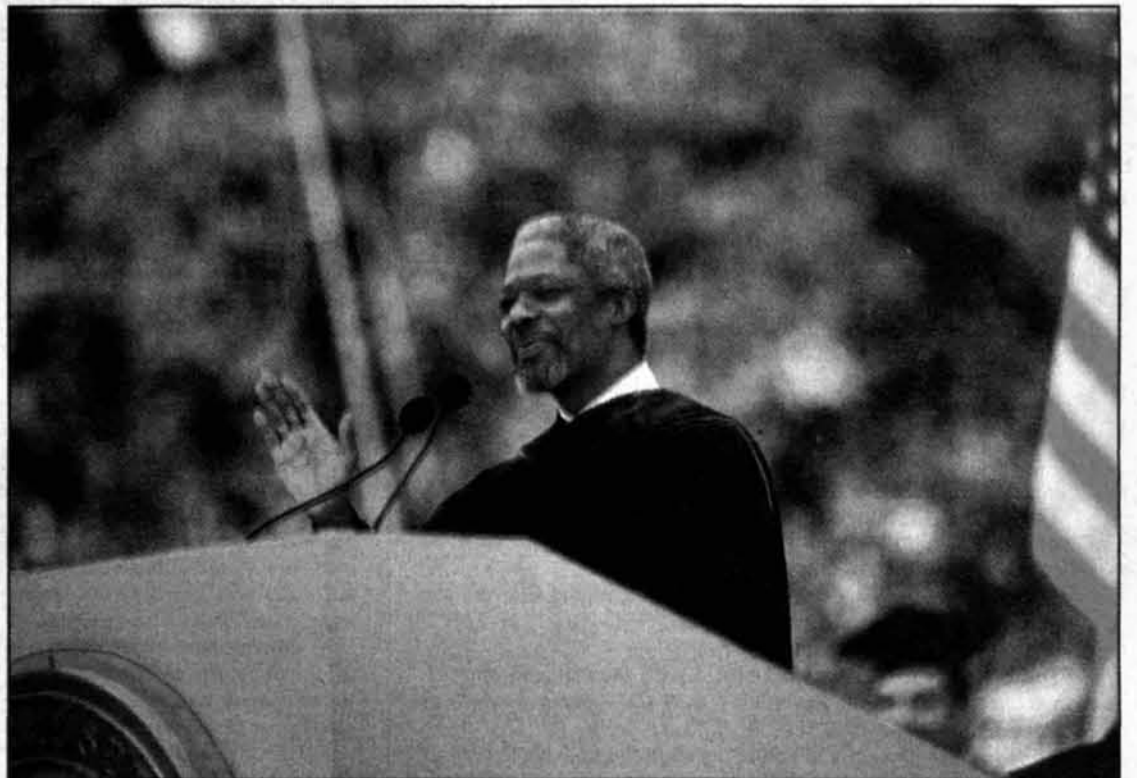
June 6 to speak to the graduates taking part in MIT's 131st commencement exercises.

Laughter rippled throughout the audience of more than 2,000 degree recipients and 8,000 of their friends, relatives, and guests, as Annan began his speech by addressing the students' new status as graduates and alumni. "Now you are free," he said, "Free of the pressure of exams, free to begin the next stage of your life, and free to pay back your student loans. I wish you well."

Science and diplomacy similar

Annan, a native of Ghana who received a master's degree in management from the Sloan School of Management in 1972, is serving a five-year term as secretary-general. He noted several parallels between the goals and tactics of international

Annan, Page 10



United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan MS '72 greets the cheering students of the Sloan School of Management at Commencement on June 6.

GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

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# WORLD & NATION

## House Votes to Cut Off Funds for Bosnia Mission

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The House voted Tuesday to cut off funds for U.S. peacekeeping troops in Bosnia after June 1998, reflecting hardening congressional resistance to any further extension of America's military presence there.

President Clinton has declared that U.S. participation in the NATO peace operation in Bosnia would end by then. But administration officials have insisted on retaining some flexibility, warning that the president would veto an attempt to write a pullout date into the 1998 defense authorization bill.

Nonetheless, an amendment requiring the withdrawal passed the House, 278 to 148, with all but two Republicans and 57 Democrats voting for it.

Consideration of Bosnia came near the close of several days of often argumentative floor debate on the 1998 defense bill, with the House defying the administration on more than just Balkans peacekeeping.

Proponents in the House, upset by Clinton's decision late last year to depart from previous assurances and extend the deployment by 18 months, said they wanted to ensure the president holds to his latest pullout plan.

"It's the president's date, it's not my date," said Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., the amendment's sponsor.

Although the year-and-a-half-long operation has gone unexpectedly smoothly, House members expressed concern about the growing cost of the U.S. involvement, estimated to top \$7 billion by next year.

## Settlement Would Kill Liggett, Tobacco Firm Says

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The landmark tobacco settlement proposal announced last week "would kill" the Liggett Group Inc., according to a strongly worded letter the head of the company sent Tuesday to more than 20 state attorneys general.

Liggett head Bennett S. LeBow said that he was "outraged" by the settlement announced last Friday because the plans for tobacco companies to pay billions of dollars could force Liggett, the smallest and financially weakest of the major tobacco companies, into bankruptcy.

Liggett, which has \$400 million in annual sales, first broke ranks with the tobacco industry in March 1996, when LeBow announced that his company was settling with the five states and private attorneys that at that point had sued the tobacco industry to recover the costs of treating sick smokers.

Mississippi attorney Richard Scruggs, who represents more than 20 states and helped negotiate both Liggett deals and the overall settlement, said that LeBow was getting "far more than he bargained for" in his deal, and noted that the company had been exempted from paying its share of the up-front, multibillion-dollar industry payment.

A Liggett spokesman said that the industry has continued to attack LeBow, and in depositions Tuesday in Florida, company attorneys hammered at LeBow over his admissions about the health risks of smoking.

## Egyptian Court Overturns Female Circumcision Ban

LOS ANGELES TIMES

CAIRO, EGYPT

In a major setback for women's and human rights groups, a court Tuesday overturned a government ban on health workers carrying out female circumcisions, an operation traditionally performed on girls in Egypt in the belief it curbs their sexual desires.

The ruling had been sought by eight Islamic scholars and doctors who argued that the Health Ministry decree violated religious beliefs and interfered with physicians' prerogatives to perform medical duties.

Conservative Muslim clerics have been among the most vociferous defenders of female circumcision, arguing that it is rooted in Islamic beliefs. But the practice is not universally practiced among Muslims.

Opponents, who call the procedure female genital mutilation, say the operation is cruel, harmful and sometimes deadly to the prepubescent girls who undergo it.

Cairo Administrative Court Judge Abdul Aziz Hamade overturned a 1996 decree that forbade doctors and other health-care workers from performing the operation, either in public hospitals or in private clinics.

The immediate impact was minimal. For practical purposes, the ban will remain in effect until a final verdict is reached in the higher courts. In addition, most girls undergo the operation at home from unlicensed midwives or barbers.

These practitioners use razor blades to cut off part or all of the labia and clitoris. In extreme cases, they also sew closed the vaginal opening until the child is old enough to be married.

## WEATHER

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**Today:** Partly sunny and humid with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s (30°C). Southwest wind 10 to 20 miles per hour. Chance of rain is 50 percent.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy and muggy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows will range from 65°F to 70°F (21-24°C). Chance of rain is 40 percent.

**Tomorrow:** Partly sunny and humid with showers and thunderstorms likely. Highs in the lower 90s (36-39°C). Chance of rain is 60 percent.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy and cooler. Lows in the mid 50s (11-17°C) and highs in the mid 70s (24-30°C).

**Weekend outlook:** Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 50s to low 60s (14-19°C) and highs in the 80s (30-34°C).

# Senate Passes Controversial Increase in Medicare Age

By Robert A. Rosenblatt

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In a historic step intended to shore up the financial health of Medicare, the Senate voted Tuesday to require affluent seniors to pay substantially more for the benefits they receive.

Taking another politically risky move, the Senate also decreed that members of the baby-boom generation must wait until age 67, an increase of two years, to qualify for Medicare coverage.

The Senate move poses a political challenge for President Clinton and House leaders, who had hoped to avoid immediate consideration of major Medicare reforms by handing the issue to a special commission for study.

The changes, if signed into law, would deal an immediate financial blow to the 1.6 million Medicare beneficiaries whose incomes exceed \$50,000 for individuals and \$75,000 for couples.

The premiums they pay to receive coverage of doctors bills would increase on a sliding scale, from the current \$525 a year to a maximum of \$2,102 per person for individuals with incomes of \$100,000 and couples with \$125,000.

The age of Medicare eligibility, now 65, would begin climbing in the year 2003, reaching 67 in 2027. Anyone who is 59 or older now would not be affected by the change.

Both proposals were endorsed Tuesday by substantial majorities as the Senate took up amendments to a key budget bill scheduled for a final floor vote Wednesday. The measure also makes other changes affecting Medicare and restores welfare benefits for some legal immigrants.

The House begins debate Wednesday on its own Medicare bill, which does not contain the bigger premiums or higher eligibility age.

The conflicting positions on Medicare reform presage a potentially explosive political struggle. A Senate-House conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences, with the Clinton administration and the House on one side of the issue and the Senate on the other.

Advocates for the elderly were quick to denounce the Senate plan. "We are shocked and disappointed by the action taken by the Senate today," said Martha McSteen, president of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

"The Senate's means-testing plan will divide Americans based on their income, set senior against senior and put Medicare on a dangerous road toward becoming a welfare program in the eyes of the public instead of a unifying, national endeavor," said McSteen, whose organization has some 5 million members.

In 1988, Congress approved a major expansion of Medicare, including unlimited hospital and pharmaceutical coverage, to be financed by a special tax on the affluent elderly. The tax, which would have topped out at \$800 a year, sparked a revolt among affluent seniors. Congress repealed the law in 1989 before it could even take effect.

The premium payments approved by the Senate on Tuesday would be far bigger, rising as high as \$2,102 for affluent seniors and \$4,204 for couples.

More significant than the numbers, however, is the dramatic policy change embodied in the Senate action. The proposal to "means-test" premiums represents a fundamental shift in the basic nature of Medicare, a program that traditionally has provided equal benefits at equal cost to the rich and poor alike.

Only 1.6 million of today's 38 million Medicare beneficiaries have incomes above \$50,000 a year. The

change would save an estimated \$3.9 billion over five years, a comparatively small amount for a program with annual expenses of \$200 billion.

The Senate proposal, if signed into law, would set a clear precedent for linking Medicare premiums to income, with richer beneficiaries paying more for coverage.

The Senate has "done something truly worthy of being remembered," said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, a backer of the sliding-scale premium payments as well as the higher eligibility age.

It was a stinging defeat for liberal defenders of the traditional Medicare program, who characterized it as a threat to beneficiaries of the massive health program.

The Senate approved the income-related premium by a vote of 70-30, rejecting a proposal by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., to strip the special premium from the budget legislation.

As originally drafted by the Senate Finance Committee, the bill would have imposed the income test on the actual payment of doctor bills.

All beneficiaries now pay the first \$100 of doctor bills each year, a payment known as a deductible. After the deductible is satisfied, Medicare pays 80 percent of approved charges.

Under the Finance Committee bill, the deductible would have been linked to income. But the idea was confusing, and had never been fully debated before the committee devised it in several hours of private meetings. "As a consequence of it being untested, we changed it back to a premium," Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Nebr., said during Tuesday's debate.

Medicare's 38 million beneficiaries — those over 65 and the disabled of all ages — currently pay \$43.80 a month, or \$525.60 a year, for the "Part B" insurance that covers doctor bills and other outpatient medical expenses.

# Clinton May Accept New, Firm EPA Standards for Clean Air

By Dan Balz and Joby Warrick

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

After a fierce internal struggle that strained relations between the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency, President Clinton is leaning toward a decision to endorse new clean air regulations, sources said Tuesday.

Clinton's decision will resolve a battle over standards that have provoked vigorous opposition from industry, divided traditional Democratic constituencies, split elected officials along regional lines and put Vice President Gore, the administration's leading environmentalist, clearly on the spot.

Clinton could make a final decision as early as Wednesday, but officials said he may want to consider the options a bit longer. He speaks Thursday to a United Nations conference on the environment that deals with global issues, but aides said that may not be the appropriate forum. European leaders have criticized the United States at the meeting for resisting specific timetables to reduce air pollution blamed for global warming.

Officials said that if Clinton endorses the bulk of EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner's proposed regulations, he may seek to soften their impact on big cities

and on industry through an implementation process that attempts to accommodate their concerns and other programs to offset the economic effects.

EPA's proposals for reducing smog and soot would constitute the most significant tightening of federal air quality standards in at least a decade. Unveiled in November, the regulations would toughen restrictions on smog-producing ozone and fine airborne particles known as particulate matter. Both come from a variety of man-made as well as natural sources, although the biggest culprits are heavy industry, utilities and automobiles.

Although the air is gradually becoming cleaner in most parts of the country, scientific studies suggest that government standards fail to protect millions of Americans who suffer from asthma and other respiratory diseases. The EPA projects that its new standards would prevent 15,000 premature deaths each year while saving billions of dollars in medical expenses.

Opponents of the measures argue that scientific evidence is not conclusive, and they say EPA's remedy could hobble economic development in polluted cities and force lifestyle changes on millions of people. Major corporations and industry trade groups have spent millions of dollars to generate opposition to the

standards in Washington and around the country.

Administration officials largely failed to reach consensus during the long and often difficult interagency process. In the end, they are asking Clinton to choose between competing positions. Sources said Clinton was inclined to support the regulations all along, but several officials, speaking on conditions of anonymity, said that Browner's high-profile, public defense of stricter air standards has made it far more difficult to dilute them, even if he wanted to do so.

With Clinton on the brink of a decision, the U.S. Conference of Mayors approved a resolution Tuesday opposing the EPA's proposed rules, arguing that the economic consequences of adopting stricter air standards will impose great hardships on their cities. Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, a close ally of Clinton and Gore who has led the opposition among the mayors, told the conference that the EPA's proposed rules go "too far too fast."

Browner declined to comment on the internal politics of the debate other than to say the talks have been "extensive and constructive." All sides of the debate were given a fair hearing, she said, and there were no attempts to force the EPA to retreat on the standards.

# House Backs Trade Privileges for China, Rejecting Challenge

By John E. Yang  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The House upheld President Clinton's decision to renew China's trade privileges Tuesday, turning back efforts by Christian conservatives and liberal Democrats to punish Beijing for its human rights record, trade practices and weapons sales.

After more than three hours' debate, the effort to overturn the president's action was defeated 259 to 173 on a roll call vote. Although it was the largest number of House members opposing China's most-favored-nation trading status since 1990 — the year after Beijing's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square — it still fell well short of passing.

The issue took on added significance this year because of concerns about whether Beijing will keep its

pledge to preserve economic and political freedoms in Hong Kong after it takes control of the colony next week, and because of reports that Chinese officials may have been trying to buy political influence in Washington through illegal campaign contributions. In addition, Christian conservatives, led by Gary Bauer and his Family Research Council, worked against renewing China's trade status for the first time, complaining about what they called Beijing's persecution of Christian, Muslim and other religious leaders.

As they have in past years, major corporations such as Boeing Corp. mounted a substantial lobbying campaign in many congressional districts intended to remind voters of the supposed economic benefits of trading with China.

In the end, 79 Republicans, 93 Democrats and one independent

voted to overturn the president's decision.

Among the 147 Republicans who voted to back the president were House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who, by tradition, rarely votes, Majority Leader Richard K. Arney of Texas, Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas and House Republican Conference Chairman John A. Boehner of Ohio.

Tuesday's vote was not the end of this year's congressional debate on U.S. relations with Beijing. Lawmakers have introduced several measures intended to toughen American policy toward China and promote democracy. Among the steps under consideration would be increases in Radio Free Asia broadcasts, more funding for the National Endowment for Democracy and possible restrictions on products made by companies controlled by the Chinese army.

# Study Suggests Global Warming Threatens National Park System

By James Gerstenzang  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK

In a largely overlooked but potentially alarming development in the debate over global warming, a study released Tuesday by a well-respected international environmental group warns that increasing temperatures are threatening the United States' national parks and wildlife areas.

From the heights of the American glaciers to the California seashore, from the Everglades to the Arctic, the changing climate is bringing noticeable shifts in forest and wildflower meadows, and in sea and shorebird numbers, according to the report by the World Wildlife Fund.

The study adds a new, closer-to-home element to the pressure being

put on the Clinton administration to restrict U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases. Other industrialized nations attending a global environmental summit in New York already are pushing Washington to adopt a more stringent position; many — but not all — scientists blame global warming on growing emissions of greenhouse gases.

"The effects of global warming are not merely a future impact in faraway places," the report says. "The first signs of climate change have been detected and can already be seen in our own backyards. Alarming, many of North America's most cherished natural areas, the national parks, are clearly feeling the effects of global warming," it says.

Among the impacts reported — or predicted — in the study were

these:

Forests are beginning to invade the famed floral-carpeted Alpine meadows of Glacier National Park in Montana, where the retreat of the glacier itself already has been documented. Melting permafrost beneath the surface of national lands in the Alaskan Arctic could become sinkholes, unable to support their meager surface vegetation. And, in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a distinct strain of brook trout could become extinct as the cool water along the Tennessee-North Carolina border on which it depends warms ever-so-slightly.

"Warming of the surface layer of the ocean by as much as 1 degrees centigrade in some places since 1951 has led to declines of 80 percent in zooplankton in the California Current," the report says.

## N.J. Teen-Ager Who Gave Birth in Bathroom Charged With Murder

By Blaine Harden  
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

A New Jersey teen-ager who gave birth in a bathroom at her prom, then returned to the dance floor and ate a salad was charged Tuesday with murder after an autopsy found the baby she discarded in a trash can was either strangled or suffocated in a plastic bag.

"The child was alive when he was born," said Monmouth County Prosecutor John Kaye. "It fits the definition of a 'knowing murder.'"

The prosecutor told a news conference Tuesday in Freehold, N.J., that Melissa Drexler, 18, may have used the sharp edge of a sanitary-napkin dispenser to cut the umbilical cord on her June 6 prom night before dumping her newborn boy in a bag she found in a bathroom stall.

"Go tell the boys we'll be right out," Kaye quoted Drexler as telling a girlfriend who had come into the bathroom to fetch her. The prosecutor said Drexler, a vocational high-school senior who lives in Forked River, N.J., then put back on her long, sleeveless, loose-fitting black dress, cleaned herself up and went out to meet her 19-year-old date. He has since said he was the unknowing father of the child.

Kaye said the autopsy found air in the baby's intestines, proving he was able to breathe. The cause of death, he said, was "asphyxia due to manual strangulation and obstruction of the external airway or orifices." The prosecutor later said the baby either was strangled or suffocated after being put into a plastic bag.

## Heroin, Speed Supplanting Crack Cocaine

By Roberto Suro  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Heroin and methamphetamine are rapidly supplanting crack cocaine as the drug of choice among many hard-core addicts, while a variety of "boutique drugs," along with marijuana, are gaining favor among young people, according to a nationwide study issued Tuesday by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Although cocaine continues to be widely abused, the report found that the popularity of both crack and powdered cocaine is declining and that young users in particular have come to disdain crack as a "ghetto drug."

Last year, methamphetamine became the most commonly abused drug by persons seeking treatment in the San Diego area and several other parts of the West and Midwest, according to the drug report, known as "Pulse Check."

In Los Angeles, methamphetamine, a highly addictive stimulant commonly known as speed, ranked close behind crack cocaine as the second most common cause of admission to treatment programs, the report said.

The report, which is issued twice yearly, reflects information drawn from law enforcement officials, treatment providers and other experts on drug abuse. It is designed to identify trends in drug use and to supplement longer-term research based on population surveys. The report issued Tuesday details trends observed in the second half of 1996.



### Graduate Student Council

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

## WHAT'S COOL THIS SUMMER AT GSC

### Muddy Charles Pub

#### Now sporting SATELLITE TV!

Come down to the Muddy (50-120), enjoy a cold drink with some friends, and watch your favorite team on the satellite broadcast! The veranda is now open on Friday evenings!

### Soccer Game

New England Revolution vs. Kansas City Wizards. \$10 transportation/tailgate included. Tickets are on sale at the GSC office (50-220).

### Day Trip to George's Island

Visit the historical fort and relax on the island, July 19th. \$5 includes ferry ride and lunch. Sign up at the GSC office.



## Calendar

### ▶ JUNE

- 25 Career Fair Meeting \*
- 27 Montreal Jazz Festival, June 27-29

### ▶ JULY

- 1 Fall Orientation Committee Mtg \*
- 8 Muddy Charles Pub Board of Governors Meeting \*
- 9 General Council Meeting \*
- 10 Activities Meeting \*
- 12 Revolution Soccer Game  
Tickets on sale now
- 15 Housing & Community Affairs Meeting \*
- 19 Day Trip to George's Island

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

# OPINION

## Clinton Environmental Record Justifies Criticism

Column by Anders Hove  
OPINION EDITOR

Five months after his reinauguration, President Bill Clinton has come under sharp criticism from environmentalists and conservation groups. Because the president relies on Al Gore for advice on environmental matters, the Vice President has come under fire as well. Some environmentalists have even gone so far as to suggest that, unless something changes soon, they will throw their support in 2000 behind Richard A. Gephardt, current House minority leader and long-suffering presidential hopeful.

How did it come to this? After all, Gore was every environmentalist's poster child just a few years ago, and Clinton used the environment as a key plank in his 1996 campaign against Bob Dole.

However, even in last year's election, the president's record on the environment wasn't based on a record of positive achievement but instead on his attacks on Congress. The president had prevented deep cuts in spending on the Environmental Protection Agency and he claimed credit for stopping the most egregious attempts to revise regulations such as those regarding endangered species and water quality standards. But the real Clinton environmental record centers not on the salvation of Nixon-era regulations and agencies, but on what has been left undone.

Criticism from environmental groups has centered on the lack of action in two important areas: local air-quality control standards and global greenhouse emissions. On air-quality, the White House has taken what it would like to call a centrist position. The Clinton administration remained silent on demands by EPA head Carol Browner for tougher standards, but also resisted Republican demands for changes that might reduce standards for certain localities.

On greenhouse gases, the White House can make no claims to centrism. Five years ago then-Senator Al Gore ostentatiously turned up in Rio de Janeiro to criticize the Bush administration's prevarications on the global climate change treaty. Gore demanded tough global standards, strong American leadership, and even a "Marshall Plan" for funding other nations' programs to reduce emissions. Although the Bush administration eventually signed the treaty, the United States has refused to commit to a timetable for reduction of its own emissions. The Clinton administration has even gone so far as to declare that other countries' targets are too ambitious.

As a Westerner, I admit that I have been less concerned about urban air pollution and greenhouse emissions than about the rules governing the use of federal lands. The U.S. government owns the vast majority of land in most Western states. The land is supervised by various agencies and bureaus including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Each of these agencies came under harsh criticism during the Reagan-Bush era. The BLM, for example, owns vast tracts of land, much of which are used by private ranchers for grazing their privately-owned herds. Although private landowners have steadily raised the market price of range-land, the federal government has not, resulting in a vast federal subsidy to a few lucky ranchers. In 1992 Clinton's new secretary of the interior,

Bruce Babbitt, announced that federal grazing fees would be gradually raised to market level. Congress, however, proved unwilling and Clinton effectively bowed to Western ranch interests by preemptively giving up the fight before it had begun.

Perhaps even more egregious has been the Clinton administration's ridiculous policy on logging federal lands. As with BLM grazing fees, the federal government sells trees from federal lands to private logging companies at a fraction (anywhere from one fourth to one third) of their market value. But the deal gets sweeter even yet: In order to help private logging firms remove trees from the national lands, the U.S. Forest Service spends billions of dollars of taxpayer money to construct roads to get the loggers to their trees. Barebones logging access costs \$30,000 per mile and the road created will not even last long enough to sustain multi-use access after the trees are gone. The Forest Service also pays massive litigation costs for logging beyond that allowed by such laws as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The bizarre aspects of Forest Service policy have long-since made their way into bureaucratic lore. As critics both inside and outside the agency have noted, the Forest Service is run by professional foresters — people who are paid to know about removing trees, not managing lands and public money.

The Forest Service itself is a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; public money is not allocated to the forest service for managing land, but for bringing in a good crop. But since the Forest Service sells trees at a loss (even excluding road construction, environmental impact studies, and litigation), a bigger crop means a bigger expense to the taxpayer. And yet, agency officials can only move up by logging more, not less.

What has the Clinton administration's policy been on logging federal lands? Initially, Clinton charged aggressively left: Promising to run the national forests "scientifically," Clinton called the Timber Summit, which endorsed the principle of "ecosystem management" (i.e. management that would take habitat and water quality issues into account). Clinton hired Jack Ward Thomas, a wildlife biologist, to implement the new policy.

Unfortunately, the policy went nowhere. Unsupported by the White House, Ward's proposals were deep-sixed by underlings in the Forest Service and members of Congress who opposed his efforts. Costly tree-farming continued unabated: The General Accounting

Office estimated that the U.S. government lost \$1 billion cutting down and selling its own trees between 1992 and 1994. At that rate, it would be cheaper to pay loggers directly out of the U.S. Treasury than to keep them at their jobs. But worse was yet to come.

In 1995, North Carolina Representative Charles Taylor (a forester by profession) proposed and passed a bill to allow the Forest Service to sell and log "salvage" timber. Salvage timber, which formerly meant just dead trees, was legally redefined to include any trees associated with dead trees. In other words, if there is one dead tree in the forest, the entire hillside can be sold and carted away. Clinton could have vetoed the measure. Instead, he bowed to industry and special interest concerns and, on July 27, 1995, signed the Taylor bill.

Since then, the Forest Service has aggressively and enthusiastically supported "salvage" logging. Timber yields (and taxpayer losses) are up, with three-fourths of the sales being classified as "salvage" operations. Al Gore has called the salvage law "the biggest mistake" Clinton has made as president. And yet nothing has been done.

Clinton's critics have come down hard on him for his environmental record, but perhaps worse than the record is what the president's policy means for representative democracy. In his infamous book, *Earth in the Balance*, Al Gore demanded that political leaders take a stand on the environment, if for no other reason than to represent the voices of those who want to see the world's natural heritage preserved. Before, when the Democrats were out of office, at least liberals could console themselves that someone was speaking out on their behalf. Now no one is.

## ERRATUM

The story "R/O 1997 To Feature Altered Dinners, Letters, Messaging" in the Friday, June 6 issue of *The Tech* incorrectly stated that Clearinghouse was being discontinued.

Clearinghouse will continue to be used in Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups this fall. Dormitories will use the freshman messaging system described in the article.



## Opinion Policy

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

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

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

**Letters to the editor** are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format are encouraged, and may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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

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*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Electronic mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. Mail to specific departments may be sent to the following addresses on the Internet: ads@the-tech.mit.edu, news@the-tech.mit.edu, sports@the-tech.mit.edu, arts@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.



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*“Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making.”*

*John Milton, Areopagitica, 1644*

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HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE FEELING THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY PERSON AT MIT WHO CARED ABOUT CURRENT EVENTS OR NATIONAL POLITICS?

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HAVE YOU EVER WISHED YOU HAD A VOICE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MIT COMMUNITY?

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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY NOBODY EVER COMPLAINS ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN YOU IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?

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If so, chances are you don't write for *The Tech's* Opinion Department. Opinion writers do more than just write columns. Every day we're out on the front lines, breathing down administrators' backs and talking up big ideas all across campus. In many ways, *The Tech* is more than a way to learn about journalism: It's also the fundamental medium for community expression at MIT.

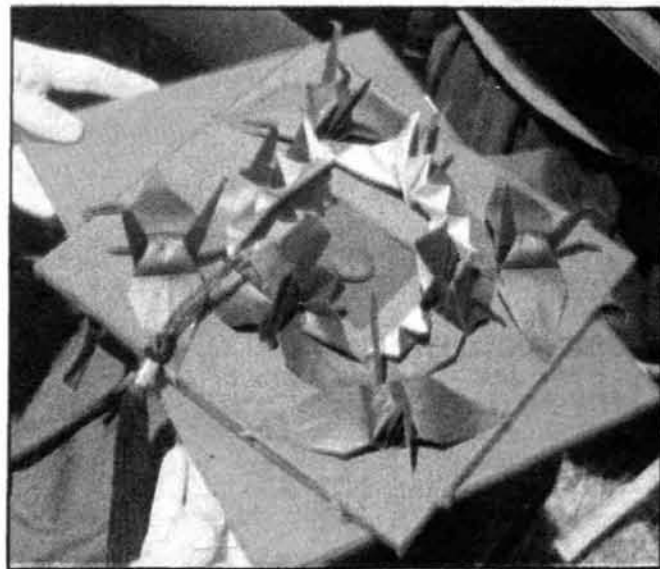
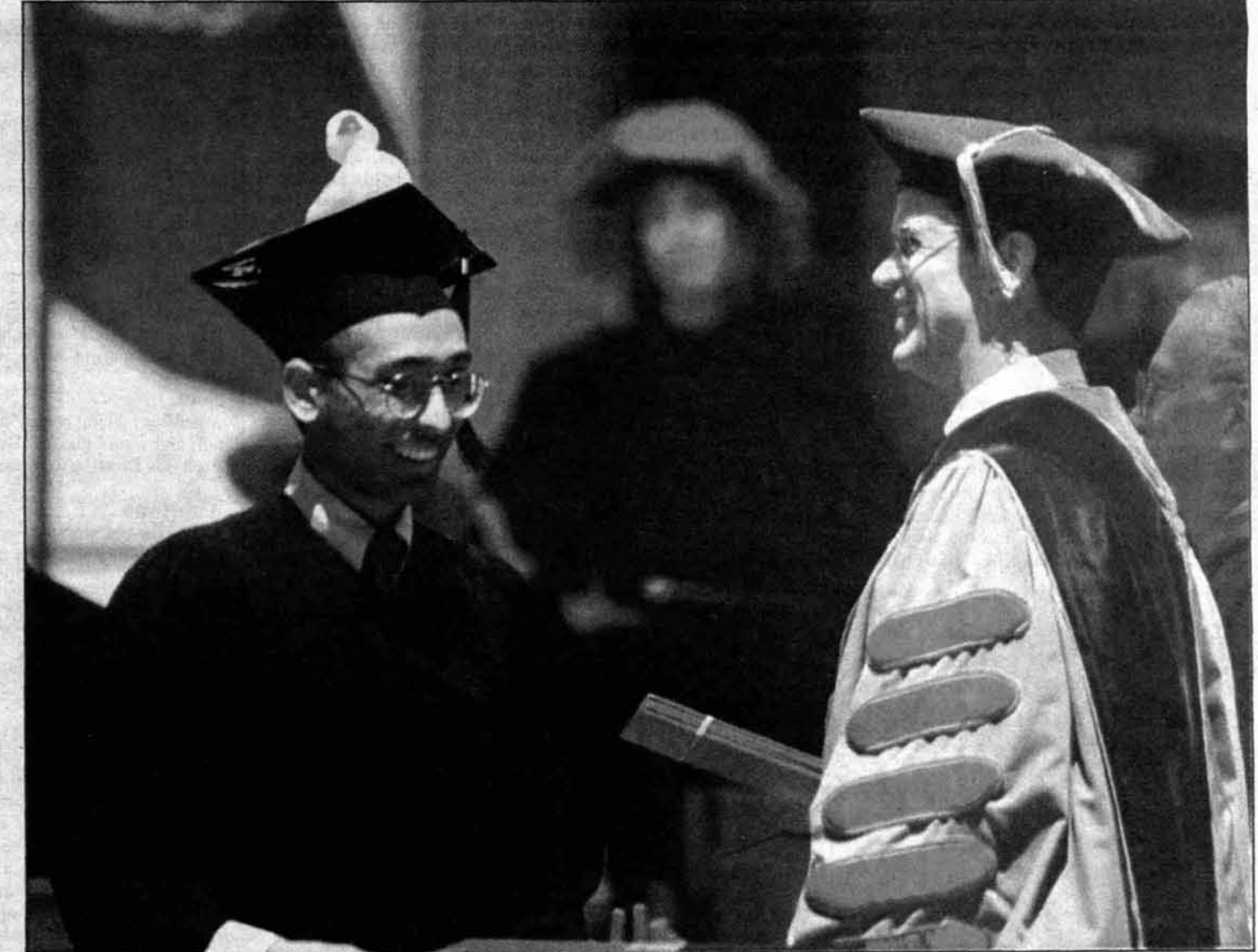
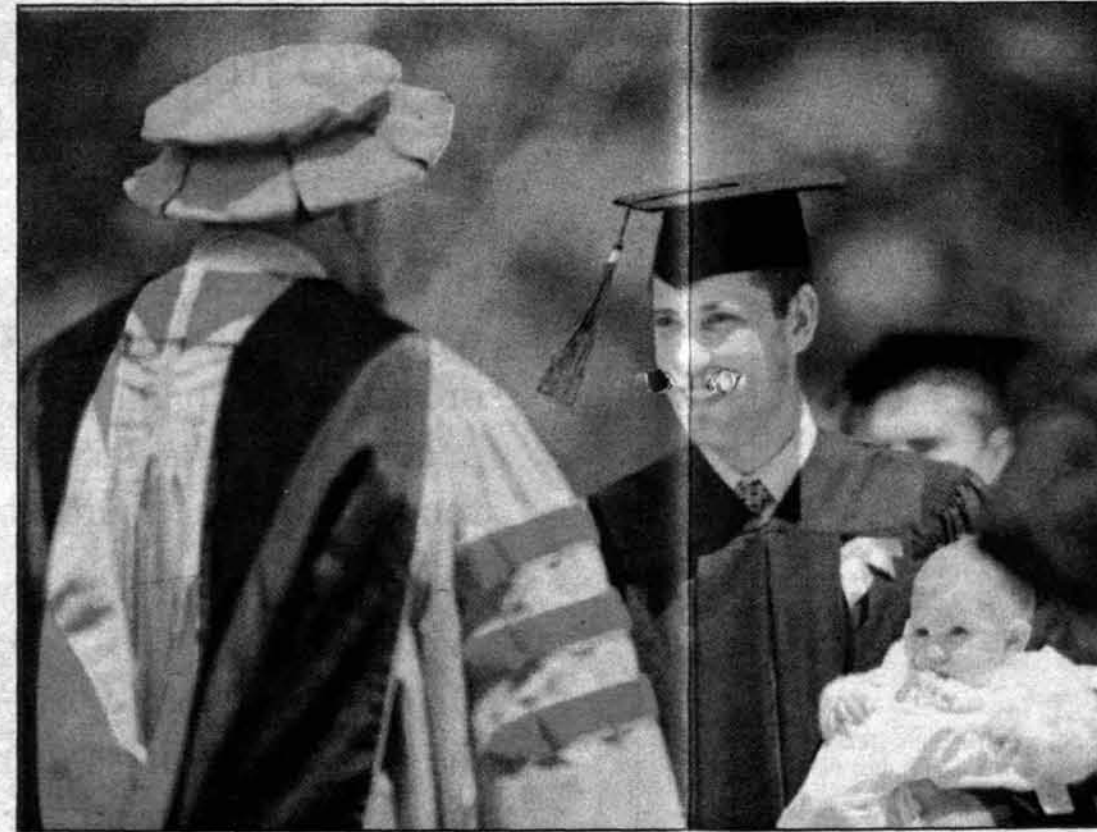
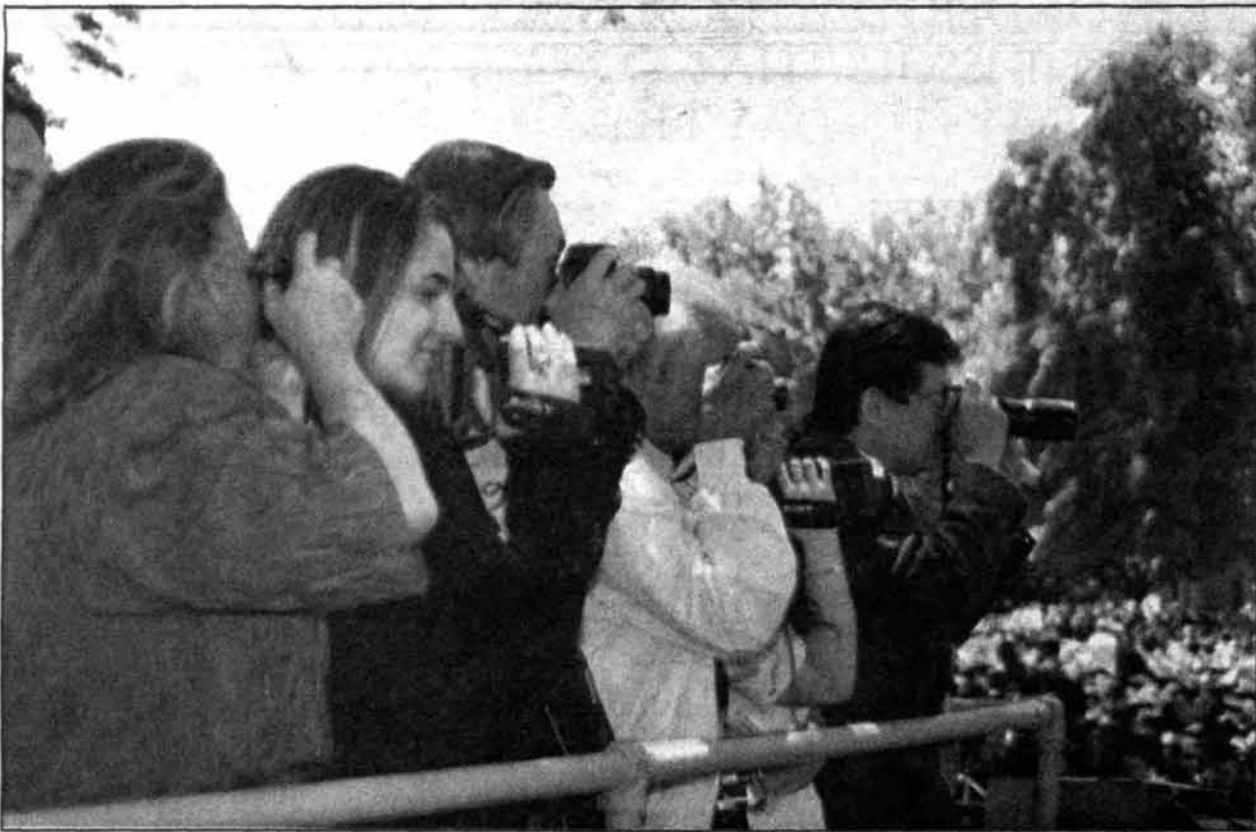
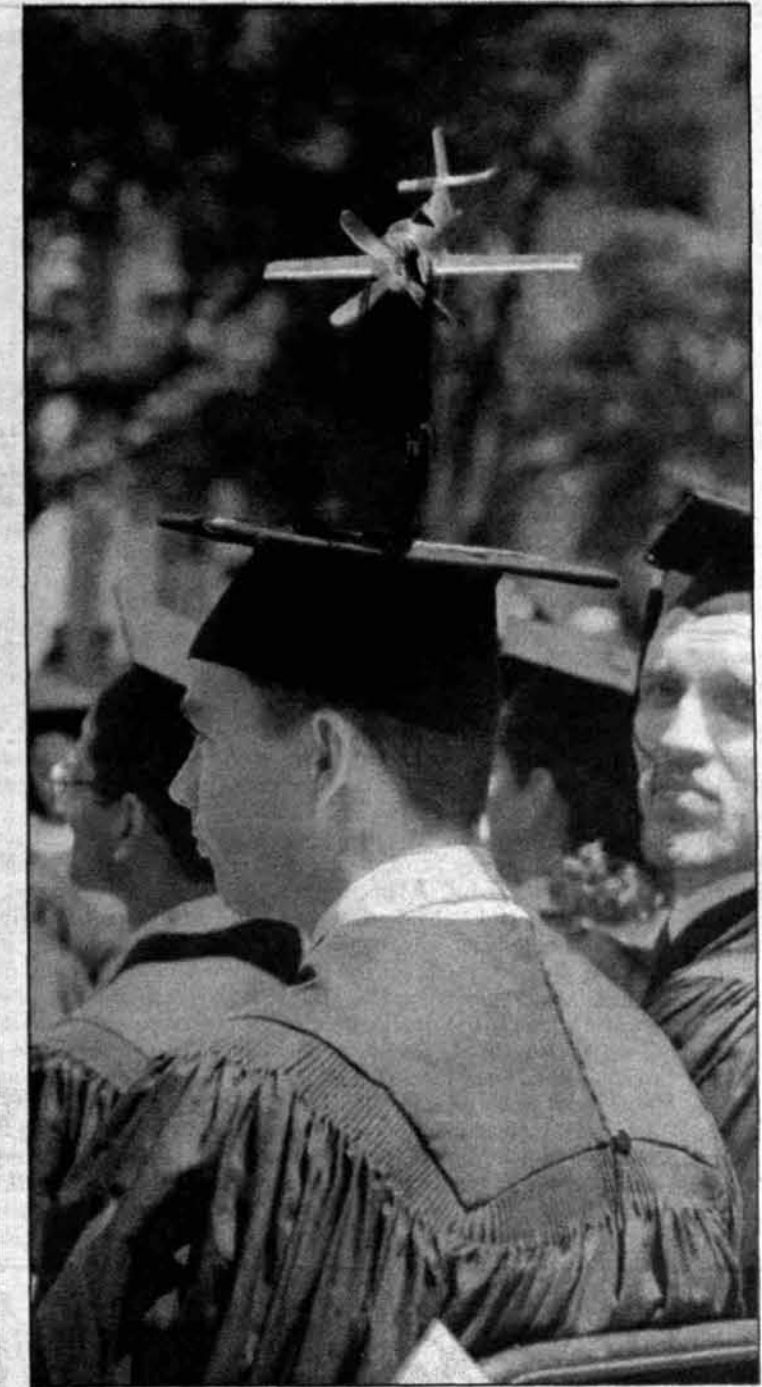
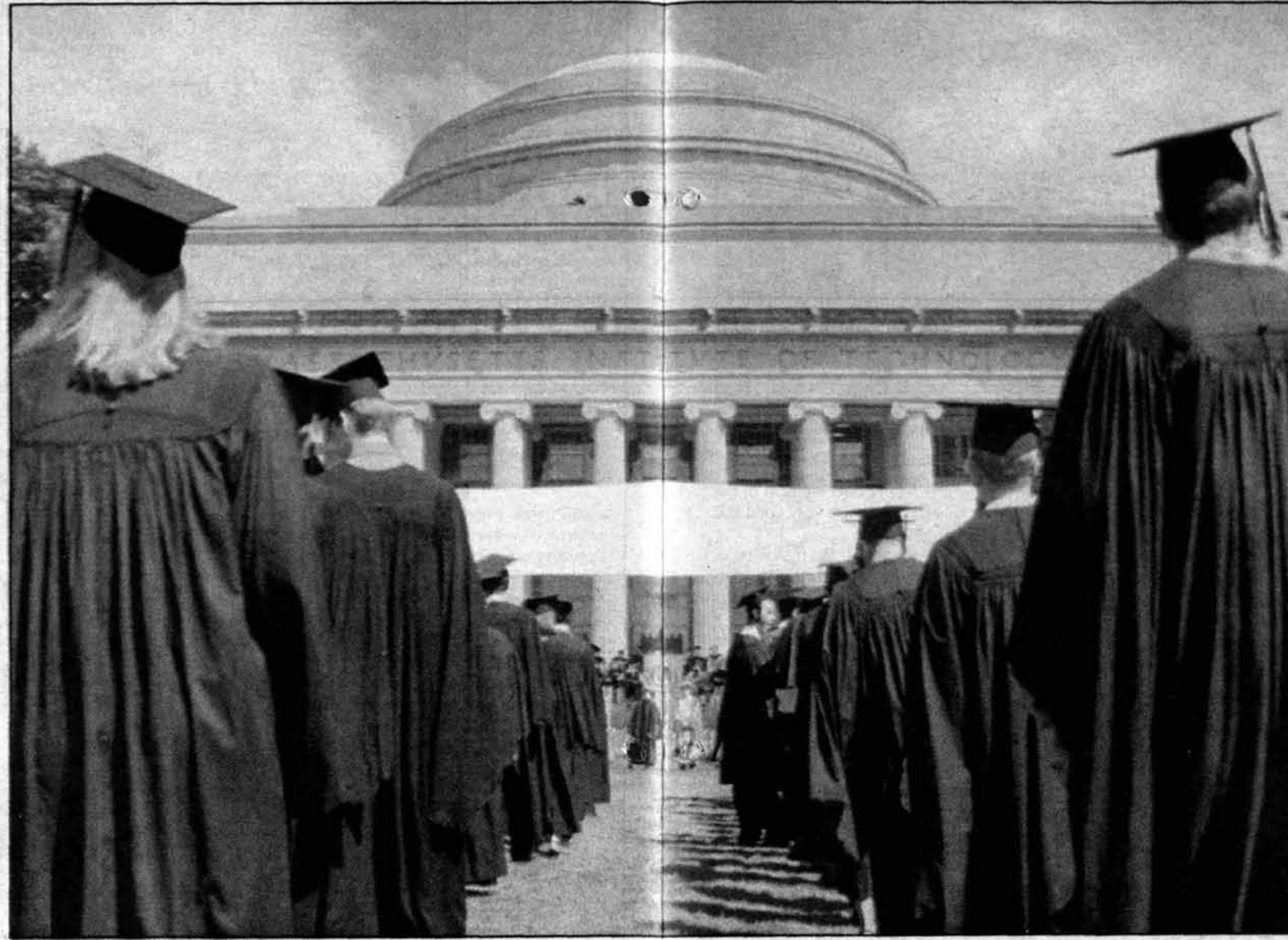
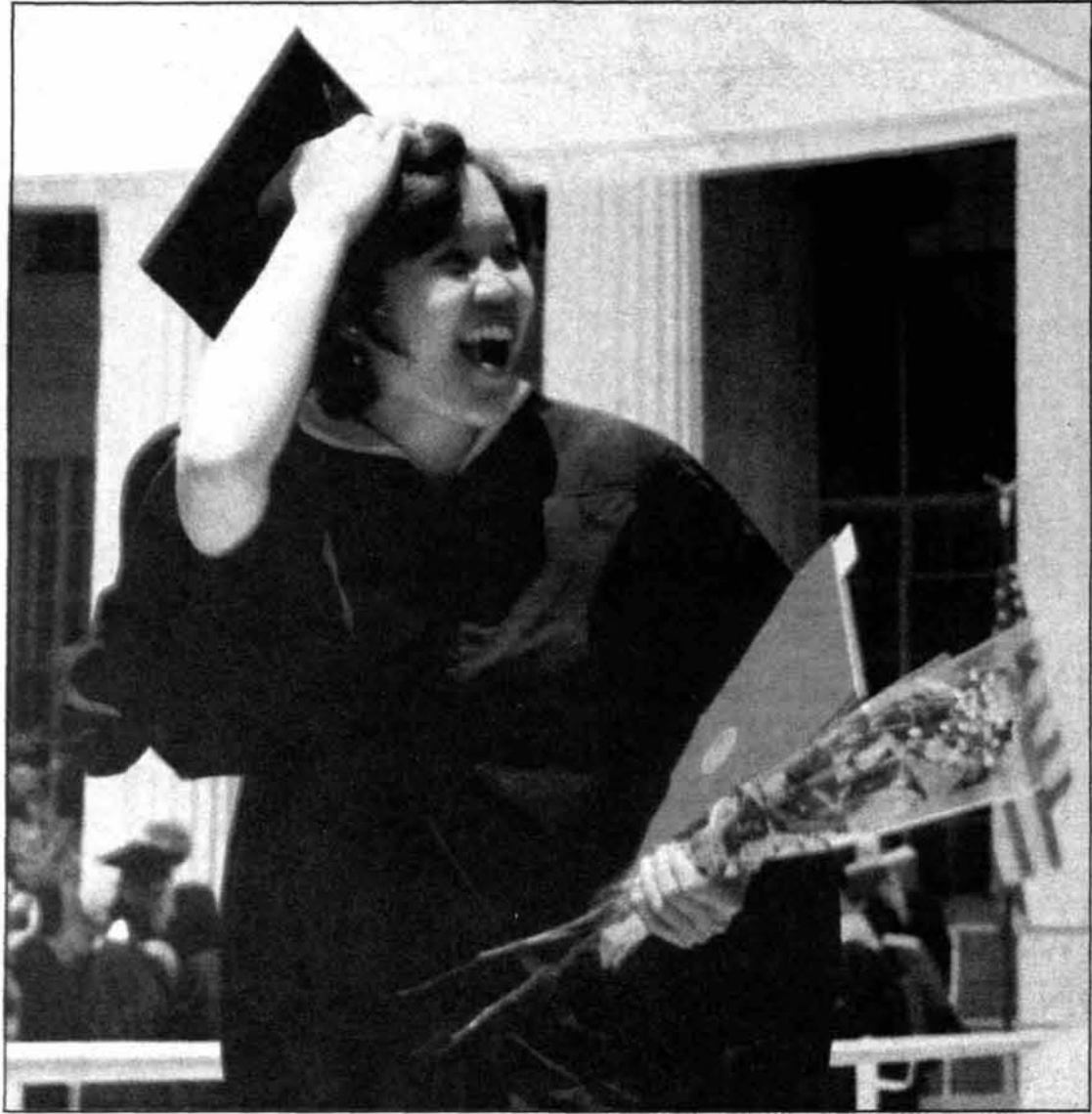
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A PART OF THIS SMALL ÉLITE?

On one hand, joining the Opinion staff is easy: All you need are some opinions and the desire to express them. But beyond that you must also have the moxie to stand up for what you believe. And sometimes that's not easy at MIT, where so many people hold the wrong-headed notion that they're not supposed to speak up, that students are only here to attend classes and vegetate in clusters. Time and again the pessimists and naysayers have been proven wrong. This is our community, and its quality and fate hinges on our commitment to self-expression and good citizenship.

We at *The Tech* are proud of MIT, and of our contribution to MIT's legacy. We want to share that legacy with you. To find out how you can become involved, send e-mail to one of *The Tech's* opinion editors: Anders Hove ([anders@mit.edu](mailto:anders@mit.edu)) and Stacey E. Blau ([seblau@mit.edu](mailto:seblau@mit.edu)).



# Commencement '97



Photographs by Rich Fletcher, Indranath Neogy, Arifur Rahman and Chun Hua Zheng.

## THE ARTS

## FILM REVIEW

*Batman and Robin delivers mindless fun*

## BATMAN AND ROBIN

Directed by Joel Schumacher.  
Written by Akiva Goldsman, Christopher McQuarrie.  
Starring George Clooney, Chris O'Donnell, Uma Thurman, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Alicia Silverstone.

By Dan McGuire  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Originally, Batman was a tragic figure, forced by his past to cleanse the city of crime. But the last film in the Batman franchise pretty much did away with the whole voyage-of-self-discovery thing, leaving us with shallower characters and muddled motivations. But great backdrops and special effects and a tolerable but mindless plot make Joel Schumacher's *Batman and Robin* a pretty fun romp anyway.

In this installment, Batman (George Clooney) and Robin (Chris O'Donnell) must save the city of Gotham from two new villains: the emotionless Doctor Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger) and the sensual yet deadly Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman).

Freeze is a scientist turned bad by circumstance. While working to cure his sick wife of a rare disease, he falls into a vat of chemicals which change his blood to ice, making him unable to survive at temperatures above 50 degrees below zero. Now, working from a secret base in an ice cream factory, Freeze is laying plans to take the city hostage to get the funds he needs to find the cure for his wife's illness.

Ivy is yet another scientist, this time an

eccentric ecologist working in the rain forests of South America. While working to create an animal / plant hybrid, she suffers a laboratory accident which makes her (surprisingly enough) poisonous. Now believing herself to Mother Nature with an attitude, Ivy is out to restore the planet without regard to the humans who inhabit it.

That's about it for the setup, and much of the rest of the movie is spent on spectacular car chases through an incredibly elaborate Gotham City. The plot here is pretty predictable for anyone vaguely acquainted with Saturday morning cartoons: Ivy unplugs Freeze's wife's life support system and blames it on Batman, uniting the two against the Caped Crusader. Poison Ivy's Magic pheromone dust turns Batman and Robin against each other, climaxing in Robin's demand that they rip out the Bat Signal and replace it with a Robin Signal. Alfred Pennyworth (Michael Gough), Batman's butler, also develops a case of the same disease that affects Freeze's wife and can only be cured by Freeze's research.

Oh, and we're joined by Bat Girl (Alicia Silverstone), Alfred's Computer Scientist/ Judo expert niece. We see just enough of her to discover that she's a take-no-nonsense motorcycle racer. She also kicks Uma Thurman into a large purple flower in a pretty funny fight scene.



Batman (George Clooney) and Robin (Chris O'Donnell) play a hockey game using a ridiculously large diamond as a puck in *Batman and Robin*.

But it's not character or plot that carries this movie, it's atmosphere. Every set and prop in this movie makes one think of an Art-Deco world gone horribly wrong. 1930's era cars race around the streets of Gotham avoiding Freeze's deadly freeze ray. Gothic buildings reach hundreds of stories into the air supporting impossible roads. Day-glo thugs threaten harm to our heroes. The dizzying visuals alternately induce agoraphobia, claustrophobia, and vertigo. Special effects also bring us extraordinary visuals, ranging from a telescope tumbling hundreds of feet down a cliff, to the Batmobile jumping off a cliff, being frozen in mid air, and then breaking apart on impact.

*Batman and Robin* does little to advance

the storyline and character development of the series, but its special effects are very good and Gotham is downright spooky.

My main complaint is that the movie takes itself far too seriously. Its over the top characters and cliched situations are ripe for self-parody. No movie should be able to have a villain say "Today Gotham, tomorrow, the world!" with a straight face, but Dr. Freeze cheerfully does just that.

But despite the flaws, I liked *Batman and Robin*. Don't expect great art, or even decent drama, from this movie. Expect lots of explosions and a plot that will let you set your brain on idle. And sometimes, especially for the dog days of summer, that's exactly what's needed.

## TELEVISION

*The Real World Boston debuts in July*

By Jonathan Litt  
STAFF REPORTER

How real-world would *The Real World* be if *The Real World* could be real? Such is the type of question I asked myself while waiting in line to catch a glimpse of the the Boston *Real World* cast at a wrap party at the Avalon last Tuesday. Indeed, how realistic is it to live for free in a lavishly furnished apartment with seven strangers and with MTV camera crews in tow 24 hours a day? Perhaps a more fitting name would be *The Reel World*.

However, there is one aspect of *The Real World* that is, unfortunately, a bit *too* realistic: most of the time nothing all that interesting happens. At no point was this more evident than during the painfully boring fourth season in London, where the most memorable thing that happened was when Neil (the British rock musician) got part of his tongue bitten off by a crazed audience member he tried to kiss.

For the last two seasons the producers have tried to remedy this by introducing a gimmick to inject some life into the show. Last season, filmed in Miami, the cast was

given \$50,000 to start a business, but failed with full splendor to even agree on what to do. For this season, in Boston, the producers shifted to a somewhat more reliable plan of requiring the cast to volunteer at an after-school program in East Boston. However, as producer Jon Murray told *The Boston Globe*, "I think our cast found out that volunteering is not the piece of cake they thought it was going to be." One of them even gets fired (quite a feat for a volunteer), although we'll have to wait for the show to come out to find out who it is and for what reason they got fired.

This sort of conflict seems to be what the producers strive the very hardest to achieve, since it usually makes for the most interesting episodes (recall Puck vs. Pedro). This approach is even reflected in the show's oft-repeated mantra, which states that it is, "the true story of seven strangers picked to live in a house and have their lives tapes to find out what happens when people stop being polite and start getting real." Only in the in-your-face land of MTV are "polite" and "real" used as antonyms.

As much as I like to complain, however, I

admit that I get a kick out of watching the show. At the very least I always watch the first few episodes of each season, although my interest tends to wane quickly thereafter. The Boston season holds promise if for no other reason than the novelty of seeing recognizable Boston locations scattered throughout the episodes.

Getting back to Tuesday night at the Avalon, it was certainly an event to go down in the footnotes of *Real World* history, as pathetic as that sounds. The first band to play was the infamous Unilever, a.k.a. Neil's band from the London season, who were introduced by Sharon from the same season. Neil, with full tongue, led an interesting set which started off with a slow, Fugazi-esque ballad and ended with a typical punk shouting-fest including lyrics such as "I want to \*\*\*\* you in the \*\*\*hole." I was actually somewhat impressed with Unilever, although I would only recommend them to someone who has at least a minor predilection for punk. Neil mentioned that their CD is available at Newbury Comics.

Next came Midnight Voices, which is Mohammed's band from the San Francisco season. It is safe to say that the crowd absolutely loved Midnight Voices, although Mohammed is not as integral to them as Neil is to Unilever. Most of the energy behind Midnight Voices comes from their charismatic lead singer, whose name I don't know. Their blend of old-school rap and new-school hip-hop was definitely the musical highlight of the evening, and I wouldn't be surprised if this band makes it big over the next few years.

**The Real World 6 Roster****Kameelah**

A 19-year-old black woman from San Diego. She is a non-drinker with a tongue piercing and is reportedly a student at Harvard. She appears to have a non-cast-member boyfriend.

**Jason**

A 24-year-old Luke Perry look-alike from Boulder, Colorado. He reportedly has an out-of-town girlfriend and writes poetry.

**Syrus**

A built, 25-year-old black man from Santa Monica, CA. He is an aspiring promoter.

**Genesis**

A smallish, blonde, openly gay 21-year-old woman, hailing from Gulfport, Mississippi. She reminds me a bit of Joey Lauren Adams in *Chasing Amy*.

**Sean**

A generic looking preppy from Wisconsin. He is 25 years old, tall, and wears glasses. He reportedly worked with Syrus at Back Bay Brewing Company.

**Montana**

A 22-year-old woman from Manhattan. She looks to be the least interesting person on the cast (although Sean is close).

**Elka**

A 19-year-old hispanic woman from Brownsville, Texas. She saw snow for the first time in Boston. Her mother died about a month before the show started taping.



JONATHAN LITT — THE TECH

The *Real World 6* house, a converted firehouse on the corner of River and Mt. Vernon.

(A CD is coming out in September.)

Finally, after the third band (in no way related to *The Real World*), the Boston cast members came on stage to introduce themselves and to give away several items from *The Real World* house. (See sidebar)

As a group the Boston cast appears to have good synergy, although in various interviews some of them said that certain members (e.g. Montana and Syrus) did not get along at first. There does not appear to be anyone as extreme as Flora from Miami or Puck from San Francisco — this group seems to resemble the mellow London group more than any other.

When asked in one interview if "people had affairs or had sex in the house," Elka responded, "Oh yeah, people had sex all the time, although I won't say whether it was between roommates or their significant others." We will just have to wait and see, of course. The season begins with an hour long opener on Wednesday, July 16th at 10 p.m. on MTV.

# POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between June 5 and 18:

**June 5:** Tang Hall, Fon-jui Tsai G, of Tang Hall room 16D1, arrested for domestic violence.

**June 6:** Bldg. E25, laptop computer stolen, \$600; Killian Court, Meng-Meng Zhao, of 201 Pleasant St., Arlington, arrested for trespassing.

**June 7:** Tang, wallet stolen, \$25; LaVerde's Market, person stopped for shoplifting.

**June 9:** Senior House, malicious damage; Bldg. 9, computer stolen, \$38,150; Bldg. E25, annoying phone calls; Tang, bicycle stolen, \$194; Bldg. 68, 1) report of suspicious person; 2) wallet stolen, \$15; Student Center, wallet stolen, \$45; Bldg. E25, report of unwanted person; Bldg. E52, T-shirts stolen, \$1,407.

**June 10:** Herman garage, pallet stolen, \$530; Bldg. E25, annoying person; New House, bike stolen from common room, \$250; Student Center, Ian Miller, of 791 Tremont St., Chelsea and Brian Hill, of no known address, placed under arrest for trespassing; Bldg. E23, wallet containing \$75 stolen; Walker, tire stolen from a bike, \$75; Tang, bike stolen, \$400; Bldg. 6, compact disc and calculator stolen, \$350.

**June 11:** Bldg. 10, eight boxes of lady fingers stolen, \$8; Bldg. E15, computers stolen, \$4,000; Student Center, four juveniles arrested for attempted larceny of bikes and other related charges.

**June 12:** Bldg. 20, suspicious activity; Bldg. E19, laptop stolen, \$4,700; Student Center, 1) laptop stolen, \$4,000; 2) backpack stolen, \$110; Sloan lot, '85 Cadillac broken into.

**June 13:** Bldg. 6, two chairs stolen, \$175; Bldg. 26, pocketbook stolen, later recovered missing \$10; Bldg. 9, pocketbook containing \$2 cash and cellular phone stolen, \$100.

**June 14:** Bldg. 2, CD player and disc stolen, \$280; 500 Memorial Dr., laptop stolen, \$2,700.

**June 15:** Bldg. 14, malicious damage to vending machine.

**June 16:** Bldg. E52, suspicious activity; Bldg. 10, fax machine stolen, \$1,000; Bldg. 9, suspicious persons.

**June 17:** Bldg. 2, VCR stolen, \$240; Bldg. E53, suspicious person; Bldg. 48, computer stolen, \$600; Bldg. E51, bike tire stolen, \$50.

**June 18:** McCormick, domestic disturbance; Tang, bike stolen from room, \$400; Bldg. 2, suspicious person; Bldg. E15, two laptops stolen, \$4,000; Bldg. E40, \$70 cash stolen from wallet.

## New and Old Grads Enjoy Commencement

Commencement, from Page 1

because of our conviction — born of practical experience — that this diversity makes educational sense," he said.

"Students learn by encountering new ideas and new people — not by reaffirming what they already know," he said. "It is our responsibility to educate all those who will contribute to our society's well-being."

He reminded the audience, however, that "we still have far to go until we become a nation fully integrated at every level and in every aspect. Whatever your view on how we reach that goal, we must reach it. We look to you as citizens and leaders to create effective ways to do so."

### Annan urges support for UN

In his keynote address, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan SM '72, a MIT Sloan Fellow in 1971-1972, urged the new graduates to help and take the lead in supporting the United Nations.

Annan spoke of the progressive steps taken by the UN to "firm up the grounds on which the project of international organization rests."

Although "much remains to be done," Annan said, "only a decade ago the achievements I have just enumerated seemed unimaginable. Now they are real."

Constantine Morfopoulos G, outgoing president of the Graduate Student Council, led a salute to MIT from the graduate student body.

Senior class president Pardis Sabeti '97 presented Vest with the senior gift — a record-breaking fund to be used for student activities.

Following the commencement ceremonies, an outdoor reception hosted by President and Mrs. Vest was held for the graduates and their guests.

### Alumni and guests enjoy exercises

Grand Marshal DuWayne J. Peterson Jr. '55, president of the MIT Association of Alumni and Alumnae, offered congratulations to

to the new graduates on behalf of the classes of 1947 and 1972, the 50 year and 25 year classes, respectively, welcoming them to the world of alumni.

Many enjoyed this year's commencement ceremonies. "The exercises went very smoothly," said Gayle Fitzgerald, the director of conference services and events, who coordinated this year's ceremonies. "The weather certainly was a positive influence," she said.

"It was beautifully run," said Kenneth A. Marshall '47. "It was fun and exciting to be in it. It brings back memories." The graduation gowns were "very colorful costumes — more color than I remember," he said.

Others reminisced about their own graduation. "It's amazing how things have changed," said Ginny F. Ean '47. She especially noted the increase in the number of women graduates as one of only a handful of women during her own days at MIT. "It's great to see more women in the sciences," she said. "It's incredible — even the class president was a young woman."

"I'm glad to reminisce about my own [commencement] — what a great day it is to graduate," said John J. Murphy '47.

"All of those who help make commencement happen did an extraordinary job. There are literally hundreds who make it happen," Fitzgerald said.

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM PAGE 11

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TEK Microsystems was founded in 1981 to develop custom hardware and software systems for clients. Some startups had a whole garage, but we only had a dorm room (Goodale 105, 1st East, East Campus). Since then, we've done a lot of different things, from IBM PC software to sonar data acquisition to fiber-optic links to industrial I/O products. Everything we've done requires a commitment to

developing innovative, reliable solutions using leading-edge technology.

In 1995, we expanded our business to include off-the-shelf products based on technology developed for other customers. In 1996, we moved from 100% custom projects to a mix of 85% custom, 15% products — and we're on track for 25% products in 1997 with a new product release every month.

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# Annan Speaks on Internationalism, Lessons he Learned as MIT Student

Annon, from Page 1

diplomacy and those of scientific research.

Both fields, he said, use reason to engage the forces of unreason. To illustrate his point, Annan first listed the tragedies of the century including the two World Wars and the Holocaust. He then noted the progressive steps achieved under the auspices of the United Nations, such as the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention.

"And so, as this century draws to a close, we are justified in concluding that international organization has helped tilt the balance toward the domain within which the power of human reason prevails," Annan said.

Both fields are also experimental, and knowledge is often gained by trial and error. International organization is "an experiment in human cooperation on a planetary scale," he said. "We at the United Nations are working hard to firm up the grounds on which the project of international organization rests. And we are doing so by recognizing its experimental nature and embracing the imperative of inventiveness that this implies."

The last similarity between the two fields is that both "speak a

universal language and speak universal truths," Annan said. These universal truths, which in the arena of international affairs include human dignity, fundamental equality, and a yearning for peace, are steadily making themselves heard, he said.

### Internationalism should be goal

Addressing the degree recipients, Annan said, "I call upon you to work indefatigably to anchor the [United States] to the course of internationalism, to its historic mission as an agent of progressive change and the rule of law, equal opportunity, and the irreducible rights of all individuals. The need is pressing; the moment is now."

Annan, who has devoted his career to the United Nations, serving in Ethiopia, New York, Geneva, and Egypt, said he would announce reform plans next month that would "compare favorably with any such reforms yet undertaken by any public sector organization, anywhere. We seek a United Nations that will view change as a friend— not change for its own sake, but change that permits us to do more by doing it better."

### MIT built intellectual confidence

Annan fondly remembered his days at MIT between 1971 and

1972. "At the outset, there was intense competition among my cohorts. Each was equally determined to shine and to demonstrate his leadership qualities. I say 'his' because there were no women among us. I am certainly glad that has changed." Annan's statement elicited spirited cheers and applause from the many female graduates in the audience.

Annan told of a revelation he had had in the middle of his first term at MIT while reflecting on how he could possibly survive in the group of over-achievers in his class. "And the answer came to me most emphatically," he said, "not by playing according to the rules. 'Follow your own inner compass.' I said to myself. 'Listen to your own drummer.' To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there."

"What I took away from MIT, as a result," he said, "was not only the analytical tools but also the intellectual confidence to help me locate my bearings in new situations, to view any challenge as a potential opportunity for renewal and growth, to be comfortable in seeking the help of colleagues, but not fearing, in the end, to do things my way."

# Grades Mailing Raises Student Privacy Issue

Grades, from Page 1

programmers of MITSIS and the registrar's office led to the reports being printed after the expiration date. "We thought [the addresses were valid] until midnight of that date instead of 12:01am of that date," Scribner said. As a result, the grade report addresses expired before the reports were printed. Grade reports were then sent to home addresses rather than the special grade address.

Although the reports were mailed several weeks ago, the registrar's office had not received any complaints until *The Tech* contacted it during the preparation of this article. "If we had known about this, we simply would not have sent them out," Scribner said.

The registrar's office has decided to move back the expiration date of the grade report addresses to prevent the problem from recurring. "We knew we were getting close to the expiration date and we decided to move it back," Scribner said.

### Privacy serious concern at MIT

MIT has had a long-standing privacy policy favoring student consent over parent access, Ferreira said. "The issue of who gets the grades is an issue of dealing with the student and requiring their consent to send the grades to the parent."

The Committee on Privacy, which serves as a forum for discussion of privacy concerns involving

databases and all other sources of information, holds discussions with various groups that collect information, including SIS. "We aren't a judiciary body at all," Ferreira said. "We don't render judgements on privacy decisions, he added."

"It seems like there have been a lot of changes in [MITSIS], and the privacy concerns are real ones," Ferreira said. "This sounds like something that steps could be taken to make sure... doesn't happen."

The privacy concerns over the misaddressing of grade reports are serious, Ferreira said. "This is a serious issue; they made a mistake. They need to make sure that the problem is caught quickly and corrected."

### Problems not related to WebSIS

The glitch that caused the misaddressing of grade reports was not related to WebSIS, which was inaugurated in May, Scribner said. The problem was caused solely in the MITSIS system, which is now being revised.

The WebSIS team will update its software to show the grade report address through the revised expiration date, said Jagruti S. Patel '97, who leads the student access team for student services reengineering.

The WebSIS software currently shows the grade report address for the summer term, Patel said. "The grade report address is term-based" and must be re-entered each term, she said.

# MIT Graduate Students Lobby Against Tax Bill

Taxes, from Page 1

Henneberry, director of insurance and legal affairs.

Nevertheless, groups are mobilizing to strike down the legislation. The final bill will be written by a House-Senate conference committee charged with ironing out the differences. Coram said that the GSC would target the members of that

committee with lobbying efforts.

However, Colbert said that it is also important to send a message to the bill's supporters. "We need to send a message to the bill's sponsors in the House," he said. Those who back this proposal need to understand the importance of a graduate education, Colbert said. "We need to express our opposition," he added.

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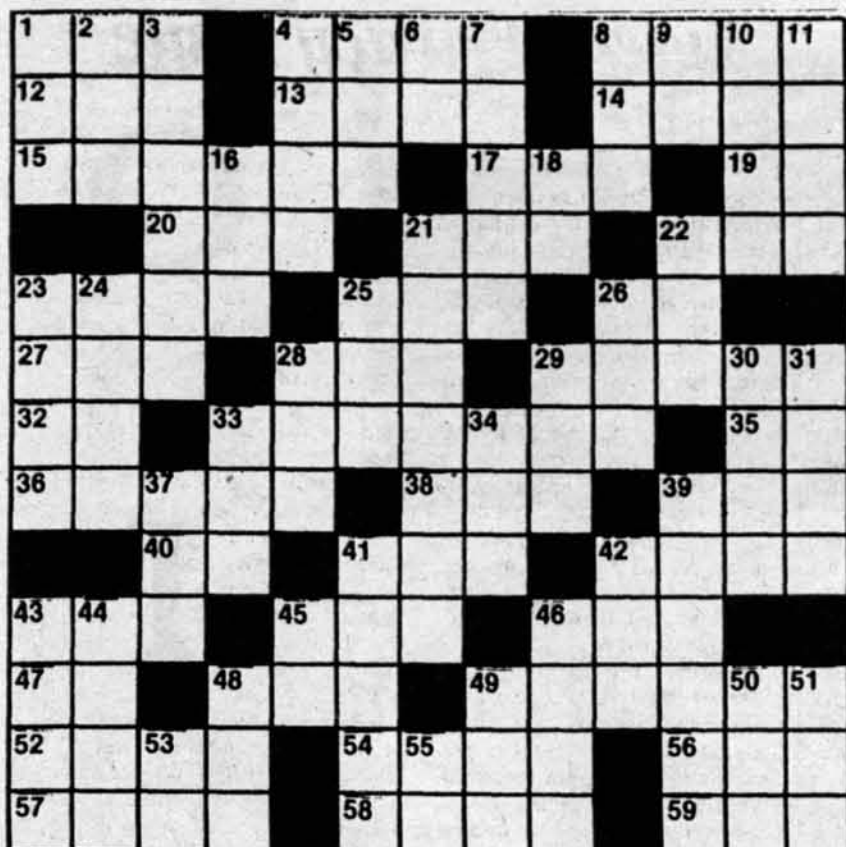
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ACROSS

- 1. Boy
- 4. Hurts
- 8. Angel's headgear
- 12. Beer
- 13. Spoken
- 14. Smell
- 15. Canal
- 17. Strange
- 19. Six (Roman)
- 20. Mined mineral
- 21. Mimic
- 22. Wooden nail
- 23. Suffrage
- 25. Time period
- 26. Verb
- 27. Avenue (abbr.)
- 28. Day of week (abbr.)
- 29. Put together
- 32. Direction (abbr.)
- 33. Plan; diagram
- 35. Beast of burden
- 36. Scornful expression
- 38. Tip of grass
- 39. 7th Greek letter
- 40. Railroad (abbr.)
- 41. Utah Indian
- 42. Elementary (abbr.)
- 43. Accountant (abbr.)
- 45. Direction (abbr.)
- 46. Brewed drink
- 47. Southern state (abbr.)
- 48. Illness

- 49. Floor covering
- 52. Egg-shaped
- 54. Sodium
- 56. Senora (abbr.)
- 58. Ear projection
- 59. Even (poetic)

- 39. Past
- 41. Normal
- 42. Ever (poetic)
- 43. Lump of earth
- 44. Cover a road
- 45. Elevated railway
- 46. Not wild
- 48. Summer pest
- 49. Baby bear
- 50. Before (poetic)
- 51. Summer browning
- 55. Behold

DOWN

- 1. Where child sits
- 2. Winglike structure
- 3. Signify
- 4. Any
- 5. Mouth (pl.)
- 6. Egyptian sun god
- 7. Run away to wed
- 8. Skip
- 9. Advertisement (abbr.)
- 10. Affectionate
- 11. Original (abbr.)
- 16. Verb
- 18. 2nd smallest state (abbr.)
- 21. Snake
- 22. 23rd Greek letter
- 23. Covered trucks
- 24. Kiln
- 25. Painting
- 26. Hotel
- 28. Away
- 29. Footed vase
- 30. Carry
- 31. Test
- 33. Each
- 34. Female sheep
- 37. Period of time

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 9

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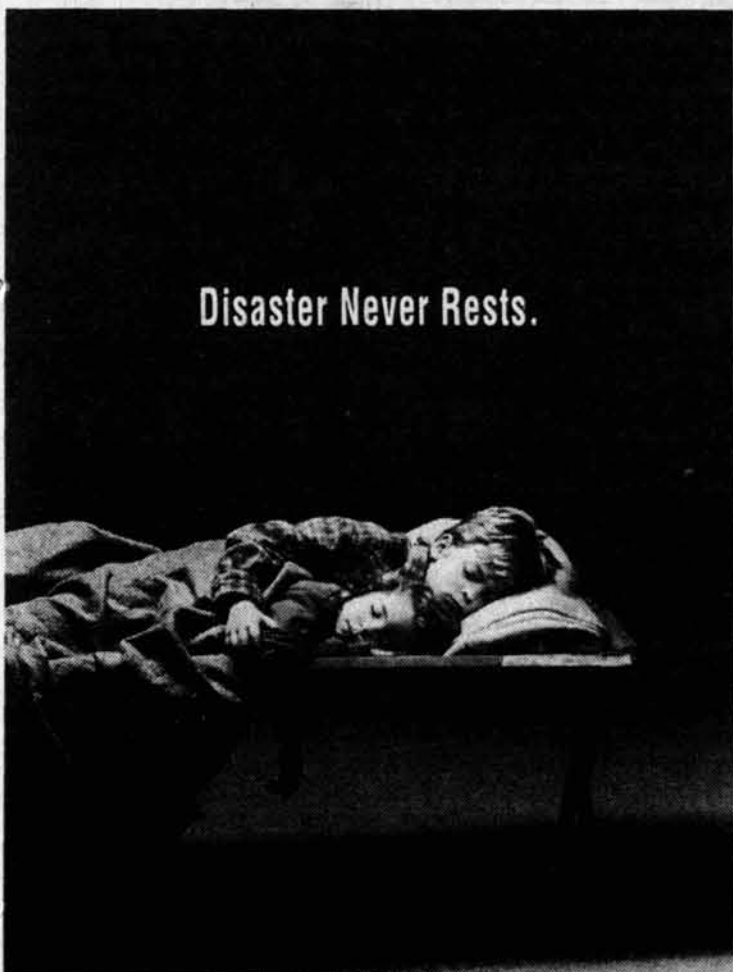
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# Dammed for Life

by jessica

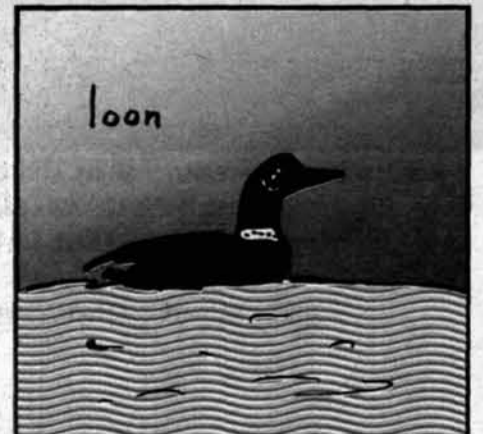
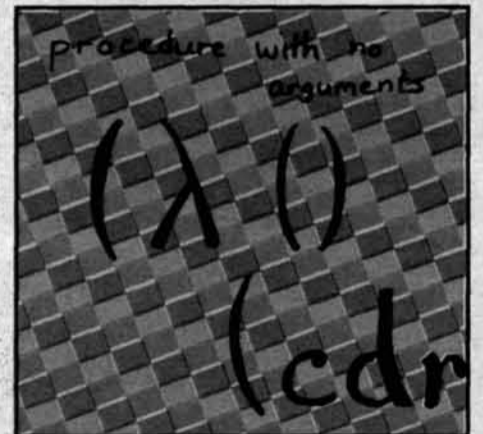


# COMICS

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Layout by Saul Blumenthal

## Noun Poetry



by Katy-Cat



## Dilbert®

by Scott Adams



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