

1,500 New Graduate Students Begin Graduate R/O Activities

By Frank Dabek
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Orientation begins today for the other half of the MIT population. Graduate Orientation, organized by the Graduate Student Council, will continue through Saturday and features a variety of events designed to introduce graduate students to MIT and each other.

There are about 1,500 incoming graduate students, however about 460 of those students are enrolled in the Sloan School of Business and participate in a separate orientation program. The remaining students participate in the orientation program organized by GSC.

The goal of orientation is to pro-

vide a comprehensive view of life at MIT and in Boston. "Graduate life is centered in each department. It's hard for each department to develop a comprehensive orientation," said Eva Moy G, one of the coordinators of Graduate Orientation. We're trying to "make things easier" for incoming students, Moy said.

Graduate Orientation focuses on "teaching students how to be a student at MIT, with the emphasis on at MIT," said Geoffrey J. Coram G, president of the GSC. He said that the departmental orientations, which will be held later, teach students to be part of a department but not part of the Institute as a whole.

As a result, Orientation "needs to

be pulled together by a central body" such as GSC, which is the graduate equivalent of the Undergraduate Association, said Moy.

Funding for the orientation is provided by the Graduate Education Office but all planning is done by the GSC. While the administration does not plan any events, Moy said "we don't try to step out of bounds. We have a very good relationship [with the administration.]"

When the GSC began organizing orientation, the Graduate Education Office wasn't interested in organizing the event themselves but felt

Grad R/O, Page 10

Smorgasbord of Student Groups Will Entertain At Midway Tonight

By Zareena Hussain
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Now that freshmen have for the most part decided where they will live during their time at MIT, the time has come to look at the available activities which can help make that time more interesting.

Tonight, from 6-8 p.m., the Activities Midway will be held on the first floor of Johnson Athletics Center. There, freshmen will have

the opportunity to sample many of the student groups at the Institute.

"The purpose of the Midway is to give incoming freshmen an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the wide variety of student activities at MIT," said Association of Student Activities President, Russell S. Light '98. "After the [chaos] of residence selection, the Activities Midway gives freshman a chance to slow-

down and focus on something other than where they want to live," Light said.

About 160 student groups will be represented at the midway said ASA member and Activities Midway Coordinator, Edwin A. Karat G.

Many student groups have activities to both entertain and entice freshmen.

The Lecture Series Committee, which shows movies on the weekends to students at a reduced price, will be on hand to show movie previews and serve free popcorn as freshman enter the midway, said Kevin R. Lynch '96 an LSC member who will be present at the midway.

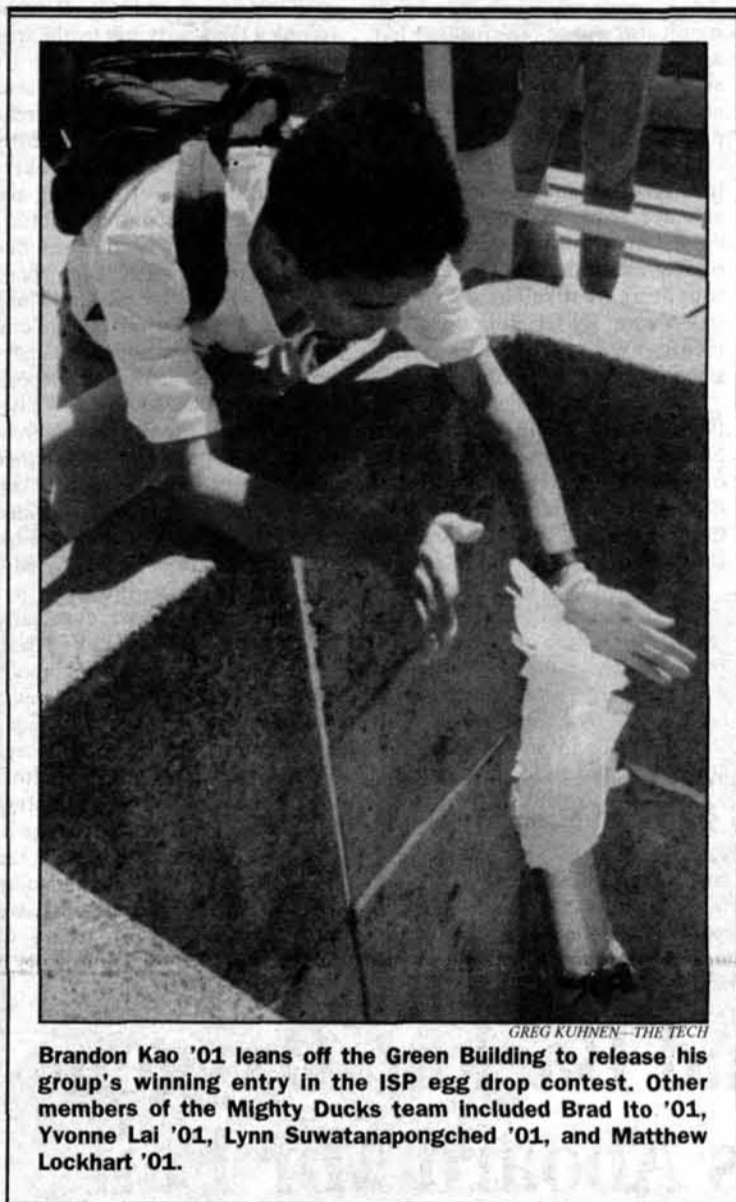
Staffers for Technique, MIT's yearbook, will demonstrate how to use large format cameras, said Yi-Chuan E. Huang '99, a staffer with Technique.

The pictures will be taken using polaroid film so freshman can see the results while they are at the midway, Huang said.

"[Being on Technique] is a lot of fun and you learn a lot about photography. Working in Technique helped me learn faster as opposed to

Center, Page 11

Midway, Page 9



Brandon Kao '01 leans off the Green Building to release his group's winning entry in the ISP egg drop contest. Other members of the Mighty Ducks team included Brad Ito '01, Yvonne Lai '01, Lynn Suwatanapongched '01, and Matthew Lockhart '01.

New Services Center Organizes Scattered Offices

By Shang-Lin Chuang
CHAIRMAN

MIT's new Student Services Center opened last week to great fanfare in the Infinite Corridor space formerly occupied by the Athena Fishbowl cluster. The new office is designed to allow students to conduct common transactions without traipsing across campus to many distributed offices.

The center serves as an extension of the Bursar's Office, Registrar's Office, Student Financial Aid Office, Student Employment Office, and Multi Plan Office.

The full center follows the experimental center set up last year as part of a pilot project. It was built on the recommendation of the student services re-engineering team as part of their final plan. The center offered quick access to common services such as accepting payments on student accounts, offering common financial and academic forms, and issuing official transcripts.

After positive student responses on the pilot, the pilot center was closed at the end of last semester and construction began on the new, bigger, permanent center which also offers more services.

"We want to provide the best services for students, and by expanding the center, we are able to do so," said Caryn Youngholm, coach of the Student Services Center team.

In addition to the services offered by the pilot center, students can now talk to an account representative about their bursar's account, sign their loan promissory

notes, replace their MIT ID Card, get information about student employment, get cross-registration information and materials, talk to a financial aid officer, receive loan entrance counseling, receive a student account refund, and get a short term cash advance in addition to the services provided by the pilot project.

There are five workers at the service desks, and six workers, including the account representative, at the transitional service area, for those

students who need more in-depth assistance.

Students find center convenient

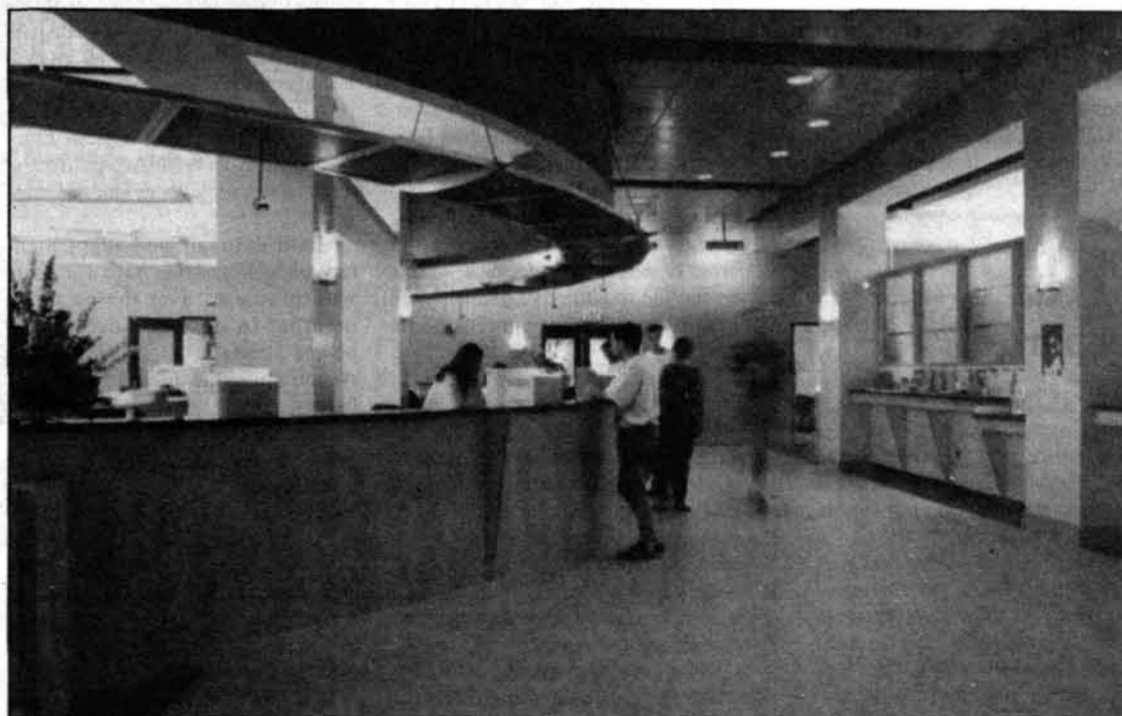
Judging by the turnout, students seem to be finding the new center useful. About 1,500 students have made payments, requested unofficial transcripts, and completed new graduate student pre-registration in the center.

The center's working mission is to provide financial and academic services for all students, faculty, and

staff in a friendly, accurate, and timely manner, and in a way that ideally will allow more time for pursuit of their educational and personal interests.

"I came in here to pay my bill," said Jane Y. Park '00. "It is much more convenient to come here than to have to go to the Bursar's Office."

"I came here to pre-register," said Pimpa Limthongkul G. "The



The recently opened Student Services Center, which displaced the Fishbowl cluster from its Infinite Corridor location, allows students to centrally accomplish tasks normally distributed across campus.

INSIDE

■ ISP, ESG, Concourse offer personalized alternatives to mainstream curriculum. Page 6

■ Athena Dialups upgraded, quotas see increase as new academic year begins. Page 10

■ Comics Page 8

WORLD & NATION

Female Cadet Quits VMI's Rat Line

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Virginia Military Institute lost its second female cadet Sunday evening, shortly after a picnic on the parade ground where freshmen met their parents for the first time since joining the Lexington school's grueling Rat Line.

Amanda Harris, of Gettysburg, Pa., decided after talking to her parents Sunday afternoon that VMI's military education was not for her, and she had left the campus by 8.30 p.m., sources said.

Messages left at the Harris home in Gettysburg went unreturned Monday.

Departing students are routinely asked to write a short statement explaining why they want to leave. Citing privacy laws, a VMI spokesman declined to say what Harris wrote.

A source said Harris left because she was uncomfortable with the rigors of the school and its Rat Line. Another source said that Harris had been unsure she wanted to stay since late last week and that school officials arranged for at least one other female cadet to speak to her Friday to give her a boost.

VMI's first coeducational class in the school's 158 years has lost two women and 23 men in the last week, including two men who left Sunday. The class now has 28 women and 407 men.

The freshman dropout rate of 5.4 percent is slightly higher than VMI's average first-week dropout rate of 4 percent over the last 19 years.

Cuba Accuses U.S. of Biological War

LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

In an episode that mixed Cold War rhetoric with sci-fi conspiracy theory, Cuba on Monday accused the United States of sprinkling the island with the larvae of crop-destroying insects in an act of "biological aggression."

The complaint of bug warfare — denounced as "ridiculous and without merit" by the U.S. State Department — came at U.N. offices in Geneva under terms of the 1972 Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention and marked the first time the treaty has been invoked.

Cuba's deputy foreign minister, Maria de los Angeles Flores, told reporters in Geneva that Havana wants an international investigation of the incident, but Monday's closed-door session, before signatories to the convention, adjourned without action. The hearing is scheduled to resume Wednesday after delegates have reviewed the U.S. response.

In documents filed with the United Nations in New York, Cuba claims to have caught the United States red-handed when the pilot of a Cuban airliner spotted a small airplane registered to the U.S. State Department releasing "a white or grayish mist" over the Lenin State Horticultural Farm in Cuba's Matanzas province last Oct. 21.

Two months later, the potato crop on the Lenin farm became infested with what the Cubans called a "plague" of *thrips palmi*, a hardy pest that thrives in subtropical climates.

Truth Commission Subpoenas Winnie Mandela

THE WASHINGTON POST

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's truth commission has issued a subpoena for Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, former wife of President Nelson Mandela, to testify about the disappearance of youths in her bodyguard entourage during the days of apartheid, a commission official said.

Madikizela-Mandela, who was divorced from the president last year, was convicted in 1991 of kidnapping in connection with the 1989 disappearance and beating of four black youths; one of the boys, 14-year-old Moketsi "Stompie" Seipei died of internal injuries. Seipei, an anti-apartheid activist, was a member of the widely feared Mandela Football Club.

Instead of playing ball, the club served as a personal security force around Madikizela-Mandela in the black township of Soweto, south of Johannesburg, in the latter years of apartheid. Under white-minority rule, Madikizela-Mandela withstood jailings, internal banishment, firebombs and murder attempts by a succession of governments for whom her anti-apartheid activities and her famous name were a thorn in the side.

Last year, during a public hearing of the truth panel, the parents of two missing youths called on Madikizela-Mandela to tell what she knows about her bodyguards' involvement in the youths' disappearance.

Among the many mysteries surrounding the case was the whereabouts of one member, Katiza Cebekhulu, who was to have been a codefendant and key witness in the 1991 trial but disappeared before he could testify.

WEATHER Double Jeopardy

By Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

There are two factors to look out for in our weather for the next couple of days. One is a small low pressure system at the surface being steered up the East Coast by mid-level flow aligned nearly parallel to the seaboard. This should generate some clouds on Tuesday night but deal us only a glancing blow as it passes by to the east on Tuesday night. The other factor is a rather intense surface low pressure moving in from central Canada, whose effects we should see beginning Wednesday evening. Overnight rain is certainly possible resulting from this system.

Tuesday: Variable cloudiness. Light winds. High 73°F (23°C).

Tuesday night: Partly to mostly cloudy. Low 58°F (14°C).

Wednesday: Partly cloudy - chance of rain towards evening. High 72°F (22°C). Low 61°F (16°C).

Florida Settles Tobacco Suit; Firms to Pay \$11.3 Billion

By John Schwartz

THE WASHINGTON POST

The nation's largest tobacco companies settled Florida's lawsuit against them Monday by agreeing to pay the state \$11.3 billion over the next 25 years and to take steps aimed at reducing underage smoking.

"The tobacco industry has conceded defeat and we have a settlement of historic proportions," Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles said at a televised news conference after signing the deal in the West Palm Beach courtroom where jury selection for the state's suit had been underway.

In a joint statement, the tobacco companies called the agreement "another step in a process to end the climate of confrontation and litigation that has marked the national debate on tobacco related issues."

The deal — possibly the largest approved legal settlement in history — is similar to a settlement with Mississippi, and is the latest sign that the industry has shifted away from its historic posture of fiercely battling every legal challenge.

The agreement could boost the momentum of the proposed national tobacco settlement, which Congress will take up after the summer recess. That proposal calls for the industry to pay \$368 billion over the next 25 years and to sharply reduce advertising and promotion of tobacco products in return for protection from some lawsuits. Florida's settlement would be superseded if the national deal goes through.

Under the terms of the Florida deal, the companies will pay the state an initial \$550 million and another \$200 million for an anti-

smoking campaign by Sept. 15. The cigarette makers will remove their billboard ads within 1,000 feet of schools right away, and those ads will be replaced with anti-tobacco advertising funded by the settlement. Other billboards will be removed over the next few months. Ads in sports stadiums and on mass transit also will go. The industry has agreed that the public health provisions of the Florida settlement will continue regardless of whether the national deal is approved.

The agreement also calls for the removal of vending machines in any area accessible to minors, and for the industry to hand over hundreds of internal documents that it had fought against releasing in the state's case. By releasing the documents, "We've blown away the smoke screen of lies," Chiles said.

The companies signing the settlement were Philip Morris Cos. Inc.; Reynolds Tobacco Co., a unit of RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp.; Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.; Lorillard Tobacco Co.; and U.S. Tobacco Co.

Settlement talks have been going on between Florida officials and the industry since soon after the announcement of the national settlement proposal. That settlement must be approved by Congress, however, and so the individual state suits have moved forward pending legislative action.

Mississippi, the first state to file such a suit to recover the Medicaid costs of treating sick smokers, and the first with a trial date, announced its separate settlement with the industry just days before the case was to go to trial. That settlement

brought Mississippi \$3.6 billion, but none of the public health initiatives that Mississippi Attorney General Michael Moore and colleagues had pushed for in the national deal.

Florida got the public health measures, in part, because it had a stronger case than Mississippi. The state legislature had passed a law making a third-party suit by the state against the industry possible. By suing in place of smokers, the state was able to brush away the powerful defense that has helped the industry win so many suits: that smokers assumed the risks of smoking and should bear the responsibility for it.

The Florida negotiations had stalled in recent weeks. But depositions last week by the heads of Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds were crucial in getting a settlement, attorneys for the states said. In those depositions, both CEOs admitted — after caveats that they were speaking from personal belief, not stating corporate policy — that tobacco products kill. Lawyers suing the industry claimed that the statements by Geoffrey Bible and Stephen Goldstone showed a new attitude in an industry that allowed Florida — and, eventually perhaps, Congress — to strike a deal.

Far from being a spontaneous corporate change of heart, however, the statements were actually negotiated word for word in the final days of settlement talks between attorneys general and the industry, Moore said — part of the change in corporate culture called for in the text of the deal. "We were not going to enter the settlement until we knew that they were going to answer the questions truthfully," Moore said in an interview.

Primary and Backup Oxygen Generators Aboard Mir Fail

By David Hoffman

THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

The crew of the space station Mir was working Monday to repair both primary and secondary oxygen supply systems on the problem-ridden craft, just two days after Russian cosmonauts aboard undertook a delicate operation to try to restore full electrical power to the 11-year-old orbiting research complex.

NASA officials monitoring the Mir mission said the oxygen problems became apparent when Russian ground controllers ordered the crew — two Russians and American astronaut Michael Foale — to restart one of the space station's two principal oxygen generators, one that had been shut down since Aug. 18 to conserve power. The other main generator had been idle since an unmanned cargo vessel crashed into Mir on June 25, puncturing the space station's Spektr research module and forcing the crew to disconnect electrical cables within the module that had supplied Mir with about 50 percent of its power.

As soon as the crew turned on the generator Monday, however, it shut itself down, NASA officials said. "This is not an uncommon occurrence when (it) is reactivated after having been shut off," NASA said in a status report from Russian Mission Control outside Moscow, adding that the unit may have to be reinstalled to correct a problem with its cooling unit.

The crew also spent part of the day trying to troubleshoot the backup oxygen system, in which solid-fuel canisters, or "candles," are burned to produce oxygen by chem-

ical interaction.

This process, which caused a major fire aboard Mir earlier this year, had been in use for a week because the two main generators had been shut down.

Few details about the canister problem were available Monday night, and there was no confirmation of it by Russian space officials. NASA did not say specifically what was wrong with the backup system but reported that the crew will have to replace parts of the apparatus that activates the oxygen candles.

If both the primary and backup oxygen systems fail for a substantial period, experts say, the crew would face a potentially serious problem and might have to abandon the space station for lack of air. It was not immediately clear, however, how long the crew could remain aboard without either system functioning properly. NASA said the three men are in no immediate danger.

Both the main and supplementary oxygen systems have been rife with problems over the past two months, in part because of the power shortage aboard the space station since the June 25 collision forced the crew to seal off the Spektr module from Mir's core compartment and sever links with its solar panels.

The crew has since been struggling to restore electricity to the stricken orbiter, conducting a complex spacewalk inside the airless Spektr on Friday to reconnect power cables and plan an external spacewalk for next week.

The crew learned Monday that Friday's repair mission was at least partially successful. Mir commander Anatoly Solov'yev and flight engi-

neer Pavel Vinogradov told ground controllers that they tested the reconnected cables and found additional electricity flowing into Mir's power storage cells. The cosmonauts also found, however, that a cable installed to help keep Spektr's solar panels properly aligned with the sun — and thus produce more power — was apparently not functioning, NASA said. The space agency said it may take several days to determine how great a power boost the repair mission may stimulate.

The crew also began preparations Monday for a scheduled Sept. 3 spacewalk during which they will try to locate any punctures in the Spektr module caused by the June 25 collision. Yuri Koptev, director of the Russian space program, was quoted as saying in an interview with the Tass news agency that the errant cargo vessel struck Spektr like a bouncing ball, punching seven holes in the hull.

It was not clear how Koptev learned this, but his comment suggests the damage may be more serious than initially estimated. During Friday's repair operation, the two cosmonauts were unable to spot any holes from inside the module; previously, officials had said that the rate of decompression inside Spektr after the collision suggested a small hole, about an inch and a half in diameter, in the hull.

Koptev was quoted as saying the cosmonauts could not see the damage from inside Spektr because they were working in the dark but that the punctures would be evident from outside the craft. He said the holes could be patched only on subsequent spacewalks, perhaps with a special space-age glue.

Genetic Defect Doubles Colon Cancer Risk, Researchers Find

By Rick Weiss
THE WASHINGTON POST

Researchers have discovered a new kind of genetic defect that doubles a person's risk of colon cancer and is present in one of every 17 American Jews, making it the most common cancer-associated mutation ever identified in any ethnic population.

The mutation, apparently rare in non-Jews, appears to be responsible for about one in four cases of inherited colon cancer in Ashkenazi Jews — those of Eastern European ancestry, who constitute more than 95 percent of this country's 6 million Jewish people. It can be detected with a newly available \$200 blood test, which some geneticists predicted would quickly become one of the more commonly used genetic tests.

Doctors called the discovery a major advance since a positive blood test can alert people to the need for regular colon examinations, called colonoscopies, which can detect colon cancer in its earliest stages. The disease is easily prevented or cured when growths in the colon are spotted early and removed.

"This is perhaps the best example yet of a situation where a genet-

ic test will not only detect a significant number of folks at increased risk, but in a circumstance where you have something to offer them in the way of an intervention," said Francis Collins, chief of the National Human Genome Research Institute.

At the same time, experts expressed concern that federal protections against genetic discrimination still are not fully in place, even as the number and value of genetic tests grows. Several said they hoped the discovery would spur the passage of legislation, recently endorsed by President Clinton, to protect people against the misuse of genetic information by health insurers and others.

"Despite the potential benefits of this testing ... there still are substantial risks for people, including insurance discrimination and the likelihood of adverse psychological effects for the individual or family members," said Caryn Lerman, director of cancer genetics at Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center. "For an individual to make an informed decision and weigh the risks and benefits adequately, informed consent and pretest genetic counseling would

have to be offered."

The new work, led by Bert Vogelstein of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, focused on a stretch of DNA called the APC gene. Scientists have known since 1991 that mutations in that gene can lead to colon cancer. The new work shows that a less dramatic kind of genetic variation in the APC gene, called a polymorphism, also predisposes to cancer — not by directly causing tumor formation but by making the gene unstable and prone to further damage by carcinogens.

Researchers said the identification of the new kind of cancer-promoting glitch could help them find the underlying causes of other kinds of cancers in different populations.

"We always assumed polymorphisms are harmless variations," Vogelstein said, like spellings of the word "color" and "colour" in America and England. "Now people are going to be going back and looking at all these to see what else they may be doing."

The new research, which appears in the September issue of *Nature Genetics*, involved genetic analyses of blood or tissue samples taken from about 1,000 Ashkenazi Jews.

Comptroller Pushes Swiss to Act

THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

The comptroller of New York City has called upon major Swiss banks to reveal what contributions, if any, they have made to a special fund for aging Holocaust survivors.

He said that failure to do so could expose the banks to actions harmful to their stock value.

Alan G. Hevesi said in an interview Monday that he is not threatening the banks with retaliatory measures such as boycotts or a sell-off of New York's sizable holdings in Switzerland. His aim, he said, is simply to spark some action in the slow-moving effort to prod the Swiss into making some atonement for their alleged aid to Nazi Germany and to help Holocaust survivors recover family assets held by Swiss banks since World War II.

"I have not crossed the line where I'm threatening anyone; my interest is in encouraging the banks to do the right thing," said Hevesi, who had relatives killed in the Holocaust.

East German Leaders Convicted

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BERLIN

Unified Germany's long-running attempts to bring the leaders of the defunct East German dictatorship to justice yielded three convictions Monday, all on manslaughter charges stemming from fatal shootings of would-be escapees at the Berlin Wall.

Egon Krenz, East Germany's last hard-line Communist leader, was sentenced to 6 years in prison after 115 days of testimony and evidence in what has come to be known here as "the Politburo trial."

"The defense of the border was placed above human life" in Krenz's system, said presiding judge Josef Hoch, in a verdict that took two hours to read.

Two other former Politburo members, Guenther Kleiber and Guenther Schabowski, received sentences of three years each, as Germany continues the slow and difficult process of sorting out blame and punishment for the woes and moral crimes of the former Communist East.

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GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

AUG. 18 - SEPT. 6, 1997

Tuesday, August 26	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. English Evaluation Test	10-250
	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Information Booth	Lobby 10
	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. Campus Walking Tour	Lobby 10
	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Int'l Student Coffee Hour/Int'l Clubs	Bush Room, 10-105
	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Activities Midway	Johnson Center
Wednesday, August 27	9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ID Photos	Lobby 13
	10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Int'l Student Open House	Bush Room, 10-105
	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Information Booth	Lobby 10
	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. Campus Walking Tour	Lobby 10
	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. MIT Information Fair	Lobby 13
	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Athletic Midway	Johnson Athletic Center
Thursday, August 28	9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ID Photos	Lobby 13
	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Information Booth	Lobby 10
	12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Picnic	Killian Court
	2:00 p.m. - Most departmental orientations	
	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. GSC Social	50-220
	9:00 p.m. - Night on the Town	50-220
Friday, August 29	8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. TA Workshop	E51-Wong Auditorium
	10:00 a.m. - Noon Information Booth	Lobby 10
	12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Beverages at the Muddy Charles Pub	50-120
	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Trolley Tour around Boston	77 Mass Ave
Saturday, August 30	7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. *Hiking Trip	Ashdown House
Sunday, August 31	7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. *Boston Harbor Cruise	Long Wharf, Boston
Tuesday, September 2 — Registration Day	2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. MIT Student Health (MIT Medical Department)	6-120
	3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Campus Police Seminar	6-120
	6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. GL 001	6-120
Wednesday, September 3 — First Day of Class		
Thursday, September 4	7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Beverages at the Thirsty Ear	Ashdown House
Friday, September 5	7:00 p.m. - ?? *Boston Red Sox vs. Milwaukee Brewers	Fenway Park, Boston
Saturday, September 6	3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Whale Watch	New England Aquarium
	9:00 p.m. - ?? Night on the Town	50-220
Later on ...		
	Sept 9, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Dessert Study Break for Women Graduate Students (AMITA)	10-105
	Sept 11, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Reception for Women Graduate Students	10-105

(*) Nominal fee charged. Purchase tickets at Info Booth. • (†) Rain location, Johnson Ath Ctr

Graduate Orientation is run by the Graduate Student Council, located in Walker Memorial, Room 50-220, x3-2195, gsc-request@mit.edu. The first General Council Meeting is on 3 Sept at 5:30pm.

OPINION

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FLP Bonding Activities Brought Frosh Together

As a Freshmen Leadership Program '97 participant, I want to say to all of the other frosh that I am very sorry about the so-called elitism that has been observed of the FLP participants.

I know that I cannot speak for the entire group when I say that I am sorry, but I am sure that many of my fellow FLP participants feel the same way. I am sorry because we had promised ourselves and to each other that, when Residence and Orientation Week starts, we were going to meet all of the other frosh and help everyone to get to know everybody else, that we all were going to be agents of change against the ethnic "Balkanization" at MIT. Instead, we ourselves became just another factor of division in this Balkanization process.

I also want to say that we do not "raise the roof" or heinie-write simply because we love to do it. Instead, we of FLP heinie-write because we all went through emotional trauma together at FLP. Whenever we heinie write "raise the roof" or do too-de-ta, these gestures remind us of the trauma we went through together.

The trauma was very painful, but we learned a lot much from the wounds that have been inflicted upon us, and it somehow made us stronger and united. You can almost think about some of the events at FLP as hazing. They bonded us together.

I ask that next time my fellow freshmen see people "raise the roof" or do too-de-ta, think about the trauma that we had experienced at FLP, and ask themselves whether they would willingly go through these painful experiences. If they could not, then they are in no position to criticize us.

However, these complaints by freshmen have also highlighted another important issue — that we are not following up on our own promises. I want to say to each of my fellow FLP participants: Become an agent of change, not an agent of perpetuation.

Jimmy Wu '01

FLP Was About Unity, Not About Silliness

One of the first lessons I learned in life was never to insult anything I didn't understand completely. Unfortunately, it appears that some people have decided to ridicule what I consider to be one of the best experiences of my life.

The Freshman Leadership Program was not about silliness. It was about togetherness and unity. It helped a bunch of incoming freshmen start on a long journey of making new friends. When we arrived at MIT, we were 107 strangers who had one thing in common — we wanted to be leaders. Through the course of a week, we used discussions, workshops, and free time to get to know each another. Starting college is a very scary time, and it was amazing to be able to get a head start on getting to know our peers. Working through issues of cultural diversity and the world today, we got to talk to others about our ideas and dreams and form solid connections and were all enlightened.

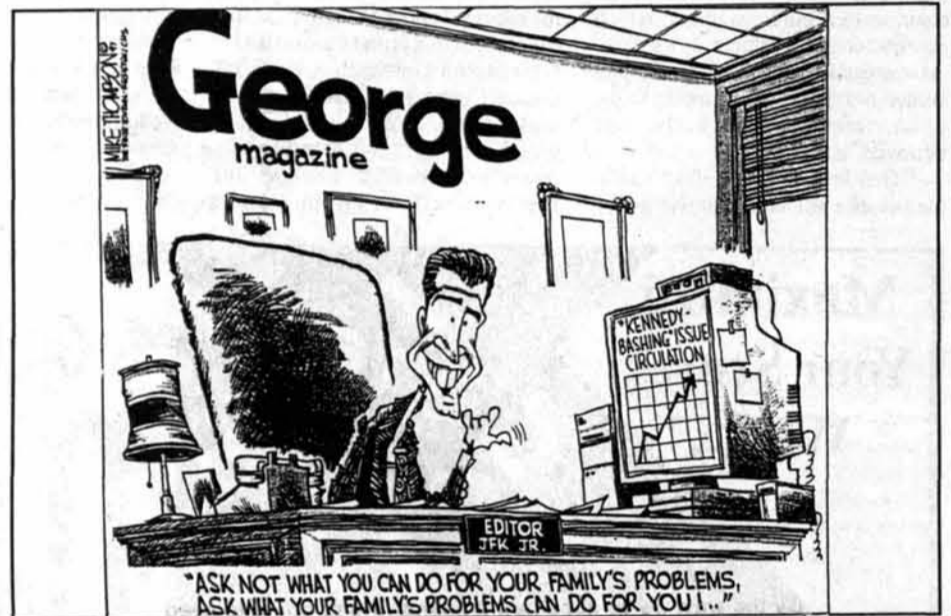
The diversity led to a unity as we struggled

to solve the world's problems. Of course, we didn't. But we have ideas, and when the week was over, we all had this ineffable feeling of hope and power. We just want to share that hope. I spread the "raise the roof" gesture into my Project Move Off Your Assumptions group and tell everyone I meet to pass it on. And meet people I do. Yes, I was the one who got on stage during Contact MIT and said I want to meet everyone, and I do.

We FLP participants tend to hang out together, but that is only because we know each other so well through this marvelous program. Each day I reach my hand and shake at least 50 new freshmen's hands, and I in turn introduce them to everyone else I know. My personal goal is to get the entire freshmen class to know each other, and I would never be able to do this without the head start I got at FLP. If each FLP participant meets just 10 people he or she didn't know before, the entire class will be connected in one big swoop of unity.

Seth Bisen-Hersh '01

Letters, Page 5



Walmarts, Pavement Undermine Old West

Column by Anders Hove
OPINION EDITOR

Although my columns have appeared daily during Residence and Orientation Week in Cambridge, I myself have been criss-crossing the American West. The journey from my home in Montana to Southern California has become an annual circuit. I have studied, traveled, and lived in the region all my life; it is a part of me.

And yet, many aspects of the West disgust me, Westerners today live in blatant disregard for their heritage. Our sprawling cities consume tens of acres a minute. Our most pristine lands are given over to movie stars who inevitably choose the tallest bluffs and most picturesque mesas for their ranch houses. Our historical sites are laid low for the likes of Walmart and Pizza Hut. We're seen our clear mountain lakes and rivers drained to fill fake waterfalls and to irrigate unnaturally green country clubs in Phoenix.

Meanwhile, liberal politicians and environ-

mentalists chase red herrings. They talk of endangered species and water quality while an army of ten thousand works around the clock spreading tar and gravel over mile after square mile of virgin land. County by vast county, the West I grew up in is disappearing under tract housing and strip development. And it wouldn't be possible if development like this weren't immensely popular with Westerners themselves.

Some see the transformation as just another chapter in the history of exploitation. Here is a place stolen from its first people, and from nature itself, by a government of land speculators, settled by rapacious entrepreneurs. A place where lawlessness prevailed, and where people praised self-reliance and grandiose dreams.

But that is the paradox of the West. The settlers came to overthrow and replace but found themselves the more transformed. They made a grudging peace with nature even as they struggled with it. Finding the country lawless, they made their own law of duty to others. To save themselves and the lives they'd build, they banded together and learned to rely on one another.

From this rugged land, and from among its people, sprang the first conservationists. The

same men who broke their backs felling redwoods, cutting sod, and sluicing gold ore turned out in droves to urge their government to save their country, to preserve their natural resources in trust for future generations. What other nation in 1910 could claim over 200 million acres of protected forests, grasslands, and desert? And almost all of it was out West.

A lot of Westerners say their greatest heritage is the freedom to do what they own with their land. And yet, firmly avowing their libertarianism, they are the first to demand federal highway funds for multi-lane divided highways right to their doors. They claim the region's natural beauty as its greatest attraction, and, unlike their ancestors, wouldn't lift a finger to protect it.

The West today is both a continuation and a perversion of the past. The entrepreneurialism, individualism, and exploitation remain, yet these qualities are no longer balanced by any hardship of condition. The difficulty of life in the past compelled the respect of our forebears — respect for our resources, for one another, and for those not yet born. Without this respect, the very idea of the West as a distinct and beautiful place is disappearing, as are its values.

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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.

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Activities Show There's More to MIT than R/O Suggests

Column by Douglas E. Heimbarger
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Residence and Orientation Week is already halfway over. Freshmen have, for the most part, either received a bid from a fraternity, sorority, or independent living group (and maybe pledged) or entered the dormitory lottery.

Yet there's a lot more left to R/O, and one major portion of it occurs tonight: the Activities Midway. It's the first chance for freshmen to meet activities, which are just becoming active again for the fall semester.

In many ways, it's a shame that the Activities Midway occurs after rush. For one thing, many freshmen are involved with pledging an FSILG and aren't encouraged or don't have time to visit the midway. Many other freshmen are simply exhausted from the stresses of rush and a lack of sleep (and many upperclassmen, including me, are as well).

It's problematic that many freshmen don't

even bother to go to the Activities Midway, let alone consider the wide variety of activities that exist here at the Institute. Why? Because these activities are one of the few chances for members of different living groups to work together and to break through the stigmas attached to the living groups.

When I came to campus last year, I had already decided that I wasn't just going to work on classes. I was also going to have a job and perhaps join a few activities.

Still, I didn't realize the extent to which MIT students segment themselves. Indeed, since R/O ended, I've only met a few people outside of Random Hall, where I live, except through the two activities that I've involved myself in — *The Tech* and the Lecture Series Committee.

Between these two groups, I've met members of almost every dormitory and a few FSILGs. I now know — and am friends with — people who live not just at Random but also at New House, MacGregor House, and East Campus, as well as at Zeta Beta Tau and Epsilon Theta, to name a few. The best thing about activities are the opportunities that one has to meet people from other residences. Another good thing is that there are usually

very few requirements involved in joining. Most people who join *The Tech* don't have any journalism experience, and those interested in projecting movies at LSC haven't usually projected movies before.

Unfortunately, though, I haven't had the chance to meet and work with members from many FSILGs. Indeed, it seems that members of these groups don't get as involved in campus activities, or at least the activities that I'm involved in. Why does this happen? My guess is that the reasons are twofold. First, most of the FSILGs are located across the river in Boston, a significant walk away from campus.

Especially in the winter evenings, it becomes a major annoyance to wait a half-hour for Saferide to get to campus, and then a half-hour again at the end to get home. That's an hour waiting for transportation, compared to a less than five minute walk to the Student Center for virtually all dormitory residents.

This matter is obviously something that deters many FSILG residents from joining activities. But it's obviously not the only one, considering that many, if not most, FSILG members are involved in other things like sports that occur on campus after hours.

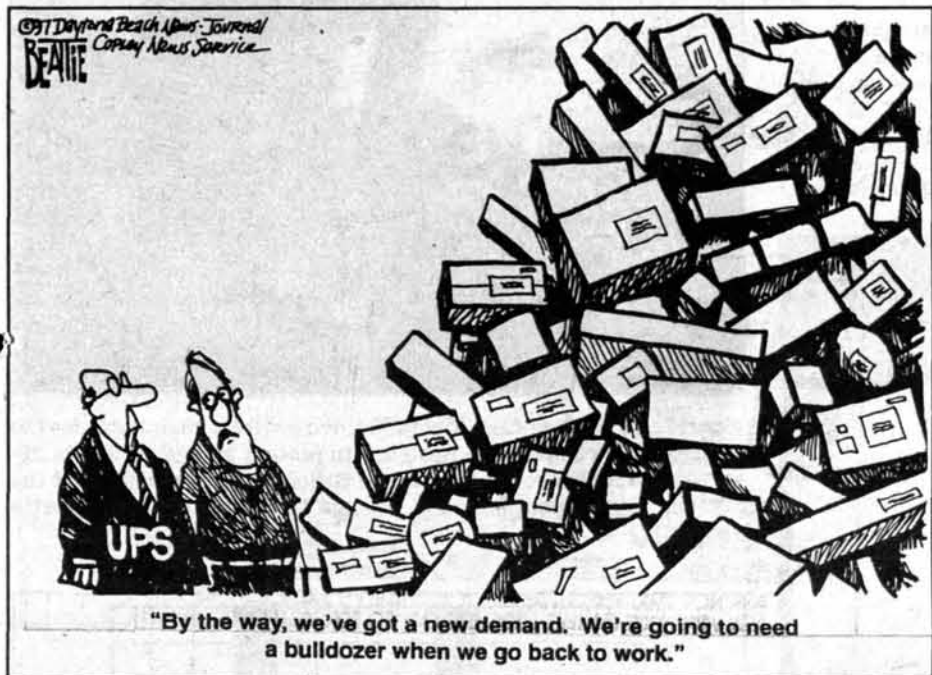
Perhaps it's the fact that the entire living group isn't participating in the activity that may be a deterrent as well.

Peer pressure is always a strong force — in activities and in living groups. Especially in FSILGs, where community is valued among freshmen and where pledge programs can take a large percentage of a freshman's time, it can be difficult to make the commitment to join an activity.

Hopefully, though, all freshmen will at least take the opportunity to see the opportunities at the Activities Midway. From publications to musical and theater groups, from service organizations to political groups, there is a wide variety of activities that will be represented tonight.

Activities at MIT provide a welcome respite from the rigors and stresses of classes. By participating in two activities, I've had lots of free food, gone to conferences, and operated expensive equipment. But most importantly, I've met some great and interesting people I wouldn't have otherwise even seen.

Freshmen, come to the midway tonight. See that there are more opportunities for meeting people than just living groups.



Over-hyped Rush Does Little More than Disappoint

Guest column by Naveen Sunkavally

Sitting in Johnson Athletics Center minutes before the event that would determine the destiny of every freshman for the next four years, I could not help but notice a certain tension that pervaded the sticky air. Freshmen had just finished watching a rather boring skit, listening to a few fist-pumping songs, and sucking up the last few drops of ice cream meant to calm their nerves. They had just finished laughing over interjections like, "Let the rush begin!" made by a couple of exuberant and insecure freshmen. Everyone's expectations were high.

The truth, however, was that freshmen did not know quite what to expect. Ever since the beginning of summer, they had received a veritable load of pamphlets, e-mails, phone calls, invitations to parties and other miscellanea — all of which spared no space to allude to some epic event vaguely referred to as "rush."

A certain pamphlet by the MIT Extropians compared rush to the fleecing of sheep by fraternity lords. When freshmen arrived on campus, one of the first questions they asked was, "What is this rush?" Later on, they sat through Project MOYA groups that encouraged them to move off their assumptions and R/O survival sessions that proved quite aptly named. Freshmen responded cynically to a list of countless rules that declared things like the fact that fraternities are not allowed to show their letters before the start of rush. Even the word "rush" drew blank stares.

Then the moment came, and then the moment passed. Fraternity members did not rip off their shirts and scream primordially but merely removed their shirts and yelled in a rather hushed tone. Gradually, freshman, more befuddled than ever, quietly trickled out of the auditorium like a carted treasure behind some fraternity members.

A few minutes later, I was talking to a couple of salesman advertising their fraternity. I was disappointed. They didn't offer me drugs or cigarettes or beer. They did not force me to perform obscene activities. Everything ran so smoothly. Where was the violence the R/O survival session warned of, and where was the hectic atmosphere? I visited other fraternities and found the situation to be the same there, too. My expectations, or lack thereof, were shattered.

Why was rush so hyped up, and why does the administration enforce stringent rules like not allowing fraternity members to show their letters before rush? Why are freshmen carted into MOYA groups and sent through R/O survival sessions?

I have come to the unsavory conclusion that rush is intentionally hyped up to simply intimidate freshman. Does the administration think freshmen so gullible as to lose their open minds at the mere sight of fraternity letters? Frankly, I think part of all the hype fueling rush is meant to tip over vacillating freshmen to join fraternities and alleviate the housing problem on campus.

Perhaps one might view me as cynical. But in another sense, I'm being very optimistic. Many people at MIT have told me that rush is probably the most memorable event at MIT. At least I would like to think that the best events at MIT are still yet to come.

Naveen Sunkavally is a member of the Class of 2001.

Letters To The Editor

Letters, from Page 4

It's No Surprise When Committees Go Nowhere

I'd like to thank Anders Hove G for his column on Institute governance ["Excess Committees Devalue Governance," August 25]. A big part of the reason change takes so long to happen here is that issues get considered more than once — and sometimes more than twice. In many cases, each round of deliberation takes an academic year.

With a system like this, it's no wonder that many of the recommendations of the Lewis Report that Hove referred to — written in 1949 — still haven't been implemented. But I don't think the committees themselves are the problem. I don't doubt that we suffer from "analysis paralysis," but I think the problem goes deeper.

First, Institute committees as a whole don't build community consensus around their recommendations. Some may think that consensus is unnecessary, but experience shows that a lack of consensus leads recommendations straight to the dusty shelf.

Second, and perhaps even more important, there is an underlying lack of clarity on the faculty's scope. Many faculty feel uncomfortable doing the real work of change on issues of student life. Often, they will feel more comfortable recommending something general and leaving the actual decisions to a group of administrators and students better versed in the specific issues, leading to passings-off like the ones Hove discusses. It works — kind of — but it isn't a good way to run an Institute that needs to cope with rapid change.

Jeremy D. Sher '99

Picariello Beating Highlights MIT Hypocrisy

The Tech's story "CPs Arrest Convicted Bomber," [August 24] missed the point. Richard Picariello has already served his time. Rehashing his old news story does nothing to justify arresting and beating him in connection because of so-called trespassing at

the Student Center.

What the story should have been about is whether or not MIT has any legal right to run a shopping mall, invite the public, and then arrest people for trespassing. While you're at it, see if you can find any statistics that prove campus policing reduces crime. You won't because there aren't any. There are only cynical university administrators manipulating fear and the politics of crime to increase their personal power.

In the Boston Yellow Pages, the Student Center is listed in an advertisement for Newbury Comics. MIT's World Wide Web site lists the Student Center under "visitor information" with a list of all the stores. So how does MIT get off letting its shopping mall invite the public and then deciding to arrest people who come?

The Student Center is either a public place or it is not. If it is not, MIT should stop its mall from advertising in public, and other customers should be forbidden. Then MIT would have the legal right to claim its rights to private property are more important than the rights of the public. (Obviously as communists or communist sympathizers, we do not agree that private property is more important than the central mission of a university, but we would recognize MIT's legal right if it did not invite the public.)

MIT's hypocritical attitude toward the public is evident. MIT takes a leading share of public taxpayer funding of everything from student loans to multi-million dollar research projects. But already three people other than Picariello have come forward to us about harassment by MIT police. One person was attending a large event that the public was invited to and handing out literature when he was stopped by MIT police. If the MIT administration does not want the public to come, then it should not invite it.

MIT's attack on Picariello and others from the public is a slap at students and faculty at MIT as well. MIT students and faculty have the right to assemble anyone they want and associate with anyone they want. At a world-class university supposedly dedicated to academic freedom and science, it should not be necessary to point this out.

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CUT IT OUT!

ESG, ISP, Concourse Offer Alternatives to Curriculum

By David D. Hsu
NEWS EDITOR

Some of this year's freshmen will elect to bypass lectures in 26-100 and 10-250 for classes in alternative programs instead.

The programs, which include the Integrated Studies Program, the Experimental Studies Group, and Concourse, presented open houses for freshmen yesterday.

The programs are designed to offer freshmen an opportunity to work in smaller groups, explore new approaches to learning, and take refuge from the pressure of the large classroom setting.

Although they differ in their scope, the alternative programs share a common thread: allowing a new student a more personalized academic plan.

Integrated Studies Program

ISP introduced itself to new students with a picnic and their annual egg drop competition yesterday.

Students in ISP take the science and math courses of their choice, but they are required to take two Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Distribution subjects which emphasize technology culture. The courses include several workshops, said ISP's Director Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology Arthur Steinberg.

In one of the workshops scheduled for the fall term students will get the opportunity to take apart and reassemble clocks in a design section of the HASS-D, Steinberg said. In the spring, ISP freshmen will put together engines to run in go-carts in their study of automobiles.

The classes also look at how technology affects culture and how culture affects technology, said Stallion E. Yang '99, a former ISP student.

Students can also take ISP recitations for certain classes, said Orion A. Richardson '99, a former ISP participant.

In addition to the new courses, ISP also emphasizes a different type of learning. The curriculum focuses on working in teams and "working in the real world," Steinberg said.

The big difference between ISP and the mainstream freshman courses is that in ISP, the students form close relationships with people in their classes, said Marisa J. Kirschbaum '99, also a former ISP student.

Richardson said that the number of former ISP student attending the open house indicated how strong the bonds the program helped form are, Richardson said.

ISP is limited to 40 students. ISP

is holding an open house today from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in 20C-112.

Experimental Studies Group

ESG offers many subjects of the freshman core in small classes of two to five students, said Nora Szasz '99, a former ESG student and current tutor.

The classes are "scaled to people's own pace," she added. Students develop a "strong community," Szasz added.

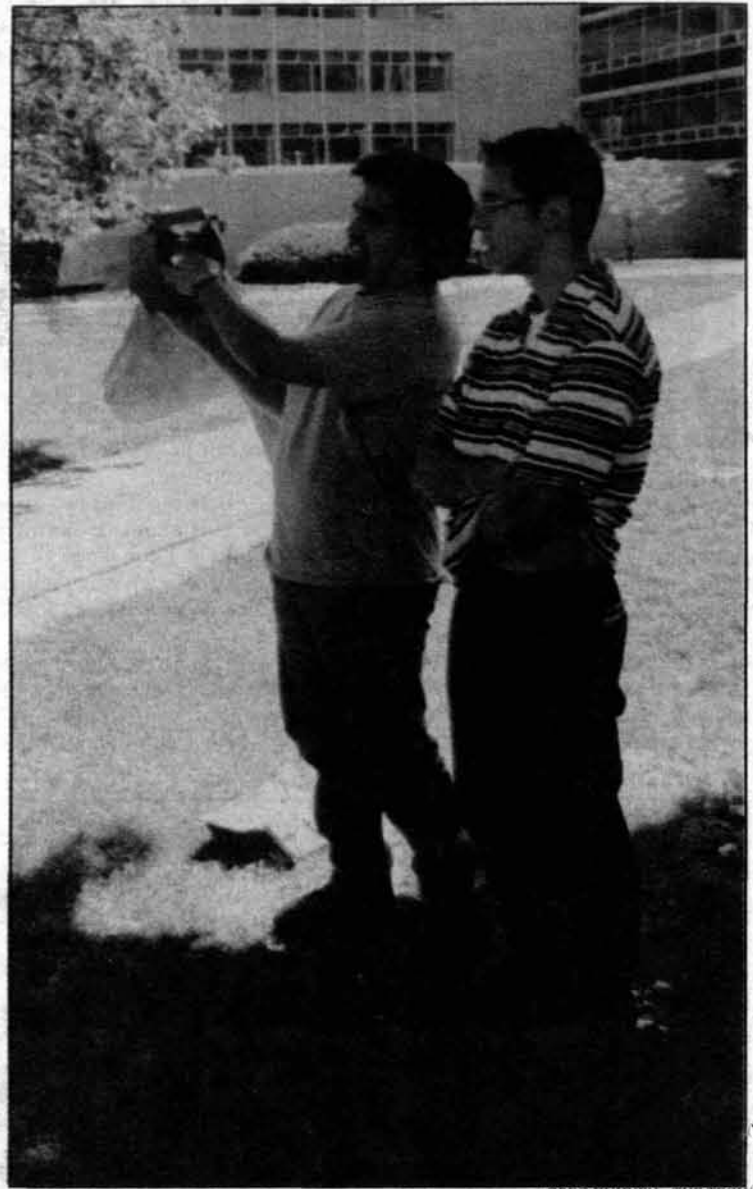
ESG students are very self-motivated and willing to learn, Szasz said. Two classes in ESG, one reading seminar and a robotics seminar, were started by former students.

ESG also differs from an alternative program like Concourse. While Concourse focuses on combining things, ESG is self-paced and self-driven, said Daniel S. Berger '00, another former student.

Freshmen were drawn to ESG because it allows students the chance to learn at their own speed. "I like the idea of a self-paced class," said Zahra Kanji '01. Kanji took a summer math class that covered some differential equations but also skipped over some calculus. An ESG class would suit Kanji's math needs, she said.

Interested freshmen have to go

Programs, Page 11



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Albert Leija '01 and Arun Mehta '01 demonstrate their entry for the ISP egg drop competition, designed to protect an egg during its 20-story fall from the roof of the Green Building. Other members of the Flaming Egg's team included Jacinda Clemenzi '01 and Nanette Yang '01.

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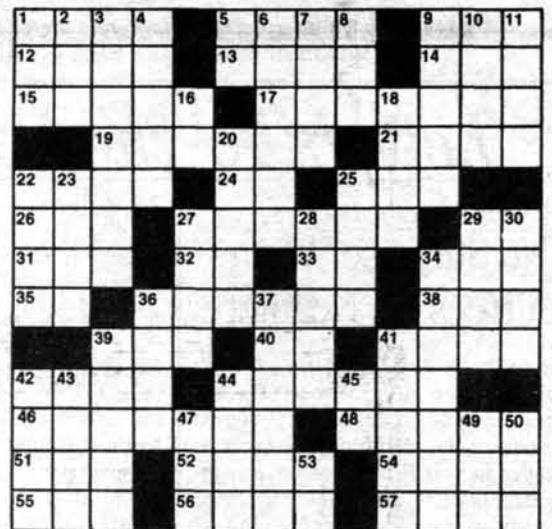
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1. Hack with a knife
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9. Tart
12. Rant
13. Volcanic ash
14. Enlarge (abbr.)
15. Fat
17. Porch
19. Go back
21. Gr. nymph
22. Strike repeatedly
24. Negative answer
25. That (in gangster jargon)
26. Old cloth
27. Finish
29. Right (abbr.)
31. Is (plural)
32. Near
33. Impersonal pronoun
34. Female deer
35. Nova Scotia (abbr.)
36. To an excessive degree
38. Direction (abbr.)
39. Female appellation
40. Capone
41. Prayer ending
42. Serious
44. Any person
46. Nose tissue growths
48. Whistle
51. 2,000 pounds
52. Stir
54. Farm building
55. Winglike
56. Eye movement during sleep (abbr., pl.)
57. Jacket

DOWN

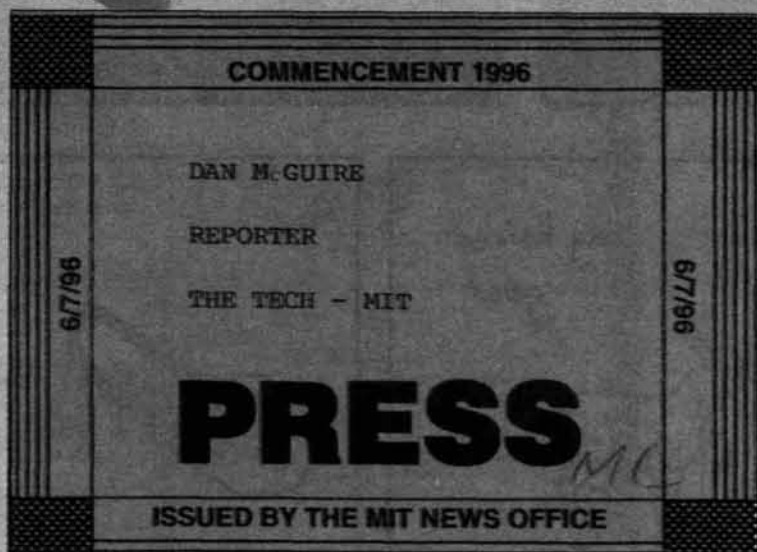
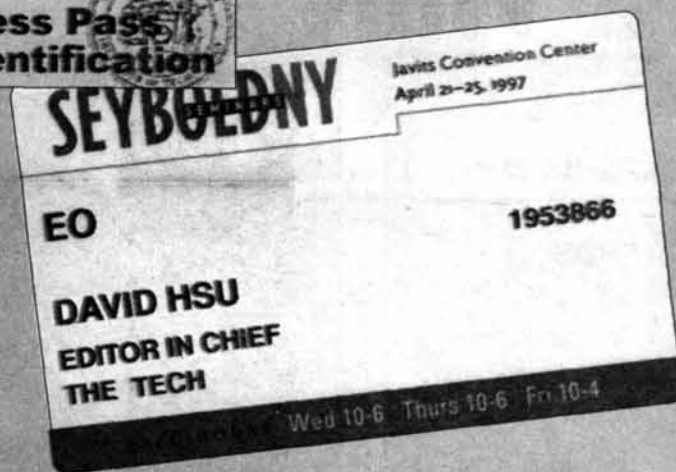
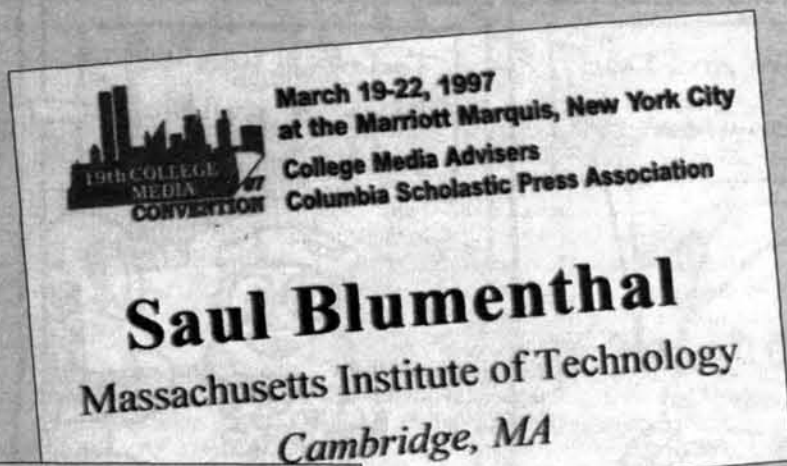
8. Fish
9. Act in response
10. One-twelfth of a foot
11. Pertaining to oil
16. Time zone (abbr.)
18. Sow
20. Bring together
22. Rye husk
23. Hearing organs
25. Responsibility
27. Having curves
28. A good one! (slang)
29. Red flower
30. 15-year-old
34. Take away points
36. Prophetic sign
37. Haphazard
39. Area for play
41. Licorice-flavored seeds
42. Information
43. Object of worship
44. Helper
45. Bone
47. Boat implement
49. 60s music group
50. Negation (prefix)
53. Steamship (abbr.)

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE



SOLUTIONS IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE TECH

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Sure, our staffers write articles, columns, take photos, and lay out MIT's Oldest and Largest newspaper both in paper and on the World Wide Web. But we do more than that. From trips to computer and newspaper conferences to press privileges at major local events, our staff is able to attend momentous occasions, and have fun in the process.

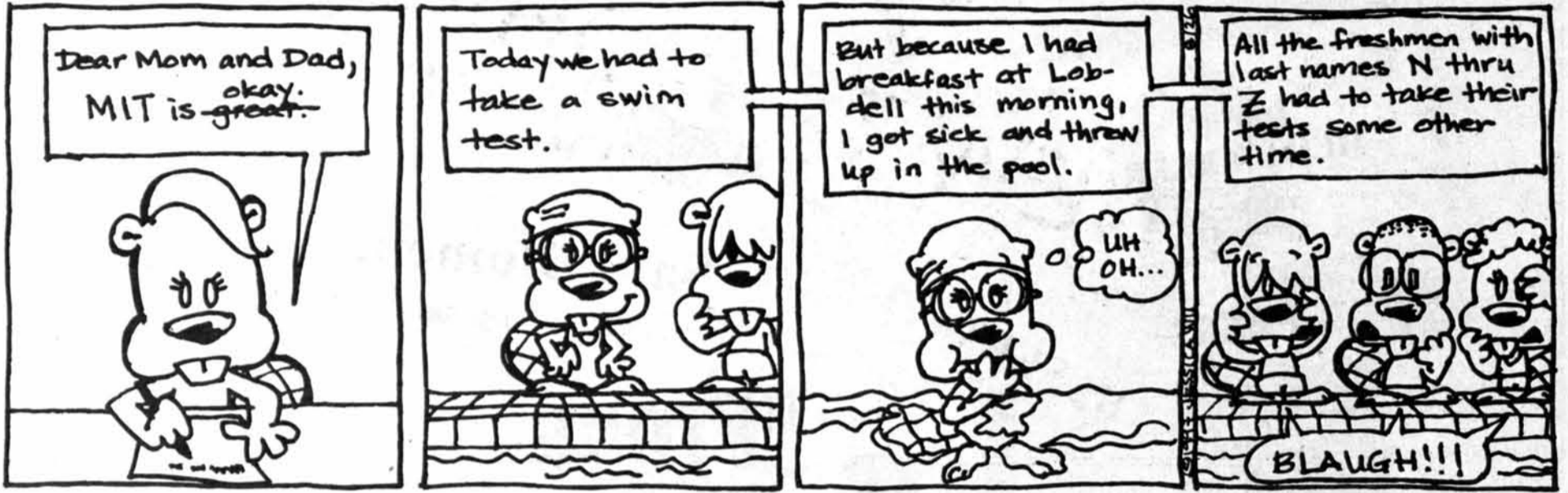
Stop by our booth at the Activities Midway tonight and learn more about The Tech. Watch us put together tomorrow's issue, and take home a neat souvenir too.

If you can't wait until 6:00 p.m., then just stop by room 483 of the Student Center to get a sneak preview, or call us at 253-1541.

COMICS

DAMNED FOR LIFE

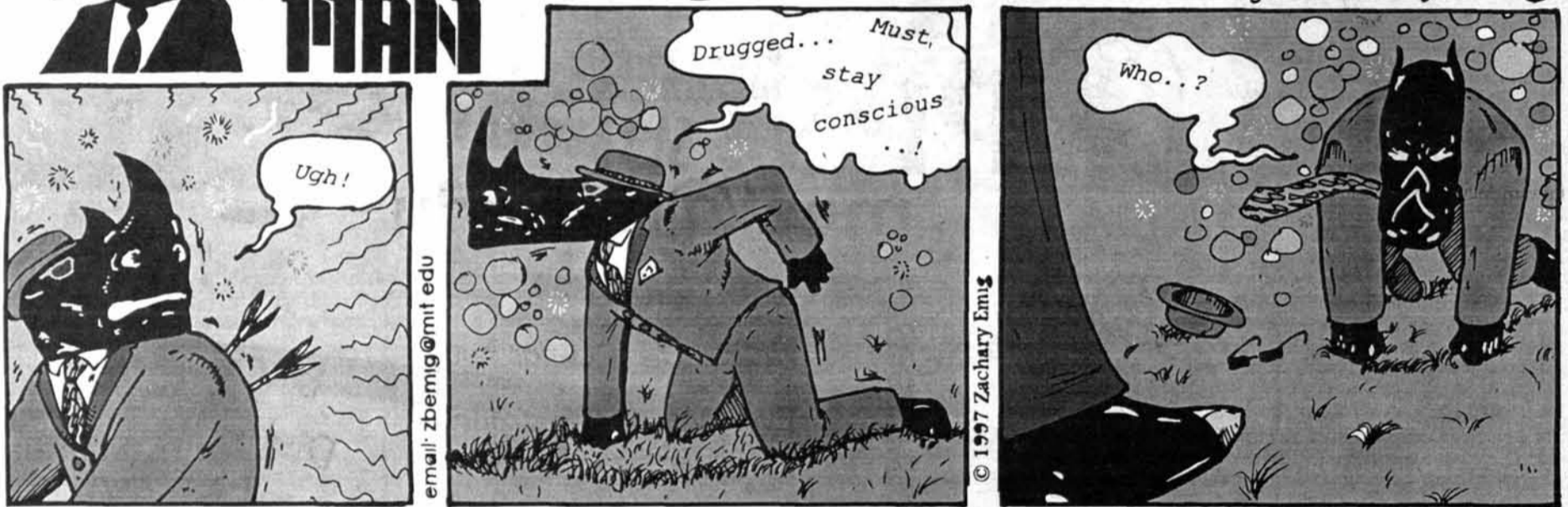
BY JESSICA



RHINO MAN

Recap (First printed 5/2/97)

by Zachary Emig



Noun Poetry by Katy-Cat



Dilbert®
by Scott Adams

Midway Features Diverse Groups

Midway, from Page 1

just taking classes," Huang said.

Various dance and music groups will also perform on a rotating basis in Demonstration Area B, Karat said.

In addition, many campus publications and computer groups will be on hand to give computer demonstrations, Karat said.

The Assassins' Guild however is unlikely to give any demonstrations of their Friday night game of patrol.

"It would be a poor choice for the Assassins' Guild to be firing their guns while they are back to back with the CPs," Karat, also a member of the Assassins' Guild, said. "They'll have to wait until after the midway is over to fire their guns," Karat said.

In addition, MIT student cable, which was unable to reserve a spot at the midway, will advertise their organization by having a roving reporter broadcast live from the event, Karat said.

The MIT press bookstore will be selling books at the midway, MIT Food Services will be serving pasta, and the Alumni Association will be distributing calling cards for free phone calls home in the lobby of Johnson.

The Student Art Association will display various works of art by students. Ceramics, photographs, drawings and paintings will be showcased. Students and faculty will be on hand to answer any questions said Edward McCluney, director of the Student Art Association.

"The Student Art Association is a venue for students to express themselves in a very free way and explore the arts and their aesthetic selves in a conformable setting," said Eto S. Otitigbe '99, a member of the association.

While many of the spaces at the midway have already been reserved by various groups there is still a slight chance for groups to get a booth by showing up early, Karat said.

Student groups should arrive at 5 p.m. for setup, Karat said. At 5:50, any remaining free spots will be given out on a first come, first serve basis, Karat said.

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Refresher Course
Catherine Gulliver
253-3176
theclub@mit.edu


Baker/Next House/ MacGregor
Leah Daigle
253-8767
daigle@mit.edu

Networks
Jason Kroll
253-2182
jkroll@mit.edu

Lobdell Food Court
Margaret Derby
253-0132
meal@mit.edu

Walker/Pritchett/ Dome Cafe/Bio Cafe
Lisa Toumayan
253-2735
toumayan@mit.edu

*to apply see location manager or email meal@mit.edu




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SPRING ORIENTATION

Wed. September 3

5:00-6:30 pm

Bush Room

Building 10-105

For more information contact

the MIT Japan Program at:

E38, 7th Floor; 258-0385; dsmagall@mit.edu

<http://www-japan.mit.edu/MITJapanProgram/>

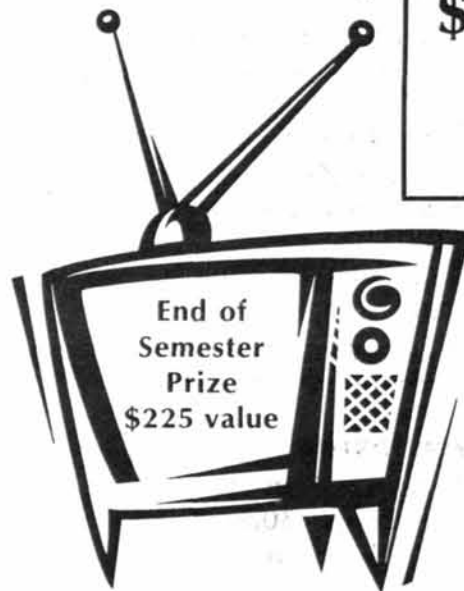
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Stratton Student Center
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Cambridge, MA

Dialups and Quotas Get Faster, Larger

By Douglas E. Heimbarger
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Over the summer, users of MIT's Athena dialup servers experienced a major speedup as the four-year-old DECstations, long ago removed from Athena clusters, were finally decommissioned in favor of new Sun SparcStations.

The improvements to the system were necessitated by a variety of factors, said Jonathon Weiss '93, team leader for Athena Server Operations in Information Systems. "The loads on the DECstation dialups that we were using recently were very high" and performance was below the minimum standard levels, he said.

In addition, DECstations have been in the process of being decommissioned for the last several years, Weiss said. All DECstations in Athena clusters were removed last summer as part of the upgrade to Athena Release 8.0.

The ten new SparcStation 5 dialup servers each have two gigabyte internal hard drives and additional one gigabyte external hard drives to store information usually downloaded off the network. All the machines contain at least 160 megabytes of RAM, compared to the 40 megabytes used in the old DECstation machines.

The new machines are similar to new SparcStations installed in Athena clusters except "that the dialups have a lot more memory," Weiss said.

In addition, the new machines are named after MIT hacks instead of pasta sauces used previously.

Quota increased to 15 megabytes

In addition to the new dialup servers, students will see the size of their quotas grow. Standard student Athena quotas were increased in size from 12.5 megabytes to 15 megabytes this summer.

The increase is part of a "continuing process" to increase quota over time, Weiss said. The last increase occurred in April 1996; before then the quota was 10 megabytes.

"As computer technology changes and things like disks get cheaper, people use more of it," Weiss said.

Since the last quota increase, the total space in the MIT Andrew File System cell has increased by approximately 80 gigabytes, to 235 gigabytes. The replacement of DECstation servers with Sun machines provided much of the additional space, Weiss said.

The amount of space allocated to

users always exceeds the total available disk space. With the quota increase, about 173 percent of the available space has been allocated to users, Weiss said. The disks are currently 83 percent full.

The quota increase will not change the backup schedules, Weiss said. "The tapes will be written into the night a little later," he said.

Athena 8.1 brings Zip drives

In addition to the new computers, Athena also saw its version increment by a tick. During the summer, Information Systems released Athena 8.1 which improves the user authentication system and third-party software.

Mathematical programs like Maple and Matlab were updated to newer versions. Older versions of software, like the Emacs 18 release, were removed.

The most visible change to end-users will be the installation of Zip drives on about 30 Athena machines across campus. Half of the new drives, which can hold 100 megabytes of data, will be located on Sun SparcStation workstations while the other half will be on Silicon Graphics workstations.

The new drives are designed "to do better backup of users' personal files," said Naomi B. Schmidt, manager of educational planning and support for Information Systems. "They'll be able to back up images and other things that they can't put on a floppy."

Courses teach Athena basics

Many of these changes, however, will seem arcane to incoming students. Athena Mini Courses began yesterday in 26-100 with the goal of making MIT's computer network just a bit less intimidating. Students got the opportunity to attend an Introduction to Athena course and a tutorial on Emacs in 26-100.

Between 50 and 60 students attended each class, which were offered every hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., said Amy M. Smith '98, one of the instructors.

"There are varying degrees of interest in the system," Smith said. People attending the courses ranged from programmers to those unfamiliar with computer systems in general.

Tomorrow, the two classes will again be offered in 26-100. On Wednesday and Thursday, classes in using EZ, a graphical word-processor, and using the Athena filesystems will be offered in 26-100.

Graduate R/O Begins, Social Events Planned

Grad R/O, from Page 1

that orientation was important and therefore simply provided the GSC with funding for the event, Coram said.

Graduates socialize at events

The array of events planned for graduate students includes both informational and social events.

The social events begin with a picnic in Killian Court on Thursday. Moy described the picnic as the only time other than commencement where the majority of the class would be gathered in one place.

Other events include subsidized trips into and around Boston. A trolley tour, hiking trip, harbor cruise, and Red Sox game are all slated and will cost five dollars. A whale watching trip will cost interested students 10 dollars and, unlike the other trips, is open to any graduate student.

There will also be jaunts to the Muddy Charles and the Thirsty Ear pubs. We want to "make sure peo-

ple get to know students from other departments" through these social events Moy said.

GSC acclimates students to MIT

The information booth, open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., will provide information about MIT, Boston, and the GSC. It's "very hard to let students know about the entire Institute on a department level," Moy said.

Coram said that the first 700 incoming graduate students who visit the information booth will receive a 'student advantage' card valued at 20 dollars. The card provides discounts at regional businesses.

The MIT Information Fair, which will take place from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. on Wednesday, is an "interactive version of the info booth," Moy said. Citing the need for such information sessions, Moy noted that "a lot of people didn't know that MIT had a career office for graduate students."

Center Joins Many Disparate Offices

Center, from Page 1

staff here is nice and was able to answer my questions."

"We offer all the services in one location," Youngholm said. "The staff here are trained so that they will be able to answer a variety of questions or be able to refer the students accurately to someone else."

"I needed to get forms about health insurance," said Fritz A. Thelusma '98. "I have been here only about three to four minutes," he said, "the staff was able to give me directions on what to do. I was able to do what I wanted to do in a short amount of time," he said.

"I came here to authorize parent billing and to take care of my scholarship check," said Christopher K. Cha '01. "It is nice to go to one place that will take care of everything."

"Students have so much to do that they shouldn't be spending their time waiting in line and traveling to different offices to conduct simple transactions," said Youngholm. "We are open to feedback and will be conducting customer satisfaction surveys."

Center brings services together

"Most of the walk-in services performed by the offices can now be done in the center," Youngholm said. "A student would very rarely need to go to the other offices now."

The offices will now be focusing

on more the background work instead of dealing directly with customers, Youngholm said.

In addition, the center will also be the first step in a plan to increase cooperation between the departments. "Our current plan is to have the Registrar's, the Bursar's, and the Student Financial Aid Offices move to Building 11 next year as part of our co-location process," said Stanley G. Hudson, leader of the financial and academic services transition team. "This will help to centralize all the various processes. The Student Services Center is just the first step."

"We are working on a reorganization plan that is more than just combining the three offices," Hudson said. "We want to change the way people work so that we can be more efficient and responsive to our customers."

"We are working toward being the only place that the students will have to go to for any questions or concerns," she said.

"We are also working on putting a lot of these transactions on the web Student Information System so that students will be able to get their financial status or complete simple transactions without even leaving their chairs," Hudson said.

The center is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Concourse Another Option for Freshmen

Programs, from Page 6

through an interview process to make sure they want to take ESG, Szasz said.

Enrollment is limited to 46 students. Freshmen must take at least half their subjects in ESG. ESG academic orientation will be held today from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in 24-612.

Concourse

Concourse offers its own versions of freshman courses for its 60 students. In the fall Concourse offers Calculus I (18.01), Calculus II (18.02), Physics I (8.01), Introduction to Solid-State Chemistry (3.091), and Introduction to Psychology (9.00).

Concourse is typically more demanding than mainstream classes, said Director Robert M. Rose '58, professor of materials science and engineering.

Concourse classes also tend to differ in content from their mainstream namesakes. Concourse's 8.01 is a combination of 8.01 and 8.012, a more theoretical version of Physics I. Concourse's 3.091 merges elements of both 3.091 and Principles of Chemical Science (5.11), Rose said.

Concourse seeks to give students a solid preparation in physics for both physics and electrical engineering majors, Rose said. If former Concourse students say they cannot handle physics their sophomore

year, then "we wasted their freshman year."

"The idea of Concourse is that you help each other," Rose said. "If you're a loner, ... Concourse is not for you."

In mainstream lectures, students "look like they've been hit on the head with a two-by-four" before lectures, Rose said. Whereas in Concourse, students often have animated discussions before lectures.

Visiting Associate Professor Jeremy M. Wolfe will teach Concourse 9.00 for the second straight year. Wolfe was a popular 9.00 lecturer before leaving to do research at Harvard University.

Wolfe decided to return to teach at MIT because "I love to teach," and currently lives "in a pure research job at this point," he said. Also, Wolfe said that he enjoys teaching in the community setting of Concourse.

Freshmen were attracted to Concourse for its community environment.

Kevin E. Dutcher '01, who came from a high school with a graduating class of 20, was interested in "knowing everyone in class and not just being a number," he said.

Students must take three Concourse classes in the fall term and two in the spring.

Concourse orientation and lottery will be held today from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in 20C-221.



EAPS Fall Courses

Earth



12.002 Physics and Chemistry of the Solid Earth

Prerequisite(s): 8.02, 18.02
3-1-8 REST
Prof. Chris J. Marone
Meets MWF 1:00 - 2:00

Atmospheric



12.003 Physics of the Fluid Earth

Prerequisite(s): 18.02, 8.01, 5.60
3-1-8 REST
Prof. Alan Plumb
Meets MWF 10:00 - 11:00

& Planetary Sciences



12.400 The Solar System

Prerequisite(s): 8.01
3-0-9 REST
Prof. Rick Binzel
Meets TR 2:00 - 3:30



12.550 Geosystems I

Prerequisite(s): 8.02, 18.03, and permission of instructor
3-3-9

Prof. Thomas Jordan & Prof. Jochem Marotzke
Meets MWF 9:00 - 10:00 (lecture)
and M 12:00 - 3:00 or W 1:00 - 4:00 (lab)

Modeling of complex systems in all areas of geoscience, with emphasis on general theoretical principles and numerical tools for describing system behaviors. Subject matter organized into a sequence of teaching modules, each focusing on a specific geosystem. Lectures introduce key physical and chemical processes that operate within each geosystem. Laboratory sessions include the use of simple table-top and computer-based models, as well as introductions to advanced numerical simulations, with a strong focus on scientific inference through numerical experimentation.

For more information, send email to sewell@mit.edu

MIT Music Department Auditions

MIT Brass Ensemble / Brass Quintets

Rehearsals: Tuesday & Thursday, 5pm - 7pm, Killian Hall. Auditions: Thursday, September 4, 5pm. Prepared solo and sight-reading required.

MIT Chamber Music Society

First meeting & auditions: Tuesday, September 2, 7pm, Killian Hall. Prepared solo required of new members.

MIT Concert Band

Rehearsals: Monday & Wednesday, 8pm - 10pm, Kresge.
First Meeting: Wednesday, September 3, 8pm.
Read through Concert Band literature and group auditions.

MIT Concert Choir

Rehearsals: Monday & Thursday, 6pm - 8:30pm, Room 2-190. Auditions: Thursday, September 4, 6pm. Group auditions, no solo required.

MIT Chamber Chorus

Rehearsals: Monday & Wednesday 11am - 12:30pm, Killian Hall. Auditions: Wednesday, September 3, 11am. Prepared solo and sight-reading required.

MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble

Rehearsals: Sunday, 7pm - 11pm & Wednesday, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Kresge.
Auditions & audition sign-up: Wednesday, September 3, 5:30pm.
Improvisation preferred, sight-reading from jazz book required.

MIT Symphony Orchestra

Rehearsals: Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30pm - 10pm, Kresge.
First meeting: Thursday, September 4, 7:30pm.
Read through symphonic literature and audition sign up.

MITCAN African Music Ensemble

Rehearsals: Thursday, 7pm - 10pm. First meeting: Thursday, September 4, World Music Center, N52, 7pm.

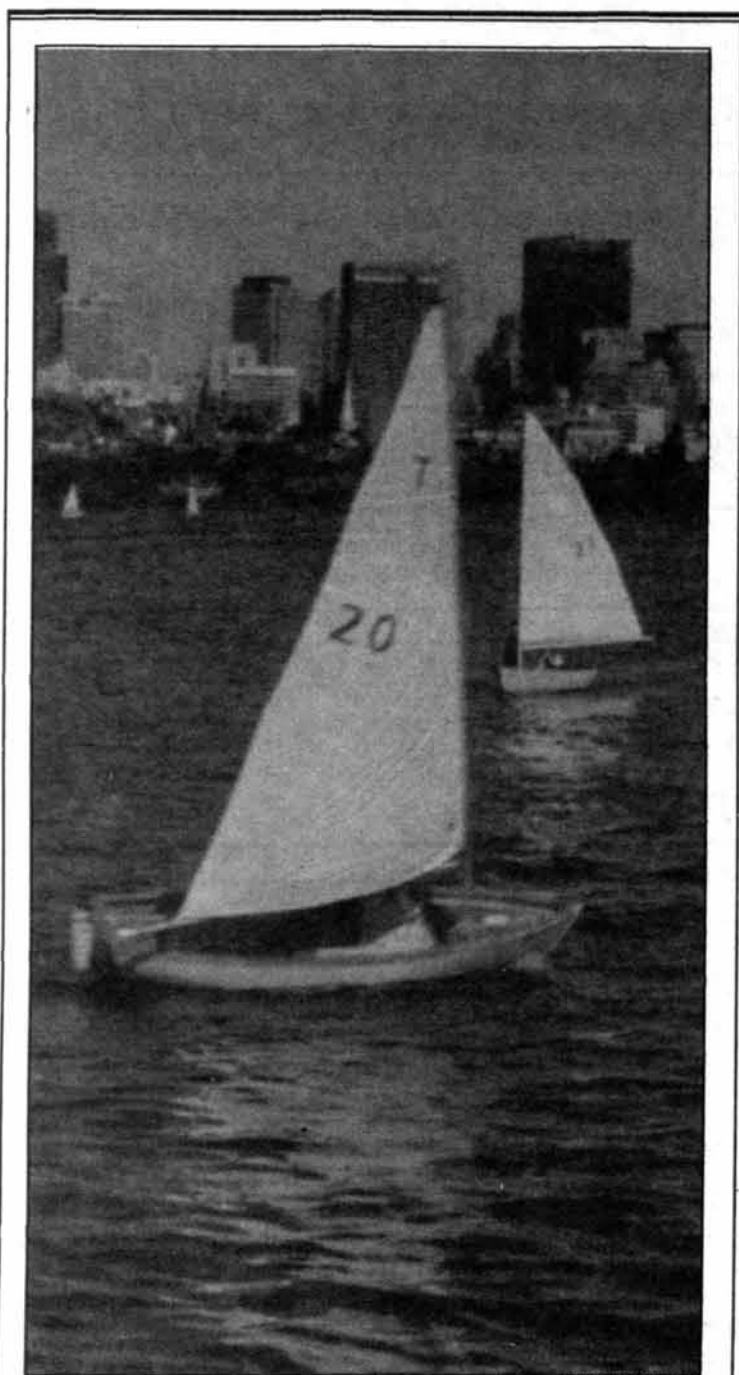
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CONCERTS OFFICE AT 253-2826.



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Do your share.



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COURTNEY CLENCH

The sailing team took advantage of yesterday's sunny weather to practice on the Charles River.

The Daily Confusion Tuesday, August 26, 1997

Residence

- All day: **Epsilon Theta**. Dan. All day. If you're sure you really want to know, call 734-9211 or MIT x3-8888 for a ride.
- All day: **WILG**. Feeling educatable? We've planned trips to the **Museum of Science**, the **Museum of Fine Arts** and the **MIT Museum**. Want to explore Boston? See the **North End**. How about back-to-school shopping at **Downtown Crossing**? Call us at 253-6799 or 354-1263 for the schedule!
- All day: **pika**. we're still here at pika. we're still making good food and doing stuff. Feel free to come over and join us. 492-8983 for a ride.
- All day: **Student House**. Student House, a great place to be. Call 247-0506
- 7:55a: **Epsilon Theta**. DING! FIRST BELL! Five minutes to breakfast.
- 8:00a: **Epsilon Theta**. DING! DING! BREAKFAST IS SERVED! You know what they say about skipping "the most important meal of the day." Call 3-8888 for a ride.
- 8:01a: **Epsilon Theta**. Yeah, it means "I get more sleep."
- 8:01a: **WILG**. The early risers are out **Jogging** once more (Come join them!). For the rest of us, though, it's still the weekend, complete with **pancakes** for breakfast! Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride.
- 9:00a: **ZBT**. **BREAKFAST AT ZBT!** Eggs, pancakes, waffles, toast, juice, bacon, bagels, pop-tarts, everything! Following breakfast, ZBT will have it's one-of-a-kind **ROAD RALLY**. Call Rick for rides at 232-3257. ** **ZBT, THE NON-PLEDGING FRATERNITY** ****
- 9:22a: **TEΦ**. **Custom Omelettes**. Lux interior. Power Windows. AM-FM sausage. Our imported short French order cooks...our short-order French imports...order cooks. They'll make whatever your heart desires. Call 262-5090 for a ride.
- 9:51a: **Epsilon Theta**. Help wake David up. Our trip to Walden Pond leaves in nine minutes, so David must still be in bed...
- 10:00a: **ZBT**. **RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK** during **ZBT's ROAD RALLY**. Drive around Brookline finding hints along the way and having a blast! Prizes for the winning team. Call Rick for rides at 232-3257. ** **ZBT, THE NON-PLEDGING FRATERNITY** ****
- 10:00a: **Epsilon Theta**. **TRIP TO WALDEN POND**. Come see the place where Thoreau built his cabin. Lots of swimming, lunch on the beach, and a trip to the nearby DeCordova outdoor sculpture museum. Call 3-8888 for a ride.
- 10:03a: **WILG**. Let visions of cookies, brownies, and cupcakes and other delights dance through your head. Cuz' we'll be baking them! Let's see how much batter actually makes its way into baked goods. Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride.
- 11:01a: **WILG**. "I think that I shall never see a poem pretty as a tree." Picnic at the Aboretum. Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride.
- 11:22a: **TEΦ**. **Meat the brothers** at TEP. We supply the meat, you throw it at us. For you vegetarians, beat us with wet noodles. Yeah, so writing these daily confusion entries is messing with my mind...
- 12:00p: **ZBT**. **RELAX** and enjoy a **PICNIC** with Zeta Beta Tau. We've got sandwiches, sodas, chips and dips, not to mention soccer, tennis, ultimate and softball. Stay even later for dinner followed by our **MOVIE MARATHON** featuring **WIZARD OF FLOYD!** Call Rick for rides at 232-3257. ** **ZBT, THE POWERHOUSE OF EXCELLENCE** ****
- 12:00p: **WILG**. The average of Breakfast and Dinner equals Lunch. Come dine with us! Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride.
- 12:22p: **TEΦ**. **MFA Trip d'Art**. Neat things... Creepy things... Sinister nasty things... And the only way to avoid them is to come to the Museum of Fine Arts with us. 262-5090
- 1:06p: **Epsilon Theta**. The Epsilon Theta Lecture and Workshop Series presents "Wombat Poetry" and "Mammoths and the Evolution of the

- Conversational Lull** at Walden Pond. Bring your silly French accent. (Professor Jao, former Duke of Building 2, officiating)
- 1:22p: **TEΦ**. You can't be tired of free food yet! Come to TEP for lunch and stuff your face with pizza pucks! Call 262-5090 for a ride.
- 2:00p: **WILG**. Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer. Can Carolyn the Ice Hockey Player handle grass? "Hal Just fry me!" Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride.
- 2:22p: **TEΦ**. **Science Museum and Omnimax** Big kinetic sculptures that you aren't allowed to climb on and a musical stairwell (but not as cool as ours). Call for a ride at 262-5090.
- 3:06p: **Epsilon Theta**. The water is dry. The water is warm and dry. Come, experience the water...
- 5:00p: **ZBT**. **CHICKEN CORDON BLEU** prepared by our chef is a typical part of our menu. Come over to ZBT and try it out, and don't forget about our **MOVIE MARATHON** following dinner. Call Rick for rides at 232-3257. ** **ZBT, THE NON-PLEDGING FRATERNITY** ****
- 5:55p: **Epsilon Theta**. DING! Dinner in five minutes.
- 6:00p: **Epsilon Theta**. **DING! DING! DINNER IS SERVED!** Lemon chicken and stir-fry vegetables. Cheesecake with strawberries for dessert.
- 6:00p: **WILG**. **FOOD!** A Caribbean Dinner so good, you'll be knocking the sand out of your shoes! Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride.
- 6:22p: **TEΦ**. Dinner from **Breshnev's** Eat Chinese food made by a former Soviet leader. Mmm... Worms & Slugs. Call 262-5090
- 7:00p: **ZBT**. **MOVIE MARATHON!** BIG screen, BIG sound, and BIG movies make ZBT's movie night a really big deal. Featuring the mysterious **WIZARD OF FLOYD** for all you Floydians! Call Rick for rides at 232-3257. ** **ZBT, THE NON-PLEDGING FRATERNITY** ****
- 8:00p: **WILG**. Now Showing... **Wig's Movie Marathon!** There's soda, popcorn, and lots of fun. Chick Flicks or Boy Toys - two simultaneous shows to choose from! Come join us in front of the big screen. Call 253-6799 or 354-1263 for a ride.
- 9:22p: **TEΦ**. **Chocolate Fondue**. You like chocolate? Call 262-5090.

Activities

- 5:00p: **Hillel**. Dinner: Pizza, free for all, at Hillel(W11)
- 6:41p: **Assassins' Guild**. Travel to strange new buildings. Meet interesting people. Shoot them with small, flimsy projectiles. Discover the stress-relieving properties of hunting down your new classmates. Check out the Assassins' Guild at the Activities Midway and join us for Patrol afterwards. Trust us, it'll be great!
- 7:55p: **Assassins' Guild**. Look around for the Assassins' Guild booth. Patrol starts at 8pm on the first floor of building 36, but a mob will be heading over from the Midway. Come shoot your fellow man!
- 8:00p: **Hillel**. Super Sunday Sculpting Social, be there or be square, at Hillel(W11)
- 8:00p: **The Tech**. Come watch The Tech's production department put together tomorrow's issue. See what goes into laying out MIT's oldest and largest newspaper, and read tomorrow's tech before your friends do. Fourth floor of the Student Center, Room 483.
- 9:00p: **United Christian R/O**. Filled your bag with flyers from Activities Midway yet? Tired of standing and trying to yell across those tables? Well, come to W11-080 for the **United Christian R/O Dessert Night**.

In case of emergency, dial 100 from any MIT phone. Other important numbers: Campus Police: 253-1212 Med Center Emergency: 253-1311 R/O Center: 253-2500 JAA: 253-6772 Nightline: 253-8800 Delta Psi or St. Anthony Hall: please see No.6

The Daily Confusion Editors: Chiu-Yi Chan, Kelly Chan, Wesley Chan

NOTE: A single asterisk (*) following a listing indicates a coed or female living group. A double asterisk (**) indicates an activity to which women are cordially invited.

The following events were omitted from the R/O Committee *Daily Confusion*. They are all for Fenway House and are printed here courtesy *The Tech*.

- All Day: Tie Dyeing! We provide dye, T-shirts and socks! Help us tie-dye Beland!
- 7:12 a.m. Grumpy Sleeping Bodies
- 9:30 a.m. It's bigger! It's better! It's Marc's "down home Southern breakfast"... THE SEQUEL! This is even better than Free Willy 3! (They didn't get to eat the whale.) Corned beef hash? It very well may be. Call for a fried. I-F-R-Y-608
- 11:17 a.m. Russian roulette with Beland's Power PEZ dispenser!
- 1:53 p.m. Ever been deep-sea ice fishing? Help us find fish sticks at the bottom of our freezer! Call for a slide. 437-1043
- 2:38 p.m. Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Check your sanity (but not your hats) at the door. If you do not have a hat, one will be provided for you. Call for a ride. 437-1043
- 3:03 p.m. Scavenger Hunt in the Fens! Come discover our backyard! Call for a ride 437-1043
- 3:49 p.m. Come hang out with us in Hahvahd Square and look for Waldo. Striped socks, nose ring. 437-1043
- 5:11 p.m. Auntie Em, Auntie Em, it's a Twister, it's a Twister! Twister at Fenway. Call for a writhe. 437-1043
- 6:00 p.m. Play 'Spot the Fenbeing' at Activities Midway. Collect the whole set!
- 8:13 p.m. Fen Elsewhen. Get an early start on your second childhood. Puzzles, games, coloring book, crayons and Play-Doh. 437-1043
- 9:33 p.m. Needle sharing at Fenway! Come knit with us! 437-1043
- 10:01 p.m. Domino Rally at Fenway! Set 'em up, knock 'em over. Yep. 437-1043 for a ride.
- 11:59 p.m. Come make cookie dough with us. Peanut butter chocolate chip. Then help us microwave the Pillsbury Doughboy. 437-1043
- 3:33 a.m. Mmmmmmm... WonderBread...

The *Daily Confusion* printed here is missing many events due to an R/O Committee error. Additional events are listed in an addendum, but this list is neither complete nor accurate.

MIT Dining PRESENTS



FRESH WORLD FLAVORS

Lobdell Food Court

Granary

The Granary offers exciting recipes from the grain, legume, potato, and greens families and prepares them to order in a fresh contemporary style that emphasizes wholesome & vegetarian cuisines from around the world.

Fresh Flavors of Asia

All our entrees are prepared to order and served in Pan Asian "big bowl" styles. We offer a blend of traditional and new-wave Asian cuisines using only the freshest and most authentic ingredients to capture the essence of Asian flavors.

Networks

Flatbreads

Designed to fit the tastes of the individual, we offer a delicious selection of new-wave flatbread pizzas that use only the freshest authentic toppings, and bake them to order on flavorful Mediterranean flatbreads.

Pita Wraps

We offer a cultural blend of made-to-order Wraps using regional flavors and the season's finest garden ingredients and wrap them in flavorful pita flatbreads for the perfect hand-held meal that goes anywhere!

Fresh Tossed Salads

Our fresh tossed specialty salads are prepared-to-order from a seasonal selection of garden fresh ingredients, grilled meats, grains, pastas, and herb infused vinaigrettes.

Panini

Our Panini are prepared from a selection of cured meats, aged cheese, vinaigrettes, herb mustards, and garden greens to create layers of flavors and freshness in every bite.

Walker

Fresh Flavors of Asia

All our entrees are prepared to order and served in Pan Asian "big bowl" styles. We offer a blend of traditional and new-wave Asian cuisines using only the freshest and most authentic ingredients to capture the essence of Asian flavors.

Next House

Pasta Kitchen

The inspiration for our recipes stems from our passion for pasta. Each dish is designed to fit the tasted of the individual, and are made fresh-to-order, capturing the essence of Mediterranean regions.

The Dome Cafe

Euro Bistro

Our bakery is the heart of our business. Inspired by old-world European bakeries, our menu features fresh-baked daily items as crusty breads, delectable pastries, tortes, & cakes, and specialty items.

Fresh Juice Bar

Juicing is our specialty! Our beverages are fresh-squeezed or blended-to-order with bananas, berries, apples, carrots, yogurts, fresh squeezed citrus, and more! Get set for life...drink fresh squeezed everyday!

Panini

Our Panini are prepared from a selection of cured meats, aged cheese, vinaigrettes, herb mustards, and garden greens to create layers of flavors and freshness in every bite.

Refresher Course

Pita Wraps

We offer a cultural blend of made-to-order Wraps using regional flavors and the season's finest garden ingredients and wrap them in flavorful pita flatbreads for the perfect hand-held meal that goes anywhere!