

## TBP Kicks Off Dinner Series To Celebrate Spirit of da Vinci

By Sharmin Ghaznavi  
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT chapter of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, began a Leonardo da Vinci dinner series Wednesday evening. The series is an attempt to "foster a spirit of liberal culture at MIT," said President of TBP Panayiotis I. Kamvyselis G.

Wednesday night's speaker was assistant professor of mechanical engineering Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan. President Charles M. Vest was also on hand for the opening lecture.

"Leonardo [da Vinci] could not have wished for a better memorial to his enthusiastic, relentless and magnificent quest for knowledge and beauty of every kind," said

President Charles M. Vest, as he kicked off Tau Beta Pi's Leonardo da Vinci Dinner Series.

"I think this is just a terrific idea and I hope that it really succeeds and flourishes," Vest said.

### Lectures celebrate da Vinci spirit

MIT faculty members and TBP students from a wide variety of departments will be invited to each dinner to enjoy food, listen to an interesting presentation on a variety of topics, and engage in hearty conversation in the spirit of Leonardo da Vinci — artist, architect, engineer, scientist, and philosopher.

"It is our hope that by bringing together people from many different fields, we can foster the kind of

intellectual diversity and love of knowledge exemplified by Leonardo," said President of TBP Panayiotis I. Kamvyselis G.

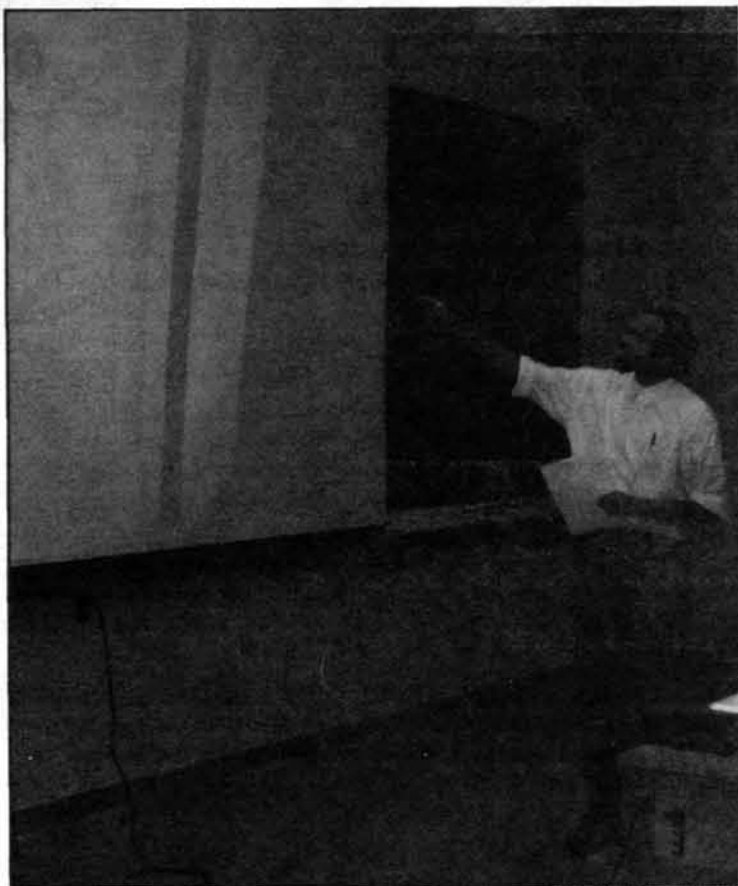
Each of these dinners will bring together about 20 TBP members and several faculty members. Each dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and last for approximately two hours.

One of the faculty members will give a short presentation which is intended to act as a catalyst for conversation during dinner. The presentations are meant to confront participants with relevant issues of science, society, and culture.

"We are hoping that the series will spur enough interest for a lecture series entitled, 'TBP Leonardo da Vinci Lectures' to become reality," Kamvyselis said.

The proposed lecture series would be open to all MIT students.

TBP did not have enough space for all the professors who were



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH  
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan spoke about the life of Leonardo da Vinci at the opening of Tau Beta Pi's dinner series dedicated to the renaissance master.

TBP, Page 9

## The Observer Looks To Serve Community

By Zareena Hussain  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The first issue of *The Observer*, a new student newspaper, was published on Registration Day.

The newspaper will be published twice a month, said Matthew J. Herper '99, editor in chief of *The Observer*.

In its inaugural editorial, the editorial board of the paper outlined how they intended the paper to serve the MIT community. This purpose entailed reporting on news from a student's perspective, the earning of the reader's trust through accurate and objective reporting, as well as thoughtful, well-reasoned opinion writing, and, when necessary, the occasional stepping in "as a visionary presence on the MIT campus."

The publication will largely cover long-range news stories, Herper said. "We don't want to just talk about a certain meeting that happened or a certain event; we are more interested in placing those sort of things in context," Herper said.

The founders of *The Observer* recognized a need for adding competition to the existing news publications on campus.

"I felt that it would be incredibly

helpful to have more than one source of news information about what's going on on campus," Herper said.

### Writing program offers support

*The Observer* was given about \$2,000 in funds by the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, said Professor James Paradis, the newly appointed head of the writing program.

The original allocation was decided upon last semester by Professor of Science and Writing Alan P. Lightman, who was then head of the program, Paradis said. Lightman is currently on sabbatical until September 1998 and could not be reached for comment.

"Alan felt it was a good idea and he gave them some start-up financial assistance," Paradis said.

*The Observer* is not the sole student publication that has gone to the writing program for funding, Paradis said. *Rune*, a literary journal, has also received funding from the program, he said.

The prospect of further funding from the program to publish the paper is unlikely. "I wouldn't be

Observer, Page 25

## Institute Places Sixth In U.S. News Rankings

By Naveen Sunkavally

MIT ranked sixth among the best colleges and undergraduate universities in America, according to the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual survey, released on August 25. The Institute placed fifth last year.

Harvard University, which lost its number one ranking last year, shared the top spot this year along with Princeton University while Duke University and Yale University both placed third. Stanford came in fifth, and Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania finished tied for seventh. California Institute of Technology, Brown University, Columbia University, and Emory University shared the ninth position.

The survey used eight primary criteria in the determination of its rankings: academic reputation, retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources,

value added, and the alumni giving rate.

Compared to the top five universities, MIT was weak in the retention (ranked 15th) and the value added categories. Retention accounted for 20 percent of the score, and value added accounted for 5 percent.

### New category criticized

The results of the survey, however, have met with some criticism, especially as it pertains to the value added category.

According to *U.S. News*, value added measures "the school's role in the academic success of students as well as how efficient the school is playing is that role."

The survey computed the value added for each school by using an average of standardized test scores of the Class of 1990 and combining that with the average amount the school spent on that class to obtain a predicted graduation rate. That predicted graduation rate was then subtracted from the actual graduation rate to attain the value added for the school.

According to the survey, the value added of an MIT education is -7.

"I do not believe that the 'value added' measure is either well-

US News, Page 17

## CPs Report Slight Drop In Larcenies On Campus

By Krista Niece

Theft on campus decreased in the first half of this year, while Safe Ride usage soared, according to the Campus Police mid-year report for 1997.

Larceny and burglary, which have consistently been MIT's worst problems, both declined in the first half of 1997. Bicycle thefts dropped to almost half the number cited in 1996, from 82 to 42. The number of motor vehicles stolen fell from 20 to 11. The total number of larcenies fell as well, from 388 cases to 361.

Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin said the decline in larcenies was a result of an increased awareness of the MIT community, as well as more frequent direct patrols — routine police checks of problem areas on campus.

At the same time, she said that there will always be a "swing on statistics" and that the numbers may mean little with regard to the future of crime rates.

The increase in student awareness may be demonstrated by the increase in the usage of the Safe Ride shuttle service through Cambridge, Glavin said. Use of the Cambridge shuttle skyrocketed from 28,840 riders to 42,364.

The Cambridge shuttle attracted larger numbers than the Boston shuttle, which was formerly the more popular route. Use of the Boston Safe Ride fell slightly from 41,938 to 40,660.

Overall, the amount of criminal activity has remained stable over the past year, with the number of on-campus crimes totalling 126. Last year's total was 125.

Assault rates rise on campus  
Aggravated assault, which

CP, Page 6



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH  
SODIUM DROP — Huge chunks of solid sodium thrown off the Longfellow Bridge explode in the Charles River.

## INSIDE

- Class of 2001's Residence and Orientation Week events summarized. *Page 7*
- Comics *Page 15*
- Police Log *Page 10*

# WORLD & NATION

## Accident Delays Launch Of Saturn-Bound Probe

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PASADENA, CALIF.

As NASA prepares to launch its largest space probe ever to the mystical ringed planet Saturn, exasperated scientists are scrambling to deal with a launch-pad accident at Florida's Cape Canaveral that will delay the scheduled Oct. 6 launch.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced Wednesday that an overpowered air conditioner servicing the Cassini spacecraft tore a 2-inch rip in the insulation that protects the craft's hitchhiking Huygens probe that is due to land on Saturn's planet-sized moon, Titan. It is possible that the mishap sprayed foam particles that would contaminate Huygens' delicate instruments, but scientists won't know until they hoist the craft off the launch tower, remove the probe and clean it thoroughly.

Girdled by intricately braided rings and surrounded by at least 18 icy satellites, Saturn today may look much like our solar system in its infancy. Its giant moon Titan may hide a solid surface underneath its thick orange smog, and perhaps seas of hydrocarbon soup of the type that gave rise to life on Earth.

If Cassini does get off during the launch window ending Nov. 15, it will cruise toward the sixth planet from the sun for seven years, swinging twice by Venus, once by Earth and once by giant Jupiter to gather enough gravitational steam to reach its target.

Once there, it will take hundreds of thousands of images of airy Saturn, and the glittering lanes of icy particles that run rings around it like so many Southland freeways. The Cassini spacecraft is named after the 17th century astronomer who discovered the largest "divider," or gap, in the rings.

## Reno Evaluates Need for Probe Of Fund-Raising Calls by Gore

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Following news that more than \$100,000 in donations raised from the White House by Vice President Al Gore was improperly diverted, Atty. Gen. Janet Reno on Wednesday acknowledged that she is formally evaluating whether to seek appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the matter.

Earlier in the day, Democratic Party officials said that campaign donations not restricted by election law were shifted—without Gore's knowledge—to a separate party account subject to federal limits. They pledged to reimburse that sum to the appropriate account.

For months, Reno has declined to seek appointment of an independent counsel to probe aspects of the overall fund-raising controversy. On Wednesday she announced that she had approved what could be a first step toward naming an outside prosecutor.

"The [Justice] Department is reviewing whether allegations that the vice president illegally solicited campaign contributions on federal property should warrant a preliminary investigation under the Independent Counsel Act," said a statement issued by Reno's office.

Under law, Reno has 30 days to determine whether those allegations are specific and come from credible sources. If Reno concludes that the matter is that serious, she would have an additional 90 days to decide whether to ask a special panel of appellate justices in Washington to appoint an independent counsel.

## Arizona Governor Guilty of Fraud, Subsequently Forced to Resign

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PHOENIX, ARIZ.

A federal jury in Phoenix on Wednesday convicted Arizona Gov. Fife Symington of lying to lenders to get millions of dollars for his failing real estate ventures, making him the state's second governor to be ousted in less than a decade.

The great-grandson of steel baron Henry Clay Frick stared downward as the five-woman, seven-man jury—which had deliberated 54 hours—returned the verdict that stripped him of the office he had held since 1991 and may send him to prison for years. The 52-year-old Republican, now bankrupt, is scheduled for sentencing on Nov. 10.

At a news conference, Symington tearfully said he plans to relinquish his office on Friday to Arizona's Republican secretary of state, Jane Hull—an experienced, assertive and highly regarded former state legislator who many believe will be anything but a caretaker governor.

"Every once in awhile there is salvation in surrender," he said. "I am returning to private life with my head up, spirits high and my heart full of gratitude."

Symington was indicted last summer after a five-year probe by the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles. He was charged with 19 counts of inflating his assets on financial documents when he wanted money, and understating his wealth when he wanted to get out of loan guarantees; and one count each of attempted extortion and perjury.

## WEATHER A Warming Trend

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**Today:** Sunny skies in the morning turning to partly cloudy skies in the afternoon. Highs in the Mid 70s (22-26°C) with a west wind at 10 to 15 miles per hour.

**Tonight:** Becoming mostly clear. Not as cool. Lows 55 to 60°F (13-16°C).

**Saturday:** Mostly Sunny. Some clouds late in the day. High around 80°F (27°C).

**Outlook:** A chance of showers Sunday, followed by partly cloudy skies on Monday and Tuesday. Lows in the mid to upper 50s (13-15°C), with highs in the 70s (21-27°C).

## Three Palestinian Bombers Injure 170, Kill Four Others

By John Lancaster

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

Three Palestinians walked into a busy pedestrian shopping street here Thursday afternoon and detonated bombs, killing themselves and four others and wounding about 170. The bombing prompted another angry backlash from the Israeli government and further complicated the stalled Palestinian-Israeli peace talks just days before the scheduled arrival here of U.S. Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright.

The three separate blasts struck Ben Yehuda Street about 3 p.m. in an area crowded with strollers, shoppers, and diners at outdoor cafes. The successive explosions, audible throughout much of the city, blasted some people out of their chairs and sent others running down the street in panic.

Many of those wounded were foreign visitors and tourists, includ-

ing a number of Americans.

Police promptly sealed off the area, which was strewn with body parts, upended cafe tables, and umbrellas and other debris. A corpse lay shrouded with white plastic, not far from the Burger King restaurant that is one of numerous American franchises on or near the street.

In a statement faxed to news agencies, the Muslim militant group Hamas took responsibility for the attack and warned that it would carry out more bombings unless Israel releases Hamas prisoners by 9 p.m. on Sept. 14.

Coming little more than a month after two suicide bombers blew up themselves and 15 other people at an outdoor market here on July 30, Thursday's carnage prompted a new round of harsh security measures by the Israeli military and heated rhetoric by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu '76. Military authorities

immediately ordered a new ban on travel by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank into Israel and between Palestinian-controlled cities and hinted that they would resort to stronger measures to control the terrorist threat.

The incident also raised the challenge for American policymakers, in particular Albright, who is scheduled to arrive here Wednesday on her first visit to the Middle East since becoming secretary of state. Albright's decision to make the trip had been predicated in part on determinations by U.S. officials that Palestinian security forces had begun to take a more cooperative attitude toward protecting Israel's security.

Clinton, who called the bombing an "outrageous and inhuman act," spoke with Netanyahu after the bombing and vowed to continue to press the Palestinian Authority to do "its utmost" to provide adequate security in areas under its control.

## Supreme Court Will Not Block California's Proposition 209

By Joan Biskupic

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court Thursday refused to block a California law that prohibits racial preferences in government hiring and school admissions, rejecting arguments that the law be suspended immediately because it will cause upheaval in the state.

The justices did not say whether they will agree to hear a constitutional challenge to proposition 209. The American Civil Liberties Union and civil rights groups sought an immediate halt to enforcement of the law while the Court considers their request that the new law be struck down altogether.

California began implementing the law, which voters approved in November, only last week because of ongoing court challenges.

The groups say Proposition 209 would force municipalities to eliminate even race-based policies that were written to remedy past documented discrimination and that the

high court has endorsed over the years.

The groups also argue that the new law strips local governments of their traditional authority to enact race- or sex-based preferential treatment, while still allowing governments to give preferences to other groups. As such, civil rights activists say, Proposition 209 infringes on the opportunity of women and racial minorities to fully participate in the political system and to seek favorable legislation.

Thursday's rejection of the request to block the law came in a one-sentence order with no justice dissenting. A decision on whether to review the merits of the constitutional challenge in *Coalition for Economic Equity v. Wilson* is likely to be made sometime in the upcoming weeks. The justices officially return from their summer recess on the first Monday in October.

The law forbids the state and its local governments from granting "preferential treatment" to anyone on the basis of race, sex, color, eth-

nicity or national origin in public employment, education or contracting. The law is the first of its kind, but more than 20 states are currently working on similar measures.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals turned down arguments that the law impinges on the interest of minorities or women and on Aug. 26 rejected requests that it be stayed pending a Supreme Court appeal. It said the voter initiative was consistent with the goal of the Constitution's guarantee of equality: "When the government prefers individuals on account of their race or gender, it disadvantages individuals who belong to another race or gender," the appeals court said. The 9th Circuit also refused to suspend the law while challengers took their case to the Supreme Court.

In asking the justices to intervene and block the law, civil rights groups had said there would be "upheaval at all levels of local and state government" if Proposition 209 were allowed to stay in effect then later repealed in some way because of a high court ruling.

## Royal Family Orders Flag Flown At Half-Mast to Remember Di

By Don Balz

THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

Queen Elizabeth II ordered the Union Jack to be flown at half-staff over Buckingham Palace on Saturday for the first time and scheduled a televised statement to the nation on Friday in an unprecedented response to criticism that the royal family has been indifferent to the outpouring of grief over the death of Princess Diana.

Early Thursday evening, members of the family, including the queen, Prince Charles, Diana's former husband, and their two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, appeared in public for the first time since Sunday. They attended church services at Balmoral in Scotland and then paused, while cameras rolled, to look at flowers left outside the church by some of the princess's mourners.

The moves came after another day in which the press and public pummeled the royal family, which had remained in seclusion at Balmoral Castle, while hundreds of thousands of people have paid trib-

ute to Diana here, lining up to write personal messages in the official books of condolence and openly weeping at the loss of the princess.

"Show Us Your Care," shouted a headline in the Express this morning. "Where Is Our Queen? Where Is Her Flag?" cried the Sun. The Mirror ran large pictures of two grief-stricken mourners weeping, with an inset photo of the queen at the bottom of the page. "Your People Are Suffering," said the headline. "Speak To Us, Ma'am."

In response, the queen's press secretary went before television cameras in London to read a statement that the family "have been hurt by suggestions that they are indifferent to the country's sorrow" over Diana's death. All week, mourners in the long lines around St. James's Palace, Kensington Palace and Buckingham Palace have complained publicly about the family.

"The princess was a much-loved national figure, but she was also a mother whose sons miss her deeply," said palace spokesman Geoffrey Crawford. "Prince William

and Prince Harry themselves want to be with their father and grandparents at this time in the quiet haven of Balmoral. As their grandmother, the queen is helping the princes to come to terms with their loss as they prepare themselves for the public ordeal of mourning their mother with the nation on Saturday."

Saturday's procession and funeral services are expected to draw millions of people to central London for the day. The procession that will carry Diana's coffin from Kensington Palace, where she lived, to Westminster Abbey, the coronation and burial site of British monarchs, will begin at 9:08 a.m. [4:08 a.m. EDT] and reach its Great West Door at 10:55 a.m. (5:55 a.m. EDT).

The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. [6 a.m. EDT] and will last almost an hour, closing with a national moment of silence. After the service at the abbey, a hearse will carry Diana's body on the long drive out of London to the Spencer family chapel in a church in the village of Great Brington, where her remains will be interred.

## U.N. Office Says Hun Sen Forces Executed 40 in Cambodia

THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

Soldiers loyal to Cambodian leader Hun Sen have methodically targeted and executed at least 40 military officers or officials from the opposing royalist political party that he deposed in a July coup, according to a United Nations report delivered yesterday to Hun Sen by a senior U.N. official.

The report blames some of the deaths on an elite, special forces unit that figured prominently in the coup and allegedly tortured more than 30 military personnel. It further identifies an apparent killing field for Hun Sen's victorious forces, an area roughly 60 miles southwest of the capital that multiple U.N. sources cited "as a location where many...loyalists [of the opposing party] were executed and their bodies secretly buried."

"There appears to be a pattern of the deliberate targeting of certain senior [opposing party] officers and their key associates and subordinates," states the report.

Ambassador Thomas Hammarberg, a special representative of the U.N. secretary general, turned the report over yesterday morning to King Norodom Sihanouk in Siem Riep and provided a copy later in the day to Hun Sen at his office in the capital of Phnom Penh, according to a U.N. official in Washington.

## Congress Struggles with Issues In Push to Clear Spending Bills

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Lawmakers labored yesterday to clear legislation to fund the government for the spending year that begins in four weeks, wrestling with politically contentious matters that could threaten GOP leaders' hopes for a trouble-free close of business.

The House approved a \$12.3 billion foreign aid measure after agreeing to ban U.S. funding for private groups that use their own money to perform or promote abortions overseas, except in cases of rape, incest or to protect the life of the woman. The 234 to 191 vote on the anti-abortion provision, sponsored by Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), continues a policy battle with President Clinton dating to 1993 and, if it survives House-Senate negotiations, would likely trigger a veto.

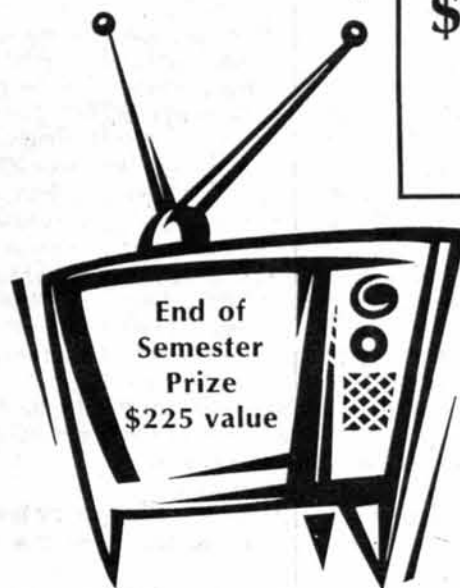
Earlier, the House narrowly rejected, 218 to 210, an attempt by House International Relations Committee Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.) and Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to modify Smith's language by limiting the ban to groups that perform or promote abortions as a form of family planning.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston (R-La.) has been urging his GOP colleagues to avoid contentious issues such as this one as lawmakers push to finish work on spending bills before the Oct. 1 beginning of the new fiscal year.

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## Graduate Student Council

### September Calendar

- 8 Fall Funding Board Meeting \*
- 9 Housing and Community Affairs Meeting \*
- 11 Career Fair Meeting \*
- 16 Extracurricular Activities and Athletic Meeting \*
- 17 Activities Meeting \*
- 19 Friday Social \*

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



The GSC Funding Board will allocate \$10,000 to graduate student groups for the fall term on Monday, Sept. 8. So, what are you waiting for?

✉ gsc-request@mit.edu    🏠 Walker Memorial, 50-220  
☎ (617)253-2195    🌐 www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

2nd Annual

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www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

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Deadline Sept. 12

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ONE page only (max. 2 pages for Ph.D. candidates only).

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Provide a CLEAR copy

Do NOT staple the resume and the submission form together.

Use 8.5"x11" paper.

Use WHITE paper only (best for photocopying purposes).

Do NOT fold.

Submit the resume to 50-220.



# OPINION

## Letters To The Editor

### Charles Deserves Respect, Not Sodium

There's a yearly East Campus tradition, dating back about as far as many people on campus can remember, called the Sodium Drop which involves lobbing a significant mass of sodium metal, perhaps a pound or so, into the Charles River. The sodium reacts explosively with the water, to the glee of hundreds of onlookers that traditionally flock to the railing of the Longfellow Bridge to view the event.

I went to watch the Sodium Drop when I was a freshman; it was part of my Residence and Orientation Week experience. That was in 1984. I'd heard the Charles was polluted, that you'd need a tetanus shot if you fell in. At that time I also had no sense of my surrounding community or the issues that it faced. The Sodium Drop seemed like no cost fun.

Now I know that the perception that I had, one shared by many to this day, isn't valid. The Charles River is not a sterile sewer. Years of work by government agencies, volunteers, and researchers (many from MIT) has begun to restore the Charles to a living, vibrant ecosystem. Birds and turtles now call the river home. Fish jump along next to sailboats and sculls as they pass through the water. Porpoises have returned to the Charles River dam. While much work remains to be done, there's even hope that parts of the Charles will be swimmable within the next decade. The tradition of the Sodium Drop runs counter to the goal of a healthy river.

There's no denying the human fascination with things that burn or blow up: it seems to come from somewhere deep inside the soul. But when the pursuit of that fascination results in the pollution of the environment, or the death of aquatic life due to the percussive force of underwater explosions, the cost of fun becomes too high.

Today, society increasingly stereotypes scientists as people who act without regard to

consequence. Behind every toxic waste dump is someone who thought it wouldn't matter, or did what had always been done before. The Sodium Drop exactly fits the stereotype, albeit on a smaller scale. At MIT, we're supposed to be different. We're supposed to be the ones who can think for ourselves, who relish breaking the status quo when it becomes outmoded. The tradition of the Sodium Drop has become just that: outmoded. I ask that those who organize it find an alternative and equally alluring tradition that doesn't sacrifice the quality of the fragile river environment that is MIT's backyard.

Michael W. Halle G

### R/O Showed MIT Spirit Is Strong

The spirit of MIT is very much alive in the Class of 2001. I've been closely involved with planning and organizing Residence and Orientation Week since March and have seen it evolve into what it is now. I've seen the incoming freshmen class move from eager pre-arrival anticipation to wild enthusiasm for MIT during the President's Convocation. Amazingly, that same enthusiasm is still present in the majority of the Class of 2001 despite a few cynical complaints that have surfaced recently.

As I wrote in the Hitchhiker's Guide to R/O '97, magic does exist at MIT. No one really knows exactly how R/O comes together; it just does, and that is what makes R/O so magical. And despite a few challenges along the way, MIT becomes a Camelot for two short weeks for the Class of 2001. Camelot, of course, wasn't always perfect, but it was enchanting and energetic, and most of all, it was full of the lively spirit of the people in it.

So I hope freshmen have taken R/O for what it was worth. R/O wasn't meant to be intellectually stimulating (you'll get all the intellectual exhilaration you want the moment classes begin) or overly serious (if it was, I

wouldn't have strolled out on stage in front the entire Class of 2001 as one of the Men in Black). Fundamentally, R/O was meant to introduce the spirit of MIT to incoming students. Along the way, we also hoped to familiarize freshmen with the Institute, to help them find a place to live (possibly for their entire stay at MIT), and to acclimate them to the academic rigors you'll face when the term begins.

As the term begins and progresses, I hope that new students will keep the same enthusiasm they had at the onset of R/O. Most of all, that they don't let the spirit of MIT escape them. The spirit of MIT isn't tangible or something that can be precisely described. It is like the chemical principle of enthalpy: you can't describe it per se, you can only see the effects of it. The spirit of MIT is something that keeps you up late at night tooling away at problem sets until the sun rises. It is also something that drives students to leave police cars on top of the Great Dome.

In any case, don't let cynics convince you that MIT is an apathetic or worthless place. MIT is a phenomenal place, and there is always something fascinating and exciting happening around the clock. Always keep alive the spirit of MIT, and may MIT be your Camelot well into the future.

Wesley T. Chan '01  
R/O '97 Logistics Manager

## Erratum

Due to a printing error, portions of some front page stories were omitted from the August 29 issue of *The Tech*. The full text of the stories is archived on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu/Issue/V117/N38>.



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



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**Dissents** are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Columns** 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](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions are accepted as well, although e-mail is preferable. Hard copy submissions may be 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.

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# All the President's Ships

## Presidential Vacations Were Better When They Belonged to the Sea

Anders Hove

America is fascinated with celebrities, Stacey E. Blau tells us in a recent column ["Preoccupation with Celebrity Is Pathetic," August 25], and if anyone in this country is a celebrity, the president is. I don't see presidential celebrity as an entirely bad thing. Better this presidential preoccupation than a world where few people even know the president's name.

On the other hand, the presidential vacation has become an absolutely horrific experience for all involved. President Clinton was so eager to stem the tide of local criticism this summer that he preemptively announced a "theme" for his vacation: his New England holiday, he claimed, would serve to remind the nation of his commitment to the environment. The press and public reacted to this statement with the appropriate disgust, and now it seems the annual presidential retreat has reached its nadir in the eyes of the public.

All this makes me feel a wave of nostalgia for the presidential yacht. A yacht says presidential like no New England island or seaport. A fine ship is a memory of a time when presidents were normal people, when the themes of presidential vacations were always the same: rest and relaxation.

Let me take you back to the summer of 1946. We are aboard the new presidential yacht, a former gunboat named the *Williamsburg*, sailing in the cool waters of Chesapeake Bay. President Harry S. Truman has just spoken to the press. He intends to spend most of the vacation sleeping, he says, although he hopes to find time for some old-fashioned with lots of Kentucky bourbon. Asked if he'll play any cards, Truman replies that he doesn't know much about it, but he's

heard of one game where one card is dealt down, with four more up, "and then you bet..."

President Truman found needed solace aboard the *Williamsburg*, even in the midst of some stressful world situations. The year 1946, for example, brought the first signs of confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, as well as a railroad strike that threatened to paralyze the nation. Truman needed to get away from it all, and yacht trips were just the ticket.

Although the president made no pretense of doing actual work aboard the *Williamsburg*, the voyages quickly became a Washington institution. Because the press tagged along in a separate yacht, the pols aboard the *Williamsburg* could let their hair down and really get to know each other.

Truman's favorite social activity aboard the *Williamsburg* was poker. The guests were expected to pony up \$500 to enter the game. Frequent *Williamsburg* poker players included Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Fred Vinson. The presence of all three branches of government at the poker table made these games easily the most prestigious in the country.

The *Williamsburg* swiftly became a symbol of having arrived as a political force. Speaker Rayburn, for instance, brought his protege, Lyndon B. Johnson, on several poker-playing voyages aboard the

*Williamsburg*. Johnson would be playing politics long after the last *Williamsburg* poker stash dried up.

The golden age of presidential yachting came to an end in 1953 with the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike was only aboard the *Williamsburg* once before he ordered it decommissioned and sold. The yacht was transferred to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in 1962, and later became a hotel-restaurant-museum in Salem River, New Jersey.

The sale of the *Williamsburg* didn't sink the idea of the presidential yacht. A presidential yacht from FDR's days, the *Sequoia*, occasionally hosted President Nixon during the stressful days of Watergate. And, of course, every president since Truman has spent vacation time aboard yachts owned by their own wealthy friends, and many presidents have made significant voyages about commissioned naval vessels of all sizes.

The heady days of *Williamsburg* R&R can never return. As it is, we seem doomed to witness annual holiday flops, each one rivaling the last in excess and stress. The yacht, on the other hand, is both a practical means to presidential relaxation and a worthy symbol of state. Future presidents would do well to choose a yacht over our poor New England isles.



# On Smoke, Substances, And Sex

Guest Column  
Walter Oney

I knew vastly more at age 18 about life than I know now at age 50. Or at least I thought I did. During rush week of 1964, someone gave me my first beer along with a bunch of advice. Not long afterward, lured by a mental image from book jackets and movies, I started smoking. Surviving these experiments without immediately demonstrable ill effects persuaded me that most, maybe all, of the adult advice I'd been getting was bogus.

It turns out that not everything your parents told you is wrong. They probably just didn't differentiate between the things that will really ruin your life (like drinking and driving), things you'll regret later on (like a hangover), and things that will annoy them if you persist (like vomiting on their couch). This column is my modest attempt to set the record straight on the parental advice you've gotten so far.

**Drinking:** Alcohol is only bad for you if you're an alcoholic, if you do something really stupid as a result of drinking, or if you try to breathe alcohol instead of air. You might as well know, as most of you already suspect, that 90 percent of people can use alcohol safely. The main reason adults told you not to drink is that you lack the experience and judgment necessary to avoid doing something dumb or fatal while under the influence.

Don't forget, like the Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers at Louisiana State University did, that you can overdose on alcohol. Chugging a pint of whiskey isn't significantly safer than jumping off the Green Building.

Ten percent of people are alcoholic and can't drink safely. Alcoholism has a genetic component which causes liver enzymes to incompletely metabolize ethanol, with the result that an alcoholic doesn't stop drinking. Never mind saying he or she can't stop drinking; the fact is that he or she never stops until running out or passing out. If one of your parents drank to excess, chances are that you will too.

**Smoking:** Smoking isn't bad; it's just stupid. One third of people who smoke cigarettes will develop serious illnesses later in life as a result. I suspect that all smokers will experience some reduction in quality of life, ranging from chronic shortness of breath to disgusting yellow films on the windows. We're talking statistics here, so your mileage may vary. Some people smoke all their lives without having any problems. Maybe you'll be one of the lucky ones.

If you smoke to rebel against all the adults who are telling you not to, you should probably know that a different group of adults want you to smoke. The corporate message is just more subtle. If you're confused about who to believe, ask yourself who has something to gain if you spend a few dollars a day for the rest of your life. Nicotine is so addictive that you will almost certainly have trouble quitting. Trust me on this: It will never be any easier than today, and any urge you may have to postpone quitting is just the nicotine talking.

**Drugs:** Drugs are things you take when you're sick in order to get better. You can ruin your life taking them for any other reason. Since that's a medical prediction, probabilities are involved again. The criminal infrastructure that exists in order to produce, import, and distribute illegal drugs threatens to destroy our culture. If you think legalizing drugs will solve the problem, visit Amsterdam: crime and lost souls are very much in evidence there.

**Suicide:** By definition, killing yourself can't ruin your life because there isn't anything left to ruin. But it sure ruins a lot of days for all the people you don't think care about you but really do. One of my best friends jumped off the Harvard Bridge onto the ice during an especially cold winter in the 60s. He later decided that life wasn't hopeless, but he's been living with a damaged spine ever since.

**Sex:** Unprotected sex can ruin your life quickly enough for you to notice. Don't be stupid about it. Use a condom, and don't trust your life to anyone's claim that "you're the first." A baby will seriously constrain your ability to study and commence a career.

Lastly, don't bother giving advice: They don't listen anyway.

Walter Oney graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1968.

# Dealing Students A Wild Card

## Dorm Desks Make a Mockery of MIT Card Security

Stacey E. Blau

"I want to assure you personally... that in no way is your security in hazard when you leave an MIT Card as collateral at the EC

desk in computer science. DeHon's assessment stated that "the level of security provided by the card is laughable." (The report is still available at [http://www.ai.mit.edu/people/andre/mit\\_card/security\\_assessment/security\\_assessment.html](http://www.ai.mit.edu/people/andre/mit_card/security_assessment/security_assessment.html).) The day after the report



came out, the Department of Housing and Food Services, which issues the MIT Card, told dormitory desks to stop accepting the card as collateral for the items like movies, pool cues, or keys that they lend.

The decision was soon reversed, and dormitories have been able to use the card as collateral ever since. A quick survey of current dormitory desk practices reveals that at nearly all desks, the MIT Card is the preferred — if not the required — form of identification residents must hand over when they borrow desk items. Many desks will accept driver licenses instead, but desk workers report that most of the time, residents hand over their MIT Card.

None of this, of course, would be much of a big deal if the MIT Card was nothing more than a photo ID. But MIT has gradually added more and more functions to the MIT Card, particularly monetary transaction capabilities, which have turned the card into a veritable credit card. You use it for your meal plan. You can use it for your laundry and even on some campus vending machines. Anyone with a meal plan probably has several hundred dollars on his or her card. If that isn't cause to be concerned about leaving your card with someone at a dormitory desk or anywhere else, I don't know what is.

As is the case with much modern technology, the conveniences of the card as a credit card and its subsequent value as a piece of collateral at dormitory desks far outweigh any security concerns that people have. That, of course, is exactly the sort of negligence that people who take advantage of such things prey on.

Even if students don't know better, MIT should. But MIT makes no effort to educate

anyone about the risks involved in using the MIT Card, even as it adds more and more functions to it. The fact is simply that the card system is wide open to abuse. Desk workers can do anything they want with cards left at desks. A more ingenious person can spoof card readers on dormitory entrances or on washing machines or vending machines and record the cards' contents.

And once someone has your card information, the attacker can essentially be you when he or she uses your card to buy dinner at Lobdell, make a purchase at a vending machine, or enter your dormitory. Replacing your card means nothing; the algorithm that changes a card's encoding when a new one is issued is painfully simple and easy to deduce. Once a person has your card data, any future card you get is compromised, too.

The dangers of the card system carry over into the expansion of the card readers on building entrances around campus. As if the threat of the end of MIT's open campus were not enough, the card reader system doesn't really offer anything in return. The promise of extra security is a false one. The same trespassers will trail into buildings and dormitories, and the people who care enough will have an easy time capturing card information and making their own. The logic that the danger is always people on the outside is totally misguided; what happens when it's MIT students who are the ones doing the copying?

The level of security that the MIT Card offers is indeed laughable. But what's even more unacceptable is that MIT doesn't bother to educate anyone about the dangers involved in using the card. At best, the card system relies on the hope that people won't abuse it. But no serious security system can be built around hope, especially one like the MIT Card system, where the safeguards are barely even there.

At a place like MIT, you'd expect people to have a clue about these very obvious risks with technology, especially when money as well as building and dormitory security are at risk. But that would amount to making the assumption that MIT's bureaucrats are as smart as its academics. You could add that assumption to the list of laughable things around here.

desk. While I do not know what happens at other desks, I can assure you, and I'm sure so will the desk captain, that all the desk workers treat your IDs with the utmost importance and do not make any bad use of them."

That came from a piece of e-mail sent over my dormitory mailing list last week by a desk worker. The mail was completely misleading and pretty disturbing; I'd hope that most people read it and dismissed it as they would dismiss any exaggeration that a claimant could never make good on.

The fact is that MIT Card security is a serious issue that students should pay attention to. Claims by desk workers, or anyone else, that students can ignore the matter are not especially helpful. The simple fact is that it's easy to duplicate the contents of the strip on your card; you need only a card and a card writer. Cards at desks provide the former, and about \$400 will get you the latter. Small devices that read and capture card info cost closer to \$20. This being MIT, it should come as no big shock that some students have the desire and hardware to take advantage of the possibilities.

One of the more significant events in the ongoing MIT Card debate was a security assessment of the card released in March 1995 by Andre M. DeHon '90, then a graduate stu-

# Campus Police Mid-Year Report Shows Increase in Aggravated Assault Incidents

CP, from Page 1

includes incidents involving battery, increased; there were six cases of aggravated assault on campus, as opposed to two cases in last year's report. There have been more instances of fraternity and dormitory problems, malicious destruction of property, soliciting, and harassment.

Arrests went up slightly from 36 to 42. June was the month in which the most arrests were made, while the fewest arrests were made in February.

Security problems and complaints have taken a nosedive, falling from 34 in 1996 to six this year. Because of MIT's open campus policy, security is an issue of importance, Glavin said. The routine police checks of suspicious persons may have led to this drop.

According to the police report, 339 suspicious persons have been checked this year. Of these, 100 were cleared, 203 were given trespass warnings, 28 were student problems, six were psychiatric cases, and one was an employee problem.

Other incidents which have seen decreases include obscene and annoying phone calls and disorderly persons incidents.



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Increased Campus Police patrols have contributed to a lower theft rate on campus this year.

## Crime Rates On Campus

1997 1996

Aggravated assault	6	2
Simple assault	7	8
Motor vehicle theft	11	20
Larcenies	361	388
Arson	2	0
Disorderly person	3	12
Disturbance	5	3
Harassment	20	11
Malicious destruction of property	28	15
Obscene and annoying phone calls	40	64
Soliciting	7	2
Dormitory problems	6	3
Fraternity problems	10	1
Larceny of bicycles	42	82

SOURCE: Campus Police Mid-Year Report, 1997



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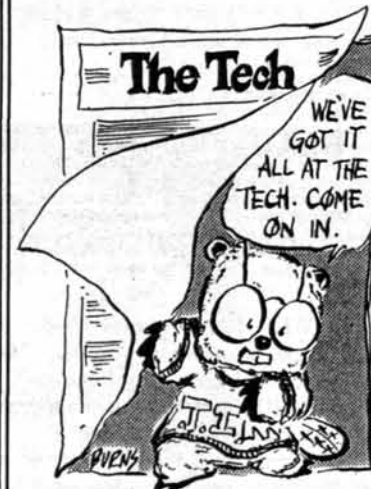


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Room 483

# Residence and Orientation Week News in Review

The Tech focused on the events and activities of Residence and Orientation Week from Aug. 25 to Sept. 2. Several stories, however, dealt with issues of importance to the community at large. Those stories are reprinted here, in abbreviated form, for the benefit of community members who returned after R/O Week.

## MIT Extropian controversy

The MIT Extropians, a group of students advocating an end to affirmative action and new admissions policies, were banned from petitioning the Association of Student Activities for membership until Sept. 1, 1998.

In addition, the ASA found the Extropians guilty of violating the MIT policy prohibiting unauthorized use of mailing lists and student data. The Extropians were found not guilty by reason of ignorance of violating the ASA policy prohibiting non-ASA mailings to incoming freshmen.

"This unauthorized mailing is one of the most severe infractions of MIT policies by a student group in several years," wrote the board in its decision.

"We thought the ASA trial was a farce," said co-founder of the Extropians Jason P. Davis '98 in response to the ruling. "We thought it should have never come to that. Our academic freedom of speech should not have been curtailed in the first place."

The Extropian controversy began in mid-July when the group submitted an eight-page brochure for inclusion in the ASA activity information packet sent to incoming freshman in mid-July.

The ASA is overseen by the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education, which reviews the brochures from student groups for appropriateness before sending them out. Former Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Margaret A. Jablonski "pulled this one out and said she thought it wasn't appropriate," said ASA President Russell S. Light '98.

## CPs arrest convicted bomber

A New England man who accused the Campus Police of harassment when they arrested him last month is a convicted terrorist bomber who was once on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list.

Richard J. Picariello, 48, was arrested for trespassing and other charges in the lounge on the second floor of the Student Center on the evening of July 22.



Heavy rains made for a wet and muddy opening to Thursday Night In the City on Kresge Oval.

INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

Picariello was convicted in 1977 and 1978 for bombing an airplane at Logan Airport, National Guard trucks, a courthouse, and a power company headquarters, for robbing a bank, and for interstate transportation of explosives. He served federal and state sentences for those crimes until 1993, and was then imprisoned in Maine for parole violations. Picariello has spent more than 25 years in prison for various crimes.

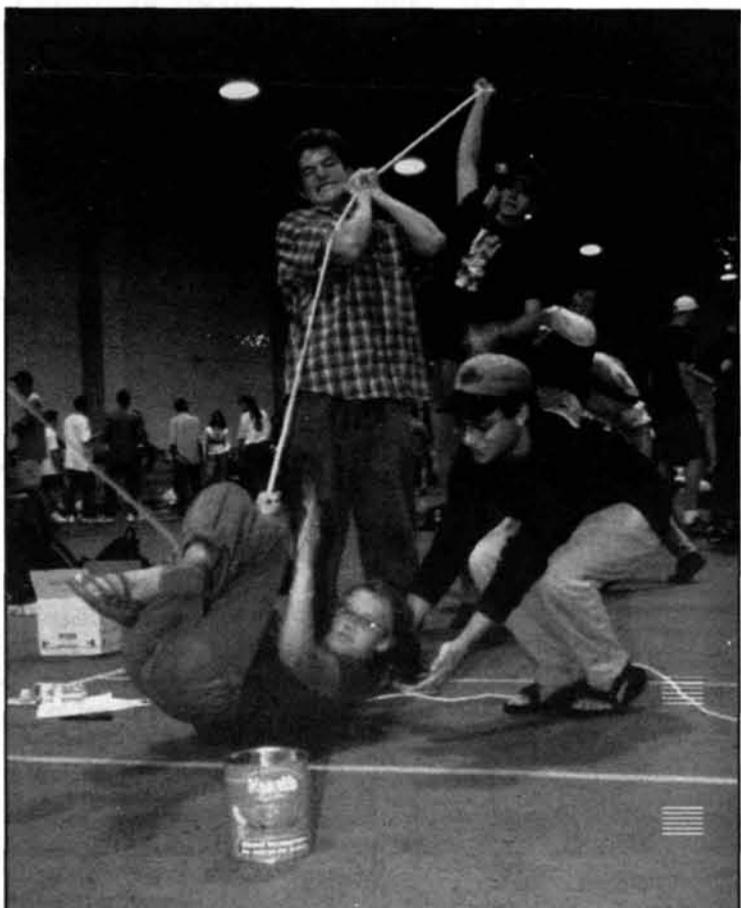
## Rain alters several R/O events

Intermittent rain forced Killian Kick-Off, the event that opens rush, out of the court that shares its name and into the Johnson Athletics Center. The event was last indoors in 1985.

The new location caused several changes to the program. The three speakers who were scheduled to introduce the various living options all gave abbreviated versions of their speeches.

For the first time in seven years, Project Move Off Your Assumptions, which normally begins in Kresge Oval and migrates

R/O, Page 17



Nikki Spinello '01 clings tightly to a rope held by her teammates as she tries to retrieve a can of tennis balls during a MOYA event at the Johnson Athletics Center.

WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

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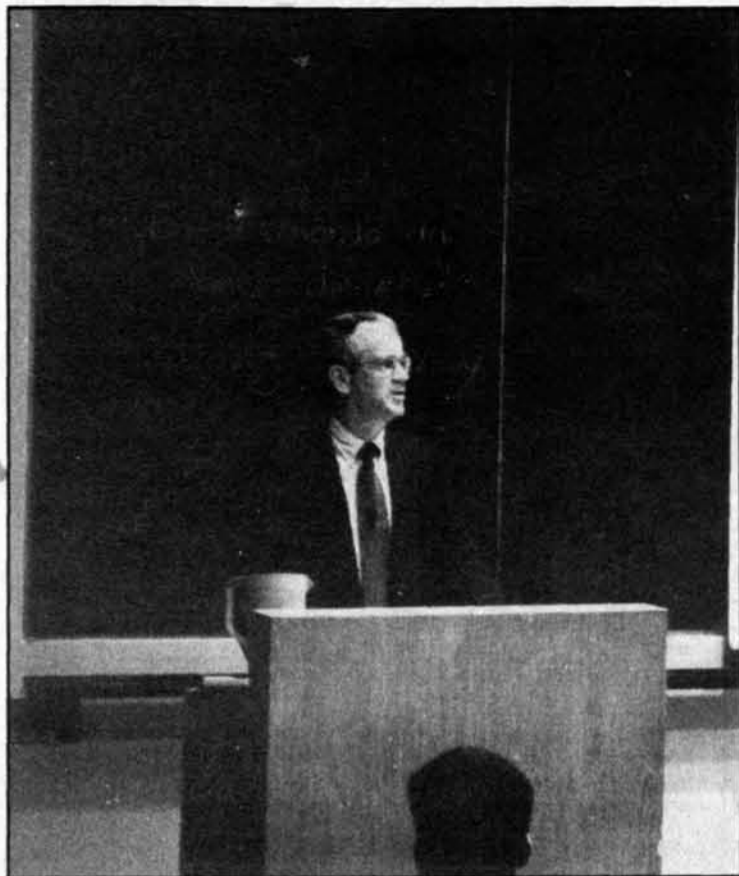
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ARDULAZEEZ OTORI

President Charles M. Vest was on hand Wednesday evening to deliver comments at the opening of Tau Beta Pi's dinner series dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci.

## TBP Events And Dinner Celebrate da Vinci's Attitudes

TBP, from Page 1

interested in the presentation. About 10 topics were not scheduled, and these might be the foundation of the lecture series.

### Lewin, Brody slated to speak

"Over 100 hundred faculty members responded to the call for speakers, coming from a wide variety of vocations and disciplines around the institution. I think that is a very fine sign, though certainly not a surprising one," Vest said.

The speakers scheduled to speak range from Professor of Physics Walter H. G. Lewin to Associate Provost for the Arts Alan Brody.

Lewin's lecture is entitled, "The Moon, Planets, Stars, Black Holes, and Beyond."

Brody will speak on the role of arts in the education of the engineer, with comments on the relationship between the arts and technology in the new millennium.

"Even if we cannot individually match the breadth of intellect and mastery that is embodied in invention, we can uphold ideals. Ideals such as appreciation of the beauty of other disciplines, the power of creative collaboration across different fields and the immense satisfaction that comes from lifelong curiosity, learning and exploration," Vest said.

"By embarking on this series, you are helping to enlarge and enrich your intellectual experience beyond your own immediate studies," Vest said.

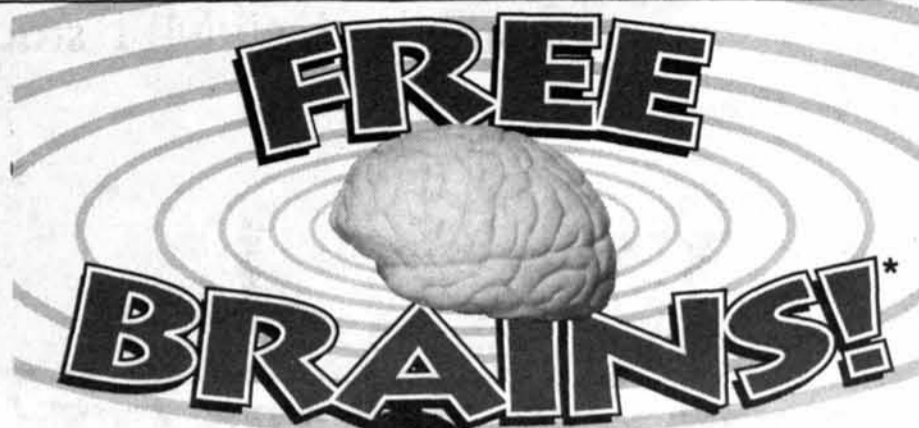
### Eclectic mix of food to be served

The menu for the series ranges from traditions of Native American cooking to the cuisine of the sun, rustic cuisine of southern France.

"We hope that the dishes we have selected reflect the spirit of the da Vinci dinners. We hope our selection is truly cosmopolitan and that it reflects the fact that we are all world citizens," said Gerald S. Pierce, of Peasant Stock catering. "Our job is to get to know, and respect, and ultimately love that diversity which makes up our harmony."

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## POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Aug. 15 and 30:

**Aug. 15:** Bldgs. 14 and E25, vending machines broken into.

**Aug. 16:** Tang Hall and Westgate, noise complaints; MacGregor House, bicycle stolen, \$735; Bldg. E17, computer monitor stolen, \$700; Women's Independent Living Group, \$150 cash stolen.

**Aug. 18:** Bldg. 20, tools stolen, \$525; Bldg. 54, wallet stolen, \$150; Bldg. 14, bicycle stolen, \$300; Burton, bicycle stolen, \$270.

**Aug. 20:** Bldg. 16, malicious damage; Bldg. 20, wire stolen, \$485.

**Aug. 21:** Bldg. E19, wire stolen, \$4,854; Amherst Street, car stolen elsewhere recovered; Westgate, suspicious activity.

**Aug. 22:** Bldg. E51, bicycle stolen, \$600.

**Aug. 23:** McCormick Hall, radio stolen while moving, \$50; Senior House, VCR stolen, \$150; Next House, \$35 cash stolen.

**Aug. 25:** Senior House, malicious damage; Bldg. 14, backpack stolen, \$30; Edgerton House, computer stolen, \$4,480; Bldg. W11, artwork stolen later recovered; Bldg. 2, bicycle stolen, \$230; Bldg. 66, 1) computer stolen, \$2,484, 2) telephone and backpack stolen, \$60.

**Aug. 26:** Phi Beta Epsilon, bicycle stolen, \$100; Walker Memorial, speakers stolen, \$150; Bldg. NE43, annoying mail; Eastgate, bicycle stolen, \$200; Bldg. 54, bicycle stolen, \$100.

**Aug. 27:** Delta Psi (No. 6 Club), noise complaint; Bldg. 38, suspicious activity; Bldg. NW14, suspicious activity.

**Aug. 28:** NW12 lot, vehicle broken into and tools stolen, \$270; Student Center bicycle rack, 1) \$600 bicycle stolen, 2) \$200 bicycle stolen; Bldg. 9, backpack stolen, \$250; Bldg. E51, suspicious activity; Bldg. 10, vending machine broken into.

**Aug. 29:** Student Center, black light stolen, \$1,000; Bldg. 54, 1) attempted break into an area, 2) computer stolen, \$3,000, 3) radio stolen, \$80, 4) laptop stolen, \$3,000; Delta Psi (No. 6 Club), suitcase stolen, \$200; Bldg. 8, computer stolen, \$2,500; Westgate, bicycle and refrigerator stolen, \$280; Eastgate, bicycle tire stolen, \$50; New House, compact disc stolen, \$12.

**Aug. 30:** East Campus, suspicious activity; MacGregor, bicycle stolen, \$300; Ames Street and Amherst Street, domestic disturbance.

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September 6 and 13 Only

Eastgate (wait at 1 Amherst St.)	8:00 am	8:30 am	9:00 am	9:30 am	10:00 am	10:30 am	11:00 am
Senior House / East Campus (Amherst & Ames)	8:01 am	8:31 am	9:01 am	8:01 am	10:01 am	10:31 am	11:01 am
Ashdown House (Amherst)	8:04 am	8:34 am	9:04 am	8:04 am	10:04 am	10:34 am	11:04 am
Burton/Conner	8:06 am	8:36 am	9:06 am	8:06 am	10:06 am	10:36 am	11:06 am
Tang/Westgate (at the red triangle)	8:07 am	8:37 am	9:07 am	8:07 am	10:07 am	10:37 am	11:07 am
Edgerton (in front of Edgerton)	8:09 am	8:39 am	9:09 am	8:09 am	10:09 am	10:39 am	11:09 am
Arrive at Star Market (approx.)	8:25 am	8:55 am	9:25 am	9:55 am	10:25 am	10:55 am	11:25 am
Leave Star Market (approx.)	9:00 am	9:30 am	10:00 am	10:30 am	11:00 am	11:30 am	12:00 pm 12:30 pm



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# Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

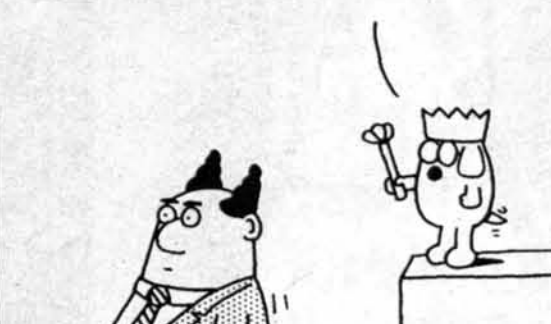
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S. Adams

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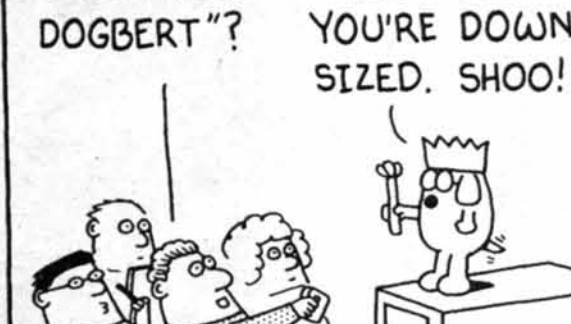


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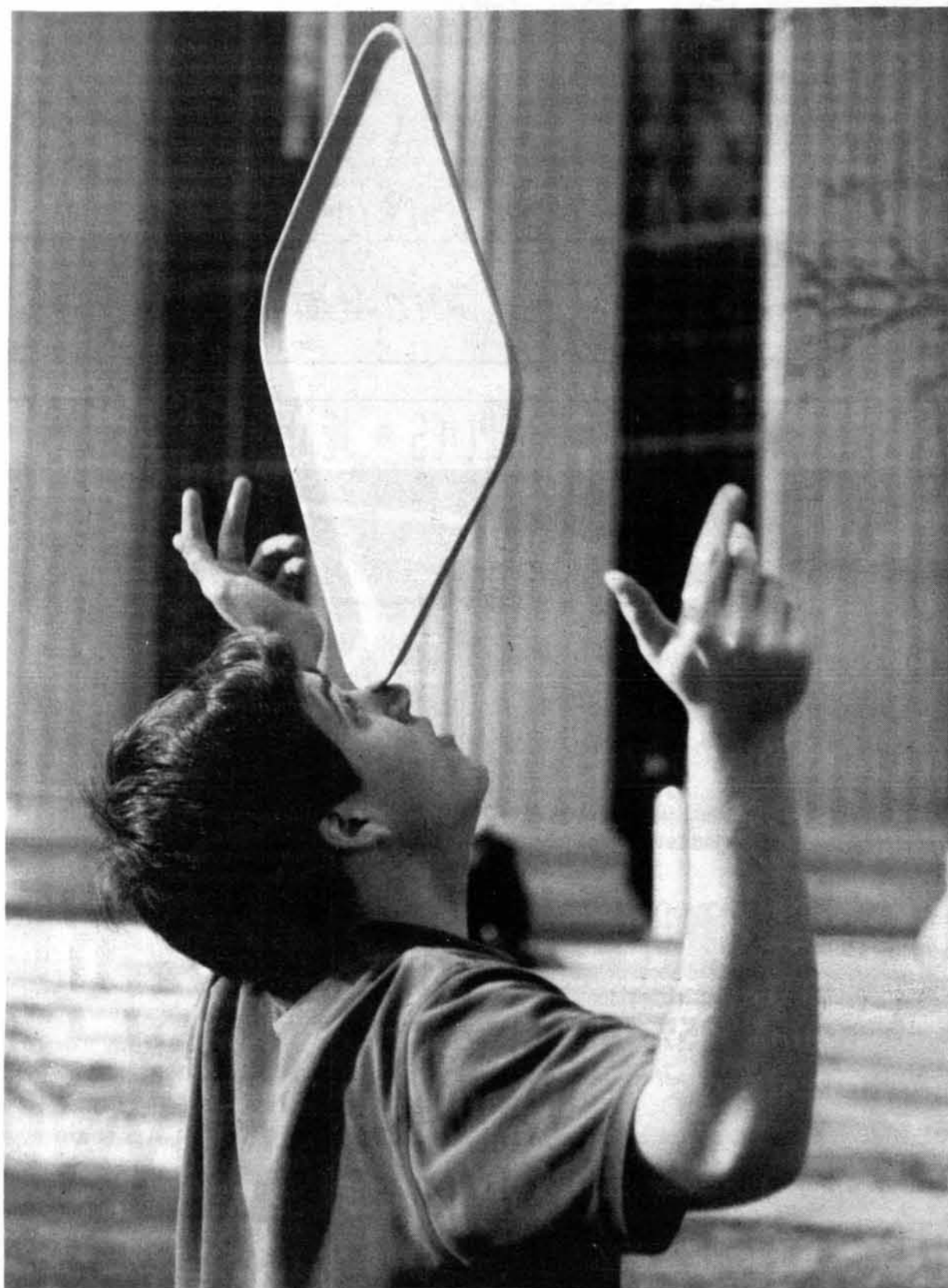


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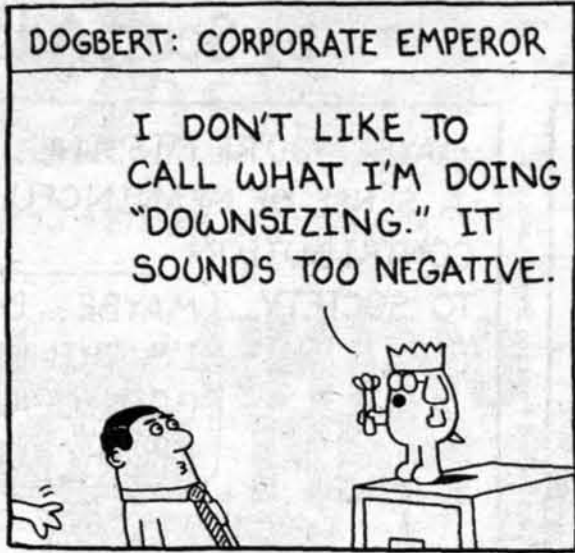
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---

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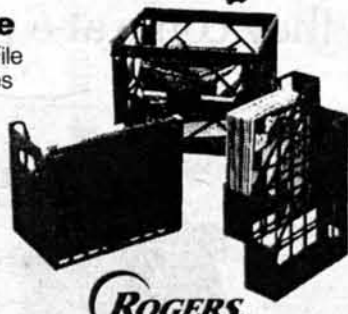
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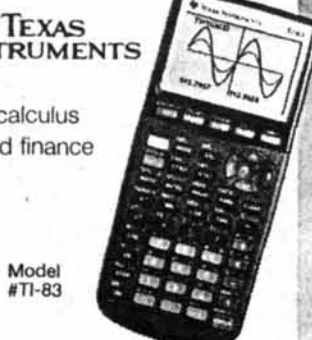
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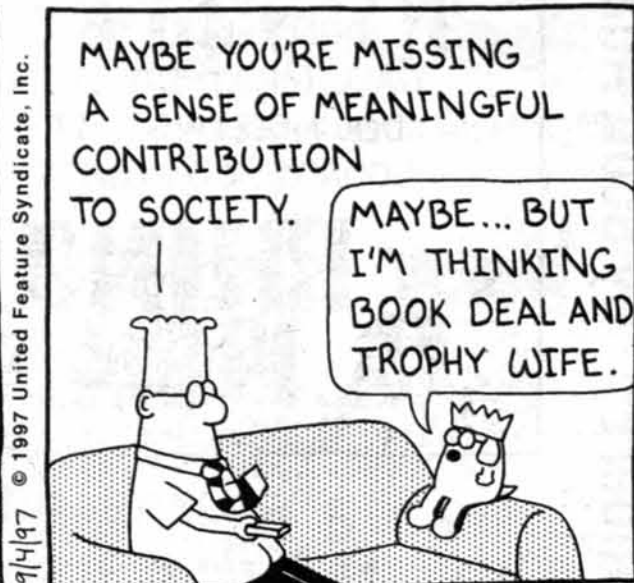
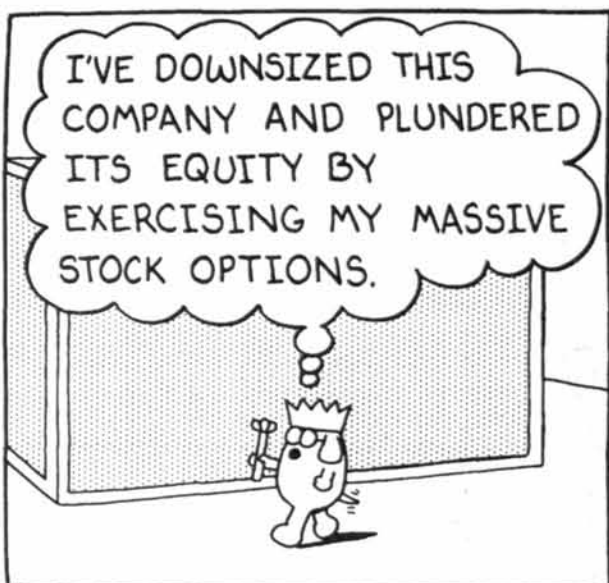
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# Dilbert®

by Scott Adams



## deadlines

### Upcoming student deadlines and other important Institute dates

This service is brought to you by the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education. If you know of important dates we have missed, please send them to [deadlines@mit.edu](mailto:deadlines@mit.edu), and we will add them to the deadlines Web site: <http://web.mit.edu/odsue/deadlines/>

Date	Who	What	Where
Thur 9/4	Students who missed the PE lottery, or who want to add another PE class	Phys ed late registration begins	W32-125; 3-4291
Fri 9/5	All students	Registration deadline (\$40 late fee)	SSC*, 3-8600; E19-335; 3-4784
Fri 9/5	All students graduating in February 1998	Deadline for February degree application (\$40 late fee; \$75 after December 12)	SSC* at 3-6434; E19-335; 3-6413
Fri 9/5	Seniors graduating in February 1998	Deadline to complete phys ed requirement or submit petition form (\$40 late fee)	W32-125; 3-4291
		Deadline to file HASS concentration completion form (\$40 late fee)	14N-408; 3-4441

### Monday, September 8, through Friday, September 12

Fri 9/12	Undergraduates	Deadline for proposals seeking UROP program funding	20B-140; 3-7306
Fri 9/12	Freshmen in Institute residence halls	Deadline to submit form confirming housing assignment	W20-549; 3-6777
Fri 9/12	Students cross-registering at Wellesley	Deadline to complete Wellesley registration forms	SSC*, 8-8600; Wellesley Registrar
Fri 9/12	All September 1997 degree candidates	Deadline to fulfill all financial obligations	E19-215; 3-4132
Fri 9/12	Graduate students and undergraduates who want family housing	Deadline for Sept. housing lottery. Applications received after this date will be filed chronologically behind the lottery group.	E32-133; 3-5148

### Monday, September 15, through Friday, October 3

Mon 9/15	Freshmen interested in small working groups for core subjects	OME Seminar XL begins this week	7-145; 3-5010
Mon 9/15	All students cross-registering at Harvard	Classes at the Harvard School of Arts and Sciences begin	SSC*, 8-6434; 14N-408; 3-4441
Fri 9/19	All students who haven't registered	\$100 late fee to initiate registration after this date	SSC*, 8-8600; E19-335; 3-4784
Wed 9/24	Freshmen interested in small working groups for core subjects	Deadline for enrollment in OME Seminar XL	7-145; 3-5010
Fri 9/26	Seniors graduating in February 1998	Deadline to submit minor completion form (\$40 late fee)	Minor advisor; then 14N-408; 3-4441
Fri 9/26	Graduate students cross-registering at Harvard	Deadline for Harvard cross-registration petition (\$40 late fee)	SSC* at 8-6434;
Fri 9/26	Undergraduates cross-registering at Harvard	Deadline for Harvard cross-registration petition (\$40 late fee)	14N-408; 3-4441
Mon 9/29	Anyone who wants to conduct an IAP program	IAP activity registration begins	7-103; 3-1668
Tues 9/30	Students wanting family medical coverage or medical insurance waiver	Last day to enroll for family coverage and to submit health insurance waiver form	E23-308; 3-4371
Fri 10/3	All students	ADD DATE - Last day to add subjects (Add/Drop form; fee for petitioning after this date)	Advisor; SSC*, 8-8600; E19-335; 3-4784
Fri 10/3	Upperclass students applying for fall-term financial aid	\$100 fine for students who have not completed fall financial aid applications by this date	SSC*, 8-8600
Fri 10/3	Juniors and seniors	Last day to change an elective to or from P-D-F grading (Add/Drop form)	SSC*, 8-8600; Registrar, E19-335; 3-4784
Fri 10/3	All students who haven't completed registration	\$100 late fee for completing registration after this date	SSC*, 8-8600; Registrar, E19-335; 3-4784
Fri 10/3	All students	Last day to drop half-term subjects (Add/Drop form)	SSC*, 8-8600; Registrar, E19-335; 3-4784

\*The Student Services Center, Building 11-120. The Center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where did you get the ice cream, .T.I.M.?



Jealous?

You too can get free ice cream just like .T.I.M. at The Tech's Open House on Sunday, September 7 from 2-5 p.m. at the Student Center in room 483.

.T.I.M, what will people get if they come at 6 p.m.?



# RHINO MAN

by Zachary Emig

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"...and in other news, government officials



today released more information about the abduction of the intelligence operative known as Rhino-Man. In a



Tokyo news conference, a spokesman for 'Sector 9', Prof. Atama, revealed that the identity of the kidnapper is known."



"We were able to recover an image of the suspect from a surveillance camera in our helicopter."



We have identified him as a big-game hunter and sometime assassin who goes by the alias "Cupid".



"Prof. Atama refused to speculate on Rhino-Man's condition, but the mood around the Tokyo headquarters of Sector 9 is grim.



Given the kidnapper's profession, and the fact that there's been no ransom demand, some believe that Rhino-Man was



kidnapped for his horn or head, which would be priceless to a trophy collector..."

To be continued...

## Off Course

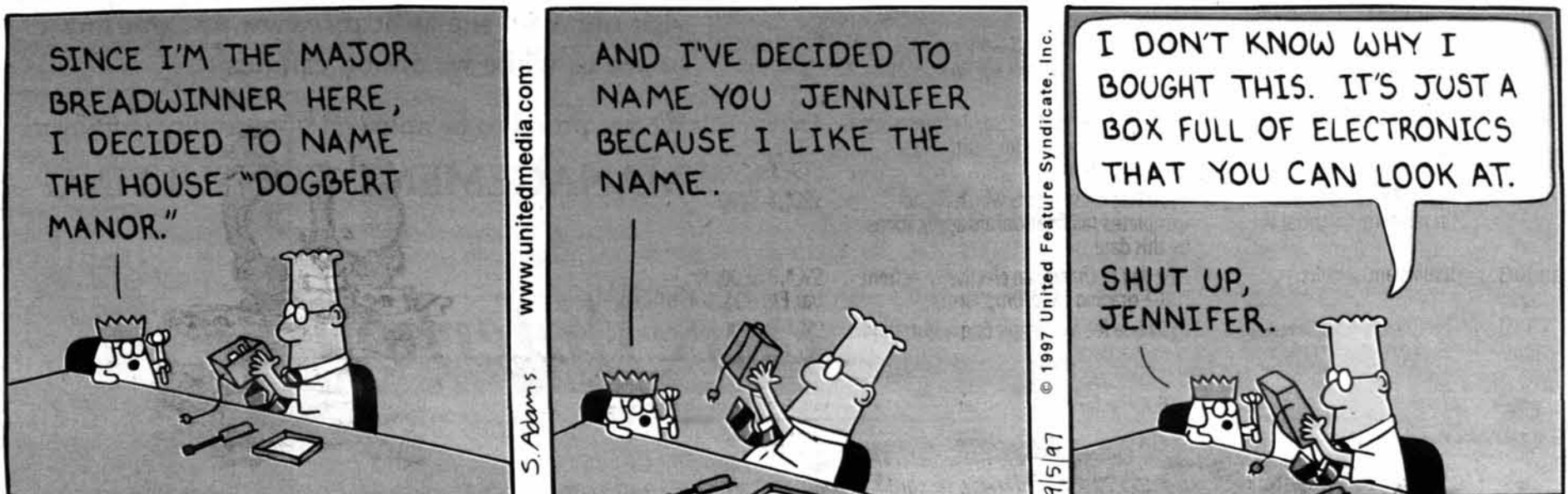
by Hugo



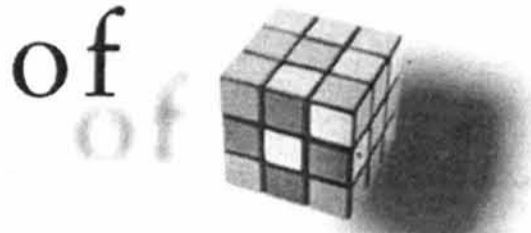
Damned for Life  
by JESSICA WU

## Dilbert®

by Scott Adams



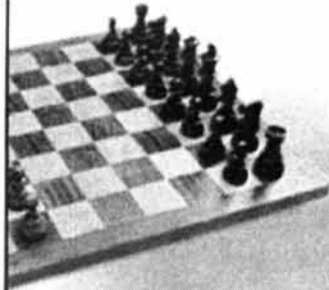
Masters  
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Action.  
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	22	Entertainment, Media & Communications Presentation
October	21	National Presentation
November	6	First Round Pre-Night

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# U.S. News College Survey Gives Institute High Marks for Donations, Reputation

US News, from Page 1

named or useful," said President Charles M. Vest.

"According to this, there's no value added for a Harvard education, Princeton education, Stanford education, MIT education, Caltech education, a University of Chicago education, a Carnegie Mellon education," said Kenneth D. Campbell, director of the News Office.

A second criticism with the U.S. News report concerns the nature of the rankings in general. The difference between the top six positions was only one or two points. "The first six schools [have] just shuffled," Campbell

said. "No one was in the same place this year as they were from last year."

"Maybe there should not be a ranking from one to 10 separated by tenths of a point; rather there should be a grouping of the 10 best schools, then the second tier," said Undergraduate Association President Dedic A. Carter '98.

"Using hair-splitting differences to obtain a detailed ordering isn't useful," Vest said.

Last school year, criticisms of the survey prompted several undergraduate student councils, including those of MIT and Stanford, to propose a boycott of the U.S. News annual report.

"The student government at a major technological institution and world leader such as MIT has an obligation to comment and get involved in issues that affect the larger academic community," Carter said.

However, Vest said that withholding information would only make the the rankings more artificial if the survey used guesses rather than statistical information.

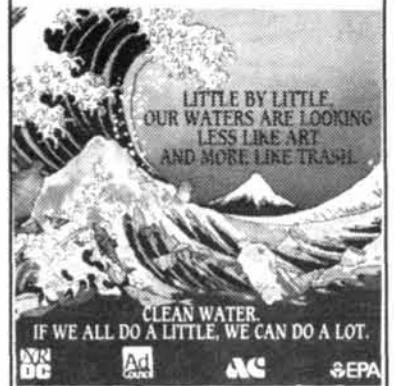
## Report also praises MIT

The survey highlighted some positive aspects of the Institute.

MIT ranked high in academic reputation, placing behind Princeton and Stanford, which both tied for first.

"It was good to see the percentage of alumni who make financial donations to the institution is very high. It also was good for our strong commitment to financial aid to be recognized by ranking us well as a good buy," Vest said.

Perhaps the most important positive statement in the survey is "the very fact that MIT [is] clearly in top handful of institutions" and its continuing effort to promote and improve its excellence, Vest said. "As in all of this, we should do what we think is right and important and let the rating chips fall where they may."



This space donated by The Tech

## Dinners, MOYA Differ For The Class of 2001

R/O, from Page 7

to Briggs Field, was moved inside because of rain. The event was moved to four different indoor locations — DuPont Gymnasium, Rockwell Cage, and the two floors in Johnson.

### Class of 2001 demographics steady

The Class of 2001 was made up of 1,077 students, relatively steady compared with last year, said Associate Director of Admissions for Information Services and Research Elizabeth S. Johnson.

The percentage of women in the entering freshmen class decreased to 38 percent from last year's figure of 42 percent. This was because a lower percentage of women were admitted, Johnson said.

Seventeen percent of the Class of 2001 are members of underrepresented minority groups, a slight drop from last year's figure of 18 percent.

Mississippi is the lone unrepresented state in the freshman class, Johnson said.

### Several changes marked rush 2001

Thursday Night Dinners was revamped and renamed, said Wesley T. Chan '00, R/O logistics manager. The new name, Thursday Night in the City, reflects the move away from just going to dinner, he said.

There was a light barbecue after MOYA, for people who did not want to participate in Thursday Night in the City, Chan said.


In addition, MOYA itself changed with the removal of Tech Trek, an Institute-wide scavenger hunt that took place immediately after MOYA, and the addition of new problem-solving games to challenge the creativity and skills of the incoming freshman, said Reshma Patil '00, R/O publicity and personnel manager.

Sorority rush also saw some major changes this year, said Joanna F. Au '98, vice president of rush for the Panhellenic Association.

This year, sorority members were allowed to answer direct questions from freshmen. Previously, they were not allowed to speak to freshmen outside their sorority's designated rush room.

"If they ask what sorority you're

from, you can tell them," Au said. However, if they ask too many questions, we're supposed to direct them to explore the sorority rush process, Au said. "We're not allowed to rush them outside the rush rooms."



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MIT's Class of 1998  
the best of luck  
as you begin your senior year.**

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**MIT Career Fair: Friday, October 10, 1997**

**Society of Women Engineers Career Fair:**

**Saturday, October 18, 1997**

**Information Session: Tuesday, October 28, 1997,**  
**Cambridge Marriott**

**First Round Interviews: Monday, January 26, 1998**

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**The Tech  
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Sunday, 2 p.m.,  
Student Center,  
Room 483**

# MALLAPALOOZA

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### FREE WBCN Concert

Saturday, September 6 at 3pm

On the Lagoon at Lechmere Canal Park • CambridgeSide Galleria

Autograph Signing Session with Our Lady Peace • 4pm

It's Mallapalooza and it's coming to CambridgeSide Galleria. See **Our Lady Peace** – one of the hottest singer/songwriters on college campuses today – in a free WBCN Concert. Then meet the band after the concert and check out the rest of the Mallapalooza celebration.

#### STUDENT AID

Visit College Headquarters Saturday, Aug. 30 - Sunday, Sept. 7 on Level 1 and get your CambridgeSide Galleria Student Discount Pass for savings of 10% at participating stores.\*

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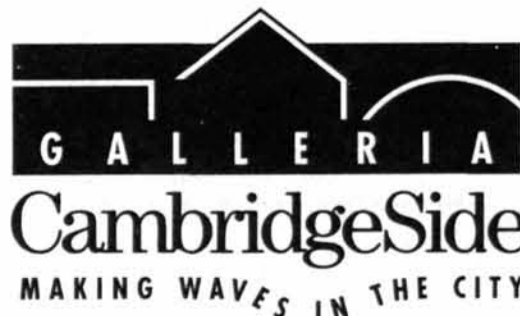
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Sat., Aug 30-Mon., Sept.1  
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Catch it at the campus entrance on Professor's Row at Tufts University and from Howard Johnson's at Boston University.

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REVIEW

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# Sunday Night at the RAC

All Christians welcome

6:00 PM

Main Dining Room

Religious Activities Center (W11)

Home Cooked Meal (free Aug. 31!)  
Good fellowship, Bible Study-  
"DESTINATION:

Principles for Making Life's Journey Count'

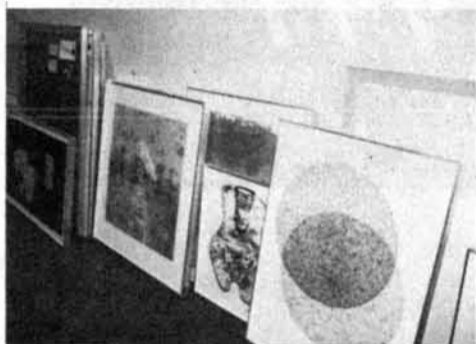
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MIT List Visual Arts Center (E15)  
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<http://web.mit.edu/lvac/www>

## Tired of That Old Monet Poster? Then look into the . . .

Student Loan Art Exhibition & Lottery  
sponsored by the  
MIT List Visual Arts Center (E15)



figs. 1,2 Come to the MIT List Visual Arts Center anytime between September 2 through 16\* to view over 300 framed prints and photographs available for registered MIT students to borrow for the course of the academic year. To hang in your room, apartment, or office!

fig. 3 Fill out a card listing your top three choices and your name will be entered into a lottery.



fig. 4 Drop your card into the ballot box at the front desk of the gallery.



fig. 5 Impartial List Visual Arts Center staff will conduct the lottery on September 16 and post the results by 6 p.m. The gallery will not be open this day.



fig. 6 Pickup of artwork will take place on September 17 and September 18 during the hours listed below.\*\*

\* Hours: Mon. - Th., Sat., Sun. 12 - 6 p.m.; Friday, 12 - 8 p.m.

\*\* Students must be registered at MIT, full-time status, to borrow artwork.

A valid MIT I.D. is required for pickup of artworks on September 18 and September 19.

Any questions, call the List Visual Arts Center at 253-4400 or visit <http://web.mit.edu/lvac/www>

**Beacon Hill Baptist Church**

invites you to worship with us.  
74 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02114  
227-6236

9:45 AM Sunday School, 11:00 AM Worship  
Pick up at RAC (W11) and East Campus House  
benches at 9:30 AM through September  
(SBC)

**BRAIN & COGNITIVE SCIENCES**

You can focus on any of these topics for the major program in Brain & Cognitive Sciences:

- SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE
- COGNITIVE SCIENCE
- LANGUAGE
- COMPUTATION

We also offer minor programs in Psychology and in Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

Drop by E10-008 any weekday from 9 to 5 and get more information.



Roadkill Buffet presents a skit, opera style, at the Theater Arts Open House in Building E33 on Sunday night. AMY STRICKERT

**Classes just started. Surely you have time to come to *The Tech's* fall open house this Sunday at 2 p.m. Just stop by Room 483 of the Student Center for some Tosci's ice cream and a tour of our offices. No experience is necessary to join *The Tech!***



**STUDENT Job OPPORTUNITIES FOR FALL 1997**

- OFFICE ASSISTANT
- GRAPHICS AND PUBLICITY COORDINATOR
- OPERATIONS ASSISTANT/SIGN MAKER
- STUDENT SCHEDULER
- SOURCE MANAGER & STAFF
- VENDOR ASSISTANT
- COFFEEHOUSE CASH ASSISTANT AND WORKER

Applications Available:  
Campus Activities Complex  
IN THE STRATTON STUDENT CENTER  
(W20-500)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 3-3913



Oh, no!

My final is tomorrow,

my girlfriend broke up with me,

my boss just fired me,

my bike was stolen

...

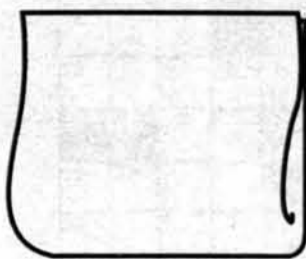
**HELP!**

Don't worry, call

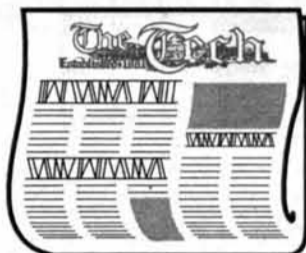
Nightline  
x3-8800

They're there to help.

# BEFORE



# AFTER



What's the missing step in the above comparison?

## The Tech's Production Department!

If you're interested in layout and graphic design or just want to learn, just stop by our production shop in Room 483 of the Student Center, or call us at 253-1541 and ask for Jason.

## No Experience Necessary!

We're here every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday night. And come to *The Tech's* open house this Sunday at 2 p.m.

# The Tech News Hotline: 253-1541



## OPEN HOUSE

September 8, 1997  
10am - 7pm  
565 Commonwealth Ave.  
Near BU campus

### Positions Available

- Programmers
- Graphic Design
- Production
- Public Relations/Traffic
- Editorial Staff for:
  - Music
  - Movies
  - Travel
  - Games
  - Fashion
  - Academics

## The Ultimate Web Experience

Join other students and recent grads building a network of Web sites for students.

For more info: call 617.353.8481  
E-mail Shea at: Sdonovan@bu.edu  
Web site: www.loci.com

*Undergraduate Academic Affairs and  
The Department of Mathematics present*

# MATH REVIEW NIGHTS

*Workshops for students who want to review pre-calculus mathematics*

**September 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8  
from 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

*Get help from friendly tutors!*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room</u>
• Wednesday, September 3 Exponentials, Logs & Complex Numbers Geometry and Analytic Geometry	2-135 2-139
• Thursday, September 4 Trigonometry Algebra	2-135 2-139
• Friday, September 5 Algebra Exponentials, Logs & Complex Numbers	2-139 2-135
• Sunday, September 7 Geometry and Analytic Geometry Trigonometry	2-139 2-135
• Monday, September 8 -- Pre-Calculus Open Workshop All Topics: Tutors and Self-tests available	2-135 2-139

*Want to go but can't get to the workshops? Pick up self-paced Study Guides from the UAA, (Room 7-104), Room 7-133 or the Undergraduate Math Office, Room 2-108.*

Questions? Call the UAA at x3-9419 or x3-3561.

# So You Want to Be a Consultant?

We've got a great story to tell. It's about cutting-edge technologies, impressive growth, worldwide opportunities and *you*.

Learn more about the company that *Computerworld* magazine recently ranked 11th on its list of "100 Best Places to Work." We'll see you on campus:

<b>October 10</b>	<b>Class of '98 Career Fair</b>
<b>October 14</b>	<b>Resume Critique</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Corporate Presentation</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Resume Critique</b>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Resume Critique</b>
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Campus Interviews</b>

Recognize any of these names? You should. They're '97 MIT grads who've recently joined AMS. Go ahead, contact them. You'll learn a lot about us.

Joel Guzman  
 Clarissa Hidalgo  
 Carolina (Avendano) Figueroa  
 Michael Figueroa  
 Bryan Poltilove  
 Javier Quintero

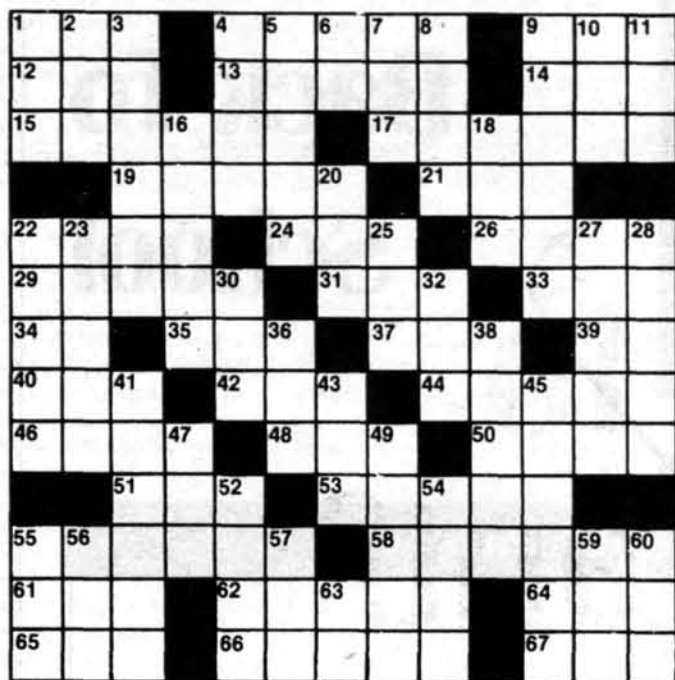
Jennifer Yang  
 Hilary Price  
 Sheila Rocchio  
 Craig Robinson (intern)  
 Will Logan (intern)

AMS is committed to excellence in the workplace and to the policy of equal opportunity.

# AMS

A GREAT PLACE

▶ [www.amsinc.com](http://www.amsinc.com)



ACROSS

- 1. Color
- 4. Vegetable mixture
- 9. Empty property
- 12. Period of time
- 13. Enchant
- 14. Wonder
- 15. Able to move
- 17. Make capable
- 19. Area for fighting
- 21. Barely make out
- 22. 2nd Greek letter
- 24. Briefly immerse in water
- 26. Woe is me
- 29. Assists
- 31. Humankind
- 33. Eat
- 34. Thus
- 35. Have dinner
- 37. Pop top
- 39. Two (prefix)
- 40. Explosive
- 42. Ear of corn
- 44. To be suitable
- 46. Sight organs
- 48. Each
- 50. Evaluate
- 51. Negative word
- 53. Wooden stick
- 55. Pertaining to the eye
- 58. Player with bat
- 61. Prohibit
- 62. Machine
- 64. Sprite
- 65. Anger
- 66. Blue pencils
- 67. Remove

DOWN

- 1. Male sheep
- 2. Self
- 3. Argument
- 4. Bargain
- 5. Change
- 6. Lutetium symbol
- 7. Enzyme (suffix)
- 8. British dune
- 9. Tags
- 10. Night bird
- 11. Golf implement
- 16. Angry
- 18. Also known as (abbr.)
- 20. Direct
- 22. Spoon liquid over
- 23. Black
- 25. Light tap
- 27. Analysis
- 28. Malice
- 30. Plant pouch
- 32. Snatch
- 36. Above
- 38. Hat
- 41. Term

- 43. Place to sleep
- 45. Make an error
- 47. The sun
- 49. Android
- 52. Docile
- 54. Conflicts
- 55. Japanese sash
- 56. Vehicle
- 57. Bar
- 59. — Whitney
- 60. Rural Farm Delivery (abbr.)
- 63. 7th scale note

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE



SOLUTIONS IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE TECH

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**Cooks and waitstaff wanted** for brand new Vietnamese noodle soup restaurant in MIT area. Good pay. Flexible hours. Some cooking experience needed. Knowledge of Vietnamese cuisine a bonus. Call 524-8942 or 576-7187.

**Animated instructors** needed to present fun science activities for kids at schools & parties. Need car and experience with kids. Training provided. Part time. Pay: \$25/1 hr. program. Mad Science: 617-643-2286.

**Gov't foreclosed** homes from pennies on \$1. Delinquent Tax, Repo's, REO's. Your Area. Toll Free (1) 800-218-9000 Ext. H-3797 for current listings.

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

**Spanish classes or tutoring** by certified native speaker with advanced degree. Over eight years of experience. Can come to your lab or office. Please visit my site: <http://web.mit.edu/doval/www/Spanish.html> or call x7-5565.

# Your homework just got easier.

Tough homework problems are no match for

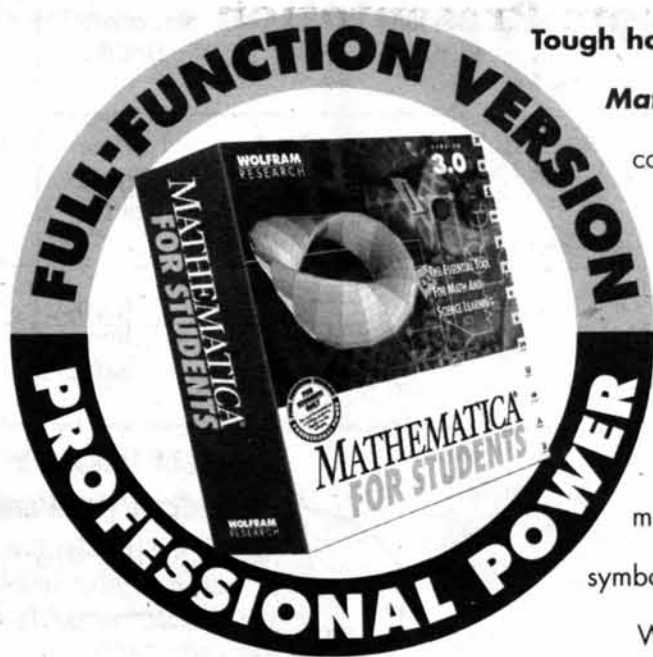
**Mathematica 3.0.** Use it as easily as a calculator, but tackle

computations only *Mathematica* can handle. You can even solve problems directly from your textbooks and assignments. *Mathematica's* new buttons and palettes provide quick point-and-click access to thousands of functions, formulas, and mathematical symbols.

Whether your courses are

in **engineering, calculus, statistics, finance, chemistry, physics, biology, psychology, or any other field** of study where calculation

is required, *Mathematica for Students* is well suited for your needs. Less sophisticated technical software programs only offer limited, stripped-down student versions, but *Mathematica for Students* gives you exactly the same power as our professional version, preferred at leading corporations, universities, and government organizations worldwide. Visit your local campus bookstore or call Wolfram Research at: **1-800-943-9626** (U.S. Canada).



Approximating an Integral

Here is the formula for approximating an integral by summing rectangles under a curve. (See Chapter 3 for applications of integrals.)

$$A_{\text{approx}} = \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) \Delta x$$

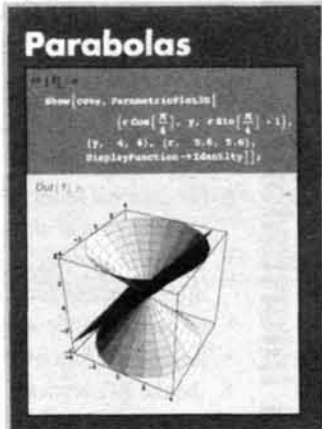
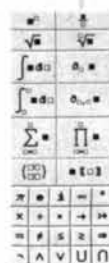
This is represented visually below:

$$\text{AreaApproximationPlot}[\frac{\sin(x)}{x}, \{x, 0.001, 10\}];$$

Approximate Area = 1.0008



You can **Decrease n** to get a more precise approximation.



**Kim Hurdle**  
Kim's big day, June 26, 1993.  
Kim's last day, December 28, 1993.  
Killed by a drunk driver.  
Greenville, NC

If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

**FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.**  
This space donated by *The Tech*

## WOLFRAM RESEARCH

<http://www.wolfram.com/education/cnp>

*Mathematica for Students* is available to all currently enrolled full-time students. Student identification required. *Mathematica for Students* is available on Microsoft Windows, Macintosh, and Linux systems. Academic discounts are available for professional versions of *Mathematica* on all personal computers, workstations, and supercomputers. Lab and site programs are also available.

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# MITnet!

## it's everywhere, almost

You are here and wherever that is, there is probably a **network drop** or a **cluster** nearby ... even if you are in your dorm room. Take advantage of this connectivity.

- Come to our **Minicourses** for an introduction to **Athena**.
- Contact the **Residential Computing Consultant (RCC)** for your graduate or undergraduate dorm for help with network and other computer-related issues.
- Visit the **MIT Libraries** online.
- Check out the available **Athena software** and **keyserved Macintosh software**.

# Welcome Back To School

On the Web: A Beginner's Guide to Athena — <http://web.mit.edu/olh/Frosh/>

## Athena Fall '97 Minicourse Schedule



Open to all MIT students, faculty, and staff

### How to register for a minicourse:

- You cannot register for an Athena Minicourse.
- You cannot pay for an Athena Minicourse. Minicourses are free.
- You cannot reserve a place in an Athena Minicourse. Just show up — in 26-100 during RO week or 3-343 during the semester.

This calendar and more information about the classes is available on-line at <http://web.mit.edu/minidev/www/>

Room 3-343	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
noon 7pm 8pm	Sept. 8 MSO MSO Matlab	Sept. 9 Matlab MSO Matlab	Sept. 10 Xess Xess Maple	Sept. 11 Maple Xess Maple
noon 7pm 8pm	Sept. 15 Frame Frame FrameThs	Sept. 16 LaTeX Frame FrameThs	Sept. 17 FrameThs LaTeX LatexThs	Sept. 18 LatexThs LaTeX LatexThs
noon 7pm 8pm	Sept. 22 No Classes	Sept. 23 Intro Intro Basic	Sept. 24 Basic Intro Basic	Sept. 25 Working Working EZ
noon 7pm 8pm	Sept. 29 Info Res. Info Res. HTML	Sept. 30 HTML Info Res. HTML	Oct. 1 Ser Emacs Ser. Emacs Dotfiles	Oct. 2 Dotfiles Ser. Emacs Dotfiles
noon 7pm 8pm	Oct. 6 Matlab MSO Matlab	Oct. 7 Maple Info Res. HTML	Oct. 8 Frame Frame FrameThs	Oct. 9 LaTeX LaTeX Thesis
noon 7pm 8pm	Oct. 13 Columbus Day No classes	Oct. 14 Columbus Day No classes	Oct. 15 Intro Intro Basic	Oct. 16 Basic Working EZ

## Libraries

Turn to the MIT Libraries Web page to find an array of online services and information including:

- Hours, locations and phone numbers of all the MIT libraries.
- **Barton**, MIT's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), with sophisticated search engines
- Online Reference Tools:
  - *Britannica Online*
  - *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*
  - *Oxford English Dictionary*
- Internet Resource Collections, such as electronic journals and online newspapers
- ...and much, much more!

See it all at <http://libraries.mit.edu/>

## Protect Your Account

### Anywhere on MITnet

#### Choosing a password

Choose a password that you can remember — but others can't easily guess:

- Do use 6 or more characters, mixing upper- and lowercase letters (passwords are case sensitive) and numbers (but no spaces).
- Do pick something obscure (mis-spell something or create an acro-nym, e.g., GykoR-66 for "Get your kicks on Route 66").
- Don't use your real name, user-name, any common name, name of a close relative, friend, or pet, or name from popular culture in any form (even backwards, or sideways).
- Don't use significant numbers (phone, office, social security, license plate, address, birthday, anniversary).
- Don't use any word in a dictionary.

#### Changing your password

It's a good idea to change your password regularly (e.g., at least once a semester):

athena% passwd

#### Keeping your files safe

Athena machines are not completely private and secure, but you can make access to your files very difficult:

- Don't store any information that must be kept secret on Athena.
- Never "lend" your account to anyone — and keep your password secret!
- Don't change your default file protection.
- Don't leave your workstation unattended while you're logged in.
- Keep backup copies of critical files (like your thesis) on diskettes.

(For more tips, see *Managing Your Athena Account* — <http://web.mit.edu/olh/Account/Account.html#protecting>)

BEWARE OF PASSWORD CRACKERS ON THE NET!



## Connect Securely From Your Student Residence

See the **Residential Computing Home Page**

<http://web.mit.edu/resnet/>

See "**Keyserved Macintosh Software for Dorm/ILG use ONLY**" at

<http://web.mit.edu/macintosh/www/home.html>

## Web Student Information System

### WebSIS

WebSIS runs on a secure Web server; requires students to get certificates. WebSIS lets students

- get personal financial and academic information — grades, financial aid statements, bursar's bills
- review and update personal information — update address and phone info, biographical info
- get to the on-line subject listings and class schedule
- pre-register for classes
- see the MIT academic calendar
- print request and administrative forms
- perform other administrative functions

WebSIS home page:

<http://student.mit.edu/>

Questions about WebSIS, student services, or account eligibility:

[websis@mit.edu](mailto:websis@mit.edu)

# Institute Endorses Observer in Farewell Mailing

Observer, from Page 1

harsh and say no and absolutely not" to the prospect of future funding, Paradis said. However, "I am not anticipating" a request for further funding.

The paper is currently searching for other sources of funding in order to continue the viability of the publication.

"We will be getting more ads" to fund the paper, Herper said. However, "we personally feel that we only want a certain amount of advertising which isn't really a problem because the black and white format we are printing in is pretty inexpensive."

The paper will also be seeking sources of funding from within the Institute, Herper said.

"I don't think that currently with the way MIT is set up that there is any conflict of interest with publications accepting funds from certain academic departments," Herper said.

### Credit for Observer staff nixed

There was also a question of whether staffers for *The Observer* might be able to receive academic credit for contributing to the publication.

"There is some discussion going on with the writing department, which has been going on since the proposal was submitted," Herper said.

Even so, "there is currently no provision wherein we are getting any credit," he said.

"It's not something I would encourage," Paradis said, "I don't think in general, that's a good policy."

If one group were to get credit, other similar groups would want to

as well, Paradis said. In addition, people should do volunteer actions for the benefit of the action itself.

Paradis, however, added his support for another paper.

"I think that newspapers come and go," Paradis said. "Multiple newspapers, if the community supports them, is a good idea. We certainly don't want just *The New York Times* or just *The Boston Globe*."

"All student papers are worthy projects," he said.

### Institute dies, endorses Observer

The introduction of *The Observer* as a campus publication coincided with the end of *Institute*, an electronic journal of student affairs. In part of its farewell issue to readers, it endorsed *The Observer*, as fulfilling the objective of a full-community news service.

"We were excited to find, in its first issue, articles by students, a professor and a dean side by side, and many students reading it in the halls. *The Observer's* standards are very high, and it represented in its first issue what *Institute* has striven for two years to become," the farewell issue said.

"We intended [*Institute*] to be a community forum," said Jeremy D. Sher '99, the former editor of the now defunct publication. The ideal was to have faculty, students and administrators contribute to the journal in addition to those within the foundation, he said. "It didn't fail completely, but, in general, it didn't achieve what we wanted to," Sher said.

*Institute* had a circulation of about 300, Sher said.

Sher and John S. Hollywood G, founder of *Institute*, both were listed on the staff of *The Observer*.

Both Dean of Students and

Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams and Professor of Literature Henry Jenkins contributed opinion pieces to the first edition of *The Observer*.

However, the introduction of *The Observer* as an MIT publication did not cause the end of *Institute*,

Sher said. The e-mail journal discontinued as a result of Sher's future responsibilities that would prevent him from continuing to edit for *Institute*, he said.

The e-mail publication was one component of the greater Institute Foundation which continues to exist

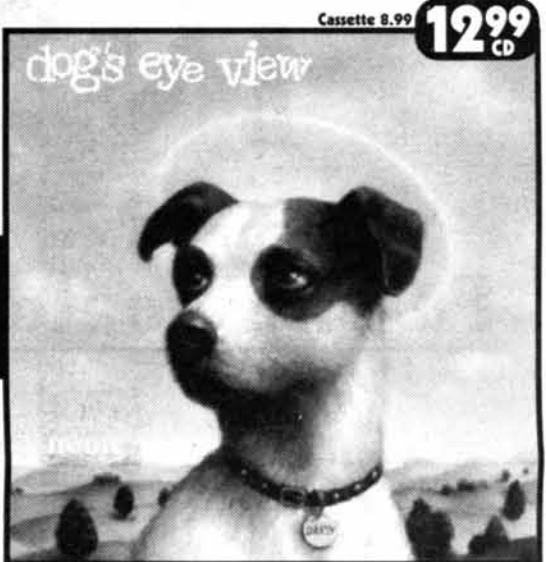
as a public service organization intended to foster a better relationships among students and faculty and administrators, Sher said.

*Institute* will have a radio program on WMBR to partially compensate for the loss of the online journal, Sher said.

# WHAT'S NEW? TRY THESE GUYS.

DON'T HAVE EM' YET?  
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**DOG'S EYE VIEW**  
Daisy • Columbia  
Features: "Homecoming Parade"



**GET TO**



**SAM GOODY**

**THE SEAHORSES**  
Do It Yourself • Geffen  
Features: "Love Is The Law"

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WHAT'S NEW IN**

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**sam goody**  
goody got it!

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### Do You Have Asthma?

**Earn Up To \$900.00!!**  
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to learn more about our program.



Trying to BEAT and TREAT Asthma  
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### DRIVEN ENERGETIC DIVERSE

#### Internship & Job Opportunities

Do these words describe you? If so, we want to hear from you. At Urbitran Associates we have been providing quality engineering & planning consulting services for 25 years.

We are expanding into new regions and technical markets and are looking for talented individuals to help continue our commitment of total customer satisfaction - every project, every time.

#### Urbitran's Services Include:

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- Civil & Bridge Engineering • Structural Engineering & Analysis
- Transit Planning and Operations • Construction Services
- Parking Planning, Operations and Design • Environmental Services

We currently have several internships and entry level opportunities available. Urbitran offers competitive salaries, health and dental insurance, excellent advancement opportunities, tuition reimbursement, and a 401K plan. Mail or fax a letter of interest along with your resume to:



Gerry Cooney,  
Human Resources, Urbitran Associates Inc.  
71 West 23rd Street, Suite 11, New York, NY 10010  
Fax: 212-366-6214  
Equal Opportunity Employer/AA

# 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 taste 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!

# YOU DEMAND POWER, SPEED, AND MOBILITY.



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Power Macintosh\* 7300/200  
32/2GB/12XCD/Multiple Scan 15AV(not as pictured)  
L2/Ethernet/Kbd

**\$200**  
cash back\*



Power Macintosh\* 4400/200  
16/2GB/BXCD/Multiple Scan 15AV/L2  
Ethernet/Kbd

**\$100**  
cash back\*

got it yet?

## WANT SOME CASH TO GO WITH THAT?

Now is the right time to get an Apple Power Macintosh or PowerBook. Because in addition to getting the computer that lets you do more than you can imagine, you can save big time. For a limited time, students are eligible for special cash rebates.

\*This is a limited time rebate coupon offer. See your Apple campus reseller today for complete details.

MIT Computer Connection  
Student Center, Lower Level  
(617) 253-7686

<http://www-mcc.mit.edu/>

Recommended Products @ <http://web.mit.edu/desktop/>



\*\*Offer expires October 30, 1997. ©1997 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Mac, Macintosh, PowerBook, Power Macintosh and StyleWriter are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. OneScanner and QuickTake are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Apple mail-in rebate offer valid from July 12, 1997 through October 30, 1997, while supplies last and subject to availability. Void where prohibited by law. See participating reseller for further rules and details. All Macintosh computers are designed to be accessible to individuals with disability. To learn more (U.S. only), call 800-600-7809 or TTY 800-755-0601.



COURTNEY CLENCH—THE TECH  
A street performer distributes flowers to passers-by in memory of Princess Diana on Sunday afternoon in Harvard Square.

As part of its ongoing series of performing arts excursions the **Council for the Arts at MIT** offers

**FREE TICKETS FOR MIT STUDENTS**

to

**The Game of Love and Chance**

Huntington Theater, Boston

Thursday, September 25, 7:30pm

Required: \$5 deposit which will be returned to you day of the show & a valid MIT student ID

You must sign up for yourself, in person at E15-205

This delightfully funny love story is about a young man and woman of noble birth who are betrothed to each other although they have never met. Wanting to learn about each other before they wed, they both secretly exchange social positions with their servants. Before the play ends, servants and masters alike discover the true nature and irresistible power of love. Boston's professional premiere of this 1730 French masterpiece

Watch this space or check our web page: <http://web.mit.edu/arts/> for free tickets in the future

Tickets will be handed out at 5pm on the day of the show



**“Can we help,  
Mom?  
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# SPORTS

## After Wild Weekend, NFL Should Return to Normalcy

Column by Chris Brocoun  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Well rested and relaxed from a long summer, I return ready to take on a new NFL season. Except I'm a week late. However, judging by some of the scores from Week 1, I wasn't the only one who wasn't in proper football form. Lets talk about blowout for a second. Dallas over Pittsburgh 37-7? Sure the Steelers lost some

key free agents over the summer but lets get real. The Patriots stomped San Diego 41-7? Maybe Bill Parcells wasn't such a key player after all. The Jets over Seattle 4-3? Amazing. Then there is the injury factor. The Niners lost three players including Steve Young and Jerry Rice (supposedly out for six months). Suddenly the 49ers who only strengthened an impressive team over the off season adding Kevin Greene and Rod Woodson aren't looking so untouchable especially

after choking against a decent Tampa Bay team. It seems that now is the time to make some bold predictions. Hmmm. Well, Green Bay and Dallas figure to be power houses as usual in the NFC, but don't count out the Vikings or San Francisco, depending on what happens with the injury situation. Also keep an eye on the Redskins, they were surprising last year but they should be legitimately solid this year. In the AFC, the Patriots definitely looked awesome last week, but they should be challenged by the Broncos. And I'd be hard pressed to bet on Jimmy Johnson and the Dolphins having another .500 year. Bear with me, but you know I have to put a word in for the Steelers. They will rebound strong after suffering their worst loss under Bill Cowher.

against Arizona. Take Baltimore. The Tennessee Oilers. That name makes about as much sense as having the Carolina Panthers in the NFC West. Miami should have little trouble. Minnesota at Chicago. Now this is a classic NFC rivalry. Minnesota will win but watch out for a nasty game. This is some real football right here. New England's offense is running like a finely tuned machine. Drew Bledsoe had a career game. Indianapolis struggled against Miami. The Patriot's should continue to cruise. New Orleans lost last week in a close overtime game. You gotta feel sorry for the poor guys, who says Ditka has lost his fury? San Diego should still be picking up the wreckage from the New England Express. You gotta go with Ditka. San Francisco is coming to St. Louis. Injuries or not, San Fran is twice as good as St. Louis. Take the Niners. Tampa Bay eeked one out last week over an injury ridden San Francisco team. You have to give them credit though, because they were the ones doing the injuring. Detroit all the way. Washington-Pittsburgh. Authors note: I was born in Pittsburgh, raised in Maryland watching the 'Skins. How am I supposed to pick

this one? As much as I like the Redskins, I think Bill Cowher is one of the best young coaches to come along in a while. He'll take the thumping Dallas dished out last week personally. The Steelers won't lose twice at Three Rivers. Denver at Seattle. Is this a laugh-er or what? Denver beat K.C. by 13, Seattle lost to the Jets by 38. You do the math. Take Denver. I think Philly has potential. They are potentially going to get wrecked by Green Bay. The Giants are coming off a strong performance in Week 1. The Jaguars are coming off a strong performance last year in the playoffs. Jacksonville all the way. Dallas Cowboys at Arizona. Well, I don't like the Boys. Never have and never will. But I have to admit they are a whole lot better than the Cardinals. Look for fighting amongst Barry Switzer and the other big Cowboy egos because they'll be bored by the end of the first quarter. Monday Night Special: Both these former power houses seem to be in a state of limbo lately. Both teams have pride but the Raiders have mystique. Look for the Raiders to pull out a close one in Oakland. Season record 0-0. Last season final, 98-67. Definitely need to break the century mark this year...



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### The Picks, week 2:

Buffalo got stomped last week and the Jets did some stomping. I can't believe I'm saying this but the N.Y. Jets may be heading to the big time. Take the Jets. Carolina should make easy work of the Falcons, especially after a tough loss to the 'Skins. Look for Carolina to come out hard. Baltimore suffered a close loss to Jacksonville and Cincinnati pulled off an impressive comeback




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