

No Classes Monday and Tuesday

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Rain, windy 48°F (9°C)
Tonight: Rain, 46°F (8°C)
Tomorrow: Rain, 48°F (9°C)
Details, Page 2

Volume 117, Number 57

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, November 7, 1997

Fiji Ruling Delayed By Licensing Board

By Douglas E. Helmburger
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

After a contentious two-hour hearing, the Boston Licensing Board decided yesterday to ban all alcohol at Phi Gamma Delta, while delaying any additional actions until Nov. 26.

"I'm quite pleased," said Dean for Students and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams after the hearing, noting that the delay will give the students some assurance that they will not have to move out soon.

The licensing hearing was attended by the police involved in the case, lawyers from the alumni group owning the house, and MIT

officials and lawyers. The residents of Fiji decided not to attend nor testify at the hearing, said Ellen E. Rooney, chairman of the board, because of the ongoing criminal investigation.

The three-member board chastised MIT administrators for failing to take action against the fraternity earlier, despite a history of problems at Fiji.

"What's troubling... is that since this has been a fraternity, for sixty or seventy years in this location... MIT should have been accountable for putting restrictions" on the underage use of alcohol, Rooney said.

Fiji, Page 16



Daniel F. Pokaski, Ellen E. Rooney, and Joseph I. Mulligan, members of the Licensing Board for the City of Boston, met with MIT officials to discuss the fate of Phi Gamma Delta's dormitory license yesterday morning at Boston City Hall.

Many Students Express Opinions At Open Faculty Housing Forum

By Naveen Sunkavally
STAFF REPORTER

On Wednesday evening over 100 students, faculty, and administrators gathered to discuss whether freshmen should be housed on campus.

The forum was held in response to Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephan L. Chorover's motion at the last faculty calling for all freshmen to be housed on campus starting next fall.

Perhaps the most vociferously debated issue at the meeting was the issue of randomized dormitory housing. The controversy followed a recent recommendation by the Committee on the First Year Program to randomize all freshman housing.

Professor of Physics Thomas J. Greytak '62, chair of the committee, said MIT students need to "capitalize on the great diversity of the undergraduate population" and start on a level playing field.

Speaking to the fear that randomization could kill many fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, Greytak said that there could be a

thriving FSILG system without freshmen.

Among all peer colleges across the nation, MIT has the largest proportion of freshmen off campus, at 35 percent, Greytak said, compared with 10 percent at the University of California at Berkeley, where off-campus living is "strongly discouraged."

Rush should be moved to the spring term or the Independent Activities Period, Greytak added.

Students oppose randomized dormitory selection

Every student who spoke at the forum opposed randomization. "Housing is a very private matter," said Omri Schwartz G. "No choice is worse than an uninformed choice."

Self-selection should not be sacrificed for the sake of diversity, said Nathan J. Williams '98.

"It is up to students to decide how much they want to diversify themselves," said Aisha D. Stroman '00. Randomized housing would destroy

Forum, Page 20



Jay P. Muchnij G argues against housing all freshmen on campus at an open forum for students and faculty in 34-101 on Wednesday night.

Student Crossing River Attacked on Saturday

By Zareena Hussain
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A Wellesley student was assaulted as she crossed the Harvard bridge early Saturday morning. This was the second assault against a student in three weeks.

The student, whose name has not been released, was attacked at 2:40 a.m. as she was crossing the bridge towards MIT, according to a Campus Police bulletin.

The victim first noticed the assailant following her as she started to cross, the bulletin said. He followed her for nearly the full length of the bridge.

As she neared MIT, the victim was grabbed by the assailant and put into a headlock. The victim escaped by punching the suspect in the side, breaking free, and running away.

The assailant fled west along Memorial Drive, the bulletin said.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male in his mid-20s, wearing a white baseball cap, light blue jean jacket, and a white T-shirt.

After the incident, the victim ran through the Infinite Corridor to a friend's room in East Campus to call the police and report the incident, said Chief of the CPs Anne P. Glavin.

The assault was outside Campus Police jurisdiction and was further referred to the Massachusetts State Police for investigation, Glavin said.

Any witness to the crime is encouraged to contact the State Police with any information about the incident.

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Faculty Housing Motion Not Binding for Institute

By Zareena Hussain
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

It has been nearly a month since Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephan L. Chorover brought to the floor of the faculty meeting a motion reading, "It is the sense of the faculty that commencing academic year 1998 all freshmen should live on campus."

While Chorover's motion has demonstrated significant support for the existing system among students, it has also raised the question of how much power the faculty has in this situation.

The motion actually is not binding, said Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education, Rosalind H. Williams. "It would be a statement of faculty opinion," she said.

Ultimately, it is the administration, not the faculty, who decides upon issues relating to undergraduates outside the purview of academics, she said.

"The decision, of course, gets made at the administrative level," said Chair of the Faculty Lotte Bailyn.

President Charles M. Vest would be one of the primary decision makers, Bailyn said.

"A 'sense of the faculty' motion would be data that he [Vest] would use in making the decision," Bailyn said.

"It doesn't bind anyone to any-

Faculty, Page 18

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WORLD & NATION

Witness Tries to Tie Nichols To Fertilizer Purchases

NEWSDAY

DENVER

Prosecutors in the second Oklahoma City bombing trial Thursday sought to tie Terry Nichols to the purchase of two tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer like that used in the worst terrorist attack ever on U.S. soil.

An FBI analyst told the jury how she found, tucked behind tea towels in a kitchen cabinet of Nichols' home, a receipt in the name of Mike Havens for 2,000 pounds of fertilizer — 40 bags weighing 50 pounds each — bought at a McPherson, Kan., farm cooperative.

The analyst, Joann Thomas, said she discovered the pink receipt wrapped around two \$50 gold coins on the night of April 22, 1995 — three days after the truck bombing — when investigators spent nine hours searching Nichols' small white frame house in Herrington, Kan., after his arrest as a material witness.

Nichols later was named in the same murder and conspiracy indictment as his Army buddy, Timothy McVeigh, who was convicted and sentenced to death last summer for detonating the bomb, which killed 168 people and injured 500 others when it wrecked the federal building in downtown Oklahoma City.

During McVeigh's trial last spring, FBI specialists testified they found McVeigh's fingerprints on the fertilizer receipt found in Nichols' kitchen.

While Nichols' court-appointed lawyers stipulated that their client used the name Mike Havens to rent storage units in central Kansas, they challenged the prosecution's effort to link him to two purchases of ammonium nitrate fertilizer totaling 4,000 pounds.

House Panel Tables Bill Banning Racial Preferences

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Signaling an ideological split within Republican ranks over affirmative action, a House panel voted Thursday to kill legislation that would have ended all federal programs designed to help minorities and women.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 17-9 to table an anti-preference bill supported by the GOP leadership, which has made revoking race and gender-based programs one of its major legislative goals.

As affirmative action supporters girded for an expected battle with the GOP majority, Rep. George Gekas, R-Pa., stunned a packed hearing by offering a motion to table the bill.

After the vote, which ensures the measure will not be taken up this year, Democrats and affirmative action supporters stood in the crowded hearing room, cheering and hugging in an highly unusual and spontaneous celebration.

House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., praised the committee vote, and called the bill "an extreme measure backed by the House Republican leadership... out of step with public opinion."

Gephardt cited Tuesday's voter referendum in Houston upholding the Texas city's affirmative action programs as evidence that Americans support affirmative action.

Israelis, Palestinians Inch Forward in Peace Talks

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators claimed some modest progress in their renewed Middle East peace talks Thursday, enough to persuade Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to schedule separate meetings next week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu '76 and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

"It's a very good beginning," Mahmoud Abbas, a senior adviser to Arafat, said after he and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy met with Albright to mark the end of a round of talks in Washington that began Monday. "We did not reach an agreement but we found a good deal of understanding."

State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said Albright would meet in Europe with Netanyahu and Arafat on her way to a Middle East economic meeting that starts Nov. 16 in Qatar. Israeli officials said the Netanyahu meeting would be in London and Palestinian sources said the Arafat talks would be in Geneva.

Rubin said lower-level Israeli-Palestinian bargaining would resume in the region Sunday, focusing on creation of an airport, seaport and industrial park in the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip and establishment of a safe-passage route through Israel to connect Gaza with Palestinian-ruled areas of the West Bank.

WEATHER

Wet, windy, wild

By Michael C. Morgan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A developing cyclone moving northward along the east coast of the U.S. will bring considerable rain and wind to New England today and into the weekend. Sharply colder weather is anticipated for next week.

Friday afternoon: Rain, becoming heavy at times, windy and cool. Winds east-northeast to northeast 15 mph gusts to 25 mph. High 48°F (9°C)

Friday night: Rain. Winds northeast 15 mph and gusty. Low 46°F (8°C)

Saturday: Rain and rain showers. Continued windy. High 48 — 52°F (9–11°C). Low 45°F (7°C)

Sunday: Cloudy and cool with a few showers possible. High 50 — 55°F (10–13°C). Low 43–48°F (6–9°C)

U.S. Talks Tough to Baghdad On U.N. Weapons Inspections

By John M. Goshko

THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

Evidence that Iraq might have moved sensitive equipment and tampered with U.N. surveillance cameras drew more tough talk from senior U.S. officials Thursday about the need to make President Saddam Hussein's government cooperate fully with U.N. inspectors searching for hidden weapons programs.

But Washington's efforts to get the 15-nation Security Council to deliver a comparably stern warning were turned aside by some members who argued that the council should hold its fire until next week, when a three-member U.N. diplomatic mission reports back from Baghdad. The council issued a relatively bland statement expressing concern.

The latest round in U.N.-Iraq tug of war began Wednesday, when Richard Butler, the Australian diplomat who heads the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with locating and eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, reported to the council that the Iraqis were violating council orders by moving equipment beyond the range of surveillance cameras and obstructing camera operation.

In response, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Sahaf asserted in a letter to the council that the equipment had been moved only to protect it from potential American air strikes and would be moved back when the danger was past. He also said one U.N. surveillance camera had been damaged Wednesday when a short-range mis-

sile engine being tested by the Iraqi military exploded. Short-range missiles are not banned by the United Nations.

In Washington, the controversy about Iraq's movement of the equipment led the Clinton administration to reiterate U.S. determination to ensure that Saddam complies fully with the conditions he accepted in exchange for the cease-fire ending the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

"He must know he has to comply with the will of the international community, as expressed in (U.N.) resolutions and enforced by those, including us, who are undertaking to ensure that he complies," Vice President Al Gore said. "We will make sure that he complies."

"We are not ruling any options in or out," said Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. "It's very important for Saddam Hussein to understand that the international community is behind" the demand for full compliance.

Defense Secretary William B. Cohen added: "I think sufficient warnings have been given to Iraq, over the year, that they must comply with U.N. sanctions.... The task right now is to persuade them to cease and desist from their obstruction."

The officials continued to insist that questions about possible U.S. responses, including the use of military force, can't be addressed until after the U.N. diplomatic mission reports to the Security Council, probably on Monday.

But speculation that the United States is preparing the way for air

strikes was reinforced briefly by a newspaper report from Turkey quoting Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz as saying that Washington had asked Turkey to allow the use of Incirlik air base for possible raids against Iraq.

Incirlik is used by U.S. Air Force fighter planes enforcing the no-fly zone over Kurdish-populated northern Iraq. Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said the United States recently had added some F-16s to its force there. But Bacon said: "This has nothing to do with the current dispute between Iraq and the U.N. This plan was made prior to this dispute over inspections."

Bacon also said that a port call scheduled this weekend for the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier now in the Persian Gulf region has been postponed. He added: "Changes in operations take place from time to time, and I don't think we're trying to send any signal right now to Saddam Hussein, except he ought to comply with the U.N. mandates."

In Baghdad, the Iraqis continued for the fourth straight day to block U.N. inspectors from working because they refused to remove six Americans on the inspection team. As a result, Butler said here, the commission has not been able to assess fully the extent and seriousness of tampering with the camera surveillance.

"They've turned the lights off, and it's pretty hard to take pictures when you've got no lights," he told CNN. "In other places, they've simply obstructed the cameras, put bags over the lenses."

MIT Scientists Find Evidence Of Long-Sought Space Warping

By K.C. Cole

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In a major confirmation of Einstein's theory of gravity, astrophysicists have seen evidence that space gets dragged around by spinning objects like the train of a wedding dress circling a twirling bride, astrophysicists announced Thursday at a meeting in Colorado. If correct, the findings pin down one of the final predictions of Einstein's theory — which forms the bedrock of physicists' understanding of all large scale events in the universe.

Other seemingly preposterous predictions of the theory that are now all but proven true include the existence of galaxy-size gravity lenses that bend starlight and black holes that suck in everything including light. Now, one of the last hold-outs — the idea that space itself gets swirled by spinning objects — appears to have been seen by researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Rome 80 years after it was first proposed.

"It's taking what was science fiction and bringing it into everyday astronomy," said Michael Nowak, astrophysicist at the University of Colorado.

According to Einstein's theory of gravity, what people normally think of as empty space is actually a tightly woven fabric of space and time, interlocked like threads in a cloth. The space-time fabric gets warped by massive objects, just as a sheet would get warped into a deep well if an elephant were to sit on a bed. Anything that comes near the well naturally rolls in, and that "falling" is the force we perceive as gravity.

If the elephant twists around on the bed, his motion carries the sheet with him. And if Einstein's theory is

correct, so should space-time be dragged around massive objects.

In the new work, the scientists report they were able to see evidence of this dragging by observing the behavior of cosmic behemoths like black holes and spinning stars.

Black holes — by definition — cannot be seen directly, as no light escapes their grasp. However, a visible companion orbiting near the black hole slowly gets sucked in by its immense gravity. The dust and gas get ripped off the star and swirl down into the hole, heating up to a billion degrees in the process and sending out an X-ray signal that can be decoded. Using the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Rossi X-Ray Timing Explorer satellite scientists believe they saw convincing evidence for "frame dragging."

If the evidence for frame dragging bears out, it would give further strength to belief that Einstein's theory of gravity is right. "It's probably the biggest effect of Einstein's theories that hasn't been detected," said astrophysicist Lynn Cominsky of Sonoma State University, media spokeswoman for the meeting.

While Einstein's theory has passed all experimental tests "with flying colors," according to University of Illinois astrophysicist Frederick Lamb, "this is the first time we're entering the regime of very strong gravity."

The strongest gravitational fields encircle stars that have used up their nuclear fuel and collapse under their own weight. Some condense into neutron stars, so dense that a teaspoon would weigh millions of tons. Other, more massive stars, get squeezed to such extremes that they bend space-time into a black hole, from which nothing can escape.

The Rossi X-Ray satellite was launched by NASA in 1995 specifically to study such objects. Unlike the Hubble Space Telescope, the Rossi telescope does not take visible images. Instead, it detects energetic X-ray light coming from very close to the center of collapsed stars — within about 500 miles of the center.

Over the past year, researchers discovered that black holes and neutron stars sent out very regular X-ray signals, "like pure tones," Lamb said. The tones are probably caused by dense blobs of gas swirling around hundreds or thousands of times per second, like a lighthouse beacon. (By comparison, the Earth orbits the Sun only once a year.)

Unexpectedly, these pure signals gave researchers a way to detect subtle wobbles that would indicate that space-time is being dragged. Just like a top wobbles as it gets dragged down by friction, so the orbiting blobs of gas would wobble as they drag space-time along with them.

Signals had been detected several years ago, but no one had looked for evidence of frame-dragging in them, partly because no one had thought it was possible to see them, said astrophysicist Luigi Stella of the Astronomical Observatory of Rome.

Stella and his colleagues calculated that if certain neutron stars were dragging space around them, their fluctuating X-ray signal should contain a second, slower, signal superimposed on the first. He saw such a motion in three of 15 stars he analyzed.

"The conclusion is that... we are getting the first observational evidence of an effect that has been searched for for 80 years," he said.

Top Mexican Surgeons Found Entombed in Concrete Drums

By Molly Moore
THE WASHINGTON POST

MEXICO CITY

The mutilated bodies of two physicians said to have participated in a fatal surgical procedure on Mexico's most powerful drug smuggler have been found embedded in concrete-filled barrels beside a highway, the attorney general's office said Thursday.

Authorities said they suspect that another mangled but unidentified body — also found Monday in a matching barrel of concrete — may be that of another doctor who assisted in the surgery.

The killings — among the most grisly in recent annals of Mexican mayhem — were reminders of the savagery of Mexico's all-out drug

wars, which U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials say now rival the ferocity generated by Colombian drug cartels and U.S. and Italian mafias of earlier eras.

The surgery — facial reconstruction and liposuction conducted on July 4 — led to the death of Amado Carrillo Fuentes, head of a notorious drug trafficking network. Since Carrillo's death, his syndicate's territory has been swept by a torrent of violence, including dozens of revenge killings, as lower-level chieftains settle accounts.

The bodies found Monday — bound, gagged and encased in 66-gallon oil drums — showed signs of torture, according to the Guerrero State attorney general's office. Officials there said the victims' fin-

gernails had been ripped out and that their bodies were covered with burn marks. Two had been strangled with cables that were still wrapped around their necks, while the third had been shot, they said.

The mystery surrounding the affair deepened further Thursday night, as Mexico's federal drug agency director raised extraordinary new questions about the death of Carrillo, alleging that the two doctors whose bodies have been identified killed the drug lord intentionally. Mariano Herran Salvatti said that the discovery of the bodies — only five days after he said his agency had issued arrest warrants for them — means that his agency is closing its investigation into Carrillo's death.

Iran Leader Khamenei Increases Vehemence of Anti-U.S. Rhetoric

By Robin Wright
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei of Iran has given his toughest anti-American speech in years, vehemently condemning rapprochement with the United States in an attempt to halt the growing policy debate on the issue within the new Iranian government.

Khamenei, in a speech to Iranian students, declared that the nation's "destiny" now depends on resisting recent suggestions that Iran change its long-standing policy toward the United States. He specifically ruled out compromise on three critical issues that Washington views as essential to reconciliation: Iranian

opposition to Middle East peace, its support of groups viewed in the West as extremist and its programs that the United States fears are developing weapons of mass destruction.

In the United States, the remarks drew a mixture of alarm and disappointment from government officials and private analysts who had seen reason for hope in the upset election six months ago of President Mohammad Khatami, a reform-minded former culture minister, over a ranking hard-liner backed by Khamenei.

Since the election, Tehran and Washington have toned down their rhetoric and talked publicly of a new interest in dialogue — the most seri-

ous diplomatic probing in a decade. "I would very much like it if they would take a different course," President Clinton said last week.

After reading a translation of Khamenei's speech, a senior U.S. official noted Thursday that the angry language was just the kind of talk Washington hoped had ended.

But experts contended that Khamenei's intended audience is Iran's new government as much as it is the United States. Khamenei lashed out at "rumormongers" and "U.S. agents" at home who are now saying that, if the country "were to resume ties or even start talks with the United States, all our problems would disappear." He called those suggestions nonsense.

House No-Cameras Rule Under Fire From Republican Party

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

For 40 years, subpoenaed witnesses being grilled by House lawmakers have had the option of insisting that the television cameras and radio microphones be turned off.

That rarely invoked privilege, formalized as a House rule in 1970, is now under assault by Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., who is heading the investigation of campaign fund-raising abuses. As the House moved toward a vote on the issue Thursday night, some Democrats argued that junking the rule would evoke the worst excesses of the McCarthy era.

Democrats were quick to cite a bit of history: In 1957, a young cancer researcher named William K. Sherwood swallowed poison two days before he was to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. His suicide note said he had a "fierce resentment of being televised."

After Sherwood's widow sued the House, then-Speaker Sam Rayburn, D-Texas, granted subpoenaed witnesses the right to pull the plug on the cameras.

But the networks have always hated the policy. When the House Rules Committee voted 7 to 2 Wednesday to rescind the rule, Barbara Cochran, president of the Radio-Television News Directors Association, hailed the vote as a "tremendous victory."

Congress Mulls Deal That Would Ease Green Card Restrictions

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Illegal immigrants with pending visa applications would be able to pay \$1,000 and obtain their green cards while remaining in the United States under a deal congressional leaders were close to reaching Thursday, sources close to the process said.

While the proposal could help 1 million to 3 million people who have their petitions on file with the Justice Department, those who have not applied by the time the legislation is signed — perhaps as early as this weekend — would have to return to their home countries to obtain the green cards needed for permanent residency and could be barred from re-entering the United States for three or 10 years.

Illegal immigrants whose work visas had been expired for less than 90 consecutive days, or 180 days total, also would be able to obtain permanent residency without leaving as well.

Immigration advocates offered mixed reviews of the deal, which was not available in writing late Thursday and may yet be in flux.

The proposal falls far short of the Senate-passed permanent extension of 245(i), the provision that lets illegal immigrants pay a \$1,000 fine and avoid deportation and would expire at midnight Friday without congressional action. But the proposed deal would grandfather in anyone who has a pending application.

Alcohol poisoning?

If a friend has any ONE of these symptoms of alcohol poisoning:

- breathing fewer than 8 times per minute, or irregular breathing with 10 seconds or more between breaths
- passed out, appears unconscious or cannot be awakened
- cold, clammy pale or bluish skin
- vomiting while sleeping or passed out, or not waking up after vomiting
- no pulse
- stopped breathing

On campus: call 100 immediately
Off campus: call 911 immediately

These symptoms are signs of a **medical emergency**. When in doubt, check it out. It is better to be nosy and safe than regret that you didn't do more.

When in doubt, check it out

Signs of a potential problem:

- consuming a large quantity of alcohol in a short amount of time (multiple, rapid shots; funnels, chugging)
- slurred speech
- impaired motor control (stumbling, cannot walk, etc.)
- vomiting

If you notice any ONE of these signs:

- Keep a close watch on your friend. Even after stopping drinking, the effects of alcohol can become more pronounced over time. Your friend is still at risk of alcohol poisoning. **Do not leave your friend alone.**
- Watch for symptoms of alcohol poisoning and call for help immediately if you notice your friend progressing to severe intoxication.
- **If your friend is sleepy or out of it, make sure your friend is on his/her side**, so that if he/she vomits, the vomit will not cause choking and suffocation. Propping your friend up with a pillow in front and in back will lessen the likelihood of rolling onto his/her back.
- **Stay with your friend.** Wake your friend up frequently—every 15 minutes or so. If your friend doesn't awaken easily, get help.
- Contact your Tutor or Housemaster.
- Contact Campus Police (100) for advice or for an escort to MIT Medical (24 hours).
- **If you are unsure** of what to do, call MIT Medical (617/ 253-1311, 24 hours) for advice. All calls and visits to MIT Medical are strictly confidential.

ALCOHOL

just the facts

Emergency numbers

On campus Emergency	100
Off campus Emergency	911
MIT Medical Urgent Care	617/253-1311
MIT Campus Police	617/253-1212

More information from MIT Medical

Health Education	617/253-1316
Internal Medicine	617/253-4481
Mental Health	617/253-2916



one of a series from
MIT Medical

OPINION

Letters To The Editor

A Different Look At Fraternity Life

[The Tech received a version of the following letter, which was sent to a number of administrators, including President Charles M. Vest.]

Surely you have been introduced to Scott S. Krueger '01. I would like to introduce myself: I am Dave Allmon. I pledged a fraternity earlier this year, just as Scott, but I would like to serve as a reminder of what is right with fraternity life at MIT and more specifically, the current timing of rush.

It is my opinion — and, as you will see, my experience — that the support of a fraternity is most important and crucial during the first semester of an MIT student's career. When I first arrived at MIT, I did quite poorly on the pre-calculus diagnostic given to entering freshmen but still chose to take the accelerated calculus class, 18.01A-18.02A. I failed my first 18.01A test. Recognizing my problem, I turned to an institution of my fraternity's pledge program to save me: The Pledge Notebook Interviews.

All pledges are required to interview all

brothers and, through each interview, develop a meaningful conversation. In a dorm, my shy and proud nature would have hindered my asking for help, but during the required interviews I brought up my difficulties and asked for suggestions. Many of the replies now seem like common sense: When you have four problem sets due Friday, finish most or all of them earlier in the week; it is better to rework problem sets until you achieve an understanding of the problems rather than to spend hours passively reading over page after page of text.

Armed with several good suggestions and stories that motivated me to stay on top of things academically, I am glad to say things turned-around for me and I actually received an A for my final grade in 18.01A and am progressing well through 18.02A and my other classes.

My parents, who have two older sons, one at The University of Texas in Austin and the other at Harvard, are amazed at how well I have adjusted to college life. I now recognize that this "adjustment" to college life would have been difficult, slow, or even impossible outside of the caring and positive influence of my fraternity. I also recognize that, more than

my own intelligence or raw ability, it is this quick adjustment that has helped me survive, and even thrive, during this first semester.

My fraternity experience has charged me with the energy and attitude to work hard and it has provided me with opportunities that I would have never imagined. I hope that I will not be part of the last freshman class at MIT to enjoy these unique benefits.

Dave Allmon '01
Phi Kappa Theta Pledge President

Erratum

In the Nov. 4 issue of *The Tech*, in the article "Student Concerns Dominate Town Meeting", Stephane A. Miller '98 was incorrectly identified as representing Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgenders and Friends at MIT in presenting a petition at the town meeting.



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Experts say the recent stock market turmoil has created a buying opportunity.

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A Ban We Can All Agree On

Anders Hove

One of television's most haunting commercials, in my opinion, is the long-running series urging viewers to sponsor children in foreign lands, "for just 70 cents a day," less than the cost of a cup of coffee. If you're like me, your first response is compassion, followed by the realization that other actions, individual and collective, might do more to improve the world than this particular charity. Indeed, much of the world's hunger arises not from a lack of food or financial generosity but rather from political problems or civil strife.

Don't get me wrong: All too often, we Americans are the direct or indirect political cause of hunger and suffering. Land mines are a case in point. Our own military has been one of the world's greatest purveyors of anti-personnel mines, and the legacy of our own and other's use of land mines is beyond estimate.

Statistics can hardly begin to tell the gruesome tale of the world's annual land mine

carnage. Since 1975, mines have exploded under one million people, currently killing at an estimated 800 people per month. Although 55 percent of land mine victims die before receiving medical attention, the 800-deaths-per-month figure does not include hundreds of injuries and other loss because of land mines.

Most sadly, children are the most frequent victims of land mines. Kids often can't read posted warnings and blunder to their deaths unknowingly. In many cases, children are attracted by the strange shiny objects buried just below the surface. In Afghanistan, the Soviet Union is alleged to have specifically targeted children by designing mines in the shape of butterflies and toys. In Cambodia and Angola, hundreds of children have met their end after build-

ing toy cars and trucks using mines for wheels.

Like many indiscriminate weapons of war, land mines mainly kill civilians. Unlike other weapons, however, land mines long outlast the enemies and threats they were emplaced to kill. Mines will remain a threat over a century after their laying.

What I find most tragic is that the threat of land mines is rising. Although about 130,000 mines are cleared in a typical year, an astonishing two million are laid down at the same time. Right now, over 110 million active land mines lie in wait for succeeding generations of victims. We can

ban on land mines last month. Since then, however, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and their campaign coordinator Jody Williams.

The U.S. military remains a major obstacle to a ban. The Pentagon argues that a ban would be meaningless because China, Russia, and most rogue states would never sign on. Further, they argue that American land-mines are self-detonating, meaning they explode after a set length of time and thus do not remain years after emplacement. Finally, American mines are used in only a few fenced off areas, such as along the demilitarized zone in Korea. The military, backed by many in Congress, argues that what the world really needs is a ban on "dumb" mines — mines that remain in the ground after the need for them has ended. Well-intentioned though it may be, a dumb mine treaty would ban all mines except those used by the United States and its allies. If the United States winds up insisting on such a loophole, there will be no ban at all.

The argument over dumb mines is spurious. American support for a combination ban and boycott would exert a powerful moral force. Land mines have been likened to chemical weapons in their indiscriminate effect, and the chemical weapons ban has been followed by some of the worst tyrants. Even if a mine ban resulted in only a 10 percent drop in mine laying, presumably hundreds of innocent

lives would be saved.

Even many military commanders recognize the need for a mine ban. After all, our own soldiers are at risk: Bosnia is the country with the highest density of mines per land area, with over 150 mines per square mile. While he was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili came out in favor of a mine ban and a ban also has the support of retired General Norman Schwarzkopf.

The United States is wrong to oppose a total ban on land mines. The human and economic cost of these weapons is beyond measure. We should follow the direction of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and, once and for all, consign these weapons to the arsenal of shame.



expect the annual toll in human lives to go up.

The commercials exhort us to commit "the cost of a daily cup of coffee" to save a child's life. At the current going rate, a land mine costs just three dollars, the cost of a cup of mocha at Starbucks. You can lay down your own bed of mines at the rate of 1,000 mines per minute. Yet it can cost between \$300 and \$1,000 to remove a single land mine; you couldn't clear the world's land mines for the price of all the coffee in the world.

Unfortunately, we're a long way from a political solution to the land mine problem. The United States could be taking a significant step toward ending land mines. But President Clinton chose to reject outright a proposed international

The Real Questions about Housing

Guest Column

Douglas K. Wyatt

Over the past couple of weeks, a lot of ink has been spent on the topic of housing at MIT. After the death of Scott S. Krueger '01, one of the proposed responses was to have all freshmen live on campus. The proposal has created quite a bit of debate, much of which, unfortunately, seems to miss the mark.

First, many people are arguing against the proposal not by pointing out flaws in the proposal but by pointing out flaws in other, unrelated ideas. The proposal to house all freshmen on campus need not imply randomized housing. The current dormitory rush could continue as normal, with freshmen arriving on campus several days early with a temporary housing assignment and upperclassmen from dorms giving tours of dormitories, having barbecues, etc. Just because the independent living groups would not be rushing does not mean that freshmen cannot pick their own dorm. MIT dormitory — and ILG — character is an important asset to MIT, and I think those involved understand this or can be made to understand.

Additionally, the proposal to move all freshmen to campus does not necessarily mean that seniors will no longer be guaranteed housing, that MacGregor singles will be crowded into quads, or that freshmen will be housed in Building 20. As students, we are all smart enough to realize that the currently highly-overcrowded dormitory system cannot accommodate the approximately 300 freshmen that live in ILGs. I have confidence that the faculty and administration-folk have realized this as well.

But there are a number of solutions to this problem that are not so horrific as many seem to believe. As proposed by President Charles M. Vest, a new dormitory could easily handle this new population. This leaves us with a three- or four-year interim problem to deal with. One could either deal with this by delaying the change to Residence and Orientation Week until then, providing a temporary solution similar to — but better than — the Huntington Hall experiment from a few years ago. I am sure a number of other creative solu-

tions could be developed to bridge this gap.

Another interesting idea people seem to be concerned about is the idea of all-freshman housing. While I personally don't think this is a good idea, the arguments for and against it aren't black and white. While there are many benefits to be had by living with upperclassmen during one's freshman year, there are also benefits to be had by living with a group of people going through the same experiences.

Additionally, one could argue that freshmen, having lived in a "normal" dormitory for a year, would be less inclined to take the step of moving out their sophomore year to an ILG. I personally doubt this given the number of people I know that have moved from one place to another during their time at MIT. Additionally, if it were expected that freshmen take time to consider living in an ILG and that a number would do so, I suspect quite a few would.

And finally, I am not convinced that just because a certain number of people currently live in ILGs that that is the "correct" number. The number is merely a function of the way that R/O currently works and a number of other factors at MIT. With a different R/O, the number of people living in ILGs may be different, but I don't think it would be "wrong."

A fascinating criticism I have heard people make during the housing debate is that accommodating all freshmen on campus might require cutting the class size significantly, possibly up to 50 percent. But since the number of freshmen living in ILGs hovers around 300, moving all freshmen to campus would require reducing the average class size by only less than 100 — less than a 10 percent decrease. Not that I am an advocate of cutting class size as a solution to this problem, but the number of people that have been throwing around in the context of this proposal has been absolutely ridiculous.

I have heard a number of people ask the question, "What does the fact that a freshman drank himself to death have to do with the housing system?" A common reaction is to attribute this to people's latent hatred of ILGs or the R/O system and accuse them of using this recent tragedy as an excuse to promote their hidden agenda. I would posit that the two are, at least in theory, very related. No one questions that everyone here — including

Changing The Way We See R/O

Wesley T. Chan

It will now be called Orientation/Residence, though most people at MIT will remember it as "the event formerly known as Residence and Orientation." Last week, the change-happy Dean's Office issued a decree that gave R/O its newfangled name in an apparent attempt to de-emphasize the residence component and to stress the orientation part.

If the new name sticks, I guess that makes me one of the last R/O interns to ever roam the halls of MIT. As last year's R/O logistics manager, I quickly discovered that I had to worry more about the residence component of R/O than I would have liked. Everyone I dealt with had different and often conflicting interests, and everyone expected that we give them what they wanted. From a perfect *Daily Confusion* to a Killian Kick-Off that wouldn't rain, everything that could "hurt rush" was fair game to demand from us.

Along with my colleagues, I spent more time trying to find innovative ways to keep rush-crazed upperclassmen — dorm and fraternity people alike — from literally grabbing freshmen and luring them away for the benefit of their living groups during orientation events. We spent a large amount of time and resources trying to keep upperclassmen from turning R/O a rush free-for-all. Too many people believed that orientation concluded once Killian (or rather, Johnson) Kick-Off ended when it actually lasted two more weeks. Attendance at orientation events — even supposedly mandatory ones — dropped significantly once residence selection began.

Some upperclassmen even told freshmen that they didn't have to attend clearly mandatory orientation events. Unpacking and spending time in their new living groups, apparently, were more important than attending a session on what core requirements freshmen had to take.

We also had to constantly question the motives of numerous R/O counselors and staff. While we knew that most R/O volunteers genuinely wanted to help freshmen acclimate to MIT, there were still workers and counselors who had ulterior rush motives. In retrospect, we had to spend too much time to ensure that their motives didn't interfere with the way they completed their R/O duties.

Now, that "everything is on the table" and any change, no matter how big, is possible, it's no longer business as usual. We can't pretend that we can just change R/O by reordering its name. Too many people think that R/O is just about picking a place to live or filling beds at living groups with as many "quality" freshmen they can get.

It's these fundamental attitudes about R/O that we have to change in order begin the move towards making it more orientation than residence. R/O is so much more than finding a place to live. It's about learning about the many academic and social options MIT offers and making decisions with that information that can significantly impact your future. By over-emphasizing the residence part as we have in the past, we inhibit the ability of freshmen to make other decisions that are equally as important as choosing a place to live.

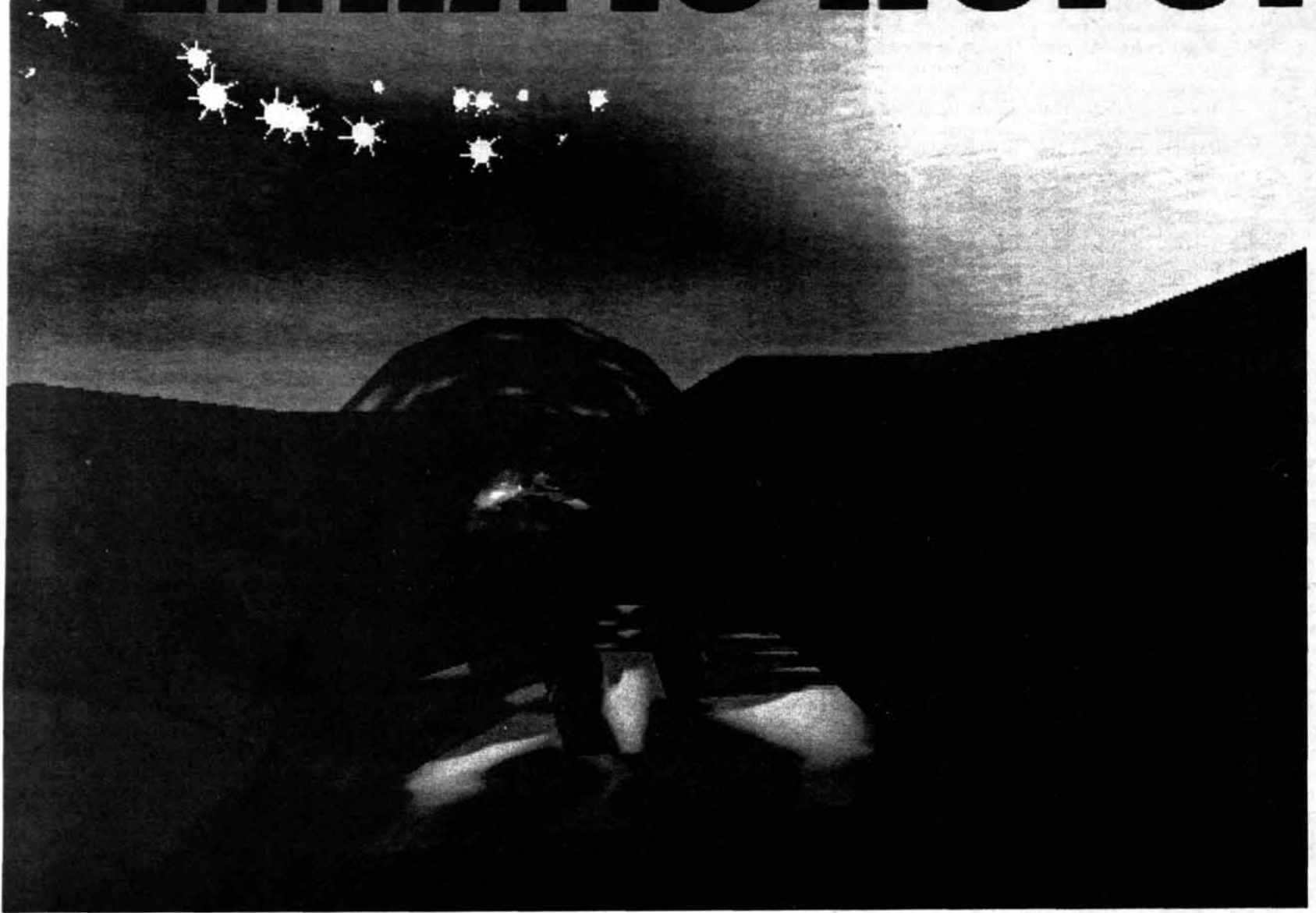
In any case, the administration has finally and publically indicated their displeasure over the residence part of R/O by de-emphasizing it in their name-change decree. They've realized the importance of the orientation part, and it's time we all do so. All of us need to put our own self-serving interests aside and ensure that next year's freshmen class can go through an O/R that won't cause them unnecessary stress.

Consequently, the people coordinating O/R should no longer have to needlessly worry about serving everyone's housing interests. They should rather be concerned about putting on the best possible program they can to introduce freshmen to what they can expect during their next four years at the Institute.

Hopefully, freshmen will experience a different first two weeks at MIT than we did. In order to facilitate this, we need to stop being so preoccupied with ourselves and start worrying about what next year's freshmen will see when they come here. We have to show them an MIT where they can make confident decisions about their future without having to go through unnecessary stress. O/R should be about discovering what opportunities and options exist at MIT — both residential and beyond. It's about time we begin focusing on the latter.

Douglas Wyatt is a second-year graduate student in computer science. He was a member of the Class of 1996 and lived in Burton-Conner House as an undergraduate.

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The Adrenaline Vault, 20 October 1997

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THE ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

Starship Troopers

*Sex, violence, and aliens —
What more do you need to know?*

By Mark Huang
STAFF REPORTER

Some movies have their directors written all over them — see something that could be a Muppet? It's got to be Lucas. Post-apocalyptic melodrama begging to be a comedy? Costner, of course. Breasts, guns, blood, aliens, and robots? Paul Verhoeven's your man, whether he's directing *Basic Instinct*, *Robocop*, or, now, *Starship Troopers*.

Based loosely (very loosely) on the novel by Robert Heinlein, *Starship Troopers* follows the path of a young man as he signs up for the army, screws up his life, and blows up the universe. Accompanied by violent women, big guns, and Doogie Howser, our hero kicks serious alien ass: a Verhoeven classic.

Set in a typical Heinlein future, *Starship Troopers* traces the lives of three high school friends who enter the Armed Forces; now dedicated to ensuring human supremacy over the galaxy. A few small obstacles — namely, asteroid-hurling giant bugs — are all that stand in the way between them and a state of Terran hegemony. The future isn't dark, however; it's a cheery "fascistic utopia," as Verhoeven likes to term it, a cynically funny blend of the worlds of 1984 and *Demolition Man*.

Johnny Rico, played by Casper Van Dien, is a pretty-boy high school graduate whose parents want him to go to Harvard. His heart, on the other hand, tells him to follow his girlfriend into the army. He can't enter flight school like his girlfriend because of his abysmal math scores, so his choices are either Harvard, the beach, or the mobile infantry. He chooses the third, and the first half of the film follows his rise through and tragic fall out of boot camp. The sudden devastation of

Earth by the forces of Bug reignites his passions, however. Armed with machine guns, throwing knives, and no sense of tactical strategy whatsoever, he and his platoon drop into combat on remote planets like Wyoming and Nevada to fight for the species. From then on, it's a blood-soaked, chitin-cracking killfest until the spectacular Final Battle.

This formula is about as old as my grandmother — but then again, my grandmother never toted a combination M-16/Winchester, nor was she ever ripped in two by a giant cockroach, nor did she ever handle portable nuclear weapons with the utmost confidence. This movie, which has been teasing the young male demographic for six months, won't disappoint those who feel that annual sense of emptiness after the summer blockbusters end. It's excessive: the crew of *Starship Troopers* set an all-time record for most ammunition used during a motion picture production. It's violent: at least every major appendage of the human body is

ripped or popped off at some point in the film. It's spectacular: ILM, Imageworks, Boss, and VCE were all hired to produce a total of 550 special effects, compared to *The Lost World's* 170.

This movie is Verhoeven at his finest. He doesn't waste a single frame of his allocation of nudity shots and gut spills. Like most fantastic action movies, *Starship Troopers* is best appreciated for its action and effects, rather than for any semblance of realism or profundity of themes. A couple of people behind me refused to laugh at the adolescent humor or clap when a bug did an especially

good job on a platoon of human meat. These are the kinds of people who search for meaning in Oliver Stone movies, or enjoy anything with Bette Midler in it. Me, I like well-designed aliens the size of bulldozers that eat brains and eject plasma. You'll find a few of these, a lot of laughs, and more than a few occasions to worship ILM in this fall's best action movie so far.

Directed by Paul Verhoeven
Starring Casper Van Dien, Denise Richards,
Dina Meyer, Jake Busey, and Neil Patrick
Harris



Johnny Rico (Casper Van Dien) warns of an approaching Tanker Bug in *Starship Troopers*.

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MIT Student Government

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Right now, the council is soliciting as much input as possible on issues pertaining to R/O, Alcohol Policy, and Housing. Let your representatives know what you think, or email us at ua-comments@mit.edu

Watch for future UA announcements every Friday right here
in *The Tech*

MOVIE REVIEW

Bean

The British comedy classic gets finessed onto the big screen

By Teresa Huang
STAFF REPORTER

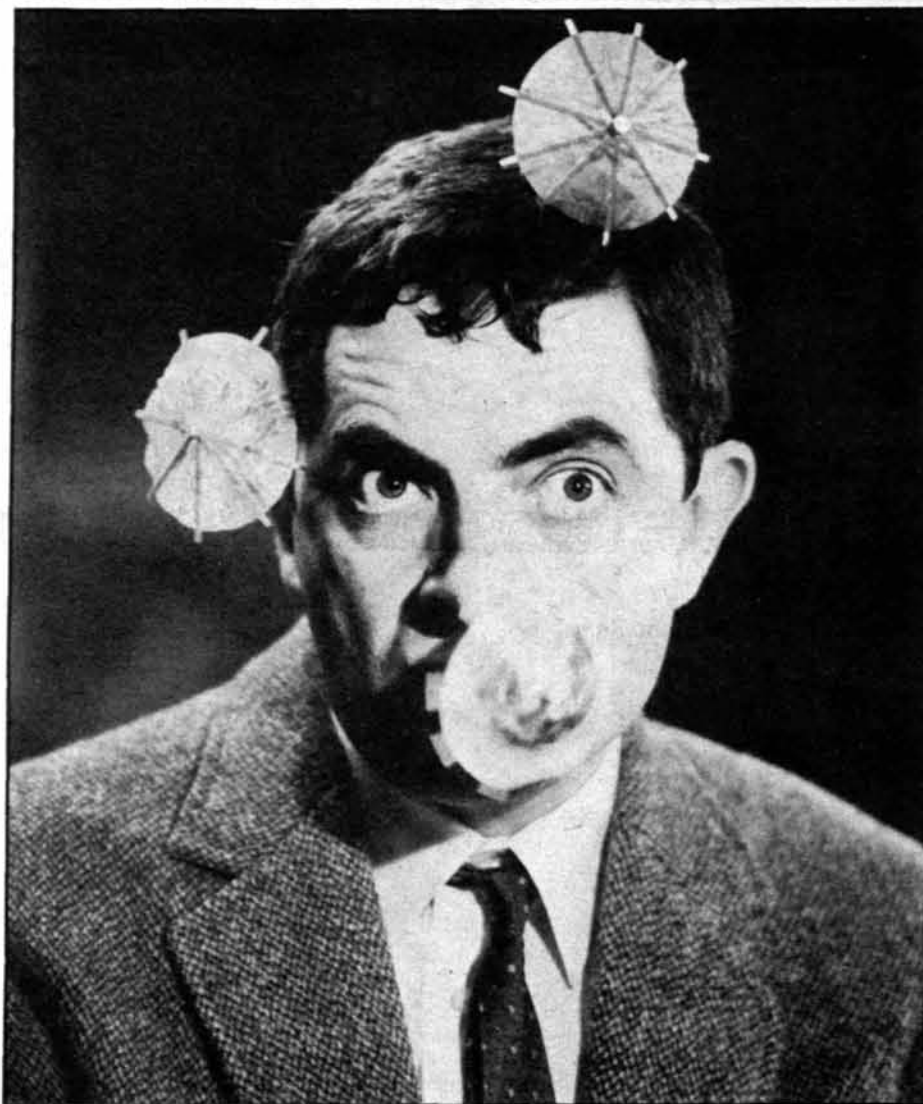
Everybody's favorite clown in a brown suit, Mr. Bean, arrives in America and on the big screen with his movie debut *Bean*. Though British fans might feel differently, the movie is a terrific comedy that's entertaining and effective in spreading the joy of Mr. Bean and British comedy to the world.

The story begins as the prestigious board of Britain's Royal National Gallery discuss their recent sale of James Abbott McNeil Whistler's famous painting "Whistler's Mother" to the Grierson Gallery in Los Angeles. American curator David Langley, played by Peter MacNicol (*Dracula: Dead and Loving It*), is thrilled that one of the greatest U.S. paintings is returning to its home country and asks the Royal National Gallery to send a representative to officiate the opening of the exhibit.

Enter Mr. Bean, a caretaker at the gallery who can fall asleep and fall off a chair at the same time. The gallery's bigwigs, unable to fire Mr. Bean due to their chairman's devotion to the man, decide to wash their hands of him and ship him off to America as their representative. How this is any sort of solution isn't terribly clear, but nevertheless, Mr. Bean leaves Teddy and his country behind and heads for the golden land of opportunity.

And so begins the wackiness and childish hysterics that are Mr. Bean. While Mr. Bean grapples with a land where he can't seem to be himself without getting arrested, Langley and his family deal with this strange man in their house who doesn't appear to be the brilliant art doctorate-toting expert on "Whistler's Mother" they believed he was.

Rowan Atkinson's unforgettable character Mr. Bean took the U.K. by storm in 1989 and has become, thanks to syndication in the U.S. and all over the globe, a universal character embodying child-like innocence and slapstick mischief. Though Atkinson has had memorable movie roles, like Father Gerald in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and the voice of Zazu in *The Lion King*, and although his British comedy *Blackadder* is hailed as his funniest television series, Mr. Bean remains the character he is most commonly associated with. The production of *Bean*, his first feature film, by an American film company has caused somewhat of a stir among loyal British fans, who fear that his character may be "dumbed-down" to satisfy our feeble minds.



Rowan Atkinson as Mel Smith in *Bean*.

Indeed, loyal fans are likely to be annoyed by Mr. Bean's presentation in the movie in general. His pantomime humor loses something with the absence of laughter from a hysterical live audience and with the addition of a booming soundtrack. Surrounding him with a score of serious actors and a legitimate plot also produces a strange dynamic in which the normal people around him almost nullify his absurdity. In his television series, Mr. Bean was a weirdo and the people around him were either comically disgusted by him or simply ignored his weirdness. In short, his actions didn't have any serious consequences. In *Bean*, the people in his surroundings take him seriously, and instead of being his usual care-free self, Mr. Bean seems constantly under judgement.

But despite the somewhat inconsistent preservation of Mr. Bean's British persona, director Mel Smith (*Radioland Murders*) makes the combination of improbability and gravity work. *Bean* is one laugh after the other as he gets himself into deeper and deeper trouble in America as the gallery gets closer and closer to the grand opening of "Whistler's

Mother," where the supposedly brilliant art professor Dr. Bean is expected to give a speech. Before the movie is over, Mr. Bean gets his head stuck in a turkey, learns the universal sign of friendship from a biker, and, of course, saves the day. The supporting actors in the film give great performances, especially MacNicol and Pamela Reed as the patient hosts of Mr. Bean. Burt Reynolds provides a short but humorous cameo.

The sight of his enormous head on a big screen may be somewhat intimidating, but Mr. Bean really does have a heart of gold and his American adventure in *Bean* is a great ride. The blend of comedy and Mr. Bean tragedy is refined, yet subtle, and his triumphs will have you cheering. Enjoy his antics and pray for a sequel. Perhaps *Mr. Bean Goes to Washington*?

Directed by Mel Smith
Written by Rowan Atkinson, Richard Curtis, and Robin Driscoll
Starring Rowan Atkinson, Peter MacNicol, Pamela Reed, Harris Yulin, and Burt Reynolds

Scoop

By Teresa Huang

So you thought there was nothing to do on the weekends except sleep and watch the *X-Files*? Let **Scoop** help you, my poor misled friends. Instead of feeling guilty about having fun this weekend when you said you were going to catch up on your work, go ahead and plan to have fun. This way, it's part of your schedule, so it's justified. See how that works?

Cheap tix, great flicks. It happens all the time. You want to see this movie people keep calling amazing, but by the time you have a free weekend to see it, it's five or six weeks after its release. That's when you start to have those "I might as well wait until it comes out on video or shows at LSC" thoughts because you don't feel like spending \$8 on a movie that's yesterday's news. Bah! Don't let those insane prices scare you away from the theaters.

If a movie's been out for a week or more, skip the adult ticket price and use a discounted movie pass. Visit **The Source** in the Student Center lobby, which sells discount movie passes for movies at all Sony Theaters, Showcase Cinemas, and General Cinemas for only \$5 each. If you're headed to see an indie film at the Kendall Square Cinema, passes are \$6.50 each. Passes are good for a year before they expire. And who said going to MIT doesn't have its benefits?

The naked movie truth. With your newfound awareness of movie passes, pick up a few for you and your pals and head over to the Kendall Cinema or the Sony Nickelodeon for *The Full Monty*.

Aside from witnessing how pleasant the film experience can be when you're in a clean theater, go see *The Full Monty* because it's quickly becoming a piece of movie history and you don't want to miss seeing six grown men shake their booty on a big screen. Recently surpassing *Four Weddings and a Funeral* for the highest grossing movie in British history, *The Full Monty* tells the tale of six unemployed steel workers in Sheffield, England who figure they can make a buck by getting buck naked in front of over 200 screaming women. Not to mention an international movie audience. Don't worry guys, you won't be squeamish. *The Full Monty* is pure comedy and is sure to grind its way into the Oscars this year.

On the sunny side of the sidewalk. Microsoft bugs me because they walk around pretending they own something as public as the Internet, which is why I'm somewhat embarrassed to admit that I have used their latest product **sidewalk.com**. While it will never break my loyalty to the Boston Globe Calendar and **boston.com**, the Boston edition of **sidewalk.com** does seem to have a remarkable overview of what's going on in the area. They score points for making it darned easy for you to find everything to.

Go to **boston.sidewalk.com**, and you'll get a comprehensive arts and entertainment calendar as well as restaurant listings, museum information, and shopping guides. Look for their big promotions, too. Last month they spent a day in Copley Square tossing out free tickets to the Comedy Connection, Spooky World, and *Stomp*. People with that much money to throw around are annoying, but for free stuff like that, you might as well try to be a good neighbor.

The beavers steal the show. It's fall theater time at MIT! Dramashop and MTG kick off the season this weekend with proof that MIT students aren't beginners when it comes to theater. **Dramashop** presents their annual student-written, student-directed plays in Kresge Little Theatre. Among the trio of excellent scripts, watch for "Triple Fable" by Eddie Kohler, whose whimsical ramblings made last year's "Five Fake Dreams in Six Short Scenes" an unforgettable theater experience. **MTG** revives a dormant MIT tradition with **Robots**, a student-written full-length musical performed in La Sala de Puerto Rico. Both productions are only playing this weekend, so don't miss them!

Welcome Back Carter. The *X-Files* celebrates their 100th episode this Sunday, but who cares about that? After last week's unsatisfying cliffhanger, we just want closure!



THIS WEEK AT LSC — Jodie Foster (above) in *Contact*, showing Saturday night at 7 and 10:30 p.m., and Sunday at 7 p.m. *Kolya*, winner of the 1996 Academy Award for best foreign language picture, shows Friday night at 7 and 10 p.m., and Sunday at 4 p.m. Friday's Classic is *The Manchurian Candidate*, showing at 7:30 p.m. in 10-250.

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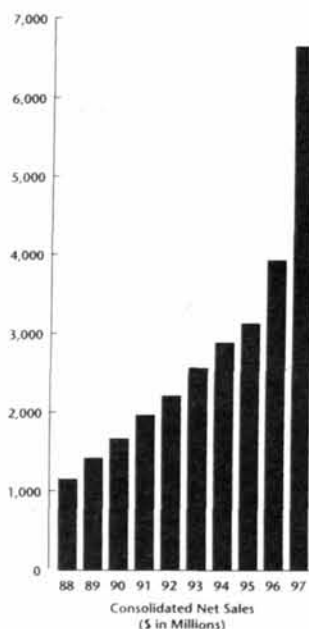
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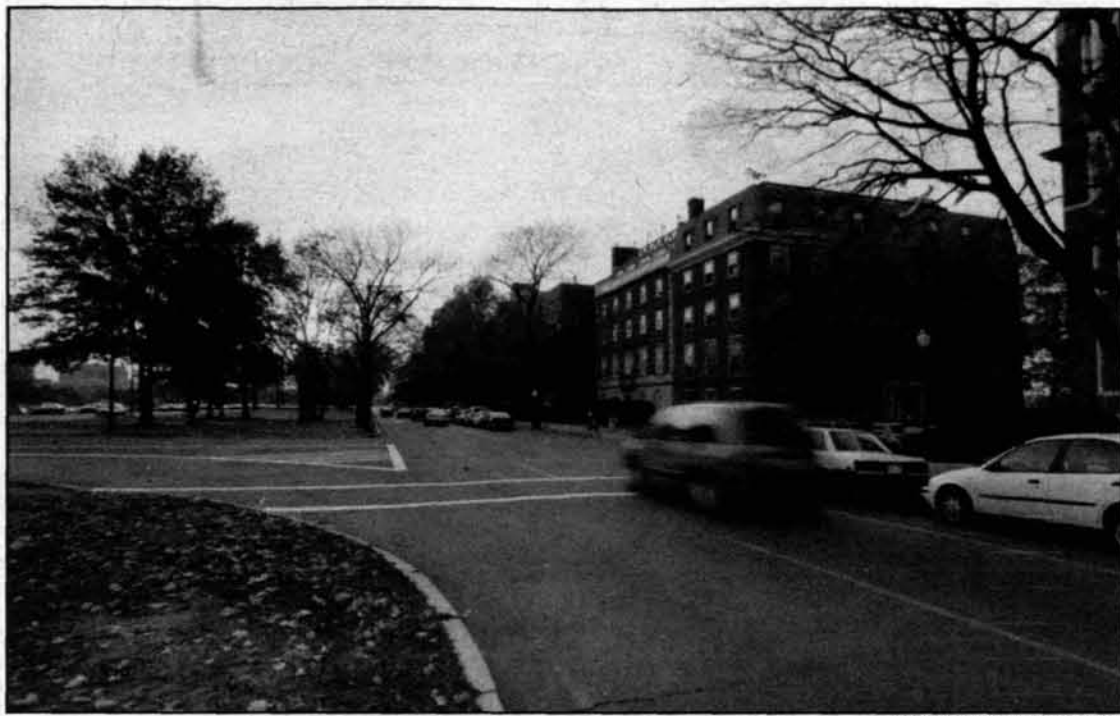
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Thursday, November 13th
5:30 - 6:30pm
Building 4, Room 145



If you are unable to attend the information session, please forward your resume to: Staffing Specialist, Dept. ESP, The TJX Companies, Inc., 770 Cochituate Rd., Framingham, MA 01701. Fax: 508-390-2650. Email: ksparre@tiac.net

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INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

A new crosswalk was painted across Memorial Drive between Baker and Burton-Conner near Endicott Street last week but as of yet no signs inform motorists of its presence.

Crosswalks Added on Memorial Drive in Wake of Student Death

By Jennifer Lane
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Metropolitan District Commission painted several new crosswalks on Memorial Drive this week, including one called for in a recent student petition drive.

The 10 crosswalks painted across Memorial Drive are part of a

plan that was conceived between three and four weeks ago, said Sam Campbell, spokesman for the MDC.

The MDC action comes less than one week after Michele S. Micheletti '00 was struck and killed by two automobiles on Memorial Drive near MacGregor House.

Additionally, the Undergraduate

Association Council passed a resolution Monday committing the UA to investigating the cost and feasibility of a pedestrian walkway over Memorial Drive.

There are currently no signs alerting motorists to the existence of the crosswalks. "What's almost worse that having no crosswalk at all is having a crosswalk that motorists don't know about," said Paul F. Levy, professor of urban studies and planning.

Crosswalks requested in petition

Ceani Guevara '99 started circulating a petition on Oct. 6 attempting to establish a crosswalk at the intersection of Memorial Drive and Endicott Street, between



MIODRAG CIRKOVIC—THE TECH

Bob Allies of the London architects Allies and Morrison speaks as part of the Architecture Lecture Series in 10-250 yesterday evening.

UA Council Meeting Minutes

The Undergraduate Association Council met on Nov. 3 and considered the following resolutions:

A resolution to create an elevated walkway passed, 19-0-0. The resolution commits the UA to quickly researching the cost and feasibility of building an elevated walkway over Memorial Drive by the Pierce Boathouse.

Suggested amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty were passed, after some amendment, 16-1-0.

A resolution calling for no unnecessary crowding was passed, 15-1-0.

Resolutions remaining on the table include:

A resolution to create central alcohol purchasing and party registration. This resolution would empower a central group to oversee the registration of all social events in the living groups and report the occurrences of these events.

A resolution to establish one single Undergraduate Student Government. This resolution would be a call to abandon the current system of UA, Dormitory Council and Interfraternity Council and form a single Undergraduate Student Government.

The UA Council also discussed student information policy with Associate Provost Phillip L. Clay and Helen Samuels, special assistant to the associate provost.

SOURCE: UA FLOOR LEADER
PAUL T. OPPOLD '99

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Résumé

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GRADES

What's YOUR Opinion?

- Letter grades with +/- modifiers (A+, A, A-, etc.) on internal reports. No modifiers on official transcripts. (current experimental system)
- Expand the above to include +/- modifiers on official transcripts.
- A, B, C, D, F (no modifiers) on both internal reports and official transcripts.

<http://feedback.mit.edu>

WHY THIS MATTERS

The Institute is now in the third year of a three-year grading system experiment on the use of +/- grade modifiers. When the summer semester of 1998 comes to a close, the experiment will be over. The faculty must therefore consider and vote on the grading system policy.

We are asking ALL undergraduates, graduate students and faculty to respond to a survey about various grading options to make certain that everyone has an opportunity to voice an opinion to help the faculty make the best decision. The faculty needs your feedback about the impact that these options might have on your MIT educational career to ensure that the system meets the needs of the entire community — students and faculty.

To take the survey:
Go to <http://feedback.mit.edu>
Click on the link to
“Plus/Minus Grading System Survey.”*

— *Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP)*

* Faculty: Please fill out the mailed questionnaire and return it by interdepartmental mail.



damned for life
by Jessica

4 REASONS WHY YOU'RE AT MIT (AND NOT ANYWHERE ELSE)

OW!

4. YOU COULDN'T GET THAT FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP TO HARVARD.

3. YOU ABSOLUTELY LOVE BOSTON WEATHER.

2. YOU CAN'T WRITE WORTH BEANS.

WHEN WILL I EVER PASS PHASE I?

PHASE I: UNACCEPTABLE

HEY MACARENA...

EWW... THERE'S SOMETHING IN THIS PUNCH!

1. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PARTY.

Off Course
by Hugo

HEY LOOK

WHAT?

THERE ARE ONLY FIVE TOOTSIE ROLLS LEFT FROM THE SACK OF HALLOWEEN CANDY

WHO WOULD EAT ALL THAT CANDY IN ONE SITTING?

HEY LOOK. JOHN IS HANGING FROM THE A/C VENT

THAT'S WHAT I'D CALL A SUGAR HIGH

SHOULD WE GET A LADDER, OR JUST POKE HIM WITH A STICK?

RHINO MAN

THE STORY SO FAR: Due to his exciting exploits, Rhino-Man has achieved celebrity status. But, as he explained to his girlfriend Mariko, that can be both a blessing and a curse.

by Zachary Emig

One night in Tokyo...

Behind a non-descript storefront

ヨリ HERE は

コンピュータ 50%

テレビ

3階 マイコ

開

© 1997 Zachary Emig

email: zbemig@mit.edu

The kingpins of the Japanese mafia, the yakuza, gather to discuss a common problem.

It seems we are all in agreement, gentlemen. Rhino-Man, and Sector 9, have drastically cut into all our profits. And every attempt on Rhino-Man's life has failed.

But Mr. Kuroshi might have a novel solution to our problems.

Yes. It seems to me that the "brute force" method has failed us. To eliminate Rhino-Man, we're going to need to be much subtler.

It will take a new type of assassin...

A character assassin!

Noun Poetry
by Katy-Cat

billowy

pillory

bijugate

© 1997 Katy-Cat@mit.edu

Next Issue: "The Plan That Will Destroy Rhino-Man"!!!

CONTRIVIA

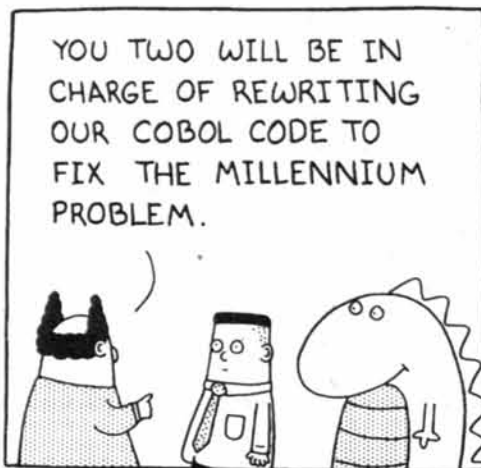
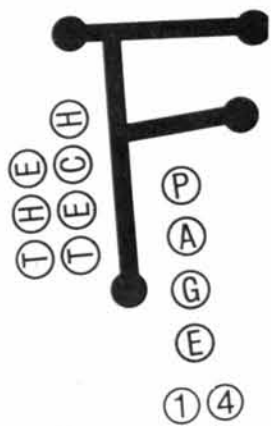
The Very Spice of Life



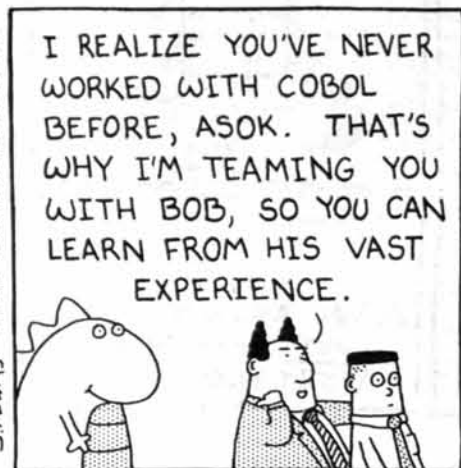
Congratulations to Eric Nelson-Melby and Margo Harbaugh who both knew that anise is used to scent the artificial rabbit in greyhound races. Eric and Margo each win a pair of tickets and a large popcorn, both provided by LSC. Basil, whose name means "king," was known as the herb of kings in ancient Greek and Roman times. During that time, farmers believed that you had to curse and yell while planting basil seeds to get a good crop. There is no

word, however, whether or not the Spice Girls plan to add a sixth Girl named "Basil Spice." Showing this weekend at LSC: Fri 7 & 10 p.m. *Kolya* in 26-100 Fri 7:30 p.m. *The Manchurian Candidate* in 10-250 Sat 7 & 10 p.m. *Contact* in 26-100 Sun 4 & 7 p.m. *Kolya / Contact* in 26-100

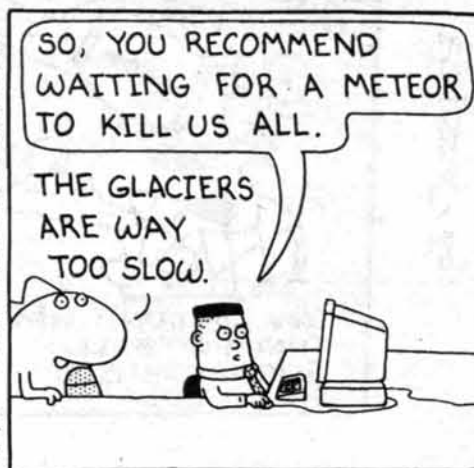
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S. Adams E-mail: SCOTTADAMS@AOL.COM



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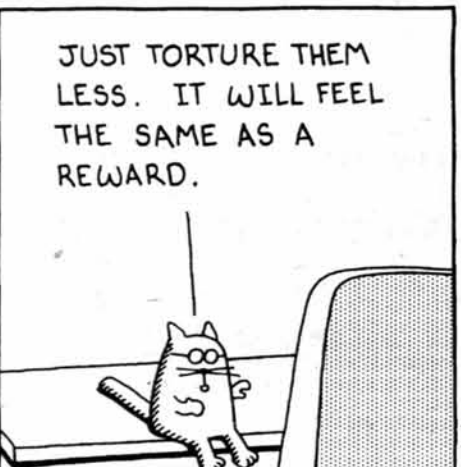
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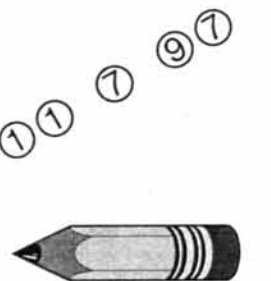
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by Scott Adams
Dilbert®

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Across

- Trim
- Prepare
- Fuss
- Pledge
- Get up
- Confer
- Hard wood
- Southern state (abbr.)
- Dark, oily mixture
- Finish
- Long freshwater fish
- Metric weight
- Hall
- Equally
- Grease
- Japanese sash
- Bury
- Lines (abbr.)
- Special prep school
- River in Italy
- Car city in Michigan
- Supernatural perception (abbr.)
- Grande
- New England state (abbr.)

- Unit
- Platform
- Wide outlet to sea
- Talent
- That girl
- Form of be
- Strike lightly
- Considerate
- Horne
- Single article
- Arrives deceased (abbr.)
- Resentment
- Haul; lug
- Ever (poetic)

Down

- Testing Area
- Poem
- Pertaining to U.S. Mail
- Poverty-stricken
- Uncooked
- Popular alien
- Talking mechanism
- Noah's boat
- Islands east of Puerto Rico (abbr.)
- Small island
- Pass out cards
- Scottish cap (brief form)
- Advertisement (informal)

- Obvious
- Time Zone (abbr.)
- Man's game
- Small brook
- Fabric made of goat hair
- Some
- Fall month (abbr.)
- Mischievous child
- Extended narrative poem
- Chess piece
- Picnic pest
- Direction (abbr.)
- Climbing plant
- Put down a person

- Circular path
- 2nd smallest state (abbr.)
- Wrapped hay
- End of prayer
- Alcoholic's group (abbr.)
- House
- 24 hours
- Dog
- Foot digit
- Auricle
- Western state (abbr.)
- At

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Monday, November 24th, 5 to 6 pm, Private Dining Room 1&2 (Stratton Student Center - 3rd Floor)

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To apply, you must obtain an application form and submit it to RCA, W20-549, by January 19, 1998, for '98-99.

TALES FROM THE TRENCHES, BOGS AND ROOFTOPS: CIVIL ENGINEERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS IN THE WORKPLACE



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1997
3-5PM
BUSH ROOM 10-105

REFRESHMENTS

FUNDED UROPS SPRING TERM 1998

Criminal Case Limited Testimony Given at Hearing

Fiji, from Page 1

"It seems out of control in many ways," especially following two prior hearings in the past two years dealing with alcohol at Phi Gamma Delta, Rooney added.

In 1996, officers responded to a report of underage drinking and found "the largest drinking party this officer has ever seen" according to police reports.

In February, officers responded to a noise complaint at Fiji. The complaint was made by a dormitory near the fraternity house at 28 The Fenway.

Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean and adviser for fraternities, sororities and independent living groups, testified that the Interfraternity Council had taken steps to discipline Fiji after the prior two incidents.

Alcohol was banned following the 1996 incident for nine months, and a dozen residents received training on how to serve alcohol responsibly, Dorow said. "They've made a commitment to avoid similar occurrences."

The February incident was caused by members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon yelling at Fiji members, Dorow added.

Commissioner Joseph I. Mulligan then asked why the 1996

punishment was not more harsh, given the police responses.

"That's why our response was as strong as it is," Dorow said. "The perception was that they were doing a much stronger job" following the suspension period.

Few details come out of meeting

Very few details of what happened at the fraternity the night Scott S. Krueger '01 died were revealed at the meeting because of the continuing criminal investigation into the death.

Boston Police Detective Thomas Conolay testified that he and Detective Andrew Gambon visited Fiji at around 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 27, one day after Krueger went into a coma. Before visiting Fiji, they talked to Krueger's parents at Beth Israel Hospital, he added.

When they visited, "The house was in immaculate condition," Gambon said. However, "some of those bags which were blocking the hallway contained beer cans."

"The fraternity that Scott Krueger was at was having its freshman initiation night," Conolay testified that Krueger's parents said.

Krueger's parents also relayed the contents of a conversation they had with Kevin E. McDonald '00, who was Krueger's big brother at Fiji. However, Conolay and

Gambon refused to detail what McDonald said, because of the criminal investigation.

Members of the Licensing Board seemed exasperated at times by the lack of information. "You want to get some legal advice," Commissioner Joseph I. Mulligan

*"Whatever happens... we have to send a message to MIT and to the fraternity that we will not tolerate flagrant abuse of the laws of the Commonwealth."
— Commissioner Daniel F. Pokaski*

said at one point, disagreeing that the contents of the conversation were private.

"As soon as the grand jury is completed," more details will be made available as to what happened that night, Gambon said.

Once Krueger died, the investigation was transferred to the Boston

Police homicide unit. While Sgt. Thomas Collins of the unit was present at the hearing, he declined to testify.

Alumni group testifies on alcohol

Following Conolay's and Gambon's testimony, lawyers representing Malcolm Cotton Brown Corp., the group of Fiji alumni that owns the house and the house's dormitory license, pleaded with the Licensing Board not to make a judgement in the case and not to close Fiji immediately.

"We have been at a tremendous disadvantage to discover the facts," said Anthony M. Campo, an attorney with Boyle and Morrisey, who is representing the group. Neither the district attorney's office nor the Boston Police's homicide department would help the attorneys in their search for what happened.

"The local fraternity brothers have all indicated that they likely won't talk to us," Campo said.

Campo asked "that if the board were to decide to suspend the license that the board let the students be allowed to take their exams" before being evicted. In addition, the group requested that the house be allowed to "come up in its present shape or in a different shape" in Fall 1998, or the alumni group would run out of funds.

The Commissioners questioned why the alumni group had not taken steps to quell alcohol usage. "Why didn't the landlord act here when they knew it was a powder keg?" Mulligan said.

"There really are few things [to be done], because the corporation is only around to assure the financial well-being" of the house, and not to run the day-to-day operation of the house, Campo said. He added that the Corporation was unaware of this year's previous incident.

Deans discuss oversight of houses

Williams then testified about MIT's role in the fraternity system.

Reading from a prepared speech, Williams said, "We are interested only in seeing that the individual students... are able to continue their education uninterrupted, until the completion of the criminal investigation and of MIT's own inquiry into events connected with the death of Scott Krueger."

Williams offered to work with the board to develop a system of oversight and conditions to allow the residents to live in the house through the investigation period.

Williams later said in an interview that MIT would accept "basically any conditions that they want to impose to keep the students... from being evicted," including having adults in the house and making the fraternity substance-free.

Members of the board admonished Williams for not acting before Krueger's death. "I think MIT was remiss in not stepping in" when the incident occurred last year, said Commissioner Daniel F. Pokaski.

"Perhaps MIT should have stepped in and said, 'no alcohol' and, 'We're going to have an adult there,'" he said.

Williams said that there is no trend of underage drinking that has gone on for years, and that all alcohol policies are being reviewed.

However, members of the board thought alcohol use was more common, especially at Fiji. "It's clear to me that all their social events were based on alcohol," Pokaski said.

"I have never personally seen underage drinking," Dorow said. "I don't make it my business to be there when underage drinking could be occurring."

MIT's retained attorney, Jay Swope of the law firm Palmer and Dodge, explained the policy of not investigating any incidents until after the criminal investigation has finished, both to protect individual students' rights and to avoid interfering with the investigation.

As a result, MIT has no further details of what happened the night Krueger went into a coma, Swope said.

Board decides to wait three weeks

Following the hearing, the board held a brief open meeting where the Commissioners agreed to postpone most judgement for three weeks after discussing the case.

"Our concern is that we license this fraternity," Rooney said. "After listening to today's hearing... the concern is where are they going to live."

"Whatever happens... we have to send a message to MIT and to the fraternity that we will not tolerate flagrant abuse of the laws of the Commonwealth," Pokaski said.

"I don't think we should take the beds away from these kids," Mulligan said. Even the smartest students can have poor decision-making skills, and MIT makes an oversight in not supervising them better.

The board decided to postpone its decision until Nov. 26, when it will decide whether or not to take further action.

The commissioners are "being hard but not harsh," Williams said. "They absolutely have the right to ask their licensed dormitories to keep under control."

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November 8th, 7PM to 10PM

(会場はご連絡頂いたときにご案内致します)

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JAGUAR

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Student Voices Quelled Last Freshman Housing Plan

Faculty, from Page 1

thing," she said.

This sentiment was reiterated Wednesday night at the student-faculty forum by the moderator, Dean for Undergraduate Curriculum Kip V. Hodges, PhD '82.

"Even if the faculty vote... it's just a suggestion," he said.

The MIT Corporation is also unlikely to become embroiled in this issue, Williams said. "The corporation does not micromanage," Williams said.

The Corporation is "looking at

the large picture, not fine-level decision-making."

However, disapproval by the corporation of any administrative decision will be made known to the administration in the corporation's regular review of Institute-related business, Williams said.

But as yet, "the corporation hasn't gotten involved," she said.

Faculty opinion still considered

While any motion of the faculty on the subject of undergraduate residence is nonbinding, their input is taken into account.

It's "an important statement of the faculty," Williams said, and "would obviously be taken into account."

The faculty "should take a leadership role in saying what the educational goals of MIT are, set a general set of educational goals for residence halls, and turn to Dean's office to implement these" goals, Williams said.

Housing questions not new

The idea of housing freshmen on campus is not new and has been killed in the past because of student opposition.

In 1989, when the ad-hoc Freshman Housing Committee came out with its report, it recommended that all freshmen be housed



CORNELIA TSANG—THE TECH

Chair of the Faculty Lotte Bailyn

in dormitories.

The report also called for freshmen to be randomly assigned housing among upperclass students, rush be deferred to spring term, and sophomore, instead of freshman housing, be decided upon by lottery.

There were "two quite separate motivations" for commissioning the Freshman Housing Committee, then-President Paul E. Gray '54 said.

One concern was over how students are first introduced to MIT and the emphasis placed on residence as opposed to the Institute as a whole, Gray said.

Another, subtler issue, was that the fraction of women in the incoming classes was increasing and at the time there were fewer off-campus options for women, he said.

The executive summary report stated as its goals for freshmen housing "to assure a sound introduction to MIT, both socially and educationally; to provide strong support for the transition to the academic demands of MIT; to give students an initial experience with a diverse set of classmates, while providing more time for a thoughtful choice of where and with whom to live in the following three years; and to give members of each class an opportunity to know each other and develop a sense of unity."

"The report was a report to the provost," said Mary C. Potter, the professor of brain and cognitive sciences who chaired the committee.

It was "discussed by the corporation, by faculty, discussed with the community and many other subgroups," Potter said. "There were a lot of people who thought it was a good thing."

Students opposed change in past

Potter said that faculty and administrators were somewhat attracted to the idea, but that students were uniform in opposition.

"What was very clear at the time was that students uniformly didn't want to change the system," she said.

The report, while written for consideration by the provost and president in their decisions, was also brought before the faculty, Gray said. The issue was never brought to a vote amidst strong student opposition and lack of precedent.

"It wouldn't have occurred to me for a moment to bring this up for a vote in 1989," Potter said. "At the time, it was just an idea being bounced around."

Student input and major changes in the administration eventually killed the plan, Potter said. "The issue dribbled away," she said.

The input of students now is very similar to what it was in 1989, Potter said.

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between Oct. 24 and 30:

Oct. 24: Student Center reading room, 1) jacket stolen, \$70, 2) jacket with \$50 cash in pocket stolen, \$200; Bldg. E10, camera and tripod stolen, \$600; Senior House, loud music complaint.

Oct. 25: West parking lot, Toyota broken into, radar detector and electric razor stolen, \$60, radar detector later recovered; Ashdown House, loud music complaint.

Oct. 26: Burton-Conner House, jewelry and cash stolen, \$60.

Oct. 27: Bldg. 66, printer stolen, \$250; Bldg. 54, 1) area broken into and several items stolen, \$ 4,399, 2) keys stolen; Alumni pool, 1) \$50 cash and credit card stolen from locked locker, 2) \$20 cash stolen, from locked locker.

Oct. 28: Bldg. W59, suspicious activity; Rotch Library, attempted larceny of a jacket; Bexley Hall, annoying phone calls.

Oct. 29: Student House, bike secured with a cable stolen, \$150; Bldg. 54, \$300 cash stolen; 500 Memorial Dr., bike locked with a "U" lock stolen, \$135.

Oct. 30: Lobby 7, suspicious person; Bldg. 6, jewelry stolen, \$1,000; Bldg. 54, suspicious person; Bldg. W59, computer equipment stolen, \$1,572; Johnson Athletics Center, leather jacket stolen, \$350.

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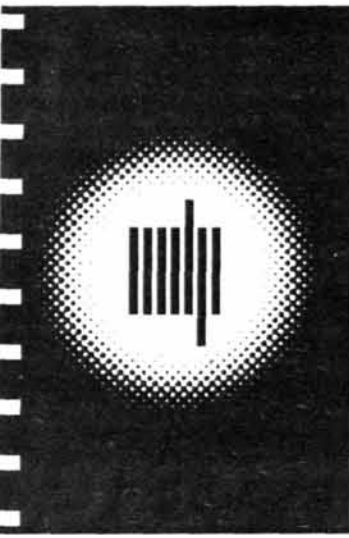
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Students and Faculty Put Forth Housing Proposals

Forum, from Page 1

the sense of family she currently feels at her dormitory, she said.

Jonathan S. White '00 said that randomized housing would reduce the retention rate for black students.

Jeremy H. Brown G, a former resident of Senior House, said randomized housing would increase the number of housing complaints,

especially since Senior House "is a place you either love or hate."

Other students felt that MIT would no longer be treating students like adults if it switched to randomization. Randomization would only "spread out the drinking problem," said Erik L. Nygren G.

Students, faculty debate move

Many students had logistical concerns with Chorover's propos-

als. Aisha D. Stroman '00 questioned how freshmen could fit in the dormitories, asking, "Are you really considering the effect of moving all freshmen onto campus?"

Jay P. Muchnij G said, "We don't need freshmen on campus" and that perhaps the administration should restrict the number of off-campus residences with the title "freshman-approved housing."

"Having been admitted on their merits, students' first experience should be intellectual, not social," Chorover said.

Rush is an "inherently egalitarian experience" and "randomization would provide a challenge" for students, Chorover said.

This statement prompted several students to point out the differences in the education level of incoming freshmen and joke about their failures on the Freshman Essay Evaluation.

Extinction of ILGs questioned

Another significant issue was the possible extinction of some independent living groups.

Some students and faculty members said that ILGs could survive with freshmen on campus.

Dormitory Council President Ashesh P. Shah '98 said, "I don't know how delayed rush would reduce the ILGs."

Professor of Physics Wit Busza said, "If something folds because of the action, they probably deserve to fold anyway."

Other students, particularly those in ILGs, voiced financial concerns and the fear that incoming freshmen would be stripped of their decision-making ability. Moving rush to spring or later would cause freshmen who have been mired in academics to be reluctant to investigate ILGs after spending time living in dorms, Muchnij said.

"Everyone [was] in agreement about informed choice" at the meeting, and most students thought lengthening R/O instead of moving it to a later time would be better, said Chair of the Faculty Lotte Bailyn.

Professor of Architecture Emeritus Leon B. Groisser doubted that students could choose their residence in the current hectic time allotted for rush.

Chienta J. Wu '00 ran to the chalkboard to outline his proposal of a seven-day rush and five-day orientation period in which faculty and students would form "hiking and Athena-cluster

groups."

Students discuss faculty positions

There was also a great deal of emphasis on greater interaction between faculty and students. Some students were disappointed that the faculty chose to propose something at its last faculty without asking for student input.

Dean of Undergraduate Curriculum Kip V. Hodges PhD '82 said, "I want to emphasize the word 'dialogue.' I've heard a lot of positions... but very little 'dialogue.'"

"Faculty need to extend into students lives" more than they do under the current system, said Glenn R. Berry '97.

Several students said they felt that their opinions didn't matter and that at a better meeting time more students would have shown up. One student pointed out that no faculty were lined up to speak at the microphone, a statement after which several faculty members moved immediately to line up.

Halston W. Taylor, associate professor of athletics and housemaster of Burton-Connor House, presented a "challenge to his colleagues" in the faculty to become more personally involved in student affairs.

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Campus Crime Stats Omit Many Incidents

Assault, from Page 1

Another student assault occurred near Institute property over Columbus Day weekend. It took place near 240 Albany Street, the location of the MIT-subsidized Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholic Rehabilitation shelter.

A female student was grabbed that Monday morning by a lone white male after he asked the victim for spare change.

Incidents not included in statistics

While this incident involved a student and occurred in the vicinity of the Institute, it will not be included in the crime statistics issued in the yearly Campus Police report and reported in the Safety, Security, and Crime Prevention Handbook for MIT, Glavin said.

The assault is, however, included in state police statistics because of its occurrence in state police jurisdiction, Glavin said.

This is one of several assaults against students and workers taking place near MIT property that are not included in the statistics, which are often used as a barometer for the safety of living on a given campus. The main reason for exclusion from statistics includes the classification of incidents as "off campus."

The assault over Columbus Day weekend went unreported in CP sta-

tistics, because it took place in Cambridge Police jurisdiction, said Campus Police Sergeant Cheryl deJong Vossmer.

The beating of a student on the sidewalk outside Random Hall last October also went unreported in campus police crime statistics because the sidewalk was considered outside of Campus Police jurisdiction.

The mugging of an MIT employee on Wadsworth Street outside building E40 in January of last year was not reported in campus crime statistics, because of it was considered off-campus and within Cambridge Police jurisdiction.

Crime prevention important

The informational bulletin issued by the Campus Police also included recommendations to students for keeping safe on and off campus.

These recommendations included using Saferide or walking in large groups and knowing the location of emergency telephones on campus.

The Campus Police also publishes the Safety, Security, and Crime Prevention Handbook for MIT yearly to inform students of crime prevention resources on campus. Hard copies are available at Campus Police Headquarters. The handbook is also web-accessible at <http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/>.

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Humphrey Makes NEW8 Team; Football Wins to UMass 20-16

Shorts, from Page 24

award. Should he be one of the four finalists for the award, Gray will earn MIT an additional \$25,000. If he were to win, MIT would receive a \$100,000 donation from Burger King.

Both the NFFHF fellowship and the Burger King College Football Scholarship are based on athletic ability, academic excellence, and community leadership. On the field, Gray has been a four-year starter at defensive tackle and in 1996 was

named to the Eastern Collegiate Football Conference All-Conference team. He has been the ECFC Defensive Player of the Week three times in his career, including twice in 1997. In MIT's first game of the 1997 season, Gray was named the Football Gazette National Division III Defensive Player of the Week, and was the Eastern College Athletic Conference New England Division III Defensive Player of the Week.

Gray is a candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship, and will be honored at the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Awards Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City in December. Additionally Gray is currently president of Lambda Chi Alpha, and has served on the executive committee and as the risk manager for the fraternity.

Tennis

In women's tennis, Nora Humphrey '98 was named to the NEW 8 All-Conference team at the No. 3 singles position. Humphrey was 3-1 at No. 3 in conference play and also was 2-0 at No. 2 singles. The team finished second in the NEW 8 regular season standings.

Football

The MIT football team defeated UMass-Boston 20-15 on Saturday to give the Engineers their fourth victory in a row. The four consecutive wins are the most wins in a row since the 1980 team won its final six games. The Engineers' Kevin Trexler '98 and Brian Licata '01 were each honored by the Eastern Collegiate Football Conference for their play against UMass-Boston. Trexler was named the ECFC Defensive Player of the Week. Trexler had 10 tackles (9 unassisted), a tackle for loss, a caused fumble, a recovered fumble, and an interception which he returned 31 yards to set up MIT's second touchdown. Licata, a linebacker, also had 10 tackles (8 solo), and registered 1 1/2 quarterback sacks for losses of 11 yards.

Fencing

The fencing teams began their seasons at the New England Invitational at Northampton over the weekend. For the women, Nora Szasz '99 captured the epee title with Meredith Rising '98 placing third in the event. The men's team placed Jonathan Blanford '98 second in the epee, while Brian Bower '99 and Evan Efstathiou '00 placed third and fourth respectively in the sabre.

Parkins Honored As Runner of the Year

Cross Country, from Page 24

high as 16th in the nation this season. Coast Guard finished ahead of MIT on the day by a score of 29 to 35, as both schools finished well ahead of third place Springfield College's 78 points.

Looking toward championship

After the race, Parkins said, "I'm deeply honored to be Runner of the Year. I'm really happy with the way I've been improving, but I'm mad at coach for cutting my playing time each meet."

The harriers have compiled a record of 53-23 while defeating numerous Division I schools and nationally ranked Division III schools. Next Saturday, the Engineers will travel to the University of Southern Maine for New England Division III Championship.

The team hopes to earn a berth for National Championships and Parkins and McGuire expect to qualify individually.

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The Tech Sports
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Brocoum Announces Death of the Patriots

Column by Chris Brocoum
SPORTS COLUMNIST

I hate the job, but I feel it is my duty to report on the Downfall of the Patriots. Losers of yet another game,

A WORD ON SPORTS

this time to the Vikings, the Patriots season has taken a decided turn for the worse over the past few weeks. Granted the Vikings are 7-2, tied with Green Bay and proving to be a force in the NFC behind San Fran. The Pats just don't seem to be playing this year with any of their Super Bowl form of last year. A late surge gave Minnesota a scare in the second half but Chris Carter stepped it up and hauled in a beauty to seal the victory. New England (read Pete Carroll) still trails the Jets (read Bill Parcells) for the lead of the AFC East.

In other news, Pittsburgh lost a huge Monday night game 13-10 against K.C. to drop into a tie with Jacksonville. The Chiefs' victory puts them in position to apply some pressure to Denver, just a game ahead in the standings, especially after Denver struggled against the Seahawks in a game much closer than expected. Tampa Bay returned to winning ways by squeezing past the lowly Colts, who retain the distinction of being the worst team in the NFL at 0-9.

This week offers some good matchups in the close divisions. The Jets-Miami game should be big, as should New England-Buffalo and Carolina-Denver.

The picks, week 11

St. Louis is the mirror image of Green Bay. Rams: 2-7, Packers: 7-2. Rams: bad, Packers: good. Ram: losers, Packers: winners. You get the idea...

Alright, Washington is getting awfully close to the point of no return. They need to win against Detroit. I have faith, take Washington.

For some reason I see the Arizona-Dallas matchup as a big rivalry but I can't figure out why. Dallas is going to kill them.

Cincinnati is coming off a big win against the Chargers. They should be able to hold off the Colts to put together a big two game winning streak. Don't count the Bengals out just yet, on their way to 9-7 (author's note: sarcasm abounds).

K.C. versus Jacksonville is huge, for a number of reasons. The Chiefs have the second best record behind the Broncos — they can't lose at all if they want to keep up with Elway and Co. The Jaguars are tied with the Steelers for the lead in the AFC Central. From my standpoint the choice is clear: Go Chiefs.

Miami and Jimmy Johnson are taking on the Jets and Bills Parcells. I don't understand why the hype has focused on the coaches. How can you overlook the thrilling matchup between Dan Marino and Neil O'Donnell, I mean Glenn Foley? Call it the QB factor, but I have to go with Miami in this do-or-die game.

This classic NFC Central matchup leaves much to be desired. Like maybe the possibility of some good football. Whatever happened to da Bears? The Vikings will be raping and pillaging once again in the Metrodome.

After getting back on their feet (or maybe just on one knee) last week versus the Colts, the Buccaneers are easing back into the NFL slowly, but surely. So they have decided to use Atlanta to run some three-quarter speed practice routes. Take Tampa Bay.

QB sensation Heath Shuler gets the call for the Saints against the Raiders this week. Mike Ditka has faith, I guess. Take the Raiders.

In order to maintain their esteemed position atop the NFC East, the Giants must withstand the Oilers of Tennessee. Now that, my friends, is a true test of NFC greatness. There is no hope — the NFC East is gone for good. Take the Giants.

Carolina has been struggling this year for no apparent reason but I expect them to come out ready against the Broncos. Now the Broncos will proceed to destroy them, but as my mom always used to say, it's the thought that counts. Take Elway.

Deadlocked in a three-way gridlock in the AFC East, the Patriots and the Bills are dueling it out this week. Both teams seem to be in post Super Bowl appearance decline. At least the Bills made it four times before disintegrating. After pulling out a ridiculous 9-6 win last week, I gotta go with the Bills. The Patriots just have that black-hole, no-light-at-the-end-of-the-tunnel type thing going on here.

Seattle will have gained some confidence after pushing the Broncos to 30-27. Impressive. The Chargers on the other hand will still be reeling from the in cognito Bengal surprise of last week. Take the Seahawks.

The Steelers died last week in K.C. as the entire game stagnated during the second half with neither team mustering a score in the second half of the Monday Night game. Losing 13-10, they must pull it together this week against the Ravens to keep pace with surging Jaguars. Take the Steelers.

Monday Night Special: The Forty-Niners are awesome this year. They can't be beat. I am going to make a bold prediction here, but the Niners are going to beat the Eagles easily this week and continue to win and win and win. Sometimes teams just click and the Niners are on the verge of running away with the whole darn thing. Except for that little nuisance from the AFC, the Broncos. It should be a fun Super Bowl come January.

Last week: 9-5, season record: 79-40.

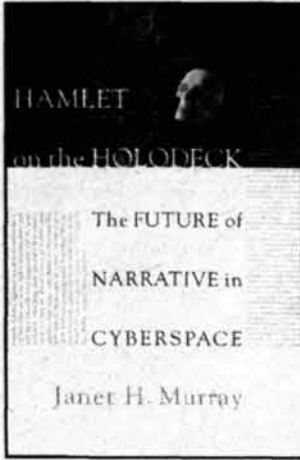
Hamlet on the Holodeck

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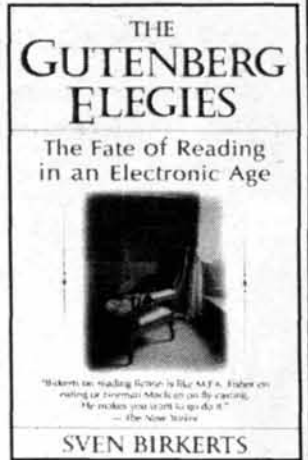
The Gutenberg Elegies

The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age



an exchange between

Janet Murray
and
Sven Birkerts



Thursday, November 13 7 p.m. MIT Bartos Theater
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Face to face for the first time, **Janet H. Murray** and **Sven Birkerts** continue the debate they conducted last August in *Hotwired*: What has become of fiction in our times, and what does the future hold?

In *The Gutenberg Elegies* (Fawcett Columbine), literary critic **Sven Birkerts** argues we are sacrificing literary culture in our haste to embrace the wonders of the electronic age. Nothing among the new information technologies can replace the profound challenges and rewards, or the intimate experience, of encountering fiction via the printed page. From Birkerts' essays on reading emerge a compelling reminder of the vital role reading fiction plays in "transforming the experience of the daily" and a bold challenge to re-evaluate the technological journey our culture is undertaking. Part autobiography, part polemic, part meditation, *The Gutenberg Elegies* provides one of the decade's most moving and provocative accounts of "why reading matters, why it is both a delight and a necessity." —*The Harvard Review*

Janet H. Murray, author of *Hamlet on the Holodeck* (Free Press) and Senior Research Scientist at MIT, sees the electronic age differently. As a teacher of interactive fiction writing in MIT's Film and Media Studies Program, she witnesses the expansion of fiction's possibilities daily. Murray discusses the unique properties and pleasures of digital environments—the state of immersion, the titillating effect of cybernarratives that never climax because everything is morphable, the challenges of constructing tales with infinite possibilities for the next scene—and argues they are still connected to the traditional satisfactions of narrative. Far from dead, she says, fiction is entering a brave new world via the computer. "Murray takes us beyond the clever games and gimmicks ... toward a literature that once more probes the gut questions of human life." —Norman H. Holland, author of "The I"

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SPORTS

Women Harriers Take 4th in NEW8

By Janis Eisenberg
TEAM MEMBER

On Saturday, the women's cross country team ran in the NEW 8 Championship, their final race of the regular season. MIT placed fourth, with 91 points, behind Smith College, 51, Wellesley College, 62, and Wheaton College, 78. Additionally, two MIT runners placed in the top ten, earning All-Conference honors. Debbie Won '00 had an excellent race, finishing second. Her time was 18:04, a personal best. Janis Eisenberg '98 was fifth, (18:33).

The event was hosted by WPI, and the race was held in a park near their school. The somewhat repetitive course consisted of loops on grass and sidewalks. MIT had an advantage over most of the other teams, having raced there earlier in the season.

Many MIT runners ran impressive times, which were improve-

ments over their previous performances on the course. Shue-fen Tung '00 placed 18th, finishing in 19:18. Robin Evans '99 had a great race, breaking the 20 minute mark, by finishing in 19:56 in 30th place. Jantruu Ting '00 wasn't far behind, in 37th place with a time of 20:10. Patricia Diaz '00 ran by far her best race of the season, with a time of 20:29, which was good for 44th place. Tanya Zelevinsky '99 finished right on her heels, in 20:34 for 47th place. The next MIT runner to finish was Melanie Harris '01, in 55th (20:56).

Overall, coach Joe Sousa said he was pleased with the day's results, noting the competitiveness of the other teams in the league.

The varsity members of the team will go on to run in the Division III National Qualifiers at the University of Southern Maine on Nov. 15.

Coast Guard Edges Out Men's Cross Country Despite Top Races

By Rich Rosalez
TEAM MEMBER

This past Saturday, the MIT men's cross country team returned to Institute Park at Worcester Polytechnic Institute with hopes of winning the Constitution Athletic Conference title for a sixth consecutive year. Earlier this year, MIT cruised to victory at Institute park and this race was a sure way to measure the team's progress as it prepares for National Qualifiers.

The harriers were well aware that to win the conference title for the seventh time in eight years the team would have to out-race an impressive squad from the United States Coast Guard Academy. When the gun sounded, and over one hundred runners thundered down the first straight away, it was immediately apparent that Coast Guard had planned on taking the title away from the Engineers.

Coast Guard started the race extremely fast, with their top runner leading the race, and with enough runners in the front pack to steal a win. Aware that the team's title hopes were in trouble, co-captain Mike Parkins '99 and Chris McGuire '00 responded, waiting to

make a move on the lead runner.

Parkins and McGuire let the Coast Guard runner take a 50-meter lead before they reeled him in and watched him suffer in a pointless attempt to keep up. MIT's dynamic duo outperformed the competition once again, as Parkins earned Runner of the Year honors, winning in a course record 25:40. McGuire also finished under the old course record time and was awarded All-Conference Honors as he claimed second place in 25:43 to finish off MIT's lethal one-two combo.

As Coast Guard runners followed by placing 3rd, 4th, and 5th, the team title was still up for grabs. Co-captain Rich Rosalez '98 battled several lead runners from other conference schools and steadily moved his way up from 15th place at the first mile to a seventh place finish in 26:37. Rosalez also earned All-Conference honors for finishing in the top ten, and like McGuire and Parkins, he took over a minute off his time from the race at Institute Park earlier in the season.

Coast Guard captures later places

Coast Guard's depth was too much for the Engineers after that

point, as the Bears captured 8th and 9th to seal the victory. Mark Strauss was not far behind, taking eleventh place in 26:49 on the wet and winding five mile course. Sohail Husain '98 improved tremendously to finish in 12th place in 27:08, guaranteeing MIT a second place finish.

Phil Loisselle '01 and Liyan Guo '01 rounded out the Engineers top seven, finishing in 15th and 17th place respectively. Several other runners had notable performances. Ray Molnar '00 and Frank Johnston '00 ran together and stayed close to the varsity runners as they finished 19th and 20th. A pack of freshmen, who worked together throughout the race, finished next, as Jeff Billing '01, Ken Walker '01, and Aaron Adler '01, placed 23rd, 24th, and 26th. Ryan Peoples '00 also finished.

In the last cross country race of his MIT career, Chuck Van Buren '98 finished 40th, improving over a minute throughout the season. Ed Keehr '01 finished next for MIT, in 50th, and Gus Blomquist '99 narrowly edged Dave Kelman '99 to follow.

Stanley Hu '00, Reid Anderson '01, and Amay Champaneria '01 continued to improve, as Anderson and Champaneria both finished the season with their best performance thus far. Albert Hung '01, Kaoru Aou '00, and Gerardo Martinez '99 also ran strong.

Rob Cox '01 and Ashley Claybourne '99 round out the harrier's impressive roster, ranked as

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Football Captain Gray Receives Fellowship

By Roger Crosley
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Football captain Brad Gray '98 has been named the recipient of a National Football Foundation and

College Hall of Fame Post-graduate Fellowship. Gray is one of only 17 student-athletes nationally to be awarded the \$18,000 fellowship, and one of

only three winners from Division III. In addition, Gray was recently honored by the Burger King Corporation as the winner of a Burger King College Football Scholarship.

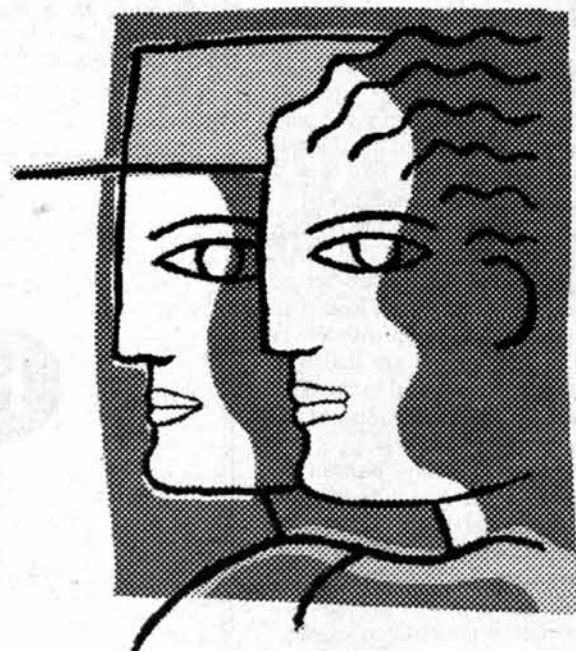
The award is a \$10,000 donation in Gray's name by the Burger King Corporation to MIT's general scholarship fund. Gray is also eligible for the 1997 Burger King Vincent Draddy Scholar-Athlete of the Year

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS	
Saturday, November 8	Football vs. Siena College, 1 p.m.
Monday, November 9	Sailing, Tech Invite, 9:30 a.m.

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If you require transportation to and from the Presentation, please e-mail yen_amy@bah.com

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Thursday, December 11, 1997

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