

Drop Date Tomorrow

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather

Today: Sunny, 45°F (7°C)
Tonight: Clear, cool, 32°F (0°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny, 48°F (9°C)
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Volume 117, Number 59

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, November 18, 1997

New Alcohol Policy Limits IFC Events

By Frank Dabek
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

At Wednesday's meeting of the President's Council of the Interfraternity Council, sweeping changes were approved to the alcohol policies that govern parties held in fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

The new policy, produced by the Committee on Social Policy, Liability and Risk Management affects the way FSILGs deal with alcohol at events and mandates that all new member events be alcohol free. It is designed to "provide a safe environment at MIT... where we could allow people over 21 to drink," said John M. Bustamante '99, chairman of the committee which was made up of eight undergraduate presidents and four IFC alumni.

Iddo Gilon '98, president of the IFC, said that these changes "permit the atmosphere for responsible drinking." We "don't need to micromanage because we can't," Gilon said.

New event guidelines created

The committee's proposals, besides requiring that all new mem-



THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH
IFC President Iddo Gilon '98

ber events be alcohol-free, require that all FSILGs have a risk management chair and safety officer, that members of the IFC with MIT approved housing status may not have a tap system and kegs present in their house, and that no alcoholic beverages may be purchased through a living group's treasury. The policy also changes the penalties for violations.

The policy introduces a new set

IFC, Page 22

Intermediate Grades Focus of Web Survey

By Krista L. Niece
STAFF REPORTER

As the three-year experiment on plus-minus grading nears its end, the Committee on the Undergraduate Program has developed a web-based survey to be administered to undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty.

The survey asks students to rate their attitudes towards three different grading systems. One is the current system, with plus and minus modifiers of letter grades shown on internal grade reports but not on the official transcripts sent to graduate schools and not used to calculate overall grade point averages.

The second option would result in the modifiers being added to external transcripts and grade point averages. The third option is the system which was in place until fall 1995, with no modifiers on either internal or external transcripts.

There are advantages to each grading system, said Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Paul A. Lagace '78, chair of the Subcommittee on Intermediate Grades.

The survey will be available at <http://feedback.mit.edu> until Dec.

12, and a discussion site on the topic will exist through the spring term. Additional comments can be e-mailed to survey@mit.edu.

"We don't just want to find out what students favor," Lipson said. "We also want to understand the reasons behind their preferences."

The feedback forum, a web-based communications tool designed by Jakob J. Seid G and Andrew Tian G, is the medium being used for the survey. Through the feedback forum, students and faculty can provide and receive anonymous feedback.

"The more responses we get, the better we can ascertain what's best for the community," Lagace said.

Students opposed modifiers

"There were a couple of things which pushed" the experiment's introduction three years ago, Lagace said. Many faculty members felt that there were not enough grade divisions to accurately reflect student performance.

In the fall of 1993, the Committee on Academic Performance first began discussing a

Grades, Page 13



T. LUKE YOUNG—THE TECH
Lee A. Night '00 implores passersby in Lobby 7 to come to the 3rd floor and untie her as a part of a project for her Intro to the Visual Arts class.

Closed Building 7 Doors Will Swing Again Soon

By Douglas E. Heimbarger
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Students may be able to return to their well-trod path up the center of the steps at 77 Massachusetts Ave. later this week. The unending flow of student traffic has been diverted to the manual side doors for several weeks now as the center doors underwent repairs.

The pair of automatic doors, which have been out of service for several weeks for major maintenance work, will likely be placed back in service "very soon," said Karen A. Nilsson, assistant director for administration of Physical Plant.

Over the past few weeks, maintenance workers from MIT and from an independent door specialist company have been working to replace the pneumatic drive that closes the doors, Nilsson said.

"The doors in Lobby 7 are over 30 years old," and the pneumatic devices, located beneath the floor in the basement of Building 7, have been wearing down over the past few years from their constant use, Nilsson said.

When the workers began repairing the doors several weeks ago, they initially hoped to salvage the device, but it became necessary to "totally replace" the mechanism, delaying the door's reopening.

After the new closers were installed, workers further discovered that the triggering mats that open the doors had become worn and would not work with the new closers, Nilsson said. New customized mats are now being shipped and should be installed later this week.

While the doors are not the oldest operating doors on the campus, they do receive more use than other doors, Nilsson added, necessitating their frequent maintenance.

Some students thought that the access to the main campus was made more difficult by the broken doors. "I think it kind of sucks," said Jervis C. Lui '98. "I saw someone who walks on crutches" have a very difficult time getting into the building.

Others thought that the absence of the automatic doors was not a problem. "People who use the [automatic] doors are lazy," said Lucy Ramirez '00.

New tones punctuate crosswalk

Other changes have also occurred in the vicinity of the

Doors, Page 20

State Tries to Beautify River Basin Area

By Brett Altschul
NEWS EDITOR

In a far-reaching attempt to "restore the [Charles River] Basin's historic character while addressing the needs of the 21st century," the Metropolitan District Commission has announced that it is developing a master plan for the basin.

The plan proposes several changes to the basin area that would have ramifications for the Institute, from stricter parking regulations along Memorial Drive to alterations of the sea wall abutting MIT's property.

The MDC is a state agency responsible for administering the Charles River itself, the bridges spanning the river, and the area immediately surrounding the river.

The Institute's interest will focus on the several miles of river frontage that it owns, said Talitha Fabricius, a landscape architect and planning officer in physical plant.

The current framework plan calls for many changes that would directly affect the Institute.

One of the proposals calls for changes to the sea wall abutting MIT's property on the Charles River.

The motivation for these changes is the fact that, "the edge seems the most pinched," the report said. However, the commission cautions against making extremely severe changes. "On the other hand, this side has the best views of Boston."

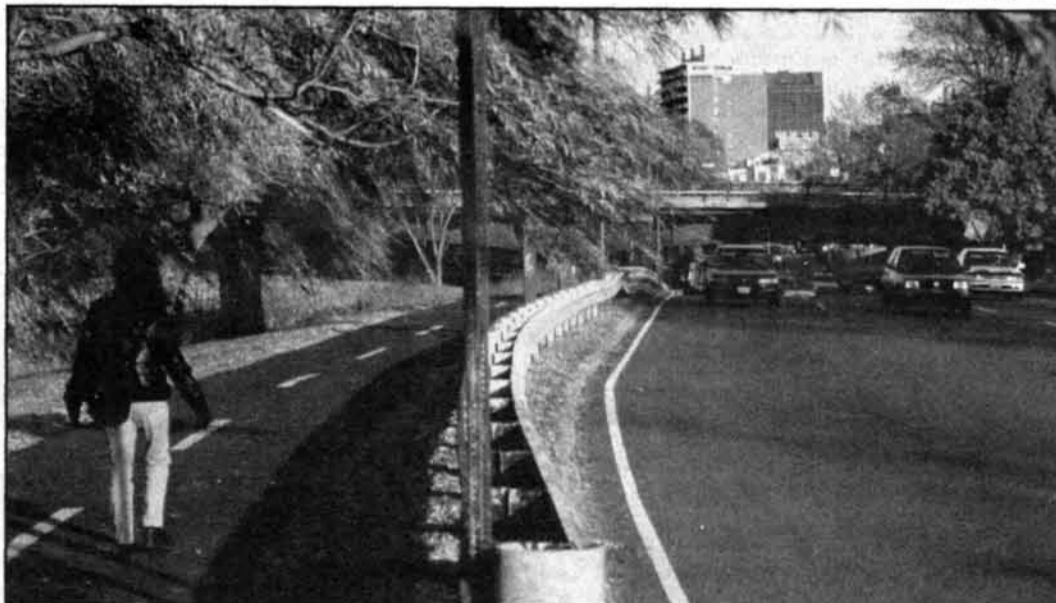
The report also supports widening the strip of grass along the river near the end of the Harvard Bridge.

This would require significant construction on Memorial Drive, and could potentially cut down on the number of parking spaces available there, Fabricius said.

Report proposes parking rules

There are other concerns about parking, Fabricius said. The MDC is seriously considering regulating parking on Memorial Drive, and restricting parking before 10 a.m.

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T. LUKE YOUNG—THE TECH
The Metropolitan District Commission is examining ways to better integrate pedestrian, motorists and cyclist traffic along the Charles River.

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WORLD & NATION

Safety Agency to Allow Air Bag Cut-Off Switches

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

After more than a year of debate, the government will issue a rule Tuesday allowing car owners to install switches to turn air bags on or off, according to administration sources. The rule is a compromise designed to satisfy auto industry and consumer groups who say the switches could lead to more highway deaths, while mollifying motorists and passengers who fear the air bags, which deploy forcefully, could injure or kill them.

"This is an extremely complex policy issue. We've heard arguments from all sides. In the end, we think we came up with the best, balanced program possible," said one administration official knowledgeable about the rule.

The switches will cost as much as \$200 to install, according to officials of General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. According to one study for an air bag manufacturer, as many as 6 million car owners would have deactivated their air bags if allowed to do so without government approval.

Under the final rule, a car owner would request an application from the government and would receive a form along with information on the risks of disabling an air bag. The owner would "self-certify" that he or she qualifies, and submit the form for NHTSA approval. The agency would send the owner an authorization letter allowing a mechanic to install the switch.

Acceptable reasons for putting in a switch would include having to sit too close to the steering wheel because of small physical stature, or the need to use the front seat to ferry several children. Tests show that drivers or passengers who sit within 12 inches of an air bag are at risk of injury on deployment.

Clinton Urges Corporations to Do Their Part for Welfare Reform

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WICHITA, KAN.

Last May, President Clinton invited a coterie of corporate executives to the White House, where they pledged to draft 1,000 companies to hire welfare recipients.

On Monday, Clinton traveled to Kansas to visit one of those companies — Cessna Aircraft — and happily announced that 2,500 corporations have joined the effort, which the White House has said is a key to successfully reforming the welfare system.

"These companies have over 5 million employees," Clinton said. "Some of them are big, like Cessna. ... But 75 percent of them are small businesses. We need all of these companies."

Clinton's latest announcement came as the federal government released several hundred pages of regulations governing the states' use of some \$14 billion in federal welfare funds.

Those regulations outline strict financial penalties for states that fail to get substantial percentages of their welfare caseloads to work. To help states meet those targets, Clinton has crisscrossed the country exhorting business leaders to hire welfare recipients.

But the president's appeals have met with some resistance from the business community, including a group organized recently by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Presidential pleas and financial inducements, many business leaders have warned, are no substitute for educated workers with good work habits, reliable child care and transportation. If state government and community agencies fail to provide those supports, the business leaders warned, employers cannot be expected to pick up the slack.

Reno, Chinese Counterpart Discuss Campaign Probe

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Attorney General Janet Reno met behind closed doors Monday with her Chinese counterpart, Justice Minister Xiao Yang, but aides said that they could report no progress on the department's campaign fund-raising investigation.

Referring to evidence that the Chinese government sought last year to buy political influence in the United States with secret campaign contributions, Reno said in a statement that she made it "very clear to Minister Xiao that we are seeking the full cooperation of the Chinese government."

A Justice Department source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Xiao did not offer such cooperation.

Senior Chinese officials repeatedly have denied that they made any effort to illegally direct money into U.S. political campaigns or improperly influence political events through other means.

In an effort to put the meeting in its best light, Reno's statement said that the two officials and their deputies "discussed a wide range of legal and law enforcement issues" and that the session marked "a productive first step."

She added: "We agreed that our departments should meet again and continue to work together on law enforcement issues."

WEATHER

Cold and Bright

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Today: Mostly sunny skies and remaining chilly conditions. High 40 to 45°F (4 - 7°C)

Tonight: Mostly clear and continued chilly. Lows ranging from near 30°F (-1°C) in Boston to between 20 and 25°F (-7 - -4°C) in the suburbs.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny skies. High in the upper 40s (7 - 9°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy and continued chilly. Lows in the 20s (-7 - -2°C). Highs 35 to 45°F (2 - 7°C)

Gunmen Kill 60 in Massacre At Egyptian Tourist Facility

By John Lancaster

THE WASHINGTON POST

LUXOR, EGYPT

Gunmen opened fire on foreign tourists gathered at an ancient temple on the Nile River Monday, killing at least 57 foreigners and three Egyptians in the country's deadliest terrorist attack by anti-government extremists.

The gunmen launched their attack about 8:45 a.m. as tourists were arriving in buses at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, a stunning sandstone edifice at the base of a cliff near Luxor's world-renowned Valley of the Kings. Most of the victims were Japanese, Swiss and German tourists killed in a spray of gunfire as they stood in a courtyard in front of the massive three-level temple, authorities said.

About 25 people, 16 of them foreigners, were wounded in the attack. Many of the injured were evacuated by air ambulance to Cairo.

Badawy Ahmed Salem, 33, a cab driver, said the gunmen fired at tourists on every level of the temple. "Then they started getting out knives and stabbing people," he said. "They were pulling tourists like sheep on the floor and slaughtering them. ... We were up to our knees in blood. Even those who did not die will be dead psychologically."

Police exchanged fire with the gunmen, killing one at the scene while the rest fled in a commandeered bus. Over the course of the next several hours, police killed five more gunmen when they sought refuge in nearby desert, authorities said.

The attack was the most lethal incident of violence in Egypt since Islamic fundamentalists launched

their campaign to topple the secular, military-backed government of President Hosni Mubarak in 1991.

Coming after more than a year of relative calm, and repeated claims of victory by government security officials, the violence served as a brutal reminder of the continued terrorist threat in the Arab world's most populous and, by some reckonings, influential country.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But suspicion centered on the Islamic Group and Islamic Jihad, Egypt's two main militant organizations, and a witness said the attackers' red bandannas bore the Arabic words for Islamic Group. The two organizations' targets have included police, government officials, secular intellectuals and, occasionally, foreign tourists in six years of violence that has killed more than 1,000 people on all sides.

Monday's attack was a major setback for Egypt's tourist industry, which has undergone a renaissance of late after several years in the doldrums caused by previous episodes of violence. Tourism is a mainstay of the Egyptian economy and travel agents braced for a wave of cancellations just before the busy holiday travel season.

Details of the attack were sketchy. According to news service accounts and an Interior Ministry statement, the gunmen appear to have hidden in or near the temple and opened fire on the tourists as they milled about in the vast courtyard in front of its main steps.

"Four gunmen were inside and two were waiting outside," said a man who owns a souvenir shop on the main road approaching the tem-

ple and said he saw the first moments of the attack.

According to the Interior Ministry statement, police pursued the stolen bus and eventually surrounded it, killing the five remaining militants during an exchange of gunfire. Inside the bus were abandoned guns, homemade explosives and face masks, the statement said.

The ministry reported the death toll at 57 foreign tourists, two Egyptian policemen and an Egyptian tour guide, in addition to the six militants.

Authorities rushed hundreds of Interior Ministry troops to the area after the attack. Government ministers flew down from Cairo and Mubarak huddled with senior advisers, Egyptian television reported.

Security was tight in Luxor after the attack. Police in armored vests manned roadblocks and carefully searched vehicles traveling between Luxor and the west bank of the Nile on a newly completed bridge.

There was no word as to whether there were Americans among those killed, but U.S. diplomats in Cairo were sufficiently concerned that they dispatched an aircraft filled with consular officials to assess the situation and provide assistance as needed, an embassy spokesman said. The embassy issued a statement warning Americans to avoid southern Egypt "until the security situation is clarified and further notice is provided."

The deadliest attack on foreign tourists in Egypt prior to Monday's occurred in April 1996 when militants gunned down 17 Greek tourists and an Egyptian at Cairo's Europa Hotel.

Russia Promises to Help U.S. Seek End to Iraqi Standoff

By Thomas W. Lippman

THE WASHINGTON POST

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

With a promise of help from Russia, the United States turned toward diplomacy Monday for a resolution of the tense standoff between Iraq and the United Nations.

The key player in the initiative seemed to be Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian foreign minister and Arabist who enjoys a longstanding relationship with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Diplomats in several capitals, and in the party that arrived here Monday with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, indicated the Clinton administration has encouraged Russia, France and its Arab allies to intervene with Baghdad — and that Primakov, because of his experience, seemed to have the best chance of getting a hearing.

While the Clinton administration continues to insist it will not negotiate with Iraq, Primakov apparently planned to carry to Baghdad suggestions for resumption of weapons inspections under slightly different terms and a modification of U.N. economic sanctions to allow more food and medicine into Iraq.

In a whirlwind weekend tour of Iraq's Persian Gulf neighbors, Albright heard that even the Arab countries most threatened by Iraq's weapons program prefer such a negotiated settlement to military action. They supported the U.S. strategy of combining intense diplomatic pressure on the Iraqi government, with a show of force to signal what could happen if it refuses to allow weapons inspections to resume.

President Clinton, traveling in

the United States, telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak from Air Force One to discuss "ways to continue efforts searching for a diplomatic solution to the situation," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart reported. Egypt, a key U.S. ally in the Arab world, has been at the forefront of those simultaneously urging Iraqi compliance with U.N. sanctions and a diplomatic rather than military solution to the showdown.

"I'm trying to settle this issue peacefully. But our diplomatic efforts must be backed by our strong military capability. We cannot rule out any option ...," Clinton said while touring an aircraft plant in Wichita, Kan. "It is essential that those inspectors go back to work. The safety of the children of the world depends on it."

Saudi Arabia, a U.S. ally that after Kuwait would be most vulnerable to Iraqi attack, issued a statement Monday after Albright's visit expressing "satisfaction at the collective desire to give diplomatic efforts every chance to resolve the present crisis peacefully."

A Western diplomat in Moscow said Russia is engaged in "serious diplomacy" to resolve the Iraq crisis but added, "The effectiveness is still an open question." Albright has spoken to Primakov several times in recent days, he added.

Primakov has often argued, in past conflicts with Iraq, that Moscow can be a useful intermediary with Saddam. "We're doing everything we can to bring this crisis out onto the path of peaceful political settlement," he told reporters in Moscow, "taking into account the necessity of restoring the functioning of the special com-

mission, and at the same time the improvement of the work of this special commission, so that for Iraq, the light at the end of the tunnel could, as they say, be visible."

From public statements and briefings Monday, it appeared Saddam is prepared to recognize he miscalculated when he ordered the expulsion of American members of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) teams searching Iraq for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

The official Iraqi News Agency said that at a meeting of Saddam and his cabinet, "the letters sent to the president from his brother Arab presidents and monarchs were reviewed." Since all Arab leaders who have spoken publicly have urged a peaceful solution, that was taken as a signal of Iraq's thinking.

But Nizar Hamdoon, the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, said proposals centering on the oil-for-food deal are a "non-starter in trying to resolve the current crisis." He said Iraq wants to explain its position and "work out a quick lifting of sanctions."

"We are always ready to listen," he said at the United Nations. "But up to this moment I don't see any substantive initiative that is addressing the Iraqi concerns."

Iraq last week offered to permit inspections to resume provided the teams more closely reflect the nationalities of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Iraq has complained that U.S. inspectors disproportionately make up the teams that enter Iraq and probe for violations of the ban on weapons of mass destruction imposed at the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Teamster President Banished From Seeking Re-Election

By Frank Swoboda
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

Teamsters President Ron Carey was disqualified Monday from seeking re-election by a federal elections officer who concluded that Carey illegally diverted nearly \$1 million from the union's general treasury to finance his successful campaign last year against rival James P. Hoffa.

Former U.S. District Judge Kenneth Conboy found that Carey "tolerated and engaged in extensive rules violations" and "misused his union power in the course of the election."

Conboy also implicated the highest ranks of the nation's labor movement — including the AFL-CIO and top officials of the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees — in the efforts to illegally finance

Carey's campaign. The ruling sketches a series of fund-raising schemes in which Carey's campaign aides allegedly approached labor leaders, proposing to swap contributions in efforts to evade campaign finance rules. For example, the judge cites testimony by Carey campaign consultant Martin Davis that AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka agreed to a swap in which the Teamsters would give \$150,000 to the AFL-CIO, which would in return give the same amount to Citizen Action, a political organizing group. Citizen Action did receive the money and then gave \$100,000 to a consulting group, which used it to pay for a Carey campaign direct-mail drive, said Davis, who has pleaded guilty to criminal wrongdoing in the fund-raising effort.

The events described in Conboy's

report constitute the latest setback for the federal government's decades-old efforts to rid the Teamsters of corruption. Carey came to office as the reformer, the candidate who beat the union's Old Guard leadership and brought about major change in the union of Dave Beck, Jimmy Hoffa and Roy Williams. And now the union's old guard leadership, represented by Hoffa's son James P. Hoffa, appears to be once again making a comeback.

Carey said Monday in Washington, "I have done nothing wrong and I will fight this decision until it is overturned." His attorney, Reid Weingarten, called Conboy's decision a "strained and wrongheaded decision that turns justice and common sense on their heads."

Carey has long denied that he knew of or participated in the illegal campaign financing efforts of his aides.

FBI Agents Say Guns, Fertilizer Were at Nichols' Michigan Home

By Tom Kenworthy
THE WASHINGTON POST

DENVER

FBI agents testified Monday that they found an arsenal of guns, anti-government videos and bottles of ammonium nitrate fertilizer in the Kansas home of Oklahoma City bombing defendant Terry L. Nichols when they searched the house three days after the April 19, 1995, blast at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Continuing to build their circumstantial case against Nichols, the 42-year-old Army buddy of convicted bomber Timothy J. McVeigh, prosecutors also offered lengthy testimony designed to link Nichols to a November 1994 robbery of an Arkansas gun collector. The government contends the proceeds of that robbery — thousands of dollars in cash, dozens of guns, and precious

metals and stones — were used to finance the bombing conspiracy that killed 168 people.

Karen Anderson, who shared a home with gun collector Roger Moore in Royal, Ark., and worked with him in a mail-order ammunition business, on the stand Monday methodically identified dozens of items recovered from Nichols' home in Herington, Kan., as either identical or similar to those taken in the alleged robbery.

"It's my baby," Anderson said when asked to identify a .308 rifle. "I like shooting this gun. It's got a custom-made stock. It was made basically for me. ... I really like the way it shoots."

A colorful witness, who was admonished Monday by a prosecutor not to point one of the many guns presented as evidence at U.S. District Judge Richard P. Matsch,

Anderson identified more than a dozen weapons, boxes of specialized tracer ammunition she said had unique characteristics, a quilt, camera equipment and other items that she and Moore say were taken in the robbery. Anderson was not at the Moore home at the time of the robbery but returned the next day from a Louisiana gun show.

The robbery is one of the pillars of the government's case against Nichols, though Moore has previously told authorities he did not recognize the camouflaged man who robbed him with a pistol-grip shotgun on Nov. 5, 1994. But Moore was a friend of McVeigh's, and star government witness Michael Fortier has testified that McVeigh told him Nichols robbed Moore to raise money for the bombing conspiracy.

Supreme Court Rejects Miranda Case over Booking Questions

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court on Monday spurned Maryland's request to reinstate the conviction of a suspect who was asked at police headquarters whether he used drugs before he was warned he had the right to remain silent.

By declining to take the case, the justices let stand a decision by the Maryland Court of Appeals which found that a response to a standard booking question about drug use could not be used against a defendant unless he first had been read his Miranda rights. The Maryland attorney general had argued that the booking question was not meant to be part of a criminal interrogation, requiring a warning, but rather was asked for routine administrative purposes.

The high court's refusal to take up the Maryland case lessens the chance that incriminating answers to booking questions can be used against a defendant at trial. The court's order — issued without any comment — also is a reminder of the enduring force of *Miranda vs. Arizona*, the controversial 1966 decision that sealed the Warren Court's liberal reputation, prompted police outrage and drove politicians to run on "law and order" platforms.

While the Supreme Court has allowed some exceptions to *Miranda*, for example, in situations when an officer may quickly ask "Where's the gun?" the justices have declined over three decades to reverse a ruling that requires suspects in custody to be warned they have the right to remain silent and to have a lawyer present.

U.S. Starts Investigation Into Union Dispute in Mexico

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN DIEGO

The U.S. Labor Department launched an investigation Monday of a frustrated attempt by Tijuana, Mexico, factory workers to create an independent union, a move that will mean deeper scrutiny of labor practices in Baja California's growing "maquiladora" industry.

The independent union got a majority of the votes in an election at the Han Young factory Oct. 6, but a dozen of its supporters have lost their jobs and the Tijuana labor board has refused to recognize the union.

The ill-fated union effort at Han Young, which manufactures chassis for Hyundai Precision America in San Diego, was cited by a dozen U.S. congressmen in their opposition to President Clinton's recent bid for fast-track authority to negotiate new free-trade agreements. They said the union dispute underscores their concerns about companies moving operations to nations with low wages and few worker safeguards, robbing Americans of jobs.

"We are very concerned about the seriousness of the allegations," said Irasema Garza, secretary of the U.S. Labor Department's National Administrative Office, which has reviewed seven previous complaints of labor practices in Mexico since the North American Free Trade Agreement took effect in 1994.

The Tijuana labor board rejected the independent union Nov. 10, saying the 54-34 majority vote did not prove all 116 Han Young workers supported it. They said the workers were ineligible to join the metal workers union and that the union was not properly registered — contentions union advocates reject.



Graduate Student Council

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



The Nutcracker

8:00 PM, Thursday, Dec. 4
The Wang Center
\$35 (regularly \$45)
Registration now available at the GSC office, 50-220.

Externship Program Telethon

The Externship Program is a new initiative jointly organized by the Alumni Association and the GSC. It aims to provide opportunities for graduate students to job-shadow an MIT alumni/ae in Washington, D.C., for a week during the IAP.

A Telethon to increase awareness and participation by alumni/ae, is scheduled for 6:00 PM, Thursday, Nov. 20, at Bldg. 10, Vannever Bush Room. Food will be served. Please come to help make this program a success! For more details, contact Terence Fan at 225-1642 or email tpfan@mit.edu.



NOVEMBER

- 18 Extracurricular Activities and Athletics Meeting *
- 19 Housing and Community Affairs Meeting *
- 20 Academics, Research & Careers Meeting *

DECEMBER

- 3 General Council Meeting *
- 4 The Nutcracker, register at GSC now.
- 17 Activities Meeting *

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

OPINION

Focusing on the Real Issue

Almost two months after President Charles M. Vest called for a campus-wide introspective dialogue on alcohol usage, little progress has been made in involving the entire MIT community in a productive discussion. Aside from the recent prohibition on alcohol at many Institute

Editorial

events, life at MIT is essentially unchanged. Furthermore, the narrow set of students who have attended discussion forums have been there to do little more than defend their turf in the face of possible changes to the housing system. Their panic over the threat of housing changes has focused the discussion almost entirely on housing to the exclusion of talk about the central issue of alcohol.

The dialogue itself has been relegated to an extremely low significance as far as student body is concerned. At no point have the administration or faculty noted that the discussion is of the same, if not greater, importance than schoolwork or activities. MIT could have sent a strong message about the significance of such dialogue by canceling classes for a time to gather students for a discussion after the death of Scott S. Krueger '01. Even though students could not be forced to give up their classwork to attend a discussion, the intention of the administration would have been unmistakable. Instead, forums and town meetings have taken a low profile.

Vest's town meeting solicited student participation but was scheduled at noon on a Friday, when many students had classes. While a few forums have been held, there has been minimal effort at encouraging discussion on a smaller scale. While some faculty members and administrators have attempted to gain an understanding of dormitory and fraternity life by visiting living groups and talking with the residents, few overall have been involved. Few graduate resident tutors have gathered together dormitory residents for serious conversations on alcohol use.

Although students have participated in campus-wide

forums, none of the discussions has achieved what anyone would reasonably call "introspective dialogue." As with many political situations, soliciting the opinion of a broad range of people has been difficult. Most of the students who attended the forums have been those who feel threatened by the topics of discussion. A typical student at a forum was an independent living group member worried about a delayed rush or a dormitory resident concerned about randomizing housing selection. Most were there in essence to defend their turf, and the vast majority of those were ILG members. Chair of the Faculty Lotte Bailyn has even gone so far as to encourage better representation from dormitory residents since discussion had been dominated by ILG members. Few students have entered discussions with a willingness to see beyond their own their own situation and participate in or discuss the re-examination of the entire MIT experience.

Lost in the forum and the town meeting was the focus of the introspective dialogue on alcohol. A freshman died of alcohol poisoning in an off-campus fraternity. Students and faculty have argued over freshman housing to no end, but the issues of underage drinking, and drinking in general, have been largely ignored. Although some may argue that housing was a factor, the main cause behind the death was the misuse of alcohol. Although the now infamous motion proposed by Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephen L. Choroover at October's faculty meeting set the tone for a discussion on housing, the fact remains that to ignore alcohol in the dialogue is to ignore the real issue. The indefinite Institute ban on alcohol will serve no purpose unless the administration has some concrete change to show for it. The housing topics now dominating discussion should have been peripheral to the central problem of drinking.

An effective, introspective dialogue about alcohol use has never truly materialized. However, it is not too late to start a productive discussion. A hard look at alcohol use should not be lost to discussion about housing and orientation.



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

IT HAS BECOME FASHIONABLE IN CERTAIN CIRCLES TO CRITICIZE FILMMAKER MICHAEL MOORE FOR HIS SUCCESS.



AND WHILE IT SEEMS TO US THAT SOCIETY WOULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE IF THIS ARGUMENT WERE CARRIED TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION--



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Honesty about That Which Disturbs Us

Discussion of the Relationships between White Men and Asian Women Needs More Truthfulness

Stacey E. Blau



A few years ago, I read a story in *The New Yorker* about Peter Norton, the man who created Norton Utilities. A typical *New Yorker* piece, the story on Norton ran about 10 pages and was quite detailed. Norton is a very interesting man; I discovered, among other things, that he was a Buddhist monk for about a year of his life.

One of the first few paragraphs stated that Norton, who is white, is married to a black woman. But more than that, the story said, a number of years before Norton met his wife, he had discovered something about himself — that he was especially attracted to black women.

In the story, Norton likened his discovery of this attraction to a gay person's discovery of his homosexuality; the discovery was in essence an admission of a natural reality that he could either run with or deny. He ran with it.

Harmless enough, I thought. Norton certainly didn't express any disturbing conceptions he had of black women. He didn't appear in any way to be a womanizer. And while the article didn't delve too deeply into his relationship with his wife, there seemed no evidence that his relationship with his wife

was anything other than normal. He happened to be especially attracted to black women, his wife was black, and those two facts were no doubt causally related, but so what?

Race and sex are touchy subjects separately and even more explosive when put together. This is true as much today as it was 30 years ago or 100 years ago. About 30 years ago, a hot topic was the large number of interracial relationships between whites and blacks — more specifically, relationships between white men and black women. Today, it's relationships between whites and Asians — more specifically between white men and Asian women.

And who doesn't know it? Examples of white male and Asian female relationships abound at MIT in tremendous numbers. It is rather curious that the phenomenon is pretty much one-way — between white men and Asian women and not the Asian men and white women. To be sure, there are plenty of exceptions, but the overwhelming one-sidedness is borne out in marriage statistics. Several statistics I have seen put the ratio between white male/Asian female marriages and Asian male/white female marriages in the United States at about 3:1. For foreign-born Asian-Americans, the ratio is closer to 5:1.

At MIT, most of us have seen the full range of such relationships. Many, of course, have nothing to do with Asian fetishism. A subset, however, do. Many men freely admit to having a special attraction to Asian women. Such men of the Peter Norton sort are not really disturbing. As with Norton, it probably would be easy to decry what may in some

sense underly these relationships. But the important part is really how these men conduct themselves. Do they demean the women they date because of their race?

If the answer is no, and if it is in fact the case that these men treat their girlfriends well, then there doesn't seem to be much wrong with their attraction. Maybe the attraction is the result of latent stereotypes they hold about Asian women; maybe it isn't. The point is that the men treat their girlfriends well; why should they or anyone else view their attraction as any more unnatural or unacceptable than, say, homosexuality?

The men for whom Asian women are little more than exotic, mysterious sex objects constitute the lifeblood of the Asian fetishist stereotype, and they are the ones most everyone finds disgusting and unacceptable for the way they discuss and treat the women they are obsessed with. A notable subset of men in white male/Asian female relationships fall into this category. We could correctly term most of those relationships abusive, much in the same way that we would call abusive any relationship in which a man treats his girlfriend or wife badly.

But that is simply not the case in most relationships. As much as many people, including me, have derided the bad instances, we also have to come to terms with the opposite cases. Whatever the origins of a man's specific attraction to Asian women, if the bad stereotypes we might associate with such an attraction have very little in reality to do with the relationship he has with his girlfriend, then there really isn't much to deride. But few who

are interested in discussing the white male/Asian female relationship phenomenon seem to care about this.

This is only part of the problem people have with honesty in the discussion of this issue. Equally important in white male/Asian female relationships are the Asian women who constitute half of the relationships. But discussion of white male/Asian female relationships almost always revolves around the men, as though the women had no involvement in the relationships. Obviously, that is not the case. While there may be other factors at work, these women do have a choice, and it is their choice to be in these relationships.

This notion that women have no agency in these matters extends so far that many Asian women in relationships with white men constantly find themselves perceived as part of a stereotypical relationship that could obviously have nothing more to it than the man's attraction to the woman because of her race. As a result, many women feel they have to go out their way to set their boyfriends apart from the Asian fetishist stereotype.

We can probably learn as much from the discussion of Asian fetishism as we can from Asian fetishism itself. The stereotypes that people apply to white male/Asian female relationships are themselves an interesting insight into the perceptions that people in general have about the relationships. What the discussion needs is some honesty about the realities of natural and acceptable feelings that do no one any harm and some talk of the roles that women themselves choose to have.

Freshmen on Campus? That's Not the Issue

Guest Column
Leigh Royden

Following the tragic death of Scott S. Krueger '01 last month, the debate on alcohol use and the freshman housing system has waxed hot and heavy. The housing debate pits visions of freshman living in regimented supervision within police-state dormitories while fraternities and independent living groups languish across the river against the prospect of debauched freshmen running amok in dens of fraternal iniquity, cutting classes, and becoming progressively less tolerant of people who look, act, or sound different from themselves.

Few of us would like to choose between such alternatives. But even patently ridiculous visions like these play a very real role in the current debate as proponents of each side succumb to the visceral fear of what might happen if the other side gets its way on housing and drinking.

In fact, drinking and housing are but two elements in what remains the least satisfactory part of an MIT education — the freshman year. There are many reasons MIT does a better job of nurturing its upperclassmen than it does its freshmen, but the fact remains that there are major problems with the first-year academic program and the general environment that freshmen encounter from the moment they arrive at MIT. These problems go beyond questions of where students live or what they drink and beyond what formal and informal groups have to say on the diverse factors that contribute to the failures of the first-year program.

The bottom line is that MIT fails to provide for its students (and for itself) a sense of community within which learning is enhanced by natural social interactions among students, faculty, and staff. Moreover, the physical proximity of community members and the architectural spaces within which these interactions take place have a big effect on how, and even whether, such interactions occur.

MIT does a good job of providing upperclassmen with the opportunity to find a sense of academic direction and autonomy via the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and the outstanding options for study available within many departments. But it does very little to help freshmen feel a sense of control over their own lives, or even their own course work, and provides them with little opportunity to discover an intellectual niche or sense of academic purpose. Can it be any surprise that the fraternities and ILGs are of such importance to our students? They give a sense of identity, community, and support that the broader Institute fails to provide.

Without focusing on these larger issues, the issue of freshman housing will amount to merely a trade-off between the greater emotional security and support provided by fraternities and ILGs and the greater supervision and diversity of residential groups that would be possible if all freshmen lived on campus.

This is not a trade-off that we should make. I believe that MIT freshmen should live on campus but not until we can provide on campus the same level of support and community that is present in the best of the fraternities and ILGs. We must nurture a sense of identity and belonging within these on-campus

living groups and certainly not isolate first-year students within all-freshmen dorms. We also must be cognizant of the valuable role of fraternities and ILGs at MIT and take care to keep them as viable upperclass housing units as we move freshmen onto campus.

If the fraternities and ILGs are so successful, why even bother to bring all freshmen on campus? First, we need to build an MIT that has a overarching sense of community and inclusiveness, not an MIT that is merely a collection of small, exclusive communities without overall integration. Physical proximity, especially in the first year, is an important component in the building of that community, and we need to include more faculty and staff within these student residences; a balanced MIT residential community cannot be a student-only community.

Second, the residential configuration of our freshman class and the nature of the first-year academic program are inextricably linked. MIT is caught in a gridlock where many improvements to the first-year program are impossible when freshmen are scattered across the greater Boston area. Yet it is partly the structure, rigidity, and lack of individuation in the freshman program that make fraternities and ILGs a haven from the forced march of the freshman year. The best outcome will be to move toward a more inclusive and flexible integration of the academic and residential experience in the first year.

Third, inarguably, the support one feels from being with people who experience things similarly is comforting. But as a society we must fight the tendency to self-select for cultural, ethnic, temperamental, academic, or

physical sameness. The university years offer many young people their first opportunity to participate in a broader community. Many of us who went to universities where freshmen roommates were randomly assigned ended up liking roommates whom we never would have chosen and learning to live with and respect roommates who never became close friends. This is an important lesson in life.

Fourth, most matriculating freshmen are not yet adults; many of them are away from home for the first time. Their freshman year will be one of the greatest transition periods in their lives as they adjust to a new academic rigor, to living without parental supervision, and to the multiple opportunities for self-exploration and testing of limits. As adults, MIT faculty have the obligation to make this transition as smooth (it won't be smooth in any case) and as free of trauma as possible. Supervision is not the issue; maturation is.

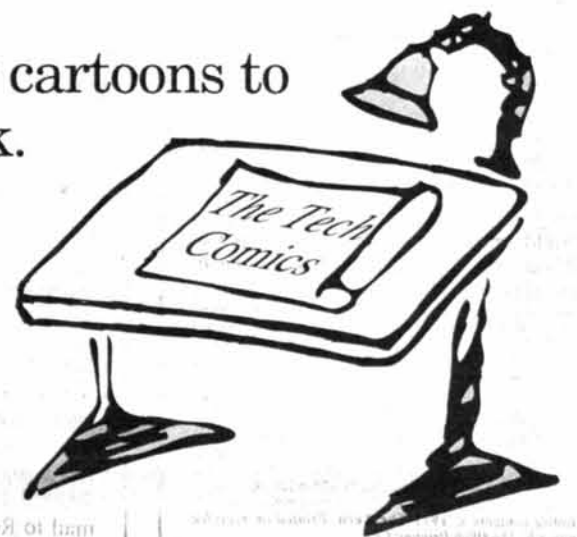
Of course, all of this comes from my 42-year-old vantage point, so I thought I should ask my seven-year-old son what he thought about it (I had to begin by explaining the term "freshman"). He pondered for a few moments, then answered, "They should be able to live anywhere they want because MIT is OK, but a house could be a lot nicer." So here is my homework question for the week: If it takes a seven-year-old one minute and 40 seconds to figure this out, how long will it take an 18-year-old MIT freshman? I don't know the answer, but until we change the question, the housing debate at MIT never will be resolved.

Leigh Royden PhD '82 is a professor of earth, atmospheric, and planetary sciences and a former associate chair of the faculty.

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THE ARTS

ON CAMPUS

Ruddigore

A crazy town led by a king cursed to commit one crime per day

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

If you are the type of person who wakes up on Nov. 1 tragically aware that it's 364 long days until the next Halloween, take heart. You still have a chance to see usually sane people wear ridiculous costumes, make weird body movements, and sing solos, duets, and choruses in public: in other words, an opera. In this case, a comparison to Halloween is even more apt, because the opera in question is comic horror melodrama *Ruddigore* from that ubiquitous British team of W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan (if you ever find yourself on *Jeopardy*, Sullivan is the one who wrote the music) and deals with such heartwarming subjects as witches, curses, and ghosts.

While not quite of the same caliber as the acknowledged masterpieces by the same team (like *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*), *Ruddigore* provides the typical G&S plot which simultaneously makes perfectly logical sense and is loopy to the utmost degree, sharp dialogue (choice line: "You've no idea what a poor opinion I have of myself, and how little I deserve it"), and catchy music (there is no known cure for suffering patients who can't refrain from continuously humming the tunes for a week after hearing them).

Ruddigore is also particularly strong in having more than half a dozen vividly kooky characters: young and beautiful Rose Maybud (Rebecca Consentino), who doesn't make a step without consulting with Miss Manners; Robin Oakapple (Daniel Kamalic '99), a modestly dashing young man whose full-time occupation is pretending to be a farmer; his foster-brother Richard Dauntless (Joshua Breindel), whose libido is second in size only to his ego; tastefully and fashionably dressed Mad Margaret (Amy E. Allen); Sir Despard Murgatroyd, a wicked baronet of Ruddigore, surely in the Guinness Book of Records as the only member of the Murgatroyd family whose first name doesn't start with R; and other people, both alive and undead. The plot concerns usual romantic troubles: love, jealousy, ancient curses, ghosts, talking sock-puppets, and such.

The MIT G&SP production of *Ruddigore*, while being clearly a work of enthusiastic amateurs, is highly praiseworthy. Most performers are very good, both as actors and singers, and the best singing is done by Consentino and Kamalic, the two romantic



Rose Maybud (Rebecca Consentino) and Robin (Daniel Kamalic '99) in Gilbert & Sullivan Players' *Ruddigore*.

leads (Kamalic passes the acid test of Sullivan's notoriously rapid patter songs with flying colors). To my regret, it's often hard to understand Richard Dauntless' songs; on the other hand, Breindel's acting is excellent, making Richard a thoroughly charismatic scoundrel. Less impressive is the orchestra, which leaves the impression of being under-rehearsed; solo parts are performed fine, but most music lacks coherence. To be fair, I attended the first performance; and judging by how much better the musicians were during the second act, the subsequent performances should experience no such problems. Frankly speaking, the only area in which improvements are desirable is organization; the audience is bound to lose some goodwill when tickets are available only ten minutes before the show, as opposed to the promised thirty.

Congratulations are due to all the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players, especially to director Scott Gagnon and set designers Carolyn Jean Smith '87 and Jason Goodman G. The production is colorful and moves along at a brisk pace, but without sacrificing coherency.

The set for the first act is adequate but unremarkable, which is actually good, since it provides a striking contrast with the gothically somber set of the second act. This second act

is built around a spectacular special effect (I won't give it away, but you'll know it when you see it), and is realized in a simple yet seamless manner. Speaking of which, *Ruddigore* is a bit unusual in having a second act much more serious and genuinely emotional than the first one; this production plays it mostly for laughs, which is certainly a valid choice. While not being very involving emotionally, it comes out as being very funny, and that's a fair trade-off; the funniest bit in the show wasn't written by either Gilbert or Sullivan. I refer to what happens immediately after the line "Let the agonies commence." I don't think I laughed that hard in quite a while.

MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players

Written by Gilbert and Sullivan

Starring Daniel Kamalic '99, Joshua Breindel, David C. Jedlinsky '89, Michael Bromberg '70, Rebecca Consentino, Amy E. Allen, Anita Costanzo.

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Music direction by Jay Lane

Technical direction by Garry Zacheiss '00

Choreography by Jennifer Condon

Produced by Lucy Lim '98 and Chris Marchant '98

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BOOK REVIEW

Wizard and Glass

An unexpected chapter in King's Dark Tower series

By Tzu-Mainn Chen

Many King fans consider *The Dark Tower* series to be his finest work. These books, loosely inspired by Robert Browning's poem *Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came*, are some of his most popular, even among people who refuse to read any other King novel.

Unfortunately, King seems to delight in torturing the readers of *The Dark Tower* by taking an exquisitely long time to write each book in the series. The first book, *The Gunslinger*, was published 15 years ago; the second, *The Drawing Of The Three*, came five years later; and *The Wastelands* came five years after that. And now, after another five year wait, the fourth novel, *Wizard and Glass*, has been released.

Is this book worth the wait? Well... the answer depends on what the reader expects.

The central character of *The Dark Tower* is Roland, the last surviving gunslinger of another world. He is on a quest for the Dark Tower, a lynchpin of time and space which, once reached, can fix his crumbling world. The first three books in the series detail his long journey, during which he "draws" three people from our own world into his. By the end of *The Wastelands*, Roland and his companions are halfway to their destination.

In *Wizard and Glass*, their travels continue (the escape from the suicidal monorail, Blaine, will delight any believer in the intrinsic stupidity

of artificial intelligence), but the bulk of the book is devoted to the story of Roland's past youth. And this is where *Wizard and Glass* differs from its predecessors. Far from being the cold and ruthlessly efficient machine described in the previous books, here Roland is an inexperienced teenager, prone to mistakes, but still surrounded by warmth and friends. Even more interesting, the central story is not the mixture of fantasy, science-fiction, and adventure that made the first three books so involving; instead, it is principally a love story.

This story begins when Roland and two friends, Cuthbert and Alain, enter the town of Hambry under assumed names. Ostensibly, they go there under the orders of Roland's father, lord of Gilead and the Inner Baronies, to ensure that the town is making adequate preparations for a feared rebellion. In reality, however, Roland is sent in order to protect him from members of the rebellion hidden within Gilead who desire his death. Unfortunately, once he arrives, it becomes clear that the government of Hambry is embroiled in a plot to supply the uprising. Another problem arises when Roland falls in love with Susan, who is under contract to produce a child with the married mayor of Hambry. Soon, Roland and his companions are forced into various political maneuverings as they try to uncover the conspiracy, while Roland tries to hide an affair with Susan. Further complications include the search for a pink crystal ball, the "glass" mentioned in the title, which can foretell the future, and a trio of

gunmen, ominously named "The Big Coffin Hunters," who are determined to stop and kill Roland and his friends at all costs.

King writes with his usual verbosity, giving extensive backgrounds and descriptions to every place, person, and action. While some of his books have become uncomfortably bloated because of this style, but here the language serves to create a dreamlike mood which reinforces this tale of past love. The surrealistic illustrations by Dave McKean increase this effect. Adding to the poignancy of the story is the reader's knowledge that, out of all these characters from the past, Roland is the only one who survives into the present. The cloud of doom that overshadows the book effectively gives the sense of a world in which everything is rushing to oblivion, and where everything must lead to tragedy.

Those who expect *Wizard and Glass* to be as full of action as the other books in the series will definitely be disappointed. This is not to say that there aren't any vivid fight sequences, including a six-person Mexican standoff with three guns versus two knives and a slingshot, and an encounter in Roland's present with Maerlyn, the Ageless Stranger, who opposes Roland's quest.

Another disappointment is that the full story of Roland's past is not revealed; expected scenes of the fall of Gilead and the deaths of his fellow gunslingers are not present. But the story that King does write is well-crafted and well-told, making *Wizard and Glass* a welcome addition to *The Dark Tower* series.

By Stephen King
Illustrations by Dave McKean
720 pages
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THEATER REVIEW

Stomp

How to turn a nervous habit into art

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

First, a warning: if you don't like percussive music and/or modern dance, you can save yourself time and money by skipping both this review and the performance of *Stomp*. It's definitely not your can of soda. For the rest of us, though, for the people who drum fingers on tables, rap knuckles on walls, tap feet with the beat of a song on radio, and find it hard to get rid of a particularly catchy tune once it's in your head, *Stomp* provides two hours of solid (albeit pricey) entertainment.

It's hard to categorize *Stomp*. It inhabits the border area between performance art, percussion music ensemble, modern dance troupe, and visual comedy (the weakest component).

The show starts with a janitor on stage with a broom. Gradually his sweeps acquire rhythm, and the sounds start to vary: there's a sound of a sweep, another of a broom hitting the floor squarely, another when it raps the floor sideways, and another when it's dropped. From these four notes, the lone performer weaves what can be loosely termed a melody, and then more people come on the stage, each with a broom, each joining in, creating more and more complicated rhythms and playing off each other to create music. And the word "music" certainly applies. Despite the fact that all we hear are various noises, they're timed precisely. The performer's movements are choreographed with equal care.

All in all, there are twelve performers, and they surely work up a sweat, performing for almost two hours without an intermission. After the initial broom segment, they use almost every other household item that makes a sound, including, but not limited to: matchboxes, sand, wooden poles, buckets, newspapers, cast iron kitchen sinks, spatulas, oil drums, newspapers, trash bags, tea chests, paper cups, garbage cans, etc. The performers, in alphabetical order, bang, clap, crash, hit, kick, knock, punch, rap, slam, smack, strike, and mercilessly whack the objects ("mercilessly" is the word; according to the *Stomp* people, they use up to twenty brooms a week). All of the segments are fun; some are unexpectedly touching, like the mysterious atmospheric sounds of the rubber pipes hitting the floor, and especially the fugue on eight Zippo lighters, performed in total darkness, with the flickers of flame providing a visual counterpoint to the clicking sounds. In the end, the whole set becomes a music instrument, with the tin pails, plastic buckets, traffic signs, etc., being hit with abandon.

For two hours of what amounts to hitting various objects, *Stomp* is surprisingly varied (although using the brooms in three different music pieces feels like too much of a good thing). Admittedly, the price of admission is a bit high (the cheapest ticket you can get will set you back around \$30), but if you like weird music and dance, you will not see anything like this anywhere else.

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MOVIE REVIEW

The Wings of the Dove

Love or money — and a girl's scheme to get both

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

British director Iain Softley's two previous movies were *Backbeat*, about the Beatles, and *Hackers*, about computer nerds. His latest, *The Wings of the Dove*, is a period piece, based on the novel by Henry James (who is a classical novelist *du jour*, replacing Jane Austen). This unusual pairing of a classical novel and a director with a feel for the period does wonders, just as it did when Martin Scorsese used his cinematic style to great effect on Edith Wharton's novel *The Age of Innocence*.

The Wings of the Dove is, at least on one level, an action movie — a ruthless, no-holds-barred, take-no-prisoners battle between the 19th and 20th centuries. The main conflict is set starting from the opening sequence, when the film's protagonist Kate Croy (Helena Bonham Carter), dressed in an elaborate costume, descends into the London subway. The contrast is jarring: Kate looks like she just stepped from an old painting, and the subway (the year is 1910) looks as grimy and crowded as today, almost a hundred years later. This scene puts the two worlds into a head-on collision, and it's this collision that makes the story.

With her mother dead and father a hopeless opium addict, Kate is taken in by wealthy aunt Maude (Charlotte Rampling), under whose guidance she enters the fashionable high-class circles. But Kate has a secret: she's in love with a commoner, a handsome and clever — but poor — journalist Merton Densher (Linus Roache). This doesn't suit aunt Maude, who would rather see Kate married to some rich lord. Since Kate has no fortune of her own, she is facing a difficult choice: Merton or money. Then a young, pretty, lonely, and very rich American girl, Millie Theale (Alison Elliott), arrives on the scene and makes friends with both Kate and Merton. Soon Kate invents a plan which can bring to all three of them what they need most, be it love or money.

The first hour of the movie takes place in London, which was meticulously recreated and looks fabulous (this, by the way, applies to all aspects to the movie: sets, costumes, and cinematography are very impressive by themselves, but when combined, the impression is nothing short of jaw-dropping). Then Kate, Merton, and Millie go to Venice, and the movie changes, just like its setting; the pace becomes slower and more relaxed, which is perhaps necessary because the characters become even more multi-faceted and their interactions are grippingly complex. It is in Venice that the three characters turn both compassionate and cruel toward each other.

The acting is fantastic. Linus Roache conveys Merton's passion and understanding; Alison Elliott gives Millie internal strength and determination. Helena Bonham Carter is the familiar face in costume dramas (Mel Gibson's *Hamlet*, *A Room With A View*, *Howards End*), but here she does much more than just rely on her strikingly wide-eyed appearance. Kate, frankly speaking, is a jealous, bitter, greedy, and manipulative shrew ("You mean, a bitch?", as Bonham Carter puts it herself); and yet, the actress gives such an emotional and emphatic performance that the finale feels truly heartbreaking.

What else can I say to convince you to see it? The music is lovely. The scenes set in Venice make you feel almost like being there. The movie is both sensuous and romantic (the rumors of an extended nude scene in the end are entirely true). Along with *L.A. Confidential*, it is one of the best movies of 1997. Along with *The Age of Innocence*, it is one of the best period dramas ever filmed.

Directed by Iain Softley
Starring Helena Bonham Carter, Linus Roache, Alison Elliott, Elizabeth McGovern, Charlotte Rampling, Alex Jennings, and Michael Gambon
Written by Henry James (novel), and Hossein Amini



AMY YEN—THE TECH
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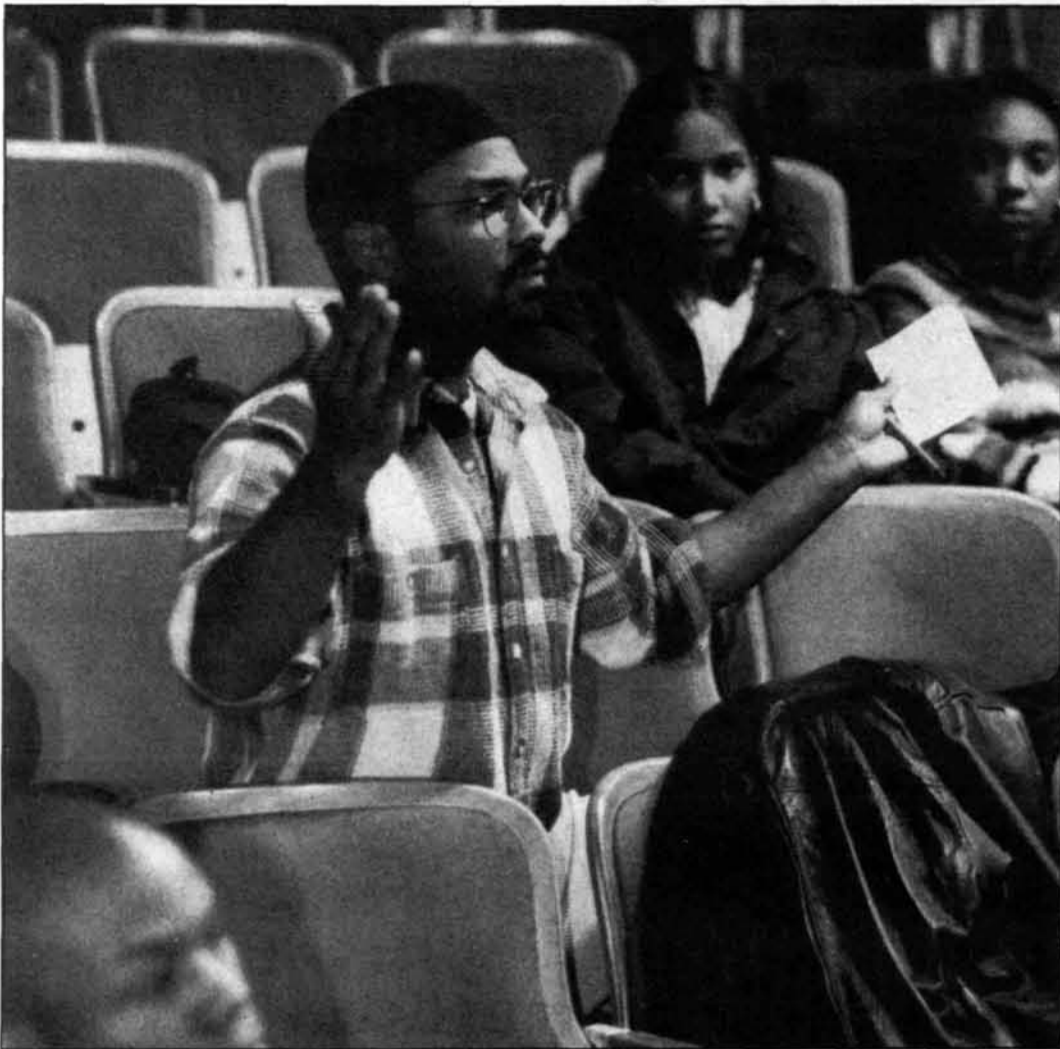
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For information or an application, contact: Dean's Office, SHSS, E51-255 (x3-8961) or the HASS Information Office, 14N-408 (x3-4443).

Application Deadline: Monday, December 1, 1997

Sponsored by the Dean's Office, School of Humanities and Social Science



Craig M. Robinson '97 asks a question about affirmative action to a member of the MIT Extropians in last Thursday's Color Blind Society discussion held at Harvard University.

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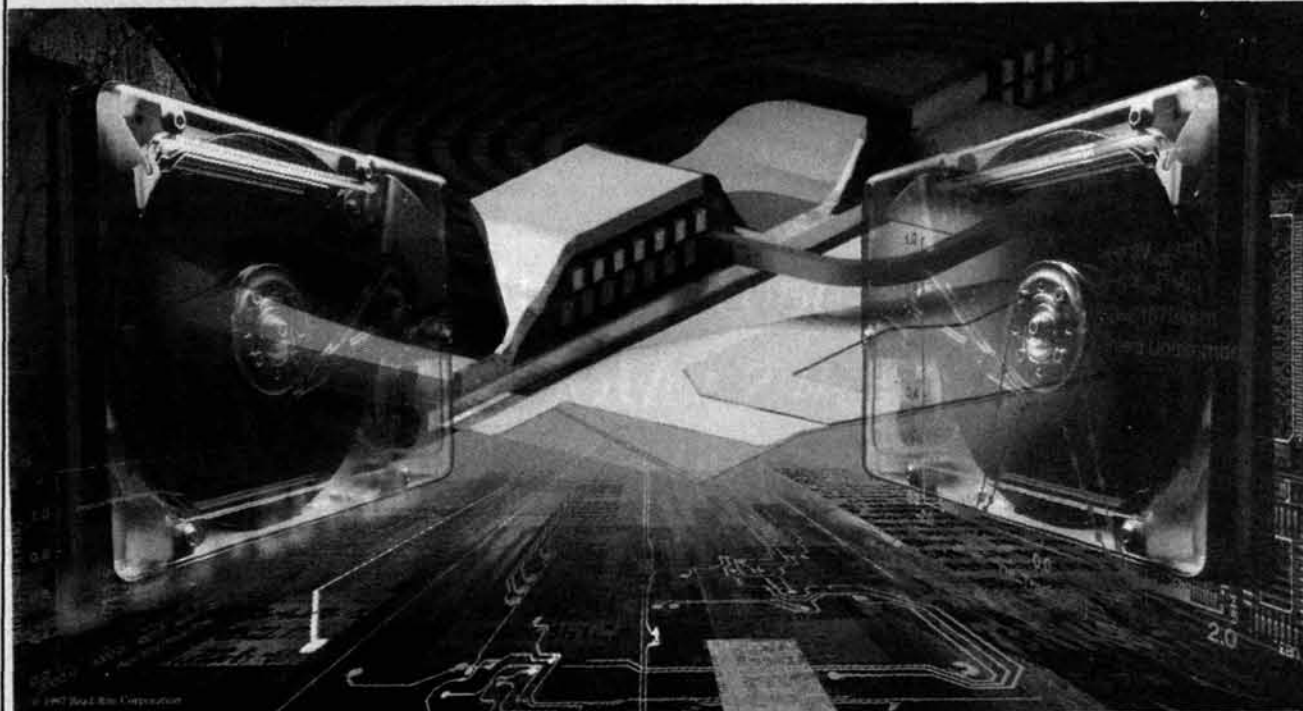
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NOVEMBER 24, 1997

+/- Modifiers Have Little Effect on GPA

Grades, from Page 1

change in the grading system. After surveying the student body and bringing the issue before the faculty, they announced that plus and minus grades would be added to internal transcripts as part of a three-year experiment.

At a February 1995 faculty meeting, a strong majority of those present voted for the change.

"A lot of students who just missed the grade division felt that they had been hard done by" when they received the same grade as if they had been on the lower end of the scale, Lagace said.

Student opinion was much less uniform, however, than faculty opinion. Of the 15 percent of students who responded, almost half were against any change to the grading system.

"We did quite a bit of pilot testing before [the change in the grading system]... the majority of students were not in favor of having plus-minus grading externally," said Alberta G. Lipson, associate dean for educational research and one of the major contributors to the survey's development.

Modifiers have little grade effects

At the same time, Lipson notes, the registrar's office has found that, among a randomly selected group of students, the addition of modifiers to grade point averages caused little difference. "Students are worried



ALBERTA G. LIPSON—THE TECH
Alberta G. Lipson, Associate Dean for Educational Research

about the minuses, but the pluses are there too," she says. "They tend to average out."

The system currently in effect ostensibly provides students and advisers with more feedback than straight letter grades without the stress that would accompany external modifiers.

The question remains, however, whether enough precision exists in the grading system to justify discriminating between, for example, an A and an A-. This is the view put forward by proponents of the pre-1995 system.

The CUP hopes to put the issue before the faculty by the summer semester of 1998, in time to implement a permanent system beginning next fall. But "we need a little extra time... we may need to extend the experiment until next fall," Lagace said.

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Formless: A User's Guide

and

OCTOBER: The Second Decade 1986-1996

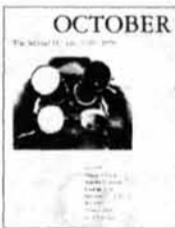
an evening with

Yve-Alain Bois
and
Rosalind Krauss

Wednesday, November 19 7 p.m.

MIT Bartos Theater

List Visual Arts Center, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge



Rosalind E. Krauss and Yve-Alain Bois discuss their new book *Formless: A User's Guide*, published by Zone Books. In a work destined to become indispensable to anyone seriously interested in modern art, Krauss and Bois introduce a new constellation of concepts to our understanding of avant-garde and modernist art practices. Drawing on Georges Bataille's concept of the *informe*, the authors develop the "formless" as a decisive shift in the theorizing of modernism. Standing outside the old battles between form and content, the "formless" constitutes a third term that radically reconfigures the field of inquiry. *Formless: A User's Guide* presents a rich and compelling panorama of the formless, charting its persistence and repression through the history of modernism, and arriving at a stunning new map of twentieth-century art.

The authors are also among the coeditors of the journal *October* and will discuss the upcoming anthology *October: The Second Decade, 1986-1996*, published by The MIT Press. Over the past twenty years, the journal *October* has become the premiere forum for exploring the intersections of culture, art and theory. The present book collects outstanding examples of the innovative work for which the journal is known and provides a collective portrait of its ambitions and strengths. The selections reveal that in its second decade *October* developed an intensified concern with the role of cultural production within the public sphere, and a sharp focus on the intersections of cultural practices with institutional structures. Topics of inquiry include body politics and psychoanalysis, spectacle and institutional critique, art practice and art history, and post-colonial discourses.

Rosalind E. Krauss is Meyer Schapiro Professor of Modern Art and Theory at Columbia University. Yve-Alain Bois is Joseph Pulitzer Jr. Professor of Modern Art at Harvard University. They are both editors of the journal *October*.

Please join us in celebrating the publication of two seminal books and the rare opportunity to hear these important scholars. A reception will follow in the List Visual Arts Center.

This event is part of authors@mit, a series cosponsored by MIT Humanities and Dewey Libraries and The MIT Press Bookstore, and is cosponsored by the List Visual Arts Center at MIT.

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For information call: 253-0764
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To suggest topics for future programs, write us: RACEREL@mit.edu

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Oct. 31 and Nov. 12:

Oct. 31: Assist State Police with the fatal accident of an MIT student on Memorial Drive; LaVerde's market, arrest of Michael Green of 4 Harbor Point, Dorchester arrested for shoplifting.

Nov. 1: No. 6 Club, loud music complaint; Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, Wellesley College student assaulted, victim struck the suspect and fled; Bldg. N51, attempted larceny of a backpack, suspect seen leaving the area with victim's backpack; Briggs Field, unlocked bike and wallet stolen, \$215; Student Center Athena Cluster, laptop stolen, \$1,200.

Nov. 2: Memorial Drive, items thrown at passing vehicle; Student Center, Glenn V. Howlett of 251 Payson Road, Belmont taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; Burton-Connor House, wallet stolen, \$20.

Nov. 3: Bldg 56, two cameras stolen, \$350; Westgate, annoying phone calls; Bldg. 66, bike reported stolen, later recovered; Ames Street, item thrown at parked car; Alumni Pool, cash and credit card stolen from a wallet, \$35; Bldg. 12, wallet returned to Campus Police lost and found was actually stolen less cash, \$40; East Campus, suspicious activity, pumpkin thrown from roof into street.

Nov. 4: Bldg. E18, laptop stolen, \$2,300.

Nov. 6: Sidewalk between Student Center and DuPont Gymnasium, malicious destruction; Hayden Library, wallet stolen with cash and ID cards, \$5; Bldg. 4, harassing mail.

Nov. 7: Bldg. 14, vacuum stolen, \$300; Bldg. 2, laser printer stolen, \$1,600; Bldg. E19, computer stolen, \$4,470; Tang, laptop stolen from room, \$1,300; McCormick, harassing phone calls; Bldg 5, suspicious activity.

Nov. 8: Johnson Athletics Center, malicious destruction to a window during hockey game; East Campus, wallet stolen from lounge area, \$20; Tang, camera stolen from room, \$500; Bldg. 2, suspicious activity.

Nov. 9: Bldg. 56, three rooms broken into, file cabinets were vandalized; Amherst Street, report of gasoline smell, discovered to be bus exhaust.

Nov. 10: Next House, noise complaint; Bldg. E60, room broken into and several computers stolen, \$6,715; Bldg. E15, Richard Laura of 16 Parkdale Street, Somerville arrested for breaking and entering in the daytime and other related charges; Bldg. 20, label maker stolen, \$100; Tang Hall, jacket stolen from laundry room, \$150; Bldg. E39, wallet containing cash and credit cards stolen, \$7.

Nov. 11: Baker House, noise complaint; MacGregor House, D lounge, unlocked bike stolen, \$400; Johnson Athletics Center, four wallets stolen 1) cash and credit cards, \$10; 2) cash and credit cards, \$30; 3) credit cards and passport; 4) cash, check and credit cards, \$800; Bldg. E17, chemical spill; East Annex, hit and run incident.

Nov. 12: Bldg. 6, laser printer stolen, \$1,600; Student Center Coffee House, jacket stolen, \$85; walkway to Albany Garage, attempted robbery; Bldg. 20, bike locked to itself stolen, \$150.

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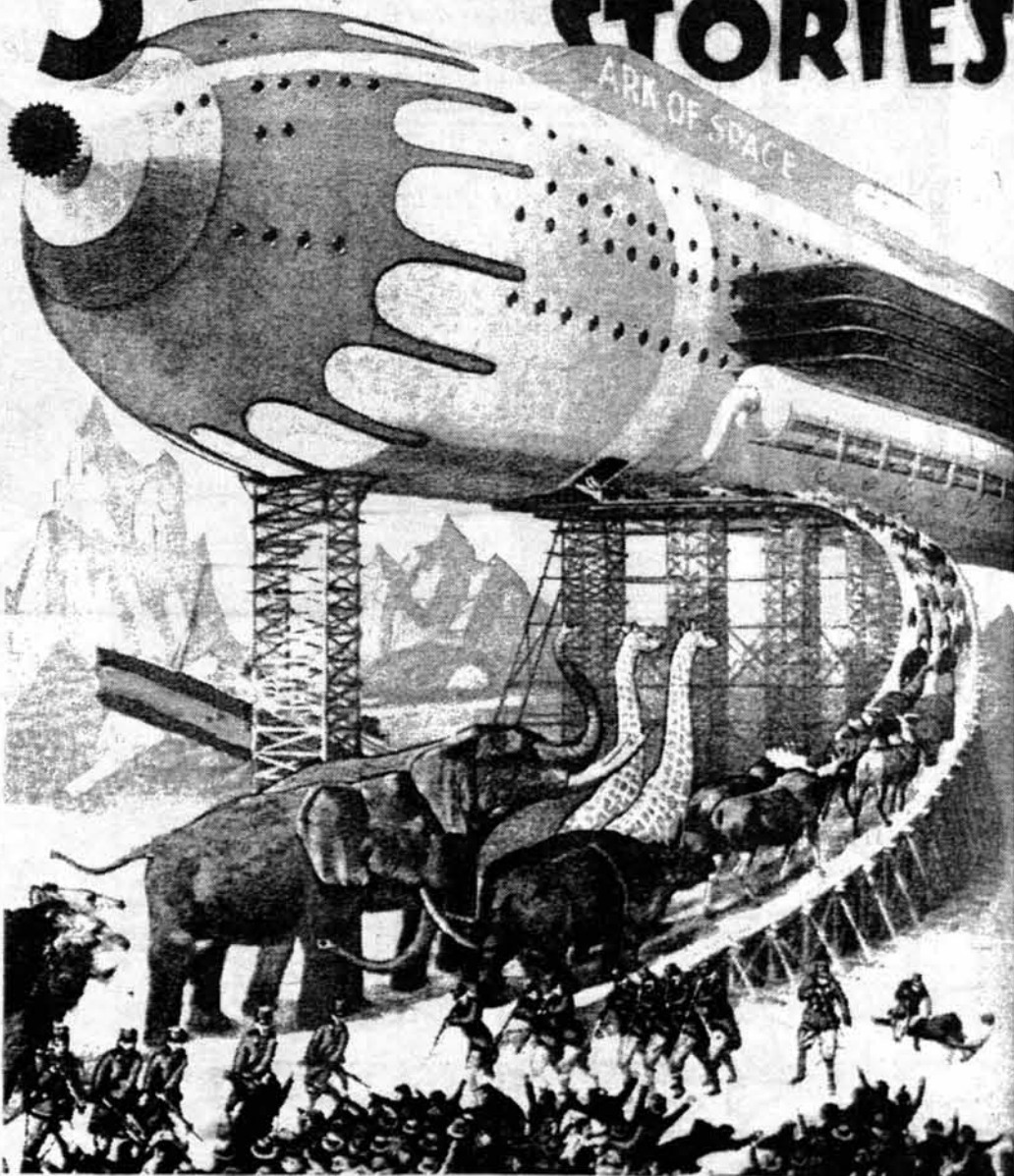
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State Will Examine Parking along River

Basin, from Page 1

Until the recent controversy surrounding the death of Michele S. Micheletti '00 prompted the MDC to paint new crosswalks across Memorial Drive immediately, the issue of crosswalks was a major part of the plan.

The sidewalks and paths along the river near the Institute are also a topic of debate. The commission is considering the "overuse, multiple use, and safety of the pathways," she said.

"Ways of accommodating and separating the many often conflicting users — bicycles, pedestrians, joggers, and rollerbladers, is the focus of intensive debate and study," Fabricius said.

Increasing the size of the path-

ways, at the expense of the roads, is also a serious consideration. "The plan will investigate the possibility of eliminating travel lanes and parking where traffic volumes allow it.

"The goal is to make the Charles River Basin a more friendly environment for multiple modes of transportation... and reduce the dominance of [motor] vehicles," Fabricius said.

The report suggests that the community change the nature of green spaces along the Charles. The commission would like to "shift the emphasis from parkway to parkland."

The planning team is headed by Herb Nolan, the project manager at the design firm of Goody, Clancy and Associates.

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Crosswalk Sounds Assist Blind

Doors, from Page 1

Building 7 entrance to the Institute. The tone signaling when traffic is stopped for a red light has changed from a bell to an electronic tone.

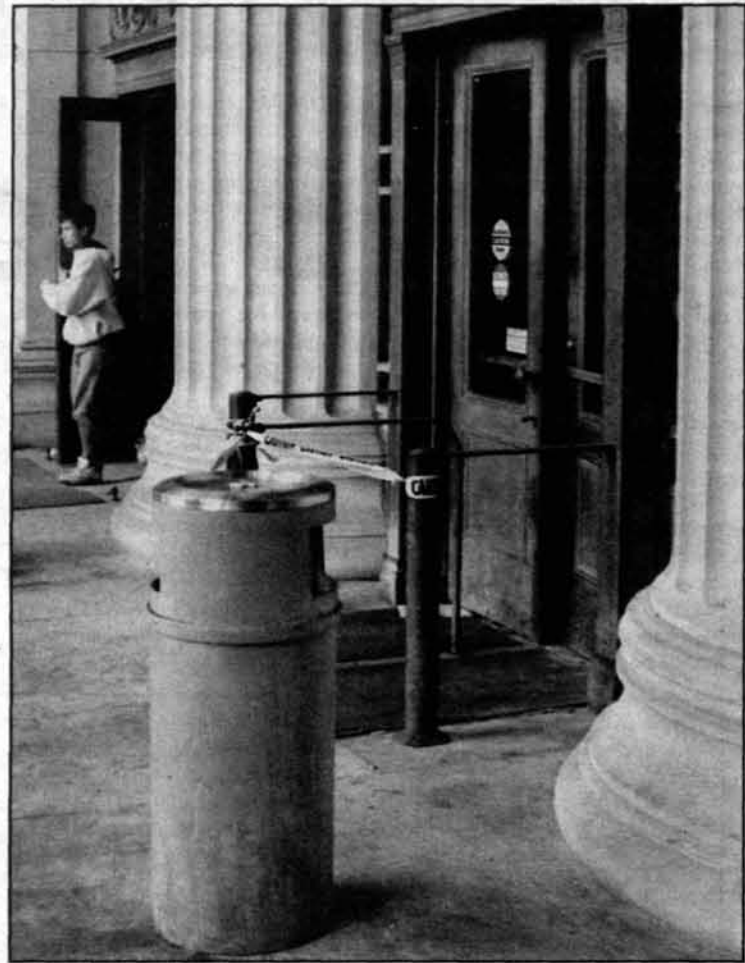
The tone, which sounds somewhat like a bird chirping, is a "less distracting [and] more pleasant sound than the buzzer that was there before," said Michael K. Owu, a senior planning officer in the Planning Office.

The noises "exist to make it easier for people with vision impairments to cross the street," Owu said.

Assistant for Community Relations Paul Parravano, who is blind, has been touch with the City of Cambridge for some time to get the new sound in place.

The new electronic tones are the first in the City, Owu said. Since then, the new electronic devices have also been installed at the crosswalk across Main Street at Kendall Square. The tones are also used at Boston University.

While the new tones were installed by the City, MIT has been making efforts since the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act to make more facilities accessible to the disabled. Changes have included relocating telephones closer to the floor, installing lifts and ramps for wheelchair accessibility, and replacing door handles with levers which are easier to open.



T. LUKE YOUNG—THE TECH
THANK YOU, COME AGAIN—The automatic door to Lobby 7 which has been broken for several weeks should be repaired soon.

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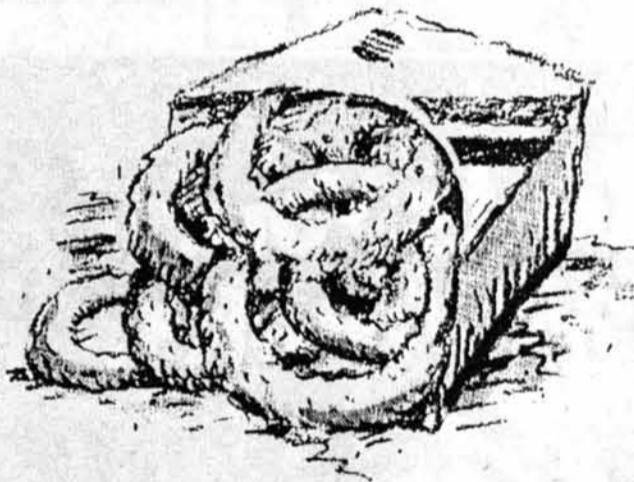
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IFC Policy Attempts to Limit Alcohol Consumption, Risks

IFC, from Page 1

of guidelines governing events with alcohol. All FSILGs wishing to hold events with alcohol must now be certified by the IFC for alcohol use. Bustamante said that the exact details of certification were still being "hammered out" but said that the process should be in place by the spring. Certification will involve TIPS and CPR training, Bustamante said.

"The temporary ban [on alcohol at FSILG events] is still in place until certification is up and working," Bustamante said.

Events involving alcohol at FSILGs must now either be designated as bring your own beer events or third party vendors must serve the alcohol. Additionally, "party monitors" must now be present at all alcohol parties.

Party monitors must be 21 years old, not undergraduates, and may not be affiliated with the FSILG unless the number of people at the event is less than or equal to the number of people in the house. In that case, graduates or alumni of the house can serve as monitors.

Party monitors will provide "a great deal more oversight than just the IFC executive committee and [judicial committee]," Bustamante said. The monitors are "the eyes and ears of the IFC."

It is hoped that the party monitors will be drawn from the graduate population of the Institute, Bustamante said. Still, the IFC is "not sure it's going to work."

Gilon said that the ability to use alumni at small events will likely lead to a decrease in the size of

events.

The regulations regarding BYOB parties allow guests 21 years and older to check up to six 12 oz. containers of beer or wine coolers at the door. Hard liquor may not be brought to the party. Guests will receive a card that may later be exchanged for as many drinks as were checked. "BYOB is the more promising option," Bustamante said.

Bustamante said that he hoped that a single third party vendor would be contracted which would be approved for all IFC events, should houses choose to have events of that type.

The policy was approved with 21 members in favor, 9 opposed, and 8 abstentions. There has been "a lot of opposition" to the changes, Gilon said. This represents "a real challenge to leadership that will develop in the ILGs." Those "individuals who are more informed... are more ready to accept these changes."

Risk management chair added

The new risk management chair will have responsibilities "broader than just parties," Bustamante said. The risk management and safety officer should "create and enforce a risk management policy for their living group," according to the committee's report.

Tapping systems "fostered a sense of alcohol culture" according to Bustamante. The systems were also a liability since "everyone who is under 21 has access to alcohol."

Banning tapping systems would "decrease liability by decreasing accessibility," Gilon said. When "75 percent [of house members] are

underage, why should alcohol be available?"

Tapping systems are already prohibited in Boston living groups by the Boston Licensing Board.

Banning the use of house funds to purchase alcohol "reduces the house's liability," Bustamante said. This change was borrowed from the Fraternal Insurance Purchasing Group policies, a series of insurance guidelines to which many houses are bound for insurance purposes. The committee borrowed from these guidelines but the IFC is developing "a policy that would work for us."

Penalties based on three strikes

Penalties for violations of IFC policy will now be based on a "three strike" system. IFC members will lose their certification and their alcohol privileges at events for 120 days upon a first violation. After a second violation, the offending FSILG will be required to be alcohol free for 120 days. If a living group violates the policy three times they will lose freshmen approved housing status for the following year.

We "didn't feel that [the existing sanctions] were appropriate any longer" Bustamante said. Current penalties, all monetary, are as small as 50 dollars. The new penalties are "more of an educational process," since they require recertification and contact with the IFC. The penalties will "make sure [the offending FSILGs] are able to have events with alcohol again," he said.

Juliet C. Midgley '98, a member of the committee, called the three strikes policy "a step in the right direction."

IFC Recommends Longer Rush Period

By May K. Tse

NEWS EDITOR

While the Interfraternity Council Presidents' Council approved sweeping changes to the IFC's alcohol policy, it also approved a new proposal regarding next fall's Residence and Orientation Week.

"This is completely a proposal. It is a response to the faculty motion that all freshmen should be housed on campus, but it's also because of the formation of the [Orientation and Residence Week] committee," said William W. Shen '98, chair of the IFC Committee on R/O Proposals and a member of the Institute O/R Committee. "The statement in this proposal is that the IFC is willing to commit itself to some positive change."

"This is the uniform stance of the IFC and the 1,600 students that it represents. This is an initiative that has been given to the administration that the IFC wishes to support," Shen said.

Some informal responses have already been noted. "We were all quite pleased... the IFC has shown some real leadership and some real nice ideas of how to address the concerns of the community," said Andrew M. Eisenmann '70, associate dean and a member of the O/R committee.

Proposal lengthens rush time

Key points in the proposal include changing orientation so that freshmen have two more days for residence selection and revamping summer mailings so that they will contain more objective information that parents often request, such as costs and house grade point averages.

Freshmen would arrive on campus on Monday instead of Thursday, and would receive four days of academic, social, and residence orientation prior to the start of rush. The Activities Midway and Athletics Gateway would be held during this period, as would a dinner with each

freshman and their academic adviser.

A Residence Midway, where freshmen would be free to approach dormitories and independent living groups to gain information before the beginning of rush, rounds out the major changes to the week under the IFC's proposal.

"We want to have a better O/R for freshmen and upperclassmen. Right now it's miserable for both sides of the fence. Freshmen are stressed because they don't know what they're getting into and upperclassmen are stressed because they do know. It could be a lot less stressful rush where freshmen and parents get a broader chance to make a more informed choice and upperclassmen don't have to go on 20-hour days, which should be unnecessary," Gilon said.

Safety emphasized in proposal

The stipulation to "ensure the safety of freshmen living in Institute-approved housing" was also included in the proposal.

"This is the one part of the proposal that actually tries to drive at the root of the problem given all the recent events. We want to communicate to parents, concerned faculty and administration that off-campus housing is safer or even safer than other alternatives. We want to define standards for housing that is designated as Institute-approved housing. We're trying to eliminate the causes of an accident like that from happening again," Shen said.

Another aim mentioned on the proposal is to "tone down the intensity of Rush: IFC commitment to evaluate the spending practices on membership recruitment." As Gilon explained, this refers to "toning down the continuous activity of a 20-hour, four-day marathon... Some argue that spending is associated with setting up these events, some being very costly. If people are forced to spend less, they can spend time doing more qualitative events instead of flashy ones."

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

Need More Information? Call Nancy Masley in Residence & Campus Activities, Ext. 3-6777.

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Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

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Area/ Degree: Asia Finance Capital Markets BA / MBA

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Location : Singapore

Area/Degree: Proprietary/ Arbitrage Trading BA / MBA

Trader to develop Asian currency, interest rate and equity markets. Preference would be for an MBA with strong analytical background and some trading or equity related type experience pre MBA school. Language skills are a plus.

Area/Degree FX Trading & Sales BA / MBA

Trade G7 currencies and market G7 and regional currencies. Candidate Profile - Preference would be for an MBA with strong analytical background and good interpersonal skills. Mandarin would be an advantage but is not essential.

Location : Tokyo, Japan

Area/Degree: Risk Management Services (Marketing) BA / MBA

Originating, structuring, trading and distribution of sophisticated derivative products to corporations, financial institutions, and government agencies. Candidate Profile - Candidates will be self-starters with an entrepreneurial spirit who demonstrate an ability to be creative in problem solving; individuals who are revenue-driven and capable of functioning in a deal-making but team-oriented environment. Must have a strong quantitative background/ orientation and have excellent oral and written English and Japanese.

Area/Degree: Corporate Finance BA / MBA

Active involvement in a broad range of merchant banking transactions including financial advisory, restructuring, securitization, acquisition financing, and asset-backed finance. Candidate Profile - Must be creative, revenue-driven, and possess a strong potential to originate transactions. Is likely to possess some experience in the financial sector, backed with balance sheet analysis and accounting knowledge. Must have excellent oral and written English and Japanese.

Area/Degree: Structured Debt Finance BA / MBA

Active involvement in marketing, structuring, and trading of cross-border/domestic structured debt transactions including portfolio restructuring, asset swap, emerging market debt, asset-backed securities. Candidate Profile- Must be creative, revenue-driven, and possess a strong potential to originate transactions. Must have excellent oral and written English and Japanese.

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Jerzey Kaplanek, Piotr Buczec, Paul Pulford, and Christine Vljak of the Penderecki String Quartet performed in an MIT Guest Artist Concert held in Kresge Auditorium on Friday evening.

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning Presents the first of two Martin Luther King Jr. Lectures

Ernesto Cortes

Southwest Regional Director
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and quantitative skills
working with investing
clients, and individuals
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company management to
government officials.**

**Meet representatives from our
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6:30 pm

MIT, room 4-163

Casual Attire

Refreshments to follow

Special Guest Speaker:

**Rick Schutte, Technology Analyst
“Making Money in Tech Stocks”**

**Resumes for fall and spring
graduates will be accepted.**

SPORTS

Saltzman, Navarrete Perform Well at BU Equestrian Show

By Candice McElroy
TEAM CAPTAIN

On Nov. 15 the equestrian team headed to Holly Hill Show Stables in Hanover, Mass., to compete at the Boston University home show. Even with the show postponed for one week due to rain, the weather was cold and still wet, making riding outdoors a difficult task.

The MIT team excelled at their final show of the fall season, though only sending three riders, and topped off their very successful first fall season competing in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association events.

Christina Saltzman '99 once again started the show off in stride as she pinned first place in her novice equitation over fences class. The win qualified her to compete in a special class for all of the winners of the jumping classes at the BU show.

The Holly Hill Challenge Class

pitted Saltzman against riders who compete in her novice division as well as all of the more experienced riders who compete in the intermediate and open divisions. Riders were asked to perform a series of tests over fences on horses that they were assigned to ride by a random drawing before the class.

Saltzman placed fifth and proved that she can be competitive against more experienced riders. To top her day off, Saltzman placed third in her novice equitation on the flat ending her first season of competition in fine form.

Katherine Navarrete '98 earned fourth place on the flat in her advanced walk trot canter equitation. Heather Drake '99 also placed fourth in beginner walk trot canter equitation. Riders in flat classes are judged on their ability to control the horse at a walk, trot, and canter while conforming to classical standards of riding. Every aspect of

the rider's position is scrutinized by the judges; there is an added challenge in IHSA events because riders are randomly assigned to horses that they have never ridden before and are not given a chance to warm up.

MIT will continue training at Arrowhead Stables in Concord with coach Kate Alderfer-Candela in preparation for the three spring IHSA shows. The team also looks forward to competing in a newly formed intercollegiate dressage division this coming spring.

The spring season shows a lot of promise for the team as Nina Kutsuzawa '00 is on the verge of qualifying for regionals and team captain Candice McElroy '99 is poised to return after a riding accident early in the season that will leave her sidelined until January. MIT hopes to continue its winning streak in the spring and build a name for itself in the IHSA competitions.

Athletes of the Week

This week's star athletes hail from sports marking both the beginning of the winter season and the conclusion of the fall season.

Ice hockey left wing John Rae '99 lead the Engineers with six goals in their season-opening wins on Nov. 9. Rae had a hat trick in both games. As co-captain of the volleyball team, middle hitter Betsy Sailhamer '99 lead the team to the first round of national competition and was named an all-conference player in the New England Women's 8 conference and one of six all-New England players, out of 60 teams. The Athletes of the Week feature is sponsored by the MIT Varsity Club.



INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

John Rae '99
Ice Hockey

Age: 20
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Rockland, Mass.
Years playing sport: 16
Most memorable moment:
Scoring the game-winning goal in overtime against Johnson and Wales during last year's playoffs.
Future plans: motorcycle design
"I'm really excited about this season. We have a great team and a good chance to go to the national championships."



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Betsy Sailhamer '99
Women's Volleyball

Age: 20
Major: Chemistry, minor in Biomedical Engineering
Hometown: St. Paul, Minn.
Years playing sport: 9
Most memorable moment:
Finishing second in the Bates' Invitational.
Future plans: medical school
"I have had so much fun this year. I played with a great group of girls who have devoted so much to this team, and because of it, we had a very successful season. I can't wait for next year."

UPCOMING HOME EVENT

Wednesday, November 19
Men's ice hockey vs. Wheaton College, 7 p.m.



REBECCA LOH—THE TECH

Avashai Geller '01 guards the puck against a prying opponent in Wednesday's game against WPI. MIT lost 3-0.

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