



MIT's  
Oldest and Largest  
Newspaper

# The Tech

Established 1881

### The Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, 40°F (4°C)  
Tonight: Cloudy, 32°F (0°C)  
Tomorrow: Overcast, 50°F (10°C)  
Details, Page 2

Volume 117, Number 61

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, November 25, 1997

## New Program Nets Six Arrests

By Katie Jeffreys  
STAFF REPORTER

Two Harvard University students were arrested by Cambridge police officers last weekend through the Cambridge Police's new Cops in Shops program, aimed at deterring the underage purchase of alcohol.

On Friday at 7:45 p.m., Jorge F. Tello of Milton was "arrested for procuring alcohol by false representation and a minor transporting alcohol."

At the same time, Rodman Moorhead of New York was arrested and charged as a "minor transporting alcohol."

The new Cops in Shops program is "part of an ongoing investigation in which we will be having cops in [liquor] shops throughout the

Cambridge area," said Frank Pasquarello, public information officer at the Cambridge Police Department.

The program is the result of cooperation between the Cambridge Police Department, Cambridge Licensing Board, as well as the MIT and Harvard administration and campus police. It began Friday evening and has resulted in six arrests.

The program is not specifically targeted at MIT and Harvard students but at all minors attempting to purchase alcohol, as well as legal alcohol purchases intended for underage individuals.

Saturday night, Wilbert McCoy, 21, from Dorchester, bought alcohol for two Cambridge 15-year-olds.

All three were placed under arrest.

"Those arrests are what the program was designed to do, regardless of where the people are from," said Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin.

Harvard administrators have disseminated an alcohol policy to all their students. "It detailed what may or may not happen if you are involved in an alcohol-related incident with the city police or the university police," said Peggy Magdemeyer of the Harvard police.

Harvard Dean Harry Lewis had no comment on the arrests or what disciplinary action will be taken. He emphasized Harvard's alcohol policy, which "mentions the cooperation between city authorities and the college to control abuse of alcohol. We were aware of the Cops in Shops program; I believe that posters announcing it are also widely evident in the city."

"It is unfortunate that despite all the advertisement that was done that some people still attempted to purchase alcohol. The program is doing what it intended," Glavin said.

The Cambridge Police is "taking this Cops in Shops program to the fullest... We know we are not going to stop the problem, but we want to put a serious dent in it," Pasquarello said.

"There is a possibility this will save someone's life," he said. "This is a great program that the Cambridge Licensing Board as well as the colleges and police departments hope to continue on."

When asked about the effectiveness of the program thus far, Pasquarello was quick to point out that "we have six people who believe it is effective."

## Students, Panelists Discuss Asian Issues

By Naveen Sunkavally  
STAFF REPORTER

Last Thursday, students, faculty, and leaders of several campus cultural organizations gathered in 10-250 to discuss Asian American issues.

The discussion, sponsored by the MIT Committee on Campus Race Relations, was the second in the Race 2000 series.

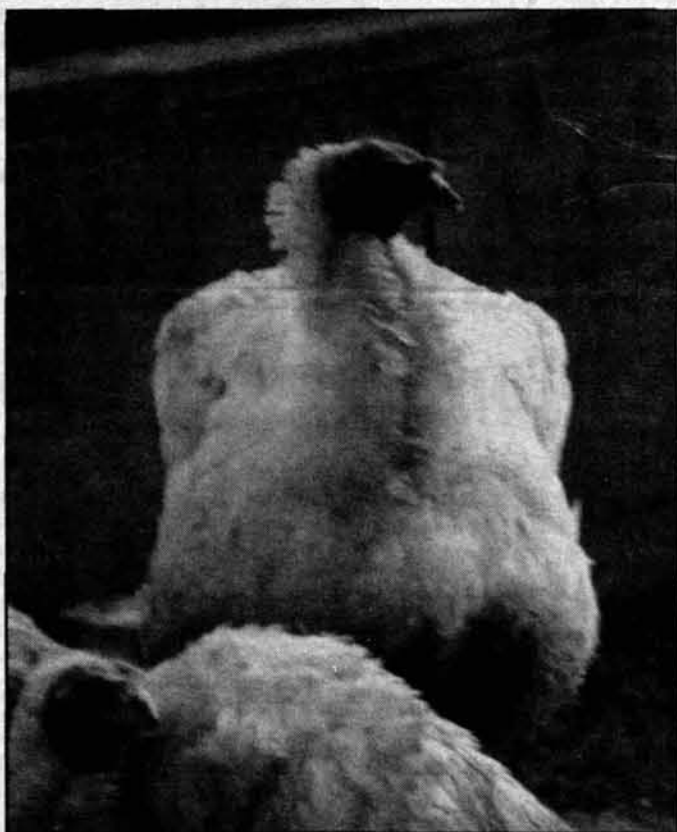
The purpose of the meeting was "to provoke us individually to

become agents of change," said Professor of Music Ellen T. Harris, who serves as co-chair of the committee.

The meeting began with a series of short film clips depicting issues of race and surveying the history of Asian American treatment in the United States.

Shortly after, several people rose to their feet and read a series of

Race, Page 13



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

## Turkeys and Traditions Blend at Thanksgiving

By Carina Fung  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

With Thanksgiving only days away, students look forward to leaving MIT for a few days and filling up on turkey and stuffing. However, students are not the only ones eagerly awaiting the holidays. Many administrators, faculty, and staff will also be celebrating Thanksgiving in their own way.

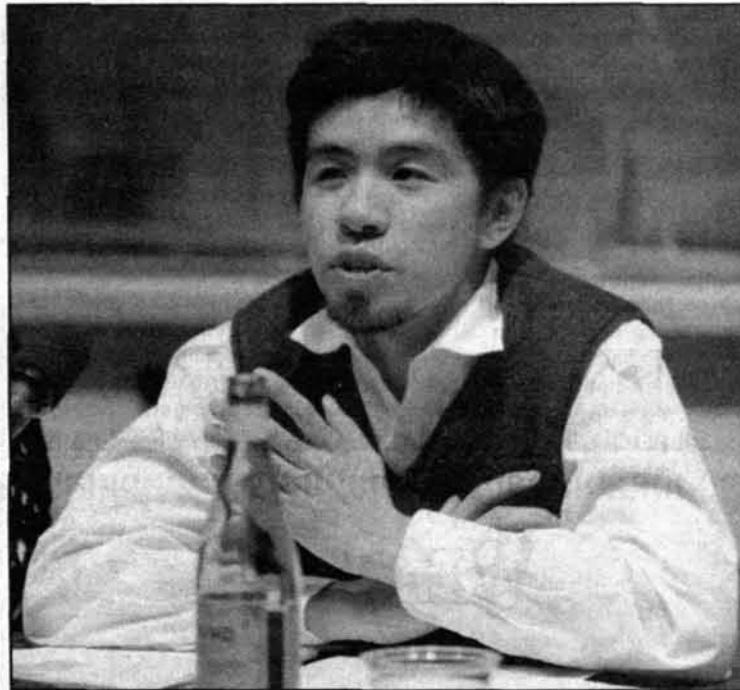
Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 lives in nearby Framingham and will be hosting a traditional turkey Thanksgiving dinner for his relatives. He joked, "The main event for Thanksgiving will be to keep my 80- and 90-year-old relatives separated from those under 10."

### Williams reveals special memories

Thanksgiving has special meaning for Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams, who has vivid childhood memories of spending the holidays at her grandparents' house, only a few blocks away from where she currently lives. "We still use the same family silver and china, so I feel my life has come full circle," she said.

Williams particularly remembers the Thanksgiving of 1963, which came right after former President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. "We were all in shock. My grandfather offered a special blessing that year, giving thanks to God for the family, which offered support and sustenance in such difficult times," she recalls.

Thanksgiving, Page 9



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Anthony Ng G from the Asian Pacific American Caucus, member of a large student-faculty panel, shares his Asian American experience with an audience of about 100.

## Card Talks About *Ender's Game*, Sci-fi

By Dan Dunn  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Famed science fiction writer Orson Scott Card spoke last Thursday to an excited crowd in 26-100. Several hundred people attended the event, one of a series of lectures sponsored by the Media in Transition project.

The project seeks to "establish a conversation among scholars, engineers, fiction writers, journalists, corporate leaders, and policy makers about the ... significance of emerging communications media."

The evening's program started with readings by Card and Allen Steele, best known for his novel *Orbital Decay*. Afterward, the microphone was passed around the audience for questions.

The questions were fielded by Card, Steele, Adjunct Professor in the Program in Writing Joe Haldeman, author of *Forever War*, and Professor of Literature Henry Jenkins.

Steele opened the evening with a reading of "Her Own Private Sitcom," an as-yet unpublished short story. Orson Scott Card then

read excerpts from his story, "The Originist."

Throughout the question period, the audience was riveted by Card's responses. As he answered questions, the crowd yelled, applauded, and hissed their opinions.

### Card discusses *Ender's Game*

Many of the questions centered on Card's best-known work, *Ender's Game*, a novel about a young boy torn from his family and exploited by the military.

Card said that the only part of the future that the novel predicted was that any intelligent person would be able to fake their identity on the Internet. He did not predict that people would also switch their

Card, Page 16



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Orson Scott Card was one of two science fiction authors who read from their works on Thursday in Room 26-100.

## INSIDE

- Police Log Page 15
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- Comics Page 10

# WORLD & NATION

## One Agent Dies in Gang Battle With Customs Officials for Cash

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY

An armed gang apparently working for drug traffickers battled with Mexican customs agents near the U.S. border, killing a Mexican official and wounding at least one American, after the agents stopped a van smuggling \$123,000 in cash, officials said Monday.

The firefight late Sunday — just 50 yards from the U.S. Customs station at Nogales, Ariz. — highlighted the increasing threat that drug-trafficking violence poses to the U.S. border area. The case also appeared to provide further evidence that traffickers are sending their cash back to Mexico in bulk, to avoid money-laundering controls.

One agent — identified as Jose Toledo Guadarrama, 31 — was killed and another wounded, said a statement from Mexico's tax department, which oversees customs.

The government statement said two Americans were wounded in the firefight. They had been in line at Mexican customs, waiting to cross into the United States, when the clash occurred, the statement said. They suffered minor injuries and were treated at a hospital in Nogales, it said, providing no details.

U.S. authorities have sharply stepped up seizures of cash on the border this year — a sign, they say, that drug traffickers are increasingly sending their profits home in bulk. The drug gangs are apparently trying to dodge increasingly strict U.S. measures aimed at money launderers.

## Ford Motor Co. Reaches Agreement To Consolidate Dealerships

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DETROIT

After two failed attempts elsewhere, Ford Motor Co. said Monday that it had reached agreements to consolidate some of its dealerships in San Diego and Tulsa, Okla., and replace them with auto superstores and satellite service centers.

Ford acquired four Lincoln-Mercury stores in San Diego over the last year and a half, and has since closed three of those locations. It recently brought in a new executive-owner to operate the fourth and largest, Lincoln-Mercury of Mission Valley.

In Tulsa, the company is creating a partnership with dealers to own and operate the area's six Ford and two Lincoln Mercury dealerships. Some of the existing facilities will be replaced with two or three superstores, supported by several satellite service centers.

The moves are part of a broader effort by Ford to upgrade its retailing operations in the face of competition from publicly owned dealer chains and superstore operators, such as Republic Industries.

Ford hopes to trim its dealer ranks, cut distribution costs and adopt new consumer-friendly sales techniques, such as fixed-price selling and salaried sales agents. It also wants to build off-site service centers to provide routine maintenance closer to customers' homes and offices.

## WEATHER

### Cold Turkey

By Josh Bittker

NIGHT EDITOR

**Today:** A high pressure system will dominate the east coast for much of the day. Clouds will move in later in the afternoon out of the west. High around 40°F (4°C) with winds out of the west from 10 to 15 mph (16 to 24 kph).

**Tonight:** Continued increasing cloudiness, with a 30 percent chance of snow showers overnight. Variable cloudiness into Wednesday morning. Low near 32°F (0°C).

**Wednesday:** Warmer as air moves up from the south ahead of a frontal system. A respite from the cold could cause problems for Turkey day, however. Mostly cloudy, high around 50°F (10°C).

**Thanksgiving Day:** As cool as the leftovers in the fridge. Temperatures will drop back down to seasonably colder levels. Overcast skies will dominate and snow showers are likely. High around 45°F (7°C), overnight lows around 30°F (-1°C).

The rest of the long weekend looks to be clearer and more pleasant, with highs near 50°F (10°C) for Friday and Saturday and partly sunny skies.

#### Travel Forecast (weather/high/low)

CITY	Wednesday	Thursday
Atlanta	CLR 65/35	PC 65/45
Chicago	PC 55/35	MC 52/35
Cranberry Lake, WA (near Seattle)	MC 49/39	MC 47/39
Denver	MC 52/32	S 45/28
Grandma's kitchen (in the freezer)	FZ 15/15	BK 375/68 (in the oven)
Los Angeles	TS 67/52	PC 65/51
Nantucket, MA (good cranberries)	PC 55/34	MC 50/35
New York	PC 54/39	MC 49/39
Potato Creek, PA (near Erie)	RS 49/43	PC 45/34
Pumpkin Creek, MT (near Billings)	MC 45/32	MC 51/32
Birds Landing (near San Francisco)	TSW 63/54	CLR 55/46
St. Louis, MO	MC 62/42	RS 64/45
Turkey, TX (near Amarillo)	PC 75/44	MC 65/45
Washington, DC	PC 56/36	PC 55/37

**Code:** CLR: clear, PC: partly cloudy, MC: mostly cloudy, R: rain, S: snow, RS: rain showers, TS: Thundershowers, FZ: freezing, BK: baking.

## HUD to Refund \$70 Million For Homeowner Mortgages

By Beth Berselli

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Housing and Urban Development Monday kicked off a joint campaign to refund \$70 million to homeowners with HUD-insured mortgages and to warn scam artists against using the Internet to fraudulently grab some of that refund money.

At a news conference at HUD headquarters, officials said 100,000 homeowners who purchased their homes with mortgages insured by HUD's Federal Housing Administration since 1977 may be due refunds. The checks, which average about \$700, are owed to homeowners for upfront mortgage insurance fees they paid the FHA — but only if they paid off their FHA mortgages in less than seven years.

The FHA today insures about \$400 billion worth of mortgages and covers more than 900,000 homes each year. Many of these borrowers would not otherwise have received loan approval.

HUD Secretary Andrew M. Cuomo said the department does its best to track down these so-called "lost" homeowners and get them refunds, but about 10 percent of homeowners cannot be found, often because they've moved. The situation is complicated by the fact that many homeowners aren't aware they are owed a refund.

Cuomo said HUD will use the Internet and a toll-free phone line to publicize the refunds. Additionally,

the department will work with the Internal Revenue Service to find those people owed refunds.

Finding the homeowners, though, is just the first step of the HUD-FTC effort: Protection is the other side of the equation. "At the same time we want to get these funds from Uncle Sam's pocket to the pocket of the rightful owner — what we don't want is those funds lining the pockets of scam artists," Cuomo said.

Under the initiative, HUD and the FTC will crack down on the fraudulent activities of some so-called "tracers." These companies and individuals help homeowners get their refunds — for a fee. FTC Chairman Robert Pitofsky said tracers usually charge 10 percent to 30 percent of the homeowner's refund, for work people can easily do themselves.

Homeowners can call HUD and get their refunds for free, he said, without paying any fee.

Patricia Ann O'Brien, a homeowner in Mebane, N.C., echoed his comments, saying it's a "rip off" to use a tracer. O'Brien said she was approached by three tracer companies, all of which offered to help her get a refund if she would sign a contract pledging a portion of the refund check. O'Brien, who moved three times in four years, didn't even realize she was eligible for a refund. Yet she was suspicious enough of the companies to refuse their offers. HUD eventually found her and she received a refund check for \$3,052 Monday at the news con-

ference.

Though it's not illegal to use tracers or for tracers to be paid a fee for their service, FTC and HUD officials are concerned about deceptive claims by tracers. For instance, tracers can't represent themselves as government officials or tell homeowners they must pay a fee to get their refund.

Officials said they have identified 330 Web sites, news group postings and bulk e-mail messages from tracers that make questionable claims about the HUD refund process. Many of the Web sites, Pitofsky said, sell "get-rich" schemes with exaggerated claims about how much a person can earn as a tracer.

HUD has sent letters to five companies ordering them to "cease and desist" from making false statements on their Web sites. One company, USA Software of Chesapeake, Va., advertises on its Web site as "a government authorized program FHA/HUD to find borrowers who are due refunds." For \$49.95, a person can obtain this software and learn how to "earn \$\$\$ at home helping people retrieve their lost refunds."

Tom Henry, the company's president, said the possible violation was news to him. Before Monday, "we've never been told it's misleading," he said, adding that the software has been sold online for about five years.

"If there's some wording on there that bothers HUD, we'll take it off," Henry said.

## U.S. and Asia-Pacific Leaders Likely to OK Monetary Plan

By Evelyn Iritani

LOS ANGELES TIMES

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Key Asia-Pacific leaders are expected Tuesday to endorse a so-called "Manila plan" for a regional monetary stabilization package designed to provide "backstop financing" to Asian economies in trouble.

While President Clinton and other leaders meeting here are using every opportunity to bolster confidence in Asia's future, there is a sense of urgency to give global investors confidence to return to Asia and dissuade speculators from attacking the region's currencies and markets.

Supporters call the proposal a significant step because it gives the International Monetary Fund, which would oversee the program, a vehicle for addressing the effects of huge buildups of short-term debt, much of it in the private sector, an increasingly common and dangerous phenomenon.

That would be a major evolution for the IMF, which has been accused of paying too little attention to Asia and focusing too much of its resources on the problems of government indebtedness. The IMF was created after World War II as a vehicle for stabilizing the global financial system.

"Just the existence of such a regional arrangement ... would discourage speculative investment," said Dr. Young Soogil, president of the Korea International Economic Policy Institute.

A response to the economic crisis that has built across Asia since July, the plan was drafted last week in Manila, Philippines, by 14 deputy finance ministers in preparation for this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit, which is being attended by Clinton and 17

other Asia-Pacific leaders.

The proposal dominated breakfast talks Monday among Clinton and leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Critics questioned whether the Manila proposal is strong enough medicine for Asia's current problems, since it doesn't specify exactly how a monetary support mechanism would work, how much money would be ponied up by its supporters or who would be in charge.

Walden Bello, a Bangkok, Thailand-based economist and director of Focus on the Global South, a nonprofit research group, said the APEC governments had "abdicated their responsibility" to protect their people from the effects of massive movements of capital by failing to establish a system of currency controls.

Malaysia and Chile also believe there is a need for a global system of currency controls to discourage short-term speculation. Chile's Foreign Minister, Jose Miquel Insulza, said Chile has implemented such measures, including a one-year waiting period for the withdrawal of capital, and has no problems attracting foreign investors.

But the United States and Japan oppose those measures, arguing that it is not possible, or desirable, to limit capital flows in an increasingly global economy.

The Clinton administration pushed hard for support for the Manila monetary stabilization plan, after vigorously opposing an earlier plan championed by Japan for an Asian Monetary Fund. U.S. officials feared the creation of an Asian pot of money would undermine the IMF and make it too easy for Asian governments to seek a bailout rather than biting the bullet.

But Hiroshi Hashimoto, the

spokesman for Japan's prime minister, said his government has decided to support the Manila plan because it achieves two important goals: forcing the IMF to turn its attention to Asia and institutionalizing a process of regional support that occurred in the past but only under the pressure of fiscal doom.

For example, when Indonesia's stock and currency markets began heading south, a group of countries including the United States and Japan agreed to participate in a \$23 billion IMF rescue package. But it took time to put that together, since no official process was in place. In the meantime Indonesia's economy slid further into trouble.

"This new arrangement is in line with what occurred in the Indonesia case," Hashimoto said.

Mexican officials here, who have successfully turned around their economy after seeking a \$50 billion IMF support package in 1995, also believe the proposed stabilization program is the right direction.

"Certainly the recipe is one of going to the source of the problems," said Mexican Secretary of Trade and Industrial Development Herminio Blanco. "These countries have to take the bitter medicine and together with that they need financial support."

The APEC leaders are considering calling for an early meeting of their finance ministers to push the Manila plan forward, according to officials. For Korea, which is undergoing an IMF review now to determine the size of its bail-out, the help may come too late.

"We hope Korea is the last country to have this problem," said Kim Ki Whan, Korea's ambassador at large for economic affairs. "We hope no other country gets sucked into this (economic) contagion."

# FDA Approves Obesity Drug, Noting Possible Side Effects

By Marlene Cimons  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A scant two months after removing two popular diet drugs from the market, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Monday that it has approved the first in a new generation of anti-obesity drugs that attack fat in a whole new way — but not without risk.

The new compound, sibutramine, which will be marketed under the name Meridia, works by enhancing the brain's natural appetite-regulating chemicals, allowing them to act longer.

But the new drug is not without

side effects. Meridia can cause increases in blood pressure and, because it is believed to be psychologically and physically addictive, it is expected to be more tightly controlled and subject to regulation by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

It is not expected to be available for several months because of its pending scrutiny by the DEA.

In September, the FDA removed fenfluramine, sold as Pondimin, and dexfenfluramine, sold as Redux, after their use was linked to potentially life-threatening heart valve problems. Fenfluramine was part of a widely used, although unapproved, drug combination known as

fen-phen. The other drug, phentermine, is still on the market.

The banned drug dexfenfluramine worked by causing an increase in the release of the brain chemical serotonin, which made patients feel full.

The new drug, known as a neurotransmitter reuptake inhibitor, works outside the brain cells to prevent naturally produced serotonin from being re-absorbed, essentially making the feeling of fullness last longer.

Because Meridia can cause increases in blood pressure, the FDA recommended that individuals with uncontrolled high blood pressure, heart disease or an irregular heartbeat not take the drug.

# South Korea Seeks Strong Leader In Wake of Recent IMF Bailout

By David Holley

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

For advertising executive Lee Cho Keun, financially troubled South Korea's decision last week to seek an International Monetary Fund bail-out of tens of billions of dollars was a humiliating blow.

"Korea's pride is hurt," said Lee, 44. "We've been saying that Korea is the world's 11th-largest economy and now this. We are angry that the politicians couldn't deal with this better. We feel that what could have been stopped with a shovel now must be stopped with a bulldozer."

With recent polls showing lame-

duck President Kim Young Sam's popularity scraping bottom at less than 10 percent — compared with more than 90 percent support early in his term — South Koreans are longing for a strong leader they can respect, Lee and many others here say.

In a hard-fought campaign for the Dec. 18 election to choose Kim's successor, three major candidates are vying to become that man.

But perhaps because all three candidates are flawed, the ghost of a former president is hovering over the race: the late Park Chung Hee, a dictator whose contributions to South Korea's economic growth in

his 1961-1979 rule recently have been more widely praised than they had been for years.

"Everybody, especially people in business, is complaining that the economy is terrible. They want to see a strong leader," said Shung Man Hyang, 39, a restaurant manager who said his sales are down 50 percent this year. "People's longing for Park Chung Hee, or a strong leader, may get stronger."

Park's high-growth miracle was built around a few dozen huge family-owned conglomerates that were fueled with immense government-directed bank loans, targeted to promote key industries regardless of profitability.

# Government Officials Say Autos Cause Most Car-Truck Accidents

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Cars and large trucks crash into one another 300,000 times each year on U.S. roads, costing 5,000 lives, 130,000 injuries and millions of dollars in property damage. The conventional wisdom is that most of those crashes are caused by trucks.

But a group of government, industry and law enforcement officials said Monday that 70 percent of all fatal crashes involving cars and large trucks are caused by the drivers of passenger vehicles.

The most common error by motorists involved in these accidents is driving into large trucks' "no-zones." These dangerous areas include the blind spots in the rear and along the sides of trucks, and areas directly in front of trucks that often are entered by motorists who abruptly slow down.

Such accidents are tragic not only because of their cost in lives and injuries, but also because they are usually avoidable, said Kenneth R. Wykle, administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

# Administration Filling More Top Jobs in Government Agencies

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Clinton administration was plagued throughout its first term by a chronic inability to fill top jobs in the government. Fewer than half had Clinton appointees in them at the end of his first year and some "Home Alone" departments — Defense and Commerce — were struggling to reach 40 percent filled.

This time, with four years' experience and a below-average turnover rate, the administration will end the first year of its second term with 78 percent of the senior jobs in Cabinet-level agencies filled. And there's a chance it will approach 85 percent occupancy shortly after Congress returns early next year.

Controversial nominees — former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld for Mexico or Bill Lann Lee to head the civil rights division at Justice — dominated recent headlines. But when the Senate adjourned earlier this month, Clinton appointees filled 289 of 372 executive branch jobs in the Cabinet-level agencies that require Senate confirmation (not including federal prosecutors, U.S. marshals and judges.)

The vacancy rates vary greatly among the agencies, although there's no single explanation for the disparities. Those tending to have the highest percentage of vacancies, such as the departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor and Commerce, all had new agency heads this year.



## Graduate Student Council

### December Calendar

- 3 General Council Meeting \*
- 4 The Nutcracker, register now.
- 10 Holiday Social \*
- 11 Orientation Brainstorm Meeting \*
- 17 Activities Meeting \*

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

### The Nutcracker

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

✉ gsc-request@mit.edu 📍 Walker Memorial, 50-220

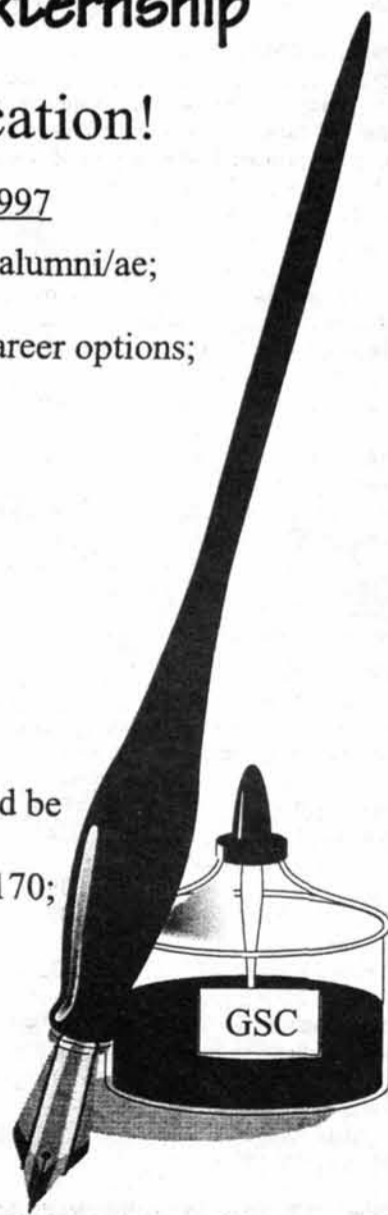
☎ (617)253-2195 🌐 www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

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## Institutional Wisdom Watch

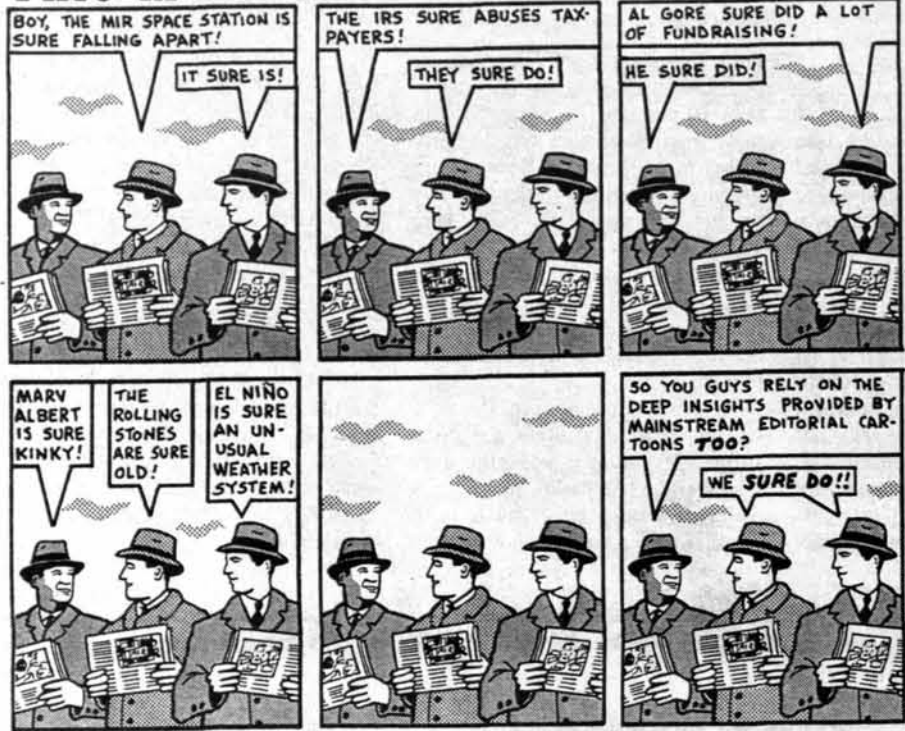
by *The Tech* editorial board



- ↑ **Infinite Buffet:** Starving masses gorge themselves in Infinite Corridor. Lines were long, but spirits still high.
- ↔ **UA:** Next year the IFC will vote to disband you.
- ↓ **Cops in Shops:** Is that an alcohol clerk or Big Brother? Proves once and for all cops are posers.
- ↑ **IFC:** They kicked the faculty in the rear, but can they keep the rank and file in line?
- ↔ **Aramark:** Dining contract splits leaving Aramark scrambling for either half. Will other half go to Hooters?
- ↓ **Dormcon:** Car-54 where are you?
- ↓ **Intermediate Grades:** Who is left to object now that nobody remembers naked letter grades?
- ↔ **77 Mass. Ave:** Digital cuckoo noises make us kookie!

### THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# A World of Wonder

## Weather Scrooges Should Warm Their Hearts to New England Winters

Michael J. Ring

Winter has come early this year. We haven't even carved the Thanksgiving turkey, and already the New England skies have offered us an amalgam of sleet, snow and freezing rain. And all signs point to a snowy winter.

There will always be people who will grumble about New England winters. "It's too cold," the Scrooges tell us, "I hate the snow." And there will be thousands who flee to Miami or Phoenix and thousands more who wish they could.

Let them go to the Sun Belt — don't let them spoil the year's most wonderful season for the rest of us. The New England winter is a season of celebration and enjoyment. Special sights and experiences available at no other time of the year captivate the true New Englander. The cold, crisp, Canadian air carries a magical quality, illuminating city and country alike. There is no better time to savor the true spirit and character of New England than in the winter.

I always say with all the Yankee pride and pompousness I can muster that Boston is the greatest city in the world. Unlike most American cities, the Hub is not a concrete urban wasteland. It is a city of history, of charm, and of character. Many cities display sadly neglected urban cores, but downtown Boston is alive with commerce and activity. There is no better month to appreciate the Boston character than December.

For over two centuries Faneuil Hall has served the people of Boston as a center of commercial exchange. Today, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters walk in the footsteps of Hancock and Adams, they funnel in and out of historic buildings, browsing through specialty shops for that perfect holiday gift. The flurries falling on the merchants and patrons scatter magic through the crisp air. At twilight the sounds of carolers and bell ringers echo through the brick courtyard, while the Christmas tree, coated with a dusting of pure white snow, twinkles above. Even the usually stern visage of Samuel Adams seems more warm and inviting, infused by the spirit of the holiday.

Down Washington Street Boston hosts another vibrant urban marketplace. The Downtown Crossing area is alive with the holiday spirit as well. Crowds jam the subway to shop the flagship store of the venerable William Filene's and Sons Company, or haggle over bargains at the Basement. On the surface shoppers browse the merchants' carts or sit down to enjoy a hot cup of coffee or chocolate and watch the city's life go by.

In the Back Bay, just across the Harvard Bridge from MIT, shoppers flood Newbury Street boutiques and Prudential Center shops in search of holiday gifts. The Pru's Christmas Tree, the tallest in the city, is another New England tradition. It is a gift from the people of Nova Scotia, who still remember the generosity of the people of Boston eighty years ago in helping the Canadian province rebuild after a coal mining disaster.

The week after Christmas, the city celebrates again with the nation's first and greatest First Night. Street performers of all kinds entertain the city throughout the 31st, while sculptors display their work in ice. At midnight all eyes focus upon the Custom House Tower for a mingling of technology and tradi-

tion, and indeed all of New England, lasts all winter.

A pure white dusting of snow and a glaze of ice decorate the city. A covering of snow enhances the soft glow of the lamps on Marlborough Street. The quaint, narrow brick streets of Beacon Hill are even more charming with a layer of white powder underfoot. The lion and unicorn guarding the Old State House welcome the blanket of white enhancing the features of the most historic, charming building in the city. Walk through the Public Garden after an ice storm and observe the trees and shrubbery glistening under a fresh coat of ice, and you will understand the magic of a New England winter.

The ice and snow lend a natural beauty to the landscape that can only be truly appreciated in the New England countryside. Small villages are transformed into Winter Wonderlands. Cold, white-capped streams roaring under covered bridges, deer prancing through snow-covered meadows, and spruce trees are only a few of the idyllic scenes you may encounter in the enchanted forests of the upcountry.

Perhaps the greatest reflection of winter's magic is in the disposition of New England natives. Whiners may grumpily yearn for the Florida sun, but the true Yankee spirit enjoys the simple pleasures of winter. The New England winter is a season for the young and the young-at-heart to indulge in play and discovery. Children love to lace their skates and take to a frozen pond for a game of hockey. I remember fondly my own childhood sledding on the steep hills of central Massachusetts. People of all ages gather at the Boston Common Frog Pond to skate. Others indulge in winter play by flocking north for weekends of skiing. The Yankee brings a friendly, open spirit to the celebration of winter and seeks to share the season with one and all.

As we enter the New England winter, do not become a Scrooge. Do not shut yourself off to the pleasures of the season. Enjoy the excitement and festivity of the season. Keep a jovial spirit and a happy heart, and you will be enchanted by the spirit of New England. The season is yours to find and enjoy; I wish you glad tidings and success in its discovery.



tion that is quintessentially Boston. The grand old lady of Boston's skyline plays host to a laser show, which dazzles the spectators assembled to welcome the new year.

But the 31st of December is not the end of the mirth and merriment. The enchantment of

## A Mechanism for Change

### Community Problem-Solving Would Eliminate Haphazard Decisions

Jim O'Donnell

Recent events have released a flood of dialogue on alcohol and housing issues. Every possible medium has been exhausted; committees have been named, forums have been held, newspaper articles written, and petitions circulated. The discussion is long overdue.

At the licensing board meeting, councilman Joseph P. Mulligan drilled Rosalind H. Williams, dean for students and undergraduate education: "Are you not aware of the tradition of drinking in frats which has gone on for years and years?" Williams responded, "No," causing a few members of the audience to laugh. Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean and adviser for fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, added, "I don't make it my business to know about underage drinking." Of course, any administrator who admits knowing anything related to what happened is liable. Moreover, because administrators do not live in the MIT community, they may not be able to gauge the seriousness of problems here. The administration does not seem to have the tools to adequately respond to problems of campus life.

Given the current system, only a death could have forced the Institute to house all freshmen on campus. Proposals to build an undergraduate dorm have been on the table for quite some time. There has also been a proposal on the floor for 10 years to shorten pledging; it was never enacted because some of the students, presumably fraternity members, did not want pledging to be shortened. Similarly, Ceani Guevera '99 petitioned the Metropolitan District Commission to paint a crosswalk across Memorial Drive, but no

action was taken until the death of Michele S. Micheletti '00. It seems that if any group objects to a change, it is vetoed. Even if no one objects, it is left on the table if it's not viewed as urgent.

Students feel they are not being listened to, that problems are ignored, and that faculty and administrators draw hasty conclusions from a ridiculously small amount of data. What we need is a mechanism to solve campus problems before someone dies because of them. My high school participated in an international competition called community problem solving bowl. It is a written competition in which a team of four systematically analyzes a social problem in the community and then goes out and implements the solution. The analysis has six parts spread over a three-hour period; brainstorming twenty problems, identifying the underlying problem, brainstorming twenty solutions, ranking them according to several criteria, and writing up a page-long essay detailing the best solution.

Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for students and undergraduate education, has suggested making this program an annual Independent Activities Period activity, and I agree that it could be applied with great success. Every year students could write up an anecdote depicting a problem, such as a recent hazing incident or something less life-threatening like school spirit. A single problem would be picked and a committee of students would gather data and make a single comprehensive report for contestants' use. Committee reports, newspaper articles, and student essays, as well as hard data from surveys and financial statements could be included. At each step, teams would be rewarded for including as many types of reasons as possible such as social life, emotional and physical

health, and academic concerns.

A community problem-solving competition would be an event open to the community. Each team of four could be made up of a student, two faculty members, and an administrator. The time commitment for participants would be minimal: a couple of hours to read over the background material and three to four hours for the analysis.

It does not take a rocket scientist to solve housing and alcohol issues, although MIT has its share. However, whenever someone from a fraternity argues against changing the housing system, they can be dismissed as "defending their turf." On the other side of the coin, the letter by Scott S. Velazquez G and Robert Plotkin '97 detailing alcohol abuse at Pi Lambda Phi was dismissed because they "had an agenda." The community problem-solving format would allow people to show that their arguments are valid. In complex issues like housing, it's easy to get muddled unless one separates each step of the analysis. The timed competition format forces people to concentrate on each step separately.

Checks and balances were originally installed into the American government to insure that all groups had a say in the governing of the nation. This system would act as more of an intelligent democracy, circumventing the gridlock inherent in checks and balances. From an engineering point of view, the existing system at MIT has too much potential to fail. It would be amazing if it did work. If the problem-solving structure was put in place, it would allow the Institute to act independently of interest groups, both internal and external. It would foster intelligent participation from all groups of the MIT community. With all the brains at MIT, I think one team can come up with a reasonable solution.

# Buffet Marks Authentic MIT Culture

Brett Altschul

On Saturday, I visited the Infinite Buffet, an attempt to build a better overall MIT community. The free food was supposed to improve students' morale with something out of the ordinary.

The event certainly drew a large segment of the MIT community; the single narrow hall was a morass of bodies. But this was certainly not the event that the organizers had in mind. The decision-makers at MIT seem to envision an MIT community where small groups of students and faculty sit down for a relaxed discussion of physics and philosophy. This event ought to have been a wonderful step in that direction.

To the people on the floor, the true nature of the event was obvious. We stood in the stairwells and the places between the tables scarfing down the food. The talking was limited to questions about whether there was any cous cous left at the other end of the table. I saw Lawrence H. Bacow '72, the former chair of the faculty squirming through the crowds trying to reach the soup.

As I lunched on tasty, fresh-cut roast beef and soft rolls with garlic butter, a group of students nearby began griping about the dreary slowness of the lines and the fact that most of the food was gone by the time they reached the tables. "You know you're going to read in *The Tech* that it was a success and everyone had a good time," one of them said.

This comment captured an important aspect of the MIT culture, something most students understand and most of our community's so-called "leaders" fail to grasp. Complaining is a central part of the MIT lifestyle.

MIT is a hectic place, and we have all adapted to deal with that fact. We complain about the workload, but we pull through. Everyone gripes about a difficult test, but there's a sense of accomplishment that comes from finishing it. That's the way we do things: complain about how we hate things, then admit that the experience was fairly rewarding.

While we bumped into one-another, eager to reach the next dish before our fellows, we were actually enjoying ourselves. Along the buffet, everyone complained about the twisted and tangled lines that never seem to move, but after the event, people seemed to have had a good time.

I'm sure the organizers and other people with some grand vision of an MIT community will claim that this event was a major step forward, promoting social interaction and faculty-student contact. On the second floor, near Lobby 7, I saw one student pacing back and forth with a tremendous smirk. He seemed symbolic of the attitude that characterizes the people who make choices around here. He was positioned amidst the balcony seating, with long-soiled tablecloths and a handful of people finishing their clam chowder and tabbouleh. The actual event, where people were enjoying themselves, was on the first floor of the Infinite Corridor. The tables were far too few and a few feet too far from where the food was being served.

The other special features of the event seemed equally pointless. The first 500 people to come to the event won free T-shirts. The purpose of this escapes me. Was the goal to reward people who eat promptly at noon, an attempt to create a uniform, campus-wide meal schedule?

Watching from the balcony over Lobby 10, I saw the tarot card readers read the fates of the same people over and over. Unlike the tables of food, the tables of destiny had no long lines before them. I have no idea why we had fortune tellers at the event, but I don't think they added much.

The Infinite Buffet was a nice idea, something I'd like to see again. It was a success, but not in the way some people expected. It did nothing to overthrow the entrenched MIT lifestyle. Rather, it was successful because it fit within the established framework of MIT culture.

The student leaders and administrators need to understand that MIT has a real culture, and this culture is not the one that they see as ideal. Nonetheless, the MIT culture provides a worthwhile mechanism for people to interact.

# THE ARTS

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Alien: Resurrection

*You can't keep a good woman down*

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Out of the Alien trilogy (ex-trilogy now), I always preferred James Cameron's *Aliens*, the adrenaline-pumping action-adventure saga with a layer of subtext and the true feeling of wonder in the end. Compared to it, the original *Alien* was a visually impressive but otherwise mediocre horror movie, and the only good thing about the dreadfully confused and confusing *Alien 3* was its fiery conclusion. Now we have a next installment, *Alien: Resurrection*, written by Joss Whedon, the co-writer of *Toy Story*, and directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Delicatessen* and *The City of Lost Children*). The result is a curious mixed bag, less enjoyable than *Aliens* but a bit more so than the first movie.

If you were unlucky enough to see *Alien 3*, you know that Ellen Ripley died in the end (by the way, if you haven't seen *Alien* and *Aliens*, there will be a lot you won't understand, so beware). But now the government needs some of Ripley's DNA to breed aliens for use in bioweapons program, so they bring her back using a sample of blood taken shortly before she died. However, there's a catch. When the blood sample was taken, Ripley was already impregnated with an alien queen embryo, and the alien blood cells were mixed with her blood. After the doctors remove the also-cloned alien embryo, they leave Ripley

on her own; but since the process is imperfect, Ripley now has some alien DNA mixed with her own.

This makes for a very rich subtext; the idea of Ripley and the alien physically becoming one is extremely interesting, and the ways the movie reveals many aspects of this interbreeding provides a lot of unforgettable moments (there's more than a passing similarity with the nightmarish *Toy Story* sequence set at Sid's house, with the misshapen toys crawling around). Unfortunately, the plot is uniformly dull, being pretty much a rehash of the plot of *Alien* (people flying through space trying to avoid getting eaten by aliens.)

Visually, *Alien: Resurrection* is a marvel, easily the best of the series. However, the pacing is erratic (it's unclear how much time passes in the first 15 minutes of the movie: a week or a year?), and the action scenes are overall unimpressive. The acting is good, with the sole exception of Winona Ryder, who doesn't make a very good action heroine.

Two scenes in the movie feel really wrong: in the end, when Ripley finally meets the alien queen, we get some obvious exposition and ridiculous commentary on the action from the

cocooned people in the background; and, finally, the last monster she has to defeat is, actually, not monstrous at all (many human characters in this movie are scarier).

It's also worth mentioning that the trailer is misleading. This isn't an action movie, but more of a psychological horror. It also features gallons of bodily fluids (although not much of it human), and is, frankly, very disturbing. *Alien: Resurrection* deserves credit for being disturbing and thought provoking,

even though one of these thoughts is that the plot and subtext don't really fit together.

Opening tomorrow.

Directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet.

Written by Joss Whedon.

Starring Sigourney Weaver, Winona Ryder, Ron Perlman, Dominique Pinon, Michael Wincott, Dan Hedaya, J.E. Freeman, Brad Dourif, Raymond Cruz, Kim Flowers, Gary Dourdan, and Leland Orser.



Sigourney Weaver (center) and Winona Ryder in *Alien: Resurrection*.

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# Faculty, Staff Reflect on Thanksgiving Traditions

Thanksgiving, from Page 1

This year, Williams will spend Thanksgiving at her home in Newton, with her husband and three children. "Most of our time is spent just being together and getting caught up with each other," she said. "For dessert, we have the usual assortment of pies, but we also usually serve something chocolate — the only legitimate form of dessert, in my opinion," Williams said.

## Merritt reveals turnip craving

Professor of Literature Travis R. Merritt, former dean of undergraduate academic affairs, has always celebrated Thanksgiving with his family. "We've almost always included MIT students whom I know. That's added to the liveliness of the occasion," he said.

Merritt has held the position of "head honcho for turkey preparation" for many years. He enjoys experimenting with various types of stuffings and "the concoction of nutritionally incorrect gravy with lots of fat."

There is also an annual heated discussion in the Merritt household about how to tell when the bird is done — neither undercooked nor too dry. Merritt has a Thanksgiving passion for turnip, "whose sharp taste accentuates the blander cuisine, but not everyone shares that passion," he admits.

When Merritt was growing up in upstate New York, Thanksgiving morning often featured a somewhat disorderly, yet spirited, co-ed touch-football game. "But we haven't had one of those in some time," he said.

## Celebrating with nature

Instead of spending Thanksgiving in a bustling house overflowing with relatives, Administrator in the Department of

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Anne M. Hunter celebrates the holidays with nature. Hunter has spent her past several Thanksgivings with her significant other's family in Saugerties, N.Y.

The most enjoyable part of this trip is "that on Friday and Saturday, we drive out into the Catskill Mountains and try to find the emptiest, wildest place we can get to in our car," Hunter said. Since Thanksgiving occurs during the tourist lull between foliage and skiing, there is little traffic and very few people.

For several years, Hunter has been searching for the famous Catterskill Falls. There was once a hotel called the Mountain House on top of the mountain, with paths and bridges leading to the falls. But the hotel burned down and the falls have since been forgotten. "We've gotten close enough to hear the water, but it's always too muddy or icy for us to find the falls," she said.

Returning from the Catskills, Hunter tracks the Esopus Creek through a non-village called "Big Indian" and drives back along the Ashokan Reservoir at sunset. "I look forward to the stillness and the emptiness every year," she said.

## The sounds of Thanksgiving

Associate Director of the Center for Biomedical Engineering Alan J. Grodzinsky '69, who teaches Fields, Forces, and Flows: Background for Physiology (6.561J), describes his Thanksgiving celebrations as a "bit of an MIT reunion." Grodzinsky explains that he always eats Thanksgiving dinner in New Haven, Conn. at his older brother Steve's home. Steve, his son Marc, and his daughter Rachel are all graduates of MIT.

Music after dinner has always been important in our family,

Grodzinsky said. When his family forms a string quartet, Grodzinsky plays the viola; when the family desires folk music, Grodzinsky expertly strums the banjo and mandolin. Grodzinsky's 11-year-old son Michael and Marc both have their own drum sets, and live up to the party with their musical expertise. "6.013 [Electromagnetic Fields and Energy] lecture is usually prepared while Michael is playing away at full volume on his drums to the sounds of the Stones, symbols crashing," he said.

## Lewin takes a break from physics

Professor of Physics Walter H. G. Lewin takes a short break from physics every year to have Thanksgiving dinner. "There have been years that I have spent all day, until late at night, at MIT, and I recall several years ago that I had a great Thanksgiving dinner with one of my graduate students at Walker Memorial. There were not too many people as crazy as we were to spend all day at MIT, but the dinner they had prepared was exquisite."

"I have a simple rule," Lewin said. "When you have a great meal, you should not feel stuffed; on the contrary, you should be able to have the very same meal again and enjoy it all over again."

However, Lewin remembers a particular Thanksgiving during one of his "absent-minded days," when he accepted two Thanksgiving dinner invitations. Since the dinners were at different times, Lewin decided to go to both engagements. This Thanksgiving turned out to be an exception to his rule, for he had two full-size Thanksgiving dinners and afterwards Lewin "felt stuffed like a Thanksgiving turkey." Lewin admitted that there was "no way that I would have been able to live up to my simple rule: four dinners

would definitely have been too much."

Lewin has decided to invite all three of his graduate students to Thanksgiving dinner, and will serve them a creative feast: Greek salad, tuna sashimi, prosciutto di Parma with figs, freshly boiled lobsters, artichokes, and persimmons for dessert.

## A refreshing morning hike

Assistant Dean Katherine G. O'Dair is another enthusiastic nature-lover. One of her favorite new traditions is to convince several friends to get up at sunrise to hike up Mt. Monadnock on Thanksgiving Day. "It's usually really cold, but we always find ourselves alone in the park, and it's an

excellent way to think of all the things we are thankful for," she said. Though O'Dair admitted that she does not currently have many people interested in participating in her adventure this year, she commented that "the week is still young."

## Spending time with the family

For the last 10 years, Assistant Dean Neal H. Dorow has returned to Oregon to spend the holidays with his father. "It's the one chance I get to see my father each year," he said. The Association of Fraternity Advisors' national conference always occurs the week following Thanksgiving, so Dorow usually travels directly to the conference site from Oregon.

## O'Dair's Home-Style Vegetable Cranberry Stuffing

16 oz. herb-seasoned stuffing  
4 tbsp. butter  
4 medium onions  
2 tbsp. olive oil  
1 lb. mushrooms, sliced  
3 carrots, peeled, shredded  
3 celery stalks, thinly sliced  
1 cup chopped cranberries  
2 1/2 cups vegetable broth  
1/2 cup coarsely chopped parsley  
10 oz. frozen chopped kale  
1/2 tsp. pepper

Place stuffing in large bowl. In large skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add onions; saute 15 minutes, or until brown and softened. Add to bowl with stuffing. In same skillet, heat oil over high heat. Add mushrooms. Saute eight minutes, or until browned and dry. Add to stuffing mixture. In same skillet, combine carrots, celery, and vegetable broth; heat to boiling. Add to stuffing mixture; add cranberries, parsley, kale, and pepper. Toss until evenly moistened. Place stuffing in 13x9 baking dish. Cover with foil; bake 30 minutes. Uncover; bake 15 to 20 minutes until browned.

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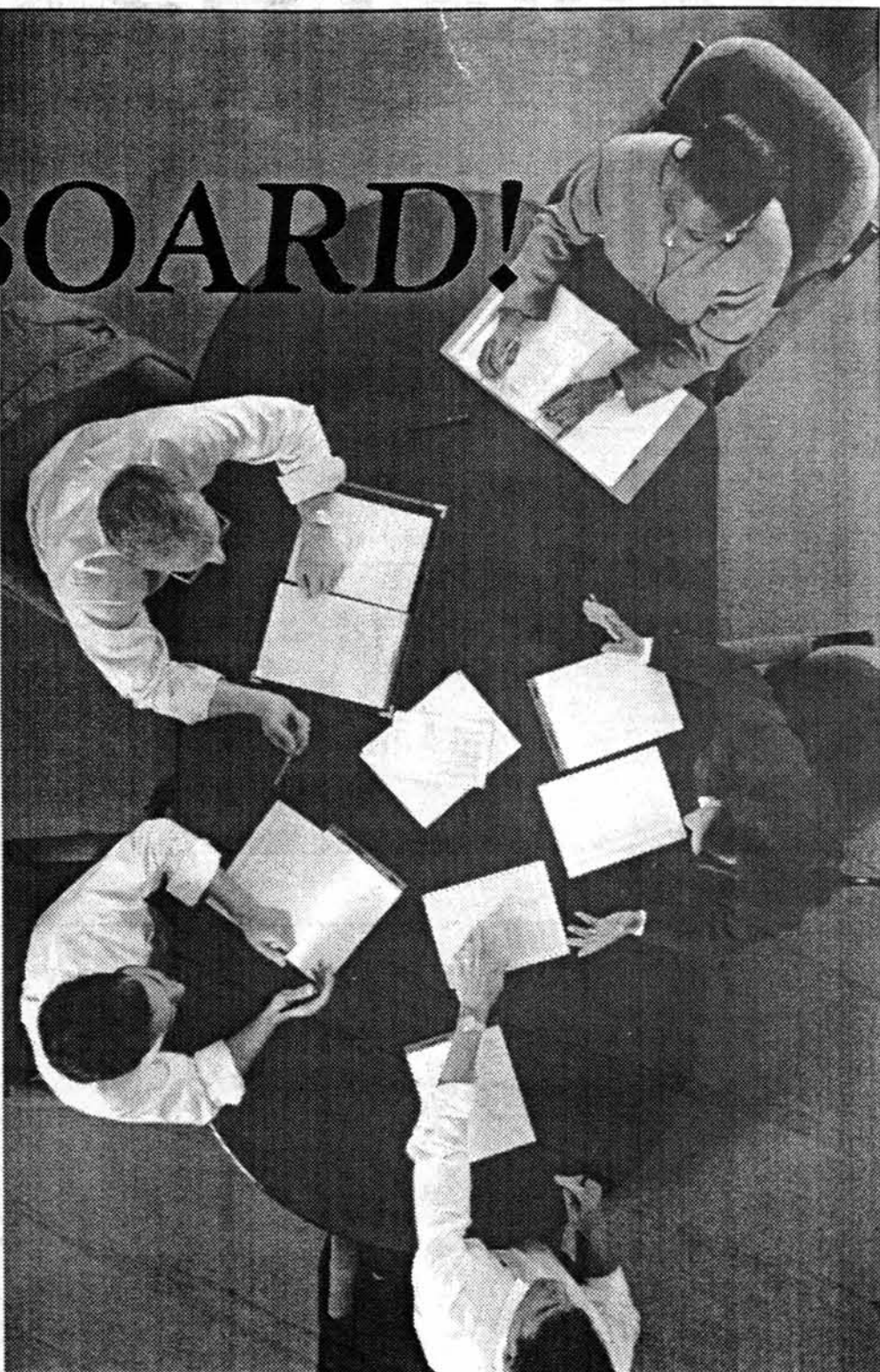
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dammed for life  
by Jessica



Off Course  
by Hugo



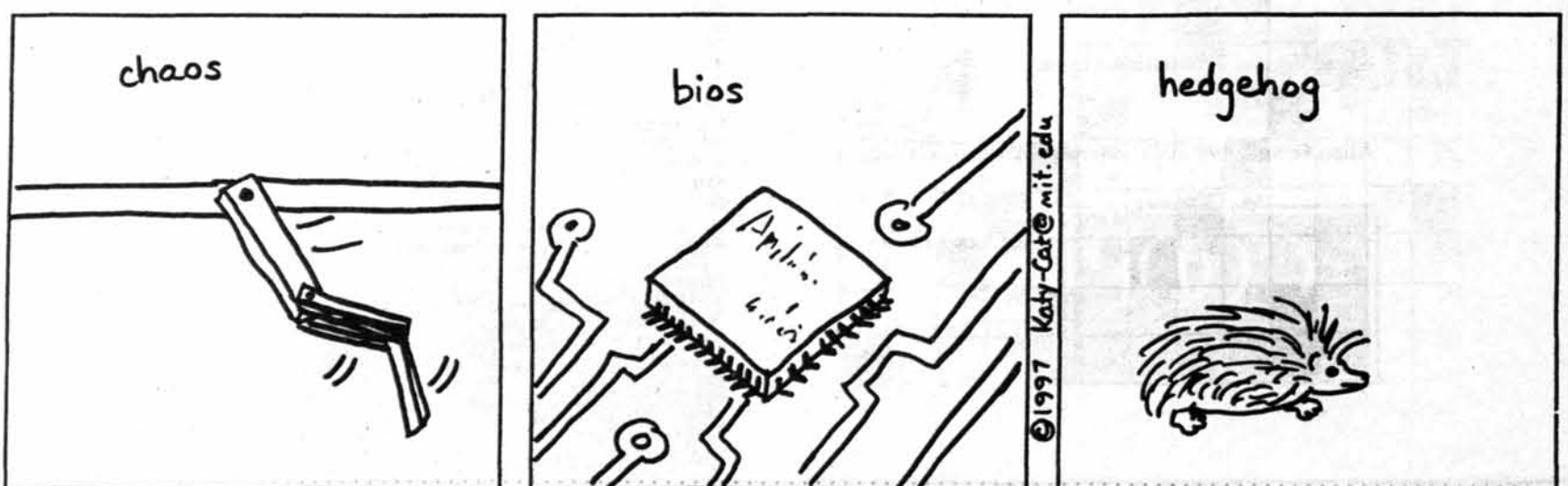
THE STORY SO FAR: Rhino-Man gets a visit from two FBI agents, Fox Mortimer and Dana Randolph. They investigate U-Files; Cases that are unsolved and involve supernatural activity.

by  
Zachary Emig



Next Issue: Heading for the mysterious island.

Noun Poetry  
by Katy-Cat



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by Scott Adams



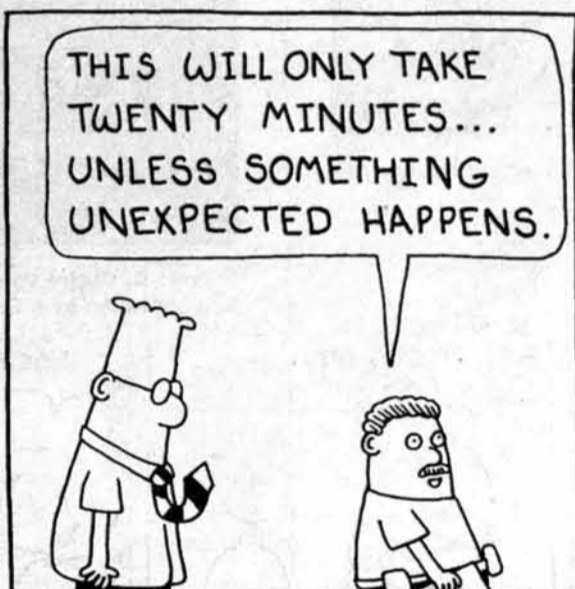
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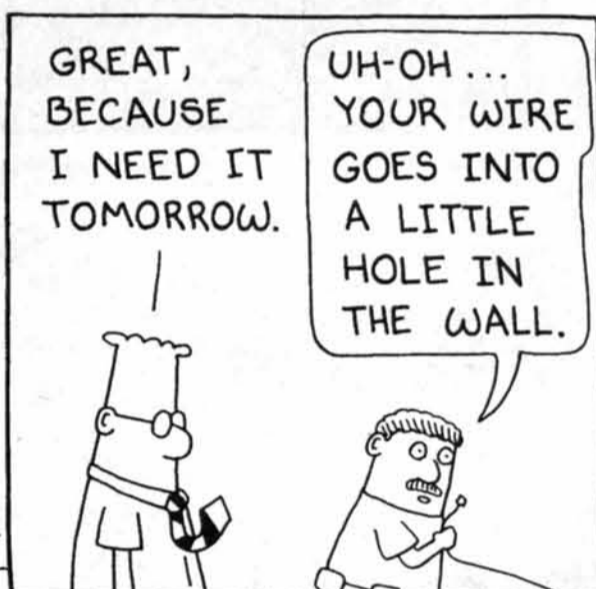
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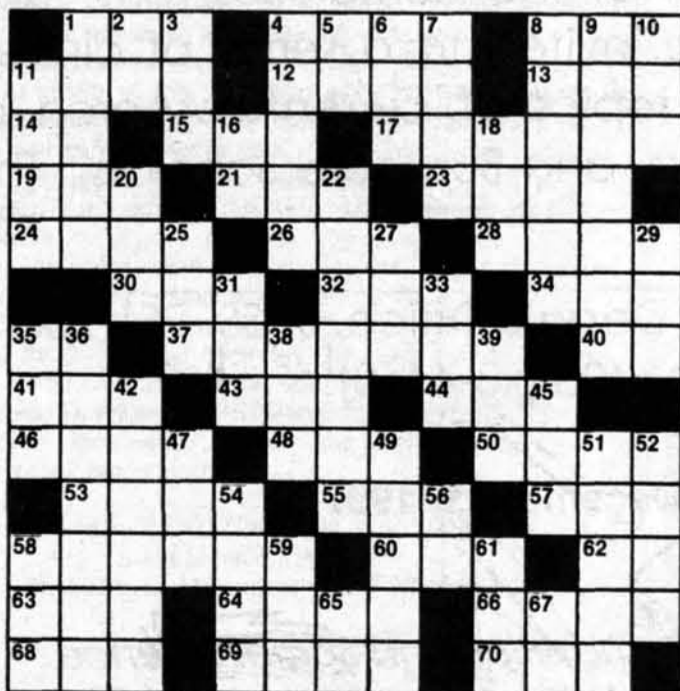
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### Across

1. Are (sing. form)
4. Bottom
8. Conditions
11. Male deer
12. Among
13. Rifle group (abbr.)
14. Near
15. Man (slang)
17. Removed soap
19. Girl (slang)
21. Kettle
23. Carry
24. S.W. State (abbr.)
26. America (abbr.)
28. Information
30. Clothes (informal)
32. Poem
34. Tap
35. Preposition
37. Egg specialties
40. You (arch.)
41. Village (abbr.)
42. Accountant (abbr.)
44. Goal
46. African plant
48. Dined
50. Urge

53. Related
55. Before (poetic)
57. Fuss
58. Do over
60. African antelope
62. Over
63. Metal-bearing rock
64. Edible root
66. Golfer's yell
68. Bible books (abbr.)
69. Some New Yorkers
70. Unit

### Down

1. Floral perfume
2. Egyptian sun god
3. Breakfast food
4. Stagnant creek
5. After midnight (abbr.)
6. Male title
7. Correct copy
8. Bottom of foot
9. Highway
10. Unhappy
11. Ancient story
16. Higher position
18. Not (pref.)

20. Shone
22. Alone
25. Animals home
27. Summer drink
29. Female saint (abbr.)
31. Auto makers (abbr.)
33. 7th Gr. letter
35. Eggs
36. Removes
38. Government agency (abbr.)
39. Signature (abbr.)
42. Folded or doubled
45. Flightless bird

47. Building extension
49. Rye disease
51. Love
52. Finished
54. Information
56. In or into (pref.)
58. Fish eggs
59. Sweet potato
61. Alien spacecraft (abbr.)
65. With reference to
67. Upon

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS





GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

The Chorollaries perform "Wichita" in their annual winter concert on Saturday in Room 10-250.



KARLENE ROSERA—THE TECH

William C. Cutter conducted the MIT Concert Choir in their annual fall concert, performing works by J. S. Bach.

## Burchard Scholars Program

### All MIT Juniors and Sophomores

The 1998 Burchard Scholars Program Is Now Accepting Applications

The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the MIT faculty and promising juniors and sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences. 25 Burchard Scholars are invited to a series of dinner-seminars throughout the year to discuss topics of current research or interest by faculty members, visiting scholars, and Burchard Scholars. The 1998 program begins in February.

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*

# Asian Stereotypes Examined at Forum

Asian, from Page 1

statements about major events affecting people in America of Asian descent, such as "1854: People vs. Hall rules that Chinese cannot give testimony in court," or "1965: Immigration Law abolishes 'national origins' as basis of forming immigration quotas."

## Panelists explore MIT stereotypes

J. Emma Teng, instructor in foreign languages and literature, moderated the next 45 minutes, during which she asked an eight-person-panel questions about race at MIT.

The first question asked the panelists for their opinions on the perception of "Asians as a model minority."

"Categorizing all Asians in one culture is a gross simplification and one-dimensional," said Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science James E. Chung, also a co-chair of the Committee on Campus Race Relations.

Psychiatrist in the Medical Department Kristine Cha said the "model minority" concept "places additional emphasis on Asians to be perfect and makes it hard for Asians to come for help or admit weaknesses and vulnerabilities."

Anant Sahai G of Sangam said Asian Americans make an average of \$58,000 per year but that "just because you make money doesn't mean there are no race issues."

The next question explored Pan-Asian unity and the common experiences shared by all Asians. Anthony Ng G of the Asian Pacific American Students Caucus said, "I personally feel our commonality is [the search for] identity."

Somak Chattopadhyay of the South Asian American Students Association emphasized the need for unity for media leverage, and former Associate Dean Mary Ni,

now assistant professor of development studies and counseling at Boston University, said, "Something that bonds all Asians, whether we like it or not, is racism."

## Faculty race issue explored

David F. McGill '99 opened up the question and answer period by asking, "What are the relations between Asians and international students?" Chattopadhyay pointed out the existence of a slight polarization in terms of poverty and arranged marriage. Sahai, however, said, "the media will try to force the issue up."

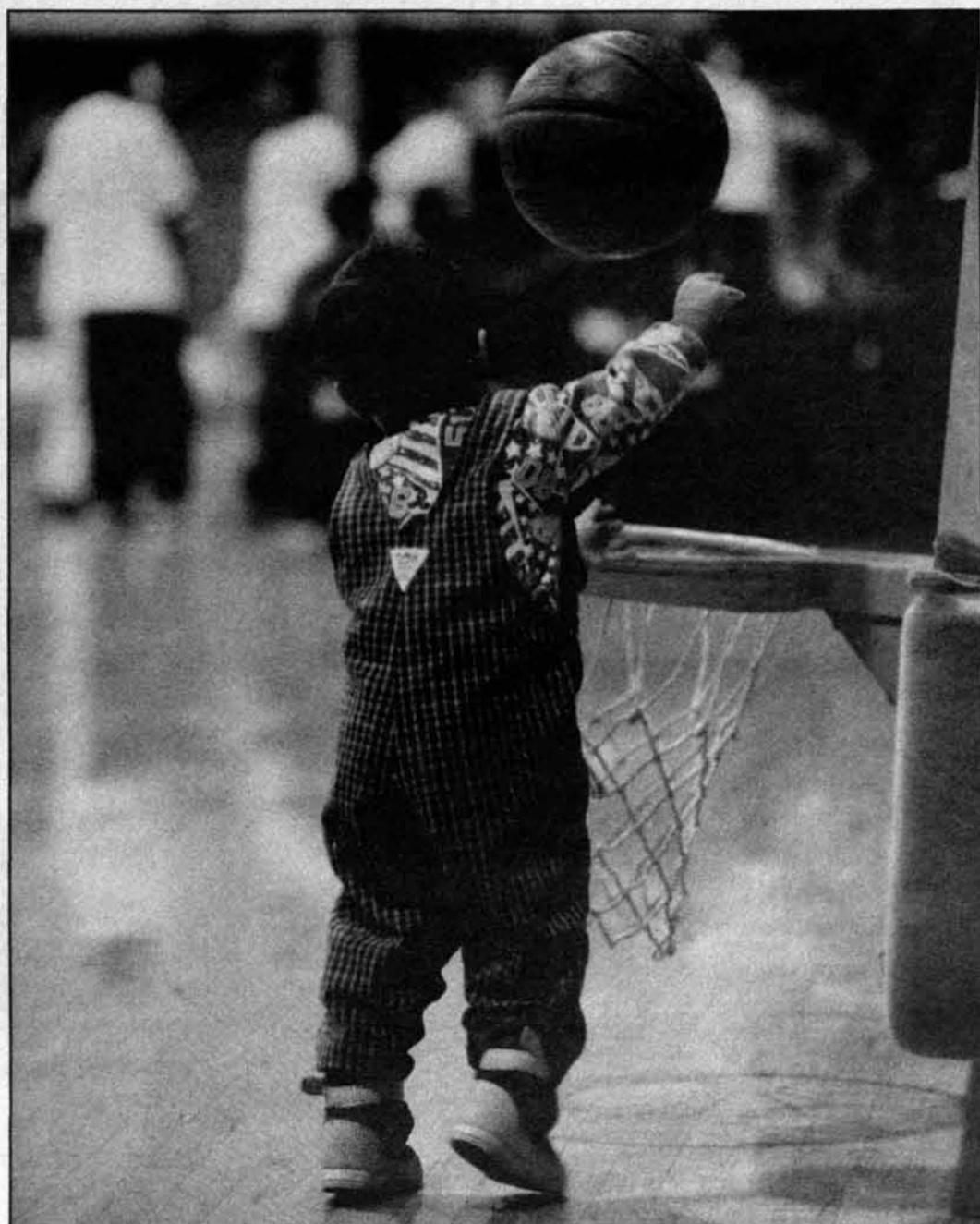
Racism among faculty and in deciding promotions was also discussed. Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Chiang C. Mei said that while there has been a significant increase in the last 30 years in Asian students at MIT, there has not been a proportional increase in Asian faculty.

"I have been invited to be a minority for outside purposes," Mei said, but when applying for grants, Asians are treated as "overrepresented minorities." He said, "I hope in our discussion of race relations, larger conditions of workers will be considered."

Teng corroborated Mei's statements by stating that 8.5 percent of faculty are Asians compared to 30 percent of the student population.

Associate Dean Ayida Mthembu urged people to join her personal boycott of movies such as "Red Corner," in which white males or women play Asian characters. She said that such movies gave Americans the license "to abuse tradition as if we don't exist."

Near the end of the meeting, one audience member asked why few whites were at the meeting and suggested that "in the future a meeting on race should incorporate all groups."



A budding star practices his above-the-rim technique during half time of the women's basketball game last Saturday. AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

Write News for *The Tech!*

253-1541

## RAND INFORMATION SESSION Tuesday, December 2, 1997 5PM Room 4 - 270

RAND, located in Santa Monica, CA is a nonprofit institution that helps improve public policy through research and analysis. RAND researchers operate on a broad front, assisting public policymakers at all levels, private sector leaders in many industries, and the public at large in efforts to strengthen the nation's economy, maintain its security, and improve its quality of life. They do so by analyzing choices and developments in many areas, including national defense, education and training, health care, criminal and civil justice, labor and population, science and technology, community development, international relations, and regional studies. RAND has a variety of research opportunities for Ph.D. candidates and also offers summer internships for students who have completed at least two years of Ph.D. work. The RAND Graduate School of Policy Studies offers a fully accredited Ph.D. program awarding the Doctorate in Policy Analysis. RAND also has postdoctoral opportunities including a Professional Development Fellowship for Minority Scholars. For more information, see our Web Page at <http://www.rand.org> or contact

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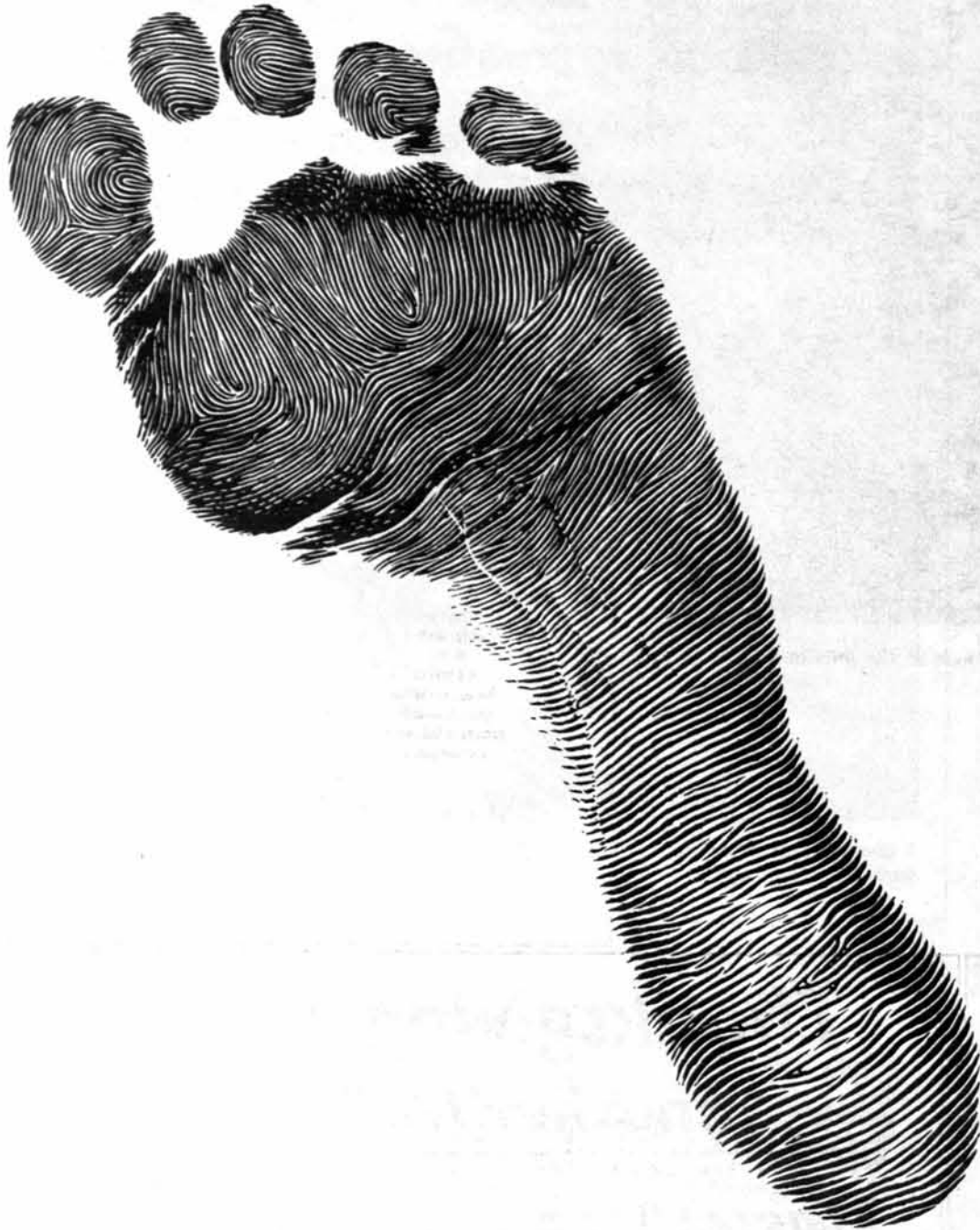
\$8.95 per person

11:30am - 1:30pm

Thursday,  
November 27, 1997



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## Resume Drop

Monday, December 1, 1997

Students interested in applying for analyst positions in the  
**Global Investment Research Department and the Equities & Investment Banking Divisions**  
should submit resumes and cover letters to the Office of Career Services by December 1st, (Today) no later than 12:00 p.m.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Students gathered in huge numbers to gorge on a variety of exotic foods at the Infinite Buffet, held in the Infinite Corridor on Saturday.

## POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Nov. 13 and 20:

**Nov. 13:** Boat House, bicycle secured with a cable stolen, \$500; Bldg. 9, malicious damage and suspicious activity; Johnson Athletics Center locker room, wallet stolen, \$24; Tang Hall, cash and checks stolen, \$200.

**Nov. 14:** DuPont desk, altercation between parties playing basketball; Bldg. E39, wallet reported stolen, only misplaced; Sigma Phi Epsilon, disturbance, snowball fight.

**Nov. 15:** Sigma Alpha Epsilon, noise complaint.  
**Nov. 16:** Sigma Phi Epsilon, disturbance, snowball fight; Bldg. 4, malicious destruction of bulletin boards; Bldg. 8, graffiti; Astrourf, assault and battery between persons known to each other; Bldg. E53, suspicious activity.

**Nov. 17:** Student Center, bicycle secured with a cable lock stolen, \$600.

**Nov. 18:** Student Center, John Hose, of no known address, arrested for trespassing.

**Nov. 19:** Bldg. E51, annoying phone calls; Westgate, bicycle secured with a cable stolen, \$150; Delta Psi (No. 6 Club), backpack, VCR, and CD player stolen, \$800; Bldg. 20, 1) bicycle left unsecured stolen, \$80, 2) bicycle secured to self stolen, \$270.

**Nov. 20:** Bldg. 54, computer parts stolen, \$120.

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by Craig Swanson

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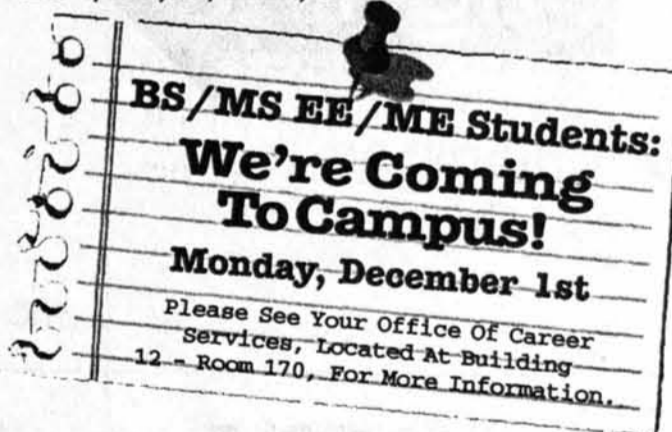
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for more information and to schedule an interview.

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# Ender's Game Author Voices Opinions on Sci-fi TV

Card, from Page 1

gender. "I just don't think that way," said Card, a devout Mormon. Matthew Ender, a Harvard graduate, asked Card, "At the age of 24 years old, you can imagine the number of times I have been asked if I have read your book. So, I have to ask the obvious question."

Card did not have a concrete reason for choosing the novel's title. "I was young and stupid. I thought, 'End Game. No, Ender's Game.' I guess it was sheer bone-headedness."

Card discussed how the book has defined his career. He talked about the touching and disturbing responses that he has received from fans over the years. "When you get down to it, people will go without food for stories. I'm grateful that they find my stories worth it."

He mentioned his wish to do "more than Ender's Game. Do you think I haven't tried to duplicate Ender's Game? I thought I have a few times. But I don't complain about its success."

Card discussed the ongoing movie adaptation of Ender's Game.

He said that the effects that he needs to make the movie will "cost \$60 or \$70 million."

### Card comments on Hollywood

Card described the cost of special effects as the most limiting aspect of film in science fiction. Studios will not pay for the effects for a movie that only appeals to a small segment of the population.

"When effects become cheaper, it will radically transform Hollywood. When they only cost \$5 million, you can make the independent, quirky film that yields only

\$15 million."

Card gave his opinion on several science fiction television shows. He prefaced his opinions by saying "I come to TV with lowered expectations."

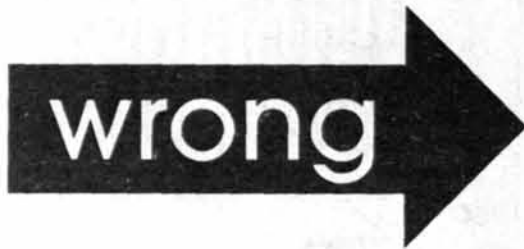
He approved of the concept of *Quantum Leap* and called Chris Carter and the *X-Files* "flat-out terrific."

Carter had harsh words for the original *Star Trek*, especially the acting. When the crowd began to hiss, he said, "I hear the sound of the wind passing through the heads of people who watched too much

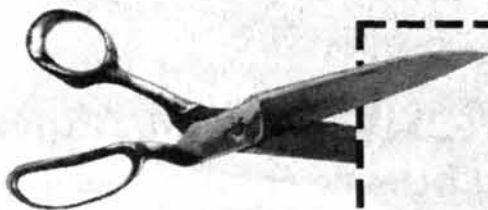
*Star Trek*."

The event was sponsored by MIT Communications Forum, Film and Media Studies Program, Department of Writing and Humanistic Studies, the Markle Foundation, and the Lecture Series Committee.

The first question posed to Card was about the event's sponsor, the Media in Transition project. Card answered in the sharp style that characterized the evening: "It all sounds like bullshit to me. The changes that are predicted by such programs never come."



## THINGS TO DO WITH SCISSORS.



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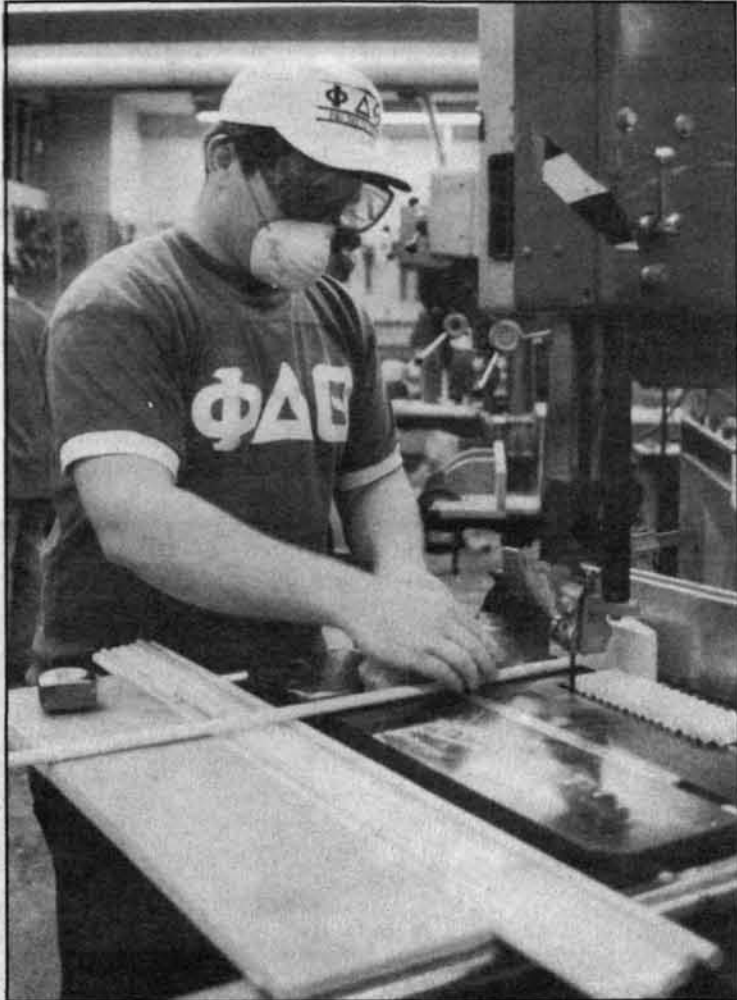
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Cato D. Wagner '99 of Phi Delta Theta works in the MIT Hobby Shop making wooden toys for kids during last Saturday's Toy Day.



Fredi Meli and Tien-Yi Lee G perform Bemsha Swing as a part of the MIT Festival Jazz Combo in Kresge Auditorium last Saturday.

The **Campus Activities Complex** will be accepting applications to reserve the following:

Event Facilities for the period of:  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 1998 through June 30<sup>th</sup> 1999

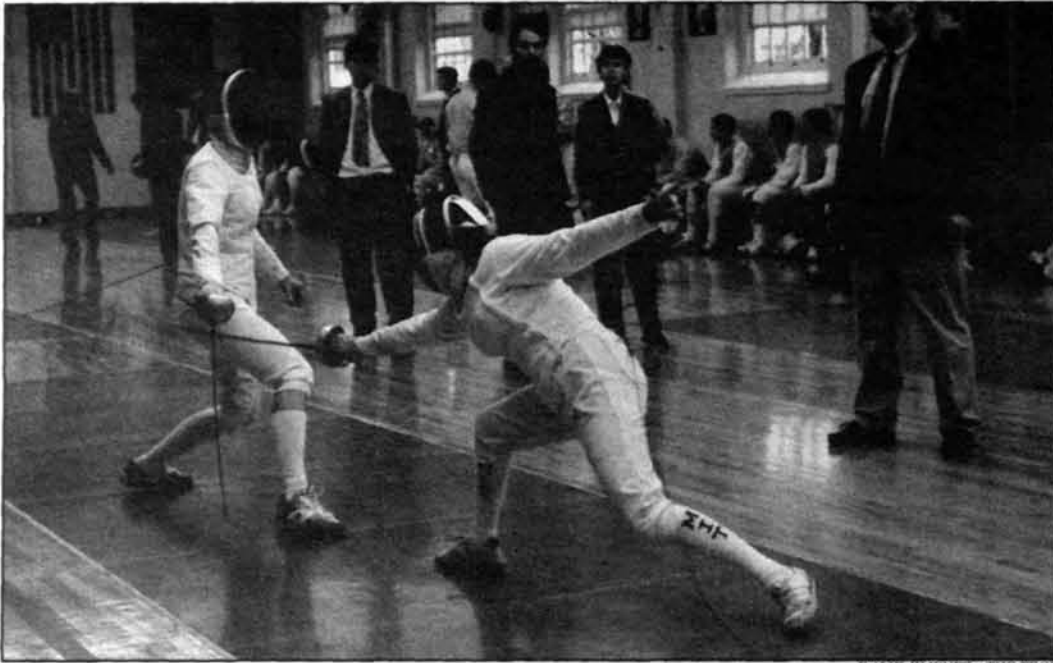
Student Center (W20), Kresge (W16),  
Religious Activities Center (W11), Walker (Bldg 50),  
Chapel (W15), Wong Auditorium (E51)

Tuesday,  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1997  
beginning @  
9:00 AM

Applications for the spaces above can be picked up and turned into CAC (W20-500).

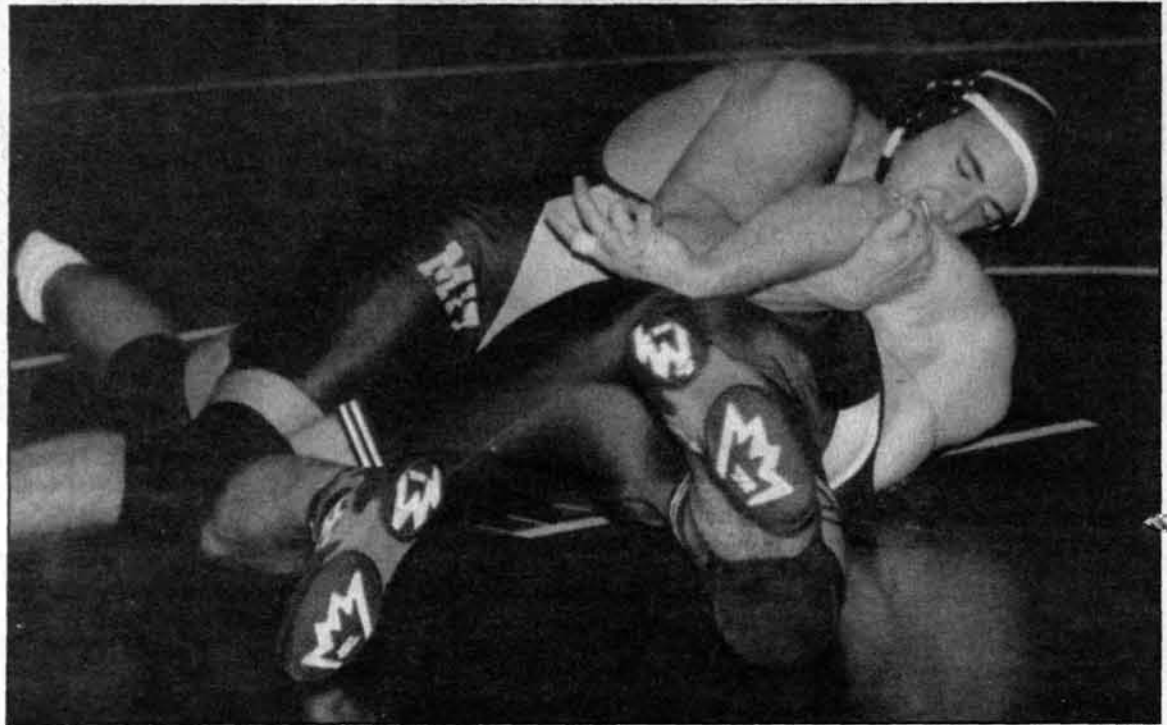
Promotional Space for the Spring Semester:  
February 1<sup>st</sup> 1998 - May 19<sup>th</sup> 1998

Lobby 7 Drop Posters, Lobby 10 Booths,  
Infinite Corridor Panels, Student Center Tables and  
Student Center Balcony Posters (For February Only).



Nora Szasz '99 lunges but her thrust is parried by her opponent in a match at Harvard. MIT lost the match.

DALIE JIMENEZ—THE TECH



Daniel J. Bush '01 prepares to pin his opponent at the Springfield College Open on Saturday morning.

HAN CHOU

# HOW ARE CLASSES?

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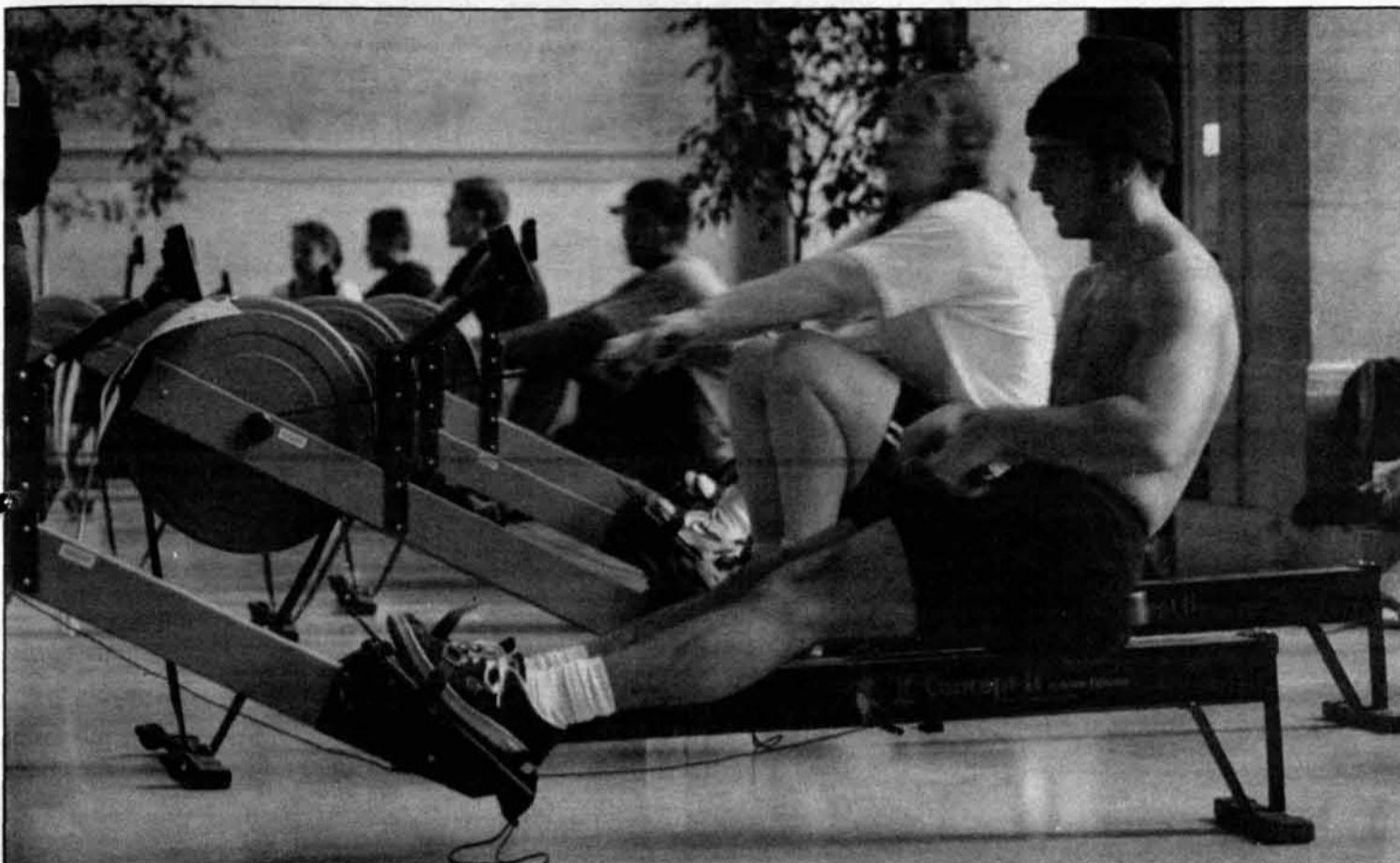
**MIT SUBJECT EVALUATION**

*November 24 - December 10*

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Members of MIT crew erg in Lobby 10 to raise money for the team's trip to Florida next year.

T. LUKE YOUNG—THE TECH

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**Date: Wednesday, December 3, 1997**

**Time: 6:30-8:30 PM**

**Place: The Charles Hotel  
Rogers/Stratton Room**

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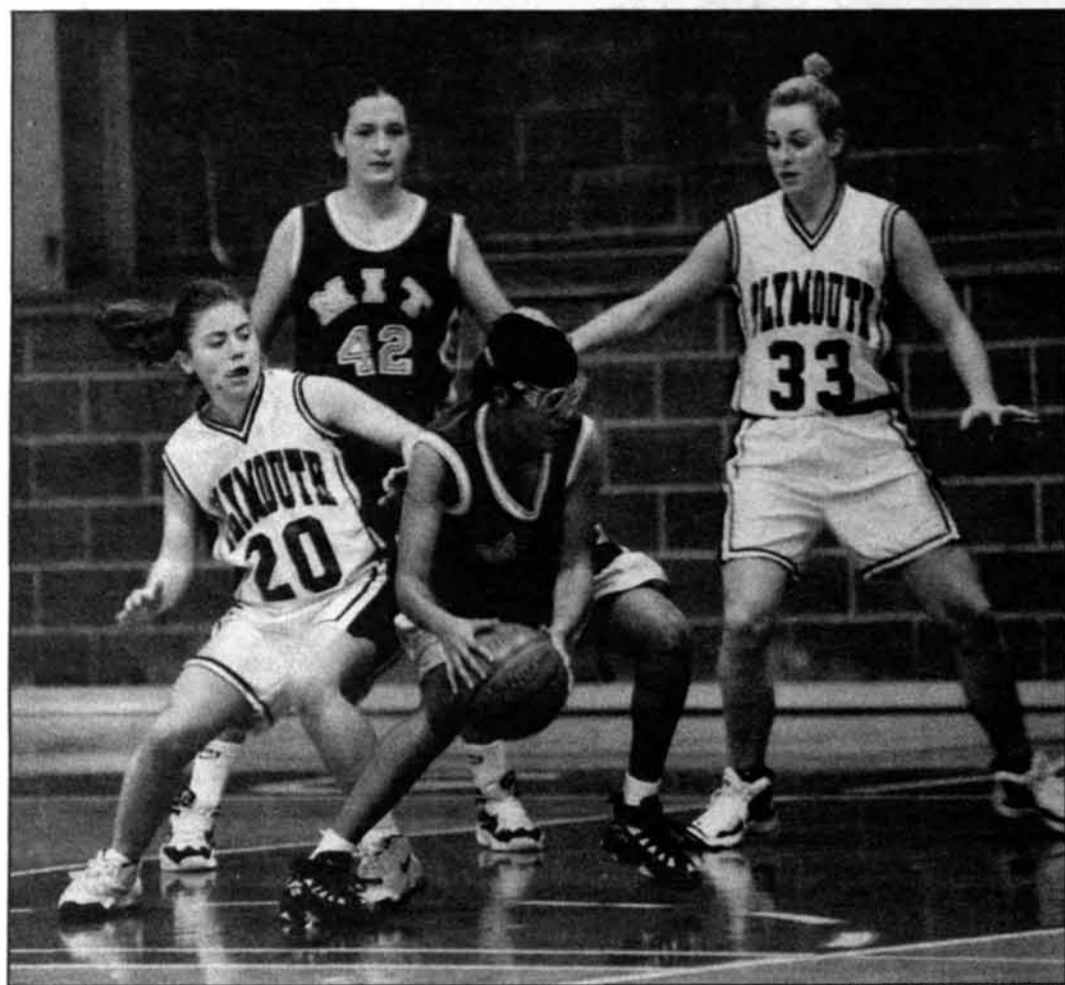
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**\$5 per insertion per unit of 35 words.**

## SPORTS



Victoria A. Best '99 fakes out a defender as she drives to the hoop. MIT lost to Plymouth State College in the final of the MIT Engineer Tip-off Classic, 62-47.

## Heavyweight Crew Places 6th In Foot of the Charles Regatta

By Karl Richter  
TEAM MEMBER

The top heavyweight four crew placed sixth out of 28 crews in the varsity race at the Foot of the Charles Regatta in rainy and cold conditions on the Charles River this past Saturday.

This best performance ever from the top four in the annual race from MIT's Pierce Boathouse to Harvard University's Weld Boathouse shows that MIT is competitive with the fastest crews in the country. The participants in the regatta represented the best of the Division I league in New England. Varsity crews raced in fours while the freshmen raced in eights.

Harvard displayed the tremendous depth of its rowing program by finishing first and second (13:14 and 13:20) in the race. These two fours were composed from members of Harvard's varsity heavyweight eight which was the fastest collegiate crew in the country at the Head of the Charles last month.

The top heavyweight fours from Northeastern University (13:25) and

Boston University (13:26) finished third and fourth respectively. The national champion Harvard Lightweights (13:51) barely beat the MIT heavyweights (13:54) for fifth place.

MIT's top heavyweight four included Matt Coates '98 (bow), Mike Perry '99, Dan Parker '99, Karl Richter '99 (stroke), and Jen Lykens '99 (cox). Parker and Coates sported bleached hair for the race.

Coach Gordon Hamilton was pleased with the result and said "this is a wonderful way to finish up a tough fall season."

The heavyweight Beavers have been plagued with injuries in the top ranks this fall. Three oarsmen who have raced in the first four in the past two years, including second year captain Robert Lentz '98, were unable to race. Hamilton said he was impressed that the squad was able to muster its best performance in his 10 years as head coach, despite not being at full strength.

The top MIT lightweight four (14:25) finished 15th and the heavyweight "B" four finished 19th

(14:32). The MIT heavyweight "C" four finished 30th (15:17) after getting involved in an accident with another MIT lightweight boat and a Harvard boat.

### Other boats finish well

The MIT "D" four finished 33rd, beating Boston College's top boat in the race.

The freshmen got a second race under their belts, with the MIT first freshman eight finishing a very respectable ninth out of 38 (13:54). The freshman Beavers beat first boats from Boston College, Brandeis University, and Massachusetts Maritime College, but finished behind league-rivals Dartmouth University (13:23) and Harvard (12:45) who they will race again in the spring.

The Foot of the Charles marks the last race of the term for the heavyweight crew team. Their next race is against the University of Miami in Miami, Florida, during the squad's two-week training trip to the sunshine state in January.

## Athletes of the Week

This week's athletes are stars for their performances in the fall season. Zachary Lee '98 was named to the National Water Polo Second Team and was the only Division III player on either the first or second teams. Stephanie Maifert '98 has the second-highest number of career points in MIT field hockey, with 94. This season, she was named to the NEW8 all-conference team and was the MIT MVP.

The Athletes of the Week feature is sponsored by the MIT Varsity Club.



Stephanie Maifert '98  
Field Hockey

Age: 21

Major: Biology, minor in Biomedical Engineering

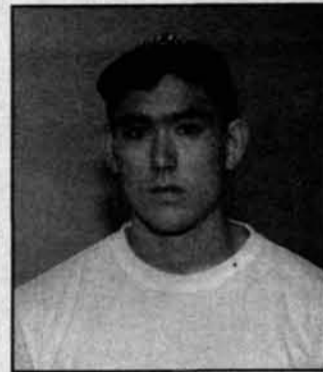
Hometown: San Diego, Calif.

Years playing sport: 8

Most memorable moment: Winning the NEW8 Championship freshman year

Future plans: graduate school

"I don't think many teams can say that they have just as much fun together off the field as on. My best friends play field hockey. We've won championships and we've ended the season disappointed, yet through it all we return each year to beat Wellesley and help each other succeed not only in our sport but in our lives. That is what it means to be a team."



Zachary Lee '98  
Water Polo

Age: 21

Major: Mechanical Engineering

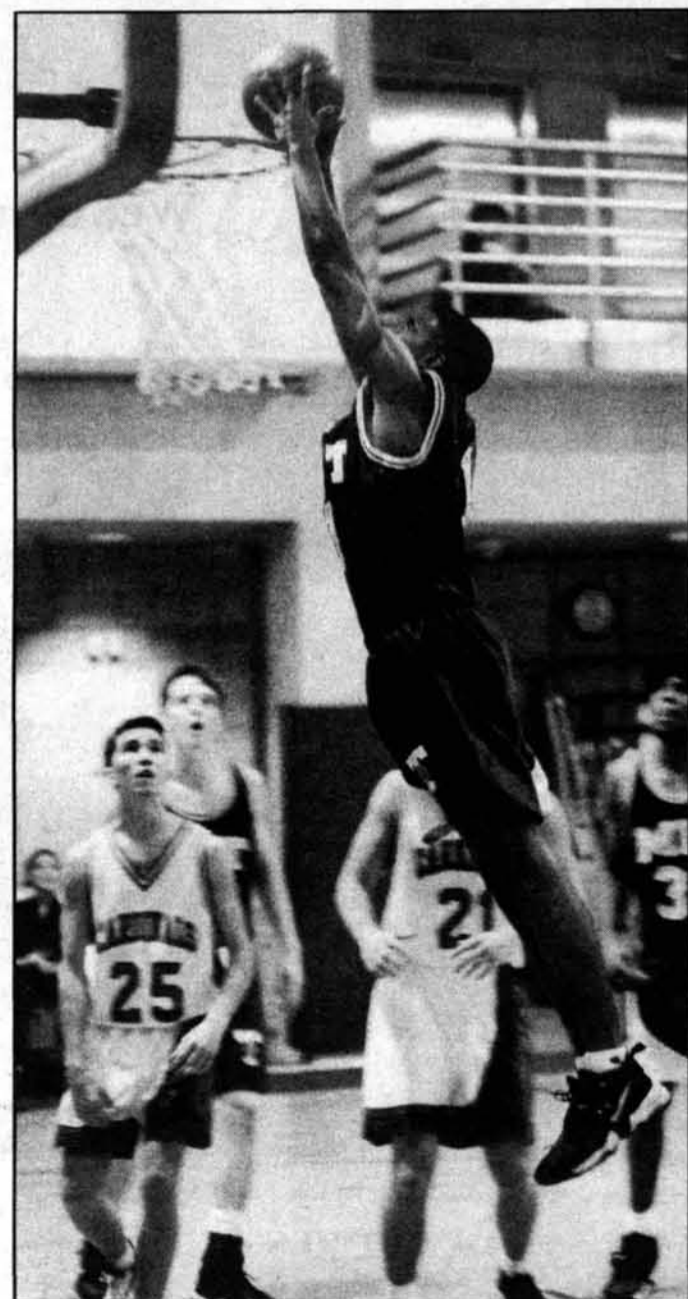
Hometown: Walnut Creek, Calif.

Years playing sport: 9

Most memorable moment: Beating Harvard University this season.

Future plans: engineer, weekend yardwork

"I could not have asked for anything more in my last year of water polo. As a team, we reached all of the goals that we had set at the beginning of the season. In addition, we put on some good performances for our rowdy fans."



Melvin Pullen '98 slams one home in MIT's 87-61 victory over Pharmacy College.

Nothing to do for IAP?

Light load in the spring term?

Got that job offer and have too much time on your hands?

## Write sports!

The sports section of *The Tech* is looking for you to write...

- exciting **blow-by-blow** descriptions of MIT sports events
- insightful** columns about professional or college sports
- profiles of **outstanding** student athletes and coaches

**No experience necessary!**

E-mail sports@the-tech.mit.edu, call Dan at 253-1541, or stop by for pizza on Sundays at 6 p.m. in Room 483 of the Student Center.