

Sig Ep Loses Activity Privileges After Latest Alcohol Incident

By Jennifer Lane
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sigma Phi Epsilon was suspended from holding organized activities and having alcohol on the premises yesterday, following the treatment of an 18-year-old freshman for alcohol intoxication.

The student was transported from Baker House to the Medical Center at 3 a.m. Saturday. The dean's office and the Campus Police are investigating reports that she was served alcohol at Sig Ep.

When the student returned to Baker Saturday morning, students there "made the decision that she needed to go to the Med Center,"

said Jennifer R. Bautista '98, Baker president. Baker residents were having a setup party for their house formal, which was held Saturday night.

The current "evidence and witnesses indicate that the woman did consume a lot of alcohol at the fraternity," said Interfraternity Council President Iddo Gilon '98. "I think MIT is going to pursue this very aggressively," he added.

If the allegations are true, the house may face further sanctions. However, "nothing we can do, short of extremely draconian measures can stop this," Gilon said. "People, in general, need to be responsible ... guests need to be responsible, too."

"It's disappointing that this type of stuff is going on, that people are being irresponsible," Bautista said.

President Charles M. Vest said that no immediate changes to MIT's alcohol policy would probably result from the incident. "The primary thing we have to rely on is working very hard to educate ourselves and bringing around enough cultural change to get people to recognize the serious effects alcohol has on the community," he said.

Theta Chi warned

Residents of Theta Chi removed

Sig Ep, Page 17

Media Lab May Build on E10 Site

By Frank Dabek
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A new Media Laboratory building is scheduled to be constructed on the site where Building E10 now stands. The accelerated construction plan could begin as soon as early next year.

The Media Lab is currently located in Building E15, which is adjacent to the E10 site.

"An expansion of the Media Lab is planned for that site," said Director of Planning O. Robert Simha. He said that the Media Lab has obtained some funds for the project but was not sure whether the fund raising was complete.

"MIT has had long standing plans to expand the Media Lab," said News Office Director Ken Campbell. He said that a formal announcement of the expansion has been planned for sometime in the spring semester.

Campbell could not reveal the

source or amount of the funding for the new center.

Course 9 researchers displaced

Many researchers in the Brain and Cognitive sciences currently have office space in Building E10 and will be forced to relocate following the Media Lab's expansion.

Andrea J. Hatch, administrative officer for the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, said that "researchers in that building are very concerned." The move is "creating a certain amount of anxiety and problems for our faculty," she added.

Hatch was unaware of exactly where the department would be housed in the future. The "Institute is trying to figure out a place" to move the offices. Hatch said that she expected to receive more information about the move "within a couple of months."

Campbell said that at the earliest

any move would be made in approximately four months.

According to Simha the planning office is working on "providing them (displaced researchers) with another home." He said that it is "a tradition of MIT not to discommode everybody."

"Our long held institutional practice is not to relocate anyone without agreed upon acceptable alternatives," said Director Of Administration And Operations Stephen D. Immerman. However "agreed upon acceptable alternatives" assumes that people are reasonable," he said later.

Simha said that it was possible that a new building would be constructed for the Cognitive Sciences department. "Funds are being sought for that purpose," he said. The planning office has been "working on [getting the depart-

Media Lab, Page 16



Grace Chung performs 'Doodlin'' as a guest soloist in a performance by the Tech Jazz Singers in Kresge Auditorium on Sunday.

GREG KUHNEN - THE TECH

HASS-D Lottery Migrates to WebSIS

By Douglas E. Heimburger
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The lottery for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Distribution courses is moving off Athena and onto the world wide web this semester.

The new system will integrate the lottery system into the registrar's electronic pre-registration system, said Bette K. Davis, coordinator of the HASS Office.

The changes, which are designed to ease confusion during the first week of classes, allow students to determine before registration day which HASS-D class they received, said Mary R. Callahan, associate registrar for facilities and scheduling.

Students must enter the lottery before noon on January 20, earlier than the traditional registration day deadline, using the web-based student information services system at <http://student.mit.edu>.

After students register, the HASS-D lottery will then be run. Only after that lottery is completed will the algorithms used to allocate students

to particular recitations and class times be run, Callahan said. The timing changes will help students "avoid scheduling conflicts, as the recitations in other classes should not conflict" with a student's HASS-D selection.

Lottery will run earlier this year

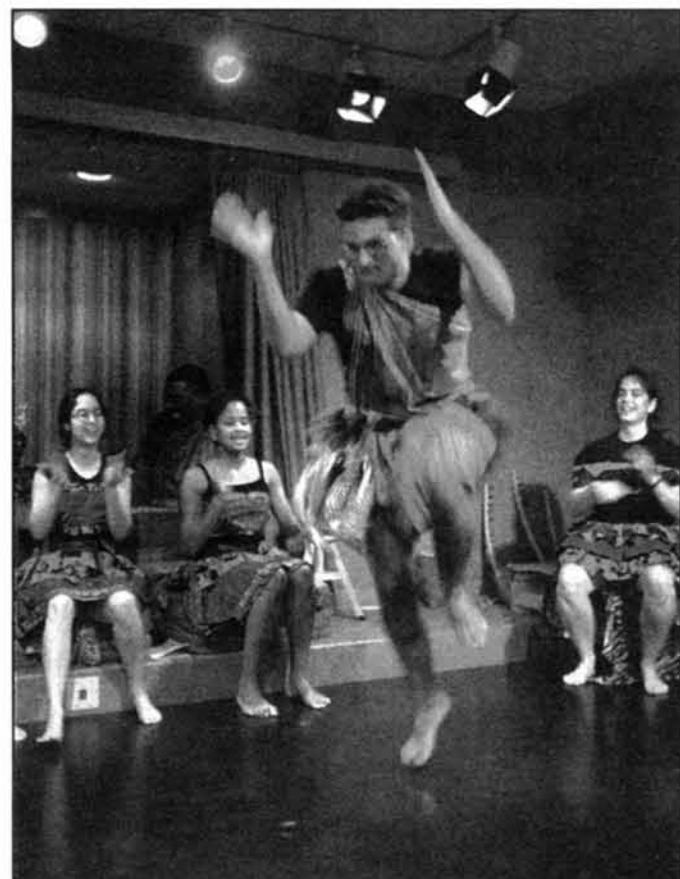
This will mark a break from past semesters, where the HASS-D lottery would close at noon on registration day, with results available at midnight.

Students who did not receive their first choice HASS-D class would then have to use an add/drop form and potentially realign other classes, Callahan said. "We've heard a lot from students running around on the first day of classes" that the system should be changed, she added. "The goal is that students will get one schedule that works," Davis said.

While the interface to the lottery has changed, the lottery algorithm itself has not, Callahan said. Representatives of the HASS office will still conduct the lottery and provide the results back to the registrar's office.

Students will be able to find out which HASS-D they received within

Lottery, Page 17



Eric Traub '99 dances to African drum rhythms at the MITCAN's fall performance and open house at the Endicott Center yesterday.

GABOR CSANYI - THE TECH

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This is the last scheduled issue of *The Tech* for 1997. *The Tech* will be published on the four Wednesdays of Independent Activities Period: Jan. 7, Jan. 14, Jan. 21, and Jan. 28. Advertising and letters for these issues are due on the Monday before the issue at 4:30 p.m. Regular Tuesday-Friday publication will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 3, along with *The Tech's* annual Year in Review supplement.

WORLD & NATION

Physicist Pleads Guilty To Passing Secrets to China

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

A physicist with access to sensitive nuclear intelligence pleaded guilty in federal court Monday to charges that he passed classified secrets to Chinese scientists during a 1985 visit to mainland China and lied to a government agency about his foreign dealings following another visit earlier this year.

Peter H. Lee, 58, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., "wanted to help the Chinese government and the Chinese scientists and to do something to advance what he considered to be a poorer, less technologically advanced scientific community," said one law enforcement source.

In the mid-1980s, Lee, considered an expert in laser energy, worked on U.S. government projects aimed at using lasers to simulate nuclear detonations.

In January 1985, while an employee at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, he traveled to China, authorities said. While there, Lee admitted in court Monday, he met with Chinese scientists and gave them "detailed information" about laser technology that he knew to be classified at that time, authorities said.

Much of the material has since been declassified, according to prosecutors.

Reno Declines to Release Memo

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Attorney General Janet Reno Monday failed to comply with a congressional subpoena for a confidential memorandum in which FBI Director Louis J. Freeh argued in vain for her to seek an independent counsel in the campaign finance scandal, a House committee said.

The House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, which has called Reno and Freeh to appear at a hearing Tuesday, sought the memorandum as part of its inquiry into Reno's handling of the independent counsel issue. Reno declined to surrender the document, citing the need to protect an ongoing investigation and to preserve the confidentiality of the decision-making process within the Justice Department.

Justice Department officials said Reno advised committee Chairman Dan Burton, R-Ind., in a letter that she considered it inappropriate to provide a congressional committee with a confidential document that includes information and analysis from an ongoing investigation.

The committee wanted the memorandum because "we just wanted to find out why there was strong differences between the head of the FBI and Janet Reno," Burton said on "Fox News Sunday." Burton suggested that references to grand jury testimony and other sensitive investigative matters could be blotted out.

Reno said Freeh joined her in declining to produce the document because of "the need to protect the confidentiality and independence of an ongoing investigation and our prosecutorial decision-making."

Witnesses Says McVeigh Didn't Mention a Nichols' Role

LOS ANGELES TIMES

DENVER

Defense lawyers for Terry Lynn Nichols tried Monday to distance their client from Timothy McVeigh by presenting witnesses who said McVeigh tried to recruit others for a terrorism campaign against the government — but never mentioned Nichols' involvement.

Steve Hodge, a boyhood friend of McVeigh's from Pendleton, N.Y., who did not testify in his trial earlier this year, recalled the last of 66 letters McVeigh sent to him while drifting around the country in the years before the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

"Blood will flow in the streets. Good versus evil," McVeigh wrote Hodge 10 months before the bombing. "I pray it is not your blood, my friend."

Defense attorneys are hoping to show that the conspiracy could involve many others aside from those accused, and to suggest that Nichols was not involved.

The government's case detailed close ties between McVeigh and Nichols in obtaining bomb ingredients and doing other activities in preparation for the April 1995 blast at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that killed 168 people and injured more than 500 others. McVeigh was convicted and sentenced to death.

WEATHER

Messy Week

By Douglas E. Heimburger

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Today's bright sunny skies are a bitter foretaste of the weather to come. Tuesday night and Wednesday promise poor weather conditions as a storm currently located over the mid-Atlantic states moves northward, bringing with it a touch of snow near dawn followed by rain through Wednesday and into Thursday. The sun will return on Friday and stay through the weekend.

Today: Mostly sunny skies in the morning leading to partly cloudy skies in the afternoon. High near 45°F (8°C). Light winds.

Tonight: Cloudy skies, with a touch of snow likely toward dawn. Lows in the lower 30s (1°C) along the Cape down to the mid 20s (-3°C) further inland. The chance of snow is 70 percent.

Wednesday: Snow quickly changing to freezing rain inland with rain more likely in Boston. Winds increasing along the coast. Highs ranging from the upper 30s (4°C) along the coast and the lower 30s (1°C) more inland. The chance of precipitation is near 100 percent.

Thursday: The precipitation ends as partial clearing comes to Boston. Lows 25-35°F (1°C) and highs in the 30s (-1-5°C)

Weekend outlook: Partly cloudy, with lows in the 20s (-6°C) and highs 35-45°F (5°C).

Investigators Say TWA Crash Not Caused by Criminal Act

By Don Phillips

THE WASHINGTON POST

BALTIMORE

The National Transportation Safety Board's hearing into the crash of Trans World Airlines Flight 800 heard a clear message Monday from board investigators, metallurgists, military analysts and pathologists: There is compelling evidence that the plane was not brought down by a missile or bomb.

The first day of a week of hearings into the July 17, 1996, crash off the Long Island coast that killed 230 people was devoted to an excruciatingly detailed effort to prove that there were no telltale metallurgical "signatures" of a high-velocity explosion, no aircraft holes big enough to show typical missile damage, no evidence in or on any of the bodies, nor any other hint of even the remotest possibility that any criminal act brought down the Paris-bound plane.

Witnesses also were able to provide some assurance to the dozens of family members watching in the large Civic Center auditorium that their relatives did not suffer when the plane's center fuel tank exploded and the plane began breaking up.

As the audience fell into a nervous hush, former Army physician and engineer Dennis Shanahan said that his analysis showed that at least a small number of passengers did not die instantly, but under questioning he said he doubted strongly that any passenger in any section of the plane was conscious long enough to have any idea what had happened to them.

"We believe that all these people were almost immediately incapacitated," he said. "Whether they were

dead or not, it is highly unlikely they were conscious or aware."

At Monday's gathering, the hearing room walls were hung with diagrams and cross-sections of the doomed plane and maps of the underwater debris field where the craft fell. Magnified images of the NTSB witnesses, dwarfed on the stage of the hearing room, were flashed on two large screens.

Family members, at their request, were provided special seating in the hearing room with desk space for taking notes and using laptop computers, said NTSB spokesman Peter Goelz.

"We want something positive out of all this," said Eleanor Seaman, 47, of Clifton Park, N.Y., director and secretary of the 400-member Families of TWA Flight 800 Association, formed after the crash as a nonprofit support organization. She said the organization is pushing, among other things, for improved airline safety to avoid future tragedies like that of Flight 800.

The board also showed several dramatic video simulations of the explosion and plunge to the ocean, based on exhaustive metallurgical and aerodynamic evidence from numerous sources.

The analysis found that the exploding fuel tank did not blast upward into the cabin. Instead, the force of the explosion went forward to the right and down, blowing a large hole in the bottom of the fuselage.

Within five seconds, the two-deck forward portion of the 747 including the cockpit broke away. The simulation showed that the rear section including the wings and

engines continued to fly, climbing about 1,200 feet to about 15,000 feet, banking left and then right before turning over and beginning a high-speed dive to the Atlantic Ocean. An earlier CIA simulation, based mainly on eyewitnesses rather than data, estimated the plane climbed to 17,000 feet.

The rear section flew 49 seconds from explosion to impact, breaking into a huge fireball of burning fuel on the way down. Oddly, the forward section took 45 seconds longer to hit the water, falling straight down and behind the rear section.

One of the board simulations, like the CIA simulation, clearly illustrated why some witnesses might have mistaken the climbing, burning rear section for a missile streaking upward.

Richard Bott, an analyst of naval air warfare at China Lake, Calif., said he had concluded after exhaustive study that no missile hit the aircraft. He said the typical damage pattern, including large holes, is simply not present on the reconstructed wreckage.

Shanahan was one of a parade of witnesses who said he found no evidence of a bomb or missile. He said that his "bio-mechanical analysis" of the aircraft interior showed damage too random to be a bomb, and bodies showed no signs of a high-velocity explosion.

Board investigator James Wilde said that every scrap of wreckage had been examined by numerous experts and nothing at all had been found to indicate a missile or bomb.

"This is some of the most examined metal there is anywhere in the world," he said.

U.S. to Contribute \$500 Million To European Atomic Collider

By Curt Supplee

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

In an unprecedented act of international scientific collaboration, the United States Monday pledged to provide more than \$500 million in high-tech components and services for construction of a state-of-the-art atom smasher near Geneva.

"For the first time, the U.S. government has agreed to contribute significantly to construction of an accelerator outside our borders," Energy Secretary Federico Peña said at a ceremony formalizing the agreement in the Old Executive Office Building. "We have concluded that this is the most cost-beneficial way for the United States to participate" in expensive experiments at the forefront of high-energy physics.

"It sets an excellent precedent," said Christopher Llewellyn Smith, general director of the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN), which will build the facility. Not only is the cost of such projects increasingly "beyond the means of most countries," Smith said, but the physical location of the center is "increasingly irrelevant. Science knows no national borders or continental boundaries."

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), planned for completion in 2005 at an estimated cost of about \$6 billion, is designed to be the world's most powerful accelerator, generating about seven times more collision energy than the record-holder, the Tevatron at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) outside Chicago.

Those energy levels are expected to create conditions that will enable researchers to "uncover and unravel the deepest secrets of the physical

universe," said National Science Foundation Director Neal Lane, including the profoundly vexing question of what process in nature causes particles to acquire mass.

Other objectives include trying to understand the mysterious "dark matter" that makes up at least 90 percent of the mass of the cosmos but has never been seen, investigating why there is so little antimatter in today's universe and studying how the four fundamental forces of nature might be unified.

The LHC was conceived years ago by CERN, which is supported by a consortium of 19 European countries. U.S. interest in the project spiked in 1993 after Congress killed funding for a domestic next-generation accelerator, the planned Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) then under construction in Texas. The United States had conducted an urgent search for international partners as domestic support waned for the SSC — the cost of which threatened to exceed \$10 billion — with only modest success.

Suddenly America found itself faced with the prospect of becoming an international partner in the LHC collaboration (which also includes Russia, India, Canada and Japan, among others) or possibly losing the chance for important participation in cutting-edge science as well as the ability "to train the next generation of physicists," as John H. Gibbons, assistant to the president for science and technology, noted Monday.

It took four years of complicated negotiations to define an appropriate role for the United States and to iron out difficult questions such as whether the United States would have to pay more if the project experienced overruns (now "our

contribution is fixed" at \$531 million, Peña said) and the American role in directing research (U.S. physicists will be "full and equal partners," Smith said).

Under the terms of the agreement signed Monday, DOE will provide \$200 million in equipment and materials for the LHC, which is being constructed in an existing tunnel that crosses the Swiss-French border.

In addition, DOE will contribute approximately \$250 million in components for the facility's two giant detectors, five-story-tall instruments that record the results of the particle collisions. NSF will provide an additional \$81 million in in-kind contributions. Some 550 U.S. scientists are working on experiments at those detectors, about 20 percent of the total number.

"For about 10 percent of the total cost," Peña said Monday, the arrangement will "enable about 25 percent of the U.S. high-energy experimental physics community to take advantage" of the LHC's resources.

Like Fermilab's Tevatron, the LHC is designed to boost heavy subatomic particles such as protons (part of a class collectively called "hadrons" from the Greek word for thick) to energies of about 14 trillion electron volts by accelerating them around the 16-mile circumference of the LHC ring. When they collide, the detectors will track the results — a decidedly non-trivial task. "The volume of data is equivalent to every man, woman and child in the world making 20 phone calls at once," said Bill Willis, a Columbia University physicist and U.S. spokesman for one of the huge detectors, called ATLAS.

Amid Controversy, Lawrence To Be Removed from Arlington

By Terry M. Neal and Stephen Barr
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The wife of the late ambassador M. Larry Lawrence asked President Clinton on Monday to remove her husband's body from Arlington National Cemetery because "the controversy of the past few days precludes his resting there in peace."

Shelia Davis Lawrence did not address criticism that Lawrence should not be buried in the cemetery because he lied about being in the Merchant Marine during World War II, writing Clinton that her husband's service as ambassador to Switzerland justified his burial there. But she added, "There is much that I still do not understand about recent events."

In his written reply, Clinton said: "It is with a deep sense of personal sadness that I received your letter

this afternoon. I will of course ensure that the Department of Defense accommodates your wishes."

The controversy over Lawrence's burial grew out of heated exchanges between the White House and conservatives last month over allegations that Clinton had rewarded Democratic donors with plots at Arlington. Lawrence, who died in 1996 at his official residence in Bern, gave about \$200,000 to Democrats from 1991 to 1996.

Lawrence was one of 69 individuals in the past five years who received special waivers to be buried in Arlington. Last month, White House and Army officials, citing Lawrence's wartime record, defended their decision to allow him to be interred there.

But last week, House Republican investigators said that a search of military records turned up no evidence to support Lawrence's claim

that he served in the Merchant Marine or aboard the SS Horace Bushnell in March 1945 when it was sunk by a German torpedo while part of a convoy headed toward the Russian port of Murmansk.

Some Republicans and veterans groups in recent days raised the prospect that Lawrence's body should be removed from the cemetery, the nation's most hallowed ground for military heroes, if it were proved he fabricated his Merchant Marine background.

Records released Monday suggest Lawrence was a full-time college student in Chicago during the time he claimed to be aboard the Bushnell.

Ruth Moscovitch, general counsel for the City Colleges of Chicago, said Monday "an individual named Maurice Lawrence, with date of birth August 16, 1926," was enrolled at Wilbur Wright College from September 1944 to June 1945.

Gore's Visit to Climate Meeting Brings Reaction But Little Action

By Kevin Sullivan and Joby Warrick
THE WASHINGTON POST

KYOTO, JAPAN

Vice President Al Gore's planned one-day whirl through the global climate conference cheered some people and enraged others, but left most confused about his message and whether it will have any significant impact on the remaining 48 hours of negotiation on a treaty to combat global warming.

By the time a visibly jet-lagged Gore headed for the airport Monday night, a top European Union official had rebuked him harshly, Congressional republicans had lambasted him, China ignored him and a deeply divided array of environmental activists was left wondering whether their long-time ally had helped or hindered the complex

negotiations.

"Al Gore flew all this way and we see no change at all in the U.S. position," said Greenpeace spokesman Gary Cook, one of a small group of environmental activists who met privately with Gore Monday night. "He raised a lot of hopes, but so far there's been no action."

In a speech Monday morning, Gore promised more "flexibility" from U.S. negotiators, but he did not offer specifics. After nonstop meetings with officials from the EU, Japan and developing nations, and with environmentalists, industry representatives and journalists, Gore offered little information about what flexibility he had in mind.

"We have no numbers, no text," said Pierre Gramegna of Luxembourg, a key official in the EU delegation that has proposed the

deepest cuts in emissions of the greenhouse gases that scientists say cause global warming.

The harshest criticism of the vice president came from EU Environment Minister Ritt Bjerregaard, who said Gore's statement amounted to "virtual reality": promising rhetoric filled with "dangerous loopholes."

"We in the EU are disappointed the rhetoric was not met by the reality," she said. "We must agree now — before it is too late — on early and significant reductions of emissions or face the disastrous consequences of global warming."

Still, even EU members said they were willing to give U.S. negotiators a chance to flesh out Gore's rhetoric, reflecting the confusion caused by his visit and the deep desire to see a treaty signed this week

Wei Warns Clinton of Being 'Deceived' by Chinese Leaders

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Ignoring requests by China's leaders, President Clinton met Monday with Wei Jingsheng, just three weeks after the prominent Chinese dissident was released from prison and exiled from his homeland.

But in an apparent effort to avoid damaging relations with Beijing, White House officials played down the 35-minute meeting, calling it a personal visit. They released an official photograph rather than allowing news photographers or reporters into the private session.

In a news conference after the meeting, Wei told reporters he warned Clinton of the danger of being "deceived" by Chinese leaders.

Wei, 47, who spent all but six months of the last 18 years in prison because of his efforts to bring democracy to China, said his experience has shown him that the Chinese government often breaks promises. "Very often, you unwittingly allow yourself to be deceived," he said.

When pressed to explain what he meant, Wei said through an interpreter: "In dealing with the Communists, do not pay before the goods are delivered."

Clinton talked to Chinese President Jiang Zemin about Wei and other political prisoners during Jiang's official visit to Washington in late October. On Nov. 16, Wei was released from prison in what has been interpreted as a goodwill gesture on the part of Jiang's government.

Lorena Bobbitt Charged With Punching Her Mother

THE WASHINGTON POST

The woman formerly known as Lorena Bobbitt, who became internationally famous for slicing off her husband's penis, appeared in a Prince William County, Va., court Monday on a charge that she punched her mother in the face.

Lorena Gallo, who now uses her maiden name, appeared in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court on a misdemeanor charge of assault and battery. Police said they were called Friday night by Bobbitt's mother, who said she was watching television when she was attacked by Gallo.

Police said Gallo's brother intervened to stop the attack, which allegedly left his mother with scrapes on her face. Gallo was arrested later that night at a friend's Woodbridge, Va., home and released on a \$750 bond, police said.

Investigators said they were unsure what prompted the alleged assault. "There was ongoing family tension," said Kim D. Chinn, police spokeswoman. "What the nature of it is, I do not know."

Gallo appeared composed Monday during her three-minute hearing before Judge Janice B. Wellington. Wellington set Gallo's trial for April 2 and said she could remain free, barring any "illegal contact" with her mother. Gallo lives with her parents in Prince William, and, according to her attorney, William Boyce, will continue to do so.

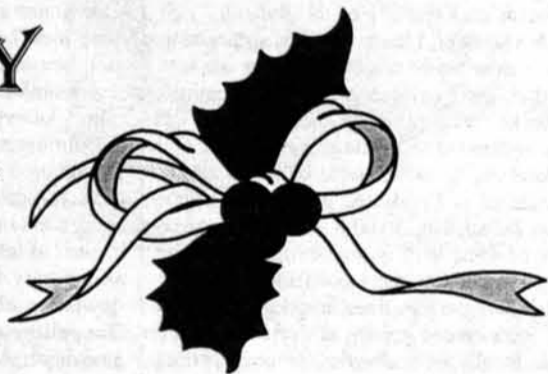
Last year, a Prince William County Circuit Court judge released Gallo from court-ordered therapy and supervision, following the recommendations of both her therapist and the county's Community Service Board.



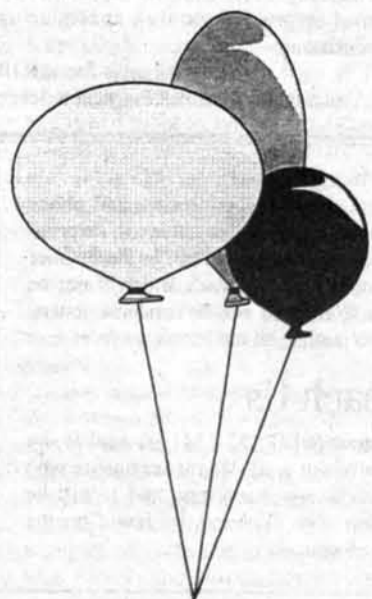
Graduate Student Council

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OPINION

A Small Step in the Right Direction

Today, President Charles M. Vest will present a proposal for changes to Residence and Orientation at MIT and the future of the housing system to the Academic Council. Although the statement remains vague as to the particulars of how R/O will change, it represents a small step in the right direction: a step toward a more positive Orientation Week, and a better planned residential community.

We continue to believe that incoming students and MIT as a whole would benefit from an orientation process that brings new students together with the community as a whole, rather than encouraging them to segregate themselves among the various living groups that compete with one another during rush. In particular, we feel that the current format of R/O gives too much attention to rush, and not enough to other aspects of life at MIT, including participation in student activities, research, and academics.

We are cautiously optimistic that the administration and faculty are beginning to move in the direction of a more integrated Orientation Week. However, in the absence of specific recommendations for changing R/O, we remain skeptical as to the commitment of the faculty and administration to real

change. In the past, efforts to involve faculty in R/O and increase the profile of academic orientation have failed. The faculty remain essentially uninterested in the undergraduate community, and academic events regularly play second fiddle to the stressful experience of fraternity rush.

Although the jury is still out on orientation, the proposed changes in the housing system seem more promising. President Vest has correctly, if belatedly, begun to address the serious problem with the current housing system's inflexibility. The need to house a certain percentage of each incoming class in the independent living group system has constrained the design of orientation and housing-related policies for far too long. The sooner a new dormitory is constructed the better. Not only does a new dorm offer an opportunity to increase the amount of single-sex housing, but it presents MIT with the opportunity to finally rethink its divided housing system without worrying about increased crowding or other short-sighted concerns.

President Vest's statements represents a positive first step. Real change on housing, however, will require concrete action, and a serious commitment on the part of administrators and faculty.

Letters To The Editor

Facing The Facts On Alcohol

Every December, the children of the South Boston Boys' and Girls' Clubs come to MIT to participate in an event to celebrate Christmas. One can not begin to describe the glow that this party brings to the children's faces as they play games, create pictures of Santa and Rudolph, and craft their very own original ornaments for the Christmas tree. The party is topped off with a gift giveaway at the end of the day, something that any child would look forward to.

This year, though, the children did not come. There were no happy faces, no smiles, no gifts. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs did not let them come. Or perhaps it was the children's parents who were too scared to let them come. Why? Because the party is held by an MIT fraternity, something that has been branded taboo over these past few months.

In the midst of all the turmoil surrounding the MIT fraternities, we seem to have forgotten all of the good deeds they have done. Fraternities were not created to be a menace to society; otherwise, they would never last. Whenever a fraternity contributes something positive to the community, it rarely ever gets heard, and when it does, it is overshadowed by the all the bad news in the media.

Although some individuals have been caught breaking the law, just because they were members of fraternities does not make their whole house guilty, and it certainly doesn't make the whole fraternity system guilty. But the media has sure made it seem so. I live in a dorm now; in fact, I'm an executive officer. If I were caught serving alcohol illegally, I doubt that my entire dorm would come under scrutiny. Perhaps I'd be punished individually, but nothing more.

Let's face the facts. People in dorms drink. People in fraternities drink. People in colleges all over America drink. Does that mean that all college students should be abhorred by the rest of society? I sure hope not. So let's start thinking reasonably now and quit holding the fraternity system responsible for everything that goes wrong, so that we can solve the problem once and for all.

Danai Kuangparichat G

The Facts Behind The Grading Experiment

MIT is coming to the end of a three-year experiment in the application of plus/minus modifiers to its letter grades. A subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate

Program is surveying students about their perceptions of letter grades, both in theory and in practice. In order to get informed feedback, it's important that students receive accurate information about the experiment.

Therefore, it's unfortunate that the column by Naveen Sunkavally '01 ["Making Grades Meaningful," Dec. 2] is largely uninformed by the facts. In particular, there is one glaring error in the column and one serious misrepresentation of the past history of the experiment.

First, the error: Sunkavally "learned in elementary school that an F is failing, a D is passing, a C average, a B good, and an A excellent." While this may be the interpretation of letter grades in elementary school, it is not MIT's interpretation. The definition of letter grades at MIT is clearly stated in the *MIT Bulletin*. An A denotes "exceptionally good performance ... a foundation of extensive knowledge, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials." A B denotes "good performance ... a good understanding of the subject matter, and an ability to handle the problems and materials encountered in the subject." A C denotes "adequate performance" and "adequate preparation for moving on to more advanced work in the field." A D indicates "minimally acceptable" performance demonstrating "deficiencies serious enough to make it inadvisable to proceed further in the field without additional work." The good old F is still in knee pants.

The Rules of the Faculty further declare that the grades "are not rigidly related to any numerical scores or distribution function."

One might respond, "Rules, Schmules. Everyone knows that some faculty members curve grades and that most faculty and students have never read page 71 of the *Bulletin*." Fair enough. However, I think you'd be surprised to discover how many faculty members work to bring their grading mechanisms into alignment with these descriptions, particularly when it comes to drawing lines between grades.

Therefore, the whole issue of where grades are centered is beside the point. A C is not halfway between an A and F. Furthermore, as a matter of fact, MIT hasn't experienced the same grade inflation that has infected other universities over the past three decades. That is no doubt because the grades as defined at MIT provide faculty with a better anchor of performance than at most other universities.

Regardless of how faculty members might actually assign grades in a mechanical sense, the interesting thing about MIT's formal grading system is that it corresponds nicely with how we formally structure most of our education. Subjects are cumulative, especially in the early reaches of the undergraduate program. The grading system records not only how a stu-

dent performed within the confines of a particular subject, but also how well prepared that student is to go on to the next.

Second, the misrepresentation: Sunkavally suggests that faculty are aching to assign plus/minus modifiers to grades while students are cowering in fear at the prospect of being denied admission to graduate school on account of a passel of A's being turned into A-'s. Almost three years ago, when the idea of intermediate grades was first being considered by the Committee on Academic Performance, the committee conducted a survey of undergraduates, asking them their opinions about grading systems with and without intermediate grade provisions. About half the respondents favored the current system and about half favored some form of intermediate grades. Later in that school year, the idea of an intermediate grades experiment was brought to a faculty meeting for discussion and a straw poll. The minutes of the April 1995 faculty meeting record that "the 'yes' vote won by a visible though not overwhelming margin." Subsequently, the CUP (which has the right to suspend the rules of the faculty to undertake educational experiments) voted to institute the current three-year experiment in intermediate grades.

While the alignment of opinions may have changed a lot in the intervening two years, I doubt it. There is no evidence that at any time in the discussion of intermediate grades, faculty and students have lined up on opposite sides of the issue. Some of each have wanted pluses and minuses, some of each haven't.

While I share much of Sunkavally's skepticism about the workability of having intermediate grades only on the internal transcript, one thing must be said in their defense: For faculty members who want to take their advising responsibilities seriously (don't laugh: there are some), knowing whether a C was "almost a B" or "almost a D" is important to know when consulting with a student about her future subject selections.

Are intermediate grades good or bad? Who knows? When dealing with what is essentially an arbitrary feature of educational policy, it's unwise to change things unless a clear and compelling advantage can be shown to the innovation. Otherwise, you'll be forever chasing educational reform rabbits. For that reason, I've always been leery of marching into the land of intermediate grades. Whatever the right answer is, this is undoubtedly true: It's always better to actually know what the issues are and who's lined up pro and con than to conjure up wild speculations.

Charles Stewart III
Associate Professor of Political Science



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M I R R O R E D

Negropon'te's Wacky Columns Embarrass MIT

Anders Hove

One of the greatest advantages of being a former president, according to George Bush, is that you don't have to take a position on everything. If that's so, then Professor of Media Technology Nicholas P. Negropon'te, director of the Media Laboratory, would make a very poor former president.



Negropon'te, who writes a regular column for the magazine he founded, *Wired*, has gone on record on everything from the high cost of canine air travel to the appropriate length of fish. Taken together, Negropon'te's columns stand as one of the goofiest set of essays ever composed.

As one would expect, Negropon'te's columns typically address issues related to information technology, particularly the Internet. The Internet is certainly an interesting subject, both in terms of its technology and its societal effects. When people in industry, politics, and the press want to know about the 'net, they turn to MIT, and hence, to Negropon'te. To a large extent, this man speaks for us.

"Doesn't that sound screwy?" Negropon'te asks rhetorically in one of his columns. He is referring to the publication of telephone books by AT&T spinoffs. All these books amount to, Negropon'te lectures, is a heap of useless atoms; their contents should be reduced to bits alone.

To most Americans, bits are things that come in orange juice; to Negropon'te, they are the essence of life itself. "Bits" is Negropon'te's jargon for raw information; "atoms" refers to regular matter, which most media rely upon.

The way Negropon'te throws words like bits and atoms around, you would think they were in actual usage beyond the confines of the Media Lab. For Negropon'te, being digital, or knowing how to use a computer, implies getting silly with the English language.

In many respects, I really admire what Negropon'te is doing. He built the Media Lab from ground up, and the people with money really eat up his digital dog and pony show to the point where both he and the Media Lab are rolling in the dough. What's more, I admire Negropon'te for having the moxie to bring his eccentric vision before the popular public. Many MIT professors are stuffed so tightly into their ivory towers they haven't the leg muscle to make the stoop. Wacky

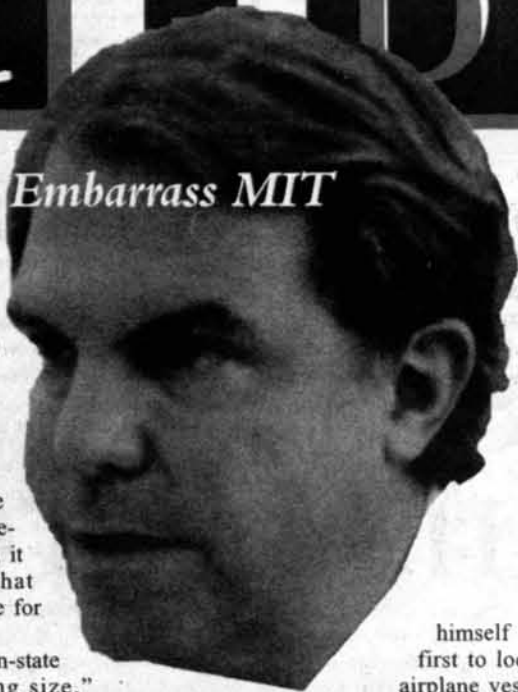
or not, Negropon'te is a voice where none existed before.

Nevertheless, Negropon'te's monthly column seems to be going to his head. His comments have spilled over the levee that formerly separated them from total insanity. One recent month's message made for a particularly egregious example. Negropon'te, it seems, has discovered that countries are the wrong size for the Internet:

"My gripe with the nation-state is that it is just the wrong size," Negropon'te whines. The nerve of those cocky cartographers, drawing our countries so big. Darn Congress of Vienna!

Taking the rhetoric down a notch, Negropon'te also manages to find time to complain about his phone bill — in Greece. It turns out they overcharged him, and when he called to complain, they were just downright rude. That would never happen, he tells us, in a country where they have decentralized, Internet-like competition, now would it?

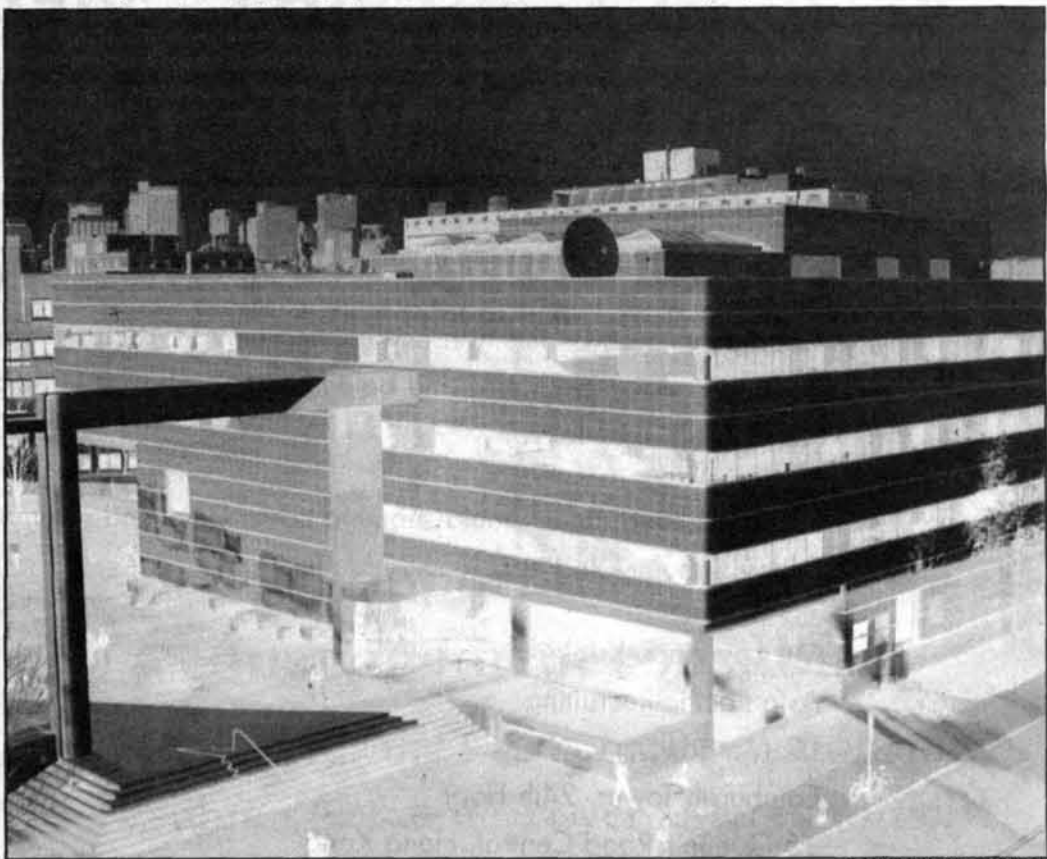
No issue, it seems, is too small for the visionary Negropon'te. His laptop, for example, is frequently made the object of Internet-related lessons. Third-world countries are exhorted to supply more electrical outlets for recharging his laptop. How does Negropon'te find electrical outlets in a pinch? "Think like a janitor," he says. Negropon'te, we learn, prides



himself on being the first to locate jacks in airplane vestibule areas. Hotel maids the world over, finding their recharging service carts unplugged in the middle of the night, have only the Negropon'tes of the universe to blame.

Most of all, Negropon'te uses his soap-box to tell the world just how gosh-darn excited he is about the Internet, being digital, yadda yadda yadda. For people who don't know about the Internet yet, this can't be terribly enlightening. For those who are already digital, we'd trade our kingdoms for some substance — or bits, as it were.

Negropon'te's special style of boosterism is a dandy expression of his own optimism about the future of technology and society. Unfortunately, this boosterism has largely stood in the way of his actually contributing anything to the discussion about it. Digital or not, fluff by any other name is still fluff.



BY LUKE YOUNG—THE TECH

Smoke and Mirrors

Douglas E. Heimburger

Several times a year, a flock of high-flying corporate executives sweep through MIT. They don't come for the latest in chemistry or biology or the newest technological innovations at the Laboratory for Computer Science.



Instead, they come to the Media Laboratory, for high-priced reassurance that they are on the cutting edge of technology.

They come for wine-and-cheese receptions and black-tie events as well as demonstrations from undergraduate and graduate researchers of their latest toy and gadget creations.

Yet behind all the smoke and mirror glitter of the Media Lab is an organization that really isn't on the cutting edge of the future of computing for real people. While the lab may impress its corporate sponsors, it really isn't producing much that will affect the average American within the next decade.

There are exceptions, such as the successful launch of Firefly, a software package that helps consumers make product choices. But in reality there isn't much demand today for networked toys that recognize you upon entry or \$30 name tags that determine when you're "compatible" with a person that you're talking with. These represent uses of modern technology, but in no way are they truly cutting-edge.

Instead, the Media Lab provides a solution for corporations and particularly their executives that want to be able to say that they're supporting cutting-edge technology. By giving a quarter of a million dollars or more to the lab each year, they receive no assurances that they'll receive anything useful at all. Instead, they receive invitations to schmooze-fests where they are reassured that they're on the cutting edge of society.

These events are masterfully prepared and executed, and often don't even make any attempt to involve the MIT community at large — which may actually have the cutting edge products that these executives desire.

What does the Media Lab do for the Institute community as a whole? They don't have an undergraduate program yet, instead only offering many cushy Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program positions. Their graduate program is more well-known, but as a whole the lab only offers around 50 classes — four of which are for undergraduates; less than even the poorly-known Health Sciences and Technology program.

Indeed, why is the Media Lab affiliated with MIT at all? From an educational standpoint, there really isn't that much going on. The research could just as easily be conducted at a joint-venture with the companies that currently contribute to the lab.

Indeed, the lab generally uses MIT's reputation and high tech nature to gain its funds and its love from executives. Corporations attribute the Institute as being a haven of high technology, and thus contribute to the lab. Its smoke screen of demos reassures them that they are on the top of technology, even as its researchers reap the benefits.

Other-worldly Media Lab Doesn't Amount to Much

Brett Altschul

One of my favorite classic *Star Trek* episodes features wearable computers. Captain Kirk's love interest is the only human who can bear to look at the ugliest creature in the universe. She can bear it because she is blind, and that's where the wearable computers come in; she has a complex sensor net constructed into her clothing, giving her senses far beyond those of normal humans.

Currently, wearable computing is most prominent at the MIT Media Laboratory. It is one of their premier projects. However, there's actually a horribly ugly monster hiding behind it.

The wearable-computer woman on *Star Trek* was incredibly arrogant. When the *Enterprise* was in a tough spot, and only the ugly alien could help them, somebody had to communicate with him telepathically. Spock was the obvious choice, yet she made a tremendous issue out of it, claiming that she was better, and ultimately trying to drive Spock to insanity as revenge.

The Media Lab exhibits a similar arrogance. The general attitude there is that they are doing the most important work at MIT. They are able to maintain this position by separating themselves from everyone else at MIT, thus keeping any evidence that questions their superiority at a safe distance.

For example, the Media Lab has long prided itself on being an example of the workplace of the future, certainly the most electronically advanced place at MIT. When the Laboratory for Computer Science was rated as more computerized than the Media Lab, the fact was swept under the rug. I haven't heard Nicholas P. Negropon'te, director of the lab, calling the Media Lab the second-most electronically advanced facility at MIT.

The Media Lab is supposed to be such a good deal for MIT, bringing in many corporate sponsors. If that's the case, why did the Media Lab have a budget deficit this year? True, this may have been a one-year anomaly, driven by budget overruns in a single area. But the fact remains that the Media Lab, ostensibly a tremendous source of revenue, does not seem to manage its resources consistently.

While these issues are significant, there is also a much more important problem. The Media Lab believes they are doing the best, most important work at MIT. In fact, many of their projects are among the least useful at the Institute.

Returning to *Star Trek*, a critical scene occurs when the blind woman reveals her computerized bodywear to Captain Kirk. She notes the pinpoint accuracy of the sensors; she points out their incredible superiority to anything that normal human senses can do. With them, she argues, she is better equipped to handle things, better even than Mr. Spock.

Captain Kirk responds properly to these claims. A lot of cute little devices that accomplish piddling tasks don't amount to much. She had a very hard time understanding that fact; so does the Media Lab.

Staying with wearable computing, one suggestion is to use handshakes as a means for passing data back and forth between individuals. What data? Will every person have a programmed introduction built into their handshake? Perhaps people will return home each evening and retrieve the information about

everyone they met that day.

Wow, that guy I talked to after lunch works on the computer prediction of earthquakes! Too bad I didn't know that when I was actually talking to him.

Perhaps people will have a screen built into their headgear that shows them the data. People will stand around for a few minutes reading about one-another after they shake hands — such a tremendous advantage over conventional oral introductions.

Will job-seekers instantly provide their resume? If so, the person receiving it will still have to go back and read it; the computer isn't going to evaluate the applicants itself. So we have no increase in simplicity. If fact, it is very important to have an immediately readable copy of a resume, so the potential employer can quickly ask questions and get any clarifications he needs.

The *Star Trek* wearable computing woman eventually learns the error of her ways, and she attempts to fix the problems she has caused. The Media Lab has demonstrated nothing of the sort, and continues to damage the MIT community with its profound ugliness.

Résumé

Morgan means more career opportunities in Asia

A dinner by invitation only, for MIT 1st year graduate business students interested in opportunities in Asia will be held on Friday, February 6th with interviews scheduled for the following day for summer intern positions in:

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THE ARTS

THEATER REVIEW

The Mikado

What to do when flirting is punishable by death

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, 'tis the season for some opera folly. A couple of weeks ago, MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players presented a tongue-in-cheek version of *Ruddigore*. This time, Harvard-Radcliffe G&S Players sink their collective teeth into what is arguably the British duo's best comic opera: *The Mikado*, a tale of love, jealousy, intrigue, and capital punishment, set in medieval Japan. At least, it's set there as scripted by Gilbert. This production updates the time period to the end of twentieth century, changing the location from "the town of Titipu" into "the lobby of Titipu, Inc., a software company." By doing so, as well as making several other utterly baffling decisions concerning the mood of the production, it undermines almost all the impact the show might have had, and leaves it precariously balanced on the verge of high camp.

The plot, as customary to W. S. Gilbert, is full of perfectly reasonable insanity. The Mikado of Japan (Erik Amblad) had ruled that one and only one crime shall be considered a capital offense, punishable by beheading: the dangerous crime of flirting. Since the citizens of the town of Titipu are not exactly thrilled by this law, they do the only sensible thing: take the first person to be convicted of flirting, a lowly tailor Ko-Ko (Paul Siemens), and

appoint him to the position of Lord High Executioner, correctly assuming that he will not attempt to behead himself, and thus stall the enactment of the Mikado's law.

Ko-Ko immediately starts to enjoy his newly-acquired power, and prepares to marry his ward, beautiful Yum-Yum (Caline Yamakawa). On the very day of the wedding, a wandering minstrel Nanki-Poo (Jerry Shuman) arrives into town, and, having previously fallen in love with Yum-Yum himself, decides to stop pretending being a second trombone in the marching band, and tries to marry the beautiful girl.

The pleasures of watching this opera (by the way, the word opera is not quite accurate; calling it a musical is equally justified), as well as every other one by G & S, lie in listening to the catchy tunes, following the intricate plot, and enjoying Gilbert's marvelous dialogue. Sorry to report it, but this production succeeds in only one of those three cases.

What works, and does so magnificently, is the music. As opposed to the MIT G&S Players, the Harvard group uses a full-sized orchestra, which is very well rehearsed and sounds great. The same applies to the singers, all of whom, without a single exception, are top-notch and form perhaps the best ensemble I've ever heard in an amateur production. The music is performed and sung with gusto, and is truly a pleasure to listen to.

On the other hand, it is far less pleasurable to listen to the words. *The Mikado* is sung like an opera, which means that, with a few notable exceptions, it's very hard to understand the lyrics. This is fine if you've heard *The Mikado* before, but if you haven't, you might want to bring a full libretto with you. The difference between a regular opera and a Gilbert & Sullivan one is that almost every word is really funny, and it's a shame to miss them.

The delivery of the spoken dialogue is far from perfect as well, which makes the complicated plot hard to follow. The resulting void is filled by some less-than-inspired gags, of which a good deal fail to work. The whole idea of updating the show into a contemporary time period doesn't add much; some resulting jokes are quite funny, like the conservative business attire of male chorus, or Yum-Yum's anime-style bright blue hair (prompting the audience comments like "Look! It's Suzuki Arimi from *Marmalade Boy!*"). Most of them, though, are just distracting; Gilbert and Sullivan wrote songs which are good enough by themselves, and there's no need to have gags like extraneous characters talking on cellular phones during the love song, or the Mikado with a stogie and Texas accent, and so on. Such slight, inconsequential gags distract from the intrinsic pleasures of the opera, like the touching love story and the potentially disturbing subtext on the nature of capital punishment.

Still, even despite this approach, a few actors transcend it, and give highly accomplished performances. Many thanks to: Jason Mills (playing Pooh-Bah, "Lord High Everything Else"), who delivers both his singing and spoken lines with complete clari-

ty, and also manages to be quite funny in the process; and, especially, Paul Siemens, who somehow makes Ko-Ko, who starts as a villain of the play, end up as a tragicomic hero.

Readers of my *Ruddigore* review might remember the carping about MIT G&S's less-than-perfect achievement in the organization department. But take heart; you're much better than Harvard G&S. Four attempts to order the tickets by phone resulted in being put on hold four times for 15 minutes each time (after which I hung up); the box office opened 22 minutes late; the service was slow and inefficient; it's impossible to see half of the action on the stage from the seats on far right and far left of the audience; and so on. It is entirely due to the passion of the actors and the musicians that this production is, on average, quite enjoyable; but I wouldn't recommend it to people who haven't had the pleasure of seeing (or, at least, hearing) *The Mikado* before.

Music by Arthur Sullivan

Libretto by W.S. Gilbert

Presented by Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players

Produced by John Cearley and Jennie Connery

Stage direction by Jose Zayas

Music direction by Bradford Chase

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Practica Use Science Classes to Teach Writing Skills

By Naveen Sunkavally
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Nearly a year ago, in an attempt to improve the writing skills of MIT students, the Committee on the Writing Requirement proposed to expand the number of departmental writing practica, six-unit satellite classes attached to certain research and design subjects.

Today, after two semesters of drastic practica expansion, administrators seem to agree that practica might be effective in improving writing but also acknowledge that practica are only a small part of the

larger solution towards improving writing skills at MIT.

The writing practica were an extension of the technical writing cooperative and were designed to be more adaptable and focus on communication skills, said Leslie C. Perelman, associate dean of undergraduate affairs and director of the writing practica program.

"Classes meet once a week for two hours, and assignments are closely allied with assignments in the engineering class," he said.

Like the technical writing cooperative, which offers instruction

through lectures in an engineering context, the writing practica can also be used to fulfill phase two of the writing requirement.

Students motivated in practica

"What makes it a powerful tool is that [students] already know a great deal about what they're writing about," Perelman said. Writing practica enable instructors to act like coaches in improving students' writing abilities rather than acting solely as gatekeepers responsible for administering essay examinations and checking off student papers.

Students have additional impetus to improve their writing skills since the quality of the papers they write will affect the grade in their major, Perelman said.

"Its main advantages are its flexibility and its focus," said James

Paradis, professor of writing and head of the program in writing. "It's just another strategy. Given that writing works in different ways, it should be approached in different ways."

Paradis said that a lack of time was a major cause of writing problems among MIT students. He said that writing practica could be useful in integrating communication skills with technical courses in the more time-consuming majors.

Perceptions of improved writing

Saleem G. Ali G, a teaching assistant of the second section of Practicum in Engineering and Science Writing (21W.781), which is affiliated with Chemical Engineering Projects Laboratory (10.26), felt students did improve their skills in writing practica.

"Most are seniors, and their

mindsets are very inertial... but I have been quite impressed," Ali said. "We usually try to make the classes as interactive as possible with reading, writing, and critique exercises and one-on-one conferences."

Perelman, who teaches the 6.033 (Computer System Engineering) affiliated practicum, said that students showed improvement throughout the semester. "To quote an engineering faculty [member] 'MIT students are very good at optimizing their functions, and if a student learns to write through an engineering course, there's value in that kind of motivation,'" he said.

Perelman said that one of the best assignments he ever gave involved asking students to rewrite their design projects as two-page memoranda to their managers recommending the projects, an important exercise in the workplace.

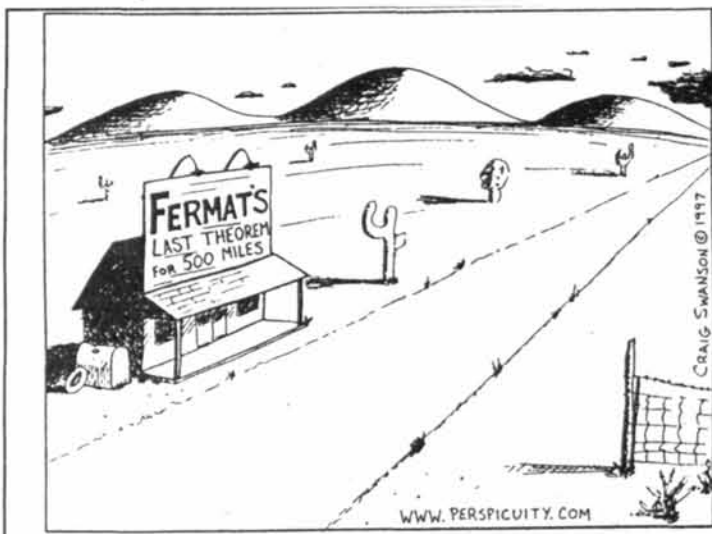
Practica only one part of whole

Despite the increased role of writing practica, Paradis emphasized that they are only a small part of the solution: "I wouldn't say that's the main way to teach writing. I would resist focusing on one activity." Paradis felt that students don't take as many writing classes as they should, and that humanities are largely underutilized at MIT.

"I think the humanities and sciences both have roles straight out of faculty vote," Perelman said. Students' writing "needs to be a shared responsibility of all departments," he added. Perelman felt that writing practica did not detract from humanities courses, since they do not offer any humanities, arts, and social sciences credit.

Perelman said that practica will continue into the future. "They... will play some role in the larger role in the next three years," he said.

This spring several writing practica classes will be offered, including ones attached to 10.26, 6.033, 1.05 (Fluid Mechanics), 16.621 (Experimental Projects I).



Cartoon T-Shirts by Craig Swanson

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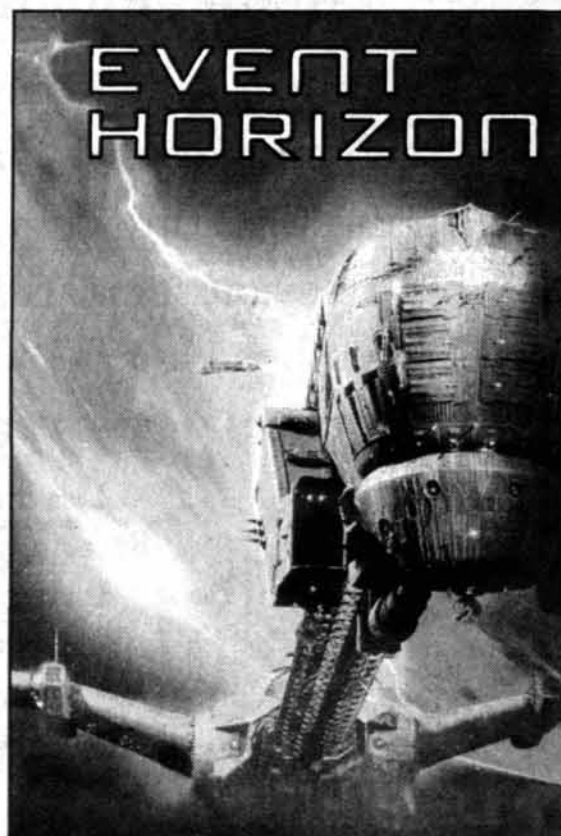
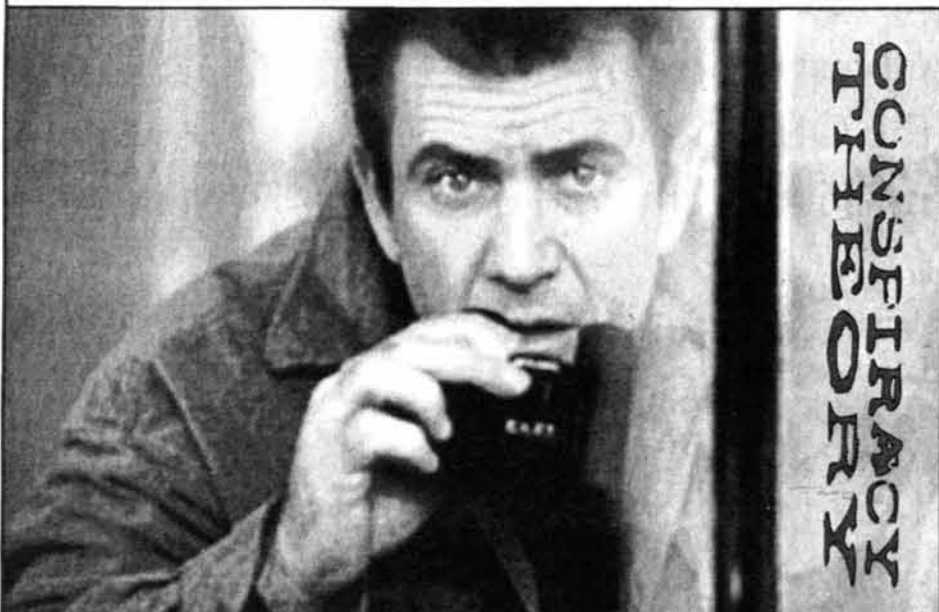
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Solar Car Team Launches Fund Raising Campaign

By Jennifer Chung
STAFF REPORTER

The MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team is beginning a sponsorship drive to raise \$1.1 million in funds which will be used for building this year's car and for travel to international competitions in Japan and Australia.

"Given sufficient fiscal support, we want to prove that, as MIT students, we can create a car which

can compete at the highest levels against the best solar car teams in the world," said Dingli Chen '98, fund raising coordinator for SEVT.

The team has been invited to attend the World Solar Car Rally in Akita, Japan in August, 1998. The group also plans to attend the biennial World Solar Challenge, billed as the largest solar car race in the world, where it will face five hundred competitors in a grueling

2,000 mile race in Australia in October, 1998.

The team is currently sponsored by RG Creations, Kinko's, Bertucci's, Domino's, the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the Provost's Office.

The team has been working in two-year project cycles, with the first year dedicated to design, and the second year concentrating on

construction, testing, and racing. That format works particularly well to build team effort, "which means a lot," Chen said.

This year, however, SEVT is departing from the two-year cycle. "We're being a little more ambitious," said Chris Carr '99, treasurer and fund raising coordinator for the SEVT.

"We have a good chance; our car is very efficient," Carr said. Depending on road and weather conditions, last year's car, Manta GT, which captured second place in the Sunrayce 97, was able to hit 55 miles per hour using just the power consumed by a hair dryer, Chen said.

This year's project, the Manta GTX, is based on the same body and chassis as Manta GT, but Manta GTX has a different body layout and several design modifications.

Car more expensive than usual

Compared to some of the other vehicles which have raced in Australia before, the \$1.1 million the SEVT seeks seems a modest sum. Honda has won the past two races and "their 1996 vehicle, the Honda Dream, cost \$6 million," Carr said.

"The World Solar Challenge has competitions based on several levels," Carr said. "The reason the cost of Manta GTX will be so high is because of the solar cells we would like to use, so that we can race in the highest class." Other competi-

tions, such as Sunrayce, may have limits on the type of solar cells which can be used.

"If we don't get the amount of money we need for the right solar panels," Carr said, "we will have to race in a lower class." With basic solar cells, the car would cost \$250,000.

The threat of demolition has caused the team to move out of their lab in Building 20 into the University Park area, Chen said.

"We haven't had a lab for several months because of reshuffling, and the project is off to a late start ... we'll need to ship our car in June," Chen said.

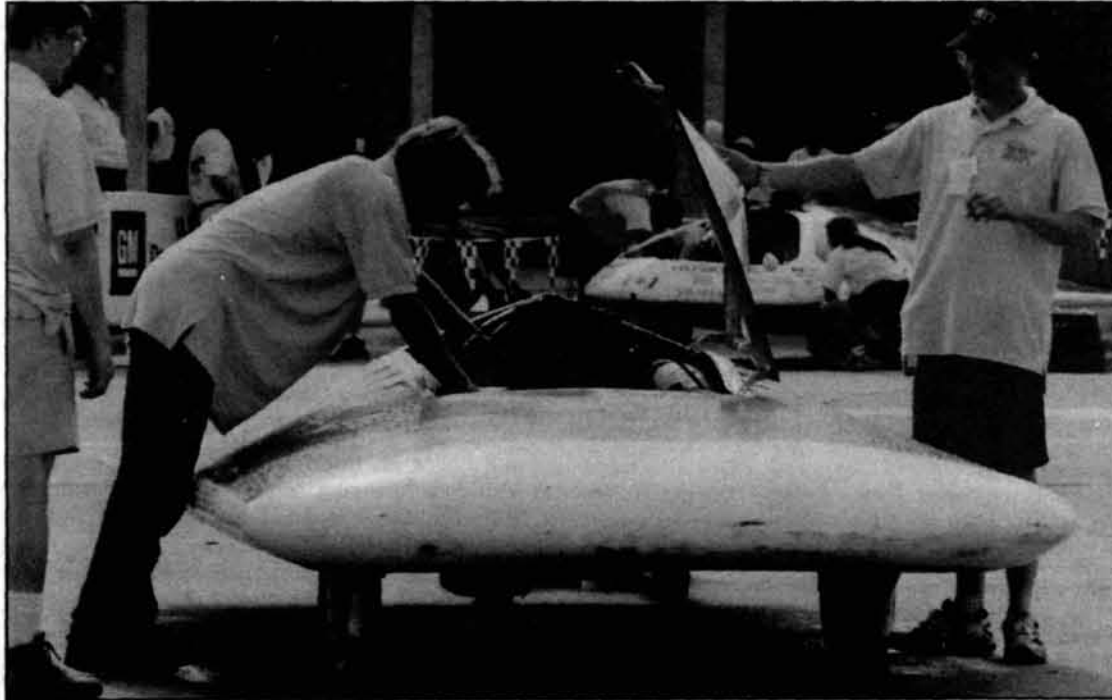
"Once the lease is signed, we need to start getting materials; we need to start moving stuff — expensive, unbreakable stuff — which will take time and money," Chen said.

Once work begins on Manta GTX, "we plan on making the lab like a museum," Chen said. "We will definitely offer tours, and probably seminars, over IAP."

Students devote time and effort

"This is one of the most time-consuming" activities, Chen said. "And many members are very busy outside of solar car" work.

"From my experiences in high school," working on an electrical vehicle team, "I was expecting more faculty adviser involvement," said Jacinda L. Clemenzi '01. "I've been really impressed, that the entire project is run by students."



COURTESY OF THE SOLAR ELECTRIC VEHICLE TEAM

David Leip '92 watches as J. Andrew Buttner '99, now primary driver for the Solar Electric Vehicle Team, helps Ivano Gregoratto '97 into Manta GT during Sunrayce 97.

Vest Releases Plans for Residence/Orientation

President Charles M. Vest is submitting the following proposal to Academic Council today, outlining the format of Residence and Campus Orientation from next year through the year 2001.

Academic Year 1997-98

Three major tasks must be accomplished during the remainder of the current academic year:

- Planning for Orientation and housing changes to be implemented for fall 1998;
- The establishment of long-term principles and/or goals for the entire residential system; and
- The initiation of planning for a new campus residence hall.

Fall 1998

Substantial changes in both orientation and the residential system should be in place for students enrolling in the Class of 2002. These should include, but not be limited to the following:

- The process of orienting new students to MIT, before, during and after Orientation Week, will be substantially redesigned con-

sistent with Section 2 of the sense of the faculty motion adopted on November 19, 1997; it will include improved introduction to MIT's academic environment, development of a sense of belonging to the larger MIT community, and greater opportunity for interaction with faculty and with other students.

- Freshmen will not be required to live in dormitories, but all who wish to do so will be accommodated.
- The process of residence selection will be better informed and less frenetic, with selection procedures as uniform as possible across all living groups.
- Information about campus life and about all residences will be provided by MIT to incoming students and their parents and will be further improved, made more consistent in format, and will include clear, concise facts and figures.
- Every MIT-approved residence will have an active faculty adviser (in the case of [Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups]) or house master (in the case of dormitories).
- Every MIT-approved residence will have a resident adviser to provide support to

the living group and linkages to campus activities and services. FSILG students will be involved in designing this system, and each living group will have an active role in hiring and defining the role of its resident adviser.

Years 1998-99 through 2000-01

During these three years MIT will work to continuously improve the entire residential system, and in orientation and residence selection. The Academic Council will maintain active oversight and review of planning and outcomes.

Implementation will largely be carried out by the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education. Success in meeting our established goals will be monitored annually using the agreed-upon criteria. Student recommendations and feedback regarding their experience will be an essential part of this evaluation. Periodic reports will be made to the Faculty Policy Committee, to the faculty, and to the community at large.

Year 2000-01

By the end of the 2000-01 academic

year, the Academic Council, guided by evaluation of accomplishments during the preceding three years (using the established criteria and broad consultation), will determine whether our goals for the residence system and for orientation have been met, so that freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors in all dormitories and FSILGs have a supportive living situation, well integrated into MIT's learning environment.

The new dormitory, which will have been designed with enough flexibility to accommodate a range of options, should be available for the following year. Its specific use will be determined at that time in the context of our goals for quality of student life and MIT's educational mission, and the opportunities that may arise in the course of what we learn over the next three years.

These opportunities may include simply improving the overall amount and quality of living space, providing more single-sex housing for women, or housing more or all freshmen on campus, among others.

SOURCE: PRESIDENT CHARLES M. VEST

Happy Holidays



The Tech
Established 1881

We'll be back for IAP.

Come join us every Monday and Tuesday as we lay out the issue.

Freshman Food Drive Benefits Homeless Community

By Krista L. Niece
STAFF REPORTER

The Undergraduate Association's new freshman community service committee collected \$1,300 in canned goods during their Thanksgiving food drive this November.

The cans were donated to the Caspar Emergency Service Center, a Cambridge center dedicated to feeding the homeless and the hungry.

The cans placed in the food drive's drop-off boxes in the Student Center and dormitories were delivered to the shelter on

Thanksgiving morning.

Donations from Laverde's Market and Networks added to the student-donated supply. The Laverde's donation took the form of canned goods, while Networks contributed in cash.

Freshman group hails program

The event was a major accomplishment for the new seven-member freshman community service committee, said Laura M. Rodriguez '01, class secretary and the committee's chair.

The group both conceived of the idea and was responsible for

handling the logistics. "We were able to work [the food drive] out ourselves," Rodriguez said. The group organized the event and delivered the canned goods.

Other committee members included Lisa Dang '01, Philip Osafo '01, Michael Rodriguez '01, Justin Lin '01, and Greg Reynolds '01.

The food drive was organized in only five days. The drive itself took place over a week and a half, ending on the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Collection boxes were placed in front of Laverde's and in several of the living groups around campus.

The committee received funds for their publicity from both the Public Service Center and Copy Tech.

The committee isn't sure whether it will sponsor a food drive again next year. "There is going to be a food drive next year," Lin said, "but [another organization] may organize it."

The food drive was "pretty successful," Rodriguez said. She hoped that the effort lived up to the publicity slogan written on the advertising posters: "Give them a reason to be thankful."



COURTESY OF LAURA RODRIGUEZ
Gus Reynolds '01 and Laura M. Rodriguez '01, members of the Undergraduate Association's freshman community service committee delivered \$1,300 in donated canned goods to the Caspar Emergency Service Center on Thanksgiving.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW

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Gaggle Cops 118th Tech Managing Board Elections

SPECIAL TO THE TECH

Over the summer, soon after I took up my duties as Middlesex County notary public, my predecessor stopped by my office for a chat. After making some small talk about how I was enjoying the job, the Old Man began spinning stories from when he was in my place.

"The worst part of the job, as I recall," he said, "is witnessing *The Tech's* annual managing board elections. 'Pon my word, you've never met a rougher bunch of liars, hacks, and low-grade scoundrels. Their annual contests are more like bar-room brawls than elections."

After hearing this, I looked forward to *The Tech's* elections with a good deal of trepidation. This year's polling was slated for high noon, Dec. 6. When the day finally rolled around, I pulled on my holster and slipped in a couple of Colt-45s. I didn't want to leave anything to chance.

The Tech's offices, I learned, are on the 33rd storey of the Bay Tower. Emerging from the elevator, I was shocked to find myself at the periphery of one of the most magnificently appointed meeting halls I'd ever seen. The room was packed to capacity with elegantly-attired men and women.

"Good day, Monsieur," said a tall man, "you must be the notary public. Welcome to our informal society. You will find your seat at the end of the table."

I sank my body into the huge, plush leather chair. I had entered a state of shock. These were not the rough-riders I had been warned about. Had I come to the wrong place?

The meeting would not wait for my confused mullings. The chairman announced that, once she had taken the traditional swallow of water from the ancient ceremonial drinking vessel, the elections would begin. And so they did.

The first election was for chairman and CEO of *The Tech's* noble society. Shang-Lin Chuang the Loquacious '98 eked out a narrow victory, restoring her to the halls of power. The Artful Dodger, Dan McGuire '99, having promised to

initiate a reign of civility and normalcy, was acclaimed editor in chief.

Getting down to business, the board named Uncle Moneybags Joey Dieckhans '00 ticketmaster and business manager. A South American gentleman, Señor Cristián Gonzalez '99, announced plans to return to Chile to directly supervise his expansive system of fisheries. Prince of Prod, Josh Bittker '98 went into reruns as managing editor, and the Duchess of Squeam, Jennifer Lane '98, was appointed executive editor and campus optometrist.

As the board paused for a brief break to discuss political science theories, I took a sip from my flask. How could my friend have been so wrong about these people? They were a model of civility. After a series of preferential ballots, Brett "Mad Scientist" Altschul '99, Frank "The Tank" Dabek '00, Douglas E. "Admin-type" Heimburger '00, and May K. "Tickle Me" Tse '99 were named news editors. Erica S. "Mia" Pfister '00 knelt before the board, and was dubbed knight. Russell S. "RS" Light '98 traded in his knight-hood for the relative peace of

retirement.

Pfister's knight-hood was followed by the meeting's most singular event: A simply-attired young man launched into a brief but brilliant operatic aria, to the accompanying strains of an orchestra, followed by terrific applause. The performer, none other than Anders Hove G, Lord Bembo, declared his intention to continue to act as a thorn in the side of editors in chief. Stacey E. Blau '98, Lady Bembo, retired to her secret lair in Langley, Virginia.

Although the board members present regretted their own lack of sporting ability, there was still the issue of the sports editor. Daniel C. "The Gimper" Stevenson G consented to his own re-election to the post, thus making him "athlete of the week." Promising to integrate the prestigious Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity into *The Tech's* organization, Joel M. "Riot in the Streets" Rosenberg '99 gracefully accepted election to the post of arts editor. His mentor, Our Man Friday, David V. Rodriguez '97 slinked off to Buzzy's Fabulous Roast Beef.

The elections were marred by

only one incivility. Two arrogant individuals announced their intention to retain command of *The Tech's* black box. The King of Hungary, Gábor Csányi G and the Artist Formerly Known as Gregory F. Kuhnen '00 were appointed photography editors; Indranath

hands to contribute, including Lord of the Fonts Saul Blumenthal '98, David D. "Gorilla" Hsu '98, Zareena "Veggie" Hussain '00, "My Cousin" Venkatesh Satish '98, and Jason C. "Elmo" Yang '99.

The board concluded by listing an honor roll of elderly emeriti: V. Michael "Junior" Bove '83, Robert E. "Hired Gun" Malchman '85, Thomas T. "Tex" Huang '86, Deborah A. "Adminmole" Levinson '91, Reuven M. "Haifa" Lerner '92, Jeremy "Reston" Hylton '94, and Garlen C. "Merlin" Leung '95.

The polling completed, I was politely asked to certify the election, serve as a witness to the propriety of its conduct, and enter it duly into the public record. Once my job was done, I left the building the way I had come, stroking my beard in wonderment. My pistols had been entirely unnecessary, as had my worried anticipation. Indeed, I found myself wondering if I was not fit for admission into *The Tech's* genteel society. Next year, perhaps, the friends I had made that day could enter my name on the ballot for the prestigious and important position of senior editor?



"Darkroom Supplies" Neogy '98 was named editor of color.

Returning to civility, the board named Jennifer "Kookie" Koo '00 advertising manager. Satwiksai "The Faxman" Seshasai '01 was appointed head accountant. The board also instructed several old

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OPENS DECEMBER 25 EVERYWHERE



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

The Paul Morris Jazz Orchestra concluded an evening of jazz in Kresge Auditorium Sunday night. Other groups at the concert included the Tech Jazz Singers and the MIT Jazz Collective.

GRADES

What's YOUR Opinion?

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

<http://feedback.mit.edu>

WHY THIS MATTERS

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

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

To take the survey:

Go to <http://feedback.mit.edu>

Click on the link to

“Plus/Minus Grading System Survey.”*

— *Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP)*

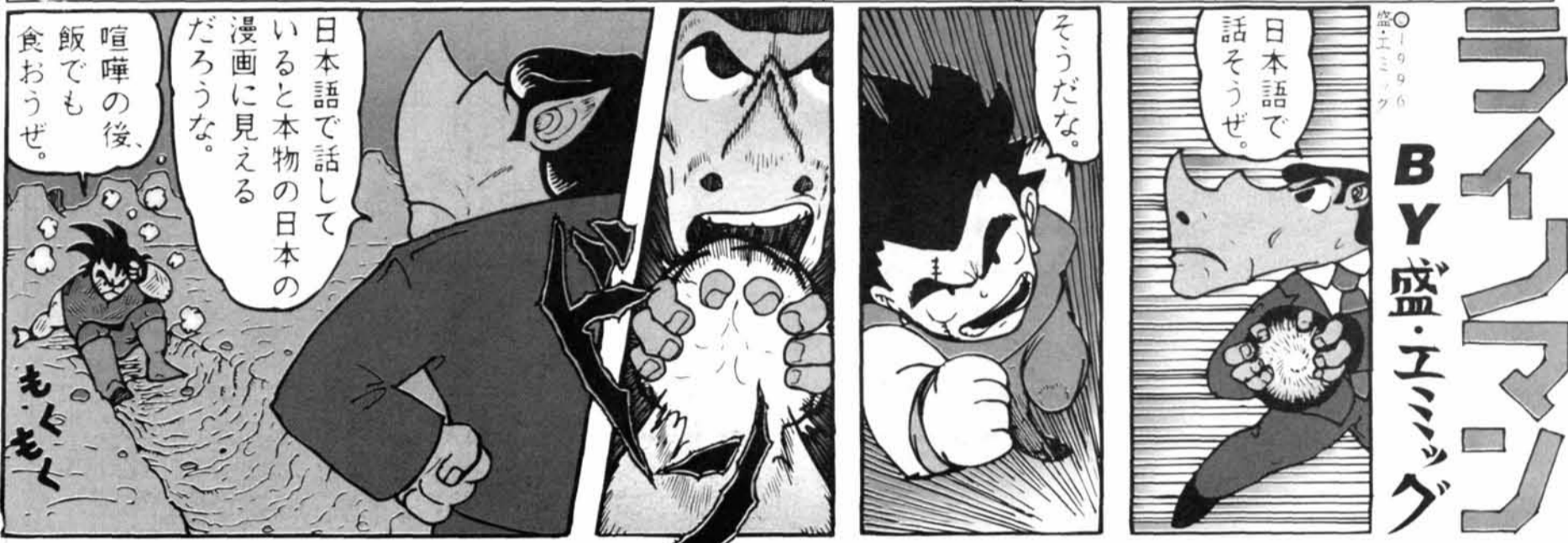
* Faculty: Please fill out the mailed questionnaire and return it by interdepartmental mail.

COMICS

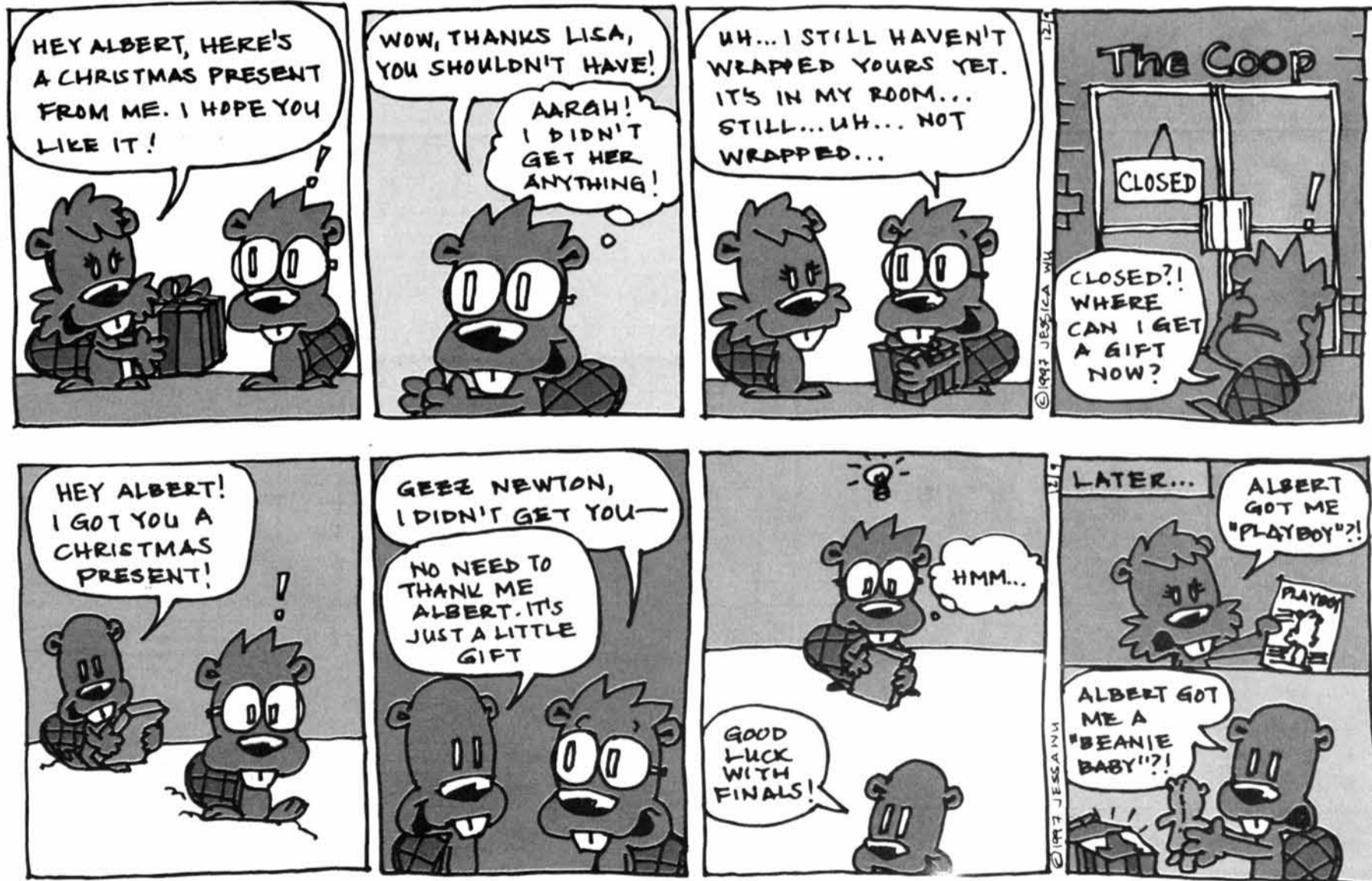
RHINO MAN 50 Issue Anniversary

That's right, fifty "Rhino Man" cartoons have graced the pages of *The Tech*. That's certainly more than I expected to draw when I began this strip back in January. In honor of this milestone, I am going to answer the question that I am most frequently asked: "How did you come up with "Rhino Man". To most, it is apparent that Japanese comics, or *manga*, greatly influenced this strip. How true that is. Here, for your reading pleasure, is the origin of what is now "Rhino Man": The comic in its original form. Remember, read right-to-left! Enjoy! **Zachary Emig**

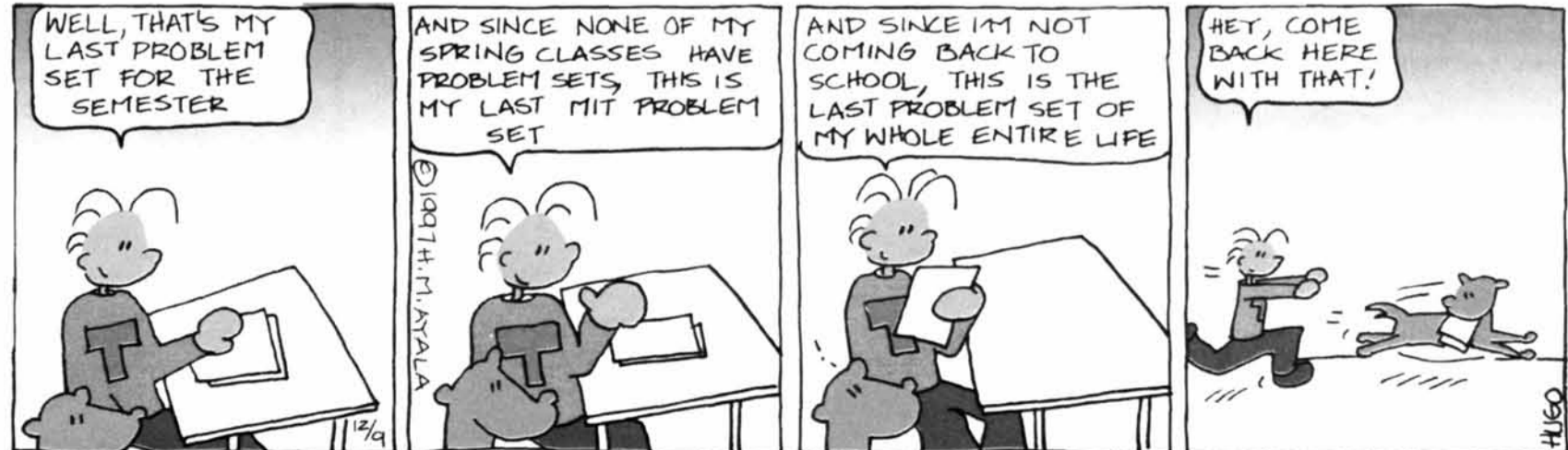
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Damned for Life by Jessica Wu



Off Course by Hugo



by Hugo

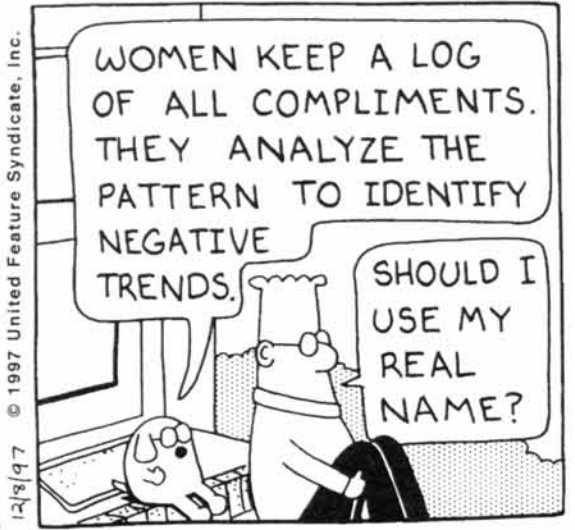
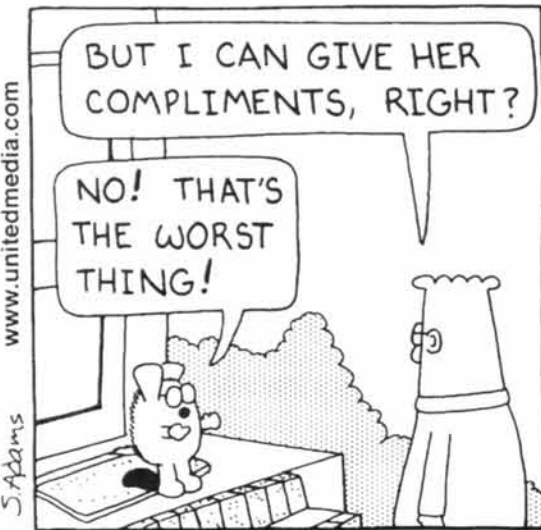
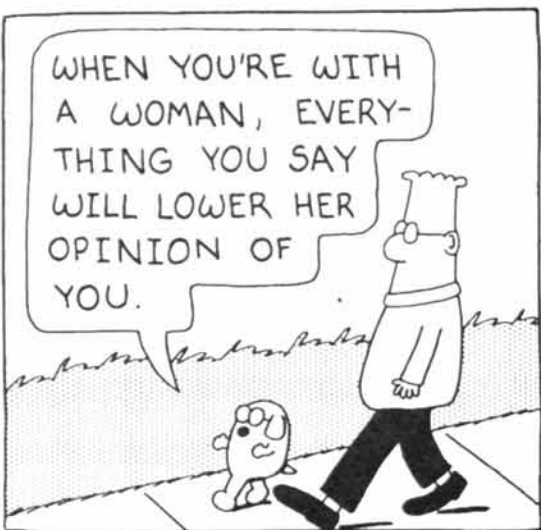
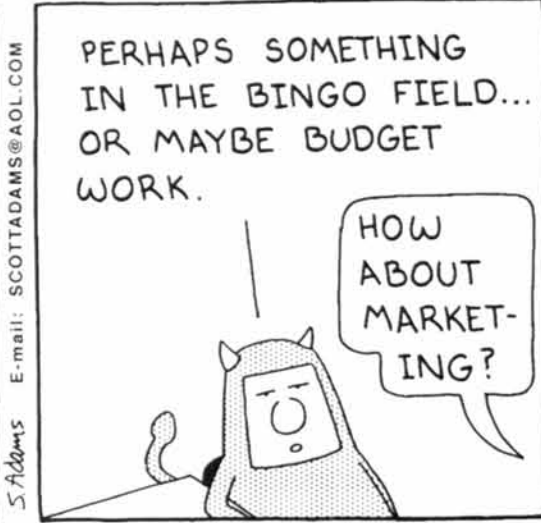
F U N

THESE PAGES 14-15

1297



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BARTHOLEMEW



TRIVIA CORNER

The term "red man" or "red Indian" was first used by Europeans to refer to the Beothuk of the island of Newfoundland who actually *did* appear to have red skin. This was because they traditionally smeared their bodies with red ochre as protection against insects. The tribe was hunted to

Epithetics

extinction by native enemies as well as by Europeans, and the last known member died in 1829.

John Cabot and his crew encountered them on the very first English expedition to the New World in 1497. Reports that some Beothuk had yellow hair has led to speculation that the tribe may have assimilated some Viking settlers who had briefly colonized Newfoundland about 500 years before Cabot's voyage.

Incidentally, a recent Canada-wide history survey showed that only 6 percent of all Canadians knew

that the Beothuk were hunted to extinction, but 71 percent of Newfoundlanders did.

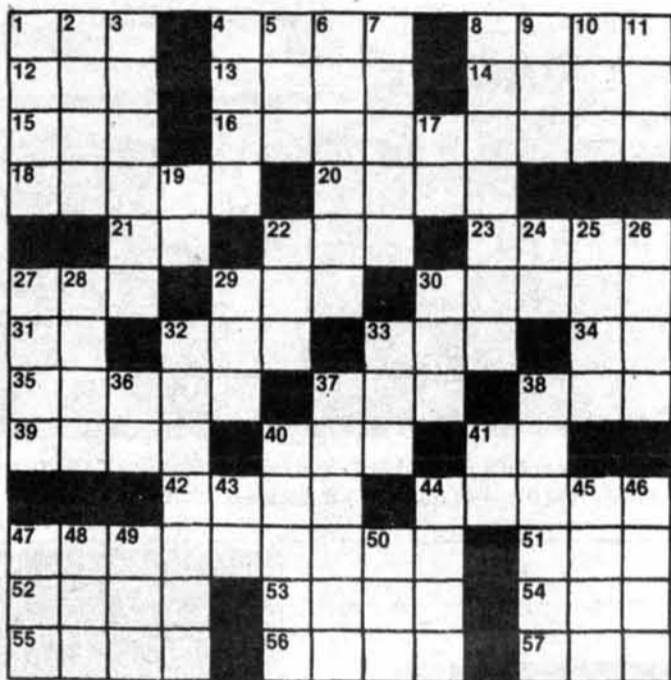
LSC's end-of-term presentations:

Wed. 7 & 10 p.m. *Conspiracy Theory* in 26-100

Thurs. 7 & 10 p.m. *Event Horizon* in 26-100

This feature was brought to you by the CAC Program Board.

Today's factoids provided by the MIT Quiz Bowl team. This is the last episode of Trivia Corner until next semester.



Across

1. Determine heredity characteristics (abbr.)
4. Fees
8. Ride (p.t.)
12. Referee (abbr.)
13. Arm bone
14. Paradise
15. Sick
16. Comment
18. Thick lumber cut
20. Early-growing grain
21. Myself
22. "Perfect" number
23. Wooded valley
27. Stinging insect
29. My Gal _____
30. Locality of crime
31. Paid notice
32. Female cattle
33. Friend
34. Am
35. Cloth
37. Alcoholic beverage
38. Each
39. Short jacket

40. Able
41. Internal Revenue (abbr.)
42. India garment
44. Upper-crust
47. Gravestones
51. _____ Snead
52. Above
53. Ooze
55. Lesser force of
56. Receptacle for holding items
57. And not

Down

1. Drop
2. Woman's name
3. On fire
4. Sunset
5. Ultimate (abbr.)
6. Protective covering
7. Smooth silk fabric
8. Remake
9. Poem
10. Lair
11. Suffix used to form adjectives

17. Elevated train
19. Mid-West state (abbr.)
22. Marble
24. Suffix used to form verbs from adjectives
25. Oil car
26. Eye suggestively
27. Packaged hay
28. Blue pencil
29. Male offspring
30. Covered truck
32. Criticize
33. Comes after hair or safety

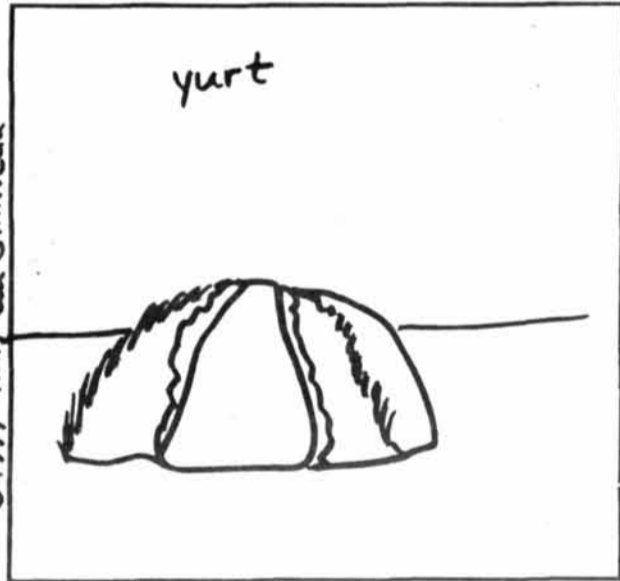
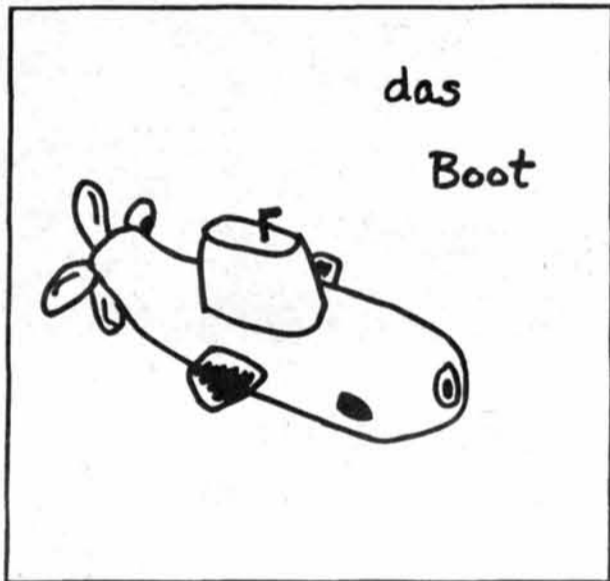
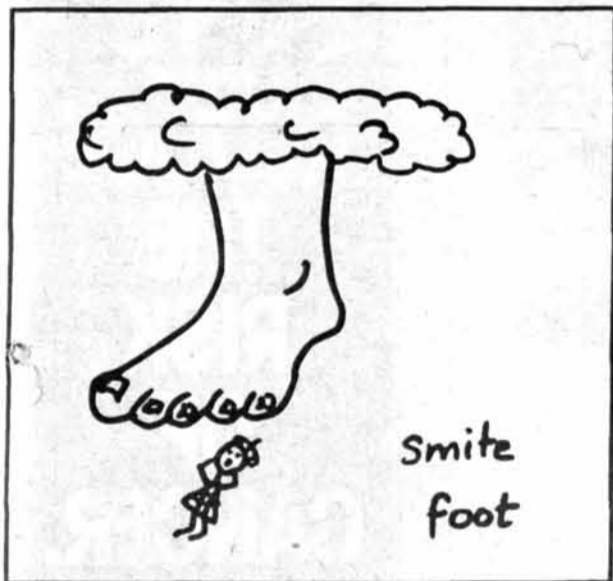
36. Negative word
37. Type of dive
38. Penitentiary
40. Helmet decoration
41. Mid-West state (abbr.)
43. Be
44. Glimpse
45. Tropical plant
46. Emergency (abbr.)
47. Disorderly crowd
48. Eggs
49. Butterfly catcher
50. Brewed drink

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



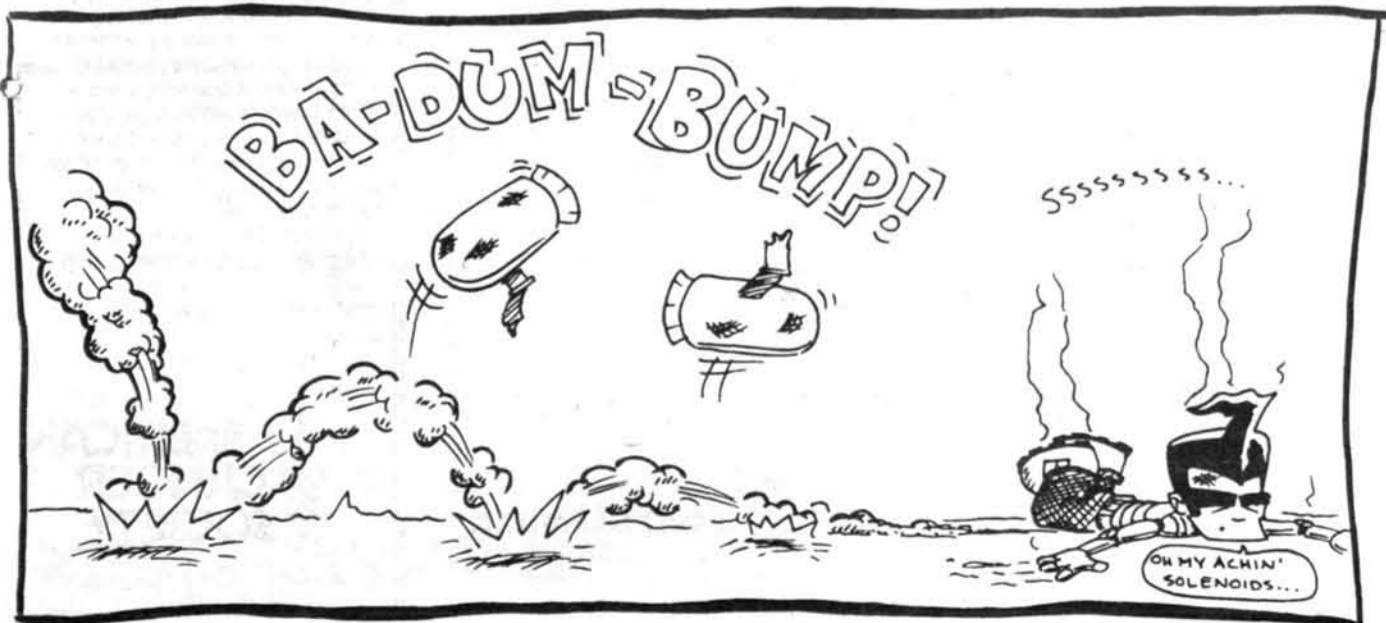
Noun Poetry

by Katy-Cat



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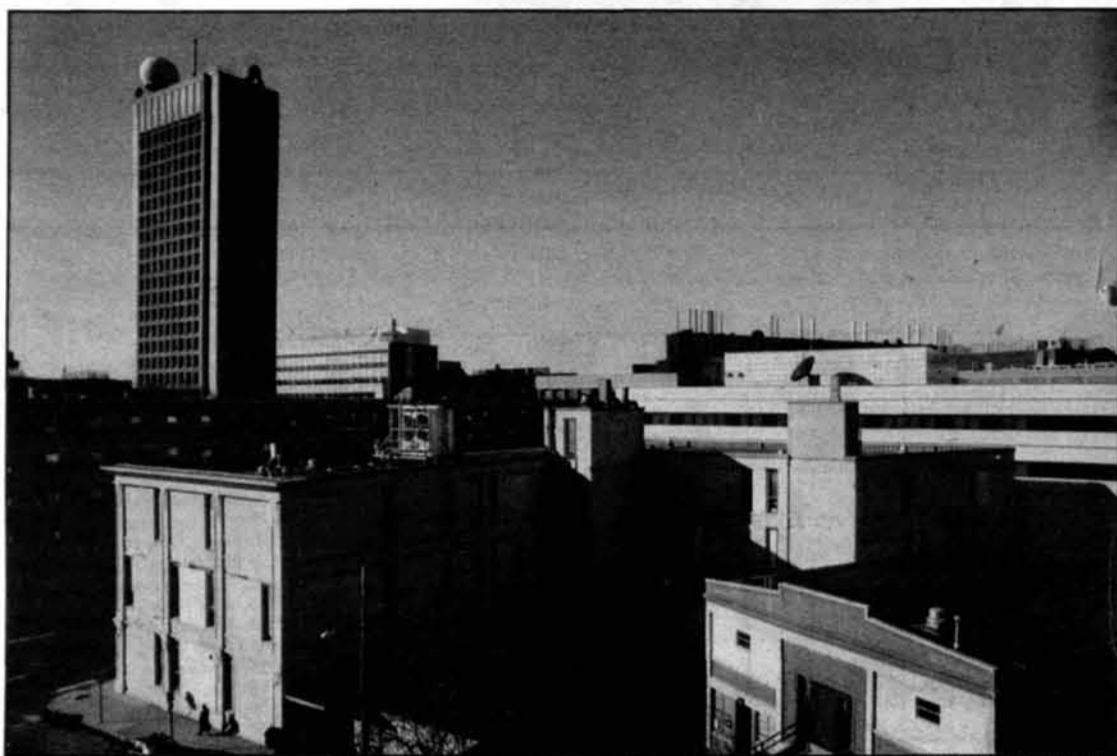
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Media Lab, from Page 1

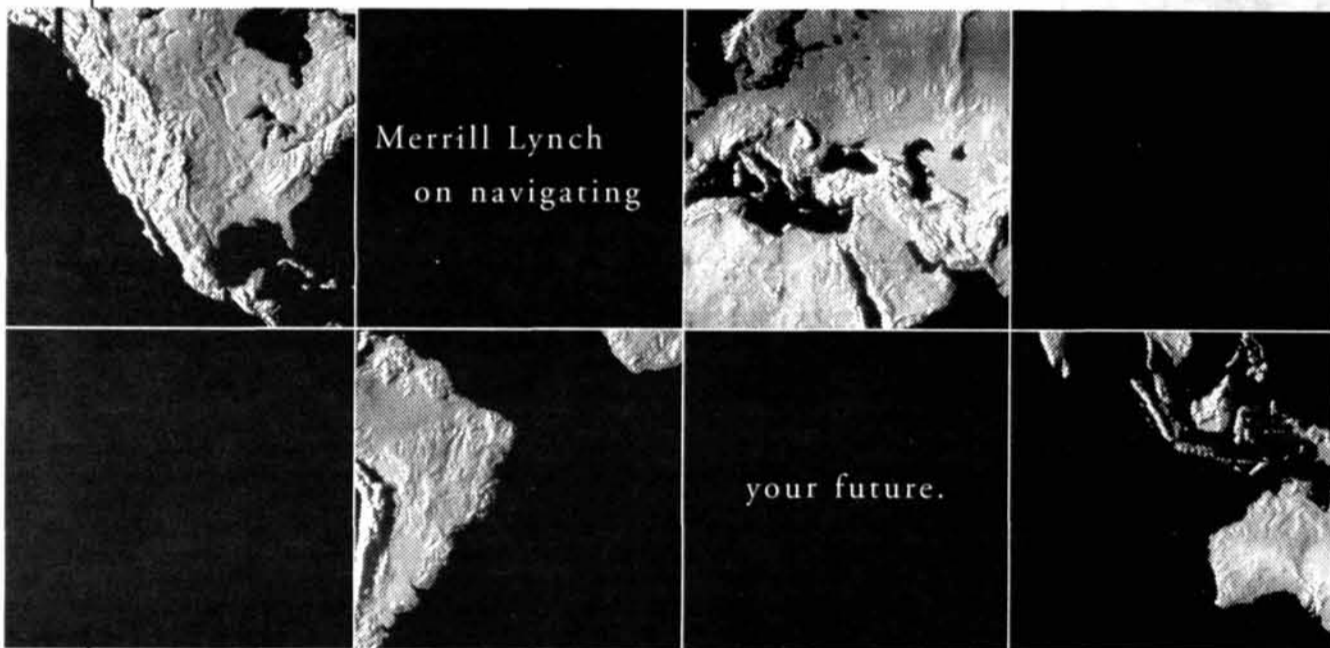
ment a new building] for some time." No decision on this has been made at this stage in the planning, however.

The planned expansion of the Media Lab is one of several building and renovation projects currently planned or under construction around the Institute. Building 16 is currently being renovated. In addition,

Building 20 is scheduled to be demolished over the summer to make room for a new building to be occupied by the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.



The Media Lab (background, right) successfully lobbied MIT to demolish Building E10 (Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, center), and plans to build new facilities on its site.



Merrill Lynch resume drop-off deadline for International Summer Internships is December 19, 1997

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Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resumé *directly* to:

ML Europe, Middle East, & Africa: Elena Hickey (Investment Banking)
Gabrielle Stielow (Sales & Trading)
Merrill Lynch Europe, Ltd.
Ropemaker Place
London EC2Y9LY
Fax: 44-171-573-1976

ML Japan: Yumiko Kaizuka
Merrill Lynch Japan, Inc.
Ote Center Building
1-1-3, Otemachi, Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 100-8180
Fax: 81-33-213-8573

ML Asia Pacific: Leena Prakash
Merrill Lynch International, Inc.
18F, Asia Pacific Finance Tower
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Central Hong Kong
Fax: 85-22-536-3173

Visit our site at: www.ml.com/careers



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For more information, call 1-800-ACS-2345.



This space donated by The Tech

Lottery, Class Lists Move Onto WebSIS

Lottery, from Page 1

three to five days by revisiting the WebSIS site, Callahan said. At that point, the full class schedules will also be available, and students will be able to get a feel for their class schedule prior to registration day.

A list of open HASS-D classes will also be available on WebSIS, said Joanne Y. Stevenson, associate director of student information systems. Students who wish to add one of these classes to their schedule should not use the registration form, but should instead get an add/drop card signed by the instructor of the class in order to control HASS-D class sizes, which are limited to 25.

Faculty WebSIS planned

The Registrar's Office is also planning to construct a site for facul-

ty to get information about their classes and potentially submit grade information, Callahan said.

This term, faculty will be able to receive class lists using the world wide web and print them or import them into a spreadsheet for grading purposes, Callahan said. In future terms, student pictures may be integrated into the system. Currently, faculty receive printed class lists and picture sheets for each class.

Online registration is "still in the planning stage." The office is currently focusing on how to best display student information for advising purposes, Callahan said.

"We could do it almost tomorrow but the feeling is that what's on the screen for an adviser is important" to the process, she added.

Jennifer Lane contributed to the reporting of this story.

Theta Chi Gets Alcohol Warning; Recent Events Increase Scrutiny

Sig Ep, from Page 1

all alcohol from the house and declared the house substance-free following the hospitalization of a Boston University freshman for alcohol poisoning.

The fraternity was warned yesterday that any infraction of the voluntary ban or the presence of alcohol in the house could result in suspension.

The Institute did not suspend the fraternity because preliminary results of the investigation indicate

that the drinking occurred in an individual's room and not at a fraternity event.

Events indicate close scrutiny

There's currently a heightened sensitivity by the Institute towards alcohol incidents, Gilon said. However "I don't think more regulation is necessary," he said. It "wouldn't prevent individuals from acting in irresponsible or hazardous ways," he said.

Sig Ep is the third fraternity to come under fire after the alcohol-

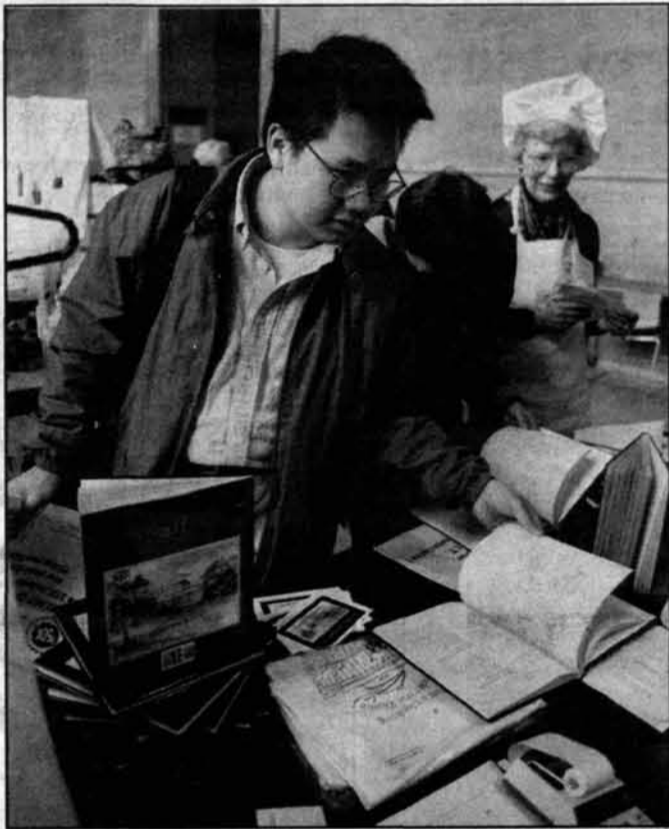
related death of Scott S. Krueger '01 at Phi Gamma Delta.

Zeta Psi eliminated their house tapping system after an earlier incident where an underage resident attempted to purchase a keg.

Additionally, the National Interfraternity Conference, recently voted to support substance-free campuses nationwide.

"In the next 5 to 10 years, we may be looking at an entirely different collegiate system," Gilon said.

Dan McGuire contributed to the reporting of this story.



ARIFUR RAHMAN—THE TECH

Dave Chen G, an MBA student, skims through the cookbook *What's Cooking under the Dome*, a compilation of recipes by MIT staff and faculty on sale in Lobby 10. Money raised from the book sale will be donated to the MIT women's scholarship fund.

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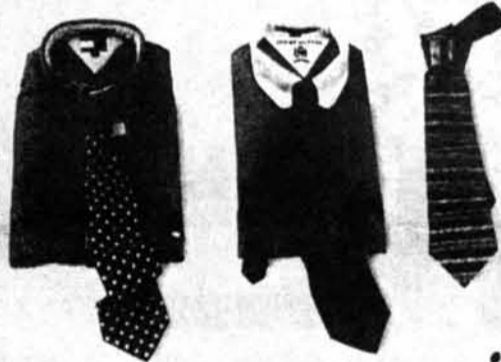
Jan. 30, 1997
Sheraton Boston Hotel
39 Dalton St.
Boston, MA

To register or get more information, contact:
International Career Information Inc.

Phone: 1-800-859-8535 • <http://www.rici.com/acw> • e-mail: jfinfo@rici.com
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COOP

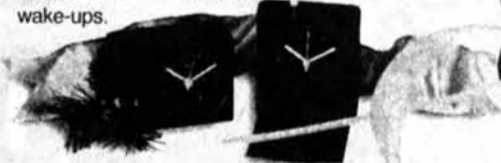


Executives these days wear all kinds of "uniforms." We have great shirts and ties from Tommy Hilfiger, as well as art, Harvard and novelty ties.

Hilfiger shirts: Donim \$49⁹⁹, Dress \$48, Ties \$39⁹⁹

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Round I (Sloan students only)

Round II (Institute-wide, Sloan and non-Sloan students)
 Opens 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 12
 Closes 5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 16

Round II results will be posted on the bidding website as of Tuesday, December 18, 1997

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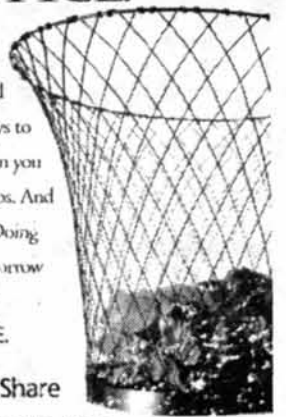
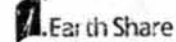
BIKUI CHEN—THE TECH

The MIT Concert Band held its annual Winter Concert Friday in Kresge Auditorium. A variety of pieces were performed, including several which were originally commissioned by the band.

BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE.

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where natural resources can fall behind. So here are some easy ways to reduce waste at the office. Turn off your lights when you leave. Drink out of a mug instead of throwaway cups. And to cut down on trash, use both sides of a memo. Doing these things today will help save resources for tomorrow. Which is truly a job well done. 1-800-MY-SHARE.

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Proceeds in aid of club funds

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Depression is a suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone. It's powerful, it's constant, and it makes life unbearable. It's also readily, medically treatable. And that's something everyone should know.

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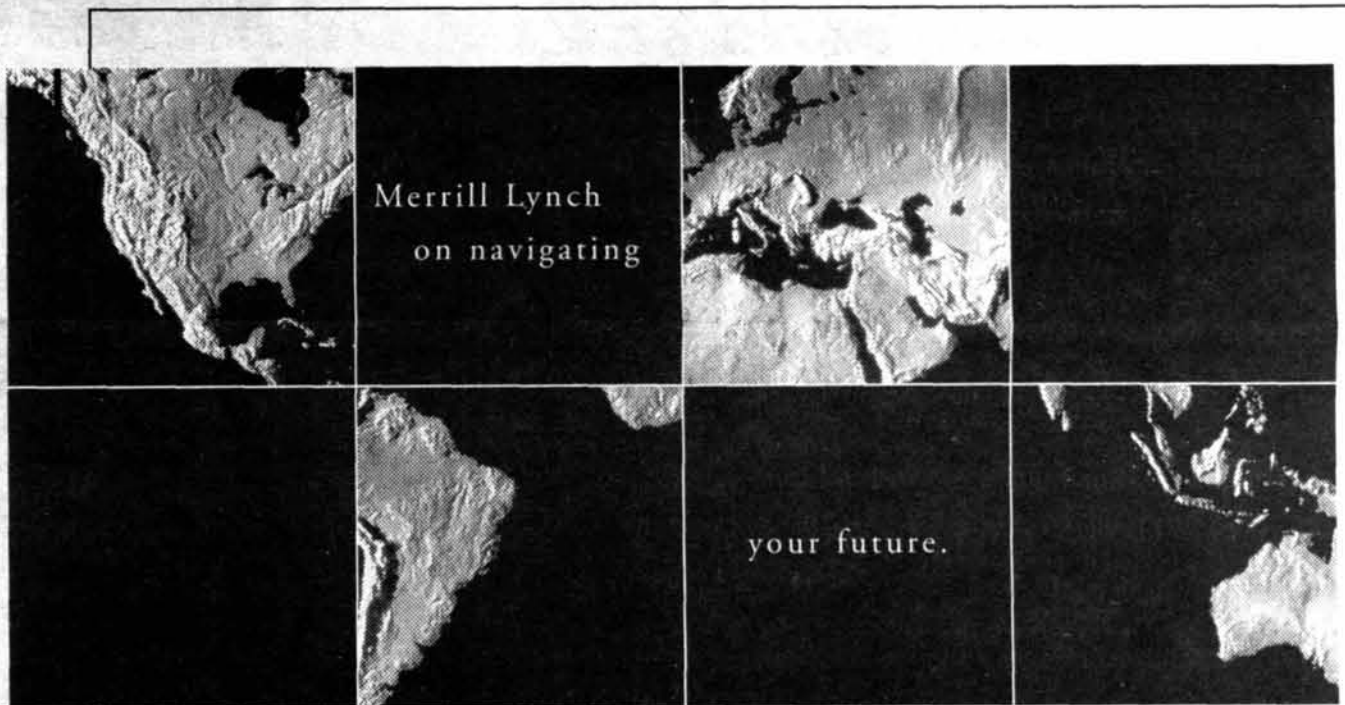
Elizabeth Suto.

Killed by a drunk driver on February 27, 1994, on Bell Blvd. in Cedar Park, Texas.

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

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Merrill Lynch resume drop-off deadline for International Analyst Positions is December 29, 1997

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London EC2Y9LY
Fax: 44-171-573-1976

ML Japan: Yumiko Kaizuka
Merrill Lynch Japan, Inc.
Ote Center Building
1-1-3, Otemachi, Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 100-8180
Fax: 81-33-213-8573

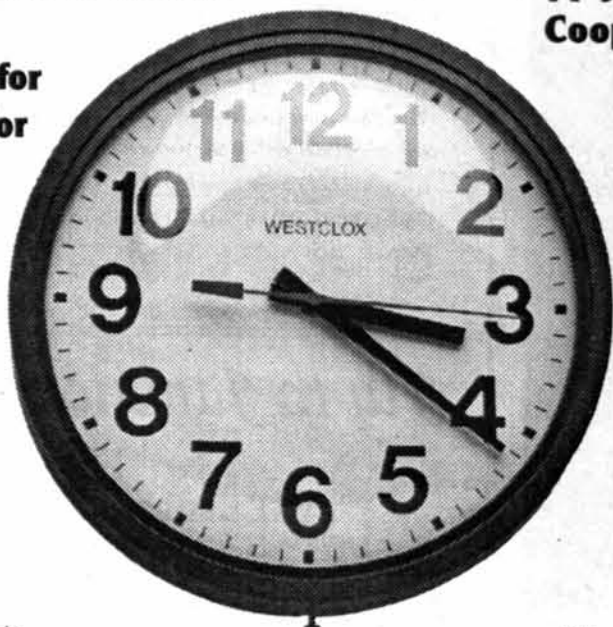
ML Asia Pacific: Leena Prakash
Merrill Lynch International, Inc.
18F, Asia Pacific Finance Tower
3 Garden Road
Central Hong Kong
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The Coop Board of Directors is accepting applications for nomination for election as a Student Board Member for the 1998-99 academic year.



Apply To Join The Coop's Board Of Directors

Applications are available at the Customer Service Desk of any Coop branch, or at the Member Services Office at the Coop at Harvard Square.

Final date for return of application is 5:00 pm, Fri., Dec. 12, 1997.



[HTTP://www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com)

For additional information, contact:

Allan Powell, 499-2025,

aepowell@thecoop.com,

or see the Coop's Home Page

[HTTP://www.thecoop.com](http://www.thecoop.com)



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Ja Hyun Shin '99 made her premier solo appearance with the MIT Symphony Orchestra on Saturday evening in Kresge Auditorium. The orchestra performed works by Schumann, Barber, and Milhaud.

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Massagers, \$10

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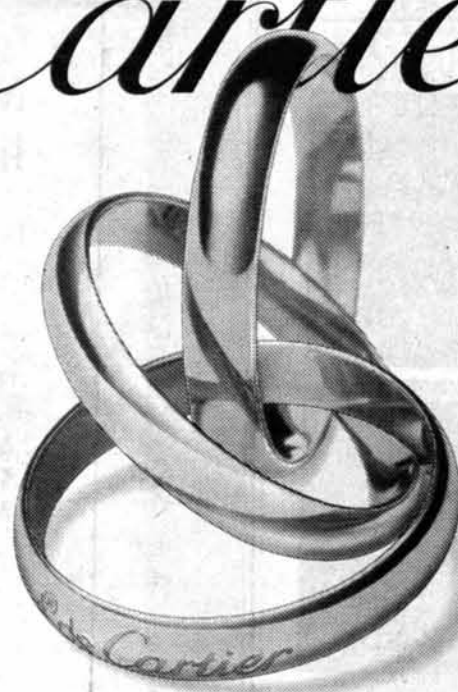
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POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Campus Police between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30. This summary contains most incidents reported to Campus Police but does not include incidents such as medical shuttles, ambulance transfers, false alarms, general service calls, etc.

Nov. 21: Sloan parking lot, hit and run damage to vehicle; Bldg. E15, harassing e-mail.

Nov. 22: New House, report of suspicious male, male stopped and issued a trespass warning; Massachusetts Avenue, assist other police agency with two individuals involved in a fight.

Nov. 23: East Campus, harassing phone calls; Bldg. 10, CD player stolen, \$120.

Nov. 24: New House, noise complaint; Student Center, bicycle secured with a cable lock stolen, \$450; Bldg. 13, cylinder bracket stolen, \$160; Bldg. 14, vandalism; Bldg. 20, VCR stolen, unknown value; Bldg. W32, Damon Briggs of 29 Brookline Avenue, Jamaica Plain taken into custody on an outstanding warrant; Memorial Drive, assist other police agency with the arrest of a male for indecent exposure; Bldg. 42, keys stolen.

Nov. 25: Bldg. E40, report of a suspicious person; duPont gym, Grant V. Morse of 69 New Hall Road, Lynnfield arrested for trespassing; Bldg. E15, computer and amplifier stolen, \$1,200; MacGregor House, grease fire.

Nov. 26: Bldg. 37, bicycle secured with "U" locks stolen, \$600; Bldg. 35, books stolen, \$300; Bldg. 20, laptop computer stolen, \$4,000; Bldg. E25, laptop computer stolen, \$2,500; Walker, pager stolen from a vehicle.

Nov. 27: Bldg. 4, printer stolen, \$200.

Nov. 28: Bldg. 5, microwave oven stolen, \$270; Westgate, annoying phone calls; Bldg. 20, laptop computer and other items stolen, \$2,500.

Nov. 29: Bldg. 3, 1) laptop computer stolen, \$2,000; 2) CD player and radio stolen, \$220; 3) report of a suspicious person.

Nov. 30: Bldg. 54, computer and computer parts stolen, \$9,000; Alumni Pool, suspicious person, duPont locker room, wallet stolen, \$20.



BIKUI CHEN—THE TECH

Dawn Perner '01, Edward Wu '98, and Yukiko Ueno G (piano) presented Smetena's Piano Trio in G Minor Saturday in Killian Hall.



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It varies, on average, 12-15 hours / week.
Crises are rare but may take a lot of time.
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TWENTY CHIMNEYS,
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12 TO 1 PM**

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submit it to RCA, W20-549; by January 19, 1998, for '98-99.
Or call Nancy Masley at ext. 3-6777 for more information.

Brad Gray Garners Honors, Marshall

By Roger Crosley
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

The awards continue to roll in for
football player Brad Gray '98. Last
Tuesday, Gray was named the win-

Sports Shorts

ner of a Marshall
Scholarship for
graduate study.
Wednesday,
Gray became only
the second MIT football player ever
to be named to the New England
Football Writers All-New England
team. Thursday brought the news that
Gray and two teammates had been
named first team GTE Academic All-
America by the College Sports
Information Directors of America.

Above and beyond the first team
status, Gray was named the College
Division Football Academic All-
America of the Year. Gray is the
second MIT football player to
receive the prestigious award (Rod
Tranum '93 in 1992 was the first),
and the third MIT athlete overall to
be the Academic All-America of the
Year (Bill Singhose '90, for track
and field in 1990, was the third).

Gray's teammates named to the
first team were linebacker Mike
Butville '98 and Duane Stevens '98.
Both Stevens and Gray are repeat
picks from 1996.

Cross country

Three cross country runners
have been named to the Division
III All-New England team. From

the women's team, Debbie Won
'00 earned the honor. On the
men's side, Mike Parkins '99 and
Chris McGuire '00 were each
named.

The Constitution Athletic
Conference 1996 Soccer All-
Conference team has recently been
released, and MIT has placed two
players on the squad.

Additionally, back Lee Murfee
'99 was a first team selection, while
forward Fito Louis '00 was a second
team pick.

Basketball

Basketball player Kareem
Benjamin G was named the
Constitution Athletic Conference
Player of the Week for the week of
Nov. 24.

Benjamin led MIT to a 3-0
record, giving the Engineers their
best start since the 1980-81 season.

In Conference wins over Babson
College and WPI, Benjamin aver-
aged 15 points, 10.5 rebounds, and
3.5 assists per game. He scored the
winning basket at the buzzer to give
MIT its first victory over Babson
since 1981.

Ice hockey

Not to be outdone by the men's
basketball team's gaudy start, the
men's ice hockey team has com-
piled a 7-1 record. The Engineers
have won six consecutive games
headed into the semester break.

1998 IAP Career Programs

Sponsored by the Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising

RESUME CRITIQUES

Sign up for a time in 12-170. Space limited.
Jan. 9th, 12th, 14th, and 16th, Rm. 12-170.
Please bring your resume to be reviewed.

MOCK INTERVIEWING

Pre-register in 12-170. Space limited.
Fri., Jan. 9th and Mon. Jan. 12th, Rm. 24-121,
4-5:30pm
Improve your interviewing skills through
"simulated" interviewing. Opportunity to role
play.

INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES

No pre-registration required.
Weds., Jan. 14th, Rm. 6-120, 5-7pm
Covers traditional, behavioral, case and
competency-based interviewing methods.

HOW TO EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS BEYOND ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING

(fields other than science, engineering,
finance, or mgt. consulting)
No pre-registration required.
Fri., Jan. 16th, Rm. 1-390, 4-5pm
Covers areas such as marketing, patent law,
internet publishing, transportation planning
and other fields.

The above workshops will be presented by staff
from the Career Office and representatives from
many companies.

For more information on the workshops
above, contact Deborah Rosencrans
<castor@mit.edu>

For more information about the following
workshops, contact Hannah Bernstein
<hannahb@mit.edu>

See <<http://web.mit.edu/career/www/calendar.html>> for more details.

STUDY ABROAD - QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

No pre-registration required.
Weds., Jan. 28, 10-105, Bush Rm., 1-3 pm
Features MIT undergrads who have studied
abroad.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT SCIENCE - SCIENCE JOURNALISM

No pre-registration required.
Thurs., Jan. 29, Rm. 2-190, 4-6 pm
Among the speakers will be a representative
from NOVA (television), NPR (radio), as well
as magazine and newspaper journalists.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PhDs OUTSIDE THE LABORATORY

No pre-registration required.
Talks by PhDs from premiere firms.

FINANCE - Thurs., Jan. 8, Rm. 4-270, 4pm
J.P. Morgan

MANAGEMENT CONSULTING - Tues., Jan.
13, Rm. 6-120, 4pm, Boston Consulting Group

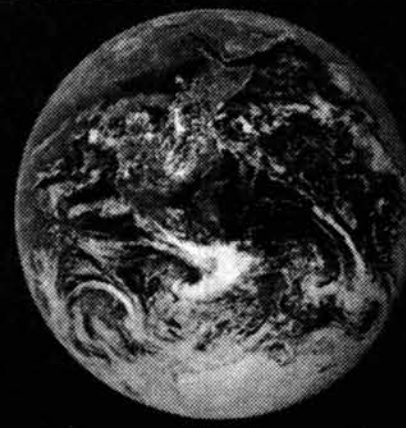
STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS - Thurs.,
Jan. 15, Rm. 2-105, 4pm, Optikos Corp.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING Tues.,
Jan. 20, Rm. 2-105, 4pm, Cambridge
Environmental, Inc.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY Thurs., Jan. 22,
Rm. 2-105, 4pm, Choate, Hall and Stewart

POLICY ANALYSIS Tues., Jan. 27, Rm.
2-105, 4pm, Institute for Defense Analysis

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YOU'RE THROWING IT ALL AWAY.**



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Undergraduate Financial Aid 1998-99

Applications for undergraduate
financial aid for the 1998-99
academic year will be distributed
from the

**Student Services Center
(Room 11-120)**

starting

Wednesday, December 10.

Please bring your MIT ID.



Christina Estrada '01 drives to the hoop to score against Colby-Sawyer College. MIT lost the game 75-64. AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

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SPORTS

Fencers Face Off at BC Meet

By Dalíé Jiménez
TEAM MEMBER

The men's and women's fencing teams met some tough competition this past Saturday at Boston College. The men's team fenced Brown University, Vassar College, St. John's University, and host BC. The women's team fenced Brown, Tufts University, St. John's, and BC.

The women's team began the tournament by cleaning up the competition from Brown with a combined women's foil and epee score of 26-6. The victory was repeated against Tufts with a score of 21-11. As the day drew on, the energetic but tired fencers experienced a 5-13 loss against St. John's and also to Boston College, by one bout, with a score of 16-17.

St. John's Division I, nationally-ranked team presented some difficulties for the MIT team. Despite the pressure, "we were fencing well," said foilist Oriana C Hunter '99. "We were focused, alert and ready," and although St. John's is one of the best teams nationally, "we were still able to put up a good fight," she said.

Epeeists rack up wins

In the epee squad, Nora Szasz '99 had an excellent record of 13 wins and only 3 lost bouts. Sara Perry '99 had an outstanding performance with a record of 8-4. Against the tough competition from St. John's, Perry beat an NCAA champion from two years ago. Jessica Sandland '99 also had excellent fencing with a record of 9-7.

Beginner fencers participating in this competition were Zahra Kanji '01, Lyudmila Borodavkina '99 and Dalie Jimenez '01.

The women's foil squad also had some great fencing this weekend. Captain Aimee Wiltz '99 had an impressive 11-5 record.

Oriana Hunter '99 came close behind with 10-6 while freshman Dianne Allen '01 had an outstanding 9-7.

Men's competition tough

The concentration and competition could be felt among the men as they beat the first two schools they fenced against. Vassar experienced the sour taste of defeat with an overall foil, epee and sabre score of 18-9. The men also beat Brown with a close 14-13.

The formidable St. John's fencers managed to defeat the MIT team with a score of 19-8. The epee team came very close to victory, however, with a score of 4-5.

Boston College wrapped up the day by beating the team 11-16. The men's epee team, however, won 7-2 against them, though that was not enough to carry an overall victory.

Great fencing was seen during this competition from the men. Jonathan Blandford '98 had a 7-4 overall personal record at the end of the competition. Matthew DuPlessie '99 finished with 5-4 and Matthew Coates '98 had a 6-3 record.

The men's foil team had good performances from Ali Ibrahim '01 and Andre Van Horn '01 as well as foilist-for-the-day Michael Krypel '01, who is usually on the epee squad but was substituting for an absence.

The stamina that kept the sabre team going and succeeding could be seen in their captain, Brian Bower '99, who managed a record of 7-5, and Evangelos Efstathiou '00, who had a record of 8-4.

Outstanding fencing was also shown by Allen Chen '00 and Phillip Miller '01.

The team will spend 10 hours a week practicing during IAP to be ready for the continuation of the season at the end of January.



Sara Perry '99 lunges for an attack, but is parried by her opponent from Brown University. MIT won the match 26-6.

Athletes of the Week

Basketball center/forward Katie Spayde '99 had 23 points and 18 rebounds and was named to the all-tournament team in the November Tip-Off Classic. Wrestler Ivan Aguayo '00 (126 lbs.) continues to lead the wrestling team in scoring as he improved his overall season record to 9-3 with 2 pins and 1 skunk in last Thursday's meet.

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



Katie Spayde '99
Basketball

Age: 20
Major: Economics
Hometown: Westlake Village, Calif.
Years playing sport: 15
Most memorable moment: Hitting a three-point buzzer-beater when I was 12.
Future plans: graduate school
"I have never been on a team with such depth, strength and heart, and am looking forward to an incredible season."



Ivan Aguayo '00
Wrestling

Age: 19
Major: Electrical Engineering
Hometown: San Jose, Calif.
Years playing sport: 8
Most memorable moment: Placing third at nationals at 119 lbs. in 1996 and receiving All-American status.
Future plans: Acquire a master's degree and an MBA and start my own company.
"Wrestling has greatly contributed to my education. It not only enhances your skills, but helps you build discipline and character."



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