



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Christina Bolton works on a painting in an introductory watercolor class taught by Valerie Jayne. The class is part of an IAP series sponsored by the Student Art Association.

Pilot Alcohol Policy To Offer Exceptions

By Dan McGuire
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

MIT is preparing to replace its interim alcohol policy with a set of pilot programs which may provide special exceptions for alcohol events where underage students are present.

"We have always said that we expect MIT students to uphold Massachusetts law" which prohibits the consumption of alcohol by those under 21 years of age, said Dean for Student Life Margaret R. Bates. That expectation will not change with the new regulations, she said.

The current interim policy bans the expenditure of Institute funds on alcohol at events where people under the age of 21 may be present.

However, while discussions are not yet complete, there are indications that this policy may be waived in the future, under special circumstances. One current proposal would allow large events to have a cash bar as long as it was run by an outside vendor.

Such events will probably be "extremely unusual," Bates said. Approval from senior officials will be required for such events. "It won't be common practice."

Policies developed by the three-member ad-hoc committee led by Associate Provost Phillip L. Clay are considered part of the interim ban and will likely be part of the pilot policies, Bates said.

The committee said that the

Alcohol Policy, Page 15

Board Ruling Forces Theta Chi to Go Dry

By Jennifer Lane
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Boston Licensing Board has placed Theta Chi on probation, prohibiting the presence of alcohol in the house until Aug. 15.

Once the probation expires, Theta Chi representatives will have to come before the board and demonstrate that they intend to follow the laws and policies of both the board and the Institute before they may again have alcohol in the house, Commissioner Ellen E. Rooney, chair of the board, said during the decision last week.

The fraternity house was independently considering going dry for the remainder of the year, said Theta Chi President Jason T. Timpe '99. Consequently, the house "doesn't feel too harshly punished," he said.

Dean for Student Life Margaret R. Bates felt "generally pleased" by the decision, and called it a "constructive way for [the board] to respond."

BU freshman drank at Theta Chi

Theta Chi was served with licensing violations after Boston University freshman Marie A. Figueredo was treated for alcohol poisoning on Nov. 15 at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

BU student Amy B. LaPrade testified to the board that she, Figueredo, and another BU student had been drinking with fraternity member Jason F. Kreisberg '99 in Kreisberg's room. The students had no contact with other members of the fraternity.

Theta Chi, Page 9

Rash of Intestinal Disorders Likely Not Caused by Goosebeary's Food

By Daniel C. Stevenson
SPORTS EDITOR

A wave of serious illnesses reported to the Medical Center over the past two weeks are likely the result of a stomach flu rather than food poisoning from the food trucks behind Building 66, according to David V. Diamond, a staff physician and chairperson of infection control in the Medical Department.

"Careful inspections are being made, but the trucks are safe at this point," Diamond said. Thus far, 45 students have reported symptoms of stomach and intestinal illness and

several have said they ate at Goosebeary, a popular Chinese food truck that serves several hundred meals a day.

"We're looking carefully to see if it might be food-related, but right now, we have no evidence" that the illnesses were caused by food eaten at the Goosebeary truck or any other truck, Diamond said.

"I don't think there should be a reason for panic or to avoid that truck at this point," Diamond said. "The owners are aware that there was a question raised and they're being particularly careful."

The Medical Department has commissioned special tests of the trucks, in addition to tests already performed by the City of Cambridge, Diamond said. The earlier tests showed no evidence of bacteria or unsanitary conditions.

No clear cause for reported illness

Symptoms of food poisoning vary, but can include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and cramps. Muscle aches or fever often indicate a stomach flu rather than food poisoning, Diamond said.

With the wide range of symptoms reported in the recent series of cases, it is difficult to ascertain the exact nature of the illnesses and whether or not they are linked to the Goosebeary truck, Diamond said. Tests of stool samples from 15 people failed to identify a food poison-

ing bacteria, such as a dysentery bacteria.

"If we had a major problem with food sanitation, we wouldn't be seeing three to five people a day, we'd be seeing 100," Diamond said.

Diamond suggested that people who have more than a minor symptom be evaluated at the Medical Center. The treatment in most cases of food poisoning is to wait it out, he said. However, in severe cases, an antibiotic can be given.

Five cases reported first night

Suspicion was first aroused when five students reported to the Medical Center the night of Jan. 8 and the following morning with stomach problems, Diamond said. Four of the five students reported eating at the Goosebeary truck earlier that day.

By the middle of the following week, roughly 20 people had reported symptoms, about one-third of whom had eaten at the Goosebeary truck, Diamond said.

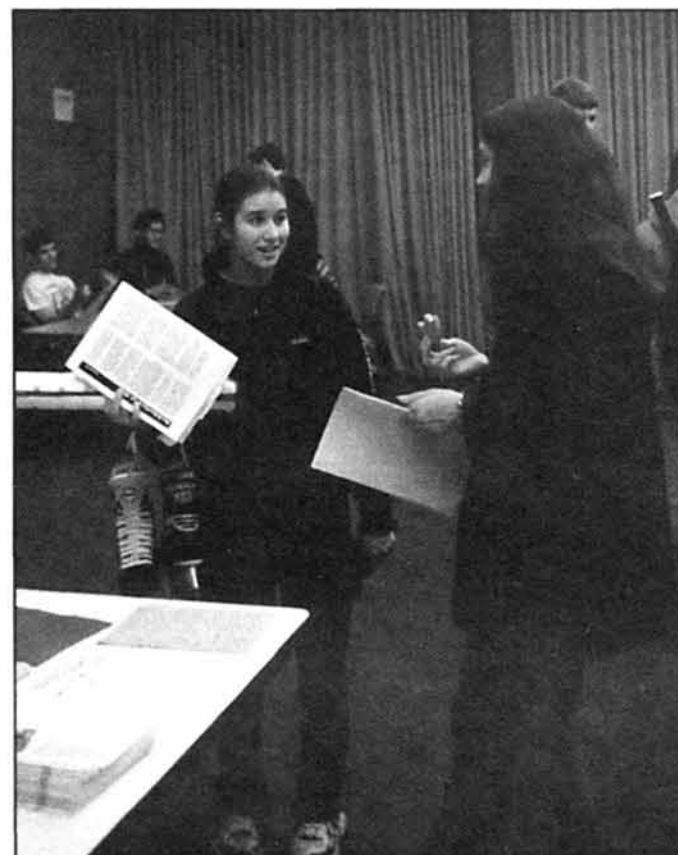
By last Friday, 30 scattered cases had been reported to the Medical Department. As rumors circulated over the long weekend, another 15 people reported similar symptoms.

Not all of the people ate food from the Goosebeary truck, but many did, Diamond said.

Illnesses, Page 15

INSIDE

- MIT files brief in 'don't ask, don't tell' case. *Page 8*
- New group wants to improve undergraduate experience. *Page 9*
- GSC meeting minutes *Page 13*
- Comics *Page 10*



AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

Carla Pellicano '01 discusses possible majors with a fellow freshman at the choice of majors fair Tuesday in the Bush Room.

WORLD & NATION

Amid Crisis, Suharto Accepts Presidential Nomination

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

President Suharto accepted the nomination to serve a seventh term as his nation's president Tuesday, despite signs of dwindling confidence from the financial markets and the masses that Asia's longest ruling leader can save the Indonesian economy.

After decades of rule that earned him the title of "The Father of Development," Suharto, 76, suddenly faces unprecedented challenges, as opponents sense opportunity in the country's economic crisis and are calling for him to step down before elections in March.

"People now realize that after 32 years of Suharto, Indonesia is a mess," said Amien Rais, a Muslim leader and political scientist who recently declared his own desire to be president. "It is in multidimensional crisis: political, social and economic. People are aware that Suharto is not the solution, he is the problem."

The rupiah touched a new low of 10,600 per dollar after traders interpreted moves by Suharto and his children to mean that they were not serious about reform. At the current exchange rate, economists figure that the majority of Indonesia's listed companies are bankrupt and will not be able to pay debts estimated at \$66 billion.

Supreme Court Rejects Case, Claiming Sex Bias Barred Tenure

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

A woman who postponed her college teaching career to raise two children failed to get a hearing Tuesday in the Supreme Court on her claim that her marriage and family were used against her by faculty peers who denied her tenure.

The case of Cynthia J. Fisher, a biology professor at Vassar College, attracted attention among women's rights groups as a major test of the legal hurdles that women — especially married women — must surmount to prove they were the victims of sex discrimination.

Fisher's challenge also drew notice because it involved Vassar, a premier liberal arts college in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., that was founded for women and that promotes itself as an institution where "women and men regard each other truly as equals."

The Supreme Court turned aside Fisher's appeal and those of two other women in somewhat similar sex bias cases. The justices' action leaves unresolved a dispute among lower courts over how hard it is to prove sex discrimination in the workplace.

GOP Unveils Education Package, Including Vouchers for the Poor

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Weary of watching President Clinton roll out popular election-year initiatives while Congress was on vacation, Republican leaders fought back Tuesday by trying to beat him to the punch on one of his favorite subjects: education.

Repackaging and expanding proposals that failed to pass last year, Senate GOP leaders unveiled an eight-point package that would provide tax breaks for private and public school costs, turn \$3 billion in federal school spending over to state and local authorities and otherwise "challenge the status quo," as Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., put it.

The legislation — dubbed "BOOKS" (Better Opportunities for Our Kids and Schools) — would create 20 to 30 pilot programs to finance vouchers to help low-income children at unsafe public schools pay for education at other schools, including private and church-related facilities.

"This comprehensive legislation is designed to help parents send their children to the very best schools possible," said Coverdell, the bill's chief sponsor. "By making sure more money goes directly to the classroom, our proposal gives local school districts greater freedom to solve the specific challenges confronting their communities."

By consolidating about 120 education programs into block grants to states, including Clinton's favorite Goals 2000 program, the legislation could be used to pay the salaries of 50,000 teachers, buy 1 million computers or construct 500 elementary schools, Coverdell said.

Virtually all elementary and secondary school spending, except for aid to help with education of disadvantaged children, would be turned over from the Education Department to the states, according to the Republicans.

WEATHER

Frazzled Friday

By Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A near miss from a big storm churning offshore on Tuesday brought only a sprinkling of snow, but we are in that time of the year where these big storms rattle on toward us every few days, and on Friday we look to be set for another hit. At this early stage it seems there will strong warm advection ahead of the storm which will keep things as rain, but it is a tough call from this far away. It bears keeping an eye on though. For today and tomorrow however, clear skies and chilly nights will be the rule due to a high pressure settling over the region. Only skies clouding up late on Thursday will herald the potential trouble ahead.

Today: A cold start, then mostly clear skies and pleasant. Brisk winds from the north west. High 38°F (4°C)

Tonight: Clear and cold. Low 23°F (-6°C)

Thursday: Partly cloudy and less windy. High 35°F (2°C). Low 24 (-5°C)

Friday: Precipitation likely. High around 35°F (2°C). Low around 20 (-7°C)

Three Genetically Cloned Calves Contain Extra Gene

By Rick Weiss

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Scientists for the first time have cloned genetically engineered calves, a feat they said would help them create herds of identical cows that make medicines in their milk.

The three calves, born last week at a research farm in Texas, represent the latest in a string of rapid advances in animal cloning since researchers in Scotland announced one year ago they had cloned an adult sheep named Dolly.

The calves were created with a technique somewhat more efficient than the one used to make Dolly. Dolly was the result of 277 attempts; each of the three calves — and a fourth that died within a week after birth — was the result of about 50 tries.

And unlike Dolly, the cloned calves (the first two were named Charlie and George; the third, born Friday, has not yet been named) were genetically altered in advance so that all of their cells contain an extra gene.

That gene is just a "marker" gene that has no significant physiological effect. But the successful integration of that gene into each calf provides important proof that it is possible to manipulate the genetic makeup of cattle in the process of cloning them.

"This moves cloning technology a major step forward toward making it practical and useful in a very important commercial species," said James Robl, a developmental and reproductive biologist at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, who led the work with

Steven Stice, chief scientific officer at Advanced Cell Technology, a biotechnology company in Amherst.

Stice and Robl described their work Tuesday at a meeting of the International Embryo Transfer Society in Boston.

Dolly is still the only clone made from a cell taken from an adult mammal. The newborn calves and other cloned mammals born in recent months all were cloned from cells taken from fetuses, which is easier to accomplish.

The U.S. beef and dairy industries combined have annual revenues of about \$60 billion, and that value could be enhanced with genetic engineering, said Robl, who is a consultant and co-founder of ACT. Eventually, Robl said, the company hopes to use similar techniques to grow engineered animals containing cells and organs suitable for transplantation into people.

Robl said the team has already advanced the work by creating several cow clone embryos containing the gene for a protein called human serum albumin. Those calves, which would be the first cloned calves engineered to contain a medically useful human gene, are developing inside the wombs of surrogate mother cows.

In those clones, the gene was placed under the control of a molecular switch that should limit the protein's production to the calves' udders. Robl declined to say when they were due to be born.

Human serum albumin is infused into many hospital patients suffering from burns or other injuries whose treatment requires an increase in blood volume. Robl said the team

hopes to extract the albumin from the cows' milk, purify it, and sell it as a substitute for existing human serum albumin products, which are obtained from human blood donors and carry a small risk of contamination with infectious agents.

ACT is under contract to produce the albumin for Genzyme Transgenics of Framingham, Mass., a company that has been producing human drugs in the milk of genetically engineered, non-cloned goats.

George and Charlie are not the first farm animal clones to be genetically engineered. Last month, Ian Wilmut and his colleagues at the Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics in Scotland described in a scientific journal their creation of Polly and Molly, two cloned sheep carrying extra copies of gene called Factor IX.

That gene should allow the two sheep to make in their milk a blood-clotting factor needed by some hemophiliacs. But scientists won't know if they were successful until this spring, when the lambs become old enough to lactate.

Still, it is unclear how complicated or expensive it may be to extract the Factor IX or other drugs from the milk of cows or sheep. And although the clones are, by definition, genetically identical, no one knows whether all the members of a cloned herd or flock will produce their products with sufficient uniformity and quality to satisfy regulators such as the Food and Drug Administration, which require pharmaceutical production methods to meet a minimum requirement known as Good Manufacturing Practice.

Theodore J. Kaczynski Found Mentally Competent for Trial

By William Booth

THE WASHINGTON POST

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

Theodore J. Kaczynski is mentally competent to stand trial, prosecutors and defense attorneys said Tuesday, putting the case back on track for opening statements Thursday after a tumultuous two weeks.

Attorneys for both sides agreed with a government psychiatrist who examined the Unabomber suspect last week and found him mentally fit for trial — despite an apparent suicide attempt.

Though the question of Kaczynski's mental fitness is answered, it remains unclear who will represent the 55-year-old mathematics professor turned hermit: his current defense team, new lawyers or the defendant himself.

Kaczynski, who has fought with his current attorneys over their intent to introduce a limited mental health defense, two weeks ago requested that he be allowed to represent himself instead.

U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell said Tuesday he would decide the issue Thursday morning and then proceed to put the case before the jury.

The judge was clearly growing impatient, repeatedly stating that his time was being wasted and raising questions about why these issues were not raised before jury selection began.

The judge signaled that he will not appoint a new attorney for Kaczynski, though he seemed to be undecided over whether the defendant could represent himself or whether to order him to keep his current counsel.

Each raises a set of complex

legal issues, opening up ever more avenues for appeal.

"The judge is faced with a number of options, none of which are very presentable, at least not from an appellate standpoint," said Robert Holley, a former federal defender who is following the trial. Kaczynski, who faces charges that he killed two people and maimed two others during a decades-long bombing spree against technological society, brought his trial to a halt two weeks ago when he refused to continue with his current lawyers.

Kaczynski told the court he could not "endure" a mental health defense. According to his lawyers, Kaczynski suffers from the delusions of a paranoid schizophrenic and has as one of his symptoms a profound dread of being labeled mentally ill. Because of his request to represent himself, and an apparent suicide attempt, Burrell ordered last week's competency exam.

A new attorney for Kaczynski seems highly unlikely at this late date, in large part because it would take a new lawyer many months to prepare for trial. One lawyer who was mentioned as a possible replacement for the current defense team, San Francisco Bay Area lawyer Tony Serra, said he would not be available for trial until September 1998.

"I'm tentatively not inclined to bring in new lawyers," Burrell said. "The difficulty Mr. Kaczynski has experienced with these lawyers will resurface with new lawyers."

The main issue is Kaczynski's ability to shape the central strategy of his own defense. Previous court rulings make it clear that a defendant has the right to make decisions regarding his plea, whether he will

take the stand or not, and a possible insanity defense. But generally, defendants are not granted control over the presentation of evidence, which witnesses to call and day-to-day management of the case.

But there is a gray area. Does Kaczynski have a say in whether he is portrayed as mentally ill — either as a way to convince jurors that he was so delusional that he could not have formed the legal intent to kill or as a way to discourage jurors from condemning him to death?

Burrell has previously stated in court that Kaczynski's attorneys are "in control" of his mental health defense, but legal experts say it is not so clear-cut.

Prosecutor Robert Cleary called it "an open legal question." But the judge did not appear to agree.

Then Cleary urged Burrell to order Kaczynski's current attorneys to heed their client's wishes and drop a mental health defense during the so-called guilt phase of the trial.

Kaczynski attorney Quin Denvir suggested he and fellow lawyer Judy Clarke would be loath to follow their client's wishes. Moreover, Denvir said, "We believe there is no legal authority for the court to order that."

Burrell suggested Tuesday that he might hold Kaczynski to an agreement reached during a closed-door meeting Dec. 22. During that session, Burrell said Kaczynski agreed to stick with his current lawyers in return for their promise not to introduce expert testimony about his mental state during the guilt phase of the trial. Kaczynski, however, agreed his lawyers could marshal mental health evidence during a punishment phase if he was found guilty.

Cubans Display Religious Images To Welcome Island's Papal Visit

By John Rivera
THE BALTIMORE SUN

HAVANA

Gladis Pose, clutching a plastic bag of groceries, walked across Plaza de la Revolucion Tuesday morning and saw an unbelievable sight: a giant picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus overlooking the Communist nation's political center.

"I don't have words. I don't have words," said the 56-year-old woman, filled with emotion. "You can see the tears in my eyes."

As Cuba welcomes Pope John Paul II, who arrives Wednesday for the first papal visit to this Caribbean island, the capital city has exploded with religious images that would have been illegal to display just a few years ago.

Until about a week ago, there were few outward signs that Cuba was expecting a papal visit, save for a few banners draped across church-

es. Now, on almost every telephone pole is a light blue poster with the smiling visage of John Paul leaning against a crucifix. The same poster is hanging on the doors of hundreds of homes in the city.

The pedicabs that ferry tourists along the Malecon, Havana's famous waterfront promenade, are emblazoned with posters welcoming the pope. Billboards that just a few days ago featured the image of President Fidel Castro urging citizens to vote in last week's one-party elections for the national assembly have been papered over with a purple papal message: "Bienvenidos Su Santidad, Juan Pablo II." Welcome Your Holiness, John Paul II.

But it is perhaps the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus overlooking the Plaza de la Revolucion, the site of some of Castro's most important rallies and speeches, that is the most

startling for Cubans. Normally the only visage keeping vigil at the plaza is the modernistic, black wrought-iron relief of the socialist saint of the Cuban Revolution, Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

"For us, it's incredible," said Lazaro Lopez Lima, 61, who came to the plaza to see the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The picture is extremely important for Catholics and a copy hangs in many churches, as well as on the wall of the homes of the devout.

The famous image, showing Jesus with his heart displayed in front of him, is attached to the front of the National Library, and will be visible behind the altar where John Paul will celebrate the final Mass of his five-day visit Sunday.

"It's been 39 years since we've seen something like this," Lopez said. "You can't imagine the happiness we feel."

Veterans Divided on Exhuming Remains in Tomb of Unknowns

By Paul Richter
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In an echo of controversies from years past, veterans groups are sharply divided on whether the Tomb of the Unknowns should be opened to examine whether Vietnam-era remains are those of a downed Air Force pilot.

As the Pentagon considers whether to disturb the revered site, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars are recommending that the government move cautiously before testing the remains to see if they belong to Air Force 1st Lt. Michael J. Blassie, as his family and some activists believe. But these groups' newer brother, the Vietnam Veterans of America, is urging a swift examination and quick resolution of the issue.

The emerging division is likely to make the Pentagon's sensitive decision all the more agonizing. And it mirrors differences among veterans in the 1970s and 1980s, when controversy swirled around the Carter and Reagan administrations' efforts to find and inter an officially unknown Vietnam-era veteran at the Arlington National Cemetery site to help heal the war's wounds.

The question of whether to open the crypt emerged this week, with Blassie's family members saying they believe evidence collected after Blassie was shot down strongly indicates that the remains are his.

In 1972, South Vietnamese reconnaissance troops collected human bones, two ID cards with Blassie's name and other items after the Missouri-born flyer was shot

down at An Loc, about 60 miles north of Saigon. The remains weren't sufficient to provide positive identification of Blassie at the time, but because of advances in DNA testing, some analysts believe a test could now conclusively determine whether the remains are Blassie's.

Sara Bernasconi, an official of the Vietnam Veterans of America's POW-MIA committee, said identification of remains should be the top priority, and noted that President Clinton himself has such efforts a top national goal.

"I definitely think the tomb should be opened," said Bernasconi, of Albuquerque, whose husband was declared missing in action. "We would be terribly remiss if we didn't bring some resolution and peace to a veteran's family."

Boom in Foreign Travel Poses Risks, Colleges Say

THE WASHINGTON POST

A series of deaths and near-misses involving American students around the world has aroused concern about the safety of horizon-broadening travel to foreign lands. As more young people venture overseas, and more doors open to them in less-developed and rapidly changing nations, educators say it is harder to predict what dangers may await them.

Last week's rape of five St. Mary's College of Maryland students in Guatemala sent a wave of distress through area colleges and high schools. Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert said the incident gave educators "shudders" and makes them "even more cautious and take even more precautions," but he added that his school "wouldn't think of canceling our trips."

In India, the death of four U.S. college students in a March 1996 bus accident prompted their parents to sue the American program operators and the sponsoring university, who they said erred by sending their children out on a dangerous road with an unknown driver. Other students have caught rare diseases or barely escaped outbreaks of political fighting.

"Sometimes, you're taken by the myth that if you're an American or a foreigner you're safer," said Glenn R. Bucher, president of the Graduate Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., who spent three weeks in rural Guatemala with seminary students in 1991. "But you never know what will happen."

Although most students still flock to the United Kingdom or Western Europe, they also are traveling in greater numbers to former communist countries or developing Latin American and Asian nations.

Government Withholds Payments To 'Deadbeat' Doctors

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Hoping to recover more than \$107 million in outstanding federal student loans, government officials are withholding Medicare and Medicaid payments to so-called "dead-beat" doctors.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala released the list of 1,402 names on Tuesday, putting on notice health care professionals who have not begun repaying their federally guaranteed Health Education Assistance Loans. Nearly all of the debtors are doctors, with some of their loans dating back to 1979, when the loan program for students in the health care field was established.

"If they're making any attempt at repayment, they would not be on this list," said Claude Earl Fox, acting administrator of HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration. The full list of names will appear in the Federal Register this week, and was posted Tuesday on the Department's website at <http://www.defaulteddocs.dhhs.gov>.

Under the announcement, the defaulters are barred Tuesday from serving the 74 million elderly, disabled and low-income Americans covered by the federal Medicare and Medicaid health insurance programs.

The list was also forwarded to the Department of Justice, which could pursue litigation and enforce collection by garnishing wages, attaching property and seizing bank accounts.



Graduate Student Council

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

Jan. 21 Activities Meeting*
Jan. 22 Housing & Community Affairs Mtg.*
Jan. 29 Academic, Research, & Careers Mtg.*

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

Pick-up Sports over IAP
Contact jglively@mit.edu for more details on Graduate Student Pick-up Basketball and Volleyball. No commitment, just show up and play. There will be a supervisor keeping teams rotating.

The draft for the Joint Resolution on Student Body Diversity with the Black Graduate Student Association is on the Web for review now.

OPINION

The Time for Interim Policies Has Passed

As more and more violations of the alcohol ban pop up, it becomes clear that although the current alcohol ban was an appropriate immediate response back in October, it is not a

Editorial

proper permanent solution to alcohol abuse, and should not continue into the upcoming spring term.

The interim alcohol policy, which prevents the use of Institute funds for events where students under the age of 21 are present, was appropriate as a temporary measure. Because the policy has been in force for four months, however, it has begun to have serious negative effects on life at MIT. Although the policy may have had the initial effect of halting alcohol use on campus, at this stage it has only exacerbated MIT's problem with alcohol use. MIT should carefully examine the results of its current ban as it prepares to issue new guidelines for the spring.

The past few months have made clear that a ban on alcohol is not going to stop students from drinking. If anything, the current alcohol ban has greatly increased the danger alcohol poses to students at MIT. Many students have taken their drinking underground, or out to local bars. Stigmatizing alcohol use, and removing it from the supportive environment of the living group, increases the danger alcohol poses in two ways: first, peers and friends have a smaller chance of intervening or coming to the aid of students who have consumed excessive amounts of alcohol; second, forcing drinking off-campus increases the likelihood of accidents between the bars and students' homes. President Charles M. Vest specifically warned MIT of these dangers in his October press conference, yet the current policy does not appear to take them into account.

Another danger MIT now faces is that many students have become afraid to call the Campus Police or the Medical Center

about alcohol incidents. Because they believe that reporting incidents to the authorities will result in press attention and disciplinary action, students at risk may choose simply to not make that life-saving phone call. Surely this is not what the administration had originally intended.

Whatever the reasons for student drinking on campus, students need to know that they can contact the Campus Police in an emergency. Students in need of assistance should not have to fear being turned in for further disciplinary action.

The confusion surrounding the timing of the interim policy also has a deleterious practical effect on student life on campus. As students plan their spring social calendars, they have little way of knowing how to handle the issue of alcohol at events they are planning. Dissatisfaction with dry parties from last term have left students at a loss for how to plan social activities for this upcoming term. Also, plans for annual traditions such as Steer Roast have come to a grinding halt.

When the interim policy was announced, October was labeled a month of discussion and introspection. Now, as we drift toward February, nothing concrete has been done, and no permanent policy has been announced. The administration, bogged down by repeated incidents that may have been aggravated by the interim policy itself, seems to be waiting for a period of calm before announcing any progress. But the world will not stand still while the powers that be procrastinate and dither. These decisions should not be pushed back any longer. Students have been waiting long enough.

It is unfortunate that this interim policy has been in effect for as long as it has, posing real hazards to the student body. If we are to prevent further tragedy, MIT must reverse course. We must reject dangerous and overzealous alcohol bans and formulate permanent policies to help safely regulate alcohol use on this campus.

Letters To The Editor

Separating Medicine From Policing

Police Chief Anne Glavin has stated that when the Campus Police provide medical service or transportation to the medical department in cases of underage drinking, the officers are obliged to consider investigation as part of their law enforcement duties [*MIT Tech Talk*, Jan 14, 1998]. While this fact may be an unavoidable result of the CP's dual role as police and emergency medical provider, it seems equally unavoidable that the threat of disciplinary action will in some situations cost precious seconds precisely when they are needed the most.

In the real world, the separation between emergency medicine and police response is more distinct: each is primarily served by a different profession, bound by different

oaths of confidentiality and public safety. For the health of its student body, MIT should move to a similar system by establishing an emergency medical response unit separate from the Campus Police. Medical professionals of this type would be a visible, accessible, and effective addition to MIT's health education and delivery system. The Campus Police, in turn, could concentrate their efforts on patrolling the campus, while continuing to serve a backup medical role.

Quick thinking saves lives; worry and deliberation costs them. Bold steps such as this one are necessary if MIT is to expect its students to do the right thing, without hesitation.

Michael Halle G
Lecturer, Program in Media Arts and Sciences

Tech's Media Lab Coverage Biased

While I understand that *The Tech* is a student newspaper, it is the student newspaper of one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Instead of preparing a set of balanced columns like any reputable newspaper, *The Tech* knowingly presented three attacks on the Media Lab in the last issue (Dec. 9) of the year, without a chance for response until January. Such behavior not only cheapens *The Tech*, but, since the issue is world-readable on the web, reflects badly on MIT.

Faced with a blitz of sophomoric commentary, I decided to seek out Douglas E. Heimburger '00 whose column ["Smoke and Mirrors," Dec. 9] seems the most coherent. My questions centered on how Heimburger evaluated the Media Lab's research. Had he read even one of the

roughly 400 journal articles or the several thousand conference papers authored by Media Lab personnel over the years, taken a Media Lab course, attended the Oct. 13-14 IEEE International Symposium on Wearable Computers, participated in 6.270, run the software the lab has provided to the MIT community over the years (Fishwrap, facerec, Galatea, Thingworld, the predecessor to Firefly, etc.)? No, he had not. So what did he base his column on? Popular press articles, apparently.

Having been associated with the laboratory since 1989, I am very proud of my fellow students and the lab's accomplishments. I joined the lab as a UROP (the lab is the Institute's largest employer of UROPs, currently numbering 150) because it employed the professors who wrote the papers I respected most. I learned the extraordinary value of an apprenticeship in an active research environment, of which my colleagues at other universities were very jealous. As a graduate student, I've slowly learned the lab's history in forming the standards in use today, such as MPEG1-4, Quicktime, and, most recently, DVD. I've seen the successful experiments in quantum computing, holographic laser printers and holographic video, face recognition, electronic paper, and supercomputing. In addition, I find that exactly half of the graduate students in my department are from other departments and half of those are current EECS PhDs.

Thus, Heimburger's uniformed and vapid comments not only insult Media Lab students but all the students who base their research here. To evaluate a laboratory based on the popular press is equivalent to evaluating the lives of Edison, Bell, or Franklin on the breathless or accusatory articles written during their lifetimes.

Thad Starner G

Erratum

The article "Theta Chi Singles Out Kreisberg at Hearing" in the Jan. 14 issue of *The Tech* stated that Jason F. Kreisberg '99 had been expelled from Theta Chi. Kreisberg has not been expelled from the fraternity, but has had his voting privileges revoked while any further disciplinary action is discussed.

A featured quotation in the same article was misattributed to Boston Licensing Board Commissioner Joseph I. Mulligan. The comment was in fact made by Theta Chi's attorney Howard Drick.

Opinion Policy

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Taking Stock of Star Wars Prequels

How to Trade Office Hours for Top-Dollar Equity

Anders Hove

Investing is getting crazy these days, and I don't just mean big volatility due to what the ever-so-tactless business commentators call "exposure to Asia." Every investment seems to come with some sort of complication or string attached. You have your futures and options, your derivatives and currency hedges — instruments which are now trickling down from market-makers to small, Main Street investors.

Take the case of director George Lucas, for example. Lucas is essentially a struggling artist, with a paltry few hundred million dollars under his mattress. He's the type of person an old-style banker wouldn't have trusted with a pass-book. A typical invest-

the sort of project you or I would want to bet the farm on. Or in current investment lingo, it's not the sort of public offering we would go long on forward-backward pork-belly derivatives for.

Major business firms have taken a different tack on the *Star Wars* prequels, however. Pepsi has agreed to a multi-million dollar promotional deal with Lucas and, in the biggest turnabout, plastic-mavens Hasbro and Galoob Toys have proven willing to fork over \$325 million in stock to Lucas for the merchandise rights.

now passé. Such high velocity! Such a low rate of return! Tch.

Unfortunately, I get the impression that few people from MIT are taking advantage of these sorts of investment opportunities. And I admit that when I first hit upon the idea myself, it was rough going.

The first company I approached was Disney. Would they be prepared, I asked, to give me a 10 percent stake in their firm in exchange for merchandising rights to my next five "Balkan Subversive" columns? Frankly, by the kind of response I got, you'd have thought I was one of the brothers Warner.

At this point, I realize my initial efforts were overly optimistic. But all hope has not been lost. There is still the outside possibility I'll be able to trade the promotional rights to "Balkan" for a few grilled-cheese sandwiches at Frescoes.

Meanwhile, others are beginning to follow my lead. I hear Course VI professors are contemplating trading office hours for options on students' future earnings. And I hear the administration is contemplating spinning off its highly-oversubscribed Dormitory Division as a for-profit corporation.

Taken together, I'm not sure whether the move toward more complicated partnering agreements between financial entities is a good thing. George Lucas can do whatever he wants to without complaint from me. But what if Microsoft offers to unbundle its browser from my desktop in exchange for a lucrative promotional agreement? I could use the money, but would it be right? By the way, have you installed Word 6 yet?

ment strategy for a person of Lucas' calibre two decades ago would have been a risky land scheme run

out of a local savings and loan, ideally represented by a small law firm in Little Rock.

Lucas' current project is a three-installment series of B-movies along the lines of his previous obscure work, *Star Wars*. By most accounts, Lucas will continue to employ state-of-the-art special effects using barely glued-together plastic models and painted-on laser light effects. In short, not

to the movies. And that's without even seeing the movies.

The upshot (for Lucas, anyway, if not molded-plastic figurine sophisticates everywhere) is that he now owns 5 percent of Hasbro and 20 percent of Galoob. This is according to *Business Week* magazine, a reasonably reliable source in these times of both artistic and market confusion.

In other words, individual workaday folks like Lucas can now barter work for stock. That's what so many employees at Microsoft have been doing over the years, to the point where many are now millionaires. But more than that, it means that one can trade an individual product or piece of work for a share of someone else's. Primitive market instruments like cash are

The Moral Skinny on Corpses as Art

Naveen Sunkavally

In Mannheim, lower Germany, human corpses are on exhibit. Not your run-of-the-mill Joe Schmoes propped up in glass containers, but stylized corpses, such as the "Runner," whose muscles are splayed back along his skeleton, the "Figure with Skin," who carries his skin as a coat on one arm, or the "Expanded Body," whose body is slashed open to reveal his innards.

According to the *New York Times*, the exhibit's creator, one Gunther Von Hagens, has termed his works "anatomical artwork." Hagens also perfected the process of plastination, which preserves the corpses by replacing all the water in their cells with plastic.

As expected in cases where art challenges the limits of morality, a controversy has ensued. The *Times* reports that both the Catholic and Protestant Churches, the premier of the province where Mannheim is located, and a local district prosecutor have all denounced the exhibit and are moving to close it.

But strangely, despite my moral qualms, I find myself supporting the exhibit. Not the content of exhibit, but the right to put up such an exhibit.

After all, these corpses that have gone nude beyond the skin did agree, when alive, to the conditions of their exposure and the principles behind the exhibit. The land upon which the exhibit stands seems fairly bought or rented, and people are not forced to view

the exhibit. Thus, on the legal level, nothing wrong — no infringement of existing law — has occurred.

On a moral level also I contend that nothing wrong has happened. Is it not a common custom, for example, for humans to transform the heads and hides of animals such as bears and tigers into mantle-pieces or rugs for decoration? Similarly, have we not harvested the fur of minks and the tusks of elephants for decorating ourselves? What then separates, in our eyes, humans from animals?

Only our sense of closeness to ourselves, of course; humans are closer to humans than they are to animals. If animals had human characteristics, such as the ability to speak English, write poetry, or play football, we would at least hesitate before butchering them. When we see an exhibit of humans mutilated in various

ways, we tend to imagine ourselves as having been mutilated and on exhibit. If we were to feel the texture of a human skin lampshade, we would recoil because we unavoidably imagine the process of flaying a human as one does an animal to produce the object.

I do not suggest that we make skin lampshades or become cannibals — I personally find the entirety of the exhibit repugnant, but if individuals make a contract, society has an obligation to uphold that contract as long as it does not affect

other individuals. To me, the exhibit resembles the case in which two people are doing outlandish things in their bedroom, and they invite someone to observe. Or perhaps the case of a painter who uses a model in his painting which eventually gets displayed in a gallery.

My belief rests in a higher morality of inclusion, one that forces people to respect all moralities so long as there is no deleterious effect on people.

How do I define a "deleterious effect?" Saying "that exhibit repulsed me," or "that exhibit is against my religion" does not constitute a deleterious effect. On the other hand, if one of the exhibit's displays was alive, jumped out, and killed a spectator, then we clearly see a deleterious effect.

The counter-argument, I can ponder, is that such a disgusting exhibit can create a social atmosphere of desensitization that will promote future acts of violence. Thus, the contract between the exhibit's creator and those on display can extend beyond those people and have a negative effect on society.

I do not buy such an argument. People's conceptions of things, not the things themselves, bring about people's actions. For example, to censor a heavy metal rock band that spews out violent lyrics for its potential effect on people is ridiculous.

I would never like to go to the exhibit in Mannheim and would decline anyone's offer to go. I am much too human to see my humanity spread out before me. But I fully support Mr. Hagens' right to set up this exhibit and others' rights to attend.

The Man Behind The Curtain

Dan Dunn

I went to New York and saw *The Late Show with David Letterman* last week, and I will never look at television the same way again. I've always had a healthy distrust of the small screen, but the producer's trickery on Thursday was on a pretty impressive scale.

The evening was, of course, interesting. It began with a longish wait, standing outside in the sleet. We had numbered tickets that placed us around the corner on 54th St. We hid under an awning and were joined by a Letterman intern in a snazzy CBS jacket.

"What's it like working for Dave?" I asked.

"It's OK. They don't pay me much. But then again, I sure don't do much."

As far as I could tell, her job consisted of trying to keep people from jumping in line while standing in some nasty weather. She was easy to believe, and the most trustworthy of the night.

After a while, they let us stand in line indoors. Beforehand, we had been next door in the Ed Sullivan bar. Our Ed Sullivan beers were screaming for the Ed Sullivan bathroom, but we would lose our place in line. We crossed our legs and waited.

Once seated (and relieved), we were treated to an outtake of David Letterman working at the drive-through window at Taco Bell. A middle-aged woman was harassed about her choice of "hot beef," stared at the speaker and said "I know your voice! Are you Howard Stern?"

We all laughed. The piece was doing its work, warming the crowd up. But the warm-up had just begun.

A roly-poly man in a leather jacket bounced onto the stage. He was the warm-up comic, and he launched into a lame routine about advertising by electric companies. We sat in our seats and whispered about how low on the totem pole the warm-up comic must be. Unable to get a real job doing standup in a club, he gets an audience that couldn't care less if he lived or died — they just want to see Dave.

Dave came out, dressed in a mismatched suit with his pants pulled up way too high. It may work on TV, but in person he looked like your grandfather. You just don't want to see a belt that high.

He announced the next bit of trickery. Did you know that Letterman is taped the day before it is shown? It was Thursday night, but we were encouraged to "yell and scream, its Friday night!" This was a bit hard to swallow.

Letterman in person looks very skinny. Not surprisingly, he does perform for the camera more than his audience. He runs in and out, looking at the camera and making faces. But in person it just doesn't work as well.

One of the funnier points was right after the Top Ten List. Dave had been on a string about the Winter Olympics, Nagano, and the fact that there is no snow. "There's gonna be a s---load of trucks" he said.

We were so excited. Dave had said the "s" word! We watched TV the next day, waiting to see him wiggle his way out of it. The Top Ten List came and went, and the show jumped straight to ads. No public humiliation, no FCC sanction, nothing. Lost to the cutting room floor. Maybe someday he'll put out a "Too Hot for Television" highlights reel.

The largest piece of trickery was yet to come. The producer told us that the band Jars of Clay had come in the day before, and would not be with us. So, Letterman introduced them, and we watched a tape of them playing. Afterwards, Dave announced their new CD and thanked them for coming.

Watching the show at home, it was seamless. No one watching would know, but we did. Jars of Clay was not there, no matter what it looked like.

This made me wonder about the rest of the Letterman shows that I have watched. How many bands, guests, and comedy bits were recorded earlier in the week, or earlier in the year? I always knew it was taped and edited a bit, but I had just assumed there was more. I liked my ignorance better.

There are a few final notes. First, Sandra Bernhard is just as weird in person as on television. Who does her hair? Who dresses her? Who does her personality?

Finally, the CBS Orchestra is quite good. The songs they play for the live audience during the ads are worth listening to. It is too bad that they are lost every night while the ads play on.

My belief rests in a higher morality of inclusion, one that forces people to respect all moralities so long as there is no deleterious effect on people.

Is it not a common custom, for example, for humans to transform the heads and hides of animals such as bears and tigers into mantle-pieces or rugs for decoration? Similarly, have we not harvested the fur of minks and the tusks of elephants for decorating ourselves?

THE ARTS

THEATER REVIEW

'Miss Saigon' Travels with Choppers and Cadillacs

By Joel M. Rosenberg
STAFF REPORTER

Miss Saigon is billed as "The Classic Love Story for Our Time." If you know anything about the plot, you know that something's wrong—either the statement, or our time.

One of the most elaborate musicals in history, Miss Saigon opened at the Wang Theatre last Wednesday, and will play until February 28. And like most big things that make their way around here, it's worth seeing, although it certainly isn't flawless.

The story goes like this: Chris (Brien Keith Fisher) is an American soldier in Vietnam who falls in love with Kim (Elizabeth Paw), a farm-fresh hooker turning her first trick. Like any "classic" love story, Chris can't get her out of the country, and when he returns to the states, he leaves her behind to bear a bastard son Tam (Shara Batson) he knows nothing about.

Starting over with a new life and new wife Ellen (Andrea Rivette), Chris often says "Kim" in his sleep and is awoken by nightmares of 'Nam. When he gets word about Tam he takes Ellen to Bangkok to find his past, only to decide once there that they'll financially support mother and child from the United States, and won't be taking Kim and Tam back any time soon. And here's the largely unfulfilling ending: She kills herself to force them to take Tam.

Fisher, backed by a hulking set of lungs but lacking the emotion expected from a vet returning East amid such circumstances, does a decent job as Chris. Given his homely wife Rivette, you almost wonder why he doesn't take a chance with Kim, nicely played by Paw. And seeing the three-year-old Batson, without any lines but with lots of charisma



JOAN MARCUS

Chris and Kim seem to be the happy couple in Miss Saigon.

for a little kid, you wonder why they at least don't rescue this adorable person who would

so greatly benefit from what America has to offer.

The idea of American idealism has an interesting twist in this show, beautifully exemplified by The Engineer (Joseph Anthony Foronda), who has an incidental yet leading role in the show as Kim's pimp/hustler who is a capitalist swamped in communism. Trying to make a buck wherever he can, he's the one who helped inform Chris of Tam by writing to the American embassy, seeing Tam as his ticket to the West. "A system that works," is how he praises the U.S. system when Chris actually shows up. He also calls America "mankind's playground," and sings the final show-stopper "The American Dream" along with kick-line and on-stage 1959 Cadillac that descends from the sky. Interestingly, it is in fact the capitalist American Dream that makes the triumphant set, including the Cadillac and the infamous computer-operated, life-sized helicopter (piloted by the dummy Virgil) economically feasible. Just an observation.

The Alain Boublil/Claude-Michel

Schönberg collaboration, of Les Misérables fame, moves along nicely, and has a good mix of singing and dancing. The set, in addition to being visually stunning, is cleverly designed to make changes seamless, in the Les Mis tradition. And the lighting is quite effective as a reflection of the mood, particularly during the moments of high action (like when the chopper descends).

But the production ultimately falls short, mostly because of the ending. It seems to me that they got bored of writing this story as time wore on, and they eventually decided how to wrap it up quickly. It misses the mark slightly with the pseudo-open ending, which comes quite abruptly. Since the characters are a bit underdeveloped, it lacks the bite that great stories have, and instead relies on the sights and sounds of the set and music to carry the show. While almost successful, another 20 minutes might have helped.

Overall, this touring cast of 43 is strong enough to fill the theatre, and the set incredible enough to see first-hand (it takes 17 trucks to move this show), that you should try to catch it while it's convenient. As far as it being a quintessential love story, I think that disregarding Kim's love for her son (which is a love story for any time), it's a poor commentary to call this foreign love triangle filled with broken hopes and dreams classic. It is, however, a classic musical.

Miss Saigon
through Saturday, February 28, 1997
The Wang Theatre
270 Tremont Street, Boston
Tickets \$15.00-\$65.00
available at the Wang Theatre box office and
through Ticketmaster, 931-2787.

MOVIE REVIEW

"The Sweet Hereafter" Is More Poem Than Movie

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

After a tragic bus accident rips through a small Canadian town, a crusading lawyer Mitchell Stephens (Ian Holm, from "Big Night" and "The Fifth Element") arrives to start a class-action suit to compensate the victims. This brief plot description is actually quite exhaustive — as far as the narrative line of "The Sweet Hereafter" is concerned. But what we have here is as far from the John Grisham adaptation du jour as possible. (Incidentally, it is also much better than anything of Grisham's oeuvre, not in the least because "The Sweet Hereafter" both eschews bombastic grandstanding, and takes its sweet time establishing many complex characters.)

This is a poem rather than a movie; four timelines (twice the number than in "The English Patient") weave their way through the fabric of this hypnotically dazzling picture. Don't you worry, though; the direction is highly lucid, and the movie is never confusing regarding events (it is with motivations, however). By fusing together remarkable cinematography of snow-bound landscapes with an ethereal score, the movie basically creates from scratch the world it operates in, a world both visually and aurally startling. In fact, I don't recall the music score playing such an important role in creating a film's universe since "Bladerunner," way back in 1982.

"The Sweet Hereafter" does not concern itself much with the plot (although there is an immaculately executed plot twist in the end—more on it below). It is more about the state of things, rather than any process, such as character development (we learn quite a lot about the cast, but none of them — with a sole notable exception — change at all), or even plot (four timelines means that each of them has limited time allotted to it). This, in a broad sense, is one of my two main problems with the movie. The cast is big and there are a lot of issues the movie is concerned with; but in its short running time (1:40), it shortchanges both the story developments and character studies.

On the other hand, looking for such things in this movie would probably be measuring it with the wrong yardstick; despite the fact that "The Sweet Hereafter" is based on the novel, I can't think of a more apt comparison than with poetry (there are rhythms aplenty in the visuals, narrative themes, and music). Notably, the metaphorical centerpiece is the poem "Pied Piper of Hameln," which sums together everything that is gained and everything that is lost by the characters (although I have to confess that using the text of this poem twice in the movie is too much of a good thing, and the metaphorical importance is clear, but overstated).

"The Pied Piper", by the way, brings me to the second problem; same problem that I had with last year's "Breaking the Waves" — while the execution is highly commendable, I find myself strongly disagreeing with the main philosophical idea. Additionally, the abovementioned tardy plot twist (which is obviously supposed to bring a sense of closure) in my opinion defies understanding and catharsis.

But the buildup can not be faulted. This movie cannot be accused of is psychological simplifications; some of the relationships between people are so complex that they require careful thinking to get to their core. It's entirely thanks to director Atom Egoyan (who won Grand Prix last year in Cannes for this film) and the actors that make the impact of "The Sweet Hereafter" immediate. Ian Holm is remarkable as not-really-an-ambulance chaser; and, as the ultimately strongest character, young actress Sarah Polley is perhaps the most understatedly intense screen presence this side of Christina Ricci. The mention of Ricci is not random at all; if there's a recent movie "The Sweet Hereafter" reminded me of most, it's "The Ice Storm." Both movies share a main theme, namely the parents connections to their children, setting (bleak midwinter), and the amount of emotion (mostly heart-wrenching pity for the character) which is elicited without any visible pulling on the viewers' strings.

CONCERT REVIEW

"Wicked Funny" Singers Give a "Pissah" Concert

By Joel M. Rosenberg
STAFF REPORTER

Massachusetts folk music is heavily dependent on being from Massachusetts to understand. Which is why "The 6th Annual Festival of Funny Songwriters" was funny to me, but hilarious to townies.

The concert, at the Somerville Theatre on January 10, featured the talents of four singer/songwriters, all from Mass. in some way. Put on by Songstreet Productions, the show opened with Peter Lehndorf (<http://signature-sounds.com/lehndorf.html>), hailing from East Longmeadow, Mass. (which was in fact also a song on his setlist). Lehndorf displayed some nice creativity, with "Everything Takes a Little Longer," a tune that has a few anecdotes illustrating how time speeds up, and "Marriage of Convenience," which tells the story of Heather and Billy, and how these 7-11 and Cumberland Farms clerks (respectively) got together. Lehndorf was just the opener, though.

Ratsy followed (<http://www.ratsy.com>). Except for her annoying condescending smile, which she displayed too frequently, her powerful voice filled the hall with all different stories; of her childhood ("Margy Nairs her Forearms," which promotes leaving her sister behind from the family vacation); of her opinions of men ("Don't Judge The Herd," actually a song that promotes individual guys); of sexual harassment ("Big Dudes in Polyester Suits," which doesn't promote guys in general); and even fast-food habits ("McDonald's," which is an outlet for her disappointment with said restaurant's change in their fish sandwich). She's weird, but entertaining.

Next was the star of the evening (despite his time slot at third) John Forster (<http://www.icu.com/johnforster/>). A musical genius, he has been described as a mix of George Carlin and Frank Zappa, and reminiscent of Tom Lehrer and Cole Porter at their best. Even Tom Lehrer said, "You don't need me anymore, you've got John Forster to kick around." Opening with "My Opening Number," which brings to mind "The Theme to Garry Shandling's Show," he quickly went into his "All-Purpose Holiday Carol," a beautiful amalgam of all the end-of-year celebration songs which pays homage to each, and also squeezes in some Harry Belafonte.

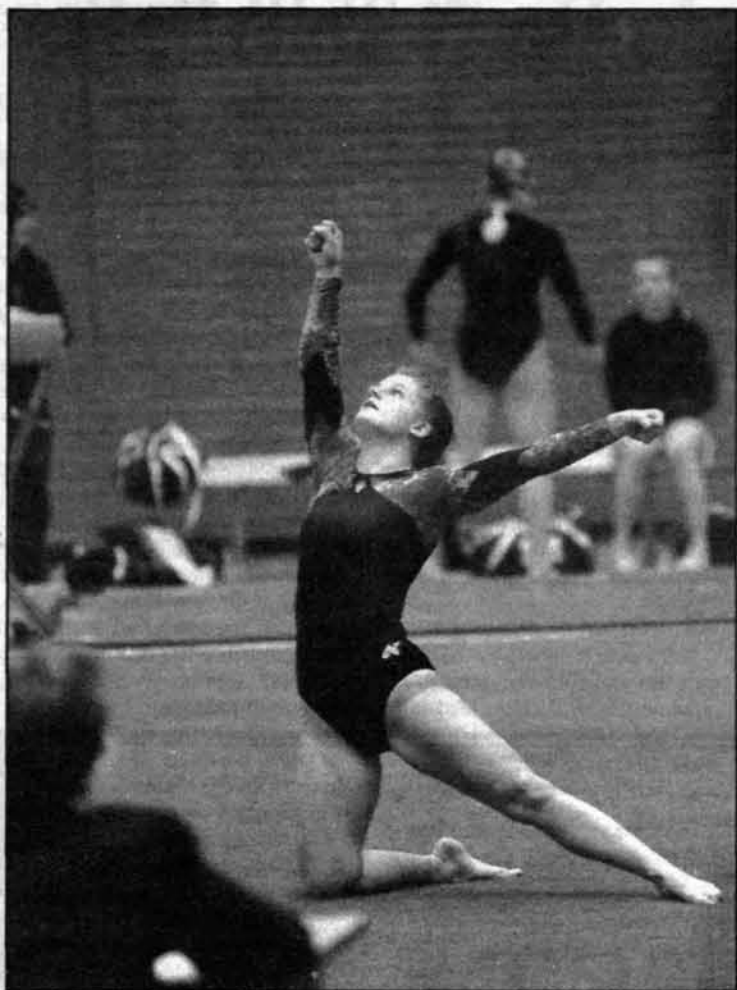
Switching to a toy piano, he prefaced his next few songs with a warning to parents, saying, "If they get it, they're old enough to hear it." He then sang a song about sex, and then about how his toddler was rejected from the "most prestigious Nursery School," which will necessarily destroy his future. An ingenious poem entitled "The Juice a la Seuss" gave a unique take on the Trial Of the Century, and "Mismatch Made in Hell" documented one of his failed relationships.

But the real highlights of Forster's performance were the brilliant Paul Simon "tribute" "Fusion," which was a total rip on Simon's steal-from-folk-and-claim-as-own composing style, and "Entering Marion," devilishly satirizing the unnecessarily large signs delimiting Massachusetts town lines by sexualizing the experience of "entering" each one, from Beverly to Lawrence to Athol. Pure genius. Unfortunately, I didn't understand his mostly Yiddish encore, but he said only about 20 percent of the audience would get it. Maybe next time.

The second half of this marathon show featured the last performer and local favorite Don White (who actually doesn't seem to have a web page). Like Lehndorf, White managed to get in a song with his town in the title ("I'm From Lynn, What Can I Say?"), along with a bevy of other songs that were quite entertaining, and mixed with background as well as Arlo did in December. "Rosco" told about the similarity between husbands and dogs, "Stupid" was about his kids, and "Project Girl" described his street-smart wife. The epic story entitled "The Shameful Ballad of Lisa, the Orchard Queen," described Don's dog, who was the object of puppy lust for many other pooches populating an apple grove in Washington state. Masterfully crafting the plot, he dressed his dog in briefs one day as a makeshift chastity belt, only to dispose of the underwear in his backyard, making it an aromatic trophy to the dogs who sniffed their way to it.

"The 7th Annual Festival of Funny Songwriters" will most likely again feature "wicked funny" singer/songwriters, and a whole bunch of Mass jokes. But chances are by then you'll have been here at least a year (and probably a lot longer), and it will be as hilarious to you as the performers intend. No matter what, it's a "pissah."

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MIT dates & deadlines

Upcoming student deadlines and other important Institute dates

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

Date	Who	What	Where
Monday, January 19, through Friday, January 23			
Mon 1/19	Everyone	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Holiday	
Tue 1/20	New grad students	New graduate student preregistration deadline (\$40 late fee)	SSC, 8-8600
Tue 1/20	All continuing students	Spring online preregistration deadline (\$75 late fee)	WebSIS; SSC, 8-8600; or E19-335, 8-6409
Tue 1/20	Students with outstanding financial charges	Final day to clear registration holds from fall term (\$100 fee for clearance after this date)	SSC, 8-8600
Noon, 1/20	Undergraduates	End of HASS-D lottery	WebSIS
Fri 1/23	Undergraduates	3rd qtr PE lottery begins	Athena: "add pelott" (ret) "xphedu &" (ret) E23-177, 3-1777
Fri 1/23	New transfer students	Medical report must be on file in Medical Department (\$80 late fee)	
Monday, January 19, through Friday, January 30			
Wed 1/28	New international graduate students	English Evaluation Test, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Room 10-250. No registration necessary.
Noon, Thurs 1/29	Undergraduates	3rd qtr PE lottery ends	Athena: "add pelott", (ret), "xphedu &" (ret)
4 p.m., Thurs 1/29	Freshmen	Three-part registration form, signed by advisor, due in SSC	Advisor, then SSC, 8-8600
Fri 1/30	New international students	ISO clearance necessary for registration	5-106, 3-3795
Fri 1/30	All students	Last day of IAP	
Fri 1/30	Students who missed the PE lottery or who want to add another PE class	PE late registration begins	W32-125, 3-4201
Mon 2/2	All students	Spring term registration deadline (\$40 late fee)	DuPont gym, W31, Mass. Ave entrance 20-140B, 3-3039
Mon 2/2	Seniors graduating in June 1998	Deadline to complete Phase II writing requirement (\$40 late fee). See 2/6 deadline.	
Tues 2/3	All students	First day of spring term	
Thur 2/5	Undergraduates	Beginning of 3rd qtr PE	W32-125, 3-4201
Fri 2/6	All students	Signed reg forms due (\$40 late fee; \$75 after 4/10)	SSC, 8-8600; or E19-335, 8-6409
Fri 2/6	Juniors	Deadline for HASS concentration proposal form (\$40 late fee)	14N-408, 3-4441
Fri 2/6	Seniors graduating in June 1998	Deadline to file HASS concentration completion form (\$40 late fee)	14N-408, 3-4441
Fri 2/6	Seniors graduating in June 1998	Deadline to complete PE requirement or submit petition (\$40 late fee)	W32-125, 3-4291

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

MIT Attacks 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Policy

By Frank Dabek
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT has filed a friend of the court brief in support of a case which has the potential to overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy towards homosexuality in the military, which conflicts with MIT's policy of non-discrimination.

The brief was filed before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Lieutenant Colonel Jane Able v. United States of America* by the law firm of Palmer and Dodge, LLP, which represents the Institute. The brief argues in favor of upholding a lower court decision which declared the "don't ask, don't tell" policy currently in use by the U.S. military to be unconstitutional.

MIT is hoping to find a permanent solution to reconcile its non-discrimination policy, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orienta-

tion, with that of the armed forces, which calls for openly homosexual individuals to be discharged from the military.

Currently, ROTC students who are discharged from the military as a result of their sexual orientation are guaranteed an MIT grant equal to their ROTC scholarship under an interim policy released last year.

MIT organizes, funds brief

"MIT has been the active party" in the creation of the brief and in soliciting other schools in support of the brief, said Jeffrey Swope, a partner at Palmer and Dodge and a co-author of the brief. "MIT is bearing the cost" involved in preparing the brief, he said.

The brief was filed on behalf of the American Council of Education, which represents over 1,700 colleges and universities. Several educational

associations, encompassing over 1,000 other schools, were also named.

The lower court in *Able v. U.S.* declared the "don't ask, don't tell" policy to be an "unconstitutional violation of equal protection under the Fifth Amendment ... [and] of the freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment," the brief said.

The schools involved, including MIT, state in the brief that they are interested in the case because the "[don't ask, don't tell] policy interferes with the ability of colleges and universities to offer ROTC programs in conjunction with the Department of Defense without violating their own policies against discrimination."

Case could end current policy

If the case is upheld by the appellate court and not overturned by the Supreme Court, it could lead to an

end of the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The lower court decision "makes the policy invalid," Swope said. "'Don't ask, don't tell' becomes null."

At that point it would be up to the military to decide if they desired to implement another policy limiting openly homosexual individuals from serving in the military. If the court's ruling is broad enough, however, it is possible that there may not be a new policy, Swope said.

In 1990, the faculty at MIT voted to condemn the then-ROTC policy, which they found to violate MIT's policy of non-discrimination. A five-year working group was later created to review the problem. Since then, MIT has implemented model and then modified ROTC programs as temporary measures until the military changes its policy.

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MITGroup Hopes To Reform Institute

By Jennifer Chung
STAFF REPORTER

Two MIT alumni have founded a nonprofit organization to study the undergraduate experience at the Institute and suggest changes to improve it.

The MIT Group for Research on the Undergraduate Psychological Experience (MITGroup), a nonprofit educational organization founded "for the research, dialogue, and analysis of the psychological effects of the undergraduate experience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology," began in December as the group calling itself "MIT Needs Accountability."

In December, the group placed an advertisement in *The Boston Globe* calling on the Institute to be more accountable with regard to alcohol policies on campus and the death of Scott S. Krueger '01.

The group's founders are J. Paul Kirby '92 and Christopher M. R. Rezek '99. Rezek is a member of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity and the head of the publicity relations committee of the Interfraternity Council.

Kirby, who was the head of the Undergraduate Association's Committee on Student Life during 1991 when it released its alcohol report, recently sued the Institute, the UA, and UA President Dedic A. Carter '98 to release several documents relating to that committee from its files.

"We created the group to make the MIT undergraduate experience more psychologically healthy," Rezek said in an e-mail speaking for the group. The founders of the group felt through their personal experiences and through observations of other schools that the MIT experience could be improved.

The group suspects that "the MIT undergraduate experience has for some time imposed on students needless psychological distress of a character, to a degree, and on a proportion of students not seen at comparable universities," according to the group's World Wide Web site at <http://www.themitgroup.com/>.

Over the month of January, the group hopes to survey undergraduates about their psychological expe-

riences at the Institute and suggest changes.

The group plans to continue gathering data through a comments section on their Web site. There has already been an overwhelming response of information, the group said.

However, the group is not yet ready to release the data it has collected regarding the undergraduate experience. "We are waiting until we can give a more focused presentation on what we have and will have," before releasing any results, Rezek said for the group.

"We don't want MITGroup to be seen as an 'outside' versus an 'inside' organization," said the group. "The community is the final judge" of whether the undergraduate experience is appropriate.

Support groups already exist

Neither Dean of Student Life Margaret R. Bates nor Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams said they knew many details about MITGroup, although both confirmed that they knew of its existence.

The Medical Department, counseling deans, Nightline, academic advising, Graduate Residence Tutors, and freshmen seminars are already in place and on-campus to help students have a healthy experience, Williams said.

"Still, it is also obvious that the MIT undergraduate education can be very difficult, psychologically and otherwise."

Williams pointed out that many of the difficulties students encounter are related to the fact that the Institute is an intense academic environment.

Additionally, Williams said that undergraduates universally shared some of the difficulties presented with the sudden differences between the high school and college environments. "All of us have to be realistic about how much the administration can do."

"If this group or any other group brings forward proposals intended to improve the overall quality of the MIT undergraduate experience, we would consider them seriously," Williams said.

Board Blasts Lack of Vigilance

Theta Chi, from Page 1

Following the incident, fraternity members voluntarily removed alcohol from the house.

Isolated nature creates problems

Despite testimony from both Timpe and LaPrade that the fraternity had not condoned the drinking, and testimony from Timpe that he felt the fraternity did not have the authority to do room searches, Rooney said something more should

have been done.

Given the timing of the incident, in the climate following the alcohol-related death of Scott S. Krueger '01, Rooney said "anyone from any fraternity should be highly vigilant." Fraternity members should have done more to insure that their house was devoid of alcohol, she said.


There "should be a certain amount of peer pressure" to not have alcohol within the fraternity, Rooney said.

Commissioner Daniel F. Pokaski

echoed Rooney's concerns, and expressed hope that the Institute would create policies to curtail these types of incidents in the future. "I think MIT is finally getting the message," he said.

After the November incident, Theta Chi voluntarily removed all alcohol from their house and took away Kreisberg's right to vote and hold office in the fraternity.

Further disciplinary action decisions are still being discussed, Bates said.



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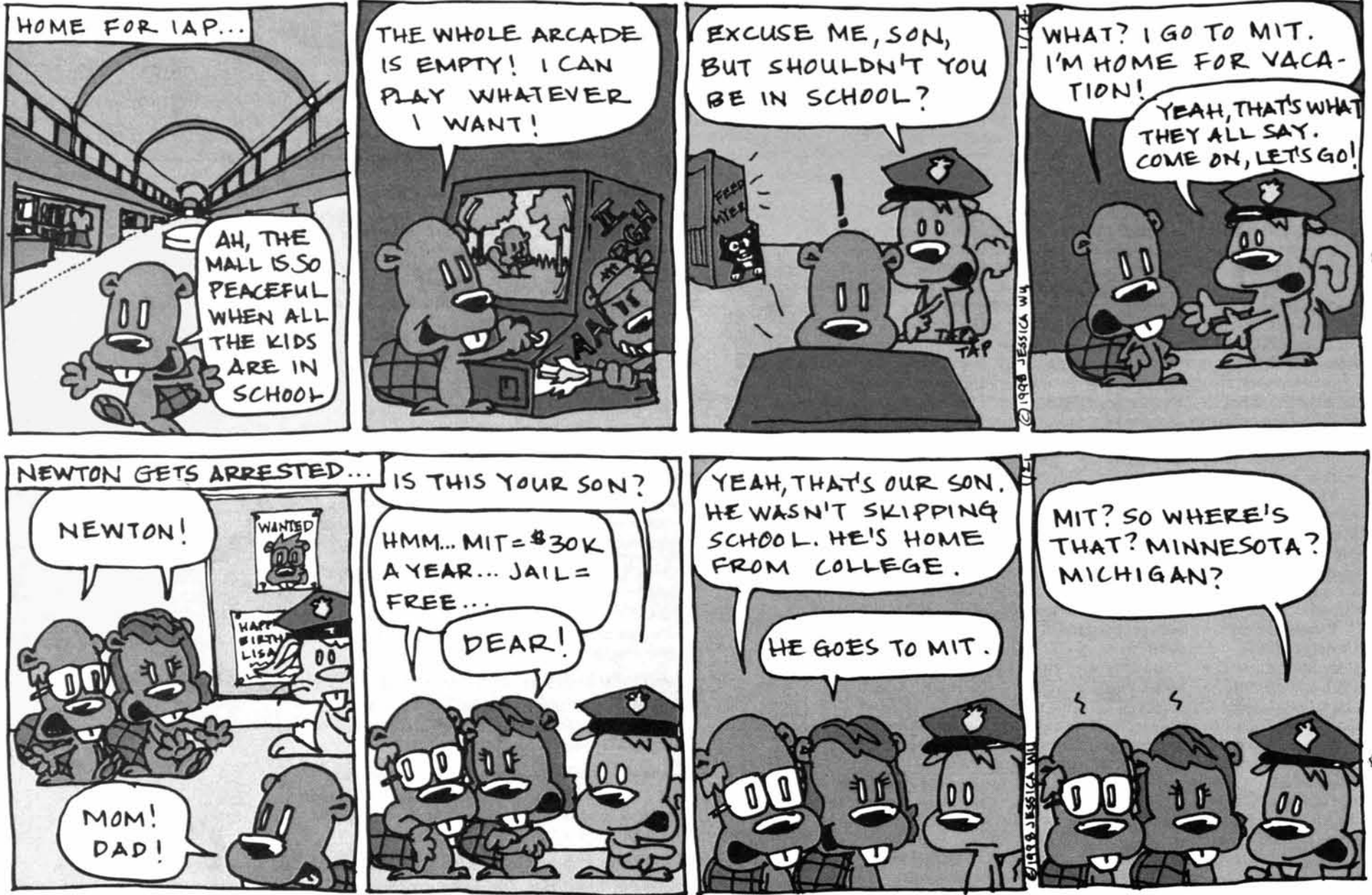
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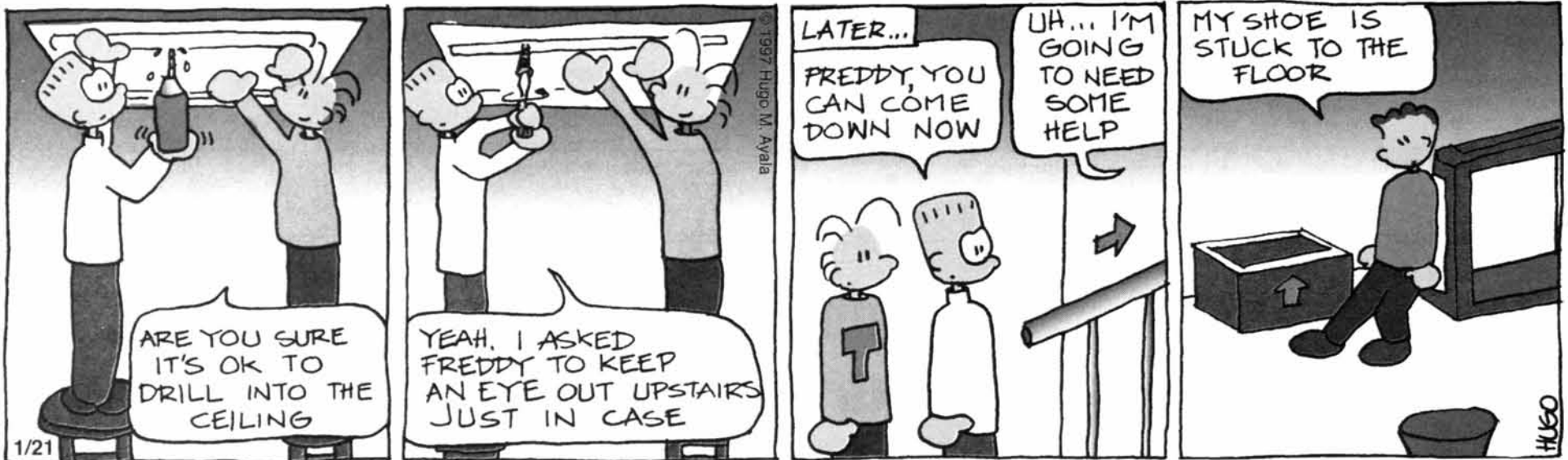
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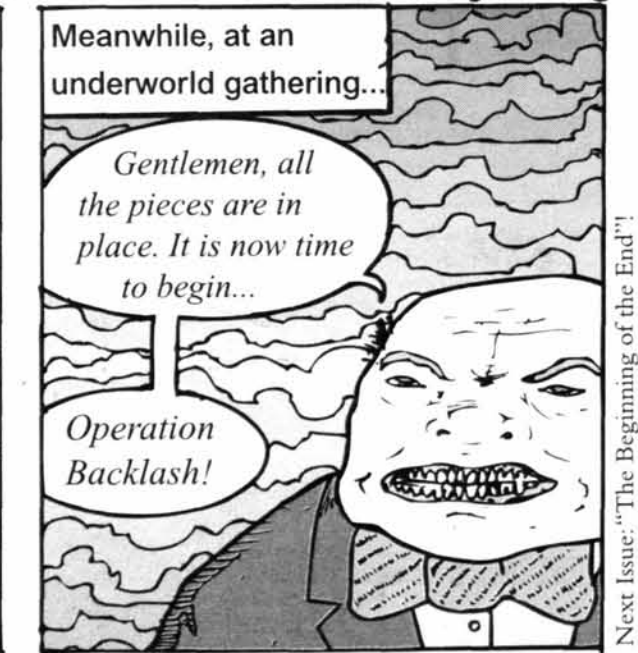
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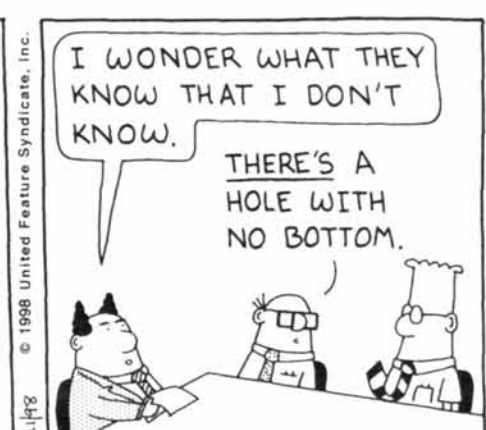
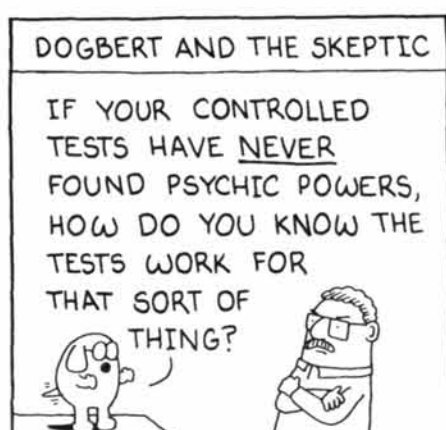
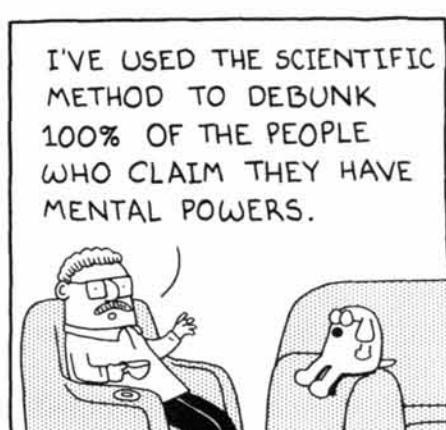
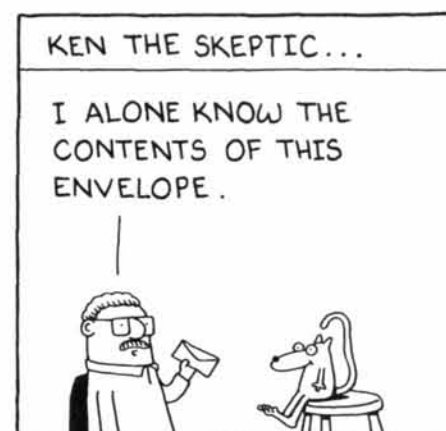
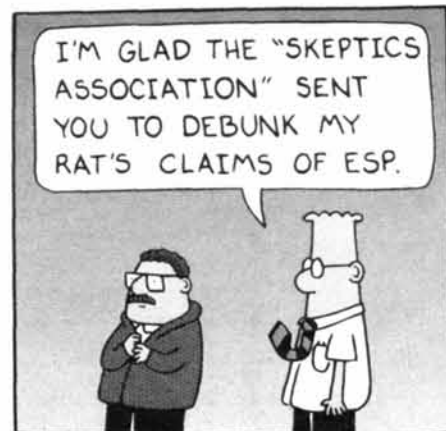
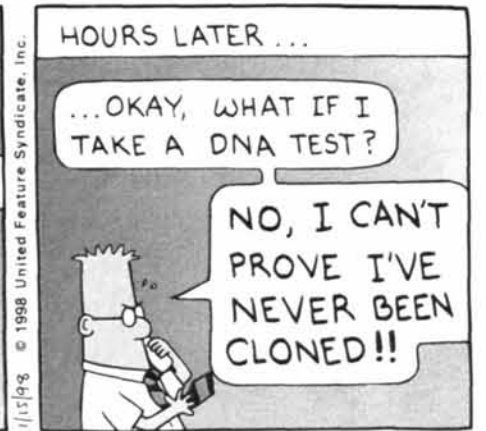
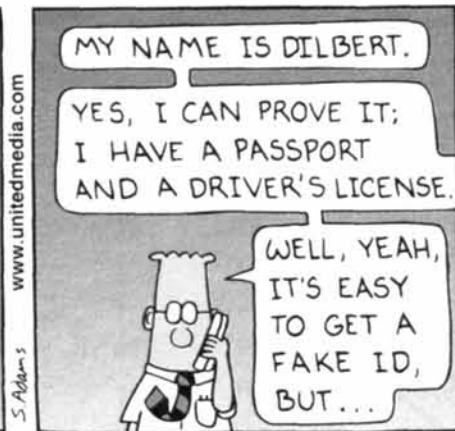
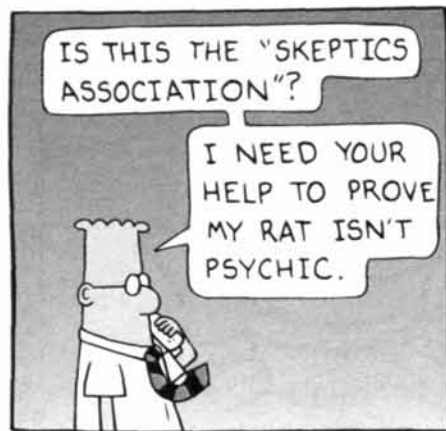
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by Zachary Emig



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GSC Meeting Minutes

The Graduate Student Council meeting on Jan. 14 focused on a joint resolution on student body diversity with the Black Graduate Student Association, a draft of which was presented by Vice President of the GSC Michelle K. McDonough G.

The draft emphasizes the importance of diversity and proposes to conduct a review of departmental admission processes to improve minority and female representation.

Comments at the meeting included suggestions to clarify the term "minority group" and to collect more statistics and review not only recruiting but retention. The resolution will be voted on at the next GSC meeting.

The orientation committee of the GSC presented a proposal to create a more entertaining and welcoming orientation for new graduate students. An effort is underway to accumulate the resources and volunteers to make the new plans feasible.

The GSC travel grant will be awarding \$4,000 to students attending academic conferences during the spring and summer terms. Successful applicants must come from departments that have GSC representatives.

SOURCE: GSC SECRETARY YANQING DU G

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MIT Will Establish 'Lines of Authority' for Incidents

Alcohol Policy, from Page 1

definition of "Institute funds" would include not only money held in MIT accounts but would also money held by residence halls, fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

The objective at the moment is to "get something in place that [people] can try on for size when [they] get back ... We can start conversations, but you don't want to set [policies] in stone right now," Bates said.

Policies to develop through term

"It's not the working assumption that you have a dry campus," Bates said, but it is important that MIT establish "lines of authority" and figure out who is responsible for making sure that MIT students drink legally and responsibly. "When Institute funds get involved that muddies the waters," she said.

As part of that process, MIT is revising its policy-making and disciplinary processes. Right now, the Institute tends to "put emphasis on the [actions of the] individual," Bates said. That emphasis may shift to include larger groups and include the "obligations of people on that hall [and the] responsibilities of graduate residence tutors and housemasters," she said.

In addition, MIT will begin to develop guidelines for alcohol waivers. Thus far, the Institute has been judging waivers on a case-by-case basis, a system which would prove increasingly difficult to maintain as time progressed. "We can only work on a case-by-case basis for so long" before getting buried, said Assistant Dean Katherine G. O'Dair.

Thus far, there have been only

two waivers of the interim policy for student groups, O'Dair said. The first was to the Lebanese club,

which held an event in Walker Memorial. Only people over 21 were allowed into the event and a

third party served drinks at a cash bar. The second waiver was granted

to the Japanese Association, which received permission to hold a ceremonial toast using sake.



Students take time during IAP to learn Tae Kwon Do from Raul Acevedo in the T-Club Lounge.

INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

Food Lab Conducts Inspection Of Trucks

Illnesses, from Page 1

A year ago, the Goosebeary truck was believed to be the cause of a dysentery outbreak affecting half a dozen students, apparently because "the temperature in one of the warming containers was not adequate," Diamond said.

However, until the recent reports of illness, no other cases had been reported, and subsequent inspections have not turned up any problems.

Additional tests pending

The Medical Department has arranged for Krueger Food Laboratories to inspect the food trucks at MIT on a monthly basis, with the first inspection yesterday, Diamond said. Results of that inspection will be available in a few days.

The food laboratory, which already inspects MIT's food service locations, is able to inspect more thoroughly than the tests by Cambridge inspectors, Diamond said.

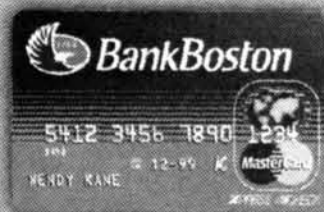
Those tests, performed immediately after the first cases were reported earlier this month, showed no evidence of unsanitary conditions or bacteria at the Goosebeary truck, said Joseph Nicoloro of Cambridge Inspectional Services. The truck had also passed an inspection in December.

Inspectors look at the food and meal storage temperatures and how the meals are handled, packaged, and served, Nicoloro said.

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January 28, 1998

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The European Career Fair '98 is organized by the MIT European Club in cooperation with the Kennedy School of Government European Club

Company exhibition in Rockwell Cage (W33)

**Company presentations in the
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in Mezzanine Lounge and Twenty Chimneys.

For complete information, please visit our web site:

<http://euroclub.mit.edu/career/>



JOEL S. FORD '98 (front) and Chuck T. Van Buren '98 compete in the 800-meter dash on Saturday in Johnson. MIT ran a close second to Williams College in the meet.

AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

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Women Gymnasts Take Second At Recent Home Competition

Gymnastics, from Page 20

Springfield College Pride and the Yale University Bulldogs. Everyone except for Marnie Bell '99 was shaky on the beam, likely due to the closeness of the previous meet. Bell hit her routine for a solid 8.55 performance.

All three teams struggled, as it was Springfield's and Yale's first meet of the year, but in the end, it was Yale that came out on top with a 175.375 followed by Springfield (167.525) and MIT (161.225). Springfield is one of MIT's main adversaries when it comes down to qualifying for the Division III National Championships. It's not quite as important what happens in the beginning of the year as what happens towards the end, and MIT will get another chance at Springfield during the conference championships in late February.

MIT has never beaten Springfield the national champions two years ago, and even though the

team counted many falls, it was encouraging to know that they could be within range of beating Springfield once they clean up their routines.

There were some other encouraging developments as five out of the six competitors improved their bars score from the prior meet. Kronschnabel threw her first ever front handspring front somersault on vault in competition and Ellefson unveiled her double back somersault on floor exercise.

MIT takes second in latest meet

In their third competition of the new year, the women bounced back from their mediocre performance in the previous meet to take second place in a four-team meet at home last Saturday.

Winning the meet was Southern Connecticut State University with a score of 179.5 followed by the Engineers (167.625), who recorded their first two wins of the year over Division III rivals University of

Wisconsin at Whitewater (163.30) and Wilson College (124.60).

Ellefson, the top performer for the Engineers, scored a 9.0 or better in each of the four events for an all-around mark of 36.25. Her all-around score was good enough for second place in the meet. Co-captain Rachel Van Buren '98 also turned in a solid performance in the all-around (32.30).

The gymnasts' performance on their weakest event, the uneven parallel bars, improved greatly from the first meet of the year, as all six members of the bar line-up increased their scores by 0.6 or more. Saturday's bar total (38.30) was over 4.5 points greater than the previous Saturday's (33.75).

For the second home meet in a row, over 200 people filled the stands of DuPont Gymnasium to watch the gymnasts compete. The next home meet will be on the first day of classes, Feb. 3, against Gustavus Adolphus College and Northeastern.

Broncos Must Have Phenomenal Play To Win ... Could Elway Be the Man?

Brocoum, from Page 20

loss against the 0-10 Colts earlier this year, the Packers have been playing very sound football.

The difference between the two teams is that Green Bay has to play a good game to win. The Broncos, on the other hand, have to have a phenomenal game, an amazing game, a game to be remembered for years to come, in order to win the Super Bowl.

Now, if there is any one on the planet besides Michael Jordan who can pull stuff like that off, I'd put my money on Elway. This Super Bowl is his game to win. He's going to have to come out hot and stay on the money the whole game. He needs to steal the game, maybe envision Marty Schottenheimer on the sidelines, whatever he has to do, but he has to have the game of his career. A classic tale of old veterans looking for one more good run.

Unfortunately, even Elway won't be enough to overcome the Packers, who dominate the football going both ways, offensively and defensively.

The pick, Super Bowl Sunday: Take the Packers in a convincing win. And take them to cover the spread, whatever the spread is by game time.

And take Budweiser in Bud Bowl X at halftime.

Season record: 102-59-1.

MIT Dances Well At Yale Competition

By Vikas Bhushan

TEAM MEMBER

The ballroom dance team competed at the sixth-annual Yale Regional Ballroom Dance Competition last Dec. 6. Many teams from universities in the eastern part of the country participated and the competition was stiff. However, MIT dancers made an impressive showing.

At the newcomer level, Isin Dalkilic '99 and Sumesh Kumar placed fifth in the International style chacha/jive event. Pubudu Wariapola G and Vikky Kheifets '00 placed fifth in the International style waltz/quickstep and third in both the American style waltz/tango and chacha/swing events.

Jennifer Hammock '98 and Stephen Gildea '87 placed third in the silver level International style foxtrot/tango event and made the final rounds in the gold level International style waltz/quickstep events. Feng Li '97 and Rong Zhong placed second in both the silver and gold levels of the American style waltz/tango/foxtrot three-dance event.

They also placed fourth in the silver level International style waltz/quickstep and foxtrot/tango events. Li and Wendy Luo G made the final rounds of the gold level International style samba/jive event.

Marta Lipinski G and Michael Posner took second in the open level American style waltz/tango/foxtrot three-dance event and won the viennese waltz. Posner and Hammock placed third in the gold level smooth events. Posner and Deirdre Pierotti took fourth in the open level rhythm events, while Posner and Geeta Sankappanavar '98 took fourth in the gold level rhythm events.

Posner also made final rounds in all of the gold level Latin events as well as the gold level International style foxtrot/tango event, dancing with Ling Liao from Northeastern University.

Lipinski and Michael Otero made the final rounds in all of the gold and open level standard events. Andreas Gast G and Karen Moksnes also made the final rounds of all the gold level standard events, as well as the open level International style viennese waltz.

The team's next competition will be hosted by Harvard University at the end of January.

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SPORTS

Although Tantalizingly Close, Men's Track Falls to Williams

By Jeff Billing

TEAM MEMBER

Last Saturday the men's track team walked up the steps of the Johnson Athletic Center to the indoor track to accomplish what no track team in New England has been able to do in the last seven years — beat Williams College.

Last year, MIT travelled to Williams, fought an epic battle with the Ephs, but came home with a heart-wrenching one point defeat. This year, high-scorers Mike Parkins '99 and co-captain Ravi Sastry '98 were set on avenging that loss.

The Beavers will have to wait another year, however, as Williams eked out a close win.

Parkins leads Beavers

Parkins got the team going by winning the first running event, the 1,500-meter race, outkicking Williams' three best runners. Meanwhile, Sastry was busy winning his first two events, the 55-meter hurdles and the long jump, jumping just short of 22 feet.

While the veterans were doing

their part, Todd Rosenfield '01 made his mark, winning the 400-meter race in a blazing 53 seconds.

The meet was living up to its billing — midway through, the score was Williams 140, MIT 139. In the second half, MIT put on a little extra speed, starting with Joel Ford '98, who lead the entire 800-meter race, bringing Ken Walker '01 and co-captain Chuck Van Buren '98 with him, giving the team first, second, and fourth, respectively, and the lead over Williams.

In the very next event, Parkins returned for the second of his three events to win the 1000-meter race, again outkicking two of Williams' best runners. Following those three, Sohail Husain '98 came in a clutch fourth place, recording key points for the team.

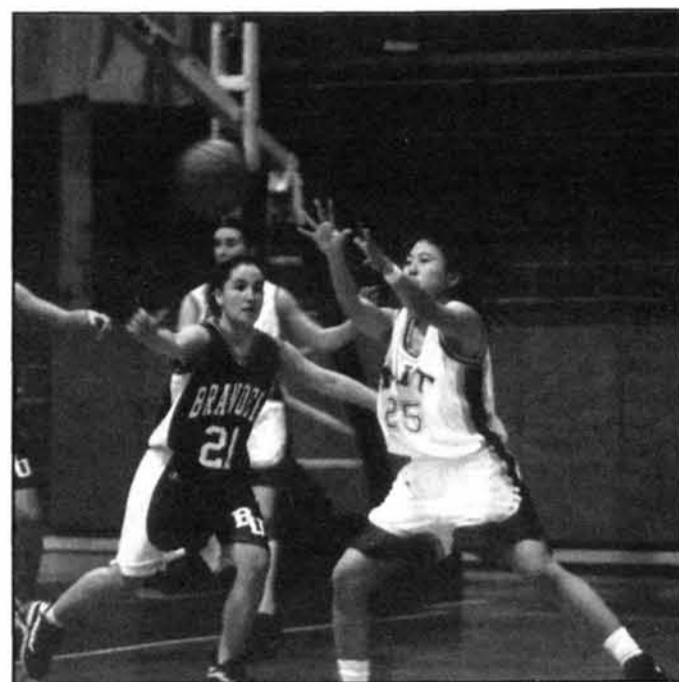
Williams pulls ahead

The Beavers' lead was short-lived, however, as Williams flexed their muscles with three events and two relays left. The Ephs took advantage of the Beavers' weaknesses, excelling in the 200-meter race and the high jump.

In the 5000-meter race, however, the Beavers came back, briefly. Chris McGuire '00 set the pace early, but was forced to use his outstanding kick to overcome Williams' top runner, and took second in the race. Following him were Parkins in fourth, completing an amazing triple including Mark Strauss '01 and Ed Keehr '01, who kicked past a Williams runner in the final 400 meters.

With only the 4x100- and 4x800-meter relays left, Williams was leading by two, meaning that to win, the Beavers were going to have to win both the relays. It was here that Williams finally pulled away. Both relays were fought till the end, but in both, the Williams runners were just too fresh and strong, and once again they were victorious.

The final score was 230-222, Williams. Sastry had competed in six events, Parkins three, leading a core of Beavers who ran multiple events. Despite the pain of the loss, it will doubtlessly throw more fuel into the fire, and when the Beavers next meet the Ephs, that fire will be raging stronger than ever.



Lisa Y. Hwang '99 receives a pass in MIT's 71-66 victory over Brandeis University last Tuesday night in Rockwell Cage.

Women Gymnasts Compete in 3 Meets

By Karen Ovalle

The women's gymnastics team, after three weeks off for finals and vacation, came back to compete in three meets over eight days. Despite strong performances, the team lost the first two meets. However, the gymnasts placed second in the final meet, a tough competition at home against three other schools.

The first meet was Jan. 10 against the University of Bridgeport, Conn., a Division II team, and the newly reinstated Division I program at Northeastern University.

As expected, Northeastern won the meet with a score of 171.10 followed closely by Bridgeport (170.75) and MIT (164.75). MIT was hindered by the absence of two of last year's consistent performers. Nevertheless the team on the floor, led by Sonja Ellefson '01, performed very well for a first meet.

"In my eyes, we won the meet," said coach Eduardo Ovalle. "I often tell my team that whoever wins beam wins the meet, and although the total score was not in our favor, we did win beam as an event against a Division II and a Division I school

[MIT 43.6, UB 42.35, NU 42.10] so I am very pleased with our performance."

Ellefson broke the MIT record on beam with a 9.35 in her first ever meet at the Institute (previous record: 9.3). Her beam score, as well as her vault (9.1) and all-around (36.15) were personal bests. Ellefson was top scorer in the entire meet for beam, floor exercise (9.25), and the all-around.

Other notable performances came from co-captain Alli Christenson '98 on vault, who scored a personal best 9.0, and Nann Kronschnabel '00, who stuck a brand new beam routine with a personal best 9.0 as well.

Many of the returning gymnasts unveiled new routines because of the changes in the code of points that gets revised every four years. This year's code is much tougher than the past, and scores are expected to be lower than last season's record-breaking year.

Mediocre showing at Springfield

On Jan. 13, the gymnasts traveled to Springfield to take on the

Gymnastics, Page 19

"Broncos Win" Sounds Great, But an NFC Win Is Inevitable



Chris Brocoun
SPORTS COLUMNIST

A WORD ON SPORTS

There are a few certain things in life: death, taxes... and the NFC winning the Super Bowl. I am an avid football fan and all I ask for is a good game. This year has the makings of a historic, fairy tale finish.

Denver is already an 11-point underdog even with the veteran comeback kid John Elway at the reins. I mean, you gotta love the thought: Denver coming back as Elway gives a clinic on how to run the two-minute drill. Marching down the field, fans going crazy, millions of viewers watching glued to the TV to watch the game, not the commercials, for once.

"Eleven seconds left, Elway hikes the ball, rolls right out of the pocket evading Reggie White and passing back across his body off one leg... and he completes to Shannon Sharpe diving across the middle. Touchdown! The Broncos win, the Broncos win!" Unfortunately, that's not gonna happen, and here's why.

The Broncos have somehow manage to defy all odds getting to the Super Bowl so far. They wrecked Jacksonville, then barely beat the Chiefs and the Steelers. It is the last two games that worry me. Denver has proven all year that they can score some points. Between Elway's passing and Terrell Davis's

rushing, the Broncos have shown they can get theirs, although they did falter recently and have some trouble scoring, only 14 against K.C. and going scoreless in the second half against Pittsburgh.

The big problem is the defense. The K.C. Chiefs were in the midst of a quarterback controversy when they lost to Denver and just didn't quite have their offense together. Yet they still almost won that game. And Pittsburgh... let's face it, beyond Bettis, the Pittsburgh offense is about as reliable as a 1982 Chrysler K-car. Kordell Stewart is a first year quarterback, and let's just say he still has a lot to learn. However, he did lead the Steelers back from 24-14 in the second half to finish the game 24-21 and almost put the Steelers in a position to win the game. Now if the Broncos have had a little trouble with Kordell Stewart and Elvis Grbac, I shudder to think what Brett Favre is going to do to their secondary.

Broncos need a miracle

Favre, Dorsey Levens and the rest of the Packers' offense must be drooling at the thought. They are one of the most finely tuned machines in the NFL. They dissected Tampa Bay and then proceeded to thrash the Niners. For some reason, it seems that people have forgotten that these Packers are the defending Super Bowl Champions, don't expect them to relinquish that stature without a hell of a fight. With the exception of one absolutely ridiculous

Brocoun, Page 19

UPCOMING HOME EVENT

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