

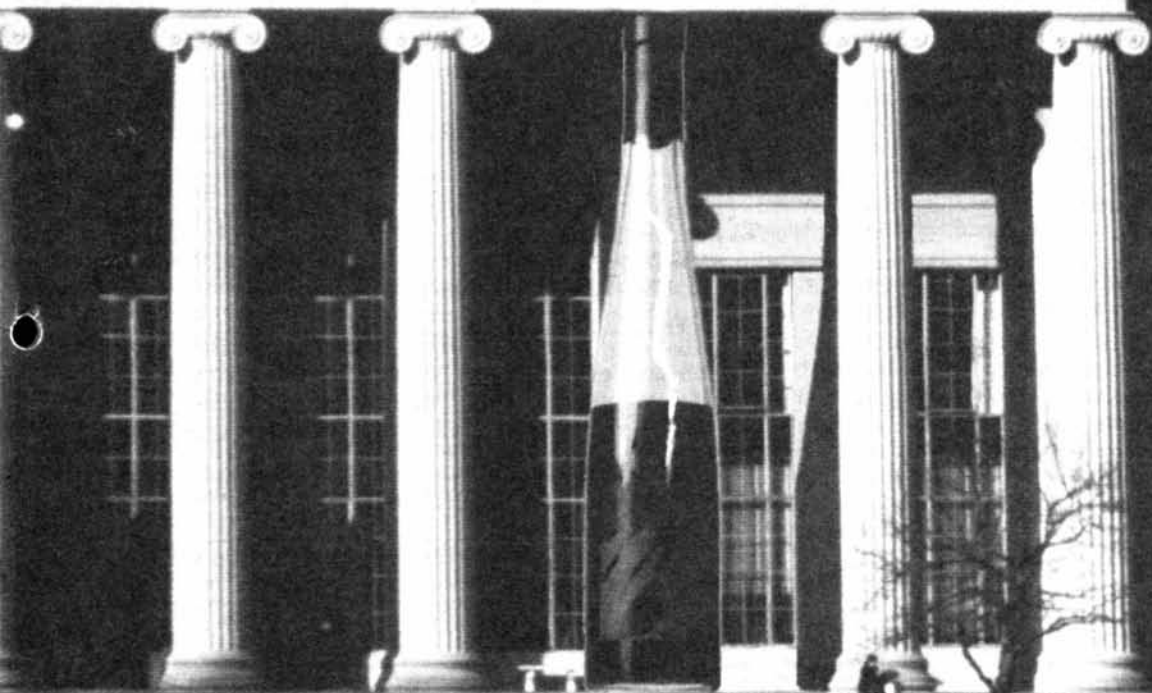
The Tech
Established 1881

Volume 117 — 1997

MCMXVI

YEAR IN REVIEW

STITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



From the Editor

Over the past decade or so, incoming Editors in Chief of *The Tech* have used these few inches near the front of the Year in Review to sift through the uncertainties, successes, and failures of the previous year and come up some sort of theme that captures the essence of the year and makes it memorable. Usually this is an extraordinarily hard job because it involves sifting through mountains of old stories looking for obscure metaphorical connections. That is not true of this year. The events of the fall, and the discussion that accompanied them, have left me with a couple of ready-made themes, and that makes me nervous.

The administration chipped in the theme *responsibility*. It's been used in contexts varying from lines of responsibility, where it denotes whose necks are on the line if something bad happens, to personal responsibility, where it indicates that the person whose neck is on the line is the person who breaks the rules. It's a theme that makes sense given the context in which most administrators operate: they feel that they are responsible, morally, if not legally, for students' well being.

The student body contributed themes like *freedom* and *rights*. The contexts they tend to be used in are slightly more elusive, but they are no weaker. One could see hints of these larger themes in the debate about freshman housing: Students felt that it was their

right to choose whether they lived on campus or off and resented the possibility of having that choice made for them. One could also see hints of it in the continuing series of alcohol violations. Students felt that they should have the freedom to choose what to put in their bodies. These themes, too, make sense in the context in which most of us operate: We got admitted to MIT on the basis of academic skill and individual choice is very important to us.

What makes me nervous is that as we enter the new year we find these themes conflict. Administrators no longer trust students' ability to work without limits because it was that freedom that resulted in the death of a freshman. MIT students don't trust administrators because the two most visible attempts to impose restrictions on the student body — the faculty resolution proposing that all freshmen be housed on campus and the interim alcohol policy — turned out to be unmitigated disasters. I'm not sure if there is a good way to resolve this conflict, but I think that both sides need to recognize that it needs to be resolved. Perhaps that recognition will sow the seeds for something more lasting.

Cover design by
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Debate, Change Follow Death of Fiji Freshman

By Frank Dabek

Scott S. Krueger '01, a freshman pledge of Phi Gamma Delta, died on Sept. 29 after spending three days in an alcohol-induced coma. He was 18 years old.

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 26, Campus Police officers found Krueger unconscious at the Fiji house, located at 28 The Fenway in Boston. The officers arrived at the fraternity shortly before midnight and found Krueger in his basement room at 12:12 a.m. The officers called 911 and the Boston Police and Fire Departments responded. The incident report filed by the Boston Police said that "several empty alcohol bottles and fresh vomit [were] observed in [the] victim's room."

Krueger had a blood alcohol level of 0.41 percent when he arrived at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Robert M. Randolph, senior associate dean for students and undergraduate education, said that Fiji pledges had just learned who their big brothers were and "were celebrating with alcohol." The question of whether this was a fraternity event or an informal one remains unresolved. Most of the information about that night is not being released because of the ongoing police investigation and grand jury proceedings.

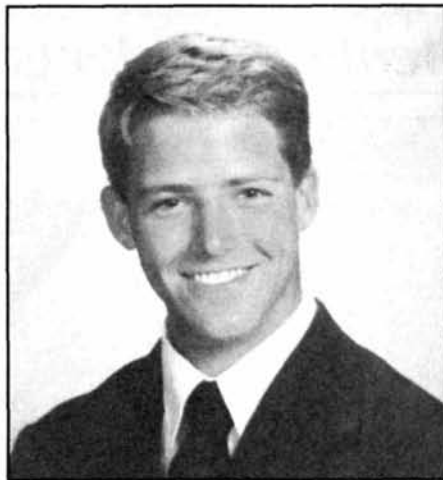
Immediately after the incident, both MIT and the national Phi Gamma Delta fraternity suspended Fiji. The fraternity's ultimate fate here is still uncertain because MIT will take action only after the criminal investigation concludes.

Residence governments ban alcohol

After Krueger was hospitalized groups began to re-evaluate their alcohol policies. The Interfraternity Council made sweeping changes — unanimously passing a resolution which stated that all fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups would "voluntarily cancel all events in which alcohol is involved until all FSILG and IFC risk management policies have been reviewed." "We have the commitment of the FSILGs to make this review possible," said Iddo Gilon '98, then the president of the IFC. The review led to a new alcohol policy incorporating stricter punishments, which was approved by the IFC on Nov. 12.

The Dormitory Council also agreed to

voluntarily ban alcohol at all official functions. "Hopefully we can resolve this and come up with new policies that are beneficial



COURTESY OF MIT NEWS OFFICE

to students and to the administration," Dormcon President Ashesh Shah '98 said at the time. The Dormcon ban was not implemented very quickly or completely because of communications problems between house presidents and initial reluctance of some houses to accept the ban. Eventually, all the dormitories agreed to uphold the ban, however. The ban was rescinded after it superseded by the administration's interim alcohol policy.

Administration charts new course

President Vest began to consider new campus-wide alcohol policies shortly after Krueger's death. In press conferences attended by national media organizations, Vest announced plans to restrict the use of alcohol, build more on-campus housing for undergraduates, and begin a comprehensive campus discussion of alcohol usage.

"It is my personal opinion that the most important issues we are discussing are binge drinking and underage drinking," he said. Vest called October a time to come together on the issue alcohol and to make headway on new policy implementation. The discussion began on a promising note, but started to sputter out as the Institute was buffeted by several more alcohol incidents and thrust into a larger debate about how it treats and houses

freshmen.

To push the debate along Vest created a student-faculty seminar on binge drinking chaired by Professor of Biology Phillip A. Sharp and Chief of Pediatrics and Student Health Services Mark. A. Goldstein. Four students were named to this group, which became the working group on binge drinking in mid-November.

According to Goldstein, the group is currently meeting weekly to develop an educational program on binge drinking. We're "not trying to reinvent the wheel...; we're not sure the wheel is there yet," he said. Right now the working group is consulting with local and national experts on the subject and plans, among other things, to bring a prominent, but as yet unnamed, speaker to campus.

While the group's prime mission is to develop an educational program which may include open seminars, the working group may also suggest policy changes. "Some policy or some procedure may need to be changed," Goldstein said. Sharp called education and policy "not totally separable," while still asserting that the group's main thrust was in education.

While the working group pressed ahead to develop long term plans, a three person ad-hoc administrative committee studying alcohol policies dealt with shorter term problems and released a report recommending sweeping policy changes. This group, chaired by Associate Provost Phillip L. Clay, recommended extending Vest's original ban to prohibit the use of Institute funds to purchase alcohol for events where anyone under 21. The group also called for a much broader definition of the term "Institute funds," expanding it to include department, student group, dormitory, and FSILG funds. The report's recommendations, however, have yet to become official policy and the current state of alcohol policy remains in flux.

Alcohol policy overshadowed

The debate's initial focus on alcohol quickly shifted to housing, in large part due to a sense of the faculty motion proposed by Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Steven Chorover. The motion asked MIT to move all freshmen to on-campus housing starting beginning in the 1998 academic year. Chorover eventually backed down and the motion changed to a softer set of requests calling for increased involvement by faculty in student life and a review of housing policy.

In the midst of the housing debate a committee chaired by J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75, professor of ocean engineering, proposed a


number of changes to Residence and Orientation Week. R/O was re-christened Orientation and Residence Week, and, in a later revision, just Orientation as the administration scrambled to save face while maintaining a housing system which depended on a fraternity system under attack.

The committee also suggested restructuring rush to allow more time between when bids were given and when they could be accepted. These changes, as well as the proposed undergraduate dorm, were designed to

make rush a less stressful experience for freshmen.

The events of late September did not go unnoticed by the community of Boston or the nation. National media organizations descended on the Institute, and the local government reconsidered municipal alcohol regulations. The City Councils of both Boston and Cambridge held sessions reviewing the issue of underage drinking. The Boston Licensing Board took the most active role of any agency, pressing Fiji on several licensing

violations, and eventually suspending Fiji's dormitory license. Many of the displaced brothers and pledges of Fiji have been housed on campus, some in converted MacGregor House lounges. In all, 23 members of Phi Gamma Delta have been moved on campus.

Krueger died four months ago. The changes imposed after the actions of Sept. 26, however, are still causing shockwaves through the MIT community and it may be years before stability returns to MIT. 

Other Alcohol Incidents in 1997

By Brett Alrschul

Several other alcohol-related incidents followed the death of Scott S. Krueger '01. On Oct. 10, four underage members of Zeta Psi attempted to purchase a keg of beer. State officials, who were tailing the delivery truck, caught Francis R. Godwin '01, a minor, when he showed false identification. Although the Cambridge Police and the Campus Police were on the scene to assist the Massachusetts Alcohol Beverages Control Commission, no students were arrested or charged at the time. MIT responded to the incident by banning all alcohol from the house and requiring that the fraternity dismantle their tapping system. This incident helped lead to the establishment of Cambridge's "Cops in Shops" program.

On Nov. 15, Marie A. Figueredo, an 18-year-old freshman at Boston University was hospitalized for alcohol poisoning after reportedly drinking seven shots of vodka at Theta Chi. Figueredo was at the fraternity with two female friends from BU and Jason F. Kreisberg '99, a member of Theta Chi. The four left the house to go dancing, but Figueredo became ill in their cab and they decided to take her back to BU. A security guard at the entrance to Warren Towers, her dormitory, stopped them and, after seeing her condition, called an ambulance and the BU police. Figueredo was taken to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center where she was treated and released. The BU campus police contacted the Boston Police to report the infraction. The Boston Police responded and conducted an investigation of Theta Chi, later citing the fraternity for serving alcohol to a minor. The Boston Licensing Board placed Theta Chi on probation as a result of the incident.

In the early hours of Dec. 6, an 18-year-old female MIT freshman was taken to the Medical Center for alcohol poisoning after reportedly drinking at Sigma Phi Epsilon. Several of her friends decided she needed medical attention after she returned to her room in Baker House at about 2 a.m. in an intoxicated state. They called the Campus Police, who escorted her to the Medical Center and informed administrators. MIT has suspended Sig Ep while it investi-



STACEY BLAU—THE TECH

Several underage Zeta Psi brothers were caught purchasing alcohol with a fake ID as part of a sting operation coordinated by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission.

gates the incident.

Late in the evening of Jan. 10, the Campus Police responded to an anonymous tip that underage students were drinking at a party being held in Bexley Hall. The Campus Police arrived to discover 18 underage students attending a party in the basement where alcohol was being served. The police took the students' names and referred them to the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education for possible disciplinary action.

Although they received less attention, there were also a few alcohol-related incidents before Krueger's death. On Saturday, Jan. 11 of last year, students found a Theta Delta Chi junior intoxicated in the kitchen of Baker House. He was treated at the Medical Center and released. On Sunday, Feb. 16, William Alex Goodwin '97, then the president of Lambda Chi Alpha, was hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft in the fraternity house. Police reports said that he had been drinking.

Policy Changes Aim to Reduce Alcohol Use

By Brett Altschul

In the wake of the sudden death of Scott S. Krueger '01 the Institute moved to restrict the purchase and use of alcohol on campus. The changes forced format changes in most parties held on and off campus and threw student groups' alcohol policies into doubt.

Student government groups took immediate action, even before Krueger's death on Monday, Sept. 29. Earlier that day, both the Dormitory Council and the Interfraternity Council voted to suspend the use of alcohol at dormitory and IFC functions, respectively. The administration took less drastic action: Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams instructed freshman advisers to talk about drinking in their seminars.

As events heated up, MIT began to take more concrete action. On Wednesday, Oct. 1, President Charles M. Vest held a press conference where he announced that the Institute would conduct a total review of alcohol use. "It is my personal opinion that the most important issues we are discussing are binge drinking and underage drinking," Vest said at the conference. He announced that student groups and departments could no longer use Institute funds to purchase alcohol for any event at which people under 21 were present.

At his press conference, Vest also announced the creation of a joint faculty-student committee to study all aspects of alcohol use on campus. He announced that Professor of Biology Phillip A. Sharp, a Nobel laureate and head of the biology department, would be one of the co-chairs of the committee. Two weeks later Vest announced that the other co-chair would be Mark A. Goldstein, Chief of Pediatrics and Student Health Services. Although Vest said in his press conference that the month of October would be dedicated to discussing alcohol, the other members of the committee were not named until Nov. 13.

On the following Friday, the national organization of Phi Gamma Delta, Krueger's fraternity, announced that Fiji would be totally dry by July, 1, 2000, following the lead of Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta, who announced similar plans on Mar. 1. Although the fraternity had been consid-

ering the ban for some time, Krueger's death speeded its acceptance, said William Martin, a spokesman for the national fraternity.

IFC adopts new regulations

In mid-November, after a short hiatus caused by a sharp debate on housing, alcohol discussion began anew. On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the president's council of the IFC approved major changes to the way that the IFC regulates parties and alcohol. The changes were designed to "provide a safe environment at MIT... where we could allow people over 21 to drink," said John M. Bustamante '99, the chairman of the committee that drafted the policy changes.

The new rules required that all new member events be entirely alcohol-free. They also mandated that every fraternity, sorority, or independent living group have an individual in charge of creating a safe environment for members and guests: the risk management chair and safety officer. The person holding the position would be responsible for creating and enforcing a risk management policy for the living group.

The new rules brought other changes as well. The new policies placed specific limits on how alcohol could be served at parties: events with alcohol would need to be either "bring your own bottle" or managed by a third-party vendor. The new rules also stated that no FSILG could purchase alcohol out of its treasury and that no houses could have tap systems for serving alcohol. The rules further curtailed the amount of alcohol that guests could bring to a BYOB party. Only beer and alcohol would be accepted, and no more than six 12 oz. containers could be checked in exchange for drinks.

The new IFC regulations also mandated that party monitors must be present at events with alcohol. The monitors would need to be at least 21 years old and could not be undergraduates. In addition, the party monitors could not be affiliated with the FSILG unless the number of people at the party is less than the total number of members in the FSILG. Most parties would require that at least two monitors be present at all times.

Compiled by David D. Hsu and Jennifer Lane

January 1

MIT unveils a redesign of its official World Wide Web site at <http://web.mit.edu>.

8

The number of early action applicants for the Class of 2001 swells to 1,900, a 9 percent increase from the previous year. A total of 524 students — or 27 percent of the total applicant pool — are admitted early.

It is announced that an expanded Student Services Center will replace the Fishbowl Athena cluster.

11

A Theta Delta Chi junior is found passed out in the Baker House kitchen. The unidentified student is taken to the Medical Center where he is treated and later released.

13

Campus Police arrive at the scene of a fatal crash of an MBTA bus into the Charles River, almost directly in front of Killian Court. The driver, Edward Bowman, 45, was killed.

14

The housing and residential life re-engineering team releases its final report recommending better communication within the residential system. While the team does not make a concrete recommendation to merge the Office of Residence and Campus Activities with the Department of Housing and Food Services, it suggests that the two work more closely together.

15

Controversial author Charles Murray PhD '74 speaks at the Tang Center about his new book, *What It Means to Be a Libertarian*. Students protest the event by posting and handing out flyers. Murray is best known as a co-author of *The Bell Curve*.

20

Forty MIT students attend the Inauguration of President Bill Clinton in Washington, D.C. as part of a trip sponsored by the MIT College Democrats.

Finally, the new rules stiffened the penalties for violations, using a "three strike" system. After one violation, an FSILG would lose its certification and the right to hold alcoholic events. A second violation would force the house to become entirely alcohol-free. The third strike would prevent the FSILG from housing any freshmen the next year. The strikes would be reset at the end of each academic year.

The new rules were hotly debated before finally being adopted. The final vote on the motion was 21 in favor with 9 opposed and 8 abstaining. Iddo Gilon '98, the president of the IFC at the time, criticized the proposal's opponents. "There has been a lot of opposition to the proposals," he said. However, "individuals who are more informed... are more ready to accept these changes," he added.

Other steps taken on alcohol

The day after the IFC president's council meeting, President Vest announced the remaining four students and four faculty members on the faculty/student alcohol committee. Goldstein said that the committee would work to improve the "education of the entire MIT community including faculty, students, and administrators" about alcohol-related issues.

At the November faculty meeting, a three-member ad hoc committee on alcohol policy, chaired by Associate Provost Phillip L. Clay, proposed several additions to the alcohol policies imposed after Krueger's death. The new rules forbid the use of Institute funds to purchase alcohol for events with people under 21 in attendance

in almost all cases. Clay's committee said that MIT considered "Institute funds" to include not only money held in accounts under MIT's taxpayer identification number, but also money held by all dormitories and FSILGs.

The committee also announced that alcohol could be served at events with minors present if the group involved received a waiver from a senior administrator. The changes did represent a slight relaxation of MIT policy — under the original policy imposed in September serving alcohol under these circumstances was totally forbidden.

External groups also began to weigh in. On Friday, Nov. 21, the Campus Police, in cooperation with the Cambridge Police, the Cambridge Licensing Board, and the Harvard University Police initiated Cambridge's Cops in Shops program. Cops in Shops is an attempt to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors, although it does not specifically target MIT and Harvard students. The program put plain-clothes officers in liquor stores, posing as employees. These officers check identification to prevent minors from buying alcohol. Other officers wait outside stores, confirming that liquor is not being served to people under 21. MIT Campus Police officers are among the officers working in the stores. The presence of Cops in Shops has been accompanied by a great deal of publicity — posters, television and radio public service announcements, and educational materials for alcohol retailers.

In late November, Dormcon lifted its alcohol ban. It said that no dormitory planned

to hold an event open only to people over 21. It made sense to end the Dormcon ban, since there was a more extensive ban from a higher authority, said Ashesh P. Shah '98, the president of Dormcon.

New incidents raise questions

MIT's attempts to revise its alcohol system were cast into doubt as additional Institute groups were accused of alcohol violations. Marie A. Figueredo, a freshman from Boston University, was hospitalized for alcohol poisoning after drinking at Theta Chi. In another incident a female MIT student was treated for alcohol poisoning at the Medical Center. An investigation by the Campus Police revealed that she had been drinking at a party at Sigma Phi Epsilon.

MIT did not suspend Theta Chi because it appeared that the drinking occurred solely in a private room. However, the IFC warned the fraternity that further problems would result in a suspension. Immediately after the incident the fraternity voluntarily removed all alcohol from the premises and announced that it was considering becoming permanently substance-free.

Sig Ep was treated more harshly by the MIT administration, since the alcohol was allegedly being served at a house event. The fraternity was initially apologetic but then changed its tack and attacked the administration for treating them unfairly. The house has vowed to fight the charges made against them.

MIT's dormitory system did not emerge from this period of uncertainty unscathed either. Late in the evening of Saturday, Jan.

Editorials in Review

Alcohol

Alcohol was perhaps the touchiest issue of 1997. The tragic death of Scott S. Krueger '01 raised serious concerns about underage and binge drinking at MIT. In response to Krueger's death, MIT instituted a ban on the use of Institute funds for the purchase of alcohol for events where underage students would be present, and organized a committee and seminar to study the issue of alcohol use at MIT. The Interfraternity Council and Dormitory Council banned alcohol at events in living groups.

Although *The Tech* supported the temporary measures taken by the IFC, Dormcon, and the administration, it also warned the community against over-reacting:

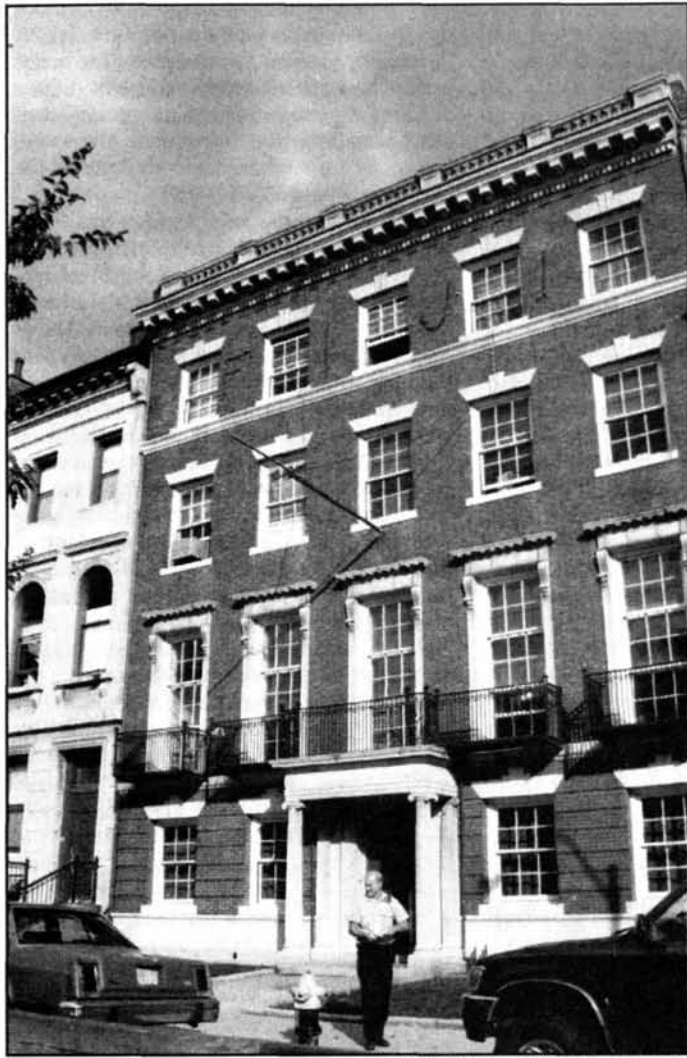
"MIT needs to create an environment where students can drink safely. We believe that an increased level of oversight at parties can accomplish this goal. MIT's current alcohol policies and the related state laws are sufficient for this, MIT simply needs to enforce them."

The danger in imposing harsher restrictions, an Oct. 3 editorial noted, was that alcohol consumption would be driven underground and that all control over it would be lost.

In the coming weeks, the proposed "introspective dialogue" about alcohol was overtaken by the debate about housing. *The Tech* called the switch regrettable, saying that "the indefinite Institute ban on alcohol will serve no purpose unless the administration has some concrete change to show for it. The housing topics now dominating discussion should have been peripheral to the central problem of drinking."

A new policy soon materialized, without student input, in the form of a proposal by the ad hoc committee reviewing the alcohol policy. The proposal suggested making the funds-for-alcohol ban permanent, and extending the definition of "funds" to include private individuals' expenditures. *The Tech* felt the proposed changes were too broad and represented a step backward:

"With their sweeping scope and ludicrously broad definition of Institute funds, the proposals would in effect create a dry campus and impinge — probably illegally — on individuals' personal freedoms... The proposals do little to add to the sorely lacking campus-wide introspective dialogue on alcohol."



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Phi Gamma Delta, also known as Fiji

10, the Campus Police broke up a party serving alcohol to underage students in Bexley Hall. Since the event was apparently not an official Bexley function, the dormitory was not punished.

While organizations can sometimes avoid punishment, individual students involved in the incidents remain under the gun. While it is rare to see city or state charges in cases where nobody was seriously injured, the MIT administration has said that it is considering taking disciplinary action against students involved in the infractions.

Student leaders and administrators both expressed sorrow that people were not taking the alcohol issue seriously enough. "People, in general, need to be responsible," Gilon said. While he said the incidents worried him, Vest said that there would not be any direct changes in MIT's alcohol policy as a


result.

Policy changes

By January, it became evident that there was some leeway in the current alcohol policy. Two student groups received permission from the administration to serve alcohol when students under 21 were present. One group wanted to hold a third-party-run cash bar for attendees over 21. The other group wanted permission to conduct a ceremonial toast. Many faculty events were also granted waivers.

However, the Institute couldn't afford to continue judging all alcohol-related events on a case-by-case basis, Bates said. The administration is working on a new set of rules which will provide a clearer, more formal set of guidelines for parties where alcohol will be served.

The goal is to make sure that the lines of responsibility are clear and that the disciplinary policies related to alcohol make sense. The moves to codify alcohol policy should not be taken as a move by policy makers to ban alcohol altogether. The Administration is not aiming to have an entirely dry campus, Bates said.

Krueger's death in September forced a debate that students and administrators alike quietly fought to keep from coming up. Alcohol laws that many feel are unfair are being pitted against deeply held beliefs about personal responsibility and freedom. The debate has tottered back and forth as administrators tried to create a policy that would satisfy its responsibilities to its students and the law and as students struggle to adjust to the new restrictions. It is clear, however, that MIT will never again deal with alcohol as it did before 1997. 

22

Random Hall residents express concern that the Cambridgeport Saloon sometimes does not station a guard outside the bar's doors. The saloon was required to post a guard by the Cambridge License Commission after a group of patrons leaving the bar attacked a resident of Random.

25

Unionized employees of Aramark's food services operations at MIT vote to authorize a strike against Aramark. However, no strike occurs and the employees eventually hammer out a new contract with the food vendor.

29

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan SM '72 agrees to speak at MIT's 131st Commencement ceremonies.

"Iron Maiden" wins the 6.270 Autonomous Lego Robot Design competition. The robot, designed by Danilo D. Almeida '97, Michael P. Schmidt-Lange '97, and Derek W. Truesdale '97, beat out 39 other teams in the "RoboRats" contest.

31

Iddo Gilon '98 and Jamie A. Buller '99 take office this month as presidents of the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Association, respectively.

February 4

The Medical Department begins testing over 200 students for exposure to tuberculosis after a full-blown case of TB was discovered in a student last fall.

The dining review working group releases an interim report. Complaints include short dining hours, a lack of healthy cuisine, and poor food quality.

Recent inspections by the City of Cambridge note 13 health deficiencies at Walker Memorial. A student finds a "worm-like" objects in the corn at Walker.

7

Director of Admissions Michael C. Behnke announces he will leave MIT in May to become the first associate dean of the College of Enrollment at the University of Chicago.

MIT and Fiji Face Legal And Political Problems

By Douglas E. Heimburger

The death of Scott S. Krueger '01 on Sept. 29 focused intense legal attention and political scrutiny upon MIT and Phi Gamma Delta. Both the local licensing board and local political officials moved quickly to condemn the Institute for not acting earlier, while a criminal investigation into the liability of both the Institute and the fraternity as to the events of that evening proceeded.

Because grand jury proceedings are secret, few details of the scope of the investigation by Boston Police and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office are known. However, some legal experts said after Krueger's death that MIT could be criminally liable in the incident. In 1944, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled in *Commonwealth v. Welansky* that individuals not at the scene of a crime could face criminal charges if there was "willful, wanton or reckless conduct," according to Mark G. Perlin, a law professor at Suffolk University.

Institute documents show that MIT had a knowledge of heavy drinking in fraternities as early as 1991, when the Undergraduate Association's Standing Committee on Student Life released its report on the Institute's alcohol policy. The report said, among other things, that "incidents regularly arise when alcohol is used irresponsibly, and they arise seemingly undeterred." It concluded, "There is a problem with alcohol that must be addressed on this campus."

In 1992, further information about alcohol in fraternities was provided by Scott R. Velazquez G and Robert Plotkin '93, who wrote a 50-page document detailing their pledging activities at Pi Lambda Phi to President Charles M. Vest, after depledging the fraternity.

"I knew alcohol would be prevalent in the fraternity, but I had absolutely no idea that half to three-quarters of the brothers would be completely intoxicated at least once a week,"

Velazquez wrote.

Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for residence and campus activities and adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, failed to assist in changing the problem, Velazquez said. "I feel [Dorow] is legally responsible for knowingly permitting drug and alcohol violations, harassment and hazing, and unsafe conditions to persist," Velazquez wrote.

Fiji itself also had a history of alcohol-related events that MIT had taken action against. In 1996, Boston Police officers responded to a report of underage drinking and found "the largest drinking party this officer has ever seen," said one officer in a police report. In February, officers responded



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Both MIT and Phi Gamma Delta were subjected to harsh questioning by the Boston Licensing Board. The board voted to suspend Fiji's housing license.

to a noise complaint filed by a dormitory located near the fraternity house at 28 The Fenway.

In both cases, the Interfraternity Council disciplined Fiji, Dorow said. After the 1996 incident, alcohol was banned at the fraternity for nine months. The second incident was caused by a shouting match between members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Fiji.

Case transferred to homicide

The investigation into Krueger's final hours began even before his death. Officers traveled to Fiji to conduct an investigation the

day after he was taken to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. While the house was in "immaculate condition," garbage bags blocking a second-floor exit contained beer cans, according to police reports and sworn testimony by Andrew Gampon, one of the officers who visited Fiji.

When Krueger died, the case was transferred to the homicide unit of the police department, which continued the investigation. Eventually, the case was turned over to Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph C. Martin II, who convened a grand jury to consider the evidence and issue indictments.

The investigation has remained under tight wraps, with almost all individuals involved either as witnesses or as legal counsel declining to comment on the case. In December an appeals court judge threw out a ruling requiring Fiji treasurer Daniel A. Hermann '99 to turn over the fraternity's financial records back to 1990 as part of the investigation into the case.

Hermann's attorney, Alan M. Spiro,

argued that Hermann was not required to turn over the records because of his constitutional protection against self-incrimination. Hermann was not a specific target of the probe, said Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Pamela Weschler.

At an earlier hearing, Weschler said it was still unclear whether Krueger drank voluntarily or if he was forced to drink during a hazing incident.

The targets of the probe have not been released. However, individuals ranging from Fiji's chapter officers to Institute administrators to those purchasing the

alcohol could theoretically be charged, depending on the evidence found, Perlin said.

In addition, Krueger's family has not yet said who, if anyone, will be sued as a result of the death. In December, the Krueger family's attorney, Leo V. Boyle, said that the family is considering many options to prevent the repeat of accidents such as the one that occurred in September. "If a civil lawsuit would aid in that goal, then that is on the potential agenda."

"Anybody that has any involvement with the fraternity from the national itself through

the house corporation, the local chapter, down to individual members could be sued," said Thomas R. Henneberry, director of insurance and legal affairs for the Institute.

Board revokes Fiji license

The quickest governmental response to Krueger's death came from the Boston Licensing Board, which administers the dormitory licenses which allow fraternities to operate in the city. The three members of the Board are appointed to six-year terms by the Governor of Massachusetts.

The Board has broad powers, which include the authority to call in a fraternity for a hearing even without a police investigation, as it would later do with Sigma Phi Epsilon, which will appear before the board in February.

However, Fiji, and specifically Hermann, who holds the dormitory license, was summoned to appear before the Board for a police hearing. At a contentious two-hour hearing on Nov. 6, the three commissioners of the Board expressed their exasperation at the lack of evidence. Hermann did not attend the meeting.

Because of the ongoing grand jury investigation, police officials declined comment on most aspects of the case.

Representatives from Malcolm Cotton Brown Corp., the alumni group that owns the house, and through which Hermann owns the license, pleaded that the house should not be closed, since the full details of the event could not be determined. "The local fraternity brothers have all indicated that they likely won't talk to us," said Anthony M. Campo, an attorney with Boyle and Morrissy who represents the group.

However, Board members seemed to think that the alumni should have taken additional action. "Why didn't the landlord act here when they knew it was a powder keg," asked Commissioner Joseph I. Mulligan.

Dean of Student and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams testified before the Board that MIT would accept any conditions necessary to keep the house open, including requiring adults to live in the house and making the house substance free. However, Board members chastised the Institute for not stopping problems earlier. "Perhaps MIT should have stepped in and said 'no alcohol' and, 'We're going to have an adult there,'" said Commissioner Daniel F. Pokaski.

After a three-week delay, the Licensing Board suspended Fiji's license for seven months, beginning on Jan. 15. The commissioners also revoked the fraternity's right to use alcohol indefinitely. "We have to close

this place down because we... have no reasonable assurance that they will act responsibly," Mulligan said.

In August, fraternity and MIT officials must appear before the Board to discuss a new program for controlling alcohol use in fraternities before the residents of Fiji will be able to move back in for the fall term.

MIT received the brunt of the criticism from the Board. "MIT has a responsibility to their admitted students" to act in a parental capacity, Pokaski said. The decision was meant to send a message to MIT administrators and to the fraternity that better control over alcohol was needed, he added.

"I have very mixed feelings," Williams said at the time. "I'm sad that they were unable to delay a decision until the end of the [criminal] investigation."


The Krueger family said, through Boyle, that they were "very pleased with the courage of the Licensing Board." Earlier, the family had filed a docket with the Board urging it to permanently revoke Fiji's dormitory license. Since the docket arrived the morning of the decision, however, the Board did not review it before making its decision.

City council also investigates

The Boston Licensing Board was not the only group to probe underage drinking. On Oct. 9, the Boston City Council held a hearing to discuss binge drinking on local college campuses.

"Kids come here to get an education, not to go to booze parties," said Councillor Albert O'Neill. The Council convened a special task force to work on proposals to limit binge drinking among college students. They will investigate liquor sales policies and encourage communication between campus police authorities and local police forces.

Cambridge also implemented a new program, Cops in Shops, aimed at deterring illegal underage attempts to purchase alcohol, in part because of the underage purchase of a beer keg at Zeta Psi. The program, implemented in cooperation with the Campus Police and the Harvard University Police, is designed to "put a dent in some of this illegal activity, where students are purchasing alcohol with false identification," said Frank Pasquarello, public information officer for the Cambridge Police.

In its first weekend of operation in October, the new program, which places police officers undercover in liquor stores to spot underage purchasers, netted six arrests, including two Harvard students. "We have six people who believe it is effective," Pasquarello said. 

Three professors, Professor of Chemistry John M. Essigmann PhD '76, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Alan V. Oppenheim '59, and Professor of Music Lowell E. Lindgren are awarded MacVicar fellowships for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

10

Hackers leave a trail of footsteps from several fish in the Fishbowl Athena cluster to sushi in front of the pilot Student Services Center in Building 3, in protest against the imminent closure of the cluster. Administrators say that the expansion of the Student Services Center will continue as planned.

11

Nathan R. Kane G wins the \$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for inventiveness. Kane's inventions include a new form of superior lightweight bellows and a hydrostatic bearing for use in machine tools.

14

MIT's electronic mail service experiences two separate problems that are interfering with the delivery of e-mail. One problem is caused by a bug in the program that sends e-mail on Athena workstations. The other problem, which delays e-mail delivery, results from large amounts of identical e-mail being sent maliciously to MIT's e-mail servers, a practice known as "spamming."

16

William A. Goodwin '97, president of Lambda Chi Alpha, is hospitalized after falling four stories down an elevator shaft at his fraternity house. Boston Police reports that Goodwin had been drinking before the accident.

18

Information Systems decides to install "Quickstation" workstations that will allow students to quickly e-mail and Zephyrs.

Campus Police issue a special advisory bulletin on Rohypnol, also known as the "date rape drug," after receiving a report that it may have been used at MIT. Rohypnol reduces the inhibitions and can cause memory loss.

Krueger's Death Leads To Debate on Housing

By Frank Dabek

Scott S. Krueger '01 died as a result of alcohol poisoning, and while the issues of alcohol and binge drinking occupied the campus debate initially, the lasting impact of Krueger's death may very well be seen in changes to undergraduate housing. Only a few weeks after Krueger died, discussion shifted to MIT's undergraduate housing system and its dependence on fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups to house undergraduates.

A few days after Krueger's death, President Charles M. Vest put the entire residence system on the table by announcing that a new undergraduate dormitory would be constructed. While Vest said that he had always intended to increase the amount of on-campus undergraduate housing, he acknowledged that Krueger's death caused him to accelerate the process.

Vest also pointed out a connection

between the problems which led to the death of Krueger and MIT's housing system. Vest said that he had seen the pressures the housing system placed on students. However,



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Several students were forced into barracks-like housing in Ashdown House while permanent housing was being found for them.

Vest and other administrators remained careful to point out that the Krueger incident might have occurred in any living group and that having more space on campus would not

have avoided the tragedy.

Chorover's resolution hotly argued

At the October faculty meeting, Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephan L. Chorover introduced a resolution that dramatically shifted both the tone and the focus of the debate. The resolution stated that "commencing with the academic year 1998 every effort will be made to ensure that all first-year students live on campus." Chorover argued that bringing freshmen onto campus would unify the campus and increase campus spirit. "Increasingly, the impressions students gain are set long before they encounter the faculty and before they see the inside of a classroom," Chorover said at the meeting.

Chorover would later back down. At the Nov. 19 faculty meeting, he substituted his previous motion with a much milder one which called for an examination of the housing system, recommended increased ties between students and faculty, and characterized the way freshmen should be introduced to MIT. That motion was approved by the faculty. At that same meeting Chorover said that his original motion was "really an attempt to learn what the sense of the faculty is" and that he had never been truly in favor of moving freshmen to campus.

If Chorover's original motion had passed, it would have presented a series of nearly insurmountable logistical problems. While reducing the incoming class size in order to house all freshmen in existing facilities was raised as a possibility, the repercussions of that decision, including lost income, made it a slim possibility.

FSILG system comes under fire

At the initial meeting, several faculty members defended the FSILG system. Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Lawrence S. Bacow '72 noted that there was tension between the goal of preserving what is seen as valuable in FSILGs while simultaneously reforming a rush system that

Editorials in Review Housing

In a controversial editorial, *The Tech* strongly endorsed the faculty proposal to house all freshmen on campus beginning in the fall of 1998. *The Tech* has long criticized the divisiveness and rigidity of the current housing system. In addition, we feel that R/O and rush place far too much emphasis on living group affiliation during what should be a low key time that allows new students to adjust to college life. In addition to resolving these long-standing problems, *The Tech* pointed out that housing freshmen on campus would have more far-reaching positive effects:

"By housing all freshmen on campus, students will form close ties with a wider, more diverse group of people. Perhaps more importantly, they will gain the sense that their allegiance is to MIT and to the education that they receive here, rather than to the particular living group they happen to choose during the first few days on campus. Students and faculty have long criticized the absence of a united student body and have targeted the division between dormitories and fraternities as evidence of this lack of unity. Housing all freshmen on campus will go a long way toward bridging that gap, and toward creating a unified campus community."

seems inherently flawed. He said that "the ILG system is a very valuable part of our culture," but called Residence and Orientation Week an "accident of history." "If our system did not exist today, we would not invent it," Bacow said.

In October and November, the debate ranged from R/O and the FSILGs to the question of randomized housing for freshmen and the possibility of a freshman dormitory. Both students in dormitories and in off-campus housing saw such proposals as a threat to the unique communities which had developed in the housing system. While many students seemed to believe that MIT's housing system played some part in the death, a consensus opinion about how to change the system constructively never materialized. The student body fought, for the most part, in support of the current housing system.

Some of the most ardent and perhaps the most effective support for the FSILG system, came from a group of students who organized under the name of an Athena mailing list, *ilg-talk*. The students, most of whom were affiliated with ILGs such as WILG, Fenway House, Pika, Student House and several fraternities such as Epsilon Theta, Delta Psi, and Tau Epsilon Phi, proposed amendments and enlisted faculty support. Christopher D.


Beland '00, an administrator for the list and a president of Fenway House, said that there was "no question that we influenced the debate."

Perhaps the most telling sign of the success of this grass-roots movement was a change in the usage of the acronym, "ILG." Previously used to refer to mainly coed or all-female, non-Greek housing options, this term became affiliated with many houses that wanted to distance themselves from the Krueger tragedy and the lifestyle it embodied. Following the November faculty meeting, both Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for residence and campus activities and adviser to FSILGs, and Iddo Gilon '98, then-president of the Interfraternity Council, began to use the term "ILG" to refer to traditional Greek fraternities.

Vest provides plan for future housing

While the passage of Chorover's substitute resolution provided a conclusion to the question of freshmen housing, the real issues behind the housing debate remained unresolved. Vest attempted to fill in some details with a proposal to the Academic Council that he released on Dec. 9. In this document, Vest laid out a timetable for the reform of housing and R/O.

Vest promised all incoming freshmen in 1998 a spot in Institute housing, a policy which is already in place. The document also proposes that every MIT-approved residence have a faculty adviser and a resident adviser. No details of this plan have been spelled out, but the document stipulates that FSILG residents will be involved in designing the system and that each group will have input into the role of its adviser. The document also stipulates that the new undergraduate dormitory, which has been designed to support a variety of options, will be available for use by 2002. The new dormitory will be used to relieve housing pressure, Vest said. "At this point we have no plans to increase enrollments" following the construction of the new dormitory, he said.

In the debate over housing, the student body has demonstrated that it is one of the most conservative groups on campus. In debates for faculty resolutions, in planning committees, and during town meetings, students have fought for and essentially won the right to maintain the status quo. 

24

Former president of Costa Rica Oscar Arias Sanchez gives his second lecture in a series of three talks as part of the Karl Taylor Compton lectures. Arias, a Nobel laureate, spoke about the difficulty of maintaining democracy in the face of extreme poverty.

25

Stacey E. Blau '98 writes a column criticizing the fraternity system for drinking and partying. The column, entitled "Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT." Record numbers of responses fill the next few issues of *The Tech*.

28

For the eighth straight year, the School of Engineering ranks first among engineering graduate schools in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual survey of graduate schools. The School of Architecture and Planning places second in the fine arts category. The Sloan School of Management ranks fourth in the business category, down from number two in 1996.

March 1

The class of 1999's class ring premieres in a well-attended ceremony in Walker Memorial. The newest Brass Rat features a new element in the design — a map of MIT inside the band.

4

Dedric A. Carter '98 and running-mate Sandra C. Sandoval '00 face off against Sunil K. Rao '99 and Kari A. Bingen '99 in the Undergraduate Association presidential debate. Carter and Sandoval stress unity and diversity. Rao and Bingen focus on building school spirit.

5

Members of the Interfraternity Council and the Presidential Task Force on Student Life and Learning meet to discuss fraternity-related issues like Residence and Orientation Week. Until recently, the task force excluded R/O from its scope.

7

Tuition increases five percent, to \$23,100 for the 1997-98 academic year. Room and board costs increase by 3.1



KARLENE M. ROSERA—THE TECH

Students packed into President Vest's annual Town Meetings to air their concerns about the future of housing.

Dining Reform Finally Serves Up a Proposal

By Douglas E. Heimburger

There are few things that students interact with more on a daily basis than the campus dining system. Efforts to reform and improve that system continued in 1997 in the face of student complaints about price and quality. However, by the end of the year the system remained almost unchanged.

It was clear, however, that work on changing the system was progressing somewhat. The Institute Dining Review Committee made waves with the final report it released in November which recommended breaking up the dining monopoly and reopening dormitory dining halls. However, implementation of the suggested changes was left for 1998 and beyond.

Part of the problem was that the Dining Review Committee began the year behind schedule: the group's final proposal was supposed to have been released in the fall of 1996 and implemented in June of 1997, when the contract of MIT's principal dining contractor, Aramark, was to expire. However, the group decided to do additional study, in order to ensure that the work was comprehensive, said Phillip J. Walsh, director of the Campus Activities Complex and the head of the review group. In the interim, Aramark's contract was extended for yet another year and is now scheduled to end in July 1998.

This additional year for planning and implementation of the new dining programs seemed to be occupied mostly by delays. At almost every step of the process, unforeseen circumstances and delays led to the

comprehensive review taking much longer than expected.

Dorm dining and meal plans discussed

At the start of the year, the dining group had already conducted much of its research into how the MIT dining system operates. A series of open meetings conducted in every dormitory and a smattering of independent living groups provided much of the information the group later used in formulating a new system, Walsh said.

The first major delay in the project occurred when the group went to conduct its focus groups with randomly selected students, staff, and faculty members. The focus groups, which were initially to be conducted in December 1996 ended up being conducted in February 1997, delaying the entire process, Walsh said.

However, the committee did succeed in formulating a draft plan for the new dining system by March. The report proposed a variety of new dining models ranging from no central management to a dining program completely run by MIT. At the time, the report was to be reviewed by a financial consultant and then presented in final form in April.

In addition, the group looked at personal cooking on campus and how it relates to the array of dining options. "It's a significant issue," Walsh said. Many students at the open meetings said that they enjoyed cooking while others called it a necessity that they would rather not deal with. The group presented options ranging from removing kitchens altogether to providing cleaning and support for private cooking.

Group proposes sweeping changes

In late April, the group presented its final findings to the Undergraduate Association. The group called for the end of the Aramark monopoly on dining facilities and the introduction of multiple contractors on campus. A central food board would be set up to resolve issues related to prices, hours of operation, and quality at the sites. Each location would also have its own individual food boards. The MIT Card would tie together the on-campus providers and off-campus restaurants, allowing students to purchase food both on and near campus without carrying cash.

The group also called for the reopening of many dormitory dining halls, including those in McCormick Hall, MacGregor House, and Burton-Connor House. These dormitories, along with Next House, Baker House, and Ashdown House, would become known as "dining hall residences," where the focus of dining would be the dining hall, said Jeremy D. Sher '98, a member of the review group.

The remaining dormitories would become known as "personal cooking residences," where the Institute would support the upkeep of kitchens and encourage community cooking. Over time, the "dining program in a house would become part of the culture of the house" that could be considered during residence selection, Walsh said.

Before beginning that process, however, the group tentatively turned down a proposal to institute mandatory meal plans for all students. "We have to improve people's confidence in the system" through increased quality and lower prices that will lead to profitability without the requirement, Walsh said. During the group's final major public comment period only 26 students decided to respond. Of those, 21 were opposed to a "comprehensive plan."

Financial issues take time to resolve

Although the functional summary of the report was complete, the financial aspects of it were not. "We chose from the start that we had to have a complete system" that looked at more than just the financial picture, Walsh said. As a result, the group decided to find its optimal model first and then include financial aspects of the system only at the very end of the review. The process, which was to only have taken a few weeks, ended up taking most of the summer and part of the fall. "It took us seven different financial models" before a feasible

Editorials in Review Dining

The Tech and MIT students in general remained opposed to the campus dining monopoly operated by Aramark, and hailed the prospects of its demise:

"Despite repeated arguments that only a monopoly can take advantage of economies of scale and test new concepts, six years with Aramark has shown that a dining monopoly cannot effectively serve students. The new competitive system [proposed by the food services working group] will allow multiple companies to bid for contracts and then compete with one another to attract customers. Hopefully, the result will be nimble and aggressive contractors who can adapt rapidly to students' needs."

solution was found, Walsh said. Each model included over 150 assumptions on a variety of issues.

In the final report, released on Nov. 13, the group called for two providers to supply the majority of dining services on campus. The first contractor would assume control over facilities in Walker Memorial and the main campus buildings. The second company would be responsible for the Student Center facilities and the dormitory dining halls. In addition, the report called for McCormick's dining hall to be reopened in 1999, and for Burton-Conner and MacGregor's dining halls to reopen in 2000, with the later two serving food cooked at Next House.

Implementation of plan proceeds

As 1998 begins, the group finds itself

occupied with writing an implementation plan and a budget for its proposals, which will then be presented to senior administration officials. At the same time, the group is beginning to work to implement some sections of its plan, including the local dining boards.

Whether the final proposals can be implemented by June, when the Aramark contract is again scheduled to end, is unclear. Even if it can implement the proposals by then, it is unlikely that the full effects of the plan will be realized until two or three years from now, when all the elements have been phased in.

In any case, the group is pleased with its final decisions. The initial schedule was "no one else's but our own," and the delays have improved the process, Walsh said. **C**

Driver Killed in Charles River Bus Crash

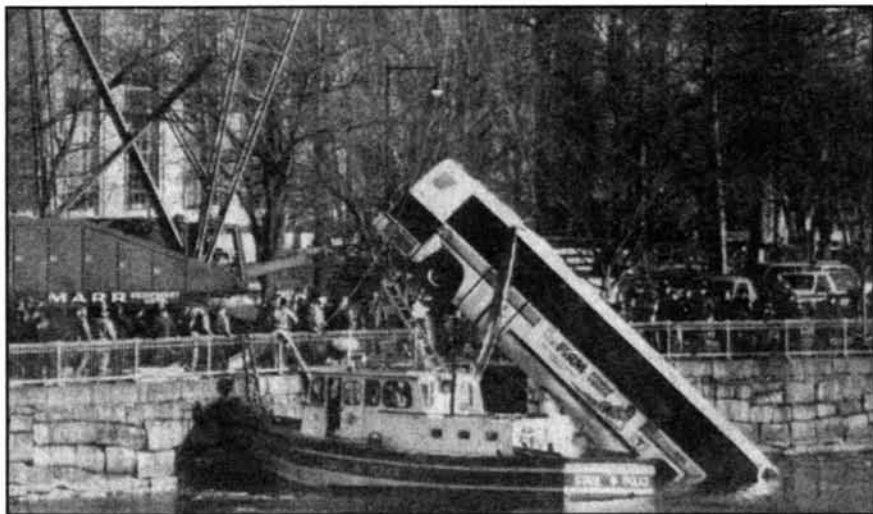
By Douglas E. Heimbürger

When an MBTA bus crashed into the Charles River on Jan. 13, 1997, the Campus Police responded in force, joining police and fire-fighting units from several jurisdictions and workers from the Physical Plant Emergency Response Group. Several Campus Police units responded to a call from the emergency call box near Building 2 at 10:06 p.m. that an MBTA bus had crashed into the river from Memorial Drive just in front of Killian Court.

Eyewitnesses at the crash site said the bus made a "straight line into the water" from Memorial Drive. Some said that the bus could not have been speeding at the time of the accident. The witnesses disagreed about what direction the bus was traveling at the time of the accident.

Boston Police divers pulled the driver from the bus at 11:20 p.m. He was the only person aboard the bus, which had gone out of service. The driver was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Crews recovered the bus from the water the following morning, using a large crane and an MBTA tow truck. Tests on the bus showed its machinery to be in working order, said Erin Harrington, a spokesperson for the MBTA. Tests on the driver showed that he was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the accident. MBTA buses are prohibited from operating on Memorial Drive, because there are areas where the vertical clearance is too small to allow them to pass.



INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

percent, bringing the total cost for a student to \$29,650.

12

Dedric A. Carter '98 and Sandra C. Sandoval '00 emerge victorious in the Undergraduate Association presidential and vice presidential elections with 52.1 percent of the vote.

13

The Dormitory Council elects Ashesh P. Shah '98 as president and Manju V. Madhavan '99 as vice president.

18

John Perry Barlow, co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and former lyricist for the Grateful Dead, and Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, network manager for Information Systems, discuss security and privacy on the Internet in 6-120.

19

About 1,900 students, roughly 24 percent of all applicants, are accepted into the Class of 2001. A lower number of women, 41 percent, are admitted this than in the previous two years.

21

Two national fraternities, Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Nu, decide to ban alcohol in chapter houses by the year 2000.

27

Amid threats of student protest, the Fishbowl Athena cluster closes one day ahead of schedule. The Fishbowl is replaced by a new cluster in 12-182.

29

MIT places seventh in the the 57th annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. Federico Ardila '98 placed seventh and Adam W. Meyerson '97 placed 15th. Pramod N. Achar '97, Amit Khetan '99, and Constantin Chiscanu '00 also placed in the top 25, and Aleksey Zinger '97 received an honorable mention.

April 1

Mother Nature blankets MIT with over two feet of snow, shutting down the Institute during the regular term for the first time in 11 years. The blizzard collapses the J.B. Carr Indoor Tennis Center bubble and destroys several trees.

New Communications Requirement Crafted

By Naveen Sunkavally

Students rush between classes, research, and extracurricular activities in an effort to become more "well rounded," but many of them overlook one fundamental skill — the ability to write and communicate effectively. The realization that this skill is both important and ignored at MIT was the basis for a resolution passed by the faculty in April which called for the creation of a new communications requirement by the year 2000.

The resolution was sparked by a Committee on the Writing Requirement survey which revealed that 25 to 30 percent of juniors who had passed Phase I of the Writing Requirement had inadequate writing skills and another third only marginal abilities. The committee also found no correlation between writing skills and grade point average, said Dean for Undergraduate Curriculum Kip V. Hodges PhD '82, the committee's chair. This "emphasizes that the present culture at MIT clearly does not reward students working to improve their writing abilities," the report said.

The resolution calls for the Committee on the Undergraduate Program to run a "series of experiments and pilot programs" to design a new communications requirement by the year 2000.

Resolution passes after debate

The resolution eventually passed was a revised version of one proposed in March by Lawrence S. Bacow '72, then chair of the faculty. It did not pass without debate, however. Former Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Arthur C. Smith said he was uncertain that the Institute and students could commit resources to communication without hurting other aspects of the educational process. Others were positive. Professor of Literature David Thorburn said his first response to the proposal was "great applause."

Much of the debate over Bacow's original motion, however, centered on the resolution's wording. The proposal equates writing and speaking, said Thorburn. "The two activities are not identical." Also, since 15 to 20 percent of students are admitted with deficient writing skills, MIT should either offer remedial writing classes or tighten admission standards, he said. Finally, Thorburn said that the proposal itself should be well-written. He suggested rewording some phrases such as "receive practice, instruction, and feedback" to "receive instruction" since one cannot "receive practice."

Hodges said that the proposal was written

by Bacow, and since Bacow went to MIT, it shows that the writing requirement needs revision. Bacow admitted that he wrote the proposal, but said it was edited by Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams, Hodges, then-Coordinator for the Writing Requirement Leslie C. Perelman, then-Head of the Writing Program Alan P. Lightman, and Chair of the CUP Charles Stewart III, so the responsibility should be distributed.

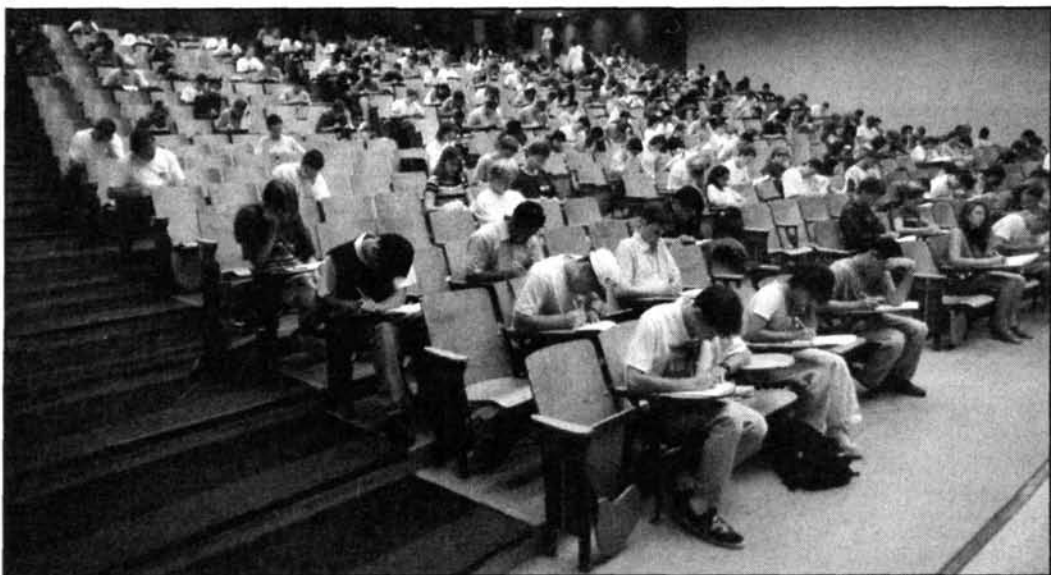
Despite the problems, many saw the proposal as a watershed. "Something important has happened with this proposal," Thorburn said. "This is the first time in MIT history that communication skills are recognized as fundamental, and that the existing requirement is inadequate by the entire MIT community and not just the writing department."

Communications begin transition

The resolution established a special subcommittee of the CUP, chaired by Professor of Biology Gene M. Brown and Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Langley C. Keyes, responsible for initiating several pilot programs. "We spent most of our time this fall finding out what was going on in various departments... that could be tweaked for our purposes," Brown said. The goal of the subcommittee, is to make sure that all departments will eventually have some sort of communications-intensive program, he said. Brown emphasized that the subcommittee did not want to increase requirements or add new courses for students.

The subcommittee created a new undergraduate journal in the Biology Department that will publish research papers that students write in project laboratories or in their UROPs. Students will submit write-ups of their research to a senior editor who will help them improve their prose. "It's an innovative solution [that] can be exported to various departments," Brown said. The subcommittee has also worked to make upper-level courses in the physics department more communications-intensive.

The committee also wants to look into changes to the freshman year. "We haven't explored the freshman year as much as we have wanted to," Brown said. However, the subcommittee has looked at the idea of integrating more communication activities into freshman seminars.



AGNES BORSZEKI—THE TECH

Freshmen may soon have more work ahead of them after taking the freshman writing examination. The faculty voted to replace MIT's writing requirement with a broader communications requirement.

Many Renovations Projects Improve the MIT Campus

By Carina Fung

The hum of jackhammers and saws were the constant companions of MIT students over the past summer. A number of academic buildings underwent significant renovations and students were forced into occasionally outlandish detours, but the outcome has proven worth the wait and the hassle.

Building 16 renovations began in February, shortly after the renovation of Building 56 finished. Building 16, in addition to other changes, would become compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, said Nancy Joyce, project manager for Beacon Construction Company, the outside contractor in charge of the project.

A new ramp was planned in the basement between Buildings 8 and 16 and a new elevator was installed to connect the floors between the two buildings, Joyce said.

The elevator would allow for handicapped access to the different floors of the building.

The lobby of Building 16 is also being renovated. A new vending machine area will be constructed on the first floor, along with a new entry vestibule and loading dock. There may also be enough space for a new Athena Quickstation cluster, Joyce said. Renovations should conclude by April.

New Fishbowl cluster debuts

The first floor of Building 12 got a facelift with the addition of a new Fishbowl cluster. The new cluster was located past the Building 4 Coffee Shop in room 12-182.

Renovations to the space began in February and were completed around spring break. "The intention is to have no downtime between opening of clusters," said John P. Dunbar, space administrator for Physical Plant.

The new cluster houses 25 workstations

and a printer, said Vice President for Information Systems James D. Bruce ScD '60. There were 29 workstations in the original Fishbowl.

The Building 12, location was chosen because "this was the only space meeting our general requirements... that could be made available," Bruce said.



TECH FILE PHOTO

Building 16 was stripped to its supports and renovated as part of a campus-wide effort to improve classroom facilities.

Rooms Renovated


Over the summer, MIT renovated 10 heavily-used classrooms on the first floor of Building 2. The renovations, which began shortly after Commencement, modernized the outdated facilities in the rooms.

"These renovations greatly improve the teaching and learning environment for faculty and students," said Mary R. Callahan, the associate registrar for facilities and scheduling, who lead the design team for the project.

The renovations added several new technologies to the ordinary classroom

setup, including an Athena terminal located in front of some classrooms and overhead projection equipment which could be linked to laptop computers in others, Callahan said. Each classroom also received a VCR, an overhead projector and an MIT Cable connection. Because of the expense of the new equipment, the rooms are locked at night, like the new classrooms in Building 56, Callahan said.

The new rooms were stripped and completely rebuilt. All interior finishes and utilities were replaced and old furniture was replaced with new tables and chairs, while new chalkboards and lighting were also installed, she said.

The renovations marked a renewed commitment to Project 2000, a plan to renovate all Institute classrooms by the year 2000, initiated by the late Margaret L. A. MacVicar ScD '65, MIT's first dean of undergraduate education, Callahan said. 

4

A person wearing a Coca-Cola uniform and possessing a full set of vending machine keys enters Burton-Conner House. The individual is believed to have been stealing \$500 per day from area vending machines.

5

For the fourth straight year, MIT wins the Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society's district competition. The team of William H. Stadlander '99, Matthew S. Dupplessie '99, and Manolis E. I. Kamvysselis '99 design a cart that prevents flight attendants from suffering back injuries while serving passengers.

9

The Graduate Student Council unanimously elects Geoffrey J. Coram G president. Michelle K. McDonough G was elected vice president.

10

Campus Preview Weekend begins with over 360 women and minority students arriving on campus. Unlike previous years, prefresh are allowed to stay in independent living groups.

11

The Lecture Series Committee announces that the price of general admission to its movies will from \$2.00 to \$2.50.

14

The Info-Mac FTP site, the world's largest repository of Apple Macintosh software, moves from Stanford University to the Laboratory for Computer Science.

16

The faculty passes a resolution to create a new undergraduate communication requirement by 2000.

18

Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for residence and campus activities, wins the annual Big Screw award. Dorow, who serves as adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, received \$87.04 out of the \$324.24 raised in the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity charity contest.

22

One or more explosive devices,

MIT Extropians Banned Following Illegal Mailing

By Katie Jeffreys

They are the now-infamous MIT Extropians. A joke to some, an inspiration to others, Jason B. Davis '98 and Han Huang G won no friends in the MIT administration when they sent out their unauthorized mailing to freshmen outlining "The Freshman Tragedy." The document included attacks on affirmative action, admissions policies, and Greek life. Their actions sparked campus outrage and debate, scared some freshmen, and inspired others to join their group.

The controversy over the Extropians — who coined the word "extropy" to mean the opposite of entropy — started in July, when the group submitted an eight-page brochure for inclusion in the Association of Student Activities information packet sent to incoming freshmen. "We decided this summer that we should try to reach the freshmen, because they come in here the most innocent, idealistic, and usually the most interested," Davis said.

In their pamphlet, the Extropians claimed that women and underrepresented minority students at MIT are less intelligent than their peers, and that fraternities and sororities are "arguably the greatest source of anti-intellectualism." The pamphlet was barred from inclusion in the mailing by the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education, which oversees the ASA and reviews submissions from student groups for appropriateness before sending them. Former Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Margaret A. Jablonski "pulled this one out and said she thought it wasn't appropriate," said ASA President Russell S. Light '98.

The ASA initially believed that it should block the mailing, because the Extropians were not a recognized student group. However, the ASA ultimately decided to recommend that the Extropians be included in the mailing because their lack of recognition might have been a clerical error, as the Extropians claimed. "We had been an ASA group before we were at last year's [Activities] Midway," Davis said.

However, the administrators in charge of the mailing, including Dean of Student Life Margaret R. Bates and Secretary of the Corporation and Executive Assistant to the

President Kathryn A. Willmore, continued to have problems with the mailing. "I took it out for Margaret Bates to look at, and then after some discussion it eventually went to Kathryn Willmore's office, and she made the decision to exclude them from the mailing," Light said.

The decision to exclude the Extropians did nothing to deter the group from sending their brochure to freshmen. The Extropians illegally obtained a list of incoming freshmen from a member of a fraternity, sorority, or independent living group who was never identified. FSILGs are allowed access to the list for the specific purpose of mailing rush materials to freshmen.

ASA punishes Extropians for mailing

Because of the mailing, the Extropians were banned from petitioning the ASA for membership until Sept. 1, 1998. This prevented them from gaining office space and an Athena locker and from using MIT's name.

The web page containing their manifesto and letters of support was moved after the group's Athena locker was taken away. Although they couldn't get a booth at the Activities Midway during Residence and Orientation Week, they attended anyway, passing out "T.I.M Extropians" T-shirts.

Since the Extropians are not a recognized student group, they cannot participate in the official mailing. However, they still intend to send materials to the incoming Class of 2002 in the spring if they can get access to the list again, Huang said.

Despite controversy, group expands

A semester later, the Extropian struggle continues, as the group tries to transform its image and continues an ongoing attempt to recruit new members. Because both Davis

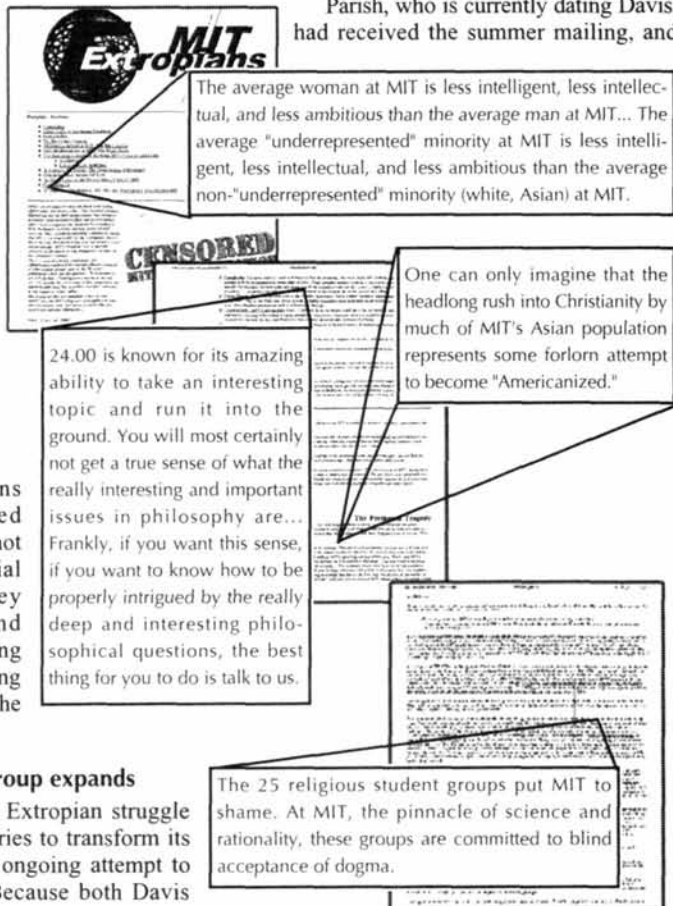
and fellow co-founder Huang will be graduating this year, they wanted to ensure that the Extropians and their beliefs continue on at the Institute. They realized their first task was to expand their membership.

Undeterred by the ASA ruling, the founders are pleased with how the year has gone, primarily because the attendance at their weekly meetings averages 10 to 20 people. These active members of the group "all have similar opinions but not really the same opinions," Davis said.

They feel that although 100 people have contacted them supporting their beliefs, three or four times that number have not. They believe the reason for this is the way their ideas have been represented, both by word-of-mouth, and in their initial mailing. "They are going in the right direction, but perhaps some wordings need to be rephrased," said Jordan A. Weitz '00.

Their membership includes one female member, Landi M. Parish '01, who joined the group after a chance meeting with the founders. "I didn't come [to MIT]... intending to join a student group or anything else," she said. "I wanted to concentrate on work," she said.

Parish, who is currently dating Davis, had received the summer mailing, and



was pleasantly surprised. "It was great. It was inspiring. Most of the other stuff I received was completely uninformative and really cynical," Parish said. The Extropians' mailing provided the only candid information about what MIT was like and advice what to do and what to avoid, she said. It was far more useful than any of the other materials groups sent.

Focusing on the philosophical

Of late, the Extropians have moved away from the political controversy that caused their publication to be excluded from the freshman mailings and the banning of their club as a student group. Next year's mailing will not include commentary on affirmative action or Greek life, Huang said.

"The reason... we brought up the affirmative action and the FSILG issue is because they were both under a section called 'The Freshman Tragedy,'" Huang said. "They were our best guesses at the time."

Still, many students find them offensive or react to a mention of their name, as

Corrine M. Williams '01 did. "I don't care," she said. "I never did."

"We believe MIT has the potential to lead the world into a future where the feasible dreams of science fiction become a reality," Davis said. This future includes immortality through technology, a goal that the Extropians hope will be attained, and plan to work towards.

They emphasized that their discussion concentrates not on race, gender, or Greek life, but on philosophical debates about advances in science. Their "manifesto" also included a list of scientific subjects, MIT classes, books, and movies that they felt would challenge and engage students. They ask students to "rock MIT" by taking advantage of what it has to offer.

However, the Extropians remain quick to criticize the Institute. "MIT is a little scared politically," Huang said. "Look at the flack that happened over cloning. I'll bet the MIT administration will not take a stance on that. They don't dare." **C**

which may be dry ice bombs, soda bottles containing a mixture of dry ice and water, explode in the courtyard between MacGregor House and New House. One unexploded device is found near the suite of the New House housemasters.

Nearly 160 students, representing 23 living groups, dormitories, and organizations, participate in the SCORE '97 community service event, which is designed to help students learn to work together and transcend racial barriers.

25

A group of students distribute pamphlets in protest of *The Tech* in Lobby 7. The pamphlet includes a letter addressed to the editorial staff outlining the protesters' grievances as well as a platform for increasing multicultural awareness at MIT.

28

The food services working group suggests breaking up Aramark's monopoly on food services and reopening dormitory dining halls. Under these preliminary proposals, outside contractors will be permitted to bid on a variety of contracts for dining operations.

30

Professor of Biology Robert A. Weinberg '64, a noted cancer researcher, is named as a recipient of the prestigious National Medal of Science.

The MIT Medical Department receives the highest level of accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

May 1

Timothy S. Zue '99 wins "Pass the Puck," the 2.70 design contest.

The May issue of *Yahoo Internet Life* ranks MIT as the nation's most wired college.

2

Crab apple trees from outside Building E53 are moved to Killian Court to replace two trees destroyed by the April 1 snowstorm.

Scott Adams' *Dilbert* debuts in *The Tech*.

Student Dies Crossing Memorial Drive

By Krista L. Niece

On Halloween night at around 6:45 p.m., Michele S. Micheletti '00 was crossing Memorial Drive near MacGregor House, when she was struck by two cars, first by a 1997 Porsche and later by a vehicle which failed to stop at the scene. Micheletti, a sophomore from Millbrae, California and a member of the Alpha Phi sorority, was pronounced dead at 7:39 pm. She was 19 years old.

"She was an amazing person, involved in everything," said Alpha Phi president Anya K. Hawrylchak '98. Micheletti was majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science on a full scholarship from the National Security Agency. She also served on the advisory board to the task force on student life and learning, where she worked to implement new ideas for bringing faculty and students together in living groups, said Associate Professor of Political Science Charles Stewart III, a member of the task force.

Professor of Toxicology John M. Essigmann PhD '76, the housemaster of New House, Micheletti's dormitory, said that life there is getting back to normal, although her death made a big impact. "Students were reserved and quiet for the second half of the term," he said. Michelle "was the kind of person who... supported students. She wasn't there."

A petition drive headed by Ceani Guevara '99 to paint a crosswalk across Memorial Drive intensified after the tragedy, and a few mornings later pedestrians could see the fresh white paint of ten new crosswalks.

People still miss and talk about Michelle, but they are dealing with the loss, Essigmann said. "We have a good support system in the dorm."



INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

Accusations of Racism Lead to Boycott of *Tech*

By Zareena Hussain

Some described them as extreme examples of political correctness; others said that they brought to light misunderstanding and miscommunication that sometimes falls along racial and ethnic lines, but no one can doubt that they focused attention on a subject that is sometimes ignored by the MIT community. Last spring, a group of students led a highly visible protest against *The Tech*, pointing out examples of what they believed to be racism and discrimination taking place in the paper and at the Institute.

On April 25 members of several different student groups took positions in front of the Lobby 7 distribution stands for *The Tech* and passed out pamphlets to passing students. The pamphlets included an open letter to *The Tech's* editorial board announcing a boycott of the paper and listing a set of proposals designed to increase multicultural awareness at MIT.

Of particular concern to the protesters was an article in *The Tech's* World & Nation section obtained from the *L.A. Times-Washington Post* news wire. The article, entitled "Empire State Gunman Acted Out of Rage at Monetary Loss" [Feb. 25, 1997], reported on an incident where Ali Hassan Abu Ali Kamal, 69, a Palestinian from Gaza City fired shots at sightseers on the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

"Because of his nationality, the incident provoked initial speculation that the brief but terrifying shooting spree might be rooted in the nationalistic zealotry and terrorism that is a frequent offshoot of Middle Eastern political rivalries," the article said. Protesters argued that the article used unfair stereotypes in its depiction of the Middle East and Arab-Americans.

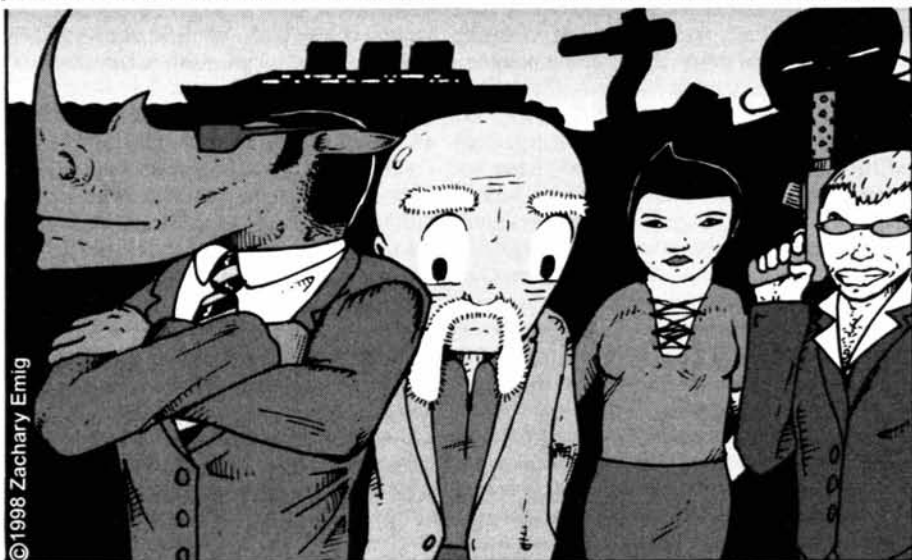
Protesters found a second point of contention in the student drawn "Rhino Man" comic strip. The strip featured a villain named Dr. Sasori, who has since died in the comic's storyline. The protesters claimed that Sasori was an anti-Asian caricature and promoted anti-Asian stereotypes.

Protest had dual purpose

The purpose of the protest was two-fold, said Joaquin S. Terrones '97, a protest organizer. One aspect was to make people aware of racial issues and to highlight the lack of resources for minorities at MIT. Another goal of the protest was to make *The Tech* more responsible for its content.

The protesters stated in their letter to the

editorial board that "*The Tech's* comfort in using racist humor is only indicative of a growing atmosphere of intolerance on campus." To combat this intolerance, the pamphlet listed demands for resources currently



not present at the Institute.

These included the need for an Asian American administrator to address the needs of Asian American students, the establishment of an ethnic studies program, the creation of a multicultural center and an increase in the number of minorities and women on the MIT faculty. The protesters also called for more tenured professors to teach courses in African American, Hispanic American, and Asian American studies, an increase in the number of minorities in the administration, and a comprehensive, mandatory program during Residence and Orientation Week that would focus on diversity and replace Project Move Off Your Assumptions.

The letter distributed by the protesters also stated their intent to boycott *The Tech*. "We are also within our rights to boycott a newspaper that recirculates the same stereotypes that are used to oppress us daily," the letter said. "The point of a stereotype is that you don't have to think" about the person being stereotyped, Terrones said. "You've dehumanized them."

The letter was signed by a the Asian Pacific American Caucus; La Unión Chicana por Aztlán; the Black Students Union; the MIT Arab Alliance Against Racism; the Committee for Social Justice, Gays, Lesbians,

Bisexuals, Transgendered, and Friends at MIT; the Alternative News Collective; Student Party for a Progressive Movement; and the Black Graduate Student Association.

The Tech responds to criticisms

The Editor in Chief of *The Tech* at the time of the protest, David D. Hsu '98, responded in an article published in *The Tech* to accusations of anti-Asian sentiment within the pages of the newspaper.

"I'm an Asian American," Hsu said. "I do

not consider myself insensitive to the issues of Asian Americans."

"*The Tech* has always tried to be objective in its coverage of issues involving the MIT community," Hsu said. "There has never been any racially malicious intent on the part of *Tech* staffers or editors."

Zachary B. Emig '98, the cartoonist who draws "Rhino Man," said he attended a forum held by the Asian Pacific American Caucus and the Committee for Social Justice to address issues of anti-Asian stereotypes in his comic. At the forum, Emig spoke with students who believed that Dr. Sasori was an example of an anti-Asian caricature, he said. Emig said that those who took Dr. Sasori as an anti-Asian caricature had not read the comic strip from the beginning to see the full development of the character. "I think I've differentiated him from a caricature."

In response to allegations that the article about the Empire State gunman used stereotypes about the Middle East and Arab and Muslim Americans, Brett Altschul '99, the then-associate news editor who selected the story, said he chose the article, from a pool of three to four stories, because it was a big national issue.

"The one I selected was the longest. I also

felt it was the one that gave least credence to accusations that [the gunman] was acting out of malice toward the U.S.," Altschul said. "This story reported this perception and moreover attempted to debunk it."

Protesters and staffers meet face to face

Shortly after the protest, *The Tech* participated in a mediation session organized by the office of Residence and Campus Activities at the protesters request, said then-Chairman of *The Tech* Daniel C. Stevenson G. While the content of the mediation process must be kept secret, the sentiments of some of the protesters as compared to those of *The Tech* staffers following the mediation remained divergent.

"While there was no concrete result, we felt we achieved a greater level of understanding," Stevenson said.

However, at least one of the protesters felt dismissed by *The Tech* after the mediation process brought little change on either side.

"To [*Tech* staffers] we looked ridiculous," said Alan Shihadeh G, who questioned whether *The Tech* took the protesters seriously at the mediation. Shihadeh said he forwarded articles to *The Tech* about the Middle East from alternative news sources in response to discussion at the mediation and an invitation by *The Tech* to the protesters to alert the newspaper of issues that may be overlooked. Shihadeh said, however, that these overtures were met with hostility.

"I felt the response I had gotten showed a lack of willingness to change — a defensive, territorial stand," Shihadeh said, when he was told to stop forwarding such articles to *The Tech's* electronic mailing lists.

Protest platform gets mixed results


A year later, the protester demand closest to being fully implemented was the call for a mandatory program that focused on diversity for all freshmen during Residence and Orientation Week. This R/O offered an event called Stand Up! which, although not mandatory, was one of the experiments of this year's R/O and was designed to address issues of race, gender and sexuality.

During the spring protest Elizabeth Cogliano, director of R/O, approached the protesters and invited them to propose their program to the R/O committee, said Damon W. Suden '99, an organizer of Stand Up!.

However, the protesters' proposals for altering MOYA may not be fully implemented. "I wouldn't go as far to say that we would completely replace MOYA" with a new diversity program, Cogliano said. There is, however, perhaps room to incorporate portions of Stand Up! into parts of MOYA, she said.

In addition to Stand Up!, the protest started discussions with the administration about their grievances, said Dean for Student Life Margaret R. Bates. One direct result of these discussions was a workshop on diversity in which members of the Office of the Dean for Student Life and Undergraduate Education participated, Bates said.

Some other goals have yet to be reached. Currently there is no Asian American administrator to specifically deal with Asian American students, no ethnic studies program, and no multicultural center.

The protesters complaints about the lack of tenured minority faculty have also yet to be remedied. Of 896 faculty members, 124 are women, 13 of whom are members of United States' minority groups, including 6 Asian Americans. Minority men, including 73 Asian Americans, number 104 in total, according to the Communications Office for Resource Development. 



GABOR CSNAYI—THE TECH

Students protesting *The Tech* piled copies of the paper in Lobby 7 and distributed flyers calling for more cultural awareness at MIT.

3

Institute Professor David Baltimore '61 accepts the presidency of the California Institute of Technology.

June 6

MIT holds its 131st Commencement in Killian Court. 2,035 seniors and graduate students receiving degrees. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan SM '72 speaks at the proceedings.

July 15

The MIT Extropians submit an eight-page brochure for inclusion in the Association of Student Activities mailing to incoming freshmen. The brochure includes a section entitled, "Affirmative Action at MIT: The Big Coverup," and Secretary of the Corporation and Executive Assistant to the President Kathryn A. Willmore makes the decision to exclude them from the mailing.

22

The Campus Police arrest Richard J. Picariello, a convicted terrorist bomber, on the second floor of the Student Center. Picariello alleged that the CPs harassed and brutalized him.

August 11

Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Margaret A. Jablonski leaves the Institute to take a faculty position in the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Associate Dean Andrew M. Eisenmann '70 assumes her duties.

18

The new Student Services Center opens in the Infinite Corridor location that previously housed the Fishbowl Athena cluster. The new office is designed to allow students to conduct common transactions without having to walk to offices scattered around campus.

19

The Association of Student Activities bans the MIT Extropians, a group of students advocating an end to affirmative action and new admissions policies, from petitioning for membership until September 1, 1998 following their unauthorized mailing to freshmen.

Hacks, Nostalgia Mark Fishbowl's Departure

By Dudley Lamming

Despite howls of disapproval from many students, the Fishbowl Athena cluster in Building 11 closed its doors on March 28. The space was renovated and turned into the MIT Student Services Center, which opened this fall.

The original Project Athena cluster's move to Building 12 was taken as the passing of an era by some. On March 24, a group of hackers left a trail of footsteps from several fish in the Fishbowl to a collection of sushi in front of the pilot Student Services Center in Building 3 to protest the cluster's forthcoming closure.

"I thought it was very witty," said Hillary H. DeBaun, the team leader in the Office for Undergraduate Education and Student Life who heads the Student Services Center project.

Students create new cluster

The cluster was originally scheduled to be relocated to Building 12 on March 29, but it closed one day ahead of schedule amid threats of student protest, said Brian T. Murphy, customer support services team leader for Information Systems. "There were some pretty strong rumors going around about a protest Saturday morning," he said. The team responsible for the move was concerned that the new cluster might not open on time if a disruption occurred. "We decided to get at least the hardware moved out on Friday night" to prevent such a disruption, he said.

There was no protest that night, but some students used the empty facilities in Building 11 to demonstrate peacefully. Early Saturday morning students brought their own computers into the old Fishbowl in an attempt to recreate the Athena cluster. "Anyone who wanted to use them was welcome to come in and log in," said Daniel P. Kamalic '99, one of the students involved with the hack. Many of the machines also contained pieces of equipment which had been discarded by the Institute. "These machines were machines that the administration threw away," he said.

"If they're going to make a big move, they should be doing something that will help stu-

dents more than it will help the administration," Kamalic said. The Student Services Center is not the student body's biggest need, he added.

Others involved in the event had different views. "It was a show of support for the Fishbowl and Athena," said a student who participated in the event. "We're going to miss the Fishbowl, and we wanted to keep it open just a little longer." Many students swore never to use the new cluster that opened in Building 12.

A new Fishbowl emerges

Given that the cluster needed to be moved, the designers of the new site attempted to

Athena" sign.

Students using the new cluster seemed mostly impressed with the changes. "It seems pretty nice," said Joshua J. Stults '99. "The Fishbowl was sort of a landmark, but this location is just as good or better."

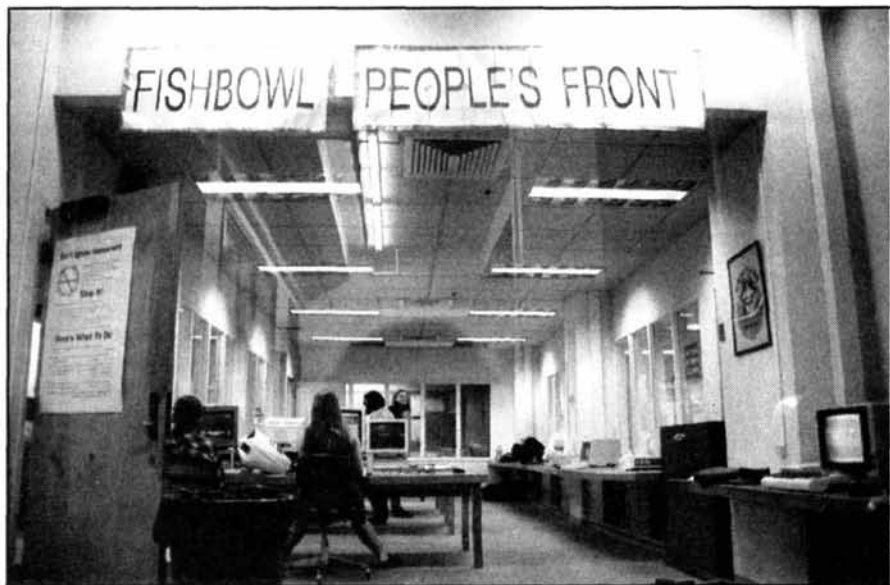
The new cluster is nicer than the Fishbowl cluster, said Jeffrey L. Steinheider '99. "All of the facilities are new and the room has been freshly painted and carpeted."

Old memories start to fade

Students are settling into the new fishbowl's facilities and are slowly forgetting the existence of the old. "It's about the same as the old cluster," said Robert V. McIntyre '98. "It's a cluster, it has computers."

"It's a lot less crowded," added Steven R. Klei, '98. "I guess people just don't want to walk this far."

Indeed, while the Fishbowl cluster featured 29 machines, the new cluster has only 25 machines, one of which is a Quickstation.



DAVID TARIN—THE TECH

The Fishbowl People's Front brought personal computers and discarded machines to the vacant space in Building 11 and briefly reopened the cluster.

capture some of the ambiance of the old Building 11 site. The new cluster that opened in Building 12 attempts to recreate many of the features of the old Fishbowl cluster, Murphy said. "The intent was to make it like the Fishbowl, because it's at least near the Infinite Corridor," he added. The cluster can replace the old Fishbowl as a stop for tours on campus, he said. The Building 12 site also includes the Fishbowl's original "Project

The four remaining machines, all of which were Sun Microsystems Sparcstation Classics, became part of a new Quickstation cluster outside the Student Services Center.

The Quickstation cluster in Building 11 may be convenient, but it has its detractors. "These Quickstations are always taken," complained Daniel J. Freire, G. "If you want to go to an Athena cluster, it's more of a pain. You have to walk a lot farther." C

Student Services Center Eases MIT Bureaucracy

By Dudley Lamming

Paying Bursar's bills, endorsing scholarship checks, and many other activities got significantly easier when the Student Services Center opened this August to great fanfare. It occupied the space along the Infinite Corridor space formerly filled by the Athena Fishbowl cluster.

The new office was designed to allow students to conduct common transactions without traipsing across campus to many distributed offices. It serves as an extension of the Bursar's Office, Registrar's Office, Student Financial Aid Office, Student Employment Office, and Multi-Plan Office, as well as a part-time extension of the MIT Card Office.

MIT established the SSC on the recommendation of the student services re-engineering team. The first stage was a preliminary center with limited functions located in Building 3. The interim center offered quick access to common services such as accepting payments on student accounts, offering common financial and academic forms, and issuing official transcripts.

During its pilot phase the SSC fulfilled 8,578 requests for services during the months of December and January, according to Hillary DeBaun, who oversees the center. During that time the staff only needed to refer 105 students to other offices because their requests could not be processed in the SSC.

The new, larger center offers all of the services of the pilot one and adds several important features. Students can now talk to an account representative about their bursar's account, sign their loan promissory notes, replace their MIT ID Card, get information about student employment, get cross-registration information and materials, talk to a financial aid officer, receive loan entrance counseling, receive a student account refund, and get a short term cash advance.

There are five workers at the service desks, and six workers, including the account representative, at the transitional service area for those students who need more in-depth assistance. Since all of the staffers can answer any question, students with thorny

questions don't hold up the line, as sometimes happens in the Bursar's or Registrar's main offices, DeBaun said.

Students react positively to new center

Students seem to like the new Student Services Center. In its first week of operation alone, about 1,500 students made payments, requested unofficial transcripts, and completed new graduate student pre-registration in the center, DeBaun said.

"You don't need to know where you have to go; you just come here," said Jimmy Wu '01. Wu liked that students can log in while they wait; in addition to the Athena Quickstations right outside, there is an Athena



AGNES BORSZEKI—THE TECH


The new Student Services Center brought a number of frequently used services together in one location.

workstation in the transitional services area.

"It's nice having everything under one roof," said John E. Patterson '98.

Student Services Center set to expand

The transitional service area is only temporary and the Student Services Center will soon be expanding again. The main obstacle to the expansion has been the continued presence of Information Systems on the upper floors of Building 11. However, by the end of March, I/S will have moved all its facilities to Building N42.

The center plans to quickly expand into the new space. The remaining workers from the Bursar's and Registrar's offices will move into facilities in the upper floors of Building 11, said Ronald J. Catella, a project manager for Physical Plant. "Whether there will be enough room for all of the Financial Aid office is currently being determined," Catella said. 

21

Residence and Orientation Week begins for the 1,077 members of the Class of 2001.

22

A nagging drizzle dampens rush plans. Interfraternity Council Rush Chair Jorge F. Rodriguez '98 is forced to proclaim "Let the rush begin!" in Johnson Athletic Center instead of Killian Court.

The *Daily Confusion*, a list of residence rush events compiled by the R/O Committee, is missing the entries from several houses including Fenway House, Student House, and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

MIT ranks sixth among the best colleges and universities in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* annual survey.

26

Orientation begins for 1,500 graduate students.

A new rush program, Stand Up!, allows freshmen to learn about themselves and each other, while addressing issues of race, gender, and sexuality that may be overlooked during the frantic schedule of rush.

September 2

The first issue of the *MIT Observer* appears on campus newsstands. The paper plans to publish twice a month.

10

Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 undergoes successful heart bypass surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital after suffering a heart attack on the 6th.

15

MIT finishes renovating 10 heavily-used classrooms on the first floor of Building 2. The renovations also added several new technologies to the ordinary classroom setup, including an Athena terminal and overhead projection equipment.

The obesity drug dexfenfluramine, known by the trade name Redux, is recalled. MIT expected to bring in at least one million dollars per year in roy-

Tragedy Tests Student Governments' Resolve

By Naveen Sunkavally

Effective student government tries to fulfill the needs of students given the restraints imposed by the administration and other sources. In 1997, achieving this balance largely meant creating a safe environment for alcohol consumption, rethinking Residence and Orientation Week, and re-evaluating housing.

The Interfraternity Council, thrust under a microscope by the media and administration, played a prominent role in the alcohol and housing debates in the fall. Soon after the death of Phi

Gamma Delta pledge Scott S. Krueger '01 and an illicit attempt to purchase alcohol at Zeta Psi last fall, the IFC banned alcohol and approved sweeping regulations that required all new member events to be wholly alcohol-free. The group also mandated the removal of kegs and tapping systems and prohibited living groups from using funds from their treasuries to purchase alcohol. In addition, all future events where alcohol would be served would need IFC certification and party monitors. All fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups would also have to appoint a safety officer and a risk management chair.

These changes were hard for many members of fraternities to swallow immediately. "In any issue there are varying levels of absorption: [some] understand the new environment, some want to preserve the previous environment, and others haven't caught up," said Iddo Gilon '98, then the president of the IFC. "One person slipping up can cause consequences... people become very angry when something [threatens] to ruin the system." However, all of the IFC presidents did come together to approve the policies that they legislated for themselves, he said. Gilon said that the IFC faced pressure from many quarters, including the administration, the licensing board,

and the desires of IFC members themselves. The overall goal, he said, was to take "the right actions to keep credibility. If we lost credibility, we would [have lost] the ability to govern."

Fierce scrutiny of the administration and media made initial work difficult, but the IFC learned how to operate in this new environment quickly. "We really managed to close out the media and channeled them in a particular direction," Gilon said. When incidents at Zeta Psi, Theta Chi, and Sigma Phi Epsilon undermined the IFC's position,



Iddo Gilon '98

THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

the IFC acted cautiously, staying in line with the administration but also stressing individual students' responsibility for their actions.

The IFC also noted the different standards employed by the administration toward infractions in dormitories and fraternities. Looking back at the underage drinking recently discovered at Bexley Hall, Jorge F. Rodriguez '98, the IFC's outgoing rush chair, said

that people generally perceive fraternity violations as done by the entire house, whereas dorm violations are treated as individual actions.

At the beginning of the fall term some ILGs spoke quietly about seceding from the IFC due to concerns about representation. The protests, if not the concerns, quickly faded from view as the IFC pulled together after Krueger's death and the on-campus housing resolution. "ILGs are a very important part of the IFC. I think they have valid concerns. They seem rejuvenated, and Duane will present them with ample opportunity," Gilon said, referring to incoming IFC President Duane H. Dreger '99.

Dormcon also deals with alcohol issues

The Dormitory Council took a role in responding to Krueger's death and issued a voluntary ban on alcohol at all dormitory events. "Hopefully we can resolve this and

come up with new policies that are beneficial to students and to the administration," said Ashesh P. Shah '98, president of Dormcon.

Dormcon later lifted their ban in November after the initiation of the Institute-wide ban. "I guess you could say it is more stringent than our policy was," Shah said. "It made sense to lift our ban when there was [another ban] accomplishing the same thing."

Undergraduate Association reacts

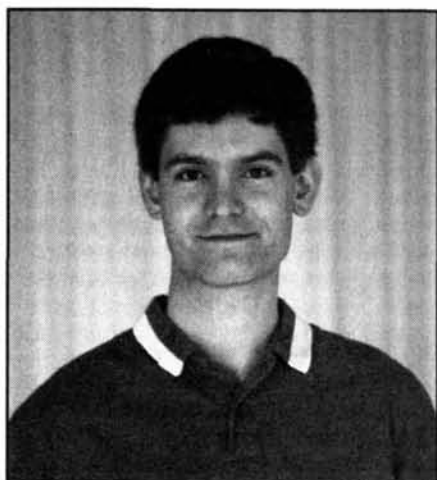
The Undergraduate Association also addressed the issue of alcohol, surveying students to gauge opinions on alcohol proposals on the table. "Students believe they are responsible enough and want to be treated like adults," said President Dedric A. Carter '98.

To promote alcohol awareness, the UA created a committee on alcohol policy to work with the faculty/student committee on alcohol policy chaired by Head of the Biology Department Phillip A. Sharp and MIT Medical's Chief of Pediatrics and Student Services Mark A. Goldstein. The committee tried to keep its work, and the debate about the alcohol policy in general, in the news by taking out advertisements in LSC slides. Carter also wrote memos to President Charles M. Vest to discuss implementing a "real-world, in-your-face Alcohol Reality Program" for students.

The UA also faced a lawsuit by J. Paul Kirby '92, a former UA Vice-President. Kirby wanted to gain access to potentially incriminating notes and documents from several years ago which contained information about MIT's alcohol policy. The subsequent settlement "allowed Kirby to have his personal notes but not [anything] internal," Carter said.

In an odd twist near the end of 1997, the UA also discussed disbanding itself, the IFC, and Dormcon to form a single Undergraduate Student Government. Gilon proposed a different solution: "We inducted the UA into the IFC — Upsilon Alpha." Rodriguez felt that the UA's functionality does not carry over into residence issues and that "it can't expect to be involved in that." The issue was later dropped.

The UA also rewrote its constitution earlier in the year, a move, Carter said, that allowed it to meet earlier and respond more efficiently to the Krueger tragedy, as well as an incident with the Extropians student group. The UA also worked to expand the number of banks immediately available to students, to be more than just BankBoston; pushed through motions aimed at eliminating evening exams; and worked to create a



TECH FILE PHOTO

Geoffrey J. Coram G


UA "Symposium on Diversity" early in 1998.

Graduate Student Council had other plans

Alcohol issues did not concern the Graduate Student Council as much as they did the IFC, Dormcon, and the UA because

underage drinking is a non-issue for graduate students. The GSC did place a voluntary ban on alcohol in October but lifted it at the month's end. It also set up an ad-hoc committee to establish alcohol policy guidelines for events.

One of the GSC's big successes this year was in lobbying MIT to push for far lower domestic and international telephone rates during its contract renegotiations. A GSC survey comparing MIT's pricing scale to those used by other universities found MIT's lagging far behind. Call prices dropped six cents a minute after the renegotiation.

President Geoffrey J. Coram G said that the GSC was able to implement several other programs. In response to the funding problems of certain departments, the GSC created the Travel Grant Program to allocate \$7000 to students who wanted to attend conferences to present their posters and papers, Coram said. Working in coordination with the Alumni Office, the GSC also set up the Independent Activities Period Externship Program, which helped to introduce students to "atypical" jobs by pairing them with MIT graduates. 

alties.

19

A lengthy court battle over the legal intricacies involved in operating MIT's electric cogeneration facility comes to a head as the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court upholds the legality of levying fees against the Institute while passing the buck on the calculation of those fees to the Department of Public Utilities. Both MIT and the Cambridge Electric Light Company claim victory following the decision.

22

The Committee on the First-Year Program, chaired by Professor of Physics Thomas J. Greytak '62, is formed to study into matters surrounding the freshman experience at the Institute.

23

The Student Advisory Committee to the Task Force on Student Life and Learning releases preliminary findings calling for increased support for student activities. The report also suggests students explore MIT's non-technical departments and that MIT consider founding a law school.

Favorable weather conditions across the northeast result in huge numbers of mosquitoes on campus.

24

Umaer A. Basha '01 dies at Children's Hospital in Chicago after fainting and drowning in the shower at his parents' home in Lake Forest, Ill.

26

Scott S. Krueger '01, a Phi Gamma Delta pledge, is found unconscious in his room. His blood alcohol level is 0.41 percent when he arrives at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

A high-speed chase involving an officer in pursuit of a suspect driving a stolen BMW 325 ends abruptly in a crash at the intersection of Main Street and Vassar Street. A Cambridge police officer and the suspect, Jose A. Montanez of Chelsea, were injured during the chase.

A chemical spill occurs in the fifth-floor solvent room of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research.

MIT Grads are the 24th Largest Economy

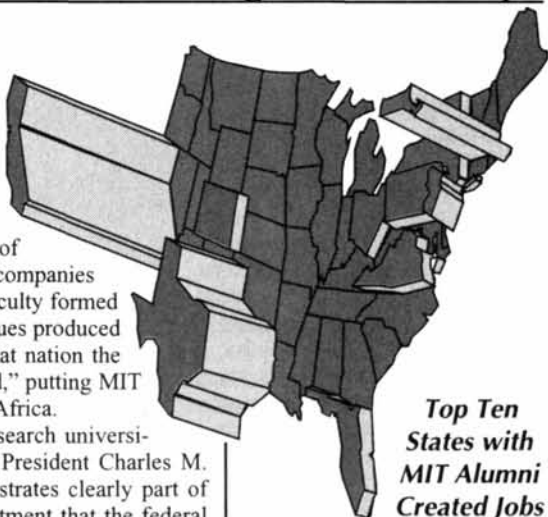
By Dan McGuire

MIT alumni and alumnae generated \$2.32 billion in sales and founded more than 4,000 firms, employing 1.1 million people in 1994, according to a study conducted by MIT and BankBoston in March. The study, entitled "MIT: The Impact of Innovation," reported that if the companies founded by MIT graduates and faculty formed an independent nation, "the revenues produced by the companies would make that nation the 24th largest economy in the world," putting MIT above Thailand and below South Africa.

The report was released as research universities faced federal spending cuts. President Charles M. Vest said that the report "demonstrates clearly part of the return to society on the investment that the federal government makes in our students and faculty through the sponsorship of research at universities."

Electrical engineering and computer science graduates were responsible for most of the new jobs, followed by mechanical engineering, management, civil engineering, and chemical engineering graduates.

Companies founded by MIT alumni "are not typical of the economy as a whole," noted the report. "They tend to be knowledge-based companies in software, manufacturing... or consulting." Also, because their companies sell to national and international markets, "these companies have a disproportionate importance to their local economies," it stated.



Top Ten States with MIT Alumni Created Jobs

California	162,000
Massachusetts	125,000
Texas	84,000
New Jersey	34,000
Pennsylvania	21,000
Ohio	18,000
Colorado	15,000
Florida	15,000
New York	15,000
Virginia	15,000

Senior House Completed, Baker Renovations Next

By Krista Niece and Carina Fung

The last twelve months have been a time of consolidation for dormitory improvements. Complex projects, such as finishing the renovation of Senior House, drew to a close while several other dormitories were slightly altered and patched up. The much-awaited renovations of Baker House again failed to materialize, but promises were made that a renovation would begin soon.

Senior House's new facade was one of the most visible, and difficult, projects undertaken this year. Construction over the summer closed both entrances to Senior House, forcing residents to choose between propping open a loading dock or not gaining entrance to the dormitory, said Senior House President Victor P. Morales '98.

"You couldn't win: either it was open and there was some security hazard or it wasn't and you couldn't get into the house," Morales said.

However, administration officials said that the problems were not serious. "Those particular things probably happened for only times of five or ten minutes," said Senior House Manager Jack Ahern. "It's not like you're going for hours on end and not being able to get in."

When Residence and Orientation week began, the facade of Senior House remained marred by construction. Shawmut Design and Construction was scheduled to finish major work on a new portico and grand entrance by R/O, said Ronald J. Catella, a project manager for Physical Plant who oversaw the project. However, the end of construction extended past the beginning of R/O.

The delay was caused partly by a faulty steam line under the sidewalk in front of Senior House. Contractors were forced to replace it as part of the project, Catella said.

The summer's renovations capped two years of work on the aging dormitory. Last summer the Institute renovated the dormitory's interior and redid bathrooms and kitchens as well as its electrical and plumbing work. In a controversial decision, the six entries, which had previously been isolated, were joined together at all floors.

Many residents were concerned that the new design would have an impact on the culture of the house. "That's what most people were concerned about during the planning stages," rather than the physical renovations

themselves, Morales said.

This worry had some foundation, said Zachary McGregor-Dorsey '99, a resident of Senior House. "In some cases, it has changed," he said. Residents can't afford to be as fractious as they used to be, he said, "now that they have to get along more."

The changes to the dormitory probably affected Senior House's rush, McGregor-Dorsey said. "We probably got a slightly different cross-section," he said. However, both Morales and McGregor-Dorsey felt that these changes were natural and not too severe. "It would have changed anyway," McGregor-Dorsey said.

Overall, the change in the house atmosphere seems to have been less profound than the extensive physical changes. "Most of the students who have joined us... since renovation seem to fit in very well," Morales said. It seems likely that the freshmen who live there will adjust to the dormitory's culture, rather than cause that culture to change, McGregor-Dorsey said. Senior House "hasn't changed as dramatically as people expected."

Still, there are some regrets about the demolition of the six small communities within the dorm. Some residents still pine for the old Senior House, McGregor-Dorsey said, especially with the unexpected problems that have arisen, including bad drains in the bathrooms and thinner walls in rooms which make it easy to hear what is going on in adjacent rooms. "It's not bad... but I prefer how it was my freshman year," he said.

Baker House to be renovated

Baker will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 1999, but its facilities are in decline. Many Baker residents feel that renovations are needed. The plumbing system needs to be changed, said Stacy M. Holden '00, who lives in Baker, "We went two mornings without water over IAP."

The decline has caught the attention of the administration, which has promised to renovate Baker beginning this coming summer. Over the next two years, Baker House will be restored to its original grandeur. "The plan is to restore it to the original intentions of

[Alvar] Aalto" the famous architect who designed the dormitory, said Tracy M. Sadowski, student chair of building renovations.

Plans for renovations at Baker will be finalized in February, and renovations will commence in the summer, she said. This summer will witness renovations of the basement, the commons, the dining room, and the kitchen areas, while the summer of 1999 will see renovations done to student rooms.

Other dormitories get face-lifts

At New House, construction of a new dormitory desk began about three weeks before R/O, said Jeffrey S. Kahle '98, desk captain.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Senior House got a facelift over the summer but construction delays complicated R/O.

Originally, the construction was scheduled to start at the beginning of the summer, but was delayed, said Chris Nolan, general manager of maintenance and renovation for Housing and Food Services. "A lot of it was finding funding to do it, then finding an architect to do it," he said.

Contractors replaced the patio at MacGregor House due to a history of leaks beneath it. Construction there continued into September due to changes in the initial specifications, Nolan said.

Other renovations included a new roof on East Campus, a new roof on Ashdown House, and a recarpeting project in Random Hall.

R/O Proves to Be Not So Immutable After All

By Zareena Hussain

On some issues, the pace of change here at the Institute sometimes borders on the glacial. But occasionally something comes up that forces us to reconsider our assumptions. Residence and Orientation Week was for a long time a protected institution. Everybody's familiarity with the system as it stood, and fragmented ideas about what its future path should be, made it nearly untouchable.

However, the incidents of the past term changed all of that. A subject that was once taboo became the center of a contentious debate and perhaps a catalyst for a larger debate on housing and alcohol policy.

The faculty, for better or for worse, took the lead in proposing solutions to R/O's problems. Dean for Undergraduate Curriculum Kip V. Hodges PhD '82 said that this was not an issue that could be resolved simply by building another dormitory. "This is not a purely bricks and mortar problem," he said at the October faculty meeting. He asked faculty to become personally involved and to create a "better educational environment for undergraduates." Hodges said that R/O should change to be "a lot more O and less emphasis on R."

It would be "enormously constructive for the Institute if [the] faculty would take responsibility for the orienting of our youngest colleagues," said Paul E. Gray '54, a professor of electrical engineering and computer science and former chairman of the MIT Corporation. He called the current R/O system a "lousy way to introduce 1,000 young people to the complexity of MIT."

Changes to R/O beyond the cosmetic change of name to Orientation 1998 have yet to be officially announced and implemented, and how substantive these changes will be cannot yet be determined. However the discussions during open meetings and the proceedings of ad-hoc and Institute committees seem to be bringing at least the problems in to better focus.

First, the lack of focus on academics in the orientation of new students at MIT can set a detrimental tone for the student's next four years at the Institute, many faculty members said. Some students agreed, asking that the faculty needed to be more involved in setting the proper tone for orienting students to the Institute.

Out of those basic ideas came two reports, one from William W. Shen '98 on behalf of the Interfraternity Council's president's council, and one by the Orientation and Residence Advisory group, appointed by Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams and chaired by Professor J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75.

In the course of its findings, the advisory group, which was composed of faculty, student leaders from dormitories, fraternities, sororities and independent living groups, found "a problem that if left unaddressed would likely derail any attempt to improve the residence and orientation system." Essentially, the report said that faculty and students differ in their ideas on what is broken with the orientation system and how to fix it.

The committee outlined several guiding principles: to increase early and lasting interactions between faculty and students, to emphasize the intellectual excitement and academic reality of MIT, to focus on the development of the "whole person", and to recognize that Orientation Week is only the beginning of an enhanced program of introduction to the Institute.

The committee also offered a few guiding principles for improving residence selection. The focus of orientation should be on the incoming student, the availability of early, objective, and accessible residence information, equitable and diverse housing choices for all students, the group said. Furthermore, students and parents should be better informed and less stressed during orientation, living groups should display high standards of conduct and responsibility, and students should have more opportunities to explore the residence system before rush.

Effects of decisions on 1998 are uncertain

Revamping rush will begin in earnest when Hodges returns from an extended break during IAP to meet with students about adopted R/O changes, but some details are getting clearer. "While nothing has been formalized at this point, I think the working assumption is that we will essentially stay within the same overall time frame... [that we used] in the past this coming year, because registration day is fixed and the arrival dates are the most difficult to change," said Dean for Student Life Margaret R.

28

Pamela A. Mukerji '01 is elected president of the freshman class.

29

Scott S. Krueger '01 dies after spending three days in a coma caused by alcohol poisoning. All fraternities, sororities, independent living groups, and dormitories, voluntarily suspend the use of alcohol at events pending a review of Institute alcohol policies. The administration promises to launch a campus-wide dialogue to discuss living environments, rush, and alcohol policies.

October 1

President Charles M. Vest holds a press conference identifying the month of October as a month for introspective dialogue. He outlines specific plans to build a new dormitory and establish a student-faculty seminar to discuss binge drinking. He also prohibits groups from spending Institute funds for events where underage students will be present.

2

Hackers using "packet sniffers" attack the MIT campus. Several Athena users who failed to encrypt their telnet connections have their passwords stolen and their accounts broken into.

3

The national leadership of Phi Gamma Delta announces that the fraternity's 125 chapters will be alcohol-free by July 1, 2000.

4

Students gather on Kresge Oval for a candlelight memorial service dedicated to honoring the memories of Umaer A. Basha '01 and Scott S. Krueger '01.

9

The Boston City Council's public safety committee, along with the university and community relations committee, hold a joint hearing to discuss the issue of binge drinking on area college campuses.

10

A MIT employee is the victim of an assault on Ames Street near Building E15.

The class council of 1998 holds the largest career fair in MIT history. About



INDRANATH NEOGY—THE TECH

Thursday Night in the City helped to introduce freshmen to Boston despite several changes in the way it was organized and some unseasonable late August showers.

Bates.

One change that is for certain is that student leaders for Project Move Off Your Assumptions must also be associate advisors, said Elizabeth I. Cogliano, coordinator for student programs in the Dean's office.

Moderate changes occur to R/O in 1997

While next year's changes to R/O may make this year's changes pale in comparison, this year also saw some changes in rush activities, including the introduction of the Freshman Messaging System in dormitories, as well as changes to rules governing sorority and fraternity rush.

The President's Convocation got a new, hipper edge with Hodges' new Contact MIT event. Freshmen participated in an interactive hour focused on accomplishments and contributions of MIT individuals in the past.

One unexpected aspect of this year's R/O week was the weather. Usually sunny August afternoons made way for foggy, almost monsoonish days. Freshmen headed to Project Move Off Your Assumption after the convocation met in the lobby of Kresge Auditorium instead of outside on Kresge Oval. Group leaders and students were forced to improvise as they tried to cram into the impossibly small area.

"I jumped up and down and yelled out, 'Argon!' really, really loudly," said Mark C. Philip '00, referring to the element-based names given to each group. But the MOYA

leader said that he couldn't collect all the members of his group. "One defected to helium," he said.

The rain forced MOYA into four different indoor locations — DuPont Gymnasium, Rockwell Cage, and the two floors of Johnson Athletic Center. The rain and cramped facilities failed to dampen the spirits of MOYA participants, and most students emerged pleased.

The fall R/O saw some changes to the tra-

ditional Thursday Night Dinners program held after MOYA. The event was renamed "Thursday Night in the City" and was preceded for the first time by a freshman barbeque which was designed to take the emphasis off having dinner. The snack was also supposed to allow student groups to hold non-food events for freshmen, such as tours of Boston.

The barbeque was also intended to "provide a little downtime after MOYA," said Reshma Patil '00, the R/O publicity and personnel manager. It was the first time during R/O that all the freshmen had the chance to eat and interact in one place, she said. However, the rain required that the freshmen share slightly tighter quarters — the barbeque to the first floor of Johnson Athletic Center.

The barbeque was designed to help encourage the 300 to 400 freshmen who generally do not attend Thursday Night Dinners, Patil said. For those that simply

didn't wish to participate, it provided a full belly. To those who were nervous about participating, it provided a circle of people with whom they were comfortable. "A lot of freshmen who didn't go to Thursday Night Dinners [last year] didn't go because they might have hesitated to go into the city with a bunch of strangers," Patil said.

Intermittent rain the next day also forced Killian Kick-off inside. The new location required that several changes be made to the

Editorials in Review

R/O

The Tech gave strong and continued support to the idea of making radical changes to Residence and Orientation Week. Over the past several years, *The Tech* has pointed to rush activities in particular as deceptive, divisive, and needlessly stressful. This year saw some action, but not nearly enough. At the November faculty meeting the ad-hoc committee chaired by Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver '75 proposed changing the name of R/O and lengthening fraternity rush. Following this announcement *The Tech* editorialized that in spite of their noble goals the recommendations did not represent significant change from the way R/O has been done in the past.

In December, when President Charles M. Vest released a statement outlining the administration's plans, *The Tech's* editorial took a more sanguine view:

"We are cautiously optimistic that the administration and faculty are beginning to move in the direction of a more integrated orientation week. However, we remain skeptical as to the commitment of the faculty and administration to real change. In the past, efforts to involve faculty in R/O and increase the profile of academic orientation have failed. The faculty remain essentially uninterested in the undergraduate community, and academic events regularly play second fiddle to the stressful experience of fraternity rush."

program. The three speakers who were scheduled to introduce the various living options were forced to give abbreviated versions of their speeches.

Rush gains new systems, rule changes

Once rush started, several new policy changes began to make their mark, including new rules on fraternity and sorority rush and the new Freshman Messaging System. The most immediately visible change was the addition of a computerized system. FMS replaced the system for sending messages to freshmen used in 1996, which drew harsh criticism from all quarters. In 1996, FSILGs were forced to send all messages through the R/O Center, which would relay them on to the dormitories in which the freshmen were temporarily housed. Desk workers were then responsible for transcribing the messages, said Kyle A. Jamieson '00, a member of the R/O committee in charge of the system.

Under the new system, messages sent by FSILGs would be expunged from the system after a set period of time. FSILGs were also limited in the number of messages they could send to freshmen, Jamieson said. This was added to prevent groups from sending out many messages, or spamming, he said.

While the FMS was not designed solely as a rush tool, it did have a marked effect on FSILG rush. "I think it's having a positive effect [on IFC rush]," said Interfraternity Council Rush Chair Jorge F. Rodriguez '98. He said that houses which had previously reported a slow rush "have seen significant improvements by using FMS."

Even so, house rush chairs seemed unimpressed by FMS's potential to aid their efforts to recruit freshmen. "It's been pretty ineffectual," said Jeff G. Riechbach '99, rush chair for Beta Theta Pi. "We really haven't used [FMS]," said Chi Phi Rush Chair Todd S. Harrison '98.


In addition to the structural changes

imposed by the R/O committee, for the first time, the IFC required each house to appoint a referral chair to specifically handle referring freshmen to other, more suitable houses to rush. Before this responsibility generally rested with the rush chair, who had many other duties.

Rules governing sorority rush also changed. This year, sisters were able to speak to pledges outside their designated rush rooms. In previous years, members of the Panhellenic Association were not allowed to talk to freshman women outside the time of scheduled rush.

"If they ask what sorority you're from, you can tell them," said Joanna F. Au '98, the vice president in charge of rush for Panhel. However, if they ask too many questions, you're supposed to direct them to explore the sorority rush process, Au said. "We're not allowed to rush them outside the rush rooms."

The new rules were a pilot project, Au said, and must be voted on, by a three-quarters vote of Panhel to have them included in next year's rules.

In addition, all groups in the women's conference were allowed to wear identifying markings, like sorority letters, before Killian Kick-Off and outside sorority rush rooms. 



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Rain forced MOYA organizers to move events indoors.

150 companies set up company booths at the event.

11

The Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission follows a liquor truck to Zeta Psi where it drops off a keg of beer. Nineteen-year-old Francis R. Godwin '01 uses a fake identification to receive the keg. MIT responds by banning all alcohol at Zeta Psi.

13

A female student is the victim of an assault near 240 Albany St., the location of the CASPAR, the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholic Rehabilitation.

Two MIT alumni are awarded Nobel Prizes for their work. William D. Phillips PhD '76 receives the Nobel Prize in physics, and Robert C. Merton PhD '70 wins the Nobel Memorial Prize in economic sciences.

15

Stephan L. Chorover, professor of brain and cognitive sciences, brings a sense of the faculty motion to the floor at the monthly faculty meeting which states "that commencing the academic year 1998 all freshmen should live on campus."

After several years of operational losses, The Coop announces that the store has returned to profitability and will provide a 3.5 percent rebate to members.

18

President Charles M. Vest addresses parents' concerns about the use of alcohol on campus at Family Weekend. He also outlines the steps taken after the death of a Scott S. Krueger '01.

21

Deans hold their first open meeting with students to discuss the alcohol policy. Students express concern over Chorover's motion to house all freshmen admitted next year in on campus housing.

28

J. Paul Kirby '92, former vice-president of the Undergraduate Association, files a lawsuit against the Institute, the UA, and UA president Dedric A. Carter

Debate Surrounds Sixth Place *U.S. News* Ranking

By Jennifer Chung

Over a year ago the Undergraduate Association and student governments across the nation announced a boycott of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual college rankings because of the "meat-market superficiality" that some say the rankings condone. While the animosity remains, little has been done to ensure that the proposed boycott takes effect.

This year MIT again participated in the rankings. It placed sixth this year in *U.S. News'* annual report on "America's Best Colleges," placing it behind Harvard University and Princeton University, which tied for first place, Duke University and Yale University, which tied for third, and Stanford University, which placed fifth.

Although being consistently ranked as one of the nation's top schools would normally be cause for celebration, many students at top-ranked universities have expressed disapproval of college rankings in general and those of *U.S. News* in particular. Opponents say the rankings are imprecise at best and inaccurate at worse. The fact that they play a large role in the decisions of seniors applying to college, opponents say, makes them downright dangerous.

U.S. News stirred up additional debate with the introduction of a new "value added" category. A school's value added level is calculated by comparing the predicted graduation rate given by the school and the school's actual graduation rate. The grade was only

five percent of the final score for colleges in the 1996-97 edition of "America's Best Colleges" and was hidden from view. This year's edition displayed the numbers. MIT was given a -7. Negative scores are detrimental to the school's overall rating.

Of the top 25 nationally ranked colleges, Emory University and the University of Notre Dame, ranked overall ninth and nineteenth, respectively, had the highest "value added" score at +12. MIT's score was the fourth lowest, followed by Carnegie Mellon and the University of Chicago, and the California Institute of Technology at -17.

"I do not believe that the 'value added' measure is either well-named or useful," said President Charles M. Vest.

"According to this, there's no value added for a Harvard education, Princeton education, Stanford education, MIT education, Caltech education, a University of Chicago education,

a Carnegie Mellon education," said Kenneth D. Campbell, director of the News Office. Princeton and Stanford both received values of 0, and Harvard received a -1.

Inaction defines boycott

Despite criticism about the displayed "value added" category, little is being done about the way *U.S. News* is computing it, or the fact that the rankings still exist.

In November of 1996, the Undergraduate Association Council passed a bill denouncing

the ranking of colleges by *U.S. News*, following a collegiate movement led by Associated Students of Stanford University Vice President Nick Thompson and including a number of colleges such as Caltech, Stanford, Rice University, and the University of California at Berkeley. Stanford students also created a national group, the Forget *U.S. News* Coalition.

Anti-ranking sentiment was so popular at

the time that the Council of Ivy League School Governments voted on the issue of joining FUNC last fall, according to the *Nassau Spigot*, a publication at Princeton. The Council did not issue a formal statement was ever issued condemning *U.S. News*, however.

The movement prompted *U.S. News* to revise the way colleges were ranked by rounding scores. "*U.S. News* has not made any significant changes in its methodology, but there are changes in the way the rankings are presented," the magazine said. By considering the rounded total score of a college, instead of comparing to the first decimal place, more ties were created in this year's rankings than in previous years. Hence, this year's top 10 actually included thirteen colleges, apparently a concession to FUNC's claim that colleges should be grouped, but not ranked.

Despite the 1996 UA resolution, the MIT administration still gave information to *U.S. News*. The UA did not consider the issue again this year. Withholding information would only make the rankings more artificial because the surveyors would be forced to use guesses rather than statistical information, Vest said.

The Rankings

1. Harvard

1. Princeton

3. Duke

3. Yale

5. Stanford

6. MIT

7. Dartmouth

7. UPenn

9. Brown

9. Caltech

Editorials in Review

U.S. News Ratings

In past years, *The Tech* criticized *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rating of American universities. 1997 was no exception. This year, however, more and more protests against the magazine's ratings system began to surface. Particularly controversial was a new "value added" rating, which purported to measure "the school's role in the academic success of students," according to the magazine. MIT scored a -7 in the category.

In its Sept. 9 editorial, *The Tech* pointed out that the ranking of the twenty or so top schools is particularly silly because, even by the magazine's own standards, the schools are separated by insignificant amounts:

"The rankings provide an artificial sense of precision, and they create the impression that there is a significant difference between the top few schools... *U.S. News'* ranking system is flawed beyond repair, and it is indeed shameful that students devoted to scientific reason must submit to such a ridiculously constructed system."

Deaths Sometimes Lost In Debate over Effects

By Dalíé Jiménez

In the span of two months, three deaths shook the MIT campus. For some, they were issues that were subsumed into a larger debate. But for others, they were blows which deeply affected a part of their lives.

On Sept. 24, Umaer A. Basha '01 died in his home in Chicago after accidentally drowning in the shower. Gregory D. Barringer, coach of the men's lightweight crew team remembers seeing Umaer just before he left for his parent's home in Lake Forest, Ill. that weekend.

Asif Khalak G, a member of the Muslim Student's Association, remembers meeting Basha during daily prayers. "He was very friendly," he said, "I recall a conversation that he was having with some other members of the Muslim community on the night of the MSA Welcome Dinner. They were discussing whether it was possible to be a good Muslim in the United States, given the level of moral decay in modern society. Umaer was pretty emphatically making the point that it was possible. This, to me, says the most about Umaer since it indicates the extent to which he not only believed in the ideal of being a good Muslim, but was trying to live it as well."

"The news of his death, which I first read in *The Tech*, shocked me, and I knew instantly that we had lost a very valuable member of our community," Khalak added.

Only five days later, on Sept. 29, Scott S. Krueger '01 died after spending three days in a coma. Krueger was also a member of the crew team. Barringer remembers him as "a real go-getter, and fairly gregarious by MIT standards." He also added that Krueger "really took to the rowing... and started to establish himself as a team leader." His loss hit the team hard: "He had established himself as more of an integral part of the team," Barringer said.

Attempts to contact friends of Krueger from Phi Gamma Delta were unsuccessful. "There continues to be an investigation by city officials. This has prevented any fraternity members... from discussing their knowledge of the situation with anyone," said Jonathan P. Loflin '98, Fiji's ex-President.

A little less than a month later, on Oct. 31, Michele S. Micheletti '00 died in an accident on Memorial Drive. Dean Margaret R. Bates, who knew her through the Freshman Leadership Program and the advisory board

to the Task Force on Student Life and Learning remembers her fondly. "She was everything I could hope for in an MIT student," she said. Alpha Phi president Anya K. Hawrylchak '98 said, "She was an amazing person, involved in everything."

The Tech received a letter by Patricia Diaz '00, who wrote, "Michele wasn't very close to me, but I consider her my friend because she changed my life. Sometimes when I was lonely and empty, she touched and filled my heart with her friendly eyes and her genuine smile. I really admire her because she was always herself: natural and sincere, and willing to help... at all times."


Why it wasn't enough

"I have to say that I am very saddened by the scope of coverage on Scott Krueger's death. Imagine how much more tragic Krueger's death will become if he is remembered only in relation to underage drinking and fraternity life," wrote Carrie Harvey in a letter to *The Tech*. "Before a meaningful discussion on the senseless death of Scott Krueger can take place, the MIT community and the community at-large need to remember or at least get to know Krueger for who he was," she added.

The meaningful discussion Harvey called for didn't materialize, and neither did a better sense of who he was. The momentum began to fade quickly. "It is human nature that when some shattering event may occur" people become motivated, but they soon lose interest, said President Charles M. Vest at a press conference shortly after Krueger's death.

The fact that most students didn't know the people who died, turned their deaths into issues rather than tragedies.

Gordon Hamilton, another of the crew coaches, expressed his disappointment with the way MIT handled the situation. "I got some very helpful advice in how to talk with my squad from Director of Athletics, Dr. Richard A. Hill. But on the whole, I feel that the Institute became much more interested in damage control and public image than in recognizing this as a personal tragedy for Scott's family, friends and other students," he said.

"His death brought up very serious issues, but the immediate time around his death should have been one of grieving and counseling people inappropriate means of this. I think MIT failed here," he said. 

'98. Kirby seeks the release of several documents compiled during his time with the organization. The documents contain information on MIT's alcohol policy from 1990 - 1991. Kirby said that he wanted to make the documents public.

30

Four students and five faculty members are appointed to the Orientation/Residence Fall '98 committee, chaired by J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75, professor of Ocean Engineering, 16 days before they are to deliver a report to the senior administration on how to restructure R/O Week next year.

31

Michelle S. Micheletti '00 dies after being struck by two automobiles on Memorial Drive.

The dining review working group releases its final report today. The report calls for the reopening of several closed dormitory dining halls and proposes dividing the campus into two parts, a main campus group and a west campus and Sloan school group, which will be served by different vendors.

President Charles M. Vest holds his fifth town meeting. Student concerns over possible upcoming changes to the Institute's housing system and alcohol policies dominate the meeting.

November 1

A Wellesley student is assaulted as she crosses the Harvard bridge early Saturday morning.

5

Students, faculty, and administrators meet to discuss Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephan L. Chorover's sense of the faculty motion which proposes housing all freshmen on campus. Students overwhelmingly oppose the motion and express fear that it may pass.

6

The Boston Licensing Board bans all alcohol at MIT's chapter of Phi Gamma Delta. They postpone all further licensing decisions until Nov. 26.

The Metropolitan District Commission paints several new crosswalks on Memorial Drive, including one

Faculty Changes



Paul E. Gray

By May K. Tse

After serving seven years as chairman of the MIT Corporation since, Paul E. Gray '54 stepped down this year to focus again on teaching in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Gray first served as chancellor and then as MIT's president from 1980 to 1990.

Gray first set foot on Institute grounds as a freshman in 1950. He went on to earn two higher degrees, a faculty position and hold various administrative positions. He has been at the Institute since he first arrived except for a two year absence.

The MIT community honored Gray and his wife Priscilla in a gala event held in April. Over 250 well-wishers, including friends, faculty members, students, and administrators descended upon Walker Memorial to praise and remember Gray.

"Paul has a wonderful sense of humor, available at times when it's seriously needed," said Institute Professor Emeritus Francis E. Low said. President Charles M. Vest called Gray a "champion of undergraduate education."

Gray used his time at the podium to reflect on the Institute. "MIT is thought of, remembered in so many ways: Boston Tech, the premier institution of applied science and engineering in the nation, one of the world's great research universities, 'Tech is Hell,' and its modern equivalent, which I shall not repeat," he said.

"It is the people who make the place, give it its spirit and personality. Thank you so much for being here tonight; thank you for this occasion, your kind remarks. You have been our friends for so long, and we look forward to nothing very much changing come June 1," he said. In June, chairman, CEO, and co-founder of Teradyne Inc., Alexander V. d'Arbeloff '49 took over the reins as chairman of the MIT Corporation.

D'Arbeloff succeeds Gray as chairman

"I am honored and excited by MIT's decision to name me as its new chairman. I hope to be worthy of that honor, and I will work hard to make a significant contribution to the future of MIT," d'Arbeloff said.

D'Arbeloff has served as a member of the MIT Corporation since 1989 and was named a life member in 1994. He was also on the Institute's Development Committee and the visiting committees of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and the Department of Economics.

He has also taught classes for the Department of Mechanical Engineering and for the Sloan School of Management, where he got his degree in 1949.

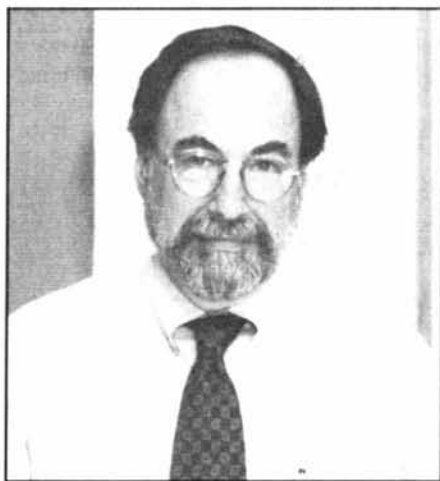
Traditionally, the chairman has been a former president; there have been only two instances in the past in which a former or retiring president was not elected chairman: in 1957 when Vannevar Bush '16 became chairman and in 1983 when David S. Saxon '41 took the position.

D'Arbeloff also serves in various capacities, from the board of directors of private companies throughout Boston to a trustee of the New England Conservatory, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Partners Health Care System. He is also the former chairman of the Massachusetts High Technology Council as well as the director of the Center for Quality Management.

Gray remains involved in the community

Even after giving up his post as Chairman of the MIT Corporation, Gray managed to stay involved in the MIT community. At October's faculty meeting, Gray stated that it would be "enormously constructive for the Institute if faculty would take responsibility for the orienting of our youngest colleagues," and called the current R/O system a "lousy way to introduce 1,000 young people to the complexity of MIT."

At the November faculty meeting, Gray was instrumental in amending Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephan L. Chorover's sense of the faculty motion which proposed moving all freshmen to on-campus housing starting beginning in the 1998 academic year.



David Baltimore

By Dan McGuire

On May 13 Institute Professor David Baltimore '61, a Nobel laureate and pioneering biomedical researcher, accepted an offer from the California Institute of Technology to become that university's next president.

"Caltech is such a remarkable institution," Baltimore said. But he said that the decision to accept the appointment and leave MIT was a difficult one. "MIT has been extremely good to me," he said.

Baltimore leaves behind a long and distinguished career at MIT. With few interruptions, he has spent over three decades here, first as a graduate student from 1960 to 1961 and later as a postdoctoral research associate. He returned to the Institute in 1968 as a junior member of the faculty and, save a

few years, has been here ever since.

Baltimore's achievements applauded

Baltimore was the founding director of MIT's Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research — one of the foremost facilities of its kind in the world — and headed it from 1982 to 1990. In 1995, he was named an Institute professor, an elite title given to only a handful of professors in recognition of their achievements.

"Simply put, David Baltimore is one of the most outstanding living scientists," said President Charles M. Vest. "We will miss having his intellectual leadership, research activities, and teaching centered on the MIT campus."

"David's contributions to MIT are too numerous to list," said Chair of the

Department of Biology and Professor Phillip A. Sharp. "MIT will miss his creative leadership and warm personality."

In 1975 — at the age of only 37 — Baltimore received the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine for the revolutionary discovery of reverse transcriptase, an enzyme essential to the replication of many virus, including HIV.

The *Los Angeles Times* called Baltimore's appointment "savvy and significant."

Cell controversy comes to an end

Baltimore's decision to accept the Caltech presidency comes almost a year after he was vindicated by a federal panel investigating charges that a paper he co-wrote with Assistant Professor of Biology Thereza Imanishi-Kari in *Cell* contained

fabricated data.

Baltimore labeled the controversy a witch hunt and said that some people, like U.S. Representative John Dingell (D-Mich.), were using it as a way to call into question government money spent on funding research.

His involvement with the *Cell* controversy, however, was not a consideration in Caltech's selection process, said Kip Thorne, Caltech's Feynman professor of physics and chair of the faculty's presidential search committee. "It was totally irrelevant," with its only significance being "the extent to which David Baltimore gained greater wisdom from it."

Baltimore said that he was incredibly relieved and called the decision "a victory for science and rational analysis." **C**



Sheila E. Widnall

By Katie Jeffreys

Secretary of the Air Force Sheila E. Widnall '60, a former associate provost, announced in mid-September that she planned to leave her post and return to MIT as a professor of aeronautics and astronautics.

"As I have planned all along, I will return to MIT," Widnall wrote in a letter to President Clinton. "I am proud to have served you and our nation, and I sincerely thank you for this opportunity you've given me."

Widnall took a leave of absence from MIT to become secretary of the Air Force in August 1993. Widnall served as the leader of the Air Force during a period marked by troublesome incidents. Among these were the adultery case of 1st Lt. Kelly Flinn and the bombing of a facility housing U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia in 1996.

Still Widnall looked back on her experiences fondly. "I had a wonderful four

years as Secretary of the Air Force, but I am glad to be back at MIT to pick up my work with students," Widnall said.

Widnall enjoyed Air Force tenure

"I feel I am the most fortunate of individuals. To be associated with a great institution like MIT and to have the opportunity to spend four years as Secretary of the Air Force — it's been a great ride," she said.

That ride included "being able to fly in every aircraft in the Air Force inventory that carries two pilots," she said. Widnall also took time out from her administrative duties to visit with Air Force personnel around the world. She "climbed Mt. Fuji with 25 Air Force people from Yokota [Air Force Base] including the wing and group commanders, rode my bike across the state of Iowa twice with 14,000 people in the annual Ragbrai," she said.

However these adventures were not Widnall's most rewarding experience in the Air Force. "I would have to say my favorite memories of my time as Secretary of the Air Force come from the interaction with today's men and women in uniform. Their skills, values and dedication to this nation should serve as a role model to all of us," she said.

Widnall reintegrates into MIT life

Widnall has been busy since returning to campus. She is slowly removing herself from public life with final interviews for *Larry King Live*, *60 Minutes*, and the *Crier Report*. She has started working on Lean Aerospace Initiative and is working to "bring on the space sector component of that research project." Widnall spent some time giving lectures to MIT and community groups and is

called for in a recent student petition drive.

12

The president's council of the Interfraternity Council approve sweeping changes to the alcohol policies that govern parties held in fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. The new policies mandate that all new member events be alcohol-free, ban tap systems and kegs in houses, and ban the purchase of alcohol with house funds.

15

Students and faculty are asked to fill out a Web-based survey on plus-minus grade modifiers.

Boston University freshman Marie A. Figueredo is treated for alcohol poisoning at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center after drinking with two other BU students and a fraternity member at the MIT chapter of Theta Chi.

16

The Metropolitan District Commission announces that it is developing a master plan for the Charles River Basin. The Commission hopes to beautify the area and better integrate the various forms of transportation.

19

The faculty rejects the earlier motion to house all freshmen on campus and adopts instead a substitute motion which calls for more faculty-student interaction.

The ad hoc committee formed to review alcohol policy, composed of three administrators, recommends continuing the prohibition on the use of Institute funds for alcohol at events where underage students will be present.

The Orientation/Residence Fall '98 Committee reports their findings to the faculty, and recommends renaming the period "Orientation". They also recommend increased faculty involvement and more emphasis on academic orientation.

20

MIT pledges support for the new Cops in Shops program. The program places undercover police officers in Cambridge liquor stores.

planning to teach a graduate course in high speed aerodynamics for the spring term. She said that she is "looking forward to becoming a freshman adviser in the fall."

Widnall plans to continue to work with government agencies on a variety of projects, but she did not plan to take part in the Institute's debate on the ROTC program, she said. The Institute is seeking to change procedures barring openly homosexual individuals from full participation in the program. Widnall, because of conflict of interest concerns, will not work with MIT and the Department of Defense to implement a modified ROTC program at MIT.

MIT community members respect Widnall's decision to leave her government post. "She decided to come back to MIT,

which shows she has a real love for academic life and the Institute," said Edward F. Crawley '76, head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

While Widnall could have taken a senior position in government or industry, she instead decided to return to MIT, a reflection of her enthusiasm, Crawley said. "I think [her return] will be fabulous for the Institute."

Widnall has long history with MIT

Widnall is vocal about her commitment to academia, and the Institute in particular. "I've enjoyed my time at MIT and my opportunity to make contributions," she said. "MIT is my home."

After receiving her bachelors and doctorate degrees in aeronautics and astronautics from MIT, Widnall held many

positions, most recently serving as a professor of aeronautics and astronautics and as an associate provost. Widnall said that she has spent her "entire adult life at MIT."

Before she left, Widnall was involved heavily in student affairs and academic integrity at the Institute. She served as the chair of the Committee on Discipline during the Introduction to Computers and Engineering Problem Solving (1.00) cheating scandal of 1990 and called for an honor code for students.

Internationally, Widnall is well-known for her expertise in fluid dynamics, specifically in the areas of aircraft turbulence and vortices created by helicopters.

Widnall was the first female to serve as the chair of the faculty at MIT and the first female Secretary of the Air Force. **C**



TECH FILE PHOTO

John M. Deutch

By May K. Tse

After a four-year stint in Washington, D.C., part of which he served as the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, former Provost and Institute Professor John M. Deutch '61 returned to MIT last January.

A professor in the Department of Chemistry, Deutch will teach Thermodynamics and Kinetics (5.60) in the spring 1998 term. He promised to make the class "the best presentation of 5.60 in 10 or 15 years. I hope to make it more lively — maybe get one of the sessions carried on C-SPAN," he said.

Last fall, Deutch lectured for a subject called Application of Technology, which was an engineering school-wide elective that explored applied technology and the technical, economic, political, and environmental issues related to it.

Besides teaching, Deutch also resumed his research practices and traveled extensively. He is also giving speeches about foreign policy throughout the country and spoke at a

talk sponsored by the Lecture Series Committee where he reflected back on his days as the director of the CIA.

"It is by no means the most fun job I've had in my life. Needless to say, the CIA is a tough place," he said. "It's a hugely important and interesting job. The director of central intelligence's principal responsibility is to give the best advice he or she can to the president of the United States and the senior leadership of the country."

A scientist in Washington

Deutch first left the Institute in 1992 to become undersecretary for acquisition in the Department of Defense. Two years later, he was promoted to deputy secretary of defense under William Perry.

At one point, while Perry was away on vacation, China started conducting missile tests near Taiwan. Acting in his place, Deutch was forced to handle the situation. He made news by sending two U.S. aircraft carriers to China's borders.

Deutch took the director of central intelligence post at the urging of President Bill Clinton. "The president had to force me to do it," Deutch said. "He twisted my arm to do it."

"Because of my upbringing, I've always been into public service," Deutch said. He was the first director of central intelligence to come from a background in science or engineering. "I was the first one who was technical," Deutch said. Few in the high reaches of the government are technically literate, he said.

Back in the 1960s when Deutch worked for the government under Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, "Anyone who knew how to add was considered valuable."

When he was the head of the CIA, there

were probably only two people in the entire Cabinet who could have solved quadratic equations, Deutch said. "If you get deputies there, you might have four. And three of them will have gone to MIT," he said.

Deutch reflects on MIT after absence

After his four-year absence, Deutch noted several differences in the Institute. "I'm surprised at how many changes there have been in the four years that I've been away," he said. He viewed the early retirement program, the consolidation of student-related offices into the Dean's Office, and MIT's progress toward welcoming diversity as positive changes.

Deutch served as provost under then-President Paul E. Gray '54. "The issues that I was involved in when I was provost were issues that were important to both Paul Gray and myself — issues of harassment, women's issues, housing issues. All of these, I thought, were most important for maintaining and improving the educational climate at MIT," he said.

Deutch also praised the Institute's re-engineering efforts. "Even if it's done wrong, the objective is a worthy one," he said. "The characterization that re-engineering is just a slogan that has proven to be very costly misses the point. We have a responsibility to continuously examine what we do and how we do it to ensure that we get the best value for our dollar," he said.

However, Deutch also pointed out areas where the Institute could be improved. "One thing which I think is important about MIT is our ability to do things on the national and global scale. I would argue that we're not doing enough of that," he said. Deutch said MIT should focus on "improv[ing] the world rather than just improving our world." **C**



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Margaret A. Jablonski

By May K. Tse

After three years at MIT, Margaret A. Jablonski left her post as Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities in August, accepting a faculty position at the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Jablonski said that the move would "bring coherence to the personal side of my life. I was recently married and I live in Amherst, so I've been commuting."

Jablonski said that she enjoyed her experience teaching a freshman seminar and wanted to continue teaching in some way. At Amherst, Jablonski plans to teach a variety of courses, from leadership theory to the history of education. "A lot of people who are administrators teach at one point, and vice-versa," she said. "It's very common for practitioners, such as deans, to go to the faculty."

Jablonski did not depart entirely. She returned to MIT part-time a few days per month as a consultant to work with the team planning the new leadership development center.

Housing concerns dominate

During her time at the Institute, Jablonski was faced with a variety of problems including demands for more graduate housing and excessive crowding in undergraduate dormitories. "I think we've reached a kind of equilibrium," she said. "I think we've kind of accepted the idea of having 100 to 150 dorm rooms crowded. I think it should be much lower."

Jablonski also worked on dealing with increased demands for single-sex housing. "We wanted more single-sex suites," she said. "We were able to work with the room assignment chairs to get single-sex housing to all who wanted it."

With Random Hall entering its third

decade as temporary housing, Jablonski was also forced to deal with repair and maintenance issues. "I think there were some basic maintenance issues that Physical Plant responded to once it was brought to their attention," she said.

Jablonski was buffeted by other problems during her tenure. When students discovered that RCA had made over \$1.1 million dollars in errors in student account bookkeeping in 1996, Jablonski "was eager to solve the problem rather than patch it over," said Douglas K. Wyatt G, then the president of the Association of Student Activities and one of the students who discovered the egregious errors. He praised her for leaving the office's finances in better shape than she had originally found them. "I think we have a stronger relationship with ASA," said Jablonski.

After a Northeastern student was shot outside Walker Memorial in December 1995, Jablonski also had to deal with the backlash from the controversial party ban that was initiated. "We had to make concessions because we live in an urban environment," Jablonski said. Not all students agree on this point, she said. "I know we had to make unpopular decisions about the use of Walker... I did support the policy given the situation we're in."

"Throughout my tenure here I've had to make some difficult decisions. I've tried to be fair, but wherever you sit at MIT you may have a different perspective, and that's made it a challenge," Jablonski said.

Job not immediately filled

Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Andrew M. Eisenmann '70 assumed most of Jablonski's duties immediately after she left, but no one was selected to permanently fill her role. Some aspects of her job were distributed among other staff in the office.

"Instead of looking for an immediate replacement, we're looking at all of the pieces to figure out how to shape it for the long haul," said Dean for Student Life Margaret R. Bates.

Jablonski's departure allowed the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education to re-examine the position of the head of RCA. "That's serendipitous. It's an unintended coincidence," Bates said. "The main issue was the timing."

Jablonski's new position at UMass "is an excellent professional opportunity," Bates said. She added, "We're very happy it's Massachusetts she's going to and not California, so we can maintain the relationship." **C**

22

Six people, including two Harvard University students, are arrested under the new Cambridge Cops in Shops program.

25

Residents of the MacGregor House tower are forced to sleep elsewhere after water from the sprinkler system, activated by a fire on the 16th floor, damages to the building's power systems.

26

The Boston Licensing Board suspends Phi Gamma Delta's dormitory license for seven months and indefinitely bans the use of alcohol at the fraternity.

The Class of 2001 sponsors a lecture by Mary T. Schmich, the *Chicago Tribune* columnist whose June 1 column gained Internet fame as Kurt Vonnegut's MIT commencement speech. The event aimed to cheer up students after a difficult semester.

December 1

MIT announces that the Media Laboratory will get a new building on the site where Building E10 now stands. Construction could begin as soon as early next year.

3

Duane H. Dreger '99, a member of Sigma Nu, is elected president of the Interfraternity Council. IFC officers plan a public relations offensive to improve FSILG system's battered public image.

8

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

30

MIT and Quaker Oats agree to pay \$1.85 million to children at the Walter E. Fernald State School who were subjects of nutrition studies during the 1940s and 1950s as part of an out-of-court settlement. The students were fed breakfast cereals laced with minute amounts of radioactive iron and calcium tracers. **C**

In Memoriam

Timothy A. Michalak '95

Timothy A. Michalak '95 died on March 25 at Beth Israel Hospital after a two-and-a-half year struggle with brain cancer. He was 24 years old.

Michalak transferred to MIT as a sophomore from Northeastern University. He went on to receive a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He planned to attend graduate school in California.

After graduation, Michalak took a job at Beth Israel Hospital where he worked with the Harvard Medical School in orthopedic biomechanics. His work there centered around the prevention of hip fractures in the elderly. He worked on the development of a hip pad to help alleviate damage from falls. Michalak also worked to improve the neck rolls that football players wear.

Michalak was diagnosed with brain cancer in October 1995, shortly after graduating from MIT. Michalak had been responding well to treatments, but his health took a turn for the worse in mid-March.

While at MIT, Michalak was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, where he attained the positions of house manager and vice president. Michalak played tight end for the MIT football team.

"He was a real great guy," said Troy A. Gayeski '97, a Sigma Alpha Epsilon member who was rushed by Michalak. "He was the guy I always knew I could trust. I knew that everything he said was for real."

Michalak is survived by his mother, Marilyn, his brother, John, and three nephews.

Martin Diskin

Professor of Anthropology Martin Diskin died August 3 at Mt. Auburn Hospital after a long battle with leukemia. He was 62 years old.



Diskin taught the Institute's introductory anthropology class since its inception 25 years ago. Diskin also helped create the Latin American Studies Program,

ment and hiring in the humanities department, and was instrumental in developing the anthropology and archeology exchange program with Wellesley College.

As an anthropologist, Diskin did field work in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, and Colombia. Diskin "was a pioneer in what is now called the anthropology of human rights," said Professor of Anthropology Jean E. Jackson, who spoke at an August 24 memorial service held in the Wang Auditorium of the Tang Center.

Recently, Diskin supported the cause of former MIT student Lori Berenson, who was sentenced to life in prison in Peru by a secret military tribunal in early 1996 for alleged treason. In April, 1996 he organized a forum at MIT in support of Berenson, who had previously been a student of his. Diskin also served as an official election observer in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Diskin served as a member of the American Anthropological Society, the American Ethnological Society and the Latin American Studies Association. He also served as a consultant for several non-governmental organizations, including Oxfam America and the American Civil Liberties Union.

At the time of his death, Diskin was working on a book on agrarian reform in El Salvador. He served as editor of *Trouble in Our Backyard: Central America and the United States in the 1980s* and editor and a contributor to *El Salvador, Background to the Crisis*.

Diskin received his doctorate and undergraduate degrees from the University of California at Los Angeles and began teaching at MIT in 1965 as an assistant professor in the Department of Humanities. He became a full professor in 1982. For his doctoral thesis, Diskin studied the peasant economy of Oaxaca, Mexico. He wrote a book on the subject, *Markets in Oaxaca*, with Scott Cook.

Diskin was born in Manhattan and grew up in Brooklyn. He is survived by his wife, Vilunya, his children Leah and Aaron Diskin, his mother, Rhoda, and brothers Saul and Philip.

Evsey D. Domar

Professor of Economics, Emeritus Evsey D. Domar died on April 1 at Emerson Hospital in Concord. He was 82 years old.

Domar came to MIT in 1957 as a visiting professor from Johns Hopkins University. He received tenure a year later. Domar was an expert on Soviet economics during the Cold War and an early proponent of Keynesian economic theory. He retired in 1984.

Domar remained active after retirement. Along with 1,100 other economists, he signed an Economic Policy Institute statement opposing the proposed balanced budget amendment.

Among Domar's pupils in macroeconomics was Robert William Fogel, winner of the 1993 Nobel Memorial Prize in economic sciences.

Domar was born in Lodz, Poland in 1914. He was raised in Manchuria and emigrated to the United States in 1936.

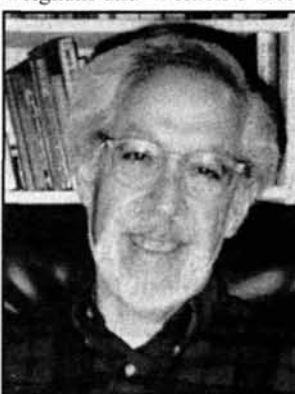
He received his bachelor of arts from UCLA in 1939, a master of science from University of Michigan in 1940, another MS from Harvard University in 1943, and his doctorate from Harvard in 1947. Before coming to MIT, Domar taught at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, and Johns Hopkins.

Domar was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Econometric Society, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

Domar is survived by his wife, Carola, two daughters, Alice and Erica, and three granddaughters.

Donald A. Schön

Professor Emeritus Donald A. Schön passed away on September 13 at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston



after a seven-month illness. He was 66 years old.

In 1972, Schön was appointed Ford Professor of Urban Studies and Education at MIT. From 1990 to 1992, he served as

chair of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

Schön was born in Boston and raised in nearby Brookline and Worcester. He graduated from Brookline High School in 1947 and Yale University in 1951 and was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Schön studied clarinet in Paris at the Sorbonne and Conservatoire Nationale de Music and was awarded the Premier Prix. After graduating, he received a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and continued his studies

at Harvard University, where he earned his masters and doctorate in philosophy in 1955.

Under the Kennedy administration, he was appointed director of the Institute for Applied Technology in the National Bureau of Standards, a post he held until 1966.

Schön, a philosopher, held sacrosanct the notion of effective practice and consequently tried to help educators teach professionals how to be competent in practice. He developed the concept of a reflective practitioner in his published works, which include *Beyond the Stable State*, *The Reflective Practitioner*, and *Educating the Reflective Practitioner*.

Schön is survived by his wife, Nancy, his mother, Ann, four children, and eight grandchildren.

Arthur G. B. Metcalf '32

Arthur G. B. Metcalf '32, who founded Electronics Corporation of America and was an aeronautical engineer, passed away on March 16 due to heart failure. He was 88 years old.

Metcalf earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering at MIT and later went on to teach courses at MIT, Boston University, and Harvard University. While at MIT, Metcalf developed a new type of airplane that would allow people to learn how to fly in only one afternoon.

In 1943, while at Boston University, Metcalf founded BU's department of aeronautical engineering, which was later to be the foundation for BU's College of Engineering.

In 1937, Metcalf left BU to found the Electronics Corporation of America, which pioneered the application of electronic technology to industrial controls. In 1986, the company was acquired by Rockwell International Corp. for \$100 million.

Metcalf also founded the U.S. Strategic Institute in 1972, which served to encourage debate on issues affecting national security.

In 1954, Metcalf was elected to Boston University's board of trustees. In 1976, he was named chairman, a position in which he served until 1994. However, Metcalf's time at Boston University was not without controversy. He was a strong defender of controversial BU president John R. Silber, who has had frequent clashes with faculty and students.

Metcalf is survived by four daughters, Anne M. Reiss, Mary Lee M. Syberts, Hope M. Riccardi, and Helen Curtis Metcalf; a half-brother, Herbert B. Jacobs; and two grandchildren.

Jerome Namias SM '41

Jerome Namias SM '41, a pioneer in meteorological research and a former MIT

research associate, died of pneumonia on February 10 at the age of 86.

Namias was called the father of extended range weather forecasting, and was one of the first scientists to look at how the upper layers of the ocean interact with the atmosphere to affect weather patterns.

Namias joined MIT as a research associate in 1936. He later received a master's degree from the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 1941.

He served as director of the extended forecast division of the Weather Bureau. The division began announcing five-day forecasts in the 1940s, an impressive feat, considering the limits of the equipment at the time. During the 1960s, he helped the extended forecast division develop monthly and seasonal predictions.

Namias was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He won a gold medal from the U.S. Department of Commerce for distinguished achievements.

Namias is survived by his wife Edith and his daughter, Judith Immenschuh.

Edward M. Purcell

Edward M. Purcell, author of the *Electricity and Magnetism* textbook for Physics II (8.022), died on March 7 in Cambridge. He was 84 years old.

Purcell, who was a Nobel laureate, had worked at the MIT Radiation Laboratory during the time radar was being perfected. He taught at Harvard University from 1936 to 1977.

In 1952, Purcell was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for discovering how to detect the extremely weak magnetism of the atomic nucleus by measuring nuclear magnetic resonance. This became magnetic resonance imaging, one of the most advanced medical techniques currently in use.

Purcell also made the first recorded detection of radio emissions from hydrogen clouds in deep space. His measurements confirmed theoretical predictions, based on the hyperfine structure of the hydrogen atom, that the radiation would have a wavelength of 21 cm.

Purcell served as science adviser to three successive presidents: Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson. He also served as president of the American Physical Society and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. In 1979, Purcell won the National Medal of Science.

Jerome H. Lemelson

Jerome H. Lemelson, a prolific inventor



was 74 years old.

In January 1994, Lemelson established the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize as part of a \$6.5 million innovation and invention program. The annual contest is the country's largest prize for inventors. Lemelson and his wife also endowed a professorship, 10 graduate research fellowships, and eight undergraduate awards.

In addition, Lemelson gave more than \$10 million to the Smithsonian Institution, their largest cash gift, creating Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

Lemelson, who made his fortune from amassing numerous royalties from his many patented inventions, held more than 500 patents in total. His son Eric told *The Los Angeles Times* that if additional pending patent applications are approved Lemelson could become the American to hold the most patents since Thomas Edison.

Lemelson held patents for mechanisms used in automated warehouses, camcorders, VCRs, the compact disc, portable cassette recorders, cordless telephones, and fax machines, among others.

Lemelson is best known for his 1956 invention of a "machine vision device" which was eventually patented in 1989. By then, the technology was used in bar-code scanners worldwide, and Lemelson collected hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties from the companies that had used his idea.

Lemelson was careful to enforce his patent rights in the courts, often collecting millions of dollars from companies. He was sometimes accused of stretching out his patent applications for many years to reap the royalty benefits of his inventions beyond the 17-year life span of a patent. In his defense, he wrote that most of that time was spent waiting for the patent office to process the applications for his sometimes complicated inventions.

Lemelson is survived by his wife, Dorothy, sons Eric and Robert, and two grandchildren.

who donated \$6.5 million to the Institute, as well as sponsored and funded an annual invention award here, died October 1 of liver cancer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He

Arts in Review: The Year's Movies

By Vladimir Zelevinsky
and Yaron Koren

Like every other movie critic these days, we're going to present, for the entertainment and edification of readers, our Top Ten Movies of 1997 and Bottom Four Movies. (It would be painful to write about more.) We'll start with the best, given in the order of preference.

1. Underground

This 1995 winner of the Palm D'Or in Cannes, just released (briefly) in the States, is a true masterpiece. It has a fiery, sarcastic view of the 20th century history and moves along for all of three hours with the earth-shattering grace and power of a drunk elephant. It's a huge, elaborately allegorical, relentlessly entertaining movie where reality begets absurdity which begets horror which begets, against all odds, hope. Try to catch this one if you can.

2. The Wings of the Dove

Here's a period costume drama which defies all genre expectations: it's rapidly paced, tightly edited, passionately acted, features truly eye-popping art direction, and has an wonderfully unpredictable plot. Based on the famous novel by Henry James, this is one of two most sensuously romantic movies of the year (see #4 on this list below). It's also the most psychologically engrossing movie of the year.

3. L.A. Confidential

A mystery/drama/satire/action/noir, set in L.A. in early 1950s, *L.A. Confidential* is the textbook example of how much movie-making can deliver. There are plot twists every few minutes; the dialogue is as quotable and memorable as it gets; acting is both illuminating and iconic; suspense is nerve-wracking; and the violence is anything but desensitizing. The parallels between the time period it shows and contemporary period are shrewdly incisive.

4. Titanic

A grand romantic epic, this hugely expensive movie, which has a whopping 3 hours 14 minutes running time, has only one slight problem: to put it simply, it's too short for the story it tells. Everything else is pulled off with finesse and feeling, and the ridiculously high price tag doesn't inspire a question of "How could they spend so much money?" but "How could they get the

images they got for any amount of money?" *Titanic* is not only full of tremendous technical prowess, genuine emotion, but also — unexpectedly — a deep metaphorical layer of meaning.

5. Amistad

Steven Spielberg follows his second dino-chomp movie with another winner: a cinematically electrifying work which starts with a brutally effective examination of the evils of slave trade and ends by using this issue as a springboard for a larger debate on American ideology and history. This movie is not only engrossing, shock-

7. Boogie Nights

Boogie Nights is another epic movie on the list. This one chronicles the rise and the fall of a porno star during the seventies and eighties. The plot is complex, engrossing, extremely funny and very revealing. The movie rides in part, too, on the power of its interesting script and great direction — every single shot is jaw-droppingly good. The first half of *Boogie* is truly cool (with quite an interesting subtext). The second one is a bit over the top (and quite violent, too), but the movie itself is a worthy achievement, and worth a viewing.



Alison Elliott, Alex Jennings, and Helena Bonham Carter in *The Wings of the Dove*.

ing, and blissfully non-obvious, but also has a major comic undercurrent. Acting is top-notch, too.

6. Men in Black

Men in Black is an unusual case — it's a 30-second long masterpiece preceded by a 1 1/2 hour-long prelude. For all of its running time, *Men In Black* pretends to be light and breezy — and then comes the gorgeous, unbelievable final shot, which is, perhaps, the most breathtaking shot ever, and is the true heart of this movie. But the rest of it is highly commendable as well: characters are sharp and complex, the script is witty and unpredictable, production values are excellent, and the direction manages to make the movie look silly without making it look undignified.

8. The Sweet Hereafter

A poem rather than a movie (there are rhythms and rhymes aplenty in the story, images, and characters); four time lines are weaving their way through a fabric of the story about a bus accident in a small Canadian town and a lawyer who comes to start a class-action suit. In its hypnotically calm way, *The Sweet Hereafter* blows out of the water each and every John Grisham movie, most disaster movies and character studies, and creates its own distinct world — both visually and aurally.

9. The Ice Storm

After his early comic works and *Sense and Sensibility* (a drama with comic elements),

Taiwanese director Ang Lee tries his hand in what is best described as a cross between a classical tragedy and a psychological "disaster movie" (although the disaster is as much metaphorical and internal as it is natural). It flawlessly recreates the year 1973 and details, with chilling precision, the life in a rich Connecticut suburb. It's an impressive work, although the world it depicts is extremely bleak. Dress warmly when you see it.

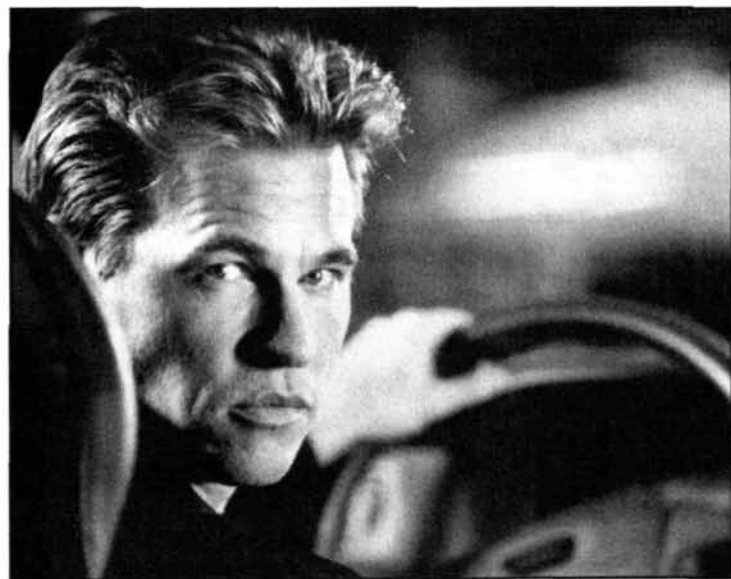
10. The Fifth Element

Vastly underrated by most critics, this movie is one of the most original and complex visions presented this year. Its settings and characters bring together themes from many sci-fi movies (including *Star Wars*, *Brazil*, and *Blade Runner*), making a whole that is greater than its parts. The visuals are truly stunning, as well. The plot, which details Earth's response to a fiery ball of pure evil parked at the edge of the solar system, has all the depth of the comic book story — but it's very enjoyable if you don't try to think about it too hard. Fast-paced and with more style than substance, this is sci-fi for the hip-hop generation.

Honorable mentions

Anastasia, *Austin Powers*, *Breakdown*, *Devil's Advocate*, *Face/Off*, *Fast, Cheap & Out of Control*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *In & Out*, *Rosewood*, and *Wag the Dog*.

And now for the worst.... The list below is in the order of preference (best of the worst to the worst of worst, if you will).



Val Kilmer plays Simon Templar in *The Saint*.

1. The Saint

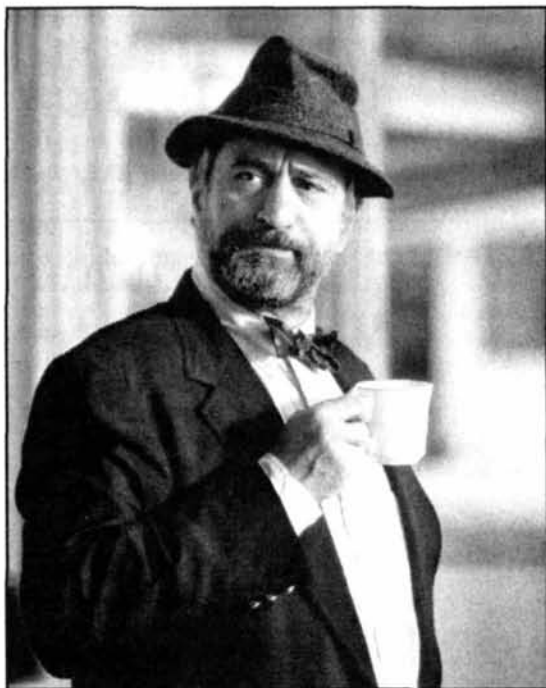
This one features the most narcissistic performances ever by Val Kilmer (the superspy title character), and one of the least credible ones by Elisabeth Shue (a scientific genius, who looks borderline insane, and writes Schrödinger's equation on Post-It notes, which she later stuffs into her bra). Poor performances are supplemented by a meaningless plot, Russian terrorists who speak to each other in badly accented English, a total lack of action, and annoying tendency to use 90% of the screen time for close-ups: ("See, this is Val's left eyelid. Let's watch it for a minute or two. Now, this is Val's lower lip. Let's look at it while he drones for something like seven or eight minutes in a ridiculous accent. After this, we can have twenty seconds of random bad guys running around — filmed in Confus-O-Vision — and, when we get this safely out of the way, we can again return to reverential gazing at Val's right nostril").

2. Con Air

I shudder to think of what this movie would be like without all the excellent actors they somehow managed to convince to participate in this travesty. *Con Air* is two hours of regularly-spaced explosions (the car, the building, the plane, Las Vegas, etc.), people running and punching each other in slow motion, lots of unidentifiable stuff (kitchen sinks, I'm sure) hurled across the screen, and Nicolas Cage (looking very much like George of the Jungle) trying his best to stay awake through all of this. It's surprising that such an active movie can be as boring as this one turned out to be.

3. Contact

Robert Zemeckis seems to be aiming for a remake of *Forrest Gump* in this pretentious, overblown examination of



Robert Deniro in *Wag The Dog*.

what happens when humanity makes contact with intelligent beings from across the galaxy. Jodie Foster is credible but somewhat shrill as the astronomer who makes the discovery but then gets ignored, for no apparent reason, by the government and media. The would-be profundity of *Contact*, straight out of Hallmark, is cloying and deeply insulting.

4. Switchback

Ugh, what a groaner. You see, there's this house, and the woman is there alone, and you think there's someone lurking in the shadows, and then — Ahhh! — something jumps at her! But no, it's just her cat! The real killer will jump at her later! Cliches were only the symptom of a larger problem, however, which is that this movie looks like it was filmed while it was being written. As soon as a problem crops up, something magically appears to help the story stagger onward. The result is a mind-boggling mess of serial killers, kidnappings, knife-wielding rednecks, car crashes, trains, FBI agents, local elections, and lots of artificial blood. *Switchback* is the worst movie of the year, plain and simple.

Despite the stinkers, 1997 turned out to be an excellent movie year. As always, spring was totally worthless, and summer had a lot of bark but little bite. The fall and winter, however (the usual Oscar-bait season), teemed with lots of excellent releases. Here's hoping that 1998 will be even better.



Opinion In Review:

The Institutional Wisdom Watch

Students

- ↑ **Iddo Gilon:** Admin gnards firmly in hand, the King of the Frats shows campus leaders how it's done.
- ↓ **Extropians:** Futurist Libertarian wierdos grab attention by being censored right and left. Face it: Free speech would be your downfall.
- ↓ **Undergraduate Association:** Student government does nothing for second year running. Go for the hat-trick?
- ↓ **Paul Kirby:** Wacky former UA-feebs sues for "Alcohol Papers." Chill.
- ↓ **Fiji:** Love those MacGregor lounges. IW is sorry, but not altogether surprised.
- ↔ **Sig Ep:** Good effort, kids. Next time spell check your manifesto.
- ↑ **ILG-talk:** E-mail list explodes into populist, save-the-world activist group. Today the ILGs; tomorrow, the world.

Admin-types, Faculty-types

- ↑ **Chuck Vest:** Number-crunching prez briefly discovers there are students on campus. Was this in the strategic plan?
- ↓ **Dean Roz Williams:** Vapid testimony at licensing hearing makes MIT appear dunce-like.
- ↓ **"Mjab" (RCA's Marge Jablonski):** *Thistle, The Tech* agree for once in calling for your ouster. Result: Sheez outta heah!
- ↓ **Neal Dorow:** Throws temper tantrum while trying to take fratties to woodshed. More frequently ridiculed than ever.
- ↓ **Professor Chorover:** Old IW: Brave soul. New IW: Waffle.
- ↔ **Professor Deutch:** Former spook uses LSC talk to piss on all former colleagues. Spite-move in retaliation for SecDef passing-over?
- ↑ **Professor Widnall:** Air Force honcho bails out of Clinton admin. Kudos for controversial rejection of Flynn honorable-discharge.

MIT Community

- ↓ **Fishbowl:** Nerd monument lands in dustbin of history. Nobody cares.
- ↑ **Student Services Center:** Who says MIT can't be fast and efficient? Teach lesson to all other administrators.
- ↓ **Boston Licensing Board:** Loony Rooney, Hooligan Mulligan, spokespeople for rich Back Bay folks. Spare us.
- ↑ **Faculty meetings:** Staid yawnathons give way to UA-like free-for-all. Change is good!
- ↓ **Frosh dorm rumors:** Old IW: Kick-ass cool conspiracy theory. New IW: Widely-debunked conspiracy theory.
- ↑ **New undergraduate dorm:** Finally spending cash on undergrads. What next, a repaved Vassar Street?
- ↓ **IAP:** More and more required subjects make Johnnie a dull boy.
- ↔ **Charm School:** Missing charm spells return of "MIT Shuffle."
- ↔ **Aramark:** Food monopoly may crack soon. Next: Free fries Friday.
- ↑ **University Park:** MIT attains long-sought real-estate nirvana. And with no whining and carping from Cambridge, either.
- ↔ **Building 20:** Finally, historical firetrap set to hit the dirt. Will MIT retire the building number?
- ↔ **Media Lab:** Gobbles neighboring buildings, departments, IP addresses, whole continents, etc.
- ↔ **R/O:** From now on, just call me O.
- ↑ **Fernald victims:** MIT throws money, apology, at radiation-testing subjects. Next: Former Unified students launch class-action lawsuit.
- ↑ **Good Will Hunting:** Unrealistically few fashion violations in MIT-related flick. But we're flattered just the same.

The Internet

- ↑ **Vonnegut:** Internet garble of Mary Schmich column outshines actual Koffi Annan Commencement address. RL (real life) be damned!
- ↓ **Au pair trial:** First court decision announced over Internet fumbled by MIT-startup service provider Tool and Die. Result: CNN scoops "white-magic" yet again.
- ↔ **Heaven's Gate:** There are crazies online? What a surprise.
- ↔ **Ted Kaczynski:** Anti-Internet bomber swallows guilty plea. So this is what Harvard has to offer.

The Timid Spirits' Poverty of Faith

Anders Hove

Drawing lessons from the events of an entire year often results in a couple of overbroad conclusions plucked from a few isolated events. I acknowledge this risk. However, some events, or groups of events, are so shocking that we are forced to step back and reevaluate: What is our role in life, at MIT, or in the world? What are our values? Can individuals be trusted — legally or morally — to take responsibility for their own behavior? Can the organizations MIT change?

Over the past few months, it has become clear that MIT has no real leaders. Sure, many people here function effectively in small groups, or managing small staffs. Many professors are leaders of their disciplines, in the sense that they are at the top of their professions. But nobody here possesses enough courage, ideas, or respect in the community to enunciate an idea and bring it to fruition. As a result, despite the furor over one student's death, nothing has changed at MIT, little dialogue has taken place, and the Institute is just as confused and muddled as ever before.

What is MIT's role in the world? Right now, the Institute trains minions: people who learn to hunker down, think hard, work hard, and line their pockets in the meantime.


It is perhaps appropriate that during these times MIT has Charles M. Vest as president. He has modestly declined to assume the role of community leader. Those who might look to him for guidance will have to content themselves with a press conference and an interim alcohol policy or two.

In October, the faculty showed a brief hint of courage in proposing freshmen live on campus — resulting in a reflexive bit of blocking from the fraternity quarter that ultimately proved successful. Other than that, silence.

Why the dearth of leadership? Perhaps it is because the divisions on campus between students, faculty, and administration prevent trust between the groups. That trust, which we lack, is a prerequisite to the social capital embodied by leadership. But there must be something more subtle at work here, because even within these three groups there are few people who might be called leaders. Is it the equality and individualism of those who come here? These concepts are not incompatible with leadership, so there is little reason to single them out for blame.

Whatever the cause, there seems to be a deep-seated distrust of leadership on campus, and that distrust has a deleterious effect on the education students receive here. Distrusting leadership in others often leads to a distrust of leadership when students see it in themselves. The self-esteem drop students experience here may be an product of MIT's dislike of leadership. That so few MIT graduates assume positions of leadership after leaving here may be another.

If MIT is to take anything away from 1997, perhaps it should be the lesson that its students must have not only problem-solving skills and technical knowledge, but also the ability to lead, and the ability to accept the leadership of others.

Perhaps distrust of leadership is as much a societal problem as an MIT problem. In this case, it seems even more urgent that MIT overcome its leadership dilemma. If MIT can learn to create strong leaders in a time when men of women of idealism and integrity are few and far between, those leaders will be in a great position to inspire not just MIT, or members of a single discipline, but people everywhere. If 1997 could inspire us to reach for that goal, it might not have been such a bad year after all. 

Backing Away From the Plate

Stacey E. Blau

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II made a pronouncement several years ago that I will not forget. Reflecting back on a year in which the royal family had endured scandal after scandal, scathing press coverage, and even a fire at Windsor Castle, she called the experience an *annus horribilis*.

This year, MIT endured three student deaths, a warping of the Institute's alcohol policy that left students thinking they have no social lives left, questions about housing that have thrown students and faculty into furious arguments, and, most recently, the suspension and embarrassment of several fraternities and one dormitory over alcohol violations. I would say it's pretty safe to term 1997 MIT's *annus horribilis*.


To be more precise, all of the things that have made this year so bad happened during the fall. Indeed, one is hard-pressed to think of anything of such magnitude, good or bad, that happened during the spring of 1997. But that is how our minds work when it comes to determining how important events come to pass. Muddled thinking has been responsible for MIT's lackadaisical attitude and inaction on the issues that finally came to a head this fall.

One might think of the events as a disturbing convergence of bad things. But most of them certainly didn't spring out of nowhere. The two main issues — alcohol (particularly underage and irresponsible drinking) and housing (the role of fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups in housing, what should be done with freshmen, and what should be done with R/O) — have been festering for years, completely ignored and waiting to explode. And explode they did.

What did these events lead to? On the issue of housing, students pledged to fight hard for their living groups, and the faculty backed down when it looked like it might take a stand on housing. Student government yet again played a non-role: The Undergraduate Association's big move was passing a resolution condemning the idea of randomized housing — long after administrators and faculty had explicitly taken that option off the table. The issue slipped quietly from view.

Alcohol proved to be a more visible and thorny problem. Students groan that they have no social lives or social outlets left and it is clear administrators have not yet come through with appropriate measures on alcohol. But rules are still rules, and students should not feel that they can dismiss them as stupid. Some students' attitudes resemble those of spoiled brats more than anything: They proclaim the right to violate rules in the spirit of civil disobedience, but at the same time prove unwilling to accept the consequences (read: punishment) for breaking the rules.

MIT is renowned for dropping the ball on important issues. Decision-making processes at MIT involve numbing participants' minds until the issues are reduced to nonsense, or until the participants cease to care, graduate from MIT, or quit their jobs here. Re-engineering and the legions of useless committees at MIT are proof of this principle.

Is MIT much different from the rest of the world in these matters? Not really. But that is a poor excuse for failure. MIT must look these issues in the eye, promote thoughtful discussion, and move forward toward change. Students are included in this responsibility. During the coming year, we'll see if MIT steps up to the plate. 



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