

## Engineering Ranks First in U.S. News

By Shang-Lin Chuang  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The School of Engineering retained its hold as the top-ranked engineering graduate school for the eighth straight year in the *U.S. News and World Report's* annual survey of graduate schools.

The School of Architecture and Planning placed second this year in the fine arts category, up from fifth last year.

The Sloan School of Management fell to fourth place in the business category from second place last year and first the year before.

"There is a good deal of 'noise' in these surveys. The main thing anyone should take away from these surveys is that MIT is a very good school in almost all of its departments," said Vice President for

Research and Dean for Graduate Education J. David Litster PhD '65.

The rankings, officially announced today, will be published in the March 10 issue of the magazine.

In the overall engineering rankings, MIT was rated first and Stanford University stood second. The University of California at Berkeley and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign tied for third, and the Georgia Institute of Technology at fifth.

Among the 12 engineering specialties, the Institute was awarded seven first-place, one second-place, and two third-place rankings.

According to the survey, MIT was ranked number one by academics and number one by practicing engineers. The Institute was ranked

Rankings, Page 18

## Committee Initiates Nationwide Search for Director of Admissions

By Carina Fung  
STAFF REPORTER

Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams recently appointed five faculty members to serve on a search committee for a new director of the Admissions Office.

The current director of admissions, Michael C. Behnke, will be leaving MIT in May to become the first associate dean of the College of Enrollment at the University of Chicago.

After consulting with President Charles M. Vest, Provost Joel

Moses PhD '67, and people most affected by the search, Williams convened the search committee.

The committee is chaired by Associate Dean of the School of Engineering John B. Vander Sande. The other faculty members on the committee are Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Harold Abelson '73, Chair of the Faculty Lawrence S. Bacow '72, Dean of the School of Science Robert J. Birgeneau, and Assistant Professor of the History of Science Evelyn M. Hammonds '47, Professor of Ocean Engineering

J. Kim Vandiver, who serves as chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, will be interviewed by the search committee once it gets under way, Williams said. As of now, however, Vandiver has not been given an official role in the search.

### Students will serve on committee

There will be one undergraduate and one graduate student on the committee. The student members will be responding to solicitations to fill these positions from the Undergraduate Association and the Graduate Student Council at a later time, Williams said.

"The search [for a new director of admissions] is only beginning, and we have yet to advertise," Williams said. "We would like to fill the positions as soon as possible, but we won't rush the process; it will take the time it takes."

"The director of admissions must have thorough knowledge of the technical, social, and economic

Admissions, Page 22

## 8.01's High Failure Rate Eclipses Other Classes

By Stuart Jackson

This past fall, 18 percent of the students in Physics I (8.01) received a failing grade of D or F, according to Professor of Physics George F. Koster '48, course administrator for 8.01.

This is slightly down from the 19 percent failure rate last year but still significantly above the failure rate in other freshmen subjects, Koster said. Koster was disappointed with the large number of students this semester who failed to demonstrate a "minimum knowledge of physics," he said.

For entering students, 8.01 may be the first class in which they have to work to understand the material, said Professor of Physics Wit Busza, 8.01 course examiner. The class is the "first time where there isn't a shortcut.

## Plethora of Students Run for UA Positions

By Jennifer Lane  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

As of yesterday night, only six of the 22 positions in this year's Undergraduate Association elections had no declared candidates. The deadline for signed petitions from candidates was Wednesday.

The petition deadline was extended until today for the Class of 1999 treasurer and publicity coordinators as well as the Class of 1998 vice president, secretary, treasurer, and publicity coordinators, said UA Election Commissioner Edgar H. Martinez '00. These offices currently have no candidates.

There are, however, "several people prepared to run for those positions," Martinez said. Furthermore, some people who missed the Wednesday deadline for other positions are planning write-in campaigns, he said.

As of yesterday, 24 candidates or candidate pairs had declared their candidacy, Martinez said.

There are significantly more positions with candidates this year than in years past, said UA Treasurer Russell S. Light '98, who

is a member of the elections commission.

Last year, six of 26 offices up for election had candidates five days after the deadline.

All Class of 2000 offices have candidates. "I'm really pleased the freshmen are so excited," Light said.

A possible reason for the high turnout of candidates is the UA's recent visibility, Martinez said. Over the past semester, the UA has done a lot of things that have been appreciated by the student body, he said.

The UA Logan Airport shuttle is one example of such an activity, Martinez said. After all, one of the best motivators for potential candidates is to have "an example of people doing things well," Martinez said.

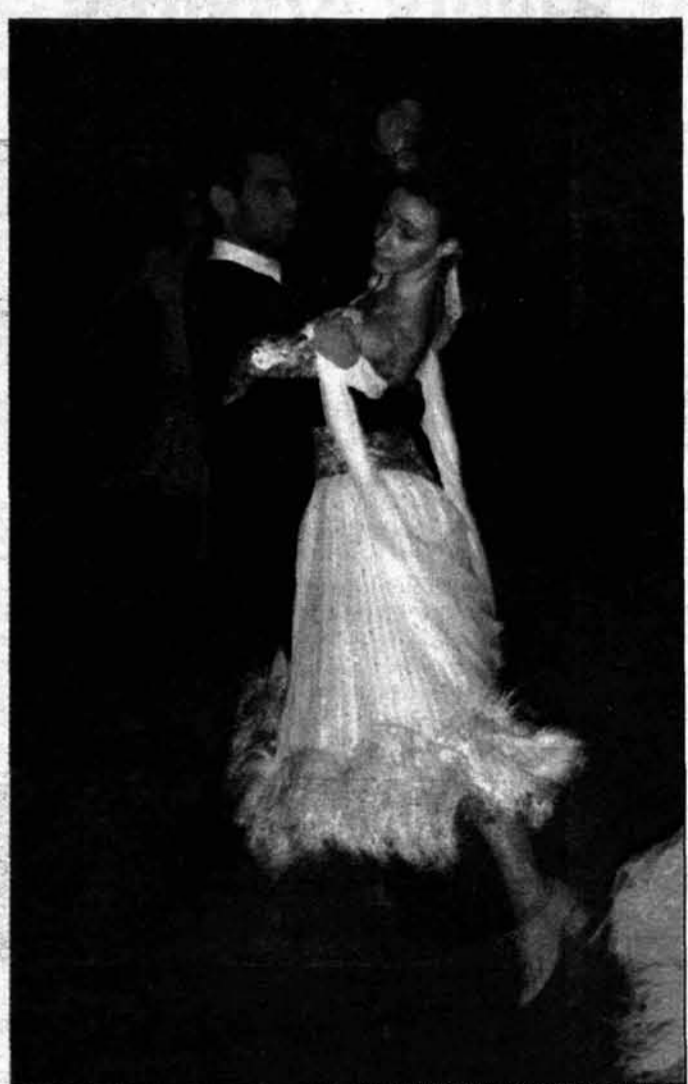
The qualifications for candidacy include filling out an application and obtaining 440 signatures for the positions of UA president and vice president and 110 signatures for class officers.

### Voting will begin next week

Electronic voting on Athena will begin on March 7 and run through March 11. Ballot box voting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on March 12 and end at 6 p.m. the same day.

"We are reviewing the voting procedures from last year" to for-

Elections, Page 20



Vikas Bhushan G and Rachel J. Dowell G dance the tango at the Sixth Annual Harvard-Radcliffe Invitational Ballroom Dance Competition. See story, page 28.



Christopher H. Rohrs '99 (clarinet) is accompanied by Catherine B. Labelle G (piano) playing a concerto by Copland on Wednesday at the Advanced Music Performance recital.

GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

## INSIDE

- Dean's Office Advisory Council formulates its goals. Page 16
- Police Log Page 20
- On the Town Page 12
- Comics Page 15
- Rent's Luther Cohen interviewed. Page 10

# WORLD & NATION

## Appeals Court Rejects Challenge To Assisted Suicide Law

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A federal appeals court Thursday dismissed a closely watched challenge to an Oregon law allowing the terminally ill to hasten death with the help of a physician.

In 1994 Oregon voters became the first in the nation to adopt a law making physician-assisted suicide legal. But the measure never took effect after a group of patients, physicians and other care givers challenged the law by arguing it would allow sick people, especially those who were depressed, to be pressured into suicide.

A federal district judge agreed the law was unconstitutional in 1995, ruling that the law discriminated against the terminally ill.

Thursday's opinion effectively reversed that ruling. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Court of Appeals unanimously said the challengers had not shown that they faced any immediate threat of harm under the law and lacked legal "standing" to bring the case.

Richard Coleson, one of the lawyers for the challengers, said Thursday the 9th Circuit decision will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Both Coleson and Oregon Deputy Attorney General David Schuman said Thursday that the act is likely to remain on hold through the next phase of the litigation.

## Pentagon Says Most Gulf War Chemical Weapons Records Gone

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

Pentagon officials acknowledged Thursday that more than 80 percent of its records concerning the chemical or biological weapons that U.S. troops encountered during the Persian Gulf war are missing — far more than previously known.

At a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, several senators raised doubts about the military's competence in the matter. The Pentagon explained that some records, covering August 1990 to March 1991, were lost in an office move and that computer glitches wiped out others, a development that one senator called "really very perplexing."

The senators also criticized the Defense Department Thursday for waiting years to investigate reports that U.S. soldiers might have been exposed to chemical munitions. The Pentagon acknowledged this week that the CIA told top Army commanders about possible chemical weapons in an area that included the Kamisiyah weapons depot, shortly before that depot was destroyed by U.S. troops in March 1991.

Some Army units were informed, the Pentagon said, although the troops who actually blew up the depot were not. Some Gulf War veterans contend that exposure to chemical weapons caused the dizziness, stiff joints and other serious and mysterious ailments that many veterans have complained about.

## Two Senators Inclined To Back Lake for CIA

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Two Republican members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence are "inclined" to support the nomination of CIA Director-designate Anthony Lake; their aides said Thursday, nearly assuring that the panel would back Lake.

Sens. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., and John H. Chafee, R-R.I., both considered GOP moderates, told the Associated Press they expect Lake to be confirmed and at present plan to support him. Assuming Lake gets the support of all nine Democrats on the 19-member committee as expected, he would need only one Republican vote to win panel approval.

Aides sought afterward to hedge the senators' comments, saying Lugar and Chafee were withholding final commitment until Lake answers questions at his twice-delayed confirmation hearing.

Nevertheless, the prospect that Lake would get the panel's approval increased pressure on Lake's conservative opponents to find another means for holding up the nomination of President Clinton's former national security adviser to the nation's top intelligence post.

## WEATHER March On

By Marek Zebrowski  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A high pressure system settling in briefly for Friday will close this last full month of winter on a tranquil and relatively mild note. Overall, February averaged over 4°F a day warmer than normal this time around.

March will begin with yet another surge of moisture, associated with a low pressure system tracking from the South towards eastern Great Lakes. A cold front will then approach on Sunday. More showers are expected before clearing and cooler weather makes a quick appearance in our area early next week.

**Today:** Partly to mostly sunny in the wake of a cold front passage. Northerly winds will gradually become onshore as the high pressure drifts overhead. Midday highs in mid to upper 40s (7-9°C) before cooler sea breezes set in near the coast.

**Tonight:** Clear early, then slowly increasing clouds. Cool, with lows in the mid 30s (2-3°C).

**Saturday:** Becoming mostly cloudy as the warm front comes through from the south. Southeasterly winds turning to southwest and strengthening. Showers arriving in the afternoon. High near 52°F (11°C).

**Sunday:** Partly cloudy and mild, with some more showers likely. Highs 55-60°F (13-15°C), lows in the 40s (5-9°C).

# For First Time in 16 Years, AIDS Deaths Decline in U.S.

By Marlene Cimons  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

For the first time since the AIDS epidemic began in the United States 16 years ago, deaths from the disease have declined nationwide, federal health officials reported Thursday.

And in a sign the trend will continue, the encouraging numbers do not significantly reflect the growing use by AIDS patients of powerful new drug combinations that include protease inhibitors, which will likely further extend survival.

Deaths among people with AIDS dropped 13 percent during the first six months of 1996, compared with the same period the previous year, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control.

Health officials attributed the reduction to increased resources devoted to treatment and prevention, particularly in improved therapies designed to stave off often life-threatening AIDS-related infections.

The news was not entirely unexpected. Last month, during a major AIDS meeting, New York City health officials reported a substantial and unprecedented drop of nearly 30 percent in AIDS deaths there, and federal officials predicted this was a harbinger of a national trend that would soon become apparent when the latest figures became available in late February.

The federal officials stressed that the trends should not cause complacency among the public.

"We're finally seeing deaths go down, but it's not-good enough," Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala said. "Too many people are still dying, and too many people are still getting infected. The new drugs don't work for everyone. We must still focus on prevention."

While the overall numbers were upbeat, the patterns varied among gender, racial groups and risk groups, with some not faring as well as others. "The numbers are shifting to our most vulnerable people," Shalala said.

For example, while the number of AIDS deaths declined 15 percent among men, deaths among women were up 3 percent. Also, deaths declined 18 percent among gay men and 6 percent among intravenous drug users, but increased 3 percent among those who had become infected through heterosexual contact.

"We have made a great deal of progress in both prevention and treatment of AIDS, but declines have not yet been seen in all people," said Dr. David Satcher, the director of CDC. "We must ensure we reach women and minority communities with effective prevention programs, and provide access to quality care."

Also Thursday, HHS said it would release an additional \$202 million in funds under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, which provides resources for treatment of people with HIV and AIDS.

Many local health officials have credited the drop in AIDS deaths to funding increases in this program that have made therapy and health care services more accessible.

The CDC reported that AIDS deaths increased steadily through 1994, but increased only slightly in 1995, which was viewed as a leveling off when adjusted for increases in the population.

During January through June 1996, there were an estimated 22,000 deaths, compared with 24,900 reported during the same time frame in 1995.

Deaths declined in all four

regions in the United States, with the West experiencing the greatest drop, 16 percent. The Northeast experienced a 15 percent drop, while the number was 11 percent in the Midwest and 8 percent in the South.

The number of AIDS deaths declined among all racial/ethnic groups. The drop was greater among whites (21 percent), than among blacks (2 percent) or Latinos (10 percent).

The CDC also reported that while the number of people diagnosed with AIDS continued to grow, the rate of growth has slowed in recent years. Between 1994-1995, the number of people diagnosed increased 2 percent from 61,200 to 62,200. Between 1993 and 1994, the growth rate was 5 percent.

If these trends continue, "hopefully, with a combined strategy to prevent new infections and to provide early diagnosis and treatment for people who are infected, AIDS incidence will soon begin to decline," CDC said.

But, as with deaths, the incidence numbers were not all positive. In 1996, for the first time, blacks accounted for a larger proportion of AIDS cases (41 percent) than whites, and the proportion of female AIDS cases continued to increase. In 1996, women made up one-fifth of the newly reported cases of AIDS.

Most AIDS organizations, while lauding the decrease in deaths, described the trends as a mixed blessing.

President Clinton hailed the CDC report as "further evidence that this terrible epidemic is beginning to yield to our sustained national public health investment in AIDS research, prevention and care." But, he added, "We must not relax our efforts."

# China Considers Signing Two U.N. Human Rights Accords

By Rone Tempest  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING

China said Thursday that it is "actively considering" signing two U.N. human rights accords that the United States has listed as an important step in normalizing relations between Washington and Beijing.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang hinted that the decision to sign the documents — the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and a convention on economic, social and cultural rights — was unlikely to occur before the annual showdown between a U.S.-led bloc of Western countries and China before the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva in March and April.

"We are actively considering these two covenants. We are actively studying and considering the question of joining," Tang said Thursday at a weekly news briefing here. "As to when we would join, that is entirely our own affair."

Western diplomats in Beijing were skeptical of the Chinese offer, suggesting it was part of an international lobbying effort by the Beijing regime leading up to the Geneva meeting.

For the past several years, the United States, with the European Union, has co-sponsored a resolution before the Geneva body condemning China for widespread abuses of human rights, including its harsh treatment of political dissidents and suppression of religion in Tibet and other areas. On each occa-

sion, China has managed to block the resolution by lobbying for support among developing countries, principally in Africa and Asia.

Leading up to this year's Geneva meeting, the United States offered to withdraw the resolution if China met conditions that include signing the two U.N. covenants, releasing a number of political dissidents from its jails and making good with a pledge, first made in 1993, to let the International Committee of the Red Cross inspect China's vast prison system.

Diplomats here say China has said for months that it is "studying" the U.N. provisions — which include a recognition of the right to strike — that would be difficult to fulfill in a period when many of this country's hopelessly inefficient state-owned industries have been forced to lay off or cut pay for thousands of workers.

China has objected to signing the U.N. covenants because they were drafted in the 1960s before it was accepted as a member of the world body and had a voice in drafting them. Chinese officials also like to point out that, although the U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was signed by then-President Carter, it was never ratified by Congress.

Sources said that when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with senior Chinese leaders here earlier this week, she was told not to expect any major gestures by China on human rights before the Geneva meeting.

"They made it clear they would not do anything if it looked as if they were responding to foreign pressure," said one source. "There was no indication of any substantial movement that China would agree to make before Geneva. The United States and China seem destined to go their separate ways."

Still, Chinese officials have repeatedly expressed their displeasure with the annual airing of their human rights problems at Geneva and the huge diplomatic effort they must make each year to table the resolution.

The effort to present a new image is especially acute here after the death last Wednesday of senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping. To firmly establish himself as Deng's successor at the helm of leadership, Jiang Zemin, China's president and Communist Party chief, is counting on an exchange of visits with President Clinton planned for later this year and early in 1998. And for the summits to be successful, officials here say, it is important for Jiang not to be dogged by continued attacks on China's human rights record.

In a sign that some movement may be occurring, Wen Wei Pao, a Hong Kong-based newspaper that tends to reflect the Beijing regime's line, reported Wednesday that Wang Dan, a student leader and a prominent Chinese dissident, is willing to accept political exile abroad in exchange for his release from prison on charges that he conspired to subvert the government.

# VA Aides Leave Under Cloud Of Harassment Accusations

By Bill McAllister  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A dozen senior hospital administrators in the Department of Veterans Affairs have been demoted or pressured to leave their jobs since 1993 after being accused of sexually harassing female employees or mismanaging their facilities, VA Secretary Jesse Brown said Thursday.

Brown, under attack in a congressional hearing this week for failing to address the problem, said he did not believe sexual harassment was widespread within the VA. However, he did say he would take strong action against any supervisor found guilty of harassment and that he or his top deputies will personally review all such allegations against senior hospital officials in the future.

"I am concerned any time people are victimized," the VA secretary said in an interview. "... It has been an hot issue since 1993. ... We have been out in front of this issue since

1993."

Allegations of 10 years of sexual harassment by five senior officials at an Atlanta VA hospital became public that year and Brown followed up, issuing a zero-tolerance policy against harassment.

Workers there said they were victims of the VA's male-dominated "good ol' boy network" of administrators who covered up years of harassment of female employees at the VA's 171 hospitals. Legal experts said at the time that the level of harassment at the Atlanta hospital probably was unrivaled by any federal facility in the nation.

Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., who raised the harassment issue at a hearing on the VA's budget Wednesday, disputed Brown's claims of zero tolerance. Hutchinson cited the case of a disciplined VA administrator who this year was transferred to a newly created job in Florida at a salary of \$106,000 a year. "I'm not convinced that they are serious about it," the senator said. "I don't see that

they are enforcing what they are talking about."

Jerome Calhoun, director of the Fayetteville, N.C., VA hospital, landed the Florida job after an internal investigation determined he made inappropriate sexually explicit comments to female workers. One of three women who accused Calhoun of harassment told investigators he often would make public comments about her breasts.

Another told investigators that the director apologized for one outburst then said: "I really miss the day when, if a woman was out of line, you could just slap her around."

Calhoun denied the allegations, but acknowledged to the investigators that he could be "loud, emotional, and profane." He was transferred to a lesser position at the Bay Pines, Fla., VA hospital, near a community where he plans to retire.

"He is still earning \$106,000," Hutchinson said. "That seems to me to be other than zero tolerance. It doesn't send the right signal."

# Arafat Denounces New Jewish Neighborhood in East Jerusalem

By Barton Gellman  
THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Thursday tersely denounced Israel's decision to build a large new Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem, but he did not say how he intends to react.

"This is a big breaching to what had been agreed upon, and it is against the United Nations resolutions and also against the American letter of guarantees and against all the agreements that had been signed," Arafat told reporters in English as he arrived in the West Bank city of Nablus, walking off without answering further questions.

Arafat's brevity and caution suggested he is still assessing the complex political challenge that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu '76 has laid before him. He did not call for Palestinian resistance or predict an outbreak of violence over the new housing project. Members of his Fatah movement intervened when some 2,000 youths marched on the hillside site — called Jebel Abu Ghena'im in Arabic and Har Homa in Hebrew — discouraging them from throwing stones or trying to push through lines of soldiers at the foot of the

hill.

But Israeli, Palestinian and Western officials said it is too soon to say he will not make a move. Arafat, they said, understands Netanyahu's decision as a power play to strengthen Israel's grip on all parts of the disputed city. He has good reasons for caution in the short term — including a meeting scheduled next week with President Clinton — but could turn up the heat after that.

Roni Shaked, a military correspondent for the Yedioth Aharonoth newspaper with close links to the Shin Bet internal security service, published an un sourced assessment Thursday that was phrased like a weather report:

"Short term-declarations of a crisis using harsh language as part of a plan to prepare the Palestinian public for a confrontation; launching a diplomatic attack. In the next two weeks to a month — launching a wide street campaign like the intifada," the 1987-93 Palestinian uprising against Israeli military occupation.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, known by the Arabic acronym Hamas, or at least the harder-line faction of it headquartered abroad, predicted that

Palestinian street opinion will defy any effort by Arafat to soft-pedal the confrontation with Israel. Hamas has claimed responsibility for suicide bombings that have killed scores of Israelis in recent years.

"The Palestinian people feel they have a knife on their hearts and they will want to express their pain with strong demonstrations," Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh, who typically is more militant than spokesmen in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said in Amman, Jordan.

"It seems there are strict orders from Arafat not to confront the Israelis," he said. "But Arab and Muslim people will not accept this step and will try to express their rejection."

Israeli officials, who had expected international criticism for the Har Homa project, watched continuing waves of it roll in Thursday — from Japan, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan SM '72, the Arab League and, least surprisingly, Iran. They said it would take days or weeks to gauge the strength of the backlash, but most suggested Israel could ride it out.

"I think it's too early to say exactly what the reaction will be," said Dore Gold, foreign policy adviser to Netanyahu.

# GOP Searches for Fail-Safe Strategy As Budget Amendment Nears Defeat

By Eric Pianin and Helen Dewar  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

With their drive for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution in shambles, Republicans Thursday searched for a fail-safe strategy to pass a balanced budget plan and put their mark on this year's legislative agenda.

President Clinton, who worked to kill the amendment, urged GOP leaders to "hunker down" and work with his administration to develop a balanced budget and tax cut deal before Thanksgiving. "We have to go beyond the constitutional debate to get to the specifics," Clinton said in a speech to the Business Council. His advice to Republican leaders, in short, was: "Get the job done this year."

But with the balanced budget amendment headed for an almost certain defeat next week — one vote shy of the two-thirds Senate majority needed — Republicans are torn. Should they launch the politically dangerous task of drafting their own

plan to balance the budget by 2002, including unpopular cuts and changes in Medicare? Or should they hang back until they are assured the White House and Democrats are willing to share the risk equally?

"Everyone expects us to always put our hands on the chopping block while all they ever do is play politics," complained Richard E. May, Republican chief of staff of the House Budget Committee.

Chastened by the voter backlash to their 1995 budget tactics, Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., said, "I don't think you'll see the Republicans want to lead with their chin this time and pass a budget only to have it vetoed."

During the first two months of the 105th Congress, Republicans in both houses have suffered losses on high-profile GOP initiatives — including term limits in the House — while dealing successfully with priorities associated with Democrats. "There is some concern about the message," said a

Republican congressional aide.

The only major measure to have cleared both houses is Clinton's proposal for early release of international family planning funds frozen last year as part of a deal to fund the government. Many Republicans opposed the measure because it did not include restrictions on funding for organizations that perform or promote abortions.

Second in line for final action is a bill, passed by the House and the Senate, to reinstate expired taxes on airline tickets — which has little in common with Republican demands for tax cuts.

Even though the early months of new congresses are often slow-moving, this year's start suffers by contrast with the fast start of the 104th Congress. A year ago, the House had already passed much of the GOP's "Contract with America," including a balanced budget amendment, line-item veto legislation, a package of anti-crime bills and a moratorium on issuance of federal regulations.

# Virginia Flip-Flops On Tobacco Regulations

THE WASHINGTON POST

RICHMOND, VA.

Gov. George Allen said Thursday that Virginia will help enforce new federal tobacco regulations after all, reversing a position taken by Attorney General James S. Gilmore III that became an overnight political embarrassment.

"The attorney general does not decide whether or not we're going to enforce these regulations," the governor said of his fellow Republican during a radio interview Thursday morning. "The fact of the matter is, we will enforce these regulations in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Gilmore, who is running for governor, spent the day backtracking from his spokesman's comments on Wednesday that Virginia would not enforce new regulations, which take effect Friday. The regulations — which require tobacco buyers younger than 27 to produce photo identification — are part of a federal crackdown on teenage smoking that eventually will include new advertising and event sponsorship restrictions on the tobacco industry.

Gilmore spokesman Mark Miner said Wednesday that the attorney general — a strong states' rights advocate who has fought what he sees as federal intrusion into the state's education and environmental policies — would not help the U.S. Food and Drug Administration enforce the new policies.

# INS Punishes 12 Officials In Scheme

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

One senior immigration official has been fired and 11 others were demoted or suspended for their part in an elaborate scheme to hoodwink a congressional task force examining illegal immigration, the Justice Department said.

The punishments, handed down last week, came 20 months after senior field managers in the Immigration and Naturalization Service released dozens of illegal aliens from a Miami detention facility to make conditions look better to visiting members of Congress.

The scheme backfired when outraged INS employees complained about it afterward.

After a lengthy investigation and disciplinary process, one INS official was dismissed, five were demoted and six were suspended without pay for periods ranging from two to 15 days, said Carole Florman, a Justice Department spokeswoman.

Reacting to the sanctions, the leader of the congressional delegation, Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Calif., said those involved deserved harsher punishment. "These officials broke the law and endangered the general public," he said. Yet they received "nothing more than a slap on the wrist."

# U.S. to Impose Royalties, Stricter Rules On Mining Industry

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Clinton administration, abandoning hopes that Congress will reform the 125-year-old law that governs hard-rock mining on federal lands, has decided to use its administrative powers to impose royalties and stricter environmental regulations on the mining industry.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is moving on several fronts to toughen environmental rules for mining companies, starting with an announcement expected Friday of a controversial bonding requirement that will force all miners to guarantee an environmental cleanup of their mines if they go out of business.

Babbitt also has ordered a departmental task force to draw up environmental standards for mines that would force companies to use the "best-available technologies" in digging new mines and cleaning up old ones. The change could force mining companies to pay for costly protection and restoration of mined federal lands.

In a separate process, the administration inserted into his 1998 budget proposal a plan to phase out a tax break for miners and to collect a 5 percent royalty from mining income, a move Babbitt said he hoped would end the "outlandish giveaway" of mineral-rich lands to private companies. Among the major "resource" industries that use federal land — coal, oil, natural gas, logging — only mining companies pay no royalties to the government for the minerals they recover.

# Biker Gang Wars Terrorize Scandinavians

THE WASHINGTON POST

COPENHAGEN

Armed biker gangs are locked in a loud and bloody war spreading across Scandinavia, disturbing the peace and upsetting the tolerance that has allowed them to flourish in the first place.

Like the mythic cowboys of the old American West, two violence-prone Nordic motorcycle clubs have taken to saying, "This town ain't big enough for the both of us." They settle their scores in blood, and leave the rest of the townsfolk terrorized and angry.

No wonder. The bikers' weapons of choice are not six-shooters. They are automatic weapons and rocket-propelled antitank grenades.

On Feb. 18, one of the shoulder-fired grenades, designed to penetrate tanks and incinerate their occupants, was fired into a small-town Danish jail. The explosive charge did not detonate, and no one was hurt. The next day the same thing happened at a biker residence in another Danish town.

After nearly a year of such incidents — which have killed eight people across Scandinavia, four of them in Denmark, and wounded scores more — Danes are persuaded that something intolerably rotten is going on.

The most ominous recent biker violence has happened in Copenhagen and other Danish towns and cities, but the warfare also has touched Sweden, Norway, and Finland. Indigenous clubs of Hell's Angels and Bandidos, organized as overseas chapters of motorcycle gangs in the United States, fight for honor, revenge, and territory in the drug trade.

# OPINION

## Letters To The Editor



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## Fraternities Provide Family, Community

The particular occasion for the most recent shallow fraternity-bashing column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25] was the accident which befell the president of Lambda Chi Alpha. The column blamed it on the alcoholism and general lack of control demonstrated by fraternity males. Leaving aside the unbelievable poor manners apparent in insulting a family, which the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha do consider themselves, the author suggests a surprising ignorance (or not so surprising if one read Tuesday's column) of the historical record.

The last president of an MIT living group to have fallen and sustained a serious injury was the former president of Senior House, David G. Moore '91. In 1990, Moore fell off a balcony and died. Was it a drug overdose? People wonder, but Senior House, which was understandably sad, at least was not blamed as a whole for not looking out after one another. Fraternities do aspire to this ideal of looking out for each other, and accusing the brothers of LCA of negligence is akin to yelling at a parent about after their child ran into traffic and was hit by a car.

Now I am given to understand from last week's column that the Sunday "vomit trail" tells the whole story about the irresponsible drunken sex that fraternities promote. I must admit that most of my brothers would be happy if their Dionysian fantasies were played out on a regular basis, but this doesn't relate to whether or not brothers care about each other. Blau claims as much when she says dormitories are just like fraternities, minus the self-righteous and unsubstantiated claims of brotherly love. I could point to a host of examples, like Chocolate City, which suggest fraternities are not unique in their quest for close friendship. However, I prefer to present my second thesis, which subsumes the first and is broader in its explanatory power.

My thesis is that fraternities give people a constructive outlet for their desire to take part in a community. This explains why so few fraternity members write for *The Tech*; they already have friends and do not need another bunch of people to hang out with.

This also explains why the fraternity GPA is higher than the campus average — fraternity males are on average happier, and so it is easier for them to get their work done. This thesis also explains why fraternity members give back more money per student to their alma mater than average — fraternity members feel more closely connected to MIT through the group of people that they have met here whom they are close to.

This thesis also explains why people write letters to the *The Tech* — the people who are unhappy are those without anything better to do than write a letter. I am almost embarrassed to be writing myself, but I think Blau's column demands a response.

I don't think *The Tech* would have printed a letter insulting all the black and hispanic men on campus. This is too broad a group to have anything real to say about them, negative or positive, that could not be said about all people. *The Tech* similarly erred in printing Blau's letter, which caricatured all fraternity males as irrational drunken maniacs.

John D. Dunagan '98

## All Living Groups Have Equal Share of Problems

Tuesday's column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25] demonstrated a lack of journalistic pride and integrity. To instigate and provoke heated crossfire is irresponsible. Considering Blau writes for a paper which is, in principle, a fairly centered and honorably intentioned periodical. Are you out to turn *The Tech* into the second tabloid campus rag?

What inspired this? Face it. At MIT, there are people who drink a lot, smoke pot, snort coke, drop acid, rape, lie, steal, harass, commit hate crimes, haze, have unprotected sex, vandalize, destroy, swear, eat pork during Passover — people here committed offenses of all types that range all the way from maybe innocent fun, differences of morality, or lapses of maturity, to serious trespasses and illicit activities.

In fact, you might say MIT students are a lot like the rest of the population, except you tend to find more intelligence among them. I'll admit to you that in the past, I have not always been a model student. As a result, I have been around the block at this institution more than a few times. Guess what? More of the stuff I list above happens among those living off campus and in some dormitories than in all fraternities. But putting dormitories on

the spot or comparing them to fraternities is not my goal. My point is that people are people. Those are the things that statistically some of them do. No matter where they live. So go ahead, try to point the finger at fraternities. Now make a scientific study. Get a control group. Spend time at a school without fraternities and tell me if you encounter any less immorality.

As a matter of fact, MIT is a fairly upstanding school in general, our fraternities are damn fine, and they contain plenty of intelligent conversation.

If most of what Blau knows about fraternities is hearsay, where does she get off on leveling accusations at them, let alone criticizing them and branding them as hypocritical? If Blau worked at my newspaper, she'd be out of a job.

Christopher L. Kausel '98

## Alcohol Is Part Of All MIT Life

The only thing I could do after reading the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25] was hold my head in consternation. I was astounded that a girl, who openly claims never to have attended a fraternity party and whose only claim of fraternity contact was talking to two Zeta Psi brothers, could possibly expect the intelligent members of the MIT population to give any credence whatsoever to her polemic. She claims that she has never heard of anyone going to a fraternity party without the intention of drinking.

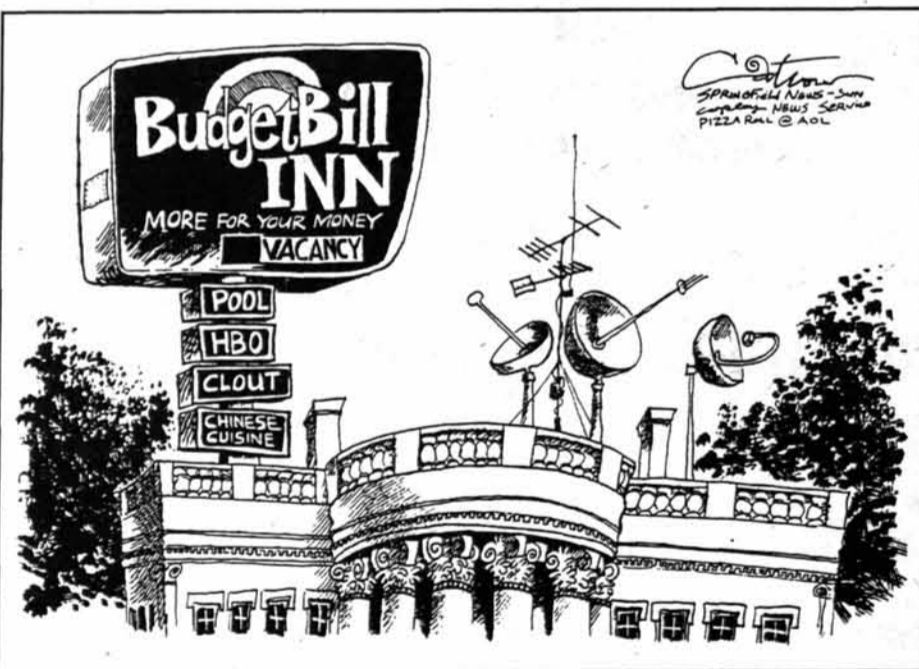
Welcome to MIT. A good percentage of people that I know go to frats not intending to drink the all-to-often served beer. I am not some super-social being that knows everyone on campus, so surely if Blau had put any time at all in to talking to people before she wrote her "column," she would have discovered this truth. Her statement that dorms can boast some personality whereas frats cannot is way out there and should be taken with a grain of salt.

What I cannot understand is the obvious problem she has with fraternities openly discussing mixers, socials, and other events to aid in meeting women. What is the problem here? Is there something wrong with a group of guys inviting women to their fraternity house to meet and greet them? Certainly, there are undeniable sexual overtones in doing so, but no one twists these young ladies' arms to attend these parties. The potential these mixers create to meet people at other universities is a hell of a lot better than sitting around Senior House staring at murals all day and playing video games all night wondering when all the girls are coming over.

And so what if former Interfraternity Council President Jason D. Pride '97 admitted that fraternity life is "based on alcohol"? Does Blau really suspect that MIT should do anything about this? She does point out that MIT needs the fraternity system due to inadequate student housing, but she doesn't really get the whole picture. MIT doesn't have to bat an eye at the frats, because MIT needs them. Drinking is a part of college life. The sooner she can swallow and understand this statement, the sooner we won't have to put up with unnecessary flame columns.

Although I am not a member of fraternity, my brother is. He had an enjoyable rush this past fall and very much likes his new house and brothers. I have been able to meet his brothers, and I think that they are a great bunch of guys. This fact makes me even more

Letters, Page 9



## Opinion Policy

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**Letters to the editor** are welcome. They must be typed, double-spaced and addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. Electronic submissions in plain text format are encouraged, and may be mailed to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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# There's a Reason Why It's Called the Opinion Page

By Thomas R. Karlo  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

If you're expecting a sequel to the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 on the fraternity system ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25], I'm sorry to disappoint you. As a columnist, though, there's little fun in yelling 'fire' when everybody's already screaming and running for the exit, so I'll leave it to others to fan the flames. Nor do I think much productive discussion is going to happen on the topic until everyone returns to their seats and calms down. In the meantime, there's a few things I've been hearing through the general shouting that I'd like to address.

The reactions to Blau's column have been both positive and negative. Among those critical of her column, I've heard two common sentiments that I find both a bit mystifying, and a little daunting: "How can *The Tech* be so anti-fraternity?" and "How can *The Tech*

let her write this?" Regardless of how I feel about the opinions Blau expressed, I do know that I'd sure prefer to err on the side of letting someone express their opinion. Would you really prefer a newspaper that only printed opinions that nobody was going to object to? In the real world, differences of opinion are what produce thought, examination, and positive progress. At MIT, it should be no different.

For *The Tech* to censor a regular columnist's piece simply because we thought it might elicit a strong reaction from a section of the community would not only be a mistake; it would mean we had failed the MIT community. Columnists are meant to stimulate discussion and thought with their pieces. If nothing else, Blau's column has certainly achieved this, considering the reaction and discussion it has caused among the normally apathetic undergraduate population.

Was the topic Blau chose to bring in front of the MIT community relevant and worthy of consideration? Definitely. It would be difficult to argue that the issue of whether MIT should rely on the fraternity system for housing is not worthy of community examination, especially

contact with many fraternity members in academic, social, and community service settings. And as the social chair for my dormitory floor, I have had the opportunity to be involved in, plan for, and attend dormitory events. I like to think that I have had the unique opportunity to experience the best of both worlds.

But I offer another unique viewpoint. As a fellow *Tech* staffer, I have been a friend and colleague of Blau for almost three years. Thus, I was especially amazed by how unjournalistic Blau's column was. Anyone, let alone someone who has been involved with *The Tech* for so long, should know that a story, even a column, cannot be written based solely on hearsay and few facts. Anyone is free to express their opinion, but an unfounded opinion will only undermine the author's claims. If Blau had been to fraternity parties and had refrained from making sweeping generaliza-

tions that only open her up for attacks, then she might have written a better column. Not necessarily a column with a view I would agree with, but a good, persuasive column.

Since fraternity, sorority, and independent living group members represent a minority at *The Tech*, I have had to endure and deal with a great deal of anti-fraternity sentiment. However, there is a big difference between being anti-fraternity and hating fraternities. I have written a couple of "anti-fraternity" news articles that reported problems fraternities were experiencing, but I certainly don't hate them. When the majority of the people have the perception that *The Tech* is anti-fraternity, Blau, especially as a former editor in chief and current opinion editor, should be especially careful not to further that opinion. By writing a column with so little factual basis, Blau seriously damages the reputation of *The Tech*,

considering that other universities have chosen in recent years to remove fraternity life from their campuses. Even the most ardent supporters of Greek life should understand

movies. *The Tech* staff is a diverse group of independently minded students, like the community we serve.

The Interfraternity Council should be careful before encouraging its members to become even more suspicious and uncooperative when dealing with reporters and editors from *The Tech*. As a minority component of the community, the Greek community will not be well served by withdrawing as a voice within MIT. Fraternities and sororities are already some of the most secretive, and difficult to cover, organizations on campus. *Tech* reporters do their best to afford this community the attention it deserves but increasing the difficulty of communicating with the Greek community will not make their job easier.

In general, it seems that a lot of folks can't accept the idea that more than one opinion on a particular topic might exist in our office, or that we might be willing to let someone express their own opinions freely. I take pride as an editor of *The Tech* that we publish not just opinions that I agree with, but those I dislike as well. To only print those columns that fit with our personal view of the world would make us a lesser publication.

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

## FSILG Sisterhood and Brotherhood Not Hypocritical

Column by Shang-Lin Chuang  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Many people were shocked when they picked up *The Tech* and read the column by Stacey E. Blau ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25]. Not only were the opinions completely wrong, but the way these opinions were presented made them even less convincing.

As a member of a sorority and a resident of a dormitory, I would like to think of myself as a good judge of both the Greek and dormitory systems — a better judge, in any event, than someone who has never been to a fraternity event. Sororities were not attacked by Blau in her column, in fact, I actually know a lot of people who think fraternities and sororities are so different that they disapprove of the former but approve of the latter. But, as a sorority member, I have had the opportunity to come in

the main student newspaper on campus. Let me assure everyone that *The Tech* as an organization is not anti-fraternity and that the column represents only the views of the author. Many editors of *The Tech* in recent years have in fact been members of FSILGs. Few editors were consulted before the column ran, and many disagree strongly with it.

With regard to the column itself, one thing that really bothers me is Blau's claim that she has never heard of anyone going to a fraternity party without the intention of drinking and that most of the socializing that goes on in fraternity parties involve sex. Blau knows me, and Blau knows that I go to fraternity parties. But I never go to these parties with the intention of drinking, certainly never ended up having sex, and I cannot imagine that Blau expects that I

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

Chuang, Page 7

# Spring Weekend

April 26<sup>th</sup>

Brought to you by the UA  
Organized by the Social Committee

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Interview for an Institute committee with the UA Nominations Committee! Saturday, March 1st. Sign up today outside of w20-401! [nomcomm@mit.edu](mailto:nomcomm@mit.edu)

# Uninformed Blau Embarrasses MIT with Column

Column by Shawdee Eshghi

STAFF REPORTER

As an occasional contributor to this publication, I usually feel inclined to defend the works that grace its pages. However, I feel that the publication of the recent column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25] is an embarrassment to *The Tech* and to MIT.

First of all, I would like to say that I am in a sorority and have attended the social functions of many different fraternities, dormitories, and student groups on campus, and whether or not that disclaimer leads to questions about whether or not I can produce a coherent piece of writing, I want to emphasize that these opinions are based on my own first-hand experiences.

The fundamental problem with Blau's piece is that she begins by stating that she has never actually been to a fraternity party, yet she feels qualified to comment on what actually happens at such parties, which in my mind, completely discredits everything she has to say. She's right in saying that productions such as *Animal House* do not paint pretty pictures of the Greek system. However, as a good journalist, Blau should know better than to rely on the media for her facts.

The first glaring inaccuracy comes when she basically says that members of fraternities are incapable of carrying on intelligent conversations. If her point is that people at fraternity parties

are not going to spend a Friday night discussing a problem set, then Blau is more or less correct. I have had countless interesting conversations about MIT, college life and indeed the world at large at fraternity parties. Blau seems to forget that these men were admitted to MIT by the same Admissions Office that admitted her and the rest of student body.

To many people who have no contact with the Greek system, it is hard to imagine fraternity members as anything other than drunk. I have to admit that the MIT fraternity system is relatively unique in that it provides for the free, unregulated flow of alcohol. However, there are plenty of women — affiliated and not — who frequent fraternity parties with no intentions of getting drunk and getting laid but rather of having a good time with their friends. Of course there are many women, not all of whom are from MIT, incidentally, who do indeed intend to get drunk and get laid but that is certainly not unique to fraternities.

This kind of socializing happens in dorms and student groups all over MIT. Indeed, where would the world be without alcohol and sex? While she admits that dormitories are not untainted when it comes to the temptations of drugs, alcohol and sex, she says that "at least dormitories can boast some sort of personality." I would argue that the Greek institutions on this campus harbor more distinctive character and flair than any dorm for the simple reason

that fraternities are much smaller and have control concerning the incoming freshman class. Again, as anyone who has friends in fraternities can tell you, while their parties may be similar, the character of each house is different.

I think that Blau's main problem is that she seems to think that having a strong brotherhood and knowing how to have a good time are mutually exclusive characteristics. Using the same logic, one could argue that although *The Tech* boasts that it is a fine publication committed to informing the MIT community, underneath it is really a close-knit group of friends who hang out and occasionally get drunk. While fraternity members will readily boast about their parties, I think most would agree that the main benefit of being affiliated was the friendships and memories they made, and that in the end, it was the brotherhood, not the social program, that meant more to them. What I will remember most fondly about my own sorority is the people who have touched my life and the sisterhood that we shared, not the parties, mixers, and fraternities we went to.

While she had everyone's attention, Blau throws in an unrelated point criticizing Leadershape: "Almost all of whose attendees are in fraternities and sororities," and its "silly cliches like unity and activism." As a member of the Leadershape class of 1996, I would like to point out that out of the 57 attendees last

summer, less than half were affiliated with a Greek institution, and of those that were, a broad cross section of fraternities and all of the sororities were represented. And so what if many of the active people on campus are affiliated? Doesn't that only support the Greek system in recognizing that it is a great place to develop leadership and team building skills?

What upsets me most, perhaps, is that to too many people like Blau here at MIT unity and activism really are nothing more than "silly cliches." Leadershape does indeed support these goals, but aren't these two of the conspicuously lacking forces on the MIT campus? Leadershape was one of the best opportunities that MIT has offered me in my short time here, and perhaps MIT really would be a better place if everyone had the chance to attend.

Blau ends her harangue by saying that "the fraternity system is one of MIT's most embarrassing sides," and I couldn't disagree more. The fact is that the Greek system promotes the very leadership skills, social skills, and community awareness that the stereotypical MIT student consistently lacks. So if learning such necessary life skills is accompanied by some wild nights, then so be it. The Greek system, with its many problems, is in fact one of MIT's shining lights, and if anything, it is *The Tech* that embarrassed MIT by featuring a former editor in chief who did not have the integrity to learn the facts before making broad conclusions.

## Lofty Claims, Fabrications Undermine Greek System

Guest column by Sean W. McGinnis

The column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25] was an exercise in poor writing and poorer judgement. While Blau is certainly entitled to her opinion, she should have saved herself the time and embarrassment of writing this column. Basically, any opinion that contains the words, "I've never been to a frat party. I've heard..." should be taken with several buckets of salt. Of course, Blau builds from this unshakable foundation a tower of lofty claims, gross generalizations, and blatant fabrications that attempt to undermine the fraternity system and turn the rest of the MIT community against it.

I take offense at a number of these claims, but I'll only address a few particularly offensive slights against fraternities. The claim that fraternities have no personality because we choose not to scrawl all over our walls is near-sighted, absurd, and self-aggrandizing. Cavemen drew rather elaborate murals all over their homes, but I doubt one would, upon meeting them, find that they had much personality.

I am also offended by the claim that fraternity life is based on alcohol. Since she's never been to a fraternity party, I would assume that Blau has never met one of the many sober — that is to say, they never touch a drop — brothers whose social lives in the fraternity are just as full and enjoyable as those of brothers who drink. And I fail to see the distinction between drunks in a dormitory and drunks in a fraternity. But, of course, Blau did

all her research on the World Wide Web, so we must all be alcoholics. I'm surprised I can type so well, considering how drunk I am.

My last criticism is a nitpick, but it affects me personally. My fraternity, Zeta Psi, had an entire paragraph dedicated to our cruel and unusual hazing practices. I won't even touch on the body-signing incident — it is, indeed, unbearably painful to have fun and meet

women with some of your brothers. What really bugs me is Blau's inability to communicate. In the last sentence of that paragraph, Blau states that a "certain fraternity" makes their pledges "scrub the house floor in the nude" and "streak in the streets." Now, I

know which fraternity she's referring to — we've all heard the rumors and, frankly, I'm much less inclined to believe them after hearing them from Blau.

But, in context, it sounds like Blau is talking about Zeta Psi — 90 percent of the people I've talked to have interpreted it that way (of course, being in fraternities, a lot of them were probably drunk).

All in all, Blau's poorly informed column was some of the worst "journalism" I've had the pleasure of reading since my high school newspaper. I am sorry that Blau's experience with the fraternity system has led her to spray such bile at us, but one would think that a person with so much spite would have more substance to back it up.

I've been a member of Zeta Psi since rush of my freshman year, and I've never regretted it for a second. Except for when I was drunk, but then I just passed out and forgot everything.

*I've been a member of Zeta Psi since rush of my freshman year, and I've never regretted it for a second.*

## Offensive Column Lacked Logic

Guest column by Jay B. Bailyn

I was shocked when I read the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25]. It came as no surprise that alcohol is present at fraternity parties and that one probably would not have an interesting conversation at some of them. What shocked me was that at MIT, a bastion of science and logic, a product of the school could write something that lacks any sort of scientific methodology or logic. This column criticizes fraternity parties and is written by someone who claims to have never attended one. Every passage or point in the article is either nonsensical or contradicted at some other point within the text.

The second paragraph concerns the proliferation of alcohol and sex at fraternity parties. The next paragraph then comments on how dormitories have just as much alcohol use as fraternities. I am quite sure that everyone is aware of alcohol use in all forms of youth. The only new idea presented is the claim that dorms have personality and fraternities do not. Whether or not this is true is, like the other points made, totally irrelevant to anything else in the article.

Interestingly though, Blau asks for the fraternity equivalent of the crappy Senior House murals which, if I remember correctly, were painted over at MIT's request this year. She then snidely replies with another rhetorical question in which she suggests the answer to be Delta Kappa Epsilon's beer can wall. (Aren't rhetorical questions patronizing and annoying?) It is a reasonable suggestion, though, as both the murals and the beer wall are the byproducts of or the entertainment during the use of some intoxicant.

Apparently in the following paragraph, Blau forgot what she wrote. She states that the real difference is that fraternities are dens of sin where people go to drink and "get laid." This paragraph's rhetorical question asks, "Is this what brotherhood is about?" I'll answer "no," and it never claimed to be so. Drinking, having intercourse, and brotherly love may have loose connections, but I have not been aware of them. Blau must remember that people do more than one activity at a given time. Apparently, she feels that the fraternities lie about brotherhood, unity, etc., in order to attract more freshmen. How interesting that someone who has never been to a fraternity party, and most likely a fraternity, can reject the honor of half of their school. For every two people she sees at school, one is a liar.

The next third of the article criticizes the boasting of both brotherhood and

social life in the fraternity World Wide Web pages. Alpha Epsilon Pi's Web page is quoted as saying that AEPi's "mixers give our brothers the opportunity to get to know women on a more personal level." Unlike dormitories, fraternities do not have female occupants, so most interactions with a large group of girls must be planned.

Apparently socializing, especially cross-gender socialization, is a bad idea. After ranting about how rush books claim both brotherhood and socialization, Blau moves on to hazing.

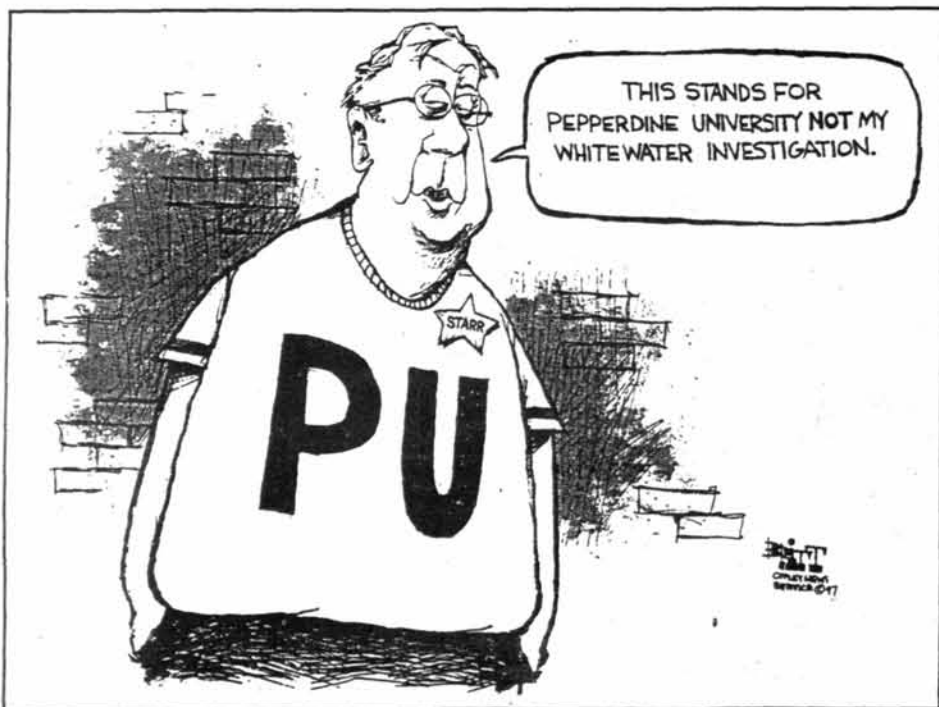
I started this letter with how I was shocked; I was not shocked, but I thought it funny how Blau was after having pledges ask her to sign their hands with a marker. That is all it takes to upset her. A couple of kids excited about running around asking girls to sign their hands seems fairly harmless to me, but the author feels that these kids who asked "beamingly" for a signature, are the victims of hazing. Perhaps part of Zeta Psi's hazing ritual includes brainwashing their pledges into thinking that they are happy.

The remainder of the article is not even worth mentioning as it is mostly worthless ranting. Near the end, though, the author has provided a quotation which I will never forget, "promote the silly cliches like unity and activism." I will not even comment on the previous statement.

I will comment on the last paragraph, though, which mentions the unfortunate accident of the Lambda Chi Alpha president. She forgot to mention that MacGregor House had modified their windows installed on their higher floors because they were losing too much money replacing the windows that MacGregor residents flung themselves out of. MacGregor has almost as much personality as government housing. As does Random Hall, and many of the other depressing, bland, jail cell-like dormitories. At least the LCA incident was an accident. Fraternity brothers prevent their brothers from committing suicide.

I have never seen such an intense reaction to a *Tech* column despite all of the garbage that has appeared recently. Some people actually like to go to MIT. I am proud to be here; it is one of the best schools in the world. Let us be happy. Anyway, whining is a really poor form of communication.

I hope that this column was somewhat offensive, because Blau's article offended me and all of the other fraternity and sorority members. Many people were deeply offended by this ridiculous offal. I am curious as to why the Blau is so bitter toward Greeks.



# MIT Fraternity Brothers Don't Follow Stereotypical *Animal House* Protrayal

Guest column by Lanny R. Chiu

It is difficult to categorize my exact reaction upon first reading the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25] of *The Tech*. Shock, anger, disbelief — these feelings undoubtedly comprise my initial reaction, but I think that it was a lingering distress that was most apparent after the initial shock faded.

Despair that despite everything that my fraternity has done for myself and the community around us, intelligent people like Blau still stereotype us and assume all our energy is invested in the type of lewd and lascivious behavior contained in her piece. It is easy to stereotype people as drunken misogynists; it is easy to say that because of a few isolated incidents that all fraternities are an embarrassment to MIT. What is difficult is trying to get a more nuanced understanding of fraternities, what is hard is trying to understand what brotherhood means to one-quarter of the MIT population.

Brotherhood is a word that Blau says with a touch of contempt. She assumes that because of a few anecdotal incidents that all fraternities care about is drinking and womanizing and that the brothers' pin that I wear means nothing more than entrance into an exclusive drinking club. But everything that I have seen in my short time at MIT refutes this claim in the actions that my brothers and I engage in everyday. But, I shall try to address at least some of her more outrageous claims.

Blau seems intent on painting a picture of fraternities as morasses of immorality; the kind of places where drinking and womanizing is encouraged above all else. I could point out the numerous examples of community service and civic pride which my house engages in every year, and I could mention all the selfless actions that I have seen my brothers engage in. But, I don't think that is necessary to refute her claim.

I believe that all I have to do is mention two of my best friends in the house; men of the highest moral and intellectual caliber whom I have never heard a bad word spoken of: Matthew S. Duplessie '99 and Seth S. Kessler '99. For any of you who don't know these two individuals, it is certainly your loss. Duplessie is a man that I simply cannot say a bad word about. He is caring, funny, gets along with everybody and is well respected in the house. He chooses not to drink, and yet somehow he manages to get along with the cast of *Animal House*. Kessler is another one of my best friends in the house. He is probably the hardest worker I have ever met, and also one of the most fun-loving. He has never touched a drop. He also, magically, seems to live in an environment full of the drunken and outrageous behavior Blau so ignorantly assumes is our primary activity.

Blau also seems to think that the alcohol which is ever-present in our systems has dulled our creative side and that the extent of our house character is shown in our choice of house alcohol. She goes on to say, "But at least dormitories can boast some personality. What is the fraternity equivalent of the murals in Senior House? Is it Delta Kappa Epsilon's rush week beer can display?" Although I

admit that I haven't personally seen every fraternity house on campus, I can claim that her statement is patently untrue about the house that I live in. When I read that all I could remember was the hours of arduous works my pledge brothers and myself spent in remodeling a room in our house, the wonderfully artistic mural — yes some fraternities do have murals — that decorate many of the rooms in our house, and the many times I have seen brothers laboring to make their rooms distinctive. Are fraternities as bland as Blau seems to think? I only know that the one I am proud to live in is not.

While all of these obvious points hurt me, the greatest injury done was not insinuations

*Brotherhood cannot be found at the bottom of a keg of Cider Jack. Brotherhood, to me, is the realization that I can rely on 30 people for anything.*

of our house social activities or the distinctiveness of our living quarters. What hurt the most is the realization that Blau doesn't understand what brotherhood is all about.

Brotherhood is not, as Blau seems to believe, some sort of euphemism for drinking and wild behavior. Brotherhood cannot be found at the bottom of a keg of Cider Jack. Brotherhood, to me, is the realization that I can rely on 30 people for anything. I can have difficulties in school, and the house will be more than happy to find me a tutor. I can have difficulties with my parents, and I have 30 people ready to comfort me. Life at MIT is hard, and my fraternity provides an unparalleled support system for dealing with our daily stresses. I was really struck by the comment that many of the brothers made to me after I pledged: When they went home for break, they often made the mistake of calling our fraternity house home. After all, doesn't the place that you were reared in have more importance than just a college residence, just another dorm?

But now I understand their feelings, now I understand what it means to call somebody you met only a few months ago brother and have it mean something more than the superficial sentiment Blau seems to assign it. I understand what it means to count on somebody for everything, and have them hold you in the same regard.

I could go on and on about everything that I have learned living in this wonderful place, but what I was really puzzled by was Blau's inability to see an obvious point. If all fraternities were about was the wild behavior she depicted, then why would our alumni association raise over a million dollars to improve our house? Why would brothers choose to stay in the house when the times got rough, instead of leaving for some bar where the beer would be cheaper? What is the brotherhood that can bind a disparate group of 30 guys together?

# Frat Bashing Shows Prejudice, Ignorance

Guest column by Wallace B. Davis

I've never been one to become angry over something that the media presents but turns out to be a self-serving pile of "tripe," to quote the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25]. I generally ignore it, or laugh at their stupidity, however, one thing that will always inspire my wrath is prejudice and ignorance. I wonder how many students at MIT would approve of Blau if she made sweeping generalizations about an ethnic group, especially the type of unsubstantiated second-hand rhetoric that she insists applies to fraternities.

Students living in fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups account for 30 percent of MIT's student population, the same percentage that Asians make up. I doubt the student body of MIT would be happy if Blau wrote an article accusing an ethnic group of being drunken, over-sexed slobs.

Blau states that she has never been to a fraternity party. Then how, may I ask, can she possibly pretend to know all about what goes on there? Yes, I will admit that drinking does occur at the parties of many fraternities. I have even been to some with the intention of drinking to take my mind off problems that I have had, but I've also been cold sober at the end of parties at which I have had a wonderful time. Contrary to popular belief, you can have a coherent conversation at a party at Sigma Phi Epsilon or any one of the 38 FSILGs.

When it comes to the sexual activity of members of fraternities, Blau, once more, has no clue about what the truth really is. Sure, some guys in fraternities have a lot of sex. So do a lot of the guys in the dorms. It may surprise Blau to learn that many members of fraternities actually seek out monogamous relationships, just like a "normal" MIT student would do. I would even conjecture that there are men in fraternities who, by choice, are still virgins. Blau villainizes Delta Kappa Epsilon for printing a picture of three women in low-cut dresses. I wonder if the guys there really tied the girls up and then put the dresses on them or if the ladies in question wore them because they felt good in them.

Rape is also not a problem in my house or any other that I know of. If anything, rape has the potential to be a bigger problem in the dorms. Dorms don't get shut down and their charters taken away for a mere accusation of rape. Fraternities can. It is for this reason that every brother in a fraternity keeps a watchful eye over his brothers and the women at a party. A fraternity party is probably one of the safest places for a female college student to go to dance, drink if she wishes, and have a good time.

There are sex and drugs and alcohol abuse all over campus and all over Boston. In one article ["Senior House. Unhappy with Changes," Oct. 1, 1996], Christopher H. Barron '97, a Senior House resident, was quoted on recent renovations to his dormitory: "It doesn't feel like a place where you can get drunk and

puke on a Thursday anymore." Blau even admits that in her article. She says that is not the point. But it is.

She says that fraternities lack the personality of dorms. Honestly, many of the dorms at MIT remind me of prisons or housing projects. In contrast, the room in which I live has murals on three out of four walls, painted by brothers who took pride in their house, and wished to contribute a little of their own personality to it. Fraternity houses reflect upon the personalities of those who live there, and the history of Boston (many houses were built before or immediately after the turn of the century).

Dormitories, however, reflect upon the ideas of an architect, or the creativity of a few students, now long gone, who took the initiative to try to brighten what was, to them, a dreary dorm existence. I'm not saying that fraternities are better than dorms, though I found them to be so, which is why I pledged, but that fraternities do have a personality, given to them by the predominantly happy brothers who live there.

Blau says that fraternities "make a pretty grand pretense of being societies of upstanding brotherhood." It is not pretense. I am close to the brothers of my fraternity, whom I have known only six months. I would do anything for my brothers, including give my life to same theirs. I wonder if Blau could ever say that about anyone she has ever known.

Fraternities were founded on, survive through, and will continue to grow because of brotherhood. There are several fraternities that allow any MIT student into their parties, so social life is obviously not the only reason to pledge. Nobody likes having to clean their own house, so I bet that's not it. It is a lot easier to "get laid" if you have a single than if you share a room with one of your closest friends, and there are very few singles in most fraternity houses. So what could it be? Hey, maybe it is for the brotherhood that fraternities provide that so many MIT students elect to live in a fraternity. So, is it any wonder that 30 percent of MIT students live in an FSILG?

I am saddened to see the way of life that I love so dearly be distorted and perverted in the manner of Blau's column. Blau routinely contradicts herself — every "fact" is preceded or followed by qualifiers such as "I've heard" or "seems," and is also guilty of repeatedly skewing or taking out of context most of the quotes found in her article.

When it comes to the Lambda Chi Alpha president falling down the elevator shaft, at least his brothers took care of him, rather than simply not paying attention and walking by like several dorm residents did when an MIT student was badly beaten outside the Cambridgeport Saloon. Fraternities take care of their own, even when someone, through bad judgement has too much to drink and becomes ill. When was the last time that a dorm resident gave that kind of attention to a friend? As for me, the only "vomit trail" I'm leaving is the one leading to the bathroom after reading this inane, useless, and wholly untrue column.

# Experience Needed to Comprehend FSILGs' Brotherhood

Chuang, from Page 5

did. Blau also knows several of my friends. Many of them go to fraternity parties. A few of them go to drink, but most of them do not, and none of them end up having sex.

It also bothers me to see that Blau thinks that she is above the rest, that she can easily see through the lies and deception of FSILGs when nobody else can, that the average MIT student cannot distinguish between truth and lie, and that almost one-half of the undergraduate population cannot make a clear and informed decision on its own.

I have found others, mostly men, who share Blau's misplaced convictions about fraternity life. However, after talking further with them, I usually discover that they rushed fraternities but did not receive a bid. Now, I am not saying that their views on fraternities are completely wrong just because they were flushed. But I am saying that it casts suspicion and doubt on their

arguments. If they thought fraternities were so bad, then why did they rush and want to join them? Did they realize only after rush the true evils of fraternities and are now relieved that they didn't join? Or, perhaps their views are tainted by their bitter personal feelings.

Like these people, Blau makes the absurd claim that fraternities are only about alcohol, sex, and sorority chicks, or so she heard. I wonder if Blau knows that FSILGs do a great deal of community service, have extensive systems of networking and alumni relationships, and offer an academic support structure to their members in terms of bibles and tutoring. FSILGs have the highest attendance at Institute-wide community events like City Days and they also participate in smaller community events that dormitories don't participate in. Few would deny that the Interfraternity Council is one of the most powerful student organizations on campus, but how many people ever took a minute to figure

out why? Maybe the reason is it's unified and caring membership.

Many people have asked me what binds me to my sorority — why I feel this instant "bond" to my sisters two days after I join. My reply has always been the same: It is very difficult to explain and very difficult to understand if you are not involved. In fact, I don't know if I really can say why. But it is the feeling of security, friendship, and support that makes me value my sorority. It is supporting and helping my sisters, knowing that they would do the same for me. I will be the first one to admit that I don't get along with everyone in my sorority, but there are many more that I do get along with and whose company I enjoy. How many people in dormitories would notice if you didn't come home one night? How many would voluntarily offer to help you in many different ways? How many would take care of you when you were sick? How many would throw a surprise birthday party

for you? How many would watch out, take care, and stand up for you, and how many would remember and make sure you wake up for your 9 a.m. final, all without asking?

I know that someone will always have a seat for me in lecture, that I will always encounter a friendly face in the Infinite Corridor, that I will always have a place to go to when I need help, that I will always have a shoulder to cry on, and that I will always have a person to call at 3 a.m. to ask them a question about a problem set that I put off to the last minute. Many of my best friends are not in my sorority, but many are. I know that sororities generally have a much better reputation than fraternities, but I cannot imagine how the two can be very different. FSILGs are not hypocritical — they do have a lot of parties with alcohol, but the Greek experience is mainly about the bonds of brotherhood (or sisterhood), about improving oneself, and about making friends for a lifetime.

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# Letters To The Editor

Letters, from Page 4

indignant that someone so unfamiliar with the fraternity system feels it is her duty to write such an article to cheapen the fraternity experience. I can find some solace in the fact that my letter here is going to be one of many received by *The Tech* in angry response to the column.

John A. Modzelewski '98

## Blau Presents Skewed Perception of FSILGs

In response to the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25], I feel that Blau has presented a skewed perception of MIT fraternities to the public. I find it interesting first of all that the author admits to having "never [gone] to a frat party" and yet proceeds to provide an extensive examination of fraternities based upon stereotypes and first-hand research from analytical commentaries such as *Animal House*.

Blau claims that "Greek Week is to a large extent a weekend-long drinking fest." And yet, I seem to recall many Greek Week events such as the chicken wing eating contest, the Greek Week Ball, the fund-raiser for the Cambridge Family and Children's Services (a charity for orphans and abused children), and the newly introduced community service day. In fact, the Greek Week Co-Chair Waleed Anbar '99 is quoted as saying that the emphasis in events has moved away from alcohol ["Greek Week Focuses on Social, Community Events," Sept. 24, 1996].

So, perhaps, there is a little bit of truth to the statement that fraternity life is about service and brotherhood.

Blau also asserts that one thing that ties the fraternities together is the absence of intelligent conversation. I find this a bit hard to swallow given that we are all at one of the nation's best universities. But, then again, I suppose the Admissions Office is not perfect. Perhaps 50 percent of the male MIT undergraduate population are complete morons. Perhaps not.

Blau also asserts that fraternity social events are generally centered around sex. I find this to be quite an amazing discovery for a person who admits she has never been to a fraternity party. Furthermore, the author presents no evidence for this erroneous claim with the possible exception of the Delta Kappa Epsilon homepage with pictures of girls in "low-cut dresses" (an obvious indication of wild sexual activity).

I am thoroughly confused by Blau's statement that fraternities rule Residence and Orientation Week, given the long lists of Interfraternity Council regulations that are imposed on fraternities every year. For example, just this last year, the IFC collected \$5,375 in rush violation fines. In fact, the dormitories were at an advantage this year since they were not forced to use the Clearinghouse system.

However, what disturbed me the most about the article was the misquote of Jason D. Pride '97 of saying that "fraternity life is based on alcohol." In reality, the quote was "Even though [a completely dry rush] is a really beautiful idea, it would seem to me an idealistic goal to have the fraternities not based on alcohol." The two statements are nowhere near similar in connotation.

In my opinion, it is not the fraternity system that is one of MIT's most embarrassing sides, but rather it is those students who believe they know everything there is to know about fraternity life without ever once experiencing it. If the ethics and morality of the individuals in the 30-some fraternities is going to be judged by the actions of one individual, then perhaps MIT students are a bit more ignorant than they may think.

Murthy Mathiprakasham '00

## FSILGs Serve Community

The column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 27] caused a great disturbance among the Greek community at MIT. It portrays Greeks in an unfair manner, completely based on false assumptions and gossip. I am a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, and as such, a member of the Greek system. Therefore, it is my responsibility to state all the positive points of our system.

Although, it was impossible to contact every single living group in a short time, I was able to obtain a list of many community service events in our Greek system including Lambda Chi Alpha's sponsorship of the North America Food Drive, Sigma Alpha Epsilon's help at the Bay Back Community Rally, and

Alpha Phi's annual Alpha Phlea Market which raises money for local charities and Cardiac Care Research, to name just a few.

Besides organizing, volunteering, and participating in a great number of community service events, members of the Greek system are involved in a good number of clubs, sports, and civic groups. There is a true bond of sisterhood and brotherhood in our organizations. I guess it's difficult to see this if you haven't taken time to meet somebody in the Greek system. We have personalities, we care about our members truly, and we consider them a family.

On a personal account, I was in a bad car wreck a few days before rush and had to miss some days of it. There wasn't one day in which I didn't get a get well call from one of my sisters and even flowers sent all the way to Puerto Rico. I have experienced and witnessed the true value of respect and love that a sorority and fraternity has to offer.

There are many social events that the Greek system has, which don't include alcohol, like dry rush (yes, it exists already), Sigma Chi's weekly Tea social (open to everyone), and intramural sports. It hurts when people who aren't even acquainted with our system demoralize it with false statements.

Anna P. Orenstein-Cardona '99

## Blau's Column Promotes Unfair Stereotypes

In response to the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25], if I were to say that all *Tech* opinion writers were bigoted, stupid, rabidly anti-fraternity hatemongers, I would be incorrect. If I were to use such a statement to support a claim that they were hypocrites in their writing practices, I might be approaching hypocrisy myself. Fortunately, I would not make such a statement, because I have actually bothered to gather some data myself, and have experimentally determined that not all *Tech* opinion writers are the same.

Many of us who live in coed or dry (or both) fraternities resent being called alcoholics who are only out to get laid. I assure you that my roommate at Epsilon Theta is not very happy at the insinuation that all she's after in life is to get drunk and bag a sorority chick.

As for not having personality, while I agree that not every fraternity can have a mural in Senior House, some of us manage to have murals in our own houses. What's more, some of us have managed to create a house personality that is a little bit more involved than some paint on the wall and which goes far beyond the surface that can be seen by

someone who has never even bothered to visit one of the places that she bathes in vitriol.

Blau should remember that when she makes extremely broad comments, especially when she put as little effort into acquiring facts as she for her column, she will certainly catch some people who do not in any way fit the stereotype you describe. A wide variety of people live at MIT fraternities, and many of us are not the alcoholic, rutting animals she portrays.

And if Blau is looking for some intelligent conversation, sans drinking and fornicating, she should feel free to drop by one of my house's parties some time. If she truly believes what she wrote, she will be quite surprised.

Jay Muchnij '97

## Column Errors Show Little Research

I was absolutely enraged by Tuesday's column by Stacey E. Blau '98, "Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT." Did she not do the most basic research? Our name is Tau Epsilon Phi not Tau Epsilon Pi. I have noticed that *The Tech* has been gradually increasing the frequency of these spelling errors, perhaps in the hope that we wouldn't notice until it was too late. Don't think that we Teps are unaware of your insidious plot.

Aneel Nazareth '98  
Chancellor, Tau Epsilon Phi

## Tech Ad Off Mark

Following the logic demonstrated in the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25], the back page ad of the same day, which says, "Do it at night: Join *The Tech's* Production Staff," would lead us to conclude that our student newspaper is filled with sexual deviants who try to lure unsuspecting people to their drug-infested bondage and domination sessions using otherwise harmless innuendos.

Of course, we've never been to a production meeting.

Joel M. Rosenberg '99  
Kevin M. Stange '99

## FSILG Brotherhood Not Hypocritical

I think that the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 in Tuesday's issue ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25] was a personal insult to every member of an MIT fraternity. To say that brotherhood doesn't exist is an outright lie. Maybe if Blau had taken some time to talk to fraternity mem-

bers, rather than letting Java applets at fraternity homepages do our talking for us, she would have discovered this.

Brotherhood is a very real thing. I know because I've been a part of it and continue to be to this day. Sadly, I no longer live in a fraternity, but in the four years that I did, I lived with over 80 different people. Some I didn't get along with, and some became my closest friends. But I'm proud to call all of them my brothers. If one of them needed me for anything at all, I wouldn't hesitate to help him out. To suggest that brotherhood is no more than "parties, drinking, and sorority chicks" is absurd. Those guys are my family, as much as any real brother would be.

When I first came to MIT, I never even thought about living in a fraternity. I was just looking for a place to live. But what I found was a home. I fear that Blau will never understand that, mainly because she has made no attempt to try. She hasn't been to a fraternity party and apparently hasn't been inside many fraternities at all if she really believes that the dorms have more character. To criticize fraternities and the idea of brotherhood without first attempting to understand us is like me claiming that PMS doesn't exist even though I've never menstruated. You've got to experience it to know what it's like. And you've got to talk to someone who's been through it to even hope to understand it.

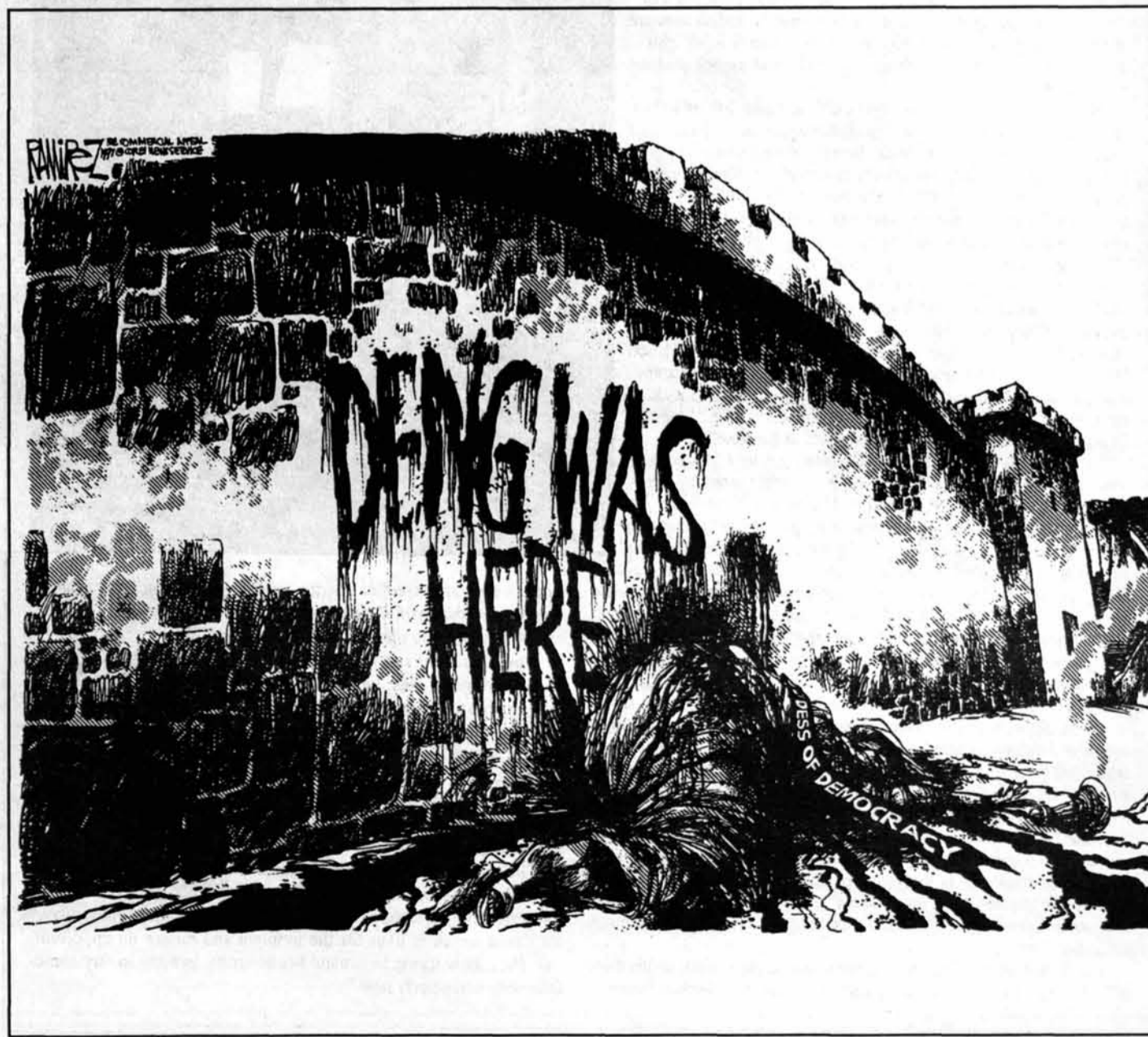
Adam Wilson '96  
Theta Delta Chi alumnus

## Fraternity Life Not Based On Alcohol

I have a few things to say about the column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25]. I'd like to tell her about a certain fraternity and the respect and courtesy they've extended me. I'm a recovering alcoholic, and on my two-year sobriety date the fraternity had a sober party for me. No one in this frat has ever asked me to drink, instead they watch out for me.

Some of the brothers have even come to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings with me. During the parties I hang out with the sober brothers (yes, there is such a thing). Now, would Blau like to tell me again that fraternities are only about alcohol? I feel so safe and trust these guys so much I brought my little sister over to the house during a party. In my opinion, Blau should keep your mouth shut unless she knows what she's talking about. Obviously, by the way she described fraternities, she knows nothing about them.

Jane Murray  
Sophomore, Lesley College



## THE ARTS

## FILM REVIEW

## Going undercover deep into the mafia

## DONNIE BRASCO

Directed by Mike Newell.

Starring Al Pacino, Johnny Depp, Michael Madsen, Anne Heche, and Samantha Mathis. Written by Paul Attanasio, Joseph Pistone (book: *Donnie Brasco: My Undercover Life in the Mafia*), and Richard Woodley (book).

By Jonathan Litt

STAFF REPORTER

**D**onnie Brasco is the autobiographical account of real-life ex-FBI agent Joseph D. Pistone, based on his 1988 book, *Donnie Brasco: My Undercover Life in the Mafia*. Pistone spent six years undercover in the mob during the late seventies under the alias Donnie Brasco, reaping several hundred convictions as a result of his eventual testimony.

The portrayal of the mob in *Donnie Brasco* is distinctly unglamorous, and that is what makes it so interesting. Movies like *The Godfather* and *Goodfellas* tell grandiose stories of the rise and fall of key figures at the highest levels of the mob, but *Donnie Brasco* tells the story of the mob equivalent of Willy Loman, a man who, in the words of English director Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*), "works for a dream all his life but at the end finds all he has is a cheap, gold plated watch."

The Loman figure in this case is Lefty Ruggiero (Al Pacino), the man Pistone (Johnny Depp) befriends and uses as a stepping stone for all his major infiltrations. Lefty is so lonely and eager to become a mentor for someone that he practically falls into Pistone's lap. Pistone,

pretending to be a jeweler, proceeds to earn Lefty's trust by convincing him that his newly purchased diamond is actually a fake. Lefty is surprised because he is convinced that the diamond must be real. Lefty doesn't know that his skills of appraisal are equally lacking on humans as they are on diamonds.

But their friendship grows, and soon Lefty "vouches" for Pistone, meaning that Pistone is officially accepted by the various mobster underlings of the local neighborhood. As time passes, the local underlings become more and more important in the overall hierarchy of their organized crime family. Of course, in the mob, the most ambitious members are the ones most willing to kill off their superiors, as happens

time and time again throughout *Brasco*. Meanwhile, Pistone's marriage starts to fall apart (it does not help that he can't even tell his wife what his job really is), and he becomes more and more emotionally torn between his allegiance to the FBI and his friendship with Lefty. To save his life and his marriage, he knows that he must pull himself out of the job, but he knows this will make



FBI Agent Pistone (Johnny Depp, left) befriends Lefty (Al Pacino) to gain access to the mafia in *Donnie Brasco*.

Lefty a victim of the mafia's strict code of honor. Lefty "vouched" for Pistone, and if Pistone revealed himself as an FBI agent, Lefty would be as good as dead.

*Donnie Brasco* tells a much more personal story than most mob movies but packs as much of a punch because everything about it seems more realistic. These aren't mobsters who run a gambling empire that span from New York to Las Vegas (a la *The Godfather*).

They are a bunch of wise guys who can hardly start up a nightclub in Miami and have to resort to cracking open parking meters to keep up with their monthly \$50,000 payment to the local mob bosses. But the personal relationships and betrayals are as intense as any mob movie in recent history, and that is why *Donnie Brasco* is as rewarding as anything Francis Ford Coppola or Martin Scorsese ever have brought to the screen.

## INTERVIEW

## Rent's Luther Creek

By Nancy Hsiung

"I'm enjoying the hell out of myself right now," laughed Luther Creek. Creek plays Mark Cohen, the principle role in the Boston production of *Rent*. Bostonians are by now more than familiar with the late Jonathon Larson's *Rent*, a show about young artists in Alphabet City in New York trying to make an honest living and find love in this "isolating age." Creek described what drew him to the show: "It seems to reach out to so many people who feel they're being spoken to, who... seem to feel quite isolated from [many cultural aspects], musicals in particular."

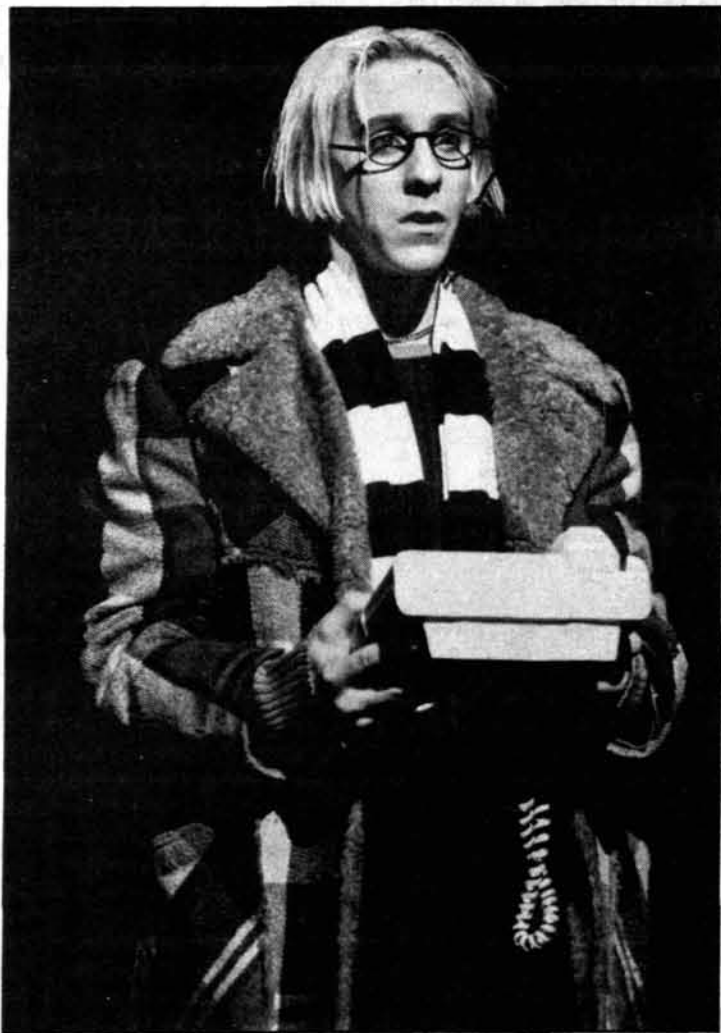
Being a part of *Rent* has taught Creek about life and love. "I've learned quite a bit, and I've also remembered a lot that I hadn't easily kept in clear focus before," he explained. In particular, he has learned from the themes in *Rent*: "Forget, regret, or life is yours to miss. Give in to love, or live in fear." These ideas, said Creek, "are so clear but easily clouded by daily life... And they're important things to keep in perspective."

Creek's favorite pieces from *Rent* include "Halloween," his character's solo in the second act where he ponders life and his character's loneliness. Creek also especially enjoys performing the duet "What You Own," sung with co-star Sean Keller, who plays Roger (the role Creek was originally called in to audition for). Anyone disenchanted by life would agree that it is a special piece, since the song depicts the disinterest and lack of emotion in present-day America. As the duet sings, "You're living in America/Leave your conscience at the tone."

"Recently, a lot of what has attracted me to a character is some place that I happen to be in my life at that moment," Creek said. His bio includes performing in The Who's *Tommy* and the 25th anniversary tour of *Hair*, in which he played the leading role of Claude. Among sharing other similarities, the characters he played have all challenged society to preserve their own individuality. "[There are] such incredible similarities between... *Rent* and *Hair*, Mark and Claude," Creek said. "Claude is very identifiable to the audience — he's almost more a member of the audience than he is a member of the onstage tribe, and the same thing is true of Mark to a great degree."

As Creek was growing up, his parents moved 14 different times to towns throughout the Midwest and Southwest. He attended high school in Indiana, which he found "incredibly boring... The menial tasks that [teachers] asked us to perform frustrated me to no end," he said. He found his place in community theater, where he was treated "as a human being, instead of the awful way they treated me in school." His interest in theater increased and then he decided to pursue it as a career. In addition to providing him with respect, performing in musicals is thrilling for Creek because "the emotion sometimes reaches such an extreme level... and you start singing instead of speaking. It's certainly exciting to have the opportunity to do that."

Creek now lives in Boston but goes back to New York on his days off. "It feeds me so much as a performer and as a human being..."



There's such an incredible energy about it. And among other things, it certainly keeps you thinking and on your toes, because otherwise, everything seems to literally pass you by."

Now that *Rent* is a success and Creek doesn't have to worry about paying the bills, he has begun to think about future projects. "I'm really still taking it one day at a time," he said. For now, Creek is in the preliminary stages of forming a band and is working on writing songs. "I don't like what I write very much, though, and I can't decide if I'm just overly critical or... if [the songs are] bad," he admitted, laughing. Aside from being the band's singer and lyricist, he may also be its keyboardist or guitarist; he just recently started taking lessons.

The producers couldn't have known what a match they made when they cast Luther Creek in *Rent*. Few would be more suitable for performing in a show whose main theme is "No day but today," for Creek certainly lives for the moment and misses no opportunities. He is now trying to expand his horizons, looking to "try something else completely new."

## ON CAMPUS

## 3 centuries played on 13 strings

## MIT STRING SINFONIETTA

Killian Hall, February 24.

By Thomas Chen

STAFF REPORTER

Something very exciting and wonderful happened on Monday evening in Killian Hall. The 13-member MIT String Sinfonietta made its debut concert featuring Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*, Grieg's *Holberg Suite* and Britten's *Simple Symphony*. This concert provided a completely different musical experience than the ones that I am used to at MIT.

The program consisted of three pieces for strings ensemble, and each of the past three centuries was represented by each work. The Baroque era of music was highlighted; each piece either contained Baroque elements or was actually from the Baroque period. The choice of music was obviously chosen with unity in mind.

The concert was different in its style of presentation and performance. One difference was that the violins and violists play standing up, and although it is not out of the ordinary for a period performance, it gave an impression of alertness that might otherwise be lost had they been sitting.

Another difference was the lack of a conductor. Instead of receiving direction from a single person, players were required to be aware of each other and listen closely to what their neighbors were doing.

Playing without a conductor may seem like a trivial point, especially to those who are not familiar with classical music. Chamber musicians play without conducting, and what the MIT String Sinfonietta does can be considered an expanded version of chamber music.

Indeed, one could see and hear many moments when the players were really paying attention to each other, as if they were playing intimate chamber music. This requires the highest order of musicianship to judge things like uniformity of attack, evenness of balance,

ON CAMPUS

# Troupe joins forces with pros

**BREAKING BOUNDS**

MIT Dance Troupe.  
Little Kresge, February 21 to 23, 1997.

By Kimberly Knowles  
STAFF REPORTER

Each time the MIT Dance Troupe performs, it incorporates a new idea. Last term, it was lighting design; this time, it was professional dancers and choreographers. This performance featured Boston area talent performing their own choreography as well as a reprisal of favorite dances from Dance Troupe's past performances.

The show began with an evocative piece called "Birds," in which a soundtrack of bird calls accompanies series of fleeting movements and intricate patterns as dancers seemed to fly about the stage, gathering in flocks and darting off stage.

The second, a solo work by André Quintela, was entitled "Dreaming." It was a sensual work, accentuating the form of the body. Another professional piece, by Nancy Marsh, seemed to be rather mature, expressing a feeling of middle age and longing.

The best professional dance was offered by

Sharon Montella, who performed a hip-hop number to "Face Down" by Prince. She was full of spirit and energy, and the fact that she was alone on stage did not make a difference; her presence filled the room.

Overall, the student-choreographed pieces seemed a lot more engaging than the perhaps more distant professional works. A remake of "Closer" by Jimmy Lin '97 yielded a much more brutal plot, in which a man is controlled and manipulated by a woman, with "Emotions" on pointe shoes accompanying his agony.

Christina Schofield's "A Capella Tap" brought the same charm as the first time, revamped only by a new title. A dance called "Overswept" by Nicole Y. Morgan G brought thrills to the audience with its blue and purple color scheme and ocean wave movements, interrupted by a rhythmic tribal section. Carol C. Cheung '98 danced a lovely solo at the end of the piece, closing the dance with energy and delicacy.

The highlight of the show was the finale, "Africa," by Cheung. It was worth sitting through the show just for this one dance. The emotion, the tension, the longing, and the con-



RICH FLETCHER — THE TECH

Alexander D. Sindt '99 and Haixia Lin '99 performing last weekend in Dance Troupe's "Breaking Bounds" program.

tinuity of life were all encapsulated in this one piece, leaving the audience very satisfied indeed.

Dance Troupe just keeps growing in power

and talent, and its performances are highly recommended to anyone who wants to witness MIT's talents and experience the splendor of dance.

# Campus musical group debuts with Monday concert

Sinfonietta, from Page 10

and gradations of dynamics. The members of the Sinfonietta showed this in abundance with accomplished playing across the board. The two sarabands were especially lovely, and I was impressed by the high level of coordination in the pizzicato movement of the *Simple Symphony*.

When asked about the difficulties of playing in such a group, violinist and MIT String Sinfonietta founder Annie Chen '97 said, "The size of the group demands that each member becomes a leader, especially since we play without a conductor. We face difficulties that both large orchestras and string quartets face. The group is large enough so that so that staying together within and between sections

isn't exactly trivial."

The awareness between all players is crucial in music where important events occur in rapid succession. "The level of interaction among the musicians is similar to that of chamber music because we each really need to know what the other sections are doing so that we come out playing more than just the notes on the page — we also add along musical ideas and feeling," Chen said.

Furthermore, I noticed how the musicians rotated as principals for each piece, demonstrating how all the players are regarded as equals. Another member of the Sinfonietta has described this rotating arrangement as an opportunity for every member to gain experience as an ensemble leader.

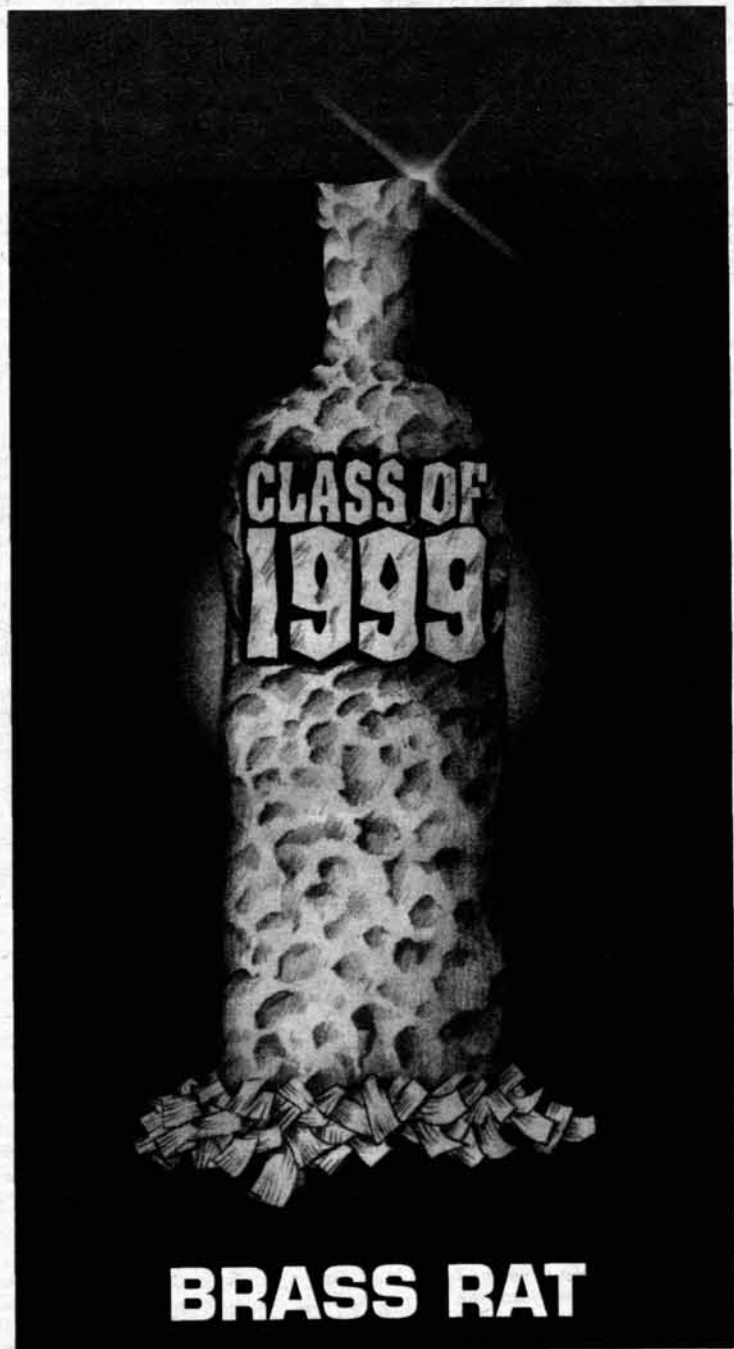
Despite some vigorous and involved

playing from the musicians, there were a couple passages where the music seemed to get stuck or seemed to end without preparation. Parts of the *Grieg* (Gavotte and Rigaudon) could have used extra pushing, and the ending of the *Simple Symphony* was too abrupt for my taste. I would attribute these shortcomings to the absence of a conductor. As this group is newly formed, problems like this will eventually be solved as the musicians get to know each other's playing more.

The Sinfonietta was formed last October to establish, as Chen puts it, "a serious chamber orchestra where the members met consistently to rehearse and study string orchestra repertoire." Given that nothing like this is currently offered to the MIT community, her

idea was well-founded. Although the group is purely student-run, it receives input during rehearsals from a variety of MIT music faculty.

Such high-quality playing stimulates my interest for the Sinfonietta's upcoming concert in April. Given that the group is willing to augment the current string body with winds, brass, and percussion to play the *Bach Magnificat* and *Cantata No. 161* with the MIT Chamber Chorus, I wonder if it will expand its repertoire of orchestral works into Mozart and Haydn symphonies. As for now, the Sinfonietta's current repertoire is focused on string serenade-type pieces, but if I may say so, my personal wish would be to hear them pull off the *Bartok Divertimento*.



# Class of 1999 RING PREMIERE

Saturday, March 1 • 7 PM  
WALKER MEMORIAL



## Classical Music

**MIT Faculty Series**  
Kresge Auditorium, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Feb. 28, 8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. Pianist David Deveau will perform a program of Schubert and Brahms featuring Schubert's *Impromptu in A Major, Op.142, No.2*; Schubert's *Klavierstück in E-flat Minor, Op. Posthumous*; Schubert's *Wanderer Fantasy in C, Op.15*; Brahms's *Intermezzo in A Minor, Op.118, Nos.1 and 2*; and Brahms's *Variations on a Theme by Paganini, Books I and II, Op.35*.

**MIT Faculty Concert**  
Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Dr., Cambridge. March 1, 7:30 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. The rich cultural heritage of Uganda, East Africa, is vibrantly expressed by this ensemble of performers whose dance, song and unique instrumentation are rooted in authentic tradition. Performed by James Makubuya, Juliet Nabakka, Dan Ssuuna, Andrew Mangeni, and Annette Nakku.

**Kecak**  
Kresge Auditorium, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. March 2, 2 p.m. Admission: \$5, free for children under 12 and with MIT ID. Information: 253-9800. Experience the exhilaration and excitement of the Balinese Monkey Chant in this new version specially staged by I Nyoman Cerita. Also participate in a mass "kecak-a-long" with members of the gamelan. This program will also feature traditional music and dance of Bali.

**Student Senior Recital**  
Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Dr., Cambridge. March 4, 8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. Chad Musser '97, horn. Saint-Saens, *Morceau de Concert*; Beethoven, *Sonata for Horn and Piano*; Brahms, *Trio for Horn, Violin, and Piano, Op. 40*. Susan Shi '97, piano; John Ito '94, viola; Patrick Yacono, piano.

**AMP Student Recital**  
Killian Hall, 160 Memorial Dr., Cambridge. March 5, 5 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-9800. Jason C. Wong '99, piano. Beethoven, *Sonata No. 31 in A-flat Major Op. 110*; Schumann, *Symphonic Etudes Op. 13*; Gottschalk, *Souvenir De Puerto Rico*.

**MIT Chapel Series**  
MIT Chapel, across from 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. March 6, noon. Pentamerus Winds: Robin Baker, flute; Ronald Kaye, oboe; Carolyn Grant, clarinet; R. Whitacre Hill, horn; Leo Kenen, bassoon. Works of Andriessen, Fine, and Barber.

**Tufts Music Faculty Recital**  
Tufts University, Alumnae Hall, Talbot Avenue, Medford. March 2, 3 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 627-3564. Peter Clemente, guitar; John Baldwin, violin; Frances Fitch, harpsichord. Works by contemporary composer Joan Tower, classical composer De La Guerre and more.

**Boston Symphony Orchestra**  
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. March 6, 8 p.m. Admission: \$23-\$69; open rehearsal \$12.50. Information: 266-1200. Conducted by James Conlon; Maxim Vengerov, violin. Pieces include Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit*, Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 2*, and Janáček's *Sinfonietta*.

**Wind Soloists of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe**  
Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, 20 Park Plaza, Boston. March 2, 3 p.m. Admission: \$30-\$40. Information: 536-2412. Program includes Hummel's *Wind Octet in E-flat Major*, Janáček's *Mládí*; Carter's *Eight Etudes and a Fantasy*; and Mozart's *Serenade for Winds in C Minor, K. 388*.

**The Longy School of Music**  
One Follen St., Cambridge. Information: 876-0956, x120. *The Longy Chamber Orchestra*. March 4, 8 p.m. With guest conductor David Katz and cello soloist Mark Verrette perform music of Shostakovich and others. *Klavierabend*. March 6, 7 p.m. The students of Longy's Piano Department present *Klavierabend*, featuring music from the Preparatory, Continuing, and Professional Studies Divisions, including waltzes, impromptus, and sonatas.

**Boston Musica Viva**  
Longy School of Music's Edward Pickman Concert Hall, 27 Garden

# On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston  
February 28 - March 6  
Compiled by Cristián A. González

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.

St., Cambridge. Feb. 28, 8 p.m. Admission: \$17; \$8 for students and seniors. Information: 353-0556. Richard Pittman, music director, presents *Beyond the avant-garde: new wine in old bottles*, the third concert in the *Remembering the Century: From the Fin de Siècle to the Millennium* series. The program includes Arnold Schoenberg's *Suite, op. 29*; Ellen Taaffe Zwilich *Passages*, with Janice Felty, mezzo-soprano; and Pette Child *Tableaux II*.

## Jazz Music

**Bob the Chef's Jazz Cafe**  
604 Columbus Ave., Boston. Feb. 28, from 7:30 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 536-6204. The Groovin' Girls.

**Essence and Friends**  
Tufts University, Alumnae Hall, Talbot Ave., Medford. March 1, 8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 627-3564. An evening of soulful vocal and instrumental music by women students involved in music at Tufts. *Essence and Friends* is one of the premiere student music groups at Tufts, and they will perform songs by En Vogue, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Gershwin, and more.

## Popular Music

**Angry Salad**  
Middle East, 472 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. 11 p.m. Admission: cover varies. Casual attire. All shows 18+. Information: 497-0576, 354-8238.

## Film

**Lecture Series Committee**  
77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Admission: \$2. Information: 258-8881. *The Celluloid Closet*. Feb. 28, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Room 26-100. Explores the treatment of gays and lesbians in cinema, with excerpts from over 100 films and commentaries by many major motion picture artists. Narrated by Lily Tomlin.

*Yojimbo*. Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., Room 10-250. Directed by Akira Kurosawa; starring Toshiro Mifune. *Yojimbo* (Mifune), a masterless samurai, wanders into a town to find it terrorized by two rival factions. He offers his services to the highest bidder but, uncovering treachery, he arranges events so that both sides will destroy each other. Kurosawa's love of the cinematic conventions of the Western genre shows itself in the plot and in some set-ups. This has resulted in several remakes, such as the recently released *Last Man Standing*. *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. March 1, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Room 26-100. Rose (Barbara Streisand) is a professor of literature in her forties who has given up on the idea of marriage, until she meets a math professor named Gregory (Jeff Bridges). Even though Gregory simply wants a marriage of friendship, without physical affection, Rose falls in love with him and decides to try to capture the heart of the man she loves. *Bad Boys*. March 2, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Room 26-100. Hen pecked family-man Marcus Burnet (Martin Lawrence) and smooth, wealthy ladies' man Mike Lowry (Will Smith) are Miami cops given 72 hours to reclaim \$100 million worth of stolen heroin. They must track down the drugs while protecting the beautiful material witness (Tea Leoni) from the bad guys.

**The Museum at the John F.**



Rose (Barbra Streisand, right) has Gregory (Jeff Bridges) over to meet her mother (Lauren Bacall) in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, showing tomorrow at LSC.

**Kennedy Library**  
Columbia Point, Boston. Through June 1: Fri.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$6; seniors and students, \$4; ages 6-12, \$2; under 6, free. Information: 929-4523. Films run continuously during the day. *Cuban Missile Crisis*. Film documenting the October 1962 confrontation with the Soviet Union. Through June 1. *Fight Against Segregation*. A film on events leading up to JFK's national address on civil rights. *Son of Ireland*. Portrays Kennedy's visit to his ancestral home. Through June 1.

**Whales**  
Museum of Science, Science Park, Cambridge. Through April 30. Admission: \$7.50; seniors and ages 3-14, \$5.50 (Tues., bargain nights for all shows 7 p.m. and later, \$5; seniors and ages 3-14, \$3). Information: 723-2500. Film follows the life cycles and travels of blue, humpback, and right whales from Argentina to Alaska.

**Leona's Sister Gerri**  
140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill. Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 552-4295. Part of Social Issues Film Series. Film to be introduced by its maker.

## Ongoing Theater

**Rent**  
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont St., Boston. Through April 27. Tues.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m.; matinees, Sat.-Sun., 2 p.m. Admission: \$25-\$67.50. Information: (800)447-7400. Musical based on Puccini's 1896 opera *La Bohème*.

**South Pacific**  
Turtle Lane Playhouse, 283 Melrose St., Newton. Through March 16. Admission: \$12-\$18. Information: 244-0169. Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

## Dance

**Carmen**  
Boston Ballet, 19 Clarendon St., Boston. March 6, 7 p.m. Through March 23. Admission: \$12.50-\$67. Information: 931-ARTS. Based on Prosper Mérimée's novel, *Carmen* is a tragic tale of fatal attraction. In 19th century Seville, the lusty Carmen seduces a naive Army corporal, Don José, newly assigned to the village

fortress. José abandons his career, his fiancée, and even his dying mother for the love of this sultry gypsy. But soon she spurs him in favor of the toreador Escamillo. Crazed with jealousy, José begs Carmen to return to him, but her taunting declaration of independence results in tragedy. As the sultry Carmen sings in the famous *Habanera*, "Love is a rebellious bird that no one can tame."

## Lectures

**Dennis McFarland**  
Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Boston. March 4, 6 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 661-1515. Reading/book signing of the author's latest novel, *A Face at the Window*. His previous novels, *His Secret Room* and *School for the Blind*, were both highly acclaimed bestsellers.

## Exhibits

**MIT Museum**  
265 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission: \$3; non-MIT students, seniors, and under 12, \$1; MIT students, free. Information: 253-4444.

*What's So Funny About Science?* Cartoons of Sidney Harris offer a hilarious look at unexpected and incongruous moments in science. Through May 31. *Maps from the Age of Atlases*. Rare maps from the Museum's Hart Nautical Collections illuminate the golden age of cartography. Through May 4. *Gestural Engineering: The Sculpture of Arthur Ganson*. Ganson's kinetic sculptures exude the wit of their creator, a self-described cross between a mechanical engineer and a choreographer. Ongoing.

*Lightforest: The Holographic Rainforest*. Large-scale hologram exhibit by Betsy Connors. Ongoing. *Holography*. The exhibition explores the holographic universe from its inception in the late 1940s through its artistic and technical evolution and highlights works by the world's foremost holographers. Ongoing. *Math in 3D*. Morton C. Bradley's mathematical sculptures inspire inventors of all ages to create their own structures in the adjacent Mathspace activity center. Ongoing. *MIT Hall of Hacks*. Chronicling

Boulevard, Dorchester. Through June 1: Fri.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$6; seniors and students, \$4; ages 6-12, \$2; under 6, free. Information: 929-4523. Exhibit on America's pioneering space exploration.

**Museum of Fine Arts**  
465 Huntington Ave., Boston. Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed.-Fri., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Admission: \$10; seniors and college students, \$8; ages 17 and under, free; Wed. after 4 p.m., voluntary contribution; Thurs.-Fri., after 5 p.m., \$2 discount. Information: 267-9300.

*Herb Ritt's Work*. Several works of the renowned photographer. Through Feb. 23.

*Face and Figure in Contemporary Art*. Survey of the variety and complexity of contemporary approaches to the theme of the human figure. Through March.

*Dressing Up: Children's Fashions 1720-1920*. Explores the relationship between children's and adults' fashions in the past couple of centuries. More than 40 costumes, predominantly from the museum's permanent collection, are on view along with accessories, toys, dolls, furniture, and paintings. Through March 23.

*The Art of John Biggers: View from the Upper Room*. Exhibit of the black artist's drawings, prints, paintings, and sculptures. Through April 20.

*Beyond the Screen: Chinese Furniture of the 16th and 17th Centuries*. The exhibit aims not only to explore the beauty of Chinese art forms, but also to carry the viewer into the physical surroundings of their time. Through May 18.

*This is the Modern World: Furnishings of the 20th Century*. The exhibit relates the look of objects intended for everyday use to the creative vision of the artist-maker or designer, and the demands of technology, function, cost, and the needs and desires of the potential buyer or user. Through September.

**Trash! Workers of the Works**  
The Cambridge City-wide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Starting March 1, through March 31. Admission: free. Information: 349-4380. Cambridge Art Council's Massachusetts Arts Lottery recipient Ted Polubbaum presents his photographic and digital images documenting the sanitation workers of the Cambridge Public Works Department. This visual essay reveals the spirit, humor, and tireless effort of the frequently unrecognized Worker of the Works.

**Fuller Museum of Art**  
455 Oak St., Brockton. Information: (508) 588-6000. *Dark Images*. March 2, 2 p.m. Admission: \$5; children free. Guest lecture by Barbara Whiteman, Founder and Executive Director of the Philadelphia Doll Museum. *Spelling Bee*. March 6. Admission: free. Back for a second round - gather your friends or co-workers and field a team for this mid-winter family party. All ages.

**Arthur M. Sackler Museum**  
485 Broadway, Cambridge. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$5; seniors, \$4; students, \$3; under 18 and Saturday morning, free. Information: 495-9400. *Masterworks of Ukiyo-e*. Printed works by two important artists of the period, Toshusai Sharaku (active 1794-1795) and Kitagawa Utamaro (1754-1806). Through Feb. 16.

*Building the Collective: Soviet Graphic Design, 1917-1937*. Over 100 posters and graphic work on display. Through March 30.

**Computer Museum, Museum Wharf**  
300 Congress St., Boston. Two blocks from South Station T station. Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$7; seniors and students ages 5 and up, \$5; ages 4 and under, free; Sun., 3-5 p.m., half-price. Information: 423-6758. *Robots! Robots! Robots!* Guided explorations into the world of robots and artificial intelligence. Through Feb. 23.

*Mission Impossible*. Discover the difference between humans and smart machines, self-guided activities, talk with a computer program.

**Botticelli's Witness: Changing Style in a Changing Florence**  
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway, Boston. Through April 6: Tues.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$9; seniors, \$7; college students with ID, \$5; ages 12-17, \$3; under 12, free. Information: 566-1401. Works by Sandro Botticelli, one of the most influential artists of the Italian Renaissance.

MIT's rich hacking tradition, this exhibition features historic photographs and a collection of artifacts. Ongoing. *Light Sculptures*. Vivid interactive plasma sculptures by Center for Advanced Visual Studies alumnus Bill Parker. Ongoing.

**Hart Nautical Gallery**  
55 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Mon.-Sun., 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-4444.

*Ships for Victory: American Shipbuilding's Finest Hour*. Historic photographs and artifacts explore the shipbuilding programs of World War II, the vital and unprecedented contribution of women to these programs, and MIT's pivotal role in the shipbuilding effort. Ongoing. *Ship Models*. Rare models illustrate the evolution of ship design from the 16th to 20th centuries. Ongoing.

**On the Surface of Things: Images in Science and Engineering by Felice Frankel**

Compton Gallery, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Feb. 14-June 27: Mon.-Sun., 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-4444. Stunning photographs communicate recent research in a variety of disciplines at MIT and other institutions.

**List Visual Arts Center**  
20 Ames St., Cambridge. Through March 29: Sat., Sun., Tues.-Thurs., noon-6 p.m.; Fri., noon-8 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-4680.

*Joseph Kosuth: Redefining the Context of Art: 1968-1997*. Works by this renowned Conceptual artist. *The Shape of Breath*. Works by this Seattle-based artist. Explores the metaphorical properties of materials. *Port: Navigating Digital Culture*. Exhibition of collaborative, performative art projects taking place over the Internet.

**Inspiring Reform: Boston's Arts and Crafts Movement**

Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley. March 6, 7-9 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 283-2034. At 7 p.m., James O'Gorman, Grace Slack McNeil, Professor of American Art, presents a short talk in the Great Hall of nearby Tower Court. At 8 p.m., Marilee Boyd Meyer, Consulting Curator of the Exhibition, presents a short talk in the Great Hall of Tower Court.

**The Race to the Moon**  
The Museum at the John F. Kennedy Library. Off Morrissey

**USS Constitution Museum**  
Navy Yard, Charlestown. Mon.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: \$4; seniors, \$3; ages 6-16, \$2; under 6, free; under 16 when unaccompanied by an adult, free. Information: 426-1812.  
**Old Ironsides in War and Peace.** Retrospective celebrating the USS Constitution's upcoming 200th birthday. Includes artifacts such as the sea bag and possessions of an 1812 crew member, hands-on activities, and photographs. Ongoing.  
**Strengthening Old Ironsides.** Color photographs documenting the four-year rehabilitation and restorations of the ship. Ongoing.  
**Capturing Old Ironsides on Canvas.** Works by artist Cheslie D'Andrea. Ongoing.

**Living with Ants and the Science of E.O. Wilson**  
Harvard Museums of Cultural and Natural History, 26 Oxford St., Cambridge. Through April 30: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$5; seniors and students, \$4; ages 3-13, \$3; Sat. 9 a.m.-noon, free. Information: 495-3045.

**Supercorrido**  
Children's Museum, Museum Wharf, 300 Congress St., Boston. Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri. until 9 p.m. Admission: \$7; ages 2-15 and seniors, \$6; 1-year-olds, \$2. Information: 426-8855.  
Latin American supermarket exhibit.

**Cildo Meireles**  
Institute of Contemporary Art, 955 Boylston St., Boston. Through March 30: Wed.-Sun., noon-5 p.m.; Thurs. until 9 p.m. Admission: \$5.25; students with ID, \$3.25; children and seniors, \$2.25; free Thurs. after 5 p.m. Information: 266-5152. Survey exhibit of the works by this Brazilian artist.

**Invaluable Prints**  
Fogg Art Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge. Through March 2: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$5; seniors, \$4; students, \$3; under 18 and Saturday morning, free. Information: 495-9400. Works by Durer, Canaletto, Daumier, Manet, Winslow Homer, Jasper Johns, and others that are worth compar-

atively little on the art market but are priceless as teaching tools at Harvard.

**Building the Collective: Soviet Graphic Design, 1917-1937**  
Busch-Reisinger Museum, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge. Through March 30: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1-5 p.m. Admission: \$5; seniors, \$4; students, \$3; under 18 and Saturday morning, free. Information: 495-9400.

**Inside Fort Independence: An Archaeological View of Military Life**  
Commonwealth Museum, 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 727-9268.

**The Pyramids and the Sphinx: 100 Years of American Archaeology at Giza**  
Semitic Museum, Harvard University, 6 Divinity Ave., Cambridge. Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., 1-4 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 495-4631. Collection of photos and artifacts. Ongoing.

**New England Aquarium**  
Central Wharf, Boston. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. and holidays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission: ages 12 and up, \$9.50; seniors, \$8.50; ages 3-11, \$5; under 3, free. Information: 973-5200.  
**The Otter Limits.** Construction relocation of aquarium's colony of harbor seals and sea otters to a new, enlarged habitat behind the aquarium.  
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**Old State House Museum**  
State and Washington Streets, Boston. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$3; seniors and students, \$2; children, \$1.50. Information: 720-3290.

**Trophies and Treasures: Two Centuries of Luxury at Shreve, Crump and Low.** Through July 31.  
**When the Boys Came Marching Home.** Everyday life in post-World

War II Boston. Through August.

**Museum of Our National Heritage**  
33 Marrett Rd., Lexington. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 861-6559.

**Collecting the Southwest: The Harvey Family Legacy.** The Harvey Company was instrumental in opening the southwest to commercial tourism at the turn of the century. Premiere examples of native American weavings and paintings are found in two exhibitions. Through Sept. 14.

**The Art and Artistry of Appliqué.** These appliqué quilts made between 1845 and 1895 are selected from the collection of Robert and Ardis James. Through March 23.

**Over There: The Yankee Division in World War I.** The story of the 26th "Yankee" Division is dramatized through military artifacts, documentary photographs, and memorabilia from the homefront. Through June 22.

**Original Visions: Shifting the Paradigm, Women's Art 1970-**

**1996**  
Boston College Museum of Art, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill. Through May 18. Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 552-8100. Exhibit includes paintings, photographs and sculptures.

Events

**Listen & Learn Workshop**  
77 Massachusetts Ave., Room 6-120, Cambridge. March 2, 2-4 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 253-8800. Nightline, MIT's peer listening hotline, presents a workshop on listening and support skills. Participants will learn the approach that Nightline staffers take to peer support, and then try to apply that knowledge to a simulated dialogue. Free ice cream will be provided.

Student Center, Room 483

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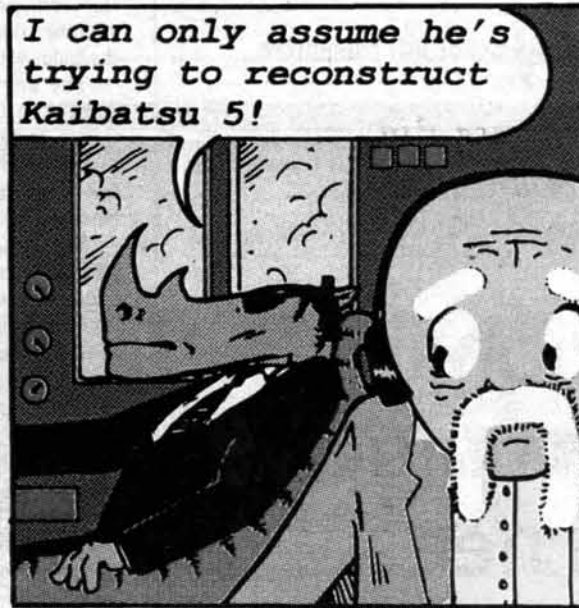
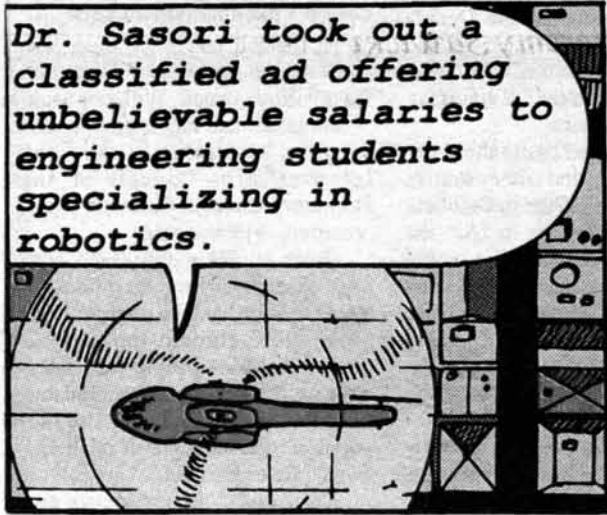
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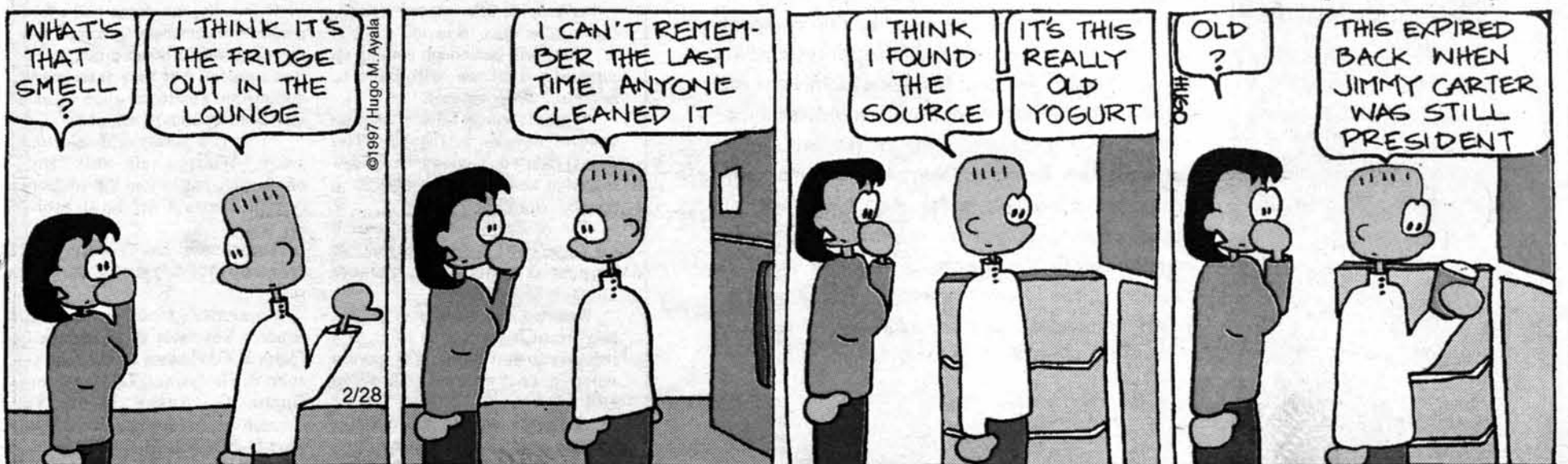

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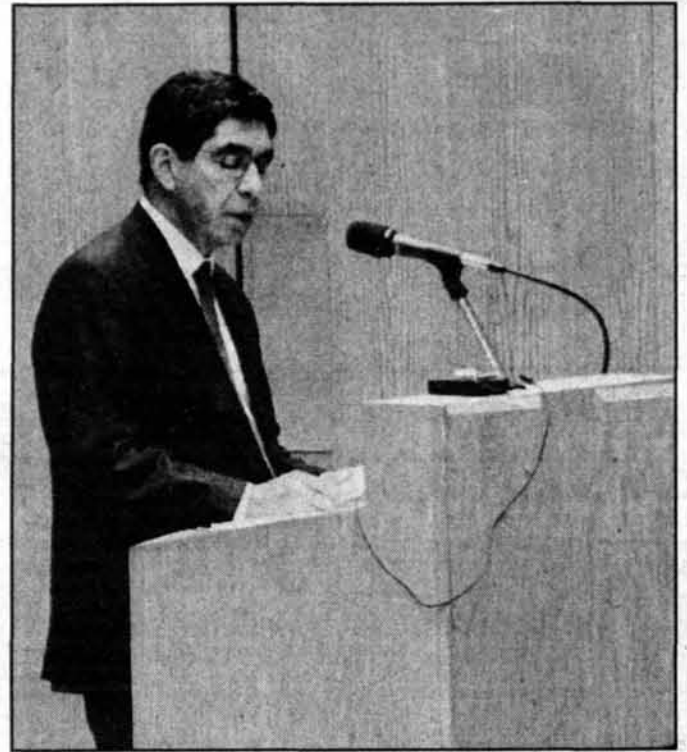
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GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel laureate and former Costa Rican president, delivers his second Karl Taylor Compton lecture on Monday, focusing on the future of Latin America. The third and final lecture will be held on Monday, April 14 at 4 p.m. in 10-250.

## Council Still Seeks To Solidify Purpose

By Venkatesh Satish  
NEWS EDITOR

The Dean's Office Advisory Council, chartered with the purpose of providing student insight to deans, has yet to clarify its membership and goals even after a series of meetings during the fall and through the Independent Activities Period.

The advisory council "will be helpful in introducing the Dean's Office to the students at large and explaining what we do," said Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams.

Williams helped create the council in the wake of the administrative overhaul that took place in October.

At the last meeting in IAP, the group discussed the role it would play in student community and what means it would employ to increase the visibility of the Dean's Office, said Kenroy R. Cayetano '99, who has helped organize some of the council meetings.

"A lot of people don't know about the Dean's Office. When people have questions, they don't know who they should ask," Cayetano said.

### Group's exact role is unclear

"I think there is ambiguity about [the committee's] role. I would rather keep its role somewhat undefined rather than focus too quickly. ... There will be enough coming up naturally that we will have to address," Williams said.

"I don't know how strong an input students will have. [The deans] didn't do a good job of defining what we will do," said council member Nora Chen '97.

The council's creation "started off slow, but I understand what its purpose is better," said member Laura A. Montalvo '99.

Despite the slow start, "it's important to be a part of it. It's important that [students] have a voice in what goes on," Montalvo said.

"I always want to speed things up, but you have to be realistic, Williams said. "There are multiple demands on student time."

The group initially planned to establish a booth on Registration Day where students could obtain information about the administration, but the council did not have enough time to do so, Williams said.

The information session may have to wait until the fall, since council members will be busy preparing for a visiting committee, Williams said.

A visiting committee will evaluate the Dean's Office in early April and will subsequently make a report to top administration officials. Consequently, the council will meet in mid-March to prepare a presentation of its goals so that the visiting committee "could be advocates for student needs," Williams said.

### Group's membership an issue

At the fall meetings, there was some debate over who belonged on the advisory council, Williams said.

Some felt that larger groups with specific interests, like the Interfraternity Council or the Dormitory Council, deserved representation, Williams said.

Other students expressed concern that reserving membership slots for large campus groups would stifle other student input. "It's always the same people who interact with the faculty and administration, the 'usual suspects.' Usually, you don't get the input of other students," Cayetano said.

Eventually, the students and deans decided that "you don't need to get a representative body of the student population since the job is to" gather student opinion instead of deciding issues for students, Chen said.

Originally, the deans had asked prospective members to complete a form that would be used in a selection process, but they later made committee positions open to any interested students, Chen said.

"This is a purely self-selecting group," Williams said. Still, "anyone is welcome to join the advisory council. I hope it will be an evolving body."

The council has "a very good range of individuals," Cayetano said.

Committee members include Sandeep Chatterjee G, Guadalupe J. Flores II G, Adriana T. Guzman G, John S. Hollywood G, Hanyoung Huang G, Anand Mehta G, Constantine A. Morfopoulos G, Eva Moy G, Carrie R. Muh G, Ralph A. Olaye G, Arvind Parthasarathi G, Andrew J. Rhomberg G, Randy D. Weinstein G, Debra A. Woog G, Chen, Edward D. Semper '97, Daniel C. Stevenson '97, Iddo Gilon '98, David C. Hackett '98, Leslie A. Martin '98, Cayetano, Ryan C. Curiel '99, Cristián A. González '99, Tamara J. Kearney '99, Montalvo, June Kim '00, Matthew L. McGann '00, Edward R. Mitchell III '00, Daniel W. Rodriguez '00, and Evelyn N. Wang '00.

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# Sloan School Descends to Fourth Place in U.S. News

Rankings, from Page 1

number one in research activity with the greatest amount of research revenue.

"I think the distinguishing feature of MIT's engineering school is excellence across the board, in all of the disciplines we are involved in," Litster said.

The rankings were based on academic reputation, professional reputation, research revenue, and other factors. The surveys were issued to the directors of major departments and institutions to collect the peer reputation ranking.

The total scores were scaled such that the top ranked business and engineering school had a per-

fect 100.0 points. Fine arts graduate schools are ranked on a one to five scale, with one being distinguished.

### Architecture places second

Harvard University ranked first in graduate architecture schools, and MIT earned the second-place ranking. Princeton University, Columbia University, and Yale University rounded out the top five.

"I have seen some significant improvement in the department ... and that probably corresponded to the higher ranking," said Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning William J. Mitchell.

"The last few years we have put a lot of hard work into improving the department," Mitchell said. "We

have been hiring faculty, instituting new research programs, creating more space for studio teaching, and being a lot more visible to the external world with interesting publications by the faculty," he said.

"I don't think we are at the point where we should be yet. We need to continue to work hard to make a good working environment and develop in the design and computing area," Mitchell said.

### Sloan School falls to fourth place

In the survey, Sloan was ranked first in management information systems, production/operations management, and quantitative analysis business specialties.

Stanford University placed first,

followed by Harvard University at second and the University of Pennsylvania at third. The University of Chicago ranked fifth.

"I am pleased that Sloan has again been recognized as one of the country's top management schools," said Dean of the Sloan School Glen L. Urban. "Our consistently high ratings illustrate the relevance of Sloan's approach of balancing theory and practice in management education."

"In this way, we provide a solid base of technical expertise coupled with communication, team-building, and leadership skills," Urban said.

In the area of academic reputation, Sloan tied for number one with the top six schools. Sloan was ranked third in placement success rate.

"MIT provides an extraordinarily creative and relevant environment for a business school," said Director

of the Master of Business Administration Program Lawrence S. Abeln. "Applications for the MBA program have gone up nearly 100 percent in the past three years. This shows that tomorrow's business leaders are looking for what Sloan has to offer."

Two years ago, Sloan was ranked first by *U.S. News and World Report*, and last year, the school was ranked second.

"The margins between the rankings of the top schools are so small that it is quite easy to vary from year to year without many changes in some of the criteria," Abeln said. "We are not very concerned about being first or second, but rather with consistently ranking well in the eyes of applicants, recruiters, and others in academics. Being consistently in the top five says something about the success we have achieved."



JENNIFER LANE—THE TECH

The Sloan School of Management ranked fourth in business schools in this year's *U.S. News and World Report* ranking of graduate schools. Sloan placed second last year.

### MIT Rankings in Engineering Specialties

Discipline	Rank	Ranked above MIT
Aerospace	1	
Biomedical	2	Johns Hopkins (1)
Chemical	1	
Civil	3	U.C. Berkeley (1) University of Illinois, Urbana (2)
Computer	1	
Electrical	1	
Environmental	3	Stanford University (1) U. Michigan, Ann Arbor (2)
Materials	1	
Mechanical	1	
Nuclear	1	

MIT was not ranked in agricultural engineering or industrial manufacturing.

SOURCE: U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT

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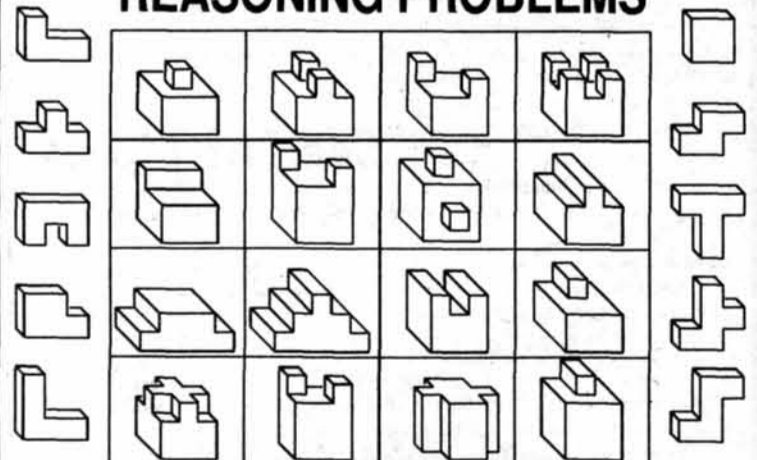
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JIRI SCHINDLER—THE TECH

Vicky Best '99 scores in MIT's 82-62 victory over Wheaton College in the first round of the NEW 8 Conference Tournament on Tuesday evening in Rockwell Cage.

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The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Feb. 21 and 26:

- Feb. 21:** Bldg. E51, speakers stolen, \$1,000; Bldg. 20, table top stolen, \$250.
- Feb. 22:** Alpha Tau Omega, noise complaint; New House, noise complaint; Student Center, jacket stolen, \$50.
- Feb. 23:** Dupont Gymnasium, wallet stolen, \$50.
- Feb. 24:** Bldg. 14, suspicious person; Bldg. 3, suspicious activity; Eastgate, indecent exposure; Ashdown House, suspicious person; Hayden Library, wallet stolen, \$20.
- Feb. 25:** Bldg. 7, malicious damage to vending machines; Student Center, wallet stolen, \$50; Bldg. 4, suspicious activity; Bldg. 20, radio stolen, \$44; Hayward lot, suspicious activity.
- Feb. 26:** Bldg. 33, bicycle stolen, \$275; Bldg. NW61, food stolen; Bldg. 24, suspicious activity; Bldg. E52, wallet stolen, \$125; Albany Street, indecent exposure; Windsor lot, 1994 Honda stolen; Hayward lot, 1991 Nissan stolen.

**Carter, Rao Declare  
Candidacy for UAP**

**Elections, from Page 1**

ulate this year's procedures and hopefully thwart any potential voting problems, Martinez said.

There will be two UA study breaks combined with debates by the presidential candidates in order to allow students to get to know the candidates and the issues, Martinez said.

The first study break and debate will be held March 4 in the Burton-Conner House dining hall. The second will be March 6 in the East Campus Talbot Lounge.

**Two teams run for UAP and VP**

Dedric A. Carter '98 and Sandra C. Sandoval '00 are running for UA president and vice president. Carter and Sandoval will be running against presidential candidate Sunil K. Rao '99 and his running mate, Kari A. Bingen '99.

Carter spent this year as UA vice president, and Sandoval served as freshman class president. Carter hopes to build on his UA experiences next year.

Their campaign will stress the idea of a "patchwork quilt," Carter said. There are "so many diverse clubs and organizations on campus that need to be joined together" somehow, he said.

Rao and Bingen hope to draw on their two years of active participation in student activities ranging from sorority and fraternity life to intramural sports for their campaign.

"We're not a product of the UA as it stands," Rao said. The campaign will focus specifically on promoting school spirit, he said. Their platform is very goal-oriented. "Less talk, more action" would make a good slogan, Rao said.

Ira F. Gerhardt '99, William S. Davidson '00, and Eduardo J.

Salomone '98 are running for 2 places on the UA Finance Board.

**Many run for Class of 2000 offices**

In the freshman class, Nicholas A. Nash '00, Elsie Huang '00, Oreoluwa A. Adeyemi '00, and Zhelinrentice L. Scott '00 are running for class president, making that office the most contested of any UA position.

Andrew A. Ryan '00, Riffat Manasia '00, and Michele S. Micheletti '00 are running for vice president. Shobha D. Williamson '00 is running for treasurer, and Shan S. Hounag '00 for secretary. Aron K. Qasba '00 is running for social chair, as is the team of Monique E. De Jesus '00 and Stephanie Y. Soohoo '00. Stephanie E. Chen '00 is running for publicity coordinator.

One possible reason for the seeming zeal of candidates in the freshman class is the Leadershape program, Martinez said. The program "really encouraged people to run for office."

In the sophomore class, Jesse C. Cochrane '99 and Kareem Howard '99 are running for class president. Pooja Shukla '99 is running for vice president, while Nina S. Ma '99 is running for secretary. The team of Katherine M. Spayde '99 and Andy Bankert '99 is running for the social chair position. The treasurer and publicity coordinator positions currently have no candidates.

In the junior class, Salman A. Khan '98 is running for president, and the team of Allison J. Christenson '98 and Muneera R. Kapadia '98 is running for the social chair position. The of vice president, secretary, treasurer, and publicity coordinator positions currently have no candidates.

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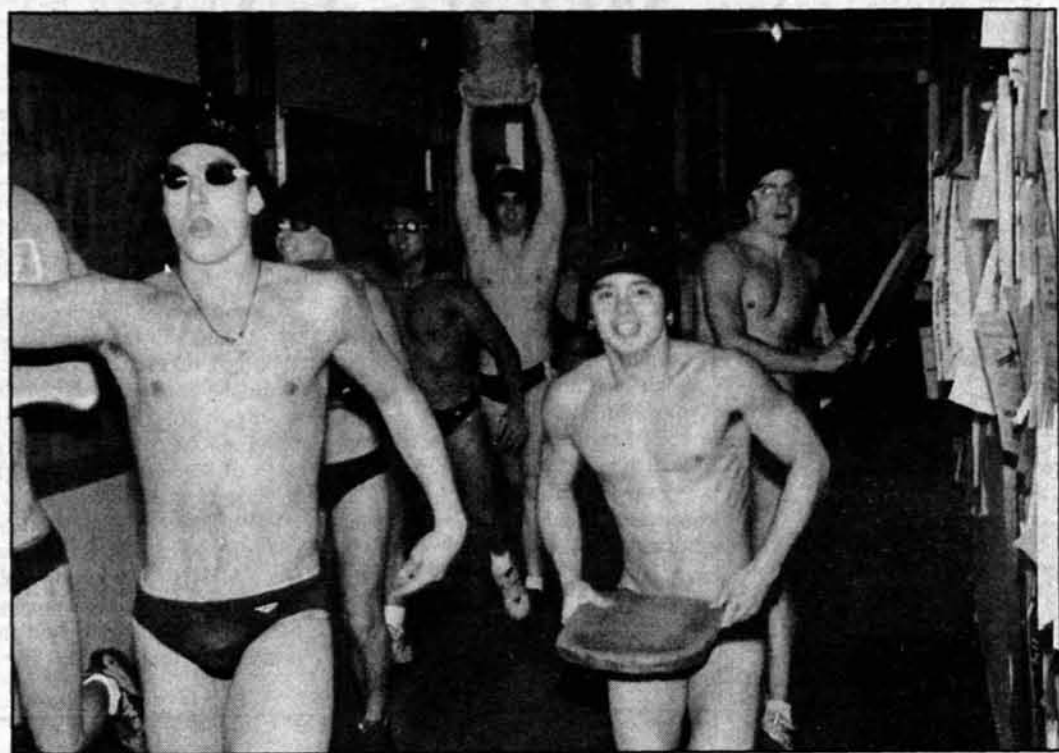
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**The men's swim team runs down the Infinite Corridor in Speedos to publicize the New England Championships at Middlebury College this weekend.**

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# Students Cite Host of Problems In Explaining Why They Failed

8.01, from Page 1

Chemistry (3.091) this fall was 11.5 percent, according to Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Donald R. Sadoway.

Six to 8 percent of students typically fail Principles of Chemical Science (5.11), said Professor of Chemistry Robert W. Field. Of course, many students who are performing poorly in a class choose to drop it rather than to fail, altering the final statistics.

One possible reason for the higher failure rate in 8.01 is the fact that the class is graded on an absolute scale. Other classes, like 3.091, use a curve and standard deviation in determining course grades.

"I do not believe in grading on a

curve. ... I would have been happy to pass 100 percent. I believe in absolutes. I really believe students are not in competition with each other," Busza said.

**Students frustrated with class**

Students had several concerns over the format and structure of 8.01. The class "definitely needs to be restructured," said Brandi A. Karl '00, who did not pass the course.

Karl thought the course assumed too much previous physics experience, she said. "It's almost like you're supposed to know physics before you get in there," she said.

Karl and another student, Carolyn M. Dunbar '00, disap-

proved of the emphasis on independent learning and were dissatisfied with the class's approach to teaching, they said.

Dunbar, who also failed the course, would have preferred "having lecture more than just an hour a week." Additionally, recitation instructors spent too much class time going over problem sets and too little class time going over course material, Karl said.

There were also some student concerns over the structure of 8.01 exams. The test material was "more calculus than conceptual stuff," said Joe King '00, who did not pass 8.01. Review lectures before the exams would have helped students a lot, Dunbar said.

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# MIT Needs Unique Admissions Director

Admissions, from Page 1

issues involved in college admissions at this time," Williams said. A deep understanding of MIT culture and values as well as a fundamental commitment to need-blind admissions and diversity are also necessities, she said.

"I realize that MIT is a very special place, in part because of our very special student body. The director of admissions must understand our special nature and tailor admissions procedures accordingly," Vander Sande said.

Williams noted that the new director must also have an ability to

work collaboratively with the CUAF and other faculty in defining admissions procedures and policies.

Behnke will be leaving in late spring and will therefore be at MIT through this admissions cycle. Williams anticipates appointing an acting or interim director at that point, since there is doubt that a new dean of admissions will be chosen by then, she said.

"We have no candidates for a new director of admissions yet, but since MIT is a well-known institution, I have no doubt that many candidates will be interested in this position," Williams said.

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March 6 (Th.)	3:00 - 4:30
April 8 (Tu.)	3:00 - 4:30
May 1 (Th.)	3:00 - 4:30
May 8 (Th.)	3:00 - 4:30

Workshops meet in 14-0645 (north side of bldg. 14, basement level).

*Notes: Pre-registration is required. Pre-register by calling the Dewey Library Reserve Desk at 253-9446. Classes are limited to 10 per class, and participation is limited to current MIT students and faculty.*

*MIT students and faculty may search Lexis/Nexis to prepare for class assignments or for theses. Lexis/Nexis is now available at Dewey Library; coming soon to Barker and Rotch Libraries.*

*Additional workshops will be scheduled as necessary. Watch the Dewey Library web site (<http://nimrod.mit.edu/depts/dewey>) for schedule updates.*

## Coop Student Board Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 1997-98 academic year.

M.I.T. Undergraduate Students:  
George Berkowski John Choe

M.I.T. Graduate Student:  
John.Hollywood

Harvard Undergraduate Students:  
David Boggs Matthew Kramer  
Alice Lee Chana Schoenberger

Harvard Graduate Students:  
Julie Chow Carlos Lopez  
Jay Olson

Any student Coop member may still petition to be on the ballot. Petition papers are available at the customer service desks of any Coop location or at the Customer Service/Credit Office, 4th floor, main building at the Coop at Harvard Square.

For Information Call or e mail:  
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**The deadline to apply** for on campus summer and fall 97-98 vacancies in family and single graduate student apartments and dormitories is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 1997. On March 1, 1997 there will be a housing lottery for any fully-registered continuing graduate student wanting on-campus housing for the 97-98 academic year. Applications are available in Graduate Housing in E32-133, and must be returned by the deadline to the same office. Any questions, call 3-5148. The Graduate Housing Office will be closed Monday, March 3rd due to the lottery.

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The 2nd TAX WORKSHOP will address tax regulations and tax forms pertinent to all international students and is scheduled for:

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1997  
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Students or dependents who are not eligible for a Social Security number should apply for a TAXPAYER ID NUMBER. For more information please see website:

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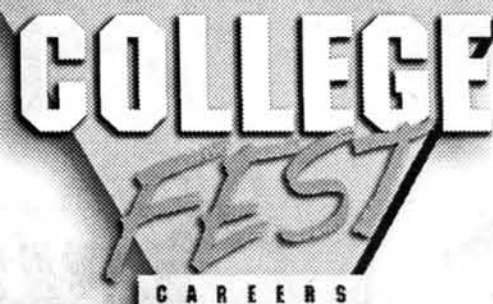
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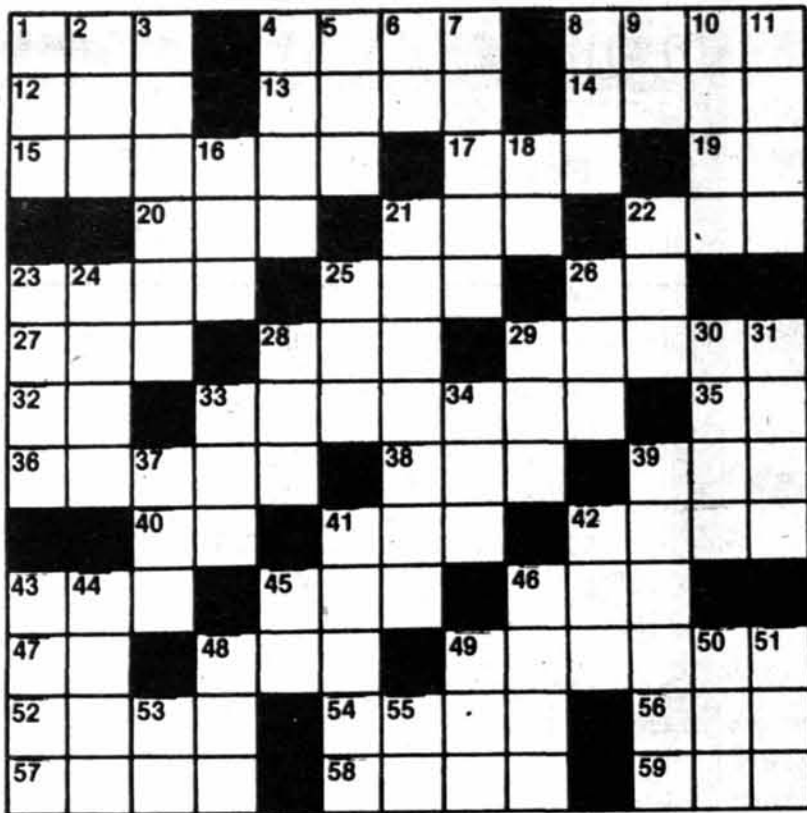
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| 39. Skillet                  | 25. Fish                           | 49. Poem                  |
| 40. To                       | 26. Clot                           | 50. Small                 |
| 41. Noise                    | 28. Inlet                          | 51. Eon                   |
| 42. Wale                     | 29. Bread                          | 53. Public announcement   |
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| 45. Military command (abbr.) | 31. Need                           |                           |
| 46. Put                      | 33. Bed                            |                           |
| 47. Else                     | 34. Dorsal                         |                           |
| 48. Err                      | 37. Squak                          |                           |
| 49. Canadian province        | 39. Alae                           |                           |
| 52. Turn                     | 41. Rumba                          |                           |
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- |                            |                    |                            |
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| 4. Person from Denmark     | 15. Go to bed      | 25. Expression of surprise |
| 8. Kinds of car (abbr.)    | 17. Fink           | 26. Leave                  |
| 12. Southern constellation | 19. At             | 27. Own (Scot.)            |
| 13. Reed instrument        | 20. Pig Pen        | 28. Ban                    |
|                            | 21. Male reference | 29. Under                  |
|                            | 22. Stitch         | 32. Ego                    |

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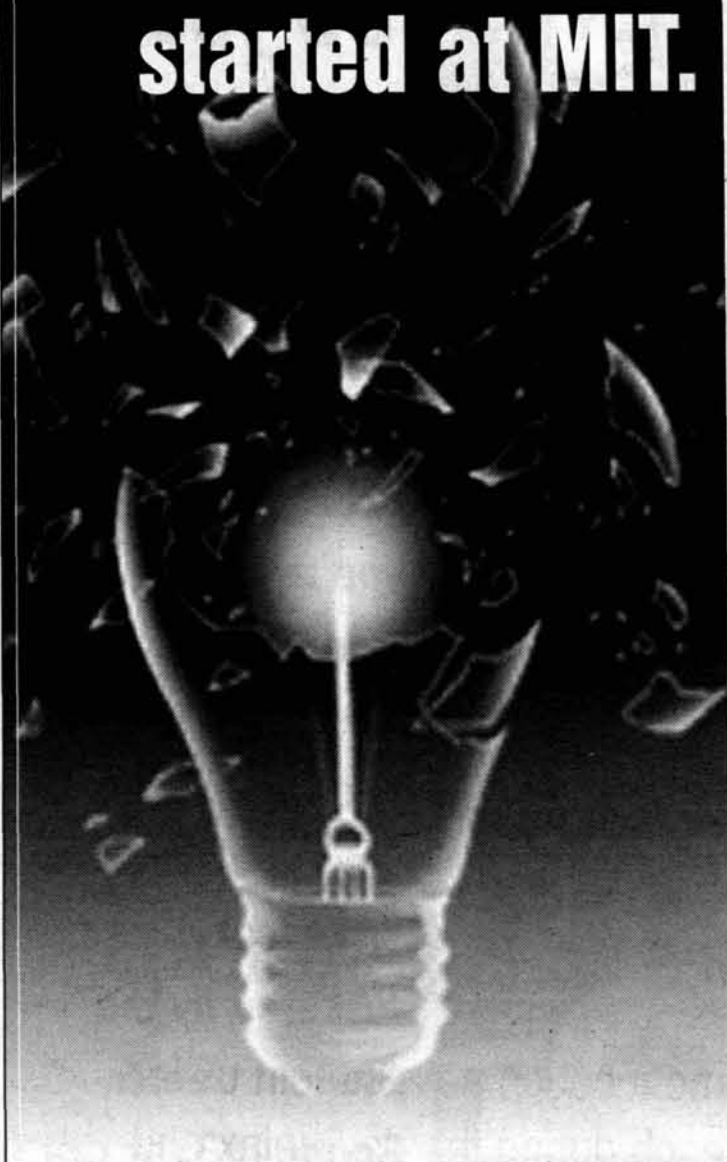
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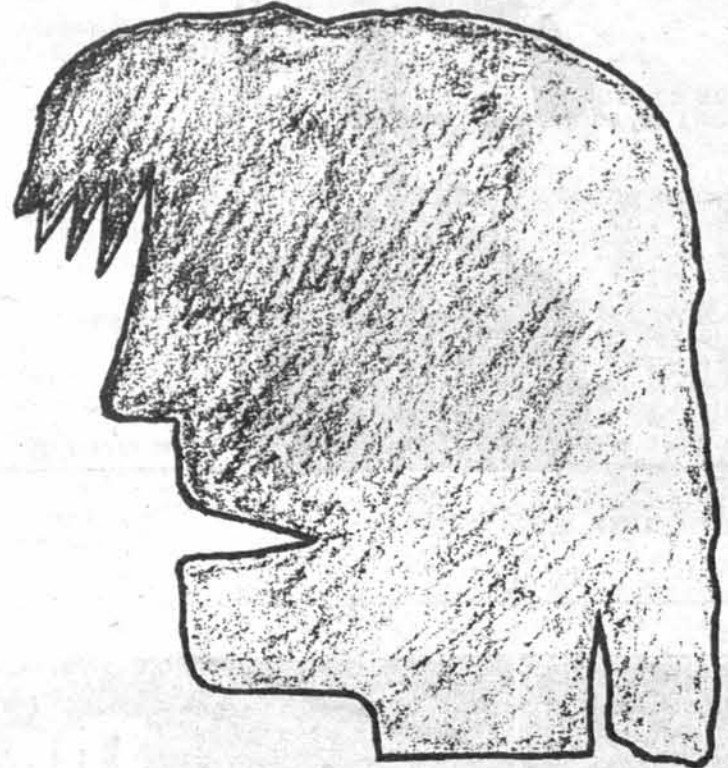
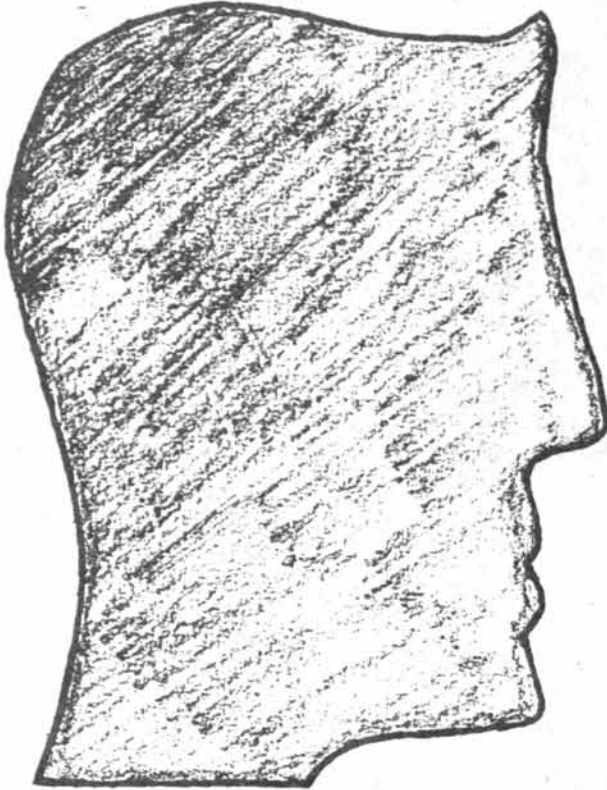
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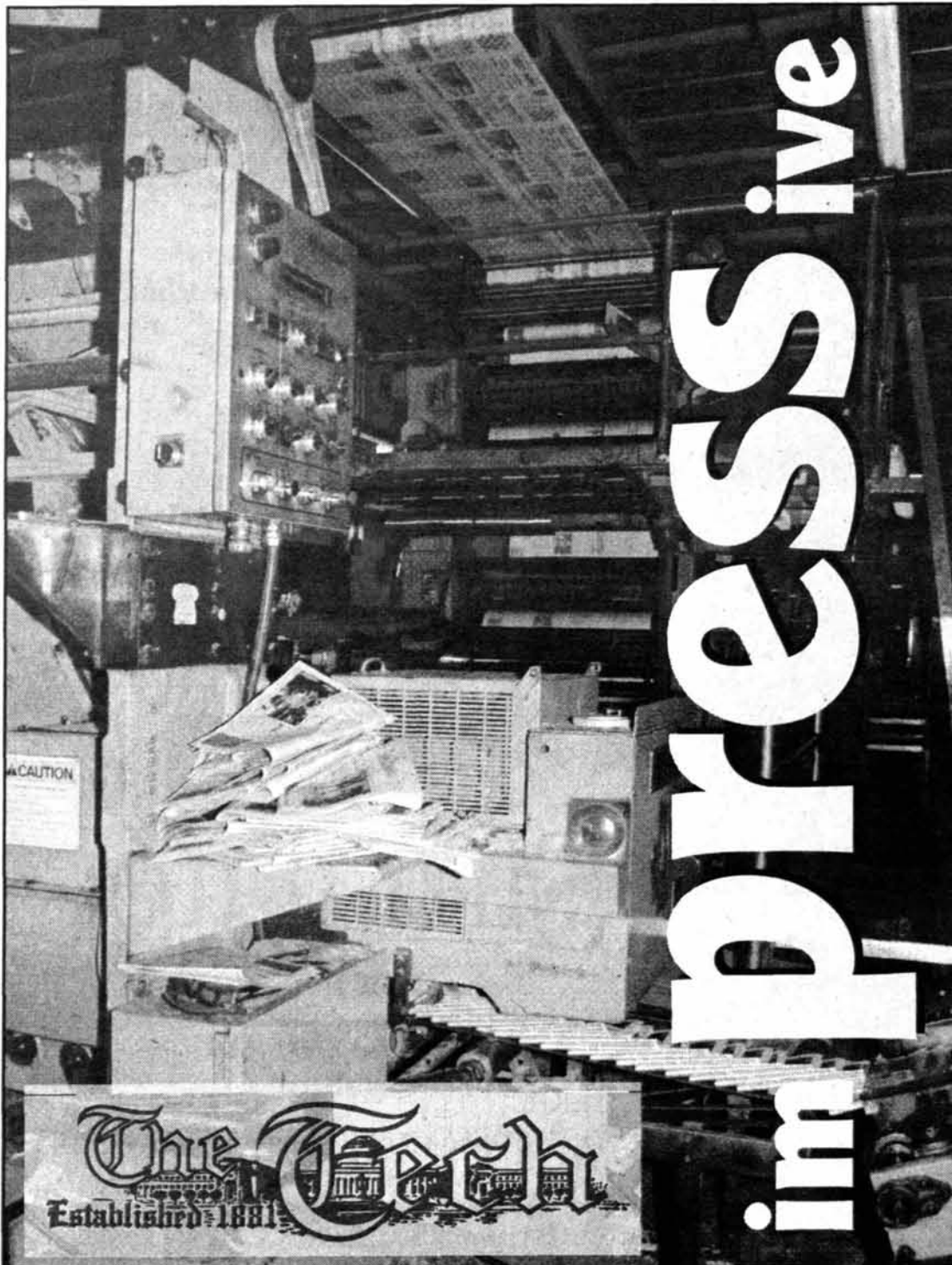
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# Fencers Reign Over New England Teams

By Oriana Hunter and Szywla Daniszewska  
TEAM MEMBERS

The women's fencing team dominated the Boston College-hosted New England Championships, defeating all nine teams.

The victory made the team the New England Champions for the second year in a row. The women epeeists, Kari Backes '97, Nora Szasz '99, Sara Perry '99, and Jessica Sandland '99, were named the best epee squad in New England.

The impressive scores of Sara Perry (8-1), Kari Backes (8-1), and Nora Szasz qualified them for the individual epee competition in which they finished second, fifth, and sixth respectively.

The women's foil squad's performance was highlighted with memorable victories. Amy Huang '97 achieved her best personal record (8-1), and Aimee Wiltz '99 finished undefeated with a perfect score of 9-0. Excellent performances brought foilists Wanda Chin '97, Huang, and Wiltz to the individual competition, in which Chin captured third place.

The championship at Boston College included also an individual tournament for junior varsity foilists. Oriana Hunter '99, Beth Manoogian '99, and Aladdine Joroff '00 had an opportunity to fight against starters from three other teams. The competition ended with Joroff finishing in fifth place.

## Men second in New England

The day before the women's team became New England Champions, the men's fencing team was just narrowly edged out to finish second in the New England Men's Collegiate Fencing Championships. The MIT fencers were a single bout shy of winning the championship title at the prestigious tournament Saturday at the University of New Hampshire.

Nevertheless, every squad of the men's team presented impressive form and a strong desire to fence well. The performance of the team was highlighted by a very impressive score of 5-4 for Allen Chen '00. Thomas Baker '00 scored a strong victory over a highly ranked fencer. A spectacular performance was made by Brian Bower '98, who stayed undefeated during the whole tournament (9-0).

Three fencers received sufficient scores to move into the individual round. Matt DuPlessie '99, placed seventh out of all epeeists present at UNH. Both foilist David Nauman '97 and sabreist Brian Bower '99, captured the titles of New England individual champions to prove their supremacy in their respective categories.

## Fencer finishes eighth nationally

On the weekend of Feb. 14 to 17, seven MIT fencers competed in the Junior Olympics, held in Marlborough, Mass. This four-day individual competition hosted by the United States Fencing Association attracted the top junior fencers in the country.

Team captain Brian Bower '99 gave an outstanding performance in the Under 20 Men's Sabre event. Bower made the final round and placed eighth out of 128 fencers. Also in this elite group were members of the United States and British Junior National teams as well as North American Cup finalists.

Bower started his day with an excellent record of 5-1 in his initial pool and then went on to win five out of seven of his direct elimination bouts. Although the underdog, Bower demonstrated the skill and composure necessary to compete with the best.

An MIT fencer has not made the final round of the Junior Olympics since Keith Lichten '95 took third place in the Under 20 Men's Epee in 1993.

In the Under 20 Women's Epee event, Nora Szasz '99, in her first national competition, placed 17th out of 114 fencers. Despite injuries, Szasz finished her pool with an undefeated 6-0 record. She then won three of her five direct elimination bouts, before losing to the silver medalist in a very exciting bout.

Also fencing that weekend were Aimee Wiltz '99 in Under 20 Women's Epee, Sara Perry '99 and Meredith Rising '98 in Under 20 Women's Epee, Benjamin Vandiver '00 in Under 20 Men's Foil, and Evangelos Efstathiou '00 in Under 20 Men's Sabre.

Freshmen Vandiver and Efstathiou, who began the season with no prior fencing experience, gave spirited performances, demonstrating their excellent potential.

# Ballroom Dance Team Swings Past Competition at Tournament

By Tom Nugent  
TEAM MEMBER

The ballroom dance team made a strong showing, both in individual results and team matches, at the Sixth Annual Harvard-Radcliffe Invitational Ballroom Dance Competition. There were more than 140 couples from over a dozen universities in the Feb. 2 competition.

The team did exceptionally well in the beginner level by consistently placing two to three couples in the final round of most events.

The dedication of the team's coaches and enthusiasm of MIT contestants accounted for much of the team's success. Members of the ballroom team also had a role in running the competition. Emcee Warren Dew '81 and scrutineer Elizabeth Earhart G both did an excellent job and kept the competition on time all day.

The day began with the American-style rhythm category. Feng Li '97 and Jennifer Hammock '98 took first place in the beginner swing. Michael Posner and Wendy Luo G also took first in the advanced swing. Next came the international-style Latin category. Li and Geeta Sankappanavar '97 took first place in both the beginner cha-cha and the beginner jive. Not far behind, Jorge Barrera '99 and Stephanie Hong '98 took third place in the

beginner cha-cha and second place in the beginner jive.

At the intermediate level, Lajos Molnar '97 and Yuying Chen '97 took first place in rumba/cha-cha and second place in samba/jive, while Jorge Goncalves G and Ling Liao took third in the rumba/cha-cha.

Goncalves and Liao did better in the advanced level, taking second place in the rumba/cha-cha. Steve Casey G and Suzanne Goh placed third in the advanced rumba/cha-cha and took first place in the samba/jive.

During the middle of the day, the team matches were held. These consisted of four dances in both the American and international styles. Harvard University's A team, the current national champions, placed first. However, MIT finished right behind them and placed second to Harvard in both styles.

The individual competitions continued with the American-style smooth category. Li and Hammock took first in beginner waltz, while Kuo-Chun Wu G and Radhika Dutt '99 took second place.

In the beginner foxtrot, Li and Anna Lukasiak G placed first, while Justin Zhuang G and Dutt placed second. At the intermediate level, Rich Finlay and Anne Moroney '82 took third in waltz/foxtrot and second in tango. Finlay and Moroney

went on to take the first place at the advanced level in both waltz/foxtrot and tango.

Goncalves and Yumiko Osawa placed third in the advanced waltz/foxtrot and second in the tango. Team captain Vikas Bhushan G and Rachel Dowell G placed third in the tango.

MIT swept the open level, a combined waltz, tango, foxtrot, and Viennese waltz event. Bhushan and Dowell placed first overall, while Posner and Anna Dvorak took second, and Brian Fairchild G and Susan Chiu '94 took third.

The final category of the day was the international standard. Li and Hammock took first in both beginner waltz and quickstep. Finlay and Moroney took second in both intermediate waltz/quickstep and foxtrot/tango, while Raymond Kam and Janice Cheung took third in the foxtrot/tango. At the advanced level, Finlay and Moroney placed third in the foxtrot/tango.

Tomorrow and Sunday, the team will be competing in the Massachusetts Amateur Ballroom Dancers' Association's annual collegiate competition to be held at the Wonderland Ballroom in Revere. The Ballroom Dance Team will be hosting the final competition of the season on Saturday, April 5 in the Dupont Gymnasium.

# Nordic Skiing Ends Racing Season With Fourth and Fifth Place Finishes

Skiing, from Page 28

had hard-packed granular snow. Occasional icy spots made the course fast and suitable for a freestyle race, especially in the downhill.

"I loved cutting the corners tightly, and I passed several people that way," Doering said.

The freestyle race was won by Alfred University's Timothy Gorbald with a time of 27 minutes five seconds. The first MIT skier to cross the line, Jeffrey Doering, placed eighth with a time of 0:30:58 followed by his teammate James Berry who finished 11 seconds behind him in 0:31:09. The third MIT skier, Jiri Schindler G, finished 18th in 0:35:19 out of 32 racers.

The women's race was won by Sophie Hartshorn from Cornell University in 0:31:30. Lynn Cornell finished fifth with a time of 0:37:01

and her teammate, Rebecca Metrick '98, finished 21th in 0:59:30 out of 24 racers.

The Sunday 10-kilometer race was set on a 5-kilometer loop which received three inches of fresh snow overnight. However, the tracks were still set in the icy base which made waxing challenging because of the different characteristics of the moist fresh powder and the old hard and granular snow.

"I had a good kick, but at one spot I was passing someone in a turn and was forced to go on the outside [with the fresh powder] which caught my ski and I fell," Berry said.

The classical race started at 9 a.m. with two racers starting in 30-second intervals, with the women going first.

The women's regional championships was won by Sophie Hartshorn from Cornell University

in 0:48:28. The first MIT racer, Lynn Cornell, finished 11th with the time of 0:58:55, and Metrick placed 20th in 1:17:18.

The men's regional championships classical race was won by Gorbald in 0:40:07. Doering finished strongly in fourth with a time of 0:44:01, while Berry finished in 11th with a time of 0:46:26, and Schindler finished 17th in 0:49:40 out of the 34 racers.

The MEC regional championships concluded with an award ceremony. The best female racer trophy went to Clarkson University's Katie Johnson and the best male trophy to Steven Halasz from Cornell University. The overall best team of the MEC was Cornell University.

The nordic team finished a solid season and qualified for the USCSA National Championships in California but will not compete.

# Men's Hockey Ends Regular Season With Playoffs Ahead

By Hana Ohkawa  
STAFF REPORTER

The men's hockey team finished its regular season with a 7-0 win over Wheaton College last Saturday. The victory was sweet revenge for the Engineers, who lost to Wheaton at the start of the season.

Engineer wing John Rae '99 had four goals and two assists to bring his season point total to 51. Goals were also scored by Jim Goodman G and Jonathan Bennett '98.

The team's league record of 5-3-2 was good enough for third place in the Atlantic Conference of the Northeast Collegiate Hockey Association. The top three teams from the Atlantic and New England Conferences advance to the NECHA playoffs to be played this weekend at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The Engineers' relatively low conference standing makes for a very difficult draw in the playoffs. In the first round, the team will face Johnson and Wales University, the second ranked team in the New England conference. If the Engineers upset the Griffins of Johnson and Wales, their next opponent will be the Blue Devils of Central Connecticut State University, the top team in the Atlantic Conference.

Head Coach Tom Keller has been pleased with the Engineers' recent play. "Things have come together since Christmas break. We've been playing well, and will take some momentum into the playoffs."

The first round of the playoffs will be played tonight at WPI.



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## SPORTS

## Nordic Skiers Place Well in Mideast Conference



Jeffrey Doering '99 positions himself in front of the other two racers in his wave in Saturday's 10-kilometer freestyle in the Mideast Conference regional nordic skiing championships.

By Jiri Schindler  
TEAM MEMBER

Jeffrey Doering '99 placed fourth in a 10-kilometer classical race and Lynn Cornell '96 finished fifth in a 10-kilometer freestyle race in the Mideast Conference regional nordic skiing championships held this past weekend in Salmon Hills, N.Y.

After participating in four weekend ski meets this season and placing respectably in each of the eight races, the nordic ski team qualified for the MEC regional championships which were originally scheduled in Lake Placid, N.Y. However, the quirks of this winter forced the race to be relocated to an area with snow.

The MEC officials originally planned a Saturday morning men's 15-kilometer classical race and a women's 10-kilometer with a 3x5-kilometer mixed relay in the afternoon. However, because of the last minute location change, a 10-kilometer freestyle for both men and women race was scheduled instead.

The men's race started at 3 p.m. with an interval start of three racers every 30 seconds. The women's race followed one minute after the start of the last man.

The race course was set on a 10-kilometer loop so the racers went around only once. This together with the lack of distance-to-finish markers made it hard for the racers to pace themselves.

"I thought I had about 2K left, but as I came out of the corner on the steep downhill I was surprised to see the yurts [in the finish] right in front of me. If I knew the finish was right there I would have pushed harder on that [last] uphill," said James Berry '99.

"I got confused around that loop when I saw people coming at me so I turned around after about 500 feet and went clockwise," Cornell said. The poorly marked section of the course probably cost her one place.

Despite these two shortcomings, the course was well prepared with

Skilling, Page 27

## Women's Basketball Savors Strong Victory

By Erik S. Balsley  
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's basketball defeated Wheaton College 82-62 Tuesday night to advance to the next round of the New England Women's 8 Conference playoffs.

The Engineers were fourth entering the playoffs, while Wheaton was ranked fifth. The Engineers thought they would be playing a close tough game, as they had defeated Wheaton by only three points in their earlier season matchup. That victory was the Engineers' first against Wheaton in 10 years.

Although Wheaton sank two early 3-pointers to bring the score to 8-4 with 16:57 left in the half, the Engineers began to drive at Wheaton and to build the large lead they enjoyed for most of the game.

The team played an extremely aggressive offensive game and played smart defense to overwhelm what appeared to be a shocked

Wheaton. They kept the pressure on Wheaton's backcourt so that by halftime the team was enjoying a 16 point margin at 38-22.

Determined to not let their lead slip away, the Engineers continued to play strongly throughout the second half. Although Wheaton managed to score eight within the first four minutes of the half, Sarah Davis '97 sank two from the line and made two baskets to bring the score to 44-30 with 15:26 left in the half. Shortly thereafter Vicki Best '99 grabbed a rebound and ran with the ball down a clear court and sank it to bring the score to 46-30.

Excellent rebounding was a key factor in the team's success. While Wheaton made 44 rebounds, the Engineers made 65. The team's number of defensive rebounds was the same as Wheaton's total rebounds.

Heather Lukacs '00 had another excellent rebounding game; she had 12 in the team's game against Mount Holyoke College to make 11. Amy MacKay '97 also took advantage of Wheaton's sloppy playing to make 13, while Vicky Canto-Ponce '00 had 12.

The Engineers continued to hammer away at Wheaton throughout the second half. With 7:26 in play, Best sank MIT's only 3-pointer of the game to bring the score to 69-42. It was an excellent game for Best, who played superb offense to score 19 points throughout the game.

Wheaton quickly sank a basket, but Canto-Ponce maintained the 27 point Engineer lead, the game's largest, by sinking a basket with 6:59 left to bring the score to 71-44.

Despite the wide margin, both teams were playing a very rough game. As an indicator, both teams broke their foul limits in both halves: MIT had 23 personal fouls, while Wheaton had 25. In addition, Davis left 10 points behind her when she fouled out with 5:48 left in the game.

In the final minutes of play, Wheaton began to take any shots in an attempt to even the score. Although another 3-pointer was scored by Wheaton with 2:23 left, the team could not make up what was by then a 20 point deficit.

In the end, the Engineers defeated Wheaton, which was a close game in regular season, 82-62. The team now faces Clark University, and the nation's top ranked Division III player, at Mount Holyoke College Friday in round two of the NEW8 playoffs.

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