Dickson Recuperates at MGH After Recent Bypass Surgery

By Brett Attschel

Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 underwent successful heart bypass surgery Wednesday after suffering a heart attack on Saturday.

The surgery was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital where Dickson will be under close supervision for the next few days. "He will probably spend about six days in the hospital," said Kenneth D. Campbell, director of the News Office.

After that, it will be some time before Dickson returns to work at MIT, Campbell said. Dickson will spend four to six weeks convalescing at home after his discharge, he said.

"President Charles M. Vest said that the prognosis for Dickson looked good. His doctors have advised us that he is doing well," Vest said.

Offices cope without Dickson

Many areas of the Institute are ultimately under Dickson's purview, including the Medical Department, Information Systems, and Physical Plant.

These offices seem adequately prepared to function in Dickson's absence.

Vest said that the administration would not need to take major action in order to deal with Dickson's absence. "We have no plans whatsoever to take special administrative measures during the absence," he said.

Susan E. Crowley, the administrative assistant in Dickson's office said that the office was functioning without Dickson's presence. The office had been in communication with him regularly between his hospitalization and the bypass surgery, she said.

Dickson, Page 16

Financial Aid Decision Postponed One Year

By Zareena Hussain

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Originally scheduled for this September, the Congressional authorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to fund federal financial aid programs, including provisions for such programs as the Stafford and Perkins loans and federal work-study, was postponed until a year from now, said Dean of Students and Director of Student Financial Aid Stanley G. Hudson.

The Higher Education Act outlines and sets out money for federally funded financial aid programs, including provisions for such programs as the Stafford and Perkins loans and federal work-study.

The deadline was extended to September 1998 because of other, more pressing issues on the Congressional docket, including budget reconciliation needed as a result of the government shut-down two years ago, Hudson said.

INSIDE

- The Game might seem worthwhile at first look, but disappoints later. Page 6
- In the Company of Men leaves a bad taste in the viewer's mouth. Page 6
- Comics Page 10

Financial Aid, Page 13

Debate Persists over New Graduate Dorm

By Frank Dobek

A new graduate dormitory is scheduled to open in two years at the intersection of Sidney and Pacific streets in Central Square. As the planning process nears its close, disagreements between involved parties have surfaced.

The current proposal calls for a five-story building with parking as allowed by Cambridge zoning regulations, said Associate Planning Officer Jennifer L. Marshall. The new dormitory will house approximately 600 single graduate students, Marshall said.

A point of contention has arisen, however, over what style of housing the new dormitory will take on. "It would be a huge mistake to move towards dorm-style housing and it's clear that's what's happening," said Carsten D. Hohnek, chairman of the Graduate Student Council housing and community affairs committee.

Hohnek said that the "GSC has a set list of priorities" for the new dormitory based on data gained from surveys, and focus groups conducted by outside firms. This data reveals that graduate students are looking for "creative apartment-style living," he said.

"The building should be creative but the unit is an apartment," Hohnek said. According to the surveys, graduate students are interested in two-bedroom apartments with kitchens. Hohnek said. In addition, data reveals that graduate students do not place emphasis on having a dining hall or housemaster facilities, he said.

Client team criticized by graduate students

A client team has been organized to make decisions on the structure of the dormitory. "A group of graduate students, faculty and staff have met over the summer, and will continue to meet into the fall, to plan the spaces proposed for the building," Marshall said.

Hohnek, who serves on the client team, expressed his disappointment in the team. "The impression was given at the time [the team was formed] that we were doing this because we would make decisions," he said. Hohnek said that he, in fact, formed the four-person team without the consent of the client team.

By Douglas E. Heimbucher

Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics R. John Hansman Jr. PhD '82 spoke to and dined with a group of 17 students yesterday evening in Ashdown House's Hulsizer Room as part of Tau Beta Pi's Leonardo da Vinci dinner series.

Hansman spoke about difficulties with automation in aircraft systems. The MIT chapter of TBP, a national engineering honor society invited Hansman to bring together several faculty members and about 20 TBP members every Thursday evening for a dinner and lecture, said TBP President Panayiotis I. Kamvysselis G.

The dinners, which feature cuisine from a wide variety of cultures, are funded through the proceeds of the annual TBP career fair. Last night's dinner was entitled "Traditions of Native American Cooking."

Human factors needed in design

During an introductory half-hour lecture, entitled "Problems with Automation Systems in Commercial Aircraft, or Why I Hate to Reboot in Midair," Hansman, a pilot and specialist in human factors engineering in aircraft, spoke of the

First Dinner in da Vinci Series Focuses On Aircraft Automation and Accidents

By Douglas E. Heimbucher

Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics R. John Hansman Jr. PhD '82 discusses problems with automation systems in aviation.

His talk was part of Tau Beta Pi's dinner series dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci.

The MIT chapter of TBP, a national engineering honor society began this series celebrating the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci to "foster a spirit of liberal culture at MIT." The private dinner talks will bring together several faculty members and about 20 TBP members every Thursday evening for a dinner and lecture, said TBP President Panayiotis I. Kamvysselis G.

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Albright Urges Israeli 'Timeout' From Construction and Reprisals
By Jonathan Peterson  
WASHINGTON  
Albright said that Arafat make a credible commitment to eradication of terrorism as the essential condition for the government's implementation of the Oslo agreements. "To be effective, the Palestinian Authority's fight (against terrorism) must be comprehensive, relentless and sustained," she said. "It cannot be pursued only when it is conve-
nient to do so." 

As much as four times their current level. 

Clinton Maintains Approval Ratings Despite Hitting
By Bylon Johnson
Washington Post
WASHINGTON  
Just 34 percent of survey respondents repor-
ted a "dramatic improve-
ment" in the vice president's image, com-
pared to 59 percent for Clinton. 

Clinton to Be Briefed Today On Tobacco Deal Review
By Kevin Sullivan  
WASHINGTON  
Clinton's approval rating also jumped to 40 percent from 32 per-
cent three percentage points from March. The Times Poll suggests that

Annan Urges Patience As Congo Holds Off Investigation
By Bylon Johnson  
WASHINGTON  
Clinton and the Old Boys happy, which is more than euphoric, it is the most positive
performance in the White House.

Weather: Slow Clearing
By Michael C. Morgan "Start Met"  
WASHINGTON  
The Times Poll suggests that

By Kevin Sullivan  
WASHINGTON  
As an unusual display of political 
brass, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto brought back-room poli-
tics out from the shadows by
naming a convicted felon to a key position in the cabi
net reshuffle.

Hashimoto Elevates Convicted Felon in Ministerial Reshuffle
By Kevin Sullivan  
WASHINGTON  
President Clinton is to receive a briefing Friday on the results of a three-month review of a proposed settlement with the tobacco indus-
ty, with an advance of $206 billion, any deal should be toughened at the expense of cigarette makers.

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American Life Expectancy Rose, Infant Mortality Rate Fell in 1996

By Marlene Citron

The vital signs for U.S. health were far better over the last year, with life expectancy hitting an all-time high, infant mortality dropping to record lows and death rates from smoking, homicide, suicides andbirths by teen-age females all declining, federal health officials reported Thursday.

It was a remarkably upbeat assessment of the country's overall health, the first since the American tobacco monopoly collapsed in 1996. Americans were living longer - an overall average of 76.1 years, up from 73.8 years in 1990.

Also, infant mortality reached a new low of 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Health officials said that a 15 percent decline in smoking that was set off by the recent Kids Against Infant Death Syndrome was the reason for much of the overall decline.

The good news was the impact of the use of drug combinations in treating AIDS, for a cure has shod in de
dizogation as the leading killer of adults between the ages of 25-44. It ranks second after accidents, as the cause of death among group.

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala described the report as "a genuine cause for celebration." "Our record was especially encouraged because a whole new generation is emerging," Dr. David Satcher, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said, "It was built on the work of President Clinton Friday.

The report attributed the gains on several health fronts to education and prevention programs. Three powerful prevention tools that were "real dividends," and predicted that the life picture would continue to improve.

But the news was not all good. For example, black males were living an average of only 66.1 years, compared to 74.7 years for whites. This disparity did narrow slightly between 1995 and 1996, to 16.6 years.

And while both racial groups recorded declines in infant mortality, blacks had 22.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 8.1 for whites.

Some public health experts con
demned the racial differences, saying the report was "a wake-up call" for those who work with blacks. "There are significant disparities in the current overall picture," "Other gaps could have some biological basis," but this one may be explained by more exposure to "harmful" environment by blacks.

"Analysts say they could imagine plenty of sound reasons for Johnson and Liberman, ...the report of the BET, a company that in 1991 became the first African-American corporation traded on the New York Stock Exchange and which has made Johnson and Liberman's founder, Robert Johnson, one of the 50 richest African-Americans in the world. "My theory is that they perceived that BET shares were underval-

January 17, 1997

Various state and local officials plan to gather next month in Los Angeles for a summit on the El Nino, the weather condition some predict will smother the scietified California winter at least since 1982-83 and perhaps in a half-century, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., announced Thursday. -

The news of the summit — which came hours after a lengthy congressional subcommittee hearing on the odd oceanographic forces that cause storms and droughts worldwide that will cost the state’s businesses, residents and tourists — was welcomed by President Clinton.

The summit’s home the testing is attached to the $80 bil-

lation appropriations bill for the departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, the dispute could disrupt their funding for fiscal year 1999, when the current appropriation runs out. The massive spending bill 92-4.

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The MIT faculty has each season the power of governing rules for classes, assignments, and end-of-term examinations. The tremendous workload that students face has become part of the MIT mystique, but this is no excuse for ignoring scheduling rules that the faculty itself voted into existence. Because the faculty refuse to combat the problem, students have been thrust into the difficult role of policy enforcers. This is unacceptable, and the new members of the faculty, Lotte S. Bailyn, must take the lead on solving this problem.

The faculty established the rules on schedules for a good reason: to prevent students from being overburdened by the work in any one class. But every semester, as previous years, classes such as Professor D. K. H. and Planning Lawrence S. Bacow '72 can attest to, professors commit dozens upon dozens of violations of the rules: 12-unit courses whose workloads go well beyond the 12-hour limit; classes that go beyond a 12-unit final block that is off-limits for undergraduate subjects; professors who schedule night exams during the term and who refuse to cancel a test or class at the last minute; courses that are taken prior to a Christian, final paper, and exam during the last week of classes; recitations and end-of-term problem sets that are "optional" but have students to do if they want to learn the material; blanket extensions on assignments due far into finals week. Some professors commit some of these violations under the guise of "flexibility," but by their actions they ask students to assign more assignments or extra class time to learn material. Others give more work in their classes as a matter of competition—to force students to view their courses as the toughest among or their other classes. Still other professors, as Bacow noted in a Faculty Newsletter piece last semester about this issue, let students vote to break the rules, apparently under the notion that students can override faculty rules when it suits class scheduling needs.

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Stamping out this behavior is a question of faculty discipline. Students must learn to question professors who choose, by putting the S in their classes, who to take the new workload off their backs. A new faculty in a new role. The last night of the faculty, Lotte S. Bailyn, must take the lead on solving this problem.

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Corridor of the Infinite 1970s
Ditching the Dreary Paint And State Displays Could Work Wonders

Douglas E. Heimburger

A lot has changed in the past year along the Infinite Corridor. The Limelight has departed, taking with it the site of sleep-deprived students. The new Student Services Center has opened, with its bright aloha atmosphere and color-coordinated furniture. And with these changes—could be considered mandatory based on MIT standards—the Infinite Corridor still looks like it hasn’t been really updated since the 1970s.

Most of the posters in the corridor that once had fresh new features haven’t been updated even stylistically since the 1970s. There, don’t any posters signifying MIT’s contributions to the growth of science, political science, and economics, for instance. There are at least ten periods of history in which the displays make the Infinite Corridor look like it hasn’t really advanced since the 1970s.

Student groups that have a particular interest in a particular area helping to make the corridor look dated. Until recently, WMBQ’s posters from the 1970s, for example, could be found from its Fall 1996 open house, replete with LED light outlines that lit up the corridor and brownish colors to the hair style of the group’s members. The last time these displays were shown the Infinite Corridor look like it hasn’t really advanced since the 1970s.

The Undergraduate Association, indeed, it particularly noteworthy—and it has one of the most visible bulletin boards, located in Lobby 7. For instance, I’ve seen displays regarding all kinds of events...by the Art Department, about attending the Cambridge Art Association at the end of the term.

Even the colors of the Infinite Corridor are decided 1970s-ish after, all when was the last time you saw a truly color-coordinated display you saw in your regular dorm room? It’s been eons since you saw a truly color-coordinated display you saw in your regular dorm room. It’s been eons since the color-coordinated displays you saw in your regular dorm room were displayed in a dorm room in any one of the colors like bright green, red, and purple that cover the walls between the buildings that make up the corridor. Of course, the rest of the walls in the corridor aren’t much brighter, being painted in the almost-brownish white that’s all over campus.

Fortunately, there have been improvements made to the corridor recently, namely the brightening of the area around the Student Services Center with an alcove for meeting people and new windows looking in on an alcove area for meeting people and new windows looking in on an alcove area for meeting people that remain. If you want to go to the library, you can do so on your own.

In MIT’s vast bureaucracy, of course, a committee must exist for this purpose, and one does. The Building Committee is comprised of many including the president, the chairman of the board, the corporation, the director of the Planning Office. According to Director of Special Projects Stephen D. Inman, the committee...

Pilots of the Indiglo Twilight
Guest Column
Wesley Chan

There’s an invasion of Pilots on this campus. No, I don’t mean the kind that fly airplanes. I mean those gray message-pad-like electronic devices made by modern manufacturer U.S. Robotics. It’s no wonder that...since the dawn of the year 2000.

Depending on which flavor you get, they sell for between $300 and $400. They allow you to make phone calls, check your address list, and search for any string of text...at all the touch of a button. The snazzy, more expensive version even lets you read...and send e-mail when you connect it to your computer. Some even offer a place to take notes. Come to think of it, you’d probably use the phone more since I can’t do that.

One Pilot user told me that his Pilot elimi- nated the days of having to write long, time-consuming memos or phone calls. It’s a great way to communicate. Another pilot user claimed he could program four different...as the site for the MIT library. I’ve seen this sort of discussion happen several times before, so I decided to bring it up in this column.

I admit that I, too, have fallen prey to the Pilot craze that seems to be taking over MIT. I purchased one last spring, and since I’ve had it, my paper organizer has been sitting in my drawer collecting dust. However, I will per-haps be the first Pilot owner to admit that my Pilot is no more than a fun and overpriced toy. My duty Dayrunner would probably suf- fice, and it would keep me as equally, if not more, organized than my Pilot. Most people who have Pilots would probably secretly agree with me about this. After all, it takes significantly more time to enter an appoint- ment on a Pilot using pen-based handwriting recognition interface than just simply writing it down in a Dayrunner. (Why anyone would...already be a part of any schedule appointments in the dark or interpret Scheme on the go is beyond me.)

Any change, however, would go a long way toward removing the dark, decrepit look of the corridor and would perhaps make life just a little less depressing for the thousands of students who pass through the space every day.

As classes begin, a wave of feelings seems to overcome each of us—joy to see all of our friends; relief to be back at MIT from summer, fear at thinking of all those new classes to take; worries about what could possibly be worse than having no life and failing two classes last term.

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**FILM REVIEW**

**A gift for the brother who already has it all — A Game**

**THE GAME**

Directed by David Fincher
Written and directed by Neil Labute

By Vladimir Zolevinsky

I magine if each and every Agatha Christie novel ended with the revelation that the butler did it. Each novel might be different from the other novels, more or less suspenseful, more or less interesting, but the ending would be the same. Sounds highly unlike-ly, doesn’t it?

Well, yes, it does, but maybe not if you’re a writer of Hollywood thrillers. They all end with the main character (also known as “good guy”) trouncing the villains (also known as “bad guys”), and getting the attractive female (also known as “the gift”). The Game is a Hollywood thriller. There, now you know everything you need to know.

The bright, optimistic, so-cheerful-it-hurts conclusion is a particular disappointment in this case, especially because for a while it looks like The Game might be a winner, so it’s sad that it gets so lost in the end.

Nicholas Van Orton (Michael Douglas) receives a birthday gift he can’t return in The Game.

The plot concerns an upright investment banker, Nicholas Van Orton (Douglas), who gets from his brother a birthday gift certificate to a company called “Consumer Recreation Services.” This company, for a size-able fee, puts its clients into a custom-made adventure — weird things start happening, strangers drop cryptic clues, and the plot thickens. After a long (and frequently tedious) set-up, The Game hits a high note and manages to sustain it for quite a while. It’s fun to watch the protagonist drawn deeper and deeper into a twisting plot, where it’s not even clear anymore what is the game and what is reality. This ambiguity makes the movie seem like it might actually be about something interesting and important. Then the ambiguity is resolved (after pretending several times that we finally know what’s going on), and the movie crashes and burns, becoming as generic as its title.

Maybe the customary Hollywood desire to wrap things up neatly is to blame. The intriguing notion that Nicholas might just be paranoid and losing his mind is not developed in any way. The fact that he starts as a businessman, ruthless up to a point of being inhuman, is lost as well. Director David Fincher (Seven) obviously went a long way from his first movie, the filmed-in-Condo-a-Vision Alien III, but still mistakes insufficient lighting for atmosphere. Douglas does a good but uninspired job; set design is gothic and impressive, and the score is tingling with suspense. But all in all, this works only to prod the viewers into reacting the way they’re supposed to.

If this sounds like a good way to kill a couple of hours, go for it. If not, you can check out the collection of short stories, The Club of Queer Trades, by G.K. Chesterton, and read “The Adventure of Major Brown.” It has the plot identi-cal to The Game, but has more fun doing it.

With its stylish visuals and general creepi-ness, The Game might trick you, for a while, into thinking that you’re watching something worthwhile, but the illusion won’t last long. It might look like fromage, and it might smell like fromage, but if it tastes like Cheez Wiz, you know what it is.

**FILM REVIEW**

**In the Company of Men**

Written and directed by Neil LaBute
Starring Aaron Eckhart, Matt Malloy, and Stacy Edwards.

By Vladimir Zolevinsky

H old onto your seats, ladies and gentle-men, we’re going for the bulk of In The Company of Men involves two young healthy white-collar workers torturing a handicapped woman.

You might look for relief in the fact that the said torture is purely mental — but you won’t find it there. Martin Scorsese had said about his classy period piece The Age of Innocence that it was his most violent movie. They all end with the main character (also known as “good guy”) trouncing the villains (also known as “bad guys”), and getting the attractive female (also known as “the gift”). The Game is a Hollywood thriller. There, now you know everything you need to know.

The bright, optimistic, so-cheerful-it-hurts conclusion is a particular disappointment in this case, especially because for a while it looks like The Game might be a winner, so it’s sad that it gets so lost in the end.

The plot of In the Company of Men is as geometrically spare as the visual style the movie employs. Two mid-level office work-ers, Chad (Aaron Eckhart) and Howard (Matt Malloy), working for an unspecific company, travel to an unspecified city on a six-week busi-ness trip. Both were recently dumped by their significant others and feeling bitter towards women in general. So they develop a plan: seduce her (com-plexes, flowerets, small talk, dinners, sex, etc.) and, when the six weeks are over, rudely end it. They easily find such a woman in Christine (Stacy Edwards), a lonely secretary who also happens to be deaf.

By the time this is established (in the first fifteen minutes or so), the female halfs of couples in the audience are looking at their dates with apprehension slowly turning into disgust. However, it should be made clear that the main issue about men being cruel to women. It’s not about men being cruel to women. It’s not about men being cruel to women. It’s not about men being cruel to women.

The biggest objection, however, might be that Labute treats his characters precisely the way they treat each other — with disguised contempt, manipulating them to serve the hid-den agenda. This probably explains the bad taste in the mouth after watching this movie, not because it shows something we don’t know, but because it shows us precisely what we do know.

The acting is impeccable (we know a lot about two main charac-ters before they even speak a single word), the dialogue is sparkling, and the story has a few unexpected plot twists.

On the other hand, it is hardly original. Chad’s brilliant seducer is just an updated version of the Sociopath De Valmont (there’s quite a few similarities with Les Liaisons Dangereuses as well as The Age of Innocence), and the end-ing echoes La Dolce Vita.

Not that the movie limits itself to explor-ing this issue (by the way, the phrase “explore this issue” is as much of a cliche as Chad saying “I want to nurture this relationship and see it blossom”). The ending pulls the rug from under our feet again, and shows that the movie was about something completely different altogether. When we see how these people treat each other, the effect is shattering. However, it should be made clear that this movie is not about men being cruel to women. It’s not about men being cruel to women.
GAME REVIEW

Monkey Island 3
Hi, I'm selling these fine leather jackets... again
By Mark Huang

For those of us who remember that awful time five years ago called high school, the most anticipated game to hit the pirating boards in 1992 was Monkey Island 2. It was fast. It was slick. It was funny. It was VGA.

The Cartoon of Monkey Island, the latest in the installment, continues LucasArts' tradition of making nerds around the world chew their nails in impatience for the sequel. It's taken them five years to complete the game, enough time to have eaten off an arm and a good side of shoulder, but they rarely disappoint: Monkey Island 3 is far and away the best adventure game I've played this year.

More mature gamers may remember the good old days of 20x200, when designers had to disguise the fact that their lead characters had five-pixel faces by spinning a good tale. MS3 doesn't abuse its newfound appreciation for DirectEX by slopping on the story, the graphics, or the animation. The screen shot is from a standard scene, not an intro. A continuous soundtrack also plays in the background. I haven't heard the music, but the effects and speech are excellent so far. Gary Coleman has provided his talents for some of the voices, but I don't expect that Arnold will be making a guest appearance (I could be wrong).

The interface is a bit limited (you can use your hands, eyes, and mouth to do the various things that hands, eyes, and mouths do), but the puzzles, of course, require creative uses of it. The basic plot is pretty straightforward: rescue Elaine from the nefarious and apparently marriage-inclined ghost pirate Le Chuck. The usual difficulties ensue: restoring Elaine to human form after she is turned into a statue, escaping from borders of undead, rubber-ducky-wearing pirates, that sort of thing. Much of your time will be spent listening and talking to other characters; you can speed up or slow down this process if you like. The game, like most adventure games, is primarily linear in plot, but you may be able to continue on and come back to a particularly difficult puzzle if necessary.

It was a bit of a shock to see Guy decked out like your average engineer: clumsy, lanky, feet the size and shape of Twinkies. The familiar mundane-looking Guy most gamers have grown accustomed to (since, hell, he basically looked like lady and every other LucasArts character to make it into VGA) has gotten a major facelift. However, the hallmark of all of the Monkey Island games, terrible jokes and immature humor, is still alive and well in him. At each death-defying step, you'll always have the option of making him crack just one... last... joke.

Next week: Diablo

Author's note: This is the first review in a series. I will review, in alternate columns, unreleased previews, brand new games, and current games. If you're looking for someone to play a game with, or want a game reviewed, e-mail me at markman@mit.edu. A web page will be started soon with links to demo copies of all reviewed games and a forum for finding others on campus who are playing them.

FILM REVIEW

Sometimes you find a conspiracy, and sometimes you find you
CONSPIRACY THEORY

Directed by Richard Donner.
Written by Brian Helgeland.
Starring Mel Gibson, Julia Roberts, and Patrick Stewart.

By Teresa Huang

Richard Donner's latest film, Conspiracy Theory, looked both to be highly thought of and successful, yet it concomitantly suffers from too much plot and not enough character development.

Mel Gibson plays New York cabbie Jerry Fletcher, a paranoid man who reads newspapers between the lines to find the conspiracy behind every story, and publishes his theories in a crude underground newsletter called Conspiracy Theory. Aside from his five subscribers, Jerry shares his theories with unwilling Justice Department attorney Alice Sutton, played by Julia Roberts, who listens to him mostly out of pity. Although he takes his newsletter endeavor quite seriously, most people write him off as a nut case until he suddenly and mysteriously kidnaps, leading him to believe one of his conspiracies must have been true. Drawing Alice into his quest, Jerry seeks to find the man who kidnapped him and to ultimately find the truth.

The highlight of this movie by far is Mel Gibson's characterization of the slightly crazed though lovable New Yorker Jerry. He is thoroughly engaging and instantly suspicioning of everything he sees around him. Convincing there's always someone out to get him, he doesn't give up on his safety in being compulsive about his own protection. His various home security rituals are especially excessive (his apartment alone contains more locks and booby traps than a prison), though they're simply part of his daily routine. Jerry always expects the worst, yet manages to live comfortably with his fears, leaving the audience feeling both pity and admiration for him. Gibson brings this excellent character to life through his bashful stuttering and hiccups, showing his vulnerability as an actor and ability to break away from common pretty boy roles.

Also excellent is Patrick Stewart as the enigmatic Dr. Jonas, whose connection to Jerry is the biggest mystery to be solved. Dr. Jonas is a chillingly rigid and ominous figure, yet his demeanor can shift to being so fatherly as an actor and ability to break away from common pretty boy roles.

But while Gibson and Stewart are good, much of the rest of the movie falls. Julia Roberts gives a particularly uninspired performance, negating any inkling of a believable relationship between her and Jerry. She's a Justice Department attorney, yet she doesn't seem all that smart at times, and the audience is never clear exactly why she is helping Jerry.

Most of all, as the movie progressed after Jerry's kidnapping scene, I found myself waiting for, well, a conspiracy theory. Publicity for the movie implied that one of Jerry's theories was actually correct, but that he didn't know which one. In actuality, as the movie develops, the Conspiracy Theory newsletter becomes less and less of an issue as the focus shifts to uncovering who kidnapped Jerry and why. The conspiracy theory the movie revolves around never even appears in the newsletter at all; the newsletter is hardly even used as a plot device while the rest of the movie becomes more and more complicated, bogged down in mystery and confusion. By the time everything is revealed, the plot is so convoluted that even the truth can't prevent the film from being altogether unsatisfying.

Although the premise that inspired the film is timely and interesting, the movie seems to have lost some of its vision by the time it was released. Mel Gibson's and Patrick Stewart's smart character development make the movie worth seeing if you're fans, but the rest of the movie offers little else. The truth is out there, but you won't find it in Conspiracy Theory.

Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts In Conspiracy Theory

Author's note: For the movie's current box office numbers, check out the box office section online!

Brenda Star's exhibition of imaginative sculpture opened Wednesday in the Dean's Gallery, building ES2. The exhibition will remain until October 31. Most of the pieces are for sale.
MIT dates & deadlines

Upcoming student deadlines and other important institute dates

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>What</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/15</td>
<td>freshmen interested in small</td>
<td>OME Seminar XI begins this week</td>
<td>7-145; 3-5010</td>
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<td>working groups for core subjects</td>
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<td>Mon 9/15</td>
<td>all students cross-registering at</td>
<td>Classes at the Harvard School of Arts and</td>
<td>140-408; 3-4441</td>
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<td>Harvard</td>
<td>Sciences begin</td>
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<td>Fri 9/19</td>
<td>all students who haven’t registered</td>
<td>$100 late fee to initiate registration after this date</td>
<td>E19-335; 3-4784</td>
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<td>Monday, September 15, through Friday, September 19</td>
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<td>Wed 9/24</td>
<td>freshmen interested in small</td>
<td>Deadline for enrollment in OME Seminar XI</td>
<td>7-145; 3-5010</td>
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<td>working groups for core subjects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9/26</td>
<td>seniors graduating in February</td>
<td>Deadline to submit minor completion form</td>
<td>140-408; 3-4441</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>(540 late fee)</td>
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<td>Fri 9/26</td>
<td>graduate students cross-</td>
<td>SSC* at 8-6434;</td>
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<td>registering at Harvard</td>
<td>D-F grading (Add/Drop form)</td>
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<td>Mon 9/29</td>
<td>anyone who wants to conduct an IAP</td>
<td>IAP activity registration begins</td>
<td>7-103; 3-1668</td>
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<td>Tues 9/30</td>
<td>students wanting family</td>
<td>Last day to enroll for family coverage and</td>
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<td>medical coverage or medical</td>
<td>submit health insurance waiver form</td>
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<td>Fri 10/3</td>
<td>all students</td>
<td>ADD DATE - Last day to add subjects</td>
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<td>(Add/Drop form; fee for petitioning</td>
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<td>$100 fine for students who have not</td>
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<td>Fri 10/3</td>
<td>upperclass students applying for</td>
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<td>full-term financial aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10/3</td>
<td>juniors and seniors</td>
<td>Last day to change an elective to or from P-</td>
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<td>D-F grading (Add/Drop form)</td>
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<td>Fri 10/3</td>
<td>all students</td>
<td>Last day to drop half-term subjects</td>
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<td>Fri 10/10</td>
<td>anyone who wants to conduct an IAP</td>
<td>IAP activity registration end</td>
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*The Student Services Center, Building 7-120. The Center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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American Red Cross

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need to address human issues in aircraft design. While the space shuttle is the only flying vehicle that requires rebooting in flight because it doesn’t have enough memory to hold all its commands, other aircraft have experienced problems with technology in the cockpit, Hansman said. As automation has increased in aircraft systems, pilots must learn new skills not formerly needed in a switch and lever-based cockpit.

While new planes have significantly lower accident rates than older, first-generation aircraft, controlled flight into terrain remains the leading cause of crashes, Hansman said. In this instance, “You take a perfectly good airplane and fly it into the ground,” Hansman said. In fact, two recent crashes of modern aircraft—the Air Inter Airbus Industrial A320 and the American Airlines Boeing 757—were directly attributable to the automation system of the aircraft, Hansman said.

Hansman then went into further detail. For example, in the Airbus accident, the pilot of the aircraft selected a mode of the autopilot that caused the plane to descend at 3,200 feet per minute instead of at a 3.2° downward slope.

While the mistake would have been observed very quickly during the day due to the slope of the aircraft, the pilots were relying completely on instruments, Hansman said. In addition, the captain of the aircraft was using a display which did not display the feedback indicating that the plane was in the wrong autopilot mode.

Essentially, there was “insufficient feedback” to the crew, and the airplane flew into the ground. In later tests, only two out of 12 pilots tested were able to discern the mistake under similar conditions, Hansman said.

Other problems plague aircraft
Other potentially more humorous cases illustrated other problems in modern aircraft design. For example, one operator’s A320 fleet was rolling uncontrollably in flight, Hansman said.

The problem was traced to the joystick-style controllers located on the side of the cockpit, Hansman said. Over time, pilots “ended up pouring coffee into the stick” when their cups in the adjacent cup holders spilled. Eventually, the devices that monitor the joystick were degraded, causing the uncontrolled rolls, Hansman said.

Many of the problems of modern aircraft come from the increasing complexity of their computer systems. The newest commercial aircraft introduced in the world market, the Boeing 777, contains the computer capabilities of about an Intel 386 processor, Hansman said. However, many new computer systems are “programmed based on older systems” to save on expensive certification costs, Hansman said.

This leads to unwieldy systems that may not be completely error-proof. As a result, “humans are forced to compensate for errors in the system,” Hansman said.

“It’s really well,” Hansman then went into further detail. For example, in the Airbus accident, the pilot of the aircraft selected a mode of the autopilot that caused the plane to descend at 3,200 feet per minute instead of at a 3.2° downward slope.

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“Humans are forced to compensate for errors in the system,” Hansman said.

— Professor R. John Hansman Jr. Ph.D ’82

Discussion over planes, students
After the half-hour lecture, the assembled students and faculty were able to mingle and discuss aviation and faculty-student affairs.

One problem that hinders interaction between faculty and undergraduates through residence groups is the differing schedules that the groups have compared with faculty members, Hansman said.

Others agreed. “We had a faculty associate with our dorm... They felt they weren’t doing anything because our schedules conflicted,” said Brandon W. Porter G. “When the faculty-student relationship is set up it works really well.”

“The easiest relationships tend to be around research,” Hansman said. The diners “are exactly the kind of thing we should do more of.”

Discussion also focused on Hansman’s work leading the International Center for Air Transportation, as well as his role as chair of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning.

The interaction was exactly what organizers of the event had intended. “I think that’s exactly the spirit we wanted to have,” Kamvysselis said after the dinner, “I think it went really well.”

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Off Course

by Hugo

Noun Poetry

by Katy-Cat
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM LAST ISSUE

30 Ever (poetic)
32 Shaped line a cone
33 Rap
34 Southern state (abbr.)
35 Yellow fruit
36 Moving
38 Mixed vegetables
41 Mountain state (abbr.)
43 Ruthenium symbol
44 Hand out
45 Great lake
46 Placed
47 Instrument Landing System (abbr.)
48 No (Scottish)
49 Eggs
50 Number

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from the secret files of
Max Cannon

Let me get this straight, Mr. Johnson...you want me to put the little red "flag" up on the mailbox after each and every postal delivery? Tell me, sir...why would I want to do that?

Good idea. Why don't I just put everybody's flags up, leaving a clear trail of my route? My enemies would love that, wouldn't they?

Well, it lets us know if we need to go outside and get the mail.

I see. Been out in the warm sunshine for awhile, have we?

Nice try. Who are you working for, Johnson?

---

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Financial Aid Issue
Still to be Resolved, Imbalances Abound

Financial Aid, from Page 1

misca can underestimate the ability of one family to pay tuition, while overestimating the same ability of another who has pooled their assets into savings, Hudson said.

Loan, grant balance questioned

Another issue, is the argument for a greater balance between the amount of federal support that comes in the form of grants and the amount that comes in the form of loans.

In the last reauthorization that took place in 1992, the amount of grants was increased to be more comparable with that of loans; however, discrepancies still exist.

Ninety percent of Institute loan money comes through federal programs in comparison to ten percent of grant money that is federally funded, Hudson said.

Even if it was not delayed, the reauthorization of federally funded financial aid would be unlikely to cause any great ripple effect. While the chance of an increase in funding is unlikely, the chance of a decrease, also “remains slim as well,” Hudson said.

Programs in the tax system have also done a great deal to take fuel out of the coming debate centered around reauthorization of the act. “A lot of the effort to provide educational benefits has been done through the tax system,” Hudson said.

While a tax break may also result in a decrease of financial aid for those eligible for both, the effect of the tuition tax break on systems of financial aid in colleges and universities across the country will not be felt until after tax forms are filed in April 1999 and financial aid decisions can be based on the 1998 income figures, Hudson said.

Financial Aid, from Page 1

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Students Unhappy With Client Team, Lack Authority

Housing, from Page 1

mit a report. "We're very disappointed," he said.

Vernon M. Ingram, chairman of the client team and professor of biology, supported the statement that the team has no final authority. "The client team does not make decisions, it only makes recommendations," he said.

Hohnke also criticized the makeup of the group. "The emphasis is on an Ashdown House style and housemaster facilities," he said. This style of housing is contrary to what the GSC had found students desired through its surveys.

However, "plenty of different people expressed opinions" and defended the diversity of the team, Ingram said. The group is "looking for a consensus in the framework of what graduate students on campus already have," he said. "I am optimistic that something good will come of this."

Students express dissatisfaction

"The official graduate student representative has no voice... the administration is steamrolling this issue," Hohnke said. The surveys cited by GSC were "not being addressed," he said.

"There should be stronger representation of graduates and undergraduates in the Institute," said J. P. Miller.

The new dormitory will bring the Institute closer to its goal of housing 50 percent of graduate students. Currently only 30 percent of graduate students live in Institute housing.

GROSSEST THINGS ON EARTH

10. Naked fat guys on vinyl seats.
9. Camel's breath.
8. The vomit-scene in The Exorcist.
7. Mort room artwork.
5. The name "Mungo."
4. Bean dip.
3. Nose hair.
2. Rear Oreters.

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figs. 1, 2 Come to the MIT List Visual Arts Center anytime between September 2 through 16* to view over 300 framed prints and photographs available for registered MIT students to borrow for the course of the academic year. To hang in your room, apartment, or office!

fig. 4 Drop your card into the ballot box at the front desk of the gallery.

fig. 5 Impartial List Visual Arts Center staff will conduct the lottery on September 16 and post the results by 6 p.m. The gallery will not be open this day.

fig. 6 Pickup of artwork will take place on September 17 and September 18 during the hours listed below.**

* Hours: Mon. - Th., Sat., Sun. 12 - 6 p.m.; Friday, 12 - 8 p.m.
** Students must be registered at MIT, full-time status, to borrow artwork.
A valid MIT ID is required for pickup of artworks on September 18 and September 19.
Any questions, call the List Visual Arts Center at 253-4680 or visit http://web.mit.edu/lvac/www

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September 12, 1997

Dickson Continues Duties from Bedside

Dickson, from Page 1

"We were in touch with him up until Tuesday night," Crowley said. "Wednesday was the first day we did not talk to him."

In fact, Dickson was even doing some work in the hospital, Vest said. "When I talked with Bill on Saturday, he was studying a set of architectural proposals we are in the process of reviewing," he said.

"I think he was doing less than normal, since he was not in meetings, but he was talking with people on the phone and looking at plans," Crowley said.

She said she was not sure when Dickson would begin regular contact with MIT again or what arrangements would be made during Dickson's recovery.

However, Dickson will be doing some work in the several weeks before he returns to MIT. "I believe he intends to set up an office at home," Crowley said. "There are laptops and fax machines, so he can do his work that way."

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Sweetheart, I'm going to make some dinner now... where do you keep the cooking oil?

It's under the sink, Ted. Why don't you let me come down and make it for you?

No dice, honey. That creamed clam casserole you made last night is still twisting in my gut. I'm afraid I'll have to keep you locked in the attic for a couple more days, just to be safe.

Hey, Dad... are you letting me out of the basement then, too?

Be quiet, son.
Hillary Carter '00 struggles for the ball in Tuesday's game against Plymouth State College. The Engineers lost 0-3.

Her whole life ahead of her. But that's behind her now. Killed by a drunk driver.

July 11, 1993

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**SPORTS**

**Tuna’s Return to Foxboro is the Big Catch of the Week**

Column by Chris Brocroum

Week three in the NFL has been rudely overrun by a certain little matter of pride. For some reason, the great city of Boston is going nuts because the lowly Jets are coming to Foxboro to play The Almighty, do no wrong Patriots.

Now, why on earth would a city get so worked up over this lopsided game? Could it be, perhaps, that Boston fans carry a bit of a grudge and just can’t wait to stick it to good ol’ Bill Parellos? It would be too much to ask for a gracious, thanks for all you did while you were here, nice to see you around again. Instead it is never mind that Parellos did play a pretty significant role in getting the Pats on track, he betrayed us and so now we must beat him down.

In all seriousness, the Patriots aerial attack led by Drew Bledsoe should have little trouble with the N.Y. Jets and Neil O’Donnell. But now that the game has been hyped beyond all reasonable proportion, one has to consider the Tuna Factor. Maybe it should really be called the Soup Opera Factor. What everyone really needs to do is calm down and play some football. I suppose that since there aren’t that many marquee matchups this week, football fans everywhere will just have to stomach all the gab, and just pray for a good game.

The picks, week three:

Arizona just squeezed out a close victory over Washington’s arch-rival, the Cowboys. Washington lost a close game last week to a bruising Pittsburgh ground attack. Arizona is looking better but Washington still wins in a close one.

The Giants are just a mess. Take Baltimore.

The Chiefs squeezed by Oakland on Monday night. An impressive victory for a team looking for something to jump start them. Look for Kansas City to give the Bills problems all day.

Carolina beat Atlanta 9-6 last week. Note to both teams: despite all the rule changes this year, touchdowns do in fact still count for seven big ones. Take Carolina over San Diego with a few touchdowns too.

Detroit playing Chicago is another classic NFC Central matchup. Too bad neither team is very good. Take da Bears.

The whooping noise heard all over Green Bay this past week was not a phantom’s tornado. Instead it was several Packer players experiencing post-Philly-traumatic-ego-deflation syndrome. After a serious attitude readjustment, the Pack will stomp the Dolphin this week.

San Francisco is still alive, despite injury and concussion. The Niners should continue to prove that Ditka outside Chicago just isn’t Ditka.

The Raiders are playing Atlanta in Atlanta. The significance of this is...? Take the Raider.

Tampa Bay in the Metrodome. I don’t mean to be harsh but, the Vikings are literally going to pillage.

Denver should walk all over St. Louis in the Mile High City.

Seattle and Indianapolis are playing in the latest installment of 90210. For our sake, hopefully they’ll both be killed off! Take the Seahawks.

The Jets and Tuna versus the Patriots and Pete Carroll. See above.

Patriots much, Jets little.

Monday Night Special: Philadelphia surprised Green Bay last week. Arizona upset Dallas. Nothing like a potential wild one here. I can’t figure out why I’m picking Philly for the upset... Oh yeah, because I despise Dallas.

Last week: 9-6, season record: 9-6.

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**A WORD ON...**

the lowly Jet

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