

UA Presidential Election To Be Re-Run Because of Violations

By Frank Dabek
NEWS EDITOR

The election for Undergraduate Association president and vice president has been nullified and will be re-run as a result of a judicial review board ruling on an anonymously filed appeal. The board found that Paul T. Oppold '99 violated election rules by sending e-mail to large numbers of people, tainting the election results.

The results of the other UA elections were, however, released after the board finished its deliberations. Pooja Shukla '99, Elsie Huang '00, and Andrew D. Montgomery '01 were victorious in their respective class presidential races.

In a letter addressed to the UA, the judicial review board called Oppold's mass mailings "inappropriate" and found them in violation of election procedures which state that e-mail may be sent only to personal acquaintances.

"There is probable cause that Oppold's two mass e-mailings... could have influenced the integrity of the election results," the letter said.

Oppold said that he expected the board to ask that the election to be

re-run but said that he "was surprised that they used my mass e-mails" as grounds to declare the election null and void. The board also addressed the methods by which Oppold obtained signatures and the validity of his original petition but recommended that no actions be taken on those points.

Oppold criticizes review board

Oppold also questioned the impartiality of the review board. He called the whole process "last-minute" and said, "[It's] almost like there is a conspiracy to get certain people to win."

Oppold noted that all of those serving on the board were nominated by UA President Dedric A. Carter '98 who is a former running mate of one of Oppold's opponents — Sandra C. Sandoval '00.

"Dedric hand-picked the man to be head of the judicial [board]," Oppold said. The review board is normally chosen by the outgoing UA president in order to maintain a division of power between the branches of government.

Carter, however, said that he "tried to stay as impartial as possible" in choosing the board and

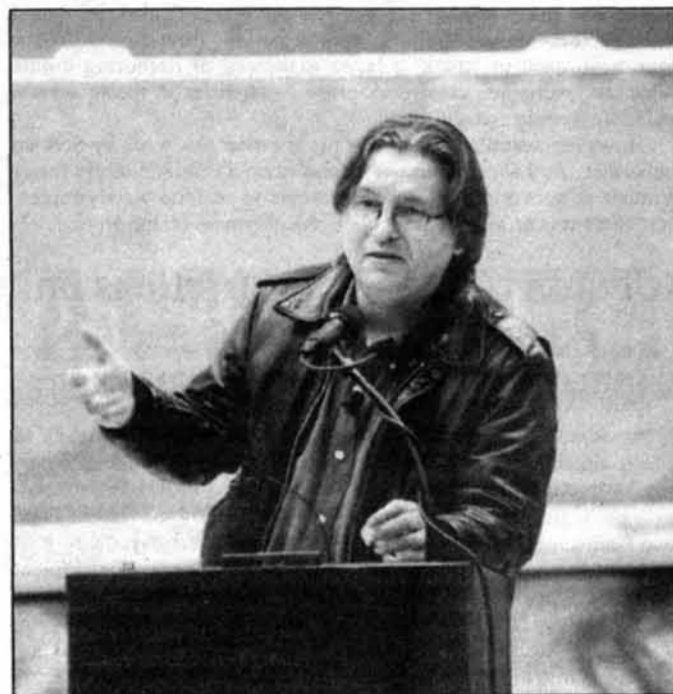
selected individuals who were removed from the issue. "Any question of impropriety... is ridiculous," Carter said.

Ashwin Viswanathan '98, chair of the board, said, "I believe that the committee was impartial." He stated that all of the members of the board knew Dedric but were not close friends with him. "None of the members of the Judicial review Board knew of the existence of these appeals when we were nominated," he said.

Jun S. Kim '99, who served on the board, said that the board was "a good mix of people" and said that the board was "fair for all parties." Kim said that she "didn't even think" about the link between Carter and Sandoval.

Oppold questioned whether election results influenced the board's

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Author Bruce Sterling reads selections from his work on the theme of "Media and Imagination" in 26-100 yesterday evening as part of a series sponsored by the Lecture Series Committee and the Film and Media Studies Department.

MIT Shines in Programming Contest, Putnam Math Exam

By Susan Buchman
STAFF REPORTER

MIT has been well-represented by its students in recent prestigious academic competitions. In the world finals for the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest, the MIT team placed first of teams from the United States and fifth overall.

The contest was held on February 28 in Atlanta, Georgia. The MIT team consisted of Daniel G. Adkins '01, Mihai Badoiu '01, and Hristo I. Bojinov '99. They were coached by Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Martin C. Rinard.

The teams had eight programs to code, test, and perfect in five hours. MIT and the other teams in the top

six all solved six problems. "The only, and very small, difference was time," Bojinov said. "We were very close to becoming world champions."

The team previously placed second at the regional competition, because they were poorly coordinated, but they practiced more for the world championship, Bojinov said.

"The preparation lasted for most of February," he said. "What we worked on together was team strategy — who solves what problems and when."

"At the actual competition we have a single computer and we need to make sure that we use this resource well," Bojinov said. "Thanks to our coach, Professor Martin Rinard, we were able to work together as a team very well by the finals."

MIT finished 4th on Putnam exam

MIT's team also placed fourth in the country in this year's William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. Although seventy-five MIT undergraduates took the exam, Federico Ardila '98, Constantin Chiscanu '00, and Amit Khetan '99 were chosen ahead of time by coaches, Professors of Mathematics Hartley Rogers and Richard P. Stanley to represent MIT as a team.

It was not their scores, but the ranking of their scores, that was used to determine the team results. The team's strong finish earned each member \$400, as well as a ten thousand dollar prize that will be put into the math department's Putnam Fund and will be used for

Contests, Page 14

Teams Design New Storage Systems In TBP Engineering Design Contest

By Krista L. Niece
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Nine teams competed for \$500 in prizes at the twelfth annual Tau Beta Pi engineering design contest.

The teams, which were composed of three or four freshmen and sophomores, met Tuesday evening for two hours to invent a creative, realistic solution to a specific design problem.

TBP, the national engineering honor society, is the event's sponsor. The society also holds the Leonardo da Vinci dinners and is responsible for MIT students being admitted to the Boston Museum of Science free of charge.

The contest, held in room 4-270,

had several purposes, said Anand Devendran '99, one of the organizers. These include letting undergrads know about TBP and to give them an "early idea of what engineering is about." The contest is also geared to teach the importance of teamwork and public presentation, "which we think are the essentials of being good engineers," he said.

Contest offers a practical problem

This year, the contest centered around a major problem currently facing MIT — the possibility of housing a significantly greater number of undergraduates in dormitories. The teams' task was to design a

2-by-3-by-6-foot organizer which would maximize storage space and minimize roommate conflicts.

"We try to make [the question] relevant to what the students have experienced at MIT," said Manolis E. I. Kamvyssdis '99, one of the event's organizers and a former contestant.

"Two years ago the design was for a snow-removal machine," Kamvyssdis said. "That was the year we got hit by a blizzard."

The participants agreed that the problem was close to home. "Right now I'm in a crowded double," said Daniel Ingram '01, a contestant.

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AGNES BORSZEKI—THE TECH

Soprano soloist Kathleen Campbell, accompanied on piano by Margaret Ann Martin, performs Victorian parlor songs yesterday at noon in the MIT chapel. Campbell created a 19th century atmosphere by telling anecdotes related to the songs and explaining the musical and historical background of the era.

The Vegetarian Gourmet celebrates the Great American Meatout with tips and tidbits about vegetarianism.

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Comics

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Representatives of the Counseling and Support Services office, the Dean's office, and the Medical Department will be available from 10-12 a.m. today in the Mezzanine Lounge of the Student Center to talk about any concerns raised by the death of Philip C. Gale '98.

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WORLD & NATION

U.S. Steps Up Pressure on Milosevic

THE WASHINGTON POST

BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA

The United States raised pressure on Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic Thursday, accusing him of carrying out "state terrorism" in Kosovo despite Western demands that he end a police crackdown in the embattled southern province or face more economic sanctions.

In Belgrade Thursday, Milosevic told the foreign ministers of France and Germany, Hubert Vedrine and Klaus Kinkel, he would withdraw Serbian paramilitary "special police" from Kosovo. They have been used to attack villages suspected of harboring ethnic Albanian insurgents, causing dozens of casualties in recent weeks, including women and children.

However, a similar pledge was made earlier this week by Serbian authorities. And as time ran out Thursday on a deadline set by major Western powers and Russia for Milosevic to end the bloody repression, there was no sign of any police redeployment on the ground.

Clinton to Loosen Restrictions on Money, Flights to Cuba

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Clinton has decided to allow Cuban Americans to resume sending money directly to relatives on the island and to permit charter flights from the United States to Cuba in an effort to capitalize on a changed atmosphere in Cuba inspired by the visit of Pope John Paul II, senior administration officials said Thursday.

In addition, the president will instruct the Treasury Department and other agencies to simplify licensing procedures for exporting medicine and medical devices to Cuba and to expedite the processing of license applications.

The White House is expected to announce the changes Friday, senior officials said. They described the president's decision as an effort to bolster the status of the Roman Catholic Church in Cuba and decrease the dependence of the Cuban people on state organizations.

Officials insisted, however, that the moves do not signal a weakening of the long-standing U.S. embargo on trade with Cuba.

WEATHER

Spring Reigns?

By Marek Zebrowski
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A complex weather pattern over the Northeast will bring several wet, cold and unsettled days. A murky Friday afternoon will be the official beginning of the Spring season, but — true to the New England tradition — the weather will only worsen, becoming winter-like! Late Friday, a low pressure system over the lower Ohio Valley will move northeasterwards, and possibly redevelop along the mid-Atlantic coast. With an arctic high poised to our northwest, the developing storm will gradually draw in cold air in low levels, and precipitation will turn from rain to mixed along the coast, and from mixed to snow inland. When this storm finally departs on Sunday, colder air will rush in from southern Canada, causing yet another chilly outbreak all over the Northeast. This winter-like pattern will continue into next week, when another storm is forecast to approach from the south, bringing more snows inland and cold rains for the coastal locations. Alas, Spring Reigns, but the cold rules!

Today: Cloudy and damp, with drizzle and spotty light rain likely. High 41°F (5°C)

Tonight: Cloudy, some fog near the coast. Stiffening northeasterly breeze as rain begins to develop around daybreak. Low 37°F (3°C)

Saturday: Cloudy with periods of rain. Becoming windy and quite brisk. High 36°F (2°C) with some wet snow and sleet mixing in later in the day near the coast. Inland locations are likely to experience an all-snow event.

Sunday outlook: Precipitation slowly tapering off. Raw, then turning colder late in the day. Highs only in the upper 30s (3-4°C), lows near freezing.

Travel Weather

Broadly speaking, the temperatures over the eastern half of the US will be well below normal from this weekend until the middle of next week. Lingering flurries will taper off over the Great Lakes and New England during Sunday and early Monday, but cold weather and another storm on Tuesday are in the cards for the Northeast.

After a miserable weekend, the Southeast will have a sunnier, but cool weather for the first half of next week, with chilly mornings inland. The conditions will improve, but another low pressure is due to drench the Louisiana and Alabama coastal areas by late Monday.

The west coast will (with the exception of the always fogged-up and drizzle-prone Northwest) be fair until Tuesday, when substantial rains associated with a Pacific storm are going to once again threaten northern and central California.

For the intrepid swimmers and surfers, the beaches of South Florida will be the best bet, with water temperatures generally approaching 70°F (21°C). The stormy weather of the past few weeks may make the Gulf waters especially a little choppy and muddy with sand and seaweed.

Dipping your toes is not recommended along the southern California beaches, where water temperature will be near 60°F (15°C). Rains, and strong winds moving in ahead of the Pacific depression on Tuesday may bring in nice storm swells along the Carlsbad/Oceanside beaches in the south as well as in the Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay area on the mid-coast, but a wet suit and good board are a must.

Airport delays are very likely all along the Northeastern Corridor, Appalachian region and the southern half of Florida on Friday and Saturday.

India Installs Nationalist Government Amid Concerns

By Kenneth J. Cooper

THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW DELHI, INDIA

India Thursday installed a new government dominated by Hindu nationalists committed to testing India's secular creed and free-market reforms but constrained by a tenuous grip on power.

The new government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, unlike the one he led for two weeks in 1996, is likely to survive an initial vote of confidence next week and remain in power long enough to build a record in office.

The direction that Vajpayee, a moderate, steers the new government could test the strength of the world's largest democracy, which was born in communal violence between Hindus and Muslims that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in 1947. The next year, independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic once associated with the

Hindu nationalist brotherhood that founded Vajpayee's party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as its political wing in 1952.

"Deep down in the hearts of Muslims, I sense apprehension," said Ashgar Ali Engineer, an Islamic scholar in Bombay.

Political circumstances would appear to check the new government from moving too far or openly toward the BJP's conception of India as "one nation, one people and one culture" — that of the Hindu majority. About 20 percent of India's 950 million people are not Hindu; Muslims, the largest religious minority, make up about 12 percent of the population.

Vajpayee has taken charge of a coalition government that is supported by more than a dozen smaller parties that, with one exception, do not share a Hindu nationalist orientation.

In addition, the coalition does not control a majority of seats in

Parliament's lower house. Even with the support of all its components' support, the 13-party coalition expects to survive a confidence vote scheduled for March 28 only by the grace of abstentions and vacant seats.

Since emerging from recent elections as the top-vote getter, the new ruling coalition has tried to extend its expected lifespan by moving toward the political center. The coalition agenda released Wednesday omitted Hindu nationalist issues that the BJP has previously emphasized and watered down its protectionist economic policies. BJP members sworn into the cabinet Thursday with Vajpayee are divided between moderates and hard-liners.

Vajpayee, 71, has also promised to try to build consensus on controversial legislation. The senior lawmaker, who served as foreign minister of a coalition government in the late 1970s, will double as foreign minister in the new government.

Governors Agree to Support 3-Year Ban on Internet Taxes

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The nation's governors agreed Thursday to support a three-year ban on special Internet commerce taxes in exchange for a promise by Congress to consider requiring electronic merchants to collect sales taxes after the moratorium.

The National Governors Association had opposed bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate to enact an Internet-tax moratorium, saying the freeze could deprive state and local governments of crucial tax revenue as electronic commerce becomes more popular. The governors' disapproval threatened to scuttle the bills, introduced by Rep. Christopher Cox (R-Calif.) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

Industry groups contend that imposing sales taxes on Internet transactions will slow the growth of electronic commerce and make it less appealing to consumers.

After three months of negotiations with the governors' association, Cox agreed Thursday to revise his bill, reducing the moratorium from six years to three. Cox's bill also would set up a "Commission on Internet Commerce" that after the

moratorium would propose a new system of levying state sales taxes on Internet and mail-order purchases.

The governors want to require Internet and mail-order merchants to collect sales taxes even if they do not have a physical presence in the state to which the goods are shipped. Currently, such businesses are not required to collect state sales taxes if they do not operate in the destination state; purchasers in 45 states and the District of Columbia, however, are required to send the appropriate sales tax to their state treasury, a rule that is largely flouted.

Because there are about 30,000 different tax jurisdictions nationwide, industry groups say that imposing a tax-collection requirement on merchants would create severe administrative burdens.

The governors want the commission to consider setting up a uniform national system of sales tax rules for electronic commerce and uniform rates for each state. By making those changes, they contend that the requirement would not be too cumbersome for merchants.

"Our goal is to ensure the system is fair," said Utah Gov. Mike

Leavitt (R) who spearheaded the issue for the governors association. "A person should be taxed fairly no matter where the purchase is made."

Wyden said he would not support the compromise. "This creates a plan that's going to create tens of billions of dollars in new taxes that will clobber small businesses," he said in an interview.

President Clinton has expressed support for both a moratorium and a commission to study new approaches to taxing Internet commerce. Cox emphasized that recommendations by the commission, which will have business, consumer and federal government representatives but will be dominated with state and local representatives, will have to proceed through the standard legislative process. "It will only be proposed legislation," Cox said. "It puts the issue on the table."

Wyden and industry lobbyists also object to a provision in the Cox bill that would allow states and local government to keep existing taxes on Internet access service and commerce. "It guts the whole moratorium," said Jill Lesser, the deputy director for law and public policy at America Online Inc. "It says that if you rush to enact a tax, you win."

Iraq Seems to Be Keeping Word In Allowing Access to Facilities

By Barton Gellman

THE WASHINGTON POST

Nearly a month after Iraq made fresh promises of access for United Nations weapons inspectors, the Baghdad government by all accounts is living up to its word for now. The results, said American and British officials at the core of the special U.N. panel's support, are decidedly a mixed blessing for the inspectors.

Last week the U.N. Special Commission, or UNSCOM, conducted nine of the most sensitive surprise inspections in its seven-year history — and came up largely empty, according to accounts emerging from the Clinton administration and British government.

That is neither surprising nor alarming to those who focus on the technical side of the long cat-and-mouse game with Iraqi weapons scientists, but the absence of fresh evi-

dence has not helped UNSCOM bolster its declining support in the Security Council and U.N. Secretariat.

Iraq's previous refusal to give inspectors entry to various "sensitive" and "presidential" sites — and its boycott of inspector Scott Ritter, a former U.S. Marine often described in Iraqi propaganda as an American spy — touched off a crisis in January that led to the brink of military conflict with the United States and Britain.

But Iraq backed off both positions in a Feb. 23 agreement with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. Diplomats in New York and Washington now say Iraq is on good behavior in hopes of killing the linked program of inspections and economic sanctions when it comes up for review in October.

To test Iraq's compliance, Ritter led an inspection team on Sunday,

March 8 into the new headquarters of Iraq's defense ministry — an event that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz once said would be "an act of war."

Not only was it the first time the facility had been inspected, but Ritter even surveyed Aziz's own office there, according to Clinton administration officials.

Ritter's team, which includes scientists and computer analysts who specialize in uncovering Iraqi concealment methods, made similar forays into offices of the Special Republican Guard and Special Security Organization, both run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's younger son Qusay.

UNSCOM Executive Chairman Richard Butler said on ABC television this morning that before the Annan agreement the inspectors had been refused entry to more than one of the sites.

Clinton's Testimony Confirmed And Attacked by New Evidence

By David Willman and
Alan C. Miller
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Evidence challenging the truthfulness of President Clinton's testimony about his personal dealings with two former White House aides appeared Thursday to become stronger in one instance and more muddled in the other.

A Beverly Hills, Calif., friend of former intern Monica S. Lewinsky testified before a federal grand jury after telling investigators that she was among those Lewinsky told of having a sexual relationship with Clinton. Both Lewinsky and the friend, 24-year-old Natalie R. Ungvari, attended Beverly Hills High School. Ungvari declined to

comment after she testified. The president has denied under oath having sexual contact with Lewinsky.

In a related development, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) said Thursday that, when Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr's investigation is complete, he wants a bipartisan panel of lawmakers to evaluate whether impeachment proceedings are warranted.

Meanwhile, new questions were raised about Kathleen E. Willey, the former White House aide who has told the grand jury and a national television audience that on Nov. 29, 1993, Clinton groped her near the Oval Office.

The editor of the supermarket tabloid Star said that his publication had tried without success to buy

Willey's account since last July, when her encounter with Clinton was first reported by CBS News.

Phil Bunton, the tabloid editor, said it was not until early last month that a lawyer representing Willey "suddenly seemed to bite."

Bunton said that the lawyer, Daniel J. Gecker, told a reporter for the tabloid Feb. 6 that his client "might be prepared to talk for at least \$300,000." "He [Gecker] told us that she had heavy debts and she needed to clear them and she needed at least \$300,000 to set herself straight," Bunton said.

Willey, 51, was paid no money for granting the prime-time interview that was broadcast Sunday night on CBS's "60 Minutes," according to a network spokesman.

New Mexican Nationality Bill Allows Expatriates to be Citizens

By James F. Smith
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MEXICO CITY

A Mexican law that takes effect Friday will allow millions of Mexican-born Americans and their children to hold Mexican nationality as well as U.S. citizenship.

Analysts say the law could have far-reaching practical effects — even potentially reshaping the flows of people and money between the United States and Mexico — and might set off cross-border political repercussions as well.

The Nationality Act revokes the previous rule that took away Mexican nationality from those who became citizens of another country. Furthermore, the new act broadens

eligibility for nationality to include children of Mexican-born people. And the law is retroactive: Those who would have met the revised terms in the past may now claim back their Mexican nationality. Those eligible have five years to apply.

The law permits Mexican dual nationality but not dual citizenship, a distinction that will prevent dual nationals from voting in Mexican elections or holding high office here. Some Mexican Americans are now pushing for full voting rights in Mexican elections.

Among the most significant changes in the new law is the removal of investment restrictions imposed on foreigners in Mexico,

which some expect to unleash greater capital flows by Mexican nationals to Mexico.

For example, Ramona Dominguez de Felix now plans to buy her coastal retirement home. Foreigners are barred from buying property within 100 kilometers of the frontier or 50 kilometers of the coast for national security reasons — a law written with Mexico's loss of half its territory to the United States in the 1800s still very much in mind.

"This will enhance the economic mobility of both countries, especially in the regions near the border," said Miguel Angel Gonzalez Felix, a senior Foreign Ministry official who helped craft the law and some of the constitutional reforms.

The Boston Globe

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OPINION

Trust Betrayed by Election Impropriety

The Undergraduate Association has plumbed new depths with the recent election debacle. *The Tech* editorialized in the past that the only way that the UA can improve its image and become a successful, relevant organization is by making measurable progress on specific issues. After the events of the past week, that goal has slipped further from reach.

In the wake of accusations of impropriety on the part of UA presidential candidate Paul T. Oppold '99, UA President Dedric A. Carter '98 made unethical nominations to a UA Judicial Board that he had allowed to lie dormant for a year. Students cannot have faith in any decision of this board because Carter was in a position to control the outcome of the Board's decisions. Particularly, Sandra C. Sandoval '00 is Carter's vice-president, and she stood to benefit from the decisions of the board. Carter should have accepted the decisions of the Election Commission or asked an independent party to make the Judicial Board nominations.

The board, once empanelled, made decisions that reinforced this image of impropriety. The board ruled that two mass

e-mails sent to a few hundred students had an irreversible impact on the outcome of the election. This is a ludicrous over-estimation of the effect of such e-mail. MIT students receive junk e-mail every day and simply delete it. The intention of the no e-mail rule is to reduce the nuisance factor, not to protect the "integrity of the election."

Furthermore, their judgement may have been clouded by knowledge of the election results. The UA election code states that the Judicial Board may not be barred from any meeting of the Election Commission, including the tabulation of votes. Even if the board did not exercise their right to view the results, it was common knowledge that Oppold had won. A similar case against Raymond W. Szeto '99, a candidate for president of the class of 1999, was dropped when it became clear that he lost the election anyway. Two similar incidents were dealt with in very different ways. This may lead one to suspect that the board was simply providing another chance for Sandoval to beat Oppold.

If the UA wants to be a useful and effective organization on campus, it must earn the trust of students. The UA stumbled badly with this election, and whoever is finally elected president will have to work hard to resuscitate the organization.



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Editorial

Letters To The Editor

Election Enforcement Not Even-Handed

The article in *The Tech* ["UA Election Results Delayed by Appeals," March 13] noted the charge against Raymond W. Szeto '99 of e-mail spamming his class.

But what about the other candidates? Why haven't their offenses been through the same scrutiny? Friends of mine, including juniors that don't even know her and sophomores for whom the letter was not intended, have complained to me that they have received unwanted e-mails from Pooja Shukla '99.

Shouldn't justice be fair? We have ostracized Szeto who was only eager to help out his class, and yet we overlook what the other candidates did. All of the candidates spammed. Why should only one be accused?

Joyance Meechai '00

Photograph Choice in Poor Taste

Although I did not know him personally, I was rather distraught when I found out about the tragedy involving Philip C. Gale '98 ["Gale Falls to Death from Green Building Classroom," March 17]. I was even more shocked to discover that *The Tech* had included a front page photograph of the base of the

Green Building some time after the incident had occurred. I would like to commend *The Tech's* for its news coverage in the past; it always reported issues and incidents with bare factual contents. However, it was poor photo journalism to include such a picture — one that would most likely recreate the terrible scene all over again. I would like to ask the staff to be more careful about what is important and what should be conveyed to the reading public. Broken pieces of wood and glass were not appropriate.

Victoria M. Gong '00

Comic Should Have Been Delayed

I am concerned about the content of Jennifer DiMase's comic strip "Perhaps" in the March 17 issue of *The Tech*. The first panel shows a student hanging himself because he couldn't use Athena. In light of the recent untimely death of Philip C. Gale '98, I found this to be highly inappropriate. It jumped out at me as soon as I saw the comic strip and leads me to think that the staff of *The Tech* did not show due diligence in letting this slip through. Sensitivity and support for those touched by this tragedy should be at the forefront of everyone's mind right now. I am not advocating censorship, but this strip should have been saved for another day.

Katherine J. Quinn G

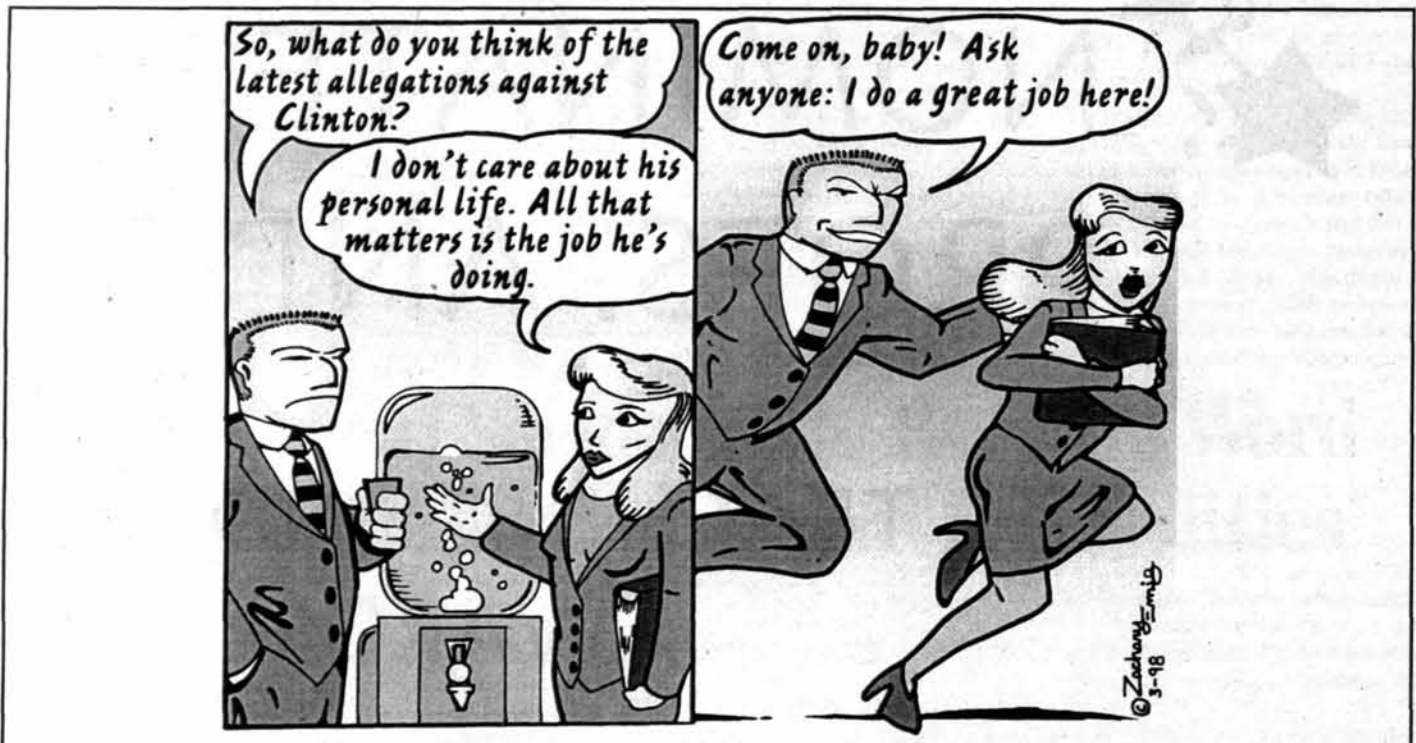
Lebanon Instigated War with Israel

This year's annual letter ["Israeli Occupation of South Lebanon Unjust," March 17] from the Arab Student Organization was an improvement over previous years, though not by much. The display in Lobby 7 brought up U.N. Resolution 425, and I entered into a long talk with the people there. In the talk, I found an interesting fact: In 1969 the Lebanese government signed an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization allowing the PLO to set up guerrilla bases in Lebanon (The Cairo Agreement). The agreement specifically states: "Palestinians resident in Lebanon are to be permitted to participate in the Palestinian revolution through the Armed Struggle and in accordance with the principles of the sovereignty and security of Lebanon."

This year's letter complains that Israel is fighting mostly Lebanese right now. Although that's true, if Lebanon allowed PLO guerrillas on its turf before, why won't it in the future?

Letters to *The Tech* in previous years described the Israeli invasion of Lebanon as "illegal" and a violation of Lebanese sovereignty. That is a case of the pot calling the kettle black. Lebanon committed an act of war when it signed that accord.

Omri Schwarz G



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions are accepted as well, although e-mail is preferable. Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two

days before the date of publication.

Letters must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech* and will not be returned. *The Tech* reserves the sole right to edit or condense letters. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters we receive.

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Evaluating Evacuation Day

St. Patrick's Day Might Be a Celebration of Immigration

Michael J. Ring

This past Tuesday, Suffolk County here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts marked a holiday apparently considered paramount to the history of the city of Boston: Evacuation Day.

Evacuation Day?

The holiday, celebrated each March 17 in the city of Boston and three other local municipalities, commemorates the day in 1776 when the British redcoats ended their occupation of Boston.

By some happy coincidence, March 17 happens to be Saint Patrick's Day. How fortuitous that Suffolk County, a region which has a large percentage of citizens of Irish descent, was able to find an event which just happened to coincide with the day of celebration of Irish culture.

Evacuation Day, as a historical event, is not of the same caliber as Patriot's Day or Bunker Hill Day. Those holidays commemorate the battles of the American Revolution fought here and serve to remind both us and the nation of Massachusetts' role in freeing the United States from British rule. Evacuation Day merely marks the day that the rump of the British contingency left this region to go attack other regions.

But there is merit for a holiday on March 17. More than a holiday for the Irish, it could be an Immigrants' Day. It would remind all Americans of the struggles and successes of their ancestors and serve to offer lessons for new groups of immigrants arriving to our nation.

Saint Patrick's Day reminds us of the contribution of the Irish to American society. It is a tale of the struggles of an immigrant population that was faced with blatant discrimination upon emigration from the Old Country, and then worked its way up through society to achieve high positions in business and politics.

The Irish Potato Famine of the late 1840s is perhaps one of the greatest human tragedies of the 19th century. A British government led by the sympathetic Robert Peel was forced from office in 1846, and the Irish received no support from the government of the United Kingdom. British landlords forced Irish tenant farmers off of their property so they could avoid feeding the starving farmers. The winter of 1846-1847 was one of the snowiest on record in Europe, further crippling the stumbling isle. Millions of Irish died from starva-

tion or disease in the late 1840s and early 1850s. While Ireland today is an independent, modern, industrial nation, the effects of the famine are still noticeable: Ireland is the only nation in Europe whose present day population is lower than it was in 1840.

The hundreds of thousands of Irish who emigrated to America in the 1840s and 1850s were faced with a harsh life as well. Many businesses in Eastern cities refused to hire the new immigrants; unemployment among the new immigrants was high. Large families were forced to live in cramped, squalid tenements, and inadequate health care led to high rates of disease.

The United States government had no help

More than a holiday for the Irish, it could be an Immigrants' Day. It would remind all Americans of the struggles and successes of their ancestors and serve to offer lessons for new groups of immigrants.

for the Irish immigrants in the 1850s; the North and the South were too busy fighting with words and preparing to fight with guns. That is not to say the Irish went unnoticed: in that decade anti-immigrant sentiment ran morbidly high. The Know-Nothing Party, whose platform was blatantly anti-immigrant, attracted significant political support in the 1850s.

But it did not take long for the Irish to assimilate into American culture. The immigrants cherished their jobs and worked hard to achieve success. In the factories of the East, the new arrivals toiled night and day to build themselves a better life. Gradually society overcame its stereotypes and became more accepting of the Irish-Americans.

Nor did the Irish turn away from government. Indeed, the success of the first immigrants was based in large part on their willingness to enter the political process. The Irish were a mainstay of the Democratic big city machines of the Gilded Age. By the turn of the century, this political involvement was reaping large dividends: mayoral and gubernatorial races featured Irish candidates with increasing frequency.

Even today in heavily Irish neighborhoods like South Boston, Charlestown, and West Roxbury, voter turnout is often 80 percent. The immense impact of the Irish have had in America has largely come through their respect for the ballot box. While many today approach government with apathy or are totally repulsed by the political process, Irish-Americans (myself included) still vote religiously and consider it a patriotic duty to become involved in government, at least at the local level.

The Irish were a large wave of European immigrants to reach the shores of this nation, but they were by no means the only ones. Germans, Scandinavians, Italians, Greeks, Poles, and Russians all followed in huge numbers. These groups, too, were met with discrimination upon their arrival but through hard work and political involvement rapidly became an integral part of America. Happily, many newer immigrants from Asia and Latin America are also succeeding in the United States of America.

Some new immigrants, however, are struggling. The problems they face today are largely the same ones the Irish faced 150 years ago. Scapegoating and a lack of available work are still challenges for new immigrants to overcome. But the spirit of a holiday such as Immigrants' Day would remind them of two tried and true rules for success.

First, new arrivals should not be discouraged by scapegoating. It is only by showing the fruits of their labor that they will be able to shatter the stereotypes of society. Perhaps our government should do more to help its new arrivals, but still the ultimate responsibility for success or failure rests with the immigrants themselves.

Second, the Irish experience should show the need for new immigrant groups to make their voices heard in the political process. It is no accident that neighborhoods that complain about a lack of representation have a low voter turnout. Only by getting to the ballot box can new arrivals make their voices heard in the halls of government.

This week, ground was broken on a new Irish Famine Memorial along the Freedom Trail on Washington Street, near the Old South Meetinghouse and Old State House. The memorial will certainly serve as a monument to the contribution of the Irish in this city, but it will also be a beacon of hope to new immigrants that with hard work and patriotic responsibility, the American Dream can be theirs. This is something we who are not ourselves immigrants often take for granted, and an Immigrants' Day holiday will remind us of our ancestors' struggle and these important values.

The Health of a Vegan Texan

Guest Column
David A. Carpenter

I've grown accustomed to folks doing a double-take. People I meet generally aren't very surprised to learn that I come from Texas: If the drawl doesn't give me away, my Texas T-shirts, my affinity for country music, or the Lone Star flag proudly hanging in my dorm room do. However, most people are usually astonished to discover that I follow a low-fat vegan diet. How can that be possible? Don't real Texans eat chicken-fried steak, chili, and barbecue, and then finish it all off with two big scoops of Blue Bell ice cream?

I did eat that way at one time, and I probably would have continued to follow the traditional culinary habits of my fellow Texans had my grandfather not suffered a heart attack and endured subsequent septuple-bypass surgery. This event made me realize that if I did not make some healthful changes, I stood a good chance of suffering some of these same problems later in my life. Last December I became a dietary vegan, and I have become convinced that it is the single most beneficial decision that I have ever made.

There is an abundance of evidence to support my decision. Perhaps the most convincing data come from Professor T. Colin Campbell of Cornell University and his China-Cornell-Oxford Project. It is the largest epidemiological study ever undertaken to relate diet to the risk of developing disease. A quick browse through the web site for this study (<http://www.human.cornell.edu/DNS/ChinaProject>) reveals some remarkable results. Among the rural Chinese, rates of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and arthritis were all far lower than those in the United States. On average, rural Chinese were found to consume 30% more calories than

Americans, yet their incidence of obesity was far less. These data are attributed to the low-fat, high-fiber, primarily vegan diet of the rural Chinese. Their diet contains about a third of the fat of American diets and more than twice as much plant starch.

On the other hand, urban Chinese consumed more food from animal sources, and they exhibited significantly higher disease rates. Why is this? This study says that animal protein may have a generally toxic effect on health. This finding directly supports veganism over lacto-ovo vegetarianism or meat-based Western diets.

Finally, one of the major conclusions of this study states, "Data from this study in rural China suggest that the highly sought after reduction in chronic degenerative disease incidence induced by [contemporary U.S. dietary guidelines] is not likely to come true. Instead, the findings... strongly indicate that a substantial change in American dietary patterns from animal based foods to plant based foods must occur for there to be a substantial change in disease incidence patterns."

The role of diet in causing or preventing disease is further demonstrated in landmark studies by Dr. Dean Ornish, M.D. (a Texan, by the way), now president and director of the nonprofit Preventive Medicine Research Institute in Sausalito, California.

Prior to Ornish's and subsequent studies, heart disease was thought to be treatable only with drugs or invasive surgery. Few believed that its progression could be halted, only slowed, and not reversed. However, Ornish showed that a group of patients with advanced heart disease could not only stop but reverse the progress of their illness by making fundamental changes in their lifestyles.

His experimental group switched to a very low-fat vegetarian diet (ten percent of calories from fat), stopped smoking, began a

moderate exercise program, and meditated daily. This group showed not only a slowing of their disease, but actual reversal in most cases. However, the control group, which followed the American Heart Association's 30% fat diet, got worse. As an added bonus, the experimental group lost an average of twenty-two pounds during the first year of the study even though they were eating more food, and more often, than before. These results point to a low-fat vegetarian diet as an effective means of improving overall health and well-being. These studies demonstrate that dramatically reducing or eliminating the amount of animal foods in our diets can have significant positive effects on our health.

I had to overcome a certain amount of pride in making my transition from a largely meat-based diet to a plant-based one. After all, what Texan would voluntarily give up meat? However, it has proven to be a very effective decision for me, as I have discovered a significant increase in energy and a decrease in my sleep requirement, both of which are good attributes for the MIT experience. So, if you've never eaten a meatless meal, I'd recommend that you give it a try — if this kid from Texas can do it, certainly you can. If you are worried about nutrition, read and educate yourself on the matter. Dr. Dean Ornish, M.D. and Dr. John McDougall, M.D. have both written several fantastic books outlining the health and appearance benefits of a low-fat vegetarian diet. You might be surprised to learn that vegetarians get enough protein without making complicated combinations of food.

Do you choose particular foods because they really make you feel well or because you have been trained to eat them? Changing to a vegetarian diet is a positive long-term lifestyle change. It will provide tremendous payoffs, not only immediately, but many years down the road.

Election, Perception, Machination

Dan Dunn



How is it that the Undergraduate Association has taken a perfectly good election system and driven it to its knees? Is it incompetence, or some malicious force within the UA?

The UA has not been a powerful force for several years. It used to be respected. It used to be a force to be considered when a decision was made, a group to be consulted before the final report was released. The leaders of the UA used to be perceived as leaders on campus. They had name recognition and were the first to speak for the students when a representative was needed.

There are two major elements to the UA's respectability. The first is that the group must be a visibly effective body. They have failed in that regard for quite a while. The second element is that students must have faith that their representatives were fairly elected. This recent election has shaken that faith to the core. It was not a single choice that did the damage, but a series of events.

The first flawed decision was to allow Floor Leader Paul T. Oppold '99 and Jennifer A. Kelly '99 on the ballot in the first place. They did not have the required 440 signatures to be placed on the ballot by the deadline. Oppold had collected enough signatures, but as part of a different team. The Election Commission, crazily enough, put Oppold and Kelly on the ballot anyway. The Election Commissioner, Seth Bisen-Hersh '01 was quoted as saying he "didn't want to penalize Oppold." Why not? Wasn't it Oppold's lack of signatures, Oppold's responsibility, that was the problem? Why was Bisen-Hersh protecting Oppold from his own mistakes?

The Election Commission is going to make mistakes, maybe not every year, but often enough. For this reason, and others, the UA created the Judicial Board. But this year's administration, and the previous one, decided that the Judicial Board represented an obstacle to progress. Don't ask me why they didn't like it; I haven't asked and I don't much care. But then they did something that was even more dangerous than legislating the group out of existence: they left the board empty.

So, the opponents of Oppold and Kelly were unhappy with the Election Commission. They checked the Constitution, and lo and behold, there was a Judicial Board to solve all of the problems. But because of the irresponsible and destructive behavior of the administration, it was empty. And conveniently, the Judicial Board is nominated by the UA President, Dedic A. Carter '98. And who are these opponents of Oppold? They are led by none other than Sandra C. Sandoval '00, Dedic Carter's running mate of last year.

How can an impartial Judicial Board be chosen? The vice president is running for president, as is the floor leader. The president makes the nominations. Can you tell me that the political leanings of the board were not a litmus test for their nomination? And when you study the membership of the five-person board, you find that two of the members are from Carter's living group, and a third is from where Sandoval lived last year.

Even if Carter claims that this Judicial Board is unbiased, the perception is there. This perception is just as important as the reality. The perception held by the public is what gives the UA legitimacy. By creating this Judicial Board, Carter created a huge problem of image, and therefore a problem of legitimacy.

The Judicial Board has the authority to know the results of the election that was just run. Did they see them? I don't know, but I suspect they did. And with those results in hand, they ruled the election invalid, using logic that is charitably described as questionable. Did they see that Oppold had won the first time? Did they seize an excuse to give their candidate, Sandoval, another chance? I can only speculate.

Where does this does leave us? Where does this leave the UA? We are all trapped in a bog of distrust and impotence. At this point, there is only one team I can trust. They aren't even on the ballot; I know they don't have cronies bending the rules. When this farce of an election reconvenes, I will be voting for Roger S. Cortesi '99 and Pat G. Moloney '99.

THE ARTS

The Vegetarian Gourmet

The Great American Meatout!

By Steven R. L. Millman
STAFF REPORTER

Greetings and salutations from the Vegetarian Gourmet on March 20, the day of the Great American Meatout! The Meatout is the world's largest annual grass-roots dietary education campaign, marking the first day of spring by encouraging our fellow Americans to go one day without animal products. The Meatout, like the Smokeout, is intended to help people kick the "meat habit" and encourage them to eat a diet healthy for their bodies, their environment, and their souls. This week the Vegetarian Gourmet will forego the usual recipes and restaurant reviews to speak a bit about the myths and realities of vegetarianism and throw out some interesting information. The Vegetarian Gourmet can be reached at gourmet@the-tech.mit.edu.

Myths and Realities

Myth #1: Vegetarians are sickly.

According to the World Health Organization, vegetarians as a group are among the healthiest people. There are no populations in the world which have both high meat intakes and low or average rates of colon cancer. There are also no populations in the world which have both low meat intakes and high or average rates of colon cancer. Vegetarians have considerably fewer problems with heart disease, high blood pressure, strokes, kidney disease, diabetes, peptic ulcers, gallstones, arthritis, irritable colon syndrome, hypoglycemia, constipation, diverticulosis, hypertension, osteoporosis, hemorrhoids (oh the humanity!), obesity, asthma, trichinosis, spongiform encephalopathy, food borne illnesses, and nearly all forms of cancer.

Myth #2: Vegetarians, especially vegans, don't get enough protein.

Even though this question was answered pretty definitively by Hardinge and Stare in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (2:73) way back in 1954, people still ask the Vegetarian Gourmet how he can possibly get enough protein. Despite what you might have been told in the bygone years of your impressionable youth, experts agree that only between 2.5 and 10 percent of calories one

consumes need to be protein. The National Academy of Sciences suggests that a useful rule of thumb is 0.57 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight. For a six foot four inch man of 200 pounds, this equates to about three ounces of steak or one cheeseburger. Any more protein than is needed by the body is released daily along with other wastes. Too much protein can be a health risk itself.

Almost all plant based foods have protein in more than sufficient quantities to provide what we humans need. Only certain fruits lack the marginal amounts required to live. A vegetarian would have to either be starving or eating nothing but kiwis and grapefruit in order to not get enough protein.

Myth #3: OK, vegetarians get protein, but only meat and dairy are complete proteins.

In order to survive, humans require twenty-two amino acids, the building blocks of protein. Of these, eight "essential" amino acids cannot be manufactured by the human body and must be ingested. Foods like meat and dairy products, which have all of the essential amino acids, are called perfect proteins. The argument is that vegetarians need to be careful to combine foods in order to get all eight essential amino acids with dishes like rice and beans.

However, virtually the only way to miss getting all of the essential amino acids you need is by eating the exact same food all the time. A diet of broccoli and water would be sorely deficient in terms of essential amino acids, but it would also be lack many vitamins, minerals, and other essential nutrients. A vegetarian diet with some variety provides all of the essential amino acids without fuss or worry. Finally, the soy bean, and hence tofu, tempeh, and their more processed derivatives, are all perfect proteins, equivalent in that respect to meat.

Myth #4: So vegetarianism is fine for adults, but children need animal products like milk for calcium and higher protein needs.

No doubt that the healthiest infants will those who who drink mother's milk as their exclusive menu for at least the first several months of post-partum life. But this is a far cry from saying that babies or older children need to drink cows milk or other animal products that don't come from mom. Nutritional

biochemist Dr. T. Colin Campbell has found that most children who ate meat consumed about ten times as much protein as necessary.

A series of studies show that animal products, no matter how rich in calcium, cause calcium depletion in the body, resulting in weaker bones (not stronger) and higher incidents of osteoporosis. In countries where animal protein intake is low, osteoporosis is nearly non-existent. There are no other species that consume milk past childhood, and, besides humans, no other species ever consumes another animal's milk. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that no children drink whole cow's milk during their first year. Cow's milk consumed by infants is known to be responsible for intestinal bleeding, indigestion, iron deficiency syndrome, juvenile diabetes, and is the leading cause of food allergies.

After about the age of four, human children stop producing certain enzymes which make the digestion of milk simple. While only 20 percent of Caucasians become seriously lactose intolerant as a result, more than two-thirds of people of African, Asian, Native American, and Mexican descent suffer from this condition which can cause bloating, vomiting, gas, cramps, headaches and asthma. Director of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Frank Oski says, "There's no reason to drink cow's milk at any time. It was designed for calves, it was not designed for humans, and we should all stop drinking it today, this afternoon."

Myth #5: Leave me alone, at least I'm not hurting anyone else.

Not exactly true. In addition to the enormous cost to our health care system (a proposal to put warning labels on red meat was recently crushed by the meat lobby), there is a tremendous environmental toll exacted by the meat industry. All over the world, forests are being cut down to create more grazing area for beef cattle. Since 1960, nearly half of all the Central American rain forests have been destroyed explicitly for this purpose. These rain forests are the primary source of oxygen and contain much of our biodiversity.

South American rain forests are also being toppled at an alarming rate to make room for beef cattle pastures. Think about that the next time McDonald's gives away toys celebrating Earth Day. Altogether over three million acres of crop land in the United States are lost to topsoil erosion each year as a result of raising livestock, and eight acres of forest per second are destroyed to create new land for grazing. In case you were wondering, each vegetarian saves one acre of trees per year by reducing his or her demand for meat.

In addition, livestock excrement in the U.S. alone amounts to 250,000 pounds per second, roughly twenty times what the human population produces. That excrement is not only the leading cause of topsoil erosion, it is also a leading cause of groundwater contamination.

More Myths and Realities in the weeks and months to come, but, for today, try twenty-four hours without meat. You might find you like it.

FAMOUS VEGETARIANS

Scott Adams (draws comic strip *Dilbert*)
Louisa May Alcott (author of *Little Women*)
Susan B. Anthony
Clive Barker (author of *Hellraiser* series)
Jeremy Bentham (philosopher)
William Blake
Berke Breathed (cartoonist)
Charlotte Bronte
Chelsea Clinton
Leonardo Da Vinci
Charles Darwin
Thomas Edison
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Amanda Feilen (vegan)
Mahatma Gandhi
Henry Heimlich M.D. (created Heimlich maneuver)
Krishnamurti Jiddu (spiritual teacher)
Steven Jobs (founded Apple Computer)
Franz Kafka
Carla Lane (TV script writer)
Milton
Alan Moore (comic book writer, *Watchmen*, *V For Vendetta*, *Marvelman*)
Sir Isaac Newton
Plato
Pythagoras
Sir C. V. Raman (Nobel prize-winning physicist)
Srinivasa Ramanujan (mathematician)
Serge Raynaud de la Ferriere (vegan, founded Universal Great Brotherhood)
Ruth Rendell (writer)
Jean Jacques Rousseau (writer and philosopher)
Albert Schweitzer (philosopher, physician, musician, clergyman, missionary)
George Bernard Shaw (writer)
Percy Shelley (poet)
Upton Sinclair (writer)
Isaac Bashevis Singer (Nobel Prize winner in Literature)
Peter Singer (philosopher)
Socrates
Colin Spencer (vegan food critic)
Chandrashekar Subrahmanyam (Nobel prize-winning astrophysicist)
Emanuel Swedenborg
Nikola Tesla (inventor)
The Vegetarian Gourmet!
Henry David Thoreau
Tolstoy
Mark Twain
Alice Walker (vegan)
Alan Watts (philosopher)
H.G. Wells (author)
William Wordsworth

A COLLECTION OF VEGETARIAN WEB SITES

World guide to Vegetarianism

<http://www.veg.org/veg/Guide/>
Vegetarian and vegetarian-friendly restaurants, stores, organizations, and services

Vegetarian Central

<http://www.vegetariancentral.org/>
Links, search engine

Vegetarian Pages

<http://www.veg.org/veg/>
Information, links

Vegan Action

<http://www.vegan.org/>
Information, activist

Vegetarian Resource Center

<http://www.tiac.net/users/vrc/vrc.html>
Information, links, community organizations

International Vegetarian Union

<http://www.ivu.org/>
Great information in at least 17 languages

Vegetarian Resource Group

<http://www.vrg.org/>
Publisher of Vegetarian Journal, information, online games

MIT's Vegetarian Support Group

<http://www.mit.edu/activities/vsg/home.html>
Information, events, restaurant reviews, recipe, and links

North American Vegetarian Society

<http://www.cyberveg.org/navs/>
Information, events, community organizations

EarthSave

<http://earthsave.org/index.html>
Information, events, community organizations, activist

VegSource

<http://vegsource.org/>
Information, discussion boards, recipes (over 5000), events, links

FACTS ABOUT VEGETARIANISM

Increased risk of breast cancer for women who eat meat daily compared to once a week: 3.8 times

For women who eat eggs daily compared to once a week: 2.8 times

For women who eat butter and cheese 2-4 times a week: 3.25 times

Average U.S. man's risk of death from heart attack: 50 percent

Risk of average U.S. man who eats no meat: 15 percent

Risk of average U.S. man who eats no-meat, dairy or eggs: 4 percent

Amount you reduce risk of heart attack if you reduce consumption of meat, dairy and eggs by 10 percent: 9 percent

Amount you reduce risk of heart attack if you reduce consumption by 50 percent: 45 percent

SOURCE: DIET FOR A NEW AMERICA BY TOM ROBBINS

MOVIE REVIEW

If you've seen Chan, you've seen them all

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Sammo Hung
With Jackie Chan, Richard Norton, Gabrielle Fitzpatrick, Miki Lee, Karen McLymont

As a free reader service, we're offering a buy one/get one free feature! This piece features 2 (two) reviews of *Mr. Nice Guy* for our gentle patrons!

The first one is for people who have never seen a Jackie Chan movie before: What are you waiting for? Granted, this movie features the worst screenplay in recent memory (yes, worse than *Switchback*), with groan-inducing acting, appalling overplotting, lots of gratuitous violence, and so on. On the other hand, it stars Jackie Chan, and, as such, it features stuff that you've never seen on screen before and will never ever see

in a movie without Chan. Be prepared to see amazing stunts (all performed by Jackie himself) and some of the best physical comedy since Buster Keaton played Sherlock Jr.. It's fun watching the total abandon with which he battle the countless opponents with tools as varied as wheelbarrows, concrete mixers, giant inflatable dinosaurs, monster trucks, and chili peppers.

Now, for the people who have seen Jackie Chan movies before, this one is a mixed bag; on average, perhaps the weakest of the recent American releases (*Rumble in the Bronx*, *Supercop*, *First Strike*, and *Operation Condor*). The plot is a rough rewrite of *Rumble in the Bronx*: Jackie gets his hands on a McGuffin and is pursued by a gang of punks and an army of black-suited criminals. Chan spends most of the time in one of three activities: chasing the bad guys, being chased by the bad guys, and fighting the bad guys.

The first half of the movie is quite off-putting — situations are cliched, the plot is beyond cliched, and the film induces more groans than wows. Acting is non-existent: Making Jackie's character a TV chef was a bad idea to begin with, since it's not really utilized, and it leaves him stranded without a firm grip on his character (although he can act, as he shows in his takes on James Bond in *First Strike* and Indiana Jones in *Operation Condor*). The initial promise of a capable female partner (investigative TV reporter Diana, played with some verve by Gabrielle Fitzpatrick) evaporates very soon, when Diana is reduced to running around in her underwear. By the end she is completely forgotten. What's worse, the violence (the non-Jackie-perpetrated kind) is disturbing and clashes with the lighter mood of the physical comedy. The fact that every third shot has some form of product placement (albeit some

of which are quite creative) doesn't help much.

The movie picks up noticeably in the second half, when several things come together. One of the biggest is that the villainous drug dealer Giancarlo (Richard Norton) begins taking an important role. Norton is highly entertaining as a compulsively-clean and cowardly bully (his house is a marvel of interior decorating and is visually a treat as well). In addition, the action set-pieces become highly inventive and funny, causing both gasps of disbelief and fits of laughter. One sequence, set in a half-finished building of concrete walls and blue doors, is a gem.

If you haven't seen *Supercop* or *Operation Condor*, rent them — they are both better. But if you have, and think that Jackie already did everything that can possibly be done by a human, see *Mr. Nice Guy* and you'll change your mind.

MOVIE REVIEW

Dangerous Beauty

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Marshall Herskovitz

Written by Jeannine Dominy, based on the biography *The Honest Courtesan* by Margaret Rosenthal

With Catherine McCormack, Rufus Sewell, Oliver Platt, Jacqueline Bisset, Moira Kelly, and Fred Ward

Dangerous Beauty has all the trimmings and trappings of a romance novel: a gorgeous period location (16th century Venice), a beautiful and spirited female lead (Catherine McCormack as Veronica Franco), a handsome love interest (Marco Venier as Rufus Sewell), resplendent costumes and sets filmed glowing with golden light, and a romance plot which keeps the heroes apart by throwing at them every single obstacle that comes to mind. In order to stay together, Franco and Sewell must combat class inequality, financial disparity, jealousy, marriage of convenience, war, plague, and the Holy Inquisition. This story sounds overwhelming, but it is pulled off with such skill and conviction that the audience is quite entertained throughout.

Veronica is young, smart, and beautiful, but she is also poor. This fact, in the year 1583 or so, makes it impossible for her to marry her much richer and much more noble sweetheart Marco. The option of going to a convent does not appeal to Veronica, so she chooses something diametrically opposite: She becomes a courtesan — a sort of a high-paid prostitute for noblemen. Paradoxically, this gives her as much freedom a woman can have in Venetian society and makes her truly an equal to men.

Veronica proves her equality by writing poetry, having her say in political matters, and engaging in both wordplay and swordplay with equal grace. The notion of promiscuity being liberating (in general sense) is never mentioned explicitly, but is quite startling and worth pondering.

If *Dangerous Beauty* took itself a bit more seriously, however, it could have been a bit better. The romance gloss is fine as long as it doesn't distract from the story. In addition, some grave themes, like the plague epidemic and the encounter with the dangerously unstable monarch, are not used as anything beyond convenient plot points. They deserved to be treated with more gravity. However, the movie is easy on the eyes (especially McCormack's performance, which is quite extraordinary), and challenging to the brain, which is quite an achievement.

MIT dates & deadlines

Upcoming student deadlines and other important Institute dates

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

Date	Who	What	Where
Monday, March 23, through Friday, April 16			
Mon-Fri 3/23-27	All students	Spring vacation	
Mon 3/30, noon	Undergraduates	4th qtr PE lottery ends	Athena: "add pelott" (ret) "xphedu &" (ret)
Mon 3/30	Freshmen	K. Hodges' contest essays due	7-104, 3-6786
Mon 3/30	Undergraduates	Eloranta summer research fellowship application deadline	http://web.mit.edu/urop/www/directohtml#eloranta ; 7-103, 3-7306
Mon 3/30	Undergraduates & faculty	Deadline for faculty to nominate students for Wei UROP award	Faculty research supervisor; http://web.mit.edu/urop/www/directohtml#wei ; 7-103, 3-7306
Tue 3/31	Students who missed PE lottery or who want to add another PE class	4th qtr PE late registration begins	W32-125, 3-4291
Thu 4/2	Undergraduates	Deadline for UROP proposals for academic credit	http://web.mit.edu/urop/www/ ; 7-103, 3-7306
Thu 4/2	Undergraduates	Deadline for UROP proposals for faculty funding	http://web.mit.edu/urop/www/ ; 7-103, 3-7306
Fri 4/3	Undergraduates who want to move	Deadline for house to house change request form	http://web.mit.edu/residence/www/forms/index.html ; W20-549, 3-6777
Fri 4/3	Undergraduates staying a 9th term	Deadline for 9th term housing request	W20-549, 3-6777
Fri 4/10	All students	Applications for summer housing available	http://web.mit.edu/residence/www/forms/index.html ; W20-549, 3-6777
Fri 4/10	Graduate students graduating in June	Last day to submit or change thesis title (\$75 late fee)	Acad. dept; and D. Englehardt, SSC, 8-6434
Thur 4/16	Students doing summer UROPs	Last day for proposals for direct UROP summer funding	7-103, 3-7306

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

Undergraduate Association

Coming Events:

BATTLE OF THE CLASSES

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH...

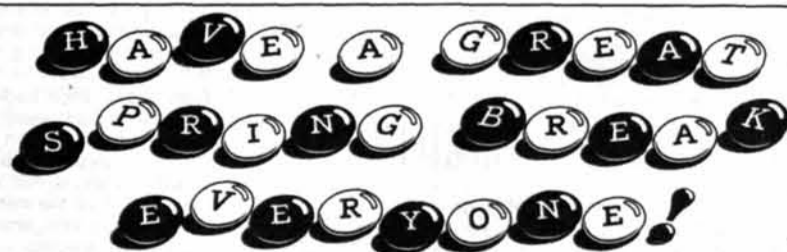
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. VIGIL

Watch out for more information on these events...

Hey Undergraduates!

What kind of changes would you like to see around here? What issues do you really care about?

Contact your UA Representatives and let them know what you think...



Popular Music

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Information: 262-2424.

Mar. 27: They Might Be Giants, with Lincoln and Double Dong.
Apr. 15: Sister Hazel.
Apr. 17: The Specials.
May 2: Our Lady Peace, with Black Lab and Headswim.

Berklee Performance Center

136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. Tickets: 931-2000.
Mar. 21: Victoria Williams, with Chris Stills. \$19.50.

The Palladium

261 Main Street, Worcester. Tickets: 423-NEXT.
Apr. 11: Squirrel Nut Zippers. \$17.50.

Somerville Theater

Davis Square, Cambridge. Tickets: 628-3390 or 931-2000.

Mar. 21: 6th Annual Festival of Women Songwriters, featuring Mindy Jostyn, Mica Richards, Faith Soloway, Elizabeth Von Trapp, and Eddie from Ohio. \$16 and \$15, students and seniors \$2 off, add \$1 day of show.

Apr. 17: String Cheese Incident, Jiggle the Handle with Kellar Williams.
Apr. 23, 24: Guster, with Emmett Swimming (Apr. 23), Mysteries of Life (Apr. 24).
Apr. 26: Jonatha Brooke, with Dee Carstensen. \$20.
May 8: Babatunde Olatunji, with Abdoul Doumbia and his West African Drum Ensemble.

Providence Civic Center

1 LaSalle Square, Providence. Tickets: 931-2000.
Apr. 4, 5: Phish. \$25. Both shows sold out.

The Orpheum Theatre

Hamilton Place, Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT. Information: 679-0810.

Apr. 3: Steve Miller Band. \$36, \$26.
Apr. 24: Medeski, Martin, & Wood, and DJ Logic
May 5, 6: Bonnie Raitt, with Keb Mo. \$36, \$26.

The Roxy

279 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Information: 281-6946.

Apr. 1: An evening with Strangefolk. \$14.
Apr. 5: Reverend Horton Heat, with Face & The Mighty Blue Kings. \$16.50.
Apr. 10: Spring Funk Fest, featuring Liquid Soul and Brooklyn Funk Essentials. \$20 advance, \$23 door.
Apr. 14: Funk Music Festival, featuring Maco Parker, Fishbone, and Five Fingers of Funk. \$25.

Paradise Rock Club

967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT. Information: 562-8800.

Mar. 20: Fat Bag, with Epileptic Disco.
Mar. 22: Joe Satriani, with The Derek Trucks Band.
Mar. 25: The Aware Tour featuring Gibb Droll, Thanks to Gravity, Train.
Mar. 27: Space Monkeys, with Ivy, Door.
Mar. 28: Splashdown, with Betwixt.
Apr. 1: Whiskeytown.
Apr. 3: Percy Hill.
Apr. 4: Babaloo, with John Browns Army.
Apr. 7, 8: Leftover Salmon.
Apr. 11: Marc Cohn.
Apr. 13: Mono.
Apr. 16: Slipknot.
Apr. 17: Superdrag, with Apple in Stereo and Tuscadereo.
Apr. 18: Chapter in Verse, with Ben Swift Band.

The Middle East

472 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Information: 497-0576.

Mar. 20: Rocket From The Crypt.
Mar. 21: The Damned, Tura Satana, Man Will Surrender.
Mar. 22: John Brown's Body, Motion, The Mighty Charge.
Mar. 25: Lagwagon, Ducky Boys, Carpet Patrol.
Mar. 26: Hypnotic Clambake, Smokin' Grass, Acoustic Syndicate, Larry Keel Experience.
Mar. 27: Canine, Viper House, Miracle Orchestra.
Mar. 28: Helium, Sleater-Kinney, Fan Modine.
Mar. 29: Sleater-Kinney, Helium.
Mar. 31: Rorschack Multi-Media Event with Roger Miller of Binary System, Jake Trussle of Toneburst Collective.
Apr. 1: Los Fabulosos Cadillac, Cherry Poppin' Daddies.
Apr. 2: Skatalites, Let's Go Bowling.
Apr. 3: The Fall, Bush Tetras, Botswanas.
Apr. 4: The Charlie Hunter Quartet, Galactica, Pound for

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
March 20 - April 2
Compiled by Joel M. Rosenberg

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



Mindy Jostyn, Mica Richards, Faith Soloway, Elizabeth Von Trapp, and Eddie from Ohio, featured participants in the Sixth Annual Festival of Women Songwriters, will play at the Somerville Theater Saturday night.

Pound.
Apr. 5: The Elevator Drops, Godboy.
Apr. 6: The Promise Ring, Jimmy Eat World.
Apr. 9: Aaron Flynn, 3 Percent, Cottonmouth.
Apr. 10: Bim Skala Bim, Big D & the Kids Table.
Apr. 11: TR3 (featuring Tim Reynolds), Agents of Good Roots, SameAsYou.
Apr. 14: Superchunk.
Apr. 16: Third Eye Blind.

Great Woods

Tickets: 423-NEXT or 423-6000.
Jun. 3, 5: James Taylor. \$36 pavilion, \$20 lawn.
Jun. 21: WKLB Boston Country Festival, featuring Randy Travis, Joe Diffie, Martina McBride, Lee Roy Parnell, Jo Dee Messina. \$28.50 pavilion, \$18.50 lawn.
Aug. 26, 28, 30: Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band. \$51, \$39.50 pavilion, \$26 lawn. On sale Mar. 21 at 9 a.m., limit 4 pavilion, 8 lawn.

Jazz Music

Regattabar

Charles Hotel, Harvard Sq., Cambridge. Information: 661-5000.
Mar. 20: Roomful of Blues.
Mar. 21: Rebecas Parris with Ian Shaw and the Kenny Hadley Big Band.

Sculler's

400 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Information: 562-4111.
Mar. 20, 21: Jimmy Scott.
Mar. 25: Carol Akerson, with Bob Winter and Herb Pomeroy.
Mar. 26, 27: Monty Alexander and Yard Movement.
Mar. 29: Fatal Mambo.
Apr. 1: Bo Winiker Band, with Herb Pomeroy.
Apr. 5: Fairport Convention.
Apr. 18, 19: Chuck Mangione.

Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church

1555 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Information: 253-8778.
Mar. 28: Aardvark Jazz Orchestra.

Theater

Macbeth

La Sala de Puerto Rico, MIT Student Center. Tickets and Information: 253-2903. Mar. 20-21. Tickets: \$6 students and seniors, \$8 general public. Group rates available.
Directed by Tony Simotes, MIT's Shakespeare Ensemble presents the Bard's classic tragedy.

Iolanthe

Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and

Sullivan Players. Agassiz Theater, Radcliffe Yard, Harvard. Information: 496-HRGS. Tickets at Sanders Theater Box Office, 45 Quincy St, Cambridge. 496-2222.
Apr. 2-5 and 9-11. Opening night black tie required. Closing night hack night. Produced by Jesse Kellerman and Eileen Woo. Directed by Vladimir Zelevinsky G. Music directed by David Lyczkowski.
A tale of a lovelorn shepherd, his fairy mother, her magical sisters, and their fight with the Britain's House of Lords. Combining whimsical humor, political satire, and romantic drama, "Iolanthe" is a spectacle to be remembered, featuring W.S. Gilbert sharp dialogue and highly quotable lyrics and Arthur Sullivan's hummable tunes.

Molly Sweeney

Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. Information: 491-2026, through March 29. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday (March 29 only). Tickets \$17 to \$20; \$15 for seniors and students.
The award-winning Nora Theatre Company presents the Boston premiere of Brian Friel's three-hander about a blind, married woman who, at her husband's behest, undergoes a series of operations to restore her sight. "In an almost musical counterpoint, the characters reveal the story of Molly's world before and after surgery and her clash with 'sightedness.'" Scott Edmiston, who staged Friel's Dancing at Lughnasa at Worcester Foothills Theatre, directs a cast that includes Judith McIntyre, Paul Kerry, and Richard Mawe.

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston. 426-6912. Playing indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. There are additional performances at 4 p.m. on February 20 and 21. Tickets \$35 to \$45.
It would be difficult and unfair to catalogue fully the antics of the Drama Desk Award-winning trio of cobalt-painted bald pates who have settled into long runs Off Broadway and at the Charles Playhouse. They begin their delightful and deafening evening of anti-performance art beating drums that are also deep buckets of primary paint, so that sprays of color jump from the instruments like breaking surf, and end by engulfing the spectatorship in tangles of toilet paper.

Wait Until Dark

Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont Street, Boston. Information: 423-4008. Through March 22. Tickets are \$35 to \$62.50. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

Oscar winners Quentin Tarantino and Marisa Tomei star in this Broadway-bound revival of Frederick Knott's 1966 thriller about a blind woman menaced by a real scary guy. Leonard (Master Class) Foglia directs.

Oscar Wilde: Diversions and Delights

Copley Theatre, 505 Boylston Street, Boston. Information: 266-7262. Through April 5. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, with 3 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$29.50 to \$38.50.
A one-person show written by John Gay and featuring well-known West Coast theater veteran Ken Ruta as the eminently quotable author of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The play is set in 1899 in a dilapidated Paris opera hall which Wilde, impoverished, disgraced, and exiled following his stint in prison for sodomy, has rented for a lecture in pursuit of quick cash.

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe

Threshold Theater at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street, Boston. Information: 426-0320. Through April 4. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$15; \$12 for seniors and students.
Kate Caffrey heads an ensemble staging of Jane Wagner's play. Lily Tomlin played all the parts in the original version, from Trudy the Bag Lady, giving her extraterrestrial companions an introduction to earth, to unemployed aerobics addict Chrissy to angry young performance artist Agnus Angst to earnest Lynn, whose feminist journey is a play in itself.

The Taming of the Shrew

American Repertory Theatre at the Loeb DramaCenter, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Information: 547-8300. Through March 21. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Mar. 12, and 17 through 21, and at 7 p.m. on Mar. 15; there are matinees at 2 p.m. on Mar. 15 and 21 and at 10 a.m. on Mar. 18 and 19. Tickets are \$22 to \$52; discounts for seniors and students.
Andrei Serban, who helmed such memorable American Repertory Theatre outings as "The Three Sisters" and "The King Stag", makes his mark on the Bard's politically incorrect comedy in which mercenary wooer Petruchio "tames" a headstrong wife. Surprisingly, Serban does not send up the play's most troublesome speech, ex-shrew Katharina's 44-line ode to female abasement; instead he makes it part of a rite of mutual surrender and marital complicity. Kristin Flanders and Don Reilly, who first unleashed their combined Life Force locally in last season's *Man and Superman*, are a well-matched Kate and

Petruchio, but even a pair as talented as they have trouble establishing themselves as the headliners of this zany circus of Shakespearean sexism and directorial invention. You may be incensed, but you won't be bored.

Boston Ballet

"Ode to Joy," featuring Lila York's uplifting premiere of same name, set to Beethoven's celebrated choral work, George Balanchine's "Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra," and Daniel Pelzig's "Cantabile." Through Mar. 29.

Dance Umbrella

"Jazz Tap/Hip-Hop: Cool Heat with an Urban Beat," born out of an understanding that a stage can share rapid fire taps with handstands, headspins and splits, by artistic director Jeremy Alliger. Mar. 19 at 7 p.m., Mar. 20 and 21 at 8 p.m., Mar 22 at 2 p.m. at the Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont St., Boston.. Tickets: 824-8000, student rush on day of show. Info: 482-7570.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre

April 14 through 19 at the Wang Center. Call 482-6661 for information.

Exhibits

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. 723-2500. Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday through Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. Free with MIT ID. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors.
The Museum features the theater of electricity and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center," "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit," "Welcome to the Universe." Through Apr. 26: "Balancing Acts."
Through May 3: "Living on the Edge." Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.: "Reminiscences: McKinley-Matterhorn-Everest," lecture by Bradford Washburn.
Now showing in the theaters: "Laser Space Odyssey," Friday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m. "Laser Grateful Dead," Sunday, 8 p.m.; "Laser Rage Fest," Thursday through Saturday, 9:15 p.m.; "Pink Floyd: The Wall," Friday through Saturday, at 10:30 p.m.; "Laser Doors," Sunday at 9:15 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. 267-9300, Monday through Tuesday, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thursday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thursday through Friday until 9:45 p.m. Admission \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 are free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thursday through Friday, free Wednesday after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, free with MIT ID. Introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Ongoing exhibitions: "Beyond the Screen: Chinese Furniture of the 16th and 17th Centuries"; "The Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Ancient Americas." Through Apr. 12: "America Draws."

Computer Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. 423-6758 or 426-2800, Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$7, \$5 for students and seniors, free for

children under 5. Half-price admission on Sunday from 3-5 p.m. Tours daily of "Walk Through Computer 2000," a working two-story model of a PC. Museum features a collection of vintage computers and robots with over 150 hands-on exhibits illustrating the evolution, use, and impact of computers. Featured exhibits include "The Hacker's Garage," a recreation of a '70s hacker's garage with such items as an Apple I and Pong, "The Networked Planet: Traveling the Information Highway," an electronic tour of the Internet; "Robots and Other Smart Machines," an interactive exhibition of artificial intelligence and robots, and "Tools & Toys: The Amazing Personal Computer"; "People and Computers: which Milestones of a Revolution," explores a number of ways computers impact everyday life. Through May 31: "Wizards and their Wonders: Portraits in Computing."

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. 566-1401. Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wednesday), free for children under 18. The museum houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m. Through Apr. 26: "Titian and Rubens: Power, Politics, Style."

Swatch Museum

57 JFK St., Cambridge. 864-1227. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. Ongoing: Swatch watches by Keith Haring, Christian LaCroix, Sam Francis, and others.

MIT Museum

265 Massachusetts Ave. 253-4444. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission \$3.
Ongoing: "Gestural Engineering: The Sculpture of Arthur Ganson"; "Lightforest: The Holographic Rainforest"; "Holography: Artists and Inventors"; "MIT Hall of Hacks," chronicles of MIT's history of pranks, wit, and wizardry; "Light Sculptures by Bill Parker"; "Math in 3D: Sculptures by Morton G. Bradley, Jr."; "MathSpace," a hands-on exploration of geometry.
Through June 14: "Piranesi in Perspective: Designing the Icons of an Age."

List Visual Arts Center

Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St. 253-4400, Tuesday through Thursday, Saturday through Sunday, noon-6 p.m.; Friday, noon-8 p.m. Through Mar. 22: Francisc Torres, "The Repository of Absent Flesh" and "The Fury of the Saints"; Wendy Jacob with Temple Grandin, "The Squeeze Chair Project."

Rhode Island School of Design

224 Benefit St., Providence, RI. Museum of Art. 401-454-6502. Wednesday through Thursday and Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission \$2, \$1 for seniors.
Through Apr. 5: "Working the Stone: Process and Progress of Lithography."
Through Apr. 19: works by Geoffrey Beene.
Through Apr. 26: "Artistic Expressions from the Human Spirit: Selections from the Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin American Art."
Ongoing: "Color and Form: 20th Century American Paintings from the Permanent Collection," Woods-Gerry Gallery, 62 Prospect St. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Through Feb. 15: "Sculpture Department Exhibition."

Talks

Poetry and Music: Emily Dickinson

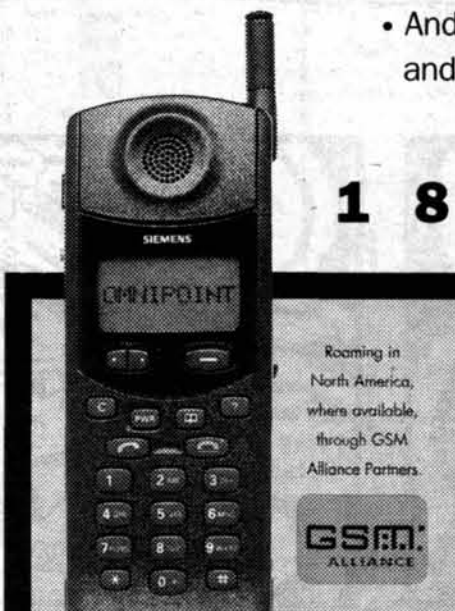
Mar. 30, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Killian Hall (14W-111). A joint literature and music lecture will be offered by Professor of Literature John Hildebidle and Professor Music and Theater Arts Peter Child. The talk will focus on the poetry of Emily Dickinson and how to set it to music. The class will feature a performance of Peter Child's "Emily Dickinson Songs" by Janna Baty, soprano, and Elaine Chew G. piano and will include the premiere of two new songs. The lecture is part of Hildebidle's class Major Poets (21L.004), and is made possible by the Kelly Fund at MIT.

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COMICS

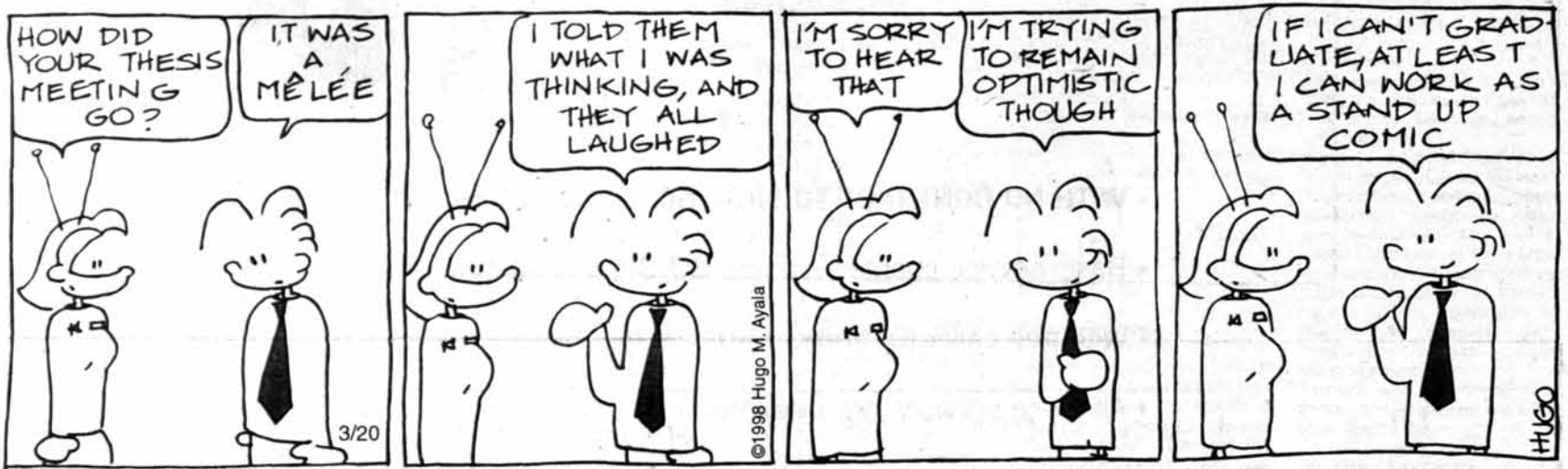
FUN PAGES

damned for life

by Jessica



Off Course
by Hugo



bartholemew squeak



Perhaps...

By Jennifer DiMase

... SPRING BREAK '98 ...

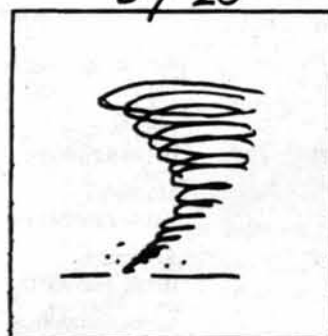
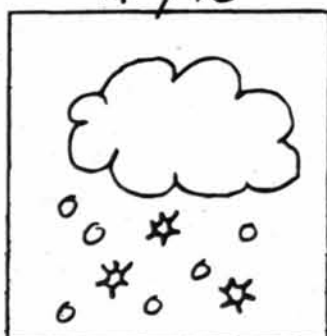
21°/30°

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6°/20°

2°/10°



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

DAMN EL NIÑO!

DIMASE



RHINO MAN



THE STORY SO FAR: Mariko is dead, having committed suicide in shame after the accusatory press leaks. While at her grave site, Rhino-Man was contacted by the Yakuza to arrange a meeting with boss Shimuraka.

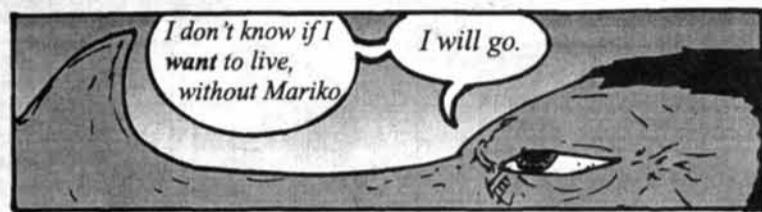
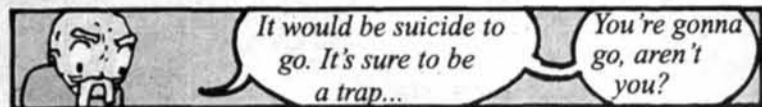
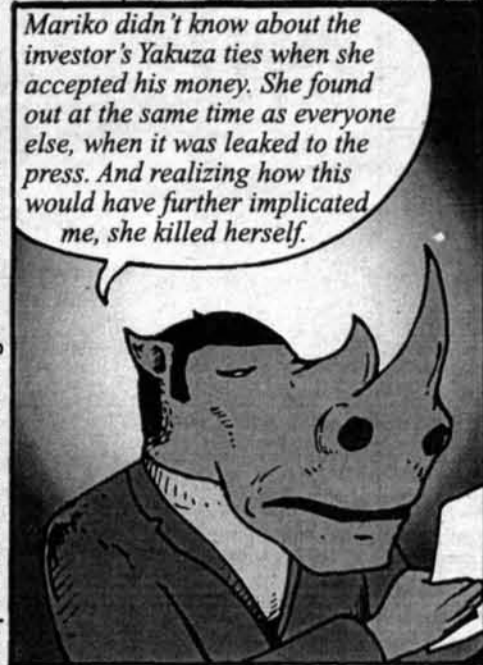
by Zachary Emig



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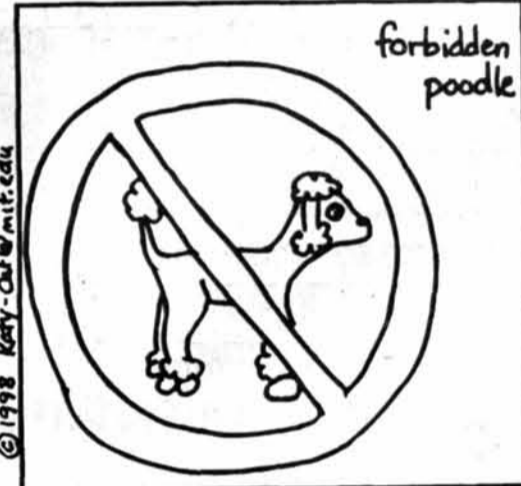
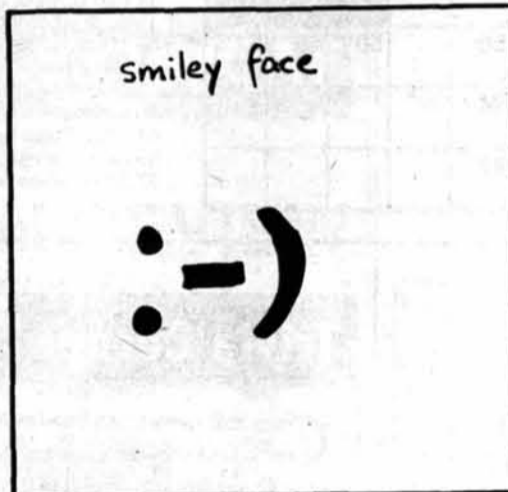


http://www.mit.edu/~zbemig/Rhino-Man.html



Have a great Spring Break, and be ready for "The Endgame!"

Noun Poetry by Katy-Cat



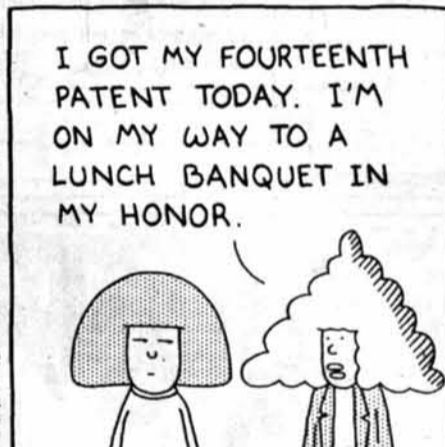
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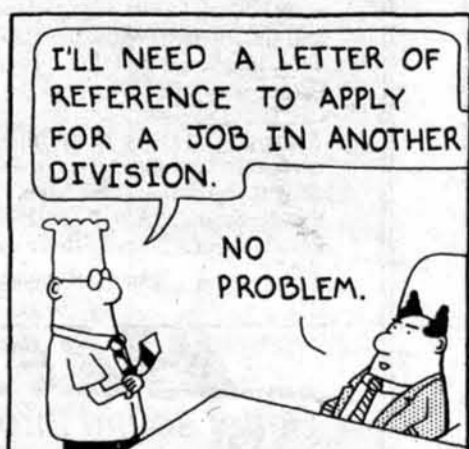
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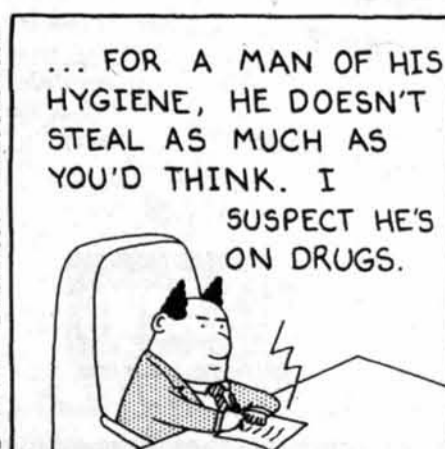
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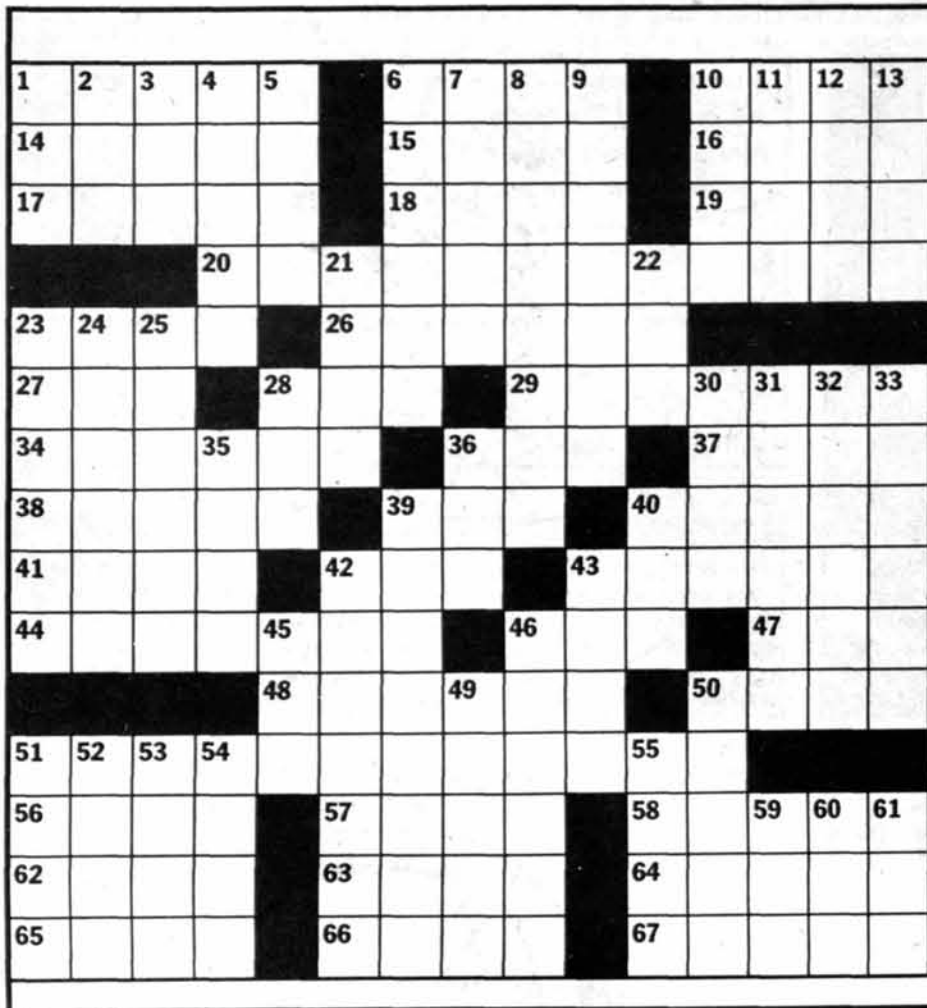


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By Anthony R. Salas

ACROSS

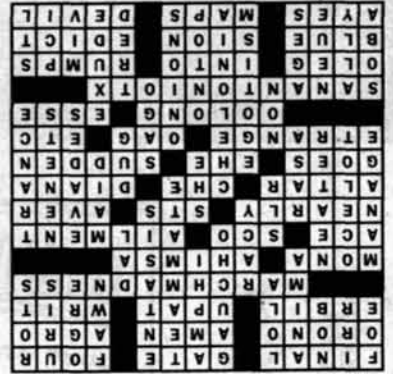
- 1 With 10-Across Mecca weekend of 20-Across
- 6 Fence
- 10 See 1-Across
- 14 Maine college town
- 15 Egyptian god
- 16 Combination form of field or soil
- 17 Ancient Iraqi city
- 18 ___ dawn
- 19 Legal document
- 20 College disease this time of year?
- 23 ___ Lisa
- 26 Governing doctrine of Jainism
- 27 Flying pro
- 28 Type of Unix
- 29 Sickness
- 34 Almost
- 36 Avenues, to the USPS
- 37 State
- 38 Ceremonial pulpit
- 39 ___ Guevara
- 40 The late Princess of Wales
- 41 In harmony (with)
- 42 Throat sound
- 43 Part of AIDS
- 44 Strange, French
- 46 Airline ref.
- 47 List ender
- 48 Tea
- 50 Latin 101 verb
- 51 1998 Place for 1-Across
- 56 Fashion designer Cassini
- 57 Common preposition

DOWN

- 58 Bottoms
- 62 Player for Coach K. with 67-Across
- 63 Ending for ten
- 64 Official decree
- 65 Certain votes
- 66 Charts
- 67 See 62-Across
- 1 Opponent
- 2 Label of some imperfect clothes
- 3 Door handle
- 4 Soul, Latin
- 5 Hit song by The Kinks
- 6 Spanish cowboy
- 7 Prefix with theater
- 8 Fellow player
- 9 Columnar distension
- 10 Small deer
- 11 Grimm character
- 12 Author Leon
- 13 Goes bad, as fruit
- 21 Provocative
- 22 Swedish river
- 23 Run, in Baseball
- 24 Wild cat
- 25 More clean
- 28 Camera type, abbr.
- 30 Domestic
- 31 Eludes
- 32 Nomadic Russian reindeer herders
- 33 Hypnotic state
- 35 Tabula ___

- 36 Feminine pronoun
- 39 Turtle order
- 40 Shoveled
- 42 Selfishness
- 43 Type of palm
- 45 Negative suffix
- 46 Pearls and Bermudas
- 49 Above
- 50 Ooze
- 51 Japanese noodle
- 52 Friend in battle
- 53 New, German
- 54 Iron and Bronze, for example
- 55 Walk (upon)
- 59 Year in which John XVIII became Pope
- 60 Computer buss, abbr.
- 61 Mo. airport

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Trivia Corner Coffee Talk

Congratulations to Andrew Walsh and Jennie Hango who both knew that cappuccino acquired its name because its color was similar to that of the hoods of the Capuchin monks, a branch of the Franciscan order. The 19th-century French author of "The Human Comedy," Honore de Balzac, was renown for his marathon work sessions and his addiction to black coffee. He would often drink several pots over a ten hour period. It has been suspected that his untimely death at the age of 51 was due to caffeine poisoning.

Andrew and Jennie each win a pair of tickets and a large popcorn, both provided by LSC. Have a good spring break and stay tuned for more LSC movies in April!

This feature was brought to you by the CAC Program Board. Today's factoids are by the MIT Quiz Bowl team. Members of the quiz bowl team, LSC, and The Tech are not eligible.

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New Election Will Have Stricter Rules

Elections, from Page 1

decision. Oppold said that if he had lost the election by a large margin he believed that no re-election would have been held. Carter, however, said that the board had no knowledge of the results of the original election.

New election planned

A new election has been planned and will begin April 1 with a meeting between candidates and voters. A debate will be held April 2 and balloting will take place from Friday, April 3, until Wednesday of the next week.

There will be no paper balloting for the new election, and no e-mail campaigning will be allowed. "E-mail, under any circumstances, cannot be sent by a candidate," said Jeremy D. Sher '98, a member of the UA executive committee.

One hundred dollars, out of the 400 available to candidates for campaigning, will be subsidized by the UA, Sher said. The "UA is recognizing that we screwed up," he said.

The board's decision had recommended reimbursing candidates for the original election, but the executive committee decided to reimburse them in the upcoming election instead. "A candidate ought to be able to run a decent campaign with [100 dollars]," Sher said.

According to UA Executive Committee member Ryan K. Pierce '99, no "direct sanctions" will be leveled against Oppold, despite the recommendation of the board to do so. We want to "leave sanctions up to the voters," Pierce said.

Oppold responds to decision

Oppold took issue with some of

the board's decisions. "I thought that I had legally gotten around" the rules against mass mailing, he said. Oppold placed a disclaimer on his petition which asked them to add their e-mail addresses only if they wished to receive campaign mail.

Oppold also that "my idea of a petition drive and the judicial board's idea of a petition drive differ." The review board questioned several of Oppold's actions during the petition period. "What I really wanted to do was gain support," during the petition drive he said.

UA election rules regarding petition drives are murky. Election rules state that "Candidates may not begin campaigning, except for petition drives, until three days after their petitions are turned into the election commissioner."

"I'm very confident going into the new elections," Oppold said.



T. LUKE YOUNG — THE TECH

Building 20 will be demolished this Spring to make way for a new Electrical Engineering and Computer Science building. Constructed as a temporary building during World War II, Building 20 later served as the birthplace for achievements ranging from stroboscopic photography to advances in the science of linguistics. "The Magical Incubator," a day-long celebration honoring the people who worked in Building 20 and achievements made there in the past 55 years, will be held in Edgerton Hall (34-101) on Friday March 27th.

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ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS – FRIDAY, APRIL 3

ALL MAJORS

Startec, a global telecommunications company headquartered in Bethesda, MD will be on campus to interview students on Friday, April 3. We are a fast growing, fast paced company looking for intelligent, hard working individuals that want to grow with our company.

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“Politicized Body”

Los Angeles-based performer, 1997 MacArthur Foundation Genius grant winner and Emmy-nominee Luis Alfaro brings the east coast debut of his new show *Politicized Body* to the *Theater Offensive Sells Out!*

Performed to rave reviews in London, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Mexico City, *Politicized Body* is Alfaro's deliciously seductive work about food, body image, and the politics of race and gender. The show is based on four characters from his Emmy-nominated short film *Chicanismo*:

Salvador Rodriguez, and embittered and disillusioned Chicano Studies professor who worries that his students have traded '70s pickets for '90s conferences.

Misty Guerrero, an unmarried teen mother full of both hope and despair over the birth of her daughter.

Phillip Escondido, the heartbreakingly superficial “Gap” manager who likes making people look “clean” and who says he understands oppression because people mock his personal choice to sell clothes.

Delia de León, a Mexican maid to the Johnson family's four children who is overwhelmed but proud of her obligation to raise “los cuatros niños” in a home where the parents are AWOL.

Friday April 3, 1998

8:00pm

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Despite Difficult Questions, MIT Students Perform Well

Contests, from Page 1

amenities for math majors such as department parties.

In addition to the team's high finish, many individuals did well on the exam. Ardila, Eric H. Kuo '99, and Edward D. Lee '99 all finished in the top twenty-five and won prizes of \$250. Miroslav Jurisic '99, Khetan, Brian J. Tivol '98, and Benjamin D. Wieland '00 earned honorable mentions.

Exam proves very difficult

The exam consists of 12 questions, worth a maximum of ten points each, and participants are given six hours to prepare their

solutions. The highest score on this year's test was a 92 (out of a possible 120), and the median score was a 0, meaning that over half of the approximately 2,500 students nationwide who took the test received a score of zero.

“The graders are very severe; they give very little partial credit,” Rogers said. “They'll give one or two points or nine or ten — nothing in between.”

“It's hard, and very little partial credit for any problem is awarded,” said Edward D. Lee '99. “Some of the easier problems can be solved using standard mathematical tricks, but the harder questions require more creativity and insight. Also,

the answers have to be written up in a mathematically rigorous way.”

“The test was quite challenging; I probably solved six of the twelve problems,” said Eric H. Kuo '98. Because large financial awards are at stake, the grading process is long. Although the exam was administered last December, the scores were just recently released. All of the tests are given a preliminary grading, and then the top few hundred are carefully re-graded. The final scores are then ordered to establish a final ranking.

No formal preparation is required of MIT students taking the exam and it is open to all who wish to sign up. “For a few weeks before the exam, I worked on old Putnam problems for an hour or two each day,” Lee said.

“The questions test your creativity more than your knowledge, so even if you knew which topics are going to be on the exam, you can study all you want and it's not going to help too much,” Ardila said.

The mathematics department does offer a seminar in the fall, taught by Rogers and Stanley, that focuses on preparing for the Putnam.

Modular Designs Win Top Honors

TBP, from Page 1

This was “an interesting way to tie MIT's problems” to the contest, said Jonathan Anzaldo '00.

Winning designs economize space

Each entry was judged by a panel of professors and graduate students in different fields. The winners were determined on the basis of four criteria: creativity, reasoning, realism, and presentation.

The presentation aspect consisted of a short explanation of the product in front of the judges. The quality of the presentation was determined both by the fluency and poise of the presenters and the extent of team coordination.

The first-place winners were Andrew W. Hogue '01, Russell L. Spieler '01, and Ken W. Conley '01. They created a design they called “the Lego System.”

Like its namesake, the Lego System consisted of modular cubes that could be combined in various configurations by a series of grooves and teeth. This model combined storage versatility and reasonable cost to win for its creators \$250 in prize money and a trip to Yale to compete in the district tournament.

In second place was a product with a fold-down desktop that could be connected to an adjacent unit to provide extra space for hanging clothes. The third-place design was the “Space-Saver 2000,” which consisted of three polyurethane components velcroed together. The makers of these designs were awarded \$150 and \$100, respectively.

The district competition will take place this year on March 28. Each team is identified only by a number, so the judges do not know which team is from which school.

MIT has a history of outstanding performance in this competition, which brings together the winners from a dozen schools across the northeast. “[The MIT team] has won four years straight,” Kamvyssdis said.

The judging is anonymous, but, said Kamvyssdis, “You know who's from MIT when they announce the winners.”



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Josh E. Glazer '00, Tanis A. O'Connor '01 and Jessica M. Kleiss '00 (top to bottom) of Roadkill Buffet perform the skit “Buddha has Spoken” at the Coffeehouse yesterday evening.

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-- A Note from the Dean --

I am writing to wish you a safe, happy, richly deserved spring vacation. This academic year has been especially difficult for us all. In all too rapid succession, we have lost two first-year students, two second-year students, and two graduate students. In addition, the entire MIT community -- faculty, staff, alumni/ae, and parents as well as students -- has been engaged in prolonged, complex discussions about alcohol policies, orientation procedures, and other aspects of student life.

These discussions have resulted in some substantial changes. Even though MIT is a forward-looking place, these changes have been a challenge. They have been frequent, rapid, and sometimes confusing.

When spring break is over, we will move forward as quickly as we can to resolve the remaining complexities and disagreements. We hope to concentrate on assimilating, refining, and communicating the changes that have been made so that we can return to a more relaxed, vibrant social life on campus.

Thank you for the way you have worked to hold together our community in the past months. Whatever the pressures, you have continued to help each other -- not only in crisis situations, but also in more ordinary everyday situations where help means listening, advising, or comforting each other. You are an extraordinary group of people in the way you care for each other.

Have a good time, and a safe time, on vacation. I look forward to seeing you back so we can welcome spring together.

Rosalind H. Williams
Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education

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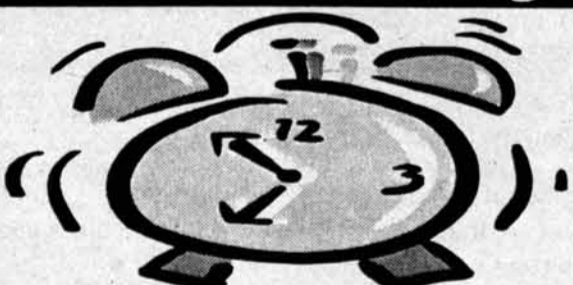
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SPORTS

Nordic Ski Team Ends Season On High Note With Kleiss' Win

By James Berry
TEAM CAPTAIN

Last week, the MIT Nordic Ski Team travelled to the foot of Mt. Washington in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire for the United States Collegiate Ski Association Championships. Teams from all over the country came to compete in the final races of the season.

The Women's 10K Classic and Men's 15K Classic both took place on Wednesday, March 11. Competition began in the morning with the women's 10K classic race. At 9:00 a.m., the thermometer just peeked over 10 degrees. Cold temperatures didn't phase the skiers in the long race, however, as Jessica Kleiss '00 finished strong in 11th place, and Adrienne Slaughter '98 broke into the top 20.

Later that morning the men's 15K Classic, also a mass start, got under way. Several kilometers into the race, one of the skiers in the lead pack fell, bringing down five people behind him. Jim Berry '99 found himself in the middle of this mess, and it took him several seconds to get untangled. He came back strong, however, to finish in 4th place, just 50 seconds behind the winner. Jeff Doering '99 also had a strong race, finishing 13th in a pack of five skiers. Derek Southwell '01 raced hard to a 20th place finish. First-year skier Chris Bruce '98 enjoyed good conditioning and solid waxing to finish ahead of a pack of more experienced skiers.

Competition continued on Friday

with the Women's 7.5K Freestyle and the Men's 10K Freestyle. The conditions had changed significantly since the race on Wednesday. By Friday, the trails had become icy and fast. The women raced first in the 7.5K Freestyle. This race demands intense concentration from skiers because the interval start gives makes it unclear who is in what place during the race. Kleiss, a strong skater, tore up the course, beating rival Katie Johnson from Clarkson by almost 30 seconds and earning the title of National Champion. Slaughter also improved on Wednesday's performance, finishing 13th.

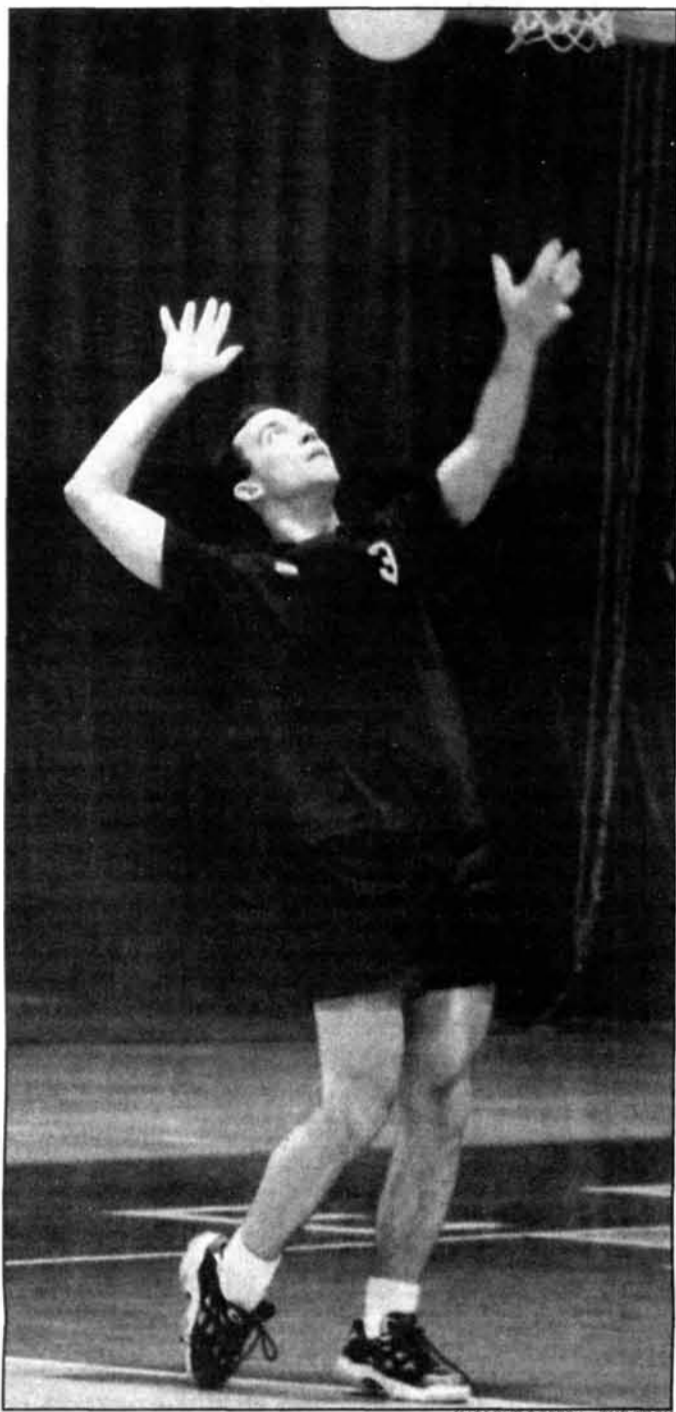
"I had no idea I had won until after I finished," said Kleiss, who had never won a race during the regular season. "But I knew I was doing well. The conditions were perfect for me." Kleiss, a sophomore, looks forward to the next two years and hopes to improve and dominate the league.

The weather warmed up a bit before the men's 10K freestyle, making the conditions even faster. Doering posted the best MIT finish with 14th place. Berry powered his

way through the hilly course to finish only five seconds behind Doering. Southwell showed his strength in skating by improving to 17th place. Bruce picked off a few more racers for 30th place.

The competition wrapped up on Saturday with the Women's 3 x 5K Relay and the Men's 3 x 7.5K Relay. The conditions had drastically changed for these relay races. Cold, near-blizzard conditions swept through Mt. Washington Valley as the team prepared to race. The men's team of Berry, Southwell, and Doering posted a strong 5th place finish in the 3 x 7.5K relay. Since the women could not field a full team, Bruce joined forces with Kleiss and Slaughter to form an unofficial team for the 3 x 5K relay. Starting one minute behind the official teams, they skated to a first place finish among the unofficial teams.

With one National Champion and several other strong individual finishes, the Nordic ski team finished its season on a high note. And with only two graduating seniors, they look for an even better season next year.



KARLENE ROSERA—THE TECH

Garry Maskaly '00 serves in the second set of Monday evening's game against Johnson and Wales University in duPont Gymnasium. MIT won 3-0 (15-4, 15-13, 15-13).

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

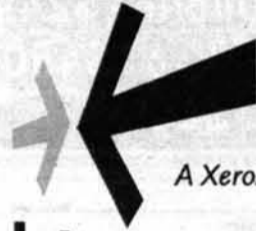
Friday, March 27

Sailing vs. Boston University, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 28

Baseball vs. Springfield College, noon

Women's Crew vs. Radcliffe and Northeastern, 9:45 a.m.



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