

## Tang Will Receive Undergrads To Relieve Dormitory Crowding

By Krista L. Niece  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Approximately 100 undergraduates will likely move to Tang Hall next fall in an attempt to relieve dormitory crowding.

Incoming freshmen will not be housed in the graduate dorm. Sophomores and juniors from the undergraduate residences will be able to volunteer for the spaces, which will be subsidized, said Associate Dean for Residence and Campus Activities Andrew S. Eisenmann '70.

This decision follows last autumn's alcohol-related death of Scott S. Krueger '01. "It came from some discussions after Scott's death," Eisenmann said. "There is a great deal more uncertainty [with regard to rush] this year" with the negative publicity surrounding his death, he said.

The decision to create more undergraduate housing became

"more crystallized" through the efforts of the Orientation Committee, chaired by Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver SM '75.

The administration's "best guess" is that fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups will attract 100 fewer pledges in the fall than they did this year, Eisenmann said.

### Plan will relieve overcrowding

Although the movement of upperclassmen is "a contingency plan to provide for a decrease in the number of freshmen [who rush FSILG's]," Dormitory Council president Manju V. Madhavan '99 said that the plan will be valuable in relieving crowding even if next fall's rush goes well.

Leaving freshmen in the traditional undergraduate residences will allow them to "build a community" in their first months at MIT, said

Madhavan. Building community would be more difficult at Tang, which is currently inhabited only by graduate students.

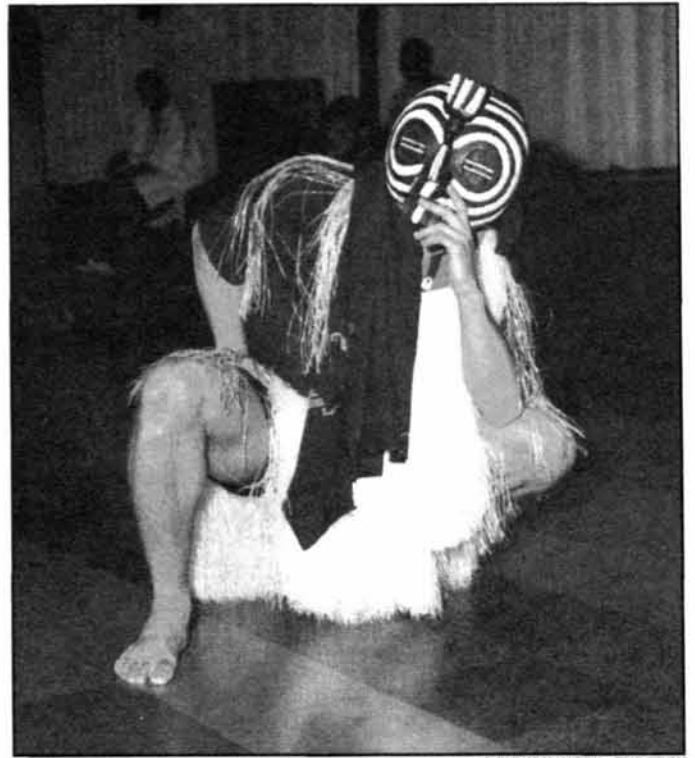
At the same time, the new housing will help relieve the chronic problem of overcrowding in the on-campus undergraduate residences, Madhavan said.

Students will likely be permitted to apply for housing jointly. This will allow "groups of students to remain together" and keep some continuity in the lives of the undergraduates involved, said Madhavan.

However, there is no plan to move a cohesive living group to the dormitory, as was done when Sigma Kappa was housed in Ashdown beginning in 1995.

"The hope is [that this will be] a one-year anomaly," Eisenmann said. Undergraduates who move there next year may be permitted to

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Emeka Iffih '98 demonstrates African Masquerade at the second annual cultural show held on Saturday in Burton-Connor House.

## Funk Festival, Granian, Games Headline Event-Filled Weekend

By Susan Buchman  
STAFF REPORTER

The Undergraduate Association staged a major attempt to revive Spring Weekend this year, holding many sets of events and bringing a concert to the weekend for the first

time in three years.

The largest event of the weekend was the Funk Festival on Friday night, featuring Maceo Parker, Fishbone, and Five Fingers of Funk. Stuart L. Jackson '00, social chair for the Undergraduate Association,

estimated attendance of the Funk Festival at 1,000.

The cost of bringing the bands to the Institute was \$20,000, said Christine M. Hartmann '98, co-coordinator of Spring Weekend.

"I was really happy with the band selection. I feel like funk music really crossed the boundaries on campus," said Hartmann.

Although not an official Spring Weekend event, a concert at the same time as the Funk Festival featuring the pop band Granian at Baker House was attended by about 250 people despite the fact that some people who had arrived early left when the opening band failed to show up. "Granian was great; everybody really liked them," said Baker Social Chair John S. Holmes '99.

The \$1,300 cost of bringing Granian to campus was funded by Baker House residents through their house taxes.

The Granian party was negatively affected by the Funk Festival's demand for Campus Police officers. "The biggest problem was we couldn't have a cash bar because there weren't enough Campus Police" to meet Institute requirements, he said.

Holmes and the Spring Weekend planning committee had been working together in an attempt to have the two concerts on separate dates, but negotiations fell apart under pressure to sign contracts.

### Weekend features breaks, food

The Spring Weekend began on Thursday evening with a study break sponsored by the UA.

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## Senator Kerry Talks On Environment, Diplomacy

By Naveen Sunkavally  
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

"Never in my political... life have I run into [that] kind of anger and suspicion," said Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.) of other countries' responses to United States' proposals at the recent Kyoto environmental summit.

Kerry spoke about government, technology, and global warming to an audience of about 100 people on Saturday in Kresge Auditorium. His primary goal was to instill a sense of great concern for the environment within the students in the audience. To do this, Kerry drew upon his experience as a Senate observer at a conference on global warming in December at Kyoto.

He began by talking about the origins of the environmental movement. "Students came together and created the movement" in the 1970's, Kerry said. By bringing environmentalism to the forefront of politics and making it a "cutting edge issue," students then helped in the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, emission controls for automobiles, among other legislation.

Students today need to get the same "sense of passion" that students had 25 years ago, Kerry said. "Grass roots — that's what Earth Day is all about."

Kerry said that student support was necessary to overcome the politics of Washington and big corporations. "We have people in the U.S. Senate who do not believe that global warming is a problem today; those who do believe it is... are not willing to bite the bullet."

Kerry blasted people for dismissing global warming. He cited a study by the University of Massachusetts

that concluded 1997 was the warmest year in 600 years. He said that the rising sea level could have drastic consequences for the wetlands and other ecosystems. "El Niño is most likely related to global warming," he said.

Kerry also said that 94 percent of virgin forests had been destroyed in the United States, and that there were few nations on earth with more than 50 percent of their virgin forests intact. More destruction of the Amazon rain forests occurred last year than in any previous year, he said.

### Kerry says apathy doomed Kyoto

Kerry said that the lack of concern for the environment in the United States has given the country very little credibility in dealing with other nations about the environment.

He noted that other nations felt that the U.S. was orchestrating a grand conspiracy against them by trying to foist environmental regulations on them while not strengthening its own at the same time. The most outspoken of these nations were China, Mexico, Korea, Brazil, and India, he said.

As a result, Kerry said that it was difficult to convince nations to accept proposals that would encourage environmental technology transfer between the United States and other nations. He said that it was also difficult to convince other nations to stop building pollution-producing power plants and work to decrease emissions.

Most of these problems were caused by the Republican party, Kerry implied. Kerry lambasted former president Ronald Reagan for

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GONE BOWLING — A member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity helps a carnival goer get a strike Saturday. The carnival was one of many Spring Weekend events.

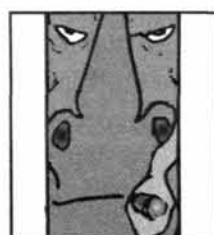


Lemelson winner Langer discusses innovation.

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Short Takes: The president-elect of the University of Florida student government faces charges of defamation after allegedly altering an opponent's criminal record.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Pentagon Panel Proposes Opening Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A Pentagon study group on Monday proposed opening the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery to investigate with DNA testing whether the unidentified remains of a Vietnam-era serviceman are those of an Air Force pilot.

After four months of deliberation, the panel said the testing would probably succeed in determining whether six bones in the revered crypt belong to 1st Lt. Michael J. Blassie. The tests should be performed, the panel said, to bring certainty to Blassie's family, which has been unsure of his fate in the 26 years since his A-37B fighter plane was downed by ground fire near An Loc, Vietnam.

Even so, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen said he reserved a final decision on the recommendation until he had heard from Pentagon lawyers. "My position is to wait until I get some counsel," Cohen said during an appearance on Capitol Hill.

Despite Cohen's hesitation, Blassie's younger brother said the family was pleased with the drift of the Pentagon's deliberations. "We're very encouraged," George Blassie, 36, who lives in St. Peters, Mo. "We believe the final decision will be to disinter the remains for testing."

## Netanyahu Plays Down London Meetings With Albright and Arafat

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that he does not believe next Monday's meetings in London involving him, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright are a "make or break" event of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"It's being presented as such, but I think the interest in peace is too strong to be dependent, to pivot, on one meeting alone," Netanyahu said.

Albright said Sunday in New York that the peace process is in "grave danger." She said, "It is no longer enough just to talk or to talk about having more talks. We have been going around in circles long enough."

Netanyahu also stepped up his warnings to Arafat in response to the Palestinian leader's vow to declare statehood on May 4, 1999, a date set in the Oslo peace accords for the completion of negotiations.

"We won't accept a new Iran or a new Iraq" beside Israel, Netanyahu said. He said declaration of a Palestinian state "would be a direct violation of Oslo and would dissolve the agreement."

Arafat has accused Netanyahu of stalling on the agreements made by the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and has said he would declare statehood even though the "final negotiations" that the Oslo accords set for completion on that date have not yet begun.

## Gingrich Assails Privilege Claims For Secret Service Agents

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

House Speaker Newt Gingrich called on President Clinton and his administration Monday to stop asserting legal privileges to keep Secret Service agents and other witnesses from testifying before a federal grand jury being run by independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr.

"We do not have a divine right of presidents," the Georgia Republican told the Atlanta Rotary Club. "Obviously the Secret Service has to testify if it's about the law."

Gingrich's statement put him at odds with former President George Bush, who wrote a letter last week supporting the Clinton administration's position that Secret Service agents should not be compelled to testify about what they may have seen or heard. Bush said he was concerned that such forced testimony could destroy the bond of trust that must exist between any president and his security detail.

Starr has complained that assertions of legal privilege by the White House have slowed his 3-month-old investigation into the truthfulness of Clinton's sworn testimony about his dealings with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky and former White House worker Kathleen Willey, and whether he encouraged others to lie under oath about such matters.

## WEATHER

### May-Be Rain

Greg Lawson and Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGISTS

Expect today to be a few degrees warmer than yesterday as a slow high pressure center begins to pass south of us, shifting the winds from northerly to north-westerly. This will also bring us clear skies for at least the next couple of days. As it passes, expect a warming with Wednesday with temperatures reaching the low seventies. Sometime during Thursday we should see an increase in cloudiness and there is even a slight chance of an early evening shower due to a small mid-level disturbance sneaking southward. Friday's outlook is even worse as a healthy low arrives from the south bringing with it plenty of moisture from the Gulf — expect rain.

**Today:** Early morning clouds giving way to sunny skies. Moderate winds (15 mph) from the northwest. High 58°F (14°C).

**Tonight:** Continued clear skies. Further shift to westerly winds. Low 44°F (7°C).

**Wednesday:** Beautiful! Clear sunny skies. High 72°F (22°C). Low 47°F (8°C).

**Thursday:** Clouding up later in the day. Marginal chance of an isolated sprinkle. Highs around 70°F (21°C)

# U.S. Acknowledges Iraq's Effort in Reducing Arsenal

By Craig Turner

LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

For the first time since the U.N. began dismantling Iraq's weapons programs after the Persian Gulf War, the United States is prepared to recognize significant cooperation by Baghdad in reducing its illegal arsenal, U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson said Monday.

"One has to acknowledge progress that has been made" in curbing Iraq's nuclear warfare capability and in Iraq's adherence to an agreement with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan providing weapons inspectors with access to government sites previously placed off-limits, Richardson said.

He added, however, that the United States continues to oppose any relaxation of economic sanctions against Iraq or any change in the demanding program of U.N. weapons inspections there, citing insufficient cooperation in the elimination of Iraq's long-range missiles and biological and chemical weapons.

But diplomats here said the United States has been pushed toward a more moderate stance by an emerging majority on the U.N. Security Council that favors some official recognition of Iraq's partial compliance as an incentive for the Iraqi government to cooperate with weapons inspectors.

The Council on Monday began its semi-annual review of the sanctions and Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Sahaf journeyed from Baghdad to personally appeal for lifting the embargo. He addressed the Council in an unusual,

informal session.

But there was virtually no support, even among Iraq's strongest sympathizers, for eliminating the sanctions for now.

Russia did propose a resolution recognizing the elimination of Iraq's atomic weapons program and lowering the intensity of U.N. inspections of nuclear-capable facilities. The Russians claimed the backing of France, China, Brazil, Sweden and Portugal for the measure while French Ambassador Alain Dejammet suggested there might already be a majority on the 15-member Council for it.

In an effort to head off the Russians, the United States offered an alternative that also would acknowledge Iraq's cooperation on some disarmament fronts but would delay for six months any consideration of a change in the inspection system.

Negotiations on a compromise version of the two measures were under way and are expected to continue for days, diplomats said.

Neither plan would affect the ongoing U.N. investigation of Iraq's chemical, biological and missile programs, which has been the source of most of the conflict between Baghdad and the world body in the last six months.

In an April 16 report to the Security Council, chief U.N. weapons inspector Richard Butler said there had been "virtually no progress" in those areas over the last six months because Iraq only resumed cooperating with inspectors last month, after the agreement negotiated by Annan.

Under the cease-fire that ended

the Gulf War in 1991, Iraq must eliminate its nuclear, chemical and biological warfare capabilities and its long-range missiles before the Security Council can lift sanctions, blamed for widespread hardship among ordinary Iraqis, though not necessarily members of the ruling elite. Even after those weapons have been destroyed, the United Nations is supposed to maintain a continuing presence to ensure Iraq does not rebuild its arsenal.

On Monday, the Council divided along the familiar lines. Russia, China and France highlighted areas where Iraq complied with U.N. mandates and urged rewards as incentives to cooperate further. The United States emphasized examples of misleading and uncooperative behavior by Iraqi officials.

In his public assessment of the situation, Richardson's comments also were notably lacking in the harsh rhetoric he employed in the tense weeks before Annan's trip to Baghdad, although one official who attended the closed-door meeting of the Council said Richardson was much tougher in his remarks there.

Those looking to reward Iraq cited the latest report of U.N. inspectors from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, which has conducted the investigation of Iraq's post-war nuclear weapons capacity.

After 1,250 inspections, including 18 at 93 sites in the last six months, the agency concluded there is no further evidence of an ongoing atomic weapons program, although the report did say some requested data still had not been furnished by the Iraqis.

# Hoffa Cleared to Run in New Race for Teamster Presidency

By Frank Swoboda

THE WASHINGTON POST

Federal investigators Monday cleared James P. Hoffa to run for the Teamster presidency, making the son of the infamous Jimmy Hoffa the frontrunner in the race to control the nation's largest trade union.

The action came as prosecutors probing links between the Teamsters financial scandal and the Democratic National Committee announced the indictment of the union's former political director.

A federal grand jury in New York handed up the six-count indictment against William W. Hamilton Jr. in connection with alleged schemes to help finance the re-election campaign of Teamsters President Ron Carey. This included a plan to swap money from the union's treasury with the Democrats. He was charged with conspiracy, embezzlement of Teamsters funds, mail fraud, wire fraud and perjury.

As a result of the scandal, Carey's narrow 1996 election victory over Hoffa has been thrown out, a new election has been ordered and Carey has been disqualified from running. Three other Carey campaign operatives, including his campaign manager, have pleaded guilty to criminal conspiracy charges in connection with the campaign finances.

Now, it appears that three decades after Jimmy Hoffa was removed from office and jailed, his son may be on the verge of returning the family name to the top of the Teamsters, aided, ironically, by a multimillion dollar government effort to clean up the union.

"The Hoffa family devotion to

the Teamsters endures, continues and will only end in victory," James Hoffa told reporters as he hailed Monday's government action, which also found some irregularities in Hoffa's 1996 campaign. He said he couldn't wait to get into Teamster headquarters.

Hamilton's indictment, meanwhile, suggests the probe into Teamsters' finances is reaching a new stage. Mary Jo White, the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan, said at least one of the schemes involved a \$236,500 Teamsters contribution made by Hamilton to various state Democratic parties at the request of the Democratic National Committee, which had earlier discussed the swap scheme with other officials connected with the Carey campaign.

Investigators believe DNC and officials of the re-election effort for President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore arranged to raise money for the Carey campaign in exchange for political donations from the Teamsters treasury.

Since the financing scandals first came to light nearly a year ago, Hamilton has been seen as one of the keys to any case the government might try to make against the DNC. Hamilton has refused to testify before the grand jury or cooperate with federal prosecutors, and sources close to the probe said Monday's long list of charges was intended to squeeze Hamilton into cooperating.

Hamilton, 55, is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday, May 7. His attorney, Robert Gage, said Monday that Hamilton, who faces up to five years in jail and a fine of \$250,000 on each count, was "innocent of all charges and we look forward to our

day in court."

"This is an obvious effort to break Hamilton and get him to testify against others," said Reid Weingarten, an attorney for Carey. "It's likely to fail. I don't believe Hamilton got a dime. I believe he was an unwitting participant."

A spokesman for the DNC declined to comment, saying the DNC has a policy of avoiding talking about ongoing federal investigations. DNC and Clinton/Gore campaign officials have previously denied any wrongdoing.

The direct, government-supervised election of national Teamsters officers is the result of a 1989 consent decree between the government and the Teamsters to settle a civil racketeering suit against the union. Since then, the union has been operating under court supervision.

Hoffa was cleared to run by Michael Cherkasky, the federal elections officer who has investigated the finances of the 1996 Hoffa campaign since late last year. "The election officer did not find evidence of large-scale cheating or other improprieties to warrant disqualification of Mr. Hoffa or any member of his slate," said Cherkasky, a veteran prosecutor who said he reviewed more than 50,000 documents, audited 28 entities and interviewed more than 300 people during the course of his investigation.

"This investigation found that I am an honest man who ran an honest campaign," Hoffa said, calling the report a vindication against the "vicious attacks against me."

Hoffa declined to describe himself as the frontrunner in the election. "We're not going to take anything for granted," he said.

# Bishop Jose Gerardi Brutally Murdered in Guatemala City

By Juanita Darling  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

GUATEMALA CITY

The Roman Catholic bishop who supervised a recently published study of human rights abuses committed here in three decades of a U.S.-backed conflict has been brutally murdered. The act is a reminder of the bloody violence that haunts this nation from its decades of civil war.

An assailant crushed the skull of Bishop Jose Juan Gerardi with a concrete block as the cleric, returning from dinner with his sister, entered his house at 11 p.m. Sunday, church officials said. The 75-year-old coordinator of the Guatemalan Archbishop's Office of Human Rights was hit 14 times on the back of the head and the face. Nothing was stolen.

A statement released Monday by the independent human rights

office gave the government 72 hours to clear up the crime, because "if impunity is allowed to extend to this case, the cost for Guatemala will be high."

Police have found a witness and are looking for a suspect based on a composite drawing. Attorney General Hugo Perez Aguilera has called this crime "a vile murder."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the killing "in the strongest terms." The United States said it deplored the "senseless act of violence" and called on Guatemala to begin a full investigation. And the Catholic Bishops' International Policy Committee called the murder a "terrible shock" and "despicable crime."

Authorities in this crime-riven nation have not stated a motive for this murder. But for those who worked with Gerardi, the reason was clear. "This was a blow against

the peace process," said Guatemalan human rights activist Hellen Mack. "For them to have killed a bishop, which they did not even dare to do during the war, shows how far [some people] are willing to go to stop the peace process."

Gerardi initiated and directed the Roman Catholic Church's Historical Memory Recovery project, a three-year study of human rights abuses committed in the civil war that ended with a peace agreement in December 1996. Released Friday, the 1,400-page study, "Never Again," compiled 6,500 interviews, many in 15 Mayan languages.

It was the first attempt to document atrocities committed in the 36-year conflict between Communist guerrillas and the government, which except for the last years of the war was made up of U.S.-backed military dictators.

# U.S. Appeals Court Strikes Down Campaign Spending-Limit Law

By Lyle Denniston  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

In a case that President Clinton and campaign finance reform advocates hope will lead the Supreme Court to change its mind about spending ceilings, a federal appeals court struck down on Monday a Cincinnati mandatory ceilings law passed explicitly to put the justices to a test.

A three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, rebuffing the pleas of 24 states and a host of activist organizations who want to curb spending, said that all the arguments in favor of caps on campaign outlays have been rejected by the Supreme Court for more than 20 years.

The Cincinnati ordinance, challenged in court by a Republican

City Council member who had spent more than the law allowed, set a ceiling of \$140,000 on spending by a council candidate. That is about three times a council member's annual salary.

The City Council, although warned by its lawyers that the measure would run afoul of Supreme Court rulings, passed it anyway to "take the lead" in testing the issue.

In 1976, in a famous case known as Buckley vs. Valeo, and in several rulings since, the Supreme Court has declared that spending is a form of political speech, and it is unconstitutional under the First Amendment to try to limit it — when the spending is by the candidate, by independent supporters, by political action committees or by political parties.

But, in a closely orchestrated

and still-widening campaign, proponents of spending limits have been trying to set the stage for a new Supreme Court look at the issue. The Cincinnati ordinance and the lawsuit over its validity have been the chosen vehicles for a new trip to the highest court.

The proponents believe that the failure of other attempts to cut the influence of money in politics in the years since 1976 will encourage the court to conclude that the goal can be met only by curbing spending directly. The court has upheld contribution limits, but advocates of spending limits say those clearly have not worked to remove the money taint.

Proponents did not expect to win in the lower courts, since only the Supreme Court can change its constitutional declarations.

## Japan Punishes Finance Officials

THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO

Japan's Ministry of Finance disciplined 112 of its officials for improperly accepting meals and entertainment from financial institutions that they supervise, the ministry said Monday. The action continues a crackdown in some parts of the government here against practices long considered a standard perk of the job.

Two senior officials, including the head of the securities bureau, resigned. Others, including Eisuke Sakakibara, the influential vice minister for international affairs for his ability to influence exchange rates, received official reprimands.

"We have found that many employees had excessive relationships with private financial institutions," Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga said at a news conference. "This is truly regretful and I deeply apologize." Matsunaga said that as a show of atonement, he and the vice ministers and bureau heads would take 20 percent voluntary pay cuts for one month.

For decades, Japanese banks and companies have taken regulators out to high-cost restaurants and other places of entertainment. The purpose, both sides generally contend, is to facilitate a free exchange of views and information that can be used for building economic consensus and stability.

Recently, however, prosecutors have charged that it is often really a form of bribery, in which banks and companies expect special treatment or inside information from the officials. Foreign governments want to break up the practice because they view it as key decisions in Japan being made behind closed doors.

## FCC Doesn't Expect Serious Year 2000 Phone Disruptions

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Despite mounting concern among experts and lawmakers, the Federal Communications Commission will tell Congress today that it does not foresee a meltdown of the nation's phone system when the year 2000 arrives and computers may start scrambling dates.

FCC Chairman William E. Kennard said in an interview Monday that while his agency is not anticipating serious problems, he acknowledged that the FCC has only recently begun efforts to evaluate industry progress in dealing with the so-called millennium computer bug. "The telecom industry is ahead of the game relative to other industries we regulate," Kennard said. But he added, "It is vitally important is that we keep the pressure on and keep the industry ahead of the problem."

The issue relates to the six-digit formula used by many computers to express the month, day and year of an event. While the mm/dd/yy formula is simple and economical, the downside is that it leaves 1900 numerically indistinguishable from 2000. Such a glitch could be especially insidious for the telecommunications industry, where every telephone call or data connection creates a date and time record for the purpose of billing, routing and/or archiving.

So far, little is known about whether phone switching and billing equipment will malfunction because of software bugs. But with about 600 days left before the calendar turns to Jan. 1, 2000, the lack of information on the nation's telephone system have made government policy makers and business owners anxious.



### Graduate Student Council

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# Institute Committees

Graduate students, get involved in running MIT!!

Do you want to have a say in how certain decisions within the Institute are made? Institute Committees are the way to do it. Applications for graduate representatives to Institute Committees are now being accepted. Check out the GSC's web page or an application and links to committee descriptions. Contact GSC-Vice-President@mit.edu for more information. **Applications are due Friday, May 8.**

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- Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects •
- Women's Advisory Board •

## 56 Calendar

► M A Y

- 06** General Council Meeting \*
- 08** Deadline for Institute Committee Applications
- 14** Academics, Research, & Careers Meeting \*
- 20** Activities Meeting \*

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We are looking for a Webmaster and a Publication Board Chair. For more information contact gsc-secretary@mit.edu

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

# OPINION

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## The Character of History and Palestine

Historical revisionism is problematic in any form. In its worst manifestation, it can literally change our past in order to satisfy our present. In a recent column in *The Tech* ["Zionism Did Not Destroy Palestine," April 24], Omri Schwarz G takes a revisionist approach, which is troubling in this case mostly in that it is based on a creative representation of Amin al-Husseini, a Palestinian leader of the '20s and '30s.

Scholars of the Middle East understand that the Islamic revivals we see today, for better or worse, are just that: revivals. The Middle East had little appetite for theocratic rhetoric after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. In fact, many had blamed the rickety state of government on an ossified Islamic expression in political life. Given this atmosphere, Amin al-Husseini, whatever his personal inclinations, engaged in a largely nationalist advocacy in Palestine. We can only conjecture what elements rose in Jewish society as a result of al-Husseini's presence. Schwarz speculates that, as a Palestinian, al-Husseini was accountable for a "Zionist faction of rabid nationalists." Such an assertion shifts the responsibility for extremism in a spectacular way.

Historical revisionism can be dangerous, but it can be downright devastating for our children. For example, Hitler proceeded with a systematic campaign of extermination against Jews because he knew that just a few decades before him the same had been done to Armenians. The history was revised, and the Armenians' horror was forgotten (except by them). By counting on such collective amnesia, Hitler figured he could get away with it. Thankfully for the human spirit, he did not: he and his institutions did not escape blameless. But others have.

Now as the Chinese overwhelm the several different erstwhile independent cultures on

their western rump, they presumably look back to the exact same cultural dilution, assimilation, and sometimes extermination by whites of "Red Indians" (Native Americans) in the American West.

As the Israelis do the same to the Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, they too may learn from such a cynically instructive example. Or maybe they remember that another group, the Gypsies (or Romas, as they prefer to be called), were also nearly annihilated by the holocaust promulgated by the Nazis. In our present day few people recognize this. We have simply forgotten.

Perhaps the Turks, with their attempts to insinuate themselves into Cyprus, think that they too can escape accountability. And maybe the Moroccans have a similar expectation when they flood their people into the ostensibly independent nation of Western Sahara.

The list goes on and on.

One reason we can stomach destroying other people is that we convince ourselves this time is actually different. Sometimes we forget the past to encourage our conviction. Sometimes we change it.

A constant repetition of the same mistakes, of the same cruelties, is perhaps the ultimate failure of human hope. When will we stop repeating our errors? Maybe never. It is, however, a question worth asking when one people insist that they have a catastrophe, another people insist that they have a celebration, and they are both talking about the same thing.

Husham S. Sharifi G

## Genocide Denied

The letter by Varouj Chitilian G ["Armenian Genocide Remembered," April 24] is fraught with lies, misrepresentations and baseless accusations. There was no systematic execution of Armenian civilians by the Turkish authorities. On the contrary, Turkish people themselves were struggling for

existence against not just the Armenian guerrillas, but the whole world.

The years surrounding 1915 were marked by the turmoil of an empire in collapse. The Ottoman Empire was under siege on all fronts: by Greece and the Allied powers in the west and by Kurdish and Armenian insurgents internally. For generations, Turkish and Armenian people lived in harmony. As early as 1800s, however, Armenian insurgents began to foment unrest to wrest themselves from Ottoman rule.

These insurgents enlisted the help of the European powers to plan their revolt against the Ottomans. Their plans finally bore fruit with the outbreak of World War I and the subsequent assault of the Turkish people in Anatolia. The Allied powers planned a division of Anatolia under the Sykes-Picot agreement, in which a Turkish state would be blotted from existence.

Armenian insurgents armed the Armenian civilians who had been living right by Turkish people, and incited them to kill their Turkish neighbors. Amid this struggle for existence, the Ottoman sultan fled, and it was left to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk to rally the Turkish people to fight for their independence. Amid this turmoil, there can hardly be found a "Turkish government," let alone one that would "order" the execution of Armenian civilians.

More Turkish civilians died in this struggle than even Armenians. 80 percent of my family perished in the struggle for freedom from the invading armies. Turkish families struggled to find food, chewing at times on the soles of their shoes to hold back their hunger. I myself am lucky to be alive. Had my great-uncle died of his injuries, my mother would not have even been born to bring me into this world.

Armenian civilians were not massacred. They were deported out of Anatolia to places where they could not attack Turkish people. In these marches, some Armenians died. Some got killed by their own countrymen in cross-fire from attacks launched from Russia. At the end of the day, Turkish people were able to save their own freedom, and under the leadership of Ataturk, established the current Republic of Turkey. As a Turkish-American, I am proud and grateful that my forefathers were able to save their freedom — I dread to think about what would have happened had Anatolia been colonized by the invaders.

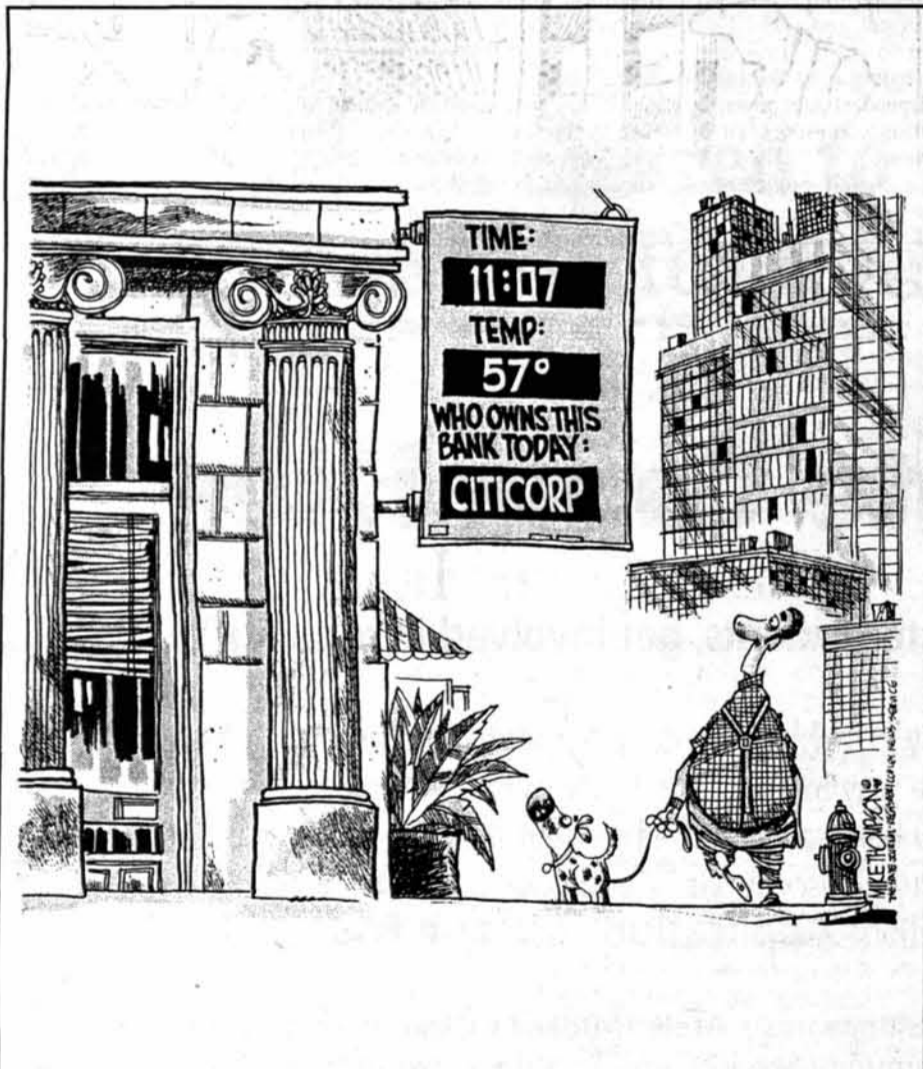
To add insult to injury, Chitilian goes so far as to say that somehow the Holocaust, and the genocide in Bosnia, Cambodia and Rwanda would have been prevented had "Turkey been punished for their crimes." The Holocaust and Cambodia massacres occurred before Bosnia, and still many innocent people were killed there too.

After the Holocaust, the world has still not learned its lesson. In 1993 alone, thousands of Azeri Turks died at the hands of Armenians invading Nagorno-Karabakh. Why isn't Armenia today being held accountable for these atrocities? By trying to show Turkish people as culpable in irrelevant events, Chitilian is throwing dirt and cheap pot shots with no substance.

The University of California at Los Angeles rejected the establishment of a Turkish Studies program because of the strong Armenia lobby. Is it a crime to study Turkish history in America? Turkish diplomats have been assassinated by Armenian terrorists in the United States and abroad. And most sadly, thousands of Azeri Turks have died in Nagorno-Karabakh, while Armenians try to hide this fact by distorting the facts.

The real question to ask is, who will remember the Turkish people who are currently suffering at the hands of Armenians?

Sevgi Ertan '98



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

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# A Shameful Punishment

## No Criminal Deserves the Death Penalty

Naveen Sunkavally

If the death penalty is supposed to deter violent crime, why has the United States executed more and more people every year since 1981? In 1981, one person was executed, while in 1997, 74 were killed. During this same period, the national murder rate has remained roughly constant. 1998 has witnessed the executions of 13 people, not including the recent execution in Virginia of a 32-year-old man from Paraguay named Angel Breard.

Angel Breard was an alcoholic. He was sexually molested at the age of seven by a soldier, had a failed marriage, and suffered from bouts of depression. At his trial, Breard confessed to murder on the stand. These circumstances do not lessen the severity of his crime — the murder and attempted rape of a Virginia woman in 1992 — but does this sound like a man who deserves to lose his life?

Most of those on death row face similar problems as Breard: alcoholism, depression, or drugs. Most of these crimes are committed at the spur of the moment and are rarely as spectacular or premeditated as crimes are portrayed on television. Moreover, most of those executed are poor and predominantly of minority groups. These are facts. Can the death penalty possibly deter crimes committed on the spur of the moment by a poor person under the possible influence of harmful substances? And how is it that some people wander around murdering five or six people and get only a life sentence whereas others may receive death sentences for a single murder?

In England in the eighteenth century and nineteenth century, as crowds gathered to watch criminals being hanged for such petty crimes as picking pockets, pickpockets would seize the opportunity to steal from members of the crowd. Apparently, the sight of hanging people, and England's vast assemblage of torture devices and techniques — racks, iron maidens, drawing and quartering, etc. — failed to deter any crime in these cases.

England abolished the death penalty in 1971. France, Canada, South Africa, and all of Western Europe have done the same. If the international trend is towards the gradual extinction of the death penalty, why does the United States, which touts itself as a moral leader in the world, continue to uphold this crude and barbaric form of punishment?

By international law, as expressed in the Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, the United States is required to inform accused foreign nationals of the option of consulting with their nations' consulates for advice.

However, none of the six foreign nationals executed in the United States this year, including Breard, were informed of this option. In Breard's case, the World Court and the government of Paraguay pressed for a stay of execution but failed. How can the United States expect other nations to fairly treat U.S. citizens accused of crime abroad given the U.S.'s track record?

If the death penalty does not deter crime, then does it serve as vehicle for retribution? How can one experience any sort of closure in the sight of flames leaping from the head of Pedro Medina, who was executed last year in a Florida electric chair, or in the sight of a man asphyxiating, turning purple, and drooling in a gas chamber? How many other species, besides the tarantula and the human race, actively engage in the killing of others of their species?

The death penalty should not be a matter of what is "deserved," or "warranted," or "justified." Even the crimes of Hitler, Stalin, and all the other great killers, unknown or known, of this century do not "deserve" the death penalty. It is not a matter of retribution. And besides, those enjoying the fruits of retribution are not the victims themselves — the true victims are most likely dead — but family members and friends of the victims who feel the need for some sort of closure.

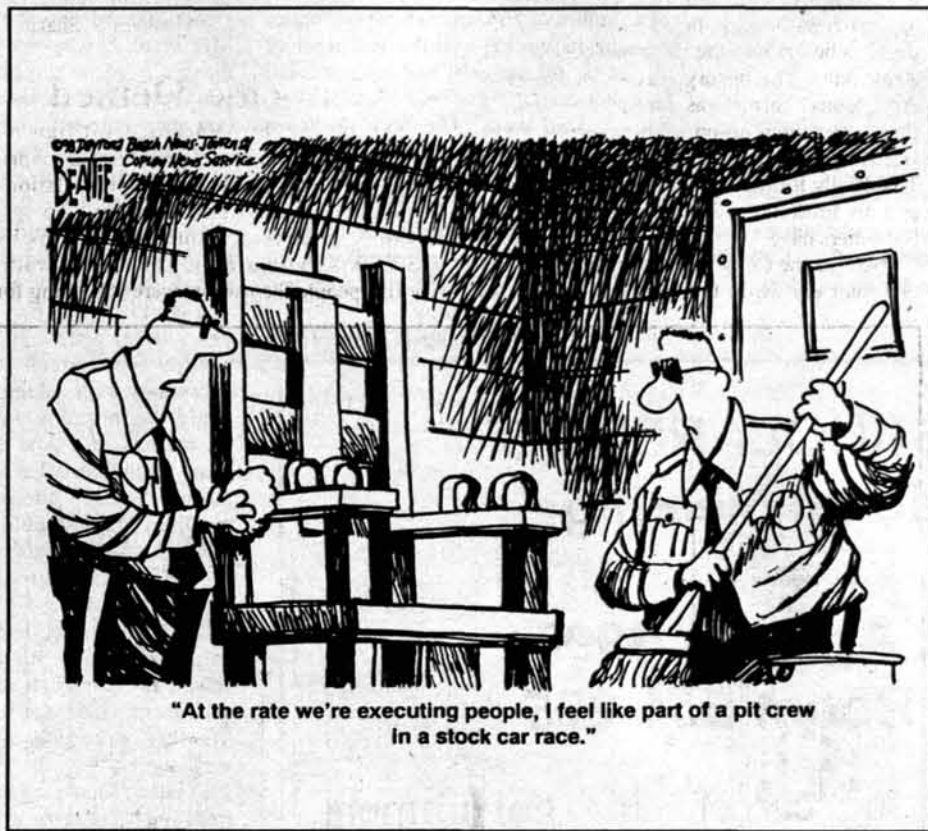
All of those who support the death penalty are killers themselves, and no guise of safe, painless execution (such as lethal injection) can hide this fact. The death penalty, by killing people twice — once in the long wait through the suffering and the costly appeals,

and the another time in the gas chamber or electric chair — is simply inhumane. Putting a man in prison, robbing him of freedom, comfort, the pleasures of life, and any hope of normal life is enough punishment, but robbing him of his mind and playing god goes too far.

In a speech before the Parliament in 1868, John Stuart Mill defended the death penalty as a means to "blot [the criminal] out from the fellowship of mankind and from the catalogue of living" in cases when the criminal shows himself unredeemable and unworthy of life. But society created these individuals, however monstrous they are. To erase them from existence is merely a way to hide society's inner imperfections and problems that need to be cured.

The United States recently demanded that Pol Pot come to America to face a trial. But what kind of country that still supports the death penalty and retains such a skewed perspective on life and death can legitimately make such a demand?

The United States must abolish the death penalty. Killing — arbitrary, costly killing — does not serve as a deterrent or fulfill any moral purpose. Life in prison without parole is a better alternative for violent criminals that not only costs less, but also does not compromise our moral standing. A person, however monstrous, who is serving a life sentence in a well-protected prison has no chance of endangering the lives of others. Abolishing the death penalty would give the United States the shame of being one of the last nations to do so, but it is always better to be last and right than perpetually wrong.



# Through A Locked Door Ambivalently

Anders Hove

Another area of campus is being locked off this month. The basement of Building 18 will no longer be accessible to those seeking a warm, underground way of passing between Hayden Library and Building 66. There will be no reason to pass through the famous "echo chamber" hallway. It is a passage used by perhaps a handful of non-toxicology students each day, but nevertheless its disappearance will be noticed.

Instead of remaining open to the community, more and more places are being shuttered through the introduction of MIT Card readers. The MIT Card continues to be viewed as the salvation of campus security, but to students it remains something of a *bête noire*. It has been many years since the card was introduced, and several since André DeHon G denounced the card's security measures. Why do students continue to express such ambivalence toward this particular hunk of plastic?

As the years have passed, privacy has become less of a concern: in general, more people are using plastic to get through their daily routines. Anyone who has waited while someone uses a bank card to buy a candy bar at LaVerde's knows what I'm talking about. Fifty cents is no longer considered too expensive to bring out the plastic. And what's good enough for LaVerde's is good enough for the dorm laundry machine.

There's something else about using plastic to move from one place to another that seems not right. Something about the presence of MIT Card readers sends the message that you are really not welcome here, whether the card reader blinks red or green when you swipe the card through.

Before card readers were installed on the Medical Center doors, entry was restricted by a key-pad combination lock. Sure, everybody on campus knew the combination — 54-100, after the lecture hall — and they could have let half of Cambridge in on it. And those doors have never been even remotely secure, before or after the card reader locks. Anyone who can't get in for one reason or another can just hang around until someone else passes through in the other direction. So what's the big deal?

A combination lock suggests that the key to getting inside is a small piece of knowledge — a combination. It's up to each person which information to obtain, who to share it with, and when to use it. A combination does not belong to anyone. It preserves freedom of movement and choice. And heck, isn't there something gratifying about punching in a code and hearing the lock click?

The MIT Card presents the opposite experience. Everyone who attends the Institute has one — it is not an option. For security reasons, one cannot lend a card to someone else or share it freely. And the card belongs to someone else. The card's lettering says so: "This card is the property of MIT and must be returned upon request."

Anyone who has ever seen a movie about World War II or the like can conjure up images of some gruff police officer, border guard, or Gestapo agent demanding to see someone's identification: "Papers!" On screen, it seems like producing one's papers was an alarmingly regular event. Who likes to be questioned for proof of age when ordering a glass of wine in a restaurant?

The dislike of "papers" has also led to a good degree of backlash over proposals that the United States issue a national identification card. It's not just a bunch of states-rights wackos who find the idea disturbing. Nobody wants to have one more ID to produce when queried on the street. It smacks of "papers" and dog-tags.

Those who live off campus are always prepared to dismiss complaints about the administration's community relations as remnants of adolescent development, a sort of "hang the president" questioning of authority that is healthy and possibly slightly amusing.

Meanwhile the campus is becoming more and more closed-off. Complaints about the MIT Card have been brushed off in the past, and they will be in the future. Slowly MIT's public spaces are disappearing.

# A Press That Polices Itself

May K. Tse

I've been writing for *The Tech* for the past three years, and I have to admit, we've been wrong a few — no, make that several — times. We were wrong when we published three articles bashing the Media Lab without also running a story noting its good points to add balance; we were wrong when we did not double-check a Holocaust-revisionist ad; and some would definitely say that the infamous column by Stacey E. Blau '98 ["Hypocritical Fraternities Embarrass MIT," Feb. 25, 1997] criticizing the Greek system was way over the top. Does this statement make me a traitor of *The Tech*?

Well, to answer this question, you first need to ask, how loyal should a person be to their organization? For some groups like the military or highly competitive firms, complete loyalty is an unspoken code of conduct; otherwise, people would die and companies would crumble if a traitor leaked military and trade secrets. This same idea of loyalty extends to not publicly bad-mouthing one's organization. For instance, if sports stars publicly criticized their own teams, then what kind of impression would this give to their fans?

It is an anomaly and a breach of this unspoken contract, then, that journalists should be "disloyal" and allowed to criticize their peers and their own organization for poor or distasteful coverage. In addition, some would also say that it is hypocritical for a member of the press to find fault with the press at large, which is

what occurred with the media circus that erupted when Princess Diana died. Nevertheless, I believe that members of the press should indeed have this right to criticize their own, and to do so frankly and unabashedly.

The press has a wide audience, and it should be responsible for what it presents to that audience. The job of the press is not only to report on the who, what, when, and where, but also on the why and how. These two things are sometimes interpreted quite differently, and often controversies arise, especially regarding the reasons why something is right or why it is wrong. However, the job of the press is not to be some messenger of God (or any other higher being) that people should listen to verbatim, but rather a watchdog on society that raises issues and brings different points of views to the public light. The press should stimulate discourse on subject like politics, social problems, and ethics — including the ethics of the press.

Sometimes the things newspapers publish, or that a television broadcast depicts, are not proper nor completely truthful. It might seem traitorous for a journalist or television anchor to admit, "We were wrong when we said this," but if members of the press do not keep themselves in check, then who will do it? The press must be a watchdog on *everything*. It is not a matter of being hypocritical so much as it is to be generally critical of all topics, including ones involving the press itself. Moreover, it is the very responsibility of the press to provide coverage on all types of problems including those of their own; it might not seem loyal to

the organization itself but it is loyal to the purpose for which it exists.

This idea is not a new one. In the *Atlantic Monthly*, James Fallows has written numerous columns regarding the ethics of the press. "Because journalism cannot be regulated or steered by outsiders," writes Fallows, "our craft depends more than any other on constant self-examination by those inside." Similar to the way that people in democracies can vote to put checks on their government, so do members of the press put checks on themselves. It is sometimes embarrassing and awkward to admit imperfection, but the press should remember first our responsibility to our audience and not to our sponsors, friends, or other affiliations.

Fallows also points out that "journalists should think of themselves as being part of society, sharing responsibility for the long-term health of culture and democracy, rather than being strictly detached observers whose duty is only to point out that things are going wrong." It's true that the press is often seen as the bearers of "gloom and doom" but I think that we need to remember that bringing up issues in society means not only bringing up what's wrong with our society, but also, what's right. The job of the press is a complicated one with gray areas, but if we keep ourselves (and everyone else in the world) in check, then we have done our job correctly. The truth is out there, we just need to point out different paths to it for our audience rather than try to proclaim that we know the only way to get there.

# Lemelson Winner Discusses Innovation, Education



Robert S. Langer ScD '74 discussed science and education with *The Tech* last week. He was recently named the first MIT-affiliated winner of the \$500,000 MIT-Lemelson prize for innovation.

By Alleen Tang  
STAFF REPORTER

Robert S. Langer ScD '74, the Germeshausen Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering at MIT, was recently named the

## Feature

1998 recipient of the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize, the world's largest single prize for invention and innovation. Established by the late prolific inventor Jerome H. Lemelson and his wife Dorothy, and administered by MIT, the award is presented annually to an American inventor-innovator for outstanding inventiveness and creativity.

The first MIT-affiliate to receive the Lemelson-MIT Prize, Langer's pioneering research with polymers has led to a majority of his discoveries and earned him the Lemelson-MIT distinction. His achievements resulted in many breakthroughs, including brain cancer treatment, tissue repair, innovative waste disposal, and controlled drug delivery, which benefits millions of people each year.

Langer received a Bachelor of Science with Distinction in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University and a Doctor of Science in Chemical Engineering from MIT, where he has been teaching and doing research since 1977. He is currently the holder of 320 patents, author of 550 research papers, editor of 12 books, and the recipient of over 60 national and international honors.

Last week, *The Tech* sat down with Langer to discuss his accomplishments, his research and his history as a scientist and inventor.

**The Tech:** Professor Langer, what initially inspired you to become interested in chemistry and chemical engineering?

**Robert S. Langer:** When I was

a little boy, I was given a Gilbert chemistry set and I was really excited playing with it, making bubbles and seeing colors change in response to different chemicals. I suppose that was the very first time when I got interested in chemistry.

**Tech:** How did your interest persist?

**Langer:** When I was in high school, I took a chemistry class and I enjoyed that too, probably for the same reasons. In college, I enjoyed chemistry, and I actually didn't enjoy some of the other courses. Since I was in an engineering school, I thought chemical engineering was an interesting area to go into, so I studied that as an undergraduate, and again in graduate school.

**Tech:** Why did you choose to enter chemical engineering over chemistry?

**Langer:** One of the things that's been very important to me is to do some good basic work, but I also want to see it go some place and help people. I write scientific papers, and some of that work is pretty basic, but I like to do it in the context where a real life problem may be solved, or has the potential to be solved.

### Polymers prove to be useful

**Tech:** In much of your work, one discovery often led to the development of another, particularly with the research involving polymers, which earned you the Lemelson-MIT Prize. In what ways have polymers played an important role in your researches on tissue regeneration and controlled drug delivery?

**Langer:** When you make a discovery, it also leads to a lot of unanswered questions. When we first showed that you could use polymers to slowly release large molecules, people were pretty skeptical that you could do it. Then a couple of years later, people in some other groups reproduced it, and then everybody kept asking "Well how could this possibly work? What's the mechanism?" And then a couple years after that, after we identified the mechanism, one of the issues was how stable would these large molecules be? So Alex Klibanov, a Professor of Chemistry, and I decided we'd study that.

In other words, each time you solved a problem, it's not like you solved everything. It's a long long way from a concept to the clinic. We often raise more questions than we answer.

**Tech:** What characteristics of polymers actually allow you to apply it to so many areas?

**Langer:** There are many great things about polymers, particularly

synthetic polymers, which are used in so many aspects of our lives. The beauty of synthetic polymers is that you can tailor them to do both chemically and physically almost anything you want. So chemically, you can tailor them to give the exact degradation rate. You can make them last for a day, or you can make them last for a year. You can also impart other properties, like mechanical strength. Physically, you can control the pore structures of these very precisely, and that is very important for controlling the release rate of a particular drug. In dealing with synthetic polymers, there are synthetic challenges, and some there are processing challenges, but you have the ability to ultimately make polymers that can do what you want in many cases.

**Tech:** Can you pin-point one idea that initially sparked the decision to use polymers?

**Langer:** I had worked at a hospital for a number of years, and one of the things I noticed in the hospital is how materials began to get used in medicine. I would've liked to have thought that material scientists or chemists or chemical engineers played the central roles. That actually wasn't the case. Before we got involved, clinicians took off-the-shelf polymers used in a household object, and said basically, "If it resembles the organ we're trying to fix, then use it in medicine." For example, back in 1967 when clinicians wanted to make an artificial heart, they wanted an object that had good flexural properties and decided to use a ladies' girdle. Then they asked, "What's the material in a ladies' girdle?" It's a polyether urethane, so they made the artificial heart out of that. Some of the problems with the artificial heart is that some blood exposed to its surface forms a clot, and the patient can get a stroke.

Actually, if you look at almost all polymers that are used in medicine today, they had similar origins. Like the breast implants, one of them was originally a lubricant, another was a mattress stuffing. So I started approaching the problem like an engineering design project.

**Tech:** And create your own materials?

**Langer:** Yes, so I started thinking, "Well why don't we ask what you really want in a biomedical polymer," from an engineering standpoint, from a chemistry standpoint, from a biology standpoint, and we put all these down on paper and asked different engineering design questions. Then we synthesized the material. So that's really the

Langer, Page 10

## TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIPS Informational Meeting

Thursday, April 30, 1998  
4:00 p.m., Room E51-275

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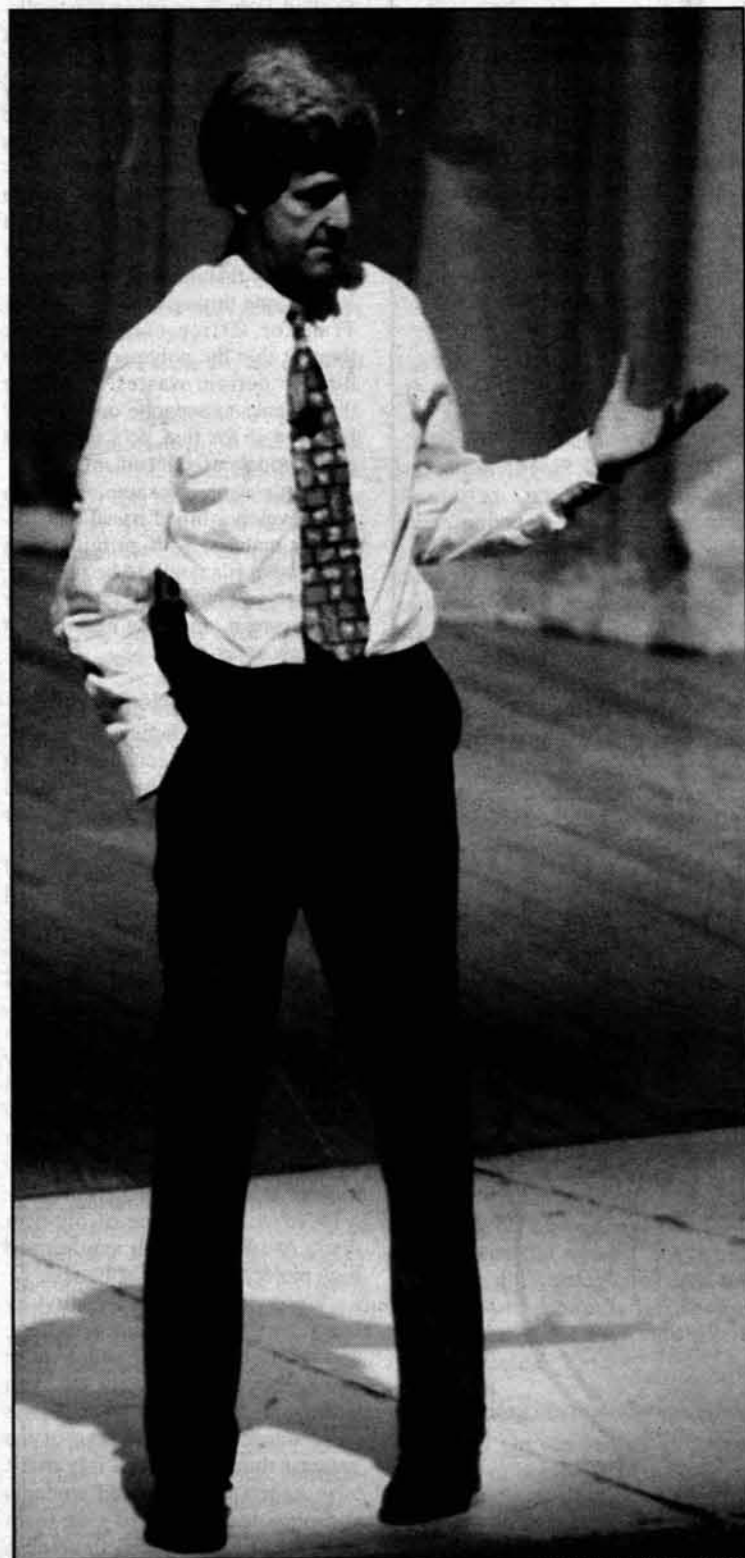
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AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

The Toons, the MIT/Wellesley coed a capella group, held their spring concert in 6-120 on Saturday night with special guests, Columbia's Notes & Keys, and Harvard's Callbacks.

# Republican Cuts Harm Environment, Kerry Argues



Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.)

AGNES BORSZEKI—THE TECH

**Kerry**, from Page 1

killing the Energy Institute and cutting funding for research into renewable resources. Those cuts, he said, put the United States behind Germany and Japan in the research race.

Speaker of the House Newt "Gingrich (R-Ga.) and the Republicans initiated the greatest single assault overtly" on environmental legislation," Kerry said. "It was really shocking: They tried to throw out the Clean Water Act."

"There are people in the Senate who voted against the Clean Air Act," Kerry said. Since George

Bush's presidency, emissions in the United States have dramatically risen, he added.

The real reason the United States fought the Gulf War was to protect oil interests in Saudi Arabia, Kerry said. "We are more dependent today on imports of oil than [we were ever] before," he said.

Kerry urged students to vote Republicans out of the House during the November elections so that environmentalism could be given a higher priority.

Kerry said that legislators "dance around issues," giving as an example a recent debate over education between Republicans and Democrats

in which "people just talked past each other."

Kerry decried the current economics of environmentalism. He said that society was operating at the level of "robber-baron capitalism" instead of "enlightened capitalism."

Kerry also attacked the media, saying that they were only concerned with superficial issues and conflict.

The speech was sponsored by Share a Vital Earth (SAVE), the Office of the President, the Technology and Policy Program, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was part of the Earth Day and Spring Weekend festivities.



AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

The Delta Upsilon pledge class of 2001 paid \$410 for an afternoon barbeque with the Alpha Phi freshmen at the Alpha Phlea Market on Saturday. All proceeds from the event were donated to charity.

# Langer Discusses Polymers, Drug Delivery Problems

Langer, from Page 6

way we got started.

**Tech:** What are some specific examples of when this idea was applied?

**Langer:** In the late 70's, we were incredibly limited, and we still are, in terms of the number of synthetic degradable polymers that you can use in a person. The only type of synthetic degradable polymers were polyester sutures. They were okay for some things, and we've used them for some delivery purposes. But they also show a property called "bulk erosion," meaning that over time, they become spongy and ultimately fall apart. So if you uniformly distribute the drug in the polymer, it could potentially dump the drug.

Asking from an engineering standpoint, "What would be ideal for drug delivery," we decided you wanted what we call "surface erosion," which is analogous to the way a soap dissolves. The challenge was, could we make a polymer that would show surface erosion? We came up with the idea that a family of polymers called polyanhydrides could do this, and got to that point by asking a lot of engineering design questions. Then we synthesized these polymers. There were a number of synthetic challenges, but

we were able to solve them and now we can make the polymers last anywhere from a day to six years or anytime in between.

One of the areas that surface eroding polymers can be applied is in the treatment for brain cancer. Henry Brem, a colleague of mine at Johns Hopkins, and I started thinking, "What if we were able to make a polymer that would just slowly release a cancer drug right to the tumor?" And it's important that its through surface erosion because you wouldn't want to dump a bad drug like that into the brain. From other studies we did, we wanted the polymer to last for four weeks, so we made a brain cancer delivery system out of these polymers.

So now when a neurosurgeon operates on a patient, they take as much tumor out as possible, and before they close up the patient, they put in little wafers, each a little smaller than a dime, into the brain. The whole idea is that this gives you a way to locally deliver the drug to a tumor, and it's also better from a chemotherapy standpoint because you don't have all the toxic side effects associated with getting these drugs intravenously.

**Tech:** Are there any side effects at all?

**Langer:** Much fewer than systemic chemotherapy. In fact, when I

got the award, a patient who was treated by this technique came to the ceremony. He said that there were no side effects, and he is now still alive and well a number of years later. Basically he went in, had the operation, and was back to school within a week.

## Solving drug delivery problems

**Tech:** What is involved in your research on controlled drug delivery?

**Langer:** In controlled drug delivery, we work today on mainly two types of approaches. Approach one is we create materials that can solve drug delivery problems. An example of that is before our research, scientists could only slowly release low molecular weight lipophilic drugs such as steroids. We created approaches using synthetic polymers to deliver drugs of all molecular weights, including high molecular weight drugs like peptides, proteins and DNA.

A subset of this research is work we're doing with Professor of Chemistry Alexander M. Klivanov to stabilize proteins. For example, when you're trying to release proteins for a month, these molecules may become unstable in the presence of water and body temperature. We are also developing microchips with Professor of Materials Science

Michael J. Cima so that someday you could have a whole pharmacy on a chip. Another area of research is to synthesize polymers that display surface erosion. These are now used in the treatment of brain cancer.

The second aspect of our controlled drug delivery research is transport: Can we develop approaches so that you don't have to take injections? First, could you deliver complex molecules through the skin? Right now you can deliver a couple of molecules through the skin. All of these are lipophilic, such as nicotine and nitroglycerin. I'm working with Visiting Professor Joseph Kost and Professor of Chemical Engineering Daniel Blankshtein, to see if we can use ultrasound to deliver different molecules. I'm also working with Dr. James C. Weaver of Health Sciences and Technology to see if we can use electricity. We've also done work with Dr. David Edwards to create new aerosols whereby you can inhale complex molecules like proteins or DNA. We made the aerosols resemble whiffle balls to give them a much lower density but higher diameter than conventional aerosols, which might look like small golf balls. This way, the aerosols don't aggregate nearly the same amount and will flow into the

deep lung because of the differences in aerodynamics and be absorbed more easily. We've also done work with Richard Mulligan at Harvard Medical School developing new approaches for gene therapy, using novel synthetic polymers as carriers for DNA.

**Tech:** Is one method easier to incorporate the drug into the body?

**Langer:** It all depends on the type of drug. If you have a simple molecule, like an aspirin, then your goal is to swallow it. If on the other hand, it is a complex molecule, like a protein or a peptide, then you probably need to inject them. Many of those peptides don't last very long, so you might need to put it in a plastic microcapsule that you can inject underneath the skin, and have it release for a long time.

## Discovering tissue regeneration

**Tech:** Your other major research area is tissue regeneration. Can you talk about that?

**Langer:** The tissue regeneration research started in the early 1980's in collaboration with Jay Vacanti, a professor at Harvard Medical. He is in charge of organ transplantation at Children's Hospital. We've known each other for a long time. He performs transplants on children with liver failure. We started talking: "Could we ever come up with strategies to actually make a liver or any tissue from scratch? Could we take the patient's own cells or a close relative's cells and make a tissue from them? Could we also develop an approach of using synthetic polymers that would enable you to do this?" So it really came through clinical needs that Jay had and from the polymer and bioengineering background I had.

**Tech:** Interestingly, one of the areas to which your research is applied is in innovative waste disposal. Can you describe what that is?

**Langer:** Years ago, one of my post docs was trying to synthesize certain polymers, and our goal was not necessarily to use it for innovative waste disposal. Our goal was to have it be able to bind to certain chemicals in the body, but there was a company that decided to license it. It was done through the Technology Transfer Office. The company thought that the polymer could also bind to certain wastes and make them easier to separate out, so they licensed it for that. It's now used pretty widely as a flocculent.

That's again an example of when you develop a broad based technology or material with an initial idea about what it's going to be used for, but once you publish it, lots of other people see it, and they may take it into new areas.

## Overcoming obstacles in research

**Tech:** Do you believe an important part of being a scientist is being able to defend your work? How did you overcome obstacles in your research?

**Langer:** There's always a lot of obstacles. In 1981, people reviewed our ideas and said, "You can never synthesize these polymers." Two years later, after we synthesized these polymers, they would ask, "Won't these polymers react with drugs?" Two years after that they said, "Even though you've solved that problem, the polymers are very fragile." And this was true, because at that time we had made only low molecular weight polymers. It took a lot of work, but one of my post docs, Avi Domb, then synthesized high molecular weight polymers.

We overcome obstacles first by being very stubborn and persistent, and really believing in what we're doing. Of course the only way you ultimately defend your work is with more science. Secondly, one of the greatest things about MIT is that I have enormously talented students and post docs, and you give them projects like, "Can you develop a way to make sure that these polymers don't react with the drugs?"

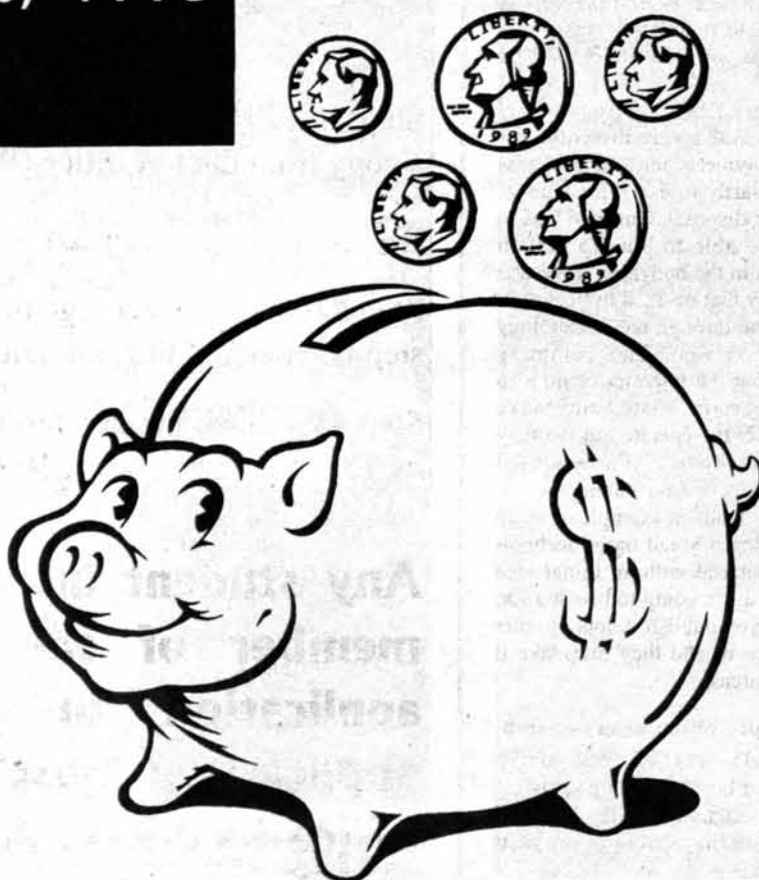


## MIT Dining Needs STUDENTS!

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**Tech:** Some say that research is like trying to reach the other end of a pitch dark tunnel, where you may not know where the current path

leads you. Have you felt that way about your research?

**Langer:** Sometimes. M. Judah Folkman of the Children's Hospital was my post doc advisor. He once said that doing research is like driving a car at night. You're making a long trip and you can't see beyond your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way. I think there's a lot of truth in that. You have an idea of where you want to go, but there are many problems and each has to be solved.

In developing these degradable polymers, I had no idea when we started it in 1980 that it would lead to the treatment of brain cancer. That happened by developing what I call an "enabling technology." Once a problem is solved, other people see it, in this case Dr. Brem from Johns Hopkins, and they get ideas to apply the solution to other areas. That's the beauty of how science works.

**Tech:** As a scientist and inventor, do you see the world differently?

**Langer:** Parts of it you see differently. For whatever area that you have knowledge about, you probably see the world a little differently when that part of the world comes up. You will probably read reports coming out of a newspaper or on a TV show with a different perspective if they relate to the fields that you're in. You read things in the newspaper about there's a cure for this, there's a cure for that, and you just think, "Maybe that's overselling it a little bit." Particularly when it's done on a small scale or in a test tube or something like that.

There's a lot of things with headlines and hype, and you realize all the hard work that goes from a small discovery to really a major one. I don't know how many times I've seen cancer been cured in the newspaper, but in real life, it's a hard problem.

**Tech:** What things do you do outside of research, beyond the world of the laboratory?



Robert S. Langer ScD '74

THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

Langer, Page 18

## ATTENTION STUDENT GROUPS

### UA FINANCIAL BOARD FUNDING REQUESTS FOR FALL '98 DUE NOON, MAY 1ST.

Funding Requests now in three easy steps:

**Step #1:** Fill out a Budget Request which can be obtained by picking up a copy from the UA office (W20-401) or through Athena by running:

```
athena% add finboard
athena% lpr -P[printer_name] /mit/finboard/Forms/Budget_Request_Form_F98.ps
```

**Step #2:** Write a one-page budget defense. This is IMPORTANT. This step is replacing the oral defenses that took place during budget comps.

**Step #3:** Attach the two forms together and turn them into the UA office by 12PM Friday, May 1, 1998. Late forms will NOT be accepted.

**Any student interested in applying to be a member of the board may pick up an application in the UA office. The application must be returned to the UA office by 5PM, April 28th, 1998.**



ARIFUR RAHMAN—THE TECH



RITA H. LIN—THE TECH

## International Fair '98

Above, Soosan Beheshti G serves food at the Iranian Students' Booth. Right, James L. Chen '00 and Kaechy Chen '00 modeled traditional Chinese clothes during the I-fair fashion show.



AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

The annual Baker piano drop was resurrected on Saturday afternoon. It had been cancelled last year due to safety concerns.



DENNIS YANCEY—THE TECH

Durodami J. Lisk '98, Saria M. Hassan '01 and Davis F. McGill '99 (left to right) modeled traditional African garments during Saturday's second annual African cultural show in Burton-Connor.

## POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between April 16 and 22. Information is compiled from the Campus Police's weekly crime summary and from dispatcher logs.

This report does not include alarms, general service calls, or incidents not reported to the dispatcher. "Medical Services" includes medical shuttles, transports, escorts, and other emergency services.

**April 16:** Bldg. E52, suspicious Activity; Bldg. E17, larceny of laboratory cart and pans, \$570; Bldg. 14, Edward Shane of 678 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, arrested for trespassing; Ashdown House, harassing phone calls; Student Center, 1) larceny, cash, \$20; coat, \$100; 2) past larceny, chart and video; Student Center loading dock, motor vehicle accident, no injuries. Medical service calls: 7.

**April 17:** 450 Memorial Drive, assist State Police with motor vehicle accident, one operator placed under arrest by State Police for driving under the influence; Killian Court, burning leaves inside grate, extinguished by Cambridge Fire Department; Bldg. 57, larceny of time clock, \$800; Bldg. E19, harassing phone calls; Bldg. W31, larceny of bicycle, \$199. Medical service calls: 11.

**April 18:** Baker House, complaint of noise on roof; New House, complaint of noise, music shut off, no further complaints; Bldg. 2, larceny of bicycle, \$300; Rockwell Cage, larceny of wallet, \$5; watch, \$85; Westgate Lot, possum impaled upon fence. Medical service calls: 2.

**April 19:** Next House, complaint of noise, music shut off, no further complaints; Pi Lambda Phi, larceny of front door of fraternity and plaque; Bexley

Hall, check on student's well being, everything fine; 450 Memorial Drive, assist State Police with motor vehicle accident; MacGregor House, check on student's well being, student reported missing, later found to be fine. Medical service calls: 6.

**April 20:** New House, check on student's well being, student found to be away for weekend; Tang Hall, Robert W. Valliant of 29 Chaulk Street, Cambridge arrested for trespass after notice and resisting arrest; Student Center, student threatens harm to himself over phone to another, transported to medical department. Medical service calls: 3.

**April 21:** Pierce Boathouse, report of assault and battery, responding officers stop Randy A. Schwarberg, of 33 Endicott Street, Lynn, who then attacks officers, placed under arrest for assault and battery on a police officer; Bldg. E17, larceny of water cooler, \$150; Bldg. 7, complaint of harassment, flyer inserted in department publication; Bldg. E34, larceny of electronic balance, \$90; Bldg. E51, larceny of bicycle, \$80; MacGregor Convenience, attempted breaking and entering; Sigma Chi, larceny of bicycle, \$1,725; 77 Massachusetts Avenue, demonstration, no problems observed; Bldg. W20, larceny of checks. Medical service calls: 4.

**April 22:** Bldg. 54, arrest for trespassing after notice; Bldg. 50, 1) suspicious activity 2) large amount of discarded equipment collected in hallway; Massachusetts Avenue by railroad tracks, larceny, \$11; 77 Massachusetts Avenue, larceny of bicycle, \$80; Bldg. E51, larceny of laptop computer, \$2000. Medical service calls: 5.

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April  
28, 1998

# COMICS

# FUN

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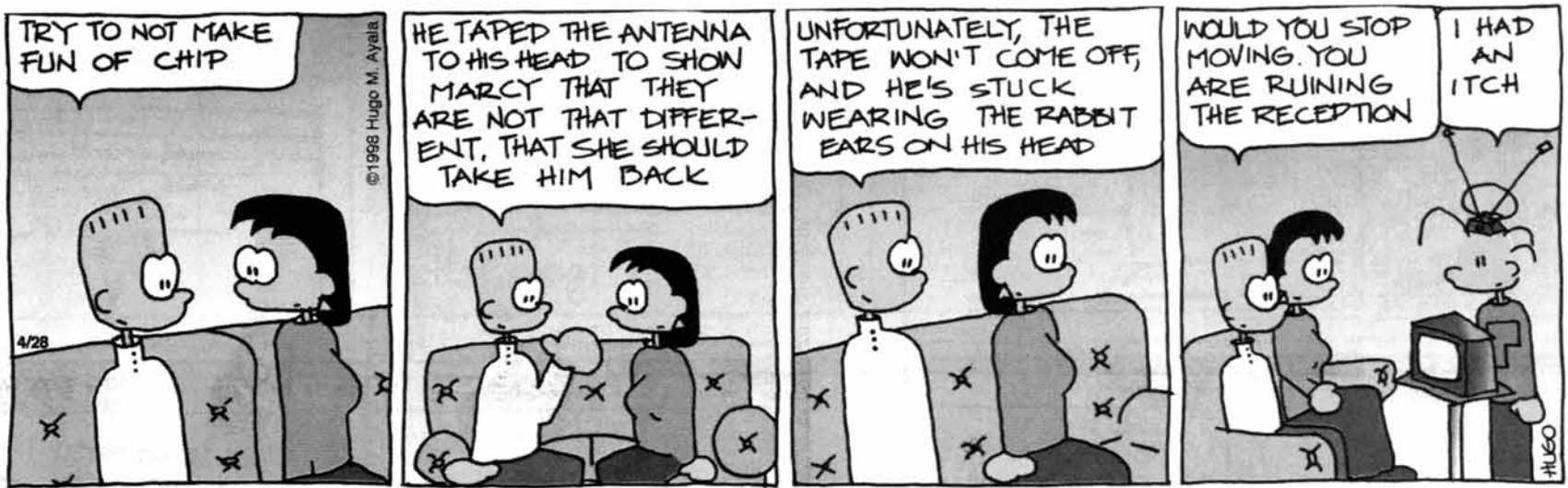
# PAGES

dammed for life - adventures with Lynn

by j.wu



## Off Course by Hugo



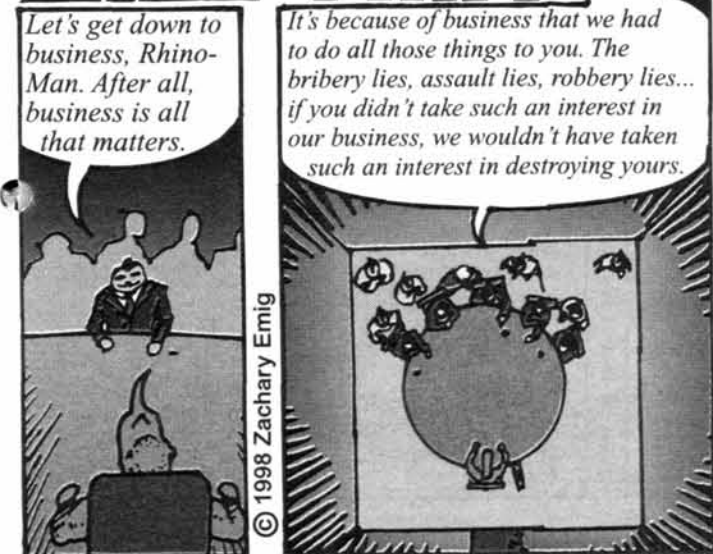
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## RHINO MAN

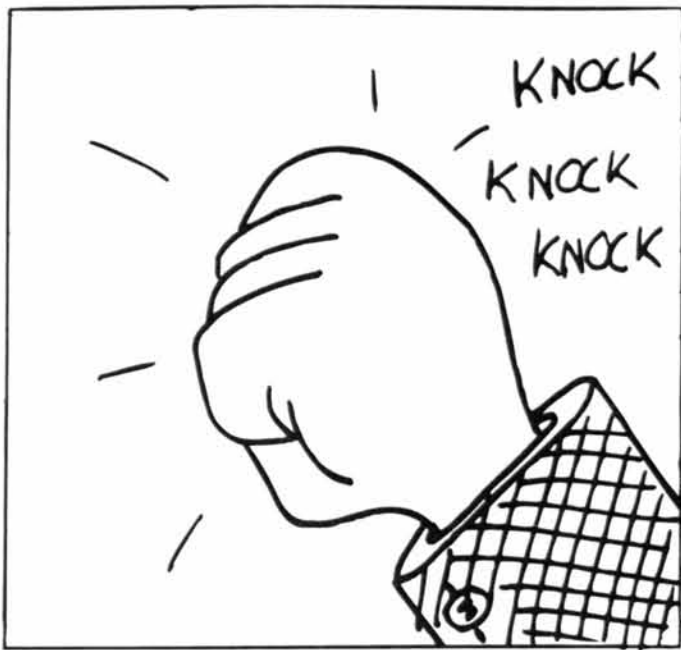
THE STORY SO FAR: Rhino-Man is meeting with the Yakuza (Japanese mafia) members who framed him.

by  
Zachary Emig



Next Issue: Rhino-Man's special negotiation ploy

Perhaps...

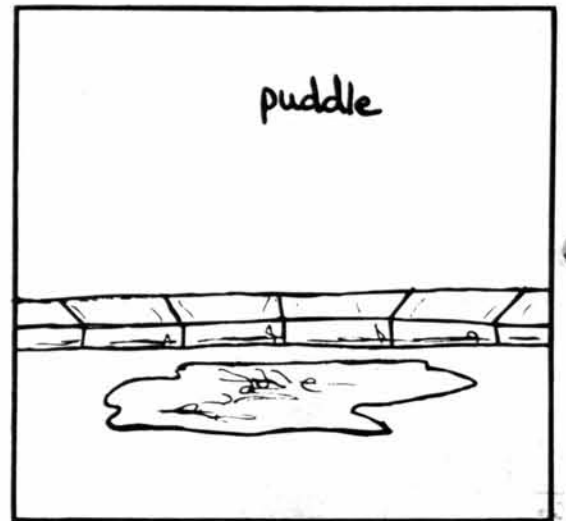
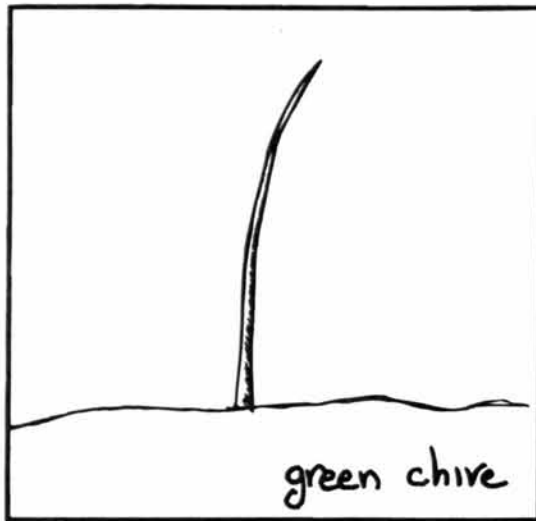


... Bill Clinton at MIT...

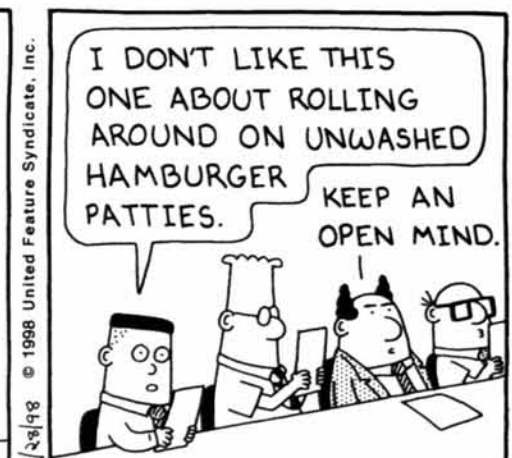
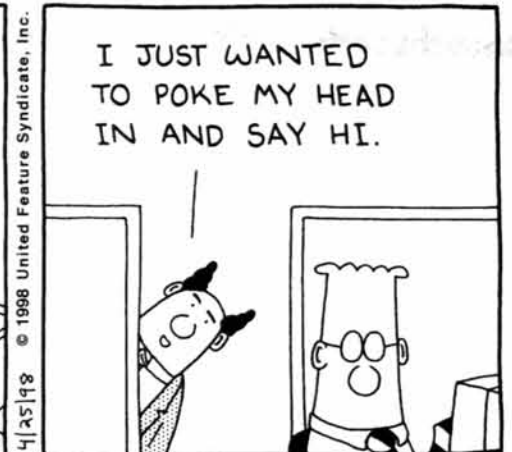
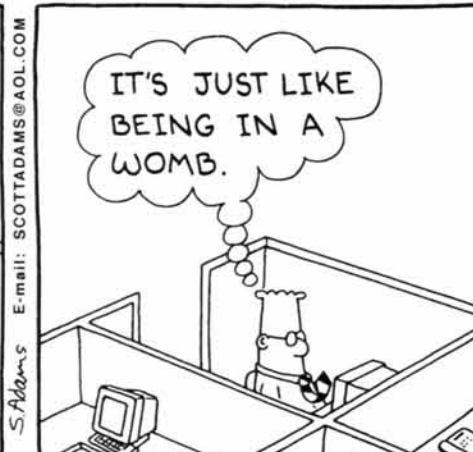
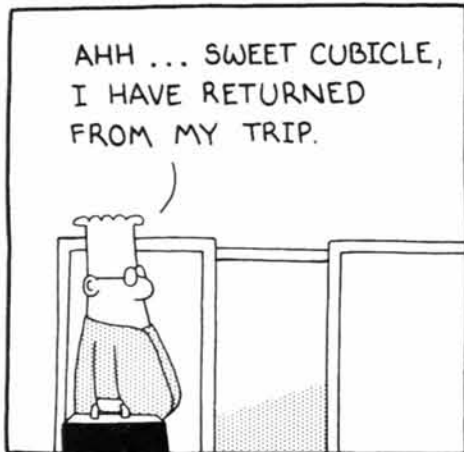
By Jennifer DiMase



Noun Poetry by Katy-Cat



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



**Trivia Corner National Anthems**

Most Americans know that the lyrics to the national anthem of the United States, "The Star-Spangled Banner," were written by Francis Scott Key while he watched the successful defense of Ft. McHenry during a battle in the War of 1812. He, however, did not compose the music — his lyrics were set to the tune of an English drinking song, "To Anacreon in

Heaven." This combination soon became popular throughout the country, but Congress didn't officially adopt it as the national anthem until 1931.

What Nobel Prize laureate composed national anthems for both India and Bangladesh?

This week's winners will each win two LSC

movie tickets and one large tub of popcorn, courtesy of LSC.

Showing this weekend:

Friday 7:30 p.m. in Room 10-250

*Two Mules for Sister Sara*

Friday 7 and 10 p.m., Sunday 7 p.m.

in Room 26-100

*Great Expectations*

Saturday 7 and 10 p.m., Sunday 10 p.m.

in Room 26-100

Jackie Brown

Send your answers to [trivia@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:trivia@the-tech.mit.edu) by 3 p.m. Wednesday. Two random drawings from all of the correct entries will be held to determine this week's two winners.

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 are not eligible.

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65								66					67		

**ACROSS**

- 1 Rabbits have long ones
- 5 What a bang on the head does to vision
- 10 Thus
- 14 Paramilitary police force, abbr.
- 15 Bird
- 16 Hip
- 17 Solutions, to a mathematician
- 18 Sleep disorder
- 19 Valley
- 20 Band killed in a plane crash
- 23 Equivalence exam.
- 24 Osiris' queen
- 25 Horses' hair
- 28 Actress West
- 30 Hands
- 34 Affirm
- 35 Mostly composed of nitrogen
- 36 Poisonous, flammable gas
- 37 Seat designation
- 38 20-Across's Sweet Home
- 40 22.5°
- 41 Small
- 43 On backorder
- 44 Only, fr.
- 45 Port along the Dnepr River
- 46 Govt. agency
- 47 Foundation
- 48 Desktop symbol, var.
- 50 Unit of oil prod.
- 51 Song by 20-Across
- 59 Omani, for instance
- 60 Spoil

**DOWN**

- 61 Brainstorm, Fr.
- 62 Production plant
- 63 The King
- 64 Hawaiian state bird
- 65 House of \_\_\_, Ferrara family
- 66 Rivebanks, for instance
- 67 Ultimate justification
- 9 Certain gubernatorial powers
- 10 Molting
- 11 Crowd noise
- 12 Au
- 13 Matador's cheer
- 21 Affirmative
- 22 Black, Lat.
- 25 That Girl, Thomas
- 26 To have, Fr.
- 27 Certain amphibians
- 28 Woody's Ex
- 29 A tree holiday, with Day
- 31 Ivy, for one
- 32 Boredom
- 33 Sews, as in falconry
- 35 Bass is one

**By Anthony R. Salas**

- 36 Dosage, abbr.
- 38 On one of HOMES
- 39 Down under, abbr.
- 42 Darning necessity
- 44 Cracker
- 46 One of the things Clinton didn't do
- 47 Computer dialup system, abbr.
- 49 Playful water animal
- 50 Famous flag maker, Ross
- 51 Grouse, maybe
- 52 Eye part
- 53 Ingredient used in beer making
- 54 \_\_\_ Gauche
- 55 Oklahoma city
- 56 Paradise
- 57 Await, as a judgement
- 58 Understands

**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

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 Former Naval Aviator and Medal of Honor Recipient

with opening remarks given by  
**MIT Senior Vice President William Dickson**

and a special appearance by the Navy Band

**3:00 P.M.**

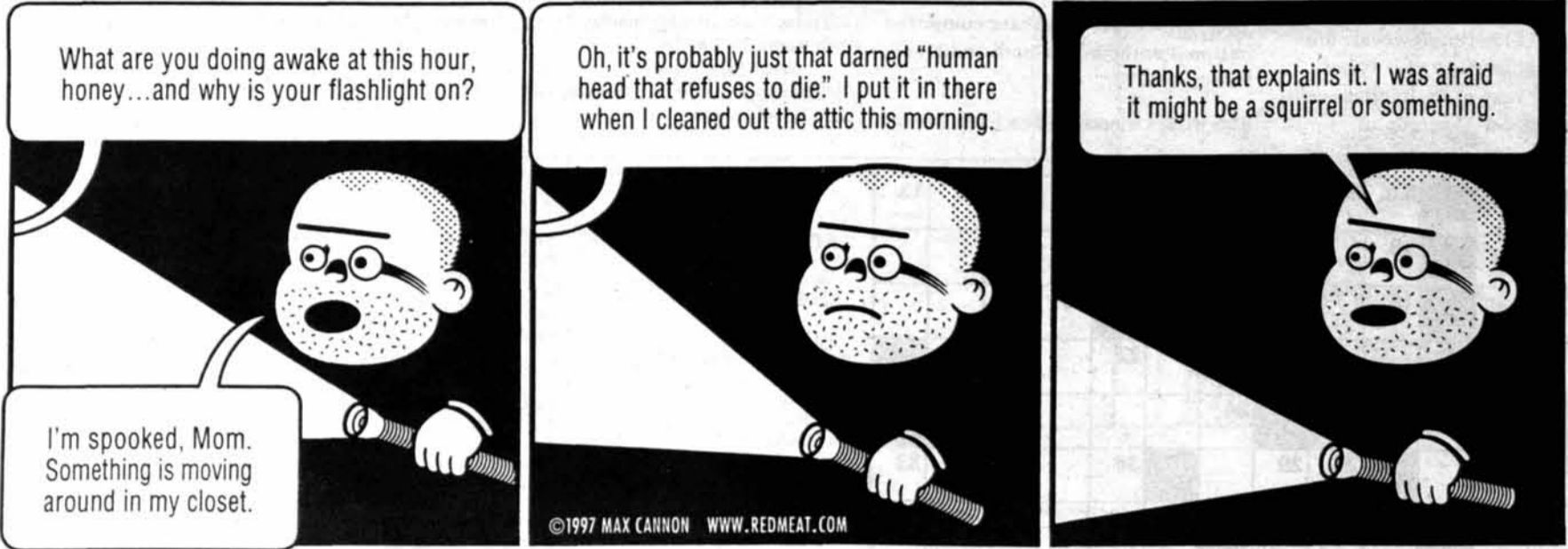
**April 29, 1998**

**Brigg's Field**

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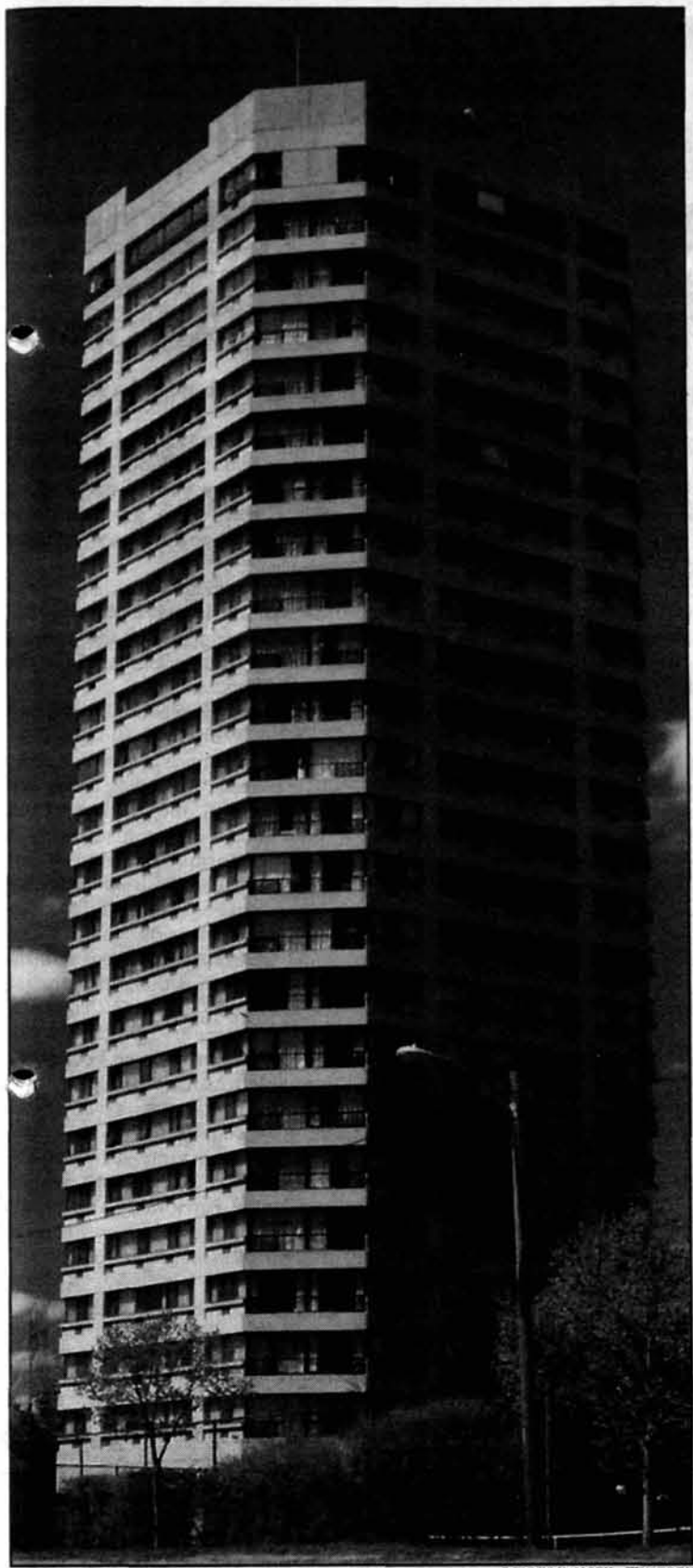


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Tang Hall will house approximately 100 undergraduates next fall in an attempt to relieve dormitory crowding.

## Undergrads in Tang Will Receive Subsidy

Tang, from Page 1

stay more than one academic year, but it is unlikely that additional undergraduates will move to the residence in the future.

### Benefits planned for residents

MIT is planning several incentives to encourage students to move. In addition to subsidized housing costs, graduate residence tutors will be installed and a connection to Next House dining may be established.

A shuttle service to Tang is also being discussed, although details have not yet been decided. Bicycle racks may be added to reduce the difficulties of living far from campus.

The final decision on whether to move undergraduates to Tang will be made today, Eisenmann said. Mailings will be sent out to undergraduates "hopefully by the middle of the week," he said. Some dormitories have already sent their residents e-mail notifying them of the opportunity to move to Tang.

Tang was chosen in an effort to minimize the disruption of graduate student life. Since it houses mostly first-year graduate students, most of the student population will move out at the end of the year. Next year's undergraduate population can then be integrated into the dormitory with a minimum of disruption.

Although undergraduates will take up 100 beds in Tang, the administration hopes to offset those losses with 132 new spaces for graduate students in the new Worthington Place in Kendall Square, Eisenmann said. Eisenmann said that the new spaces might be subsidized for incoming graduate students.

Separately, the Graduate Student Council has asked the Provost Joel Moses PhD '67 to subsidize Worthington Place apartments, which are priced at \$750 per month compared to \$400 at Tang, said Brian J. Schneider G. "Our concern now is that graduate students aren't paying for undergraduates to live in what used to be graduate housing."

"I wouldn't say that the GSC is very happy" about the upcoming move, Schneider added.

This situation is not unique in MIT's history. In 1993, many upperclassmen were housed at Westgate in an effort to decrease crowding. During the 1994-5 school year, undergraduates were housed in Huntington Hall, a dormitory in Boston belonging to the Massachusetts College of Art.

Other past efforts to decrease crowding have included converting MacGregor House lounges to bedrooms and crowding large rooms in Baker House and Burton-Conner House.

## Defamation Mars UF Elections

FROM UNIVERSITY WIRE

"Ethics in, McGovern out!" shouted nearly 75 students, their picket signs echoing their non-stop chants. "Johnny, Johnny, go away. You're a tool of FBK."

### Short Takes

For an hour and a half, in a sun-beaten path that stretched across the University of Florida campus, critics of Student Body President-elect John McGovern did not mince words.

They made it clear they do not want McGovern — found liable last week of defaming 32-year-old graduate student Charles Grapski by adding child molestation charges to his criminal record and posting it on campaign flyers — to lead them or their 41,000 peers.

"He has no character," opponent James Salt said. "He proved that three years ago. And the most disgusting thing about it is he's hiding behind the appeal process."

McGovern was ordered, along with Florida Blue Key — the University of Florida's oldest leadership honorary — to pay Grapski \$250,000 in damages, plus lawyers' fees, for the defamatory flyers posted during the Spring 1995 Student Government elections.

McGovern, a 23-year-old law student, has maintained his right to be student body president because he plans to appeal the jury decision and because he maintains his innocence.

"This is a long judicial process, and we are only at the first step," he said last week after the verdict. "This will go on for years, and I was elected with this lawsuit pending."

"Any moron can see this is wrong," UF sophomore Anthony Pedicini said. "Civil or criminal, defamation is wrong. It's not a gray issue."

Administrators have said McGovern's and Blue Key's leadership and presence on campus needs to be determined by students and the student government. "The students ought to determine who their own officers are," said Art Sandeen, UF's vice president of Student Affairs.

Geography major Tim Sheelen said that is politically impossible because of the majority hold McGovern's party, the Action Party, has on Student Government and the Student Senate. The senate is the only body that could approve an impeachment.

"If we're going to leave it up to students, all the students can't do it," said Sheelen, who ran for student body vice president with the Honest Party in the March 24 and 25 elections but lost. "It's the senate, and we know who controls them — Action."

During the eight-day defamation trial that began April 6, several witnesses testified to what had been rumored for years — that Blue Key, through four power groups composed of fraternities and sororities, handpicks Blue Key student leaders while excluding other independent student politicians through manipulative tactics.

Sandeen said if some student government members want change, they should consider following a 3-year-old recommendation for a constitutional convention to reorganize and revise student government policies. "They have not acted on that recommendation yet, but that's the best way to do things — through the democratic process," he said.

But Grapski said the student government is incapable of being democratic because of the "political machine" of Blue Key. The only improvements, he said, will come through administrative intervention.

"I'm very glad the students are taking action, because the University of Florida has historically failed to take any action," he said, calling Sandeen's responses the "cop-out answer I have heard every year I've been here. It's disappointing and disheartening to see what the university is doing."

Vision ticket member Nick Zissimopoulos said he was "thrilled" with the protest's high turnout and potential impact.

"There were people who said we wouldn't get 10 people out here, and look at this," he said, gesturing to his left and right. "I call this a healthy smattering of people from all over campus."

Also representing students from "all over campus" was Andrew Knight, a member of Students for Fair and Equal Representation.

The student group so far has gathered more than 1,100 signatures to put two initiatives on the Fall elections ballot. One initiative calls for McGovern's removal, and the other calls for the removal of Blue Key from its third-floor office in the Reitz Union.

According to Student Body statutes, about 840 signatures are necessary to put initiatives on the ballot. If the initiative were passed and deemed constitutional, it would affect McGovern midway through his term.

But Zissimopoulos said he is hoping enough signatures on the petition will convince McGovern to step down, something he so far has said he would not do.

[Independent Florida Alligator, April 23]

### Texas vows to appeal Hopwood

The University of Texas System's top attorney said Friday that the Hopwood ruling will be appealed even if Texas Attorney General Dan Morales refuses to take the case.

A panel of three 5th Circuit judges ruled in 1996 that the use of race in admissions and financial aid was unconstitutional. An appeal of the ruling was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court in July 1996. Morales later interpreted the 5th Circuit ruling to apply to all Texas public universities.

While UT students, officials and state groups ask for a reevaluation of the ruling, Morales has said he might not appeal on behalf of the UT System because he doesn't think the University's case to reinstate affirmative action in higher education can be won.

But chances are an appeal will be made. "It should be realized that in this case, there has been correspondence from the plaintiffs and that they've given notice of appeal prior to the one General Morales filed," said Ray Farabee, general counsel for the UT System. "So the case is going to go up on appeal. It's simply a question of what points are going to be put forth by the plaintiffs and the defendants."

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks awarded the four white plaintiffs in the case \$1 each in damages and more than \$750,000 for attorneys' fees last month. They are likely to appeal for more money, attorneys say.

Once the plaintiffs appeal to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for more damages, UT System attorneys may make any arguments they wish — including the constitutionality of race in admissions at the University, Farabee said.

In an appeal to the 5th Circuit, UT System lawyers will probably argue that the use of race in admissions is legal and that a recent injunction by Sparks preventing the UT School of Law from using race in its admissions should be overturned.

UT System officials hope that a larger panel of the 15-judge 5th Circuit will reinstate the use of race in admissions. Another ruling on the case could make UT admissions policies similar to other universities in the nation, they said.

Currently, only Texas and California are barred from using affirmative action policies in higher education.

UT System attorneys, Chancellor William Cunningham and UT President Larry Faulkner discussed with Morales Friday possible argu-

ments to be made in an appeal, but were tight-lipped about what those arguments might be.

"There is certainly the matter of damages, then the question of UT-Austin being treated in matter similar to institutions of higher education in 48 other states," Farabee said.

Morales, who opposes affirmative action policies, gave no hint Friday if he would appeal on behalf of the University, saying only that a decision should be forthcoming during the next few weeks.

If Morales does not appeal, he will probably allow UT System officials to seek private counsel, Farabee said.

[Daily Texan, April 27]

### Stanford students rally for tenure

Nearly 100 people gathered Sunday to march in support of diversity of the Stanford University faculty.

Organized by the Student Coalition to Tenure Karen Sawislak, the rally drew undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members. Dressed in black and carrying picket signs, the group marched in an attempt to get an audience with University President Gerhard Casper and Provost Condoleezza Rice.

Outside their office, Assistant to the President Jacqueline Wender said Casper and Rice weren't in and had no comment, drawing an angry response from the protesters.

"Don't you think it's a blatant act of disrespect for them not to be here?" asked Shaumo Sadhukhan.

Wender did accept a list of demands from the group, promising to pass them on to her superiors. The "call for action" requested significant changes in the tenure process, including forming an external review committee to investigate the University's record in these issues; creating a committee to explore tenure process reform; re-evaluating the grievance process; and holding an open forum on Stanford's affirmative action policy.

The University's current tenure policy is "unbecoming to an institution that claims to be part of the democratic fabric of this country," said history doctoral student Chuck Carlson, an organizer of both the coalition and the rally.

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Robert Weisberg called the demands "extraordinary" and said Stanford would "continue to follow the general process by which tenure is in the hands of a faculty structure."

Within those parameters, Weisberg said, Stanford will become more balanced in terms of gender and race.

"We're confident that the current structure can improve the diversity of the faculty so long as we continue to work hard at it," he said, adding that part of the May 14 Faculty Senate meeting will be devoted to a report on the status of women faculty.

But in light of the denial of tenure to three women and one minority man in the School of Humanities and Sciences during the past year, the status quo may not be enough, protesters said.

The fact that such a protest was needed also relates to a lack of vigilance on the part of faculty and staff members hired 10 or 20 years ago, said History Professor Estelle Freedman, director of the Feminist Studies Program.

When she first came to Stanford, she and many others were the first women or minorities in their departments, she said, and that hasn't changed for many.

Stanford has failed to attain more gender equity in those decades for complex reasons, she said, urging students to watch for "subtle kinds of bias that affect all of us" and work for change.

Students from a variety of groups must "see how we can work to change the University's policies," he said, "so we don't fight these tenure battles one by one — in which case I think we'll always lose."

[The Stanford Daily, April 27]

## BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE.

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot. Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work. When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups. Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you're in the bathroom brushing your teeth or washing your face, don't let the faucet run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we'll save more for tomorrow.

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## Advances in Science Not Slowing Down

Langer, from Page 11

things. Like I said earlier, as you come up with something, you have no idea what it's going to be used for. In fact the initial research we had with polymers actually had to do with studying how blood vessels work. I was trying to develop an assay for that, which was very basic work.

### The future of learning, science

**Tech:** Major advancements in science began during the Renaissance. As we approach the end of the millennium, some people have speculated that we are also arriving at the end of novel scientific discoveries. Do you agree?

**Langer:** I don't think so. There is still much more that we want to discover and will discover as we move to the next millennium. My own feeling is that there's just so much to learn. Certainly in the biological area, some advances in molecular biology opened up all kinds of opportunities to learn things that we've never learned before. There's also opportunity for learning in material science and chemical engineering, particularly

in areas that cross over with biology. I think about that all the time: how molecules are transported across different barriers, how can we learn more about the immune system to make high quantities of antibodies for better vaccines.

I think there are just so many things that we don't understand and what's good about this particular time is that we live in an environment where science is certainly appreciated and where you have resources to do things in science that are continuously getting better and better.

**Tech:** We've been pursuing new knowledge since the beginning of time. Will we ever reach a full understanding of the Universe? Where do you think the limit lies?

**Langer:** That's a hard question. If I were to look at what happened in the last hundred years, it's just incredible what we've learned. So extrapolating on that, I expect with the tools that are in place, we're going to learn an incredible amount in the next hundred years. I don't know where you draw the line, but I just think that at least in the near future, we're going to learn an awful lot.

## Spring Weekend Deemed Success

Spring Weekend, from Page 1

The International Fair held Friday featured food, music, and dance from a variety of cultures. There were also performances throughout the day by cultural groups.

Other events taking place throughout the weekend included carnival games, a piano drop, a Whopper Eating Contest, and the Alpha Phlea Market.

Mr. Spring Weekend, organized by the Women's Independent Living Group, was a non-traditional male pageant. According to Jennifer E. Szlosek '01, the competition featured creative categories such as Non-Conformal Evening Wear, Charades, Short Answers Questions, Talent, and Persuasion Abilities.

In the Persuasion Abilities segment the contestants went into the crowd to solicit donations for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center.

The winner, Christian D. Garcia '01, was chosen because he was able to solicit the most donations. Approximately seventy people attended the event.

Alpha Tau Omega hosted the Bachelor and Bachelorette Auction and Dance Party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The organizers were unavailable for comment.

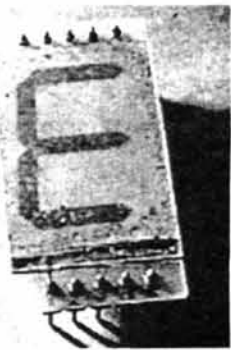
### Weekend deemed a success

Spring Weekend's organizers declared the events a success. "It went really well. It was a chance for the MIT community to get together and a chance for the administration to show support for students and support social life on campus," Jackson said. "We're looking forward to bigger and better things in the future."

Approximately \$33,000 was spent on Spring Weekend. The funds were supplied by the President's Office, the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education, the Office of the Arts, the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, the Provost's Office, the Undergraduate Association, the School of Architecture, and the School of Science.

Additional funding was provided by the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Science, the Department of Biology, the Department of Chemical Engineering, and the Campus Activities Complex Programming Board.

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# Lady Engineers Win First Place at 'Taco Bowl' Tournament

By Karen Plaut  
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Women's Ultimate team came home with a first place win at the "Taco Bowl" tournament at SUNY-Albany this past weekend.

The first game of the weekend was against the tough Brown team that they had lost to at two previous tournaments. Brown tried to stop the lady Engineers with a zone defense, but good movement by the poppers, Jessica Young G and Jenny Fujii G, kept the disc moving into MIT's end zone. MIT held on to an early lead and came out with a 15-6 victory.

The second game pitted MIT against SUNY-Binghamton. Solid coverage by Alicia Volpicelli '98 kept the Binghamton team from moving the disc too far down the field. MIT won with a resounding score of 15-2.

The third game of the day was against Middlebury. Despite having no warm-up time, MIT quickly took the lead 2-0. With patient handling by Tessa Warren G, Olivera Kesler G, and Karen Plaut G, and aggressive defense, the Engineers won 15-9.

MIT's first game the following day was against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Despite the rain, the offense flowed and the defense effectively protected the end zone as MIT romped RPI with a score of 15-0.

In the final game of the tournament, the Engineers faced Brown once again. As the ground got muddier and the disc slipperier, superb plays by Rebecca Thomas G

and Etchell Cordero G helped keep the disc in MIT's possession. The Engineers held Brown to only two goals per half, winning by a convincing score of 15-4. The women's ultimate team is looking to keep up the momentum at Sectionals and Regionals in the coming weekends.

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# SPORTS

## MIT Club Squash Team Places Second in League Competition

By Ali Merchant and Chris van Schalkwyk  
TEAM MEMBERS

Coming back from a fifth-place mid-season slip, the MIT A-league squash team, sponsored by QM-USA, placed second in the Massachusetts Squash League. The team fell 3-1 against the Concord-Acton team in last Tuesday's finals match.

"This is a significant improvement over last year when the team ended seventh in the state," said Team Captain Chris van Schalkwyk

PhD '96. "We've worked hard throughout the season and we are happy that it paid off," he said.

In the semi-finals the team consisting of Ali Merchant G, Mohammed Ayaz, Cliff Wenn, and van Schalkwyk defeated University Club 3-1.

The final was played against Concord-Acton, and it was clear from the outset that it was going to be a tough match. Merchant, ranked number one individually, played a spectacular game and beat club pro Paul Ansdel, 9-0, 10-8, 9-3. Ayaz

started off very well with a 7-0 lead in the first game, but eventually lost against a fighting Jeremy Goulding. The victory gave Goulding confidence, and he defeated Ayaz 3-0.

Although Wenn played well in the front court and moved his opponent great distances, he failed to keep up the pace of the game and lost 3-0 to Rob Davis. van Schalkwyk easily took the first game against Ron Beck but ultimately exhaustion took its toll in the long five game match and he was beaten 4-9, 9-5, 9-1, 7-9, 9-4.

The team started the season well and maintained its number two position for the first part of the season. However, the team slipped into a fifth rank tie with the Harvard Club team when the top two players, Merchant and Wenn, were absent during the Independent Activities Period. To get back into the playoffs the team had to win two crucial matches against University Club and Harvard Hemenway. With the team again at full strength, they won both matches 4-1 and 5-0 respectively.



AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

Lila French '99 vaults to victory on Saturday in Steinbrenner Stadium. With the victory, French became the NEW 8 Conference pole vault champion.

### UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, April 28

Baseball vs. University of Massachusetts, Boston, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29

Golf vs. Brandeis University, 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 30

Men's Tennis vs. Dartmouth College, 4:00 p.m.

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