

## Uncertain Funding Vexes ILG Resident Tutor Pilot Project

By Frank Dabek  
NEWS EDITOR

A pilot program to place graduate resident tutors in independent living groups is proceeding, but questions are already being raised about who will fund the Institute's mandate requiring all ILGs to have tutors by 1999.

The office of Residence and Campus Activities has been allocated enough money to reimburse six houses for tutor expenses this year, said Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean and advisor to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, but additional funding for the pilot program and funding beyond this year is uncertain.

Dorow said that "a good number [of ILGs] have expressed interest in participating in the pilot program." However, he said that "we have tentative approval for six participants" to receive funding. According to Dorow, RCA will "reimburse each of the living groups for the cost of one house bill." The tutors "would be provided room and board [by] the house in return for the house bill provided by us."

The limited nature of funding for the pilot program could leave some houses paying the cost of participating in the experimental program.

"If more than six houses express a sincere interest I hope that we can work something out," Dorow said. Given the uncertainty of finding funding, however, Dorow said that "maybe some of them wouldn't get reimbursement."

Funding for the program beyond this first year is uncertain as well. "One consideration is applying this reimbursement across the board," said Dorow. It is not certain whether such funding will be available, he said.

Regardless of how much funding is available, Dorow said that the "reality is that in 1999 every house is expected to have a residential advisor with or without the money."

### Participants hope for funding

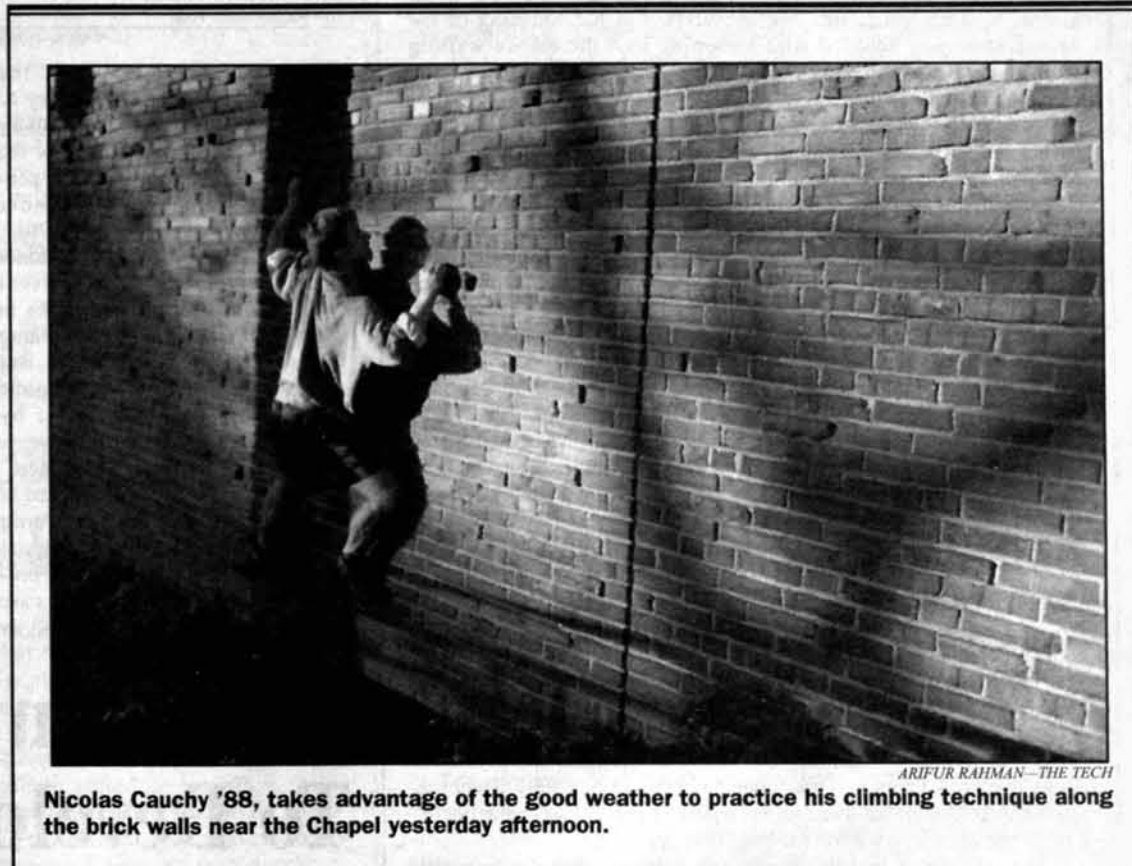
For houses hoping to participate in the pilot program, the loss of a house bill is a serious concern.

Tau Epsilon Phi Chancellor Farhad A. Ebrahimi '00 said that TEP had someone in mind to act as a GRT and was expecting to be compensated for the house bill of its tutor if it chooses to participate in the pilot program. Ebrahimi called the possibility that funding would not be available "less than ideal" and said that "if they're going to impose something on us, it's at least nice that they should pay for it."

He called the program "an inevitability," however, and said that the house was participating in the hopes of "doing our best to shape what it's going to be like."

Eve M. Phillips '98, president of Alpha Phi, said that her house was also considering participating in the program. AP, like other sororities, already has a "house director" which would be acceptable to the

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Nicolas Cauchy '88, takes advantage of the good weather to practice his climbing technique along the brick walls near the Chapel yesterday afternoon.

## Boston Police Dispute CP Claims Of Inaccuracy in Crime Reporting

By Douglas E. Heimbarger  
NEWS EDITOR

The Boston Police have disputed recent claims by the Campus Police that they failed to report incidents at Boston-based fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups in the public crime logs available at their offices.

Brendan D. Flynn, administrative assistant to the Boston Police Commissioner, wrote to *The Tech* last week to criticize the initial claims by the Campus Police that both the CPs and the Boston Police were responsible for omissions of crime data from 1992 through 1997 ["Campus Police Acknowledge Omission of FSILG Crime Stats", March 31].

"The district has provided the information requested consistently" since the Campus Police requested crime data on May 10, 1996, Flynn wrote. The CPs specifically requested information only on crimes required to be reported annually under the Campus Crime Prevention Act of 1990, Flynn added.

The Campus Police recently admitted that their federally-required crime summaries had omitted crime information from off-campus FSILGs due to accounting errors on their part. They also claimed at the time that the Boston Police Department had been providing erroneous information both in its faxed reports since 1996 and in its public logs before that time.

A total of 135 incidents, most of them burglaries, were not included in the annual crime summaries between 1992 and 1997. Four of the incidents involved drug, weapons, or liquor law violations. Two forcible sex offenses occurred during that period.

Chief of Campus Police Anne P.

Glavin conceded that the Boston Police have been providing accurate information since 1996, but she maintains that records before then were not as accurate.

Before 1996, Campus Police officers traveled weekly to the Boston Police District Four offices to look at the public police log, which is similar to the one that the Campus Police maintain themselves.

During that time, the Campus Police frequently observed weeks

when no incidents occurred in FSILGs, Glavin said.

After *The Tech* requested the release of detailed crime logs from all Boston FSILGs during the period, the Campus Police requested the more detailed computerized crime logs from the Boston Police.

At that point, the Campus Police discovered incidents at Boston FSILGs that they had not previously

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## Report Criticizes Focus Of Research Universities

By Zareena Hussain  
NEWS EDITOR

A report released last week criticizing research universities for neglecting undergraduate education in favor of research and graduate training continues to produce discussion within many areas of the Institute.

The report, entitled "Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America's Research Universities" was funded by a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and was written by the Boyer Commission on Educating Undergraduates in the Research University. The report has produced a vigorous debate within the academic community as administrators and faculty members try to determine the validity of the report and weigh its recommendations.

The report asserts that "research universities have too often failed, and continue to fail, their undergraduate populations."

"Recruitment materials display

proudly the world-famous professors, the splendid facilities and the ground-breaking research that goes on within them, but thousands of students graduate without ever seeing the world-famous professors or tasting genuine research."

The report also made ten recommendations to change undergraduate education. These included emphasizing research-based learning, changing the structure of the freshman year, making the freshman year a basis for future education, linking communication skills and coursework, using information technology in teaching, culminating the undergraduate experience with a 'capstone' experience such as senior thesis or research, improving training of graduate teaching assistants, changing the faculty reward system, and cultivating a sense of community.

"I think that the issues raised in the Carnegie report are the right issues to be focusing on," said Associate Professor of Political

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YING LEE—THE TECH

Ja Hyun Shin '99 played assorted works of Beethoven, Brahms and Kreisler in an Advanced Music Performance Concert held in Killian Hall Monday afternoon.

Two of MIT's leading economists mixed jokes, wagers, and witticisms in a debate on a variety of global economic topics this week at the Sloan School.

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Dramashop's production of *The Illusion* is classic drama.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Israel Celebrates Its First 50 Years of Statehood

THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

With a nod to its Biblical charter, Israel marked 50 years of modern statehood Thursday by celebrating its strength and vowing an eternal hold on Jerusalem. The anniversary of the founding of the Jewish state was honored with swooping jets, the smoke wafting from thousands of barbecues, and the melancholy notes of the Hatikvah national anthem.

"We have sewn back the heart of the Jewish people. We have united this city, never to be divided again," declared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at the Hollywood-style entertainment gala produced for the anniversary.

Quoting from Hatikvah, which means "the hope," Netanyahu said "hope gave us the immense strength we needed to rise from the ashes and start again. We overcame obstacles that no other nation has experienced."

U.S. Vice President Al Gore, the only international leader to come to the Israeli ceremonies, responded with halting phrases of Hebrew and equally far-reaching vows.

"American ties with Israel are eternal," he said. "President Clinton and I are proud, as are all Americans, that the United States was the first to recognize the state of Israel 11 minutes after you proclaimed your independence."

## Birth Rates Among Teenagers Drop

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The percentage of teenagers having babies declined for the sixth year in a row, falling in every state and the District of Columbia, and among every major racial and ethnic group for the first time, the federal government reported Thursday.

Although nearly a half million American teenagers still give birth every year, the overall rate has fallen 12 percent since 1991. The birth rate for Afro-American teenagers is down 21 percent since the beginning of the decade to the lowest level ever reported.

The rate for Hispanics, the nation's fastest growing minority group, remains the highest, but the new statistics show it falling for the first time, by 4.8 percent between 1995 and 1996.

"These are not isolated statistics from certain parts of the country," said Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "In every state, teen pregnancy rates are starting to come down because we have sent a consistent message to young people that having sexual activity before they are ready to take on permanent responsibilities is unacceptable."

Researchers and others who study teen pregnancy attributed the decline to a combination of factors, but said they suspect the chief reason is that teenagers are having less sex and using more contraceptives.

## IRA Balks at Peace Deal Requirement of Giving Up Weapons

THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

The terrorist Irish Republican Army offered a vaguely-worded endorsement of the Northern Ireland peace deal Thursday, but threw a wrench in the works by insisting it will not give up its arsenal of weapons, as the agreement requires.

The IRA, one of Northern Ireland's most murderous sectarian street armies, called on its members to follow "the advice of their political leaders" in the vote on approving the peace agreement. Since the IRA's political wing is expected to back the deal, that amounts to an endorsement.

By refusing, though, to follow the requirement for disarmament, the IRA seemed to suggest that it will pick and choose among the terms of the deal. That sparked fear and anger among people on the other side of the bitter divide in the British province.

Over the past three weeks, there has been considerable political momentum toward approval of the deal.

## WEATHER Come What May

By Marek Zebrowski  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Our brief spell of summer will be but a pleasant memory. Weather conditions will deteriorate over the Northeast for the next several days. A complex low pressure system will approach from the Ohio Valley during Friday and bring rain around nightfall as another wave develops on the front around the Chesapeake Bay. By Saturday morning a warm front will be traversing our area, heading north, with most of precipitation ending temporarily. More unsettled weather will then follow for Sunday and Monday as another short wave from the upper midwest and a slow-moving cold front head towards the Atlantic coast. Some locally heavy shower activity is likely in this unstable air mass with markedly cooler air aloft. Unfortunately, even Tuesday looks wet and unsettled at this time. May marches in with rain, you might say.

**Today:** Increasing cloudiness with rain developing towards evening. Mild morning will be followed by cooler afternoon as winds become onshore, with an early high near 70°F (20°C) slipping towards the low 60s (16-18°C) with the onset of rain.

**Tonight:** Cloudy and rainy. Low 52°F (11°C) with moderate southeasterly winds.

**Tomorrow:** Morning rain tapering off to leftover drizzle and some coastal fog. A few afternoon breaks in the cloud deck may lead to further showers late in the day. High 61°F (16°C).

**Sunday outlook:** Continued wet and unsettled, with highs in the low to mid 60s (16-19°C) and lows in the mid 50s (11-13°C).

## U.N. Will Consider Request For Khmer Rouge Tribunal

By John M. Goshko  
THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

The United States urged the Security Council on Thursday to establish a war crimes tribunal to try leaders of the Khmer Rouge for the murders of more than 1 million people when Cambodia was under Khmer Rouge control in the 1970s.

Pol Pot, who headed the Khmer Rouge regime that forcibly sent thousands of Cambodians to die in what became known as "the killing fields," died two weeks ago. But several of his cohorts in the regime that was ousted from power by Vietnam in 1979 are still at large, and the U.S. move is aimed at them.

U.S. officials said they acted at this time because the remaining Khmer Rouge guerrilla forces are believed to be on the verge of collapse, and the remaining leaders are expected to flee into Thailand or other neighboring countries.

A draft resolution introduced by the United States to the 15-nation council calls for the proposed tribunal to operate in The Hague, where the United Nations already has a special tribunal to try persons accused of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

Under the U.S. proposal, the new court would have its own judges but would share the facilities of the current court.

The world body has also established a tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania, to prosecute those accused of complicity in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The United Nations will hold a special meeting in Rome this summer to consider creation of a permanent international criminal court to deal with war criminals.

U.S. officials said they expected considerable debate about the Cambodia proposal, and they said the draft resolution tabled Thursday

almost certainly would undergo revision. The debate over a permanent war crimes court has revealed that a number of countries, including the United States, insist on stringent safeguards to ensure such courts do not infringe on the sovereignty of individual U.N. members or cannot be used for frivolous, politically motivated attacks.

The potentially biggest obstacle facing the U.S. plan could be opposition from China, a permanent council member with the power to veto any resolution. During the 1970s, China was a strong supporter of the Khmer Rouge, although its current attitude toward the movement's leaders is less clear. In the 1980s, the Khmer Rouge, as part of various exile coalitions, kept Cambodia's seat in the U.N. General Assembly until U.N.-organized elections in the early 1990s opened the way for a new government.

## Pentagon Chooses Boeing Co. To Develop Defense Systems

By Bradley Graham  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Pentagon officials selected the Boeing Co. of Seattle Thursday to coordinate development of a system for defending the United States against ballistic missile attack, a legacy of the "Star Wars" plan envisioned by President Ronald Reagan 15 years ago. The action effectively relieves the Pentagon of some of the burden of assembling the complex and controversial weapons system. But Boeing faces many of the same technological and political obstacles that have crippled the antimissile effort for years and have contributed to a bill of about \$50 billion since Reagan announced his Strategic Defense Initiative.

The decision was a blow to Lockheed Martin Corp. of Bethesda, which had formed a joint venture with Raytheon Co. and TRW Inc. to compete against Boeing for the contract, which is worth up to \$5.2 billion. Lockheed and its partners in

the United Missile Defense Co. (UMDC) of Arlington had been widely favored to win because of greater experience in the missile defense field, although Lockheed has had recent problems developing a shorter-range antimissile system for the Army.

Announcing the selection, Lt. Gen. Lester Lyles said Lockheed's difficulties with the Army's Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system were not a major factor. More important, he said, were technical, managerial and cost considerations relating to the proposals submitted by both bidders. He declined to elaborate until he could brief the firms on details of the decision.

"We're extremely disappointed, kind of shocked really," said Bill Loomis, president of UMDC. "We figured we had the past experience to play upon and worked very hard on our proposal."

Under pressure from congressional Republicans who have made

missile defense a top priority, the Clinton administration has vowed to put more money and effort into designing a workable antimissile system. But questions persist about the project's cost, effectiveness and international treaty repercussions.

The current plan is considerably more modest than the space-based arsenal intended to guard the United States against massive nuclear attack. The focus now is on designing a predominately ground-based defense against a few missiles launched either intentionally from an outlaw nation such as North Korea or Libya or accidentally from Russia or China.

Whether that systems actually is fielded remains a subject of much dispute between the administration and congressional Republicans. The administration is resolved to develop a system by 2000 that could be deployed by 2003, but has put off any deployment decision until development is complete.

## Report Questions Safety of FDA's Standards for Imported Drugs

By John Schwartz  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Food and Drug Administration has taken steps to ensure that imported medicines are safe, but significant problems remain with how the agency protects U.S. consumers from low-quality drugs from foreign countries, according to a new congressional report.

The report from the Government Accounting Office praised the agency for streamlining operations and making progress in speeding up turnaround time on inspection reports, which constitute the first line of defense against dangerous products entering the country. Still, almost 60 percent of reports were submitted later than the agency standards called for, the GAO said.

The FDA is responsible for the safety and effectiveness of drugs, medical devices and other products constituting nearly 25 cents of every consumer dollar spent.

Its vigilance over drug imports has been questioned for years. The new criticisms tracked those of two previous studies of the long-trou-

bled program. The report, originally published in March, was not publicly released by Congress but a copy was obtained by *The Washington Post*.

The report cited several problems with the FDA's systems for ensuring that imported drugs are manufactured to the same standards as those produced in the United States. After telling one foreign company that it had to upgrade its testing procedures, for example, the report states that FDA reviewers accepted a manufacturer's written promise to fix the problems and did not call for reinspection — "even though agency documents raised questions about the manufacturer's trustworthiness."

One drug manufacturer in India was allowed by the FDA to continue exporting antibacterial agents to the United States even though a 1994 inspection showed that the company could not even test the product or the plant's water supply for impurities. That inspector found problems with the plant that had not been fully corrected after having been cited in an

inspection conducted nine years earlier. The inspector and district office recommended that the company's products not be allowed into the United States, but the FDA's drug division never sent the warning letter it had planned. The FDA said the plant was inspected again, however, and found to have complied with U.S. manufacturing standards.

Another inspection of a foreign manufacturer turned up serious safety program deficiencies and a possible coverup — and an incident in which the company shipped containers labeled as a bulk pharmaceutical chemical that actually contained a herbicide.

"This report should help the FDA defuse what has properly been called 'a ticking time bomb,'" said Rep. Thomas Bliley (R-Va.) chairman of the House Commerce Committee, through a spokesman. "We don't want to scare people but we sure want this problem to be fixed immediately."

FDA spokeswoman Lorrie McHugh said that the agency recognizes that improvement is still an "ongoing challenge."

# China Maintains Its Hard Line Stance Prior To Clinton's Visit

By Jim Mann  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING

China took a hard line Thursday in intense negotiations over President Clinton's upcoming trip here, turning aside requests by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to make concessions timed to the presidential visit.

Albright, joined by a host of other U.S. officials, appealed for changes in China's policies on issues such as Tibet, human rights, trade and weapons proliferation. But after two days of meetings, she and her aides could point to little or no progress in these areas.

Instead, the Chinese adopted uncompromising positions, often returning to old words and formu-

las. On Tibet, for example, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang unleashed a long denunciation of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader. The Clinton administration is urging China to begin talks with the Dalai Lama, who fled from his homeland four decades ago. Instead, Tang said Thursday that the Dalai Lama should "size up the situation (and) forego his illusions."

Rather than easing their policies, Chinese officials told the administration to give ground by lifting all remaining sanctions imposed on China after the bloody crackdown on protests in Tiananmen Square nine years ago. Tang said that the Chinese government was right to call in the army

and end those 1989 demonstrations.

Clinton's trip to China, scheduled in late June, will be the first presidential visit since 1989. Albright and other U.S. officials came here now to see what agreements can be reached in time for Clinton's trip. There is still more than a month left before Clinton embarks for China and officials traveling with Albright repeated that negotiations on subjects such as arms control and human rights continue. And while China may be unyielding now, it could still make concessions.

But some experts believe that no significant or far-reaching agreements will result from the diplomatic visit.

# Nation's Economy in Near-Ideal State, Growing Without Inflation

By John M. Berry  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Two government reports issued Thursday showed the U.S. economy operating in a near-ideal state, with continued strong growth but no upward pressure on the nation's extraordinarily low inflation rate.

The reports triggered sharp rallies in both the stock and bond markets, as analysts concluded the good news on inflation means the Federal Reserve is unlikely to raise interest rates in coming months.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 111.85 points, or 1.2 percent, to close at 9063.37. With that rise, stocks have virtually recovered from a tumble Monday

caused by fears that the Fed might be on the verge of boosting rates.

In one report, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said that in the first three months of 1998 the economy grew at a 4.2 percent annual rate after adjustment for inflation, the fastest pace in a year, thanks largely to a surge in both consumer spending and business investment.

Despite the robust growth, the prices of goods and services bought by Americans didn't go up at all, according to the report.

Separately, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said its employment cost index, which tracks employers' costs for both wages and salaries and benefits, rose 0.7 percent for the

three months that ended March 31. That was lower than the 1 percent rise in the fourth quarter of last year, and considerably lower than many analysts had expected.

At a news conference, President Clinton hailed the reports as fresh evidence that his policies are working to foster the healthiest economic expansion in more than a quarter century, and he declared: "We are living in an American economic renaissance in which opportunity is abundant."

But the remarkable continued confluence of low unemployment, inflation and interest rates is attributable in part to the economic turmoil in Asia, according to private economists.

## Hearings Reveal IRS Agent's Plot to Frame Lawmakers

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A rogue Internal Revenue Service agent tried to frame former Senate majority leader Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) on money-laundering and bribery charges in a bizarre attempt by the agent to advance his career, current and former IRS agents told the Senate Finance Committee Thursday.

The witnesses, describing the agency as riven by fear, favoritism and foul-ups, said senior IRS managers in Tennessee then covered up for the rogue agent when the scheme was uncovered by his supervisor and two other IRS workers. Top officials instead placed the complainers under investigation, driving one out of the Tennessee office and two out of the agency.

The phony charges were made in 1989, after Baker had left the Senate and completed a stint as President Reagan's chief of staff. The agent, meanwhile, kept his job despite other complaints of drunkenness and sexual harassment — losing it only after an arrest on suspicion of cocaine possession several years later.

Other witnesses also described how agency supervisors often concede multimillion-dollar tax cases to wealthy corporations and individuals, sometimes in hopes of currying favor and perhaps winning a job. Major cases were also closed, witnesses said, in order for managers to improve their rankings on internal agency statistical measures. IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti called the testimony about the bogus case against Baker "deeply disturbing."

In previous hearings this week, the panel heard IRS employees describe how misconduct complaints against superiors are downgraded or shelved and business owners tell of being raided by armed IRS agents on trumped-up or nonexistent charges.

## 'Springer' Owners Say They Will Eliminate All Violence on Show

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD

The owners of the "Jerry Springer Show," which in the past few months has become the nation's top-rated syndicated talk show at the same time it has been embroiled in controversy over the brawls among its panelists, announced Thursday it will eliminate all physical violence from the series.

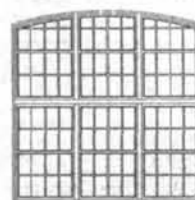
"We are getting out of the fighting business," Greg Meidel, chairman and chief executive officer of Studios USA, which produces and distributes the show, told the *Los Angeles Times*. "This show will not be a boxing match."

The decision marks a complete reversal from the unapologetic stance Springer and the show's producers had only a few months ago about the show's content.



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# OPINION

## Poor Planning and Worse Communication

The recent decision by the administration to move a number of undergraduates to Tang Hall shows limited foresight and demonstrates a disturbing change in policy. This move highlights the dangerously overtaxed nature of the housing system and again brings into question the status of graduate students in the administration's housing philosophy.

### Editorial

Members of the graduate community, including representatives of the Graduate Student Council, have raised serious objections to the proposal that undergraduates be housed in Tang. Graduate students should have been consulted about a decision which will affect their opportunities for on-campus housing. The fact that no substantive dialog on this issue seems to have occurred demonstrates that the administration still does not wish to include students in the decision-making process on housing, an attitude *The Tech* has condemned in the past, and does again here.

As a consolation to graduate students, the administration has offered to provide subsidies for apartments in Worthington Place. If the subsidized rents there are beyond the range of graduate students, however, the move will do little to relieve the problem. If subsidies can bring down rents to par with other graduate housing, this problem will be mitigated, although the added expense of furniture remains a consideration.

However, even if equivalent housing is found, the Tang decision still sends the message that the needs of undergraduates

supercede those of graduate students. The administration should take more care to balance the needs of these two elements of the community. Graduate students deserve to know where they stand with respect to the administration.

In addition, the necessity of this move demonstrates the instability inherent in MIT's housing system. Housing on and off-campus is overtaxed. The administration has shown a callous indifference towards its student body by operating a dormitory system at over 100 percent of capacity and by depending heavily on the assumption that incoming students will choose to live in fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. The relative stability of this system in the recent past was more the result of chance than of good planning. Permanent changes, such as the undergraduate dormitory planned for Vassar Street, will be a step in the right direction, provided that the number of accepted freshmen is not increased to maintain the current levels of occupancy.

Although the move to house undergraduates in Tang was inconsiderate and abrupt, good may come of it. As more undergraduates take up residence in graduate dorms, these arrangements have become an experiment in integration by creating a unique opportunity for graduate students and undergraduates to live together. Perhaps these changes will become a model for future housing policy. Hopefully, however, the decision-making practices that led to them, and to the unfortunate dislocation of graduate students, will not be repeated.

## Letters To The Editor

### Technology Review Changes Misguided

The two cover stories of the April 24 issue of *The Tech* ["Clinton to Address Graduates at Commencement;" "Redesigned *Technology Review* Will Shift Focus to Innovation"] contrasted poorly and displayed the shortsightedness of Technology Review. One article boasted that President Clinton would honor MIT by speaking at Commencement, most likely on an "important topic..." that will involve policy statements regarding science and technology," according to President Charles M. Vest. Meanwhile, the article below included *Technology Review* publisher Martha Connors trumpeting that technology and policy "was relevant in the 1970's, but that has really changed," and using this preposterous rationale as a basis for gutting the magazine of technology policy issues. Perhaps *Technology Review* should tell President Clinton to go elsewhere with his "irrelevant" speech about technology and policy.

Darian W. Unger G

### MIT's Alcohol Policy Myopic, Unfair

In the last year, MIT's policy on alcohol has changed dramatically in response to the untimely and tragic death of Scott S. Krueger '01. The Institute would like us to think that the actions taken in the wake of last fall's upheavals are done with the best interests of the students in mind. However, I'm repeatedly stunned by how myopic and out of touch with reality the administration really is. Most students around campus will tell you in all certainty that underage drinking has not significantly slowed down in recent months, only that the policy has forced students to drink in their rooms, behind closed doors, where it can't be monitored or kept under control. Last Friday, this is exactly what I was told to do by the campus police.

At a dry, registered dormitory party that I attended last Friday, members of MIT's own intrepid Campus Police told me in no uncertain terms that I was not allowed to drink a beer in the lobby area, inside the actual party, the lounge, or even in the elevator, for that matter.

Under threat of fines for alcohol violations, my friend and I, both 23 years of age, were told rather gruffly to go finish our beers in an upstairs bedroom, preferably with the door shut.

MIT's new drinking policy is a complete travesty. There is no need for a sober adult and his friend to be harassed by the Campus Police for consuming a single beer. The policy has made people afraid to get medical help for fear of reprisals from the CPs and has forced students to resort to illicit and devious methods to get alcohol. It is an affront to the intelligence of the MIT population, and an unfair abridgement of the rights of legal-age students. It seems to me that as far as MIT's policy on drinking is concerned in the dormitories, the hypocritical message is clear: drink all you want, but make sure you do it in a place where MIT is not as legally liable.

Iyad Obeid G

### Editorial On Boston Police Inaccurate

On the Boston Police Commissioner's behalf, I would like to register, in the strongest terms, our outrage for the blatant lie contained in the statement in your newspaper ["An About Face on Off-Campus Crime," April 3]: "This is an egregious breach of trust between law enforcement agencies and displays, at best, a serious lack of organization at the Boston Police district offices." Had your newspaper investigated the matter further, you would have found that it is an untrue statement.

On May 10, 1996, the MIT Campus Police sent a list of 25 FSILGs to District 4 requesting a weekly report of any Part 1 crimes that occur on the respective properties. They specifically declined to have any other crime statistics. The district has provided the information requested consistently since then to the MIT Campus Police.

Two months ago, after the incident involving the New York student who succumbed to alcohol poisoning, they requested reports of all crimes at the FSILGs back to 1993. In that the data base only goes back to 1995, that was the limit of our report. However, it should be noted that the district was keeping statistics on FSILGs before the Campus Police first requested them. Does this indicate a serious lack of organization at the district? At the very least,

an apology is owed to the Police Commissioner on whom this reflects and the men and women of District 4 who work day and night so that the students of MIT can enjoy the safety of this city.

Brendan D. Flynn  
Assistant to the Police Commissioner

*Editor's Note: At the time the news story and editorial were written, the Boston Police declined to comment.*

### ID Cards Smart; Open Campus Unsafe

The recent column by Anders Hove G ["Through A Locked Door Ambivalently," April 28] is a testament to the lackadaisical attitude toward student safety prevalent at MIT. What will it take for the administration to realize the practice of leaving the campus open to the community is an invitation for criminal activity? This campus is not an isolated microcosm and is surrounded by an urban setting. The police log in the very same issue of *The Tech* in which Hove's article appeared listed over a dozen larcenies, multiple arrests for trespassing, reports of suspicious activity, one arrest for assault and battery on a police officer, as well as an attempted breaking and entering. It is shocking that it will take an unfortunate student to become the victim of a horrific crime such as rape or murder within an open building to realize the degree to which our security is compromised by an open campus.

As a denizen of Building 18, I know of previous endeavors by students to have the building secured. I welcome the card readers and any increased security measures MIT is taking to guarantee my safety. I would like to see the campus use one standardized system and incorporate identification card readers in more places to allow access instead of installing numeric combination locks giving me more combinations to remember. It would eliminate my need to carry keys, magnetic key cards, an athletic card, and several numeric combinations in addition to my identification card to move about the campus after hours and would add a semblance of technological convenience to my life.

Scott T. Trzaska  
Visiting Scientist

### Opinion Policy

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

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# Commencement Communiqué

Raajnish A. Chitaley

## MEMORANDUM

May 1, 1998

TO: President Bill Clinton  
FR: Raajnish A. Chitaley '95  
RE: MIT Commencement address

Dear Mr. President:

As an alumnus, I am very pleased that you will speak at MIT next month. We are honored to have you visit the nation's foremost center for science and technology. Your visit is particularly significant as technology plays a central role in shaping the next century. In that context, let me kindly suggest some topics for your address to the graduates:

1. Who will pay for science in the next century? For the last fifty years, American universities have relied on the federal government for support. In the environment of the Cold War, government support for science was easy to defend. With the end of the Cold War, MIT and other research universities have suffered in the era of "small government." The private sector cannot muster the level or intensity of resources of the gov-

ernment; their incentives are different. Mr. President, tell us who will pay for science in the next century. And who will decide where our science dollars should be spent? Will the best science win?

2. How can we improve the "technology equality"? As technology becomes critical for jobs, the gap between the technology "haves" and "have nots" is widening. Today, your average Electrical Engineering and Computer Science graduate will find a better job than 10 years ago, but what will happen to the millions without basic technology skills? Who is training the "blue collar" technology workforce of tomorrow? The Internet has expanded access beyond academics and corporate America. But what percent of low-income American adults have access to the Internet? What should MIT do to bridge the "technology equality" gap?

3. What is America's next great challenge in science and technology? Yes, I'm hoping for something Kennedy-esque: a national commitment for the next 10 years. Think about the power of national purpose: the Manhattan project, the moon race. What's next? The cure for cancer. Or maybe pollution-free, inexhaustible, cheap, fusion energy. Let's be bold.

4. How should American democracy

change in response to technology? The Constitution was written in an era when it took weeks to deliver a message across the colonies. Today, it takes seconds to communicate across the globe. Are we using the right model of democracy? You hold many "town meetings" to encourage and inform "public discourse." What about real direct democracy through electronic town meetings?

5. How will law and ethics keep pace with science and technology? From Dolly the sheep to DNA testing, ethics and law are years behind technology. And the pace of technology evolution continues to increase. We will see more fundamental conflicts between the law and technology. Some conflicts, like software architecture and monopoly law (e.g., *U.S. v. Microsoft*), are top of mind. Others, like cryptography and the nature of privacy rights, are more obscure. Will we ever get a "step change" in ethics and law to reflect our modern reality?

6. What is the public duty of America's technology elite? America's intellectual elite has traditionally felt the pull of national service — such as during the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and during the Great Depression. During World War II, public duty meant the Radiation Lab and the

Manhattan project. Dr. Vest is skipping his usual "Charge to Graduates." Take the opportunity to give America's technology elite their charge. What is their public duty?

7. Can scientists and engineers make great leaders? Very few political leaders have had a science or technology background. Jimmy Carter, a nuclear engineer in the Navy, was an exception. Your administration has been especially active in science and technology issues. Will scientists and engineers, as opposed to politicians and corporate leaders, ever exercise significant influence over public thought? Why didn't you choose a science or technology field for your career?

These are big topics, but you're the president. And you'll be speaking to some of the world's newly minted science and technology cognoscenti, who will also be new college graduates. Your speech should be as memorable as the happiness of Commencement day for graduates and families. Some final advice. On length, the shorter the better. And learn the words to "We are the Engineers." I look forward to hearing you sing in June.

Raaj Chitaley '95, a former Opinion Editor, is a management consultant in Boston.

## The Real Rose of Britain

Tony Blair's Labor Party is Delivering the Reforms That it Promised

Michael J. Ring

It was one year ago tonight when a jubilant, energetic Tony Blair asked his supporters, "A new day has dawned, has it not?"

The first of May, 1997 marked the most climactic shift in the political landscape of the United Kingdom in nearly a century. The Tories were routed in the general election and Blair's Labor Party captured a majority of 179 in the 659 seat House of Commons. Britain had clearly rejected Conservative rule, and the Right Honorable Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service Anthony Charles Lynton Blair MP had a clear mandate for a leftist program.

But the program which the British people demanded so firmly was a program of the New Left. In assuming the leadership of the Labor Party, Blair rejected the bloc's commitment to state socialism. He rewrote Clause IV, which had previously committed Labor to a course of socialism, to espouse both social justice and free enterprise. Blair pledged instead a pragmatism; New Labor would protect those services which the government was best fit to run while encouraging innovation and enterprise in the private sector. Blair promised the British people that New Labor would find *la troisième voie*.

One year after that dawn, the sun is still shining brightly on the United Kingdom and on New Labor. Blair's government has kept its promises, becoming a hallmark of fairness and integrity. Britain is again the strongest nation in Europe. While continental Europe struggles with high unemployment, the British economy is roaring. The British people, renewed in spirit and destiny, will enter the next millennium confident of their place in the modern world. It is the sensible policies of New Labor which have made all this possible.

Blair and company have faced some grumbling from aging backbenchers that they have deserted the core values of the Labor Party. Times change, however, and a wise government will recognize that the approaches of previous generations are not always valid in the present. Blair has built a new approach to the economy, one which can better fulfill the Labor values of social justice, quality education and health care, and a clean environment.

New Labor, in its first year, has kept all its manifesto promises. It has not raised income taxes, just as it promised. It has begun to reform Britain's welfare system. It has returned Britain to a position of international leadership. It has committed itself to improving Britain's educational system and National Health Service, two institutions decimated by nearly two decades of Tory rule.

Blair's government does not seek to re-nationalize companies such as British Telecom

and British Airways, but it does require that they share their newfound wealth and profit with all the people of Britain. To accomplish this goal, Blair placed a windfall tax on the enormous profits of these companies, a move bitterly opposed by the Conservatives.

New Labor has also set the Bank of England on an independent course. Previously the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a Cabinet member responsible for fiduciary affairs, had the power to set interest rates. Thus the Bank's policies were subject to the whims of the governing party. The new independence of the Bank of England, similar to that enjoyed by our Federal Reserve system, allows for stable, sustainable growth in the United Kingdom for the coming millennium. True to Blair's word, New Labor has indeed become the party of fiscal responsibility in Britain.

Blair has committed to reforming the welfare behemoth in the United Kingdom. No longer will benefits recipients be allowed to rest idly on the dole; in fairness to the taxpayers of Britain they must take an active role in society. But this is far from the myopic proposals advanced by the Republicans in this nation which push recipients into work without creating long term solutions to the benefits dilemma. Blair's plan reaches deep and addresses the structural problems in society. It is a firm and sound plan which will enhance British productivity in the years to come.

The New Labor welfare reform plan gives the unemployed several choices. They may enroll in volunteer work, continue their education, or take full-time employment. The prime minister, realizing that welfare dependency has dragged on for several generations in some families, does not foolishly push recipients off into a dead-end job. His plan, especially with its emphasis on education, gives long term solutions for the welfare system and British society and will improve both.

While Blair has reformed the party's economic platform, he has recognized Labor's traditional commitments to social issues such as education and health care. Long neglected under Conservative rule, the schools and hospitals of the United Kingdom are beginning to show signs of a New Labor renaissance.

Labor's manifesto states, "Education has been the Tories' biggest failure. It is Labor's number one priority." Under the Tories

British education standards declined; test scores in Britain, like those here, fall behind those of continental Europe and east Asia. New Labor has accepted the challenge of repairing the schools of Britain. Smaller class sizes, nursery school seats for all four-year-olds, and "zero tolerance" of underperforming schools are a few of the manifesto promises. Indeed, New Labor has warned underperforming schools that they will be closed and started anew if that is what it takes to make them work. In the year since the Labor Party has returned to power, £2.5 bil-

lion beyond Tory spending plans have been invested in Britain's educational system.

Traditionally, Britons have enjoyed one of the finest health plans in the world through their government. Under the Thatcher-Major reign of error, however, the National Health Service was pillaged. Hospitals closed, waiting lists skyrocketed, and the quality of health care declined. Under New Labor's first budget, billions of pounds were poured into the National Health Service. These monies are badly needed to preserve this socialist enterprise. Blair admits that change will come slowly, but a continued commitment by his government to the National Health Service will reap great rewards for the people of Britain, who will again universally have access to one of the best health care systems in the world.

New Labor has stood for the rights of the environment. Britain was perhaps the loudest voice at the Kyoto Conference, calling for a 15 percent worldwide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2010. On the homefront New Labor has proposed funds for improving rural transport, and the party has blocked a Tory plan to privatize London Underground. New Labor seeks to encourage energy conservation and investment in non-polluting technologies. Blair's New Labor is a party which strives to preserve the environment, both in Britain and worldwide.

In foreign policy Britain has become aggressive in the European Union and the

United Nations, rightfully assuming a position of leadership in the world. The government has decided not to join the first wave of the European monetary union, but it is expected that they will do so after the turn of the century. New Labor recognizes Britain must integrate, not isolate, to play a leading role in the global economy.

By far Blair's greatest foreign policy triumph has been the peace settlement in Northern Ireland. His predecessor was brave in starting the process, but it was Blair who brought the determination and courage to Ulster to work out a fair and hopefully lasting settlement for those whose lives have been marred by violence. Active throughout the negotiations, it was a final push by Blair himself which produced what was truly a Good Friday for the people of northern Ireland. The peace settlement is testament to Blair's and New Labor's willingness to take risks and commitments to fairness and honesty.

In yet another area of key need for the British people, political reform, New Labor continues undaunted. It has successfully achieved devolution in Wales and Scotland, giving those sections of the United Kingdom assemblies so that they

have more local control over local affairs.

New Labor has been the strongest voice for a mayoral system of government in London to give the people of that city the voice they need and deserve. And finally, New Labor is committed to reforming the Upper House of Parliament by revoking the voting privileges of hereditary peers in the House of Lords.

The case for New Labor has been made easier by the Tory opposition. The Conservative Party under William Hague has drifted right, adopting a largely Europhobic agenda at a time when Britain is clearly profiting from the leadership in Europe. Instead of offering constructive ideas, Hague's style of opposition leadership has largely consisted of attacks of Cabinet members. Many of these attacks, however, have backfired. When, for example, Blair ordered a large donation from an auto racing organization returned at even the slightest appearance of a conflict of interest, Hague relentlessly assailed the government. But when it was discovered that Labor voluntarily disclosed the names of its donors while the Tories did not, the leader of the Opposition was exposed as a hypocrite.

The United Kingdom's young, energetic, forward-looking prime minister has often spoke about how though Britain may no longer be the biggest nation on earth, there is no reason why it cannot be the best. If the next four years of his government mirror the first, there is every reason to believe this ultimate goal will be achieved.



# THE ARTS

## THEATER REVIEW

### Nomathemba is a delightful display of African hope

By **Bence Olveczky**

STAFF REPORTER

*Nomathemba*  
Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, through  
May 10  
Tuesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7  
p.m. (excluding May 3). Matinees on  
Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and on  
Wednesday April 29  
Tickets \$20-\$60

A friend of mine recently went to South Africa for a relaxing vacation — bad idea. On his first day in Johannesburg he was robbed three times, escaping from the ordeal with nothing but his boxer shorts.

With 40 percent unemployment and soaring crime rates, the legacy of apartheid and the social injustice it fostered is jeopardizing the dream of a new and prosperous South Africa. It is the strange mixture of hope and despair in post-apartheid South Africa that provides the social context for *Nomathemba*, an enchanting musical about two young lovers.

*Nomathemba*, Zulu for hope, playing at the Shubert Theatre until May 10, blends the talents of the South African singing group Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre. The result of their collaboration is as original and professional as it is charming and beguiling.

The musically driven plot is both simple and symbolic. *Nomathemba* (Erica Lavonn) is a spirited and naive farm girl who leaves her slacker fiancée Bogani (Nathan Hinton) behind to explore the opportunities of the new South Africa. "Like my country, I'm adjusting my perimeters," she sings. "So many people, so many buildings, so much to learn."

Trading the security and safety of her vil-

lage life for the promise of the bustling big city, she soon realizes that her hopes of finding happiness and fulfillment are compromised by a fragmented society where cynicism and crime are the main means of survival.

under a tree. It is *Nomathemba*. The grand finale of the musical is an invigorating wedding ceremony for the two young lovers performed in true African spirit.

This heartfelt production evolves as a series of vivid images, each concerning a different

stage by the vocal group that made Paul Simon's "Graceland" such a success, Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

The story that grew out of the group's three minute song, "Nomathemba," is inspired by the hopes and experiences of the group's leader, Joseph Shabalala. Shabalala was himself struggling in the townships of Durban when he recruited members of his family for the vocal group. Their talents were soon discovered and the group gained a wide following both at home and abroad. But South African reality caught up with them in 1991, when Joseph's brother and founding member of the group was gunned down by an off-duty security guard. When asked what they would do after the slaying, Shabalala's simple answer was "We will sing." This uncompromising dedication to build a future despite hardship and setback is strongly felt in the inspiring *Nomathemba*.

The production, first staged by Chicago's renowned Steppenwolf Theatre Company in 1995, is an eclectic mix of Ladysmith Black Mambazo's subdued singing, the cast's forceful African dancing, and pure drama as enacted by the accomplished African actors. The visual framework for the story is provided by Loy Arcenas' expressive stage design. Subtle changes in lighting transforms the visual landscape from a woodcut-like depiction of the African countryside to a haunting and depressing urban ghetto.

Thanks to Eric Simonson's excellent directing, the different elements and styles are blended in an effortless and smooth mix that is a worthy vehicle for Joseph Shabalala's noble wishes for a new and hopeful South Africa.



T. CHARLES ERICKSON

Leelai Demoz, Thulani Shabalala, Thamsanqa Shabalala and Sibongiseni Shabalala in a scene from *Nomathemba*, running from now through May 10 at the Shubert Theater.

Meanwhile back in the village, the lonely Bogani is getting increasingly love sick for *Nomathemba*, and after a fruitless letter writing campaign, he goes after her into the urban jungle. Unable to find her, Bogani returns to the village, disillusioned by what he has experienced. On his way back he sees a girl weeping

aspects of South-African reality: The sleepy but trustworthy village community, the crowded African bus, the sleazy brothel, and the depressing township hostel are all stations in *Nomathemba*'s odyssey through modern South Africa. The scenes are beautifully strung together by a musical narrative performed on

## THEATER REVIEW

### Dramashop proves that success can be Illusory

By **Vladimir Zelevinsky**

STAFF REPORTER

*MIT Dramashop*  
Written by Pierre Corneille, freely adapted  
by Tony Kushner. Directed by Janet  
Sonenberg. Fights directed by Robert Walsh.  
Set designed by William Fregosi, Costumes  
designed by Leslie Cocuzzo Held  
April 30, May 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. in Kresge  
Little Theatre

*The Illusion* is a play about theater — but it is written with enough grace and conviction that it escapes the usual pitfalls of the self-referential theater that I usually carp about. It certainly helps that it was originally written in 1636 by Pierre Corneille (1606-1684), and therefore works not only as a postmodern meditation on the nature of theater, but also as a classical comedy/drama.

The story is quite simple: a rich lawyer, Pridamant (Jeremy Butler '98), travels to the cave of a reclusive magician, Alcandre (Edward W. Kohler G), to buy information about his son who ran away many years ago. In response, Alcandre shows Pridamant three magical illusions — the life of his son.

Produced by MIT Dramashop and directed by Theatre Arts Professor Janet Sonenberg, *The Illusion* is a showcase for truly excellent acting, and this can't be overstated. The play presents a certain problem, since the three illusions are all separate stories (although there are connections between them), and it takes an effort to get used to the jumps of the narrative. Both the framing story and the second illusion (the longest one, spanning about half of the total running time) are the best; the first illusion is somewhat slight, working only as a diverting romantic comedy, and the last one is, frankly, at bit on the boring side — late in the play is not the time for long conversational scenes when pretty much nothing happens. The cast, however, makes any rough transitions in the play as smooth as possible.

It would be hard to single out any of the actors; they are strong both alone and as part of the ensemble. Kohler avoids histrionics, instead giving Alcandre a soft-spoken demeanor with strong undercurrents of both

humor and menace. Butler's Pridamant is a haughty lawyer in the beginning, which makes his character transformation — and he is the one that changes the most — even more impressive. Professor of Music and Theater Arts Michael Ouellette, as Alcandre's mute (or is he?) servant does wonders with a smaller part.

Special kudos should go to the actors who perform in the illusions themselves, since they have to play three different characters each, and each of these characters is a theatrical cliché (intentionally, of course). There's the romantic lead, Pridamant's son, in a suitably physical performance by Franz Elizondo-Schmelkes G. There's the leading lady, embodied by Stacy J. Pruitt '99 in perhaps the most dramatically consistent performance of the production. Less consistent but more exciting is Rachael A. Butcher '98 as the scheming maid — there are scenes when it is spellbinding to observe her emotional rollercoaster. Richard S. Thompkins '98 does three distinct variations on the romantic rival, and there's an excellent sword fight between him and Pridamant's son (whose real name is not mentioned for most of the play).

The show is completely stolen by Robert W. Marcato G, who plays Matamore, a lunatic who wants to go to the moon (pun intended, I presume, by both Corneille and Kushner). His performance is laugh-out-loud funny, and the way Marcato digs into his character to unearth his essential humanity is amazing. He's utterly heartbreaking by the end of the play.

The technical aspects of the production are highly

impressive as well. The costumes are just right, the lighting design is seamless, and the set is simply amazing, and has a few of surprises as well (I only wish those large gears would really turn).

There is only one misstep in *Dramashop*'s production, and that occurs when the show is ending. I'm speaking about the song played over the final scene and during the audience's exit. This instrumental, quoted from a certain twentieth-century musical (*No, No, Nanette!*, I believe), is jarringly inappropriate, and clashes with about everything else in the production:

period, era, style, costumes, mood, etcetera. I must admit that the decision to use this song is so startling that for a while I suspected that there was some deep meaning which I was simply missing. Maybe the point is a deliberate deconstruction of the theatrical illusion? Or maybe I'm just reaching.

In any case, this is the only element which doesn't work. Otherwise, *The Illusion*, with its magnificent set, strong acting, and plot twists, proves to be an excellent production and an impressive proof of the power of theater.



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

The Maid (Rachael A. Butcher '98) comforts her mistress (Stacy J. Pruitt '97) in *Dramashop*'s remarkable production of *The Illusion*.

MOVIE REVIEW

# Spike and Mike's Festival of Animation

By Vladimir Zelevinsky  
STAFF REPORTER

Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard Street, Brookline, until May 7.  
Daily, 7:30 and 9:15pm  
Tickets, \$7, available at the box office on the day of the show

For more information, (617) 734-2500

Animation is not a genre; it is an art form, encompassing in itself many genres. After all, it ranges from simple TV commercials to crude Saturday morning cartoons to full-length theatrical features to high-tech stop-motion puppet and computer animation — and this is only in this country. In Japan, there are also animated prime time soap operas and sitcoms, movies geared at adults, etc. Right now, you can witness for yourself the breathtaking scope of this art form on display. It is the 20th anniversary of the famous *Spike and*

*Mike's Festival of Animation.*

There are fifteen shorts, ranging in length from under two minutes to half an hour, coming from America and Europe, and presenting a wild spectrum of genres. A word of warning, though: the ad says, in capital letters, that this show is suitable for all ages; I would take an exception to that. While this is *not* the notorious "Sick and Twisted" variety of Spike and Mike's show, some cartoons are definitely not for the young kids; I would not recommend taking anyone under high school age.

The animations range from the simple, one-joke shorts ("The Tenor"), to the more elaborate traditional animations ("The Great Migration," and a hilarious School House Rock spoof "Political Correction"). There is modern art; two of the shorts ("Touched Alive" and "Stressed") look like they were painstakingly painted, frame by frame. The pace is too rapid for the viewers to see everything that's happen-

ing on the screen, but this fits with the subjects of these two, since they are dealing with the stress and impersonality of modern urban life.

The most-represented technique, however, is stop-motion puppet animation, whether using traditional puppets, play-doh reliefs on a flat surface, or, of course, claymation. "Devil Went Down to Georgia" is a music video from the same studio that made "Nightmare Before Christmas" that shows the wealth of highly inventive visual detail. There's also "Barflies," a story of two drunk flies sitting in a bar, but the less that is said about that exercise in tastelessness the better.

As a bonus, the program includes Nick Park's "Close Shave" — the one with Wallace and Gromit, plus a big scary dog, a damsel in distress, and many sheep. "Close Shave" not only demonstrates the virtually limitless possibilities of the art form, but also clearly displays the necessity of a good screenplay. There are

more thrills, suspense, and excitement in those thirty minutes than in *all* of the Hollywood's output this year so far — combined. Watching it on the big screen adds an extra level of enjoyment, since Park fills the frame with throw-away gags that simply can't be seen on video.

Finally, there are two more shorts, both dealing with the same topic — a game of chess — and represent two ends of the technological spectrum. "Chessmaster Theatre," a parody of PBS "Masterpiece Theatre," uses only the chess board and pieces, with the occasional human hand filmed in live-action. "Geri's Game" is this year Oscar Winner, produced by the Pixar Animation Studios, the team behind *Toy Story*. "Geri's Game" is, simply, a story of an old man playing chess against himself — and the animation of the old man is amazing. "Chessmaster Theatre," though, wins on originality — it is by far the funniest short in the whole program, and the most memorable.

I have advice for those going to see Spike and Mike's. The show is very popular, so it's a good idea to show up at least one hour before show time. And even then you might have trouble getting tickets.

MOVIE REVIEW

# Les Miserables are the ones in the audience

By Vladimir Zelevinsky  
STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Bille August  
Screenplay by Rafael Yglesias  
Based on the novel by Victor Hugo  
Starring Liam Neeson, Geoffrey Rush, Uma Thurman, Claire Danes

Imagine that you are looking at a famous painting, one you know is a masterpiece, supreme in its detail, balance, color, and composition — and imagine you are looking at it through a layer of *very* dirty glass. You can still get the overall impression of the artwork, and a few details gleam here and there through the mud, but all the colors are muted virtually to the point of fusing together, the shapes have lost their bold outlines, most of the details have disappeared, and you're not even sure how much of the painting is completely covered and invisible to you. Sure, you are still looking at something vaguely impressive; but this only makes you regret even more that you can't see the real thing.

Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* is the best novel ever written, bar none. It is a sprawling mass of 1,200 pages, which, to a large extent, consists of digressions. For example, Hugo spends 70 pages describing in minute detail the Battle of Waterloo, only mentioning a recurring character in the last paragraph. But these digressions work as wonderfully as the chapters devoted to plot. The chapters about criminal slang of the Paris underworld, or that detail the history and the inner workings of the literal Paris underworld, its sewers, are

highly exciting to read, and the story is the stuff that grand adventures are made of. The novel has spawned many films, a musical (wildly successful financially and only mildly so artistically), and now there's yet another movie. Watching it, I felt like I was staring through dirty glass, and the utterly inept projection job (Sony Cheri, consider yourselves warned), which failed to achieve perfect focus during the two-hour-plus running time, is only partly to blame for that.

The story begins with the just-released convict Jean Valjean (Liam Neeson) receiving a lesson about forgiveness and redemption from a small-time bishop in a provincial town. From that moment on, Valjean, turned almost into a beast by his 19-year imprisonment, starts the long and hard journey of self-improvement — tuning himself into a true human being. Or, at least, that's how the novel goes. In the film, after the opening sequence there's a cut, a subtitle "Nine Years Later," and the appearance of an almost saintly Valjean.

For the remaining two hours he goes through *some* of Hugo's plot, although the most exciting adventures are, regrettably, left out. He is chased by the police in the form of the grimly determinate inspector Javert (Geoffrey Rush), takes care of a hooker-with-a-heart-of-gold Fantine (Uma Thurman), and brings up Fantine's daughter, Cosette (played as an adult by Claire Danes). He fights in the streets and on the barricades of Paris during the armed uprising, crawls through the sewers, and so on. And very little of this matters. The marvel of Hugo's book was the way the

spiritual journey of Valjean was mirrored by his real-life adventures; since there is no spiritual journey in this film, all of the adventures feel largely inconsequential.

However, let me pretend that I haven't read the novel — the novels are usually better than the films based on them anyway (rare exceptions like *The English Patient* excepted). How does the movie work on its own terms?

Not so great, I'm afraid. Director Bille August made an excellent family epic film *Best Intentions* back in 1991, which, despite its almost total lack of action and three-hour running time, is still much more exciting than this work. August films most of this movie with bland static shots, and this gets very boring. The action is mostly blah (there's only one crowd scene), and the cinematography limits the color to dirty shades of blue, dark green, brown, and black. This is one of the least visually exciting pictures I've seen in quite a while; only a rare shot (the aforementioned crowd scene with bright uniforms of soldiers, for example) is interesting.

This leaves the bulk of the responsibility on the shoulders of the screenwriter and the actors. The screenplay doesn't work too well — while preserving *some* elements of the book, it jettisons a good deal of character motivation, which results in quite a few "Why is he doing that?" moments. It's most obvious in the romantic subplot, where Cosette and her beaux, dashing revolutionary Marius, are forced to perform totally ridiculous actions and utter the corniest dialogue.

Acting is, however, a noticeable asset. While Liam Neeson isn't given much to work with (other than during the first five and the last five minutes), he has enough screen presence to keep the viewers' attention — Geoffrey Rush is very good and Uma Thurman is excellent. On the other hand, poor Claire Danes is saddled with a ridiculous part, and her acting is all wrong. Her Cosette spends half of her screen time whining, and the other half staring at Marius as if she were a hungry dog and he a bone.

However, lest I be too negative, this is still based on an excellent book, and it shines through despite the mud. There are quite a few powerful scenes — in the court, when another man is accused of being Valjean; in Thenardier's inn, where the owner and Valjean are playing a mental game with Cosette as a prize; in the Paris sewers, which do look quite impressive; and a few others. Even the tacked-on crowd-pleasing ending works very well. Of course, I would very much rather recommend you read the book (and get the full translation, none of those abridged ones) — but there is an echo of greatness in the film version.

Finally, let me warn you that the trailer is highly misleading. Enya's (or Enya-like) music doesn't play at any moment in the movie. The love story is only a subplot, and by far the worst one of the movie at that. And the two most effective shots in the trailer — the soaring dove, and Valjean tossing the bits of his torn yellow passport into the wind — are nowhere to be seen. Here's for truth in advertising!

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## Popular Music

### Avalon

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

May 2: Our Lady Peace and Black Lab. \$13.  
May 12: Foo Fighters and Rocket from the Crypt. \$17.50.  
May 28: The Roots, Goodie Mob, and DJ Guest Love. \$15 advance, \$17 day of show.

### FleetCenter

Tickets: 931-2000.

May 21: Van Halen and Kenny Wayne Sheperd. \$35, \$25.  
Jul. 13: Page/Plant. \$50, \$35.  
Aug. 21: Celine Dion "In the Round" and Andre-Philippe Gagnon. \$60, \$40. On sale April 20 at 11 a.m.

### Somerville Theater

Davis Square, Cambridge. Tickets: 628-3390 or 931-2000.  
May 8: Babatunde Olatunji and Abdou Doumbia and his West African Drum Ensemble.

### The Orpheum Theatre

Hamilton Place, Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT. Information: 679-0810.  
May 5, 6: Bonnie Raitt and Keb Mo. \$36, \$26.

### Paradise Rock Club

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

May 1: Lisa Loeb and Tara MacLean.  
May 2: Robin Trower.  
May 3: The Call, Ramone Silver, and Harrod & Funck.  
May 7: Heavy Metal Horns and Two Ton Shoe.  
May 8: Division Street and Angry Salad.  
May 10: Southern Culture on the Skids and The Woggles.  
May 12: Freddy Jones Band and Fighting Gravity.  
May 14: Mike Watt.  
May 15: Holly Cole and Chris Stills.  
May 16: Letters to Cleo.  
May 19: Harvey Danger.  
May 22: The Urge, Two Kinne J's, and Goldo.

### The Middle East

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

May 1: Groovasaurus. \$8.  
May 9: Jiggle the Handle, Rockett Band. \$8 advance, \$10 doors.  
May 23: Skavoovie & the Epitones, Pressure Cooker, and Edna's Goldfish. \$7.

### Great Woods

Rt. 140 South Main Street, Mansfield. Tickets: 423-NEXT or 423-6000.

May 30: KISS Concert, with Matchbox 20, Third Eye Blind, Mariah Carey.  
May 31: WBCN River Rave, with Big Wreck, Semisonic, Jerry Cantrell, Creed, Green Day, Scott Weiland. \$28.

Jun. 3, 5, 6: James Taylor. \$36 pavilion, \$20 lawn. Sold out June 5.

Jun. 12: Stevie Nicks and Boz Scaggs. \$53.50, \$38.50 pavilion, \$25 lawn.

Jun. 14: The Moody Blues with Festival Orchestra. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$21 lawn.

Jun. 19: Allman Brothers Band. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$21 lawn.

Jun. 20: B-52's and The Pretenders. \$31 pavilion, \$21 lawn.

Jun. 21: WKLB Boston Country Festival, featuring Randy Travis, Joe Diffie, Martina McBride, Lee Roy Parnell, and Jo Dee Messina. \$28.50 pavilion, \$18.50 lawn.

Jun. 24: Ani DiFranco. \$25 pavilion, \$22 lawn.

Jul. 1: Further Festival, "The Other Ones" featuring Mickey Hart, Bruce Hornsby, Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Dave Ellis, Stan Franks, John Molo, Hot Tuna, and Rusted Root. On sale May 2 at 11 a.m.

Jul. 7: Ozzfest, featuring Ozzy Osbourne, Tool, Megadeth, Limp Bizkit, Soulfly, Coal Chamber and 7-Dust, Motorhead, The Melvins, System of a Down, Snot, Incubus, Ultraspank, and Kilgore. \$42 reserved, \$28.50 lawn.

Jul. 8: Spice Girls. Sold out.

Jul. 18, 19: Metallica, Days of the New, and Jerry Cantrell. \$43 pavilion, \$31 lawn. Sold out Jul. 18.

Jul. 22: Rod Stewart. TBA.

Jul. 23: An Evening with Michael Crawford. \$55, \$45 pavilion, \$25 lawn. On sale May 17 at noon.

Jul. 24: Smokin' Grooves. Line up TBA. On sale May 2 at noon.

Jul. 25: Steve Miller Band and Little Feat. \$30 pavilion, \$22.50 lawn.

Jul. 30: HORDE Festival 1998, featuring Blues Traveler, Barenaked Ladies, Ben Harper, and Alana Davis. \$25.

# On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston  
May 1 - 8

Compiled by Joel M. Rosenberg

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



Gwyneth Paltrow and Ethan Hawke star in *Great Expectations*, playing today and Sunday at LSC.

Jul. 31: Allman Brothers Band. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$23.50 lawn.

Aug. 8: Deep Purple and Emerson Lake and Palmer. TBA.

Aug. 18: Shania Twain. TBA.

Aug. 26, 28, 30: Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band. Sold out.

Sep. 15, 16 (sold out): Pearl Jam. \$26.50 all seats.

Sep. 19: Allman Brothers Band. \$38.50, \$28.50 pavilion, \$23.50 lawn.

Harborlights Pavilion  
Fan Pier, Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT or 423-6000.

Jun. 13: Anne Murray. \$36, \$26.

Jun. 17: The Chieftains and Sinead O'Connor. \$38.50, \$28.50.

Jun. 18: Richard Thompson, Dar Williams, Bruce Hornsby, and David Wilcox. \$28.

Jun. 19: Jonathan Butler, Marc Antoine, Kirk Whalum, Richard Elliot, and Maysa. \$31.50, \$26.50.

Jun. 24: Michael Bolton. \$47.50, \$37.50. On sale May 3 at noon.

Jun. 25: Grover Washington Jr. and Roy Hargrove Sextet. \$31, \$26.

Jun. 28: Phil Collins Big Band in Concert and Oleta Adams and Gerals Albright. \$33.50.

Jun. 30: Yes and Alan Parsons Project. \$53.50, \$40, \$31. On sale 5/3 at noon.

Jul. 7: Chicago and Hall & Oates. \$48.75, \$36.25.

Jul. 8: Widespread Panic, G Love & Special Sauce, and Guster. \$26. On sale May 9 at 9 a.m.

Jul. 9: Mary Chapin Carpenter and Joe Ely. \$38.50, \$28.50. On sale May 4 at 7 p.m.

Jul. 10: Pat Metheny Group. \$33.50, \$26. On sale May 9 at 10 a.m.

Jul. 12: Dan Fogelberg. \$33.50,

\$26. On sale May 9 at 11 a.m.

Jul. 21: British Rock Symphony & Choir with Roger Daltrey playing Beatles, Rolling Stones, The Who, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. \$46, \$38.50, \$32. On sale May 10 at 11 a.m.

Aug. 1: Huey Lewis & the News. \$36, \$26. On sale May 9 at 11 a.m.

Aug. 3: Buddy Guy, Johnny Lang, and Susan Tedeschi. \$33.50, \$26. On sale May 9 at 11 a.m.

Aug. 6: Patti LaBelle. \$36, \$26. On sale May 3 at 11 a.m.

Aug. 13: The Robert Cray Band. \$33.50, \$26. On sale May 10 at noon.

Aug. 18: Tony Bennett. \$48.50, \$36.50. On sale May 10 at 1 p.m.

Aug. 22: Franki Valli & the Four Seasons. \$32, \$26. On sale May 3 at 10 a.m.

Aug. 25: Blues Music Festival 1998 with B.B. King, The Neville Brothers, Dr. John, and Storyville. \$43.50, \$33.50. On sale May 10 at noon.

Aug. 26: Vince Gill. \$38.50 and \$28.50.

Aug. 27: The Temptations and The Four Tops. \$36, \$26. On sale May 3 at 10 a.m.

Aug. 28: Bonnie Raitt. \$38.50, \$28.50. On sale May 9 at noon.

Sep. 4: Wynonna. \$33.50, \$26. On sale May 10 at 11 a.m.

Sep. 9, 10: Gypsy Kings. \$43.50, \$33.50. On sale May 16 at 11 a.m.

## Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra  
Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. 266-1492, 266-1200. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1:30 p.m. \$23-\$71;

rush seats \$7.50 day of concert, on sale Fridays from 9 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. Free tickets for MIT students Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Call 638-9478 for ticket availability.

May 1, 2: Shostakovich, Symphony No. 1. Barber, "Medea's Meditation and Dance of Vengeance." Ravel, "Daphnis et Chloe." Suite No. 2. Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, conductor.

## Jazz Music

### Regattabar

Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge. Information: 661-5000. Tickets: 876-7777.

May 1: Ron Carter Quartet, 7:30 and 10 p.m. \$18. The Thelonious Monk Institute Sextet, 7:30 and 10 p.m. \$18.

May 2: Ron Carter Quartet, 8 and 10 p.m. \$16.

May 5: Matt Gordy Quintet. 8:30 p.m., \$8.

May 6: Luciana Souza Quintet. 8 and 10 p.m. \$12.

May 7-9: Joe Lovano Gonzalo Rubalcaba Duo. 8:30 p.m. on May 7, \$12. 8 and 10 p.m., \$14 on May 8, \$16 on May 9.

### Sculler's

400 Soldiers Field Road, Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Information: 562-4111.

May 1, 2: Alvaro Torres.

May 3: Claude "Fiddler" Williams 90th Birthday Tour, featuring Red Richards and Norris Turney.

May 5: Warren Hill.

May 6: Ida Zecco.

May 7, 10: Patricia Smith and The Jeff Robinson Trio.

## Theater

### Amarelo

Theatre-Studio, Inc., 750 8th Ave., Suite 200 (near 46th St), New York, NY. (212) 719-0500. May 3 at 2 p.m., May 2 at 5 p.m. \$12.

A play by Paulo A. Pereira '95, directed by Charles Armesto '97. *Amarelo* tells the tale of Conceicao, a passionate woman from the Portuguese Azores Islands who struggles to achieve her dreams through the unexpected joys and sorrows of her life. In this play about hope, loss, and holding on to one's roots, we see her story unfold magically as we sail through time from Conceicao's life in Sao Miguel, Azores, to New Bedford, Mass.

### Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston. 426-6912. Playing indefinitely. 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45.

It would be difficult and unfair to catalogue fully the antics of the Drama Desk Award-winning trio of cobalt-painted bald pates who have settled into long runs Off Broadway and at the Charles Playhouse. They begin their delightful and deafening evening of anti-performance art beating drums that are also deep buckets of primary paint, so that sprays of color jump from the instruments like breaking surf, and end by engulfing the spectatorship in tangles of toilet paper.

Presented by ART New Stages at the Hasty Pudding Theatre, 12

Holyoke Street, Cambridge (547-8300), through August 11. 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$25 to \$35.

Actor Stephen Rowe, a founding member of the ART, in collaboration with three-time Pulitzer-winning playwright Edward Albee and director Glyn O'Malley, has compiled this one-man show exploring Albee's world from the male perspective. The piece explores fear and loss, longing and alienation, and, of course, the story of Jerry and the dog.

Through May 3: "Living on the Edge." Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.: "Reminiscences: McKinley-Matterhorn-Everest," lecture by Bradford Washburn.

Now showing in the theaters: "Laser Space Odyssey," Friday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

"Laser Grateful Dead," Sunday, 8 p.m.; "Laser Rage Fest," Thursday through Saturday, 9:15 p.m.; "Pink Floyd: The Wall," Friday through Saturday, at 10:30 p.m.; "Laser Doors," Sunday at 9:15 p.m.

Through May 3: "Living on the Edge." Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.: "Reminiscences: McKinley-Matterhorn-Everest," lecture by Bradford Washburn.

Now showing in the theaters: "Laser Space Odyssey," Friday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m.

## Exhibits

### Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. 723-2500, Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Admission \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. Free with MIT ID. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors.

The Museum features the theater of electricity and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center," "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit," "Welcome to the Universe." Through Apr. 26: "Balancing Acts."

Through May 3: "Living on the Edge." Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.: "Reminiscences: McKinley-Matterhorn-Everest," lecture by Bradford Washburn.

Now showing in the theaters: "Laser Space Odyssey," Friday through Sunday, 5:30 p.m. "Laser Grateful Dead," Sunday, 8 p.m.; "Laser Rage Fest," Thursday through Saturday, 9:15 p.m.; "Pink Floyd: The Wall," Friday through Saturday, at 10:30 p.m.; "Laser Doors," Sunday at 9:15 p.m.

### Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. 267-9300, Monday through Tuesday, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thursday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thursday through Friday until 9:45 p.m. Admission \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 are free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thursday through Friday, free with MIT ID.

Introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Ongoing exhibitions: "Beyond the Screen: Chinese Furniture of the 16th and 17th Centuries"; "The Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Ancient Americas."

### Computer Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. 423-6758 or 426-2800, Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$7, \$5 for students and seniors, free for children under 5. Half-price admission on Sunday from 3-5 p.m. Tours daily of "Walk Through Computer 2000," a working two-story model of a PC.

Museum features a collection of vintage computers and robots with over 150 hands-on exhibits illustrating the evolution, use, and impact of computers.

Featured exhibits include "The Hacker's Garage," a recreation of a 1970s hacker's garage with such items as an Apple I and Pong, "The Networked Planet: Traveling the Information Highway," an electronic tour of the Internet; "Robots and Other Smart Machines," an interactive exhibition of artificial intelligence and robots, and "Tools & Toys: The Amazing Personal Computer"; "People and Computers: which Milestones of a Revolution," explores a number of ways computers impact everyday life.

Through May 31: "Wizards and their Wonders: Portraits in Computing."

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

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

Through Apr. 26: "Titian and

Rubens: Power, Politics, Style."

**Swatch Museum**

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

**MIT Museum**

265 Massachusetts Ave. 253-4444. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission \$3, free with MIT ID.

Ongoing: "Gestural Engineering: The Sculpture of Arthur Ganson"; "Lightforest: The Holographic Rainforest"; "Holography: Artists and Inventors"; "MIT Hall of Hacks," chronicles of MIT's history of pranks, wit, and wizardry; "Light Sculptures by Bill Parker"; "Math in 3D: Sculptures by Morton G. Bradley, Jr."; "MathSpace," a hands-on exploration of geometry.

Through June 14: "Piranesi in Perspective: Designing the Icons of an Age."

**List Visual Arts Center**

Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St. 253-4400. Tuesday through Thursday, Saturday through Sunday, noon-6 p.m.; Friday, noon-8 p.m. Free.

Through Jun. 28: "Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism and Self-Representation." A *serveu p* [aomtmg, sculpture, photography, and installation work by 22

women Surrealist or Surrealist-inspired artists from the 1930s to present.

**Rhode Island School of Design**

224 Benefit St., Providence, RI. Museum of Art. 401-454-6502. Wednesday through Thursday and Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission \$2, \$1 for seniors.

Through Apr. 19: works by Geoffrey Beene.

Through Apr. 26: "Artistic Expressions from the Human Spirit: Selections from the Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin-American Art."

Ongoing: "Color and Form: 20th Century American Paintings from the Permanent Collection."

Woods-Gerry Gallery, 62 Prospect Street. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Through Feb. 15: "Sculpture Department Exhibition."

**MIT Music**

**MIT Concert Choir & Symphony Orchestra**

May 1: Professor of Music and Theater Arts William C. Cutter, Director. Carl Orff, Carmina Burana; Mozart, Sinfonia Concertante in E-Flat Major. Kay Ann Chen '98, violin; Jennifer Grucza '98, viola. 8 PM, Kresge Auditorium. \$5.

**MIT Concert Band**

May 2: Professor of Music and Theater Arts William John D. Corley Jr., Director. Spring Concert with World Premieres of Rosey Mei-kuei Lee, The Emperor's Garden; John Bovicchi, fusions; and Edward J. Madden, The Book of Kalls. Also Vittorio Giannini, Praeludium and Allegro and Gustav Holst, Moorside March. 8 p.m., Kresge Auditorium. Free.

**Two-piano concert.**

May 3: 1 p.m., Kresge Auditorium, Free.

**MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble**

May 3: Professor of Music and Theater Arts James R. O'Dell, Director. 8 p.m., Kresge Auditorium, Free.

**Special guest artist concert**

May 3: co-sponsored by the Boston Classical Guitar Society. Jad Azkoul, guitarist. Villa-Lobos, Five Preludes; Piazzolla, Four Seasons; and works of Coeck and Albeniz. 4 p.m., Killian Hall, Free.

Jad Azkoul is a Lebanese-American guitarist currently living in Switzerland whose musical education and career has taken him across several continents.

**AMP Student Recital.**

May 4: Yukiko Ueno, piano. Works of Mozart, Cage and Prokofiev. 5 PM, Killian Hall, Free.

**MITCAN, MIT's African Performance Ensemble**

May 7: Traditional music of Eastern and Southern Africa featuring African lyres, fiddles, harps, thumb pianos, log xylophones and drums. 8 pm Kresge Auditorium. Free.

**MIT's Gamelan Galak Tika presents "Ball - Past, Present and Future"**

May 8: Boston's only Balinese gamelan presents new and traditional music and dance. 8 pm Kresge Auditorium. Admission: \$5, free for children under 12 or with MIT ID.

**MIT Affiliated Artist Series**

May 9: Chris Trakas, baritone; Marek Zebrowski, piano. Ravel, Five Greek Folk Songs; Schumann, Dichterliebe; Zebrowski, Leaving Alexandria. 8 PM, Kresge Auditorium. Free.

**Moxy Fruvous**

May 15. Sala de Puerto Rico. \$8 advance, \$10 door. On sale at The Source.

**MIT Theater**

**The Illusion**

May 1, 2. \$8, \$6 students with ID, \$1 off for seniors of groups of over 10. 8 p.m., Kresge Little Theater, 253-2908 or e-mail [ds\\_officers@mit.edu](mailto:ds_officers@mit.edu). Dramashop's production of play

by Pierre Cornielle adapted by Tony Kushner, directed by Professor of Music and Theater Arts Janet Sonenberg. Pridamant, a rich citizen of 16th-century Avignon, travels to the cave of the magician Alcandre, looking for news of his longestranged son. He finds a web of illusions instead: funny, touching, and tragic illusions of magic, illusions of love, and illusions of the theater itself.

**Shakespeare Ensemble Scene Night: "A Lighter Side of Life."**

May 1, 2. Scenes from Shakespeare and modern playwrights. 8pm, Walker 201 (142 Memorial Dr). 253-2903 or e-mail [ensemble@mit.edu](mailto:ensemble@mit.edu); <http://www.mit.edu:8001/activities/ensemble/home.html>

**Playwrights in Performance**

May 7-9: Associate Provost of the Arts Professor Alan Brody directs a series of one-act plays written by members of the MIT community. This annual event is a collaboration between Prof. Brody's class, Playwrights Workshop (21M785) and authors of original scripts. Scripts are chosen each year from work submitted by the MIT community to Prof. Brody. The class, playwrights and actors work closely together on the scripts. Brotherhood by Joel M. Rosenberg '99; Heels over Head by Vladimir Zelevinsky G; "Untitled" by Katherine Varn '98. 8pm, Kresge Rehearsal Rm. B. 253-2877.

**MIT Film**

**Lecture Series Committee**

Two Mules for Sister Sara (1969). May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in 10-250.

Great Expectations. May 1 at 7 & 10:30 p.m. in 26-100, May 3 at 7 p.m. in 26-100.

Jackie Brown. May 2 at 7 & 10:30 p.m. in 26-100, May 3 at 10 p.m. in 26-100.

Readings in Science Fiction: J Micahel Straczynski & Alexander Jablovkov. May 4, 7 p.m., Kresge.

**Events**

**The X-Files Expo**

Naval Air Station, South Weymouth, Mass. May 2 and 3. Tickets: 1-888-EXPO-TIX, online at <<http://www.thex-files.com>>, 931-2000. \$25 cash, \$27 credit card.

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# COMICS

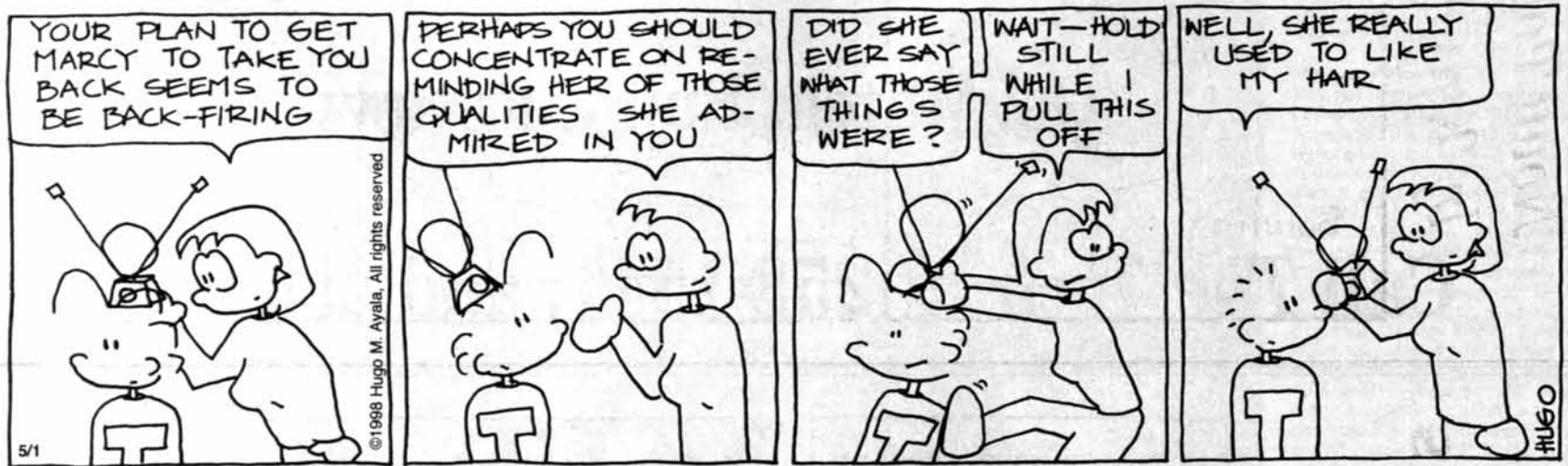
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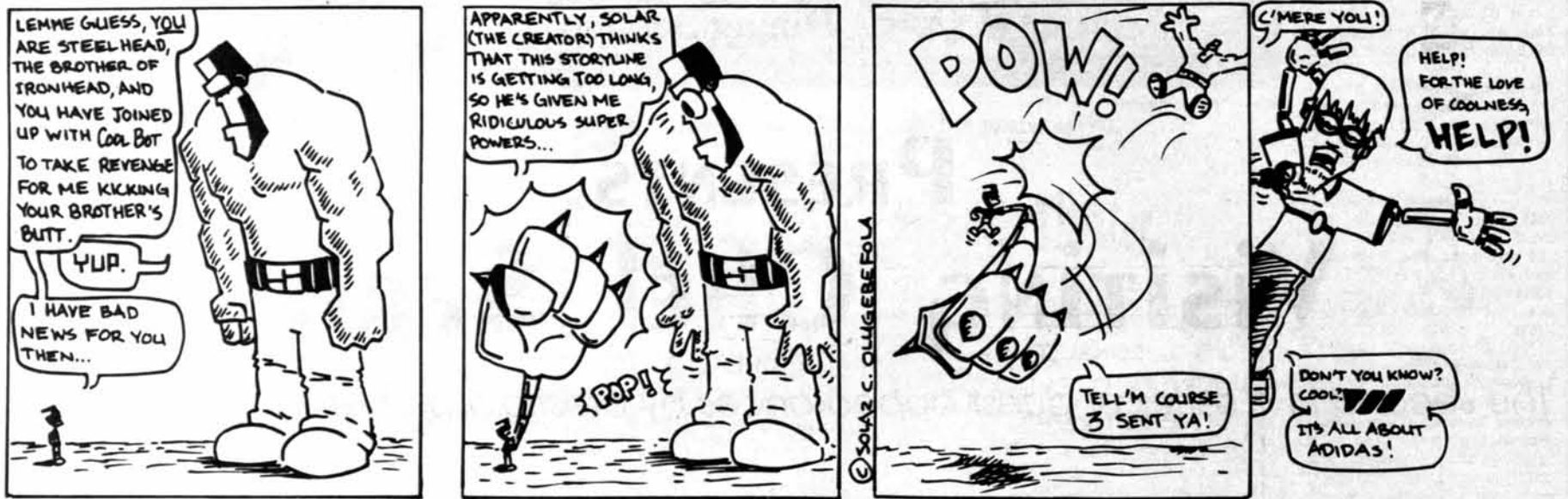
dammed for life  
by Jessica



Off Course  
by Hugo



bartholemew squeak



Perhaps...



... It doesn't matter what you have to pay for...

By Jennifer DiMase





# RHINO MAN



THE STORY SO FAR: With Rhino-Man's reputation in ruins, he meets with the Yakuza. Their offer: if he admits to the false charges against him and then commits suicide, they will spare Sector 9 any further embarrassment.

by Zachary Emig



Well, Rhino-Man? Your answer?

You see, Shimuraka, it's not the suicide that bothers me. I've accepted my death. Or losing the money. It's the fact that you and your cronies get off free.

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<http://www.mit.edu/~zbenmig/Rhino-Man.html>

Ah, but that is the way it has to be, my friend. Call it the dynamics of the situation.

Perhaps.

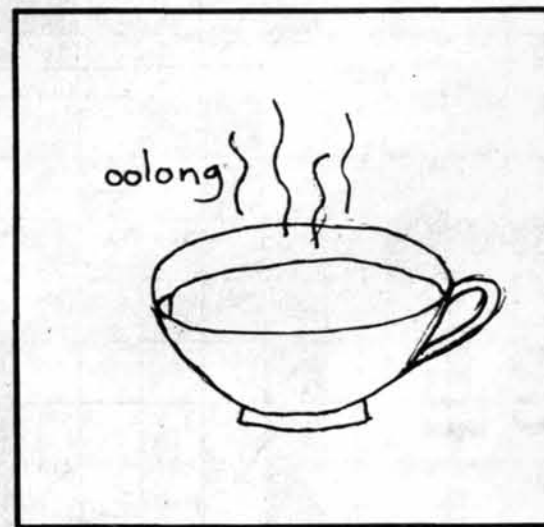
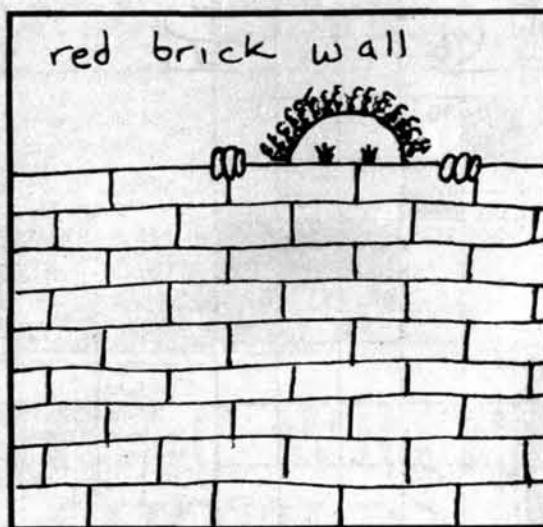
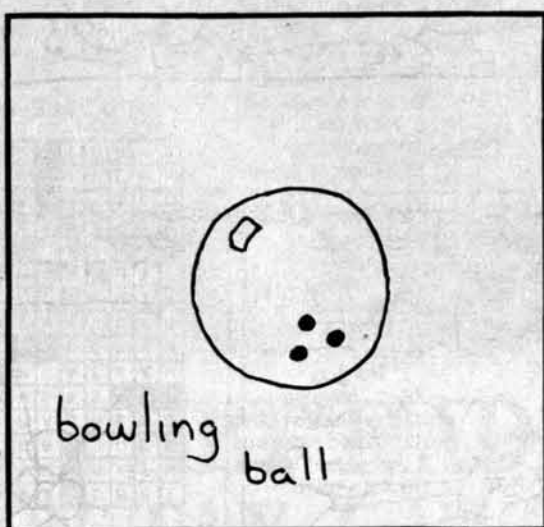
Perhaps, that is, had your boys done a more thorough job searching my briefcase.

Perhaps, had they found this plastic container I hid under a thin layer of cash.

But now I wonder how this jug of gasoline and a lit cigar change the "dynamics of the situation", eh?

Next Issue: Hell hath no fury like a pissed Rhino-Man!

## Noun Poetry by Katy-Cat



## Dilbert by Scott Adams

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**Trivia Corner National Anthems**

Congratulations to Somak Chattopadhyay and Hoi Hong Wong who both knew that Rabindranath Tagore wrote the national anthems of both India ("Jana Gana Mana") and Bangladesh ("Our Golden Bengal"). Incidentally, the Bengali poet did not intend the songs to be anthems — they were both adopted after his death in 1941, in 1950 and

1971, respectively. Tagore had been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for such works as "Gitanjali, Song Offerings."

Somak and Hoi each win a pair of tickets and a large popcorn, both provided by LSC.

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in Room 26-100

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in Room 26-100

Jackie Brown

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

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69						70					71			

**ACROSS**

- 1 Grass, maybe
- 6 Sec.
- 10 Musician Atkins
- 14 Japanese car maker
- 15 Eager
- 16 Promise
- 17 Wool working tool
- 18 Calculate, abbr.
- 19 Indian pitcher
- 20 Were in I, II, XXXI, and XXXII
- 23 Title
- 24 Code
- 25 Metal working process, abbr.
- 28 Nuclear dept. abolished in 1974
- 30 Mesa, for instance
- 34 Nest eggs
- 36 Painting or sculpture
- 38 The caped crusader's sidekick
- 39 Formerly the Cleveland Browns
- 43 Civil rights leader
- 44 Bachelor's last words
- 45 European fashion designer
- 46 Made merry
- 49 Win. month
- 51 Fast plane
- 52 Weird
- 54 Feline
- 56 King Dome team
- 63 Kind of powder, colloquial
- 64 Mississippi city, \_\_\_ Bena
- 65 Italian, combination form

**DOWN**

- 1 Thick coated dog
- 2 Visit
- 3 Angel, Fr.
- 4 Notions, Fr.
- 5 C.S. Lewis' "Chronicles of \_\_\_"
- 6 Solo
- 7 Man-goat creature
- 8 Climb a stair
- 9 Constrain
- 10 Oven
- 11 Reagan cabinet member
- 12 Forever, poetically
- 13 Articles
- 21 Sunfish
- 22 Brazilian state
- 25 Free, Lat.
- 26 Intrepid
- 27 National airline of Hungary
- 29 \_\_\_ Magnon
- 31 Egyptologist Georg
- 32 Ill-fated nickname for New Orleans
- 33 Not settled

By Anthony R. Salas

- 35 Aka "Desire"?
- 37 3, prefix form
- 40 Small island
- 41 Tokyo, once
- 42 Golfer Constantino
- 47 Antarctic explorer Kagge
- 48 Jenny Craig, for one
- 50 Gauguin's island
- 53 Organic compound
- 55 \_\_\_ tot
- 56 Knife
- 57 Rest
- 58 Toward shelter
- 59 Listens to
- 60 Promenade
- 61 Bauhaus artist
- 62 An amount

**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

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H	I	V	O	A	T									
C	H	E	T											

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Class elections will be held at the Alumni Activities Expo in Lobby 10 on Tuesday, May 12th, 10am-4pm.

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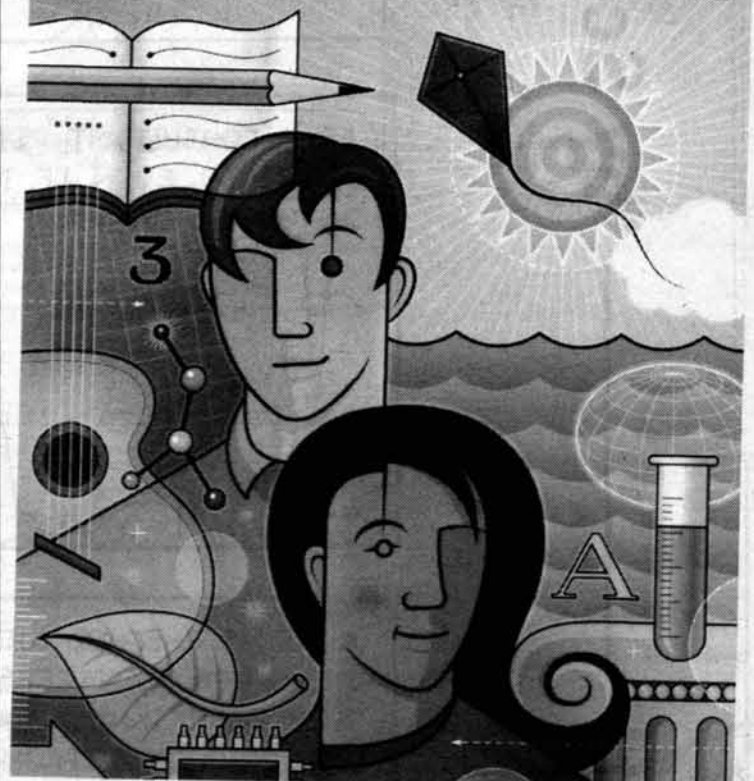


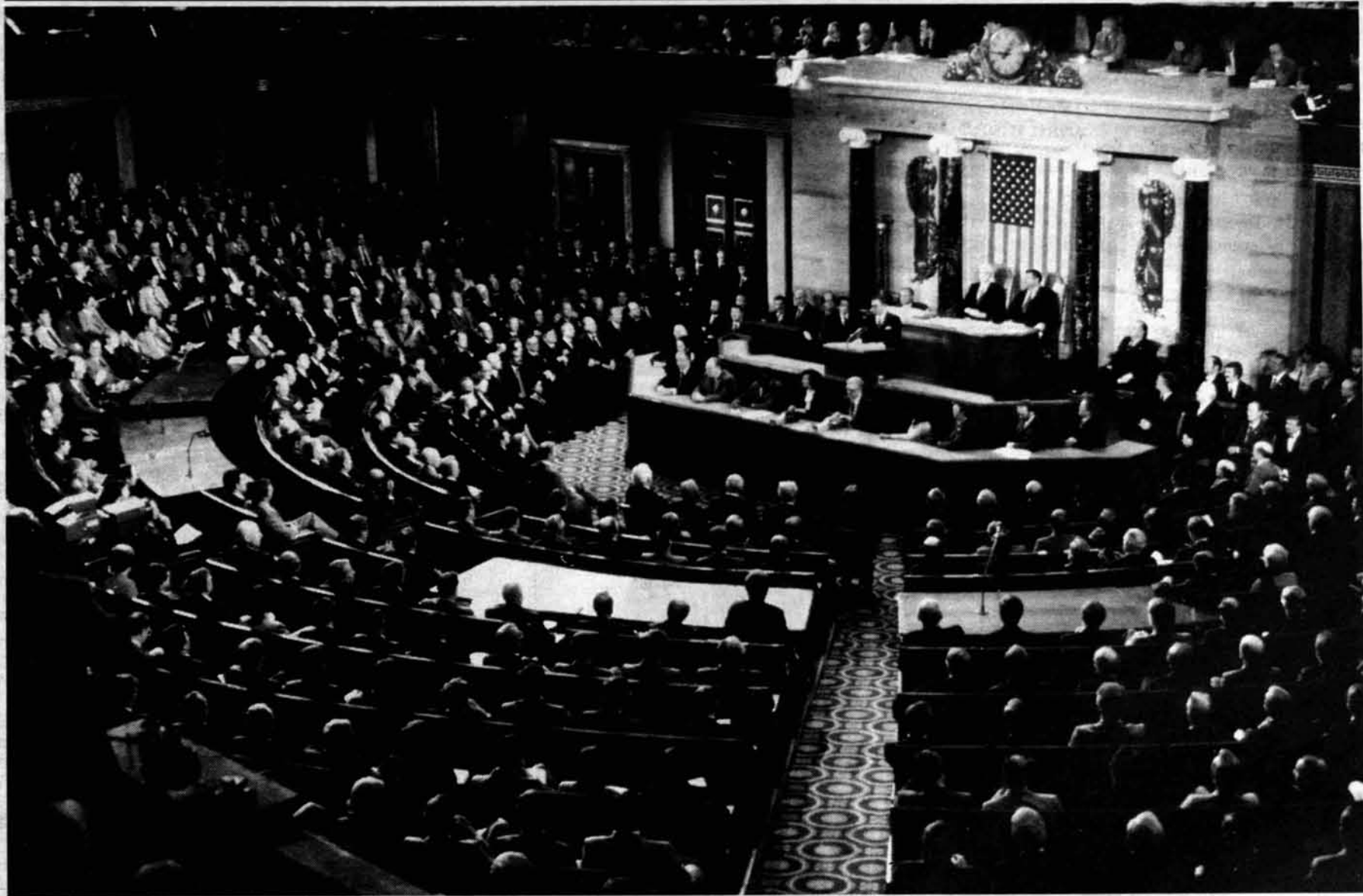
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# Thurrow, Dornbusch Use Wits in Economics Debate

By Naveen Sunkavally  
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Armed with a compendium of facts and jokes, two of MIT's heavyweight intellectuals, Lester C. Thurrow of the Sloan School of Management and Rudiger W. Dornbusch of the Department of Economics, squared off in a battle of wits and economic analysis on

Tuesday night.

Over 350 spectators showed up, filling the small, Colosseum-style room E51-345 to overflowing.

The two, who fielded both prepared and extemporaneous questions, debated economic issues, ranging from the European Monetary Union, to growth and productivity, bank mergers,

income inequities, the International Monetary Fund, and the future prospects of Japan, China, Germany, and Italy.

## Productivity measures debated

The first question asked Dornbusch and Thurrow to discuss why the United States has had such a low growth rate in the last twenty

years despite having undergone a massive technological revolution.

Thurrow said that the answer depends on which part of "the elephant you feel up." For the wealthiest 20 percent of the nation, technological progress has created many billionaires, and the 1990s have been the best decade in U.S. history, he said. Conversely, for the bottom 60 percent, Thurrow said, the 1990's has been the worst decade, and productivity growth, which is "the ultimate economic objective," has hovered at around only 0.8 percent.

"[In my field] we don't feel up elephants," Dornbusch responded. He adopted a more optimistic view and blamed Gross National Product accounting for not adequately representing the growth rate. Dornbusch said that the GNP does not measure services, especially the booming financial services sector, and that it does not take into account the increase in flexibility afforded by these new technologies.

"It's not as clear as he's making it," Thurrow said, arguing that services only account for a "little better than zero percent of growth." He expressed distaste for the Boston correction method of arbitrarily adding a percentage point here and there to growth levels.

## Betting on the euro

The European Monetary Union was also a topic of contention for Dornbusch and Thurrow. The EMU, as established by the Maastricht Treaty of 1991, is a collection of countries including most of Europe that will adopt a single currency, the euro, on January 1, 1999.

Both more or less agreed that Italy, which "has no credibility" according to Dornbusch, would emerge as the big winner in the EMU deal. But they differed more strongly on how strong the euro would be a year after January 1, 1999.

Thurrow maintained that the euro would have a higher value

one year after its release. After Thurrow said he was willing to bet on his position, Dornbusch pulled a bill out of his wallet and handed it to Thurrow, who then handed to the mediator.

"Europe cannot afford a hard currency," Dornbusch said. He pointed to the German elections as the key determinant of whether Europe would have a hard or soft euro. If the elections allowed Germany to break out of its mold of strict regulation, Thurrow would win his bet, Dornbusch said.

When the mediator tried to hand Dornbusch back his bill, Dornbusch refused. "You know he doesn't have confidence," Thurrow said after eyeing the value of the bill. Thurrow then put in \$20.

## Japanese economy criticized

Neither Dornbusch nor Thurrow had kind words for Japan. "Japan is really screwed up," Dornbusch said. He said that Japan must work to resolve a financial crisis, a political crisis, a confidence crisis, and the problems caused by "an incompetent prime minister."

Thurrow added his own criticisms of Japan to the debate. He said that there was a crisis in Japan's capitalistic system and that the nation needed to change from an economy "based on debt" to one "based on equity." He said further that Japanese firms are earning a profit close to zero and that the second-largest economy is the middle of an eight-year "great stagnation."

Both were more optimistic about China's prospects. Dornbusch and Thurrow said that the estimate of a 10 percent growth rate was most likely overvalued. Thurrow placed the growth rate around six percent, saying that exaggeration and a higher-than-stated inflation were probably responsible for the reported 10 percent growth rate.

Dornbusch placed China's growth rate for the next two to four

Debate, Page 15

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# Wage Cut Needed In Europe

Debate, from Page 14

years at about three percent. He said that a suffering Japan would hurt China and that devaluing the Chinese yuan would be impossible because its banks are among the worst in the world.

## European leaders face criticism

Thurrow and Dornbusch had little sympathy for the high unemployment rates in Europe.

Thurrow said that European countries should cut wages 25 percent. France's unemployment compensation is double minimum wage, he said. "The Netherlands is proud of an employment rate only slightly below European average. Most people my age work with pain — no pain, no gain," Thurrow said.

Europeans need more initiative than simply, "Learn your Latin, eat your spinach," Dornbusch said. Right now, "the government has everyone's shoe size," he said. European countries need to stop paying people not to work, he added.

Several other questions came up at the discussion. Thurrow and Dornbusch had few kinds words for British prime minister Tony Blair. "Blair isn't doing anything; he's just smiling," Thurrow said. Dornbusch characterized Blair's political career as that of "unmitigated opportunism."

One student asked whether the Federal Reserve Board would cut interest rates, to which Dornbusch responded, "Yes. Next month, no." "[Alan] Greenspan is a series of grunts," Thurrow said. "The more important you are, the less you say."

# Report Questions Faculty Reward System

Report, from Page 1

Science Charles Stewart III. "My disagreement is that they are overly alarmist."

"[The report] tends to take an overly utopian view of what a research university can do," said professor of physics Thomas J. Greytak '62.

"The key idea of the Boyer Commission is it points out many of the problems MIT has addressed but not completely fixed," said Luis A. Ortiz G a member of the task force on student life and learning. "There is a lot of work to be done."

## Teaching not rewarded

One charge of the report was the lack of emphasis on teaching within a research university, best exemplified by the process of tenure decisions.

"There is no incentive for professors to teach," said Professor of Mathematics Gian-Carlo Rota.

"The problem is the reward structure," said Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Donald R. Sadoway. The structure "is to a large extent based upon accomplishments in research."

However, a complete shift to a focus on teaching may also be too extreme. "It's very difficult to change that, it has to be thought out well," Rota said.

Despite a reward structure that rewards research over teaching, many professors are still respected for their research ability. "People do it because they really care," Sadoway said.

In addition, reinventing education is also held in high regard, Stewart said. "You are rewarded for organizing a really great teaching system." For example, the faculty members who redesigned the Electrical Engineering curriculum during the 1940s and 1950s were held in high regard. More recently, the faculty and staff who successful-

ly redesigned the freshman physics curriculum were met with praise.

In addition, contrary to popular assumption, some professors view teaching as a boon to their research. "Teaching is an integral part of my research," Rota said.

## Faculty student interaction

Another issue brought up by the Boyer Commission was the need to cultivate a sense of community among students and faculty.

Increased faculty student interaction is "one thing that would create more of a sense of community," said Kamla A. Topsey '00. However to encourage this interaction would also require relieving the time pressure on both students and faculty, Topsey said. "I don't think that is something the Institute is willing to do."

"There's not nearly enough faculty student interaction at MIT," Stewart said. The "barriers are real."

Stewart cited many factors that contribute to the separation of faculty and students at MIT. These include time-pressure and the fact that faculty often live far from campus. MIT is not a residential community and there is little opportunity to get to know faculty and staff in a non-academic setting, he said.

"It's too easy for both sides to get away with not seeing each other outside the classroom," Ortiz said.

Being given a lecture by a world-class professor is not enough, Ortiz said. "Students don't find a way to get to know these professors," he said, "that's a great educational opportunity that's been missed." Faculty student interaction "relies too much on the initiative of a young student to make," Ortiz said.

"I think if you're willing to reach out they're there," said Natalie Chouinard '01. However, intimidation and the fear that professors will not take students seriously may prevent students from seeking interac-

tion with faculty, Chouinard said.

"Do we reach all freshmen? Probably not. But do all freshmen reach out?," Sadoway said. "The student has to work too, otherwise it fails."

Rota said that, compared to other research universities, MIT did fairly well in encouraging student-faculty

interaction. "I know it is true at Harvard" that students do not interact with faculty, Rota said. "[Students] don't care. They just want to make friends in their halls." But even at MIT, students must decide to reach out to their professors. It "is their choice, you can't force them," he said.



Eric Chen '00 volleys in his singles match against Dartmouth College yesterday afternoon. MIT won the match 5-2.

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# Lemelson Winner Discusses Innovation, Education

By Alleen Tang  
STAFF REPORTER

Due to an error, part of the interview with Gerneshausen Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Robert S. Langer ScD '74 was omitted from the article on Langer which appeared in Tuesday's issue of The Tech. The missing sections of that interview are reprinted here.

Langer was recently named the recipient of the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize for his research with polymers.

**Tech:** What are some of your interests outside of research, beyond the world of the laboratory?

**Langer:** In addition to being with my family, I exercise a lot. I run; I lift weights. We also have a softball team at the lab. Other than sports, the one that's of a bit of an unusual type is that I do magic. I

haven't done big shows lately, but for a number of times I've done shows for the MIT community, for a few hundred people.

**Tech:** What personal qualities do you think are important to being an inventor or scientist?

**Langer:** To be a scientist, I think, requires lots of qualities. Some people are just incredibly curious. I've seen chemists in my lab just marvel at the way a crystal forms. In my case, one of the things that's been very important to me is to see the work we do go some place and help people. I've always been a big believer in science for the good it can do, and we've gotten a lot of satisfaction out of seeing that happen. 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.

**Tech:** One of the goals of the Lemelson-MIT Prize is to inspire innovation in young Americans. Do you think inventiveness can be cultivated? How much of this quality is nature and how much of is nurture?

**Langer:** That's a good question. I think probably it's some of both. People need a to be born with a certain amount of curiosity and intelligence. But it's also very helpful for people to have good role models. I was lucky as a post doc to have a very good role model, my advisor Judah Folkman. He was very creative, and it was a great to see how he believed that anything was possible. In my own laboratory, I let people see examples of what I do. I have people running in here all the time about "can you patent this, can you

patent that." When people see other people do it, it increases their confidence and the awareness of the way they think, and they're more likely to succeed.

**Tech:** How do we encourage young Americans to be innovative?

**Langer:** I think programs like the Lemelson-MIT program is very good in the sense that they give these awards and they have web sites where students can learn about positive role models. I learned a lot about them myself. I read that a couple of people who won these awards speak at programs in high schools. I think all of these kinds of things provide positive publicity associated with invention and innovation.

**Tech:** How well does MIT's environment foster innovation, for example, with the UROP program?

**Langer:** As I mentioned before, good role models, which is one of

the things that the UROP program provides, are very helpful. I think that MIT does a great job on every level and is probably the best place I've ever seen, from having been to different universities giving lectures. The UROP program is a terrific way for undergraduates to learn research, and it's one of the things that make MIT unique. I also think that MIT goes a couple steps beyond just the education. MIT has always had strong ties to industry. There's a terrific Technology Transfer Office and a Industrial Liaison program. So they have all these things that expose students and professors to a broader spectrum of things, which I think encourage innovation very well.

## Protecting innovation

**Tech:** As an inventor with 320 patents, do you believe that the current patent system provides adequate protection for inventions?

**Langer:** Interesting question. I think it's a reasonably good system, although ways of trying to get approvals more rapidly would be helpful, particularly in fields like medicine. As opposed to a household product patent, which you might be able to sell tomorrow, medical patents take a much longer time to develop into a product because it has to go through all the clinical trials. In certain areas like medicine, perhaps patents should be treated differently than say, technology patents. Maybe it would be good at least to consider ways to get extended life on the patent.

**Tech:** Products from life-critical research tend to be closely monitored by the FDA. How have your experiences been with the FDA?

**Langer:** My encounters with the FDA have been quite positive. I should say, not that it has anything to do with it, I'm also on the FDA Science Board, which is the highest advisory board. What happens is we've done some of the more basic stuff in our laboratory and different companies license it. Those companies have good regulatory people who deal directly with the FDA. What's happened though in general is that the FDA deals with the kinds of stuff we've been involved with as being more innovative. With things that are either more innovative or more life threatening, the FDA fast-tracks them. I think the FDA actually has been, in our case, pretty responsive.

**Tech:** There has been recent controversy over the use of pharmaceutical products such as Redux. Have you ever experienced similar problems with your work?

**Langer:** In the brain tumor case, the company that licensed the technology originally wanted to get a broader approval than what they ultimately got. The way the approvals work is often complicated. With many products, indications start out narrow and broaden later. A separate issue has nothing to do with the FDA but deals with the marketing of medical products. A

Langer, Page 17

## The Sloan Subject Prioritization System

### Bidding Dates for Fall, 1998 Classes

<<http://sloanbid.mit.edu>>

Round I (Sloan students only)

Round II (Institute-wide, Sloan and non-Sloan students)

Opens 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 9

Closes 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 14

Round II results will be posted on the bidding website in mid-August

## The Campus Activities Complex will be accepting applications for Fall 1998 Promotional Space

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 1998  
beginning @  
9:00 AM

Fall Semester:  
Sept. 9, 1998 - Dec. 31, 1998

- \*Lobby 7 Drop Posters
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Clinical Coordinator  
617-467-0312 phone  
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E-Mail or Internet

# Campus Police Say Boston Logs Lacked Incidents in FSILGs

Police, from Page 1

known about, Glavin said. "In some cases, there was no [information] to be gathered."

Glavin specifically noted a breaking and entering incident at Phi Sigma Kappa on January 3, 1996 and an assault and battery at Delta Tau Delta on March 26, 1995 as examples of incidents that were not reported in the log that Campus Police officers viewed at the District Four office.

## Boston Police say logs are accurate

After reviewing Boston Police records, Flynn said the two incidents in question were in the police log that would have been available for the Campus Police to view at the District Four office. "The 1995 and 1996 incidents are definitely there."

An earlier incident in 1994 was unable to be verified because records from a manual logging system had been destroyed, Flynn added.

In addition, District Four staffers said that the Campus Police never contacted them before May 1996,

Flynn said. The head of District 4 has "never heard of any problems concerning access to information," he added.

Glavin said that before May 1996, the Campus Police never formally requested information from the Boston Police since they were traveling to collect the information themselves.

"I stand by what my staff has been doing," Glavin said. She contends that the Boston logs are inaccurate.

Glavin added that the department has been working hard to meet the guidelines of the crime act since its inception. "It's obvious that we have been gathering info since 1992" on off-campus crime:

More important than the disputes over who is to blame for the inaccuracies in the annual reports before 1996, is the new relationship that the Boston Police and Campus Police have formed to guarantee that off-campus crime information will be accurate in the future, Glavin said. "We have worked... to get a better system."

# Cost of Tutor Strains Tight Budgets of ILGs

Tutors, from Page 1

administration as a way to satisfy the tutor requirement, but Phillips said that the house would probably hire another individual to fill the role. She said that paying the cost of the tutor "would be a problem because our budget is so tight."

While noting these concerns Dorow said that in some cases finding space for a GRT is "not a real cost" since many houses have open rooms. Dorow noted, however, that the ILGs could be subject to the loss of revenue corresponding to an additional house bill if they place tutors in doubles.

## System needs changes to fit ILGs

The stipend provided to GRT's in the dormitory system is an additional complication in allocating funding for ILGs. This stipend amounts to approximately \$600 a term, said Assistant Dean for RCA Carol Orme-Johnson. The stipend is intended to be used to partially cover the cost of meals for tutors.

RCA hopes that tutors in ILGs will be accommodated like tutors in the dormitory system, but the diversity of ILGs may make that

difficult. Some ILGs provide meals as part of the house bill while others charge on a per meal basis. As a result of these complications, Dorow said that reimbursement will be done "on a case-by-case basis." "We want to be as flexible on this as possible," he said.

The source of funding for GRTs in the dormitory system may also play a role in the decision to fund the ILG tutors. Phillip M. Bernard, dean of students for RCA, said that the house bill and stipend for GRTs are paid by RCA to the housing and food services department.

Whether those funds come from general institute accounts or from dormitory house bills is less clear. Orme-Johnson said that accounting practices make the funds "all part of the same pool of money." Funding ultimately comes from Provost Joel Moses, but Orme-Johnson said that "there is more money that comes from dorm house bills than is spent" on the dormitories. Whether some of that excess is used for the GRT program is up to interpretation, she said.

In the end, "It's all MIT's money," she said.

# Applied and Basic Research Both Necessary, Langer Says

Langer, from Page 16

product may be only approved for something. For instance, a drug might only be approved for some purpose, but now that it's out there, certain clinicians might decide to prescribe it for indications other than for which it was approved. That makes it complicated, and sometimes there may be encouragement from the companies too. We haven't seen that much controversy on the things that I've been involved with directly. But certainly there are issues that have come up. For example, silicon breast implants is an area that was and still is, somewhat controversial.

**Tech:** You direct and teach a summer program at MIT called Advances in Controlled Release Technology. What do you try to achieve through the program?

**Langer:** All the kinds of stuff we've just talked about. I had this idea in 1980 and this will be the 19th year that we've done it in the U.S., and we've also done it in Europe. It aims to take somebody and really teach them the field, so they know how one might take a drug or pesticide or any entity and be able to create a delivery system that could solve particular problems. So we teach

them all kinds of principles of polymer science, like transport phenomenon, regulatory issues with the FDA, and mathematical modeling so you can predict what you've done.

**Tech:** What are your thoughts about basic research versus applied research?

**Langer:** Basic research is very important, but ultimately you need both. Basic research enables discovery to be made that can have very broad impact. Applied research is important so you can take those discoveries and use them for different things. Like I said earlier, ideas you initially come up with could ultimately be used in areas other than you had anticipated. 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.

## Education and innovation

**Tech:** How have your parents influenced your achievements in science?

**Langer:** When I was a little boy, my father always played math games with me. He also got me interested in science by giving me these chemistry sets and microscope

sets. I think he was a very stimulating person to be with both by example and by interactions like building the radio together. It was wonderful to be exposed to that as a young child.

**Tech:** What's your role as a parent in bringing up your own children?

**Langer:** I have three little kids myself. The roles we play as parents, in every way as a role model and interactions with the kids are really important. Sometimes I bring my kids here to the lab on the weekends, when the post docs and even myself do experiments. They get exposed to that at an early age and see that these things are possible. On the other hand, I also want them to have a well-rounded life. My eight-year-old is interested in soccer, so I certainly want to encourage that. My seven-year-old daughter likes gymnastics, and I encourage that also.

**Tech:** What are your goals for your kids?

**Langer:** I want them to be happy, and that's the goal that my mother and father had for me. They never pushed me that hard and they exposed me to different things. My number one goal for my kids is to just have happy, happy lives.



DAVID TARIN—THE TECH

Juliet (Sarah R. Cohen '00) cradles Romeo's head in her lap in a short performance of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* given Wednesday night in Walker Memorial. The act was one of eight collected in a show entitled *A Lighter Side of Life*.

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# Men's Track Squad Outruns Springfield

By Matthew Potts  
TEAM MEMBER

In a head-to-head battle with archrival Springfield College this past Saturday, the Men's Track and Field Team handily defeated Springfield 94-69 on their own track.

MIT entered the meet knowing that Springfield would not go down easily. In the rivalry that dates back 14 years, Springfield has given it their all at their home meets and won nearly every one. However, this time their all just wasn't enough.

Captain Ravi Sastry '98 threw the first punch with a victory in the Long Jump. His jump of 23'1" was a personal record and enough to elevate him to third place on MIT's all-time list. This early victory was needed, however, to offset the damage that Springfield's throwers would cause. Springfield's throwing squad is one of the best in the region and only allowed one point to be scored against them in last year's showdown against MIT. However, MIT's George Torres '99 was not about to let that happen again and threw a personal record of 158'2" in the hammer to place third. Nikolaos Michalakis '01 carried that momentum into the Javelin to give Springfield's national qualifier a big scare and place second despite a gale-force headwind.

The battle then moved to the track. Leif Seed '99 and Mark Strauss '01 buried their opponents in the 3000m Steeplechase to score 1-2 with times of 9:41.40 and 9:41.88. Strauss' strong kick in the final lap not only overtook Springfield's number one man but also gave him a personal record by 23 seconds.

Next came what was to be the most exciting race of the day. With both teams seeded only 0.03 seconds apart in the 4x100m relay, MIT's team of Sastry, Neal Karchem '98, Todd Rosenfield '01, and Sam Thibault '00 knew they had to go all out. The first three legs were strong but not enough to give anchorman Thibault a lead when he took the baton. With only 30 meters left, however, he launched a furious rush and dove for the finish line. Thibault slid face-first into the track and won the race by just an inch.

Feeding on this victory, Sohail

Husain '98, Chris McGuire '00, and Joel Ford '98 swept the 1500m, while Sastry took an easy win in the 110m high hurdles with a time of 15.50. Junius Ho '01 took third in the event with 15.99, his second personal record of the day along with a 20'6" long jump.

MIT continued its dominance in the 400m where Rosenfield charged down the home stretch to place first while Karchem held on for a third. In his third win of the day, Sastry won the 100m with a personal record time of 11.23, giving MIT their sixth win in eight events.

On the field, Kalpak Kothari '01 achieved personal records three times in the triple hump to earn a second with 44'2". Despite a seasonal best of 43'1" in the shot put by Patrick Dannen '98, Springfield narrowed MIT's lead by sweeping that event. Springfield followed with an upset win in the 800m that cut MIT's lead to 55-49. However, Ford and Sean Montgomery '01 took second and third in the event to minimize the damage.

Unfortunately for Springfield, that was as close as they would get. With a daunting cross wind, Thibault and Matt Potts '00 took first and second in the Pole Vault with leaps of 13'3" and 12'9". Seed and Anthony Pelosi '01 followed that with first and second place in the 400m Intermediate Hurdles, with Pelosi making up a six meter deficit in the final 40 meters to edge out his opponent by only 0.03 seconds. Sastry and Karchem brought home second and third place the 200m. Roger Nielson '01 won the High Jump with 6'0". Sastry took third in that event while Sam Sadiqi '99 had a personal record jump by 11 inches at 5'6". The 4x400m Relay Team of Montgomery, Ford, Seed and Karchem then ended the meet by easily outrunning their opponents and improving the Engineers Division III season record to 5-1.

Next week the Engineers go up to Williams College to give everyone one final chance to qualify for the New England Division III Championships only two weeks away. However, with 17 automatic qualifiers already, MIT promises to be in strong contention for the title.

# Women's Track Ends Season on High Note

Women's Track, from Page 20

qualify Nichols for Division III's and ECAC's, it also broke the school record set by Won a week earlier.

Robin Evans '99 also ran a spectacular race in the 800 meters. She placed fifth with a season best of 2:29.26, but missed qualifying for Division III's by a heartbreaking two one-hundredths of a second.

The Engineers finished the meet by placing first and third in the 4x800 and 4x400 meter relays.

Christina Wilbert '01, followed by top performers Nichols, Won, and Evans led the team to a victory and school record time of 10:08.73 in the 4x800. Top 400 runners Chen, Stephanie Hong '98, Smith, and Thorvaldsen sped through the 4x400 in 4:20.74 against tough competition from Smith and Mt. Holyoke.

This Saturday, the Engineers will compete in the New England Division III Championship held at Connecticut College. Being represented in all but two events, this will be the strongest showing in the Engineers history.

## MIT dates & deadlines

Upcoming student deadlines and other important Institute dates

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

Date	Who	What	Where
<b>Monday, May 4, through Friday, May 8</b>			
Fri 5/8	Students staying in the summer	Summer housing applications due	<a href="http://web.mit.edu/residence/www/forms/index.html">http://web.mit.edu/residence/www/forms/index.html</a> , W20-549, 3-6777
Fri 5/8	Non-doctoral June degree candidates	These due for non-doctoral degrees	Academic departments
Fri 5/8	All students	Subjects with final exams can require no assignment after this date	
Sat 5/9	All students	Through last-scheduled class, subjects with NO final exams can hold a one-hour quiz during a regular class period, OR can require one assignment.	
<b>Monday, May 11, through Friday, May 29</b>			
Thu 5/14	All students	Last day of spring-term classes	
Thu 5/14	Undergraduates	4th qtr PE classes end	W32-125, 3-4291
Fri 5/15	Undergraduates	Application for Fall 98 study abroad due; forms available in 14N-408 and 12-170	<a href="mailto:hannahb@mit.edu">hannahb@mit.edu</a> , 8-5784, 12-170
Mon-Fri, 5/18-22	All students	Final exam week	
Fri 5/22	Grad or undergrad degree candidates	Last day to petition to go off the June degree list (form available in the SSC)	Dan Engelhardt, SSC, 8-6434
Tue 5/26	Everybody	Memorial Day - Holiday	
Fri 5/29	UROP students and faculty	Student and supervisor term UROP evaluations due	<a href="mailto:urop@mit.edu">urop@mit.edu</a> , 7-103, 3-7306
Fri 5/29	All students	Last day to submit alternative address for mailing grade report	SSC, 8-8600; or E19-335, 8-6409

Degree candidates with federal or MIT-administered loans must have an exit interview before they graduate. Contact [ewolcott@mit.edu](mailto:ewolcott@mit.edu) to schedule an appointment.

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

# M.I.T. Community Summer Softball 1998

Organizational Meeting  
New Team Entries Accepted

## Wednesday 6 May

## 5:30pm

## 1-190

For more information, contact:  
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## SPORTS

## Coach of the Week

Mary Ellen McLaughlin's first year as the head coach of the men's and women's swim teams has been an eventful one. Now that the season is over, she not only has a new team but eight new school records as well.

McLaughlin came to MIT from Middlebury College in Vermont. There she improved Middlebury's New England ranking from the mid-30s to a consistent top three ranking for both the men's and women's teams. She was elected New England Coach of the Year three times, in 1992, 1995, and 1996. She was also elected the NCAA Division III Women's Coach of the Year in 1996. Her success at Middlebury has carried over to MIT teams this year, as the men's New England ranking improved dramatically from 1997's 13th place to ninth place this past season. Nearly every swimmer had multiple personal bests at New England's this year.

However, the New England Championships were a little different in 1998. For the first time since she started her coaching career, McLaughlin missed a meet. Instead of spending the Friday evening session of the women's meet on deck, she spent the evening in the hospital giving birth to her newborn baby boy.

The team appreciated the efforts she made to be involved this year, even as she learned to be a mom, and enjoyed getting to know her as a coach and friend. She helped each swimmer to improve, not only with her expertise in swimming technique, but with her dedication to the development of each individual swimmer as well.



## Women's Track Ends Season With Strong Show at NEW-8

By Lila French  
TEAM MEMBER

The women's track team ended their regular season with a strong third place finish at the New England Women's Eight Championships held at MIT on Saturday. The Engineers scored 109 points, while competing teams Wheaton College, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute scored 215, 144, 89, and 35 points, respectively.

The meet began with numerous outstanding performances in the field events. Co-Captain Elaine Chen '99 took fourth place in both the long and the high jumps, with leaps of 15'6.75" and 4'10", respectively. Chen's effort in the long jump qualified her for the New England Division III Championship, making this the fifth event in which she has qualified. In the exhibition pole vault event, Lila French '99, won with a vault of 8'6".

The throwing events proved to be a source of strength for the Engineers. In the hammer throw, Jennifer Elizondo '99 threw an excellent 108'4", earning her a fifth place finish, while Rena Nassr '01 finished seventh with a personal best of 86'.25". Nassr also performed brilliantly in the javelin throw, finishing second with a season best of 92'9.25". Crystal Harris '00 also scored in the javelin, taking sixth place with a throw of 85'09.75". She also took third in

the discus, where she launched the disc 107'01". Joy Gathers '00 set a personal record in the discus with a throw of 71 feet.

With an excellent start in the jumps and throws, the Engineers took to the track, looking to gain more ground on their opponents. In the hurdles, Alyssa Thorvaldsen '00, showed her versatility as a runner, placing first in both the 100 meter high hurdles and the 400 meter intermediate hurdles. In the high hurdles, Thorvaldsen placed third with a time of 17.19 seconds, while in the intermediate hurdles, she placed fifth with a personal best of 1:10.15. French also scored for the Engineers in the high hurdles, taking sixth place with a time of 18.88 seconds.

In the sprints, Chen and Natalie Smith '00 came through for the Engineers, each running season bests. Chen tied her personal record of 26.98 seconds in the 200 meters, taking fourth place. Smith bolted through the 400 meter finish in a time of 62.93 seconds, taking fifth place. While Chen had already qualified for Division III's in all of the sprints, this was Smith's last opportunity to qualify in the 400. She did so by running one second faster than the necessary time.

The excitement really began when the middle and long distance runners competed. MIT placed well in every distance from the 800 to the 5000. In the 5000 meters, Co-Captain Janis

Eisenberg '98 ran a season best of 19:34.46, earning her second place. Jan Ting '00 placed fourth with a personal best time of 20:11.66. Ting's performance qualified her to run in the Division III's.

MIT won first, second and fourth in the 3000 meters. Debbie Won '00 had an easy victory in a time of 10:48.92, while Eisenberg and Margaret Nervegna '01 beat out their competition later in the race. Eisenberg, tied for second with 100 meters to go, was able to out-kick her competition from Smith, finishing in 11:23.10. Nervegna won the battle for fourth place with a time of 11:48.72.

Unfortunately, the 1500 meter run wasn't as easy for distance powerhouse Won. Won finished second behind a Smith runner with a personal best time of 4:55.34. Personal bests were also set in the 1500 by Tanya Zelevinsky '99 and Nervegna. Despite a foot injury, Zelevinsky finished sixth in 5:22.95, with Nervegna not far behind in seventh at 5:24.48.

Perhaps the best performances of the day were seen in the 800 meter run. Leah Nichols '00 set the pace, taking the head of the pack through the 200 meter mark in 31 seconds. This quick start led to a personal best race for Nichols as she clocked an amazing 2:23.04. Not only did this performance qualify Nichols for Division III's

Women's Track, Page <None>

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

## Saturday, May 2

Sailing — Reed Trophy, 9:30 a.m.  
Baseball vs. Suffolk University, 12:00 p.m.  
Men's Lacrosse vs. Alumni, 1:00 p.m.  
Men's Tennis vs. Williams College, 1:00 p.m.

## Sunday, May 3

Sailing — Reed Trophy, 9:30 a.m.

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