

Rory S. MacKean '00 works on his Design and Manufacturing I (2.007) project in preparation for next week's 2.70 competition.

New ASA Leaders Study Funds, Summer Mailings

By Christina Chow

The Association of Student Activities, the student organization that governs all student groups on campus, elected a new executive board Thursday.

Van L. Chu '99 was elected president of the ASA. Matthew L. McGann '00 was elected treasurer, and Eleanor S. Kane '00 will serve as secretary.

"I am very psyched," Chu said. "Though I was reluctant to run at first, I feel like I was the strongest candidate."

The ASA is in charge of allocating office space, regulating bulletin board usage throughout the school year, and approving new student organizations on campus.

We want "to make ASA more user friendly," Kane said. "I think there is a lot of potential for the new board to be effective at resolving complaints."

"Improving the efficiency of the executive board, and looking to see if there is something that we can do for the community at large," are major goals for the ASA, Chu said.

"My hope for the year is not only to improve upon normal ASA administrative functions, but also to direct ASA in more long term projects," Chu said.

Board will examine funding issues

ASA will confront two major issues in the coming year. The first

is whether student groups will, in fact, get access to the \$300,000 released by Provost Joel Moses to increase funding for student groups this year. McGann said that the Provost Joel Moses's decision "has not been confirmed."

In addition, the ASA will also enter the debate on how to fund activities containing a mix of undergraduates and graduate students. Currently, any organization with graduate and undergraduate members may apply to either the Undergraduate Association Finance Board or the Graduate Student Council Funding Board, but not both.

Although the ASA has no direct authority over this funding, the group "wants to look into the feasibility of a central allocations board," that would address all financial applications, McGann said.

"Common sense would say that there should be a student activities board that would combine the GSC and Finboard," Chu said.

An attempt to create such a board failed last year. We can't create the board now, Chu said, but "we do want to look into the feasibility of a central allocations board."

In addition to regulating student organizations throughout the term, the ASA is also in charge of the summer mailing advertising the stu-

ASA, Page 15

Vandals Mar Smoot Marks, LCA House with Anti-Gay Graffiti

By Zareena Hussain
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday Morning, brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha were shocked to find the Smoot markings on Harvard bridge had been vandalized.

The Smoot markings, a well-known piece of MIT history, date back to a LCA prank from 1958. The markings, which identify the length of the bridge as "364.4 Smoots + 1 ear," are still maintained by LCA.

Friday morning, the markings were marred by graffiti saying "LCGAY." In addition, "Halfway to Hell" was changed to "Halfway to Queersville," said Duane Dreger '99, president of the

Interfraternity Council.

Fraternity house also vandalized

LCA President Andrew Bankert '99 said that the house was also vandalized. Someone painted "LCGAY" in purple paint "at the front of the house on the concrete, right on the sidewalk in front of Bay State" Road, he said.

The vandalism was "cowardly, senseless, and very homophobic in nature," Bankert said. "The fraternity is very displeased with the incident."

Before LCA brothers could remove the vandalism on the bridge themselves, most of the paint was cleaned up by the Metropolitan

District Commission, Bankert said.

MDC Spokesman Sam Campbell said that the MDC would try to remove the final traces of the graffiti over the course of the next few days. "We are aware of it and very interested in getting it off," he said.

Bankert said that the markings on the house had also been erased. "We painted over the markings on the house with gray paint, so it's pretty much gone now."

No legal action taken so far

No complaints have yet been filed with Massachusetts, Boston, or MIT police, according to represen-

Graffiti, Page 13

Newly Installed Software Causes Outages in 411 Directory Service

By Carina Fung
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Since September, there have been several temporary outages of the Bell Atlantic 411 Directory Service on campus. The last outage, which was the most visible, started in early February and was not resolved until early April.

The 411 service offers directory information inside the 617 area code. Normally, Bell Atlantic charges a small fee for each use of 411 from a normal telephone.

The interruption was caused by Bell Atlantic in each case, said Louise T. Keohane, the team leader

of 5ESS operations services in Information Systems.

"This was caused by a software change. Since the new software did not interface with ours, we had to reroute traffic," said Valerie L. Hartt, Supervisor of Operator Services in Information Systems.

Software update causes outage

Bell Atlantic, like MIT 5ESS operations services, performs software updates all year long. "Each time they performed a software upgrade, they would knock [out] 411 services," Keohane said.

Since most of MIT's telephone

connections have special restrictions, Bell Atlantic was unable to resolve how to configure them after it performed a software upgrade and, therefore, blocked 411 as a feature, she said.

"Part of the problem with this was that Bell Atlantic never informed MIT's 5ESS service team that it would be performing this service," Keohane said. "Therefore, we could not inform the community, nor be available during the upgrade to perform our own testing."

The most recent outage started in

411, Page 14



Veteran mudwrestler Catalina M. Butt '98, dresses up as "Fireball" at this year's Steer Roast. Steer Roast was held at Senior House last Friday.

J. Michael Straczynski, creator of *Babylon 5*, and noted science fiction author Alexander Jablov speak about their visions of the future.

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Comics

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Ali Merchant G successfully defends his title as the Class A Massachusetts Squash Champion.

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WORLD & NATION

Tentative Tobacco Agreement Reportedly Reached in Minnesota

THE WASHINGTON POST

The tobacco industry has tentatively agreed to pay Minnesota \$5 billion to settle the state's lawsuit — but the possible settlement remained tenuous, sources said Monday.

Settlement talks between major tobacco companies, the state and its partner in the suits, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, have intensified in the past two weeks as the case has wound down. Barring a settlement, the case could go to the jury as early as Thursday.

While major parts of the settlement remained unresolved, the basic elements include a \$5 billion payout to the state over 25 years and about \$400 million to be paid to Blue Cross. The companies also would consent to two permanent injunctions, enforceable by the state attorney general, prohibiting tobacco marketing to minors and anti-competitive activity by the industry.

The tentative settlement also calls for the industry to shut down the Council for Tobacco Research, the industry's scientific arm and a focus of the state's contention that the industry fraudulently manipulated science to keep controversies over the link between smoking and disease alive.

A source familiar with the negotiations confirmed the details, though some parts could still shift. The industry previously settled three other state suits — those brought by Mississippi, Florida and Texas — shortly before they went to trial, for about \$30 billion.

Investors Pour Money Into Europe

THE WASHINGTON POST

PARIS

Investors worldwide ignored the shaky start to Europe's new single currency and poured their money into European markets Monday.

It was a surprising conclusion to a tumultuous weekend meeting in which the leaders of Europe chose 11 countries to participate in the new money, called the euro, but also waffled over selecting the head of the new European Central Bank.

Investor credibility was apparent Monday. The Frankfurt, Germany, stock market DAX index ended the day up more than 4 percent and the Paris CAC index rose 2.4 percent. Major European currencies, including the German mark, weakened, but by an insignificant amount.

Analysts said Wall Street's strong showing Friday influenced traders, but they also said investors had little interest in the EU political gyrations over the central bank head because the economic foundation of the euro is strong.

The euro becomes a financial instrument on Jan. 1. Bank notes and coins will go into circulation in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain at the beginning of 2002. Among the other EU members, Britain, Denmark and Sweden chose not to join the euro and Greece did not qualify.

High Court Rules on Retaliation

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court Monday enhanced the ability of people to sue public officials who retaliate against them for speaking out or otherwise exercising their rights.

By a 5-4 vote, the justices ruled that lawsuits brought by people who allege retaliation cannot be dismissed before trial simply because they fail to produce "clear and convincing" evidence that they were unfairly targeted.

The case involved a Lorton, Va., prisoner who was transferred out of the area after speaking critically about prison conditions.

Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the majority that a decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals against the prisoner "undermines the very purpose of" federal civil rights law. Stevens observed that the appeals court was concerned about inmates' frivolous filings but said any move to discourage prisoners who principally want a "holiday in court," rather than a legitimate day in court, should come from the legislative branch, not the judicial branch.

Convicted murderer Leonard Crawford-El was a "litigious and outspoken prisoner," Stevens wrote, noting that interviews he had with *The Washington Post* led to published stories in the late 1980s about prison crowding. Crawford-El said prison officials, particularly Patricia Britton, vowed to get back at him because of the publicity.

WEATHER

May-Day: Incoming Rain

By Gerard Roe and Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGISTS

Weather is dominated by a cutoff cyclonic circulation in the mid-troposphere, which has the consequence that nothing goes anywhere fast. We are left with multiple low pressure systems bringing intermittent showers with a few breaks in the clouds in between, basically a continuation of the pattern of the last few days. We may have to wait for an atmospheric blocking pattern over the west coast to break down and for the westerly jet to reestablish itself before the current miserable conditions will blow out to sea. This does not look like it will happen any time soon. Our bout of April showers appears to be a month late. On the upside, conditions are ripe for rainbows.

Today: Good chance of showers and drizzle. Chance of some sun showing through in between. Light southwesterly winds. High a dismal 59°F (15°C).

Tonight: Continued chance of rain. Low 52°F (11°C).

Wednesday: What to say? More of the same. High 60°F (15°C). Low 51°F (9°C).

Thursday: Some clearing possible. High around 65°F (18°C). Low 51°F (9°C).

Unabomber Kaczynski Given Four Life Prison Sentences

By William Booth

THE WASHINGTON POST

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

Theodore Kaczynski, the convicted Unabomber who proved unrepentant to the end, was formally sentenced to four life terms in prison Monday after his victims confronted him in court with declarations of pain, pleas for vengeance and, for some, a desire to see him executed.

"Lock him so far down that when he dies he will be closer to hell," said Susan Mosser, whose husband was killed by an exploding package mailed by Kaczynski.

"May your own eventual death occur as you have lived, in a solitary manner, without compassion or love," said Lois Epstein, whose husband, a professor of pediatrics, had his hand mangled by another bomb.

"The defendant committed unspeakable and monstrous crimes for which he shows utterly no remorse," said U.S. District Judge Garland Burrell Jr. in handing down the sentence in a crowded Sacramento courtroom.

Burrell said Kaczynski still poses a grave danger to society and would mail his bombs again if he could. The federal bureau of prisons will decide soon where Kaczynski is to serve his time.

The life sentences, with no possibility of release, were part of plea bargain struck between Kaczynski and federal prosecutors Jan. 22 after his trial was derailed over confusion about who should represent him in court. Kaczynski's lawyers insisted on pursuing a defense that would have characterized their client as suffering from the delusions of a

schizophrenic, a description he refused to allow.

Kaczynski pleaded guilty to charges related to three deaths and the maiming of two scientists during a bombing spree that lasted almost two decades. The killings ended only when *The Washington Post* and the *New York Times* published his anti-technology manifesto in September 1995 under threat of more deaths and his brother, David, recognized Kaczynski's thinking and tipped off FBI agents who arrested the bomber at his Montana hideaway.

In Monday's proceedings, Kaczynski, 55, strode up to a podium wearing a knit sweater and, consulting several sheaths of white paper, read out a series of complaints accusing the government of distorting the meaning of his actions.

"Two days ago, the government filed a sentencing memorandum, the purpose of which was clearly political," containing "false statements, misleading statements," he said.

This referred to excerpts from Kaczynski's journals filed by federal prosecutors last week as part of their sentencing recommendations. The passages submitted to the court portrayed Kaczynski not as a principled eco-warrior out to save society from technology — an image that attached to him during the trial — but as petulant, almost childish murderer who killed to extract "personal revenge" on people who crossed him — from women who did not respond to his overtures to campers who wandered by his Montana cabin to planes filled with "a lot of business people."

"By discrediting me personally, they hope to discredit my political ideas," he said.

Kaczynski continued, "At a later time I expect to respond at length to the sentencing memorandum. Meanwhile, I hope the public will reserve judgment against me and all the facts about the Unabomber case until another time."

It was unclear whether Kaczynski was referring to further legal pleadings in the case, or whether he plans to issue communiques from prison. He is barred from receiving payment for his writings.

"I believe in nothing," Kaczynski wrote in the journals released last week by federal prosecutors. "I don't even believe in the cult of nature-worshippers or wilderness-worshippers."

Of his killings, Kaczynski wrote: "My motive for doing what I am going to do is simply personal revenge."

Connie Murray, the wife of timber executive Gilbert Murray, who was killed by a Kaczynski bomb, walked out of the courtroom Monday as Kaczynski spoke. "I walked out because there was nothing he could say that I wanted to hear," she explained.

Mosser, whose husband Thomas Mosser was a public relations executive, walked to the prosecutor's table and spoke after Kaczynski read his statement. "Nails," she began. "Razor blades. Wire. Pipe and batteries. The recipe for what causes pain. Hold it in your hand, as my husband Tom did, and you feel unbearable pain."

McDougal Indicted for Silence On Whitewater Investigation

By Susan Schmidt and Peter Baker

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Susan McDougal, the former Whitewater business partner of the Clintons who has refused for nearly two years to testify before a grand jury about the president's financial dealings, was indicted Monday by independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr on charges of criminal contempt and obstructing his investigation.

The indictment, handed up by the Little Rock Whitewater grand jury just days before it is set to expire, includes a new allegation: that McDougal obstructed justice by refusing to answer questions about a cryptic handwritten note she wrote on a \$5,081 check in 1983 that said "Payoff Clinton." McDougal was also charged with two felony counts of contempt for twice refusing to testify — in 1996 and again last month — despite a court-ordered grant of immunity.

The indictment could mean years more behind bars for the 43-year-old McDougal. She has already served 18 months for civil contempt for refusing to testify in Starr's investigation, is just starting a two-year term for a bank fraud conviction Starr won against her in 1996 and faces a state trial in California on unrelated embezzlement charges.

McDougal has refused to testify about the Clintons' financial dealings, she has said, because Starr is trying to force her to falsely implicate the president and the first lady. If she doesn't do so, McDougal insists, Starr will charge her with perjury.

Minutes after Monday's indictment, Starr's spokesman told

reporters outside the federal courthouse in Little Rock that President Clinton had "inject[ed]" himself into the feud between McDougal and prosecutors. "The Office of Independent Counsel requested that the president urge his former business partner, Mrs. McDougal, to testify truthfully before the grand jury. That request was rejected," said Starr aide Charles Bakaly, adding that Starr wrote to the White House counsel's office five separate times after hearing Clinton refer in interviews to Starr's efforts to obtain McDougal's testimony.

But lawyers for Clinton quickly bristled at the suggestion that the president had implicitly encouraged McDougal to stay silent, with White House counsel Charles F.C. Ruff calling that idea "reckless and irresponsible."

Some legal experts called the indictment heavy-handed, and McDougal attorney Mark Geragos said of Monday's indictment, "Not only is it unprecedented, it's shameful." Geragos argued that Starr "has got no business investigating anything to do with Whitewater," citing allegations that the independent counsel has a conflict of interest related to charges that cooperating witness David Hale was paid off by conservatives.

Geragos dismissed the handwritten notation Starr's office produced about Clinton as "more of their nonsense, I'm sure."

The new charges against McDougal come as Starr wraps up the Arkansas phase of his long-running Whitewater inquiry. The grand jury in Little Rock is scheduled to expire Thursday, and Monday's action follows by less than a week a new tax evasion indictment of

Webster L. Hubbell, another Arkansan who has figured centrally in the long-running Whitewater investigation. However, Starr has another grand jury in Washington that will continue to hear Whitewater testimony.

Starr's prosecutors have been frustrated in their efforts to gain the cooperation of both Hubbell and McDougal as they investigate real estate dealings involving the Clintons and legal work that Hillary Rodham Clinton did for the McDougals' now-defunct savings and loan, Madison Guaranty, owned by Susan McDougal and her late husband, James B. McDougal.

Prosecutors have tried to learn whether the Clintons told the truth about those dealings under oath, including President Clinton's videotaped testimony at the McDougals' 1996 bank fraud trial. Clinton said then he had no role in helping Susan McDougal obtain a fraudulent \$300,000 loan, part of which went to benefit the Whitewater Development Corp., which was jointly owned by the Clintons and the McDougals. Clinton also testified he never had any loans or financial dealings with Madison Guaranty.

Included in the indictment is a partial transcript of McDougal's appearance before the grand jury two weeks ago, during which prosecutors questioned her about the \$5,081 check, drawn on her then-husband's account and signed over to Madison Guaranty. The memo section of the check had the notation "Payoff Clinton."

Prosecutors told McDougal they were interested in the check because it relates to Clinton's videotaped trial testimony.

Three VMI Seniors Indicted on Hazing, Harassment Charges

By Patricia Davis
THE WASHINGTON POST
LEXINGTON, VA.

Three Virginia Military Institute seniors were indicted Monday on hazing charges by a Rockbridge County, Va., grand jury after a former first-year cadet testified that they routinely assaulted him with a belt.

The misdemeanor indictments came less than two months after Gordon Saunders, the commonwealth's attorney in Rockbridge, decided there was not enough evidence to file assault charges in the case, in part because the former cadet, George Wade Jr., could be seen as a willing participant in the initiation rituals at the school.

Wade, 20, of Henrico County, Va., had alleged that he and five other VMI freshmen were beaten with a belt — and once with a coat hanger — by the seniors about three

times a week from Sept. 11 to mid-October.

At Wade's request, Saunders then asked a Circuit Court judge to appoint a special prosecutor, who took the case before the grand jury.

The jury's decision to indict is "great. It's all we wanted in the beginning," Wade's father, George Wade Sr., said Monday. "At least now, what happened to George will be able to come out. And at least now, people will have to be accountable for what they did."

Wade, who said the beatings left him and other freshmen with welts and bruises, dropped out of VMI in November. VMI suspended three students after an internal investigation of Wade's allegations. Two of those students — identified as seniors Charles Clemons and Jonathan Gonzales — were among those indicted Monday. The third indicted student was identified by

prosecutors as Thomas Upshaw. None of the indicted seniors could be reached by telephone Monday night.

In announcing the indictments, special prosecutor Michael S. Irvine said he expects the case to result in challenges to Virginia's 48-year-old hazing law, including whether the case can proceed even though VMI's investigation did not conclude that hazing actually occurred. Nevertheless, he said, the issue should be resolved in court.

VMI officials issued a statement indicating the school believes that its suspension of three students was a sufficient conclusion to the case.

"This was a serious offense which warranted the suspension of three cadets, but after a thorough assessment of the incident, VMI found no evidence of bodily injury and did not file hazing charges," Col. Mike Strickler, VMI's spokesman, said in the statement.

Malaysian Finance Chief Defends Bailout of Hobbled Companies

By Evelyn Iritani
LOS ANGELES TIMES
LOS ANGELES

Malaysia's outspoken trade minister on Monday defended her government's decision to bail out several troubled companies such as the powerful Sime Bank, arguing that letting them go bankrupt would lead to increased joblessness, social instability and a slowdown of the nation's economic recovery.

In an interview, Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz said the tough economic medicine forced on Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea in return for financial aid from the International Monetary Fund was fiscally inappropriate and politically explosive. Those countries have closed down dozens of bankrupt financial institutions in

order to meet IMF conditions.

Malaysia has felt the repercussions of its neighbors' financial turmoil, having seen a flood of illegal job seekers from Indonesia and Thailand since last summer's currency and stock market collapse throughout South Asia. Since January, the Malaysian government has arrested and deported thousands of illegal immigrants, arguing that it needs to keep jobs open for domestic workers.

"In Indonesia, now, industry has come to a halt," said Rafidah, who is visiting Los Angeles, Seattle and San Jose, Calif., this week to recruit high-tech investment into her troubled economy.

Malaysia vigorously resisted turning to the IMF for help, even when its markets tumbled further after Prime Minister Mahathir

Mohammad lashed out at foreign currency speculators and threatened to tighten market regulations.

While Mahathir has toned down his strident criticisms of the West in recent months, the government has not changed its basic tune. Rafidah said Malaysian officials still believe the root cause of last summer's meltdown was not domestic corruption or fiscal mismanagement but currency speculation that sparked a crisis of confidence and massive outflows of capital from the region.

As the host of this November's summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC forum, Malaysia plans to focus attention on the need for a global strategy to manage currency speculation that can destroy "20, 30 years of economic development in one month," according to Rafidah.

Tel Aviv Mayor to Run for Prime Minister, Head New Party

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Roni Milo, Tel Aviv's mayor and a leading moderate on Middle East peace in the Likud Party of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, announced Monday that he will seek Israel's top office in 2000 at the head of a new centrist party.

The announcement by Milo — a contemporary of Netanyahu and long considered a potential rival to the Likud leader — came as the prime minister held critical talks in London on a U.S. plan to break the yearlong stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. It also appeared timed to take advantage of escalating concerns here over what political commentators are calling a "culture war," the widening rifts between religious and secular Jews in Israel.

An outspoken opponent of the growing influence of religious parties in the government, Milo, 48, said his announcement that he will seek the post of prime minister was triggered in part by continuing controversy here over a canceled modern dance performance at last week's 50th anniversary gala.

The Batsheva troupe withdrew rather than accede to demands by ultra-Orthodox politicians to change part of its program in which dancers, moving to the tune of a religious song, were to perform in revealing costumes. Although many Israelis, not just the religious, have privately questioned the propriety of the planned performance, Milo on Monday put himself on the side of the dancers and others who have angrily accused religious leaders of trying to curtail artistic expression.

Western Digital to Team Up With IBM on Hard Drive Project

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Western Digital Corp. said Monday it will team up with IBM Corp. to build new disk drives for personal computers. IBM will sell Western Digital a series of computer components that read and write data from the disk and allow the computer's disk drives to store more information than older techniques.

Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed. In New York Stock Exchange trading, Western Digital stock rose 25 cents, closing at \$19.88 a share; IBM shares fell 25 cents to \$116.63.

Analysts say the proposed deal allows IBM access to new outlets to distribute its products and gives Western Digital a jump on emerging technologies and manufacturing lead-in time.

Western Digital, one of the largest players in the disk-drive market, has suffered financially for more than seven months as the industry has been battered by oversupply and weak demand.

"It's an excellent agreement for both of them," said Matthew Russo, an analyst with Sands Brothers & Co. "It also helps that there was a pre-existing tie between the two [firms]."

That link is Chuck Haggerty, chief executive of Western Digital and a former IBM vice president. Haggerty, who worked at Big Blue for 28 years before joining Western Digital, said he had been in talks with IBM staff about the proposed agreement for the past six months.

"This gives us an advantage: to be able to introduce our products much faster — as much as six months faster," said Haggerty, who expects the new product line to be introduced in 1999.



Graduate Student Council

Walker Memorial, 50-220 • 253-2195 • gsc-request@mit.edu • www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

General Council Meeting Wednesday, May 6

1. Graduate Housing Briefing
2. Institute Committee Reports
3. Installation of New Officers

Institute Committees

Graduate students, get involved in running MIT!!

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

- Assessment of Biohazards • Athletic Board • Campus Race Relations • Commencement • Community Service Fund Board • Copyrights and Patents • Corporation Joint Advisory • Discipline • Faculty Policy • Family and Work • Foreign Scholarships • Graduate School Policy • IAP Policy • Library System • Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Planning • Medical Consumers' Advisory • Privacy • Radiation Protection • Safety • Shareholder Responsibility • Student Affairs • Transportation and Parking • Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid • Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects • Women's Advisory Board •

56 Calendar

► M A Y

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

You can participate in the GSC in other ways as well

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

Also

Departmental Representative
Living Group Representative
Committee Member

Please contact gsc-officers@mit.edu for more information.

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

OPINION

Spray Paint and Shame

On Friday morning, the hundreds of pedestrians and bicyclists who cross the Harvard bridge saw the bridge vandalized with blue, green, and purple graffiti. Some time between Thursday evening and early Friday morning, someone used the Harvard bridge as a platform to spout obscene, homophobic rhetoric. We believe that this action is outrageous and intolerable, and that the appropriate party involved should be punished.

Derogatory graffiti such as this could reasonably be called a hate crime. The Institute should continue to make it clear to people that those who brazenly hurt others in this manner will be punished severely. This incident defies all common sense and all conventions of proper, civilized behavior. It should go without saying that, in accordance with today's social climate, people should demonstrate reasonable tolerance. Those who act on their homophobia are living in the past.

It is regrettable that such an embarrassing incident occurred in such a public place. The Harvard bridge is crossed by hundreds of people a day, and, after staring at the statements on the sidewalk, every single one of them is going to wonder about the type of institution that could produce people who would stoop to this level.

What makes it doubly embarrassing is that this incident

involved the defacing of a MIT landmark. Every person at MIT, and many people elsewhere, have heard the story of the Smoots. That the responsible party chose to vandalize such a visible symbol of MIT in the name of hate adds even more shame.

This incident has subtle echoes of the Tau Epsilon Phi graffiti of the Harvard bridge occurred in the fall of 1993. The Smoots were covered with graffiti, such as smiley-faces. A few members of Lambda Chi Alpha inappropriately retaliated by defacing TEP with anti-homosexual graffiti. This most recent defacing suggests that the problem has not gone away.

Unfortunately, the Institute has taken no actions to inform the MIT community of the incident. While most people do not need to hear a lecture about tolerance, the fact that such things are happening, and happening in such a visible way, requires a response of one kind or another. Tolerance training during R/O has been suggested as one possible tactic, and that is worth examining. But nothing can substitute for a general atmosphere of acceptance, and that is something only students can create.

In the interim, we hope that the Interfraternity Council's Judicial Committee will manage to track down those responsible. The punishment should be counseling, particularly on tolerance, an apology, and community service to compensate for the thousands of people offended by the vandalism. MIT cannot afford to let such puerile behavior continue.

Letters To The Editor

Resources

For the Ignorant

Sevgi Ertan '98, the author of the letter ["Genocide Denied," April 28] denying the Turkish slaughter of 2 million Armenians in the World War I era, needs to review that segment of history. For a more objective account of the events, I encourage looking to, at least, these sources: the United Nations' recognition of this as an act of genocide in 1986 and R. Rummel's *Death by Government*. If Ertan is still convinced of Turkey's claimed innocence, perhaps a visit to the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, located just outside of Boston in Watertown, is in order.

Eric J. Wilhelm '99

Card Readers

For Peace of Mind

After reading Anders Hove's column ["Through A Locked Door Ambivalently," April 28, 1998] on the proposed closure of free access from Building 66 to Hayden Library and his arguments that the campus is becoming less open to the public, a group of friends and I immediately turned to the Police Log to see exactly how safe the campus actually is.

It turns out that there were a number of larcenies, incidents of trespassing, and assaults just in the past week. Being a graduate student and mainly confined to a small group of buildings, I cannot speak to the extent of how many buildings on campus are open to the general public, even during normal hours, but there should be some buildings that are kept out of the mainstream of students and visitors.

Over the past few years that I have been working in Building 18, there have been a number of thefts, costing the occupants in this "secure" building a great deal of suffering. It can be very disturbing working late at nights or on the weekends and seeing unfamiliar people wandering through the hallways, or dancing in the main lobby.

There really is no reason to have this building open to the general public. There are no classrooms in it, only research laboratories and some offices. If a student wants to see a professor, he or she should already have a MIT card anyway, so there shouldn't be any inconvenience in opening to door. Besides, the way it

is right now, it really isn't much of a challenge to get into the building from Building 66.

In fact, instead of getting rid of the card reader, card readers should be installed at each entry point into the building. Some people might call this a bit extreme, but I call it peace of mind. This argument has been going on in the Chemistry Department for a lot longer than I have been here, and only now, due to some high priced thefts, is any change being implemented.

Installation of the card readers is a very good idea for the primarily lab-only buildings where few of the undergraduate population (and fewer unaffiliated individuals) would go. Having the buildings secured would most likely result in a rapid decrease in the number of thefts from the out-of-the-way places on campus. For those who would complain about it being unfair or a hassle to carry around the MIT Card, I don't see how it differs from carrying a driver's license or ATM card. It's a responsibility thing. On this point I fail to see Hove's logic in equating the MIT Card with the Gestapo and asking for papers, unless he is stating the MIT is actually a police state.

It's too bad that it will take something as tragic as a student being assaulted, raped, or killed in a supposedly "secure" building to prod the administration into making this campus a safer place to work and learn.

Richard P. Kingsborough G

Limit Appeals, Spend More on the Innocent

Naveen Sunkavally painted a very sad picture of the death penalty and those harmed by it ["A Shameful Punishment," April 28, 1998], but his arguments were characterized by a fundamental flaw. The problem with his argument is that it assumes unlimited resources to devote to the housing of these criminals.

In the current system, a death penalty sentence will end up costing the state even more than a life sentence, but this is only because of the current state of the appeals process. By streamlining the appeal process, and by limiting the time under which appeals can be lodged, the death penalty could cost significantly less than permanent incarceration.

Even the method of death, currently an expensive lethal injection or electric chair, could be replaced by a single bullet in the

head which would be just as painless for the criminal, though psychologically more difficult for the rest of us.

This may, and probably will, lead to the killing of more innocent people than under the current system. Some (myself included) would say that the above argument is rationalizing, cold-blooded, and inhuman; that it argues we should kill more innocent people to save money. Yet that is exactly what I'm arguing.

I heard a statistic years ago that it cost \$100,000/year to keep a person in prison. I'm sure that this number is much higher today. Now, let's consider again Sunkavally's example of Angel Breard, an abused alcoholic who was convicted of (and confessed to) murder and attempted rape of a woman in 1992. Now consider another person, also an abused alcoholic, but this person is homeless and has never killed anyone. The current system gives almost nothing to this other person; yet Sunkavally would hold that Breard deserves to have over \$100,000 spent on him every year for the rest of his life.

Consider our inner cities, in which young people without the opportunities to succeed can find themselves in webs of drugs and violence, sometimes killed before they've even reached the age to vote. Could we help solve these problems better by enforcing a less expensive punishment for some and using the saved money to provide college scholarships for others? \$100,000 a year is a lot of money, and could help a lot of people. Why is the life of a murderer worth more than the life of a child?

Sunkavally argues that the death penalty is inhumane to the people punished, and that lifetime incarceration in prison is more appropriate. I submit that spending over \$100,000 a year on convicted murderers is inhumane to innocent people who could have been saved if the money was used to help them. The death penalty is murder, and it is wrong, but I see it as a necessary evil in a time of limited resources. We need to streamline the criminal justice system, and use funds for prevention rather than punishment.

When punishment is necessary, I believe that we should show preference for spending money on the innocent over spending money taking care of the guilty. While this may lead to more wrongful deaths, I hold that not spending the money on situations where it could clearly save lives will lead to even more wrongful deaths. And that is the real crime.

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Getting Barbie Some New Makeup

Mattel should redress pop culture icon to reflect diversity.

Elaine Y. Wan

Is your dream guy tall with short blonde hair, blue eyes, a muscular build, and a golden tan? Does your dream girl have long blonde hair, blue eyes, cherry lips, and an hourglass figure? If you answered yes to the first question, allow me to introduce you to Ken. If you answered yes to the second question, let me introduce you to Barbie. That is, Mattel's Barbie doll.

I got my first Barbie doll when I was ten. I forgot her name, but she had silky long blond hair, a perfect figure, sparkling eyes, slender arms, and her own dress and pink brush. I believe she came with a cassette tape, too. If you didn't have a Barbie doll when you were a child because "boys don't play with Barbie" (which is not true), you probably had a G.I. Joe action figure with huge pectoral muscles. My Barbie doll is probably buried in some landfill right now.

Why do toy companies make their dolls so thin or so muscular? Are dolls truly a reflection of what we consider an ideal image? If so, why is our society today so preoccupied with thinness? How can one make an effort to improve his physical features if he is made to feel that his image is socially unacceptable?

As one of the world's best-selling toys, Barbie is marketed in over 130 countries.

By the end of this year, Barbie will be forty

years old. Cornelia Otnes, a professor who studies the marketing of Barbie dolls in the Department of Advertising at the University of Illinois, said on University Wire, "Barbie is a worldwide phenomenon. Barbie was, is and always will be a material girl. She is an upper-class female who doesn't have much to do but shop, swim, and date. Recently, Barbie dolls perform more real and upbeat activities with less emphasis on shopping and dating and more emphasis on sports."

Many girls today play with Barbie dolls, and these dolls can have a significant impact on what these girls think of themselves and their future. If toys are reflections of what society considers as ideal, then youths who do not look like Barbie or Ken may feel that they fail to meet expectations and are undervalued.

Fortunately, Barbie dolls have become more diverse in their appearance, although consumers are still predominantly white. New

additions to the Barbie family include Bleed Blast Christie, African-American Barbie, Twirlin' Makeup Teresa, Hispanic Barbie, and Native American Barbie. Mattel considered making a Wheelchair Barbie but decided against it because Barbie wouldn't be able to get in the "Barbie Dream House."

Out of forty commercials from the past four decades, Otnes noticed that only two had

Eating disorders are a problem among young people today. Staying trim is healthy but becoming too thin is an eating disorder, anorexia nervosa. With role models like Barbie, supermodels, and lanky Hollywood stars, it is no wonder that everyone today is striving for a trimmer body. I'm not saying that being trim is bad: Studies have shown that slender people live longer than those who are obese. Health problems like diabetes, hypertension, elevated blood cholesterol levels, heart trouble and infertility are more common in heavy people.

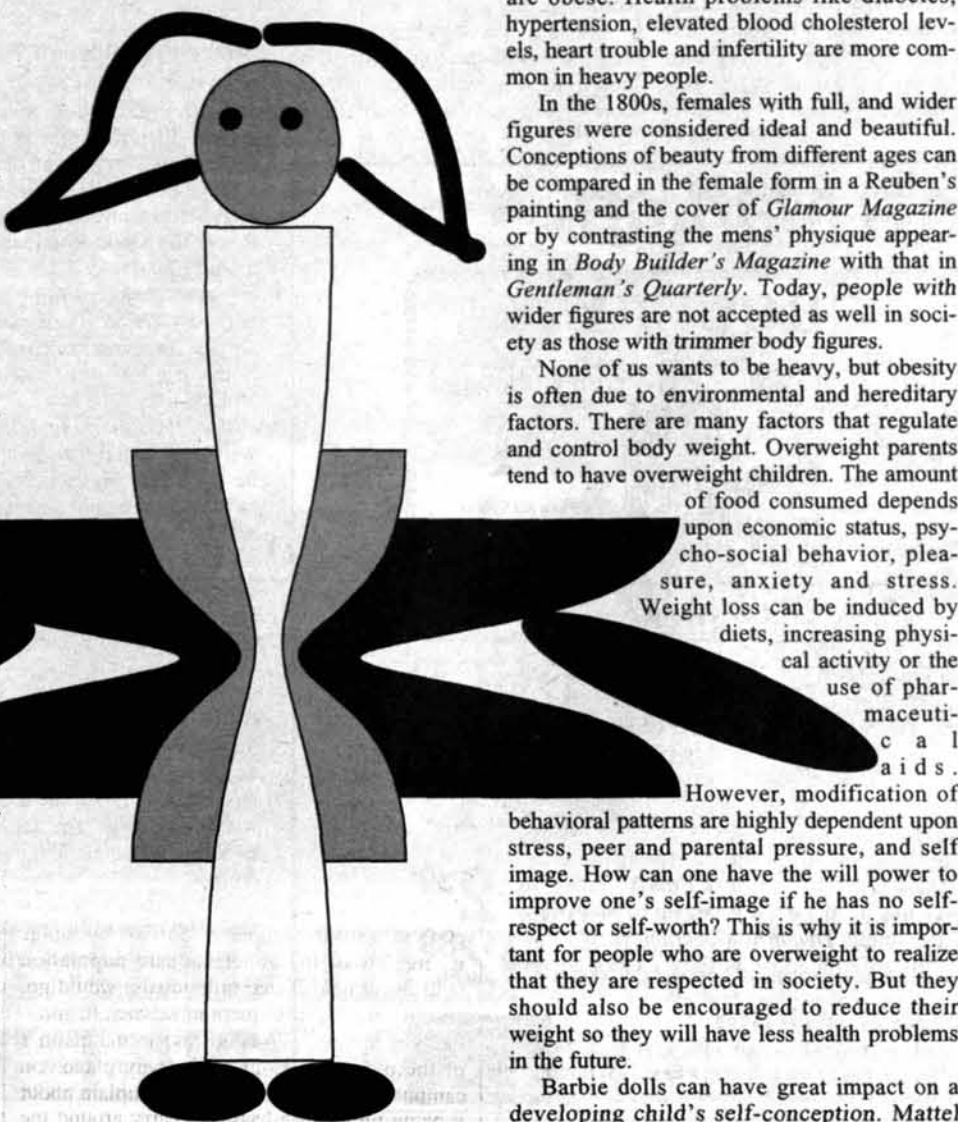
In the 1800s, females with full, and wider figures were considered ideal and beautiful. Conceptions of beauty from different ages can be compared in the female form in a Reuben's painting and the cover of *Glamour Magazine* or by contrasting the men's physique appearing in *Body Builder's Magazine* with that in *Gentleman's Quarterly*. Today, people with wider figures are not accepted as well in society as those with trimmer body figures.

None of us wants to be heavy, but obesity is often due to environmental and hereditary factors. There are many factors that regulate and control body weight. Overweight parents tend to have overweight children. The amount

of food consumed depends upon economic status, psycho-social behavior, pleasure, anxiety and stress. Weight loss can be induced by diets, increasing physical activity or the use of pharmaceuticals.

However, modification of behavioral patterns are highly dependent upon stress, peer and parental pressure, and self image. How can one have the will power to improve one's self-image if he has no self-respect or self-worth? This is why it is important for people who are overweight to realize that they are respected in society. But they should also be encouraged to reduce their weight so they will have less health problems in the future.

Barbie dolls can have great impact on a developing child's self-conception. Mattel plans to widen Barbie's body size next year to show that not everybody is thin. The doll would have a more beneficial effect on youths if she encouraged children to be physically, socially and intellectually active. The new line of dolls for the 21st century will hopefully reflect the cultural, physical and intellectual diversity in our community today.



Barbie working. Although the feminist movement has made great headway these past four decades, little of that progress is reflected in what the toy industry produces. Will it be a surprise if most girls think that when they grow up, all they need to do is shop, swim, and date?

Armenian Genocide Reaffirmed

Guest Column

Petros I. Komodromos

Very often Jewish people and the world, excluding neo-Nazis, remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust with memorial events and activities. Imagine how insulting and provocative it would be if a neo-Nazi had appeared at such events denying the Holocaust and making blatant claims about its victims. Fortunately, most Germans have acknowledged wrong-doing and regret those horrible atrocities, allowing for the healing of the wounds of World War II.

Although less publicized, April 24 is the memorial day of the Armenian genocide, the world's first state-organized cleansing of its citizens in this century. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million of the 2.1 millions Armenians were systematically massacred by the Ottoman Turkish government. The only crimes that the Armenians had committed were their ethnicity and Christian religion, and a culture which allowed them to prosper, despite the oppression imposed upon them for hundreds of years by the Ottomans. For the same reasons, Ottomans had completely destroyed the Hellenic civilization, burning and destroying for 400 years what took thousands of years to create and which constituted an essential contribution to Western civilization.

Most countries and international organizations, except Turkey, have acknowledged the Armenian genocide. However, there was no International Court set to punish and condemn those responsible for that massacre, and, unfortunately, history soon repeated itself. On May 11, 1918, Theodore Roosevelt stated (of World War I): "The Armenian massacre was the greatest crime of the war". Thirty years later, Adolf Hitler, inspired by the Armenian genocide and trying to per-

suaude his fellows that the Jewish Holocaust would be tolerated by the world community asked: "Who after all speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" The rest of that story is well known to everyone.

Later, Turkey committed more crimes against humanity by ethnically cleansing Constantinople (now called Istanbul) of Greeks (1955) and, more recently (1974), by invading and occupying Cyprus for 24 years, against numerous United Nations and other international organizations' resolutions.

"Whether the Armenian genocide indeed occurred or whether 1.5 million people happened to be hit by a meteorite is something that even a child can verify in any library of any civilized country."

A letter in *The Tech* on April 24 by Varouj A. Chitilian '98, entitled "Armenian Genocide Remembered," was published to honor and inform people about that crime. On April 28, Sevgi Ertan '98 replied with a letter entitled "Genocide Denied," denying the genocide committed against Armenians.

Whether the Armenian genocide indeed occurred or whether 1.5 million people happened to be hit by a meteorite is something that even a primary school child can verify in any library of any civilized country. There are plenty of documents that prove beyond any doubt the extent of the Armenian holocaust.

The genocide was condemned by all

major powers and neutral observers at that time, including Turkey's allies: Germany and Austria. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, H. Morgenthau, reported in 1919: "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race... I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this... The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race."

However, Ertan closes his eyes and, among other inconceivable and absurd allegations against the victims of the genocide, writes, "Armenian civilians were not massacred. They were deported out of Anatolia... [and] in these marches some Armenian people died."

However, 1.5 million people is not "some"! Instead of feeling shame for the crimes of his ancestors, he tries to misinform by distorting the facts and blaming the victims. According to Ertan, the Armenians were not massacred. Perhaps, they were merely offered a vacation trip by the kind Turks, which included many entertaining services, such as starvation, continuous rapes, slaughter, torture and the beheadings of even women, children, and the elderly. The unfortunate few who survived the long trip were burnt alive in the caves of the Deir Zor Syrian desert.

A "German version" of Ertan's response denies the Holocaust and claims that the Nazis simply offered the Jews free vacations to fine European resorts with sauna facilities. Whether you feel anger about Ertan's disrespect for the victims of the Armenian genocide or simply feel sorrow for his ignorance is your decision.

The writer is a graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Living Or Mere Survival?

Hugo M. Ayala

There is an old Latin proverb that says "living is not about surviving, but about having a life." With the recent elimination of dormitory space for graduate students, isn't the Institute asking graduate students to give up their life and just survive?

Some will argue that having peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for dinner, pirating software, and using milk crates for furniture is part of being a graduate student. But the situation has moved far beyond that. The recent announcement that undergraduates will displace Tang residents means more graduate students will be forced out into the Boston housing market, one of the priciest ones in the nation.

"The most important step that the Institute can take towards improving the quality of life for graduate students is to seek the increase of graduate student stipends by \$500 a month."

With the elimination of rent control in 1996, the already high housing prices have risen by an additional \$200. This represents \$400 more coming out of graduate student pockets, and that's just to pay the rent. In comparison, graduate student stipends have risen by only \$60 in the same period.

The average graduate student stipend adds up to a little less than \$17,900 a year. According to the financial aid office, the average cost of living off-campus, including rent and utilities, is about \$835 a month. Throw in money for food, medical insurance, entertainment on weekends, books, travel, clothes, parking fees, gas, taxes, spending money, and you are left with a deficit of \$500.

Sure, you can economize a bit, but is that having a life, or merely surviving? The recent announcement by the Graduate Education Office that graduate stipends will increase by \$50 starting this summer is welcomed news, but the size of this raise demonstrates the ignorance on the administration's part towards our current situation. The number of graduate students who receive stipends and applied for financial aid has increased substantially in the last two years. This does not include Sloan, Architecture, and Urban Studies and Planning students, who do not receive tuition assistance and have to apply for financial aid anyway.

This sharp increase in the number of students asking for aid in addition to their stipend is indicative of the fact that the real cost of living is increasing at a pace far greater than the so called cost-of-living increases approved by the Institute every year. The most important step that the Institute can take towards improving the quality of life for graduate students is to seek the increase of graduate student stipends by \$500 a month.

I know that I will probably will not get any sympathy from those graduate students who do not receive tuition assistance. What is a little loan when there are students who are up to their eyeballs in debt? The difference is that while students who do not receive tuition assistance are expected to find funding from various sources, we are expected to live on our stipend. Everything would have been fine if the cost of living had kept up with the increases to the stipend.

The administration is currently considering subsidizing the rent of first year students who are displaced from Tang. Why should only first-year students benefit from this? By my calculations, adding \$6,000 to the paycheck of every salaried graduate student will cost about \$10 million. Why not subsidize all of the graduate students who live off-campus? The cost of the subsidy could be made many times over by donations of alumni whose recollection of the Institute is not marred by memories of dire financial straits.

The problem is that this is not the case.

Higher stipends will make the housing near campus affordable, dinner something other than Ramen, and our lives something other than mere survival.

Straczynski, Jablovok Discuss Television, the Future

By Brett Altschul

NEWS EDITOR

A crowd of several hundred people came to Kresge Auditorium Monday evening to hear noted science fiction authors Alexander Jablovok and J. Michael Straczynski.

Jablovok read one of his short stories, and Straczynski, the creator of the television show *Babylon 5*, spoke on his experiences with science fiction and the media. Straczynski also provided several videotapes of special effects shots that were shown during the presen-

tation.

This was the final event in a series of readings in science fiction sponsored by the Lecture Series Committee, the Film and Media Studies department, the Communications Forum, and the Writing and Humanistic Studies Department.

Jablovok reads from new story

Professor of writing and humanistic studies Henry Jenkins first introduced Jablovok, calling him one of the most gifted young science fiction writers. Jenkins

applauded Jablovok for his stories dealing with issues of nationality, orthodoxy, and the search for a homeland.

Jablovok's new story, detailed a young professional's visit to the isolated country housing development where his eccentric parents had recently moved. The development had been conceived as a place for friends who met on the Internet to come together and live.

The son discovers that his father and the rest of the community have been cloning extinct animals for many years, and that his mother and

her friends have begun hunting wild game with bow and spear. Using his skill at identifying tiny markets, their son devises a plan to hide this bizarre community from people like himself.

The tale presented a humorous yet contemplative look at the current direction of our culture, while also examining age-old questions about marriage, family, and honesty.

Straczynski talks on TV business

After Jablovok's reading, Jenkins introduced Straczynski. Jenkins identified him as one of the three most important pioneers in science fiction television, along with Rod Serling, creator of *The Twilight Zone*, and Gene Roddenberry, creator of *Star Trek*.

Straczynski began by comparing two very different television genres — cop shows and science fiction — and how they are treated by Hollywood.

Before *Dragnet*, police shows were considered low-quality drama, he said. *Dragnet* changed that by portraying the police as real people, and basing the show around their characters. Since then, all cop shows have followed the same lead, and the genre has become an accepted form of quality television drama, he said.

For science fiction, *Star Trek* could have played a similar role, but it did not, Straczynski said. For cop shows, or lawyer shows, or anything else, you hire somebody with experience, to make it good, he said. In science fiction, that isn't done.

Old television industry attacked

Straczynski harshly criticized the Hollywood establishment's treatment of science fiction. The attitude about science fiction shows was, "Either you buy into it or you don't. It doesn't have to make sense," he said.

"They didn't understand science fiction," he said. "It frightened them. There was a mindset that there are only *Trek* fans, that science fiction as a genre doesn't work."

Executives did not realize that science fiction does not have to be for kids, he said. Most science fiction shows have extraneous cute characters "We have no cute kids and robots as regulars on the show," he said. "We have them as guest stars, and we kill them."

Changing TV shows promise

People who grew up with the classic epics of fantasy literature, and quality British science fiction shows, like *The Prisoner* and *Doctor Who*, are now making shows on their own, Straczynski said. He included himself among the new generation who understand science fiction.

"I realized that television has a unique potential for telling long stories," he said. "You often don't get a pay-off at the end of the show, or sometimes even for several years."

"The questions TV asks tend to be trivial and ephemeral," Straczynski said. Instead, *Babylon 5* tries to present real issues like those we actually face.

"These are questions that have no answers," he said. "I put them in there for you to argue about them. If I can start a bar fight, I'm happy."

Moreover, the scripts are all written by authors who know the over-arching storyline, he said. "The only place that's been done before is in soap operas, and they don't have an end in sight; they want to keep going forever."

Combining this idea of a long-term story with ideas about spending money responsibly led to the creation of *Babylon 5*, he said.

To save time and money, there are very strict rules of production, he said. The script is written six episodes ahead of shooting, and nobody makes changes on stage, he said. Knowing everything well in advance allows the show to consis-

tency come in under budget, he said.

Nearing the end of his presentation, Straczynski played several promotional sequences from his television shows. The tapes, showing montages of special effects shots, with alien creatures, gripping space battles, and vast computer-generated panoramas, elicited hearty cheers and applause from the audience.

Independent television predicted

Straczynski also predicted that it would soon be possible for anybody to produce independent television shows.

"I have a digital camera that cost me two grand, and it produces higher-resolution output than most televisions can handle," he said. "That's professional quality."

"The prices can only go down," he said. "Soon, people like you will be able to make 14 episodes for very little money and just present it to a network as a one-season show."

It's just like the development of independent film that has occurred in recent decades, as the technology for that became more inexpensive, Straczynski said.

Speakers asked about the future

After both of the presentations, the hosts and the audience asked the two men questions about their work and about the evolution of science fiction and media.

A number of people asked questions about the issues raised by Straczynski's shows and Jablovok's writing. Jenkins asked them about the issue of memory control in the future, a topic both of them had examined.

Straczynski said that as our technology develops, "somebody, probably from MIT," will figure out how to remove and replace memories. Jablovok took a different angle. As we introduce more powerful technology, we are already exerting a tremendous and poorly understood power over memory, and this will only become increase in the future.

In answering several questions, both of the authors emphasized the role of science fiction in helping to define our future and our identity. "Science fiction lets us raise our eyes to the horizon again, to see where we're going," Straczynski said.

"All science fiction is hopeful," since it predicts that there is a future for humanity, "and that we're not going to blow ourselves up in 50 years," he said.

The new, darker tone of current print science fiction may be largely responsible for the recent decrease in the genre's popularity, Straczynski said. "Everything is so dark and gloomy or *Neuromancer*, cyberpunk crap; you just know the author ended a really bad relationship and wants to make everybody else feel rotten too."

Many people say that science does for people today what religion did in the past, Jablovok said. Science fiction represents a new way of looking at old myths, in today's language.

Incorporating traditional narrative elements into *Babylon 5*, introduces "many things that you may not put in the consciously," but with which people still identify, Jablovok told Straczynski.

Both men also pointed out that the increased power of technology may offer many new useful opportunities, but finding the things you want is difficult. "I just don't have the time," Jablovok said. "This kind of thing seems to be for people who have no life."

The Internet and television will become more and more connected, Straczynski said. On the World Wide Web, people will be able to immerse themselves in the electronic trappings of their favorite show.

There will be many options, but lots of work trying to find what you actually want, he said. "I don't advocate this kind of thing. It is for people who have no life."

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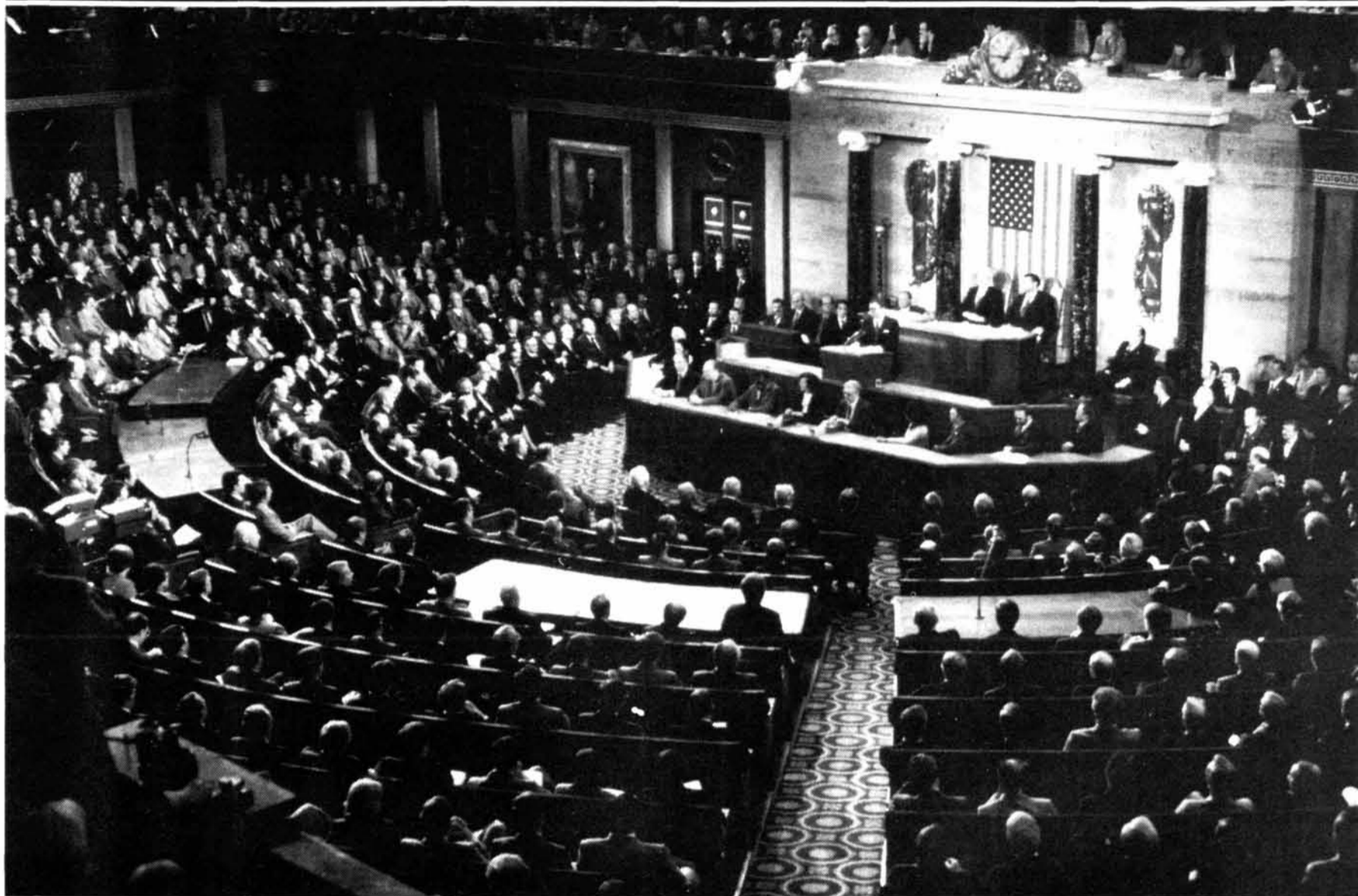
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WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

A militant Junta (Eric R. Traub '99) struggles against the common Thug (Dylan J. McConaghy '00) at Senior House's annual Steer Roast.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Steer Roast '98 begins with the ceremonial lighting of the pit.



DENNIS YANCEY—THE TECH

Music and Theater Arts Lecturer James R. O'Dell directs the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble last Sunday at Kresge Auditorium.



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Jennifer E. Gruzka '98 plays the viola in the MIT Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir last Friday in Kresge Auditorium.

damned for life
by Jessica



Off Course
by Hugo



bartholemew squeak



RHINO MAN

THE STORY SO FAR: The Yakuza offered to leave Sector 9 alone if Rhino-Man will confess to false charges and commit suicide. But a hidden container of gasoline and his lit cigar change the situation.

by Zachary Emig



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

Next Issue: Could Rhino-Man really be...dead?

Perhaps...

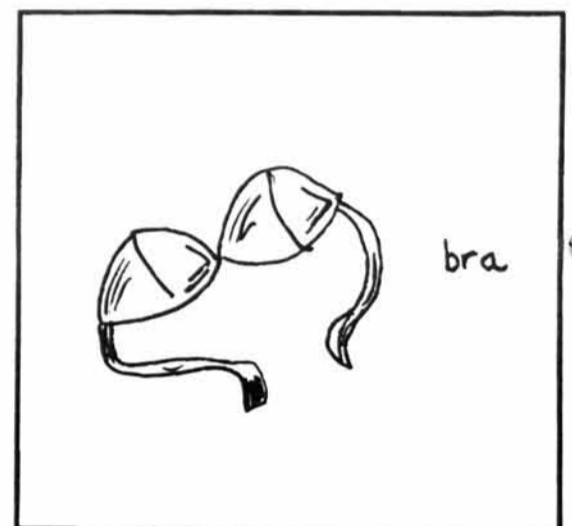
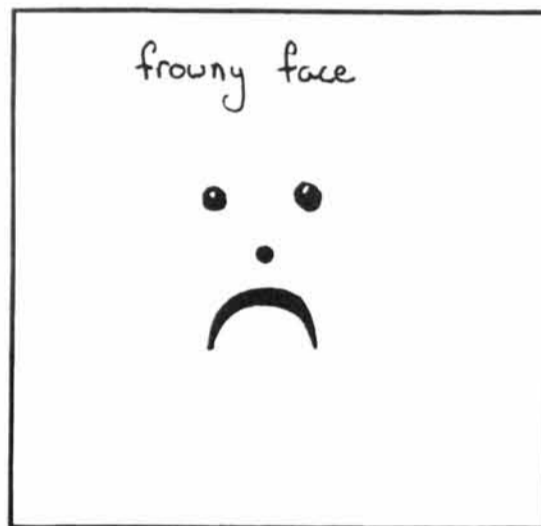
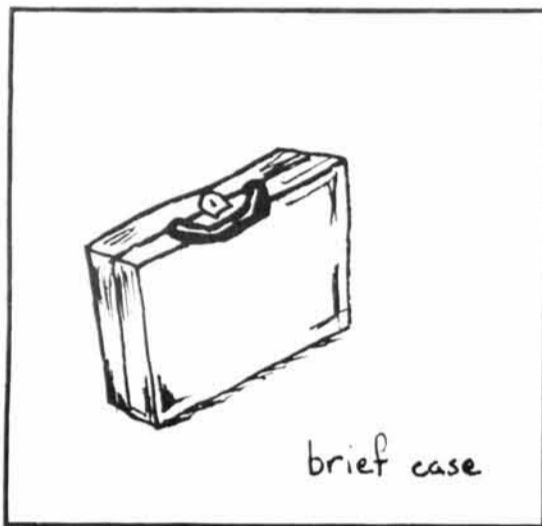


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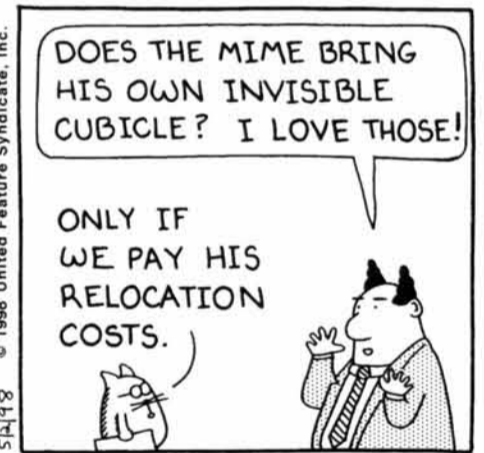
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No Smoot Charges

Graffiti, from Page 1

tatives of those police departments.

Bankert said that LCA had not called the police.

As of yet "no one has brought any charge," Dreger said. However, the IFC Judicial Committee is investigating several leads, Dreger said.

Because of the homophobic nature of the vandalism, if Judcom does find a culprit they will likely prosecute, Dreger said.

"As far as I know they don't have any hard proof at the moment," he said.

If an IFC member is found guilty of the vandalism, the punishment will likely take the form of a public apology to LCA and the IFC, as well as a community service sanction, Dreger said.

LCA is unlikely to bring charges of its own, instead letting the IFC prosecute the vandals, Bankert said.

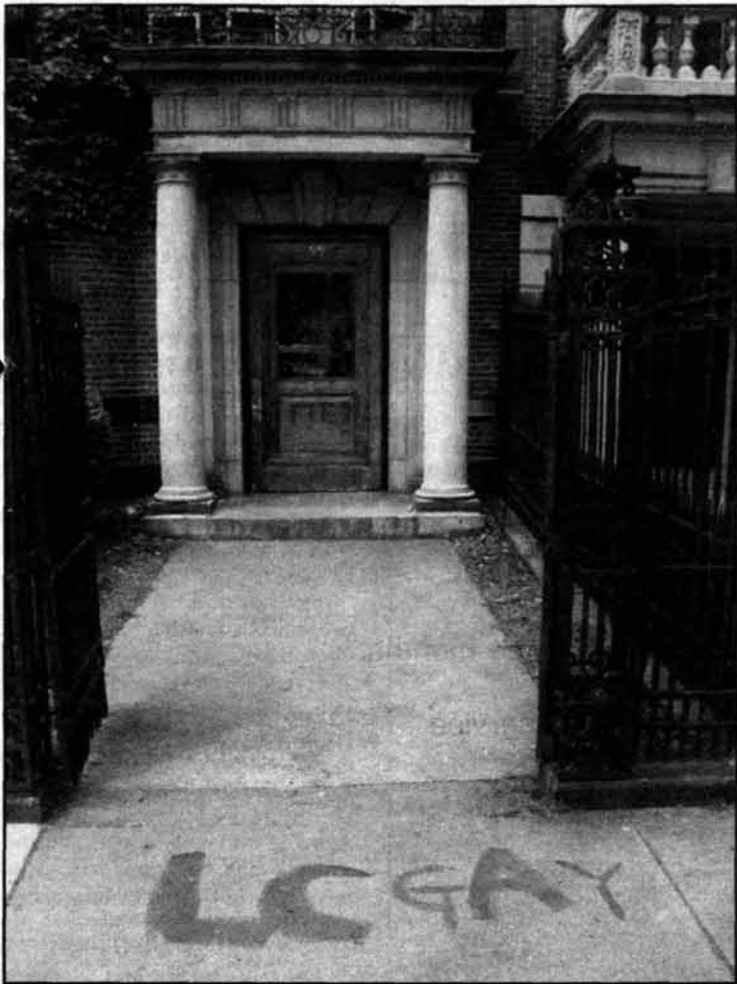
"Its is an act of violence against Smoots," as opposed to an act of violence against the fraternity, Bankert said.

"As far as sanctions go, LCA will support any decision made by the IFC," he said.

"Whoever committed this vandalism — and it is vandalism — certainly lacked any semblance of intelligent thought, and if the best they can do is make a joke about how someone 'sucks nuts', then they obviously have the maturity of a third grader," Bankert said.

The Smoot markings on the Harvard bridge began as a fraternity prank when members of LCA took freshman pledge Oliver R. Smoot '62 and measured the Harvard Bridge in units of his height, by laying him out across the bridge.

Douglas E. Heimburger and Dan McGuire contributed to the reporting of this story.



CHUN HUA ZHENG—THE TECH
The sidewalk in front of the Lambda Chi Alpha house was vandalized last week.

POLICE LOG

The following events were reported to the Campus Police between April 23 and 29. Information is compiled from the Campus Police's weekly crime summary and from dispatcher logs.

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

April 23: Delta Upsilon, student problem; Bldg. 11, report of suspicious activity; DuPont, women's locker room, tote bag and hair dryer stolen, \$68; MacGregor House, water cooler stolen, \$50. Medical Service Calls: 6

April 24: Student Center, 1) attempted breaking and entering, nothing taken, 2) jacket and cash stolen from Athena Cluster, \$100; Bldg. 5, report of suspicious person; Bldg. 48, rope fish stolen \$20; West Garage, report of suspicious persons, same issued trespass warnings. Medical Service Calls: 4

April 25: Report of missing person, later located; Bldg. E17, CD player stolen, \$250; Kresge lot, minor motor vehicle accident; Memorial Drive, report that a non-affiliated person had fallen into the Charles River, same rescued and transported to Cambridge City Hospital by Cambridge Rescue; Bexley Hall, report of two beer kegs, same were empty and in possession by a person over 21, no citation issued. Medical Service Calls: 2

April 26: Bldg. 12, minor hit and run damage to vehicle; Hayden Library, indecent exposure. Medical Service Calls: 2

April 27: Bldg. N51, hit and run motor vehicle damage; Bldg. E17, computer hard drive and cordless phone stolen, unknown value; Student Center Athena cluster, cellular phone stolen, \$250; Bldg. E10, TV and VCR stolen, \$930; Walker, Ahmet Isik PhD '94 of 250 Kennedy Drive, Malden, arrested for trespassing; power dip which affected west side of campus; Random, notification of student to call home. Medical Service Calls: 7

April 28: Bldg. 7, camera equipment stolen, \$3,700; Student Center, 1) bicycle secured with cable stolen from rack, \$400, 2) checkbook stolen, later recovered; Bexley, report of larceny of cash, \$90; Eastgate, report of someone posing as an employee of the Registrar's Office trying to solicit personal information; Bldg. 12, report of Biohazard signs stolen, \$40. Medical Service Calls: 5

April 29: Edgerton House, missing person, later located; Bldg. E17, film processor stolen, \$500; DuPont weight room, brass rat stolen, \$200; New House, malicious destruction of a window; Bldg. E52, annoying phone calls; Briggs Field, demonstration between Reserve Officer Training Corps and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender students; assist Cambridge Police, Vassar Street, multiple-vehicle accident; Massachusetts Avenue and Amherst Street, minor motor vehicle accident, Cambridge Police were unavailable to assist; Walker, Ahmet Isik PhD '94 of 250 Kennedy Drive, Malden, arrested for trespassing. Medical Service Calls: 2.

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UNTREATED DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SA VE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

This space donated by The Tech

I/S Fixes Phone Software Problems.

411, from Page 1

February and lasted for approximately four weeks. This outage would have been extended if not for the MIT's 5ESS service team, Keohane said. Bell Atlantic, which was in contact with MIT's 5ESS service team everyday during the outage, responded by stating they did not know how to remedy the problem, he said.

I/S developed a method that would allow the problem to be fixed before calls left MIT. After coming up with their solution in early April, MIT told Bell Atlantic to remove all blocking from student telephone connections, Keohane said.

The first correction Bell Atlantic made enabled students to reach 411, but those calls were routed to an automated system and most likely resulted in busy signals. MIT 5ESS operations services again helped them to correct this problem, Keohane said.

"Bell Atlantic was not very helpful in fixing this problem because they did not have the technical expertise behind them," Keohane said. Once the MIT 5ESS service team figured out why the outages were occurring and found a solution, Bell Atlantic began to work with MIT to make the corrections, he said.

Keohane believed that there were two methods available while working through the problem to alert the MIT community that 411 was out of service: students could contact the computing help desk via phone or e-mail, or students could have been informed by the operators when students complained by phone or e-mail. "No one expected it to take as long as it did, and at times, the trunk was operational when dialing 411," he said.

MIT covers costs for 411 service

Keohane said that MIT is allowed 7770 calls per month to 411 Directory Service and that MIT's generally exceeds that number. Recent usage figures will probably come in lower that due to the recent outages in 411. The number also fluctuates at different times of the year, based on usage, he said. Each call over 7770 costs MIT 35 cents, she said.

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After Extropian Mailing, Groups Will Not Get Freshmen's Addresses

ASA, from Page 15

dent organizations to the incoming freshmen.

This year, because of changes to Orientation, "the administration is trying to cut down on mailings in general," McGann said. This may include restricting the number of flyers in the ASA mailing, he said.

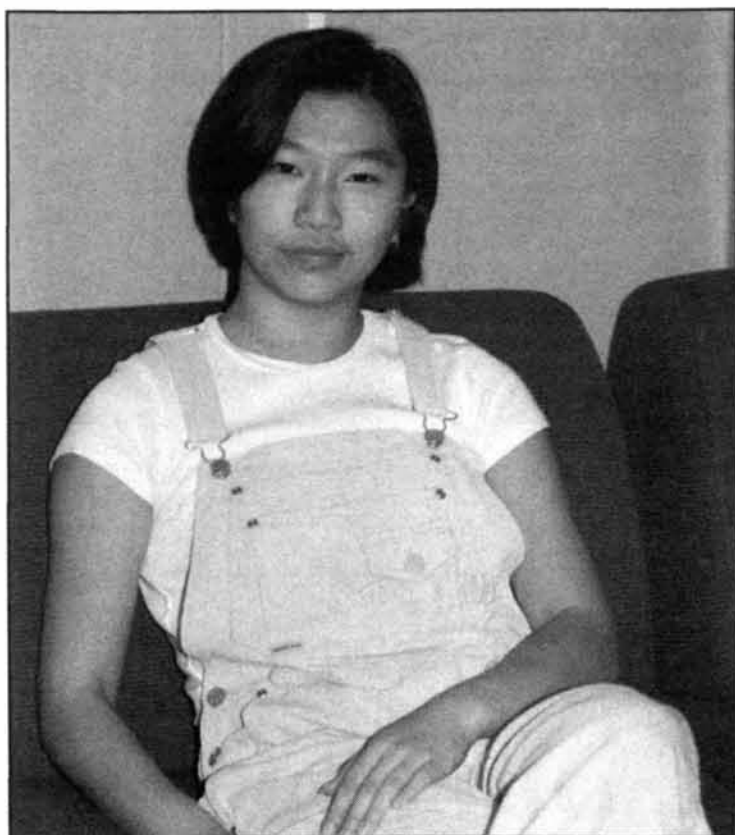
There will also be administrative changes designed to keep the freshmen's addresses confidential. "No students will see the [address] labelings," McGann said.

There will not be a repeat of last year's Extropians mass mailing, he said. Although student groups were only supposed to send mail to freshmen as part of the official ASA packet, the Extropians obtained the a list of addresses and sent a controversial flyer directly to the incoming class.

The ASA punished the Extropians by not allowing them to apply for official recognition until September, 1998.

"There will definitely be a summer mailing in July [concerning] all the activities," Chu said.

"We are working in conjunction with the deans" so that the ASA can "best represent all the student groups," McGann said.



Van L. Chu '99 is the new president of the Association of Student Activities.

YING LEE—THE TECH



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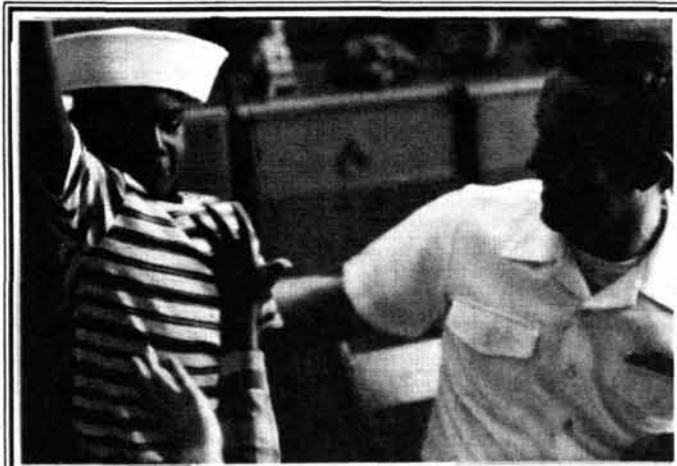
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-Dorothy Canfield Fisher

SPORTS

Merchant Successfully Defends Squash Title Despite Injuries

By Jim Taylor
TEAM COACH

On Saturday Ali Merchant G fought his way into his third straight Massachusetts Squash Rackets Association (MSRA) A final despite hand and forearm cramps as well as a blister the size of a silver dollar on his foot. The A's are the top flight in MRSA squash. Merchant is also the defending champion.

In his semi-final match, Merchant beat Enamullah Khan, a professional squash player from the Cambridge Racket Club, 3-1. Merchant lost the first game playing quite tentatively. In the final three games, despite the cramps, he played very aggressively and moved Khan around the court. The squash was at a very high level with lots of shot making and very few errors by either player. Several very long points that Merchant won seemed to take most of the energy from Khan. However, Khan fought valiantly despite his fatigue. Merchant earned the win with his superior shot-making and court coverage.

On Sunday Merchant successfully defended his State Championship against Jeremy Goulding, a native of the United Kingdom and currently playing for the Concord Acton Squash Club. Merchant dominated in the final, winning 3-0. While

there were a few close game scores, it was plain that Merchant was going to be in command from the start. His superior hitting pace, better court coverage, and clean touch paid off in a relatively easy victory for Merchant.

"Merchant is the best squash player that has been at MIT in the forty years that I have been associ-

ated with MIT squash," said Coach Jim Taylor. Although Merchant was not an undergraduate at MIT, his game has improved over the last four years while he has been here. Merchant works with the MIT Varsity Squash Team and with local players when he is not engaged in his graduate studies.

Athletes of the Week

This week's athletes are Tracy Sadowski '99 and Justin Verdirame '00. Sadowski, with a team-leading 29 goals, was named most valuable player by the women's lacrosse team. She was also named to the All-Conference team. Verdirame recently led the men's lacrosse team to victories over Western New England College and Clark University. His play also earned him All-Conference honors.

The Athletes of the Week feature is sponsored by the MIT Varsity Club.



Tracy Sadowski '99
Women's Lacrosse

Age: 20

Major: Chemical Engineering

Hometown: Toms River, N.J.

Years playing sport: 3

Most memorable moment:

Putting chopped up banana in Maddy Burke's bed during our spring break trip.

Future plans: To graduate and join the real world

"Roll in your banana slime, witch, roll." - Marilyn Vogel



Justin Verdirame '00
Lacrosse

Age: 19

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Suffolk, Va.

Years playing sport: 8

Most memorable moment:

The spring break trips to California

Future plans: Finding a career in mechanical engineering

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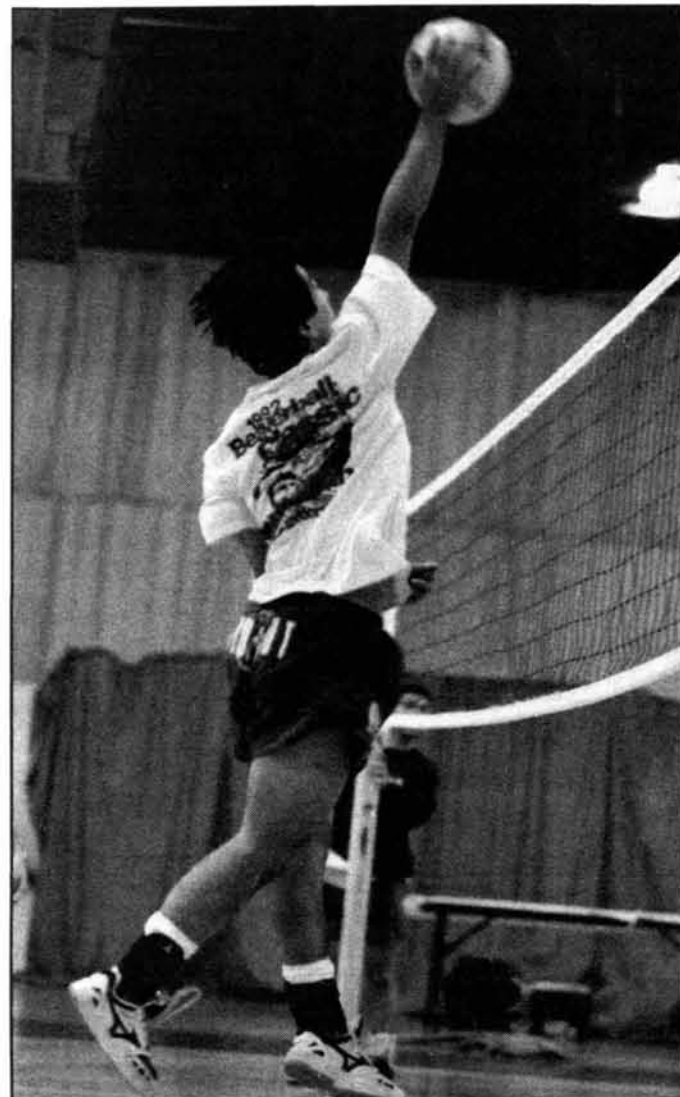
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KARLENE ROSERA—THE TECH

Satoshi Asari '94 spikes the ball in last Saturday's doubles volleyball tournament. Asari and his partner Mike Margetts '97 came in first place.

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