

Co-Winners of \$50K Competition Named

By Aileen Tang
STAFF REPORTER

"If the companies founded by MIT graduates and faculty formed an independent nation, the revenues produced by the companies would make that nation the 24th largest economy in the world," noted a report prepared by the BankBoston economics department entitled "MIT: The Impact of Innovation."

The annual MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition has done more than propel the innovative trends that have risen out of MIT. In its nine-year history, the competition has facilitated over 30 companies with more than \$180 million in aggregate market value and created more than 500 job opportunities.

Last Thursday night, the final awards ceremony marked the grand finale to this year's competition when Direct Hit and Volunteer Community Connection were announced as co-grand-prize-winners, with Carsoft as the runner-up.

Other 1998 \$50K finalists

included: Akamai Technologies, developer of global hosting service; Silicon Test, provider of probe cards for semiconductor chip testing; and WeddingBell.com, an Internet-based, full service, wedding gift registry system.

Keynote speaker at the awards ceremony was William A. Porter '67, chairman and founder of the ETrade Group, Inc. Porter emphasized the importance of entrepreneurialism. "It's the accomplishment of doing it that really counts," he said. "There's just no shortage of things to be done in our society for the benefit of society."

For the first time in the history of the competition, grand prizes of \$30,000 each were awarded to the two co-winners, while \$10,000 went to the runner-up. The competition normally awards \$30,000 to one grand prize winner and \$10,000 each to two runners-up.

This year's cash prizes do not quite add up to \$50K, explained Sally A. Shepard G, the lead organizer of the competition. The judges



Baritone Chris Trakas and pianist Marek Zebrowski perform at the MIT affiliated artist concert Saturday in Kresge Auditorium.

came to a deadlock on the grand prize, she said. "We were kind of perplexed by that, so the committee decided to announce two grand prize winners."

"In the Nobel Prize and things of that kind [when there are co-winners], it's customary to split the prize," said David T. Morgenthaler '40, who announced

the winners. "But no, that would never do for MIT... With the help of an extremely generous donor,

\$50K, Page 19

Extra \$200,000 for Activities Will Be Available Next Fall

By Dan McGuire
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Student government representatives and administrators will meet soon to finalize plans for allocating Provost Joel Moses' \$200,000 increase in student activities funding.

Moses announced in March that he would increase student activities funding to \$300,000. That sum included the approximately \$90,000 allocated to the Undergraduate Association but does not include the roughly \$75,000 given to the

Graduate Student Council. Graduate and undergraduate groups will receive a total of about \$400,000 in the 1998-1999 school year.

Members of several student governments, including the UA, the GSC, the Association of Student Activities, and the Office of Residence and Campus Activities have met already to discuss how to portion out the new funds. "We've just basically agreed that there will be a portion going to the GSC and some to the UA, and some portion will be set aside for large events such as the Spring Weekend and other large

events," said GSC President Brian J. Schneider G.

"A lot of work needs to be done, mostly by students, to decide how to allocate it," said Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams. "We're not going to wait until all of that is worked out before the money is available," she added.

Administrators will also meet to discuss how to portion out the funds, said UA President Dedric A. Carter '98. He said that some administrators were pushing to set aside a certain percentage of the allocation for specific types of

events, such as concerts or carnivals.

"The provost was very interested in stimulating entertainment on campus," Carter said. Ideas discussed included financing Spring Carnival and adding a new Fall Carnival. There was some discussion about funding two campus-wide social events a term, he said. The goal would be to have activities cooperate to run the new events. Carter cautioned that funding decisions were not final. "We haven't talked about percentages yet," he

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I/S Commences Experiment to Place Clusters at McCormick and Burton

By Susan Buchman
STAFF REPORTER

Information Systems is working to make sure that dormitory residents no longer have to trudge to the Student Center in the rain to check their e-mail.

I/S is beginning a one-year experiment to place Athena clusters and Quickstations in residence halls on the west side of campus to gauge demand and frequency of use. These clusters will help I/S to understand the problems and expenses in scaling the experiment to include more residence halls.

McCormick, Burton get clusters

Athena clusters will be installed in McCormick Hall and Burton-Conner House this summer, according to Oliver Thomas, a consultant with Information Systems. They are scheduled to remain there for one year, after which I/S will consider

the success of the trial project.

Burton-Conner and McCormick were chosen because they initially expressed interest in having a cluster, said Naomi B. Schmidt, manager of educational planning and support for I/S.

Five Athena Quickstations are scheduled to be placed in residence halls further from campus, but the specifics have not yet been decided.

According to Schmidt, the clusters are a one-year experiment to see "how they are used, what works, and how financing will be done."

There is also the possibility that ethernet drops will be installed in areas of dormitories where students do group work, Schmidt said. These clusters will also serve as a test model for the new dormitory scheduled to be constructed in the year 2000.

Thomas said that he will be meeting with students in the affect-

ed dormitories to discuss what they would like to see. Schmidt plans to distribute a questionnaire before and after the experiment to find out how students are using the residential clusters.

Costs, other details still uncertain

Many issues surrounding the clusters are still undecided. Decisions will be made in the next two weeks regarding the number of machines and the locations within the dormitories. Physical Plant must also be consulted regarding energy considerations.

"House governments and students will not incur any of the cost of the clusters," Thomas said.

The preliminary budget calls for Athena to bear the cost of the machines and yearly support costs, for I/S to cover the network drops, and for other departments to cover incidental costs such as furniture.



Santi Gularso performs "Oleg Tambullingan" at the Gamelan Galek Tika presentation on Balinese culture last Friday.

This is the last scheduled issue of *The Tech* for the spring semester. Summer issues will be published on June 5 (Commencement), June 12, July 8, and Aug. 5. *The Tech* will publish daily during Orientation beginning Aug. 24 and will resume regular publication in September.

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WORLD & NATION

Albright to Resume Mediation Bid By Meeting With Netanyahu

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

On the day he had hoped to preside over the start of a new round of Middle East peace talks, President Clinton instead Monday directed Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to start anew on the task of trying to persuade Israel to accept U.S. conditions for a summit.

Albright will meet Wednesday in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the wake of his rejection of a U.S. proposal that the administration had set as a condition for Israeli-Palestinian-U.S. talks.

It was an embarrassing turn of events for Clinton, who had given Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat until Monday to settle a festering interim dispute to clear the way for the start of negotiations over a final peace treaty.

Although the administration had hinted that Washington might end its role as Middle East go-between if the Israelis and Palestinians rejected a U.S. formula to break a 14-month stalemate, Clinton ordered an immediate resumption of U.S. mediation.

Clinton held a White House meeting Monday with his top Middle East strategists and afterward expressed "regret" that Monday's planned meeting with Netanyahu and Arafat had fallen through.

United Arab Emirates To Buy Lockheed Martin F-16s

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The United Arab Emirates will announce Tuesday that it has chosen Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-16 fighter over competing European aircraft in a deal worth up to \$6 billion, according to industry and government sources.

Vice President Al Gore will join Crown Prince Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan in making the announcement after a separate visit the prince will have with President Clinton at the White House. The deal could cover as many as 80 F-16s, which are made at a plant in Fort Worth.

The F-16, a mainstay of the U.S. Air Force arsenal and a popular multipurpose fighter used by several U.S. allies, including Israel and Jordan, is being chosen over the competing French-made Rafale fighter and the Eurofighter.

The choice of the F-16 is a huge boost for Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed Martin because the U.S. Air Force has largely concluded its purchases of the plane, which will be replaced in the next century by the Joint Strike Fighter. Largely on the strength of international sales, the F-16 remains one of the top-selling products made by Lockheed Martin.

Apple Announces New Strategy for Operating System Upgrade

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN JOSE, CALIF.

Apple Computer announced a new strategy for upgrading its operating system software that the company and some key software developers agree will make it far easier to produce products for the Macintosh.

Mac OS X, slated for release in fall 1999, will also enhance the system's speed and stability, and allow several programs to run simultaneously, interim CEO Steve Jobs said at Apple's annual developer conference Monday.

Apple hopes its new strategy will shore up support among its restive developers — many of whom have reduced their Macintosh efforts or abandoned the platform altogether in favor of the far-larger Microsoft Windows market.

Adobe, as well as Microsoft and Macromedia, all important Macintosh developers, greeted the plan enthusiastically. Support from such companies could dictate Apple's long-term viability.

Apple hopes that such endorsements will help recapture consumers who have avoided buying a Macintosh due to an erosion in long-term support among software developers.

WEATHER

Definitely May-Be Better.

By Gerard Roe

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

At long last the mid-level cut-off low pressure system, which has held such a death grip over us for the past ten days or so, will finally move offshore as a developing high pressure ridge dipping southwards from Canada squeezes the low eastward. Skies will clear during today. The winds will still be onshore however, which will keep some low level moisture around. Temperatures will be capped at the mid 50s by the coast, with inland areas a few degrees higher. Wednesday will be completely dry with the sun making a prolonged and concerted appearance. The daytime temperatures along the shore will be dictated by the wind direction but inland, temperatures will reach into the mid 60s. In the longer term, another low pressure system coming from the west will try to eat away at the East Coast high pressure later on Thursday and into Friday. If the high is able to withstand the onslaught, we will see a few more sunny days. Otherwise the early weekend could see a return to wetter weather.

Today: Overnight rain clearing early. Skies clearing by afternoon. Blustery winds from off the ocean. High 56°F (13°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 46°F (8°C).

Wednesday: Hard to believe. Mostly sunny. High 60°F (16°C). Low 47°F (8°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy. High in the upper 60s (18–21°C). Low around 50°F (10°C).

Nuclear Testing Jeopardizes Better U.S.-India Relations

By Thomas W. Lippman

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

This is not what Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright had in mind when she went to India late last year to promote a wide-ranging new relationship of cooperation that would lay to rest the years of Cold War suspicion between Washington and New Delhi.

With its announcement Monday that it had tested three nuclear weapons, India brushed aside a series of appeals from the Clinton administration, which as recently as last week had cautioned against such a step. The news caught the United States by surprise and drew strong criticism from senior officials, who said they are considering tough U.S. economic sanctions.

The announcement negated what the State Department, in its most recent report to Congress on the nuclear threat in South Asia, had called "a top U.S. priority" — persuading India not to resume testing.

In the broader relationship between the two countries, the tests could ruin years of effort by the administration. The Commerce Department, through its "Big Emerging Markets" program, has fostered U.S. investment in India's formerly closed economy. The State Department has sought not only to end the South Asian arms race but to begin a new relationship with India, which was aligned with Moscow during the Cold War.

Some independent analysts said the damage could be limited if India, having demonstrated the ability and the political will to test, now signs the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. But officials said they detected no signs Monday of such an outcome.

"We are deeply disappointed by India's decision to test nuclear weapons," White House national security adviser Sandy Berger said. Berger said President Clinton has not abandoned his plan to visit India later this year, because "we have a better chance at de-escalating, or at least slowing, these kinds of actions if we remain engaged than if we don't."

Another senior official, speaking on condition he not be named, said the Indian announcement was "a kick in the teeth" because India's top cabinet aides had assured U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson during his recent visit that they wanted improved ties to the United States, and gave him no hint they were contemplating underground tests.

Richardson recommended Indian "restraint" in response to a recent Pakistani missile test, as did other officials in meetings here with an Indian delegation last week, a State Department official said.

"I'm very disappointed," said Rep. Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and a longtime advocate of better relations. "It's

certainly going to strain our relations," which he said have been "better in the past two or three years than at any time in history."

The Indian tests are "a shocking development, and an enormous blow to our relationship," said Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the region. He called for quick implementation of sanctions that appear to be mandatory under U.S. law.

The law requires the president, within 30 days of certifying that any country other than the five declared nuclear powers has exploded a nuclear device, to cut off all military sales and aid, block all credit and loan guarantees by U.S. government agencies, oppose loans in international development banks, block credit by private U.S. banks and prohibit the export of any technology that could be used for military purposes. The sanctions are mandatory — no waiver is authorized.

The United States is India's biggest trading partner, although the overall commercial relationship is relatively small: two-way trade exceeded \$9 billion in 1995, the last year for which the State Department had complete figures. U.S. companies accounted for 42 percent of all foreign investment in India in the first half of this decade, according to the Commerce Department.

Washington has never been a major supplier of economic or military aid to India.

Private Firm Announces Plans To Map Entire Human Genome

By Justin Gillis and Rick Weiss

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Scientists Monday said they would form a new company in Rockville, Md., that aims to unravel the entire human genetic code by the year 2001, four years sooner than the federal government expects to complete a similar project.

The privately funded enterprise, which backers said could be completed for perhaps one-tenth the cost of the government program, raised immediate questions about the relevance and future of the \$3 billion, 15-year federal effort. It also raised fresh concerns about the prospect of the human genetic code being expropriated by entrepreneurs who plan to patent and sell access to the most medically valuable parts.

Some biotechnology experts not involved in the new company raved about the venture, saying it promises to generate enormous amounts of genetic data that may quickly be translated into better diagnostic tests and treatments for diseases.

But other experts expressed skepticism that the company could achieve its ambitious goals, saying the new technology remains unproven and the novel analytical approach to be used may generate less useful information than other methods.

Federal officials said the accelerating government effort to find and decode all 60,000 or more genes in the human body would remain on its current course for the next 12 to 18 months, by which time it will be clearer whether the project should change its approach to accommodate the new players in the field.

"It would be vastly premature to go out and... change the plan of our genome centers," said Francis Collins, head of the National Human Genome Research Institute, the branch of the National Institutes of Health that co-directs the federal

effort with the Department of Energy.

The new company — not yet named — will be led by J. Craig Venter, a pioneer in finding fast, cheap ways to decode genetic information. It will be backed by Perkin-Elmer Corp. of Norwalk, Conn., a major supplier of equipment for genetic analysis, and will depend on machines developed by Perkin-Elmer.

The new venture, which expects to go into operation early in 1999, will be 80 percent owned by Perkin-Elmer.

The company will employ between 400 and 800 people to run 230 specialized new machines — each about the size of a minibar refrigerator — that will operate 24 hours a day decoding information from human genes that have been isolated from sperm and other cells, Venter said. The electric bill alone is expected to hit \$5,000 a day.

Several biotechnology companies, including Human Genome Sciences, are in the business of decoding genetic information and selling it to pharmaceutical companies and others who hope to profit. Most of these biotech companies claim to have decoded more than 80 percent of human genes already, although the function of most remains a mystery.

These companies have been granted scores of patents on their genetic discoveries, raising fears among some critics that a handful of companies will control the commercialization of a vast and potentially lucrative biological resource. Those fears arose again Monday with Venter's announcement of his new project.

"Even though they are promising public access, they control the terms and there is a history of terms being more onerous than is acceptable to most scientists," said Maynard Olson, a medical geneticist at the

University of Washington.

Venter said that with the exception of perhaps 100 to 300 genetic sequences that he expects will show special commercial promise, the company will make all the genetic information available free to the world's scientists. "It would be morally wrong to hold the data hostage and keep it secret," he said.

Perkin-Elmer senior vice president Michael W. Hunkapiller said the company will make money by analyzing the genetic information and then selling the results to pharmaceutical companies. The company also plans to analyze the tiny genetic differences between individuals, as opposed to getting a "generic" genetic sequence for the average human being. That new level of information, also being sought by federal laboratories, may help drug companies customize medicines for individuals or small groups of people.

Venter's technique will differ markedly from those used by biotech companies. Those companies use a shortcut that deliberately omits large amounts of information whose role in the body is unclear.

By contrast, Venter's project aims to unravel every bit of genetic information, regardless of whether it's suspected to be useful, and to organize the resulting database into a massive and readily consulted blueprint of human life.

To do so, the Perkin-Elmer machines will use a controversial approach called "shotgun whole genome sequencing." Instead of focusing on large pieces of DNA, this process decodes tiny pieces that later must be assembled like interlocking pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Because of the added difficulty of dealing with so many small pieces, the resulting picture of the human genome is likely to be peppered with more and larger holes than that produced by the federal program, Collins said.

Commission Approves Postage Increase to Thirty-Three Cents

By Bill McAllister
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Postal Service won permission Monday to increase the price of a letter to 33 cents, a one-cent hike that postal regulators said they doubt the agency, which has rung up annual profits of more than \$1 billion for three years running, needs before January "at the earliest."

At the same time, regulators cut the agency's requested rate increases for bulk mailers, reduced rates for heavy first-class letters and increased postage rates for periodicals and newspapers.

Members of the independent Postal Rate Commission expressed concern that the cash-rich Postal Service had "seriously misestimated its need for a rate hike," but "reluctantly" approved the requested hike nonetheless. Chairman Edward J. Gleiman said the panel endorsed the

increase because it had no legal basis to challenge the agency's multi-year billion-dollar spending program that underpinned the request.

Just when the new rates will be imposed will be up to the Postal Service's Board of Governors, a presidentially appointed panel that oversees the nation's mail service.

Some senior postal executives have said they will pressure the governors, who meet June 2, to impose the new rates as soon as possible, perhaps within 90 days. In private sessions with the governors, they have argued that the agency could "crash and burn" unless it quickly spends billions on new equipment to successfully compete with the growing competition from e-mail and other forms of electronic communications.

At a news conference announcing the decision, Gleiman pointedly questioned whether the agency

could spend the \$720 million for new equipment it has budgeted for this year, because it has spent only \$116 million thus far.

The rate commission did not give the Postal Service a number of increases it wanted, lopping one-third off the \$2.4 billion in new revenue it sought. The commission said it cut that much off because the agency has failed to properly calculate "the benefits of lower-than-expected inflation" since it filed its request in July. "The commission believes that the Postal Service is unlikely — in the absence of either the economy going into free fall, a spending binge or some very creative accounting — to incur any of the \$1.4 billion loss it projected for fiscal year 1998," Gleiman said.

Indeed, Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon has said the agency should make more than \$1 billion this year as well.

Press Secretary McCurry Accuses Reporters of Bias Against Clinton

By Jack Nelson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Mike McCurry, President Clinton's beleaguered press secretary, on Monday accused journalists of bias in their coverage of Clinton administration scandals and said the American people are more fair-minded and "more likely to believe in the presumption of innocence."

McCurry, who has undergone what he termed four months of uninterrupted negative press coverage since controversy erupted over the president's dealings with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky, said Americans appreciate the work Clinton has done on issues important to them and would just as soon have journalists stop writing about scandals.

Appearing weary at times during

a spirited breakfast session with reporters and editors at the *Los Angeles Times* bureau in Washington, McCurry conceded that the administration has refused to answer many questions about alleged Democratic fund-raising improprieties and other investigations. But he said legal considerations restrict the flow of information.

The White House, which once provided information on Democratic fund raising, has adopted "a different posture" and no longer provides its spokesmen with information to reply to reporters' questions, McCurry said.

Expressing his own frustration with the policy, he said, "If you're not going to get the information that you can use to answer questions there's not much you can... do to affect those circumstances. You

basically have to tough it out."

McCurry suggested that the Washington press corps doesn't believe Clinton's denial of a sexual relationship with Lewinsky. Looking around the room at 30 *Times* journalists, he said, "Everybody here — be honest about it — there is not a person in this room who still has any presumption of innocence with respect to the president.... I think it affects the way you cover the story."

Clinton and Lewinsky both have denied having a sexual relationship, but Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr has been investigating the matter since January, when Linda R. Tripp, then a friend of Lewinsky, provided him with tapes of secretly recorded phone conversations in which Lewinsky indicated she had an affair with the president.

INS Reaches Limit on High-Tech Workers, Stops Issuing New Visas

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Immigration and Naturalization Service Monday stopped issuing new visas for temporary high-tech workers, saying it has already reached the category's annual limit. The move injected urgency into congressional efforts to raise the cap.

Sen. Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.), sponsor of a bill to address what he calls a "critical shortage of high-tech workers," said the INS announcement has made passage of his measure "urgent" and that he hopes for a vote as early as Tuesday.

But the Clinton administration opposes raising the cap without also reforming the visa program for these foreign employees to protect U.S. workers and provide more training for Americans seeking entry into high-tech fields.

The visa program, called H-1B, allows as many as 65,000 skilled foreign workers to enter the United States every year on "temporary" visas valid for up to six years. Largely because of increasing demand from high-tech companies, the cap was hit last year for the first time. Now the limit has been reached again — nearly five months before the end of fiscal 1998 on Sept. 30.

Unless legislation raises the cap, the INS said, employers now may petition for new H-1B workers only if their employment begins on or after Oct. 1, when a new 65,000 visa limit takes effect with the start of fiscal 1999.

U.S. Official's Praise for Croatian Nationalist Angers Bosnia Leader

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

A senior U.S. official's praise for one of Croatia's most strident nationalists has triggered a bitter diplomatic row and invited unusually harsh words from the Muslim president of Bosnia.

The anger of President Alija Izetbegovic comes at a time his cooperation is needed in delicate negotiations over refugee returns, restructuring the national media and other unresolved elements of the Bosnian peace process.

Washington is one of Sarajevo's principal allies, with Americans holding key positions in all peacekeeping organizations here, so it was startling to see such a public show of displeasure from the Bosnian leader toward a U.S. official.

It all began with the death from cancer of Croatian Defense Minister Gojko Susak, a hard-line nationalist who directed the wartime revolt by Bosnian Croats against the Muslim-led Bosnian government. The Bosnian Croats wanted to secede and join Croatia, a goal that Susak encouraged. The mini-war that followed claimed thousands of lives until a U.S.-brokered agreement in 1994 halted the fighting.

Susak is a national hero in Croatia but is seen by many Bosnians as a warmonger. Still, Jacques P. Klein, an American diplomat and the No. 2 international mediator in Bosnia, eulogized Susak as an exemplary leader.

Under Klein's orders and without higher clearance, the office issued a statement last week lamenting Susak's May 3 death and praising his role in building peace.



Graduate Student Council

Walker Memorial, 50-220 ☎ 253-2195

✉ gsc-request@mit.edu 🌐 www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

Graduate Ring Days

May 12 11 am - 5 pm Rm.10 -105

May 13 11 am - 5 pm Lobby 10

1998 Graduate Student Council Career Fair

Email us what companies you would like to see there at: gsc-careerfair@mit.edu

Other Ways to Participate in the GSC:

Departmental Representative
Living Group Representative
Committee Member

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

Calendar

► M A Y

- 14 Academics, Research, & Careers Meeting*
- 18 Orientation Band Selection Meeting *
- 20 Activities Meeting *
- 22 Friday Social *
- 26 Housing & Community Affairs Meeting *

► J U N E

- 02 Muddy Charles Pub Board of Governors Meeting *
- 03 General Council Meeting *

* at 5:30pm in Room 50-220.

All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

OPINION

'Experiment' or De Facto Policy?

Three years ago, the Committee on the Undergraduate Program inaugurated what was then billed a three-year experiment in intermediate +/- modifiers on grades. The modifiers were to be internal only. This year, the deadline for determining what would be done came and went; ultimately, the CUP and the faculty were unprepared to decide the issue, and they have postponed

it until the fall.

At this point, it is unclear whether the decision to postpone a vote on intermediate grades was intentional or merely the result of poor organization. Nevertheless, the continuation of the +/- grading experiment is unfortunate.

The last three years have provided ample time for considering student and faculty views about intermediate grades. There has been plenty of time over the spring term to consider the issue. Last fall, an online survey gathered undergraduates' opinions on the matter, and there has been plenty of time to examine the results of this survey.

Postponing the issue until fall demonstrates the faculty's

lack of concern about issues that matter to the student body. Students have regularly expressed misgivings over intermediate grades. Student opposition to intermediate grades was intense when the experiment began. Three years later little has changed. Students believe that if intermediate grades were included on their transcripts, academic pressure would increase. Ultimately, increasing the resolution of grades — internally or externally — does nothing to improve the education the Institute provides to its students.

A final problem with continuing the grading experiment for six more months is that the experiment is slowly becoming a de facto policy. The longer the experiment continues, the greater the inertia. Soon, no students at MIT will remember a time without internal intermediate grades. Consequently, students' input will be less and less informed as time passes, and their ability to intelligently compare grading systems will decline.

MIT has done an admirable job collecting student input. Now is the time to act on that input. If intermediate grades are to be kept, they should remain a purely internal device and not appear on student transcripts.

Editorial

what would be done came and went; ultimately, the CUP and the faculty were unprepared to decide the issue, and they have postponed

Letters To The Editor

Misplaced Priorities on Crime and Poverty

In a recent letter ["Limit Appeals, Spend More on the Innocent," May 1] Aidan N. Low '98 asserts that the increased number of executions of innocent individuals arising from the death penalty and the streamlining of the appeals process in capital cases is an acceptable price to pay for devoting the money "saved" to improving the lives of the destitute who are innocent.

What this argument fails to grasp, however, is that one of the reasons for the existence of due process, and indeed for abolishing the death penalty altogether, is the belief in the intrinsic value of human life. Saving the life of a person wrongly convicted is certainly worth the money spent on appeals and on the prison system. Especially considering the disturbing studies (such as a 1990 study by the General Accounting Office) that the death penalty is not meted out equitably across racial and economic lines, this is a position more consistent with fairness and human dignity.

The letter does raise a very emotionally-gripping point: It seems defeatist for society to spend more money, as Low claims it does, on accused or convicted felons than on innocent people trying to survive and get ahead. Low proceeds to argue that executing death row inmates will free up money to spend on the needy. A glance at the political landscape, however, suggests that this quick fix will not work. For example, according to *The Washington Post*, independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr has spent \$30 million in his investigation.

If our leaders can find the money to keep Starr's probe going, they can certainly find similar amounts to provide opportunities for people at the bottom of society. The fact that such programs are not more widespread, then, is not due solely to a lack of financial resources, but also to a lack of political will. Whether this lack of initiative is due to politicians' callousness or to their thought-out conclusion that any further such programs would be ineffectual, there's no reason to believe that any money "saved" in the way Low proposes would find its way to "situations where it could clearly save lives."

Presumably, any "money spent on innocent lives" would attempt to enable people to live in a fulfilling and productive (hence crime-free) manner. Does it not follow, then, that we should be able to reduce crime and save money by establishing effective programs for

the needy, without having to forsake justice by limiting the appeals of the accused?

Victor Chudnovsky G

Bachelor Auction Apology

The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity recently held the "Bachelor Auction," a charity event to raise money for the Cambridge Youth Center. As the community service chairmen for the event, we would like to apologize for an unpleasant incident that occurred at the event and to offer a clarifying explanation.

Our first goal was to raise as much money as possible for the Cambridge Youth Center. To this end we collected over three thousand dollars. Our second goal was to protect the rights of all those who assisted us in raising the money: the brothers of ATO, the MIT community, all of our corporate sponsors, and the bachelors and bachelorettes. In volunteering to be auctioned for charity, the bachelors and bachelorettes put themselves in an awkward position, and we assured them that their rights would not be infringed upon. This included providing them with chaperones for their dates and allowing them to substitute gift certificates for their date if absolutely necessary.

We soon discovered the need for all of our policies to be spelled out explicitly. While one of the bachelors was being auctioned off, a group of his friends decided to play a joke by having a man dressed as a woman bid on him. The bachelor, feeling that someone was making a mockery of his good intentions, turned to us and requested that we stop the bidding. Suddenly, our two goals were in conflict. In the interest of raising money for charity, no person's money was any better or worse than anyone else's money. But in the interest of our bachelor, we felt obliged to stop the bidding. We were torn between possible options and made a quick decision under pressure, avoiding an awkward situation for the bachelor. The bachelor was doing a huge favor for us, and regardless of how much money it may have raised, his rights had to be maintained. We stopped the bidding, thinking that we had made the best of the situation. Unfortunately, in saving the bachelor from embarrassment, we overlooked the possibility that we may have embarrassed one of our guests. The bidder truly believed he should have been allowed to bid, and according to our own rules, or lack thereof, he was correct.

Fito Louis '00 and Daniel H. Hong '00
Community Service Chairmen,
Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

An End to Rationalization

The argument of Aidan N. Low '98 for more executions and "streamlined" appeals ["Limit Appeals, Spend More on the Innocent," May 5] illustrates what we can stoop to in our quest for increasingly harsh punishment.

Low argues that we should overcome our squeamishness and change our method of execution to a summary shot in the head (just like the progressive and humane system in China). It goes on to say that spending \$100,000 a year to feed, house and guard (and sometimes educate) prisoners is too much and a few "wrongful deaths" are an acceptable price for the savings which could be put to good ends.

Though more extreme than most arguments for death penalty, those above typify their sort of logic and cost-benefit rationalizations. Central is the assumption that criminals don't have to be treated as human beings. This is accomplished by prosecutors' "aggravating factors," use of victims' families for sympathy and other methods of focusing on the heinousness of the crime to make the jury's or voters' own crime seems commensurate or even "too good for him" and therefore just. To make the execution more palatable for our weak stomachs, methods such as lethal injection are used.

All of these make executions seem kinder and gentler, but supporting murder through voting for politicians who promise to kill or any other way is morally equivalent to performing the "unnecessary killing" personally. When I was four I learned that anger doesn't make it necessary for me to hit my little brother; "detering" him from competing for attention wasn't a good justification either. Another preschool adage is that "two wrongs don't make a right"; an eye for an eye might not leave the world blind, but it will leave it bloody and soulless.

Albert Camus wrote that although it's unrealistic to expect to end murder, we should at least strive to end the rationalization of murder. Using prison funding, psychological closure for victims and a public thirst for blood vengeance as warrants for state sanctioned murder makes everyone from the doctor-turned-executioner to the tough minded voter no better than the supposedly inhuman criminals whom they are killing.

Aram W. Harrow '01

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Acting From the Heart

The Dalai Lama Helps Us Remember What We Have to Offer One Another

Guest Column
Constance Parvey

Are you searching for the perfect parent? A Good Samaritan whom you can trust to be there for you? A wise mentor who will give you just enough and then let you free to explore? A world leader who speaks about peace and has lived out his words in his actions now for nearly 40 years? An environmentalist who talks about saving people, animals, trees, water, and the air we breathe? A universalist who advocates the riches of cultural diversity and a religious leader who looks at what might bring religions into more appreciation for and deeper exchange with one another? If that's what you're looking for, perhaps the Dalai Lama is for you.

Last Saturday at Brandeis University was the second time I had been in the same space with the Dalai Lama — the first was about seven years ago at Middlebury College with a few hundred people at a symposium on world religions. At that time, I greeted him and thanked him personally and had a long talk with his sister who was accompanying him along with James Gere. The folks gathered were mostly over 40; there were few students. In less than a decade this scholarly, humble, energetic man with his trademark laugh has become a media icon.

Why was I, a Christian chaplain, at these events? Am I becoming some sort of Buddhist Christian? Would that be the way for me to respect the faith of the Dalai Lama or for him to respect mine? He doesn't advocate a mono-world religion, nor does he push for conversion to Buddhism. His message is modest and straightforward: Act from the heart out of compassion for others; respect and celebrate the richness and diversity of world cultures and religions; protect human rights, animal rights, and the environment; be a peacemaker by ending the wars within our own divided hearts and minds.

This is a message that many Christians could already affirm; Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu people might well respond, "We teach this already." What is outstanding about the

Dalai Lama is that he talks about these ways of wisdom, peace, and love in the midst of a life-and-death struggle for the present and future survival of his people. The lessons he has learned from experiencing with them the ongoing tragedies of violence, suffering, death, loss, and exile are that living is about flourishing in the midst of adversity.

The Dalai Lama entered the Brandeis auditorium from the rear, walking down the aisles greeting people individually — unhurried but in a steady movement toward the stage where a huge yellow sun served as the backdrop and fresh flowers were piled high enough to hide the podium.

He is not talking about individualism but about the dynamic nature of each person's impact when acting from the heart. Together with others the sum total benefits us personally, as well as the welfare of our communities and environment.

The Dalai Lama began by saying, "I am human, just like you are: I hope you won't be disappointed in me. I hope you are not expecting anything from me because I have nothing to give." He talked about personal responsibility, urging his listeners to grow in awareness of their capacities, the context in which they live, and the choices they make — personal, social, and political. He counseled wisdom to explore a wide landscape and choose a course of action carefully that will engage our creativity, not as competition but as cooperation. He cautioned that he is not talking about individualism but about the

dynamic nature of each person's impact when acting from the heart. Together with others, the sum total benefits us personally, as well as the welfare of our communities and environment.

The Dalai Lama warned against passivity, against succumbing to feelings of hopelessness, despair and powerlessness. Through what he said and what he has done, he transmitted empathy, energy, and inspiration. The problem today, he said, is one of attitude: We give up before we have taken the time to take seriously those deepest feelings and impulses that come from our hearts. When we give up we become fearful and defensive; when we are defensive we are close to anger and then we stand near the threshold of violence.

The big word that people associate with the Dalai Lama is compassion, what Christians, Jews, and Muslims associate with the words "love of neighbor." A key psychological and spiritual insight of an ethics of compassion is that in wise acts of care for others and for our environment, we find happiness, joy, and fulfillment. In one of the stories of Jesus, the difference between the Samaritan, the priest, and the Levite is that the Samaritan is at peace with his decision to act with compassion to help the man left for dead by the wayside, while the Levite and priest, though they may have achieved the goal of their journey, did so at the cost of being indifferent to helping someone in dire need. They cannot be joyful as long as this image of ignored responsibility is stored in their memories unresolved.

Not only does he encourage faith dialogues among religions as steps toward peace, but the Dalai Lama also encourages the sharing of our faith cultures, especially our sacred music. With the talent and diversity of MIT students, the respect and appreciation we are learning from each other, what could happen if some of us took dialogue seriously and shared intentionally?

The Dalai Lama claims he has nothing to offer us, but he reminds us that we have heaps to offer one another.

Constance Parvey is the Lutheran Chaplain of MIT.

Humanity, Not Nationalism

Anders Hove

"I think we do have something to offer humanity." Of all history's nationalist leaders, the Dalai Lama is by far the most modest.

Yet by the end of his presentation at Brandeis University Saturday, few among the 8,000-strong audience would have had any doubt that the preservation of Tibetan culture would represent a remarkable contribution to humanity.

The average American would have an easier time locating Tibet on a liberal's bumper than on a world map. So would an intellectual, for that matter, since Tibet hasn't been on the map since 1959. The growing "Free Tibet" movement strikes the average Joe as a hippie phenomenon — the product of Lollapalooza and pot-smoking yuppie kids. That's how it struck me too. Beyond wishing for the preservation of human rights, why should Americans care about a country the United States has few historic ties with, positive or negative?

After hearing the Dalai Lama speak, however, it is now clear to me that his philosophy — if not the movement itself — represents a liberationist vision on a Gandhian scale. The Dalai Lama is rapidly demonstrating that his style of charismatic yet non-violent leadership will ultimately take its place next to the visions of Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Gandhi himself.

The most depressing thing about the world's nationalist movements is their seemingly innate prejudice: We see Croats demanding freedom from the Serbs not because they value human rights, but because they value human rights for people of their own kind. When the tables are turned they prove themselves perfectly willing to commit the same wanton brutalities perpetrated against them. Ultimately the struggles of the Middle East, the Balkans, and the Great Lakes peoples of Africa have demonstrated more than anything the base and ghoulish forms sometimes taken by the human spirit.

But the Dalai Lama is more than just an advocate of non-violence because he wants more than just a righteous preservation of human rights. His is not a struggle for power, or even for people, but for spirit — and not just the spirit of Tibet, but the spirit of the world.

Indeed, the Dalai Lama devoted less than a third of his Brandeis speech to Tibet. The bulk was devoted to what he called "strategy." In his clipped, heavily-accented speech, the Dalai Lama delivered something more like a sermon than a political talk. The topic was personal responsibility and human happiness. How to obtain happiness? "Long-term strategy: compassion." Through individual acts of compassion toward others, each of us creates inner peace and reduces both interpersonal and psychological conflict.

Almost as important for the Dalai Lama is abolishing anger, the "short-term strategy." Anger is not so important for its effects as for its cause: disrespect for self. While anger may appear to be directed towards others, it ultimately strikes down joy among its bearers.

These are good ideas, to be sure. What is striking is that this is not a sermon. The subtext is that if enough individuals near and far are at peace with themselves and with one another, Tibet will be freed. Contrast this message with that of so many other nationalists who have called for action by other nations to free their peoples by economic, diplomatic, or military pressure. The Dalai Lama would have us free his people by individual action.

More inspiring by half, though, is the reason the Dalai Lama would have us work for a free Tibet. The reason is not that human rights have been violated, or that the freedom of all is the same as the freedom of one. The Dalai Lama's argument for a free Tibet is that our own culture — the culture of the world — can benefit from the preservation of Tibet's culture. What would it say about humanity if a people dedicated to compassion and the abolition of hatred were to disappear because of oppression and ignorance? If Tibet disappears, wither its philosophy of its inner peace?

Indeed, if any philosophy could represent humanity, I would want it to be this one.



Discomfort and Prejudice at a Charity Event

Guest Column
Terrance D. Harmon

Two weeks ago at Alpha Tau Omega's bachelor and bachelorette action a disturbing event that took place. I wrote a letter afterward and submitted it to *The Tech*, but pulled it when I began mediation with ATO. I have gone through two meetings with representatives of ATO requesting a public apology for what happened. We agreed that ATO will print a public apology and I would present my viewpoint as well. At this point, I am unsure whether their apology will address my grievances presented at the meetings. It is my hope that this column will present my case and establish a precedent of rebutting discrimination of all types.

At the bachelor and bachelorette action, I was asked to play a practical joke on the women's water polo coach who was to be auctioned off. The plan was to dress in drag and to buy the coach for a supposed night on the town. They would pay for my bid and I would only have to make sure I was the highest bid. Since I was cross-dressing that night for several parties, I accepted and played the joke on the unsuspecting coach.

Walking into Lobdell, I was looked at and laughed at. This was to be expected and gave me a bit of a rush. I was doing what many of them considered taboo. My appearance resembled a man dressed up in woman's clothing. My black dress, pantyhose, and jacket fit tightly over my male frame. My face was beautified by many cosmetics and a bit of glitter. And I had a huge puffy-haired wig that brought me much attention later that night.

In this slightly uncomfortable position, I managed to adjust to my situation and waited to buy the coach. The coach was announced and the bidding started at \$20. I raised my blue program to bid on the coach. This brought me more attention, the crowds excitement was voiced by a cacophony of gasps, laughs, snickers, and yells.

The auctioneer accepted my bids for the first few rounds. Then as the bidding was at the 140 dollar mark, an announcement was made saying that the bidder must be of the opposite sex of the bachelor. I was embarrassed by this announcement and sat for a few

minutes until a member of the water polo team urged me to bid again despite the announcement. I did. The auctioneer wanted to take my bid which would have raised the price of the water polo coach from 160 to 170 dollars. The auctioneer looked back for help in making his decision whether to accept my bid. The answer was no. Someone else bought the coach. As I scurried out of the auction, the team thanked me for my efforts and bid me farewell. But I was not happy.

The actions and mannerisms of the auctioneer told me that he had no idea of the opposite gender policy of the auction. In my

I would hope that I am wrong in accusing the MIT chapter of Alpha Tau Omega of being ignorant or prejudiced. I would hope that it was only one or a few members who made the decision without thinking their decision through.

estimation, the auctioneer thought the event was to raise money for charity, not to find the perfect date for the contestants. No publication for the event lists this same gender rule. Earlier that evening, several people witnessed a woman bidding on another woman and did nothing to modify the rules. The rule was created because I made them uncomfortable. But, what they did made me feel embarrassed and wronged.

As a gay man, I have had to fight discrimination on several fronts, and it is not an easy life to live. I will never give up in my search to find love and acceptance in a society where being gay is not viewed as something to be loved or accepted. And for others at that auction fighting similar battles in their lives, what

did such an action say to them? It said that ATO does not like or accept anyone like me: a man who likes men. And what about the vast majority of those on campus with same sex feelings who are not out of the closet. These people have same sex feelings, but do not want to tell anyone because of actions like this. There are many other people who face similar struggles, whether they are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

I think it is about time that ATO and others who may think like them woke up. MIT is a place where everyone should be accepted and treated with respect. Once we are admitted into the Institute we are a part of a collective that should not be fractured and divided by discrimination, and by policy we will not stand for those who do. MIT's nondiscrimination policy makes this clear:

"The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. The Institute does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, veteran status, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other Institute administered programs and activities, but may favor U.S. citizens or residents in admissions and financial aid."

I would hope that I am wrong in accusing the entire MIT chapter of Alpha Tau Omega of being ignorant or prejudiced. I would hope that it was only one or a few members who made the decision without much forethought and without thinking their decision through. But, if so or if not, I believe I am owed a public apology. Maybe, such an apology will open up some eyes and make people who are struggling with their sexuality feel a bit better about their predicament at MIT.

I also hope that the MIT community will wake up and see discrimination that occurs and rage against it. We have made much progress, but there is still more to be done to make MIT a place where discrimination is rare. Apathy will cause more misery in the long run. I make my first step to end my apathy with this column. When will you make yours?

Terrance D. Harmon is a member of the Class of 1999.

THE ARTS

CONCERT PREVIEW

Moxy Frivous

Those crazy Canadians once again descend on MIT

By Yaron Koren
STAFF REPORTER

This Friday, that wacky foursome from Ontario known as Moxy Frivous will once again play at MIT, bringing their unique mix of soaring vocal harmonies, solid musicianship, deadpan humor, and outspoken political views. I had the opportunity to speak on the phone with Mike Ford, a member of the band who, in addition to vocal duties, plays the guitar, harmonica, keyboard and drums. As would be expected with any Moxy Frivous interview, straight answers were hard to come by.

I started off by asking Ford about *Live Noise*, their new album coming out on May 19, which will contain recordings from various live shows. Here was his response: "*Live Noise*. You strap on the Frivous world, stick your head inside the universe of Frivous. It shoots into your ears and comes out your pores. It's digital perspiration."

How did the group decide to put out a live album? "People have always said that Frivous is all about the live experience," Ford said. "We want to do a favor to the people in all the seven continents, who shouldn't have to worry about getting all the way to our shows, because it's a long drive... We wanted to finally let the two worlds meet, live Frivous and studio Frivous." He called the new album "a summation of stuff we've done until now." He said that *Live Noise* will contain songs from all four of their studio albums, as well as unreleased material performed only at concerts and live songs that are substantially different from their recorded versions.

The band's next big project is an as-yet unspecified delve into musical theater. "We worked quite a bit on musical theater side projects in our early days before Frivous got its start," Ford said. "The possibility has always been alluring... We're once again spending a large amount of time on that burner, and now we're throwing in some big chunks of meat and meat-substitute. Maybe the entrée will come sooner than we think."

When pressed for more detail about the project, Ford responded glibly, saying that one

idea they had developed, which was later unfortunately scrapped by producers, was "Volkswagen!" — a history of the great car from its origins in the Third Reich all the way up to its present state as a placebo for guilt-ridden yuppies." He insisted that they had not yet formulated a specific plot: "Right now we're more just getting our sea legs for such a project, getting our juices running."

I asked Ford how the band felt about their substantial following in the MIT community, and being labeled as 'geek rock.' "We're muscling up," he said. "Geek rock doesn't pay enough. We're getting contact lenses, and spending a couple of hours in the gym each day to beef up. We've also started beating up on each other." When asked about the inevitable comparisons to other quirky bands such as They Might Be Giants and Ben Folds Five, Ford said he was pleased that people made these connections: "They Might Be Giants have an incredible history, and we've been big fans of theirs for a long time. Ben Folds Five are also an incredible band. There's nothing geeky about either one... that music got meat on it."

He called the show they performed at MIT last year "literally one of the best shows we've had in a long time." He then revealed the big news: a section of that show will be featured in the live album. Included in this section is the band reading out a letter to the crowd that they got before the concert, from "Institute Professor Jack Florey," thanking them for their music on behalf of various MIT departments.

Curious about the extent of their eclecticism, I listed for Ford several musical genres which the band has not yet covered in their recorded output, trying to find any that the band would refuse to play. In response to my listing of blues, gangsta rap and heavy metal, he claimed that Moxy Frivous have already written and played songs in all of these styles, but that it has all gone "unreleased." I finally found a genre which the group considers off-limits: electronica. "No, no way" was his response, and he seemed to suggest that the band considers electronica mindless and



Moxy Frivous — Murray Foster, David Matheson, Jian Ghomeshi, Mike Ford (left to right) — will perform in La Sala de Puerto Rico on May 15.

vapid. "We're waiting for that computer program to come out where we press a button and feed in our music and out comes the techno version," he said.

I asked Ford if the group has mellowed politically in recent years, as evidenced by the lack of real political commentary on their last album, *You Will Go To the Moon*. Ford denied this wholeheartedly: "We do quite a few political musical things, and the order they come in isn't necessarily reflected in the way they come out [in the albums]." He mentioned one of their latest projects, a song called "Today's the Day That We Fight Back." That song, and the short movie they made to accompany it, was a protest against the Mike Harris government in Ontario, which Ford described as "a very pure form of Thatcherism, and it's ruining most of the things that we were proud of [about Ontario] in a very short period of time."

Their approach to singing about politics

"depends on how ephemeral, or how eternal, the issue is that's being sung about... We're always trying to be thought-provoking," he said. "Only listing the things you hate, it's good cathartically, but it doesn't provoke much thought. We're trying to write songs that are questions."

The question on everyone's mind had to be asked. The band's favorite Spice Girl? "Uh, Ringo Spice. Actually, Talented Spice. They kicked her out because she was too good."

When he heard that Honest Bob and the Factory Showroom would once again be the opening act for their show, Ford said to tell everyone to "make sure you're there good and early for Honest Bob, because it's music to roll up your sleeves to." He said the band was "very excited about once again being in the hallowed halls." "It'll be a 'feel-good Friday,'" he said. "Bring the kids. But leave them in the car. With the window open a centimeter."

PLAY REVIEW

Playwrights in Performance

Student plays explore chaos and order

By Yaron Koren
STAFF REPORTER

The three plays presented in last weekend's Playwrights in Performance festival covered a range of settings and styles. Yet, whether by design or by coincidence, all three explored similar themes: the struggle between chaos and order, and the inevitable change that the passage of time brings.

The first play on the bill, *home*, by Katherine Varn '98, laid this theme out the most transparently: George and Maureen, a 70-ish couple (Fernando Paiz '98 and Ann-Marie White G), caught in that vaguely-defined but terrifying period between middle age and seniority, struggle valiantly to maintain a semblance of a normal life after weakened legs force George into a nursing home. Maureen offers her support, but is quick to dispel George's delusions that the future will be no different. The title provides the tragic irony at the heart of the play: although George's new residence is called a home, it is of course anything but. Paiz was endearing as the aging, self-deluded man, an older Willy Loman.

Next up was *Heels Over Head*, by Vladimir Zelevinsky G, which was structurally the most ambitious of the plays. It told of a love affair in three scenes, going in chronologically reverse order. As Alex (Brett Taylor G), a filmmaker, explains it, love in real life occurs in the exact opposite direction of how it should: the boredom and desperation should come first, followed only later by the intense romantic spark. Thus we first see Ellen (Lin-Ann Ching '98) leaving Alex, fighting back tears, then a period of relative domestic tranquility, and finally their ecstatic first kiss. This structure provides the framework for varied musings on the conflict between idealism and cynicism; the battle between art, which is always fresh and timeless, and real life, which is governed by an irrefutable slide into entropy, both physical and emotional. Despite

the intriguing subject matter, *Heels Over Head* was somewhat marred by heavy-handedness and preciousness in getting its point across, as well as a (necessarily) schematic structure. Nevertheless, the cast brought believability to the script; Ching was especially solid through the spectrum of emotional changes that the play required.

The most complex, and most vital, of the plays was the third one, *Brotherhood*, by Joel Rosenberg '99. The play took a rather obvious comic target, irresponsible frat brothers, and became something more along the way: a serious examination of the struggle to reach personal maturity in a setting, a college fraternity, that frequently rewards only the most immature. Scout (Matt Norwood '99) is somewhat of a leader in the house, but he's profoundly insensitive to his girlfriend, Jackie (Jacqueline Kirtley G) without even realizing it. Token (Albert Fischer G) is a nice guy who speaks about the ideals of fraternity life even while he finds himself becoming disillusioned by it. Crack (Ira Gerhardt '99), a senior, is the biggest jerk by far, a drunken, infantile fool who enjoys hazing pledges and insulting women. In any other setting, he would be recognized immediately for the loser he is. Here he is in his element, and he gets respect. At some point the mindless bantering devolves into an argument, and when one of the fraternity pledges (Thomas Cork '00) enters the scene, it become nothing less than a struggle for his soul: Crack wants the pledge to drink himself into a stupor, and the other two want him to learn to think for himself. The play kept from devolving into tired *Lord of the Flies* territory by virtue of the sharp, often hilarious dialogue, and the efforts of the strong cast, who didn't hit a false note between them. *Brotherhood* was deliberately ambiguous about how much any of these people, even the seemingly responsible ones, can be trusted to do the right thing. I asked many more questions than it could answer, and this was as it should be.



RICH FLETCHER—THE TECH

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Professor Media of Arts and Sciences Tod Machover presented their latest collaborative project at a special lecture at the Media Laboratory April 30th. The focus of the new initiative is to design more natural, less electronic musical instruments and tools which children can use to express themselves and to develop a deeper affinity for music.

MOVIE REVIEW

Deep Impact

Shallow characters, so-so effects barely cause a ripple

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Mimi Leder

Written by Michael Tolkin Bruce Rubin

Starring Tea Leoni, Robert Duvall, Elijah Wood, Morgan Freeman

The summer is here, ladies and gentlemen! In the next three months, we'll be crunched by giant mutant lizards (*Godzilla*), mystified by agents Scully and Mulder (*The X-Files*), amused by Eddie Murphy (*Dr. Doolittle*) and Jim Carrey (*The Truman Show*), blown away by Harrison Ford (*6 Days, 7 Nights*) and Mel Gibson (*Lethal Weapon 4* and *Payback*). We'll also be bombarded by comets — not one, but two. *Armageddon*, from the coherency-challenged director of *The Rock*, is coming in July; the first movie, *Deep Impact*, from the combined efforts of Paramount and DreamWorks (with none other than Steven Spielberg as executive producer), has *ER* director Mimi Leder at the helm. It's a disaster movie, in both meanings.

The story is about a huge comet discovered to be on a direct collision course for the Earth, which humanity tries to stop — and that's about it. The bulk of the two-hour running time is devoted to strained and highly misguided attempts to develop half a dozen characters. These attempts are half-hearted at best, and most of them fail. The lack of subtlety is staggering; there are characters who, with straight face, deliver lines like "I resent my father because he divorced my mother." What's more amazing is that none of the character development matters. *Deep Impact*, at heart, is nothing more than a straightforward special-effects extravaganza, where the audience comes to see amazing scenes of global destruction. Character development in such movies should follow the maxim "Do it well or not at all."

Either because the bulk of the running time

is wasted, or because the film was reportedly done on a (relatively) limited budget, the special effects themselves are very limited; in the whole movie, there are only two sequences. One involves a spacecraft flying to the comet itself, trying to blow it apart with nuclear charges, and is really nothing special. The

second sequence, however, is truly amazing. When a chunk of a comet falls into Atlantic ocean, the huge tidal wave caused by the impact is absolutely incredible. The sight of a huge wave rushing across the ocean, reaching the coast, and obliterating New York City, with the skyscrapers falling like the dominoes, is startling. The only thing that somewhat limits the enjoyment is that we've seen such a sequence before: Instead of a wave of water, there was a wall of fire in *Independence Day*.

This very much highlights *Deep Impact's* problem — in a nutshell, it's similar to, but not as good as, *Independence Day* (even despite

the mediocrity of the latter). A couple of shots are taken directly from *Independence Day*, and the sheer lack of originality is very much disheartening. Also, the movie teases the audience with many unfulfilled promises — after a lot of time talking about the Ark, a huge subterranean complex of caves to ensure humanity's survival, we're never even shown it. The massive attack on the comet with the Earth-launched tactical missiles is never shown either.

Deep Impact ends up being two hours of boredom leading to two minutes of not-very-original special effects. Not a very promising start of the summer, if you ask me.



Members of the MIT Chamber Music Society perform Johannes Brahms's String Sixtet No. 1 in B flat Major, Op. 18 last Sunday in Killian Hall.

COMEDY REVIEW

Plush Daddy Fly

MIT's newest comedy troupe starts off right

By Joel Rosenberg

ARTS EDITOR

As the campus begins to remoisten, the results of prolonged prohibition are beginning to rear their ugly head. Or not so ugly, as in the case of the new MIT comedy troupe Plush Daddy Fly, who debuted to a filled 54-100 on Saturday night.

In one of the most remarkable advertising campaigns I've seen at this school, Plush Daddy Fly made their name known using everything from creative photographs of the group to edited video of a crazed Little Richard that played in a continuous loop in the student center on Friday. And their efforts paid off, evidenced by a strong turnout. The message on the board of their theater invited guests to boogie in the aisles if they wanted to.

The thing about comedy at MIT is that our reality is screwed up. Everyone has made a computer joke at some point. Everyone. So the idea of a

comedy troupe brings thoughts of inside jokes galore. But Plush Daddy Fly managed to take the higher and mightier route and wrote genuinely funny stuff. It was quite impressive.

Cue cards on the side of the stage announced each skit, and first up was "Bus Stop," a Stomp-esque parody of "Rent", as far as I could tell. It set the tone nicely for the introductory "Instructions for Viewing," mimed by comedy attendants being prompted by a voice-over, who explained for the audience's safety what to do in the event of a joke emergency. Luckily, there ended up being only a few.

"Retirement" was a smart take on Satan's search for a replacement, and "Monkey" showed the cruelty of animal testing by having George Michael mesmerize a researcher into inadvertently switching places with his subject.

In "Female Emergency," The Tampon Avenger and The Maxi-Pad Man have a showdown worthy of dust bowls and spittoons. And "Discovery" pays homage to Stanley Kubrick's epic *2001*, capturing the essence of man's knowledge into self in a dramatic scene that causes the taste referee to yellow card our brave explorer.

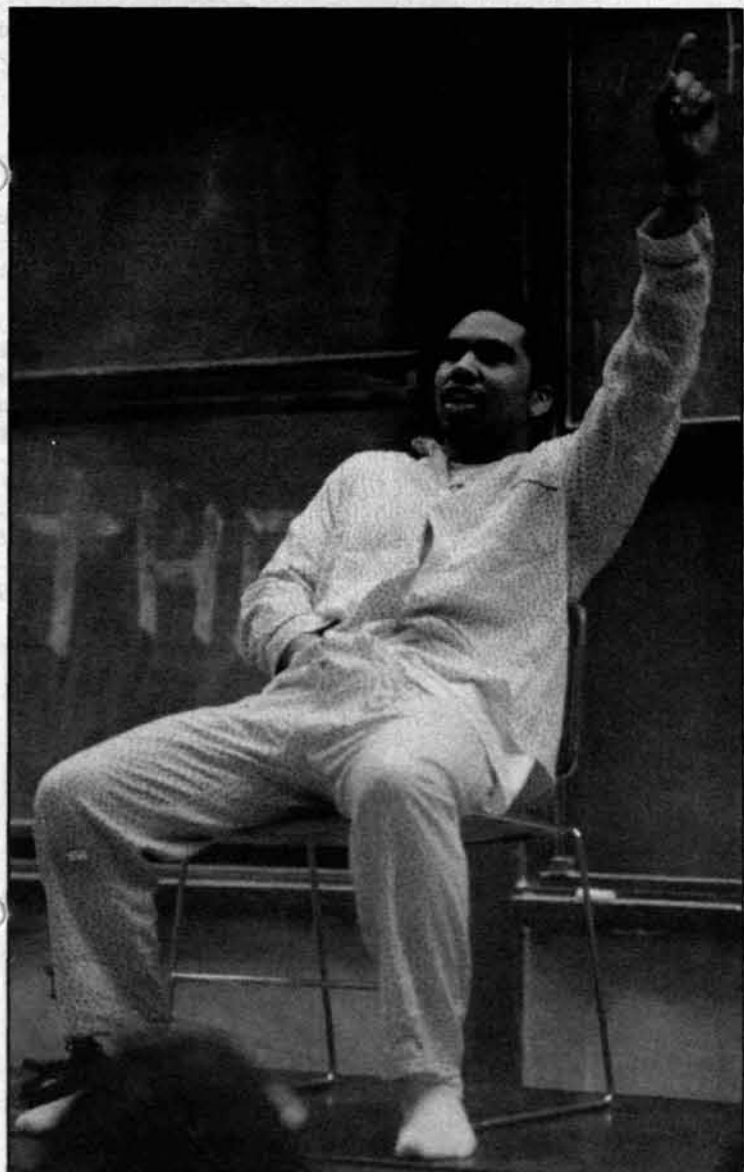
"Mr. Roy," a monologue by Rob

Mercato G, didn't hit quite as well as he might have hoped. It reminded me of a Pauly Shore monologue.

The scattered "Misfit Ninjas" throughout the night made for a cute, if easy, running gag. "Joanie's Kitchen" was an observational piece about that awesome luncheonette up Mass. Ave. often populated by construction workers from University Park. It demonstrated a certain respect for them, even though they were the butt of the joke.

The closing skit was "Rap Institute of Boston," a play on cultural black and white stereotypes. A mix of Vanilla Ice devotees and Carlton from *The Fresh Prince* are enrolled at the soul-inducing, body grooving institute, being displayed in an infomercial selling the art of "bustin" — not "busting" — rhymes. It was a strong finish to a strong debut.

Plush Daddy Fly started with Jeremy Lueck '99 and Marcato, who got a few people together, did AEPi Live, and then finished casting the troupe. Jamie Morgan '98, Lee Knight '00, Megan McNamee, Shaka Thornhill '99, Rick Thompkins '98, Ben Davis '99, and Ray Molnar '00 comprised the impressive cast, none of whom really missed a beat the whole night. So the publicity paid off, the audience left satisfied.



REBECCA LOH—THE TECH

Richard S. Thompkins '98 makes a personal discovery last Saturday at the premiere performance of Plush Daddy Fly, a sketch comedy group.

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New Division Will Offer an SM In Bioengineering, Toxicology

By Elaine Wan
STAFF REPORTER

A new division of bioengineering and environmental sciences within the School of Engineering

plans to begin offering Master of Science degrees in Bioengineering and Toxicology.

The new division, to be inaugurated in July, is a response to

increasing student demand. "MIT student interest in educational opportunities combining biology and engineering, at both undergraduate and graduate levels, has soared in recent years," said Professor Roger Kamm, curriculum committee chair of the biomedical engineering minor.

While the division will not offer a Bachelor's degree program, it is planning to offer a five-year combined SB/SM. A student would earn an SB degree in any discipline and an SM degree in Bioengineering or Toxicology.

A PhD program in bioengineering, analogous to the current program in toxicology, is being planned for Fall 1999, said Professor of Chemical Engineering Douglas A. Lauffenburger, director of the Center for Biomedical Engineering.

Lauffenburger and Professor of Toxicology Steven R. Tannenbaum will be co-directors of the new division.

Division links disciplines

The new division combines the disciplines of engineering, biology, and pharmacology.

"The new division will prepare students to explore fundamental issues underlying technologies affecting human health," Lauffenburger said.

The degree programs will place emphasis on developing new curricula in areas where engineering and biology intersect, including toxicology and pharmacology, while maintaining strong connections to a core departmental discipline.

The division will examine problems "from both medical and environmental perspectives, as well as biology-based technologies unrelated to human health," Lauffenburger said.

The division will be comprised primarily of faculty committing their time and efforts equally between a core department and the new division.

There are several research programs being directed by faculty in the new division, including new programs focusing on molecular design of therapeutics and biomaterials, cell culture biotechnology and tissue engineering, and computational biology.

Students demonstrate interest

Students looking for opportunities in biomedical engineering currently also find an outlet in the Biomedical Engineering Society, affiliated with the Center for Biomedical Engineering.

"Many students in BMES who are enrolled in the minor would be enthusiastic about the five year Master's Program. I think this is an opportunity we've all been looking for," said Sara J. Godding '99, president of the group.

The group recently made a company tour to the Boston Scientific

Biomedical, Page 9

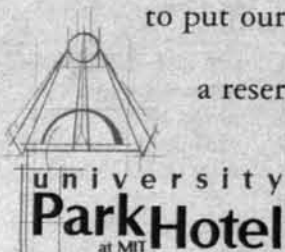
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UA, GSC Allocate Funding Using Old Budget Estimates

Funding, from Page 1

said. "We'll come up with some percentages that are fair and equitable," Carter said.

Funding boards use old budgets

Undergraduate activities submitted their requests for funding to the UA Finance Board May 1. The

board will allocate funds at last year's levels, Carter said. "They didn't [take into account] any increase," he said. "After it's been cleared up what funds will go where" another funding board meeting will probably be called to allocate the additional funds.

Carter called the decision "the only logical decision that could be made without delaying funding

decisions." He noted that many groups plan to begin the year with a certain amount of funds and that delaying allocations until the percentages had been determined might prove disastrous for some groups. "We didn't want an increase in funding to make things worse," he said.

The GSC planned out this summer's budget using last year's allo-

cation, so very little will change for the moment, Schneider said. Decisions about the fall budget will come later, he said. But "we won't allocate any money until we know we have it," he added.

Carter hoped that the final decisions about how to allocate the new funds would be made by the end of the academic year. "Hopefully we'll know as early as June, or ear-

lier" what the percentages will look like, he said. "My view is we'll keep things moving along and get things in place for the fall," Williams said.

The funding increase "puts us in the ballpark of our peers," Carter said. "The goal is to keep trudging down the road to see if we can get something on the order of \$500,000 for the year."

Biomedical Opportunities Expand from Minor, Club

Biomedical, from Page 8

Corporation. "The tour gave students the opportunity to learn more about BSC and it gave BSC executives the opportunity to meet potential employees. We plan to arrange more company tours next year," Godding said.

Twenty students were invited to the tour and greeted by BSC's founder. Jay Lulla '97, who went on the tour, said "as someone who is interested in the biomedical industry, it was nice to see the attention that goes into producing medical products. It was an added bonus to hear the founder give perspective on the industry as a whole and how it fits into the field of medicine."

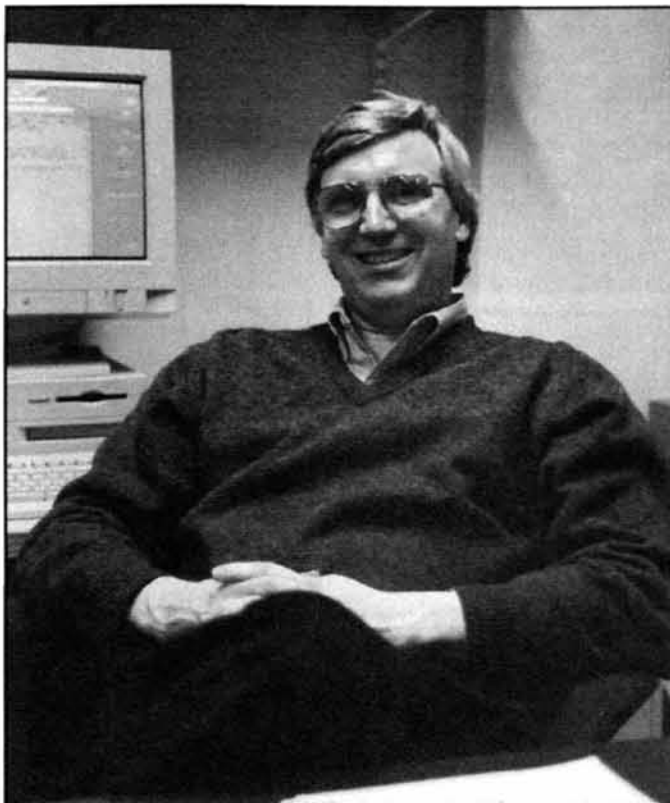
Students will continue to play a role in the development of the new division. "Student input is essential in helping develop an exciting and user-friendly program," Kamm said.

Existing minor spawns division

An minor program in Biomedical Engineering already exists at the undergraduate level. The program, founded in 1993, was MIT's first interdepartmental minor degree.

Many of these faculty were undergraduate advisers in their departments and saw the need for a unified, interdepartmental program in biomedical engineering.

The program was approved by a vote of the full MIT faculty in April, 1995. The minor is currently administered by the Center for Biomedical



CHUN HUA ZHENG—THE TECH

Professor of Chemical Engineering Douglas A. Lauffenburger will be the co-director of the new division of bioengineering and environmental sciences, which will be launched in July.

Engineering and open to students in all majors. An analogous minor in Environmental Health is in the early planning stages.



CHUN HUA ZHENG—THE TECH

Gamelan Galak Tika presents: An Evening in Bali

Bettina Kimpton (left) dances "Taruna Jaya" (Victorious Youth)

Aaron Woolsey and Evan Ziporyn (below) perform "Jagra Parwata" (Mountain Awakening) on kendang

Santi Gularso (above) dances "Oleg Tambulilingan" (Bumblebees)



by JESSICA WU

MIT STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP SECTION 156

HOW IS EVERYONE DOING TODAY?

SIGH... UH... GRR...

WE HAVE A NEW MEMBER WITH US TODAY

HI... I'M ALBERT... AND I'M AN MIT STUDENT...

HI, ALBERT

HEY, HOW DO YOUR GLASSES STAY ON YOUR FACE?

SO I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO MY ADVISOR ABOUT IT YET...

BUT I THINK IT'S MY OWN DECISION AND I SHOULD DO WHAT I WANT.

I MEAN, STANFORD IS A GOOD SCHOOL TOO. BUT ALL MY FRIENDS ARE HERE AT MIT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

DON'T WORRY MAN, WE'LL EMAIL YOU

LUCKY...

GOOD FOR YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S OK, MAN.

WILL ALBERT TRANSFER TO THE SUNNY AND DRY WEST COAST??

STAY TUNED!!

RHINO MAN

THE STORY: Through the media, the Yakuza (Japanese mafia) had planted stories of assault, robbery, and extortion which destroyed Rhino-Man's reputation and drove his girlfriend to suicide. When meeting them (ostensibly to cut a deal), Rhino-Man got his revenge by starting a fire that took all of their lives.

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The End

by Zachary Emig '98

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

Off Course

by Hugo

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 R H E
**T H E T E C H
 C O M I C S**

Layout by Saul Blumenthal

WE'RE REPORTING LIVE FROM CAMBRIDGE WHERE A STUDENT WAS PULLED FROM THE CHARLES AFTER BEING STRUCK BY A CREW SHELL

HE WAS TRANSPORTED BY AMBULANCE TO MASS GENERAL WHERE HE REMAINS UNDER OBSERVATION

SOURCES CLOSE TO THE STUDENT SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN TROUBLED BY THE BREAK-UP OF A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP

LATER, AT THE HOSPITAL... I LOST ALL MY HAIR

I WAS CHASED BY DEKES FOR TRYING TO STEAL FLOWERS FOR MARCY

WRITING AREA

I WAS THROWN IN THE RIVER AND THEN STRUCK BY A CREW SHELL

NO FURTHER HUMILIATION CAN BEFALL ME NOW

PLEASE TAKE OFF ALL OF YOUR CLOTHES AND PUT THIS ON

LATER

CHIP? MARCY!

THE NURSE SAID THAT YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM A MILD CONCUSSION

BUT THAT YOUR GREATER AILMENT IS THAT OF A BROKEN HEART

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HOW TO FIX THE BUMP IN YOUR HEAD

BUT I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA HOW TO CURE YOUR BROKEN HEART

HUGO

Turn the page for more full color comics

PERHAPS...

by JENNIFER DINASE

Ooooooh...

Wow! LOOK AT 'EM GO!

WHAT WAS THAT?

WHO CARES! WE'RE HERE!

HEY! SOME OF THEM ARE STILL IN THERE!

COME ON, YOU STUPID PEOPLE!! WHY WON'T YOU LEAVE?!

SNIFF WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT SMELL??

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

JUST ONE MORE GAME OF NETREK...

RED MEAT

touched by an anvil

from the secret files of
MAX CANNON

I took my grandmother to the park today, 'cause she likes to go feed the pigeons.



She fed them pigeons for awhile, but I took her home after I seen that them birds started squirtin' out white foam.



I don't know what pigeons usually eat, but I'm pretty sure it ain't alka seltzer.



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RED MEATthe doleful mewling of
freshly-weened wussiesfrom the secret files of
MAX CANNON

One winter, while my brother and I were out hiking, we found a dead clown under a pile of old tarpaper. We thought it might be the same dead clown we'd found the summer before, but it was so shriveled up, we couldn't tell.



Then I remembered that the clown we found in the summer had a tattoo of a rose on his left arm. When I lifted up the arm to look, it snapped off like an old dried-up tree branch.



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We broke off the other arm and both of the legs and stacked them off to the side. Then we found a piece of cardboard and made a sign that said: "BUILD YOUR OWN CLOWN"



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The Institute for Genomics
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MOLECULAR: PROTEASES

Chair: Dianne Kenney, Ph.D., Director of
Scientific Operations and Vice President,
Center for Blood Research

Role of Caspases and Inflammation and Apoptosis

Winnie Wong, Ph.D., BASF Bioresearch Group

Proteosomes and the Biology of Cancer

Julian Adams, Ph.D., Proscript, Inc.

Membrane-Bound and Soluble Proteases in the Mechanism of Alzheimer's Disease

Dennis Selkoe, M.D., Harvard Medical School

FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS: PROTEOMICS AND T-CELLS

Chair: Steven Clark, Ph.D., Senior Vice
President, Discovery Research,
Genetics Institute, Inc.

Proteomics

James Vath, Ph.D.,
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Disease Gene Expression Profiling

Todd Golub, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School

Cloning, Expression, and Functional Analysis on Secreted Proteins

John McCoy, Ph.D., Genetics Institute, Inc.

CELLULAR/TISSUE: EMBRYONIC INDUCING FACTORS

Chair: Tom Ingolia, Ph.D.,
Chief Operating Officer, Ontogeny, Inc.

BMP 12 in Tendon Repair

Gary Hattersley, Ph.D., Genetics Institute, Inc.

Role of Hedgehog Proteins in Tissue Repair

David Israel, Ph.D., Ontogeny, Inc.

Inducing Molecules in Bone Development

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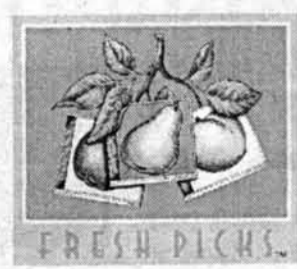
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Harold J. Pettegrove Award	Everett Moore Baker Memorial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
Pewter Bowl Award	Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching
Admiral Edward L. Cochrane Award	Arthur C. Smith Award
Betsy Schumacker Award	Kristen E. Finnegan Prize
Howard W. Johnson Award	Albert G. Hill Prize
Malcolm G. Kispert Awards	Laya W. Wiesner Award
James R. Killian, Jr. Community Service Award	Ronald E. McNair Scholarship Award
Order of Omega New Member Education Award	Association of MIT Alumnae Award
Reid Weedon '41 Alumni Relations Award	Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts
Frederick Gardiner Fassett, Jr. Awards	Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Awards
Edward L. Horton Fellowship Award	Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts
Irwin Sizer Award for the Most Significant Improvement in MIT Education	Priscilla King Gray Award for Public Service
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Information

Summer Physical Education Classes: Registration begins Tuesday, May 26 in the Physical Education Office located on the second floor of duPont Athletic Center W32-125. Activities offered include: Early Bird Aerobics, Step Aerobics, Exercise Fitness, Body Sculpting, Sailing, Scuba, Swimming, Tennis, Yoga. Classes are open to all members of the MIT community for a modest fee. For more information, call the P.E. Office at 253-4291.

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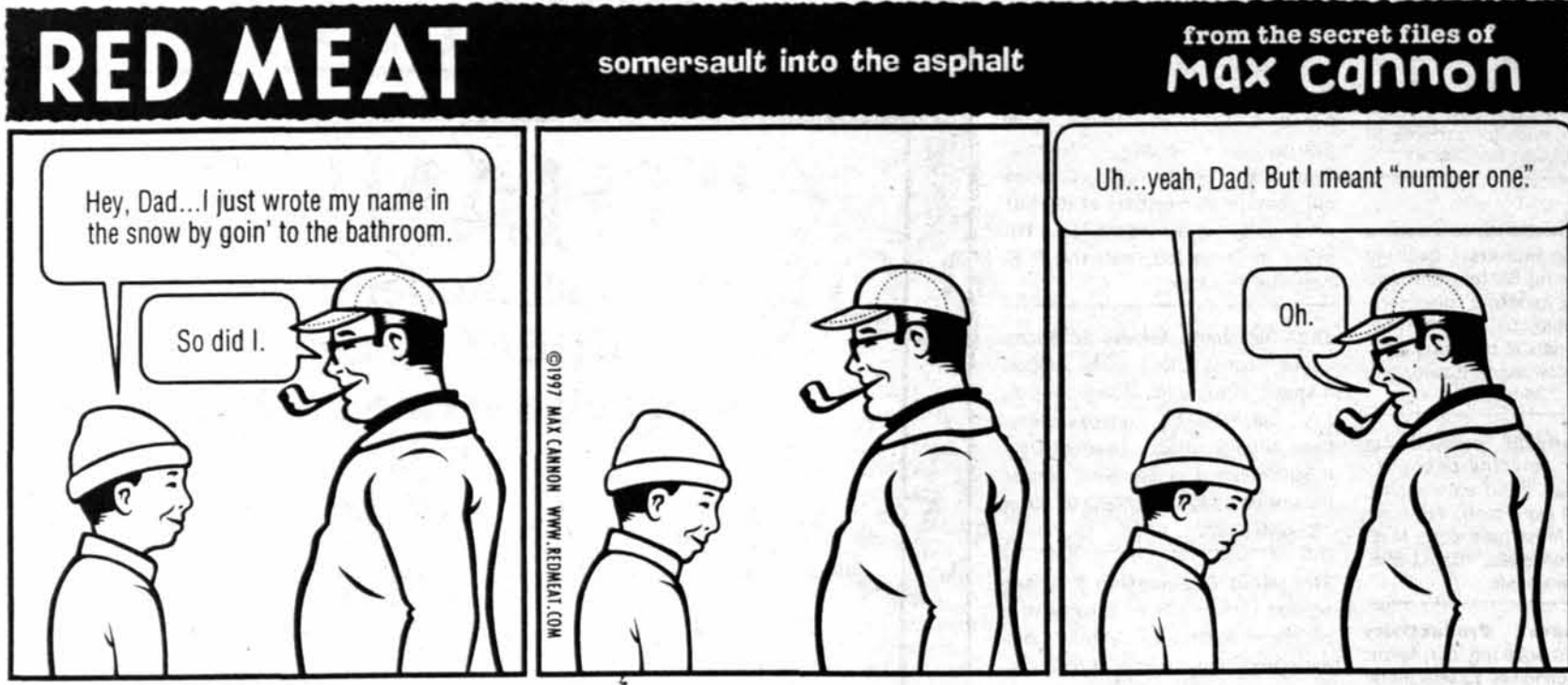
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\$50K Competition Aims to Foster Alumni Networks

\$50K, from Page 1

who absolutely insisted that he or she must remain anonymous, there is a full first prize for each of the two contestants," he said.

Competition builds process

The \$50K Competition hopes to achieve more than just a successful contest. "The judges take [the \$50K motto] of creating tomorrow's leading firms to heart. We want to encourage firms that, looking back ten years from now, would have either revolutionized the industry or become really viable," Shepard said.

This year's competition aimed to build the alumni network and establish the Institute as a leader in entrepreneurship. In March, the organizing team hosted the first-ever alumni reunion and \$50K global startup workshop.

The final awards ceremony last Thursday demonstrated the strength of the MIT alumni network, which an *Inc. Magazine* article called the "MIT mafia." The three announcers had all been through the process themselves once and were willing to act as role models for this year's contestants.

Krisztina Holly '89 and Michael P. Cassidy '85 won the competition back when the prize was the \$10K in 1991 with Stylus Innovations, which was sold in 1996 for \$12.8 million. She announced that they will give back the \$10K to this year's first runner-up.

Ronjon Nag SM '91, a general manager of the Motorola Lexicus Division, was also a 1991 participant. His company, Lexicus, was acquired by Motorola, and Nag became "the fastest MIT alumni to make it to the cover of Fortune Magazine after graduation."

The third winner announcer was David T. Morgenthaler '40 of Morgenthaler Ventures. He was the recipient of the National Venture Capitalist Association Lifetime Achievement Award. He and his wife have been key sponsors of the \$50K program for five years.

"Today, people are really thinking entrepreneurially, which is a relatively new concept," Porter said.

"There's a great deal of capital available to support such endeavors. I think it's great for Americans and mankind in general to have that kind of opportunity."

VCC shocked by victory

"We're just completely shocked. We are a non-profit organization," said the members of the Volunteer Community Connection upon winning the \$30,000 grand prize. They have a unique presence in this year's \$50K, being the only non-profit organization among the finalists, and one of two such teams in the entire competition.

When "we made it to the finals, we realized that they weren't going to exclude us on the basis that we're non-profit," said VCC's Director of Business Development, Jonathan Allen '96.

"It's just amazing that they actually considered a non-profit plan," said Richard Sanford '96, VCC's Director of Agency Services.

VCC matches volunteers with non-profit organizations based on the volunteers' interests and concerns. By developing an online search engine, VCC hopes to provide opportunities for an estimated 1.25 million American volunteers and a 95 percent savings on recruitment mailings for non-profit agencies.

Other members of VCC include Michael Bryzek '99, director sales and marketing, Oumi Mehrotra, chief technology officer, Emily Sandberg, director of the MIT Public Service Center, and Mark Y. Sun '00, volunteer coordinator.

Direct Hit to donate prize money

Direct Hit, the co-grand prize winner, provides a patent-pending software that will "increase search engine performance by 300 to 1,000 percent." The product ranks search results based on what people who used similar queries actually chose to give more targeted search results.

Gary Cullis, inventor of the idea, is a 3rd year Harvard Law School student specializing in patent law. "It's a simple idea that got its genesis in the capital market the way stock prices are set based on the buying and selling equity of people



Michael M. Bryzek '98 (center), founder of Volunteer Community Connection, speaks with MIT Corporation Chairman Alexander V. d'Arbeloff '49 (right), at the Deans' reception prior to the MIT \$50K final awards ceremony Thursday night. Bryzek was one of the \$50K co-grand prize winners.

accessing the market," Cullis said. "You can view us kind of like a market confirmation, where people accessing these search engines basically determine their own [relevancy] ranking."

Cassidy will act as the CEO of Direct Hit. "This is entrepreneurship, it's capitalism... I love it. People go in, work hard, and get rewarded for it. The competition just speeds everything up," he said.

Steven Yang G created the prototype for Direct Hit and may postpone obtaining his Master of Engineering degree because he won the competition. "All my plans have changed," he said, "it's the greatest opportunity of my life to date."

Upon being announced the winner, Cassidy declared that Direct Hit will donate its \$30,000 prize to the other finalists. The company has already raised \$1.3 million in venture money, so "I think it's the right thing to do to let the other people have the prize money so they can get started just like [Stylus Innovations] did eight years ago," Cassidy said.

This year's \$50K runner-up, Carsoft is headed by Chief Executive Officer Charles Myers G, Chief Technology Officer Diego Borrego G, and Chief Operations Officer Morten Gunnarshaug G.

Carsoft designs and manufactures software automotive diagnostic tools with the slogan, "software that lets you know what your car is thinking." This information is in the same format as those used by car

mechanics today. "Consumers have the ability to do their own estimates on their car" before they take it to maintenance or repair, Gunnarshaug said.

Winning the \$10,000 cash prize "has given us a great experience, great contact, and it will be a very good record when we start the company," Gunnarshaug said. Developers are currently working on the prototype of this new product.

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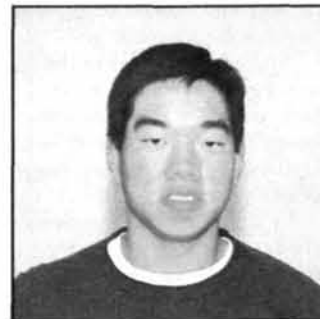
Robin Evans '99 competes in the 4x800 meter relay last Saturday at Tufts University.

AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

Athletes of the Week

This week's athletes are Eric Chen '00 and Lila French '00. Chen recently beat the top ranked Division III tennis player in the country and qualified for the NCAA national tournament in singles and doubles, which will be held next week. French became the first MIT woman to win a New England Division III outdoor track and field individual event, when she captured the pole vault in the recent championship meet. French vaulted 2.89 meters (9'5") to set a women's course record at Connecticut College.

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



Eric Chen '00
Men's Tennis

Age: 18

Major: Economics

Hometown: Topeka, Kan.

Years participating in sport: 11

Most memorable moment:

Hanging out at Coco de Nuts during our spring break trip to Puerto Rico

Future plans: To become a lawyer and enjoy life

"The most important thing is to compete and have fun out there."



Lila French '99
Track and Field

Age: 21

Major: Computer Science

Hometown: Metairie, La.

Years playing sport: 2

Most memorable moment:

setting a one-and-a-half foot personal record at the New England Division III Championship last year

Future plans: 12'+, baby!

"I love pain."

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Congratulations to the following newly inducted members of Eta Kappa Nu

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Eladio Arvelo
Lijin Aryananda
Eralp Atmaca
Smriti Banthia
Kathryn F. Benedicto
Hristo Bojinov
Lyudmila Borodavkina
Jeffrey S. Brown
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Cheng Cheng
Ada H. Cheung
Dwayne Clarke
Matthew Debski
Mitali Dhar
Anjali Dhond
David DiFranco
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Joseph George
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Hisham Hasan
Tracey C. Ho
John Holmes
Kai-Yuh Hsiao
Kyle Ingols

Joseph Irineo
Damian Isla
Valencia Joyner
Peter Ju
Manolis Kamvysselis
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