

President Bill Clinton and Dr. David D. Ho confer during the 132nd Commencement exercises held last Friday.

## Ho, Clinton Praise Research During 132nd Commencement

By Susan Buchman  
STAFF REPORTER

One of the longest Commencement exercises in history went off without any major hitches as the largest audience ever was treated to speeches from President Bill Clinton and celebrated researcher Dr. David D. Ho last Friday in Killian Court.

The 2,100 graduates receiving 1,049 undergraduate and 1,384 graduate degrees were treated to a sunny, cool day. An estimated 10,000 guests watched the ceremony, some arriving as early as 6:30 a.m. in order to pass through the stringent security required by the president's visit.

President Clinton arrived by helicopter on Briggs Field and met with senior administrators and student leaders prior to the ceremony. He entered Killian Court after the academic procession had been seated near 11 a.m.

Ho delivered the first keynote address in which he related his experiences in AIDS research to the audience as examples of the excitement and wonders that scientific research can bring. He also warned the graduates in science and engineering fields that they will be stereotyped, undervalued, and underpaid.

Ho also expressed concern over

"society's lack of commitment to research in basic science" and urged the audience to reject the "prevailing view that immigrants constitute a constant drain on our society."

Geoffrey J. Coram G, outgoing president of the Graduate Student Council, gave the salute from the graduate students. Coram spoke of the pressure of MIT, but then added "you would have been disappointed if MIT hadn't challenged you."

Coram expressed confidence that the graduates would be successful and "make MIT as proud to claim you as a graduate as you are of that diploma on your wall."

Salman A. Khan '98, president of the graduating class, presented President Vest with \$26,000 for the purpose of renovating the Student Center study lounge. Khan told his classmates, "It is no exaggeration to say that we will change the world."

President Vest's annual charge to the graduates was shortened significantly due to the presence of the two guest speakers. Vest told the audience that he had recently been called a model president by an MIT student, which delighted him "until I looked up model in the dictionary and saw that it is a small replica of the real thing."

He subsequently called upon the graduates to "keep moving" through their lives.

President Clinton, after labeling himself as "scientifically challenged," in comparison to Ho and the graduates present, outlined the technological and educational policies which he feels are essential to the growth of the United States. He focused on the desire for equal and adequate access to computer and the Internet for all. Clinton warned that a refusal to act soon to provide technological training to all would create a disparity of opportunity in the United States similar to those created by the mechanization of agriculture and the Industrial Revolution.

"Choices cannot be deferred; they are made by action or inaction. Until every child has a computer in the classroom...American will miss the full promise of the information age," said Clinton.

Clinton presented degrees to Class Marshals Khan, Samantha L. Lavery '98, and Michelle K. McDonough MCP '98. Coram, another class marshal who is still a doctoral candidate, received a handshake from the president.

Following Clinton's departure, Vest presented diplomas to those receiving undergraduate degrees, and Provost Joel Moses PhD '67, participating in his last Commencement as Provost, awarded advanced degrees.

## Krueger's Family Speaks Out; MIT May Face Added Public Scrutiny

By Zareena Hussain  
NEWS EDITOR

The Institute has once again come into the media spotlight as *Newsweek* published an interview with the family of Scott S. Krueger '01 about the events leading up to and after his death in its June 15 issue.

The now eight month long grand jury investigation into the drinking death of the freshman and Phi Gamma Delta pledge is beginning to focus on MIT's possible liability in the case, *The Boston Globe*

reported Tuesday.

Several MIT administrators have voluntarily testified to the grand jury after being summoned by Martin, including President Charles M. Vest and Chief of Police Anne P. Glavin.

Jim Borghesani, spokesperson for Suffolk County district attorney Ralph C. Martin III, declined to comment on the case.

*The Boston Globe* published an editorial today criticizing MIT's policies on alcohol in comparison to other universities. The editorial also suggested that the Institute work

towards a voluntary settlement with the state attorney general's office that would increase alcohol enforcement and education in order to protect it from potential criminal charges.

The *Globe* also urged that MIT house all freshmen on campus. "MIT has the space. It has lacked the will to change the policy."

Precedent for the Institute's potential criminal liability comes in the case of *Commonwealth v Welansky*. In the 1944 case, the

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## ILG Resident Adviser Pilot Program Will Receive Full Funding Next Year

By Frank Dabek  
NEWS EDITOR

All independent living groups which participate in the resident adviser pilot program next year will now be funded by the Institute despite early concerns that funding would not be available for all houses, according to Assistant Dean for Resident and Campus Activities Neal H. Dorow.

"We will be able to provide funding for all the houses who decide to participate [in the pilot program]," said Dorow, who acts as adviser to fraternities, sororities, and

independent living groups.

The program will place graduate students in off-campus fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups. These students will assume a position much like that of graduate resident tutors in dormitories although, as of yet, the role that resident advisers will play within a given FSILG has not been completely defined.

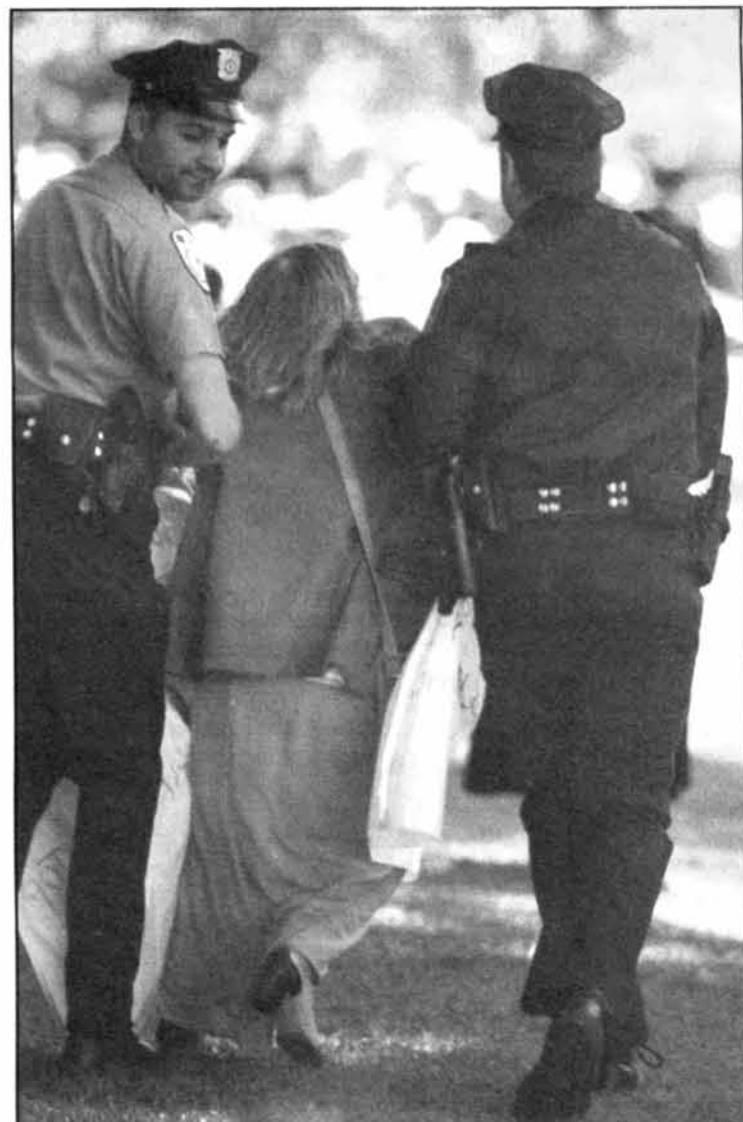
Ten living groups have applied as potential participants in the pilot program. The fraternities likely to participate are Chi Phi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Phi Beta Epsilon, Tau

Epsilon Phi, Zeta Beta Tau, Theta Xi, and possibly Kappa Sigma. All of the resident sororities will be part of the program.

Originally, funding was only promised for the first six houses who chose to participate in the fall. According to Dorow, several houses said that they would be unable to participate if funding was not provided.

Funding for houses beyond Fall term 2000, when all ILGs must have a resident adviser, remains

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Campus Police remove a woman protesting Lori Berenson's plight after she broke through security lines set up for the president's visit.



MIT celebrates its graduates.

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Comics

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Parents of former MIT student Lori Berenson share insight into the life of their daughter as they plead for her release from a Peruvian prison.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Ethiopia Claims Victory in Fighting Near Red Sea

THE WASHINGTON POST

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Eritrean and Ethiopian forces clashed violently again Thursday, this time on a new front 300 miles from the rocky triangle of disputed land that lies at the heart of their armed border conflict.

Ethiopia claimed a major victory in the fighting near the Red Sea on the countries' far southeastern border, saying it killed, wounded or captured 2,000 Eritrean soldiers in a sneak attack gone awry.

"This time the Eritreans may have really gotten mauled," said a diplomat here in the Ethiopian capital.

Ethiopian officials claimed that Eritrean troops surprised their forces near Bure. One Eritrean element attacked from the front, the officials said, while a second attacked from rear positions they had secretly assumed during the previous night. But the encircled Ethiopian forces repulsed the frontal attack, then "completely defeated" the Eritreans behind them when Ethiopian reserves turned up behind the Eritreans, according to a senior Ethiopian Foreign Ministry official.

Eritrea disputed that account, claiming Ethiopia had opened the new front and implying that its neighbor was trying to capture the Red Sea port of Assab, 50 miles from the site of Thursday's fight. Since Eritrea, a former Ethiopian province, gained independence in 1993, Ethiopia has been landlocked and has conducted its maritime commerce through Assab and Massawa in Eritrea, as well as through tiny Djibouti.

## GM Strike May Spread to Second Parts Plant in Flint

THE WASHINGTON POST

The United Auto Workers union was poised to spread its strike to a second General Motors Corp. parts plant in Flint, Mich. on Thursday night, a move almost certain to shut down the company's entire North American assembly operation by the middle of next week.

Little progress was reported late Thursday in negotiations at either plant.

In the meantime, the impact of a week-long strike against a GM metal stamping plant in Flint continued to ripple throughout the company's operations. As of 4 p.m. Thursday, GM said it had been forced to lay off 25,000 workers in 24 plants in the United States, Canada and Mexico because of a growing parts shortage. The plant makes fenders, doors and hoods for a variety of GM vehicles.

UAW officials in Baltimore said the company notified them Thursday it would close the GM assembly plant on there sometime during the second shift Friday afternoon because of a shortage of frames. The plant employs 3,100 UAW members.

## Albright Warns Mexico Not to Indict U.S. Undercover Agents

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright admonished Mexico on Thursday to refrain from carrying out its threat to indict U.S. undercover agents who delved into Mexican territory to catch Mexican bankers in the Operation Casablanca money-laundering sting.

Despite her public defense of the U.S. agents, new evidence suggests that, behind the scenes, Albright has been highly critical of the Treasury Department handling of this matter.

In a scathing letter to Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, published Thursday in the Congressional Record, Albright complained about his failure to notify her office and the Mexican government before his announcement of the sting three weeks ago.

"We might have achieved more favorable results," Albright wrote Rubin, "if we had brought [Mexican] Attorney General [Jorge] Madrazo and a few others into our confidence a few days before the public announcement."

Her admonition to the Mexicans about the threatened prosecution of U.S. agents came at a news conference closing the annual meeting of the two nation's Cabinets. "I do think that prosecution and extradition would be counterproductive," she told reporters. "We need to concentrate on the criminals. That is the point of this. We have to keep our mind on what it is we're trying to do together, which is to get those who are engaged in criminal activities that are damaging both our countries."

## WEATHER

### Upcoming Showers

By Douglas E. Heimbarger

EDITOR IN CHIEF

This week's beautiful skies will give way to wet conditions this weekend as a low pressure front over Illinois yesterday moves into the region this morning, bringing with it cool temperatures, onshore breezes and cloudy skies. Rain off and on today will be more common to the west of Boston as the showers move in.

The rain will continue into Saturday, with a chance of showers and thunderstorms all the way through Tuesday. Temperatures will remain unseasonably cool due to the onshore breezes and the cloudy skies.

**Today:** Increasing cloudiness and showers spreading from west to east. Thunderstorms and heavy rain possible west. Highs in the 60s (16-21°C).

**Tonight and Saturday:** Rain, heavy to the west. Lows in the mid 50s (12-14°C). Highs in the 60s (16-21°C)

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s (12-14°C). Highs 65-75°F (18-24°C).

# Top Clinton Aide's Sleuthing Questioned by Federal Judge

By David Willman and Ronald J. Ostrow

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

It was not a telephone call that a lawyer practicing in New Hampshire would expect. But on the line that day in January was Bruce R. Lindsey, a White House official.

What, Lindsey wanted to know, did the lawyer's client, a retired chief White House steward named Michael J. McGrath, know about the president and a former intern, Monica S. Lewinsky? Lindsey, said a source familiar with the conversation, "was trying to take a barometer of the facts."

After reviewing Lindsey's actions, a federal judge has sharply questioned why a lawyer on the government payroll was doing this kind of sleuthing.

"The court questions the propriety of the president utilizing a government attorney as his personal agent in a personal attorney-client relationship," Chief U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson wrote, in a 51-page opinion that she signed on May 1. Johnson is overseeing the independent counsel's investigation of Clinton's conduct with Lewinsky.

Lindsey's official title is assistant to the president and deputy White House counsel. His status as Clinton's right-hand man is well known in Washington.

But secret portions of court records in the case illuminate the presidential aide's special role as an intelligence and reconnaissance operative. The records show that Lindsey directly sought information from two other witnesses in the Lewinsky matter at the time the controversy was erupting: Vernon E. Jordan Jr., the Washington lobbyist who helped Lewinsky find a job, and, D. Stephen Goodin, the president's personal scheduler whose job

had entailed shadowing Clinton through much of his workday.

Lindsey has refused to answer prosecutors' questions about his contacts with the witnesses or their attorneys, citing lawyer-client privilege.

Lindsey, 50, declined to be interviewed for this article. In extended comments last week, White House Counsel Charles F.C. Ruff defended the propriety of the role played by Lindsey.

"When he is discussing the president's official business with the president and performing his role as deputy White House counsel, I believe those conversations ought to be protected by the attorney-client privilege," Ruff said.

Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr wants to know what Lindsey said during his contacts and whether Lindsey crossed the line from innocuous fact-finding to implicitly coaching a witness' testimony.

Whether Lindsey must disclose under oath what he knows about the Lewinsky matter is the subject of a legal battle that will go to an appeals court Monday and, by next fall, probably on to the Supreme Court.

How the dispute is resolved stands to influence the conduct of government lawyers for years to come — and to shed fresh light on what Clinton's inner circle was doing in the frantic first days of the Lewinsky controversy.

Lindsey's contacts with the witnesses came near the time when federal investigators confronted Lewinsky on Jan. 16 in an Arlington, Va., hotel with evidence that she had had an intimate relationship with the president and lied about it under oath. The agents sought her cooperation in determining whether Clinton or others were involved in an illegal cover-up. They also sought other witnesses with knowledge of the matter.

Clinton has denied under oath that he ever had sexual contact with Lewinsky.

Lindsey's early contacts with the witnesses or their attorneys were important to Clinton, in part because the president was considering what, if anything, to say publicly about the nature of his dealings with Lewinsky.

Lindsey's efforts also would help in the preparation of Clinton's defense strategy, as the president and his lawyers sought to anticipate and parry Starr's moves. Through Lindsey's contact with McGrath's attorney, Clinton also could learn whether the retired steward was a first-hand, or hearsay witness to the alleged episode in late-1995.

Lindsey is also refusing to answer questions about his conversation several months ago with Jordan, who had been asked by the White House to help find Lewinsky a job in the private sector. Jordan also arranged for Lewinsky to be represented by a lawyer in Washington.

Goodin, the scheduler who was at the president's side for innumerable meetings and activities, declined to comment Thursday on Lindsey's contact. "I'm not going to talk about that kind of stuff," said Goodin, who left the White House about three months ago.

The propriety of Lindsey's actions involving the witnesses is a matter of intense dispute.

Starr maintains that government lawyers should not engage in such conduct. The government lawyers, Starr says, serve the interests of the people, not a single office holder — in this instance, President Clinton.

Johnson, in ruling last month that Lindsey must answer the questions before the grand jury, questioned the propriety of a government lawyer providing personal legal-defense services.

# Clinton Defends China Policy On Eve of Visit to Tienanmen

By Peter Baker

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

After weeks of pummeling of his outreach to China, President Clinton issued a broad defense Thursday of his decision to seek closer relations with Beijing, arguing that expanding cooperation is critical to preserving U.S. national security and "building a stable international order."

Two weeks before the beginning of his first visit to the world's most populous country, Clinton acknowledged the bipartisan criticism of his policy of engagement. But he said the policy is a "principled, pragmatic approach" that does not gloss over "fundamental differences" with the communist regime while fostering reform through vigorous economic and cultural ties.

"Choosing isolation over engagement would not make the world safer; it would make it more dangerous," the president said. "It would undermine, rather than strengthen, our efforts to foster stability in Asia. It will eliminate, not facilitate, cooperation on issues relating to weapons of mass destruction. It would hinder, not help, the cause of democracy and human rights in China."

The half-hour address at the National Geographic Society came on the same day that a Senate panel opened hearings featuring allegations that U.S. policy had led to sensitive technology passing to the Chinese from private U.S. firms.

The talk was intended to help "shape the debate," as an aide put it. Until Thursday, even some supporters had complained that Clinton had not offered the public a comprehensive and coherent case for his policy and the upcoming trip.

When he arrives on his nine-day, five-city journey on June 25, Clinton will be the first U.S. president to visit China since the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, in which Chinese troops killed hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators. In the most politically charged moment on his schedule, he will participate in a welcoming ceremony at the square, where the Chinese routinely greet visiting heads of state.

Clinton Thursday disputed suggestions "that somehow going there would absolve the Chinese government of its responsibility for the terrible killings at Tiananmen Square nine years ago or indicate that America is no longer concerned about such conduct." Instead, he said, Beijing must "recognize the reality that what the government did was wrong."

Yet he maintained there was little to gain by snubbing his hosts. "We do not ignore the value of symbols," he said. "But in the end, if the choice is between making a symbolic point and making a real difference, I choose to make the difference."

Critics remained unpersuaded, assailing both his overall philosophy and his failure to set specific goals for this month's trip. "I don't think

the president said anything particularly new or compelling here," said Mike Jendrzeczyk of Human Rights Watch/Asia. "To some extent, he's arguing a point that's already been made. The more important point is: What does he actually expect to achieve by going to China?"

"He's setting up a false dichotomy," said Gary Bauer, head of the conservative Family Research Council. "He's claiming that the debate is between a policy of engagement and a policy of isolationism, when in fact the debate is about what kind of engagement we're going to have."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Clinton ignored evidence that China has flouted attempts to curb weapons proliferation and continues to imprison thousands of dissidents. "If the president doesn't face up to the realities of his trip to China, to use his own words, he will be going on a fool's errand," she said.

Supporters of Clinton's approach welcomed his full-throated entry into the arena. Nicholas R. Lardy, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and author of a forthcoming book on China, called Clinton's talk a "very effective speech" that explained his reasoning in a "clear and coherent way."

"I wish he had given it sooner," Lardy said. "With the crescendo of criticism over the last few weeks, there's been so much adverse publicity it would have been good for the administration to get its message out earlier and more forcefully."

# NATO Launches Air Exercises Over Balkans to Halt Serbs

By William Drozdiak  
THE WASHINGTON POST

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

NATO defense ministers Thursday ordered allied military authorities to launch air exercises in Albania and Macedonia to escalate pressure on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to halt the crackdown on ethnic Albanians in neighboring Kosovo.

The show of air power, which could start within days, is intended to demonstrate NATO strength in the region while avoiding direct Western military intervention.

"Milosevic has gone beyond the limits of tolerable behavior," NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said. "We are showing that we are willing to back up international diplomacy with military means."

Solana said the 16 NATO defense ministers also would ask military planners to draw up

detailed plans for additional steps, including possible airstrikes in Yugoslavia, if Milosevic does not back down. He said NATO has three goals: to prevent the violent expulsion of refugees, to end the violence and to encourage serious negotiations between Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

Kosovo is a southern province of Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's two remaining republics, where Serbs are outnumbered 9-to-1 by ethnic Albanians but control government and security services. The Albanians were stripped of their autonomy in 1989.

The conflict erupted in February, when Yugoslav army and Serbian police units began an offensive against the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army, which has been attacking Serbian targets in an effort to win independence. More than 250 people have been killed and tens of

thousands left homeless in the fighting, which intensified in late May when Serbian forces launched an all-out campaign to clear the Kosovo-Albanian border region of guerrillas. At least 10,000 refugees have since fled to Albania.

After reviewing what has evolved into Europe's worst security crisis since the 1992-95 war in Bosnia, the NATO ministers expressed concern that the situation in Kosovo had "deteriorated seriously in recent days" because of a "new level of violence" by Serbian security forces.

The ministers called for the protection of civil rights for all of Kosovo's ethnic groups and the restoration of autonomy to ethnic Albanians while preserving the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia — in effect, siding against ethnic Albanians' demands for independence.

# Stocks, Bonds Fall as Investors Pull Out of Weak Japanese Yen

By Paul Blustein and Steven Mufson  
THE WASHINGTON POST

The Japanese yen fell to an eight-year low against the U.S. dollar Thursday, driving down the prices of stocks and currencies around the world and prompting international financial officials to warn that Japan's economic troubles now threaten to tip Asia into a new round of crises.

Many investors dumped Asian stocks and currencies and poured the cash into U.S. Treasury bonds, which are considered a safe haven in times of turmoil. That helped drive U.S. interest rates lower as the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury fell to a record 5.65 percent. U.S. stock prices plummeted on fears that Asia's woes will hurt corporate earnings. The Dow Jones

industrial average lost nearly 160 points, or 1.8 percent, to close at 8,811.77.

Top U.S. officials spent the day warning that the United States has few if any options for dealing with this latest jolt to Asia's economies, which they fear could deepen and prolong the region's crisis and spread to other countries, including China and Russia. U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin told a Senate hearing that the responsibility for stemming the slide in the yen and quelling the crisis rests squarely with Japan.

"I think the question is, what can we do?" Rubin said, rejecting suggestions that the United States might take action to halt the dollar's rise on currency markets. "The weakness of the yen reflects the economic conditions in Japan, and can

only be remedied by restoring economic strength in Japan." He said it was more urgent than ever for Tokyo to revamp its ailing banking system and boost its flagging economic growth.

Japan's anemic economy and sagging currency hurt its neighbors in two main ways:

Because Japan's high-tech economy is a major market for East Asian products, the fall in spending there dampens demand for Asian exports and diminishes recovery prospects in crisis-stricken countries such as South Korea and Thailand.

The lower the yen falls, the cheaper Japanese products become on world markets, which undermines the competitiveness of rival Asian goods. The yen fell Thursday to more than 144 in relation to the dollar.

## Russia to Bolster Finances by Borrowing From Foreign Sources

THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Russia, scrambling to shore up its weak public finances and restore investor confidence, announced plans Thursday to nearly double planned borrowing on global credit markets, officials hinted at a sale of some state shares in natural gas monopoly Gazprom, one of Russia's corporate crown jewels.

It also was disclosed that Russia had secretly borrowed \$200 million in a ruble-denominated loan from Western commercial banks last Thursday. The *Financial Times* of London, which reported the deal, said the Russian government had agreed to protect the lenders from the risk of a devaluation by linking the loan to the ruble currency exchange rate.

The government has taken a few such loans in the past, but apparently this was the first time it offered protection against devaluation. President Boris Yeltsin repeatedly has insisted that Russia does not intend to devalue the ruble.

In another development, the Russian stock market continued to slide in the wake of vague statements from international finance officials meeting in Paris that, if needed, the International Monetary Fund would put together a new package for Russia. The markets had been looking for a firm signal that a Russia rescue loan was in the works.

The Russian Trading System's main index closed down 3.3 percent Thursday at 178.1.

## Murdoch is Selling TV Guide For \$2 Billion

NEWSDAY

NEW YORK

Ten years after Rupert Murdoch bought TV Guide in a package that cost a staggering \$3 billion, the media titan announced Thursday that he will sell the publication to the operator of cable TV's Prevue channel for \$2 billion in cash and stock.

The transaction will allow the buyer, United Video Satellite Group Inc., which is part of cable giant Tele-Communications Inc., to parlay the TV Guide brand name and the magazine's voluminous TV listings into an enhancement of the Prevue program-guide channel and its interactive listings services. Prevue, which features scrolling TV listings and pay-per-view ads, now reaches 50 million households.

The deal will give Murdoch's News Corp. an ownership stake in United Video and allow him to continue focusing greater attention on his electronic media and entertainment ventures.

The agreement also lets Murdoch shed a magazine with limited growth potential and growing competition from newspapers, which publish their own TV listings. TV Guide, whose weekly circulation of 13.1 million copies is down from 17 million when Murdoch bought it, had estimated advertising revenue last year of \$469 million.

"Was this the greatest investment for Murdoch from point A to point B? No," said John S. Reidy, a media analyst with Smith Barney, referring to the \$2 billion price. "But he's drawn cash flow out of this for 10 years ... in the \$150 million range" a year.



## Graduate Student Council

Walker Memorial, 50-220 ☎ 253-2195

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

## Large Event Funding

The GSC, UA, and ASA proudly announce the availability of funds for large events for the 1998-1999 school year. This funding, made possible by a \$200,000 allocation from the Provost's Office, will allow \$50,000 to be devoted solely to large community-wide events over the next year. We now ask student groups to develop and submit proposals for funding. We plan to allocate approximately \$10,000 - \$20,000 of the \$50,000 in late June to organize more large events with campus-wide appeal. One person representing each event should be available for a short presentation and to answer questions on Tuesday, June 30 between 6 and 7:30 pm. Applications and more information are at <http://web.mit.edu/gsc/www/money/>. Deadline for applications is Monday, June 29 at noon in the UA office (W20-401). Further questions should be directed to [asa-exec@mit.edu](mailto:asa-exec@mit.edu).

## Want to Get More Involved?!

The Orientation Committee is looking for people to help with this Fall's Graduate Student Orientation. Contact Brian Lee ([lee21@mit.edu](mailto:lee21@mit.edu)) for more information.

The Activities, Research, & Careers is looking for people to help with the Career Fair for this Fall. Contact Philip Yoon ([dreamer@mit.edu](mailto:dreamer@mit.edu)) for more information.

There are still several opening on the Institute Committees. Contact Hans Jacob Feder ([gsc-vice-president@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-vice-president@mit.edu)) for more information.

## Montreal Jazz Festival - July 10-12

Leave 8 a.m. Friday, July 10 & Return 11 p.m. Sunday, July 12. \$75 for MIT graduate students & post-docs & \$85 for guests, which includes transportation to and from Montreal, and two nights in a single room at the McGill University residence halls. Participants are responsible for providing their own food and incidentals. Many of the musical event are free!! Visas will be needed for international students. This event has been very popular & successful in the past. Students can sign up in 50-220.

## 56 Calendar

### ▶ JUNE

**15** World Cup Soccer USA vs. Germany  
Thirsty Ear Pub, 3-5 pm  
Appetizers will be provided

**18** Academics, Research, & Careers Meeting \*

**22** Activities Meeting \*

**25** Thursday Social \*

**29** Large Event Funding Applications due

**30** Housing & Community Affairs Meeting \*

### ▶ JULY

**01** General Council Meeting \*

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

# OPINION



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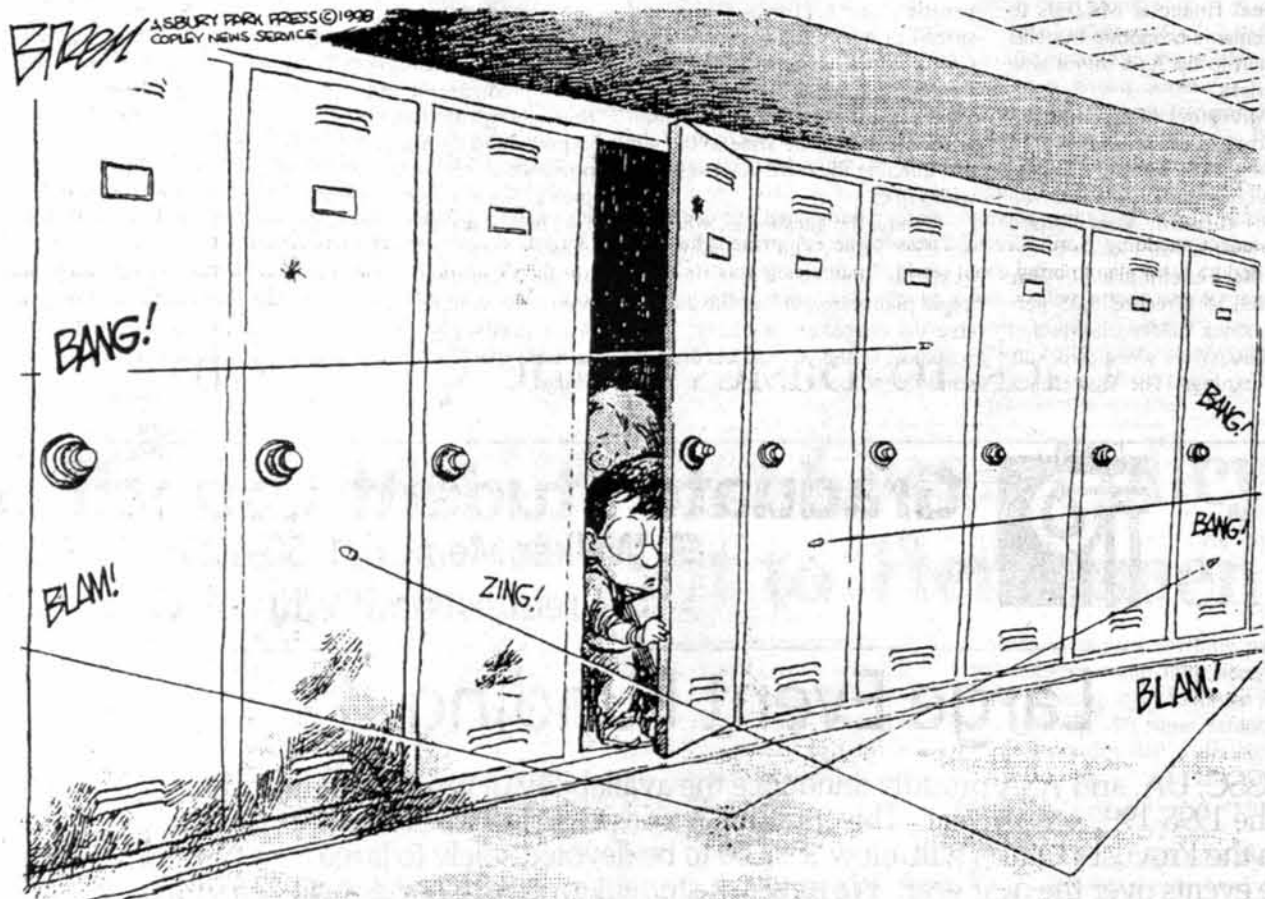


## Institutional Wisdom Watch

by *The Tech* editorial board



- ↑ **Secret Service:** Closed buildings gives day off to hundreds of MIT employees. Why didn't you do this for Al Gore?
- ↑ **Dr. David Ho:** Relevant, thoughtful speech shows an understanding of issues facing MIT grads.
- ↓ **President Clinton:** The president may have the gift of gab, but his buzzword-punctuated speech lacked true content.
- ↔ **President Vest:** He was only required to fill five minutes this year, yet he still couldn't come up with any new jokes.
- ↓ **Student Leaders:** Students selected on dubious grounds get their five minutes with the real president. Hey, we wanted to meet Bill too!
- ↔ **Protesters:** Bill's other entourage is barely noticeable. We wish we could see CPs tackling people every day.
- ↓ **Hackers:** Sorry, guys, but e-mail does not constitute a hack. Even Clinton was expecting something.
- ↔ **GRTs:** Administration's money troubles abruptly disappear. So why lie about it in the first place?
- ↑ **Newsweek:** *Washington Post* publication exposes until-now secret details on the Krueger incident. Who's been meeting with Bob Woodward in the parking garage?
- ↓ **SAE:** Major sanctions from the IFC become a slap on the wrist. Whatever happened to the system policing itself?
- ↑ **Neutrinos:** Physicists make biggest discovery in a decade. Too bad only Course VIII cares.
- ↔ **Chancellor Position:** Cool professor gets shunted into long-term planning job. But will anything get done?



"I, FOR ONE, AM BECOMING MORE OF A HOME SCHOOLING PROPONENT EVERY WEEK."

### Opinion Policy

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

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

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

**Letters to the editor** are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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

### To Reach Us

*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to [general@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:general@the-tech.mit.edu), and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World-Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

# Manifestos to the Editor

## Insane, Outrageous Letters Claim Wild Plots and Conspiracies

Anders Hove

For many years *The Tech's* opinion policy box made the somewhat dubious claim that we regret we cannot publish all of the letters we receive. Dubious because the paper receives hundreds of bizarre e-mail letters from wacko people around the world. I imagine most of the world's minor news outlets have the same experience.

Not that I have a problem with crazy letters — in fact I adore them. When they come by hard copy they are a joy. And because there are a great many such insane letters that I do indeed regret we could not print, I have decided to give them some much-deserved time in the sun.

What distinguishes a Wildly Insane and Totally Outrageous letter? Hand-written address information is one tip-off. In these days of desktop publishing, the way to make a truly revolutionary screed stand out is to avoid altogether anything remotely resembling type.

"Ask the students," writes one, "who will lead? Which university or college will be the first to organize and mobilize in order to set the anti-capitalist revolution in motion?"

In this case the proponent of anti-capitalist revolution is John of Durango, Colorado. Judging from the street address I'd say that he is not a university student. His handwriting also suggests complete insanity punctuated by moments of ideological fervor — moments that tend to erupt at the center of words and end in two-inch tall punctuation.

John is not alone in claiming we can save the world, and to prove it he includes lots of clippings from his favorite fellow travelers. Most of these letters come with clippings, many of which have tenuous connection at best with the content of the scrawled notes attached.

I've already concluded that most of the folks of the nuttier variety are in their middle years or better, but here in front of me is an exception: Albert writes that he is a twenty-two year-old college student attending North Central Texas College, and he has a plan to bring about world peace: Internet chat rooms will enable him to

get out Karl Marx's message beginning on Jan. 1, 2000. That message, in case you'd forgotten, is that we should stop fighting each other and contact aliens, whose existence the government has been protecting us from.

Where did all of this come to Albert? "It was a combination of my emptiness and the big party the night before Rock Fest that spawned my idea." According to our source, that night about 40,000 people were standing around in a parking lot drinking, smoking pot, and "trippin'" when someone's car got stuck. When Albert and 20 others helped push it out "without any police control whatsoever" — well, that was when Albert realized that "world peace" was possible. Now apparently he's the "CEO & President" of the World Peace Initiative (W.P.I.), an organization that surely requires no abbreviation.

Perhaps the most wonderful letters are directed at an MIT audience. A certain Dr. Ugrin of Belgrade, for example, has been bothering us for a while about problems he has with "contemporary physics." It is the equation describing the force of friction that really ticks him off: he calls it a "senseless and feeble-minded course of thinking... It belongs to imbecile and inane way of deduction."

Dr. Ugrin's problems with "contemporary physics" are long-standing and wide-ranging. Last summer he called up to demand that someone go down to the Cambridge Public Library and read through a stack of astronomy books to confirm they had no basis in fact, and that the whole thing was some sort of government conspiracy. When you are unsure what someone is talking about, it is often reassuring to learn that a government conspiracy is to blame. Lest I feel powerless to overcome the mighty forces of contemporary physics, Unger assured me I was a smart guy who could lick this problem on my own: "I'm sure the MIT people can solve this one." I remember feeling vaguely inspired that the Institute is held in such high regard among radical Serbian physicists.

Not all are ready to place such confidence in MIT, while still others never will do so, believing the Institute to be the very Lion's den. One former MIT student who will remain nameless has written several times to claim that he was thrown out of a degree program at MIT because the department head (who will also remain nameless) was in league with the Ayatollah Khomeini. Although he devotes almost all of

his free time to protesting his department's policies, this long-suffering former student can find no redress because of an ongoing conspiracy between MIT, the U.S. government, and Tehran — a conspiracy designed to prevent him from receiving an MIT education. And allow me to reassure you, he is *not* alone.

It's my impression that most of the Wildly Insane and Totally Outrageous letter-writers just want publicity. A greater problem arises when they want tangible help of some kind. Take William, for example, a self-described Swiss exile and freedom fighter who wants *The Tech's* help securing a hired-gun attorney to represent his case against the "fascist U.S. government." And what a case! Consider the following points in his account:

- "Thirty-eight (count 'em!) agents of the FBI (America's Gestapo) broke down the door of my peaceful home, high in the Colorado Rocky Mountains on March 18, 1988.

- "These American Storm Troopers immediately shot my small daughter's puppy (he was eight weeks old) in the head directly in her presence, killing him instantly.

- "These cowards then handcuffed my hands tightly behind my back, waist-chained me, shackled my legs, and then beat me up so badly that after I finally healed, no one I knew was able to recognise me again. (I don't even recognise myself.)"

William goes on to describe scenes of torture, deceit, and deprivation of rights that would indeed justify use of the word "Gestapo" if true. Toward the end of the letter, it emerges that the crime William was charged with (if he can be believed) was, "presiding over a corporation which was behind in paying some computer paper bills."

In other words, William had been spending a lot of money that he didn't have under the name of a bogus corporation. William signs his name "In Liberty," a sign the Southern Poverty Law Center states is an indication that the signer rejects U.S. law and considers himself totally self-sovereign. I believe the technical classification in this case is Wildly Insane and Totally Outrageous.

If the ranks of the Wildly Insane and Totally Outrageous were to swell, I wouldn't complain. Who would? Why, I'll bet that if everyone received letters like this, and if the fascist thugs that control contemporary physics would cooperate, we really *could* achieve world peace.

# Food for Thought

Elaine Wan

Sometime in the not too distant future, you will step into your doctor's office expecting that vaccination included in your HMO, but all you will get is a potato. No painful shots, just a good wholesome potato. Except this potato is not genetically similar to your ordinary Idaho potato from the kitchen. This one can nourish you with the essential vitamins and minerals and vaccinate you against a disease. Whether you want your potato boiled, baked or mashed is for you to decide.

Scientists today are just beginning to explore the possibilities for potatoes as vehicles for vaccines. Apparently, the conventional syringes were not popular among patients. Pretty soon, you might even be able to sit down to a family dinner that supplies you with the vaccines to keep you germ-free for a lifetime. That way, you get your vitamins, minerals and medication in one dose.

I'm sure most people prefer eating a tuber to watching a needle puncture your skin, but I feel uneasy about this potato concept. Eating a tampered potato doesn't seem appetizing at all. Nevertheless, playing with food is the current hot area of research. Morse Solomon and John B. Long reported recently in *Science News* a new method to tenderize meat using explosives. Solomon and Long claim that this new method uses explosive shock waves that can turn any chunk of tough meat into a filet mignon and forces bacteria and parasites to turn into mush. The explosion pulls apart muscle fibers, thus making the meat easier to cut and chew. This new method supposedly also saves millions of kilowatt-hours which are used in conventional meat packing. The traditional methods of tenderizing, including chemical treatment and aging, can be thrown out the window. Exploding meat seems to be the new technology worth investigation and investment. Expect pounds of tender meat coming to a supermarket near you.

My sentiment is that food is food. We genetically engineer plants, animals, organs and now we are going to engineer our food. Food should not be tampered with. Over the years, manufacturers have increased their influence over the quality and standards of food. Milk is now fortified with vitamin A and D. Calcium can now be found in orange juice. With all this fortification, it is more like we are imbibing glasses of chemicals rather than juice.

Technology and genetic engineering should be used up to a certain extent in life. And when it comes to food, I think we should draw the line. Everything we eat is quickly absorbed into our bodies. Genetically engineered potatoes may provide us with convenience and lower costs, but the technology involved is horrifying. The potato used to vaccinate people can be the same vehicle that causes genetic mutations in our bodies.

Genetically engineered potatoes and kitchen potatoes may taste the same and look the same. If they were not labeled, we may not know the difference between the two. But the truth is that there is a difference in the making. Explosives may make meat more tender, but if all beef tasted like filet mignon then filet mignon wouldn't be unique anymore. There would no longer be a difference between chuck and round. Some meat has to be tough and chewy. That is what beef jerky is for.

We should just leave our food alone. We inject our cows with bovine serum so that they produce more milk and become more hefty. Milk becomes more affordable, but we end up ingesting bovine serum every time we have cereal with our milk. Obviously, it is not the Wheaties that is making us grow big and strong. There is an increasing demand nowadays for organic crops in supermarkets. Even the new Star Market in University Park has a whole shelf devoted to organic vegetables.

These new methods of treating foods make life more convenient and reduce costs, but we are cutting down on the natural processes involved in life. What happened to the traditional methods of sowing a seed, waiting for the crop to grow, fertilizing with egg shells and manure, and harvesting whatever grows up in the fall? I believe that when it comes to food, we should stick with our traditional methods, because science has showed us many times that tampering with nature never has a nice end.

# Back to Basics in the Classroom

Michael J. Ring

In his Commencement address here last week, President Clinton placed great importance on bringing computer technology into the nation's schools. Specifically, he called for a reduced "e-rate" for Internet access at schools, libraries, and hospitals. President Clinton's call for such action is nothing new; indeed in the past few years a number of politicians have placed expanding technology in the classroom as one of the nation's primary educational goals.

To hook up each and every classroom to the Internet is a well-meaning idea, but will it be effective? I question the wisdom of such a policy when American public schools have so many other areas of weakness. Our resources are more wisely spent in giving our schoolchildren a solid fundamental knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic than in focusing on Internet hookups, at least at the elementary school level.

We have all seen the test scores which place American schools near the bottom in comparison to those with other industrialized nations, so there is no need to go into detail on the results here. What is important, however, is how to improve these results. The Internet, and technology in general, is no substitute for learning basic knowledge the old-fashioned way.

How does a calculating program aid in teaching an elementary school child the basics of mathematics? More likely than not the computer will have a negative impact in this field. With the computer comes the temptation to rely on its computational abilities instead of memorizing the addition and multiplication tables. Everyone should be able to add two-digit numbers or multiply a one-digit number by a two-digit number in his or her head, but learning these simple mathematical operations takes time and practice, not a slavish reliance on a computer.

Any trip to your local supermarket will convince you of the futility of technology in teaching basic mathematics. If the computer is down, all hell breaks loose as baffled clerks struggle to compute change from a dollar on a 59 cent candy bar. Cashiers sometimes look bewildered when you hand them an extra penny if your order's total price ends in a one. One clerk with which I had the misfortune of conducting business recently asked a fellow cashier how many quarters were in a dollar after she ran out of ones in making change. Reading off the cash register display obvious-

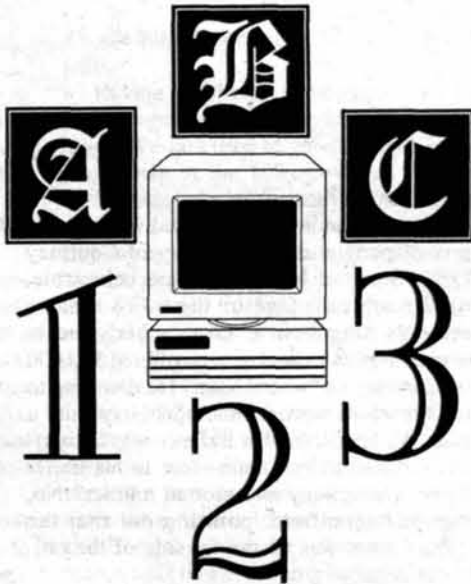
patience to learn correctly. The Internet does not give much help in practicing the construction of sentences and paragraphs.

As in the case of mathematics, one comes across a number of examples of unacceptable grammar and writing in everyday life. How many times a day do we see signs which confuse it's and its or the words less and fewer? The group of Americans that know how to properly use the apostrophe or the semicolon can justly be labeled an endangered species. These are terribly important rules of the English language which are successfully taught without the Internet.

Certainly, there is a place for the Internet in some classrooms. The information superhighway offers a wealth of information in current affairs, geography, history, science, and literature. But these are the pursuits of older students, not those in the grammar school grades. Furthermore, they are pursuits best studied and enjoyed with a solid background in fundamental topics such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. Certainly, some computer programs can reinforce a teacher's drills in arithmetic and grammar through rote exercises and are important to enhancing primary education. But the Internet is not one of these tools.

The true keys to improving American public education lie in restoring these simple yet important subjects to the focus of teachers and students. President Clinton did give some of the answers to solving these problems. Ending social promotion, expanding charter schools, and strengthening teacher standards will help to improve our nation's schools if these proposals are enacted and enforced.

I am not a technophobe. I use the Internet each day for its unparalleled speed in delivering news and weather updates. But I would not be able to read these dispatches if I could not properly read and comprehend the English language. Those of us who are at MIT now excelled in learning the basic subjects of education without the aid of the Internet. Let's teach our children the basics, those subjects which have been rightly held important for hundreds of years, in the first few years of education. Then they will be ready to explore the wonders of the Internet and gain intellectually from their experience.



ly didn't help her learn basic mathematics. Why would the Internet or computer calculation programs be any different?

The Internet is also not the best way to help grammar school children in learning how to read. The most effective method to learn reading skills is to know the rules of phonics and to pick up as many books as possible to practice applying these rules. Such tactics may seem dull to schoolchildren, but phonics works. What does the Internet have to offer this study? Not too much. Again, the memorization of phonics has worked for generations; why should it not work now? Writing also takes the same trial and error practice and

# THE ARTS

## THEATER REVIEW

### Ah, Wilderness!

Eugene O'Neill's play about his best friends as a kid

By Bence Olveczky

STAFF REPORTER

Ah, Wilderness!

At the Huntington Theatre until June 14

264 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Tickets: 266-0800

\$12-45, students \$5 off

Despite all the praise and awards he received during his career, the Pulitzer and Nobel prize winning American playwright Eugene O'Neill was not a content man. Nor

month in 1932, the Harvard educated playwright takes a well deserved vacation from this cold and unrelenting world, and gives us a surprisingly warm portrayal of middle-class family life in "large small-town America." The comedy, now playing at the Huntington Theatre, was an experiment in wishful thinking for O'Neill. Subtitled "A nostalgic comedy of the Ancient Days when Youth was Young, and Right was Right, and life was a wicked opportunity," O'Neill described his play as "a sort of wishing out loud. It is the

ferent manifestations, feeling uncomfortable in his parents carefree and idyllic home. Intent on discovering the deep mysteries of life on his own with a little help from his dead and not-so-dead poet predecessors, the young Richard sets out on an odyssey into the land of forbidden pleasures. His sudden venture is triggered by a letter of rejection from his innocent girlfriend, and a surprise invitation to the infamous Pleasant Beach Hotel from a college friend (from Yale of all places!). We follow many of Richard's

The character Richard Miller was clearly modeled on O'Neill's image of himself as an aspiring poet, but unlike O'Neill, Richard's rebellion is quelled and his craving for romantic endeavors extinguished by a loving family who cares and wishes him the best. Huntington Theatre's production succeeds in creating the atmosphere of a turn-of-the-century middle-class home, and we can all easily identify with the naïve young protagonist and his yearning for a world where idealism and intellectual curiosity are the norm.

The acting, while mostly very strong, is sometimes a little exaggerated and mannered. In the title role, James Waterstone tries too hard to look seventeen, taking on a whiny voice and a strange bent posture to convince us of his youth. Careena Melia, who plays Richard's girlfriend, is made into a stereotypical no-brain cheerleader. While a little irritating in the beginning, these affectations serve to suggest, in a very subtle and refined way, that the characters are acting out the idyll in order to deceive themselves. But we appreciate O'Neill's rare generosity in letting the self-deception go unpunished, and we rejoice in the happy and joyful conclusion.

*Ah, Wilderness!* became one of O'Neill's greatest successes, and Huntington Theatre's production gives us a good indication why. Director Kyle Donnelly has managed to create a world we all want to be part of. For many, it will be a nostalgic trip back to their childhood, while others will share O'Neill's own yearning for a childhood they never had.

The visual framework for the play superbly designed by Scott Bradley suggests a turn-of-the-century middle-class home, but

the effect is achieved with a minimum number of props. Chairs, doors, and curtains are effortlessly reordered between the scenes with a clever usage of Huntington's revolving stage. The production flows naturally with a high pace, never letting the attention of the theater-goer sway. This inspiring three hour theatrical adventure rewards its audience with plenty of smiles, laughter, and light entertainment — and coming from O'Neill, that is a rare treat.



T. CHARLES ERICKSON

Kate Goehring (Belle) and James Waterson (Dick Miller) star in Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!*, playing now at the Huntington Theatre.

were the fictional characters he created for the stage especially enviable. In his plays, O'Neill portrayed with excruciating honesty and deep psychological insight the cynicism and hypocrisy in a society driven by insecurity and fear. Most of his masterpieces, like *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *Strange Interlude*, are as bleak and disconcerting as Edward Hopper's disturbing paintings of an estranged and disjointed America.

But in *Ah, Wilderness!*, penned in a single

month I would have liked my childhood to have been."

Set on the fourth of July in 1906, the play focuses on a young poet's rebellion against the conformity of middle-class life and the apparent self-deception that fosters it. 17-year-old Richard Miller's weapon is the intellectual heritage he has discovered through reading, and his favorite ammunition is the quotes of Ibsen, Swinburne, Wilde, and their likes. He yearns to explore life in all its dif-

ferent manifestations, feeling uncomfortable in his parents carefree and idyllic home. Intent on discovering the deep mysteries of life on his own with a little help from his dead and not-so-dead poet predecessors, the young Richard sets out on an odyssey into the land of forbidden pleasures. His sudden venture is triggered by a letter of rejection from his innocent girlfriend, and a surprise invitation to the infamous Pleasant Beach Hotel from a college friend (from Yale of all places!). We follow many of Richard's

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## MOVIE REVIEW

### Kurt and Courtney

What's Love Got to Do With It?

By Bence Olveczky

STAFF REPORTER

Let's get a few things straight about the controversial documentary *Kurt and Courtney* re-examines Kurt Cobain's mysterious death: Courtney Love is BAD, Kurt Cobain is GOOD; Hollywood insiders are hypocritical, investigative journalists are not; drug addiction screws you up, and so does a difficult childhood. That's as profound as British filmmaker Nick Broomfield's controversial new documentary ever gets.

But the film, which hit the headlines earlier this year when it was banned from the Sundance Film Festival after pressure from Courtney Love's attorneys, is nevertheless an urgent and important addition to this year's summer movies. Made with the intent of portraying Kurt's relationship to Courtney, this fresh and somewhat obnoxious documentary drifts into examining Love's role in her husband's alleged suicide four years ago.

Kurt died from a gunshot to his head, but no finger prints were ever found on the pistol, and what was thought to be the suicide note could easily have been an apology for the imminent break-up of Nirvana. Uncertainties like these leave ample room for speculation

and conspiracy theory, and in Broomfield's documentary the common denominator of all possible scenarios is that Courtney Love was somehow responsible for her husband's death. Little wonder that Love, now a budding film star, tried to stop the production and distribution of this film.

Broomfield, reveling in the role of the heroic filmmaker who is up against the Hollywood establishment, becomes our unofficial guide to the bizarre and disturbing Nirvana hinterland. The film follows the British filmmaker as he interviews the famous couple's relatives and friends. We meet Kurt's aunt Mary who speaks affectionately about her blond nephew, admitting that he had a very difficult childhood. We are introduced to ex-girlfriend/roommate/moneylender Tracy, who still treasures some disturbing examples of young Kurt's artwork: grotesque depictions of what looks like tortured babies. The emerging picture of the Nirvana frontman is that of a shy and troubled musician who turned to hard drugs to escape the trappings of his own success. We see him as the victim of cult worship and mass hysteria, a fate that was seemingly exacerbated when he met Courtney Love, who is portrayed in the movie as an aggressive, ruthless, attention seeking opportunist willing to do anything and use anybody

to further her career.

Nick Broomfield has rounded up a strange mix of people to tell the story of Courtney Love. Some of his subjects are believable, others are not. One of the more bizarre accounts come from El Duce, a burly rocker who confesses to having been offered \$50,000 by Courtney to "whack Kurt." He is willing to tell the whole story if Broomfield buys him a beer. We later learn that El Duce was mysteriously run over by a train close to his trailer home. Conspiracy and plotted murder? No, argues Broomfield, pointing out that the "liquor store was on the far side of the railroad tracks."

Another surprisingly venomous attack on Love comes from her own father, Hank Harrison, author of *Who killed Kurt Cobain?*. Having disciplined her with pit bulls when she was a little girl, he now exerts himself in waging a public war against his daughter. Accounts from a bitter detective dedicated to proving that Kurt was indeed murdered, and from the couple's nanny, who admits overhearing Courtney nagging Kurt about his will, complete the unflattering picture of the rock 'n roll widow.

Despite the evidence of Love's involvement in Kurt's death, Broomfield distances himself from the conspiracy theories and uses

the ending of the film to raise serious issues concerning journalistic freedom and censorship. In the final scenes we follow him to a dinner for the American Civil Liberties Union celebrating the First Amendment. Love, a Hollywood celebrity since her role in Milos Forman's *The People vs. Larry Flint*, is the after-dinner speaker. She is comfortable in her new role as a film star, chatting cordially with colleagues and members of the press. In interlaced clips we hear about Courtney's repeated attacks on journalists and her death threat aimed at writer Lynn Hirshberg. The rather bizarre scene makes for a good conclusion to a movie that has been continuously undermined by the very people who gathered to celebrate the First Amendment.

What makes Broomfield's film a gripping and interesting documentary is not its sophistication (there is none), but rather in its rawness, and in the shock value of its subject matter. We feel like we are in a peep show watching something we are not supposed to see. With a journalistic style that is on par with the *National Inquirer*, Broomfield gives us a voyeuristic show that caters to our perverse fascination with stars and celebrities, while at the same time showing us how this very attitude can become lethal to the subjects of our obsession.

MOVIE REVIEW

# The Truman Show

*Jim Carrey isn't all fun and games anymore*

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky  
STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Peter Weir  
Written by Andrew Niccol  
Starring Jim Carrey, Ed Harris, Laura Linney, Noah Emmerich, Natascha McElhone

I usually strongly dislike when a film preview tells me too much about the plot of the movie I haven't seen yet — there are few pleasures of movie-going quite equal to the pleasure of discovering the world that the film's characters inhabit. Therefore I was quite miffed by the preview of *The Truman Show*, which gave away the central concept of the movie. But now I'm glad I knew what was going on. In this modern era of Hollywood movies (all high-concept, and nothing but high-concept), knowing what the movie is about is usually a sufficient substitute to watching the movie itself; such is not the case here. *The Truman Show* is a high-concept film, and much more.

Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey) thinks he is a low-level worker in an insurance company,

leading a normal boring life. In "reality," the whole world around him is a 24-hour TV show, with Truman playing the lead — no, *being* the lead. Everyone around him is an actor, his town is a huge studio set, and 5,000 TV cameras record every second of his existence. But Truman himself does not know this, and it is he who is slowly discovering the truth about his world.

That's a high-concept, all right. And it stars Jim Carrey, Mr. Rubberface himself, to boot. However, *The Truman Show* also has truly impressive pedigree, directed by Peter Weir (*Witness*, *Dead Poets Society*) and written by Andrew Niccol (*Gattaca*). These two turn this film into a extremely smart, always thought-provoking, and once in a while emotionally affecting film. But only once in a while.

Other than perfunctory similarities to Niccol's *Gattaca* screenplay (a lone hero battling a major conspiracy, overtones of a religious parable, feelings of general paranoia and aquaphobia), this screenplay also has an unwieldy and cumbersome structure, which,

at least in the beginning, somewhat impedes enjoyment of it. If only Niccol chose to position the film viewers inside Truman's world to begin with — with the cracks in the illusion surprising both Truman and the audience — the emotional impact could have been staggering. Instead, for its first half, the film follows Truman's life, and inexplicably cuts to the people in the outside world watching Truman on TV.

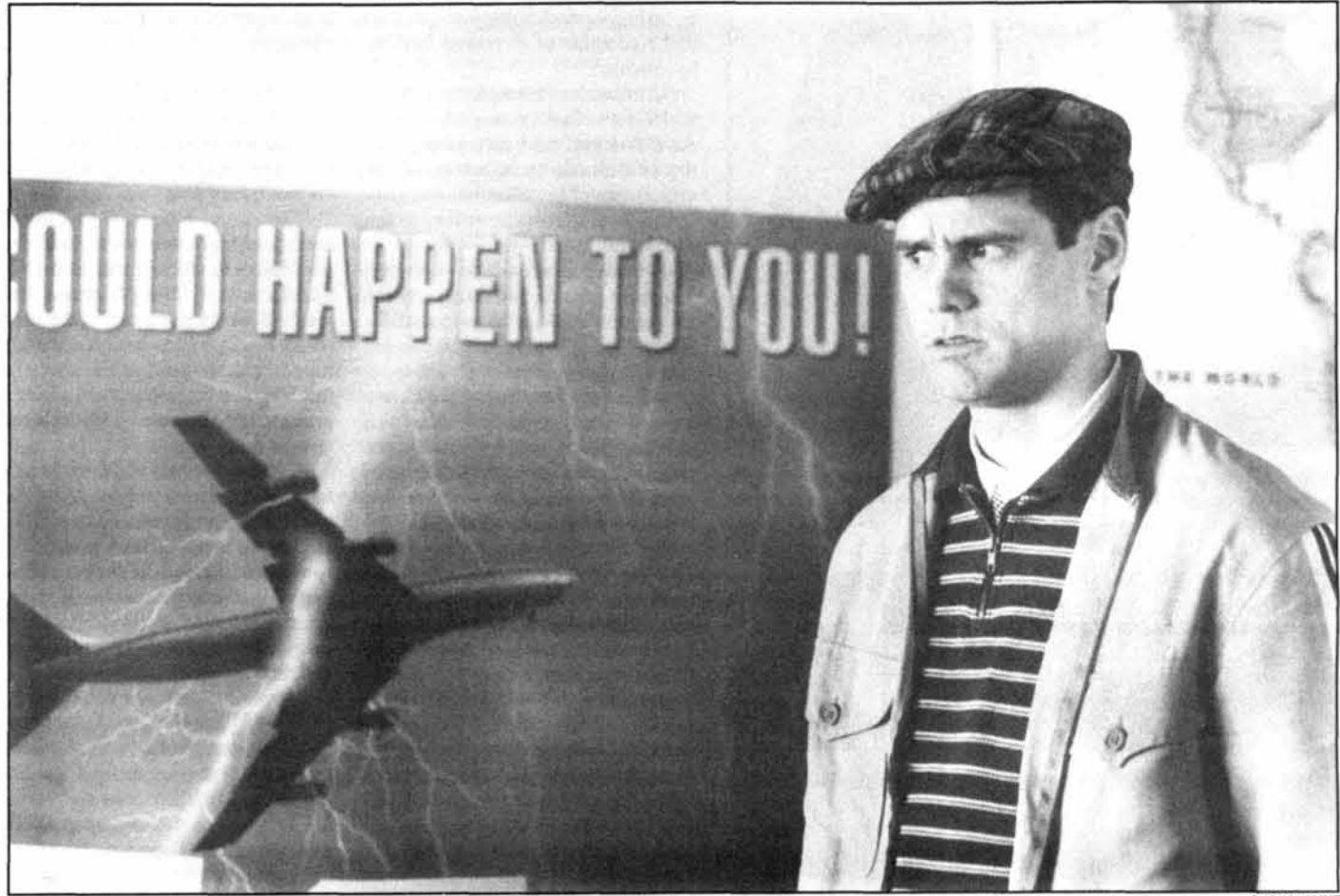
This is why I'm glad I knew what was going on in advance: I presume that without this knowledge, it's quite possible to be mystified by the seemingly random people on screen discussing Truman's life. The decision to construct the first half of the movie this way is underwhelming, but this is the movie's only real shortcoming, since everything else is truly remarkable.

The screenplay is the smartest one I've encountered this year, deftly combining laugh-out-loud comedy with razor-sharp wit, and a complex (but never obvious) interplay of symbols and metaphors. *The Truman Show* is concerned not only with such obvi-

ous subjects as TV-obsessed culture, modern cult of celebrity, and the interference of media in private lives, but also the conflict between free will and destiny, the fight between a man and a god, and the eternal quest for freedom.

This is clearly Jim Carrey's first bid to be considered a serious actor; after all, Peter Weir did help Robin Williams make the same transition with *Dead Poets Society*. Carrey's performance is very good, but certainly not of award caliber; this distinction belongs to Ed Harris, who plays the show's writer/director Christof, who is also Truman's surrogate father — and god. However, Carrey proves that he can turn in a serious — consistently serious — performance. Towards the end, it is he who provides most of the emotional payoff.

The technical aspects are impeccable: Truman's world is both real and sitcom-like in its appeal; the special effects are spot-on; and the score, including some original music by none other than the seminal Philip Glass, is excellent.



Jim Carrey stars as unsuspecting television star Truman Burbank in *The Truman Show*.

CONCERT REVIEW

# Dave Matthews Band

*Last-minute ticket buys make Foxboro fun*

By Joel Rosenberg  
ARTS EDITOR

Last Friday night I was inspired to try to get tickets to the sold-out Dave Matthews concert at Foxboro Stadium after miraculously procuring a ticket to Commencement earlier that day. If nothing else, I'd get to see who bought all 47,000 seats in under two hours.

It was the first time I'd been to Foxboro, having missed U2 and the Rolling Stones, bands which obviously have the draw to fill a football stadium. After paying \$15 to park, since space is so valuable out in Foxboro, my two friends and I went in search of tickets. Fingers in air, we asked passers-by if they had any extras, and with that many seats, it didn't take us long to find three separate singles.

Upon entry, security made us dump out our water, as is standard concert procedure to prevent alcohol from entering the stadium. But when we went to the bathroom to fill our bottles back up, there was only hot water. Determined to replenish our fluid, we asked the young girl working at the Papa Gino's stand if she could fill our container.

"Sorry. We don't have any water."  
"You make pizza, right? You must have water."  
"Sorry."  
"Are there water fountains around here?"  
"No, sorry. They sell bottled water."  
"Are you kidding? We have to pay for water? What country is this?"

At that point the manager took our bottle and told us he'd see if it was raining outside. Apparently it was, because he came back with

a bottle full of cold water. We were off to find seats.

Having purchased three singles, we knew sitting together was going to be a small challenge. We first tried to go where our best seat was, down in the 100s. Another young girl (there were a lot of them), this one a security guard in a canary yellow windbreaker, stopped us to see our tickets. Having only one for the section, she told us we couldn't sit there. We tried to change her mind, but even our green-backed stubs weren't persuasive enough. We moved to plan B, and headed for the 300s, where our other two tickets were.

We easily found three seats together in the much less secure bleachers, and we situated ourselves between staircases so the section would fill in on our sides. We had missed Ben Folds Five, which I was disappointed about, and Beck was already halfway done by the time we sat down. Judging by how uninterested the audience was in Beck, and knowing his ability to bring the audience into his show, I could only imagine how pathetic the crowd had been for BFF. It's tough to play to a huge, empty stadium in full daylight.

Beck finished at dusk, and we waited for DMB to take the stage. The bench behind us was empty, and we were eyeing it. The second Dave Matthews took the stage, though, there were high school kids standing on it. To make things worse, the people in front of us, perhaps the only ones older than us in the whole place, stood on the bench in front of us, squishing us in between.

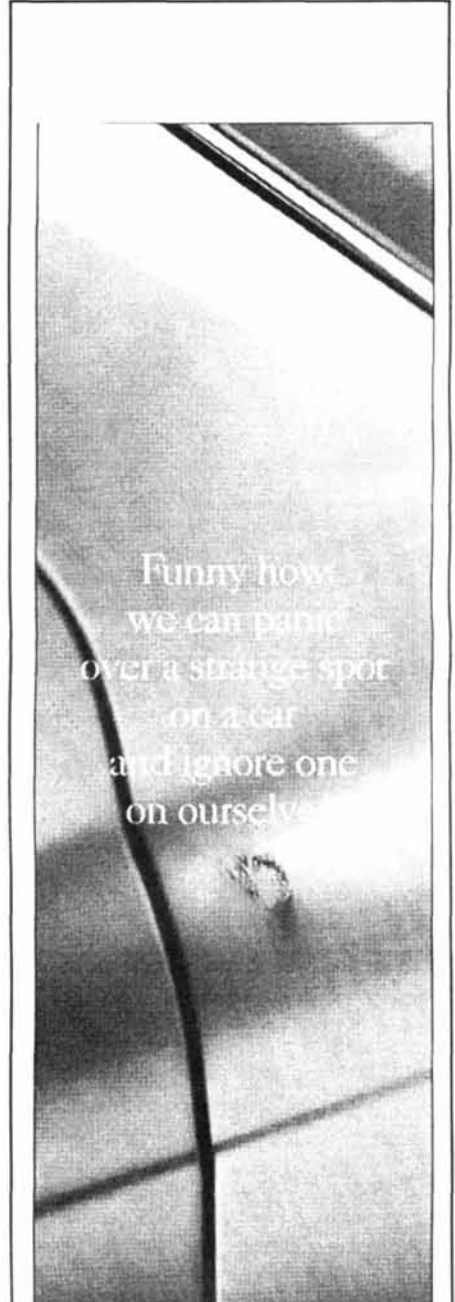
One of the first few songs featured a piccolo player, video of which showed a monster

solo in which his fingers became a flurry of action — but we couldn't hear a note. I thought perhaps a speaker had blown, and the sound guys were clueless about it since we were way off to the side of the stage. But nobody around us seemed to mind. Quickly losing hope, we complacently tried to enjoy ourselves.

Until —  
Jackpot! Two rows in front of us three spaces somehow opened up, and when we asked if they were claimed, our neighbors in front said no. We wormed our way forward, and experienced a small fraction of what it must feel like to be released from prison! Fresh air! Freedom! The high end of the sound! It was remarkable. I'm not sure what the equations look like, but being in a human cage wreaks havoc on acoustics.

From our new vantage point Matthews seemed to be leading a pretty grooving band. I'll be honest — I don't know the names of the tunes he played, what was new, what was old, because I don't listen to DMB that much. The teeny-boppers around us seemed to know what they were hearing, as they constantly tried to sing along with the choruses they knew. To be fair, while we were in captivity, the crowd's singing was a welcome break from hearing the guy behind me do a poor job hitting on the girl he was standing next to.

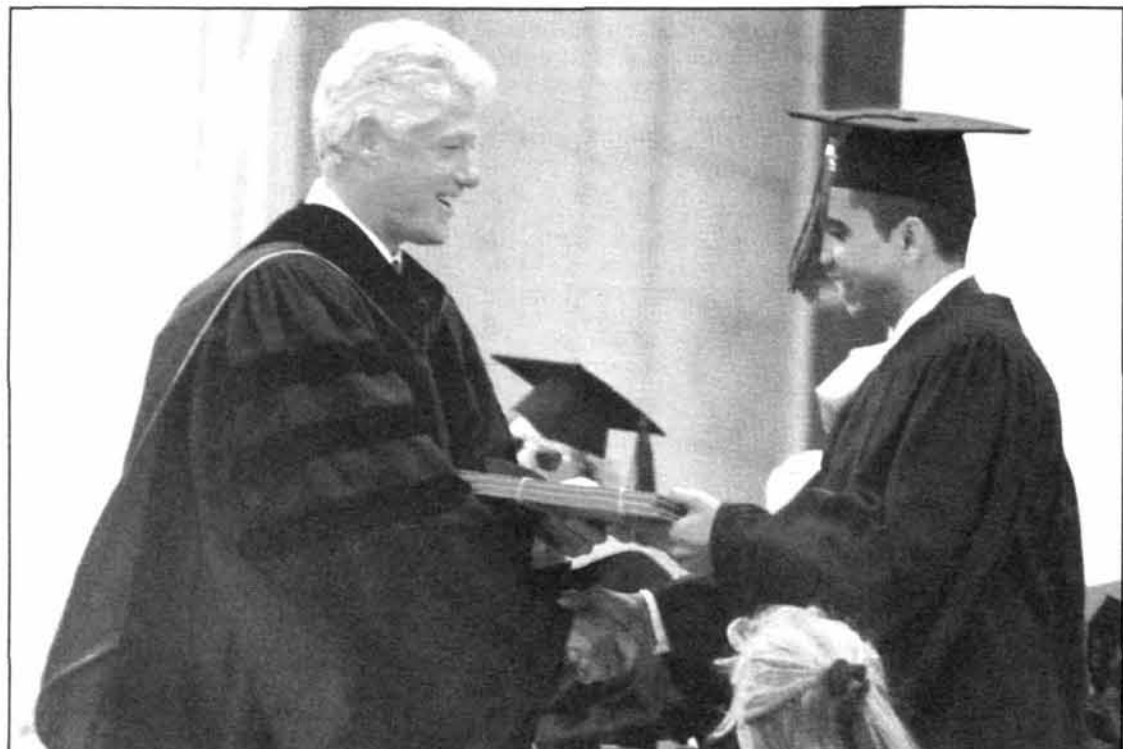
The concert was enjoyable, if disappointing. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but I'm pretty sure I didn't get it. The evening had been more about getting in to see the show than seeing the show itself. Funny how sometimes you get wrapped up in such goals.



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## Clinton Asks Graduates To Fight 'Digital Divide'

By Frank Dabek  
NEWS EDITOR

The first ever Commencement address at MIT given by a sitting president of the United States featured a plan to aid America's youth by bringing technology to schools and a promise of increased funding for research.

Clinton used his address at MIT, which he called "a crucible of creative thought" and an "epicenter of the seismic shifts in our economy and society," to refine his administration's take on the information age.

Social and economic equality, increased growth, and prosperity are all part of the "limitless possibilities" of the information age, Clinton said.

"We can erase lines of inequity or etch them indelibly. We can accelerate the most powerful engine of growth and prosperity the world has ever known, or allow the engine to stall," he said of technology.

### Prosperity not free

While Clinton spelled out the rosy prospects of the information age, including positive current economic statistics, he cautioned that Americans must still work to achieve those gains. "We cannot point and click our way to a better future," Clinton said. "If we are to fulfill the complete promise of this new age, we must do more."

Doing more entails placing a computer and trained teacher in every classroom by the year 2000, Clinton said. "Until every child has a computer in the classroom and a teacher well-trained to help... America will miss the full promise of the Information Age."

Clinton used the East Somerville Community School as an example of industry working with schools to place technology in the classroom resulting in an "enormous boost in life" for first to eighth-graders. The school received significant support from Time Warner Cable which allows all of its students to learn, produce publications, and communicate using new computer equipment.

"That small miracle can be replicated in every school, rich and poor, across America," he said.

The unequal distribution of Internet access across class and racial lines was pointed out by Clinton as a potential pitfall of the

new economy to be avoided by his inclusive plan. "White students [are] more than twice as likely as black students to have computers in their homes," Clinton said. "Affluent schools are almost three times as likely to have Internet access in the classroom."

### Increased spending for research

Clinton also used the podium to announce his continued support for basic research, to rich applause from the assembled faculty and guests.

"We must help you to ensure that America continues to lead the revolution in science and technology," he said, while referencing the recent discovery of mass in the neutrino by Department of Energy funded physicists and the roots of the Internet in government funded projects. "It all started with research and we must do more."

Clinton received his most hearty applause of the speech by announcing the largest increase in research funding in history. Basic research is "a core commitment that must be part of how every American, regardless of political party or personal endeavor, thinks about our nation and its mission," Clinton said.

### Benefits of E-rate touted

Clinton urged those at the ceremonies to lobby for the E-rate, a plan to provide libraries and learning institutions with Internet access grants funded by service charges on telecommunications companies. "I say we cannot afford not to have an E-rate," Clinton said. "Thousands of poor schools and libraries and rural health centers are in desperate need of discounts."

"Every child in America deserves the chance to participate in the information revolution," he said.

The plan, which passed Congress as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is now facing a battle to avoid being repealed or thrown out in the legal system.

Speaking finally to the graduating class, Clinton offered "my gratitude for your commitment... for goals reached and surpassed". In closing, the president urged graduates, "Rise to your responsibility to give something back to America of what you have been given."

"Twenty-first century America belongs to you. Take good care of it."

## Ho Inspires Graduates With Personal History

By Aileen Tang  
STAFF REPORTER

Prominent AIDS researcher David D. Ho spoke about the satisfaction and humanitarian benefits of scientific discoveries in his address to the aspiring scientists and engineers and soon-to-be graduates at Commencement.

Ho called for society and government's commitment to basic scientific research and noted the indelible contributions that immigrants had bestowed on the American society.

A member of the third graduating class of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Science and Technology program in 1978, Ho began his speech by saying, "It's great to be back." Ho briefly attended MIT as an undergraduate before transferring to the California Institute of Technology.

Ho said HST was "where I truly learned to tackle research with a multidisciplinary approach. I will forever be indebted to you."

Ho was one of the first scientists to recognize that AIDS was a virus when he encountered some of the first reported cases of the disease in 1981. In the early 1990s, he began to work with chemicals known as protease inhibitors that had the potential to block replication of the virus, which had already become a global epidemic.

Three years later, infected patients were given protease inhibitor as part of three-drug cocktails which proved effective in the curtailing the replication of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"Unmatched were the joy and amazement as we watched the level of HIV fall, ever so dramatically," Ho said. These signs overturned what scientists had believed for years: rather than remaining dormant within the body as a latent virus, HIV begins replication upon infection. Ho's work resulted in the discovery not only of an AIDS drug but also of a new way of treatment, which tackled the virus in the early stages rather than waiting until its outbreak.

Ho's research earned him the Time Man of the Year distinction in 1996. He shared with graduates the merits of scientific achievements. Describing the "incredible, ensuing intellectual satisfaction" that came along with making discoveries about the virus, Ho said, "when the answers are simple, then you hear God thinking."

Despite the recent break-

throughs, Ho pointed out that "AIDS is not over." Science, however, provides hope and inspiration for "government, academia, and the private sector to remain vigilant and to re-double our efforts to bring an end to this tragedy."

### Scientific work important

Ho emphasized the importance and influence of a scientist's work, giving examples of many historic scientific breakthroughs. He later asked the audience to "imagine the excitement that must have pervaded this campus when the synthesis of DNA was first achieved from an RNA template."

Noting society's lack of recognition for scientists and engineers whose deeply involved work earned them the label "nerds," he placed a mission on the graduates. "Bring back the spark, that sense of wonder about nature that lies deep within every citizen."

He urged the graduates to "stay in the forefront of your chosen field, and never permit the excellence of your work to be compromised" but to "continue to let imagination and creativity percolate throughout your lives."

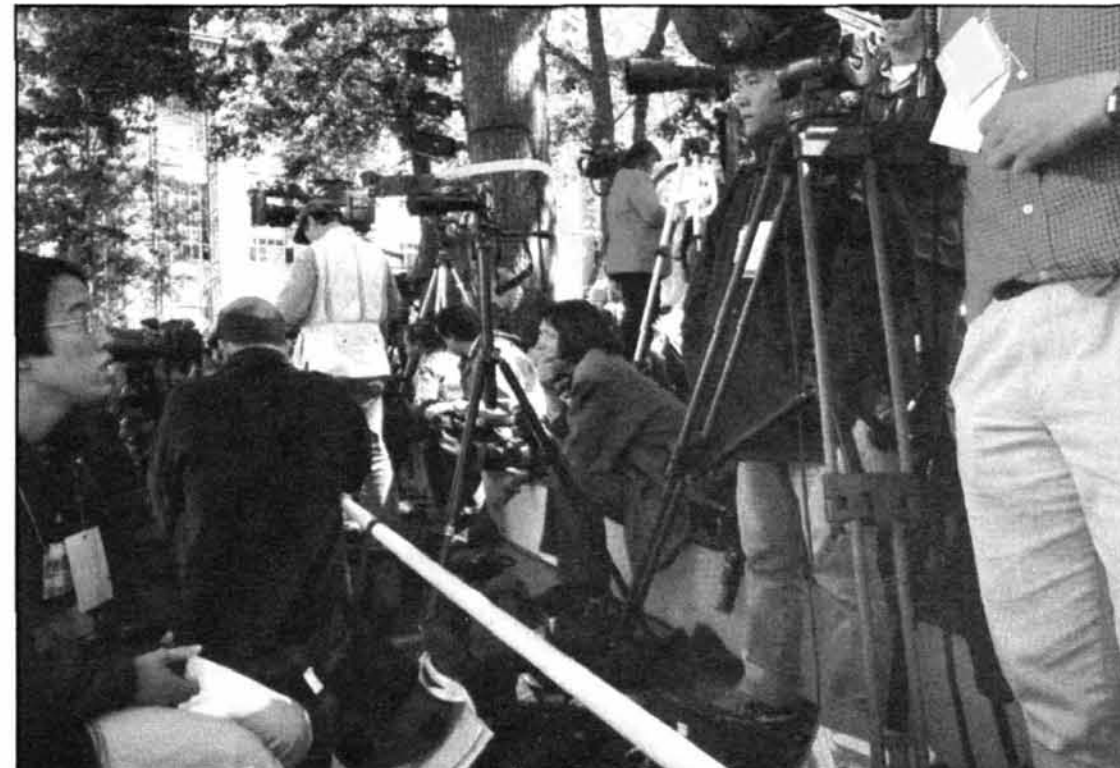
As an individual who had excelled in his own field, Ho attributed his achievements to his Asian heritage.

Having had to deal with being an immigrant from Taiwan living in America, Ho said "To this day, I maintain the underdog mentality that motivates me to a higher level of work ethic."

The audience of over 12,000 ignited with applause when he closed with a comment that recognized the contributions that immigrants had made to America in "many in the fields of science and engineering. Just look among the graduates today."

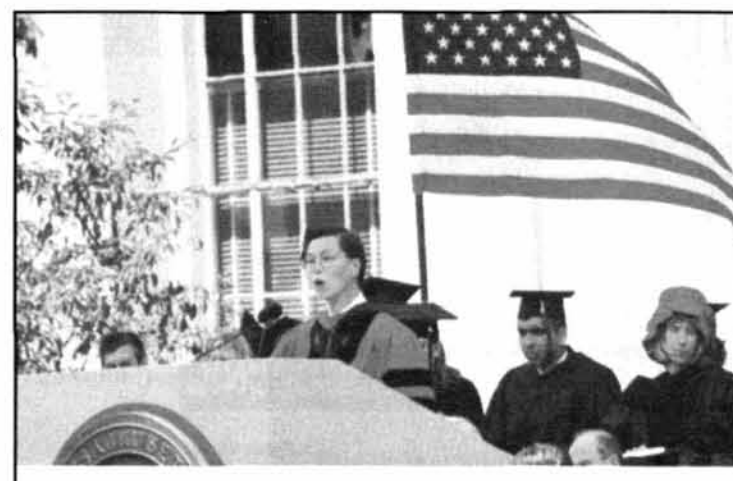
"As future scientists and engineers, it is likely that you will — on occasions — be under-appreciated, under-recognized, and very likely, under-paid by our society," said Ho in a statement that drew laughter from the audience. The true reward, however, lies in "knowing that your work has helped to build a better, safer, and healthier world," he said.

Regardless of what field of science and technology the graduates entered, "any one of you can cast a giant shadow on our planet," Ho said. He concluded his address with a reminder for the class of '98 to thank their parents.



Photography by:

- Gábor Csányi
- Gregory F. Kuhnen
- Rebecca Loh
- Wan Y. W. Morshidi
- T. Luke Young



## BOOK REVIEWS

# Recommended titles for your months of freedom

Give me your tired, your bored, your unread masses yearning to be read

Compiled by Joel Rosenberg  
ARTS EDITOR

Having seen some of the entertainment Hollywood is offering us this summer, perhaps now is good time for book recommendations. So here's a list of what some people around MIT think is worth your time. And just to put in my suggestion: speed through Edwin A. Abbott's 90-page *Flatland*. It should be required reading for MIT students.

**William Cutter**, Lecturer in Music and Theater Arts, composer, and renowned conductor:

Here are two suggestions, both of which I'm reading now:

*Robert Schumann: Herald of a "New Poetic Age,"* by Boston University professor John Daverio. "What a godsend John Daverio's book is for those who need something on Schumann in English. Daverio's account is informed, sensitive, and delivered in an inviting style. I found myself especially grateful for its much-needed correctives: for the emphasis of Schumann's skill with large forms, sweeping away the old cliché that he was successful only in miniature and character pieces, and for discussions of such neglected masterpieces as 'Das Paradies und die Peri,' and the 'Scenes from Goethe's Faust.'" said Michael Steinberg, program annotator, San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic.

*Digital Mantras: The Language of Abstract and Virtual Worlds*, by Steven R. Holtzman. "Steven Holtzman's new book marks the most important synthesis of technical and cultural insight since *Godel, Escher, Bach*." said Randall L. Stickrod, president and CEO of Zelos Inc. and founder of Computer Graphics World.

**Mitch Resnick**, Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences and co-founder of the Computer Clubhouse at the Computer Museum:

I'd recommend *Inventing Kindergarten*, by Norman Brosterman. Kindergarten is one of the few success stories in our educational system. We should learn lessons from kindergarten — and try to extend the "kindergarten approach" to learners of all ages. Brosterman's book provides an interesting history of how kindergarten was invented in the early 1800s — and how it influenced the direction of art and architecture throughout this century.

I recently read *An Unquiet Mind*, by Kay Redfield Jamison. Jamison is one of the world's leading authorities on manic depression. In this beautifully-written book, she offers a compelling first-hand account of her own personal battle with the illness.

**Hal Abelson**, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and co-developer of Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001):

I just finished *Pasquale's Angel*, by Paul McAuley. It's a science fiction-like mystery set in an alternate history 15-century Florence, where Leonardo's inventions were actually built and worked. Right now I'm rereading

*Eva Luna*, by Isabel Allende. I'd recommend anything by her, especially *House of the Spirits*.

If you like fantasy, try the *Empire Trilogy* by Raymond Feist & Janny Wurts. For general fun, read anything by Tom Robbins, starting with *Jitterbug Perfume*. And it's of course an obligatory ritual of hacker culture to read *Illuminatus!* and whatever else you can find by Robert Anton Wilson.

I guess I should recommend at least one computer book: *Database Backed Web Sites*, by Philip Greenspun G. Phil explains how to create web sites that are both valuable and tasteful, mixed in with funny and cynical observations about the MIT culture as it relates to the over-hype that surrounds everything that has to do with the Web. It's too bad that Phil let his publisher browbeat him into such a boring title for the book. Phil's original working title — *How to Be a Web Whore, Just Like Me* — is much more descriptive. Since Phil is a good web publisher, he's also put the book online at <http://photo.net/wtr/dead-trees/>.

**David Baltimore**, Former Professor of Biology, now President of the California Institute of Technology 1975 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine:

I'm reading Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*, and highly recommend it as a summation of the large themes of the last half-century filtered through the eyes of one of America's greatest craftsmen of the novel.

I just finished *Undaunted Courage*, Stephen Ambrose's telling of the greatest adventure story of American history, the Lewis and Clark expedition. As a bonus, you see one of the many sides of Jefferson — in this case the Country Builder.

Going to California seems to have fixated me on American life but, after all, this is one of the greatest of the decades of American ascendance.

**Olivier Blanchard**, Professor of Economics:

A big book: *An Instance of the Fingerpost*, by Iain Pears, Riverhead Books. Oxford in the 1660s. Revolutionary ideas about medicine and philosophy. The intrigues of the Restoration and a mysterious murder. Hard to put down.

**Gian-Carlo Rota**, Professor of Mathematics:

I should like to recommend as summer reading a book of my own, which has met with a certain amount of success, *Indiscrete Thoughts*.

**Rosalind H. Williams**, Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education:

Right now I am trying to finish Don DeLillo's *Underworld*, but it is thick and less entrancing than his *White Noise* (a favorite book of mine), so I may not make it all the way through. I am also re-reading Huizinga's *The Autumn of the Middle Ages*, which I first read in college under the title *The Waning of the Middle Ages*. It is wonderful cultural history and not inappropriate for end-of-the-mil-

lennium thoughts. I am also reading Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast* after being reminded of its existence in the movie *City of Angels*. I am really enjoying it: It has a lot to say about how a writer works, and has lots of nastiness and gossip to keep it lively. It also transports you to Paris, a city of which Jim Morrison (who is buried there in Pere Lachaise cemetery) said, "When God got done with Paris, he broke the mold." Finally, I am hoping to reread Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being and Immortality*.

**Steve Pinker**, Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and author of *How The Mind Works*:

*Brainstorm*, by Richard Dooling. A witty and ingenious neuro/legal/philosophical thriller. Legal concepts of responsibility confront our expanding knowledge of the biology of mind when a paper-pushing lawyer is summoned to defend a hate-crime killer, and consults a beautiful and brilliant neuroscientist as an expert witness.

*Conquest and Culture*, by Thomas Sowell. An eye-opening, moving, and un-PC account of how millennia of conquest have shaped the world. Third in a magisterial trilogy (*Race and Culture; Migration and Culture*) by the distinguished African American economist.

*The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals: Definitive Edition*, by Charles Darwin; with new material by Paul Ekman. Why do we shrug? Why do dogs wag their tails? Why do we scowl when angry and pout when sad rather than the other way around? What is the difference between guilt and shame? This astonishing book answered such questions, proved that the mind (not just the body) evolved, established the likeness of the races during the heyday of scientific racism, and was the first scientific work to rely on photography. Updated by this century's leading emotion researcher, it is as fresh today as it was in 1872.

**Lester Thurow**, Professor of Management and author of *The Future of Capitalism*:

I recommend David Landis' new book *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations*.

**Bonnie Walters**, Associate Dean for Academic Services:

Mary Karr's *Liars Club*, Knut Hamsen's *Pan*, Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, and Turgenev's *Sportsman's Sketches*.

**Margaret R. Bates**, Dean for Student Life:

I haven't had much time to contemplate summer reading as yet, but am looking forward to finding time for Anne Tyler's new novel, *A Patchwork Planet*.

**Henry Jenkins**, Professor of Literature and author of *Textual Poachers*:

The most popular novel in my Science Fiction and American Culture course this past term was Richard Garfinkle's *Celestial Matter* — an amazing first novel that tries to imagine what science fiction would have looked like if

it had been written according to the principles of classical Greek science. This book will fascinate anyone interested in the history of science or anyone who wants to imagine the world as if it operated by dramatically different principles. It also manages to make some pointed comments about the links between militarism and applied research.

Some of the best reading in popular culture today can be found in the shape of graphic novels. Here are three I might recommend to the MIT community: Steve Darnall and Alex Ross's *U.S.* (a two part series) — Uncle Sam wanders homeless and addle-brained through the streets of contemporary America, experiencing bad flashbacks to traumatic moments in our history and spouting random slogans from our past. Darnall and Ross's visually dense work poses powerful questions about whether America has lost touch with some of its core ideals. A similar theme surfaces in Scott McCloud's *The New Adventures of Abraham Lincoln*, which is written as a spoof of the comics they used to distribute in my high school civics class. America's ignorance about its own history is exploited by an ersatz Abe Lincoln who turns the country into a dictatorship until he is stopped by a wide-eyed young boy who knows how to question authorities. McCloud is known to many MIT readers as the author of *Understanding Comics*, which is a good place to start for anyone who is discovering "sequential art" for the first time. Finally, Kurt Bursiek's *Astro City: Life in the Big City* is the latest revisionist superhero comic, one which tries to imagine what would happen if our caped defenders faced the same emotional problems the rest of us face, such as not being able to juggle work and professional lives. This one is recommended especially for anyone who knows the history of the genre and would appreciate plays with conventions.

On the more academic side, I recommend two books which look at grassroots cultural production — Stephen Duncombe's *Notes From Underground: Zines and The Politics of Alternative Culture*, and *The Bad Subjects Collective's Political Education for Everyday Life*. Both foreground the efforts of everyday people to create cultural materials which speak to their own political and social concerns, whether through the photocopied zine (Duncombe) or through the net (Bad Subjects). Both are readable accounts for non-specialists which are nevertheless substantive enough to reward serious scholars.

**Bill Mitchell**, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, and author of *City of Bits*, the first full-text interactive book published on the Web.

I'm currently reading Les Murray's *Subhuman Redneck Poems*. A (fairly) new collection by an extraordinary Australian poet. Winner of the 1997 T.S. Eliot Prize.

For anyone who reads Les Murray, and wants a deeper understanding of Australian literature, try Tom Collins' (aka Joseph Furphy) *Such is Life*. It has one of the best opening lines ever. Perfect for a long, hot day at the beach.

  
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# Graduates React to Ceremony, Speeches

By Zareena Hussain  
NEWS EDITOR

The long waits and cool weather failed to hamper the spirits of those attending MIT's 132nd Commencement last Friday, although not all were impressed by the security arrangements or the guest speakers.

While the speech by world-renowned AIDS researcher and graduate of the Health, Sciences, and Technology Ho was generally well-liked by graduates, President Clinton's speech and the security imposed on this year's Commencement by his secret service entourage got mixed reviews.

"I expected Clinton to make more of a political statement than he did," said Piyush Bharti '96.

"I think Clinton's speech was a little too long," said Bingru Zhou '98.

"I figured it would be just trying to boost his political image," Timothy J. Sontag '98 said.

While many criticized Clinton for the lack of content and focus of the President's sometimes meandering speech, many appreciated the fact he came to MIT.

"I thought Bill Clinton spoke very well and he was definitely catering his speech to MIT students. It was very flattering," said Yumi Oshima '98.

"I think it was really cool just to see the president speak," said Andrew J. Russell '98.

Clinton's mention of the recent discovery that neutrinos have mass, was also well received, especially among those receiving degrees from the Department of Physics.

"When Clinton actually said it, we all just freaked out. We just cheered, we were clapping. We thought it was really cool," said Anuranjita Tewary '98, a recent graduate in Course VIII.

During his speech, Clinton called upon MIT students and the world to focus on overcoming the challenges to socioeconomic parity brought on by the information age. Clinton asserted that the gap between the rich and the poor will be widened if steps are not actively taken to combat the so-called "digital divide."

Instead of talking about policy, Ho spent most of his time discussing his own experiences both within HST and in researching the virus that causes AIDS and offering inspiration to graduates and their families based on that experience.

"Members of the class of '98, as you move on in life, be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities brought up by serendipity. Then have courage and conviction in pursuing your goals and ideals," Ho said.

While inspiring graduates, Ho also highlighted his disappointment at the indifference to science and engineering work by the general public as well as a general lack of commitment to research in basic science.

He also criticized recent anti-immigration measures, citing that

they will hurt science and innovation in the long run. "Throughout its history, America has continually benefitted from the drive, labor, and creativity of immigrants..."

"Thus today, one prevailing view that immigrants constitute a constant drain on our society is simply baseless, wrong and shameful, in this nation of immigrants," Ho said.

"I thought Ho made a very moving speech, especially about the immigrants," Bharti said.

"I liked how he spoke about the history of his field of AIDS research and how he tied it to our role in science and technology," said Michael H. Perrot PhD '98.

"His comments on immigration were pretty relevant and stuck home with everyone," Sontag said. "He was speaking from his heart."

"That this whole country is made up of immigrants; it was true. I think America should be more willing to accept others," Russell said.

While the speeches by two highly regarded men were fresh on the minds of recent graduates, they also remembered the somewhat acceptable inconveniences brought upon the heightened security which welcomed the president.

Graduates were expected to report to Johnson Athletics Center by 8:30 a.m. for security checks while families could arrive at Killian Court between 6:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., much earlier than in previous years, for their own security check.

Commencement itself, which was scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., was delayed by about 30 minutes for reasons including the security checks.

"We waited a long time until [Commencement began]. It was kinda anticlimactic. By that time, I was so tired, I was ready to fall asleep. We had to go through security checks twice," Zhou said.

"I thought [security] was poorly organized," Perrot said. "The wait definitely brought down the event."

"I thought it was an inconvenience that we had to be there so early and we had to wait two hours in Johnson," Sontag said.

However, others didn't mind the wait. "It didn't feel too long because everything went so smoothly," Oshima said.

"It didn't seem as bad. It was a little annoying," said Lindsay A. Kong '98.

"It was inconvenient but tolerable. Having to get there early made the day much longer. Beforehand, we were told what it was. I think it was worth it to hear the president speak," Russell said.

"It was a pain in the butt, but it was necessary," said Erik D. Nelson '98.

Tewary, who had carefully affixed her graduation cap with a plethora of bobby pins, noted that the security checks required that the caps be removed. Nonetheless, "it was worth it. Having Clinton there made it very special."

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Save up to 15% more water by installing a weighted jug in your toilet tank.

And oh yeah, if you don't think you'll remember these things, take this newspaper with you the next time you go. This message brought to you by the 43 environmental charities that make up Earth Share.

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# Krueger Family Ponders Suit; Grand Jury Investigates MIT

Krueger, from Page 1

Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled an owner of a nightclub was liable for the deaths of its patrons in a fire.

This ruling made it possible for individuals not at the scene of a crime to face criminal charges if there was "willful, wanton, or reckless conduct," according to Mark G. Perlin, a law professor at Suffolk University.

Additionally, in November of last year, the grand jury called Han Huang G of the derecognized MIT Extropians to testify.

According to Huang, while he did testify as to his own knowledge of underage drinking at a Fiji party he had attended near the beginning of the school year, he was also questioned extensively by the prosecutor handling the case and later by the grand jury concerning details of the current state of housing and orientation at the Institute.

Huang said he was also questioned about the administration's response to a flyer warning parents of the dangers of drinking and fraternity life placed in Walker Memorial at a parents' brunch during Parents' Orientation last year.

Huang said he testified to the grand jury that it an administrator confiscated the flyers before being

seen by parents. Huang also said to the grand jury that after this incident was covered on local television news, another administrator e-mailed him saying that the Extropians' flyers were passed out at another Parents' Orientation event.

### Coverage follows Newsweek story

The resurrection of local media coverage about Krueger's death comes in the wake of the interview with his family about the tragedy featured in Newsweek.

Krueger's family has been quiet up to this point and has only talked to Newsweek in such detail about the events as they saw them.

"They are a very private family. They are not much disposed to talking to the media," said attorney Bruce Henry, an assistant to attorney Leo V. Boyle, the chief attorney for the Krueger family.

The family first was contacted by Newsweek in the early part of 1998, Henry said, and the decision to release the story halfway into the year was made by Newsweek, not the family.

Although the family will wait until the proceeding of the grand jury investigating Krueger's death to decide, Henry said, "We believe a civil suit is likely, perhaps even probable."

The news office responded to the article in Newsweek after the magazine issued a press release on Sunday that the story would be printed.

"We simply do not push students into fraternities," Williams stated in the press release. She also said that there is guaranteed housing for all freshmen on campus and that at any time a freshman who has pledged a fraternity may move back on campus.

The press release also noted the steps that have been taken by the Institute to combat underage drinking since last fall.

Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean of residence and campus activities and adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups said the Newsweek article looked only at the Fiji incident and "ignored the steps that the [Interfraternity Council] and administration have taken."

The press release also responded to the prospect of a civil or criminal suit against MIT. "Bringing criminal charges would be the worst message to send to universities at a time when they are trying to deal with the complex matters of student drinking."

"It inevitably would encourage universities to divorce themselves from any supervision of fraternities, so that they can minimize their legal responsibility for incidents that occur off campus," the response stated.

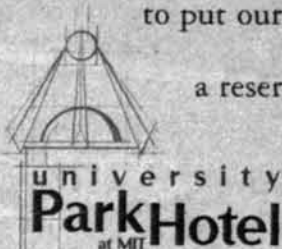
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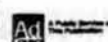
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# POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between May 21 and June 2. Information is compiled from the Campus Police's weekly crime summary and from dispatcher logs.

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

**May 21:** Kresge, minor fire confined to fuse box; Bldg. E17, 1) computer monitor stolen, \$400, 2) microwave oven stolen later recovered, unknown value; Bldg. W53, cash stolen, \$50; Bldg. 20, suspicious individuals, unable to locate. Medical service calls: 8.

**May 22:** Student Center, pocketbook stolen, \$40; Bldg. 24, air compressor stolen, \$500; Bldg. 6, computer stolen, \$1,900; Bldg. E15, suspicious activity; NW10, hit and run damage to a vehicle; Bexley Hall, Roland A. S. Paul '98 of 53 South Ridgewood Rd., South Orange, N.J., arrested for trespassing. Medical service calls: 8.

**May 23:** Baker House, computer stolen, \$3,000; Kresge, musical instrument stolen, \$2,000; Bldg. 1, camera stolen, \$200. Medical service calls: 2.

**May 24:** Bldg. 13, suspicious person; Random Hall, report of suspicious person. Medical service calls: 1.

**May 25:** Westgate, unattended pans left on stove causing food to burn. Medical service calls: 1.

**May 26:** Bldg. 12, truck struck overpass; Herman garage, vehicle damage; Bldg. E15, suspicious activity; Student Center, 1) daily planner stolen, 2) window accidentally broken; Bldg. 64, student problem. Medical service calls: 2.

**May 27:** Bexley, report of loud noise, no cause found; The Coop, report of photos stolen, \$11. Medical service calls: 0.

**May 28:** Block of 400 Beacon St., noise complaint, no cause found; Bldg. 68, vending machine broken into; Bldg. 13, odor of something burning, discovered to be a fan which overheated; Bldg. 2, fire which caused heavy smoke and water damage; Phi Gamma Delta, complaint of overflowing dumpster; Bldg. 7, unauthorized access to roof. Medical service calls: 6.

**May 29:** Pierce Boathouse, credit cards stolen from wallet; Bldg. N52, architecture tools stolen, \$320; Bldg. 9 bike rack, tire stolen, \$50; Bldg. N51, briefcase stolen, \$80. Medical service calls: 2.

**May 30:** Medical service calls: 4.

**May 31:** Student Center, cash stolen from a vending machine, \$5; Walker, backpack stolen, \$200; Main lot, tools stolen from vehicle, \$116; Bldg. 2, stone lion found on roof. Medical service calls: 0.

**June 1:** Next House, notify student to call home; Amherst St., minor motor vehicle accident; Burton-Conner House, malicious damage; Bldg. 7, unauthorized access to roof; Bexley, jewelry stolen, \$190. Medical service calls: 1.

**June 2:** Bldg. NW12, suspicious activity; Bldg. 7, architecture model stolen, \$3,000. Medical service calls: 3.

# Adviser Liability Key Concern

Advisers, from Page 1

uncertain, however. "I'd like to think we're going to" fund advisers in future years using Institute funds.

## Resident adviser position defined

Steps have also been taken to define more clearly the position of the resident adviser in ILGs specifically. According to Dorow, resident advisers will be employed by the ILG rather than by MIT, an arrangement which could have implications for potential liability issues in the future.

"To have a formal employee [of MIT] there [in the ILGs] could create a potential for liability that doesn't really exist," he said. "We don't want to imply that this person is there as an agent of the Institute," Dorow said. He characterized MIT's relationship with the resident advisers as a partnership.

The job description for resident advisers includes providing tutoring assistance, promoting health and

safety, attending chapter meals, maintaining a relationship with the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education, and making students aware of MIT's policies, including those concerning alcohol, drugs, hazing, and harassment.

Dorow said that he did not expect any problems finding enough tutors to fill all of the resident adviser and graduate resident tutor spaces since the resident advisers "are not being taken from the GRT applicant pool" exclusively. Houses "can go out and recruit people," Dorow said.

Sig Ep, for instance, found their potential advisor through a resident scholar program sponsored by their national fraternity.

At PBE, an alumni who lived in the fraternity as an undergraduate will serve as its adviser, said treasurer Tony Chao '99. "If we are forced to have a residence advisor we should have total choice on who we want; someone who can integrate easily into the house would be

ideal." Resident advisers will be required to be approved by RCA, and may not have lived in an FSILG with any of the current undergraduate residents. Except for those hired through a living group's national adviser program, all advisers must be enrolled in an MIT or joint-MIT graduate program.

The sororities will likely tap their pre-existing house directors as resident advisers. The sororities provide a "role model" for the program, since their house director position approximates the role of a tutor, Dorow said.

The additional funding should help the pilot program "make sure the program will work the way we think it will" as Dorow said, and will hopefully aid the transition from an idea conceived in the wake of the death of Scott S. Krueger '01 last fall into a part of everyday life for a large segment of the MIT community.

Elaine Wan contributed to the reporting of this story.

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## Berenson's Parents Make Plea to Public

By **Dalle Jimenez**  
STAFF REPORTER

I met Mark and Rhoda Berenson the day before Commencement.

### Reporter's Notebook

They were in Boston to host some activities, including a press conference and vigil for Lori Berenson, their daughter and a former MIT student who has spent two and a half years in an Andean maximum security military prison.

They shared with me Lori's history — from what first interested her in human rights issues, to what brought her to Peru, to her experience serving out her jail sentence.

Lori was in Peru as a free-lance journalist for two leftist American publications, *Third World Viewpoint* and *Modern Times*, when she was arrested by the country's government with the charge of treason "against the fatherland of Peru." She had been researching articles on women's rights and poverty in Peru and had interviewed several members of Peru's Congress and government.

She was arrested on November 30, 1995, in Lima by Dinconte, the Peruvian anti-terrorist police, with the charge of being a high ranking official in the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

#### Lori committed to social justice

Her parents said that from the very beginning, Lori was concerned with human rights.

In high school, she sang in school musicals, playing Mame in *Auntie Mame* and Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She took a summer job at age 12 to sponsor a poor Guatemalan child, and in high school she worked at a soup kitchen.

While a student at MIT beginning in fall 1987, Lori was part of the Experimental Study Group and the Concert Choir.

According to her parents, it was an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Position in anthropology that directed her footsteps towards becoming a human rights activist. She became involved with the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, a leftist human rights group through work with Martin Diskin, a professor of anthropology who passed away in fall of last year. She took an intensive Spanish course and went back to El Salvador as soon as she could, studying Spanish and monitoring human rights efforts for two months.

When she came back, she quit MIT and went to work for CISPES full-time. "It was clear," said Geoffrey Herzog, a CISPES staff member who met her that summer, "that she was very moved by the situation there and wanted to commit herself to defend human rights in Central America."

In 1990, she moved to Nicaragua and a year and a half later she proceeded to El Salvador. A few years later, she moved to Peru after falling in love with the country.

Now, according to her parents, as Berenson continues to serve her jail sentence her hands have been deformed by the effects of the altitude and cold weather as she suffers from repeated throat infections and chronic laryngitis.

At 13,000 feet above sea level

on the windswept southern Andean highland near Lake Titicaca, Yanamayo is considered one of the world's harshest prisons.

#### Her parents

Rhoda Berenson is a soft-spoken, mild-mannered woman who watches everything and only speaks when necessary. She showed me letters in Spanish that Lori had written to members of Congress, letters with the "approval" stamp of the Yanamayo prison guards. All correspondence in and out of the prison must be in Spanish so that the guards can read it.

Mark Berenson showed me pictures of Lori and him at MIT her freshman year, and articles that her classmates had written about her in newspapers world-wide. People remember Lori, even though she didn't stay long at MIT, he said.

Over 350 MIT affiliates signed a letter to President Clinton asking him to press for a retrial on Berenson's behalf. Cambridge City Councillor Katherine Triantifillou hosted a press conference with the Berensons in Cambridge City Hall last Wednesday.

The Berensons held a vigil on the morning of Commencement and handed out white ribbons begging President Clinton to obtain a trial for Lori.

In December of last year, 55 Senators and 180 Congressional Representatives sent letters to Secretary of State Madelaine Albright calling on our government to do "everything in [its] power" to achieve justice for Lori.

However, Lori's supporters have not succeeded in obtaining a trial in an open civilian court like the treaties Peru have signed dictate.

#### Lori Berenson speaks out

Lori Berenson's only public statement highlighted her concern for human rights and her belief that she was innocent: "I am to be condemned for my concern about the conditions of hunger and misery which exists in this country. If it is a crime to worry about the subhuman conditions in which the majority of this population lives, then I will accept my punishment. But this is not a love of violence."

Lori said she was convicted in 1996 by a hooded judge who delivered her sentence at gunpoint. She was not allowed to be present at her trial and her lawyer was not allowed to cross-examine witnesses. She was sentenced to life in prison, the maximum sentence.

The Peruvian government has declined to comment on the Berenson case.

The Commission of International Jurists, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Committee as well as many other UN committees have all declared that Peru was acting in violation of binding international treaties it has signed governing human rights and the treatment of prisoners, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man and the American Convention on Human Rights.

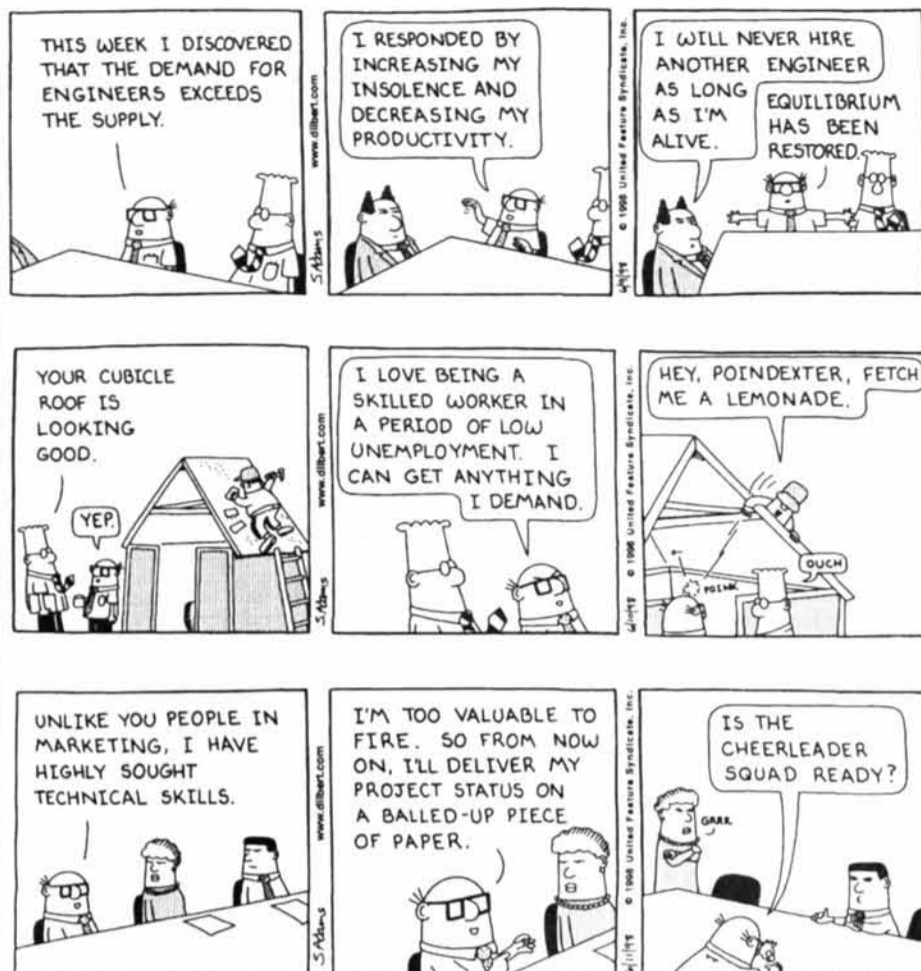
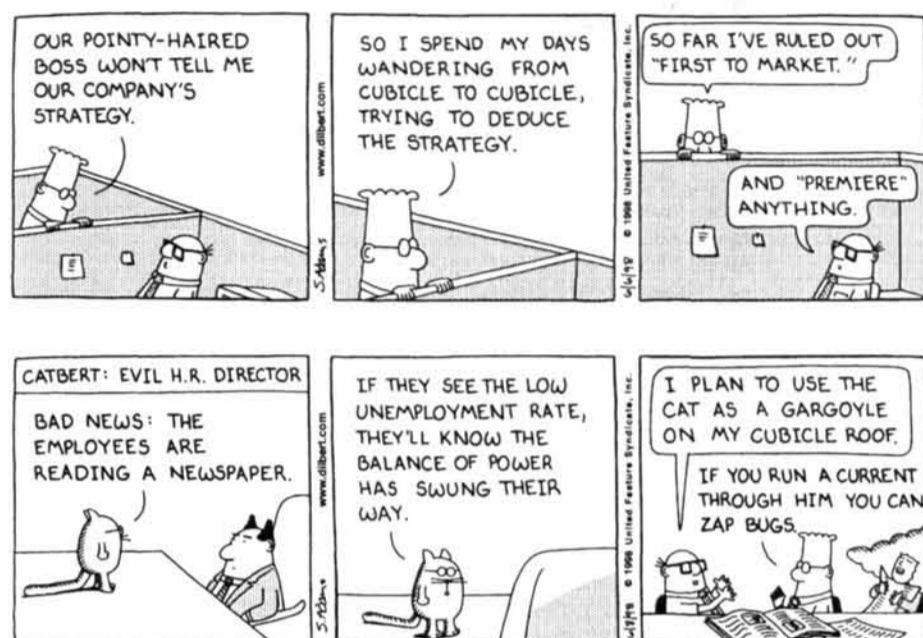
For these reasons, Amnesty International has declared Lori a political prisoner.

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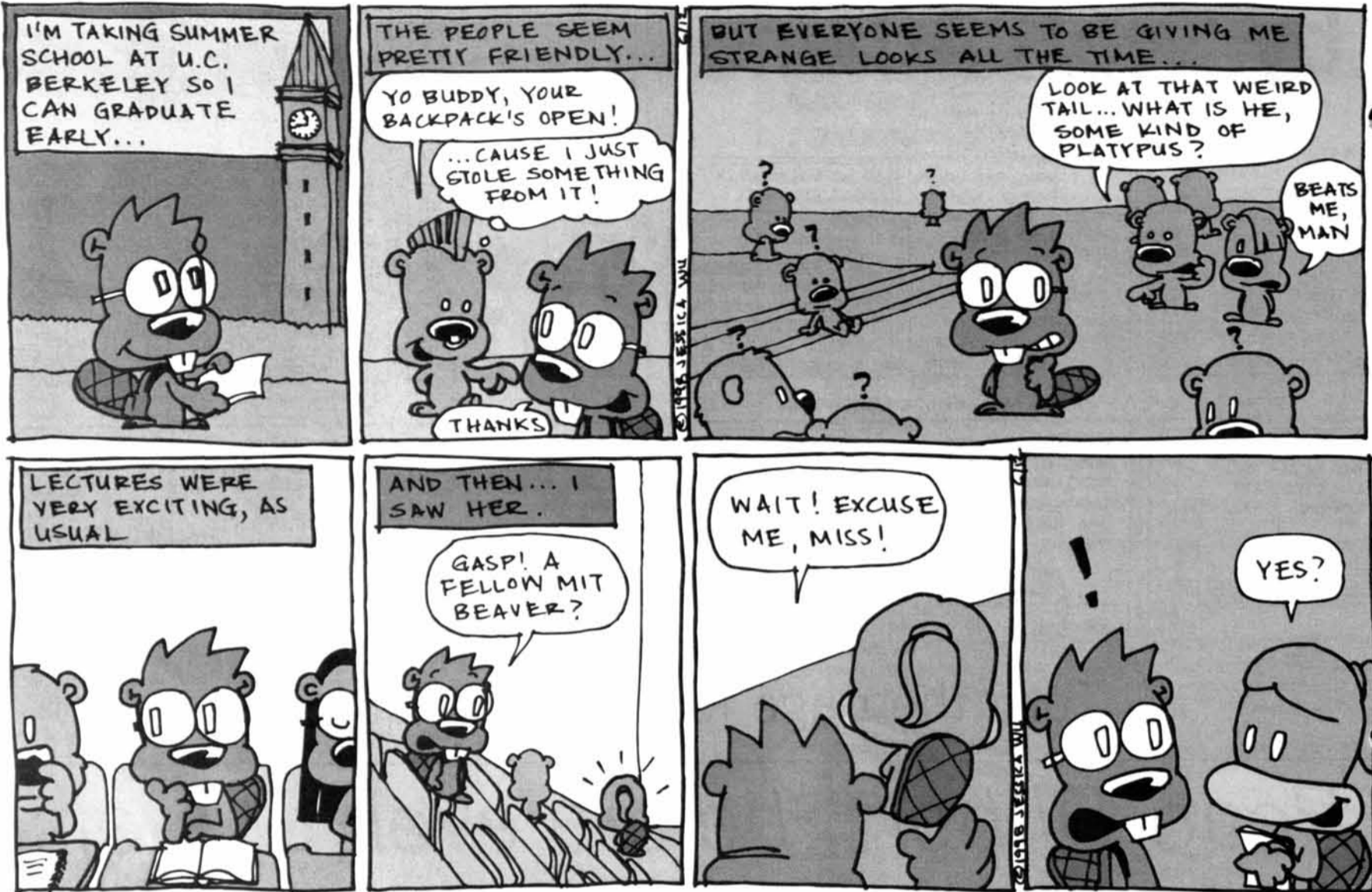
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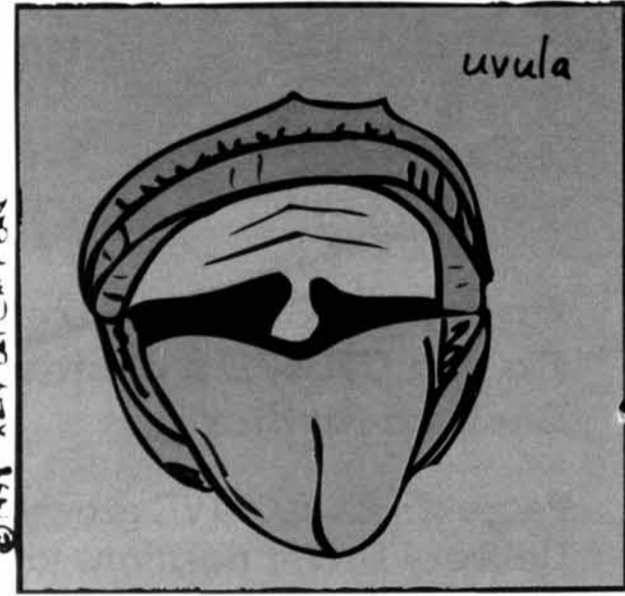
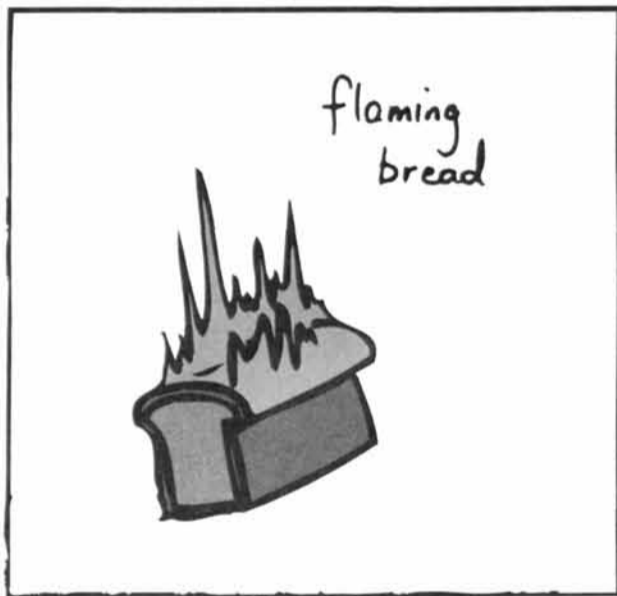
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