

Welcoming Events Help Frosh Unwind

By Brett Altschul and Zareena Hussain
NEWS EDITORS

Last night, the Class of 2002 was able to chill out with their fellow students before beginning the serious business of Orientation.

The night began with a new welcoming dinner, hosted by Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics Paul A. LaGace '78 and Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy Emeritus Jay Kaiser. The theme of the evening was exploration.

Seated in Johnson Athletics Center according to the periodic table, each group of students had a chance to get to know the other members of their group and their orientation leader.

"I thought it was funny how they had the periodic table," said Veena L. Thomas '02, "It made you know you were at MIT."

"It was a good opportunity to meet people," Thomas added.

Freshmen pack Student Center

Following the welcome dinner, the Class of 2002 was invited to participate in a variety of activities including caricature drawing and movies in the Student Center.

An estimated 700 students occupied four floors in the Student Center after the welcome dinner to meet each other and enjoy their first day with their fellow students, according

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CPs Explore Policing Options Across River

By Douglas E. Heimbarger
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As Boston-based living groups prepare to rush incoming freshmen, the Campus Police are considering attempting to gain new legal powers enabling them to patrol in Boston.

Last week, the Boston Licensing Board ordered the Institute to prepare a report detailing its decision on whether to gain deputy privileges within Suffolk County, which includes Boston.

Under Massachusetts General Law, campus police forces have jurisdiction only in the areas owned by the institution.

However, when campus police forces are deputized in a county, they can act in lieu of the local police force. Currently, MIT Police are deputized in Middlesex County, which includes Cambridge.

As a result, MIT Police can make arrests and conduct investigations on areas near the MIT campus, said Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin. However, department rules require that Cambridge Police be called when MIT Police respond to near-campus incidents.

In July, a Boston University police cruiser passing by Beta Theta Pi was pelted by full beer cans and bottles, according to police reports. Subsequently a BU police officer was severely injured when bottles thrown at him punctured a disc in his neck.

At the licensing board hearing on the incident last week, BU officials stated that they were frustrated with policing MIT fraternities near their campus.

The board then requested that MIT investigate the potential of gaining deputy privileges for MIT

Police within Suffolk County, and to report back to it on the status of obtaining the privileges by mid-September.

Police have different styles

The BU Police and MIT Police have different strategies to crime prevention, Glavin said. "They are in a tougher area than we are. It does to some extent warrant a different policing style."

As a result, the MIT Police are more "tolerant of student antics" such as hacking, Glavin added.

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GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Freshmen were treated to a catered buffet last night in Johnson Athletic Center. The dinner was the first mandatory Orientation event this year.

Variety of Programs Ease Introduction to Institute



DAVID TARIN—THE TECH

Participants in the Freshman Leadership Program made their way back to campus yesterday after a four day retreat in Maine.

By Frank Dabek
NEWS EDITOR

At least some of the freshmen arriving on campus aren't as new as one might think. The Freshmen Service Program, a freshman program run by the Department of Ocean Engineering, and the Freshman Leadership Program all gave some selected freshmen a sneak preview of the Institute.

Discovering Ocean Engineering

The pre-orientation program organized by the department of Ocean Engineering was the brainchild of J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75, a professor of Ocean Engineering. The program attempted to showcase one of MIT's smaller majors while introducing freshmen to the academic side of the Institute. The 30 freshmen participating built remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and tested them on the open sea.

"I didn't know anyone that

didn't enjoy it," said Mary K. Thompson '02, a participant in the program. She said that on Monday the group "spent all day in lab" working in pairs to construct the ROVs that were the focus of the program. Thompson dubbed her ROV "Atilla the Hun."

On Tuesday the ROVs were tested in the Alumni Pool to verify that they were watertight.

Freshmen attached a camera to their ROVs on Wednesday and piloted them via a 30 foot tether off Charlestown "to look around," Thompson said.

Thompson said that the "mentors were wonderful" and that "a lot of people are considering changing majors."

Vandiver called the program a "great success" and said that the Dean's Office is looking at the program "as a prototype for much larg-

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MIT living groups have faced a variety of sanctions following alcoholic events this year.

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WORLD & NATION

Rebels Attack Congo's Capital

LOS ANGELES TIMES

KINSHASA, CONGO

Rebels fighting to topple President Laurent Kabila slipped into the outskirts of Kinshasa before dawn Wednesday and triggered an intense battle that paralyzed much of the capital but fell short of the insurgents' apparent target — Congo's main airport.

Sharp blasts and long, thundering explosions rocked the city all morning as government helicopters shuttled between the city center and the embattled northeastern suburbs. The fighting died down after noon, but authorities imposed a 6 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew on the nearly 6 million inhabitants here. The scale of the fighting appeared to be large, with doctors at the city's General Hospital reporting hundreds of combatants killed or wounded.

The attack marked another surprising turn in the 3-week-old uprising that has drawn in five foreign armies and unsettled central Africa. It came a day after Kabila returned to Kinshasa following a nine-day absence and declared that the rebel drive, backed by Rwanda and Uganda, was being crushed.

Israeli Assassination Prompts Attack on Settlement

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israel wrestled on Wednesday with the wisdom of cross-border assassination after the killing of a Lebanese militia leader was followed by the heaviest rocket attack on Israel's northern communities in more than a year.

The overnight barrage, which left 10 civilians and two soldiers slightly injured and sent thousands of people running to bomb shelters, also renewed a simmering debate here about Israel's costly occupation of southern Lebanon and raised questions for many about the risks of further retaliation.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, however, that Israel would continue to strike at those who threaten its civilians.

A few hours later, an Israeli army helicopter came under anti-aircraft fire over the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon and struck back at the source of the fire, a Lebanese Army position. And there were reports of shelling late Wednesday between the Israeli army and its Lebanese allies on one side and Shiite militias on the other within the 9-mile-wide strip on Lebanon that Israel occupies as a security zone.

The latest round of violence in the troubled border area began Tuesday near Tyre, Lebanon, when an Israeli helicopter fired two rockets at a car carrying Hossam Amin, a mid-level commander of the Lebanese Shiite Amal militia. Amin, who had been implicated by Israel in attacks against its soldiers, was killed.

Justice Again Probes King Assassination

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The Justice Department Wednesday reopened its investigation into the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., but said its new inquiry will be much narrower than the late civil rights leader's family had hoped.

Attorney General Janet Reno said she directed her department to review allegations by a former FBI agent and a former Memphis bar owner suggesting that convicted assassin James Earl Ray was part of a broader conspiracy. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, had asked Reno to establish a national fact-finding commission to conduct a more extensive investigation, including a review of Ray's claims before his death in April that he was wrongfully convicted of murder.

"We hope this review will provide answers to new questions that have been raised about a tragedy that still haunts our nation," Reno said.

WEATHER

My Bonnie's No Longer Over the Ocean?

By Greg Lawson

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

What's Bonnie's next move? Last night, she made landfall in North Carolina just north of Wilmington and Cape Fear. Now over land, far from her primary energy source, she should begin to weaken. She is already showing signs of slowing down in her drift speed, that is the speed at which she is moving north, not the rotational speed of her winds. This is very bad because it could lead to severe flooding for communities between Cape Fear and the Chesapeake Bay. Also, it means that Massachusetts won't feel her effects until later than originally thought — now probably not until late Friday night. Meanwhile there are heavy surf advisories all about, including here in Boston. Increased coastal activity is still thought to be as serious as it will get around here.

As Bonnie collides with the cold front sweeping through New England, the front should become almost stationary. There appears to be another weak cold front following the current one down from Canada. What this means is that there is still a good chance of rain throughout the afternoon today, and a slight chance of continued activity through the night on into Friday. Things will clear Friday afternoon as some residual cloudiness and high temperatures bring us back to our normal balmy Boston weather.

Today: Good chance for showers & thunderstorms through the afternoon. Moderate southwesterly winds. High 81°F (27°C).

Tonight: Partly cloudy with scattered showers possible. Low 70°F (21°C).

Friday: Continued chances for scattered showers through the afternoon. Expect a tame evening. High 87°F (30°C).

Reno to Investigate Gore's Fund Raising Tactics in '96

By Roberto Suro and Michael Grunwald

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Attorney General Janet Reno Wednesday ordered a preliminary investigation into whether Vice President Gore lied to Justice Department officials looking into the campaign finance scandal, according to sources familiar with the probe.

The preliminary investigation could lead to the appointment of an independent counsel and represents a new round of legal trouble for Gore, who was cleared last December by Reno after an investigation of highly technical fund-raising matters but now faces questions about his truthfulness.

The new investigation will focus on whether Gore misled Justice Department prosecutors and FBI agents during an interview last Nov. 12 when he said he understood that a massive Democratic media campaign in early 1996 was going to be financed entirely by "soft money" funds, which are not fully regulated under federal law. It was after that interview that Reno said there was no reason for further investigation of Gore's fund-raising telephone calls.

The current inquiry began a month ago after the vice president's office turned over a Democratic National Committee memo bearing handwritten notations from a top Gore aide. The notes, scribbled by Gore's former deputy chief of staff, David Strauss, suggested that a decision to finance the media campaign with both soft money and fully regulated "hard money" was discussed at a White House meeting on Nov. 21, 1995, that Gore attended, sources said.

Gore was interviewed by Justice Department officials about the newly uncovered document before

he left on vacation in Hawaii two weeks ago. Reno's decision Wednesday to seek a preliminary investigation reflected a conclusion by Justice officials that this interview and other recent inquiries had failed to clear up questions about the truthfulness of Gore's earlier statements, sources said.

Gore's attorney, James F. Neal, said in a statement Wednesday evening, "I am totally satisfied that Vice President Gore has fully, completely and honestly answered every question asked of him, and I am confident that when this investigation is completed, the Department of Justice will reach the same conclusion."

The vice president has been dogged by questions about his role as an aggressive fund-raiser for the 1996 Clinton-Gore campaign since he appeared at a controversial campaign event at a Buddhist temple outside Los Angeles. In a now infamous news conference on March 3, 1997, Gore readily admitted that he had solicited political money from his White House office, but insisted that there was "no controlling legal authority" that would warrant an investigation.

Reno began the first investigation of Gore on Sept. 3, 1997 after *The Washington Post* reported that the funds he had raised had been placed in hard money accounts in apparent violation of a 19th century law prohibiting campaign fundraising on federal property.

Much of the debate at the time centered on the technical question of whether soliciting soft money donations from federal property violated the law or whether the prohibition applied only to hard money. Gore insisted that he only asked for soft money and had no idea that some of the contributions he solicited ended up in hard money accounts.

In deciding that no independent counsel was necessary, Reno stated last December, "The allegation that the Vice President may have been soliciting hard money is insubstantial, and depends so heavily on conjecture and speculation, that I conclude it does not provide reasonable grounds for further investigation."

Justice Department officials said Wednesday that the current inquiry is potentially more of a problem for Gore because it raises the more serious accusation that he lied during the earlier probe.

The current investigation was opened because of the notes Strauss took at the meeting. Just below an entry on the financing of the media campaign he jotted "65% soft/35% hard." Those figures refer to a formula, sanctioned by federal guidelines, for the financing of advertising that both supports individual candidates and the party in general. However, it was a formula that Gore insisted he knew nothing about when he was interviewed by federal investigators last year.

The action Reno took Wednesday consisted of informing a special panel of three federal judges that after an initial 30-day inquiry she had not been able to resolve questions raised by the new information regarding Gore, the first step of the complex process that leads to the appointment of an independent counsel.

At the conclusion of the next stage, the preliminary investigation, Reno by law will have to seek an independent counsel unless she can determine "that there are no reasonable grounds to believe that further investigation is warranted." The attorney general initially has 90 days to reach that conclusion and can ask a 60-day extension, but then, if any questions remain unresolved, she must ask for an outside prosecutor to take over the inquiry.

U.N. Inspector Resigns, Cites Laxity in Iraqi Arms Control

By Barton Gellman

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Accusing the United States and United Nations of surrendering to Iraqi defiance, a leader of the U.N. special disarmament panel resigned his post Wednesday and said the Security Council appears to want only "the illusion of arms control."

Scott Ritter joined the U.N. Special Commission shortly after its creation in 1991 and became chief inspector on the team whose job is to penetrate Iraqi concealment efforts. His abrupt resignation followed the Security Council's failure to deliver on threats of "severest consequences for Iraq" should the Baghdad government block inspections for forbidden arms. The council has described Iraq's Aug. 3 decision to halt new inspections as "unacceptable," but with American assent it has made clear in recent days that it contemplates no new efforts at enforcement.

The resignation was the strongest sign among several in recent days that the disarmament panel, imposed on Iraq as a cease-fire condition after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, is close to collapse as an effective force for discovering and destroying illegal Iraqi weapons. The withdrawal of U.S. military threats to enforce access for inspectors has deprived the commission of its principal counterweight against seven years of periodic Iraqi defiance and a long political campaign by Iraq's sympathizers in the

Security Council.

"The issue of immediate, unrestricted access is, in my opinion, the cornerstone of any viable inspection regime, and as such is an issue worth fighting for," Ritter wrote in a resignation letter delivered Wednesday afternoon to Richard Butler, the Australian diplomat who heads the U.N. Special Commission, or UNSCOM. "Unfortunately, others do not share this opinion, including the Security Council and the United States."

Refusal to enforce the council's many binding demands for Iraqi compliance, he wrote, "constitutes a surrender to the Iraqi leadership" and "makes a mockery of the mission the staff of the Special Commission have been charged with implementing."

The departure of Ritter, a 37-year-old former Marine, deprives the commission of its crucial liaison to American and foreign intelligence services, on which the commission has long relied for investigative leads, and of an investigator widely described as UNSCOM's most effective planner of military-style missions to seize forbidden weapons and documents before the Baghdad government could move them.

"I have enormous respect for Ritter," said Charles Duelfer, the panel's deputy chief. "I've worked very closely with him for years now and we will miss his contributions to the work of UNSCOM

enormously. Without Ritter's drive, initiative and creativity much of what the commission accomplished may not have been accomplished."

Ritter was criticized by U.N. officials for his zeal in pursuing evidence relating to the Iraqi weapons programs. This week, three senior associates of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan expressed qualms about his boss, Butler, who has sometimes clashed with Annan, and made it clear in interviews that Annan would not grieve to see Butler go.

"The secretary general wants something that works, so if Butler's style becomes an issue with the Iraqis maybe he should resign because the issue should be the principles, not his personality," said one senior United Nations official.

In an interview Wednesday morning, before Ritter's resignation, Butler said he would leave his post if UNSCOM and its mission lose the support of the Security Council.

"If it becomes clear to me there isn't a will to do this job at all, to see this through at all, I will not preside over an empty shell," Butler said, adding that he is not ready to draw that conclusion. "This job is a job rooted in disarmament. That's something I've spent a quarter of a century working on as a practitioner, as an academic, as a researcher. It is very clear that there is still some serious disarmament to be done in Iraq."

Residents Flee as Hurricane Bonnie Lashes North Carolina

By Sue Anne Pressley

THE WASHINGTON POST

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.

Hurricane Bonnie marched across the North Carolina coast with destructive fury Wednesday, moving slowly inland with 115-mph winds and lashing rains, downing trees and power lines and threatening residents with a two-day assault.

The long-awaited hurricane hit the shore at Cape Fear and, slowing its forward motion markedly, passed through Wilmington and on toward Jacksonville another 60 miles up the coast. Howling winds also pummeled other coastal communities, including this vacation town of 7,500, as the storm powered its way in a northeasterly arc.

The Wilmington area turned into a disaster zone, although no serious injuries were reported in the first hours. Water pushed up by the winds flooded highways. Uprooted trees lay across roads and fallen electrical lines crackled and sizzled. Rain fell in almost horizontal sheets, and the few people who were out

looked as if they were about to blow away, bracing themselves against vehicles as their clothes billowed around them.

With power out in thousands of homes, authorities imposed night-long curfews in Wilmington, Morehead City and as far inland as Greenville, where flooding was reported. As the night progressed, gusts of 95 mph were recorded in Jacksonville, several tornadoes were reported to have touched down and the dunes at Topsail Beach, midway between Wilmington and Jacksonville, suffered extensive damage from the wind and pounding surf.

Specialists predicted Bonnie will continue its swath from Cape Fear near the southern end of the state to Cape Hatteras on the Outer Banks, continuing toward the Virginia border, then perhaps barreling out to sea — but only late Thursday. The long hang time raised chances of extensive damage from high tides, flooding and rain, they warned. Rainfall levels of as much as 20

inches were expected up and down the coast, storm surges of 9 to 10 feet threatened water damage, and other twisters spinning off the storm were possible in eastern North Carolina and extreme southeastern Virginia.

Residents of Virginia's Tidewater region and, to a lesser degree, Maryland's Eastern Shore braced for the rains that moved in front of Bonnie. Officials in southeastern Virginia renewed recommendations that low-lying coastal areas susceptible to flooding be evacuated. As Carolinians did before them, Tidewater homeowners nailed plywood over exposed windows, while grocery stores did a brisk business in batteries and food supplies.

Nearly half a million residents and vacationers from 17 North Carolina coastal counties were evacuated, according to state emergency management officials, leaving low-lying areas practically deserted. Another 200,000 were ordered to leave Tuesday.

Russian Currency Crisis Deepens As Ruble, Stocks, and Bonds Fall

By Sharon LaFraniere

THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW

Russia's financial crisis escalated sharply Wednesday as the government's attempts to defend the embattled ruble collapsed, prompting a steep fall in stock and bond markets, a run on banks by anxious depositors and a new wave of political attacks on President Boris Yeltsin.

The Russian Central Bank was forced to suspend trading of rubles for dollars after concluding it could no longer afford to pour the country's shrinking reserves of dollars into the currency markets. The action came after the ruble fell 5 percent in one morning, to 8.26 to the dollar, on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. By the end of the day, the ruble had fallen 40 percent against the German mark, prompting a selloff in stock markets around Europe.

Average Russians, who until now have seen limited effects of the mounting troubles in Russian financial markets, Wednesday flocked to their banks to withdraw rubles and lined up at currency exchange offices in a desperate effort to buy dollars. Many were frustrated: banks turned away most depositors,

allowing them only to sign lists for future withdrawals. Many retailers began raising prices, anticipating what economists fear may be an explosion of inflation. On the street, currency exchange shops and traders ran out of dollars early in the day after demanding 9 and even 10 rubles to the dollar.

"The ruble is crashing," said Al Breach, an economist with the Russian European Center for Economic Policy. "Disaster is the only word for it. Today is the day it was announced to the world."

Yeltsin and his newly-named prime minister, Victor Chernomyrdin, appeared nearly helpless in the face of the latest currency meltdown. Chernomyrdin, who was dismissed as prime minister last March and reappointed Sunday, rushed to Ukraine to hold an emergency meeting with International Monetary Fund director Michel Camdessus. He was expected to ask that the IMF deliver the next installment of a multibillion dollar loan to Russia — despite its failures to implement policy reforms — so that the government can try to stave off a larger economic collapse.

Meanwhile, Yeltsin faced mounting calls for his resignation from Communists and other oppo-

nents in the Russian Duma, the lower house of parliament, and almost universal condemnation from local economists and commentators. Though the 67-year-old president is likely to ignore the demands that he quit, the new crisis could complicate his efforts to win confirmation in the Duma of the appointment of Cheronmyrdin and of a yet-to-be-named cabinet.

Anatoly Chubais, Yeltsin's envoy to international lending institutions, described the government Wednesday as "suspended" while it awaits Chernomyrdin's confirmation and a new cabinet. For his part, Chernomyrdin said little publicly other than that he intends to have "a serious talk" with the head of the Central Bank.

In Washington, where preparations continue for a summit between President Clinton and Yeltsin in Moscow early next week, officials said they are reluctant to consider additional Western support for Russia until the Chernomyrdin team offers a detailed account of its policy plans. "There are no shortcuts in restoring market confidence, and the next steps are up to the Russians," deputy White House spokesman Barry Toiv told reporters in Martha's Vineyard.

Libya Agrees to U.S. Plan for Dutch Trial of Pan Am Bombing Suspects

By Thomas W. Lippman

and John M. Goshko

THE WASHINGTON POST

Libya announced its acceptance Wednesday of a plan by the United States and Britain to put two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 on trial in the Netherlands.

If carried out, the decision by the Libyan government of Moammar Gadhafi would end a seven-year stalemate over the fate of two senior Libyan intelligence agents indicted for the crime in this country and Britain, and result in the suspension of economic sanctions imposed on Libya by the U.N. Security Council.

The Libyans said nothing about when or how the two suspects might be sent to the Netherlands, and some officials and members of victims' families said they will believe it when they see it. It is not even clear that Libyan authorities have custody of the two men, senior Libyan intelligence agents identified in the 1991 indictments as Lamem Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Basset

Megrahi.

The Clinton administration's initial response was skeptical because the Libyans have maneuvered for years to avoid delivering the suspects and some ambiguous language in the Libyan statement Wednesday could be read as raising new conditions.

"We don't know what this means," a Clinton administration official said. "If it means they intend to deliver the two to Dutch custody, we welcome it. If it means an attempt to negotiate the terms of a trial, we remind the Libyan government that the terms are not negotiable. If the Libyans are serious, we expect that the next step will be the U.N. Secretary General notifying us that the suspects have been transported to the Hague and are in Dutch custody."

"I welcome this statement, which looks like a positive development," British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said in a statement. "But he too added a note of caution: 'We shall need to study exactly

what the Libyans have said and to ensure that they are not setting any conditions on their acceptance."

But indications were Wednesday night that the Libyans are prepared to go ahead. The U.S.-U.K. plan is almost identical to one that the Libyans themselves offered in 1994, and was endorsed by the Arab League and other international organizations. Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid said Tuesday that he expected Libya to accept.

According to news reports from Cairo, Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak sent a senior aide to Tripoli Wednesday to urge Libya to accept the proposal. The Egyptians have been trying for some time to broker an end to the stalemate, which has made an international pariah out of their neighbor to the west.

Pan Am Flight 103, a Boeing 747, was blown out of the sky over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988. The explosion and crash killed all 259 people on the plane.

Northwest Cancels Weekend Flights as Strike Looms

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Northwest Airlines Wednesday canceled 400 weekend flights in preparation for a strike by its pilots union despite signs of progress in contract negotiations.

The airline said it was canceling 170 flights Friday and another 230 scheduled for Saturday and would not reinstate the flights even if a strike is averted. The majority of the canceled flights were domestic routes which are served by other airlines. Northwest, the nation's fourth-largest carrier, operates 1,700 daily flights, carrying approximately 170,000 passengers.

Northwest said it also has worked out arrangements with other airlines for honoring Northwest tickets wherever possible. Trans World Airlines announced it would begin using larger aircraft to serve the Minneapolis-St. Paul market this weekend to help offset the impact of a strike if it occurs.

Probe Cites 'Abuse' in Boys Ranch Death; License Denied

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PHOENIX

A five-month Department of Economic Security investigation concluded Wednesday that "abuse and neglect" led to the death of a 16-year-old California youth at the Arizona Boys Ranch and prompted officials to deny an operating license to the paramilitary-style boot camp for juvenile offenders.

The state report also revealed that 17 former staff members will be placed on the Arizona Child Abuser Directory as a result of their treatment of Nicholas Contreras, of Sacramento. The directory is a confidential computerized list meant to help the department screen people for foster care and other children's services.

"The circumstances surrounding his death, and the repeated mistreatment of other residents, demonstrate a pattern of abuse and neglect by Arizona Boys Ranch and a lack of concern by senior management and line staff for the rights of youth placed in their care and custody," said Department of Economic Security Director Linda Blessing.

Officials said it was the first time they could recall the state denying a license to such a facility. Boys Ranch has 20 days to appeal the decision and may continue operating during that time. Officials said they doubted another application for a license would be accepted unless the ranch made significant changes.

The announcement at a packed news conference here follows months of speculation about the future of the 49-year-old institution, which has a national reputation for sometimes rehabilitating troubled youths and has enjoyed wide political support in Arizona.

But that support has been tested since the March 2 death of Contreras, who died while being punished at the ranch's Oracle campus.

"I'm very glad that they are losing their license," said Julie Vega, the boy's mother, in a phone interview. "That's a big step. I'm very gratified. What they've been doing should have been stopped a long time ago."

Defense Is Building for Hospital in Baby-Switching Case

THE WASHINGTON POST

Lawyers who will defend the University of Virginia Medical Center if a lawsuit is filed in the baby-switching case said Wednesday that a preliminary review has uncovered no evidence that the hospital did anything improper or negligent.

A private medical malpractice lawyer was retained two weeks ago by the Virginia attorney general's office to represent U-Va. The lawyer, Stuart Thomas, of Staunton, Va., has been reviewing medical records and conducting interviews at the Charlottesville hospital, the attorney general's office said.

"After officials in the office of the attorney general consulted with Thomas, it appears that all is in order with regard to the record-keeping" at U-Va., said David Botkins, a spokesman for Attorney General Mark L. Earley.

"Presently, it is by no means clear that the exchange of children was the result of any improper or negligent action on the part of U-Va. or an employee of the commonwealth," Botkins said.

Botkins would not elaborate on what Thomas found in the records or speculate on how the switch could have occurred if hospital procedures were followed. Hospital officials have said they believe the switch was probably deliberate.

FTC Blocks Firm's Sale Of Personal Data

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Trans Union Corp., one of the country's largest credit reporting bureaus, was ordered to stop selling personal financial data to catalogers, telemarketers and other target marketing companies, the Federal Trade Commission said Wednesday.

Administrative law judge James P. Timony, who presided over a six-week administrative trial at the agency, wrote in a decision that Trans Union "invades consumers' privacy when it sells consumers' credit histories to third-party marketers without consumers' knowledge or consent."

The FTC had alleged that Trans Union has violated the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), which prohibits credit bureaus from furnishing information to anyone except under specific circumstances.

The company is one of the three firms in the country that furnish credit reports to banks and other lenders trying to assess the creditworthiness of consumers.

"This ruling sends a clear signal that the privacy of your financial records are going to be protected by the law and that the FTC is going to enforce the law," said David Medine, associate director for credit practices.

OPINION

The Right Choice on Housing

In advance of the final report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning, President Charles M. Vest announced Tuesday evening that all freshmen will be housed in dormitories

Editorial

beginning in the fall of 2001. *The Tech* supports the decision made by the Academic Council as the best step towards creating a safe and secure environment for freshmen to spend their first year at the Institute.

This decision is not a major surprise. In 1989, the Potter Committee, charged to study the impact of Orientation on the MIT community and especially freshmen, reached the same conclusion. While the report was disregarded by students as lacking sufficient student input and was not acted upon as a result of student outcry, the consensus remained for years among many faculty. This sentiment was reiterated last year when Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephan L. Chorover proposed housing all of this year's freshmen on campus but later withdrew his proposal after students once again voiced opposition. *The Tech* endorsed the housing of freshmen exclusively on campus last year, believing that this course offers more substantive opportunities for interaction between freshmen and the rest of the Institute and that it gives first-year students time to make an informed choice regarding housing.

Fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups will undoubtedly have to change drastically as a result of this week's action. But they should realize that this decision is not disastrous. MIT has given the system three years to adjust and devise new plans for its continued viability. President Vest has stressed his desire that FSILGs remain a valued part of the Institute community, and has promised the Institute's assistance in preparing FSILGs for the imposition of the new system. It is reasonable for MIT to assist in meeting the financial burden inherent in this transition.

As a result of this decision, several FSILGs may face closure. However, this consequence is a natural progression out of many of the events which cast doubt on the safety in the FSILG system occurring in the past year. MIT should work to retain the variety and diversity of FSILGs, but the Institute should not go to great lengths in lending life support to all chapters, in particular those with a record of behavioral problems.

Student leaders from both dormitories and FSILGs should now work together to discuss the changes coming upon the implementation of this system. Open discussion and cooperation in planning now will help smooth this transition for all parties involved.

The administration could have done a better job in coordinating this announcement, as Tuesday morning students were led to believe the task force issues could be ignored for the duration of Orientation. This misstep has caused a certain amount of distrust among students about the motives surrounding this decision as even student leaders were kept in the dark until the 11th hour. The administration should have announced the upcoming decision as soon as possible to show good faith with the student body and dispel notions of the decision remaining clouded under a veil of secrecy.

President Vest and the task force deserve commendation for taking this difficult decision. Although this announcement will be unpopular with large segments of the MIT community, it is the right decision to make. And while the conclusion may relieve pressure on MIT from the external media, President Vest has stated that his motivation for reaching this decision is the administration's "commitment to enhancing our educational community and better integrating student life and learning."

The entire Institute community must now move forward and work together to ensure that the many benefits this decision may bring will come to fruition.

Letters To The Editor

Wan's Suggestions Unreasonable

I must say that I strongly disagree with Elaine Wan's comments on the financial aid system ["MIT Financial Aid Policy Unjust," August 5].

Compared to my family, Wan's can only be regarded as more fortunate. My own has two parents working full time at around \$40,000 per year for the family coffer, in support of four offspring, of which I am the oldest. Because of the spacing of births, my fami-

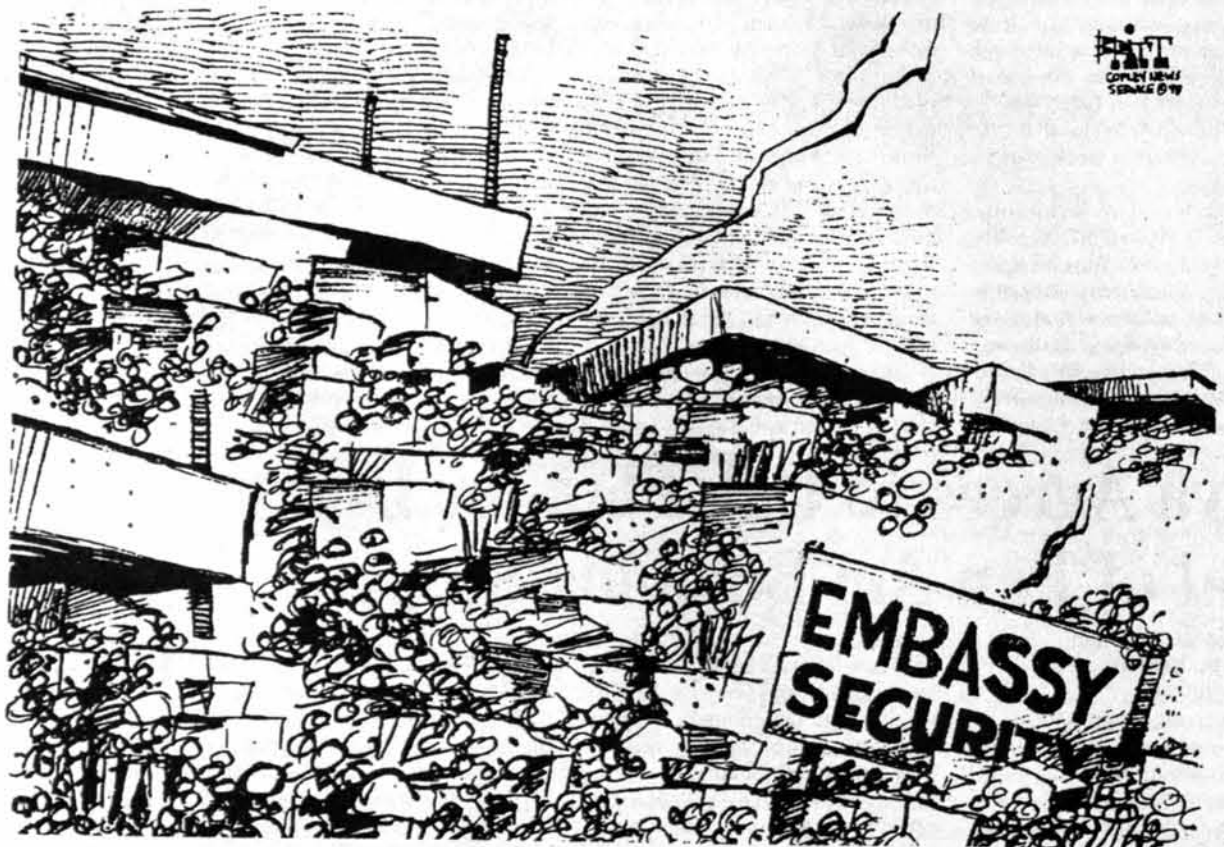
ly will be paying college tuitions non-stop for the next eleven years, including 1997-1998. And my brothers and sister, the first of which is due to start at Johns Hopkins University in the fall, will create the spectacle of having two college bills in the family for six years, not all consecutive.

The only reasonable solution to the financial aid problem faced by many of the elite United States college students is to create a loan whose repayment does not start until four years after the completion of a degree. Scholarships at MIT exist only with the purpose of helping the financially needy. It is

completely just for MIT to shift financial aid grants from people with scholarships to other, more needy students. Any family that cares about the education of its children should be willing to part with every available cent in support of that goal. And financial aid grants should not be granted to any family with money to spare.

We are not Harvard, nor are we Stanford. If Wan has problems with the egalitarian policies of MIT, maybe she should consider transferring to a college with policies more to her liking.

Chienta J. Wu '01



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Shaving for Freshman Success

Tending Beards Interrupts Personal and Intellectual Growth

Anders Hove

The business of providing incoming students with advice about their new *alma mater* is a fiercely competitive one, and so I had intended to make the advice column I offered last year my final attempt to influence the younger generation. Yet I recently learned from some of my colleagues that others were attempting to usurp the particular snippet of wisdom which I formerly monopolized. Hence I have reemerged from my brief retirement to once more provide my column of simple advice for freshmen — and I mean *men*, exclusively, for most women will find this advice irrelevant, and perhaps insulting when offered after an exploratory glance at their chins.

The advice is as follows: don't grow a beard — you'll look like an idiot.

Young men, I tell you there is no time like the present to heed this counsel. Your first year in college is a chance to take risks, explore your interests, and gain fresh insight through intellectual discovery and social development. Growing a beard at a young age throws into jeopardy your chance to engage in any of these activities. Thin and unruly stubble carries with it a strong social stigma, particularly at the Institute, where the unkempt is equivalent to the anti-social. A furtive attempt at beard-growing suggests you have been wor-

shipping the Goddess of the All Night Tool several evenings in a row, with all of the noisome and unhygienic implications that attend such activity.

Beards also stifle intellectual growth and personal discovery among young students. Tending a beard takes time and energy which otherwise would have been applied to study. And, in the evening, the mental fancy and imagination that would have fed pleasant and nourishing dreams is instead channeled into the follicles, from which it emanates into the nocturnal ether, where it dissipates. Instead of an intellectual giant, there emerges a hideous, hairy creature to whom only a single adjective can do proper justice: barbarous.

There is but one experience more awful than growing a beard: shaving. Most of our new arrivals will come to campus feeling they've had their fair share of this experience. After all, they have been tutored by their fathers and older siblings from an early age, and they know the humiliation of having missed spots of ungainly new growth on their cheeks, necks, backs, ears, lips, and inner nostrils.

To avoid shaving thus appears a consummation devoutly to be wished. Unfortunately, due to their lack of experience, freshmen are prone to repeat past experiments that have attempted, without notable success, to bypass the shaving process. Because of my reputation for five o'clock shadow, I have occasionally found myself acting in the undesirable capacity as repository for information related to beard-suppression techniques. Here I list a few of the most humorous experiments that have

come to my attention.

Willpower: Only a few possess the peace and tranquility required for suppressing hair growth through thought. Some gurus even claim to have cowed whiskers right back into their follicles. Unfortunately, the vast majority discover that stubble has a mind of its own.

UNIX: This stable and versatile platform is renowned for its initially intimidating but ultimately endearing user interface. Man has long known the benefits of touching and fingering his beard, but only recently has he attempted to *rm* it from a UNIX shell. Unfortunately, the command is prone to return "no match" when executed from a remote directory.

Sportswear: Ever put a headband over a pimple? Ever wear a baseball cap over a bad haircut? Football helmets have a chin guard that could cover the goatee area nicely. Let it go any further, and you're left with a choice between a hockey mask and a baseball umpire's chin sheath.

Wearable Computers: Here's the classic MIT quick fix — distract them by donning a wearable computer. Although some slightly fashionable wearables are now seen on the streets of Cambridge, beard owners may prefer the more ungainly versions. The theory goes that people will be so busy pointing at your gadgets they won't notice the hairs protruding out from underneath.

It must be painfully apparent by now that there is no good way to be rid of unsightly growth. My advice, therefore, is to shave early and often. Otherwise one winds up like the Emperor Titus, who, after forgetting to do the deed for nearly 24 hours, is said to have sighed, "*Diem perdidit*" — I have lost a day.



Alaska's Bubbling Crude

Michael J. Ring

Earlier this month, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced plans to open the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to drilling. In outlining the proposal, Babbitt stated this was a solid compromise based on sound science.

The reality, however, is that the administration has folded and given in to the hungry oil and gas conglomerates. These corporations, many of which hold abysmal environmental records, now have access to four million acres in Northern Alaska, much of which also serves as habitat for threatened or endangered species. The Interior Secretary's proposals are dangerous to both wildlife in the area and, more frighteningly, to the nation's energy policy as a whole.

In fairness, Babbitt's plan is much better than what would be advocated by industry lobbyists and their Republican puppets. According to the Interior Department, the plans will bar exploration in important caribou calving grounds, fishing areas, and nesting zones for birds of prey. Most of the region bordering the coastal plain has been spared from exploration. Further, according to the press release, construction near sensitive rivers is prohibited save for "essential" pipelines and roads.

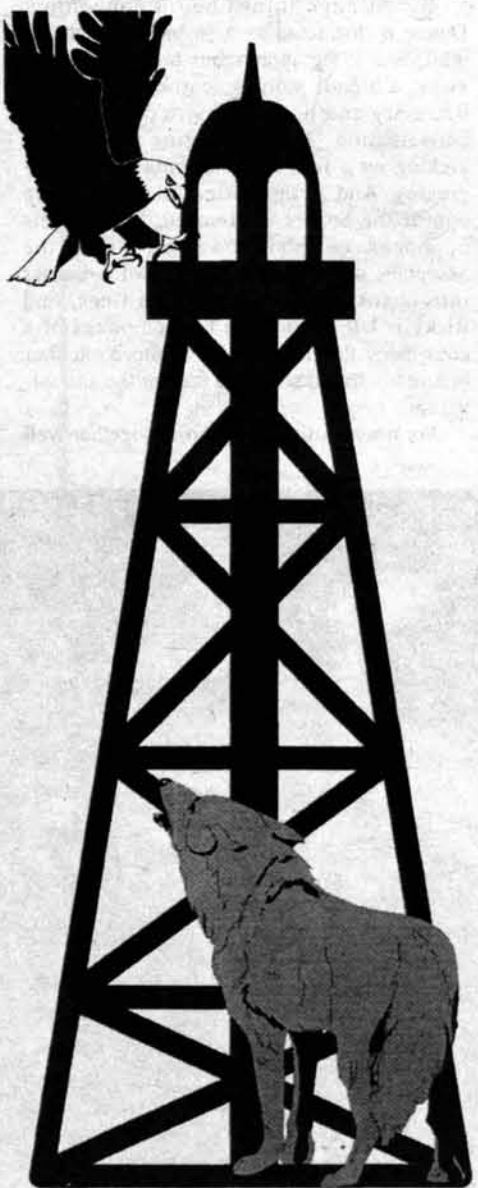
While these safeguards are welcomed, they do not offer the special level of protection needed in this critical environment. Only thirteen percent of the 4.6 million acre zone is completely closed to leasing. A further 1.5 million acres are closed to surface development, but underground development is accepted.

More important than these statistics, however, is the reality that oil companies have staked another claim in the Arctic tundra. With a foot in the door, it is easier for them to expand their operations to even more environmentally dangerous expeditions in the future. Further, nothing stops future environmentally-hostile governments from mincing the definitions of "essential" roads and pipelines. This concession to the oil industry leaves open the possibility they will pillage this land in the future.

Oil exploration is a risky business, where the possibility of a damaging leak or spill may always occur. Caribou and peregrine falcons, among other species, rely on the pristine Northern Arctic for their habitat. Even the small portion of coastline which may be subject to development puts at risk the ecosystem of the sea, and the fish, birds, and marine

mammals which it sustains.

Of greater long-term concern than the potential for damage to the area's wildlife and its habitat, however, is the decision of the United States government to continue to pursue an energy policy based on oil. We all know fossil fuel reserves are limited, regardless of how many reserves we tap, given the voracious pace of energy consumption in this modern world. Furthermore, their byproducts are responsible for much of the world's air pollution problem. To develop another oil



reserve makes no practical or environmental sense.

Interestingly, the world is currently awash in oil. Crude oil prices have plummeted on the world's commodities markets, and prices at the pump are among the lowest in recent memory. It is absolutely baffling to seek to add to the worldwide glut at this time.

Of course, political instability in the Middle East or the exhaustion of other deposits threaten to push up the prices of oil at any time. Even so, the decision to develop this reserve is fundamentally flawed. It is really only a stopgap to lengthen our domestic supply. It will not give us an unlimited supply of petroleum. Nor will it end our dependence on foreign oil. If the development of this National Petroleum Reserve were to give us an unlimited domestic supply, there would be some merit to its exploration and development. As it will not, there is little to be gained from its use.

The United States, and the rest of the world, needs a much more balanced energy policy for the next century. While fossil fuels can continue to play a role in providing fuel and electricity to the world, their use must be dramatically lessened. Energy companies and governments should be using their time and resources now to invest in cleaner, renewable sources of energy.

A nation such as the United States has the potential to be self-sufficient in terms of energy production by using clean methods of production. The large swaths of desert covering the southwestern quadrant of our nation could be turned into a solar power farm. The rough seas and tides of the Pacific Northwest and New England shores could also be harnessed for energy. Volcanoes and geysers found in the West may offer promise for future geothermal energy production there. The flat plains of our Midwest could be an ideal setting for wind-generated power stations.

While we can now produce energy through these technologies, they are largely not yet cost-feasible. Fossil fuels are still cheaper, and a profit-conscious industry thus chooses them over adequate investment in and exploration of new energy resources.

One holds little hope that multinational corporations will truly explore these new methods until the cost of fossil fuels becomes prohibitive. Therefore, one must turn to the government to support and carry out this important research. The decision to open the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, however, is a very disappointing action from the administration. This government should have more foresight and be showing much more support for renewable energy technologies.

As the West continues its consumption of fossil fuels and the world's developing nations see their demand for power rise exponentially, the entire world will need to lessen its dependence on fossil fuels and find new, less polluting technologies. The Interior Department's decision to develop oil reserves in Alaska will only discourage us from confronting the critical energy policy decisions so important to the world in the next century.

A New Rush Order for MIT

Joel M. Rosenberg

I was talking to an upperclassman my freshman year:

"What do you think of house A?"
 "House A? They're all losers."
 "How about house B?"
 "Dorks. That place is full of dorks."
 "Do you know anyone from that house?"
 "I know a few guys. They're dorks."

It occurred to me that if the guy I was talking to were a similar representative of our house to other houses, people would have probably thought we were all dorks too. I refused to believe the only "cool" people at MIT lived with me in bliss and harmony and instead believed that this place would be a lot better if it were less segregated. While I still believe that, it now stems more from practicality than idealism. The time has come for some fundamental shifts in our thinking.

The days of dorms versus fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups are over. It's going to be damn crowded in the dorms if rush goes poorly this year, and it will only get worse as the years go on. Let's agree that there are differences between dorms and houses, and agree to disagree about which is better. Freshmen should be encouraged to personally weigh the benefits of both and make a decision based on that, instead of being bombarded with the usual "dorms suck"/"frats suck." If you're in a dorm and can't speak of the positives of a house because you have no friends in houses, and vice versa, you're case in point of why we need to break down the dorm/FSILG wall.

The days of dorms versus FSILGs are over. Freshmen should be encouraged to weigh the benefits of both.

The days of house versus house are over as well. I have seen some incredibly slimy, underhanded things take place during rush, and they simply can't happen this year. Rush is supposed to match freshmen with the house they will get the most from and not just fill a quota a house sets. If everyone genuinely tries to steer freshmen where they'll be happiest, I think all will be surprised at how well the system can work. Every house has a character and history that is worth preserving, and we stand to lose a few of them if rush is too selfishly motivated.

As far as the generalizations that exist about houses and dorms, think about how many you've even been in, let alone hung out in. Out of a group of any 50 MIT students, are you honestly willing to say that none of them would be of any interest to you? The people here are too intelligent and too diverse for that to be true. That's not to say you should try to become friends with everyone. I just think that if more connections existed among the students here as undergraduates, in addition to the enriched experience we might get from different perspectives, the potential for greatness after this place would be exponentially increased.

Rush should be a time to welcome freshmen to MIT and start getting to know them. Just because they don't pledge or lottery into your house doesn't mean you should write them off. If you're really a kid's contact, you should try to actually stay in contact. And the same goes for freshmen — you can try to stay friends with people from rush, no matter where you live. If someone isn't interested because you didn't take their bid, you probably made the right decision.

Finally, reporters from the outside can't tell the difference between LCA and LSC, AXO or AXE. The game has changed, and it's now MIT versus the world. Let's strengthen the community from the inside so we're ready for attacks from the outside. If cooperation is the last resort, then we're down to our last resort. We're the brightest, most anti-social nerds in the country, thrust together in hell. We have to eliminate the belief that insulating ourselves from each other will somehow reduce the heat we individually feel — open spaces get much more ventilation.

We're all dorks. So let's just try to have a good rush.

THE ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

π

Searching for patterns in all the wrong places

By Vladimir Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Darren Aronofsky
Written by Darren Aronofsky, based on the story by Aronofsky, Sean Gullette, and Eric Watson
With Sean Gullette, Mark Margolis, Ben Shenkman

There's a certain story which keeps getting made into a movie every now and then, and I frankly wish the film makers would stop bothering with it. So many have failed to do it justice that the idea seems less and less filmable to me.

The story I'm talking about is pursuit of unknowable, as distinctly opposed to the pursuit of something that is simply unknown. Usually, it's the story of a lone conflicted visionary who is looking for the Theory of Everything, the Underlying Pattern of the Universe, the True Name of God, or something equally esoteric. The last film to tackle this was last summer's *Contact*, which ended up as a mixture of numbingly obvious platitudes and insulting audience manipulation. Now we have *π*, a small independent movie which won Best Director award at Sundance for Darren Aronofsky (who also wrote the screenplay). In almost every single aspect, this movie is superior to *Contact*—but it still ends up

being a disappointment.

The story involves Max Cohen, a paranoid and reclusive New York math genius, who is holed in his cheap apartment behind a door with three locks, and who talks to his homemade supercomputer, Euclid, trying to detect a pattern in the chaos of the universe—in the digits of π , in the rise and fall of the stock market, and (after a coffee-shop meeting with a talkative Hasidic scholar) in the letters of Torah. Cohen is also affected by a rare brain malaise, which causes him to have wild uncontrollable fits and hallucinations.

The movie is filmed in black and white—and I don't mean your usual garden-variety black and white, which also utilizes shades of gray in between. No, π is filmed in high contrast black and white, with almost no gradations between pitch darkness and blinding light. This results in some remarkable visuals, including a thrilling opening title sequence, where the viewer is whisked along the veritable torrent of diverse visual information.

The look of the film also functions as an apt metaphor of its central theme—pursuit of

ultimate truth can be as bright as to prove blinding. In case the audience doesn't get it, the opening narration helpfully provides the convenient metaphor of "staring into the sun," which is repeated twice more during the movie. When it was repeated for the third time, my patience started to run dry, being exhausted by ostentatious metaphors without much meaning in any context but the metaphorical.

The same doubly applies to the the movie's most disturbing subplot—the sequences of a man physically mutilating his own brain. Although highly effective in making the viewers squirm in their seats, they don't really have any meaning beyond being metaphors—and also quite painful to watch (although clearly intentionally so).

Still, when π doesn't waste time trying—quite miserably—to be profound, and simply dives head first into the whirlpool of unsolved scientific mysteries, it soars. Totally different from *Contact*, which equated science with either pseudo-philosophical babbling or hardware gizmos, π simply presents a truly fascinating array of facts, and hints at the connections between them. Strangely enough, the main focus is not on the titular number. Instead, the most interesting material is proved by ϕ , the gold-

en mean, 1.618... This number is tied to the Fibonacci series, the Leonardo da Vinci thesis about the perfectly proportioned human body, the shape of a plant leaf—and a galaxy—and they are all linked together in one montage sequence, during which the movie is absolutely thrilling, making the audience feel as if they, along with the protagonist, are on the brink of some great discovery.

This discovery, of course, is impossible, because π concerns itself with the unknowable, and its ending strongly confirms my suspicions that this story is inherently unfilmable. While in a book the simple presentation of the interconnected ideas might be sufficient, the film, because of the peculiarities of the medium, has to provide a closure to the story, and here it stumbles, almost fatally. In the last fifteen minutes, π degenerates into some not very involving chases, violence, and more self-mutilation, only to mask the fact that there can't really be a (dramatically) satisfying ending.

Even more lamentably, Aronofsky's usually rigorous writing also suffers in the end, by making some half-hearted stabs at science fiction via the ludicrous hypothesis about what happens to computers when they crash, and, even worse, making factual mistakes; the important sequence in the end—the conversation with a mysterious Rabbi—totally falls flat because the screenplay cannot tell a number and a digit apart.

I can't really blame Aronofsky for trying; he succeeds more than one would expect. It's just that he's trying to tell in a narrative-based medium something that doesn't really work as a story.

MOVIE REVIEW

Snake Eyes

Promising start craps out

By Tzu-Mainn Chen

Written by David Koepp
Directed by Brian De Palma
With Nicholas Cage, Gary Sinise, Carla Gugino

Watching movies which suck from the very beginning (*Godzilla*, for example) isn't necessarily such a bad experience. With these sorts of movies, at least you can comfortably settle back in your seat and yell wisecracks at the screen with your friends. And afterwards, it's easy to erase the whole memory from your mind and move on to better things.

On the other hand, it's a tragedy when a movie begins with great promise before sliding downwards into a perfect waste of time. This is true not only because of the squandered potential, but also because a viewer often leaves the theater burdened with the knowledge that if the movie had been changed in such-and-such a manner, then the whole

experience could have been much more enjoyable. Put another way: if you're not going to make it to the top, don't even attempt the climb. Unfortunately, *Snake Eyes* fails to observe this maxim.

Snake Eyes begins by following one Ricky Santoro (Nicholas Cage) around in an Atlantic City casino. Dressed in a loud Hawaiian shirt and a broad smile, every aspect of Ricky screams "sleaze." As the camera trails Ricky in a dizzying array of shots, we see him try to place a three thousand dollar bet with a bookie on the championship boxing match that is to take place later that night. When the bookie demands the money up front, Ricky finds a local hood, takes him to a quiet place, and promptly beats the hell out of him, stealing the needed money in the process. And in a brief, throwaway moment between these two events, we learn that Ricky also happens to be the head of the police assigned to protect the casino.

In that one instant, director Brian De Palma brilliantly begins drawing the viewer into the universal

darkness and corruption that lies at the heart of one of modern America's mythical locations—Atlantic City. It's a feeling that De Palma tries to sustain throughout the film, through deceptions and betrayals and the like. But the whole mystery falls apart far too quickly.

Ringside, Ricky meets up with his best friend, Navy Commander Kevin Dunne, played by Gary Sinise. They chat for a moment before sitting down to enjoy the fight. In that conversation we learn that Dunne is the polar opposite of his friend: forthright and honorable. He's there in charge of the security detail protecting the Secretary of Defense, who's at the fight as well.

But strange things begin happening. Dunne is distracted by a suspicious redhead, who runs as he approaches her. While he's away, a blonde woman scurries over to the Secretary and begins a hurried, whispered conversation. A drunk begins yelling and kicking up a fuss as the boxing match progresses. And at the critical moment, when one of the boxers is knocked down by his opponent, two shots ring out, hitting the Secretary in the throat. The crowd collapses into chaos, the blonde woman flees, and Ricky is left holding the tattered pieces of a conspiracy that he must try to piece together before his friend takes the fall for the assassination.

For a while, the movie holds together well

as a suspense mystery, with Ricky following up several tangled threads. Did the boxing champion throw the fight? Why was the drunk wearing a radio earpiece? And where did the blonde woman go?

Unfortunately, in a moment as devoid of grace as Alexander slicing apart the Gordian knot, the leader of the conspiracy is revealed before the movie has a chance to fully involve the viewer. It's all downhill from there, and the movie quickly becomes just another cliché, as both the good guys and the villains race to find the blonde, and Ricky struggles against the darker angels of his nature in order to do the right thing.

Not only that, but as the movie collapses, it becomes easier to notice many other annoying details, from the overdone eye makeup on the villain who, at one point, appears to have an excessive amount of eye shadow smeared beneath the eyes, to the overly-repetitive and annoying music, which, more than anything else, made me wish that the movie would finish already. All of this culminates in one of the most laughable endings that I have ever seen on the big screen involving, among other things, a hurricane and a gigantic metal ball rolling around the boardwalk.

Snake Eyes shows excellent promise in its first thirty minutes or so, and for that alone, it deserves to be seen on videotape. However, the sheer stupidity of the rest of the movie makes an \$8 investment a complete waste.

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Detective Rick Santoro (Nicholas Cage, left) briefs Navy Commander Kevin Dunne (Gary Sinise, right) in the suspense thriller "Snake Eyes."

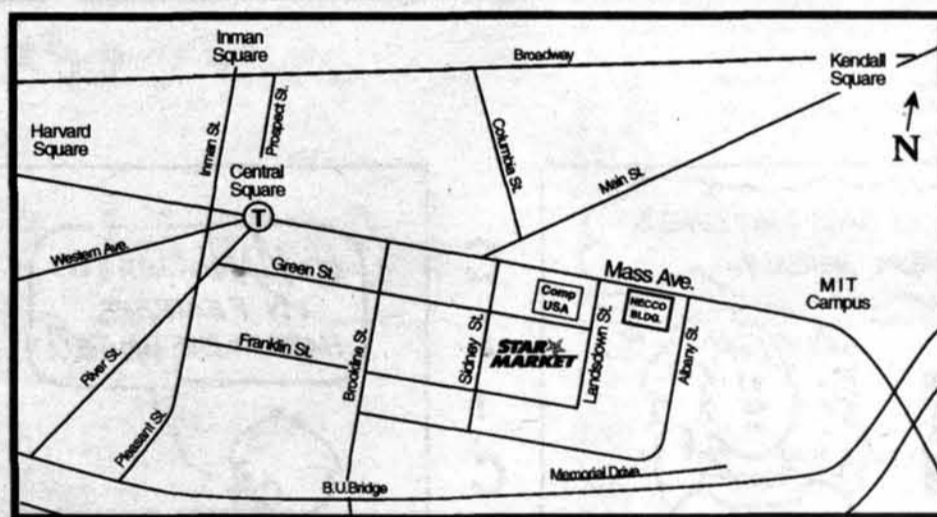
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damned for life

by Jessica



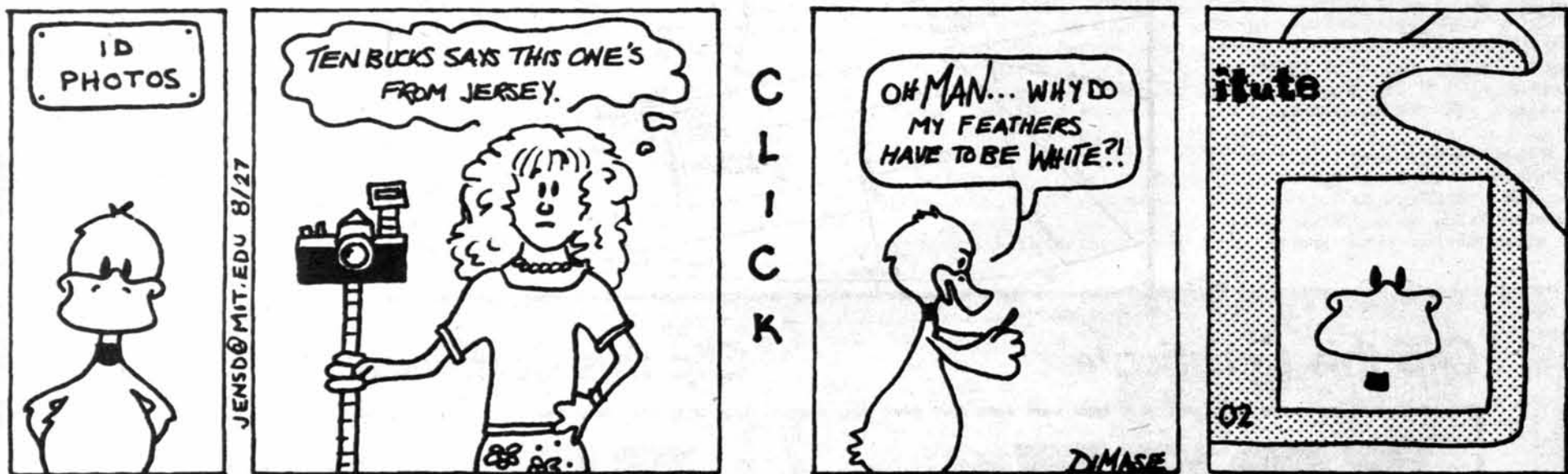
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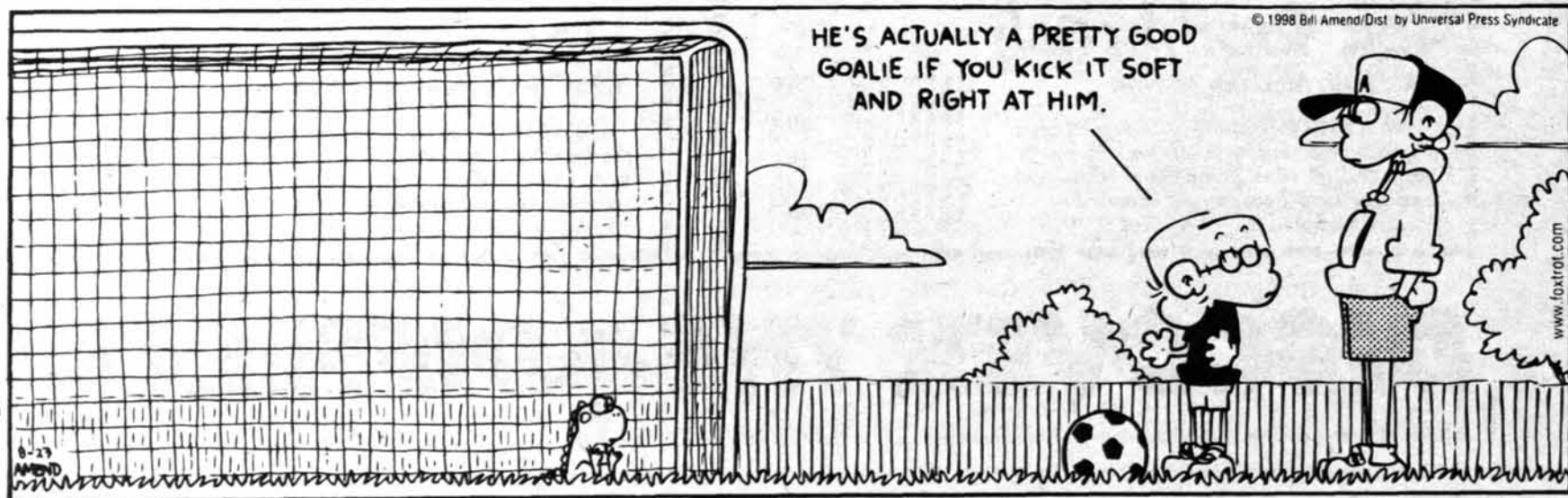
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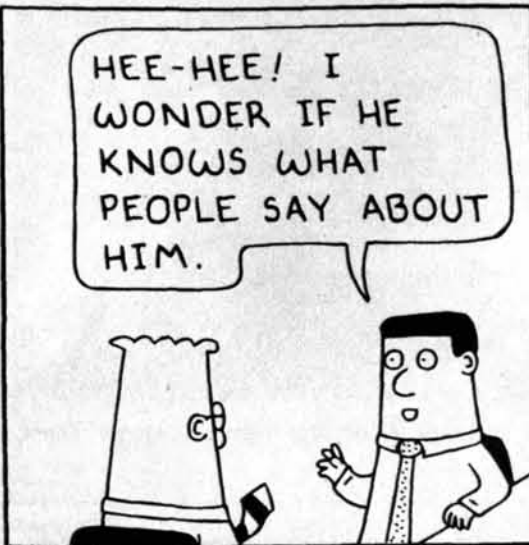
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<http://www-japan.mit.edu/MITJapanProgram/>

The MIT Japan Program

TechCalendar

TechCalendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event.
Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

For further information on any of these events, visit
<http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>.

Visit the TechCalendar web site (<http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>) to add information on events to be included in the print and online versions of TechCalendar.

Thursday's Events

8:00 p.m. – **Aurelius Ensemble Concert.** Penderecki's Cadenza for Viola Solo; Schubert's Fantasy for Piano with Four Hands; Gorecki's String Quartet No. 1. Killian Hall (Building 14).

8:00 p.m. – **Battle of Algiers.** This is one of the most vividly realistic films of all time. Initially banned by French Government, it won wide acclaim, including 11 awards and an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film. 1-390. 2 hours. Sponsor: Muslim Students Association.

Friday's Events

8:00 – 9:30 p.m. – **MIT Masters Swimming Workout.** Do you find that Alumni Pool is too crowded during open swim? Try MIT Masters Swimming. Alumni Pool.

8:00 p.m. – **Into the Woods.** Musical by James Lapine (book) and Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics). \$3 admission for freshmen; \$6 for MIT students, various prices for others. Kresge Little Theatre. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild

Saturday's Events

8:00 p.m. – **Into the Woods.** Musical by James Lapine (book) and Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics). \$3 admission for freshmen; \$6 for MIT students, various prices for others. Kresge Little Theatre. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild

Sunday's Events

8:00 p.m. – **Into the Woods.** Musical by James Lapine (book) and Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics). \$3 admission for freshmen; \$6 for MIT students, various prices for others. Kresge Little Theatre. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild

Past Year Replete with Numerous Alcohol Incidents

By Brett Altschul
NEWS EDITOR

Over the past year, MIT and its fraternity system has come under widespread scrutiny from both the media and forces within Boston government as a result of numerous alcohol incidents.

The MIT fraternity system was first thrown into the spotlight when Scott S. Krueger '01, a pledge at Phi Gamma Delta, fell into an alcohol-induced coma late the evening of Friday, Sept. 26. He died just over three days later.

The Institute's Fiji chapter was immediately suspended by both MIT and the fraternity's national organization. At the same time, the Interfraternity Council temporarily banned all alcohol-related activities at fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

In October, Fiji's national organization announced that it would join two other national fraternities, Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta, and become totally dry by July 1, 2000. The national office said that they had been considering the action for

some time, but Krueger's death convinced them to move forward immediately.

In November, the Boston Licensing Board suspended Fiji's dormitory and alcohol licenses. The dormitory license suspension was to last from January 15 until at least August 15, after which the house could petition to house students again.

In July, MIT announced that the Institute would not support Fiji's petition to reinstate the house's dormitory license. In light of this fact, Fiji

decided not to petition the board to have their license renewed, so the fraternity house is closed indefinitely.

A grand jury investigation of Krueger's death remains ongoing. A Suffolk County grand jury has heard extensive evidence about alcohol use in the FSILG system. Indictments are expected shortly.

Zeta Psi freshman buys keg

On Oct. 10, Francis R. Godwin '01, then a 19-year-old pledge at Zeta Psi, tried to purchase a beer keg using false identification. Godwin and two other underage pledges were caught by Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission agents who were tailing the delivery truck.

Although the Campus Police and Cambridge Police assisted the ABC agents, none of the three students were arrested.

After the incident, MIT immediately banned alcohol at the fraternity. The house was eventually forced to dismantle their tapping system. Tapping systems are illegal in Boston fraternities by order of the Boston Licensing Board.

BU coed drinks at Theta Chi

On Nov. 15, Marie A. Figueredo, then an 18-year-old freshman at Boston University, was hospitalized for alcohol poisoning after drinking with several friends at Theta Chi. After the incident, the fraternity temporarily removed all alcohol from the house until the issue was resolved.

At a licensing board hearing in January, Theta Chi singled out one member of the house, Jason F. Kreisberg '99. The drinking apparently occurred with a small group of people in Kreisberg's room, with no other house members present.

Jason T. Timpe '99, then the president of the fraternity, said that Theta Chi suspended Kreisberg.

The board eventually banned all alcohol from the house until August 15, but took no further action, recognizing that the incident was not a part of an officially sanctioned fraternity event.

Freshman drinks at Sig Ep

An 18-year-old female freshman was hospitalized on Saturday, Dec. 6, after being served alcohol at Sigma Phi Epsilon. MIT immediately suspended the fraternity.

After the incident, the alumni of the house required the fraternity to become alcohol-free indefinitely. They also mandated the house hire a resident adviser and change to a new system, developed by the national organization, that essentially eliminated pledging.

In February, the Boston Licensing Board banned alcohol from the fraternity for one year.

The fraternity received relatively light punishment from MIT, because the Institute felt that Sig Ep responded quickly and maturely to

the incident, making extensive sanctions unnecessary.

CPs find drinking at Bexley

On Saturday, Jan. 10, the Campus Police broke up an unofficial party in the basement of Bexley House, taking the names of 18 underage drinkers.

The CPs informed the Cambridge and state authorities, but neither took any further action. Since the event was not officially affiliated with the dormitory, Bexley received no sanctions from the Institute.

SAE serves alcohol to prefrash

At a party during Campus Preview Weekend in April, Sigma Alpha Epsilon served alcohol to visiting high school students. The house was immediately suspended by the administration.

Initially, the IFC Judicial Committee imposed severe sanctions on SAE, after complaints from Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones. The sanctions included a ban on alcohol at the fraternity and a loss of Institute-approved housing status, which would have prevented freshmen from living at SAE this year.

However, the loss of Institute-approved housing status was overturned on an appeal to the IFC Executive Committee, because the IFC believed that they could not revoke the privilege. However, the Committee also extended the alcohol ban at the fraternity to last until June 11, 1999.

The suspension of SAE continues through rush, and as a result the fraternity will not be able to rush freshmen.

In addition, the IFC judicial committee found SAE guilty of violating their dean's office suspension and athletic department rules by contacting freshmen over the summer. SAE was fined by the IFC and their rush was delayed, a punishment made moot by the continuing suspension.

BTP boarders injure officer

On July 17, summer boarders at Beta Theta Pi who were not affiliated with MIT pelted Boston University police officers with filled beer bottles and cans. One officer suffered severe spinal damage and may not serve again on the BU police force.

The IFC sanctioned the house, banning alcohol from their property until Sept. 7, 1999. However, the fraternity will be allowed to rush this fall.

The national office of the fraternity suspended the chapter's charter. As a result, the chapter will be run temporarily by the local alumni.

James B. Williams '99, a member of BTP, is scheduled to be indicted on Wednesday for purchasing and providing alcohol to the underage boarders.



GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

TABLE FOR 1000 - Freshmen gathered to eat and socialize at the last night's welcome dinner. The dinner is a new part of Orientation this year.

Funny how we can panic over a strange spot on a car and ignore one on ourselves.

Skin cancer is a lot like rust—if caught early there's less damage. Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. If left untreated, melanoma can eventually spread throughout your body and kill you. That's why you should examine your skin regularly. Melanomas are multi-colored, usually larger than a pencil eraser with an irregular border. If you spot something suspicious, see your dermatologist.



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Banking Options Abound For Incoming Students

By Frank Dabek
NEWS EDITOR

Of the myriad decisions facing freshmen as they arrive on campus, the choice of a bank may not seem as important as compared to choosing classes, choosing a place to live, and otherwise surviving rush.

While most of the available banking options feature similar offerings, including debit and credit cards, overdraft protection, and phone or on-line banking significant differences exist in the fees charged by the banks, their treatment of ATMs not owned by the bank, and in their convenience to campus.

Many freshmen may take advantage of a Massachusetts law known as the 18/65 law which requires banks to provide free checking to those 18 or younger.

Representatives from many banks will be advertising their services in the Student Center over the next week; however, due to licens-

ing agreements BankBoston is the only bank authorized to actually open accounts in the Student Center.

BankBoston

If one speaks of banking alternatives in Boston, he is talking of alternatives to BankBoston. Created by the merger of Bay Bank and Bank Boston, this is the most visible banking option around campus with a branch office in the student center.

BankBoston representative Eridnia Peralta recommends the bank's "student value" package which includes a checking and companion savings package. The package includes overdraft protection, a debit card, and for those over 18 a credit card.

The package incurs no monthly fees for the first year and for each month thereafter a \$6 fee per month. If a customer completes all transactions in a given month from an ATM, the monthly fee is reduced to \$3. BankBoston charges a \$1 fee

to use a non BankBoston ATM. Peralta said that students can expect to "find a [BankBoston] ATM almost everywhere they go"

Cambridge Trust

One of the Davids going against the Goliath BankBoston, Cambridge Trust stresses its no fee approach to banking. Marketing Assistant Heather Kispert said that the bank's "ATM Convenience" account offers savings and checking accounts with no minimum balance and no monthly fee for as long as the account is active.

"The key word is 'all the time,'" Kispert said, making the distinction between BankBoston's limited fee free period.

This account allows a user to write only 8 checks per billing cycle. Each additional check written carries a fee of \$3. Each use of a out of network ATM carries a \$1 fee.

For a \$500 minimum balance (which will be waived if a paycheck

is directly deposited to the account) a customer can upgrade to a "personal checking" account which allows an unlimited number of checks per cycle.

Cambridge Trust also offers a line of credit reserve including automatic payments from a savings account.

As a promotion for new students, the bank is offering two months of free access to its online banking and a free copy of Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary in hardcover or on CD-ROM.

The nearest Cambridge Trust branch is in Kendall Square near the Coop or in University Park. Both branches are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and the University Park branch is open 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Citizen's Bank

Citizen's Bank, the third largest bank in the northeast, is another alternative to BankBoston. According to Customer Sales Representative Michael Torrielli, the bank offers the standard checking/savings package with a fixed rate credit card and an available debit card. The monthly fee for this account is \$2.50, and each use of an out of network ATM incurs a charge of \$1.75.

Citizen's also offers a form of overdraft protection which "links savings and checking accounts."

The nearest branch of Citizen's Bank is in the new Star Market at University Park. An ATM at the

same location is accessible 24 hours a day.

Fleet Bank

The largest bank in Boston after BankBoston, Fleet offers a basic checking package with a \$2.50 fee per month. Eight debits (either checks or ATMs) are free each month. Each transaction after the eight results in a \$1 fee.

Another Fleet option, dubbed "Self Service Checking" requires that all banking be done via ATMs or electronically. This option has a \$7.00 per month fee (reduced to \$5.00 with direct deposit of a paycheck) and gives the user 20 free checks and unlimited ATM use. Each check after the 20 incurs a \$0.50 charge.

The nearest Fleet ATM is located in the infinite corridor, the nearest branch is located in Central Square on Massachusetts Avenue.

UStTrust

UStTrust offers similar services to Cambridge Trust. UStTrust accounts are "basically free" according to a sales representative.

There is no minimum balance required for the recommended package and no limit is placed on the number of transactions or ATM uses.

The nearest UStTrust branches are located near One Kendall Square and in Central Square on Massachusetts Avenue.

Douglas E. Heimburger contributed to the reporting of this story

	BankBoston	Cambridge Trust	Citizen's Bank	Fleet	UStTrust
Monthly Fee	\$6.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$0.00
Checks Drawn without Charge	Unlimited	8	6	8	Unlimited
Additional Charge Per Check	N/A	\$3.00	not available	\$1.00	N/A
Off-Network ATM Charge	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.75	not available	none

SOURCE: RESPECTIVE BANKS

Campus Police More Tolerant Of 'Student Antics' Than BU

Police, from Page 1

Both departments are aggressive when dealing with members outside their respective communities, Glavin said. However, the BU police tend to "treat everyone the same way" instead of dealing with the community on a different level.

The BU Police "are extremely angry at MIT and extremely angry at MIT FSILGs," Glavin said. As a result, they are likely to report even minor incidents to the licensing board.

"I would prefer that they let us take care of our own business," Glavin said, adding that Boston Police and BU Police have also had discussions about the borders between the two forces.

Although the MIT Police currently have no jurisdiction in Suffolk County, they plan to operate

in a "high-visibility mode" during the next month. Cruisers and bicycle-based police will be in the area of Boston fraternities as part of their patrols, Glavin said.

Jurisdictions, cost are issues

Although deputizing police officers in Boston has been recommended by the licensing board, many potential problems have to be dealt with and it is uncertain whether the new deputy powers will actually be requested, Glavin said.

For example, details of who would respond to incidents at particular addresses will need to be coordinated with the BU Police and Boston Police, Glavin said.

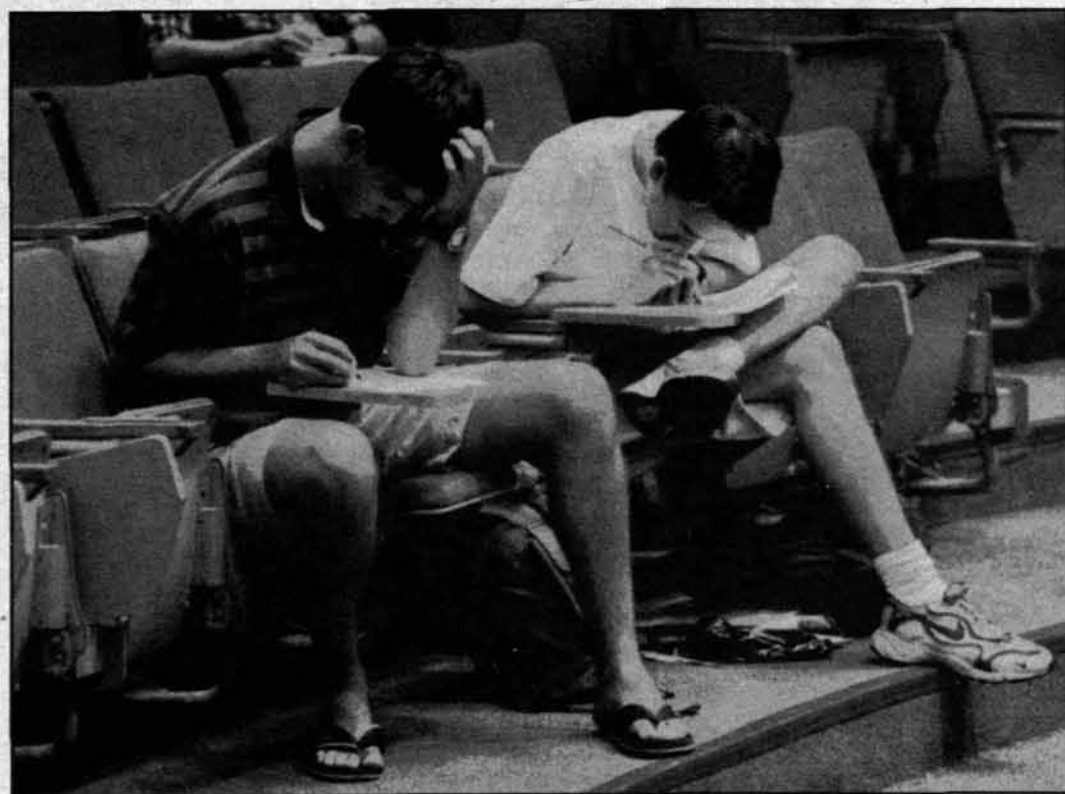
A different but equally important issue is dealing with "errant calls," or calls that go to the wrong police authority. "I obviously want to know that BU would call us instead

of responding" to problems at MIT fraternities, Glavin said.

Other issues to be addressed include the expense of dramatically increasing the MIT Police presence in Boston. New equipment will have to be purchased and new officers trained to work in Boston, said Stephen D. Immerman, director of project development and temporary supervisor of the Campus Police.

BU officials yesterday declined comment on the potential Suffolk County deputization of MIT Police.

Earlier this month, BU Vice President Richard Towle expressed the University's concern that MIT was not adequately supervising its fraternities. BU talked to the MIT administration several times about previous incidences but BU has "never gotten a response," Towle said.



THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

A few incoming freshmen took the Calculus II advanced standing exam yesterday in 10-250.

BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE.

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much

electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is

being wasted in the restrooms. And

how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot.

Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work.

When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a

memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your

lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups.

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Kaiser Presents Brain-Teaser as A Metaphor for Life at Institute

Dinner, from Page 1

to Ricky A. Gresh, co-organizer of the event and program coordinator for the Office of Residential Life and Student Life Programs.

"I thought everyone was going to be shy," said Luis M. Otero '02. That myth was soon dispelled for Otero however. "You can get to know everyone here," Otero added.

The energy in the air was tangible. "This is just their first night. I guess they are just excited," Gresh said.

"I haven't seen anyone who has sat in the corner and done nothing," said Rory P. Pfeiffer '02.

In addition to good food and good people, several events were planned to keep students occupied past midnight.

A hypnotist on hand to entertain students. Originally scheduled for an hour, he was so popular that the show was extended for an additional half-hour, Gresh said.

"The hypnotist was awesome," said Miguel Rivera '02.

Following the hypnotist, 350 freshmen gathered in Lobdell Food Court to watch *Austin Powers*.

In addition to a movie, a jazz band was on hand in the coffee-house to mellow out freshmen while a DJ played music outside on the student center steps.

Board games kept students occupied in Networks while video games were free in the Student Center basement. Students created spin art using frisbees on the center's first floor.

The Student Center activities

were co-organized by Gresh, Monica Huggins and Heather Trickett of the Public Service Center, and the Orientation leaders.

Welcome dinner praised

While students were pumped to get to know each other last night, they also enjoyed the welcome dinner itself.

The freshmen were first introduced to MIT with remarks from LaGace and Kaiser. Lagace offered up advice to incoming freshmen while Kaiser introduced freshmen to their first brain teaser at MIT.

Kaiser posed to students the challenge of balancing six nails on a single one. After presenting the problem, he strode through the crowds, congratulating each table that successfully completed the task.

After several minutes, LaGace revealed the correct solution, composed with extra-large nails. He carried the solution around Johnson for all to see.

As LaGace revealed the solution, Kaiser said it was a metaphor for students' experiences at MIT. "The one nail represents you," he said. "The six nails represent the lives you will lead here."

The six nails represented academic life, social life, spiritual life, love life, past and future.

Somewhat surprisingly for students, Kaiser focused most on the love life aspect of an MIT career. "I think that you can have a love affair, not only with a human being," he began, inserting a long pause. The audience waited tensely, half-

expecting some off-color remark, until he finished, "...but also with an institution." At this, the freshman class broke into relieved laughter.

"I liked the introduction. I didn't get bored," Otero said.

Hacks emphasized in speech

Kaiser then went on to highlight many of the most famous hacks that have punctuated MIT history.

The presentation detailed such well-known hacks as the weather balloon inflated during the 1982 Harvard-Yale game, the Great Pumpkin image placed on the Great Dome, and the ping-pong balls dropped from the ceiling of Lobby 7.

"That was a lot of cool stuff going on there," said Raymond Morales '02.

After the hack slide show, Kaiser returned the podium to LaGace after formally introducing him. He mentioned LaGace's calculation, using the MIT wind tunnel, of how a new structure built behind home plate at Fenway Park decreased the number of home runs hit in the park.

LaGace then fielded questions from the freshmen about MIT life and culture, sharing his knowledge of the Institute, garnered as both a student and a professor.

Students also go the chance to sit down and talk to professors and fellow students in small groups at the dinner, but this structure may have provided a hindrance to some.

"It was kind of tough getting people to talk. It was just kind of awkward at first," said Jonathan M. Graham '02.



Richard Chen '02 drops to his knees to catch a frisbee near DuPont Gymnasium.

CONNIE LU



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

FRESHMAN HOUSING 2001

August 26, 1998

NOTICE

This space has been designated as "on-campus housing" for the class of 2005.

President Vest and the Academic Council have decided to house all freshman students in campus residence halls, starting in the Fall of 2001. This decision represents a major step in our commitment to enhancing our educational community, and better integrating student life and learning. We agree that this is a difficult time to be undertaking this project, but it is also an exciting opportunity to develop living spaces tailored to the many diverse elements of the student body.

In order to meet this goal, current space utilization has been re-evaluated. To ensure that your interests and those of the MIT community are best served, the Task Force on Student Life and Learning has performed an exhaustive study of this matter. We would like to thank all those who provided input in this process during the public review period.

This space has been chosen for freshman housing based on the recommendations of the committee. All current occupants must vacate by August 26, 2001.

For more information, please consult President Vest's press release, or the full report of the Task Force, both of which are available through the MIT News Office.

Office of Student Entertainment and Housing
7-501, x4-4836

One group of students expressed their disapproval with President Charles M. Vest's decision Tuesday to require all freshmen to live in dormitories starting in 2001 through alternative means. This unsigned poster appeared in the Student Center and comments on the possible crowding of dormitories that may result from moving freshmen onto campus. Previous attempts to move freshmen to campus were met with widespread opposition from the student body.

Programs Give Frosh Jump On Orientation

Programs, from Page 1

er" activities of the same type.

Vandiver said that the program was "fallout from chairing the Orientation committee" which recommended improving the way freshmen are introduced to the academic side of the Institute.

"The faculty has long wanted to have more O[rientation]" during the first time freshmen spend on campus. This program, he said, will "give [students] a head start in adjusting to MIT before Orientation begins."

In addition, the program provides exposure for Ocean Engineering. "Many students haven't had a clue what OE is," Vandiver said. This program "puts OE on the map."

Vandiver said that he expects to repeat the program next year.

Freshman Service Program

The Freshman Service Program is in its first year. Co-founder Ritu Gupta '99 said that the goal of the new program, which involved 46 freshmen, was to "develop a sense of community" with fellow students as well as with the Boston and Cambridge areas. She founded the program with Shawdee Eshghi '99.

The program began with games and activities designed to explain issues that would be relevant to the groups work. The program then broke into "smaller more intimate groups" to participate in community service projects in Boston and Cambridge, Gupta said.

Participants worked at the Boston Food Bank sorting food, at the Salvation Army, the AIDS Action Committee and the Thorndyke school.

The program closed with a banquet attended by President Charles

M. Vest and the Mayor of Cambridge. Presentations by the students really "opened our eyes to opportunities" in community service, Gupta said.

Gupta said that "there were definitely quirks" in the program but said that FSP will "hopefully [be] established as an annual" activity.

Freshmen from FSP and from the OE program were housed in East Campus, a decision which Vandiver said helped foster community.

Freshman Leadership Program

Now in its third year, FLP is mature by comparison to other programs. The program received good review from the more than 100 freshmen who participated.

"Even though I didn't have a great time [FLP] was the best way to start out my college life," said Michael H. Vogel '02. Vogel said he would "definitely recommend the program."

Carlos A. Garcia '02 called FLP a "pretty good program" and "a very good chance to meet people during our first weekend here."

FLP was "really good", said Jennifer E. Erwin '02, who pointed to the cross-dressing as the high point of the program.

Robert A. Aronstam '02 said that he felt "definitely more relaxed going into O."

The goal of FLP was to foster "leadership, not in the traditional sense but taking responsibility within your community," said Elsie Huang '00, one of the FLP leaders.

Another goal of FLP, Huang said, was "for freshmen to meet and interact with freshmen so that once residence selection is complete there will be bonds across living groups."

Huang, incidentally, called the cross dressing "disturbing."

Need advice during rush? Call Nightline, 3-8800. We're here to listen.