

Fiji Members Fail to Appear At Manslaughter Arraignment

By Douglas E. Heimbarger
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Phi Gamma Delta failed to appear at yesterday's scheduled arraignment of the fraternity in Suffolk Superior Court.

No members of the group or attorneys representing the group attended the hearing before Magistrate William E. Walsh. Prosecutors immediately moved for a hearing on the fraternity's default, which will be held Monday.

A default hearing is typically used when an individual fails to appear at his arraignment, and generally results in an arrest warrant being issued.

Prosecutors would not say yesterday what plans they have for forcing the fraternity to appear, if any. "We will make our intentions known on Monday," said Assistant District Attorney Pamela Weschler, who is prosecuting the case.

Default is a "formal recognition from the court" of an individual's failure to appear, Weschler said.

Walsh said he was "perplexed"

by the fraternity's default and how the court will proceed. He asked Weschler: "Have you also contemplated what we will do with the warrant?"

National withdraws legal support

Maria R. Durant, a lawyer affiliated with the national fraternity that appeared three weeks ago before Walsh, did not appear in court yesterday.

Durant said on Oct. 1 that she was seeking to represent the fraternity in court. She did not return phone calls yesterday.

A letter from another attorney at Durant's firm, Dwyer and Collera, to the judge said the national fraternity had blocked them from representing the fraternity. "Yesterday afternoon, I learned that the international fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta will not authorize this firm to enter an appearance on behalf of the local chapter," said attorney William H. Kettlewell in a letter to Walsh.

"Simply put, there is no chapter

to appear in Suffolk County Superior Court to answer the indictments," said Phi Gamma Delta national spokesperson William A. Martin III in a statement. "The chapter is not in operation." Martin declined to answer questions yesterday.

Prosecutors indicted Fiji last month on charges of manslaughter and hazing related to the Sept. 1997 death of Scott S. Krueger '01.

Krueger allegedly died after taking part in an "Animal House" pledge night activity at the fraternity, according to prosecutors.

When Fiji was indicted last month, prosecutors announced no individuals would have to stand trial in connection with Krueger's death.

As an unincorporated corporation, officers of Fiji are not required under law to provide representation.

If convicted of manslaughter and hazing, Fiji could face a fine of up to \$4,000. Additionally, the Krueger family has suggested that it may eventually file civil lawsuits in the case.

Bacow Announces a Design Contest To Revamp Institute Housing Policy

By Frank Dabek
NEWS EDITOR

Students will be invited to participate in a January design competition on how freshman will choose their housing and participate in rush beginning in 2001.

At Wednesday's faculty meeting, Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow

'72 presented the current state of thinking on "how to design this planning process" to adjust the current housing system to the changes caused by moving freshmen onto campus in 2001.

Bacow described the overriding goals of the design by saying that his office hoped to produce a "participatory process" that would

"engage the entire community." Bacow stressed the importance of alumni participation in the process.

Participants in the proposed design competition, the tool intended to procure community input on

Faculty, Page 21

Lab Fire Causes Limited Damage

By Douglas E. Heimbarger
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A solvent fire in a chemistry lab in Building 6 Wednesday closed much of main campus for several hours.

The fire began around 1:15 p.m. in Room 6-430 when a graduate student dropped a bottle containing about a liter of hexane about 10 centimeters, according to W. Gerald Diaz, director of the safety office.

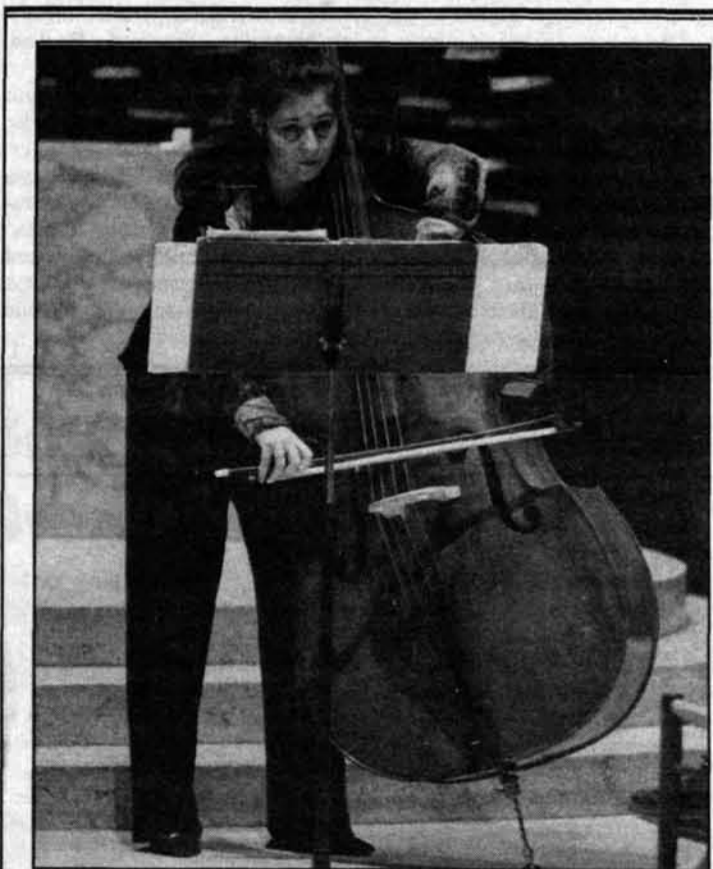
The laboratory is used by students of Professor of Chemistry Richard R. Schrock. Two students were in the lab at the time; no one was hurt.

Hexane is a "standard, routine solvent" that is "similar to gasoline in flammability," said Rick L. Danheiser, professor of chemistry and chair of the department's safety committee.

Fire, Page 19



Firefighters work to contain a fire Wednesday in Building 6 which started when fumes from a dropped bottle of hexane ignited.



OMAR ROUSHDY

Pascal-Delache Feldman performs classical pieces by Handel and other composers on the double bass during the Chapel Concert Thursday.

MIT Alum Proposes Referendum Calling For Reactor's Removal from Cambridge

By Frank Dabek
NEWS EDITOR

Tucked amid questions on lowering dividend tax rates and campaign finance reform, Cambridge residents will be asked their opinion on moving MIT's nuclear reactor out of Cambridge.

The question, which was proposed by an MIT alumnus, David A. Hoicka '77, and Ralph Lopez is non-binding and asks voters if they are in favor of instructing their state representative to vote in favor of legislation which would require the reactor to "be removed immediately out of Cambridge to a safer and less densely populated area."

Hoicka, who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for state representative, said that his main concern is for the safety of Cambridge residents. We're "not trying to be Luddites... we're not against nuclear power," Hoicka said.

However, "people in Cambridge are entitled to a fair and open debate over whether we want a nuclear reactor in a densely populated area." Hoicka estimates that half a million people live in close proximity to the reactor.

John A. Bernard, director of reactor operations at the nuclear reactor lab, acknowledged safety concerns but said that the reactor doesn't "really represent a hazard." Bernard explained that the reactor operates at "hot bathtub water" temperatures of about 110°F (50°C) and at nearly atmospheric pressures. The reactor also has only small amounts of radioactive substances on hand. "There is nothing to release," he said.

Hoicka said that he had a nuclear physicist not associated with the Institute evaluate the reactor's safety. Based on this analysis, he calls claims that the reactor is safe "baloney."

Sarah E. Gallop, co-director of the office of government and community relations, said that the reactor is "heavily regulated by the Nuclear Regulator Commission" and is in good standing.

Gallop added that MIT works with the Emergency Management Department in Cambridge and has developed a response system including an evacuation plan. Hoicka criticized the reactor for not having such a plan.

Reactor used for research

Bernard and Gallop both stressed the role of the reactor as a research site. "Most of the work [done at the reactor] is cancer therapy," Bernard said. Gallop pointed to the reactor's role in research into brain cancer, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Hoicka counters these "emotional arguments" made by researchers who compare their research to "saving babies" by arguing that researchers could "just as appropriately do that research in a rural area." He further speculated that "the reactor looks to be fairly portable... sectional" and might be "put on a series of trucks and moved" elsewhere.

Gallop said that the public at large was probably unaware of the research done at the reactor and said that tours of the reactor are offered. "We are trying to drum up interest," in the reactor. For that reason, Gallop said the question represented a positive for the Institute.

Hoicka, as Gallop and Bernard confirmed, took such a tour. He said

Reactor, Page 16

Binge drinking has increased on campuses nationwide, but MIT's rate is still substantially below average.

Voting in the Undergraduate Association's poll on housing issues continues until Sunday at midnight. To vote, access <http://ua.mit.edu>.

FALL BACK!
Daylight saving time ends Sunday at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.



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WORLD & NATION

Panel of Scientists Urges Less Fishing in Oceans

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

A national panel of scientists has recommended immediate and substantial reductions in ocean fishing to rebuild marine ecosystems throughout the world that are so severely depleted they are in danger of collapsing.

The volume of fish being caught has reached or exceeded the maximum amount that can be sustained by the world's oceans, the scientists reported. About 84 million metric tons of fish and other seafood are caught each year in marine waters worldwide, worth about \$3.5 billion a year in the United States alone.

Some species have declined so seriously, especially along the East Coast of North America, that once-thriving commercial fisheries have been shut down. Included are cod off Newfoundland, ground fish such as haddock and yellowtail flounder off New England and some salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

"The sea was long viewed as an inexhaustible supply of protein for human use. But recently ... it has become increasingly clear that the ocean's resources are not inexhaustible," the 25-member committee of the National Research Council says in its report, "Sustaining Marine Fisheries."

Va. Governor Seeks Accounting of Colleges' Privately Held Funds

THE WASHINGTON POST

RICHMOND, VA.

Gov. James S. Gilmore III is demanding a full accounting of the hundreds of millions of dollars raised by Virginia's 15 public universities through private foundations with virtually no state oversight.

But Gilmore, a Republican who has complained that college administrative costs are too high and has questioned whether schools are spending their money wisely, is encountering resistance from college presidents and legislators protective of their alma maters. Those lawmakers see the governor's interest in the foundations as an effort to impose his political priorities on campus administrators.

"I'm trying to do a culture change on that," said Gilmore, who has two degrees from the University of Virginia. The nonprofit foundations are "a piece of the puzzle. I'm not trying to confiscate donations or discourage donors who take pride in their schools. But, after all, we're talking about public institutions."

Felony Convictions Deplete Black Voting Population

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

A total of 1.4 million African-American males nationwide — 13 percent of all black men — will not be able to vote in the election next month because they were once convicted of a felony, according to a study released Thursday. In 10 states, more than 20 percent of black males there will be kept from the ballot box.

The percentage of black men disenfranchised from the system is seven times the national average and reflects an increasing disparity in the number of African-Americans who are incarcerated, according to the study conducted jointly by the Sentencing Project and Human Rights Watch, which are research and advocacy groups based here.

With the widespread application of mandatory minimum sentences, "three strikes" laws and other measures designed to ensure stiff prison sentences for criminal offenders, the proportion of black males under incarceration has increased 10 times faster than for white men over the past decade, the study said. If current trends continue, the study estimated, 40 percent of black males born in the 1990s will lose the right to vote at some time during their lives.

Middle East Leaders Near Agreement At Conference

By Barton Gellman

THE WASHINGTON POST

QUEENSTOWN, MD.

With President Clinton pressing publicly and privately to close a deal Thursday, Israeli and Palestinian leaders were by all accounts very close to an accord near the end of the eighth day of a Middle East peace summit.

Jordan's King Hussein, who stood by at a nearby farm throughout the afternoon, was said to be awaiting final word Thursday evening to join Clinton for a four-way session aimed at consummating the agreement between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Yet as the hours ticked by and the king's call did not come, the prospect of success remained uncertain. Summit rules dictated that nothing is settled until everything is, and sources said Netanyahu introduced a new issue Thursday that had the potential of halting the talks in their tracks: a demand that Arafat forswear declaration of an independent state when the five-year "interim period" of Palestinian autonomy expires next May 4.

Beginning after lunch, note pads in hand, Netanyahu and Arafat sat side by side on a couch and began

their first intensive one-on-one bargaining of the summit, conferring in a vaulted dining room throughout the day. According to accounts from aides and confidants, the two men found compromise language on the Palestinian National Covenant, the arrest of suspects wanted by Israel and the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, among other emotionally charged differences.

American mediators, by several accounts, regarded the May 4 issue as too hard to crack and proposed to handle it in a subsequent summit before that date. The threat to declare statehood, and the likelihood of recognition by most of the world, is Arafat's strongest bargaining chip as the final stage of negotiations with Israel begins. Clinton administration officials do not believe he will relinquish it until those talks are well underway, if then.

With Trade Minister Natan Sharansky here and others back home in Israel pressing him, Netanyahu insisted on placing the question in play Thursday afternoon.

"I don't think it's coincidental that it was dropped on the table now, and I don't think it's coincidental that there are so many leaks

pointing to a positive conclusion," said one participant in the summit's many-sided diplomacy. "This is intended to put pressure on Arafat. He will have to say no, and he will become the culprit."

State Department spokesman James P. Rubin, the only authorized spokesman for any party at the summit, said Thursday evening that "critical gaps" remained and "it's anybody's guess" whether "the leaders will make the decisions necessary to reach an agreement." But he signaled substantial progress through the day and said the floating consultations "had a little bit of the flavor of a legislative session drawing toward the close."

Clinton began the day with public exhortation from the White House south grounds as he left for the summit, telling reporters that "the hardest decisions now at last are on the table."

"I hope the parties will seize this opportunity and not retreat from the clear moment to capture the momentum of peace," he said before boarding Marine One for the 70-mile flight to the Eastern Shore.

Netanyahu, for his part, continued to maneuver Thursday for options that would allow him to leave without initialing a deal.

Pinochet Case Throws Spanish Establishment into Confusion

By Anne Swardson

THE WASHINGTON POST

MADRID

The drive by a Spanish magistrate to extradite former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet from Britain and try him on charges of genocide, terrorism and torture has thrown the Spanish legal establishment into confusion and placed Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar in a delicate political position.

The crusade by Baltasar Garzon, Spain's best-known investigating judge, is widely supported by Spanish public and media opinion. All major left- and right-wing newspapers favor the attempt to bring Pinochet to justice in Spain for the torture, deaths or disappearances of 94 people during his 17-year rule in Chile.

But Spain's chief government-appointed prosecutor, Eduardo Fungarino, earlier this week filed a court motion asserting that Garzon, and Spain, do not have jurisdiction over the alleged crimes because they were not committed in Spain.

In fact, Garzon's order of international arrest for Pinochet does not name a single Spaniard killed as part of Pinochet's regime of oppression. Rather, nearly all are Chileans or Argentines kidnapped or killed in Argentina.

Garzon, one of a corps of independent investigative magistrates under the Spanish judicial system, has indicated his interest in 3,000 of the people who disappeared under authoritarian rule in Chile and Argentina in the 1970s and 1980s, and is investigating the Argentinian

case separately. As Chilean president from 1973 to 1990, Garzon's arrest order said, Pinochet was "the leader of an international organization created ... to conceive, develop and execute the systematic planning of illegal detentions, torture, forced relocations, assassinations and/or disappearances of numerous persons, including Argentines, Spaniards, Britons, Americans, and Chileans."

Fungarino cited "an absolute lack of jurisdiction" when he appealed Garzon's extradition request Monday, and said Garzon had not followed correct legal procedures. Pinochet, 82, was arrested in Britain on Friday. The retired general remains sequestered at a London clinic pending the outcome of the extradition request.

WEATHER

A Fair Deal

By Marek Zebrowski

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A strong high pressure system will reside over the eastern half of the nation, bringing us more spectacular Fall weather. Radiational cooling in the interior locations of New England will produce a frosty daybreak on Friday, followed by a nice warming trend as the high will slowly drift eastwards, replacing a sharp trough that hung tough in the Western Atlantic for quite a while. Milder than normal conditions will hold for us until Monday night, when a vigorous cold front is forecast to descend from Canada, bringing the temperatures to more seasonable levels.

Meanwhile a powerful storm, with drenching rains and strong winds will come ashore in the Pacific Northwest on Saturday. The tropics continue to be active as well. As of 8 p.m. Thursday, a new tropical storm Mitch was located at 11.5 North and 77.5 West, about 450 miles south of Kingston Jamaica. Top winds were clocked at 50 knots and this system may strengthen as it begins to move to west-northwest in the next 24 hours. Another area of disturbed weather has been hanging near the Yucatan coast of Mexico, and two tropical waves are in the region of the Lesser Antilles.

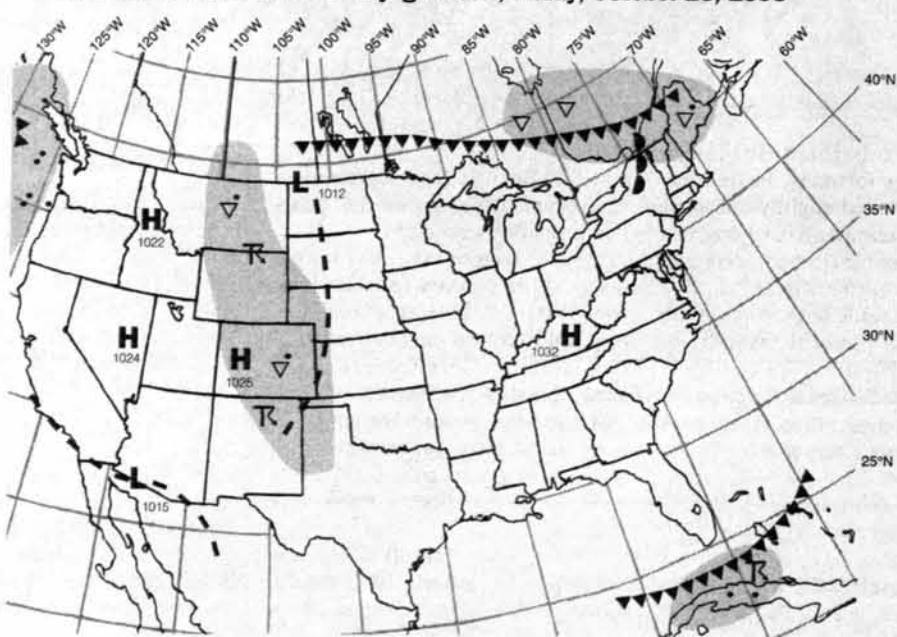
Friday: Mostly sunny and seasonable. High 61°F (16°C) with moderate westerly breezes.

Friday night: Clear and cool. Lows in town near 50°F (10°C), but high 30s to mid 40s (4-7°C) elsewhere.

Saturday: Continued mostly sunny and warmer, with winds shifting towards southwest. High 68°F (20°C).

Sunday outlook: Partly to mostly sunny, and milder still, with highs in the upper 60s to low 70s (20-22°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, October 23, 1998



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	☁ Snow	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	☔ Showers	⚡ Thunderstorm
S Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	☂ Light	☁ Haze
	▲▲ Occluded Front	● Moderate	
		● Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Experiment Reveals Monkeys Able to Count at Least to Nine

By Rick Weiss
THE WASHINGTON POST

Monkeys have an innate ability to conceptualize numbers and can be taught to count at least to the number nine, according to a series of groundbreaking experiments that promise new insights into the evolution of intelligence.

The research, in which monkeys played math-based video games, challenges a longstanding view among many scientists that humans are unique in their ability to grasp the concepts of number, numerical order and basic arithmetic.

It stops short of concluding that monkeys can add or subtract. But it indicates they can grasp the relatively sophisticated concepts of "twoness," "threeness" and so on, and can comprehend how those concepts relate to each other about as well as a human 3-year-old can.

Experts hailed the work as a major milestone in understanding the intellectual ability of animals.

"When I heard about these experiments, I thought, 'Wow, these

are the neatest animal representation experiments of the decade,'" said Susan Carey, a cognitive scientist at New York University. "It is very clever and convincing work."

Previous experiments had offered hints of number awareness in non-human species, but some researchers suspected that those animals had inadvertently been trained to give rote replies or were just recognizing certain visual patterns, the way a person can recognize the pattern of dots on a domino without actually counting them. The new work is the first to indicate that animals can solve novel numerical problems through an apparently genuine understanding that some numbers are bigger or smaller than others.

The research may lead to the development of better methods for teaching basic counting skills to cognitively impaired people, researchers said. But it is primarily important to psychologists, philosophers and theologians, who have long debated the extent to which

people and animals fundamentally differ — and especially the extent to which animals can think.

"Mathematical thinking is considered to be one of the most important and complicated abilities that humans have, along with language," said Elizabeth M. Brannon, the Columbia University graduate student who conducted the monkey experiments.

In the new experiments, a pair of 2-year-old monkeys named Rosencrantz and Macduff sat before touch-sensitive computer monitors that displayed four square "window-panes." One pane always contained a single item, such as a car; another pane contained a pair of items, such as two apples; the third pane contained three identical items; and the fourth contained four items. In a series of 35 trials in which the types, colors, sizes and relative locations of the one-, two-, three-, and four-item panes varied, the monkeys were trained to touch the one-item pane first, then the two-item pane, then the three and finally the four.

Diesel Manufacturers Settle Suit With EPA; Will Pay \$1.1 Billion

By Joby Warrick and Michael
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Diesel engine manufacturers Thursday agreed to pay \$83 million in fines and spend \$1 billion on environmental improvements to avoid a federal lawsuit over alleged cheating on engine performance tests.

The landmark deal, the most expensive settlement ever of an air pollution case, will hasten the implementation of tough new pollution controls for the world's top manufacturers of truck and bus engines, while substantially improving air quality for millions of Americans, federal officials said.

In sheer size, the settlement rivals the criminal penalties imposed in the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, which resulted in \$125 million in fines and restitution and \$900 million for environmental cleanup.

"The diesel engine industry has illegally poured millions of tons of pollution into the air," said Attorney General Janet Reno, who announced the settlement jointly with Carol M. Browner, head of the Environmental Protection Agency. "It's time for the industry to clean up its act — and clean up our air."

The agreement ends a year of

negotiations over whether seven U.S. and foreign diesel companies deliberately tried to thwart federal pollution controls with their engine designs. Government lawyers accused the manufacturers of using "defeat devices" that enabled engines to pass federal vehicle emissions tests even though they belched prodigious amounts of sooty fumes at highway speeds.

Because of the devices, the EPA alleged, diesels spewed an additional 1.3 million tons of smog-causing nitrogen oxide (NOx) into the air last year alone. That is equivalent to the pollution produced by 65 million passenger cars, or about 6 percent of all the NOx emitted by factories, automobiles and power plants combined.

More than 1 million trucks currently use the devices, which are essentially software commands in the computer-controlled fuel systems of diesel trucks. While suppressing pollution at low engine speeds, the systems enrich the fuel mix at high speeds to improve fuel economy and performance.

"Today, we're sending a clear message: If you illegally pollute, you will pay," Browner said. "We set air quality standards to ensure that the air people breathe is safe,

clean and healthy. No person, no company has the right to violate these standards and put the American people at risk."

The companies, which include U.S. diesel giants Mack Trucks Inc., Cummins Engine Co. and Caterpillar Inc., maintain they did not break any laws. But they collectively agreed to an \$83.4 million fine that is being called the largest civil penalty ever for an alleged environmental infraction — the "Exxon Valdez of civil enforcement," as one official put it. There have been larger fines levied in criminal cases.

Besides the fine, the companies agreed to spend \$110 million to finance anti-pollution projects around the country. For example, the payments could help improve urban air quality by financing new fleets of buses and delivery trucks that run on electricity or clean-burning natural gas, the EPA said.

But most of the cost for engine makers come from new requirements for building cleaner new engines and upgrading old ones. The settlement stopped short of an engine recall, but it forces manufacturers to upgrade older diesel engines the next time they are brought in for scheduled maintenance.

Boxer Rebounds to Gain Advantage Over Fong in California Senate Race

By Mark Z. Barabak
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer has reversed her fortunes, buffed her image and pulled slightly ahead of California Treasurer Matt Fong just 11 days before the election, according to a new *Los Angeles Times* Poll.

Enjoying some of the highest job approval and personal favorability ratings of her six years in office, Democrat Boxer leads Republican Fong by 5 points, 49 percent to 44 percent, among those considered likely to vote on Nov. 3. A month ago, Boxer was trailing Fong by 5 percent among likely voters.

At the same time, Boxer's bare 49 percent means she can scarcely afford to breathe easy these next 11 days, particularly in a so-called off-year — or nonpresidential — election, when conservatives voters have tended to turn out more reliably.

She barely won in 1992, her first statewide campaign, with 48 percent of the vote. For an incumbent,

reaching 50 percent is an important threshold, because anything less suggests fertile ground for a challenger.

Still, Boxer's lead represents a significant rebound from her position just a few weeks ago.

The Democrat evidently reversed her position in the seesaw contest through a series of hard-hitting, and largely unanswered, TV commercials targeting Fong's stance on gun control, abortion and HMO reform — ads that appear to have solidified Boxer's support among two groups crucial to her re-election prospects: women and moderate voters.

While Fong is ahead 52 percent to 41 percent among likely male voters, Boxer holds a 56 percent to 37 percent lead among women, who constitute a majority of the state electorate and proved indispensable to her election six years ago. Seventeen percent of Republican women most likely to vote are crossing party lines.

And while both candidates are

generally holding on to their partisan bases, Boxer leads Fong among self-described middle-of-the-road likely voters, 62 percent to 26 percent.

Moreover, Boxer seems to have benefited from receding attention to the Monica S. Lewinsky scandal, which consumed the media for months, drowned out most talk of issues and pointed up her close personal and political ties to President Clinton.

The poll surveyed 1,449 registered voters Oct. 17-21. Among them, 883 were deemed likely to vote.

Geographically, Boxer holds commanding leads in the Democratic bastions of the San Francisco Bay Area, 66 percent to 29 percent, and Los Angeles, 54 percent to 38 percent, while Fong was ahead in the more conservative Central Valley, 56 percent to 40 percent, and in Republican strongholds of Southern California outside of Los Angeles County, 55 percent to 34 percent.

Agency Weighs Civil Action Against Mattel Over Toy

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Consumer Product Safety Commission Thursday said it is considering civil action against Mattel Inc., which is recalling 10 million Fisher-Price Power Wheels ride-on car and truck toys sold since 1984 because they pose a serious fire risk.

The CPSC said it is reviewing documents submitted by Fisher-Price to determine if the unit of El Segundo, Calif.-based Mattel reported problems involving the toy in a timely manner.

There have been 700 reports of electrical component failures involving the toys. The CPSC said 150 fires occurred that injured nine children and did \$300,000 in damage to 22 houses and garages.

During a Thursday news conference in Washington, D.C., CPSC Chairwoman Ann Brown said that "the company knew of the incidents and the company did not report the incidents to us."

The CPSC said it received its first report about the problem in 1996, but the first fires date back to the early 1990s, according to the CPSC.

The recall of the toys, which retail for \$70 to \$300, is the largest ever involving toys sold through retailers, the CPSC said.

Study of Dinosaur Fossil's Brain Yields Surprise

NEWSDAY

PROVO, UTAH

Very fine silt that filled a dead dinosaur's skull millions of years ago is shedding new light on the animal's behavior, suggesting it acted more like a crocodile than like a bird, scientists announced Thursday.

By using modern CT scan equipment to see inside the fossil material, molecular neurologist Scott Rogers determined the brain's size and shape. He can also see where blood vessels entered and exited the brain, the complete inner ear and a few other parts of the brain's structure.

"This is the first imaging of what we think is the internal structure of a fossil brain" in such an old, fossilized creature, said Rogers, of the University of Utah.

"This suggests that Allosaurus, which was always thought to be a bird ancestor, doesn't have a brain that was avian in nature," Rogers explained. Instead, Allosaurus' brain is far closer to the neural systems seen today in alligators and crocodiles.

The oval-shaped brain, about 7 inches long and 5 inches high, is roughly the size of a small loaf of bread. What's surprising is that the brain fills only half of the skull, which offers an important clue.

"This neurological configuration looks very close to that of modern-day alligators and crocodiles, and nothing like an avian brain," he explained. In birds — and also in humans — the brain fills the skull almost completely, "so this is a very distinguishing feature" suggesting it's an ancestor of the crocodylians. Rogers' report is in the current issue of *Neuron*.

Senator Apologizes for One Comment, Not Other

NEWSDAY

NEW YORK

Trying to quell a political firestorm, New York Sen. Alfonse D'Amato Thursday said it was wrong for him to have mocked the girth of Rep. Jerrold Nadler, but he refused to apologize for using a Yiddish slang term to refer to his Democratic opponent, Rep. Chuck Schumer.

He also refused to explain why he initially denied making the remarks at a private meeting of Jewish leaders Tuesday.

"It was a poor attempt at humor, and I was wrong, and I apologized to him," D'Amato said at a campaign appearance at a Long Island school when he was asked whether ridiculing Nadler was an example of the behavior a U.S. senator should be setting for children.

Shortly before D'Amato's remarks Thursday, Schumer had held a news conference to play TV news footage of D'Amato denying knowledge of the comments and saying it was "ridiculous" to suggest he would say such things.

Appearing with Schumer, former Gov. Mario Cuomo said, "The lying about it is very bad. He is obviously lying about it. He got caught."

At a Tuesday meeting, D'Amato called Schumer a "putzhead." "Putz" is Yiddish slang for male genitalia, and it is commonly used to describe a fool or idiot. Schumer branded the remark a "cheap slur."

D'Amato also referred to Nadler as "Waddler" and then briefly walked like a duck, according to former New York Mayor Ed Koch and others who were present.

Teen-age Witch Asks for Transfer

THE BALTIMORE SUN

BALTIMORE

The ninth-grader who was sent home for allegedly casting a spell on a classmate asked to be transferred Wednesday so she might escape a controversy that has enveloped her high school.

No spells were cast, and no one was threatened, according to school officials who suspended Jamie Schoonover Wednesday when another student became hysterical after she believed that Schoonover had cast a spell on her.

School spokeswoman Vanessa Pyatt said Schoonover, 15, a practicing witch, will be transferred to another school, the name of which was not disclosed.

The other ninth-grader, Jennifer Rassen, left school Wednesday after a meeting with school administrators, Jamie Schoonover and the girls' parents. "I am still scared," Rassen said.

Schoonover said that she never would cast a spell because the principles of Wicca, a form of neo-paganism that she and a parent practice, dictate that whatever you do, good or evil, returns to you threefold.

OPINION

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January and monthly during the summer for \$45.00 per year Third Class by *The Tech*, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Third Class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Non-profit Organization Permit No. 59720. **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. Telephone: (617) 253-1541, editorial: (617) 258-8324, business: (617) 258-8226, facsimile: (617) 258-8324. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 1998 *The Tech*. Printed on recycled paper by MassWeb Printing Co.

Inaccurate Reporting In The Tech

The Oct. 16 article in *The Tech* ["Committee Sets Out to Revamp Freshman Curriculum by 2001"] on the new Educational Design Project contains numerous inaccuracies and misrepresents my perspectives on the MIT undergraduate curriculum. I'm writing to set the record straight.

I spoke with *The Tech* reporter who wrote the article for a short time last week about the broad issues confronting our community as we move toward an even better freshman program. I explained to her that the Committee on the Undergraduate Program was establishing the EDP committee to propose new approaches to the freshman year. The EDP committee has two co-chairs, Allen Professor of Media Arts and Sciences Stephen A. Benton and me.

By appointing me as a co-chair (in my dual capacity as a professor and as dean for undergraduate curriculum), Professor Suzanne Flynn (chair of the CUP) has taken a bold step toward establishing a new working relationship between the central administration and this important faculty committee. Hopefully, the collaboration will help us make real progress toward refinement of the common educational programs we offer to all students, regardless of their choice of majors.

However, we have made no progress toward that goal as of yet because the EDP committee has not met. In fact, as of this writing, the membership of the committee has not been finalized. I certainly did not tell the reporter otherwise, and why she wrote that "many ideas have come to the fore in meetings of the new subcommittee" is a complete mystery to me.

In the course of our conversation, I shared with the reporter some of the concerns I have heard from faculty and students over the years regarding the freshman year. Most of these are not surprising and were articulated nicely in the recent report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning. Although I was repeating comments made by others in other venues, these quotes were attributed to me in the article.

For the most part, they do not reflect my opinions. In fact, I strongly disagree with many of them. For the record, I never said that "the main objective of [this process] is to determine if the General Institute Requirements are the best way to educate students." The task force did recommend a review of the GIRs, but that is not part of the charge to the EDP committee. I did not say — and frankly do not believe — that pace and pressure is the most important problem with the freshman year. Instead, I said that some faculty lament the pace and pressure of the freshman year. I did not point to Physics I (8.01) as a "prime example" of what is wrong with the freshman year. I said that the subjects taken by most students in the freshman year are necessarily basic and not designed to show students the cutting-edge research done by professionals in various fields; I used 8.01 as an example of that.

In fact, I made absolutely no disparaging comments about the subject matter in the Science Core or the GIRs in general. My point was that we could — and should — do more to help freshmen make an informed decision about their choice of major, and that we could — and should — develop a program that engages students more in the excitement of MIT research.

The trouble with inaccurate reporting is that it precipitates misinformed responses. I have spent the last few days trying to reassure my colleagues on the EDP that I was not trying to undercut the committee process by

grandstanding in *The Tech*. Just yesterday, I read the Oct. 20 *Tech* editorial in which my "proposed changes" to the freshman year were dismissed as detrimental to the quality of the MIT undergraduate education. The fact is that I have proposed no changes — and neither has the committee that has not yet met! I'm happy to see that *The Tech* editorial staff does not want to see the freshman year "dumbed-down;" it is preposterous to imply that I think otherwise.

No matter what I think, there will be no changes to the MIT undergraduate curriculum until the MIT faculty as a whole decides to make those changes. Like any faculty member, I have my opinions. It's too bad they were so misrepresented in *The Tech*. The other members of the EDP committee will have their own opinions. I look forward to the deliberations during which we can meld these opinions with input from throughout the MIT community into a recommendation to the entire faculty.

Finally, as an ex-staffer of a student newspaper, I am appalled by the lack of fact checking by *The Tech* staff. It's time for *The Tech* to establish a more responsible approach.

Kip V. Hodges PhD '82
Co-Chair, Educational Design
Project Committee

A Message of Hope and Love

Since I consider myself, more or less, a Christian conservative, I'd like to respond to the column by Naveen Sunkavally '01, "The Real Right-Wing Conspiracy" from the Oct. 20 issue of *The Tech*. I can't speak for Trent Lott, the Christian Coalition, or the Family Research Council, nor do I know the details and facts behind the accusations Sunkavally made against those groups.

But there is something far more important to me which I must defend — those truths and beliefs which I, as a Christian, hold dear. It seems that, to many, and to Sunkavally, Christians are a group of people who like to persecute homosexuals. And to the extent that this is true, I would like to apologize to all who have been hurt by such actions. But to clarify the issue, according to the Bible, homosexual relations are indeed a sin. The same goes for premarital sex, adultery, lying, cheating, and a host of other things. And we could all very easily get bogged down in a horrendously long list of do's and don'ts.

Of course, it is both desirable and commendable to live according to these Biblical rules, but the Bible's message is not one of condemnation, but one of hope and redemption — God loves us, and forgives us, no matter what we've done. And when it comes to what we, as Christians, are to do with our lives, there's a simple summary, a "necessary and sufficient" condition for the life of a Christian: Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39). That simple statement, "love your neighbor as yourself," sums up everything that I and (I would hope) Christians everywhere believe and act out in their relationship with the rest of the world.

Those who would use the Bible to support malicious action against homosexuals are simply unjustified — as Jesus said to those who would condemn an adulteress woman, "let him who is without sin cast the first stone" (John 8:7). So while it is true that I will never tell a homosexual that he can practice homosexuality with a clear conscience, I will (by the grace of God) never hate him, persecute him, or punish him for what he does, but love him, and think of his interests as much as I do my own. For I, in a sense, am no better than he — I am sinful, and far from perfect, finding hope only in God's forgiveness.

Our calling is to care for and love others, not to hate and persecute them. If Christians really are persecuting, punishing, and enforcing intolerance towards the homosexuals in our nation, as Sunkavally claims, that is tragic — because we are then failing at our most important mission, our most central goal. We then deserve to be called no more than hypocrites. But here's a parting thought — if God really does exist, and the Bible really is His message to us, a message saying that He cares for us, will forgive us our faults, and invites us to join Him in paradise, if only we accept Him — is that not good news, despite the fact that we Christians may sometimes mess up and get a little over-zealous in our enthusiasm to share it?

David E. Robison '99

Thought Crimes

I am writing in response to the letter submitted by Carlos M. Covarrubias ["Hate-Crime Laws as Special Treatment", Oct. 20]. Covarrubias brings up an interesting but flawed argument in favor of the proposed new federal hate crime laws. The crux of the argument is that since a murder accompanied by another crime, like rape or robbery, is punished more severely than the crime of murder alone would be, there exists a precedent for punishing the murderer of a homosexual person more severely than the murderer of a heterosexual.

The problem with this argument is that in the former case a second criminal action has occurred, robbery, rape, etc., while in the latter case no such second criminal action has taken place. The proposed new laws would add a sort of second crime to the murder or assault of a homosexual... thought crime. The second crime committed in these cases could only be the motivations of the accused. I believe it is very undesirable to encourage the government to establish and prosecute thought crimes and that is why I am against the hate crimes bill and will vote against representatives that are for it.

Donald F. Green G

I, President Slobodan Milosevic, promise to withdraw troops from Kosovo.



PROMISES, PROMISES...

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.

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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.

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The General and his Teacup

When Material Wants Become More Tempting Than Life Itself

Dawen Choy

Those of you who read my column two weeks ago ["Mother Knows Best," Oct. 9] might remember that my room suffered flooding during the recent East Campus fire; some might even remember that I was frantically trying to save my computer and hi-fi stereo from the water. When I woke up to water falling on my face, my first reaction was to get the vulnerable electrical equipment out of the way, because I thought the ceiling was leaking as a result of heavy rain, something which had happened last spring.

It was only when I pulled up the blinds to close the window that I saw the flashing lights of the fire truck outside and realized something was amiss. On hindsight, I guess the sheer volume of water coming down should have been a clue too. Even after that discovery, however, I still wanted to shift my equipment to safety before evacuating. At that time, some official-looking people came onto my floor, walked around inspecting the rooms, and ignored me completely. I took that as a sign that there wasn't any immediate danger, so I felt justified in delaying evacuation for a while longer.

Still, I did not dare to stay too long; I just unplugged everything and moved my hi-fi, computer and piano to my girlfriend's room next door, leaving everything else to the mercy of the water. I would've preferred to stay longer, but the situation was uncertain and potentially dangerous, so it seemed wiser to evacuate.

Now, I have participated in countless fire

drills and was well aware that the foremost safety rule during a fire is to get out as quickly as possible without worrying about one's belongings. Yet I knowingly ignored the rule and put the safety of my equipment above that of my own. As it turned out, the fire was extinguished even before the fire department arrived, so there was never any real life-threatening danger to me, but that does not ameliorate the mistake I made by disregarding an important directive about fire safety. What I did really was inexcusable.

But what is more disturbing is that disasters have a way of unmasking a person's true character, and in my case I think this incident has shown that I

attach excessive value to my material belongings, so much so that I exposed myself to additional risk in order to stay back and carry them to safety.

I guess one may argue that it's forgivable to cherish something so much you're willing to risk your life for it, but certainly I don't think material goods belong to that category, no matter how valuable and expensive they may be.

And much as the image of a dedicated scientist rushing back into the burning laboratory to save his data and experimental equipment is seductively heroic, nevertheless that too is a foolish thing to do. You can always buy equipment again; data you can take again. But if you gamble with your life and lose, there's no second chance. Considering that saving my computer and hi-fi system isn't even half as noble as saving scientific data, what I did definitely cannot be justified.

Admittedly, it is difficult to guard against the temptation of materialism. In my two years here, I have accumulated a great many things, including personal furniture, consumer goods, books, course bibles and magazines. I've usually justified these acquisitions by the comfort they

add to my life, but they also cause problems when it comes time to move. It is no great physical insight that more mass equals greater inertia, and for that reason I'm extremely loath to move out of my room. Even though there are times when I wish I could switch to a better room — the radiator in my current room is noisy, the ceiling has been proven to leak and the floor is a hideous green — the impulse

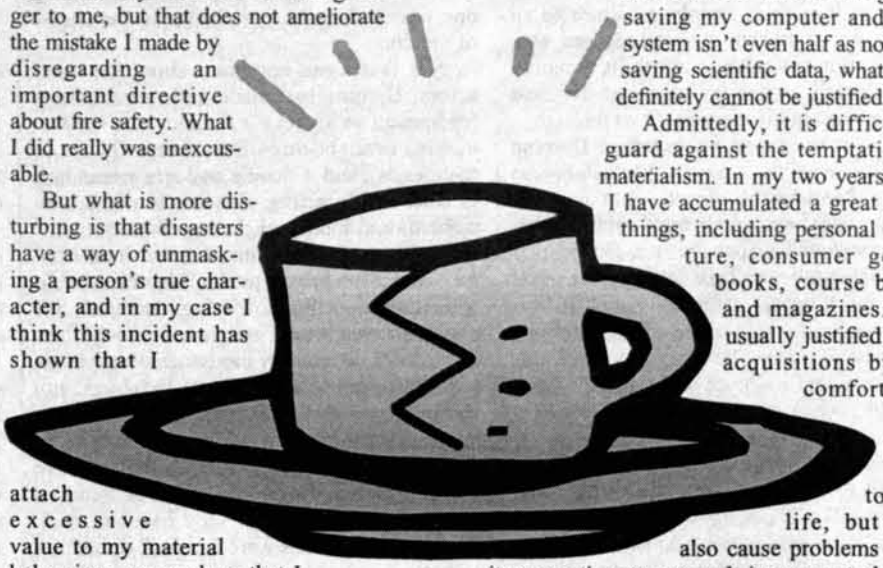
quickly subsides when I think of how many things I have to pack and move.

Once again, there has been a price to pay for materialism, even though in return it can provide some level of creature comfort. I guess there is nothing wrong with buying and acquiring things if it brings you pleasure and enjoyment, but that should also be tempered with the perspective that we did not bring anything with us when we were born, and when we die we cannot take anything away with us either. So why did I risk my life over items I would eventually dispose of when I graduate and go home in two years' time?

There is a story from Zen Buddhism about a general who was admiring his collection of precious antique teacups. As he held one of them up to the light to examine its exquisite workmanship, it slipped from his hands and fell towards the floor. Fortunately, the general's battle-honed reflexes kicked in instantaneously, and he managed to catch the falling teacup in his cupped hands just inches from the ground.

Sweating profusely from the close call, the general gazed thoughtfully at the fragile teacup in his shaking hands and came to sudden enlightenment. "I have led armies to battle against overwhelming odds and never once have I felt fear. I have fought vicious barbarian hordes from the north and stared death in the face, yet I've never lost my composure. Why should I tremble when a mere teacup falls from my hands?" With that realization, he tossed the teacup over his shoulder and walked away calmly even as the teacup smashed into the ground behind him.

If only I were as wise as that general!



A Season of Glory, Grandeur, and Class

Naveen Sunkavally

To all the naysayers of baseball, and to all the baseball-aphetic, the just-recently-expired 1998 season provides glorious justification for you to change your minds about America's pas-time. If not in the common drudgery of work and marriage, at least in the world of baseball the good guys won and the bad guys lost, milestones were set, and memories were made.

Baseball, in a sense, is at the center of America's moral fabric. We grew up listening to stories such as Casey at the Bat. We heard about all the great players before us, and these players and their actions on and off the field enforced our morals and comforts. Babe Ruth, through the shot heard around the world in the Ruthian swing, comforted us in the delusion that we can predict the future and are not tied to fate. The Iron Man Lou Gehrig showed us the value of a Puritan work-ethic and how to persevere. And then there were all the other players — Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Stan Musial, Duke Snyder, etc. who taught us lessons as well.

For a while in the nineties, baseball was in a lull. It had lost its moral connection and standing with Americans. It seemed that there no heroes to root for anymore. Players and coaches were deadlocked, much in the same way the National Basketball Association is deadlocked now, and it seemed pecuniary interests were taking over the sport/business. And every baseball fan remembers the other miseries — how Roberto Alomar spit in the face of an umpire and how the upstart Florida Marlins, financed by ultra-rich entrepreneur Wayne Huizinga, came out of nowhere to steal the World Series and annoy the crap out of every legitimate fan.

This year was different, completely different. Cal Ripkin Jr.'s streak ended. And Barry Bonds caught the 400 steals and 400 home runs mark. The Florida Marlins, their talent eroded as their star players fled to other teams, settled in the cozy comfort of their rightful place, the cellar. It was the Yankees who claimed the World Series throne, sweeping the Padres out West two days ago. The team with most the most heralded baseball history produced this year perhaps its best team ever, and this best team in history did not have a single star. A team in the true sense of the word, this year's Yankees affirmed that, despite the inexplicable unfairness of life, a person does not have to be a superstar, wear a superstar's name and make a superstar's salary to have a superstar's impact. As long as one works hard and lives quietly, all will be right.

And then there was the race. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa faced off in a duel for the ages, blasting away shot after shot until

the glorious end. These were two representatives from a bygone era, whether imagined or real, of sportsmanship and class. More importantly, these were two representatives of racial harmony in an age in which the house is still divided against itself, when a gay man can still be strung up to a fence and a black man can still be tied to the back of a pickup truck and dragged across the streets. And although it was the strong-armed likeable andro-freak who prevailed in the end, it'll probably be the good-natured Sosa who wins this year's Most Valuable Player award (it would just be wrong for it to end any other way).

These moral lessons baseball teaches us — some may call them delusions, a bunch of crock. One person whom I know personally proclaims, "Baseball is shit" every time the sport is mentioned, or whenever The Simpsons is pre-empted because of the game. And often I hear detractors of baseball complain that it is such a meaningless game, that the game's so slow and awash with so many

meaningless statistics and strange jargon — runs batted in, walks, balks, fielder's choice, bunt, fly ball, etc — who cares?

But that's precisely what makes it beautiful, just like life. Life would be unlivable without polite, meaningless things happening. The entire human existence is based on building out of this meaningless void the illusions of meaningful things. After all, why should I become rich, why should I learn the Thevenin and Norton equivalent of a circuit, why should I care to hit the ball instead of miss it? We take what we're given, we convince ourselves it's worth taking, and then we live our lives out.

I can still remember playing baseball when I was young, every other day in the afternoon after school was let out. Although I had something less than a Ruthian swing or a Koufaxian arm, I enjoyed it immensely. It's such a slow, leisurely game. We were all there for the fun of it, and the coaches were unpaid. We learned about ethics, and teamwork, and class, and

sportsmanship — values whose importance the Institute unfortunately understates today.

And I still remember that one particular game at the end of my team's season in sixth grade. It was a playoff game in the bottom of the ninth inning — and an opposing player was up to bat with a man on third. Suddenly, the opposing batsmen let loose a single, and the guy from third ran in to score — but he missed home plate — I swear he missed the home plate. Actually, he was probably safe.

But for the next five hours, my team and the other team spent the time debating whether indeed the runner from third had touched home plate. Parents, players, umpires alike streamed out from the dugouts and the bleachers to argue this utterly meaningless point, with their caps melting in the heat, their cleats stomping in the mud, and the bats lying on the ground. It didn't matter what the truth was — it was just too much fun to argue over the meaningless — and that's the way life is and should be.



THE ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

Beloved

So much talent, so little to watch

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Jonathan Demme
Written by Akosua Busia, Richard LaGravenese, and Adam Brooks
Based on the novel by Toni Morrison
With Oprah Winfrey, Danny Glover, Thandie Newton, Kimberly Elise

Once in a rare while there comes a motion picture which is so unlike everything else that it calls for a special word, one I try to use carefully and rarely. Very few movies deserve it, but *Beloved* does; and the word which I have in mind is "unwatchable."

What is particularly shocking is that it's not bad the way most bad movies are; it's not an inane bad movie (where everyone involved can't even half-heartedly pretend they actually know what they are doing — for example, *Quest for Camelot*), and it's not an aggressively bad movie (where the main strategy is nauseating viewers by throwing at them millions of dollars of special effects — for example, *Armageddon*). No, *Beloved* is a rare kind of a bad movie which requires top talent, creative independence, and a true originality. Only the presence of these three ingredients can sometimes result in such jaw-droppingly wrong-headed creative miscalculation.

Beloved is — or at least should be — the story of Sethe (Oprah Winfrey), a woman who has escaped from the brutal life at the Kentucky Sweet Home plantation, and now lives with her daughter Denver (Kimberly Elise) on a farm in Cincinnati, haunted by the specters of her past. Soon, she's visited by an old friend, Paul D. (Danny Glover); and, after that, a mysterious young woman who calls herself Beloved (Thandie Newton).

The story has a lot of potential: The time period (Restoration) is truly fascinating, and the theme (slavery of bodies and souls) has staggering resonance. A similar theme was dealt with in last year's *Amistad*, which, somewhat surprisingly, chose to work in the mold of a courtroom drama, and more surprisingly, succeeded. *Beloved* also works in the mold of a genre film, a — here comes the shock — horror film.

And no, I don't mean horror as in "horror of slavery," although this is on screen as well, in numerous brief hallucinatory flashbacks. No, *Beloved* uses the cinematic language of such heartfelt, thought-provoking films as *The Exorcist* and *Poltergeist*, replete with all kinds of bodily fluids gushing across the screen, levitating pies, scary red lighting, ominous close-ups of various sharp household tools (axe, ice pick), and squished-out eyeballs. The point of this all, I presume, is to provide a visceral representation of the ghosts literally haunting Sethe; but it ends up running the whole gamut from ridiculous to ludicrous. It's very hard to feel the pain of a former slave when this pain is manifested by a ghostly visitor moaning, contorting, and vomiting.

If *Beloved* was simply a schizophrenic

melange of a heartfelt drama and a supernatural horror story, it would have been off-putting; as it is, it is simply a torture to sit through, unstructured, unfocused, and way overlong. What it lacks in depth, it certainly gains in length, ending up as one of the most painful movies in my memory to sit through.

Maybe it is caused by Jonathan Demme (*The Silence of the Lambs*, *Philadelphia*) shooting *Beloved* the way he did, without rehearsals; maybe it is the fault of the script, penned by three screenwriters without communicating with each other; maybe it's caused by the slavish adherence to the novel. In any case, the narrative structure of this film is, simply, a total mess. The film can't even present a consistent point of view. Initially, the person with whom the audience can identify is Paul D., as he arrives at Sethe's house in the beginning of the film. He's an outsider, and he, just like the viewers, enters Sethe's world without really knowing what's going on. About half-way into the film he exits abruptly, and the film focuses on Sethe. But the viewers won't have much time to get used to the new protagonist, since Sethe is soon forgotten as

well, and then *Beloved* becomes Denver's story. Fortunately, the last change works, for the singular reason that Denver really wants to escape her mother's house and the attendant visitors from beyond the grave, and at this point that was precisely what I wanted. In any case, Denver is the only real character in the movie anyway; Kimberly Elise is astonishingly versatile in this part, and Denver is the only one who undergoes any change in the course of the film.

Not that I can complain about the other actors; Demme had made quite a reputation for himself as an actor's director (his last two movies brought three Best Actor Oscars to their leads), and if there's any area where he's in control, it's acting. Winfrey is tough, vulnerable, and totally unglamorous at the same time; Glover projects deep-rooted humanity; and Thandie Newton, as the title character, is ethereally beautiful, horrifying, and feral. She also has a truly grand entrance, crawling from the swamp, covered by thousands of ladybugs. (A side note: These are real ladybugs, not computer-generated insects, and I was very much amused to read conflicting reports about their number; I've seen sources that say five thousand, fifty thousand, and four hundred thousand. I wonder how they handled them, with the "no animals were harmed" disclaimer and all)

But *Beloved* is a creature of the moment, and similarly, *Beloved* the movie only works

on the level of disconnected moments. A good deal of scenes make quite an impact, but they absolutely refuse to work together to form any kind of a cohesive whole. The best example of this is the scene when Sethe's dark secret is revealed. If I saw this scene just by itself (or in a better movie), it would have given me nightmares: It's brutal, shocking, tender, and utterly unavoidable. As it is, one simply can not take it seriously enough, surrounded as it is with ghostly moans and supernatural weirdness. Also, Demme tips his hand a bit too often, and one can guess this secret if sufficient attention is paid to the scene which features (again, as a clumsy metaphor only) a close-up of two mating turtles.

Oh, just forget it. It's hopeless. If there is anything that makes me indignant it is movies that address a complex and important subject, take the "Look at me!" stance, and wallow in self-importance, while neglecting even the basic screenwriting/directing material. (One could make a valid point that cinema doesn't have to be used as a narrative-based medium, but this is somewhat out of the scope of this review). At least *Saving Private Ryan* (another movie that made a very similar impression on me) had those action sequences, which made it more or less worthwhile. *Beloved*, despite — or maybe even because of — all the talent involved, ends up being simply unwatchable.



Oprah Winfrey, Thandie Newton, and Kimberly Elise play Sethe, Beloved, and Denver in the new horror film *Beloved*.

TOUCHSTONE

DANCE REVIEW

Riverdance

Everyone in the world is Irish

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

At Wang Center
Until November 1
Tickets: (617) 931-2787, (617) 482-9393
Prices from \$15 to \$68.50.
More info at www.riverdance.com

Riverdance is a cultural icon and, as such, has two qualities: It is, actually, very good; and it takes itself way too seriously.

Do I even need to explain what *Riverdance* is? If you have recently returned from another planet, or perhaps if you were on this one but never chanced to turn on PBS when they were soliciting funds, *Riverdance* is something like a staged concert, largely concentrating on all performances Irish, such as dancing (clogging and jigs), as well as solo, choral, and instrumental music, with a healthy dash of other cultures as well (mostly American, Spanish, and Russian). Said dancing mostly consists of a bunch of people on stage, lads with unruly hair and sideburns, lasses in short skirts (I've

seen shorter only on *Ally McBeal*) doing something unusual: Mostly, for long intervals of time, defying the laws on physics — the laws of gravity and conservation of momentum suffer the most.

When a dancer leaps — seemingly without any effort — and hovers above the stage for what is really only a split second but feels much longer, the effect is starting. When a burly guy from the Moscow Folk Ballet executes a cartwheel on one hand only, it's amazing. When a chorus line of twenty people or more taps a highly complex rhythm as synchronous as if it were one person, and you can't see their feet, the effect is simply unbelievable.

Not only the dances are spectacular; the very setting is also. The set design is intentionally minimalist, but it's very much compensated by the four scrimms (a piece of fabric which seems opaque when frontlit and translucent when backlit). One of these functions as a curtain, the other three as a segmented backdrop. All throughout the show, the images are projected on these scrimms, and

as a result, the set is instantly adaptable to whatever it should be — for one image it's a sunlit beach, and you're in Brooklyn for another.

If only the creators of *Riverdance* were content to have only Irish dances. Maybe they were afraid that the audience will get bored, so they inserted a good deal of other numbers into the show, diluting the impact. (Personally I wouldn't mind two solid hours of jigs) Some of them are very good (the aforementioned Moscow Folk ballet, for example), and some are so-so (the Spanish flamenco is not that interesting, and there's way too much of it). What feels more than a little weird is that all the music for these dances (Russian and Spanish) is arranged in such a manner that it sounds virtually identical to the Irish tunes. Perhaps the show's creators are implying that there's a little Irish in all of us, but it seems to me that if you're using other cultures' music, it should sound at least a little bit different.

That was a minor gripe, though; I have a major one, namely that *Riverdance* takes itself way too seriously. Now that everyone has spoofed it (seen on an episode of *Third Rock From the Sun* and a bit in this summer's *Mafia!*), the show's straight-faced attempts at profundity feel somewhat misplaced. I don't think the show needs ludicrous narration (called "poetry" in the program), or attempts to establish some kind of a plot. Sometimes

these attempts are merely unnecessary; sometimes they are actually destructive, like the moment when two lovers turn to each other and sing a cliched pop song, or when a chorus is staged like it belongs to a grand-scale Broadway musical.

In any case, the show is quite long, and these weird numbers don't hurt it much. After every annoying interlude something comes along which is simply and utterly unbelievable. A number where a line of male dancers perform a maddeningly complex jig without even a single note from the orchestra is electrifying (the somewhat disturbing connotations — black shirts and pants, and general air of unstoppable conformity — notwithstanding). An American number, which pits the Irish immigrants against the locals, is both energetic and hilarious — very much because that's the only number where *Riverdance* winks at the audience and makes fun of itself.

And, of course, there's finale ultimo, which is an extravaganza of roaming lights, wild backgrounds, and highly elaborate — seemingly impossible — dancing. The whole show is highly recommendable, and I might even say it's a must see, if not for the daunting price. In any case, if you don't feel like paying that much, you can watch the video recording of the show (made a couple years ago, and thus a bit different from the current live version). It's really good.

MOVIE REVIEW

Pleasantville

Screwy sitcom successfully satisfies

By Vladimir V. Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Written and directed by Gary Ross
With Tobey Maguire, Reese Witherspoon,
Joan Allen, William H. Macy, Jeff Daniels,
J.T. Walsh, Don Knotts, Marley Shelton

Sitcom is an art form. And now that I've lost all my readers and my last ounce of critical credibility (if such existed to begin with), I can continue unimpeded. Not only is it an art form, it's underused. Yes, with the overwhelming glut of sitcoms on the tube — and they truly represent a self-contained universe of genre, form, and style conventions — almost no one has yet bothered to push the boundaries (I'm taking into account only American TV here; what is being done with TV sitcoms in, say, Japan, is a topic for another time). When such deconstructing attempts are made, the results are usually startling; if you remember one of the earlier sequences in *Natural Born Killers*, the one that Oliver Stone directed as a sitcom fragment, you might recall the genuine shock that resulted from the superposition of a cheery pastel ambiance and violent menace.

Pleasantville is a prime example of how much mileage can one get by using the stagnant form of sitcom, if it's used with wit, inventiveness, a fresh eye, and a healthy disregard for stereotypes.

The story concerns two teenage siblings (Tobey Maguire and Reese Witherspoon) who miraculously find themselves stuck in a 1950s black-and-white sitcom: White picket fences, dotting mom (Joan Allen), father who knows best (William H. Macy), a soda shop on the corner, waffles, bacon, and steak tips for breakfast, a fire team who is there only to rescue cats from the trees, etc. And that's all you're going to hear from me about the plot; the theatrical trailer spoils a lot of it anyway (and I do earnestly recommend closing your eyes if by any chance you happen upon it). The above scenario obviously gives a prime opportunity for a mildly-amusing "fish out of

water" comedy (see those nineties teens grapple with fifties fashion and custom), and *Pleasantville* spends a few minutes operating in this mode. But then, pulling a concealed card out of a sleeve, it starts making plot twists and turns, each wilder than the previous, and yet totally convincing.

Screenwriter Gary Ross made quite a name for himself in the Hollywood high-concept comedy industry: He wrote both *Big* and *Dave*, which were not only consistently amusing, but also managed to have a complex story, impressively detailed characters, and a layer of subtext. This film is not only written by Ross; it's also his directorial debut, and shows him to be highly adept not only with words, but also with images. *Pleasantville* has amazing visuals, perhaps the second-best this year (the best one, unfortunately, belong to the sickeningly saccharin *What Dreams May Come*). When flawlessly emulating a sitcom world (to such a consistently high degree that this emulation feels sarcastically subversive), as well as when deconstructing it, Ross takes this very intentionally cliched world and gives it his absolutely unique vision.

He's helped by one of the most interesting ensemble casts in recent memory. Maguire essays his socially-challenged teenager without ever resorting to cliches or winking to the audience; both William H. Macy and Jeff Daniels are excellent as the two characters who change the most; but it's the other two actors who end up stealing every single

scene. Joan Allen plays her fifth neglected wife in a row (first four were *The Crucible*, *Nixon*, *Face/Off*, and *The Ice Storm*), and by now it would seem she mined the part of all it's worth. But here she is again as fresh and emotionally honest as if it were her first role. Finally, the late J.T. Walsh is nothing short of amazing as Big Bob, the mayor of Pleasantville, whose character starts on the side, but by the end firmly occupies the very heart of the movie — a heart of darkness, as it were.

There's more remarkable stuff in this film, ranging from Randy Newman's score to carefully selected period songs to excellent production design. *Pleasantville* also manages to use tons of digital visual effects (as a matter of fact, the most digital effects ever in the history of movies — at least, until George Lucas releases *Star Wars I* in May). These effects, by the way, aren't used simply as a visual

candy — they are strictly in the service of the story.

And that story is remarkable. *Pleasantville* is always funny and appealing; it is very light on its feet, turning the monochromatic sitcom world around and around and discovering different facets to it; it seamlessly switches the mood from nostalgia to romance to satire to, ultimately, feral menace, and examination of some breathtakingly deep issues. There are enough hints in the first hour of the film to guess the climax, but it's still exciting to see a film to pursue its main idea unswervingly, however far it might lead from its initially sunny and conflict-free world.

The greatest surprise is that *Pleasantville* manages to do all that while remaining nothing but a highly stylized comedy. In other words, it's a sitcom, possessing both grace and depth and a rushing stream of ideas, rapidly percolating under the surface.



William H. Macy and Joan Allen star in the new sitcom movie *Pleasantville*.

RALPH NELSON

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Popular Music

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT.
Oct. 24: Mickey Hart + Olu Dara. \$25 general admission.
Oct. 28: Sepultura + Vision of Disorder + Earth Crisis. \$15.
Oct. 30: Cypress Hill + Incubus. \$20.
Nov. 2: PJ Harvey + The Rachel's. \$18.
Nov. 10: Cake. \$16.
Nov. 12: Buffalo Tom. \$16.
Nov. 13: Little Feat. \$17.50.
Nov. 14: Goo Goo Dolls + Athanaeum. \$15.

Somerville Theatre

Tickets: 931-2000.
Nov. 3: Duncan Sheik + Hooverphonic. \$16.
Nov. 5: moe. + Moon Boot Lover.
Nov. 19: Hot Tuna. \$22.50.

The Orpheum Theatre

Tickets: 423-NEXT.
Oct. 25: Bela Fleck and the Flecktones + String Cheese Incident.
Oct. 29: Journey. \$36, \$29.50.
Oct. 31: Motley Crue. \$35.50, \$30.50.
Nov. 7: Lyle Lovett. \$33.50, \$23.50 reserved.
Nov. 13: Joe Satriani. \$36, \$25, \$17.50.
Nov. 15: Chris Isaak + Shawn Mullins. \$31, \$23.50.
Nov. 20: Mary Chapin Carpenter + Katie Curtis.
Nov. 23: Ratdog + Alana Davis. \$26.50.
Dec. 5: The Tragically Hip. \$20.

Paradise Rock Club

Tickets: 423-NEXT.
Oct. 23: Vertical Horizon.
Oct. 26: The Corrs.
Oct. 29: Moxxy Fruvous + Jess Kline.
Oct. 30: Fastball + David Garza + Joan Jones.
Oct. 31: The Cardigans.
Nov. 5: Rusted Root. On sale 10/24 at 10 a.m.
Nov. 6: Afghan Whigs.
Nov. 7: Vast.
Nov. 9: Glen Phillips (of Toad the Wet Sprocket), John Doe (of X), Steve Peltz, Pete D'Angelo.
Nov. 13: Saw Doctors.
Nov. 14: John Hiatt.
Nov. 17: Men at Work.
Nov. 20: Pat McGee.
The Middle East

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
October 23 - 29

Compiled by Joel M. Rosenberg

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

Tickets: 864-EAST. All shows Downstairs (unless noted).

Oct. 23: The Racketeers + Strangement + Ragin' Teens + Ray Corvair Trio + Mickey Bliss Organ Combo. \$8.
Oct. 24: Juliana Hatfield + Heavy Studd. \$10 adv/\$12 doors.
Oct. 25: Thumper + Big D & the Kids Table + Planet Smashers. \$7.
Oct. 27: Frankie Bones & Heather Heart of Sonic Groove. \$6.
Oct. 29: Cat Power + Tren Brothers + Douce Gimlet. \$8.
Oct. 30: Built to Spill + 764 Hero + Tiffany Anders. \$8.
Oct. 31: Babaloo + The Pressure Cooker + Chandler Travis Philharmonic. \$8.

The Roxy

Tickets: 931-2000.
Oct. 24: Squirrel Nut Zippers + Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire + Ray Condo and the Ricochettes. \$22.50.
Oct. 27: Depeche Mode + Stabbing Westward. \$42.50, \$28.50 reserved.
Nov. 6: Cherry Poppin' Daddies + The Pietasters + Ozomatli. \$19.50.
Nov. 14: Robert Hunter. \$22.50.
Dec. 6: Buddy Guy. \$22.50.
Dec. 9: Reverend Horton Heat + Amazing Crowns + Fiat Duo Jets. \$16.50.

Fleet Center

Tickets: 931-2000.

Nov. 30: Billy Joel. \$39.50. On sale 10/24 at 10a.m.

Dec. 31: Aerosmith. \$75, \$50, \$35.

Worcester Centrum

Tickets: 931-2000.
Oct. 27: Depeche Mode + Stabbing Westward. \$42.50, \$28.50.
Jan. 2: Aerosmith. \$35.
Palladium (Worcester)
Tickets: 423-NEXT.
Oct. 28: Garbage + Girls against Boys. \$20.
Oct. 31: Rancid + Hepcat + The Ducky Boys. \$13.50 advance, \$15 day of show.
Nov. 1: Rob Zombie + Monster Magnet + Fear Factory. \$25.
Nov. 21: Brian Setzer Orchestra. \$22.50.

Jazz Music

Sculler's Jazz Club

Tickets: 562-4111.
Oct. 23-24: Illinois Jacquet Big Band.
Oct. 25: Acoustic Alchemy.
Oct. 28: Tracy Gibbs.
Oct. 29-30: Eliane Elias Trio.
Oct. 31, Nov. 1: Spyro Gyra.

Regattabar

Tickets: 661-5000
Oct. 23: The Luciana Souza Quintet.
Oct. 24: The John Patitucci Quartet.
Oct. 27: The Mark Kross Five-Piece Trio.
Oct. 28: Grisha Goryachev.
Oct. 29-31: Dave Holland Quintet.

Berklee Performance Center

Tickets: 747-2261
Oct. 28: "Fall Together at Berklee." Jazz Composition Faculty concert. \$4.

World Music

Call 876-4275 for more info.
Oct. 23: Radio Tarifa, from Spain. \$22, \$18. Somerville Theater.
Oct. 24: Alasdair Fraser & Skyedance, from Scotland. 8 p.m., \$22, \$18. Somerville Theater.
Nov. 1: Marisa Monte, from Brazil. \$30, \$25. Berklee Performance Center.
Nov. 2: Le Ballet National Du Senegal. \$30, \$25, \$20. Sanders Theater.
Nov. 6: Carmen Linares, from Spain. Flamenco singing. \$28, \$22. Sanders Theater.

Classical

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. 266-1492, 266-1200. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8pm; Fridays, 1:30pm. \$23-\$71; rush seats \$7.50 day of concert, on sale Fridays from 9am, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm. Free tickets for MIT students Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Call 638-9478 for ticket availability.
Oct. 23, 24, 27: Bernard Haitink, conductor. Bruckner, Symphony No. 8.
Oct. 29, 30, 31, Nov. 3: Seiji Ozawa, conductor; Jessye Norman, soprano (Oct. 31 only); Ben Heppner, tenor; Thomas Quasthoff, baritone (Oct. 29, 30, Nov. 3). Bartok, Suite from "The Miraculous Mandarin"; Mahler, "Das Lied von der Erde".
Nov. 18, 19, 20, 21, 24: Federico Cortese, conductor; Dubravka Tomsic, piano. Petrassi, Concerto for Orchestra No. 5; Saint-Saens, Piano Concert No. 2; Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 3, "Scottish."

Theater

Blue Man Group

It would be difficult and unfair to catalogue fully the antics of the Drama Desk Award-winning trio of cobalt-painted bald pates. They begin their delightful and deafening evening of anti-performance art beating drums that are also deep buckets of paint, so that sprays of color jump from the instruments like breaking surf, and end by engulfing the spectatorship in tangles of toilet paper. Go experience it.
Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 426-6912 for tickets and information

on how to see the show for free by ushering.

Shear Madness

The dramatis personae of this audience-participation whodunit continue to comb Newbury Street for the murderer of a classical pianist who lived over the unisex hair salon where the show is set.
Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston (426-5225), indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$30 to \$34.

Riverdance

The "original international phenomenon" returns for a third Boston engagement come and meet those dancing Irish feet.
At the Wang Center, 270 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400), Through Nov. 1. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, and at 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tix \$28.50 to \$68.50.

The Marriage of Bette and Boo

Marcus Stern, the man who put Woyzeck in the electric chair, helms this production of "Christopher Durang's own anarchic, autobiographical family album come to life." Explains the press release of what is perhaps the absurdist playwright's best as well as most personal work, "Bette and Boo should never have gotten married. Boo is an alcoholic, Bette has dead babies, their in-laws are gibbering sociopaths, and as for their priest... he thinks he's a strip of fried bacon!" Presented by the American Repertory Theatre at the Hasty Pudding Theatre, 12 Holyoke Street, Cambridge (547-8300), through Nov. 8. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 2 (Oct. 24 only) and 8 p.m. on Saturday; and at 2 and 7 p.m. (evening performance Oct. 25 only) on Sunday. Tix \$25 to \$35.

Jolson: The Musical

This musical biography of the legendary star of Broadway, blackface, and The Jazz Singer won the 1996 Olivier Award for Best Musical in London's West End. The show, which is directed by Bill Castellino and features Israeli stage star Mike Burstyn as Jolson, features a host of songs made famous by the performer, from "My Mammy" and "Swanee" to "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody."
At the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street, Boston (800-447-7400), through Nov. 1. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, and at 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday; there's also a 2 p.m. Thursday matinee on October 29. Tix \$20 to \$65.

Jackie Mason: Much Ado About Everything

A pre-Broadway outing by comedian and Tony winner Jackie Mason, who has been called "the Jewish Will Rogers" and an "equal-opportunity offender."
Presented by Broadway in Boston at the Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont Street, Boston (931-2787), through Nov. 1. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and at 1 (Nov. 1) or 3 p.m. (Oct. 25) on Sunday. Tix \$29.50 to \$49.50.

Titanic... The Mystery Cruise

Comedy Theater Productions of Westwood presents a new dinner/mystery cruise around Boston harbor, featuring "a hilarious three-hour spoof and whodunit by hypothetical cast members of Titanic, the Soap Opera."
Aboard the Fort Independence, departing from Long Wharf, off Atlantic Avenue, Boston (800-697-CLUE), at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through October 31. Tickets \$44.95, which includes performance, dinner buffet, tax, and gratuities.

Exhibits

Computer Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. (423-6758 or 426-2800), Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission \$7, \$5 for students and seniors, free for children under 5. Half-price admission on Sun. from 3-5 p.m. Tours daily of "Walk Through Computer 2000," a working two-story model of a PC. The world's only computer museum; features a collection of vintage computers and robots with over 150 hands-on exhibits illustrating the evolution, use, and impact of computers. Featured

exhibits include: "The Hacker's Garage," a recreation of a '70s hacker's garage with such items as an Apple I and Pong; "The Networked Planet: Traveling the Information Highway," an electronic tour of the Internet; "Robots and Other Smart Machines," an interactive exhibition of artificial intelligence and robots; "Tools & Toys: The Amazing Personal Computer"; "People and Computers: Milestones of a Revolution," explores a number of ways computers impact everyday life. In the Smart Machines Theater a multi-media show features NASA's Mars Rover, R2-D2, Shakey, Sea Rover, and other robots. Through Nov. 30: "Wizards and Their Wonders: Portraits in Computing." Ongoing: "Virtual FishTank."

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18.

The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m.

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

Permanent Gallery Installations: "Late Gothic Gallery," featuring a restored 15th-century stained glass window from Hampton Court, 14th- and 15th-century stone, alabaster, and polychrome wood sculptures from France and the Netherlands; "Mummy Mask Gallery," a newly renovated Egyptian gallery, features primitive masks dating from as far back as 2500 B.C.; "European Decorative Arts from 1950 to the Present"; "John Singer Sargent: Studies for MFA and Boston Public Library Murals."

Exhibitions: Through Dec. 27: "Monet in the Twentieth Century." \$5 with valid MIT student ID Monday-Friday noon-closing. Grand Design admission \$13, \$11 for seniors and students, free for children. Through Oct. 25: "Arthur G. Dove: Mixing Media." Through Nov. 8: "Beauty Contest: Quality in Prints." Ongoing: "Beyond the Screen: Chinese Furniture of the 16th and 17th Centuries"; "The Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Ancient Americas"; "Egyptian Funerary Arts and Ancient Near East Galleries." — Gallery lectures are free with museum admission. Sat.: at noon, "Greek and Etruscan Gold," presented by David Austin. Wed.: at 6 p.m., "19th-Century American Art," presented by Pamela Kachurin. Wed.: at 6:30 p.m., "Introductory Tour of the Galleries in Russian," presented by Nikolay Guyetsky. Thurs.: at 11 a.m., "Unwrapping the Mummies and the Ancient Near East," presented by Rita Freed.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. (723-2500), Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors.

The Museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center"; "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit"; "Welcome to the Universe." Through Oct. 31: "The Science of Autumn." Ongoing: "Seeing Is Deceiving."

Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors. Now showing: "Laser Beastie Boys," Thurs.-Sat., 9:15 p.m.; "Laser Dark Side of the Moon," Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; "Laser Space Odyssey," Daily, 5:30 p.m.; "Laser Floyd's Wall," Fri.-Sat. at 10:30 p.m.; "Laser Metallica," Sun., 9:15 p.m.; "Laser Nirvana," Sun., 8 p.m.; "Laser Beatles," Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m. Planetarium shows include "Life and Death of the Sun."

Swatch Museum

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

Events

Ethan Phillips of Star Trek: Voyager

Oct. 24, 1-7pm. Holiday Inn, 1200 Beacon St., Brookline. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. VIP seating is available. Information: (508) 896-7448.

The Council for the Arts at MIT presents:

FREE TICKETS FOR MIT STUDENTS

Le Ballet National du Senegal

Monday November 2

7:30pm

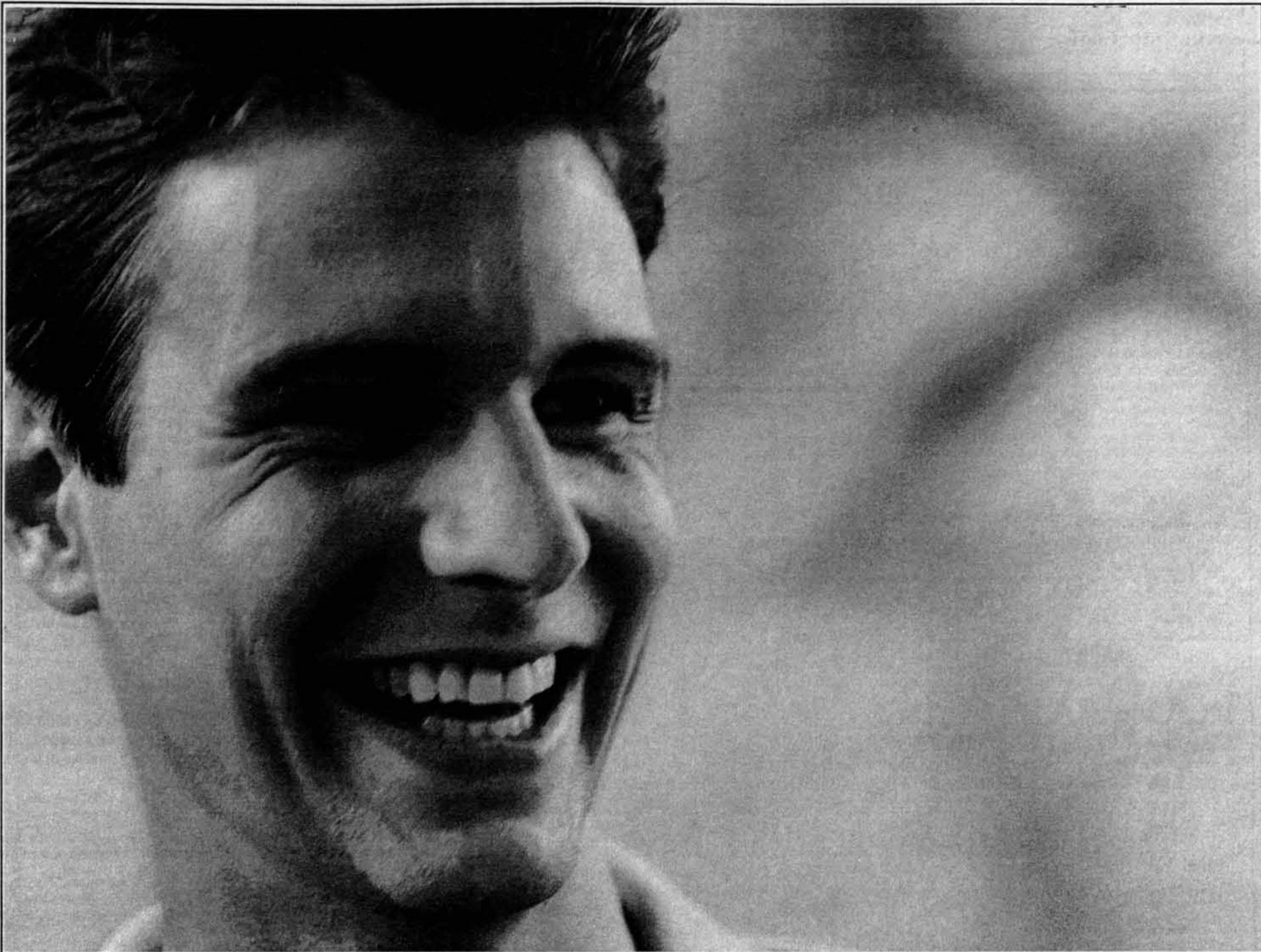
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy Street
Harvard Square

Senegal's most famous and well-traveled company, Le Ballet National du Senegal offers a magnificent adventure in total theater. The 35-member company of dancers, musicians and singers combines the rapid-fire staccato of pulsating drums with dazzling dances, airborne acrobatics, swaying costumes and colorful animal masks to create a thrilling cultural tapestry. Their show, entitled "Pangols: The Spirit of West Africa in Music, Song and Dance", explores and celebrates the spiritual nature of all things, animate and inanimate.

Sign up IN PERSON ONLY
at the Office of the Arts(E15-205)

Bring your valid MIT student ID and a \$5 deposit which will be returned to you when you pick up your tickets.

Tickets will be handed out in the main lobby of Building E15 at 5:00pm on November 2



All we'd like to do is shake up your thinking and broaden your outlook. Then it's your turn.

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Andersen Consulting invites you to attend our 2nd Annual Lecture Series at MIT.

Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 p.m., Room 2-190

Hear Paul Daugherty, Technology Partner, speak on the "Electronic Economy and its Impact on Business."

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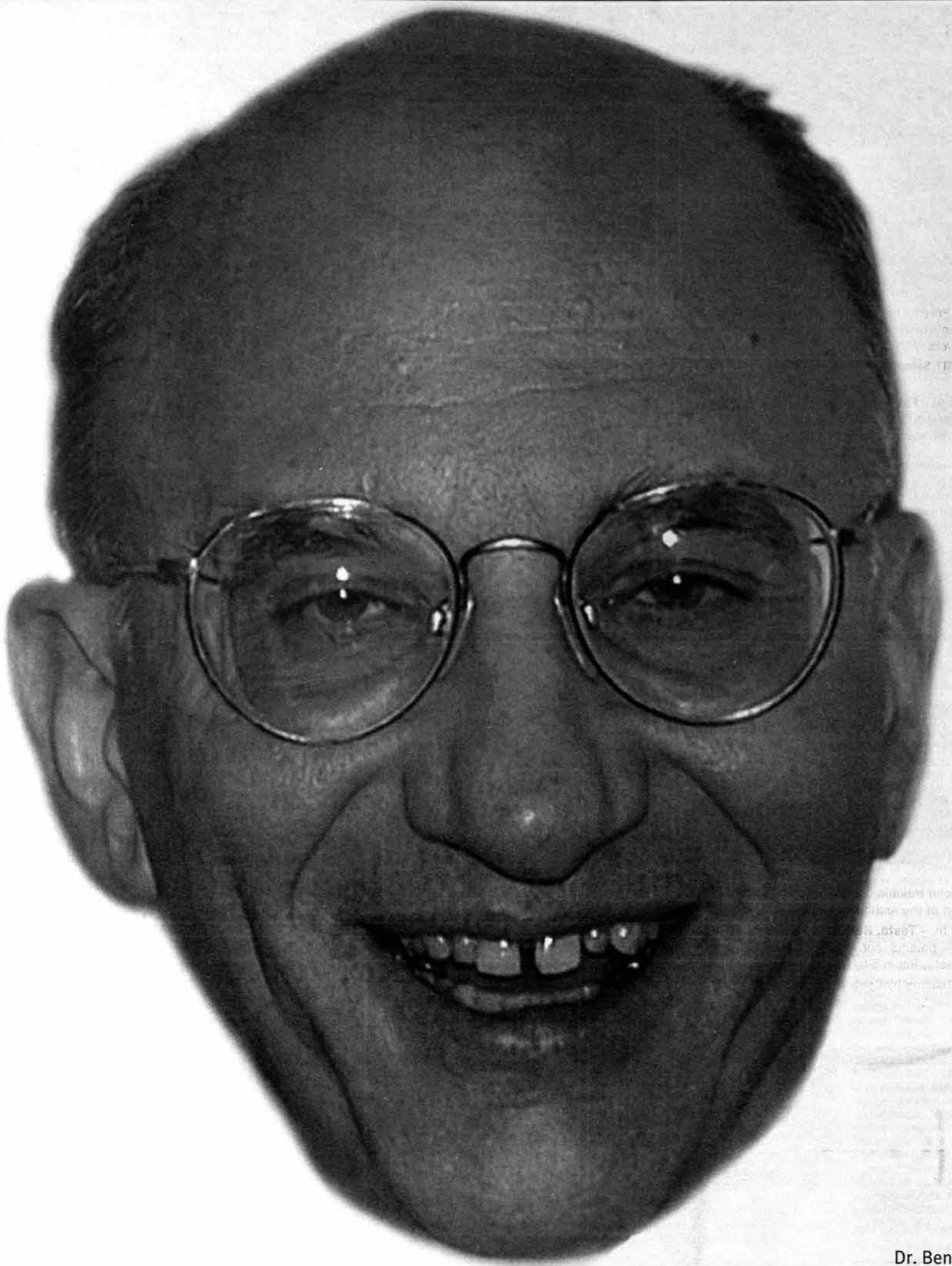
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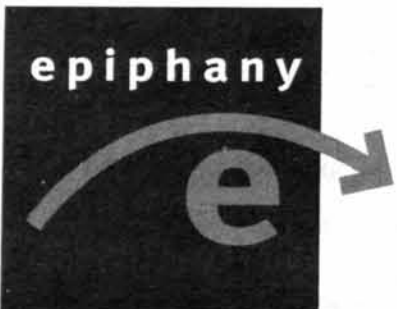
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Epiphany Information Session
Mon. October 12, 8:00 pm, Room 4-159

...and save October 27 for Ben's "Anatomy of a Startup"

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.

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Friday's Events

- 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. - **Mini I-Fair '98.** Celebrate Culture! Come to ISA's smaller version of International Fair and see MIT students perform dances from their countries as you taste foods from around the world! Part of Fall Festival. Student Center Steps. Sponsor: International Students Association.
- 12:00 p.m. - **Praying in the Midst of Midterms Retreat.** Brother Matthew Holsti (SSJE) and The Rev. Jane Gould lead an examination of the challenges of discerning God's will and maintaining a life of prayer in the midst of university life. Fee \$75.00. West Newbury (bus available). Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.
- 8:00 p.m. - **MIT Symphony Orchestra Concert.** Dante Anzolini, director. Admission \$2.00. Kresge Auditorium.
- 9:00 - 1:00 a.m. - **Fall Fling.** Show off your swing dance skills! Featuring the White Heat Swing Orchestra, originally from the Boston area. All are welcome. Part of Fall Festival. Admission \$5.00. DuPont Gymnasium. Sponsor: Fall Festival Committee.

Saturday's Events

- 8:00 - 4:00 p.m. - **City Year Serve-A-Thon.** Join over 10,000 volunteers in the Boston/Cambridge area in participating in over 170 service projects. Have fun giving back to the community. Part of Fall Festival. Various Locations. Sponsor: City Year.
- 2:00 p.m. - **Exhibition Walk-Through.** List Visual Arts Center Assistant Curator Jennifer Riddell leads a tour of Matthias Mansen: About the House and Lewis deSoto: Recital, on view at the LVAC Oct 9 through Dec 27. List Visual Arts Center.
- 7:00 p.m. - **Godzilla.** He's back, and this time it's the nineties! Borne of a nuclear explosion, Godzilla awakens and for a change heads west to Tahiti and on to New York. 2 hours 18 minutes. Admission \$2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - **Theta PlayStation.** Dance. Video games. Food. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Court Appointed Special Advocates, a non-profit org. dedicated to helping neglected and abused children in the court system. Part of Fall Festival. Admission \$5.00. Lobdell Court. Sponsor: Kappa Alpha Theta.
- 10:30 p.m. - **Godzilla.** He's back, and this time it's the nineties! Borne of a nuclear explosion, Godzilla awakens and for a change heads west to Tahiti and on to New York. 2 hours 18 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Sunday's Events

- 10:00 p.m. - **Godzilla.** He's back, and this time it's the nineties! Borne of a nuclear explosion, Godzilla awakens and for a change heads west to Tahiti and on to New York. 2 hours 18 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Tuesday's Events

- 6:30 p.m. - **John Hejduk.** The Dean of Cooper Union's Architecture School reads poetry from *Such Places as Memory*. Part of the Architecture Lecture series. Room 10-250. Sponsor: authors@mit.
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - **Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP Protecting Your Ideas Panel.** Learn about your intellectual property — patents, copyrights, trade- and servicemarks, and trade secrets — and how to protect these valuable assets. Room 54-100. Sponsor: MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition.
- 7:30 p.m. - **Reading by Cynthia Ozick.** Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies Writers Series presents the award-winning novelist, poet, short-story writer and essayist. Bldg. 51, Wong Auditorium.

IVY LEAGUE COALITION FOR LIFE ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 23 - Sunday, October 24
450 Dodge Hall
Northeastern University

Friday, October 23rd:

- 5:30 pm: Check in and late registration
- 7:00 pm: Debate: "Should there be a constitutional right to abortion?"
Supporting resolution: Eileen McDonagh and Anne Stone
Opposing resolution: Dough Scott and Sheila Maloney
- 8:00 pm: Reception

Saturday, October 24th:

Activities start with breakfast at 9:30 am. Rotating workshops and speakers throughout the day.

A conference fee of \$19.00 is requested.

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ALCOHOL

just the facts

Most MIT students drink safely and many don't drink at all. Whatever your choice, these tips may help you or a friend in need.

1 Alcohol poisoning?

If a friend has any ONE of these symptoms of alcohol poisoning:

- breathing fewer than 8 times per minute, or irregular breathing with 10 seconds or more between breaths
- passed out, appears unconscious or cannot be awakened
- cold, clammy pale or bluish skin
- vomiting while sleeping or passed out, or not waking up after vomiting
- no pulse stopped breathing

On campus: call 100 immediately
Off campus: call 911 immediately

These symptoms are signs of a **medical emergency**. When in doubt, check it out. It is better to be nosy and safe than regret that you didn't do more.

When in doubt, check it out

Signs of a potential problem:

- consuming a large quantity of alcohol in a short amount of time (multiple, rapid shots; funnels, chugging)
- slurred speech
- impaired motor control (stumbling, cannot walk, etc.)
- vomiting

If you notice any ONE of these signs:

- Keep a close watch on your friend. Even after stopping drinking, the effects of alcohol can become more pronounced over time. Your friend is still at risk of alcohol poisoning.
Do not leave your friend alone.
- Watch for symptoms of alcohol poisoning and call for help immediately if you notice your friend progressing to severe intoxication.
- If your friend is sleepy or out of it, make sure your friend is on his/her side**, so that if he/she vomits, the vomit will not cause choking and suffocation. Propping your friend up with a pillow in front and in back will lessen the likelihood of rolling onto his/her back.
- Stay with your friend.** Wake your friend up frequently—every 15 minutes or so. If your friend doesn't awaken easily, get help.
- Contact your Tutor or Housemaster.
- Contact Campus Police (100) for advice or for an escort to MIT Medical (24 hours).
- If you are unsure** of what to do, call MIT Medical (617/ 253-1311, 24 hours) for advice. All calls and visits to MIT Medical are strictly confidential.

2 Is there a magic formula?

The source

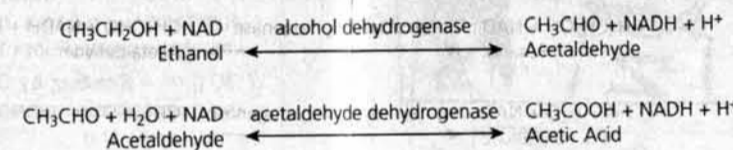
- A 12 oz. beer, a 5 oz. glass of wine or a mixed drink (1.5 oz. hard liquor) all contain approximately **the same amount of alcohol**: roughly 20 grams.
- Punches vary wildly. A 6 oz. serving can contain 0-60 grams of alcohol.

The rate

- The **effects of alcohol vary greatly** from one person to the next, and in the same person from one day to the next.
- The rate of metabolism is about 6-8 grams per hour (120 mg of alcohol per kilogram of weight per hour) in the average person weighing 70 kilograms or 154 pounds. **It takes two to three hours to completely metabolize one beer.**
- Many factors significantly influence the rate of alcohol absorption and the effects of alcohol, including body weight, fatigue, if you've eaten, gender, medications, and history of drinking. Alcohol requires no digestion or preparation for absorption. It is rapidly absorbed when it is presented to the small bowel.
- Food slows the process**, diluting the alcohol and delaying gastric emptying while digestion occurs. Four drinks in one hour without food will result in a very high blood alcohol level, while the same amount of alcohol with food, spread out over a four-hour period, will result in a much lower peak alcohol level.
- Both the peak concentration and the area under the curve of alcohol concentration over time will be **lower in the slower drinker**, since absorption occurs over a longer time period and metabolism of the alcohol will be occurring simultaneously.
- The larger the physical size of the drinker, the lower the blood alcohol level will be for a given amount of alcohol. Alcohol is distributed essentially equally in total body water—about 60 percent of total body weight

3 How does your body metabolize alcohol?

- Alcohol is metabolized by a series of reactions that begin in the digestive tract and continue in the liver. Gastric enzymes (alcohol dehydrogenases) begin to break down alcohol even before it is absorbed. **Rapidly ingesting alcohol skips this first attempt at detoxification** of alcohol.
- Liver metabolism of alcohol is an active process that commands complex machinery and resources. There are important genetic and acquired factors that affect the metabolism of alcohol.
- Alcohol itself induces increased activity in the enzyme systems that leads to its metabolism. Alcohol or ethanol is converted into acetaldehyde, and then to acetic acid. (Acetic acid in dilute solution is vinegar.) Here are the chemical formulas:



- If a person is **on some medications, including aspirin, before drinking, the drugs may prolong the effects of alcohol** because they inhibit alcohol dehydrogenases.
- About 90 percent of ingested alcohol is metabolized. The remaining 10 percent is excreted unchanged in urine and in exhaled air. The large surface area of the lung and the high filtration rate of the kidney result in some excretion of alcohol and **account for the odor of alcohol on the breath of an individual who is drinking.**
- The **metabolism of alcohol is a chemical process which occurs at a fixed rate. Showers, caffeine or similar efforts do not alter the rate** at which alcohol is metabolized.
- The metabolism of alcohol may continue long after the last drink of alcohol. Some individuals may be metabolizing alcohol as much as 12 hours after their last drink.

4 Setting your own pace

- Eat, before and during.** Try high-protein foods, such as cheese. Avoid salty snacks, which increase your desire for liquids.
- Avoid carbonated** mixers or sodas. Carbonation increases the rate of absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream.
- Mix your own drinks**, so you know what's in them.
- Caffeine or cold showers don't work.** They make you more alert, but don't affect how your body metabolizes alcohol. Once alcohol is in your system, the rate of metabolism is constant.
- Releasing control of intake can be risky**—avoid drinking games, goals, demonstrations and attempts at intercollegiate record breaking.
- Alternate alcohol beverages** with noncarbonated, non-alcohol beverages, such as juice.
- Stop drinking alcohol for **part of the night**: dance, chat with friends, go to the bathroom.
- If you want more, **refill your glass yourself—when it's empty**, not when it's half-full.
- Don't mix alcohol with other drugs** (Valium, aspirin, cocaine, etc.). Some combinations can be deadly.
- Avoid punches unless you're **clairvoyant** and can predict how much alcohol is in the punch.
- Vomiting doesn't work. Unless it occurs **immediately** after drinking, most of the alcohol will already be in your blood. Besides, it's not that attractive or fun.

5 Finding out more

MIT Medical (E23)

Personal Physicians	617/ 253-4481
<i>medical advice, counseling</i>	
Mental Health	617/ 253-2916
<i>counseling, referral</i>	
Personal Assistance Program	617/ 253-4911
<i>Ron Fleming, Ph.D.</i>	
MIT Alcohol Support Group	617/ 253-4911
Al-Anon and AA	617/ 253-4911
<i>campus support meetings</i>	
Health Education	617/ 253-1316
<i>info, speakers, programs</i>	

Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education

Counseling and Support Services	617/ 253-4861
<i>(5-106) counseling and referral</i>	
Residence Life and Student Life Programs	617/ 253-6777
<i>(W20-549) policy information, event registration</i>	

Campus Police

Legal advice, information, referral	617/ 253-1212
Crime Prevention / Sensitive Crimes	617/ 253-9755
<i>educational information:</i>	
<i>e-mail <crimbite@mit.edu></i>	
<i>or visit <web.mit.edu/cp/www/></i>	

Student-to-Student

Nightline (7pm to 7am)	617/ 253-8800
<i>peer listening hotline</i>	
MedLINKS	<web.mit.edu/medlinks/www/>
<i>referrals</i>	
UpFront	617/ 253-1307
<i>interactive educational workshops</i>	

Other Help

Chaplains	see listing in MIT Directory
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Off Campus

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)	617/ 426-9444
<i>area support groups for alcohol users</i>	
Al-Anon	781/ 843-5300
<i>support groups for friends and family affected by another's drinking.</i>	
Mass. Drug and Alcohol Hotline	617/ 445-1500
Bridge over Troubled Waters	617/ 423-9575
<i>free drug/alcohol counseling for those under 25</i>	

More information from MIT Medical

Health Education	617/ 253-1316
Internal Medicine	617/ 253-4481
Mental Health	617/ 253-2916

Emergency numbers

On campus Emergency	100
Off campus Emergency	911
MIT Medical Urgent Care	617/ 253-1311
MIT Campus Police	617/ 253-1212



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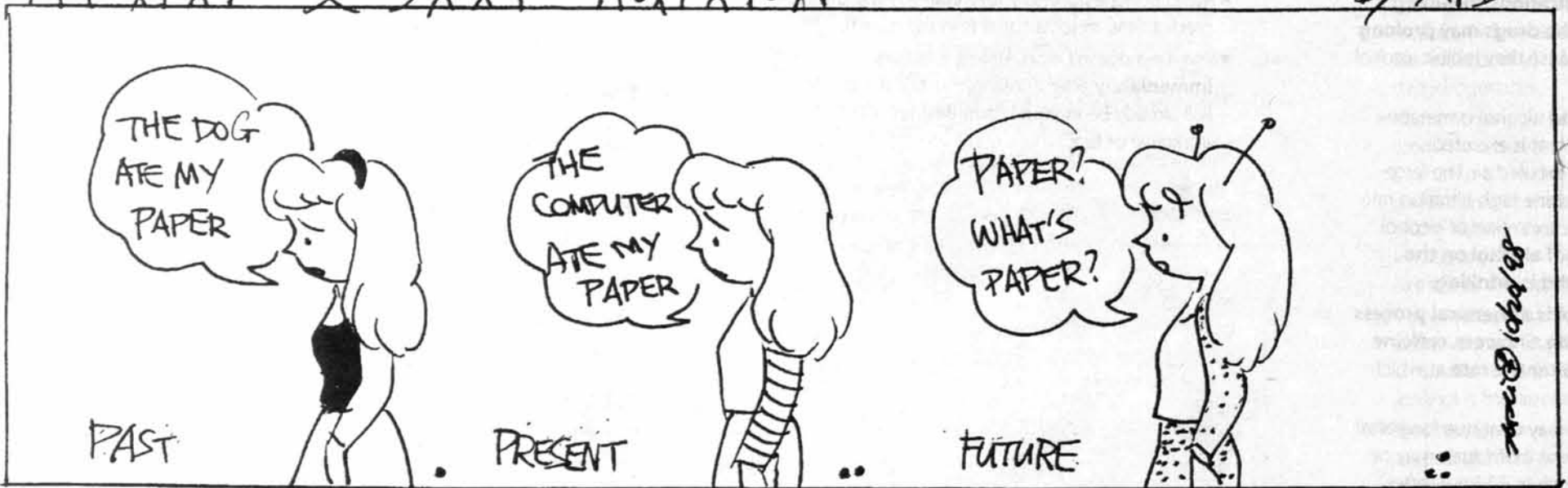
by Jessica



BART SQUEAK by SOLAR



HOW DOME I AM by XiD

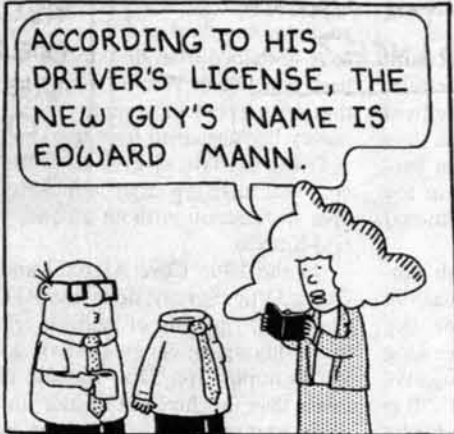


Down with Science

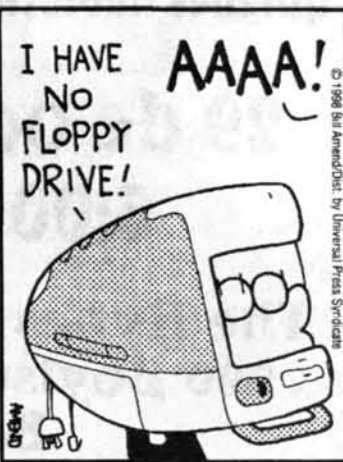
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Weschler Survey Finds Level Of Binge Drinking Unchanged

By Michael M. Torrice

Levels of binge drinking by college students have remained constant in recent years according to a report released by Henry Wechsler which follows his landmark 1993 study of binge drinking on college campuses.

Wechsler, the director of College Alcohol Studies at the Harvard School of Public Health, and his colleagues found that two out of five college students are binge drinkers. The level of binge drinking at MIT is much lower, according to surveys taken by the medical department.

"I'm surprised, but not surprised," said Dr. William Kettyle, associate director of the medical department. "The problem has always been there, but I am surprised not to see a change in the face of education and the national attention."

But Tracy Desovich, health educator for students, warns that the intense media coverage on the Wechsler report and other drinking related stories may have a negative effect on binge drinking rates. "It is important to know what the media attention does to students... it is a subtle peer pressure," Desovich

said.

The Wechsler report also examined the drinking styles of students on college campuses. His study found that the percentage of students reporting that they drink to get drunk increased from 39 percent in 1993 to 52 percent. "It points to a need for all [health educators] to understand the motivations for drinking," Desovich said.

MIT below the national average

Since 1990, MIT's rate of binge drinking has been roughly half the national average at 23 percent. In addition, one third of MIT students have abstained from drinking in the past year, while Wechsler reported that 19 percent of students in his survey had abstained from drinking. "[These statistics] give us some hope that there is a large community able to function without alcohol," said Kettyle.

In the 1995 Core Alcohol and Other Drug Survey done by MIT Medical, 53 percent of students felt that drinking on campus interferes with campus life. That statistic is lower than the three out of four students who reported felt this way in the nationwide Wechsler report.

Kettyle feels that the problem

with college drinking may be inherent in the campus environment. He points out that the binge drinking rates for students who do not go away to school are much lower than those living on campus.

"There is a wonderful freedom in this environment to be who you are, but this freedom can also have a down side... dangerous behaviors may be tolerated to the point of disaster," said Kettyle.

Report calls for action

Wechsler ends his report with some criticism towards Greek culture on the nation's campuses. "If colleges are to have an impact on their alcohol problems, they must change this drinking culture [of fraternities and sororities] drastically," said the Wechsler report.

Desovich called for non-drinkers to help out in the effort to lower binge drinking rates. "A non-drinker has to act as a community member and be concerned."

The medical department points to the MedLink and Upfront programs as a way to get information out to the student body, but they admit that these programs will not solve the problem alone. "The Med Center offers two things: education and care," said Kettyle. "In between, there is a culture and a community that we may influence but can't control or modify in a major way."

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Hoicka Sued MIT Over Loan

Reactor, from Page 1

confirmed, took such a tour. He said that he found responses of the staff to his questions were "condescending and evasive." Hoicka claims to have been told by an official at the reactor that "we build bombs here, of course," though he hopes the remark was meant facetiously.

Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, Gallop and Bernard stressed that the state government has no control over the reactor which is regulated by a federal agency.

Hoicka has history with MIT

Hoicka is not only a graduate of MIT, he also sued the school in 1993 after the Institute sued him when he defaulted on his student loans. Hoicka's countersuit argued that MIT's collusion with other universities to set financial aid awards meant that students who received awards should be compensated.

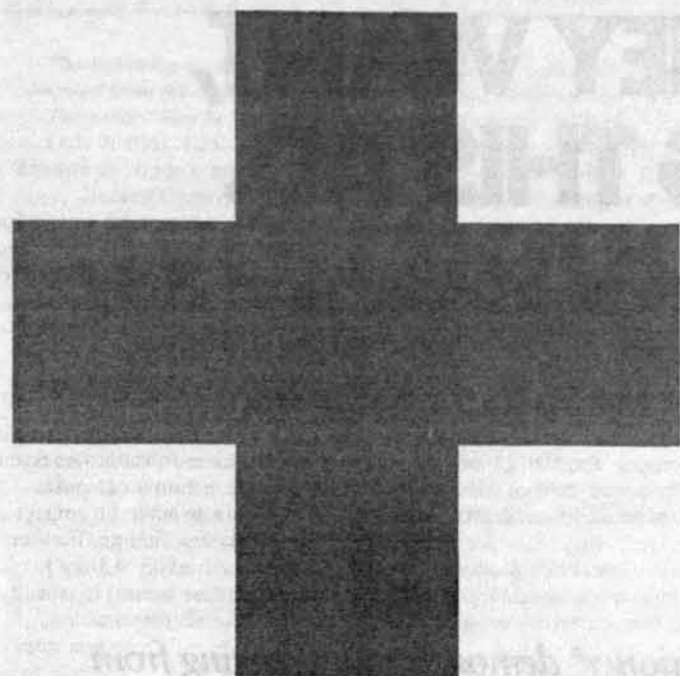
Hoicka is also active in local area politics involving housing and health care. He has placed two other questions on the ballot. One urges the creation of legislation stimulating increased production and availability of affordable housing for middle class and low income citizens. The other calls for universal, affordable, comprehensive health insurance for all residents of Massachusetts and for a health care bill of rights.

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Chris Ickler
BS PHYSICS – MIT

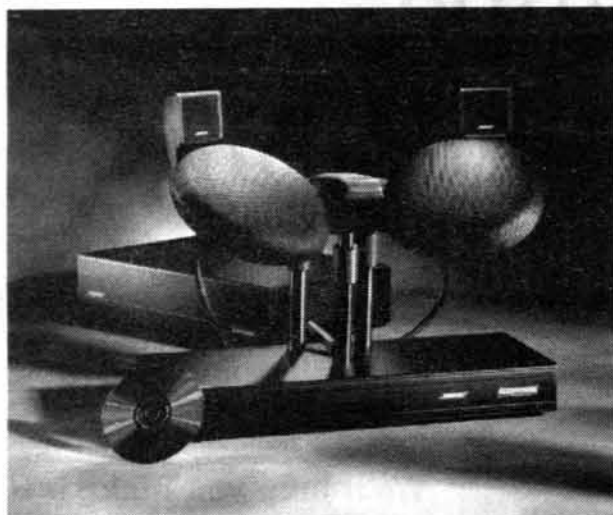
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POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Oct. 7 and Oct. 13. Information is compiled from the Campus Police's weekly crime summary and from dispatcher logs.

The report does not include alarms, general service calls, or incidents not reported to the dispatcher

Oct. 7: Bldg. E25, 1) employee problem; 2) wallet stolen, \$65; MacGregor House, malicious destruction, damage to window screen; Bldg. E53, Larceny of wallet, \$65; Bldg. E51, suspicious activity, checked out okay; Student Center, trespassing warning issued; Off-campus, Unauthorized use of Credit Cards, \$1278; Building 50, Larceny of backpack and contents, \$445, recovered.

Oct. 8: East Garage, Harassment; Bldg. 2, backpack and contents stolen, \$62; Bldg. 56, backpack and contents stolen, \$25; Ames St, cyclist struck by motor vehicle, with injury; Walker Memorial, party problem.

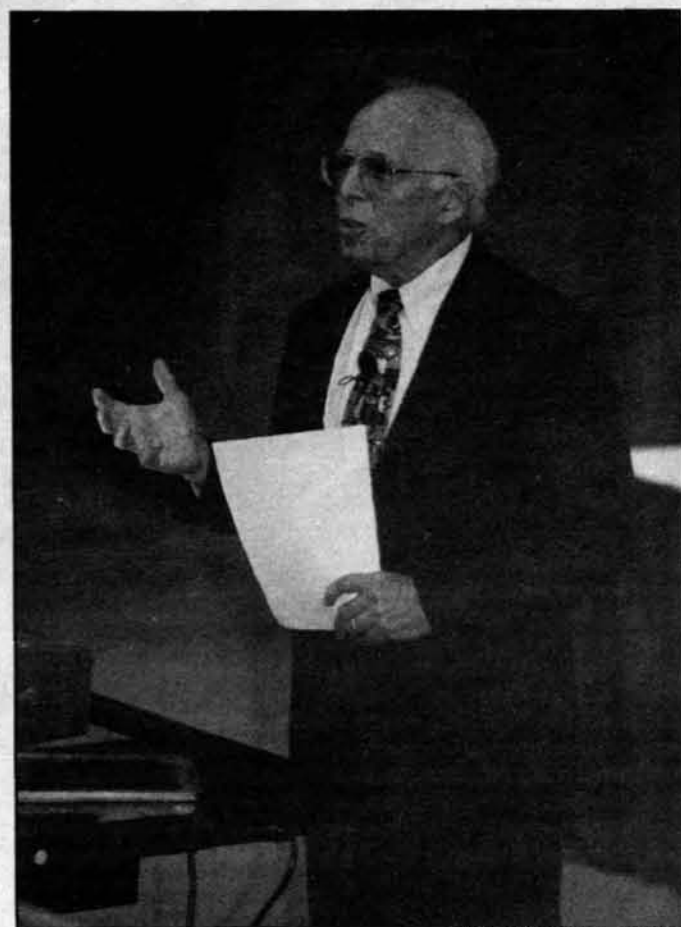
Oct. 9: Bldg. 7, Attempted breaking and entering to vending machine; Bldg. E52, larceny of cash, \$40; Deacon Lot, motor vehicle accident, no injuries; Baker House, harassing e-mail; Briggs Field, gym bag, wallet, and contents stolen, \$30; Bldg. 7, intoxicated homeless person; 84 Massachusetts Avenue, dispute between passenger and driver of SafeRide van.

Oct. 10: Student Center, 1) Richard Parsons, 12 Branch Street, Arlington arrested for trespassing and on outstanding warrants, fugitive from justice; 2) party problem, report of unauthorized alcohol; Bldg. 16, wallet and contents stolen, \$20. Bldg. 1, suspicious activity; Bldg. 3, suspicious activity.

Oct. 11: West Lot, Malicious Destruction, parking gate broken off.

Oct. 12: Student Center, Frances Tosney, 699 Bennington Street, East Boston, arrested outstanding warrants; Tang Hall, cell phone stolen, \$150.

Oct. 13: Bldg. 38, computer memory stolen, \$252; Kresge, wallet and contents stolen, \$50; Student Center, 1) motor vehicle accident, with property damage; 2) two individuals issued trespass warnings; Bldg. 1, bicycle stolen, \$850; Cross Street, break-in to motor vehicle and larceny of CD player, \$160; Bldg. 9, elevator stuck.



THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

Dr. John H. Gibbons, former science adviser to President Clinton, discusses the impacts of science and technology on society at the Karl Taylor Compton Lecture in Wong auditorium Thursday.

Oven Possible Source of Fire

Fire, from Page 1

After dropping the container, the graduate student threw several spill pillows on the liquid. Such pillows are designed to control substances like hexane by absorbing them. Those pillows are required in all labs, Danheiser said.

However, four pillows were not enough to control the fumes, and the fire started when they came into contact with an ignition source. "We suspect it was a drying oven" which was located close to the spill, Danheiser said.

Eyewitnesses said the fire gave off very thick, black smoke almost immediately. Those near the fire could not fight it because of the smoke, said Ann S. Jones G, who was standing in the hallway outside the lab when the fire began.

No one was hurt by the fire, which was contained by several Cambridge Fire pumper and ladder trucks. Most buildings reopened around 3 p.m. Tests conducted in the lab after the fire showed that the residual level of hexane was "well below dangerous levels," Diaz said.

Extent of damage uncertain

Reports on the level of damage to the facilities have differed. Initially, reports said the lab was a "total loss," according to Sarah Wright of the News Office.

However, reports yesterday indicated that direct damage to the lab was minimal, and that most damage was from smoke and water. "No valuable equipment was affected," Danheiser said. In addition, no data was lost.

Damage was contained to the lab, which was scheduled to be renovated soon.

Danheiser said that the

researcher did nothing wrong, and that he "would never criticize [him] for having a harmless accident." The fire occurred "in spite of his best efforts" to control the spill.

One possible safety problem

with the lab, however, is that a possible ignition source was located close to stored flammable liquids, Diaz said.

Frank Dabek contributed to the reporting of this article.

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Winning Entries Will Form Final Proposal

Faculty, from Page 1

the housing system's future, will be given a design kit which will "specify specific problems as well as resources" available, Bacow said.

Problems that will be discussed in the design competition include deciding when fraternity, sorority, and independent living group rush will occur and when bids can be given out, how to arrange the housing choice at the end of the first year, and how to assist FSILGs through the transition to freshmen on campus, Bacow said.

Briefing sessions will be held for participants and the designs will be posted on the web for public review. Three winners will be selected and a synthesis of their designs will be presented to Bacow after a second round of public scrutiny. This final recommendation will be made sometime next fall.

Dean of Students Rosalind H. Williams added that this design contest is in an "MIT like spirit." She stressed that teams should contain members from both FSILGs and dormitories so that "both sides of the river" will be represented.

Williams also said that the early plans produced by the contest would influence planning for next year's orientation. "How we do orientation or rush in the fall won't contradict how we want to to rush in 2001," she said.

Steering committee described

The process of choosing the plan will be guided by a steering committee, to be made up of four students, two faculty members, two alumni and two members of the

Office of Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education. Bacow said that the committee will be announced next week.

The committee will appoint a chair and will contain an additional member who would serve as a project coordinator. This coordinator would aid the committee full-time in their deliberations and research.

Bacow further broke down the committee membership by stipulating that he hoped the student portion of the committee would contain a representative from the graduate student body, the dormitories, the FSILG system and at least one female member. He noted that women tend to have largely different experiences of the MIT housing system than men do.

Housing discussion continues

The debate on undergraduate housing continued in the student body as well. The Undergraduate Association is holding a poll of student opinion on housing issues. Students can vote at <http://ua.mit.edu> through Sunday.

The Interfraternity Council passed a resolution at its presidents' council meeting on Wednesday which "recommends that the new dormitory be designated as substance-free housing."

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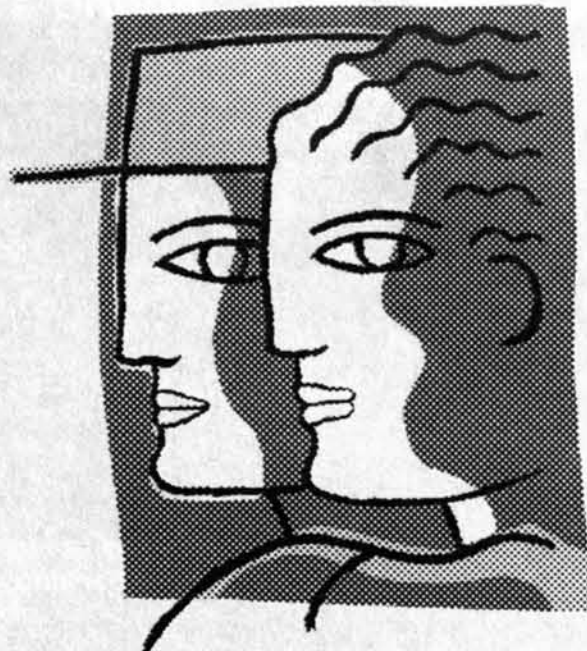
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Chen, Cooke Will Represent MIT; Sailing Team Earns Recognition

Sports Shorts, from Page 24

the Bates College Invitational. Michelle Fox '99 was picked as an all-tournament selection at the Eastern Connecticut State University Invitational. In addition, Fox was selected as the NEWMAC player of the week for the week ending Oct. 18.

The men's tennis doubles team of Eric Chen '00 and Ben Cooke '00 will represent New England at the Rolex Division III Doubles Championship in Memphis, Tenn., this week. Chen and Cooke recently finished second at the New England Division III Championships.

Defensive end Nikolas Kozy '00 has been named to the New England Football Conference Weekly Honor

Roll for his play in a recent game against UMass Dartmouth. In the contest Kozy had 13 tackles, including 10 solo, a sack, two tackles for losses and two quarterback pressures. Running back Enrique Villavicencio '00 became only the eighth player in MIT football history to gain over 1,000 career rushing yards. Villavicencio surpassed the mark in last weekend's game against Bridgewater State College.

MIT's sailing teams showed some prominence in the national rankings as conducted by Sailing World magazine. The MIT women's team is ranked nine in their poll while the co-ed varsity team is listed at 18th.

The men's water polo team finished third in last weekend's

Eastern Division III Championships held at Johns Hopkins University. The Engineers took three of four contests over the weekend.

The women's and lightweight men's boats recently competed in the Textile River Regatta, in Lowell, Mass. The women's team fielded a lightweight eight that won its event. The lightweight men, despite losing their fin on a stump during the first mile of the race, finished second, ahead of rivals Boston College and Holy Cross among others.

In the recent Head of the Charles Regatta, the heavyweight men's boat defeated Boston University, Rutgers University and Columbia University, and were within seconds of Syracuse University and Cornell University.

Rugby Football Club Beats Seacoast 16-0

By Randy Myers

TEAM MEMBER

The men's rugby football club went on their first road trip of the regular season to Portsmouth, NH and returned home victorious after a 15-0 blanking of the Seacoast Rugby Football Club. With their second shutout in a row, MIT's opponents remain scoreless in the month of October.

Early in the game, it was apparent that MIT was the physically dominant team as they quickly got inside Seacoast's 20-yard line. However, once inside, MIT committed some simple mistakes which resulted in a scoreless first twenty minutes. The Engineers dominance in the forwards was rewarded with a score by Fernando Vargas G who

also made the conversion. A made penalty kick by Vargas resulted in the 10-0 halftime score.

MIT continued playing hard in the second half and quickly scored on a designed play by team president Todd Nightengale '01. MIT held off some furious Seacoast runs late to preserve the shutout.

The MIT Men's B-team played their best game in years, producing a dominating 28-7 victory. The next game is at home Saturday versus the Beacon Hill Dinosaurs.

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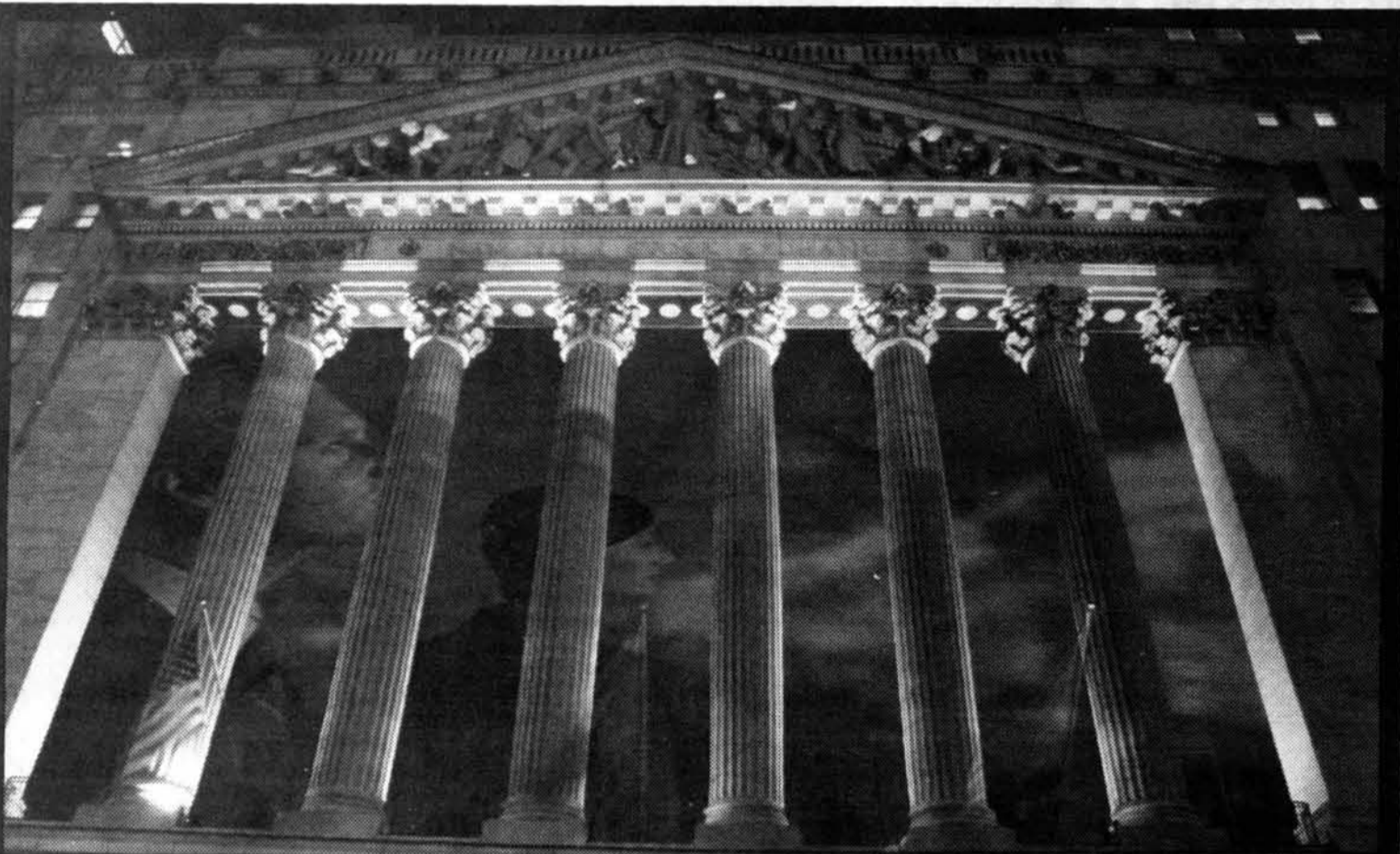
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SPORTS

Williams Leads MIT To Victory

By Katie Barron
TEAM MEMBER

The field hockey team improved their record to 11-4, 6-1 in conference play), with two solid victories over New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference rivals Mt. Holyoke College and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Laura Williams '00 tied an MIT record Saturday, scoring 4 goals against Mt. Holyoke in a 7-0 win. Jen Stout '01 had the first goal off a pass from Amy Lin '02 six minutes

into the game. The Engineers controlled the rest of the game. Williams scored three goals in the first half, one unassisted on a breakaway and two assisted by Connie Sadowski '99.

With the score 4-0 at half time, MIT continued their dominant play. Tracy Sadowski '99 scored unassisted on a breakaway and again off a pass from Michelle Verticchio '02 less than a minute later to make it 6-0. Williams' final goal was scored with 13:23 left in the game.

Goalkeepers Jee Bang '01 and Sara Kaplan '01 combined for the shut out. Bang had 2 saves and Kaplan had 5.

Tuesday night the Engineers defeated WPI 1-0 in a well played match out in Worcester. Right wing Stout scored the lone goal of the game 20:50 into the first half. MIT out shot WPI 11-2, and Jee Bang had 2 saves in the team's third straight shut out.

MIT travels to Wellesley College on Saturday for their final regular season game.

Women's Tennis Edges Out Bates To Rebound From Loss to Smith

By Nisha Singh
TEAM CAPTAIN

The women's tennis team played two matches last week, winning one and losing one. They travelled to Smith College on Saturday to face their conference rival, but lost 8-1. However, they rebounded on Tuesday to beat Bates College, a non-conference opponent, 5-4.

In doubles against Smith, MIT earned its lone point at the first position, where Mealani Nakamura '00 and Kelly Koskelin '02 prevailed 8-6. However, Smith proved to have excellent doubles teams as the second and third doubles teams of Jessica Hall '02 and Nisha Singh '00, and Yi-Ning Cheng '02 and Shikha Gupta '01 lost by scores of 8-1 and 8-0, respectively. The fourth and fifth doubles teams com-

posed of Priscilla Cheung '02 and Lisa Dang '01, and Kosanna Poon '01 and Sarah Chalos '01 lost 8-1 and 8-4, respectively.

In singles play, the top two players suffered rare defeats in matches that could have gone either way. At first singles, Nakamura lost 7-5, 2-6, 1-6 and at second singles, Koskelin was beaten 6-1, 2-6, 2-6. Hall also lost a very competitive match at third singles, 3-6, 4-6. Singh fought well, but lost 4-6, 0-6 at fourth singles. Cheng lost 0-6, 0-6 at fifth singles, and Gupta was defeated 2-6, 2-6 at sixth singles.

Against Bates, the team got off to a much better start in doubles, taking an overall 3-0 lead before singles play. Due to gusty winds, all play was completed indoors. At first doubles, Nakamura and Koskelin

won 8-2. The closest matches of the day were at second and third doubles, where a few points decided the overall match. Hall and Singh won 9-7, after trailing 7-4. Cheng and Gupta fought all the way to a tie-breaker, and prevailed, winning 9-8(7-5).

Due to Nakamura's illness, MIT shuffled their line-up, with each player competing at one position higher than normal. The results were mixed. Koskelin won 6-0, 6-1 at first singles, and Hall won 6-1, 6-0 at second singles, giving MIT the match. Singh lost 2-6, 2-6 at third singles, and Cheng lost 1-6, 1-6 at fourth singles. Gupta lost 4-6, 6-7(6-8) at fifth singles. Cheung played a terrific match at sixth singles but lost in a third set tie-breaker, 6-2, 4-6, 6-7.

NEWMAC Honors MIT Athletes For Outstanding Individual Performances

By Roger Crosley
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Several MIT athletes have been named New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Athletes

Sports Shorts

of the Week in their respective sports. In field hockey, Laura Williams '00 was honored by the NEWMAC for the week ending Oct. 11. Williams scored two goals on the week, including the game winning goal in overtime in a 4-3 Engineer victory over Smith College.

In men's cross country, Mark Strauss '01 was the NEWMAC run-

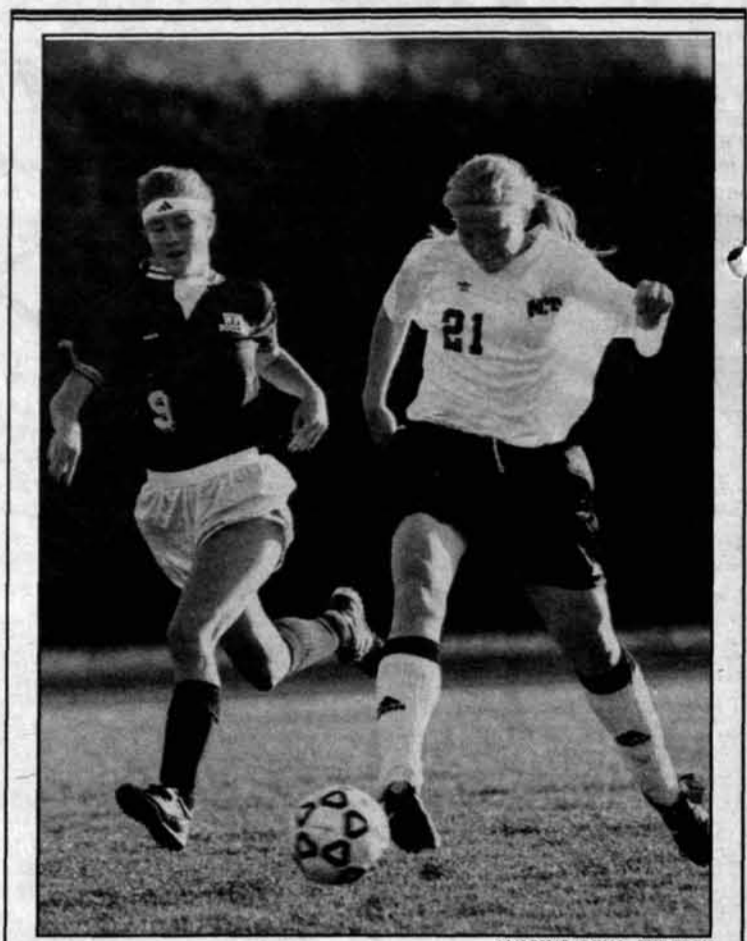
ner of the week. Strauss placed second at the National Preview Invitational at Dickinson College. Strauss led the Engineers to a second place finish in the 45 team meet. Not to be outdone, Mike Parkins '99 from took NEWMAC honors for the week of Oct. 5. Parkins' first place finish in the Babson College Invitational led the Engineers to victory that week. The men's cross country team is currently ranked ninth in the nation in Division III. MIT is third in New England Division III behind Williams College and Keene State College.

Men's soccer player Jim Anderson '01 was the NEWMAC player of the week in his sport.

Anderson scored the only goal in MIT's 1-0 shutout of UMass Boston, and added two goals in a 4-0 win over NEWMAC foe Springfield College. And in women's tennis, Mealani Nakamura '00 was awarded the NEWMAC honor. During the week of Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, Nakamura won two singles and teamed to win two doubles matches. Along the way, she lost only four games the entire week.

The women's volleyball team is currently ranked fourth in New England. Betsy Sailhamer '99 has been named to the all-tournament teams at the MIT Invitational and

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Agneta Cederstrom '99 dribbles the ball on Tuesday when MIT hosted Worcester Polytechnic Institute. MIT lost 2-0.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, October 24
Men's and Women's Fencing — Alumni Meet
Women's Soccer vs. Wellesley College, 1:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball Sweeps U.S. Coast Guard Academy

By Paul Dill
HEAD COACH

The women's volleyball team kept their conference record perfect as they swept the U.S. Coast Guard Academy 15-10, 15-8, 15-13.

This match was dominated by setter Alarice Huang '00 and middle hitter Betsy Sailhamer '99 who connected for 16 kills. Huang had 29 assists for the match and also led the team with 12 digs.

The Engineers are currently 7-0 in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference with two conference matches remaining.

They have also won their last six matches and are 5-0 on the road in single matches.

MIT remains ranked fourth in New England as they head into the Hall of Fame Tournament this weekend.

Women's Rugby Club Shuts Out Northeastern

By Catherine Foo
TEAM MEMBER

After a close loss to Wellesley last weekend, the women's rugby team came back this weekend with two decisive victories. They shut out Northeastern University 27-0 and Tufts University 17-0.

Due to the absence of the referee, Saturday's game against Northeastern was played as a scrimmage. Joanna Wilson G scored in the first half after MIT battled through some tough Northeastern defense. MIT crashed through the Northeastern B-side team in the second half, with tries scored by Lee Knight '00, Crystal Harris '00, Trelawney Grenfell and Chantalle Forgues and a conversion kick by Beth Haynes '00.

The team's success continued the next day in a rough game against Tufts. Tufts drove play into the MIT end zone for most of the first half but was unable to score against the defense. In the second half, MIT took control of the game, with Harris scoring once, Knight scoring twice, and Haynes kicking the conversion.

The women's rugby team's next game is against Keene State College. The last game of the season will be next Saturday against Bridgewater State College.

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