

Orientation Undergoes Further Changes Following Discussion

By Douglas E. Helmburger
NEWS EDITOR

Rush will be lengthened and fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups will be allowed to send a combined mailing to incoming freshmen, students and administrators working on fall Orientation announced.

The changes come one week after the unveiling of the initial proposal, which severely restricted mailings and shortened the period for rush from previous years.

Under the new proposed timetable, the Freshman Essay Evaluation will take place on Friday morning, instead of Saturday morning as earlier planned. An "awareness" program designed to introduce students to details of campus life such as dealing with roommates will switch places with the FEE and will now happen on Saturday morning, said Duane H. Dreger '99, president of the Interfraternity Council.

Administrators and students said that the swap would be beneficial. Graders of the evaluation asked for extra time to finish evaluating the exams prior to adviser meetings, said Professor and Dean of Curriculum Kip V. Hodges PhD '82. "I still don't like the idea that the first thing students get academically is that MIT is a place you come to be tested," he said.

Students praised the awareness program's move to a time slot after the Residence Midway. The event will "have more impact if people have had more contact with residences" beforehand, Dreger said.

Residence selection will kick-off with an event somewhere on campus following the awareness activity, Dreger said. However, the new kick-off event is "not going to be a Killián grab" and will be a

"much lower-key event." Final details of the new event will be worked out in the coming months, Dreger added.

Both dormitories and fraternities, sororities and independent living groups will be invited to participate in the event, Hodges said.

Adviser meetings, which were previously scheduled for Tuesday morning, have been pushed back until Wednesday, allowing for an additional day of residence selection.

The new day "gives people time to tone [rush] down," Dreger said. Freshman now have extra time to decide things and to make up their mind where to live.

In addition, FSILGs should have extra time to make their decisions under the new plan, Hodges said. Details, such as when the housing lottery will run, have not yet been determined.

The IFC will begin planning out new rush rules for its members based on the new timetable next week, Dreger said. Dates when bids can be extended and accepted will be determined through the IFC's Rush committee.

Rush books to be mailed in May

In addition to scheduling changes, the new Orientation plans also allow FSILGs and dormitories to mail their rush brochures to freshmen. The Orientation Committee will now mail a single envelope containing rush brochures from all dormitories and FSILGs in late May, Hodges said.

The decision to allow living groups to send out mail to incoming students came after extensive discussion. "Some people [on the Orientation committee] have the feeling that even that kind of access... is a sort of intrusive marketing that in a way invades the privacy of the incoming students," said Hodges. "I have no problem at all with sending this information out."

Both FSILGs and dormitories will be encouraged to submit material to be included in the mailing, he said. "I'd like to have it as comprehensive as possible so that the playing field is virtually level."

The mailing will follow a mailing from the Admissions Office that will now include the Freshman

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MIT Scores Well in Latest U.S. News Ranking

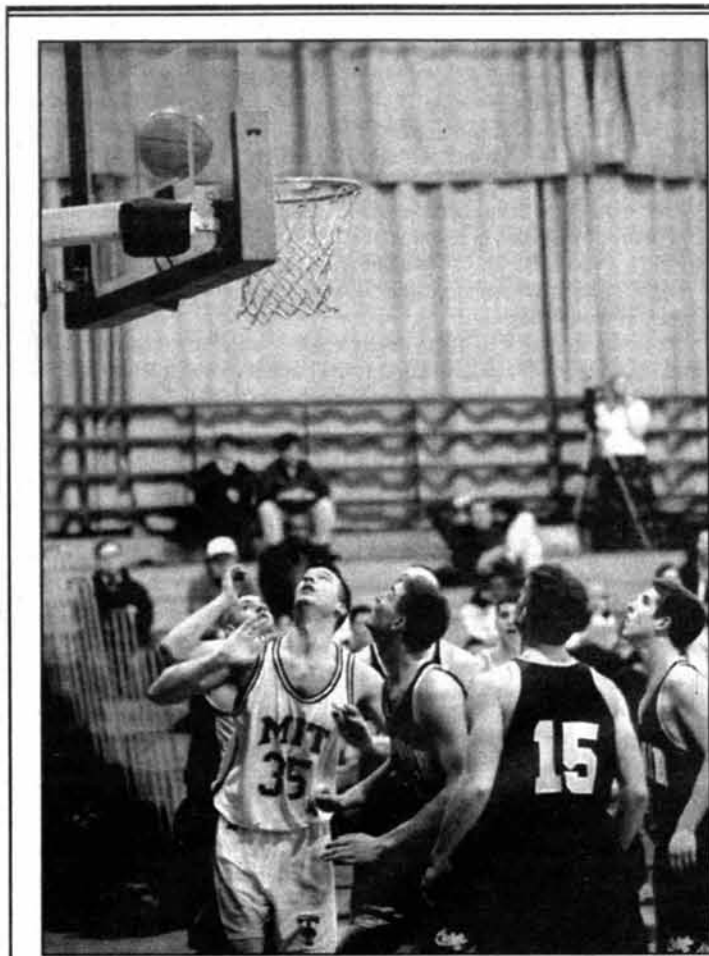
By May K. Tse
NEWS EDITOR

For the ninth year in a row, MIT's School of Engineering was ranked first in the annual "Best Graduate Schools Guidebook," published by *U.S. News & World Report*.

"That's probably because we are the best engineering school in the country," said President Charles M. Vest. "In every year that they have had rankings we have been first."

In this year's rankings, MIT placed first overall in the engineering section, as well as first in seven individual engineering categories: aeronautics, chemical, computer, electrical and electronic, materials and metallurgical, mechanical, and nuclear. Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, tied for second place.

In the biological sciences, MIT tied for first place with Harvard University, Stanford, and the



John Miller '98 waits for his shot to drop in Tuesday's game against Norwich College in Rockwell Cage. MIT won 83-51.

University of California, Berkeley.

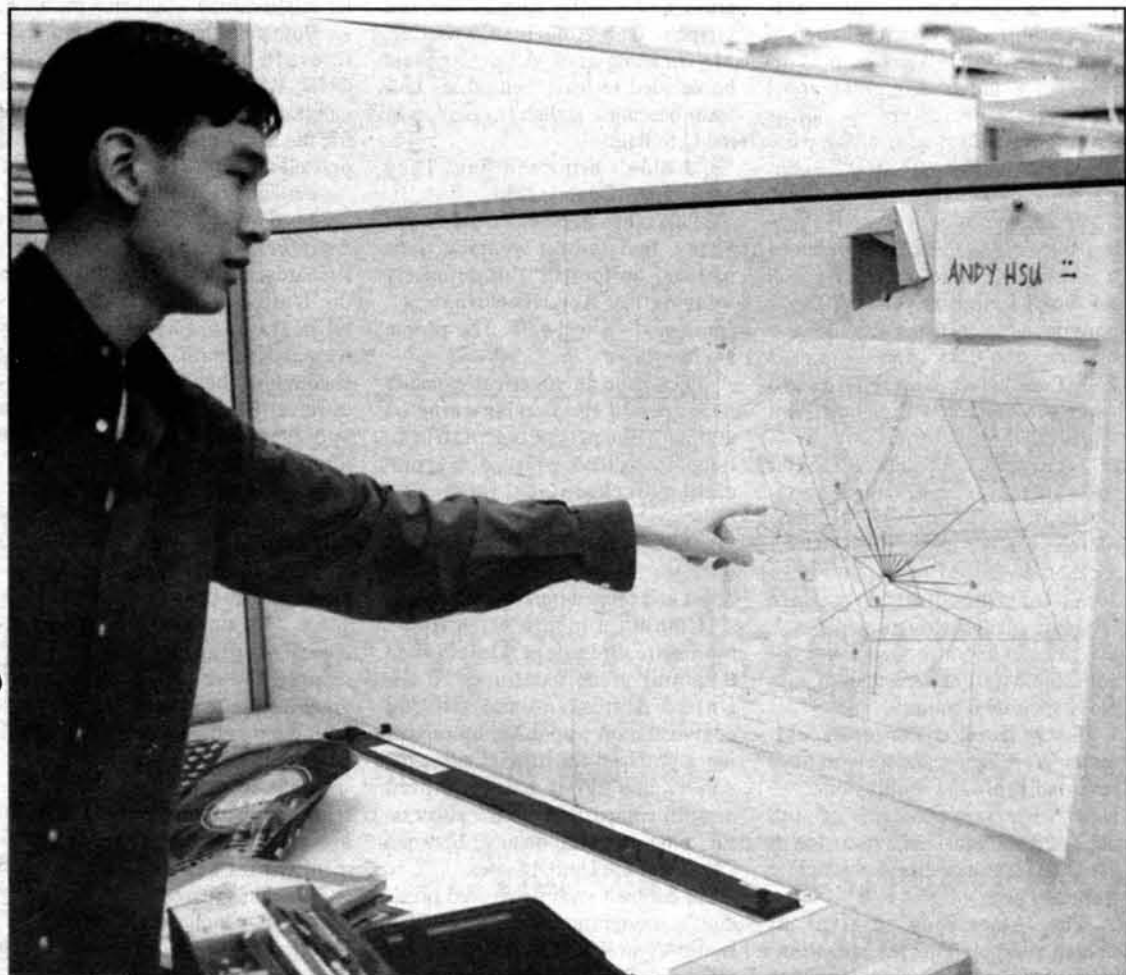
The Institute also tied for top honors in economics with Harvard and Stanford. In the economics specialty areas, MIT ranked first in industrial organization, tied for first with Harvard University for international economics, ranked second in microeconomics, and placed third in macroeconomics and public finance.

In addition, the Sloan School of Management, which placed second among business schools two years

ago and fourth last year, rose to third place this year. The Sloan School tied with both Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School for third, behind Harvard and Stanford, which tied for first. Within the specialty areas of management information systems and production and operations, the Sloan School ranked first.

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Architectural Design Class Creates Models of New Dormitory



Andrew L. Hsu '99 points out a possible plan for the new undergraduate dormitory.

By Carina Fung
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A group of 11 juniors and seniors in Architectural Design: Level I (4.126) will be creating possible models for the new undergraduate dormitory which will be built to increase MIT's on-campus housing capacity.

The 21-unit design studio is held three times a week. Students are required to have taken at least one other design studio course.

"Students who live at MIT, especially those who come to this set of problems [of improving housing] with the background that this group of 4.126 students have, are well positioned to make a substantial contribution to the fabric of this new undergraduate house," said Director of Administration and Operations Stephen D. Immerman.

Wampler initiates novel idea

"The design studio is a major component of the architectural curriculum," said Professor of Architecture Jan Wampler, who is one of the three professors instructing this studio. Wampler has taught for 28 years at MIT and is a professional architect.

Though this class is not new, the idea of building a scale model of a new MIT dormitory as a final project for the class is a novel one, Wampler said. "This is a very exciting design project, and will be

very helpful to MIT students and the Institute," he said.

Wampler has been deeply interested in "building joyful, livable living places." He believed that undergraduates are best at this task because most of them live in dormitories. "I believe in architecture which responds to the site, the people, the culture, and the building materials." He said that this project will be very helpful in determining what future dormitories will look like.

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WORLD & NATION

U.S. Concerned Over Delayed Shipment of Russian-Made Anthrax

NEWSDAY

RUSSIA

The United States thought it had an agreement within the last three months to get samples of a Russian-made form of a deadly anthrax bacteria that is reportedly resistant to penicillin and all current vaccines. But despite a U.S. payment for the samples, they remain in Russia and probably won't be sent soon, U.S. government sources said.

There is concern within the U.S. military that this untreatable strain, if it exists, could surface in Iraq, among other places, said sources at the U.S. Army's Medical Research Institute on Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md.

Though there is no direct evidence that Iraq has the new anthrax, the sources said this week that the U.S. military wants samples as quickly as possible specifically because experts want to know what they're dealing with should the biological agent appear during any attack in the Persian Gulf.

The development of "genetically engineered new organisms using anthrax and other [biological warfare] agents is a potential threat which must be carefully evaluated," the memo added.

Plan Restricts Arlington Interment

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Some of Washington's political elite would lose their claim to a final political perk under bipartisan draft legislation to clarify and tighten eligibility standards for burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

The vice president, members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, Cabinet officers and ambassadors with honorable military backgrounds no longer would automatically qualify for an Arlington burial, according to the bill proposed by the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

The measure also would allow certain close family members of eligible veterans to be buried in the same graves as the veterans themselves, without the need for special permission from Army officials. Furthermore, it would write into law existing regulations that allow the cremated remains of any veteran with an honorable discharge to be placed in a special complex on the cemetery's grounds.

Illinois Rep. Lane Evans, the ranking Democrat on the committee, called the measure an "even-handed and sensible proposal that will bring continued honor to our nation's most hallowed military cemetery." In keeping with past practice, any former presidents, members of the armed forces who die on active duty, were retired from the military, were prisoners of war, or held the nation's highest military decorations would remain eligible for Arlington burials. The burial rules were swept up in controversy last year following allegations that President Clinton rewarded campaign contributors with plots at Arlington.

Two Arrested in Anthrax Plot

THE WASHINGTON POST

LAS VEGAS

FBI agents charged two men with possessing the deadly biological agent anthrax Thursday and said one of the suspects, a well-known white supremacist, boasted he had enough of the substance to "wipe out the city."

The suspects included Larry Wayne Harris, 46, of Lancaster, Ohio, who the FBI said was a member of the Aryan Nation white supremacist group. Arrested with him was William Leavitt Jr., 47, who owns a microbiology lab in rural Logandale, about 60 miles north of Las Vegas.

FBI spokesman Aurelio Flores said the two men, who were being held at the Clark County Detention Center awaiting a bail hearing scheduled in federal court on Monday, were "involved in the construction of a weapon." But authorities awaited testing by military specialists to determine whether the substance is really anthrax.

Harris was arrested in May 1995 after a Rockville, Md., laboratory sent him three vials of freeze-dried bubonic plague bacteria through the mail. After pleading guilty to one count of fraud in connection with possessing the inactive bacteria, which he claimed he wanted for a book he wrote on bacteriological warfare, Harris was sentenced to 18 months' probation.

WEATHER

Low expectations

By Marek Zebrowski

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

An upper air low pressure system will slowly exit the Northeast and drift towards the Maritimes, deepening over the Labrador by Saturday. This scenario leaves New England under a weak northwesterly flow for the next two days. At the surface, a small cyclone positioned over the Gulf of Maine by early Friday will also meander towards the Maritimes, keeping us under a wet blanket of residual low-level moisture and some instability through midday Saturday. Drier air associated with a high pressure system over the Great Lakes will slowly filter in over the weekend, finally bringing in sunnier conditions for our area.

Milder than normal temperatures and tranquil weather are to prevail until Tuesday, when a coastal storm will approach our shores from the Virginia Capes.

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a few breaks in overcast possible, but also with a chance of a scattered shower. Light north winds. High 45°F (7°C)

Tonight: Continued cloudy and damp. Low near 40°F (4°C)

Saturday: Cloudy with a chance of early shower, then partial clearing. Mild, with highs 45-48°F (7-9°C)

Sunday outlook: Partly sunny and pleasant with highs in the mid 40s (6-8°C) and lows in the mid 30s (1-3°C).

Annan Confident in Mission To Avert U.S. and Iraq War

By Charles Trueheart

THE WASHINGTON POST

PARIS

On the eve of his arrival in Baghdad, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan struck a note of confidence that his potentially decisive mission will succeed in averting a military confrontation.

"I have everything I need" in the way of negotiating authority from the U.N. Security Council to reach a compromise with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein over weapons site inspections, Annan said here Thursday night after a 45-minute meeting with French President Jacques Chirac. "I think we can get an accord the Security Council can accept with no problem."

Chirac, who has supported a negotiated settlement in Iraq, stood at Annan's side and said, "The whole world is giving him its support."

"I call upon Iraq to accept the proposals of the secretary general of the United Nations because these are the proposals of the whole international community. ... I hope that wisdom and reason will prevail," said Chirac, who spoke by telephone with President Clinton shortly before Annan arrived in Paris.

Before leaving New York on Thursday, Annan acknowledged the difficulty of the task before him as he seeks a way to avoid U.S.-led military strikes against Iraq.

"There's a great deal of suspicion on both sides," he said. "It is not going to be easy to overcome that gulf and get (Saddam Hussein) to understand what I've come to tell him."

Annan is carrying a compromise agreed by the Security Council aimed at giving the Iraqi president a face-saving way to back down. The compromise would have U.N. Security Council member diplomats accompany weapons inspectors to eight presidential palaces that Iraq has declared off-limits. The diplomats would be intended as a sign of international respect for Iraqi sovereignty over the sites, which Saddam Hussein has asserted.

After the Chirac meeting, Annan retired to the Crillon Hotel on the Place de la Concorde. He was scheduled to leave Paris for Baghdad at 9 a.m. (3 a.m. EST) Friday from a military airfield south of the city aboard one of Chirac's two presidential Falcon 900 jets. Annan will drop the plane off in Paris Sunday or Monday on his way back to New York.

Reporters asked Annan if he feared a debacle like the one associated with former U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's eleventh-hour mission to Baghdad that failed to forestall the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

"The times are different," Annan said. "'91 is not '98."

Annan's stopover in Paris gave the French government another chance to exert its role as independent broker in the crisis.

France, a U.S. military partner in the gulf war, has stood with the United States, Britain and other Western allies in insisting on strict compliance with U.N. resolutions calling for the free and unhindered access by weapons inspectors to all suspected weapons factories in Iraq. But it has attempted to brake the momentum toward a military response by exploring, sometimes in concert with Russia, avenues of compromise.

French officials this week have claimed as substantially their own the compromise formula Annan is carrying in his briefcase, notably the element that some officials hope will break the deadlock over the inspections: partitioning the territory inside the eight Iraqi presidential palaces that Saddam has declared off-limits, protecting circumscribed personal areas while opening the bulk of the sites to inspections.

French officials repeatedly have declared their opposition to the use of force to punish Saddam Hussein's violation of U.N. resolutions. But comments from diplomats Thursday suggested that France was prepared to close ranks with the United States, if reluctantly, should Annan's negotiations fail to bear fruit.

U.S., Iranian Wrestlers Break Diplomatic Ground in Tourney

By Kenneth J. Cooper

THE WASHINGTON POST

TEHRAN, IRAN

Shawn Charles and Mahdy Kaveh shook hands and squared off, heads lowered and almost butting, both men pulling and tugging, snapping and grabbing for a firm hold on a bare shoulder or neck. For two minutes they pushed back and forth, seeking leverage in the standoff, until Charles lifted Kaveh's leg. Then they went to the mat.

Almost two decades after the United States and Iran severed diplomatic contacts, the arch enemies finally made contact — bodily contact — Thursday in the persons of Charles and Kaveh, professional wrestlers representing their estranged countries in an international tournament in the Iranian capital.

Charles and his four teammates are the first American athletes to travel to Iran since the 1979 attack on the U.S. Embassy in which 52 Americans were taken hostage and held for 444 days. And the mat is not as unlikely a place for the two nations to become reacquainted as it might seem.

Wrestling is the most popular sport in Iran, and Iranians consistently win Olympic medals. Two members of the U.S. team, Kevin Jackson of Gilbert, Ariz., and Zeke Jones of Chandler, Ariz., are Olympic medal winners and possibly better known to Iran's knowledgeable wrestling fans than to people in their own country.

Just as recent utterances by leaders in Washington and Tehran have revealed profound ambivalence — laced with large measures of both hope and caution — the presence of the U.S. team has stirred conflicting emotions here.

The Americans' arrival at Tehran's airport Tuesday was front-page news in the English-language Tehran Times newspaper, but Persian-language papers played

down or ignored the story. And when the Americans marched into Azadi Arena with 20 other teams, they received the second-loudest applause, after the Iranians. But a U.S. flag hanging from the ceiling along with those of other nations was not fully unfurled until after the opening ceremony.

For both countries, the burning of American flags outside the U.S. Embassy in 1979 remains an emotional memory. Even now, the flag is caricatured on the wall of a large Tehran building, with skulls for stars and falling bombs for red stripes. One American wrestler, Melvin Douglas of Mesa, Ariz., said he decided to leave behind his uniform bearing a stylish suggestion of the U.S. flag.

"I didn't bring the flag. They burn flags," Douglas said.

Two other wrestlers, Charles and Jones, insisted on wearing their national uniforms. "I'm definitely wearing my American singlets," Jones said. "I feel safe. The people are fine."

Each time an American wrestler has climbed the Persian-carpeted stairs to the wrestling platform, Iranian fans have whistled in appreciation. Jackson also received a burst of whistles for a move in which he hoisted a Greek opponent over his shoulders, slammed him down and pinned him to the mat.

Coming a month after Iran's moderate President Mohammed Khatami made overtures to the United States and the Clinton administration responded by repeating a proposal for official talks, the Americans' visit has prompted hopeful comparisons to the successful "ping-pong diplomacy" between China and the United States.

In contrast with its elected president's moderation, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has ruled out contacts with Washington and still rails at the nation that his late predecessor, Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini, dubbed "the great Satan." For its part, Washington still has major concerns about the Islamic Republic's involvement in international terrorism, development of nuclear weaponry and opposition to the Middle East peace process.

"The political will is not there on either side yet," said John Marks, director of Search for Common Ground, a Washington group of citizen diplomats that facilitated the American athletes' visit. "But you can conceive that it could be (a better relationship) — given a push."

Both sides have made warm gestures. In a Jan. 7 interview with CNN, Khatami proposed unofficial cultural exchanges, expressed regret for the 1979 embassy takeover and praised the religious tolerance of the "American civilization."

At a world economic summit in Switzerland this month, Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, shook hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi. The impromptu encounter is believed to be the highest-level contact between American and Iranian officials since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Months before Khatami's interview, Iran's wrestling federation had invited the American team to compete in the Takhti Cup tournament, just as it has for the past few years. This time the American federation overcame its concerns about security and accepted. Iran granted visas to five wrestlers, five officials with them and American journalists who came to cover their visit.

With so many countries represented in the tournament, it was not until the evening of the tournament's third day that an American and Iranian squared off in the nearly full arena, which seats 12,000.

The whistles for Charles, a coach at Central Michigan University, were loud, but not as loud as those for Kaveh as he came to the mat.

Latest Issue in Lewinsky Case Centers on Executive Privilege

By Peter Baker and Toni Locy
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON
A federal judge sent President Clinton's most trusted aide back before a grand jury Thursday to testify in the Monica S. Lewinsky investigation as the president and prosecutors escalated their struggle over the limits of White House secrecy.

A team of lawyers for the president descended on the federal courthouse Thursday morning to try to block independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr from asking senior White House official Bruce R. Lindsey about his conversations with Clinton regarding Lewinsky. Although they did not formally invoke a constitutional claim of executive privilege,

the lawyers argued in a closed-door hearing that the president's private talks with top aides are out of bounds for Starr, according to people knowledgeable about the session.

The issue was not resolved during the hearing. Chief U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson decided Lindsey should return to a grand jury meeting and set parameters for what prosecutors could ask in an effort to define the most controversial areas for possible litigation, one source said.

The day's confrontation presages a possible legal battle that, if the White House and Starr cannot find a workable compromise, could reach the Supreme Court and clarify what have long been murky rules govern-

ing presidential confidentiality. While chief executives have periodically asserted that certain conversations should be off limits, the boundaries of that only rarely have been tested in court.

Even as it tried to shield Lindsey, the White House Thursday extended its penchant for secrecy to include the debate over secrecy itself. Officials declined to discuss the issue publicly, to the point where they would not even say whether Clinton had formally claimed privilege.

In a public statement, the White House said it is "continuing to try to resolve the matter regarding the confidentiality of conversations" and was holding further comments because the hearing was sealed.

FCC Restricts Phone Companies' Selling of Services to Customers

By Jube Shiver Jr.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON
Amid growing concerns about privacy in the Information Age, federal regulators Thursday ruled that an individual's telephone dialing habits cannot be used to market other phone services to him unless the customer gives his permission.

The decision by the Federal Communications Commission, which takes effect in about two months, is a setback for incumbent local phone companies and a handful of fast-growing software concerns. They had been promoting "one-stop shopping" of telecommunications services ranging from Internet access, credit cards and

long-distance service, in part, by analyzing how customers currently use their phones.

A host of personal but potentially valuable marketing data is captured by telephone carriers when a customer makes calls or pages. They include who is contacted, as well as the time and duration of the call.

Telephone companies also can tell how much their customers spent for service. Enhanced with other publicly available databases such as household income, the telephone carriers have amassed one of the biggest and most valuable databases on personal information outside of credit card and insurance companies, experts say.

"Your phone company knows a lot about you — when you call, who you call and how much you spend," said William E. Kennard, chairman of the FCC. "Consumers will now control what the phone company can do with that personal information."

Thursday's FCC vote stems from an obscure provision in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that ordered the FCC to implement rules restricting how phone companies can use confidential customer data to market telecommunications services.

Carriers had been largely free to use confidential customer data to market new telecommunications services.

Mine Kicks Up Dust Over Talc

LOS ANGELES TIMES DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, CA

Rainbow Talc Mine in Death Valley is inactive now. But owners Carol and Edward Baumunk want to rev it up again. They own the rights to millions of tons of talc burrowed inside the sheltering mountains — talc in demand by manufacturers of ceramics and paint, paper and fine china.

The Baumunks want to begin extracting their talc. They have the legal right to do so, but the National Park Service has a legal duty to protect the wilderness where the mine so doggedly squats.

And so, a clash.

If the Baumunks win federal approval for their venture, the Rainbow would be the first mine ever permitted to operate in a national park wilderness area. The prospect has attracted comments from environmentalists and property rights activists nationwide.

Martin and his staff are reviewing those comments now. They will decide among four options: permit the mine to open under specified conditions, deny it a permit, commission a detailed environmental impact report or seek federal money to buy out the Baumunks' claim.

Acquiring the mine would probably prove the most popular option. The Baumunks are willing to sell. The park service is eager to buy. However, with no federal funds or private donations in view, neither side sees hope for a buyout any time soon. So the Baumunks are pushing to open the mine. "We're not spring chickens," said Edward Baumunk, 79.

Bankruptcy Judge Ousts Owners of Psychic Friends Network

THE BALTIMORE SUN BALTIMORE

Michael W. Lasky has been dethroned as head of Inphomation Communications Inc., the now-bankrupt operator of the Psychic Friends Network.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge James F. Schneider ruled Wednesday that Lasky could not be trusted to keep running the company he founded, and ordered that he and other top executives be replaced by an outside trustee.

"My only question is: How soon are you going to have a trustee in there with a padlock to keep the current management out of there?" Schneider asked the representative of the Office of the U.S. Trustee as he concluded a two-day hearing.

The Pikesville-based Inphomation, which once had annual sales of about \$140 million, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Feb. 2, claiming assets of \$1.2 million and liabilities of \$26 million. A group of creditors asked Schneider to appoint an emergency trustee, contending Lasky and other managers were stripping Inphomation of assets and diverting business to a clandestine shell company.

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OPINION

Letters To The Editor

More A Graduate Program Than Not

In a column in a recent issue of *The Tech* ["Mastering an Undergrad Program," Feb. 6], Brett Altschul '99 discusses the impact, particularly in housing, that MIT undergraduates may suffer in transitioning to an Master of Engineering program. These are good points that should be given serious consideration.

Altschul nevertheless calls the MEng program "not a graduate degree" and incorrectly assumes that all MEng programs only "draw their applicants from the MIT undergraduate population." I would like to point out that the Civil and Environmental Engineering MEng is mostly populated from graduates of other institutions. Admission to the program follows a process similar to that of any other graduate program in the department. More importantly, the MEng is a rigorous degree that adds significant value and graduate edu-

cation experience to engineering undergraduates.

Rafael L. Bras '72
Department Head, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Hodges' Disappointing Exclusion

I am writing to applaud your editorial, "Orientation '98 Fails to Meet Goals" [Feb. 17]. Dean for Undergraduate Curriculum Kip V. Hodges PhD '82 seems to have assumed that student opinion is so tainted by current groups' self-interest as to make it unfit for inclusion in decision-making. It is disappointing to see him make such an assumption, especially because he did not bother to find out what those student opinions were before he decided to exclude them.

Jeremy D. Sher '99
Member, Undergraduate Association Council

ERRATUM

The caption for the picture of the concert presented by the MIT Heritage of the Arts of South Asia, which appeared in the Feb. 17 issue, incorrectly identified a person in the picture. The musician on the left was Sheetal Karhade '00, not Miner Hossain.

The column "Will Administrators Ever Learn?" from the same issue gave the incorrect title for Kip V. Hodges PhD '82. Hodges is Dean for the Undergraduate Curriculum, not Dean of Students. The same column also said that Hodges is no longer on the faculty. Hodges is a Professor of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences.



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

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

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions are accepted as well, although e-mail is preferable. Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two

days before the date of publication.

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

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Politicus Irrelevanticus

What to Do When the Stock Market Supplants the Marketplace of Ideas

Anders Hove

Is politics still relevant? This is a question that has been posed with ever-increasing frequency over the past five years. By posing it, pundits and commentators have attempted to identify what some might call the latest cultural trend in our society. After all, identifying cultural trends is considered the highest object of punditry.

Next to the question of whether politics is relevant comes the attendant queries: Is the presidency relevant? Is Washington relevant? Is Congress? And so on. These are questions that have been asked in previous generations. Princeton Professor Woodrow Wilson openly questioned the relevance of the presidents of the 1880s, and even of Congress itself, writing that the real power lay in congressional committees. William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt changed all that. By the end of TR's second term in 1909, the presidency had taken command of the economy, environmental protection, and an aggressive foreign policy. And what presidency of the 1880s would have used the "bully pulpit" to strike fear in the hearts of the White House's enemies?

Yet few would blame Wilson for his lack of foresight: Nobody watching the dust-encrusted Congress of the 1880s or the lackadaisical presidencies of Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland could conclude that they were the center of the nation's attention. The national political debate was nearly non-existent; the political parties were too close together.

Yet with all the boredom of the 1880s, nobody called politics itself irrelevant. Political participation was still high. People kept up with the latest Washington gossip, traded "presidential possibilities" cards, and backed their local senators as "favorite sons." Boring or not, politics was alive and well.

Not so today: People can call politics dead because, exciting or not, far fewer people seem to care. Fewer people vote, participate in political campaigns, or listen to political speeches. And, in lean months, even news junkies and the pack journalists that

cater to their needs seem interested in everything but Washington.

The end of politics was the theme of the January 25 issue of *The New York Times Magazine*: Gary Wills, the first author at bat, tells us that politics has declined because parties have declined, and parties have declined because the elites that backed them and recruited their leaders have disappeared. This story may explain some of the weird tactics engaged in by contemporary parties, but it tells us little about why the people haven't rescued their politics. After all, the parties and their elites were in the can in the 1880s too, but politics was kicking away.

Jacob Weisberg, second at bat for the *Times*, theorizes instead that personal

In the market, the only value that matters is the price. In the political arena, money is just one value among many.

finance, especially in the stock market, has taken up where politics left off. With the economy and deficit apparently stabilized, Wall Street has more bearing on folks' pocketbooks than Pennsylvania Avenue. And the market plays right into Americans' infamous infatuation with individualism.

Last week, Weisberg's notion of a nation obsessed with the market received a second endorsement by a source with top-notch cultural credentials: *Rolling Stone*. The magazine's P. J. O'Rourke and William Greider team up to give the low-down on the doings on the New York Stock Exchange trading floor. "Behold the hero of the '90s," extols O'Rourke. "We thrill with its victories, shudder at its defeats, admire its resilience, sympathize with its shortcomings."

If this obsession with the market is as big a deal as many think it is, then the '90s citizen looks a lot different from the citizen of yesteryear. Compare market news to political news: In the market, falling unemployment is probably bad—it could herald value-killing inflation. If a company fires a couple hundred workers, as America Online did just a few weeks ago, its stock shoots up. Firings apparently represent good management and an eye toward profits. And need I mention that presidential sex scandals only

jitter traders until they figure out that even impeachment won't kill the bull market.

Weisberg contrasts stockholder democracy with the democratic ideal: The individualist yeoman farmer engaged in politics in his own self-interest. Jeffersonian democracy was a participatory democracy; it brought people together to solve problems as a community. In a stockholder democracy, however, people interact at arm's length; the stockholder citizen is out to secede from her community by achieving financial independence from it. And after 50 years of television and increasing mobility, community is already in danger.

The contrast between markets and politics is made more stark when one considers the values at stake. In the market, the only value that matters is the price. In the political arena, or at least the arena of the past, money was just one value among many. Rights, morality, obligation, and authority were once central to our political debate. Now these debates have been removed to the sphere of litigation. Budget politics and mantras like, "It's the economy, stupid," rule the land.

Yet even these stale mantras fall on deaf ears today. Economists panned Clinton's economic stimulus package in 1993, pointing out that it would be a drop in the bucket, along with any other fiscal experimentation that could be attempted. All that mattered was to keep the deficit down, and hence interest rates. With this revelation, Alan Greenspan suddenly became the most important person in the political sphere. It should come as no surprise that the first columns pronouncing the irrelevance of Washington appeared shortly thereafter.

Combined with the story of the market ascendant is the *Wired* story of an electorate plugged in. As the formerly dominant news media decline and the Internet rises, citizens have more information on more subjects at their disposal. Instead of extrapolating from media designed only for the masses, wired citizens can focus in on the micro-subject of their choosing, ignoring the larger picture if it is irrelevant to their interests.

Whither politics? Perhaps we should expect the Internet to reconstruct some of the communities that have been shattered by television and 401(k) plans. But will virtual communities concern themselves with values, as did politics of the past, or just money? Nobody has the answer yet. But I for one will not call politics irrelevant just yet.

To The Beat of a Different Thermostat

The Long Story of My Indefatigable Obsession With Shorts

Dan Dunn

People stare at me all the time. It isn't that people recognize me from the sterling picture you see here. It isn't because I have a large growth, or a limp, or a computer hanging from my neck. It is because I wear shorts.

I sometimes hear people talking about me as I go past. "Look, there is that guy. Is he nuts?" I'm not sure how much I like being "that guy."

Other people are so shocked to see me in shorts that they stop me to ask questions like, "Aren't you cold like that?"

My answer to this one varies widely. If I am in a good mood, I just tell them that I like it that way. If I'm in a bad mood, I stare at them oddly. "Aren't you hot under all those clothes?" Or sometimes I give the long explanation, which is as follows:

I don't know why I am different from other people, but I just have a very different internal thermometer from everyone else. People around me are looking for a sweater, and I am looking for a window to open.

I would never wear shorts if I was going to be outside for a long time. But here at school, I am only running from building to building. It is way too hot inside, and shorts make it comfortable.

And even outside just isn't that bad. I am never outside for longer than twenty minutes or so. I find the air outside to be brisk and invigorating, not something to worry about.

There is a side effect to all this. I am a big fan of snow. It is tough to explain why. I snowboard, but that just isn't the reason. I love

the feel of snow, the look of it falling and the look of it on the ground.

This winter, of course, is the winter of *El Niño*. It has meant a warm winter without much snow. Only 22 inches, according to the National Weather Service. I like hitting the

I have been like this as long as I can remember. Some people think that it is because I am from New Hampshire, but it is not. They think that I am crazy up there too.

record, myself—somewhere over 120 inches.

When you get right down to it, I wear shorts because I sweat so much. People like me dread the summer. If you wear t-shirts and shorts when the weather is in the thirties, what do you do when it gets in the eighties? Nakedness is not an option. I am just miserable.

But why is my internal thermometer so out of whack? I don't really know. I have been like this as long as I can remember. Some people think that it is because I am from New Hampshire, but it is not. They think I am crazy up there too.

Last winter, I was visiting home and I got snowed in by a storm. I had to leave before we got plowed out, so I shoveled myself out. The neighbors were all staring, and my mother took picture. For some reason, they thought it was strange to see me up to my knees in snow, shoveling my car—wearing shorts.

Part of my reason is the way I was raised, to be sure. My father would avoid turning on

the heat for as long as he could. Halloween was almost guaranteed to still be sweaters and blankets. My mother generally cracked him by Thanksgiving, though.

Even when heat was on, it wasn't on high. It was never put above 65 degrees during the daytime. It was set at 40 degrees at night. If the heat was ever too high, or the door was open too long, you heard a speech about "dollar bills flying out the door."

In high school, I was the first one up every morning, and I turned on the heat. Our bathroom is in an addition at the very end of the house, farthest from the thermostat, and not very well-insulated. I vividly remember a January cold-snap where I had to break the ice on the toilet. I shudder to think about the days before indoor plumbing.

The only exception to the no-heat rule was when we used the wood stove. My father didn't feel the dollar bills being burned when it was wood that we had chopped the spring before, and the wood stove would run wide open.

There is a good story about one of the coldest winter weekends I can remember. It didn't go above zero for a few days, with a good brisk wind to really freeze the snot in your nose. My father decided that this would be the perfect day to repaint the front door. He took it off its hinges, so all that stood between us and the cold was a 1/4-inch thick plastic storm door.

We got the wood stove going early, and fed it wood without pause for hours. By the end of the day, we were all in t-shirts, opening the storm door to cool the house off. I guess my family sounds pretty strange.

Maybe you are beginning to understand why I wear the clothes that I do. When warm feels hot, and cold feels nice, there is no reason to bundle up all the time.

So next time you are in class falling asleep, think about the classroom. I bet that you are going to decide that it is just too hot. Wouldn't you be more comfortable wearing shorts?

Not 'Just For Women' Anymore

Josh Bittker

I don't have one of those pictures that goes with opinion columns in *The Tech*. If I did, you might recognize me as one of the people who appeared on the cover of the 1997-98 MIT Women's Studies brochure. Whenever someone hears about the picture, the response is usually the same: "Why are you on the cover of the women's studies booklet?"

People ask a similar question with a similar tone when they see that I have a women's studies shirt. These questions reveal a misconception about women's studies programs, both at MIT and in general. It is widely believed that such programs and courses are mostly geared towards women.

The MIT women's studies department is one of the more extensive of its kind, and efforts are made on this campus to dispel the misconception about women's studies. In the 1996-97 edition, the cover displayed pictures of women only. This year, the department wanted to dispel the idea that women's studies is only for women. The disbelief people express when they hear that I was on the

A class may be very popular as an anthropology class, but people are reluctant to take the same class under the women's studies registration number.

cover of the booklet reveals the underlying thoughts about women's studies. Many think that I was one of the few men they could find who had taken a women's studies class.

In fact, in the three women's studies classes I have taken, my classmates have been an equal mix of men and women. Many of the classes in women's studies are offered jointly with other departments, so some people who take a women's studies class don't consider it as such. A class may be very popular as an anthropology class, but people are reluctant to take the same class under the women's studies registration number.

To help solve this problem, other steps have been taken. Several classes in women's studies fulfill HASS-Distribution requirements, further encouraging a wider range of people to enroll. Even in a class which is not joint with another department, SP.401, Intro to Women's Studies, enrollment was about equally male and female. What, then, is the problem if many people are taking the classes, albeit with some encouragement?

The issue is that people still see differences between women's studies classes and other humanities classes, when in fact women's studies is very interdisciplinary, to the point that there are few classes offered solely by the women's studies department. Many classes have some element relating to gender. By the same token, women's studies classes are not isolated workshops on male bashing. Classes include numerous areas of the humanities and social sciences, from economics and sociology to literature and art.

In addition, the women's studies department has sponsored many programs, seminars, and lectures. It is unfortunate that some people give such interdisciplinary classes and programs a negative connotation because of their association with women's studies.

A better understanding of the true nature of women's studies can be obtained by actually taking a class, regardless of which of the many other humanities areas it may be related to. Unfortunately, the people who would benefit from a better understanding are the same people who are reluctant to take such a class.

These are the people that the women's studies pamphlet seeks to reach, the same ones who can't understand why my shirt says "MIT Women's Studies." Women's studies classes are not just for women, but also for people who don't understand the importance of gender in any aspect of our history or society. Hopefully, these people will eventually understand why men are pictured on the women's studies booklet.

Josh Bittker is the managing editor of *The Tech*, with a humanities, arts, and social sciences concentration in women's studies.

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Dan Gauger BS,EE, MS,EE – MIT

Dan has been part of our pioneering effort in noise cancelling technology, leading to the development of Acoustic Noise Cancelling® headsets. Using feedback, they virtually eliminate harmful low-frequency noise. The headsets are used by civilian and military pilots, as well as army tank crews, to provide clearer communication and reduce hearing damage.

“What’s refreshing about working here is the way people think about problems. That’s the big thing. You may not know a lot about an area, but if you’re good at problem solving, you’re given the opportunity to stretch your wings, to think, and find ways around barriers.

The headsets that were out there didn’t work very well. They were uncomfortable, couldn’t effectively block low-frequency noise, and didn’t provide enough hearing protection.

Bose was the first company to manufacture Acoustic Noise

Cancelling headsets. No one had done this before, there was nothing to use as a reference.

We’ve pushed feedback beyond what the textbooks teach. I’ve tackled things I had no real experience in – understanding hearing loss or solving tough EMI

problems where I couldn’t simply wrap a metal box around a circuit. I’ve tested headsets on tanks in Europe and spent three weeks in a hanger in the Mojave desert working on the Voyager project. Bose not only let me do these things, they encouraged it.



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

ON-CAMPUS INFORMATION SESSION – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, ROOM 6-120.

INFORMATION SESSION AND TOUR AT BOSE – TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 24, THE MOUNTAIN, FRAMINGHAM.

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THE ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

General Chaos: Uncensored Animation

A Sick and Twisted Festival by Any Other Name...

By Joel M. Rosenberg
ARTS EDITOR

Animation allows almost limitless possibilities. Suspension of disbelief is a given, physical laws are optional, and no topic is too taboo. And with the recent rise of successful "adult" cartoons, more people are likely to turn to this medium. How to showcase these new shorts? Spike and Mike's *Sick and Twisted Animation Festival* has been the main distribution center for the last several years, and has spawned several successful TV series. But now, Manga Entertainment is trying to snatch S&M's audience during the S&T off-season by introducing *General Chaos: Uncensored Animation*, which opens tonight at the Coolidge Corner.

Opening with *Quake*, a proven short that won an Academy Award in 1996, the show is intriguing from the get go. An interesting view of the rise of modernization, it features a sand puppet who travels from native sand world to the land of paper, rock, and eventually iron, before eventually falling back to sand. This high-brow 11 minutes is not indicative of the next 80.

There are some really brilliant clips in this collection. *Body Directions* integrates animation with the human body to have multiple different characters sprouting from multiple different locations around an unclothed young lady. In a very tasteful manner, the creatures emerge one by one in a small scat solo that well complements their placement, before the woman wakes up and removes her most immediately obvious uninvited guest, the nose-dweller.

Oh Julie! is a puppet animation that depicts a fairly grotesque woman preparing for a big date. She does her hair, clips her fat, puts on perfect breasts (designed like a bra), and, playing the part of a puppet, brings along her "oral sex lips" which are interchangeable, much like Ms. Potato Head. Her hot mate, it turns out, has some problems of his own, and when they start

getting into their glorious sexual experience, lost lips are among the least of their problems. It's a cute story that involves a glowing red penis, and that should be telling enough.

Junky is perhaps the highlight of the evening, mixing media by having a live action dealer dealing with his cracker addict customer, the protagonist Parrot. "Polly want a cracker? Say it. Say 'Polly want a cracker.'" the dealer taunts. Polly, just looking to get a fix, starts going through fits of withdrawal before receiving a "special" cracker, with slightly larger social connotations than your ordinary Saltine. "What did I do last night?" Polly wonders upon awakening from his starch-induced stupor, the answer to which can be found in compromising photos of himself and his dealer. Truly sick and twisted, this is exactly the type of divergent thinking you want out of animation.

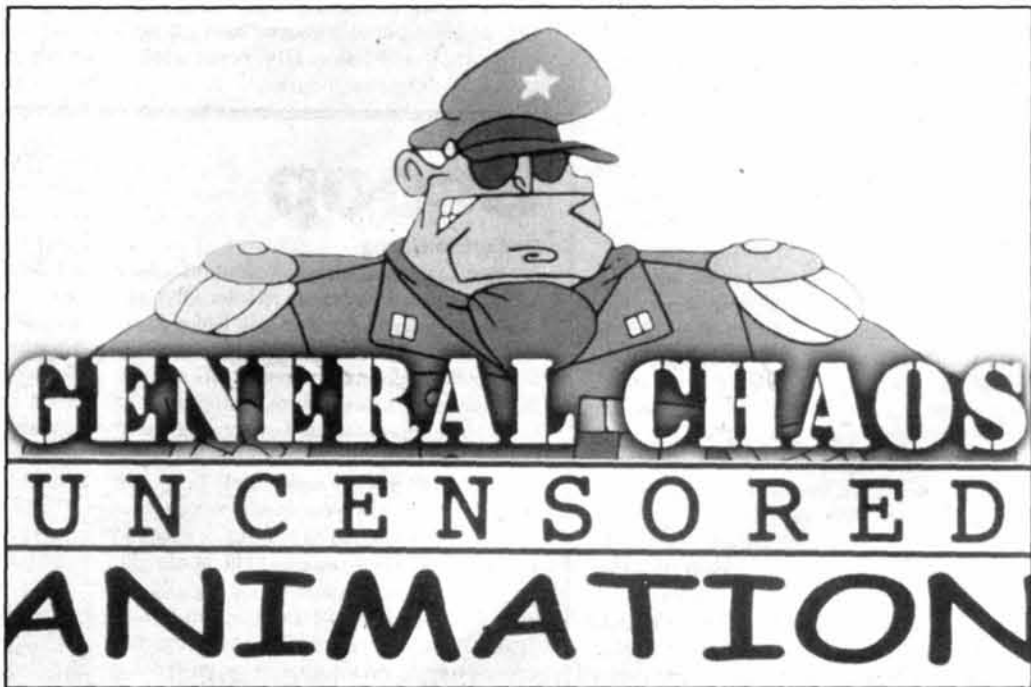
Besides these highlights, there are a bunch of amusing, though less insightful, entries. *Killing Heinz* has a guy avoiding successive potential tragedies on his way home from the video store, only to have his rental selection turn out to be realistically treacherous. *The Perfect Man* is a stop motion animation of a fairy tale princess awaiting rescue in her tower, only to turn those who arrive on a white horse into another piece of her Silence-Of-The-Lambs-esque princely body suit. *Beat The Meatles* is a fairly obvious record commercial rip-off praising the parodied songs of the Fab Foreskin. *Attack of the Hungry*, *Hungry Nipples* features exactly what the title implies, two absurd creatures who absurdly challenge the Richard Nixon Bat by repeatedly screaming the absurd phrase, "You suck something." There's a nice hip-hop theme song by 4 or 5 Dopes, which also

plays under the festival closing credits. And calling in a big gun to get their show off the ground, Bill Plympton has several vignettes scattered around that are uniquely Bill Plympton, which should be obvious to any Bill Plympton fan.

Alas, there are some losers in the bunch. *American Flatulators* is abysmally poor, employing "animation" to create the fire effect from the mock gladiator competition in which gas is the only weapon. And *Malice in Wonderland* is an over-drawn hallucination featuring Malice falling through her own vagina into an incredibly phallic environment. The creator is crafty, but it gets real old real quick.

The rest fill out the time nicely, but tend to fall into the background when the film is over. Manga has done a good job starting from scratch in the adult animation market, and the prospect of what's to come in this growing field is interesting and exciting. When shorts can be delivered on-demand, in quality real time over the net, perhaps these avenues of distribution will fall by the wayside, and more and more people will try their hand with their camcorder and computer to create creepy characters and perverted plots. Until then, General Chaos has delivered salvation for those who just aren't satisfied with South Park, Simpsons, and an annual Spike and Mike.

General Chaos: Uncensored Animation
February 20-26
Coolidge Corner, 290 Harvard Street,
Brookline. Green Line C branch to Coolidge
Corner. Call 734-2500 for recorded information,
734-2501 to reach actual people.



Taking on Spike and Mike while their back is turned, Manga Entertainment presents General Chaos: Uncensored Animation, opening tonight for a one-week run at the Coolidge Corner.

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Positions are available in the Undergraduate Association, MIT's Student Government. Find out what we've done by reading our newsletter, *UA Today* (mailed out to all undergraduates and available in the UA Office, Student Center 401), or if you're ready to run, just pick up an Elections Packet.

Elections Packets are now available in the UA Office.

Positions Available in the UA:

As a Ticket: UA President and Vice President
Finance Board Member (2 Positions)

For the Classes of 2001, 2000, and 1999:

President	Publicity Coordinator(s)
Vice President	Social Chair(s)
Treasurer	
Secretary	

Attention Student Groups

Finance Board Updates:

- Finance Board Appeals and Provost Requests Due Feb. 25

The Undergraduate Association Finance Board will be considering appeals of Spring Term allocations. Also, the Finance Board will be accepting requests for allocations from a special \$32,000 fund granted by the Provost.

Instructions and forms for both allocations are available on the FinBoard web page at <http://web.mit.edu/finboard/www>.

The forms must be submitted by noon on Wednesday, February 25.

- Phone Books Available in the UA Office
- In addition, if you are an undergraduate interested in joining FinBoard, contact Teresa Raine at tjbraine@mit.edu

The Vegetarian Gourmet

By Steven R. L. Millman
STAFF REPORTER

During the last week the Vegetarian Gourmet has received numerous questions regarding the nature of vegetarianism. A typical question was, "A friend of mine eats fish but calls himself a vegetarian. Can he do that?" Well of course he can. On the other hand, the Vegetarian Gourmet could call himself a giant blue wombat. It wouldn't make it true, but he could call himself that. In a survey done a few years back of slightly more than 2,000 self-identified vegetarians, about one percent of them stated that they ate red meat on a daily basis.

So what exactly is a vegetarian? The dictionary defines a vegetarian as "a person who abstains from animal food, especially that from slaughtered animals, though often not eggs and dairy products." This more or less accurately represents the modern usage of the word vegetarian. In the past, a vegetarian referred to a person who abstained completely from any animal product with the exception of honey. Today we might refer to such an individual as a "true vegetarian," or vegan. This week the Vegetarian Gourmet will properly define the terms used to describe the continuum of food choices which make up vegetarians.

Vegan: A vegan or "true" vegetarian, stays away from any animal products. This includes dairy and eggs as well as any of their derivatives. Vegans can always be spotted in a grocery store or restaurant because they will be the ones staring endlessly at ingredient lists, asking questions about the precise makeup of a sauce. The vegan will shy away from things as innocuous as certain mints because they contain gelatin made from animal bones. Even certain products aimed at vegetarians are unacceptable choices because they contain hidden animal products. Most dairy-free cheeses, for example, contain casein, which is only found in animals or animal products. In addition, the philosophy that leads to veganism also often leads individuals to avoid products made from leather, goose down, or in some extreme cases even silk and wool.

Ovo-Lacto Vegetarian: This describes the kind of vegetarian that the Oxford English Dictionary was thinking about in the definition above. These vegetarians are similar to vegans, but do not choose to avoid eggs or dairy. Most of us mean ovo-lacto vegetarian when we say vegetarian. This is probably

the most common type of individual among those who identify themselves as vegetarians.

Pseudo-Vegetarian: This is the Vegetarian Gourmet's own term for that kind of individual who eats fish but still identifies as a vegetarian. While clearly fish are by no definition any kind of plant, some people do consider themselves vegetarian while enjoying the occasional lobster bisque or salmon puff.

Occasional Vegetarian: These are the folks that give vegetarians and vegans such intestinal angst. They eat pretty much whatever they want whenever they want it, and once in a while skip the thick and juicy hamburger in favor of a cheese pizza and call themselves vegetarian. Maybe they could on the Bizarro planet, but not on ours. On this planet they are occasional vegetarians or simply health conscious meat eaters. While it simply isn't worth it to get one's underwear in a bunch about it, it's probably reasonable to point out to someone eating a hot dog that they are not really vegetarians because they didn't eat the ribs.

The Vegetarian Gourmet hopes that this has cleared things up for his loyal readers. Now on to the review!

Picante Mexican Restaurant

A Vegetarian Gourmet Best Buy of Boston!

735 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square.

Entrees: \$3.75 - \$7.95

Student Advantage Card gives you a free 16 oz. Soda.

As you walk in the door you are immediately confronted with a mixture of the hip and trendy with the cheap and kitschy. Brightly colored tiles with wood make up the interior design. There are vibrant colors, strange music, fake parrots, Christmas lights, and pink flamingos to shock the eyes and dull the senses. The seating is an odd arrangement of booths, tall tables with stools, and benches. In a word: fun.

There are plenty of choices for the vegetarian at Picante. The Vegetarian Gourmet settled on the vegetarian platter and a Pappas burrito. The platter was huge, including potatoes in a red sauce with onions, Spanish rice, black beans seasoned with chili, guacamole, lettuce and roasted veggies. Cheese and sour cream are also available for the ovo-lacto among us. Everything on the plate was tasty, hot, and well prepared, if not all that pleas-

ingly arranged (but for \$5.95, who cares?). The Pappas burrito was large, but not behemoth, stuffed with black beans, potato, peppers, and onions in a red sauce, wrapped lovingly tight in a flour tortilla. Again, cheese is available. It's a delicious and filling meal for the \$4.95 price tag.

This would have been a good meal for the money and possibly ended up on the Vegetarian Gourmet's best buys of Boston with just what I've described above, but there's more! There is also a fabulous salsa bar including five different varieties ranging from the extremely mild (the Salsa Roja) to the very hot (the Super Picante). There were also some unusual salsa. You should try the chipotle, a brown salsa with a smoky taste. The Vegetarian Gourmet's suggestion is to bring a sampler of salsas back to your table and mix them until you find your own personal salsa flavor. The Vegetarian Gourmet liked a mixture of the Salsa Roja, Pico de Gallo, and Super Picante.

The restaurant is child friendly, serves beer and wine, and has a young, courteous staff. There are also locations at Davis Square and Downtown Boston.

Ask the Vegetarian Gourmet at millman@mit.edu! Fun and informative questions will be answered in next week's column.

Scoop

By Teresa Huang

You made it through Valentine's Day but you missed the entire Winter Olympic Games in Nagano because you had a paper to do. It's okay. I understand. Cheer yourself up this weekend by getting off campus and soaking in some culture. Don't forget to send your comments and scoops to me at aseret@mit.edu.

Don't touch that radio dial! Long live WMBR. That said, you should switch your radio dial from 88.1 FM to WERS 88.9 FM on Saturdays for an amazing lineup of radio programming from Emerson College Radio. The day begins bright and early at 6 a.m. with "Women in Music," a show devoted completely to music written or performed by women. At 3 p.m., tune in to "All A Cappella" for music from collegiate and professional a cappella groups. And at 10 p.m., David Delgrosso takes you to the Great White Way with "Standing Room Only," one of the best Broadway showtune shows in the area. This guy seriously knows his theater. Call (617) 578-8890 at any time during any show to request a song. If you're

lucky, you'll catch one of the MIT a cappella groups broadcasting live from WERS Studio C.

It was love at first sight. Meet the man that wrote the book on the insanity of being sane. Joseph Heller, author of *Catch-22*, will discuss his life and read excerpts from his new memoir, *Now and Then: From Coney Island to Here*, at the Brattle Theatre on 40 Brattle Street in Harvard Square. The reading will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 5:30 pm. It's free, but tickets are required. Get them by calling 354-5201.

Did somebody say McDonald's in Japanese? McDonald's has been proudly announcing that they are the official restaurant of the 1998 Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. What this means is that McDonald's will serve over 3,000 meals to athletes, coaches, and officials. Which is worse for your body — marijuana or McDonald's food? I think it's a toss-up. Even so, if you're craving some greasy yet satisfying food, check out their Team Big Mac Meal, featuring 2 Big Macs, a large fries, and a medium drink, or the Team Sausage McMuffin with Egg Meal, featuring 2 sandwiches, hash browns, and a small coffee. Take the bus to McDonald's in Central Square, but be sure to

walk back to burn off some of the calories.

Triple minority story. The SpeakEasy Stage Company closes its run of *Porcelain* by Chay Yew this weekend. The play deals with nineteen-year-old John Lee, an Asian homosexual who confesses to killing his lover in a gripping tale of passion and violence. Though the topic may not thrill you, the play is the winner of the London Fringe Award for Best Play, and a great start to the 1998 season for the SpeakEasy Stage Company. See it at the Boston Center for the Arts at 539 Tremont Street in Boston on Friday or Saturday night at 8 pm, or on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. Call 426-0320 for tickets.

A chocolate scoop from a reader. Didn't get enough chocolate for Valentine's Day? Join the Chocolate Lovers Mailing List at MIT (chocolate-lovers@mit.edu) by typing 'blanche chocolate-lovers -a \$USER' at your Athena prompt. According to my Scoop source, "It's a very low traffic list for discussing chocolate, where to buy it, recipes, and parties involving it. Recent mail has included notices about 10lb. bars of Ghiradelli chocolate (for \$20) at Trader Joe's, and recipes for chocolate-covered cherries. Yum.

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NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 28

THE WANG THEATRE, 270 Tremont Street

THEATER PREVIEW

Grand Hotel

By Teresa Huang

STAFF REPORTER

The members of MIT's Dramashop will test their musical legs this weekend with the opening of one of the group's biggest endeavors to date, *Grand Hotel*. Directed by Assistant Professor in Theater Arts Tommy DeFrantz, this musical draws together the talents of actors, designers, and musicians from around the MIT community into what is

sure to be an impressive result.

Grand Hotel premiered on Broadway on Nov. 12, 1989 and was nominated for 12 Tony awards in 1990. It won the awards for Best Actor, Best Director, Best Costume Design, Best Lighting Design, and Best Choreographer. The show is based on the novel of the same name by Vicki Baum and deals with the lives of the guests of the Grand Hotel in Berlin in 1928. Through the guests of

the hotel, the musical explores themes like the struggle between glamour and poverty and the truth that hides under the appearance of success. The show features an incredible amount of music and dance, ranging from the Charleston to the tango to the waltz. The musical was written by Luther Davis, Robert Wright, and George Forrest, with additional music and lyrics by Maury Yeston, who also wrote music and lyrics for the 1997 Tony Award winning musical *Titanic*.

Director Tommy DeFrantz comes to this production with an abundance of choreography and directing experience with groups such as the Montclair Theatrefest and the Drama League of New York. His choreography work can be seen in the George C. Wolfe production of *On The Town*, which should reach Broadway in the fall. The process began last term when DeFrantz decided he wanted to do a musical as part of his term as director of Dramashop's Independent Activities Period production. I spoke with him after a rehearsal, and he said he chose *Grand Hotel* because he "wanted to do something very big to get as many people as possible involved with it — something that would really make some sort of visual statement that would be a lot of fun for a lot of people." Indeed, *Grand Hotel* is an ambitious project for a student theater group to tackle, even with faculty guidance.

Auditions were held in the beginning of December, drawing almost a hundred potential actors from the MIT community. A large 37 member cast was chosen, featuring some of MIT's best actors in lead roles, including Seth Jacob Cooperman '99 as the Baron, Debbie Hyams '99 as the ballerina Elizaveta Grushinskaya, Sarah McDougal '00 as Elizaveta's companion Raefaella Antonio, and Stacy J. Pruitt '99 as Flaemmchen. Day-long rehearsals, which involved morning dance practice, afternoon scene work, and full company rehearsals in the evening, started at the beginning of the IAP in January. The cast continued their work through the beginning of spring term.

The sheer size of the show's demanding score and dance repertoire was a real challenge for the cast. "We chose the show because it's very challenging and very difficult," said DeFrantz. "It has a layered texture to it where several scenes are happening simultaneously. The music is complex, but [the show] is also short, so it has a lot going on in a very short amount of time. My experience with MIT students was that this kind of challenge would be very attractive



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Thomas DeFrantz

as opposed to *Oklahoma* or *Carousel*, more traditional musicals where scenes happen and then there's a song and then there's a dance and everything's very separate. I thought the challenge would appeal and it did. It has."

DeFrantz said that the production would be engaging. "The staging is sort of a thrust or three-quartered round where the audience is on all sides. Depending on where you sit you'll see a completely different show. Different scenes will be more important to you, different scenes will be closer to you, [others] will be farther back," he said. "I did that on purpose to underscore this idea of foregrounding and backgrounding which is in the script. It's going to be a challenge for our audience to allow themselves to enjoy that and not be frustrated by it. You really have to give yourself up to the experience of it."

With direction and design from faculty of the Theater Arts Department and a talented cast that represents some of MIT's best, *Grand Hotel* is sure to be a hit.

GRAND HOTEL

Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 26, 27, at 8 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico, Stratton Student Center. Tickets \$6 for MIT students, \$8 general admission.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call 253-2908, e-mail <ds_officers@mit.edu>, stop by the Dramashop booth in Lobby 10, or visit the Dramashop web site at <http://web.mit.edu/dramashop/www/>



GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

The Baron (Seth Cooperman '99) dances with the company during the dress rehearsal on Tuesday.

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What: **DIGITAL EFFECTS IN THE
FILM INDUSTRY**

a talk by Eric Enderton,
Head of Production Software
Engineering for ILM

When: Monday, February 23, 1998
4 - 5 pm

Where: Building 6, Room 120, MIT

For more info, contact the MIT Career Center. For ILM job and intern info, call our job hotline at 415-258-2100 or check our Web site at www.ilm-jobs.com.

Coop Student Board Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 1998-99 academic year.

M.I.T. Undergraduate Students:
Oreoluwa Adeyemi George Berkowski

M.I.T. Graduate Students:
John Hollywood Larry Sass

Harvard Undergraduate Students:
Carlos Farnadas Chana Schoenberger
Catherine Malmberg Gary Zimmerman

Harvard Graduate Students:
Carlos Lopez Daniel Runde
Carrie Owens

Any student Coop member may still petition to be on the ballot. Petition papers are available beginning Feb. 17 at the customer services desks of any Coop location or at the Member Services Office, 4th floor, main building at the Coop at Harvard Square. M-F, 9 AM-5 PM

For Information Call or e mail:
Allan Powell, 499-2025,
aepowell@thecoop.com

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**ON-CAMPUS
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Thursday, February 26th at 6 p.m.
Check with MIT Career Services for location

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We only hire uncommonly talented, accomplished and intelligent individuals. If you are a college senior or graduate student with a record of outstanding achievement (in any field—our president was an English major), we want to hear from you.

Our on-campus interview date at MIT/Wellesley is Monday, March 16th. Submit your résumé, including GPA (3.6 or above) and SAT score (1400 or higher) to MIT Career Services by noon on Monday, March 2nd. For additional information, contact us at:



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Juno Online Services
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15th Floor
New York, NY 10036
oncampus@recruit.juno.com

Popular Music

Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Info: 262-2424.
Feb. 21: Crystal Method, with DJ-92s David Holmes, BT and Taylor. \$15.
Feb. 25: Creed, with Big Wreck & Moist. \$12.
Mar. 11: Ben Harper and The Innocent Criminals, with Finley Quaye. \$12.

The Orpheum Theatre

Hamilton Place, Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT. Info: 679-0810.
Mar. 4: Third Eye Blind & Smash Mouth, with Fat. \$20.50.
Mar. 19: G. Love and Special Sauce, with Alana Davis. \$18.50.
Apr. 3: Steve Miller Band. \$36, \$26.

Berklee Performance Center

136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. Tickets: 931-2000. Info: 747-2661.
Feb. 23: Joe Jackson. \$22.50.

Tsongas Arena

Lowell, MA, 27 miles northwest of Boston. Tickets: 931-2000.
Feb. 21: Liza Minnelli, featuring Cortes Alexander Trio and Bill LaVorgna. \$74, \$45, \$25.
Mar. 6: Swatch Sno-Core 98 Tour featuring Primus, Blink-182, The Alkaholiks, The Aquabats. \$22.50.

Paradise Rock Club

967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. Tickets: 423-NEXT. Info: 562-8800.

Feb. 21: Hepcat, with The Slackers and Gadgets. \$8.
Feb. 26: Division Street, with Mindflow. \$5.
Feb. 27: From Good Homes, with Jump Little Children. \$8.
Mar. 6: Chantal Kreviazuk. \$10 advance, \$12 door.
Mar. 7: Rustic Overtones, with Everything and Canine. \$7.
Mar. 13: Jen Trynin, with Gravel Pit. \$9.
Mar. 15: Sawdoctors. \$20.
Mar. 17: rubyhorse. \$7.
Mar. 22: Joe Satriani. \$25.
Mar. 25: The Aware Tour, Gibb Droll, Thanks to Gravity, Train. \$6.
Mar. 27: Space Monkeys, with Ivy. \$8 advance, \$10 door.

The Middle East

472 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge. Info: 497-0576.
Feb. 20: Luna, Jack Drag, the Lothars. \$10.
Feb. 21: God Lives Underwater, Fluorescein, Count Zero, Skingame. \$7.
Feb. 22: Isotope 217, The Lonesome Organist, The Phalen-Moore Trio. \$7.
Feb. 23: "Vinnie By Van Go" Written by Peter Holm. \$5.
Feb. 24: Gil Scott-Heron ("The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"). Jeff Robinson Trio. \$15.
Feb. 25: 16 Horsepower (A&M rec.), Trona, Swizzle. \$7.
Feb. 26: Hum, Swervedriver. \$10.
Feb. 27: Moon Boot Lover, Freeball'n, Apartment 3. \$8.
Feb. 28: Angry Hill, New Born Kings, Rookie, Hollow Point. \$7.

Classical Music

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. 266-1492, 266-1200. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 1:30 p.m. \$23-\$71; rush seats \$7.50 day of concert, on sale Fridays from 9 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. Free tickets for MIT students Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons. Call 638-9478 for ticket availability.
Feb. 19, 20, 21, 24: André Previn, conductor, Kyung-Wha Chung, violin; Brahms, Variations on a Theme by Haydn; Haydn, Symphony No. 102; Brahms, Violin Concerto.
Feb. 25-28: André Previn, conductor, Jules Eskin, cello; Mozart, Divertimento in D, K.251; Barber, Cello Concerto; Rachmaninoff, Symphony No. 3.

Jazz Music

Regattabar

Charles Hotel, Harvard Sq., Cambridge. 661-5000.
Feb. 20, 21: McCoy Tyner Trio with Bobby Hutcherson.
Feb. 24: The Greg Hopkins Big Band.

On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston
February 20-26
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.

Feb. 25: David Maxwell's Maximum Blues.

Feb. 26, 27, 28, Mar. 1: The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine.

Mar. 3: The Gary Jones Quintet.

Mar. 4: The Bruce Barth Trio.

Mar. 5: The Donald Fox Quartet, with John Stubblefield, Kenny Davis, and Pheeroan Aklafl.

Mar. 6, 7: The Eddie Palmieri Septet.

Mar. 10: Crosscurrent, Luciana Souza.

Mar. 11: The Odeon Pope Trio.

Mar. 12: Sergio Brandao and Manga-Rosa.

Mar. 13, 14, 15: The Jazz Passengers, with special guest vocalist Debbie Harry.

Feb. 20, 21: Abbey Lincoln.

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Theater

Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston. 426-6912. Playing 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. There are additional performances at 4 p.m. on February 20 and 21. Tickets \$35 to \$45. It would be difficult and unfair to catalogue fully the antics of the Drama Desk Award-winning trio of cobalt-painted bald pates who have settled into long runs Off Broadway and at the Charles Playhouse. They begin their delightful and deafening evening of anti-performance art beating drums that are also deep buckets

The premise is pretty silly and the development schematic, but Dubac is a witty, likable performer whose routines about male thinking are amusing if not profound.

Miss Saigon

Wang Center, 270 Tremont Street, Boston. 931-2787. Playing through February 28. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. There is an additional evening performance at 8 p.m. on February 23. Tickets are \$15 to \$65; \$20 at Wednesday matinee. The return of the megahit musical by the Les Miserables team of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schenberg, which had a very successful first engagement here in 1993. Set in 1975 during the fall of Saigon, the musical is a rework-

full orchestra musical by Davis, Forrest, Wright and Yeston directed by Assistant Professor Thomas DeFrantz. A grand musical set in Berlin's legendary hotel in 1928, Grand Hotel explores the glamorous life of the hotel's patrons — and the societal disease lurking beneath its mirrored facade.

Exhibits

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. 723-2500. Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday through Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. Free with MIT ID. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50.

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.

Ongoing exhibitions: "Beyond the Screen: Chinese Furniture of the 16th and 17th Centuries"; "The Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Ancient Americas."

Through Apr. 12: "America Draws."

Computer Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. 423-6758 or 426-2800. Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$7, \$5 for students and seniors, free for children under 5. Half-price admission on Sunday from 3-5 p.m. Tours daily of "Walk Through Computer 2000," a working two-story model of a PC. 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. Through May 31: "Wizards and their Wonders: Portraits in Computing."

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. 566-1401. Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wednesday), free for children under 18. The museum 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. Through Apr. 26: "Titian and Rubens: Power, Politics, Style."

Swatch Museum

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

MIT Museum

265 Massachusetts Ave. 253-4444. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Admission \$3. Ongoing: "Gestural Engineering: The Sculpture of Arthur Ganson"; "Lightforest: The Holographic Rainforest"; "Holography: Artists and Inventors"; "MIT Hall of Hacks," chronicles of MIT's history of pranks, wit, and wizardry; "Light Sculptures by Bill Parker"; "Math in 3D: Sculptures by Morton G. Bradley, Jr."; "MathSpace," a hands-on exploration of geometry. Through Feb. 22: "Unfolding the Light: The Evolution of Ten Holographers." Through June 14: "Piranesi in Perspective: Designing the Icons of an Age."

List Visual Arts Center

Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St. 253-4400. Tuesday through Thursday, Saturday through Sunday, noon-6 p.m.; Friday, noon-8 p.m. Through Mar. 22: "The Squeeze Chair Project." Wolk Gallery, Building 7, 3rd Floor 77 Massachusetts Ave. 258-9106. Through Jul. 7: "Reflections: Drawings and Projects by Wellington Reiter."

Rhode Island School of Design

224 Benefit St., Providence, RI. Museum of Art. 401-454-6502. Wednesday through Thursday and Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission \$2, \$1 for seniors. Through Mar. 8: "Utawaga Kuniyoshi: The Dyed Image." Through Apr. 5: "Working the Stone: Process and Progress of Lithography." Through Apr. 19: works by Geoffrey Beene. Through Apr. 26: "Artistic Expressions from the Human Spirit: Selections from the Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin-American Art." Ongoing: "Color and Form: 20th Century American Paintings from the Permanent Collection." Woods-Gerry Gallery, 62 Prospect St. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Through Feb. 15: "Sculpture Department Exhibition."



To fulfill his commitment for a research grant, anthropologist James Krippendorf (Richard Dreyfuss) convinces his kids to pose as an "undiscovered" tribe from New Guinea. Krippendorf's Tribe previews at LSC next Thursday.

Feb. 26: The Mark Rossi Group

Feb. 27: Roy Hargrove

Feb. 28: Larry Clothier

Mar. 4, 5: The Jazz / Blues Guitar Summit, Duke Robillard, J. Geils, Gerry Beaudoin.

Mar. 6, 7: Stanley Turrentine Quintet.

Mar. 11: Annie Royer.

Mar. 12: Chuck Loeb

Mar. 13, 14: Danilo Perez Ensemble

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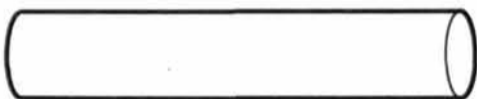
Mar. 1

BOSE® OFFERS ENGINEERS MANY CHALLENGES.

HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE THIS ONE?

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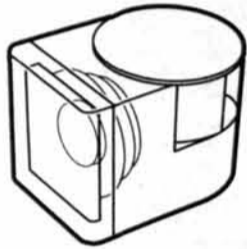
FIT THIS TUBE



- 4" long.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ " inside diameter.
- This tube will serve as a loud-speaker port.
- The cross-sectional area must remain within 2.5%.

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INTO THIS ENCLOSURE



- $2\frac{1}{4}$ " H x $2\frac{1}{4}$ " W x $3\frac{3}{16}$ " D.
- The port – along with the transducer – must be fully enclosed in this space.

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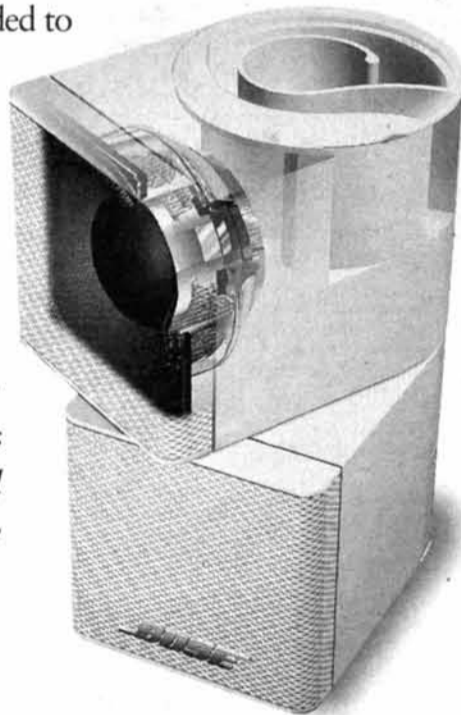
WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS

- Air will travel through this port at peak speeds exceeding 150 mph.
- Audible port noise must be completely eliminated.
- The more volume used by the port, the less efficient the speaker becomes.

While bending the tube would allow it to fit inside the cabinet, any bend – even a slight one – would create uneven airflow. And with the air moving at such high velocity, avoiding unwanted port noise was a constant challenge. The extreme precision needed to engineer the contours of the folds required meticulous research involving mathematical models, computer simulations and prototypes.

Bose engineer Laura Schroeder, the development team leader on the project, describes the experience. "With the amount of research that was required, I don't think you could have done this anywhere else. The

company believes in research whole-heartedly, and they understand what that kind of commitment means in terms of time and money. Just look at the track record; it has been so successful, so many times."



Creating the Jewel Cube® speaker required a combination of about 40 different innovations and technologies. This spiral port is just one of them. The need for innovative solutions like this one continues at Bose Corporation. We need people who thrive on solving challenging problems and have a tremendous curiosity about how things work. Put that to use now. Find out more about Bose. Attend one or all of the events listed below.

ON-CAMPUS INFORMATION SESSION – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:30 - 8:30 PM. ROOM 6-120.
INFORMATION SESSION AND TOUR AT BOSE – TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 24, THE MOUNTAIN, FRAMINGHAM.
ON-CAMPUS OPEN INTERVIEWS – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, REGISTER AT THE MIT CAREER OFFICE.

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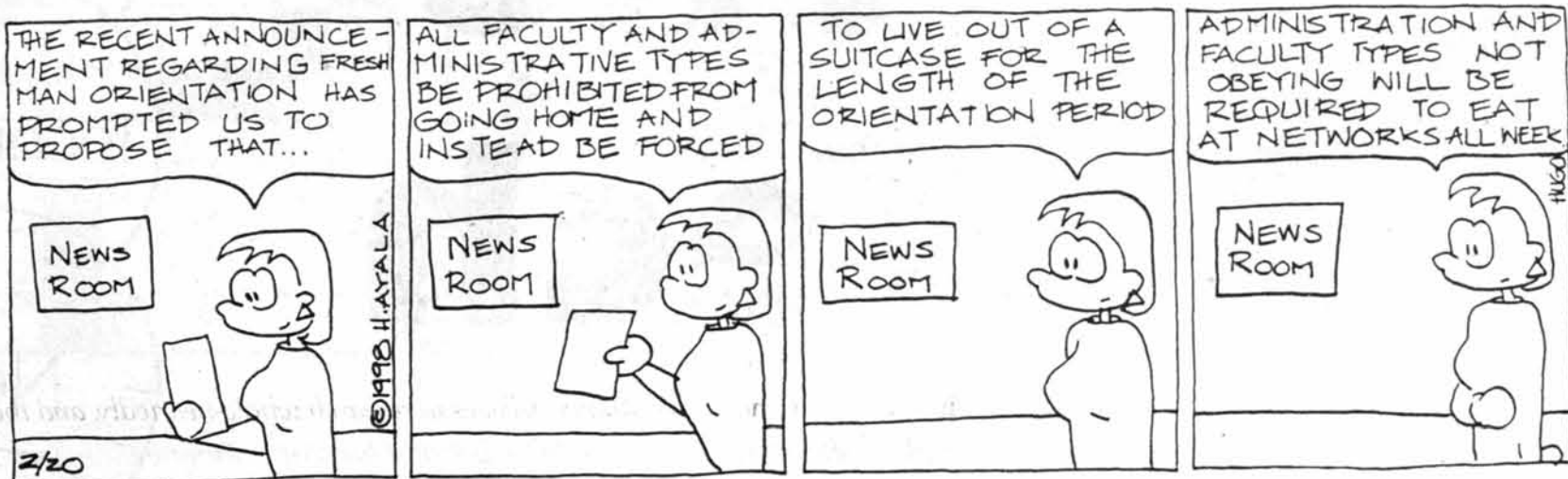
damned for life

by Jessica

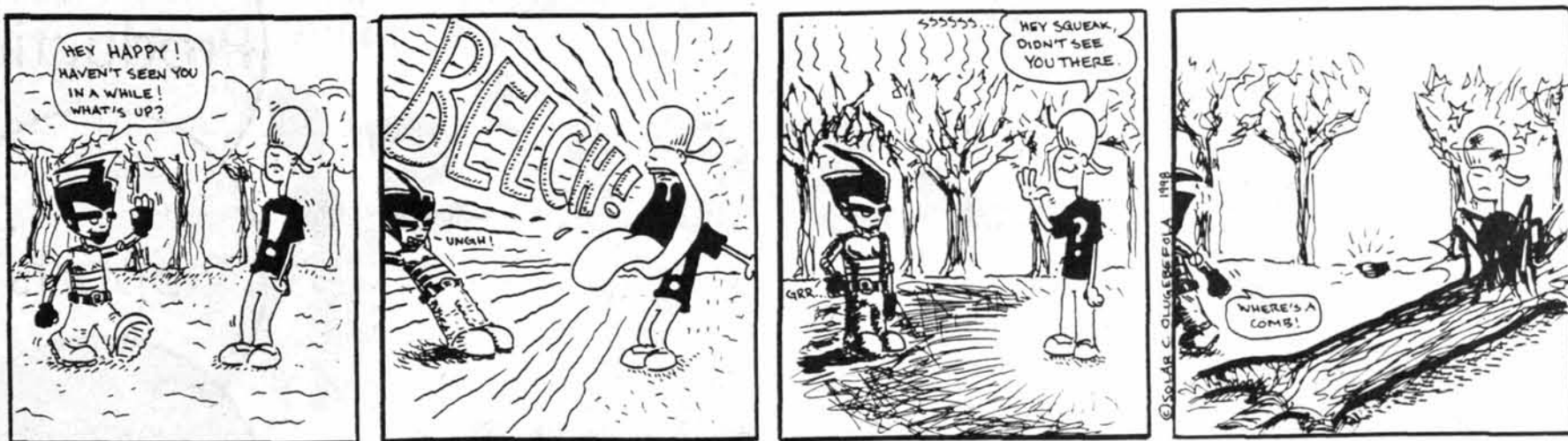


Off Course

by Hugo

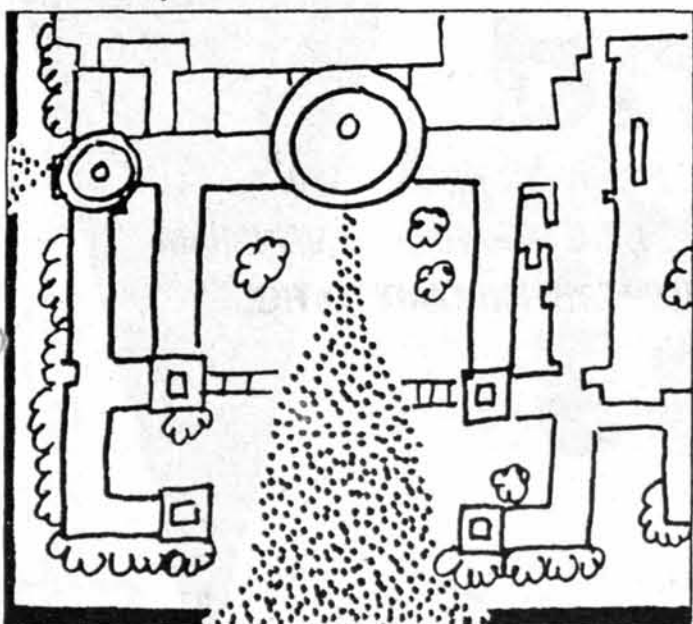


bartholemew squeak



Perhaps...

By Jennifer DiMase



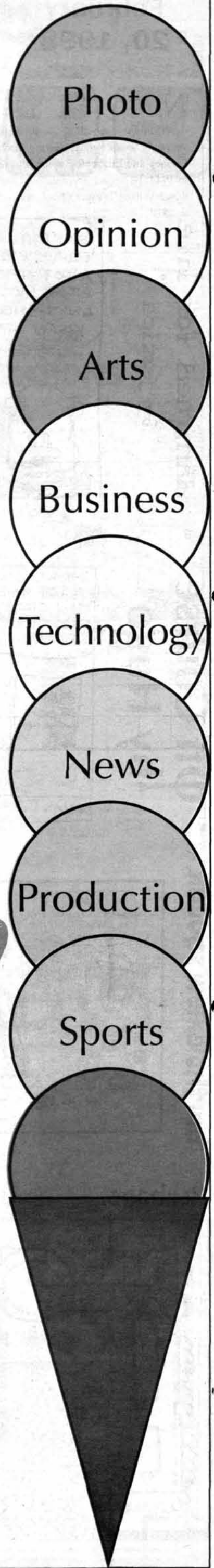
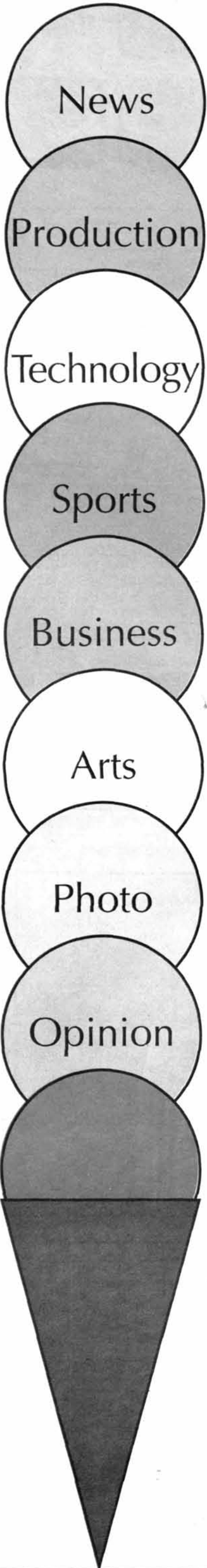
... The whole world really is going to hell...



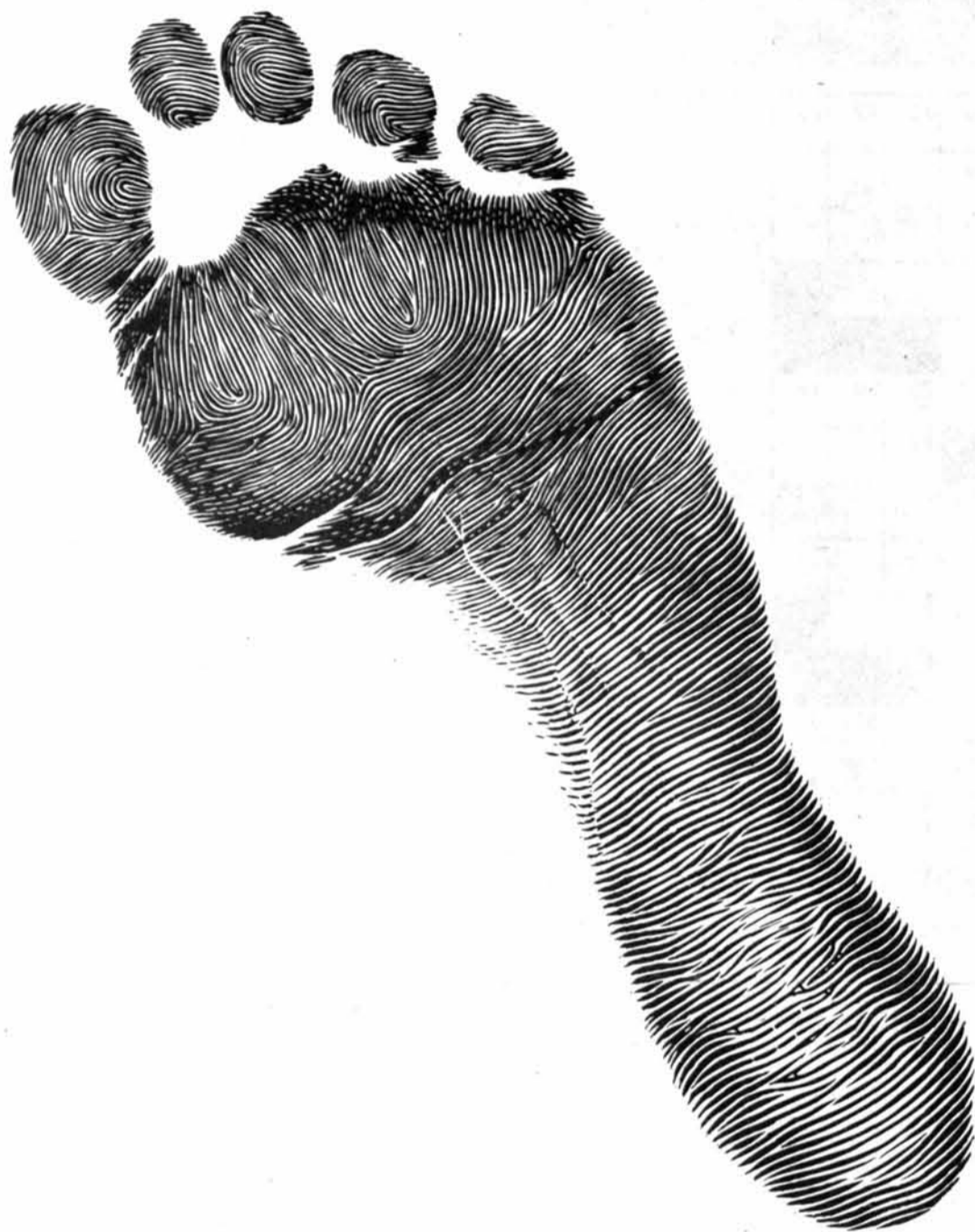
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RHINO MAN



THE STORY SO FAR: Rhino-Man savagely attacked a stranger who threatened his girlfriend.

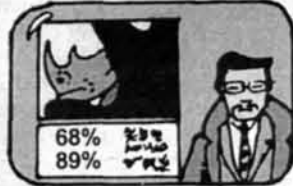
by Zachary Emig



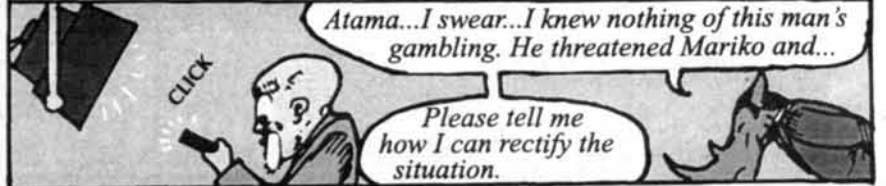
"He said, 'You've had two weeks to pay up, Fusaisha. Two weeks too long!'" And with those words, Rhino-Man allegedly began the brutal assault on Mr. X Fusaisha which left him hospitalized with a broken nose and jaw, two broken ribs, and a dislocated shoulder.



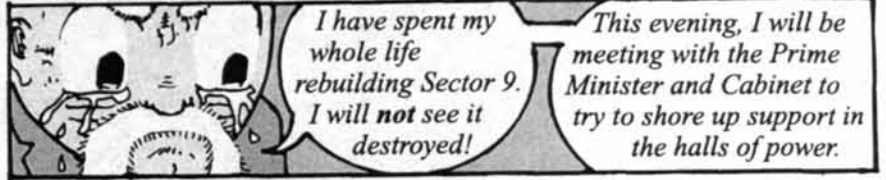
Mr. Fusaisha admits to owing the Shimuraka crime family millions of yen in gambling debts. This, combined with stories of bribery, casts a dark shadow over Sector 9 and, more specifically, over Rhino-Man. Is he leading a double life as a mob



enforcer? And just how far has the Yakuza infiltrated Sector 9? Rhino-Man released a statement earlier today claiming that he assaulted Mr. Fusaisha to "protect a friend's honor", but a new Channel 5 poll shows the public isn't buying that: 68% believe that Sector 9 is "rife with corruption", and 89% believe Rhino-Man is...



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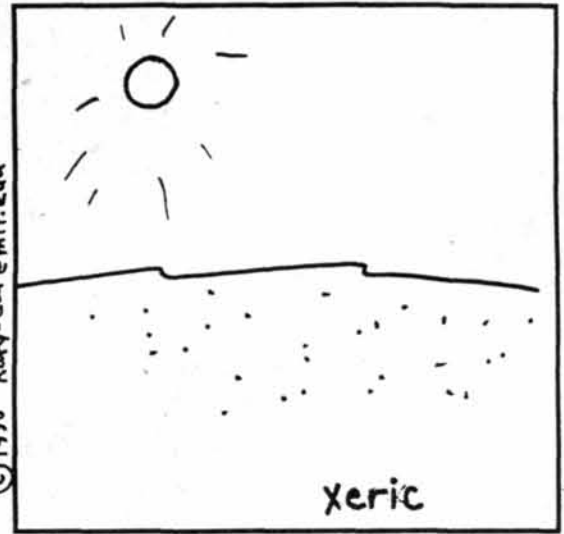
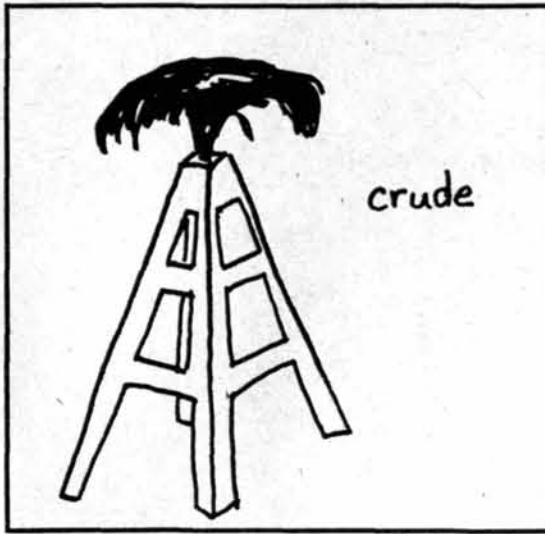


<http://www.mit.edu/~zbemig/Rhino-Man.html>



Next Issue: Facing the press

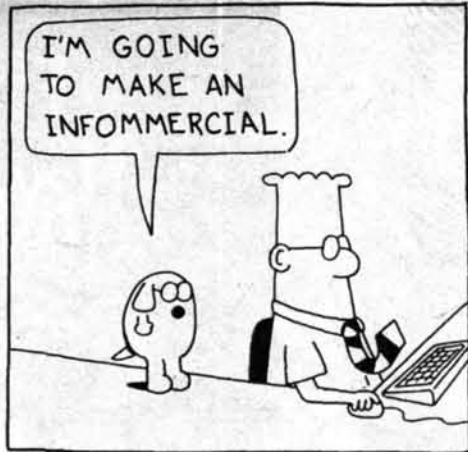
Noun Poetry by Katy-Cat



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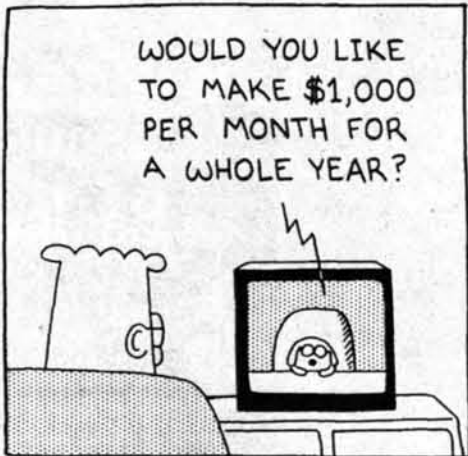
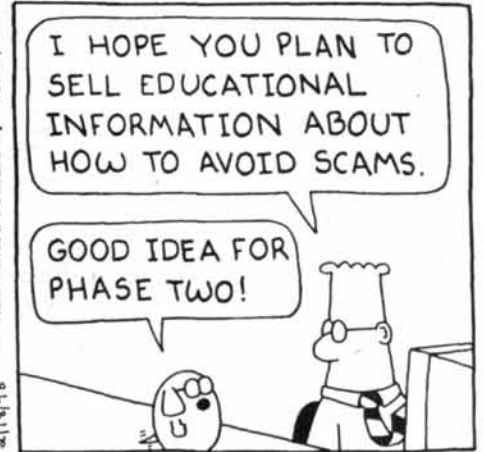
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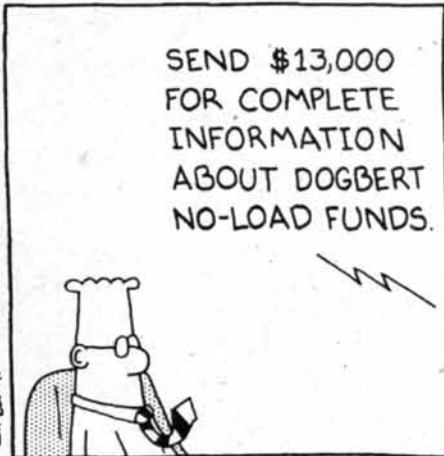
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Stabbing of Harvard Student Prompts Lawsuit from Family

FROM UNIVERSITY WIRE

The family of Harvard University student Trang Phuong Ho filed a lawsuit against the university on Wednesday, three years after she was murdered by her

roommate, Sinedu Tadesse, who later committed suicide.

Ho, a junior biology concentrator at the time of her death, was stabbed 45 times on the morning of May 28, 1995. After fatally wounding Ho and injuring 26-year-old visitor Thao Nguyen, Tadesse hanged herself in the shower of her Dunster House suite.

Short Takes

The suit — filed in Middlesex Superior Court on behalf of the deceased's elder sister Thao Phuong Ho — alleges "wrongful death, conscious pain and suffering and emotional distress," and charges the university, as well as Dunster House Master Karel F. Liem, former Dunster House senior tutor Suzi Naiburg and Ho's entryway tutor David B. Lombard, with negligence.

Court papers said that Harvard had the "duty to maintain a reasonably safe and secure environment." The papers add that Tadesse had demonstrated "desperate and antisocial behavior" about which University officials "knew or should have known."

One of the plaintiff's attorneys, Max D. Stern, said that the family waited to file suit in order to collect evidence and prepare to enter a trial. "It took some time to investigate the matter for [the family] to decide it was something they wished to pursue," he said.

Harvard spokesman Alex Huppe declined to comment, saying that he had not yet read the suit.

[The Crimson, Feb. 19]

UC Berkeley coach under fire

The University of California, Berkeley's women's basketball

coach Marianne Stanley is facing a lawsuit after an alleged racist outburst on Oct. 23 last year.

Ricky Marciano, a 34-year-old actor and UC Berkeley alumnus, said that he intends to file a suit against both Stanley and the university as early as today.

Marciano, a club member of the Recreational Sports Facility, claims that the incident occurred while Marciano and nine other men were engaged in a full-court game of pickup basketball. Members of the Cal women's basketball team began to filter onto the court for their regular practice. During a fast break, one of the men collided with a member of the Cal women's basketball team.

Marciano alleges that Stanley, incensed with the pickup players, directed condescending remarks at the group. When Marciano — who is black — turned away in disgust, he claims Stanley tore into him with a prolonged, profanity-laden tirade.

Marciano and his attorney, Clarence Livingston, said they filed the suit because the university has been unwilling to disclose what disciplinary action, if any, has been taken against Stanley.

Marciano grew frustrated when the university refused to elaborate on its investigation of Stanley after he had inquired about it in mid-December. Marciano Livingston then made a written demand of disclosure on Jan. 27.

In the letter, Marciano and Livingston threatened to go public with the situation if not given an update of the university's investigation, and additionally demanded financial compensation for Marciano.

Stanley declined to comment.

[The Daily Californian, Feb. 19]

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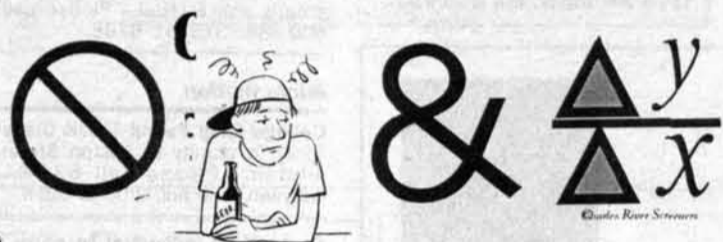
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Interviews, Feb. 24 & 25

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The deadline to apply for on campus summer and fall 98-99 vacancies in family and single graduate student apartments and dormitories is 5:00PM on Friday, February 27, 1998. On March 1, 1998 there will be a housing lottery for the 98-99 academic year. Applications are available in Graduate Housing in E32-133, and must be returned by the deadline to the same office. Any questions, call 3-5148.

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MIT Takes Top Honors in Engineering, Sloan Rises to Third in Business Schools

U.S. News, from Page 1

MIT was also ranked eighth in political science and twelfth in psychology, under the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

"I'm very pleased that we have ranked highly. I don't believe that there is a great deal of significance in the fine structures of these rankings but it's always good to be among the very top few," Vest said.

"What I do find important is that we have been ranked at the top by both our academic colleagues as well as those in industry; that tends to set us apart a little bit," Vest said.

For its annual rankings of the five major graduate schools of study — engineering, business, medicine, law, and education — *U.S. News* derives its rankings from two sets of "reputation ratings" as well as objective measures. One reputation

ranking is based on responses from deans and faculty members of a particular discipline.

The second ranking deals with surveys of "nonacademics," which focuses on the perspectives of those who come into contact with new graduates, such as prospective employers.

For the other academic disciplines that are not included in the five major areas, their rankings are based only on reputation.

Other rankings that are available this year include public affairs, audiology, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, rehabilitation counseling, speech pathology, English, history, and sociology.

This is the tenth edition of the *U.S. News* graduate guide, which is independent of the magazine's undergraduate guide. *U.S. News* also publishes the annual "America's Best Colleges" guide.

Top 10 Engineering Schools

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2. Stanford University
2. University of California, Berkeley
4. Carnegie Mellon University
4. Georgia Institute of Technology
4. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
4. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
8. California Institute of Technology
8. Cornell University
8. Purdue University, West Lafayette

Top 10 Business Schools

1. Harvard University
1. Stanford University
3. Columbia University
3. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Sloan)
3. University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)
6. Northwestern University (Kellogg)
6. University of Chicago
8. Dartmouth College (Tuck)
8. University of California, Los Angeles (Anderson)
10. Duke University (Fuqua)
10. University of California, Berkeley (Haas)
10. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
10. University of Virginia (Darden)

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Plans and Ideas Take Shape For New Dormitory Features

Dormitory, from Page 1

Thus far, students in the class have been asked to draw a floor plan of their own rooms and to discuss the positive and negative qualities, Wampler said. This past weekend, students traveled in pairs to look at dormitories at other colleges and universities on the East coast, such as Columbia, Harvard, and Boston University. Today, students will report on the dormitory quality they feel is most important.

Students will first design an ideal room. They will eventually construct a scale model of a dormitory subset, which will house about 50 students. This final design project will be finished at the end of the term, when the students will each display their unique models.

Students contribute views

"The students in the design studio can contribute substantially to articulating a vision of how students want to live, what they need, what currently works, and what currently does not work," Immerman said.

Shelly L. Irving '99, a student

in the class, said that she feels "many dormitories aren't open enough and seem almost sterile because the architecture doesn't allow for easy interactions between people."

Another 4.126 student, Gene C. Pyo '99 said that the most important quality in a dormitory is a comfortable setting. "A dorm should not be just a long corridor with rooms on both sides. It should have many different spaces to suit many different needs," he said.

"I believe it would be a misconception to suggest that the students in the design studio will be designing the house, per se," Immerman said. The process of design is "much more elaborate and involved" than what can be developed in a term project. However, Immerman said that one should not diminish the value of what the students will be contributing.

Williams speaks on dorm quality

"The most essential quality is to provide a safe, healthy, pleasing environment for students in their daily life at MIT," said Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams. "Beyond that, I would like a residence designed to

encourage frequent but not necessarily planned social interactions, primarily among students but also connecting students with staff and faculty."

Williams said that she was also interested in an environment that defines new types of study spaces. For example, "ones where virtual space is truly well-integrated with physical space." This way, students can work both on-line and collaboratively while being tied into the larger world of MIT and beyond.

Also, Williams noted, it would be helpful to have space available for activities that are not strictly social or academic, but are a mix of the two. She suggested space for arts practices and small performances, a satellite site for the Writing Center, or some other type of tutorial space.

"If we do even a few of these things, we will have students clamoring to live in this residence. I also hope we could have donors lining up to support it financially," Williams said.

The new dormitory will be located on Vassar Street, directly across Briggs athletic field from MacGregor House. "That location is a bit out of the way right now ... but the area will be vastly improved," Wampler said.

The general plan of "rimming" the playing fields with housing has been in place for many years, Immerman said. This location provides for "the maximum amenity within the shortest possible distance to the academic buildings," he said.

Currently, Immerman says plans are set for a single residence with 300-350 beds. "It is certainly the case that Vassar Street will someday be the site for additional undergraduate housing," he said.

"In building this next dormitory, we need to worry about the utilities infrastructure that will support additional development in the future," Immerman said. Improvements to Vassar Street, such as new lighting, landscaping, and overall street design will occur over time, he said.

Perhaps in twenty years, the green line of the T may be extended underground where the current surface rail line exists, he said. If this is implemented, it would allow the current rail to be converted to a boulevard, thereby enhancing east-west traffic. There would also be a subway stop very close to the newest dormitory.

The first thing on the tentative time line for the construction of the new dormitory are improvements to Vassar Street, Immerman said. Architects and builders would be selected during the early fall. It will then take a year to design and specify the building and another year to build it. Immerman said that the new dorm might open by the fall of 2000.

New dorm will be costly to build

Immerman said that "on average, this scale of building at the level of quality that MIT maintains usually suggests a rule of thumb which comes out at around \$100,000 per bed." Other variables such as parking, dining, support services, room mix and design, hazardous wastes, ground water, and utilities raise the number to \$35 to \$40 million. "This represents a major commitment on MIT's part in support of undergraduate life," he said.

Immerman feels that the new dormitory will probably harbor new communications technology. Much more electrical capacity will be required. Meeting, event, and recreational space — both outside and inside — will also be reconsidered. "We need to look with a fresh eye at all the services that students require for their daily life and work," he said.

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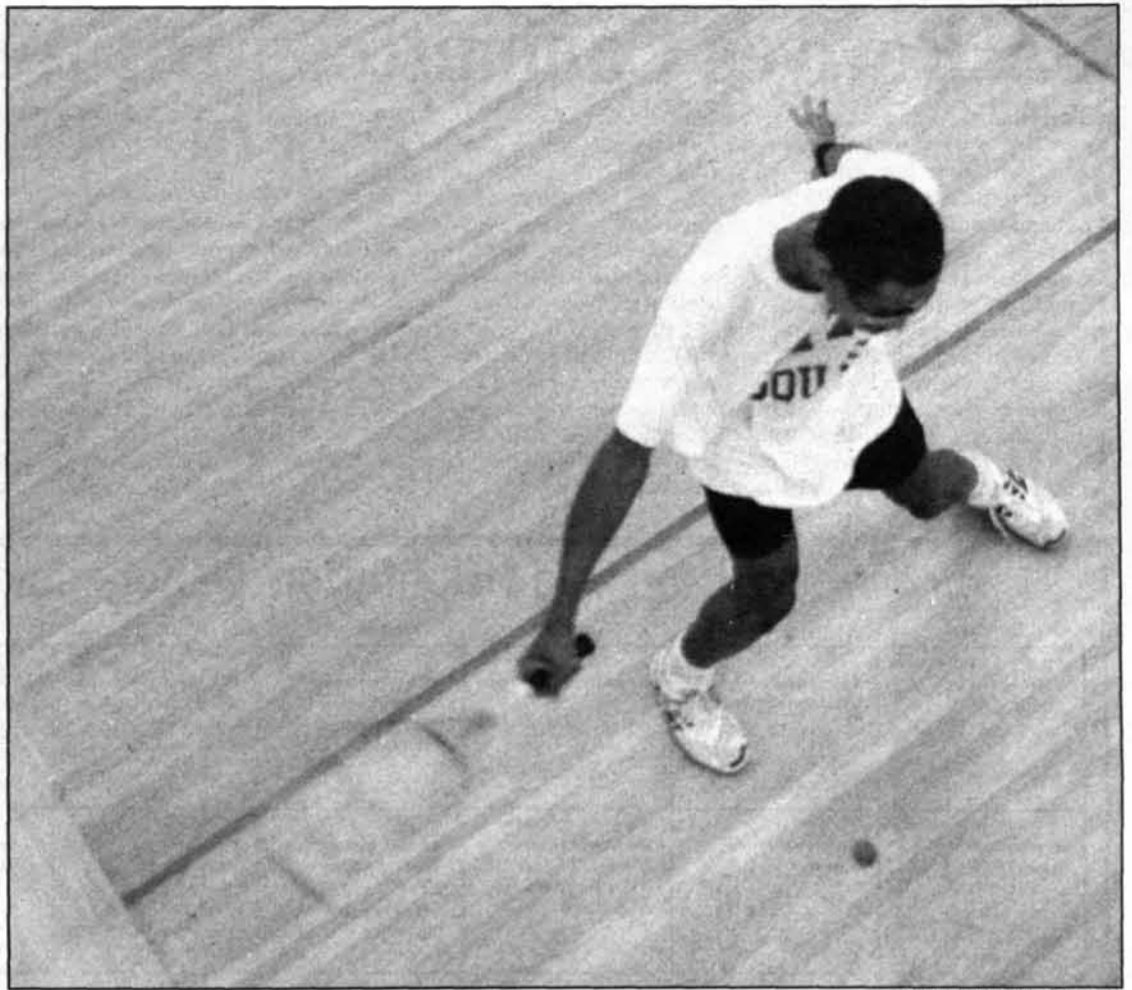


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Vicky Canto-Ponce '00 drives hard to the basket through two defenders for two points. MIT beat Wellesley 71-56 Tuesday night in Rockwell Cage.



THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

James Habyarimana '98 propels a ball along the wall in the squash match against Brown University.

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1 year old, 1991



2 years old, 1992



Stevie Ace Flores.

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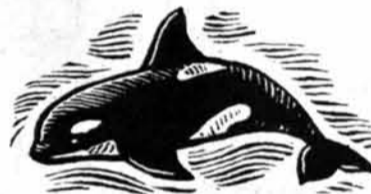
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UA Revives Committee for Investigating Orientation

Orientation, from Page 1

Handbook and the Guide to Residence Life, said Elizabeth I. Cogliano, coordinator of student programs and director of Orientation.

Included in the residence book will be a reply card that incoming students can use to indicate whether they want residence groups to contact them by phone. Students will be able to indicate whether they want all groups, only certain groups, or no groups, to call them, Cogliano

said. Residences will be provided with a list of phone numbers and e-mail addresses of those who wish to be contacted, Cogliano said. Information about students who do not return their cards will not be released to residences.

Freshmen will also be provided with a single sheet providing phone numbers and e-mail addresses of upperclassmen in each living group with the second mailing, allowing freshmen to initiate their own contact, Cogliano said. "Talking to peo-

ple is obviously not a lost art," she added.

New committee to look at details

The Undergraduate Association revived one of its standing committees last week and charged it with investigating the details of the new proposed schedule and working on changes from the perspective of the undergraduate body.

The new committee, chaired by Ryan K. Pierce '99 and Margaret C. Tsai '99, will initially work with officials in Residence and Campus

Activities to produce the guide to residences that will be mailed in early May, Pierce said. "I see us getting involved in a lot more details" that have not yet been decided about Orientation, she added.

The group will focus more on academic orientation than on residence selection since groups like the IFC and the Panhellenic Council are also working on that issue, Pierce said. "Someone has to take an interest in Core Blitz" and other academic events, she said. However, the

group also hopes to be involved in details of residence selection, she added.

Members of other student government groups questioned the need for an additional group to look at residence selection. "I don't see how effective it's been, since the IFC is set up to handle things like" questions about residence selection timing, Dreger said. "If they focused a bit more on academic orientation, they could be more effective."

However, the leaders of the new committee defended their group. "The UA is in the middle; it makes a stand that we come up with a little more neutral" than one proposed by a group of either FSILGs or dormitories, Pierce said.

"The whole hope here is that we may be seen as the group that has no agenda, other than doing what's best for students," Pierce added.

The Dormitory Council selected one of the leaders for the UA committee, while the IFC selected the other, Dreger said. "As long as things continue in that fashion, I think the UA is effective."

Many details still undecided

While "there will be changes and there will be tweaks" to the current proposed schedule, the general schedule is now in its final form, Hodges said.

The final basic schedule for Orientation must be prepared by Monday so that a preliminary version of the freshmen handbook will be available for prospective students to view during visits in April, Hodges said.

Many logistical issues still remain, such as the placement of tables during the Residence Midway, but those details will be decided during the next few months, Cogliano said. Three Orientation interns who will coordinate the entire program will be hired in the next few weeks and 15 students will be selected to serve on the Orientation Committee.

"I want to get students involved every step of the way on the details," Hodges said. "Does this mean that we're going to cede development on this to the students? Probably not. It's a difference between student control and student input in the decision-making process."

Hodges defended the committee that drew up the initial proposal made last week, saying that the informal committee needed to be made up of faculty and administrators. "This was one of those things when I had to get a committee together so that when we came up with suggestions that I wasn't going to get a huge pushback from faculty committees and administrators that would say 'No, we don't want that.' That would be counterproductive for us."

Student input from previous forums, like the open meetings on freshmen housing in the fall term and the report on housing issued by a committee chaired by Professor of Ocean Engineering J. Kim Vandiver PhD '75 helped shape the discussions over Orientation, Hodges added. "I'd say that at least half of the changes are lifted directly from Kim Vandiver's report and from the IFC recommendations" issued last fall, Hodges said.

The changes made this week were reasonable, Hodges added. "I like the idea of compromise as long as [it] doesn't compromise the core desirable elements of orientation. I think the changes are ones that pretty much everyone can live with."

The dialog between students and administrators has been healthy in the past week, Hodges said. "I feel good about the way things are going."

In the end, "We can end up with something that we can all be proud of," Hodges said.

Proposed Orientation '98 Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 23 • Orientation Center Opens	24 • International Orientation Begins	25 • Transfer Orientation Begins • Interphase Ends	26 • All Freshmen arrive • "Welcome class of 2002" dinner in Johnson	27 • President's Welcome • Science Symposium • Core Blitz • Academic Midway	28 • Writing evaluation • Afternoon game activity (undecided) • Residence Midway	29 • "Awareness" activities • Kick-off event • Residence Open Houses begin
30 • Residence Open Houses	31 • Residence Open Houses	September 1 • Residence Open Houses • Athletics Gateway • Activities Midway	2 • Advisor Meetings • Academic Open Houses • Residence welcoming events	3 • Residence check-out/check-in • "Community Dinners" • All-freshman awareness event	4 • City Days • Parents Orientation	5 • Parents Orientation
6 • Parents Orientation	7 • Labor Day	8 • Registration Day • Swim Test	This calendar represents a summary of the current proposed Orientation schedule for this fall's freshmen class. All events are subject to change. Changes since last week are italicized.			

SOURCE: UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ILLUSTRATION BY DOUGLAS E. HEIMBURGER - THE TECH

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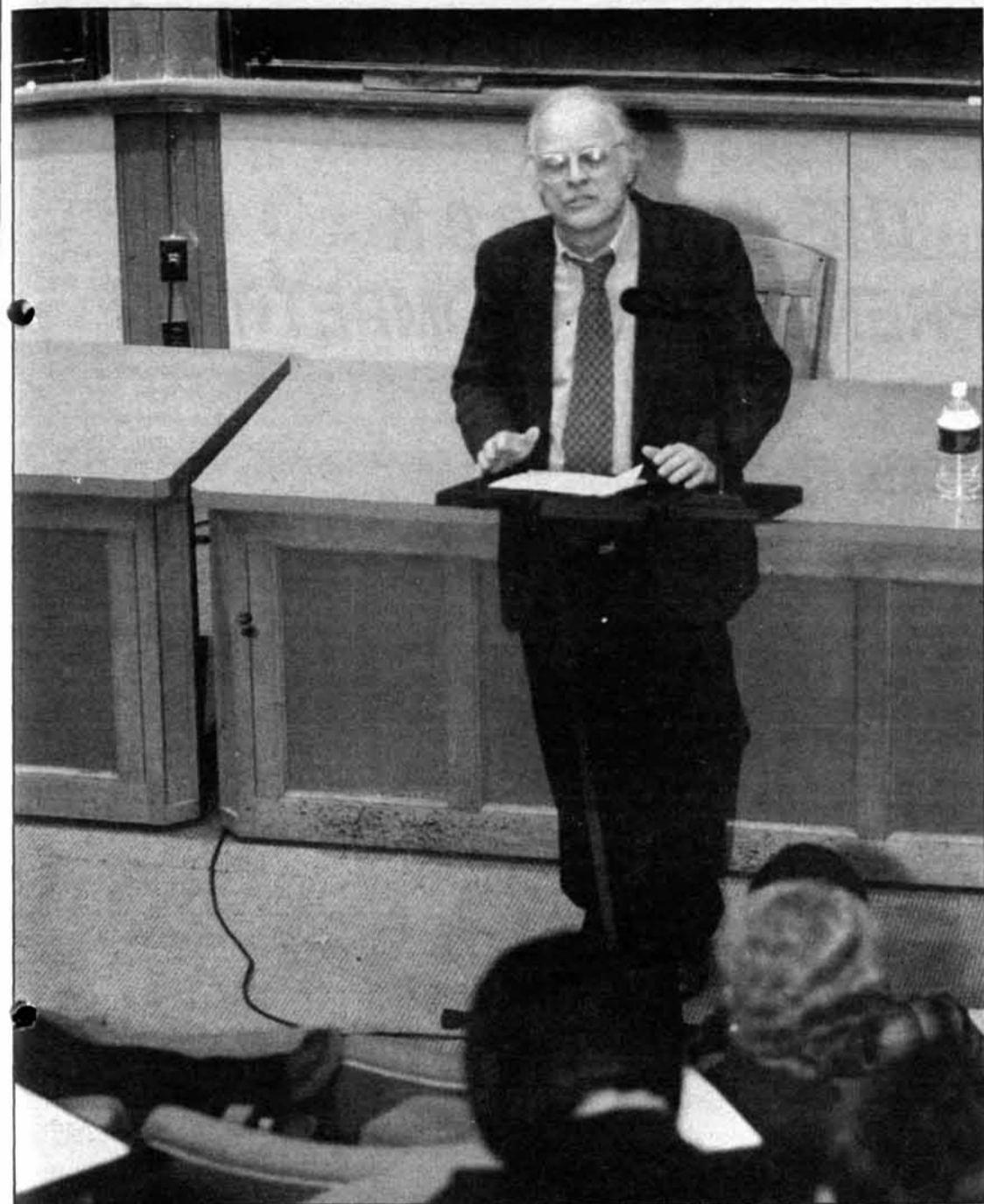
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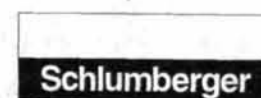
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Date	Who	What	Where
Monday, February 23, through Friday, February 27			
Wed 2/25	Assoc. advisors who want to advise next year	Returning assoc. advisors applications due	7-104, 3-6786
Fri 2/27	Seniors graduating in June 1998	Deadline for submission of minor completion forms (\$40 late fee)	Minor advisor; then 14N-408, 3-4441
Fri 2/27	Graduate students cross-registering at Harvard	Deadline to complete Harvard cross-registration (\$40 late fee for petitions approved after this date)	SSC at 8-6434
Fri 2/27	Students wanting family medical coverage or medical insurance waiver	Last day to enroll for family coverage and to submit health insurance waiver forms	E23-308, 3-4371
Fri 2/27	Undergraduates cross-registering at Harvard	Deadline for Harvard cross-registration petition (\$40 late fee)	14N-408, 3-4441
Fri 2/27	Freshmen, sophomores, juniors	New assoc. advisor applications due	7-104, 3-6786
Monday, March 2, through Friday, March 20			
Fri 3/6	All students	ADD DATE - Last day to add subjects (Add/Drop form; fee for petitioning after this date)	Advisor; then SSC, 8-8600; or E19-335, 8-6409
Fri 3/6	Juniors and seniors	Last day to change an elective to or from P-D-F grading (Add/Drop form)	Advisor; then SSC, 8-8600; or E19-335, 8-6409
Fri 3/6	All students	\$100 late fee for students completing registration after this date	SSC, 8-8600; or E19-335, 8-6409
Fri 3/6	All students	Last day to submit applications for spring term financial aid	SSC, 8-8600; or 5-119, 3-4971
Fri 3/6	All students	Last day to drop half-term subjects given in first half of term	Instructor & advisor; then SSC, 8-8600, or E19-335, 8-6409
Mon 3/16	Undergraduates	4th qtr PE lottery begins	Athena: "add pelott" (ret) "xphedu &" (ret)

*The Student Services Center, Room 11-120, is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



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SPORTS

Alpine Skiers Close Out Season With Good Race Performances

By Jonathan S. Shefftz
TEAM COACH

The men's and women's alpine squads of the varsity ski team closed out their regular season this past weekend at Berkshire East with some strong performances. The men tied for seventh in the cumulative team standings and the top MIT woman took 21st in the cumulative individual standings.

Smith College hosted this final regular season race at Berkshire East, near Greenfield, Mass. The women entered the weekend only two points out of eighth place, behind Division II St. Anselm's College but ahead of the University of Connecticut and New England College. The men were tied with New England for seventh place, ahead of St. Anselm's and UConn.

Saturday's short but deceptively challenging slalom course claimed its first victim when captain Brooke Baker '99 hooked a tip on the third gate and went on a brief spin-'n'-hike excursion. She nevertheless still managed to provide MIT's top finish, with the other scoring times from Monica Taylor '01 and Chrissy Hartmann '98. The team managed to finish ninth, behind St. Anselm's.

Kurd takes 30th for men

Co-captain Dave Kurd '98 led the men for 30th place, and co-captain Ryan Maupin '00 looked to finish right behind him with an even faster second run until he went too straight at a difficult "hairpin" combination and crashed

right above the finish. The other four scoring times came from Brett Vasconcellos '99, Jeremy Gerstle '99, Todd Dumond '00, and Dan Zelazo '99. MIT finished a disappointing ninth while New England finished seventh, putting MIT two points behind New England in the cumulative standings.

For Sunday's giant slalom, Baker took 20th, followed by Taylor in 39th, and then Hartmann. Despite this solid skiing, the women were still in ninth, only 0.23 seconds per person per run behind St. Anselm's, and similarly finished ninth for the season in the cumulative standings. Baker finished 21st in the cumulative individual standings.

The men's race featured some unusual interferences. Kurd called for a hold on course as another racer's helmet inexplicably careened down the race hill. Even more inexplicable was the appearance of an errant pair of skis in the course as Maupin took his run; fortunately, he was able to hop over the skis and thus avoid a collision, although he was forced to stop his run. Also fortunate was the fact that the firm snow held up while Maupin took the chairlift back up for a rerun.

Disasters plague course

Far less fortunate was another team's racer, who was entering the final, fast pitch above the finish when a squirrel or chipmunk ran across the course. The skier lost control and crashed through the protective netting by the side of

the trail in a scene strikingly reminiscent of the Austrian Hermann Maier's spectacular crash in the men's downhill in Nagano.

The collegiate competitor went on to collide with the snowmaking pipeline on the other side of the netting and broke the cap off a hydrant, sending cold water 100 feet into the air in an uncontrolled geyser. After a long hold on course, the skier somehow managed to walk uninjured into the lodge, where a thunderous round of applause greeted him.

The men raced through all these distractions for their best skiing of the season. Kurd took 21st and Maupin 32nd, with the other three scoring times from Dumond, Vasconcellos, and Gerstle. The men took sixth, ahead of Babson College, New England, UConn, and St. Anselm's. Moreover, since the men finished two places ahead of New England, they reversed the previous day's deficit and end the season tied with New England for seventh place in the team standings. Kurd also finished 35th in the individual standings.

The team wrapped up the season with one final post-race free run which turned into an all-out straight-down tuck run of the now-empty race hill. Halfway down the hill, virtually the entire Berkshire East Ski Patrol emerged.

Congregating in the base area with an enraged Ski Patrol most probably in hot pursuit, head coach Jonathan Shefftz decided that one more team run was called for.

Except this time, even faster.



Kareem Benjamin G shoots over two Norwich University defenders in Tuesday's game in Rockwell Cage. MIT won 83-51. YING CAO

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, February 21
Women's Basketball vs. Clark University, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 22
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Skidmore College, 5 p.m.



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