

THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

Terraun Jones '01 sinks the ball during MIT's rousing game against Tufts University Saturday evening in duPont Gymnasium.

Sig Ep Suspended by National After Road Trip Keg Incident

By Jennifer Chung
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The national office of Sigma Phi Epsilon suspended its MIT chapter last week.

The suspension comes after a trip to Pennsylvania State University earlier this term, sources said. Members of the MIT chapter brought a keg to the university's chapter of Sig Ep, where a regional director of the national fraternity was staying.

"We've decided to move forward to benefit the future of the chapter," said Jesse Diaz, director of volunteers and chapter development at Sig Ep national. "We conducted an investigation with our regional board, and we did find information

that did not go along with our statement on chapter and individual responsibility."

"I don't think it's that specific incident that triggered [the suspension], but I do think that that was one of the incidents which characterized the behavior," said Shaun L. Meredith G, president of Sig Ep's house corporation.

The consumption of alcohol was banned at Sig Ep until February 1999 by the Boston Licensing Board after an 18-year-old female was intoxicated at the fraternity in December 1997.

After that incident, the national Sig Ep took an interest in the chapter and set out criteria in areas such as academics for its continued existence.

"They had not met a number of the criteria" when the national's board of directors voted last month, Diaz said.

Chapter privileges suspended

The Sig Ep board voted to place the chapter on alumni advisory council status, meaning that the actual operations of the chapter now fall upon the local alumni corporation. Each member of the MIT chapter has had his membership privileges suspended, and no chapter activities can occur.

"The only action has been that we're providing whatever support we can," said Meredith. "We knew that right now the Greek system can't

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Study Group Recommends Minor Changes to Financial Aid Policies

By Priya Prahalad
STAFF REPORTER

The Financial Aid Study Group recently presented their findings about financial aid at MIT and their ideas on how to improve financial

aid.

Since March, the group, headed by Stanley G. Hudson, director of student financial aid, and Harold Abelson PhD '73, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, studied financial aid at MIT and other schools. They found that the actual cost of attending MIT was among the highest in the country.

The group recommended a further cut in the self-help portion of a financial aid award, which, even with a \$1,000 cut last year, is one of the highest in the country, Abelson said.

Self-help represents the amount that a student is expected to contribute to his or her education. It includes loans and work programs as

well as expectations of summer earnings.

The group also suggested that outside scholarships be deducted entirely from the self-help portion of a student's financial aid, Abelson said. Currently, only half comes out of the self help.

Group prompted by aid changes

The organization of the study group was prompted by the extensive changes in financial aid policies by other universities, Abelson said.

"Twenty years ago financial aid was just aid," he said. "Now it's a form of competition. Financial aid is

Financial Aid, Page 19

After a Year's Hiatus, Charm School Will Again Grace Institute Corridors

By Gitrada Arjara
STAFF REPORTER

This year, students who don't know how to flirt properly, can't figure out which fork to use at a nice restaurant, or have no fashion sense whatsoever need fear no more.

Charm School, the afternoon crash course in manners and social graces, will return to the list of activities for Independent Activities Period after a one-year hiatus.

Last year, Charm School was cancelled because not enough students were willing to help planning the event.

Charm School will take place on Jan. 27. That afternoon, classes instructing students on everything from how to ask for a date to how to sneeze with no-one noticing will dot Lobby 7 and rooms along the Infinite Corridor.

Students even get the chance to earn Charm School diplomas for completing enough classes. Six classes earn a bachelor's degree, eight a master's, and 12 a doctorate in charm.

After an afternoon of festivities, Charm School finishes with a commencement speaker and graduation procession from the Bush Room to Lobby 10.

Past commencement speakers have included Judith Martin, author of the syndicated "Miss Manners" column, comedian Dan Zevin, and President Charles M. Vest. The Charm School steering committee is currently in the process of finding a

commencement speaker for the next Charm School.

Charm School was founded in January 1993 by former Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Travis R. Merritt in response to complaints and generalizations about MIT students and faculty being style-challenged and having few manners.

In the past, Charm School has received attention from the national and local press, including *CNN*, *Good Morning America*, *The New York Times*, and *The Boston Globe*.

Event features myriad activities

Charm School 1999 will still feature classes offered from previous years. One of these classes, called "Exemplary Locomotion," was created by Merritt. Merritt says he wanted to get rid of the "Institute scuttle" and teach students how to saunter, sashay, walk more smoothly, and even to power-walk.

Other classes gave lessons on buttering-up bigshots, body language, impressive interviewing, asking for a date, and dressing more fashionably.

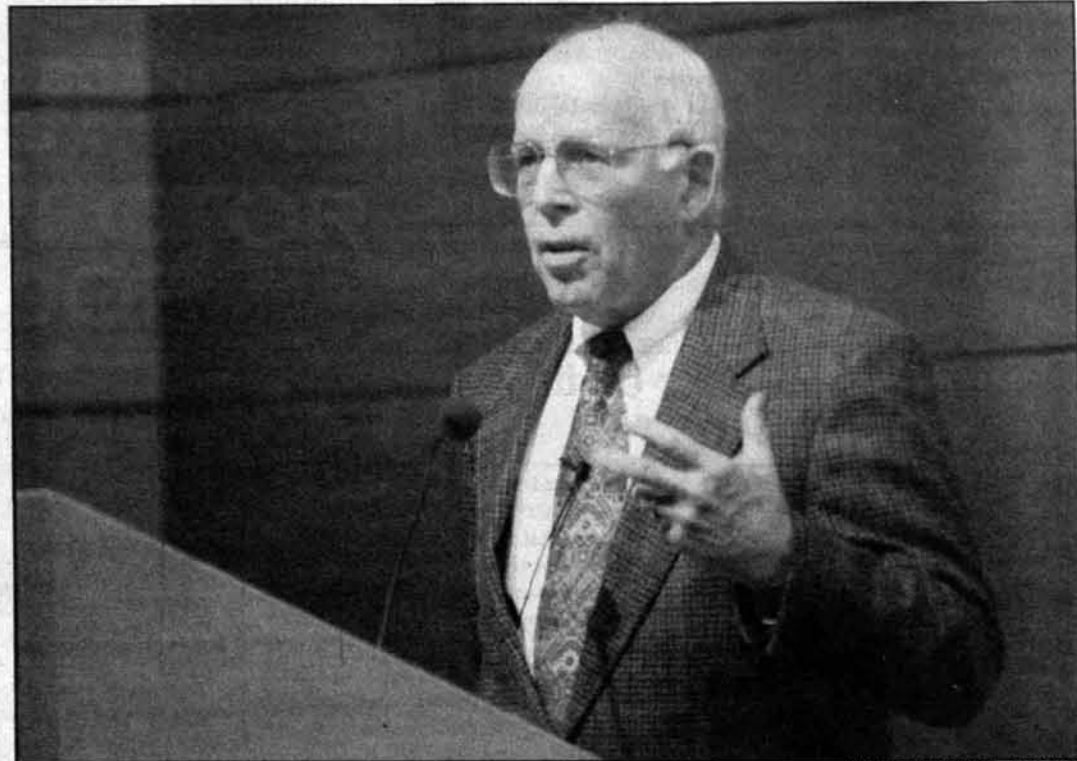
A class called "It's Alimentary," teaches proper table manners and how to use the silverware at a formal dinner. This year, there will also be classes on ballroom dancing and how to tell jokes.

Students and other MIT community members may also join the Fashion Police and give citations to people wearing mismatched clothes.

According to Merritt, having fun

and being silly is the idea behind Charm School. Those involved need to "take a light-hearted approach to it," he said.

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THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

Dr. John Gibbons, science advisor to President Clinton, speaks to students and faculty about the relationships between government, science, and technology yesterday in Wong Auditorium. The lecture was part of the Karl Taylor Compton Lecture series.



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Stephen
Altes '84
talks about
careers.

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WORLD & NATION

Palestinian Authority Gets \$3 Billion Boost from Abroad

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

International donors pledged more than \$3 billion in fresh financial aid Monday to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority at an American-sponsored conference here aimed at building on the modest momentum of October's interim Israeli-Palestinian accord.

President Clinton, who addressed the conference in the State Department auditorium, said the administration is "developing a package" to increase the U.S. contribution by \$400 million over the next five years. The increase, if funded by Congress, would come on top of roughly \$500 million in existing aid plans for the same period.

Monday's international pledges — which could reach \$4 billion over five years if the donors firm up provisional offers — are nearly equivalent each year to the Palestinian Authority's entire \$860 million budget. On an annual basis they would represent about a quarter of the \$3.3 billion Palestinian economy, which has been in sharp decline since the peace process began. The European Union is the largest overall donor, with pledges of \$2 billion.

Since Israel and the Palestinians reached mutual recognition in September 1993, every Palestinian economic indicator, from employment to per capita income, has crashed. Adjusted for inflation, the gross domestic product was smaller last year than in 1995.

Starr Threatens to Charge Minor Witness With Perjury

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr has threatened to indict a minor player in the White House sex scandal for allegedly lying to a grand jury in what would be the first criminal charges to emerge from the 10-month Monica S. Lewinsky investigation.

Julie Hiatt Steele, who disputed former White House volunteer Kathleen E. Willey's account of an unwelcome sexual encounter with President Clinton, faces possible federal counts of perjury, making false statements and obstruction of justice in connection with her testimony in the Lewinsky case.

Starr deputy David Barger outlined the potential indictment in a Nov. 20 letter to Steele's lawyer, inviting her to explain why she should not be charged.

Chile Seeks Compromise With Britain, Spain Over Pinochet

THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

He may be wanted in three countries for trial on criminal charges, but Augusto Pinochet is no longer wanted in the luxurious private clinic where he has been waiting out his period of house arrest pending extradition proceedings.

As diplomats from Britain, Chile and Spain continued looking for a compromise to end the impasse surrounding the former Chilean president, the Grovelands Priory hospital said Monday it told Pinochet, 83, that he must give up his suite there and "find alternative accommodation as soon as possible."

The hospital said Pinochet no longer needs medical attention, having completed recovery from the back surgery he underwent last month. Another, although unstated, reason for the eviction order may well be that the exclusive atmosphere of the clinic has been sullied by the band of Chilean exiles who gather outside its wrought-iron fence each day chanting "Murderer!" and "Genocide!"

A group of conservative political activists here reportedly has rented a suburban apartment for Pinochet. He is expected to leave the hospital Tuesday.

Texas Sodomy Arrest Opens Legal Battle for Gay Rights

By Paul Duggan

THE WASHINGTON POST

HOUSTON

Rarely does a police officer witness violations of Section 21.06 of the Texas criminal code, the section entitled "Homosexual conduct." And almost never is an arrest made under the 119-year-old statute. So what happened recently to John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner, in the supposed privacy of Lawrence's bedroom, was highly unusual.

The two men were having sex when a Harris County sheriff's deputy walked into the apartment on another matter, saw what they were doing and hauled them off to jail.

"In all candor, I don't believe we've ever made an arrest before under those circumstances," said Capt. Don McWilliams, a sheriff's spokesman. But the law is the law, he said. "We can't give our deputies a list of statutes we think they should enforce and a list of statutes we want them to ignore."

The handcuffing of Lawrence and Garner that night did more than just satisfy the deputy's obligation to enforce the law. It opened a new legal front in a long campaign by gay activists across the country to do away with such statutes, which

they contend are unconstitutional.

Georgia's highest court issued a ruling last week that struck down that state's law against consensual sodomy, but statutes prohibiting the practice remain on the books in Puerto Rico and 19 states. Five of the states, including Texas, limit the ban to same-sex couples. Now lawyers have seized on the Houston case as a vehicle to again contest the legitimacy of the Texas statute, which has survived three legal challenges since the early 1980s.

Among similar court challenges in four other states and in Puerto Rico, four are lawsuits. Only two cases, in Minnesota and now Texas, stem from criminal charges. And as gay activists see it, no case more vividly illustrates the threat such laws pose to privacy than the Sept. 17 arrests of Lawrence and Garner.

Answering what turned out to be a bogus report of a man behaving erratically with a gun, Deputy Joseph Quinn arrived at an apartment building east of Houston about 10:30 p.m. and met Roger Nance, 41, who had phoned in the complaint, authorities said.

Nance directed Quinn to apartment No. 833, Lawrence's apartment. The deputy entered through

the unlocked door with his weapon drawn. After finding no one with a gun, Quinn later wrote in his report, he "observed [Lawrence] engaged in deviate sexual conduct, namely, anal sex, with another man." Lawrence, 55, and Garner, 31, spent the rest of the night behind bars before each was let out on \$200 bail.

Nance's false report, for which he served 15 days in jail, stemmed from "a personality dispute" between him and the two men, the sheriff's department said.

Lawrence and Garner pleaded no contest earlier this month to violating the anti-sodomy statute and were fined \$125 each by a justice of the peace. Now the stage is set for what lawyers predict will be a long appeals process, one they hope will end with the state's highest criminal appeals court invalidating the law as an infringement on privacy as protected by Texas Constitution.

The arrests in some ways delighted gay activists. They said the case not only provides a long-awaited legal platform to challenge the Texas law, but also has a public-awareness benefit, offering facts that underscore their warnings about privacy.

Philadelphia Crime Statistics Under Attack by Chief, Reno

By Debbie Goldberg

THE WASHINGTON POST

PHILADELPHIA

When John F. Timoney took over the Philadelphia police department last March, he preached the importance of timely, accurate crime data as an effective tool for fighting crime and managing the force.

Since then, Timoney has withdrawn and recalculated Philadelphia's 1997 crime data submitted to the FBI and withheld figures for the first half of 1998 because of what he described as widespread inaccuracies and discrepancies.

Now, the new chief imported from New York is trying to eliminate what police and politicians here say is a long-standing practice of

downgrading major crimes to less serious categories that are not included in the federal crime statistics.

Recent audits of police records for 1997 and 1998 have uncovered thousands of major crimes either downgraded to less serious categories or dropped from the logs.

The result has been a rosier picture of Philadelphia crime rates than reality dictates, at a time when many cities are under strong public pressure to make the streets safer.

Misreporting crime data is an issue raised in several cities in recent years. Attorney General Janet Reno said two weeks ago that her office will review crime data submitted to the FBI by Philadelphia and Boca Raton, Fla., said Justice Department spokesman Gregory

King. "It's been an accepted practice over a long period of time," said a 25-year Philadelphia police veteran who spoke on condition of anonymity.

There's pressure to keep crime statistics down, and captains are held responsible for what goes on in their districts.

A typical example is a stolen license plate — a crime that should be reported to the FBI — logged as missing property because, he said, "it could have fallen off the car." Or when someone stabbed by a family member or friend does not prosecute, the crime may be downgraded from aggravated assault to a hospital case, which also is excluded from federal crime statistics, he said.

WEATHER

A Weather Oddity

By Greg Lawson
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Hurricane season officially ended yesterday with a rare late season hurricane far out over the Atlantic. Hurricane Nicole surprised most forecasters when she became a hurricane on the 29th. If she was still a hurricane at midnight (last night), then she is the first December hurricane since Lili back in 1984. Nicole will not affect us here in any way.

However, we do continue to witness some rare weather events on our own here as well, namely the continuation of these unseasonably mild temperatures. The last two days have had highs and lows more than 10°F higher than climatology. The mild weather here in the East can be explained by the persistent zonal (purely west-east motion) jet stream which has been piping-in mild Pacific maritime air and disallowing the typical intrusion of cold arctic air from Canada. It is more difficult to explain why there has been a persistent zonal jet. We are currently in a pretty solid, albeit relatively weak, La Niña stage. If we place any faith in statistics and correlations we should be in for a pretty nasty winter.

After spending a wonderfully mild night last night in the warm sector of the storm passing to our north, we got hit by the cold front this morning. Luckily, the fairly heavy rain which had been associated with this cold front back when it was over the Midwest has dissipated and we will only receive a few sprinkles this morning, if anything at all. The temperature today will reach 60°F in the early afternoon and then begin to drop as the cold front ushers in cooler air. Still, the highs should stay in the upper 50s for the rest of the week. The clouds will begin clearing as a high pressure center nestles into the east and leaves us sometime late Wednesday night.

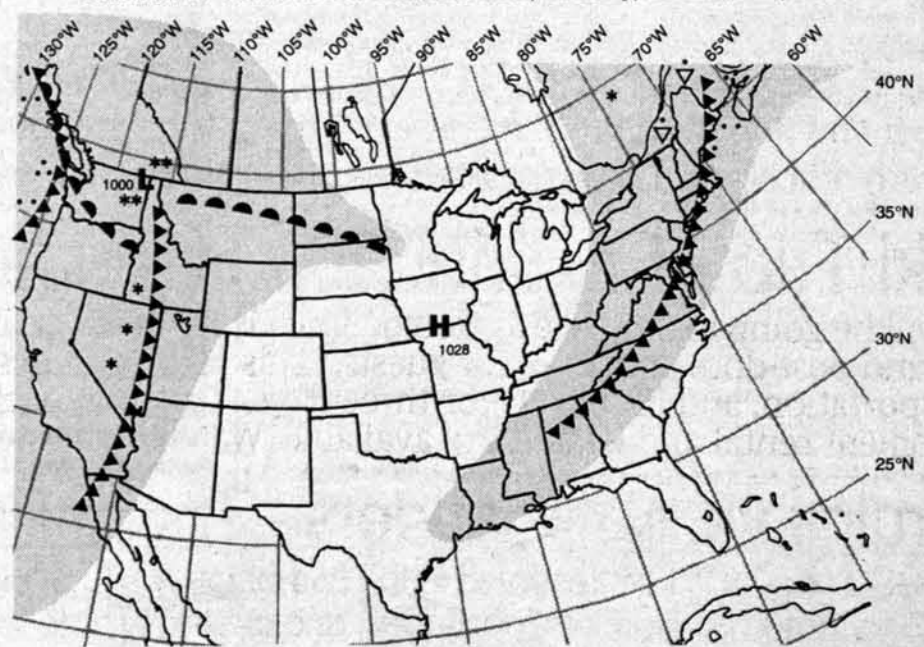
Today: Mild and windy as cold front passes. Drizzle possible in the morning. Westerly winds between 20 and 25 mph. High 60°F (16°C).

Tonight: Cooler. Winds weakening. Clouds begin to clear. Low 36°F (2°C).

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with mild temperatures in the afternoon. Light westerly wind. High 56°F (13°C). Low 42°F (6°C).

Thursday Outlook: More of the same, as for Friday too. Highs in the upper 50s (14-15°C). Lows in the lower 40s (4-6°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, December 1, 1998



| Weather Systems | Weather Fronts | Precipitation Symbols | Other Symbols |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| H High Pressure | - - - Trough | Snow | Fog |
| L Low Pressure | —•— Warm Front | Shower | Thunderstorm |
| § Hurricane | —▲— Cold Front | Light | Haze |
| | —▲▲— Occluded Front | Moderate | |
| | | Heavy | |

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Arctic Researchers Trapped By Blizzard, Still in Contact

By Kevin Sullivan and Mary Jordan
THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO

In a cold hut on a remote Russian island above the Arctic Circle, three men filming polar bears have been marooned in a blizzard for a month and a half, keeping in contact with colleagues in Tokyo and New Zealand by e-mail even as they are down to their last rations of food.

At least three helicopters are standing by in a port about 70 miles from Wrangel Island in the East Siberian Sea, but 21 hours of darkness each day and white-out blizzard conditions during the faint light has prevented rescue of the three — a Japanese producer and Australian cameraman and their Russian guide.

Monday in Moscow, diplomats from the nations involved were discussing the possibility of U.S. Coast

Guard aircraft from Alaska, some 600 miles to the east, dropping food near the hut because the men's supplies are nearly exhausted, according to their colleagues. The situation was described as "politically sensitive" because of concerns that Russia would be uncomfortable asking the United States for help with a rescue in Russian territory.

"We are begging the Russians to rescue them," said Yasuhiro Nagasaki, a Moscow-based correspondent for NHK, a Japanese television network whose producer is one of those stranded. "They're ready to fly, but the weather is the problem."

Russian military helicopters and others chartered by an insurance company hired by the film's producers have been standing by for weeks at Point Shmidta, a small settlement on the mainland across the ice pack from Wrangel Island, waiting for a break in the weather.

The filmmakers were working on a documentary on Asian wildlife co-produced by a New Zealand film company and NHK. The stranded men are producer Tatsuhiro Kobayashi, cameraman Rory McGuinness and a guide, Nikita Ovfyanikov. They are huddled together in a small research hut at Point Blossom, an inconspicuously named spit of iced-over tundra on the southwestern tip of the desolate island northwest of the Bering Strait.

The three men arrived on Wrangel in mid-September and were scheduled to stay until mid-October.

The men have been able to keep in touch through e-mail sent through a battery-powered satellite phone, as well as by a few telephone calls. Correspondence is kept to a bare minimum because "batteries are a huge problem."

AIDS Might Devastate Southern Africa, a Pair of New Reports Say

By Dean E. Murphy
LOS ANGELES TIMES

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Two startling reports on AIDS show the disease is spreading so rapidly in South Africa that it threatens to perpetuate the ills of apartheid by crippling the economy and devastating families for decades to come.

Released to coincide with Tuesday's World AIDS Day, the reports say that while the AIDS epidemic was slow in coming to South Africa and its neighbors, it now has arrived with a vengeance. The region has become the hardest-hit in the world. One in 10 people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus worldwide lives in South Africa.

"Some of the advances made by the new South African democracy

will be reversed unless we act now," said J. David Whaley, the United Nations' resident coordinator in South Africa.

The U.N. officials who authored one of the two reports released Monday in South Africa, have chosen to focus World AIDS Day for the first time on southern Africa, because of what they characterize as an "unprecedented emergency" only fully recognized in the past year.

On average, one person is infected with HIV every minute in South Africa, according to data compiled by the U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS, or UNAIDS. If the trend continues over the next decade, government officials here say, the average South African can expect to live just 40 years.

About 130,000 South Africans

have died so far this year from AIDS, according to the South African Department of Health. The number of deaths annually is projected to double over the next three years, and to exceed 500,000 by the year 2008, if current rates of infection continue.

The worst-affected countries in the world — Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe — are all neighbors of South Africa, and the U.N. says South Africa is catching up rapidly.

In the past year, according to one estimate, about 1.4 million people between the ages of 15 and 49 were infected in nine southern African countries. About half of the new infections were in South Africa. In all, more than 3.2 million people in South Africa are infected with HIV.

U.S. Lawyer Chides Microsoft's Ads on Antitrust Case

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The government's top lawyer in its antitrust case against Microsoft Corp. criticized the software giant on Monday for buying newspaper ads that attempted to undermine the government's case.

The advertisements, which filled nearly a full page in the Wall Street Journal and four other newspapers, continue a bid by Microsoft to try to capitalize on the purchase of Microsoft rival Netscape Communications Inc. by America Online Inc. for \$4.2 billion, a deal that Microsoft argues proves that the software industry remains highly competitive.

But lead government lawyer David Boies criticized the ads for focusing on competitive technology markets and ignoring issues pertinent to Microsoft's antitrust case. Those issues, he said, center on whether Microsoft's dominant Windows operating system is being used illegally to snuff out competition in Internet software and other emerging information technology markets.

"I looked in vain [in the ads] for any mention of the PC operating system, which is what this case is all about," Boies said.

Entitled "The March of the Marketplace," the ad says the AOL deal demonstrates that "the marketplace is brimming with innovations that move many times faster than government intervention ever could." Such developments, Microsoft added, are "good for consumers — and it's good for us, because it keeps us on our toes. We think winners ought to be decided by you — the consumers in the marketplace — not by armies of lawyers in the courtroom."

High Court May Pass Ruling on 'Political' Census Dispute

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Someone has to decide, and soon, how the next census will be conducted, but the justices of the Supreme Court hinted Monday the decision is not theirs to make.

"This is a political dispute, and you want us to resolve it," Justice Antonin Scalia told a lawyer for the House Republicans, who went to court earlier this year to challenge the Clinton administration's plan to use statistical sampling in the next census.

Though the Republicans won in two lower courts, the high court justices — including the most conservative of them — said Monday they are wary of using lawsuits to decide abstract or inherently political questions.

"I don't like injecting us into a battle between the political branches," Scalia said during Monday's oral argument.

Justice Anthony Kennedy agreed, commenting it "destroys all discipline" in the political system if the losing side can go to court to reverse the outcome.

The comments and questions Monday put in doubt whether the court will rule squarely on the census sampling issue. The sampling plan calls for enumerators to revisit about one percent of the nation's population after census takers have made an initial count.

If the justices throw out the lawsuits challenging the administration's sampling plan, the matter will go back to Capitol Hill. There, the Republicans could refuse to fund the census next year if it includes sampling.



Graduate Student Council

OFFICE: Walker Memorial, 50-220 PHONE: 253-2195

EMAIL: gsc-request@mit.edu WEBSITE: www.mit.edu/activities/gsc

GSC Holiday Social - Fri, Dec. 4

Come celebrate the holidays with the GSC on Friday, Dec. 4 at 5:30 PM in the GSC lounge (50-220). Come and relax with friends, take a break from the end of the term work crunch, and enjoy some holiday punch (and other festive beverages and snacks) and stimulating conversation. Proper ID is required.

Ice Skating Party - Fri, Dec. 11

Even if you don't want to skate, stop by the Johnson lobby to socialize with other graduate students. Cocoa and cider will be served.

Ski Trip - Fri, Jan. 29 - Sun, Jan. 31

We will be going to Smuggler's Notch. Price is \$140 for graduate students and post-docs and \$150 for guests. This price includes lodging, transportation, and lift tickets for three days. Discount packages for equipment rental and lessons are available. Watch for posters.

Bruins vs. NY Islanders - Thurs, Feb. 4

The GSC has 30 tickets reserved in the mid-balcony section. The price is \$25 for graduate students, post-docs, and guests. This price includes a coupon for a hot dog and soda at the concession stand.

Spring Welcome Social, Feb. 4, 5:30 - 7 PM, 50-220

Come meet other graduate students and enjoy free food and drink. Proper ID is required.



Calendar

► DECEMBER

- 01 - Muddy Charles meeting 5:30 PM, Muddy
- 02 - General Council Meeting *
- 04 - GSC Holiday Social, 5:30 - 7 PM, 50-220
- Nutcracker Performance, 7:30 PM, Wang
- 11 - Ice Skating Party, Johnson

► JANUARY

- 05 - Activities committee meeting *
- 29 - 31 - Smuggler's Notch Ski Trip

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

Graduate Student News

The GSN is now available on the GSC bulletin board in the Infinite Corridor and at 50-220.

OPINION

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Parallels Between High-Class Institutions

Once upon a time, a large and well respected school became the focus of national attention because of something that was happening in its students' living groups. Although the underlying trend was an issue in many American institutions, the good reputation of this particular school made it an especial target for embarrassing reports in the press. The school's administrators were torn. They wanted to seem responsive to the problem, but, in order to avoid more embarrassment, they didn't want to mention the problem by name.

Instead, administrators framed the issue as a lack of student community. To develop the missing sense of community, they said they'd have to bar freshmen from small living groups. To students, this decision seemed backward because it destroyed exactly the situation that the school was trying to foster. Students continually created and renewed their own communities around their living groups, and the administrators' proposal would replace those genuine commitments with some pre-packaged and ineffective notion of school spirit. The school, students said, needed to stop being a slave to the media and to recognize the value of student-led communities. Sound familiar?

All of this happened at Cornell University from 1992 to 1997. After several years of discussion and debate, we at Cornell were able to find a consensus that preserved freshman housing choice and student-led residential communities while addressing the underlying issue. At Cornell the ugly issue was race; at MIT it's alcohol. The dynamics are largely the same. At Cornell, many of the small living groups affected by the ban had nothing to do with the complaints of racial self-segregation and, in fact, were some of the most racially balanced and tolerant houses on campus. At MIT, many of the fraternities, sororities and independent living groups affected by the freshman-housing decision have little or nothing to do with alcohol.

At both institutions, small, cohesive living groups provide a place to come home to. Without this support, first-year students can be overwhelmed by institutions that are large and often impersonal. Following the death of Scott S. Krueger '01, MIT began a process of public discussion akin to the one at Cornell. This discussion was short-circuited, though, by an executive decision that was made under great public and legal pressures.

There may be a way for MIT to reverse the internal damage done by this unilateral decision without losing face in the public spotlight. Doing so, though, requires that we not shrink from using the word "alcohol." During the past fifteen years there's been a shift in American society away from 1960's legacy of freedom with responsibility. In the early 1980's, students

experimented with alcohol in high school; now, with a higher drinking age and less tolerance of teenage drinking, many have not yet passed through this stage by the time they begin college. In such an environment, the availability of alcohol magnifies all the problems of becoming a young adult.

At MIT, then, the obvious solution seems not to ban freshmen from staying at FSILGs but rather to ban alcohol in FSILGs, and to develop an aggressive program of alcohol education. Such a move would remove the immediate problem and give us all time to replace crisis management with long-term planning and dialogue. It may seem unjust to the majority of MIT students who use alcohol responsibly, but the situation requires some concessions on all sides. Most MIT students will recognize that good times depend much more on good friends than on good beer.

Matthew Belmonte

Letter for Taiwan's Independence Arrogant

As Chinese-Americans, we would readily admit that the Chinese government has made many mistakes with regards to human rights and its threats to Taiwan. However, we are appalled by the statements made in the Nov. 24 letter titled "Chinese Belligerence Toward Taiwan." While we do not wish to address whether or not Taiwan is entitled to independence, we feel that the authors of the article have done so in an arrogant manner. The authors have played up Taiwan's power in suggesting that Taiwan's independence goals are of greater importance than those of the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy demonstrators.

The authors say that Taiwan is entitled to independence very largely in part due to its economic weight in the world market. They then claim that, because of this influence, China should be wary of the negative reactions of capitalist countries if it were to interfere with Taiwan's independence goals. However, economics is not a major determinant of independence. If it were, then Taiwan would have been more widely recognized as a sovereign state. In making their argument, the authors make it sound as if Taiwan's economic status exceeds that of China's in the eyes of the world, to the point that the international politics have swung in their favor.

The article cites the divergence in political views between Taiwan and China as an important cause for independence. It is true that Taiwan's democratic government conflicts with China's communist ideology. However, how can a nation in which members of its main governing body regularly break out into fights of hair-pulling and shoe-throwing possibly claim to be of fit democratic governance, more or less act as a "powerful model and catalyst for the democratic transformation of China?"

The concluding statement of the article, "The leaders of the Chinese government should be reminded that an invasion of its democratic neighbor, Taiwan, would wreck relations with capitalist Asia and the West, far more than the killing of the pro-democracy demonstra-

tions in 1989 ever did," is the offense that we find most unforgivable. How can the authors show such arrogance as to emphasize Taiwan's power by downplaying the tragedy that was inflicted on students who were fighting for the one thing that they claimed Taiwanese independence would represent: Democracy? Could the authors not have conveyed a similar message without trying to elevate their own plight above those who died for the same goals?

The authors should apologize to the Chinese community for their lack of responsibility in suggesting that their independence is more valuable than the lives of the Chinese Tiananmen demonstrators. They should also express the same sentiment to the MIT Taiwanese community for having misrepresented it with their offensive words.

Adelaide X. Zhang '99

Hua-yin Yu '00

Asylum for Saddam

Saddam Hussein should be offered asylum in another country and full amnesty for his crimes. There, I've said my case. Does it sound so unreasonable?

Well, let's see. Saddam has already done so many gruesome things to stay in office that, if he resigned and stayed in Iraq, he would not survive a day. No doubt he remembers what happened to one of his predecessors: That guy was dragged from a car through Baghdad and cut to pieces by the mob that followed it. Years ago, Saddam looked like he could be a player in the Middle East. Now he's the tyrant of a heap of rubble, and he will either die painfully in a coup or stay in power long enough to die in his bed.

So, it's time to develop a third option. One night, the Iraqi people go to bed. Come morning, they will find out that Saddam has left the country, and they are now under the rule of a dissident coalition in preparation for an election. For Saddam, the perks will be a pension from his current assets, a house somewhere, and being surrounded by masses of people who are merely indifferent to him. He won't like being put out to pasture, but, on the other hand, Saddam's ambitions of leading the Arab world are gone now.

Does it sound obscene, to let a man who gassed his own villages skate like this? Welcome to the Middle East. Saddam's neighbor, Assad, shelled one of his own cities into oblivion. A few weeks ago he got a state visit to France, with full honors. It's better to let Saddam skate for his crimes than have him commit even more. Apropos France, nine out of ten ousted tyrants prefer the French Riviera to the leading retirement spot.

Does it sound crazy? Well, at this point, the sanctions are crazier. The United States has openly stated that it wants Saddam ousted. "Ousted" is a euphemism for something much nastier in Iraq, so we can expect Saddam to continue his cat and mouse game with the inspectors. The sanctions are no longer helping with the situation. Saddam has already shown that he doesn't care if his people starve. Since he is devoting what resources he has to his weapons, the United States can only slow his weapons program using the sanctions, not stop him.

In the meantime, Iraq is becoming a concentrated version of everything that makes the Middle East such a miserable place. There's the bloodthirsty tyrant, the censorship machine, the scapegoating of various ethnic groups to deflect attention, there are bizarre conspiracy theories circulating all the time (starring you-know-who), there's poverty, misery, and the water is bad enough to pick people off randomly. This toxic cauldron is bound to spill at some point. A quiet departure on Saddam's part would be a much more hopeful way to resolve this crisis.

Omri Schwarz G



Opinion Policy

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Settling the Other Holocaust

Elaine Wan

During Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to Japan, many historical issues have resurfaced in the Pacific. Jiang's trip is the first time a Chinese head of state has visited Japan since World War II. In his trip to the rural north of Japan this week, Jiang encouraged the Japanese to remind their youth of the pain inflicted upon the Chinese in the Holocaust of Asia during World War II. His speech, however, was answered with anti-Chinese slogans and shouts to kick him off Japanese soil.

About sixty years ago, our world was plagued by massive genocide in an event we now learn in school as the Holocaust. Jews were widely persecuted in Europe, and across the Pacific the Chinese were similarly slaughtered in concentration camps. After the war, Germany offered the Jewish community a public apology. And last June the Swiss Bank offered a settlement totaling \$1 billion to compensate for the losses of Holocaust victims when banks failed to return their assets after World War II. Hatred and violence towards certain ethnic groups still exist, but, by promoting cultural diversity, society has been able to make some amends.

Chinese and Japanese relations, however, still suffer from grudges that have remained in the two cultures for the last six decades. Although Germany has offered compensation for its acts during World War II, Japan still refuses to offer a full written apology to the descendants of the hundreds of thousands of

Chinese massacred in six weeks by Japanese troops in the Rape of Nanking in 1937. There are few textbooks or documentaries that actually expose the horrors of the war on Chinese soil. Until recently, the legacy of World War II had been silently passed from generation to generation and talked of as a painful past that should not be made known publicly. Many people did not realize that exposing the wounds of the past can also help heal them.

Many Chinese women known as "comfort women," who were forced into prostitution by the Japanese, are now beginning to tell their stories because for years they had thought it would be shameful for their family. Chinese textbooks accounting the wartime massacre have often been denounced by the Japanese as one-sided and inaccurate. The Rape of Nanking is rarely studied or even noted in world history. Some Chinese scholars are themselves reluctant to study this historical event, because it also brings focus to China's civil war and disunity, which allowed the barbarity of Japan in the war to escape scrutiny.

The issue of Japanese war crimes has disappeared from the world's agenda. China alone has been left to press Japan for an apology, but some Chinese politicians have not encouraged public discussion or historical analysis of the war. They are concerned that they will tarnish relations with Japan, an important trading partner. News broadcasters like CNN side with Japan and criticize China for "playing on Japan's war guilt to secure soft loans and investment." If Japan has not made any financial or any outright compensation to date, how are the Chinese supposed to

retrieve their losses? Are the Chinese supposed to keep silent, as they have done so for all these years? Tensions between the Chinese and Japanese will be left unresolved and will continue to increase.

Jiang's tour of Japan included a visit to the northern city of Sendai, where the revered Chinese revolutionary author, Lu Xun, studied under the Japanese mentor Genkuro Fujino in 1906. There were many Japanese protesters shouting anti-Chinese slogans during Jiang's speech. The relationship between Lu Xun and his Japanese mentor is analogous to a relationship that may possibly happen between China and Japan. These two nations can possibly learn from each other, trade, and exchange ideas, as they once did during the Tang dynasty.

Relations between China and Japan have not been well since World War II. In the midst of the unstable Asian economic market, strife between the two nations has become more tense. A written apology from Japan is needed in order for history to finally be properly settled, for mutual strife to be resolved, and for the new generation of Chinese and Japanese to start a new relationship.

Many issues are currently plaguing China, including campaigns to end China's jurisdiction over Taiwan and Tibet. Chinese unity is needed to procure any statement of regret from the Japanese for their actions in Nanking. Although the Chinese disagree on China's political direction, the Chinese should unite to show that they can come together and make known forcefully all the pain and violence that was brought upon them.

Fight for Right Not Over Yet

Guest Column
Aram W. Harrow

In his Nov. 17 column entitled "Moving Beyond the Housing Decision," Pavan K. Auluck '97 argues that "griping about matters that [we] can't change" is a waste of time because MIT cannot afford to turn back time. Rescinding President Charles M. Vest's decision will result only in lawsuits and bad press claiming that MIT is not correcting its perceived alcohol problem. Perceptions are impossible to argue against.

This argument echoes a long line of similar half-hearted claims that began only days after Vest ambushed students with his surprise announcement a few days before rush. These claims rest on two key assumptions: MIT's legal liability and the public relations advantages of symbolic action against the fraternity menace.

While perhaps "perceptions are impossible to argue against," unsupported legal arguments are not. While trying to decide what charges to pursue, Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph C. Martin II said that charging MIT with involuntary manslaughter was a possibility; he was referring to the 1944 *Coconut Grove* case in which a property owner was convicted when hundreds of customers died in a fire in his building. Martin, however, never brought that claim to court.

The unstated reason is that far more specific and recent court rulings have exempted universities from liability for their students' extracurricular actions off campus.

This wasn't always the case. In the 1913 case of *Gott v. Berea College*, the court upheld a school policy prohibiting students from attending local bars based on the newly applied doctrine of *in loco parentis*. This meant that colleges stood *in loco parentis* to students; colleges had all the rights and responsibilities of parents.

In the 1970's, this policy began to change. The 26th Amendment went into effect in 1971, lowering the voting age to 18 and legally defining most college students as adults. Subsequent court cases began changing the university's role towards students; instead of a parental relationship, the university was defined to have an "arms-length" relationship with students.

Bradshaw v. Rawlings is the precedent which governs current law on the subject. Returning from an off-campus sophomore-class picnic, Bradshaw was injured in a car crash in which the driver drank college-purchased beer. Bradshaw won over \$1 million in a lower court, but the Third Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision in 1989. Declaring *in loco parentis* dead, the court wrote: "Our beginning point is a recognition that the modern American college is not an insurer of the safety of its students. Whatever may have been its responsibility in an earlier era, the authoritarian role of today's college

administrations has been notably diluted in recent decades. Trustees, administrators, and faculties have been required to yield to the expanding rights and privileges of their students."

Of course, *in loco parentis* isn't the only ground for establishing the legally necessary "duty of care." Students have three other possible grounds for suit: claiming a "special relationship" between the university and student, that colleges assume a duty because of their regulation or control of an activity, or that colleges have a duty to protect students on their property.

The *Bradshaw* decision, however, denies all of these grounds for suit as well. It refutes the special-relationship claim along with *in loco parentis* and holds that any "assumed duty" must be explicitly assumed by the university. In the Phi Gamma Delta example, MIT must have guaranteed a hazing-free environment. Finally, in both *Bradshaw* and any possible suit against MIT, the harm didn't occur on the school's property.

Recently there have been claims of college liability re-emerging. In 1991, *Furek v. University of Delaware* found the university liable for injuries caused by fraternity hazing. The ruling found precedent in *Mullins v. Pine Manor College*, in which a college was found liable for failing to provide adequate security to a student who was assaulted in a dorm. On inspection, however, these precedents wouldn't apply to the Krueger case.

The *Mullins* case was based on the guarantee of security implicit in the arrangement to house students in a dorm owned and operated by the university. Calling fraternities "approved freshman housing" doesn't imply the same guarantee of security.

In *Furek*, the fraternity was on campus, regulated by a well-publicized anti-hazing policy and under the supervision of campus police. In fact, *Furek* was stopped by campus police the night before "Hell Week" along with several other pledges because they were sneaking around wearing black. They were sent on their way after telling the police that they were just doing a raid on the Sigma Phi Epsilon house as a pledge activity. The court found the university liable both because it policed and regulated the fraternity and because the fraternity was on university property, neither of which are reasons that would apply to MIT.

When the *Furek* decision referred to *Mullins*, the court wrote that "[t]he ... duty resulted from the recognition of the unique situation created by the concentration of young people on a college campus and the ability of the university to protect its students." The relevant laws are sections 314A and 323 of the Second Restatement of Torts. Section 314A says that property ownership confers liability and Section 323 says that rendering necessary protective services confers liability. Both conditions clearly do not apply to MIT fraternities. Moreover, *Furek* and the single other case decided on its precedent (*Marshall v. University of Delaware*) have not

set any trend; the general rule is still to find no university duty of care.

MIT has little to fear, either from the Krueger case or any potential future lawsuit. As long as fraternities aren't on land owned by the Institute and, perversely, as long as MIT continues to turn a blind eye to hazing, then it has little to fear. The DA's unwillingness to prosecute MIT for Krueger's death, even given evidence of the Institute's inaction on prior hazing, is a good sign that the law attempts only to punish people who commit crimes, not people who fail to stop them.

The other advantage claimed is that MIT's image and reputation will improve. The argument goes that symbolic action is what's necessary, since the goal is more to show that problems are being addressed than to really address them. Unfortunately, this assumes that the action is *only* symbolic.

The most likely effect will be drastic changes in large parts of the MIT environment. Fraternities will evolve into the sort that haze and drink more, private dorm parties at MIT and other schools will replicate the old fraternity parties except for fraternity risk management, dorm rush will likely disappear, and all students will be more likely to live in a places that they're unhappy with and that offer less emotional support.

The question becomes, then, whether the myriad problems created by MIT's goal of change at any cost will be more concealable than the old ones. This seems unlikely for a few reasons. First, while alcohol and fraternities are always popular media targets, suicides and depression at MIT have been popular targets in the past. The success of the freshman year pass-fail system is a good indicator that qualitative improvements in student happiness translate into quantitative reductions in such measurable and publicizable areas as suicide and depression rates. Likewise, MIT shouldn't hope that a decline in students' happiness and well-being will go unnoticed by the ranks of prospective students and their parents. Moreover, most *status quo* negative publicity is based on MIT alcohol use, not just fraternity drinking. It should be obvious that failing to reduce binge drinking or, worse, increasing the problem, will not reflect well on MIT's image. Parents usually aren't impressed by strong anti-fraternity measures in schools where drinking is high.

The housing decision is not historic trivia; it should not be seen as something that we are locked into. If we, as a student body, favor our current form of housing, then we should continue to fight tooth and nail to preserve the right of choice for future MIT classes. It is important to remember that MIT could, if it chose, restore the old system with only a minor and short-term loss of face. We should never give up hope that we can convince them to do so, for only then will it truly become too late to turn back.

Aram W. Harrow is a member of the class of 2001.

Ain't He A Playa?

Naveen Sunkavally

What happens when today's leading cultural icons are crossed with a substantive topic worthy of discussion?



The topic usually gets run into the ground. *Rolling Stone* magazine — admittedly not the usual place to find anything worthy of true thought — recently ran a series of conversations (Nov. 12) with leading cultural icons concerning the presidential sex scandal, of what is sym-

bolizes in our country and portends. The results were both hilarious and disturbing.

Consider rapper DMX: "He's a dog, man. Men are dogs... He's doing his job. Whether he gets impeached should be determined by that, not where his dick is at."

Or how about Bob Weir, who had the gall to say, "The religious right took the Paula Jones case and fanned it into a flame. That girl looks like a dachshund... She wasn't the kind of class trash that I think the president (even if he was libido-crazed) would have considered." (Dogs are a familiar theme for these cultural icons.)

And Marilyn Manson: "I don't think he deserves to be impeached; but if he does get impeached, he always has a job with me. He can be my tour manager, test-drive the girls for me."

Or another rapper, Noreaga: "Clinton's my fuckin' man — he's crazy. He's a dog, and he does his job — for real... Your wife can't give you head while you're on the job, 'cause that's your wife, ya smell me."

Oh yeah, I smell ya, man.

Surprisingly, these were the better of the statements put forth by our cultural icons. When people actually tried to say something substantive, rather than merely make offensive jokes — that's when the apathy really seeped through.

"I'm deeply suspicious of all politicians, anyway. I don't look to them for moral leadership," says Shirley Manson, lead singer of Garbage. Or how about singer Peter Gabriel, who says, "I don't think one should look to the president for spiritual leadership. It's a great bonus if you get it, but the role of the president is to be the servant of the people."

By far, this sentiment prevailed in all those who weighed in — from Stephen Stills and Melissa Etheridge to John Lee Hooker and Fat Joe — that as long as the economy is doing well, the public should be content. Clinton, most people thought, was merely guilty of a "lapse in judgement," as Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio and actress Susan Sarandon both put it. Rapper and actor Will Smith puts it more clearly: "I don't think the presidents' personal lives are any of our business. I look at Bill Clinton the way I look at Bill Gates: As long as my stock goes up, I don't care what Bill Clinton does..."

Who, then, bears the responsibility for carrying the moral leadership of America? Certainly not Bob Weir or Marilyn Manson. If the president is not responsible for carrying the moral torch — if his only role is that of a chief executive officer, like Bill Gates, to whom do we turn? How can our parents tell their children that honesty is a virtue when the chief representatives of our culture condone lying to the point that they expect lying from politicians.

Is lying even a bad thing in the first place? Our generation's moral values are almost antimoral in some sense. There are no such things as morals, and, even if there are, who's to say that your morals are better than my morals?

Unfortunately, while such a philosophy is fashionable these days and philosophically irrefutable, adopting it as a norm would spell chaos for any country. Somewhere, there must be a line. For example, if the president can commit perjury, can the president also shoplift? "Oh, come on, man, he only stole a fuckin' Now and Later; he was hungry as hell, ya know what I mean."

And if he can shoplift, can he also expose himself indecently and masturbate at a public theatre, as Pee Wee Herman did some years ago? "Oh, come on, man, it was really steaming in there. He's a fuckin' dog. Oh yeah, check out that economy." And if these crimes are acceptable, are the crimes of Nixon such a far stretch away?

For the sake of the nation and international relations, the president has a responsibility to uphold the morals of the country. Perjury, whatever the circumstances, is a crime, and rationalizing the president's conduct in the light of his performance elsewhere does not mitigate the severity of his crime. Ya smell me, man?

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UA Approves Substance-Free Housing Resolution

By Kevin R. Lang
STAFF REPORTER

At the final Undergraduate Association Council meeting of the fall term Monday night, the UA narrowly passed a resolution recommending that dormitories and living groups consider allowing students to decide if they want substance-free housing.

The original resolution, submitted by Interfraternity Council Public Relations Chair Christopher R. Rezek '99, had been tabled at an

earlier meeting.

"There was overwhelming opposition to the idea of making the new dorm substance-free," said UA Floor Leader Ryan K. Pierce '99. Once the motion was tabled, Rezek removed the resolution for revision by several UA committee chairs, himself, and a number of fraternity presidents.

After a great deal of discussion at Monday's meeting, Pierce broke a 9-9 tie by voting in favor of the resolution. Pierce said that he

supported the resolution because it promotes choice. "I don't feel like people should be put in substance-free housing against their will."

Many oppose resolution

A number of students had concerns regarding the effectiveness and impact of the resolution. Edward A. Gordon '99 thought that such a resolution would not affect large events with alcohol. He added that setting aside substance-free housing promotes alcohol consumption

elsewhere. "Three-quarters of those people in dorms should not be using substances anyway," Gordon said.

UA Vice President Jennifer A. Kelly '00 opposed the resolution because MIT regulations prohibit students from drinking in common areas without registering the event. She thought that students already decide alcohol's role in their residence life.

Class of 2001 President Pamela Mukerji '01 recommended that the resolution be passed on to the Dormitory Council.

Rezek said that he was "surprised that the debate centered around the appropriateness of making a resolution that affects the entire student body."

Those in favor of the proposal praised the extent of student choice included in the resolution. UA Student Committee on Educational Policy Chair Jeremy D. Sher '99 thought that students could decide their living group's substance-free status on a yearly basis, so that each year, new residents would have input into the decision. "We're not looking at having an entire dorm do this," Sher said.

Finboard issues also discussed

The meeting's other major issue regarded potential changes to the UA Finance Board. Sher and UA Committee on Housing and Orientation Co-Chair Matthew L. McGann '00 want Finboard to change several of its practices that have been limited by funding in the past.

With Finboard's current allocation of \$194,000 per calendar year, Sher and McGann want Finboard to fund food at events and meetings, since "food attracts people to student-activity meetings, thereby strengthening activities," according to the proposal. In addition, they propose that the UA should recognize that many groups

depend on Finboard for all funding, and that self-sufficiency is often not practical. Another proposal calls for UA funding of class councils.

Perhaps the most significant proposed change regards reimbursements for student group funding. Currently, groups pay for expenses out-of-pocket, and later apply for reimbursement from the UA. Sher and McGann want the UA to directly fund events, thus allowing groups to schedule events they could not otherwise afford.

However, a number of concerns were raised regarding these proposals. Gordon noted that Finboard receives requests for expenses that groups know are not covered, and that without the current reimbursement process student groups might take advantage of UA funding.

UA Treasurer Edgar H. Martinez '00 noted that Finboard can't fund even half of the requests groups make, despite the increase in funding to almost \$200,000 this year.

A number of UA committees gave their final reports at Monday's meeting. The SCEP reported that it is currently concentrating on advising and a possible undergraduate majors guide. In addition, SCEP is considering a response to the report by the Presidential Task Force on Student Life and Learning. The committee is also looking for a new chair to replace Sher in the fall of 1999.

Leah S. Schmelzer '02, chair of the UA Committee on Student Life, discussed plans for confidential medical transport. However, the committee's original proposal contained legal difficulties which must be dealt with before the UA can vote on a proposal.

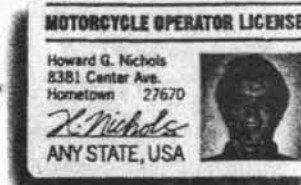
Attendance at the meeting was relatively low, with many dorms and several classes unrepresented. Also not in attendance was UA President Paul T. Oppold '99.



MICHELLE POVINELLI—THE TECH

Cindy Mower plays trombone in *A Triton Suite*, part of the MIT Brass Ensemble's concert Nov. 24 in Killian Hall.

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MIT Graduate Inspires Crowd with Life Experience



Actor, author, engineer, model, and all around renaissance man Steven Altes '84 spoke about his various careers in a talk sponsored by the class of 2001.

By **Rima A. Arnaout**
STAFF REPORTER

Continuing what hopes to be an annual tradition, the Class of 2001 sponsored its Thanksgiving event and desert buffet featuring author, aerospace engineer, and Brad Pitt stand-in Steven Altes '84.

Over 250 students showed up at the event held in Walker Memorial on Nov. 23.

The first Thanksgiving event last year featured *Chicago Tribune* columnist Mary Schmich. Schmich's column about graduating from college gained fame through the Internet for being passed on as a commencement speech to MIT graduates made by Kurt Vonnegut. Vonnegut has never spoken at an MIT commencement.

Altes' speech, entitled "Novaphilia," provided students with humorous advice about building a career — or lack thereof.

Altes learned "not to put all your career eggs in one basket" when he lost his dream job at the CIA after one day. The reason, he said, was classified information.

In his speech, he asked students not to take building their careers too seriously and used his life experiences to point to several theories on life:

The Spaghetti Theory: "If you throw enough spaghetti against the wall, some of it's bound to stick."

The Blackjack Theory: "Getting an MIT degree is a lot like being dealt a 17 in blackjack. ... The odds say 'stand.' But once in a while, defy chance and say 'hit me.'"

Risk is a Muscle Theory: "Risk is a muscle. And like a muscle it must be exercised or else it will atrophy."

Reactions to the speech varied from wholehearted admiration to skepticism. Aaron D. Valade '00 liked that Altes "has been able to do whatever he wanted to do."

Tatiana Usova G, however, wondered whether Altes is "worried to come to the end of his life without having mastered any one thing."

Altes' speech did make students think about what kind of a career they do want, whether it be mastery of one thing or trying a bit of everything.

The audience concluded the Thanksgiving event evening by reading *What is Success?* by Ralph Waldo Emerson as a group and writing down their thoughts about the evening and their futures.

The sophomore class council then collected the letters in order to return them to students next year, so that they will remember their lives as they were a year before.

One student who attended last year's Thanksgiving event, Aimee L. Wiltz '99, said that Schmich's and Altes' speeches "were both inspirational, but different."

Julia C. Parsons '01, publicity chair for the sophomore class council, said that this year's Thanksgiving event was more successful because "there was more of a variety of people who showed up this year." Last year, she said, most of the attendees had had a role in creating the event.

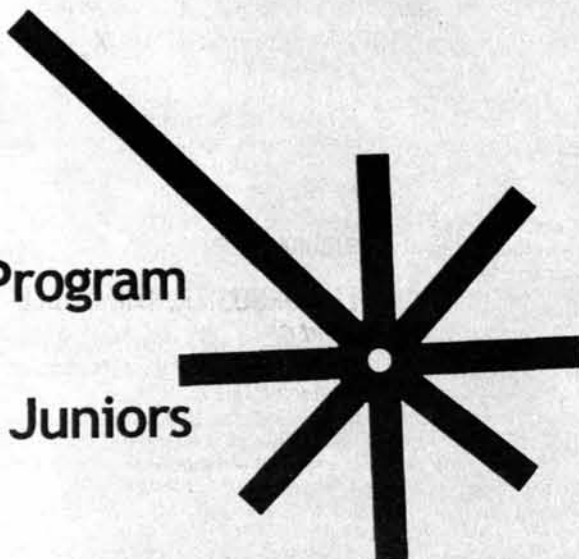
Altes has varied history

Altes, who holds a S.B. in Aeronautics and Astronautics and an M.S. in both Aero/Astro and Public Policy, received the National Medal of Technology from President Bush in 1991 for working on Orbital Corporation's Pegasus project to develop the world's first privately developed space launch vehicle.

Altes turned from engineering to acting, modeling, and writing humorous accounts of his adventures. Among these are scuba diving, meeting Cindy Crawford, and making it into cabbie lore by being the first MIT graduate who was turned down when he applied for a job as a taxi driver.

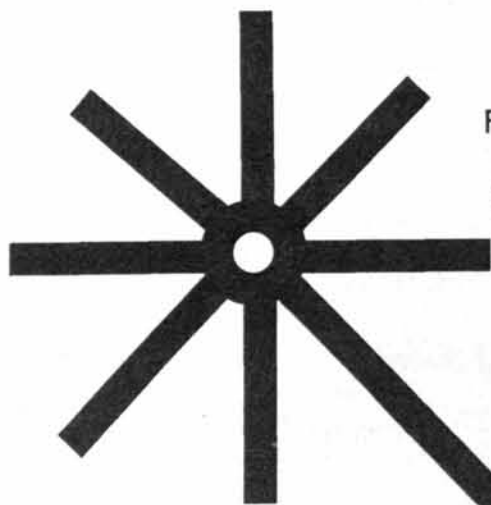
Currently, Altes is working on a Columbia Pictures film, *Random Hearts*, starring Harrison Ford and Kristin Scott Thomas. Altes will play David, Scott Thomas' brother in the film.

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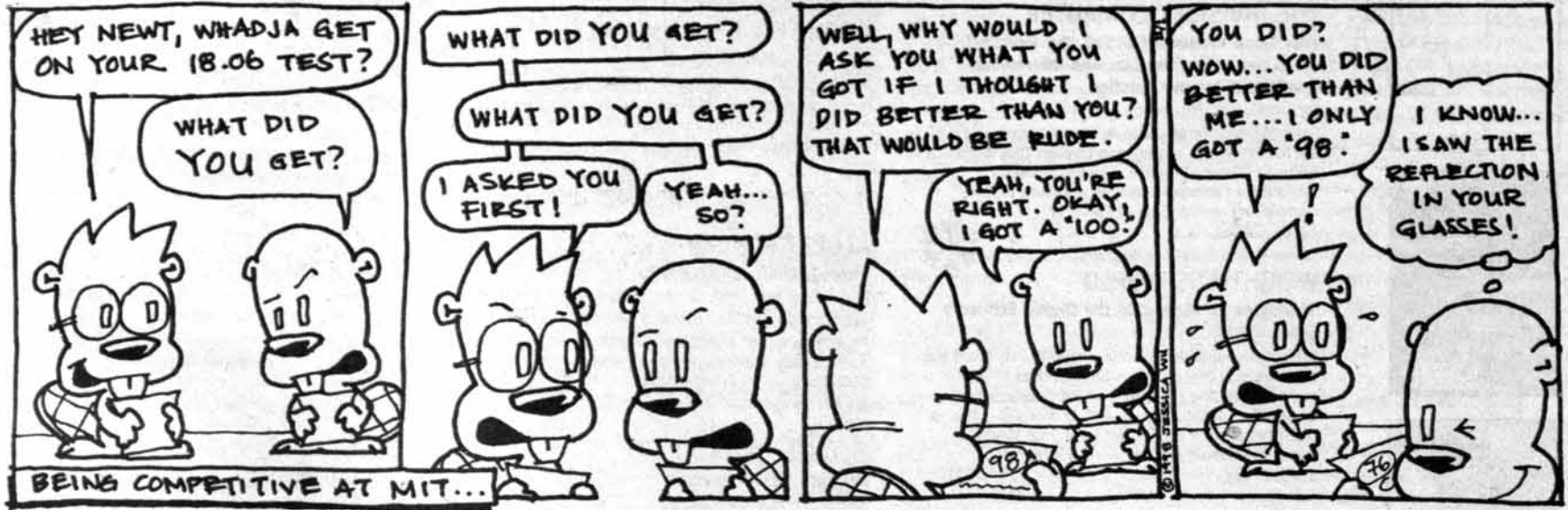
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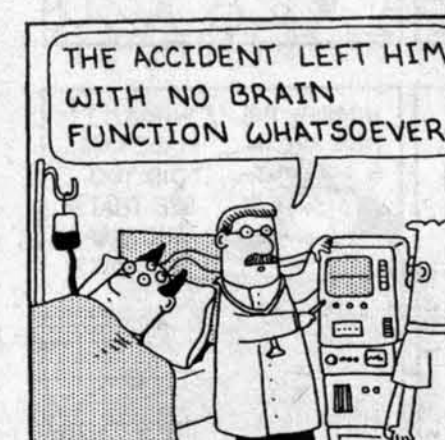
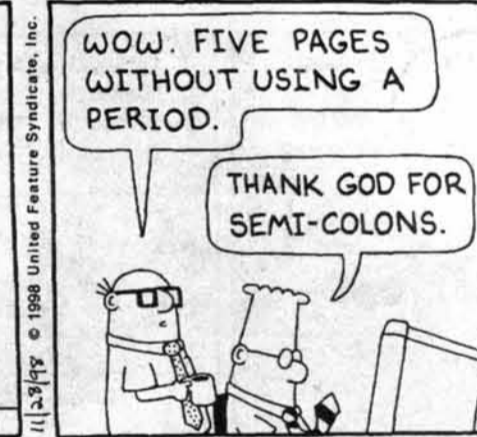
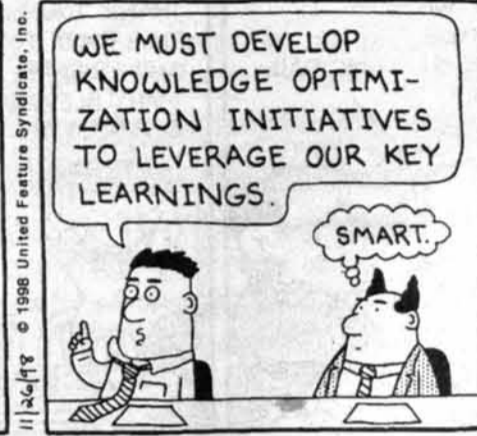
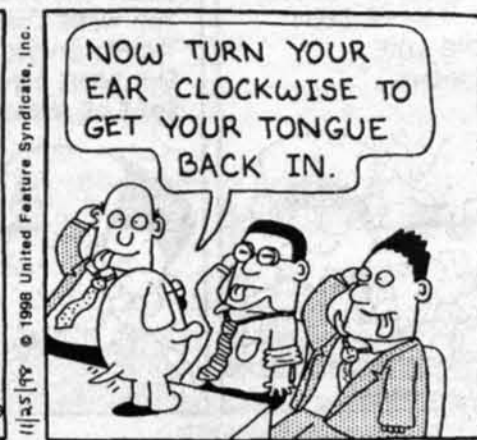
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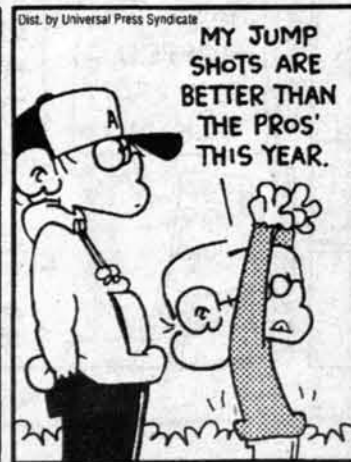
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by Bill Amend

Foxtrot



TechCalendar

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

Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

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

Wednesday's Events

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - **Foreign Languages & Literatures Open House.** All undergraduates are invited to come & meet faculty. Room 14E-304. Sponsor: Foreign Languages & Literatures.

7:10 p.m. - **LEM Service and Supper.** Eucharist in the Chapel followed by a free fellowship supper and discussion. MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

Thursday's Events

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. - **Health Care: An Outlook for 1999 and Beyond.** Former Mass. State Representative and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care John E. McDonough will speak about health care policy and his projections for the future of the health care system. Room 2-105. Sponsor: MIT Medical Congress.

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - **Gallery Talk: The Process of Art & Invention: There Are No Mistakes.** Artist-in-Residence Arthur Ganson discusses how the creative process balances the unlimited possibilities of the imagination and the limits imposed by the physical world. MIT Museum.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - **MIT \$50K Organizing Team Meeting.** Join the Organizing Team and help make the \$50K happen. Room E51-335. Sponsor: MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition.

8:00 p.m. - **What the Butler Saw.** Workshop production of Joe Orton's hilarious farce, directed by Richard Marcus, technical assistant, Theater Arts. Kresge Little Theater.

Friday's Events

3:00 p.m. - **The MIT Debate Tournament.** MIT's annual intercollegiate debate tournament. Judges wanted! No experience necessary. General Assembly at Room 6-120. Sponsor: Debate Team.

8:00 p.m. - **MIT Concert Band Concert.** Founded in 1948 and continuously conducted by John Corley, the group of students and alumni play original compositions for wind ensemble and annually commission and premiere new works. Kresge Auditorium.

8:00 p.m. - **What the Butler Saw.** Workshop production of Joe Orton's hilarious farce, directed by Richard Marcus, technical assistant, Theater Arts. Kresge Little Theater.

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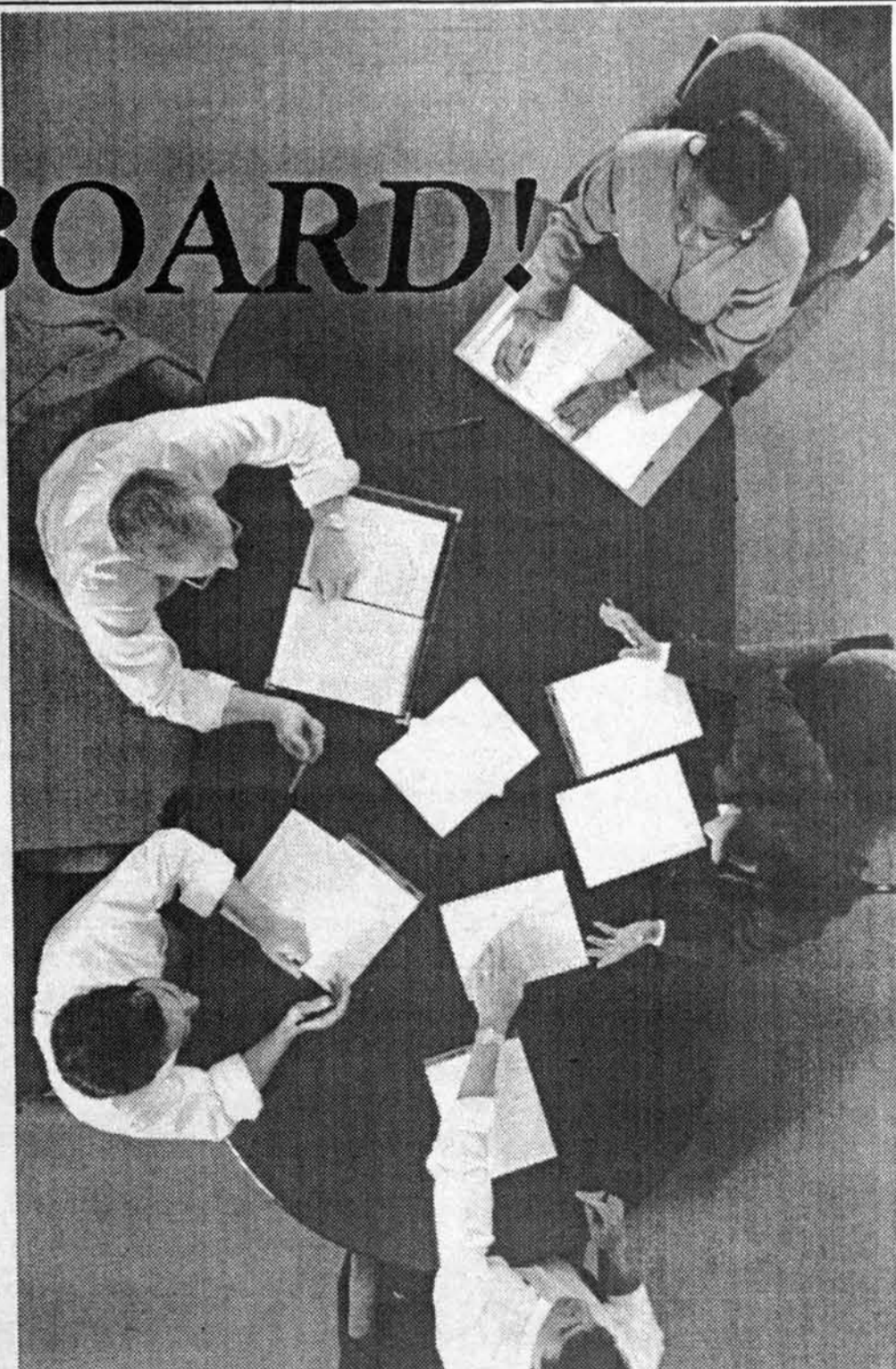
Applications are available at the Customer Service Desk of The M.I.T. Coop at Stratton or The M.I.T. Coop at Kendall or at the Member Services Office, 4th floor of The Coop's Harvard Square Bookstore.

Final date for return of application is 5:00 pm, Friday, December 11, 1998.

For additional information, contact

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Students' Aid Brings Back Charm School

Charm, from Page 1

IAP because the relaxed atmosphere allowed students to enjoy the charm school classes without too much stress, Merritt said.

Any member of the MIT community, faculty, staff, students, can teach a Charm School class. "Anyone can learn; anyone can teach", Merritt said.

Interest in Charm School faded

Last IAP, Charm School went "on sabbatical for a year," Merritt said. This was because two MIT staff members, Alberta Lipson and Roseanne Swire, had become over-

burdened with the logistical work for previous Charm Schools, he said. They did not have the time that was needed to organize Charm School last IAP, and there was no student interest in helping to plan Charm School.

Fortunately this year, Charm school is being brought back.

Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs Katherine A. O'Dair and Public Service Center Coordinator Monica Huggins have volunteered to bring back Charm School. They are co-organizing the Charm School Steering Committee that is composed of students and faculty.

"Wow! Did you just see that?"

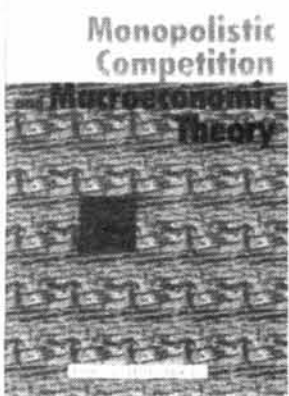
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ROBERT SOLOW



ROBERT SOLOW

Thursday, Dec. 3 6:30 pm
MIT 10-250

Robert Solow is widely regarded as one of the greatest living economists, and has conducted path-breaking work in both microeconomics and macroeconomics. He is the best-selling author of numerous publications, and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economic Science in 1987.

In *Monopolistic Competition and Macroeconomic Theory*, Professor Solow gives a nontechnical account of the implications of monopolistic competition on macroeconomic theory and shows that simple and tractable micro-based models can offer the possibility of a richer and more intuitive macroeconomics.

In *Work and Welfare* he directs his attention to one of today's most controversial social issues: how to get people off welfare and into jobs. With characteristic eloquence, wit, and rigor, Solow condemns the welfare reforms recently passed by Congress and President Clinton for confronting welfare recipients with an unworkable choice finding work in the current labor market or losing benefits. He argues that the only practical and fair way to move recipients to work is, in contrast, through an ambitious plan to guarantee that every able-bodied citizen has access to a job.

In *Inflation, Unemployment, and Monetary Policy*, Solow and John B. Taylor present their views on the dilemmas facing U.S. monetary policymakers. The aim of this lively exchange of views is to make both an intellectual contribution to macroeconomics and a practical contribution to the solution of a public policy question of central importance.

Monopolistic Competition and Macroeconomic Theory is published by Cambridge University Press, *Work and Welfare* is published by Princeton University Press, and *Inflation, Unemployment, and Monetary Policy* (with John B. Taylor) is published by The MIT Press.

Books are available at a discount the week of the event and autographed copies may be ordered in advance.

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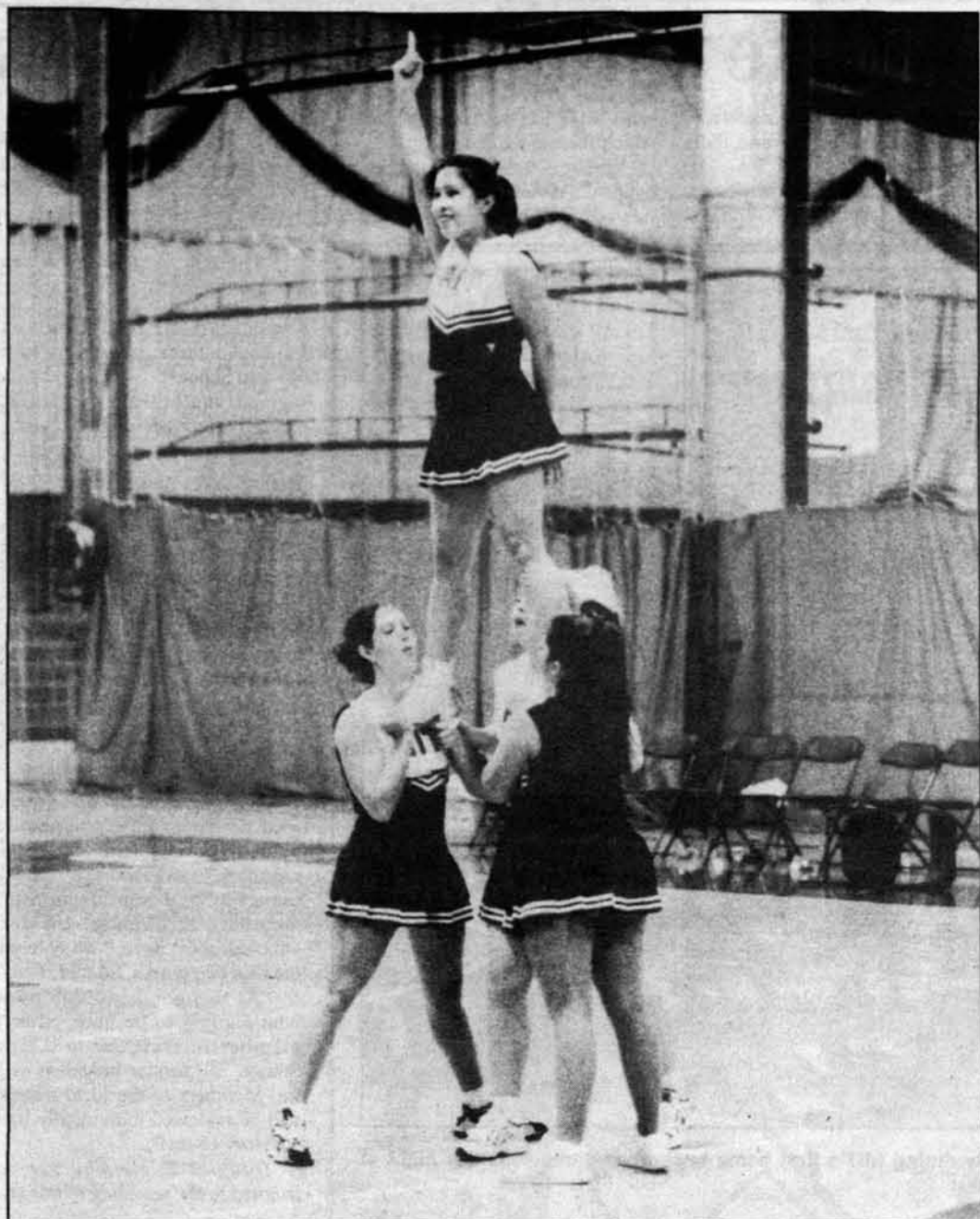
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THOMAS E. MURPHY—THE TECH

Tech Cheerleaders perform a stunt and rile the crowd during MIT's basketball game against the Tufts Jumbos.

POLICE LOG

The following incidents were reported to the Campus Police between Nov. 12 and Nov. 18. Information is compiled from the Campus Police's weekly crime summary and from dispatcher logs.

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

Nov 12: Harvard Bridge, assist State Police with motor vehicle accident, person trapped in vehicle; Delta Psi, report of eggs thrown at window; Bldg. E19, vending machine broken into; Bldg. E53, laptop computer stolen \$4,820; Bexley Alley, bike stolen \$105; Chi Phi, Boston, jacket stolen \$130; Student Ctr., homeless person sleeping in restroom; Memorial Dr., vehicle broken into; Baker, student problem.

Nov 13: Walker, suspicious activity; Delta Psi, egg thrown at window; Bldg. 33, suspicious mail; Student Ctr., terminated employee refusing to leave; Endicott Hse., credit card stolen; New House, party problem.

Nov 14: Amherst Alley, student assaulted by persons leaving New House, persons responsible identified, investigation continuing; Beacon and Charlesgate, Boston, SafeRide van involved in an accident; McDermott court, persons stopped for suspicious activity, same checked out okay; Mass. Ave, stolen vehicle struck MIT Police cruiser and fled scene. Operator later stopped and arrested for various charges.

Nov 15: McCormick, student problem; M37, person stuck inside elevator, extricated by elevator repair company; M62, report of gunshots; McCormick, annoying phone calls; Amherst Alley, noise complaints; Briggs Field, past assault and battery.

Nov 16: East Campus, malicious damage to art sculpture, \$10,000 damage; Bldg. N52, computer case stolen \$48; Student Ctr. 1) problem with former employee; 2) wallet stolen from Athena Cluster \$17; Bldg. NW14, computer stolen \$1,200; Bldg. 54, telephone stolen \$700; Main St. by Bldg. 68, suspicious activity; Cross St. by NW10, vehicle window smashed.

Nov 17: MacGregor, report of suspicious persons, checked out okay; Bldg. NW30, homeless persons; Student Ctr. person issued trespass warning; Westgate, noise complaint; Albany St. homeless person needing assistance; 33 Mass. Ave. bike rack, \$900 bike secured with cable stolen.

Nov 18: New House, report of food stolen, same resolved; Bldg. E23, computer stolen \$1,500; Broadway, assist Cambridge Police, report of person affiliated with MIT, had an egg thrown at him; Pacific St. homeless person in need of assistance; Next House, two students stopped for possession of marijuana.

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MIT Takes No Action In Wake of National Sanctions

Sig Ep, from Page 1

afford any type of incidents to show up, and I really felt disappointed."

Since the Nov. 21 vote, the MIT

administration has taken no action against the MIT chapter, although "we could still discuss it," said Rosalind H. Williams, dean of students and undergraduate education.

"At this point, our main concern is with the national action and their review," she said.

"National has done the functional equivalent of suspending," Williams

said. "MIT has not taken the action, which seemed redundant."

Williams indicated that after the national's review, MIT may take further action. "Our main concern is to

do what we can to help that process move forward," she said. "Whether or not we will take separate action will depend on what happens for that review. No decision has been made one way or the other."

"The actions of the national and the alumni seem entirely appropriate," said Andrew M. Eisenmann '70, associate dean for residence life and student life programs.

According to Duane H. Dreger '99, president of the Interfraternity Council, the IFC has not officially heard about Sig Ep's suspension and has taken no action yet.

Members seeing housing choices

Even before Sig Ep announced the decision, MIT brothers had been turning in a number of requests for on-campus housing. Fourteen of the approximately 50 members of Sig Ep have requested on-campus housing as of yesterday. Twelve of the 14 are upperclassmen, said Phillip M. Bernard, program director of residential life.

"Although freshmen are guaranteed housing, upperclassmen are prioritized by when they make requests," said Bernard. Housing requests have come from Sig Ep members throughout the term, although most have been entered in the past two weeks, he said.

"At this point, we don't know who's going to be here" after the member interviews, said Kevin Stange '99, former president of Sig Ep. Members of the local fraternity will be reviewed individually by the advisory council.

Douglas E. Heimbarger contributed to the reporting of this story.



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Group Suggests No Significant Changes

Financial Aid, from Page 1

now a competitive weapon used by schools to attract students."

Although other schools have made extensive changes in their basic financial aid policies, MIT does not intend to follow their lead, Abelson said. "MIT is still committed to its policy of need-blind admission and need-based financial aid," he said.

"MIT should compete with other colleges on the basis of cost and value without compromising need-based aid and admission," Abelson said.

The group's research revealed that 43 percent of undergraduates are paying the full \$33,000 each year to attend MIT. Moreover, 50 percent are paying more than \$25,000 without outside scholarships to attend MIT this year.

The group also surveyed students with Scholastic Assessment Test math scores over 720 who did not apply to MIT. One of the main reasons that these students did not apply was the cost, the group's findings said. When this survey was narrowed to potential science and engineering students, cost was the largest single reason that the students did not apply.

MIT began redesigning its financial aid policies last year by cutting the self-help portion of a financial aid package by \$1,000.

More alumni programs suggested

The group proposed that MIT make itself a better value for the money by having more services for alumni and alumnae. One idea is to have the Dean's Office collaborate with the Alumni Association to provide more programs and continuing education.

MIT also plans to encourage more people to apply, Abelson said. The group suggested that there should be more programs to make people aware of the Institute's financial aid policies. Also, MIT needs to market itself better, he said. The admissions office should do financial aid publicity to let people know the value they are getting for their money by attending MIT.

The group also urged MIT to help their students find outside scholarships to help with the cost of an MIT education. To compete with other schools, the group proposes that MIT should send out potential financial aid

packages with the early action acceptances.

All of these proposals are still being considered, Abelson said. There will be no decision reached on financial aid policies for the next few weeks. MIT still needs to determine if there is enough money within the budget to support these proposals. Also, it is not known if any of these policies will be retroactive, or if they will only apply to newly admitted students.

"Making the policies retroactive will make it four times as expensive for MIT," Abelson said. "It is still a better choice to make the new policies retroactive."

Other schools see major shifts

Some schools, such as Vassar College, have completely dropped need-blind admissions, whereas Johns Hopkins and Brown Universities are slowly moving away from that policy.

Other schools are adapting a policy in which a student is admitted to the school, but is denied financial aid if he is near the bottom of the admitted class. Harvard University has adopted a policy of "differential packaging" in which financial aid is based solely on family income, but the grant/loan split is based on the desirability of the student.

The California Institute of Technology is turning to merit-based aid in order to attract their top students. Their top twenty students in each class will receive full scholarships to Caltech regardless of their financial situation.

Additionally, many second-tier schools are attempting to lure top students away from the top universities by giving out lucrative financial aid packages.

MIT does not practice any of these policies. "Financial aid and admissions are not under the same office," Abelson said. "Admissions representatives don't know an applicant's financial aid situation, and the financial aid department only knows the financial aid form and that the student is admitted."

In a letter to last year's admitted students, Harvard encouraged students to bring in other financial aid offers in order to discuss a change in the student's financial aid package. Unlike Harvard, MIT will not compete with other financial aid offers.

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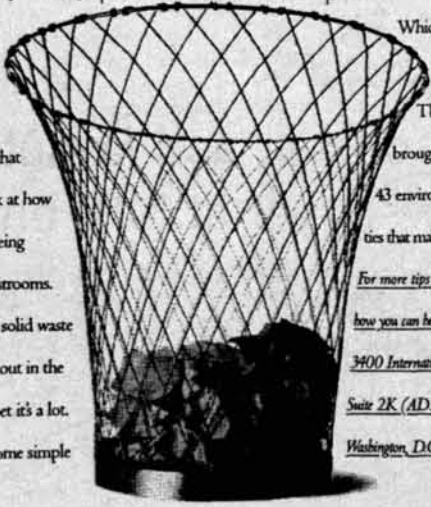
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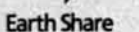
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