



Mark Pipes '01 shows parents Cynthia and Steven the robot his group created during Independent Activities Period for the 6.270 competition. The competition will be held tonight in Room 26-100.

6.270 Raiders Will Square Off Tonight

By Jane Yoo
STAFF REPORTER

Signaling the end of the Independent Activities Period, Lego robots no bigger than a one foot cube will, for the 13th consecutive year, grace the contest tables in Room 26-100.

This year, the robots battle a la Indiana Jones in a competition entitled "Raiders of the Lost Parts."

Tonight's competition at 6 p.m. marks the end of participants' three and a half week struggle to construct their robots.

Because the event is so popular, course organizers recommend that spectators arrive early to get a seat. Latecomers will be directed to the overflow room, 34-101. The competition will also be broadcast live on MIT cable channel 35.

"Raiders of the Lost Parts," is slightly different than previous competitions. In addition to allowing students to use more Legos, one of the most important changes includes a new controller board donated by Compaq. According to course organizer Adrian Danieli, these boards are "much more powerful than robot controller boards used in previous contests."

Robots are diverse this year

This year's competition includes an eclectic mix of robots. The table contains balls designated as "positive" and "negative." Each robot also has a scoring bin at one end of the table. Robots score points by collecting positive balls, depositing positive balls in their bin, or depositing negative balls in their opponent's bin.

The robot strategies this year include "bulldozers" which aggressively push negative balls

into their opponent's bins, and robots that try to collect as many positive balls and place them in their own bin. Most robots, however, represent a hybrid.

Following weeks of building and testing, teams will finally experience the satisfaction of seeing their works-in-progress transformed into a fully functional robot. While some students are intent on winning the competition, others are more relaxed and just want to see their hard work pay off. To many participants, the highlight of the competition is merely seeing if the robot works at all.

Last year's competition, "Robogolf," attracted over 500 students and faculty. This year, with the varying robot strategies and the possibility of controller board failure, "Raiders of the Lost Parts" should attract just as many, if not more.

Course relies on many disciplines

Experience in robotics is helpful, but certainly not necessary. To give students some guidance towards robot design and construction, three lectures and six recitations are offered during the course. However, students are forced to integrate a variety of disciplines and draw upon knowledge in mechanical and electrical engineering as well as programming.

The class is a "practical approach to solving a real-world problem," said participant Morris Tao '00.

While the majority of participants involved in the competition are Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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Students Prepare Presentations Of Residential Design Proposals

By Karen E. Robinson
STAFF REPORTER

As part of the Reinventing Residence Life at MIT design contest, teams of students, faculty, staff, and alumni are working this week on residence design systems, to be presented to the Steering Committee for Residence Design.

Teams will present their proposals for Orientation, academic advising, and residence selection starting in 2001 in a public forum to be held in 10-250 at 1:00 p.m. Friday.

The steering committee will use the ideas presented by the various groups to create a final residence design proposal, which will be completed at the end of this term or

the beginning of the fall.

A contest was the best way to involve community members in planning the new system, said Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72. This is obviously a systems problem, and "much of the wisdom needed could only be found with the community," Bacow said.

Dean of Students Kirk Kolenbrander '60, who is running the contest, called the contest a "bold new experience for MIT," a wide open opportunity for students to participate in administrative decisions. "The Institute is saying, 'We want your help.'"

At least one student from each designed team attended four open

discussions last week.

Each session had a different focus: examination of the current system, discussion of possibilities, considerations of system design, and helping each team develop a plan, Kolenbrander said. At the first session, a panel of five members addressed questions about the current system.

Each team will use the framework set up by those meetings to design a workable system. Teams will also submit web-ready descriptions of their plans; designs will likely be available on the Internet on Friday afternoon.

Housing, Page 11

Courses Aim to Produce Charming MIT Students

By Rima Arnaout
STAFF REPORTER

After a one-year hiatus, the annual IAP Charm School will again grace Lobbies 7 and 10 today from noon until 4 p.m.

Students get the chance to earn degrees in charm: six classes earn a CB (bachelor of charm) while eight classes earn a CM (masters of charm). By passing twelve classes, a student is awarded a doctorate in charm.

Beginning just before noon, students will be able to pick up schedules detailing the afternoon's classes.

"Generally, you'll have a booth where the class is being taught," said Dean of Students and Director of the Experimental Studies Group Travis R. Merritt, who will preside as Charm School dean this year. The content and style of the different charm classes is left to the

discretion of the instructors.

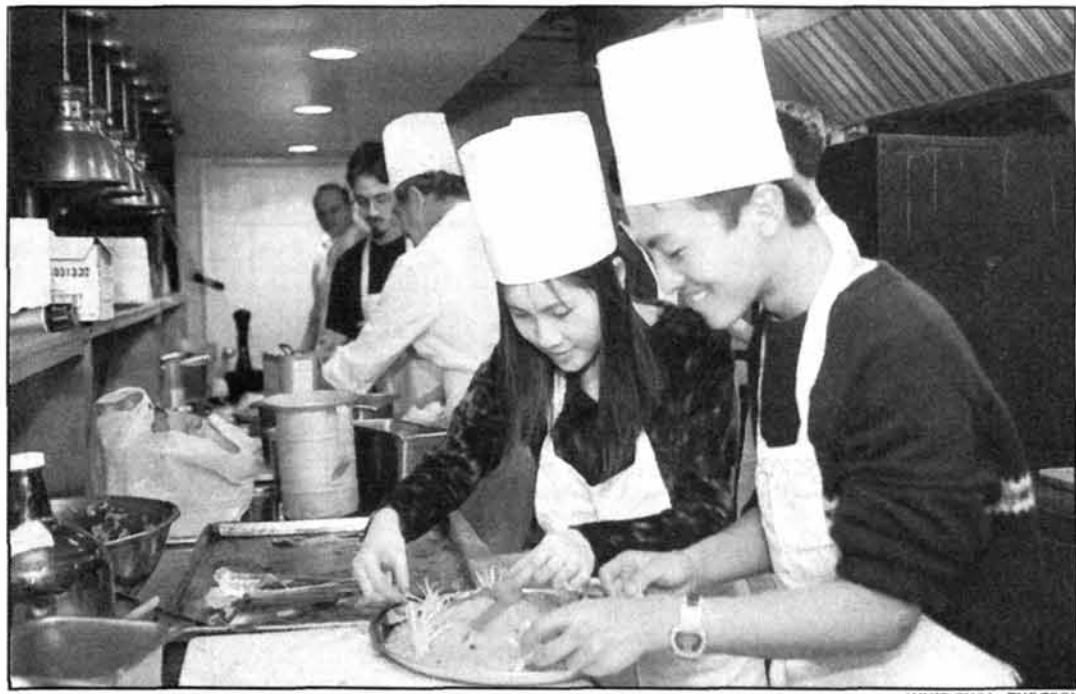
"All of the classes are run differently, but they're all interactive and all different," said Public Service Center Coordinator Monica A. Huggins, one of this year's Charm School coordinators.

Charm School is offering some new subjects this year, such as "How to Tell Somebody Something They'd Rather Not Hear."

Old favorites to be offered include "Buttering Up Big Shots," taught by Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams. In addition, Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 will teach a subject entitled "Small Talk."

Besides presiding as the dean, Merritt will teach "Exemplary Locomotion," which tries to "teach [students] stylish ways of walking down the Infinite Corridor" and

Charm School, Page 10



Ngan-Fong Huang '02, left, and Kan Liu '02 prepare a vegetarian dish during a gourmet vegetarian cooking class in Networks Saturday.

ANNIE CHOI—THE TECH

Several off-campus living groups experiment with an Independent Activities Period rush.

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Comics

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THE ARTS

The last movies of 1998, while somewhat tepid, are nonetheless some of the best movies of the year.

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WORLD & NATION

Rescue Efforts following Columbian Quake Slowed by Rain, Aftershocks

LOS ANGELES TIMES

ARMENIA, COLOMBIA

Rescue workers struggled through driving rain and a pair of aftershocks Tuesday as they searched for survivors of an earthquake that killed at least 500 people and injured thousands.

As night fell more than 24 hours after Monday's quake in western Colombia, the full extent of damage had not been assessed. Authorities feared the death toll could at least double.

Buildings on the central Plaza Bolivar were crushed in Armenia, a city of 300,000. One heavy concrete structure collapsed upon itself, leaving all five floors the height of a single story.

It was unclear whether the two aftershocks, one registering 2.8, caused any additional damage. But the plaza was evacuated on orders of Armenia's mayor, Alvaro Patino, because weakened buildings were in danger of collapse.

Rescue workers used picks, shovels and their bare hands in the ruins of collapsed buildings. Some earth-moving equipment was available, but crews did not want to use it for fear of crushing possible survivors trapped under tons of rubble.

Brazilian Currency Continues Wild Ride as Government Faces Debt

LOS ANGELES TIMES

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Brazil's currency continued its chaotic ride Tuesday, tumbling to nearly 2 reals to the dollar before regaining some ground, as worries spread that the government may be buried under an avalanche of debt that gathers force as the currency slides.

The currency has now lost about 52 percent of its value against the dollar, significantly more than predicted, since Jan. 12 when it stood at 1.21 to the dollar. It closed Tuesday at 1.84, off another 4.5 percent.

The weaker currency increases Brazil's cost of paying its billions of dollar-linked or dollar-denominated debt, while higher interest rates at home are increasing the burden of its domestic real-based debt as well.

Brazil risks being sucked into "an unmanageable debt spiral," said Lacey Gallagher, a Latin American debt specialist with Standard & Poor's of New York. The real's ongoing devaluation reflects market doubts about how Brazil will resolve the crisis, she said.

New Study Finds that Parkinson's Disease is Rarely Inherited

NEWSDAY

Most cases of Parkinson's disease, a debilitating neurological condition that affects at least half a million Americans, are not inherited, a major new study of twins has found. Only a small percentage of cases, primarily those occurring before age 50, appear to be linked to genetics.

"For people with Parkinson's, the majority of whom develop the condition in late life, they can be assured it will not be passed on to their children," said Dr. J. William Langston, director of The Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale, Calif.

Langston and his colleagues, led by Dr. Caroline M. Tanner, studied male twins who were part of a large World War II veterans database. By 1992, there were 19,842 individual twin brothers alive, and the scientists tracked down 17,125 to study the occurrence of Parkinson's.

Identical twins share the exact complement of DNA, while fraternal twins are genetically like ordinary siblings. Had genetics been the trigger, virtually all identical older twins would have shared the devastating condition.

Republicans Win Potentially Costly Victory on Witnesses

By Eric Pianin

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

After a flurry of high pressure, closed door talks among Senate GOP leaders and the House Republican managers, Republicans appeared poised Tuesday to keep the impeachment trial of President Clinton going beyond this week and to depose witnesses including Monica S. Lewinsky.

But even as Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and other Republicans savor their tactical victory, the Republicans may have inadvertently contributed to the realization of their worst fear: that Clinton, in the end, will escape without any punishment at all.

On one hand, the Senate is about to make it more difficult for the House GOP managers to make their case that Clinton deserves to be removed from office by denying them far ranging latitude to call witnesses.

But in closing ranks around a plan to call only Lewinsky, presidential confidante Vernon Jordan and White House adviser Sidney Blumenthal, Republicans have also put at risk the bipartisan comity that has characterized the early stages of

the trial and, some senators said, complicated efforts to adopt a resolution censuring the president for his conduct.

"We've been able to largely avoid partisan votes until now, but I'm skeptical," Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) told reporters Tuesday. "I think on the vote on dismissal and on the vote on witnesses, it sounds as if the lines may be drawn. I hope that is not the case, but it may be."

But Republicans see their approach as a workable compromise that would keep their party intact, while assuring that both the House managers and the White House have a reasonable opportunity to flesh out their cases and resolve contradictions in grand jury testimony with live witnesses.

Reflecting the views of many Republicans, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) declared that if the House prosecutors were willing to narrow their witness list, "We ought to bend over backwards to give them what they want."

"All we're going to decide (today) is will be depose witnesses, and after that the Senate will decide whether to hear them live or just

take videotape," said Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio). "I see no reason it can't be done by this weekend."

From the beginning of the three week trial, the question of whether to call witnesses or to rely on the voluminous House impeachment record and grand jury testimony as the Democrats favor has threatened to split the Senate along partisan lines.

Nearly three weeks ago, senators essentially agreed to postpone that decision as a way of getting the trial launched on a bipartisan basis, but the moment of truth has now arrived with Wednesday's scheduled vote on whether to depose witnesses.

The vote was still too close to call, and senators were still speaking Tuesday night of some kind of compromise to keep bipartisanship going.

A spokesman for Lott said Tuesday that "there are enough open minds right now" to assure Senate approval of the House managers' request for three witnesses as well as their suggestion that the Senate invite Clinton to submit to a deposition. The managers should also be allowed to call some witnesses to flesh out their perjury and obstruction of justice charges.

Clinton OKs More Aggressive Response to Iraqi Attacks

By Paul Richter

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Clinton has authorized the U.S. military to strike back more aggressively when Iraq's planes and air defenses threaten American pilots, his national security adviser said Tuesday.

Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger's comments offered the strongest suggestion yet that the skirmishing over the Western-imposed "no-fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq could intensify further — and lead to greater carnage.

The comments came as U.S. officials acknowledged Tuesday that a U.S. missile had strayed off course Monday, plowing into a residential neighborhood near the southern city of Basra, as Iraqi officials had previ-

ously reported. The errant missile killed 11 civilians and wounded dozens of others, according to Iraqi officials.

After four weeks of skirmishing over the no-fly zones — including new confrontations Tuesday — Berger said military commanders have been given "more expansive rules of engagement" against Iraqi provocations.

They are no longer required to respond only to Iraqi planes or ground installations that threaten them, he said, but can now also attack other parts of the broader air-defense network that is endangering fliers patrolling the zones.

"Our response, as appropriate, will be against any of the air-defense systems that we think make us vulnerable," Berger told a group

of defense writers.

U.S. planes have fired several dozen missiles at Iraqi targets since the latest round of confrontations began after last month's U.S.-British air assault on Iraq.

Now the risk to life may be rising: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been moving some of his air-defense equipment nearer to civilian population centers, U.S. officials say, in an echo of his "human shield" strategy of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Officials insist that U.S. forces are going out of their way to avoid casualties but must reply to threatening moves.

Officials say plans for broader attacks have been prepared and are "on the shelf" but have not been approved by civilian authorities.

WEATHER

Cold and Bright

By Bill Ramstrom
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

We will start off today with sunny skies, but high clouds will begin to move in later in the day as a storm in the upper Midwest moves eastward. This storm will pass off to our north up the St. Lawrence valley during Thursday and Thursday night, bringing us a chance of some sprinkles or flurries. A trailing cold front from this storm will extend into the lower Mississippi valley, where a new storm system will begin to develop late Thursday. The final track of this storm will decide our weather for the weekend.

Today: Sunny and pleasant; few clouds afternoon. High 42°F (6°C).

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Low 25°F (-3°C).

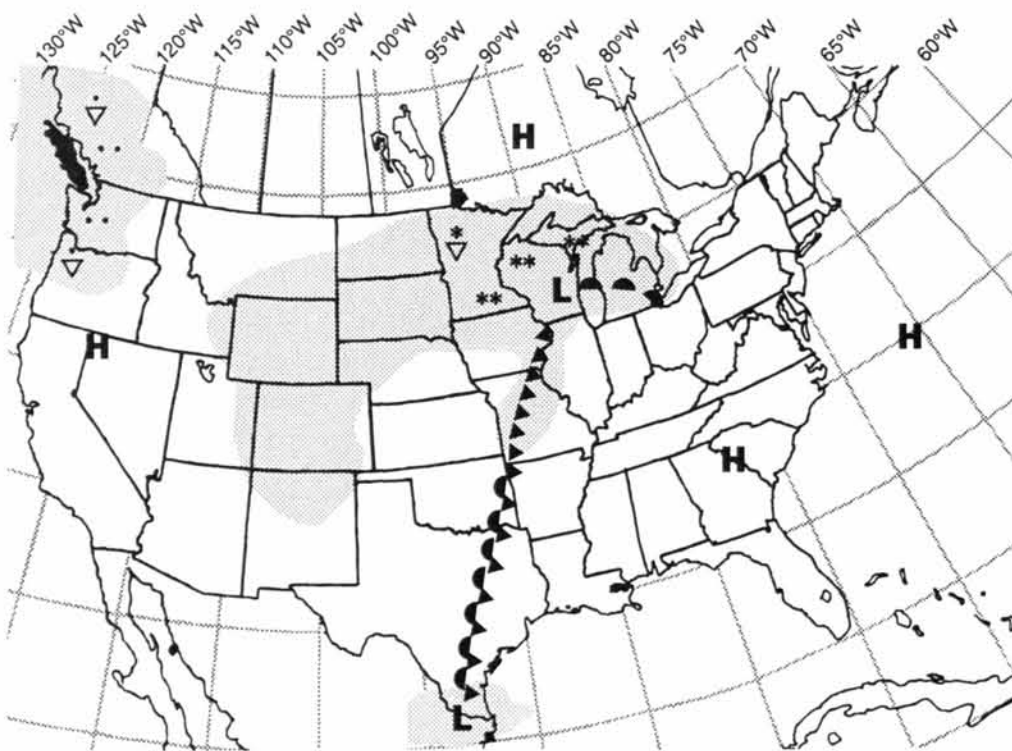
Thursday: Colder with clouds and a chance of snow flurries late. High 32°F (0°C).

Thursday Night: Becoming mostly cloudy. Low 28°F (-2°C).

Friday: Cloudy and raw, with some rain. Could start as a period of snow. High 37°F (2°C).

Outlook for the weekend: Rain early, becoming much colder by Sunday.

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 27, 1999



| Weather Systems | Weather Fronts | Precipitation Symbols | Other Symbols |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| H High Pressure | - - - Trough | Snow | Fog |
| L Low Pressure | —▲— Warm Front | Light | Thunderstorm |
| § Hurricane | ▲▲▲ Cold Front | Moderate | Haze |
| | ▲▲▲ Occluded Front | Heavy | Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech |

Military Presence in Bosnia to Drop Over Next Two Months

By Bradley Graham
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The size of the U.S. military contingent in Bosnia will shrink from 6,900 to 6,200 troops over the next two months as part of a NATO decision to trim its 32,000-strong peacekeeping force by 10 percent, U.S. officials announced Tuesday.

Sandy Berger, national security adviser to President Clinton, told reporters that the move reflected a sense "that we are steadily making progress in Bosnia, that the military needs diminish."

The NATO-led Bosnia force was sent to the former Yugoslav republic following the 1995 Dayton peace agreement that ended three-and-a-

half years of war. The Clinton administration has continued to extend the U.S. military presence well beyond what initially had been intended as a one-year deployment. It has gradually reduced the size of the force from its original strength of about 20,000 troops.

With the growing prospect that U.S. forces might be called on within the year to join another possible NATO peacekeeping operation in the Balkans, this time in Kosovo, Pentagon officials are eager to reduce the contingent in Bosnia.

But continuing tensions between Bosnia's Serb, Moslem and Croatian populations have made NATO authorities cautious about shrinking the peacekeeping force too quickly.

Berger noted that while the military threat has diminished to allow for some withdrawal, "serious challenges" still face international civilian organizations working to establish a stable political system and rebuild war-torn Bosnia.

Pentagon officials said the drop in U.S. troops would be achieved mainly by consolidating the base camps from five to four, combining one base with headquarters in the city of Tuzla. A Pentagon statement said the troop reductions did not signal a change in the mission or its ability to support the implementation of the Dayton accords.

The officials said NATO would again review troop requirements for Bosnia in the spring.

Cancer Relapse Brings Jordan's King Hussein Back to U.S. Clinic

By Tracy Wilkinson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

AMMAN, JORDAN

Feverish and weak, King Hussein Tuesday rushed back to the U.S. cancer clinic where he had spent much of the last six months undergoing chemotherapy, leaving Jordanians to worry about their monarch's mortality.

The king's sudden departure came just hours after he had formally anointed his eldest son, Prince Abdallah, as heir to the Hashemite throne. His absence put the 36-year-old army commander in charge of the monarchy on his very first day as crown prince.

Hussein left exactly one week after a jubilant homecoming, during which he paraded through the streets of Amman, in a cold rainstorm, and assured his people that he was completely recovered from the lymphoma that has ravaged his body.

His private physician, Lt. Gen.

Samir Farraj, said the king was suffering from stubborn fevers and "low blood counts" and was returning to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for medical tests to determine whether the malignant disease had recurred.

Fevers are often a sign that lymphoma is relapsing, said Dr. Christos Emmanouilides, director of clinical lymphoma research at the University of California, Los Angeles' Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Abdallah, whose elevation to heir marked the acrimonious removal of the king's brother Hassan, was sworn in as regent, or temporary royal replacement, during a hasty airport ceremony Tuesday. Hussein was seen supporting himself on a cane.

Jordanians, already in shock over the demotion of the long-serving Prince Hassan, were stunned by the king's sudden departure.

"We are very worried," said

Mahmoud Ghassan, a young office worker in downtown Amman, who, like many Jordanians, had already meshed his concern over the king's fate with his confidence that Hussein would leave Jordan in good hands.

"The king is like a father," Ghassan said. "We all knew Hassan and liked him. He was very intelligent. But Abdallah is strong and he has the army."

In a week of political and royal turmoil, Jordanians awoke Tuesday to the first full explanation of why Hussein had yanked brother Hassan out of the line of royal succession. Hassan had served as the designated heir for more than three decades.

Displaying a bluntness and direct anger rarely shown in public, Hussein chastised Hassan for refusing to go along with his long-term succession plans. Hussein made it clear that he wanted the line to the throne to revert to his own sons, but he said Hassan had resisted.

Catholic Church Revamps Exorcism For First Time in 385 Years

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Roman Catholic Church, emphasizing its continued belief in the literal existence of the devil, has added some new twists in its age-old fight with Satan.

For the first time in 385 years, on Tuesday the Vatican issued new guidelines for performing exorcisms, a religious rite for driving evil out of the demon-possessed.

There are "no radical changes" in the new guidelines, although the fact that new rules were needed at all might strike some as odd. But while exorcisms may seem like something out of the Middle Ages — or Hollywood — they are still performed.

Pope John Paul II, who arrived Tuesday in St. Louis, once performed an exorcism himself, according to the memoirs of Cardinal Jacques Martin, the former prefect of the pontifical household.

In the last three years alone, Father James LeBar, chief exorcist in the New York archdiocese, and three other New York exorcists have investigated 80 cases throughout the country, LeBar said Tuesday.

"Evil is as present today as in any other age," LeBar said. But LeBar stressed that the church continues to believe that Satan is an actual spiritual being. "Evil is a force, yes," LeBar said. "But Satan is a ... creature of God, a (fallen) angel who sometimes possesses people ... when there is a real possession, then the ritual is used."

The new guidelines, so far available only in Latin, delete more "imaginative" descriptions of the devil in keeping with the church's understanding of the devil as "a spirit without body, without color and without odor."

But LeBar, who has examined the revisions, said they continue to give exorcists the discretion to use the old language as laid out in the Roman Rite of Exorcism of 1614.

"Sometimes in casting out some particularly stubborn devils," he said, "the older forms with the horrible-sounding names may be just what's needed to put the devil to flight."

Head of South African Election Commission Resigns

THE BALTIMORE SUN

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

The head of the Independent Election Commission here resigned Tuesday, raising new doubts about the smooth execution of a national ballot already threatened by the specter of violence.

Johann Kriegler, a justice with the Constitution Court, cited "differences" with President Nelson Mandela's government over the role of the commission for his decision to step aside just months before this country conducts its second free elections since the apartheid-era.

"I thought I was part of the problem rather than part of the solution," he told viewers of the main evening news on South African Broadcasting Corporation Tuesday night.

Kriegler and opposition political parties claimed this would deprive thousands of South Africans, who still have the old identity cards, of the chance to take part in the election, which will open the post-Mandela era.

Kriegler's sudden resignation came 72 hours after the assassination of a political warlord in the volatile province of KwaZulu-Natal cast a pall of violence over the election season here.



Graduate Student Council

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

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

Spring Welcome Social - Thurs., Feb. 4

5 - 7 PM in 50-220. Come meet other graduate students and enjoy free food and drink. Proper ID is required.

Spring/Summer 1999 Travel Grant

The new information for the Travel Fund applications is available at www.mit.edu/activities/gsc. The deadline for all applications is Feb. 2.

General Council Meeting

Wed, Feb. 3 5:30-6:30 PM 50-220

All graduate students are invited. Food and drink will be provided.

Professional Development Series

CAREERS (Wednesdays 3:30-5 PM Hulsizer Room, Ashdown):

Feb. 10 Manager, Researcher, or Professor (Lloyd Baird, BU)

Feb. 17 Self-Assessment (Hannah Bernstein & Elizabeth Reed, CSPA)

Funding Deadline for student group events, capital expenses, cross-departmental socials, and travel grants is Feb. 2.

Graduate Student News (GSN) Available Feb. 1

The GSN will be available in the Infinite Corridor and 50-220 during the week of Feb. 1. Send submissions to Constance Lai at con@mit.edu for the Feb. 15 issue.

Calendar

- 01 02 JANUARY
- 29 - 31 - Smuggler's Notch Ski Trip
- FEBRUARY
- 01 - Graduate Student News Published
- 02 - Funding Deadline
- 02 - Muddy Charles Meeting, Muddy, 5:30 PM
- 03 - General Council Meeting *
- 04 - Spring Welcome Social, 5-7 PM, 50-220
- 04 - Bruins vs. Islanders Game, meet in 50-220
- 08 - Activities committee meeting *
- 09 - Publicity committee meeting *
- 10 - Professional Development seminar, 3:30 - 5 PM, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown
- 11 - Academics, Research & Careers Meeting *
- 17 - Professional Development seminar, 3:30 - 5 PM, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown
- 18 - Housing & Community Affairs Meeting *

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

OPINION

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Ring Underestimates Bradley, Bush

In the Jan. 20 column "Presidential Blues," Michael J. Ring characterizes Bill Bradley as a "second-string player" while implying that Paul Wellstone is not. While Bradley has a surprisingly substantial national following for someone who has never run for president before, Paul Wellstone is little known by people outside Minnesota who aren't liberal activists. In a late-October Gallup poll of

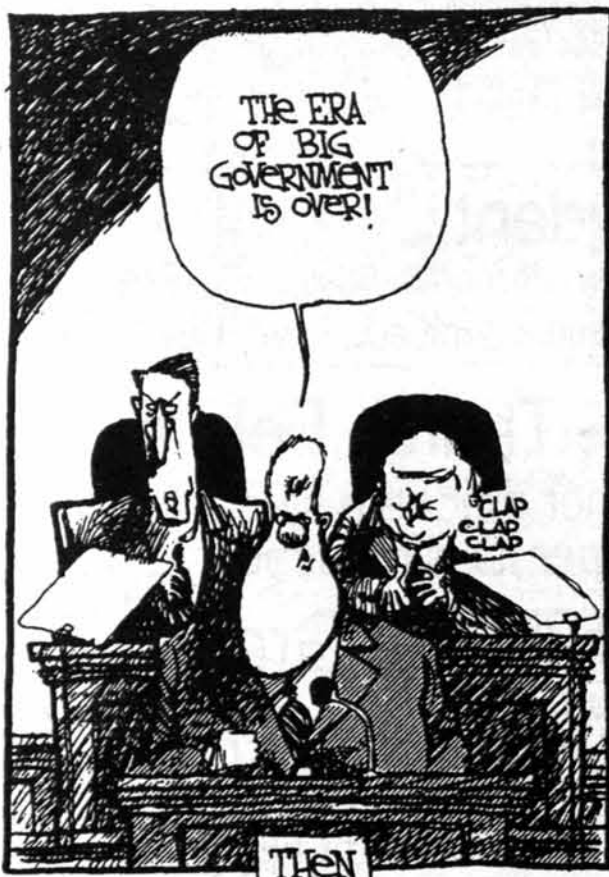
Democratic New Hampshire voters, Bradley placed second to the quasi-incumbent, while Wellstone polled last of seven.

In a general election, Wellstone might excite his base, as Ring suggests, but he wouldn't get many votes beyond his wing of the Democratic party. Bradley, on the other hand, has won broad support from across the political spectrum, and would do at least as well in a general election as in the primary.

Ring also dismisses Governor Bush as the "son of a president" and nothing more, presumably because he doesn't know much

about him. While I can't argue that his current lead in the polls is almost entirely based on name recognition, his receipt of 70 percent of the vote for governor, with a majority of the Hispanic vote and essentially no gender gap, is probably based on something more substantial. At this point, I don't know a lot more about him than Ring does. However, rather than pass judgement prematurely, I prefer to wait to see what happens once we're a little closer to the elections.

Steven Jens '98



Opinion Policy

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

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My Day in Middlesex County Court

Jury Duty Teaches Value of Current Justice System

Douglas E. Heimbürger

Like most MIT students that I know, I approached Jury Duty with a sense of dread. At the same time, however, I was anticipating the somewhat exciting possibility of actually serving in a trial.

Under Massachusetts' "one-day, one jury" policy, almost all adults in the state are called for jury service about every three to four years. Most approach it with pleasure — after all, as soon as a potential juror walks into the courthouse, his or her employer is required to compensate the juror for a full day's work.

Most of the college students I encountered on my day at the Middlesex County Courthouse last week, however, approached their day without the same excitement. After all, we're not getting paid, and having to travel to Lechmere by 8:00 a.m. doesn't even fit into the lifestyle of other Boston-area college students, let alone night-shifted MIT students.

Personally, I expected jury duty to be four or five hours of sitting around folding chairs. After about an hour in the jury pool, however, our jury got called up to the 12th floor to participate in the wonderful world of jury impanelment.

As we quickly learned, selecting a jury isn't a simple matter. In our relatively simple criminal case, 14 jurors would be selected. Sixty prospective jurors were required, however, due to the low success ratio of seatings.

Once we arrived, we had to answer, *en masse*, about a half-an-hour's worth of oral questions from Judge Hiller Zobel — that's right — the same judge that had adjudicated the famous "Nanny" case a year ago. Zobel singled out those who knew the defendant, attorneys, witnesses, or any others. In addition, he asked us whether any of us would heed the testimony of a police officer to be more important than that of any other citizen, and if any of us had any previous experience with drug cases.

Obviously, the questions seemed odd — but they harkened to what the case would be about. After about 20 questions, the court clerk began calling up what would be the 14 members of the jury. The 14 initial members of the jury, at least.

I started my day as juror "01-11," but I quickly became the nameless "Juror 4" to Judge Zobel. Once the 14 members were seated (12 members and 2 alternates), the lawyers for both the Commonwealth and the defense began their true jury selection. With the survey cards we had filled out earlier, both sides immediately began challenging jurors. Each side had the chance to strike four jurors without any cause, as well as an unlimited number

of jurors if they could convince Zobel that the jurors would be unqualified.

Finally, after about half the jury had been replaced — including one individual that appeared to be struck because the defense didn't like her attitude — we were able to start the case. I was actually a bit shocked with how long jury selection took: two hours for a case that would last only two days. No wonder the court system took so long.

After finally being impaneled, we received our first instructions from the judge. It was at this point that I realized just how our jury system manages to work so well. After all, going into this case, the three college students, two teachers, and other people on the jury honestly didn't know exactly the "standard patterns" of heroin buyers in Lowell.

As it turns out, our case was narcotics-related: The defendant was accused of possession of heroin with intent to distribute and with distributing it within 1,000 feet of a public school. Zobel very clearly enunciated what the Commonwealth would have to prove in order for us to return a verdict of "not guilty."

Once we arrived, we had to answer, en masse, about a half-an-hour's worth of oral questions from Judge Hiller Zobel...

Then, the trial began to slowly move along.

Make no mistake: This was a fast trial. Zobel definitely kept a handle on both the defense and the prosecution as he made his boredom well known to both sides. As one of the bailiffs mentioned, a case like the one we adjudicated could have easily taken a week in most courtrooms. In Zobel's court, it was completed after only about four hours of testimony.

The prosecution made a strong case. He managed to plant the case in our minds, using the testimony of a police officer who was involved with arresting the defendant. The prosecutor argued persuasively that the defendant was in the process of reaching into his pants for a "package" of heroin to deal to an unidentified individual with a white van when officers approached, and that he then attempted to flee.

Still, the case had some key holes: Why wasn't the man in the van arrested, or at least brought in to testify at the trial? These were some big holes. The assistant district attorney prosecuting the case was working his first Superior Court case, Zobel told us after we reached a verdict. It showed, as he wasn't nearly as polished as the defense attorney.

However, if anything sealed my mind in the case, it was the testimony of the defendant himself. He testified that he was a morning user of heroin; yet he specifically picked up

the "bundle" when he headed out to the store where the deal allegedly took place — at night. That, in my mind, plus some odd activity that the defendant undertook at the store, sealed the case for me.

We spent four hours — just as long as the in-court time — deliberating the outcome of the trial. After two members had randomly been selected out as alternates, the remaining 12 adjourned to a sealed room. It was here that I truly gained faith in the justice system.

We carefully discussed the evidence, and we discussed it again and again. While we were all convinced that the defendant was a user, it was much less clear initially that the defendant had the intent to distribute. After we all discussed the evidence, however, it became clearer that a reasonable person would conclude that the defendant did have intent to distribute heroin.

As the foreperson, I eventually said in open court that we as a jury had found the defendant guilty on both counts. It represented one of the most satisfying moments that I've had in a long while.

For the first time, I saw what the power of a unanimous decision has. We as a jury had to come to a unanimous conclusion in either direction — not an easy task considering we started out almost evenly split. However, more impressive to me was that there wasn't any attempt to "railroad" a verdict out simply for the purpose of expediency. While we all didn't want to spend weeks adjudicating the case, we similarly didn't want to worry after the fact that we had made the wrong decision.

In short, the jury system worked the way it should in this case. With all the recent judicial trials in the news — the O.J. Simpson trials, the Clinton scandal (not really a trial, but closely related), the Rodney King case of years ago, and the Microsoft case, I worry that Americans are getting turned off to the idea of an independent jury. Indeed, the Microsoft case is not being tried by a jury, and Clinton will likely not plead before a jury until at least 2001.

Some have proposed that our system of volunteer jurors be replaced with a professional jury system. Such a move would be flawed. I think members of an independent jury are more likely to be unbiased than members of a professional jury. For instance, in my case, members of our jury hadn't adjudicated dozens of drug cases before — so we had no presumption of guilt based upon socioeconomic factors. (As Zobel told us afterward, the defendant did have a criminal history). Also, I think it's extremely valuable for a citizen to participate in a jury trial.

Still, Massachusetts should make it less painful to be a jurors. Starting with fewer excess jurors would help. (There were over 300 jurors called on my day; only a small fraction actually served on a jury.) However, I do like that Massachusetts calls out-of-state college students and that the state is strict on exemptions. After all, it's the only truly fair way to ensure a fair trial for a defendant.

Got Milk?

not requiring more comprehensive tests on such hormones.

Canada is not the only country which has refused to allow dairy farms to use the hormone. The United Kingdom is also a major supporter of organic products. Milk from cows treated with hormones or antibiotics are packaged with warning labels.

If the Canadians and English aren't subjected to the danger of drinking potentially carcinogenic milk from treated cows, then why should Americans have to expose themselves to such a health hazard? The United States is the leading country in the consumption of genetically altered products. Is milk one of many products that has been marketed despite its potential health hazards? If milk from treated cows can pose a health hazard, then the meat provided by the animal may have similar or worse deleterious effects.

Genetic engineering has given us the luxury of purchasing food products at lower costs. But if these products have adverse effects on our health, will you be willing to pay more for organic products? Organic refers to the natural growth and production of foods without the addition of chemicals or drugs like antibiotics or synthetic hormones.

I made a recent trip to the nearby Star Market where they market organic products at much higher prices than those of non-organic products. A half-gallon of organic milk from Organic Valley costs \$2.79, a dollar more than the common half-gallon from Hood or Tuesan.

Organic Valley and other organic dairy farms claim they separate their cows from the

other herds to ensure that their cows feed only on "the most natural food sources." Most importantly, these farms claim they do not inject their cows with any synthetic substances.

Three dollars may seem expensive for milk, but all that extra work the company proclaims to do seems well worth the extra buck. According to *The New York Times*, there is a growing demand for organic products. Sales of organic milk actually increased from \$16 million to \$31 million in 1997.

If you start buying organic milk, will you also buy organic cheese, yogurt or other organic dairy products in your next grocery shopping spree? Although the new Canadian report now urges families to switch to organic dairy products, many of us cannot afford to pay an extra dollar for each half-gallon of milk. But if you save the dollar you use to buy a soda and invest it on some milk from a cow that has been happily munching only on grass its whole life, you might live a bit longer.

The FDA has not publicly addressed the findings by the Canadian researchers or the potential health hazards of the milk you currently find in the dairy section. The rejected use of Posilac by the English and Canadian government gives United States consumers a good reason to doubt the nutrition of milk. If enough consumers are persuaded to switch to milk from naturally raised cows, the large demand will hopefully lower the prices of organic milk, enabling all of us to enjoy a cold glass of milk that is truly good for us.

Shop 'Til You Drop

Veena Thomas

After an exhausting day of shopping with a friend from across the river, I realized that shopping is a waste of time.

On Saturday, I went to the mall as an escape from campus, classes, a schedule, everything. I was tired of following my daily planner. I needed some time alone, free to do whatever I wanted to do. When I feel that life is too structured, or that I need some time to think, I walk aimlessly around Harvard Square. So after class on Saturday, I had every intention of doing the same thing.

But as I approached the T stop, the Galleria bus arrived. Hmmm, I thought, I've always wanted to hop onto a bus and get away from it all. Granted, going to the mall might not be as adventurous and daring as, say, driving away to California, but in my straight-laced existence, randomly shopping counts for something.

So instead of bravely wandering around Harvard Square, I spontaneously and daringly got on the bus to the Galleria. (Okay, my life can be very tame some times... just humor me.)

Upon arriving at the Galleria, I realized that this was my first real solo mall trip. I could spend as much time as I liked browsing, since there was no hurry. I tried on some clothes that I would never buy, and that I would be embarrassed to wear in the open. I liked this solo thing. I spent probably unnecessary amounts of time deciding between a bracelet that cost four dollars and one that cost fifty cents more. I knew I was wasting my time, but I did not care; I could spend so long deciding

I thought about the whole reason behind shopping, and realized it was useless.

because of my freedom and independence. I reveled in the decision.

Or maybe I am indecisive and took so long because no one else was around to decide for me. Perhaps a bolder person would have asked the opinion of the sales clerk or the nearest stranger, but I preferred to let the voices in my head debate. The same situation held later. I struggled to decide whether to buy a fifteen dollar sweater. I thought of all the other things I could buy with fifteen dollars, and whether I needed another sweater. I have no qualms about spending fifteen dollars in a restaurant, so why was I stressing out over a sweater that I could keep forever? Maybe because if I decided later that I did not like the sweater, I would still see it hanging in my closet, whereas I won't remember the meal after a few days. To quiet the voices in my head, I bought the sweater.

Sunday, I went shopping with a friend. After I spent fifteen dollars on lunch (hey, I could have bought a sweater with that money!), we went to the Gap outlet store where again I struggled deciding. But this time I had a real, human voice of reason with me who gave me her opinion. I had not realized just how exhausting shopping is. At the end, I just sat on the floor while my friend tried on jeans and I refused to move.

I thought about the whole reason behind shopping, and realized it was useless. As long as you are warm and comfortable, nothing else should matter. Colors, styles, patterns — it's crazy. The stores have more clothes than anyone could possibly buy, and still people cannot find what they are want. Somehow I doubt that anyone besides the wearer cares that much anyway. I do pay attention to what other people are wearing, but how much does that matter?

If I come across a nicely dressed person on the street, I think to myself, "Hey, that's a nicely dressed person," and then we go our separate ways. Besides, many people don't notice what others wear, or what they wear. I find myself paying more attention to others' wardrobes than they do. When I noticed that someone wore the same shirt two days apart, I knew it was time for me to get a life. When I was younger, I would worry about when I had worn what shirt, until my mom pointed out that if I could not remember, chances were that no one else could remember either.

So after spending so many hours shopping, I finally concluded that it was useless and that I didn't really need the clothes. But that didn't stop me from keeping them. I still love shopping... I just don't want to see a store for another month.



Elaine Wan

A frothy white milk moustache outlines the mouth of Sara Michelle Gellar in a picture on the back of a magazine. Gellar, the star of the famed "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" series, is one of many celebrities and athletes who have promoted the consumption of milk. Doctors and parents have also told us repeatedly to drink the calcium-rich, vitamin-fortified beverage because it helps build strong teeth and bones. What all these advocates for milk do not know is that the milk can be bad for you.

To increase milk production, decrease infections, and lower costs, dairy farms in the United States inject cows with antibiotics and bovine growth hormone, also known as Posilac. The genetically engineered hormone increases a cow's milk production by 10 to 15 percent. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of the hormone in 1993, after a study in the journal *Science* reported "no toxicologically significant changes" in a 90-day study on rats that ingested the hormone.

Recently, an independent study by the Canadian government indicated previously unreported side effects to Posilac. Some rats in the study developed cysts and antibodies to the hormone. Milk from cows injected with bovine growth hormone may cause similar effects in humans by raising our risks of breast and prostate cancer. Dairy farmer associations and consumer groups in the United States have reportedly filed suit against the FDA for

THE ARTS

MOVIE REVIEWS

Winter Film Reviews

More lame last ditch efforts for Oscars

By Vladimir Zelevinsky
STAFF REPORTER

As usual, in late December/early January, the studios, major and independent alike, send their big guns into the marketplace. The aim of these guns is, of course, Oscars and Golden Globes and Critics' Societies' awards and more importantly, anything which can provide free publicity and extra cash at the box office.

Those who read my reviews regularly — or those who talked to me — know that I have bemoaned this year as the worst in recent memory. Most of the highly anticipated works from major filmmakers ended up somewhere between mildly engaging (*Saving Private Ryan*) and downright unwatchable (*Beloved*). By the end of the year, the situation was dire, with the release of only a dozen really good movies and no masterpieces whatsoever.

Fortunately, the studios got their act together — somewhat. Three movies below were both released as Oscar bait, and all of them are certainly recommendable. None of them are unqualified masterpieces, but — because of the weak competition — all of them will be seen on my top ten list for 1998.

Films are listed in the order of increasing preference.

A Civil Action

Written and directed by Steven Zaillian, based on the book by Jonathan Harr. With John Travolta, Robert Duvall, William H. Macy, John Lithgow, Kathleen Quinlan.

If there was a movie last year with a more impeccable pedigree, I don't know of it — each cast member has either received or been nominated for Oscars. Stephen Zaillian wrote spellbinding screenplay for *Schindler's List* and has also written and directed remarkable *Searching for Bobby Fischer*. Expectations were high when he started work on the true story of the Woburn pollution case, the story of two powerful companies being accused of dumping toxic chemicals into local water and causing a leukemia cluster, which resulted in the death of several children. As *Schindler's List*, it's a emotionally-charged story of guilt and redemption, with intriguing characters who refused to be labeled as heroes or villains.

So, what about the result? For about the first half an hour it's perfect — I'm not exaggerating here. These first two reels are taut, gripping, dramatic and funny. With wit,

style, and excellent pacing, Zaillian takes us on a highly engaging tour of personal injury law. In fact, I'd be hard pressed to think of a modern director who is such a wizard of pacing — the beginning of *A Civil Action* is neither too slow nor too fast nor simply progressing from slow beginning to rapid closure. No, there is a peculiar rhythm to this sequence, ebbing and flowing, with the most standard and cliched shots such as a car zooming past the camera, turned into setups for terrific punchlines. John Travolta seems to having time of his life, playing Jan Schlichtmann, a charismatic and unscrupulous Boston lawyer, with a particular talent for earnest-faced lies. A truly remarkable supporting cast is every bit his match, and is as riveting to watch.

The next hour of the story relaxes a bit, when the movie shifts into the mode of a courtroom drama, replete with a search for clues, witness badgering, courtroom infighting and grandstanding. This material is as interesting to observe, yet there is a minor problem with it: the focus is shifting from the case to the people behind the case. If these people were the Woburn families who suffered tragic losses, this would have been understandable and, in one case when we are allowed to feel the pain, almost unbearably moving. However, these families aren't in the spotlight; it's Schlichtmann and his team that are center stage, and this doesn't quite feel right. It feels like a standard Hollywood tradition to examine law through the lawyers rather than through the victims, racism through well-intentioned white folks rather than through the persecuted people, etc. *A Civil Action* seems to be more interested in the financial plight of Schlichtmann and Co. who sink all of their money in the trial.

However, with the exception of this strange perspective shift, the film remains as

sharp and carefully observed as before, most prominently so in William H. Macy's character as Schlichtmann's obsessed accountant, who resorts to more and more outlandish schemes to procure some financial assistance.

In the finale, the shift of the perspective becomes ultimately distracting. When the trial itself falls by the wayside, Travolta's attempts to play earnest end up being not quite as effective as him playing a slimeball, and some interesting story developments end up reduced to a screen caption. But it's not up to me to decide for the director/screenwriter what story he should have told; although I might wish for the different take on the same narrative, there's no arguing that, given the viewpoint, Zaillian's film is, ultimately, both uplifting and entertaining — in the best sense of this word.

Shakespeare in Love

Directed by John Madden.

Written by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard.

Winter Films, Page 8



John Travolta stars as a small-time personal injury lawyer in the legal thriller *A Civil Action*.

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THEATER REVIEW

Ragtime

An excellent novel, the show misses the fun

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Music by Stephen Flaherty.

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens.

Book by Terrence McNally.

Directed by Frank Galati.

Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow.

At the Colonial Theatre, now through March.

Ragtime is a show to be respected and admired. Too bad; I rather wish it were the show to be enjoyed and loved. It's based on the seminal 1975 novel by E.L. Doctorow, which was adapted into a film in 1981. Doctorow reportedly didn't like the film, very much in the same way Ken Kesey didn't like Forman's adaptation of his *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. Too bad, again, both films are arguably better than their sources.

When Doctorow was approached about turning his novel into a stage musical, he reportedly asked all the candidates if they liked the movie, and accepted only the ones who didn't. For the third and last time, too bad. *Ragtime* the musical has a good deal of the novel's faults, and only some of its strength, while the film managed to streamline and condense the narrative into a highly entertaining two-and-a-half hours.

The main difficulty in compressing the novel lies, of course, in the narrative's highly complex structure. The novel has at least a dozen interwoven plots and subplots, a huge number of characters, some of whom are real historical personages, and Doctorow's inimitable, graceful and fluid prose, firmly classical in its pedigree but with playful syncopations. The film played with the converging and diverging stories for a while, until focusing firmly on one central story: that of a ragtime pianist Coalhouse Walker Jr. and his increasingly desperate fight for justice.

The musical tries to stick with all (or at least most) of the novel's subplots. The result

is, fortunately, not a mess one could expect. All the stories and plot twists are delivered in a very lucid manner, but it sorely lacks a good deal of excitement. The intersecting stories dilute each other's impact, the musical numbers take the time which could have been otherwise spent on plot, and, with all the considerable talent and skill evident on stage every second, one thing is missing:

MOVIE REVIEW

Affliction

From toothaches to emotions, we're all afflicted

By Roy Rodenstien

Directed by Paul Schrader

Written by Russell Banks (novel), Paul Schrader

With Nick Nolte, Sissy Spacek, James Coburn, Willem Dafoe.

Released in Europe early last year and having opened in the United States a few weeks ago to qualify for the Academy Awards, *Affliction* arrives to high expectations. Paul Schrader, who wrote the 1976 pop-culture icon *Taxi Driver*, directs the screen adaptation of a novel by Russell Banks, writer of the highly-regarded *The Sweet Hereafter*. *Affliction* stars Nick Nolte as the troubled son of an abusive father, a role that has already won Nolte the New York Film Critics Circle award for best actor.

The movie opens with narration by Rolfe Whitehouse (Willem Dafoe), who sets up the story of how his brother Wade (Nolte) has been permanently erased from their family's consciousness. Wade is first shown warmly, driving through Banks' patented wintry landscape while chatting happily with his

fun.

It's missing from about every aspect of the production. The music is nice, but neither hummable nor memorable; acting is totally proficient, but rather obvious, with only a couple of moments when the character's next action is not easily predictable; and the director keeps throwing elaborate set pieces, which ultimately distract from a good deal of innovative staging.

To be fair, there's nothing particularly wrong with *Ragtime*; it's just that the ingredients simmer, never truly reaching the boiling point. Or make it almost never: there is an impassioned love ballad, directed towards nothing else but a Model T Ford; there is a song about two obsessed men

daughter, but the comfortable mood is soon dissipated. Within minutes, we understand that Wade is divorced and that his relationships with both his wife and daughter are severely strained. When his wife shows up to take their daughter away, Wade explodes into violence.

The central hour of the movie is a masterful depiction of the walls closing in on Wade. Subtle flashbacks show us his childhood threatened by a domineering drunkard of a father, Glen, played by James Coburn in a stout and harrowing performance. Working a dull jack-of-all-trades job as policeman and school crossing guard, Wade's life is filled by resentment toward his miserly custody arrangement and toward powerful townspeople he thinks may be getting away with murder. He sets about fixing these situations, but it's clear his daughter doesn't want to see more of him, and the murder investigation will probably not work out very well either.

Sissy Spacek plays Margie, a woman who loves Wade but comes too close to his volatility and has a rude awakening. Rolfe, Wade's brother, listens to his troubles on the phone and tries to get Wade to focus on the small problems — getting some rest and getting his aching tooth fixed. Wade's tooth is representative of his greater troubles, his deep-rooted emotional affliction; he punches at it to numb the pain, he tries to bury how much it bothers him, but only a dentist — or drastic action — will take care of the tooth, and it's clear Wade is not a dentist kind of guy.

Schrader takes his time developing the

meeting in a dark warehouse, which initially sounds like a hodgepodge of empty rhetoric, but ends on a truly brilliant and subversive punchline; and, finally, the seemingly unnecessary song about baseball ends up as one of the most enjoyable, not only because its theme (several equal groups of people - in this case, fans of different teams - suddenly starting to hate each other with fervid gusto) is one of the major themes of the show, but also because it's plain fun.

Overall, while I had quite an agreeable time, I've seen more enjoyable productions on the college level. Factoring in the ticket prices (up to \$75), I would recommend you simply renting the movie — it's truly good, and it has an excellent ragtime soundtrack.

story, and the gentle pace at which the asphyxiating mood of Wade's life rises creates very powerful scenes, such as when we suddenly realize the chilling extent to which Wade increasingly resembles his father, the clearest sign of his doom.

Nevertheless, there are several rough edges. While the character development of Wade and Glen is excellent, almost every other character is a cardboard cutout. The interaction between Wade and his daughter is glaringly wooden, and the murder investigation subplot, while not completely irrelevant, is handled so discontinuously and superficially that it ends up detracting from the main thrust of the film. The main message of the film is so powerful, however, driven by the slow burn of Nolte's extraordinary performance, that it plows right over these weaknesses unabated.

For such a serious movie, there are a few scenes that are very funny, though as often happens actually living them would probably not be much fun. In perhaps the movie's best scene, Wade describes to his brother his tunnel vision, how he goes through the day with no consciousness of himself or his actions until he accidentally catches his reflection in a mirror and wonders with detachment about that physical manifestation he sees. This inability to escape the walls of his own mind is what ultimately prevents Wade from breaking the pattern of violence in his life. With such insights, and a subtle soundtrack and imagery that linger long after the movie is over, *Affliction* is an imperfect gem of a movie.

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MOVIE REVIEWS

Winter Film Review

'A Simple Plan' delivers an excellently rotten feeling

Winter Films, from Page 6

With Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow, Geoffrey Rush, Ben Affleck, Judi Dench, Tom Wilkinson.

Last year's best period drama and possibly the best period drama ever was *The Wings of the Dove*; this year brought along *Dangerous Beauty* — not quite in the same class, but still good. First, one was co-produced by David Parfit, who made himself quite an excellent resume, what with Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, as well as *The Madness of King George*. *Dangerous Beauty* was produced by Ed Zwick, the director of *Glory* and *Courage Under Fire*. Now the producers of these two combine their efforts with that of an excellent crew, resulting in a highly commendable film. If *Shakespeare in Love* doesn't quite soar as high as *Dove*, it's only because of somewhat staid direction. The rest of the film is truly grand.

The best part is, of course, the witty and funny script by Mark Norman (known largely for a megaflop *Cuthroat Island*) and veteran playwright Tom Stoppard (*Arcadia*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*). Together, they draw a portrait of genius as a young man, with sexual frustration, writer's block, and an acute syndrome of an empty wallet. You see, Will Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes, Ralph's younger brother) has sold his new play, a rollicking comedy *Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter* not to one, but to two theaters at once, and hasn't written a single word. The situation requires immediate attention, so Will sets out to seek a muse — and finds her in theatre-loving Viola de Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow, and I'm required by the trade union of film critics to describe her as "glowing"). Romantic, dramatic, artistic, and financial complication ensue. The play ends up being not quite as funny as originally planned, and gets a slightly different title in the process — and we see Great Literature being born.

There's rarely a film that can juggle that many balls in the air without dropping any of them. Norman and Stoppard create a gallery of comic personages, starting from befuddled theatre owner Philip Henslowe (Geoffrey Rush, looking really funny), a hilariously ruthless moneylender. Hugh "The Money" Fennyman, a conceited lead actor Ned Alleyn (Ben Affleck, again in the company of some Good Will) with a big sword and even bigger ego, astonishingly regal Queen Elizabeth (Judi Dench), and other assorted types. The screenplay is chock-full with gags, hidden — and not so hidden — Shakespearean quotation, and hilarious yet non-intrusive anachronism, like Will's confessor functioning like a shrink, a boat driver asking to read his play, or a mile-long list of people on the theatre bill, with the name of the author hardly to be found.

The look of the film is noteworthy as well; not only do we have uncanny verisimilitude in recreating Elizabethan England, with dirt liberally strewn the streets and chamber pots being emptied directly on the pedestrians' heads, but there's also gilt, lace, and fireworks of the royal

court and the cheap splendor of stage costumes.

When the story turns toward romance, all restraint goes out of the window, and that's a good thing, since two leads are at their best when dealing with strong emotions. Fiennes, who looks a bit like *The Artist* Formerly Known But Not Anymore, makes Shakespeare's desire to speak in verse not only understandable but unavoidable. Paltrow is excellent for the first time since *Emma*.

Other aspects are top notch, like superlative costumes (from *Dove*'s costume designer Sandy Powell), musical score, and editing. The only problem I have concerns John Madden's direction; it seems that he doesn't quite know how to put together a scene with distinct beginning, middle, and end, and overdoses a bit on the swooping spiraling camera moves.

But, ultimately, *Shakespeare in Love* ends being a really funny romantic drama, and showing nothing else than the genesis of true art from such humble beginnings as want, dirt, hate, envy, and lust — as well as love and hope.

Re-reading *Romeo and Juliet* before seeing this one is not required, but highly recommended to increase your enjoyment.

A Simple Plan

Directed by Sam Raimi.

Written by Scott B. Smith, based on his novel.

With Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton, Brent Briscoe, Bridget Fonda.

I'm facing a complex problem: I need to communicate my admiration of a movie which made me feel rather rotten. *A Simple Plan*, to tell the truth, is downright bleak and depressing. It's riveting and illuminating, and it takes the viewers on a dizzying ride to the dark areas of human soul — the fact that this descent is slow and deliberate and gradual doesn't make it any less revelatory.

Three buddies — college-educated Hank (Bill Paxton), his loser brother Jacob (Billy Bob Thornton), and Jacob's drinking buddy Lou (Brent Briscoe) — come across a downed plane in a pristinely white snowy landscape, with the pilot being pecked on by crows, and 4.4 million dollars stashed in a duffel bag. The setup is nearly Fargoesque; and, were this film in the Coen brothers' hands, it would have been much more funnier and much less involving. No, *A Simple Plan* is directed by the *enfant terrible* of Ultimate Horror Experience, a hyperactive camera wiz Sam Raimi, also known as the creator of *Xena: The Warrior Princess*. If there were a more incongruous choice for the director, I don't know what it would be, although Nora Ephron does sounds even less suitable.

First surprise: Raimi proves himself to be a tightly controlled artist, never resorting to style-over-substance mode of operation, and taking care of the film's careful, deliberate pacing. The overdose of ominous symbolism, such as shots of dark crows, abandoned farm buildings, and purposelessly spinning windmills, does not end up distracting anyway.



Jacob Mitchell (Billy Bob Thornton), Sarah Mitchell (Bridget Fonda), and Hank Mitchell (Bill Paxton) succeed in being bleak and depressing in *A Simple Plan*.

Surprise two: Bill Paxton. The audience has every right to expect a great performance from Billy Bob Thornton, and he certainly delivers it here, as a none-too-bright Jacob, who slowly but surely progresses from the oafish comic relief to the story's truest moral compass. I'm still convinced that Thornton is not one person, but rather a team of talented actors, since the actor who played in *Sling Blade* looks nothing like the one from *U Turn*, who doesn't even resemble the guy from *Armageddon*, not to mention *Primary Colors*. No, Thornton delivers an Oscar caliber performance, but that's expected from him. The shock is that his co-star is every bit his equal.

Paxton surely made himself a stellar resume, appearing perhaps in as many blockbusters as Harrison Ford or Tom Hanks: he was in *The Terminator*, *Aliens*, *True Lies*, *Apollo 13*, *Twister*, and *Titanic*. Of course, he was never the main attraction, and he only once managed to create an indelible character (*Aliens*' Private "Game over, man!"

Hudson). But here, he's remarkable. Using his trademark "decent, ordinary guy" persona to the highest effect — and subverting it — Paxton shows the black hole in the center of his character. As a particular grace note to his performance, Hank becomes more and more human, just as his actions turn from noble to selfish to horrifying.

Surprise three: the movie, with all its psychological depths, is highly watchable. With the exception of the middle section which centers on Lou, the least-developed character, and, thus, the least likable, and is somewhat flabby, *A Simple Plan* slowly but inexorably tightens the screws on its characters, achieving tension which is nearly unbearable.

Surprise four: this is not just a character drama/triller. It's also a parable about the dark side of American Dream, how the idea of making oneself prosperous from the ground up — by picking up a stray 4.4 million, if they are found to be lying around — turns horrifying, into a dreamily inescapable American Nightmare.

FILM REVIEW

Koyaanisqatsi

No plot, no characters ... what more can you want?

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Godfrey Reggio.

Written by Ron Fricke, Michael Hoenig,

Godfrey Reggio, Alton Walpole.

Music by Philip Glass.

Koyaanisqatsi is indescribable, and I have to grope for metaphors. Like the words used by John Steinbeck to describe Cannery Row as "a poem, a stink, a grating noise, a quality of light, a tone, a habit, a nostalgia, a dream," *Koyaanisqatsi* is a visual tone poem, an essay, a concert, a comedy, a tragedy, a rollercoaster ride, a humbling and elating experience, and, to put it succinctly, one of the most important pieces of cinematic art created in late 20th century.

Koyaanisqatsi was filmed by Godfrey Reggio in 1983 (or, rather, released in 1983 — the filming itself took years) and given a magnificent score by one of the leading modern composers, minimalist Philip Glass.

I saw it in the Wang Center, accompanied live by Glass and his orchestra, as the only Boston performance on the national tour of *Koyaanisqatsi* — *Live!* This title is somewhat tautological, since the titular Hopi Indian word means "life out of balance," or, according to a more esoteric translation, "a way of life that calls for another way of living."

What is so surprising about *Koyaanisqatsi* is that it's assembled from simple and easily identifiable ingredients. It is a 90-minute film, with no plot, dialogue, or characters. It consists exclusively of shots of nature — clouds, canyons, ocean — and shots of dense urban landscapes, packed with machines, buildings, cars, and humans. Some of the shots are in realtime, some are in slow motion, and some are filmed with time-lapse photography.

But, as it is usually with art, the total is much greater than the sum of the parts. Reggio proceeds from languorously beautiful nature shots to the frantically paced, edited at the

speed of light, footage of human life. There are shots of huge buildings, toppled by demolition explosions, more impressive and horrifying than anything seen in any Hollywood sci-fi extravaganzas; time-lapse scenes of city traffic, with cars flooding the streets (imagine Boston traffic at five times the speed... now add the pedestrians); shots of human masses piling onto elevators interspersed with meat being stuffed into hot dogs. All of it is interwoven with slow-motion closeups of human faces — faces that are funny, sad, frightening, and, most impressively, blank at the sight of teeming crowds.

Prepare for information overload. Reggio edits his film almost at the threshold of incomprehension but doesn't quite cross it, with his images as lucid even at the high speed. He is also quite adept at pure film technique — there are time-lapse shots with "moving camera" (technically quite difficult), long extended shots of nighttime neon lights streaming towards the viewer — similar to the finale of Kubrick's *2001* but comprehensible — and an eerie instance of double exposure, where the trading floor of the stock exchange seems to be inhabited by whirling ghosts.

That's only the visual aspect. Music by Glass is as important to the overall effect — and maybe even more so. Minimalistic music, usually achieved by extremely rapid

repetition of short, rhythmically complex phrases, is a perfect fit to accompany such a transcendent vision of modern life as the one presented here.

But the most interesting thing about *Koyaanisqatsi* is its overall effect; ultimately, the film proves another thing about art, namely that the artist is capable of creating work which transcends the original intentions. It is quite clear that Reggio intended his work as an indictment of modern times, a grand elegy over the lost bond between the Man and Nature. While this theme is certainly loud and distinct, *Koyaanisqatsi* also leaves the viewer with the feeling of elation and triumph. The sheer complexity of the urban activity and power and variety of humanity on display is enough to make one proud to be a part of these extravagant species.

I'm sure *Koyaanisqatsi* is available on video; but I would recommend waiting around until you can see it on the big screen. With all the distractions of watching a movie on television, I doubt it will be such a transporting experience. There is something to be said for sitting in a dark auditorium with several hundred other people and forgetting to breathe. When *Koyaanisqatsi* ends and you walk out, a single individual as a part of a teeming crowd, and your world view won't ever quite be the same.

Uncertain Future Prompts Houses to Try IAP Rush

By Kevin R. Lang
STAFF REPORTER

With fewer students pledging fraternities and independent living groups and the possibility of rush changing dramatically in the near future, off-campus living groups have started to rush over Independent Activities Period.

Epsilon Theta, Phi Beta Epsilon, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Fenway House, and Tau Epsilon Phi are among the fraternities and independent living groups running an IAP rush. Number Six Club is currently planning to rush during the first week of spring term.

Neal H. Dorow, assistant dean for residence and campus activities and advisor to fraternities, sororities and independent living groups, said that "this IAP rush is probably unique," and that this might be the "first time people are maybe looking to fill beds ahead of time."

Some hold IAP rush for first time

TEP is rushing over IAP for the first time, in an effort to make up for a slow fall rush which increased the house bill. However, rush chair Dylan J. McConaghy '00 said that "it also became somewhat apparent that this may prove to be what happens in the future." TEP hopes to be prepared for changes to rush when they might occur, McConaghy said.

Sarah J. Little '01, rush chair at No. 6, said that her house is running a non-traditional rush for the first time almost as a preemptive measure. "We felt that in the future rush would be changing, and we

wanted to be more proactive and see what could be done," Little said. No. 6 also has an uneven distribution between classes, and the house does not want to be short of residents in a few years, Little said.

Unfortunately for TEP, IAP rush has been slow. McConaghy noted that their publicity was not as extensive as they had hoped it would be, as planning for drop posters and other large-scale advertising was not started soon enough. He added that "it's not a time of year when people are used to thinking about questions of housing," and that it's "very difficult to convince someone to come away from IAP activities to come across the river."

Only a few people have attended each event of IAP rush, and TEP does not expect to get the five or six pledges it wants, McConaghy said.

IAP similar to fall rush

Events of IAP rush have been similar to fall rush events, although McConaghy noted that "summer events don't translate very well." Food, parties, games, and study breaks are being used to attract potential residents. However, TEP's budget for IAP rush "is small because we hadn't planned on needing to do IAP rush," McConaghy said.

"My guess is that if this is to become more of a standard thing in the future, I think it'll start to go better because it'll seem less like a quirky thing."

Unlike fall rush, IAP rush is

conducted on an individual house basis without Interfraternity Council oversight, Dorow said.

"Because it's IAP it's that much more difficult to organize" with new IFC officers entering office soon, Dorow said. While the clearinghouse and messaging systems are not used for IAP rush, fundamental regulations are still in

place, he added. Rush events must still be dry, and fraternities and ILGs are still prohibited from criticizing other living groups.

Dorow did not know how many students were expected to pledge over IAP, and noted that his office learns of winter pledging only when students cancel their on-campus housing.

"There's probably a little bit going on behind the scenes that we don't know about," such as fraternities possibly meeting students during fall term and pledging over IAP, Dorow said.

ET, PBE, AEPi, and Fenway are rushing over IAP, but their respective rush chairs could not be reached for comment Tuesday night

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Administrators, Others, to Teach Charm Subjects

Charm School, from Page 1

what to do in the elevator, Merritt said.

Other subjects include "Impressive Interviewing" from the Office of Career Services, "Flirting and Dating," and "It's Alimentary," a class teaching table manners.

Two dancers from the Ballroom Dance Team will perform a dance to kick off Charm School, and at the top of each hour, the ballroom dance team will perform and then teach a different dance.

Although ballroom dancing isn't a new feature of Charm School, the band accompanying the dance team consists of MIT faculty this year. The band is called "Ancient Mariners," headed by Justin E. Kerwin, professor of ocean engineering.

In addition, Charm School is

sponsoring fashion awards this year to complement its "Fashion Police."

According to Ted E. Johnson, assistant director for programs at the Campus Activities Complex, "The police officers are going to be armed with 'Fashion Violations' that look like parking tickets."

Students will be cited for things like wearing a hat indoors, clashing, or "being a walking jewelry store," and penalties for fashion violations will range from immediate correction to a public apology on a public address system, to a five minute sentence at a charm school class.

Charm School Commencement will begin at 4:30 p.m. after refreshments are served in the Bush Room. In addition to a speech by "Charmcellor" Bacow, the Chorallaries will sing Charm School's alma mater.

Charm School is primarily

sponsored by the Office of Residential Life and Student Life Programs. In addition to Huggins, the other main coordinators are Associate Dean Katherine G. O'Dair and Administrative Assistant Heather A. Trickett of RLSLP. Rita A. Lin '00 is the Charm School student coordinator.

"One of the great things about this place is the capacity to poke fun at ourselves... unlike some other institutions located in Cambridge," Bacow said.

"Larry... was such a natural choice" for commencement speaker, O'Dair said. "He fits right in with the mission of the program, he's so enthusiastic about it. He has a great rapport with the students."

Improved charm hoped for

The organizers of Charm School hope that students will not only

enjoy the afternoon but also come away with a heightened awareness of some oft-neglected social skills.

"On a serious note about Charm School," Bacow said, "we have a tremendous amount of people who come from other cultures." According to Bacow, Charm School can provide a place for demystifying the conventions of American culture.

"If we succeed in raising consciousness and having a good time, that's about all we can ask. And when [Charm School] went away for a year, there were a lot of people who called up" asking what had happened, Merritt said.

When asked whether he's ever seen a change in the manners of MIT students after charm school, Merritt said that "the politic thing to say is that yes, it's revolutionized [student's behavior]... I don't know. The point is to make it fun.

"If you kid around about it," Merritt said. "People actually pay attention... if we did it seriously, people will take it as seriously as they took sex education by the gym teacher," Merritt added.

Trickett said that Charm School is "a way to learn some important skills in a way that isn't intimidating."

Truthfully, Merritt did notice that students "are a little more usefully self conscious about some things than they used to be... Maybe it's just my imagination, but people seem to walk down the infinite corridor with a little more style."

In 1993, Merritt had the inspiration to teach MIT students some manners. He recruited Dean Alberta G. Lipson with Roseanne J. Swire of the Office of Academic Services to coordinate the event.

"I've been at MIT for 35 years, and I just got a little weary hearing people in the faculty complain about how manners-challenged the students are," Merritt said.

"I remember sitting with colleagues at lunch who would say [of MIT students], 'Look at them! They don't talk, they don't smile, they just sit there and gobble their food,'" Merritt added.

Charm School fell by the wayside when Lipson and Swire couldn't plan Charm School for last year's Independent Activities Period.

"It didn't happen last year, and several students came to me and my colleagues" wanting it back, Huggins said.

"Several students formed a Charm School this past fall; we said we would help in any way," O'Dair said. According to O'Dair, Charm School is "a recognized student activity with strong administrative support."

In past years, Charm School has received media attention from the likes of *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, and *CNN*.

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classes begin on Thurs, Feb 4



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Students Investigate Residence Systems

Housing, from Page 1

The steering committee was formed last November, with Executive Vice President of the Alumni Association William J. Hecht '61 as chair. Members include four students, two alumni, and four faculty and staff members.

The committee shaped the design contest and helped suggest attributes of the system that should be considered. For the committee, the real work will begin after Friday's design presentations; the steering committee will then consider all the submissions and incorporate them into a final plan.

The new undergraduate dormitory, to open in 2001, is one element of the design, but certainly not the only element, Hecht said. The committee is also looking for input on improving dining and the overall residential experience.

Two teams that participate in the contest will be recognized for their work. The first team will receive a trip for up to six participants to visit Cambridge University in England. The second team will receive a trip for six members to visit either Stanford University or the California Institute of Technology.

Both groups will then report back to the steering committee with their thoughts on those school's systems.

Participants are enthusiastic

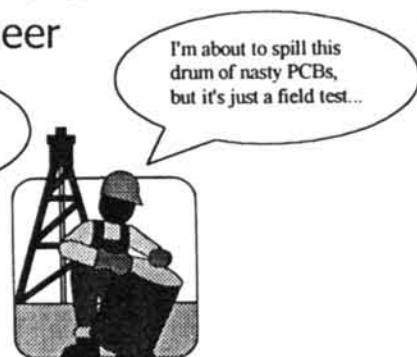
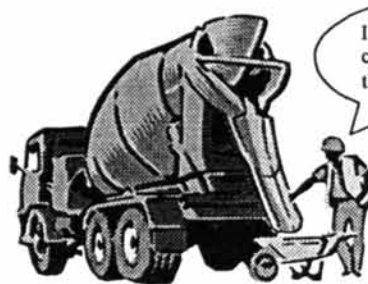
Students involved in the competition seem enthusiastic about the opportunity to help mold the Institute's future. "This is a chance... to make a significant impact on the system," said Matt McGann '00, member of one design team and co-chair of the Undergraduate Association's committee on housing and orientation. "I felt that there was no way I couldn't do it."

Kishore Kuchibhotla '02, member of another team, said, "Not a lot of administrations around the country would do this... I figured, 'Why not give it a try?'" Kuchibhotla also mentioned that the MIT student body is a diverse community, and that the chance to help design how students live is appropriate.

Administrators will not know for certain how many teams are submitting designs until the team registration deadline, which is tonight at midnight. Hecht and Kolenbrander estimated that between five and nine teams would make presentations, however.

Quiz: Ready for the real world?

a) For each cartoon below, indicate who is the civil/environmental engineer



b) Get more than an *A+* by coming to the...

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Friday, January 29
Bush Room 10-105

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⊗ 1:30-4:30 Civil Engineering Panel

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Several Delays Fail to Hamper 6.270 Robots

6.270, from Page 1

majors, there are generally participants in the competition who major in other areas, such as mechanical and chemical engineering.

Kuo-Chiang Lian '00, a chemistry major, said that he has been "turned on to course 6" after having been involved in the competition.

Teams hampered by problems

Nevertheless, as teams designed and constructed their robots, many encountered problems. One major difficulty in this year's competition included the late arrival of some parts.

"Students were prohibited from testing their designs at an early stage," said course organizer Steve S. Paik G. For instance, the controller board did not come in until Friday of the first week.

There were other problems with the controller boards as well, although those were somewhat balanced by the comparative computing power of the new boards. Because the controller boards were new, course organizers ended up "debugging them on the fly," said Rob Blau G, one of the course organizers.

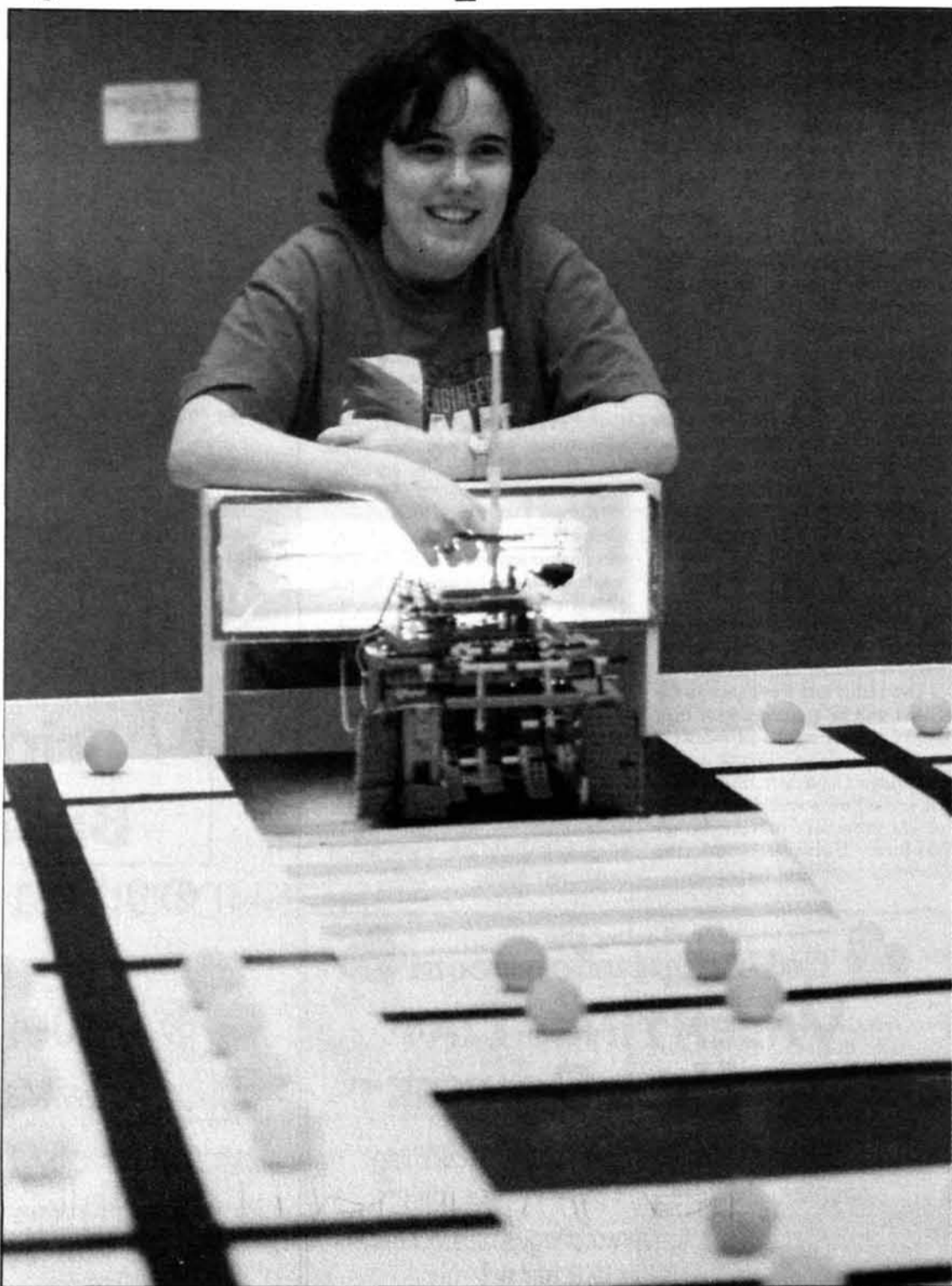
Additionally, "the software was more difficult to use, but students were getting much more power," Blau said. The old boards ran at a speed of 2MHz with 32k memory; the new boards run at 200MHz with 32 MB of memory.

"And they're really fun when they explode," Blau added.

In addition to the software and hardware problems, contestants faced such obstacles as learning how to make structurally sound robots to withstand impact, constructing sensors, and building wire-up motors. According to Stallion Yang '99, "Knowing what you want to do is easy... the implementation process takes quite a while."

In the last week of competition, many teams have taken advantage of the 24-hour 6.270 lab, which had previously been open for only 14 hours.

Monday night, fifty-five teams appeared to qualify for the competition by demonstrating functionality of their robots. Only



Erica H. Peterson '02 proudly displays her creation Monday during the first round of the 6.270 competition.

MICHELLE FOVINELLI—THE TECH

26 out of 55 teams passed the initial qualification process; however, before last night's impoundment, a total of fifty teams qualified for the

competition.

Nevertheless, losses from the qualifying round will be carried to the actual competition. Teams that incur losses from this morning's

preliminary competition will also count negatively toward tonight's final competition.

Karen E. Robinson contributed to the reporting of this story

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Members of MIT Hillel performed "Greased Lightning" during their spontaneous production of Grease Friday in East Campus.

GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

damned for life

by Jessica



randomeLand

by XID



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

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - **European Career Fair.** About 30 European/multinational companies will present themselves and conduct interviews with candidates. Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: European Club.

2:00 p.m. - **The Argument from Design.** Roger White, MIT. Part of the Is There a God lecture series. Room 37-212. Sponsor: Philosophy Department.

4:00 p.m. - **New Fe(II) and Co(II) Catalysts for Olefin Polymerizations and Oligomerizations.** Professor Maurice Brookhart, Dept. of Chemistry, University of N.C. at Chapel Hill. One of the Karl Pfister Lectures in Organic Chemistry. Room 6-120. Sponsor: Chemistry Department.

5:10 p.m. - **LEM Service and Supper.** Eucharist in the Chapel, followed by a free fellowship supper and discussion. Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

6:00 p.m. - **For Better or For Worse: The Legal Battle for Same-Sex Marriage.** A short seminar on the history of the legal struggle for full and equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians. Room 6-120. 1 hour. Sponsor: GaMIT.

Thursday's Events

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **4th Annual LIDS Student Conference.** Conference organized by the graduate students from LIDS, EECS with talks about their research work by students from LIDS, DSPG, LEES, SLS, Mech. Engin., Harvard Robotics Lab. and CDSP (Northeastern). Room 34-401. Sponsor: LIDS.

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. - **TechCalendar Workshop.** Learn how to enter lectures, lecture series and events into MIT's online guide to campus events. We'll demonstrate how to add, edit, delete and modify events in the system. Room 2-136. Sponsor: The Tech.

2:00 p.m. - **The Problem of Evil.** Adam Elga, MIT. Part of the Is There a God lecture series. Room 37-212. Sponsor: Philosophy Department.

6:00 p.m. - **Diversity of Thought Symposium.** Prof. Stephen Chorover and Eileen de los Reyes, MIT Alumni. Part of the HTC Spring Fourm Series. Room 3-270. Sponsor: History Department with Department of Architecture.

7:00 - 11:00 p.m. - **Learn to Square Dance.** Learn to square dance MIT-style! No partner or experience needed. Free intro night, refreshments will be served. Student Center, Lobdell. Sponsor: Tech Squares.

Friday's Events

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - **4th Annual LIDS Student Conference.** Conference organized by the graduate students from LIDS, EECS with talks about their research work by students from LIDS, DSPG, LEES, SLS, Mech. Engin., Harvard Robotics Lab. and CDSP (Northeastern). Room 34-401. Sponsor: LIDS.

12:10 p.m. - **GABLES Monthly Lunch.** A social get-together of the MIT Gay, Bisexual, and Lesbian Employees and Supporters group. Send e-mail to dfitz@mit.edu for location. Sponsor: GABLES.

2:00 p.m. - **Technology and Archaeology in the Deep Sea: Toward a New Synthesis.** Conference runs from Friday to Sunday. Organized by Prof. David Mindell. Media Lab,

Bartos Theater. Sponsor: DeepArch.

7:00 p.m. - **Get Shorty.** Low-level Miami loan shark and film buff Chili Palmer (John Travolta) heads to Hollywood via Las Vegas looking for grade-Z movie producer Harry Zim (Gene Hackman) who owes Vegas \$150,000. 1 hour 45 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - **Aurelius Ensemble: Poulenc Potpourri.** Celebrating Francis Poulenc's 100th birthday, some of his chamber music classics - the clarinet and violin sonatas, sonata for piano-four-hands and Sextuor for winds and piano. Killian Hall.

10:00 p.m. - **Get Shorty.** Low-level Miami loan shark and film buff Chili Palmer (John Travolta) heads to Hollywood via Las Vegas looking for grade-Z movie producer Harry Zim (Gene Hackman) who owes Vegas \$150,000. 1 hour 45 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday's Events

7:00 p.m. - **The Shawshank Redemption.** Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover and sentenced to life at the Shawshank State Prison. 2 hours 22 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. - **Aurelius Ensemble: Poulenc Potpourri.** Celebrating Francis Poulenc's 100th birthday, some of his chamber music classics - the clarinet and violin sonatas, sonata for piano-four-hands and Sextuor for winds and piano. Killian Hall. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

10:30 p.m. - **The Shawshank Redemption.** Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover and sentenced to life at the Shawshank State Prison. 2 hours 22 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Sunday's Events

7:00 p.m. - **Get Shorty.** Low-level Miami loan shark and film buff Chili Palmer (John Travolta) heads to Hollywood via Las Vegas looking for grade-Z movie producer Harry Zim (Gene Hackman) who owes Vegas \$150,000. 1 hour 45 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:00 p.m. - **The Shawshank Redemption.** Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover and sentenced to life at the Shawshank State Prison. 2 hours 22 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday's Events

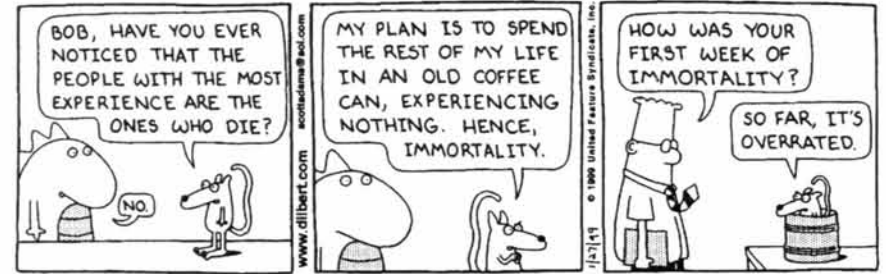
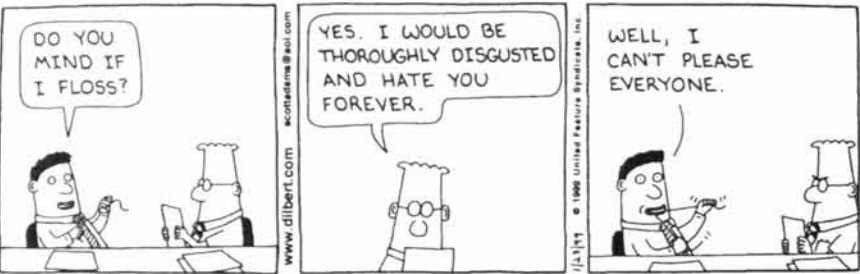
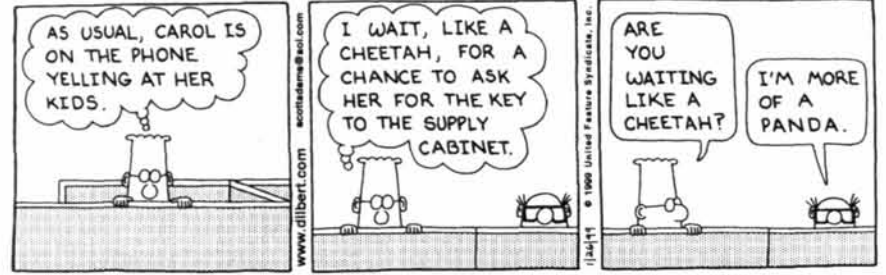
7:00 p.m. - **Antz.** Woody Allen stars as a worker ant with a personality problem. 1 hour 30 minutes. Admission \$2.50. Room 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

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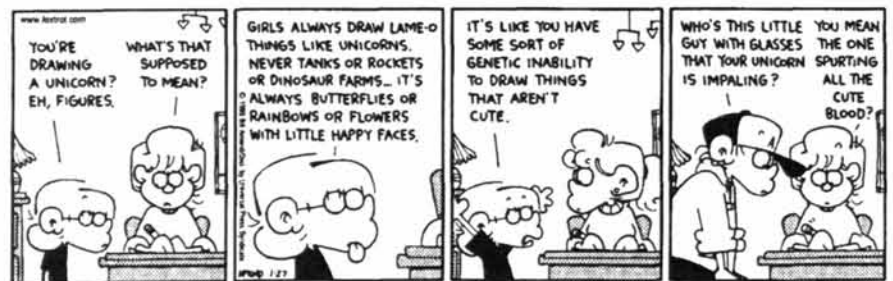
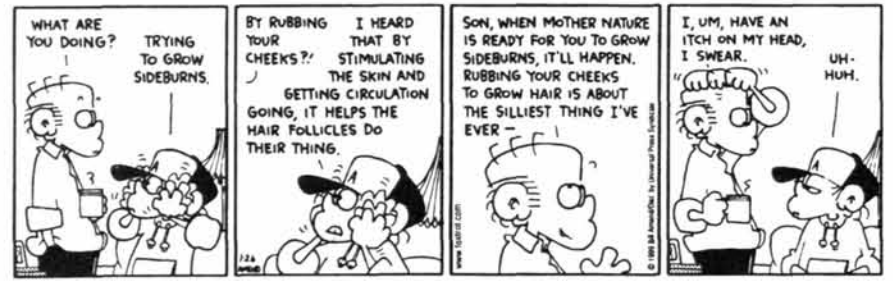
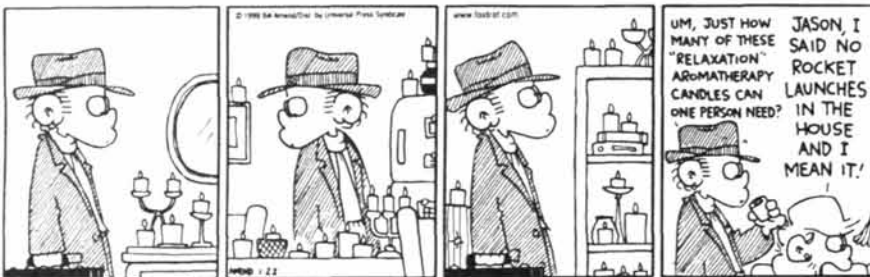
Tuesday's Events

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. - **Yeomen of the Guard Auditions.** MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players auditions for spring production. Prepare simple song in English and bring two copies. Students only. Student Center, Rm 491.

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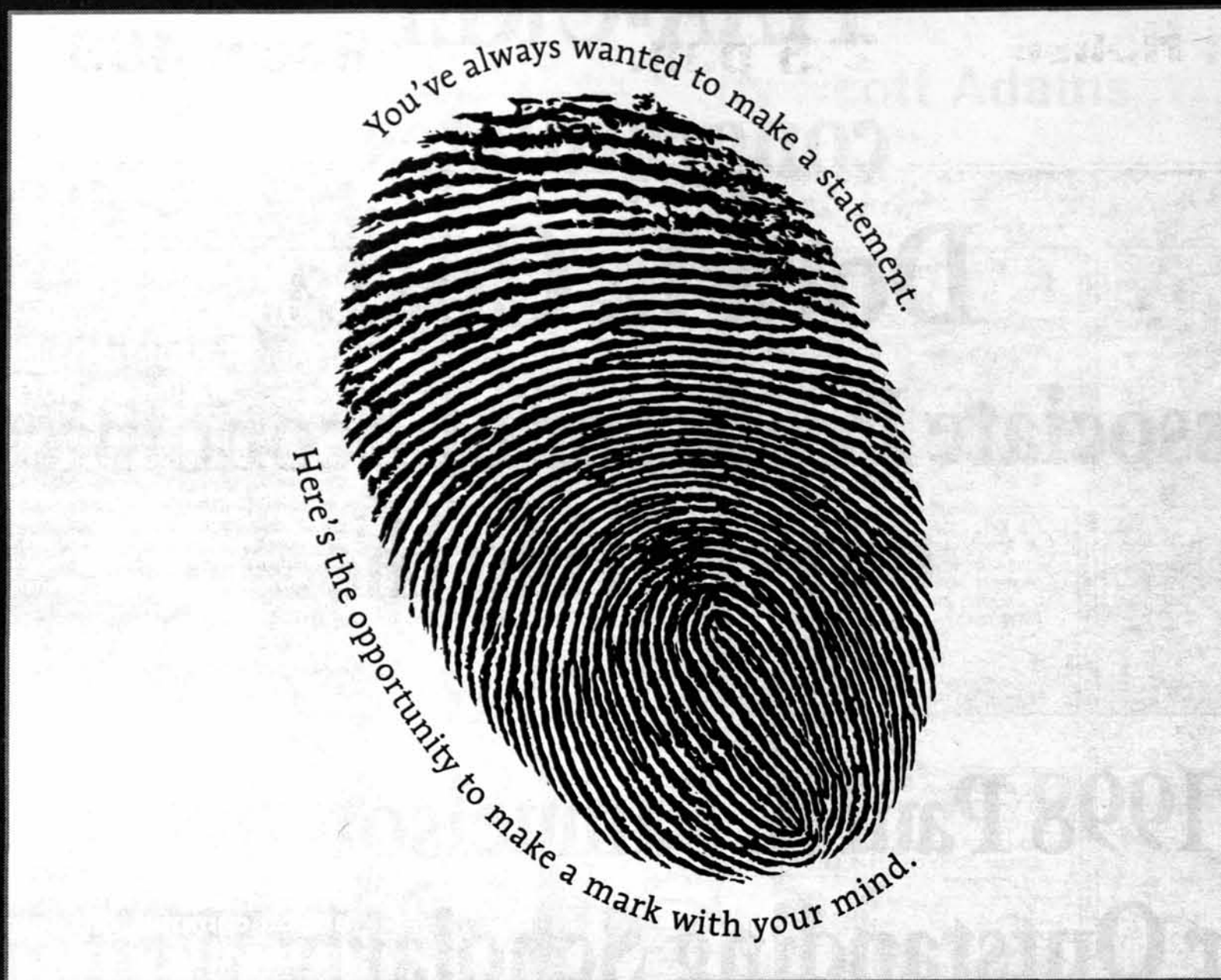
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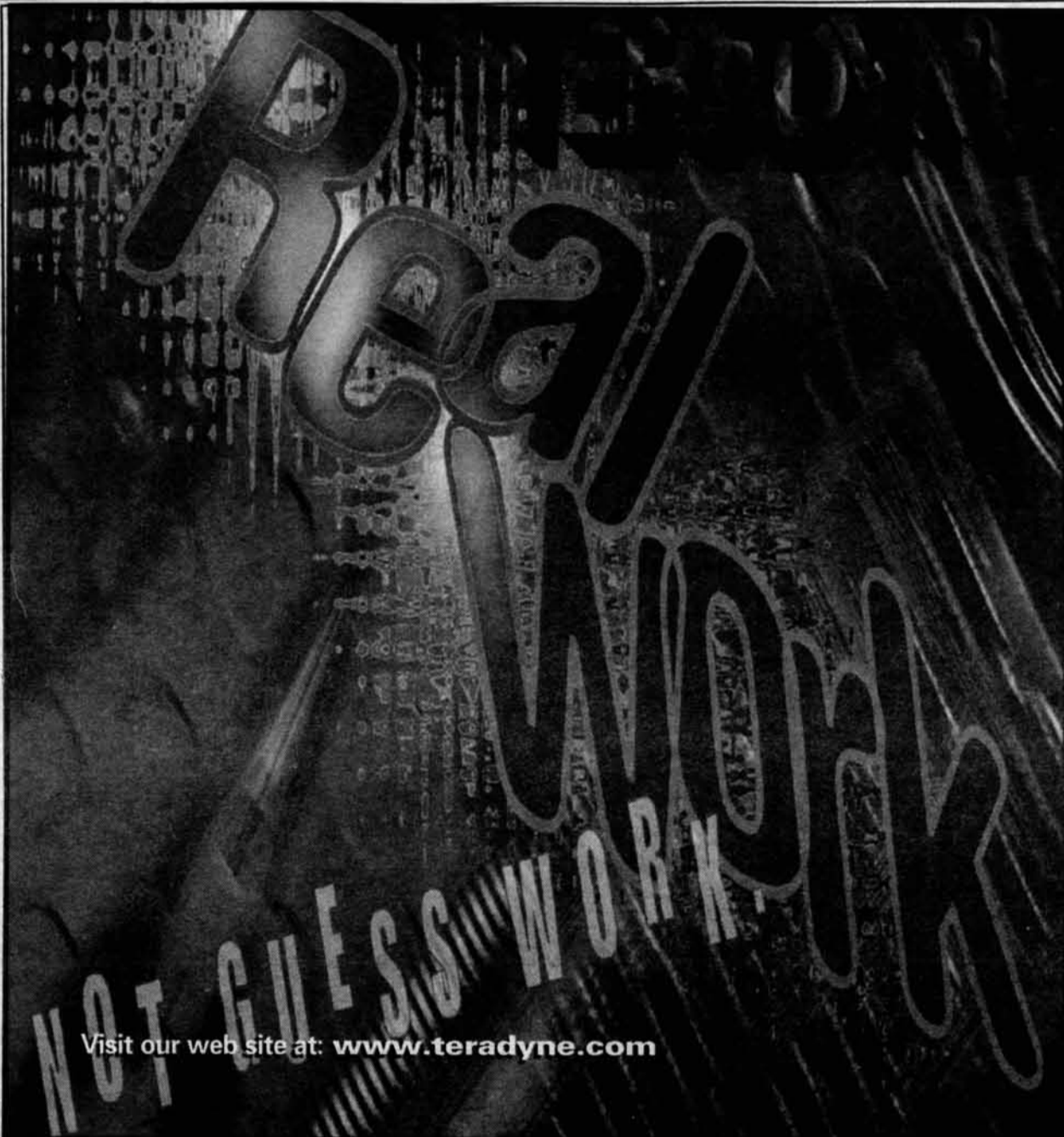
Sunday

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2-5 p.m.

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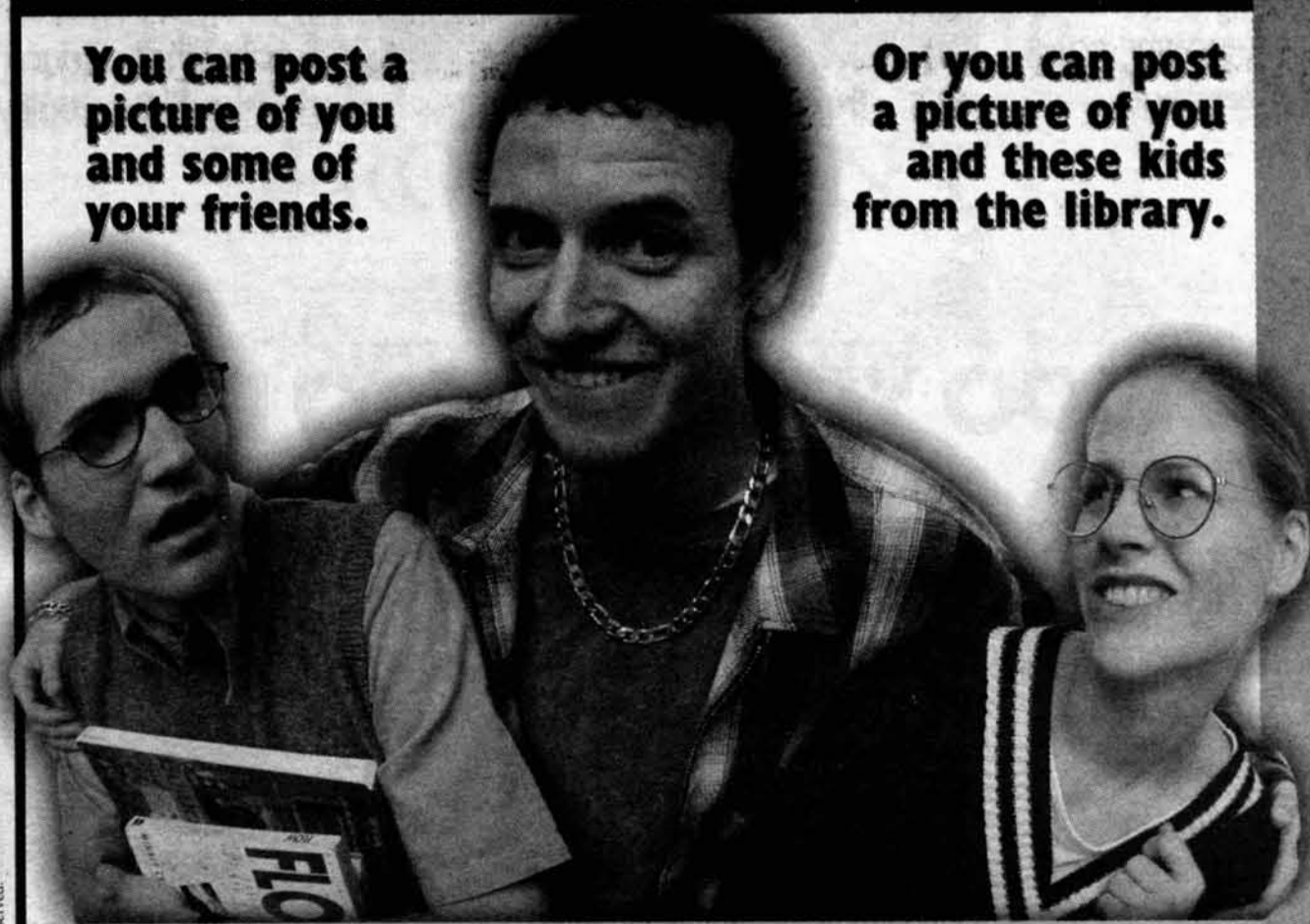
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Chris Ickler
BS PHYSICS – MIT

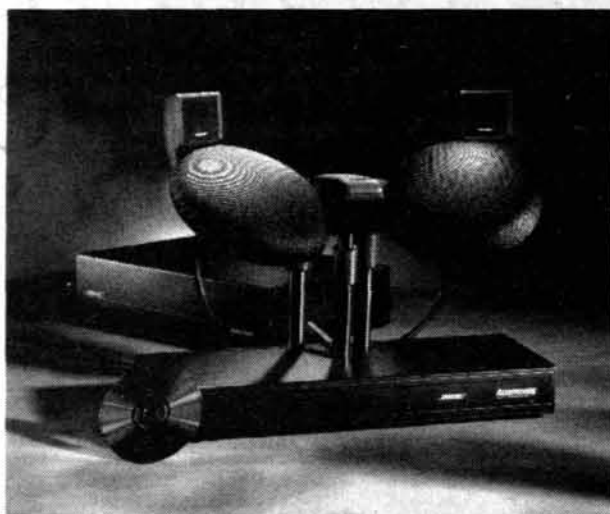
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PUBLIC LECTURES

Wednesday, January 27

2-4 p.m.

Room 1-390

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PROF. ANDREW WHITTLE

3-4 P.M., ROOM 1-390

The Big Dig is underway in Boston. Underground construction of the new Central Artery and the MBTA South Piers Transitway provide major challenges due to the difficult subsurface soil conditions and proximity of major structures. Find out about the geotechnical problems associated with these projects and the solutions that have been adopted.



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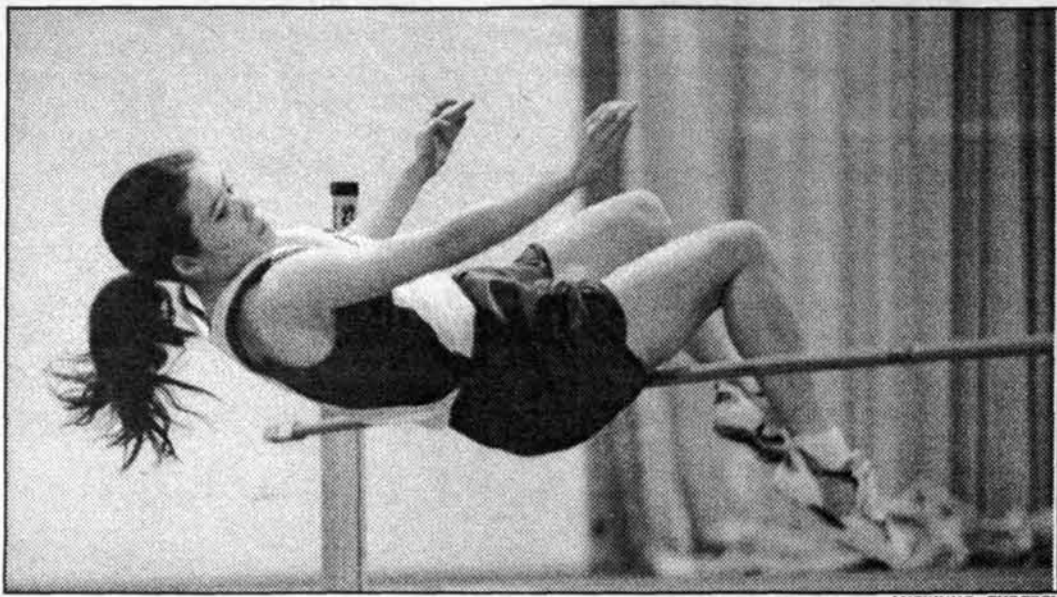
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Kay Sullivan '02 clears the bar in the women's track and field competition against six other local colleges Saturday. MIT placed third overall. LUCY YANG—THE TECH

Women's Swimming Loses to Wellesley

By Conan Hom
TEAM MEMBER

MIT matched up against Wellesley College at the Chandler Pool last Tuesday.

In Mary Ellen McLaughlin's second year as MIT's coach, the undefeated Lady Engineers went to Wellesley with high hopes of bringing to an end a decade old losing streak against the team. Unfortunately, the Wellesley team was able to hand the MIT their first lost of the season.

The Lady Engineers opened the dual meet in a confident manner with Elizabeth Krams '00, Lea Engst '02, Jen Navarro '00 and Deirdre Dunn '99 posting a win in the 200 yard medley relay. Wellesley moved into the lead which it would never surrender with easy sweeps in the 1000 freestyle and 100 backstroke races.

In the 200 yard freestyle race, Dunn took the lead over Wellesley's Sarah Scott '02 with only 50 yard remaining and never relinquished the lead. Andrea Harsany '02 won the 50 yard freestyle to end the first third of the meet. Dunn and Harsany's times of 2:02.21 and 25.76 respectively were New England qualifiers.

MIT, however, had been rocked on its heels. While managing to win

some events, the Lady Engineers had been unable to score well in the second through fifth places and were behind 73-58. Wellesley, with the home crowd advantage, was in overdrive posting personal bests and frustrated the Engineers' opening game plan.

Navarro, after suffering an upset loss in the 200 yard butterfly, went off the blocks in the 100 fly and won easily in a New England qualifying time of 1:02.44. Krams took second place. MIT continued to do well, with Lea and Erica Fuchs '99 taking home first and second in the 200 yard breaststroke. Lea Fuchs, like Navarro won convincingly.

With just two events to go, Dunn pulled MIT to within eight points by winning the 200 yard individual medley. The Lady Engineers needed at least a first through third placing in the final 400 free relay to win the meet. With tremendous effort, MIT created and held a one-two lead into the half way mark with Lauren Erb '01 pushing hard to increase the lead. Wellesley, however, stacked together its finest relay squad, and their last two swimmers took the lead to win the event and the meet 148-135.

The Lady Engineers next home meet is tomorrow versus Tufts University at the Alumni Pool.

Men's Volleyball Team Edges Out Wentworth

By Tom Klemas
HEAD COACH

On Jan. 20, the men's varsity volleyball team travelled to Providence to compete against Johnson and Whales University. MIT lost 3-2 to a greatly improved and bigger team in a closely contested match. Ajai Bharadwaj '01 and David Lee '01 played vital roles on defense which kept MIT in the match despite the fact that MIT experienced extreme difficulty siding out with its offense. The varsity team played pretty well despite the absence of two key starters and several ill team members.

On Jan. 21, the men's varsity

team played its first home match and defeated Wentworth Institute of Technology 3-2. Setter Minpont Chien '99 led the team offense to a crushing 15-0 win during the first game. The team easily won the second game 15-8. Ya-Bing Chu '99 ran effective middle attacks that overpowered the WIT defense. However, WIT made some adjustments in the its offense that earned it the next two games 15-8, 15-12, running its outside hitter for a second tempo set in the middle that confounded the MIT blockers. The MIT offense also faltered slightly due to an increase in hitting errors. With some adjustments however, MIT easily won the rally-scoring final game 15-4 to take the match.

On Saturday, the varsity team travelled to compete against Springfield College. Although the MIT team lost 0-3 (11-15, 2-15, 12-15), they played an extremely solid match against the nationally ranked Springfield team. Despite missing two starters and featuring two new players in the lineup, the Engineer offense, set by Darius Jazayeri '00, was quite effective against the large Springfield team.

MIT's serving strategies and tough individual serves contained the overpowering Springfield offense. Middle blocker Anthony Parris '02 and right-side hitter Nick Michalakakis '01 hit extremely well, while left-side hitter and captain Bob Moser '99 received serves flawlessly.

MIT will travel to WIT to compete tomorrow and will play in the NECVL tournament on Sunday.

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Fencers' Success Places Team At Top of Conference Rankings

By Evangelos Efstathiou
TEAM MEMBER

Six members of the MIT fencing team and one of the assistant coaches participated in a national competition in Louisville, Ky., from January 15-18. Both the men's and women's teams, and all three weapons, were represented.

This tournament was one of four North American Cups that the U.S. Fencing Association hosts each year. Results in this tournament are used for national rankings, and for determining U.S. representatives in international competition.

This was the first national tournament for four of the fencers, who shined in their debuts. Curtis Wade III '01 and Michael Krypel '01, both varsity epeeists, won two and three bouts, respectively. Wade finished 158th, in a field of over 200 competitors, after a close elimination fight. Krypel finished 119th.

Jade Joan Hon '01 and Dianne Allen '01, both women's foil fencers, had made it out of their pools and advanced to the elimination rounds. Hon finished 98th, and Allen 86th, with well over a hundred fencers competing.

Krypel, Allen, and Hon also fended in the junior event.

MIT epee assistant coach Kari Backes, ranked 37th nationally, also fended in Louisville and placed 53rd out of 129 fencers.

In women's sabre, Caroline Purcell '00 fought her way to the finals of the Open, placing fifth. Purcell rose to seventh place in the U.S. national rankings, and is close to qualifying for the World Team which will compete in the World Championships. She also won the junior event, and is ranked first in the country in under-20 women's sabre.

MIT men's sabre fencer Evangelos Efstathiou '00 advanced to the round of 48 after going 4-1 in pool bouts and winning in the second round of eliminations. In the round of 48, he defeated Keeth Smart, who went on to win the Cup, 5-4. Efstathiou placed 40th out of 115 fencers, joining teammate Brian

Bower '99 in the national rankings. Efstathiou is ranked 67th nationally, and Bower is ranked 36th.

All nationally ranked fencers are eligible to compete in the U.S. Fencing Association Division I National Championships, held in April. Currently, Purcell, Backes, Bower, and Efstathiou will be competing. Bower and Efstathiou also plan to fence in the team event that weekend.

MIT fencers continued to lead the Northeastern Fencing Conference with wins in the final meet of the year, held at Smith College on Saturday. The women's epee and men's foil squads led the way, with stellar performances to defeat long standing rivals Boston College and Brown University.

The men's team started the day defeating Tufts 19-8, led by Brian Bower '99 and the sabre squad. Bower was untouched against his opponents, winning all three of his bouts 5-0. The men's team lost to Brandeis in the second round, despite a strong showing by epeeist Matt DuPlessie '99 and Bower who came a close call away from sweeping Brandeis.

In the third round, MIT outclassed rival Boston College, winning 19-8. While the epee squad sapped BC's strength, crushing even the best epeeists, MIT sabre defeated BC for the first time since the fall of 1997. Bower, the 1997 New England Champion, defeated 1998 New England Champion Luke Mountain, by a score of 5-1. However, the squad of the day proved to be foil, with Andre Van Horn '01, Oliver Chadwick '02, and Ben Vandiver '00 routing BC bout after bout. Vandiver finished the match with three straight touches to beat BC's top starter.

The men's team finished 3-1 (11-3 overall), with a thrilling 14-13 victory over Brown. Caroline Purcell '02 of the sabre squad swept, keeping MIT close, but MIT's fate was in the hands of the men's foil squad. As the day was drawing to an end, foil was handed a challenge: MIT could not win

unless the foil squad won three of the remaining four bouts. In this effort, Ali Ibrahim '01 started the ball rolling, setting up the stage for Van Horn and Vandiver to clinch the victory.

During the men's bouts an exhibition women's sabre tournament was held, with Kit Lennox '02, Jen McKeenan '01, and Cappy Gray '00 participating. Facing opponents from the same schools as the mens teams, McKeenan tied for third in only her second women's sabre tournament, and Gray placed fifth in her first exhibition. Lennox was eliminated in the round of 16 by McKeenan, finishing 13th.

The women's team was not to be outdone. Despite injuries, they showed their strength by going undefeated for the day. Captain Aimee Wiltz '99, Epee Squad leader Nora Szasz '99, and epeeist Jessica Sandland '99 led the team.

In the first match, against Tufts, both schools stayed within two bouts of the lead until the very end, when MIT pulled ahead to win 17-15. This was the closest match of the day. The women beat both Boston College and Brown by a score of 20-12, and defeated Smith College 22-10.

The women's epee squad proved to be unbeatable, winning 11-5, 12-14, and even 13-3 against BC. Szasz and Sandland finished the day with only one loss apiece, and both Sara Perry '99 and Sylwia Daniszewska '00 had strong performances. In foil, Wiltz led the way, dropping only three of her 16 bouts of the day. Foilist Beth Manoogian '99 had an impressive performance against Smith, winning three of the four bouts.

Bouts against schools such as Brown, Boston College, Brandeis, and Tufts count for NCAA Regional and National qualifiers. MIT's upcoming meet is at home, against powerhouses University of Pennsylvania, New York University, University of North Carolina, Duke University, and Yeshiva University, on Sunday.



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Engineers Crush Mount Holyoke And Coast Guard, Lose to Tufts

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Nakamura, Ma, Lani Rapp '01, and Cheng also added solid performances in the event.

In the 400 meter race, Bowen held onto third place against tough competition with a time of 1:04.0. Besides breaking the old record, she also qualified for the New England Division III meet. Sullivan, another one of several rookie standouts on the team, placed fifth with a time of 1:06.5.

Milena Yamaykina '02 went out strong in the 600 meter race and positioned herself very well. Her time of 1:50.5 earned her seventh place and also set the first MIT 600 meter varsity record for women's indoor track. Winning her heat, Hong placed eighth overall in 2:00.2, and Scoppettuolo raced aggressively and put up an impressive fight against her opponents to finish in 2:12.5.

Despite aggressive starts, Chi-an Wang '01 and Christina Cosman '01 found the tight curves on the indoor track particularly difficult to race on. Nonetheless they scored points by placing seventh and eighth respectively, while Debbie Won '00 placed first.

After coming off of an injury and taking months off from training, Tanya Zelevinsky '99 ran a gutsy race and placed fifth after taking the lead for the first leg of the race. Melanie Harris '01 ran a well-paced, confident race to finish fourth with a

time of 3:24.3 and established MIT's first 1000 meter varsity record. Marja-Louisa Izamis '02 also gave a strong performance, finishing seventh in 3:36.7. Harris and Rose Radin '02 ran an excellent 1500 meter, placing fifth and sixth. Radin cut six seconds off last week's time giving her a time of 5:27.8 while Harris shaved an astonishing 17 seconds off in one week and finished the race in 5:24.3. Won again placed first in the event.

Unfortunately, MIT's sole entrant in the 5000 meter race was unable to run, and without any MIT competitors, Tufts was able to secure 22 points in the event.

In the last event of the day, the MIT 4x800 meter relay team lost to Tufts by one second. Wang hung right on the shoulder of Tuft's first leg and drafted off her opponent. However, Wang was cheated out of her usual powerful kick in the last 100m due to a premature handoff. Unaware that the first leg runners still had one lap to go, the officials allowed the second runners to take the baton after approximately 600 meters. The officials did not learn from the first mistake and the second leg was also cut short. Radin was still able to make an impressive move on Tufts and handed off to Cosman, who ended up running slightly longer than 800 meter but ran a strong leg, putting MIT's anchor in close enough position to catch Tufts. The race came down to the wire as Won passed the Tuft's

anchor. Unfortunately, Won wasn't able to outkick her opponent as the Tufts runner took the lead for good with 50 meters left.

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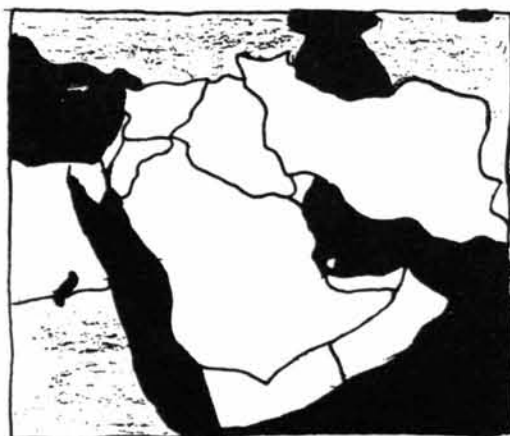
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SPORTS

Women's Indoor Track Finishes Second In Quad Cup

By Deborah Won

TEAM MEMBER

On January 16 the women's indoor track team came in second place at the Quad Cup meet at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. With a final score of 193.5, the Engineers crushed both Coast Guard (103 points) and Mount Holyoke (51.5 points); however, they fell short of

Tufts University (249 points).

Right off the bat, Princess Imoukhuede '02 gave a stunning performance in the weight throw, breaking the her previous school record by over 8 feet and winning the event. The victory qualified her for the New England Division III competition. Imoukhuede also went on to outthrow all of her competi-

tors in the shotput with a distance of 33'11.25". Mellissa Dullea '00 also helped MIT gain points in the two competition by placing sixth and third, respectively.

Co-captains Elaine Chen '99 and Lila French '99 used their versatility to contribute significantly to the team's successes. There was hardly an event that neither of them competed in. French participated in the triple jump, placed third in the weight throw and second in the pole vault with 9'6". French also scored four points in the 55 meter high hurdles by finishing fifth, helped the 4x200m relay capture second place, and ran a leg in the 4x400m relay to help the team to a third place finish.

Chen ran the lead leg in the 4x200 relay, followed by Adeline

Kuo '02, French and anchor Renee Bowen '00. Their time of 1:56.18 broke the old varsity record. In the 4x400 relay Stephanie Hong G, Kuo, Chen and anchor Kay Sullivan '02 also set a new school record with a 4:34.96. In the 55 meter dash, Chen blazed down the straightaway in a time of 7.88 to capture second place. She also placed sixth in the 200 meter with a time of 29.24 and tied for second in the high jump with a 4'8.75" jump. Chen capped off the day by taking sixth in the long jump with a mark of 14'8.5".

The Engineers loaded all the field events with quantity and quality. In the long jump were Helen Lee '02 placed eighth, Vanessa Li '02 ninth, Mia Heavener '00 and Stephanie Norris '02 tied for tenth,

and Mealanie Nakamura '00 14th. In the triple jump, Lee finished fourth, Li fifth, Norris seventh, and Heavener ninth. Lee had an outstanding jump of 31'1" to break the varsity record and qualify her for the New England Division III meet.

The MIT pole vaulters dominated their event and have yet to be challenged by any one other than their own teammates. Norris won the event by matching French's 9'6" but with fewer attempts. French took second while Sullivan and Li took third and fourth, respectively. Norris' and French's vaults broke the previous varsity record by 3".

Sullivan won the high jump, as she used her amazing arch to clear 5'0.25". Not only did this set the varsity and rookie records, the jump also earned her a berth at the New England Division III meet. Chen's second place along with Heavener's and Lee's respective seventh and eighth place finishes gave the Engineers half of the 37 possible points in a single event.

In the 55 meter finals Kuo finished fourth with a time of 7.91 and Alyssa Thorvaldson '00 placed seventh with 8.29. Nakamura, Julie Ma '99, and Lily Cheng '00 gave good efforts as well in the trials. In the 55 meter high hurdle finals Thorvaldson graced spectators once again with her beautiful form and took second place in a time of 9.28. She was able to improve her time during the trials with a finish of 9.20. This set the varsity record and qualified her for the New England Division III meet. Li placed eighth in the event with a 10.50s, setting the rookie record.

Kuo placed second in the 200 meter race with a time of 28.92.

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GREG KUHNEN—THE TECH

Katie Spade '99 passes the ball to Vicky Best '99 in Tuesday's game against Babson College. MIT lost in overtime 61-57.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, January 27

Squash vs. Amherst College, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 28

Women's Swimming vs. Tufts University, 4:00 p.m.

Men's Swimming vs. Tufts University, 6:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Elms College, 7:00 p.m.

Wrestling vs. Bridgewater State College and University of Southern Maine, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 29

Rifle—MIT Beanpot Shootout

Saturday, January 30

Men's Volleyball—NECVL Tournament, 8:00 a.m.

Squash vs. Fordham University, 10:00 a.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Smith College, 1:00 p.m.

Men's Indoor Track vs. Bates College, Williams College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1:00 p.m.

Monday, February 2

Men's Basketball vs. Babson College, 7:00 p.m.

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