President's Convocation Today

Thursday, August 27, 1998

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Welcoming Events Help Frosh Unwind

By Brett Atschul
and Zareena Hussain

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

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

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

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

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

Freshmen pack Student Center

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

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

Police, Page 11

CPs Explore Policing Options Across River

By Douglas E. Heimburger

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The board then requested that MIT investigate the potential of gaining deputy privileges for MIT police within Suffolk County, and to report back to it on the status of obtaining the privileges by mid-September.

Police have different styles

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

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

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

Variety of Programs Ease Introduction to Institute

By Frank Dabek

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

Discovering Ocean Engineering

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

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

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

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

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

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

Programs, Page 12

World & Nation............. 2
Opinion.................. 4
Arts.......................... 6
TechCalendar.............. 9

Comics

Page 8

Thinking of opening a new banking account? Alternatives are compared inside.

Page 11

MIT living groups have faced a variety of sanctions following alcoholic events this year.
Rebels Attack Congo's Capital

By Robert Sueo and Michael Grunwald

Attorney General Janet Reno Wednesday ordered a preliminary investigation into whether Vice President Albert Gore's special task force违了 the Justice Department officials looking into the campaign finance scandal, according to sources. The Attorney General's order came after several days of deliberation about whether to open a probe into allegations of fund-raising abuses.

The preliminary investigation could lead to the appointment of an independent counsel and represents a new step toward whether Gore, who was cleared last December by Reno after an investigation of political money funds, which are not fully regulated under federal law. It was that unregulation that caused Reno's Office of Special Investigations to order the preliminary investigation.

The current inquiry began a month ago when the FBI raised questions about Gore's fund-raising activities. The FBI had asked the Justice Department to decide if the vice-president's fund-raisers violated federal law.

The preliminary investigation will focus on whether Gore misled Justice Department officials about the amounts of money raised by his campaign in 1996. It will also investigate whether Gore's political committees, which are not fully regulated under federal law, violated federal law.

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Residents Flee as Hurricane Bonnie Lashes North Carolina

By Sue Anne Pressley

The WASHINGTON POST

Hurricane Bonnie marched across the North Carolina coast with medicine-slowing winds and pounding rain, leaving slowly inland with 115 mph winds and lashing rains, downing trees and power lines and turning residents into a two-day assault. In the long run, it was 46 inches of rain that the shore at Cape Fear and, slowing its forward motion markedly, passed through Wilmington, making residents another 60 miles up the coast. Howling winds also pummeled the county, including this evacuation zone of 7,500, the same power lines heavy in northeast.

The Wilmington area turned into a disaster, as the governor's attempt to ensure the evacuation was a failure, a steep fall in stock and bond markets, a run on banks by anxious depositors, and political attacks on the boss of Central Bank.

Average ranges, who until now have not seen the effects of the storm in their own region, were slammed by the storm as more than 100,000 depositors, 100,000 retail outlets, and thousands of banks moved their power away from a nuclear power plant.

Allowing them only to sign lists for the Federal Reserve System, the bill, as was expected, raised prices, anticipating that economists may fear an explosion of inflation. On the opposite side, currency exchange shops and coin counters opened after dark.

As the long range time passed chances of large, high, and fast-rising wind, rain, and warning. Rain flood levels of up to 20 inches expected up down and the storm, coast of 9 to 10 feet threatened walls, damage, and the storm was possible in eastern North Carolina and southeast southeastern Boniface.

Residents of Virginia's Tidewater and Northeast, and to a lesser degree, Maryland's Eastern Shore were issued the same caution the next day, as to face strong winds, rain, and heavy surf.

Many were frustrated: mounting calls for his resignation Barry Toiv told reporters in the days the families said they will believe when or how the two suspects might be captured. Gadhafi would end a seven-year search for the truth, the trial of alleged war criminals Wednesday, moved the case to be in front of Boniface. Officials in southeast southeastern Boniface new recommendation to low-lying coastal areas susceptible to flooding be evacuated. As Camdessus did, the Libyans have been格尔

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

Russia's financial crisis escalated sharply Wednesday as the government's attempts to defend the currency in the face of a 10 percent drop in the ruble, on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. By the end of the day, the ruble fell 5 percent against the German mark, prompting a sell-off in stock markets around the world.

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

The airline said it was canceling 170 flights Friday and another 230 scheduled for Saturday and would not reinstate the flights even if a strike is averted. The end of the cancellations would have been a major blow for airlines, which are the nation's fourth-largest carrier, operates 1,700 daily flights, carrying approximately 240,000 passengers a day.

Northwest said it also has worked out arrangements with other carriers to fly passengers between hubs whenever possible. Tuesday, Northwest Airlines announced it would begin using larger aircraft to serve the Minneapolis-St. Paul market this weekend to help offset the impact of a strike if it occurs.

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

By Thomas W. Lippman and John M. Goshko

Libya announced its acceptance Wednesday of a plan by the United Nations Security Council that called for a suspect to be tried in The Hague, Netherlands, the site of the 1986 Pan Am crash. The United Nations Security Council had called for the prosecution of suspects in the 1981 indictments of Lamen Chemomyrdin and Abdel Basset Megrahi.

The Clinton administration's initial response was to reject the U.S. demands, saying that the Libyans had maneuvered for years to avoid trial and create ambiguous language in the Libyan statement Wednesday, which said:

"We don't know what this means," a U.S. official said. "If it means they intend to deliver the two [suspects], it means they intend to deliver them. If it means they intend to negotiate the terms of a trial, we will let the Libyan government know that the terms are not negotiable. If the Libyans are serious, we believe that they will cooperate with the U.S. U.N. Security Council General notifying us that the suspects have been transported to the Hague and are in Dutch custody.

"I welcome this statement, which looks like a positive development," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said. "But he too added a note of caution: we shall need to study exactly what the Libyans have said and to ensure that they are not setting any conditions for any form of acceptance.

But indications were Wednesday night that the Libyans are prepared to go ahead. The U.S.-U.K. plan is almost identical to one that the United States put forward in 1996, and was endorsed by the Arab League and other international organizations. The General Assembly to indicate its support to the plan.

According to new reports from Caracas, Egypt's president Mubarak sent a senior aide to Tripoli Wednesday to urge Libya to accept the plan, and the U.S. State Department made it clear that the U.S. government has been trying for some time to broker an end to the stalemate, while demanding that the suspects be allowed to travel to the Hague and be tried for the crime in this country and Britain. World leaders have been trying for some time to avoid delivering the suspects to The Hague, but the U.S. government has been trying for some time to avoid delivering the suspects to The Hague, but the U.S. government was waiting for the Libyans to accept.

"There are no shortcuts in criminal justice, and the next steps are up to the Libyans," deputy White House spokesman Dan Bartlett told reporters in Martha's Vineyard.

Defense Is Building for Holiday in Busy-Shopping Case

By Mary L. Talbot

Lawyers who will defend the University of Virginia Medical Center if a lawsuit is filed in the baby-switching case Wednesday said they expect the university to strike a deal with plaintiffs that might avoid any improper or negligent.

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

"After officials in the office the attorney general consulted with Thomas, it appears that all is in order with the case of the baby switching," said David Botkins, a spokesman for Attorney General Mark L. Herring.

"In my view that they are losing their license," said Julie Vega, the baby whose parents have not been found. "This is a big step. I'm very gratified. What they've been doing should have been stopped a long time ago."

The FTC had alleged that Trans Union has violated the Fair Credit Reporting Act by failed to enforce the law," said David Medine, associate director for credit practices.

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The Right Choice on Housing

In advance of the final report of the Task Force on Student Life and Learning, President Charles M. Vest announced Tuesday evening that all freshmen will be housed in dormitories beginning in the fall of 2001.

Editorial

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

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

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

Letters To The Editor

Wan's Suggestions Unreasonable

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

Compared to my family, Wan's can only be regarded as more fortunate. My own two parents working full time at around $14,000 each but later withdrew his proposal after students once again voiced opposition. The administration endorsed the housing of freshmen exclusively on campus last year, believing that this course offers more substantive opportunities for interaction between freshmen and the rest of the Institute and that it gives first-year students time to make an informed choice regarding housing.

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The business of providing incoming students with advice about their new alma mater is a fiercely competitive one and one that is intended to make the admitted student feel special. I offered last year my final attempt to influence the future generation's perception of me. Yet I recently learned from some of my former charges that two students were attempting to sober me up. 

I was the doctrine of wisdom that I formerly monopolized. Hence I have decided, at the time of my retirement, to once more provide my column of simple advice for freshmen — and I mean now, exclusively, to the people in my age group — and find this advice irrelevant, and perhaps insulting, when offered after an exploratory glance at the world.

The advice is as follows: don't grow a beard.

Young men, I tell you there is no time like the present to have a beard. It is only when you are in college that this must be done, and a full year in college is a chance to take risks, explore your interests, and gain fresh insights through interaction with ideas and social development. Growing a beard at a young age throws you into jeopardy of not finding a place to engage in any of these activities. Not only will you be in a position of having to carry with it a social stigma, particularly for the younger generation, equivalent to the anti-social. A furtive attempt at beard-growing suggests you have been working to shipping the Goddess of the All Night Tool several evenings in a row, with all of the noise and embarrassing implications that attend such activity.

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

There is but one experience more awful than growing a beard: Shaving. Most of our new arrivals will come to campus feeling they've had their share of this experience.

After all, they have been tutored by their fathers and older siblings from an early age, and they know the humiliation of having missed spots of unattractive growth on their cheeks, necks, backs, ears, lips, and inner nostrils.

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

Williamson: None of the few possess the patience and tranquility required for upproving hair growth through thought. Some gurus even claim to have cowed whiskers right back into the follicles. Under no circumstances should one suffer them to grow.

Sportspower: Ever put a headband over a pimple? Ever wear a baseball cap over a bad hickey? By taking these measures you could cover that growth area nicely. Let it go any further, and you'll be left with a choice between a back-to-mask and a bald umpire's chin sheath.

Commonwealth: Here's the classic MIT quick fix — distract them by donning a wearable computer. Although some slightly green-eyed wearers of MIT street apparel, Cambridge, beard owners may prove more unlikely versions. The theory goes that people will be so busy pointing at your gadgets they won't notice the hairs protruding from your face.

It must be painfully apparent by now that there is no good way to be rid of unattractive growth. Advice from friends is worthwhile and often. Otherwise one winds up like the Emperor Titus, who, after forgetting to do the shaving, showed much more support for renewable energy sources than he ever did for nearly 24 hours, is said to have sighed, "Diem perditum!" I have lost a day.

Of course, political instability in the United States or East of the Mississippi may result in deposits threaten to push up the prices of oil at any time. Even so, the decision to develop this potential source of energy is not only a stopgap to lengthen our domestic supply, but it will give us an unlimited supply of money. Nor will it be affected by competition from foreign oil. If the development of this National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, much of which also serves as habitat for birds of prey. Most of the region is staked another claim in the Arctic tundra.

The advice is as follows: don't grow a beard.

The days of dorms versus fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups are over. It's going to be damn crowded in the dorms of rush and, you will only get worse as the years go by. Let's agree that there are differences between dorms and houses, and agree to disregard about which is better. Freshermen should be encouraged to personally explore the options and make a decision based on what, instead of being bombarded with the usual "dorms suck"/"frats suck" if you're a dork and can't speak to the positives of a house because you have no friends in houses, and vice versa, you're case in point. In the end, you need to break down the dorm/SFLG wall.

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

The days of house versus house are as well. I have seen some incredibly slimy, headless animals take place during rush, and they simply can't happen this year. Rush is supposed to match freshmen with the house of your dreams, not have you all squat in a dusty old house that you've even been in, let alone hung out in.

A week or two after Rush, I refuted to believe the only "cool" people were in the dorms, and instead believed that this place would be a lot better if it were less segregated.

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moving reviews

Movie review: Searching for Patterns in all the wrong places

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

Directed by Darren Aronofsky
Written by David Koepp
Starring: Nicholas Cage, Gary Sinise, Carla Gugino

There's a certain story which keeps getting made into a movie every now and then, and usually, the wishful thinkers who make them would stop bothering with it. So many have failed to do it justice that the idea seems less and less realistic every time.

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

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

The movie is filmed in black and white — and I don't mean your usual garden-variety black and white, which also utilizes shades of gray in between. No, it is filmed in high contrast black and white, with almost no gradations between pitch darkness and blinding light. This results in some remarkable visuals, including the thrillingly opening title sequence, where the viewer is whisked along the veritable whirlpool of unsolved scientific mysteries, it soars. Totally different from Contact, which equated science with either pseudo-philosophical bubbling or hardware gadgets, and simply presents a truly fascinating array of facts, and hints at the connections between the different places in reality.

But the whole mystery falls apart too quickly.

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

As strange things begin happening. Dune is distracted by a suspicious redhead, who runs as she approaches him. While he's away, a blonde woman occurs over to the Secretary and begins a hurried, whispered conversation. A drug begins yells and kicks up a fuss at the back of the things.

And at the critical moment, when one of the boxes is knocked down by his opponent, two shots ring out, hitting the Secretary in the throat. The crowd collapses into chaos, the blonde woman scurries over to the Secretary and begins pulling off the threads of a conspiracy that he must try to piece together before his friend takes the fall for the assassination.

In that one instant, director Brian De Palma brilliantly begins drawing the viewer into the universal darkness and corruption that lies at the heart of modern America's mythical locations — Atlantis. It's a feeling that De Palma tries to sustain throughout the film, through deception and betrayal, and it becomes easier to notice many other annoying details, from the overdone eye makeup on the villain who, at one point, appears to have an excessive amount of eye shadow smeared beneath the eyes, to the overly-repetitive and arming music, which, more than anything else, made me wish that the movie was longer.

Not only that, but as the movie collapses, its extraordinary promise in it promising start craps out.

In almost every single aspect, this movie is superior to — but it still ends up being a disappointment.

THE ARTS

Movie review: Snake Eyes

By Tru-MaInn Chen

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

Watching movies which suck from the very beginning (Godzilla, for example) isn't necessarily such a bad experience. With these sorts of movies, at least you can comfortably set them from your mind and move on to better things.

In almost every single aspect, this movie is superior to — but it still ends up being a disappointment.

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

The movie is filmed in black and white — and I don't mean your usual garden-variety black and white, which also utilizes shades of gray in between. No, it is filmed in high contrast black and white, with almost no gradations between pitch darkness and blinding light. This results in some remarkable visuals, including the thrillingly opening title sequence, where the viewer is whisked along the veritable whirlpool of unsolved scientific mysteries, it soars. Totally different from Contact, which equated science with either pseudo-philosophical bubbling or hardware gadgets, and simply presents a truly fascinating array of facts, and hints at the connections between the different places in reality.

But the whole mystery falls apart too quickly.

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

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August 27, 1998

Detective Rick Santoro (Nicholas Cage, left) briefs Navy Commander Kevin Dune (Gary Sinise, right) in the suspense thriller "Snake Eyes."
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UM... WE'RE NOT REALLY...

LATER...
UH... MR. VAN BRUGEN, HUH?
LONG-LIVED YOU'VE ALREADY CHECKED IN...
ABOUT AN HOUR AGO!
THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T SNEAK DEEP WITH ANOTHER...
FREE WHITE BOARD, HUH?

SIX WORDS

OH MAN... WHY DO MY FEATHERS HAVE TO BE WHITE?!

HE'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY GOOD GOALIE IF YOU KICK IT SOFT AND RIGHT AT HIM.

TEN BUCKS SAYS THIS ONE'S FROM JERSEY.

PHOTOS

HUMOR: 60/27

FOX TROT by Bill Amend

DANZING

UNION

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

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

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

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

Thursday's Events
8:00 p.m. – Aurelius Ensemble Concert. Penderecki's Cadenza for Viola Solo; Schubert's Fantasy for Piano with Four Hands; Gorecki's String Quartet No. 1. Killian Hall (Building 14).
8:00 p.m. – Battle of Algiers. This is one of the most vividly realistic films of all time. Initially banned by French Government, it won wide acclaim, including 11 awards and an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film, 1-390. 2 hours. Sponsor: Muslim Students Association.

Friday's Events
8:00 - 9:30 p.m. – MIT Masters Swimming Workout. Do you find that Alumni Pool is too crowded during open swim? Try MIT Masters Swimming. Alumni Pool.
8:00 p.m. – Into the Woods. Musical by James Lapine (book) and Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics). $3 admission for freshmen; $6 for MIT students, various prices for others. Kresge Little Theatre. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild

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

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

TechCalendar

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The MIT Japan Program
Past Year Replete with Numerous Alcohol Incidents

By Brett Itschu

Over the past year, MIT and its fraternity system has come under widespread scrutiny from both the media and forces within Boston government as a result of numerous alcohol incidents. The MIT fraternity system was first thrown into the spotlight when Scott S. Krueger '01, a pledge at Phi Gamma Delta, fell into an alcohol-induced coma late the evening of Friday, Sept. 26. He died just over three days later.

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

In October, Fiji's national organization announced that it would join two other national fraternities, Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta, and become totally dry by July 1, 2000. The national office said that they had been considering the action for some time, but Krueger's death convinced them to move forward immediately.

In November, the Boston Licensing Board suspended Fiji's dormitory and alcohol licenses. The dormitory license suspension was to last from January 15 until at least August 15, after which the house could petition to house students again. In July, MIT announced that the Institute would not support Fiji's petition to reinstate the house's dormitory license. In light of this fact, Fiji decided not to petition the board to have their license renewed, so the fraternity remains indefinitely.

A grand jury investigation of Boston's campus alcohol epidemic was held in Suffolk County grand jury has heard extensive evidence about alcohol consumption on campus. Indictments are expected shortly.

Zeta Psi freshman dies in keg mix-up

On Oct. 10, Francis R. Godwin '99, a pledge at Zeta Psi, tried to purchase a beer keg using false identification. Godwin and two other underage pledges were caught by Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission agents who were tailing the delivery truck.

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

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

BU could drink at Theta Chi

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

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

Jason F. Timpe '99, then the president of the fraternity, said that Theta Chi suspended Kreisberg.

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

Freshman drinks at Sig Ep

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

After the incident, the alumni of BTP, is scheduled to be contacted by freshmen over the summer.

On Oct. 10, summer boarders at Beta Theta Pi were not affiliated with MIT, petted Boston University police officers with filled beer bottles and cans. One officer suffered severe sprain damage and may not serve again on the BU police force.

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

The national office of the fraternity suspended the chapter's charter.

As a result, the chapter will be run temporarily by the local alumni.

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

SAE serves alcohol to freshmen

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

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

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

The suspension of SAE continues through rush, but the fraternity will not be able to rush freshmen.

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

BTP boarders injure officer

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

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By Frank Dubek

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

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

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

Representatives from many banks will be advertising their services in the Student Center over the next week; however, due to licensing agreements BankBoston is the only bank authorized to actually open accounts in the Student Center.

BankBoston

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

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

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

Cambridge Trust

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

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

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

For a $500 minimum balance (which will be waived if a paycheck is directly deposited to the account) a customer can upgrade to a "personal checking" account which allows an unlimited number of checks per cycle.

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

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

The nearest Cambridge Trust branch is in Kendall Square near the Coop or in University Park.

Citizen's Bank

Citizen's Bank, the third largest bank in the northeast, is another alternative to BankBoston.

According to Customer Sales Representative Michael Torrielli, the bank offers the standard checking/savings package with a fixed rate credit card and an available debit card.

The monthly fee for this account is $5, and each use of an out of network ATM incurs a charge of $1.75.

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

The nearest branch of Citizen's Bank is in the new Star Market at University Park. An ATM at the same location is accessible 24 hours a day.

Fleet Bank

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

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

The nearest Fleet ATM is located in the Infinite corridor, the nearest Citizen's branch is located in Central Square on Massachusetts Avenue.

USTrust

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

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

The nearest USTrust branches are located near One Kendall Square on the Kendall Square on Massachusetts Avenue.

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

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

Dinner, from Page 1

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

"I thought everyone was going to be shy," said Luis M. Ottero '02.

That myth was soon dispelled for Ottero however. "You can get to know everyone here," Ottero added.

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

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

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

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

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

Following the hypnotist, 350 freshmen gathered in Lollibell Food Court to watch监事 Powers.

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

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

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

Welcome dinner praised

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

The freshmen were first introduced to MIT with remarks from LaGace and Kaiser. Lapace offered a chance to incoming freshmen while Kaiser introduced freshmen to their first brain teaser at MIT.

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

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

LaGace revealed the solution, Kaiser said it was a metaphor for students' experiences at MIT. "The one nail represents you," he said.

"The six nails represent the academic, physical, spiritual, social, past and future.

Somewhat surprisingly for students, Kaiser focused most on the love life aspect of an MIT career. "I think that you can have a love affair, not only with with a human being," he began, inserting a long pause. The audience waited tensely, half-expecting some off-color remark, until he finished. "...but also with an institution." At this, the freshman class broke into relieved laughter.

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

Hacks emphasized in speech

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Programs Give Frosh Jump On Orientation

Programs, from Page 1

Programs, or "activities of the same type. "Vaidur said that the program was "fallout from chairing the Orientation committee" which re- commended improving the way freshmen are introduced to the academic side of the Institute.

"The faculty has long wanted to have more Orientation," during the first freshman speed on campus.

This program, he said, will give [freshmen] a head start in adjusting to MIT before Orientation begins.

In addition, the program pro- vides exposure for Ocean Engineering. "Many students have been interested in a closer look at the ocean," Vaidur said. This project "puts the career path" in ocean engineering.

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

Freshman Service Program

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

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

Participants worked at the Boston Food Bank sorting food, at the Boston Army National Guard Action Committee and the Thordyke school.

The program closed with a banquet attended by President Charles M. Vest and the Mayor of Cambridge. Presentations by the students really "opened our eyes to opportunities in community service," Gupta said.

Gupta said that "there were defi- nitely quirks" in the program but said that "FSP will be...helpful...as an established activity."

Freshmen from FSP and from the OE program were housed in East Campus, a decision which Vaidur said helped foster commu- nity.

Freshman Leadership Program

In its first year, FLP is mature by comparison to other pro- grams. The program received good reviews from the more than 100 freshmen who participated.

"Even though I didn't have a great time [FLP] was the best way to start out my college life," said Michael H. Vogel '03. Vogel said he would "definitely recommend the program."

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

The goal of FLP was to foster "leadership, not in the traditional sense but in a responsible way in our community," said Elsie Huang '00, one of the FLP leaders.

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

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