

## McGann Elected As Next UA President

By Kevin R. Lang  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Though election results were delayed until early Tuesday morning, Matthew L. McGann '00 and Lex Nemzer '00 were named Undergraduate Association President and Vice President following a relatively problem-free election.

"We hope that we can serve the students well," McGann said. "We're very happy with the results. We look forward to representing the student voice at MIT."

"I'm happy and enthusiastic about winning, and I'd like to thank everyone who voted. We'll be celebrating by watching the new episode of Buffy on Wednesday night," Nemzer said.

All results for the three class council elections are being withheld pending recounts. UA Floor Leader Ryan K. Pierce '99 said that several of the races were close enough to merit careful recounts and rechecking of the ballot totals.

Election results were delayed considerably because of the class council races. Despite the updated web-based voting software capable of automatically tallying votes, paper ballots had to be entered into UA computers by hand for counting. The UA did not release results until around 2:00 a.m. Tuesday morning, despite the fact that polls closed approximately seven hours

earlier.

In an uncontested race for the two open UA Financial Board positions, Jennifer K. Chung '01 and Jennifer Li '02 were elected to FinBoard.

### Turnout doubles from last year

Of the 4,187 eligible students, 1,320 or 32 percent voted in the elections, more than twice the number of students who voted in last year's second of two UA elections. Around two-thirds of all votes cast were registered over the web.

Elections this year were largely free of the scandal and controversy that marked the 1998 campaigns. Then-presidential candidate Paul T. Oppold '99 allegedly sent mass emails, a violation of election code stating that mail could only be sent to personal acquaintances. This year, mass emails were not specifically forbidden. "We sort of allowed that this year, but we required that the candidates have to take people off of their lists if they complain," said UA Election Commissioner Gong K. Shen '99. "We did get some complaints about email sent to non-appropriate people."

The email violations, coupled with charges of questionable petitioning, forced the UA to run two

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OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW — Building 20 is withering away piece by piece to give way to the new Stata complex.

GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

## Possible Ventilation Scam Raises Concerns within ILG Community

By Anna K. Benefiel  
STAFF REPORTER

Several MIT fraternities and independent living groups have been victimized by the questionable business practices of Jeff Hurley ostensibly of Safety Clean of New England.

According to reports, Hurley has possibly swindled some FSILGs of

up to \$900.

Hurley has introduced himself to ILGs as having a contract "with the MIT fraternities" to clean ventilation systems.

According to Aimee B. Angel '00 house manager of the Women's Independent Living Group, Hurley knocked on WILG's door last Friday

afternoon to do some "cleaning of the exhaust system" which he said "had to be done for fire inspections."

Hurley was allowed into WILG where he "took down the ventilation screen from above the stove" and cleaned it, Angel said.

"While he was here," she said, "he put up a sticker saying he had cleaned the same ventilation screen in August." The sticker included "his name — Jeff Hurley — and a phone number to call." He said he would be back on Saturday to pick up a check for his services, for which he charged \$450.

He indicated that all residences were obligated to have this cleaning each year per Massachusetts regulations. When WILG refused to pay Hurley, he "threatened to take WILG to small claims court... he said the court summons would be here within one and a half weeks."

Other living groups including Theta Xi, Chi Phi, and Sigma Nu had similar experiences with Hurley.

### Hurley claims no complaints

Hurley said that he has run his business for "over nine years," and employs from two to three other workers on occasion. He "has never had a complaint, never had a problem in all of my years in the business," he said.

Hurley, reached via his company's advertised "1-800" number, went on to express frustration with the MIT-affiliated residences. He said he regularly charges \$450 for his exhaust cleaning services, quoting the "going rate for cleaning an exhaust system" as \$450-\$750.

Hurley said that his "reputation is very important" and would like to "clear the air once and for all" about the work he has done for various FSILGs, including "pika, Epsilon

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## 'Dolly' Cloner, Geneticists Debate Ethics Issues

By Karen Robinson  
STAFF REPORTER

Although the average person can recognize his pet, they've probably never heard of him. But when Ian Wilmut, cloner of the sheep Dolly,

spoke last Saturday at the MIT-Harvard Conference on Genetics, hundreds listened. Wilmut and other prominent geneticists spoke at the two-day event, addressing the future of medicine, genetic engineering,

and the gene business.

Speakers at the conference, which took place over the weekend, focused on ethical and economic debates as they addressed medical issues.

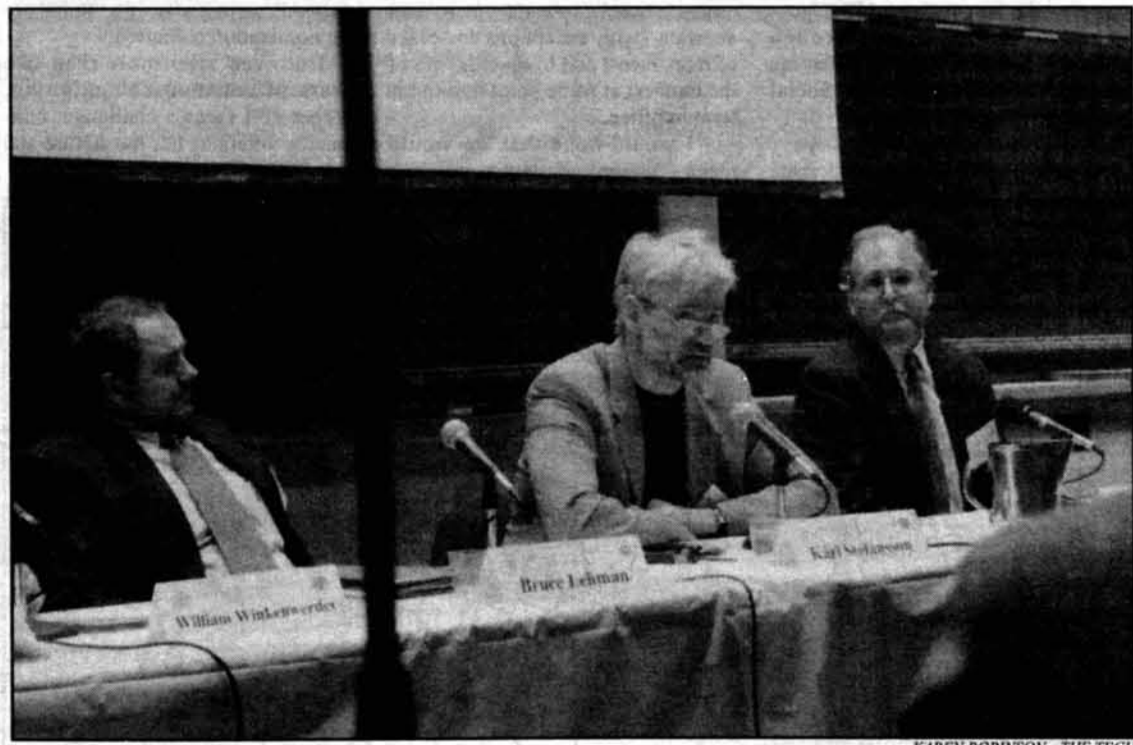
### Dolly cloner discusses ethics

Wilmut spoke on the benefits and ethical questions raised by genetic technology. He touted cloning as a way to secure human proteins and organs from animals and argued that cloning might mitigate the rising percentage of people who die every year while waiting for organ transplants. By altering the genes in a pig embryo, Wilmut said, it would be possible to create organs compatible with the human body.

"Would that be ethically acceptable?" Wilmut asked the audience. It would, he said, as long as "the animals are given as normal a life as possible."

Wilmut suggested that genetically-altered sheep could be used to study cystic fibrosis, a degenerative disease. Sheep, however, do not naturally acquire cystic fibrosis. "You would have to make animals sick," Wilmut said, though he thought the procedure would be acceptable "as long as the animals are given the same care a human patient would receive."

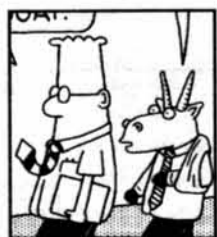
Though he is the first individual to successfully clone a mammal, Wilmut argued against human cloning, saying one would have to be "sick" to attempt such a thing. He said, however, that the correc-



KAREN ROBINSON—THE TECH

Bruce Lehman, Karl Stefansson, and Martin Teitel contribute to a panel discussion on deCODE, the controversial Icelandic genetic database, Sunday in 10-250. The conference included debate on the possible risks of making genetic research more public.

Senior House once again hit by rash of thefts.



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Comics

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Former IFC President Dwaine Dreger '99 assumes position as assistant to Neal Dorow.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Bomb Kills Catholic Lawyer In Northern Ireland

THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

A prominent Roman Catholic human rights lawyer was killed by a car bomb outside her home Monday afternoon as sectarian tension in Northern Ireland erupted into fresh violence.

Rosemary Nelson, 40, died in the hospital of injuries suffered when a device exploded under her car in Lurgan, 30 miles southwest of Belfast.

The dissident Protestant Red Hand Defenders, a group outlawed only this month for a series of bomb and grenade attacks, claimed responsibility for the killing in a call to the BBC.

Officials noted that the key question now is whether the murder will prompt retaliation from nationalist paramilitary forces. A series of tit-for-tat actions could take the British province back toward the state of sectarian warfare that prevailed for 30 years until last year's historic Good Friday peace agreement.

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair vowed that the bombing would not be allowed to harm the province's shaky peace.

## China Begins Demolition Of Popular Muslim Enclave

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING

City officials began demolishing a popular Muslim enclave on Monday, aggravating already-tense relations with ethnic minorities in their effort to spruce up the capital for celebrations marking a half-century of Communist rule.

The demolition of "Xinjiang village" also is part of a wider effort to expel over a third of the city's more than 3 million migrant workers and raze their neighborhoods within the next few years.

The area is known for its population of ethnic Uighurs from China's northwestern Xinjiang province. Its popular restaurants had long been in the way of planners who want to widen roads.

At night, Xinjiang village attracts droves of foreign students and tourists with its festive atmosphere. Smoke from shish-kebabs envelopes street-side diners feasting on home-made pasta, flat-baked breads and beer. Peddlers sell Xinjiang's famous melons, raisins and — somewhat more furtively — hashish and heroin.

Until Monday, officials had spared the district for fear of sparking conflict between the majority Han Chinese and the Turkic-speaking Uighurs, many of whose brethren in Xinjiang want independence.

## Nullsoft Sued by MP3 Developer

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

PlayMedia Systems Inc. has filed a federal copyright infringement lawsuit seeking more than \$20 million in damages against a leading MP3 software maker, Nullsoft Inc.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court here last week, claims that Nullsoft founder Justin Frankel did not pay to use program code developed by Los Angeles-based PlayMedia and incorporated in Nullsoft's popular MP3 software player, WinAmp.

Sedona, Ariz.-based Nullsoft denied the charges, and said it will file a countersuit.

MP3 is a new format for downloading music from the Internet. The lawsuit serves as an ironic twist over the controversial digital format, which the recording industry has fought while trying to protect its copyrights from Internet music pirates.

"For the past six months, the MP3 community has been unified by pitting itself against the (Recording Industry Association of America)," the trade group that has been the most vocal critic of the digital format, said Lawrence Iser, a Los Angeles-based music and intellectual property lawyer.

# INS Restructures Strategy, Focuses on Alien-Smuggling

By William Branigin

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

In what it calls a "major shift" in strategy, the Immigration and Naturalization Service is moving away from its traditional raids on job sites to round up illegal immigrants, instead emphasizing operations against foreign criminals, alien-smuggling rings and document fraud.

The new "interior enforcement strategy," outlined in an internal INS document, affords a measure of relief to the estimated 5.5 million illegal immigrants living in the United States and the thousands of businesses that employ them.

But it is generating intense criticism within the INS and among advocates of a tougher stand on illegal immigration. They say the new policy undermines the INS's commitment to removing illegal aliens, essentially ignoring them as long as they do not commit a crime that brings them to the agency's attention.

"There is resistance... because, basically, if you get through the border, you're home free," a senior INS field manager said. "Everybody recognizes that, and the aliens know

that by now." He added, "We basically have ceased work-site enforcement. ... We're extremely frustrated. Morale is low."

The strategy shift underscores the nation's ambivalence about illegal immigration. While most Americans oppose the idea of sneaking across the border or overstaying a visa, there also is widespread recognition that illegal immigrants typically work hard, often at jobs Americans shun.

The change also reflects the political reality that has doomed previous crackdowns on illegal employment. According to INS insiders, neither the Democrats nor the Republicans have demonstrated the political will to seriously reduce the illegal work force, in large part because key constituencies oppose such efforts. On the Democratic side, interior enforcement directed against undocumented workers tends to alienate lawyers, ethnic lobbies, civil rights groups and, increasingly, unions trying to organize the newcomers. For the Republicans, work-site raids often pose problems because they arouse bitter complaints from business and agricultural interests.

The strategy document, which has been distributed to INS field

offices but has not been publicly released, says the agency's goal in interior enforcement is to "reduce the size and annual growth of the illegal resident population." The INS has used new powers under a 1996 immigration law to step up deportations in recent years, removing a record 169,000-plus people in fiscal 1998. But the increased expulsions are not keeping pace with the estimated 275,000 illegal immigrants who permanently settle in the United States every year, much less putting a dent in the core illegal population.

The top priority is to identify and remove "criminal aliens," many of whom "are released before their legal status is ascertained or before the INS can be called" to pick them up. The agency estimates some 221,000 foreign-born criminals are in federal, state or local jails — two-thirds of them illegal immigrants. As many as 142,000 others are on parole or probation but are subject to removal under the immigration law. An additional 161,000 are "abscondee" who disappeared after receiving deportation orders.

The next interior enforcement priority is dismantling networks that smuggle illegal aliens.

# Forbes to Launch Second Bid For Presidential Nomination

By Ronald Brownstein

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Denouncing an overreaching government and "establishment politicians" as the main barriers to "an age of opportunity," millionaire publisher Steve Forbes on Tuesday officially launches his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

In a broadly thematic speech, Forbes will argue that a period of "economic freedom and spiritual renewal" beckons to America in the information age — but only if government is retrenched through reforms such as a single-rate flat tax and partial privatization of Social Security.

"It's time to give every American the freedom to participate

in this new era of prosperity," Forbes says, in an advance copy of his remarks.

Best known in the 1996 campaign for his relentless advocacy of the flat tax, Forbes this time is courting religious conservatives by more heavily emphasizing social issues.

As an immediate goal, he promises to pursue legislation to ban the late-term procedure known as partial-birth abortion. In an interview with the Los Angeles Times Monday, Forbes also said that if elected, he would hope to propose a constitutional amendment to ban abortion (with exceptions for cases of rape, incest and to save the life of the mother) at some point during his term in office.

"I would hope that we would make (enough) substantial progress

that (such an amendment) becomes something that is viable," he said. "I think already the ground is beginning to shift" on the issue.

While several of his expected rivals — most prominently Texas Gov. George W. Bush and former American Red Cross President Elizabeth Hanford Dole — have recently filed papers to "explore" a presidential bid, Forbes skipped that stage and will establish an actual campaign committee. In some ways, even that step might be seen as redundant — Forbes never really stopped running after his '96 bid for the nomination collapsed.

But even after more than two years of constant campaigning, Forbes still faces a challenge: convincing voters he has the stature and experience to serve as president.

# WEATHER

## Mid-March Pleasantries

By Greg Lawson  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The brief excitement from yet more snow has ended and all its remnants will soon melt away. Today will begin on the chilly side with some gusty northwesterly winds as the low responsible for all the snow pulls away to the northeast. The wind and cold air will soon give way to a ridge of high pressure which has started to build from down over the Gulf and the southeastern US. Once the high is in place, it will govern over fair, spring-like weather as we reach temperatures into the mid 50s. Look for clear to partly cloudy skies and light westerly winds through the next couple days.

It is too early to say with any certainty, but appears the first break in our pleasant skies this week could come Thursday evening or Friday morning as the zonal jet again begins to undulate. The cloud cover should increase and I would say that there is a slight chance for some light precipitation. All in all though, it should be an enjoyable week.

**Today:** Scattered clouds. Moderate northwesterly winds with gusts of up to 40 mph (64 kph). A late afternoon high of 43°F (6°C).

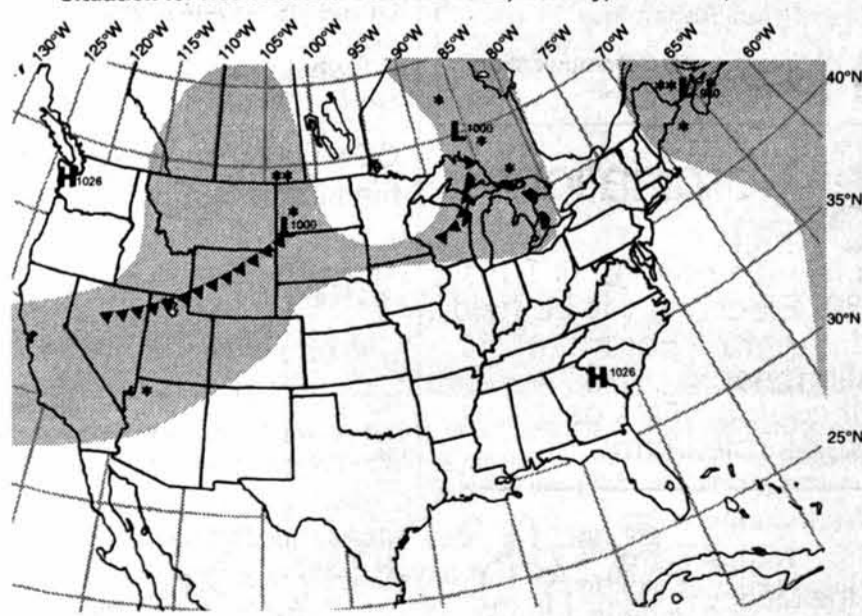
**Tonight:** Mostly clear. Winds slow and shift to westerly. Low of only 36°F (2°C).

**Wednesday:** Milder. Mostly sunny. High creeping up to 49°F (9°C). Nighttime low around 40°F (4 to 6°C).

**Thursday:** Very pleasant through most of the day. Cloudiness increasing. Possible late night precipitation. A very welcome high in the mid 50s (11 to 13°C).

**Friday Outlook:** More of the same. Mostly cloudy skies with highs in the upper 40s (8 to 10°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, 16Xday, March 16, 1999



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	--- Warm Front	Light Rain	Thunderstorm
S Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	Moderate Rain	Haze
	▲▲▲ Occluded Front	Heavy Rain	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Albanians to Sign Agreement; Serbs Face Threat from NATO

By Roy Gutman

NEWSDAY WASHINGTON

Kosovo Albanians formally announced Monday they will sign a U.S.-sponsored autonomy accord for the Serbian province. The announcement focused pressure on the Serbs, and NATO's secretary-general promptly warned that the alliance could strike pre-emptively against Serbia to avert a human rights "catastrophe."

Albanian guerrilla commander Hashim Thaci notified the State Department in writing and made the announcement at the opening of a second round of talks with Serb officials, in Paris. "This is not an ideal solution, but peace in Kosovo has no price," he said.

Javier Solana, NATO's secretary-general, broke into a breakfast meeting with reporters in Washington with the news. "They are going to sign. There is no question about it," he said.

He then laid out NATO's rationale for using force against Serbia: to avert a "humanitarian catastrophe" like the one last summer in which hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians were driven from their homes.

Solana warned that if Yugoslav strongman Slobodan Milosevic does not agree to the plan, under discussion when talks suspended last month, "we probably will have a humanitarian catastrophe," with tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians made homeless by the fighting,

which continues to rage.

"We have to be prepared to stop that violence ... We will be able to stop that," the former Spanish foreign minister said in a new explanation of NATO's rationale. "Our purpose is to damage, and damage seriously, the capacity of the VJ (Yugoslav Army) and MUP (federal police) to produce a humanitarian catastrophe."

Milosevic has repeatedly rejected the plan, which would oust more than 25,000 security personnel and replace them with 28,000 NATO troops, including 4,000 Americans. The Albanians had objected to the plan because it called for disarming the guerrilla army and made no provision for a referendum on independence.

# Chinese Premier Rongji Disavows Allegations of Weapons Espionage

By John Pomfret

THE WASHINGTON POST BEIJING

Premier Zhu Rongji Monday denied allegations that China pilfered U.S. nuclear weapons secrets, calling the notion a "tale from 'The Arabian Nights,'" and said he expects his U.S. visit next month to be difficult because of tensions between Washington and Beijing over that issue and others.

Speaking with reporters at the conclusion of the annual meeting of China's parliament, the 71-year-old Soviet-trained engineer said he felt "an uneasy heart" at the prospect of facing American accusations that China obtained information from sources in the United States in the

late 1980s that allowed it to create a generation of smaller nuclear weapons.

"Of course it will not be an easy task to visit the United States," Zhu said. "The media has predicted my forthcoming visit will not be successful, but I will go anyway. ... I must go there to let you vent your spleen."

Overall, however, Zhu said his goal in making the trip, scheduled to begin April 8, is to "resume the good momentum" in U.S.-China relations. He said that, in general, he expects a warm reception from the Clinton administration. In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the espionage allegations were certain

to come up during Zhu's visit "as part of the broad relationship we have with China."

Zhu echoed a line common in China today — that the problems between Washington and Beijing are caused by an "internal struggle" in the United States and that a small group of Americans are plotting to ruin U.S.-China ties. But on her visit to Beijing earlier this month to prepare the way for Zhu's trip, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright told Zhu, President Jiang Zemin and other senior officials just the opposite — that American criticism of China on issues ranging from alleged espionage to human rights abuses reflects a bipartisan political consensus.

## Baptist Group President to Resign

THE WASHINGTON POST

Faced with the near certainty of a prison sentence for his conviction on racketeering and grand theft charges, the Rev. Henry J. Lyons plans to resign Tuesday as president of the nation's largest black religious organization, his lawyers said Monday.

"He's going to step down (Tuesday) in St. Petersburg," said Denis M. de Vlaming, one of four lawyers who defended Lyons in his Florida trial that ended last month. "It would be beyond impractical for him to continue. He is doing the right thing."

Lyons' decision to step down as president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. marks a dramatic change in his public posture since the scandal broke in July 1997, after Lyons' wife set fire to a \$700,000 waterfront home the minister owned with another woman. Throughout the controversy, Lyons has proclaimed his innocence and has rejected repeated calls to resign as the leader of millions of black Baptists.

Even after his conviction, Lyons said he had no plans to resign and appeared determined to stick to his plan to run for a second term as convention president — a pledge he likely would have had to fulfill from prison.

## Scientists Announce First Definitive Test for Alzheimer's Disease

NEWSDAY

Forgetting where you put the car keys at age 65 may be normal, but forget too many things too often and it may be the first step toward Alzheimer's disease, experts say.

Scientists at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., say that a standard memory test can now identify people with a much higher risk for Alzheimer's, the first confirmed test for the disease. About 50 percent of those with minor cognitive problems on the test developed Alzheimer's within three years, the researchers said, and about 80 percent developed the disease in six years.

Before now, said Ronald Petersen, the study's chief investigator, "There has not been a clear method of evaluating people with memory loss."

In response, the federal government announced Monday that it will fund — along with Pfizer Inc. — a \$22 million study in 65 to 80 research centers that will weigh use of the Pfizer drug Aricept against vitamin E as a way to prevent or slow Alzheimer's disease in volunteers who show mild to moderate cognitive problems on the memory test.

Alzheimer's affects an estimated 4.5 million Americans, causing severe memory decline and ultimately leaving people unable to perform even simple tasks. "If we could cut the rate of (cognitive) decline in half," Petersen said, "we could make an enormous impact on the individual, his or her family and society."



The MIT Graduate Student Council

office: Walker Memorial, 50-220 (above the Muddy)  
phone: 253-2195  
website: www.mit.edu/activities/gsc  
email: gsc-request@mit.edu

### arc activities march

#### Professional Development Seminar Series

Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 PM  
Hulsizer Room, Ashdown

3/17 Conflict Resolution and Negotiation  
Toni Robinson

3/31 Intercultural Communication  
Kate Beaty

#### Officer Nominations Are Open

and will remain open until Tues., March 30. Elections will be held on Wed., April 7. For more information, see [www.mit.edu/activities/gsc/About/Roles/roles/html](http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsc/About/Roles/roles/html)

Jazz Wednesday Nights @ the Muddy Charles Pub! Walker Memorial (50-120)



#### Celtics/Pacers Game (March 28)

- Date: Sun, March 28, 12:30pm (End of Spring Break)
- Tickets: \$20. PLEASE CALL 253-2195 BEFORE GOING TO 50-220 TO PICK UP THE TICKETS.
- Signup: Limited to 50 tickets. Grad Students, post-docs, and 1 guest per person.
- Questions: Contact the GSC office.

#### publicity

GSN published today! Pick up a copy in the Infinite Corridor or at 50-220.

g c m

#### GSC Coffee Social for Potential Officers

Anyone remotely interested in becoming a GSC officer next year should attend this social to ask the current officers questions about their positions.

Being a GSC officer gives you the opportunity to make important decisions, to participate in the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students, to work with MIT Institute committees, to lead other graduate students, to meet with the MIT administration, to control a substantial budget and to publish the GSN.

- 16 academics research and careers (arc) meeting, 6:30 PM, 50-220
- 17 professional development series 3:30-5:00, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown
- 24 professional development series 3:30-5:00, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown
- 29 graduate student news published
- 31 professional development series 3:30-5:00, Hulsizer Room, Ashdown

\* @ 5:30 in 50-220 (above the muddy)  
All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

arc

#### Call for Nominations

Details for the Teaching Awards, Perkins Awards for Graduate Advising, the Sizer Award for contributions to MIT education and the Horton Award for student groups will be available next week on the GSC website and will be mass-mailed to graduate students. Nominations for these awards will be accepted until March 19, 1999.

# OPINION

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## Who's the Real Nutcase?

Recently I've heard a lot of rhetoric about the "violence" and "hatred" of something derisively called the "Christian right." These charges would be amusing if they weren't so serious.

The Bible is not ambiguous about homosexuality. There are a few Old Testament passages in Leviticus, plus a New Testament passage in 1 Corinthians 6:9 stating: "Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." It is not possible to claim that God's Word approves, or is even neutral about, homosexuality.

So yes, we do believe that homosexuality is sinful. But we believe that vengeance for

sin belongs to God, not to ourselves. Our responsibility is to tell people about it and help them escape it through repentance in Jesus — not to try and carry it out ourselves. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" referred to ancient Israel's punishment for adultery: stoning. It certainly did not refer to advising the woman in question that adultery was wrong so she could change her ways! Is peaceful disapproval of something worth being condemned as mean-spirited, intolerant, and "homophobic" (my personal favorite — from the Greek, it would mean "afraid of men")? Every time I see such vitriol, I think the same thing: who's really intolerant?

But, you say, didn't violent rhetoric kill Matthew Shepard? No, it did not. Nutcases killed Matthew Shepard. Any movement with millions of people is bound to have a couple members who are a few fries short of a Happy Meal. As long as the First Amendment exists,

someone will say something that will give these people a "reason" to do something stupid. Sane people don't go around beating people to death, regardless of what rhetoric they hear.

A pattern of liberal reactions is starting to manifest itself. Don't like the pro-life movement? Trot out John Salvi, one man, and condemn as "extremists" the millions who protest abortion peacefully with their votes. Don't like Christians who still believe that the Bible is the Word of God? Bring up the nutcases in Wyoming, who were looking for an excuse to kill someone, and ignore centuries of tradition held by entire nations of people. If one or two nutcases completely misunderstand what a movement is about and do something that runs against its stated beliefs, that's apparently enough to discredit the entire movement.

Charles N. Horton '99



If ever two people deserved each other . . .



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# Responding to the Dining Fiasco

Eric J. Plosky

If there's one thing I've learned during my time at MIT, it's that in order for things to change around here, someone's gotta die. (Suicides don't seem to count.)

That's why I'm not surprised at the administration's recent boneheaded decision to renew Aramark's food-service monopoly ["Institute to Sign Dining Contract, Aramark Monopoly Will Remain," Mar. 9]. After all, no one has choked to death on Walker mashed potatoes; nobody has suffered toxic shock from eating too many Networks burgers. From the Institute's standpoint, everything is just fine — students eat, they don't die, they keep eating. MIT signs on Aramark's dotted line.

Oh, sure, there's student unrest. Students have been complaining about Aramark's overpriced, low-quality food "service" for years — so loudly, in fact, that some years back the administration was actually obliged to form the Institute Dining Review Working Group in order to placate angry students by providing a means for official input on the subject. Unsurprisingly (and in an even more insidious manner than I outlined back in November ["Designing a Better Planning Process," Nov. 13]), the administration then stymied students by making progress only on paper, adopting the Working Group's anti-monopoly recommendations as "Institute policy" but dodging their real-life implementation. The result? MIT's seal of approval on another three-year Aramark monopoly contract.

We know all this. We know why, too; from the administration's standpoint, it's easier to keep signing contracts than it is to implement a new policy, to break up a longstanding dining monopoly, to throw food-service policy open to student input. The more perceptive among us, I think, will even realize that Aramark itself, despite its rather shoddy track record, is not really to blame.

The question is: Where do we lay responsibility? In the past, I've criticized rapid, wholesale change in response to crisis ["Wise Planning," Nov. 20]. Equally worthy of criticism is ignoring repeated, sustained pleas for change due to politics-playing or due to a fear of altering the status quo. Phillip J. Walsh, the Dining Implementation Team chair, predictably cited "stability" and "incumbency" as two reasons for continuing the Aramark monopoly. Those are fine words, but as long as they're invoked, change — and, presumably, improvement — will be out of the question.

But consider the broader picture. The administration knows it will have to change food service on campus one day; they simply want to delay that day as long as possible. Administrators don't like dealing with irritated students, nor do they like continuing to shovel money at Aramark (in the form of subsidies designed to cover operating losses). But students come and go; over three years, the span of the new contract, nearly the entire undergraduate body will have turned over, throwing into disarray student protests that are nearly impossible to organize in the first place because of the turnover. And it's easier to stomach shelling out operating subsidies than

capital improvements to campus dining facilities, as other food-service bidders rightly demand.

Besides, administrators are busy re-engineering some of the key elements of undergraduate life, and, despite popular perception, are in fact extremely disinclined to change (or to try to change) too much at once. Futz with food service is seen as a much lower priority than building a new dorm and ironing all the uniqueness out of freshman rush — an ordering directly related to each issue's flashpoint (unrest and alcohol-induced death, respectively). The three-year Aramark extension will bring that question up for debate again only after all the current undergraduate reforms are completed.

Some of these issues have been conveniently left out of the food-service debate. Last Friday's staff editorial and dissent would both have you believe that MIT could be cowed into submission by a simple boycott — the two pieces differed only in suggesting different durations ["Boycott Dining Services" and "Hitting 'em Where it Hurts," Mar. 12]. But a boycott would not work. Unsustainability aside, such a naive "solution" forgets that MIT has already signed a contract with Aramark, so things ain't changin' for at least three years. Despite administrative dithering on the subject, the Institute will continue, in one form or another, to cover any operating losses, including boycott losses, incurred by Aramark.

Or will it? Walsh has indicated that operating-subsidy details have yet to be finalized. Here is a golden opportunity for student protesters to still have significant, meaningful influence on the food-service debate, even in spite of the administration's political machi-

nations. Instead of childishly screaming at the wind for a boycott, students should figure out how to nose their way into this small bit of remaining negotiation.

Couldn't the administration be prodded to insert clauses, a paragraph or two, specifying certain performance and satisfaction levels Aramark would have to meet in order to be eligible for operating subsidies? Surely MIT has some leeway to set the parameters by which Aramark will operate on campus — and students can help define those parameters. (If there are already such parameters, and I hope there are, simply make them stricter.) In fairness to Aramark, food service has improved substantially in the past few years, and if we recognize the inevitability of a forced monopoly for the next three years, we may be able to preside over continued improvements.

This is not to say that students should be accepting of a continued monopoly. On the contrary; I simply suggest that we accept the politics of the current food-service situation, do with it what we can, and move on. This is not surrendering our voice, this is not giving the administration one last chance — this is reality. Next time, when the current contract expires, we can only hope that the student body three years on is able to succeed in pushing its recommendations through where we failed.

Or, if all of this is totally unpalatable, there is one more option: Alyssa P. Hacker '02, choking to death on overpriced, worm-infested Lobdell spaghetti. Aramark would find itself on the curb in front of 84 Mass. Ave. quicker than Phil Walsh can say "incumbency."

## Only a Chemistry Nerd

Olver is the Champion of Western Massachusetts

Michael J. Ring

There's an old Boston adage that civilization of the North American continent ends at Route 128. Of course that's not true; I can

personally attest that this hemisphere is civilized as far west as Worcester and as far south as Providence.

All kidding aside, Western Massachusetts is quite a different place physically, economically, and spiritually than the Bay State coast. The western

environs of this state are much more rural, quiet, and reserved than the hustle, bustle, and in-your-face rudeness of big city Boston. And in the towns among the mountains and valleys west of Worcester, the inhabitants have always viewed their Eastern counterparts with more than a hint of distrust.

With this in mind, the donnybrook that exploded late last week between Representative John Olver PhD '61 (yes, there is an MIT alumnus in Congress) (D-Amherst) and the dean of the Massachusetts delegation, Representative J. Joseph Moakley (D-South Boston) is not all that surprising. Olver, representing the sprawling, rural 1st District, was marching to his own drum and his own district's need, something which the Eastern establishment just could not tolerate.

In a state famous, or perhaps infamous, for its colorful, outspoken politicians, Olver is of a different breed. He's not the type of guy you'd run into at your local bar, nor is he hypnotized by the glow of the television camera. A chemist by trade, Olver served for two decades in the Massachusetts General Court before being elected to the United States House in a 1991 special election.

For some years now Olver has held a seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, ground zero for pork-barrel politics. Of particular interest to Massachusetts interests is his role on the Transportation Subcommittee. With the Big Dig at its frenzied peak of construction, Eastern Massachusetts expects Olver to keep those federal dollars flowing.

But some feel he's not getting the job done. Some observers think Olver's cerebral personality is not suited to the backroom-dealing, quid-pro-quo atmosphere of Appropriations. And last week, the usually reserved and statesman-like Moakley told *The Boston Herald* regarding Olver's seat on the Appropriations committee, "I'm not trying to nail him, but if I had my druthers, there are other people who could do a much better job for Massachusetts." Moakley elaborated, "Some people are born salesmen; others are born librarians." Or chemistry nerds, perhaps.

The facts are, however, that Massachusetts did well in the latest round of transportation funding. An omnibus House bill, guided and scrutinized by Olver, provided \$591 million for Massachusetts' transportation projects. While not as much as Massachusetts had received earlier in the decade, the amount is still a victory for the Bay State, and for Olver, considering the precipitous cuts planned by the congressional Republican leadership.

But Olver's comments on passage of that bill are telling, perhaps eerily foreshadowing the friction that has now arisen. "As the Central Artery enters into the costly construction stage, we cannot allow the so-called 'Big Dig' to gobble up all of our federal highway funding. This bill contains funding specifically earmarked for projects in Western and Central Massachusetts," said the congressman. Indeed, he even audaciously suggested "[Western Massachusetts'] roads, bridges, bike paths, and highways deserve fair and equitable treatment," a statement sure to have rankled the Eastern establishment hungry for Big Dig money. But what benefit do people living 150 miles away from Boston get from the new expressway? And anyone who has ever traveled the windy, dangerous Route 2 across Massachusetts can understand Olver's work in securing grants for this road.

Olver says his most important priority is "making certain [his] constituents in Western Massachusetts get their fair share." And that is exactly what it should be. The Boston metropolitan area has well over half a dozen representatives catering to its needs and projects. But the people of Western Massachusetts' First District, dispersed throughout farming communities and mill towns, have only Olver watching for their interests in the United States House. Olver was elected by the people of North Adams, not Newton. He is absolutely right in serving his district before the needs of those he does not represent.

Of course, transportation funding is but one issue facing Western Massachusetts. Olver has used his role on Appropriations to help his district in other ways as well. He has secured grants to aid the economically depressed mill cities dotting his district and has sought rural transit initiatives in Northern and Western Massachusetts. Using his role as ranking Democrat on the Military Construction subcommittee on Appropriates, Olver worked to protect his district's Westover Air Force Base.

The people of Western Massachusetts need a strong advocate, and Olver is their man. The needs of the citizens of Western Massachusetts are different than their Eastern counterparts, and certainly no politician from Boston gives any pause to those needs. Moakley's uncharacteristically petty attack will only exacerbate tensions between East and West and make it more difficult for the delegation to work together on problems that do affect the whole of Massachusetts.

## The Ethics of Cloning

Elaine Wan

This weekend, I had the great experience of being persuaded by Jeremy Rifkin, the President of the Foundation of Economic Trends, that "[genetic technology] is a harlot." As an aspiring biologist, I would have never thought of the laboratory as a red light district or would have considered my research as promoting prostitution. Perhaps, Robert A. Weinberg '64, professor of biology at MIT and the 1997 Winner of the National Medal of Science, defended genetic technology and researchers the best when he answered Rifkin's claim: "If [genetic technology] was a harlot, then I would be a misogynist."

Rifkin is the author of 14 books, has served on many advisory boards for many countries including the United States and was the first featured speaker of this weekend's MIT-Harvard Conference on Genetic Technology and Society. After Rifkin's convincing and charismatic one-hour speech, there was only a handful of people in Kresge who were still skeptical about the apocalyptic implications of genetic technology and who still resisted the temptation to run to the library to read Francis Bacon's "Novum Organum." I have to admit that I was not one of them. I ran home to search on the web what the famous philosopher had to say about cloning.

The MIT-Harvard Conference on Genetic Technology organized by the MIT and Harvard chapters of the Hippocratic Society held a smashing forum that covered all subjects from cloning, eugenics, and business regulation of genes to public policy and genetically engineered foods.

As a student with deep interests in biology and the future of science, the forum was a great event to hear how different components of our social infrastructure have been affected following the last decade of biological advances. Following the successful cloning of the sheep Dolly in 1996 by Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute in Scotland, questions have arisen: If we can clone sheep, can we clone people? And if we can, should we do so? The consensus among the speakers was that human cloning is immoral and should not be done. The clone would be biologically the same as the "parent" but would be mentally and socially an individual. Although the negative implications of genetic technology were thoroughly discussed, I left the conference with the feeling that human cloning was inevitable.

Speakers, especially the religious leaders, declared cloning immoral and suggested that there should be laws to ban human cloning. But I don't think anyone had an idea how we can prohibit human cloning. Dr. Richard Seed, a physicist from Harvard University,

has declared publicly that he has the means and enthusiasm to be the first to clone a human. Seed plans to implant an embryo with his DNA into his post-menopausal wife. If Seed is not successful, there will be other fanatics willing to spend as much money as necessary to fulfill their desires of immortality by cloning themselves. And if such people do not publicly declare their intentions, we may have human clones running around before we know it. Furthermore, we cannot control research that occurs outside national boundaries. The question is not whether cloning is immoral but whether we can stop it from happening in the first place.

Rifkin raises attention to many ethical concerns that set the pace for the other speakers. But Rifkin does not have a medical degree and is not a research scientist. He is extremely successful in stirring our fears. He predicts gene wars, genetic pollution, and fights for genetic rights in the future. He speaks of a future in which we would be able to select the genotype of our children to create a physically perfect, healthy, intelligent, future generation. But he warns us that such selection would demean the parent-child relationship because children will no longer be just a blessing, but "a blessing to become a program." He says we would not be able to control the spreading of plants that are genetically engineered. We would start to believe that "we are our genes." Most importantly, he convinced the audience that we can't trust the federal government, life sciences companies, or universities to categorize "good and bad genes."

The truth is that we don't know who to trust when it comes to drawing lines to ban human cloning. Despite the expertise of all the speakers, I left the forum unconvinced that I could leave cloning in the hands of any one of them.

Genetic research has profound medical applications, which include the development of vaccines, research on embryonic stem cells, and cloning for infertile couples. Genetic technology has already moved into our lives in the form of genetically engineered cows to produce milk, annual flu vaccines and sex-selection reproductive technology.

Even though much concern has been raised over the hazards of genetic technology, it will move into our lives slowly and inevitably just as the automobile industry and nuclear technology has. Our parents protested against nuclear wars, and today we oppose the genetic technology to be used for human cloning. After the loss of many million lives in the World War II, countries worldwide agreed to end nuclear technology. After the cloning of Dolly, many bioethicists, researchers, and authors agreed to ban human cloning at the MIT-Harvard conference. Today nuclear research perpetuates, and so will human cloning in the future.

# FEATURES

## An Inside Look at MIT Admissions

*A student's own initiative takes top priority in selection process*

By May K. Tse

SENIOR EDITOR

Have you ever wondered how you got accepted to MIT? Or have you ever heard a friend say that they must have gotten in by mistake? Everyone's had to go through the admissions process from the student's side, but few know the details of the process from the perspective of the admissions office.

Dean of MIT Admissions Marilee Jones says, "I have been admitting students here for a long time and I assure you that the applicant pool is so strong, we could take anyone in the top third of the pool and have the same quality class overall. Mistakes? Nah. I honestly wish we had room in each class to take a few more risk cases, but the power of the applicant pool just precludes this."

Elizabeth S. Johnson, associate director of admissions, agreed. "I've been working here since 1985 and I don't recall that anyone was ever incorrectly admitted. We are very careful about checking to make sure that the letter doesn't go to the wrong person. People are not admitted by mistake," she said.

### Two ratings used in admit process

The admissions process is quite involved. "Each applicant is evaluated two basic ways: objectively and subjectively. The objective evaluation is actually a way of looking at the applicant's academic preparation (grades, rank in class, SAT scores) and ranking it relative to that of all other applicants in the pool. We use an algorithm. This sorts the students academically within the applicant pool," Jones said.

The numerical analysis is only half of the process. "The second way we sort each applicant is by the subjective evaluation of the student's application material. Each case is read by at least two different people (admissions staff plus volunteer readers from the faculty and administration) and rated on three specific dimensions of the student's life: initiatives in co-curricular activities; initiatives in interpersonal skills; initiatives in extra-curricular activities," Jones said.

The applicants may vary greatly, but Jones explained what the admissions office basically looks for. "The key word, as you can see, is initiative because this is the most important characteristic we select for. We try to admit people who take initiative in their lives, who take responsibility for their education. Many students study hard, get good grades and good

scores. But many of those do it because it is a family expectation or community pressure or a myriad of other reasons."

Jones said that an applicant's propensity toward risks also plays a role. "We want to select people who are not only planning to succeed, but who are not afraid to fail. When a person takes initiative in life, they learn resilience as a result because taking initiative ensures risk and risk leads to failure as often as it leads to success. The most creative and successful people (MIT is loaded with them) know that failure is part of life and if you don't give up and manage to stay focused, goals ultimately get realized," she said.

"We do have a tendency to admit students who pursue their activities at a very high level of distinction — regional, state, national,

acceptable, that there might be 140 valedictorians in a particular graduating class, that it is the norm in some schools for even top students to first enroll in two year colleges," Jones said. How the admissions office deals with this is that, "We evaluate how well the individual student is doing in their own school system."

Another special case the admissions office looks at involves the direct descendants of alumni. Jones said, "There is a bit of professional courtesy involved in the cases of the [children or grandchildren] of MIT alumni. If the Admissions Committee turns one of these students down because the student is not one of the top candidates, I will personally review the case to ensure that the decision is a sound one. Rarely, though, do I actually change the

decision made by the Committee. It's just one more look."

MIT also has an active commitment to affirmative action. "We do have affirmative action at MIT which means that we will admit every qualified African American, Mexican American, Puerto Rican and Native American student in our pool," Jones said. She also noted, though, that, "The mean SAT scores of our minority undergraduate

students are higher than the mean SAT's for all of the students enrolled in the Ivy League. In short, these students are the best in the U.S."

The admissions office also looks at international student applicants very carefully. "By far the hardest selection process is for international students because we have such limited space for them and we literally see the best in the world applying. We take about 1 in 16 internationals versus 1 in 5 U.S. applicants," Jones said.

There are also special admissions procedures for transfer and graduate applicants. "Transfer admissions is not as rigid as freshman admissions because the number of applications is not as high, and also because transfer students have more of a mixed bag of experiences. Still, though, we admit about 1 in 10," Jones said.

"For those who we don't admit, we keep their files for about a year. For those we do



international level," she said. "But the nature of the activities can be anything. It's the passion that counts."

MIT is a need-blind university, so a student's financial situation is not taken into consideration when the acceptance decisions are made. "The Admissions Office and the Financial Services Office are separate at MIT and play very different roles. This is not the norm in college admissions nationwide, even at top tier schools," Jones said. "Not knowing financial information frees up the Admissions Committee to admit the best — regardless of need."

### Some receive special attention

In looking at the applicant pool, the admissions office takes everything into consideration. For example, there are applicants from high schools of different calibers. "When we begin to make decisions, we know that in some schools, B's are perfectly

admit, we keep them longer, around 5 years, while they're here. The files are eventually gotten rid of by some process like shredding to destroy it... But we have historical records on cartridges to know who applied, with things like scores, grades, high schools, anything that can be entered, but not activities lists or letters," Johnson said.

## VIEWPOINT

*This week's question:*

**What would MIT life be like without the Greek system?**

"Poor. It wouldn't be a loss for the people who don't live there, but for those who do, it would be an immeasurable loss."

Walter G. Holland '01

"Way better. What use does it have other than being a convenient source of housing for undergraduates? If people need to be proud of something, there are a million things more worthy of pride than a couple Greek letters and a bunch of 'brothers.' As far as having a 'community' or whatever, the only thing the Greek-oriented 'community' does is create divisions, rivalries, and take up the time of its members — time that could otherwise be better spent on more worthwhile things."

Yanni K. Tsipis '01

"MIT life without the Greek system would be almost exactly the same as it is now. No biggie, maybe there will be more people on campus that everyone can meet versus the separation of on-campus and off-campus people."

James L. Chen '00

"It's hard to say. I guess we can look at Harvard, which is a peer institution with no Greek system. So MIT would resemble Harvard socially, except we do more work, so we'd be more anti-social."

Evangelos Kostoulas '01

"We'd have fewer people to make fun of."

Anna B. Folinsky '02

"It would be a lot different. There would be less of a stereotype of, 'If you live in a dorm, you're a nerd.' I don't think that social groups will be broken up as much as people think they will be, but it won't be the same as having fraternities."

David S. Bailey '02

"A lot less interesting. You get a different lifestyle. You can meet a lot of different people. It's like a family."

Eric K. Lee '01

Compiled by Katie Jeffreys



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## Feature of the Week

### MIT Alternative Spring Break

By Aaron D. Mihalik

STAFF REPORTER

While many MIT students prepare to head off to warm beaches and tropical getaways for spring break, another group of MIT students are choosing to spend their week off by participating in community service activities through Alternative Spring Break. The program was developed with similar programs at other universities.

This year ASB has a total of nine trips planned, including one of which took place over Independent Activities Period. The remaining eight will take place next week. New this year is a trip to New Orleans to work in an AIDS shelter. This trip was added because many students wanted to do service that related to health issues.

ASB at MIT was the brainchild of Anthony J. Ives '96. After attending the Leadershape program in 1995, he had "the vision of bringing an alternative spring break program to MIT," said Carina W. Fung '99, one of the groups organizers. "MIT didn't have any program like this, so Anthony decided to give MIT students the valuable opportunity to spend their spring break away from campus, yet performing quality community service to help others less fortunate."

The first year of the program was in 1996. ASB sent 25 students to Washington, D.C. to participate in Teach for America's Spring Breakaway program.

Over the next few years the ASB program grew significantly. In 1997 ASB sent students to participate in the TFA in New Jersey and in New York. Also, ASB sent students to work with the Habitat for Humanity in Salisbury, Maryland.

Since the creation of the program, ASB has been continually

adding trips to cover a diverse range of interests.

"We found many students were interested in doing ASB but didn't want to teach," Fung said. "Others wanted to do ASB but wanted to go farther away. Some students approached me last year and asked if there was a health care type of trip."

ASB has also developed a more thorough way of preparing the students for the trips.

"It is no longer simply a 'jump in the van and go' type trip," Fung said. "Participants are encouraged to meet with each other before the trips take place, and are briefed on the kind of work [and] types of issues they'll encounter. As for the teaching trips... we try to have sessions now where MIT participants practice teaching their original lessons to each other... This is all in the spirit of making the week a more worthwhile experience both for the MIT participants and the people we serve."

The students who participate with ASB can also receive three or six units of credit in Political Science. The student must do outside reading and writing on relevant urban issues. This allows the student to become "more aware of the policy issues which are related to the service they are providing," Fung said. "We want MIT students to be better informed about the world around them, as well as provide service to the community."

ASB has a booth at the Activities Midway in the fall. Because of the popularity of the programs, it's no longer on a first-come, first-serve basis as it originally was. Applications are due in December.

"Students have to prove to us they really want to go and promise us their commitment," Fung said.

# Web Communities and Free Tuition

Philip Greenspun talks about the Future of the Web and MIT

By Aileen Tang

STAFF REPORTER

Laboratory for Computer Science researcher Philip Greenspun has been through the complete MIT life cycle. He graduated from Course 18 with a BS at the age of 18, received a Course 6 SM in 1993, earned his PhD in Course 6 last year, and is now teaching the first hands-on class at MIT about building database-backed web sites: Software Engineering of Innovative Web Applications (6.916).

As an entrepreneur, Greenspun has started six companies and buried three. His current company, ArsDigita, builds database-backed web sites for Fortune 500 companies for about \$1 million per project. He also runs his own web site at <http://photo.net/>, which receives 700,000 hits a day.

As a software engineer, he built an open-source Web-based collaboration toolkit, which is now used by thousands of Web publishers and millions of users. In addition, Greenspun's photographs have been featured in magazines and books. His most recent work is *Philip and Alex's Guide to Web Publishing*, a coffee table Web-nerd book in 4-color printing with Greenspun's own photographs interspersed throughout the text. He does not sell his photographs, but gives them away for free on photo.net if a person is willing to donate money to animal charities. *photo.net* generates about \$13,000 a year for charity through *amazon.com* referral fees and orders for photographic prints.

## Book tells how to harness the Internet

Everybody knows the Internet is "the future." The Internet Service Providers industry index has reflected this common wisdom by more than quadrupling in the last 12 months. As people scramble to log on to E-Trade so they can buy 500 shares of Amazon or Yahoo stock on margin, few actually stop to remind themselves that companies like Amazon have a market capitalization of \$21.5 billion but lost \$124.5 million on \$610 million sales (for the fiscal year ended 12/31/98, source: Yahoo Finance).

Why? Because although it is now conventional wisdom that the Internet nourishes the biggest market potential of the next century, no one yet knows the best way to milk this cash cow (at least not until a company like Amazon surprises everybody with its price-earnings ratio).

In his new book, *Philip and Alex's Guide to Web Publishing*, Greenspun offers his own insight about how to build useful Web-based services and harness the Internet technology to benefit users, if not to make profits. He predicts that the ubiquitous Internet will provide a medium for "computer-mediated collaboration on a scale we can't imagine."

In Chapter 2 of *Philip and Alex's Guide to Web Publishing*, Greenspun writes, "For example, in 1998 if people from Companies A, B, and C need to work together, they'd expect to be able to call up the phone company and ask it to set up a conference call in 15 minutes. In 2018, it is possible that cross-company collaboration will be far more prevalent. In that case, people will expect to be able to ask the phone company to set up a Web-based collaboration environment, in 15 minutes."

Thus an end to the current paradigm of large system administration budgets, the personal desktop computer, and selling boxes of software at computer stores much like "selling tables and chairs." Commenting on today's narrow-minded concept of the Internet, Greenspun writes, "Now we have an Internet and any computer in the world can talk to any other. But sadly it turns out that they have nothing to say." He proposes to automate a lot of tasks online through the use of collaboratively evolved data models.

Greenspun paints the scene of a home in the not so far away future where every appliance has an IP address and is therefore a Web browser. "My GE Profile range already has a tall backsplash with an LED display. If GE had put a 10base-T outlet on the back to provide technical support, the next logical step would be to replace the LED display with a color LCD screen. Then I would be able to browse recipe Web sites from my stove top. Once I'd found the desired recipe, I would press 'start cooking.' A dialog box would appear: 'JavaScript Alert: Preheat oven to 375?' After I'd confirmed that, the recipe steps would unfold before me on the LCD."

## Interview with Philip Greenspun

Greenspun in person has a unique sense

of humor and assertively expresses his own opinions. In this interview with *The Tech*, he discussed why he kept coming back to MIT, his vision for the Web, his company, his views about the Scott Krueger incident, his gripes about Bill Gates, and why he gave out \$100 bills to each undergraduate student he guest lectured at MIT last year.

*The Tech*: How did you get the idea about teaching a class like 6.916: Software Engineering of Innovative Web Applications?

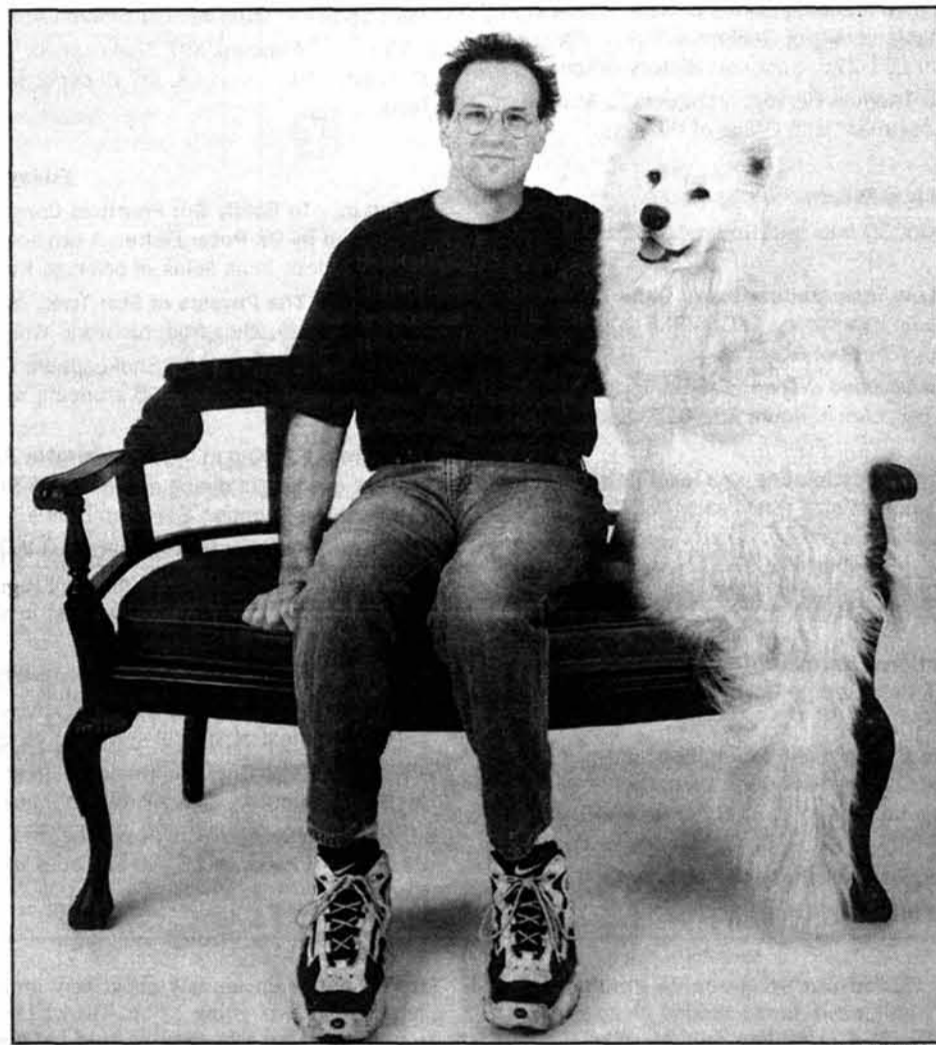
*Greenspun*: The problem was getting the idea out of my head, not into it. Since 1993, I haven't been able to stop talking about Web-based collaboration. I spent 23 years learning how to program and I finally feel that I'm able to do something useful with that skill. The traditional 6-3 curriculum doesn't cover the fundamental technologies necessary for supporting Web services, e.g., the relational database management system (RDBMS). You need the RDBMS to keep concurrent users from colliding. The RDBMS requires students to program in a declarative language (SQL), which is nothing

take us back to the Middle Ages with apprenticeships. Of course, we don't have enough great programmers on campus to provide 1:1 instruction for everyone. However, some day, Web-based collaboration may allow us to take advantage of all the MIT alums that have become great software engineers and have Internet access.

*The Tech*: In "The Book Behind the Book Behind the Book" (<http://photo.net/wtr/dead-trees/story.html>), a story about what you went through to publish your first book, you described how idiotic the "Teach Yourself Blah Blah Blah in 21 Days" computer books are today.

So what suggestions do you have for the MIT student who wants to avoid buying books that are "written by idiots for idiots?"

*Greenspun*: Actually I think the most interesting thing about "The Book Behind the Book Behind the Book" is that it is about 30 pages long. No magazine would ever run an article that long. No book publisher would ever produce a book that short. It is a tale that could not be told in the commercial publishing world and only exists because of



Philip Greenspun '82

ing like the procedural languages they might have used until now (Scheme, C, Java).

*The Tech*: What do you want students to take away from this class, besides the material from the syllabus?

*Greenspun*: I want them to learn how to focus on the user. You can't be a great engineer unless you measure your creations against the actual user experience.

*The Tech*: In what ways is 6.916 different from a traditional MIT Course 6 class?

*Greenspun*: I dragooned five or six expert programmers, each with 20 years of experience, into serving as TAs. Thus with one staff person for every 3 students, students are exposed to how great software engineers think. There is no substitute for sitting down next to a great programmer to attack a problem.

Given the tuition that we're charging, it ought to be the case that a Course 6-3 grad is worth an extra \$200,000 per year. Yet companies that need software engineers are happy to hire grads from non-CS majors and pay them nearly as well, because they know that after a year of industrial experience, someone who was, say, a physics major would probably be a better software engineer than a raw Course 6-3 graduate.

Does this happen in biology? No. A biotech company would not hire a math major. Does this happen in medicine? You probably wouldn't ask me to take out your tonsils.

Computer science education at MIT starts off very strong with 6.001 and gradually fizzles out. There is simply no evidence that a person can become a great software engineer by taking classes. So I'm trying to

the Internet.

Anyway, if you really want book shopping advice I think there are two classes of good books. The first has a step-by-step tutorial for doing what you need to do today. Some of these are "I stole the program and now I need a book on how to use it" books. You shouldn't care who writes these. The second class of good books is written by someone who is describing his or her life's work. Edward Tufte's books on information design come to mind. He spent seven years on each one. For example, Tufte's *Visual Explanations*, in four pages (pp. 146-149), manages to set forth everything important about Web design.

*The Tech*: What made you like MIT enough to keep coming back despite having owned six start-up companies? Many MIT students would leave this place in a jiffy for a start-up.

*Greenspun*: To me, MIT is the Nerd City on the Hill. We are a community of people passionate about pushing science and technology forward. What I love about MIT is that if you said that you were staying up all night to find a more elegant solution to a problem, nobody would say "Why work so hard when you can just go to business school and have an easy life?"

That said, I think we can push ourselves to do better. We could have apologized to Scott Krueger's family instead of leaving the matter to the administrators we've hired. We should get out of the business of asking students how much money their parents have. We should get out of the business of expert witnessing in lawsuits. It does not help MIT [nor] help their students find jobs. It does

not build their tech skills (since patent disputes are usually about technology that is 15 years old). It does not push society forward. We should ask ourselves "If it is just about money, why don't I work at a higher-growth higher-profit organization like Microsoft or Oracle?"

## Campaign for Tuition-free MIT

In a Web page titled, *Tuition-free MIT*, Greenspun argues why it is morally questionable for MIT to charge tuition at the maximum level a student's family can afford, and how MIT can change its infrastructure to run without charging tuition at all.

*Greenspun* put his words to action last spring when he guest-lectured an MIT class on designing database-backed Web services. He calculated that the students were paying about \$80 in tuition per lecture-hour, and to "stop personally participating in the system of extracting money from MIT kids and their families," he handed out a \$100 bill to each undergraduate in the class.

*The Tech*: What is the theory behind your campaign for Tuition-free MIT?

*Greenspun*: It is explained at some length at <http://photo.net/philg/school/tuition-free-mit.html> and short summaries tend to distort my argument, so I'm chary of ripping the bones off the argument. To encourage folks to visit my essay, though, I'll ask a few questions:

1) If we are such great engineers, can't we find better ways to raise money than beating it out of 18-year-olds and their parents? If we aren't such great engineers, why are we teaching?

2) If we can't get as much money from the Feds and the Fortune 500 and the crotchety old rich nerds as we've gotten from bleeding students and families, then perhaps we can run MIT for less. Do the students need administrators to draft alcohol policies for them? Do the students need MIT-managed dorms? Do they need MIT-supervised dining services? Athletics? If they weren't paying \$24,000/year in tuition, maybe the students would be willing to manage some of these things for themselves.

3) If we were charging \$1 million/student, would any rich person give us money? If not, why don't we think that we're already losing a lot of potential donors because rich people think that maybe we can take care of ourselves? What we don't consider is that each extra dollar collected from students makes it more difficult to collect from donors.

## Building online communities

*Greenspun's* Web site, *photo.net*, fosters an on-line community about various topics that he is interested in: photography, building database-backed Web sites, travel, Bill Gates' wealth. The front page begins with this quote, "I built this site in 1993 to share what I knew. In 1995, I expanded the goal to also share what some other folks know."

*The Tech*: What inspired you to build a site like *photo.net*?

*Greenspun*: It started in 1993 after I returned from spending the summer driving to Alaska and back. I wrote a 200-page online story about the trip, *Travels with Samantha*. I illustrated the book with 250 photos and it generated a lot of emailed questions about photography. Thinking that I could reduce my email burden with an FAQ, I started building up some photography tutorial pages at <http://photo.net/photo>. But photography is sufficiently open-ended that answering three questions will raise seven more. So I needed to develop technological means [such as online discussion forums] by which users could answer each others' questions.

*The Tech*: Many people who read your books and/or your stories on *photo.net* appreciate the humor and knowledge they obtained from these writings. What motivated you to go and write about all these things?

*Greenspun*: I think it was my programming background. Due to a combination of altruism and vanity, great programmers tend to want to share their source code so other programmers get a leg up and don't have to reinvent the wheel. The original programmer thus gratifies his or her Hacker Ego. Richard Stallman [the author of *emacs*] and Project GNU [the main source of the software behind Linux] are the ultimate examples of the power of this [open source] tradition.

So when I started writing for my friends or to clarify my thoughts on a subject, it seemed natural to distribute it over the Internet as I had done with my source code.

*The Tech*: Despite having written and published books, you claim that you are not a writer. Why?

*Greenspun*: A "writer" is someone who

Greenspun, Continued on next page

# 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>

## Tuesday's Events

- 12:00 p.m. – **Revenge of the Savage: Technology and Human Nature in Prehistoric Archaeology and Anthropology, 1860-1914.** David McGee. Dibner Institute Luncheon Colloquia. Room E56-100.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Technology Challenges for Advanced Interconnects.** James Ryan, IBM Microelectronics. MTL VLSI Seminar Series. Refreshments in lobby of room 34-101 at 3:30 p.m. Room 34-101.
- 4:00 p.m. – **From Rice to Snow: Ideas and Disputes about the Mechanics of Granular Materials.** Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, College de France, Paris. Ronald F. Probst Lecture Series. A reception will follow the lecture. Bldg. E51-Wong Auditorium.
- 4:30 p.m. – **Development of Fiber Optic Sensors for Oil and Gas Reservoir Monitoring.** Dr. Daniel Gysling, CiDRA Corp. Gas Turbine Seminar Series. Room 31-161.
- 4:30 p.m. – **Tribe and Nation: American Indians and the American Imaginary.** Prof. Pauline Turner Strong, University of Texas-Austin. A session of Peoples and States: Ethnic Identity and Conflict. Room E38-615. Sponsor: Center for International Studies with the Anthropology Department.
- 4:30 p.m. – **Political Transition in Jordan: Domestic Stability and the Regional Order.** Prof. Fawaz Gerges, Sarah Lawrence College. Sponsored by Center for International Studies. Room E51-095.
- 4:30 p.m. – **Between Nation and World: Braudelian Regions in Asia.** R. Bin Wong, Professor of History and Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine. Part of the Sahin Lecture Series, Spring 1999. Room E51-275. Sponsor: History Office.
- 6:30 p.m. – **Architecture Lecture Series.** Thomas Herzog, architect, TU Munich. Room 10-250. Sponsor: Architecture Department with Office of the Arts.

## Wednesday's Events

- 7:30 a.m. – **Perspectives on Vision.** 1 hour 30 minutes. Room 4-231. Sponsor: MIT BrainTrust.
- 11:00 a.m. – **Terahertz Applications for Low-Temperature-Grown GaAs Photomixers.**—Simon Verghese, MIT, Lincoln Laboratory. EECS /RLE - Optics & Quantum Electronics Seminar Series. Bldg. 34-Grier Room B.
- 12:00 p.m. – **Could Genocide Have Been Stopped in Rwanda?** Dr. Taylor Seybolt, Belfer Center, Harvard University. Brown Bag Lunch. Room E38-615. Sponsor: Security Studies Program.
- 12:10 p.m. – **How to use TOPEX altimetry for estimating sea level heights in the pre-TOPEX era.** Alexey Kaplan, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars. Room 54-915.
- 3:30 p.m. – **Lecture on Working in Groups: Conflict Resolution and Negotiation.** Toni Robinson, MIT. Professional Development Series. 1 hour 30 minutes. Ashdown House, Hulsizer. Sponsor: GSC.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Recent Progress in Multifunctional Asymmetric Catalysis.** Professor Masakatsu Shibasaki, The University of Tokyo. George Buchi Lecture Series. Room E25-111.
- 4:15 p.m. – **On the Hurwitz Enumeration Problem and Some Related Combinatorial and Geometric Questions.** Dr. David Jackson, University of Waterloo. Combinatorics Seminar. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in 2-349. Room 2-339.
- 5:00 p.m. – **Advanced Music Performance Recital: Catherine B. Labelle G, piano.**

Bach, Menotti, Prokofiev, Beethoven, Liszt. Killian Hall.

- 5:15 p.m. – **On the Persistence of Mutual Fund Rankings.** Dr. Abhinanda Sarkar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Statistics Seminar. Room 2-105.

## Thursday's Events

- 12:00 p.m. – **MIT Chapel Concert. Richard Maloney, lute. Deborah van Renterghem, soprano.** English lute songs by Dowland and Campion and Scottish and Italian Renaissance works for lute. Chapel. 4:00 p.m. – **Congestion-Dependent Pricing of Internet Services.** Yannis Paschalidis, Assistant Professor of Manufacturing Engineering, Boston University. Refreshments to follow in Room E40-106. Room E40-298. Sponsor: Operations Research Center.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Recent Progress in Asymmetric Heck Reactions.**—Professor Masakatsu Shibasaki, University of Tokyo. George Buchi Lecture Series. Room 6-120.
- 4:15 p.m. – **A New Cosmological Paradigm: Life, the Universe and Nothing.** Professor Lawrence M. Krauss, Case Western Reserve University. Physics Colloquium. Refreshments in Room 4-339 at 3:45 p.m. Room 10-250.
- 7:00 p.m. – **Poetry@MIT: Paul Violi.** "The best satirical mind in contemporary poetry" (Andrei Codrescu, NPR), will read from his newly published seventh work, *Fracas*. Violi is on the faculty of New York University. Room 14E-304.
- 7:30 p.m. – **ISA Cultural Nights.** Featuring Japan and its culture. Learn the art of origami, chopsticks and more, and savor our delicious dishes. 2 hours. McCormick Hall. Sponsor: International Student Association.
- 8:00 p.m. – **Pericles.** MIT Shakespeare Ensemble production directed by Michael Ouellette. Admission \$8, \$6 students with ID and senior citizens. Sala de Puerto Rico.

## Friday's Events

- 2:00 p.m. – **To Boldly Go: Practical Career Planning for Scientists and Engineers Workshop by Dr. Peter Fiske.** A two-hour career workshop for graduate students and post-docs in all fields of science. Room 6-120. Sponsor: OCSPA.
- 4:00 p.m. – **The Physics of Star Trek.** Writers Series presents Lawrence M. Krauss PhD '82 in a reading from his work. Wong Auditorium.
- 8:00 p.m. – **Pericles.** MIT Shakespeare Ensemble production directed by Michael Ouellette. Admission \$8, \$6 students with ID and senior citizens. Sala de Puerto Rico.
- 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – **An evening in Paris.** Formal Dance. Please join us for an elegant evening of dining and dancing. Semi-formal attire. Admission \$10. DuPont Gymnasium. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Team.
- 9:00 p.m. – **Potluck Performance Art Party.** AKA show+tell. Bring video, poetry, slides, anything to read, show, perform and/or consume. Admission \$4.00. N52-115.

## Saturday's Events

- 2:00 p.m. – **New England Music Festival.** 475 New England high school musicians perform orchestral, choral and band music. Admission \$6.00. Kresge Auditorium.
- 7:30 p.m. – **New England Music Festival.** 475 New England high school musicians perform orchestral, choral and band music. Admission \$8.00. Kresge Auditorium.
- 8:00 p.m. – **Pericles.** MIT Shakespeare Ensemble production directed by Michael Ouellette. Admission \$8, \$6 students with ID and senior citizens. Sala de Puerto Rico.

## Greenspun, continued from previous page

spends time looking for a publisher (I spend time thinking of creative ways to hide from my publisher.). Someone who sets down on paper what he happens to be thinking about at the time is just a person.

*The Tech:* Conventional wisdom says making Web pages is a hobby of those who are either too nerdy, have no life, or "just have too much time on their hands." One reader of photo.net posted a conclusion that "Greenspun [must be] independently wealthy" to have spent so much time putting up a site that does not even generate a profit. How do people who wish to build Web sites justify the heavy time/monetary investments without clear returns?

*Greenspun:* Americans these days assume that one ought to be striving to make money 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. We are fortunate to live in a rich society; we don't have to struggle for our crust of bread every waking hour. Could I make more money as a bond salesman for Goldman Sachs? Probably. But why worry about that if I can make enough to live comfortably doing the work that I love: building Web software and giving it away?

*The Tech:* Why don't you advertise photo.net so more people can join the community?

*Greenspun:* Michael Dertouzos, Director of the Laboratory for Computer Science, has a great expression when talking about an activity that takes time: "It takes more than money, it takes life." If photo.net had twice as many users, I'd get twice as many email messages per day from users. The goal of photo.net is not to dominate the Internet photography scene and crush competing sites. It is to have a community where people help each other become better photographers. I'd rather another publisher down-

loaded our open-source community site toolkit and started another photography site.

*The Tech:* You publish even the directions, not to mention the phone numbers, to your house on your home page. Most people worry about revealing too much personal information over the Internet.

*Greenspun:* [Publishing this information] just reflects the practical reality that my phone number and address are listed with Bell Atlantic. So I'm not going to inconvenience my friends who might want to mail me a package in exchange for some illusory privacy. Probably about 1 percent of my unsolicited phone calls are from readers of my Web site. Surprisingly enough, people who find me on the Internet seem to send e-mail instead. Go figure.

## Views about Internet commerce

*The Tech:* What are your thoughts about the current craze in Internet e-commerce? Seems like everything people are doing on the Internet these days is intended to make money. Is this phenomenon of commercialism: Inevitable? Pathetic? Healthy?

*Greenspun:* E-commerce as in "distribute a catalog of stuff" isn't so interesting to me. I think the good e-commerce sites have yet to be built. A good clothing site knows what you've got in your closet, what fits, what looks good on you, and what's about to become worn out. A good shopping site knows what brand of vacuum cleaner you own and what bags you might need, it knows that you've got a DVD player and not a VCR, it knows that your dishwasher is about to run out of that rinse-aid stuff that comes with dishwashers.

I'm not too concerned that e-commerce will drown out interesting Web applications. Most people don't spend all day shopping or trading stocks.

I do laugh sometimes when I hear

Internet entrepreneurs talk about how great their company is going to be. Then I turn around and find that they've sold out for \$100 million or \$1.5 billion. So I don't laugh so much anymore.

You don't need to be smart to make money these days.

*The Tech:* What do you think of the MIT homepage at [web.mit.edu](http://web.mit.edu)?

*Greenspun:* [web.mit.edu](http://web.mit.edu) is as good as it can be given that it is static .html files. That said, [web.mit.edu](http://web.mit.edu) isn't nearly as good as it needs to be. A large organization like MIT needs a dynamically generated site. Suppose the server knows that you're a high school kid; it should highlight stuff about admission and science tutorials appropriate for people without university backgrounds. If the server knows that you're on campus, it can point you to talks that are happening today. If the server knows that you're a biology professor at Stanford, it should greet you with a list of the most recent publications from Course 7 professors.

Note that this isn't just a technical challenge. To make [web.mit.edu](http://web.mit.edu) really work for users, we'd need to define publishing standards for groups within MIT. For example, a researcher here needs to be able to tag something "of interest to high school students."

*The Tech:* I'm curious about what you think is a potential solution to "dead links" on the web. Not by demanding perpetual links, I suppose, since it has a scalability problem and is not practical to expect of the zillions of web publishers.

*Greenspun:* Actually search engines like AltaVista are already 99% of the way there. They've got a database of content. If you couldn't find the link live, you ought to be able to ask AltaVista "show me <http://foo-bar.edu/yow.html> as it existed on June 1, 1998". Someone has proposed the death penalty for those who create dead links.

Probably a combination of these two would be a good solution.

*The Tech:* Tell us about your company, ArsDigita, and what you envision to do with it. If the ArsDigita Community Software is open-source, how does the company make profit?

*Greenspun:* Computers don't solve interesting problems out of the box. In fact, a freshly unboxed computer creates problems. The computer has made more consulting firms rich than any other technology. ArsDigita builds and operates online communities. We might lose some revenue by giving away our toolkit for free, but we're too busy doubling every year to notice. The goal of ArsDigita is to solve the problem of Web-based collaboration, to distribute an open-source solution (so we give away our software), and to distribute knowledge about how we built the solution (so we give away my books for free). In doing this, we collect some of the best programmers in the world, pay them as well as McKinsey pays its consultants, and feel good because we don't have to live in hotels the way management consultants do.

Our typical customer has between \$7 billion and \$100 billion in revenue. They want a site up and running in six weeks. Although they could download our toolkit for free and operate the site themselves, they'd rather pay us \$1 million per year to operate our 200th database-backed Web site than risk running their first. ArsDigita frees the company to focus on their problem at a price that, to them, is insignificant.

Open source probably makes it easier to sell these \$1 million jobs, actually. Big companies don't like to depend on proprietary closed-source software unless it comes from another big company.

# Senior House Hit By Rash of Thefts

By Frank Dabek  
NEWS EDITOR

Senior House has again been plagued by a series of larcenies. In the last few days several items including \$700 in cash, a CD player, and a laptop were stolen from students in the dormitory.

According to a Campus Police bulletin issued yesterday there were four reports of items stolen. In some cases the occupant was asleep and most of the rooms affected had closed but unlocked doors. Victims described a possible suspect as a white male, about 30 years old, six feet tall and of medium build.

Captain Paul J. Baratta of the Campus Police said the CPs "didn't find any problems with [dorm] security at all but some of the rooms were left open."

Cynthia Jenkins, housemaster of Senior House said that the dorm is responding to the larcenies by "trying to make sure that all the residents in the house are aware of the potentials of problems." She said that the problems originated with unlocked doors.

### Robberies also occurred last year

Senior House was the target of a similar string of robberies last year but Baratta classified both incidents as a "crime of opportunity" and said that "I don't think anyone is picking out Senior House."

Jenkins concurred, saying "I think they found the individual last year. My sense is that it's not really unique to Senior House."

Baratta said that the CPs have had a "pretty good track record" for catching such thieves especially with the aid of the community. The Special Services Division is currently developing suspect information on these crimes. Anyone with information concerning the robberies should contact Detective David Bruce at x8-9724 or use the CPs anonymous reporting page at <http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/invest/anon.html>.

Zareena Hussain and Kevin Lang contributed to the reporting of this article.

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WHEN THINGS START TO THINK

# Neil

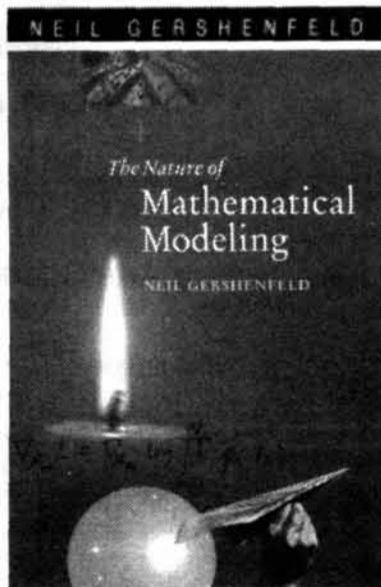
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# McGann, Nemzer Will Head New UA Administration

UA, from Page 1

separate elections in 1998. This year, the commission found only minor violations for posting and other publicity issues, Shen said. Some candidates allegedly wrote on institute walls and posted in inappropriate places, Shen said.

The Election Commission also required candidates to attend a meeting covering basic campaign procedures before any petitioning could begin, Shen said. She also noted that candidates had to use official UA ballot sheets to obtain signatures. According to UA election code, candidates cannot active-

ly campaign while obtaining petitions. However, tracking down such violations can be difficult, especially since students often ask about candidates' campaigns when signing petitions, Shen said.

Last fall, the UA was forced to hand-count votes for freshman elections, since the web-based vot-

ing software could not automatically tally them. Shen noted that an updated version of the voting program can now automatically tally votes, and paper ballots will be automatically tallied once entered into the UA computers.

The UA also experimented with new means of promoting student

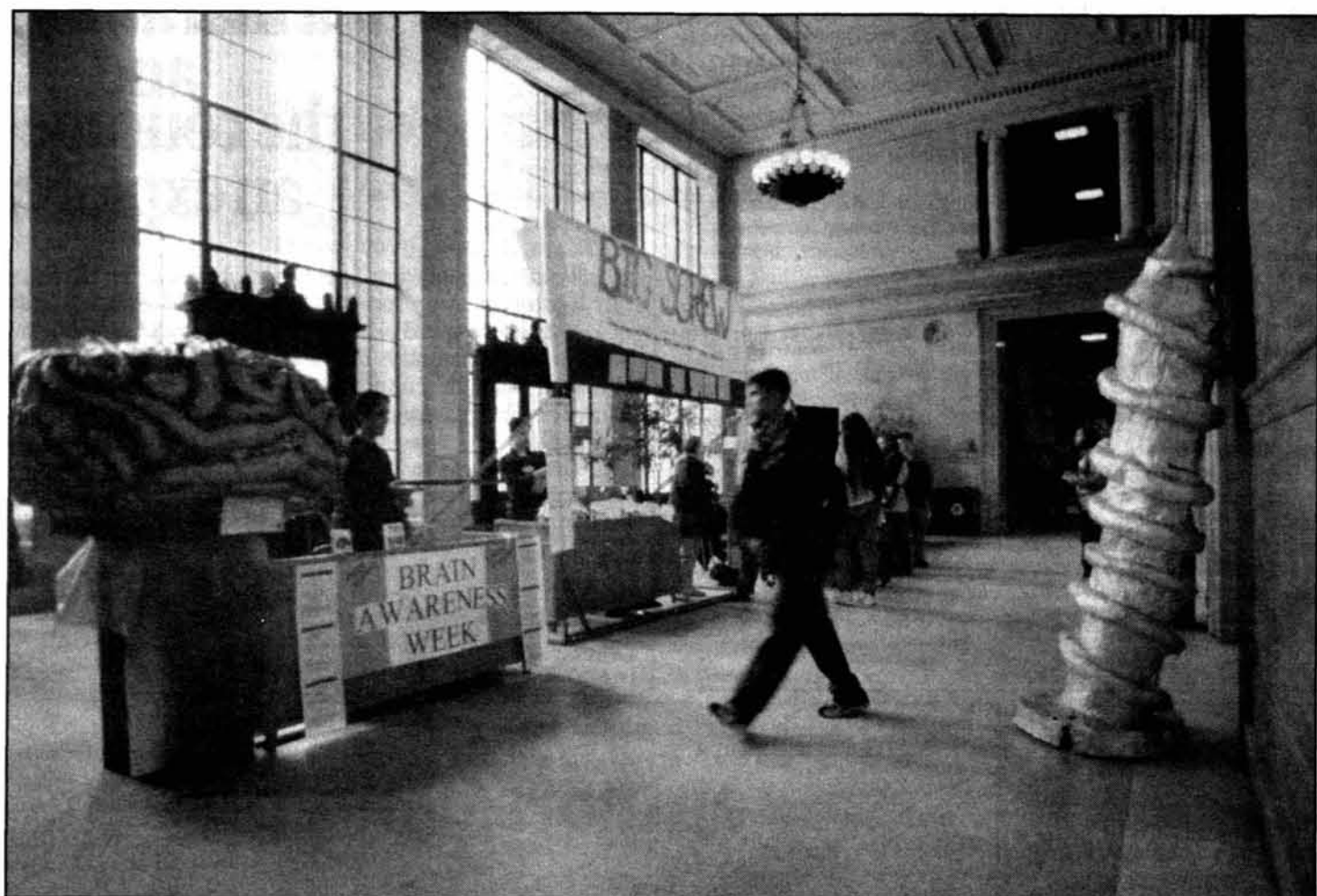
awareness of candidates and their platforms. Shen noted that the UA hosted an online discussion forum for students to talk with candidates for UA president and vice president. The UAP and UAVP debates were also broadcast on MIT student cable.



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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



**DUCT TAPE RULEZ** — Students were greeted by a giant brain advertising Brain Awareness Week next to the booth for the annual Big Screw contest in Lobby 10 yesterday.

GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

This space donated by *The Tech*

•call for applications•

the Council for the Arts at MIT

**ARTS SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

A program open to sophomores, juniors and seniors, regardless of major

**Application Deadline: Monday, April 12, 1999**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Who are the Arts Scholars? | A community of MIT undergraduate artists, from all disciplines  |
| Who should apply?          | Students who are committed to work in one or more disciplines in the arts and who wish for more interaction with fellow student & faculty artists   |
| What is the program ?      | The program is structured around informal monthly dinners accompanied by presentations or excursions. Presentations may be given by faculty members, MIT artists-in-residence, fellow students or Boston-area artists |

When does the program start? The full 1999-2000 program will begin in September 1999

Students may apply to the program by completing and submitting an application form that includes a brief essay describing the student's involvement in the arts, and his/her interest in participating in the Arts Scholars Program. Also required are:

- 2 letters of recommendation - one from an MIT faculty member familiar with the applicant's artistic work
- Interview with two selection committee members

Application forms are available at **3-234** and **E15-205**, Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm.  
For more information contact [cohen@media.mit.edu](mailto:cohen@media.mit.edu) or call **253-4005**

# Dreger Fills Empty FSILG Adviser Role

By Frank Dabek  
NEWS EDITOR

The recently created position of Assistant to the Adviser to fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups has been filled by former Interfraternity Council President Duane H. Dreger '99. Dreger was appointed to the position after the resignation of Barbara Treadway, who served a short stint as Dorow's assistant, and began work early this month.

Dreger said that he was chosen to fill the gap left by Treadway's sudden resignation based on his more than three years of experience with the FSILG system. According to Dreger, most of what Associate Dean and Adviser to FSILGs Neal H. Dorow does is answer process and factual questions. "As a past president of the IFC... [I] handled the same kind of questions," he said.

These questions range from the topic of Resident Advisers and fire inspections, to contractor recommendations. "It is a similar role, just shifted over" to the administration side Dreger said. Dreger is a student employee, however, and does not sit on any meetings of the dean's office.

Dorow will also handle disciplinary problems — such as noise complaints — and forward them to Assistant Dean for Residential Life Carol Orme-Johnson or Associate

Dean Andrew M. Eisenmann '70.

## Dreger filling in for Dorow

While Dorow is away from campus serving as a referee with the United States national wrestling team in Europe Dreger is taking over his duties temporarily. "I am checking Neal's email" and have a key to his office, Dreger said. "The best way to get ahold of me is to send email to [dorow@mit.edu](mailto:dorow@mit.edu)."

This position is temporary, however, Dreger expects to stay on only for the next month and a half and plans to attend law school next fall.

Dreger works three hours a day on average as Dorow's assistant and handles mostly "administrative and paperwork issues related to [Dorow's] job."

## Dreger replaces Treadway

Dreger assumed the position as Dorow's assistant after Treadway had resigned after only one week on the job.

Treadway's responsibilities were to include assisting in sorority rush and exploring new ways the administration could help the ILGs.

Treadway made her decision after her fiancé received a job offer in their former home of Omaha, Nebraska.

Anna K. Benefiel contributed to the reporting of this story.



**Passover Seder**  
Wednesday  
March 31

**Reserve by Thursday**  
March 18

\$20. MIT students  
\$30. others

**P  
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**Passover Meals**  
April 4 - 7

**Reserve by Friday,**  
March 19  
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MIT Hillel, Building W11 lower level. 253-2982



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On-Campus Interviews Scheduled: Mon., March 29 Tues., March 30

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Harmonic Lightwaves

## UNDERGRADUATES NEEDED to participate in meetings for NEWLY ADMITTED STUDENTS

during Spring Break 1999 in the following locations:

State	City	Meeting Day	Meeting Date	Time
CA	Los Angeles	Saturday	March 27	3 pm
CA	Orange County/Anaheim	Thursday	March 25	7:30 pm
CA	San Diego	Monday	March 22	6 pm
CA	San Francisco/Atherton	Saturday	March 27	1 pm
CT	Fairfield County/Riverside	Saturday	March 27	3 pm
DC	see Fairfax, VA			
FL	Miami	Tuesday	March 23	7 pm
FL	Palm Beach	Monday	March 22	6 pm
FL	Tampa/Harbour Island	Monday	March 22	6 pm
GA	Atlanta/Marietta	Thursday	March 25	7 pm
KS	Prairie Village	Monday	March 22	7 pm
MA	Framingham	Saturday	March 27	2 pm
MA	Worcester/Marlborough	Tuesday	March 23	6:30 pm
MD	Baltimore/Columbia	Wednesday	March 24	7:30 pm
MO	St. Louis	Saturday	March 27	2 pm
NH	Manchester/Bedford	Thursday	March 25	6:15 pm
NJ	Central/Manalapan	Thursday	March 25	7 pm
NJ	Northern/Franklin Lakes	Wednesday	March 24	7 pm
NM	Albuquerque	Friday	March 26	6 pm
NV	Carson City	Wednesday	March 24	7 pm
NY	Albany/Troy	Saturday	March 27	10 am
NY	New York City	Thursday	March 25	7 pm
NY	Westchester County/Larchmont	Saturday	March 27	2 pm
OH	Cleveland/Brecksville	Thursday	March 25	7:30 pm
OH	Cincinnati	Thursday	March 25	6 pm
OH	Dayton	Wednesday	March 24	5 pm
OK	Tulsa	Thursday	March 25	7 pm
PA	Philadelphia/Essington	Tuesday	March 23	6 pm
PA	Pittsburgh	Thursday	March 25	7 pm
TX	Austin	Friday	March 26	7:30 pm
TX	Dallas/Farmers Branch	Thursday	March 25	7 pm
TX	Houston/Katy	Wednesday	March 24	7:30 pm
TX	Rio Grande Valley/Harlingen	Saturday	March 27	9 am
TX	San Antonio	Thursday	March 25	6:30 pm
UT	Salt Lake City	Wednesday	March 24	6:30 pm
VA	Fairfax	Saturday	March 27	10 am
VT	Essex Junction	Thursday	March 25	7:30 pm
WA	Seattle	Thursday	March 25	7 pm
	Toronto, Ontario CANADA	Thursday	March 25	7:30 pm

Please stop by the Educational Council Office (N52-419) or call (3-3354) or email [admittec@mitvmc.mit.edu](mailto:admittec@mitvmc.mit.edu) for more information.

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ALE SMITH'S OWN

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THERE WERE NO CARS, NO PEOPLE, NOTHING.

SO I WHIPPED OUT MY CROWN AND PROCLAIMED MYSELF KING OF THE BRIDGE.

SOME JEAK BIKER GRABBED IT AND RODE AWAY WITH IT.

I'LL GET HIM...

©ALE SMITH '99

**BARTHOLOMEW**  
THE EVIL ROBOT SAGA

WHY IF IT ISN'T JOE HARVARD!

WHAT'S HAPPENING JOE? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU GOT BUSTED IN THAT STING OPERATION!

MUST... KILL... BARTHOLOMEW!

ELIK!

WHOA! NOW JOE, I KNOW YOU'RE BITTER ABOUT GOING TO HARVARD BUT MIT SUCKS NOW TOO!

BESIDES--

I'M BULLETPROOF.

AND NOW I'M PISSED.

MUST... RUN... AWAY!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

©SOLARE C. OLLIGERE '99

## Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase

AW YEAH. I AM READY FOR THIS MIDTERM.

I GOT MY CALCULATOR, TWO PENS, THREE PENCILS, AN ERASER, A PENCIL SHARPENER..

AND OF COURSE, MY 8 1/2 x 11 SHEET OF FORMULAS (BOTH SIDES). GOD BLESS YOU.

EVACUATE THE PENS AND PENCILS. THE FORMULA'S COMIN' WITH ME.

YOU'D THINK THEY COULD AFFORD BIGGER DESKS..

DUCK@MIT.EDU WEB.MIT.EDU/LENS/DIASE

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## randomland

by XD

THE LIFE AND TRAILS OF A CARTOONIST PART ONE

©XD

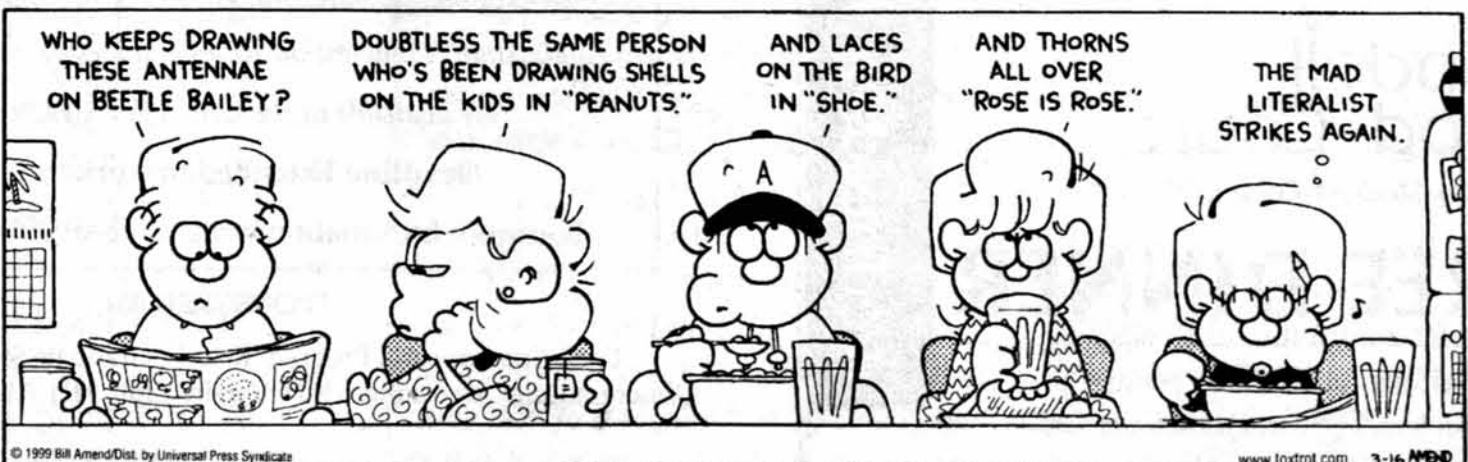
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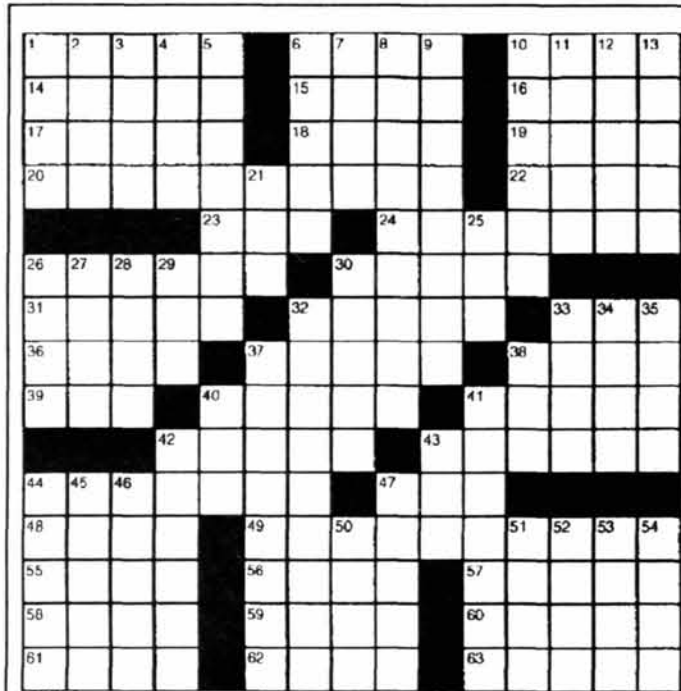


by Bill Amend



FoxTrot





ACROSS

- 1 Secret supply
- 6 Go gaga
- 10 Opera star
- 14 Showy lily
- 15 First-class
- 16 Evangelist Roberts
- 17 Mr. T's outfit
- 18 Roman robe
- 19 Part of a window
- 20 Chews
- 22 On the waves
- 23 Up to, briefly
- 24 Childishly disobedient
- 26 \_\_\_ of Turin
- 30 Self-indulgent spree
- 31 Traffic jam
- 32 Thin soup
- 33 Court
- 36 Landed
- 37 Swains
- 38 Beach composition
- 39 \_\_\_ voyage!
- 40 Removes skin

- 41 Light weight
- 42 Soft footwear
- 43 Rock debris at cliff bases
- 44 Frantic cries
- 47 Table protector
- 48 Wry face
- 49 Nike, Reebok, et al.
- 55 McKellen and Fleming
- 56 Peru's capital
- 57 Life-sustaining
- 58 Quick pace
- 59 Inland sea of Asia
- 60 Raise spirits
- 61 Writer O'Brien
- 62 Writing implements
- 63 Did some cobblers' work

DOWN

- 1 Confidence game
- 2 Casual farewell
- 3 Beer choices
- 4 Thin strip

- 5 Overact
- 6 Deadly
- 7 Spoils taken
- 8 Clever
- 9 Rustic folk
- 10 Prescription info
- 11 March 17th celebrants
- 12 Man's man
- 13 Set to rest
- 21 Spanish hero, El \_\_\_
- 25 Inarticulate grunt
- 26 Piercing pain
- 27 Hawaiian city
- 28 Bridle strap
- 29 \_\_\_ of the blue
- 30 Hillsides in the Highlands
- 32 Breed of swine
- 33 Grow less
- 34 Single time
- 35 Poetic works
- 37 Demonstrate effusive goodwill

- 41 Musical intervals
- 42 Nap in Nogales
- 43 Newsmen Donaldson
- 44 Kill, old-style
- 45 Hidden supply
- 46 Talk and talk
- 47 Repasts
- 50 Arabian sultanate
- 51 Metric weight, briefly
- 52 & others
- 53 Merit
- 54 Winter glider

Today's Solution



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## Class of 2003 Admitted!

You may now find out who was admitted from your region, your hometown, your high school.

The list of admitted freshmen can be viewed in 10-100 Thursday & Friday, March 18th & 19th from 10 am - 5 pm.

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Lobdell Food Court

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# CLC Proposes New Rules Limiting Kegs

By Frank Dabek  
NEWS EDITOR

MIT's alcohol reform over the past year may have killed the tradition of keg parties but the Cambridge Licensing Council is considering hammering the last nail into the coffin.

The council will hold a meeting on April 1 to consider requiring dormitories in Cambridge to obtain a license before bringing a keg onto their premises. There are currently no restrictions on kegs in dormitories in Cambridge but the Interfraternity Council already prohibits fraternities from possessing kegs or tap systems in its risk management policy.

According to Richard Scali, executive officer of the CLC, the proposed change would require any licensed dormitory residence which wishes to serve more than two gallons of alcohol in any container to obtain a license from the commission's office. Such a license would cost ten dollars. All MIT fraternities in Cambridge would fall under this proposed requirement.

Scali said that the goal of this effort is to "better control underage drinking" in those residences where the commission has authority. He said that establishments such as the Harvard finals clubs would not fall under this restriction since they do

not hold residence licenses.

Both Harvard and MIT residences would be affected by this change and Scali said that the commission is seeking information on how the change would affect the two schools.

### Krueger death prompts change

The commission has been considering such regulations since the death of Scott S. Krueger '01 over the past year. Several incidents involving underage drinking and fires in the past two months led the council to act now, Scali said. One of these events involved a party at Baker House where several students were cited by MIT for underage drinking.

Most of MIT's fraternities are located in Boston, however, where regulations of kegs already exist. Daniel F. Pokaski, a member of the Boston Licensing Board, said that the regulations "we have in place are adequate."

These regulations require stores to keep a record of keg sales. Pokaski said, however, that if the commission felt that these measures were not sufficient they would consider additional requirements such as forcing liquor stores to notify the police department of keg sales to dormitory residences.

## The Bible and Matthew Shepard: A Conversation about Homosexuality and the Teachings of Christian Scripture

Featuring

### Peter J. Gomes

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Pusey Minister at the Memorial Church  
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Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 P.M.  
MIT W11-Main Dining Room

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# Media Lab Receives \$5 million from Motorola, Inc.

By Zareena Hussain  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Motorola Inc. has announced a \$5 million grant to be used towards the creation of a DigitalDNA Laboratory to be housed in the MIT Media Lab.

Focussing on embedded solutions — the computers that control cars, coffeemakers, and other pieces of technology — the new lab will work to make sure that all of these technologies are able to communicate with one another.

"Motorola, the world's leading organization in embedded technologies, is joining forces with MIT to create solutions once thought impossible," said Hector de J. Ruiz, president of Motorola Semiconductor Products Sector. "Through our combined efforts, the impact will be swift and far-reaching."

The DigitalDNA laboratory will be one of the laboratories located in a new building to be constructed adjacent to the Media Lab on the site of building E10 which currently houses the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

The addition is slated to open in 2003. In the meantime, the DigitalDNA lab will be housed in the basement of the Weisner Building, the current Media Lab home.

"The Motorola DigitalDNA Laboratory is an excellent extension of our Things That Think research consortium," said Professor Nicholas Negroponte '66, director of the Media Lab. "Through this new partnership, we'll continue to create technologies that help make everyday life easier. The current 'cacophony' of independent gadgets and appliances will evolve into a seamless society of intelligent mechanisms. For example, phones won't ring. They'll behave like well-trained English butlers, know-

ing when — and when not — to interrupt you, with the full understanding of who's calling, and maybe even why."

The Things That Think research consortium focuses on the study of finding ways of introducing computing intelligence into everyday prod-

ucts.

### Media Lab centers on corporate

Motorola has been a major Media Lab sponsor since 1994 and has invested in general research at MIT for the past forty years.

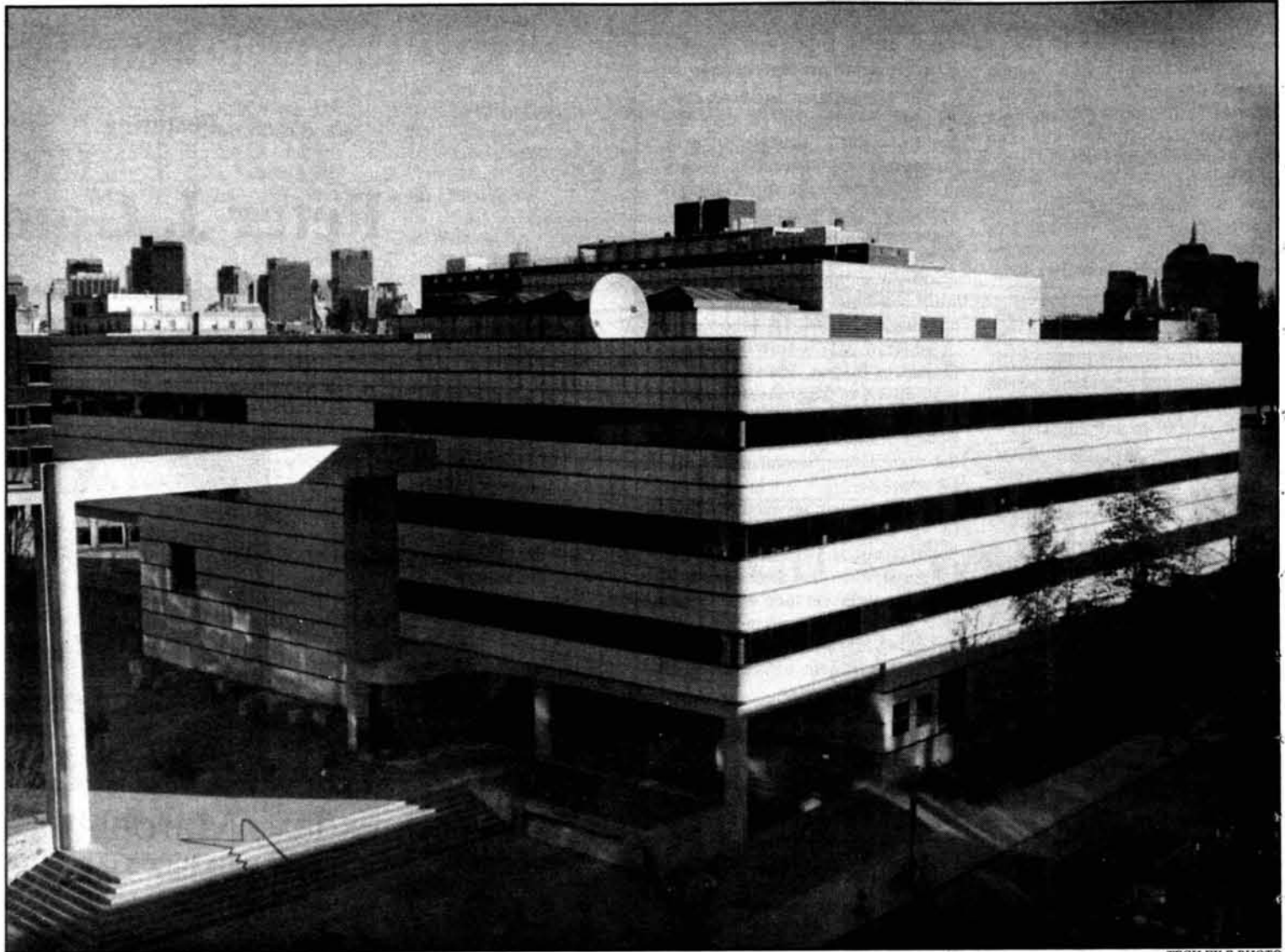
Over 90 percent of the Media

Lab's funding comes from corporate sponsorship. The lab has an annual operating budget of \$30 million not including capital expenses.

Professor Negroponte serves on the Board of Directors for Motorola Inc. The Media Lab was founded in 1985 by Negroponte and Jerome

Weisner.

Current research activities at the Media Lab include the development of wearable computers, audio notebooks that can synchronize note taking with the speaker's voice, as well as research into human computer interfaces.



TECH FILE PHOTO

Motorola Inc. donated \$5 million dollars to the MIT Media Lab yesterday in order to establish the DigitalDNA Laboratory.

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Saturday, April 10

All proceeds to benefit:



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Runner's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian (if runner is under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

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electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look

at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And

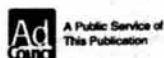
how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot.

Now, here are some simple ways you can produce less waste at work.

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# Scientists Discuss Ethics and Business of Genetics

Genetics, from Page 1

tion of genetic errors in humans proves to be a good option in some cases.

Many students who came to hear Wilmut speak did not attend the rest of the conference, but "fortunately, we did not have to turn anyone away," said coordinator Kelly V. Brogan '00.

### Speakers address human cloning

Dr. David Mangus, graduate studies director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, attributed people's aversion to human cloning to what he called "the yuck factor... As soon as there's a feel-good story

about an infertile couple... a bouncing baby that happens to be a clone, the yuck factor" loses presence, he said. The same was true of in vitro fertilization several years ago, he said. The real issue according to Mangus is "what regulatory systems will exist... if cloning is left to markets, as often reproductive science is in this country."

Dr. Daniel Harrell, associate minister of Park Street Church, found something "theologically different" between a cloned individual and a conceived person, "because the procedure is so different... children are a natural fruition of love." Mangus and other speakers disagreed.

Several speakers noted that a

physician's primary purpose is to help people, and Cloning Panel Member George Annas said cloning would not help achieve this end. Annas said cloning could lead to the "commodification of babies," and asked: "Are there any limits?"

### Rifkin wary of genetic science

Jeremy Rifkin, author of 14 books on the implications of genetic technology and critic of biotechnology, cautioned audiences not to be "sophomoric reductionists," and to consider the impact that technology such as genetic manipulation may have. Rifkin predicted that genes and computers will play a role in the next century similar to that played

by fossil fuels and industry in the 20th century. He warned that wars over genetic information could result.

After the warning, Dr. Robert Weinberg, founding member of Whitehead Institute, renounced Rifkin's conclusions. Weinberg criticized the "leap of logic" Rifkin took in citing Ritalin and attention deficit disorder as examples of people "relying on genetics to solve problems that are sociologically and politically in nature." Weinberg asked that Rifkin "be a reductionist for a minute."

Dr. Judy Garber, attending physician in the Breast Evaluation Center, paraphrased Rifkin's statement that cystic fibrosis genes and genes coding for similar diseases could be beneficial by saying, "sure, if you have one gene you may carry resistance to a disease that we, in our highly advanced and technological society, fortunately no longer must worry about." Fixing such ailments is firmly within medicine's realm, she said.

### The Gene Business

A third panel of speakers at the conference discussed the business and ethics of collecting genetic samples for use in research and commerce.

The panel included Dr. Kari Stefansson, CEO of deCODE Genetics in Iceland, which is undertaking a project to collect a genetic database of all Icelanders for studies of genetic links to disease. Also speaking was Dr. Martin Teitel, executive director of the Council for Responsible Genetics.

Teitel warned that, although 75 percent of Icelanders who voted on the issue were in favor of the database, their information could be misused. Stefansson refuted Teitel's argument by stating that there would be no search function in the

database through which a patient's records could be viewed. "It would be easier to break into every health institution in Iceland several times" than to break into the database, he said.

Stefansson and other panelists agreed that obtaining funding for genetics projects created a series of difficult questions. While some questioners and panelists expressed distrust in the patent system, Stefansson said that one concern of deCODE Genetics is finding funding. It may be difficult to get a patent on a cure for a less common disease, so funding for such projects is difficult to find, he said.

### Presenters appeal to wide audience

Speakers at the event balanced their speeches between technical jargon and layman dialogue when addressing the conference audience. As MIT student Tina Salmon '02 said, "they kept it in layman's terms but still technical enough that it was interesting." Salmon is considering majoring in biology, and said the conference peaked her interest.

Professor Tom Settlemire of Bowdoin College brought nine students to the conference, and he said that they appreciated the wide range of issues addressed, especially the economic and social aspects. "That combination is something we as scientists don't think about as much," Settlemire said.

While some students found the prospects "scary", Stacy Chen '02 said that she is interested in the ethics of genetic research and cloning.

"[We] were very happy about the turnout; everything far surpassed our expectations," Brogan said. She found it "reassuring to know that so many students and people in the area are interested in addressing these kind of issues"

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Dean Ayida Mthembu ([mthembu@mit.edu](mailto:mthembu@mit.edu), x3-4861) or Elizabeth Connors ([econnors@mit.edu](mailto:econnors@mit.edu), x3-0764).

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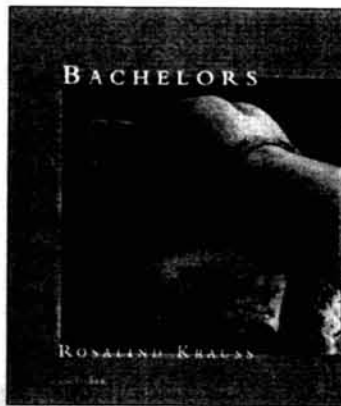
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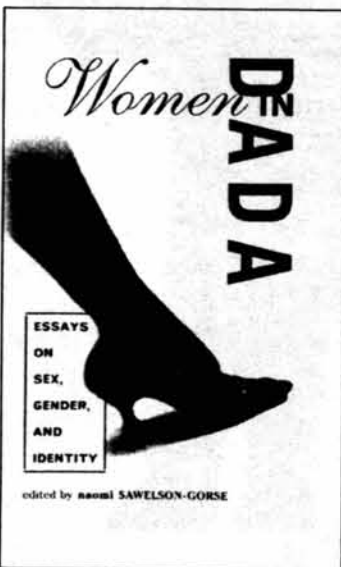
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# Imposter Posing as Cleaning Man Swindles FSILGs

Scam, from Page 1

Theta, and 518 Beacon St. (Sigma Phi Epsilon)" Pika and ET refused to comment when reached Monday night. SigEp could not be reached for comment.

Hurley resents the negative claims made against him, saying "when it comes to ventilation duct cleaning, I think I know a little bit more about it than they [FSILGs] do."

### Other ILGs report experiences

William H. Garcia deQuevedo '01, house manager of Theta Xi, said a man named Jeff Hurley "said he'd done some work for us in September and we still owed him \$450. He said he needed to come by and do some more work: clean out our ventilation system again."

"Jeff then said he would come by

later that night to pick up a check." DeQuevedo suggested that Hurley stop by over the weekend, and explained that he would look into the September expense.

Stopping by later that night, Hurley did obtain a \$450 check from Theta Xi Resident Adviser Christopher Drew, who was unaware of the earlier deQuevedo-Hurley conversation.

After writing the check, Drew investigated Hurley's relationship with Theta Xi. Drew found no recent history of contact between the contractor and the fraternity, which lead Theta Xi "to question why we were paying him." Drew said that "he just kind of appeared" to perform the work rather than being contracted by the fraternity.

Michael Mills, Theta Xi's social chair, said that the check given to Hurley was cancelled before it was

cashied. Theta Xi has contacted the Campus Police regarding the matter.

Sigma Nu's house manager, Nathaniel V. Houle '02 let Jeff Hurley into the house at some point two weeks ago, but "walked around with him" as he inspected the basement. "He said he'd do this cleaning and then we were insured for a year against fire."

Houle "didn't want [Hurley] to come and clean" and indicated that Hurley should call "about when to come back." Hurley didn't call, but did come back to the house last Tuesday morning, identifying himself as "the guy who had been contacted to clean" according to Houle. Basically, "he wasn't telling the truth to the brother that answered the door" said Houle. Hurley proceeded to clean the vents via "spraying them with water in our sink" which "took him about five minutes." He then

billed Sigma Nu \$450.

Hurley says the time needed for cleaning "varies greatly" from job to job. "I imagine it can vary anywhere from one hour to three to four hours, and I've been at jobs which took even longer." Pre-inspection typically takes "fifteen minutes," but is included in the cleaning package which involves the actual exhaust cleaning. The charge for this pre-inspection is "50 to 100 dollars."

According to Houle, Hurley has also asked for \$450 from a previous cleaning that he has not been paid for, thus billing Sigma Nu for a total of \$900. "He called tonight and he threatened to take us to small claims court in an attempt to get the money." Continued Houle, "As far as we know, MIT lawyers are handling the case."

Edward Essey, Chi Phi house manager, also spoke about an

encounter with Hurley. In the transition between house managers, Hurley was given a check to pay for his claims of overdue payments.

He charged the house \$450 for exhaust cleaning service and told them that "one of [our] filters was illegal." Hurley did "perform some service, but we didn't contract for service."

Hurley has also made a number of questionable statements. He claims to have talked to "the housing dean" including "Dean Dorow," actually in Europe for the past week. Hurley also told Essey that he knew the men's Varsity Hockey Coach, a claim which was not substantiated by the coach. At the least, many FSILG members feel Hurley has been misleading, if not blatantly dishonest.

Frank Dabek contributed to the reporting of this story.

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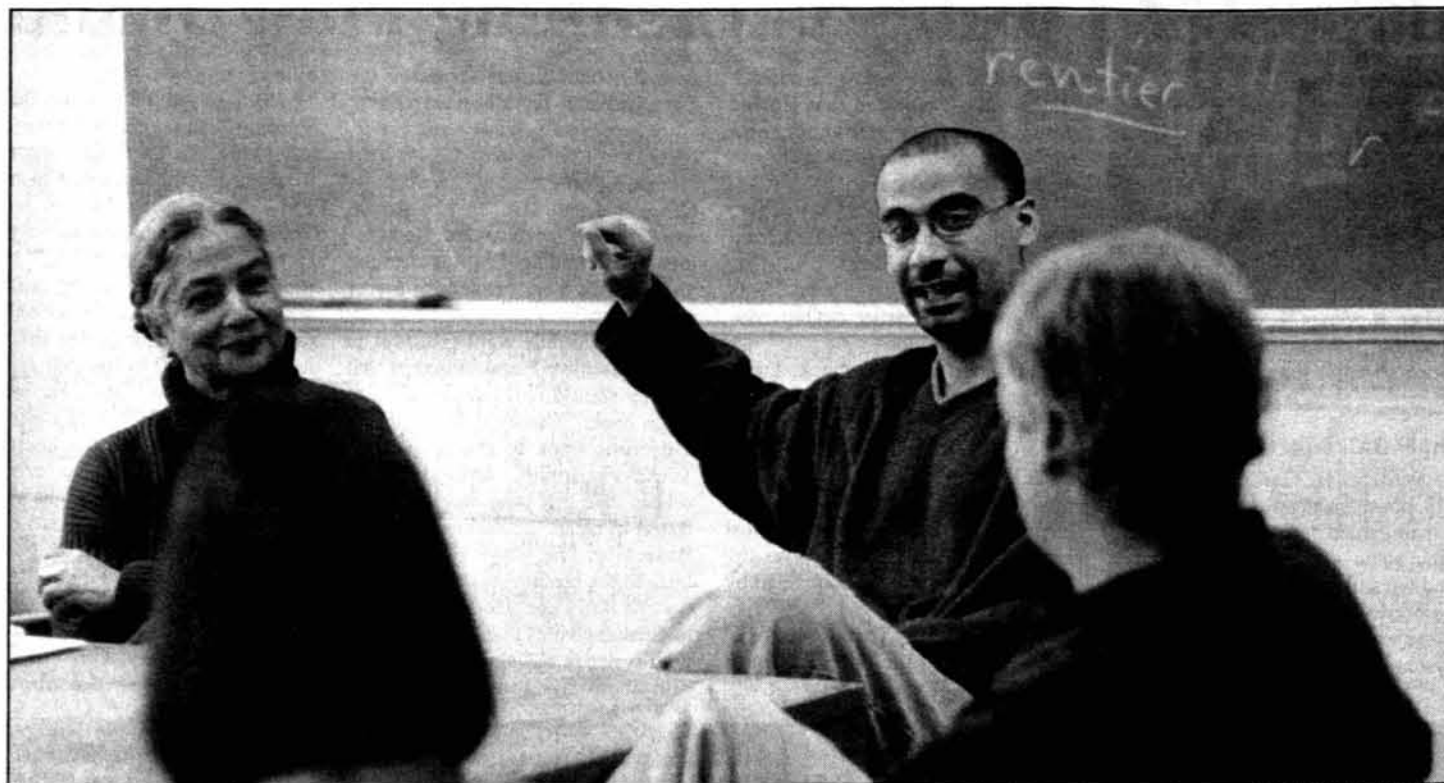
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GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Author Junot Diaz, winner of the 1998 Eugene McDermott Award, talks about his collection of short stories, "Drown," in a workshop for MIT writing students last Thursday. He also read selections from his work in 6-120 the night before.

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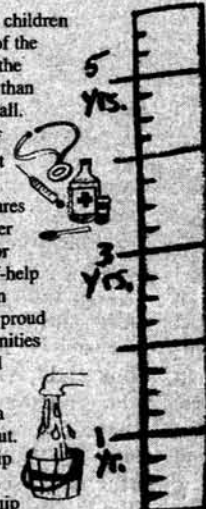
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# Ballroom Dancers Place Well At Manhattan Amateur Classic

Ballroom Dance, from Page 24

Bronze Cha Cha. Four out of the six couples in this final were MIT dancers; Jatin Misra G and Adora Lin '02 took sixth, Zaman and Bradford placed fifth, Maestro and Yu placed fourth, and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova took second. The Pre-Bronze Rhumba was also overrun by MIT couples, five out of the seven in the final. Maestro and Yu placed sixth, Misra and Lin placed fifth, Zaman and Bradford took fourth, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova took third, and Sopiee and Nicole O'Bryan won the event. In the Pre-Bronze Samba Maestro and Yu placed seventh, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova took fourth, and Sopiee and Nicole O'Bryan once again won the event. The last Pre-Bronze event was the Jive, and four MIT couples made its final. Zaman and Bradford placed seventh, Maestro and Yu placed sixth, Sopiee and Nicole O'Bryan took second, and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova took fourth, making them the second place over-all winners of Pre-Bronze Latin.

At the Bronze level, MIT continued to do well. The Cha Cha/Rhumba Two-Dance found Misra and Lin in seventh place and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova in third. In the Samba/Jive Two-Dance Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova placed seventh and Sopiee and O'Bryan took fourth.

Dancing Silver, Shaw and her partner took third in the Cha Cha/Rhumba Two-Dance and fifth in the Samba/Jive, which Wariyapola and Kheifets placed seventh in. These couples continued to do well at the Gold level. In the Cha Cha/Rhumba Two-Dance, Mark Herschberg '95 and Tammy Yap 99 tied with Wariyapola and Kheifets for sixth place, with Shaw and her partner placed fourth. In the Samba/Jive Two-Dance, Wariyapola and Kheifets placed sixth and Shaw and her partner took fifth. Stephanie and her partner also took a break in the action to participate in the fun dance Hustle and placed fifth place. The night ended for MIT with three finalists in the Latin Masters of Syllabus. Herschberg and Yap took sixth, Wariyapola and Kheifets took fifth, and Stephanie

Shaw and her partner placed fourth.

The next day started early with Pre-Bronze Smooth. In the Waltz, four out of the six finalists were MIT couples. In sixth place was Bill Liteplo G and Lin, in third, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova, in second, Sopiee and Yu, and winning the event, Misra and Leah Sinrich NYU. The Tango once again had four MIT couples in the final: Misra and Leah Sinrich of New York University took sixth, Liteplo and Lin took fifth, Sopiee and Yu placed second, and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova won the event. In the Foxtrot, Liteplo and Lin placed fifth, Sopiee and Yu took third, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova placed second, and Misra and Sinrich won the event. The final event of Pre-Bronze was the Viennese Waltz: Misra and Sinrich took sixth, Liteplo and Lin took third, Sopiee and Yu placed second, and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova won the event making them the first place couple overall. Sopiee and Yu placed second overall in the Pre-Bronze Smooth events.

The Bronze level began with the Waltz/Foxtrot Two-Dance, in which Sopiee and Yu took fourth and was won by Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova. The Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz Two-Dance found Liteplo and Lin in sixth place, Sopiee and Yu in third, and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova, once again, won the event making them the over-all winners of Bronze Smooth.

The Silver events opened with the Waltz/Tango Two-Dance. Seth Webster G and Christine Tsien G took eighth, Yen-Hong Lim G and her partner took seventh, Herschberg and Yap placed fourth, and Wariyapola and Kheifets placed second. In the Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz, Lim and her partner came in seventh, Webster and Tsien took third, and Wariyapola and Kheifets placed second, making them the second place over-all winners of the Silver Smooth category.

MIT couples also did well at the Gold level. In the Waltz/Tango Two-Dance Herschberg and Yap placed sixth, and Wariyapola and Kheifets took fourth. Both couples also did well in the

Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz, joined by Webster and Tsien in fifth place, Herschberg and Yap took sixth and Wariyapola and Kheifets placed fourth once again.

The final portion of the competition was the standard dances, starting again at Pre-Bronze Waltz. MIT dominated this dance, with Liteplo and Lin in sixth, Sopiee and Yu in third, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova in second, and Misra and Alicia Alvaranga of NYU winning the event. In the Tango, Misra and Alvaranga took sixth, Liteplo and Lin took fifth, Sopiee and Yu placed fourth, and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova won the event. The Foxtrot turned up a first-fourth place sweep, with five MIT couples in the six-couple final. In sixth place was Mikhail Veshtort and Maria Minkoff, in fourth Misra and Alvaranga, in third Liteplo and Lin, in second, Sopiee and Yu, and winning the event once again, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova.

The last Pre-Bronze dance was the Quickstep. Liteplo and Lin took sixth, Misra and his partner placed third, and Sopiee and Yu tied for first place with Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova. The second place over-all award for Pre-Bronze Standard went to Misra and his assortment of partners, and first place went to Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova.

At the Silver level, Herschberg and Yap and Wariyapola and Kheifets took eighth and seventh, respectively, in the Waltz/Quickstep Two-Dance. In the Foxtrot/Tango, Lim and her partner placed sixth, and Webster and Tsien took fifth. Dancing Gold, Arthur Lue Columbia and Shaw took fifth in the Waltz/Quickstep Two-Dance and second in the Foxtrot/Tango.

The competition ended with the team match, in which MIT did quite well. Team K (Zaman and Bradford, Maestro and Yu, Veshtort and Minkoff, and Liteplo and Lin) took sixth place and Team C (Herschberg and Yap, Shaw and her partner, Wariyapola and Kheifets, and Warren Dew '81 and Elizabeth Ditchburn '92) placed fourth.

The ballroom dance team competes next on April 10-11 here at MIT. For more information, go to: <http://web.mit.edu/mitbdt/>.

# Four MIT Fencers Make Nationals

By Shao-Fel Moy

SPORTS EDITOR

Four members of the men's and women's fencing team recently qualified for the Division I NCAA National Championships. Of the four fencers, only one had experience prior to attending MIT. This is the most qualifiers the team has had since coach Jarek Koniusz took the helm.

Brian Bower '99 and Matt DuPlessie '99 qualified for the sabre and epee respectively. On the women's side, Nora Szasz '99 and Aimee Wiltz '99 will be participating in the nationals. Szasz is also a epee fencer while Wilts is a foil fencer.

Each of the four fencers had to be among the ten fencers that advanced into the final round of the NCAA regional championships to qualify for nationals. MIT's region is the hardest in the country, but that did not discourage the fencers who have earned a great deal of respect in the fencing community for their performances. In the regionals, Bower placed seventh, DuPlessie placed ninth, Szasz placed second and Wiltz placed eighth.

Other MIT fencers who finished well in the NCAA regionals includ-

ed epee fencers Jessica G. Sandland '99 (15th), Mike B. Krypel '01 (13th) and Curtis Wade III (22nd). Evangelos L. Efstathiou '00 finished 11th in the sabre competition. In the foil competition Ben Vandiver '00 placed 13th, Ali Ibrahim '01 18th, Andre Van Horn '01 16th, Dianne Allen '01 22nd, Oriana Hunter '99 36th, and Danielle Morse '02 41st.

The NCAA Championship is being held at Brandeis University this Thursday through Sunday and will include the top 24 fencers per weapon in the country. The men's events start on Thursday and the women's begin Saturday.

This recent achievement is one many made by the fencing team this year. Both the men's and women's teams won the New England Championships. The Engineers also finished very respectably at the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships. MIT challenged some of the top Division I NCAA schools, beating Harvard University, New York University, and the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

Evangelos Efstathiou contributed to the reporting of this story.

# Equestrian Riders Continue To Show Well at Tufts Meet

By Jenny Lee

TEAM MEMBER

On Mar. 13, the equestrian team participated in an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association competition at Tufts University.

In the over fences competition Candice McElroy '99 won second place and Junlin Ho '01 placed third in their respective novice jumping classes. Jenny Lee '02 placed fourth in her intermediate jumping class, despite having to ride the course over again on a different horse due to technical difficulties. Sarah Low '02 won a sixth place in the same class.

Cynthia Randles '99 had an impressive ride and pinned first in the walk-trot division. McElroy also rode well in the novice equitation and won a blue ribbon, qualifying her for the Reserve Champion ride-off for the second time. Lee placed second in the intermediate equitation division. Sara Etemadi '01 earned a third place in the advanced

walk-trot-canter division, and Low placed third in her intermediate equitation class. Kristen Landino '02 and Ho placed fourth in the open equitation and novice equitation divisions respectively. Tara Mullaney '02 won sixth place in her intermediate equitation class. Megan McLemore rode in the advanced walk-trot-canter division.

IHSA events are run by assigning riders by random lottery to horses from the host school. Competitors are not allowed to practice on the horse prior to their classes. Riders are judged on their ability to control an unfamiliar animal while riding with proper form. There are divisions for riders of all levels, with the open division for those with extensive riding backgrounds and the walk-trot division for beginners.

The equestrian team's next two competitions are at Mt. Ida College on Mar. 27 and Dartmouth College on Mar. 28.



A layer of snowfall blanketed the campus after a weekend snowstorm extended into Monday.

## SPORTS

## Swim Teams Close Out Season With Impressive Performances

By David Chatwin  
TEAM CAPTAIN

The men's and women's swim team recently finished up the season at their respective New England Championships.

The Lady Engineers travelled north to Bowdoin College where they competed against 40 other teams. Despite fielding one of the smallest squads (only 14 women) the MIT swimmers were very competitive and finished in eighth place; the second highest finish by the women ever. Also quite satisfying was the fact that MIT defeated rival Wellesley College by several hundred points.

The relays provided a solid basis for the women's success, with all five relays placing in the top eight. The 200 yard freestyle relay squad, consisting of Deirdre Dunn '99, Jen Navarro '00, Lauren Erb '01, and Andrea Harsanyi '02, placed 5th. The 400 free relay was swam by Dunn, Lea Engst '02, Lauren and Harsanyi. The 200 medley relay team consisted of Liz Krams '00, Erica Fuchs '99, Harsanyi and Dunn. Krams, Engst, Harsanyi and Dunn swam the 400 medley relay. And last but not least, the 800 free relay squad was composed of Navarro, Erb, Allison Fielder '02, and Christina Wilbert '01.

In addition to the impressive team performance, many of the women had outstanding individual swims. Dunn put the finishing touches on her remarkable swimming career at MIT. She made the National B qualifying cut in the 50 yard free with a time of 24.88.

Dunn also became the New England Champion in the 100 IM, with a school record of 1:02.29 and finished fifth in the 50 yard fly. Dunn was joined in the 50 fly by promising freshman Harsanyi, who placed sixth, and by butterfly specialist Navarro, who came in eighth. Navarro made the national B qualifying cut in the 100 yard fly with a time of 1:00.00. Not to be outdone by the butterflyers, Krams also set a new school record in the 50 yard backstroke, swimming a 30.26.

Fielder expressed her excitement about the meet, "The women's team swam really well at New England, and I think that everyone had at least one personal best time here. The distance swimmers had a good taper and we really dropped a lot of time. I am looking forward to swimming the 1650 free again next year."

The men's team placed 12th out of 28 teams at the New England Swimming and Diving Championships held at Williams College. Instead of relying on individual superstar performers who had boosted the team in years past, MIT relied more on the increased depth and size of the team.

Coach Mary Ellen McLaughlin said, "Coming in to the championships we knew that many of our swimmers would be close to scoring in the top 24, and in many events we were able to rise above the competition and place very well."

Oren Bernstein '02 had the best meet of all MIT swimmers. He led the way with an eighth place finish in the 100 yard fly in a time of

53.75. Oren also qualified for the consolation finals in both the 50 and 200 yard fly.

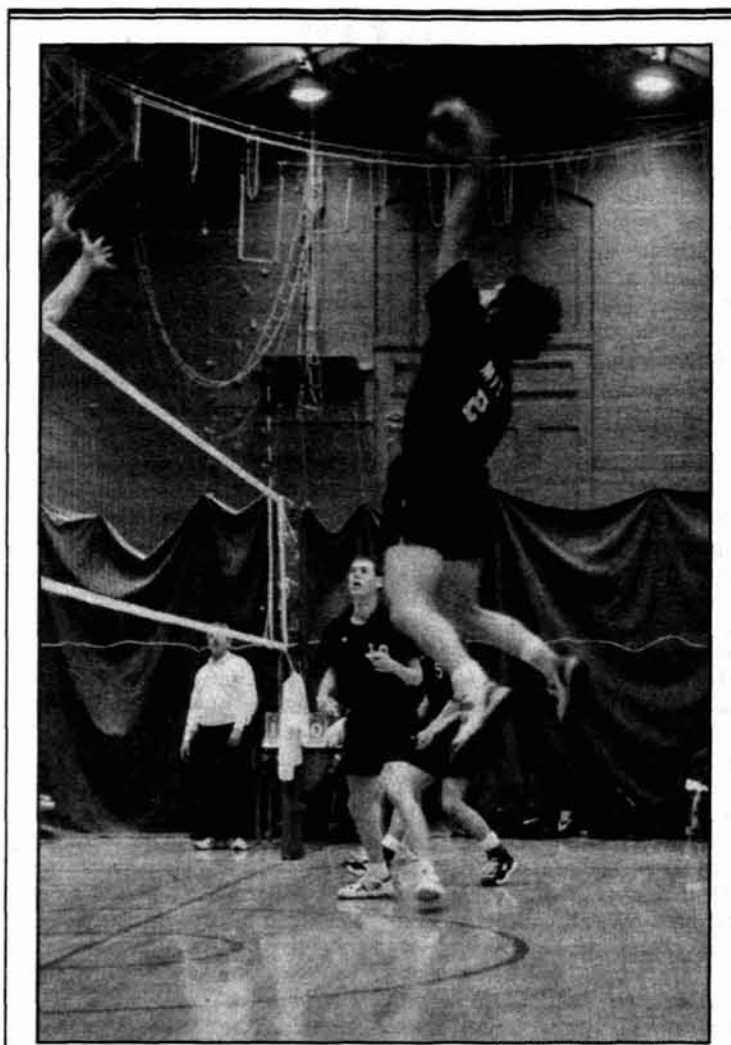
In one of the most compelling races of the championships, departing senior Kevin Musselwhite '99 competed in the 1650 yard freestyle. Despite his previous focus on the sprint races, Kevin swam in the longest and most grueling event for his final individual competition. His time of 18:13.42 was a career best.

Other excellent performances included the sophomore sprinting duo of Nick Vantzelfde '01 and Stefan Bewley '01. Vantzelfde placed in the 100 IM with a time of 57.96 and Bewley swam through serious shoulder injuries to place in the 50 yard free.

In the first day of the competition, six MIT swimmers missed qualifying for the finals by a few fractions of a second. The second and third days were better, with more of the MIT swimmers getting into the top 24 places. This was partly due to the increased fan support when the women's swim team arrived in full-force to cheer on their male counterparts.

The men's team lone diver, Dylan Birtolo '00 also improved as the days went on. Birtolo had a rough time in the one-meter event, which is usually his strong event. He stepped it up, however for the three-meter. Dylan ripped one of his most crucial dives, the full twister one-and-one-half, and placed better than expected.

"This was a fun team to work with," said Coach McLaughlin. "We had a lot of team unity, as was demonstrated by all of the bald heads. We're really going to miss the departing seniors. They provided a lot of leadership for the team. It is clear what gaps the seniors are leaving and what gaps we need to fill for the coming season. I love working with these swimmers and I am looking forward to next year."



KARLENE ROSERA—THE TECH  
Nikolaos Michalakos '01 rises to viciously spike the ball in the Engineers match against William Woods University Thursday in DuPont Gymnasium. MIT lost 3-1.

## Ballroom Dancers Place Well in NYC

By Lauren Bradford  
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Ballroom Dance Team made an amazing showing at the Manhattan Amateur Classic over the weekend at Prospect Hall in Brooklyn, New York. The event was hosted by the New York Chapter of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dance Association and there were over 100

couples attending. Despite long car rides and very little sleep, the MIT team did very well and brought home the ribbons to prove it.

Friday night started with Rhythm events, and Pre-Bronze was the first level on the floor. The first event, Cha Cha, had a five couple final, three of them MIT dancers. Tony Maestro G and Sally Yu '00 placed fifth, Boris Berdnikov G and Sofya Raskhodnikova G took second, and Sam Sopiee and Nicole O'Bryan won the event.

The next event was Swing, and this six couple final was two-thirds MIT. Maestro and Yu once again took fifth, Mohammed Zaman and Lauren Bradford '02 placed fourth, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova took third, and Sopiee and O'Bryan placed second.

The last Pre-Bronze event was the Rhumba and MIT dominated the final once again. Zaman and Bradford took sixth place, Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova took fourth, and Sopiee and O'Bryan placed second, making them second place overall in the Pre-Bronze Rhythm category.

The Bronze level opened with the Cha Cha/Swing Two-Dance in which Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova placed sixth and Sopiee and O'Bryan took second; they also placed fourth in the Rhumba. Dancing at the Silver level were couples Pubudu Wariyapola G and Vikky Kheifets '00 and Stephanie Shaw G and her partner, who placed fourth and second, respectively, in the Cha Cha/Swing Two-Dance. Both couples also did well in the Rhumba/Mambo Two-Dance. Wariyapola and Kheifets took sixth, and Shaw and her partner placed second. Also dancing at the Gold level Shaw and her partner took third in the Cha Cha/Swing Two-Dance and in the Rhumba/Mambo Two-Dance, which Wariyapola and Kheifets also did well in, placing sixth.

The night progressed to Latin and, once again, started with Pre-

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, March 17

Men's Tennis vs. Boston College, 3:00 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse vs. Plymouth State, 6:00 p.m.

## Women's Indoor Track Finishes Successful Season

By Elaine Chen and Lila French  
TEAM CAPTAINS

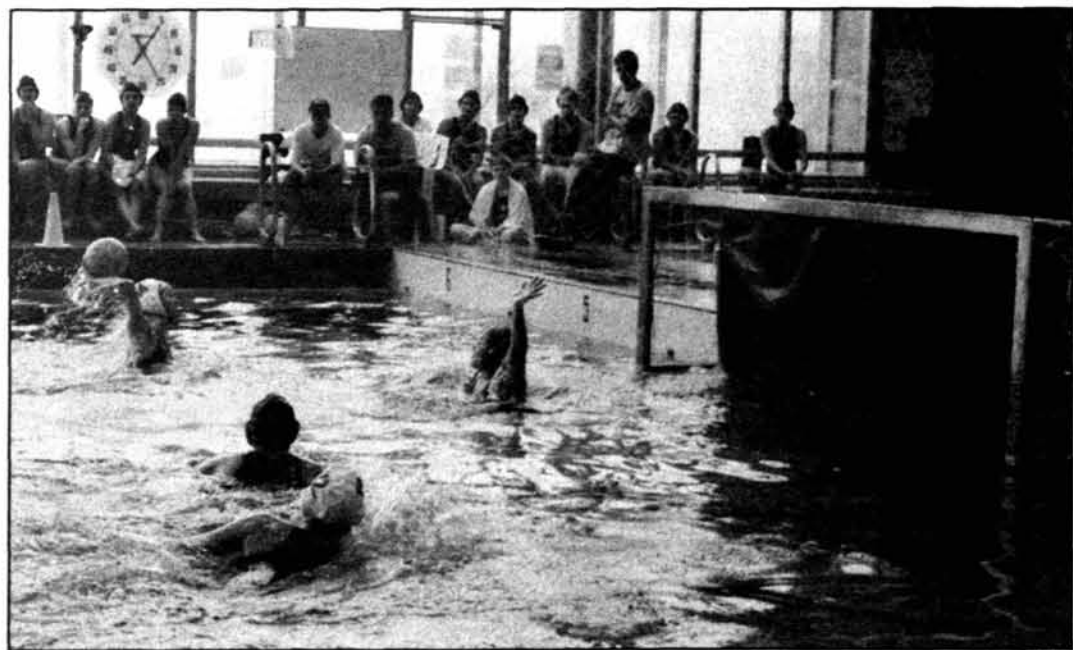
The women's track team ended the indoor season with a surprising performance at the East Coast Athletic Conference Meet held on Mar. 6 at Boston University. MIT scored 34 points to finish fifth out of 44 teams, an astonishing feat for a first-year program. The team just edged out Bowdoin (33 points), whose squad had defeated the Engineers throughout the season.

Wheaton College, who went on to become the national champion, easily won the meet with 106.5 points.

The powerhouse pole-vaulting squad led the Engineers in points. Lila French '99 was the event's champion, setting a meet record with 10'6", while Stephanie Norris '02 took second with 10'0". Their primary competition from Wheaton opened at 10' and no-heighted. Not to be outdone,

Vanessa Li '02 came out of nowhere to set a one-foot season best. Her 9'6.25" jump earned her third place, completing the unprecedented one-two-three vault sweep. Tech's vaulters alone scored 24 of the team's 34 points.

Elaine Chen '99, who was seeded tenth in the 200m dash, finished fourth with a huge personal record. Her 26.69 performance broke the school record she set one week earlier by almost half a second.



MING-TAL HUH

MIT goalkeeper Xochitl Cruz-Gonzalez '99 attempts to block advances from her Harvard opponents in a heart-wrenching match Saturday at the Alumni Pool. The Engineers lost 19-6.