

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



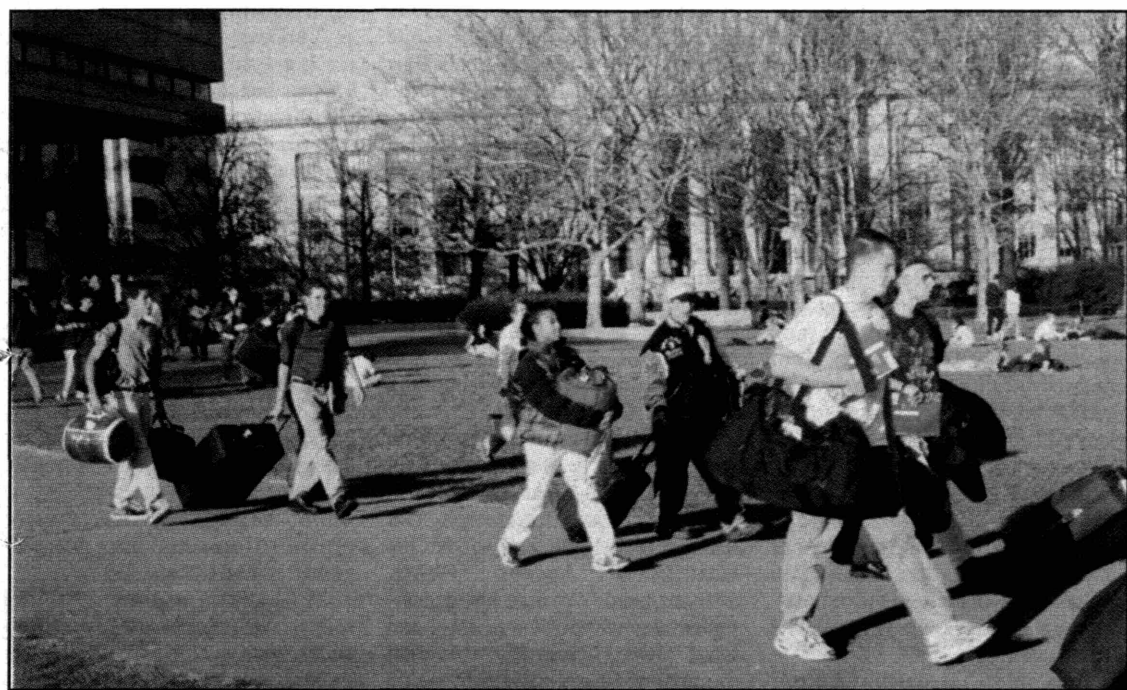
The Weather

Today: Cloudy, cooler, 56°F (31°C)
Tonight: Drizzly, 43°F (6°C)
Tomorrow: Sunny, cool, 49°F (9°C)
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Volume 119, Number 18

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, April 9, 1999



GARRY MASKALY—THE TECH

Prefrosh arriving today for Campus Preview Weekend head off to their hosts' dorms.

First Inclusive CPW Draws 784 Prefrosh

By Sanjay Basu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A total of 784 prospective freshmen, 437 parents, and 90 alumni are now on campus for the opening of Campus Preview Weekend. This year marks the first time MIT has invited all of its admitted students to the event at once.

"We're excited to have this many people here," said Director of Admissions Marilee Jones. "It's a first for us."

In past years, Campus Preview Weekend was intended solely for women and underrepresented minorities.

The weekend officially began Thursday with registration and campus tours. The major events begin today, however, with lectures by prominent alumni, departmental open houses, and laboratory tours.

The MIT Office of Admissions has also scheduled appointments between financial aid officers and students today in order to discuss money options for prospective students. Between these events, pre-frosh will be going on campus tours and attending meetings about the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

The admissions office scheduled an academic exposition today at 4

p.m. to show students various major options at MIT. A parent-to-parent session will occur before the event and will include a discussion between current MIT parents and parents of admitted students.

Professors address pre-frosh

Amidst all these activities, students and pre-frosh alike can look forward to a series of lectures to be given by distinguished MIT faculty members.

Among the CPW speakers are prominent computer scientists Harold Abelson '73 and Alan B. Davidson '89. Abelson is a professor of computer science and electrical engineering and is well-known for his knowledge of societal issues surrounding network computing. He is also the recipient of the prestigious MacVicar Award for Undergraduate Instruction.

Davidson, a computer scientist, lawyer, and MIT alumnus, is the Staff Counsel at the Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington, D.C. civil liberties association.

Abelson and Davidson will discuss the legal and ethical challenges that reflect the tension between indi-

CPW, Page 28

Coalition Lobbies For Permission To Protest Zhu on MIT Property

By Zareena Hussain
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As MIT gears up to welcome Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji for his speaking engagement in Kresge Auditorium on April 14, groups from MIT, Cambridge, and Boston are planning to protest human rights violations in China during his visit.

The protesters have been given preliminary confirmation that MIT will allow them to protest on MIT property with a view to Kresge, according to Douglas K. Wyatt '96, former member of MIT Amnesty International which is helping to organize the protests.

"MIT has given us oral permission to protest on the grassy area between the Student Center and Massachusetts Avenue," Wyatt said.

Despite this confirmation, with lack of a firm commitment in writing, there is concern among those organizing the protests that MIT may take back this space.

Protesters may be pushed off campus

At Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to Harvard last year, the university and Cambridge Police had promised protesters space on the campus until the last minute when all those without Harvard IDs were kicked off, according to Phurbu Tsomo-Thargay, president of the Tibetan Association of Boston, who participated in those protests and will be at MIT for Rongji's speech.

"The day of [the protest] came and they were told they weren't allowed to be there," Wyatt said.

Protesters moved to the Swedenborg Chapel from which they continued to protest, Tsomo-thargay said.

At Harvard, Zemin acknowledged that he heard the protesters, despite their having been pushed off-campus.

Adding to the worries of this year's protest organizers is the refusal of Cambridge Police to issue

a permit to the protests in the city of Cambridge, according to Wyatt.

"It sounds like what they're concerned about is traffic flow," Wyatt said.

Rongji, Page 27

Students Protest Administration at 'Tool In'

By Karen E. Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Approximately 75 students sat outside President Charles M. Vest's office, textbooks and calculators in hand, in an attempt to display student discontent with the MIT administration. Yesterday's "Tool-In" was an opportunity for harried MIT students to voice their disgust with recent administrative decisions.

"My fantasy is that it'll put a different spin on the state of student dissatisfaction," said Tool-In Organizer Jeremy Brown G.

One student said he hoped the protest would result in the administration taking students seriously and not having an attitude akin to saying "it's really cute you disagree with me."

Minutes before the protest, Vest pointed out to students that there have been many open meetings about various issues and "a year of very active debate" surrounding alcohol policies. Vest said he was "sorry that people feel we have not been listening," but added, "in my view we have actually rather dramatically increased our outreach to students on issues."

Seventy-five toolers turn out for event

At its peak, there were 75 students sitting along the hallway in the second floor of the Infinite Corridor. Brown was pleased with turnout, but said he hoped to get more people involved in protests in future semesters.

Undergraduate Association President Paul T. Oppold '99 said turnout was "amazing," in light of student workload and the fact that Campus

Preview Weekend which began Thursday keeps hundreds of pre-frosh hosts busy. At least two pre-frosh were present at the Tool-In, however, listening with interest to students' analyses of the Institute.

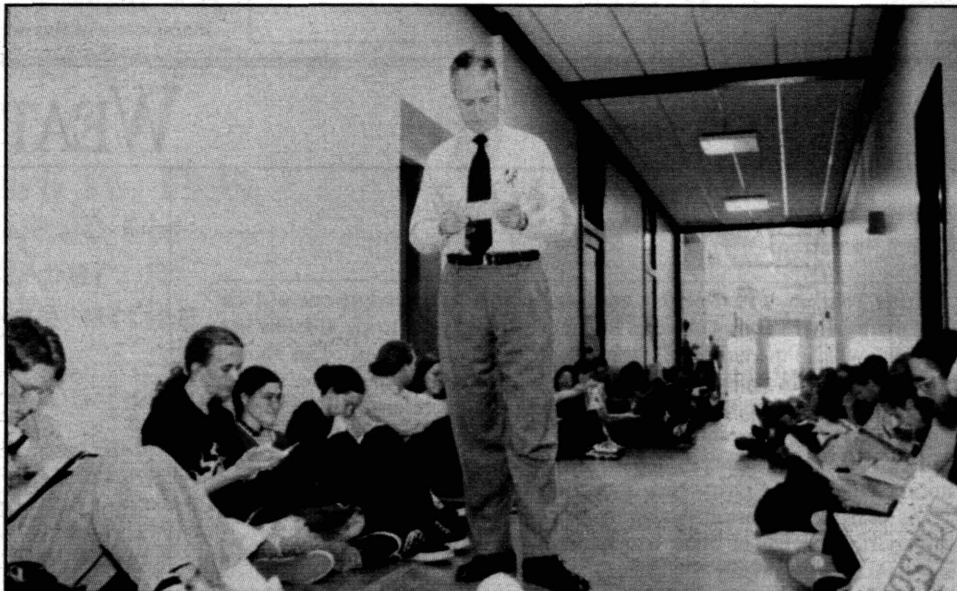
Graduate Student Council President Brian J. Schneider G said that, while GSC members are concerned about issues of graduate student

housing as well as Institute alcohol policy, they have overall found administrators to be relatively ready to work with them.

I Love This ... Place

The tool-in was organized by ILTFP (a play

Tool-In, Page 21



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

President Charles M. Vest read a Tool-In note during a protest organized to show students' dissatisfaction toward the administration.



MIT, Costa Rica work to bring IT to developing nations.

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Comics

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The Graduate Student Council elects Luis A. Ortiz G as its next president.

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WORLD & NATION

European Central Bank Drops Rates

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

In an aggressive move designed to provide an economic stimulus to an embattled region, the fledgling European Central Bank lowered interest rates by a half point to 2.5 percent Thursday.

The first major policy dictate of the bank's short life reflected growing concern about a broad slowdown in economic activity across Europe. If successful, the rate cut will stimulate Europe's economies by increasing investment and spurring growth.

"The European economy overall has been underperforming and this cut should be very welcome," said Jeffrey Schott, senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Aside from the United States, Europe has been the world's only region-wide bastion of economic growth. Flagging strength here increases the pressure on the United States to carry the fragile global economy as the world's only healthy market for other countries' products. And as the largest regional market for U.S. exports, Europe's health is important to sustaining the American economic boom.

"The concern of industrialized nations is that the U.S. economy will slow before Europe, Japan and the rest of Asia pick up," said Eckhart Schulte, senior economist with the Industrial Bank of Japan in Frankfurt, Germany, who hailed the rate cut as positive.

Ethics of Stem Cell Research

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Federally funded scientists wishing to conduct experiments on human embryo cells would first have to document that the cells were obtained from women in an ethical manner, according to draft federal guidelines discussed publicly for the first time Thursday.

But the idea that human embryo cells can be obtained or experimented upon ethically was immediately attacked as oxymoronic by critics of such research, setting the stage for a legal, scientific and political debate that is expected to stretch through the summer and could become part of congressional budget deliberations this fall.

The rules are being drafted at the request of National Institutes of Health Director Harold Varmus as part of a broader effort to grant federal researchers access to human embryonic "stem cells." The cells, which can be taken from the core of young human embryos created in laboratory dishes, have the potential to grow into all kinds of tissues such as blood, muscle, tendon and nerve. Scientists suspect they may someday be able to use the cells to grow replacement parts for people with various degenerative diseases.

Human embryonic stem cells were discovered last year by privately financed scientists, and many experts believe that useful applications would come more quickly if federally funded researchers could pursue the field as well. For the past four years, however, Congress has banned the use of federal funds for research in which human embryos are "destroyed, discarded or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death."

NY Killing Birds on Protected List

NEWSDAY

ALBANY, N.Y.

Ten men who played roles in the slaughter last summer of over 850 protected birds on an island in Lake Ontario will pay thousands of dollars in fines and spend up to six months confined to their houses.

Yet the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation last year received federal permission to shoot and kill about 300 of the same birds — double-crested cormorants — because they feed voraciously on fish and their numbers have skyrocketed. And last month it announced plans to kill 300 more and to coat thousands of newly laid eggs with oil to prevent them from hatching.

As a result, state officials Thursday found themselves in the awkward position of defending their own killing of the cormorants while condemning those who did the same thing without authority.

Zhu, Clinton Fail to Reach Agreement on China's WTO

By Bob Drogin

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In a sharp disappointment to both governments, President Clinton and visiting Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji failed to reach a final agreement Thursday to pave the way for China's long-awaited entry into the World Trade Organization, but they pledged to conclude a comprehensive trade package by the end of this year.

At a news conference after talks at the White House, Zhu also said Beijing would cooperate with U.S. investigations into alleged Chinese espionage of nuclear weapons secrets from American laboratories during the 1980s and 1990s, and into allegations that China's chief of military intelligence secretly funneled money to subsidize contributions to help Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign.

"I agree to cooperate with your side in (the) investigations," Zhu said, turning to Clinton at a joint news conference. "So long as you can provide some clues and, no matter who it may involve, we will investigate."

Zhu said that neither he nor Chinese President Jiang Zemin had

any personal knowledge of the alleged spying or illicit campaign contributions. "I don't believe such stories," he said.

With no major news to announce, Clinton and Zhu bantered good-naturedly through their translators during the news conference in an auditorium across from the White House. Zhu, whose jet-black hair and impish smile belie his 70 years, largely dominated the session, sometimes speaking as statesman and sometimes seeming to perform as stand-up comic.

Peppering his comments with English phrases, he pleaded for leniency from the White House media, said "maybe God did not welcome me" in Los Angeles because of the rain, noted that American microphone technology was "not that advanced" given the squeaks and squeals in the room, and ended nearly every answer with a self-deprecating joke.

Zhu confessed, for example, that he was "really reluctant" to visit the United States because of anti-Chinese headlines here about espionage, security, human rights and other issues. He said several visiting congressmen urged him to come because he was a "new face." "I told

them I really lack the guts to go," he said, adding in English that he feared he would become a "bloody face."

Clinton finally closed the nearly 90-minute session by looking at his watch and rolling his eyes, provoking laughter.

The two leaders' inability to reach a final agreement on China's 13-year bid to join the World Trade Organization, despite nearly non-stop negotiations in recent days, was a setback to both governments. Officials on both sides had hoped a broad-based trade package to open Chinese markets would provide political as well as economic benefits at a time of increasingly rocky relations.

Aides said Clinton and Zhu instructed their chief trade negotiators to complete a deal as soon as possible with the goal of getting China, which does \$300 billion in trade per year, into the WTO by the end of the year. The Geneva-based organization sets and arbitrates global trading rules.

A Clinton administration official said the chief remaining differences were over U.S. demands for greater access to Chinese markets for banking and securities.

Yugoslavia Is Seeking A Deal With Moderate Ethnic Leader

By David Holley and Norman Kempster

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PODGORICA, YUGOSLAVIA

The Yugoslav government, desperately seeking a way to get NATO to stop bombing, appears to believe that a political deal with moderate ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova may be the key to avoiding a far larger war in Kosovo.

The immediate goal of President Slobodan Milosevic is a bombing pause, perhaps granted in return for concessions by Belgrade that could include the release of three U.S. soldiers captured last week on the Macedonian-Kosovo border.

Other elements in Milosevic's game plan include ongoing mediation efforts by Russia; the announcement this week of a unilat-

eral cease-fire against Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas in Kosovo; and the welcoming to Belgrade last week of papal envoy Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran.

The efforts to strike a deal with Rugova are central to Belgrade's strategy for ending the war, Milan Bozic, minister without portfolio in the Yugoslav government, said in a telephone interview from Belgrade Thursday. Bozic downplayed the importance of any possible release of the captured soldiers, and the United States has rejected any deal to gain their freedom.

The Clinton administration says it won't end the bombing unless Milosevic agrees unconditionally to all of NATO's demands: end military action against the ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo;

withdraw all army, special police and paramilitary units from the Serbian province; and allow refugees to return to their homes under the protection of a NATO-led international peacekeeping force.

"I think President Milosevic would be making a mistake to believe that anything that doesn't meet the demands laid out by the NATO alliance would bring an end to these hostilities," White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said.

Belgrade is searching, however, for some kind of solution that falls far short of meeting NATO's demands. Milosevic's maneuvers also may have other aims: trying to shore up his domestic support by placing blame for continued fighting on NATO, to improve his international image.

WEATHER

Rain and Shine

By Bill Ramstrom
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

AFTER Thursday's near-perfect weather, we now must endure one of New England weather's abrupt changes to cool and cloudy for today. It looks like Saturday will be the best day this weekend for outdoor plans. Skies should clear during Saturday morning after tonight's showers and drizzle, though more clouds are possible by Sunday morning. Temperatures will be returning to more normal levels of about 53°F (12°C). On Sunday, temperatures will be somewhat warmer, but with a chance of showers by afternoon as a storm system moves across New York and Pennsylvania in our direction.

As is usual in Boston during the Spring, when winds come in off the still-cool ocean, where water temperatures still hover near 40°F (4°C), we experience chilly, drizzly conditions. While the land mass can warm quickly, as we saw with yesterday's high of 76°F (24°C), the oceans, with their very high heat capacity, take much longer to warm. As Cape Cod beachgoers are well-aware, water temperatures don't even reach into the 60's until mid to late June of most years. The oceans generally reach their warmest temperatures in August, which, not coincidentally, marks the beginning of the most active part of hurricane season.

Today: Cloudy and cooler. High 56°F (13°C).

Tonight: Drizzly, with a chance of showers. Low 43°F (6°C).

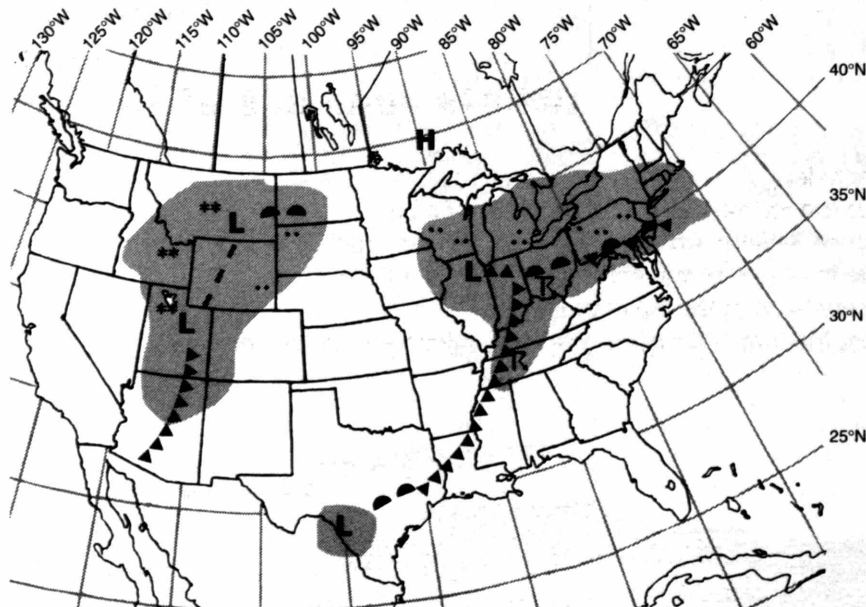
Saturday: Becoming sunny with a cool northerly breeze. High 49°F (9°C).

Saturday night: Chilly. Low 37°F (3°C).

Sunday: Clouding up during the day. Showers by late afternoon. High 59°F (15°C).

Outlook for Monday: Sunny and pleasant. High 55°F (13°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, April 9, 1999



| Weather Systems | Weather Fronts | Precipitation Symbols | Other Symbols |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| H High Pressure | - - - Trough | Snow (flakes) | Fog (horizontal lines) |
| L Low Pressure | —▲— Warm Front | Light (small triangles) | Thunderstorm (lightning bolt) |
| § Hurricane | —▲▲ Cold Front | Moderate (asterisks) | Haze (cloud with horizontal lines) |
| | —▲▲▲ Occluded Front | Heavy (large asterisks) | Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech |

North Korea Sees Opening in U.S. Focus on Kosovo Crisis

By Mary Jordan
THE WASHINGTON POST

TOKYO

North Korean officials are rejoicing in the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia because they believe it distracts Washington from focusing on their repressive regime and illustrates the pitfalls awaiting any potential U.S. military action against Pyongyang.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is suspected of pursuing expensive nuclear weapons and missile-development programs while millions of his people are suffering from hunger. At the same North Korea recently agreed to permit international inspections of a suspected nuclear site, 37,000 U.S. soldiers were in South Korea, guarding

against the nation that is the region's most serious security threat.

"We sincerely hope that the United States continues attacking (in Yugoslavia) and sends ground troops so it gets bogged down as it did in Vietnam," said Kim Myong Chol, who acts as an unofficial spokesman for North Korea in Tokyo. "And we hope more of its fighter jets are shot down."

Yugoslavia's resilience shows that NATO has undertaken a "mission impossible," said Kim. "Yugoslavia is a tough country but we are 10 times, 100 times tougher."

Russian analysts who interviewed North Korean officials for a just-released report from the Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, Calif., said the NATO

bombing has had a major impact on the North Korean government, and may lead it to further upgrade its missile and military capability.

"The bombing has 'completely and irreversibly' convinced Pyongyang that it is dealing with a 'new Hitler' who is determined to conquer the entire world through intimidation, pressure and aggression," the report said, referring to President Clinton.

The Russian analysts also said North Koreans view the bombing in Yugoslavia as "broadening opportunities" for North Korea. While it is preoccupied in Europe, the U.S., in the North Koreans' view, will be more "flexible in other parts of the world, including Korea."

Reno Urges Police to Examine Use of 'Racial Profile' Searches

By Robert L. Jackson
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Attorney General Janet Reno made an impassioned plea Thursday for local police and other law enforcement officials to deal with citizen complaints about searches based on "racial profiles."

"We can't duck this issue," Reno said, adding that the Justice Department has had "a number of investigations under way" of specific cases, trying to determine if police are violating individual rights by targeting people based on their race.

While recognizing organized police opposition to such inquiries, Reno said "hard facts" are needed to determine if the practice is wide-

spread. "And let's — where we see the problem — do something about it," she said.

A proposal to require a national study of why police stop and search motorists died in Congress last year but will be taken up again.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Customs Service said it was establishing an independent review panel to evaluate complaints of racial bias from airline passengers who have been strip-searched by inspectors looking for smuggled drugs.

"If a bias exists, whether perceived or real, it is paramount that we find its cause and eliminate it," Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said in announcing the panel, which will report its findings in three

months.

The agency is facing at least a dozen lawsuits over body searches, including a class-action complaint by 100 black women in Chicago who claim they were singled out because of their race and gender.

Reno, declining comment on Customs Service practices, told her weekly news briefing that some individual police departments are trying to make officers more sensitive to minority concerns through training and other techniques.

On a recent visit to San Diego, she said, she learned that motorcycle officers who stop motorists for traffic infractions are encoding racial data on hand-held computers as part of a community study.

Southern California Beach Study Warns of Runoff Hazard

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

An unprecedented scientific study of Southern California's ocean waters suggests that 95 percent of the shoreline meets health standards for swimmers in summertime but that some trouble spots persist even when it has not rained for months.

Excessive bacteria counts were found at the mouths of rivers and storm water channels in well over half the tests at such sites.

The scientists did not specifically name the sites that failed. But other testing has revealed persistent problems with storm drains and channels at many of the region's most popular swimming and surfing areas, including Malibu Creek, the Santa Monica Pier, the San Gabriel River in Seal Beach, the Santa Ana River in Newport Beach and Main Beach and Aliso Creek in Laguna Beach.

The findings support the warning that Los Angeles and Orange County health officials have issued in recent years: Avoid swimming at beaches near channels and rivers — roughly 100 yards from the mouth. The study emphasizes that the advice applies even during dry weather.

Unparalleled in scope, the study provides a snapshot of bacterial levels along the entire 690-mile coastline from Point Conception north of Santa Barbara to Ensenada, Mexico — encompassing five California counties and northern Baja California.

Because summertime is the prime season, the overall findings may reassure beachgoers and public health officials, especially in Los Angeles County, where many people fear getting sick if they swim in the ocean.

Forecaster Predicts Big Hurricanes

NEWSDAY

Atmospheric conditions are ripe and will stay ripe produce a very active hurricane season this year, a team that specializes in seasonal forecasting predicted Thursday.

Based on what is known about the origin and growth of tropical storms, and the influence of high-altitude winds, forecaster William Gray predicted 14 tropical storms this year, nine of which his team believes may intensify into hurricanes, with four becoming intense storms with winds topping 111 mph.

Thus the 1999 hurricane season, which begins June 1 and runs through Nov. 30, may echo last year's experience, with 14 large tropical storms, 10 hurricanes and an additional intense storm, Gray's report stated.

Historically, and on average, there have been 10 named tropical storms, six hurricanes, and two intense hurricanes every year, with slight annual variations.

Gray and his method have their critics. Jerry Jarrell, director of the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, Fla., noted that hurricane prediction is so iffy that his center doesn't even make such forecasts.



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



"Island Escape"
The Annual GSC Formal Ball
Dinner and Dance on the Sprit of Boston

Friday, April 16, 1999

6:30-10:00 PM

\$35.00/person

Tickets available at the GSC office, 50-220, x3-2195

Tickets include:

- 1 ticket to the formal ball on the Spirit of Boston
- 3 free dance lessons from the Ballroom Dance Team on April 6 from 7 to 10 PM
- 1 ticket to the after formal party (Cosmopolitan Club)
- Shuttle service from the Spirit of Boston

In addition, the first 100 people who buy tickets will receive one free dance lesson from the Ballroom Dance Club.

OPINION

Scrutinizing the 'Superstar' Event

Today, the Admissions Office will hold a reception for "a group of highly talented admitted students." This group will include participants from the National and International Math, Physics, and Chemistry Olympiads, the Intel (formerly Westinghouse) Talent Search, and prestigious summer programs such as MIT's own Research Science Institute. *The Tech* is strongly

Editorial

opposed to this elitist gathering and has serious concerns that this could create another faction on campus — the "academic superstars."

The conditions used to determine just who are members of this group of "highly talented admitted students" are suspect. Prospective students have had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of programs; selecting a few programs as particularly exceptional introduces a rather arbitrary criterion for selecting the "superstars." In addition, students who come from poorer communities will likely not have had access to such programs as the Intel Talent Search, yet they may be just as capable, or perhaps even more so, of overcoming the academic challenges presented at MIT. Any gathering based on these criteria is bound to be unfairly skewed on the basis of class.

And what if today's gathering is the beginning of another faction on campus, that of the "academic superstars?" We are already a campus divided in many ways — residents of dormitories versus Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups, and undergraduate versus graduate students are two of many examples. We have all seen the negative impact gatherings such as the Freshman Leadership Program — creating closed

groups that remain estranged from the larger MIT community. How can we be assured that today's meeting is not the start of another such faction?

Worse, this meeting reeks of elitism at a time when MIT should be extending its best welcome to *all* of its prospective students, not just a select few. What message does this gathering send to the overwhelming majority of the class that was not invited? Logically, they would conclude that they are less important to the Institute than the anointed "superstars." Any person admitted to MIT has shown exemplary academic discipline and achievement and has the potential to succeed here. The Admissions Office, however, sends a different message through this gathering.

Finally, we worry that such a program could divert resources and opportunities from the entire MIT population. Professors, for example, could be more likely to seek out superstars for UROPs and other projects, leaving other talented individuals shut out of rewarding opportunities. All undergraduates should have an equal opportunity to participate in these rewarding projects, and anything which would promote favoritism and insider dealing for research opportunities ought not to be pursued.

At best, today's meeting between the Admissions Office and the "academic superstars" demonstrates Admissions' time and attention is not devoted to making all students feel welcome, the ostensible goal of Campus Preview Weekend, but only an elite few. Yet more frightening is the chance that the propagation of this program would rend the campus asunder between academic "superstars" and "peons."

Not a Big Deal

Naveen Sunkavally

First, I'd like to start out by saying that I'm not an "academic superstar." Somehow it seems appropriate to get this detail out of the way.

Dissent

That detail out of the way, I must say I'm surprised *The Tech* cares so much about "academic superstars" and the potential they have to rock the foundations of campus unity at MIT. So there's about a tenth of every incoming class to MIT that receives a bit of coddling and encouragement from some faculty at a couple of meetings, and the other 90 percent is left, well, to not go to these meetings. Big deal. Life goes on.

We live in a capitalist society in which, theoretically, one's intelligence and know-how should determine how well that person succeeds. We have schools for the "gifted," we have magnet and college preparatory schools, and we have entrance and SAT exams. MIT's competitors, such as Harvard and Stanford, have similar programs for "academic superstars," and any school with an elite athletic program does its fair share of coddling as well. Whether I like it or not, I can understand why MIT would want to coddle its top students to prevent other universities from snatching these students away. The reputation of a university comes in part from the caliber and future accomplishments of the students it recruits (I'm sure you'll find on average that "academic superstars" are better motivated and more intelligent than the rest of the class), and, to keep up with the times, it's only natural MIT would try to coddle the best.

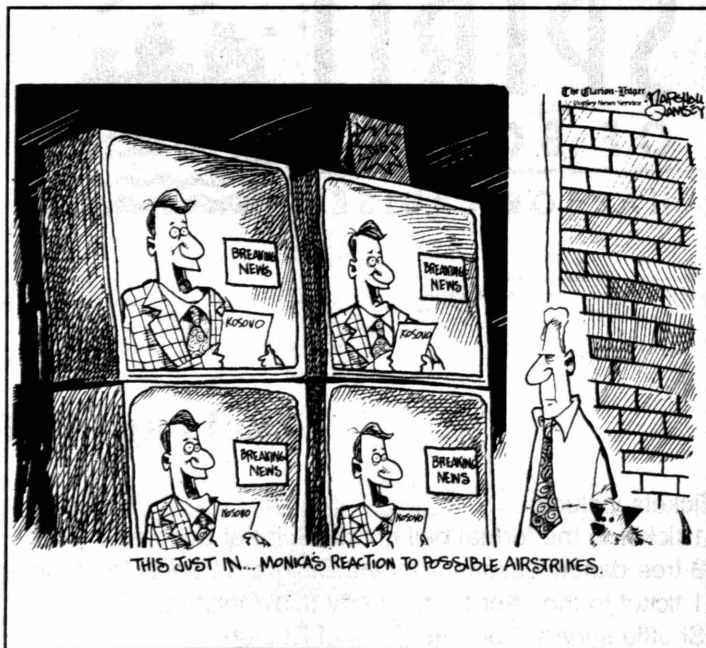
The Tech asserts that the "academic superstars" program promotes separatism on campus. But MIT already promotes other forms of separatism on campus. We have activities specifically for women, activities specifically geared toward underrepresented minorities, and separatism in the makeup of our dorms and fraternities. The truth is that, as long as people share common bonds or interests, there's always going to be separatism. I don't find it very hard to accept that "academic superstars" would want to be around other "academic superstars."

The Tech argues that the "academic superstars" program has the potential to divert resources from "normal" students to these superstars. Supposedly, "normal" students will have a harder time finding UROPs and receiving personal faculty attention. But I believe the number of UROPs people at MIT have held has steadily gone up since the inception of the UROP program, and, frankly, I don't think students in general make a great

enough effort to interact with their faculty to substantiate the claim that faculty don't give "normal" students any attention. If, in a future trend, we find that "academic superstars" are monopolizing the attention of faculty, and that faculty are favoring "academic superstars" solely for the "academic superstar" label, then we can start making changes.

The Tech says that the "academic superstars" program is elitist. I'm not sure, but I would say that this notion of elitism stems from inherent human jealousy. Get over it. I've heard others complain that "academic superstars" typically are egotistical and arrogant, but I don't think there's anything really wrong in one's being a condescending jerk if one's got the goods to back it up.

Actually, having said all the above, I don't think the existence of "academic superstars" should be a relevant concern in anyone's life. The discussion is simply not important. Compared to other universities, MIT, at least on the undergraduate level, doesn't really tie down its students in any way. In terms of academics, students are free to make their own decisions, and it's easy for the motivated student to get ahead. The support is there if sought out. I believe that any sufficiently motivated student, regardless of his or her "academic superstar" status, can succeed at MIT. And any student not sufficiently motivated, whether he or she be an "academic superstar," is destined to fail.



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

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

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

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

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

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World-Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.



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A Cautious Welcome for Premier Zhu

Chinese Leader Should Explain His Nation's Internet, Nuclear Policies

Kris Schnee

On April 14, Premier Zhu Rongji of the People's Republic of China plans to visit MIT to give a speech on "a topic relating to science, technology and education in a global society." The appearance is part of a scheduled nine-day visit to America, which includes Washington and other cities. Surely, there will be a packed auditorium for Zhu's speech — tickets are being distributed through an online lottery, a system not deemed necessary even for speakers like Noam Chomsky and Ian Wilmut. Hundreds, perhaps even thousands of people have probably signed up for the event (this author included). We do not yet know exactly what Zhu will talk about, but it's fascinating to imagine the possibilities.

One topic related to "education in a global society" would be freedom of speech and the Internet. For several years now, China has been trying to modernize its computer networks and gain the benefits of the World Wide Web — but only some of those benefits.

In late 1997, the Chinese government issued a new set of regulations on its people's use of Web resources. Having gotten over the "Communications Decency Act," Americans now debate how sales tax should be levied for online commerce. The Chinese, however, face the more basic issue of communication itself. The new Chinese laws, contained in twenty-five articles, threaten fines and other, unspecified punishments for various crimes such as "defaming government agencies" — that is, criticizing the government. Other crimes include trying to "split the country" — for instance, advocating freedom for Tibet or accepting Taiwanese independence — and divulging loosely-defined "state secrets." Premier Zhu might explain to the MIT community why the Chinese people need to be protected from opinions other than that of their own government. Social stability is one of the Net-censorship laws' goals, and the

Chinese government is apparently trying to maintain its power by suppressing new ideas. Is this attitude towards a global society good for anyone?

Zhu might also tell us about the global expansion of democracy, and why China resists it. The most famous example of China's attitude towards dissent is the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, in which protesting students were killed *en masse* by government troops. Reports continue to reach America, despite government control of the media, that persecution of journalists, religious groups, and other groups continues. The China Democracy Party, not surprisingly, complains of government harassment. And as soon as Hong Kong was returned to Chinese control, the Beijing government swiftly moved to make the province's legislature more heavily based on appointment

democratic Chinese government a voice in global trade issues along with governments chosen by the people they represent?

Or Premier Zhu could tell us about the "science and technology" of nuclear weapons. Presumably the Chinese government has learned much about that subject over the last few decades, thanks to its spies. The fault is ours as well; as the Energy Department reports, three government nuclear weapons facilities had "less than satisfactory" security in 1998. One of these facilities is the Los Alamos lab, where suspected spy Wen Ho Lee was given a sensitive job in 1997. Recent reports, still under investigation, suggest that in the 1980s, China covertly obtained American information on the miniaturization of nuclear weapons. And in 1996, former Democratic fund-raiser Johnny Chung funneled illegal contributions from the Chinese government into President Bill Clinton's re-election campaign.

"We like your president," Chinese General Ji Shengde allegedly told Chung. That's not surprising — Clinton granted waivers to American aerospace companies working in China, allowing them to share technology which can be used to improve China's nuclear mis-

siles. Will Zhu tell us that we should be more open with our technological secrets, so that China will not need to go to the trouble of stealing them — or perhaps buying them from ethically-challenged individuals?

Whatever the Chinese Premier has to say about science and education in a global society should be fascinating. We have the unique opportunity to hear some thoughts on the subject from a country where globalization is feared, science is stolen rather than learned, and learning is subject to government approval. Let's welcome Zhu to our fine university — but guard all of the laboratories carefully.



by Communist Party officials, and less on Western customs like democratic elections. The UN, with American support, is now preparing a resolution condemning China for its dismal human rights record.

Says Tao Wenzhao of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: "U.S. expectations of China are too high." Apparently while we should not expect China to have even a nineteenth-century republican government, we are expected to regard China as a twenty-first century economic power worthy to join the World Trade Organization. Even if China's economy is formidable, are we willing to give the non-

Universities, Gender, and Paglia

Julia C. Lipman

If you find "Hub of the Universe" a wee bit presumptuous and "Beantown" a little too slangy, you can start referring to Boston as the "PC capital." That's our new title, according to no less of a media pundit than *Sexual Personae* author and *Salon* columnist Camille Paglia. No, she's not referring to an abundance of Dells and IBMs. Instead, the antifeminist commentator was talking about university politics, specifically the recent MIT report on discrimination against women faculty in the School of Science.

It's time to stop taking Paglia seriously as an academic. In the past few weeks, she's made it clear that she's a couple footnotes short of a dissertation. If you're looking for catty remarks about Gwyneth Paltrow's Oscar dress ("a mushy pink Hostess cupcake"), look no further than Paglia. But this paragon of the antifeminist movement seems to have run out of ideas on anything more substantial, and she's trying to make up for it in a truly bizarre fashion.

First, there was her recent column on the Harvard rape controversy, whose conclusions seem contrived solely for shock value. She describes Harvard's dismissal of an admitted rapist as "paternalistic hand-holding," completely ignoring the fact that D. Drew Douglas, the dismissed student, is under house arrest after being convicted of indecent assault. Disregarding clear court documents describing the crime to which Douglas pleaded guilty, she pieces together her own scenario in which the "drunken Harvard girl" is "just as responsible for the muddled chain of events" as Douglas. There's nothing muddled

about the court account, which describes Douglas forcing his way into the victim's room as she tried to lock him out and repeatedly told him to leave. Paglia responded to a letter from Ethan Ard, editor of the *Harvard Perspective*, which mentioned her disregard of court documents among other things, but she failed to address the issue in her response.

And then there's her Wednesday column about the MIT report on sex discrimination. Paglia attacks the report as "heavy on verbiage and amazingly light on documentation." She points out that it provides no quantitative data about salaries, lab assignments, or grants. She's right, except for one thing: the summary available on the Web, published in the Faculty Newsletter, is not in fact the actual report. The report itself is confidential, since the small number of women faculty would make it impossible for both quantitative and anecdotal data to be anonymous.

So why would the School of Science issue a public release which contained few hard data? I spoke with Robert Birgeneau, Dean of Science, who said that the purpose of the report was to inform the MIT faculty, including those in departments outside the School of Science, of the situation involving women faculty. The committee had no idea that the public release would have a national impact. Paglia is operating under the assumption that the release was meant to convince outsiders like her that MIT is indeed discriminating against women. But the most important people, the people in the MIT administration, have already been convinced by the confidential report and are taking action. Paglia fails to analyze why MIT would take the risk of admitting to sexual discrimination if there was

no evidence that discrimination even existed. She just takes it as given that universities like to indulge in "PC breastbeating."

Her justification for the low number of women science faculty is even more perplexing. According to her partner's father, an issue of *VooDoo*, which Paglia refers to as "the MIT student magazine," included in a packet for prospective students in 1959 contained "sexist and prurient cartoons." Rather than seeing this as evidence of the kind of sexism that existed at MIT in 1959, she views it as proof that scientists are detached from human relationships and prefer abstractions. While she initially criticizes the women faculty on the report committee for their "tunnel-vision professional focus and insularity," she now switches gears and assumes that such traits are the sole domain of males. She quotes her partner: "When men complete mathematical equations, there is an 'ecstatic' element that borders on sex." Wow! Not being male, I must be missing out on a lot in my math classes.

In both Paglia's Harvard and MIT columns, she's defending someone or something (Douglas, MIT) from charges to which the accused freely admits and about which there is no public debate. At Harvard, no one, even the faculty members who voted against dismissal, denied that Douglas committed rape. Even the *Salient*, Harvard's most conservative student publication, editorialized that not only should Douglas have been dismissed, but perhaps expulsion would have been more appropriate. At MIT, there has been no public opposition to the conclusions of the School of Science report. Can we then conclude that the anti-PC movement has run out of steam? How else to explain Paglia's lone-wolf tirades on such lopsided issues?

My Life As a Prefrosh

Veena Thomas

I can't believe it's been a year since my pre-frosh weekend. So much has happened since then that I feel like it's another lifetime, yet at the same time it feels like yesterday. I think college affects your perception of time somehow. Maybe it has to do with staying up until 4 a.m. working on problem sets. Hmm...

Prefrosh weekend was almost a different lifetime for me. After all, I was a young high school student from a small town who thought that going to bed at 12:30 was unacceptably late. I never drank soda to keep myself awake. I had never walked by myself in a big city. I had never ridden on the T. And the thought of a coed bathroom scared me. So I arrived at MIT, a little scared, but excited. I had wanted to attend MIT since third grade, and receiving my letter of admission was one of the best feelings I have ever known. But I knew very little about the non-academic parts of MIT. On paper, it was a perfect match, but I hoped that I would find it a great place socially also. I went to pre-frosh weekend hoping that I would receive some kind of epiphany that MIT was really the perfect place for me.

Things started out pretty well for me. I really liked my host and my floor. There were several other pre-frosh on my floor, so we hung out and explored the campus a little bit. But in the middle of the pre-frosh dinner, I realized that I wasn't really having a good time. I met people, but very few seemed to be moving

I left pre-frosh weekend almost totally convinced that MIT was the place for me.

beyond the "I know your name and your major" stage into the "I'd like to be your friend" stage. I had come for the weekend expecting to meet some really great, mature college students, but I had forgotten that pre-frosh were still high school students.

I had hoped to meet guys, but I hadn't realized that last year's Campus Preview Weekend was 75 percent female. So I should have been excited when some of my new friends decided that they were going to take a "bus" to some frat where somebody knew someone. But I was a high school student from a small town who had heard horror stories about fraternities. I was certain that I was going to be raped or killed. And what would my mom say if I told her I was going to a fraternity in the middle of the night? I refused to die as a pre-frosh.

So I left to find new, sane friends. I saw very few people walking around, and those I did see already had a group of friends, and I didn't want to interfere. I headed back to the dorm, feeling depressed and alone, where I had a really good conversation with another pre-frosh feeling the same way. But that was the turning point of my weekend. Later I saw those friends who had gone to the fraternity, alive. I realized that I almost certainly wasn't going to be killed at a frat. Maybe I could relax a little bit and have some fun away from home.

And so that's how I found myself totally happy with those same friends walking back from WILG at 2 a.m., something of which my parents would definitely not approve. (Um, sorry, Mom and Dad... I mean I was studying at 2.) After the initial first day, when no one knew how to act, people started becoming friendlier and willing to meet others. We soon had a bunch of girls laughing all across campus. After discovering a shared interest in crew, we arranged our very own boat and formed a team for the coming year when we were sure we were all coming to MIT.

I left pre-frosh weekend almost totally convinced that MIT was the place for me. This feeling was confirmed when I visited other colleges and could not find the same sense of community, friendship, and offbeat humor that I had seen at MIT. I think my friends from pre-frosh weekend felt the same way, since after arriving here in the fall, I found that nearly my entire group had decided to enroll at MIT. And although our plans to do crew fell through, I still talk to those I met a year ago. I ended up living on the same floor on which I pre-froshed, and now I'm living next door to my host. So much has changed since then, yet some things remain the same. I still know that MIT is the college for me. It's where I belong.

THE ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

10 Things I Hate About You

Cotillions to proms and high tea to drunken parties

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Directed by Gil Junger

Written by Karen McCullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith

With Julia Stiles, Heath Ledger, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, and Larisa Oleynik

I was really scared after I saw — and hated — *She's All That*. A nagging thought was attacking my mind. What if that movie was indeed (as its financial success indicates) "all that", and I'm just getting old? Maybe I'm just too much of an old fogey to really relate to the world of a high school romance? Well, I don't worry anymore. I just saw *10 Things I Hate About You*, and the world is right again: I'm not getting too old, there's still a hope for teenybopper movies, and *She's All That* is still a lousy movie. *10 Things* rocks.

Ever since the overwhelming success of *Clueless*, it was clear that we should get ready for an onslaught of teenage romantic come-

dies, which would adapt the works of classics by updating them. This involves setting them at a high school, and generally running amok by turning cotillions into proms, high tea into drunken parties, romantic walks in shadowy tree-lined alleys into making out in the back seat of a car.

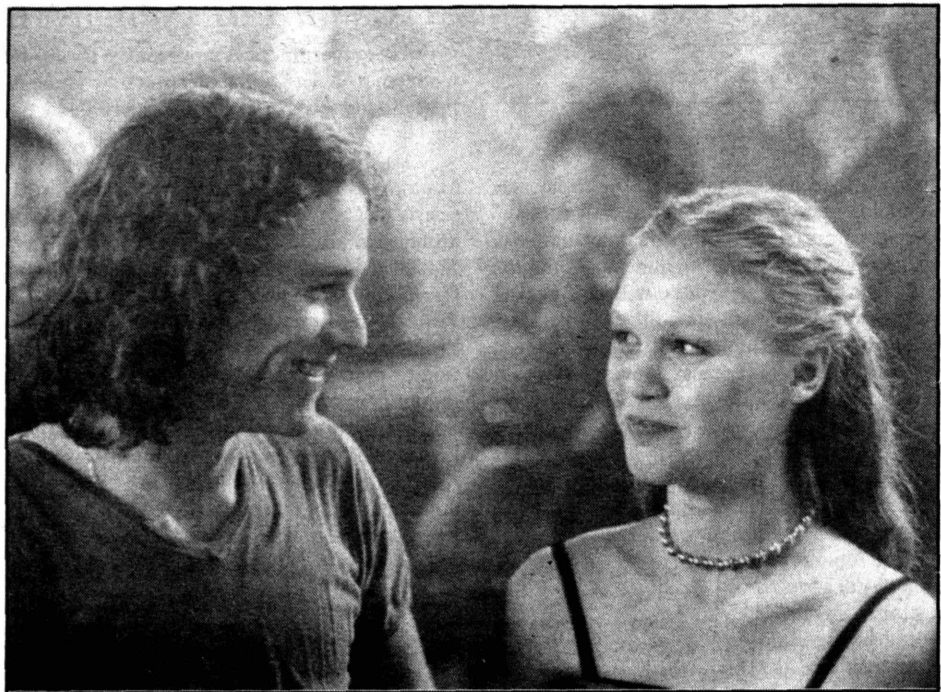
Well, that's all right — as long as the result works. Adapting a classical work in such manner gives you the time-tested story, and nothing else; the characters, situations, dialogue, etc. still have to be done right. *She's All That* was a disgusting re-telling of *Pygmalion*. *10 Things* is based on Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, and it mostly gets things right.

You see, there's this shrew, Katharina (Julia Stiles), and her younger sister Bianca (Larisa Oleynik) who can't marry — I mean date — until Kat does it first. So Bianca's sweetheart (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) arranges for a local bad boy Petruchio — I mean Patrick — to take Kat out.

Good news: it's Shakespeare all right. The

whole story is based entirely on characters, their personal quirks and idiosyncrasies. The plot is a dense but controlled tangle, elegant enough to be comprehensible and complex enough to be fun. The dialog, some of it actually quoting the original source, is almost uniformly excellent, with just about every second line being highly memorable, if not always printable in a fine family newspaper like this one.

The characters are even better, smartly written and deftly acted.



RICHARD CARTWRIGHT — TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

With acerbic wit and petulance, Kat Stratford (Julia Stiles, right) alienates every guy who might want to date her until she meets her fiery male counterpart, Patrick Verona (Heath Ledger, left).

First and foremost there is Julia Stiles, whose Kat is a balanced act between inner anger at the world and outward acerbic attitude. The neat thing is that she does all that being consistently funny. The other leads are just as good: Larisa Oleynik as sweet Bianca, totally brainwashed by the consumerist culture and because of this, even sweeter; Heath Ledger as Pat, with his character arc moving seamlessly from a bad boy to a romantic hero; and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, from *3rd Rock from the Sun*, being amazingly effecting as a nice guy.

More good news: director Gil Junger, directing his first movie after working on such sitcoms as *Ellen* and *Dharma & Greg*, displays an uncanny talent for nifty visuals. He turns the Padua High School into a veritable castle, and has fun with such stock situations as a party and a literature class. One shot in particular — camera pointing upward

the stairwell while a bunch of leaflets floats down — is just beautiful.

Bad news: *10 Things* sometimes feel mired in the traditions of a high school comedy, and for all the enthusiasm it tries to muster when it goes through familiar motions and stock situations, they remain rather tired. The local nerd and the egotistical jock are as cliché as they come; the prom scene is a virtual copy of every other prom scene; and some of Kat's interactions with her father feel utterly artificial.

I guess this is the price one has to pay these days. Fortunately, these stock scenes are in the minority, with the rest being fresh and original. There is a wildly funny serenade, a first kiss at the paintball game, and more scenes that are simply fun to watch. Most importantly, the most problematic moment in the original play, Katharina debasing herself to declare her love to Petruchio, is done just right.

There's still hope for the genre.



RICHARD CARTWRIGHT — TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Kat and Patrick indulge in a game of paintball.

MOVIE REVIEW

Gods and Monsters

Father of Frankenstein

By Francisco Delatorre

STAFF REPORTER

Written and directed by Bill Condon

With Ian McKellan, Brendan Fraser, and Lynn Redgrave

Movies about movies. What a wonderful concept. Such films have proved enormous successes in the past, simply because of their own introspective messages. And yet *Gods and Monsters*, a story about veteran director James Whale (*Frankenstein*, *Bride of Frankenstein*), takes its setting in film culture and uses it to show that movies are exactly what this movie is not about. Driving this outstanding film are a superb screenplay, sharp direction, and a group of fantastic actors.

The story surrounds the tortured soul of James Whale (Ian McKellan), an openly gay film director who, after leaving the film industry, relaxes in the comfort of his lavish home (supported by his maid, played by Lynn Redgrave), pursuing in his old age both his artistic passions and sexual desires. His way of living is threatened, however, first by his failing health and then by the presence of Clay Boone (Brendan Fraser). Boone, a down-and-out ex-marine who mows lawns for a living, meets Whale first as director's gardener, and the two become friends when he poses for one of Whale's sketches. However, Whale is touched by Boone's simplicity and naivete, and, in spite of himself, finds himself telling stories of his past and recalling the horrors of his youth. Boone's presence seems to trigger the mental decay that is the result of Whale's malady, and this re-living of his past only furthers Whale's destruction. All the while, Boone is left to come to terms with his own discomfort regarding homosexuality, and to determine the specifics of his relationship with the old man.

It is a very powerful story, masterfully adapted for the screen by Bill Condon from Christopher Bram's novel *Father of Frankenstein*. The screenplay propels the story with its sharp humor, wonderfully involved emotion, and well-constructed characters. Bill Condon put the whole movie together: he wrote the screenplay and his direction was, on the

whole, quite good. The portrayal of the protagonist's mental decay is driven home when we see through his eyes the blurring of the past with the present, the real with the imaginary. Some very impressive visual effects (similar to that of *Pleasantville*), along with a solid editing job, put us right in the midst of James Whale's struggle with his own loss of control, and force us to identify with both his own plight and that of Clay Boone.

Let us not forget, of course, the performances of this well-selected cast. What Condon couldn't give to the characters on paper, Ian McKellan, Brendan Fraser, and Lynn Redgrave gave in their performances. It was no surprise to me that McKellan and Redgrave received Oscar nominations for their performances (it would have been a crime not to nominate them), and I think I know the reasons why Fraser was left out: *Airheads*, anyone? Their individual acting styles were wonderful by themselves (Fraser's was the weakest of the three, although he was still quite good), but it was how they interacted with each other that made all the difference. The camaraderie they displayed at the Oscars was clearly evident throughout the film, and added immensely to its overall impact.

I was particularly impressed with some of the film's subtleties, mainly the blurring of the time period (we know historically that Whale died in 1957, but stylistically there are some inconsistencies). James Whale's home is quite modern in its decor and composition, although the outside world seems shrouded in the past. The characters discuss Boone's past involvement in the Vietnam war, and imply that it happened quite a few years ago. There exists no automobile made later than the 40's in the film. Boone and Whale attend a birthday party being thrown by George Cukor, and speak with Boris Karloff (Cukor died in 1983; Karloff, in 1969). This lack of time-specific setting seems a metaphor for Whale's failing grasp of the present, where the space of his home represents his last tenuous grip on modernity; it is the only part of Whale's mind that has not fallen to senility.

Indeed, for the duration of the film, Whale's hallucinations and memories of the past all take place outside the walls of his home (there is a scene where he looks outside and sees a scene

of the past through the window, but his surroundings in the room are all firmly rooted in reality). It is this underlying metaphor that makes one of the final scenes the most frightening, when his hallucinations and loss of control become so pervasive that they break down the barriers of his own home, invading his last stronghold of sanity and making his transformation all the more intense.

Complementing the movie was the well-done score by Carter Burwell, whom you may recognize as the composer responsible for Cohen brothers' films (*The Hudsucker Proxy*, *Raising Arizona*). Burwell has proved himself an impressive musician, and *Gods and Monsters* is no exception, with a rich, hauntingly beautiful theme that reflects not only the horrors but also the highlights of Whale's past, and

ultimately ties his past with the present.

On the downside, the very end seemed a little incongruous; Boone has moved on, has a wife and child, but never forgets his friendship with Whale, the gay film director. It seemed to me to change what the story was about, and, in fact, who it was about; was it the gods and monsters of Whale's mind, or Boone's being able to overcome his discomfort with Whale's sexual orientation? Personally, I liked having the choice of what to glean from the narrative, and this seemed to take a little away from that.

In conclusion, though, I loved it. The depiction of this aging man's gods and monsters of the past and present, both in his life and in his mind was beautifully constructed and implemented not only by writer/director and his cast. A touching tale and a definite must-see.

MUSIC REVIEW

The Dirtchamber Sessions, Vol. 1

Eclectic sources fused into a fabulous mix

By Daniel J. Katz

STAFF REPORTER

Liam Howlett, who writes and performs most of the music for electronic act Prodigy, reportedly has not been thrilled with the fact that most of the group's fame has been attached to the front men, Keith Flint and Maxim Reality (they're the ugly gentlemen in the music videos). Liam's desire to create a solo album has resulted in one of the most innovative dance recordings to hit stores in a long time: *Prodigy Presents: The Dirtchamber Sessions, Vol. 1* (XL-Recordings).

Dirtchamber Sessions is a continuous dance mix (although it is divided into eight tracks, the segues between them are very fluid) of a startling array of songs by about forty different bands and artists. These songs are all sampled and laid over a thumping big beat rhythm line, and only few seem out of place, primarily thanks to Howlett's adept mixing skills.

The sources range greatly in genre. Howlett utilizes a lot of hip hop, ranging from LL Cool J and the Beastie Boys to old school material, such as Grandmaster Flash and Herbie Hancock. Also present are all the stars of big beat, like the Chemical Brothers, Fat Boy Slim, the Propellerheads, and, not surprisingly, Prodigy. Most surprising is the inclusion of many more rock-oriented acts, such as Primal Scream and the Charlatans. The combination of all these styles is what

makes the album a trip to listen to, with or without the insert, which lists the songs sampled and acts as a track-by-track road map.

While the album is best listened to as a full cohesive unit, I do have a quite a few favorite tracks. The second track includes "Bomb the Bass" (a.k.a. Tim Simenon), the Depeche Mode producer, whose DJ work is difficult to find in American stores. It also features one of the most shocking moments on the album, when Prodigy's "Poison" abruptly shifts into very familiar "Been Caught Stealing" by Jane's Addictions. Near the end of the fourth track, there's a great groove achieved by weaving Beastie Boys vocals with the Propellerheads' "Spybreak!", which may be familiar to moviegoers: it is played behind the intense gun battle in *The Matrix*. And, finally, the fifth track clearly incorporates most of the Sex Pistols' "New York", illustrating that even though 1980s punk and 1990s dance sound nothing alike, the spirit is the same.

The Chemical Brothers, who have nothing to prove in the genre, released a disc like this a few months ago, called *Brothers Gonna Work It Out*. While the Chemical Brothers mix was decent, Howlett's is excellent, and it proves that not only he is the driving force behind Prodigy, but he's also an excellent remixer in his own right. Anyone who appreciates variety in their music should get this album and listen to it straight through. It's truly an experience.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Matrix

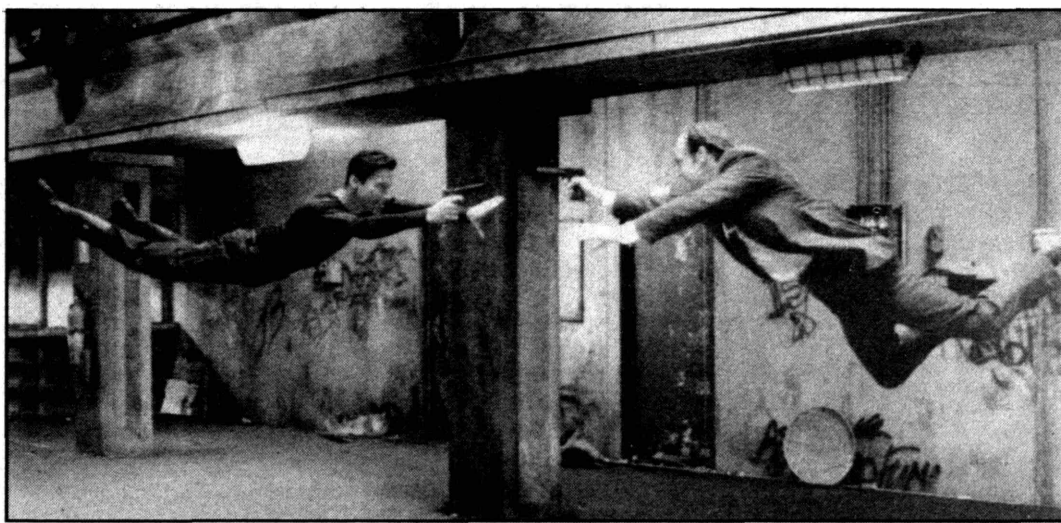
Plugged in

by Vladimir Zelevinsky
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Written and directed by Andy & Larry Wachowski
With Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving

If you look at what's playing in the multiplex, the millennium is truly upon us. There have always been movies questioning the very nature of reality (starting way back with *The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari* and going all the way through *Total Recall*), but now they come in droves, and this time they're augmented with technology. Last year, there was *The Truman Show*, about an unwitting man reared up in a huge dome with reality painstakingly fabricated up to the smallest details. This spring only, at least three movies follow up, dealing with the idea that we are manipulated by forces beyond our control, and said malevolent forces try to fool us by creating a fake reality like a gauze over our eyes. *The Thirteenth Floor* (scheduled to open in May) deals with the technological side of the issue; *eXistenZ* (late April) — with the biological side. *The Matrix* merges these two aspects of artificial existence into one, liberally spices it up with Hong Kong style stunts, eye-popping special effects, wickedly inventive visuals, and a multi-layered story. The result is perhaps less profound than the filmmakers think it is, but in terms of pure entertainment value, *The Matrix* is the best science fiction special effects extravaganza since, oh, I don't know, *Men In Black* two years ago.

I'll have to forego the usual plot description, since the movie deliberately works hard to confuse the viewers about what's going on. For the first half-hour, it seems that what we're witnessing is a peculiar sequence of dreams,



With acerbic wit and petulance, Kat Stratford (right) alienates every guy who might want to date her until she meets her feisty male counterpart, Patrick Verona (left).

each of them ending with the dreamer waking up inside another dream. It seems that someone wants Neo, a famous hacker-for-hire, also known as a software engineer Thomas Anderson (Keanu Reeves), and this someone has big plans in mind.

The opening half an hour is very effective in putting the viewer in the same state of mind as the confused protagonist. Cinematography is all muted dark greens, the set is that of a foreboding metropolis, the mood is that of a spooky dream, non-realistic yet compelling in its private logic.

And then, Neo wakes up — for real. This sequence alone is worth the price of admission, with the revelation being truly, utterly, grandly shocking. The sheer imagination, both visual and narrative, combined with some of the most impressive special effects work up to date, result in a sequence which works on two levels: it's horrifying, on the most basic primal level, with the horrors springing to reality as if from a nightmare; and it's exhilarating, taking both Neo and the viewers on a wild ride through an alien landscape.

There is absolutely no way the rest of the film could have been as grand as these three minutes, and indeed the remainder is not —

but it's still clever and entertaining in its own right, although the film a bit overdone — too long, too elaborate, and too ambitious. In any case, I'd rather take all of that over the usual thoughtless fakery of Hollywood standard-issue blockbusters.

Because this production, done on a relatively large budget (although the question is how did they get some of this images at any budget?!), is not a standard blockbuster — it's very much a private artistic vision of Andy and Larry Wachowski, the two brothers who have previously made only one film, a romantic thriller *Bound*. They wrote and directed *The Matrix* together, drawing on such disparate influences as the Western ideas of technology-based (or, rather, technology-enforced) society and the cyberpunk ethos, and the Eastern styles of kung-fu fighting, Hong Kong action films, and Japanese anime.

The results are nearly amazing, with some action sequences being as tense and exciting as they get. There's too many of those sequences, and each of them goes on for a bit too long, but there's no denying the style and power of each of them. There's no denying that what we have here is a really smart script, carefully delineating the rules of its world and

following them without running into any plot holes.

The film runs into some weaknesses in its last ten minutes or so, with the superfluous and somewhat cheesy romantic subplot, and a rather silly closing shot, entirely too upbeat for a dark vision the film presented for the preceding two hours. And then, of course, we have Keanu Reeves.

To be fair, he is one of the most consistently improving actors working today; each of his performances is markedly better than the previous one, and this film is no exception. On the other hand, Reeves is not getting better very fast, and where he started wasn't much to write home about anyway. But, for the most of *The Matrix*, he's fine — until the last half an

hour, where his character acquires a messianic aspect, and here his acting choices are somewhat suspect. These acting choices, by and large, mostly involve Reeves channeling that excellent dude, Ted. There's a welcome dose of self-deprecation in this, for sure, and it gets funnier when you notice that Neo does use phone booths as portals — but I wouldn't say this is the best way to play the *Savior of the World*.

He still looks right for the part, though; whether executing a slow-motion flip while dodging bullets and firing from two guns at once, or jumping from a helicopter to catch another person in mid-air, Reeves keeps the unflappable air of an Everyman who doesn't quite understand precisely what's going around him and, exactly because of this, is capable of doing the wildest thing.

Overall, *The Matrix* is a story about the victory of human mind over the soulless machine; and whether it applies to Neo's fight with *The Matrix*, or the Wachowski brothers getting their vision without being subjugated to Hollywood dumbing-down modus operandi, that doesn't really matter. What matters, is that *The Matrix* is a whole lot of fun.

FOOD REVIEW

The Essential Vegetarian

Going cold-turkey ... err, cold-veggie

By Katie Jeffreys
STAFF REPORTER

Do you notice something unusual about the picture included with this week's article? Yes, the vegetarian options are listed first! It was taken on my trip to London (sorry to keep talking about that) and I found it interesting. It is rare that a restaurant, especially something like this small sandwich shop, would have such a dedication to vegetarians.

I may have described previously my disapproval of the vegetarian menu at Border Cafe in Harvard Square. The laminated card of "vegetarian" options lists along with their bean and cheese dishes their many fish items. This makes the choices seem quite extensive, but in actuality I end up insulted, with few choices. I am always amazed and pleased when a restaurant offers so many meatless entrees that I have a tough time choosing, as was the case in the pictured sandwich shop.

At most restaurants, while the rest of the party is still contemplating the menu, I have already decided on my meal, simply due to the fewer options available to me. I have quickly scanned the menu for meatless options, sometimes kindly denoted by a "V" or a little vegetable icon. This is usually narrowed down to a veggie burger, a pasta dish or two, fatty fried foods, and generally one other dish unique to the restaurant. This is generally the dish I choose. Then I wait for the rest of the group to make their selections from the myriad meat choices. This is the one scenario that sometimes makes being vegetarian restrictive. I can cook dishes for myself that are varied and appealing. But it seems even the best chefs in the world hear "vegetarian" and immediately drop some pasta in boiling water and throw a veggie burger on the grill.

Well, enough whining from me! I realized the other day that while I have discussed how good vegetarianism is for weeks now, I never actually described how to go about becoming a vegetarian. I had no trouble dropping meat from my diet several years ago, but many people do. I received an e-mail whose sender complained of feeling "light-headed and

weaker" after a few days without meat. I am not a doctor, nor do I plan to be, so I am not at liberty to say what would cause such a reaction. It could have many causes, in my mind one of the least likely being, as the questioning reader suggests, "meat withdrawal."

Becoming vegetarian can be a difficult

transition for some people. New vegetarians don't know where to begin — they are overwhelmed by the abundant vegetables, grains, and legumes with strange names which they are exposed to. In cooking, there are so many options once you stop limiting yourself to the confines of beef, chicken and fish. However, it is important to know how to prepare alternate nutritional dishes so you don't fall into a habit of eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on white bread for every meal. Look into vegetarian options before converting, so you know where to go to find suitable replacements for meat. This is another thing to be aware of — you must replace meat, not simply remove it from your diet. Beans, squash, eggplant, spinach and mushrooms are some of the best sources of equivalent nutrients, flavors, and textures to explore. Be sure to vary your diet as well. All the nutrients in meat can be found in vegetables, just not in one vegetable. That is why it is important to eat a variety of green vegetables, legumes and grains.

If you suddenly switch to vegetarianism, you may crave meat. Smelling a burger on a grill may make your mouth water, but it is important to avoid the temptation if you are serious about being a vegetarian. Personally I find the odor makes my stomach turn. I have also learned that no matter how appealing meat seems, were I to ever reintegrate it into my diet, it would have to be very gradually. When I accidentally consume meat products (appetizers at formal functions or sauces on spicy foods sometimes cause problems) my digestive system lets me know it is unhappy with what I have consumed.

So how can you become a vegetarian without craving meat or suffering nutritionally? I would recommend slowly cutting meat out of your diet, or doing it all at once, depending on your conviction. If you plan to go "cold-turkey" (or should I say cold-veggie) and you allow yourself "just one more steak" at every meal, you will never become a vegetarian. So whichever your method, develop a plan. If eliminating meat all at once proves to be too difficult,

try cutting meat out from one meal a day. Instead of a roast beef sandwich for lunch, try something with eggplant or grilled vegetables. When eating out or wandering the aisles of the grocery store, check out the vegetarian options. If you encounter a vegetarian dish you don't like, don't assume you can't be vegetarian because all meatless food is bad. Chances are you don't like all meats either, so experiment with different ethnic foods, beans, grains, and soups until you have reestablished your tastes.

If you are still concerned about your nutrition, there are many resources available on the web or in bookstores. Additionally, MIT Medical provides a Nutritionist who is available to consult with students.

This week's recipe is for Vegetable Biryani, an Indian dish I tried in London. There are many spices in this recipe, but don't let that intimidate you! You don't need to spend thirty dollars on spices you will use twice! Just go to Harvest Co-Operative Supermarket in Central Square, where you can buy fresh bulk spices in any amount, from a pinch to a pound. While you are there, be sure to check out their wide selection of vegetarian foods, as well as organic products of every sort. As always, e-mail me comments, questions, or suggestions at veggie@the-tech.mit.edu!

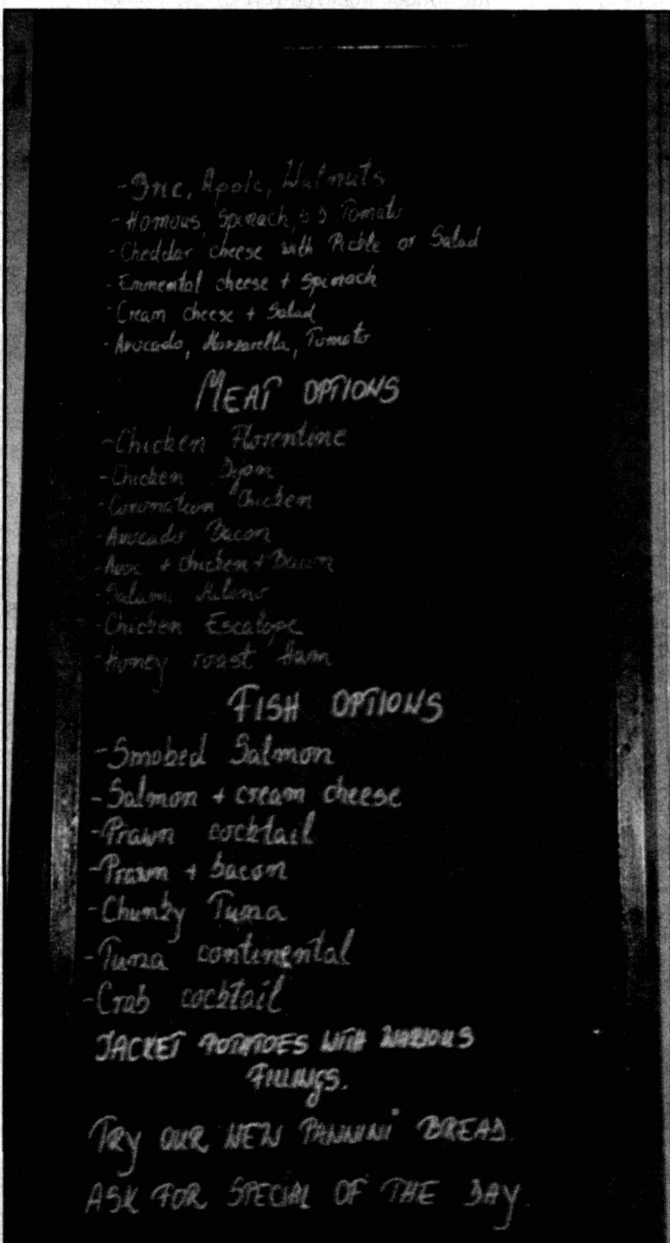
Vegetable Biryani

- 1 onion, peeled and chopped
- 2 cups chopped mixed vegetables (e.g., potatoes, green beans, cauliflower, carrot)
- 4 tablespoons light vegetable oil
- 1 1-inch cinnamon stick
- 6 cloves
- 2 large black cardamom seeds
- 1 teaspoon black cumin powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon coriander
- 1 teaspoon garam masala
- 1 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon chili powder/cayenne
- 2 cups raw Basmati rice (rinsed 4 times, soaked 20 minutes) or 4 cups cooked, non-sticky, long-grain rice

Fry onion in oil until light brown. Add spices (cinnamon through salt in the ingredient list.) and fry for 1 minute. Add vegetables and fry for 4-5 minutes.

Add rice (and 4 cups water if uncooked.) Add remaining spices (coriander through chili powder in the ingredient list.) Bring to a boil and reduce temperature slightly until the bubbles emerge through the rice. Cover and reduce heat to low.

Cook for 12-15 minutes without stirring. Garnish with fresh coriander. Serve with raita or salad.



KATIE JEFFREYS—THE TECH

Believe it or not, some restaurants do respect vegetarians by offering a variety of non-meat options.

MOVIE REVIEW

Go

Don't stop!

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Directed by Doug Liman
Written by John August
With Sarah Polley, Katie Holmes, Desmond Askew, Timothy Olyphant, Scott Wolf, Jay Mohr, Tye Diggs, William Fichtner

Go is *Pulp Fiction* Lite, no fat and no calories. It's lively, wild, frantic, bright, and thoroughly engaging. It's also totally inconsequential and largely unmemorable.

Ronna (Sarah Polley) is about to be evicted tomorrow, so she borrows \$200 from her friend, recreational drug dealer Simon (Desmond Askew) who is going to have a fun night in Las Vegas, so she can get some pills from Simon's supplier Todd (Timothy Olyphant) with the reluctant help of her co-worker at the grocery store Claire (Katie Holmes) to sell them to Adam and Zach, the two way too wholesome-looking guys (Scott Wolf and Jay Mohr) who come to her checkout stand asking for Simon.

The above is the summary of the first three minutes of *Go*. Then things really start happening.

Go is split into three stories, each diverging from the same opening moment and then following three different sets of characters through the same night. Normally, the stories would be intercut; here, they are separated into chapters, which are presented in succession.



Ronna (Sarah Polley, right), with her partner-in-crime and fellow checkout clerk Claire (Katie Holmes, left), plans to steal some rent money before she is evicted.

The first story follows Ronna, who embarks on what is essentially a drug deal with a fatalistic derring-do and encounters some genuinely creepy characters. Out of the three chapters, her story is the best, filled with genuine tension and excitement. It starts rapidly, and then doesn't flag for more than a few seconds, ever tightening the screws. Polley, who was spellbinding two years ago in *The Sweet Hereafter* is the true standout of the cast, giving an intense performance brightened with the sudden flashes of humor. Other actors in this sequence are adequate, but Polley dominates it.

The plot twists and turns, making tighter and tighter circles, and one gets the feeling that soon, very soon, right now, there will be an shattering climax to bring a major

epiphany. Instead, we jump back twelve hours and into the second chapter.

Simon and his friends go to Las Vegas to have fun, and oh boy, do they succeed. During the night, they will dash through casinos and strip clubs, picking up girls, flashy cars, and weapons, unwittingly accumulating an impressive felony records, and ultimately getting shot at.

This chapter works too, but not quite so well — mostly, because all the characters in it, every single one, are total and worthless jerks, and their misadventures cause much less empathy. In addition, there's no feeling of inexorable force behind all this; Simon and Co. get into all the trouble because they are irresponsible and stupid, and, therefore, there's no expectation of

even better because of its contrast with the normally cheerful accompaniment.

The credit shouldn't go to Ehnes alone, though: several sequences when the solo violin interacted with the first violin, viola, or cello, made the strengths of individual musicians in the BSO abundantly clear. Most of these moments were interpreted with sublime clarity, and the shape of melodic lines during most of "The Seasons", especially "Winter", is excellent.

Still, I wish it were better conducted. Some head-scratching decisions include highlighting the viola in the slow movement of "Spring". It sounds really awkward, when all the orchestra is playing *sotto voce*, the solo violin is pouring forth a gentle melody — and a viola, playing louder than the rest of the orchestra, is playing the ridiculously repetitive figure of two notes, throughout the whole movement. If this melodic line is downplayed as the accompaniment it's clearly intended to be, it can work; when moved forcefully into the foreground, it's ludicrously clashing.

In addition, the orchestral tutti are really nothing to write home about: they are neither less nor more than simply competent, with the dynamical range being disappointingly small. I believe the conductor should have taken care

a major payoff at the end. Plus, by this time, I guessed that there won't be any major payoff at the end of each chapter, and started for hoping for one at the end of the movie.

Third chapter follows those two entirely too wholesome young men who want to buy twenty shots of ecstasy from Ronna. Their story is somewhat less exciting than the first two, but it's balanced by the fact that it's funny, darkly and morbidly so, but nevertheless funny. It also has some of the most gentle moments of *Go*, which does delve somewhat underneath the surface of all these slightly-criminal lads and lasses.

So, for an hour and a half, *Go* goes, goes, and goes, and then it stops. Just like that. There are a couple of scenes somewhat tying the loose ends of the stories, but there's no longer any feel of an underlying structure. This mostly has to do with pacing: when a story's climax is relatively less exciting than anything that preceded it, this climax isn't really perceived as such; it feels somewhat like an afterthought.

The ending, with all the main characters again assembled together shows just one thing: how little they have changed overnight, and how little they have learned. For all the problems I have with *Pulp Fiction* (mostly with that third chapter about a dead body in the car), the ending sequence was riveting, amply fulfilling the implicit promise of an epiphany. Here, the end is abrupt and inconsequential.

In addition, it's a pity that *Go* concentrates on three stories instead of just one. It takes some time to grow accustomed to a new set of characters and start liking them. Because of this, each jump in the storyline feels like a disappointment.

While you're watching it, *Go* is an impressive attention-grabber: it's exciting and riveting, clever and unexpected. The problem with it is, I saw it less than 24 hours ago, and I already have trouble remembering what this whole thing was about. The characters didn't gain anything from their experiences, and neither did the viewers.

CONCERT REVIEW

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Vivaldi and Stravinsky

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Vivaldi, *The Seasons*
Stravinsky, *Suite from Pulchinella*
Conducted by Federico Cortese
Violin solo by James Ehnes
Symphony Hall, April 1st, 1999

There are both advantages and disadvantages when listening to classical music performed live. The minuses are that you're stuck in a less-than-comfortable chair for the whole duration of the concert; you can't as much as cough without distracting several hundred people and you risk being distracted by someone else; you have very little choice at deciding on the concert's program; and, of course, don't even think of bringing that cup of Earl Grey. The pluses are much less concrete but more important: there's nothing like the feeling of being a part of a concert, almost an equal participant in creating the musical experience; and if the musicians feel this connection to the audience and parlay it into a more inspired performance, the results can be breathtaking.

The performance was supposed to be conducted by Seiji Ozawa, however due to rescheduling, it was conducted by BSO assistant conductor Federico Cortese. I'm sorry for this change: when conducted by Ozawa, BSO is capable of reaching this higher lever of inspiration. As performed on April 1, the most the orchestra achieved was solid reliability.

This is not to say the evening was without any exquisite pleasures. The major one, present in Vivaldi's concertos, was the violin solo, performed by a guest soloist James Ehnes. Usually, when one thinks of something as overplayed as "The Seasons", one thinks of it as an orchestra piece, with the major ele-

ment being the orchestral texture. This feeling is especially strong when listening to a recording, when it's frequently hard to tell which violin is handling the melodic line. As performed by BSO, "The Seasons" turned into what they were probably originally intended to be, given the fact that Vivaldi himself was a violinist — concertos for solo violin with an orchestra.

Ehnes' solos, every single one of them, were a joy to listen to. "The Seasons" are fast paced in their harmonic rhythms, and the solo violin has some sudden switches from plaintive and gentle melodies, which are present even in the fast movements of concertos in major keys, to rapid ostinato. This succeeded in shining a new light on very familiar works; for example, "Spring" is usually thought of as a bright, rhythmically repetitive piece. In this performance, the soloist managed to unearth some deep longing in the music, which works



Boston Symphony Orchestra in concert.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Lauryn Hill

The diva of the next millennium

By Jasmine Richards and Huanne Thomas
STAFF REPORTERS

Lauryn Hill graced Boston with her presence last Wednesday and Thursday in the lavish Wang Center. Her performance cannot be summed up with the trite phrases that often describe beautiful black female artists like "soulful diva" or "superb songstress." Neither can this 23 year-old triple platinum artist be compared to any of the R&B legends before her. The variety, energy, and sincerity that she brings to the stage is like no other performer.

Her performance touched on many facets of her own life. The audience was jolted to life from complete and silent darkness by an uplifting rendition of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" (Marley is her father-in-law to be). A stained glass pattern reminiscent of a Sunday church service slowly appeared, and Lauryn delivered a spirit filled gospel, "His Eye is on the Sparrow," which some may have recognized from the soundtrack of *Sister Act II*.

The lights came up and Lauryn rushed the stage with her head full of dreads, her stellar bright smile, and her awesome energy which created a blur of excitement when mixed with her rainbow-colored folk skirt. She began by telling the hip-hop world to "C'mon baby light my fire," a line from *Superstar*, found on her latest album, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. How appropriate that she began her performance with an appeal to other superstars: "Tell me your philosophy, on exactly what an artist should be / Should it be someone with prosperity and no concept of reality? / Now

who you know without any flaws / that lives above the spiritual laws? / Does anything they feel just because / there is always someone there who applauds?"

Lauryn has earned the right as a performer and as a person to make such a challenge to her peers. She began her musical career with The Fugees, and soap opera fans may also recall that this multi-talented artist once had a recurring role on *As the World Turns*. In 1996, *The Score* sold over 17 million copies, making The Fugees the best selling rap group of all time. For years to follow her fans would patiently await the debut of her first solo album, but none could have anticipated such an unrivaled success. *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* won five of the ten Grammys it was nominated for this year: Album of the Year, Best New Artist, Best R&B Song, Best R&B Album, Best R&B Vocal Performance. In addition to these, Lauryn received Album of the Year from *USA Today*, *Time Magazine*, the *New York Times*, and *The Soul Train Music Awards*.

Her fans span all ethnicities and socio-economic groups, evident from the sea of assorted faces attending the concert. And she had a little bit of everything for everyone. Many of the otherwise familiar songs she performed from her recent album were spiced up by spunky rap bridges and reggae interludes. Midway through her performance, Lauryn treated her audience to a battle of Old Skool versus New Skool. The crowd cheered wildly as a band joined Lauryn to per-

form "I Want You Back," by Jackson 5. Although there were some who didn't seem to appreciate her, their lack of enthusiasm was more than made up for by the vast majority of people who were on their feet all night.

Lauryn Hill is real. Among her many accolades, Lauryn has also been awarded the *NAACP President's Award* for the Refugee Camp Project, a non-profit organization for under-privileged youth which provides them with mentors, community enrichment, and safe recreation. When her show was over and her fans all agreed that they wanted more, Lauryn returned to the stage to perform two

more numbers, one of which, "Killing Me Softly," is a modern remake of a familiar '70s hit by Roberta Flack. And then, when the fans started fighting security to get closer to her, she ordered the guards to let her fans rush the stage, where she greeted many of them with a handshake and a warm smile.

To many, Lauryn epitomizes what a celebrity of the next millennium should be. She is culturally aware and active, and above all else her success has shown us that an artist can discuss ideas and feelings which are real and thought provoking, while still winning global attention.



Grammy award-winner Lauryn Hill performs at the Wang Center for the Performing Arts.

THEATER REVIEW

Tiresias

A collaborative creation

By Roy Rodenstein
STAFF REPORTER

Presented by Dramashop
Directed by Brenda Cotto-Escalera
With Sean Austin '99, Carolyn Chen '02, Frederick Choi '02, Pinar Kip '02, Debora Lui '02, Mariaelena Mayorga, Rafael Medina, Matthew Norwood G, Julie Park '99, Andrea Zengion '99

Based on Sophocles's *Antigone* and various other sources, such as T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, Dramashop's *Tiresias* was a creative, entertaining departure from the usual theatrical format. Though directed by Brenda Cotto-Escalera, this workshop production was highly

dependent on actors' input and improvisational creation of individual scenes, as well as the overall structure. The results were very fresh and a success in almost all areas. After the show, the audience was encouraged to stay to ask questions and offer feedback, which are essential for exploratory, collaborative drama.

Tiresias is best known as a blind seer whose advice is ignored. Existing material is extensively referenced in the play, narrated by *Tiresias* as the old seer. Initially, *Tiresias* is a young boy under the tutelage of an expert fighter. While wandering in the forest one day, *Tiresias* comes upon two mating snakes and attacks them. For disturbing the circle of life, goddess Hera punishes him by transforming him into a girl. This sequence is vividly performed using large cloth sheets and having *Tiresias* flail inside them; this visual effect is resembling melting or morphing. When the sheets are pulled away, a young girl appears where the young boy was before.

A young boy, he was very happy with his tutor; but as a young female *Tiresias* quickly

grows even closer to him, and soon bears his children. Once again, very creative deformations of stage space-time are used, such as employing bundles of cloth to represent babies and, in a flash, letting the babies transform into full-grown daughters. *Tiresias* undergoes further adventures, such as turning back into a man, suffering alienation from her husband and from her daughters, as well as another confrontation with Hera, before returning to her daughters and attempting to gain their understanding.

The play is full of interesting experimental touches. Small dances accompany some of the action, although, as one audience member mentioned, perhaps dance should have been either more emphasized or downplayed, as it seemed slightly out of place. However, as director Cotto-Escalera explained, it was certainly a different communicative channel, and as such it worked well to convey the mood at certain points in the action. Another excellent effect was when the aged *Tiresias* (Andrea Zengion), the omnipresent narrator, directly engaged in the action being narrated as a flashback device and expression of longing for the past.

Acting is another area where *Tiresias* was an unusual production. Each role was usually played by a different actor each time it recurred. This happened not only with age and gender changes, but even between scenes close to each other in the play. Although it took a little while to get used to, it was interesting to see actors' differing takes on each character. At the question-and-answer session it was explained that this switching of actors for the same role was largely due to cast members' having individually written scenes and thus holding ownership of the roles they created for each particular scene. In addition, the fragility of the notion of identity was another reason for this switching.

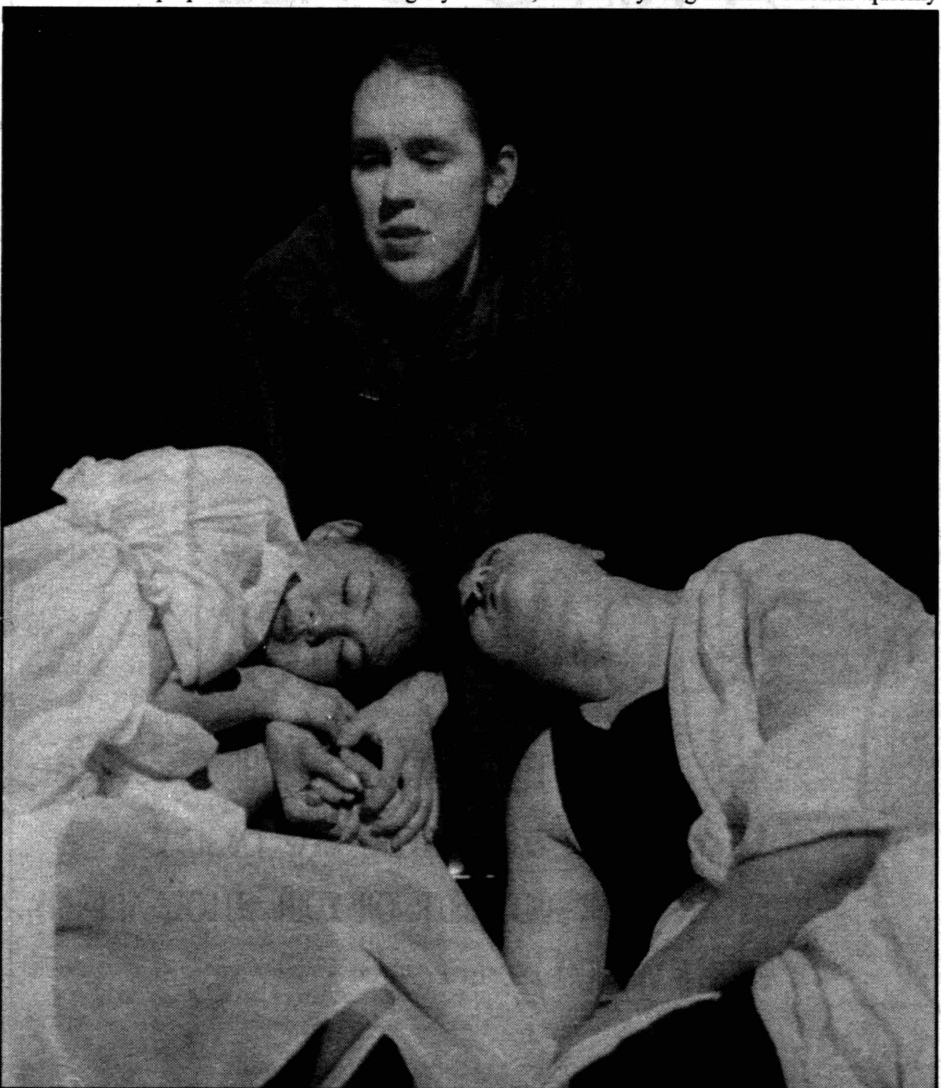
The program handed out was unfortunately light on information, lacking a list of references to *Tiresias* on which the performance was based and a list of characters played by each cast member. Fred Choi played *Tiresias* as a young boy in several scenes, including the enthusiastic scene of the first gender transformation. Zengion, as mentioned, played the narrator in the form of old *Tiresias*. Though

in the framing portions her locution was quite plain, for the entire middle portion she was able to richly inhabit her character to strong dramatic effect.

The actions' tone was usually dramatic, but there were several scenes of great humor. Among the best were those of Hera's argument with Zeus, when *Tiresias* is requested to resolve the question. Hera is spoiled and disdainful of both poor *Tiresias* and Zeus himself. The audience laughed heartily at several other points, though some, such as scenes with sexual dialogue, may not have been intended to be humorous. Besides drama and humor, another affecting scene was that between *Tiresias* as a young woman and her playful daughters, where she convinces them to hear her tell a story and soothingly puts them to sleep.

The experimental format brought many rewards, but it also made the overall structure of the story problematic. Some references, such as the old seer being reviled by those who hear his candid foretellings, were taken directly from the source material (*Antigone* and *Oedipus Rex*, for example), but they were not referenced explicitly in any way, leading to slight confusion among audience members. Another shortcoming is simply that the performance did not shed that much new light on the issues of identity and sexuality. These are very complex unresolved topics, of course, which even major productions (such as the gender-switching movie *Orlando*) do not attempt to resolve, so this cannot seriously be held as the play's fault. In any case, *Tiresias* delivered on its promise of fresh and interesting perspectives on identity and sexuality as well as being affectingly dramatic and humorous.

As a collaborative production, the cast and director of *Tiresias* took the audience feedback as suggestions for future exploration, and they may consider further refinement of this performance. According to the September issue of *The Sciences* (the magazine of the New York Academy of Sciences), hermaphrodites comprise 1 in 100 to 2000 births. Therefore, myths such as that of *Tiresias* do not seem so far-fetched, and the issues this production portrayed merit serious consideration.



Tiresias (Andrea Zengion) comforts her daughters Manto (Deborah Lui) and Historis (Pinar Kip).

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MOVIE REVIEW

The Dreamlife of Angels

A quirky portrait of selflessness

By Roy Rodenstein

STAFF REPORTER

In French, with English subtitles

Directed by Erick Zonca

Written by Erick Zonca and Roger Bohbot

With Elodie Bouchez, Natacha Regnier,

Gregoire Colin, Jo Prestia, Patrick Mercado

Erick Zonca's *The Dreamlife of Angels* tries to tread lightly. With words like "dreamlife" and "angels" in the title, that's not a bad idea. Directing a full-length feature for the first time, Zonca's film tells the story of two young women teetering between happiness and the travails of mere existence. Elodie Bouchez and Natacha Regnier shared the Best Actress award at Cannes last year for their roles as French twenty-year-olds who forge a friendship brought about by the random winds of life — but who knows what else those winds can create or destroy.

Bouchez plays Isa, shown at first pasting together simple cards out of magazine cuttings to sell them for a little money. She tells a man at a cafe that proceeds go to help the elderly, and asks him if he has a daughter who might like a card. Isa's hook fails, as the man recounts how his daughter left for the United States a decade earlier — but he does offer her a job. Is the job a ruse, a lure to con or use Isa? Zonca thankfully dispenses with such melodrama, showing instead a real job at a clothing factory, which, after all, may or may not be better than selling homemade cards. At the factory Isa is a disaster, but, before being fired, she meets Marie and charms her into providing lodgings for the night.

Dreamlife tells the story of their ensuing life together, through simpleton boyfriends, not-so-simpleton boyfriends, and the girl in a coma whose house they're staying at. Isa, the movie's most obvious angel, coasts smilingly through the days even while wearing silly suits to get paid for handing out flyers. Marie catches Isa's giddiness on occasion, but she is increasingly troubled. Pursued by Chris (Colin), a rich young snob, she's tormented by indecision, not knowing whether to spit into

his face or play him for financial security. The diary of the girl in the coma provides a tiny sprinkling of spice in this somewhat conventional setup.

What really drive the movie, though, are the performances. From Jo Prestia as Fredo, one of the simpleton boyfriends, to experienced actors Bouchez and Colin, Zonca's utilitarian direction helps the cast coalesce into a consistent portrait of modern malaise. Regnier's Marie glides smoothly from sweet to

neurotic, with Charly, her simpleton boyfriend, touchingly resigned to avoiding her mean streak. "I'm not attracted to you," Marie informs him after sex. Perhaps she's trying to convince herself.

Isa is the most interesting character, her naivete intact even in the face of her own personal dose of Marie's cutting remarks. "What job can you do — selling cards!?", Marie attacks. Visiting the coma girl in the hospital, Isa still has hope. It's not altogether easy to see her as an angel, however. Conning people for money while pretending she's collecting for the elderly, among other things, doesn't quite strike me as angelic. And, though maybe simply out of naivete, Isa mishandles problems with Marie. As for the girl in the hospital, there are a few dark secrets in her diary as well.

The Dreamlife of Angels is an earnest film about youth. The divergent paths of innocence and cynicism, everyday joy and dissatisfaction, are all illustrated gracefully. Though most of the characters have little screen time, they are complex enough to maintain the movie's realism. The relationship between the two women, on the other hand, is given ample room and shown in an enjoyable variety of situations. In all, what could have been a dull movie is lively and rich. Bouchez and Regnier are utterly believable, and even a less than wholly original denouement is handled with conviction. As in that powerhouse of subtlety, Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter*, a key scene is given due weight yet depicted plainly, and the audience shares the character's reaction. Sparingly, Zonca illuminates the boundaries of intimacy.

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

DJs, Dullness, and Dangerman

By Daniel J. Katz

STAFF REPORTER

This is the first edition of a column that will dissect and analyze the singles that are currently getting airplay on MTV and rock radio around the country. These songs range from the cutting edge of alternative music to the pop tunes that incessantly hound you like a stalker.

- Previously, it looked like the peak of electronica in the United States would always be the #1 debut of Prodigy's "The Fat of the Land". However, it looks like Fat Boy Slim has become the genre's newest superstar. Although "Praise You" is not by any means Norman Cook's best work, it has bought him mainstream exposure (due in no small part to the hilariously minimalist video), and the British DJ now has five (count 'em, five) songs that appear in current commercials. If he can get out another successful single before the public gets tired of him, he may open the door to a resurgence of big beat in America.

- Meanwhile, in a lower profile effort, Underworld is back after about three years with a somewhat repetitive but wonderfully rhythmic single called "Push Upstairs". The length and mundaneness make it an unlikely contender for high radio play, but its likely to make a mark on the club music scene.

- If your second single is meant to show contrast and versatility, Eagle-Eye Cherry has failed miserably with "Falling In Love Again," a song that's not particularly better or worse than "Save Tonight" — mainly because it sounds almost exactly the same. If you know a second rhythm to strum, Mr. Cherry, feel free to show us.

- I've always been a big advocate of short songs with catchy guitar riffs; it's easy to enjoy something that gets in, makes its point in a memorable way, and gets out. In that vein, I'm very fond of Lit's "My Own Worst Enemy" and Dangerman's "Let's Make A Deal". The former combines an angry guitar part and melodic vocals, while the latter features Latin rhythms and backup vocals behind a lead singer with an oh so cool edge. These tracks warrant maxing the volume on my radio.

- "Everybody's Free" by Baz Luhrmann — okay, I admit, it's cute at first, but if I want someone's advice on life, I'll listen to talk radio. I really don't need to hear Kurt Vonnegut's words over some badly written music instead of, say, the new Sponge single.

- In the "let's reinvent ourselves for our new single" race, the results are in. The winners are the Cranberries and Promises, which display Irish ire not seen since Zombie. The semi-losers are Blur, who go gospel on "Tender". It's growing on me, but really slowly, and the nature of radio isn't kind to songs that take a while to adjust to.

- And last, but not least, the new Ben Folds Five has finally hit the airwaves in the form of "Army". Ben Folds peaked commercially with "Brick" and in my opinion, peaked musically with "One Angry Dwarf" and "200 Solemn Faces". Well, "Army" seems to jump back and forth between the styles of those two songs. Guess which parts sound out of place? The Bricksque bits. But in general, still a good song.

I hope you enjoyed the first edition of this column. If you have any feedback, e-mail airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu. And until next time, keep expanding your horizons.

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DUPONT GYMNASIUM



ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

The following movies are playing this weekend at local theaters. The Tech suggests using <http://www.boston.com> for a complete listing of times and locations.

- ★★★★ Excellent
- ★★★ Good
- ★★ Fair
- ★ Poor

200 Cigarettes (★★)

An opulent, stylish look at 80's stereotypes, the rather weak tale of a group of twentysomethings coping with life and their own personal demons on New Year's Eve is not a particularly well thought out story, but a rather well implemented one. Definitely worth seeing the ensemble cast (including such names as Christina Ricci, Ben and Casey Affleck, and Martha Plimpton) play a group of neurotic and pathetically humorous individuals searching for a way to enjoy themselves for an evening and not worry about anything the depressing implications of the year to come.

A movie that takes place in the 1981, but whose actual 80's influence draws from the entire decade. Well done, visually if not creatively. And anyone who doesn't want a ride in the plush-laden cab with a disco ball dangling from the rear view mirror needs to have their head examined. — Francisco Delatorre

8MM (★½)

Not even the writing of the gifted Andrew Kevin Walker can save this flop directed by Joel Schumacher. It is the story of a private detective whose inquiries into the authenticity of a snuff film reveal a grossly disturbing culture of pornography and violence. What he finds is not only that this culture provides a thriving environment for the morally vacuous, but that its implications and effects take a frightening toll on even the most virtuous of us.

Frightening, in its own regard, but the emotional impact is lost in the direction. Don't bother. — FD

Affliction (★★★★)

Nick Nolte plays a grown man still grappling with the ghost of his father's abusiveness. A sheriff in a small snowy town, he riles against the rich, against authority and against those who try to help him. For a long time the rage has been kept in check, but it won't hold forever.

Although some characters in the movie are one-dimensional, director Paul Schrader, working from a script by Russell Banks, puts together a very solid film. Nolte and Coburn, as his father, are astounding and harrowing, and keep the movie's loose ends together to make for a powerful experience. — Roy Rodenstein

Alaska (★★★★)

On the surface, a classic OmniMax nature-themed documentary, replete with grandiose nature shots and panoramic views of mountain ranges from the helicopter. Underneath — an involving story, using the turn of the seasons as an underlying plot-line and carefully observed animals as central characters. Unexpectedly, it's also downright hilarious, bursting with more humor than any other movie currently in release. — Vladimir Zelevinsky

Analyze This (★★)

A sorry sit-comish excuse for a comedy, with Billy Crystal engaging in so much tiresome shtick as a burned-out shrink, analyzing an overstressed mafia boss played by Robert De Niro. Not enough humor, not enough story, and more than enough gratuitous violence. However, De Niro, in a rare comedic appearance, almost makes this movie worth watching. —VZ

Cruel Intentions (★★)

A millennial remake of *Dangerous Liaisons*, Ryan Phillippe and Sarah Michelle Gellar play rich young socialites moving from conquest to conquest. Selma Blair and Reese Witherspoon play their naive targets. Twisted happenings, sex, innuendo and humor pepper the sadists' futile attempts at happiness.

While all the actors are decent in their roles, the roles are almost completely one-dimensional. The plot occasionally reaches cruel and comedic heights, but regularly stumbles and becomes exploitative. The rapport between Gellar and Phillippe, and Witherspoon's acting talent, are the most rewarding aspects. — RR

The Deep End of the Ocean (★★½)

When their middle child is lost, Beth and Pat Cappadora (Pfeiffer and Williams) go the distance searching for him, and fail. The tough choices only begin, however, when young Ben turns up nine years later as another man's adopted son. Though the plot tends toward melodrama or mere simple-mindedness, it reaches occasional insights. Buoyed by a game cast steered by firecracker Whoopi Goldberg, it wisely relies on the children to create the most affecting scenes. — RR

The Dreamlife of Angels (★★★★)

In his feature film debut, director Erick



Giorgio Cantarini (left) and Nicoletta Braschi (right) with Roberto Benigni in *Life is Beautiful*.

Zonca's unadorned direction serves him well. A film about the intersection between selflessness and selfishness, and the real boundaries found even in intimate relationships, *Dreamlife* rises above typical 90's apathy. Isa (Elodie Bouchez), a young woman bouncing between odd jobs, befriends Marie (Natacha Regnier) and shares the house she is sitting for a mysterious girl in a coma. Decisions about jobs, boyfriends and truth to oneself are usual fodder, but complex characters and fresh performances all around, particularly from leads Bouchez and Regnier, enliven this fiery slice of life. — RR

EDtv (★★½)

Highly agreeable and totally inoffensive story about a man who agrees to be a subject of an around the clock reality-based TV show. It's pleasant, for a change, to see a movie which is done competently: Ron Howard's direction is smooth, and some acting, especially that of the leads, is very proficient. But the bland story keeps spinning its sitcom wheels, ultimately forgetting that it originally set out to satirize cheap entertainment. —VZ

Elizabeth (★★★★)

A remarkable visual achievement, this story about one of the greatest rulers of England ever is told by withholding the epic scope and concentrating on the essential details. The great cast, headlined by Cate Blanchett in a commanding titular performance and ably supported by Geoffrey Rush as her chief assistant, works extra hard to create vivid characters from the rather overwritten and overplotted screenplay. The finale, with ethereal music by Mozart, is stunning. —VZ

Go (★★½)

Pulp Fiction Lite, no fat and no calories. It's lively, wild, frantic, bright, and thoroughly engaging. It's also totally inconsequential and largely unmemorable. Following a bunch of young Californians trying to get some cash, do and deal some drugs, score money and sex in Las Vegas, and generally experience the rush of life, *Go* charts three separate stories. Each of these stories is exciting, clever, and unexpected. But there's no empathy in them, and the characters don't seem to have gained anything from their experience. —VZ

God Said "Ha!" (★★★★)

A single extended monologue by Julia Sweeney, formerly know as Pat on *Saturday Night Live*, it is a story of one year of her life when everything seems to be going wrong in the worst possible way. And yet, the movie alternatively hilarious and poignant, and, at some high points, it's both. The connection between the audience and the narrator feels intimate and immediate, and the hour and a half passes in what feels like ten minutes. As always, it's life that tells all the best stories. —VZ

Gods and Monsters (★★★★)

A beautiful and chilling tale of James Whale, famed film director. Ian McKellan plays Whale, a mentally failing, physically frail old man who finds a friend in Clay Boone, played by Brendan Fraser. The film documents the last few months of his life, his evolving friendship with Boone, and the process of his self-destruction and how it affects and strains the relationships of the other characters in the film.

Visually impressive, well written, and definitely

worth seeing. Extraordinary. —FD

Life is Beautiful (★★★★)

Most reviewers praise the second half of this Italian tragicomedy — the serious half. While it certainly has its merits, it's the first hour which really makes this film so remarkable. With its gentle whimsy, subtle satire, and unabashed romanticism, this is the stuff of which the best romances are made. There are also classically gorgeous visuals, memorable score, and elaborate visual and verbal gags aplenty. —VZ

Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels (★★½)

If you're looking for depth and emotional intensity, look further. If you want to watch a downright enjoyable movie, this is it. The story of a group of "honest criminals" and how they get mixed up in the London crime, drug, and gambling underground is a complicated one at best, but its fantastic use of music, dialogue, and cinematography makes this comedy a must-see. — FD

The Matrix (★★★★)

A wildly imaginative ride. The plot is nicely complex, the visuals and the special effects are out of this world. As the computer hacker Neo (Keanu Reeves) dashes through a succession of interlocked dreams in the quest to find true reality, the film launches into a full-throttle mode of inventive action sequences. By combining the cyberpunk ethos with the anime style, *The Matrix* breathes new life into the genre of sci-fi action films. —VZ

The Mod Squad (★★)

With a game cast and plenty of that 70's sensibility, down to the camera bouncing in synch with the cheesy sound effects, *The Mod Squad* achieves its objective quite well. The only problem is that plot and characters lifted straight from the small screen don't fill the big screen. Explosions and abandoned warehouses are the name of the game, with maybe a crooked cop thrown in for good measure. With Giovanni Ribisi stealing every scene he's in, which is fortunately practically the whole movie, *The Mod Squad* may be right up your alley. Just don't go in expecting any kind of plot or character development that you wouldn't see in an episode of a 70's TV show. — RR

Rushmore (★★½)

A breath — or, rather, make it blast — of fresh air. This is an offbeat comedy, an offbeat buddy film, an offbeat romance, and an offbeat revenge story. Or none of these things. Mix up some wildly varying comic elements, combine them with some of most deliciously deadpan acting in recent memory, add highly imaginative and inventive usage of widescreen format — and get *Rushmore*, which is just about the least conventional and yet solidly enjoyable movie to come out recently. —VZ

Saving Private Ryan (★★½)

For all the sound and fury unleashed by Steven Spielberg in this WWII action drama, the result signifies more or less nothing. Other than two majestic battle sequences (first half and hour and last half an hour), which have taut pacing, amazing visuals, and taut direction, the rest is lackluster. The story doesn't build toward much, the few character arcs are either barely existent or utterly obvious, and the acting is passable at best. It's certainly highly watchable, but

even this is somewhat of a problem, since it turns the horrors of war into exciting spectacle. —VZ

Shakespeare in Love (★★★★)

What a difference does a good screenplay make! This one, co-written by Tom Stoppard, is funny, witty, unapologetic in its gags, and completely earnest in dramatic romanticism. The resulting film displays uncanny verisimilitude in recreating Elizabethan England in all of its ungainly squalor and demonstrates nothing else than the genesis of true art — from such humble beginnings as want, dirt, hate, envy, and lust, as well as love and hope. —VZ

She's All That (★½)

A sickeningly offensive and sexist retelling of the Pygmalion myth, placing it in the milieu of high school, where one local stud bets another one that they can turn a local nerd into a prom queen. The really sad thing is that there are flashes of creativity, originality, and true human emotions sprinkled around this whole mess; just enough to make the surrounding inanity even more depressing. —VZ

Tango (★★½)

The story of Mario, the director of a tango dance performance, *Tango* has plenty of screen time for dancers, but also makes room for musicians and actors. Mario falls in love with the troupe's sponsor's girlfriend, and the sponsor is not the kind to be messed with. Less concerned with a traditional love story, the film instead concentrates on the tango, danced in a dozen different settings and used to depict key periods in the history of Argentina. Dealing with people of all ages, *Tango* is also about memories and desires. Along with a solid plot, the masterful musicians and vibrant dancing make this movie a thorough delight. — RR

10 Things I Hate About You (★★★★)

A fresh and funny *Clueless*-style update of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Despite adhering to the overused clichés of high school romantic comedy, *10 Things* manages to be consistently funny and romantic, producing a good deal of memorable images, highly quotable if unprintable dialogue, and a lot of honest emotion. Acting of the leads is top notch, most notably that of Julia Stiles as an acerbic-tongued Kate. —VZ

Thrill Ride (★★½)

One third exhilarating, taking the audience on the wild rides through the worlds created solely by the artists' imagination and state-of-the-art technology. One third innocuous, with rather bland "educational" footage of rollercoasters and motion simulators. One third nauseating, with the impressive computer-generating effects being artless and trying to conceal the fact that there's precious little substance beneath the flashy surface. —VZ

Waking Ned Devine (★★½)

Charming comedy about a small town's quest for wealth. Nearly 7 million pounds is at stake in the Irish national lottery, and the sleepy village of Tully More pulls together to outwit the officials after the winner, one of the town's inhabitants, dies at the shock of being rich. Standing in their way are individual greed and fear of legal retribution, among others.

Overall, it is a wholly enjoyable, hilarious, and wonderfully written film. One of the best of 1998. —FD

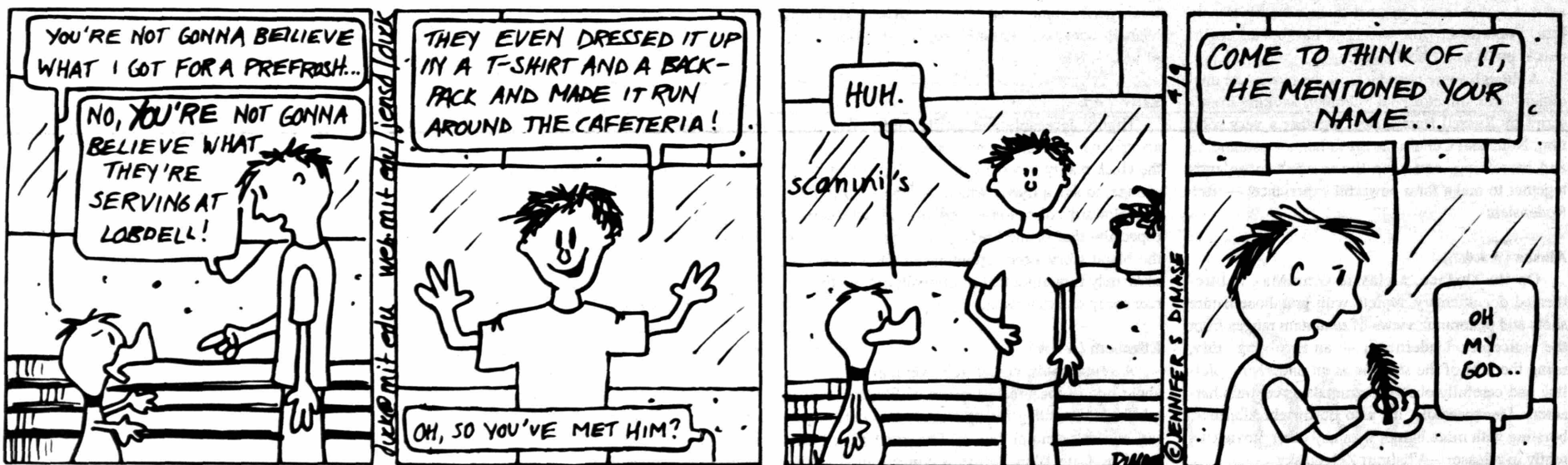
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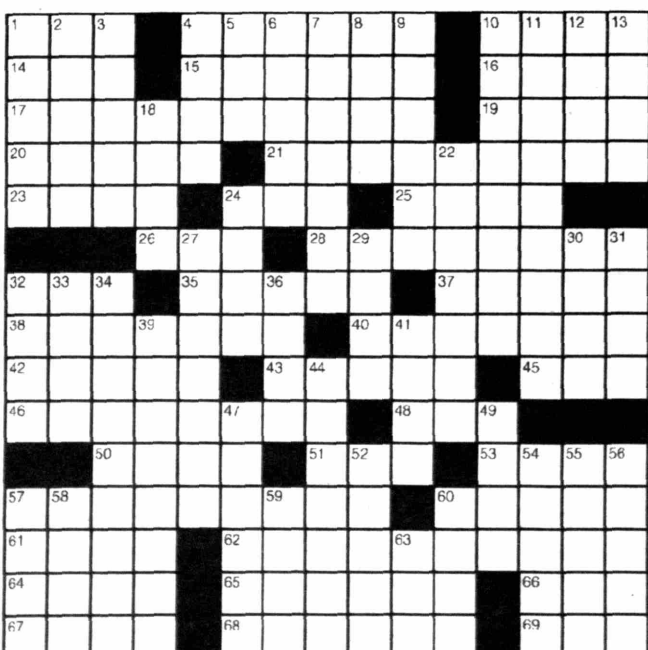


Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Can opener?
- 4 Paler
- 10 Invitation acronym
- 14 "Mogambo" star Gardner
- 15 Brown shade
- 16 And others, in brief
- 17 ___ quartet
- 19 Landscape dip
- 20 Scales of the zodiac
- 21 Had doubts about
- 23 "Lohengrin" lady
- 24 Opposite of masc.
- 25 Fashion magazine
- 26 ___ de mer
- 28 Saintly glows
- 32 Possess
- 35 "The Man Who ___ There"
- 37 Skillful deceit
- 38 Credulity

DOWN

- 40 Educational environment
- 42 Mosaic pieces
- 43 Actor Hawke
- 45 Hit head-on
- 46 In matched pairings
- 48 Final degree
- 50 Valuable stones
- 51 Tiller's tool
- 53 Racetrack figures
- 57 Made right
- 60 Angler's basket
- 61 Neighborhood
- 62 With insolence
- 64 Hammer's head
- 65 Parent, for example
- 66 Right angle
- 67 Millennia
- 68 Intuitions
- 69 Shaft of light

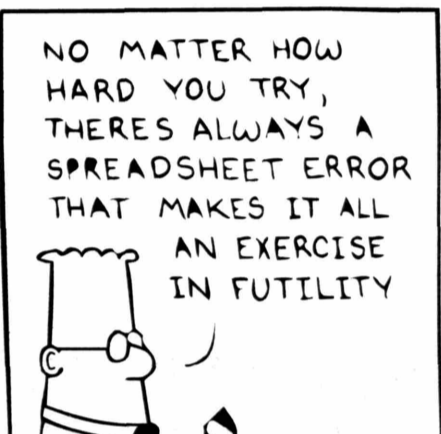
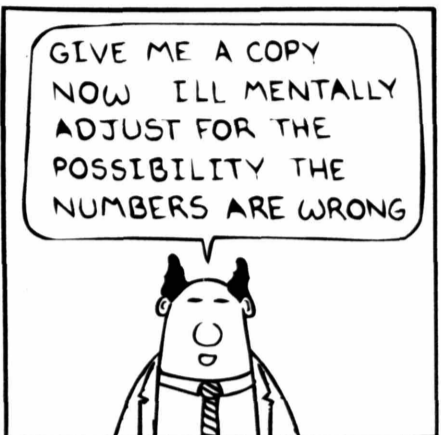
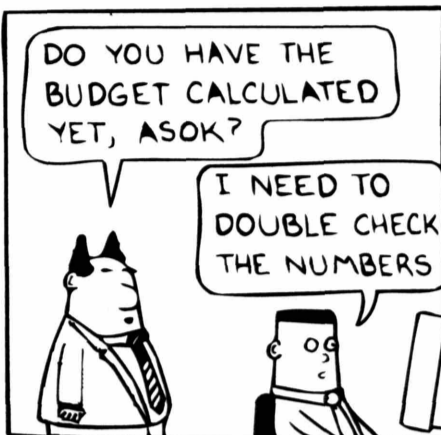
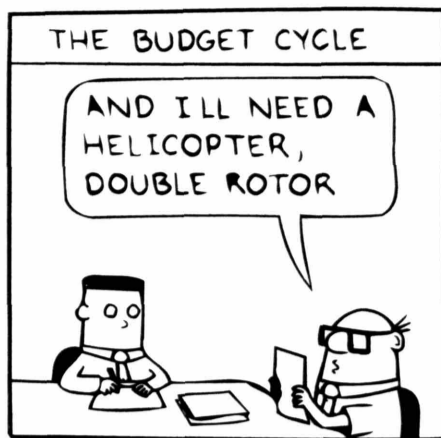
- 5 Titled Brit
- 6 "Steppenwolf" author
- 7 Monstrous
- 8 Ballplayer Slaughter
- 9 Door knocker
- 10 Sioux chief
- 11 More majestic
- 12 Latin farewell
- 13 Stated one's case
- 18 Writer Stoker
- 22 Exquisite
- 24 Pimlico residence
- 27 Amazing
- 29 Zion National Park's state
- 30 ___ mater
- 31 Appear
- 32 Not fooled by
- 33 Hay wagon
- 34 Color similar to avocado
- 36 Spotted
- 39 Long-time professionals
- 41 Raw sugar

- 44 Largest city in Iran
- 47 Academy Awards
- 49 Automobile signal
- 52 Fragrances
- 54 Discourage
- 55 Perry Mason's
- 56 With guile
- 57 Promontory
- 58 Sandwich cookie
- 59 Beech or birch
- 60 Train units
- 63 Golly!

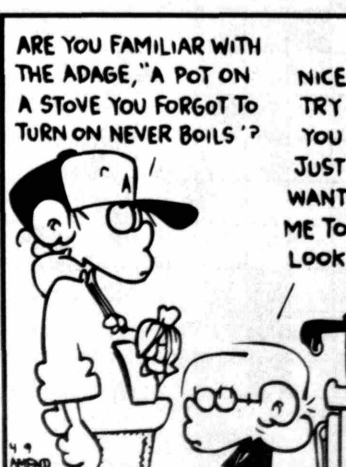
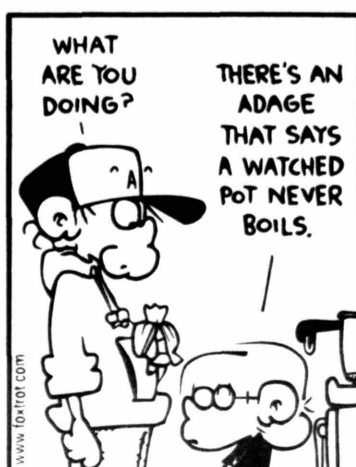
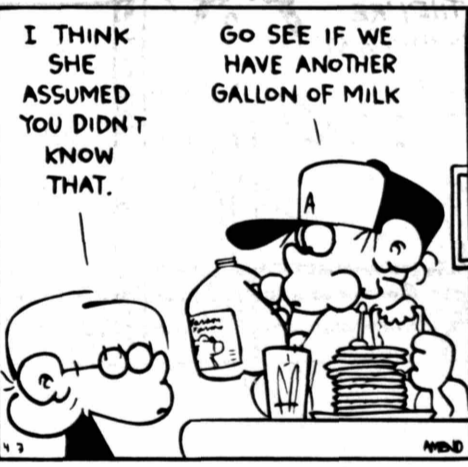
Today's Solution



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



FoxTrot by Bill Amend



TechCalendar

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

Friday's Events

- 11:00 a.m. – **Battle of the Classes - Field Day.** Battle it out with other classes in Kresge Oval. Kresge Oval. Sponsor: Undergraduate Association.
- 12:00 p.m. – **MIT Press Bookstore LOADING DOCK SALE.** 3 days only - save up to 95% OFF on hundreds of books. Bldg. E38 Bookstore Loading Dock. Sponsor: authors@mit.
- 2:00 - 4:00 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: OCSA.
- 2:00 p.m. – **Modeling the Role of Social Interactions in the Emergence of Ethnic Conflict.** Prof. Timur Kuran, University of Southern California. Room E38-714. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.
- 3:00 p.m. – **Using and Discovering Small Molecules for Chemical Genetic Research.** Stuart Schreiber, Harvard University, Chemistry & Chemical Biology Department. Chemical Engineering Department Spring Seminar Series. Reception held before seminars at 2:45 p.m. Room 66-110.
- 3:00 p.m. – **The Future of Print: From Printing Form to Printing Function.** Professor Joseph Jacobson, MIT Media Lab. Mechanical Engineering Spring Seminar Series. Refreshments to follow in Miller Room, 1-114. Room 3-270.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Migrating Planets.** Professor Norman Murray, University of Toronto, CITA. EAPS Department Lecture Series. Refreshments, 3:30 pm, Ida Green Lounge. Room 54-915.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Landfill Stability - Lessons from Rumpke Landslide.** Dr. Ing. Florian Koelsch, Visiting Scholar at MIT. Room 1-350. Sponsor: Engineering & Environmental Mechanics Group.
- 4:15 p.m. – **Norm-graphs and Multicolor Ramsey Numbers.** Dr. Tibor Szabo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Room 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar with MIT-Department of Mathematics.
- 5:30 p.m. – **MITSFS meeting.** MITSFS's meetings, involving almost no real business and often described as the world's largest continually running in-joke, are absolutely unique. They cannot be described, but must be experienced. MITSFS Library (W20-473). Sponsor: Science Fiction Society.
- 7:00 p.m. – **Enemy of the State.** Starring Will Smith and Gene Hackman. 132 minutes, rated R, with DTS Digital Sound. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 7:00 p.m. – **Games and Pizza.** Drop by the APO office for games and pizza! Student Center, Room 415. Sponsor: Alpha Phi Omega.
- 7:00 p.m. – **Mariachi Vocal Music.** Concert by 1997 List Foundation Fellowship Winner Isela Rodriguez '99. Killian Hall.
- 7:30 p.m. – **Animal Crackers.** Starring the Marx Brothers. 97 minutes, no MPAA rating. Cosponsored by the DeFlorez Funds. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 10-250. Sponsor: LSC.
- 8:00 p.m. – **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.** Musical Theatre Guild's production of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical. Admission \$9, \$8 MIT faculty/staff/sr citizens/non-MIT students, \$6 MIT students. Kresge Little Theater.
- 8:00 p.m. – **SONOS Concert.** The "hands across the river" ensemble includes faculty from MIT (Prof Marcus Thompson, viola & Sr Lecturer David Deveau, piano) & BU (Bayla Keyes, violin & Michael Reynolds, cello). Kresge Auditorium.
- 8:00 p.m. – **Next Act: "Guys and Dolls".** Musical Comedy performed and produced by residents of Next House. 500 Memorial Dr. Sponsor: Next Act.
- 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. – **Study Break.** Take a break from your busy schedule to join people of all sexual orientations for some light snacks and casual conversation. Visitors welcome! 24-Hour Coffeehouse, Student Center Room 309. Sponsor: Friendly Alliance of Queers and Straights.
- 10:00 p.m. – **Enemy of the State.** Starring Will Smith and Gene Hackman. 132 minutes, rated R, with DTS Digital Sound. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday's Events

- 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. – **Ballroom Dance Competition, MIT Channel 35.** The MIT Ballroom Dance team is holding their competition on Saturday and Sunday and will be broadcast live on MIT Cable Channel 35. MIT Cable Channel 35. Sponsor: Student Cable Group / MITV, MIT.
- 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. – **Third Annual MIT Ballroom Dance Competition.** The MIT Ballroom Dance Team will be hosting their third annual Open DanceSport Competition. Du Pont Gym. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Team, MIT.
- 12:00 p.m. – **Sailing Regattas.** Sailing Team regattas held at local venues. MIT, BU, Harvard. Cheer on the Sailing Team or just enjoy a spring day by the river. MIT-51, Sailing Pavilion. Sponsor: MIT Nautical Association.
- 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. – **Equestrian Team informational session.** Come meet current Equestrian Team members and learn more about this club sport at MIT. We are looking for riders at all levels including total beginners. Sandwiches will be served. Talbot, 1st floor, E.C. Sponsor: Equestrian Team, MIT.
- 12:45 p.m. – **Atheists' Lunch and Discussion Group.** We're going out for lunch and discussion! Anyone welcome. Get off campus, meet new people, and discuss the One True Answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything. Lobby 7. Sponsor: Atheists, Agnostics, and Humanists, MIT.
- 2:30 p.m. – **The Scientific Challenge of the Quran.** Dr. Jamal Badawi, Saint Mary's University. The Quran: The Challenge of the Millennium. A one day seminar with Dr. Jamal Badawi. Room 1-190.
- 4:00 p.m. – **A Bug's Life.** A Disney animated film, featuring the voices of Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. 96 minutes, rated G, with DTS Digital Sound. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 5:30 p.m. – **The Preservation of the Quran: Fact or Myth?** Dr. Jamal Badawi, Saint Mary's University. The Quran: The Challenge of the Millennium. Room 1-190.
- 7:00 p.m. – **A Bug's Life.** A Disney animated film, featuring the voices of Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. 96 minutes, rated G, with DTS Digital Sound. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.
- 8:00 p.m. – **Voo Doo 24 Hour Live Telethon.** Voo Doo, MIT's Only Intentionally Humorous Publication, presents a live 24 hour humor telethon on MIT Cable! Watch from 8 pm Sat. to 8 pm Sun., on MIT Cable or on the Net at <http://mitv.mit.edu>. MIT Cable. Sponsor: Voo Doo Magazine.

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.

8:00 p.m. – **New Discoveries & the Preservation of the Quran.** Dr. Jamal Badawi, Saint Mary's University. Room 1-190.

8:00 - 11:00 p.m. – **Patrol.** Shoot your friends! Get shot, then go rez and come back for more! Building 36, 1st Floor. Sponsor: Assassins' Guild.

8:00 p.m. – **!Emilio? : Improv Comedy in Praise of Finboard.** Join MIT's Roadkill for an evening of laughter and merriment. Note how ridiculously hilarious our show is, even though Finboard hasn't dished out any of the \$800 they owe us. 1 hour 30 minutes. Room 6-120. Sponsor: Roadkill Buffet.

8:00 p.m. – **Next Act: "Guys and Dolls".** Musical Comedy performed and produced by residents of Next House. 500 Memorial Dr. Sponsor: Next Act.

8:00 p.m. – **Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, sarod; Swapan Chaudhuri, tabla.** MITHAS presents the great sarod maestro, known for his many recordings & past visits to this area. Tickets range from \$10-30. Kresge Auditorium.

8:00 p.m. – **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.** Musical Theatre Guild's production of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical. Admission \$9, \$8 MIT faculty/staff/sr citizens/non-MIT students, \$6 MIT students. Kresge Little Theater.

8:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – **Spring Ball.** MIT Ballroom Dance Team's Spring Ball. Enjoy an evening of dancing and fun. Featuring performances by top amateur dancers. For Prefrosh it is free! Admission \$7.00. Dupont Gym. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Team.

10:00 p.m. – **Swing Dance.** It's the new craze on college campuses. Come for a beginner's lesson (10-10:30pm) and stay for music, dancing, and fun! New House. Sponsor: New House.

10:00 p.m. – **A Bug's Life.** A Disney animated film, featuring the voices of Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. 96 minutes, rated G, with DTS Digital Sound. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. – **MBPP.** Mega Band Party Plus, featuring Actual Proof. Live Funk Music. Free Food. Prefrosh Welcome. Baker Commons. Sponsor: Baker House.

Sunday's Events

12:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. – **Voodoo Telethon, MIT Cable 36.** The MIT Student Cable group is hosting a telethon for Voodoo magazine. Please tune in and call in your donations. MIT Cable Channel 36. Sponsor: Student Cable Group / MITV, MIT.

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. – **Third Annual MIT Ballroom Dance Competition.** The MIT Ballroom Dance Team will be hosting their third annual Open DanceSport Competition. The event will be broadcast on MIT Cable Channel 35. DuPont Gym. Sponsor: Ballroom Dance Team, MIT.

9:30 a.m. – **Sailing Regattas.** Sailing Team regattas held at local venues. MIT, BU, Harvard. Cheer on the Sailing Team or just enjoy a spring day by the river. BU Sailing Dock. Sponsor: MIT Nautical Association.

2:00 p.m. – **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.** Musical Theatre Guild's production of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical. Admission \$9, \$8 MIT faculty/staff/sr citizens/non-MIT students, \$6 students. Kresge Little Theater.

4:00 p.m. – **MIT Affiliated Artist Concert: Tetyana Ryabchikova, piano.** Ms. Ryabchikova performs her own works: Sonata, cycle "Revelation", and Barcarolle. Killian Hall. – **A Bug's Life.** A Disney animated film, featuring the voices of Dave Foley, Kevin Spacey, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus. 96 minutes, rated G, with DTS Digital Sound. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

10:00 p.m. – **Enemy of the State.** Starring Will Smith and Gene Hackman. 132 minutes, rated R, with DTS Digital Sound. Free for prefrish. Admission 2.50. 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Monday's Events

3:30 p.m. – **High-Energy Ion Implantation.** Dr. Kevin Wenzel, Eaton Corporation. Dept. of Nuclear Engineering/American Nuclear Society Seminars. Refreshments in Room NW12-222 at 3:00 pm. Room NW12-222.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. – **Medical School Essay Writing.** The goal of this workshop is to facilitate personal statement writing process and hopefully make it bearable, if not enjoyable. Preregistration is required at: <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/calendar.html>. Admission 0. 4-149. Sponsor: OCSA.

4:15 p.m. – **The Statistics of Natural Images.** Professor David Mumford, Brown University. Sponsor: Applied Mathematics Colloquium with MIT-Department of Mathematics. Refreshments will be served at 3:45 PM in Room 2-349. Room 2-105.

4:15 p.m. – **The Statistics of Natural Images.** Professor David Mumford, Brown University. Room 2-105. Sponsor: Statistics Seminar with MIT-Department of Mathematics.

5:00 p.m. – **Advanced Music Performance Recital: Sandy Choi '99, violin.** Advanced Music Performance Recital: Sandy Choi '99, violin. Killian Hall.

Tuesday's Events

12:00 p.m. – **The Sciences at the European Periphery during the Enlightenment.** Kostas Gavroglu. Dibner Institute Luncheon Colloquia. Room E56-100.

1:00 p.m. – **Navigating the Job & Internship Market: Effective Search Strategies.** Learn search strategies to find your next job or internship opportunity. Preregistration is required. Room 5-234. Sponsor: OCSA.

4:00 p.m. – **The End of Coding History or the Start of a New Era? Turbo Decoding and Related Codes.** Andrew Viterbi, Vice Chairman, Qualcomm. LIDS Colloquia. Reception will follow in 35-338. Room 35-225.

4:00 p.m. – **MEMS and Microfluidics at HP Laboratories.** Phillip Barth, Hewlett Packard. MTL VLSI Seminar Series. Refreshments in lobby of room 34-101 at 3:30 p.m. Room 34-101.

4:30 p.m. – **Development of a Micromotor Driven Compressor.** Mr. Luc Frechette, MIT/GTL. Gas Turbine Seminar Series. Room 31-161.

4:30 p.m. – **Comparative Perspectives on Transnational Migration.** Prof. Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College and Harvard WCFA. Room E38-714. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.

4:30 p.m. – **Will Arab/Muslim Immigrants Be Empowered or Further Marginalized in 21st Century America?** Prof. Bruce B. Lawrence, Duke University. Sponsored by Center for International Studies. Room E51-095.

6:30 p.m. – **Materials for the Next Millennium.** Nicholas Goldsmith, engineer, FTL Hapold, New York. Architecture Lecture Series. Room 10-250.

New Leaders of GSC Look to Increase Involvement

By Jennifer Chung
NEWS EDITOR

The Graduate Student Council elected Luis A. Ortiz G president Wednesday at its April elections meeting.

Ortiz will begin his term May 6. Serving under him will be Vice-president-elect Hettithantrige S. Wijesinghe G and Treasurer-elect Sumit Gautam G. The position of secretary remains unfilled and nominations will be accepted until a follow-up election at the next GSC's next monthly meeting.

"I can't say enough about Luis; he's great," said Brian J. Schneider

G, outgoing GSC president. "Luis is very well-connected and respected... with the MIT administration," and he will further the goals of the GSC, Schneider said.

Ortiz attended MIT as an undergraduate. He has had experience serving as a graduate student member on many Institute committees, including the Presidential Task Force on Student Life and Learning. In 1998, he received the William L. Stewart, Jr. award. The award recognizes "outstanding contributions by an individual student or student organization to extracurricular activities and events."

GSC to develop advocacy agenda

The GSC currently has two tasks ahead of it — internal housekeeping and determining and implementing an advocacy agenda, Ortiz said.

"What's missing in the councilors is the chance for reflection and documenting reflections," he said.

The advocacy agenda would address four specific issues: administrative centralization, benefits (such as reasonably-priced health and dental insurance for graduate students), housing, and activity funding, Ortiz said in his candidate statement.

By administrative centralization, Ortiz refers to better facilitating and centralizing issues including "gender and race sensitive admissions, support structures and/or standards for advising, and career guidance and professional development," the statement reads.

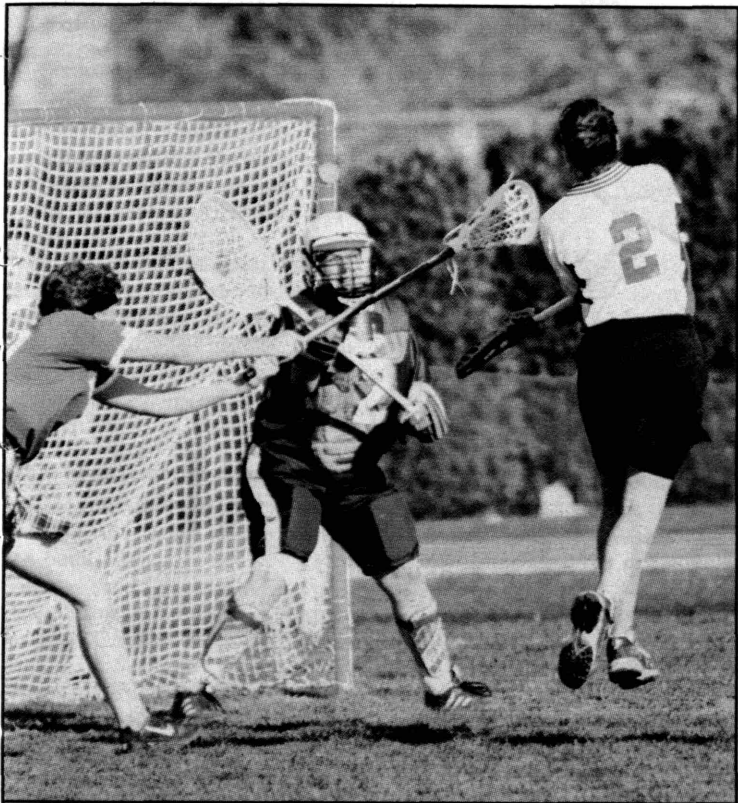
Ortiz compared the internal housekeeping and external advocacy agenda to the separation between domestic and foreign policy in the federal government. Internally, Ortiz would like to see more student involvement in the GSC. Externally, the GSC needs to discuss and implement ideas for change.

"We need better communication and a more trusting relationship between student leaders and the administration," Ortiz said. Students and the administration "need the opportunity to agree on things, as opposed to just talking when we disagree."

VP hopes to increase membership

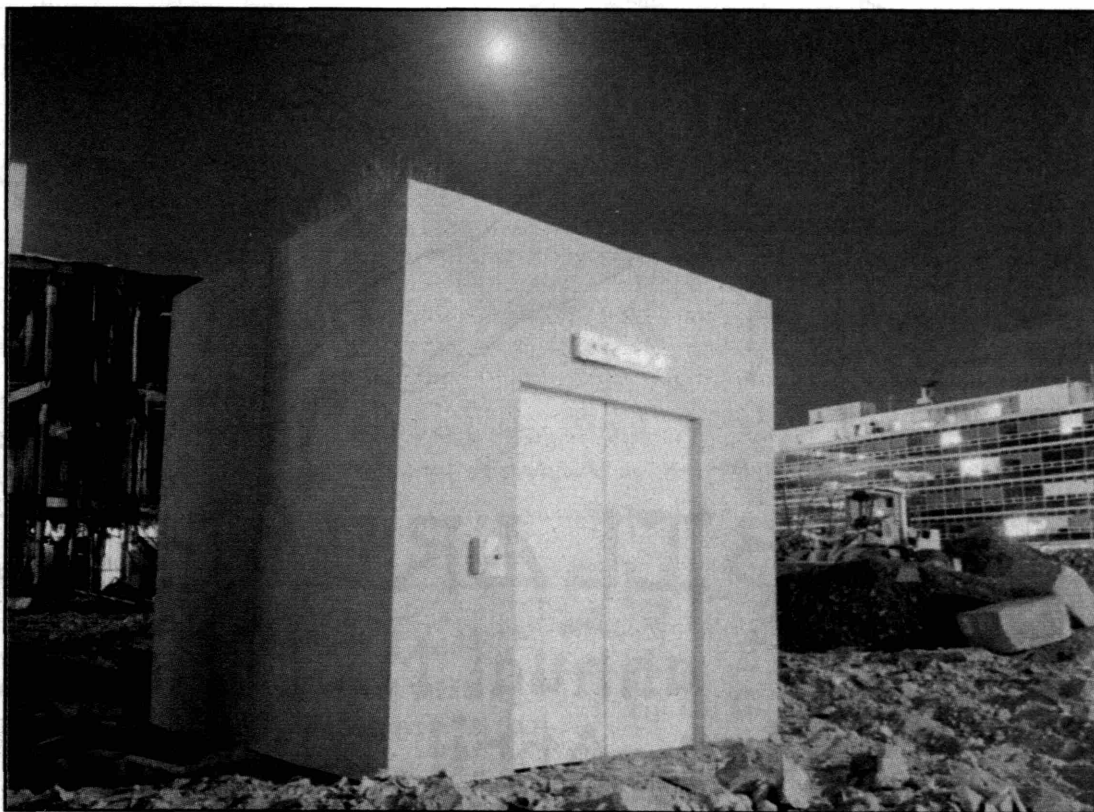
Wijesinghe echoed the need for more graduate student involvement in the GSC, and he described his own goals to increase the ways to get students involved and create

GSC, Page 24



AJAI BHARADWAJ—THE TECH

Tracy Sadowski '99 scores one of MIT's many goals against Babson College. MIT defeated Babson 16-6.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

GOING DOWN... An elevator emerged from the rubble of Building 20 this week.

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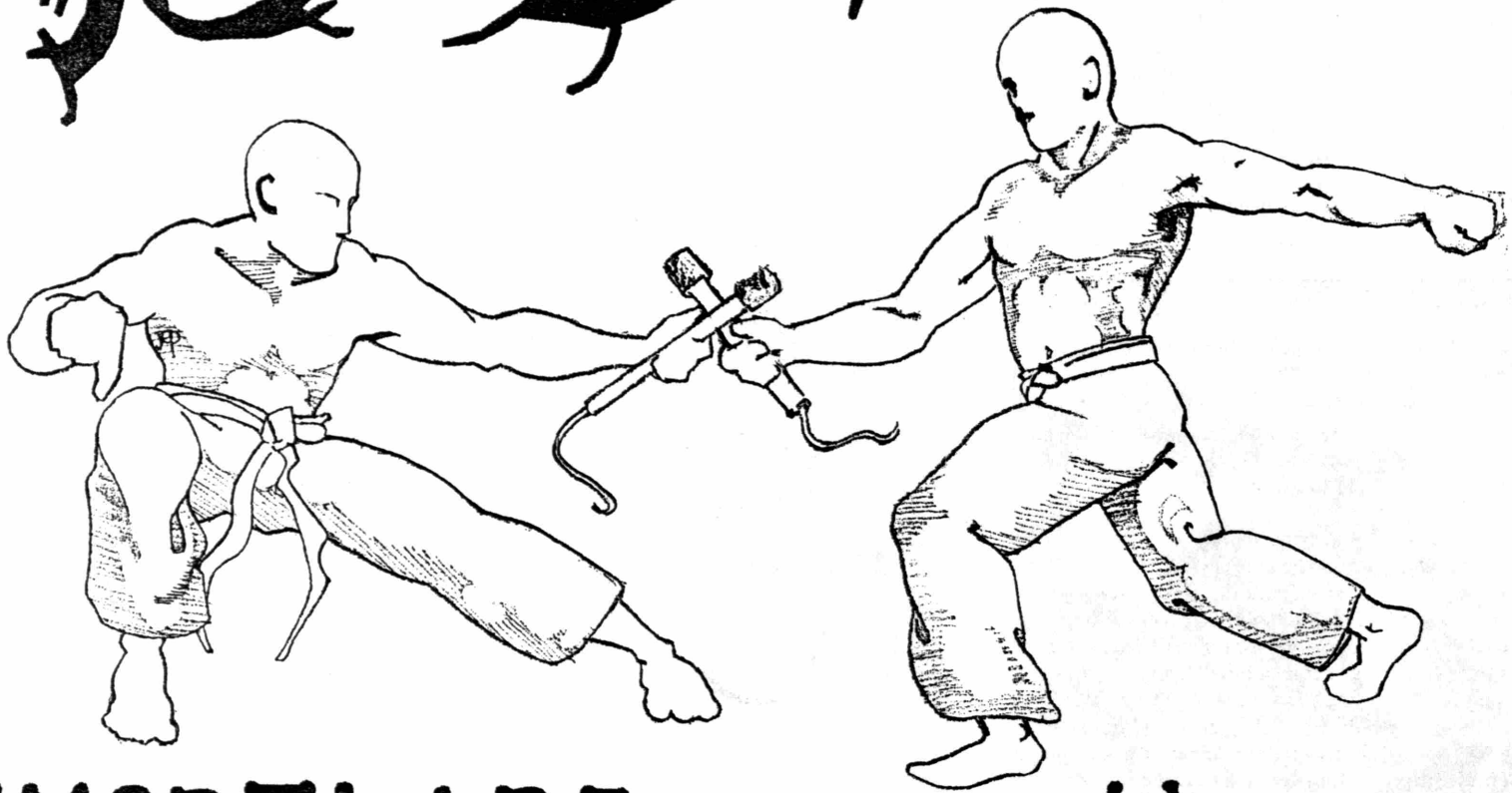
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Middle East Seminar**

Presents

Prof. James A. Bill

The College of William and Mary

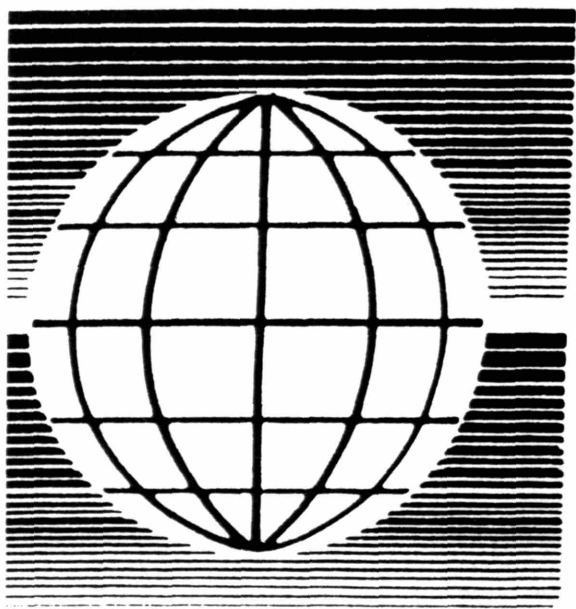
Religion and Politics in the Persian Gul

Open to the public

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

4:30 p.m.

E51-095 (70 Memorial Drive, dining room)



Orientation '99 Will Focus on Class Pride

By Frank Dabek
NEWS EDITOR

Although encouraging prospective freshmen to come to MIT is the focus of this weekend, the Orientation plans for those who choose to matriculate are already well underway. The recently-appointed Orientation coordinators have begun to develop the tentative schedule for Orientation '99.

Orientation will be "a lot more like last year than in year's past," said Elsie Huang '00, one of this year's coordinators. Elizabeth Cogliano-Young, student programs coordinator, said that there are "not a lot of changes" in the schedule this year.

Some changes have been made, however. The athletics tour will be replaced with an alternate event according to Huang. BaFa BaFa will not return to Orientation, said Julie Gesch '00, another orientation coordinator.

In one of the few major changes to the Orientation schedule, the Institute Welcome Dinner moved from Wednesday to Thursday. Gesch said that this change will "give freshmen a chance to relax" after they first arrive on Wednesday.

Focus of Orientation changes

In addition to scheduling changes, the focus of Orientation has been altered in several ways. Huang said that next year's Orientation will feature a "bigger focus on Orientation groups." More time will be spent in the small groups and freshmen will eat dinner off-campus with their groups on Friday night.

According to Dakus S. Gunn '01, Orientation will have an increased focus on class pride. Gunn says that

class colors will play a role in encouraging class unity. The 2003 colors, black and crimson, will be featured on advertising, T-shirts, and banners. Gunn also said that he wants to "bring the level of maturity up" in Orientation by encouraging students to explore Boston and through a possible event with Wellesley or other local colleges. Gunn characterized previous Orientations and R/Os as "child's play" and said that this year Orientation will "treat [freshmen] as adults."

Parent's Orientation will also be expanded next year. Gunn said that a possible cruise on the *Spirit of Boston* is being investigated.

Committee to aid organizers

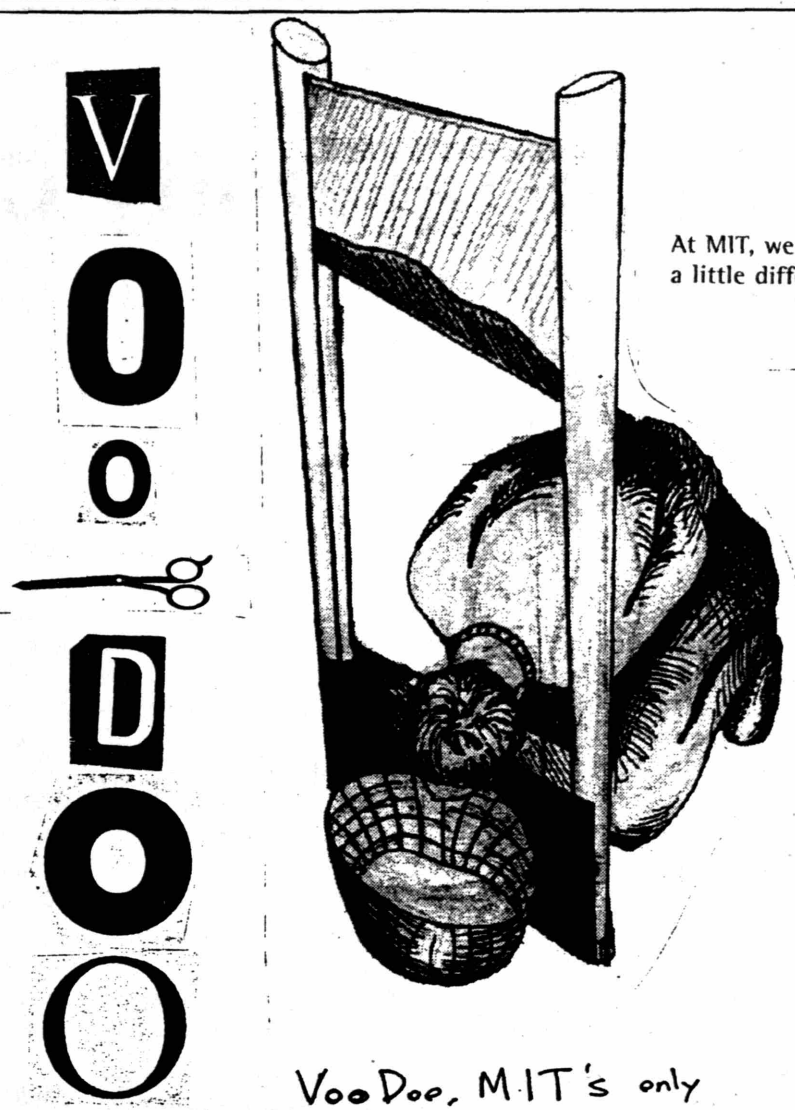
The four coordinators will soon appoint a committee of 20 to 25 students who will aid them in the organization of Orientation. Applications for this committee are due on Apr. 16.

The actual planning of Orientation is divided between these students and the administrative officials, notably Cogliano-Young and Kip V. Hodges, dean for undergraduate curriculum, Huang said.

She said that much of the schedule was designed by administrators but that the ultimate responsibility for organizing Orientation lies with the students. Unfilled time slots in the schedule gave the organizers additional freedom, she said.

Students "do have a lot of say" in the process especially "during the box of time that we own," Gesch said.

All of this year's Orientation Coordinators are affiliated with the IFC. However, all said that Orientation and residence selection are completely unrelated.



At MIT, we do things a little differently

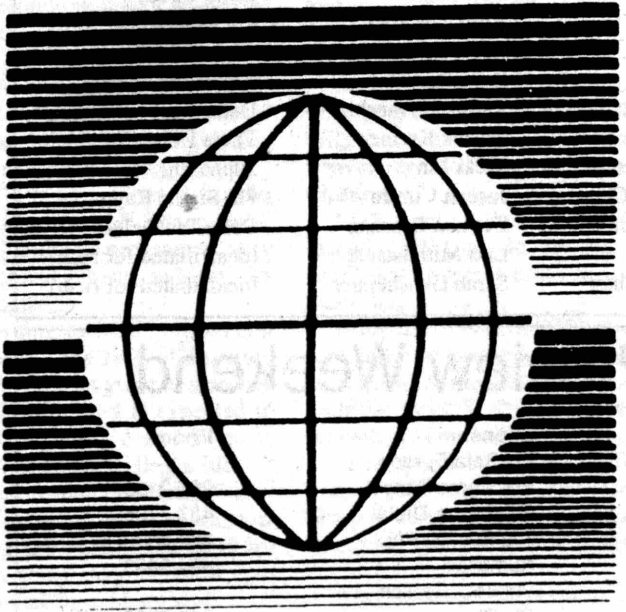
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The Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar

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Prof. Bruce B. Lawrence
Duke University

Will Arab/Muslim Immigrants Be Empowered or Further Marginalized in 21st Century America?

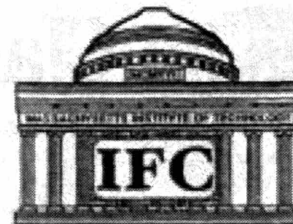
Open to the public

date: **Tuesday, April 13, 1999**
time: **4:30 p.m.**
place: **E51-095 (70 Memorial Drive, dining room)**

Advertisement paid for by the Interfraternity Council

Interfraternity Council

Massachusetts Institute of Technology



MIT's New Social Scene

A Change in Policy:

MIT's social scene is now in its second term under a recently implemented risk management. This policy was put into place by the Interfraternity Council to reduce the liability and ensure the safety and well-being of its members. After a relatively quiet social atmosphere last year, things are starting to pick up again. There are currently about two or three open parties every Friday and Saturday night, and many fraternities hold smaller events on Thursday nights.

Although everyone knows that there is a new risk management policy in place, many of the changes are not commonly known. Fraternities, Sororities,

and Independent Living Groups, commonly referred to as FSILGs, cannot sponsor an event where they provide alcohol. This means that events must be dry, BYOB, or third-party vendor. To even be able to have an event where there is alcohol present, the FSILG must be alcohol certified through the Interfraternity Council. Alcohol certification involves a series of education seminars on legal liability and alcohol-related issues, as well as a quota of CPR and TIPS trained members.

This year has been a turning point in adapting to the changed rules and their effects on the social scene. The state of the system is quite different from the past, but students are adjusting, and par-

ties are returning to the way things used to be. Here are a few examples of recent successful events.

Alpha Tau Omega Throws Huge Saint Patty's Day Party!:

ATO threw a huge St. Patty's day party on Saturday, March 13th, with over 600 hundred guests. The dance floor was packed all night, and there were college students from schools all over Boston, including BU, BC, Harvard, Simmons, Wellesley, Tufts, and Brandeis. The social chairs received many positive comments in the week after the party, such as "that was the best MIT party in two years."

Alpha Phi Rents Club Joy:

Alpha Phi rented out Club Joy on Friday, March 12th, and held their Crush Party. This party was by special invitation only, and was held on the private first floor of the club. Each sister was allowed to invite about three people. The guests

received an e-mail saying that there was someone who had a crush on them, and they had to go to the party to find out who it was. Admission was free for all people who were invited. Overall, the party was a great success.

Delta Upsilon Message Party:

The semi-annual Delta Upsilon Message Party was held on March 6th with a total of over 500 guests. One thing that continues to make this party a success is the unique theme. The basic premise of the party is that every guest receives a numbered nametag. Messages can then be written, anonymously or not, and posted under the appropriate number on a prominently placed message board. This party is an example of one that has maintained its success through the changes on campus.

Robert Reed
IFC Public Relations Committee

IFC Events

| House Tours | IFC BBQ |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sign up Friday on the 3rd floor of the Student Center. | Free Food and Fun |
| Tours leave from Kresge Oval starting Saturday at 2:30. | Kresge BBQ pits |
| | Friday, 7 to 8pm |

IFC Planning for 2001 Transition

Though concrete details concerning the residence system overhaul are still being worked out by the Residence Design Competition Steering Committee and the administration, the IFC has been carefully studying issues related to the 2001 transition for most of this school year. In the fall, the IFC 2001 Transition Committee attempted to survey every FSILG to identify the key issues affecting FSILGs and to begin obtaining a consensus on these issues. In recent months, the committee has shifted away from gathering information to making decisions about IFC recommendations for the new residence system.

There are three main issues with which the IFC is concerned in 2001. First, we want to ensure that the FSILG life remains a valuable and rewarding experience despite the new residential limitations placed upon it. Secondly, we want to make sure that the FSILG recruitment and new member education programs fit seamlessly into the new residence system and serve as a complement to academic, extracurricular, and campus residence life. Finally, once details of the

new residence system are finalized, we want to work on both an Institute and IFC wide level to support member organizations who may suffer from financial or other difficulties throughout the transition period.

This process is rather difficult, and each one of these issues has much complexity beyond the scope of this article. The IFC represents a very diverse group of students and organizations, and FSILG life is greatly enhanced by this diversity. However, it has become very clear that different groups have very different priorities and concerns about the transition, and the committee has worked as meticulously as possible given current time constraints in reaching the best possible compromise. As a result, the committee is confident that its recommendations will ultimately represent the IFC well, and will allow the FSILG community to thrive at MIT far into the future.

Will Dichtel
IFC 2001 Committee Chair
President, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity

Cool Facts About Greeks

Statistics about Greek Involvement and Success published by the ACPA Greek Affairs Task Force Commission IV

- 71% of Who's Who in America Listees are Greek
- 76% of U.S. Senators and Representatives are Greeks
- 85% of the Fortune 500 Executives are Greeks
- 63% of all U.S. Cabinet Members since 1900 have been Greeks
- 85% of all U.S. Supreme Court Justices since 1910 have been Greeks
- 86% of the Nation's 50 largest corporations are headed by Greeks
- Almost all U.S. Presidents, since 1825 have been Greeks

1999 IFC Executive Committee

| Office | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Michael Trupiano | Lambda Chi Alpha |
| VP of Activity Organization | Ben Chun | Delta Upsilon |
| VP of Internal Affairs | Amir Mesarwi | Phi Delta Theta |
| Treasurer | Mimi Su | Alpha Chi Omega |
| Secretary | Ryan Barrows | Alpha Tau Omega |
| Membership Recruitment Chair | Ranjit Survanshi | Delta Tau Delta |
| Judicial Committee Chair | Patrick Kremer | Theta Delta Chi |
| Public Relations Chair | Vicki Lin | Alpha Phi |
| Community Relations Chair | Joseph Cirello | Phi Sigma Kappa |
| Risk Management Chair | Damien Brosnan | Delta Tau Delta |
| Panhellenic President | Lisa Mittelstaedt | (deaffiliated for rush) |
| Womens Conference Chair | Sarah Gensheimer | (deaffiliated for rush) |

A Sampling of Events for Campus Preview Weekend

| Day | Time | Event | Location | Sponsor | Phone |
|----------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Friday | 6:00 PM | Dinner with the Brothers | 400 Memorial Drive, Cambridge | Phi Beta Epsilon | |
| Friday | 8:00 PM | Roofdeck Mixer/Casino Night | 487 Commonwealth Ave, Boston | Phi Sigma Kappa | 267-2199 |
| Friday | 8:30 PM | Milk and Cookies Social Hour | 229 Commonwealth Ave, Boston | Phi Kappa Theta | 437-7795 |
| Friday | 9:22 PM | The Community Party at TEP | 253 Commonwealth Ave, Boston | Tau Epsilon Phi | 262-5090 |
| Friday | 10:00 PM | Escape - a Number 6 Club Dance Party | 428 Memorial Drive, Cambridge | Number 6 | 494-9833 |
| Friday | 10:00 PM | Roofdeck Party | 400 Memorial Drive, Cambridge | Phi Beta Epsilon | |
| Saturday | 9:00 AM | The Fourth Annual 5k Road Race | Kresge Oval | Chi Phi | 247-8355 x242 |
| Saturday | 11:00 AM | Sports and BBQ | 487 Commonwealth Ave, Boston | Phi Sigma Kappa | 267-2199 |
| Saturday | 12:00 PM | ATO Bar-B-Q | 405 Memorial Drive, Cambridge | Alpha Tau Omega | 621-0630 |
| Saturday | 1:00 PM | Soccer with Phi Kappa Sigma and the Wellesley Club Soccer Team | In front of Kresge Auditorium | Phi Kappa Sigma | 536-3683 x210 |
| Saturday | 2:00 PM | Wings and Ice Cream | 32 Hereford Street, Boston | Chi Phi | 247-8355 x242 |
| Saturday | 2:30 PM | BBQ & Hangout with Wellesley Club Soccer Team | 530 Beacon Street, Boston | Phi Kappa Sigma | 536-3683 x210 |
| Saturday | 8:00 PM | Relaxing Night w/ Pool, Foosball, Movies & Food | 487 Commonwealth Ave, Boston | Phi Sigma Kappa | 267-2199 |
| Saturday | 8:30 PM | Casino Night at AEPi | 155 Bay State Road, Boston | Alpha Epsilon Pi | 905-8995 |
| Saturday | 8:30 PM | BU Women's Acapella Group Concert & Ice Cream Social | 530 Beacon Street, Boston | Phi Kappa Sigma | 536-3683 x210 |
| Saturday | 9:00 PM | Tri-House Roofdeck Party | 403,405,407 Memorial Drive, Cambridge | Delta Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Sigma | 494-8250 494-8552 |
| Saturday | 10:00 PM | djs throwdown - underground hip-hop djs spin it | 119 Bay State Rd, Boston | Beta Theta Pi | 267-5333 |
| Saturday | 10:00 PM | Psychedelic Safari Party | 58 Manchester Road, Brookline | Zeta Beta Tau | 232-3257 x2000 |
| Sunday | 12:00 PM | Sunday Brunch | 487 Commonwealth Ave, Boston | Phi Sigma Kappa | 267-2199 |

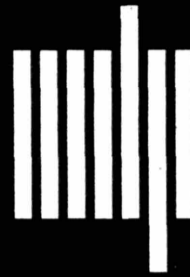


RIMA ARNAOUT—THE TECH

Associate Professor Carl D. Martland receives the Big Screw from Alpha Phi Omega member Emily M. Marcus '01. Martland represented the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to generate \$548.66 in student donations. A total of \$1381.17 raised during the contest will go to the charity of Martland's choice, the Audobon Society.

MIT PRESS BOOKSTORE LOADING DOCK SALE 3 DAYS ONLY!

Friday, April 9 12 - 6pm
Saturday, April 10 10 - 6pm
Sunday, April 11 12 - 6pm



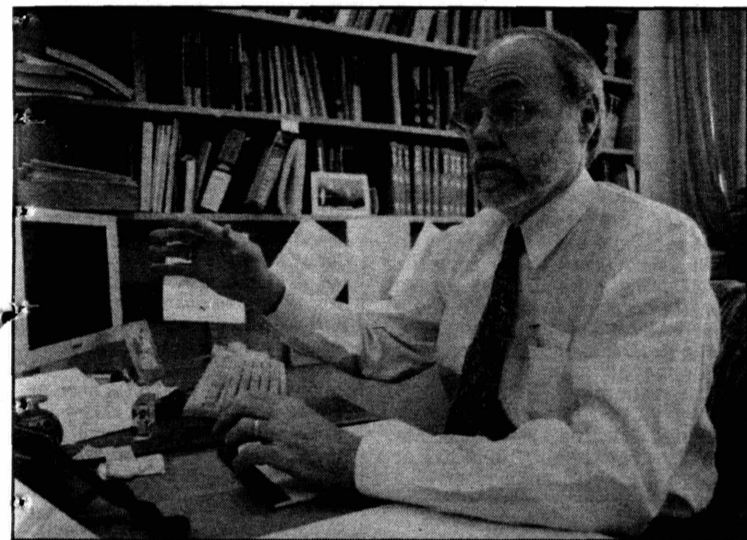
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GABOR CSANYI—THE TECH

Institute Professor Phillip A. Sharp

Sharp Is Named An Institute Professor

By Rima Arnaout
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Members of the MIT administration recently recognized the accomplishments of Nobel Prize-winning biologist Phillip A. Sharp by naming him an Institute professor.

An Institute professor is selected by both the faculty and the administration.

"To be chosen to be an Institute professor is a very special honor" and those individuals are highly distinguished scholars, Sharp said.

"[MIT] is an institute that looks out to the world," Sharp said. "[MIT's] biology program is very molecular and genetic, and that's its real strength."

According to MIT policies and procedures, "the title of Institute professorship... is given to someone who has made, and is expected to make, extraordinary contributions to our intellectual and collegial life."

As an Institute professor, "I now report to the provost which now gives me the ability" to be more active in cross-campus issues than departmental ones, Sharp said.

Namely, Sharp will work to coordinate the new focus on expanding the life sciences at MIT. The life sciences are "where I have experience and understanding and where I have built up a series of connections" that will be useful, Sharp said.

In particular, Sharp sees the biology department at MIT growing and networking with other departments in the subfields of neuroscience, bioengineering, environmental health, and computational biology.

"With the emergence of massive amounts of sequences... we will be able to approach biology in new ways," Sharp said.

Sharp expects that this broaden-

ing of the department's horizons will be done by recruiting top young researchers to build their careers at MIT. Just "bring the highest quality people here, make them happy. Make that environment...and people will be excited to work here," Sharp said.

Sharp highly recognized

Sharp graduated from Union College in Kentucky and earned his PhD in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"What got me into [biology] is that it's such a rapidly moving science" that there's so much to learn, Sharp said.

Sharp has worked at MIT's Center for Cancer Research since 1974, first as an associate professor, and later as professor in 1979. Sharp has headed the biology department since 1991.

A recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology, Sharp's work is highly recognized, as are his specific contributions to the MIT community.

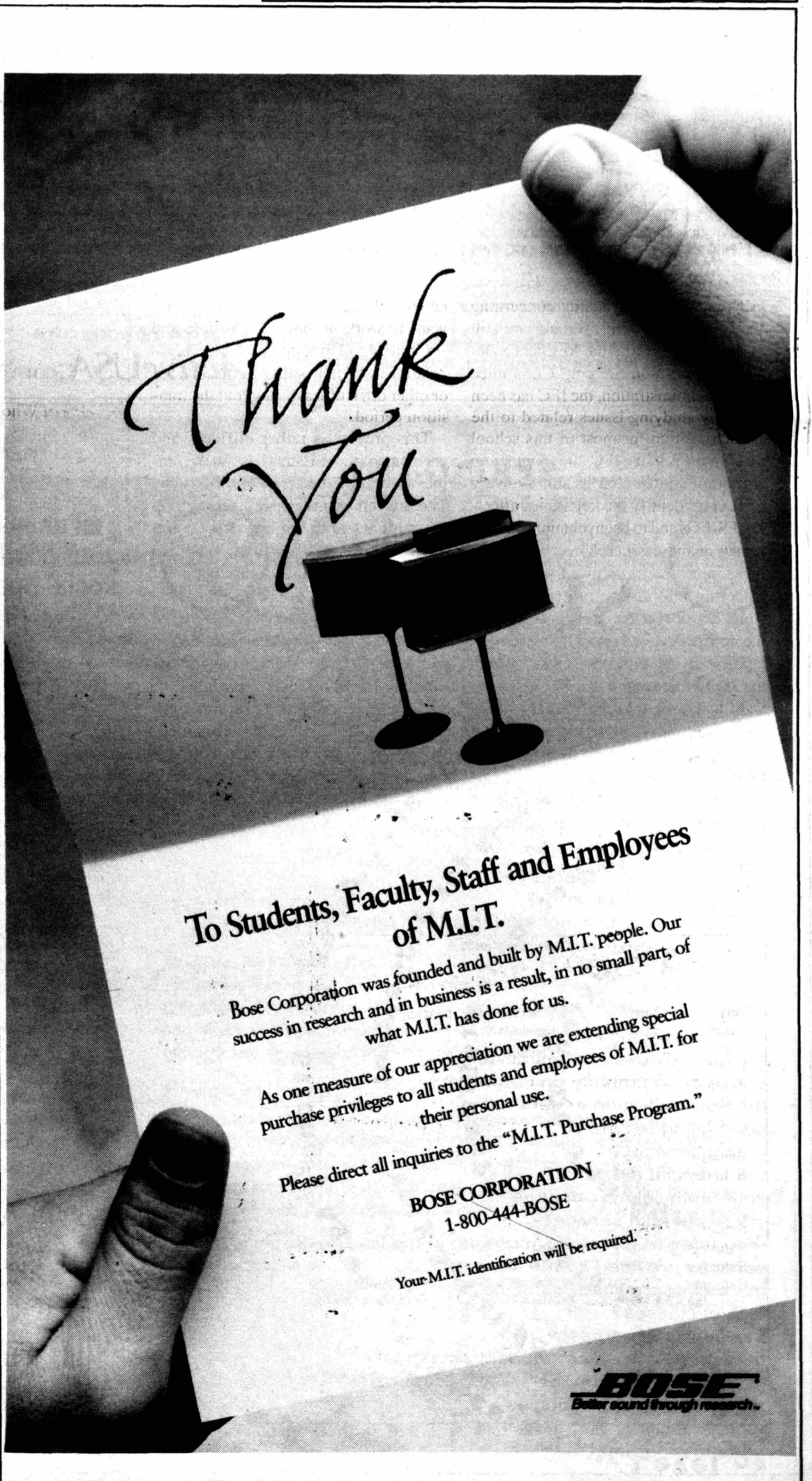
This summer, Sharp will step down as head of the Biology Department, to be replaced by Associate Department Head Robert T. Sauer.

"I have enjoyed that experience [administrating the biology department], but I'm confident that Bob will do an excellent job" as head, Sharp said.

Sharp enters elite group

Sharp brings the number of institute professors to 13, and there are 18 Professors Emeriti. Other Institute Professors from the Biology Department include David Baltimore '61 and the late Salvador E. Luria.

Jane Yoo contributed to the reporting of this story.



Thank You



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Concerns Are Heard By Administrators

Tool-In, from Page 1

on the long-standing "I Hate This F--ing Place") The group's founding members decided last semester that they love MIT too much to sit aside and "discover that what I came here for is being yanked out from under me," said ILTFP member Carolyn D. Jones '00. Jones has been "too hosed to really be involved" but was tooling away at the tool-in and intermittently passing out orange ribbons.

Members of ILTFP first passed out orange ribbons late last semester, to provide a "no-time-commitment way" of explaining or demonstrating dissatisfaction with current policy changes, according to Jones. The ribbon campaign last semester was ILTFP's first project.

Toolers wary of MIT's paternalism

A primary concern of many toolers was not any single action by the administration, but an overall "tendency to insist that the university needs to take on the role of a parent," Brown said.

"You come to college to learn and make mistakes; if college is like high school you don't learn anything," said Dianne E. Egnor G.

Egnor was a resident of pika her freshman year and appreciated being able and allowed to take care of the house and house affairs as a student.

"A range of people come to MIT as freshmen. [The Institute should] allow for those responsible students to take responsibility," said J. Scott Willcox G.

Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72 agreed that often "a few students act irresponsibly, and it hurts everyone."

Associate Dean for Residence Life and Student Life Programs

Andrew M. Eisenmann '70 and Bacow joined toolers for nearly an hour, and a few students explained their concerns to Bacow.

"All policy choice involves compromise," Bacow said at one point. He also stressed the difference between a policy and a promise, as he may not have the actual authority to promise something he makes his policy.

"There are lots of competing demands" on MIT resources, Bacow said. "Circumstances can change."

"The outside world lumps everyone together," Bacow said. "We can't change that, that's reality."

Bacow mildly refuted one senior's claim that the Institute changes "according to media coverage and legal standing." Bacow said that as long as ten years ago he had said that "MIT would be a better place if freshmen were housed on campus." He called this an issue on which "reasonable people can differ."

"Let's work together," Bacow said in attempting to close the conversation, but people had more to say, and more questions.

Brown described how he sees student-administration interaction: "We have a committee. We discuss stuff. They do what they were going to do anyway."

Bacow promised that talks would continue, however, beginning with an open meeting with GSC members on Thursday.

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Kresge Auditorium

Wednesday, April 14, 8:00 pm

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MIT Begins Environmental Project with Costa Rica

By Rich Fletcher
STAFF REPORTER

In an effort to bring information technology to developing countries, the Costa Rica Foundation for Sustainable Development and MIT have begun a project to develop modular information centers to be deployed around the world. The

inaugural event to kick-off the project was held on March 30 at the MIT Media Lab and featured a series of talks on sustainable development. With welcoming remarks by President Charles M. Vest, the talks included notable speakers from Costa Rica, MIT, Harvard University, and the White House, as

well as several speakers from industry.

The central idea of this project is to create small deployable structures which contain essential communication tools that would be integrated into local essential functions in health, education and commerce.

"By combining advanced construction methods using recycled materials and the latest communication technologies, we will be able to bring first-class services anywhere in the world at a price that most developing countries can afford," said Professor of Media Arts and Sciences Sandy Pentland, who heads the Media Lab's involvement in the project.

The project, known as Little Intelligent Communities (LINCOS), was initiated by Jose Maria Figueres, former president of Costa Rica and head of the Costa Rican Foundation for Sustainable Development. Motivated by devastation and relief efforts following hurricane Mitch in Central America, president Figueres was inspired to create a decentralized means for helping regions which lack basic information infrastructure.

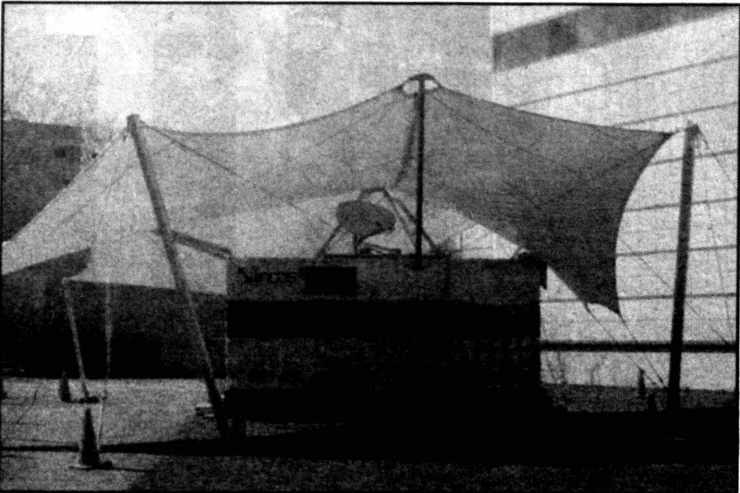
In December of 1998, Figueres invited the MIT Media Lab and MIT Architecture Department to

participate in creating the project. The MIT Architecture Department and the Industrial Design Department of the Costa Rica Technical Institute have worked closely to design a multi-function modular structure made from recycled industrial shipping containers.

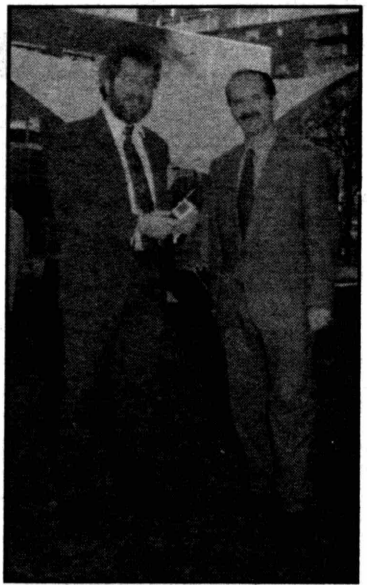
While certain Central American regions in Guatemala and Nicaragua are being considered as the initial sites for deployment, Figueres feels that such units would be useful world-wide.

According to Figueres, "while the funding for the initial units will come from national governments and relief organizations, we are considering how such units could be built inexpensively in the countries themselves and finding ways for such units to generate sufficient revenue to pay for their own maintenance costs."

According to Pentland, "At least a couple organizations around the world have attempted similar projects focused on specific areas of health, generating electricity, or communication, but in our project, we are trying to develop a comprehensive suite of technologies which could be used for many different functions."



A "Community information center" currently on display outside E15.



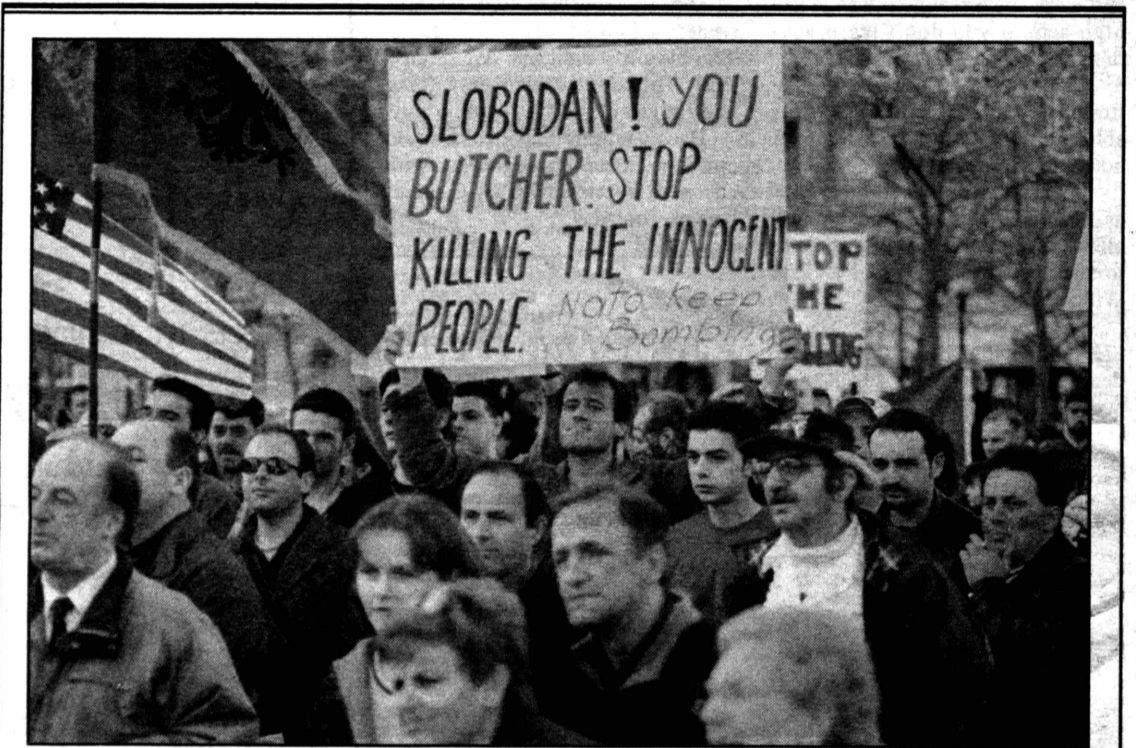
RICH FLETCHER-THE TECH
Former Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres (right) and MIT Professor Sandy Pentland (left) pose with new \$40 wireless internet device.

"Additionally, we don't want this container module to seem like some sort of UFO object dropped from the

Media Lab, Page 27



GABOR CSANYI-THE TECH
Nia Jetter, May Li Khoe and Yasmin Rehmanjee dance in the spring preview performance of Movements in Time last Saturday.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI-THE TECH
A huge crowd attended last Monday's protest against Serbian ethnic cleansing targeted against Kosovo's population of ethnic Albanians at Copley Square in Boston.

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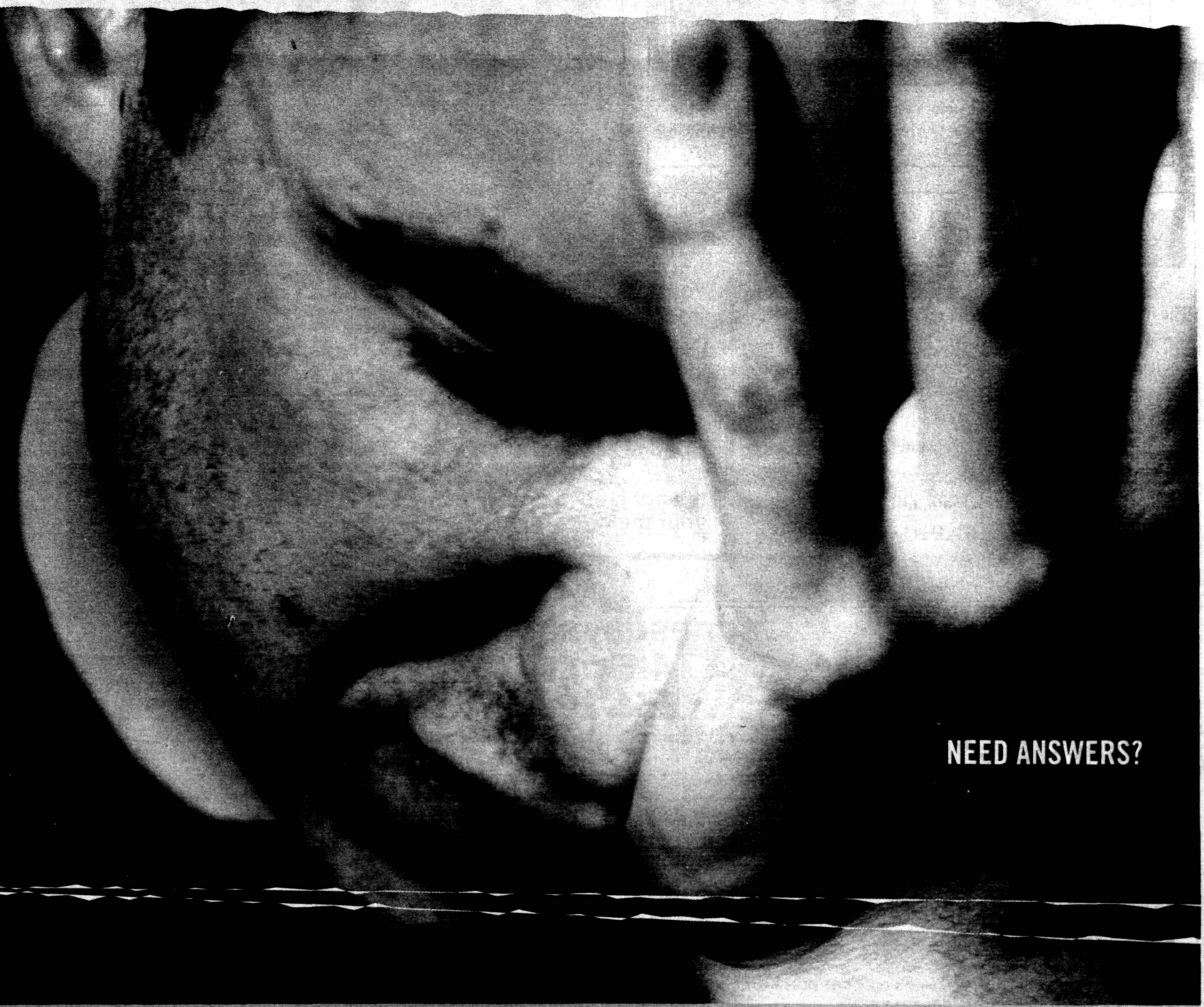
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Friday, April 9
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Religious Activities Center, Bldg. W11
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**An evening
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drama,
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featuring
Judith Black**

GSC VP Encourages Student Involvement

GSC, from Page 15

ways to compensate for the naturally-steep learning curve which future generations of officers inevitably encounter.

"The focus will be on membership. When [the GSC sees] the administration, [its] credibility is based on graduate student support," Wijesinghe said. "When we don't have" the graduate students, the GSC loses support, he said. "We need more active involvement and participation."

Wijesinghe wants "to set up a strategic plan," specifically addressing the issue that "every administration says" that there isn't enough involvement by students. "Hopefully, we will see a method, report on its success, and improve on it for next year."

Wijesinghe described the vice-president's role as one which has historically dealt with membership, including recruitment of council representatives from living groups, labs, and departments, and placement of graduate student representatives to Institute committees.

Ortiz to use existing channels

Along that vein, Ortiz plans to look at existing channels for graduate student representation within the Institute. Ortiz cited that his own department, Materials Science and Engineering, contains a committee which sets educational policy for graduate students, including everything from admissions policy to degree requirements and social activities.

"There has been a growth in the number of representatives [to the GSC] over the past three years," Ortiz also said. "Now that the GSC [has] the bodies, we need a way to put them to use and find out what they want to be doing."

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Orthodox Christians

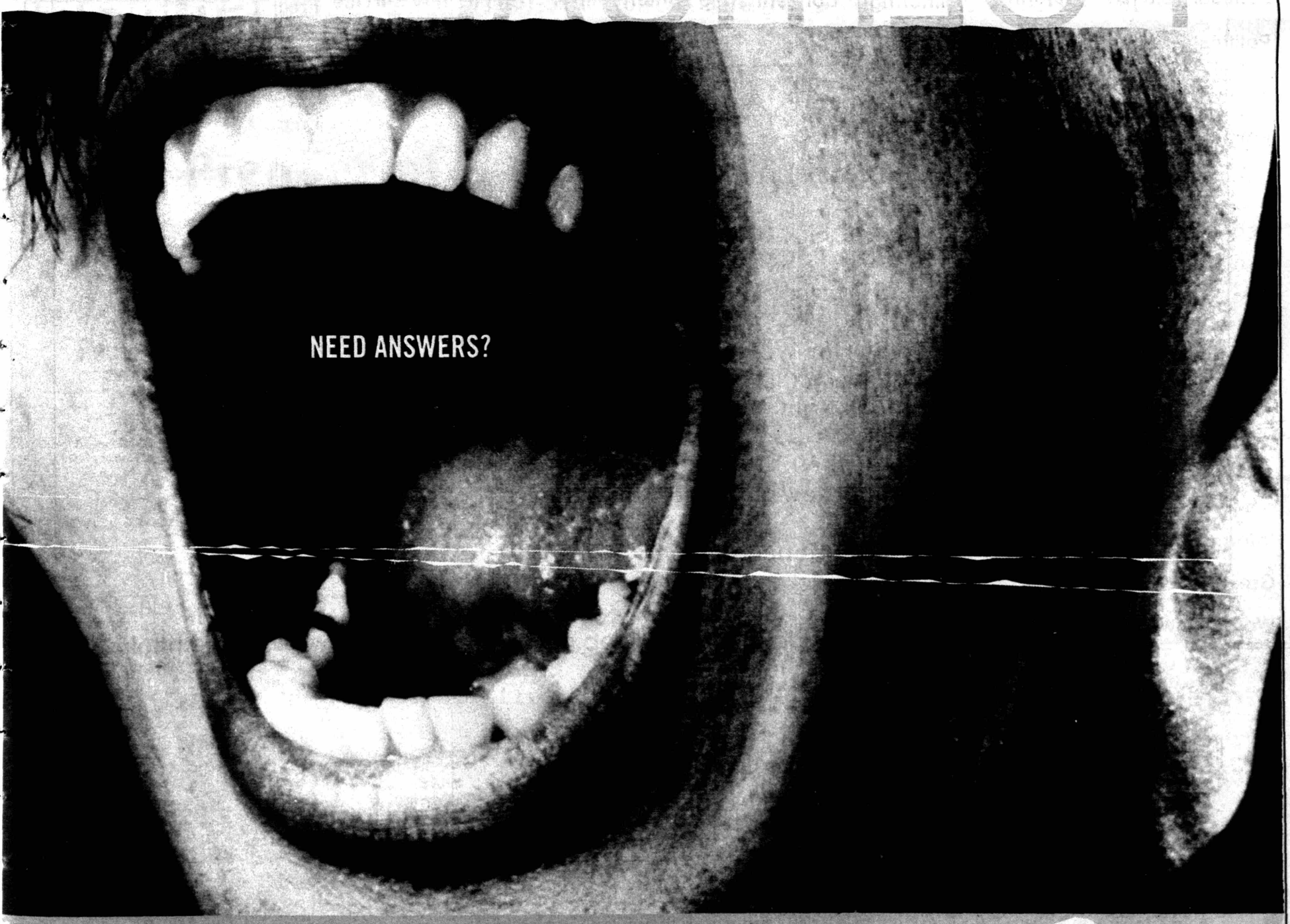


Today is Holy Friday! It is today that Jesus Christ was unnailed from the cross and placed in a tomb, with the promise to rise again in three days. Tonight will be celebrated the *epitafios*, or entombment of our Lord. Visit the Orthodox Christian Fellowship homepage (at web.mit.edu/ocf/www) to see service times at local churches and when we're walking over from MIT together. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Also, mark your calendar for our Bright Wednesday vesper service (with the Boston Byzantine Choir) and lecture, next Wednesday at 6:30 on April 14 in the chapel. Father Peter Smith will give a lecture on *Meeting the Challenge: The Orthodox Church in the 21st Century*. Refreshments will be served following the talk, and everyone is welcome.

Questions? Call John at 225-9818 or email orthodox@mit.edu

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| <u>DATE of EVENT:</u> | <u>EVENT:</u> | <u>DETAILS:</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| FRI, APRIL 9 | -SENIOR FRIDAY - "ROOTBEER FLOATS", STUDENT CENTER, | Free |
| Sun, April 18 | -David Copperfield at the Wang Center | \$15 (Tix on sale 4/9) |
| Sat, April 24 | -Busta Rhymes Senior "Pre-Party" | Free |
| Sun, April 25 | -Senior Ball, The Bay Tower Room, Boston | \$15/pp (Tix on sale 4/14) |
| FRI, APRIL 30 | -SENIOR FRIDAY, STUDENT CENTER STEPS | Free |
| Sun, May 2 | -Senior Brunch | TBA |
| Fri, May 7 | -Red Sox Game | \$5 (Tix on sale 4/28) |
| Fri, May 21 | -Surprise! | TBA |
| May 29- June 3 | -Senior Week Events (Newport Clambake, Sunset Cruise, Senior Picnic, Club Night, '99 Service Project, Boston Pops...) | TBA |
| Wed, Jun 2 | -Class '99 Private Farewell Reception, The New England Aquarium | \$8 for seniors |
| Fri, Jun 4 | -Commencement | |

See Class of 1999 Website for details: <http://web.mit.edu/class-of-99/www/home.html>

1999 Senior Ball

Sunday, April 25
The Bay Tower Room
8pm-1am
\$15 per person

Tix on sale at the Source, 4/14
Tux rentals: - \$44.95 and up at the Student
Center beginning 4/14
- Easy pick-up and drop off

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Protesters To Call For Lama's Release

Rongji, from Page 1

"We don't think the state or the city should be able to offload its First Amendment requirements on MIT because MIT can then restrict that," Wyatt said. "MIT has private property and is not required to let us be there."

With no space and no permit, the protesters may be pushed as far as back as Memorial Drive.

"We are very concerned we will not get the adequate space. Nevertheless, we will get our voices heard," Tsomo-thargay said.

Pan-Chen Lama is focus of protest

One goal of the protesters is to lobby for the release of the Pan-

Chen Lama of Tibet, Tsomo-thargay said.

At ten years old, the Pan-Chen is the youngest political prisoner in China. He is the second most important spiritual leader for Tibetans. Only the Dalai Lama ranks higher in importance.

Gendhyn-Choeyi Nyina was named Pan-Chen Lama on May 14, 1995 by the Dalai Lama. Three days later he, his family, and the monk that led the search to find and name the Pan-Chen Lama were arrested by the Chinese government and taken to Beijing, she said.

"These persons are now missing and no one has seen or talked with them ever since," Tsomo-thargay said.

Participants Consider Impact of Technology

Media Lab, from Page 22

sky, so we are being very careful to solicit local community involvement and participation in the design process."

MIT affiliates travel to Costa Rica

During the first three months of 1999, a total of 12 MIT students and faculty from diverse backgrounds spent time in Costa Rica studying rural cultural issues as well as deciding on appropriate technology.

To demonstrate functionality, two sample prototypes of the so-called "community information centers" were built in Costa Rica during early March and one of them was shipped to the MIT campus, where it is currently on display in the

courtyard behind building E15.

The demonstration unit features a working high-bandwidth satellite link, a space for telemedicine, environmental monitoring, a computer lab, and a walk-up information booth. The actual deployed units, however, will probably not be "all-in-one" units, but rather deployed as a group of 2 or 3 specialized units linked together. Additionally, by using the modular containers as the hub of a network, new lower-cost wireless local loop technologies provided by Motorola and other potential project sponsors, would enable voice over IP, data, and Internet access to be integrated more seamlessly into the surrounding buildings of a remote community.

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MIT Hillel Holocaust Commemoration

Tuesday, April 13, 1999
Memorial Candle Vigil
9:00-2:00 pm
Lobby 7

Wednesday, April 14, 1999 at 5:00 pm


Harvard History Professor Daniel Jonah Goldhagen will speak on his book

Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust

Building W-11 Main Dining Room
Holocaust memorial service precedes talk at 4:45 pm

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen is Associate Professor of Government and Social Studies at Harvard University. His book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, has been translated into numerous languages. *The New York Times* calls the book "masterly ... One of those rare new works that merit the appellation 'landmark.'" He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University.

Sponsored by MIT Hillel Foundation's William Abramowitz Memorial Lecture and the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education. For further information, please call MIT Hillel at (617) 253-2982



Wednesday, April 14, 1999

The Premier of the People's Republic of China Zhu Rongji will speak at Kresge Auditorium

Stratton Student Center will be CLOSED

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Lobby 13 • 7am-2pm

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Juice
Waters
Soda

Abelson, Lightman to Address Prospective Students

CPW, from Page 1

vidual rights and societal needs with regards to the Internet.

"MIT researchers and alumni have been prominent contributors in dealing with these issues, in terms of both technology and policy," Abelson said. "In this session, we'll discuss some of today's pressing issues — contact control, privacy, copyright — and describe how these are being addressed."

Abelson welcomes current students as well as admitted students to the lecture.

Another lecture will simultaneously be given by Whitehead Institute researcher Harvey F.

Lodish, who is noted for his discoveries about the properties of cell surface proteins.

Lodish will be joined by noted Biology professors Hazel L. Sive and Paul T. Matsudaira. Sive is well-known for his discoveries on vertebrate development. Matsudaira is famous for his research on the structure and function of the cytoskeleton and for his discoveries concerning miniaturized ultra-fast bioanalytical devices. Matsudaira is also the founding editor of the Biology Undergraduate Journal.

"During the lecture, my colleagues and I are going to talk generally about biology here at MIT and specifically about undergraduate

research," Lodish said. "I want to emphasize how much this program has to offer to undergraduates.

Chemist, writer speak tomorrow

Tomorrow's lectures will include Chemical Engineering Professor Paula T. Hammond '84, who will give a technical talk on surface chemistry and micron-sized structures.

"These structures are formed using a concept called 'self-assembly' in which materials arrange in specific ways based on intermolecular interactions," Hammond said.

The lecture is designed to show prefrosh what a technical lecture experience may feel like, while

simultaneously discussing with them a novel technology. Hammond is well-known for her innovative research in polymer science and intermolecular interactions.

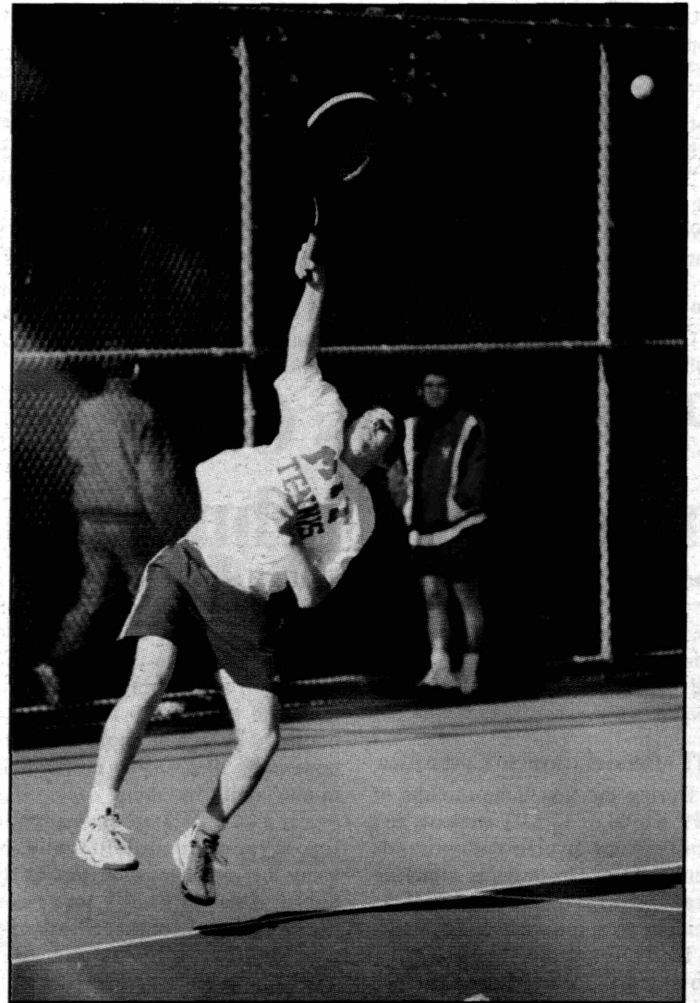
Prefrosh also have the option of attending a reading by Professor Alan P. Lightman. Lightman is a

John E. Burchard Professor of Humanities, and is a well-known for his work in both astrophysics and creative writing. Lightman has published two novels, three collections of essays, and six nonfiction works. His books have been translated into 30 languages.



KRZYSZTOF GAJOS—THE TECH

Miles Gloriosus (Bruce Applegate '99) threatens slave Pseudolus (Stephen Peters G) over a breach of contract for a virgin in the Musical Theater Guild play "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."



MIODRAG CIRKOVIC—THE TECH

Ben Cooke '00 smashes a serve in a tennis match against Tufts. MIT won 4-3.



Come to our Open House this evening and take a look inside The Tech!

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