



The Weather

Today: Cloudy, 80°F (26°C)
Tonight: Chance of shower, 67°F (19°C)
Tomorrow: Rain showers, 78°F (25°C)
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Thursday, August 26, 1999

Orientation Opens with Games

By Karen Robinson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The class of 2003 enjoyed their first activities this evening with opening games in Kresge Auditorium and a freshman barbeque on the grassy areas around Kresge and the Student Center.

As they got to know one another, freshmen displayed increasing enthusiasm about their classmates. Katie Tuppan '03 said it was overwhelming to meet all the freshmen at once, and that she is "so excited to be going to school with [the class of 2003]."

For the first event of the evening, orientation leaders led game-show-style activities in

Kresge Auditorium. Tuppan was amused by signup sheets for the event, which asked, "do you like to be a star?" without explaining that these people would later be called upon to participate in the games such as "Freshman Feud," "The Price is Right," and "What would you do for a Klondike Bar?"

Dave Jackson '03 described the games as energetic and exciting. "I won a Klondike Bar."

Barbeque on the lawn

When the festivities in Kresge ended, freshmen streamed out to the oval, which was lined by 109 energetic group leaders. Groups assembled, sat on the grass, and got to

know one another. They then decided on group names and made a group collage, amid discussions with their orientation leaders.

Groups then trickled over to the lawn next to Johnson to get their hamburgers and sat in circles eating and further getting acquainted.

After dinner, students listened to music on the Student Center steps, with some dancing. They later proceeded to Kresge Auditorium for a showing of *Waterboy* in Kresge Auditorium.

Orientation leaders enthusiastic

Orientation leaders are enthusiastic about the class of 2003. Orientation group leader Janaki T. Wickrema '02 said they seemed "open and sociable."

Group leader Brad M. McCoy '02 noticed that they are more informed than he expected, and had been assertive about asking upperclassmen for information. He also said that they are more enthusiastic than he expected.

Laurie Ward, from the Academic Resource Center, described the freshmen, in turn, as being "very excited during the kick-off" — they all "went wild" when they heard the initial "Welcome, MIT Class of 2003!"

Freshmen also excited

Shawn Frayme '03 said that ori-

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WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

After a kickoff event in Kresge Auditorium, freshmen decorated signs representing their orientation groups.

Stanford Residences Promote Variety

By Frank Dabek
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As MIT continues the process of redesigning its residence system, The Tech presents a series of articles intended to inform the Institute community on the variety of residence designs in place at our peer institutions. This article is the first in a series of articles profiling the residence systems of universities around the country.

While the proposed addition of a "sophomore shuffle" to MIT's residence system was seen as a major revision, students at Stanford University are already accustomed to a sophomore, junior, and senior shuffle. Stanford's residence system is marked by a greater degree of randomization in housing assignments but exposes students to a wider variety of living arrangements.

According to Kathleen Bransfield, Manager of Housing Assignment Services at Stanford, incoming freshmen rank types of dorms during the summer. Freshmen can choose between single-sex or co-ed all-freshmen or four-class housing. Based on their preferences freshmen are assigned their dorms and rooms by the time they arrive on campus. Freshmen may not live in fraternities at Stanford. About half of freshmen

live in all-freshmen housing.

Fraternity rush in spring

Of the 15 fraternities at Stanford, seven are housed on campus in university-owned independent houses. Stanford bills fraternities for the houses, and the day-to-day management falls to the student residents. Only about 10 percent of Stanford's male students live in fraternity houses, compared to nearly 50 percent of MIT men.

Rush at Stanford occurs in the spring "right before the period to apply for housing [the] next year," Bransfield said. Stanford does not need incentives such as the proposed shuffle to encourage freshmen to consider moving after their freshman year — "students have to re-apply anyways," Bransfield said.

Stanford's control over fraternity housing is much more complete than it is at the Institute: MIT fraternities or their national organizations own their own houses for the most part. While Stanford can revoke a fraternity's housing privileges and allow the space to revert to general housing, at MIT the space would most likely simply be lost from the housing system.

According to Bransfield, the housing system "does need all those spaces... [which are] really popular

housing." Stanford has revoked the housing of fraternities which failed to utilize the space in their houses by recruiting enough members, she said. Fraternities have also lost housing privileges for disciplinary reasons, a step MIT cannot take easily due to the dependence of our

Stanford, Page 7

Residence System in Midst of Changes

1997 Death of Fiji Freshman Prompts Comprehensive Residence Redesign

By Naveen Sunkavally
NEWS EDITOR

Almost two years after the drinking death of freshman Scott S. Krueger '01, the Institute is still undergoing a massive transformation in its residence system that will define MIT culturally for years to come.

Announcements by President Charles M. Vest in October 1997 and August 1998 have shaped and set the tone for the housing debate thus far.

In October 1997, a few days after Krueger's death, President Charles M. Vest announced the construction of a new undergraduate dormitory. A deadline was set for the year 2001, and the location chosen was North Vassar Street across from Next House. While Vest said that the administration had been considering increasing undergraduate dormitory housing for a while prior to the announcement, he also acknowledged that Krueger's death accelerated his announcement.

In December of 1998, a selection committee

chose renowned architect Steven Holl to design the dorm, and since then the design process has focused on creating a strong dorm community and integrating the dorm with other living groups on campus.

Vest mandates all freshmen on campus in 2001

In August 1998, in the early stages of a new Orientation meant to make rush less hectic, Vest announced that all freshmen would be housed on campus in the year 2001.

The idea to house all freshmen on campus was visited and rejected initially in the fall of 1997 when Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Stephen L. Chorover proposed it at a faculty meeting. But after heated discussion and a strong grass-roots movement by students living in fraternities and especially independent living groups, Chorover pulled the motion

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MIODRAG CIRKOVIC—THE TECH

Erik C. Snowberg '99

nized campaign that will assure him a large number of number one votes."

"It helps to legitimize the campaign," said Eric J. Plosky '99, Snowberg's campaign manager. "Cambridge is a place where politics is very personal, not casual. It's taken very seriously."

Snowberg one of five endorsed

According to an August 20 press release sent by CCA President Ken Carson, "all candidates have stated their support for the CCA platforms... and each brings qualities, experience, and a record of civic participation which demonstrates that they would be excellent elected officials serving Cambridge."

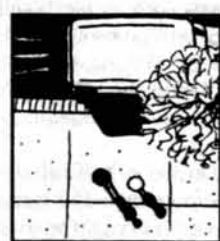
Henrietta Davis, another candidate who received the CCA endorsement, said that "the organization is dedicated to good government, and the endorsement is sort of a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval." It shows "that you are in

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OPINION

Michael Ring discusses the Massport 'booze cruise' and W's alleged cocaine use.

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Comics

The annual Orientation Elsewhere event is in danger of being cancelled due to staffing problems.

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WORLD & NATION

INS Sued Over Investor Rules

THE WASHINGTON POST

SAN FRANCISCO

A group of 200 foreigners has sued the federal government, alleging the Immigration and Naturalization Service illegally changed the rules on a controversial policy granting legal immigrant status to foreigners who promise to invest at least \$500,000 and create at least 10 jobs in the United States.

The suit, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, contends the INS exceeded its authority by changing the policy in late 1997 and again last year, making it harder for some foreign investors to get final approval for their business plans and thus have their temporary resident status changed to permanent.

The INS says the program's basic requirements remain the same, and that the changes simply clarify the rules to preclude a rash of complex financial plans that may have met the letter of the original law but, in reality, invested no money nor created jobs.

In 1990, Congress passed the controversial immigration program to spur foreign investment and job creation in the United States. It created a new visa category conferring resident status on foreigners who submitted business plans promising to create at least 10 U.S. jobs by investing at least \$1 million — or \$500,000 in some high-employment areas — in new or existing businesses.

To receive permanent resident status, foreign investors must demonstrate they've actually invested money and created jobs.

FBI Reveals It Used Potentially Incendiary Canisters in Waco Siege

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

The FBI reversed Wednesday a six-year-old position that it never used munitions capable of sparking the blaze that ended a standoff with the Branch Davidian sect near Waco, Tex., and left 76 people dead.

The acknowledgment that FBI agents fired "a very limited number" of potentially incendiary tear gas cartridges on the final day of the 51-day siege contradicts congressional testimony from high-ranking Justice Department officials, such as Attorney General Janet Reno, who said that the tear gas used against the Davidians "could not have caused a fire."

An FBI spokesman, Paul Bresson, said Wednesday that none of its munitions started the fire on April 19, 1993, and noted that they were used hours before the inferno that consumed the Davidians' compound. FBI officials said they still believe that Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and his followers deliberately torched the compound.

Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh have ordered "a full review of the facts and circumstances" surrounding the use of military gas canisters on that day, according to an FBI statement.

Burn Victims Seek GM Recall

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Burn victims awarded a record \$4.9 billion in a lawsuit against General Motors Corp. are willing to forego most of the money if the automaker agrees to conduct a recall, their lawyers said Wednesday.

The offer was made on behalf of two women and four children severely burned when the fuel tank of their 1979 Chevrolet Malibu exploded in a rear-end collision. It came shortly before a hearing scheduled for Thursday on GM's appeal of the jury award.

GM also has asked the judge to order a new trial. Brian J. Panish, who represents the women and children, wrote in an Aug. 20 letter to GM Chairman John F. Smith, Jr., that his clients would accept a \$4.5 billion reduction in the punitive damage award if the company recalls for repairs car models similar to the one involved in his clients' accident. Half of the remaining punitive damage award would go to the state of California for the care and treatment of burn victims, the letter stated.

Lawyers for GM could not be reached for comment. In appeal papers, GM's lawyers stated that the July 9 jury award was "the product of passion and prejudice," not justified by evidence or law.

WEATHER

What Drought?

By Bill Ramstrom
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A pattern of persistent clouds and occasional rainshowers is moving into the area today, and will likely last through the weekend. While we should not see all-day rain on any of the upcoming days, we can expect a chance of showers anytime from this evening through Sunday. So unfortunately, after a very dry summer, we will not luck out with continued fair weather.

The tropics have become quite busy in the last few days, with Hurricane Bret striking the Texas coast last weekend, and three new tropical cyclones — Cindy, Dennis, and Emily — are all active at this time. Dennis is the closest to the mainland US, over the eastern Bahamas as of Wednesday evening. The current forecast for Dennis is that it will approach the southeast US coast by the weekend. Steering currents are then expected to push Dennis out to sea south of New England by Sunday. Cindy and Emily are currently far from the US mainland and not a near-term threat.

Today: Mostly cloudy, high near 80°F (26°C).

Tonight: Cloudy with a chance of a shower. Low 67°F (19°C).

Friday: Cloudy with rain showers. High 78°F (25°C).

Friday Night: A few showers. Low 67°F (19°C).

Weekend: Some sun, but plenty of clouds with a chance of showers both days. Highs around 80°F (26°C).

Two-Year Government Sting Ends with Dozens Arrested

By Frank Swoboda

THE WASHINGTON POST

Dozens of airline employees were arrested Wednesday on drug smuggling charges in a series of pre-dawn raids at their homes by federal agents. The arrests ended a two-year government sting operation at Miami International Airport targeting ramp workers who would smuggle anything from cocaine to hand grenades from Latin America to cities in the northeastern United States.

The sting, dubbed "Operation Ramp Rat" by the government, focused on ramp workers at American Airlines — who service the airplane on the ground, pumping gas and loading baggage — and food handlers employed by Lufthansa Service Sky Chefs. Also arrested were an employee of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, one from the Agriculture Department and a part-time deputy from the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

American is the largest U.S. airline serving Latin America. Officials in Colombia said that it was also the airline used by 10 Colombians arrested in Cali last weekend and charged with smuggling more than half a ton of cocaine and heroin to Miami.

The sting operation was launched in April 1997, after informants told the Drug Enforcement Agency that airline employees were involved in smuggling. Investigators became interested in Sky Chefs after discovering a shipment of heroin that was smuggled from Colombia in coffee packets. The packets were inadvertently used to make coffee that was served to the plane's pilot, who complained it tasted weak.

The operation resulted in the indictments of 58 individuals; by late Wednesday, 48 of them had been arrested in raids that began at 4 a.m. At least six of those arrested were picked up on indictments handed up in New York in a sepa-

rate case.

Brett Eaton, spokesman for the DEA in Miami, said there were so many arrests that at one point the agency had to borrow a bus from the marshal's service to hold prisoners as they waited to be booked and fingerprinted.

Over the course of the sting, federal agents posing as drug dealers or gun smugglers hid 660 pounds of fake cocaine and an unknown number of guns on planes and in baggage from Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador to Miami. The sting involved 37 smuggling transactions in all.

Once the drugs or guns were inside the country, the airline employees would use their security clearances to gain access to the contraband on the aircraft and to circumvent customs and other airport security. They then would either deliver the contraband to waiting undercover agents in Miami, or carry it to a departure terminal and use their free flight benefits to transport it to northeastern cities.

U.N. Arrests Serb Army Head For Alleged Ethnic Cleansing

John-Thor Dahlburg

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PARIS

The head of the Bosnian Serb army was arrested Wednesday while on a visit to Austria, becoming the highest-ranking military leader apprehended for alleged involvement in "ethnic cleansing" and other crimes against humanity in the former Yugoslav federation.

A secret indictment against Gen. Momir Talic, chief of staff of the Bosnian Serb military, was issued March 12 by Louise Arbour, special prosecutor of the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

Tipped off that Talic would be attending a conference in Vienna, Austria — whose focus, ironically, was fostering greater cooperation in Bosnia-Herzegovina between the separate armed forces of the Bosnian Serbs and Muslim-Croat Federation — Arbour's office delivered an warrant for his arrest to Austrian officials Tuesday, tribunal spokesman Jim Landale said.

According to Landale, Talic is accused of being a member of a Bosnian Serb "crisis staff" set up in 1992 to plan and carry out mass purges, or "ethnic cleansing," of 100,000 Muslims, Croats and other

non-Serbs from areas of northwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the time, Serbs, Muslims and Croats were fighting a bitter civil war in Bosnia, which had broken away from the former Yugoslav federation. A 1995 peace treaty left the country nominally whole but divided into Bosnian Serb and Muslim-Croat republics.

Masovic said his commission discovered concentration camps and the largest number of Bosnia's mass graves, containing the corpses of more than 1,500 Muslims, in areas controlled by Talic and the 1st Krajina Corps, the unit he commanded during the 3 year war.

Talic, 57, also was known to have been a loyal friend of Gen. Ratko Mladic, the wartime Bosnian Serb commander who is being sought by the U.N. war crimes tribunal on charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Sources in Vienna, Austria, said Talic, named head of the Bosnian Serb army last year, was arrested discreetly by plainclothes Austrian police at the start of the conference's morning session. He apparently did not resist and was flown under Austrian police escort to The

Hague, home of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

For the tribunal, it was a spectacular and welcome coup. Although authorities have arrested 34 of the 67 people publicly indicted by the panel, many of the leading figures are still at large. They include Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, indicted in May for alleged war crimes in Kosovo province, and former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

"This is a really significant arrest," Paul Risley, Arbour's spokesman, said of Talic. "This is the first use of a sealed indictment outside the former republic of Yugoslavia. And secondly, he is clearly the most senior Bosnian Serb military official that we've apprehended to date."

Ognjen Tadic, secretary-general of the Serb Radical Party in Bosnia, claimed that the invitation to Talic had been a setup. But Mans Nyberg, spokesman for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is a co-sponsor of the Vienna conference, denied that the OSCE had any advance knowledge of the sealed indictment.

Five Countries at Kyrgyzstan Summit Sign Pact to Promote Border Security

By Richard C. Paddock

LOS ANGELES TIMES

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

Facing a growing threat from armed Islamic fundamentalists, the leaders of Russia, China and three Central Asian nations signed a pact Wednesday aimed at promoting security along their vast mutual borders.

With Islamic fighters holding more than 130 people hostage in southern Kyrgyzstan and Russian forces bombing separatists in Dagestan, the five heads of state pledged to cooperate in countering religious extremism, international terrorism and weapons smuggling.

"The issue in question is the creation of a peace zone that would be unique for Asia along the common border of our five countries," said Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin. "Fighting transnational crime, illegal drug trafficking and arms trade,

religious extremism and separatism should be considered pressing."

While the Bishkek declaration did not spell out a plan of action, it indicates the leaders' concern over the growth of Islamic fundamentalism along the southern edge of the former Soviet empire.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, millions of people in southern Russia and Central Asia have publicly embraced Islam, reestablishing traditions once widely practiced in the region. Muslim groups such as the Wahhabi sect in Central Asia and the Uighurs in western China have emerged to challenge the rule of Communists and former Communists who hold power.

On the eve of the Bishkek summit, more than 350 Islamic gunmen moved across the border from Tajikistan into Kyrgyzstan, seizing about 130 hostages, including four

Japanese geologists and the general who commands Kyrgyzstan's Interior Ministry troops. Despite an assault launched by government troops hours before Yeltsin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrived in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, the rebels seized nine more hostages and expanded their territory to control five villages.

Tajikistan is attempting to recover from five years of war between ex-Communists and Muslim clans over who should rule the country. Another neighboring nation, Uzbekistan, has blamed recent turmoil on Wahhabis and cracked down on suspected sect members.

Russia has already fought and lost one costly war against Islamic fundamentalists, a 1994-96 conflict in the republic of Chechnya, and in recent weeks has battled to drive Chechen-led rebels out of the bordering republic of Dagestan.

First USA Falling Profits May Dampen Credit Interest War

By Edmund Sanders
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Falling profits at First USA, one of the United States' leading low-rate credit card issuers, could trigger a slowdown in the industry's raging interest-rate war, much to the disappointment of consumers who have been the primary benefactors of the competition.

First USA officials raised a white flag of sorts on Wednesday, saying its aggressive strategy of winning customers by offering low interest rates — including one card that offers a permanent rate of 7.99 percent — was cutting into earnings.

As a result, the nation's No. 2 credit card issuer said rate hikes are on the horizon for new and existing customers.

"We think we can raise rates, still be below the industry (average), but have a better contribution to (our profit) margin," First USA Chairman Richard Vague said in a conference call Wednesday.

Vague said First USA has

already raised rates on new credit card offers and would begin hiking rates for some existing cardholders later this year. But at the same time, rate cuts would be offered to certain of the company's best customers, he added.

In light of the changes at First USA, which has long been the industry leader in offering super-low interest rates on a national level, rival credit card issuers are likely to reexamine their pricing, analysts predicted.

"It's a watershed event," said Robert McKinley, president of CardWeb, a Frederick, Md.-based credit card analyst. "When the No. 2 player says, 'Enough is enough. We're not able to achieve our numbers,' you are going to see a short-term retrenchment in the offers from other companies. It's bad news for consumers."

Since the interest rate battle began four years ago, average fixed rates have plummeted from 18 percent to 13 percent this year, according to Bankrate.com, a

Florida-based interest rate research firm. Introductory rates, also known as "teaser" rates, have fallen from an average 5.9 percent last year to 2.9 percent today.

First USA's accounts for nearly half the profit of its parent, Chicago-based Bank One Corp., which announced late Tuesday that problems at its credit card unit would cause 1999 earnings to fall 8 percent below what analysts were expecting. The news sent Bank One's stock tumbling 23 percent on Wednesday to \$43 a share, down \$12.63 in New York Stock Exchange trading.

"This shows that walking a tight rope on interest rates is a dicey game," said Bruce Brittain, head of Atlanta-based Brittain Associates, an industry consulting firm. "I'm sure it will scare the bejesus out of everyone else. You can bet that chief executives at other credit card companies are on the phone today to make sure the same thing doesn't happen to them."

After Two Recent Fatalities, Rides Shut Down at Paramount Parks

By Josh White
and Craig Timberg
THE WASHINGTON POST

Officials of the company that operates Kings Dominion in Virginia said they have temporarily shut down seven rides at their five amusement parks in North America to review their safety after two fatal accidents in the past week.

The rides under review include the Shockwave roller coaster at Paramount's Kings Dominion, where a 20-year-old New York man fell to his death Monday night, and two other stand-up roller coasters also designed by Togo Japan Inc., said Susan Lomax, a spokeswoman for Paramount.

Also closed temporarily is the Drop Zone ride at a Paramount park in Santa Clara, Calif., where a 12-year-old disabled boy fell to his death Sunday. Three similar rides in other Paramount parks are now shut down.

Lomax said that there is no evidence of a mechanical malfunction in any of the seven rides but that they will remain closed until investigations into the incidents are complete.

Kings Dominion officials have said that Timothy Fan, the Long

Island City man who was killed Monday, must have taken some action that contributed to his fall and that there was no evidence of a problem with the safety harness or of an error by the operators of the ride.

Gary A. Tomei, a New York lawyer representing Fan's family, said Wednesday that he does not see how the ride can be safe if someone can fall from it while it is in motion. "As far as I am concerned, once they have locked you in that machine, you're not supposed to get out unless you're Houdini," Tomei said.

Fan, who was supposed to begin his junior year at Hunter College in Manhattan on Friday, arrived at the park Monday afternoon with a tour group of youths, Tomei said. The group had planned to stop at a second amusement park before heading to Virginia Beach.

Passengers on the Shockwave, a 13-year-old steel roller coaster, stand up for the two-minute ride. The 24 passengers in each train go through two loops, a single inverted loop that takes riders upside down, followed by a side spiral.

Fan fell near the ride's end as the

train came off a straightaway, slowed down and went into a 180-degree curve, said Betsy Moss, spokeswoman for Kings Dominion.

The Shockwave's track is about a dozen feet off the ground at that point, said parkgoers who have ridden the roller coaster. Underneath is a slim concrete maintenance walkway and a grassy area.

Moss said the Shockwave's double-restraint system, which includes a shoulder harness and a waist-level restraint bar, was found to be locked in place after the train pulled into the station.

Roller coaster experts familiar with rides like the Shockwave said their safety record is impeccable. Leonard Cavalier, executive director of the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials, said stand-up roller coasters are equipped with redundant safety mechanisms that would prevent even a broken harness from endangering riders.

"I don't know of any cases where a restraint has failed on one of these inverted rides," Cavalier said. "But if you were actively trying to get out, you could probably manage it if you worked hard enough."

Amazon.Com Employee Best-Seller Lists Raising Some Privacy Concerns

By Joseph Menn
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Online bookstore Amazon.com has stunned Internet privacy advocates by posting on its Web site detailed information on which books, videos and music recordings are purchased by employees at hundreds of specific companies, schools and nonprofit groups.

One example: the best-selling book to Walt Disney Co. workers is: "Dancing Corndogs in the Night: Reawakening Your Creative Spirit."

Well and good — but does Disney want the world to know that No. 3 on the list is "Disney, the Mouse Betrayed"? And does the world need to know that No. 6 at Xerox's Palo Alto (Calif.) Research Center is a diet book?

"It's fun. People can see what other people are buying," said Amazon spokesman Paul Capelli.

Capelli said no companies have complained about their inclusion in Amazon's "Purchase Circles," which the Seattle-based company

began making available to all on its Web site Friday.

If companies do complain, Amazon isn't promising to take them off the list. Indeed, Capelli said Amazon plans to expand the number of group listings, which are compiled from the server names on customer emails and by zip code, for geographic groupings.

But privacy advocates said the move sends the wrong message to consumers already concerned about how their Web habits are tracked, sold and used.

"In addition to being bad practice from a privacy perspective, I think it's probably bad business," said David Sobel, general counsel of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington D.C. "Online companies should be making people feel comfortable about buying online."

Disney declined to comment, as did other companies whose employee purchases were listed.

One can learn a lot about people from what books they read — so

much so that some companies may ask employees not to order from corporate email accounts, some experts said.

"There are competitive, proprietary and other interests that could be trampled on," said Deirdre Mulligan, staff counsel of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a civil liberties group in Washington, D.C. "This potentially could rightly upset businesses who are concerned about what employee purchases might tell people about them."

Amazon's Capelli said such a reaction is unlikely.

"That sounds paranoid to me — that people don't want people to know what videos you want," he said. In fact, there is a law against video stores disclosing what videos consumers rent. But that doesn't apply to aggregated information like Amazon's.

Amazon doesn't sell customer information to third parties, instead using it to tailor its own sales approach.

Israeli Prosecutors, Maryland Officials Clash on Sheinbein Case

THE WASHINGTON POST

The diplomatic sparring over Samuel Sheinbein's Israeli plea agreement intensified Wednesday as Israeli officials accused a Maryland prosecutor of betraying their confidence by announcing the deal and Montgomery County State's Attorney Douglas Gansler countered that the Israeli prosecutor had agreed to the public disclosure.

Gansler revealed Tuesday that Sheinbein was prepared to plead guilty to murder in Israel, to which he fled in 1997, three days after the burned and dismembered body of Alfredo Enrique Tello Jr., 19, was found in the garage of a Montgomery County home.

Gansler said Israeli prosecutors told him that in return for the guilty plea, they had agreed to recommend that Sheinbein serve a 24-year prison sentence in Israel.

Irit Kohn, director of the Israeli Justice Ministry's Department of International Affairs, told Gansler in a letter released Wednesday that "we view the early publication of the agreement and its details at this time, despite our request not to do so, as a breach of professional faith."

In a reply Wednesday, Gansler wrote Kohn that he was "shocked" at being excluded from plea negotiations and said that he had scheduled his news conference only after being "assured" by Hadassah Naor, the Israeli prosecutor handling the case, that the Israelis did not object.

Scientists Scout Possible Site For Nuclear Tomb

LOS ANGELES TIMES

YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NEVADA

Squinting against the enveloping gloom, engineer Jim Niggemyer boards the dusty yellow mining train for its long slow descent into the depths of America's nuclear solution — through the twisting tunnel that may one day lead to a nuclear-age pharaoh's tomb.

Far out in the bleak desert 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, government researchers are busy drilling, heating and analyzing the depths of this ancient mountain for its likely future as the nation's first high-level nuclear graveyard.

They toil for a long-term goal: to transform Yucca Mountain by 2010 into the permanent home to 77,000 tons of highly lethal waste — spent uranium and plutonium byproducts from nuclear power plants, nuclear submarines and government test projects dating back to the testing of the first atomic bomb.

Housed in corrosion-resistant alloy canisters the size of compact cars, the fearsome cargo is so radioactive that momentary exposure would mean death within days, if not hours.

The nation's spent nuclear fuel is now stored at military bases and in cooling pools and dry storage at more than 100 reactors in 34 states. These sites require constant monitoring and repair.

Niggemyer and his colleagues know that the government is banking on the Yucca Mountain Project to hold the fuel for a virtual eternity. With its remote location and arid climate, officials estimate that the desert repository can isolate the waste for at least 10,000 years — at the end of which, they predict, much of the radioactivity will have diminished.

Timor Rivals Plan for War, Peace

THE WASHINGTON POST

MALIANA, INDONESIA

In the westernmost towns of East Timor, armed militias are preparing for war if that is the only way to block this territory's separation from Indonesia. In the mountainous east, guerrillas who support independence are hoping for peace.

At militia checkpoints here in the western Badlands, stronghold of the anti-independence movement, tough-looking young men with spears, daggers, machetes and homemade rifles demand identification papers. Anyone connected with the United Nations or pro-independence groups is turned back.

A contrasting mood prevails near the eastern end of the province, where the Armed Force for the Liberation of East Timor is preparing to celebrate the fulfillment of a 24-year-old dream of independence in a referendum set for Monday. "It was a very long and difficult road to get here," said rebel deputy commander Taur Matan Ruak, 43. "I never dreamt the people would one day have an opportunity to vote."

The difference in attitudes between the armed groups illustrates the tensions pulling at East Timor, a former Portuguese territory in dispute since Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed it a year later. The invasion set off civil strife and abuses by the Indonesian military that are thought to have cost more than 200,000 lives.

Bennett Apologizes to Utah NAACP

THE WASHINGTON POST

Sen. Robert F. Bennett, R-Utah, has apologized for his comment that the only things that could keep Texas Gov. George W. Bush from the GOP nomination are a deadly accident or a salacious scandal, like "some woman comes forward, let's say some black woman comes forward with an illegitimate child that he fathered within the last 18 months."

The Utah NAACP demanded an apology. On Monday, the organization got just that after meeting with the senator for an hour. Bennett apologized in the meeting and later repeated the apology before reporters.

"When I make a mistake, it's a beaut," Bennett said. "There's no question this was a mistake. I had no intention of offending anyone."

NAACP leaders said they accepted his apology. Bennett made the Bush comments during a meeting this month with the editorial board of the Ogden Standard-Examiner. Shortly afterward, Bennett issued a statement in which he did not apologize but suggested that he "certainly regrets" the comments.

Jeanetta Williams, president of the NAACP's Salt Lake City branch, said it was wrong for Bennett to single out black women and pushed for a further apology.

Bennett said he'd been thinking about the movie "Primary Colors," which includes a fictional account of a president who has an affair with a young black woman who becomes pregnant.

OPINION

The Tech
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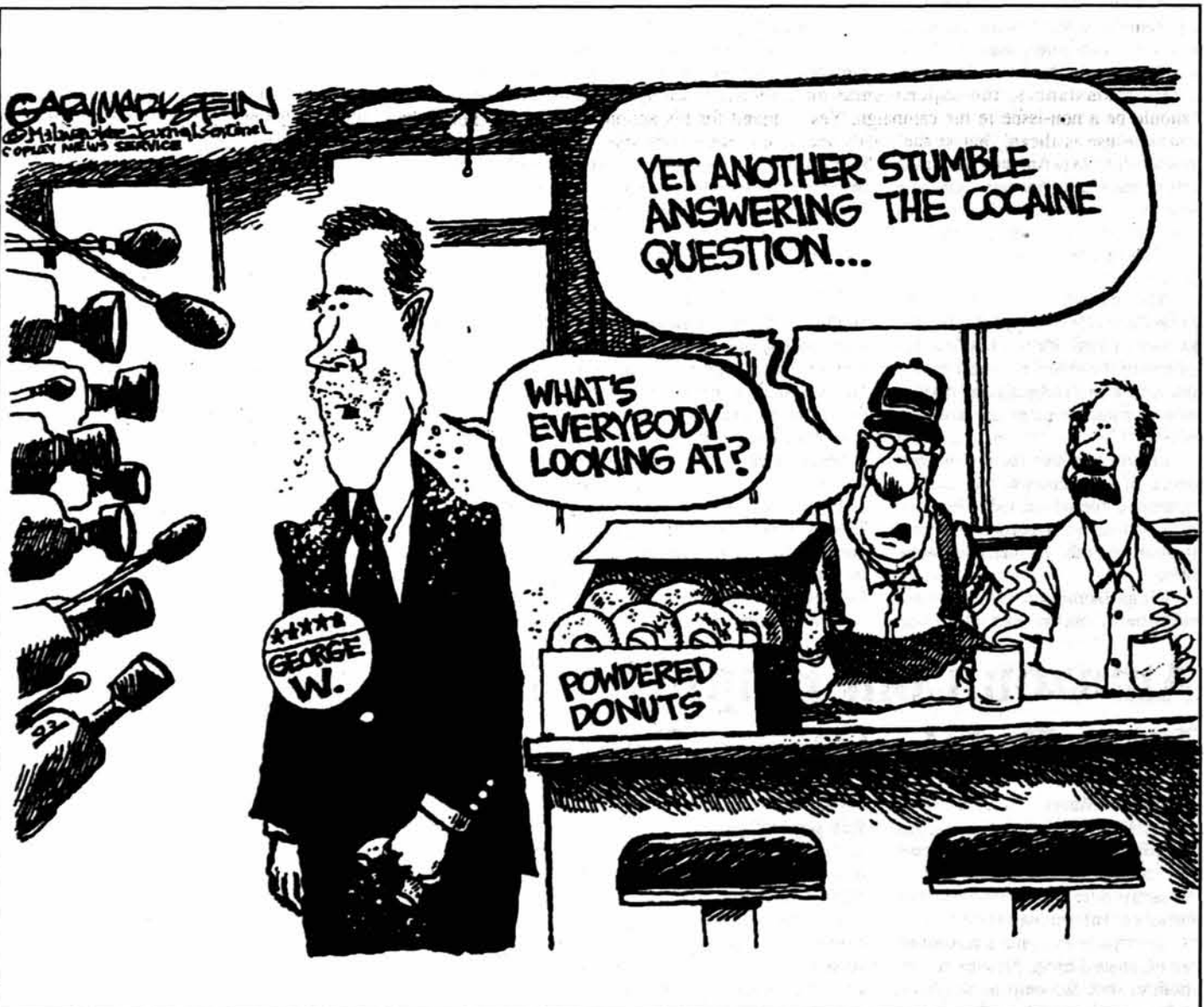
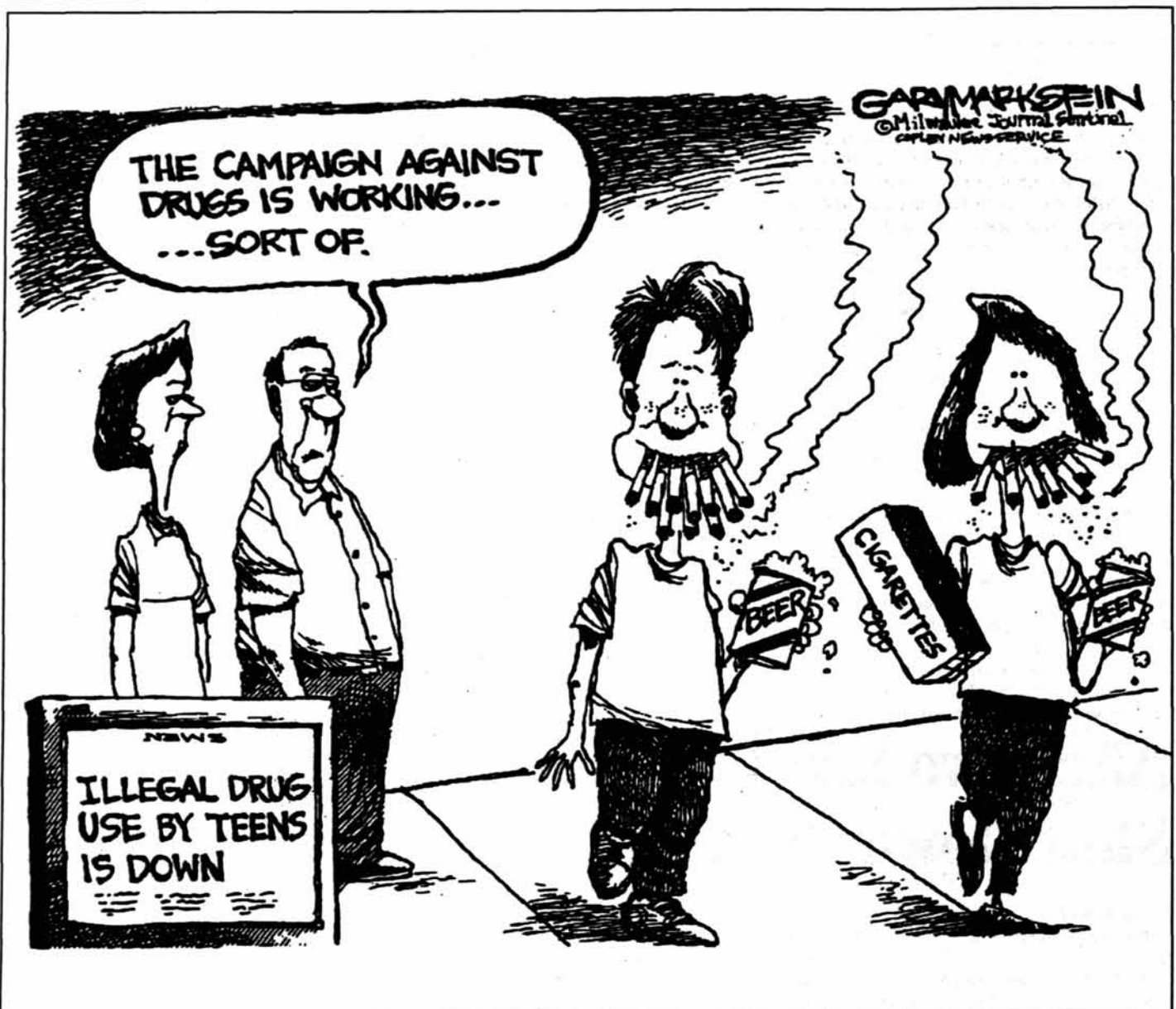
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Keeping Scandals in Perspective

Recent Political Flaps Shouldn't Eclipse Discussion of Issues

Michael J. Ring

The local media were abuzz last week with two juicy tidbits of political sleaze, one on the national stage and one in Boston's backyard. Republican heir-apparent George W. Bush continues to tap-dance around the cocaine use question as the media spotlight on him intensifies. And Massachusetts Port Authority director Peter Blute saw his political career sent to Davy Jones' locker after a now-infamous Boston Harbor cruise, complete with the twin sins of booze and nudity.

Both of these stories were rather exciting fare for local politicians, considering that government in both Washington and Boston is adrift in the summer doldrums of recesses and budget deadlocks. The daily double of scintillating scandal awoke the weary political scene.

But did either of these stories deserve to be front-page news for several days straight? Are these personal misadventures what really matter in American politics today?

It is a sad commentary indeed when puritanism trumps policy as a consideration for our political leaders. While we should expect certain standards of conduct from our political leaders, we shouldn't expect them to be saints. While Bush and Blute may each have made serious mistakes, I don't think either one should be torpedoed for his personal actions. Let us further consider each in turn.

Rumors about Bush's alleged cocaine use have dogged his campaign from the very beginning, but as whispers in the background Bush was able to more or less ignore them for a while. But after his strong first-place finish in the Iowa straw poll, the vultures from the media, and from other campaigns, began to circle. Under the pressure, Bush felt compelled to not-fully-answer the rumors by first saying he'd been clean for seven years; he then expanded it to 25 years. But these open-ended answers have only fueled more speculation on what happened more than 25 years ago.

Bush probably did use cocaine, but, given the circumstances, the experimentation should be a non-issue in the campaign. Yes, cocaine use is illegal, but in the 1960s and 1970s drug experimentation was wholly typical among baby boomers coming of age. Bill Clinton, remember, admitted to smoking

marijuana (with that sorry "didn't inhale" qualifier) and suffered no political damage from the admission. If Bush's drug use was limited to experimentation three decades ago, a pattern of behavior which would merely reflect that of his peers, cocaine use should not be an issue in this campaign.

Peter Blute is, similarly, a victim of puritanical purging. A two-term Republican congressman from the Worcester-based 3rd District, Blute was appointed head of Massport by then-governor Bill Weld after losing the 1996 congressional election. Sure, it was a political appointment, but there have been worse. Blute served on the House Transportation Committee and had gained some experience with transportation issues. Even most Democrats thought he was doing a

It is a sad commentary indeed when puritanism trumps policy... our scandal preoccupation is especially sad considering the many important issues that should be aired and discussed in the media.

good job at the Massport helm.

That was before the cruise. Blute boarded the chartered ship Nauticus along with local Republican fundraiser and known imbibor Alexander "Sandy" Tennant. While cruising the harbor, they enjoyed a little food and, of course, a little drink. Upon arriving back at the wharf, under siege from *Boston Herald* reporters and photographers, they claimed the trip was for a charity fundraiser and had been paid for with private funds, but the excuse soon fell hollow. Massport paid about \$800 for the now-infamous "booze cruise."

Spending public funds on such a misadventure is wrong, and Blute deserves a reprimand for his actions. And, even though he did give a false story to the press explaining the cruise, lying — unless under oath — is not a crime. Blute's actions were hardly high crimes but rather low misdemeanors of the

Civil Liberties, '80s Style

Julia C. Lipman

What can't schools get away with in the name of protecting children?

Well, not prohibiting black armbands, at least after the famous *Tinker* case involving students protesting the Vietnam War. And not requiring school prayer, at least not yet. But a few new cases involving student civil liberties show not only that schools have become more restrictive in the wake of Columbine, but also that students have become savvier about their rights, starting a national debate about civil liberties the likes of which haven't been seen for ten years.

In possibly the most important of these cases, a high school in Oklahoma instituted a policy under which students taking part in some extracurricular activities would be required to undergo drug tests. Some of these activities, like choir and the academic team, had for-credit classroom components for which attendance in the extracurricular part was necessary. So the school's policy, in effect, made drug testing a prerequisite for certain academic classes.

Two juniors at the school, Lindsay Earls and Daniel James, decided to challenge this policy, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union. Their suit alleges that there was no specific reason for the new policy; it wasn't sparked by an outbreak of student drug use, nor by academic team members who suddenly started to mix up Charlemagne and Charlie Chaplin. Instead, it seemed to be a concession to post-Columbine uneasiness, a feeling that something, anything, must be done to stop the rising tide of school violence (which, statistically, is not actually rising at all). The ACLU also raised the issue of test reliability; James believed that a false positive could damage his reputation and employment prospects. Even though other drug testing policies for student in extracurricular activities have been upheld by courts, none of them involved academic classes.

So, have conservatives, who seem lately to have taken up the cause of civil libertari-

anism, raised a hue and cry about this latest violation of student liberties by Big Government? Well, not exactly. They were more than happy to take up the case of Johnathan Prevette, the six-year-old punished for kissing a classmate, twisting the minor incident to fit their idea of sexual harassment policy out of control. Some conservatives even blamed Clintonian Big Brotherism in the case of a school that disciplined a student for possessing over the counter medicine. But on the issue of illegal drugs, they're a little uneasy.

And who could blame them? With George W. Bush's "young and irresponsible" behavior coming under increasingly

We're headed back to the '80s, as far as civil liberties are concerned. Forget about debates over the insidious liberal menace of "political correctness" and Clinton as Big Brother; get ready for the ACLU vs. the Moral Majority, Round Two.

harsh scrutiny, drug policy is something they'd really rather not discuss. The debate over Bush's actions as a college student, which seemed to have begun as a test to see whether Bush would really respond to these kinds of questions with more integrity than we've come to expect from Clinton, has taken on a life of its own as observers take a closer look at the governor's harsh drug policies, which are responsible for cuts in drug treatment programs as well as more punitive sentences for nonviolent drug crimes. Clintonian Democrats, who called for school uniforms as a way of preventing violence and who co-opted Republican drug

political world. His actions deserve some punishment, but not the loss of his talents by the people of Massachusetts.

Of course, we have yet to reach the real reason Blute's fate was sealed. No, it was not the misuse of \$800 in public funds. No, it was not the flimsy excuse he gave to the press. Rather, an action on the cruise for which Blute was not even present caused his head to roll. As the ship docked, a female passenger named Gidget lifted her shirt and flashed her bare breasts to a *Herald* photographer — a picture the *Herald* was all too happy to run. The picture was all the ammunition Blute's enemies in the Cellucci administration (of which there are many in high-ranking places) needed to pull the trigger. The tawdry aura of sex was injected into the scandal, and Blute's fate was sealed.

Just Tuesday, we learned that in Blute's place we will be given Virginia Buckingham, a Cellucci loyalist with no transportation expertise. The appointment is one giant leap backward for Massport.

So the tally of events of the past week: one political career dead, one wounded, and a state agency in desperate need of guidance set adrift, all thanks to the scandal atmosphere.

The scandal preoccupation is especially sad considering the many important issues that should be aired and discussed in the media. The booze cruise has cast a pall over very serious and important discussions regarding transportation planning in New England. And Bush, whose campaign manifesto is a blank slate, has coasted along this year without taking firm stands on policy questions. If the media wishes to probe him, there are plenty of issues relating to the economy, education, crime, health care, the environment, and so forth, on which he richly deserves a grilling.

The Framers who set up our government realized that people are not angels. Hence they put checks on direct democracy and set up our republican system. But we must remember that those filling our government positions are just men and women like us — certainly not angels. They will make mistakes, and while with mistakes come responsibilities for punishment, we as voters must be willing to forgive minor transgressions. Only when we ignore the Puritan feeding frenzy will we be able to resume serious discussions of national issues.

policies, are also in no position to support the rights of these students.

This case, as well as a few other moderately publicized controversies over student rights, illustrates that conservatives aren't going to be the leaders for the next civil liberties fights. They've been at the barricades for conservative college students censured by their administrations, or just ostracized by fellow students, but they're not going to go anywhere near two high school juniors who don't want to take a drug test, or a Virginia high school student suspended for having blue hair, or Ohio students suspended for involvement with a gothic web site.

Some religious conservatives voiced opposition to a Mississippi school's (later reversed) decision to ban the Jewish star as a gang symbol, but the anti-PC movement has died down, and with it, the idea that conservatives are the true defenders of civil liberties against an intrusive government. Conservatives are going back to the tactics of a decade ago, and renewing debates that were widely believed to be over. In fact, archconservative Boston College professor David Lowenthal advocated a return to outright government censorship of the media in a recent *Weekly Standard* article that has people on all sides of the political spectrum talking. The Kansas state board of education's decision to omit evolution from the state curriculum has sparked a national controversy on what seemed like an extinct issue. And even the flag-burning amendment movement, which seemed laughably irrelevant just a few years ago, has begun to pick up steam.

We're headed back to the '80s, as far as civil liberties are concerned. Forget about debates over the insidious liberal menace of "political correctness" and Clinton as Big Brother; get ready for the ACLU vs. the Moral Majority, Round Two. The conservatives are abandoning their posts at the free-speech barricades, where they were never really that comfortable anyway; Dan Quayle and even Bush, to some degree, are presenting themselves as the heirs to Ronald Reagan. It's morning in America again.

Putting Off Putting Off

Guest Column

by Gabe Weinberg

Procrastination is like taking candy from a stranger and a baby at the same time — it's stupid and easy. "But wait," you say semi-jokingly. What about that anonymous saying, "Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether." Well, we're at MIT, and I have another anonymous quotation that is closer to reality: "By doing just a little every day, you can gradually let the task completely overwhelm you."

Now, there are things that procrastination can handle, and then there are things that procrastination can't handle. Your showering, your lawn care and your family contact fall into the former category (at least for a while), but your subpoenas, your eating, and your pet care fall into the latter.

At MIT, procrastination is a little trickier. Its value is dependent on your objectives. Take me, for example. I am here because I want to learn, and I take classes (for the most part) because I am interested in them. During my four terms of experience, I've found that if I study consistently throughout the term, I can learn a subject to the depth intended by the professor. On the other hand, if I procrastinate — cram for tests, do problem sets at the last minute, pull all-nighters — then not only don't I learn a subject, I'm even more stressed and tired in the end.

Now don't misunderstand me. *You* may be able to pull it off. You might even be able to get the same grade with or without procrastination. And if you're just here for the diploma, then who cares? But if you want to learn, then I suggest putting procrastination aside, and doing a little studying each and every day. Guess what? There are even some often unforeseen benefits to forgoing procrastination.

First, studying for tests and final exams becomes easy. You will have been studying all term, and so by the time a test rolls around, you'll already know what's on it. No stress, no all-nighter — just glance at the material for a while to refresh your memory and you're done. For problem sets, read the set right when you get it and let the information permeate your head even if you aren't going to start work right away. Believe it or not, this technique helps even if you do not consciously think about the material. A few days pass and now you start working on the set (by yourself). You try each problem, and lo and behold, you can't do everything! That's all right; it's probably damn hard. No sweat, you have several more days to go to your professor's or TA's office hours. The night before the problem set is due, you sit down with a few friends (if you're not already done) and finish it up. Sound plan.

Another reason to avoid procrastination is that procrastination leads to sleep deprivation, and sleep deprivation, in turn, has harmful effects on your body. The journal *Sleep* (www.journalsleep.org) says that "free recall is sensitive to 24 hours" of total sleep deprivation — an all-nighter. In other words, if your test requires you to recall anything from memory (an essay, a formula, etc.) then you're potentially screwed (to an extent). Moreover, while caffeine and other drugs combat some of the effects of short-term sleep deprivation, the long-term effects of these drugs are unknown. In one study, researchers subjected rats to total sleep deprivation from 5 to 14 days and found that the rats showed "a progressive increase in energy expenditure..., development of skin lesions on the paws and tail, and eventually death." Death! I pre-registered for 8.13, not death!

Finally, ask yourself this question: "Why do I procrastinate?" If you procrastinate, you are implicitly saying that you would rather be doing something else. If you feel like procrastinating all the time, maybe you should be thinking about doing something else in the first place. Now, if the task you're putting off is eating, or restraining murderous impulses, then you're screwed. But if it's coursework, then perhaps you're in the wrong major.

A final note. For about two weeks last year I decreased my sleep to four hours a night. My plan was to "adjust," hoping to gain four extra waking hours each day. Hey, it adds up. Needless to say, this attempt failed miserably. I was even more out of it than usual.

In a very real and twisted sense, everything you do is simply a means of putting off death — a procrastination that I won't argue against. Yet when it comes to MIT, I suggest putting procrastination aside and getting enough beauty sleep.

Gabe Weinberg is a junior majoring in physics and planetary science.

Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



TechCalendar

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

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

Thursday's Events

1:00 p.m. – **MIT Pierce (Rowing) Boathouse - Open House.** A opportunity for anyone interested in rowing to meet crew team captains, rowers, and coaches so they can learn more about the sport. H.W.Pierce Boathouse (W8). Sponsor: MIT Boat Club.

Saturday's Events

8:00 p.m. – **Little Shop of Horrors.** Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. \$9; \$8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students; \$3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

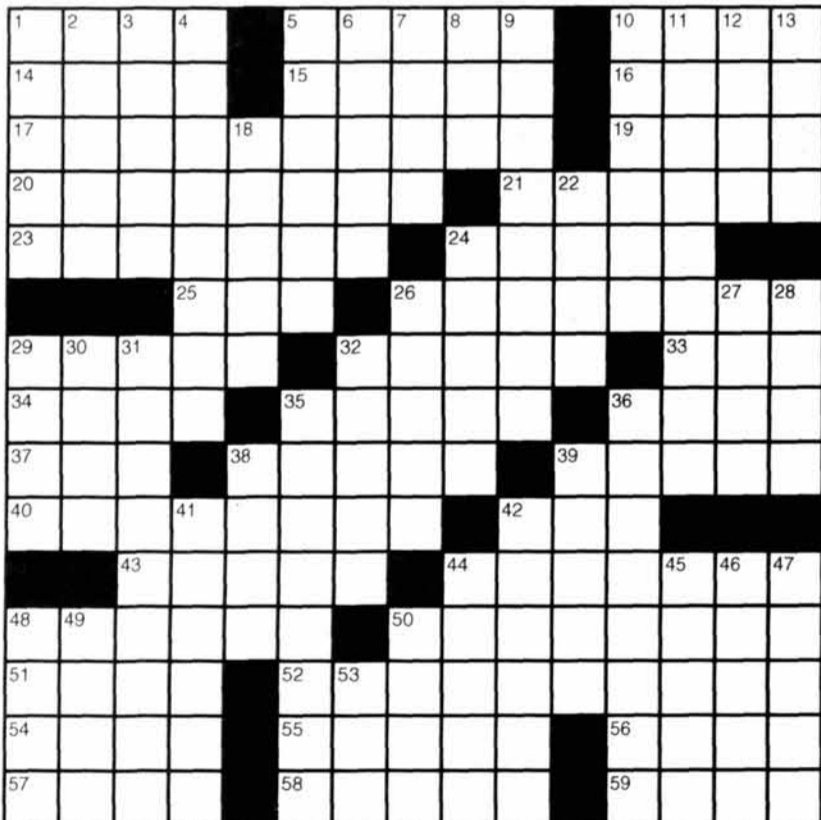
Friday's Events

8:00 p.m. – **Little Shop of Horrors.** Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. \$9; \$8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students; \$3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

Sunday's Events

2:00 p.m. – **Little Shop of Horrors.** Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. \$9; \$8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students; \$3 MIT freshmen. Kresge Little Theater.

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Xan Lattimore
Rosemont, PA

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 McCartney's instrument
- 5 Chocolate alternative
- 10 Right on maps
- 14 Funeral info
- 15 Hokkaido port
- 16 Arcturus or Dubhe, e.g.
- 17 Early Pittsburgh team
- 19 Turn on a pivot
- 20 Newsmen Eric
- 21 Steps
- 23 Used car, e.g.
- 24 Scott of "Backdraft"
- 25 Comparative suffix
- 26 Line of three feet
- 29 Swimmer Evans
- 32 Softly, in music
- 33 Maiden's last words?
- 34 My goodness!
- 35 Ike's lady
- 36 Vamoose!
- 37 Trainer's target
- 38 Singing Carpenter
- 39 Kramer's first name
- 40 Escort ships
- 42 ___-10 Conference
- 43 Light weight
- 44 Kidney bean
- 48 Take disciplinary action
- 50 Parquet circle
- 51 Spoken
- 52 Early Boston team
- 54 Make eyes at
- 55 Betelgeuse's

- constellation
- 56 Mine entrance
- 57 Pianist Myra
- 58 Horizontal line
- 59 Forfeiture

DOWN

- 1 Crow
- 2 More fit
- 3 Local trees
- 4 Kept balanced
- 5 Joint beneficiary
- 6 Dined at home
- 7 Writer Ayn
- 8 Direct extension?
- 9 Female silhouette's distinction
- 10 Jewish ascetic
- 11 Early Brooklyn team
- 12 King Ibn ___
- 13 Vichy very
- 18 Hail
- 22 San __, Italy
- 24 Cereal grass
- 26 Durations

- 27 Dutch cheese
- 28 Newspaper section of old, for short
- 29 Goldblum of "The Fly"
- 30 Culture base
- 31 Early Chicago team
- 32 French capital in a WWI song
- 35 Toy car maker
- 36 Communal
- 38 Neighbor of Okla.
- 39 Magna ___
- 41 Deceits
- 42 (), briefly
- 44 Asian capital
- 45 Formulated belief
- 46 Fragrant rootstock
- 47 Tries out
- 48 Impatient exclamation
- 49 Argue for
- 50 Be quiet, Pierre!
- 53 Jazz or Beat

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

Solution to Yesterday's Puzzle



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Elsewhere in Limbo Freshmen Enjoying Orientation

By Frank Dabek
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This year's Orientation may be without an Elsewhere due to staffing problems.

Elsewhere, a daily event designed to provide freshmen a place to escape the hectic pace of rush, was not sponsored by the Orientation Committee for the first time in several years.

Catherine M. Coury G, who volunteered to organize the Elsewhere this year, said that it "is happening contingent on getting enough people to staff it." Coury nearly cancelled the event when she failed to find 15 staffers by Sunday.

Christopher D. Beland '00, a member of the Orientation Committee, said that the committee chose not to assist with Elsewhere this year after a survey administered by the Planning Office revealed that the event's "participation rate and satisfaction rate were... just below the threshold" for an event to be considered viable.

Director of Orientation Elizabeth Cogliano Young chose to cancel the event based on the results of the survey, Beland said. Elsewhere "didn't have critical mass to be a good event," he said.

The "main help that [the Orientation committee] provided

was workers," Coury said. According to Beland, the Orientation committee attempted to recruit workers for Elsewhere but had difficulty since they couldn't give volunteers credit for hours worked at Elsewhere as it was not an official event. Each Orientation worker must work a specified number of hours to earn the early housing return granted by the Institute.

Elsewhere recruits some workers

As of Wednesday afternoon Coury had managed to recruit 15 staffers and is "hoping to pull it off at this point." However, she said that she wants to be sure "to do a reasonable job" of hosting the event.

The hours that Elsewhere will be open have already been reduced from 24 hours a day to noon to midnight from Saturday to Monday and to noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday. Elsewhere is currently scheduled to be held in the reading room on the fifth floor of the Student Center.

Because "rush is a really intense period of time... it's really nice to go somewhere where you can relax [and where] people won't talk to you about rush," Coury said.

Anyone wishing to help with Elsewhere should contact Coury at cmcoury@mit.edu.

Orientation, from Page 1

entation is nothing like what he expected; he was surprised by the type of students he was meeting. "I

know some people who are stereotypical," he said, "but these people are pretty normal."

Daniel Turek '03 said that orientation so far has been an "outstand-



REBECCA LOH—THE TECH

Alex Phillips '03 arrives from the airport via a free shuttle from the IFC.

Task Force Report Influences Vest

Residence, from Page 1

for a weaker one at a subsequent faculty meeting. Around the same time of Chorover's motion, ideas of randomized freshman housing were also visited and rejected.

Vest timed the decision of the announcement to coincide with the release of a report by the Task Force on Student Life and Learning, a broad overarching document which supported on-campus freshman housing and addressed other ways to increase community on campus.

Immediately following Vest's decision, students staged protests, including a "tool-in," and an orange-campaign to save MIT's residence system. Several MIT alumni wrote letters to Vest and to *The Tech* promising their lack of future donations. But now, a year later, the decision is seen as a virtual inevitability, and student efforts have shifted from protest to making the best of the worst.

Initial ideas for residence formed

During the Independent Activities Period of 1999, a residence design contest, announced the fall before by Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72, was held. Two design teams won, and their ideas included moving rush to the second semester, creating a strong advising system, and adding theme-based housing to the residence system.

Towards the end of the spring of 1999, a Residence System Steering Committee consisting of both students and administrators put forth a more concrete proposal for the residence system. One of the more controversial aspects of the proposal called for making

Ashdown House, currently a graduate dorm, into a "Freshman Hall," and turning MacGregor House, an undergraduate dorm, into a graduate dorm.

According to the proposal, incoming freshmen would choose their first-year residence through a summer mailing, and a Correction Lottery to be held their first week on-campus would give any dissatisfied students the option of moving. Rush would be moved to IAP, and a

somewhat ambiguous "sophomore shuffle" would encourage freshmen at the end of their first year to enter a housing lottery or face the possibility of entering the same room assignment pool as incoming freshmen in their dorm.

Currently, the RSSC proposal is only preliminary, and recently, in order to accommodate more student input, the deadline for the final report has been extended to October 1, 1999.

CCA Endorses Four Others

Snowberg, from Page 1

support of good government... and certain other principles such as affordable housing, support of public schools, responsible city planning, and harmony and justice in the city," Davis said.

"The endorsement is helpful to voters," said Malenfant. "Of course, it goes both ways," she said, noting that some voters disapprove of the CCA's views.

The CCA endorsed five of the twenty candidates running for nine city council slots this fall. Because of the resignation of Duehay, now Mayor, and Sheila Russell, there is a guarantee that at least two non-incumbents will be elected.

The other endorsed candidates are incumbents Kathy Born and Henrietta Davis, and non-incumbents Jim Braude and Robert Winters.

Platform includes transportation

Snowberg graduated with an S.B. in mathematics in June but will remain at MIT for the fall semester to complete two more undergradu-

ate majors, in physics and earth and planetary sciences, and also an economics minor. Snowberg is also a member of *The Tech* staff.

In addition to improving the relationship between students and other members of the Cambridge community, Snowberg's platform also includes better late-night and weekend transportation service, increased access to transportation alternatives, expanded parks and open space, additional affordable housing, and using the Internet to keep Cambridge government in touch with citizens.

"He seems to be interested in some of the same things I am, and I look forward to meeting him," said Davis. "There's nothing that says a student couldn't be an active member of the council."

The CCA was founded 54 years ago in the wake of a corruption scandal that ended with the mayor in prison. The association is dedicated to being a watchdog that supports "honesty and open process in government," Malenfant said.

Frank Dabek contributed to the reporting of this story.



REBECCA LOH—THE TECH

TRICK OR TRACK — Hackers hoodwink freshman Sloan Kulper into donning a bracelet that supposedly tracks the location of the wearer. Upperclassmen distributed over 200 'trackers' which actually consisted of balsa wood and wire taped to a plastic wristband today on the first floor of the Student Center. The hack also included a laptop computer displaying the positions of tracked freshmen across campus.

Stanford Students Move Often

Stanford, from Page 1

housing system on the spaces provided by the fraternity system.

Like MIT fraternities, every fraternity at Stanford maintains a resident adviser. However, Stanford resident advisers are chosen by and employed by the university. Fraternities are part of the "same RA selection as everyone else," Bransfield said. At MIT, the houses hire and write the contracts for their RAs but the advisers have to meet the approval of the Institute.

Moving on out

It is "not common for students to be in the same place" from year to year, Bransfield said. Students in the dorm system must enter the "draw" every year and are not guaranteed to return to the same dorm each year.

Although the debate over MIT's housing system has argued that continuity in living arrangements builds community, Bransfield said that "students do want to experience a variety of living options." Students may form groups of up to eight students and draw together, however. In addition, room assignments within a dorm are done on a local level after freshman year.

Stanford does offer a wide variety of living options for students to experience. Upperclassmen can live in one of forty independent houses, only some of which are fraternities. Many of the independent houses feature themes, such as a language or an area of study. Students must apply to and be accepted by these houses.

Cross-cultural houses dedicated

to African Americans, Asians, Mexicans, and Native Americans are also part of Stanford's system. In these houses one-half of the residents are of the house's ethnic background; the other half of the spaces are reserved for the general population.

A new "frosh/soph college" will be another living option for incoming freshmen. This project "combines residence life with mentoring," Bransfield said. The college will feature seminars, workshops, organized study groups, and faculty presentation all in the dorm.


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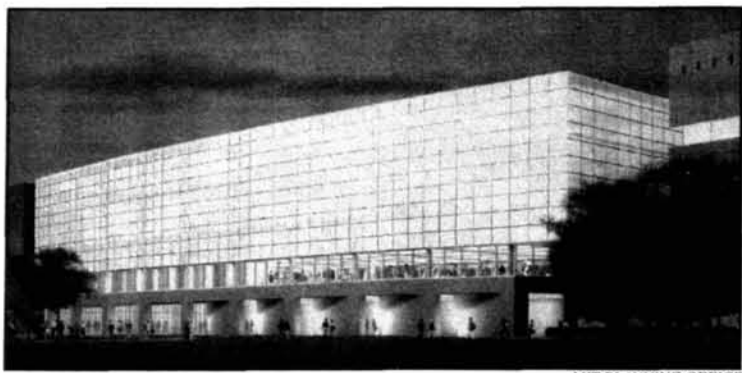
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SPORTS

New Field, Buildings Part of Athletic Upgrade Plan New Facility Includes Pool, Fitness Center

By Sanjay Basu
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR



An artist's rendition of MIT's planned athletic facility addition.

A building containing four new basketball courts, six racquetball courts, and a multi-purpose room will replace Rockwell Cage.

Current facilities inadequate

"There's a definite need for these new facilities," said Martin. "We have nearly 10,000 students and 8,000 [faculty and staff] using a 2,000-square-foot facility."

"Why we need these new facilities is a no-brainer," he said. "The current fitness center is heavily utilized and totally inadequate."

"When we put in the first pool, our facility was state of the art," Martin said. "Now the population has grown, and there's less water per person."

That inadequacy brought support for the plan from administrators and

planning officials, he said.

Funds are guaranteed for the project, he said.

"The administration and planning committees are also fundraising as much as possible," said Martin. "The plan will go through," he added.

The original financial impetus for the construction of the new pool complex came from an \$8 million donation by Albert L. Zesiger '51 and his wife Barrie in December 1996.

At the time, the total cost of the building was estimated at \$18 million. An earlier \$55.7 million plan was shelved in 1992 for lack of funds.

New addition to old plan

The expansion plan is an addition to the 1975 athletic master plan — a proposal created by athletic directors and administrators to improve athletic facilities at the Institute.

"Back in 1980, the plan first took effect, and we created the Johnson Athletic Center," Martin said. "Now, we are faced with a greater student population and old facilities."

"This effort is to bring MIT to a new standard. Students here are interested in a variety of things, but they're sometimes restricted by the athletic facilities available to them," he said.

"We're very excited about this new plan," Martin said. "It gives students the opportunity to have a more positive out of the classroom experience."

Susan Buchman contributed to the reporting of this article.

Renovated Omnifield Will Open In Time for Fall Sports Season

By Kevin R. Lang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

On September 10, what was once the most run-down and dangerous athletic facility at MIT will be the most modern. The omnifield, located between the tennis courts and Johnson Athletic Center, was resurfaced with AstroTurf this summer and will soon be reopened for athletic use.

Construction crews began tearing up the existing field on June 7 in order to make way for the new astroTurf. Workers are currently finishing the under-layers and "the turf will be delivered on Friday or Monday and we be installed as soon as the 'e-layer' is finished," said Daniel Martin, assistant athletic department head for facilities and operations.

"We're excited and I know the students will be, too," said Martin.

The overall budget for the project is \$1.6 million, which "provides not only for replacement costs, but also for the replacing surface and underlayer of material," said John Hawes, project manager for the turf replacement.

Funds were allocated for the project by the Committee for the Review of Space Planning which includes such senior administration officials as Provost Robert A. Brown and Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72. The project is part of the infrastructure replacement budget.

Southwest Recreational Industries, the contractors for the operation, are installing astroTurf-12 on the omnifield. Based out of Leander, Texas, SRI is the sole manufacturer of astroTurf in the United States and is currently under contract with Harvard University for its new field construction.

Safety prompts replacement

The omnifield was closed in April after numerous complaints from both students and officials about the danger the field posed.

At that time, the field was over 12 years old. According to Martin, a turf field usually lasts between 8 and 10 years.

"Certainly safety was a concern," said Hawes of the field replacement.

"The old turf was installed in 1986 and had run its useful cycle. As time went on, people's concern for safety was raised," Martin said.

Lacrosse team member Timothy P. Nolan '01 said, "The omnifield is the worst field I've played on in my entire athletic career." Nolan did not know of any specific turf injuries, but said that "everyone scrapes their knees and it gets really slick" in wet weather.

The administration moved to replace the turf swiftly after its shutdown in early April. Although initial plans were to replace the field during the fall semester, the

timeline was moved up to have the turf ready for the fall sports season.

"The turf is the most important field we have. It is the

only lighted and all-weather field at MIT. In the fall semester, it is used by field hockey, football, intramural soccer, as well as several club sports," Martin said.

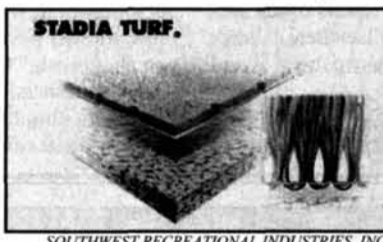
During the spring semester when the omnifield was shut down, many teams were required to relocate their practices to either the oval or Johnson, causing problems with crowding.

"When you lose a key facility, it becomes a problem. The Institute stepped up to support us and we moved diligently to get it done," said Martin.

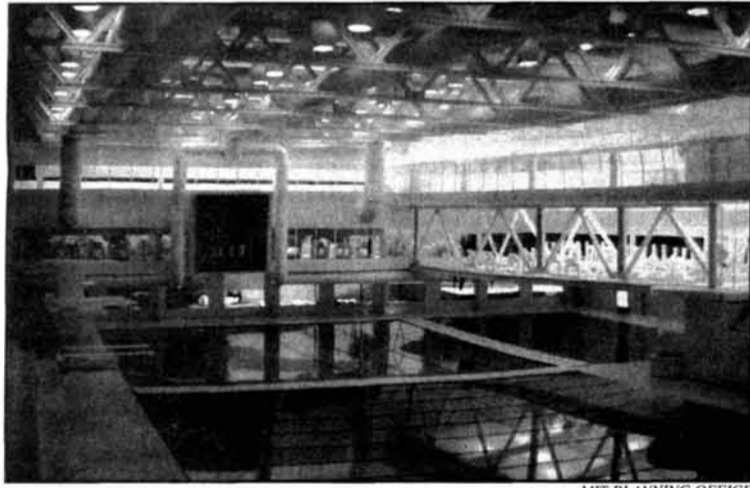
Numerous changes in the replacement turf will improve safety on the field. According to Hawes, the old field had painted lines cut into it and sewn separately into the larger surface. This structure resulted in problems as the field began to show wear and tear.

The painted lines came undone from the main turf causing athletes to trip or twist their ankles on the protruding pieces. The new astroTurf, however, will have integrated colored lines so there will be less danger to athletes as the field is subjected to normal use.

Susan Buchman contributed to the reporting of the article.



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With work currently progressing on the "e-layer", renovations to the Omnifield are scheduled to be completed on September 10th.



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