

President Charles Vest greeted the class of 2003 in his welcoming address held in Kresge Auditorium yesterday.

## Vest Welcomes Class of 2003 To MIT at Hacked Convocation

By Frank Dabek  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Class of 2003 received its formal introduction to the Institute today at the President's convocation in Kresge Auditorium.

President Charles M. Vest delivered his traditional welcome address to the new class. Vest's address was followed by remarks from Professor Claude R. Canizares on astrophysics and the search for life on other planets. Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy Samuel J. Keyser, gave a presentation on History and Hacking at MIT which was preceded itself by a hack in which upperclassmen encouraged freshmen to sing the "Engineers' Drinking Song."

### Vest welcomes freshmen

President Vest delivered his traditional charge to freshmen, welcoming them to the Institute and their place as "the stars of the new millennium."

The opening of Vest's speech built on a hollywood theme following his introduction by Orientation Committee members Julie D. Gesch

'00 and Damien A. Brosnan '01 as the winner of the "best president of a corporation" award.

Vest presented his annual assurance that freshmen had not been admitted to MIT by mistake but rather "because you believe in excellence."

He encouraged the new class to become "leaders in a world that is changing rapidly, that is increasingly complex, always challenging and fascinating, and often beautiful" and presented the work of MIT

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## Renovations at Baker Force Alternate Rush

By Rima Amaout  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

As the \$24 million renovations to Baker House approach completion, residents of Baker House must grapple simultaneously with moving back into their rooms and rushing incoming freshmen.

Baker's doors will open officially at 7 a.m. on Monday, according to Senior Project Manager Susan R. Personette. Baker residents will be able to move in then, and Baker rush staff are planning to give tours to incoming freshmen over the weekend.

Students working on Baker rush this year have set up a tent near Kresge Auditorium to function as rush headquarters until the building is opened. "The tent will be Baker until Monday," said Saumil J. Gandhi '02, a Baker rush chair. "All of the events that go on in the Daily Confusion will be run from

the tent," Gandhi said.

### Construction hampers Baker rush

Because the renovations at Baker were not scheduled to be complete until Monday, incoming freshmen were not assigned temporary housing at Baker.

Arian Shahdadi '02, another Baker rush chair, said, "None of us have access to Baker right now," but "we will be giving several tours this weekend." Two will be held on Saturday and three on Sunday, and full tours start Monday.

The weekend tours are timed, added Pavan K. Gupta '01, a Baker resident involved with rush. "These are timed tours listed in the Daily Confusion," Gupta said. On Monday, "we'll be giving as many tours as possible," he said.

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## Phone Options for Homesick Students

By Kristen Landino  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This article is the second in a series intended to introduce freshmen to life in Boston and at the Institute.

Freshman year of college is the perhaps the first time young adults are away from home for an extended period of time.

To stay in touch with friends and relatives, new students often find it necessary to purchase calling cards, cell phones, or to investigate other long distance calling options. There are many different options available, and a careful study of calling patterns will allow for the most suitable plan.

### Calling Cards

Calling cards are available through all major long-distance carriers including AT&T, MCI, and Sprint.

AT&T offers two types of calling cards: a one-rate calling card and a Student Advantage card. The former charges a \$1 per month access fee, but calls to anywhere in the United States cost 25 cents per minute anytime. The card can be purchased by calling 1-800-CALLATT.

The Student Advantage card not only has cheap domestic calling rates, but it also offers cardholders discounts with numerous national and local merchants. For instance, both Greyhound and

Amtrak give Student Advantage cardholders a 15 percent discount on travel anywhere in the United States.

Domestic calling rates for the Student Advantage card are 25 cents per minute. There is no monthly fee.

Information about the Student Advantage Card can be obtained at the website at <<http://www.studentadvantage.com>>

MCI also markets calling cards, although no student discounts are available. A monthly charge of \$3 applies to MCI cards and an 89 cent surcharge is billed for each call made. Calls made in the United States cost 59 cents per minute if cardholders do not have an established long distance service with MCI.

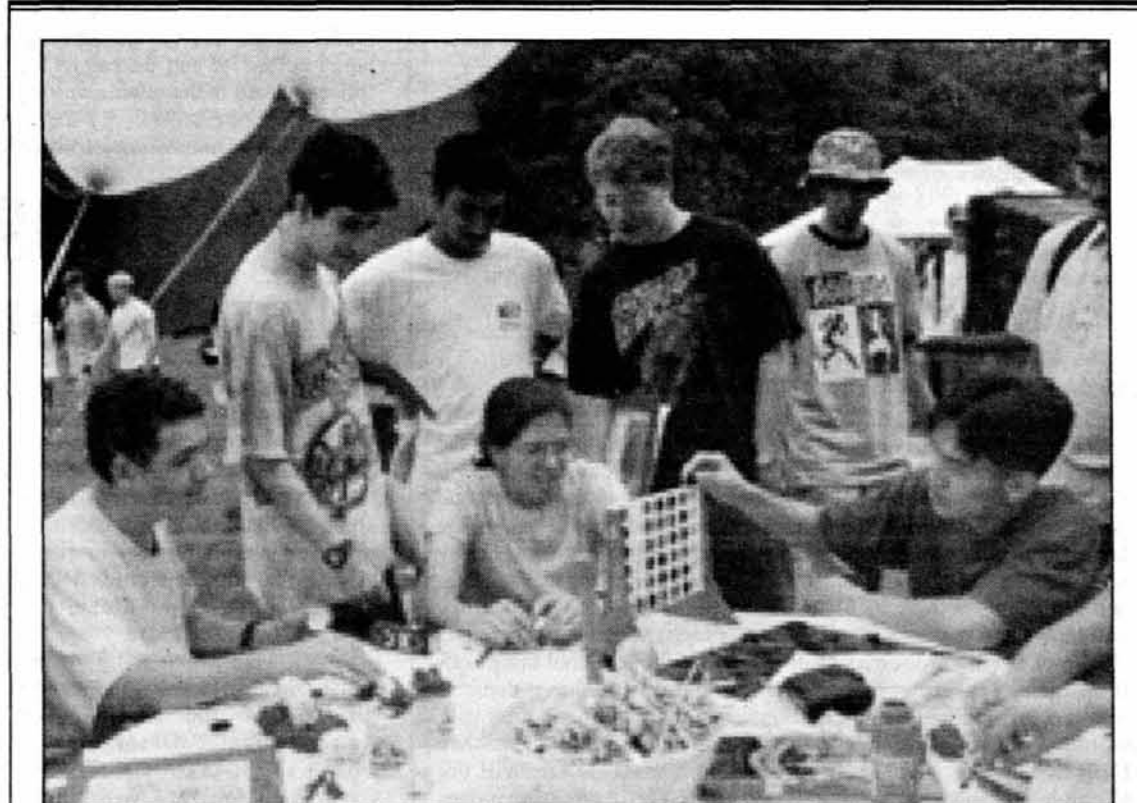
MCI also sells pre-paid calling cards which offer considerable discounts compared to direct-billed cards. 120 minutes of calling time can be purchased for \$15.99, which translates to 13 cents per minute. Cards may be purchased by calling 1-800-444-3333.

Sprint offers domestic calling cards with rates as low as 10 cents per minute on nights and weekends. There is no additional monthly fee. However, daytime rates can run as high as 40 cents per minute. New customers get an additional \$6 subtracted from their first bill.

International calling cards are

also available through Sprint. Sprint customer service can be reached at 1-800-PINDROP.

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As part of the MIT Real World activities, freshmen gather on Kresge Oval to relax and play games.



The Tech examines introductory courses.

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The Tech welcomes the crass rat to the Fun section.

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Several alternative freshmen year programs are holding open houses today.

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# WORLD & NATION

## 15 Million-Year-Old Skeleton May Offer Clues on Human Evolution

THE WASHINGTON POST

A 15 million-year-old skeleton unearthed in Kenya belongs to a previously unknown animal type that may be a sort of great-uncle of our oldest direct relative, scientists say.

The recent find predates by several million years the long-sought "holy grail" of paleoanthropology: the last common ancestor that great apes and humans had before each of those groups diverged and developed separately.

But the new and unexpectedly copious remains are an important step in the search, apparently ruling out one leading candidate for that illustrious evolutionary position, and narrowing the range of characteristics for which fossil-hunters will look.

The partial skeleton, extracted from a stone formation after a protruding tooth first signaled its presence in 1993, came from an animal approximately "the equivalent of a large modern male baboon," said co-discoverer Steve Ward of Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Kent State University. It weighed about 60 pounds and stood 4 to 5 feet tall with a long, flexible spine and strong grasping hands.

That creature arose during a key epoch in pre-human evolution called the Middle Miocene (about 16 million to 11 million years ago) in which the lush rain forests of Africa gradually gave way to more open plains and savannas. During this period, the animals whose lineage would eventually produce gibbons, great apes and humans first ventured down from treetops and spent a little time on the ground.

## Water, Billions of Years Old, Found in Meteorite

THE WASHINGTON POST

A meteorite that whistled into a West Texas yard last year contained the first extraterrestrial water ever captured on Earth, scientists reported Thursday.

Like a cosmic message in a bottle, the microscopic bubbles of primordial water are locked inside crystals of halite, the mineral that makes up table salt, but in this case has been turned blue and purple by radiation. The crystals and their liquid cargo appear to date from the dawn of the solar system some 4.5 billion years ago.

The discovery provides scientists their first chance to study actual samples of water that may have existed in interstellar space before the sun and planets were born. It also suggests there was much more water on early asteroids than anyone suspected, the researchers said, and it could help reveal the unknown processes by which this essential ingredient of life was distributed in the early solar system.

The processes by which water was acquired by Earth and other rocky inner planets have remained largely unknown. Because water in liquid form is essential to all known forms of life, the search for the origins of life, and for life on other worlds, has centered largely around the search for water. Astrobiologists called the discovery fascinating but said its implications are not yet known.

"The importance of this discovery is that for the first time we have actual samples of (extraterrestrial) water trapped inside mineral grains, which we can have in the lab and study directly — which is really exciting," said Michael Zolensky, an asteroid specialist and mineralogist at NASA's Johnson Space Center, and lead author of a report on the discovery in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*.

Robert Clayton, of the Enrico Fermi Institute at the University of Chicago, who was not involved in the research, wrote in an accompanying commentary: "The existence of water-soluble salt in this meteorite is astonishing" and provides "the first opportunity to study solar nebular water directly."

Based on dating analysis led by JSC scientist Laurence Nyquist, the salt grains appear to have formed at the time the sun, planets and other bodies of the solar system were still tiny seeds coalescing out of a vast cloud, or nebula, of rotating gas and dust.

## WEATHER

### Blame it on the Rain

By Greg Lawson  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The grey skies today will most likely bear rain this afternoon as the warm front finally passes by. The lower level humidity and heat will have made the atmosphere unsettled enough to spawn showers and possibly thunderstorms throughout the area. The rain will end in the late evening and we will be left within a warm, sticky air mass. Friday night will be without rain, but it won't feel too dry with temperatures and dew points both in the high 60s and possibly some fog. Saturday will be hot and muggy with temperatures in the upper 80s. There is a chance of afternoon showers again which would help cool things off. In any case, a cold front passing nearby will eventually lower the temperatures and humidity. Look for Sunday to be pleasant and drier with scattered clouds. Beyond that it becomes a question of Hurricane Dennis. There is still big disagreement on what Dennis will do, although most models agree it will graze the NC coast — what it does beyond that is still in question. Some have him plowing up in to New England others have him safely blown out to sea.

What is clear is that he will encounter the strong westerly jet and cooler, dry air mass south of New England. How they interact is not so clear. But for now we'll be optimists and say early next week looks good.

**Today:** Cloudy skies bring late afternoon showers and/or thunder storms. Light southeasterly winds. High 76°F (24°C).

**Tonight:** Rain will end late evening. Warm, moist, foggy night. Low of only 69°F (21°C).

**Saturday:** Warm and muggy. Partly cloudy. Chance of late afternoon showers. High 88°F (31°C). Low 65°F (18°C).

**Sunday Outlook:** Clearer skies, drier air, and pleasant temps in the high 70s (25-27°C).

# Janet Reno Vows to Uncover Truth About Siege In Waco

By Eric Lichtblau

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

An angry Attorney General Janet Reno, moving to quell a growing credibility crisis, promised Thursday to find out why she — and the American public — have been misinformed for six years about the FBI's use of flammable munitions in the last hours of the Branch Davidian siege near Waco, Texas.

But even as Reno and other federal law enforcement officials moved to answer new questions about the 1993 disaster, they acknowledged that the reversal of their longstanding position on the matter undermines their credibility.

In addition, it could give rise to a new round of conspiracy theories and reopen one of the most tragic chapters in the nation's recent history, recalling the deadly end to a standoff between the government and religious separatists that, among other things, inspired Timothy J. McVeigh two years later to blow up the federal building in Oklahoma City.

The controversy over the government's misstatements in the Waco case already has fueled accusations of a cover-up from survivors and relatives of the dead — some of whom are bringing a wrongful death lawsuit that is to go to trial in October. And it has prompted calls for new congressional hearings on the matter from Republican lawmakers who have long criticized Reno for her handling of the Waco episode and a wide range of unrelated issues.

The new disclosure "undermines the public's confidence in our ability to do the job," FBI spokesman Tron W. Brekke said in an interview. "It really hurts our ability to perform and it's very much of an embarrassment."

Triggering the controversy was the FBI's acknowledgment earlier this week that its agents may have launched incendiary tear gas canisters — capable of catching fire — toward a bunker near Davidian leader David Koresh's compound hours before he and dozens of his followers died in the inferno outside Waco on April 19, 1993.

The admission marked a sharp

departure from past statements. For years, Reno and other federal officials have insisted that no pyrotechnic or incendiary devices were used by the government that day. Lawmakers grilled Reno and FBI officials about the issue in weeks of high-profile congressional hearings. Just last month, when similar allegations resurfaced in Texas during the filming of a documentary on the disaster, Justice Department officials dismissed the notion as "nonsense."

But after the issue was raised again this week in the Dallas Morning News, a further review of FBI records — including a 1996 memo that made reference to the use of the military-style canisters — prompted the bureau to reverse its long-standing position, officials said.

The new information indicates that about 6 a.m. on the day of the disaster, agents may have fired at least two flammable, military-style gas canisters at a concrete bunker about 100 yards from the main, wooden, dwelling where the fire began some six hours later.

Officials said the agents were seeking to use the tear gas canisters to block an underground escape route between the bunker and the Davidians' main dwelling. Sect members had been holed up in the building for 51 days following a deadly gun battle with federal agents who had tried to raid the compound in response to reports of stockpiled weapons.

Reno, whose early days in office in 1993 were haunted by the prolonged standoff at Waco and its fiery conclusion, said she still believes Koresh and his followers set the fire that ripped through the compound, killing 57 adults and 19 children.

"I have no reason whatsoever at this point to believe that the FBI was responsible for the deaths of the people. But I think it is important for the American people to know that we have pursued every question and pursued as far as we humanly can to get to the truth," she said.

"If there is any information that indicates" the military canisters played a part in the fire, Reno said, "we will pursue it."

Reno said that, in approving the FBI's use of tear gas during the course of the standoff, she was concerned about the risk of a fire and received assurances that no incendiary devices would be used. Among the key issues now to be determined, officials said, is why that assurance was violated, who knew about the use of the incendiary munitions and how it was that top officials gave contrary reports in their public statements.

In addition, Brekke said that some 40 FBI investigators assigned to the review also will likely pursue new allegations that members of the Army's secret Delta Force anti-terrorist unit not only were at the Davidian compound that day but may have played an active role. The unit's involvement, if confirmed, could conflict with federal regulations restricting the role of military personnel in civilian law-enforcement operations.

Reno and FBI Director Louis J. Freeh conferred Thursday on how the review will be carried out. No decisions were announced. One issue still to be decided, a Justice Department source said, is whether Reno will bring in an official from outside the department to oversee the investigation.

"I will not stop 'til I get to the bottom of this," Reno told reporters.

But Republican lawmakers indicated that they would not leave the matter entirely to Reno.

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thursday joined the call for congressional hearings, saying that a new inquiry must determine whether Justice Department officials are guilty of "a cover-up or negligent oversight."

The revelations also could complicate the government's defense against a \$100 million lawsuit brought by more than 200 relatives of the Davidians. The wrongful-death suit alleges that the FBI trapped the Davidians in the compound, helped to spark the deadly blaze and prevented firetrucks from reaching the scene. It also claims that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms used excessive force in the initial raid on the compound.

# First Images Return from the New Chandra X-Ray Telescope

By Kathy Sawyer  
THE WASHINGTON POST

The violent spasms surrounding an exploding star, with what may be the first view of the fireworks around a black hole at the center, were revealed Thursday in sharp "first light" images from NASA's newest space observatory, the Chandra X-ray Telescope.

"We were astounded by these images," said Harvey Tananbaum, director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Chandra X-ray Center in Cambridge, Mass., at a NASA headquarters briefing.

"That's just a beautiful sight," said Martin Weisskopf of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, chief scientist for the project. He, Tananbaum and others have spent over two decades on a "roller-coaster ride" working toward this event.

"It works," said Edward Weiler, NASA's top scientist, sharing the mixture of triumph and relief. "It works perfectly." Weiler was chief scientist on the Hubble Space Telescope team when, after the optical telescope was launched to orbit, it was found to have a major flaw

built into its primary mirror. Astronauts have been able to repair and regularly upgrade the Hubble. But the Chandra team, taking a gamble to increase the efficiency of the \$1.6 billion telescope's science operations, dispatched their observatory into an egg-shaped orbit that routinely carries it one-third of the way to the moon — far beyond all hope of retrieval or repair.

The telescope opened its door on the cosmos two weeks ago, after its July 23 launch aboard a space shuttle, and on Aug. 19 focused on the Cassiopeia A supernova, the nearest, youngest example of one of the most violent events in the cosmos. The star exploded 320 years ago, blasting material into space at 10 million mph and sending violent shock waves, like massive sonic booms, outward in all directions. This in turn created a 50 million-degree bubble of X-ray-emitting gas.

The science team, which has not yet analyzed the images, whooped and cheered when they first popped up on computer screens. The pictures and data provide much greater detail than the fuzzy images obtained of the same supernova by

previous X-ray satellites, Tananbaum said.

"We see the collision of the debris, ... we see shock waves rushing into interstellar space at millions of miles per hour," he said. "And as a real bonus we see for the first time a tantalizing bright point near the center of the remnant that could possibly be a collapsed star."

The site of gravitational collapse, long sought by astronomers, could be either a black hole or a neutron star-the remnant of the star, some 10 to 30 times the mass of the sun, that exploded.

Scientists theorize that heavy elements such as carbon that make up planets and people are cooked up in the thermonuclear furnaces at the cores of stars. Then, by means of these stellar explosions, the elements are distributed through interstellar space to become the building blocks of other stars, planets and perhaps life.

Chandra will help to confirm one of the most fascinating theories of modern science — "that we came from the stars," said Robert Kirshner of Harvard University, an astrophysicist who studies supernovas.

# British Cabinet Minister Says IRA Has Honored Ceasefire

By T.R. Reid  
THE WASHINGTON POST

LONDON

The British cabinet minister responsible for Northern Ireland declared today that the Irish Republican Party has adhered "overall" to its 1997 cease-fire pledge, despite apparent IRA involvement in recent incidents of violence and gun-running.

The declaration by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam means that Sinn Fein, the political party affiliated with the IRA, can participate in the upcoming review of the stalemated peace process in Northern Ireland. It also means that Mowlam will continue to grant early release from prison to IRA bombers and kidnappers.

Citing the murder last month of a cab driver in Belfast, and an IRA attempt this summer to smuggle in weapons from Florida, Mowlam said "I have come very close to judging that the IRA's cease-fire is no longer for real." But as an "overall judgment," she went on, she could not conclude that "these recent events represent a decision by the organization to return to violence."

If the factual question was a close call, Mowlam had almost no choice as a political matter. If she had concluded that the IRA was back on a war footing, Sinn Fein would not have a role in next month's discussions to revive the peace process begun by last year's Good Friday Agreement. Without

Sinn Fein's presence, there probably can not be further progress toward peace.

The key to the peace process in the British province has been the involvement of all sides in the bitter conflict there. The 1.6 million residents of Northern Ireland are split between "republicans" like Sinn Fein — who want to merge the province into the Republic of Ireland to the south — and "unionists," who want to maintain the political union with Britain. There also is a growing segment of the population that just wants an end to the conflict, regardless of the result.

The peace talks are stalemated for the moment, and the effort to launch a multi-party local government is on hold.

# MD Prosecutor Refuses to Hand Over Evidence to Tripp's Attorneys

By Raja Mishra  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Maryland State Prosecutor Stephen Montanarelli refused Thursday to turn over any evidence to Linda Tripp's defense attorneys and declined to respond to arguments that he would be unable to make the wiretapping case against her without using evidence she provided under a federal grant of immunity.

Montanarelli's remarks were contained in three short responses he filed in Howard County Circuit Court in answer to a flurry of requests filed last week by Tripp's attorneys. Tripp's attorneys asked for all the evidence the state prosecutor had obtained during his 13-month investigation.

"They are not entitled to all our evidence," Montanarelli said in a telephone interview Thursday. "We think the indictment is understandable. It couldn't be in any plainer language."

Montanarelli also said that before going to trial, he would not turn over grand jury transcripts sought by a Tripp attorney, Joseph Murtha, unless a judge ordered him

to do so.

The state prosecutor also made requests of the Tripp legal team, asking that they furnish him with speech and writing samples from Tripp, a list of experts they intend to call and a list of other witnesses.

Tripp was indicted by a Howard County grand jury July 30. She is charged with illegally taping a phone conversation with Monica S. Lewinsky on Dec. 22, 1997, and illegally directing her attorney to disclose its contents to Newsweek magazine. Tapes that Tripp provided to a special prosecutor were the basis for the investigation into President Clinton's relationship with Lewinsky, a former White House intern.

No judge has been assigned to Tripp's case, and no trial date has been set. If convicted, Tripp could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for each charge.

"Grand jury transcripts do not actually have to be turned over until the witness takes the stand," Montanarelli said. "They'll get them when the judge orders us to turn them over."

Montanarelli did provide

Murtha with a list of witnesses that he plans to call at trial but didn't make the list public.

Sources close to the investigation said Thursday that Lewinsky is on the witness list, a move Murtha said he would welcome as of possible help to his client.

"I think she will have information that is relevant to our defense," Murtha said.

Lewinsky has appeared before a grand jury investigating her relations with Clinton and before the Senate, via videotape. But she has not been cross-examined.

In his responses, Montanarelli disclosed that he interviewed Lewinsky on June 16, and that she identified her voice and that of Tripp on a tape.

Sources have said that Lewinsky also told Montanarelli that she did not give Tripp permission to tape their phone talks. All three are elements essential to proving the wiretapping charge.

But the documents filed by Montanarelli gave no information as to whether he actually has a copy of the Dec. 22, 1997, conversation.

Tripp provided the tapes to Starr in exchange for federal immunity.

# World Record Erases Glaring Hole in Michael Johnson's Track Resume

By Amy Shipley  
THE WASHINGTON POST

SEVILLE, SPAIN

As the finish line neared and his competitors fell back, Michael Johnson, without turning his head, peered left, searching for the track clock. About to win his fourth straight world title in the 400 meters, Johnson wanted to see if he had also reached the one milestone he had chased, unsuccessfully, for nearly 10 years.

The clock, Johnson's only competition Thursday night, told the Olympic and world champion he'd finally broken Butch Reynold's 11-year-old world record. Johnson's time of 43.18 seconds topped Reynold's 1988 mark by .11 seconds. He so dominated the world track and field championships race that silver medalist Sanderlei Claro Parrela of Brazil trailed by about 10 meters, a ridiculously large margin in a race so short.

"Coming off the curve, I knew I had a big lead," said Johnson, 32. "I had to just keep telling myself, 'Don't panic.'"

When Johnson realized what he'd done, he raised his right index finger and let out a yell. But once he came to a halt, there was no leaping or wild celebrating. Johnson simply looked satisfied. He posed for photographers by the clock, which flashed "New WR: 43:18." Spotting an American flag in the stands, he

walked over and happily slapped hands with about 60 fans with front row seats at Olympic Stadium.

In erasing what Johnson earlier this week called a "glaring" hole in his resume, Johnson showed a sense of purpose and determination. He now owns world records in both the 400 and 200 (19.32 seconds), a mark he set during the 1996 Olympics. In winning his eighth world championship gold, Johnson also tied Carl Lewis on Thursday night for the career lead in that category.

When he finally made his way around the stadium for his victory lap, carrying a small American flag, Johnson took his time. Unlike Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj, who celebrated his 1,500 victory Tuesday by sprinting with his nation's flag, Johnson walked. This, he figured, was a moment he wanted to savor after a year in which he has battled nagging hamstring problems.

"I'm proud of myself for being able to come back," Johnson said. "I didn't tell a lot of people, but my coach and I sat down at the beginning of the year, and he said, 'What do you want to do this year?'"

"I said, 'Break the world record in the 400.'"

Said Clyde Hart, Johnson's coach since his college years at Baylor, "When Michael sets a goal, he's pretty hardheaded."

The 400 record has been particularly difficult to achieve. Before

Reynolds set the world mark in 1988, Lee Evans had held the record for nearly 20 years. Evans ran a 43.86 at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

Johnson looked as if he could have broken the record during Tuesday's semifinal heat in which he coasted — amazingly — to a time of 43.95. He said he worked during his three qualifying heats to perfect his first 100 meters, taking care not to go too fast out of the blocks, a common mistake among those 400 runners who also compete at 200 meters. His goal for the first 100 meters was running it in 10.9 seconds. With that accomplished, he said, he tried to relax over the next 200 meters.

As he rounded the final turn, he was a picture of intensity, pushing forward as his competitors seemed to be running in place.

"Coming home, I just tried to hold my form together," he said.

The hot night didn't bother him; after all, he trained in Texas this summer. "It's 107 in Dallas," he said. "So this is OK for me."

Johnson acknowledged that his chase for this record had become exceedingly difficult since the U.S. track and field championships in June. When he pulled out of the 200 meters there because of a hamstring injury, he was accused of trying to duck a matchup against star sprinter Maurice Greene.

# Web Site's Publication of Ford Secrets Halted

THE WASHINGTON POST

A federal court has issued a temporary restraining order against a World Wide Web site producer accused of publishing stolen trade secrets and other sensitive documents illegally obtained from Ford Motor Co.

The court order, issued Wednesday in Detroit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, temporarily stops Robert Lane, the owner of BlueOvalNews.com, from publishing confidential documents allegedly provided by some Ford employees.

Ford will ask the court next week for a permanent injunction against Lane and his site. That will mark the third time in a year that Ford has sought an injunction to stop Lane's Internet invasion of its inner sanctum.

FordNetwork.com and FordUnleashed.com, both operated by Lane, were silenced by the car company earlier this year in federal court actions that found the sites in violation of U.S. trademark and copyright laws.

Efforts to reach Lane by phone Thursday were unsuccessful. But his feelings about Ford's latest legal maneuver were stated clearly on his site, BlueOvalNews.com.

"It's not what happens to BlueOvalNews that is of real importance, it's what happens to all of our First Amendment Rights!" he declared. "This is precisely why BlueOvalNews will fight this lawsuit," said Lane, a lawyerless defendant who included an appeal "for any legal assistance in defense of these Constitutional rights."

# Flavored Bidis Popular With Young Smokers

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Ask 16-year-old Anna why she smokes bidi cigarettes and she'll glance down at her clunky platform sandals, look up knowingly and smile: They're the latest trend.

They give a real buzz, adds 15-year-old Erika, with her pierced navel and lace-trimmed tank top. Strawberry bidis are best, say the two friends, lounging at a Starbucks after a day at the Huntington Beach pier. Or maybe the vanilla ones.

"A cigarette calms you down," Anna said. "Bidis have a nice rush to them. I think it's the closest thing to illegal drugs you can buy legally."

Actually, like all cigarettes, the imported bidis cannot be legally sold to those under 18. But that hardly seems to be impeding some teen-agers.

Bidis, which resemble marijuana joints and come in flavors such as mango, wild cherry and chocolate, have become so popular among urban youths that alarmed health experts are warning that they are more dangerous than regular cigarettes.

Anti-tobacco activists also fear that their candy-like appeal will lure youths into smoking, as did the now-outlawed Joe Camel.

Bidis are hand-rolled cigarettes filled with finely flaked tobacco bundled in a fuzzy leaf and bound with a colored thread.

# Time Ball: Precision Planning for 2000

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

It looks like a golden martini olive on a silver toothpick atop the U.S. Naval Observatory.

It's a brand new "time ball," and when it drops, it will mark the precise instant the year 2000 arrives in Washington.

The Naval Observatory is where the nation's atomic chronometer quietly parses eternity down to the billionth of a second. It doesn't look like a clock, actually, but rather an amazing stereo system, with rows of switches and dials and one red light, endlessly blinking the Official Second.

Washington will be a link in an earth-encircling chain of time-ball drops to mark the beginning of the new year as it sweeps westward from the international date line, with balls dropping at observatories on five continents. The Naval Observatory will distribute 2,000 free tickets to watch from the lawn near Vice President Gore's helipad. The observatory, on Massachusetts Avenue NW, shares the compound with the vice presidential residence.

People near the observatory will be able to glimpse a spotlight shining on the gold-painted, four-foot aluminum ball, and accompanying fireworks.

At 11:50 p.m., the ball will be hoisted partially up the 35-foot aluminum pole. At 11:55, it will be raised to the top. At midnight, a 100-foot time keeper will raise the gear that holds the ball in place, and it will fall fast, driven by gravity.

"The first motion of the ball," just as it begins to fall, will signal the new year, says Steven J. Dick, historian at the observatory.

# Two Studies Focus On Ribosome Structure

NEWSDAY

New and more effective antibiotics could be the end result of two studies by scientists who have made progress in deciphering the structure of ribosomes — complex particles that make the proteins needed for cell functions and structure.

Both studies in the current issue of the scientific journal Nature were based on data generated by a technique called X-ray crystallography, performed at Brookhaven National Laboratory's National Synchrotron Light Source.

Scientists hope better understanding of ribosomal structure will lead to the development of more advanced antibiotics to replace those that have lost their effectiveness. New industrial applications are possible as well.

As a result of their success in studying the protein builders, scientists hope someday to produce an antibiotic that would attack the ribosomes in bacterial cells that cause certain diseases.

# OPINION

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# Separating MIT Fact from Fiction

## A Guide to Institute Rumor and Gossip

Eric J. Plosky

When MIT was chartered in 1861, most of today's campus didn't yet exist. Over fifty years passed before the Institute moved into its brand-spanking-new Great Dome; a massive landfill project in the early years of the century created most of the land that today supports the buildings and rolling green fields east of Mass. Ave.

That's right; while you sit in 10-250, or stroll along Memorial Drive between the Harvard and Longfellow bridges, or try desperately to avoid eating another serving of Death Croquettes at Walker, you're on landfill. Fortunately, it's not the sort of fill that brings to mind botulized diapers and prickly medical waste, but harmless sand and mud, some dredged from the bottom of the Charles. (Actually, mud dredged from the bottom of the Charles could conceivably have the same lethal qualities as Chuck's waters, so maybe you should worry.)

Our little slice of Cambridge might be relatively new, but it's still chock-full of stories. Campus is riddled with myths, gossip and rumors — some of it pure hokum, some of it actually rooted in fact. And MIT's own bizarre traditions only serve to further confuse matters. For the benefit of the fresh-faced Class of 2003, let's investigate some of the more famous campus myths; we'll label each one "confirm" or "dispel."

*George Eastman was the anonymous "Mr. X" whose donation made possible MIT's move from Boston to Cambridge.*

Confirm. Were it not for Mr. Kodak's deep pockets and profound sense of obligation to

the cause of education, Engineers would never have had the chance to tread on Charlesmud every day. There's a plaque of gratitude to Eastman mounted on the wall in Building 6.

*Rubbing the nose of the George Eastman plaque in Building 6 is supposed to bring good luck.*

Confirm, with emphasis on 'supposed to.' Although I've often heard stories affirming this plaque myth, this columnist has had many devastating, demoralizing days that were not improved whatsoever after a little, or even a lot of, Eastman nose-fondling. I'm more inclined to believe the corollary "Walking past the Eastman plaque without rubbing his nose is bad luck." I once snubbed George on my way to the Humanities Library; he rewarded me by screaming to all within earshot that I was an irresponsible little <unprintable>.

*George Eastman is buried behind his plaque in Building 6.*

Dispel. I don't know who first advanced this ridiculous idea, but it certainly doesn't make any sense. Loved it though he did, Eastman surely didn't mean to spend the rest of eternity on the campus he created. No, Eastman is buried in the parking lot behind Building 66 — right underneath the food trucks.

*Edwin Land, the founder of Polaroid, is buried behind the Eastman plaque.*

Dispel. Land is buried in Building 58 behind a giant Polaroid snapshot of the Eastman plaque.

*Building 20 hasn't been demolished; it's been swathed in an invisibility shield.*

Dispel (I think). Nobody is sure what sort of radar-evading capabilities the birthplace of radar might have possessed when the wreck-

ing balls first, supposedly, flew. But except for the unexpected appearance of an elevator amidst what, admittedly, could have been fake rubble, there have been no such indications.

*Johnson Athletics Center is named not for Howard Johnson, the former MIT president, but for Howard Johnson, the motel/restaurant mogul.*

Uncertain. The original plans for JAC did call for a garish blue-and-orange color scheme that evoked cheap motor inns and nearly inedible macaroni and cheese. Even more confusingly, some suggested that the blue/orange motif was meant as a tribute to New York Met third baseman Howard Johnson. Only a dedication plaque to Johnson-former-MIT-president is evidence in HJ-1's favor.

*Professor Noam Chomsky invented linguistics.*

Dispel. This is where MIT's academic reputation intrudes on East Cambridge's reputation as a Portuguese enclave. Chomsky may have played an important role in the creation of modern linguistics, but I'm sure it has nothing to do with Portuguese sausage.

*All incoming freshmen have to pass a swim test.*

Confirm. Apparently, the story goes, a rather rich family lost an MIT-enrolled child to a Charles drowning accident way back when; the student, a non-swimmer, was on a sailboat, or in a crew shell, and didn't survive an unexpected dip in the river. To make sure such a drowning could never happen again, the parents required a swim test of all new students. But that was way back when; in 1997, the administration devised a more appropriate policy: *All incoming freshmen have to pass a chemical-resistance test.* After

all, if you fall in the Charles these days, you have to worry about dissolving, not drowning.

*Despite sharp reductions in Defense Department spending, MIT is still the center of American weapons development.*

Confirm, with a small emendation: MIT has in fact gotten into the biological weapons game, and farmed out its R&D to the on-campus dining-services contractor, Aramark. The United States Air Force's Worm-Like Objects 221L-7W program grew out of a successful series of tests at Walker dining hall.

*Some of the dorms — in particular, Bexley, Random and East Campus — are haunted.*

Confirm. Actually, all of the dorms are haunted, not just these three, the oldest, most decayed quarters on campus. In point of fact, there are thousands of "ghosts" who supposedly live on campus but are never really seen — if they are glimpsed at all, the experience is usually fleeting and under dubious circumstances.

*Some of the fraternities are haunted.*

Cursed, more like it. Or dry. Or reorganizing, or performing community service, or nonexistent.

*All freshmen will have to live on campus beginning in the fall of 2001.*

We'll see.

Mythmaking is alive and well at MIT. Our campus, constructed though it be on hundred-year-old leftover dredge, contains more than the remnants of 1890s dysentery. It contains a penchant for tall tales that helps to sustain us even through the toughest of academic times. As long as we remain able to separate the facts from the frippery, we'll be fine. (Edwin Land, buried in Building 58. Come on.)

# Time for More Change in American Money System

Michael J. Ring

There has been a lot of change in the United States currency system recently. Some changes, like the quarters commemorating each of the 50 states, have been merely cosmetic. Others, like the new 20-dollar bill designed to thwart counterfeiters and the new dollar coin to be introduced next year, are more utilitarian.

As long as we are in a period of reflection on the design and structure of our money, now is a good time to make further changes. I propose three which will greatly simplify everyday transactions. The elimination of the penny and one-dollar federal reserve note, combined with the introduction of a two-dollar coin, will result in a more efficient national currency system.

We are in the midst of a national penny shortage. Even as we speak, the US Mint is cranking out extra pennies to fill this gap, producing the one-cent coins at a rate 33 percent higher than in 1997. Rather than go through all this trouble to insure an adequate supply, however, the US Mint and the American public should catch up to the times and realize that in today's economy, the penny is just about worthless.

The current shortage is a result of the

extremely low regard with which the American public holds the penny. Few bother anymore to pick one up off the street, and in today's busy life it hardly seems worth the time to roll the coins for a measly 50 cents of payoff. So most Americans have in their possession tens or hundreds of loose pennies, tearing up their pockets or collecting dust around their homes. The times of "penny candy" and other substantive uses for the one-cent piece are gone, and the federal government should respond to the lack of interest in the coin by phasing it out.

As the penny shortage swept through New York this summer, some retailers began the practice of rounding purchases to the nearest nickel. This policy is also frequently observed in US military stores overseas. It should be adopted nationwide.

Next year, the Mint will introduce a new \$1 coin. Although the coin will be the same size as the Susan B. Anthony dollar (SBA), its gold color and smooth edge will eliminate any confusion with the quarter, the affliction that doomed the SBA to failure.

Traditionalists may cry foul at the elimination of the one-dollar bill. The \$1 greenback has been the most identifiable icon in the American currency system for many years. Considerations of both usage and cost, however, will show the \$1 note is obsolete.

Coins are designed to facilitate small, everyday purchases — a newspaper, a cup of coffee, a loaf of bread — while bills should be reserved for more expensive purchases. The small size and portability of coins makes them

easy to carry around and pull out of one's pocket at a moment's notice, in stark contrast to paper money wedged into a billfold.

A generation ago, we had a coin which could make all of these small purchases — the quarter. Inflation, however, has rendered the quarter by itself useless for these transactions. Such daily staples as a half-gallon of milk or a cup of coffee easily cost \$1.50 — requiring the use of six quarters to purchase them if one wishes to use commonly-circulated coins. The introduction of a new dollar coin is much overdue and merely reflects the inflation in our money supply. It should become the sole method for making these transactions.

The elimination of the \$1 note also makes financial sense to the taxpayer. Paper money has an extremely short average life — 17 months — while the average coin lasts 30 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the direct savings resulting from the switch from bill to coin would be \$300 million a year, and many consider that estimate conservative.

Other government agencies would benefit from the elimination of the \$1 note. Many authorities, including the United States Postal Service and various transit agencies, are using the SBA. For such agencies engaging in primarily small transactions, coins are much cheaper to handle than bills. The Chicago Transit Authority, for example, spends \$22 to count 1,000 notes, but only \$1.64 to count 1,000 coins. Other transit agencies would enjoy similar cost savings through the elimi-

nation of the \$1 note.

A one-dollar coin could also help conserve, at least in a small way, one of our most precious and scarce resources: time. Given that many highway toll plazas now charge \$1, a coin of that denomination would allow motorists simply to drop one coin at the exact-change lane, rather than fish for four quarters. Vending machines, notoriously finicky about reading bills, cheerfully accept coins. Think of how much faster the line for tokens at the T would move with vending machines accepting the \$1 coin.

Of course, all that is said about the \$1 coin could equally as well be applied to a \$2 coin. Such products as Sunday newspapers, gallons of milk, or specialty coffee drinks are priced at or above two dollars. A \$2 coin, like its \$1 counterpart, would be a small, portable form of currency convenient for use in everyday purchases.

The use of large-denomination coins is common in the rest of the industrialized world. Canada has had such success with their \$1 coin, or "loonie" (worth about \$0.65), that they proceeded to issue a \$2 coin, or "twoonie." Japan uses coins for denominations up to 500 yen (\$4.50). Even the revered and stately British pound (\$1.60) now appears exclusively in coin format.

For too long the design of our money supply has been controlled by curmudgeonly conservatives resistant to any tinkering whatsoever. It's time we made some changes to the system to reflect the worth of a dollar, or two, or one-hundredth, in our daily lives.

## Class of 2003:

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# THE ARTS

## FILM REVIEW

### Dick Flops

Tricky it is not

By Heather Anderson

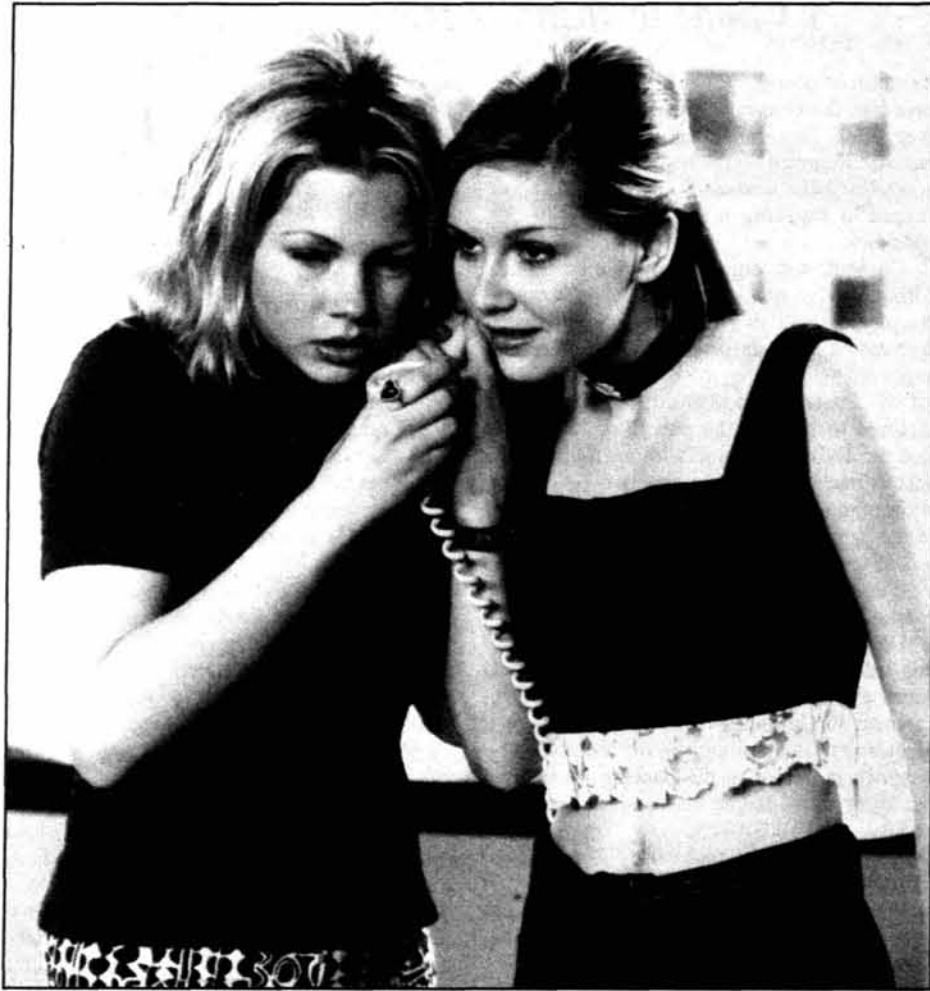
STAFF WRITER

Directed by Andrew Fleming  
Written by Andrew Fleming  
and Sheryl Longin  
With Kirsten Dunst, Michelle Williams,  
Dan Hedaya

I had high hopes for the *Dick*, the latest in a line of politician bashing films, especially after the not-too-recent White House scandal about *that woman*, which should have provided plenty of fodder for the Hollywood cannon. Unfortunately, *Dick* is neither as personal as *Primary Colors* nor as biting as *Wag the Dog*, and despite the fact that it consists almost entirely of shots of two bubbly teen stars, it is nonetheless similar to its namesake: it just isn't good enough. This is not to say that *Dick* doesn't have its moments, but the ones it has are few and far between.

In addition to having a seemingly incomplete script, the film's pacing is way off, making me wonder if someone fell asleep in the editing room. Of course, one should not expect too much from amateurish co-author and director Andrew Fleming (*The Craft*). In the end, *Dick* just isn't quite quick enough or smart enough.

That said, I can now admit that Kirsten Dunst (needs no introduction) and Michelle Williams ("Dawson's Creek") play perfect airheads to an extent I previous thought impossible. The plot consists of the youthful pair getting mixed up in the Watergate scandal, but the story is told in a sort of *Forrest Gump*-style mocumentary, complete with an alternate version of history linking the Cold War to presidential marijuana use. Like other movies from the same gene pool, *Dick* pokes fun at both politics and the media alike. No



M. GROSSMAN—COLUMBIA PICTURES

When Arlene Lorenzo (Michelle Williams, left) and Betsy Jobs (Kirsten Dunst) wander off during a class trip to the White House and meet President Nixon, they end up becoming secret advisors to Tricky Dick during the Watergate scandal.

one is spared, but, unfortunately, no one is seriously injured either.

*Dick* himself is played rather boringly by Dan Hedaya, who, incidentally, played Trini Cardoza in the 1995 film *Nixon*. Many name brand actors, including Teri Garr and some former "Kids in the Hall" members, pepper the movie in short, almost cameo parts; but even they cannot spice up the

bland script and poor editing, which slow the movie to a crawl in some places. The soundtrack does consist of some infectious, hummable tunes (such as ABBA's "Dancing Queen"), but the score is inconsistent at best.

*Dick* should resign from its position before the viewing public calls for its ouster.

## FILM REVIEW

### Bowfinger

A con to be proud of

By Roy Rodenstein

STAFF WRITER

Directed by Frank Oz  
Written by Steve Martin  
With Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy, Heather Graham, Christine Baranski, Jamie Kennedy,  
Adam Alexi-Malle, Robert Downey Jr.

If you were a down-and-out director, would you try Bowfinger's plan? With a killer script in hand, but short on cash and shorter still on clout, producer Bobby Bowfinger decides to put a top star in his film anyway. How does he manage? Simple: he doesn't tell the star he's being filmed. Instead, Bowfinger sends his actors out to interact with bankable box-office draw Kit Ramsey in a series of filmed encounters. It sounds like a wild way to make a movie, and in the case of *Bowfinger* it makes for a wildly entertaining ride.

*Bowfinger* (Steve Martin) depends on several people to pull off his genial plan. Afrim (Adam Alexi-Malle), previously a clerical worker, is responsible for the script for *Chubby Rain*, a frantic tale of alien infiltrators hiding in rain droplets. Daisy (Heather

Graham), who asks "Where do I go to be an actress?" upon stepping off the bus from small-town America, plays the good girl who wants to save Kit (Eddie Murphy) from the aliens. Last, but not least, is Betsy, Bowfinger's dog, who is instrumental in filming a spooky scene in a parking garage.

As far-fetched as this scheme for filming on the sly is, seasoned director Frank Oz works it into a believable and very funny comedy. The notion of Kit not knowing that the seemingly-crazy people who keep coming up to him are part of an elaborate con is used effectively. In grandly mocking fashion, the film shows Kit attending anxiety-control sessions at MindHead institution, where he is told to repeat mantras such as "There are no aliens" and "Keep it together" (the latter makes great fodder for Murphy's nimble vocalizing talents). Naturally, when strangers accost him with talk of aliens Kit gets jumpy.

*Bowfinger* is not content with mere comedy, however. As in the case of *MindHead*, diatribes about Hollywood abound. Daisy's mock speech laying out her conditions for nudity on film ("Only if it's for art, and only if it's necessary, and...") is priceless, while pretentious acting techniques, Hollywood views of audience intelligence, celebrity worshipping, the race-based glass ceiling in Hollywood, and treatment of illegal immigrants are also skewered. The hard-hitting sarcasm is funny enough to fit right in with the movie's droll tone.

While the direction is typical Frank Oz,

with bright, clean shots, the movie also makes good use of slow motion and close-ups of Martin's cartoony expressions. The writing does fall flat on occasion, however, and the final scene is amusing but out of place, making *Bowfinger* less consistently successful than Martin's 1991 film *L.A. Story*. Interestingly, one particular joke delivered by Murphy previously appeared in his movie *Boomerang*.

Murphy's acting here is superb. While his Kit is typical all-cylinders Eddie Murphy, he really shines in a second role as Kit's look-alike Jiff. Graham, who was sometimes glaringly out of place in the recent *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*, is as effective as Daisy, although the script at one point gives her a contrived change in personality. Meanwhile, Martin turns in his usual touching and effervescent performance as Bobby Bowfinger, and Betsy has the funniest scene for a dog in a long time.

For variety, the script throws in jokes about *Interview with the Vampire*, kinky celebrities, and, courtesy of a brief appearance by Robert Downey Jr., divorce settlements. Schwarzenegger doesn't escape the fun, either, with a rapid-fire scene in which Kit Ramsey complains that Arnold gets all the good lines while his own scripts are too cerebral. "We're trying to make a movie here, not a film!" he complains. With a steady stream of punch lines, sight gags and cultural commentary, *Bowfinger* works nicely as both.

## FILM REVIEW

### The Muse

Oh my goddess!

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

ARTS EDITOR

Directed by Albert Brooks  
Written by Albert Brooks and Monica Johnson  
With Albert Brooks, Sharon Stone,  
Andie MacDowell, Jeff Bridges

Surprises — both pleasant and unpleasant — come from the least likely places. Take *The Muse*, for example. One would expect an Albert Brooks movie to be consistently funny, and one would expect Andie MacDowell to be easily interchangeable with blank space without reducing the quality of the film — and one would be correct. But one would not expect such an exciting and effervescent performance from Sharon Stone as the one which graces this film.

Stone's character Sarah is a Muse, divine inspirer of art, one of nine immortal daughters of Zeus. The film doesn't exactly explain why this particular Muse doesn't seem to specialize in any particular field; this one inspires just about anything. This time around, Sarah is working with a certain Steven Phillips (writer/director Brooks himself), a washed-out screenwriter losing his edge.

And if a movie ever got a spectacular boost from a great acting job, *The Muse* is one. Sharon Stone was always more of a movie star than a film actress, her charisma usually overshadowing her acting skills, and her choice of movies being, to put it mildly, not very wise. Here, for the first time since *Basic Instinct* (and her performance there largely benefited from the shock factor), she manages a perfect blend of skill and charisma, demonstrating a most impressive gift of impeccable comic timing. Stone turns a simple reaction shot, like an act of rolling her eyes at Steven's cluelessness, into a self-sufficient gag. I would seriously recommend her to forget all those action films, thrillers, and dramas, and start looking for a no-holds-barred screwball comedy, because I'm sure she'd be excellent in such a film.

Stone is really good in *The Muse*, and this is a good thing, too, because her co-stars are decidedly not up to the task. Brooks himself is effective only when he's unapologetically satirical, dispensing comic barbs with ruthless efficiency. And this happens quite a lot in the first third of the movie, with him targeting just about every aspect of modern Hollywood business and life. (An aside: good though these barbs may be, there's a little too many of them, and once in a while the movie starts to feel like one big elaborate in-joke). But, more and more as the film progresses, Brooks forces himself to act either sincere or befuddled, and this is definitely wrong. With his hang-dog expression and round face, Brooks already looks sincere and befuddled, and adding artifice to this natural persona feels as a total overkill (the effect is similar to Tom Cruise trying to act charismatic).

Steven's wife Laura is played by Andie MacDowell, and I think the movie would have been exactly the same if the character were performed by a cardboard cutout. It's rather painful to see Stone and MacDowell act together, their performances being in totally different leagues: in these scenes, Stone has to act for two.

But, despite acting problems, *The Muse* is not a mediocre film with one great performer. It's funny from beginning to end, and that's a pleasant change in this age of one-smile-an-hour comedies. Brooks also increases the entertainment factor by getting several big-name directors (Rob Reiner, James Cameron, Martin Scorsese) to appear in cameo parts and spoof themselves; Scorsese, in particular, is extremely funny. Toward the end, the film's sense of humor becomes somewhat twisted, since the "great" script that Phillips writes with Sarah's inspiration sounds just like all standard Hollywood dreck (although I can't get rid of the doubt that Brooks maybe didn't do this intentionally).

Another major plus is a wonderfully neo-classical musical score, sounding vaguely like Mozart — and it provides by far the biggest surprise of the movie. When the final credits started rolling, I couldn't really believe my eyes when I read that this effervescent score was composed by Elton John. I guess he was inspired.

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# 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

## Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me (★★★)

Hardly a sequel but rather two hours of completely indulgent Austin Powers fun. This film succeeds because it's well aware of what a farce it is and it doesn't try to be anything more than purely entertaining. It seems to be too much of the same, with very little new material, but there's enough pure slapstick, absurd comedy, and gross humor to satisfy the fans. — Teresa Huang

## Autumn Tale (★★½)

Veteran French filmmaker Eric Rohmer continues his gentle, thoughtful, and detailed studies of romantic confusion in this delightful comedy about a middle-aged woman's search for love and happiness. A vintage Rohmer film with all the sophistication, depth, and intricacy that makes his films so irresistible. Without doubt one of the best movies of the year. — Bence Olveczky

## Big Daddy (★★½)

Adam Sandler attempts to grow up as an actor playing a complete loser who gets transformed into a more respectable and lovable loser when he adopts a five-year old kid. The film starts out strong with great humor and some genuine acting from Adam Sandler, but eventually spills over the top with sappiness. — TH

## The Blair Witch Project (★★★)

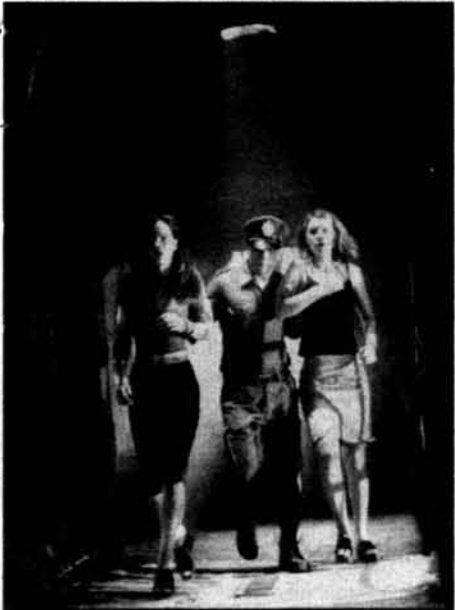
A nearly brilliant character study of three student filmmakers getting lost in the woods while shooting a documentary about a local legend — and a solid but hardly outstanding horror picture. The horror is good but superfluous, and it only distracts from the heart of the picture, but that heart remains highly affecting and haunting. Contains probably the best performance of the year so far by Heather Donahue. — Vladimir Zevlevsky

## Bowfinger (★★½)

Bobby Bowfinger has an eager cast, a script about an alien invasion, and no star. Unfazed, he decides to film action star Kit Ramsey on the sly, sending his actors out to interact with him. With a quick-witted script that skewers Hollywood and actors alike, *Bowfinger* is a very entertaining ride. Murphy in particular is grand in a second role as the meek Jiff, and Bowfinger's dog Betsy is not to be missed. — Roy Rodenstein

## Brokedown Palace (★½)

When high school best friends take off for Thailand in search of good times for cheap, they get more than they bargained for. Conned

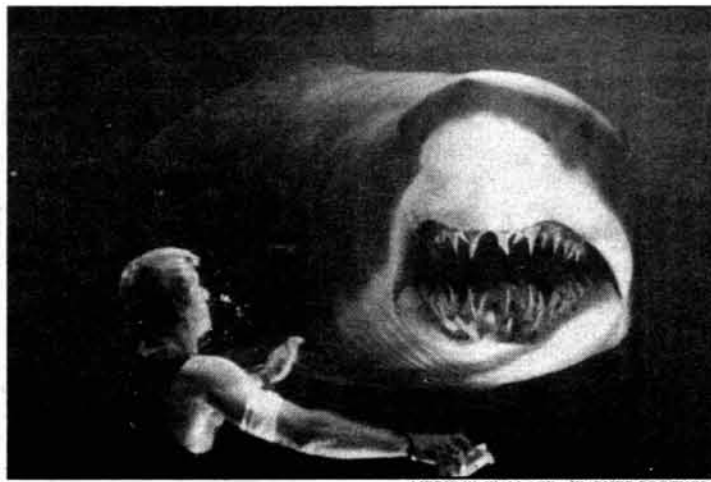


Kate Beckinsale (left) and Claire Danes enter their *Brokedown Palace*.

by a suave drug trafficker, they are sentenced to decades in a women's prison. Problems with narrative flow, appalling plot holes, made-for-TV-movie melodrama, and uninspired dialogue are just a few of the shortcomings of this film which squanders great potential. An enthralling locale and spurts of credible acting provide only meager redemption. — RR

## Deep Blue Sea (★★★)

*Deep Blue Sea* may be Hollywood junk, but it is Hollywood junk at its finest. While the plot, editing, and visuals are somewhat lacking, the film nonetheless captures the audience in the moment with its excitement and suspense, and it pleasantly surprises with its refusal to use seasoned movie clichés. Though severely lacking in quality, this movie makes for good entertainment. — VZ, Rebecca Loh



Carter (Thomas Jane) faces the teeth of a shark in Warner Brothers' *Deep Blue Sea*.

## Dick (★★½)

A fictional story of two teenage girls getting mixed up in the Nixon-Watergate scandal. Poor pacing and an underdeveloped script hinder what could have been the next *Wag the Dog*. — Heather Anderson

## Drop Dead Gorgeous (★★½)

The Miss Teen Princess beauty pageant, a mother willing to resort to sticks of dynamite to ensure that her daughter wins, and plenty of jokes about small-town Minnesota are main ingredients of this uneven mockumentary. Kirstie Alley and Kirsten Dunst are hilariously in-character, and the film early on maintains a buoyantly entertaining pace with deadpan satire and quirky supporting performances. By the end, though, there are a couple too many explosions and cheap ploys to care. — RR

## Eyes Wide Shut (★★★★)

Enjoy the great, nearly forgotten feeling of being in the hands of a master storyteller, with him guiding a story that is paced just right, and with surprises lurking behind every corner. A gradual descent into a half-comic, half-surreal nightmare — and then a period of awakening and attempting to recall the dream. A visual, excellently acted, and often funny tale. A frequently self-indulgent auteur work. The most optimistic of all Kubrick films. All of the above and more. — VZ

## The Haunting (★)

Not your usual garden-variety bad movie: it does not merely cause the viewers cringe in pain and abject anguish at the sheer awfulness of it; no, it squarely lands into the "so bad it's good" area, being not merely terrible but laughably so. This supposed horror movie is not horrifying for a second, and its ineptitude is much more broad in scope. It shows the total misunderstanding of even basic facts of filmmaking and storytelling — and the result is wretched, from its very first to its very last minute. — VZ

## An Ideal Husband (★★)

*An Ideal Husband* is an example of how not to direct a movie. With such superlative resources at his disposal — star-studded cast (Jeremy Northam, Rupert Everett, Cate Blanchett, Julianne Moore, Minnie Driver), great source play, lush production design — all that director/writer Oliver Parker manages to create is a particularly joyless, visually bland, narratively pedestrian, weird mixture of light comedy and somber drama, with these two halves desperately fighting each other. — VZ

## Island of the Sharks (★★★)

*Island of the Sharks* is a remarkable achievement on the visual front, providing some sequences which feel hyper-real, out of this world, and literally larger than life. This solid Omnimax documentary puts the viewer right in the middle of shark-infested waters, without even a danger of getting one's feet wet. It succeeds as a travelogue, showing the sights that most of us would never get a chance of seeing otherwise. If you aren't satisfied with just looking, but

also want to learn something, I suggest looking elsewhere, however. — VZ

## The Matrix (★★½)

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 cyberpunk ethos with anime style, *The Matrix* breathes new life into the genre of sci-fi action films. — VZ

## The Muse (★★★)

A comedy about a modern Muse, the immortal daughter of Zeus, inspiring a washed-out screenwriter, this is essentially one elaborate and consistently funny Hollywood in-joke. Features a great performance by Sharon Stone in the title role and a wonderful Mozartesque score by, of all musicians, Elton John. — VZ

## My Son the Fanatic (★½)

A disappointment; this story about a disillusioned immigrant father and his fundamentalist son simply isn't such an enjoyable movie. It is partially redeemed by the performance of the acclaimed Indian actor Om Puri, but the cardboard characters and stereotypes bring this rather bland movie down. — Zarminae Ansari

## Notting Hill (★★★)

A rare case of an intelligent romantic comedy, this is a noteworthy — but not exceptional — tale of romance in adversity. Julia Roberts plays the world's most famous movie star and Hugh Grant is the owner of a small and unprofitable bookstore. The pair's meeting is followed by a series of wonderfully awkward encounters and the expected budding of a romance. Richard Curtis's script only occasionally rises above formula, but when it does, the results are astounding and memorable. — Fred Choi and VZ

## The Red Violin (★★★)

An enjoyable and intriguing history of a much coveted instrument. The visually lavish film spans five countries and includes a wide range of emotion. Ultimately, though, its weak frame causes the ending to be inevitably disappointing. — FC

## Runaway Bride (★★★)

Sparkling chemistry between Richard Gere and Julia Roberts saves *Runaway Bride* from drowning in sappiness. The film tells the story of a bride who has left a string of fiancés at the altar and the smug journalist who writes a story about her. While the setup is riddled with enough movie clichés to make a person sick, Gere and Roberts shine on screen, affirming themselves as one of the more successful screen duos of the 90's. — TH

## Run Lola Run (★★★)

Lola's boyfriend needs \$100,000 in twenty minutes, or else he's dead. Lola's motorbike was just stolen, so she has to run if she wants to be there on time. A minor plot detail: she doesn't have the money. So she needs to run really fast. The result is a streamlined movie possessing an unstoppable sense of motion, and giving the visceral pleasure of seeing a tightly-wound plot unfold. — VZ

## The Sixth Sense (★★½)

Cole Sear is a young boy whose special power, "the sixth sense," enables him to perceive the ghosts which, unbeknownst to the rest of the world, walk among us every day. Bruce Willis plays the psychologist trying to help him. The strength of their performances carries the movie past its slight flaws, making *The Sixth Sense* one of the best movies of the summer. — Tzu-Mainn Chen

## South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (★★½)

An R-rated animated musical comedy adventure satire, starting when four kids sneak into an R-rated movie, and steadily increasing in scope and barrage of satirical barbs. Don't be deterred by the fact that this movie features copious amounts of profanity, full-frontal nudity, and giant glowing talking sex organs — it's probably the funniest movie in quite a while, and it's definitely the best animated musical of the last several years. — VZ

## Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace (★★★)

This simplistic motion picture with lumpy storytelling, inane dialogue, wooden acting, and poor editing is one of the most exciting experiences to come in quite a while to the movies. By firmly adhering to the world-view created in Episodes 4 through 6, and by utilizing the best special effects and art direction money can buy, writer/director George Lucas succeeds, despite the film's obvious shortcomings, to take us once again to that galaxy far, far away, and provide an adventure-filled playground for our imagination. — VZ

## Tarzan (★★★)

A good, solid, workmanlike movie from the Mouse House; just about as good as anything they made in the last few years, and not better. The overall story of the orphaned boy Tarzan who's brought up by the African apes is so tired that it really doesn't matter much. What lingers in the memory is the more than usually affecting love story and the amazing visuals. — VZ

## Trick (★★½)

At last! A queer romantic comedy in which the main characters are simply regular, well-adjusted gay people going about their everyday lives. A stellar trio of main characters and an excellent supporting cast, along with thoughtful pacing and a wonderful, quirky script, make this not only one of the best gay flicks in a long while, but also a romantic comedy that can hold its own against any straight comedy. — FC

## Wild Wild West (★★)

*WWW* tries to be absolutely everything to absolutely everyone. It's a western, a parody of James Bond movies, a sci-fi adventure, an action flick, a buddy film, a slapstick comedy, and a dark rumination on the American history. It ends up, of course, being none of the above — just an extravagant way to spend its gargantuan budget. — VZ

## The Winslow Boy (★★½)

For all of its dramatic intensity and clarity, visual elegance and beautiful shot composition, intricate multi-personal conflicts, and stylized dialogue, this David Mamet film doesn't quite fulfill the promise of its opening half hour. This is probably the fault of the source play, which didn't age very well and which seems to be content to be merely engaging and entertaining in a low-key way than to go for either shattering drama or penetrating social critique. — VZ



Haley Joel Osment plays eight-year-old Cole Sear, who is disturbed by haunting hallucinations in *The Sixth Sense*.

## Popular Music

### Avalon

Next: 423-NEXT.  
Sept. 15: Edwin McCain + the Beth Hart Band, \$15.  
Sept. 16: Cheap Trick + Guided by Voices, \$20.

### Berklee Performance Center

Berklee College of Music  
1140 Boylston St.  
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4pm and 7pm some weekdays. For info. on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 747-8820.  
Sept. 10: John Prine, \$26.50, \$22.50. Call Ticketmaster for tickets.  
Oct. 16: Cesaria Evora, \$28, \$24.

### Centrum Centre

Ticketmaster 931-2000.  
Sept. 10: Alan Jackson with Andy Griggs & Brad Paisley, \$27.  
Sept. 12: Lenny Kravitz, Smashmouth, Buckcherry, \$35, \$25.

### Fleet Center

Ticketmaster: 931-2000  
Aug. 25-30: Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band. Sold Out.  
Sept. 10: Barry White + Earth, Wind, & Fire, \$38.50, \$25.  
Sept. 21-22: Backstreet Boys. Both shows sold out.  
Sept. 24: Celine Dion, \$75, \$59.50 and \$39.50.

### Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts (Great Woods)

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.  
Aug. 27: Goo Goo Dolls + Sugar Ray + Fastball, \$25 pav., \$20 lawn.  
Aug. 28: WKLB's Country Music Festival featuring Alabama, + Ty Herndon + The Kinleys, \$29.50 pavilion, \$19.50 lawn.  
Aug. 31: Tori Amos + Alanis Morissette, \$39.50 pav., \$25 lawn.  
Sep. 2, 3: Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band. Both shows sold out.  
Sep. 11: R.E.M. \$39.50 pavilion, \$29.50 lawn.

### The Middle East

Ticketmaster: 931-2000.  
Ticket prices vary. Call 354-8238 for more info.

Aug. 27: Victory at Sea.  
Aug. 27: The Muffs.  
Aug. 28: Random Road Mother.  
Aug. 28: Kevin Coyne.  
Aug. 29: Spring Heeled Jack.  
Aug. 29: Humans Being.  
Aug. 30: Franco DeGrazi/

### Gianni Lenoci Duo.

Aug. 31: Corkscrew.

### Paradise Rock Club

Next: 423-NEXT.  
Sept. 14: L7 + School Of Assassins (cd release), \$10 adv., \$12. day of.  
Sept. 15: Manic Street Preachers + Remy Zero, \$10 adv., \$12. day of.

## Jazz Music

### Regattabar

Concertix: 876-7777  
Ticket prices vary. Call 661-5000 for more info.  
Aug. 26-28: Milt Jackson/Hank Jones Duo (five shows).  
Aug. 31: Krisanthi Pappas Quintet.  
Sept. 1: Billy Novick and Guy Van Duser.  
Sept. 2-4: James Carter Quintet (five shows).  
Sept. 8: Edu Tancredi y el Bandon 33.  
Sept. 9: Dane Vannatter Quartet.  
Sept. 10-11: Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters (four shows).  
Sept. 14: Dominique Eade Quartet.  
Sept. 15: Eric Reed Trio.  
Sept. 16-18: New York Voices (five shows).

### Sculler's

Ticketmaster: 931-2000  
Ticket prices vary. Call 562-4111 for more info.  
(All performers two shows per day unless otherwise noted)  
Aug. 26-28: Gato Barbieri.

## Classical Music

### Boston Pops

Tickets: 266-1492.  
Aug. 30: Koussevitzky Music Shed, Lenox, MA, John Williams, conductor. \$16-\$48 tickets left.

# On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston

May XX - XX

Compiled by Fred Choi

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.



RICHARD FELDMAN

The off-Broadway sensation Blue Man Group performs at the Charles Playhouse.

## Theater

### Blue Man Group

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 426-6912 for tickets and information on how to see the show for free by ushering.

### Shear Madness

Charles Playhouse Stage II, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston (426-5225), indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$30-34.

### Mad Forest

TheaterZone, 100 Captains Row #306, Chelsea, MA 02150, (617) 887-2336. Through Sept. 5, Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 7 p.m. at Actors Workshop, 40 Boylston St., Boston. TheaterZone presents Mad Forest by Caryl Churchill. Love and society collide in this insiders view of the infamous Romanian Revolution of 1989. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, call (617) 887-2336 to reserve.

## Exhibits

### Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston. (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18. The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

### Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, other-

wise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m.

Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Permanent Gallery Installations: "Late Gothic Gallery," featuring a restored 15th-century stained glass window from Hampton Court, 14th- and 15th-century stone, alabaster, and polychrome wood sculptures from France and the Netherlands; "Mummy Mask Gallery," a newly renovated Egyptian gallery, features primitive masks dating from as far back as 2500 B.C.; "European Decorative Arts from 1950 to the Present"; "John Singer Sargent: Studies for MFA and Boston Public Library Murals." Gallery lectures are free with museum admission.

### Museum of Our National Heritage

33 Marrett Rd., Lexington, 02421. (781-861-6559). Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Admission free.

The Museum presents an exhibition of 93 rare and beautiful photographs drawn from the celebrated collection discovered in the attic of the Medford Historical Society in 1990. One of the most extensive and well-preserved collections of Civil War photographs to survive, the Medford pictures are nationally known for their breadth and depth of subject matter. Through Nov. 14.

### Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. (723-2500), Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors.

The Museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center"; "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit"; "Science in the Park: Playing with Forces and Motion"; "Seeing Is Deceiving." Ongoing: "Everest: Roof of the World"; "Living on the Edge."

Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors. Now showing: "Laser Depeche Mode," Sun., 8 p.m.; "Laser Offspring," Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; "Laser Rush," Sun., 9:15; "Laser Beastie Boys," Thurs.-Sat., 9:15 p.m.; "Laser Floyd's Wall," Fri.-Sat., 10:30 p.m.; "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily.

### Commonwealth Museum

220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, 02125. Located across from the JFK Library. Hours: MF 9-5, S 9-3. Admission is Free. For more info. or to arrange a tour, call 617-727-9268.

The Archaeology of the Central Artery Project: Highway to the Past The exhibit focuses on life in Colonial Boston as interpreted through artifacts recovered from the "Big Dig" before the construction began. Artifacts and information on display examine leisure activities, tavern life, the life of three colonial women, and Native Americans.

### DNA Gallery

288 Bradford St., Provincetown, MA 02657. (508) 487-7705. Hours M-Th 11-6, F-Sun 11-8. Through Sept. 8. Main Gallery: Works by Gregory Amenoff, Hiroyuki Hamada, and Joel Meyerowitz. Side Gallery: Bernard Toale Presents: Ambreen Butt, Leslie Dill, and Ellen Driscoll.

## Other Events

### The End of the World hosted by Crash 22

Oct. 2, 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at The Revolving Museum (288-300 A St., Boston, MA) A millennium-end arts explosion to benefit AIDS Action. Boston-based band Crash 22 will host a charity event at the Revolving Museum designed to infuse new life into the Boston Arts community and to benefit the

AIDS Action Committee. The twelve-hour event will feature live music (including the Allstonians, Jess Klein, and others), visual art, readings from writers and poets, film, fashion, and interactive events. The event is co-sponsored by WBCN 104.1 FM and Tremont Ale. Tickets \$15 available at the door or by calling 617-868-0198.

### Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey

Ticketmaster 931-2000. "The Greatest Show on Earth" is returning to the FleetCenter. Fun for the whole family! Oct. 15-24. \$35 (VIP), \$25, \$15 and \$10.

### The Dance Complex

526 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA, 02139, (617) 547-9363. Sept. 9 at 9 p.m.: 9.9.99. Each studio will be filled with dance works having to do with the number nine. A benefit to make the Dance Complex theater space

rounding the 31st President of the United States. From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Includes the lectures "Herbert Hoover: Political Orphan," "Hoover and the Progressive Ideal," "Hoover Confronts the Great Depression," and "Hoover's Unlikely Friendships: Joseph P. Kennedy and Harry S. Truman," plus others. Free to the public, but reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, call (617) 929-4571.

### Music on Film Festival

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 02115. For tickets and more information, call 369-3770. Tickets are \$7, \$6 MFA members, seniors, students, unless otherwise noted.

The Righteous Babes. Aug. 28. A powerful and timely documentary that examines the intersection of feminism with popular music by focusing on the role of female recording artists in the 1990s and their influence on modern women. Includes female musicians: Courtney Love, Shirley Manson, Sinead O'Connor, Tori Amos, and Ani DiFranco.

### W.W.F.

Ticketmaster: 931-2000. Raw Is War! Aug. 30, at the Fleet Center. \$35, \$28, \$22, \$17. SmackDown! Aug. 31, at Worcester's Centrum Centre. \$35, \$28, \$22, \$17.

### "Sargent Summer" in Boston

Four local cultural institutions present exhibitions and programmes about the masterful American artist John Singer Sargent (1856-1925).

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Through Sep. 26: Sargent: The Late Landscapes: The exhibit represents the first in-depth exploration of an overlooked aspect of the artist's career. Late in his life, Sargent began refusing portrait commissions to paint landscapes professionally. The fourteen paintings and watercolors are taken from collections throughout the United States and Europe.

### Museum of Fine Arts

Through Sep. 26: An exhibit of 160 Sargent works, including his finest oils, watercolors, and studies for murals - some never before exhibited. In collaboration with the Tate Gallery, London, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, the exhibit will feature portraits of influential figures of the time, including Monet, Rockefeller, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Isabella Stewart Gardner. To coincide with the exhibition, the MFA is restoring its famous Sargent murals, begun in 1916. For more info., call 267-9300.

### The Boston Public Library

Continuing each Sat. through Sep.: Tours of Sargent's murals in the library and talks on his life.

### Harvard University Art Museums

Through Sep. 5: Sargent in the Studio: Drawings, Sketchbooks, and Oil Sketches. At the Fogg Art Museum, an exhibit drawn from one of the most significant Sargent collections in the world will reveal the working process of one of America's best known artists. Thirty-three of his rarely shown sketchbooks will also be on view. For hours and info., call 495-9400.



STEVE J. SHERMAN

The violin section of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

fully accessible. \$9.99. Sept. 19 at 5 p.m. Recycled Lives. New and recent works by Nancy Marsh. \$5. Oct. 15, 16 at 8 p.m. debrabluth/jesterfly. A multi-media performance event.

### Herbert Hoover: Examining the Evidence

Sept. 13 at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum (Columbia Point, Boston, MA, 02125). A one-day conference exploring the life, the career, and the myths sur-

**The Samaritans 5K Run/Walk**  
Oct. 16: At 10 a.m., first annual Run/Walk along the Charles River, designed to boost awareness about suicide prevention, and to raise funds for the only suicide prevention center in Greater Boston. All proceeds from the event will be used to benefit The Samaritans' supportive and life-saving services. Prizes given to the top finishers of various age categories, and first 250 registrants will receive complimentary t-shirts. Pre-reg. fee: \$12. For more info., call 617-536-2460.

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# MIT Panhellenic Welcomes You!

Greetings to the Class of 2003! Your amazing talents have made your class a distinctive one for generations of MIT students to come!

But as you become accustomed to MIT in this seemingly confusing and exciting time of year known as Orientation, let us inform you of one of many options that female MIT undergraduate students have while here at MIT...

The five NPC sororities on campus offer many wonderful opportunities, people, and most importantly, support networks for the women on campus.

With the onset of science and technological advances in the world and the careers in which women will pursue their futures, we, the Panhellenic members of MIT, would like you to take part in the MIT experience with us as we reach for our futures...

This Saturday, at the Womens Convocation, you can learn more about the sororities of MIT, and hear the President of the Panhellenic Association speak about the opportunities which lie before you both as students and as potential members of a worthwhile organization.

#### **Upcoming Panhellenic Social Events 99-00:**

- Intra-Panhellenic new member mixers
- Study breaks
- Spirit days
- Toy Drive for the winter holiday season
- Fundraisers
- Intra-Panhellenic intramural sports
- And much more!

### **MIT Panhellenic Women have a strong presence in their involvements on campus:**

**Academic:** Chi Epsilon, the Order of Omega, Eta Kappa Nu, Burchard Scholarship, Marshall Scholarship...

**Creative:** Dance Troupe, Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Musical Theatre Group, Muses, Chorallaries...

**Cultural:** Chinese Students Association, Hillel, Korean Student Association, Hawaiian Club...

**Varsity Sports:** Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Swimming, Crew, Ice Hockey, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Fencing, Track, Skiing, Sailing...

**Leadership:** Undergraduate Association, Interfraternity Council, Presidential Committees, Institute Committees, Teaching Assistants in Institute Classes, Associate Advisors, DormComm...

**Philanthropy:** Fundraising via talent shows, auctions, and gaming events; Breast Cancer Walk, City Days Festival, Walk for Hunger, Alternative Spring Break...

*And many, many more!*

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**\*Be sure to attend\***  
**Women's Convocation**  
**Saturday, August 28th**  
**in 10-250 for more details!**

# MIT.001: Introducing Freshman Courses

## Biology

The number of students in the biology department has doubled "since everyone in the undergraduate school was exposed to 7.01X," according to Professor of Biology Robert A. Weinberg '64, who will be co-lecturing Introductory Biology (7.012) this fall with Professor of Biology Eric Lander.

The biology requirement was added to the core curriculum in 1992 and first affected the class of 1997. Students who don't pass out of the biology requirement by receiving a score of five on the Biology Advanced Placement exam, or who don't score well on the MIT Biology Advanced Standing examination, must take one of three classes — 7.012, 7.013, or 7.014 — to satisfy the requirement. However, only 7.012 is offered during the fall term.

All three courses are taught "for the same constituency," and all share the similar end goals, "which is to impart understanding of basic biology as understood through molecular biology and genetics," Weinberg said. Each course has a slightly different flavor to it, however; 7.012 examines current research in immunology, neurobiology, and human physiology; 7.013 applies fundamental principles to impart an understanding of human genetics and diseases, cancer, evolution, and other things; and 7.014 emphasizes comprehension of the biosphere and the role microorganisms play in that and human health and diseases.

### 7.012

According to the Department of Biology homepage, 7.012 tends to have more of an emphasis on immunology, neurobiology, and human physiology.

Both Weinberg and Lander have taught some flavor of 7.01 multiple times, although this is the first time they have taught the course together.

Weinberg, who has two college-aged children, did his undergraduate and graduate work in biology at MIT. Originally, he was going to take a pre-medical course, "and then I discovered that doctors had to stay up all night to take care of patients, and I like to sleep," he said.

"Some people plan, I just happened to fall into my career trajectory," he added. "I just put one step in front of the next," and ended up moving from undergraduate to graduate stu-

dent to post-doc to professor at MIT. Weinberg currently conducts research, exploring the origins of cancer and how genes convert normal cells into cancer cells. When he isn't researching or teaching, he enjoys gardening and genealogy.

Lander's background is quite different. His undergraduate years were spent doing mathematics at Princeton University, and he contin-

ued to pursue mathematics for a doctoral degree at Oxford University. Now, he works on research into human genetics, although his mathematic training included algebraic combinatorics.

He hopes that his unusual background "lets me relate to the vast majority of MIT students who aren't Biology majors who will be taking 7.012."

He recommends that freshmen "don't forget to enjoy [MIT]. Bumping into the unexpected and finding unexpected treasures is the most wonderful part of the experience. "Don't spend too much time doing the expected or the demanded," he said.

His non-MIT interests include woodworking and hiking, as well as a family including three children who are "all Harry Potter fans."

Although there is no Institute undergraduate requirement in programming, many students choose to take an introductory-level programming course during their four years at MIT, either to satisfy an internal departmental requirement, to learn a new computer language, or even just for fun.

There are a number of classes available this fall, covering a range of topics and levels of diffi-

culty; among the offerings are Computers and Engineering Problem Solving (1.00), Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001), Introduction to Interactive Programming (6.030), and Introduction to Computer Methods (10.001).

1.00 is "more appropriate for [students not majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Course VI)] — in engineering, science and management," said Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Steven R. Lerman '72, who is teaching 1.00 fall with Principal Research Scientist V. Judson Harward of the Center for Educational Computing Initiatives. 1.00 is "more applied [and] applications-oriented" than 6.001, and taking it earns twice as many units as 10.001. In the fall term, both 1.00 and 6.030 are being taught in Java. In the spring, 1.00 is taught in C or C++.

6.001, which is a 15-unit course and offered during both the fall and spring terms, is "aimed at people who want to get an exposure to a lot of ideas in programming languages," said Professor of EECS Duane S. Boning '84, who is teaching the course this fall with Assistant Professor John S. Chapin. 6.001 uses the language Scheme.

The Java-taught 6.030 is specifically intended for first semester freshmen without prior programming experience, according to Professor of EECS Lynn A. Stein, who created and is teaching the fall course. The course is good for "people who want to learn about programming" as well as "thinking how to problem-solve," she said. 6.030 focuses explicitly on programming, unlike 6.001, in which students learn Scheme as a vehicle to learn about programming methodology and theory.

10.001 is a 6-unit course

## Programming

course explores numerical methods. "It's not really a computer science course; it's really a 'how you solve problems' course, whereas 6.001 is really a CS course," said Assistant Professor William H. Green, Jr., who is teaching 10.001 for the first time this fall.

### 1.00

The 12-unit 1.00 "tends to require a lot of work," said Harward. For a first semester freshman, especially one with no programming experience, the course tends to be "too intensive," according to Harward. Additionally, the course has Calculus (18.01) as a prerequisite.

However, "more of the fall-term [students have] some type of experience in some type of programming," Lerman said. The class is "certainly appropriate for those individuals."

Lerman obtained his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from MIT, and stayed to pursue graduate work in transportation systems analysis. Originally intending to study physics, Lerman ended up in civil engineering after taking a freshman advising seminar. Currently, he works "in the application of computer technologies in education," he said.

Harward, who has been at MIT since 1988, studied archaeology at Harvard, receiving undergraduate and graduate degrees. Although he has taught a number of courses in archaeology elsewhere, this is the second time he is teaching 1.00, the only class he has taught at MIT.

"Teaching's fun," he said. "It forces you to rethink a lot of questions... that you haven't revisited for years." He has had on-going research interests in multimedia and object-oriented programming.

### 6.001

6.001, one of the most popular classes at MIT, "focuses on a whole spectrum of ideas in programming languages, and a very wide variety of styles and paradigms in program design," Boning said.

Boning took 6.001 the very first year it was offered in 1980, having taken a degree in EECS at MIT as an undergraduate and continued to study the subject at MIT for graduate school. His background is on microelectronic devices and systems, and he has taught 6.001 several times as well as having taught recitations in Signals and Systems (6.003) and Introduction to

Communication, Control, and Signal Processing (6.011).

He enjoys both the opportunity to do leading-edge research and the opportunity to work with students, both through courses in undergraduate education and research by being a professor.

Chapin studied modern Japanese history as an undergraduate at Stanford University, and stayed there to pursue graduate work in computer science. He has been at MIT since 1997, although this is the first time he will be lecturing 6.001.

Chapin recommends that students "take a variety of courses, including... humanities, because students aren't just going to get that opportunity later in life."

### 6.030

6.030, another course developed at MIT, was first offered under the number 6.096 several years ago and is part of Stein's research into "Rethinking CS101." This fall, approximately 1,000 students will be using the course material in over a dozen schools internationally, even though the textbook will not be published until next year, according to Stein.

Traditionally, introductory computer science classes are based more on algorithms, Stein said. 6.030 is "more about network distributed events and server-based programming."

She majored in computer science at Harvard University, and pursued graduate work in the field at Brown University. Her outside interests include fiction, fantasy, knitting, cooking, gardening, travel, and her family.

### 10.001

10.001 is offered during the fall and IAP terms. During the fall, 10.001 is "not a very hard course" and "mundane," according to Assistant Professor William H. Green, Jr., who is teaching the class this fall. However, during IAP, 10.001 is "one of the most memorable or painful experiences at MIT." A true "firehose course."

Green majored in chemistry at Swarthmore College, and obtained his doctoral degree in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. "I worked for six years in industry... it's hard in industry to do really good research, because the business needs are paramount." He currently researches "using computers to model chemical reactions and complicated kinetics."

## Chemistry

reason" to be researching, he said, "is to be teaching people new things." "Research and teaching go hand in hand."

This is Nocera's second time teaching 5.11. "Taking freshman chemistry changed my life, and now I'll have the opportunity to maybe get other people excited about chemistry," said Drennan, who received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Vassar College and a doctoral degree in biochemistry from the University of Michigan. She was originally going to major in biology.

Drennan has been at MIT since July 1, and this will be her first experience with lecturing 5.11. Prior to graduate school, she taught high school for three years, "and that's where I discovered that I really loved teaching, and then realized that I loved research, too," she said.

Although Drennan has only been here for a few months, "I really like it a lot so far... so far my exposure to undergraduate students is amaz-

ingly positive."

In the future, 5.11 might become more biochemically oriented, with "more examples from biology why chemical processes are important," said Drennan, who researches x-ray crystallography.

Despite having been at MIT for 18 years, 5.11 will be Ceyer's first freshman course. She has taught Physical Chemistry (5.61), Physical Chemistry (5.62), and Introduction to Chemical Experimentation (5.311).

Ceyer earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Hope College in Michigan, and pursued graduate work in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley.

She has loved chemistry ever since she was 10 years old. "I read a book called 'What is Chemistry?'... and at the time, I'd never heard the word 'chemistry,' and I pronounced it as 'ch-emistry'... I fell in love," she said.

Ceyer's current area of research is physical chemistry.

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Ceyer's current area of research is physical chemistry.

Nocera considers himself a "color chemist." The colors he researches in compounds "occur from the millionth to a billionth or even a trillionth of a second."

Nocera first entered teaching because of research. "The whole



From left to right: (top) Imai, Lewin, Mattuck, Weinberg; (bottom) Guillemain, Stein, Sadoway, Rogers. Photos courtesy of the MIT News Office.

of the course "teaches the principles of chemistry but also follows through with examples from the real world," he said.

Sadoway has been at MIT for 22 years. He holds an undergraduate degree in engineering sciences with a speciality in materials at the University of Toronto, where he stayed to pur-

In satisfying the Chemistry General Institute Requirement, students can choose to study basic chemical principles via Introduction to Solid-State Chemistry (3.091) or Principles of Chemical Science (5.11).

Although both courses begin very similarly and discuss the same general principles, the examples and applications are different. 3.091 emphasizes "more extended structures" and "macromolecular viewpoints," and 5.11 focuses on "a more molecular view," according to Professor of Chemistry Sylvia T. Ceyer, who is co-lecturing 5.11 this fall with Assistant Professor Catherine L. Drennan and Professor Daniel G. Nocera, both also of the chemistry department.

Choosing between 3.091 and 5.11 is like deciding whether you "like raspberry or strawberry," Ceyer said.

### 3.091

"3.091 tries to be integrative by bringing in subject matter from outside the strict sciences," said Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Donald R. Sadoway, who is lecturing the course for the fifth time this fall.

"We try to use music, for example, to link music thematically with the subject matter, so in the five minutes before and after the lecture, I play music, and I choose the selection so they're thematically linked," he said. For instance, Sadoway would tie a lecture on hydrogen bonding to Handel's Water Music, or play the theme from Superman to X-ray characterization.

The course "teaches the principles of chemistry but also follows through with examples from the real world," he said.

Sadoway has been at MIT for 22 years. He holds an undergraduate degree in engineering sciences with a speciality in materials at the University of Toronto, where he stayed to pur-

## Physics

Written by:  
Jennifer Chung, Karen E.  
Robinson, Naveen Sunkavally

There are four varieties of Physics I, which deals with mechanics, known collectively as the 8.01s. Most freshmen will take Physics I (8.01), lectured by Professor Walter H. G. Lewin and geared toward "the average student," said Professor of Physics Thomas J. Greytak. The other varieties of mechanics are 8.01L, 8.01X, and 8.012. For those who have received credit for 8.01, Electricity and Magnetism options are Physics II (8.02) and Physics II (8.022).

### 8.01

Lewin has been at MIT for 33 years, since coming to the Institute as a post-doctoral student in January, 1966. He became an assistant professor in June of that year, received tenure in 1970, and has been a full professor since 1974. He has taught 8.01 three times, 8.02 twice, and has also taught higher level physics classes.

When he is not lecturing for a class, his favorite assignment has been the MIT cable physics homework help program. Approximately half of his semesters here, the hour program has run every hour on channel 10, giving students help on the week's problem set.

This semester, 8.01 course lectures will be available on the web one week after the lecture's delivery, as part of a program under the supervision for the Center for Advanced Educational Services called Physics Interactive Virtual Tutor or PIVOT.

According to Lewin, seventeen percent of students taking 8.01 each semester fail. He says that this is because when a D became a failing grade, the physics department did not lower its expectations. Approximately six percent of students in the class receive an F and ten percent receive D's each year, he said.

### 8.01L

Physics I (8.01L) is for students with poor high school physics preparation and "major difficulties with the mathematics," Lewin said. It starts more slowly, presenting more background for course material, and continues into IAP. The final exam is about a week before second semester begins. "A lot of students who do poorly in 8.01 would benefit" from taking 8.01L

instead, Lewin said.

Greytak said that the math diagnostic exam administered to freshmen also provides a good indication of whether they should take 8.01 or 8.01L. To take 8.01, students should have what he called "mathematical street sense," which he described as being comfortable solving systems of equations, and with concepts in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

It is possible to begin in either course and switch to the other before add date, but it is much easier to change from 8.01 to 8.01L than vice-versa. Students in 8.01 who find that the course moves too quickly are encouraged to keep this in mind. Greytak cautioned, however, against changing to 8.01L after the first 8.01 exam, because they will end up covering material again with the 8.01L class.

### 8.01X

Physics I (8.01X) is for students who like to "learn with their hands," Greytak said. The course materials includes a mechanics kit, and students build models and things, "well, like that," Greytak said, gesturing to a two-pendulum toy on his desk.

8.01X will be taught by Dr. Peter Dourmashkin, who has lectured 8.01X three times in the past and has been involved with the course as a recitation instructor or lecturer, since 1989.

While Dourmashkin thinks that "anyone would benefit from 8.01X," there are two types of students he said would like it particularly. Students who are naturally "mechanically oriented and have always done things hands-on" appreciate 8.01X. He also said that, on the other hand, students who "have never soldered, who think they'd like to have a UROP but need more experience" get a lot of experience and confidence from 8.01X, he said.

Building a low-voltage power supply is the example of one project students complete in 8.01X. Approximately 100 to 130 students are expected to be enrolled in the course, Dourmashkin said.

### 8.012

8.012 provides more insight into the mathe-

matics behind

8.01. Lewin said. Greytak added that "the problems are more difficult, and there are more of them," but students get a deeper understanding of the material.

Professor Takashi Imai said he wants to make the course "as fun as possible" and "not unnecessarily difficult," but he does caution that students should be "willing to study very hard."

For students genuinely interested in physics who have a strong math background 8.012 is a more fulfilling class, Lewin said.

For students who aren't sure whether to take 8.012 or 8.01, Lewin advises 8.01. "When you want to take 8.012, you're not indecisive," he said.

On the other hand, students who are sure they want to take 8.012 but are not certain whether their math or physics backgrounds are adequate are advised to take 8.012. If it turns out to be too difficult, students may change to 8.01 any time before Add Date, October 8. "That they fall back [to 8.01], is perfectly okay," Lewin said. He expects around 15 percent of students to switch.

"This course is for students who have strong physics interest, strong physics background, and strong math background," Lewin said.

### Electricity and Magnetism

Some students who received credit for 8.01 are encouraged to take it anyway, to be more prepared for 8.02, Greytak said. Many freshmen, however, will take Physics II (8.02), Electricity and Magnetism, in the fall.

### 8.02

This fall, 8.02 will be taught by Professor

John W. Belcher. He graduated from Rice University with a double major in mathematics and physics, and he pursued graduate work at the California Institute of Technology.

Belcher has previously received the Physics Department's 1994 Buechner Teaching Prize for teaching 8.02.

### 8.022

In addition, Physics II (8.022), which includes additional theory (affectionately known as "E and M for Masochists") is also offered.

Some students who do well on, but do not pass, the 8.02 placement exam (for 8.02 credit) will be advised to take 8.022. Other students who also have some familiarity with E and M concepts, and with a fair amount of multivariate calculus, should also consider this course.

8.022 will be taught by Assistant Professor Haiyan Gao. Professor Gao's research interests include electromagnetic and spin structure of the nucleon and QCD aspects in exclusive nuclear reactions. She also taught 8.022 in Fall of 1998.

According to Professor Gao, "it is best to convince students who are not [at least] currently enrolled in 18.02 to change to 8.02." 8.022 follows the difficulty and depth, for 8.02 concepts, of 8.012 for 8.01 concepts.

MIT offers a variety of introductory mathematics courses suited to different freshmen backgrounds and preferences.

The mainstream freshman math courses are Introductory Calculus (18.01), and Calculus of Several Variables (18.02). Freshmen who received a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement B.C. Calculus test or a 5 on the A.B. Calculus may take 18.02.

### 18.01

Professor Victor W. Guillemain will be teaching 18.01 this year. The course, which follows the standard calculus syllabus, is recommended for students who have taken less than a full year of calculus in high school. Students who complete 18.01 have satisfied the prerequisites for 18.02 and 18.023 in the spring. The textbook is *Calculus with Analytic Geometry*, by Simmons.

Guillemain did both his undergraduate and graduate work at Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in math. His specialty within mathematics is global analysis and partial differential equations, and he has been at MIT since 1968. However, he said that this year will be his first "in about 25 to 30 years" to teach 18.01.

"I want to all my students to graduate with high grades," Guillemain said. He shares the hope of all professors that his students will "skew the grade distribution by doing spectacularly well" compared to previous years.

Students then start 18.02 material, which they may choose to complete in the January Independent Activities Period or in the spring term.

The textbook for the course is the same one used in 18.01, *Calculus with Analytic Geometry*, by Simmons.

Professor David S. Jerison is teaching the 18.01A-18.02A sequence this fall. He did his undergraduate work at Harvard and received a Ph.D. in math from Princeton University. He has been at MIT since 1981, and his specialization is partial differential equations and Fourier analysis.

Jerison said that in the future the 18.01A-18.02A sequence will be ideal for the student who passed the A.B. Calculus exam. He said starting next year MIT may decide to disallow students with a 5 on the A.B. Calculus test from satisfying the 18.01 requirement. The reason for the change would be to better account for the fact that the A.B. high school curriculum typically covers only 2/3 of the B.C. Calculus curriculum.

Currently, "if you don't know half the A.B. curriculum, you'll be lost," Jerison said. He said that ever year there a few people who, despite being qualified for 18.02, find themselves "teetering on the edge" and behind when taking 18.02; for those students, he said that 18.01A-18.02A may be a better option.

"Problem sets are the most interesting part of the course," Jerison said. "I like to make them long and challenging."

## Mathematics

"MIT is a very exciting place," Jerison said, when asked for the reason he chose to come to MIT. He said that he enjoys the interaction between the disciplines of science, engineering, and mathematics here.

Jerison advises students to "just do it... I expect [students] to work hard and exercise their ingenuity and perseverance."

### 18.014

Students with a deep yearning for the theoretical side of mathematics with all the proofs spelled out should take Calculus with Theory (18.014). Students who complete 18.014 can take 18.024 in the spring, the theoretical version of 18.02. The textbook for the course is *Calculus I and II*, by Apostol. The 18.014-18.024 sequence typically falls under the title "Honors Calculus" at other universities.

Professor James P. Munkres returns as lecturer of 18.014 from last fall. He attended Nebraska Wesleyan University for his undergraduate work and went to the University of Michigan for his graduate work. He taught at the University of Michigan and at Princeton before coming to MIT. His specialization is topology, the study of the geometric properties of objects that remain constant in space even when they are wildly distorted.

Munkres studied the piano since he was five, and he said he chose math over music because, "if worse came to worse, I would rather teach high school students algebra than little kids piano." Munkres continues to play at the annual math department recital, and he also enjoys gardening and hiking.

### 18.02

18.02 is the mainstream multivariable mathematics course. Students who received a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement B.C. Calculus test or a 5 on the A.B. test can take 18.02. Professor Arthur P. Mattuck is teaching the course, and the textbook is *Multivariable Calculus with Analytic Geometry*, by Edwards and Penney.

This fall's 18.02 course is the same as last fall's 18.02C course, which Mattuck taught as well. Last fall's 18.02 course is called 18.022 this fall, and it is taught by Professor Hartley Rogers. The change in the numbering was done to make the fall 18.02 course similar to the spring 18.02 course, Mattuck said.

Just as in last year's 18.02C, students will be using mathematical software such as Maple.

Introducing such software into the curriculum at an early stage is important for freshmen who later pursue more engineering-intensive subjects, Mattuck said.

"Work hard," Mattuck advised. Like most professors, he said that doing the problem sets was essential for understanding the material. "[Students] always complain that problem sets are a lot harder than exams," Mattuck said, "but exams are only superficial," and problem sets are the ideal way for learning the material.

Mattuck went to Swarthmore College for his undergraduate years and did graduate work at Harvard in algebraic geometry, which is his specialty. He has been at MIT for about 40 years.

### 18.022

Last year's 18.02 is this year's 18.022. Professor Hartley P. Rogers is teaching the course. 18.022 is for students interested in a more theoretical approach to 18.02-type material than 18.02. The textbook, written by Rogers, is *Multivariable Calculus with Vectors*.

### 18.023

Professor Harvey P. Greenspan, who is teaching 18.023 next term, has been affiliated with the course almost every year since the course was created about 20 years ago. "Too long" or "long enough" were the descriptors Greenspan used to convey the length of time he's been here. He co-wrote the textbook, *An Introduction to Applied Mathematics*, with MIT Professor David J. Benney.

"18.023 is an intensive course," said Greenspan, with an emphasis on "applied methods and techniques of scientists." Students, he said, often come in with the expectation that the course is easier than it actually is.

To compensate for the intensity of the course, it is structured to make it easier on freshmen. There are four exams and no finals, Greenspan said, and "exams are largely based on problem sets," sometimes even being directly drawn from problem sets.

Like every other introductory math course, doing problem sets is the key to success. Homework will typically be five to six problems from the book three days a week. Students who don't do the homework will find that they have to drop the course or they will fail, Greenspan said.

Greenspan did his graduate work at Harvard University, and his specialty is fluid dynamics.

# FEATURES

## Extracurricular Opportunities at the Institute

MIT students are involved in over 300 distinct student groups. From designing and racing solar vehicles (Solar Electric Vehicle Team) to maintaining the second-largest public science fiction library in the world (MIT Science Fiction Society), MIT groups encompass a wide range of activities. Freshmen will get the chance to meet many groups at the Activities Midway on Tuesday; until then, however, *The Tech* offers the first in a series of previews of MIT's many activities.

The groups in this series are featured based on their voluntary submissions. All entries were written and submitted by group members.

### Ultimate Frisbee Team

The Ultimate Frisbee Team participates in intercollegiate play with schools from all over the country. They travel to tournaments as far away as Syracuse and Princeton and as close as Tufts. The annual Registration Day game will be held on Briggs Field on September 7th. There will also be ultimate frisbee clinics at MIT on September 11th sponsored by Jockey and the UPA (Ultimate Players Association) and a mini-tournament during homecoming on the 2nd of October. There is occasionally 'KROD,' noon disc in Kresge Oval.

For more information: <http://www.mit.edu/activities/ultimate/ultimate.html>, [mit-ult-officers@mit.edu](mailto:mit-ult-officers@mit.edu)

### Snowboarding Club

The MIT Snowboarding Club organizes several trips to several mountains across New England throughout the snowboarding season for snowboarders of all ability levels. Trips begin as soon as the mountains open and continue until they close. During the year, the club also holds monthly meetings.

The Snowboarding Club was founded two years ago. The club offered discounts at several local snowboarding stores and on lift tickets at several mountains. This year, the club is looking to extend these discounts and also obtain snowboards to rent to members for trips. The MIT Snowboarding Club also regularly interacts and plans trips with the Harvard and Boston University Snowboarding Clubs. Many members of the MIT club, as well as other local clubs have cars and offer rides.

For more information: [oro@mit.edu](mailto:oro@mit.edu) or [harpua@mit.edu](mailto:harpua@mit.edu)

### MIT Equestrian Team

The MIT Equestrian Team was created to give people an opportunity to ride or become more familiar with horseback riding. This club sport is open to anyone affiliated with MIT.

Started less than three years ago, it is one of the youngest equestrian clubs in the area, but is rapidly growing.

The Equestrian Team competes in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) against other New England schools such as Harvard, Boston University, and Tufts. There are two show seasons, one in the fall

## Athletics

and one in the spring, where undergraduate members are given the opportunity to ride in huntseat equitation in one of five different levels ranging from complete beginner to advanced.

The Equestrian Team does many things besides showing. Members go to weekly lessons in Concord, MA along with participating in other activities throughout the year such as trail rides and team dinners. Anyone who loves horses or is interested in learning to ride is welcome to join the team.

For more information: <http://web.mit.edu/equestrian/www/>, [riding-exec@mit.edu](mailto:riding-exec@mit.edu)

### Kokikai

For five years, the MIT Kokikai Club has been training students to defend themselves using the Kokikai style of Aikido, a modern Japanese martial art.

Club members (including both female and male undergraduates and graduate students) meet three times per week to practice.

"I like it when I walk in and see a tiny female student tossing a huge guy around like a sack of potatoes," commented Adam Elga, a club instructor. "That can happen because Kokikai so strongly emphasizes timing and proper technique over brute strength."

Twice a year, club members travel to training seminars taught by the founder of Kokikai,

been *Counterpoint* publishers first. No experience is necessary — feel free to stop by one of the meetings.

For more information: <http://counterpoint.mit.edu/>, [counterpoint@mit.edu](mailto:counterpoint@mit.edu)

### Technique

*Technique* is MIT's award-winning yearbook. More than just an average yearbook, *Technique* presents the distinctive MIT experience through artistic photographs, prose, and design.

Recently, *Technique* staff has begun production on the millennium book, *Technique 2000*. The 2000 book will focus on portraying the MIT lifestyle through a variety of perspectives.

Sensei Shuji Maruyama.

For more information: <http://web.mit.edu/kokikai/www/>, [kokikai-officers@mit.edu](mailto:kokikai-officers@mit.edu)

### The MIT Cycling Club

The MIT Cycling Club rides several times a week, either on the road or on mountain bike trails. Due to MIT's location in the city, the club has traditionally been most focused on road riding, but there is also an active mountain bike contingent, making the best use it can of Boston's nearby trails. The club encourages (though by no means requires) competitive riding, and each year participates in the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC), racing mountain bikes in the fall and road bikes in the spring. The ECCC is one of the largest and best organized conferences in the country, with categories for collegiate men and women of all abilities and levels of experience.

The Cycling Club can also provide advice on many aspects of bike purchase and maintenance, and through its sponsors offers frequent discounts on bikes and related equipment.

Cycling is great for fitness, and offers an easy, welcome escape from the city.

For more information or to join, [dyezzone@mit.edu](mailto:dyezzone@mit.edu).

### Figure Skating Club

Being an advanced skater is by no means a requirement for joining the MIT Figure Skating club, or its sister team, the MIT Ice Dance Club. The sessions are quite informal and people just practice whatever they wish. There are plenty of experienced skaters in the club who are always willing to give pointers to anyone interested. The club also offers group lessons and advice on buying or renting skates. Private lessons are also available by arrangement with several different teachers.

Every year, the club holds an ice show. Club members also participate in intercollegiate competitions with up to 100 skaters from other schools. MIT hosts one of these competitions each year, with free skating, compulsory moves, and team compulsory moves at levels intermediate through senior. Last

year, MIT skaters also competed at Boston University and Princeton University.

The Figure Skating and Ice Dance Clubs make use of the ice rink located in the Johnson Athletic Center. The club is open to members of the MIT community, and new members are encouraged to show up at any of their sessions. There are Figure Skating sessions on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, in addition to Ice Dance sessions on Saturday and Sunday and Precision sessions on Sundays. See the ice rink schedule for exact times.

For more information: <http://web.mit.edu/figureclub/www/>, [skating-admin@mit.edu](mailto:skating-admin@mit.edu).



MIT Figure Skating Club

As *Technique* editor Nicole Immorlica stated, "We want this book to be a reflection of every person's unique perception of MIT. The book will be to MIT as a prism is to light, distinguishing different shades, different ways of life."

focus on revealing the thrill of MIT sports or club activities. Other photographers work to expose the laughter and hysteria, the tension and release of life in the classroom and out.

Writers actively seek passionate and personalized prose. By interviewing students and staff, writers capture the MIT slant on both local and world events. As opposed to merely presenting facts, writers focus on analyzing events and depicting how these events affect the lives of MIT individuals. Writers also express MIT emotions through fictional prose and poetry to be published alongside the best photographs in the opening section of the book.

The photographs and prose are brought together in a dynamic book design. Through ample use of white space and bold lines, layout editors present the staff's work in a 9 by 12 inch, 432-page book to the MIT community.

More than just a bunch of artsy nerds, *Technique* staffers know how to have fun. Meetings are held every Saturday at noon in the *Technique* office, W20-451, and last until the wee hours of the morning during deadlines. From the frequent darkroom parties to the Christmas party to simply hanging out, *Technique* staffers enjoy a social atmosphere as they work to produce their pride and joy, *Technique 2000*.

For more information: <http://www.mit.edu/activities/yearbook/> or attend a Saturday meeting.

### Rune

*Rune* exists to promote the arts at MIT by publishing works of writing and art from the MIT community in the annual *Journal of Arts and Letters*. Those interested in any or all forms of literature, art, and graphic design are encouraged to join. New members are always welcome. Meetings are held once every other week.

To be placed on the mailing list send mail to [rune@mit.edu](mailto:rune@mit.edu)

## Campus Media

*Technique* staffers work hard collecting quality material for their book. Equipped with free film, *Technique* photographers constantly carry their cameras searching for impressive shots. On their film, they capture the essence of everyday MIT life. Some photographers

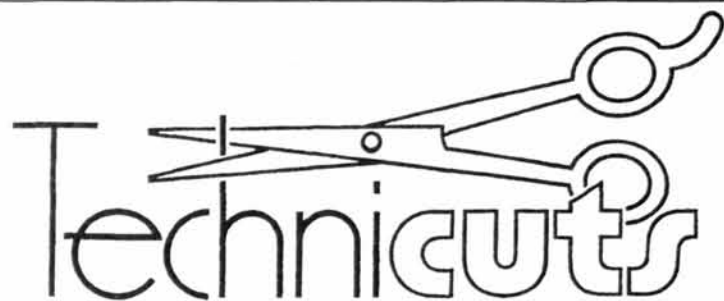
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**New Horizons**

The New Horizons Club, founded in January 1999, provides opportunities for students to pursue their interests in areas not typically addressed in course curricula. Equally important is to provide a vehicle to strengthen student and faculty relations outside the classroom. The club is composed of approximately 20 students and 10 faculty members who are involved with the bi-weekly meetings.

Prior to each meeting, members review a selection of articles that set the stage for a lively and thought-provoking evening of discussion.

The group often addresses topics that are closely related to issues within your department. Past topics of conversation include Military Defense Spending, the Crisis in Kosovo, Cloning and Biotechnology, Social Security, Conflicts in the Middle East, and US-China Relations. The members are delighted with the success of their club during the past term, and are confident that members will show as much dedication and commitment during the upcoming year.

The goal of the group, in the coming year, is to enhance the activity by hosting open forums and workshops with guest speakers to educate the MIT community at large. They have already begun organizing for a conference on Nov. 6, which will focus on the Development and Management of Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals. The conference will host speakers from academia and industry, that provide business perspectives and research background within the field of biotechnology.

For more information: <<http://www.mit.edu/~mitseds/>>, [mitseds-officers@mit.edu](mailto:mitseds-officers@mit.edu)

**Aerial Robotics Club**

The Aerial Robotics Club is a group of people who are interested in developing fully autonomous flying robots. This year, their primary challenge is to outfit a model helicopter with the equipment and intelligence to locate and assist victims of a disaster, while surviving the associated dangers. The helicopter will navigate entirely without the benefit of human input, in an area with various solid obstacles (telephone poles, buildings, and so on) in addition to more exotic dangers, such as fire blasts and water sprays. The club will enter this project in an international competition, taking place in June.

For more information: <<http://web.mit.edu/aerialrobots/www/>>, [aerialrobotics-exec@mit.edu](mailto:aerialrobotics-exec@mit.edu)

**MIT FIRST**

MIT FIRST teams up with a local high school to compete in the FIRST robotics competition. The team constructs a large robot which competes in a national competition. The building and design phase of the robot takes place during IAP and two to three weeks during spring term. Competitions (Regionals in New Hampshire and Nationals at EPCOT Center in Florida) happen in the months of March and April. The MIT FIRST team is looking for individuals who love to build and have a great deal of enthusiasm.

For more information on the competition: <<http://www.usfirst.org/>>

For more information on the team: <<http://web.mit.edu/first/www/>>

**CTY Alumni Association**

Fondly known as "nerd camp" to those in the MIT and greater Boston community, CTY (Center for Talented Youth) is a summer program affiliated with Johns Hopkins University that teaches advanced educational programs to pre-college students. Along with interesting, intense summertime academic study, CTY provides a fun and eye-opening experience for many participants.

The CTY Alumni Association of MIT was founded in September 1998 by students and other local alumni who wished to develop, maintain, and expand communications among alumni. They offer courses and mentorships that enhance the educational options available to local CTYers and other talented students, and to offer their members opportunities to develop their teaching skills.

The first major CTYAA project last term was a weekend session of Theoretical Foundations of Computer Science for local students. This course was taught by a former CTY instructor and offered in cooperation with the MIT Educational Studies Program and the MIT Student Information Processing Board. The course was organized and staffed entirely by volunteers.

The course was a learning experience not only for the high school students but also for the volunteer teachers. "This course was a great way for people to spread their passion for computer science," said CTYAA founding member Melissa B. Hao '01.

Feedback from the high school students

was uniformly positive. "I learned to place more emphasis on code correctness before writing it, rather than just running a debugger," said Ilya Rudkevich, a student in the program.

"The course has changed the way I go about solving problems in computer question science," said Adam Kraft, another participant. Overall, 88 percent of students rated the quality of the teaching outstanding, and 12 percent rated it excellent.

The course offering for this coming fall is

area. Events within the local area tend to happen about once a month, and there are a number of guilds who meet on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis, studying and engaging in activities including dance, heavy list fighting, fencing, archery, thrown weapons, Italian-style improvisational comedy, storytelling, needleworking, woodworking, and calligraphy.

Many of these guilds meet in places easily accessible from MIT, including right here on campus. Mitgaard meetings happen every

Wednesday evening at 6:00pm, on the third floor of Lobdell. An orientation meeting for new members

will be held in room 4-149 on Wednesday, September 1st at 7:00pm; wear comfy shoes.

For more information: <<http://www.mit.edu/~sca>>, [sca@mit.edu](mailto:sca@mit.edu)

**MIT Model UN Society**

MIT's Model United Nations Society offers a unique opportunity for students to see the world with a more global perspective, not only through discussion and thought, but also through traveling the world and sharing these revelations with others. The society's goal is not to point out the dichotomy between state and science, but rather the opposite. To understand better how to unify these two great institutions, we dive into the other side of science and technology — that which has to do with politics, peace, and humanity.

MIT MUN aims to foster knowledge of the world, and the peoples of the world — to understand the many different values that each person in our world village may hold and why. With this understanding, members of MUN seek out solutions to the dilemmas and problems that plague the world today. As idealistic as this goal sounds, this problem-solving is also the goal of the actual United Nations. Perhaps by tackling those same problems with the optimism of youth, the analytical skills

expert to those from MIT, as well as having the resources of the world's greatest technological institution at our disposal, we can see things that others do not.

The group meets bi-monthly in order to discuss real-world issues in open discussion and mock sessions of the general assembly in order to share the thoughts of the members with their peers. The topics they tackle range from family planning in the third world to self determination, or any other issue which might be of interest to the members.

These meetings also help in preparing for national and international conferences where the mock general assembly can become the size of the actual United Nations. Their most recent performance in Cambridge, England at the World MUN conference put MIT MUN on the map, surprising many by showing that the 'techies' do know about cooperation, negotiation, and politics — enough to bring back two awards.

The group hopes to follow their 1998-1999 season with another successful and exciting year. Not only will they be organizing debates at MIT, but possibly also with neighboring universities. They will be sending delegates to national conferences in Boston and Philadelphia as well as to next spring's world conference in Athens, Greece.

No prior MUN experience is necessary to join. The only requirements are enthusiasm, energy, an open mind, and an eagerness to know more about the world.

For more information: <<http://web.mit.edu/mun/>>, [mun-request@mit.edu](mailto:mun-request@mit.edu)

**The MIT Electrical and Mechanical Exploration Group**

The MIT Electrical and Mechanical Exploration Group (MITEMEG) extends the functionality or improves the aesthetic character of existing objects. Recent projects have included moving couches and networked soda machines.

For more information: <<http://web.mit.edu/mitemeg/www/>>

# Special Interest Groups

CTY Introduction to Neuroscience, again taught by a former CTY instructor and substantially identical to the course offered during the CTY summer session.

For more information: <<http://www.mat-tababy.org/CTY/People/Boston/>>, [cty-exec@mit.edu](mailto:cty-exec@mit.edu)

**Society For Creative Anachronism**

The MITSCA, also called Mitgaard, is essentially a medieval and renaissance "history club" with informal ties to the international Society for Creative Anachronism, which was started at Berkeley several decades ago. In addition to studying, practicing, and educating others about arts, activities, crafts, sports, knowledge, life, and other what-have-you in period — usually 1000 A.D. to 1600 A.D. Europe, although some members study other continents, and others study earlier centuries — we go to events, where an aura of creative authenticity is preserved allowing for members to show off the new dances they've studied, the new clothes they've sewed from reconstructions, or just to have fun and hang out with a bunch of people who also like to study this particular era in history.

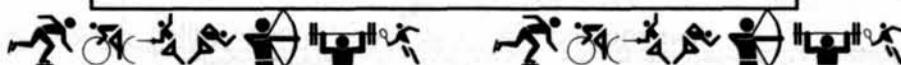
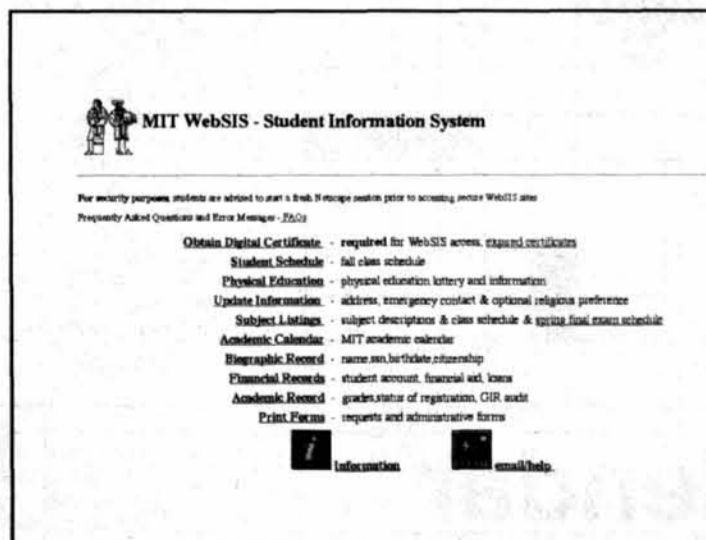
Mitgaard tends to have a close relationship with other SCA members in the greater Boston

## All Students

REGISTRATION FOR THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION LOTTERY HAS MOVED FROM ATHENA TO WEBSIS!

To access the P.E. Lottery:

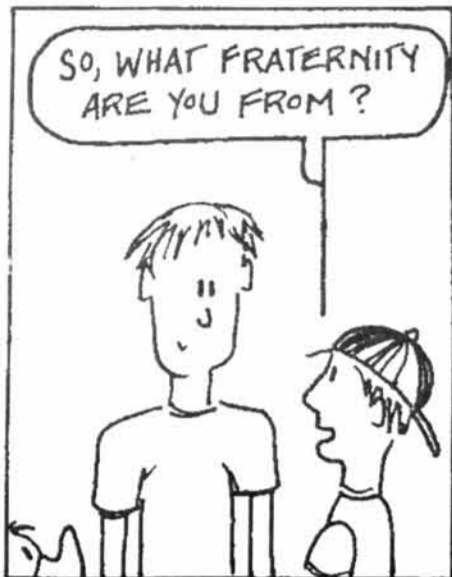
1. go to the WEBSIS page at: «<http://student.mit.edu>»
2. click on "Physical Education"



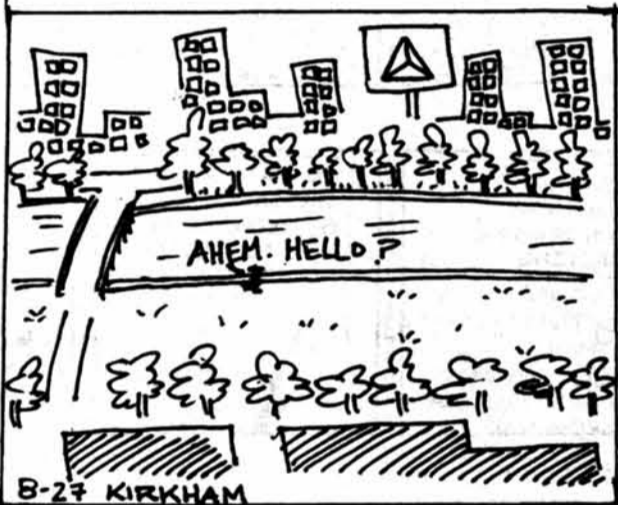
1st Quarter Lottery August 25 at 9am – September 8 at 1pm

## Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



## the crass rat



## Crossword Puzzle

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20									21				
22									23				
24	25	26	27						28				
29								30	31		32	33	
34									35				
36								37	38				
39								40	41				
42	43							44					
45								46		47	48	49	50
51								52					
53								54					
55								56					
57								58					

By Tom Pruce  
Chicago, IL

- ACROSS
- 1 Warning signal
  - 6 Madonna hit, "\_\_\_ Don't Preach"
  - 10 Pers. with a handle?
  - 14 Residence
  - 15 Immediately, if not sooner
  - 16 \_\_\_ breve
  - 17 Half a ring
  - 19 Chess piece
  - 20 Private cabins on ocean liners
  - 21 Long stride
  - 22 Conductor Georg
  - 23 Winona of "Little Women"
  - 24 Crudity
  - 28 Superman's letter
  - 29 Syncopated jazz style
  - 30 Backstabber
  - 34 List of lapses
  - 35 Imitation gold coat
  - 36 Ostensible
  - 38 Fancy headband
  - 39 Linguistics suffix
  - 40 Keen perception
  - 42 High points
  - 44 Bumpkins
  - 45 Active person
  - 46 Standing
  - 51 "Rule, Britannia" composer
  - 52 Mockingly
  - 53 Tennis player Korda
  - 54 Oklahoma city
  - 55 Stellar blasts
  - 56 Soviet news agcy.
  - 57 Customary extras, briefly
  - 58 Chews (on)
- DOWN
- 1 Impudent words
  - 2 Yeah, sure
  - 3 Federico Fellini film
  - 4 Prune text
  - 5 Pressing requirements
  - 6 Convict on a tether
  - 7 Tie types
  - 8 One kind of fortuneteller
  - 9 Does impersonations
  - 10 "You're So Vain" singer
  - 11 Heliotrope
  - 12 Marry in haste
  - 13 Gardener, at times
  - 18 Triathlon champion
  - 23 Taking back into custody
  - 24 Increase volume: abbr.
  - 25 Uncommon
  - 26 Pacts
  - 27 Involuntary repetitious speakers
  - 31 Supporting fans
  - 32 Cheers for a toreador
  - 33 Monotonous routines
  - 37 Piece of clothing
  - 38 Tarsal bones
  - 41 Containing copper
  - 42 Alter to fit
  - 43 Chick of jazz
  - 46 \_\_\_ fixe (obsession)
  - 47 Shakespeare's river
  - 48 St. Petersburg's river
  - 49 Talon
  - 50 Gives the once-over

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

### Solution to Yesterday's Puzzle

BASS	CAROB	EAST
OBIT	OTARU	STAR
ALLEGHENYS	SLUE	
SEVAREID	TREADS	
TRADEIN	GLENN	
IER	TRIMETER	
JANET	PIANO	IDO
EGAD	MAMIE	SCAT
FAT	KAREN	COSMO
FRIGATES	PAC	
OUNCE	HARICOT	
PUNISH	PARTERRE	
ORAL	BEANEATERS	
OGLE	ORION	ADIT
HESS	XAXIS	LOSS

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## 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>

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

YOUR REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT IS THE BIGGEST I'VE EVER SEEN.

IT'S TOO BIG TO READ, BUT I CAN GUESS FROM ITS WEIGHT WHAT MUST BE IN THERE.

YOU KNOW IT'S A MULTI-USER, GLOBAL SYSTEM, RIGHT?

NO, I'M NOT GETTING THAT.

ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO READ THIS GIGANTIC PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT.

UNLESS IT GETS DESTROYED IN A FREAK ACCIDENT.

IT'S LIKE WATCHING THOMAS EDISON WORK.

I HAVE SOME OILY RAGS IN MY CUBE.

THE HUGE PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT WAS DESTROYED IN A FREAK ACCIDENT.

I'LL ASK MARKETING TO SEND YOU A NEW COPY.

I TOLD YOU WE CAN'T STOP THEM ONE-BEE-AT-A-TIME. WE HAVE TO GO FOR THE QUEEN.

I'M GOING TO CAPTURE THE QUEEN BEE OF MARKETING.

NO MATTER WHAT SHE SAYS, DON'T BE SEDUCED BY HER MARKETING BUZZ.

A MAN WITH A ROPE IS HERE TO SEE YOU. I WASN'T LOYAL ENOUGH TO STOP HIM.

QUEEN BEE OF MARKETING

SEE IF YOU CAN CREATE A BUZZ OVER THIS.

YES, MY QUEEN.

IS THAT A FREE ROPE? GIVE IT TO ME, YOU WORTHLESS ENGINEER!

LOOK, EVERYONE! THERE'S ENOUGH TO GO AROUND MY NECK AND OVER THAT BEAM!

IT SEEMS A BIT DARK IN MY OFFICE TODAY.

I THINK YOU EMPLOYEES ARE HOGGING ALL THE ELECTRICITY.

YOU JUST DOUBLE-CLICKED! I HEARD IT!

HAMMERHEAD BOB

ARE YOU GOING TO LUNCH? I'LL JOIN YOU!

... AND THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED A "CLEAN ROOM." BUT HOW CLEAN IS IT REALLY?

I'LL SPEAK LOUDER IN CASE THE OTHER TABLES WANT IN ON THIS.

MY SPRING-LOADED BUTT WILL HELP ME JOIN NEARBY CONVERSATIONS FASTER.

SO THEN I...

DID YOU KNOW I'M AN AUTHORITY ON WHATEVER YOU'RE DISCUSSING?

YOUR INVENTION WILL EARN TEN BILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS COMPANY.

BY THE WAY, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE DECORATIONS ABOVE THE WALLS OF YOUR CUBICLE.

WE BOTH DID SOMETHING IMPORTANT TODAY. GIVE ME FIVE.

ASOK, YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO HEAD OUR CUSTOMER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION.

THE THEME IS "THANK GOODNESS THERE ARE SO MANY IDIOTS."

WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO TELL HIM IT'S A JOKE?

LET'S SEE HOW THE POSTERS TURN OUT.

CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE LEAVING FOR A BETTER JOB?

YES.

YOUR AGREEMENT WITH US BANS YOU FROM WORKING IN THIS INDUSTRY IF YOU QUIT. HA!

HOLY CRIPES! IT DOES SAY YOU CAN DANCE ON MY HEAD.

HOLD STILL.

CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR

IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE ALL TRACES OF INDIVIDUALITY...

ALL COMPUTER WALLPAPER MUST BE THE SAME.

WHAT NEXT?

IN THEORY, WITH ENOUGH HELIUM, THE EMPLOYEES WOULD ALL SOUND ALIKE.

DILBERT, I'M PUTTING YOU ON A TEAM.

YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH OTHER INTELLIGENT, HIGHLY MOTIVATED PEOPLE PLUS...

A STUBBORN DUMB GUY WITH A V-NECK SWEATER.

YOU'VE ALL BEEN CHOSEN FOR THIS TEAM BECAUSE OF YOUR TALENT AND PROFESSIONALISM.

EXCEPT FOR DAN, WHO IS A BIG STUBBORN GUY WHO WILL PREVENT OUR SUCCESS.

SHALL WE COMMENCE FAILING?

I CAN'T DO WORK WITHOUT A VISION STATEMENT.

BIG STUBBORN DUMB GUY

WE SHOULD REMOVE THE CONTRACT EMPLOYEES FROM OUR E-MAIL BULLETIN LIST.

UM... THEY NEED THAT INFORMATION TO DO THEIR JOBS, AND THERE'S NO INCREMENTAL COST.

THIS IS WHEN YOU AGREE WITH ME AND WE MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES.

I WILL FIGHT YOU TO THE END OF THE EARTH!

I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE LITTLE STUBBORN DUMB GUY.

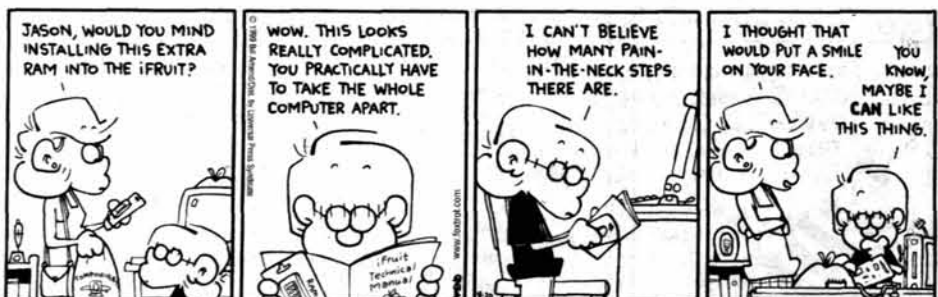
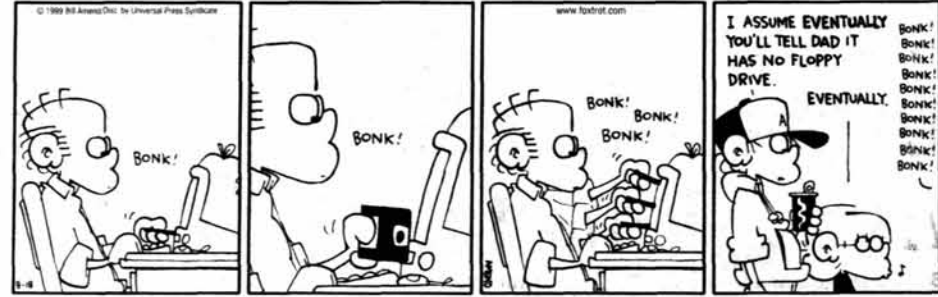
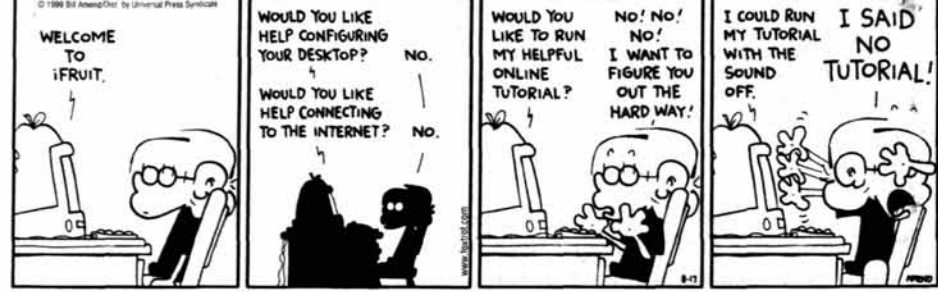
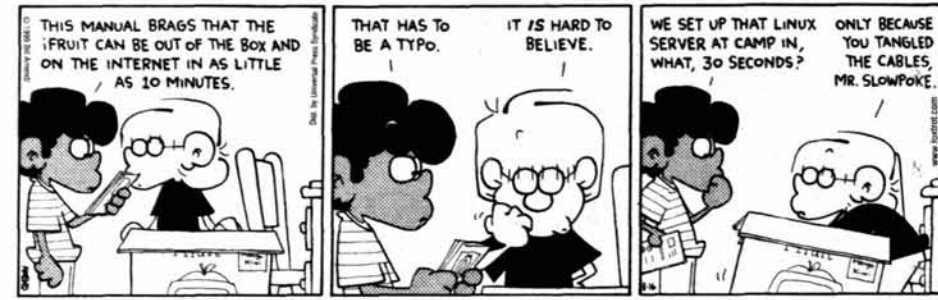
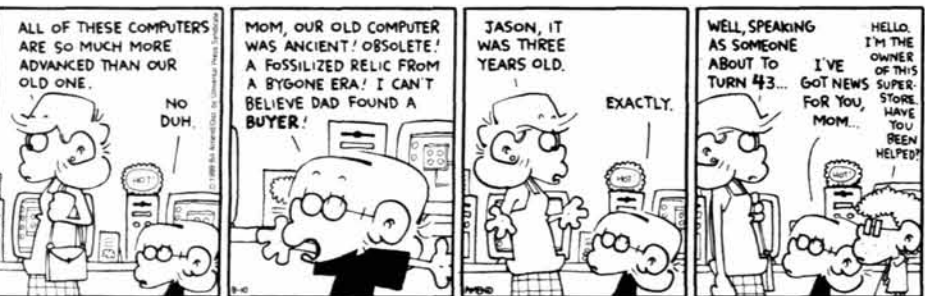
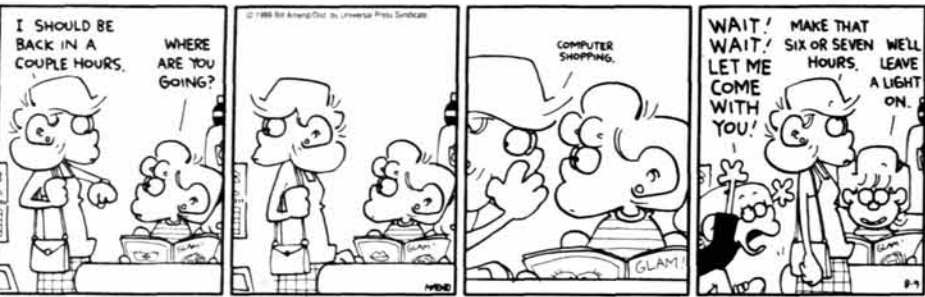
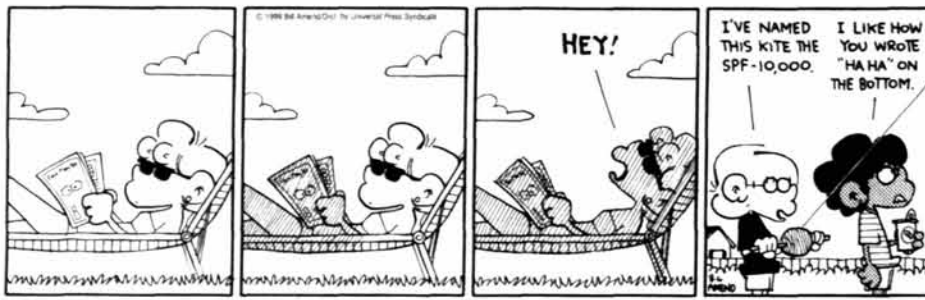
IF FOR ANY REASON I CANNOT FULFILL MY DUTY TO THWART YOUR PROJECT, THE L.S.D.G. WILL TAKE OVER FOR ME.

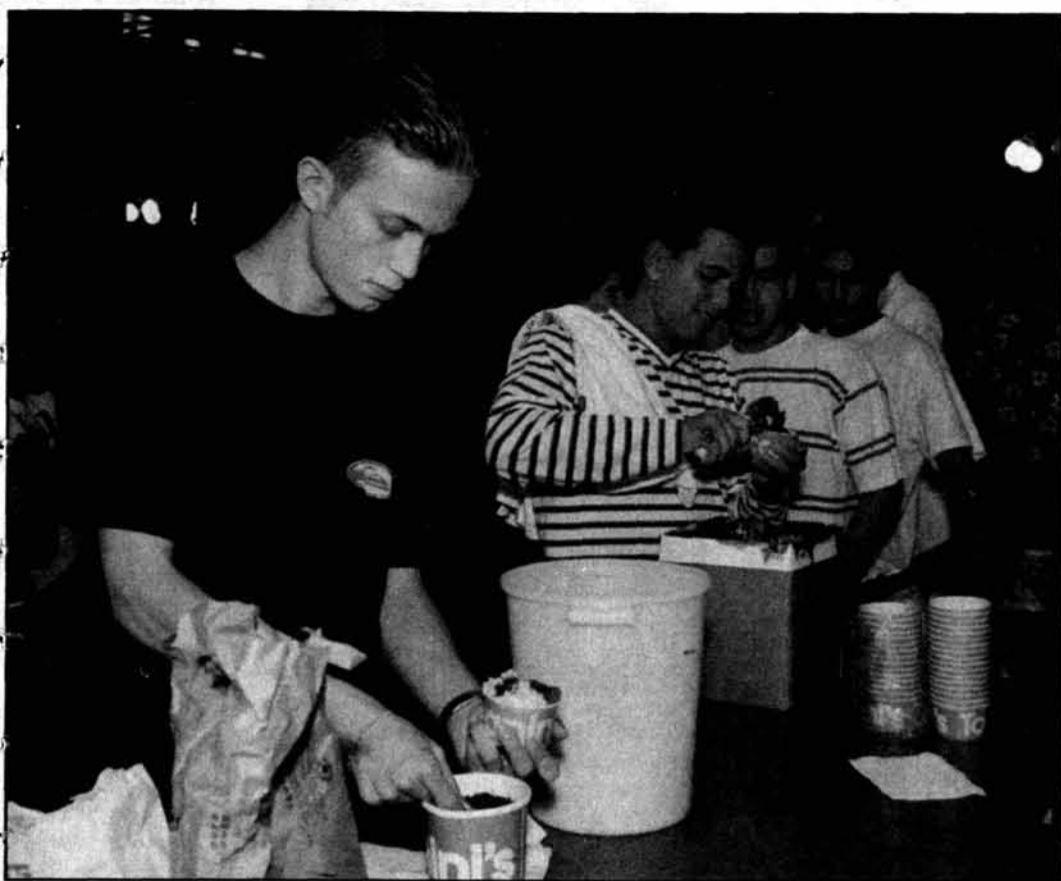
NO, I WON'T.

YES YOU WILL!!

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend





AARON ISAKSEN—THE TECH

Gokhan Demirkan '03 enjoys Toscanini's ice cream at the IFC ice cream social for international students.

## Alternate Programs Hold Open Houses

By Naveen Sunkavally

NEWS EDITOR

For freshmen seeking a more close-knit academic community or a more hands-on approach to learning, MIT offers several alternative first-year programs. Yesterday, three of these programs — Concourse, the Experimental Studies Group, and the Integrated Studies Program — held open houses for interested students.

### Concourse

The only requirement for a freshman taking Concourse is that he or she take a minimum of three Concourse courses during the first term.

Concourse courses are somewhat different from the mainstream. Concourse chemistry differs from the mainstream in that it includes some solid-state and organic chemistry as well. Concourse physics is more rigorous than the mainstream 8.01. One course, SP.345, "Problem Solving in Science and Technology," is Concourse-specific only.

Students interested in Concourse should attend the Concourse Orientation before 11:00 a.m. on next Wednesday, Sept. 1 in 16-136. A lottery will be held if there are more students than spots available.

Freshmen and other students at yesterday's 2-5 p.m. open house pointed to the strong student-faculty interaction as its greatest strength.

There's a "strong sense of community" and the tutoring sessions are good, said Robert A. Aronstam '01, who participated in it last year. He said that Concourse physics is more like 8.012 than 8.01.

Aronstam said Concourse is "most fit for freshmen who haven't passed out of the GIRs." At the same time, those students who do have advanced placement credit can take advanced courses as long as they take the minimum three courses in the fall term.

Nathaniel K. Choge '01, also a participant last year, said Concourse is unique from other programs in that it maintains the lecture format at the same time it retains a close-knit community.

"I like it that I can meet small groups of people and get to know other people well," said Rich Reifsnnyder '03.

### Experimental Studies Group

ESG, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, also held an open house yesterday from 2-5 p.m.

The program offers all the mainstream freshman courses in chemistry, biology, math, and physics, and it also offers several in literature, philosophy, and writing. The classes, smaller than the mainstream classes,

emphasize self-study and active interaction with faculty, graduate students, and other undergraduates in ESG.

Toh Ne Win '01, a participant in ESG last year, said students in ESG are motivated, and not spoon fed the material — the program stresses active learning. Like Concourse, ESG also maintains a strong sense of community, with its own computer cluster and place for students to gather. Students and instructors have more flexibility to modify the course material as well, Win said.

Jason Gift '03 said, "I'm attracted to the community; they tend to have a lot of fun, [and] students are both learners and teachers." He said he also likes the small class size and the one-on-one interaction.

Kris Grymonpre '03 expressed a similar sentiment. He said that he thinks the small class size ESG offers is attractive because it matches the small class sizes that he had in his high school.

Both Gift and Grymonpre said they are "definitely applying" for ESG. Applications are due at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1. There is another open house that day from 1:30-5:00 p.m. as well and informational groups from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

### Integrated Studies Programs

Compared to the other alternative programs and the mainstream freshman experience, ISP offers a more hands-on academic environment.

Students in ISP are recommended to take the hands-on physics courses, either 8.01X or 8.02X. They are also required to take two humanities courses, Technology and Cultures (SP.353) in the fall and Technologies in the Historical Perspective (SP.354), both of which satisfy the HASS-D requirement.

Like Concourse and ESG, ISP also offers a strong community for freshmen; it has its own computer cluster, kitchen, lounge, and classroom space as well.

Arthur Steinberg, director of ISP, said that the program has a strong hands-on component and also emphasizes writing.

The ability "to associate with professors on a friendly level" is the aspect Raymond W. Szeto G, who took ISP four years ago, considered ISP's greatest strength.

Patrick Buckley '03 liked the small class sizes, the idea of getting to know a group of people well, and the hands-on aspects of ISP.

"Different, interesting, refreshing," added Kevin Nazemi '03, who felt that ISP eliminated the barriers between faculty and students.

Later in Orientation, ISP will hold its annual egg drop contest from the top of the Green Building from 11:00-1:30 p.m.

## Online FEE Scores Being Tallied As Students Take Written Exam

By Karen Robinson  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

About one third of the Class of 2003 will take the Freshman Essay Evaluation, or FEE, today. Meanwhile, results from the online version of the FEE are already being analyzed as MIT tries to make its freshmen writing requirement more stringent.

### FEE Scoring Changes

Scoring for the FEE has changed slightly since last year. There are now three possible score categories: "Pass," "Intermediate," and "Subject Required." Students in the third category are required to take a writing class during their freshman year; this class will satisfy the Phase I writing requirement, according to Leslie C. Perelman, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

In the past this third category was "Subject Recommended," and students could take any "communications intensive" course, according to the course Bulletin, to satisfy the Phase I requirement.

"We found that students would end up taking the writing class their junior or senior years" after trying to submit essays from their HASS-D classes and not passing, Perelman said. "It makes much more educational sense" for them to take the

writing class freshman year, before completing the HASS-D requirement, he said.

Students who received an intermediate score this year have passed what is now called the "preliminary phase," which denotes competence but not proficiency in writing, Perelman said. In addition, 300 students received exemption from the preliminary phase through high scores on the AP language and composition test (5) or the SAT II writing test (750).

### Online Evaluation in Full Swing

Of 1050 freshmen, 625 took the online version of the FEE this year, Perelman said. This includes many of the 300 students who earned an exemption for the preliminary phase and "decided to try the FEE anyway" for credit for Phase I, Perelman said.

There are approximately 200 students who have not taken the FEE or otherwise passed the preliminary phase.

The online evaluation was new last year, and Perelman says his office is pleased with its results. "Writing on computers, with spellcheck and grammar checkers, is how its done in the real world," he said. He added that this is better than giving students two hours to

write an essay, which is "testing a skill that is only used for that: being tested."

Craig Lebowitz '02 would agree. "With more time I think I did better than I would have in two hours," he said.

### Scoring Procedures

Each essay was read by two readers, commented on by a third reader, then given a final check by Perelman or another senior person in the office, he said.

"I was surprised," said Jen Chen '03. "They really read the essays" and their comments were generally right, she said. Casey Dwyer '03 also said she liked the comments returned by the readers.

Some freshmen said they were just "glad to have passed" the FEE, and felt there was nothing surprising about it. "It was basically a case of 'feed us your best form essay,'" said one freshman who preferred to remain nameless. Others felt there was "not much to say."

Dwyer pointed out that the readings often had little to do with the questions asked. Although she did not download the readings she found the writing fairly easy and passed, she said.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

### For Sale

**For Sale:** 87 Toyota Corolla: 117,500 miles, manual, AC, tape, good condition. For sale by original owner. \$2500 firm. (617) 547-6792

### Help Wanted

**Loving couple experiencing infertility** seeking caucasian female aged 22-33 to be an egg donor. Qualities sought are sincerity and compassion. Financial compensation. Please call Beeper No. (781) 841-1166

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Classified ads are due at 4:30 p.m. two days before day of publication, and must be prepaid and accompanied by a complete address and phone number. Send or bring ads, with payment, to W20-483 (84 Mass. Ave., Room 483, Cambridge, MA 02139). Account numbers for MIT departments accepted. Sorry, no "personal" ads. Contact our office for more details at 258-8324 (fax: 258-8226) or ads@the-tech.mit.edu. **\$5 per insertion per unit of 35 words.**

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# Baker Fears Housing Selection Based on Improvements Alone

Baker, from Page 1

By the time freshmen are able to tour Baker on a normal basis, with residents already moved in, residence rush will already be two days old, having started with Killian Kickoff on Saturday.

Baker rush volunteers are preparing for the logistical problem of having to move in while conducting rush tours. "We'll try to get people who can move in quickly to move in quick... it's about getting certain rooms set up as quickly as possible, in order to start tours," Gupta said.

## Rush numbers expected to be high

Some Baker students are concerned that rush will be adversely affected because freshmen won't be able to explore Baker as thoroughly as they will other living groups.

"I would say the work has been detrimental to our rush work since we haven't had the chance to interact with freshmen temped at Baker. Also, we aren't really able to let people get a 'feel' for Baker without having access to the dorm," Shahdadi said.

Some Baker residents are afraid people will choose Baker because of

renovations, which could be a mistake. "We expect the numbers [of freshmen choosing Baker] to be up, but we're trying to convey the message as best we can that Baker's about the people, not the building," Gandhi said.

"Baker is a very social dorm... the last thing we want is for people who would be happy at another dorm or living group to choose Baker because we've been renovated," Shahdadi said.

## Renovation caused crowding

The renovations also made the logistics of housing more difficult. Since "we usually have 100 to 120 students that temp at Baker, it was difficult to actually make sure we had room for the freshmen temps in the other nine residence halls," said Phillip M. Bernard, program director at the Residential Life Office.

Bernard also had to find space for the 60 early return students that normally would have been housed at Baker.

Despite the inconveniences caused by the remodeling of Baker House, students are pleased with the improvements. "We're happy that

the infrastructure at Baker has improved," Gupta said. "I don't think thing anybody ever liked 'Baker Ooze,'" he said, referring to when plumbing would get stopped up.

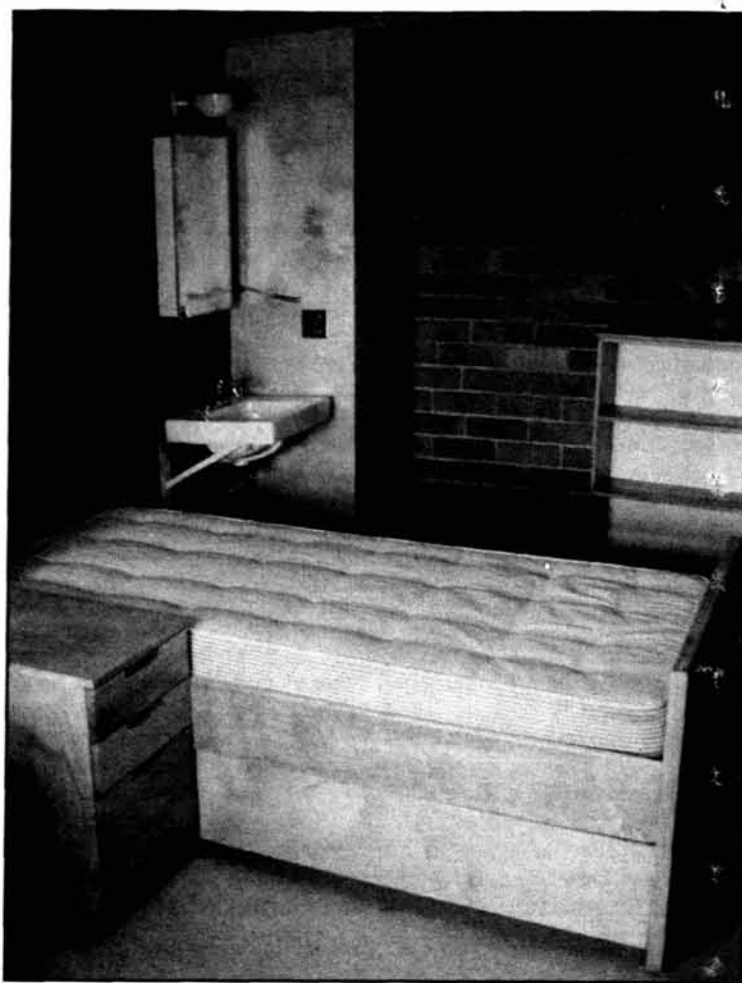
## Baker has a distinguished history

Residents had to clear out of Baker in late May to make way for contractors, who have been busy remodeling the upper residential floors of the dorm. Baker Dining has also been closed all summer.

This is the second summer of construction for Baker. Last summer, workers rebuilt the dorm's common areas, including the dining room, kitchen, weight rooms, and study spaces. Improvements were also made to the building's water and electrical systems. These renovations were finished in time for freshmen to be temped at Baker during rush.

Baker House was designed in 1947 and completed in 1949 by Finnish architect Alvar Alto and is one of two buildings he designed in North America.

A rededication of Baker House is planned for this September, marking the fiftieth anniversary of the building's completion.



Incoming Baker residents will enjoy newly refurbished rooms when the dorm opens August 30th.

# Cellular Phones Offer Long-Distance Service

Calling, from Page 1

However, the cheapest of all calling cards can be found right at MIT's Student Center in LaVerde's. Prepaid Connexus calling cards are sold at the register. If calling from a phone in the Boston area, all domestic calls are 10 cents per minute.

When traveling outside the Boston area, customers are obliged to use the national service which costs 19 cents per minute. International calls can also be made using this calling card. Rates vary by country and are posted in LaVerde's. Cards are sold for \$5, \$10, and \$20 each.

## Cellular Phones

Many students at MIT find that cell phones are a convenient alternative to the hassle and expense of calling cards. Three types of cellular phones are available in the Boston area: analog, digital, and dual band service. Major Boston area service carriers include Bell Atlantic Mobile, Sprint PCS, AT&T, and Cellular One.

Digital service is the most clear, but analog has a greater coverage area. Dual band service combines the best of both as it has the ability to switch between digital and analog as the caller travels across different regions.

With the increase in communications technology, digital coverage in Massachusetts has grown over the past several years to encompass the majority of the eastern part of the state. Most major cities have digital coverage.

Various carriers offer a variety of different plans to suit different calling patterns. Some of these plans end up being cheaper than calling cards in the long run.

One plan offered by Bell Atlantic Mobile allows free nights and weekends for customers calling within the New England area (excluding Maine). Long distance calls are charged for 12 cents a minute during this period. Daytime calls under this plan cost 50 cents a minute, however.

Sprint PCS offers a digital plan which grants customers 200 free minutes of airtime a month.

**Tech News Hotline:  
253-1542**

One drawback to cellular phones is that usually customers must pay for both outgoing and incoming calls, unlike the standard practice of charging only for outgoing calls.

Often cell phone companies give away lower-end analog phones free if customers sign a contact for a year-long calling plan with them. However, digital phones in general must be purchased and tend to be more expensive than analog phones. Dual-band service varies from cell company to cell company—some offer it and some don't.

## Collect Calls

Be wary of making collect calls or charging calls on your credit card. Although this might seem like a great idea because mom and dad foot the bill, rates are very expensive. One in-state call to a neighboring area code could run as high as \$2 per minute and include a connection fee as well.

Collect calls are best made only in emergency situations.

# Upperclassmen Take Stage, Perform 'Engineers' Drinking Song' as Hack

Convocation, from Page 1

researchers such as Professor of Chemistry Stephen J. Lippard and Biology Professor Robert A. Weinberg '64 in the field of cancer research as examples of scientific leadership.

Vest also told freshmen, one third of whom graduated at the top of their high school class, that they could "rest assured from all of us that you can succeed at MIT" without being at the top of their class at the Institute.

The president closed his remarks by informing the freshmen of MIT's unique position as "the global standard" for research universities and encouraging them to develop the qualities of integrity and service in their academic careers.

## Canizares discusses origins of life

Vest introduced Canizares as a graduate of Harvard — "a youthful indiscretion for which we long ago forgave him" — with a career distinguished "even by MIT standards." Canizares, Director of the

Center For Space Research and associate director of the Chandra X-ray observatory center, has space as a "second home," according to Vest.

Canizares' lecture took freshmen on a "journey from Earth to the edge of the visible universe... you have to think big at MIT."

Discussing the relationships of living organisms on Earth he told the class of 2003: "our nearest neighbors, in case you are feeling special today include fungi and slime mold."

The tour continued to possible fossilized life in Martian rocks, in a sea on Jupiter's moon Europa. He demonstrated the formation of stars and galaxies and the discovery of planets around stars other than our sun.

"With people like you... we're going to make huge leaps forward," towards answering the question of the origins of life he told the assembled class.

## McGann addresses housing debate

Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00

also addressed the new class and referenced MIT's ongoing residence debate and Vest's decision to house all freshmen on campus in 2001 in his remarks.

McGann said that at MIT "you are going to be treated like an adult," unlike other universities such as Harvard. "I like the fact that MIT respects us enough to let us go out and pick some place to live; pick people to live with; ... choose a home and not just a dormitory."

McGann also noted that MIT gives students the opportunity to "pick a username like abbeird or alien or madmatt... you can go ahead and pick something dumb" as an example of the freedom MIT gives its students, he said.

"MIT has no peer institutions," McGann concluded. "Nowhere else has what we have."

## 'Hack' interrupts program

Following McGann's remarks a black clad individual took to the podium and informed freshmen of a "very important omission" in HowToGamit.

"They left out MIT's alternative Alma Mater, 'The Engineer's Drinking Song'."

A group of students assembled on the stage and sang several verses of the song with some freshmen in the audience joining in.

Following the performance, McGann introduced Keyser who deemed that the interruption "really wasn't a hack" since "real hacks are always anonymous."

Vest said that the hack attempt "didn't show a lot of creativity."

Brosnan said that the performance was "a big surprise to us. I thought it was funny."

Keyser's presentation included a definition of hacking and slides of hacks throughout MIT's history.

"Hacking makes MIT less formidable and more manageable," Keyser said.

Other speakers at the convocation included Dean for Undergraduate Education Rosalind H. Williams who informed the freshmen about assistance available from the dean's office and encouraged them to explore Boston and New England. The "city around you is another University," Williams said.

Margaret R. Bates, dean for students, gave a presentation on academic regalia, MIT's crest and class rings to close the event.



Freshman await for their temporary living assignments and activities guides at the Orientation Center in Stratton Student Center.

# Convocation Transcript



President Charles M. Vest delivered the following remarks to the class of 2003 at the President's Convocation yesterday morning in Kresge Auditorium.

Charles M. Vest  
President's Convocation for the Incoming Class  
26 August 1999

I don't know what to say. I didn't even know I'd been nominated. But I'd like to thank my mother and my father and my brother and my daughter and — well, anyway, enough about me. That's not why we're here. We're here to talk about you today. We are here to salute the high hopes, the great ambitions and extraordinary talents of you — MIT's Class of 2003!

Now this morning's reference to the Academy Awards is a reminder that today's global society seems all too happy to worship its media and sports stars. A fascination with the lives of actors and actresses, of big league athletes and of popular entertainers has been with us for much of this century. But I am here to tell you that you will be the stars of the new millennium. And the next time you watch the Academy Awards by the way, remember that many of the technologies that drive the modern entertainment industry were created at research universities by innovative thinkers like you. It was, after all, an MIT engineer named Herbert Kalmus '04 who developed the color process for motion pictures. He wanted to credit his alma mater for his achievement, so he called it Technicolor — and it has changed the way we see our world.

Now, while not many people have heard, perhaps, of Herbert Kalmus, I have no doubt that many of you will become recognized stars in your fields, and that all of you will make the world a better place. Each of you has that spark, that spirit, and that extraordinary ability. Each of you, in his or her own way, has answered the ancient Talmudic principle of *tikun olam* — our obligation to repair our world for the sake of ourselves and our children. In other words, each has a responsibility to make a difference. That is why we picked you, and it's why you picked us. So never think for a minute that you are in the wrong place. You are not here as the result of some computer glitch, or the report of an incompetent educational counselor. You are not here because we happen to need more architecture majors or people from Montana or because someone misread your SAT scores.

You are members of MIT's freshman class because we believe — indeed we know — that you have the intellectual capacity, the energy, the imagination and the personal will to succeed here. We are very proud and excited to have you as students and I hope you are proud and excited to be here. You are here because you believe in excellence. I worry sometimes that many in this great nation have lost their will to excel. But MIT hasn't lost its will to excel, and neither will you. Whether you have come to study engineering, science, management, humanities, social science, or architecture, you intend to be among the best. During your years here, and in the future, you will be leaders — leaders as thinkers, doers, entrepreneurs, teachers, designers, managers, artists or athletes. You will be leaders in a world that is changing rapidly, that is increasingly complex, always challenging and fascinating, and often beautiful.

Now, people can attain excellence and accomplishment both as individuals and collectively. Both modes are important, but I must tell you that the collective, or team approach to things is increasingly important. During the coming days and weeks you will be considering the balance between teamwork and individual efforts in many different ways. This will be important to your life at MIT and beyond. The world today needs broader and more integrative thinkers and leaders. I therefore hope that you will strive to gain a broad understanding of the physical, intellectual and social universes we inhabit.

The world also needs people who can commit simultaneously to continuous improvement but also to fundamental change. As most of you have already learned, there is no inherent incompatibility between blue-sky vision and systematic, persistent effort. On the contrary, the two are complementary and reinforcing. You have it in you to do an outstanding job at both.

One of the oldest clichés about MIT is that this is the place where the future is invented and, like most clichés, it is true. That affects you in two important ways: In one sense, MIT and other great research universities invent the future because our you, our students, are the future. You are the legacy we pass on to a world that urgently needs your creativity, intelligence and expertise. We care deeply about you for many reasons, but not the least is because our success is measured by your success. The other and most immediate way that the future is invented here is through the work done every day by our faculty and, to a remarkable extent, by our students, including our freshmen. Including you. This means that freshman year at MIT is not a rehearsal, or a dry run. This is as real as it gets. By the work you have already done, in your schools and in your home communities, you have proven that you can make a difference in the world around you. The next four years are not preparation or training for your career. Your career really has already begun.

This fundamental truth about MIT is reflected by the fact that many of our most accomplished faculty members began their life's work as MIT undergraduates. It is also reflected in the way that undergraduates, including freshmen, not only participate in serious research, but also contribute actively to the process of their own education. Along the way, we share some extraordinary opportunities and exciting experiences. Here at MIT, we all learn together; we solve problems together. The results are truly astonishing. Here are a few examples:

Just last week it was announced that Biology Professor Bob Weinberg and his colleagues have demonstrated how to cause human cells to become cancerous — a truly major achievement in our understanding of that terrible disease. And Professor Steve Lippard in Chemistry and his group have just announced a revolutionary advance in our understanding of how the organometallic compound Cisplatin, which is used to combat certain cancers, modifies the DNA structures with which it comes into contact. And during the spring, Bob Langer and his group in the Chemical Engineering Department and the Harvard-MIT Joint Program in Health Science and Technology created the so called pharmacy on a chip, using solid state microfabrication techniques. These tiny devices, which can be swallowed or implanted make it possible to deliver very precise dosages of medicine at prescribed times, places, and rates. And during the summer, the Chandra X-ray astronomy observatory was placed into space by Shuttle Astronaut Catherine Coleman, MIT Class of 1983. Indeed, parenthetically, 29 MIT alums have been in the US astronaut corps more than from any other civilian university. The Chandra observatory is operated from a control center across the street from our campus in Kendall Square. You'll hear a bit more about that later. Not only are we looking into deep space through X-ray eyes, we also may someday be able to look into deep space using gravitational eyes as well. MIT and Caltech are working together on the construction of LIGO, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Observatory, which is designed to help us learn whether gravity waves that were predicted by Einstein in fact exist.

And when construction of the International Space Station is completed, a huge experimental facility the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, or AMS, will be placed there in an attempt to learn whether the universe actually does contain vast amounts of antimatter. The AMS project was conceived, and is led, by MIT Physics professor Sam Ting. I hope these few examples give you some idea of the sense of the adventure on which you are about to embark.

Great science is done here. Indeed, 35 MIT faculty, staff members, or alumni have won the Nobel Prize.

And in addition to its inherent excitement and value, science is the foundation of technology, which, time and time again, has reinvented the way we work, live, and learn.

There is no better place than MIT to learn the fundamentals, be exposed to the cutting edge, study at the important interfaces between disciplines, gain the skills of problem solving, and be involved in transforming new knowledge into new products, new processes, services and businesses. And now you are a part of this and a very important part indeed. Be ready every day to make the most of it.

Now take a look around you. You actually will observe an amazing assemblage of people with whom you can connect intellectually, personally, socially. This concentration of brainpower, talent and drive is one of the things that make MIT the absolutely unique and amazing place that it is. That truly is wonderful. But it is also troubling in a sense. I am sure that each one of you is probably accustomed to excelling in every or almost every academic activity you undertake. Out of this entering class of 1,056 students, roughly one third of you were your high school's valedictorian. And 94 percent of you were in the top 10 percent of your high school class. And no class in the history of MIT faced tougher competition for admission. You are, to say the least, an extremely competitive group. That's good for us and that's good for you. But it's all too easy to overdo the competition in perhaps the wrong way.

I hope that each of you will try to strike a healthy balance between competition and camaraderie.

I mention the level of competition here by the way not to intimidate you, but rather so that when you ask yourself "What happened? I used to be at the top of everything!" you will know that the feeling is very, very common among MIT students and if I am to be honest it is common among MIT faculty and is probably common among MIT presidents. So rest assured from all of us that you can succeed at MIT. Your high school teachers knew this. Your parents know it, though they may be a little scared with you and for you and with you right now. The admissions committee knew it and so does the faculty. They are one of the best faculties in the world, and you have, in part, come here because of them. But it is also important for you to also understand that they, the faculty, have come here, in large measure, because of you — for the privilege of interacting with and of being challenged by you. So when you see them tonight at the welcoming dinner, you should begin, right off the bat, to engage them quite directly. In fact, I'm going to give you a little homework assignment this morning I want you to start thinking right now about the questions you want to the faculty you'll meet this evening. Remember that it is part of their job and part of their job satisfaction to be here for you. Now I have been privileged to be at MIT for almost a decade, yet I am continually discovering new and rewarding aspects life at the Institute.

There is so much going on that it can sometimes be difficult to try to encapsulate the qualities that make MIT the extraordinary place that it is. But nonetheless, let me give it try. Undergraduate education is considered to be the heart of MIT. The faculty are exceptional researchers to be sure... but in the end they are here because they are teachers. MIT is dedicated to leadership and service to the nation and world: We continually ask: "What are the really important issues facing humankind?" Global environmental change? Advance of biomedical science? Gaining industrial productivity? Improving communications? Supplying energy? And then we ask: How can we contribute? Contribute through our teaching, contribute through our research, contribute through our working with others beyond the boundaries of our campus?

MIT is unique: There simply is no other institution like MIT in the world. Hardly a week goes by without some foreign leader coming here too approach us to discuss plans to create an MIT in his or her country. We pioneered the modern research university and we believe that we still set the global standard. The student culture is like no other. The faculty is like no other. The curriculum is like no other. The spirit of invention, innovation, and discovery is like no other. The heritage of scientific and technological accomplishment is like no other. But the privilege of participation and education within such an institution invest you with certain responsibilities.

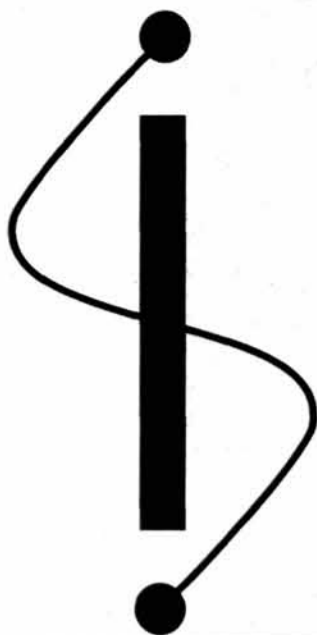
I would like to close by commenting on two of these responsibilities: integrity and service. At MIT you will gain important knowledge and skills. But you will also further develop your personal and communal values and attitudes. I believe that we in the university have a responsibility that transcends that of developing and passing on knowledge and skills. This responsibility is to teach you that intellectual and personal integrity are the only substrate on which true research, scholarship and leadership can be built. And I ask you to consciously develop and maintain the highest ethical standards and commitment to personal integrity as you study and live here at MIT. I also hope that you will also develop a keen sense of service. I challenge you to set as one of your goals the use of your considerable talents to be of service to each other, and to your fellow men and women. You can find many ways of doing this while you are students and of course after you have left MIT. And I think it is just critical that you do so. We are counting on you. Thank you very much.

# MITnet!

## it's everywhere, almost

You are here and wherever that is, there is probably a **network drop** or a **cluster** nearby ... even if you are in your dorm room. Take advantage of this connectivity.

- Come to our **Minicourses** for an introduction to **Athena**.
- Contact the **Residential Computing Consultant (RCC)** for your graduate or undergraduate dorm for help with network and other computer-related issues.
- Visit the **MIT Libraries** online.
- Check out the available **Athena software**.



# Welcome Back To School

On the Web: A Beginner's Guide to Athena — <http://web.mit.edu/olh/Frosh/>

## Athena Orientation 1999 Minicourse Schedule



Room 26-100  
No fee, no registration, no reservations — just show up during Orientation Week and learn all you need to start using Athena, the MIT campus-wide computing facility.

### To get an Athena Account:

- Students, Faculty, and Staff: You should already be in the Accounts database. Just attend any session of the Introduction to Athena minicourse. (Staff may need to contact Athena User Accounts, <accounts@mit.edu> or x3-1325.)

### How to register for a minicourse:

- You cannot register for an Athena Minicourse.
- You cannot pay for an Athena Minicourse. Minicourses are free.
- You cannot reserve a place in an Athena Minicourse. Just show up — in 26-100 during Orientation week.

Room 26-100	Monday Aug. 30	Tuesday Aug. 31	Wednesday Sept. 1	Thursday Sept. 2
	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview
	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview
	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview
	Athena: First Course	Athena: First Course	Word Processing Options	Word Processing Options
	Working on Athena	Working on Athena	Math Software Overview	Math Software Overview

## Libraries



Turn to the MIT Libraries Web page to find an array of online services and information including:

- Hours, locations and phone numbers of all the MIT libraries.
- **Barton**, MIT's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), with sophisticated search engines
- Online Reference Tools:
  - *Britannica Online*
  - *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*
  - *Oxford English Dictionary*
- Internet Resource Collections, such as electronic journals and online newspapers
- ...and much, much more!

See it all at <http://libraries.mit.edu/>



## Protect Your Account Anywhere on MITnet

In attacks on MITnet, sniffer programs gathered usernames and passwords by "listening" to telnet and ftp packets as they traveled over the network.

If you use a computer connected to MITnet, you can take some very basic precautions to safeguard your password and your data.

- Use Kerberized applications whenever possible. Email on Athena is Kerberized as is Eudora for Windows and Macintosh. Kerberized telnet is available on Athena and for Windows and Macintoshes (see <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/ktelnet/>).
- Choose good passwords and change them regularly.

### Choosing a password

Choose a password that you can remember — but others can't easily guess:

- Do use 6 or more characters, mixing upper- and lowercase letters (passwords are case sensitive) and numbers (but no spaces).
- Do pick something obscure (misspell something or create an acronym, e.g., GykoR-66 for "Get your kicks on Route 66").
- Don't use your real name, username, any common name, name of a close relative, friend, or pet, or name from popular culture in any form (even backwards, or sideways).
- Don't use significant numbers (phone, office, social security, license plate, address, birthday, anniversary).
- Don't use any word in a dictionary.

### Changing your password

It's a good idea to change your password regularly (e.g., at least once a semester):

athena% **passwd**

### Keeping your files safe

Athena machines are not completely private and secure, but you can make access to your files very difficult:

- Don't store any information that must be kept secret on Athena.
- Never "lend" your account to anyone — and keep your password secret!
- Don't change your default file protection.
- Don't leave your workstation unattended while you're logged in.
- Keep backup copies of critical files (like your thesis) on diskettes.

(For more tips, see *Working on Athena* — <http://web.mit.edu/olh/Working/Working.html#protecting>)

## Connect Securely From Your Student Residence

"Network Connections" coming to your dorm September 4-6, 1999.

The Residential Computing Consultants (RCCs) will hold several sessions to help new students connect to MITnet. The purpose of these sessions is to

- distribute cables
- help you register for IP addresses
- discuss how to avoid problems on MITnet
- feed you

Sessions will last about an hour. Graduate students are welcome to attend any session, but the sessions are geared toward freshmen. In each dorm, after the Network Connections presentation, RCCs will begin to assign IP addresses for freshmen.

- Saturday, Sept. 4: 1-3pm, Bexley (main lounge)  
3-5pm, Random Hall (main lounge)  
5-7pm, Burton-Conner (dining room)
- Sunday, Sept. 5: 1-3pm, Baker House (Baker Dining Room)  
3-5pm, New House (New House 3 dining room)  
5-7pm, MacGregor (dining area by MacGregor Convenience)
- Monday, Sept. 6: 1-3pm, Next House (Tastefully Furnished Lounge)  
3-5pm, East Campus and Senior House (EC Talbot Lounge)  
5-7pm, McCormick (dining area)

### See the Residential Computing Home Page

<http://web.mit.edu/rescomp/>

Residential Computing Consultants (RCCs)

are available to help connect your personal computer to MITnet.

BEWARE OF PASSWORD SNIFFERS ON THE 'NET!

