

## Student Groups Get Individual Accounts

By Rima Arnaout  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Office of Residential Life and Student Life Programs assigned new individual MIT accounts to twenty graduate and undergraduate student groups this week as a continuation of the Student Group Financial Pilot, a joint effort on behalf of RLSLP and the Graduate Student Council Funding Board to streamline student group finances.

The individual account system is supposed to provide "more immediate access to accurate information" about student accounts at MIT, said Edmund A. Jones of Student Activities Finances in the RLSLP Office.

With the old accounting system, "the level of service through MIT accounting doesn't meet the needs of the student groups," Jones said.

The twenty newest individual accounts were given to groups including class councils, *Counterpoint*, the Association of Student Activities, Scandinavian Students Association, and Sloan Crew.

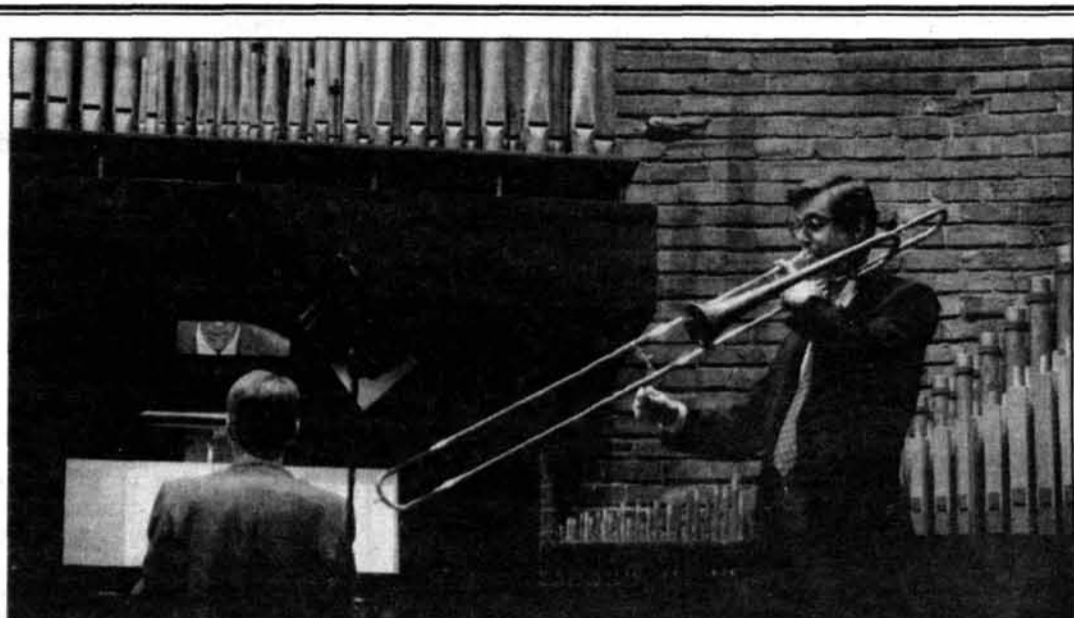
In a separate program for groups funded by the GSC, the graduate groups with new individual accounts will also be set up with child accounts linked to those MIT accounts in the next few weeks as the SAP R/3 accounting software replaces MIT's legacy system. The new system is designed so the GSC can deposit funds directly into a

group's child account but not have access to that group's larger bank account.

The individual account system improves service by giving student groups a turnaround of only 24 to 48 hours for reimbursements as well as increased ability to use direct funding instead of the reimbursement system for large purchases, Jones said.

Furthermore, because each student group has its own account under the pilot program, student group treasurers can see a record of that group's transactions just by looking at the account's activity. Transactions are less likely to get

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OMAR ROUSHDY—THE TECH

Andrew Halberstadt and Brian Kay perform selections from Bach, Buxtehude, and others in the MIT chapel on Thursday. The concert was part of the ongoing chapel concert series, held every Thursday at noon.

## New Pre-Orientation Programs Await Frosh

By Karen E. Robinson  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A smorgasbord of pre-orientation activities will be available to the MIT entering class of 2003. Along with the repeat of three past programs, two new pre-orientation programs will also be available to this year's incoming freshmen.

The Freshman Arts Program and Freshman Outdoor Program are two new programs that will allow freshmen to interact in small groups prior to the start of the school year. In addition to FAP and FOP, the Freshman Leadership Program and

Freshman Service Program will be available, as well as a reprise of the Department of Ocean Engineering (Course XIII) academic program "Discover Ocean Engineering," offered for the first time last summer.

This year's total of five programs is an increase from the three programs offered to members of the class of 2002. FLP was the only pre-orientation program available to the classes of 2001 and 2000.

### New programs add variety

As the name suggests, FOP will be "smaller and more physically

active," said Joseph A. Cirello '00. Students and six to ten counselors will hike and camp in New Hampshire or Maine.

Cirello and Elsie Huang '00, who co-coordinated last summer's FLP, are in the process of choosing coordinators for FOP. Counselors will be expected to have outdoor experience and complete a week-long first-aid and survival training course.

The program is being modeled after similar programs such as a Harvard program of the same name and Princeton University's "Outdoor Action."

FOP will be an "on-trails type of survival course," Cirello said. Of the five programs this summer, "FOP will be the most intense program," he said.

FAP will be coordinated by Rebecca C. Breazeale '00. The program will aim to get more MIT students involved in the arts, and the program will contribute to making this campus less "math-science one-dimensional," Breazeale said.

### DOE gets freshmen involved

The Department of Ocean

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## NECCO's 'King of Hearts' Speaks on Life, Love, and Pieces of Sugar Candy

By Rima Arnaout and Jane Yoo  
STAFF REPORTERS

No Valentine's Day celebration would be complete without the NECCO candy hearts given to friends and loved ones which include such playful sayings as "Love Me Tender" and "Yeah Right."

NECCO hearts are one of the most popular Valentine products in America. The New England Confectionary Company, a quick jaunt from MIT on the way to Random Hall, makes 100,000 pounds of hearts a day, and it takes them all year to make the 8 billion hearts consumed during Valentine's Day. That's 20 million pounds of candy hearts, which, if laid back to back, would stretch for 32 thousand miles.

There are over 100 different sayings on the NECCO hearts; some of the most popular ones, like 'be mine,' 'be true,' 'kiss me,' 'marry me,' and 'sweet talk' have been around since the 1890s.

Walter Marshall, Vice President of Logistics and Planning at NECCO, also has the job of creating sayings for the conversation hearts. His favorite flavor of hearts are the pink cherry ones.

"Eight or nine years ago a reporter from Cincinnati, Ohio,

called wanting to do a story" about NECCO and the candy hearts. "I sort of became a spokesperson for the hearts and sort of befriended them, sort of took them under my wing."

"After the article was written, the reporter gave me a nickname 'King of Hearts.'"

Marshall and NECCO have gotten a lot of publicity for the conversation hearts. Media including *People Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, CNN, and the Today Show have all featured Marshall and the NECCO heart-making process in the past. Last year, Rosie O'Donnell invited Marshall to appear on her Feb. 13 show.

"I used to field the questions about conversation hearts and about NECCO, and it seemed that these little candies were very... attention getting."

Ten to twelve years ago, "we started to add some [heart messages] and delete some that did not have the same meaning" as when they were started," Marshall said. Messages like 'Solid,' 'Dig Me,' 'Groovy,' and 'UR Gay' slipped into history.

"In the days that it came out, [UR Gay] meant you were a happy

guy, a happy person. Now it has another connotation so we took it out," Marshall said.

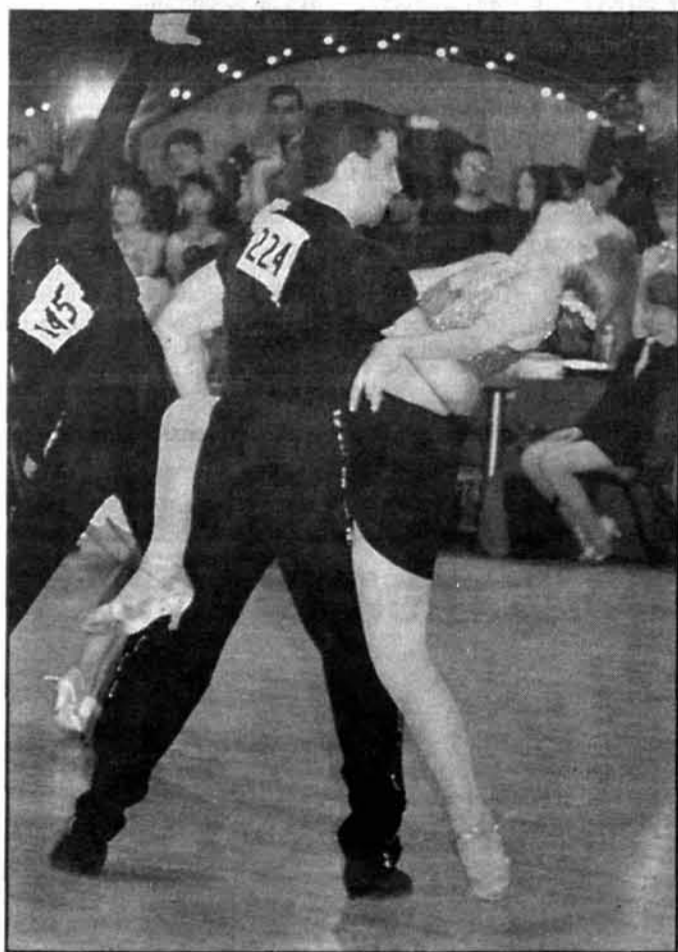
The 1990s gave way to a new set of sayings, this time based on the technology that defined this decade. "Our first high-tech saying we added was 'Fax Me.' That got a good response, so next year we added 'Email Me' and 'Page Me,'" Marshall said.

Ten new sayings were announced for Valentine's Day 1999. "For 1999, we thought we'd get a little bit of nostalgia from gone-by days, but not so far gone," Marshall said. The sayings included 'My Way,' 'Let it Be,' 'I Got U Babe,' 'Love Me Tender,' and 'Walk on By.'

Marshall's inspiration for heart messages comes from many people. "It's a little piece of candy," Marshall said, "so it's hard to be creative." His two granddaughters, Rachel and Sarah, came up with 'You Rock' and 'I Wonder,' respectively.

When he was featured on the Rosie O'Donnell Show, Rosie suggested the saying 'Let's Do Lunch,' and one of the writers for the show came up with "As If." Both can be found on NECCO hearts today.

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KRZYSZTOF GAJOS—THE TECH

Michael Posner dips his partner Reena Freedman as they compete in the Tango at the Harvard Invitational Ballroom Dance Competition last weekend.

MIT's Parliamentary Debate Team places well in international competition.

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THE ARTS

Vlad shares his picks for the 71st Annual Academy Awards.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Clinton Considers N.Y. Senate Race

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will "seriously consider" whether to run for the Senate from New York in 2000 once the Senate impeachment trial of her husband has been concluded, several knowledgeable Democrats said Thursday.

The first lady has been besieged in recent weeks by Democrats in New York and elsewhere who have strongly encouraged her to seek the seat of retiring Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., arguing that she would be the strongest possible candidate the party could nominate.

Hillary Clinton's office sought to play down intensifying discussion about a possible Senate race Thursday, and a number of Democrats said they still doubted that the first lady would jump into electoral politics this year, despite the pressure she is under.

But the possibility of a Clinton Senate campaign appears to have moved beyond the point of mere speculation, according to a number of sources. As one Democrat familiar with New York politics put it Thursday: "People who were telling me until a week ago that they didn't think this was going to happen now believe it's really possible that it could happen."

## Greenspan Rejects Bank Compromise

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan dug in his heels Thursday, saying he would rather kill efforts to revamp financial services law than compromise with regulatory rivals at the Treasury Department and allow banks to sell securities and other non-banking services through wholly owned subsidiaries.

Speaking before the House Banking Committee, Greenspan said in the strongest words possible that allowing banks to offer new services through subsidiaries would "lead to greater risk for the (bank) deposit insurance funds and the taxpayer."

Greenspan repeated the Fed's position that banks should be allowed to affiliate with insurance and securities firms only through a holding company that would own but keep the three businesses separate.

The Treasury regulates national banks. The Fed regulates bank holding companies. The two agencies have been locked in a fight over which will be the primary federal bank regulator if financial services legislation passes.

## Annan Bemoans African Militarism

LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-general Kofi Annan warned the U.N. Security Council on Thursday of potentially disastrous consequences from "overt military adventurism" as some African governments send troops across their borders to fight.

Annan's remarks concluded a briefing he delivered on Africa's most troublesome conflicts. He urged governments to begin addressing the destabilizing trend before it spreads further.

"The inter-relationship between a number of these conflicts is a new and very worrying trend," he told council's 15 members. "... It is even possible to find soldiers from the same army fighting in conflicts in more than one country at the same time."

This type of "overt military adventurism" may, if unchecked, have "disastrous consequences" for states in a large part of the continent, Annan said.

He said in Sierra Leone, rebel forces killed more than 3,000 people and burned much of the city of Freetown in January. In Angola, where two U.N. planes were shot down, killing 23 people, he said international organization would press to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the crashes. Annan said the United Nations stood ready to increase its humanitarian aid if necessary.

# As Impeachment Vote Nears, Senators Break from Parties

By Guy Gugliotta and Eric Pianin

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Secret deliberations in President Clinton's impeachment trial wound toward a finish Thursday, as a fourth Republican announced plans to reject both articles, pushing conviction supporters within a single vote of failing to win even a simple majority against the president when the Senate casts its vote Friday.

While describing Clinton's conduct as "deplorable and indefensible," Sen. Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) said she became convinced that "the president's wrongdoing can and should be effectively addressed by the criminal justice system" rather than removal from office. Senators of both parties predicted another moderate Republican from Maine, Susan M. Collins, might also vote against the charge that Clinton obstructed justice, but her office did not confirm her intentions.

Meeting in secret from 10 a.m. until shortly after 7 p.m., with a break only for lunch, the Senate heard about 30 members of both parties outline their views on the second presidential impeachment

trial in U.S. history.

By the end of the day, senators said, there were only three or four senators left to speak, including Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.), and Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) viewed as the leading exponent of Senate traditions and procedures. Lott said he hoped the Senate would vote by 11 a.m. or noon EST Friday.

Even as the deliberations proceeded, a steady stream of senators called news conferences, issued statements or submitted speeches explaining their positions. Virtually all the statements, even from Democrats, condemned Clinton's behavior in the scandal with language like "disgraceful" and "reprehensible," though the two parties parted company on the proper punishment; Democrats said the president should remain in office, while most Republicans affirmed conviction as a just result for disgraceful conduct.

It has been certain for weeks that the Senate will not muster the two-thirds majority needed to oust Clinton from office, and in the past few days enthusiasm for the first impeachment article alleging per-

jury in Clinton's Aug. 17 grand jury testimony has waned to the point where it will almost certainly not win 50 votes.

Snowe's announcement meant that four Republicans are now on record opposing the second article, alleging obstruction of justice in Clinton's efforts to conceal his sexual involvement with Monica S. Lewinsky. The others — Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), James M. Jeffords (R-Vt.), and John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) — announced their opposition Wednesday.

If Democrats, as is widely expected, close ranks to oppose both articles, only a maximum of 51 senators, all Republicans, could be counted on to vote for the obstruction article. Still giving little clue to their intentions were two early GOP waverers, Collins and Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.).

The only question in the Democrat camp was Byrd, who has not said categorically that he will vote against both articles.

Democrats have said that, after the Senate returns to regular legislative session, they will make a parliamentary move aimed at forcing a vote on their resolution to censure Clinton.

# U.S. Plans to Deploy Marines To Kosovo for Peacekeeping

By Dana Priest

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

U.S. military planners, turning to America's elite beach-storming service, have decided to send the Marines into Kosovo during an initial stage of a peacekeeping deployment in that embattled Serbian province, administration officials said Thursday.

About 2,200 Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., who are now afloat in the Mediterranean, would set the stage for Army troops who would make up a longer-term U.S. presence as part of a European-led and dominated peacekeeping force. Using the Marines would give the United States the ability to deploy troops immediately after a

settlement between the Serbian government and secessionist Kosovo rebels, instead of having to wait weeks or months for more heavily equipped Army units to arrive.

At the same time, a senior military officer said many concerns originally expressed by the U.S. Joint Chiefs have been addressed in the latest version of a 25-page military annex to the political settlement that the Serbian government and ethnic Albanian guerrillas are discussing at the Rambouillet peace talks. For instance, Joint Guardian, as the operation has been dubbed, will not require NATO troops to take on police functions, such as making arrests or escorting refugees. Instead, they would monitor local police.

Unlike Bosnia, where NATO

troops positioned themselves between the formerly warring factions in "zones of separation," in Kosovo troops would be "like a blanket of snow" over the entire province, said the official. They will be responsible for supervising a withdrawal of forces on both sides, for making sure military equipment is kept in certain storage sites and for monitoring the disarming of some units. They would also monitor the border, which the Serbian army would be allowed to patrol.

Moving the Marines into Kosovo and Bosnia, their first venture into the Balkans, also reflects a desire by the Marine Corps to play a larger role in peacekeeping operations, a growing business for the U.S. military in the post Cold War era.

## WEATHER

### Warm today, gone tomorrow

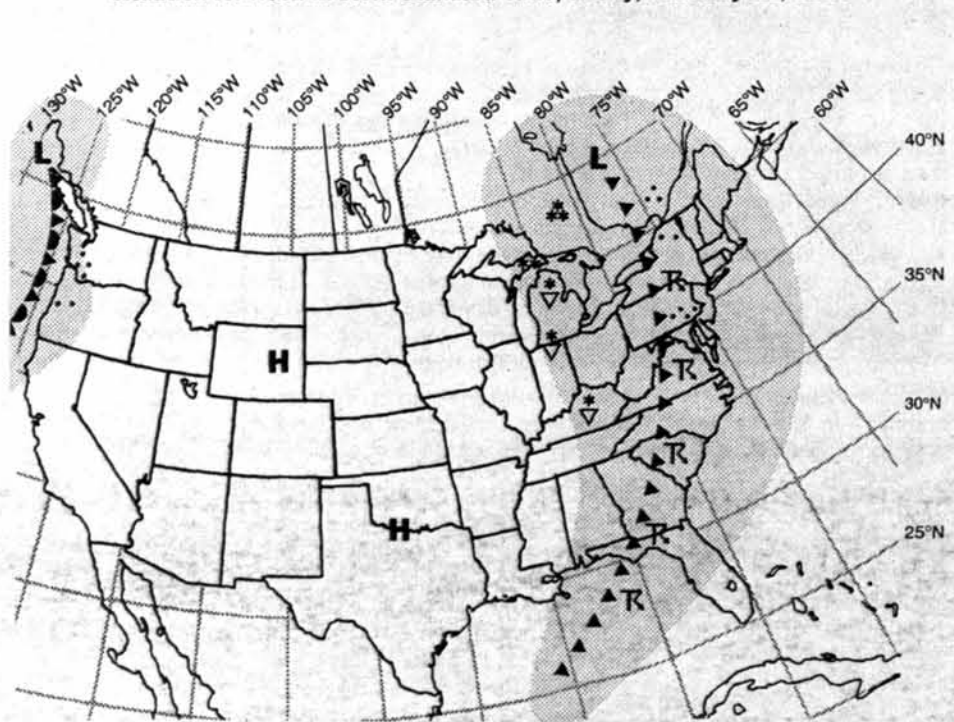
By Bill Ramstrom  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

A large, powerful storm is passing into Canada today; the southerly flow ahead of it is bringing us a short-lived warm spell. Highs today could reach into the 60s, before a cold front passes through, accompanied by heavy rain and possible thunderstorms. This front will usher in much colder air for Saturday, with a chance of snow flurries by late in the day. Valentine's Day on Sunday will be sunny and chilly.

**Today:** Mostly cloudy and warm. High 62°F (16°C).  
**Tonight:** Windy and warm with rain, maybe thunder. Low 50°F (10°C).  
**Saturday:** Rain early, windy, much cooler by afternoon. Early high 52°F (11°C).  
**Saturday night:** Cold with a few flurries. Low 23°F (-5°C).  
**Sunday:** Sunny and chilly. High 30°F (-1°C).  
**Outlook for Monday:** Fair and a bit warmer. High 42°F (6°C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	- - - Trough	☉ Snow	☁ Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	—▲— Warm Front	☂ Rain	⚡ Thunderstorm
<b>S</b> Hurricane	▲▲▲ Cold Front	☂ Light	☁ Haze
	▲▲▲ Occluded Front	☂ Moderate	
		☂ Heavy	

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 12, 1999

Compiled by MIT  
Meteorology Staff  
and The Tech

# Despite Court Order, American Airline Pilots Lengthen Sickout

By James F. Peltz  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Nearly a quarter of American Airlines pilots defied a court order and their union leadership and extended their sickout to a sixth day Thursday, forcing the giant carrier to again cancel more than half of its 2,250 daily flights.

The pilots' action virtually guaranteed widespread disruption for thousands of travelers over Presidents' Day holiday weekend, when empty seats on other airlines will be in short supply.

More than 3,500 American flights have now been canceled, and more than 350,000 passengers inconvenienced, since the pilots began calling in sick last weekend in a labor dispute over the airline's recent purchase of the smaller carrier Reno Air.

The airline and the pilots' union continued their negotiations Thursday. But even if all of American's 9,200 pilots immediately reported to work, disrupted flight schedules, out-of-place aircraft and

other lingering effects of the pilots' job action would likely lead to more canceled flights this weekend.

Meanwhile, frustrated American Airlines management marched back into court Thursday and asked that the union, the Allied Pilots Association, be found in contempt of court for failing to end the pilots' sickout, as ordered Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Joe Kendall in Dallas.

The APA, via its telephone hotline and Internet site, urged its members to follow the order. Union leaders "instruct all pilots to resume their normal working schedule and to otherwise comply" with the judge's ruling, the APA said in its daily Internet posting.

But American — the primary unit of Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR Corp. — said Thursday's sickout showed the union's effort wasn't enough. In seeking the contempt order, the airline said the union still hadn't "clearly communicated to its members to return to work, and that APA did not take

reasonable steps to end the sickout."

American, its customers, its other employees and Kendall all "had expectations that things would get better, not worse," the airline said. A hearing on American's motion was set for Friday in Kendall's courtroom.

The motion "is ridiculous," said Drew Engelke, an American pilot and union spokesman in Fort Worth. "We've done everything humanly possible to be in compliance" with the judge's order, he said.

But about 2,400 pilots called in sick Thursday, up from 2,077 a day earlier, which forced American Airlines to cancel about 1,170 flights, 170 more flights than on Wednesday, said American spokesman John Hotard.

To be sure, pilots are often scheduled to work for three or four days at a time, so sick calls from earlier this week spilled over into cancellations Thursday. Even so, it's "obvious the pilots aren't following the judge's order," Hotard said.

# Pakistani Government Cuts Off Newsprint After Critical Coverage

By Kenneth J. Cooper  
THE WASHINGTON POST

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

The government and War are doing battle in Pakistan.

After brewing behind the scenes for months, an all-out conflict between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government and the nation's largest newspaper chain — the Jang Group, whose name translates as "War" — has brought legal challenges to the courts, protesting journalists to the streets and fewer pages to the chain's widely circulated dailies.

At stake, says the government, are tens of millions of dollars that the Jang Group is said to owe in back income taxes and unpaid customs duties on imported newsprint. Jang, which denies cheating the government, has warned that the confrontation threatens press freedom in Pakistan's unsteady democracy and, in particular, Jang's English-language paper, the News, known for its aggressive investigations of official corruption.

Since democracy was restored here a decade ago, Pakistan's press generally has enjoyed a degree of freedom unknown during the periods of military rule that have

encompassed about half of the 51 years since the country's creation. The showdown during the last few weeks reflects a resurgence of government practices left over from the era of martial law, when dictators routinely censored and cowed newspapers that challenged them.

The Sharif government has reduced the supply of newsprint to Jang to a trickle, shrinking editions on some days to as few as four pages and threatening to interrupt publication. The government-imposed stranglehold on Jang's newsprint is reminiscent of the last military dictator, Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, who established the government's right to control the flow of newsprint — all of which is imported — and then used the system to reward friendly publications and punish critics.

In addition, a close aide to Sharif has also demanded that Jang publisher Shakilur Rehman make personnel changes and revise editorial policy to support the government's imposition of martial law in Karachi, the nation's largest city, to control ethnic violence.

The News has published excerpts of a secretly made audiotape in which Saifur Rehman Khan, Sharif's anti-corruption chief,

appeared to demand that Shakilur Rehman dismiss more than a dozen journalists because of their roles in unfavorable coverage of the government.

Among the targets were News editor Maleeha Lodhi, who was ambassador to Washington under former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, and News investigative reporter Kamran Khan, who is also a special correspondent for The Washington Post. Both journalists said that intelligence agents monitored their homes last week.

The Jang Group publishes six newspapers and a magazine. The daily Jang in Urdu, the national language, is the nation's best-selling newspaper, with a circulation of 1 million. The News claims the second-largest circulation in English, after Dawn, which leans toward the political establishment.

Saifur Rehman Khan denied in a recent interview that he had pressed publisher Rehman to dismiss any journalists but did acknowledge urging him to demote "a few people who are in important positions and are always trying to misreport things."

He also admitted demanding that the publisher endorse martial law and military courts in Karachi.

# Brazilian President Cardoso Subject To Anger Despite Former Popularity

By Anthony Falola  
THE WASHINGTON POST

SALVADOR, BRAZIL

Nursing a lukewarm, long-neck beer at a bar in this antiquated metropolis in northeastern Brazil, Celina Moura, 47, decided to stand up and tell half the room her views on President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

"That traitor!" she said.

Moura, an accountant's wife and mother of three, was furious about the currency crisis now gripping Brazil. More precisely, she was furious about the government's efforts to contain the crisis — and keep investors from pulling their money out of Brazil — by lifting interest rates to stratospheric levels. That policy, she said, has raised her credit card interest from 12 to 19 percent over the past six months.

"He's become like all politicians now, just a liar, just another liar," she said in this vibrant but poverty-stricken capital of Afro-Brazilian culture.

Moura's anger, like that of many

Brazilians, erupted after Cardoso last month broke a long-standing vow by permitting devaluation of Brazil's currency, which has since tumbled by 37 percent. Cardoso acted out of concern that the government could no longer afford to prop up the currency with dwindling foreign-exchange reserves. But his decision came at a cost of worsening unemployment and recession — and a sharp drop in the popularity for the Brazilian leader, until recently the toast of the country for his success in vanquishing hyperinflation.

After his landslide reelection last fall, Cardoso's honeymoon with the electorate appears to be at an end. A nationwide poll by DataFolha, a major Brazilian polling firm, indicated that, for the first time since he took over as Brazil's leader in 1995, more people were critical of him than approved of him. In the survey, 36 percent of Brazilians polled rated Cardoso's performance as bad, compared with just 21 percent who thought he was doing a good job,

and 39 percent who said his performance was average.

Although such ratings would be the envy of presidents in nearby nations like Argentina and Peru, for Cardoso, 68, who had been considered something akin to a national hero during his first term in office, unpopularity is uncharted territory.

A onetime academic and leading opponent of the former military dictatorship, Cardoso once led a study group on Karl Marx but in the 1990s turned into a champion of capitalism. He won widespread accolades for his "real plan" — named for the Brazilian currency, the real — which was drafted and implemented in 1994 while he was still finance minister. The plan ended years of hyperinflation by pegging the local currency loosely to the U.S. dollar while opening up the world's eighth-largest economy to foreign investment and trade.

The stabilized currency made credit available to the poor, creating a new consumer class in Brazil.

# Jackson Says He Is Considering 2000 Presidential Race

THE WASHINGTON POST

Civil rights leader Jesse L. Jackson said Thursday he is considering seeking the Democratic party's nomination for president in 2000. Jackson traveled to New Hampshire on Thursday to speak to a group of Portsmouth high school students and a business group. While he did not directly address the campaign question in his speeches, he told reporters before and after that he was mulling the race.

In a telephone interview, he said President Clinton will emerge from the impeachment controversy stronger, and that he and Vice President Gore must expand on policy issues that have helped boost the economy. Jackson noted that one-fourth of children still live in poverty, the income disparity gap continues to widen, and millions of poor people still have no health care. Meanwhile, government continues to invest more in jails than in schools, he said.

Gore should not be allowed to inherit the nomination, Jackson said. "I think that a vigorous primary broadens the base of interest of volunteers of registered voters of interested voters," added Jackson, who ran unsuccessfully in 1984 and 1988. "Nobody is coming to a one-person debate."

In his New Hampshire visit, Jackson urged the state to approve the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. He told the students to resist socially destructive behavior and to become politically active. He said he registered 200 to vote on the spot.

# Ultra-Orthodox Rabbis Call for Protest of High Court

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

In a campaign that has renewed the battle over Israel's cultural identity, ultra-Orthodox rabbis Thursday assailed the Israeli Supreme Court as a "wicked" institution guilty of making decisions that hurt Jews.

The verbal assault was unleashed by leading ultra-Orthodox rabbis who contend that the Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Aharon Barak, represents "judicial activism at its most destructive" and poses a threat to the Jewish nature of Israel.

In unusually bitter language, the "haredim," as the ultra-Orthodox are known, are calling for a massive demonstration against the high court on Sunday. Rabbis are urging religious women and children to join, as well.

Outraged secular Jews, who make up the majority of Israel's population, responded by accusing the rabbis of incitement against the judges in a bid to undermine the foundations of Israeli democracy. Leftist politicians and youths from Israeli kibbutzim planned counter-demonstrations.

The uproar is seen as the latest skirmish in an ongoing war over the identity of the Jewish state, and how to reconcile Jewish law with democratic ideals. It is perhaps the most pressing social question facing the 50-year-old nation: Should Israel be a secular, liberal democracy, or should religion have a major role in determining how the state's citizens live, study and work?

# Abortion Foes Face Setbacks in Court but Score on P.R. Front

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In a series of remarkably consistent decisions, courts have been blocking state laws that ban so-called "partial-birth" abortions almost as fast as the states have enacted them.

With Congress having failed twice to pass a national ban over President Clinton's veto, more than half the states have enacted such laws. In 18 of the 20 states whose laws have been challenged, courts either have found the laws unconstitutional or ordered the states not to enforce them until a trial is conducted.

But despite their setbacks in the courts, abortion opponents have scored a substantial public relations victory. Abortion rights advocates realize that state legislators, eager to ban partial-birth abortions, may rewrite the laws so that they pass constitutional muster.

The debate over this type of late-term abortion has "made even people who consider themselves pro-choice confront aspects of abortion they haven't before," said Susan Cohen, a legislative analyst at the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a reproductive health research center that supports legal abortion.

The laws enacted in more than half the states are intended to prohibit a method of abortion in which part of the fetus is pulled from the womb and into the birth canal before it is killed. The laws' supporters, including the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, have promoted them as affecting only this type of abortion, which usually is performed after about 18 weeks of pregnancy.

# New Logging Roads Are Cut Off by Clinton Administration

LOS ANGELES TIMES

As part of a Clinton administration plan to reduce environmental damage in national forests, the U.S. Forest Service on Thursday declared an 18-month halt to the construction of logging roads across 33 million acres of forest land.

The moratorium on roads in areas that currently have none will be in effect while a final policy is worked out. It roughly one-sixth of the 191 million acres of timberland in the federal forest system, mostly in the West.

Announcing the plan at a Washington news conference, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, whose department includes the Forest Service, described the moratorium "as an official timeout" while the service brings its management more in tune with forest needs and uses.

"There are 383,000 miles of forest roads already in existence, enough to circle the globe many times," Glickman said. "Less than half of them meet minimum environmental and safety standards," he said, estimating the total repair cost at more than \$8 billion.

Glickman said that close to 2 million vehicles traverse forest roads every day, "many of them station wagons with families."

# OPINION

## Making the Grade

Three-and-a-half years ago, the Committee on the Undergraduate Program started an experiment in intermediate +/- modifiers on grades. The modifiers were to be internal only, meaning that they would not affect students grade point averages and would not appear on transcripts available to Institute outsiders. Last December, the CUP voted to recommend making the experiment permanent. *The Tech* applauds the CUP's decision, and we hope now that the Faculty Policy Committee, set to meet in early March, will feel the same way.

The issue of intermediate grades has been one of the most divisive issues at the Institute. Faculty have favored the resolution that external modifiers provide in differentiating students. Students, on the other hand, have generally adamantly opposed external modifiers with the fear that they would heighten the already high pace and pressure on campus and have no real educational value at the Institute.

*The Tech* believes that keeping intermediate grades internal is

an acceptable compromise position between not having them at all and making them external. There is no reason modifiers should be included on public transcripts, and internal modifiers should be enough for faculty in differentiating students. *The Tech* is pleased that the CUP and administrators have listened to the voice of students in making their decision.

We hope the faculty will accept the current system. We hope that the Faculty Policy Committee will vote in favor of submitting the CUP's recommendation to a faculty meeting, and we hope that the faculty at the meeting will in turn approve the CUP's recommendation again.

At the same time, however, *The Tech* is wary that the faculty will approve internal modifiers only as a step in an extended plan to phase in external modifiers as well. Three years have numbed students' minds to the period before in which intermediate grades didn't exist at all. We hope that the faculty won't try to start another long experiment a year later to put in external modifiers. Internal modifiers should be approved, and they should remain a permanent fixture at MIT.

### Editorial

## Letters To The Editor

### Alcohol vs. Suicide

There is something I find disturbing, and it has bothered me for a while, but I'm prompted now to write by the recent death of Michael P. Manley '02.

As I understand it, MIT has had three undergraduate suicides occur on campus in the four years that I remember myself. In the years before I came to MIT, I know there were many more. Other than the usual counseling and talk about blocking windows, I don't remember other actions taken in response to these unfortunate deaths in an effort to prevent them in the future.

On the other hand, MIT has had one undergraduate drinking death in perhaps its entire history, and that has caused sweeping

changes all over campus. The entire residence system was changed, social gatherings had to follow new guidelines (officially or not, I witnessed drastic changes to social activities) and also, more importantly, the issue of "binge drinking" was on everyone's mind and was widely discussed.

Why is it that these suicide deaths don't cause this kind of campus upheaval? Are these suicide deaths not related to campus life? But the alcohol-related death was? If these suicides were all completely independent events, why does it happen so often here at MIT? And on the other side, if an alcohol-related death is so closely related to campus life and residence policies that they *must* be so drastically changed, why have the consequences been historically less tragic?

Clearly, I am not saying that horrible tragedies are the only warrant for change; I just want to put forth the notion that some problems seem to have gotten a disproportionately greater amount of attention, while others seem almost neglected. If one kind of death is so much more dependent on the individual, why has it happened so frequently? I think that the lone drinking death may be more related to the individual, and these suicides may be more of a campus problem than we realize. Why is there such a discrepancy? Perhaps the administration is confused, or far too influenced by negative media coverage. If so, then this is my tiny bit of bad press for the Institute.

Bryan E. Weir '99



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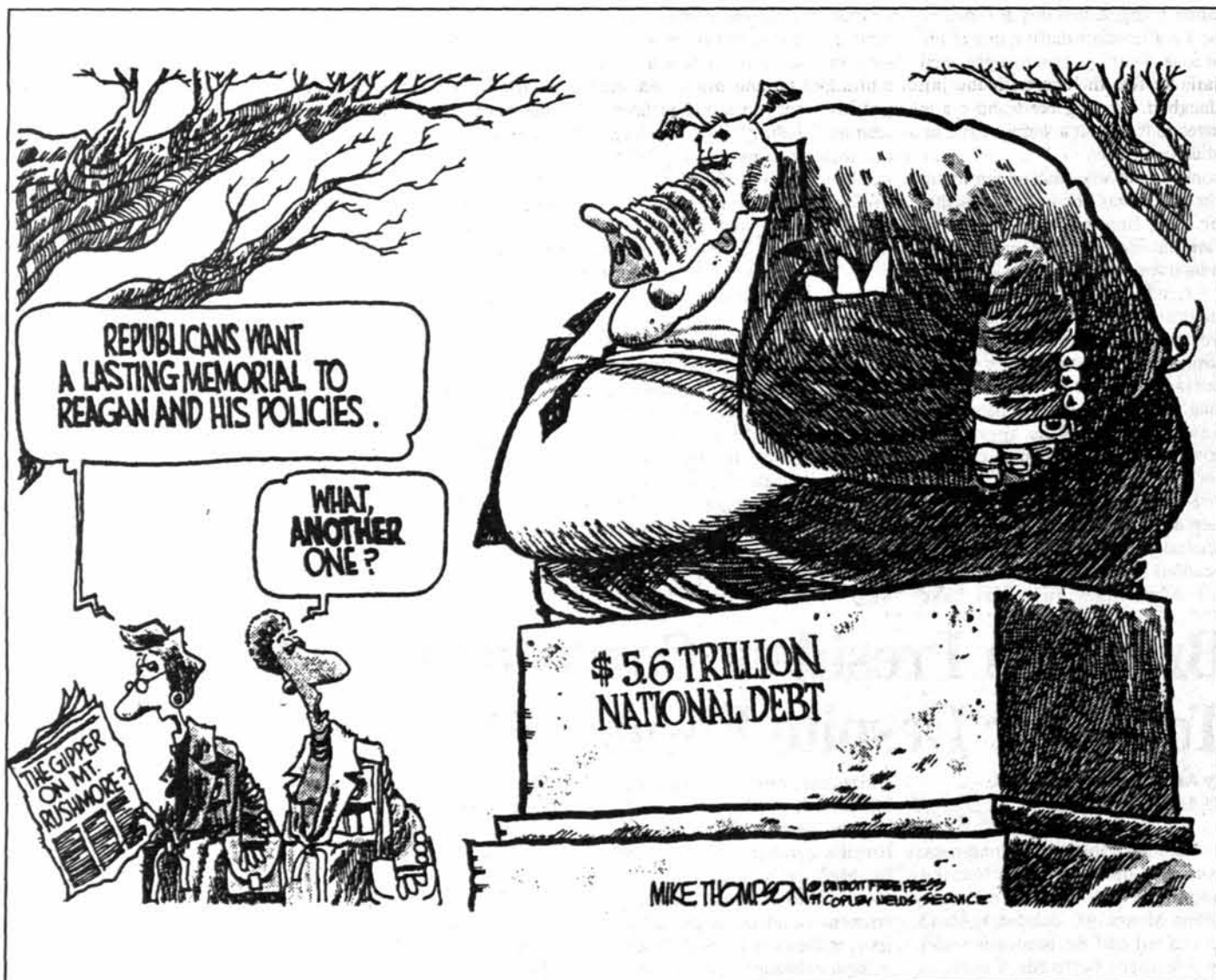
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# Treating Depression

MIT's casual attitude toward suicide should be cause for concern

Guest Column

Julia C. Lipman

In 1992, the father of an MIT student who committed suicide wrote a letter to *The Tech* to correct the initial report that his son's death had been an accident. "My real concern at this time is how casually MIT seems to accept suicide," he wrote. His comments could simply be dismissed as the irrational anger of a grief-stricken father, except that it is only too clear that MIT does indeed have a casual attitude toward student suicide.

Seven years later, nothing has changed. A student suicide still commands little lasting attention and no action. There will be no restructuring of the residential system and no administrative committees appointed as a result of the suicide of Michael P. Manley '02. Instead, it will be business as usual.

Compare that to the response to student death from alcohol poisoning: a serious, concerted effort on MIT's part to prevent such deaths in the future. Whether or not you agree with the methods used, it's indisputable that MIT is taking the problem seriously. Of course, student suicide isn't going to bring about lawsuits or national media coverage. But if MIT can be said to have a "binge drinking" problem with a rate about half that of the average school, it's about time to admit that MIT has a suicide problem.

People like simple, punitive solutions to

problems, especially problems involving young people. Is there an outbreak of juvenile crime? Try them as adults. Teenage car accidents? Place tough restrictions on teen drivers (as Massachusetts has done recently). College drinking? Crack down on campus parties. But MIT can't ban depression or crack down on suicide.

Oh, it can try. But by now, it should be clear that modifying high windows should not be the main approach to solving this campus-wide problem. Unfortunately, the issue of window safety has gotten the most attention so far, as it did in 1996 when another MacGregor resident committed suicide by falling from a 14th-story window. After that suicide, a group of administrators, housing officials, and students was created to explore different possibilities for safer windows. Not only does such an approach miss the point completely, but by concentrating on the most minor, technical details, we have effectively distanced ourselves from the uncomfortable reality of suicide on this campus.

There's probably never going to be a *Newsweek* article or *20/20* piece suggesting that MIT causes its students to commit suicide through academic pressure. And in many ways, that's for the best. Such a simplistic explanation of why people take their own lives would be hardly more illuminating than the present discussion of window mechanics. But, as we've seen, media coverage can force immediate action. Of course MIT has counsel-

ing deans, Nightline, and the Mental Health Service at MIT Medical to help students suffering from depression. But what is missing is a comprehensive plan to keep students from taking their own lives. Where is the task force on suicide prevention? There is a great deal more that could be done.

Something as simple as giving counseling services more publicity could make quite a difference. Nightline places posters around campus, but I've never seen any advertising for psychiatric services at the Med Center. If you doubt that such a simple approach would have much of an effect, just look at the success of recent campaigns aimed at drunk driving and unprotected sex.

MIT has always been the kind of place where to do something by oneself is the highest form of accomplishment; only recently did most MIT classes even encourage collaboration on problem sets. But depression isn't a problem set; it isn't something that can be conquered without collaboration. MIT's responsibility to its students extends beyond providing them with safe windows. Now is the time to act. By making a decision to do something now about suicide on campus, MIT can prevent future tragedies as well as set an example for other universities. MIT now has the opportunity to give real meaning to the Med Center's slogan: "At MIT, we do things a little differently."

Julia C. Lipman is a senior in the Department of Mathematics.

# A War of Words

Wesley T. Chan

Every day our nation's capital is becoming more of a linguistic battlefield. One can only stare in amazement at this crazy war. Daily television images of Republicans asserting that the President has "murdered" the English language by allegedly perjuring himself reinforces this observation.

The latest battle of words in Washington took place not in the hallowed halls of the U.S. Capitol but inside City Hall. Newly elected D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams recently accepted the resignation of his aide David Howard after Howard said in a meeting last month, "I will have to be niggardly with this fund because it's not going to be a lot of money." An African-American colleague of Howard stormed out of the room after mistaking the word "niggardly" for a racial epithet.

Howard apologized to his colleague and attempted to explain that the word, which has Scandinavian origins, really means "stingy" or "miserly." She allegedly refused to listen and was shocked that someone could be so insensitive to use such an egregious word. Howard offered to resign after his office began receiving numerous calls from the community accusing him of being racist. Mayor Williams accepted, claiming that Howard used poor judgement in his choice of words.

Since the incident, there has been a media frenzy. *The Washington Post* criticized the mayor by saying that he should have handed the staff member a dictionary and ripped up Howard's resignation. Words with benign meanings are increasingly becoming taboo. For instance, *The New York Times* reports that people are avoiding the use of words such as chicanery, meaning "to trick," since some may

*We've got to stop this nonsense. It's time to realize that some of us have become hypocrites in the true sense of the word.*

mistake it for the more derogatory word Chicano, sometimes used to describe Latinos.

This is simply outrageous. Sad as it may be, the issue at hand is our hypersensitivity of words. It's a disgrace to our country. Nevertheless, some argue that Howard should have used a more recognizable word at his meeting. As a *Washington Post* columnist pointed out, he'd never use the word "fagot," which, unlike the slur against homosexuals with two g's, means a bundle of twigs, sticks or branches. People, after all, could easily get offended.

But shall we also chastise Supreme Court justices when they use "niggardly" in their decisions? Shall we also ban the works of Shakespeare, which also contains the word, from schools in hopes that it won't upset some of our more sensitive students? How much more should we lower our standards to appease the ignorance of those who quickly scream "Foul!"

Don't misunderstand me: I'm not advocating the use of words intended to demean others. Such behavior is clearly unacceptable. But it is equally unacceptable to accuse someone who uses a perfectly legitimate word with no derogatory connotations as racist. We've got to stop this nonsense. It's time to realize that some of us have become hypocrites in the true sense of the word. We insist on tolerance; yet, at the moment when we think we have been offended, we fail to show any tolerance at all. We are quick to send out the troops when we think we've been attacked, but we are slow to listen and understand, passing guilty verdicts on the innocent instead.

Fortunately, this story has a happy ending. Mayor Williams, after an "investigation," asserted that Howard did nothing wrong. He admitted to reacting too quickly and offered Howard another post in his administration.

But the damage has been done. We find ourselves one step closer to completely lynching our vocabulary. Words become censored, not because they intentionally demean and offend, but because people are ignorant of their meanings. It's a sad world indeed when it has to come to this.

# Valentine's Day: Not Just for Couples

Veena Thomas

February 14 brings to mind images of roses, chocolates; cute, cuddly, stuffed animals; and people dining out and declaring undying love for each another. But has it always been this way? Must it be like this?

Several legends describe how this holiday came to be. According to one, St. Valentine was a Christian martyr in the third century who was arrested and imprisoned. While in jail, he fell in love with the jailer's blind daughter. Wanting her to have a token of his affections, he wrote her a sonnet in ink that he squeezed from violets. As legend has it, the sonnet somehow enabled her to see again. Yet the jailer was not impressed with Valentine, and had him killed the next day. But as a farewell message, the saint gave the daughter a note signed "From your Valentine."

Another legend holds that in ancient Rome, on the eve of Valentine's Day, the name of each young lady was placed in a vase and each young man drew a lady's name. For the remainder of the year, the two were 'valentines' and exchanged little gifts. Hmm... a girlfriend picked out of a hat, or a vase... sounds like those Romans were desperate!

But somewhat random matchmaking is present even today. In my high school, a popular fundraiser for student groups was Data

Match, a voluntary survey for students to fill out. Anyone could complete the form, but on Valentine's Day, interested students would have to pay four dollars for a list of students of the opposite sex with whom they were supposedly very compatible. This computerized determination was based on such important questions as hair color, height, age, favorite activities, curfew time, and favorite desserts.

Such commercialism, sadly, is not uncommon in regard to Valentine's Day. Even as early as January, I see stores decorated in red and pink, and shelves of high-priced, substandard chocolates, all in the name of the holiday. Signs urge men to buy their girlfriends the very best and that there's only one way that a "two month's salary can last forever."

Commercialism has other effects; it brings Valentine's Day to everyone's awareness. For those people in relationships, everything is great, except for the stress of ensuring that the day is perfect. But what about all of the single people in the country? Some people feel rather down on Valentine's Day because they are not in a relationship. The holiday has the ability to make people, even those perfectly content to be single, feel a little wistful. Everything looks so perfect... the roses, the chocolate, and the fancy dinners.

But fret not. Valentine's Day is only one day out of the year. Perhaps it should be celebrated as a holiday to spend with the

people you love, including a boyfriend, girlfriend, best friend, mother, father, sibling, or anybody else. By broadening the scope of the day, you can use it as a day to reach out and show someone that you care. Even if you are not in a relationship, use the day as a reason to celebrate and to do something special. Bake brownies and spend quality time with your little sister, or go see *Shakespeare in Love* with your best friend. If you are in a relationship, enjoy the day with your partner, but take time to tell other people how much they mean to you. Valentine's Day should not be a depressing holiday for so many.

Remember in elementary school when everyone in the class would receive a valentine from everyone else in the class? There typically was nothing romantic behind those valentines, but everyone felt special for the day. Wouldn't it be nice if we could incorporate those into Valentine's Day again, even for those of us out of elementary school? In the beginning of high school, we distributed Valentine's Day cards to all of our friends. For some reason, this tradition stopped by senior year.

I'd like to see it come back; this year, perhaps I will try. I will be spending my Valentine's Day celebrating all of my relationships with those I care about. I urge all of you to do the same. Celebrate love and life with those you know; you just may make someone's day.

# Misguided Values in Education

Kris Schnee

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." — Edward Everett

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has found, after decades of surveying American grade-school students, that the reading and writing abilities of our nation's kids has stagnated, and is in some cases actually falling. Even worse are the American history scores, which classified only 43 percent of twelfth-graders as having even a basic knowledge of the subject. These trends threaten the foundation of our society. And a major reason for them may be the new strategy of education — a focus on social rather than academic goals, on values rather than reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The idea of using schools as places for teaching morality goes back to America's beginnings, when one of the main purposes of education was to enable everyone to read the Bible. It seemed logical to combine the teaching of this important historical tradition with the teaching of good character. But then ideologies started to shift. The Supreme Court essentially banished religion from the public schools, and the World Wars and Vietnam made patriotism passé. A generation of education experts — including university professors — decided what was needed was "multiculturalism," a new set of values for kids to learn.

Instead of focusing on teaching students how to read and write, and about the history of their country and the world, schools became a

place for teachers, armed with ideologically-loaded textbooks, to teach their students how to think "the right way" — a way in line with the new liberal attitudes of the 1960s.

In the last few decades, for instance, the English-literature books even for elementary-school students have been filled with comments on racial prejudice and the environment. These are not harmless sections which get students to think about modern issues but blatant attempts to shape their opinions as well. At an age too young for them to understand complex political issues, modern students get to hear only one side of each issue (i.e. "rainforests good, loggers bad"). Sandra Stotsky, a doctor of education at Harvard, in her book *Losing Our Language*, even claims that education has been taken over for political ends, to the extent that goals like teaching students to read are often secondary to the goal of cultural enlightenment.

It seems that an idea which sounded good in theory — putting "values" into education — was taken to an extreme, so that American kids are now learning politicized versions of English, history, and everything else. It's a dangerous trend. We should not consider our culture in modern America superior to any other, we are told by proponents of multiculturalism, because while ours features advanced technology and political freedom, it also has racism, environmental damage, and a shallow "consumer culture." We should then take lessons from cultures such as the American Indians, because they supposedly lived in harmony with nature and practiced

tolerance which we lack — never mind that these cultures each had their own dark side.

Modern students spend a lot of time learning about the sins of America. Do you think that kids who have been told all their lives that theirs is an evil, racist, sexist, oppressive nation will be willing to risk their lives for it? It would be better to have no political messages at all in the school curriculum than to spread doctrines which teach Americans to be hostile to America.

What can we do? If we complain to teachers, school administrators, and textbook-approval boards, we may be accused of simply wanting to indoctrinate students with our own values instead of theirs. But if we allow an elite group of intellectuals to continue to put ideological agendas into our schools, "for the sake of the children" or the country, we can be fairly sure that the schools will turn out people who have one particular set of opinions. That's not democracy. Let's throw all of the ideology out!

Let's put pressure on the public schools to become completely non-partisan, and focus again on the basic skills of literacy and critical thinking, along with honest and impartial knowledge of our nation's history. Our educational system should simply present its material impartially and let students form opinions on their own, when they're able to understand and think for themselves. Not only will we be able to end the debate over whose values to teach — we will teach people to make up their own minds — but we can also feel proud to have a system based on honesty and freedom instead of political manipulation.

# THE ARTS

## THEATRE REVIEW

### Valparaiso

When plastic breaks

By Bence Olveczky

STAFF REPORTER

Camera crews and journalists hound him for his unlikely story, while talk show hosts excavate even the most trivial details of his "strange and epic odyssey." Michael Majeski, the man in the spotlight, and the protagonist of Don DeLillo's fascinating new play *Valparaiso*, gives generously. Caught in a whirlwind of attention, he feverishly tries to be "all that he can be," molding to the expectations of his interviewers.

Michael, an average Joe, has become the media's unlikely hero (or anti-hero) after "mistakenly" boarding a flight to Valparaiso, Chile, instead of Valparaiso, Indiana. But while public attention infuses his mundane life with new relevance, it also adds an unhealthy amount of vulnerability to his existence as he gradually loses control and jurisdiction over his own life.

American Repertory Theatre's world premiere of Don DeLillo's insightful new play is a fluid and arresting two-and-a-half hour show that forces us to reflect on the fate of the individual in a media-saturated society.

But while DeLillo, author of such contemporary classics as *White Noise* and, most recently, *Underworld*, handles the weighty topic in a laudable manner, he is not a natural playwright, and it is David Wheeler's inspired direction which rescues the play and makes it work. The lack of rhythm, drama, and suspense in the literary material is made up for by a fast-paced and dynamic staging that makes the evening both entertaining and unnerving.

The play follows Mike's encounters with the media. Seemingly enjoying his meteoric rise to "stardom," Mike is eager to please all members of the press corps, telling each of them what they want to hear. With the media putting its stamp of approval on his lies and distortions, Mike starts believing them as he enthusiastically, if unwittingly, takes on the role the press has created for him.

Will Patton, fresh from the Hollywood blockbuster *Armageddon*, does a remarkable job in conveying a seemingly normal businessman's harrowing path from sanity to stardom. With his blue-eyed innocence and naiveté, Patton's Mike gains our sympathy as we follow his tortuous journey across the dangerous minefields of media-land towards fame and ultimate failure.

His wife, Livia, part fitness junkie, part neurotic housewife, part Jerry Springer material, is riding on a high as the press lets her elaborate on such vital matters as dental hygiene, exercise addiction, and the inevitability of making too many sandwiches. ART regular Caroline Hall plays Livia as an air-headed blonde who displays both her ignorance and sexy attributes in a manner worthy of the Shopping Channel.

The play culminates in an hour-long talk show, in which the famous host Delfina sets out to reveal the "real" Majeski couple. Delfina, played in true Oprah-style by an inspired Randy Danson, wants to strip away the superficial layers of Mike's story to discover the reality hidden in his rehearsed answers. But her quest turns sour as she finds only frustration and despair behind his plastic-fantastic façade. As his life is deconstructed on live television, Mike's vulnerability is revealed. Faced with the sorry truth, Delfina's unlikely celebrity guest ends the day-time TV show in an excessively melodramatic fashion.



Will Patton, Caroline Hall, and Randy Danson in Don DeLillo's *Valparaiso*.

While the ending's obvious symbolism (media consumes innocent naive citizen) is both overstated and uncalled for, it is the only part of the play where DeLillo is pointing a finger of blame. *Valparaiso* succeeds so well exactly because DeLillo refrains from making judgment calls. Rather, he puts a mirror in front of us and feels the pulse of our contemporary "post-human" society without moralizing. DeLillo deliberately fails to give us a diagnosis, much less a remedy for Mike's estrangement and despair, but he seems to suggest that our incessant need for a "surrogate" reality is a result of a safety mechanism that is designed to protect us from ourselves. When this mechanism fails and the bubble of self-deception bursts, it can be fatal.

In DeLillo's bleak, but uncomfortably

convincing, end-of-the-millennium view, there is not much hope left, and ART's production is carefully designed to augment the doomsday feel of the play.

The stage, with its eerie black and white panels serving as backdrop for various icons of consumerism, creates a strangely impersonal atmosphere. Video projections, showing a man with a plastic bag on his head slowly suffocating, don't exactly lift our spirits either. But that's not the point.

While most good theater productions succeed by showing us the depths and splendor of the human soul, DeLillo and the ART has managed something quite frightening. They have given us a remarkable piece of theater based solely on the superficiality of our species. And that I applaud with cold and sweaty hands.

## MOVIE REVIEW

### Rushmore

Unpredictably good

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

Directed by Wes Anderson.

Written by Wes Anderson and Owen Wilson.

With Jason Schwartzman, Olivia Williams, Bill Murray, Mason Gamble.

I'm going to let you in on a secret, an answer to a question that is heard more and more frequently these days: Why do the tastes of film critics and the filmgoing audience differ so much? After all, something so critically lambasted as *Armageddon* can end up as the top grosser of the year, while something like *A Simple Plan* can garner glowing reviews and still face an uphill climb to profitability. Of course, exceptions like *Titanic* happen as well, but usually the critics'

judgment is unrelated to popular appeal.

The answer is the dreaded predictability of most films in this day and age. An average viewer, who goes to the movies once a month — or even less frequently — might face a standard specimen of any of Hollywood's standard genres (romantic comedy, action, special effects extravaganza) rarely enough that the redundancy of these films goes unnoticed. For an average film critic, even one as lackadaisical as your faithful servant, watching more than a movie per week can get really boring really fast — especially if these movies feel like they were all xeroxed off *When Harry Met Sally*, *Die Hard*, or *Jurassic Park*, all movies that weren't marvels of originality to begin with.

That's why the arrival of something like *Rushmore* feels like a proverbial breath — or make it blast — of fresh air. *Rushmore* is an offbeat comedy, an offbeat buddy film, an offbeat romance, and an offbeat revenge story. Or none of these things. Mix up some wildly varying comic elements, combine them with some of most deliciously deadpan acting in recent memory (rivaling that of Tommy Lee Jones in *Men in Black*), add highly imaginative and inventive usage of the widescreen format, and get *Rushmore*, which is just about the least conventional and yet solidly enjoyable movie to come out recently.

The plot... Well, you see, there's this Max Fisher (Jason Schwartzman), fifteen years old, on a scholarship to a prestigious prep school, Rushmore Academy. Max, while quite a brilliant student, is failing just about every class, because he's interested in way too many things: aquanautics, aviation, beekeeping, calligraphy, and so on down the alphabet. Then he meets Mr. Blume (Bill Murray), a millionaire alum, gets interested in a first grade teacher Ms. Cross (Olivia Williams), and from there things start getting complicated.

And funny, too. While I must admit that some of the film's comic sensibilities left me somewhat cold at first ("Wow, weird" rather than

"Wow, neat"), after a short while I realized that *Rushmore* is absolutely hilarious. The wealth of character details, background gags, and visual style is nearly overwhelming. The filmmakers' sheer imagination (verbal, visual, cinematic, and narrative) is powerful enough to make the film totally unpredictable, and, even more, there's the feeling of being at the mercy of expert storytellers, who will take you on an enjoyable journey no matter what the destination might be.

And the destination is very much worth it. Ultimately, the story of Max Fisher is that of a man who is good at just about everything he is interested in — and that's both his blessing and his curse, since he is having the hardest

time adjusting to the sheer number of interesting things in the world around him.

It's no coincidence that the film ends at the theatre, with Max directing and playing the lead in his own play (the fact that the play is highly ambitious, if not highly original, is a nice subversive touch). After all, with all the film's theatrical mise-en-scene, replete with opening and closing curtains at the beginning and the end, *Rushmore* is a celebration of life at its most theatrical, and as such would make a nice companion piece to *Shakespeare in Love*, which developed a similar theme in a vastly different manner. After all, life is unpredictable — would it be asking too much for the movies to be the same way as well?

## MUSIC REVIEW

### Eve 6 and The Marvelous 3

Guitar pop isn't dead yet

By Daniel J. Katz

Although by now everyone in the music industry and his brother has declared guitar rock dead, the guitar pop movement, led by multi-platinum giants like Third Eye Blind and Matchbox 20, is thriving. On Wednesday, February 24, two of the better bands of the genre converge at the Paradise for an evening of power-chordy goodness.

Headliner Eve 6 has already found mainstream success, and a quick listen to their debut album (*Eve 6*, RCA) makes it clear why. The first five songs are easily catchy enough to be hits, including *Inside Out*, which was one of the top modern rock airplay songs of 1998, and *Leech*, which is currently climbing the radio charts.

The album doesn't stray too far from the tried and true power pop formula (loud catchy choruses, two-part harmonies, cheesy metaphoric lyrics about relationships), mixing Green Day-esque mock punk tunes (*How Much Longer?*, *Open Road Song*) with more traditional alternative rock like *Showerhead* and *Superhero Girl*. The clearest deviations are the hauntingly hushed *Jesus Nitelite* and the somewhat misconceived next-to-last track *There's A Face*, which seems tries to incorporate a more shuffling groove. It doesn't work.

It's worth playing through until the end, though, because the highlight of the album is its last song, *Small Town Trap* which builds from a soft funky guitar line before launching into a powerful chorus in which the vocals scream out for escape ("Small town trap with dreams of breaking out / here I sit and beg, my face is breaking out").

The Marvelous 3, who will open the show,

are another power pop trio beginning to get heavy airplay for their insanely infectious single, *Freak of The Week*. The rest of the just-released album (*Hey! Album*, Hi Fi/Electra) combines some catchy riffs with British sounding vocals (although the band is from Atlanta), and some new wave-ish guitar and keyboard work. (Listening to the synthesizer vamp in the chorus of "#27," you can't help but think it must have been recorded in 1985.)

A number of songs on the album could easily follow the success of *Freak*. *Write It On Your Hand* is an obvious contender, as is the opening track, *You're So Yesterday*, which is a perfect example of what sets the Marvelous 3 apart from Eve 6; even when they sing bitter lyrics to an ex-girlfriend ("So keep reading your books on how to give dirty looks"), they still keep the mood of the music upbeat. While the vocalists for Eve 6 wallow in melodramatic despair on some songs, the Marvelous 3 keep their songs happy, catchy, and enjoyable, values pop music used to be all about.

*Hey! Album* goes in other directions that *Eve 6* doesn't. *Until You See* and *Let Me Go* are slow, soaring ballads, a pop standard virtually ignored by Eve 6. The cascading guitar part in *Every Monday*, one of the album's best tracks, melts over you, leading up to an aggressive moment on the guitar before it starts all over again. And at the end of the last song there's some amusing evidence that Butch Walker, the band's lead singer, has a potential career as a beat poet.

Eve 6 has mastered the technique of manufacturing the hit song. The Marvelous 3 are still playing around with the format, and while they're not quite as streamlined, they show a lot more depth. Together, their concert may not require you to think very hard, but you'll be humming for hours after you leave.



TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Mr. Blume (Bill Murray) and Max Fisher (Jason Schwartzman) are friends until Blume falls for Fischer's schoolboy crush in *Rushmore*.

# Oscars Preview

## Academy Awards: Nominees, Predictions, Vain Hopes

By Vladimir Zelevinsky

STAFF REPORTER

What follows are the Oscar Nominations. After each category, I have presumptuously dared to specify who I think should win given these nominees, along with the ones I realistically expect to win. Also bear with me as I put in print my personal favorite for 1998 in each of the category. My predictions, of course, are bound to be highly inaccurate, but hey, I'm having fun with them. Also, to quote veteran screenwriter William Goldman, "nobody knows anything."

### Best Picture of the Year

- *Elizabeth* (Gramercy)
- *Life Is Beautiful* (Miramax)
- *Saving Private Ryan* (DreamWorks)
- *Shakespeare In Love* (Miramax)
- *The Thin Red Line* (Fox)

All of best picture nominees are period films, three of them set during WWII and two in Elizabethan England. Both Miramax and newcomer Joseph Fiennes can celebrate, having contributed to two nominees each. I'm pleasantly surprised that *The Thin Red Line* made the list; not because I think it's one of the best films of the year, but because its sprawling, slowly-paced film that does not rely on a narrative, and as such is a rarity in modern Hollywood. On the other hand, the omission of *The Truman Show* is shocking, while my preferences for *Lolita* and *A Simple Plan* are obviously a cry in the wilderness. This comes as a surprise, having consistently found my tastes and the choices of the Academy to be in sync.

It is now virtually certain that this year the award will go to a highly ambitious, visually striking, viscerally affecting film with a simplistic storyline, artificial characters, and frequent moments of emotional manipulation.

Who will win: *Saving Private Ryan*.  
Who should win: *Shakespeare in Love*.  
My favorite: *Lolita*.

### Best Achievement in Directing

- Roberto Benigni, *Life Is Beautiful*
- John Madden, *Shakespeare In Love*
- Terrence Malick, *The Thin Red Line*
- Steven Spielberg, *Saving Private Ryan*
- Peter Weir, *The Truman Show*

Who will win: Steven Spielberg.  
Who should win: Roberto Benigni.  
My favorite: Robert Redford, *The Horse Whisperer*.

### Actor in a Leading Role

- Roberto Benigni, *Life Is Beautiful*
- Tom Hanks, *Saving Private Ryan*
- Ian McKellen, *Gods And Monsters*
- Nick Nolte, *Affliction*
- Edward Norton, *American History X*

Can't say much here; I've seen only two out of five performances. Benigni I liked; Hanks I didn't. Hanks is popular, but he already has two bald golden guys on his mantelpiece. Nolte's film wasn't widely seen, and Norton can be perceived as too young. I would expect the award to go to a well-known, but underappreciated veteran actor.

Who will win: Ian McKellen.  
Who should win: Roberto Benigni.  
My favorite: Jeremy Irons, *Lolita*.

### Actress in a Leading Role

- Cate Blanchett, *Elizabeth*
- Fernanda Montenegro, *Central Station*
- Gwyneth Paltrow, *Shakespeare In Love*
- Meryl Streep, *One True Thing*
- Emily Watson, *Hilary And Jackie*

My opinion is absolutely worthless here, having seen only one (Gwyneth Paltrow) out of five nominated performances, although I believe it is the one with the most momentum right now.

Who will/should win: Gwyneth Paltrow.  
My favorite: Kristin Scott Thomas, *The Horse Whisperer*.

### Actor in a supporting role

- James Coburn, *Affliction*
- Robert Duvall, *A Civil Action*
- Ed Harris, *The Truman Show*
- Geoffrey Rush, *Shakespeare In Love*
- Billy Bob Thornton, *A Simple Plan*

As always, the most hotly contested category and the hardest one to predict.

Who will win: Ed Harris, overdue for an award.

Who should win/my favorite: Billy Bob Thornton.

### Actress in a supporting role

- Kathy Bates, *Primary Colors*
- Brenda Blethyn, *Little Voice*
- Judi Dench, *Shakespeare In Love*
- Rachel Griffiths, *Hilary And Jackie*

• Lynn Redgrave, *Gods And Monsters*

A very good year for this category. Excellent performances which didn't make the cut include Kimberly Elise in *Beloved*, Joan Allen in *Pleasantville*, and Christina Ricci in *Buffalo '66*.

Who will win: Judy Dench, for a showy and commanding performance.

Who should win/my favorite: Kathy Bates.

### Best screenplay written directly for the screen

- *Bulworth*, screenplay by Warren Beatty & Jeremy Pikser, story by Warren Beatty
- *Life Is Beautiful*, screenplay by Vincenzo Cerami and Roberto Benigni
- *Saving Private Ryan*, written by Robert Rodat
- *Shakespeare In Love*, written by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard
- *The Truman Show*, written by Andrew Niccol

I fail to comprehend what *Saving Private Ryan* is doing in this category; other than that, nice picks.

Who will/should win: *Shakespeare In Love*.

My favorite: *The Spanish Prisoner*, David Mamet.

### Best screenplay based on material previously produced or published

- *Gods And Monsters*, Bill Condon
- *Out Of Sight*, screenplay by Scott Frank
- *Primary Colors*, screenplay by Elaine May
- *A Simple Plan*, screenplay by Scott B. Smith

• *The Thin Red Line*, screenplay by Terrence Malick

Who will win: *Out of Sight*.

Who should win: *A Simple Plan*.

My favorite: *Lolita*, Stephen Schiff.

### Art Direction

- *Elizabeth*
- *Pleasantville*
- *Saving Private Ryan*
- *Shakespeare In Love*
- *The Thin Red Line*

Who will win: *Elizabeth*; Academy loves lush-looking period pictures.

Who should win/my favorite: *Saving Private Ryan* for its unforgettable battle scenes.

### Cinematography

- *A Civil Action*
- *Elizabeth*
- *Saving Private Ryan*
- *Shakespeare in Love*
- *The Thin Red Line*

Who will win: *The Thin Red Line*, for beautiful nature photography.

Who should win: *Saving Private Ryan*.

My favorite: *What Dreams May Come*.

### Costume design

- *Beloved*
- *Elizabeth*
- *Pleasantville*
- *Shakespeare In Love*
- *Velvet Goldmine*

Sandy Powell, whose costumes were spectacular in last year's *The Wings of the Dove* is competing against herself, with nominations for both *Shakespeare and Goldmine*.

Who will/should win/my favorite: *Shakespeare in Love*.

### Film editing

- *Life Is Beautiful*
- *Out Of Sight*
- *Saving Private Ryan*
- *Shakespeare In Love*
- *The Thin Red Line*

Who will win: *Saving Private Ryan*.

Who should win/my favorite: *Out of Sight*.

### Best Foreign Language Film

- *Central Station*
- *Children Of Heaven*
- *The Grandfather*
- *Life Is Beautiful*
- *Tango*

Who will/should win/my favorite: *Life is Beautiful*.

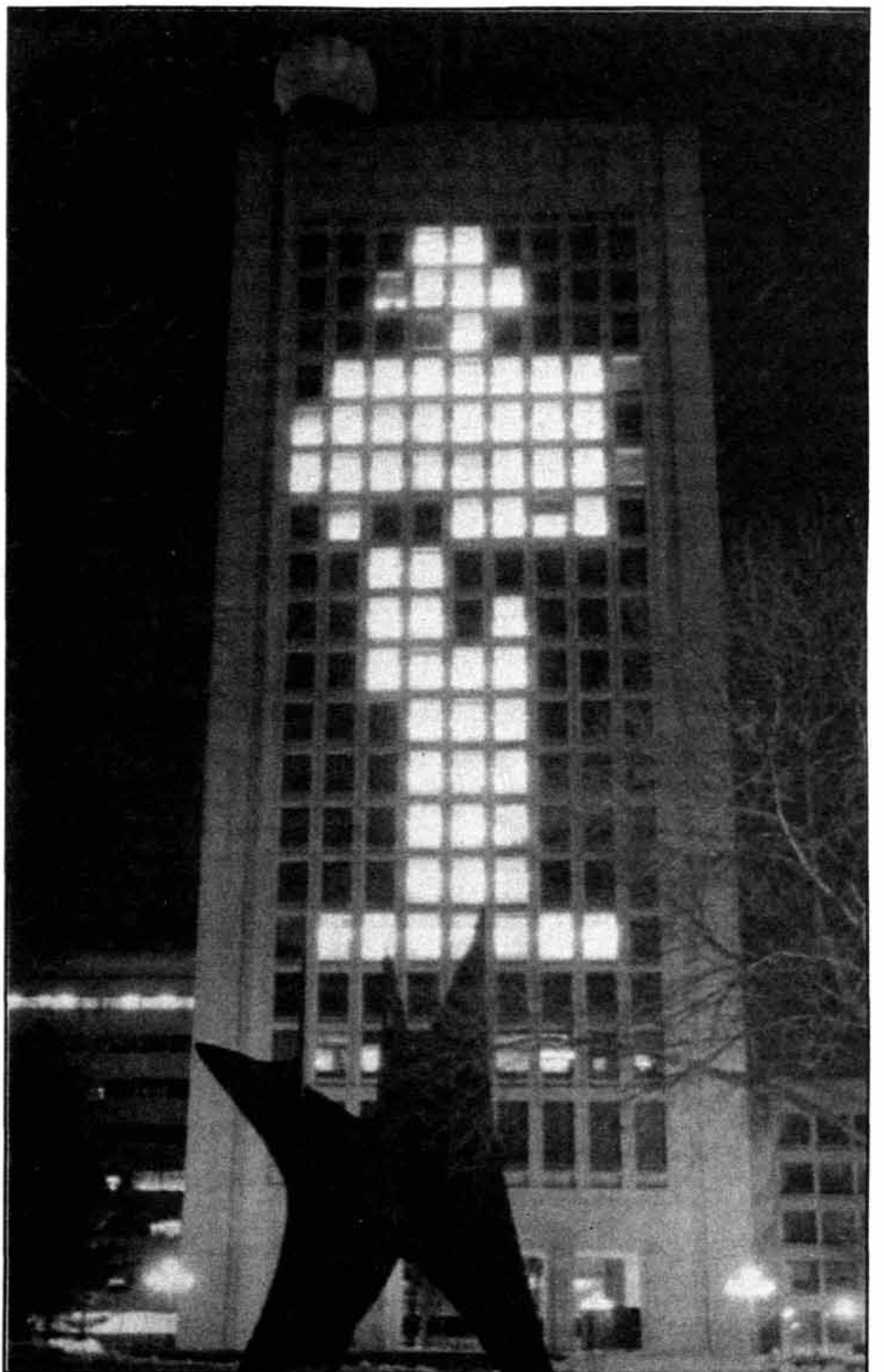
### Makeup

- *Elizabeth*
- *Saving Private Ryan*
- *Shakespeare In Love*

Who will/should win/my favorite: *Saving Private Ryan*.

### Music (original musical or comedy score)

- *A Bug's Life*, Randy Newman
- *Mulan*, music by Matthew Wilder, lyrics by David Zippel, orchestral score by Jerry Goldsmith



• *Patch Adams*, Marc Shaiman  
• *The Prince Of Egypt*, music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, orchestral score by Hans Zimmer

• *Shakespeare In Love*, Stephen Warbeck  
Who will win: *Mulan*; it's hard to fight with 'toons.

Who should win: *Shakespeare In Love*.  
My favorite: *Life is Beautiful*, and don't tell me it was a dramatic score.

### Music (original dramatic score)

- *Elizabeth*, David Hirschfelder
- *Life Is Beautiful*, Nicola Piovani
- *Pleasantville*, Randy Newman
- *Saving Private Ryan*, John Williams
- *The Thin Red Line*, Hans Zimmer

Um, is it just me, or wouldn't *Pleasantville* and *Life is Beautiful* be better placed in "comedy score" category?

Who will win: *Saving Private Ryan*.

Who should win/my favorite: *The Thin Red Line*.

### Music (original song)

- *I Don't Want To Miss A Thing*, *Armageddon*: music and lyrics by Diane Warren

• *The Prayer, Quest For Camelot*: music by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster, lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager, David Foster, Tony Renis and Alberto Testa

• *A Soft Place To Fall, The Horse Whisperer*: music and lyrics by Allison Moorer and Gwil Owen

• *That'll Do, Babe: Pig In The City*: music and lyrics by Randy Newman

• *When You Believe, The Prince Of Egypt*: music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

A bunch of mediocre choices; since Howard Ashman, Disney's brilliant lyricist, passed away, pretty much nothing exciting has come out. I honestly don't remember a single thing about the songs in *Armageddon* and *The Horse Whisperer*, and I found the ones in *Babe: Pig in the City* and *Quest for Camelot* (with its six songwriters!) to be intensely annoying.

Who will win: *The Prayer, Quest for Camelot*.

Who should win: *When You Believe, The Prince of Egypt*.

My favorite: *Reflection, Mulan*.

### Sound

- *Armageddon*
- *The Mask Of Zorro*
- *Saving Private Ryan*
- *Shakespeare In Love*

• *The Thin Red Line*  
Who will/should win: *Saving Private Ryan*.  
My favorite: 54.

### Sound effects editing

- *Armageddon*
- *The Mask Of Zorro*
- *Saving Private Ryan*

Who will/should win: *Saving Private Ryan*.

My favorite: *The Prince of Egypt*.

### Visual effects

- *Armageddon*
- *Mighty Joe Young*
- *What Dreams May Come*

Who will/should win/my favorite: *What Dreams May Come*.

Concerning the following categories, I have to admit that I haven't seen any of the nominees. It is rather a sad commentary on the modern film distribution practices that virtually none of the short or documentary films have been screened. Thus, no comments or predictions.

### Documentary features

- *Dancemaker*
- *The Farm: Angola, U.S.A.*
- *The Last Days*
- *Lenny Bruce: Swear To Tell The Truth*
- *Regret To Inform*

### Documentary short subjects

- *The Personals: Improvisations On Romance In The Golden Years*
- *A Place In The Land*
- *Sunrise Over Tiananmen Square*

### Animated short films

- *Bunny*
- *The Canterbury Tales*
- *Jolly Roger*
- *More*
- *When Life Departs*

### Live action short films

- *Culture*
- *Election Night (Valgafien)*
- *Holiday Romance*
- *La Carte Postale (The Postcard)*
- *Victor*

The 71st Annual Academy Awards will be hosted by Whoopi Goldberg, on March 21st, 1999, and broadcast live on ABC at 8:30 p.m.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Waking Ned Devine

Rich with age, humor, and... riches.

By Francisco J. Delatorre

Written and directed by Kirk Jones.  
Starring Ian Bannen, David Kelley, Fionnula Flanagan.

One of the most talked about underdogs of 1998 was the spectacular film, *A Simple Plan*, whose tale of the corruption of the everyman through the prospect of wealth seems like a combination of three existing movies: *Shallow Grave*, *Macbeth*, and *Fargo*. Note that the similarity between these is obvious: Wealth and power can take otherwise amiable people and transform them into monsters, capable of any sort of crime. It is the rejection of this popularly held view that allows the wrinkle-laden *Waking Ned Devine* to shine through as one of the top films of last year.

Unlike its predecessors, *Ned Devine* focuses on the community-building aspects of fabulous wealth, and portrays how a large sum of money can in fact bring a group of people together for a common good. It is set in a small town in contemporary Ireland (no more than 60 people) called Tully More, where everyone knows everyone else, and one of whom has won nearly 7 million Irish pounds in the national lottery. The first half-hour centers around Jackie O'Shea (Ian Bannen), a man whose demeanor seems to defy his obvious senior citizen status, his wife, Annie (Fionnula Flanagan), and his best friend of countless years, Michael O'Sullivan (David Kelley). They embark on a private search for the "lucky sod" who has just become fantastically rich. This quest, and its digressions, leave not only the characters clueless but the audience as well (who have been unwittingly

drawn in with a sense of insatiable curiosity), and serves as a device to introduce the other important characters and subplots. We soon find, however, that the winner is an old man by the name of Ned Devine, who died of a heart attack upon seeing that he held the winning ticket.

Jackie and Michael do not intend for a moment to let this money go to waste, so they call upon the rest of the town to help them acquire the money and then divide it equally among them. The plan is simple: Michael will become Ned Devine, and the town will verify this for the officials.

What follows is not so much a story of the plan and its execution as a closer look at character interaction, and how the promise of reward affects the town's sense of community, delving deeper into some of the plots and characters raised in the first half-hour. In fact, the plan itself reaches an ultimately anticlimactic end, though simultaneously producing a touching display of friendship and emotion.

Interestingly enough, the film touches on the notion that it is greed, not money, that is the true destructive force, and that we often lose sight of that fact. The only truly greedy

character in the film (the one who decides not to be "part of the team") loses her life through an unforced inevitability — a denouement that was both necessary yet surprising, which creates one of the most satisfying and humorous sequences in the film, rich with an exhilarating musical climax.

The film does exhibit some minor weaknesses. Although it does a superb job of challenging the stereotypes of wealth, it does seem to take its ideas a little too far at some points. For example, the relationship between two characters, Maggie and Pig Finn, undergoes some less-than-realistic (although still rather charming) snags, all of which are miraculously resolved with the introduction of the prize money, as if to say that money fixes everything.

Overall, *Waking Ned Devine* is charming, engaging, and absolutely hilarious. It moves along at a quick pace, driven by an impressive mix of visual and situational humor, and ends before you expect or want it to. I hesitate to compare it with 1997's *The Full Monty*, as many critics have done, but I have no reservations about calling it one of the best (and, sadly, most overlooked) films of 1998.

## Popular Music

### Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., Boston.  
Tickets: 423-NEXT.  
Mar. 4: Soul Brains.  
Mar. 13: Better Than Ezra.  
Mar. 18: Salt-N-Pepa.  
Mar. 19: The Corrs.  
Mar. 22: Stabbing Westward + Placebo.  
**The Orpheum Theatre**  
Tickets: 423-NEXT.  
Feb. 23: The Black Crowes. Sold out.  
Feb. 24: The Black Crowes.  
Mar. 13: Jonny Lang.  
Mar. 20: Jeff Beck.

### Paradise Rock Club

Tickets: 423-NEXT.  
Feb. 12: Bandonium with The Flies.  
Feb. 13: Warren Zevon.  
Feb. 14: Afghan Whigs.  
Feb. 18: Percy Hill.  
Feb. 20: Melissa Ferrick.  
Feb. 24: Eve 6 + Marvellous 3.  
Feb. 25: The Samples.  
Feb. 26: The Nields.  
Feb. 27: Gigolo Aunts.  
Mar. 8: Eagle Eye Cherry.  
Mar. 11: Max Creek.

## Jazz Music

### Sculler's Jazz Club

Tickets: 562-4111.  
Feb. 12: Pieces of A Dream. \$20.  
Feb. 13, 14: Jon Lucien. \$20.  
Feb. 17: Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchestra + Nicholas Payton. \$15.  
Feb. 18: Ralph Irizarry & Timbalaye. \$12.  
Feb. 19, 20: T.S. Monk. \$15.

### Regattabar

Tickets: 661-5000  
Feb. 12-14: The Tommy Flanagan Trio.  
Feb. 16, 17: Tony Reedus & Frontiers.  
Feb. 18: Patricia Barber.  
Feb. 19-21: The Marcus Roberts Trio.  
Feb. 23, 24: The Dave Douglas Quartet.  
Feb. 25-28: The Elvin Jones Jazz Machine.

## Theater

### Blue Man Group

It would be difficult and unfair to catalogue fully the antics of the Drama Desk Award-winning trio of cobalt-painted bald pates. They begin their delightful and deafening evening of anti-performance art beating drums that are also deep buckets of paint, so that sprays of color jump from the instruments like breaking surf, and end by engulfing the spectatorship in tangles of toilet paper. Go

# On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston  
February 12 - 19

Compiled by Joel M. Rosenberg

Send submissions to [ott@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:ott@the-tech.mit.edu) or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.

experience it.  
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.

### Valparaiso

See review this issue.  
American Repertory Theatre at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge (547-8300), in repertory through March 17. Curtain is at 8 p.m. February 19, 20, 24, and 25, and March 4, 12, 13, 16, and 17, and at 7 p.m. February 28 and March 7; there are matinees at 2 p.m. February 20 and 28, and March 7 and 13, and at 10:30 a.m. on March 16. Tix \$23 to \$55; discounts for seniors and students.

### The Master Builder

Recent American Repertory Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training grad Kate Whoriskey directs ART artistic director Robert Brustein's new adaptation of Ibsen's difficult masterpiece, about "a design impresario who stops at nothing to maintain a monomaniacal self image" especially when he's egged on by a beautiful young stranger. The cast includes Obie Award winner Christopher McCann, Sharon Scroggs, Kristin Flanders, Will LeBow, Jeremy Geidt, and Benjamin Evett.

American Repertory Theatre at the Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge (547-8300), in repertory February 12 through March 21. Curtain is at 8 p.m. February 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 23, and 27 and March 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 20, and at 7 p.m. February 14 and 21 and March 14; there are matinees at 2 p.m. February 14, 21, and 27 and March 6, 14, and 21, and at

10:30 a.m. March 19. Tix \$23 to \$55.

### Ragtime

The much-lauded, multiple-Tony-winning musical based on E.L. Doctorow's powerful 1975 novel has made it to Boston in a handsome production directed by Frank Galati, with an inspired production design by Eugene Lee. The adaptation by Terrence McNally is intelligent. The staging translates into striking theater the metaphors of isolation and assimilation, entrapment and escape at work in the piece. And the music, with its insistent tootle of ragtime wending its way into numbers anthemic or sweet, is melodious if unmemorable.

Broadway in Boston at the Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston Street, Boston (931-2787), through March 28. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, and at 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday; there are midweek matinees on March 10 and 24. Tix \$15 to \$75.

### Angels in America, Part 1: Millennium Approaches

Award-winning (and busy) director Eric Engel helms this student production of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer-winning "gay fantasia on national themes."  
Emerson Stage at the Emerson Majestic Theatre, 219 Tremont Street, Boston (824-8000), February 18 through 20. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tix \$10 to \$15; \$8 for Pro-Arts students.

### Grease

Frankie Avalon, who must be more of a Senior Citizen Angel by now, reprises his role as Teen Angel in the still-national-touring production of the musical set at Rydell High in the 1950s, "when duck-tailed hair, skin-tight pedal-pushers, pajama parties, and drive-in movies were the rage."  
Wang Center, 270 Tremont Street,

Boston (800-447-7400), February 16 through 21. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday (with a 2 p.m. matinee on Thursday), at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, and at 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tix \$25 to \$60.

### Shear Madness

The dramatic personae of this audience-participation whodunit continue to comb Newbury Street for the murderer of a classical pianist who lived over the unisex hair salon where the show is set. 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 to \$34.

## Exhibits

### Computer Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. (423-6758 or 426-2800), Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission \$7, \$5 for students and seniors, free for children under 5. Half-price admission on Sun. from 3-5 p.m. Tours daily of "Walk Through Computer 2000," a working two-story model of a PC. The world's only computer museum; features a collection of vintage computers and robots with over 150 hands-on exhibits illustrating the evolution, use, and impact of computers. Featured exhibits include: "The Hacker's Garage," a recreation of a '70s hacker's garage with such items as an Apple I and Pong; "The Networked Planet: Traveling the Information Highway," an electronic tour of the Internet; "Robots and Other Smart Machines," an interactive exhibition of artificial intelligence and robots; "Tools & Toys: The Amazing Personal Computer"; "People and Computers: Milestones of a Revolution," explores a number of ways computers impact everyday

life. In the Smart Machines Theater a multi-media show features NASA's Mars Rover, R2-D2, Shakey, Sea Rover, and other robots. Through Nov. 30: "Wizards and Their Wonders: Portraits in Computing." Ongoing: "Virtual FishTank."

### 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. Through April 25: "Josiah McElheny: The Story of Glass."

### 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, otherwise \$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."

Through Feb. 28: "Traveling Scholars." Through March 31: "I'll Make Me a World: A Century of African-American Arts." Through May 9: "French Photography: Le Gray to Atget." Feb. 14-May 9: "Mary Cassatt: Modern Woman." Feb. 17-April 11: "Abelardo Morrell & the Camera Eye." Ongoing: "The Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Ancient Americas"; "Egyptian Funerary Arts and Ancient Near East Galleries."

Gallery lectures are free with museum admission. Thurs. 11: at 11 a.m., "Baroque Decorative Arts," presented by Joyce Geary Volk. Sat. at noon, "17th-Century Dutch Painting," presented by Amy Daughenbaugh. Sun. at 2 p.m., "A Valentine for Lupericalia: Lovers in Art," presented by Henry Augustine Tate. Wed.: at 6 p.m., "Maritime America," presented by Guy Jordan.

### 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."

Through Feb. 28: "K'NEXhibition." Ongoing: "Everest: Roof of the World"; "Living on the Edge." Through May 9: "Cats! Wild to Mild."

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.

### Swatch Museum

57 JFK St., Cambridge. (864-1227), Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m.

Ongoing: Swatch watches by Keith Haring, Christian LaCroix, Sam Francis, and others.

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### Schedule:

**February 16**  
Kick-off and  
Case Distribution  
Room 6-120  
7 to 9pm

**February 18**  
Case Workshop  
Room E51-325  
7 to 9pm

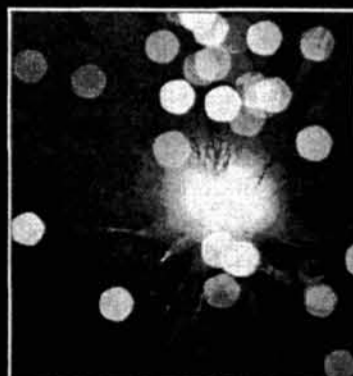
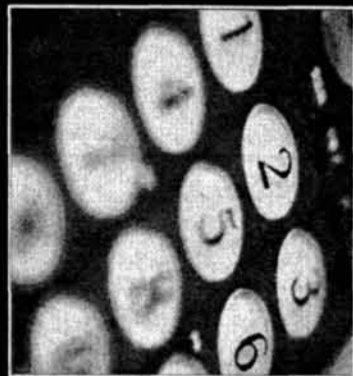
**February 25**  
Semifinals  
Room E51-345  
7 to 9pm

**March 11**  
Finals  
Room 10-250  
6 to 8pm

**CSMG**

Cambridge Strategic  
Management Group

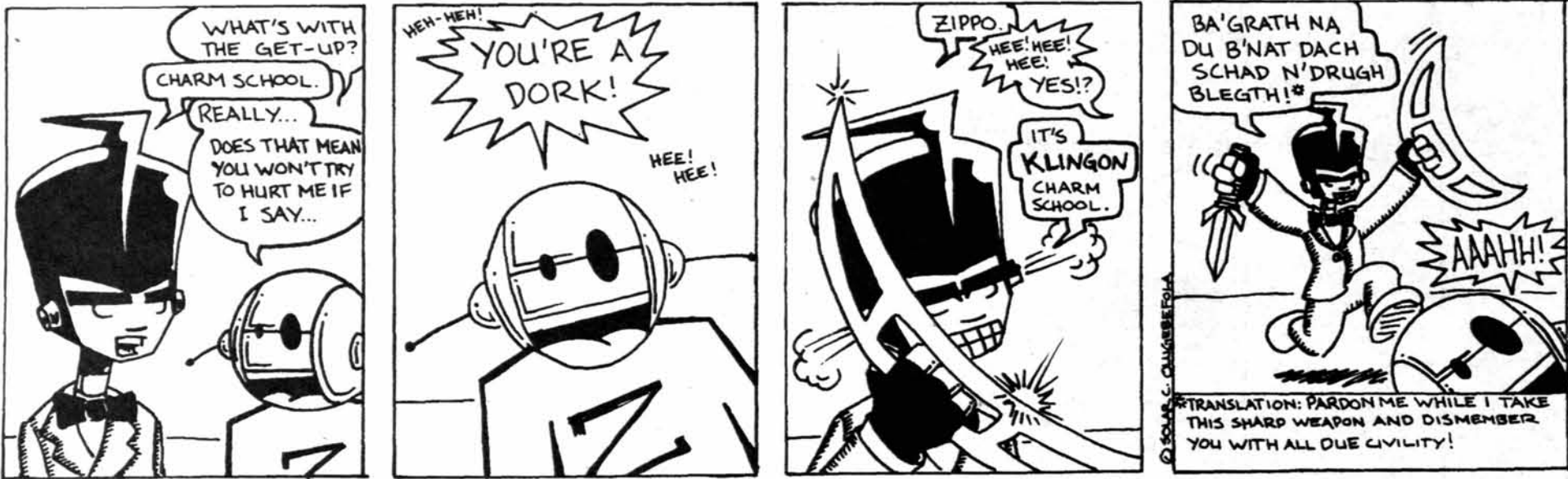
[www.csmgusa.com](http://www.csmgusa.com)



**S**  
**suma**

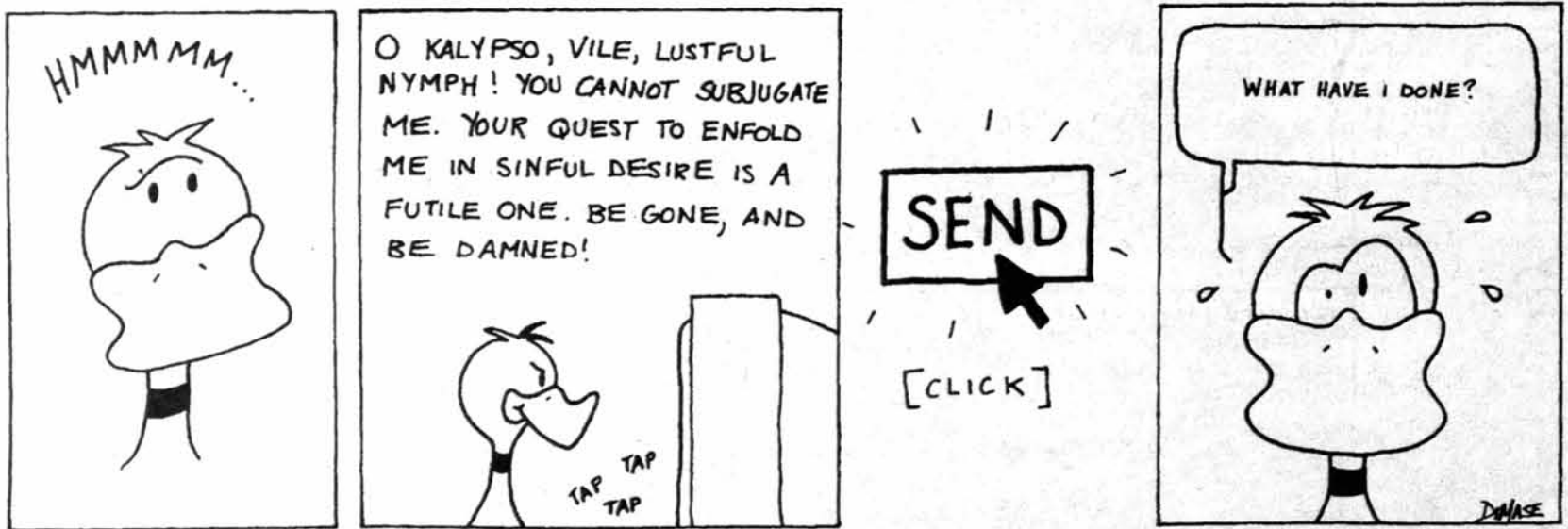
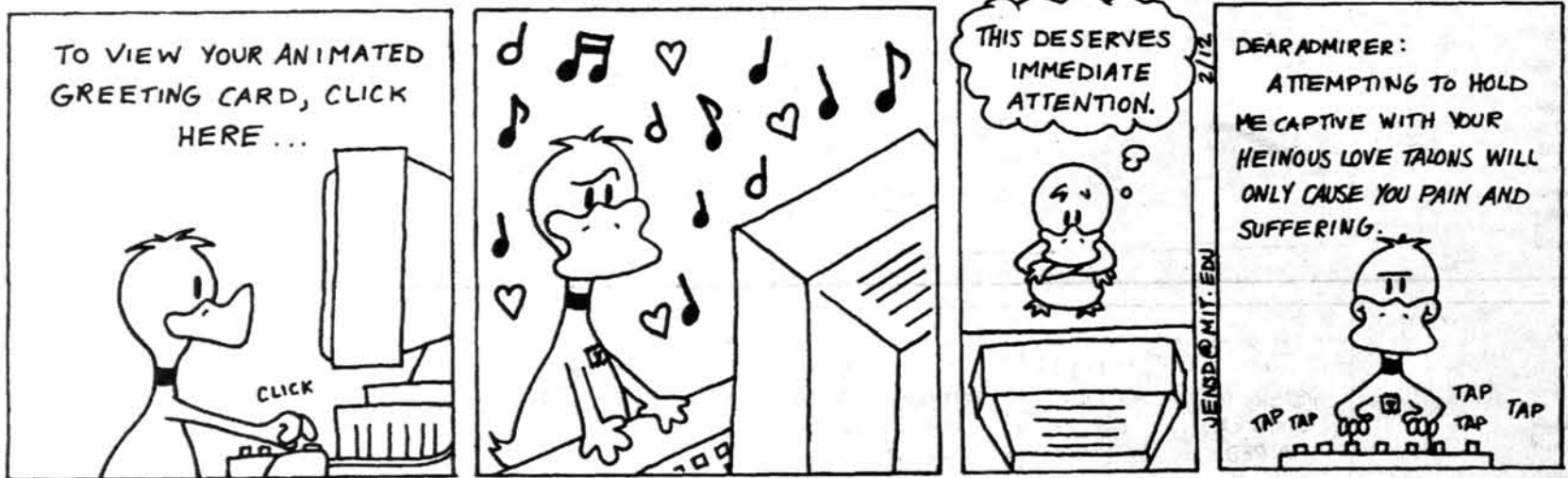
[suma.mit.edu](http://suma.mit.edu)

## Bart Sagan



Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase

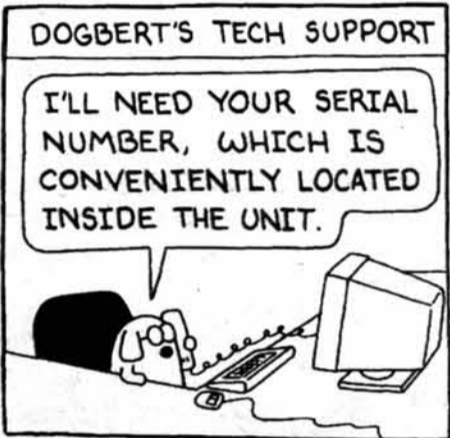
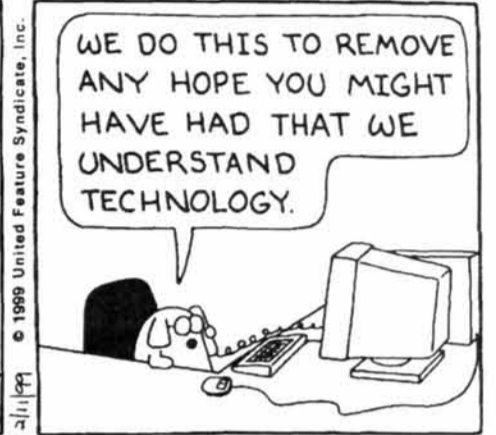
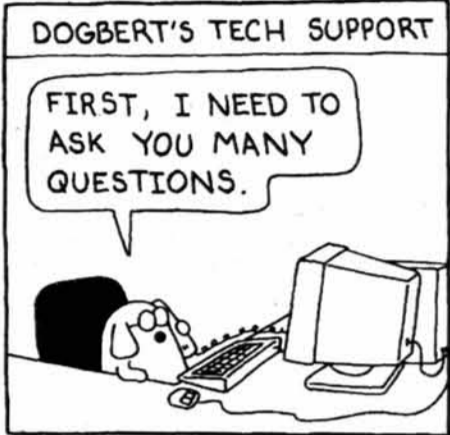
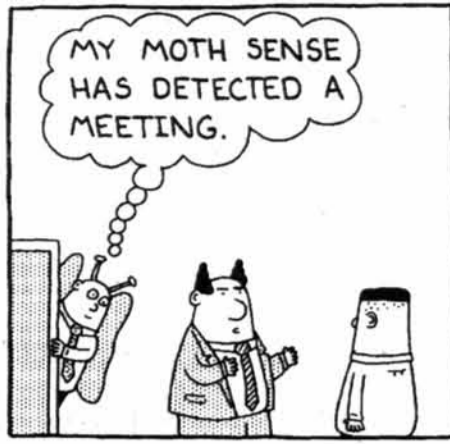


## Randomland

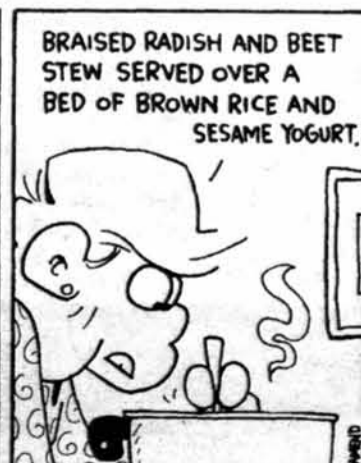
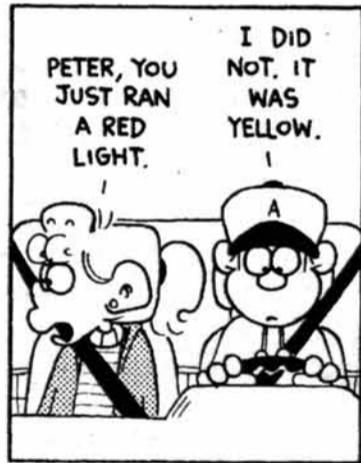
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## TechCalendar

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

- 3:00 p.m. – **Explaining the Flow of Elastic Liquids.** Professor E.J. Hinch, University of Cambridge, UK. Refreshments will be served immediately after the seminar in the Miller Room (1-114). Room 3-270. Sponsor: Mechanical Engineering.
- 3:30 p.m. – **The Earthquake Cycle: Paleogeodesy and Paleoseismology of the Sumatran Subduction Zone from Coral Microatolls.** Professor Kerry Sieh, Caltech. EAPS Department Lecture Series. Refreshments, 3:30 p.m., Ida Green Lounge. Room 54-915. Sponsor: EAPS.
- 8:00 p.m. – **The Good Person of Sezuan.** Dramashop production of play by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Theater Arts Lecturer Kim Mancuso. Admission \$6 students, \$7 non-students. Kresge Little Theater.
- 8:00 p.m. – **She Loves Me.** Musical Theatre Guild production of show by Joe Masteroff (book), Jerry Bock (music) and Sheldon Harnick (lyrics). Admission \$9; \$8 MIT faculty/staff/sr citizens/non-MIT students; \$6 MIT students. Sala de Puerto Rico.

### Saturday's Events

- 8:00 p.m. – **The Good Person of Sezuan.** Dramashop production of play by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Theater Arts Lecturer Kim Mancuso. Admission \$6 students, \$7 non-students. Kresge Little Theater.
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### Tuesday's Events

- 12:00 p.m. – **The Cuneliform Text TU 11: A Link Between Older and Newer Prediction Schemes in Ancient Mesopotamia.** Lis Brack-Bernsen. Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. Room E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.
- 3:00 p.m. – **The Effects of the Asian Economic Crisis on Southeast Asian Security.** Sheldon Simon, Arizona State University. A session of the Working Group on Asian Energy and Security. Room E38-714. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.
- 4:00 p.m. – **Lowriders to Los Alamos: Visualizing Science and Technology.** Meridel Rubenstein, Bunting Institute, Radcliffe. Program in Science, Technology, and Society 1999 Spring Colloquia. Room E51-095. Sponsor: STS.
- 4:30 p.m. – **Gas Turbine Engine Internal Air Systems.** Mr. Jayant Sabnis, Pratt and Whitney. Gas Turbine Seminar Series. Refreshments 4:15 p.m. Room 31-161.



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# GSC Tries Out New Student Group Funding Policies

Funding, from Page 1

lost because each group puts its assets in its own, separate account, Jones said.

The twenty student groups were picked to join the pilot program based on their activity. "It was really kind of informal," said GSC Treasurer Carsten D. Hohnke G. "Basically, there was a limited amount of slots for groups that could be involved... we wanted to use groups that would have a lot of activity so that they could take advantage of the new benefits that are associated with

that system."

### Trial accounts prove successful

A core of six groups were given individual MIT accounts back in the fall, including the Pakistani Students' Association, the International Students' Association, Dance Troupe, European Club, the National Society of Black Engineers, and the Class of '99. In general, the six have responded well to the new program.

"Student groups can instantaneously observe postings to their accounts," said Shuja U. Keen

'99, PaksMIT and Class of '99 treasurer. "We no longer need outside bank accounts. MIT provides almost home banking convenience whereby student groups can download their activity to their home computer."

### Child accounts offer direct access

For the graduate student groups included in this pilot program, the financial process will change further this spring as the child accounts get implemented.

Updating the MIT accounting system to the SAP system will provide GSC-funded student groups

with a child account. "We will transfer GSC funding directly to" each group's child account, Jones said, and the student groups "will bill directly to it."

"GSC officers as well as student group officers will have direct access to seeing the activity in the child account," Jones said.

Jones said that the finalization of the child account idea had happened so quickly that there hadn't been time to bring other funding groups such as the Undergraduate Association's Finance Board in on the idea.

As to whether the UA Finboard would follow in the GSC's footsteps if the child-account aspect of the pilot program goes well, Hohnke said, there is "nothing set up yet."

A group including Jones, Hohnke, Keen, and the ASA treasurer Matthew L. McGann '01 meets bi-monthly to discuss funding policy.

"We'll keep an eye on [the program] and see how it's going once we reach the end of the semester. We'll read updates from the groups that have used the accounts, then we'll have a better idea."

"My vision is that in the future all groups will have this," Hohnke said.

The Student Group Financial Pilot is the Funding Board's first joint financial project with RLSLP.

"Carsten and I informally discussed it two weeks ago," Jones said of the child accounts aspect of the pilot program. The goal of the program is to give student groups and GSC officers "access to their funds, while at the same time retaining the accountability" of student group treasurer over their group's finances.

The standard student account system consists of "one MIT account that holds the assets of over 100 MIT student groups," Jones

said. "That has to be broken down manually."

Jones broke down the amounts due to each group on his computer, making it necessary for student group treasurers to go through Jones in order to monitor the activity of their accounts. Student groups would have money for their operations transferred to them through an external checking account handled by Jones.

The single-account system also allows for more errors because when a group deposits money to the account, it sits indistinguishable from the assets from other groups.

Aside from the twenty student groups that were assigned individual accounts and the six core groups given individual accounts last fall, all graduate and undergraduate groups with accounts still operate from the old, single-account system.

With the old system, funding from the GSC worked more on a reimbursement basis, with less opportunity for student groups to ask for money before making large purchases.

### GSC Announces Further Changes

The GSC Funding Board announced other changes to its funding policies at its Feb. 2 meeting. The changes include streamlining application dates for funding and reimbursement. "For the first time, allocations for all types of funding are due at the same time," Hohnke said.

Furthermore, the GSC General Council approved a Funding Board-submitted proposal for expanding funding guidelines. According to the GSC's homepage, this will include the funding of events that take place off campus and the funding of MIT-required expenses such as facility rent and insurance.



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Spring Term 1999 Minicourse Schedule



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	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
12 noon	8 Feb	9 Feb	10 Feb	11 Feb
7 p.m.	Frame	Latex	② BasicWP	Frame
8 p.m.	Frame	Latex	① Intro	Frame
	Latex	Latex Thesis	② Basic WP	Frame Thesis
12 noon	15 Feb	16 Feb	17 Feb	18 Feb
7 p.m.	Holiday	MSO	③ Working	Matlab
8 p.m.	No Classes	Matlab	② Basic WP	Maple
	President's Day	Maple	③ Working	Xess
12 noon	22 Feb	23 Feb	24 Feb	25 Feb
7 p.m.	Info Res	SerEmacs	② BasicWP	HTML
8 p.m.	Info Res	Dotfiles	① Intro	Matlab
	HTML	Serious Emacs	② Basic WP	Maple
12 noon	1 Mar	2 Mar	3 Mar	4 Mar
7 p.m.	Matlab	Maple	③ Working	HTML
8 p.m.	Latex	Frame	② Basic WP	Info Res
	Latex Thesis	Frame Thesis	③ Working	HTML

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# Ten Sayings Added To 1999 NECCO Hearts

NECCO, from Page 1

Marshall is already in the process of picking messages for next year. New sayings must be ready by March 1st for next year, Valentine 2000. NECCO will announce the new mottos in January 2000.

NECCO hearts are not only a part of Valentine's Day at MIT, but they're a part of Valentine's Day across America. As Marshall said, "You're not alive today if you don't remember those hearts."

Beyond the walls of the NECCO factory, people at the Institute are also preparing for Sunday, Feb. 14.

The MIT Undergraduate Association is once again sponsoring Heart-to-Heart, a free compatibility match service this year. Students have the opportunity to fill out a questionnaire located on the web at <http://uac.mit.edu/heart> by noon, February 12th.

The data submitted by students is then entered into a program which serves to match the individual with

ten compatible mates at MIT. The results are then e-mailed to participants on February 14th.

In addition to this service sponsored by the UA, the Muses and Logs are delivering serenades today, and the Class of 2000 is selling flowers in Lobby 10 to be delivered on places around campus on Sunday.

MIT Medlinks also took part in organizing Valentine's Day festivities yesterday with a program called Keeping Intimacy Safe and Sensual, or KISS.

"KISS is done once a year," said Devangini V. Gandhi '01, a Medlink and member of the Campuswide Activities of the Medlinks Steering Committee. "We because we want people to know that... having sex is not the only way, but if you do you should practice safe sex."

The Medlinks handed out several types of condoms, as well as contraceptives for oral sex, in Lobby 10. They also hung up posters and pamphlets about gay and lesbian intercourse.

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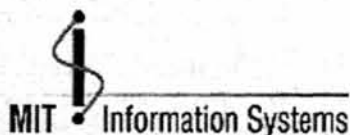
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**ATHENA® MINICOURSE INDEX**

**Introduction to Athena (Intro)**

An introduction to Athena and Athena workstations. Topics include: what you can do on Athena, getting an account, logging in, windows, sending messages, finding help and documentation.  
Pre-requisites: None

**Basic Word Processing (Basic WP)**

Elementary text editing with Emacs, sending and receiving electronic mail, and using the Athena printers.  
Pre-requisites: Intro

**Working on Athena (Working)**

Just the basics: files, directories, job control, and more. What every new user should know about Unix, Athena's operating system.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP

**Advanced Word Processing: EZ (EZ)**

An introduction to EZ, a combination text editor and formatter, with text-editing commands that are similar to Emacs. As a formatter, it is menu-driven and easy to learn, in the popular style of the "What You See Is (pretty much) What You Get" packages.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working

**Advanced Word Processing: LATEX (Latex)**

An introduction to Latex, a widely-used text formatter, used for converting a text file into an attractive, professional-looking document. It is a powerful and flexible program, with the capability to typeset many foreign characters and very complex mathematical text.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working

**Latex Thesis (Thesis)**

Using the Latex text formatter to produce a fully-featured thesis that meets all MIT format requirements.  
Pre-requisites: Latex, some Latex experience

**Introduction to FrameMaker (Frame)**

FrameMaker is a powerful word-processing and document-preparation package now available on Athena.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working

**FrameMaker for your Thesis (Frame Thesis)**

FrameMaker, with a special template, can be used to produce an MIT thesis that meets all Institute formatting requirements.  
Pre-requisites: Frame, some Frame experience

**Information Resources on Athena (Info Res)**

A survey of the communications, help, and other resources available on Athena.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working

**HTML: Making a WWW Home Page (HTML)**

Covers the basic features of HTML ("Hyper-Text Mark-up Language") the language of the World-Wide Web, as well as the steps needed to post your own Web page on Athena.  
Pre-requisite: Info Res

**Math Software Overview (MSO)**

A survey of major mathematics and graphing packages available on Athena.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP

**Matlab (Matlab)**

An interactive program for scientific and engineering numeric calculation. Applications include: matrix manipulation, digital signal processing, and 3-dimensional graphics.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working

**Xess (Xess)**

A powerful and easy-to-learn spreadsheet, with a full range of mathematical, statistical, matrix, and string functions. It will be useful for scientific and engineering computations, as well as to general and financial users.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working

**Maple (Maple)**

A mathematics program that can perform numerical and symbolic calculations, including formal and numerical integration, solving algebraic or transcendental systems and differential equations, and series expansion and matrix manipulation. It also has extensive graphics capabilities.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working

**Serious Emacs (Ser. Emacs)**

The text editor introduced in Basic Word Processing has many useful features not covered in that course. This course is a must for anyone who uses Emacs more than an hour or two each week.  
Pre-requisites: Intro, Basic WP, Working, some Emacs experience

**Customization on Athena (Dotfiles)**

Intended for the intermediate-level Athena user, this course will discuss the Athena login sequence and the user-configuration files (dotfiles) that affect it, as well as changes the user can make to those and other files to customize their working environment.  
Pre-requisites: Serious Emacs, some Athena experience



# MIT Debate Team Places Well at World Competition

By Sanjay Basu  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Continuing its tradition of success at the World Universities Debating Championship, the MIT Debate Team placed among the top teams in both the United States and the world once again this past winter.

Beating debate teams from universities including Princeton,

Yale, Brown, and Stanford, the group took 6th place in the American division of the competition, the largest and most competitive tournament of its kind.

The championship, held in Manila, Phillipines, brought teams from around the globe to discuss issues ranging from international politics to ethics and art. Gary Li

'00 and Amit Roy '01 represented the MIT team at the competition.

"It doesn't get any better than this," Li said. "The World Championships attract people who would normally be enemies—like India and Pakistan—and lets them stand up and talk about issues peacefully. In no other competition do you have so many views from so

many countries."

#### Many participate in competition

The World Championships attracted top teams from several Asian, European, and Arab nations. The teams engaged in Parliamentary-style debate, a form of argument between a "government" group and an

"opposition" body. A different topic was designated for each round of the tournament.

"The subjects covered a range of international issues," Li said. "Some were very abstract, like the topic of whether art should be censored. Others were more political and grounded in current events... one of the more interesting discussions was on the issue of whether the ASEAN should rally behind Anwar."

The debaters also delivered extemporaneous speeches about globalization and its effect on the poor, the potential for failure if Europe federalizes, and whether Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu '76 is effectively promoting the peace process.

"It's very difficult," Li said. "You really can't prepare ahead of time, because you don't know the topics and you have to give an extemporaneous speech on them. It really requires that you know what's going on in the world and that you have a clue about what might be in the *New York Times* each day. But it also requires that you think quickly on your feet."

Roy agreed, "MIT teaches students a lot about analysis and performance under pressure—exactly what debate is about," he said.

#### Continuing a tradition of success

The MIT debate team has competed at the World Debate Championships for the past four years, placing among the top schools each time. This year, the team has won tournaments at Brown, Cornell, and Wellesley.

The team was revived in 1991 after suffering nearly a decade of inactivity during the 1980s. It now includes over forty members.

"We are a relatively small team," admitted Christina Chow '01. "But this is one of our strengths. Individual members get more attention and we form much tighter bonds as a team."

Last fall, the team held an open forum for speech and debate and later sponsored an Independent Activities Period workshop on public speaking.

"I think the Debate Team has really added to the MIT community," Li said. "With the continued support of the MIT administration and community at large, we hope to continue the MIT Debate Team's record of success well into the future."

# G O R D I A N

## THINKING BEYOND BEYOND

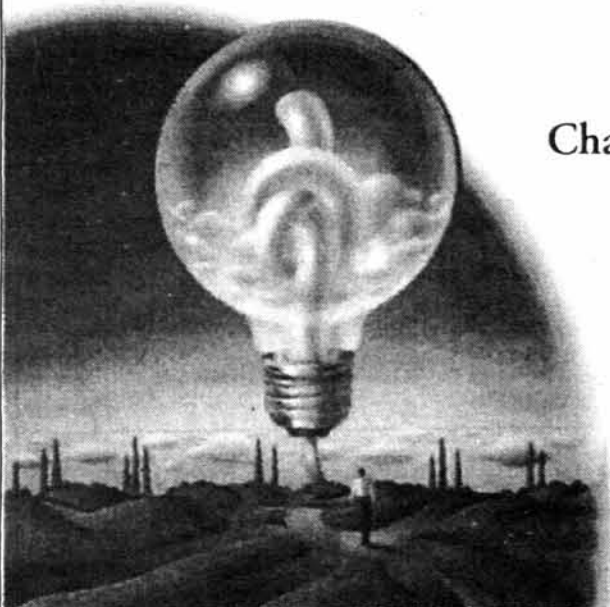
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# Freshmen Meet in Course XIII, Other Pre-Orientation Program

Pre-Orientation, from Page 1

Engineering sponsors "Discover Ocean Engineering" to "get the students to get to know each other" while introducing them to Boston and MIT, said Ocean Engineering Department Head Chrysostomos Chrysostomidis S.M. '70. Students will also be involved in a "fun project" like building the autonomous underwater vehicle students built last year, so "they can get a hands-on experience with engineering and a little bit of science," Chrysostomidis said.

Chrysostomidis did not know whether program participants would major in ocean engineering, but he said, "That's not the intent." He called a "direct response" to President Vest's request that faculty think of ideas to improve the learning experience for incoming students.

### Other programs growing

Former MIT student, Pardis C. Sabeti '97, first brought pre-orientation programs to MIT, hoping to counteract the self-segregation she saw among MIT students. She started FLP as a pilot program in 1996 under the supervision of Dean for Student Life Margaret Bates; however, it remained organized and directed by students. Sabeti's eventual plan was that there be several pre-orientation programs, said Jeremy S. Barber '98, who has been involved with FLP since 1996. "Since the beginning there has been the desire and hope to expand," he said.

FLP involved 85 students its first year, about 115 students in 1997, and 155 students in 1998. According to Barber, increased size has not helped the program serve its goals, so next year the program will accept fewer than 100 students, closer to the original program in 1996.

"It's easier to work with a smaller group," said Huang, who is also co-coordinator of FLP '99. "A lot of the activities are designed for groups of 30 - 60; trying to do them last year with over a hundred people

was a challenge for us." Additionally, fewer freshmen are expected to apply for FLP because of the other options offered, Huang said.

FSP was started by Shawdee Eshghi '99 last year, primarily to encourage MIT student involvement with the surrounding community. "Because MIT is so hard, people only see the immediate campus," Eshghi said. She wishes more students would "experience the richness of Boston and Cambridge."

Through the program's planning last year it took on a more urban focus, so this year will be renamed "Urban Discovery" or something similar, Huang said.

### Diverse involvement encouraged

All five programs are currently looking for counselors, and FAP and FOP are looking for coordinators as well. FSP coordinators Priya M. Rajendran '00 and Linda J. Ungsuan '99 emphasized that counselors will take an active role in development.

"We're very much developing the program," Rajendran said. "Counselors will have the power to shape what we do."

"FAP and FOP are brand new, so there will be a lot of counselor involvement. The counselors will... help mold the activities students do," Cirello said.

### Students are interested in helping

Coordinators for all the programs spoke at an informational meeting last Tuesday. Many of the about 50 students who attended were alumni of either FLP or FSP, but heavy involvement from other students is also anticipated. Counselors should be "people from lots of different lifestyles at MIT," Huang said. "We want a mix of people from different years: people who are juniors now who went way back during the first program... and definitely about half people who never went [to FLP]," Huang said.

Timothy H. Harrison '99 has not

been involved with pre-orientation programs, but before coming to MIT he had wished that there were a program in the outdoors.

Annie K. Wang '02 "had a lot of fun at FLP"

Jimmy C. Chang '02 "figured the first people frosh meet are their pre-orientation leaders" and that being involved with a pre-orientation program is a good way to help freshmen get off to a good start "with a positive outlook."

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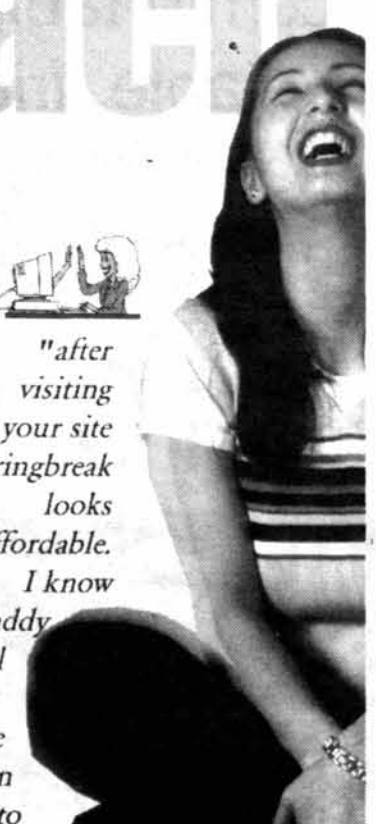
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## Women's Basketball Ranks Tenth in Poll

By Roger Crosley  
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS INFORMATION

For the first time in the history of the program, the MIT women's basketball team has earned a ranking in

### Sports Shorts

the New England Women's Basketball Association Weekly Poll. The Engineers, who have earned a 13-5 record, are tied for tenth in the poll released Monday, Feb. 8. On the individual front, Vicky Best '99 has been named the New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference Player of the Week. Best, who is the NEW-

MAC's leading scorer, averaged 22.5 points, four rebounds, and 3.5 steals in a 2-0 week for MIT ending Saturday, Feb. 6. The previous week, Best was named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference New England Division III Weekly Honor Roll. During that week she averaged 17 points per game, 4.6 rebounds and three assists as the Engineers earned two wins and a loss.

### Football

The final National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III football statistics have recently been released and two MIT players are named in the national rankings. Wide receiver Baldemar Mejia '99 was tied for 19th in receptions per game with 59 catches in nine games. Duane Stevens '99, a defensive back, was the 23rd ranked punt returner. On 15 returns, Stevens averaged 11.9 yards per return. His 81 yard return for a touchdown in his final game set the MIT record for the longest punt return. As a team MIT ranked 16th in punt returns with 13.25 yards per return.



KRZYSZTOF GAJOS—THE TECH  
Eboney Smith '01 passes the ball to Vicky Canto-Ponce '00 in Monday's basketball game against Wentworth Institute of Technology. MIT easily outpaced their opponents, winning the game 69-38.

### Figure Skating

On Saturday, the MIT Figure Skating Club will host a collegiate skating competition, sanctioned by the United Skaters Figure Skating Association. Over 100 skaters representing nine different colleges and universities (Boston University, Cornell, Dartmouth, MIT, Northeastern, Penn State, Princeton, University of Delaware, UMass-Amherst) will be competing in individual and team events. The competition will be at the Johnson Athletics Center and will begin at 11 a.m. It is free of charge.

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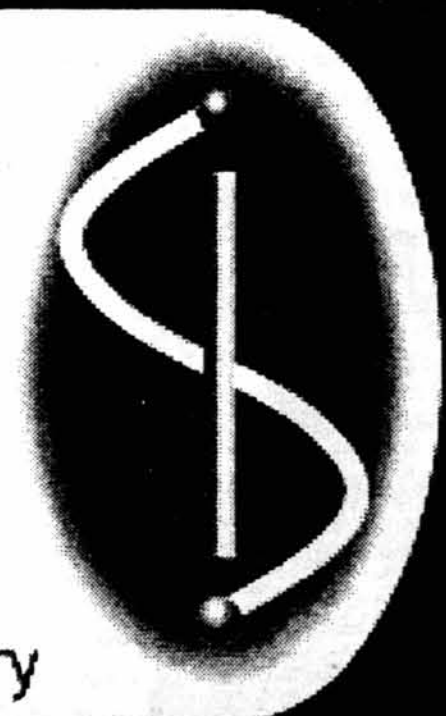
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# Alpine Ski Team Competes at Ascutney Mountain

By Jonathan Shefftz  
HEAD COACH

The men's and women's alpine squads of MIT's varsity ski racing team completed their fourth of five regular season race weekends on Saturday and Sunday, tackling the steep slopes of Ascutney Mountain in Vermont to earn some strong finishes — although also some agonizing crashes.

Saturday's slalom started off with new snow falling from the sky, but the race hill remained pure ice, and an exceedingly "turny" second-run course only made the race more difficult.

The women's team turned in solid performances, with captain Brooke Baker '99 in 13th place, and Monica Taylor '01 and Marianne Okal '02 providing the other two scoring times. Lisabeth Willey '02 also put together two clean runs, with the women's team thereby finishing all four of their starters, for some enviably well-controlled consistent skiing and a seventh-place team finish far ahead of St. A's, Babson, NEC, and UConn.

The men's team seemed to follow the women's example for the first run, finishing six out of eight skiers. Carnage ensued on the second run, however, which left MIT with only two finishers: Todd Dumond '00 and co-captain Dan Zelazo '99. If a team does not have a full five finishers, it receives "ghost" times equal to the worst scoring time of any team's skier plus 10 percent. Normally finishing only two skiers would land a school in a guaranteed last place, but only one NEC skier managed to finish the course, so the MIT men limped into ninth.

The same unyielding conditions reappeared the next day for the giant slalom and caused Taylor's binding to prerelease, sending her on a collision course with a course pole, which resulted in a broken pole for

the course and a temporarily injured knee for Taylor. The rest of the women's team nevertheless skied solidly to take seventh place as usual, with Baker in 10th for the individuals, and the other two scoring times from Okal and Willey.

Half of the men's team turned in their best giant slalom performances ever, with scoring times from Brett Vasconcellos '99, Dumond, Sanjay Raman '01, and Zelazo. Unfortunately, of the other four MIT starters, two crashed, and the other two encountered difficulties that did not allow them to take their second run. Therefore, once again the men did not have a full five finishers. NEC also did not have a full five finishers, but nipped MIT by 1.2 seconds, which translates into 15 hundredths of a second on a per-person, per-run basis.

Each weekend competition consists of two runs each on a slalom course on Saturday (quick, short-radius turns) and a giant slalom course on Sunday (longer-radius turns at higher speeds), with each day's two runs added together to determine each skier's finish for that day. The times of the fastest five men and the fastest three women determine the team standings for each squad. Each team's standing for each day is then cumulatively added together to determine season standings (e.g., a team that finished first each time after eight races would have eight points, whereas a team that finished second in four races and third in the other four races would have 20 points).

MIT competes in the Eastern Collegiate Ski Conference's Osborne Division, which contains the second-most competitive collection of NCAA teams in the Eastern U.S.: Boston College, Plymouth State, UMass Amherst, Smith (for women only), Babson, St. Anselm's, Brown, Colby-Sawyer, New

England College, and UConn. Since NCAA skiing competition is non-divisional, skiing is one of the few sports in which MIT competes against Division I and II schools, in addition to its more typical Division III rivals.

The women entered this weekend seventh in the cumulative standings. The men entered the weekend last out of ten teams: despite usually finishing between eighth and ninth (and almost never tenth), the men would often beat a different team each race. Nevertheless, they were close to catching up with New England College, with whom they tied the previous season for seventh place. Strong finishes for the weekend required sound technical skiing, as Ascutney's course is one of the steepest in New England: although Ascutney is not known for challenging terrain, it runs races on its steepest trail, which inevitably is always a sheet of unyielding glare ice.

Adding to the excitement of the team standings was Baker's bid to win a berth at the championships of the separate Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Conference, which in turn serve

as the qualification route for the NCAA National Championships. Based on the individual standings after the first three races, Baker was on track for the EISA Championships. This solid performance at Ascutney should clinch her berth.

Smith College sponsors the final

regular season race at Berkshire East, Mass this weekend. The women have cinched seventh place out of 11 teams, although the men remain mired in 10th. Baker also looks to have cinched a qualification for the EISA Championships, although the official preliminary standings are not yet available.

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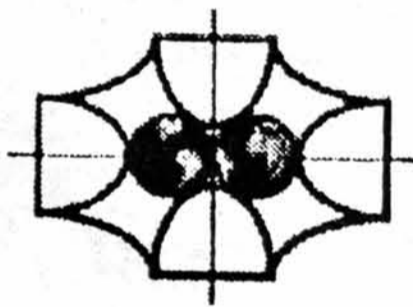
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1. 1998 Year-End Report: U.S. Dept. of Bogus Statistics



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# SPORTS

## Ballroom Dancers Succeed at Harvard Invitational



Michael Posner G executes a leap in the Harvard Invitational Ballroom Dance Competition last weekend.

By Laurent Bradford  
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Ballroom dance team made an outstanding showing at the Eighth Annual Harvard Invitational held last weekend. Spanning two days, the competition was attended by over three hundred couples representing 22 colleges and universities from as far away as Utah State University. The competition was tough, but MIT dancers proved to be more than up to the task.

The Saturday morning session was the Rhythm category, American style dances, and MIT started it off with two ribbons in the first event. The Beginner Cha Cha found Tuan Phan '02 and Ying Lee '00 in eighth place and Yen-Hong Lim G and Margaret Wong '02 in sixth.

In the Swing, Beginner couple Tony Maesto G and Sherry Jenq '02 took fifth place. At the Intermediate level, Mark Herschberg '95 and Tammy Yap '99 did very well, placing sixth in the Rhumba/Swing Two-Dance, and dancing Advanced, Pubudu Wariyapola G and Vikky Kheifets '00 took sixth in the Cha Cha, Rhumba, Swing Three-Dance.

Ending that section of the day was the Rhythm Championship (Cha Cha, Rhumba, Swing, Bolero, Mambo Five-Dance), in which Michael Posner and Reena Freedman blew away the competition with a sweeping first place.

Next came the team match in which both the International and American teams took fifth place in their respective styles. Dancing on the team was Warren Dew '81 and Elizabeth Ditchburn '92, Tom G and Elizabeth Nugent '90, Pubudu Wariyapola G and Vikky Kheifets '00, and Stephanie Shaw G and partner. After the team matches was the exciting Latin Championship (Cha Cha, Samba, Rhumba, Paso Doble, Jive Five-Dance) in which Michael Posner and Reena Freedman placed sixth.

The afternoon session, International style standard dances, was dominated by MIT couples. The

Beginner International Waltz final had six dancers, three of which were MIT dancers. Boris Berdnikov G and Sofya Raskhodnikova G took fourth, Tuan Phan '02 and Ying Lee '00 placed second, and Jatin Misra G and Xuemin Chi '01 won the event.

Even more impressive was the Beginner Quickstep, five of the seven finalists were MIT. Brygg Ulmer and Cameilia Turcu '01 placed seventh, Jude Nimesh and Maria Minkoff G placed sixth, Lukasz Webster G and Neda Vukmirovic G took fourth, Phan and Lee took second, and Misra and Chi once again won the event, making them the overall winners of the Beginner Standard division.

MIT continued to impress on the Intermediate level with the Waltz, Foxtrot, and Quickstep Three-Dance. Jatin Misra G and Chi came in seventh, Feng Li and Kate Mahoney placed sixth, Eugene Bae G and Stephanie Shaw G placed fifth, and Seth Webster and Christine Tsien G took fourth place. The Advanced Waltz/Quickstep Two-Dance placed two MIT couples in the finals, Martin Szummer G and Cathy Leamy took seventh, and Webster and Tsien came in sixth; Stephen Gildea '87 and Phyllis Kristal '87 placed fifth in the Foxtrot/Tango Two-Dance of the same level.

The day was rounded off with the Standard Pre-Champ Four-Dance (Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Quickstep), in which Michael Otero and Marta Lipinsky G danced their way to a beautiful fourth place, and the Championship Five-Dance (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Foxtrot, Quickstep) which Mark Sheldon and Didi von Deck won with exquisite grace.

Sunday's competition started with the American Smooth dances. MIT started off with another three ribbons in the Beginner American Waltz; Mohammed Zaman and Lauren Bradford '02 placed seventh, Phan and Lee took second, and

Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova won the event. The American Tango was also won by an MIT couple, Misra and Adora Lin '02, with Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova in second, making them the overall winners of the American Smooth category.

There was a break in the action for the fun dances on Sunday afternoon. MIT couples swept the Rookie/Veteran Waltz; fifth place went to Zaman and Tammy Yap G, Tony Maesto and Yen Hong Lim took fourth, Phan and Stephanie Shaw took third, and Sam Sopiee and Jen Hammock G won the event. Zaman and Maesto also danced their way to an eighth place in the Same-Sex Mambo. The day moved on to the Advanced level, and MIT couples continued to dominate.

At the Advanced level, three out of the six finalists in the Waltz/Tango/Foxtrot Three-Dance were MIT dancers. Warren Roos and Mahoney took sixth place, Isin Dalkilic '99 and partner placed fourth, and Wariyapola and Kheifets took third. The Smooth dances ended with the American Smooth Championship in which Michael Posner and Reena Freedman placed third.

The last portion of the competition was the International Latin dances. As usual, MIT started off with a very impressive first event. In the Beginner Rhumba, three MIT couples made finals; sixth place went to Maesto and Sherry Jenq, Ishan Anand '01 and Natasha Wan '00 took fifth, and Berdnikov and Raskhodnikova won the event. In the Intermediate level Three-Dance (Cha Cha, Rhumba, Samba) Wariyapola and Kheifets took seventh, and Shaw and partner placed fourth; they also took sixth in the Advanced Rhumba/Cha Cha Two-Dance. The competition ended with a beautiful performance by Alex Wang G and Haixia Lin '99 in the Latin Pre-Championship Four-Dance (Cha Cha, Samba, Rhumba, Jive) in which they placed sixth.

### UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, February 12

Pistol, Intercollegiate Pistol Sectionals

Saturday, February 13

Men's Track, Quad Cup Invitational, 12:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. WPI, 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16

Squash vs. Dartmouth College, 4:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Wheaton College, 7:00 p.m.

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