

SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Susan Mosher '99 and Rene Ruiz '99 plead not guilty to charges of possession with intent to distribute amphetamines, marijuana, hallucinogenic mushrooms, and nitrous oxide, cruelty to animals, and possession of a hypodermic. The charges stemmed from a Campus Police investigation into the death of Richard Guy '99. During last Friday's arraignment, Cambridge District Court Judge Severin Singleton ordered the two not to enter the MIT campus without police escort or leave the state without court permission. A trial date was set for October 15th.

## RSSC Conversation Dominates Council

McGann delivers State of the UA Address; Councillors Criticize RSSC Final Proposal

By Mike Hall  
STAFF REPORTER

Criticism of the Residence System Steering Committee's final report overshadowed the year's first State of the Undergraduate Association address at last night's UA Council meeting.

Four RSSC members were in attendance to respond to questions from members of the UA Council and other student attendees.

### Theme Houses criticize new policy

Residents of Chocolate City provided the evening's most adamant opposition, criticizing the RSSC proposal to deny theme houses the right to self-select freshman residents.

"Chocolate City is not just a group of black people," stated Andrew A. Ryan '00, Chocolate City's senior co-chairman. Ryan stressed the importance of self-selection in maintaining the spirit of community in MIT's theme houses. Ryan also accused the MIT administration of grandstanding, stating that "change for change's sake alone is enacted by those concerned with image."

Councillors also expressed concern about the loss of community under the RSSC plan.

"Socializing is not a thing that happens on campus efficiently,"

argued Zhelintrentice L. Scott '00, a councillor from New House. Scott insisted that MIT's residences would lose their individuality with the expected yearly change of residence between freshmen and sophomore year.

"We are destroying a lot of communities," said RSSC member Ally H. Pelcyger '01, in response to Ryan's comments. Pelcyger further stated that theme houses could attempt to maintain their community by purchasing an off-campus house.

### New lottery system also attacked

The proposed lottery system also drew the ire of other meeting attendees. Under the RSSC proposal, freshmen are not guaranteed continued residence in their first-year dormitories. During March of the freshman year, each freshman must accept a bid to a Fraternity, Sorority, or Independent Living Group, enter the sophomore on-campus housing lottery, or find residence outside the MIT system. Sophomores entering the lottery are assigned rooms based on available space. The potential exists to force five to ten percent of sophomores off-campus.

"If a freshman likes his placement, why should he have to re-

UA, Page 24

## Graduate Dorm Possible in 2001

By Laura McGrath Moulton  
STAFF REPORTER

A site on Albany street will be home to as many as 125 graduate students in 2001 if plans to increase on-campus graduate student housing prove feasible, according to a study currently underway. The plan is an interim step meant to alleviate graduate housing woes until capital can be found for a new, larger graduate dormitory on the corner of Sidney and Pacific Streets.

"This is an example of trying to move on as many fronts as possible," said O. Robert Simha, director of planning. "Because this is a smaller project, we are able to move on it sooner."

### Study to determine feasibility

The Albany Street plan is currently undergoing a feasibility study which will take about 60-90 days, said Simha, who said that he hoped it would be open in 2001.

"The study should be done by the end of the year, but the actual opening of the building would be open to question," said Associate Dean and Director of Residential Live and Student Life Andrew M. Eisenmann '70. "There are always a number of unexpected problems when dealing with an existing building."

The site, located at 224 Albany Street, is an industrial building currently utilized for storage purposes by MIT. Simha compared the potential residence to Edgerton Hall, which is also a converted industrial building.

"It's a traditional mill brick building which has a lot of interesting space possibilities," Simha said.

### Grad student reactions cautious

Luis A. Ortiz G, president of the

Graduate Student Council, cautiously praised the plan.

The priority "is to add safe, affordable housing close to campus, and any movement along that direction is positive, as long as it doesn't kick longterm projects [such as the new dorm on Sidney and Pacific Streets] out of the queue," said Ortiz. "I hope that the 224 Albany Street plan is indicative of initiative to increase graduate housing," he said.

Ortiz said that he had been assured that the new Albany Street plan would not imply minimizing the Sidney and Pacific Street dorm plans. However, "you have to take what you can get, because the administration hasn't been moving" on significantly increasing graduate student housing, he said.

"MIT has had a stated goal of housing fifty percent of graduate students for decades," Eisenmann said. "Whether fifty percent is the right number or not, providing more graduate housing is a very important goal," he said, noting that the Boston-Cambridge area has "one of the worst rental markets in the country."

Reaching the stated goal does not seem likely in the near future, however. Currently, about thirty-two percent of graduate students live in buildings owned by MIT, and about twenty-nine percent live in on-campus residences, according to Ortiz.

According to Eisenmann, the Office of Off-Campus Housing will be improved during the next year, to facilitate student off-campus housing searches.

"We hope to have an on-line housing service implemented by the end of the year. We need to ask,

given the market, what services MIT can provide," said Eisenmann.

### Larger grad dorm still coming

The dormitory at Sidney and Pacific Streets, which would plan

Grad Dorm, Page 23

## Benjamin R. Krinsky '00

Benjamin R. Krinsky '00 died on September 3 after an extended battle with brain cancer. He was 20 years old.

Krinsky majored in Computer Science and Engineering (Course VI-III) and was a member of Zeta Psi.

Jonathan P. Pearce '00, a resident of Zeta Psi, described Krinsky as a "witty, funny guy." He was interested in Boston's local music scene and often attended concerts, Pearce said.

Krinsky's mother, Faith, called him an outstanding student "known for his boundless energy, his restless intelligence, his iron-clad logic, and his acerbic wit."

Krinsky was a member of Eta Kappa Nu, the Course VI academic honor society, and Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society. In 1996, he was awarded a Gold Award for Humor in the Scholastic Writing Competition, an honor bestowed on only three seniors that year.

As a teen, Krinsky volunteered to tutor youth at the Children's Creative Workshop enrichment program. In high school, he completed



COURTESY OF AMY J. FIENUP  
Benjamin R. Krinsky '00

a Westinghouse Research Project at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Krinsky served as Managing Editor of his high school newspaper, *Kaleidoscope*, and was recognized by *Newsday* for "distinguished commentary."

At MIT, he worked in the Intelligent Graphics group of the Media Lab developing visualizations of railroad timetables for the Department of Transportation.

Krinsky also interned at Microsoft Corporation where he contributed software to Windows NT 5.0, and at Charles River Analytics while at MIT.

A native of Long Island, New York, Krinsky was diagnosed with brain cancer in March. During his illness he continued his interest in music by exchanging recordings of concerts over the Internet.

He is survived by a younger sister Sylvia, his parents Samuel and Faith, grandparents Ellen and M. Leonard Kuniholm, and a great-grandmother, Lydia Johnson.

A memorial service will be held for Krinsky by members of Zeta Psi tomorrow, Wednesday, September 15, at 8:30 p.m. in front of the Stratton Student Center. All are welcome to attend.

Contributions in Krinsky's memory may be sent to:

Department of Radiation Oncology  
L-2, Room 643  
Stony Brook Foundation  
Account #2-64510  
University Hospital  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY 11794



Anthony Tjan spoke at the \$50K Kickoff event last night.

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Comics

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### FEATURES

The class of 2000 sponsors a career week in preparation for the year's largest career fair at the end of the month.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Indonesia Asks U.N. for a Delay in Troop Deployment

By Colum Lynch  
THE WASHINGTON POST

UNITED NATIONS

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Monday that his government would place "no conditions" on an international force for East Timor but that he needed time to discuss details of the United Nations' proposal for the deployment of as many as 7,000 troops.

Alatas' remarks, coming just one day after Indonesian President B.J. Habibie agreed to allow foreign troops into East Timor, opened the door to a potential delay and again raised questions about Indonesia's willingness to permit peacekeepers to put down the killing, looting and burning that has consumed the territory since it voted for independence Aug. 30.

Both U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and President Clinton Monday pressed Indonesia to let the force in quickly. In a meeting with Alatas at U.N. headquarters, Annan said he hoped to work out the details of an agreement by Tuesday afternoon.

"We are determined to move in a force as quickly as we can and without any conditions," Annan said before the meeting. He added that

Habibie had assured him in two telephone conversations that Jakarta would not block the deployment.

"I think that he is determined to work with us in implementing the agreement and I hope the (Indonesian) military ... will go along and follow the lead of President Habibie," Annan said.

The U.N. Security Council will "probably skip" meeting on Tuesday to give Annan more time for discussions, said the council's president, Peter van Walsum of the Netherlands.

Annan is scheduled to meet again with Alatas, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama. Alatas said he is seeking clarification on several aspects of the mission, including the military command structure that will oversee cooperation between foreign and Indonesian troops.

"I'm going to continue to discuss what this force will be, which countries will be represented in it, how fast can it come to Indonesia, all kind of details," Alatas said. "I'll be here as long as it takes."

Earlier, in Jakarta, the Indonesian army's spokesman, Brig. Gen. Sudradjat, said "the armed

forces will simply not accept the involvement of Australian forces" in the peacekeeping force. But Richard C. Holbrooke, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Monday that the United States would hold the Indonesian foreign minister to his commitment.

"If he starts to stretch this out while the Indonesian forces continue to rampage, that would be a major deception," Holbrooke said. "The Indonesians would be back in the depths of the mess they created and only just began to bail themselves out of."

"The proof is in the pudding, the devil is in the details," Holbrooke told reporters. "The timing is of critical importance. Timing is of the essence."

Holbrooke added that the Clinton administration will urge the 15-nation Security Council to give the international troops "full authority to use force."

The Pentagon, meanwhile, reiterated that the United States will play only a supporting role. A high-ranking U.S. military officer said the American contribution to a peacekeeping force likely would involve only about 100 troops on the ground in East Timor.

## Israelis and Palestinians Begin 'Final Status' Talks on Key Issues

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

With a self-imposed one-year deadline for ending decades of conflict, Israel and the Palestinian Authority on Monday opened historic negotiations on the last and most difficult issues blocking a definitive peace.

In a nighttime ceremony at a forlorn border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, senior Israeli and Palestinian officials clasped hands and staked out diametrically opposed views on their core differences: final borders, who gets Jerusalem and what happens to more than 3 million Palestinian refugees.

U.S. and European envoys looked on as Foreign Minister David Levy, head of the Israeli delegation, and the senior Palestinian negotiator, Mahmoud Abbas, pledged to exhaust every opportunity to reach a settlement on the so-called "final status" issues.

"We are now entering the last phase," Levy said after meeting with Abbas. "This agreement, with God's help, will end the 100-year conflict that has caused so much pain for the two peoples."

## No WTO Deal at APEC Meeting

LOS ANGELES TIMES

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Asia-Pacific leaders wrapped up three days of meetings Monday with proposals to reduce trade barriers, strengthen the World Trade Organization and improve financial markets in the wake of the Asia crisis.

After a late Sunday breakthrough in the political crisis over neighboring East Timor, leaders from the 21 APEC member economies finally found themselves in a position to pay a bit more attention to business.

Indonesia defused the crisis, at least temporarily, by announcing it would back down and allow an international peace-keeping force into the strife-torn island — the site of recent, widespread military-backed genocide.

The most important economic development at APEC, a decision by Washington and Beijing to resume negotiations over China's entry into the WTO, failed to produce a deal.

Since the agreement Saturday by presidents Clinton and Jiang Zemin to resume negotiations, however, several more bilateral meetings have been held. This has raised expectations the two sides can narrow their differences after a 13-year standoff and bring China in before the next WTO round of trade talks starts Nov. 30 in Seattle.

## Peacekeepers Warn Yugoslav Army Against Trying to Re-Enter Kosovo

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PRISTINA, YUGOSLAVIA

International peacekeeping forces in Kosovo issued a strong warning to the Serb-led Yugoslav military Monday against trying to re-enter the province.

Maj. Ole Irgens, spokesman for the NATO-led KFOR peacekeeping troops, said that recent disturbances in the northern Kosovo city of Kosovska Mitrovica "seem to have been carefully orchestrated" and could be an attempt by Serbian paramilitary groups to destabilize the region.

And while denying that the move was linked to the Yugoslav threats, Irgens announced that KFOR troops would hold training exercises in rural areas of Kosovo over the next two weeks.

The KFOR warning came after a top Yugoslav military commander threatened last week to send his army back into Kosovo. Gen. Nebojsa Pavkovic complained that KFOR troops were not living up to the agreement that ended the war, and left a door open for a limited Yugoslav military return to areas deemed of vital interest to Serbs.

## Approaching Bahamas, Floyd Likened to '89 Hurricane Hugo

By Sue Anne Pressley

THE WASHINGTON POST

MIAMI

Hurricane Floyd, a monster storm drawing comparisons to the devastating hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, bore down on the Bahamas and the southeast coast of the United States Monday with 155 mph winds approaching catastrophic strength.

Forecasters with the National Hurricane Center urged residents and officials from South Florida to the Carolinas to make preparations for a destructive blow that could strike almost anywhere along the coast, depending on whether the storm continued its current westerly course or, as predicted, turned northwest Monday night or Tuesday.

From the Miami homeowner rushing out to buy plywood to protect his windows to the guardians of the nation's four multibillion-dollar space shuttles housed at the Kennedy Space Center near Titusville, Fla., residents of the most vulnerable areas of Floyd's projected track worked Monday to get ready for a storm that could be historic in its size and intensity.

"We feel like we've done everything we can to protect these national assets, but it could rip through here like nothing anybody's ever seen before," said Bruce Buckingham, a spokesman at the space center.

Exactly where Floyd might strike remained a deeply troubling mystery Monday, as forecasters admitted the storm is not following

any of their usual models.

A hurricane warning, meaning hurricane conditions could develop within 24 hours, was posted late Monday afternoon for all of Florida's east coast, from south Miami-Dade County to just south of Brunswick, Ga., upgrading a hurricane watch that had been in place since the morning. Although meteorologists at the National Hurricane Center were predicting that a trough of low-pressure would reach down and scoop the storm up the coast, avoiding a direct hit at the Florida shore, the timing was critical. Hurricane-force winds could still rake the Florida coast.

Jerry Jarrell, director of the National Hurricane Center, said coastal residents cannot afford to underestimate the fury of Floyd.

# WEATHER

## Fearsome Floyd

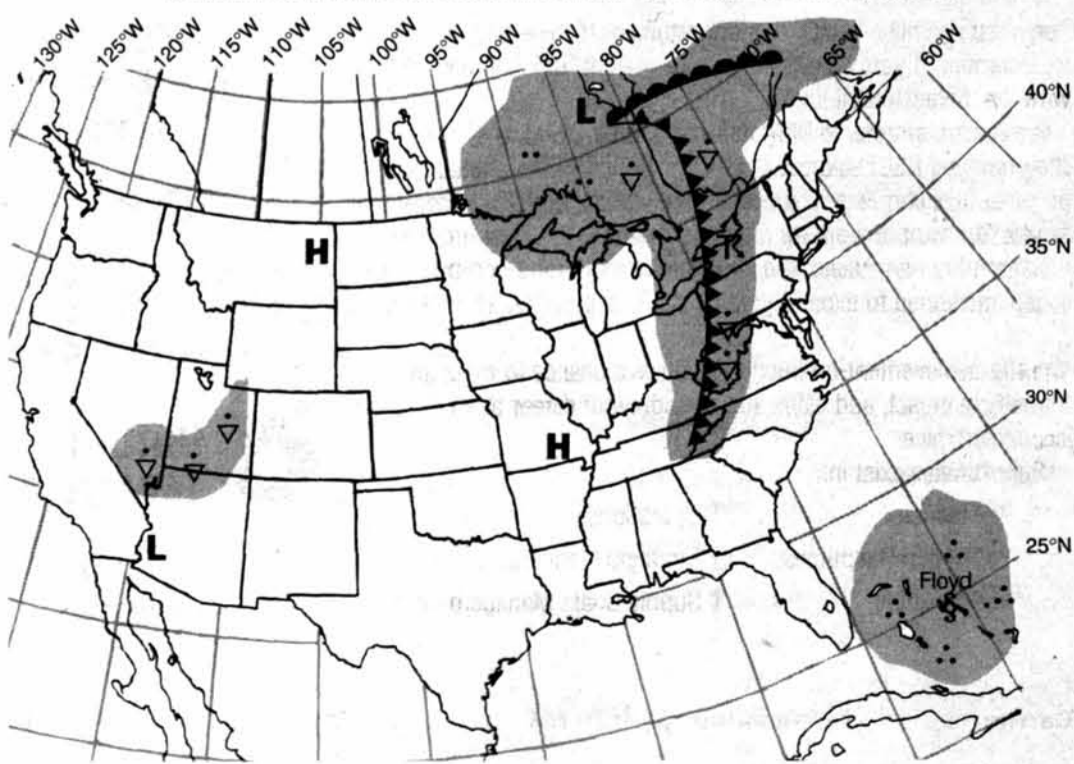
By Bill Ramstrom  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

All eyes along the East Coast are currently watching Floyd, a powerful category 4 hurricane with winds Monday evening of 155 mph. The current forecast track brings Floyd uncomfortably close to the Florida coast before it turns more northward, possibly headed toward landfall in the Carolinas. Most likely, we will feel some of the effects of Floyd on Thursday night or during Friday, at least copious rainfall, and depending on the track of the storm, perhaps some wind.

A cold front is approaching the eastern US today. This will help to determine the track of Floyd and will also lead to clouds and showers for us on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday will also feature rain, heavier if the center of Floyd passes nearby. Temperatures will likely remain fairly warm through the week, with increasing humidity each day.

- Today:** Sunny, with a few high clouds. High 77°F (25°C).
- Tonight:** Clouds thicken. Low 63°F (17°C).
- Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy with afternoon showers. High 78°F (25°C).
- Thursday and Friday:** Rainy, heavier and with more wind if Floyd approaches closely. Muggy, with highs near 78°F (25°C), lows near 70°F (22°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, September 14, 1999



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

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Terror Campaign Continues as Apartment Bombing Kills 73

By Richard C. Paddock

LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW

A deadly terror campaign targeting ordinary Muscovites in their sleep spread fear across the capital Monday as rescuers pulled 73 bodies from the ruins of an eight-story apartment building flattened by a pre-dawn bombing.

Police began searching every basement in Moscow and inspecting vehicles entering the city after the second bombing in less than a week demolished an apartment building six miles from the Kremlin. Officials said more people were buried in the rubble and the death toll could reach 100.

"Terrorism has declared war on us, people of Russia," President

Boris N. Yeltsin told the nation in a televised address. "This enemy has no conscience, no mercy, no honor."

Other authorities quickly linked the bombing to the war in Dagestan. Russian troops are fighting rebels who invaded the mountainous republic from neighboring Chechnya in early August to establish an independent Islamic state.

Some analysts warned that Russian antagonism toward Chechens was growing so strong that it could ignite a much wider conflict and revive the Chechen War of the mid-1990s, which killed as many as 80,000 people and left Chechnya a shattered and lawless territory.

In Russia's lower house of parliament, nationalist fever reached

such a pitch that the State Duma Geopolitics Committee spent two hours seriously debating whether Russia should drop a nuclear bomb on Chechnya — although that is hardly likely to happen. "We discussed it as a perfectly workable option," committee chairman Alexei V. Mitrofanov said later.

"I am sorry to say that the country is on the verge of another civil war which will be far bloodier, more cruel and senseless," said Andrei A. Piontkovsky, director of the Independent Institute for Strategic Studies, a Moscow think tank.

Piontkovsky said authorities have presented no hard evidence connecting the bombings to Chechen terrorists.

# Federal Appeals Court Says That Centers May Distribute Cannabis

By Maura Dolan and Mary Curtius

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

A federal appeals court created a potentially major opening in federal drug laws Monday, ruling that medical marijuana centers may be allowed to distribute cannabis if they can prove the drug is needed to protect patients against imminent medical harm.

In its decision, the three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that a federal judge should have considered patients' medical needs for marijuana when he ordered a cannabis club in Oakland last year to stop distributing the drug.

The ruling "means that the feder-

al law is not an absolute barrier to distribution of marijuana," said University of Santa Clara law professor Gerald Uelmen, who helped represent the Oakland center. "It requires courts to exercise discretion to look at the circumstances of individual patients and weigh that against the public interest."

The court did not overturn U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer's injunction against the club but said he must consider the case again, taking into account evidence that some patients need cannabis to treat debilitating and life threatening conditions.

The decision could eventually lead to the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative and others being allowed to distribute marijuana to some

severely ill patients, said Robert Raich, another attorney for the center.

"It may provide a method under federal law in which medical patients, some medical patients, can be provided with the medical cannabis they need ... legally," the Oakland attorney said.

California voters in November 1996 approved Proposition 215, which permitted seriously ill patients to obtain and use marijuana with their doctors' recommendations without being prosecuted under state law.

The Clinton administration, however, sued six Northern California clubs on the grounds that a federal ban on marijuana distribution prevails over the state initiative.

## Documents Raise Questions About Allegations of Waco Cover-Up

THE BALTIMORE SUN

WASHINGTON

Justice Department documents released Monday by a senior House Democrat raise questions about Republican allegations that the FBI and Justice Department deliberately covered up the use of military rounds at the Branch Davidian compound outside Waco, Texas.

The documents, which have been in the possession of House Republicans for the past four years, disclose the FBI's use of potentially incendiary tear gas rounds during the disastrous assault in 1993.

"They appear to conflict fundamentally with the assertions ... that evidence about the use of military tear gas rounds was deliberately withheld from Congress," said Rep. Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif., in a letter to former Sen. John C. Danforth, the newly appointed special counsel investigating the Waco incident.

GOP aides said they were not aware of the documents, and they countered that their own accusations of a possible Justice Department cover-up were influenced by Attorney General Janet Reno's own assertions that information about pyrotechnic tear gas rounds had been withheld from her.

The newly released documents mesh well with a report released Monday by the Texas Rangers, in which Ranger Sgt. George L. Turner revealed that FBI agents told him in January 1994 about the use of military rounds. Turner indicated that he did not see the significance of the admission.

## House Panel to Consider Plan To Stop Assisted Suicides

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Congress is aiming to overturn Oregon's law allowing physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients and to make it a federal crime for doctors everywhere to prescribe narcotics to help those patients end their lives.

The measure could send a physician to prison for 20 years for prescribing a drug such as morphine to help patients kill themselves, according to lawyers in Oregon and California who have analyzed the bill.

A House committee is expected to approve the bill Tuesday, and it could go before the full House this month and the Senate before the end of the year. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., has promised a filibuster on the Senate floor; a White House aide, asked if President Clinton would sign such a measure if one reached him, called the issue particularly delicate and said no decision had been made.

Several other states, mostly in the West, have begun considering proposals similar to Oregon's law.

The Oregon law took effect in 1997 after the state's voters approved an assisted suicide ballot initiative and then decisively rejected an initiative to repeal it.

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Miguel Larrucea

MIT Sloan School of Business, 1998

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# OPINION

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### Column Unfair to Women's Soccer

I was extremely aggravated with Ming-tai Huh's '99 column in *The Tech* on the Women's Soccer Team's scrimmage against Tufts ["Women's Soccer Crumbles in Match against Tufts," August 10]. I thought the column was inaccurate, and in many ways unnecessary. It almost sounded like something right out of a Tufts newspaper. We scrimmage teams in the preseason that can challenge us like Tufts can because one of the best ways for us to become a better team is to play against teams of a higher caliber than we are. Since it's a scrimmage and not a regular season game, the score doesn't count for our record, so it's a good time to try out different formations and positions for different players.

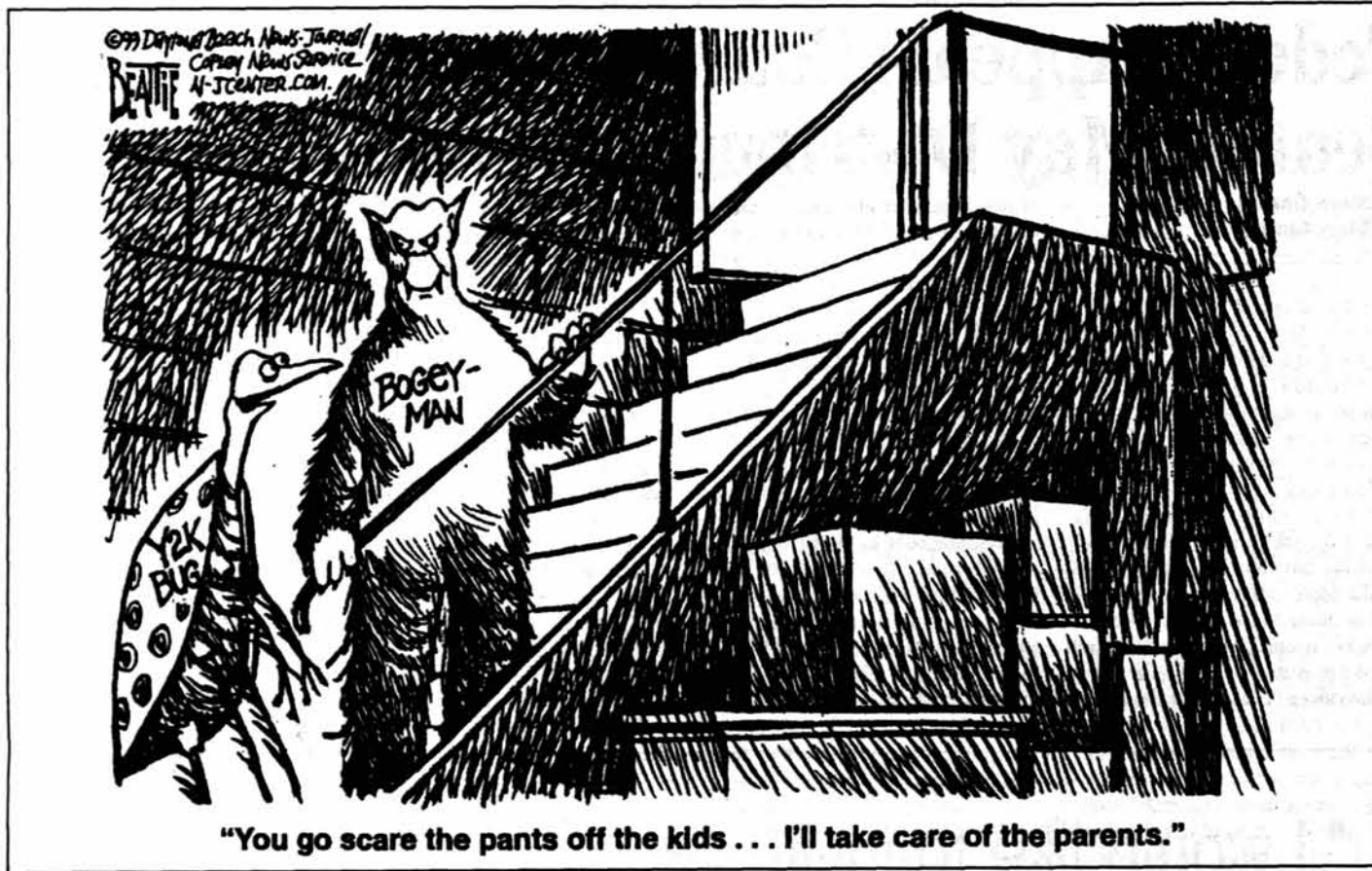
As for the whole "potential" issue, where a coach was quoted as saying, "They have lots of potential..." and then the column was quoted as saying, "Potential? Well I think that MIT could have mustered up a better showing than a 7-0 first half. Someone sure has the early season jitters..." I guess Huh missed our game last Thursday (a dominating 5-1 win), and our game on Sunday (a solid 2-0 shutout). The column made it sound like we were scrimmaging the national team.

The second-to-last paragraph, which mentions a few of the points I brought up earlier, is a very weak attempt to make up for an otherwise very harsh and humiliating column. We also don't need the opinion of the writer on what we need to do to make us a better team — that's what the coaches are paid to do, and none of the students and players here at MIT are that stupid either. Not to mention that

many MIT teams *do* hold up well in national rankings: in the column directly below ours, *The Tech* mentions how the MIT Women's Sailing team is ranked eighth, and the co-ed varsity team is ranked ninth. The Pistol and Rifle teams have been in the top ten nationally for a long time; Men's Hockey made it to the national tournament in Utah last year. Members of the Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track teams have made it to nationals in the past few years, and the Women's Gymnastics and Women's Volleyball teams have had high rankings in Division III nationally.

I think this column should have never been published; it's ludicrous and hurtful to the team and MIT varsity sports as a whole.

Sarah Perlmutter '02  
Women's Varsity Soccer Team



### Opinion Policy

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

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

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

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

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

### To Reach Us

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

# The RSSC Report and Its Critics

## Embattled Group Faces Task Guaranteed to Draw Student Ire

Dan McGuire

You have to feel sorry for the folks on the Residence System Steering Committee. The debate on what to do about MIT's creaky residence system has turned into something of a meat grinder, ripping apart any group or person that tries to propose a solution that significantly disrupts the status quo. Now, people are lining up to flay the RSSC.

That's a shame, because the committee has done its best to resolve problems not of its own making. Most of the blame for the current situation lies with a host of other groups, some of whom, ironically, are now self-righteously flaying the RSSC. The committee should be given the credit due to a group dutifully trying to clean up someone else's mess under very difficult circumstances.

The committee's final report takes a surprisingly conciliatory and thoughtful stance towards some of the big issues on the plate. The Interfraternity Council gets tremendous latitude in outlining what form the new rush will take. The Undergraduate Association and dormitory governments get more sharply defined spheres of influence.

In sum, the committee has made tremendous progress in addressing the peripheral issues involved in moving freshmen on campus. It fails, however, to provide a satisfying

answer to the question that first surfaced over a year ago when President Charles M. Vest announced that MIT would house all freshmen on campus beginning in the fall of 2001: how can MIT rely on fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups to house students while at the same time trying to pull some members of the community out of them?

The RSSC proposes to force students into fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups by revoking MIT's traditional guarantee of four years of housing. If FSILGs don't make their quota, up to five percent of the sophomore class would be ejected from campus housing, the report says. The implication for freshmen is that if they don't want to wind up sleeping beneath the Longfellow Bridge, they should join a FSILG.

The RSSC's approach certainly gets points for audacity, but even the most dispassionate viewer should acknowledge that this approach, while theoretically workable, is terribly unsatisfying. Fear and paranoia will become the driving force in the admin-

istration of MIT's housing system. This is neither a morally sound nor a practically viable solution.

First, it creates a false community in FSILGs. FSILGs will become places for people to live rather than communities based on some sense of shared values. This doesn't strengthen them; it simply puts them on life support.

Furthermore, there is something distinctly unsavory about the idea of kicking 19-year-olds into Cambridge's murderous housing market. This, after all, is a problem that MIT has committed itself to solving for graduate students. Consciously pulling the rug out from under the sophomores while working to fix it for everyone else strikes me as a very singular approach.

Finally, there will also be practical ramifications. MIT, despite its position as one of the world's preeminent research universities, recruits very hard for students — especially for "Academic Superstars." Freshmen looking for a safe place to spend their first four years away from home may be deterred by a

policy stating that they may only get one year of on-campus housing.

The problem facing the committee, I think, is that it hasn't been able to find a nice way to reconcile its main goals. The committee was charged with finding a way to keep freshmen on campus while also keeping FSILGs healthy. It's proven very hard to merge these goals. A lot of smart people — not only on the RSSC but on its predecessor, the Student Task Force on Life and Learning — have been working for a long time to make these pieces fit together, and they haven't found any real winners. The old idea of the "Sophomore Shuffle," while less terrifying than the RSSC's current approach, is no more elegant.

It strikes me that any proposal the RSSC submits will be harshly criticized. Given this, it might be worthwhile to perform a far more sweeping reappraisal of MIT's residence system.

The RSSC has outlined a very compelling educational role for MIT's residences. It is time for the committee to decide whether this plan can better be carried out in an FSILG-style environment or in a dormitory-style environment, and to begin to dismantle the rejected system.

MIT, for the first time in its history, has the opportunity to develop a revolutionary, comprehensive plan for its housing system. We should use it.

*...the committee has done its best to resolve problems not of its own making. Most of the blame for the current situation lies with a host of other groups some of whom, ironically, are now self-righteously flaying the RSSC.*

# Ring's 'Pieces' Not So Easy

## In Support of a Tax Cut and Less Gun Regulation

Guest Column  
Andrew T. Yue

In response to the August 30 column entitled "Four Easy Pieces" by Michael J. Ring, I would like to clarify fact from opinion and offer the other side of the issue to your readers on two specific issues: the tax cut and gun ban. In his column, Ring proposed a "wish list" for the post-recess Congress that included killing a Republican-sponsored tax cut and passing strong gun-control legislation.

First of all, tax cuts are consistent with fiscal conservatism. A tax cut is merely letting people keep what the government would have taken away.

Taxes are the source of revenue for the government to spend on specific existing programs, not on things the government would have taken away or on things the tax was not deemed for. Thus, spending a surplus defies the purpose of taxes because politicians spend money on things they want, not necessarily what the majority wants. Therefore, the only sensible and right thing to do is return money to where it came from. The same applies to projected surpluses.

Additionally, understand that the government will spend the surplus no matter what. For the economists out there, you can all comprehend the effect on our economy if government were to spend the surplus. It would increase aggregate demand due to the increased government spending causing inflation, which is what the Federal Reserve is trying to avoid.

One last thing about the tax cut. The cut doesn't favor anyone. If your taxes are lowered, what gives you the right to complain that the wealthy's taxes are lowered too? Would you rather pay \$1,000 extra in taxes to see them pay \$5,000 more in taxes? Simply put, the higher-income workers get better tax breaks because they pay more taxes due to their higher bracket. Equalizing tax breaks is unfair, but it is just to return money to those who earned it, or simply not to tax people for what the government doesn't plan on using.

In terms of the gun control legislation, there is more opinion here than fact. There is no hypocrisy of the Republicans on the gun control issue. First and foremost, they represent the protection of the right to bear arms. It is as simple as that. Regardless of what anyone thinks, that is what the law is and it must be upheld until overruled and declared unconstitutional. How can Ring call the

Second Amendment unconstitutional when chief justices and legislators have not declared it unconstitutional? I dare say Ring is not as competent in judging constitutionality as a Supreme Court Justice.

And if this right was intended to field militias, the militia isn't the National Guard. The Guard is a division of our national defense, not a militia. Back in the time of our founding fathers, the right to bear arms was designed for local and state militias to be a check and balance on sovereignty as well as the will of the majority. That is a principle that our country is founded on. If we had no right to bear arms, think how easy it would be for the government to control us if it fell in the wrong hands.

The amendment declares the "right to bear arms." How, therefore, can the ownership of guns be a "privilege?" Here, Ring is in dispute with the founders, not with me or any Republican. And if you believe that the crime statistics are solely affected by the availability of guns, you have fallen into a trap. It is like saying that Arizona is a bad place for people with multiple sclerosis

because there is a high rate of MS deaths there. Actually the high death rate is due to all the people with MS who move there because the hot weather is good for their condition.

America cannot be compared accurately to other industrialized nations when gun control is the only judging factor. Has Ring forgotten all about the American media, the societal pressures, bad parenting, and the rotting moral fiber of our nation? Apparently so. Why can't we take responsibility for the fact that crime is a societal problem stemming from inadequate parental teaching? Faulting only guns is like saying that our society is perfect, but because of guns, people die. Guns do not kill; it is the finger that pulls the trigger.

One last note, I can't understand the inconsistency Ring shows in his column. First he advocates an all-out ban on all gun ownership. Then, he settles on a solution of "registration." The fact that he lowers his standards is proof that he knows a gun ban is not the answer to our quest to decrease crime. In fact, a gun ban would only increase the ante, making guns more expensive. This opens a whole new world of crime, black-market operations, drug dealing, money laundering, extortion, and smuggling that I think Michael J. Ring would agree, America does not want.

Andrew T. Yue is a member of the Class of 2003.

*Has Ring forgotten all about the American media, the societal pressures, bad parenting, and the rotting moral fiber of our nation? Why can't we take responsibility for the fact that crime is a societal problem stemming from inadequate parental teaching?*

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# FEATURES

## Fall Career Fair

Career Week, Unified Fair Mark Changes in Recruiting at MIT

By Aaron D. Mihalik  
STAFF REPORTER

Just as we finish up our summer internships and return to classes, it's already time to begin looking for another summer experience or perhaps for full-time employment. Although many students make use of on-line career application opportunities, it is difficult to beat the advantage of that personal touch offered by a career fair.

The MIT Fall Career Fair will be held on September 30 and October 1 in Johnson Athletic Center and Rockwell Cage. Currently there are more than 220 companies registered for this career fair and all students are encouraged to attend. The company representatives will be focusing on recruiting graduate students on September 30 and undergraduate students on October 1.

"The MIT Fall Career Fair is geared towards [seniors and graduate students] looking for full-time employment," said Hugo B. Barra, president of the Class of 2000. "But juniors, sophomores and even freshmen also have the opportunity to discuss summer internships with almost all companies present at the fair."

"All students should attend the joint career fair as it will be the only career fair on campus this fall," advised Luis A. Ortiz G., president of the Graduate Student Council. "This is the obvious opportunity to begin your search for permanent employ-

ment as well as summer internships, part time and externship contacts. Even if near term employment isn't your need, the portfolio of companies provides an excellent opportunity for students to investigate new fields or companies as well as establish valuable contacts."

Preparation for a career fair can increase the chance of success for students looking for employment.

"Students should not just walk into the career fair," said Barra. "They must carefully prepare a resume, dress well and think about what they have to say. Overall, it is important to be charming when talking to recruiters and know what you want [and] know the company you are talking to. This is why we have designed the MIT Class of 2000 Career Week, to allow students to start formulating concrete action plans for the recruiting season even before it starts."

### Class of 2000 Career Week

This year's career fair will take on a different look than in past years. The week of September 27 through October 1 is officially Class of 2000 Career Week. During this week there will be a series of workshops, seminars, and panel discussions to inform students on a variety of career topics. Although this week focuses on preparing and informing the senior class, graduate students and undergraduates are welcome to

attend all events.

"To better serve MIT students and to be equally fair to all firms, we have eliminated from this week all typical company presentations that historically happen just prior to the career fair," said Barra. "[These presentations are] to be replaced by student-organized events that we believe are more representative of the wide range of options available to MIT's graduating class."

The Class of 2000 will sponsor a majority of the events during this week. The Society of Women Engineers, the Graduate Student Council, and the Office of Career Services and Preprofessional Advising will also be sponsoring a number of events.

"I am excited for the event because I know that it is going to be an improvement in career service to students, especially graduate students," noted Ortiz.

### Career week is a collaborative effort

Although the Class of 2000 is the official sponsor, GSC, SWE, Sloan's Undergraduate Management Association, and OCSA are co-sponsoring the week. Also, several other student associations are involved with the presentations throughout the week. These student associations include IEEE, Eta Kappa Nu, Tau Beta Pi, and the Biomedical Engineering Society.

"The largest career fair during the year has traditionally been the Senior Class Career Fair," said Barra. "However, SWE and GSC have managed to organize respectfully large career fairs in the recent past as well. The con-

solidation started as an appeal from recruiters who couldn't come to all events... [by consolidating career fairs] we are able to bring many more companies and offer students a much more compelling set of choices to pick from."

"By providing one event, companies now know where to focus their efforts," said Ortiz. "Also, and possibly just as important, our three organizations are learning how to work together toward a common goal for all students... I hope that it precedes future collaborations among independent student activities and the undergraduate and graduate student governments," he said.

### New resume submission method added

Another change in this year's career fair is the resume submission system. For the first time, resumes which will be viewed by companies in advance will be submitted only in electronic form. The deadline for resume submission is Wednesday September 17th at 5pm.

"We don't like the Jobtrack resume submission method, since it forces you to manually type text and generates a very inelegant piece," Barra said of a commonly used electronic resume system. "We are going to collect resumes from the seniors starting next week on the traditional paper format to put together the Class resume book."

"The electronic system is the best method for getting information to the company recruiters before they arrive on campus," noted Ortiz. "The electronic resume submission streamlines the process for working with the printers to provide a professional resume book for company recruiters."

The resume submissions deadline is September 15. Visit <http://resumes.mit.edu> for more information and to submit a resume.

## This Week in MIT History

On September 10, 1974 *The Tech* reported that the MIT chapter of Sigma Nu was forced to separate from its national organization. The decision, made by the Sigma Nu Grand Chapter, came after the fraternity allowed women to live in the house in 1970 and elected a woman as president of the living group in 1974. The national organization felt that the all-male fraternity could not exist in a co-ed house under the national's policies. The Epsilon Theta chapter of Sigma Nu became what is now Epsilon Theta. Sigma Nu as it is known today was founded in April 1995.

The members of the new Epsilon Theta published an column explaining the change ["Sigma Nu to Epsilon Theta: Why?" September 10, 1974], an excerpt of which is reprinted below.

"In the past six months, the roles of women with respect to the chapter, and the chapter with respect to the national have been questioned by some members of the national fraternity. As a result of unfortunate publicity about the election of a woman as the president of the living group, the High Council (the executive body of the national fraternity) suspended the charter of the MIT chapter, the Epsilon Theta of Sigma Nu, pending clarification of these issues.

The publicity began with a public interest story in *Tech Talk* about the election of Carol McGuire '75 as the commander of the living group. At *Tech Talk's* suggestion, the article was released to the Associated Press, with the naive assumption that the distinctions between house and chapter would be preserved. Careless editing reduced the article to a captioned photograph stating that McGuire was commander of the chapter. This appeared in newspapers all over the country.

From the time that women were admitted into the living group in 1970, there have been two distinct groups: the chapter, Epsilon Theta of Sigma Nu, composed entirely of the male initiates of the fraternity, and the "house," consisting of men and women, living and working together as equals. This group, although its identity is clear in the minds of its members, had no distinct name and was therefore confused with the chapter by outsiders. When the publicity of last spring brought it to their attention, the High Council felt the situation had evolved to the point where women were misrepresenting themselves as Sigma Nus. The Council felt that firm measures were in order to correct this misunderstanding."

## Spotlight of the Week

### Student Loan Art Program

By Katie Jeffreys  
FEATURES EDITOR

The Student Loan Art Program offers MIT students and student groups the opportunity to borrow, free of charge, an original artwork to hang in their rooms for the duration of the academic year. It is administered by the MIT List Visual Arts Center each fall.

Started in 1966, the program has expanded to include approximately 350 framed contemporary artworks. These works include prints, photographs drawings, and mixed media pieces, representing

a wide range of styles. According to Jennifer Riddell of the List Visual Arts Center, approximately ten new artworks are added to the collection each year to continue to expand the breadth of the offerings. The latest year's purchases are exhibited in the Stratton Student Center (W20), third floor, for one academic year, after which they are moved into the active collection for borrowing.

After viewing the collection, students may enter their top three choices in the lottery with the possibility of acquiring one piece. The lottery is conducted by gallery staff. As each card is drawn, the highest ranking unclaimed artwork listed will be assigned to the student. Any students entering the lottery who do not receive one of their top choices will be chosen as alternates and may then select an unclaimed work.

The List gallery, located in the Wiesner Building (E15), will be hosting the Student Loan Art Program until September 20, daily 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-8 p.m.



STEFAN CARP—THE TECH

Students can live up their rooms with original artwork through the Student Loan Art Program.

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Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm, Building W11, Starting Sept. 14

#### Intermediate Hebrew

Tuesday 6:30-7:30pm, Starting Sept. 14

#### Hebrew Table

Wednesday 12-1pm  
Morss Cafeteria (Walker Memorial)  
Informal Hebrew discussion over lunch  
Facilitator: Lisa Katz

ALL CLASSES ARE HELD IN MIT BUILDING W11

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, CONTACT RABBI JOSHUA PLAUT AT [rjplaut@mit.edu](mailto:rjplaut@mit.edu) or 253-2982

# Hidden Resources at MIT

By Gabe Weinberg

There are many hidden resources around the MIT campus, which allow students to get help, claim abandoned furniture and computer products, and rub elbows with famous visitors to campus.

First and foremost is the MIT Listings Page, <<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/tt/listings.html>>, which lists (pretty comprehensively) meetings, activities, lectures and events at MIT. The big plus here is the lecture listings. Every day there are several (three to ten) lectures throughout the Institute given by both invited guests and MIT professors. These lectures present excellent opportunities to get a feel for subjects, professors and departments.

Next is free food. This resource is tied inextricably to the MIT Listings Page. Almost every lecture has an accompanied platter of free food from MIT catering. While not advocating anything here; there is an empirical positive correlation between lectures and food.

## Entertainment

WMBR. Yes, MIT has its own radio station broadcasting at 88.1 MHz. They have a well-defined schedule, found at <<http://wmb.mit.edu/schedule.html>>. The station was recently named Best Rock Station in Boston Magazine's annual awards issue.

Roadkill Buffet <<http://www.mit.edu/activities/roadkill/home.html>>, the MIT improv comedy troupe, is actually quite funny. Go and see them at least once, if for no other reason than to suggest inane improv scenarios and make them either ignore you or try to humorously insult you on the spot.

## The wonders of Athena

So if you know anything about Athena then

you know about zephyring. Well if you know a little more about Athena, you know that you can zwrite zephyr classes and instances, which send your zwrites to everyone currently subscribed to that class or instance. By far, the most useful zephyr instance is help. There seem to be quite knowledgeable people subscribed to the 'help instance,' 24-7-365.25. Just don't ask questions that you can easily look up on your own (man pages, olc answers, easy web searches, etc.) To subscribe for your current athena session, type `zctl subscribe message help !*`, and to write the instance type `zwrite -i help`.

There are literally hundreds of mailing lists at MIT. Surprised? Just type `mailmaint` at an Athena prompt and select 'Show all public mailing lists.' And those are only the public ones. Anyhow, `reuse@mit.edu` is a mailing list for the expressed purpose of giving stuff away for free. Seriously... just beware of the high traffic, and the speed at which people claim free stuff. Turn on mail notification and be ready for action (many commonly asked questions, including how to set up zephyr mail notification, are answered in FAQ format accessed by typing `olc answers`).

And the fun doesn't stop there. Writing a paper? You can look up words in Webster's Dictionary (`add sipb; webster <word>`), Thesaurus (`add sipb; thesaurus <word>`) or the Oxford English Dictionary (`add oed; ox2 <word>`). And on the web, you can search the complete works of Shakespeare at <<http://www-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/>>, browse 441 works of classical literature at <<http://classics.mit.edu/>>, or obtain pgp, a privacy program at <<http://web.mit.edu/network/pgp.html>>.

## More survival tips

For more extensive research, the MIT library system <<http://libraries.mit.edu>> is

invaluable. You can search the entire catalog on-line, as well as countless databases of

journal articles. Furthermore, the libraries are a great place to study (not for everyone), and believe it or not, there are more libraries than Barker.

It is possible to spend \$120 plus in one month on local calls to Wellesley. But aren't local calls free? Only calls that are *really local*. Anyways, if you live on campus local calls are free and ACUS rates are competitive. Also, you can call Wellesley rooms by simply dialing 187 and then the room extension. Yes, the California penal code number for homicide is what you dial to turn your phone into a Wellesley campus phone.

Finally, part of the job of being an MIT professor is being responsive to students. You can write or call professors for guidance, research inquiries, or just plain questions. Also, if you are taking a class and are having trouble with any of the material, go to office hours or make an appointment with the professor. I have learned an amazing amount from such close interaction.

Looking for a place to hang out? The Coffeehouse and Pritchett are decent environments for such activity. I didn't discover Pritchett, a student run dining hall on the second floor of Walker Memorial, until my third term, but I have spent a great deal of time in the Coffeehouse, which is open 24 hours and is located on the third floor of Student Center.



TECH FILE PHOTO

Students can take advantage of the 24-hour Coffeehouse located on the third floor of the Stratton Student Center.

# Viewpoint

## When you were younger what did you want to be when you grew up?

"I was thinking aerospace engineer."

Kishore V. Kuchibhotla '02, Course VI



"I always wanted to be a Goonie when I was a kid."

Quintin B. Louie '01, Course X



"Everything"

Sebastien Gutierrez '03



"First I wanted to be a ballerina, then I wanted to be an astronaut."

Niki N. Klonaris '01, Course XIV



"I wanted to be a paleontologist when I was four."

Brok A. McFerron '02, Course VI



"In first grade I wanted to be an astronaut, in third grade I wanted to be a professional speller, and somewhere in the middle I wanted to be an artist."

Christopher W. Hockert G, Course VI-III



"A firewoman."

Alessandra M. Sabelli '03, Course II or XIV



"I don't think I had any real idea"

Jason Hickey '03, Possibly Course VI



"I wanted to be the pink Voltron."

Janaki B. Tambe '03, Undecided



Compiled by Andy Kostoulas

# Erratum

A previous feature ["Special Interest Groups," August 27, 1999] provided incorrect contact information for the student group New Horizons. The can be contacted by e-mail at [new-horizons-students@mit.edu](mailto:new-horizons-students@mit.edu).

The Students for the Exploration and Development of Space was unintentionally omitted from the same article. Their submission is reprinted below.

## Students for the Exploration and Development of Space

SEDS (Students for the Exploration and Development of Space) was founded at MIT in 1980 as an organization for undergraduate, graduate and high school students interested in learning about and promoting space-related activities. Since that time, SEDS chapters have opened throughout the United States and in several foreign countries, including at Boston University, Smith College, and Princeton University.

The MIT chapter conducts four kinds of activities: lectures, technical projects, field trips, and educational outreach. Past speakers have included Andrew Chaikin, author of *A Man on the Moon* as well as MIT Professor Claude Canizares. This year they plan to build a radio telescope and take several trips to Wallace Observatory. Everyone interested in joining SEDS is invited to attend the monthly meetings. For more information, visit <<http://www.mit.edu/~mitseds/>>.

# Want to read tomorrow's Fox Trot today?



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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>

## Tuesday's Events

2:30 p.m. – **Generation of Sand Bars and Sediment/Wave Interaction**—Jie Yu, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, M.I.T. Sponsored by Physical Mathematics Seminar with Department of Mathematics., Rm 2-338. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. More info: Call Professor John Bush at 253-4387. Email [bush@math.mit.edu](mailto:bush@math.mit.edu).

3:30 p.m. – **Biasing Circuits for Analog ICs**—Robert Dobkin, Linear Technology. Sponsored by MTL VLSI Seminar, Rm 34-101. Refreshments in Room 34-101 at 4:00 p.m. More info: Call Debroah Hodges-Pabon at 253-5264. Email [debb@mtl.mit.edu](mailto:debb@mtl.mit.edu). <<http://www-mtl.mit.edu/>>.

4:30 p.m. – **Fall Orientation**. Go to China and work or do research—all expense paid. Find our more at our fall orientation. Mezzanine Lounge, std cen. Sponsor: MIT China Program.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – **RSSC Feedback Meeting**. No Dorm Rush? Sophomore Shuffle? FSILG Rush in the winter? Provide feedback on the final report of the Residence System Steering Committee. Burton-Conner Dining Hall. Sponsor: Undergraduate Association

## Wednesday's Events

**Japanese Lunch Table**. Join us for informal Japanese/English language and cultural exchange. We meet every Wednesday from noon to 2pm in E38-714. Be sure to bring your lunch. For information, contact [japanprogram@mit.edu](mailto:japanprogram@mit.edu). E38-714. Sponsor: MIT Japan Program.

12:00 p.m. – **NATO at 50** Dr. Richard Kugler, Institute for National Strategic Studies. Security Studies Program Seminar Series, Rm E38-615. Bag lunch, refreshments will be provided. More info: Call Lynne Levine at 253-0133. Email [llevine@mit.edu](mailto:llevine@mit.edu),

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

12:10 p.m. – **Climate variability of the equatorial thermocline and its connection with subtropics**, Rui Xin Huang, WHOI. Physical Oceanography Sack Lunch Seminars, Rm 54-915. More info: Call Mark Jochum at 3-0386. Email [markus@ocean.mit.edu](mailto:markus@ocean.mit.edu). <<http://puddle.mit.edu/~gana-cho/sack.html>>.

4:15 p.m. – **The Plank Problem from the Viewpoint of Hypergraph Matchings and Covers**, Ron Holzman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Sponsored by Combinatorics Seminar with Department of Mathematics. Rm 2-338. Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. More info: Call Sara Billey at 253-6544. Email [sara@math.mit.edu](mailto:sara@math.mit.edu). <<http://www-math.mit.edu/~com-bin/>>.

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. – **Opening Reception: "Material Shape."** Doug Bosch's works use nylon,

wax, honeydew, pollen, plant bristle & linseed oil, combined with sculpture & photography to create invented, organic forms & images. On view Sept 15-Nov 4. Admission 0. Dean's Gallery (E52-466). Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

5:15 pm – **Statistical tests for distinguishing of sceneries**, Dr. Henry Matzinger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Sponsored by Statistics Seminar with Department of Mathematics. Rm 2-105. More info: Call Dr. Marc Genton at 253-4390. Email [genton@math.mit.edu](mailto:genton@math.mit.edu).

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – **RSSC Feedback Meeting**. No Dorm Rush? Sophomore Shuffle? FSILG Rush in the winter? Provide feedback on the final report of the Residence System Steering Committee. East Campus Talbot Lounge. Sponsor: Undergraduate Association.

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. – **Kokikai Aikido introductory class**. Free introductory practice open to women and men. Wear loose-fitting, comfort-

able clothing. Kokikai is a style of Aikido, a modern Japanese martial art. DuPont Gym wrestling room. Sponsor: MIT Kokikai.

## Thursday's Events

4:00 p.m. – **Two-Dimensional Gantt Charts**, Michel Goemans, Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics, MIT. Sponsored by Operations Research Center. Rm E40-298. Followed by Refreshments in Room E40-106. For further information, please see the seminar series web-site, located on the ORC home page: <<http://web.mit.edu/orc/www>>. More info: Call Alp Muharremoglu at 253-7412. Email [alp@mit.edu](mailto:alp@mit.edu).

4:15 p.m. – **Searching for Dark Matter Axions**, Prof. Leslie Rosenberg, Department of Physics, MIT. Physics Colloquium. Rm 10-250. Refreshments in Room 4-339 at 3:45 p.m. More info: Call Physics Headquarters at 253-4801. Email [physhdq@mit.edu](mailto:physhdq@mit.edu). <<http://web.mit.edu/physics/www/Colloquium/current.html>>.

8:00 p.m. – **Little Shop of Horrors**. Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman; music by Alan Menken. \$9; \$8 MIT faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students; \$3 MIT freshmen. Admission 6.00. Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

8:00 p.m. – **The Inheritance**. Play by Erin Lavik (G, Materials Science & Engineering); Ronni Marshak, director. Admission 0. Kresge Rehearsal Rm B. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

## Friday's Events

4:00 p.m. – **Electron Temperature Gradient Driven Turbulence**, William D. Dorland, University of Maryland. Plasma Science and Fusion Center Seminar Series. Rm NW17-218. Refreshments served at 3:45 pm. More info: Call Paul Rivenberg at 253-8101. Email [rivenberg@psfc.mit.edu](mailto:rivenberg@psfc.mit.edu). <<http://www.pfc.mit.edu/>>.

4:15 p.m. – **Alternating Sign Matrices and Beyond**, James Propp, University of Wisconsin. Sponsored by Combinatorics Seminar with Department of Mathematics. Rm 2-338. Refreshments will be served at 3:45 PM in Building 2, Room 349. More info: Call Professor Sara Billey at 253-6544. Email [sara@math.mit.edu](mailto:sara@math.mit.edu). <<http://www-math.mit.edu/~com-bin/>>.

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8:00 p.m. – **The Inheritance**. Play by Erin Lavik (G, Materials Science & Engineering); Ronni Marshak, director. Admission 0. Kresge Rehearsal Rm B. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.

9:00 p.m. – **Potluck Performance Art Party**. AKA show and tell. Bring video, poetry, slides, anything to read, show, perform and/or consume. Admission \$4.00. N52-115. Sponsor: Office of the Arts.



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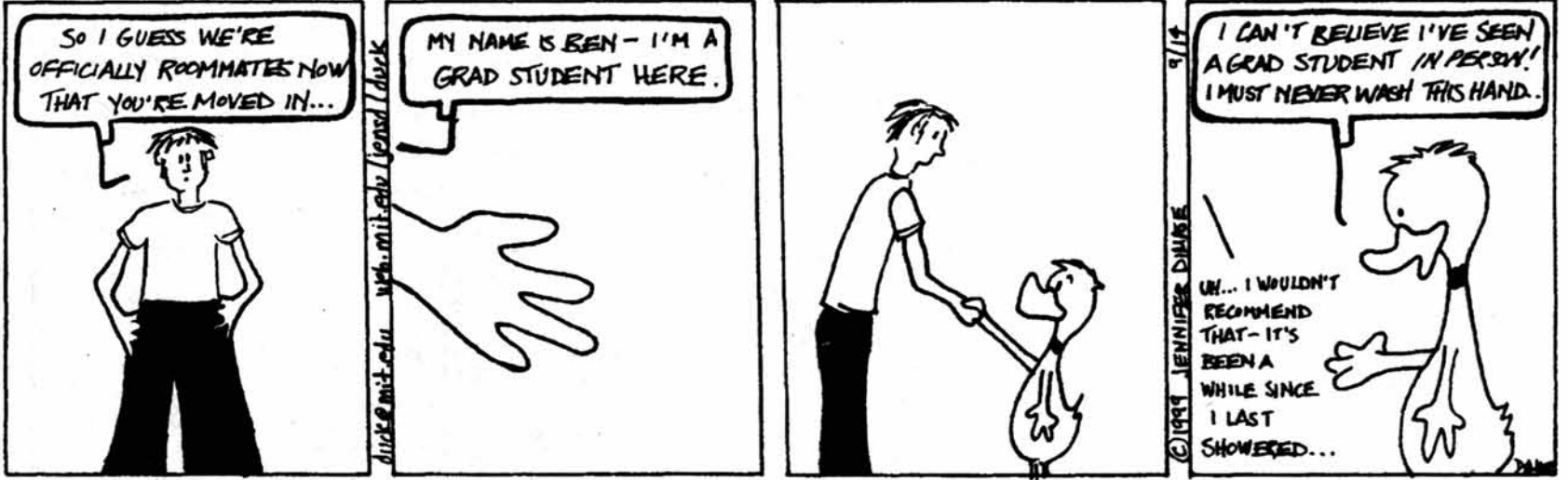


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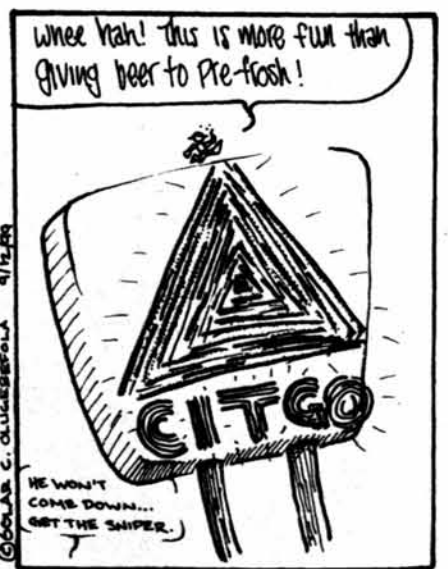
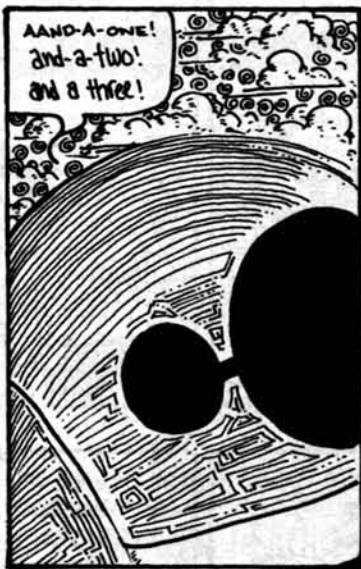
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## Down with Science

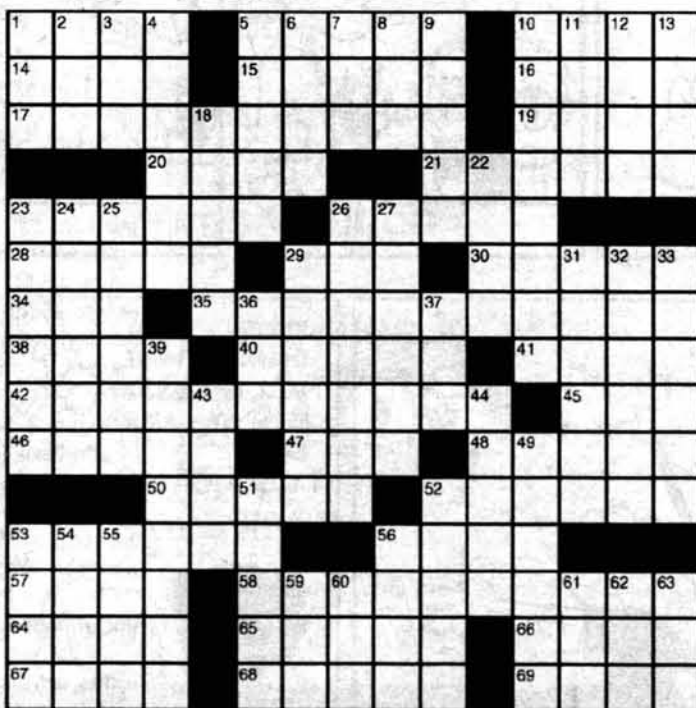
by Jennifer DiMase



## the crass rat



## Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 Old sailor
  - 5 Stupifies
  - 10 Used leeches
  - 14 Gen. Bradley
  - 15 Martini garnish
  - 16 Speak incoherently
  - 17 Hit a parked car in passing
  - 19 Prayer ending
  - 20 Waistcoat
  - 21 Chronological records
  - 23 First part of a play
  - 26 Yearned
  - 28 Actress Teri and others
  - 29 Permit
  - 30 Coral creations
  - 34 Miss. neighbor
  - 35 Ireland
  - 38 Highland haze
  - 40 Early-stage seed
  - 41 Read quickly
  - 42 Love potion
  - 45 Tropical cuckoo
  - 46 More of a wallflower
  - 47 Gumshoe
  - 48 Key, FL
  - 50 French clerics
  - 52 Tent occupant
  - 53 African ty
  - 56 Besides
  - 57 Needle case
  - 58 Daytime dramas
  - 64 Tender spot
  - 65 Roof overhang
  - 66 Enticement
  - 67 Couples
  - 68 Exchange
  - 69 Off killer
- DOWN**
- 1 Mayday!
  - 2 Porthos, to Athos
  - 3 Youngster
  - 4 Actor Howard
  - 5 Use a diving rod
  - 6 Dismounted
  - 7 Postal code
  - 8 Night before
  - 9 Automobile type
  - 10 University in Waltham, MA
  - 11 Tibetan monk
  - 12 Daredevil Knieval
  - 13 Bears' lairs
  - 18 Significance
  - 22 Dweeb
  - 23 Old World lizards
  - 24 Old-time Islamic leader
  - 25 Worthless
  - 26 Reads with care
  - 27 Emphatic typeface
  - 29 Hebrew tribe member
  - 31 Steep slope
  - 32 Projecting rim on a pipe
  - 33 Fourth-year student
  - 36 Up-to-date, for short
  - 37 Poetic pasture
  - 39 International agreements
  - 43 Spheres
  - 44 Hand grip?
  - 49 One-celled organism
  - 51 Plague (with)
  - 52 Nearby
  - 53 Examine
  - 54 Pack away
  - 55 Continental currency
  - 56 Mimicked
  - 59 Paddle
  - 60 Ms. Gardner
  - 61 Uncooked
  - 62 Broadcast
  - 63 Pigpen



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- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Cologne
- Copenhagen
- Dallas
- Detroit
- Dublin
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- Frankfurt
- Geneva
- Gothenburg
- Hamburg
- Helsinki
- Hong Kong
- Houston
- Istanbul
- Jakarta
- Johannesburg
- Kuala Lumpur
- Lisbon
- London
- Los Angeles
- Madrid
- Manila
- Melbourne
- Mexico City
- Miami
- Milan
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Contact the Graduate Students Office (ext. 3-1940) for information on other foreign scholarships.

## 113 Colleges Launch Anti-Drinking Ads

Despite the work of an alliance of 113 colleges and universities, including Michigan State University, to reduce binge drinking, some people question its chances of success.

"I don't think it would have much of an effect of any kind... it's just one more commercial against drinking," English sophomore Grace Arnold said.

The colleges and universities, all members of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, along with The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Barnes & Noble Inc., are financing a \$600,000 advertising campaign.

A full-page advertisement began appearing Friday in *The New York Times* and other newspapers. The ads also are expected to run in other major national and metropolitan newspapers such as *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *the Los Angeles Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

The advertisement, featuring a large bottle of "Binge Beer," asks "Who says falling off a balcony is such a bad thing? And what's an occasional riot? Or even a little assault between friends?"

But Charles Atkin, the Department of Communication chairman, said although the ad seems geared toward parents, the style is geared more toward college-aged people. Instead, he said, the advertisement needs to encourage parents to talk with their children about binge drinking.

"That type of message makes sense to convince (parents) they can make a difference," Atkin said. "That's the type of message they need in subsequent advertisements.

"The intentions are excellent, but the execution needs fine-tuning."

The names of the college and university presidents supporting the campaign — including MSU President M. Peter McPherson — appear at the bottom of the advertisement.

According to a 1997 national study by the Harvard School of Public Health, 43 percent of students reported binge drinking in the previous two weeks. The study defined binge drinking as having five or more drinks in succession for men and four or more drinks for women. A 1997 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 33 percent of all high school students surveyed had consumed five or more drinks of alcohol on at least one occasion during the previous 30 days.

[Jeremy W. Steele, *The State News (Michigan State U.)*, 09/13/1999]

### Students ignorant on East Timor

Most University of Maryland students have summed up their knowledge of the devastation and rioting in East Timor in two words: "East what?"

The media's inability to communicate the tragedy taking place overseas and students' general apathy for world politics have left the atrocities going on in East Timor almost completely ignored on campus, a campus professor said.

Ronald Terchek, a government and politics professor, said he believes that at least part of the blame for many students' ignorance toward the situation in East Timor is owed to the media's lax coverage.

"Students aren't exactly being bombarded with information, the

Short Takes, Page 18

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Kresge Oval

8:00 PM - Midnight

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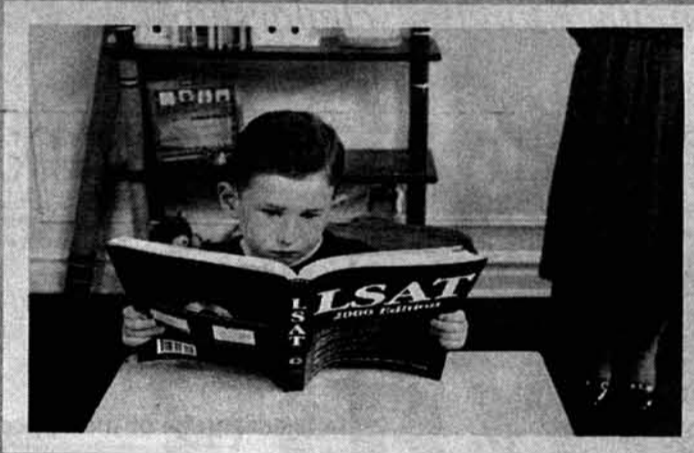
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# Survivors, Friends Turn Out for Race

By Jane Yoo  
STAFF REPORTER

The statistics are alarming: this year, over 175,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 43,000 will die. If you're quick with math, you'll note that this amounts to one new diagnosis every three minutes, and one death every twelve minutes. Indeed, breast cancer is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 35 and 54 in the United States.

However, rather than lamenting over this data, breast cancer survivors, along with their families, friends, and supporters, have sent a clear signal to others — the fight to eradicate this disease that claims so many lives annually has not subsided.

Nowhere did I find this message clearer than at the 7th annual Boston Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure. Taking place last Sunday, the 5K run/walk involved women, men, and children of all ages and athletic abilities.

Groggily, my friends and I woke up at 6 a.m., to catch the bus from

Kenmore station to Brighton, MA. We chose to run in the All Women's 5K, starting from Daly Field and extending along the bank of the Charles River.

After receiving my white race shirt, I pinned my race number on and looked around to admire the survivors, all smiles in their pink shirts and hats. Many people had also pinned pink sheets on their backs, displaying the names of survivors, and individuals who had lost their lives to

breast cancer. From mothers, grandmothers, sisters aunts, and special friends, many have had a close association with breast cancer.

From running with the National Race for the Cure in Washington, D.C., I knew that this race would not start without an invigorating aerobics session led by some local-area celebrity. Indeed, the warm-up before the Boston Race for the Cure was led by the Patriots Cheerleaders. With my muscles stretched, I was ready to run the 5K.

Since I wasn't actually aiming to win the race, especially against world-class long-distance runner and participant Khalid Khannouchi, I focused on keeping a reasonable pace so that I could finish the run without stopping along the way. But, as the race got underway, I realized that even with my shortness of breath, there was no way that I would even consider stopping. I became so inspired by the women who had had the courage to endure far more difficult and painful endeavors.

According to Dana M. Forti '01, the Boston Race for the Cure "completely surpassed my expectations. It was so touching to see all those women out there with their pink hats and all the others with their pink sheets."

Proceeds from the race are used in the Boston area for local breast cancer education, mammogram screening, and research. Proceeds also fund the National Grant Programs of the Komen Foundation.

If the race did anything at all, it profoundly affected the lives of those who do not have breast cancer. The experience especially gave perspective to many.

"It wasn't just a race anymore," said Tamra L. Haby '01.

For several runners, the race became very meaningful. "It only came to me realization of how important this race was when I saw all the survivors and the women who were running it for relatives," noted participant Julie M. Watts '02.

Crossing the finish line, and happy that I had completed the 5K, I cheered and clapped for all of the women survivors still running the race. I was amazed at how the Race for the Cure enabled me to call and holler to these strangers, somehow held by a special bond.

Said Forti, "I have never been inspired by a group of women who I don't even know, striving against a common foe together and really supporting one another."

## Reporter's Notebook

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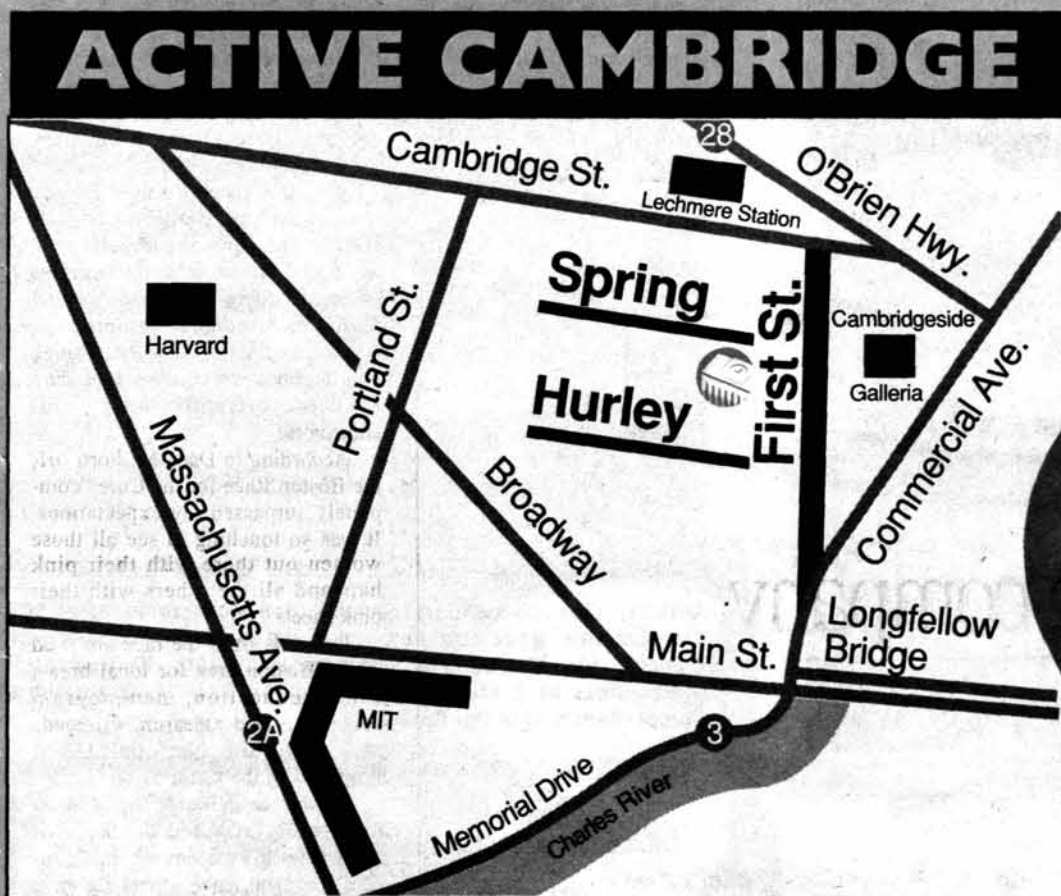
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# OPENING SEPT. 13, 1999

# Students Hear ZEFER Co-Founder at \$50K Kickoff

By Matthew Palmer

Students filled 10-250 yesterday to launch this year's MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition, hoping to jump-start their start-up businesses and win their share of \$50,000.

In the annual \$50K Competition, contestants start with an idea and refine it into a business plan. During

the fall, students will form teams and take part in "team-building dinners" and panel discussions. They will present their start-up ideas in November for the \$1K Warm-Up Competition. Ten winners will be chosen from a variety of categories and awarded \$100 each.

After more workshops, the winners of the \$50K Competition will

be announced June 3 in Kresge Auditorium.

Last year, 150 projects were submitted. Seth Taylor MBA '97 took home the top prize of \$30,000 for his team's MolecularWare, which manages information for the biotech and pharmaceutical industries.

Two runners-up each won \$10,000: Crosskate, an off-road in-

line roller skate company, and Just-in-Zyme, which developed chemical processes for crops.

### ZEFER's Tjan gives advice

Entrepreneur Anthony Tjan gave this year's keynote speech. Tjan, who was a student at Harvard Business School when he co-founded ZEFER, is currently an executive

vice-president of the Internet consulting firm.

The key to ZEFER's success, Tjan said, was building the right team.

"Marry seasoned experience and entrepreneurial enthusiasm" he told the audience. "Create a vision and

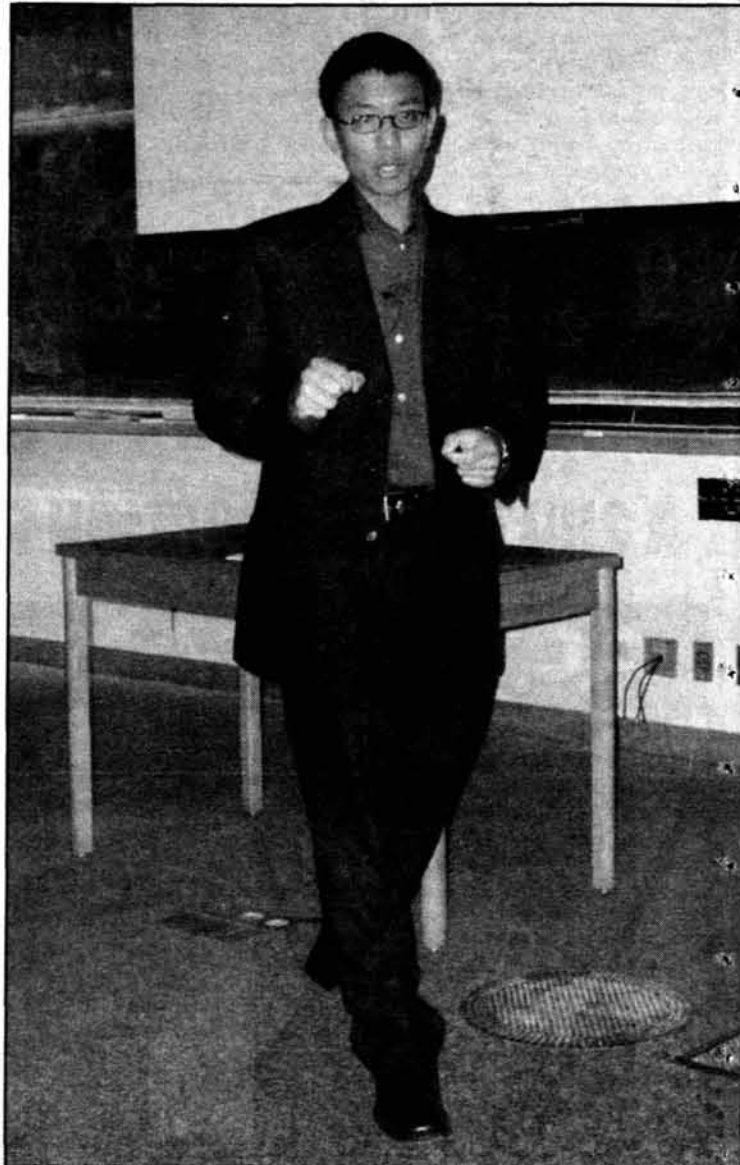
\$50K, Page 26

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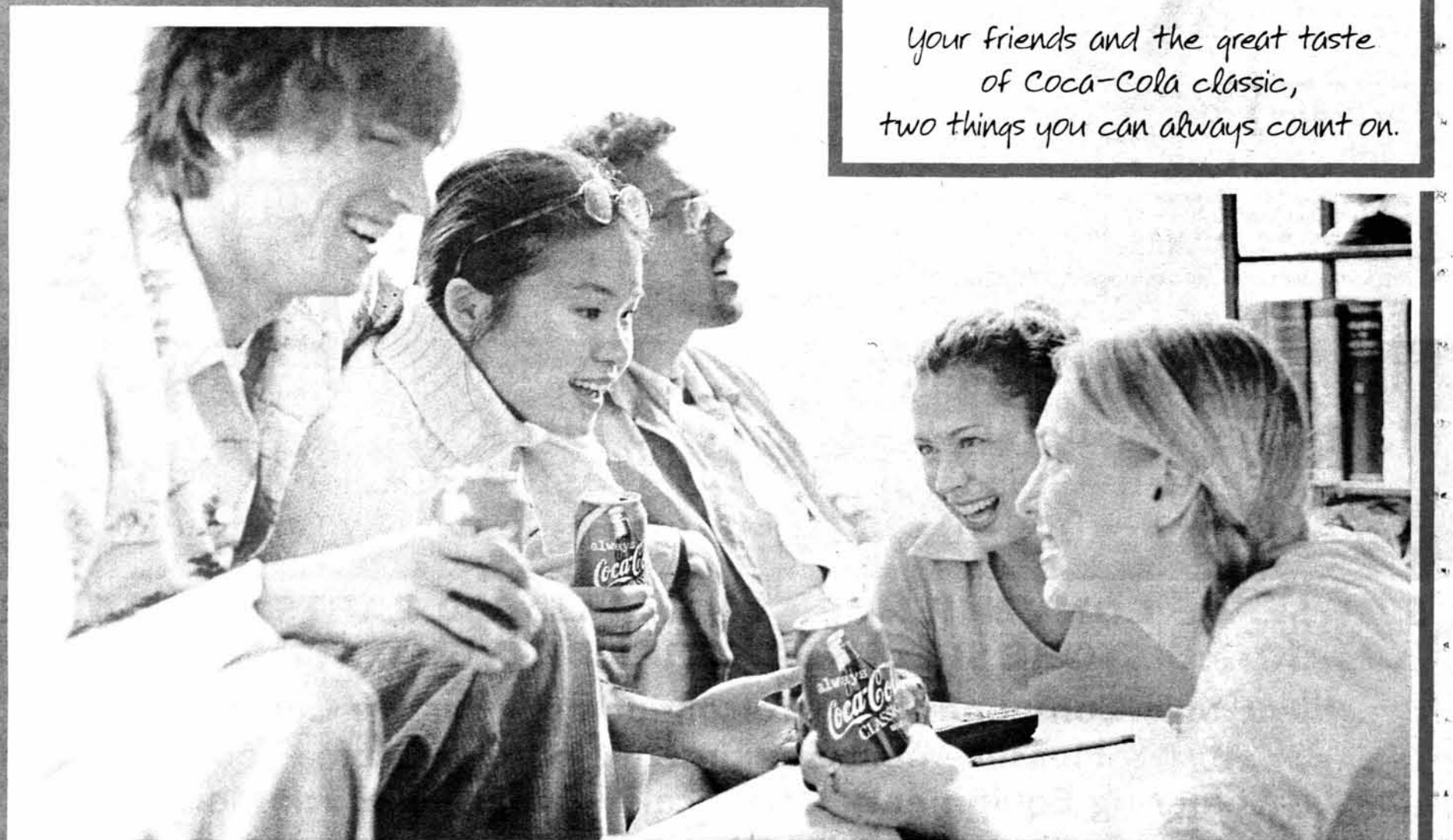
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GARRY MASKALY—THE TECH

Anthony Tjan, co-founder and executive vice president of ZEFER Corporation, gave the keynote speech at the \$1K Warm-Up Business Idea Competition yesterday in 10-250. Participants use the contest as a stepping-stone for the \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition held in the Spring.



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# Youth Less Likely to Vote, Less Informed on Issues

Short Takes, from Page 12

press has been very quiet [on East Timor]. Nobody can be concerned about something of which they have no knowledge," he said.

East Timor's provincial capital city, Dili, has been devastated and laid to waste by Indonesian soldiers and local militias who seem to be working

together on what experts have called a "scorched-earth" policy.

The Washington Post recently reported that since residents of East Timor voted overwhelmingly on Aug. 30 to become an independent state, the Indonesian army and police force have allied themselves with anti-independence militia gangs. The alliance's goal is to

allow the province to secede only after decimating its population, killing off its leadership, and destroying its infrastructure.

"There's chaos going on over there ... most kids probably don't even know," Brian Speranzini, a freshman letters and sciences major said. "Kids are unaware around here, or just don't even care."

[Jeff Grossman, The Diamondback (University of Maryland), 09/13/1999]

### Youth less likely to vote

Only nine percent of young voters trust the federal government and members of the college-age generation are 30 percent less likely to vote than older Americans, accord-

ing to a new survey release Monday by Project Vote Smart.

Project Vote Smart is a non-partisan research group that surveys both voters and politicians to create a database for reporters and the general public.

The study of people between the ages of 18 and 25 found only 2 percent said they paid a lot of attention to national government issues as opposed to 45 percent for older respondents.

The survey found 22 percent of younger citizens pay attention to state government and local politics. Twenty-six percent of respondents within the age group said they trusted local government the most, compared to nine percent for the federal government and 16 percent for state. One quarter of the respondents said they trusted none of the three levels.

And only 57 percent of 18- to 25-year-olds said they were interested in the upcoming national elections, as opposed to 70 percent for citizens 26 and older. About half of the respondents said they would definitely vote in the next presidential election, with another quarter saying they probably will.

"Some people have been very concerned about this," said Forrest Maltzman, a professor of political science at George Washington University. "Organizations such as MTV have tried to increase voter turnout."

Ten percent fewer young citizens are registered to vote than their older counterparts, the survey found. Of the non-registered 32 percent, most respondents said they found the process "too much of a hassle." Almost a third said registering was "not a priority right now."

For political information, young citizens are less astute than their older counterparts. When asked five political questions, young Americans averaged 2.88 correct, as opposed to 3.40 for the older respondents. Only 26 percent of young Americans got all five questions correct.

Twenty-three percent of young respondents did not know Al Gore is the current vice president.

[Matt Berger, U-WIRE (DC BUREAU) 09/13/1999]

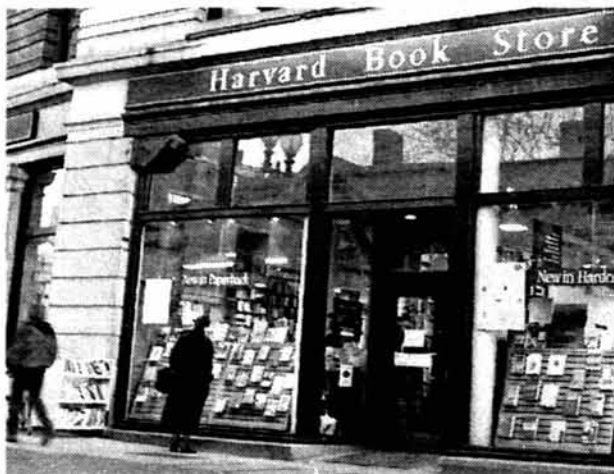
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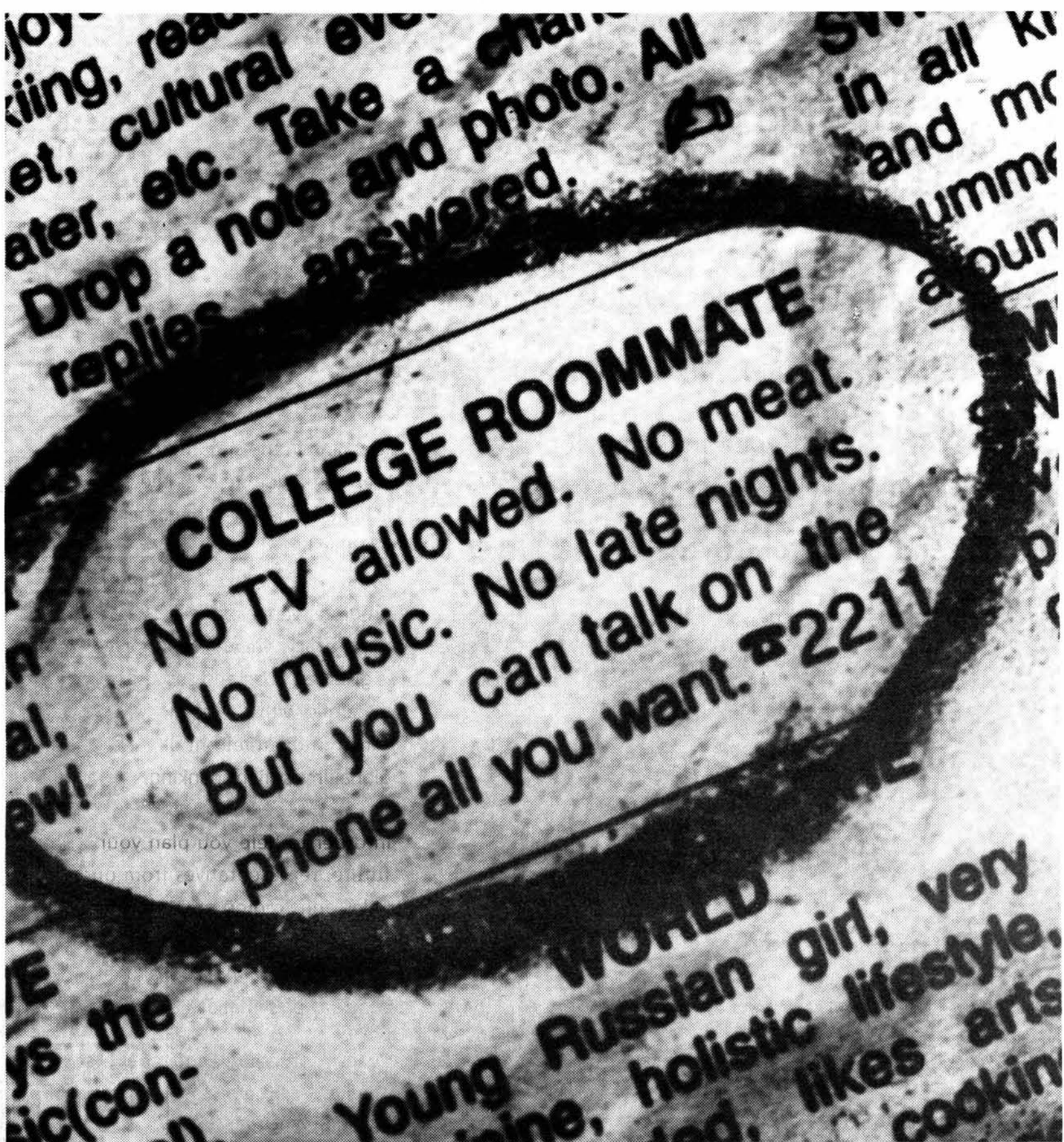
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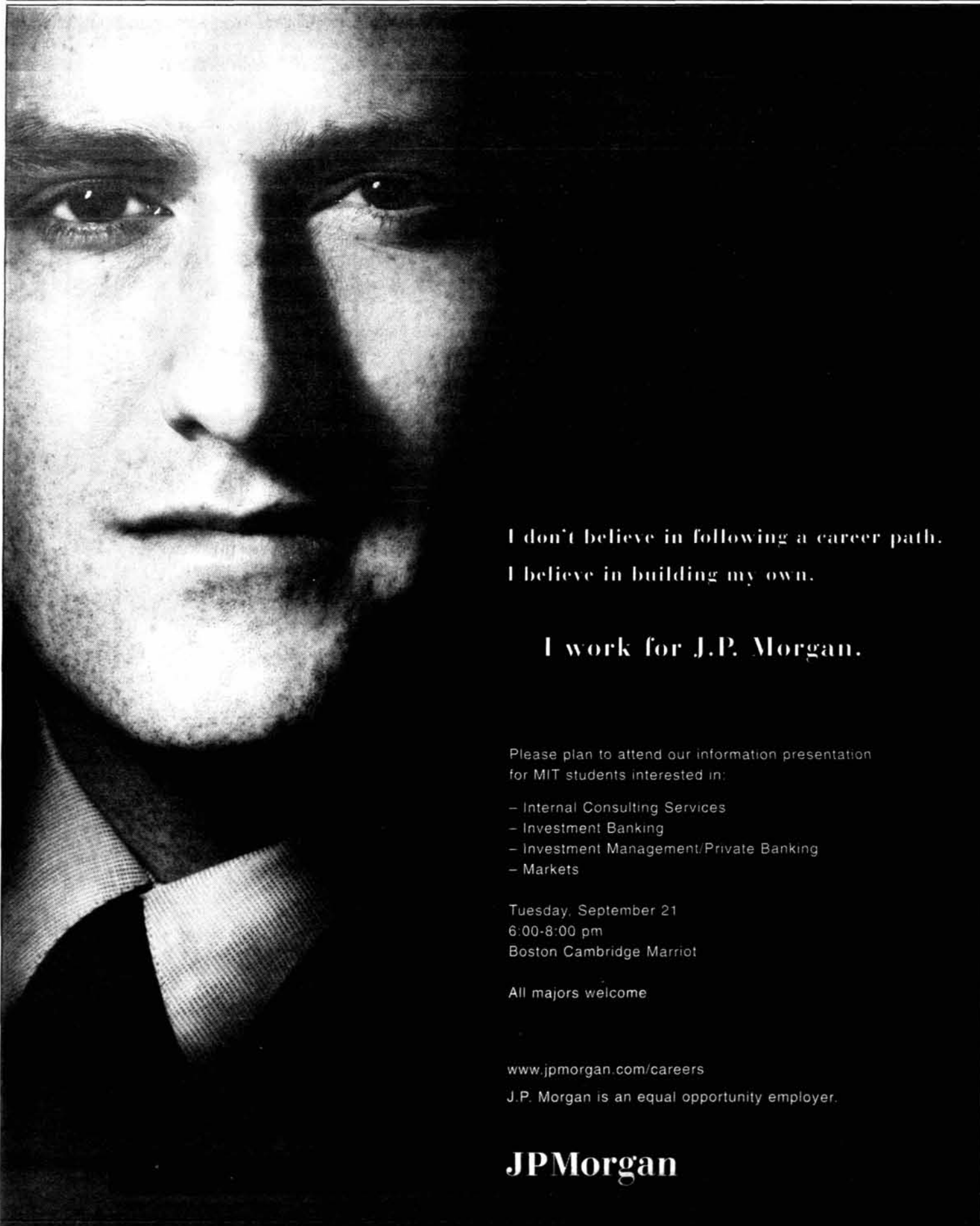
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# MIT Still Promises Larger Grad Dorm

Grad Dorm, from Page 1

for housing approximately 600 graduate students, would significantly increase the percentage of graduate students for whom housing is available.

Although this new dormitory has gone through most stages of the planning process, MIT does not currently have the capital to finance the project.

"When the budget was released in May, the graduate residence was not on the capital plan. There was talk of trying to finance [the dormitory] through off-budget means, after being told for two years that it was on the capital plan," said Ortiz. "Now we're told that the

next in line is the new Athletic Center. It just keeps stepping backward."

The Residence System Steering Committee final report, released last week, recommended that "a new group be formed to consider how the residence system might be restructured to better meet the educational needs of our graduates."

Ortiz expressed frustration with this recommendation. "Everybody knows what ought to be done," he said, referring to two housing surveys over the past twenty years on the subject of graduate housing. "It's a matter of resolve and of dedicating resources toward improving the situation," he said.

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◆ A pre-fast meal will be served at Hillel. Reserve and pay by Wednesday, Sept. 15.

◆ A break the fast will be held after services in the Kresge Lobby.

◆ MIT HILLEL, 40 Mass Ave MIT Bldg W11 lower level, 253-2982

## McGann Promises A 'Less Stuffy' UA

UA, from Page 1

enter the lottery?" questioned Councillor Jaime E. Devereaux '02 of MacGregor House. Devereaux also objected to adding stress to the sophomore year, already complicated with the shift from Pass/No Record grading to letter grades for most students.

Student government groups will sponsor four additional RSSC discussions in the next two weeks, beginning with a discussion hosted by the Dormitory Committee in Burton-Conner Dining this evening at 7:00p.m.

### McGann presents State of the UA

Following the RSSC discussion, UA President Matthew L. McGann '00 presented his termly State of the UA address. Citing a desire to make the UA "a little less stuffy," McGann declared a new "happy hour of cooperation" between MIT's student organizations and the administration. McGann announced plans for an ad-hoc alliance between the UA and the Graduate Student Council. The proposed alliance would represent students during MIT's upcoming \$1.5 billion capital campaign.

McGann also announced plans for a second meeting between all five MIT student governments to discuss the final RSSC proposal. He emphasized that the governments would offer an alternative housing proposal rather than a second unified response; at the end of last term, the five governments had presented a unified response to the then-most recent RSSC draft.

Additionally, McGann discussed the increased role of the Student Committee on Educational Policy in the upcoming academic year. The SCEP, under chairman Sarah L. McDougal '00, will assist the faculty in reevaluating the freshman experience at MIT.

Exposing freshmen to advanced research earlier is one of the SCEP's new goals.

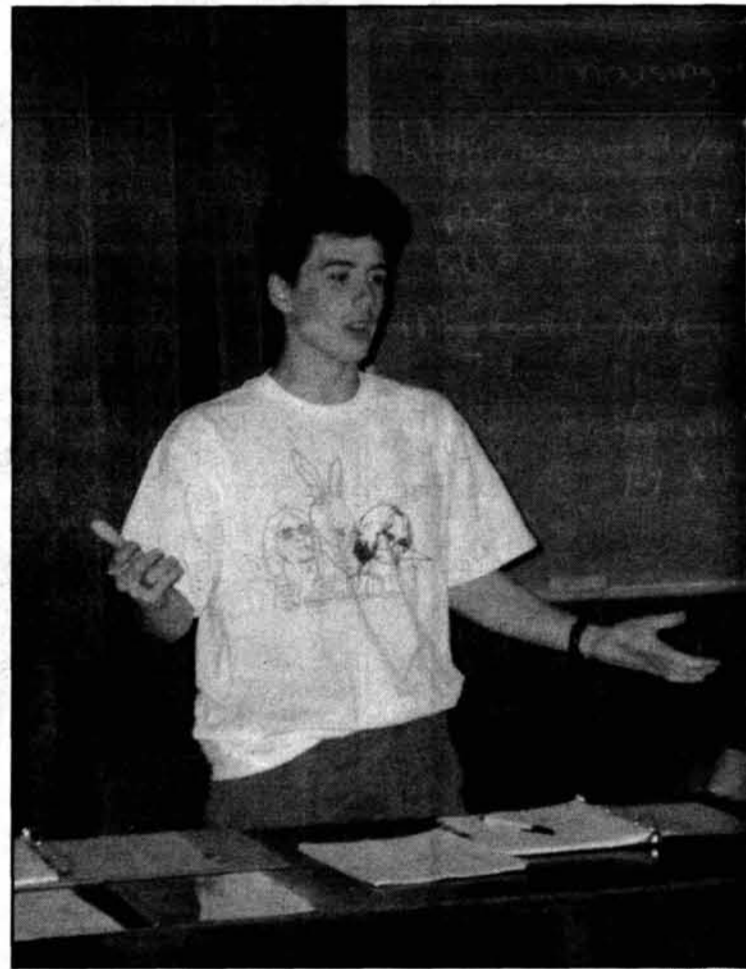
"Freshmen should work with great minds rather than falling asleep in 26-100," McGann stated. He also discussed the faculty proposal to modify the Pass/No Record status of freshman year.

McGann concluded his address by announcing the new Coordinating Committee, which replaces the former Executive Committee. The six-member Coordinating Committee will handle new business presented to the UA Council.

Following McGann's speech, speaker Andrew D. Montgomery '01 presided over the appointment of new officers to UA Council positions. The Council elected Jennifer C. Berk '01 as UA Council Vice-Chair and Christopher R. Rezek '99, as the Coordinating Committee member-at-large.

Council members also appointed the Fall Election Commission, consisting of chairman McDougal and members Stephanie Leung, Aaron Ucko, Rezek, and Scott.

The Council also passed a resolution in appreciation of Richard A. Guy '99. Following the resolution's passage, the Council observed a moment of silence.



WENDY GU

In his State of the UA address, President Matthew L. McGann '00 aspires to improve the Undergraduate Association.

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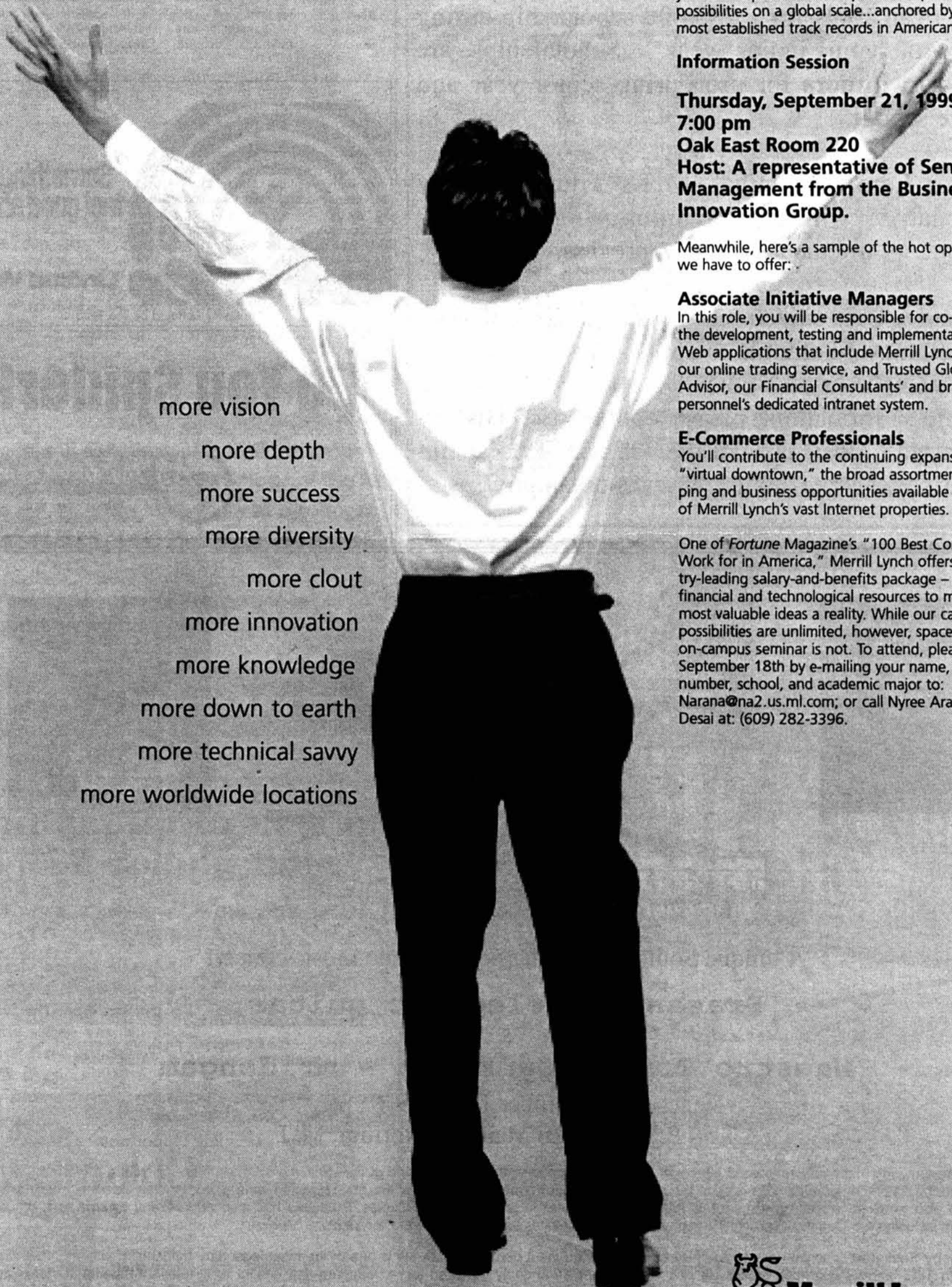


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### Information Session

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For more information, please contact the History Office at 253-4965, or visit the Truman Scholarship Foundation web site at <http://www.truman.gov/>.

## Many Students Show Excitement for \$50K

**\$50K**, from Page 16

realize it."

Despite several obstacles, Tjan said his "pride of ownership" was what kept him going. It was why he turned down a chance to sell ZEFER for \$20 million.

### Students looking forward to 50K

At the Kickoff, students picked up entry forms and learned how they could enter the contest.

Peter O. Orondo G said he planned to enter the contest. "It's exciting. It's good training for starting my own business," he said.

Although he said he didn't have an idea for his project yet, he is considering using his experience in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Sloan business student Rusty Petree G said the contest would be good for his start-up. "You want exposure," he said. "It's very high profile."

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Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for Students. **Proceeds benefit Asha-MIT's projects in India for underprivileged children.**

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